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ETHICS PAYS

A COMPREHENSIVE ATLAS OF SALIENT PARAMETERS IN THE 300 COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD PROVING THAT ETHICS PAYS – EXPANDED EDITION

JACQUES CORY

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As some of the events in this book are based on memory, and memory is not always correct, all the events in this book should be treated as fictitious. <u>Jacques Cory</u> may not be held responsible for any of the contents, data or links in this book. All rights are reserved to Jacques Cory and to the publishers of his books, to the holders of the rights in the links and of the data in this book.

ETHICS PAYS A COMPREHENSIVE ATLAS OF SALIENT PARAMETERS IN THE 300 COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD PROVING THAT ETHICS PAYS EXPANDED EDITION

PART I – INTRODUCTION AND PARAMETERS

INTRODUCTION

This geographic book encompasses all the countries of the world – independent countries, dependencies and disputed de facto independent states, sorted by the following 55 parameters. Every country in the book comprises 18 characteristic fixed parameters: name of the country, full name of the country, local name of the country, status of sovereignty, the region, a link to maps, a link to up to 18 of the best websites with hundreds of additional essential data entries, membership in organizations, a brief description of the country, capital, language, religion, ethnic groups, system of government, population, area, population density, flag of the states.

37 variable parameters are given in lists by country comparison with mention of sources, after the list of countries with the fixed parameters, as they vary each year (most of the data entries are recent) – GDP – Gross Domestic Product, GDP Per Capita, GDP Real Growth Rate, Gross National Saving, Industrial Production Growth Rate, Unemployment Rate, Average Wage – Gross Income/Compulsory Deducion in %/Disposable Income, Median Household and Per Capita Income, Annual Median Equivalized Disposable Household Income, Income Inequality Gini Index, Population Shares of the Bottom, Middle and Top Income Groups -Middle Class Size, Taxes and Other Revenues, Size of the Shadow Economy, Budget Surplus or Deficit, External Debt, Gross and Net Government Debt as % of GDP, Inflation Rate, Central Bank Discount Rate, Commercial Bank Prime Landing Rate, Market Value of Public Traded Shares, Current Account Balance, Reserves of Foreign Exchange and Gold, Internet Penetration, Currency and Exchange Rate to the US\$, GDP per Hour Worked Index, Human Development Index - HDI, IHDI - Inequality adjusted human development index, Gender Inequality Index, Newsweek's World Best Countries, Poverty Indexes under national poverty line, under \$1.25 and \$2 PPP a day, Happiness Index, Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index and Global Corruption Barometer, Where to Be Born/Life Quality Index, Freedom in the World, Economic Freedom & Press Freedom Indices, Democracy Index, Social Progress Index, Global Peace Index, List of Countries by Incarceration Rate, List of Countries by Fragile States Index, Global Competitiveness Index, Financial Development Index, GNI – Gross National Income Per Capita, Total Health Expenditure, Credit Rating, Education & Higher Education Indices, Distribution of Wealth, Environmental Performance Index, and Index of Globalization.

All these 55 parameters in 60+ tables/lists, 180+ main links/books, and thousands of additional links, characterize in a salient way all the countries of the world. In total, there are 55 parameters for each country, and links to hundreds more. Additional data on those entries can be found in Part V. We prefer not to give the variable parameters to all the 300 countries, like the bulky CIA's World Factbook does. Therefore, we have chosen to give all the parameters only to a representative sample of 30 countries, about 15% of the inhabited

countries (excluding microstates with a population of less than 250,000), which represent large, medium-sized and small countries, rich and poor, sovereign, dependencies and de facto countries, from all the continents, economic and political regimes, high growth and least developed countries, very ethical, ethical, very corrupt & corrupt states, but with an emphasis on ethical countries and on the largest economic powers, as we want to learn what makes the ethical countries so successful, and what are the parameters of the most influential economies.

The sample includes half of the most ethical (5) and very ethical countries (5), 4 ethical countries, 1 quite ethical, 3 quite corrupt, 5 corrupt, 4 very corrupt and 2 of the most corrupt countries, 1 is not surveyed by Transparency International. All the G8 and three quarters of the G20 members, 40% of the OECD members and 9 European countries with the largest economies, 8 Asian and 5 American countries with the largest economies, 6 African and 2 Oceania countries. 11 Protestant countries, but today some of them have a large Catholic and unaffiliated population, 6 Catholic with unaffiliated population countries, 1 Orthodox and unaffiliated state, 5 Muslim states but many of the other countries have a large Muslim minority, 1 Hindu, 1 Indigenous belief, 1 Buddhist, 1 Shintoist, 2 mostly atheist, 1 Jewish country. 8 countries members of the European Union, 9 members of the Commonwealth, 4 Anglo-Saxon countries but with large minorities, 4 former Communist countries, 1 Scandinavian, 1 Benelux country. 11 countries with English as the official language, 2 French, 2 Spanish, 1 German, 1 Portuguese, 1 Dutch, 1 Danish, 2 Arabic, 1 Mandarin, 1 Somali, 1 Korean, 1 Hungarian, 1 Russian, 1 Japanese, 1 Hebrew, 1 Italian, 1 Indonesian. The sample of the representative countries comprises: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, France, French Polynesia, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Nigeria, North Korea, Palestine/Gaza Strip/West Bank, Russia, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, UK, US, Zimbabwe.

25% of this sample – 7 countries - are presented with all the 55 parameters, including the 37 variable parameters in 60+ tables and 75% of this sample – 23 countries - are presented with the format of the variable parameters (as in Australia) that can be searched with the name of the country in all the 60+ tables. For those countries we have preferred to give the variable parameters from the CIA World Factbook – People and Society, Economic parameters. The 7 countries chosen for our sample are: Algeria – an Arab, Muslim, and African country, a corrupt (TI – 100) and authoritarian state. Argentina – a South American, Catholic, Spanish speaking, corrupt country (TI – 107). Denmark – a Scandinavian, European, Protestant, the most ethical country in the Transparency International – TI – 2014 Index – no. 1. France – a European, Catholic, French speaking, one of the largest world's economies, ethical country (TI – 26). Israel – a Middle East Asian, Jewish, Hebrew speaking, most innovative (after the US) and ethical country (TI – 37). North Korea – a Far East, Asian, totalitarian, the most corrupt country in the world (TI – 174). United States – a North American, Protestant, English speaking, very ethical country (TI – 17), the largest economy in the world.

The uniqueness, relevance and actuality of this book lie in the fact that it includes enough characteristic parameters on each country (in the text and Part IV) and links to the best sources on other data that one might need. The book is holistic and accurate, encompassing all the countries and all the information – economic, social or geographical – in the book or in the links. If the readers want to read about Albania or Tajikistan they read the few lines in the book with the 18 most salient and fixed parameters and search with find (Albania) the additional information in the tables of the variable parameters in Part IV. Within a few minutes the readers can find all the relevant data on the country, its maps, flag, population, area, but also in the tables - the GDP, exchange rates, external debt, budget surplus,

unemployment, or even corruption perceptions and quality of life indices. If the readers want even more data – they can with one click visit the best Internet's websites on those countries.

But the book has also a message – it proves that "Ethics Pays" as the most ethical and least corrupt countries score the highest ranks in quite all the parameters examined in this book. Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index is therefore the backbone of this book. According to this index, 11 countries: Scandinavia – 1. Denmark (scoring 92), 3. Finland (89), 4. Sweden (87) and 5. Norway (86), with 2. New Zealand (91), 5. Switzerland (86), 7. Singapore (84), 8. the Netherlands (83), 9. Luxembourg (82), 10. Canada (81) and 11. Australia (scoring 80), are in most of the years among the 10-12 most ethical and least corrupt countries, scoring 80 to 90+ in TI's index. We also analyze in most of the cases all 20 most and very ethical states, including the very ethical states (12-20) scoring 74-79 in TI's index: 12. Germany (scoring 79), 12. Iceland, 14. United Kingdom, 15. Belgium, 15. Japan, Barbados, Hong Kong, Ireland and United States, all 4 ranking 17 (TI- 17-20) and scoring 74.

Namely, the 10-20 most/very ethical countries in the world score the best grades in quite all the parameters, proving that there is a direct causal connection between ethics, wealth, efficiency, happiness, democracy, lowest inequality and poverty, human development, quality of life, social progress, education, health and freedom. We highlight the most ethical countries in all the lists of Part IV, thus enabling the reader to see how those countries obtain outsdanding results in quite all the parameters. Occasionally, we mention other ethical countries (ranking 21-38, scoring 60-73) and quite ethical countries (ranking 39-54, scoring 50-59), as countries are perceived quite ethical from the borderline of 50 out of 100, and in 2014 there were 54 such countries, less than one third of the total number of countries surveyed – 175. We also mention quite corrupt countries (ranking 55-79, scoring 40-49), corrupt countries (ranking 80-125, scoring 30-39), very corrupt countries (ranking 126-160, scoring 20-29) and the 15 most corrupt countries (ranking 161-175, scoring 0-19).

The ethical countries have in many cases a high ranking in most parameters, though not as high as the top 20 most and very ethical countries: Chile and Uruguay (TI – 21) scoring 73, 23. Austria, 24. Bahamas, 25. United Arab Emirates, 26. Estonia, 26. France, 26. Qatar, 29. St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 30. Bhutan, 31. Botswana, 31. Cyprus, 31. Portugal, 31 Puerto Rico, 35. Poland, 35. Taiwan, Israel and Spain (TI – 37) scoring 60. The symmetry between the ethical ranking and the achievements in the other parameters is less and less accurate in the lower ethical rankings. The quite ethical countries in 2014 are: Dominica, Lithuania and Slovenia (TI – 39) scoring 58, 42. Cape Verde, 43. South Korea (55), 43. Latvia, 43. Malta, 43. Seychelles, 47. Costa Rica, 47. Hungary, 47. Mauritius, 50. Georgia, 50. Malaysia, 50. Samoa (new in the survey), 53. Czech Republic, 54. Slovakia scoring 50.

We also analyze countries by an increasing level of corruption: the quite corrupt countries – 55. Saudi Arabia, 63. Cuba, 64. Turkey, 67. South Africa, 69. Brazil, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Romania, Senegal and Swaziland, all 7 of them scoring 43, 78. Serbia, 79. Tunisia. The corrupt countries: 80. Morocco, 85. India, Peru, Philippines, Thailand, all 4 of them scoring 38, 94. Colombia and Egypt, 100. China and Algeria, 103. Mexico, 107. Argentina and Indonesia, 110. Ethiopia, 115. Mali, 119. Tanzania and Vietnam, scoring 31. The very corrupt countries – 126. Kazakhstan, Nepal and Pakistan, 133. Madagascar, the 40 very and most corrupt countries: 136. Cameroon/Iran/Kyrgyzstan/Lebanon/Nigeria/Russia – scoring 27, 142. Comoros, Uganda and Ukraine, the 31 very and most corrupt countries 145. Bangladesh, Guinea, Kenya, Laos, Papua New Guinea, all 5 of them scoring 25, 150. Central African Republic, 150. Paraguay, 152. Republic of the Congo, 152. Tajikistan, 154. Chad and

Democratic Republic of the Congo, the 20 most corrupt countries: 156. Cambodia, Myanmar and Zimbabwe – all 3 of them scoring 21, 159. Burundi and Syria, scoring 20 out of 100.

The 15 most corrupt countries are: 161. Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Venezuela and Yemen, all of them scoring 19, and finally the 10 most corrupt countries in the world (rank 174-166 from the most corrupt and up): 174. Somalia and North Korea - scoring 8, 173. Sudan, 172. Afghanistan, 171. South Sudan, 170. Iraq, 169. Turkmenistan, 166. Uzbekistan, Libya and Eritrea – all 3 of them scoring 18, 161. Yemen, Venezuela, Haiti, Guinea-Bissau, Angola, all 5 of them scoring 19. We show in this book that in the same manner that the most ethical countries score the best results in almost all the parameters, the most corrupt countries score the worst results in the same parameters, and we try to find what are the common denominators of the most ethical and most corrupt countries that affect their parameter scores.

However, in most of the cases, the law that Ethics Pays is applicable mainly to the 11 - 20 most and very ethical countries, scoring in TI's index 80-90+ and the law that Corruption Doesn't Pay is applicable mainly to the 15-31 most and very corrupt countries, scoring in TI's index 8-25. In the middle, between those two extremes of about 50 countries, the situation is not often clearcut, there are many mixed cases where more ethical countries perform worse than more corrupt countries, but we find also cases that more ethical countries perform better than most corrupt countries, although as a general rule most of the ethical states perform better than most of the corrupt states, and ethics causes the best performance in all the parameters and not vice versa. However, ethics is more influential in the ethical countries ranking 21-38 like Chile, Austria, and Poland, than in the quite ethical countries ranking 39-54, like Malaysia, Hungary and Czech Republic, although even in those states a moderate ethical conduct cause them to achieve better results than in more corrupt countries. In the very corrupt countries – the very corrupt conduct causes countries like 142. Ukraine, 136, Nigeria or 126. Pakistan to achieve worse results in most parameters than in corrupt countries like 110. Ethiopia, 107. Argentina, 85. Philippines, while quite corrupt countries - 69. Romania & Greece, 64. Turkey - achieve in most parameters better results than in corrupt countries.

Singapore changed from third world to first because of its ethical conduct and the ethical leadership of its late leader Lee Kuan Yew, and did not start to behave ethically after becoming one of the richest countries in the world. Nevertheless, in the middle between the two extremes, other parameters as the order of magnitude of the large countries – France, Russia, Brazil, China, Italy or South Korea, or the excessive wealth of oil rich countries as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait or Bahrain, is sometimes more dominant than the ethical impact. But all those considerations do not apply in the most ethical countries where the correlation between ethical conduct and best achievements is the strongest, thus giving a strong incentive to be a most/very ethical country, as only then we get the best results in the other parameters, while in the less ethical countries – the impact of ethics is not so strong as in the more ethical states.

55 MAIN CHARACTERISTIC PARAMETERS OF THE WORLD'S COUNTRIES

18 FIXED PARAMETERS

See sources in the links of Part V.

- 1. Name of the Country, as it appears in most publications, for example Afghanistan.
- 2. **Full Name of the Country**, as the country describes itself, for example Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.
- 3. **Local Name of the Country**, in the language of the country, for example Afghanestan.

4. **Status of Sovereignty**, an independent country, as most of the countries, a dependency describing the kind of dependency and to whom it is dependent, a de facto independent state.

There are about 300 countries in the world:

- 4.1 **197 Independent States** 193 members of the UN United Nations, as well as Taiwan, Vatican City, Niue, Cook Islands. See also lists and links of the states at the end of the book.
- 4.2 **80**+ **Dependencies** inhabited and uninhabited of 15 countries, mostly from the United Kingdom, France and the USA, but also from the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Finland, New Zealand, Australia, Greece, Argentine, Chile, Spain, Portugal and China. See also lists and links of the dependencies inhabited and uninhabited at the end of the book. Most of the inhabited dependencies are microstates with a population of less than 100,000.
- 4.3 **22 Disputed De Facto Independent States** South Ossetia, Abkhazia, Nagorno Karabakh, Transnistria, Gaza Strip, Palestinian National Authority/State, ISIL The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (Syria), Iraqi Kurdistan, Syrian Kurdistan, The National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces, Republika Srpska, Brcko District, Kosovo, Novorossiya Confederation, Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol, Northern Cyprus, Galmudug, Puntland, Somaliland, Western Sahara. However, as the Novorossiya Confederation was put on hold and on 20 May 2015 the constituent members announced the freezing of the political project, there are now two de facto entities instead Donetsk and Lugansk. On 18 March 2014, the Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol were annexed by the Russian Federation, and they are now federal subjects of Russia. Gaza strip is de jure part of the Palestinian National Authority/State, but de facto it is an independent state, while the PNA controls only part of the West Bank. Other states control only small parts of the state, are more autonomies than states, and most of the states (except Palestine and Kosovo) are recognized by very few states. See lists and links at the end of the book.
- 5. **Region of the Country** Region and continent of the country.
- 6. Link to a Map of the Country.
- 7. Link to up to 15 Websites with Essential Data on Hundreds of Additional Entries of the Country. Namely: The CIA World Factbook, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC Country Profiles, World Atlas, Maps of the World, etc.
- 7.1 CIA- The World Factbook: Flags, Maps & Data on Independent and Dependent Countries
- 7.2 Encyclopaedia Britannica Independent States Populated Dependent States
- 7.3 Wikipedia: Countries Independent (UN) Dependent De Facto Independent
- 7.4 Nations Online Independent and Dependent Countries
- 7.5 UN Data Countries Independent and Dependent, World Statistics Pocketbook
- 7.6 UN Statistical Yearbook Independent and Dependent Countries
- 7.7 BBC Countries Profiles Independent, Dependent, and De Facto Independent
- 7.8 World Atlas Independent and Dependent States
- 7.9 Maps of World, Basic Data on Independent and Dependent Countries

- 7.10 Countries of the World Independent and Dependent
- 7.11 List of Independent and Dependent Countries of the World
- 7.12 <u>Index Mundi Independent and Dependent States</u>
- 7.13 Operation World Independent and Dependent States
- 7.14 Internet World Stats, Basic data on Independent and Dependent Countries
- 7.15 Larousse Encyclopaedia in French

And dozens of additional sources listed in Parts IV and V.

Abbreviation in Countries entries: Independent (1), Dependent (2), De Facto Independent

Link to essential data 1 <u>CIA Factbook</u>, <u>Enc. Britannica</u>, <u>Wikipedia</u>, <u>Nations Online</u>, <u>UN Data</u>, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats

Link to essential data 2 Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats

Link to essential data on de facto independent countries: Wikipedia, BBC, Quora, Polgeonow

Countries can be found in the alphabetical order lists or using find at the top right location or find the name of the country highlighting its position in each of the lists above and below.

- 8. **Membership in Organizations** In the book are mentioned the **28 Countries Members of the EU European Union**, the **53 Members of the CW Commonwealth**, and lands belonging to no one **Terra Nullius Entities**. However, there are hundreds of additional international organizations see a comprehensive list of them at the end of Part IV.
- 9. **A Brief Description of Every Country**. This description varries according to the data available on each country. Large countries with many links to hundreds of pages on each country are described in this book only briefly. But small countries with limited data receive in this book a larger description, according to the interest we might find on each of them.
- 10. Capital of the Country Capital of independent countries and dependencies.
- 11. **Official Language** Language. The official language or central language commonly used by government, if there are some all the official languages.
- 12. **Religions** The main religions of the countries are mentioned.
- 13. **Ethnic Groups** Ethnics. An ethnicity, or ethnic group, is a socially-defined category of people who identify with each other based on common ancestral, social, cultural or national experience. Membership of an ethnic group tends to be defined by a shared cultural heritage, ancestry, myth of origins, history, homeland, language (dialect), or even ideology, and manifests itself through symbolic systems such as religion, mythology and ritual, cuisine, dressing style, physical appearance, etc. The main ethnic groups of the country are mentioned.
- 14. **System of Government** Government, head of state, parliament of the country. See also links to list of countries by system of government, heads of states and governments, colonial governors, list of females heads of government and heads of states in Part V, and the democracy index, ranking the democracy level of all countries, the corruption perceptions

index, where to be born/quality of life index, list of freedom indices, global peace index, and social progress index in Part IV, as well as in the links to the 15 additional websites.

- 15. **Population** (rank) in 2014 Population of every country– independent, de facto, and dependencies. See also list of Country Comparison at the beginning of Part IV below.
- 16. **Area** in sq.km. (rank) Area of every country independent, de facto, and dependencies. See also the full list of Country Comparison at the beginning of Part IV below.
- 17. **Population Density** (rank), Population Divided by Area in sq.km., the Number of Inhabitants per square kilometer Density. See also links to density lists in Part V.
- 18. **Flag** of the Country. See also links to flags of all the countries in Part V.

37 VARIABLE PARAMETERS

See sources in the lists in Part IV. CIA World Factbook is the source for parameters no. 19 to 34, with most of the data for 2013. In some cases the parameters have several sources and tables.

- 19. **Gross Domestic Product** Derived from Purchasing Power Parity GDP PPP (rank) GDP The value of all final goods and services produced within a state in a given year. The GDP dollar estimates given in this list are derived from purchasing power parity (PPP) calculations. The PPP takes into account the relative costs and the inflation rates of the countries, rather than using just exchange rates which may distort the real differences in income.
- 20. **GDP Per Capita** (rank) GDP per person. Explanations of GDP PPP: see GDP.
- 21. **GDP Real Growth Rate**, adjusted for inflation, in %.
- 22. **Gross National Saving** Gross National disposable income less final consumption expenditure. Consists of Personal, Business and Government Savings, excluding Foreign Savings. Data in % of GDP.
- 23. **Industrial Production Growth Rate** annual increase in manufacturing, mining and construction production.
- 24. Unemployment Rate, Average Wage, Compulsory Deductions, Median Income This parameter has 5 tables encompassing the whole relevant gamut of employment. Unemployment rate is a most salient data on economic condition. It compares the percent of the labor force that is without jobs. Another related important indicator is the average wage in the country, which is a measure for the financial well-being of a country's inhabitants, and is adjusted to living expenses. Wage distribution is right-skewed, a majority of people earn less than average wage. We compare the OECD statistics of Gross Income, Compulsory Deduction in % and Disposable Income in PPP US\$. The International Labour Organization ILO computes monthly average wage adjusted to reflext variations in the cost of living.

Median household income is the amount that divides the income distribution into two equal groups, half having income above that amount, and half having income below that amount. Mean income (average) is the amount obtained by dividing the total aggregate income of a group by the number of units in that group. Household income is often the combination of two income earners pooling their resources and should therefore not be confused with an individual's earnings. In 2013, Gallup published a list of countries with median household income. Using median, rather than mean income, results in a much more accurate picture of

the average income of the middle class since the data will not be skewed by gains and abnormalities in the extreme ends. Figures are before deduction of taxes/social contributions. Finally, we compare OECD's annual median equivalised disposable household income.

- 25. Income Inequality (rank) Inequality. Distribution of Family Income GINI Index, Population Shares of the Bottom, Middle and Top Income Groups. List of countries or dependencies by income inequality metrics, including Gini coefficients, according to the United Nations, the World Bank, etc. The Gini index or coefficient is a quantified representation of a nation's Lorenz curve number between 0 and 1, where 0 corresponds with perfect equality, where everyone has the same income, and 1 or 100% corresponds with perfect inequality, where one person has all the income and everyone else has zero income. We also compare the percentage of the middle class in various countries bottom, middle and top income groups, based on Luxembourg Income Study Working Papers.
- 26. Taxes and Other Revenues. Ranking of 151 Countries According to the Size of the Shadow Economy. Taxes and Other Revenues received by the National Government during the time period indicated, in % of GDP. Taxes include personal taxes, corporate income taxes, value added taxes, excise taxes and tariffs. Other Revenues include social contribution, such as payment for social security and hospital insurance, grants and net revenues from public enterprises. Ranking of 151 countries according to the size of the Shadow Economy -Shadow Economies all over the world – new estimates for 162 countries from 1999 to 2007 and average of the years, as a % of GDP, by Friedrich Schneider, Andreas Buehn, Claudio E. Montenegro, World Bank Development Research Group - Poverty and Inequality Team and Europe and Central Asian Region - Human Development Economic Unit - Policy Research Working Paper 5356, July 2010. The authors of the working paper find a clear negative trend in the size of the shadow economy. The unweighted average of the 162 countries in 1999 was 34.0% and in 2007 31.0%, hence a reduction of 3%. The driving forces of the shadow economy are an increased burden of taxation – both direct and indirect – combined with labor market regulations and the quality of public goods and services, as well as the state of the "official" economy, and avoidance of complying with certain administrative procedures.
- 27. **Budget Surplus(+) or Deficit (-)** the difference between national government revenues and expenditures expressed as a % of GDP. Surplus indicates that revenues exceeded expenditures. Deficit indicates the reverse.
- 28. External Debt and Gross and Net Government Debt as % of GDP compares the total public and private debt owed to nonresidents repayable in foreign currency goods or services, calculated on an exchange rate basis. Second Table Gross and Net Government Debt as % of GDP (source IMF 2012). The Gross Government Debt as % of GDP is often perceived as the most relevant data for discussions of government default and debt ceilings. It is different from external debt, which instead reflects the foreign currency liabilities of both the private and public sector. One should bear in mind also the Net Government Debt, which can be zero or even negative, while the Gross Government Debt might be very high (f.e. Singapore). In this case the country has an excellent financial position with a rating of AAA.
- 29. **Inflation Rate** (consumer prices) compares the annual percent change in consumer prices with the previous year's consumer prices.
- 30. **Central Bank Discount Rate** compares the annualized interest rate a country's central bank charges commercial depository banks for loans to meet temporary shortages of funds.

- 31. Commercial Bank Prime Lending Rate compares a simple average of annualized interest rates commercial banks charge on new loans, denominated in the national currency to their most credit-worthy customers.
- 32. **Market Value of Public Trades Shares** compares the value of shares issued by publicly traded companies at a price determined in the national stock markets on the final day of the period indicated the latest price per share multiplied by the total number of outstanding shares cumulated over all companies listed on the particular exchange.
- 33. **Current Account Balance** compares a country's net trade in goods and services, plus net earnings and net transfer payments to and from the rest of the world during the period specified. These figures are calculated on an exchange rate basis.
- 34. **Reserves of Foreign Exchange and Gold** compares the dollar value for the stock of all financial assets that are available to the central monetary authority for use in meeting a country's balance of payments needs as of the end-date of the period specified.
- 35. HDI Human Development Index (rank) HDI, Newsweek's World Best Countries, IHDI - Inequality Adjusted Human Development Index and Gender Inequality Index. The Human Development Index or HDI is published in the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Report, as released in 2014 based on 2013 figures. HDI is a comparative measure of life expectancy, literacy, education, standards of living, and quality of life. It is used to distinguish whether the country is developed, a developing or an underdeveloped country. The index was developed in 1990 by Pakistani economist Mahbub ul Haq and Indian economist Amartya Sen. The highest HDI, most developed country, is ranked no. 1, with an index close to 1. We compare also Newsweek's World Best Countries measuring various parameters as well. We show also a table of IHDI – Inequality adjusted human development index, based on 2013 and 2011 estimates. The IHDI is the actual level of human development, taking into account inequality, while the HDI can be viewed as an index of the potential human development that could be achieved if there is no inequality. The greater the difference between them, greater is the inequality. In perfect equality HDI=IHDI. Finally we show a table of Gender Inequality Index prepared by the United Nations Development Programme – Human Development Reports, by rank and score of equality (no. 1 is the most equal with a score close to 0 - no inequality), and share of seats in parliament.
- 36. **Poverty Indices** (rank) Poverty. Poverty is defined as an economic condition of lacking both money and basic necessities needed to successfully live, such as food, water, education, healthcare, and shelter. Lack of income security, economic stability and the predictability of one's continued means to meet basic needs all serve as absolute indicators of poverty. The data refers to the most recent year available during the period 1992-2011 percentage of population living below national poverty line, which varies widely between rich and poor countries. Also, percentage of population living below the international poverty line of \$2 PPP (purchasing power parity) a day. Source World Bank and CIA. Also, percentage of population below national poverty line, source Index Mundi based on CIA's World Factbook, 2012.
- 37. **Internet Penetration** (rank)—Internet. Internet penetration rate (IPR) is the no. of Internet users divided by the population, and expressed in %. The highest % the best penetration. Source Internet World Stats, 2013-2014.
- 38. **Happiness Index** (rank) Happiness. 2010-2012. The World Happiness Report is a measure of happiness published by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. The

report outlined the state of world happiness, causes of happiness and misery, and policy implications. The index is based on economics, psychology, survey analysis, national statistics, progress, mental illness, objective benefits of happiness, the importance of ethics, policy implications, subjective well-being and the Human Development Report. Six key variables explain three-quarters of the variation in annual national average scores over time and among countries: real GDP per capita, healthy life expectancy, having someone to count on, perceived freedom to make life choices, freedom from corruption, and generosity. The scale runs from 0 to 10, while 10 is perfect happiness, and the highest ratio ranks no. 1.

- 39. Currency and Exchange Rate to the US\$ Currency of every country independent and dependencies, and exchange rate to the US\$ at a specific date. Sources Wall Street Journal February 13, 2015, XE Currency Encyclopaedia and Wall Street Journal current.
- 40. Corruption Perceptions Index Transparency International TI 2014 rank, 2012-2014, 2005, 1996/95 scores. Global Corruption Barometer Transparency International % of People who Paid Bribes 2013. Each year countries are scored on how corrupt their public sectors are perceived. It is a combination of surveys and assessments of corruption, collected by a variety of reputable institutions. The CPI is the most widely used indicator of corruption worldwide. Corruption comprises illegal activities, which are delibarately hidden and only come to light through scandals, investigations or prosecutions. There is no meaningful way to assess absolute levels of corruption in countries or territories on the basis of hard empirical data. Capturing perceptions of corruption of those in a position to offer assessments of public sector corruption is the most reliable method of comparing relative corruption levels in countries. The Global Corruption Barometer is based on people being surveyed whether they have paid a bribe to a public body during the last year, with a margin of error for each country of 3%. Yet, for a small number of countries, including Brazil and Russia, data on particular questions has been excluded because of concerns about validity and reliability. Apparently, people may be afraid to tell the truth on paying bribes to the surveyor.

Transparency International (TI) maintains that corruption is a major threat facing humanity, it destroys lives and communities and undermines countries and institutions. It generates popular anger that threatens to further destabilise societies and exacerbate violent conflicts. The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) scores countries on a scale from 0 – highly corrupt – to 100 – very clean. While no country has a perfect score, two-thirds of the countries score below 50, indicating a serious corruption problem. Corruption translates into human suffering, with poor families being extorted for bribes to see doctors or to get access to clean drinking water. It leads to failure in the delivery of basic services like education or health care. It derails the building of essential infrastructure, as corrupt leaders skim funds. Corruption amounts to a dirty tax, and the poor, weak, and most vulnerable are its primary victims.

Governments need to integrate anti-corruption actions into all aspects of decision-making. They must prioritise better rules on lobbying and political financing, make public spending and contracting more transparent, and make public bodies more accountable. But corruption is not limited only to the public sectors, as examined in the surveys of TI. It spills over to all the segments of activities in the country, first of all to business, but also to the relations with all the stakeholders in society – customers, environment, employees, community, suppliers, creditors, shareholders and especially minority shareholders, all levels of society, the media, education, welfare, hospitals, schools, universities, culture, and so on. Those problems are the leitmotive in all the research, courses, books, lectures and articles of Dr. Jacques Cory, who was also a member of TI's Board in Israel, and were presented to the management of Transparency International in Berlin in 2010.

- 41. Where to Be Born Index The Economist Intelligence Unit, 2013 measuring quality of life, material well being GDP per capita, life expectancy at birth, family life, political freedoms, job security unemployment rate, climate, personal physical security ratings, community life, governance ratings for corruption, gender equality in paliament seats.
- 42. **List of Freedom Indices Wikipedia**, 2014 freedom in the world index, index of economic freedom, press freedom index. Sources Freedom House, Wall Street Journal, Reporters Without Borders.
- 43. **Democracy Index The Economist Intelligence Unit**, 2014 rank, overall score, electoral process and pluralism, functioning of government, political participation, political culture, civil liberties.
- 44. **Social Progress Index** published by Social Progress Imperative, based on the writings of Amartya Sen, Douglas North and Joseph Stiglitz 2014 based on 52 indicators of basic human needs, foundations of wellbeing and opportunity to progress, providing for the social and environmental needs of citizens, rather than economic factors, including ecosystem sustainability, health, wellness, shelter, sanitation, equity, personal freedom and safety.
- 45. **GDP** (**PPP**) **per Hour Worked** 2013 GDP Gross Domestic Product normalized to PPP Purchasing Power Parity, measures the productivity of a country when not taking into account unmemployment or hours worked per week. Work is measured as hours actually worked during the year in employee and self-employment jobs. Source The Conference Board and Eurostat.
- 46. **Global Peace Index and Incarceration Rate** 2014-2010 GPI measures the relative position of nation's and region's peacefulness. It is the product of the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP). It ranks 162 countries, excluding micro-states and countries having either less than a population of 1 million people or an area of less than 20,000 sq.km. GPI investigates the extent in which countries are involved in ongoing domestic and international conflicts, the level of harmony or discord within a nation, safety and security in society.

The 22 indicators of Peace are – no. of external and internal conflicts fought, no. of deaths from organized conflict: external and internal, level of internal organized conflict, relations with neighbouring countries, level of perceived criminality in society, no. of refugees and displaced persons as % of population, political instability, terrorist activity, political terror scale, no. of homicides per 100,000 people, level of violent crime, likelihood of violent demonstrations, no. of jailed persons per 100,000 people, no. of internal security officers and police per 100,000 people, military expenditure as a % of GDP, no of armed-services personnel, volume of transfers of major conventional weapons as recipient (imports)/supplier (exports) per 100,000 people, financial contribution to UN peacekeeping missions, nuclear and heavy weapons capability, ease of access to small arms and light weapons. The most peaceful countries get a score closer to 1.

Another list – The List of Incarceration Rate – 2014 – Source World Prison Brief, International Center for Prison Studies, gives the list of all the countries of the world with their rank and no. of prisoners per 100,000 population, this is one of the most important parameters of the Global Peace Index, and a salient indicator from the 22 indicators of Peace.

Another list – The List of Countries by Fragile States Index – 2015 – Source Fund for Peace. This is a list of countries by order of appearance in the Fragile States Index (formerly the Failed States Index) of the United States think-tank Fund for Peace. The list aims to assess

states' vulnerability to conflict or collapse, ranking all sovereign states with membership in the United Nations where there is enough data available for analysis. Taiwan, the Palestinian Territories, Northern Cyprus, Kosovo and Western Sahara are not ranked, despite being recognized as sovereign by one or more other nations. Ranking is based on the sum of scores for 12 indicators. Each indicator is scored on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being the lowest intensity (most stable) and 10 being the highest intensity (least stable), creating a scale spanning 0-120. A fragile state has several attributes. Common indicators include a state whose central government is so weak or ineffective, that it has little practical control over much of its territory; non-provision of public services; widespread corruption and criminality; refugees and involuntary movement of populations and sharp economic decline.

- 47. **Global Competitiveness Index** Global Competitiveness Report 2014/2015 World Economic Forum. Competitiveness is the set of institutions, policies & factors that determine the level of productivity of a country, setting the level of prosperity that can be reached by an economy, & determining the rates of return obtained by investments in an economy and the growth rates. Methodology the 12 pillars of competitiveness are: 1. Institutions protection of property rights, efficiency and transparency of public administration, independence of the judiciary, physical security, business ethics and corporate governance in public and private institutions. 2. Infrastructure quality and availability of transport, electricity and communication infrastructures. 3. Macroeconomic Environment fiscal and monetary indicators, savings rate and sovereign debt rating.
- 4. Health and Primary Education state of public health, quality and quantity of basic education. 5. Higher Education and Training quality & quantity of higher education and of on-the-job training. 6. Goods Market Efficiency intensity of domestic & foreign competition, quality of demand conditions. 7. Labour Market Efficiency labour market efficiency & flexibility, meritocracy & gender parity in the workplace. 8. Finacial Market Development efficiency, stability & trustworthiness of the financial and banking system. 9. Technological Readiness. 10. Domestic & Foreign Market Size. 11. Business Sophistication & Efficiency. 12. Innovation. Score 1-7 (7 is the best).
- 48. **Financial Development Index** 2012 Overall Index The Financial Development Report 2012 World Economic Forum. Measures the institutional environment, busines environment, financial stability, banking financial services, non-banking financial services, financial markets, and financial access. Score is 1-7, 7 is the best score.
- 49. **Gross National Income GNI Per Capita** in 2013 at nominal value, according to the Atlas Method, an indicator of income developed by the World Bank. It is the dollar value of a country's final income in a year, divided by its population. It reflects the average income of a country's citizens, and gives the general standard of living enjoyed by the average citizen.
- 50. **Total Health Expenditure** PPP per capita in in International dollars, in % of GDP, 2010 List of Countries. Source WHO World Health Organization.
- 51. **Credit Rating** 2012-2014 by Standard & Poors et al. List of Countries For S&P, a bond is considered investment grade if its credit rating is BBB or higher. Bonds rated BB+ and below are considered to be speculative or "junk" bonds.
- 52. **Education Index** 2014 The Learning Curve Pearson Global Report on Education. The best education systems in the world in 2014 and 2012. The Index combines national data and a number of international ranking, including PISA Programme of International Student Assessment, TIMSS Trends in International Mathematics and Sciences Studies, PIRLS –

Progress on International Reading Study – to provide an interpretation of how countries are performing relative to each other. Other indices – World Top 20 Poll Ranking Education Systems and U21 Ranking of National Higher Education Systems.

- 53. **Distribution of Wealth** List of Countries compares the wealth of various members or groups in a society. It looks at the distribution of ownership of the assets in a society. Wealth=Assets-Liabilities, a person's Net Worth. Data is for 2000, based on Purchasing Power Parity PPP\$, based on a 2008 working paper published by the National Bureau of Economic Research. Higher Gini coefficients signify greater inequality in wealth distribution, with 1 being complete inequality, and 0 being complete equality. The top 10% owned 71% of World Wealth. Breakdown Wealth per Capita, Wealth per Adult, Wealth Gini.
- 54. **Environmental Performance Index** EPI Yale University 2014 Indicators: Health Impacts, Air Quality, Water and Sanitation, Water Resources, Agriculture, Forest, Fisheries, Biodiversity and Habitat, Climate and Energy. Highest score is closest to 100.
- 55. Index of Globalization KOF 2013 source KOF (ETH) Swiss Economic Institute. Measures economic, social and political dimensions of globalization referring to actual economic flows, economic restrictions, data on information flows, data on personal contact and data on cultural proximity. Highest score is closest to 100.

At the end of the book we can find a detailed bibliography, Internet links, references, further reading and watching, on countries of the world's data, as well as on the future of capitalism and ethics, a list of works on those subjects, Cory's CV and List of Publications. Appendix 1 comprises some of the best cosmopolitan and ethical works that Cory has ever written: an essay about the French book and film L'Argent – Money by Emile Zola, case studies and analysis of plays and films on bribes, trust, banking, corruption, whistleblowing, mentality gaps - from Israel, France, North and South America, United States, United Kingdom, Singapore, Argentina, Russia, Africa, Switzerland – Revizor, An Enemy of the People, The Visit, reviews on Joseph Stiglitz, Paul Hawken, Warren Buffett, lists of countries visited by Cory, comments on countries visited, plans to visit additional countries, etc. Appendix 2 comprises maps of the world and continents, links to maps of countries, populations, capitals, 300 flags of every country, and photos on the trips of Cory's family all over the world.

PART II – THE MOST ETHICAL COUNTRIES - DENMARK, NEW ZEALAND, FINLAND, SWEDEN, NORWAY, SWITZERLAND, SINGAPORE, NETHERLANDS, LUXEMBOURG, CANADA, AUSTRALIA – RECEIVE THE BEST PARAMETERS' SCORES, AND THE MOST CORRUPT RECEIVE THE LOWEST SCORES

INTRODUCTION

This book analyses the performance in the most salient parameters of the 11 most ethical and least corrupt countries in the world, scoring consistently over the years between 80 and 90+-"very clean", namely Denmark, New Zealand, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Singapore, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Canada and Australia. But right after them one can find Germany, Iceland and United Kingdom that have also scored in the past more than 80 but now they score less. We found common denominators and behavior of the ethical countries proving that "Ethics Pays" as they perform in general much better than the other countries. On the other hand the most corrupt countries score the worst results in almost all parameters: in ascending order - Somalia, North Korea, Sudan, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Iraq, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Libya, Eritrea. And the 10 following countries are: Yemen, Venezuela, Haiti, Guinea-Bissau, Angola, Syria, Burundi, Zimbabwe, Myanmar, Cambodia.

One can see how the most ethical and least corrupt countries score the highest ranks in most of the other parameters - Happiness based on real GDP per capita, healthy life expectancy, having someone to count on, perceived freedom to make life choices, freedom from corruption and generosity, HDI human development index based on education, literacy, life expectancy, standards of living and quality of life, Least Income Inequality (Gini Index) and Least Poverty, Quality of Life based on GDP per capita, life expectancy at birth, family life, political freedoms, job security - unemployment rate, climate, personal physical security ratings, community life, governance - ratings for corruption, gender equality in parliament seats, Freedom in the World, Economic Freedom and Press Freedom Indices, Democracy Index based on electoral process and pluralism, functioning of government, political participation, political culture, civil liberties, Social Progress Index based on 52 indicators of basic human needs, foundations of wellbeing and opportunity to progress, providing for the social and environmental needs of citizens, rather than economic factors, including ecosystem sustainability, health, wellness, shelter, sanitation, equity, personal freedom and personal safety; as well as purely Economic Indicators such as the efficiency parameter - highest GDP (PPP) per Hour Worked, lowest Unemployment Rates, best results in Wealth Indicators, etc. We have analyzed dozens of parameters, but we have not analyzed much more in order to focus only on the most salient parameters. However, it is worthwhile to mention that the most ethical countries score the best/lowest results also in other parameters, such as Life Expectancy at Birth, Maternal Mortality Rate, Infant Mortality Rate, people and society, economy, energy, communications, transportation and other important parameters as well.

1. COUNTRY COMPARISON - POPULATION - CIA - WORLD FACTBOOK

The 11 most ethical and least corrupt countries of the world in the TI - Transparency International index have a relatively small population – 1. Denmark (6M), 2. New Zealand

(4M), 3. Finland (5M), 4. Sweden (10M), 5. Norway (5M), 6. Switzerland (8M), 7. Singapore (6M), 8. Netherlands (17M), 9. Luxembourg (0.5M), 10. Canada (35M), 11. Australia (23M).

They reside mostly in cold weathered Northern Europe - all the Scandinavian countries, even Iceland is ranked no. 12, all the Benelux countries: Luxembourg, the Netherlands, even Belgium is ranked no. 15, and Switzerland, or have mostly Northern/Anglo-Saxon European origins (Canada, New Zealand and Australia). The majority of their population has North/West Germanic ethnicity and languages (except Finland, but even Germany is ranked no. 12 and United Kingdom no. 14) and the majority of population shares Protestant religions.

Singapore is an exception, located right near the Equator, a former UK colony with a deep British influence, with a majority of Chinese and minorities of Malayans and Indians, and with a common language – English. However, China is ranked no. 100 in TI index, Malaysia – no. 50, and India – no. 85. The reason of Singapore's lack of corruption could be the leadership of its founder Lee Kuan Yew who lead and influenced Singapore since its inception, which could prove that ethical leadership is a very important indicator of ethics.

Even in the other most ethical countries ethnicity and religion are not the exclusive determinators - as Finns have no Germanic ethnicity and language but have a long legacy of social progressivism, in 1906 becoming the first nation in the world to give full suffrage to all adult citizens. French/Italian Switzerland, French Canada, and in Belgium (no. 15) the Walloons, as well as most of the non Anglo-Saxon immigrants to Australia and Canada, are not Germanic or Protestants. However, all peoples of those countries share the same ethical heritage and cultural beliefs, whether they are the descendants of the Vikings, Australian Greeks or Vietnamese (but Greece is ranked no. 69 and Vietnam – no. 119 in TI's index), Canadian Jews or Arabs (but Israel is ranked no. 37, Jordan - no. 55, Lebanon – no. 136, and Syria – no. 159), Swiss Italians (Italy is ranked no. 69), Dutch Indonesians (Indonesia is - no. 107), or in the case of the US (no. 17 in TI's index) – Mexicans, Russians or Haitians (Mexico - no. 103, Russia – 136, Haiti – 161), proving that culture is a very dominant factor of ethics.

We analyze occasionely, the second tier countries, scoring 74-79, ranked 12-17/20 – mostly: Germany (12) - the largest Germanic country, Iceland (12) – the 5th Scandinavian country, United Kingdom (14) – the parent nation of the Anglo-Saxon countries, Belgium (15) – the 3rd Benelux country, Japan (15) – the largest Eastern capitalist country, influenced deeply after World War II by the US constitution and capitalist model, Barbados (17) – an Afro-Caribbean population, with the deepest English influence, Hong Kong (17) – a Chinese population with the deepest English influence, Ireland (17) – the 5th Anglo-Saxon-Celtic capitalist country among the most ethical countries, and finally the United States (17) – the largest Anglo-Saxon Protestant country, and the model of modern capitalism in the world.

If we try to find a common denominator for the most ethical countries it could be - countries of Germanic ethnicity (most of the population in Scandinavia, Benelux, Germany, and Switerland), with Anglo-Saxon-Celtic origins (most of the existing or founding population of New Zealand, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, Ireland and the United States), with Anglo-Saxon capitalist influence (Singapore, Japan, Barbados, Hong-Kong), with a majority of protestant population in almost all those countries (except Singapore, Ireland Republic, and Japan). However, with substantial minorities from Latin, Slavic, African or Asian origins, with Catholic, Orthodox, Jews, Moslems and Eastern religions, but sharing the same ethical culture or influenced by ethical leaders as the founding fathers of the US or Lee Kuan Yew.

But what about the most corrupt countries, can we find for them also a common denominator that affects their ethics and cause them to have the worst scores in almost all the parameters?

Who are those countries? The 10 most corrupt countries score 8 to 18 in TI's index, comparable to 80 to 90+ for the most ethical countries: 174. Somalia, North Korea, 173. Sudan, 172. Afghanistan, 171. South Sudan, 170. Iraq, 169. Turkmenistan, 166. Uzbekistan, 166. Libya, 166. Eritrea. What is common for all those countries? Most of them are Moslem countries, except South Sudan and North Korea (Eritrea is half Moslem). But we have to bear in mind that some Moslem Oil-Rich countries have a high ranking in TI's index – United Arab Emirates – 25, Qatar – 26. All of them have totalitarian regimes and limited civil rights, although some of them as Iraq and Afghanistan made attempts to be democratic. This is true also for the next 10 most corrupt countries (scoring 19-21). Most of them have made wars or suffered from civil unrest recently, like Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Libya, Yemen. All of them are very poor countries, most of them in Africa and some of them in Asia and Latin America. North Korea spends huge amounts for its defense and Venezuela is very generous towards communist regimes like Cuba. They suffer from the worst quality of life in the world, worst social progress and worst economic performance.

2. COUNTRY COMPARISON - AREA (IN SQ.KM.) - CIA - WORLD FACTBOOK

One cannot find any common determinator of TI's index 11 most ethical and least corrupt countries in the world, as far as their areas is concerned. We have two of the largest countries in the world – Canada (10M), Australia (8M), 4 medium-sized countries – Sweden (450K), Finland (338K), Norway (324K), New Zealand (268K), however, most of their populations reside in a small part of the countries – southern Scandinavia and Canada, as well as southeast Australian coastline. We have three small countries – Denmark (43K), Netherlands (42K), Switzerland (41K), and two very small countries – Luxembourg (2.6K) and Singapore (0.7K).

Of the largest and most populated countries only the United States are very ethical (no. 17 in TI's index) and most of the other countries have a high level of perceived corruption – Russia (136), China (100), Brazil (69), India (85), Argentina (107), Congo DR (154), Mexico (103), Indonesia (107), Sudan (173), Iran (136). But even in similar countries in ethnics, language, religion, and other parameters as North Korea (population – 25M, area – 121K) and South Korea (population – 49M, area – 100K), there is a huge gap in ethics: South Korea is ranked no. 43 in TI's index (score – 55, quite ethical) while North Korea is ranked 174 – the most corrupt country in the world with a score of 8 (!) out of 100, sharing this rank with Somalia, while Sudan, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Iraq, Libya, Venezuela and Haiti are less corrupt.

The gap can be explained uniquely by the political and economic regimes of the sister-countries, and we can guess that if in the future the countries will be united the South Korean much more ethical culture will prevail, as happened between East and West Germany.

3. COUNTRY COMPARISON: GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT - GDP - AT PPP - PURCHASING POWER PARITY EXCHANGE RATES - CIA WORLD FACTBOOK

The 11 most ethical and least corrupt countries in the world are also among the richest countries - proportionate to their size, population and distribution of wealth. A Gulf state can be very reach but most of the wealth belongs to a tiny minority of the population, while Finland can be "poorer", but most of the population benefits from the country's wealth. In the following tables one can see that the welfare of a country is not confined to its GDP or

wealth, but to much more parameters, such as happiness, human development, democracy, freedom, ethics and minimal corruption, social progress, and least inequality and poverty.

Canada has a GDP of 1.5 trillion US dollars (PPP), Australia – 1 trillion US\$, Netherlands – 700 billion US\$, Sweden – 394 billion US\$, Switzerland – 371 billion US\$, the very small Singapore – 339 billion US\$, Norway – 282 billion US\$, Denmark – 211 billion US\$, Finland – 196 billion US\$, New Zealand – 136 billion US\$, and Luxembourg – 43 billion US\$. Denmark has a GDP smaller than the United Arab Emirates – 270 billion US\$ and a little more than Qatar – 199 billion US\$, but by all standards presented in this book the welfare of the Danish people is much greater than the majority of Qatar and United Arab Emirates.

4. COUNTRY COMPARISON: GDP PER CAPITA - GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT ON A PPP - PURCHASING POWER PARITY BASIS, DIVIDED BY THE POPULATION - CIA - WORLD FACTBOOK

One might get the impression that the 11 most ethical and least corrupt countries of the world do not obtain in this parameter the highest scores – Finland for example is ranked only no. 38 and New Zealand – no. 46, a good position in a 228 countries list, but still not among the 10 or even the 20 best countries. But if one analizes who share the best ranks we find that we have at least 14 countries that are not relevant to the comparison, as they are micro-states countries (except the huge Greenland that is almost empty), with population of thousands or tens of thousands people, that have a very limited economic activity, besides tax shelters and casinos, such as Liechtenstein, Monaco, Jersey, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Andorra, Isle of Man, Guernsey, Cayman Islands, British Virgin Islands, Greenland, St. Pierre and Miquelon, Faroe Islands and Bermuda, that may have a very high GDP per capita, but we cannot compare them to "comparable" countries such as Denmark, Canada, Singapore, or Australia.

The GDP per capita (PPP) of the 11 most ethical countries are in US\$ - Luxembourg - \$77,900, Singapore - \$62,400, Norway - 55,400, Switzerland - 54,800, Netherlands - 43,300, Canada - 43,100, Australia - 43,000, Sweden - 40,900, Denmark - 37,800, Finland - 35,900, New Zealand - \$30,400. If we leave only the comparable countries, we find that 7 (58%) out of the first 12 countries with the highest GDP per capita are the most ethical countries: Luxembourg, Singapore, Norway, Switzerland, Netherlands, Canada and Australia. And we include in those countries the very small but very rich in oil and gaz reserves Qatar with the highest GDP per capita - \$102,100, which proves that if ethics pays - oil pays even better

Still, Qatar is no. 26 in TI's index and United Arab Emirates are no. 25. In 2013, Qatar's total population was 1.8 million: 278,000 Qatari citizens and 1.5 million expatriates. If we take into consideration that it has a Gini coefficient of 41.1, higher even than Russia and Senegal, and it applies only to the citizens, we can deduct that the rulers earn so much that the figure of \$102,400 applies mostly to them and not to the majority of the citizens and of course not to the expatriates. We could find such similarities also with oil rich states as Brunei and Kuwait.

19 out of the 20 most ethical countries in 2014, adding Germany, Iceland, United Kingdom, Belgium, Japan, Hong Kong, Ireland and the United States (without Barbados...) are among the 32 richest countries in the world (without the states with micro population: 46-14=32), or 60% of the richest states are also the most ethical, while the others are mainly oil countries or ethical/quite ethical countries ranking down to 43: Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Brunei (rich in oil but with a high degree of inequality), Austria (TI - 23), France (26), Taiwan (35), Israel (37), South Korea (43), European Union that is not a country, dependencies... So, after

all, Ethics Pays and the most ethical countries are almost exclusively the richest countries in the world, together with some oil rich countries and states with micro population.

The 20 -30 most corrupt countries score here again the worst results (\$400-\$1,800) and they are the poorest countries in the world: Democratic Rep. of the Congo, Zimbabwe, Somalia, Burundi, Central African Republic, Afghanistan, Guinea-Bissau, Eritrea, Haiti, South Sudan, Myanmar, North Korea and Kenya. But what about corrupt "rich" countries, rich in oil and minerals, apparently they are not poor in GDP per capita, but due to their high level of inequality, most of the population is very poor even if the GDP per capita is not so low. Those countries are economically disparate, with the majority of the nation's wealth concentrated in a disproportionately small sector of the population: in \$ - Sudan - 2,600, Nigeria -2,800, Republic of the Congo - 4,800, Angola - 6,300, Iraq - 7,100, Venezuela - 13,600...

5. COUNTRY COMPARISON: GDP REAL GROWTH RATE, ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION IN % - CIA - WORLD FACTBOOK

In this parameter the best results are achieved by developing countries (there are almost no developing countries among the most ethical countries) and ethical conduct seems at first not to affect the GDP real growth rate. As the ethical countries are very rich it is much more difficult to increase GDP substantially every year, while poorer countries such as South Sudan, Sierra Leone, Paraguay, or Mongolia increase their GDP at a rate of above 10% annually. Developing countries (excluding micro-states) prevail also in the growth bracket of 5%-10% - Moldova, Laos, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, China (7.7%), Panama, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Ethiopia, Burma, Philippines, Mauritania, Sri Lanka, Congo DR, Zambia, Bangladesh, Angola, Uganda – and only in the 47th rank we find the first oil-rich country – Qatar with 5.5%, followed by Bahrain, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and so on.

The first rich non-oil ethical country is Singapore with 4.1% (ranked no. 74), which is quite high taking into consideration the World Great Recession. The other 10 most ethical countries score much lower results: New Zealand -2.5% (130), Australia -2.5% (131), Switzerland -2.0% (146), Canada -1.6% (154), Norway -1.6% (156), Sweden -0.9% (177), Luxembourg -0.5% (187), Denmark -0.1% (195), Finland -0.6% (negative, rank -201), Netherlands -0.8% (negative, rank -202). You can't win them all -1 the most ethical countries score on the average very low scores, but still -1 if we recall that the European Union with its 28 states grows on the average -0.1%, i.e. no growth at all, we can appreciate the fact that most of the best ethical countries (6 out of 11) achieve growth rates much higher than the European Union average -0.1%, or even higher than the United States -1.6%, maybe because Norway, Canada, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore are not members of the EU.

3 of the most ethical countries, members of the EU, out of 11 score equal or higher scores than the EU – Sweden, Luxembourg, Denmark, and only 2 score negative growth – Finland and the Netherlands. If we enlarge the comparison to the 20 most ethical countries, we find that here also most of the countries perform better than the other developed countries and the European Union – Hong Kong – 2.9%, Japan – 2%, Iceland – 1.9%, United Kingdom – 1.8%, Ireland – 0.6%, Germany – 0.5%, Belgium – 0.1%, and as mentioned above – the United States (no. 17 in TI's index) GDP growth at a rate of 1.6%. Only Barbados scores a negative - 0.8%. So, the 11 or 20 most ethical countries perform on the average better than less ethical developed countries, but much lower than developing poorer and unethical countries or than oil-rich states. Here again, we find that Ethics Pays, by comparing ethical developed countries

with less ethical ones, proving that the GDP growth rate of ethical countries is much higher than comparable less ethical countries, even if in absolute terms it is still very low.

The most corrupt countries score here high results and we could be tempted to say that Ethics Pays but corruption pays even better. Which is true, but depending to whom – Ethics Pays for the majority of the population while corruption pays for a small minority of the population who receives the huge bribes. We find here that the most corrupt countries have also the highest growth rate: South Sudan (fifth most corrupt country) is no. 1 with a GDP growth rate of 24.7%. Followed by very corrupt countries, such as Sierra Leone – 13.3, Turkmenistan – 12.2, Paraguay – 12.0, Macau (gambling) – 11.9, Mongolia (TI -80) - 11.8, Moldova (TI – 103) – 8.9, Laos – 8.3, Liberia – 8.1, China (TI – 100) – 7.7, Eritrea, Cambodia, Uzbekistan...

6. COUNTRY COMPARISON – GROSS NATIONAL SAVING AS % OF GDP – (MOSTLY 2013 EST.) - CIA - WORLD FACTBOOK

Gross National Savings as % of GDP is a very strong indicator of the sustainability of a country and many developing countries and oil-rich states have a high percentage, such as China – 50%, Kuwait and Qatar – 54%, Algeria and Saudi Arabia – 45%, Vietnam– 38%, etc. But if we compare developed countries – ethical and less ethical, we find that the most ethical countries perform much better than the less ethical ones. Thus, Singapore – 45%, Norway – 38%, Switzerland – 32%, Netherlands and Sweden – 26%, Australia and Denmark – 24% and Canada – 22%, have a much higher savings rate than the average of the European Union – 19%, and even Finland – 18% and New Zealand – 16% have a much higher savings rate than the United States – 14%. So, here again we have a proof that Ethics Pays by comparing ethical developed countries which save a large part of their earnings in comparison to less ethical developed countries, bearing in mind that adequate savings is also an ethical feature.

7. COUNTRY COMPARISON – INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION GROWTH RATE IN % - (MOSTLY 2013 EST.) - CIA - WORLD FACTBOOK

The most ethical countries have in this indicator of 'industrial production growth rate' very low scores and ranks, as the developing countries have the highest ranks and scores: Kyrgyzstan and Congo DR – 12%, Burma and Laos – 11%, Philippines and Bangladesh – 9%, China and Zambia – 8%, etc. However, if we compare the most ethical countries which are all developed with the less ethical developed countries, we find here again that the ethical countries outperform the less ethical. Thus, 7 out of 11 – 64% outperform by far the score of the European Union which is negative – -0.3%: Australia – 3.2%, Switzerland – 2.2%, New Zealand – 1.9%, Singapore – 1.7%, Canada – 1.4%, Denmark – 1.1%, Netherlands – 0.5%, most of them are not members of the EU. Only Sweden and Luxembourg score much lower negative results - -1%, Norway - -3%, Finland - -4.2%. Maybe the most ethical countries which are developed and are welfare states are less "hungry" than the developing countries which are in most cases unethical with high growth rates of GDP and industrial production – indicators that probably are not so affected by ethics, unless we compare developed countries: ethical and less ethical – and in this comparison we see that Ethics Pays, as we compare countries in the same category of development, which tend to grow at much slower rates.

Here again, the most corrupt countries score high results and we could be tempted to say that Ethics Pays but corruption pays even better. Which is true, but depending to whom – Ethics

Pays for the majority of the population while corruption pays for a small minority of the population who receives the huge bribes. We find here that the most corrupt countries have also the highest growth rate: Sierra Leone (TI - 119) is no. 1 with a growth rate of 42%. Followed by very corrupt countries, such as Guyana (TI – 124) – 13.5%, Kyrgyzstan (TI – 136) – 12.0, Democratic Republic of the Congo (TI – 154) – 12.0, Myanmar (TI – 156) – 11.4, Mongolia, Sudan, Laos, Chad, Libya, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Mauritania...

8. COUNTRY COMPARISON—UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN % OF LABOR FORCE THAT IS WITHOUT JOBS (MOSTLY 2013 EST.) - CIA WORLD FACTBOOK

It is quite incomprehensible how the rate of unemployment is less than 2% in such poor countries as Cambodia, Thailand, Belarus, Vietnam, Papua and Laos. But one has to assume that all the data in this book is correct, as the sources have an impeccable reputation, otherwise all the conclusions of the book are flawed. However, the most ethical countries have an unemployment rate which is relatively quite low and anyhow less than average, surely in comparison to more than a hundred countries ranked after them. Singapore – 1.9%, Switzerland – 3.2%, Norway – 3.6%, Luxembourg – 4.9%, Australia – 5.7%, Denmark – 6%, New Zealand – 6.4%, Canada – 7.1%, Sweden – 8.1%, Finland – 8.1%, Netherlands – 8.3%. Furthermore, the ethical countries have a sophisticated system of unemployment benefits and compensation, as well as social rights, which are much better than the unethical countries. All of the most ethical countries have unemployment rates which are much lower than the rate of the European Union – 10.5%, and most of them have a lower rate than the rate of the UK – 7.2% and the US – 7.3%, which are also among the 20 most ethical countries of the world.

The highest unemployment rates are in the most corrupt countries: Zimbabwe (TI - 156) has an unbelievable rate of 95% (nobody works there?), Liberia (TI - 94) - 85%, Burkina Faso (TI - 85) - 77%, Turkmenistan (TI - 169) - 60%, Djibouti (TI - 107) - 59%, Republic of the Congo (TI - 152) - 53%, Senegal, Nepal, Haiti (TI - 161) - 41%, Kenya (TI - 145) - 40%, Yemen (TI - 161) - 35%, Afghanistan (TI - 172), Mauritania, Libya (TI - 166) - 30%.

LIST OF COUNTRIES BY AVERAGE WAGE - THE AVERAGE WAGE IS A MEASURE FOR THE FINANCIAL WELL-BEING OF A COUNTRY'S INHABITANTS. AVERAGE WAGES ARE ADJUSTED TO LIVING EXPENSES. WAGE DISTRIBUTION IS RIGHT-SKEWED. A MAJORITY OF PEOPLE EARN LESS THAN AVERAGE WAGE

1ST TABLE: GROSS INCOME, COMPULSORY DEDUCTION IN %, DISPOSABLE INCOME - OECD STATISTICS – 2012, in PPP US\$

2ND TABLE: MONTHLY AVERAGE WAGE ADJUSTED TO REFLECT VARIATIONS IN THE COST OF LIVING - INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION/ILO - 2009, IN PPP US\$

The most ethical countries have the highest disposable income, although their % of compulsory deduction varies between the very low 9.87% of Switzerland to the very high 37.56% of Sweden. Switzerland – 48,414, Luxembourg – 47,716, Australia – 42,617, Canada – 37,469, Denmark – 34,797, Norway – 32, 141, Netherlands – 32,120. If we enlarge the comparison to the 20 most ethical countries we find that most of them are in the list of the 17

highest disposable income of OECD countries, including Ireland, United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium, Japan, and closing with Sweden – 25,196 and Finland – 24,931.

We find similar results comparing the highest monthly average wage of the first 22 countries comprising the 20 most ethical countries: 1. Luxembourg – 4,089, 2. Norway – 3,678, United States, United Kingdom, Belgium, Sweden, Ireland, Finland, Canada, Germany, Singapore, Australia, Japan, Iceland and 22. New Zealand – 2,283. Interesting enough, we find in the first 22 also much less ethical countries such as Italy and Greece (both of them - 69 in TI's rank) and Spain (37 in TI's rank), which have a very high level of unemployment and most unsatisfactory economic results: Italy – 12.4% unemployment, Spain – 26.3% and Greece – 27.9%, which proves that it is not enough to have very high salaries – you have to keep them high without increasing unemployment and deteriorating the other economic indicators, like the most ethical countries do as they manage to have the best results with all the indicators.

The lowest average wages are in very unethical countries such as Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, India, Kyrgyzstan, Syria, Mongolia, Moldova, Dominican Republic, Thailand, Egypt, Mexico, China, Ukraine, Colombia, proving that the majority of the population suffers from corruption in their wages, which would be even lower if we figure the median wages.

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME – GALLUP – 2013 – in PPP international dollars

Median income is the amount that divides the income distribution into two equal groups, half having income above that amount, and half having income below that amount. Mean income (average) is the amount obtained by dividing the total aggregate income of a group by the number of units in that group. Household income is not to be confused with family or personal income. Household income is often the combination of two income earners pooling their resources and should therefore not be confused with an individual's earnings.

In 2013, Gallup published a list of countries with median household income. Using median rather than mean income, results in a much more accurate picture of the average income of the middle class since the data will not be skewed by gains and abnormalities in the extreme ends. The figures are in international dollars using purchase power parity and are based on responses from at least 2,000 adults in each country, with the data aggregated from 2006 to 2012. The figures are before deduction of taxes and social contributions and are not adjusted for household size.

The median annual household income worldwide is \$9,733 and the median per-capita household income is \$2,920. Median per-capita incomes in the top 10 wealthiest populations are more than 50 times those in the 10 poorest populations – in Sub-Saharan Africa.

As the median household income and - even more - the median per-capita income are two of the most salient indicators of the wealth of the citizens, it is important to notice that the most ethical countries have the best results in PPP international dollars with 1. Norway - 51,489/19,308, 2. Sweden - 50,514/18,632, 3. Luxembourg, 4. Denmark, 5. Finland, 7. Canada, 8. Australia, 9. Netherlands. The other countries in the 20 most ethical countries - United States, Germany, United Kingdom, Belgium, Hong Kong and Ireland, rank with New Zealand (14), among the 20 richest and most egalitarian countries in the world, as the median household income is a salient indicator of evenly distributed wealth. Singapore (24) is last among the ethical countries with 32,360 median household income and 7,345 median per

capita income. The less ethical countries have much lower median income, proving once again that Ethics Pays, ranking at the highest places the most ethical countries. The developing countries with the lowest ethical ranking, China (67) with 1,786, South Africa (79) with 1,217, Peru (84) with 1,077, India (99) with 616, Philippines (108) with 478, Afghanistan (117) with 378, and most of all poorest populations of the Sub-Saharan countries in Africa, have the lowest results down to 118 median per-capita for Liberia (no. 131).

ANNUAL MEDIAN EQUIVALISED DIPOSABLE HOUSEHOLD INCOME – OECD – THE DISPOSABLE INCOME OF AN EQUIVALENT ADULT IN A HOUSEHOLD IN THE MIDDLE OF THE INCOME DISTRIBUTION IN A YEAR. DATA ARE IN US\$ AT CURRENT PRICES AND CURRENT PURCHASING POWER PARITY FOR PRIVATE CONSUMPTION FOR THE REFERENCE YEARS 2009 - 2012

In this table we see how the annual median equivalised disposable income of OECD countries is the highest for the most ethical countries: 1. Luxembourg – 37,178, 2. Norway, 3. Switzerland, 5. Australia, 7. Canada, 8. Sweden, 9. Denmark, 10. Finland, 11. Netherlands – 25,487, and 17. New Zealand – 22,722, while the 20 most ethical countries share most of the 22 best ranks of median income: 4. United States, 12. Germany, 13. Iceland, 14. Belgium, 18. Ireland, 19. United Kingdom, 22. Japan. However, some of the less ethical countries (ranked down to 43 in Tl's index) are also among the 22 countries with the highest median income: Austria – 23, France – 26, South Korea – 43, Slovenia – 39, Spain and Israel (37 in Tl's rank and 23-24 in the ranks of the median income), while some of the much less ethical countries have quite high median income – Italy (69) – 21,444, Greece (69) – 13,366, Russia (136) – 10,765, proving once again that you have to consider all or most of the indicators in order to find a correlation between ethical conduct, income, peace, unemployment, credit rating, democracy, etc., as unethical countries may have high median income, but they fail in most of other indicators, sometimes they even fail in economic indicators because of the high income.

9. COUNTRY COMPARISON – INCOME INEQUALITY – DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILY INCOME - MOSTLY IN 2007-2013 – GINI INDEX (MAX. EQUALITY – 0, MAX. INEQUALITY – 1 OR 100%) - CIA - WORLD FACTBOOK

SEE ALSO - POPULATION SHARES OF THE BOTTOM, MIDDLE & TOP INCOME GROUPS

Is equality of income ethical or not? The communist ideology strived to have a very high equality of income and it collapsed. On the other hand the capitalist ideology, and especially the neoliberal one, strives to have very high inequality of income which should be tied to the contribution to profitability. Yet, in the last decades inequality reached very high levels with a very high concentration of income in the hands of a small economic elite. No one wants to achieve a too high level of equality (Gini index close to 0), while most of the economists wanting to achieve social and economic justice, keeping a capitalist profit-oriented regime, advocate that a too high level of inequality disrupts the economy as countries become oligarchies instead of meritocracies (read also Thomas Piketty's – Capital in the 21st Century).

Scandinavia has become for many of us a model of a thriving economy based on solid capitalist foundations as well as social justice ideology. The Scandinavian countries have the

lowest Gini indices, 23.0 - 26.8, and close to their scores we can find the most ethical countries achieving high degrees of equality with the best results in the other economic indicators as well – Sweden (no. 141 – last in inequality or first in equality) – 23.0, 137. Denmark - 24.8, 135. Norway – 25.0, 134. Luxembourg – 26.0, 131. Finland – 26.8, If we analyze those results – we find that the Scandinavian countries with Luxembourg are half of the 11 most ethical and most equal countries in the world. Interesting enough, the other most equal countries (besides Austria, TI - 23) are former communist countries such as Slovenia (TI - 39), Montenegro (TI - 76), Hungary (TI - 47), Czech Republic (TI - 53), Slovakia (TI - 54), which are much less ethical and much poorer than the Scandinavian countries.

That proves once again that you have to analyze the whole gamut of economic indicators in order to draw the right conclusions if ethics pays or not. It is not enough to be equal, you have to prosper in the other indicators as well, have the best quality of life, happiness and democracies, in order to compare to the most ethical Scandinavian countries. If we enlarge the criteria of equality to a Gini score of 23-32, with 32 being half of the score of 63 of the most unequal countries, we find that 9 out of the 11 most ethical countries have scores in this bracket which is equivalent to a high degree of equality - the Scandinavian countries and Luxembourg mentioned above, 123. Switzerland - 28.7, 120. Australia - 30.3, 115. Netherlands -30.9, Canada -32.1. And in this brackets we find on the one hand very ethical countries (among the 20 most ethical) such as Germany (rank - 130, score - 27.0), 126. Iceland – 28.0, 125. Belgium – 28.0, United Kingdom – 32.3, as well as 118. the European Union – 30.6, and on the other hand quite corrupt to very corrupt countries, very poor countries and former communist countries, such as Romania (TI – 69, 27.4), Belarus (TI – 119, 27.2), Kazakhstan (TI – 126, 28.9), Pakistan (TI – 126, 30.6), Egypt (TI – 94, 30.8), Bangladesh (TI – 145, 32.1), as well as the less ethical but rich countries, such as France (TI – 26, 30.6), South Korea (TI – 43, 31.1), Italy (TI – 69, 31.9), Spain (TI – 37, 32.0).

But, even in the opposite extreme of a most unequal distribution of family income, scoring 63-52, we find all the gamut of very ethical to most corrupt countries (but not even one of the 11 most ethical countries): 1. Lesotho, no. 1 in inequality with a score of 63.2 (TI – 55), 2. South Africa (TI – 67), 3. Botswana (TI – 31), 4. Sierra Leone (TI – 119), 5. Central African Republic (TI – 150), 6. Namibia (TI – 55), 7. Haiti (TI – 161), 8. Honduras (TI – 126), 9. Zambia (TI – 85), 10. Colombia (TI – 94), 11. Guatemala (TI – 115), 12. Hong Kong (TI – 17), 13. Paraguay (TI – 150), 14. Chile (TI – 21), 15. Panama (TI – 94), 16. Brazil (TI – 69). Is ethics a precondition of equality or vice versa? We find that in most of the cases the most ethical countries became also the most equal, like in Scandinavia, following government policies (i.a. progressive taxation) and economic conduct (i.a. humane capitalism), yet we find cases that ethical countries are very unequal, also as a result of policies (i.a. neoliberals).

What can we deduct about 86. New Zealand (36.2) and even more 32. Singapore (46.3), as well as the United States (no. 17 in TI's index, no. 41 in the most unequal countries with a score of 45.0) and Milton Friedman's favorite regime - 12. Hong Kong (53.7!), which are very ethical, yet quite unequal? It has probably to do with their neoliberal regimes, advocating a very high degree of inequality as a precondition for a sound economy. Many roads lead to Rome or to business ethics (even neoliberal ones...), and we have to examine all the indicators in order to reach the right conclusion, as in this case of the Gini inequality index. We should not draw hasty conclusions from the level of the Gini index, as we have found that there are examples of poor and corrupt countries with a high degree of equality (Ethiopia, Moldova, Belarus, Niger, Bangladesh, Egypt and Pakistan) and there are examples of highly unequal and corrupt countries (Russia, Nigeria, South Africa, Iran, Haiti and Sierra Leone), and vice versa. However, if we want to find a pattern, we can conclude that most of the most

ethical states (9/11 – Scandinavia, Switzerland, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Australia, Canada) have a very equal distribution of income, and only the exceptions have a quite unequal to a very unequal economic regime, like New Zealand, Singapore, United States, and Hong Kong.

POPULATION SHARES OF THE BOTTOM, MIDDLE & TOP INCOME GROUPS – 2004 – ECINE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF ECONOMIC INEQUALITY – WORKING PAPER SERIES – ON THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE "MIDDLE CLASS" – ANTHONY B. ATKINSON, ANDREA BRANDOLINI – ECINEQ 2011 – 217 – SEPTEMBER 2011 Based also on Luxembourg Income Study Working Paper Series – Working paper no. 517 – Public Policies and the Middle Class Throughout the World in the Mid 2000 – Steven Pressman, July 2009, also by Steven Pressman, 2006 – The Decline of the Middle Class: An International Perspective", Luxembourg Income Study Working Paper no. 280, an also by Steven Pressman, 2007, Journal of Economic Issues, pp. 181-200

The common definition of middle class is median adjusted household imcome +- 25%, the percentage of the household population earning between 75% to 125% of the median household income. The middle class is perceived as the engine of the economy, and a higher percentage of middle class guarantees a sounder economy. Middle class grows to close to half the nation's households also by generous government transfers and progressive taxes. Modern theories of political economy consider a large middle class to be a beneficial, stabilizing influence on society, because it has neither the possibly explosive revolutionary tendencies of the lower class, nor the absolutist tendencies of an entrenched upper class. A high level of midlle class guarantees a relative security against social crisis. The main reason for the economic growth of the twentieth century is related to a major increase in the middle class percentage of the population in the Western World as opposed to communist regimes which came into being in countries with a very high percentage of poverty, a very small middle class, and a high degree of inequality, like Russia, China and Cuba. However, since the eighties of the twentieth century the middle class shrinked substantially and inequality has increased, especially in neoliberal states such as the United States, United Kingdom & Israel.

The most ethical countries have in general a very high proportion of middle class: Norway – 49%, Sweden – 47%, Denmark – 47%, Finland – 44%, Luxembourg – 44%, and an almost equal share of the lower and upper classes – about 25% each. Other very ethical countries, such as Germany have a high percentage of 43%, the Netherlands – 40%, Switzerland – 38%, and to a lesser extent – Canada – 35% (lower – 31, higher – 34), United Kingdom – 33% (lower – 32, higher – 35) – with a population divided almost equally between the three categories, Australia – 29%, and the United States – 30% (lower – 34, higher – 36). Most of the most ethical countries have therefore a very large middle class (49% - 38%), but the neoliberal regimes have a middle class of only about one third of their population.

The percentage of the middle class in less ethical countries is lower than in the most ethical countries: Austria (rank 23 in TI's index) -44%, France -(TI-26)-41% (lower -27, higher -32), Poland (TI -35) -37%, Taiwan (TI -35) -36%, Spain (TI -37) -33%, Italy (TI -69) -33%, Israel (TI -37) -28%, Mexico (TI -103) -26%.

10. COUNTRY COMPARISON – TAXES AND OTHER REVENUES – RECEIVED BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT - CIA - WORLD FACTBOOK (MOSTLY 2013 EST.) – IN % OF GDP - TAXES INCLUDE PERSONAL AND CORPORATE INCOME

TAXES, VALUE ADDED TAXES, EXCISE TAXES, AND TARIFFS. OTHER REVENUES INCLUDE SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS – SUCH AS PAYMENTS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY AND HOSPITAL INSURANCE – GRANTS AND NET REVENUES FROM PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

The most polemic issue in political economy is today the level of taxes and other revenues as % of GDP and % of the country's budget. Neoliberals want to bring taxes down to a minimum, especially for rich people and corporations, Socialists want the opposite, and both believe that the prosperity of a nation depends on the level of taxation. If you want to increase taxation you are labelled as a communist, anti-business, while countries prefer to reach the highest level of budget deficits and of indebtedness to foreign countries bringing them on the brink of bankruptcy, rather than increase even slightly taxation. No candidates would dare to promise financing the country's expenditures by an increase of taxation, and all the problems of the economy will be resolved (by magic probably) without increasing taxation.

We have a model, the Scandinavian model, which combines high taxation and other revenues with economic prosperity, highest ethics and best indicators, so something must be right in their model, including the high level of taxation: 6. Norway – 56.8% of the GDP, 8. Denmark – 55.9%, 10. Finland – 53.7%, 12. Sweden – 51.4%. The other countries with the highest level of taxation are not exactly the examples that we should imitate: Kuwait, Cuba, Lesotho, Libya, and micro-population states as Greenland, Tuvalu, Marshall Islands or Malta. One exception: 11. France – 51.5%, which is ethical (26th in TI's ranks), and has a strong socialist orientation. We are aware of the fact that other economic models thrive, such as the Singaporean (rank – 191 and TI'S rank - 7) with a level of taxation and other revenues of only 15.4% of the GDP and the US (rank – 182 and TI's rank -17) – 17.0%. Both are neoliberal economies which were influenced in the last decades by Milton Friedman's model.

Countries with moderate taxation models of 33%-43% of GDP are also very ethical and have excellent indicators' results: 24. Netherlands – 43.7, 46. Luxembourg – 39.5, 51. New Zealand – 38.2, 52. Canada – 37.7, 71. Switzerland – 33.7, 75. Australia – 33.2. Other countries which are very ethical (up to no. 20 in TI's index) and have a rather high degree of taxation are: Belgium – 47.7, Germany – 43.7, Iceland – 42.7, United Kingdom – 41.1, Japan – 34.7, Ireland – 34.1. And of course, we have also countries which are very unethical and highly taxed (Iraq – 44.9, Republic of the Congo – 46.4, Angola – 42.5), or are very unethical but with a low level of taxation (Zambia – 21.6, Russia – 20.7, Egypt – 17.4, Ethiopia – 14.2). So, if we want to find a rule on the correlation between ethics and taxation, we can conclude that the most ethical countries have in general a high to medium-high level of taxation: 57%-33%.

The lowest taxation is in general in the most corrupt countries – South Sudan and Syria – 3.7%, Myanmar – 4.1, Nigeria – 4.8, Sudan – 8.6, Central African Republic – 9.1, India – 10.3, Afghanistan – 11.3, North Korea – 11.4, Iran – 11.6, Guatemala – 11.9, Bangladesh – 12.3, Pakistan – 12.6 (interesting enough – both parts of the former Pakistan west and east have even now the same level of taxation), Sri Lanka, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Ethiopia, Philippines, Turkmenistan – 14.8%, but close to them we find a most ethical country Singapore with a taxation level of 15.4% of its GDP, but this is due to its neo-liberal regime.

RANKING OF 151 COUNTRIES ACCORDING TO THE SIZE OF THE SHADOW ECONOMY – SHADOW ECONOMIES ALL OVER THE WORLD – NEW ESTIMATES FOR 162 COUNTRIES FROM 1999 TO 2007 & AVERAGE OF THE YEARS AS A % OF GDP – FRIEDRICH SCHNEIDER, ANDREAS BUEHN, CLAUDIO E. MONTENEGRO –

WORLD BANK DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH GROUP – POVERTY & INEQUALITY TEAM AND EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA REGION – HUMAN DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS UNIT – POLICY RESEARCH WORKING PAPER 5356 - JULY 2010

The authors of the working paper find a clear negative trend in the size of the shadow economy. The unweighted average of the 162 countries in 1999 was 34.0% and in 2007 31.0%, hence a reduction of 3%. The driving forces of the shadow economy are an increased burden of taxation – both direct and indirect – combined with labor market regulations and the quality of public goods and services, as well as the state of the "official" economy. Activities associated with shadow economies are facts of life around the world. Most societies attempt to control those activities through various measures such as punishment, prosecution, economic growth or education. The shadow economy includes all market-based legal production of goods and services that are deliberately concealed from public authorities for any of the following reasons:

- 1. to avoid payment of income, value added or other taxes.
- 2. to avoid payment of social security contributions.
- 3. to avoid having to meet certain legal labor market standards, such as minimum wages, maximum working hours, safety standards, etc.
- 4. to avoid complying with certain administrative procedures, such as completing statistical questionnaires or othe administrative forms.

One is tempted to guess that as the taxation in the Scandinavian countries is very high – 51% to 57% of GDP, they would have a very high percentage of shadow economy. At least, this is what neoliberal advocates would say to justify minimum taxation. But to our "surprise" we find that the shadow economy in those countries is very low – 18% to 19% of the GDP, about half as much as the unweighted world average. However, it is higher than in lower taxation ethical countries as Singapore - 13% and the US - 9%, and also higher than in moderate to high taxation ethical countries, as Switzerland – 9%, Luxembourg – 10%, New Zealand – 12%, Netherlands – 13%, Australia - 14%, Canada - 16%. It is also higher than in very ethical countries as Japan, Iceland, Ireland, Germany and Hong Kong, but lower than in heavy taxed Belgium - 22%. 84% of the 19 most ethical countries (16 countries, Barbados was not surveyed) are ranked in the 22 lowest ranks of shadow economies, with less than 18% of GDP. Three more countries – 30. Norway, 31. Sweden, 37. Belgium, are ranked higher.

But, as a rule, the most ethical countries have the lowest percentage of shadow economy, albeit the very high to high tax burden of most of them (57% - 38% of GDP) – Norway, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Iceland, United Kingdom, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Canada. This is in direct contradiction to the neoliberal doctrine that high taxation brings inexorably to high shadow economy. We learn from those results that ethics supersedes largely the temptation to evade paying taxes, although it is probably true to a minimal extent. So, what is better – to have a high to very high taxation with balanced budgets or a low deficit and with a low level of net debts as in most of the countries mentioned above or to have record levels of deficit and debt but with a low taxation? In any case, the impact on the shadow economy does not justify low taxation as we have seen. Furthermore, if we succede to achieve low taxation as Singapore or moderate taxation as Switzerland and Australia with a budget surplus or a very low deficit and very low net debt – all the better, but in most of the cases a too low taxation causes a high burden on the citizens with drastic cuts in government expenditures and services, high deficits and high net debts as with the US. The benefit of its very low shadow economy – 8.6% is not worth the price...

The other countries with a very low shadow economy are: Austria -9.7% (TI -23), Macao, 9. China -12.7% (TI -100). It is worthwhile to analyze what is the cause of the low shadow economy in the case of China and the US – the low level of taxation 19.4% of GDP for China and 17.0% for the US or the very heavy penalties for infringing the tax laws? Even if the reason is both – it shows that the impact of low taxation is not the exclusive reason for the low shadow economy, it may be that the very heavy penalties supersede the impact of the low level of taxation. France has a shadow economy of only 15.0% although its taxation is very high – 51.5% of GDP, close to the Scandinavian with excellent government services to the citizens and a high degree of ethics (TI - 26). So, this is another example that you can win them all, like Scandinavia, Netherlands and Germany, and ranking in the first ranks in all the parameters albeit the high level of taxation with a rather low level of shadow economy. A high level of taxation is not negative per se if you get the full benefits with a high level of services and a high quality of life, and you still maintain a sound economy with a high level of productivity and competitiveness. One more remark – countries that one would expect them having a very high level of shadow economy and tax evasion as Italy and Greece have a lower level of shadow economy than the world average – Italy – 27.0%, Greece – 27.5%. But Russia has a high level of shadow economy - 43.8% and Brazil - 39.0%, as many South American & African economies and most of the developing economies except India -22.2%.

The 20 countries with the highest levels of shadow economies – 46% to 66% of GDP – are also in most of the cases the most corrupt countries – Republic of the Congo (TI – 152), Belarus – 119, Angola – 161, Zambia – 85, Democratic Republic of the Congo – 154, Gabon – 94, Honduras – 126, Cambodia – 156, Ukraine – 142, Benin – 80, Guatemala – 115, Thailand – 85, Uruguay – 21 - this is indeed an exception of an ethical country with a very high level of shadow economy, Haiti – 161, Tanzania – 119, Peru – 85, Azerbaijan – 126, Zimbabwe – 156, Georgia with the highest shadow economy of 66% of GDP is quite ethical and ranks 50 in TI's index – so this is another exception, Bolivia – 103. It is worthwhile to mention that both exceptions of Georgia and Uruguay have a moderate level of taxation – 30% of GDP, so the reason of the high level of shadow economy is elsewhere than taxation.

11. COUNTRY COMPARISON – BUDGET SURPLUS (+) OR DEFICIT (-) – THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES, EXPRESSED AS % OF GDP - (MOSTLY 2013 EST.) - CIA - WORLD FACTBOOK

Assuming that the neoliberal theories are correct, the low level of taxation should not result in budget deficits, as they are very dangerous to all the economic regimes, even communist ones. Unfortunately, we witness that in many cases (as with the United States), this is the result of a low taxation model. If an economy wants to have a low level of taxation it shouldn't be at the expense of a budget deficit, as a sound economy requires that all the budgets should be at least balanced. Countries' budgets are like families' budgets they can't be forever with deficits as someone has to foot the bill ultimately, and it isn't fair, like with the environment, to live at the expense of future generations or to go bankrupt and not pay your debts. This is not ethical and is not sound in all the capitalist, socialist or communist regimes.

The most ethical countries have either a budget surplus or a moderate deficit as a % of GDP: 4. Norway - 13.1, 23. Switzerland - 1.4, 24. Singapore - 1.3, 66. Australia - -1.3 (negative/deficit), 78. Luxembourg - -1.7, 86. New Zealand - -1.9, 88. Sweden - -2.0, 92.

Finland - -2.3, 103. Denmark - -2.5, 120. Canada - -2.9, 132. Netherlands - -3.3. If we adhere to the principle that to have a deficit is unethical and uneconomic, then only 3 countries behave ethically also with this indicator: Norway, Switzerland, Singapore. But, if we bear in mind that the world is suffering from the Great Recession and a certain budget deficit is needed in order to boost the economy and anyhow the level of indebtedness is low, so a short-term deficit could be acceptable, and this is the case of the economies of the other very ethical countries: Australia, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Canada and the Netherlands. Even China has a budget deficit of 2.1, but Germany has a balanced budget (+0.1) and Hong Kong has a surplus of – 1.8. Still, all the most ethical countries are in a better shape than the less ethical: United Kingdom - -3.6, United States - -4.0, Ireland - -7.2, Japan -8.2, and the much less ethical countries: Greece - -4.0, Spain - -6.8, Egypt - -13.3.

Furthermore, when we analyze the countries that have a budget surplus or low deficit we find (not counting the micro-states and the oil-rich countries as Kuwait, Brunei, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates) unethical countries like the Republic of the Congo, Angola, North Korea (!), Peru, Iraq, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Mauritania, Mali and Belarus, with rather precarious economies. So, once again, with this indicator as with many others – what matters is the overall picture, the whole gamut of parameters, and in this respect we find that the most ethical countries outperform with most of the indicators the less ethical countries.

12. COUNTRY COMPARISON – EXTERNAL DEBT – COMPARES PRIVATE AND PUBLIC DEBT OWED TO NONRESIDENTS – CALCULATED ON AN EXCHANGE RATE BASIS (MOSTLY 2013 EST.) - CIA - WORLD FACTBOOK

SEE 2nd TABLE – GROSS AND NET GOVERNMENT DEBT AS % OF GDP - IMF

We cannot analyze the external debt comparison without the context of the gross and net government debt as % of GDP. The external debt shows more the level of globalization and financial activities of the countries: the first 6 countries are the most developed countries in the world, European Union - \$15,950 billion, United States - \$15,680B, United Kingdom - \$9,5777B, Germany - \$5,717B, France - \$5,371, Japan - \$3,017. But when we compare also the gross and net government debt as % of GDP, we find that the United States has a huge gross and net government debt - 107/88, Japan has even higher figures - 238/134, the United Kingdom has also high figures but much lower than the two first superpowers - 90/83, France - 90/84, but Germany is in a very sound position with 82% gross government debt but only 57% net government debt as % of GDP. So, we have to set the figures in the right proportion.

Analyzing the indicators of the most ethical countries, we find that Luxembourg has a huge external debt of \$2,935B, Netherlands - \$2,347B, Switzerland - \$1,544B and Singapore - \$1,174B. But, bearing in mind that the four ethical countries, small as they are, are also financial superpowers with large banks and a very high level of financial activities, we shouldn't be surprised of those figures. But then, we put them in proportion to the gross and net government debt in % of GDP and we find that Singapore has a gross government debt of 111%, but a net government debt of....0! So, those figures just show the level of financial activities but Singapore is a vey sound economy with a AAA credit rating. Netherlands has a gross government debt of 72% of GDP, but a net one of only 33%, also a very sound economy. Switzerland has a gross level of 49% and a net level of 28%, which proves the excellent financial position of this country and the former ones. And last but not least, Luxembourg has a gross level of only 21% and a net level of 0, like Singapore and the other sound and most ethical economies. It is unsound to have a high level of indebtedness, but we

have to see the level of net indebtedness and the percentage of GDP in order to examine if the economy is sound or precarious. Even the US and Japan and to a lesser extent UK and France that have very high/high level of net indebtedness also as % of GDP are still sound economies as most of other indicators are very positive and they are also among the most ethical states.

Greece has very serious financial problems with a level of 158/155, and to a lesser extent Italy – 126/103 and Ireland 117/102. But the financial situation of the other most ethical countries is excellent: Australia – 1,506B, 27/12, a quite high level of indebtedness but the government debt as a % of GDP is the very low 27% gross and only 12% net. The figures for Canada are - \$1,331B, 86/35, Sweden - \$1,039, 38/-17, i.e. it has a surplus of 17% of net government indebtedness as % of GDP (other countries owe them 17% of the GDP), Norway - \$720.6B, 34/-165, which means that other countries owe to the government of Norway the huge 165% of its GDP. Finland - \$586.9B, 53/-51, here again other countries owe to the government of Finland 51% of its GDP, Denmark – \$586.7B, 50/8, and finally New Zealand – \$81.4B, 38/26. So, all the 11 most ethical countries have an outstanding financial position, very sound levels of indebtedness, which proves once again that Ethics Pays and is...liquid!

13. COUNTRY COMPARISON – INFLATION RATE COMPARES THE ANNUAL % CHANGE IN CONSUMER PRICES WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S CONSUMER PRICES (MOSTLY 2013 EST.) - CIA - WORLD FACTBOOK

Is a low level of inflation good for the economy or bad? What about a deflation of a few percents? If a country has a high level of indebtedness a high inflation rate will erode most of the debt. The economists have a large gamut of ideas on this issue, but the majority believes that a low level of inflation is beneficial for the economy. So, how can we explain that Greece has a negative figure or a deflation of 0.8%. The answer should be found in the recession of its economy as in many other economies in the last few years. All the most ethical countries have a very low level of inflation, but in comparison to all the other countries it is quite high, as the Netherlands with the "highest" inflation rate of the most ethical countries – 2.5% is ranked no. 93, as 92 countries have a much lower rate. The other countries of the group are: 90. Singapore – 2.4, 89. Australia – 2.4, 76. Finland – 2.2, 66. Norway – 1.9, 62. Luxembourg – 1.8, 37. New Zealand – 1.3, 22. Canada – 1.0, 18. Denmark – 0.8, 7. Sweden – 0.0, 6. Switzerland - -0.4 or a deflation of 0.4%. But, effectively, there is no difference in the level of inflation of all the group of the most ethical countries, and if a low inflation is a good indicator, here again Ethics Pays and the price level of those countries remain stable.

If we compare the ethical countries to the unethical countries with corrupt regimes, we find that the most corrupt/corrupt countries have also the highest level of inflation: Syria – 59.1%, Venezuela – 56.2, Iran – 42.3, Sudan – 25.0, Argentina – 20.8, Belarus – 19.0, India – 9.6, Egypt – 9.0, and so on. The inflation rate of the second tier of ethical countries is very low – 40. United States – 1.5, 42. European Union – 1.5, Germany – 1.6, Belgium – 1.3, Japan – 0.2, Ireland – 0.6, United Kingdom – 2.0, Barbados – 2.1, but Iceland has a much higher inflation of 3.9 and Hong Kong – 4.4. As a rule, in general, most ethical countries have a very low level of inflation, while the most corrupt countries have a very high level of inflation.

14. COUNTRY COMPARISON – CENTRAL BANK DISCOUNT RATE COMPARES THE ANNUALIZED INTEREST RATE A COUNTRY'S CENTRAL BANK CHARGES COMMERCIAL DEPOSITORY BANKS FOR LOANS TO MEET

TEMPORARY FUNDS' SHORTAGES (MOSTLY 2007-2012) - CIA - WORLD FACTBOOK

Central Banks have opted since the Great Recession to set their discount rates to absurd levels of nearly zero, thus ofering loans at no cost, in order to "boost" the economy, but also to ruin the savings of old people and of consciencious citizens, to inflate the real estate and stock markets with unrealistic demands, to encourage speculation, and as always – to favor the very rich, the bankrupt banks and the unscrupulous companies, which in many cases make huge haircuts to the loans they take from the public. So, it is quite hard to say that the most ethical countries which have very low discount rates behave ethically or not in this respect. However, it is quite understandable that they have to comply with what the other developed countries do, otherwise it would disturb their whole economy with huge speculations against the countries that would set an economic and reasonable discount rate of about 5%, in real terms, which is probably the true price of money. Almost all the most ethical countries have very low discount rates, ranked as follows: 140. Canada – 0.25% (almost the lowest, just before Czech Republic and Oman with 0.05%), 138. Sweden – 0.5%, 133. Denmark – 0.75%, 132. Switzerland – 0.75%, 123. Finland – 1.5%, 120. Luxembourg – 1.5%, 118. Netherlands – 1.5%, 115. Norway – 1.75%. Only two most ethical countries have much higher rates: 82. Australia -4.35%, 70. New Zealand -5.0%, but this was the rate for 2008-2010, and since then they had to cut rates substantially in order to avoid speculations against their currencies.

Most of the developed countries have very low rates – the other countries in the 20 first ranks of TI ethical index: Belgium – 1.5, United Kingdom – 0.5, Hong Kong – 0.5, US – 0.5, Japan – 0.3, Germany – 1.5, Ireland – 1.5, European Union – 0.5, but Iceland – 5.7 and Barbados – 7.0. The other countries that are quite ethical: Spain – 1.5, France – 1.75, Israel – 1.75 (but in 2015 it is 0.1), South Korea – 2.75, and higher rates for Poland – 4.0, Qatar – 4.93, etc. The unethical countries: Greece with its shaky economy - a rate of 1.5, Italy – 0.75, China – 2.25, Romania – 5.25, Mexico – 4.5, Bangladesh – 5.0, Iraq – 6.0, Nigeria – 6.0, Indonesia – 6.46, South Africa – 7.0, India – 8.0, Russia – 8.0, Egypt – 8.68, Botswana – 10.0, Brazil – 11, Ukraine – 11.97, Burma – 12, Pakistan – 14, Vietnam – 15, Turkey – 15. And the countries with the highest rates: Congo DR – 20, Venezuela – 29.5, Angola – 30, and Zimbabwe– 975!

15. COUNTRY COMPARISON – COMMERCIAL BANK PRIME LENDING RATE COMPARES A SIMPLE AVERAGE OF ANNUALIZED INTEREST RATES COMMERCIAL BANKS CHARGE ON NEW LOANS FOR THEIR MOST CREDIT-WORTHY CUSTOMERS (MOSTLY 2012 ESTIMATES)- CIA- WORLD FACTBOOK

Commercial Bank prime lending rates for the most ethical countries are among the lowest in the world: 174. Finland – 2.06 (almost last), 172. Netherlands – 2.65, 171. Switzerland – 2.69, 169. Canada – 3.0, 163. Sweden – 3.57, 162. Denmark – 3.6, 160. Norway – 3.7, 145. Singapore – 5.38, 135. New Zealand – 5.82, 120. Australia – 6.98. One could investigate if the difference between the Central Bank discount rates and the Commercial Bank prime lending rates are the minimal in the most ethical countries, if the financial risks that the banks take in the most ethical countries are minimal, etc., but this is beyond the scope of this book. What we can do is compare the commercial bank rates to other ethical countries which are also very low: Japan – 1.48, Germany – 3.07, US – 3.25, Ireland – 3.55, Belgium – 3.62, United Kingdom – 4.22, Hong Kong – 5.0. Other rates worth mentioning are: France – 3.44, Israel – 5.16, Italy – 5.22, China – 6.0, Portugal (TI index – 31) – 6.37, Greece – 7.33, European Union- 7.52, Iceland – 8.33. And also the very high rates of the unethical countries: Madagascar – 56, Brazil – 37, Malawi – 32, Zimbabwe – 30, Paraguay – 29, Congo DR – 28,

Uganda – 26, Yemen – 23, Sierra Leone – 21, Turkey – 19, Ukraine – 18, Angola, Nigeria – 17, Venezuela – 16, Argentina – 14, Vietnam, Bangladesh – 13, Iran, India – 11, Russia – 9%.

16. COUNTRY COMPARISON – MARKET VALUE OF PUBLIC TRADED SHARES – THE LATEST PRICE PER SHARE x THE TOTAL NUMBER OF OUTSTANDING SHARES (ON 31.12.2011 OR 31.12. 2012) - CIA - WORLD FACTBOOK

This parameter comprises two components – the economic size of the country and the value of the shares of the companies in its stock exchange. It is understandable that the United States, the largest economy in the world and the most sophisticated has the highest market value of its public traded shares, although if the United States would have been more ethical, especially in the financial market and Wall Street, the Great Recession would not occur and the value of the shares and the size of the companies would have been much larger. It is also understandable that China ranks number two with its huge population and economy, although it ranks only no. 100 in TI's index, and right after it Japan, once the larger market after the US, and now in the third rank. United Kingdom, France, Germany and Brazil (TI – 69) are also super economic powers and they deserve as such their high ranks in the 10 largest market value of their shares, and right after them the unethical countries with large economies and populations - India, Russia, Italy, Mexico, South Africa, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines...

But then, how can we explain that the relatively small (in population at least) but very ethical countries ranking mostly in the 11 first ranks of TI, but also in the next 15 ranks, have reached the highest economic performances with thriving financial markets and a very high value of shares in their stock exchanges: Hong Kong ranks 5, Canada – 6, Australia – 9, Switzerland – 14, Singapore – 18, Netherlands – 19, Sweden – 20, Chile (TI - 21) - 27, Norway – 28, Denmark – 31, Finland – 33, Qatar (TI - 26) - 36, Ireland – 38, Austria (TI - 23) - 40, New Zealand – 41, United Arab Emirates (TI - 25) - 42, and finally Luxembourg – 43. In the first 43 countries rank 22 out of the 26 most ethical countries in the world and the other 21 are very large economies or oil-rich countries as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and quite ethical countries as South Korea (TI - 43), Spain and Israel (TI - 37), Poland and Taiwan (TI - 35).

17. COUNTRY COMPARISON – CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE – NET TRADE IN GOODS & SERVICES + NET EARNINGS & NET TRANSFER PAYMENTS TO AND FROM OTHER COUNTRIES (2013 EST.) - CIA - WORLD FACTBOOK

A very high current account balance is an excellent indicator of a sound economy, but can be influenced also as in this table up to rank 37 by a very high focus on exports based on vey low salaries, such as in China, Taiwan, South Korea, Malaysia, Vietnam, and also by the high price of oil for oil-rich countries, such as Saudi Arabia, Russia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Nigeria, Iraq, Oman, Algeria, Brunei, Venezuela and Libya. Out of the 17 most ethical countries most of them (11) reach the highest ranks in this indicator with high salaries and no oil (except Norway) up to rank 37, which shows a very sound and sustainable economy — Germany, Norway, Netherlands, Switzerland, Japan, Singapore, Sweden, Denmark, Ireland, Hong Kong and Luxembourg. But in this indicator, for the first time in this survey, we find that in spite of their superior ethics many countries (7 of the first 20 most ethical countries) receive the worst scores in this indicator: 144. Finland - -2B (a deficit of 2 billion US\$), 173. New Zealand - -8.4B, 175. Belgium - -9.1B, (185. European Union - 34.5B), 186. Australia - -44.9B, 189. Canada - -59.5B, 192. United Kingdom - -93.6B, and

the worst of all the countries in the world... 193. United States - -360.7B! They share these dubious ranks with the unethical countries: Brazil, India, Turkey, Indonesia, South Africa, Mexico, Ukraine, Colombia, Peru, Morocco, Iran, Egypt, Syria... This is perhaps the exception that proves the rule that Ethics Pays, but it shows that some of the most ethical countries can fail in a very important indicator, as it is highly unsustainable to rely on the fact that in the long run a country can subside in a very negative current account and still be a very sound economy and a very ethical one. We could even say that it is highly unethical to rely on others in the long run that would foot the bill of the highly irresponsible policy of having a huge deficit in the current account just because countries like the US or the UK can print money in global currencies as the dollar or the sterling to finance their huge deficits.

18. COUNTRY COMPARISON – RESERVES OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND GOLD MOSTLY AT THE $31^{\rm ST}$ OF DECEMBER 2013 - CIA - WORLD FACTBOOK

Adequate reserves of foreign exchange and gold are an indicator of a sound economy. But the level of reserves is also influenced by the size of the economy as in the cases of the United States, Brazil and India, by very large exports such as in the cases of China, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan, or a high price of oil in oil-rich countries as Saudi Arabia, Russia, Algeria and Libya, regardless of the level of ethics of those countries. We find very ethical and small countries, such as Switzerland, Hong Kong, and Singapore, as well as much larger and ethical economies, like Germany and France (TI – 26), with very large reserves of foreign currencies, with most unethical countries such as Italy, Thailand and Mexico with large reserves as well. Very ethical countries as Denmark, Netherlands, Canada, Sweden, Norway and Australia have also large reserves of \$89-49B, United Kingdom - \$87B, even Israel has a huge reserve of \$81B but it has nothing to do with exports but rather with keeping an adequate exchange rate of the local currency considerations. New Zealand has reserves of \$20B, Finland has reserves of \$11B and Luxembourg – about \$1B. In general, we can say that the most ethical countries have a large amount of foreign exchange reserves which shows a sound economy.

19. LIST OF COUNTRIES BY HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX (HDI) – HDI IS A COMPARATIVE MEASURE OF LIFE EXPECTANCY, LITERACY, EDUCATION, STANDARDS OF LIVING AND QUALITY OF LIFE, MEASURING WELL-BEING & STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY – VERY HIGH, HIGH, MEDIUM AND LOW - WIKIPEDIA – SOURCE: UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME'S HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT (2013 EST.)

SEE ALSO: NEWSWEEK'S WORLD'S BEST COUNTRIES – 2010 – MEASURING EDUCATION, HEALTH, QUALITY OF LIFE, ECONOMIC DYNAMISM AND POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT IN 100 COUNTRIES – TOP 30 COUNTRIES

SEE ALSO: INEQUALITY ADJUSTED HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX – IHDI – BASED ON 2013 AND 2011 ESTIMATES – THE IHDI IS THE ACTUAL LEVEL OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT INEQUALITY, WHILE THE HDI CAN BE VIEWED AS AN INDEX OF THE POTENTIAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT THAT COULD BE ACHIEVED IF THERE IS NO INEQUALITY. THE GREATER THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO, THE GREATER IS THE INEQUALITY

SEE ALSO: GENDER INEQUALITY INDEX – 2013 – UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME – HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORTS – GENDER INEQUALITY VALUE AND RANK, SHARE OF SEATS IN PARLIAMENT

HDI or the Human Development Index is probably the most salient indicative of a sound country analyzed by all the relevant parameters: quality of life, standards of living, life expectancy, literacy, education, well-being and stage of development. One parameter is lacking in the UN index – ethics and lack of corruption - and if we add it to the analysis, we discover... a perfect match between the human development and ethics. In the first 14 countries of the HDI we find 12 of the 14 most ethical countries – Norway, Australia, Switzerland, Netherlands, Germany, New Zealand, Canada, Singapore, Denmark, Sweden, Iceland and the UK. Furthermore, the other two countries of the 14 countries with the highest human development are also very ethical countries: United States and Ireland (TI – 17). All of them score between 0.944 (1 is the highest HDI) and 0.892. But also the next countries with the highest HDI scores are very ethical and ethical ones: Hong Kong (TI – 17), Japan (TI – 15), France (TI – 26), Austria (TI – 23) and Belgium (TI – 15). The two other 11 most ethical countries score very high scores in HDI – 21. Luxembourg (0.881) and 24. Finland (0.879). Finally, the two other countries with the highest HDI scores are quite ethical: 15. South Korea (TI – 43) and 19. Israel (TI – 37). The correlation between HDI and ethics is amazing!

The other 25 countries in the category of Very High Human Development (0.874-0.808) are a mix of ethical and quite ethical countries (down to TI-47) – Slovenia, Spain, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Portugal, Poland, Cyprus, Chile, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, with quite unethical countries (down to TI-69) – Italy, Greece, Saudi Arabia, Czech Republic, Bahrain, Kuwait, Croatia, Cuba, with one exception – Argentina, the last country in the Very High Human Development (49) is a very unethical country (TI-107). In general, there is quite a perfect match between most of the 69 first countries in TI's index of ethical countries and the 48 countries with a Very High Human Development. Furthermore, the rank of the countries in both indices is almost similar, even in the lower ranks of TI & HDI indices.

It goes without saying that the countries with a Low Human Development are also the countries with the highest level of corruption: Sudan, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Yemen, Guinea-Bissau, Angola, Burundi, Zimbabwe, Myanmar, Haiti, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, Central African Republic, Papua New Guinea, Kenya, Uganda, Comoros, Nigeria, Madagascar, Togo, Pakistan, Nepal, Gambia, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Mozambique, Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, Malawi, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Niger, Liberia, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Benin, Cameroon. With 3 exceptions Rwanda (HDI – 151 but TI – 55), Lesotho (HDI – 162, TI – 55) and Senegal (HDI – 163, TI – 69), which score very low in their HDI but are moderately unethical. But in all other cases there is quite a perfect match between low HDI and low TI.

NEWSWEEK'S WORLD'S BEST COUNTRIES – 2010 – MEASURING EDUCATION, HEALTH, QUALITY OF LIFE, ECONOMIC DYNAMISM AND POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT IN 100 COUNTRIES

Here, even more than in the HDI index, there is a perfect match between Newsweek's ranking of world's best countries and TI's ranking of the most ethical countries. If we take the first 14 best countries in the parameters of health, education, quality of life, economic dynamism and political environment we find that most of them -12 - are also among the 14 most ethical countries: 1. Finland, 2. Switzerland, 3. Sweden, 4. Australia, 5. Luxembourg, 6. Norway, 7. Canada, 8. Netherlands, 10. Denmark, 12. Germany, 13. New Zealand and 14. United

Kingdom. The other 2 countries in the 14 best countries of the world have a similar rank in TI's index: 9. Japan (15) and 11. United States (17). Only Singapore (TI - 7) ranks at a quite lower rank in the best countries - 20, possibly because of its political environment. Another opposite exception, South Korea - no. 15 in the best countries ranks only 43 in TI's index.

But most of the other first countries rank in general similarly in both indices: France (best – 16, TI – 26), Ireland (best – 17, TI – 17), Austria (best – 18, TI – 23), Belgium (best – 19, TI – 15). As Iceland, Hong Kong and Barbados were not surveyed by Newsweek, we find that all the 17 out of the top 20 countries of TI's index surveyed by Newsweek are among the first 20 best countries in the world – this is a perfect matching with no exception (besides different ranking within the 20), and even the 3 additional countries in Newsweek's top 20 (replacing the 3 TI's top 20 not surveyed) are ethical countries ranking 23, 26 and 43 in TI's index. So, Ethics Pays perfectly, and the most ethical countries are also the best countries of the world.

The question is which came first – the ethical counduct caused the countries to perform best in all other parameters, or as they are the best countries in the other parameters they conduct also ethically. An historical survey of the best ethical countries proves that the reason they achieved the best results in all the other parameters is because they were ethical and a main reason why unethical countries perform very poorly in the other parameters is because they are most/very corrupt, although in this case there are other reasons as well, but even so very poor countries perform better if they are ethical than the countries which are poor and most/very corrupt. Furthermore, Singapore that was a very poor country managed to become one of the richest and best states of the world because the state behaved ethically under the leadership of its leader Lee Kuan Yew, attracting foreign investments and international praise.

The 20 following countries (21-40) after the first 20 are ethical, quite ethical and quite corrupt countries ranking from 21 to 69 in TI's index, but none of the countries is a corrupt country ranking lower than 69 with a score lower than 43: 21. Spain (TI – 37), 22. Israel (37), 23. Italy (69), 24. Slovenia (39), 25. Czech Republic (53), 26. Greece (69), 27. Portugal (31), 28. Croatia (61), 29. Poland (35), 30. Chile (21), 31. Slovakia (54), 32. Estonia (26), 33. Hungary (47), 34. Lithuania (39), 35. Costa Rica (47), 36. Latvia (43), 37. Malaysia (50), 38. Bulgaria (69), 39. Romania (69), 40. Kuwait (67). Who are those countries in the second tier of the best countries in the world? Most of them – 11 - are European former communist states – this is an outstanding result for states that a generation ago were under a totalitarian communist regime, 5 states are southern European/Mediterranean states (in spite that 4 states suffered most from the economic crisis – Portugal, Italy, Greece and Spain, and that Israel, ranks 22, suffered from wars and terror), 2 of them – Chile (after Pinochet) and Costa Rica - are Latin American states, one is an Arab oil rich country – Kuwait (invaded in 1990 by Iraq and rescued by the coalition in 1991), and one is a Moslem Asian country – Malaysia, a former UK colony.

In the next 20 best (or worse) countries – 41-60, we find many corrupt countries, some ethical and some very corrupt, but in general this ranking validates the rule that Corruption Doesn't Pay as very rich countries that could have been among the best 20 or at least 40 states are located among the worse countries, however not the worst – 46. Argentina (107), 48. Brazil (69), 51. Russia (136), 59. China (100). Nevertheless, we find here a mixture of Ethical countries as 43. United Arab Emirates (25) and 44. Uruguay (21), Quite Corrupt countries as 50. Cuba (63), 53. Jordan (55), 60. Oman (64), 61. Turkey (64), Corrupt countries as 41. Panama (94), 42. Peru (85), 45. Mexico (103), 47. Jamaica (85), 55. Dominican Republic (115), 56. Belarus (119), 57. Albania (110), 58. Thailand (85), and a Very Corrupt country (besides Russia) - 44. Ukraine (142). This symmetry fits more or less the rule that in the middle countries, far from the most ethical and most corrupt extremes, the findings are mixed

as ethics is not the be-all cause of excellence like in the extremes, and other factors influence the parameters. However there is nevertheless some form of symmetry between the level of ethics and best countries, as in this median category there are almost no very corrupt states.

Going further down to the worst countries in the world, according to Newsweek, we find more and more very corrupt countries - 61. Kazakhstan (126), 68. Paraguay (150), 69. Azerbaijan (126), 71. Venezuela (161), 75. Nicaragua (133), 76. Honduras (126), 79. Iran (136), along ethical countries as 80. Botswana (30), once one of the poorest countries of the world but now one of the richest African countries, still compared to the other Sub-Saharan countries it is the best country in Africa. Other countries in the 61-80 countries are quite corrupt as 64. Saudi Arabia (55) and borderline 65. Tunisia (79) or corrupt countries as 2 borderlines 67. Morocco (80), 72. El Salvador (80), and 62. Colombia (94), 73. Indonesia (107), 74. Egypt (94), 79. India (85). Finally in the last category of the 80-100 countries, the worst countries according to Newsweek survey, we find the highest number of very corrupt and most corrupt countries as: 83. Syria (159), 87. Kenya (145), 88. Bangladesh (145), 89. Pakistan (126), 90. Madagascar (133), 92. Yemen (161), 96. Uganda (142), 98. Cameroon (136), 99. Nigeria (136), with some corrupt countries as: 81. Vietnam (119), 84. Guatemala (115), 85. Algeria (100), 93. Tanzania (119), 94. Ethiopia (110), 95. Mozambique (119), 97. Zambia (85), 100. Burkina Faso (85), and Quite Corrupt countries as 82. South Africa (67), 86. Ghana (61), 91. Senegal (69). As mentioned before, the numbers of very corrupt countries increase going down the ladder of the worst countries, proving that Corruption Doesn't Pay.

INEQUALITY ADJUSTED HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX – IHDI – BASED ON 2013 AND 2011 ESTIMATES – THE IHDI IS THE ACTUAL LEVEL OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT INEQUALITY, WHILE THE HDI CAN BE VIEWED AS AN INDEX OF THE POTENTIAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT THAT COULD BE ACHIEVED IF THERE IS NO INEQUALITY. THE LOSS % COLUMN INDICATES THE LOSS IN POTENTIAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT DUE TO INEQUALITY. UNDER PERFECT EQUALITY - HDI = IHDI, THE GREATER THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO, THE GREATER IS THE INEQUALITY

Here again, there is a perfect match between the most ethical countries and the inequality-adjusted HDI – IHDI – as the most ethical countries have also the lowest level of inequality. This is a question of values – do you perform better if you have a low level of inequality? The neo-liberal countries would say that equality is equivalent to communism, and maybe so they have reached exorbitant levels of inequality with one percent of the population owning a very large part of the economy. History proves also that an adequate level of equality (the highest among capitalist countries) ensures the best results in all the parameters, as we see in the cases of Scandinavia, the Netherlands, Germany, etc. The 14 countries with the best results in Human Development Index Inequality Adjusted are 12 of the 17 most ethical countries – Norway, Australia, Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, Iceland, Sweden, Denmark, Canada, Ireland, Finland and Luxembourg, while the two other countries rank quite high also in TI's index – Austria (23), Slovenia (39). We find therefore a perfect match between the indices.

In the subsequent ranks of the IHDI until rank 50 we can find other ethical and quite ethical countries as UK (TI - 14), Belgium (TI - 15), France (TI - 26), Japan (TI - 15), Spain and Israel (TI - 37), the US (TI - 17), Estonia, Malta, Hungary, Cyprus, Poland, Lithuania, Portugal, Chile, Uruguay, Latvia, Slovakia, and South Korea, but also quite unethical countries as Greece, Italy, Montenegro, Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria, and very unethical

countries as Belarus, Ukraine, Argentina, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and Russia. This proves that equality can influence in both ways, in developed and democratic countries as Scandinavia it can bring about excellent economic results but in totalitarian, former coummunist and poor countries as Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan we have much equality but this is because almost everybody shares poverty (except of course a very small minority of very wealthy people). Equality may be a precondition of ethics, but it is not an exclusive one, as we can be equal and unethical as in Belarus, as well as ethical and very unequal as in the United States. It goes without saying that the lowest scores of IHDI – 0.203 – 0.396 – go to the most unethical and poor countries – Central African Republic, Sierra Leone, Democratic Rep. Congo, Niger, Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Burundi, Liberia, Mozambique, Haiti, Angola, Nigeria, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Togo, Afghanistan, Yemen, Madagascar, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Zambia, Pakistan, Rep. of the Congo and Bangladesh.

GENDER INEQUALITY INDEX – 2013 – UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME – HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORTS – GENDER INEQUALITY VALUE AND RANK, SHARE OF SEATS IN PARLIAMENT

Equality is a good criterion of ethics and a sound economy as we have learned in the Gini index, but equality in all its aspects, including gender equality. And... here again, are the countries with the lowest gender inequality also the most ethical countries? Yes, but with a caveat. In the 43 most ethical countries, no. 39 – Slovenia (!) is no. 1 in gender equality, a Slavic Roman-Catholic, former communist small country, but it ranks no. 25 in HDI and has a quite high women share of seats in the parliament – 25%. Right after it come the "usual" most ethical countries – Switzerland no. 2 in gender equality (27% women in parliament, hereinafter we give only %). But this is still a surprise, as Switzerland - perceived as one of the best countries of the world in all aspects – GDP per capita, ethics, HDI, peace, lowest unemployment, highest net disposable income, lowest income inequality, etc. – was also the last Western republic to grant women the right to vote at a federal level in 1971 and in Appenzell Innerrhoden canton only in 1990... But women quickly rose in political significance, with the first woman on the seven member Federal Council executive being Elisabeth Kopp, who served from 1984 to 1989 and the first female president being Ruth Dreifuss (woman and Jew) in 1999. So, Switzerland rightly deserves no. 2 in gender equality.

Most Swiss are Germanic and protestants and so are most of the other countries ranking high in gender equality and ethics as well: 3. Germany (32%), 4. Sweden (45%), 5. Denmark (39%), 5. Austria (29%), 7. Netherlands (38%), 9. Norway (40%), 9. Belgium (39%), (Flemish), 14. Iceland (40%). And the very ethical Luxembourg (22%) (Germanic) ranking only 29 in gender equality. But the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic countries ranking very high in ethics have a much lower rank in gender equality: 19. Australia (29%), 20. Ireland (20%), 23. Canada (28%), 34. New Zealand (32%), 35. UK (23%) and... the very low rank for a very ethical country: 47. United States (only 18%). We leave to sociologists to analyze why equally ethical countries rank very high in gender equality if they are Germanic/Scandinavian and much lower if they are Anglo-Saxons. But, in general, we can say that the most ethical countries rank in most of the cases very high in gender equality and in some cases – somewhat lower, but still quite high in comparison to others and have a high % in parliament.

We continue the analysis: we find also Latin countries as 8. Italy ranking high in gender equality with women share of 31% of seats in parliament and being quite unethical (TI - 69). And the very ethical Finns (no. 11) are Nordic Scandinavian Protestants but Uralic, with one

of the highest share of women in parliament -42%. 12. France (TI -26) is a Latin Catholic country with 25% women in parliament. 13. Czech Republic (TI -53), another Slavic former communist country, with only 21% women in parliament. The very ethical 15. Singapore (mostly Chinese) with 24% women in parliament. 16. Latin Catholic Spain (TI -37) with 35% women in parliament. 17. South Korea (TI -43) with only 15% women in parliament.

The most unethical countries have the highest gender inequality: Niger, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, Chad, Sierra Leone, Eritrea, Burundi, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Liberia, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Afghanistan (ranking no. 149 in gender inequality, everybody knows why), Yemen, Zimbabwe, Papua New Guinea, Tanzania, Uganda, Sudan, Haiti and Iran. Yet, we find ethical countries as the Moslem Qatar with a very high inequality (113), but Saudi Arabia ranks 56 in gender equality, Kuwait – 50, Bahrain – 46, United Arab Emirates – 43, Libya – 40, almost as the US (47) - quite incomprehensible... Finally, unethical countries as China rank quite high in gender equality (37), and so are Russia (52), Bulgaria, Bosnia Herzegovina, etc., probably as they shared a communist regime.

20. LIST OF COUNTRIES BY % OF POPULATION LIVING IN POVERTY - BELOW NATIONAL POVERTY LINE SET BY EVERY COUNTRY - WIKIPEDIA – SOURCE: CIA – MOSTLY 2010-2013, RANK, %, WORLD BANK AND CIA - (YEAR OF EST. – AS MENTIONED) - AND BELOW INTERNATIONAL POVERTY LINE OF (IN \$ PPP) – 2 AND 1.25 A DAY – WORLD BANK – (YEAR OF EST. – AS MENTIONED)

SEE ALSO - POPULATION BELOW POVERTY LINE - INDEX MUNDI

More than half of the most ethical countries are not even mentioned in this table – Finland, Australia, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Sweden and Singapore. The percentage of population living below national poverty line is: in Canada – 9.4%, Denmark – 13.4%, Norway – 4.3%, Netherlands – 10.5%, Switzerland – 6.9%. These are among the lowest percentages of all nations, but does it prove that Ethics Pays and there is almost no poverty in ethical countries? We have to bear in mind that the national poverty line in those countries is much higher than in the poorer countries. If we examine all the 20 most ethical countries, we see that the countries ranking 12-20 have a higher poverty than the 11 most ethical, but still the poverty in those countries is among the lowest in the world: Germany: 15.5%, Ireland: 5.5%, Belgium: 15.2%, Japan: 16%, United Kingdom: 14%, United States: 15.1%. But it is very difficult to assess what is the true poverty line, as in Afghanistan it is much lower than in Germany, but both have the same poverty rate – about 16%, so it is impossible to draw the right conclusions on this criterion alone. The poorest country in Europe Albania has a poverty rate of 12.5%, lower than Denmark – the richest country – 13.4%. It reminds the old joke about the tycoon's daughter who had to write a composition about poverty and she wrote that she comes from a poor family – her gardener is poor, her driver is poor and her nanny is also poor. So, there is little use for such scores, as even among the poor countries we find discrepancies that cannot be explained – in Argentina 30% of the population are poor, twice as much as in Afghanistan, and in Azerbaijan we find the lowest rate of poverty -6%, like in Austria... Bolivia is twice as poor as Bangladesh, one of the poorest states in the world, and China has a lower poverty rate than the United Kingdom or the United States. So, is there any use of this index anyhow?

A much better indicator of poverty is the World Bank's survey of % of population living under \$PPP 1.25 and 2 a day, known as the International Poverty Line. In this index we find that the poorest countries are also in most of the cases the most corrupt, in fewer cases very

corrupt, in even fewer corrupt and in some cases quite corrupt. As explained before, the symmetry between corruption and poverty is most salient in the extremes, and we start our findings of the % of poverty below \$2 a day in the last countries, ranked 145-174 and scoring 25-8, of TI's index – mostly in Africa and Asia: 145. Bangladesh – 77%, Guinea – 73, Kenya - 67, Laos - 62, Papua New Guinea - 57, Central African Republic - 80, Paraguay - only 8%!, Republic of the Congo - 57, Tajikistan - 28, Chad - 83, Democratic Republic of the Congo – 95%!, Cambodia – 53, Myanmar (CIA – 33% living under national poverty line), Zimbabwe (World Bank – 72% living under national poverty line), Burundi – 93, Syria – 17% (this was in 2004, long before the outbreak of the civil war. Today with the millions of refugees and population who lost their homes, with hundreds of thousands of casualties – the widows and orphans, with the ruined economy – the proportion of poverty is probably one of the highest), Angola – 67, Guinea-Bissau -78, Haiti – 78, Venezuela – 13% (this was in 2006, long before the economy collapsed and crime has attained the highest rates, in spite of being one of the richest countries in oil, as in the cases of Nigeria and Iraq), Yemen -47 (in 2005, long before the Arab Spring in Yemen, Syria, Libya and other Arab countries, causing between thousands to hundreds of thousands casualties, collapsing the economies, and causing "winter misery" all over most of the Arab world), Eritrea - 69% under the World Bank national poverty line, Liby - n/a, Uzbekistan - 16% under the national poverty line, Turkmenistan -50, Iraq -21 (in 2012, which seems very low, taking into consideration the endless war, civil unrest, massive terror and collapsed economy, and raising doubts how this figure was computed during the war), South Sudan - 51%, Afghanistan - 16% under the national poverty line (this figure seems also extremely low, taking into consideration that the country is in war lasting a few decades – fighting communism, Taliban, the coalition, etc.), Sudan – 44%, 174. North Korea – n/a, 174. Somalia – n/a – both countries are the most corrupt countries in the world and probably among the poorest, but they have no figures on poverty.

If we analyze the situation of poverty among the other nations with a high level of poverty we find first of all that none of the ethical and even quite ethical countries have a too high level of poverty, and only a few quite corrupt countries suffer from high levels of poverty, as corruption is not the be-all, although it is a very important factor, and there are many other causes for poverty: Ghana (ranked 61 in TI's index) – 52%, Lesotho (55) – 62%, Swaziland (69) - 60%, Namibia (55) - 43%, Rwanda (55) - 82%, Senegal (69) - 60%. There are much more corrupt countries with very high levels of poverty – India (85) – 61%, Mali (115) – 79%, Cote d'Ivoire (115) – 46%, Mauritania (124) – 48%, Mozambique (119) – 82%, Niger (103) – 75%, Sierra Leone (119) – 76%, Zambia (85) – 83%, Liberia (94) – 95%, Malawi (110) – 90%, Indonesia (107) – 43%, Djibouti (107) – 41%, Ethiopia (110) – 72%, Benin (80) -74%, Burkina Faso (85) -73%. And even more poverty prevails in very corrupt countries as mentioned before in the last 30 countries in TI's index, as well as in Pakistan (126) – 51%, Comoros (142) - 65%, Timor-Leste (133) - 73%, Gambia (126) - 56%, Nepal (126) - 56%, Nigeria (136) – 82% (in spite of all the oil, but all the oil riches don't trickle down to most of the very poor population, because of the extreme corruption), Togo (126) - 69%, Uganda (142) – 63%. Corruption Doesn't Pay, at least not to the poors, the poorest people on earth.

ECONOMIC POPULATION BELOW POVERTY LINE – INDEX MUNDI – CIA WORLD FACTBOOK – INFORMATION ACCURATE AS OF 1.1.2012 – NATIONAL ESTIMATES OF THE PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION FALLING BELOW THE POVERTY LINE ARE BASED ON SURVEYS OF SUB-GROUPS, WITH THE RESULTS WEIGHTED BY THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN EACH GROUP. DEFINITIONS OF POVERTY VARY CONSIDERABLY AMONG STATES. RICH NATIONS GENERALLY EMPLOY MORE GENEROUS STANDARDS OF POVERTY THAN POOR NATIONS.

We mentioned the problematics of the poverty surveys as the poverty line varies considerably among states – in richer states it is much higher than in poorer states, so we can find a higher poverty rate in rich countries as compared to poor countries. Yet, we try to draw some conclusions after all. The poorest countries in the world with more than half and up to 80% of the population living below poverty line are also the least ethical countries – Chad, Haiti, Liberia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Burundi, Zambia, Niger, Honduras, South Sudan, Bolivia, Mexico, South Africa, Kenya, Eritrea, etc.

The most ethical countries have the lowest level of poverty – up to 16%: Ireland, Austria, France, Switzerland, Canada, Netherlands, United States, United Kingdom, Chile, Belgium, Japan, Germany, Denmark. But we also find very poor and unethical countries with lower poverty rate than the richest and most ethical countries (up to 16%): Thailand, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka, Albania, Russia, China, Vietnam, Syria, Azerbaijan, Indonesia, and up to 23% - Egypt (which has a lower poverty rate than Israel), Pakistan, Iran, Algeria, Moldova, Brazil, Turkey. If we don't want to be confused we just have to conclude that the most ethical countries have the lowest poverty rates, so Ethics Pays, but if very unethical countries have a similar poverty rate it doesn't show that you are not penalized by your unethical conduct it just shows that the poverty line is much higher in the rich country than in the poor country, so we cannot conclude the opposite about the reward of the unethical countries. Yet the most unethical countries have a very high poverty rate although their poverty line is much lower.

21. COUNTRY COMPARISON – INTERNET PENETRATION RATE (RPR) IS THE NUMBER OF INTERNET USERS DIVIDED BY THE POPULATION (IN %) – MOSTLY IN 2013/2014 - INTERNET WORLD STATS:

We refer to Bhutan in the analysis of World Happiness, but many people should ask themselves what do they prefer - to live in a country like Bhutan, one of the happiest countries in the world, ranked by TI as no. 30 in the corruption perception index (close to France – 26), with a GDP per capita of only \$7,000 (but with a GDP growth rate of 6%), and an Internet penetration rate of only 30%, or to live in a modern country like South Korea, one of the richest countries in the world, with a GDP PPP per capita of \$35K, with an Internet penetration rate of 85%, ranked 41 in the world happiness report and 43 in TI's ethical report? What is better, a high degree of happiness or a high degree of development? Can we combine both of them? The answer is absolutely – Yes! The 11 most ethical countries in the world are also the most modern and the happiest as well, especially the Scandinavian countries who win all the trophies. Like the Swedish Abba song "the winner takes it all", Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland – the Scandinavian countries are the best in almost all parameters: they are not only the most ethical, happiest, richest, most democratic, with the highest equality in income and gender, but they are also the most modern, most competitive and with the highest efficiency records. Even in the parameter of internet penetration they score the highest grades: Sweden (TI – 4), Denmark (TI – 1) and Norway (TI – 5) – 95%, Finland (TI – 3) – 92%, and if we want to add the last and smallest Scandinavian country Iceland (TI - 12), we find that they have the highest Internet penetration in the world – 97%! (maybe because it is so cold there that you have to stay indoor and work on the Internet...). The other countries in the 11 most ethical have also among the highest Internet penetration rates: Canada - 95%, Netherlands and Luxembourg - 94%, Australia, Switzerland and New Zealand - 87%, but Singapore - 73% only. So, here again Ethics Pays by far and surf the Internet on top of it.

However, if we add to those countries the other states ranking up to 20 in TI's index, we see that here also the Internet penetration is very high, although not as high as in most of the first 11: UK – 90%, Germany – 86%, US – 87%, Japan – 86%, Belgium – 82%, Ireland (and the European Union) – 78%, Hong Kong and Barbados - 75%. Going down from 21 in TI index to 47 we find that most of the countries have a lower Internet penetration which is quite high - on the average - 75%: Austria (81%), Bahamas, United Arab Emirates (88%), Qatar (85%), Chile, Uruguay, Estonia, France (83%), Cyprus, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Poland, Taiwan (80%), Israel – strartup nation - (71%), Spain (75%), Slovenia, South Korea (85%), Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Costa Rica and Hungary. However, Bhutan (TI – 30) – 30%, Botswana (TI – 31) – 15% - both countries are not developed by most of the standards yet are very ethical in comparison to other not developed countries. Unethical countries have a much lower Internet penetration rate - Brazil (TI - 69) - 54%, China (TI - 100) - 47%, Cuba (TI - 63) - 26%, Greece -60% and Italy 58%, both rank 69 in TI's index. India (TI - 85) - 20%, Russia (TI -136) – 61%, Iran – 56%, Indonesia – 28%, Mexico – 49%, Nigeria – 40%, Pakistan – 15%, South Africa – 49%, Tanzania – 15%. And the most corrupt countries of the world have also the lowest Internet penetration: Somalia – 2%, Sudan – 26%, Iraq – 9%, Afghanistan – 6%, South Sudan – 0%, Turkmenistan – 10%, Uzbekistan – 38%, Libya – 22%, Eritrea – 6%, Yemen – 20%, Angola – 22%, Venezuela – 50%, Haiti – 11%, Guinea-Bissau – 3%, Syria – 26%, Burundi – 4%, Zimbabwe – 39%, Bangladesh – 25%, Central African Republic – 3%, Myanmar – 1%, Cambodia – 6%, Democratic Republic of the Congo – 2%, Chad – 3%, Ethiopia – 2%, Vietnam – 44%, Papua NG – 6%. Corrupt countries don't surf the Internet...

22. RANKING OF HAPPINESS 2010-2012 – THE WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT IS A MEASURE OF HAPPINESS PUBLISHED BY THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK – KEY VARIABLES: REAL GDP PER CAPITA, HEALTHY LIFE EXPECTANCY, HAVING SOMEONE TO COUNT ON, PERCEIVED FREEDOM TO MAKE LIFE CHOICES, FREEDOM FROM CORRUPTION, GENEROSITY. OTHER CAUSES OF HAPPINESS OR MISERY – ECONOMICS, PSYCHOLOGY, PROGRESS, MENTAL ILNESS, OBJECTIVE BENEFITS OF HAPPINESS, THE IMPORTANCE OF ETHICS, SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING AND THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT. 10 – PERFECT HAPPINESS. TABLE SHOWS RANKINGS FROM LEAST HAPPY TO HAPPIEST.

The term "gross national happiness" was coined in 1972 by Bhutan's king who opened Bhutan to the age of modernization. He used this phrase to signal his commitment to building an economy that would serve Bhutan's unique culture based on Buddhist spiritual values. The message originally was that happiness is more important than economic development. Through the contribution of many western and eastern scholars the concept developed into a full socioeconomic development framework. Bhutan is the only country in the world that has a "GNH", Gross National Happiness. It measures people's quality of life and makes sure that material and spiritual development happen together. Bhutan has done an amazing job of finding this balance. Bhutan is ranked as the happiest country in all of Asia and the eighth happiest country in the world according to Business Week. In the following table we present the World Happiness Report, measuring happiness and published by the UN. The index is based on economics, psychology, national statistics, progress, ethics, subjective well-being and the Human Development Report. And who is missing from this report? Bhutan!

But, long before the king of Bhutan, Aristotle wrote in his book "Ethics" that "man aspires to be happy in the sense of eudaimonia, happiness, as the summum bonum of his existence.

Happiness is not identical to pleasure, and the ethical man will aspire to live a happy life but not necessarily a pleasurable life. Happiness is not the end of each action, but it is nevertheless the supreme goal of life." (Cory Jacques, *Activist Business Ethics*, p. 63, Springer, 2005). So, if happiness is the sense of life, one would think that the happiest countries in the world are the best countries, even if in the other parameters they don't perform so well. But, in our case, the most ethical countries manage to be the happiest, and the most democratic, and the richest, and the most peaceful, and the most equal and ethical!

The 13 happiest countries in the world include 9 of the 11 most ethical countries – Denmark, Norway, Switzerland, Netherlands, Sweden, Canada, Finland, Australia and New Zealand. And who are the additional 4 happy countries? Austria, ranking 23 in TI's index and one of the richest countries, Iceland – the fifth Scandinavian country (all the 5 Scandinavian countries are comprised in the 9 most happy countries) and no. 12 in TI's index. Israel, ranking 37 in TI's index, and among the last countries in the Global Peace Index, but one of the most advanced countries in the world. Costa Rica, ranking 47 in TI's index and having an average GDP PPP per capita of \$13,000. If we analyze the 30 happiest countries down to no. 30 – Singapore (TI – 7) – we find as a rule that the most ethical countries are also the happiest – 22 out of the 26 most ethical countries – are part of the 30 happiest countries of the world.

But, in addition to Israel and Costa Rica which are quite ethical, we find in the list of the 30 happiest countries - corrupt countries like Mexico (TI - 103), Panama (TI - 94), Venezuela (TI - 161!), Argentina (TI - 107), Oman (TI - 64) and Brazil (TI - 69). All of them, except Oman, are Latin American countries, and we wonder if it has something to do with the happy mentality of those states. Speaking of mentality, is this the reason that 3 of the most ethical countries - the Far Eastern states of Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan, rank rather low in the happiness index: no. 30, 64 and 43 respectively? Or maybe there are other reasons as well?

In this index we notice, as in most of the other indices, that the least happy countries are also the most corrupt: Togo, Central African Republic, Burundi, Tanzania, Guinea, Syria, Madagascar, Afghanistan, Yemen, Chad, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Niger, Nepal, Liberia, Mali.., but we find also among the least happy countries states that are ethical like Botswana (TI – 31) or quite unethical as Rwanda (TI – 55), Bulgaria and Senegal (TI – 69), Georgia (TI– 50). So, in most of the cases ethics and a good conscience bring also happiness and wealth, while corruption brings misery and poverty, or as Marcel Pagnol's Topaze taught his young students: L'argent ne fait pas le bonheur – Money doesn't bring happiness. But, because of your state of mind, you can reach happiness without being rich, as we see in the Budhist Bhutan and the happy Latin American countries, and you can be quite unhappy even if you live in a rich country as Japan. In those cases ethics doesn't influence too much happiness.

It is not a sheer coincidence that the poorest countries and most corrupt Latin American countries rank very high in the happiness index. In the list of the 100 most unhappy states we find only four Latin American countries: Haiti (80% poverty), Dominican Republic (34%), Honduras (65%) and Nicaragua (46%) – one would tend to conclude that with such high rates of poverty you cannot be happy regardless of your state of mind. But if we examine the 55 happiest countries we find there most of the very poor, unequal and unethical Latin American countries – Peru (31%), Paraguay (35%), Bolivia (51%), El Salvador (36%), Ecuador (29%), Guatemala (54%), Suriname (70%, how can you be happy with such a huge level of poverty, squeezed in the happiness rank of 40 between the rich South Korea and Czech Republic?), Colombia (32%), Argentina (30%), Brazil (only 21%?, but still perceived as one of the countries with the highest number of poor people), Venezuela (32%) and Mexico (48%).

In the same bracket of about \$7,000 GDP PPP per capita we find Guatemala (TI - 115, poverty - 54%), El Salvador (TI - 80, poverty - 36%) and Bhutan (TI - 30, poverty - 23%) that are ranking among the 55 happiest countries in the world, while Swaziland (TI - 69, poverty - 69%) ranks 100, Morocco (TI - 80, poverty - 15%) ranks 99, Armenia (TI - 94, poverty - 34%) ranks 128 and Georgia (TI - 50, poverty - 10%) ranks 134, in the list of the most unhappy countries of the world. So, is it a question of mentality or of ethics after all?

We found in this book that at the extremes – the happiest countries are also the most ethical and the richest, while the most unhappy countries are also the most corrupt and the poorest. But between the extremes we find cases that are not as clearcut as in the extremes. It is worthwhile to mention that China ranks 93 in the happiness index compared to 111 for India, as the poverty overcomes probably the mentality, and the theocratic state of Iran ranks 115 even below the much poorer India, as religion doesn't make the Iranians so happy after all...

Poverty affects very much happiness – Egypt (130), Liberia (133), Congo Brazaville (129) and Sudan (124) - most of the 40 least happy countries are very poor African states, while most of the European and Anglo-Saxon states are very happy, except Bulgaria (144), Hungary and the former Yugoslavian states, maybe because they still live in the trauma of communism.

23. CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE RATE TO THE US\$

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SEE ALSO – XE – CURRENCY ENCYCLOPAEDIA

The most ethical countries: Denmark, New Zealand, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Singapore, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Canada and Australia, adopted a currency market oriented approach – the currency is let to float freely in the market. To those who criticize the most ethical, rich, democratic and egalitarian countries as "socialist, anti-business or even communist states", we can answer by facts instead of defamation that the most ethical countries have even freer markets than the neo-liberal countries, with free currencies, solid economic basis and best kept civil rights, and here again Ethics Pays in floating currencies...

24. CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDICES IN 2014-2012, 2005, 1996 AND 1995: TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL'S RANKING OF ETHICS AND CORRUPTION IN THE WORLD

SEE ALSO GLOBAL CORRUPTION BAROMETER INDEX

Each year countries are scored on how corrupt their public sectors are perceived to be. It is a combination of surveys and assessments of corruption, collected by a variety of reputable institutions. The CPI is the most widely used indicator of corruption worldwide. Corruption comprises illegal activities, which are delibarately hidden and only come to light through scandals, investigations or prosecutions. There is no meaningful way to assess absolute levels of corruption in countries or territories on the basis of hard empirical data. Capturing perceptions of corruption of those in a position to offer assessments of public sector corruption is the most reliable method of comparing relative corruption levels in countries.

Transparency International (TI) maintains that corruption is a major threat facing humanity, it destroys lives and communities and undermines countries and institutions. It generates popular anger that threatens to further destabilise societies and exacerbate violent conflicts. The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) scores countries on a scale from 0 – highly corrupt – to 100 - very clean. While no country has a perfect score, two-thirds of the countries score below 50, indicating a serious corruption problem. Corruption translates into human suffering, with poor families being extorted for bribes to see doctors or to get access to clean drinking water. It leads to failure in the delivery of basic services like education or health care. It derails the building of essential infrastructure, as corrupt leaders skim funds. Corruption amounts to a dirty tax, and the poor and most vulnerable are its primary victims. Governments need to integrate anti-corruption actions into all aspects of decision-making. They must prioritise better rules on lobbying and political financing, make public spending and contracting more transparent, and make public bodies more accountable. But corruption is not limited only to the public sectors, as examined in the surveys of TI. It spills over to all the segments of activities in the country, first of all to business, but also to the relations with all the stakeholders in society - customers, environment, employees, community, suppliers, shareholders and especially minority shareholders, creditors, all levels of society, the media, education, welfare, hospitals, schools, universities, culture, and so on. Those problems are the leitmotive in all the research, courses, books, lectures and articles of Dr. Jacques Cory, who was also a member of TI's Board in Israel, and were presented to the management of Transparency International in Berlin in 2010 (see detailed synopsis at the end of this section).

The Scandinavian countries - Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway, with New Zealand, Switzerland, Singapore, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Canada and Australia are in most of the years among the 10-12 more ethical and least corrupt countries, scoring 80-90+. But those countries score also the best grades in most of the other data entries, thus proving that there is a direct causal connection between ethics, wealth, happiness, democracy, human development, quality of life, social progress, peace, competitiveness, and total freedom.

This book analyses the performance in the most salient parameters of the 11 most ethical and least corrupt countries in the world, scoring consistently over the years between 80 and 90+ - "very clean", namely Denmark, New Zealand, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Singapore, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Canada and Australia. But right after them one can find Germany, Iceland and United Kingdom that have also scored in the past more than 80 but now they score less. We found common denominators and behavior of the ethical countries proving that "Ethics Pays" as they perform in general much better than the other countries. On the other hand the most corrupt countries score the worst results in almost all parameters: in ascending order - Somalia, North Korea, Sudan, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Iraq, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Libya, Eritrea. And the 10 following countries are: Yemen, Venezuela, Haiti, Guinea-Bissau, Angola, Syria, Burundi, Zimbabwe, Myanmar, Cambodia.

One can see how the most ethical and least corrupt countries score the highest ranks in most of the other parameters – Happiness based on real GDP per capita, healthy life expectancy, having someone to count on, perceived freedom to make life choices, freedom from corruption and generosity, HDI human development index based on education, literacy, life expectancy, standards of living and quality of life, Least Income Inequality (Gini Index) and Least Poverty, Quality of Life based on GDP per capita, life expectancy at birth, family life, political freedoms, job security – unemployment rate, climate, personal physical security ratings, community life, governance – ratings for corruption, gender equality in parliament seats, Freedom in the World, Economic Freedom and Press Freedom Indices, Democracy Index based on electoral process and pluralism, functioning of government, political

participation, political culture, civil liberties, Social Progress Index based on 52 indicators of basic human needs, foundations of wellbeing and opportunity to progress, providing for the social and environmental needs of citizens, rather than economic factors, including ecosystem sustainability, health, wellness, shelter, sanitation, equity, personal freedom and personal safety; as well as purely Economic Indicators such as the efficiency parameter - highest GDP (PPP) per Hour Worked, lowest Unemployment Rates, best results in Wealth Indicators, etc. We have analyzed dozens of parameters, but we have not analyzed much more in order to focus only on the most salient parameters. However, it is worthwhile to mention that the most ethical countries score the best/lowest results also in other parameters, such as Life Expectancy at Birth, Maternal Mortality Rate, Infant Mortality Rate, people and society, economy, energy, communications, transportation and other important parameters as well.

The most ethical countries are located mostly in cold weathered Northern Europe - all the Scandinavian countries, even Iceland is ranked no. 12, all the Benelux countries: Luxembourg, the Netherlands, even Belgium is ranked no. 15, and Switzerland, or have mostly Northern/Anglo-Saxon European origins (Canada, New Zealand and Australia). The majority of their population has North/West Germanic ethnicity and languages (except Finland, but even Germany is ranked no. 12 and United Kingdom no. 14) and most of the population shares Protestant religions, but they have in many cases large religious minorities.

Singapore is an exception, located right near the Equator, a former UK colony with a deep British influence, with a majority of Chinese and minorities of Malayans and Indians, and with a common language – English. However, China is ranked no. 100 in TI index, Malaysia – no. 50, and India – no. 85. The reason of Singapore's lack of corruption could be the leadership of its founder Lee Kuan Yew who lead and influenced Singapore since its inception, which could prove that ethical leadership is a very important indicator of ethics.

Even in the other most ethical countries ethnicity and religion are not the exclusive determinators - as Finns have no Germanic ethnicity and language but have a long legacy of social progressivism, in 1906 becoming the first nation in the world to give full suffrage to all adult citizens. French/Italian Switzerland, French Canada, and in Belgium (no. 15) the Walloons, as well as most of the non Anglo-Saxon immigrants to Australia and Canada, are not Germanic or Protestants. However, all peoples of those countries share the same ethical heritage and cultural beliefs, whether they are the descendants of the Vikings, Australian Greeks or Vietnamese (but Greece is ranked no. 69 and Vietnam – no. 119 in TI's index), Canadian Jews or Arabs (but Israel is ranked no. 37, Jordan - no. 55, Lebanon – no. 136, and Syria – no. 159), Swiss Italians (Italy is ranked no. 69), Dutch Indonesians (Indonesia is - no. 107), or in the case of the US (no. 17 in TI's index) – Mexicans, Russians or Haitians (Mexico - no. 103, Russia – 136, Haiti – 161), proving that culture is a very dominant factor of ethics.

We analyze occasionely, the second tier countries, scoring 74-79, ranked 12-17/20 – mostly: Germany (12) - the largest Germanic country, Iceland (12) – the 5th Scandinavian country, United Kingdom (14) – the parent nation of the Anglo-Saxon countries, Belgium (15) – the 3rd Benelux country, Japan (15) – the largest Eastern capitalist country, influenced deeply after World War II by the US constitution and capitalist model, Barbados (17) – an Afro-Caribbean population, with the deepest English influence, Hong Kong (17) – a Chinese population with the deepest English influence, Ireland (17) – the 5th Anglo-Saxon-Celtic capitalist country among the most ethical countries, and finally the United States (17) – the largest Anglo-Saxon Protestant country, and the model of modern capitalism in the world.

If we try to find a common denominator for the most ethical countries it could be - countries of Germanic ethnicity (most of the population in Scandinavia, Benelux, Germany, and

Switerland), with Anglo-Saxon-Celtic origins (most of the existing or founding population of New Zealand, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, Ireland and the United States), with Anglo-Saxon capitalist influence (Singapore, Japan, Barbados, Hong-Kong), with a majority of protestant population in almost all those countries (except Singapore, Ireland Republic, and Japan). However, with substantial minorities from Latin, Slavic, African or Asian origins, with Catholic, Orthodox, Jews, Moslems and Eastern religions, but sharing the same ethical culture or influenced by ethical leaders as the founding fathers of the US or Lee Kuan Yew.

But what about the most corrupt countries, can we find for them also a common denominator that affects their ethics and cause them to have the worst scores in almost all the parameters? Who are those countries? The 10 most corrupt countries score 8 to 18 in TI's index, comparable to 80 to 90+ for the most ethical countries: 174. Somalia, North Korea, 173. Sudan, 172. Afghanistan, 171. South Sudan, 170. Iraq, 169. Turkmenistan, 166. Uzbekistan, 166. Libya, 166. Eritrea. What is common for all those countries? Most of them are Moslem countries, except South Sudan and North Korea (Eritrea is half Moslem). But we have to bear in mind that some Moslem Oil-Rich countries have a high ranking in TI's index – United Arab Emirates – 25, Qatar – 26. All of them have totalitarian regimes and limited civil rights, although some of them as Iraq and Afghanistan made attempts to be democratic. This is true also for the next 10 most corrupt countries (scoring 19-21). Most of them have made wars or suffered from civil unrest recently, like Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Libya, Yemen. All of them are very poor countries, most of them in Africa and some of them in Asia and Latin America. North Korea spends huge amounts for its defense and Venezuela is very generous towards communist regimes like Cuba. They suffer from the worst quality of life in the world, worst social progress and worst economic performance.

An important factor of analysis is the analysis over the years. We have chosen to compare the ranking of the most ethical countries, less ethical and most corrupt in 1995 – the first year of the Corruption Perception Index of Transparency International, with 41 countries surveyed, 1996 – the second year with 54 countries, and 2005 – the 11th year with 159 countries surveyed. We have analyzed above the ranking in 2014, the most recent results available in this book, but as we have also in the table the scoring in the years 2012, 2013 and 2014 (with 175 countries), we can compare the changes occuring in the last three years. In those years the scoring of the 25 most ethical countries hasn't changed much (more than 3 points in 3 years) except for Australia, UK, Ireland. We see it all over the period of the index – 20 years – that the ranking of the most ethical and corrupt countries haven't changed much and especially not within the brackets of the 10 and 20 most ethical countries as well as the most corrupt states.

In the period of the 3 years 2012-2014 the few material changes in the scoring of the countries were as follows: a deterioration of 7 points in Eritrea, 6 points in Syria, Guinea-Bissau, 5 points in Australia, Spain, Gambia, Timor-Leste, 4 points in Rwanda, Turkey, Liberia, Malawi, Tanzania, Madagascar, Yemen, an improvement of 4 points in UK, Lithuania, Slovakia, Lesotho, Philippines, Laos, Afghanistan, 5 points in Ireland, Estonia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, 6 points in Latvia, Swaziland, Myanmar, 7 (!) points in Greece, Senegal. Overall, if we don't count small changes of 1, 2 or 3 grades out of 100, there was a deterioration of 67 points in 2012-2014 an an improvement of 85 points, or a net improvement of 18 points for 175 states in three years, this isn't much but perhaps it shows a slight improvement in the fight against corruption over the years. One can be optimistic to find that corrupt countries as Greece, Myanmar, Egypt and Saudi Arabia have become more ethical over the years, and that former communist countries, as Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Slovakia, have become more ethical, as well as African countries such as Senegal, Swaziland, Lesotho, and Asian countries as Afghanistan, Philippines, Laos. On the other hand

there was a sharp deterioration in ethics in very corrupt countries as Eritrea, Syria, Guinea-Bissau, Yemen, Tanzania, Madagascar, but also in ethical countries as Australia and Spain.

It is amazing to find that there was no change in the 10 most ethical countries over the years: In 1995 - New Zealand, Denmark, Singapore, Finland, Canada, Sweden, Australia, Switzerland, Netherlands, Norway – exactly like in 2014, twenty years after, bearing in mind that in 1995 Luxembourg was examined together with Belgium and not separately as in 2014. And who are in the first 10 places in 1996? – New Zealand, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Canada, Norway, Singapore, Switzerland, Netherlands, Australia. Exactly as in 1995 and 2014. And what happens in 2005, ten years after the first survey? Here we have a small surprise – Iceland in no. 1 with a fantastic score of 9.7, sic transit gloria mundi – 3 years later Iceland was involved in one of the worst unethical banking scandals of the Great Recession, and was ranked in 2012 in the 11th rank, excellent ranking but not no. 1 as a few years before, in 2013 - 12 and in 2014 - 12. But who comes just after Iceland? The same members of the exclusive club as in all the previous years: Finland, New Zealand, Denmark, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, Australia, Austria, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Luxembourg, Canada. The 11 most ethical countries of 2014 are here ranked from no. 2 to 14. And in 2012 – Denmark, Finland, New Zealand, Sweden, Singapore, Switzerland, Australia, Norway, Canada, Netherlands, Iceland, Luxembourg. Only a slight change: Luxembourg is here no. 12 while in 2014 Iceland is ranked no. 12 and not no. 11 as in 2012. But in 2013 we find the same results as in 2013 (but not in the same exact ranking within the 11 most ethical countries in 2014): Denmark, New Zealand, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Singapore, Switzerland, Netherlands, Australia, Canada, Luxembourg. All is the same in an ethical front!

The same similarity can be found as well in the next ethical countries up to no. 20 and even beyond a few rankings: in 1995 – Ireland, UK, Germany, Chile, USA, Austria, Hong Kong, France, Belgium/Luxembourg, Japan. Iceland and Barbados were not surveyed, and Chile, Austria and France are even in 2014 very close to no. 20. In 1996 – Ireland, UK, Germany, Israel, USA, Austria, Japan, Hong Kong, France, Belgium. In 1996 we find the same results in the 20 most ethical countries as in 1995 and as in 2014, but with one exception – Israel, ranked here no. 14 with a score of 7.71. Here we can say even more sic transit gloria mundi, as there was a huge deterioration in Israel ranking from no. 14 in 1996 to no. 37 in 2014, with the very low score of 60 instead of 7.71. Israel has become a much more corrupt country in 18 years, going down 23 grades, perhaps the most drastic negative change in TI's surveys.

In 2005 we find in the ranks 12-22: United Kingdom, Luxembourg, Canada, Hong Kong, Germany, USA, France, Belgium, Ireland, Chile, Japan. Exactly the same countries as in the previous and following years. In 2012 – after Iceland in no. 11 and Luxembourg in no. 12, Germany, Hong Kong, Barbados, Belgium, Japan, United Kingdom, United States, Chile (and Ireland in no 25, due to the problems it had in the Great Recession). In 2013 – Germany, Iceland, United Kingdom, Barbados, Belgium, Hong Kong, Japan, United States, Uruguay, Ireland (in no. 21). So, in all those years as in 2014 we find the same countries in the 20 most ethical countries, with minor changes within the ranks in the Big 20, as in Iceland and Ireland. However, if we analyze the score of the first 10/11 ethical countries we find in 1995: 9.55-8.61, 1996: 9.43 – 8.60. 2005: 9.7 – 8.6, 2012: 90 – 82, 2013: 91 – 80, 2014: 92 – 80. The scores are much lower over the years, but the issue is too complex to be analyzed in this book. In the 11/12-20 countries the scores were in 1995: 8.57 – 6.72, 1996: 8.45 – 6.84, 2005: 8.6 – 7.4, 2012: 80 – 72, 2013: 78 – 73, 2014: 79– 74. The gaps have narrowed over the years because there are now much more countries in the survey: 175 instead of 41-54, 20 years ago.

The most corrupt countries remained almost the same, though in the first years of TI's index most of them were not surveyed. In 1995 the most corrupt countries (in a total of 41 states) were Greece with a score of 4.04, Colombia, Mexico, Italy, Thailand, India, Philippines, Brazil, Venezuela, Pakistan, China, Indonesia with a score of 1.94. In 1996: Italy with a score of 3.42, Argentina, Bolivia, Thailand, Mexico, Ecuador, Brazil, Egypt, Colombia, Uganda, Philippines, Indonesia, India, Russia, Venezuela, Cameroon, China, Bangladesh, Kenya, Pakistan, Nigeria with a score of 0.69. In 2005: Burundi with a score of 2.3, Cambodia, Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Papua New Guinea, Venezuela, Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iraq, Liberia, Uzbekistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Pakistan, Paraguay, Somalia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Angola, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Nigeria, Haiti, Myanmar, Turkmenistan, Bangladesh, Chad with a score of 1.7. There were some changes over the years: Afghanistan has become much more corrupt, and so are Libya, Syria, Eritrea and so on, while Bangladesh is less corrupt, and so are Georgia, Indonesia, Cameroon, Liberia, etc. There is therefore hope for improvement over the years.

GLOBAL CORRUPTION BAROMETER - % OF PEOPLE WHO PAID BRIBES – TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL – 2013

All the surveyed countries out of the top 20 most ethical countries have the lowest percentage of paid bribes in the world - 1% to 7% - in the first 21 ranks of the Barometer: Australia, Denmark, Finland, Japan, Canada, New Zealand, Norway, Belgium, United Kingdom, Switzerland, United States. No mention of the reasons for not surveying the other top 20 countries was mentioned but from other sources they have probably also one of the lowest ranks of bribery and corruption: Sweden, Singapore, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Hong Kong, Barbados. This is another proof that Ethics Pays – in wealth and quality of life – but not in bribes! The other countries with the lowest % of bribes – up to 10% - are mostly ethical and quite ethical: Spain (TI - 37), South Korea - 43, Malaysia - 50, Maldives, Portugal – 31, Uruguay – 21, Croatia – 61 (quite corrupt), Georgia – 50 (yet, it has the highest rate of shadow economy), Italy – 69 (quite corrupt), Estonia – 26, Slovenia – 39, Bulgaria – 69 (quite corrupt) and Chile – 21. In the first 24 countries paying bribes of 10% or less - we find all the most ethical and most of the ethical countries surveyed with a few exceptions of 3 quite corrupt countries but no corrupt or very corrupt countries. It shouldn't be too surprising, as paying bribes is per se not ethical and one expects to find that the most ethical countries do not pay bribes. In the following ranks of 20 countries paying bribes – up to 27% of the population - one can find a mixture of quite ethical, quite corrupt and up to very corrupt countries. As we have mentioned before that the rule that ethics pays is mostly true in the extremes of the 20 most ethical/20 most corrupt countries, this barometer shows the same.

25. El Salvador (TI – 80), 25. Hungary – 47, 25. Israel – 37, 25. Jamaica – 85, 25. Philippines – 85, all of them with 12% paying bribes. It is probably surprising that a corrupt country as Argentina (TI – 107) has only 13% paying bribes only a few percent more than Switzerland, and even more surpising than the most corrupt country in the world – Sudan – has only 17% of the population paying bribes, putting a question mark to the validity of the Barometer – bearing in mind that the Barometer is based on people being surveyed whether they have paid a bribe to a public body during the last year, with a margin of error for each country of 3%. Yet, for a small number of countries, including Brazil and Russia, data on particular questions has been excluded because of concerns about validity and reliability. People may be afraid to tell the truth in this matter. However, the percentage of people paying bribes increases

drastically in most corrupt and very corrupt countries as Papua New Guinea and Venezuela (27%), Iraq, Pakistan, Madagscar, Ukraine, and inexorably we find that the 20 countries with the highest percentage of people paying bribes – 44%-84% - are in most of the cases also the most corrupt countries in the world – Kyrgyztan, Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cambodia, Cameroon, Libya, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Yemen, Nigeria, but in some cases also "just" corrupt countries as Liberia, Mozambique, Senegal, India, Morocco, South Africa, Ghana, Morocco, Tanzania. So, corruption is heavily linked to paying bribes.



Dr. Jacques Cory, giving a lecture on June 4, 2010, as Keynote Speaker to the management of Transparency International - TI - at its headquarters in Berlin. Moderator: Dr. Francois Valerian, Head of Private Sector Programmes, with the participation of Dr. Miklos Marschall, Regional Director Europe and Central Asia, and other executives. The topic of the lecture was "Drawing Lessons from the Great Recession of 2007-2010", and it was divided in three parts along the main themes of Die Dreigroschenoper, The Threepenny Opera, by Bertolt Brecht. The response to the lecture was enthusiastic, with a vivid Q&A of more than half an hour.

The first part on transparency, common to TI and Cory's books, appears in the first act of the play: The ballad singer in the Prologue - the ballad of Mack the Knife: "Und Macheath, der hat ein Messer, Doch das Messer sieht man nicht", And Macheath has got a knife, but the knife is seen by no one. Analogies between Mack the Knife and the criminals of Wall Street who hid their schemes and thefts offshore and off balance sheet, and no one saw their knives.

The second part on the dilemma of profitability versus ethics, which according to Cory are compatible but according to many businessmen are an oxymoron. At the end of the second act Macheath and Jenny sing: "Erst kommt das Fressen, dann kommt die Moral", Voracity is the first thing, Morals follow on. We do not talk just about food, but voracity, excess, lavishness, salaries of hundreds of million dollars to the CEOs in parallel to layoffs of millions. When "Fressen" comes first, we never have time or resources for Ethics or Social Responsibility.

The third part of the lecture and of the play is at the end of the third act when Mack the Knife is "Gerettet, gerettet!", reprieved, reprieved, and instead of being hanged for all his crimes the Queen of England (or the US President, European Prime Ministers, and so on), gives Mack the castle of Marmarel, likewise a pension of ten thousand pounds, like the criminals of the Great Recession who were bailed out (they could indeed sing with Mack the Knife – bailed out, bailed out...), whose schemes cost the world more than ten trillion dollars, as they were too big to fail, transferring the losses from their companies to the governments, i.e. to us. After socializing the losses in 2008, they privatized the profits in 2009, with salaries and bonuses of billions leading the world as the pied piper of Hamelin to a Doomsday Depression, with losses of hundreds of trillions, while no government would be able to bailout them or us!

THE RISE AND FALL OF BUSINESS ETHICS FOLLOWING THE GREAT RECESSION OF 2007/10 BY JACQUES CORY, PhD

King Solomon, the wisest man in history, said "Don't be right often". And indeed, the business world after The Great Recession of 2007-2010 is not willing to forgive those who were right in their forecast, who saw the catastrophe approaching and who now tell everybody "Look, we were right!" In the last decade, there were a few academics and businessmen who dared challenging the consensus of vox populi, the alchemy and euphoria of those who made gold out of subprime assets, and who forecasted that the markets will crash because of the excessive leverage, risk and overconfidence that no one would dare to harm those who are too big to fail. Warning lights could be seen from the "remote" times of the junk bonds collapse, the Asian, Latin American, Russian insolvency, the burst of the dot-com bubble, the corporate scandals and the subsequent meteoric rise of the stock markets which was not sustainable. Among the few who dared to oppose the prevailing neoliberal laissez-faire views was Joseph Stiglitz who did it very bravely in his books, articles, lectures and videos, who advocated a Third Way approach, with tighter regulation and who didn't believe in trickle-down economics and the Invisible Hand. He saw instead a greedy hand getting richer and richer, with the tacit cooperation of the neoliberal regimes in the U.S. and other Western economies.

When the Great Recession of 2007/10 occurred, ethicists and whistleblowers had a short-lived epiphany. Most of politicians, governments, international organizations, businessmen and faculties admitted being wrong and admitted that from now on they will act conscientiously, will devote all the time needed for business ethics courses, will work with lower leverage and more respect to other people's money, will increase regulation and not maximize profits with unfettered risk at the expense of the interests of the stakeholders. But following the trillions dollars bailouts and the miraculous recovery of the stock markets due to zero interest rates, none of the culprits was held responsible. Lehman's Dick Fuld is still active on the stock exchange market, LTCM's Myron Scholes is still the chairman of an Advisers company, and our old friend Drexel's Milken is a well-known philanthropist and Chairman of the Milken Foundation. Only poor Bernie Madoff was sentenced to 150 years in prison, but he was the only one indicted in the 65 billion fraud, or even on the Recession's quasi-frauds, a superman!

The Titanic was rescued at the last moment thanks to Hank Paulson and to the fact that global warming has thawed the icebergs in her route. The one and only Warren Buffet who called the derivatives a weapon of mass destruction buys Goldman Sachs's shares on the cheap instead of investing in clean technology, and the hero of the day is John Paulson who speculated on the downturn and won billions. Even if some regulation was enacted, we can bet that neo-Enron's wizards will find a way to circumvent it as they did with Sarbanes-Oxley Act that

proved totally inefficient in the last Crisis. All is legal, crooks continue to donate money to politicians and to charities, and we, the fools, continue to invest in the stock exchange in unethical companies headed by unscrupulous businessmen, who will scheme our pension funds again and again, ad infinitum. The heavy smokers, who recovered miraculously from lung cancer, are smoking even more than in the past, since they know that nothing will happen to them, and if worse comes to worse, some minority shareholders with a victim's syndrome will donate one of their lungs (or even two, why not?) to them in order to enable them to catch their breath in the toxic assets environment where they breathe.

Inequality has reached an unprecedented level, unemployment is still very high, and the Economic Whirl, which has started twenty years ago with damages of billions, has reached now damages of trillions. We are not far from a Doomsday Depression as we need to increase only by a factor of 10 in order to reach damages of tens of trillions, the world economy is only \$54 trillions, bringing about the collapse of the world's economy. When we reach this level, even maverick neoliberal economists will not be able to rescue us or to bailout their friends on Wall Street. In the meantime, they have sterilized every opponent, business ethics courses were eliminated or cut down drastically, as the universities don't have funds because of the Crisis or Madoff, or both. When they teach ethics the students learn about Aristotle, Kant or Adam Smith, but not about the Crisis and its causes which are mainly ethical. In corporations and banks no ethical screening for executives is practiced, and when we have now and then a Chief Compliance Officer, it is mostly the Legal Counsel who advises the corporate how to evade paying taxes legally, how to pollute the environment externalizing the costs legally, how to wrong minority shareholders legally and prevent labor's rights legally.

Yet, the ethicists were promoted, they are no longer hallucinated Don Quixotes, they are now the Enemies of the People, and everything is permitted to discredit their previsions. Instead of teaching business ethics courses of 50, 100 or 150 hours at the universities, the faculties continue to teach irrelevant quantitative theories that were proven wrong now, as with LTCM, and they invite once in a while Nassim Taleb to tell them fairy tales about Black Swans. It sounds nice but they wouldn't dare to invite Daniel Kahneman to teach about irrational economics. Economics is a science, prices of shares can be predicted, we can hedge them with CDS, we can speculate on Lehman's going bankrupt, with derivatives, shorts, put options, because if economics is not a science how would Scholes, Friedman and Von Hayek get a Nobel Prize? We are now like the Good Soldier Shweik at six o'clock after the First World War. We don't pay attention to Winston Churchill who is a grouchy old bore, to Bertolt Brecht's Threepenny Opera, to Keynes' theories. We live in the roaring twenties, with exiting new technologies, no regulation, financial engineering and unshakable optimism. The Economic Whirl will not deter us, illegitimi non carborundum, we have marginalized Joseph Stiglitz and Naomi Klein, and have managed to surround presidents and prime ministers with Wall Street's and equivalents old boys. We are the new Freemasons and our moral and metaphysical ideals, our new Supreme Being, are money, greed, maximization of profits, unfettered capitalism, unlimited risk, CBOs, CDOs, CLOs, CMBS, CMOs, CDS, LTCM, S&Ls, RMBS, CMBS, OPEC, NASDAQ (and good old Bernie, its Chairman), SEC (who?), TARP (shock therapy to the suckers), Fannie Mae & Mae West, Freddie Mac & McDonald's.

But it is not too late, we may have lost an eye and a tooth (not ours of course, but of the taxpayers, as we don't pay taxes, it is against our beliefs), we have another eye and plenty of teeth, maybe Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers were drowned in the tsunami, but the other banks with the bailout are stronger than ever. Main Street is recovering; we have time for a new beginning with business ethics, social responsibility and sustainability as a cornerstone. It is the only guarantee for a full long term recovery, with minimal leverage, low risk, living

according to our means, humane capitalism, effective regulation and optimal profits taking into consideration the interests of all the stakeholders, including customers, suppliers, employees, creditors, minority shareholders, society and the environment. It depends on us to make the change, as the power is with the stakeholders, not with the tycoons and the politicians. Change will come from those who are not willing to be wronged anymore, who don't suffer from the victim's syndrome, who learned the lesson, who desire to live!

THE MAIN PRINCIPLES FOR THE FUTURE OF CAPITALISM IN THE NEW SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

Cory's theories analyze contemporary capitalism, the Great Recession and the Economic Whirl, based on Dr. Cory's research & books, and more than 150 books, 130 videos, thousands of articles and documents, researching them in a vivid, critical and captivating way. It examines various preferred solutions to the crisis of capitalism, corporate governance and conduct, adopted by regulators and business, recommended by eminent professors, writers and tycoons, and advocated by Dr. Cory in his works. In the next crisis which could occur within the current decade, as nothing has changed while the pace of the crises has increased exponentially, the world economy could indeed collapse, with damages reaching into the hundreds of trillions of dollars, far beyond the scope of the world GDP. Adoption of the remedies offered might prevent this collapse. These theories differ fundamentally from the prevailing neo liberal views, but are nevertheless contemporary, with a contrarian approach.

In this research endeavor, the author finds the most profound sources of financial and economic instability and suggests workable remedies that can be adopted without delay. It is true that the economic future is uncertain, but unfortunately as the causes of the instability do not change, the results of the systemic failures can be predicted, while the only thing that changes is the order of magnitude of the crises. Economists tend to over-simplify their models – the neoliberals adopt free market theories, the Keynesians and even Stiglitz try to find the right balance between regulation and free markets. These theories offer a much more complex solution, based first of all on moral and ethics, but also on sociology, psychology, philosophy, while giving workable economic solutions. A precondition for a sustainable future of capitalism is to adopt appropriate corporate governance as stipulated in Dr. Jacques Cory's previous books with the changes needed to reflect the crises of the last decade.

Finally, Dr. Cory's theories suggest a new political economy of the state, new strategy for the private and public sectors, new economy of income and wealth distribution, in the context of a proper humane policy bringing economic development. It calls into question the conduct of corporations, leaders, executives and regulators before and during the Great Recession in order to help the reader to understand how the business models of the invisible hand, minimal regulation and maximization of profits have a perverse impact on the world economy, society and stakeholders and ultimately – business and profitability. The theories encourage the reader to develop and follow his own insights, which could be different from the prevailing neo liberal ideology, and find the right equilibrium between profitability, business ethics, social responsibility, globalization, sustainability, complementing each other in the long run.

After witnessing, as a businessman and academic, the Economic Whirl starting in the eighties and culminating in the Great Recession of 2007-2010, Dr. Cory draws the lessons for the future of capitalism and the obvious necessary conclusions which are based and substantiated

by the events, but are regrouped in the building blocks which are the preconditions for the new sustainable society, for the future of capitalism in a sustainable society, namely:

- * what is the raison d'être of the company
- * ethical leadership
- * low leverage and low risk with other people's money
- * discarding maximization of profits
- * financial moderation
- * transparency
- * adequate regulation
- * new mission of auditors and lawyers
- * changing the attitude of society
- * cooperation instead of cut-throat conduct
- * establishing the Institute of Ethics
- * electing truly independent directors
- * bridling of derivatives to be functional rather than speculative
- * analyzing long term Treasury Bills return on investment versus Dow Jones Index
- * pension funds investing only in T-Bills
- * full disclosure in financial reports and prospectuses
- * heavy penalties for fraud and tax evasion
- * adequate ratio between highest and lowest salaries
- * corporate social responsibility, environment and sustainability
- * business ethics, ethical strategic planning & screening of management, assimilating ethical standards
- * replacing neo liberal policies by humane capitalism
- * limiting government and business influence
- * encouraging whistleblowers
- * minimal social gaps and enlarging the middle class
- * activist conduct of stakeholders
- * Main Street creativity instead of financial creativity
- * obeying the Golden Rule
- * model citizenship
- * progressive taxation
- * abolishing investment in tax heavens and legal but unethical tax evasion
- * living within your means with minimal credit and adequate savings
- * drawing lessons from the Scandinavian Capitalism
- * eliminating "soft" corruption
- * paying very high salaries to politicians and civil servants
- * prohibiting crossing between public and private careers
- * a new balanced approach between unbridled capitalism and socialism
- * 90% taxation on excessive compensation
- * taking into consideration irrational economics
- * restraining contributions to politicians, political parties and lobbying
- * eliminating bailouts to "too big to fail" corporations
- * restraining monopolies, cartels, large multinationals and banks
- * ensuring an adequate return on investment for savings regardless of the Fed's monetary policy
- * devising from scratch a holistic sustainable economy doing justice to the people and not to tycoons

THE PRINCIPLES OF BUSINESS AND ETHICS IN THE ECONOMIC WORLD TOWARDS 2020

- 1. Companies should see profitability as a viability precondition and not as their only reason for existence, as corporations also employ people, sell products, and contribute to society.
- 2. The mantra of maximization of profits should be discarded, as it necessarily causes maximization of risks and wrongdoing of stakeholders: employees, customers, community and the ecology.
- 3. Financial moderation should prevail, with a balanced leverage (not 30:1 as in Lehman Brothers), sufficient equity, low indebtedness, a positive cash flow, integrity of the financial management, even if it is at the expense of maximizing profitability, growth and valuation.
- 4. Financial reports should be accurate and transparent and instead of spending tens of millions in order to circumvent the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, companies should spend millions to be ethical.
- 5. Lawyers who assist companies to evade taxes "lawfully" would be unemployed, as all companies would pay the full taxes, after being convinced that it is the only way to maintain law and order, eradicate crime and to fund defense, education, health and infrastructure equitably.
- 6. All pension funds should cease to invest in the stock exchange, no longer risking pensions, and minority shareholders should invest only in ethical funds and ethical companies.
- 7. Independent directors should be really independent and should ensure the stakeholders' rights.
- 8. An Institute of Ethics should be established, giving ethical ratings to companies, controlling shareholders and executives, and the management should have an impeccable ethical record, preventing the collapse of AAA ethical companies due to unethical conduct.
- 9. The internet would become the ultimate ethical vehicle, ensuring full transparency, preventing the use of insider information and enabling open communication between all stakeholders.
- 10. Cooperation, equilibrium and harmony would replace the principles of cut-throat competition and street fighting, having the killer instinct and adopting war tactics.
- 11. Companies should not compete in adopting unbridled marketing campaigns, deceptive advertising, deceiving customers, but should compete on who gives better service and products at fair prices, without putting "stumbling blocks" before the blind subprime customers.
- 12. Our examples of model businessmen would be Warren Buffett, Jerry Greenfield and Paul Hawken, and not Ken Lay and the executives of Lehman Brothers, Bear Stearns and AIG.
- 13. Society would not judge people by the size of their wallets but by the greatness of their minds.
- 14. The ideal manager should lead his company in an authoritative, democratic and humane approach, and not be inconsiderate, brutal and lacking in sensitivity.

- 15. We should prevent sexual harassment, race, gender, age and other discrimination, nepotism, and all workers should be treated equitably and recruited with ethical screening.
- 16. The ratio between the highest and lowest salaries in a company should not exceed 30:1.
- 17. The environment in our cities would be as good as in Copenhagen and not as bad as in Naples, and petrochemical companies would invest in preventive measures as in the Netherlands.
- 18. Our country would be rated among the ten most ethical countries in the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index, our model would be Finland and not Nigeria, and those who enforce the ethical laws would not cross the lines to work for those who infringe upon them.
- 19. Companies and tycoons should not perceive corporate social responsibility as the donations of one percent of profits being the essence of ethics, but should earn the other 99% ethically.
- 20. Government would not be neo-liberal or social democratic but neo-social, adopting the "third way" of Joseph Stiglitz, with a balanced equilibrium between free market and regulation.
- 21. Perception of success would not be living on a property of \$125 million but on a modest property, like Warren Buffett, known for his personal frugality despite his immense wealth.
- 22. The model of a politician would be Mahatma Gandhi, practitioner of non-violence, truth, integrity, austerity, simplicity and peace, as opposed to many corrupt politicians of today.
- 23. The excessive ties between government and business would be loosened, politicians would not be responsible to tycoons and their lobbies but to the people and would be funded by them. Civil servants should not be employed by the tycoons after quitting their jobs, putting their motives in doubt.
- 24. Milton Friedman's vision would be achieved that companies should not invest in social responsibility and the policy of the neo-liberals would be implemented with minimum regulation, because if companies are ethical, there will be no need for charity or regulation.
- 25. Society would not worship bankrupt businessmen who outsmarted their creditors, tax evaders who conned the government, and controlling shareholders who wronged minority shareholders, but nerds who pay their taxes, behave ethically and repay their debts.
- 26. White-collar criminals should be sentenced to 20 years imprisonment, without plead bargains, indirect or direct bribes, and judges should not be lenient toward bankers, tycoons and corrupt politicians, who are usually represented by the best lawyers.
- 27. Society would ostracize those who withhold payments to suppliers and employees, those who employ people without providing them with social benefits, and those who prevent unionizing aimed at improving working conditions.
- 28. Society should encourage and reward whistleblowers who warn against corruption, wrongdoing to stakeholders and ethical criminals.
- 29. Our country would have minimal social gaps and would rank close to Sweden, with 50% of its population in the middle class and not 50% of the wealth owned by the richest 1%, since democracy is not voting every few years, but having equity, welfare and equal opportunities.
- 30. We should take our fate in our own hands, acting lawfully and ethically but decisively, investing only in ethical companies, working only in ethical companies, buying only from

ethical companies and welcoming only ethical and sustainable companies into our communities.

- 31. We should not aspire to be creative capitalists or creative accountants, but to be creative in our R&D in high tech, green energy and low tech, with holistic ethical strategic planning.
- 32. Quality and excellence should be the cornerstones of a company's activities, by adhering to specifications and standards, without jeopardizing quality and endangering people's lives.
- 33. Ethical standards, codes and assimilation would not be eyewash but the basics of a company.
- 34. Tenders would not be bent, positions would not be promised to the boys, and lawsuits would not drag on, in an economy with minimal red tape and an ethical environment and infrastructure.
- 35. We should return to basics: obeying the Golden Rule by not doing to others what we do not want to be done to us, acting in equity, moderation and equilibrium; the Categorical Imperative with its moral obligations should prevail, concluding in an All My Sons Credo.
- 36. The significant progress that has happened in the last decades in consumerism, quality, health, education and democracy would also be expanded to ethics, social responsibility, corporate governance and sustainability towards the year 2020, if we wish to preserve life.

PROFITABILITY AND BUSINESS ETHICS

Many businessmen believe that a company can either be profitable or ethical but that it can't be both at the same time. If a company has to compromise on one of those issues, it prefers to do so on ethics, as the success of a company and its management is primarily based on its profitability and not on its ethics. An unethical company is not penalized for its unethical conduct, if it does not infringe any law, and the same is true for its executives who continue to receive their high salaries, stock options and benefits, as long as they maximize profitability, even at the expense of ethics. We should examine the oxymoron stated by Milton Friedman, that the objective of a company is only to maximize profits and that a company should not have any objectives of social responsibility. Where are we maximizing our behavior in our lives? Do we maximize our eating, drinking, vacations, or even return on investment? Each maximization has a price tag: eating excessively results in bulimia, drinking too much results in drunkenness, too long vacations degenerate, while a very high return on investment has a tradeoff with risk or brings too many competitors. Aristotle preconized more than two thousand years ago that we should find moderation in everything we do, the golden mean, as excessiveness ultimately corrupts. His precepts were true then as they are true today. One should find the right balance between the hardware of business: production, sales, profitability and valuation, and the software of business: ethics, quality, integrity and humaneness. Only thus is it possible to find the perfect harmony that will ensure the long term prosperity of the company and its stakeholders.

There are 12 outstanding principles and basic conditions that are the prerequisites for an ethical and profitable company:

1. Ethics, Profitability and the Interests of the Stakeholders

Everybody believes that a prerequisite for a viable and prosperous company is profitability. A company that is not profitable will not be able to survive in the long run and we should do our best in order to be profitable. Profitability is like the oxygen that we breathe; it is a precondition for our living. However, nobody decides where to live exclusively on the basis of the amount of oxygen that exists in his neighborhood. Or paraphrasing Moliere in his play "L'avare" – we should be profitable (eat) in order to live but we should not live in order to be profitable (eat). The quality of life of every human being, like the quality of life of every company, has other parameters as well, primarily the safeguarding of the interests of the stakeholders of the company and fair conduct toward them: the employees, customers, suppliers, creditors and so on. The company has, therefore, to obey the Golden Rule: "Don't do unto others what you wouldn't want done to you". This issue will be further emphasized, as it is a key element in ethical thinking.

2. Financial Integrity and Strength

Financial creativity can ruin companies, as we have seen in many cases in recent years, such as Enron, Barings Bank and others. In order to survive in the long run a company has to be financially moderate, with a balanced leverage, sufficient equity, low indebtedness, a positive cash flow, integrity of the financial management, even if it is at the expense of maximum profitability, growth and valuation. A prerequisite of survival is security, for the individual, the corporation and the nation. As a nation spends a large part of its GNP for defense, so a company has to ensure its security and cannot jeopardize its existence with financial creativity, transferring profits to affiliated companies, taking loans through related companies, reporting expenses in next year's financial statements, actualizing forecasted profits for the next ten years in this year's income statement, reporting R&D expenses as assets, and so on. Sometimes the auditors cooperate with the reckless executives; often the SEC or even the public look benevolently on such conduct, but a company that acts carelessly in its finances will not subsist in the long run.

3. Enforcement by an Authoritative and Democratic Management

Many believe that an authoritative and democratic management is an oxymoron, but the most successful and prosperous companies prove that it is feasible. Management has to be authoritative in a company as in a nation; it is impossible to manage in a flabby way, where everyone does whatever he wants, nobody is accountable, directives are not implemented, instructions are not enforced, and the whole company is managed like a fraternity. Therefore, a company has to be managed in an authoritative way, obeying management directives, enforcing the company policy and decisions. Nevertheless, enforcement has to be carried on graciously, not through a dictatorial management, and to take the inputs of lower level management and employees into consideration. Most of the modern business books preconize such methods of management, but unfortunately many companies are managed by brutal bosses, or in an anarchical manner; few companies are managed by an authoritative and democratic management. This mode of management can even be seen as a prerequisite for an ethical company, as it combines the best methods.

4. Quality and Excellence

The company in the third millennium perceives quality and excellence as prerequisites of success, but in many cases this is only a slogan or a panacea. How is it possible to solve the dilemma of improving quality while obtaining a profitability which is lower than the maximal one? What is the value of quality and to what extent should it be enhanced, even if it is not needed? Standards are set by the Standards Institutions, the customers' specifications set what

is required and those who abide by the standards and the specs should encounter no problems. However, unethical companies that want to maximize profits at all costs do not abide by those rules, deliver products that do not comply with the specs, sometimes even endangering human lives. Maximization of profits is always at the expense of something else; you deliver lower quality products to your customers, you pay lower than average salaries to your employees, you postpone payments to your suppliers, you reschedule the installments of your loans, you evade paying taxes, you externalize your ecological expenses, and of course, you do not meet the standards and excellence required by an ethical company. An ethical company should, therefore, find the right balance between profitability, quality and excellence, while safeguarding the interests of all its stakeholders.

5. Truthful and Transparent Reporting

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act is supposed to improve the truthfulness and transparency of reporting of American companies and companies that are traded in the US. Many companies have reluctantly decided to abide by the new rules, even if they find them somewhat "draconic". Others invest huge amounts of money in order to find ways of circumventing the act without breaking the law. However, the obvious way should be to act ethically and give true and transparent reports as companies are bound by law to do. It is by far the simplest and cheapest way to cope with the Act, as it is ultimately more efficient to be ethical in the long run. Those who have a clean conscience should not be afraid of transparency. Opaque reporting is a sign of unethical conduct, as we have seen at Enron, Barings, WorldCom and many others. Reporting should also be comprehensible to minority shareholders in financial statements, prospectuses, special reports and so on. It is recommended that companies should add ethical, social responsibility and ecological reports to their annual reports. Fraudulent reports are beneficial only to unethical executives, assisted by lawyers and auditors who operate in contradiction to their professional ethics, which require truthful and transparent reporting.

6. Aggressive and Creative Marketing

In a world that has limited wars to a minimum, the business world has become the outlet for aggression. "Street fighter" is a compliment for an aggressive businessman, but it is, however, recommended to limit the aggression to marketing instead of finance and human relations. Only in marketing should businessmen set free their native aggression and creativity, as we live in a very competitive market and the meek do not survive. A company can be ethical in its advertising and its conduct toward competitors while employing war-like tactics of cunning. Should a company abide by the rule of "let the buyer beware" or "giving full disclosure of all the products' deficiencies"? Does it have to emphasize its strengths as well as its weaknesses in the same manner? If you are transparent in marketing, should you light up your problems with a torch or show how your products are better than those of your competitors? In negotiations should you tell the whole truth or just not lie? A prerequisite to the success of a company is growth and obtaining a large market share. It is very difficult to find companies that can achieve that by being completely ethical. It is almost impossible to find companies or businessmen who are 100% ethical, and if you have to give leeway to your aggressions and cunning, it could be that it is preferable to do so in marketing rather than in finance, as the competitors are strong enough to care for their own interests and it is questionable if stakeholders in the company, such as the community or government, are.

7. The Humaneness of Management

The most important resource of a company is its employees and management. A company with the best products, with the most advanced technology, with the most revolutionary know-how, cannot survive without dedicated, excellent, motivated and honest employees, who see their company as their second home, who are loyal and give their utmost to the organization. In order to achieve this goal management has to be humane; there should be no sexual, racial, religious, or age discrimination, there shouldn't be too wide gaps in the level of salaries, there should be almost no temporary workers without social benefits and no wrongdoing done to employees. Many unethical companies achieve maximum profitability by paying minimal salaries, no social benefits, widely employing temporary workers, banning unions, adopting brutal methods to enforce discipline, with constant threats of layoffs, while keeping the huge salaries of top management untouched. Those companies can increase profitability in the short run, but cannot be profitable in the long run, as employees contribute most in a supportive environment. The basic quality of managers, doctors, teachers and civil servants who interact with people should be humaneness, and as a doctor with despicable conduct towards his patients is a bad doctor, even if he is very proficient, so is a brutal boss who enjoys rendering the lives of his subordinates miserable a bad manager and he will not succeed in his job in the long run.

8. Social Responsibility

In the last few years there is a confusion of terminology between business ethics, social responsibility and sustainability. The best specialists deal with those issues and many see their terms as encompassing all the others. Social Responsibility, in its strict terminology, is the care of the community, society and the interests of the weaker segments of society. There could be a contradiction between business ethics and social responsibility, as the Mafia can contribute millions to society while obtaining the funds for their donations in the most unethical manner. Tobacco companies contribute millions to cultural activities but do they become ethical because of that? Companies that wrong minority shareholders in millions of dollars can donate part of those sums to a business school or even found a Center for Business Ethics. Social Responsibility is undoubtedly one of the pillars of Business Ethics, but it does not replace it. It is preferable that a company should not wrong its stakeholders: employees, customers, creditors and suppliers, while not contributing anything to social responsibility and the community, than to have a company that wrongs all its stakeholders and donates part of those unethical profits to the community. The community will be far better off if a company behaves ethically without giving any donations, as the community is comprised of the stakeholders of the company: the employees, the suppliers and the customers. Unethical companies wrong their stakeholders usually ten times more than the amounts that they donate to the community, so society has a much larger deficit incurred as a result of unethical conduct than the benefit it derives from social responsibility. The Robber Barons who wronged their employees, customers and suppliers donated only a fragment of what they have earned unethically to society. A company is perceived as very ethical if it donates one percent of its profits (not of its income...) to society. We are far more interested on how the company obtained the remaining 99% of its profits. The same token applies with sustainable companies who contribute to ecology while wronging their stakeholders. An unethical company which is socially responsible or sustainable is an oxymoron; it is sheer hypocrisy and eyewash!

9. Environment

One of the most common ways to maximize profitability is by externalizing expenses from the company to the government or the community. Those expenses, which the company does not incur although it causes them, are called externalities. Thus, if a company dumps its toxic

waste into a river, into the air, the sea or the soil, it does not incur the cost it causes to ecology, which is incurred to the community or the government if they want to remediate the harm. Nowadays, there is quite extensive legislation on the preservation of the environment in the US, countries in Europe, Canada, Australia, and so on. However, the enforcement of those laws is not easy and unethical mega-corporations try very hard to evade them, as it is much cheaper to externalize the expenses to the community, thus maximizing profits. In many cases those companies contribute funds to unethical politicians, who assist them in evading the laws. The Government cannot allocate the funds to fight against those corporations, and NGOs, communities and individuals find it even harder. Thus, the main approach should be ethical, by abstaining from investing in companies that harm the environment and investing in ecological funds. The harm to the environment ultimately affects all of us, if not in this generation then in the next one. Cancer and many other illnesses result from those wrongdoings, as all of us breathe the same air and are affected by global warming. We are, after all, every one of us, part of the same life chain.

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10. Ethical Infrastructure

An ethical company or an ethical individual cannot survive in a corrupt environment. The whole infrastructure should be ethical in order to facilitate the ethical conduct of a company. If society does not condemn wrongdoing and glorifies unethical conduct, there is no incentive to managers to behave ethically, as we are social-minded and most of us cannot live in a society where we are ostracized. In the past, religion was the watchdog of morals and of ethics, although there were too many cases of abuse. Today, society should condemn ethical criminals instead of condemning whistleblowers who try to remedy their wrongdoing. A total change of attitude is needed in order to glorify and reward whistleblowers. Those who wrong their stakeholders should be banned from society, as should bankrupts who manage to salvage all their wealth by externalizing the bankruptcy to their creditors, employees and suppliers. Nowadays, the wrongdoers are treated by society as "smart guys", who con their creditors, who con the government while evading paying taxes by "tax-planning", which may be legal but is unethical. If it is possible to bribe judges and policemen, buy pardons and fix tenders, no ethical codes could prevent one from committing those crimes, as the prerequisite of the implementation of the ethical codes is that the managers and employees, as well as the society, should be ethical. Unethical companies, such as Enron, crumble in the same way that corrupt societies, such as the Soviet Union, crumbled. The infrastructure of the society, local administration, police, judicial system, politics and government will ultimately become ethical when the situation becomes unbearable, when corruption finally distorts the whole economy, as only ethical economies and nations can prosper in the long run. The same rule applies to the business environment. No ethical Don Quixote can remain ethical when all his colleagues are unethical; therefore education on ethical conduct is a prerequisite for a profitable and ethical company. In the same manner that a transportation, sewage and energy infrastructure is formed, so an ethical infrastructure for the survival of society has to be formed.

11. Ethical Tycoons

In order to discern which companies are ethical we have to examine who their executives are and take them as an example. Warren Buffett is a typical example of an ethical tycoon who has succeeded to be almost the richest man in the world by combining, in a remarkable manner ethical conduct with very high profitability. However, he is soon to give up most of his wealth to community, thus achieving social responsibility as well. Buffett believes that excessive wealth that was originated in society should go back to society, not 10% or 1%, but

most of it, as he has shown. Not by legislation as in ultra-socialist countries, not by nationalization as in communist countries, but in a humane capitalistic regime, setting a voluntary example for every businessman. This is an inspiring example in an environment that has become less and less ethical, in a society where most of the wealth belongs to very few tycoons. We need to follow the example of ethical businessmen such as Buffett and to condemn the unethical conduct of the Lays and Skillings, in order to prove that being profitable and ethical is not an oxymoron. We should ostracize tycoons who made their fortunes by bribing corrupt politicians in order to receive privatized assets at a minimal price, by wronging minority shareholders, by stealing from pension funds and by manipulating the price of shares. We should glorify the ethical businessmen, with impeccable reputations and records of fair conduct to stakeholders, in order to induce managers to work in their companies and be proud of it, to convince customers to buy their products, services or funds, to influence banks to lend them money, as they should be set as an example for all of us.

12. A Holistic Business and Ethical Strategy

Each one of those principles is viable and a prerequisite for an ethical and profitable company. However, the precondition for their implementation is the orchestration of all of them in unison. Only a company that implements all the principles would/should prosper in the long run. It is obvious that nowadays there are many companies that do not comply with any of the principles, with the exception of marketing aggressiveness. Nevertheless, they prosper in the short run and sometimes even in the long run. Enron prospered for many years and was set as an example in the best business schools. Companies that were founded by the Robber Barons exist even today. But we can decide if unethical companies prevail. We can decide not to work for them, not to lend them money, not to buy their products and not to sell them ours. We have the power as employees, with our unions and pension funds, as customers who can be organized, as minority shareholders who can obtain control of their companies, as communities who can forbid unethical companies to operate in their towns, as bankers who can decide not to lend them money. Recent history has proven how we can organize ourselves in such a way as to make ethical conduct prevail, thus safeguarding the interests of the stakeholders. It was the Labor Unions who forced unethical companies to pay fair wages to their employees. The Greens have forced mega-corporations to preserve the environment. Activist associations have changed resolutions which were unfair to the minority shareholders. Ethical countries have managed to eradicate bribery and corruption; ethical communities ostracize unethical corporations. We should exercise our power with a holistic approach, assisted by the Institutes of Ethics, the Supervision Boards, and the Ethical Funds, to find the ethical companies and invest only in them. We should trust only ethical companies and businessmen and ostracize the others. It is not a utopian dream; it is feasible if we are properly organized, if we train management to be ethical, if we prove that we can be both profitable and ethical. We can achieve this goal in the foreseeable future to the benefit of society and individuals who want to survive in a sustainable environment.

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX - TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL

SCORES

2014 RANK COUNTRY 2014 2013 2012

	.	0.0	0.7	
<u>1</u>	<u>Denmark</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>90</u>
<u>2</u>	New Zealand	<u>91</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>90</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>Finland</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>90</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>Sweden</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>88</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>Norway</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>85</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>Switzerland</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>86</u>
<u>7</u>	<u>Singapore</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>87</u>
<u>8</u>	<u>Netherlands</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>84</u>
<u>9</u>	<u>Luxembourg</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>80</u>
<u>10</u>	<u>Canada</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>84</u>
<u>11</u>	<u>Australia</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>85</u>
12	Germany	79	78	79
12	Iceland	79	78	82
14	United Kingdom	78	76	74
15	Belgium	76	75	75
15	Japan	76	74	74
17	Barbados	74	75	76
17	Hong Kong	74	75	77
17	Ireland	74	72	69
17	United States	74	73	73
21	Chile	73	71	72
21	Uruguay	73	73	72
23	Austria	72	69	69
24	Bahamas	71	71	71
25	United Arab Emirates	70	69	68
26	Estonia	69	68	64
26	France	69	71	71
26	Qatar	69	68	68
29Saint Vinc	ent and the Grenadines	67	62	62

30	Bhutan	65	63	63	
31	Botswana	63	64	65	
31	Cyprus	63	63	66	
31	Portugal	63	62	63	
31	Puerto Rico	63	62	63	
35	Poland	61	60	58	
35	Taiwan	61	61	61	
37	Israel	60	61	60	
37	Spain	60	59	65	
39	Dominica	58	58	58	
39	Lithuania	58	57	54	
39	Slovenia	58	57	61	
42	Cape Verde	57	58	60	
43	Korea (South)	55	55	56	
43	Latvia	55	53	49	
43	Malta	55	56	57	
43	Seychelles	55	54	52	
47	Costa Rica	54	53	54	
47	Hungary	54	54	55	
47	Mauritius	54	52	57	
50	Georgia	52	49	52	
50	Malaysia	52	50	49	
50	Samoa	52#	52#N/A#N/A		
53	Czech Republic	51	48	49	
54	Slovakia	50	47	46	
55	Bahrain	49	48	51	
55	Jordan	49	45	48	
55	Lesotho	49	49	45	
55	Namibia	49	48	48	

55	Rwanda	49	53	53
55	Saudi Arabia	49	46	44
61	Croatia	48	48	46
61	Ghana	48	46	45
63	Cuba	46	46	48
64	Oman	45	47	47
64	The FYR of Macedonia	45	44	43
64	Turkey	45	50	49
67	Kuwait	44	43	44
67	South Africa	44	42	43
69	Brazil	43	42	43
69	Bulgaria	43	41	41
69	Greece	43	40	36
69	Italy	43	43	42
69	Romania	43	43	44
69	Senegal	43	41	36
69	Swaziland	43	39	37
76	Montenegro	42	44	41
76	Sao Tome and Principe	42	42	42
78	Serbia	41	42	39
79	Tunisia	40	41	41
80	Benin	39	36	36
80	Bosnia and Herzegovina	39	42	42
80	El Salvador	39	38	38
80	Mongolia	39	38	36
80	Morocco	39	37	37
85	Burkina Faso	38	38	38
85	India	38	36	36
85	Jamaica	38	38	38

85	Peru	38	38	38
85	Philippines	38	36	34
85	Sri Lanka	38	37	40
85	Thailand	38	35	37
85	Trinidad and Tobago	38	38	39
85	Zambia	38	38	37
94	Armenia	37	36	34
94	Colombia	37	36	36
94	Egypt	37	32	32
94	Gabon	37	34	35
94	Liberia	37	38	41
94	Panama	37	35	38
100	Algeria	36	36	34
100	China	36	40	39
100	Suriname	36	36	37
103	Bolivia	35	34	34
103	Mexico	35	34	34
103	Moldova	35	35	36
103	Niger	35	34	33
107	Argentina	34	34	35
107	Djibouti	34	36	36
107	Indonesia	34	32	32
110	Albania	33	31	33
110	Ecuador	33	35	32
110	Ethiopia	33	33	33
110	Kosovo	33	33	34
110	Malawi	33	37	37
115	Côte d'Ivoire	32	27	29
115	Dominican Republic	32	29	32

115	Guatemala	32	29	33
115	Mali	32	28	34
119	Belarus	31	29	31
119	Mozambique	31	30	31
119	Sierra Leone	31	30	31
119	Tanzania	31	33	35
119	Vietnam	31	31	31
124	Guyana	30	27	28
124	Mauritania	30	30	31
126	Azerbaijan	29	28	27
126	Gambia	29	28	34
126	Honduras	29	26	28
126	Kazakhstan	29	26	28
126	Nepal	29	31	27
126	Pakistan	29	28	27
126	Togo	29	29	30
133	Madagascar	28	28	32
133	Nicaragua	28	28	29
133	Timor-Leste	28	30	33
136	Cameroon	27	25	26
136	Iran	27	25	28
136	Kyrgyzstan	27	24	24
136	Lebanon	27	28	30
136	Nigeria	27	25	27
136	Russia	27	28	28
142	Comoros	26	28	28
142	Uganda	26	26	29
142	Ukraine	26	25	26
145	Bangladesh	25	27	26

145	Guinea	25	24	24
145	Kenya	25	27	27
145	Laos	25	26	21
145	Papua New Guinea	25	25	25
150	Central African Republic	24	25	26
150	Paraguay	24	24	25
152	Congo, Republic of	23	22	26
152	Tajikistan	23	22	22
154	Chad	22	19	19
154	Congo, Democratic Republic of	22	22	21
156	Cambodia	21	20	22
156	Myanmar	21	21	15
156	Zimbabwe	21	21	20
159	Burundi	20	21	19
159	Syria	20	17	26
161	Angola	19	23	22
161	Guinea-Bissau	19	19	25
161	Haiti	19	19	19
161	Venezuela	19	20	19
161	Yemen	19	18	23
166	Eritrea	18	20	25
166	Libya	18	15	21
166	Uzbekistan	18	17	17
169	Turkmenistan	17	17	17
170	Iraq	16	16	18
171	South Sudan	15	14#N/A	
172	Afghanistan	12	8	8
173	Sudan	11	11	13
174	Korea (North)	8	8	8

25. WHERE TO BE BORN INDEX FOR 2013, MEASURING QUALITY OF LIFE, MATERIAL WELL BEING – GDP PER CAPITA, LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH, FAMILY LIFE, POLITICAL FREEDOMS, JOB SECURITY – UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, CLIMATE, PERSONAL PHYSICAL SECURITY RATINGS, COMMUNITY LIFE, GOVERNANCE – RATINGS FOR CORRUPTION, GENDER EQUALITY – IN PARLIAMENT SEATS - THE ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE UNIT

The question "where to be born" is a philosophical and quite misleading question. It would be much more accurate to ask: "where is it better to live", as a man doesn't chose where to be born but he choses where to live. Even that takes into consideration only material parameters and some intangible ones. Is it better to live in Switzerland (no. 1 in the index) – a country that has contributed to the world culture much less than France (no. 26) just because the physical security and community life is better? Or is it better to live in Norway (no. 3) in spite of its very cold weather just because it is much more ethical than Italy (no. 21)? Why are the Israelis (no. 20) better off, in spite of the wars and terror, than Slovakia (no. 35)?

Well, in theory, it is better to be born in Switzerland, Australia or Norway – no. 1, 2 and 3, than in Nigeria, Kenya or Ukraine – no. 80, 79 and 78. But a Ukrainian patriot would never leave his country to live in Australia, in spite of all the benefits, and change his language, the scenery, his friends and his culture. So, this index should serve more as a model, a compass, as we should strive to be better in all the parameters where Switzerland and the other best countries excel, while keeping all the character and the essence of one's country, whether he is Indian, Russian or Angolan. After all, Muhammad Yunus taught us how in the poorest country of the world – Bangladesh (77) – he changed completely the economics of the state and the welfare of the poor people with his Grameen Bank and preferred to improve the quality of life in his motherland rather than being a professor of economics in the US (16).

It is amazing how here again we find that the 11 most ethical countries are also the 11 countries where it is better to live – Switzerland, Australia, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Singapore, New Zealand, Netherlands, Canada and Finland (with one exception – instead of Luxembourg that is not part of this survey comes Hong Kong – no. 17 in Tl's index). If we analyze the 31 best countries we find there also most of the 12 - 31 most ethical states: Ireland, Austria, Belgium, Germany, US, UK, United Arab Emirates, Chile, Japan, France, Portugal and Cyprus. And the other countries in the 31 best countries are quite ethical countries ranking 35 – Taiwan, 37 – Spain and Israel, 43 – South Korea, 47 – Costa Rica. We have also only 3 quite unethical states: Czech Republic – 53, Kuwait – 67, Italy – 69. There is therefore almost a perfect symmetry between the most ethical countries and the best countries where to be born. And, it goes without saying that the most corrupt countries are also the worst countries where to be born: Nigeria, Kenya, Ukraine, Bangladesh, Angola, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Syria, Russia, Indonesia, Azerbaijan, Vietnam, India, Ecuador, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Iran, Algeria, El Salvador. At the down side we have also a perfect symmetry as in the upside.

26. LIST OF FREEDOM INDICES – WIKIPEDIA – 2014 – FREEDOM IN THE WORLD INDEX (POLITICAL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES), INDEX OF

ECONOMIC FREEDOM, PRESS FREEDOM INDEX – SOURCES: FREEDOM HOUSE, WALL STREET JOURNAL, REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS

It is very hard to imagine an ethical country without freedom – political rights, civil liberties, press freedom, and this indeed is the case with almost all ethical countries, but however there are a few exceptions. As al rule, the most ethical countries score the best results in Freedom in the World – political rights and civil liberties – "free" – 10 of the 11 most ethical countries score "free" -Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland. One exception – Singapore – scoring "partly free", due to the authoritarian benevolent regime of Lee Kuan Yew and his successors. And this is a crucial question for developing nations: what is better for the population – to live in a "free" country as India with one of the largest poverty rates in the world, a corrupt country, scoring very low in most of the parameters of this book, or in a "partly free" regime as Singapore, whose leader Lee Kuan Yew has brought his country from a developing economy to one of the leading economies in the world, one of the most ethical countries, ranking among the first countries in most of the parameters. One shouldn't say - it is better to be free and democratic as in Switzerland, because this is not an option for many countries in the developing world. Furthermore, democracy is often a two-edged sword, as it enables undemocratic parties to be elected and then cancel the democracy, as happened in Germany in 1933 with the Nazzis, in Gaza in 2007 with the Hamas, in Egypt's Morsi regime, or that democracy brings chaos.

The index of economic freedom is the favorite of the neo-liberal regimes that advocate complete economic freedom, whatever is the cost to society, poverty, and enabling the top 1% to rule and own most of the economy. Is it better to have a mostly free economy like Scandinavia, Netherlands and Luxembourg, or a free economy as Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Switzerland and Singapore? Both types of economy are legitimate, but what is better for the whole population, not only 1% or even 10% of the population? Anyhow, the most ethical countries are split between the two types of economic systems. But, let us state clearly that even a mostly free economy like Sweden's is a full capitalist regime, and not a retrogade communist/socialist regime as the neo-liberals tend to accuse the Scandinavian regimes. Almost all the most ethical countries have a "good situation" in the Press Freedom Index, except Australia "satisfactory situation" and Singapore "difficult situation". So, the most ethical countries score the best results in all the freedom indices, as we think that "mostly free" in Economic Freedom is also a very good result. But what came first – freedom of the press, civil rights, economic freedom – or ethics? An ethical conduct is in most cases the condition sine qua non for obtaining freedom in all its aspects, and it applies also here.

The situation in the 19 countries with the least corruption (ranking 12-30) after the first 11 most ethical countries, is somewhat more complex but in general – even the slightly less ethical countries score the highest scores of freedom or slightly less: Germany, Ireland, Iceland, Austria and Estonia are free/mostly free/good situation in the three parameters as the most ethical countries. UK and US are free/mostly free/satisfactory situation, France and Uruguay are free/moderately free/satisfactory situation, Belgium is free/moderately free/good situation. However, Japan and Chile are: free/mostly free/noticeable problems, Hong Kong is partly free/free (the "model" of economic freedom of Milton Freedman)/noticeable problems. Qatar is not free/mostly free/noticeable problems, and United Arab Emirates are not free/mostly free/difficult situation. Finally, Bhutan is partly free/mostly unfree/noticeable problems, yet ranking no. 30 in TI's index, and is one of the happiest countries in the world.

The most corrupt countries have also the lowest scores in the freedom indices. Somalia, North Korea, Sudan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Eritrea are not free/repressed/very serious situation.

South Sudan and Iraq are not free/n/a/difficult situation, Libya, Venezuela and Haiti are partly free/repressed, but the freedom of the press is difficult situation/very serious situation/satisfactory situation. China has a thriving economy, yet it is not free/mostly unfree/very serious situation, India the largest democracy in the world is free/mostly unfree/difficult situation, Iran a theocracy is partly free/repressed/difficult situation, Brazil is free/most unfree/noticeable problems and finally democratic Russia in 2014 (not during the communist regime!) is not free/mostly unfree/difficult situation – plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose – the more things change, the more they stay the same. Russia and Estonia, former members of the USSR, Estonia is now one of the most ethical countries and has freedom like Germany, Ireland and Iceland, while Russia, homeland of Tolstoy, Chekhov and Solzhenitsyn, is one of the most corrupt countries with freedom like South Sudan and Iraq.

27. DEMOCRACY INDEX – THE ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE UNIT – 2014 – RANK, OVERALL SCORE

In the Democracy Index we find an almost perfect correlation between the most ethical countries of the world and the most democratic. The 11 most ethical countries are exactly the same as the 11 most democratic countries, with scores of 9.93 for Norway no. 1 down to 8.88 for Luxembourg no. 11. The other most ethical/democratic nations are as usual (the "usual suspects"): Sweden, New Zealand, Denmark, Switzerland, Canada, Finland, Australia, Netherlands. Still, one exception – Iceland no. 3 of the democracies (TI – 12) replaces Singapore – no. 75 in the democracies with 6.03 only (TI – 7), as it is perceived a flawed democracy. Interesting, in the same score (75, 6.03) we find Papua New Guinea (TI – 145). Both countries are ranked exactly in the same rank of democracy, but Singapore (because of its leadership) is one of the world's most ethical states and Papua – one of the most corrupt.

In the next 30 most democratic countries we find in most cases almost in the same ranks the most ethical countries: Ireland, Germany, Austria, Malta, UK, Uruguay, Mauritius, US, Japan, South Korea, Spain, France, Costa Rica, Belgium, Botswana, Cape Verde, Chile, Portugal (Democracies - 33, TI - 31), Taiwan (35/35), Israel (36/37), Slovenia (37/39), Lithuania (38/39), Latvia (39/43), Poland (40/35). But, still there are a few exceptions of very democratic countries which are quite corrupt: Czech Republic (25/53), India (27/85), Italy (29/69), South Africa (30/67), and the democratic but very corrupt Argentina (52/107). And in the opposite direction – countries which are ethical have the lowest scores of democracy: Qatar (136/26), United Arab Emirates (152/25), and a quite corrupt Saudi Arabia (161/55). China (144/100), Egypt (138/94) and Russia (132/136) are very corrupt countries which have also a very undemocratic regime. Finally, the "usual suspects", the most undemocractic regimes are also the most corrupt countries having a score down to 1.08 for North Korea ranked 167 in the democracies - the most undemocratic country is also the most corrupt ranking 174 in TI's index with a score of 8 out of 100. The other most undemocratic and corrupt countries are: Central African Republic, Chad, Syria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Turkmenistan, Guinea-Bissau, Iran, Laos, Eritrea, Uzbekistan, Sudan, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, Yemen, Tajikistan, Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Azerbaijan, Djibouti.

28. SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX – PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIAL PROGRESS IMPERATIVE, BASED ON THE WRITINGS OF AMARTYA SEN, DOUGLAS NORTH AND JOSEPH STIGLITZ – 2014 – BASED ON 52 INDICATORS OF BASIC HUMAN NEEDS, FOUNDATIONS OF WELLBEING AND OPPORTUNITY TO

PROGRESS – PROVIDING FOR THE SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL NEEDS OF CITIZENS, RATHER THAN ECONOMIC FACTORS, INCLUDING ECOSYSTEM SUSTAINABILITY, HEALTH, WELLNESS, SHELTER, SANITATION, EQUITY, PERSONAL FREEDOM, PERSONAL SAFETY

The Social Progress Index is probably the most comprehensive index as it includes quantitative and qualitative parameters – health, sustainability, ecosystem, sanitation, equity, personal freedom and safety, wellbeing, opportunity to progress, basic human needs, shelter... It is not difficult to guess – the 17 most ethical countries are also the 17 best countries according to the Social Progress Index, not nearly, not quite, but exactly the same, if we bear in mind that for some reason the "small" countries ranking high in the TI index are not included in the Social Progress Index: Luxembourg, Singapore, Barbados and Hong Kong.

The following 17 countries score between 88.24 to 82.63 in the Social Progress Index and are also among the first ranking in the Basic Human Needs, Foundations of Well-being and Opportunity indices: New Zealand, Switzerland, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Canada, Finland, Denmark, Australia, Austria (TI-23), Germany, UK, Japan, Ireland, US, Belgium. However, Ireland and the US rank 37 and 36 in the Basic Human Needs, probably because of their neoliberal policies. In all the other indices they rank first, down to 23 only. This is another salient example as in all the other parameters that Ethics Pays and all the most ethical countries have also the best scores in the qualitative and quantitative indices of the Social Progress Index, Basic Human Needs, Foundations of Well-being and Opportunity.

The most corrupt countries ranking also the lowest in the Social Progress Index down to 132 and a score of 32.6 are: Chad, Pakistan, Burundi, Guinea, Sudan, Angola, Niger, Yemen, Central African Republic, Nigeria, Togo, Mauritania, Liberia, Madagascar, Iran, Mozambique, Cameroon, Djibouti, Tanzania, Mali, Uganda, Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, India, Kenya, Nepal. Here again Corruption Doesn't Pay and the most miserable countries in all aspects are also the most corrupt and have reached this miserable status because of their corruption, bribes, nepotism, oligarchy of the rich & mighty.

29. GDP (PPP) PER HOUR WORKED – 2013 – GDP GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT NORMALIZED TO PPP PURCHASING POWER PARITY – IN US\$ NORMALIZED TO 2013 US\$ - MEASURES THE PRODUCTIVITY OF A COUNTRY WHEN NOT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT UNEMPLOYMENT OR HOURS WORKED PER WEEK. WORK IS MEASURED AS HOURS ACTUALLY WORKED DURING THE YEAR IN EMPLOYEE AND SELF-EMPLOYMENT JOBS

The 23 best countries in productivity of labor, measured by the GDP PPP per hour worked, are also almost identical to the 26 most ethical countries, thus proving that unlike the "defamatory" remarks on the ethical and welfare states that they have forgotten to work, they have too much social benefits, vacations, minimal work week, long maternity leaves, generous unemployment payments and so on, those countries have the best productivity, much more than the unethical countries. The GDP PPP per hour worked of those countries amount from US\$ 36.83 to 75.14. And the countries are: Norway (75.14), Luxembourg (73.22), US (67.32), Belgium (60.98), Netherlands (60.06), France (59.24, no. 6, the country with the best working conditions and social benefits has also the highest productivity, almost as high as the neoliberal US with much worse working conditions, what a blow for neoliberal ideology...), Germany (57.36), Ireland (56.05), Australia (55.87), Denmark (55.75), Sweden (55.28), Austria (54.83), UK (51.38), Canada (50.29), Iceland, Switzerland (49.88), Spain

(49.59, TI – 37), Finland (48.79), Barbados, Italy (45.04, TI – 69, a quite high productivity for a quite unethical country, even higher than the much more ethical Japan), Japan (43.77, TI - 15), Singapore (41.46, TI - 7), 23. Hong Kong (41.30), and 28. New Zealand (36.83, TI – 2-!).

But further down the symmetry is not so clear-cut, which proves, in most of the cases, that the law that Ethics Pays is applicable manily to the 20 most ethical countries and the opposite law that Corruption Doesn't Pay is applicable mainly to the 20 most corrupt countries. In the middle between the two extremes there are many mixed cases where more ethical countries perform worse than more corrupt countries, but also cases where they perform better. To illustrate this findings, we start with 37. Poland – 25.81 (TI – 35) almost identical to the ranking of productivity, but 39. Estonia – 23.50 (TI – 26) has the same productivity as 40. Turkey – 22.83 (TI – 64), which is much more corrupt than Estonia. Similarly, 42. Russia – 19.70 (TI – 136) one of the more corrupt countries has the same productivity as 43. Chile – 19.55 (TI – 21) one of the most ethical countries. 50. Romania – 15.46 (TI – 69) is quite unethical, but has the same productivity as the very corrupt 51. Venezuela – 15.05 (TI – 161). 57. Brazil – 10.78 (TI – 69) is quite corrupt and has a rather low productivity. The 3 states with the lowest productivity are also very corrupt: 59. Thailand – 8.54 (TI – 85), 60. Sri Lanka – 6.85 (TI – 85), 61. Bangladesh – 1.98 (TI – 145, one of the most corrupt countries).

30. GLOBAL PEACE INDEX & RATINGS – INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMICS AND PEACE – 2010-2014 RESULTS – WITHOUT MICRO-STATES – STATES WITH EITHER A POPULATION OF ABOVE 1 MILLION OR A LAND AREA GREATER THAN 20,000 SQUARE KILOMETERS – MOST PEACEFUL CLOSER TO 1

SEE ALSO – LIST OF COUNTRIES BY INCARCERATION RATE

SEE ALSO - LIST OF COUNTRIES BY FRAGILE STATES INDEX

The most fascinating finding in the list of the 10/20/31 most peaceful countries in the world is the fact that a few decades ago most of them were involved in wars where they had millions of casualties. Except a few countries: Iceland, Switzerland and Sweden, all the countries participated in world wars, colonial wars, civil wars, independence wars, or had totalitarian regimes in the twentieth century. And now all those countries have become the most peaceful in the world - Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia and Czech Republic which were invaded by Germany, Austria which was annexed to the Third Reich, Finland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand which fought in World War II, Japan and Germany which started World War II in Europe and Asia, Ireland which fought an Indepence war from Great Britain, Portugal fought colonial wars, Spain had a civil war, Taiwan, Chile and Uruguay had totalitarian regimes, etc. Those countries are now without external and internal conflicts, have excellent relations with their neighbors, with very low levels of criminality in society, very few refugees and displaced persons, no political instability, terrorist activity, political terror, very few homicides, violent demonstrations, lowest percentage of jailed persons, low levels of police and military expenditures, but have financial and volunteer participation in UN peacekeeping missions, no nuclear weapons capability and strong restriction of access to small arms and light weapons – in short a model of peaceful countries!

7 of the 11 most peaceful countries are also the most ethical countries: Denmark (score – 1.193 – most peaceful is closer to 1), New Zealand, Switzerland, Finland, Canada, Norway, Sweden. If we enlarge the scope to the first 20 most peaceful countries we find there almost

all the 11 most ethical countries, with Australia and the Netherlands, except Luxembourg which doesn't participate in this survey and Singapore in no. 25, and quite all of the 20 most ethical countries, including Germany, Ireland, Iceland – no. 1, the most peaceful country on earth with a score of 1.189, Japan, Belgium, and without Barbados and Hong Kong which do not participate in the survey. Yet, two major exceptions – the UK no. 47 and the US – no. 101! And if we enlarge the scope to the 31 most peaceful countries we find there quite all the 30 most ethical countries, with Chile, Uruguay, Austria, Estonia, Qatar, Bhutan, Singapore, and without Bahamas and St. Vincent and the Grenadines which do not participate. Yet two exceptions - United Arab Emirates in no. 40 and France in no. 48. So, practically all the most ethical countries are in the first 31 most peaceful countries, and if not there- somewhere lower down to the UK - no. 47 and France - no. 48, both of them participate in wars and suffer from terror, violent demonstrations and crime. The major exception is the US which rank very low in the most peaceful nations – no. 101, as they participate in wars, have a high level of criminality and homicides, high percentage of jailed persons (707 in 100,000 – the highest in the world, ten times more than peaceful Scandinavian countries), a high level of military expenditures, nuclear weapons, a very liberal policy of access to small arms & light weapons.

Argentina in spite of all the revolutions and terrorism in the past is quite peaceful today -43, Vietnam after the horrible wars of the 50's, 60's and 70's is now ranked 45, South Korea and Serbia after the terrible wars of the 50's and the 90's are now quite peaceful ranked 52, Bosnia is 61 and Kosovo is 64, after their wars of independence, but much lower we find countries with very high level of criminality, totalitarian regimes, fighting wars, drug cartels and terrorism, or instigating terror, as: Saudi Arabia – 80, Liberia – 84, Greece – 86, Brazil – 91, Bangladesh – 98, Haiti – 99, Angola – 102, Sri Lanka – 105, Cambodia – 106, China – 108, Republic of the Congo – 109, Georgia – 111, Algeria – 114, Peru – 119, South Africa – 122, Eritrea – 124, Thailand – 126, Turkey – 128, Venezuela – 129, Burundi – 130, Iran – 131, Libya – 133, Myanmar – 136, Rwanda – 137, Mexico – 138, Ethiopia – 139, Ukraine – 141, Egypt – 143, India – 144 (when we think of India we think of peace of mind and harmony, yet India ranks in one of the lowest ranks of the Peace Index), Lebanon – 146, Yemen – 147, Zimbabwe – 148. Israel is ranked 149, in an even worse rank than Lebanon, Yemen, Egypt, India, and Zimbabwe, ranking 14 from the end with a very high score of unpeaceful status – 2.689, but an ethical rank of 37, excellent economic results, in spite of the wars, terror, crime, and high level of military expenditures. The countries with the worst peaceful condition, all of them corrupt countries, poverty stricken, ranking lowest in most of the parameters, are: 150. Colombia, 151. Nigeria, 152. Russia (it would have been interesting to compare this doubtful rank with the rank of USSR and see if the situation of the population has ameliorated or deteriorated since the 90's), 153. North Korea, 154. Pakistan, 155. Democratic Republic of the Congo, 156. Central African Republic, 157. Sudan, 158. Somalia, 159. Iraq, 160. South Sudan, 161. Afghanistan, 162. Syria, the most unpeaceful country, with a score of 3.650.

LIST OF COUNTRIES BY INCARCERATION RATE – 2014 – SOURCE: WORLD PRISON BRIEF – INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR PRISON STUDIES

A major problem in this list of countries by incarceration rate is that probably many countries do not divulge the true numbers of incarcerated people, otherwise it is completely incomprehensible how in a totalitarian state as Syria where hundreds of thousands of people were killed in the civil war there are only 60 prisoners per 100,000 population exactly like the peaceful Sweden, one of the most peaceful countries in the world. Half of the 11 most ethical countries in the world have among the lowest incarceration rates: Finland – 58, Sweden – 60,

Denmark – 73, Norway – 72, the Scandinavian countries have therefore almost the lowest number of prisoners in the world – Iceland (TI – 12) actually has even a lower number - 47, Netherlands – 82, Switzerland – 87. The other half of the most ethical countries have a higher number of prisoners but still quite low – Canada – 118, Luxembourg – 131, Australia – 143, New Zealand – 183, and authoritarian Singapore has the highest number of prisoners per 100,000 population – 233. Other ethical countries have a very low number – Japan – 51, Germany – 78, Ireland – 89, Austria – 98, Belgium – 108, France – 103, Qatar – 53, etc.

The most striking number of this list is the number of prisoners in the United States – 707 per 100,000, the highest incarceration rate in the world (except Seychelles), 10 times more than Scandinavian countries!, much higher than communist Cuba – 510, totalitarian Russia – 470, or crime ridden South Africa – 294, and Brazil – 274, higher even than theocratic dictatorship Iran – 284 and Saudi Arabia – 162. This very high number derives of course from the high criminality rate, but also from the neoliberal policies privatizing almost everything even prisons (watch the film by Michael Moore's – Capitalism, a Love Story). We learned already that Syria has only 60 prisoners, but Pakistan struggling against Al Qaeda has even less – 41, Chad – 39, Nigeria – 33, Central African Republic – 19, and China – 124... Something must be wrong in this list, probably the number of prisoners divulged by some of the countries...

The following statistics are worth to mention: San Marino has the lowest number of prisoners – 0, Liechtenstein – 19, Liberia – 43, Bangladesh – 45, Sudan – 50, Yemen (in spite of the civil war) – 53, Mozambique – 62, Indonesia – 62, Djibouti – 63, Senegal – 64, Egypt (the new regime is still fighting against the Muslim Brotherhood and terrorism and has one of the lowest number of prisoners, lower than the Netherlands…) – 76, Haiti – 95, Italy and Cambodia have both only 100, Uganda – 102, Greece – 120, Hong Kong – 126, Iraq (there is a civil war, Islamic State has conquered large parts of the country, terror is a daily routine, and it has a lower number of prisoners than peaceful Australia…) – 139, Serbia – 142, Vietnam – 143, Spain – 144, Bhutan – 145, Algeria – 162, Venezuela – 174, Turkey – 198, Mexico – 211, Morocco – 221, Colombia – 244, Israel – 249, Thailand – 435, Rwanda – 492.

We have to decide – what is better for an ethical country: to have a high level of incarceration rate like the US (TI - 17) - 707, or a very low level of incarceration like Finland (TI - 3) - 58. What does it mean? Maybe it is better to have a high level of incarceration as you imprison all the criminals, the terrorists, the thiefs and murderers. Maybe an ethical country has to put in jail all the crooks, the swindlers, the embezzlers, those who give and those who receive bribes, all the corrupt people, and therefore they should have the highest rate of prisoners, as in corrupt countries all the crooks are free. But if you are an ethical country – maybe a priori you don't have many criminals. We have to refer therefore to the figures that prove that the most ethical countries have the lowest rates of crime and the lowest number of prisoners as they are also the most peaceful countries, with the lowest number of criminals.

LIST OF COUNTRIES BY FRAGILE STATES INDEX – 2015 – FUND FOR PEACE

This is a list of countries by order of appearance in the Fragile States Index (formerly the Failed States Index) of the United States think-tank Fund for Peace. The list aims to assess states' vulnerability to conflict or collapse, ranking all sovereign states with membership in the United Nations where there is enough data available for analysis. Taiwan, the Palestinian Territories, Northern Cyprus, Kosovo and Western Sahara are not ranked, despite being recognized as sovereign by one or more other nations. Ranking is based on the sum of scores for 12 indicators (see below). Each indicator is scored on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being the

lowest intensity (most stable) and 10 being the highest intensity (least stable), creating a scale spanning 0-120. A fragile state has several attributes. Common indicators include a state whose central government is so weak or ineffective, that it has little practical control over much of its territory; non-provision of public services; widespread corruption and criminality; refugees and involuntary movement of populations and sharp economic decline. Since 2005, the index has been published annually by the Fund for Peace and the magazine *Foreign Policy*. The list has been cited by journalists and academics in making broad comparative points about countries or regions. The report uses 12 factors to determine the rating for each nation including security threats, economic implosion, human rights violations and refugee flows. The 12 factors are used by Fund For Peace to ascertain the status of a country.

Social

- Mounting demographic pressures.
- Massive displacement of refugees, creating severe <u>humanitarian emergencies</u>.
- Widespread vengeance-seeking group grievance.
- Chronic and sustained human flight.

Economic

- Uneven economic development along group lines.
- Severe economic decline.

Political

- Criminalization and/or delegitimization of the state.
- Deterioration of public services.
- Suspension or arbitrary application of law; widespread <u>human rights abuses</u>.
- Security apparatus operating as a "state within a state".
- Rise of factionalized elites.
- Intervention of external political agents.

Almost all the most ethical countries – 10 out of 11 are in the Sustainable and Very Sustainable categories with the lowest grades of the Fragile States Index – 17.8 for the best country Finland and 26.8 for one of the best countries Netherlands. The other countries in the Sustainable category are also very ethical – Iceland (12), Germany (12), Ireland (17), and ethical – Austria (23), Portugal (31), with grades of up to 29.7. Only Singapore is a most ethical country in the More Stable Category, due to its peculiar political condition, but still with a very good grade of 34.4. The other More Stable countries with grades of 30 to 40 are also very ethical, ethical, and quite ethical countries – Belgium (15), Slovenia (39), UK (14), France (26), US (17), Japan (15), South Korea (43), Uruguay (21), Czech Republic (53), Poland (35). It goes without saying that in this parameter as in all other parameters the most corrupt countries and the very corrupt receive the highest grades of instability, discrimination, violence, low human rights, and insecurity: South Sudan (171), Somalia (174), Central African Republic (150), Sudan (173), Congo (D. R.) 154, Chad (154), Yemen (161), Syria (159), Afghanistan (172), Haiti (161), Iraq (170), Zimbabwe (156), Guinea (145), etc.

31. **GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS INDEX** – GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS REPORT 2014/2015 – WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM.

Comptetitiveness is the set of institutions, policies and factors that determine the level of productivity of a country, setting the level of prosperity that can be reached by an economy, and determining the rates of return obtained by investments in an economy and the growth rates. Methodology - the 12 pillars of competitiveness are: 1. Institutions - protection of property rights, efficiency and transparency of public administration, independence of the judiciary, physical security, business ethics and corporate governance in public and private institutions. 2. Infrastructure - quality and availability of transport, electricity and communication infrastructures. 3. Macroeconomic Environment – fiscal and monetary indicators, savings rate and sovereign debt rating. 4. Health and Primary Education – state of public heath, quality and quantity of basic education. 5. Higher Education and Training – quality and quantity of higher education and on-the-job training. 6. Goods Market Efficiency - intensity of domestic and foreign competition, quality of demand conditions. 7. Labour Market Efficiency – labour market efficiency and flexibility, meritocracy and gender parity in the workplace. 8. Financial Market Development – efficiency, stability and trustworthiness of the financial and banking systerm. 9. Technological Readiness. 10. Domestic and Foreign Market Size. 11. Business Sophistication and Efficiency. 12. Innovation. Score 1-7 (best).

The prevailing misconceptions in the business world are that ethics doesn't pay, it is a panacea of the high-minded persons that have never worked in business in their life, it is not practical, it adds a burden on the company that has to maximize its profits, regardless of ethics. Furthermore, if we can increase profits unethically we should do it, because our sacred duty is to maximize profits, our Guru – Milton Friedman said so, the stakeholders don't pay us and if we act unethically towards customers, suppliers, minority shareholders, employees, society, ecology or government – it is fine, so long that we maximize profits/shareholders' value and we are rewarded for that by the shareholders who control the Board of Directors, even if they are a tiny minority of the total shareholders. So, we can fire employees even if we are very profitable if we can increase our profits by doing so, the CEO is often rewarded by the amount of employees that he has fired and is paid astronomic salaries and bonuses for doing so. We can wrong the rights of minority shareholders, supply deficient products, postpone payments to suppliers, increase the ecological damages, avoid paying taxes legally or not, etc.

The purpose of this book, as of the books by Dr. Jacques Cory on Business Ethics, is to prove that ethics pays for the country, the company and the individuals. The message of a businessman like Cory proving that Ethics Pays in business sounds much more convincing than the message of philosophy professors who haven't worked in business in their life. It has worked well in his books, his courses, articles, lectures, and now this rule is analyzed also in a macro approach of countries, as an exact symmetry is found in the most ethical and least ethical countries and a lesser symmetry is found in the middle cases, with mixed results.

It is not a coincidence that the most ethical countries are also the richest and have the best quality of life. If we prove that those countries are also the most competitive it gives the final blow to all those who are convinced that ethics is irrelevant or even harmful for countries and companies. It is one thing if we prove that the most ethical countries have also the best scores in the Social Progress Index, Democracy or Gender Equality, even if we prove that they have the best GDP per capita, these are remote indices that are not linked directly to competitivity, to companies, to profits. Therefore, it is very important to prove that in this crucial parameter most ethical countries are also the most competitive, as this is a salient business criterion. By proving so, outspoken critics may start to listen, as this index analyzes the set of institutions,

policies and factors that determine the level of prosperity that can be reached by an economy and determine the rates of return obtained by investments in an economy and the growth rates.

This index is based on the 12 pillars of competitiveness, which are very important to all businessmen – protection of property rights, efficiency and transparency of public administration, independence of the judiciary, physical security, business ethics and corporate governance in public and private institutions. The index takes into consideration the infrastructure – quality and availability of transport, electricity and communication, as well as the macroeconomic environment – fiscal and monetary indicators, savings rate and sovereign debt rating. The index is based also on health, education, training, goods market efficiency, intensity of domestic and foreign competition, labour market efficiency and flexibility, meritocracy, gender parity in the workplace, financial market development, efficiency, stability and trustworthiness of the financial and banking system, technoligical readiness, domestic and foreign market size, businesss sophistication, efficiency and innovation – exactly what business needs to succeed. If this is achieved in ethical states- this is the ultimate proof that Ethics Pays, as ethics are worth money, making us competitive and profitable.

If we analyze the 10/20/30 most competitive countries we find a perfect similarity between them and the most ethical countries, they may vary slightly between the rankings, but all the most ethical countries are there: in examining the first 11 states - Switzerland is no. 1 with a score of 5.70, then come Singapore, Finland, Netherlands, Sweden, Norway has a score of 5.35 – and they are 6 of the 11 most ethical states. But all the other 5 countries ranking among the first 11 most competitive countries are also very ethical – United States 3rd most competitive and 17th most ethical, Germany – 5th most competitive and 12th most ethical, Japan – 6th most competitive and 15th most ethical, Hong Kong – 7th most competitive and 17th most ethical, and finally the United Kingdom– 9th most competitive and 14th most ethical.

If we analyze the 12-22 most competitive countries we find there all the other 5 of the 11 most ethical countries – Denmark, Canada, New Zealand, Luxembourg and Australia. But also the ethical countries: United Arab Emirates (TI – 25), Taiwan (TI – 35), Qatar (TI -26), Belgium (TI – 15) and Austria (TI – 23). In the other 8 most competitive countries down to 30, we find the ethical countries: France (TI – 26), Ireland (TI – 17), Estonia (TI – 26), Iceland (TI – 12), and even Israel (TI – 37) and South Korea (TI – 43), but we find also the much less ethical – Saudi Arabia (TI – 55) and the corrupt China (TI – 100). Further down we find in most of the cases a correlation between competitiveness and the moderate ethical rankings of: Chile, Spain, Portugal, Czech Republic, Poland, Mauritius, Lithuania, Latvia. But we find also corrupt countries, such as 31. Thailand (TI – 85), 34. Indonesia (TI – 107), 38. Azerbaijan (TI – 126), 40. Kuwait (TI – 67), 44. Bahrain (TI – 55), 45. Turkey (TI – 64), 46. Oman (TI – 64), 47. Malta (TI – 43, an exception of a quite ethical country), 48. Panama (TI – 94), 49. Italy (TI – 69) and 50. Kazakhstan (TI – 126). The correlation between the parameters (here competitivenes) and ethics is very clear in the 20 first and 20 last, but as we move from extremes, we find more and more exceptions, in the ranks 40-50 and downwards.

Russia is moderately competitive (53) but very corrupt (136), South Africa ranks similarly in competitiveness (56) and ethics (67), Brazil 57/69, Mexico is quite competitive but corrupt 61/103, Vietnam 68/119, India 71/85, Botswana is quite uncompetitive 74 but is much more ethical – 31, and so Uruguay 80/21, Greece is quite uncompetitive – 81 and quite corrupt – 69, Iran 83/136, and Swaziland is very uncompetitive but only quite corrupt 123/69. As expected, the least competitive countries are also the most corrupt, proving that Corruption Doesn't Pay at least in the extremes, from the lowest competitiveness rank of 144 – Guinea scoring 2.79 and upwards to the rank of 115: Chad, Yemen, Mauritania, Angola, Burundi, Sierra Leone,

Haiti, Burkina Faso, Myanmar, Mozambique, Malawi, Venezuela, Madagascar, Pakistan, Mali, Nigeria, Libya, The Gambia, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Tanzania, Paraguay, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guyana, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, as in corrupt countries it is very difficult to conduct business & be competitive. In the short run you may win but in the long run you always lose!

32. **FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT INDEX** – 2012 – OVERALL INDEX – THE FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2012 – WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM – MEASURES THE INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT, BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT, FINANCIAL STABILITY, BANKING FINANCIAL SERVICES, NON-BANKING FINANCIAL SERVICES, FINANCIAL MARKETS, FINANCIAL ACCESS (SCORE 1-7)

The most ethical states are perceived as "nerds", playing strictly by the book, strictly according to the rules. When it comes to financial development, when you have to be rather creative, you are not expected to be too ethical, sometimes you even circumvent the law, as was the case in the Great Recession of 2007-2010. But, what a surprise, when we find that the 20 most ethical states are also the 20 countries getting the highest scores in the financial development index from 5.31 for the first – Hong Kong (TI – 17), 5.27 for the second– United States (TI – 17), 5.21 for the third – United Kingdom (TI – 14). It goes without saying that the 9 most ethical countries (Luxembourg and New Zealand are not in this survey) are among the 17 countries scoring the best results in the Financial Development Index. But, indeed the most sophisticated financial markets are located in the most ethical countries, after Hong Kong, US and UK, we find Singapore, Australia, Canada, Japan (TI – 15), Switzerland, Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, Denmark, Norway, France (TI – 26), South Korea (TI – 43), Belgium (TI – 15), Finland, Malysia (TI – 50), Spain (TI – 37) and Ireland (Iceland and Barbados don't participate in this survey). There are a few exceptions, but not in the first ranks, only in the 15th, 18th, 19th rank, and these refer also not to unethical countries, but to quite ethical states.

How come that small countries as Switzerland, Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Denmark or Singapore rank so high in the financial development index? Is it because they are among the 8 most ethical countries? And what comes first – because they are so ethical they have scored also the highest grades in the Financial Development Index? Probably yes, as this index comprises the institutional and business environment, financial stability, banking and nonbanking financial services, financial markets and financial access. In the long run – an ethical conduct in all those parameters is a condition sine qua non for a sound financial development. So, Ethics Pays in cash, with stability, sophistication, excellent services, and strong markets.

As mentioned often, significant results are found mainly in the 20 first and 20 last countries, and the results in between are rather mixed, in many cases in striking similarity between ethics and the other indices, but in other cases with quite opposite results. The Financial Development rank is similar to the ethical rank in the following countries: Austria, Israel, United Arab Emirates, Portugal, Chile, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Greece and Romania. But there are also very large economies that in spite of being very corrupt achieve a moderate rank in the Financial Development Index: 23. China (TI – 100), 28. South Africa (TI – 67), 30. Italy (TI – 69), 32. Brazil (TI – 69), 34. Thailand (TI – 85), 39. Russia (TI – 136), 40. India (TI – 85), 43. Mexico (TI – 103). Although China, India & Russia's economies are very corrupt they still are so large that they obtain a moderate rank in this Financial index.

Finally, in the lowest ranks of the Finacial Development Index we find the most corrupt countries in the world: Colombia, Kazakhstan, Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Egypt, Kenya, Argentina, Ghana, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Ukraine, Tanzania, Nigeria and Venezuela.

So, unless you are very large as the corrupt BRICS states: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa; that have a moderate rank in the Financial Development Index, though much lower than small & ethical Switzerland, Netherlands & Singapore; all the corrupt countries share also the lowest ranks in the Financial Development Index. And if you have a low rank as Egypt, Kenya and Nigeria, the chances are that companies would not want to invest in your country and you'll remain in the lowest ranks of wealth, development and employment.

33. **GROSS NATIONAL INCOME – GNI – PER CAPITA** – IN 2013 AT NOMINAL VALUE, ACCORDING TO THE ATLAS METHOD, AN INDICATOR OF INCOME DEVELOPED BY THE WORLD BANK. IT IS THE DOLLAR VALUE OF A COUNTRY'S FINAL INCOME IN A YEAR, DIVIDED BY ITS POPULATION. IT REFLECTS THE AVERAGE INCOME OF A COUNTRY'S CITIZENS, AND GIVES THE GENERAL STANDARD OF LIVING ENJOYED BY THE AVERAGE CITIZEN

GNI is perceived by many as a most salient parameter of the welfare of citizens, better than GDP per capita, as GNI is the the final income of a country in a year divided by its population, reflecting the average income of a country's citizen, or the general standard of living enjoyed by the average citizen. This differs from the average wage of citizens, which measures all the wages of citizens and divide it by the number of citizens. If we neutralize tiny countries as Monaco, Liechtenstein, San Marino and Andorra, which distort the ranking, as well as dependencies, we find that the ten most ethical countries in the world are among the 13 countries with the highest GNI per capita: Norway with \$102,610, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Australia, Sweden, Denmark, Singapore, Canada, Netherlands and Finland with \$48,820. The amount of income varies largely, Norway has more than twice Finland's income, but the ranking doesn't change and is exactly like the ranking of the most ethical countries, with one exception – New Zealand, ranking 24, with \$35,550. Here again Ethics Pays, with a perfect symmetry, as it is amazing to find every time the same "club" members.

Furthermore, we find all the 20 most ethical countries in the list of the 24 countries with the highest GNI per capita (except Barbados): the abovementioned countries as well as United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Belgium, Ireland, Hong Kong. The other countries in the first 24 are: 3. Qatar (TI - 26), oil rich country, 12. Austria (TI - 23), 18. Kuwait (TI - 67) oil rich country, 19. France (TI - 26), 22. United Arab Emirates (TI - 25) oil rich country, 23. Italy (TI - 69). All the countries with the first 24 GNI per capita rank also high in TI's index down to 26, which is very close, with two exceptions oil rich Kuwait and quite corrupt Italy, but otherwise we find an almost perfect symmetry between the highest GNI per capita, which is a salient parameter of the welfare of the citizens and their standard of living, and the ethical ranking of the countries, mostly even in the quite high 14-24 ranks.

The 20 countries after New Zealand are mostly quite ethical and rank in similar ranks as in TI's index: Israel - \$33,930 and Spain (TI - 37), South Korea (TI - 43), Cyprus (TI - 31), Slovenia (TI - 39), Bahamas (TI - 24), Portugal (TI - 31), Latvia (TI - 43), Chile - \$15,230 and Uruguay (TI - 21), Lithuania (TI - 39), Malta (TI - 43), Taiwan (TI - 35), Estonia (TI - 26), Czech Republic (TI - 53), Slovakia (TI - 54) - those countries are quite ethical but not so rich, with a moderate GNI per capita. However, in this bracket of high-income group we find quite corrupt countries as Saudi Arabia (TI - 55), Oman (TI - 64), Greece (TI - 69), Bahrain (TI - 55), and the very corrupt Russia (TI - 136) with \$13,850. The high income comes mainly from oil or from an unequal distribution of income, as the figures are average.

In the upper middle-income group with countries ranking from 51 downwards we find corrupt and very corrupt countries as Libya, Venezuela, Brazil (\$11,690), Kazakhstan, Turkey, Panama, Gabon, Mexico (\$9,940), Lebanon, Romania, Bulgaria, Azerbaijan, South Africa, Turkmenistan, Belarus, Iraq, China, Argentina, Peru, Cuba, Iran, Ecuador, Algeria, Angola, Belize, Tunisia (\$4,200), but also more ethical countries such as Malaysia (TI – 50), Costa Rica, Mauritius (TI – 47) and African Botswana, ranking quite high (TI – 31). As explained before with other parameters, the symmetry between ethics and GNI per capita is most salient in the extremes of the first and last 20 countries, and in the middle we get mixed results. It is therefore a strong incentive to be a most ethical country, as only then we get the best results in the other parameters, while in the less ethical countries – the impact of ethics is not so strong.

In the low-income group, we find as usual the most corrupt countries, proving once again that Corruption Doesn't Pay, especially if it is excessive: Kenya (\$1,160), Chad, Bangladesh, Tajikistan, Myanmar, Cambodia, Zimbabwe, Haiti, Nepal, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Uganda, North Korea, Togo, Gambia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Madagascar, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Niger, Central African Republic, Malawi, Burundi, and Somalia, the most corrupt & poorest country - \$150.

34. LIST OF COUNTRIES BY TOTAL HEALTH EXPENDITURE PPP PER CAPITA – WHO – WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION – IN PPP INT.\$, % OF GDP – 2010

Mens sana in corpore sano – a healthy soul in a healthy body. Ethical conduct is a precondition of a healthy soul and it is expected to reside also in a healthy body. The parameters examined in this book are quantitative and qualitative and health expenditure is undoubtedly a quantitative parameter. Many find it very sad that no. 1 in the world in health expenditure - the United States are spending so much for health – 17.6% of GDP - \$8,233 with such unsatisfactory results, due mainly to an excessive privatization resulting from their neoliberal policies. The European health budgets are much more effective – Scandinavia, France, Germany, Benelux and Switzerland, as well as Canada and Australia, all of them ranking first in this index and first in TI's ethical countries. As a matter of fact, there is only one country in the world that spends more in relation to its GDP – Sierra Leone, ranking 141, spending 20.8% of GDP on health, but only \$171 per capita... After the US (TI – 17) we find 6 of the 11 most ethical countries (we don't include tiny states as Monaco and Niue):

Luxembourg - \$6,712 - 7.9%, Norway - \$5,391 - 9.3%, Switzerland, Netherlands, Denmark, Canada (\$4,443) - 11.4%, spending 11%-12% of their GDP on health. Following the first 7, we find Sweden - \$3,760 - 9.6%, Australia - 9%, Finland - 9%, ranking 16, in total 9 of the 11 most ethical states in the first 16 ranks. But if we enlarge the scope of the analysis to the 24 highest expenditures they include almost all the 20 most ethical states, as well as other welfare states, some of them in the 20's: Austria (TI - 23), Germany, France (TI - 26), Belgium, Ireland, Japan - \$3,120 - 9.2%, Greece (TI - 69) - \$3,069 - 10.8%, Spain (TI - 37), Italy (TI - 69) - \$3,046 - 9.5%, New Zealand - \$2,992 - 10.1%, Portugal (TI - 31) and finally in rank 24 - Singapore - \$2,592 - 4.5%, one of the lowest % of GDP, but still a substantial amount. Only Hong Kong, not participating in this survey, and Barbados are not part of the 24 countries with the largest health expenditure per capita, as all are welfare states and almost all are the most ethical countries in the world, except the quite corrupt Italy and Greece. So, Ethics Pays for health, because a healthy and ethical soul needs also a healthy body.

After the 24 first countries we find another 24 countries, ranking in most cases at a moderate ranking in TI's ethical index: Slovenia, Bahamas, Taiwan, Malta, Cyprus, Israel, South Korea,

Qatar, United Arab Emirate, Barbados, Poland, Estonia, Lithuania, Hungary, but also the less ethical Czech Republic and Slovakia (TI 53-54) and Croatia (TI - 61). A few exceptions, though, corrupt Trinidad and Tobago, and Argentina (TI - 107) - \$1,321 - 8.3% of GDP. Following them, there are mixed results: ethical countries as Chile, Uruguay, Latvia, Botswana and Buthan that just don't have enough resources for health expenditure, and corrupt countries that have moderate health expenditure: Russia - \$1,277 - 6.5%, Turkey, Brazil - 1,009 - 9.0%, Mexico, South Africa, Lebanon, Iran, Belarus, Venezuela, Colombia, Libya, Kazakhstan, Paraguay, Peru, Belize, China - \$373 - 5%, Algeria, Iraq, Egypt, Bolivia, Morocco, Vietnam, Angola. Two countries are worth to mention: 104. Cuba that spends and invests quite a lot in health and doctors for all the population, although it is a very poor country (watch Michael Moore's Sicko) - \$414 - 10.2%, but still is quite corrupt (TI - 63), and 105. Swaziland (TI - 69) that, although poor, invests substantial amounts - \$411 - 7.8%.

Finally, we find the most corrupt countries with the lowest health expenditure: Zimbabwe, South Sudan, Somalia, North Korea, Eritrea - \$17, 2.9%, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Pakistan, Central African Republic, Madagascar, Niger, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Burundi, Mozambique, Chad, Nepal, Bangladesh, Laos, Guinea, Mali, Kenya, Togo, Haiti, Guinea-Bissau, Timor-Leste, Liberia, Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Papua New Guinea, Uganda, Cameroon, Indonesia, India, Nigeria, Cambodia, Sudan, Yemen, Syria, Sri-Lanka, Djibouti. Corruption Doesn't Pay for health or for any other social services, as most of the money goes to corrupt people who govern those countries, leaving almost nothing to others.

35. LIST OF COUNTRIES BY CREDIT RATING – STANDARD & POORS – MAINLY 2011-2015 – FOR S&P, A BOND IS CONSIDERED INVESTMENT GRADE IF ITS CREDIT RATING IS BBB- OR HIGHER. BONDS RATED BB+ AND BELOW ARE CONSIDERED TO BE SPECULATIVE OR "JUNK" BONDS

Many people don't take seriously anymore S&P's credit rating after the scandals of 2008 when they gave AAA rating to CDOs that collapsed in the Great Recession like a house of cards. However, as we don't have a better method of analyzing the credit rating we have to base our judgement on credit rating for ethical and unethical countries according to the S&P rating, but we checked if they were too generous by giving AAA rating to many countries. We thought that in this index we would find surprises, low credit rating for some ethical countries and high credit rating for some corrupt countries, but inexorably the same rule of "Ethics Pays" applies for the most ethical and corrupt countries. Furthermore, the ethical countries that received the highest rating of AAA stable were the only ones to receive this rating and none of the corrupt countries, even if they are huge economic powers received the highest ratings.

8 of the 11 most ethical countries received the highest rating of AAA and a stable outlook – Australia, Canada, Denmark, Luxembourg, Norway, Singapore, Sweden and Switzerland. We checked if there is an "inflation" of AAA rating, but we found that only 3 other countries have the same rating and all of them are very ethical countries: Germany (TI – 12), United Kingdom (TI – 14) and Hong Kong (TI – 17). The law that Ethics Pays applies significantly in this parameter as well. But, we have 2 other most ethical countries that obtained a slightly lower rating: Finland and the Netherlands received AA+ stable. So, maybe in this rating we find many countries, but the only country that shares this rating is the United States, the most powerful economy in the world, and also ranking 17 in TI's index. The EU shares also this rating. Only one of the most ethical countries has a lower rating – AA stable – New Zealand, but who else has this rating? Qatar (TI – 26), Abu Dhabi – UAE (TI – 25), France (TI – 26), and one exception for a quite corrupt and small country – oil rich Kuwait (TI – 67).

In this analysis we disregard as usual tiny states or dependencies as Liechtenstein or Isle of Man. If we examine all the 20 countries scoring the highest ethical grades, on top of the countries mentioned above, we find that Belgium has a rating of AA but a negative outlook, Japan has AA- and a negative outlook, Ireland – A stable, Iceland BBB- stable (after their banking scandals, nobody is perfect even in Scandinavia, and anyhow its ethical rating is also lower than in the past, but it is still 12), and Barbados BB+ negative. If we examine all the 30-43 most ethical countries, on top of countries mentioned above, we find Chile AA- positive, Uruguay BBB- stable, Austria AA+ negative, Bahamas BBB stable, Spain BBB stable, South Korea A+ stable, Portugal BB negative, Poland A- positive, Cyprus B+ positive, Estonia AAstable, Latvia and Lithuania A- stable, Israel A+ stable, Malta BBB+ stable, Taiwan AAstable, Slovenia A- stable. Botswana is the only African country among the first 40 most or almost ethical countries (TI - 31). It ranks quite high in many parameters, probably because it is a democracy since its independence, and in credit rating it receives A- stable. Almost all the most ethical countries have high to moderate credit rating, with very few exceptions of very small countries as Cyprus or Barbados, and Portugal ranking 31 in TI's index but with a low rating due to the crisis. Yet, there are only a few corrupt countries with similar credit ratings.

The credit ratings of the following corrupt countries are in most cases much lower than the credit ratings even of the quite ethical countries: Vietnam BB- negative, Ukraine CCC stable, Uganda B+ stable, Tunisia BB- negative, Turkey BB+ negative, Thailand BBB+ stable, Sri Lanka B+ positive, South Africa BBB- stable, Saudi Arabia AA- stable, Russia BB+ negative, Philippines BBB stable, Peru BBB+ stable, Panama BBB stable, Argentina SD negative, Belarus B- positive, Bolivia BB- positive, Brazil BBB- stable, China AA- stable, Colombia BBB stable, Ecuador B+ positive, Egypt B- stable, Greece B stable, India BBB- stable, Indonesia BB+ positive, Italy BBB- stable, Mexico BBB+ stable, Morocco BBB- stable, Nigeria BB- stable, Pakistan B- stable. All those countries, except oil rich Saudi Arabia and economic superpower China, have a borderline credit rating, as from BB+ and below their bonds are perceived as speculative or junk bonds, and none of them has a credit rating of A.

So, Corruption Doesn't Pay after all, even if you are one of the largest economies as Russia, India and Brazil. But what about the most corrupt countries – what is their credit rating? Here we find that most of them don't have at all a credit rating, at least not in this list, going upwards from the most corrupt countries to the less corrupt countries: Somalia, Sudan, North Korea, South Sudan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Libya, Eritrea, Yemen, Venezuela CCC negative, Haiti, Guinea-Bissau, Angola BB- stable, Syria, Burundi, Zimbabwe, Myanmar, Cambodia B stable, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, Tajikistan, Republic of the Congo, Paraguay BB- stable, Central African Republic, Papua New Guinea B+ stable, Laos, Kenya B+ stable, Guinea, Bangladesh BB- stable, and so on.

36. EDUCATION INDEX – THE LEARNING CURVE - PEARSON GLOBAL REPORT ON EDUCATION – 2014 - THE BEST EDUCATION SYSTEMS IN THE WORLD IN 2014 AND 2012 – THE INDEX COMBINES NATIONAL DATA AND A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL RANKING, INCLUDING PISA – PROGRAMME FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSESSMENT, TIMSS – TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCES STUDIES, PIRLS – PROGRESS ON INTERNATIONAL READING STUDY – TO PROVIDE AN INTERPRETATION OF HOW COUNTRIES ARE PERFORMING RELATIVE TO EACH OTHER

SEE ALSO WORLD TOP 20 POLL RANKING EDUCATION SYSTEMS SEE ALSO U 21 RANKING OF NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEMS

The Learning Curve by Pearson is the most salient survey on the best education systems in the world. The Index was first published in 2012 and updated in 2014. The Index is based on Cognitive skills and Educational Attainment comparing the performances of 40 countries. It examines the cognitive skills of students, the levels of reading, maths and science, attaining a high level of literacy, success in educating students to secondary and tertiary degree level. The 10 most ethical countries (Luxembourg was not surveyed) rank high in the 24 best education systems: 3. Singapore, 5. Finland, 7. Canada, 8. Netherlands, 11. Denmark, 15. Australia, 16. New Zealand, 20. Switzerland, 21. Norway, 24. Sweden. They are not the top 10 as usual, but they are nevertheless on the top 20 or 24, you can't win them all, but still it is an outstanding result. However, if we analyze the 20 most ethical countries we find all of them in the top 21, Japan, Hong Kong, United Kingdom, Ireland, Germany, United States, Belgium, with one exception Sweden (in no. 24), Barbados and Iceland were not surveyed.

Similar results were obtained also in 2012. So, after all Ethics Pays at least for the 20 most ethical countries. In the top 20 we find also in no. 1 - South Korea. This country is consistently in the ranks of 40 in the TI index -43 in 2014 with a score of 55, 40 in 2005 with a score of 5.0, in 1995 it was in no. 26 out of 41 with a score of 4.29 and in 1996 it was in no. 27 out of 54 with a score of 5.02. It is at the borderline between ethical and corrupt countries which is around 5.0, in the first half in the earlier periods and at the bottom of the first quarter today. Still, the country has many economic achievements and in education it ranks no. 1. Education is an important facet of ethics and at least in this parameter South Korea is the best country in the world. Japan ranking 15 in TI's index is ranked in Education no. 2, Singapore (TI - 7) is here no. 3, and Hong Kong (TI - 17) is ranked no. 4 in education. It is not a coincidence that 4 Far East countries are ranked no. 1-4 in the best education systems in the world. In other Education surveys we see also China ranking in the top ranks of education.

It is to the credit of the education systems in those Asian countries that they rank so high, due to their competitive and achievement-oriented emphasis. Some people may be concerned that their education systems are too tough and prefer the more permissive Western education systems. Another important finding – former communist countries rank very high in the quality of their education systems: Poland (TI – 35) is ranked no. 10, Russia (TI – 136) is ranked no. 13, Czech Republic (TI – 53), is no. 19, Hungary (TI – 47) is no. 22, Slovakia (TI – 54) is no. 27, Bulgaria (TI – 69) is no. 30, Romania (TI – 69) is no. 31. It is to the credit of those seven former communist countries that they rank so high with their good education system. Communism has failed in most of the parameters, but in education and culture they had quite impressive achievements, much better than their borderline ethical rankings.

Israel has achieved a good result in the level of its education – rank 17, although its ethical ranking is much lower – 37. Other countries as France, Austria, Portugal, Spain and Chile have a similar ranking in education, although Spain's is higher and Chile's is lower. Finally, unethical countries as Italy (TI - 69) is ranked 25 in Education, just after the most ethical Sweden, Greece (TI - 69) is ranked 33, Turkey (TI - 64) is ranked 34, and the most corrupt countries - Thailand, Colombia, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Indonesia are ranked in the last ranks of Education, although as only 40 countries were surveyed we do not know what would have been their rank if there were 175 countries suveyed as in TI's ethical index.

WORLD TOP 20 EDUCATION POLL RANKING SYSTEM – THE NEW JERSEY MINORITY EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (NJMED) - 2014

The New Jersey Minority Education Development – NJMED - gathers data to rate the poll in calculating early childhood enrollments (4 and under), the elementary and middle school levels in math, reading and science, high school graduation rates, college bachelors and graduate degrees into a single ranking system of five levels. The data is derived from the OECD, PISA – Programme for International Student Assessment study – 65 nations, UNESOC – United Nation's Economic and Social Council – 54 countries, EIU – the Economist Intelligence Unit – 187 nations, TIMSS – Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study – 59 nations and PIRLS – Progress in International Reading Study – 46 states.

The Top 20 countries in 2014 comprise most - 14 of the 20 - most ethical countries, namely: Japan, United Kingdom, Singapore, Canada, Netherlands, Germany, Finland, Denmark, Hong Kong, Norway, Ireland, Iceland, Switzerland and the USA. Bearing in mind that some countries in the 20 most ethical countries were not surveyed, we find here almost all the most ethical countries. Some of the countries missing are ranked high in the rates of the top five education systems in the five levels of education, and all the countries missing – Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, Luxembourg and Belgium are ranked also in other surveys as in Pearson's among the 20 countries with the best education systems (Sweden -24, Barbados is not surveyed). In 2012 the Top 20 countries included also the 3 countries missing – New Zealand, Australia and Belgium: 1. Finland, 2.South Korea, 3. Hong Kong, 4. Japan, 5. Singapore, 6. United Kingdom, 7. Netherlands, 8. New Zealand, 9. Switzerland, 10. Canada, 11. Ireland, 12. Denmark, 13. Australia, 14. Poland, 15. Germany, 16. Belgium, 17. USA, 18. Hungary, 19. Slovakia, 20. Russia. Finland is perceived by many as the best education system in the world, although it differs widely from the Japanese and South Korean systems – it is based on helping the students with the lowest grades to improve their results with the help of the best students, because what matters is the achievement of all the class and not the best students. Sweden is not ranked among the 20 best countries but obtains a 24 quite good rank.

We wrote already about the excelent achievements of the education systems of the 4 Far East countries – South Korea (no. 1 in 2014) which ranked only 43 in TI's index, Japan – no. 2, Singapore – no. 4 and Hong Kong – no. 13. In the Top 20 survey we find also China (TI – 100) ranking no. 12. Israel is ranked here no. 10 although in TI's ranking it is only 37. Russia (TI – 136) is the only former communist country ranking in the 2014 survey in the quite high rank of 7. But in 2013 we find 3 other former communist countries among the Top 20 – Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and Russia is ranked only 20, all those countries achieve excellent education results although their ethical ranking is much lower than the 20 most ethical states.

In education we find minor exceptions to the rule that "only" Ethics Pays, as there are some Top 20 Education countries which are nevertheless ranked in TI's index far below the 20 most ethical countries, as South Korea, Israel, Slovenia (TI - 39) and Spain (TI - 37), and some Top 20 Education countries which are very corrupt as China and Russia which achieve excellent education results, in spite of their corruption. However, the most corrupt countries in other education indices rank very low as corruption in most of the cases is detrimental to education and health care as well as most of the other parameters, while ethics in most cases is very beneficial to education, health care and all the other parameters examined in this book.

U21 RANKING OF NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEMS – 2014 – UNIVERSITAS 21 – UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

The 2014 Universitas 21 ranking of national systems takes into account stages of economic development and attributes of Resources, Environment, Connectivity and Output – total expenditure, government expenditure, R&D expenditure, gender balance of students and academic staff, data quality variable, measures of interaction with business and industry, numbers of international students, research articles written with international collaborators and web-based connectivity, research output and its impact, presence of world-class universities, participation rates and qualifications of the workforce. The main ranking compares a country's performance against the best in the world on each measure.

9 of the 11 most ethical countries in the world rank among the first 11 best higher education systems – Sweden (ranked 24 in Pearson's Global Report on Education, but in higher education it ranks no. 2, with a score of 86.7), 3. Canada, 3. Denmark, 5. Finland with a score of 80.4, 6. Switzerland, 7. Netherlands, 9. Australia, 10. Singapore, 11. Norway with a score of 75.0. Luxembourg is not ranked here and New Zealand, with a score of 70.4, is ranked no.16. United States of America has the best higher education system in the world and United Kingdom is ranked no. 8 with a score of 79.2. All the other countries ranking in the 20 most ethical countries rank as well in the 20 best education systems (Luxembourg, Iceland and Barbados are not ranked in this survey): besides the first 10, US and UK, we find all the other countries: Belgium, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan. The other 3 countries in the top 20 are also ethical: Austria, France and to a lesser extent – Israel, with a score of 68.5, ranked here in no. 19, before Japan. In this index we find that Ethics Pays at universities as well.

Following the 20 most ethical countries we find in a similar ethical and higher education ranking less ethical countries with a higher education system not as good as the first 20 but nevertheless quite good, although their score is 61.6 and less. 21. South Korea, 22. Taiwan, 23. Spain, 24. Portugal, 25. Slovenia, 26. Czech Republic. We found that besides the fact that all the most ethical countries are here in the best ranking, there are 5 Far East countries in high ranking of higher education, but lower than in the Education Index: Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Taiwan ranked 22, but China is ranked here only in no. 35 out of 50.

We find also 11 former communist countries ranking quite high, compared to their ethical ranking, but not as high as in the Education Index: Slovenia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Serbia, Russia (TI - 136) ranks at the much lower 35 rank, Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine (TI - 142), Croatia. As only 50 countries are surveyed in this Index, we cannot draw conclusions on the relative ranking in higher education compared to the ethical ranking, however we just mention the two rankings, which show a higher ranking in higher education than in ethics, but these differences in rankings are not significantly conclusive.

Italy is ranked 27 although its TI ranking is 69, Malaysia 28/50, Saudi Arabia 30/55, Greece 32/69, Chile is ranked lower in higher education compared to its ethical ranking 33/21, Brazil 38/69, Argentina 41/107, Thailand 42/85, South Africa 45/67, Mexico 46/103, Turkey 47/64, Indonesia 48/107, Iran 49/136, India 50/85. The law that the most corrupt countries rank low in all the other parameters apply here as well as the most corrupt countries have the lowest rankings in higher education systems. The law that the most ethical countries have the highest rankings in higher education, and the moderately corrupt are ranked in between, applies also.

37. **DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH** – COMPARES THE WEALTH OF VARIOUS MEMBERS OR GROUPS IN A SOCIETY. IT LOOKS AT THE DISTRIBUTION OF OWNERSHIP OF THE ASSETS IN A SOCIETY, WEALTH=ASSETS-LIABILITIES, A PERSON'S NET WORTH: WEALTH PER CAPITA, WEALTH PER ADULT, WEALTH

GINI – FOR 2000, BASED ON PURCHASING POWER PARITY PPP\$, BASED ON A 2008 PAPER OF THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH. HIGHER GINI COEFFICIENTS SIGNIFY GREATER INEQUALITY IN WEALTH DISTRIBUTION, WITH 1 BEING COMPLETE INEQUALITY AND 0 BEING COMPLETE EQUALITY. THE TOP 10% OWNED 71% OF WORLD WEALTH

Analyzing Income per capita has to be complemented by analyzing Wealth per capita as well, and also Wealth per adult and Wealth Gini, to learn wether the country is more equal with a score close to 0 or unequal with a score closer to 1. 17 out of the 20 most ethical countries are located in the 21 richest countries in the world with the highest wealth per capita and per adult (the other 3 are located close enough, with ranks 27, 30, 32): 1. Hong Kong – Wealth per capita - \$188,699, Wealth per adult - \$246,307, Wealth Gini 0.740. This is the result of the neoliberal policies of Hong Kong, advocated by Milton Friedman who perceived Hong Kong as "THE" model of a neoliberal economy. Hong Kong is the richest state in Wealth per capita, but in the other parameters it receives lower results, yet in most cases among the top performing countries (TI – 17). 2. Luxembourg – Wealth Gini - 0.650, as wealth is distributed much more equally than in Hong Kong. We have to bear in mind that the World averages is: Wealth per capita - 26,416, Wealth per adult - 43,494, Wealth Gini 0.804. The richest countries have a wealth 6-7 times higher than the world average, and the equality of wealth distribution is in most cases substantially higher than the world average. 3. United States – 0.801, like the world average. 4. Switzerland – 0.803 – like the world average, 5. United Kingdom-0.697, 6. Japan -0.547, one of the most equal wealth distribution in the world. 7. Netherlands – 121,165/159,910/0.650. The most ethical countries differ in their Wealth Gini.

We see that within the most ethical states there are large differences in the wealth parameter – first of all in the order of magnitude – Hong Kong is 1.5 times richer than Netherlands, twice as high as in France, and thrice richer than Denmark. The reason for those differences could be the taxation which is much lower in Hong Kong than in France or Denmark (2.5 times more in Denmark compared to Hong Kong). Most of the ethical countries are very egalitarian and have a Wealth Gini much lower than the world average, and some have a similar Gini. Income Inequality of Hong Kong is one of the highest in the world, while Scandinavian countries have one of the lowest. But the data on Wealth Gini is rather confusing with Hong Kong having a Wealth Gini, or inequality of wealth, of 0.740, much lower than the Wealth Gini of Denmark – 0.808, which is even higher than the world average. Furthermore, the world average Wealth Gini is 0.804 and in this list none of the countries has a higher Gini, except Denmark and Namibia..., and all the other countries have a much lower Wealth Gini.

8. Italy (TI - 69) - 0.609, Italy in spite of being corrupt has a very high wealth per capita and high wealth Gini equality as well. 9. Singapore - 0,689, 10. Barbados - 0.706, 11. Taiwan (TI - 35) - 0.655, 12. France (TI - 26) - 94,557/126,360/0.730, 13. Spain - 0.570, 14. Ireland - 0.581, 15. Australia - 0.622, 16. Germany - 0.667, 17. Canada - 0.688, 18. Belgium - 0.662, 19. Iceland - 0.664, 20. Norway - 0.633, 21. Sweden - 78,148/102,996/0.742, 22. Puerto Rico, 23. Malta, 24. Austria (TI - 23), 25. Macau, 26. Greece (TI - 69)- 69,855/89,477/0.654. 27. Denmark (TI - 1) - 66,191/86,807/0.808 - Hong Kong is much richer than Denmark, but in most of the other parameters Denmark achieves much better results than Hong Kong. 28. Israel (TI- 37): 64,633/102,511/0.677, a quite similar ethical & wealth ranking, 29. Mauritius, 30. New Zealand - 55,823/79,585/0.651, 31. Portugal, 32. Finland - 53,154/70,461/0.615.

The following countries have a moderate wealth ranking, although they are less ethical than the top 20: 34. South Korea (TI - 43) - 0.579, 35 – Slovenia (TI - 39) - 0.626, 36. Argentina

(TI – 107) – 0.740, the country is maybe bankrupt but the wealth per capita is quite high – 36,740. 37. Czech Republic, 38. Hungary, 39. Chile, 41. Poland, 42. Estonia, 43. Slovakia, 44. Mexico (TI – 103), 45. Turkey, 47. Saudi Arabia, 48. Croatia, 49. Lithuania, 51. Uruguay, 52. Lebanon, 53. Tunisia, 54. Brazil (TI – 69) – 19,676/32,825/0.784, 55. Latvia, 59. Russia (TI – 136) – 16,579/22,604/0.699, 60. South Africa (TI – 67) – 0.763, 61 Botswana (TI – 31) – 15,719/32,401/0.751, 62. Egypt, Bulgaria, Panama, Gabon, Romania, Macedonia, Costa Rica, Venezuela, 71. Belarus, 72. Thailand. Most of the countries in this bracket of 40 states (33-72) are moderately ethical or corrupt, 14 are former communist states which managed to gather within a few years a quite high wealth per capita, with a few exceptions of very corrupt countries as Argentina, Mexico, Russia, Belarus, that have nevertheless quite high wealth.

Other countries worth to mention, most of them very corrupt are: 81. Malaysia, 82. Philippines, 85. Peru, 86. China (TI – 100) – 11,267/16,749/0.550, 94. Ukraine (TI – 142) – 9,547/12,821/0.667, 96. Syria (TI – 159), 98. Indonesia, 102. Algeria, 106. India (TI – 85) – 6,513/11,655/0.669. The last countries with the smallest amounts of wealth per capita are in the "club" of the most corrupt countries, and a few are moderately corrupt but nevertheless very poor: 107. Bangladesh, 108. Haiti, 109. Zimbabwe, 110. Pakistan, 112. Vietnam, 114. Cameroon, 115. Ivory Coast, 120. Senegal (TI – 69) – 4,309/9,802/0.697, 125. Kenya, 128. Rwanda (TI – 55), 130. Uganda – 2,889/7,495/0.723, 131. Lesotho (TI – 55), Mozambique, Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Madagascar, Togo, Burkina-Faso, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Central African Republic, Burundi, Mali, Niger, Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Yemen, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, and last one - 150. Nigeria – 905/2,070/0.736.

38. **ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE INDEX** – EPI- YALE UNIVERSITY – 2014 – INDICATORS: HEALTH IMPACTS, AIR QUALITY, WATER AND SANITATION, WATER RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, FOREST, FISHERIES, BIODIVERSITY AND HABITAT, CLIMATE AND ENERGY– BY RANK AND EPI SCORES (100 IS HIGHEST)

The most ethical countries have also the best environmental performance in the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) – with the following indicators: health impacts, air quality, water and sanistation, water resources, agriculture, forest, fisheries, biodiversity and habitat, climate and energy. The four countries with the best EPI are also the most ethical countries: 1. Switzerland – 87.67, 2. Luxembourg – 83.29, 3. Australia – 82.4, 4. Singapore – 81.78. The other 11 most ethical countries rank also very high in the EPI: 9. Sweden, 10. Norway, 11. Netherlands – 76.92, 13. Denmark, 16. New Zealand, 18. Finland, 24. Canada – 73.14. Other countries in the top 20 ethical countries rank also very high in the EPI – 6. Germany, 12. United Kingdom, 14. Iceland, 19. Ireland, 26. Japan, but much lower we find in rank no. 33. USA, 36. Belgium (Barbados and Hong Kong are not ranked). The United States and Belgium have achieved a poorer environmental performance than the top 20, and achieved lower results compared to their top performances in all the other parameters examined in this book, but even those results are still very high in comparison to others. Not only Ethics Pays, but it also pays in a similar pattern to the environmental performance.

Other countries ranking somewhat lower in TI's index (21-54 down to an ethical score of 50) have achieved an excellent to moderate environmental performance: 5. Czech Republic (EPI score - 81.47), 7. Spain, 8. Austria, 15. Slovenia, 17. Portugal, 20. Estonia (74.66), 21. Slovakia, 25. United Arab Emirates, 27. France (71.05), 28. Hungary, 29. Chile (EPI score - 69.93), 30. Poland, 34. Malta, 38. Cyprus, 39. Israel (65.78), 40. Latvia, 43. South Korea, 44.

Qatar, 46. Taiwan, 49. Lithuania, 51. Malaysia, 54. Costa Rica, 56. Mauritius (58.09). We also find much lower in the EPI - ethical states performing poorly in their environment -70. Uruguay (TI -21), 100. Botswana (TI -31), 103. Bhutan (TI -30), 105. Bahamas (TI -24).

However, we find in high environmental ranks quite corrupt and corrupt countries as 22. Italy and 23. Greece, both ranking 69 in TI's index, 31. Serbia (TI – 78), 32. Belarus (TI – 119), 35. Saudi Arabia (TI – 55), 41. Bulgaria (TI – 69), 42. Kuwait (TI – 67), 45. Croatia (TI – 61). And from an environmental rank of 48 downwards we find in most of the cases very corrupt countries: Armenia and Egypt (TI – 94), Ecuador (TI – 110), Venezuela, Azerbaijan, Cuba, 65. Mexico, Syria, Sri Lanka, 72. South Africa, 73. Russia, Moldova, 77. Brazil, Thailand, Iran, Kazakhstan, Colombia, Bolivia, Algeria, Argentina, Zimbabwe, Ukraine, Peru, Indonesia, Philippines, Namibia, 118. China, Central African Republic and Libya. In the last 50 countries of the EPI we find most of the most corrupt countries performing poorly in this parameter as in all the other parameters as well: Papua New Guinea (score of 41.09), Laos, Rep. Congo, Paraguay, Nigeria – 39.2, Nepal, Kenya, Cameroon, Niger, Guinea-Bissau, Cambodia, Pakistan, Iraq, India, Chad, Yemen – 30.16, Mozambique, Angola, Djibouti, Guinea - 26.03, Togo, Myanmar, Madagascar, Burundi, Eritrea, Bangladesh – 25.61, Dem. Rep. Congo, Sudan, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan – 21.57, Haiti, Mali, Somalia - 15.47.

39. **INDEX OF GLOBALIZATION** – 2013 – SOURCE – KOF (ETH) SWISS ECONOMIC INSTITUTE - MEASURES ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DIMENSIONS OF GLOBALIZATION REFERRING TO ACTUAL ECONOMIC FLOWS, ECONOMIC RESTRICTIONS, DATA ON INFORMATION FLOWS, DATA ON PERSONAL CONTACT AND DATA ON CULTURAL PROXIMITY

The most ethical countries are not secluded in their ethics as Bhutan, but have a thriving economy in the epicenter of globalization. They achieve the highest rankings in the Globalization Index. The 10 most ethical countries rank high in the 21 most globalized economies: 3. Netherlands (score – 91.33), 5. Singapore, 6. Denmark, 7. Sweden (87.63), 10. Switzerland, 13. Canada, 14. Luxembourg, 16. Finland, 20. Norway, 21. Australia (81.59). New Zealand ranks somewhat lower in no. 28 (78.22). Most of the other top 20 ethical countries rank also high in the Globalization Index: 1. Belgium, the capital of the European Union (92.30) 2. Ireland, 12. United Kingdom (85.39), 22. Germany (81.08), and a surprising relative low rank for the United States – 34 (74.76), 37. Iceland, and the very low rank, compared to their top achievements in the other parameters, for Japan – 56 (63.73). We have to bear in mind that this index measures also economic restrictions, which may explain the lower ranks of the US and especially Japan. Hong Kong is not in this index and Barbados ranks 93 (54.95). But as a rule, the most ethical countries achieve also here the best ranks.

The small most ethical countries are also the most globalized: rank no. 1. For Belgium, 2. Ireland, 3. Netherlands, 4. Austria (TI - 23), 5. Singapore, 6. Denmark, 7. Sweden, 8. Portugal (TI - 31). 9. Hungary (TI - 47), a former communist country ranks here very high, with 15. Czech Republic (TI - 53) and 19. Slovakia (TI - 54) - those are 3 former communist countries or 15% of the top 20 in the Globalization Index, quite an achievement for states that started to globalize only in the 90's. 10. Switzerland, 11. Cyprus (TI - 31), 14. Luxembourg, 20. Norway. As a matter of fact only 2 super economic powers are among the top 20 - 12. UK, 18. France (TI- 26), as well as 2 medium sized economies - 13. Canada, 17. Spain (TI- 37), all the others are small countries, ranking exclusively in the Globalization Index top 11.

We find in high ranks of the Globalization Index countries which have moderate ethical ranking or moderate corrupt ranking. In the top Globalization Index 20 there are only 12 countries which are in the top TI's index, or 60% - one of the lowest ratios of compatibility between the two indices – normally there are at least 15 top TI 20 in the top 20 of every parameter, and sometimes there is an almost perfect match between the two parameters. But what is special in the globalization index is that the 8 countries which are not in the top TI's 20 have a much lower TI's ranking than usual – Czech Republic – 53, Slovakia – 54, Hungary – 47, Spain – 37, Cyprus and Portugal – 31, and only two of the "usual" contenders – Austria – 23 and France – 26. However, at least none of the Globalization top 20 is a quite corrupt country with an ethical score of less than 50, but there are a few in a borderline position.

Another finding – the remainder TI's top 20 are not located right after the 20 most globalized countries, but rather scattered – 2 right after: Australia 21 and Germany 22, but New Zealand is 28, the US are 34, Iceland is 38, Japan is 56 and Barbados is 93. Furthermore, much higher in the Globalization Index we find corrupt countries as 23. Italy and 24. Greece which are ranked 69 in TI's index, and down to a ranking of 40, we find more borderline cases of ethical countries ranking down to 54 with a score of 50 or above – Malaysia, Lithuania, Croatia (TI – 61), Poland, Slovenia, Malta, Israel, more ethical countries – Estonia, Chile, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, and two quite corrupt countries – Romania and Bulgaria, both ranked 69 in TI's index with Italy and Greece. So, in the 40 most globalized countries we find a mixture of the most ethical countries in the top positions, with less ethical countries and even quite corrupt countries, but nevertheless we don't find corrupt countries ranking less than TI's 70.

The corrupt and very corrupt countries are ranked from 47 down, with scores of globalization of 67.78 for 48. Russia (TI – 136), Ukraine, Lebanon, Moldova, Thailand, Peru, Nigeria, 73. China (59.43), Argentina, Egypt, Paraguay, Philippines, Zambia, Indonesia, Namibia, Belarus, Armenia, Ecuador, Algeria, Colombia, 107. India. But we find in those rankings also moderate corrupt countries as Saudi Arabia, Serbia, South Africa, 76. Brazil (59.21), and quite ethical countries as 52. Uruguay, 60. South Korea, 62. Mauritius. In the least globalized countries with scores of 50 and less we find very few quite ethical states as 129. Botswana, 133. Cape Verde, 181. Bhutan, but mostly - the most corrupt countries: Guyana, Zimbabwe, Togo, Republic of the Congo, Sri Lanka, Djibouti, Venezuela, Libya, Kenya, Cambodia, Vietnam, Mali, Uganda, Papua New Guinea, Yemen, Cameroon, Angola, Syria, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Bangladesh, Chad, Iraq (40.10), Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Nepal, Niger, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Central African Republic, Haiti, Burundi, Palestine, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Liberia, Eritrea, Laos, 187. Timor-Leste (24.35).

PART III - 300 SOVEREIGN STATES AND DEPENDENCIES OF THE WORLD - ATLAS OF THE MOST SALIENT PARAMETERS

ABKHAZIA, Republic of Abkhazia, Apsny/Abkhaziya, in Western Asia. Link to map. Links to essential data: Wikipedia, BBC, Quora, Polgeonow. Formerly an autonomous region of Georgia and now a de facto state, claimed by Georgia. The status of Abkhazia is a central issue of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. As the Soviet Union began to disintegrate towards the end of the 1980s, ethnic tensions grew between Abkhaz and Georgians, leading to the 1992/3 war in Abkhazia and Georgian military defeat. The status dispute has not been resolved, Abkhazia is recognized by Russia, which has a military presence there, and some other states – Nicaragua, Venezuela, Nauru, South Ossetia, Transnistria, Nagorno-Karabakh.

Capital – Sukhumi. Language - Abkhaz, Russian. Religion: Orthodox Christian – 60%, Sunni Muslim – 16%. Ethnics: After the Georgians were ethnically cleansed from Abkhazia, the majority of the population is Abkhazian. Government: Presidential Republic. Legislative power – People's Assembly. Population: 240,000. Area: 8,660 sq km. Density: 28.



ADELIE LAND, see French Southern Territories and Antarctica.

AFGHANISTAN, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Afghanestan, in South-Central Asia. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. While parts of the country are controlled by the Taliban there is no de facto state of Taliban in Afghanistan. Landlocked and mountainous, Afghanistan has suffered from such chronic instability and conflict during its modern history that its economy and infrastructure are in ruins, and many of its people are refugees. Its strategic position sandwiched between the Middle East, Central Asia and the Indian subcontinent along the ancient "Silk Route" means that Afghanistan (with its beautiful scenery) has long been fought over - despite its rugged, dangerous, and forbidding terrain.

Ahmad Shah Durrani unified the Pashtun tribes and founded Afghanistan in 1747. The country served as a buffer between the British and Russian Empires until it won independence from notional British control in 1919. A brief experiment in democracy ended in a 1973 coup and a 1978 communist counter-coup. The Soviet Union invaded in 1979 to support the tottering Afghan communist regime, touching off a long and destructive war. The USSR withdrew in 1989 under relentless pressure by internationally supported anti-communist mujahedin rebels. A series of subsequent civil wars saw Kabul finally fall in 1996 to the Taliban, a hardline Pakistani-sponsored movement that emerged in 1994 to end the country's civil war and anarchy. Following the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks, a US, Allied, and anti-Taliban Northern Alliance military action toppled the Taliban for sheltering Bin Ladin.

The UN-sponsored Bonn Conference in 2001 established a process for political reconstruction that included the adoption of a new constitution, a presidential election in 2004, and National

Assembly elections in 2005. In December 2004, Hamid Karzai became the first democratically elected president of Afghanistan and the National Assembly was inaugurated the following December. Since the fall of the Taliban administration in 2001, adherents of the hard-line Islamic movement have re-grouped. It is now a resurgent force, particularly in the south and east, and the government has struggled to extend its authority beyond the capital and to forge national unity. Afghanistan's economy depends heavily on the drugs trade. The country supplies over 90% of the world's opium, the raw ingredient of heroin. International bodies and governments say the drugs trade is helping to fuel the Taliban insurgency.

Capital – Kabul. Language – Pashto (official), Dari (official). Religion: 80% Sunni Muslim, 19% Shia Muslim. Ethnics – Pashtun 42%, Tajik 27%. Government – The President is both the Chief of State and Head of Government. Bicameral National Assembly consists of the House of Elders and the House of People. Yet, democracy is shaky. Population – 31,822,848, rank – 41. Area – 652,230 sq km, rank – 41. Density – 49, world rank – 158.



AKROTIRI and DHEKELIA, the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia, Akrotiri is a British base in Cyprus near Limassol, Dhekelia is a British base in Cyprus between Famagusta and Larnaca. Cyprus is located in the Eastern Mediterranean, Western Asia. Link to map of Akrotiri, of Dhekelia. Links to essential data on Akrotiri and Dhekelia: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi. The British bases are not part of the European Union with the UK. By terms of the 1960 Treaty of Establishment that created the independent Republic of Cyprus, the UK retained full sovereignty and jurisdiction over two areas of almost 254 sq.km. – Akrotiri and Dhekelia. The southernmost and smallest of these is the Akrotiri Sovereign Base Area, which is also referred as the Western Sovereign Base Area. The larger of these is the Dhekelia Sovereign Base Area, also referred to as the Eastern Sovereign Base Area.

Capital – Episkopi Cantonment. Language – English. Religion: Protestantism and Greek Orthodoxy. Ethnics: Greek Cypriots and British. Government: a special form of UK Overseas Territory, administered by an administrator who is also the Commander of the British Forces in Cyprus. Population: 15,700, world rank – 222, 7,700 Cypriots, 3,600 Service and UK based contract personnel, and 4,400 dependents. Area – Akrotiri: 123 sq km, world rank – 224. Dhekelia: 131 sq km, world rank – 223. Total Area of both: 254 sq km. Density: 62.



ALAND ISLANDS, Åland (Swedish: Åland; Finnish: Ahvenanmaa) is an autonomous, demilitarised, monolingually Swedish-speaking region of Finland that consists of an archipelago lying at the entrance to the Gulf of Bothnia in the Baltic Sea. Link to map. Links

to essential data: <u>Enc. Brittanica</u>, <u>Wikipedia</u>, <u>BBC</u>, <u>World Atlas</u>, <u>Countries/World</u>, <u>List/Countries</u>, <u>Index Mundi</u>, <u>Internet/Stats</u>. Collectively, the islands in the archipelago form the smallest region of Finland, constituting 0.49% of its area and 0.50% of its population. They are part of the EU with Finland. Aland's autonomy means that the powers exercised by representatives of central Finnish government are largely exercised by its own government.

Capital – Mariehamn. Language – Swedish. Religion: 82% Evangelical Lutheran Church. Ethnics: Ethnic Swedes. Government: The Aland Islands are governed according to the Act on the Autonomy of Aland and international treaties. These laws guarantee the islands' autonomy from Finland, which has ultimate sovereignty over them, as well as a demilitarized status. The Government of Aland answers to the Parliament of Aland, based on principles of parliamentarism. Aland has its own flag, has issued its own postage stamps since 1984, runs its own police force, and is a member of the Nordic Council. The islands are demilitarized, and the population is exempt from conscription. The Aland Islands elect one representative to the Finnish Parliament. Population: 29,000. Area: 1580 sq km. Density: 18.



ALBANIA, Republic of Albania, Shqiperia, in Southern Europe. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Albania declared its independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1912, but was conquered by Italy in 1939, and occupied by Germany in 1943. Communist partisans took over the country in 1944 and Albania allied itself first with the Soviet Union until 1960 and then with China until 1978. In the early 1990s, Albania ended 46 years of xenophobic communist rule and established a multiparty democracy. Albania has made progress in its democratic development but deficiencies remain. Albania joined NATO in 2009 and is a candidate for EU accession, however, Albania is still one of the poorest countries in Europe.

Capital– Tirana. Language– Albanian. Religion– Muslim – 80%, Catholic – 10%, Orthodox – 7%. Ethnics – Albanian – 83%. System of Government – Parliamentary Democracy. Assembly of Kuvendi – 140 deputies elected thru a regional proportional system. Population – 3,020,209, rank 138. Area – 28,748 sq km, rank 145. Density 105, rank – 97.



ALBORAN ISLAND, uninhabited territory of Spain, see Plazas de Soberania.

ALDERNEY, a self-governing island of the UK crown dependency Guernsey. See Guernsey. Alderney (French: Aurigny; Auregnais: Aoeur'gny) is the most northerly of the Channel Islands. It is part of the Bailiwick of Guernsey, a British Crown dependency. It is 3 miles (5 km) long and 1 ½ miles (2.4 km) wide. The area is 3 square miles (8 km²), making it the third-largest island of the Channel Islands, and the second largest in the Bailiwick. It is around 10 miles (15 km) to the west of La Hague on the Cotentin Peninsula, Normandy, in France, 20 miles (30 km) to the north-east of Guernsey and 60 miles (100 km) from the south coast of Great Britain. It is the closest of the Channel Islands to both France and the United Kingdom. It is separated from Cap de la Hague by the dangerous Alderney Race (French: Raz Blanchard). As of April 2013, the island has a population of 1,903 people and they are traditionally nicknamed vaques after the cows, or else lapins after the many rabbits seen in the island. Formally, they are known as Ridunians, from the Latin Riduna. The only parish of Alderney is the parish of St Anne, which covers the whole island. The main town, St Anne, historically known as "La Ville", (or "Town" in English), is often referred to as "St Anne's" by visitors and incomers, but rarely by locals (who, in normal conversation, still most frequently refer to the area centred on Victoria St simply as "Town"). The town's "High St", which formerly had a small handful of shops, is now almost entirely residential, crossing Victoria St at its highest point, forming a T-junction. The town area features an imposing church and an unevenly cobbled main street: Victoria Street (Rue Grosnez – the English name being adopted on the visit of Queen Victoria in 1854. There is a primary school, a secondary school a post office, and hotels, as well as restaurants, banks and shops. Other settlements include Braye, Crabby, Longis, Mannez, La Banquage and Newtown.



ALGERIA, People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Al Jaza'ir, in North Africa. Algeria is Africa's largest country. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Algeria's indigenous Berber people has been under foreign rule for much of the last 3000 years. The Phoenicians (1000 BC) and the Romans (200 BC) were the most important of these. With the incursion of Muslim Arabs in the 7th-8th century into the region, Islamic influence came to the Berbers and almost a millenium of domination by Arab dynasties. In the beginning of the 16th century the region was placed under protection of the ottoman Sultan of Istanbul, followed by reigns of ottoman beys, pachas, and aghas, brought to an end with the French colonization in 1830.

After more than a century of rule by France and an armed resistance lasting for decades, Algeria became independent in 1962 and Arabic became official language. All the Europeans left the country, which is now 98% Muslim. Since then *le pouvoir* ("the power"), an elite of business leaders and generals behind a democratic façade has run Algeria. The Government of Algeria in 1988 instituted a multi-party system in response to public unrest, but the surprising first round success of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in the December 1991 balloting led the Algerian army to intervene and postpone the second round of elections. The army began a violent crackdown on FIS that spurred its supporters to begin attacking government targets.

Fighting escalated into an insurgency, which saw intense violence from 1992 to 1998, resulting in over 100,000 deaths (this huge number was overshadowed by the casualties in Syria twenty years after), many of the deaths were attributed to indiscriminate massacres of villagers by extremists. The government gained the upper hand by the late 1990s, and FIS's armed wing, the Islamic Salvation Army, disbanded in January 2000. Parliamentary elections in May 2012 and municipal and provincial elections in November 2012 saw continued dominance by the FLN, the ruling party, with Islamist opposition parties performing poorly.

Capital – Algiers. Official Language – Arabic (Berber is a national language, and formerly French was the official language). Religion – Muslim – 98%. Ethnics – Arabs – 84%, Berbers – 15%. Government – Republic, head of state – executive. Population – 38,813,722, world rank – 34th. Area – 2,381,741 sq km, world rank – 10th, the largest country in Africa. Density - 16, world rank – 200.

GDP – \$285 billions, world rank – 47. GDP Per Capita - \$7,500, world rank – 138. GDP Real Growth Rate – 3.1%, rank – 111. Gross National Saving – 45.5% of GDP, rank – 6th. Industrial Production Growth Rate – 2.5%, rank – 116. Unemployment Rate – 10.3%, rank 110 (no. 1 – no unemployment). Annual Average Wage: Disposable Income - \$na, rank - na; Compulsory Deduction - na%; Gross Income - \$na. Monthly Average Wage - \$na, rank - na. Median Household Income - \$7,849, Median Per-Capita Income – \$1,392, rank – 76. Median Equivalised Disposable Household Income - \$na. Income Inequality – Gini – 35.3%, world rank – 89 (100% – the most unequal). Population Shares of the: Bottom Income Group below 75% - na%, Middle Income Group 75%-125% - na%, Top Income Group above 125% - na%.

Taxes and Other Revenues – 37.3% of GDP, rank – 54. Size of Shadow Economy – 32.6% of GDP, rank 76, 1 – lowest size. Budget Deficit - -2.3% of GDP, rank – 94 (highest surplus – no. 1). External Debt - \$5,278,000,000, rank – 117. Gross Government Debt as % of GDP – 9.9%, Net - -26% (negative). One of the lowest government debts of all countries. Inflation Rate – 3.9%, rank – 132 (lowest inflation – no. 1). Central Bank Discount Rate – 4.00%, rank – 93 (highest rate – no. 1). Commercial Bank Prime Lending Rate – 8.00%, rank 111 (highest rate – no. 1).

Market Value of Public Traded Shares – NA. Current Account Balance - \$6,697,000,000, rank – 28. Reserves of Foreign Exchange and Gold - \$192,500,000,000, rank – 15. HDI – 0.717, world rank – 93^{rd} (best – 1). Newsweek World's Best Countries 2010 – rank 85 (1 is best). Inequality Adjusted HDI – score – na, rank – na. Gender Inequality Index: rank – 81, value – 0.425 (most equal is no. 1 and closer to 0), 25.8% share of seats in parliament. Poverty – 23%, world rank – 89 (poorest – no. 1). Under \$1.25 a day – 6.79%, under \$2 a day – 23.61%. Poverty (Index Mundi) – 23%, rank – 94. Internet, IPR – 16.9%. World Happiness Report – 5.422, world rank – 73 (happiest – closest to 10, no. 1). Currency – 110.53 Algerian Dinars per US\$.

Corruption Perceptions Index— in 2014 - score of 36 (highest score of ethics is close to 100), rank 100. 2013 - score 36, 2012 - 34. 2005 - rank - 97, score - 2.8. 1996 - rank - na, score - na. 1995 - rank - na, score - na. Global Corruption Barometer - 41%, rank - 73 (1 - Lowest Bribes). Where to Be Born/Quality of Life Index - score 5.86 (highest - 10), rank 54. Freedom in the World Index - not free. Index of Economic Freedom - mostly unfree. Press Freedom Index - difficult situation. Democracy Index - Authoritarian Regime, score - 3.83 (highest - 10), rank - 117. Social Progress Index - score 59.13 (highest 100), rank - 87, Basic Human Needs Index - score 76.25, rank - 59, Foundations of Well-Being Index - score 64.25, rank - 83, Opportunity Index - score 36.9, rank - 116. GDP (PPP) per Hour Worked/Productivity - \$na. Global Peace Index - score 2.239 (most peaceful - closer to 1),

rank - 114. Incarceration Rate - 162 per 100,000 population, rank - 90 (1-highest). Level of Discrimination (1-lowest) - na. Fragile States Index FSI - score - 79.6 (120 - most fragile), rank 67, (1 - most fragile).

Global Competitiveness – 4.08 (highest – most competitive), rank – 79 (1 – most competitive). Financial Development Index – score – na, rank - na. Gross National Income Per Capita – GNI – 5330 US\$, rank no. 100. Total Health Expenditure Per Capita in PPP International \$ - 364, in % of GDP – 4.3%, rank no. 112. Credit Rating – na (AAA – best). Education Index Pearson – score – na, rank - na. World Top 20 Education Poll – score – na, rank - na. U21 Higher Education – score – na, rank - na. Distribution of Wealth: Wealth Per Capita – rank – 102, 7,320 PPP\$, Wealth Per Adult – 13,635 PPP\$, Wealth Gini – 0.670 (completely unequal – 1). Environmental Performance: Rank – no. 92, score – 50.08 (highest – 100). Index of Globalization: Rank – no. 103. Score – 52.37 (no. 1 is the closest to 100). List of membership in Organizations: see at the end of Part IV. List of Countries Comparisons and Links to other parameters: see Part V - Bibliography.





AMERICAN SAMOA, in Polynesia, Oceania, is a US unincorporated unorganized inhabited territory. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, Maps of the World, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Settled as early as 1000 BC, Samoa was not reached by European explorers until 18th century. International rivalries in the latter half of the 19th century were settled by an 1899 treaty in which Germany and the US divided the Samoan archipelago. The US formally occupied its portion – a smaller group of eastern islands with the excellent harbor of Pago Pago – the following year. The people are US nationals but not citizens. In 1976 American Samoans approved a referendum that provided for the popular election of the governor for four-year terms.

Capital – Pago Pago, Seat of Government – Fagatogo. Language – Samoan, English. Religion - 98% of population are Christian. Ethnics - Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander – 92%. Government – A bicameral legislature called the Fono, which meets for two sessions each year. The country is autonomous in its disposition of local revenues and is the sole lawmaking body. The US is responsible for defense. Population – 54,517, rank – 208. Area – 199 sq km, rank - 216. Density – 274, rank – 46.



AMERICAN VIRGIN ISLANDS – see Virgin Islands, US.

AMSTERDAM ISLAND, see French Southern Territories.

ANDORRA, Principality of Andorra, in Southern Europe, a co-principality with two head of states: the French president and the bishop of the diocese of Urgell. . Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats . Member of the UN. The landlocked Principalty of Andorra is one of the smallest states in Europe, nestled high in the Pyrenees between the French and Spanish borders. Andorra was formed in a charter of 998. Regional conflicts resulted in the current joint sovereignty arrangement between the French head of state and the Catalonian Bishop, which was worked out in the 1278 Pareage. Andorra shares strong historical and cultural ties with Catalonia. Andorra has become a popular tourist destination visited by millions each year, drawn by the winter sports, summer climate and duty-free shopping. Andorra has also become a wealthy international commercial center because of its mature banking sector and low taxes.

Capital – Andorra la Vella. Language – Catalan. Religion - 90% Christian. Ethnics – Spanish – 43%, Andorran – 33%, Portuguese – 11%, French – 7%. Government - Andorra handles many of its government issues among its General Council, though some aspects are taken care of by Spain and France, including the country's defense. In 1993 a modern constitution was introduced, the government was transformed into a parliamentary democracy. Population – 85,458, rank – 201. Area – 468 sq km, rank – 196. Density – 183, rank – 71.



ANGOLA, Republic of Angola, in Central Africa. <u>Link to map</u>. Links to essential data: <u>CIA Factbook</u>, <u>Enc. Britannica</u>, <u>Wikipedia</u>, <u>Nations Online</u>, <u>UN Data</u>, <u>BBC</u>, <u>World Atlas</u>, <u>Countries/World</u>, <u>List/Countries</u>, <u>Index Mundi</u>, <u>Oper/World</u>, <u>Internet/Stats</u>. Member of the UN. Angola has a very long history of human inhabitation, from the Khoisan people to the Bantu, with various empires throughout history. Significant kingdoms of historical Angola included the Kingdom of the Kongo and the 15th century Mbunda. Portuguese explorers arrived in Angola at the end of the 15th century, founding the colony of Luanda in 1575.

Angola was an important settlement for European trade, including the slave trade. The people of Angola fought for independence succeeding in 1975. After gaining independence, Angola suffered internal conflict and fought a civil war, lasting 27 years, and ending in 2002. Up to 1.5 million lives may have been lost and 4 million people displaced during the civil war.

Angola continues to work towards strengthening its economy and maintaining stability, though it remains one of the poorest nations in the world, despite oil reserves.

Capital – Luanda. Language – Portuguese. Religion – Christian – 91%. Ethnics – Ovimbundu – 37%, Kimbundu – 25%, Bakongo – 13%. Government – Republic, head of state is executive, presidency is independent of legislature. A new consitution was adopted in 2010. Population – 19,088,106, rank – 59. Area – 1,246,700 sq km, rank – 23. Density – 15, rank – 202.



ANGUILLA, a UK territory, in the Leeward Islands, Caribbean, is not part of the European Union with the UK. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. The island of Anguilla was inhabited by Arawak-speaking Amerindian tribes some 4000 years ago. In 1650, the island was formally colonized by the English who came from the nearby island of Saint Kitts. During the rest of the 1600's, many Europeans who lived on nearby islands migrated to Anguilla, bringing with them African slaves and setting up plantations. In 1824, Anguilla came under the administrative control of St. Kitts, and in 1980 Anguilla became a separate dependent territory. Tourism is Anguilla's biggest contributor to the economy, the island is famous for its beautiful beaches and friendly people. Anguilla has become a popular tax haven.

Capital – The Valley. Language – English. Religion – 91% Christian. Ethnics – Blacks – 90%. Government – Anguilla's politics take place in a framework of a parliamentary representative democratic dependency, whereby the Chief Minister is the head of government, and of a pluriform multi-party system. Population – 16,086, rank – 221. Area – 91 sq km, rank – 227. Density – 177, rank – 73.



ANTARCTICA, is the fifth-largest continent, and the southernmost continent, containing the geographic South Pole. It is situated in the Antarctic region of the Southern Hemisphere, almost entirely south of the Antarctic Circle and is surrounded by the Southern Ocean. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. In order to form a legal framework for the activities of nations on the continent, an Antarctic Treaty was negotiated that neither denies nor gives recognition to existing territorial claims, signed - 1959, it entered into force in 1961. Antarctica is the coldest and windiest spot on the planet. The lowest temperature ever recorded on Earth was recorded in Antarctica - -89 °C, and temperatures reach a minimum of between -80 and -90 °C in the

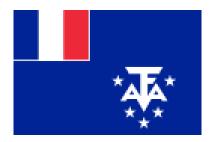
interior in winter and reach a maximum of between 5 °C and 15 °C near the coast in summer. The population of persons doing and supporting scientific research in Antarctica varies from 4000 in summer to 1000 in winter. There are about 417,000 tourists (2011/2012) visiting the continent. Area - 14 million sq km - 280,000 sq km ice-free, 13.72 M sq km ice-covered.

Antarctica is divided de facto in the following mostly unrecognized territories:

Australian Antarctic Territory: Australian external territory. Stations – Mawson, Davis, Casey. There are also Russian, Chinese and Franco-Italian stations. Capital – Davis Station. Area – 5,896,500 sq km. Population – less than 1,000.



French Antarctic Lands: Adelie Land, Terre Adelie, is a French territory, which is not part of the EU with France. Capital – Dumont D'Urville Station. There are no other stations in Adelie Land. Language – French. Area – 432,000 sq km. Population – 30-80.



Ross Dependency: is a New Zealand territory. It comprises the New Zealand Scott Base, the US Mc Murdo Station, the largest community in Antarctica, the US Amundsen-Scott South Pole station, located at the Geographic South Pole – the southernmost place on the Earth, and the Italian Zucchelli station. Area – 450,000 sq km. Population – 300-1,400.



Queen Maud Land: is a Norwegian dependent territory. The Norwegian research stations are - Troll and Tor, and there are also stations from: Sweden, Finland, Germany, South Africa, India, Russia, Belgium and Japan. Area -2,700,000 sq km. Population - average of 40.



British Antarctic Territory: is a British Overseas Territory, which is not part of the EU with the UK. The Capital is Rothera – main base and London – administration. In addition to the British stations, there are Ukrainian, Argentinean, and other nations' stations as well. Language – English. Area – 1,709,400 sq km. Population – 250.



Argentine Antarctica: is a department of the province of Tierra del Fuego in Argentina. There are a large number of Argentinean stations: Belgramo II, Esperanza, Carlini... Area – 965,597 sq km. Population – 300.



Brazilian Antarctica: is a Brazilian Zone of Interest, overlapping Argentine and British claims. Outside the zone of interest, Brazil maintains a permanent staffed research facility, the Comandante Ferraz Brazilian Antarctic Base, located in Admiralty Bay, King George Island. The area is south of 60°S, and from 28°W to 53°W. Population – 50-100.



Chilean Antarctic Territory: is a territory partially overlapping the Argentine and British Antarctic claims. It is administered by the Cabo de Hornos municipality in the South American mainland. The commune consists of two census districts: Piloto Pardo, consisting of the South Shetland Islands, with the only civil settlement Villa Las Estrellas, and Tierra O'Higgins (the Antarctic mainland) with communal capital – Puerto Covadonga (O'Higgins Station). There are several Chilean bases: Dr. Guillermo Mann, Teniente Parodi, Julio Ripamondo, and others. Area – 1,250,000 sq km. Population – 115.



Marie Byrd Land, is an unclaimed territory, because of its remoteness, even by Antarctic standards. It is by far the largest single unclaimed territory on Earth, with an area of 1,610,000 km². In Marie Byrd Land are US stations and a Russian Station. The Marie Byrd Land is the portion of West Antarctica lying east of the Ross Ice Shelf and the Ross Sea and south of the Pacific Ocean, extending eastward approximately to a line between the head of the Ross Ice Shelf and Eights Coast, between the New Zealand and Chilean claims, between 158°W and 103°24'W.

The United States, Russia and Brazil have reserved the right to make claims on Antarctic Territories. The following countries have bases and presence in Antarctica: Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, UK, US, Uruguay.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, in the Leeward Islands, Caribbean, has one autonomous region – Barbuda. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. The Siboney were the first people to inhabit the islands of Antigua and Barbuda in 2400 B.C., but Arawak Indians populated the islands when Columbus landed on his second voyage in 1493. Early Spanish and French settlements were succeeded by an English colony in 1667. Slavery, established to run the sugar plantations on Antigua, was abolished in 1834. The islands became an independent state within the British Commonwealth of Nations in 1981.

Antigua and Barbuda is one of the Caribbean's most prosperous nations, thanks to its tourism industry and offshore financial services. Internet gambling sites based in the country are an alternative source of revenue. Antigua and Barbuda, once described by the US as a centre for money laundering, was recognized by an international task force in 2001 as being "fully cooperative" in the fight against the activity. In 2009, the country's economy and the reputation of its financial regulatory system was rocked by news that its single biggest investor, Texan billionaire Allen Stanford, had been charged with massive fraud by the US.

Capital – Saint John's. Language – English. Religion – Christian – 93%. Ethnics – Blacks – 91%. Government – Constitutional monarchy, head of state – ceremonial (British Crown). Ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. The Antigua Labour Party – ALP – came to power following elections in 2014. Population – 91, 295, rank – 199. Area – 443 sq km, rank – 201. Density – 206, rank – 61.



ARGENTINA, Argentine Republic, in Southern South America. <u>Link to map.</u> Links to essential data: <u>CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats.</u> Member of the UN. The region that is now Argentina has been inhabited by indigenous

groups since at least 11,000 BC. The Inca Empire took over the region in the northwest, while mostly nomadic people lived in the south and central areas. Europeans arrived in the area in 1516 led by Spanish explorer Juan Diaz de Solis, and the land soon became part of the Viceroyalty of Peru. In 1816, the United Provinces of the Rio Plata declared their independence from Spain. After Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay went their separate ways, the area that remained became Argentina.

The country's population and culture were heavily shaped by immigrants from throughout Europe, with Italy and Spain providing the largest percentage of newcomers from 1860 to 1930. After World War II, an area of Peronist populism and direct and indirect military interference was followed by a military junta that took power in 1976. Democracy returned in 1983 after a failed bid to seize the Falkland Islands – Islas Malvinas – by force, and has persisted despite numerous challenges, the most formidable of which was a severe economic crisis in 2001-2002 that led to violent public protests and the successive resignations of several presidents.

Capital – Buenos Aires. Language – Spanish. Religion – Christian – 85%. Ethnics – White (mostly Spanish & Italian) – 97%. Government– head of state is executive, and his presidency independent of legislature. Argentina has 23 provinces and one autonomous city. Population – 43,024,374, rank – 33. Area – 2,780,400 sq km, rank – 8. Density – 16, rank – 201.

GDP – \$771 billions, world rank – 23. GDP Per Capita - \$18,600, world rank – 75. GDP Real Growth Rate – 3.50%, rank – 95. Gross National Saving – 24.60% of GDP, rank – 51. Industrial Production Growth Rate – 2.70%, rank – 112. Unemployment Rate – 7.50%, rank - 82 (no. 1 – no unemployment). Annual Average Wage: Disposable Income - \$na, rank - na; Compulsory Deduction - na%; Gross Income - \$na. Monthly Average Wage - \$1,108, rank – 40. Median Household Income - \$14,432, Median Per-Capita Income – \$4,109, rank – 43. Median Equivalised Disposable Household Income - \$na. Income Inequality – Gini – 45.8%, world rank – 36 (100% – the most unequal). Population Shares of the: Bottom Income Group below 75% - %, Middle Income Group 75%-125% - %, Top Income Group above 125% - %.

Taxes and Other Revenues – 26.8% of GDP, rank – 115. Size of Shadow Economy – 25.3% of GDP, rank - 45, 1 – lowest size. Budget Deficit - -3.20% of GDP, rank – 127 (highest surplus – no. 1). External Debt - \$111.5 billion, rank – 45. Gross Government Debt as % of GDP – 44.88%, Net - na% . Inflation Rate – 20,80%, rank – 218 (lowest inflation – no. 1). Central Bank Discount Rate –%, rank – (highest rate – no. 1). Commercial Bank Prime Lending Rate – 14.06%, rank – 48 (highest rate – no. 1).

Market Value of Public Traded Shares – 43.58 billion, rank - 49. Current Account Balance: \$2,371,000,000, rank – 148. Reserves of Foreign Exchange and Gold - \$33,65 billion, rank – 50. HDI – 0.808, world rank – 49 (best – 1), very high human development. Newsweek World's Best Countries 2010 – rank – 46 (1 is best). Inequality Adjusted HDI – score – 0.680, rank – 41. Gender Inequality Index: rank – 74, value – 0.381 (most equal is no. 1 and closer to 0), 37.7% share of seats in parliament. Poverty – 30.00%, world rank – 67 (poorest – no. 1). Under \$1.25 a day – 1.4%, under \$2 a day – 2.9%. Poverty (Index Mundi) – 30%, rank – 68. Internet, IPR – 75%. World Happiness Report – 6.562, world rank – 29 (happiest – closest to 10, no. 1). Currency – 8.6805 Argentinian Pesos per US\$.

Corruption Perceptions Index— in 2014 - score of 34 (highest score of ethics is close to 100), rank - 107. 2013 - score - 34, 2012 - score - 35. 2005 - rank - 97, score - 2.8. 1996 - rank - 35, score - 3.41. 1995 - rank - 24, score - 5.24. Global Corruption Barometer - 13%, rank - 31 (1 - Lowest Bribes). Where to Be Born/Quality of Life Index - score - 6.39 (highest - 10),

rank – 40 (1 – best). Freedom in the World Index – free. Index of Economic Freedom – repressed. Press Freedom Index – noticeable problems. Democracy Index – score – 6.84 (highest – 10), rank – 52 (best – 1). Social Progress Index – score – 70.59 (highest 100), rank – 42, Basic Human Needs Index – score – 77.77, rank – 54, Foundations of Well-Being Index – score – 70.62, rank – 58, Opportunity Index – score – 63.38, rank – 33. GDP (PPP) per Hour Worked/Productivity – \$13.84, rank – 52. Global Peace Index – score – 1.789 (most peaceful – closer to 1), rank – 43. Incarceration Rate – 149 per 100,000 population, rank – 98 (1-highest). Level of Discrimination (1-lowest) – na. Fragile States Index FSI – score – 47.6 (120 – most fragile), rank - 141, (1 – most fragile).

Global Competitiveness – 3.79 (highest – most competitive), rank – 104 (1 – most competitive). Financial Development Index – score – 2.68, rank - 55. Gross National Income Per Capita – GNI –US\$6,290, rank no. 89. Total Health Expenditure Per Capita in PPP International - \$1,321, in % of GDP – 8.3%, rank no. - 48. Credit Rating – SD, negative (AAA – best). Education Index Pearson – score – -1.49, rank - 37. World Top 20 Education Poll – score – na, rank - na. U21 Higher Education – score – 44.9, rank - 41. Distribution of Wealth: Wealth Per Capita – rank – 36, PPP\$36,740, Wealth Per Adult – PPP\$58,161, Wealth Gini – 0.740 (completely unequal – 1). Environmental Performance: Rank – no. 93, score – 49.55 (highest – 100). Index of Globalization: Rank – no. 79, Score – 58.30 (no. 1 is the closest to 100). List of membership in Organizations: see at the end of Part IV. List of Countries Comparisons and Links to other parameters: see Part V - Bibliography.





ARGENTINE ANTARCTICA, see Antarctica.

ARMENIA, Republic of Armenia, Hayastan, in Western Asia. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Armenia's oldest known inhabitants were the Hayasa-Azzi tribes, which settled in Armenia until 13th century BC. The first significant state of Armenia was the kingdom of Ararat during the 11th century BC, lasting until 7th century BC. In 189 BC, Greater Armenia was formed and became the third largest empire in the Near East. In 301 AD Armenia became the world's first ever Christian nation, adopting Chirstianity as the state religion.

The rule of the Armenian kingdoms ended during the Seljuk conquest, responsible for the first Armenian diaspora in the 11th century. Subsequent invasions included those of the Byzantine, Persian and Islamic empires. Subsequently, Armenia was conquered by the Ottoman Empire and Russia. In 1920, the Soviet Union invaded and by 1922, Armenia became part of the

USSR. Upon the fall of the Soviet Union, Armenia declared independence in 1991. Armenia and Azerbaijan began fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh, a primarily Armenian-populated region in Azerbaijan, in 1988, and in 1994 when a cease-fire took hold Nagorno-Karabakh declared a de facto independence. In spite of negotiations the situation has not changed yet.

Capital – Yerevan. Language – Armenian. Religion – Christian – 99%. Ethnics – Armenian – 98%. Government – Republic, head of state – executive, presidency independent of legislature, ministry subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 3,060,631, rank – 137. Armenia – 29,743 sq km, rank – 143. Density – 103, rank – 100.



ARUBA, in the Leeward Islands, Caribbean, is a constituent country of the Netherlands, enjoying considerable autonomy. It is not part of the European Union with the Netherlands. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Discovered and claimed for Spain in 1499, Aruba was acquired by the Dutch in 1636. A 19th century gold rush was followed by prosperity brought on by the opening in 1924 of an oil refinery. The last decades of the 20th century saw a boom in the tourism industry. Aruba seceded from the Netherland Antilles in 1986 and became a separate, autonomous member of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Movement toward full independence was halted at Aruba's request in 1990. Aruba is one of the most prosperous territories in the Caribbean. Lying close to the South American mainland, Aruba is susceptible to drug smuggling and illegal immigration. The territory has passed laws to combat money-laundering.

Capital – Oranjestad. Language – Dutch, Papiamento. Religion – Christian – 92%. Ethnics – Dutch – 82%, Colombians – 7%. Government - The Dutch government controls defence and foreign affairs and the island's government handles local matters. Population – 110,663, rank – 190. Area – 180 sq km, rank – 218. Density – 615, rank – 19.



ASCENSION ISLAND, see also Saint Helena. Ascension Island is an isolated volcanic island in the equatorial waters of the South Atlantic Ocean, around 1,600 kilometres from the coast of Africa and 2,250 kilometres from the coast of Brazil, which is roughly midway between the horn of South America and Africa. It is governed as part of the British Overseas Territory of Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, of which the main island, Saint Helena, is around 1,300 kilometres to the southeast. The territory also includes the sparsely populated Tristan da Cunha archipelago, some 3,730 kilometres to the south, about halfway to the Antarctic Circle. The island is named after the day of its recorded discovery, Ascension Day. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia,

Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi. Ascension Island played a role as an important safe haven and coaling station to mariners and for commercial airliners during the days of international air travel by flying boats. During World War II it was an important naval and air station, especially providing antisubmarine warfare bases in the Battle of the Atlantic. Ascension Island was garrisoned by the British Admiralty from 22 October 1815 to 1922. The island is the location of RAF Ascension Island, which is a Royal Air Force station with a United States Air Force presence, a European Space Agency rocket tracking station, an Anglo-American signals intelligence facility and the BBC World Service Atlantic Relay Station. The island was used extensively by the British military during the Falklands War. Ascension Island hosts one of four ground antennas (others are on Kwajalein Island, Diego Garcia, and Cape Canaveral) that assist in the operation of the Global Positioning System (GPS) navigational system. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the United States Air Force operate a telescope on Ascension Island for tracking orbital debris, which is potentially hazardous to operating spacecraft and astronauts, at a facility called the John Africano NASA/AFRL Orbital Debris Observatory. The main economic activity on the island is centred on the military bases at Wideawake Airfield, and the BBC World Service's Atlantic Relay station. The Ministry of Defence estate and facilities are managed by the infrastructure support provider Interserve Defence. Serco runs the airport services and Sodexo provides catering and domestic facilities. A former feature of Ascension was a 70,000 tonne tanker permanently moored offshore that was operated by Maersk as a bulk fuel facility. In December 2002, this was replaced by an on-shore Petroleum Supply Depot under military management, with fuel still being delivered by a chartered tanker; the Maersk Rapier, which operates on an MOD resupply contract for both Ascension and the Falkland Islands every two months. Fuel for the island is transferred via a floating hose, which is connected to the onshore depot at the island's pier head and to the ship at anchor. The main export items are Ascension Island postage stamps, first issued in 1922, and, since 2010, commemorative coins (which are legal tender but non-circulating) and commercial fishing licences for long-line tuna fishing vessels operating to ICCAT quotas. A secondary export is the international internet domain code .ac, which small UK educational colleges and science museums are favouring due to its similarity to .ac.uk, the domain code reserved for well-established UK educational institutions. In December 2013, Pirate Bay (one of the most well-known file piracy websites in the world) moved to .ac following the seizure of their .sx website. Until 2002, tourism was virtually non-existent because of the inaccessibility of the island to transport, the absence of guest accommodation and the need for a sponsor. Limited air travel has, however, been made available in recent years to the public by the RAF, and the Georgetown Obsidian Hotel and a number of guest cottages have been opened. All visitors are required to obtain an entry permit before travelling. Sport fishing is the main attraction for many of the visitors. The island also boasts what is called the worst golf course in the world.

Capital – Georgetown, Language – English. Religion – the population is made up mainly of members of the American and British military. Ethnics - There is no indigenous population on the island, and around 880 people live there as of 2010: 696 from Saint Helena nicknamed the "Saints" (who are British citizens), 106 British citizens from the United Kingdom, 70 US citizens and 12 of other nationalities. RAF Ascension Island is made up of 17 staff. Government – Ascension forms part of a British overseas territory together with Saint Helena and Tristan da Cunha. Executive authority is vested in Elizabeth II, who is represented by the Governor of Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha. As the Governor resides in Jamestown, Saint Helena, an Administrator is appointed to represent the Governor on Ascension Island. Population – 880, Area – 88, Density – 10.



ASHMORE AND CARTIER ISLANDS, The Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands is an uninhabited external territory of Australia consisting of four low-lying tropical islands in two separate reefs, and the 12 nautical mile territorial sea generated by the islands. The territory is located in the Indian Ocean situated on the edge of the continental shelf, about 320 km off the northwest coast of Australia and 144 km south of the Indonesian island of Rote. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi. The islands and their surrounding waters were visited by Indonesian fishermen beginning about 1700. The first European to reach Cartier Island in 1800 was a British sea captain named Nash, who sailed aboard the Cartier. Ashmore Reef was discovered in 1811 by Capt. Samuel Ashmore of the ship Hibernia.

American whaling ships plied the area in the 1850's. Britain annexed Ashmore in 1878 and Cartier in 1909. Britain gave the territory to Australia in 1933. The islands are uninhabited except for seasonal caretakers. Australia administers the extraction of petroleum from undersea oil fields adjacent to the territory. Ashmore Reef National Nature Reserve, supporting a rich and diverse avian and marine habitat, was established in 1983 and Cartier Island Marine Reserve was established in 2000. Most of the Ashmore Reef reserve is closed to visitors, as is all of the Cartier Island reserve. Area – 5 sq km, rank – 247.



AUSTRALIA, Commonwealth of Australia, in Oceania, is a federation of 6 states and 10 territories. The external territories of Australia are: Ashmore and Cartier islands, Australian Antarctic Territory, Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Coral Sea Islands, Heard Island and McDonald Islands, Norfolk Island; as well as Lord Howe Island – unincorporated, self-governed, area of New South Wales, Macquarie Island – uninhabited territory of Tasmania, Torres Strait Islands – territory with a special status fitting the native land rights. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW.

Prehistoric settlers arrived on the continent from Southeast Asia at least 40,000 years before the first European began exploration in the 17th century. In 1770 Capt. James Cook took possession of the east coast in the name of Great Britain and all Australia was claimed in 1829. Six colonies were created in the late 18th and 19th centuries, they federated and became the Commonwealth of Australia in 1901. The new country took advantage of its natural resources to rapidly develop agriculture and manufacturing industries. Australia has become an internationally competitive, advanced market economy due in large part to economic reforms adopted in the 1980's and its location in one of the fastest growing regions of the world economy.

Australia is the driest inhabited continent on earth, making it particularly vulnerable to the challenges of climate change. Australia is home to 10% of the world's biodiversity, and a great number of its flora and fauna exist nowhere else in the world. Australia has been called "the Oldest Continent", "the Last of Lands" and "the Last Frontier". But Australia is the last of lands only in the sense that it was the last continent to be explored by Europeans, although Aboriginals lived there thousands of years before the Europeans came.

Capital – Canberra. Language – English. Religion – Christian – 67%, Unaffiliated – 24%. Ethnics – White – 92%, Asian – 7%, Aboriginal – 1%. Government – constitutional monarchy, head of state is ceremonial (British Crown), ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 22,507,617, rank – 56. Area – 7,741,220 sq km, rank – 6. Density – 3, rank – 227.

37 VARIABLE PARAMETERS FOR EACH COUNTRY

WE PRESENT A SAMPLE OF 7 COUNTRIES WITH ALL THE 55 PARAMETERS – ALGERIA, ARGENTINA, DENMARK, FRANCE, ISRAEL, NORTH KOREA AND THE UNITED STATES. EVERY NATION AND DEPENDENCY IN THIS BOOK COMPRISES 18 BASIC PARAMETERS, AND WE CAN FIND THE 37 VARIABLE PARAMETERS FOR EACH COUNTRY – AUSTRALIA AND OTHERS - IN SEARCHING THE NAME OF THE COUNTRY FOR EACH OF THE 60+ TABLES OF THE 37 PARAMETERS:

GDP – \$ billion, world rank – . GDP Per Capita - \$, world rank – . GDP Real Growth Rate – %, rank – . Gross National Saving – % of GDP, rank – . Industrial Production Growth Rate – %, rank – . Unemployment Rate – %, rank - (no. 1 – no unemployment). Annual Average Wage: Disposable Income - \$, rank - ; Compulsory Deduction - %; Gross Income - \$. Monthly Average Wage - \$, rank - . Median Household Income - \$, Median Per-Capita Income – \$, rank – . Median Equivalised Disposable Household Income - \$, rank - . Income Inequality – Gini – %, world rank – (100% – the most unequal). Population Shares of the: Bottom Income Group below 75% - %, Middle Income Group 75%-125% - %, Top Income Group above 125% - %.

Taxes and Other Revenues – % of GDP, rank – . Size of Shadow Economy – % of GDP, rank – , 1 – lowest size. Budget Deficit - % of GDP, rank – (highest surplus – no. 1). External Debt - \$, rank – . Gross Government Debt as % of GDP – %, Net - %. Inflation Rate – %, rank – (lowest inflation – no. 1). Central Bank Discount Rate – %, rank – (highest rate – no. 1). Commercial Bank Prime Lending Rate – %, rank - (highest rate – no. 1).

Market Value of Public Traded Shares – \$, rank - . Current Account Balance - \$, rank - . Reserves of Foreign Exchange and Gold - \$, rank - . HDI - , world rank - (best - 1). Newsweek World's Best Countries 2010 – rank - (1 is best). Inequality Adjusted HDI – score – , rank – . Gender Inequality Index: rank – , value – (most equal is no. 1 and closer to 0), % share of seats in parliament. Poverty – %, world rank – (poorest – no. 1). Under \$1.25 a day – %, under \$2 a day – %. Poverty (Index Mundi) – %, rank – . Internet, IPR – %. World Happiness Report – , world rank – (happiest – closest to 10, no. 1). Currency – per US\$.

Corruption Perceptions Index – in 2014 - score of - (highest score of ethics is close to 100), rank - . 2013 – score - . 2012 – score - . 2005 – rank - , score – . 1996 – rank – , score – . 1995 – rank – , score – . Global Corruption Barometer – %, rank – (1 – Lowest Bribes). Where to Be Born/Quality of Life Index – score - (highest – 10), rank – (1-best). Freedom in the World Index – . Index of Economic Freedom – . Press Freedom Index – . Democracy Index – , score – (highest – 10), rank – (best – 1). Social Progress Index – score (highest 100), rank – , Basic

Human Needs Index – score - , rank – , Foundations of Well-Being Index – score - , rank – , Opportunity Index – score - , rank – . GDP (PPP) per Hour Worked/Productivity – \$, rank - . Global Peace Index – score - (most peaceful – closer to 1), rank – . Incarceration Rate – per 100,000 population, rank – (1-highest). Level of Discrimination (1.0-lowest) - , rank - . Fragile States Index FSI – score – (120 – most fragile), rank - , (1 – most fragile).

Global Competitiveness – (highest – most competitive), rank – (1 – most competitive). Financial Development Index – score – , rank - . Gross National Income Per Capita – GNI – US\$, rank no. - . Total Health Expenditure Per Capita in PPP International - \$, in % of GDP – %, rank no. - . Credit Rating – (AAA – best). Education Index Pearson – score – , rank - . World Top 20 Education Poll – score – , rank - . U21 Higher Education – score – , rank - . Distribution of Wealth: Wealth Per Capita – rank – , PPP\$, Wealth Per Adult – PPP\$, Wealth Gini – (completely unequal – 1). Environmental Performance: Rank – no. - , score – (highest – 100). Index of Globalization: Rank – no. - , Score – (no. 1 is the closest to 100). List of membership in Organizations: see at the end of Part IV. List of Countries Comparisons and Links to other parameters: see Part V - Bibliography.

VARIABLE PARAMETERS FROM CIA WORLD FACTBOOK -

PEOPLE AND SOCIETY, ECONOMIC PARAMETERS:

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Median age:
total: 38.4 years
male: 37.7 years
female: 39.2 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 58
Population growth rate:
1.07% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 114
Birth rate:
12.15 births/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 162
Death rate:
7.14 deaths/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 126
Net migration rate:
5.65 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 23
Urbanization:
urban population: 89.4% of total population (2015)
rate of urbanization: 1.47% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)
Mother's mean age at first birth:
30.5 (2006 est.)
Maternal mortality rate:
6 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 164
Infant mortality rate:
total: 4.37 deaths/1.000 live births
male: 4.67 deaths/1,000 live births
female: 4.04 deaths/1,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 188
Life expectancy at birth:
total population: 82.15 years
male: 79.7 years
female: 84.74 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 13
Total fertility rate:
1.77 children born/woman (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: <u>159</u>
Contraceptive prevalence rate:
note: percent of women aged 18-44 (2005)
Health expenditures:
9.4% of GDP (2013)
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country comparison to the world: 37
Physicians density:
3.27 physicians/1,000 population (2011)
Hospital bed density:
3.9 beds/1,000 population (2010)
Drinking water source:
improved:
urban: 100% of population
rural: 100% of population
total: 100% of population
unimproved:
urban: 0% of population
rural: 0% of population
total: 0% of population (2015 est.)
Sanitation facility access:
improved:
urban: 100% of population
rural: 100% of population
total: 100% of population
unimproved:
urban: 0% of population
rural: 0% of population
total: 0% of population (2015 est.)
HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:
0.17% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 100
HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:
28,200 (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 74
HIV/AIDS - deaths:
fewer than 100 (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 105
Obesity - adult prevalence rate:
29.9% (2014)
country comparison to the world: <u>44</u>
Children under the age of 5 years underweight:
0.2% (2007)
country comparison to the world: 138
Education expenditures:
5.1% of GDP (2011)
country comparison to the world: 56
School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):
total: 20 years
male: 20 years
female: 21 years (2012)
Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:
total: 12.2%
male: 13%
female: 11.3% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 93
GDP (purchasing power parity):
$1.489 trillion (2015 est.)
$1.454 trillion (2014 est.)
$1.56 trillion (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 19
GDP (official exchange rate):
$1.241 trillion (2015 est.)
GDP - real growth rate:
2.4% (2015 est.)
2.5% (2014 est.)
2.5% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 126
GDP - per capita (PPP):
$65,400 (2015 est.)
$64,700 (2014 est.)
$65,400 (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: \underline{14}
Gross national saving:
22.5% of GDP (2015 est.)
23.9% of GDP (2014 est.)
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24.5% of GDP (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 67
GDP - composition, by end use:
household consumption: 57%
government consumption: 17.9%
investment in fixed capital: 25.7%
investment in inventories: 0%
exports of goods and services: 18.5%
imports of goods and services: -19.1% (2015 est.)
GDP - composition, by sector of origin:
agriculture: 3.7%
industry: 28.9%
services: 67.4% (2015 est.)
Agriculture - products:
wheat, barley, sugarcane, fruits; cattle, sheep, poultry
Industries:
mining, industrial and transportation equipment, food processing, chemicals, steel
Industrial production growth rate:
2.7% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 95
Labor force:
12.5 million (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 45
Labor force - by occupation:
agriculture: 3.6%
industry: 21.1%
services: 75.3% (2009 est.)
Unemployment rate:
6.2% (2015 est.)
6.1% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 70
Population below poverty line:
NA%
Household income or consumption by percentage share:
lowest 10%: 2%
highest 10%: 25.4% (1994)
Distribution of family income - Gini index:
30.3 (2008)
35.2 (1994)
country comparison to the world: <u>119</u>
Budget:
revenues: $425.7 billion
expenditures: $451.4 billion (2015 est.)
Taxes and other revenues:
34.3% of GDP (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 65
Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):
-2.1% of GDP (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 76
Public debt:
44.3% of GDP (2015 est.)
42.4% of GDP (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 103
Fiscal year:
1 July - 30 June
Inflation rate (consumer prices):
1.9% (2015 est.)
2.5% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 106
Central bank discount rate:
3% (28 February 2013)
4.35% (31 December 2010)
note: this is the Reserve Bank of Australia's "cash rate target," or policy rate
country comparison to the world: 106
Commercial bank prime lending rate:
5.6% (31 December 2015 est.)
5.95% (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 135
Market value of publicly traded shares:
$1.286 trillion (31 December 2012 est.)
$1.198 trillion (31 December 2011)
$1.455 trillion (31 December 2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 10
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Current account balance:

-\$49.91 billion (2015 est.)

-\$43.75 billion (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: 193

Exports:

\$184.4 billion (2015 est.) \$240.8 billion (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: 27

Exports - commodities:

coal, iron ore, gold, meat, wool, alumina, wheat, machinery and transport equipment

Exports - partners:

China 33.7%, Japan 18%, South Korea 7.4%, US 4.2% (2014)

Imports:

\$208.4 billion (2015 est.)

\$240.5 billion (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: 21

Imports - commodities:

machinery and transport equipment, computers and office machines, telecommunication equipment and parts; crude oil and petroleum products

Imports - partners:

China 20.5%, US 10.6%, Japan 6.8%, Singapore 5%, Germany 4.7%, South Korea 4.7%, Malaysia 4.4%, Thailand 4.3% (2014)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:

\$55 billion (31 December 2015 est.) \$53.89 billion (31 December 2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: 38

Debt - external:

\$1.381 trillion (31 December 2014 est.)

\$1.374 trillion (31 December 2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 14

Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:

\$642.2 billion (31 December 2015 est.)

\$593.8 billion (31 December 2014 est.) country comparison to the world: 15

Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:

\$475.7 billion (31 December 2015 est.)

\$473.3 billion (31 December 2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: 18

Exchange rates:

Australian dollars (AUD) per US dollar -

1.33 (2015 est.)

1.1094 (2014 est.)

1.1094 (2013 est.)

0.97 (2012 est.)

0.9695 (2011 est.)





AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC TERRITORY, see Antarctica.

AUSTRIA, Republic of Austria, Osterreich, in Western Europe, is a federation of nine states. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, EU. Austria's earliest inhabitants were Celtic tribes as far back as 800 BC, with the Kingdom of Noricum, later part of the Roman Empire. The Bavarians arrived in the region around the 6th century AD, forming the Duchy of Bavaria, around the same time that the Slavs and the Avars invaded. The region was conquered by Charlemagne in 788, bringing Christianity. Austria was ruled by the House of Babenberg from 976 to 1246. In 1278, the German Rudolph I took control until Austria became ruled by the Habsburg dinasty.

Austria reached its greatest size in the 1700's, when it gained control of territories in the Netherlands and Italy, as well as in the Balkans. In 1867, the Austrian Empire united with the Kingdom of Hungary in the Austro-Hungarian Compromise, which was dissolved in 1918 after World War I. The Republic of Austria was formed in 1919 and Austria became a German state in 1938. By 1945, Austria was occupied by the British, Soviet, US and French, and reconstruction began in the following years. A State Treaty signed in 1955 ended the occupation, recognized Austria's independence and forbade unification with Germany, declaring the country's "perpetual neutrality" until entering the European Union in 1995, after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Capital – Vienna. Language – German. Religion – 80% Christian, 5% Muslim, Unaffiliated – 14%. Ethnics – Austrians – 91%, former Yugoslavs – 4%. Government – Republic, head of state – ceremonial, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 8.223,062, rank – 95. Area – 83,871 sq km, rank – 114. Density – 98, rank – 104.



AZERBAIJAN, Republic of Azerbaijan, Azarbaycan, in the Caucasus, Western Asia, has an autonomous region – Nakhchivan, in its other autonomous region Nagorno-Karabakh a de facto state has been established. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Much of Azerbaijan's history is characterized by a series of invasions due to its strategic location at the crossroads of Western Asia and Eastern Europe. Persia and Russia were the major empires to dominate the region.

Azarbaijan, a nation with a majority Turkic and majority Shia Muslim population was briefly independent from 1918 to 1920 following the collapse of the Russian Empire. When Russia became the Soviet Union they invaded again in 1920, with their domination ending in 1991 with the declaration of Azerbaijan's indepedence. Azerbaijan has yet to resolve its conflict with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh, a primarily Armenian-populated region formerly in Azerbaijan, that has declared independence de facto in 1994 following the war with Armenia

Capital – Baku. Language – Azerbaijani. Religion – Muslim – 97%, Christian – 3%. Ethnics – Azerbaijani – 91%, almost all Armenians live in the separatist Nagorno-Karabach region. Government – Republic, head of state – executive, presidency is independent of legislature. Corruption in the country is widespread, and the government, which eliminated presidential term limits in a 2009 referendum, has been accused of authoritarianism. Although the poverty rate has been reduced and infrastructure investment has increased substantially in recent years due to revenue from oil and gas production, reforms have not adequately addressed weaknesses in most government institutions. Population – 9,686,210, rank – 92. Area – 86,600 sq km, rank – 113, including the Nagorno-Karabakh de facto state that is no longer part of Azerbaijan. Density – 112, rank – 91.



AZORES, see Portugal. The Azores, Portuguese: *Açores*, officially the Autonomous Region of the Azores (*Região Autónoma dos Açores*), is one of the two autonomous regions of Portugal, composed of nine volcanic islands in the North Atlantic Ocean about 1,360 km (850 mi) west of continental Portugal, about 880 km (550 mi) northwest of Madeira, about 1,925 km (1,196 mi) southeast of Newfoundland, about 4,121 km (2,561 mi) east of New York City and about 6,392 km (3,972 mi) northeast of Brazil. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi. Its main industries are agriculture, dairy farming (for cheese and butter products primarily), livestock ranching, fishing, and tourism, which is becoming the major service activity in the region. In addition, the government of the Azores employs a large percentage

of the population directly or indirectly in the service and tertiary sectors. The main settlement of the Azores is Ponta Delgada. There are nine major Azorean islands and an islet cluster, in three main groups. These are Flores and Corvo, to the west; Graciosa, Terceira, São Jorge, Pico, and Faial in the centre; and São Miguel, Santa Maria, and the Formigas Reef to the east. They extend for more than 600 km (370 mi) and lie in a northwest-southeast direction. All the islands have volcanic origins, although some, such as Santa Maria, have had no recorded activity since the islands were settled. Mount Pico, on the island of Pico, is the highest point in Portugal, at 2,351 m (7,713 ft). The Azores are actually some of the tallest mountains on the planet, measured from their base at the bottom of the ocean to their peaks, which thrust high above the surface of the Atlantic.

The climate of the Azores is very mild for such a northerly location, being influenced by its distance to continents and the passing Gulf Stream. Due to the marine influence, temperatures remain mild year-round. Daytime temperatures normally fluctuate between 16 °C (61 °F) and 25 °C (77 °F) depending on season. [9][10] Temperatures above 30 °C (86 °F) or below 3 °C (37 °F) are unknown in the major population centres. It is also generally wet and cloudy. The culture, dialect, cuisine, and traditions of the Azorean islands vary considerably, because these once-uninhabited and remote islands were settled sporadically over a span of two centuries. According to the 2011 Census, population in the Azores was 246,746, area is 2,333 km², at a density of 106 inhabitants per square kilometre (270/sq mi). The Azores were uninhabited when Portuguese navigators arrived in the early 15th century; the settlement process was initiated in 1439 with individuals from various regions of mainland Portugal and from Madeira. The islands were populated mainly by Portuguese descendants immigrants from Algarve, Alentejo, and Minho; however, in an effort to escape the pressures of the Portuguese inquisition, many Portuguese Sephardic Jews, also known as the 'New Christians', (those who were forced to convert to Christianity during the Portuguese inquisition), settled on the islands in large numbers. Azorean Jews had surnames such as: Rodrigues, Oliveira, Pereira, Pimentel, Cardozo, Teixeira, etc. The islands were also settled by Moorish prisoners, and African slaves from Guinea, Cape Verde and São Tomé; Flemish, French and Galicians also contributed to the initial settlement. Thus the Azorean population received a significant contribution from people with genetic backgrounds other than Portuguese. The nature of the economy dictated that African slavery never became common in the Azores because they were sent to Brazil and the Caribbean. Only a few remained in the Azores to help with domestic chores, although the islands sometimes served as a waypoint for ships carrying African slaves. Capitals of the Azores are: Angra do Heroísmo, Horta, Ponta Delgada.



BAHAMAS, THE, Commonwealth of the Bahamas, in the Caribbean. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. The country is located in the Atlantic Ocean, north of Cuba and Hispaniola, north-west of the Turks and Caicos Islands and south-east of the US. Lucayan Indians inhabited the islands when Columbus first set foot in the New World on San Salvador

in 1492. British settlement of the islands began in 1647 and the islands became a colony in 1783. Since attaining independence from the UK in 1973, The Bahamas has prospered through tourism, international banking, and investment management. Its territory is used for smuggling illegal drugs and migrants into the US. The Bahamas comprises 29 islands, the major islands are: New Providence, Acklins, Berry, Cat, Harbour and Grand Cay.

Capital – Nassau. Language – English. Religion – Christian – 96%. Ethnics – Black – 91%, White – 5%. Government – Constitutional monarchy, head of state – ceremonial (British Crown), ministry is subject to to parliamentary confidence. Population – 321,834, rank – 179. Area – 13,880 sq km, rank – 161. Density – 23, rank – 178.



BAHRAIN, Kingdom of Bahrain, Al Bahrayn, in the Arabian peninsula, Middle East. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Bahrain is a small Arab state situated in a bay on the southwestern coast of the Persian Gulf. It is an archipelago consisting of Bahrain Island and some 30 smaller islands. Its name is from the Arabic term al-bahrayn, meaning "two seas". In 1783, the Sunni Al-Khalifa family took power in Bahrain. In order to secure these holdings, it entered into a series of treaties with the UK during the 19th century that made Bahrain a British protectorate. The archipelago attained its independence in 1971. Facing declining oil reserves, Bahrain has turned to petroleum processing and refining and has become an international banking center. Bahrain's small size and central location among Gulf countries require it to play a delicate balancing act in foreign affairs among its larger neighbors.

The Sunni-led government has struggled to manage relations with its large Shia-majority population. As a result of the "Arab Spring" demonstrations, ongoing dissatisfaction with the political status quo has led to a broader discussion termed the Bahrain National Dialogue, a process that convenes members of the executive, parliament, and political societies in an attempt to reach a political agreement. The country's chief city, port and capital – Manama is a strikingly modern city, relaxed and cosmopolitan. Yet, the people of Bahrain remain conservative in their lifeways. The country's constitution affirms that the family is the cornerstone of society, the strength of which lies in religion, ethics and patriotism.

Capital – Manama. Language – Arabic. Religion – Muslim - 70%, Christian – 15%, Hindu – 10%. Ethnics – Bahraini – 46%, Asian – 46%. Government – Constitutional monarchy, head of state – Executive, Monarch personally exercises power in concert with other institutions. Population – 1,314,089, rank – 157. Area – 760 sq km, rank – 188. Density – 1,729, rank – 8.



BAJO NUEVO BANK, also known as the Petrel Islands (Spanish: *Bajo Nuevo, Islas Petrel*), is a small, uninhabited reef with some small islets, covered with grass, located in the western Caribbean Sea with a lighthouse on Low Cay. It is an unincorporated unorganized territory of the United States. The closest neighbouring land feature is Serranilla Bank, located 110 kilometres to the west. The reef was first shown on Dutch maps dating to 1634 but was given its present name in 1654. Bajo Nuevo was rediscovered by the English pirate John Glover in 1660. Although the bank is currently controlled by Colombia, it is subject to a sovereignty dispute involving Jamaica, Nicaragua and the United States. On November 19, 2012, the International Court of Justice found unanimously that Colombia has sovereignty over Bajo Nuevo. Link to map. Link to essential data: Wikipedia. Area – 145 sq km.



BAKER ISLAND, is an uninhabited atoll located just north of the equator in the central Pacific Ocean, half way between Hawaii and Australia. It is an unincorporated and unorganized territory of the US, which vouches for its defense. For statistical purposes, Baker is grouped with the United States Minor Outlying Islands. In 1825 Capt. Obed Starbuck of the American whaling ship Loper recorded sighting the island. In 1832, it was sighted by another American mariner, Capt. Michael Baker. US claimed it in 1857 and in 1936 it came under the administration of the US Department of the Interior. Link to map. Links to Essential Data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Countries/World. Area – 2 sq km.



BALEARIC ISLANDS, see Spain.

BANGLADESH, People's Republic of Bangladesh, in South-Central Asia, was formerly a part of Pakistan. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. Muslim conversions and settlement in the region began in the tenth century, primarily from Arab and Persian traders and preachers. Europeans began to set up trading posts in the area in the 16th century. Bengal became part of the British India. Partition in 1947 resulted in an eastern wing of Pakistan in the Muslim-majority area which became East Pakistan. Bangladesh became independent in 1971, with the support of India, after a war during which at least 300,000 civilians died. After military-based governments, the country returned to fully democratic rule in 2008 in an effort to reform the political system and root out corruption. With the help of international development assistance, Bangladesh has made great progress in food security since independence, and the economy has grown at an average of about 6% over the last decades.

The rivering country of Bangladesh – Land of the Bengals – is one of the most densely populated countries in the world, and its people are predominantly Muslim. Poverty is deep and widespread, but Bangladesh has in recent years reduced population growth and improved health and education. The major employer is agriculture and the country is trying to diversify its economy with industrial development a priority. Overseas investors have pumped money into manufacturing and the energy sector. Onshore and offshore gas reserves could provide a chance for future prosperity. The Grameen Bank is a Nobel Peace-Prize-winning microfinance organization and community development bank founded in Bangladesh in 1976 by Muhammad Yunus. It makes very small loans (microcredit) to the impoverished without requiring collateral, thus giving the poors a chance to earn more money. The experience has shown that the poors reimburse the loans that they take on 98% of the cases, unlike many tycoons who make large haircuts to the bonds that they raise in the stock exchange and unlike the bankrupt CDOs of Wall Street who ruined world economy in 2008. The bank also accepts deposits, provides other services, and runs several development-oriented businesses including fabric, telephone and energy companies. 96% of the bank's borrowers are women.

Capital – Dhaka. Language – Bengali. Religion – Muslim – 90%, Hindu – 9%. Ethnics – Bengali – 98%. Government – Republic, head of state – ceremonial, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 166,280,712, rank – 9. Area – 143,998 sq km, rank – 95. Density – 1,155, rank – 12.



BARBADOS, in the Lesser Antilles, Caribbean. <u>Link to map</u>. Links to essential data: <u>CIA Factbook</u>, <u>Enc. Britannica</u>, <u>Wikipedia</u>, <u>Nations Online</u>, <u>UN Data</u>, <u>BBC</u>, <u>World Atlas</u>, <u>Countries/World</u>, <u>List/Countries</u>, <u>Index Mundi</u>, <u>Oper/World</u>, <u>Internet/Stats</u>. Member of the UN, CW. The island was uninhabited when first settled by the British in 1627. African slaves worked in the sugar plantations established on the island until 1834 when slavery was abolished. The economy remained heavily dependent on sugar, rum and molasses production through most of the 20th century. The gradual introduction of social and political reforms in the 1940s and 1950s led to complete independence from the UK in 1966. In the 1990s tourism and manufacturing surpassed the sugar industry in economic independence.

The geographic position of Barbados has profoundly influenced the island's history and culture and aspects of its economic life. Barbados is not part of the nearby archipelago of the Lesser Antilles, it is less mountainous and has less variety in plant and animal life. As the first Caribbean landfall from Europe and Africa, Barbados has functioned since the late 17th century as a major link between western Europe, mainly Great Britain, eastern Caribbean territories and parts of the South American mainland. Because of its long association with Britain, the culture of Barbados is probably more British than is that of any other Caribbean island, though elements of the African culture of the majority population have been prominent. Barbados has near-total literacy. This success is attributable to the presence of a comprehensive, mainly government-funded primary and secondary scholl network. The government places high priority on education, all education in public institutions is free.

Capital – Bridgetown. Language – English. Religion – Christian – 95%. Ethnics – Black – 92%, White – 3%. Government – Constitutional monarchy, head of state – ceremonial (British Crown), ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 289,680, rank – 181. Area – 430 sq km, rank – 202. Density – 674, rank – 17.

37 VARIABLE PARAMETERS – SEE METHODOLOGY OF SEARCHING IN 60+ TABLES IN AUSTRALIA.

VARIABLE PARAMETERS FROM CIA WORLD FACTBOOK - PEOPLE & SOCIETY, ECONOMIC PARAMETERS:

Median age: total: 38 years male: 36.9 years female: 39.1 years (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: <u>60</u> **Population growth rate:** 0.31% (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 173 Birth rate: 11.87 births/1,000 population (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 168 Death rate: 8.44 deaths/1,000 population (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 80 **Net migration rate:** -0.3 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 128 **Urbanization:** urban population: 31.5% of total population (2015) rate of urbanization: 0.13% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.) Maternal mortality rate: 27 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 106 **Infant mortality rate:** total: 10.42 deaths/1,000 live births male: 11.52 deaths/1,000 live births female: 9.31 deaths/1,000 live births (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: <u>133</u> Life expectancy at birth: total population: 75.18 years male: 72.82 years female: 77.56 years (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 104 **Total fertility rate:** 1.68 children born/woman (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: <u>174</u> **Health expenditures:** 6.8% of GDP (2013) country comparison to the world: 104 Physicians density: 1.81 physicians/1,000 population (2005) **Hospital bed density:** 6.2 beds/1,000 population (2012) **Drinking water source:** improved: urban: 99.7% of population rural: 99.7% of population total: 99.7% of population unimproved: urban: 0.3% of population rural: 0.3% of population

total: 0.3% of population (2015 est.) **Sanitation facility access:**

urban: 96.2% of population rural: 96.2% of population

improved:

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total: 96.2% of population
unimproved:
urban: 3.8% of population
rural: 3.8% of population
total: 3.8% of population (2015 est.)
HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:
0.88% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 50
HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:
1,500 (2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: <u>118</u>
HIV/AIDS - deaths:
NA
Obesity - adult prevalence rate:
33.2% (2014)
country comparison to the world: 14
Children under the age of 5 years underweight:
3.5% (2013)
Education expenditures:
5.6% of GDP (2012)
country comparison to the world: 54
School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):
total: 15 years
male: 14 years
female: 17 years (2011)
Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:
total: 29.6%
male: 27.7%
female: 31.9% (2013 est.)
GDP (purchasing power parity):
$4.658 billion (2015 est.)
$4.612 billion (2014 est.)
$4.602 billion (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 176
GDP (official exchange rate):
$4.451 billion (2015 est.)
GDP - real growth rate:
1% (2015 est.)
0.2% (2014 est.)
0% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: <u>176</u>
GDP - per capita (PPP):
$16,700 (2015 est.)
$16,500 (2014 est.)
$16,500 (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 97
Gross national saving:
8.3% of GDP (2015 est.)
4.5% of GDP (2014 est.)
4% of GDP (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: <u>158</u>
GDP - composition, by end use:
household consumption: 83%
government consumption: 14.5%
investment in fixed capital: 14.5%
investment in inventories: -0.6%
exports of goods and services: 36.7%
imports of goods and services: -48.1% (2015 est.)
GDP - composition, by sector of origin:
agriculture: 3.1%
industry: 11.3%
services: 85.7% (2015 est.)
Agriculture - products:
sugarcane, vegetables, cotton
Industries:
tourism, sugar, light manufacturing, component assembly for export
Industrial production growth rate:
-3.6% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 186
Labor force:
142,000 (2015 est.)
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country comparison to the world: 179
Labor force - by occupation:
agriculture: 10%
industry: 15%
services: 75% (1996 est.)
Unemployment rate:
10.8% (2015 est.)
11.5% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 122
Population below poverty line:
Household income or consumption by percentage share:
lowest 10%: NA%
highest 10%: NA%
Budget:
revenues: $1.3 billion (2013 est.)
expenditures: $1.55 billion (2015 est.)
Taxes and other revenues:
29.2% of GDP (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 86
Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):
-5.6% of GDP (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: <u>177</u>
Public debt:
101% of GDP (2015 est.)
99.2% of GDP (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 16
Fiscal year:
1 April - 31 March
Inflation rate (consumer prices):
2.4% (2015 est.)
2.1% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 126
Central bank discount rate:
7% (31 December 2010)
7% (31 December 2009)
country comparison to the world: 49
Commercial bank prime lending rate:
8.1% (31 December 2015 est.)
8.38% (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 107
Market value of publicly traded shares:
$4.495 billion (31 December 2012 est.)
$4.571 billion (31 December 2011)
$4.366 billion (31 December 2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 88
Current account balance:
-$215 million (2015 est.)
-$370 million (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 83
Exports:
$471.6 million (2015 est.)
$474.4 million (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 174
Exports - commodities:
manufactures, sugar, molasses, rum, other foodstuffs and beverages, chemicals, electrical components
Exports - partners:
Trinidad and Tobago 24.1%, US 9.5%, St. Lucia 9.4%, St. Vincent and the Grenadines 5.8%, Antigua
and Barbuda 4.8%, St. Kitts and Nevis 4.5%, Guyana 4.3%, Venezuela 4.3% (2014)
Imports:
$1.628 billion (2015 est.)
$1.652 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 170
Imports - commodities:
consumer goods, machinery, foodstuffs, construction materials, chemicals, fuel, electrical components
Imports - partners:
Trinidad and Tobago 35.6%, US 29.3%, Canada 9.1% (2014)
Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:
$662.6 million (31 December 2015 est.)
$632.3 million (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 141
Debt - external:
$4.49 billion (2010 est.)
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\$668 million (2003 est.)

country comparison to the world: <u>134</u>

Exchange rates:

Barbadian dollars (BBD) per US dollar -

2 (2015 est.)

2 (2013 est.)

2 (2013 est.)

2 (2012 est.) 2 (2011 est.)

note: the Barbadian dollar is pegged to the US dollar





BARBUDA, see Antigua and Barbuda.

BASSAS DA INDIA, part of the Scattered Islands, see French Southern and Antarctic Lands.

BELARUS, Republic of Belarus, Byelarus, in Eastern Europe. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Belarusian history is less an isolable national narrative than a study of regional forces, their interplay, and their effects on the Belarusian people. The region underwent partition and changed hands repeatedly, as a result, much of the history of Belarus is inseparable from that of its neighbors. After seven decades as a constituent republic of the USSR, Belarus attained its independence in 1991. Since independence, Belarus has retained close ties to its most dominant neighbour, Russia. The legacy of Belarus's Soviet past manifests itself in the persistence prominence of communist political parties and in the country's authoritarian style of government. Since his election in July 1994 as the country's first directly elected president, Aleksandr Lukashenko has steadily consolidated his power through authoritarian means and a centralized economic system. Government restrictions on freedom of speech and the press, peaceful assembly and religion remain in place.

The Belarusian Forest on the western border with Poland is one of the largest surviving areas of primeval mixed forest in Europe, encompassing more than 1,200 square km.. Preserved for centuries as the private hunting forest of the Polish Kings and later the Russian Tsars, it was made a nature reserve and later a national park on both sides of the frontier with Poland. The rich forest vegetation that once covered much of Europe survives here, dominated by trees that have grown to exceptional heights. The forest is the home of animals as the bison, elk, deer and boars, hares, squirrels, foxes, martens and beavers, partridge, woodcocks and ducks. The accident of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine in 1986 resulted in heavy consequences for the environment of Belarus, where most of the fallout occurred. In the early 21st century about one fifth of Belarus's land was still radioactively contaminated. In addition to the land damage the medical and psychological cost of the accident included an increase in birth defects, cancer and a declining birth rate, at least partially in response to fears of defects.

Capital – Minsk. Language – Belarusian, Russian. Religion – Christian – 71%, Unaffiliated – 29%. Ethnics – Belarusian – 84%, Russian – 8%, Polish – 3%. Government – Republic, head of state – executive, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 9,608,058, rank – 93. Area – 207,600 sq km, rank – 86. Density – 46, rank – 162.



BELGIUM, Kingdom of Belgium, Belgique/Belgie/Belgien, in Western Europe, is a federation divided into linguistic communities and regions, some segments of the population of Flanders strive for independence. <u>Link to map</u>. Links to essential data: <u>CIA Factbook</u>, <u>Enc. Britannica</u>, <u>Wikipedia</u>, <u>Nations Online</u>, <u>UN Data</u>, <u>BBC</u>, <u>World Atlas</u>, <u>Countries/World</u>, <u>List/Countries</u>, <u>Index Mundi</u>, <u>Oper/World</u>, <u>Internet/Stats</u>. Member of the UN, EU. Belgium is one of the smallest and most densely populated European countries, and it has been, since its independence in 1830, a representative democracy headed by a hereditary constitutional monarch. Initially, Belgium had a unitary form of government, but recently steps were taken

to turn the country into a federal state with powers shared among the regions of Flanders (Flemish/Dutch speaking, more than a half of the population), Wallonia (French speaking, 1/3 of the population) and the Brussels-Capital Region (bilingual, one tenth of the population).

Culturally, Belgium is a heterogeneous country straddling the border between the Romance and Germanic language families of Western Europe. It has been rich with historical and cultural associations, from the Gothic grandeur of its medieval university and commercial cities, its small castle-dominated towns, through its broad traditions in painting and music of the northern Renaissance, to its contributions to the arts of 20th century and its maintenance of the folk cultures of the past eras. Belgium has been a major battleground for centuries, and in the last two centuries - the Battle of Waterloo (1815) and the 20th century two world wars. Belgium today is one of the most heavily industrialized and urbanized countries in Europe. It is a member of the Benelux Economic Union (with the Netherlands and Luxembourg), the European Union – EU, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization – NATO organizations, that all have headquarters in Brussels. Industry is concentrated mainly in Flanders. Belgian banks were severly affected by the Great Recession, with three major banks receiving capital injections from the government, and the nationalization of the Belgian retail arm of Dexia.

Capital – Brussels. Language – Flemish (Flanders, Brussels), French (Wallonia, Brussels), German (German-speaking community). Religion – Christians – 64%, Muslim – 6%, Unaffiliated – 29%. Ethnics – Fleming – 58%, Walloon – 31%. Government – Constitutional monarchy, head of state – ceremonial, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 10,449,361, rank – 84. Area – 30,528 sq km, rank – 141. Density – 342, rank – 37.



BELIZE, in Central America, was formerly known as British Honduras. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. Belize was the site of several Mayan city states until their decline at the end of the first millennium AD. The British and the Spanish disputed the region in the 17th and 18th centuries and it formally became the colony of British Honduras in 1854. Belize became independent in 1981, tourism has become the mainstay of the economy. Current concerns include the country's heavy foreign debt burden, high unemployment, growing involvement in the drug trade, high crime rates and one of the highest AIDS rates. Belize's abundance of terrestrial and marine species and its diversity of ecosystems give it a key place in the globally significant Mesoamerican Biological Corridor. Belize has a diverse society, composed of a large number of cultures and languages that reflect its rich history

Capital – Belmopan. Language – English (official), Kriol (lingua franca). Religion – Christian – 88%, Unaffiliated – 9%. Ethnics – Mestizo – 49%, Creole – 25%, Maya – 11%. Government – Constitutional monarchy, head of state – ceremonial (British Crown), ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 340,844, rank – 178. Area – 22,966 sq km, rank – 152. Density – 15, rank – 203.



BENIN, Republic of Benin, in West Africa, was formerly known as Dahomey. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Benin was the site of Dahomey, a West African kingdom that rose to prominence in about 1600 and over the next 2.5 centuries became a regional power, largely based on its slave trade. The kingdom was conquered by the French in 1894, and it achieved independence in 1960, changing its name to Benin. After a regime based on Marxist-Leninist principles, free elections took place in 1991, marking the first successful transfer of power in Africa from a dictatorship to democracy. The government has attempted to stem corruption and promote economic growth. However, the economy of Benin remains underdeveloped, dependent of subsistence agriculture, cotton production and regional trade.

Capital – Porto-Novo. Language – French. Religion – Christian – 53%, Muslim – 24%, Folk religion – 18%. Ethnics – Fon and related – 39%, Adja and related – 15%, Yoruba and related – 12%, Bariba and related – 9%, Peulh and related – 7%, Ottamari and related – 6%. Government – Republic, head of state – executive, presidency is independent of legislature. Population– 10,160,556, rank– 88. Area– 112,622 sq km, rank– 102. Density– 90, rank– 113.



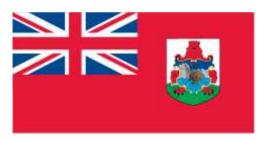
BERMUDA, in North America, a UK territory, it is not part of the European Union with the UK. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Bermuda was first settled in 1609 by shipwrecked English colonists heading for Virginia. Self-governing since 1620, Bermuda is the oldest and most populous of the British overseas territories. Slaves, most of them brought from Africa, came to outnumber the colonists and today 60% of the population are of African descent. The remainder are of mostly-European extraction, as well as the descendants of migrants from Portuguese-settled Atlantic islands, including the Azores and the Cape Verde islands.

Vacationing to the island to escape North American winters first developed in Victorian times. Tourism, with half a million visitors each year, continues to be important to the island's economy, although international business has overtaken it in recent years. Bermuda has also developed into a highly successful offshore financial center. The wealth of Bermuda is largely due to the island's offshore finance industry, more than 13,000 international companies have made the self-governing territory their nominal base. The authorities are cooperating with a global OECD initiative aimed at ending harmful practices that have plagued the offshore

financial industry and given the territory its reputation as a tax haven. In May 2013 Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Anguilla, Montserrat, the Turks & Caicos Islands signed agreements on sharing tax information with Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Spain.

-painted buildings in the capital, Hamilton

Capital – Hamilton. Language – English. Religion – Christian – 75%, Unaffiliated – 19%. Ethnics – Black – 54%, White – 31%, Mixed – 8%. Government – British Overseas Territory with significant autonomy. Constitution from 1968 amended in 1989 and 2003. A referendum on independence from the UK was soundly defeated in 1995. Population – 69,839, rank – 204. Area – 54 sq km, rank – 232. Density – 1,293, rank – 11.



BHUTAN, Kingdom of Bhutan, Druk Yul, in South-Central Asia. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. In 1865, Britain and Bhutan signed the Treaty of Sinchulu, under which Bhutan would receive an annual subsidy in exchange for ceding some border land to British India. Under British influence, a monarchy was set up in 1907, three years later, a treaty was signed whereby the British agreed not to interfere in Bhutanese internal affairs, and Bhutan allowed Britain to direct its foreign affairs. In 1949, a formal Indo-Bhutanese accord returned to Bhutan the areas annexed by the British, formalized the annual subsidies the country received, and defined India's responsibilities in defense and foreign relations. In 2007 India agreed that Bhutan would not be guided by India in its foreign affairs. Elections for seating the country's first parliament were completed in March 2008 and the King ratified the country's first constitution in July 2008. A peaceful turnover of power was made in 2013.

Almost completely cut off for centuries, Bhutan has tried to let in some aspects of the outside world while fiercely guarding its ancient traditions. The Bhutanese name for Bhutan – Druk Yul – means 'Land of the Thunder Dragon'. The country began to open up to outsiders only in the 1970s. Bhutan's ancient Buddhist culture and breathtaking scenery make it a natural tourist attraction. National dress is compulsory. The Bhutanese monarchy has promoted the philosophy of GNH – Gross National Happiness, which strives to achieve a balance between the spiritual and the material. This parameter has become a legitimate one in analyzing a state.

Bhtan is keen to promote a balance between material and spiritual happiness

Capital – Thimphu. Language – Dzongkha. Religion – Buddhist – 75%, Hindu – 23%. Ethnics – Ngalop/Bhote – 50%, Nepalese – 35%, Indigenous – 15%. Government – Constitutional Monarchy, head of state – executive, monarch personally exercises power in concert with other institutions. Population – 733,643, rank – 166. Area – 38,394 sq km, rank – 137. Density – 19, rank – 192.



BIR TAWIL, uninhabited unclaimed territory at the border between Egypt and Sudan, see Terra Nullius.

BOLIVIA, Plurinational State of Bolivia, in Central South America. <u>Link to map. Links</u> to essential data: <u>CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Bolivia, named after independence fighter Simon Bolivar, broke away from Spanish rule in 1825, much of its subsequent history has consisted of a series of nearly 200 coups and countercoups. Democratic civilian rule was established in 1982, but leaders have faced difficult problems of deep-seated poverty, social unrest, and illegal drug production. President Evo Morales was elected president in 2005, the first Indian president, after he ran on a promise th change the country's traditional political class and empower the nation's poor, indigenous majority. Morales faces a very strong opposition to his plans.</u>

Bolivia has a rich history. It was once the centre of the ancient Tiwanaku empire and from the 15th to the early 16th century it was a part of the Inca empire. After the arrival of the conquistadores, Bolivia was part of the Viceroyalty of Peru and it provided Spain with immense wealth in silver. Bolivia is traditionally regarded as a highland country. Although only one-third of its territory lies in the Andes Mountains, most of the nation's largest cities are located there, and for centuries the highlands have attracted the nation's largest amount of mining, commercial and business investment. In the late 20th century, however, the demographic and economic landscape began to change as the eastern lowlands – particularly the department of Santa Cruz – developed rapidly. Bolivian daily life is largely dependent on social class, economic status, and place of residence. Whereas Indian traditions persist throughout the nation, they are more strongly pronounced in rural and working-class areas. Most members of the middle and upper classes, however, tend to aspire toward modern or Western cultural ideas in their choices of music, clothing, entertainment and reading material.

Capital – La Paz – administrative, Sucre – legislative and judiciary. Language – Spanish, Quechua, Aymara, Guarani. Religion – Christian – 94%. Ethnics – Quechua – 30%, Mestizo – 30%, Aymara – 25%, white – 15%. Government – Republic, head of state – executive, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 10,361,486, rank – 82. Area – 1,098,581 sq km, rank – 28. Density – 9.4, rank – 213.



BONAIRE, Boneiru, is an island in the Southern Caribbean Sea off the North coast of Venezuela. It is a special municipality of the Netherlands, but is not part of the European Union with the Netherlands. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia. The name Bonaire is thought to have originally come from the Caquetio word 'Bonay'. The early Spanish and Dutch modified its spelling to Bojnaj and also Bonaire, which means 'Good Air'. Bonaire served in colonial times as a slave market, supplying slaves to the plantation economy of Curacao. The temperature averages 28 degrees C, the fresh and dry easterly trade winds bring less than 500 mm of rain a year. Farming on the arid island provides food only for local consumption, the only export crop, aloes, does not require irrigation. Drinking water is provided by the government desalination plant. The tourist trade is of increasing importance. The colourful flocks of birds, including the brilliant pink flamingos, that congregate over the salt flats are one of the island's many attractions.

Capital – Kralendijk. Language – Dutch, Papiamento. Religion - The religion in Bonaire is mainly Roman Catholic. Religion is an integral part of life of many Bonaire residents, as well as a strong part of the cultural history of Bonaire, and there are quite a number of churches of all types on the Island, there is also an Islamic mosque. Ethnics – most of the population is descended from enslaved Africans, while the remainder are descended from Caribbean Indians and the Spanish and Dutch settlers, in various combinations. Government – Bonaire was part of the Netherland Antilles until the country's dissolution in 2010, when the island became a special municipality within the country of the Netherlands. It is now considered the Caribbean: the islands of Bonaire, Sint Eustasius, and Saba. Population – 17,408. Area – 294 sq km, together with nearly uninhabited Klein Bonaire. Density – 59.



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, Bosna i Hercegovina, in Southern Europe, is a federation of two constituent units: Federation of Bosnia & Herzegovina (capital – Sarajevo), Republika Srpska – the Serb Republic (capital – East Sarajevo), and Brcko District, a self-governing administrative unit. The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is inhabited primarily by Bosniaks and Bosnian Croats, which is why it is sometimes informally referred to as the Bosniak-Croat Federation. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. The land has often felt the influences of stronger regional powers that have vied for control over it, and these influences have helped to create Bosnia and Herzegovina's characteristically rich ethnic and religious mix. Islam, Orthodox Christianity and Roman Catholiticism are all present, with the three faiths corresponding to three major ethnic groups: Bosniacs, Serbs and Croats, respectively. This multiethnic population, as well as the country's historical and geographic postion between Serbia and Croatia, has long made Bosnia and Herzegovina vulnerable to nationalist territorial aspirations and to the war that ensued when it declared independence.

Ruled by the Ottoman Empire from the 15th century, the region came under the control of Austria-Hungary in 1878 and subsequently played a key role in the outbreak of Worl War I. In 1918 it was incorporated into the newly created Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes,

where it had no formal status of its own. After World War II it became a constituent republic of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Following the disintegration of that state in 1991, the majority of Bosnia and Herzegovina voted for independence in a 1992 referendum. Much of the country's Serb population, however, opposed independence and boycotted the referendum. War soon consumed the region, as ethnic nationalists within the country, with the support of Serbia and Croatia, tried to take control of territories they claimed as their own. Horrific ethnic cleansing campaigns between 1992 and the end of 1995 killed thousands and violently displaced more than two million people in much of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In March 1994, Bosniaks and Croats reduced the number of warring factions from three to two by signing an agreement creating a joint Bosniak/Croat Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. International intervention into the Bosniak conflict led finally to a peace agreement, the Dayton Accords, in late 1995. It established the country as a fragile, highly decentralized, and ethnically divided state in which an international civilian representative remains authorized to impose legislation and to remove domestic officials in order to protect peace, in spite of the differences. The country composes of two entities equal in size: the Bosnian Croat Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Bosnian Serb-led Republika Srpska. Those entities are responsible for overseeing most government functions.

Capital – Sarajevo. Language – Bosnian, Serbian, Croatian. Religion – Islam – 45%, Serbian Orthodoxy – 36%, Catholicism – 15%. Ethnics – Bosniak – 48%, Serb – 37%, Croat – 14%. Population–3,871,643, rank–129. Area–51,197 sq km, rank – 129. Density – 76, rank – 129.

Government – The government system of Bosnia and Herzegovina is probably the most complex in the world – it has several levels of political structuring, according to the Dayton accord. The most important of these levels is the division of the country into two entities: Republika Srpska and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina covers 51% of Bosnia and Herzegovina's total area, while Republika Srpska covers 49%. The entities, based largely on the territories held by the two warring sides at the time, were formally established by the Dayton peace agreement in 1995 because of the tremendous changes in Bosnia and Herzegovina's ethnic structure. Since 1996 the power of the entities relative to the State government has decreased significantly. Nonetheless, entities still have numerous powers to themselves. The Brčko District in the north of the country was created in 2000 out of land from both entities. It officially belongs to both, but is governed by neither, and functions under a decentralized system of local government. For election purposes, Brčko District voters can choose to participate in either the Federation or Republika Srpska elections. The Brčko District has been praised for maintaining a multiethnic population and a level of prosperity significantly above the national average.

The third level of Bosnia and Herzegovina's political subdivision is manifested in cantons. They are unique to the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina entity, which consists of ten of them. All of them have their own cantonal government, which is under the law of the Federation as a whole. Some cantons are ethnically mixed and have special laws implemented to ensure the equality of all constituent people. The fourth level of political division in Bosnia and Herzegovina is the municipalities. The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is divided in 74 municipalities, and Republika Srpska in 63. Municipalities also have their own local government, and are typically based on the most significant city or place in their territory. As such, many municipalities have a long tradition and history with their present boundaries. Some others, however, were only created following the recent war after traditional municipalities were split by the Inter-Entity Boundary Line. Each canton in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina consists of several municipalities, which are divided into local communities. Besides entities, cantons, and municipalities, Bosnia and Herzegovina also has

four "official" cities. These are: Banja Luka, Mostar, Sarajevo, and East Sarajevo. The territory and government of the cities of Banja Luka and Mostar corresponds to the municipalities of the same name, while the cities of Sarajevo and East Sarajevo officially consist of several municipalities. Cities have their own city government whose power is in between that of the municipalities and cantons (or the entity, in the case of Republika Srpska).

As a result of the Dayton Accords, the civilian peace implementation is supervised by the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina selected by the Peace Implementation Council. The High Representative has many governmental and legislative powers, including the dismissal of elected and non-elected officials. More recently, several central institutions have been established (such as defense ministry, security ministry, state court, indirect taxation service and so on) in the process of transferring part of the jurisdiction from the entities to the state. The representation of the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina is by elites who represent the country's three major groups, with each having a guaranteed share of power. The Chair of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina rotates among three members (Bosniak, Serb, Croat), each elected as the Chair for an eight-month term within their four-year term as a member. The three members of the Presidency are elected directly by the people with Federation voters voting for the Bosniak and the Croat, and the Republika Srpska voters for the Serb. The Chair of the Council of Ministers is nominated by the Presidency and approved by the House of Representatives. He or she is then responsible for appointing a Foreign Minister, Minister of Foreign Trade, and others as appropriate.

The Parliamentary Assembly is the lawmaking body in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It consists of two houses: the House of Peoples and the House of Representatives. The House of Peoples has 15 delegates chosen by parliaments of the entities, two-thirds of which come from the Federation (5 Croat and 5 Bosniaks) and one-third from the Republika Srpska (5 Serbs). The House of Representatives is composed of 42 Members elected by the people under a form of proportional representation (PR), two-thirds elected from the Federation and one-third elected from the Republika Srpska. The Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the supreme, final arbiter of legal matters. It is composed of nine members: four members are selected by the House of Representatives of the Federation, two by the Assembly of the Republika Srpska, and three by the President of the European Court of Human Rights after consultation with the Presidency, but cannot be Bosnian citizens. However, the highest political authority in the country is the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the chief executive officer for the international civilian presence in the country. Since 1995, the High Representative has been able to bypass the elected parliamentary assembly, and since 1997 has been able to remove elected officials. The methods selected by the High Representative have been criticized as undemocratic. International supervision is to end when the country is deemed politically and democratically stable and self-sustaining.

Flag – the Flag of the Federation of Bosnia - Herzegovina has been deemed unconstitutional by the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The flag of the Republika Srpska was deemed to be in line with the constitution (see Republika Srpska). The following flag is the flag of Bosnia and Herzegovina (not to be confused with the flag of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina which ceased to exist in 1995 and was replaced by Bosnia & Herzegovina).



BOTSWANA, Republic of Botswana, formerly known as Bechuanaland, in Southern Africa. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. Botswana's origins as a state go back to the late 1800s, when colonial power Britain formed the protectorate of Bechuanaland to halt Boer encroachment from the neighbouring Transvaal or German expansion from South West Africa. In 1966 Bechuanaland became independent as Botswana. The country was a haven for refugees and anti-apartheid activists from South Africa in the 1970s and 1980s, but had to tread carefully because of its economic dependence on the white-ruled neighbour, and because of South Africa's military might. More recently, the country has seen an influx of illegal immigrants seeking respite from the economic crisis in neighbouring Zimbabwe.

More than four decades of uninterrupted civilian leadership, progressive social policies and significant capital investment have created one of the most stable economies in Africa. Botswana is also one of the most ethical countries in the world while its neighbour Zimbabwe is one of the most corrupt countries in the world. Botswana is Africa's longest continuous multi-party democracy, is relatively free of corruption and has a good human rights record. It is also the world's largest producer of diamonds and the trade has transformed it into a middle-income nation. Botswana protects some of Africa's largest areas of wilderness. Tourism is a growing sector due to the country's conservation practices and extensive nature preserves. It is sparsely populated, because it is so dry. The Kalahari desert, home to a dwindling band of bushman hunter-gatherers, makes up much of the territory and most areas are too arid to sustain any agriculture other than cattle. Botswana has one of the world's highest known rates of HIV/AIDS infection (more than one third of adults), but also one of Africa's most progressive and comprehensive programs for dealing with the disease.

Capital – Gaborone. Language – English, Tswana (national). Religion – Christian – 72%, Unaffiliated – 21%, Folk religion – 6%. Ethnics – Tswana – 79%, Kalanga – 11%. Government – Republic, head of state – executive, presidency and ministry are subject to parliamentary confidence. The ruling party has won all 10 elections since independence in 1966. Population: 2,155,784, rank: 145. Area: 581,730 sq km, rank: 48. Density: 4, rank: 221.

37 VARIABLE PARAMETERS – SEE METHODOLOGY OF SEARCHING IN 60+ TABLES IN AUSTRALIA.

VARIABLE PARAMETERS FROM CIA WORLD FACTBOOK - PEOPLE & SOCIETY, ECONOMIC PARAMETERS:

• Median age:

total: 23.1 years male: 23.1 years

female: 23 years (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 168

Population growth rate:

```
1.21% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 99
Birth rate:
20.96 births/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 77
Death rate:
13.39 deaths/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 15
Net migration rate:
4.56 migrant(s)/1,000 population
note: there is an increasing flow of Zimbabweans into South Africa and Botswana in search of better
economic opportunities (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 28
Urbanization:
urban population: 57.4% of total population (2015)
rate of urbanization: 1.29% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)
Mother's mean age at first birth:
19 (2007 est.)
Maternal mortality rate:
129 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 61
Infant mortality rate:
total: 8.93 deaths/1,000 live births
male: 9.26 deaths/1,000 live births
female: 8.59 deaths/1,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 145
Life expectancy at birth:
total population: 54.18 years
male: 55.97 years
female: 52.33 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 212
Total fertility rate:
2.33 children born/woman (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 90
Contraceptive prevalence rate:
52.8%
note: percent of women aged 12-49 (2007/08)
Health expenditures:
5.4% of GDP (2013)
country comparison to the world: 132
Physicians density:
0.4 physicians/1,000 population (2009)
Hospital bed density:
1.8 beds/1,000 population (2010)
Drinking water source:
improved:
urban: 99.2% of population
rural: 92.3% of population
total: 96.2% of population
unimproved:
urban: 0.8% of population
rural: 7.7% of population
total: 3.8% of population (2015 est.)
Sanitation facility access:
improved:
urban: 78.5% of population
rural: 43.1% of population
total: 63.4% of population
unimproved:
urban: 21.5% of population
rural: 56.9% of population
total: 36.6% of population (2015 est.)
HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:
25.16% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 2
HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:
392,400 (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 19
HIV/AIDS - deaths:
5,100 (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 30
```

Major infectious diseases: degree of risk: high

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food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever
vectorborne disease: malaria (2013)
Obesity - adult prevalence rate:
19.5% (2014)
country comparison to the world: 128
Children under the age of 5 years underweight:
11.2% (2008)
country comparison to the world: 66
Education expenditures:
9.5% of GDP (2009)
country comparison to the world: 5
Literacy:
definition: age 15 and over can read and write
total population: 88.5%
male: 88%
female: 88.9% (2015 est.)
School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):
total: 12 years
male: NA
female: NA (2008)
Child labor - children ages 5-14:
total number: 45,036
percentage: 9%
note: data represents children ages 7-17 (2006 est.)
Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:
total: 36%
male: 29.6%
female: 43.5% (2010 est.)
GDP (purchasing power parity):
$37.05 billion (2015 est.)
$36.22 billion (2014 est.)
$34.2 billion (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 117
GDP (official exchange rate):
$13.09 billion (2015 est.)
GDP - real growth rate:
2.3% (2015 est.)
4.4% (2014 est.)
5.9% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 131
GDP - per capita (PPP):
$17,700 (2015 est.)
$17,200 (2014 est.)
$16,500 (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 96
Gross national saving:
35.6% of GDP (2015 est.)
47.6% of GDP (2014 est.)
42.3% of GDP (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 5
GDP - composition, by end use:
household consumption: 48.2%
government consumption: 16.8%
investment in fixed capital: 31%
investment in inventories: -1.6%
exports of goods and services: 60.7%
imports of goods and services: -55.1% (2015 est.)
GDP - composition, by sector of origin:
agriculture: 1.8%
industry: 32.9%
services: 65.3% (2015 est.)
Agriculture - products:
livestock, sorghum, maize, millet, beans, sunflowers, groundnuts
Industries:
diamonds, copper, nickel, salt, soda ash, potash, coal, iron ore, silver; livestock processing; textiles
Industrial production growth rate:
-1.2% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 175
Labor force:
1.155 million (2015 est.)
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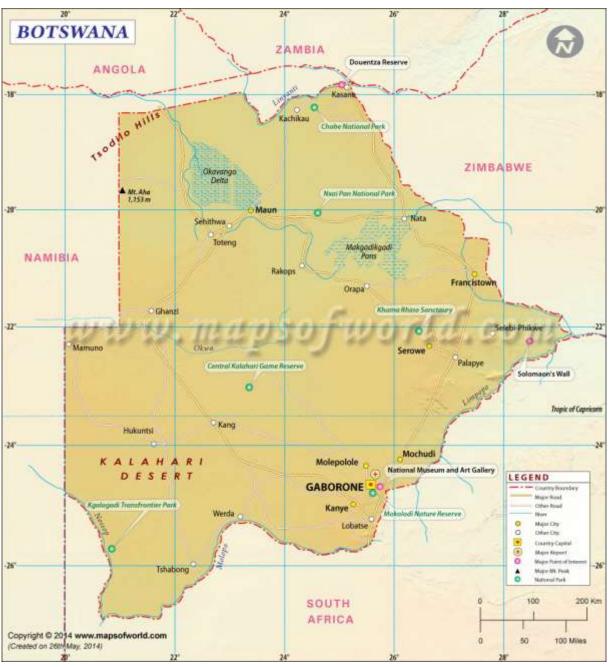
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country comparison to the world: 140
Labor force - by occupation:
agriculture: NA%
industry: NA%
services: NA%
Unemployment rate:
17.8% (2009 est.)
7.5% (2007 est.)
country comparison to the world: 164
Population below poverty line:
30.3% (2003 est.)
Household income or consumption by percentage share:
lowest 10%: NA%
highest 10%: NA%
Distribution of family income - Gini index:
63 (1993)
country comparison to the world: 2
Budget:
revenues: $5.078 billion
expenditures: $5.55 billion (2015 est.)
Taxes and other revenues:
38.8% of GDP (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 44
Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):
-3.6% of GDP (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 133
Public debt:
17% of GDP (2015 est.)
15.5% of GDP (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 159
Fiscal year:
1 April - 31 March
Inflation rate (consumer prices):
4% (2015 est.)
3.9% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 157
Central bank discount rate:
7.5% (31 December 2014)
7.5% (31 December 2013)
country comparison to the world: 44
Commercial bank prime lending rate:
7.5% (31 December 2015 est.)
9% (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 114
Market value of publicly traded shares:
$4.588 billion (31 December 2012 est.)
$4.107 billion (31 December 2011)
$4.076 billion (31 December 2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 87
Current account balance:
$363 million (2015 est.)
$2.45 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 45
Exports:
$6.66 billion (2015 est.)
$8.516 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 102
Exports - commodities:
diamonds, copper, nickel, soda ash, meat, textiles
Imports:
$7.331 billion (2015 est.)
$7.989 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 111
Imports - commodities:
foodstuffs, machinery, electrical goods, transport equipment, textiles, fuel and petroleum products,
wood and paper products, metal and metal products
Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:
$7.99 billion (31 December 2015 est.)
$8.323 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 80
Debt - external:
$2.256 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
$2.43 billion (31 December 2013 est.)
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country comparison to the world: $\underline{149}$

Exchange rates:

pulas (BWP) per US dollar -10.04 (2015 est.) 8.9761 (2014 est.) 8.9761 (2013 est.) 7.62 (2012 est.) 6.8382 (2011 est.)





BOUVET ISLAND, is an uninhabitated subantarctic volcanic island and dependency of Norway, located in the South Atlantic Ocean, and is the most remote island in the world, 2200 km. south of South Africa and 1700 km. north of the Queen Maud Land, Antarctica. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, List/Countries, Countries/World. Bouvet island is covered by glaciers making it difficult to approach. It was discovered in 1739 by a French naval officer after whom it is named. No claim was made until 1825, when the British flag was raised. In 1928, the UK waived its claim in favor of Norway, which had occupied the island the previous year. In 1971, Norway designated Bouvet Island and the adjacent territorial waters a nature reserve. Since 1977, Norway has run an automated meteorological station and studied foraging strategies and distribution of fur seals and penguins on the island. The new research station in Bouvet Island can hold six people for periods up to four months. Down the years the region has attracted a number of whale and seal hunting ships. The island does not attract regular tourists, but it provides a tempting challenge for the travelers interested in extreme adventures. Area – 49 sq km.



BRAZIL, Federative Republic of Brazil, Brasil, in Central Eastern South America, is a federation of 26 states and 1 federal district. Brazil has a claimed territory in Antarctica. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Brazil was inhabited by indigenous people since at least 8000 years ago. The Portuguese were the first Europeans to arrive in Brazil, discovered by Pedro Alavares Cabral in April of 1500, who claimed the territory for the Kingdom of Portugal. In the mid-sixteenth century, Brazil was a major producer and exporter of sugar, leading to the import of slaves from Africa to help with the labor of the sugar industry.

During the Peninsular War in 1808, the Portuguese government fled Napoleon's invasion by moving its operations to its Brazil colony, setting up the capital in Rio de Janeiro, which lasted for thirteen years. When King Joao VI returned to Portugal after these years, he left his son Pedro I to govern Brazil. Pedro I led Brazil in a war of independence from Portugal in 1821, declaring independence and becoming Emperor Pedro I in 1822. The monarch was overthrown in 1889, and the government was reestablished as a federal republic, largely controlled by coffee interests. By 1902, Brazil produced 65% of the world's coffee. Throughout the following decades, Brazil was plagued by revolts and political instability, with a series of leaders, a period of military rule, and eventually elected presidents. Brazil's economy suffered through many of these regimes, with high inflation. The country began the process of redemocratization in the 1980s, and Brazil's political scene has been fairly stable.

Brazil is the largest country in South America and the fifth largest country in the world. Though mostly flat, Brazil has mountain ranges and highlands, as well as coastal regions. Many rivers travel Brazil, which has mostly tropical climates, such as the Amazon, the second largest river in the world. About 60% of the Amazon Rainforest is within Brazil, which has suffered from deforestation and drought in recent years. Brazil is also the most populated country in South America. It continues to pursue industrial and agricultural growth and development of its interior. Exploiting vast natural resources and a large labor pool, Brazil is

today South America's leading economic power and a regional leader, one of the first in the area to begin an economic recovery. Pressing problems include income inequality, crime, inflation, rising unemployment and corruption, although it is only moderately corrupted.

Capital – Brasilia. Language – Portuguese, in some regions – German, Pomeranian, Hunsruckisch, Talian, Nheengatu, Baniwa, Tucano, Guarani. Religion – Christian – 89%, Unaffiliated – 8%, Folk religion – 3%. Ethnics – White – 48%, Mulatto (mixed white and black) – 43%, Black – 7%, Asian – 1%, Indigenous – 0.4%. About five million people from over 60 countries migrated to Brazil between 1808 and 1972, most of them of Portuguese, Italian, Spanish, German, Ukrainian, Polish, Jewish, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, and Arab origin. Government – Federal presidential constitutional republic, head of state – executive, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 202,656,788, rank – 6. Area – 8,514,877 sq km, rank – 5. Density – 24, rank – 184.

37 VARIABLE PARAMETERS – SEE METHODOLOGY OF SEARCHING IN 60+ TABLES IN AUSTRALIA.

VARIABLE PARAMETERS FROM CIA WORLD FACTBOOK - PEOPLE & SOCIETY, ECONOMIC PARAMETERS:

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Median age:
total: 31.1 years
male: 30.3 years
female: 31.9 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 104
Population growth rate:
0.77% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 142
Birth rate:
14.46 births/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 136
Death rate:
6.58 deaths/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: <u>144</u>
Net migration rate:
-0.14 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 116
Urbanization:
urban population: 85.7% of total population (2015)
rate of urbanization: 1.17% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)
Maternal mortality rate:
44 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 103
Infant mortality rate:
total: 18.6 deaths/1,000 live births
male: 21.8 deaths/1,000 live births
female: 15.23 deaths/1,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 95
Life expectancy at birth:
total population: 73.53 years
male: 69.99 years
female: 77.25 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 129
Total fertility rate:
1.77 children born/woman (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 158
Contraceptive prevalence rate:
80.3% (2006)
Health expenditures:
9.7% of GDP (2013)
country comparison to the world: 31
Physicians density:
1.89 physicians/1,000 population (2013)
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Hospital bed density:
2.3 beds/1,000 population (2012)
Drinking water source:
improved:
urban: 100% of population
rural: 87% of population
total: 98.1% of population
unimproved:
urban: 0% of population
rural: 13% of population
total: 1.9% of population (2015 est.)
Sanitation facility access:
improved:
urban: 88% of population
rural: 51.5% of population
total: 82.8% of population
unimproved:
urban: 12% of population
rural: 48.5% of population
total: 17.2% of population (2015 est.)
HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:
0.55% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 62
HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:
NA 726,000 (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 13
HIV/AIDS - deaths:
15,800 (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 17
Major infectious diseases:
degree of risk: very high
food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhea and hepatitis A
vectorborne diseases: dengue fever and malaria
water contact disease: schistosomiasis
Obesity - adult prevalence rate:
20.1% (2014)
country comparison to the world: 102
Children under the age of 5 years underweight:
2.2% (2007)
country comparison to the world: 121
Education expenditures: 5.8% of GDP (2010)
country comparison to the world: 49
Literacy:
definition: age 15 and over can read and write
total population: 92.6%
male: 92.2%
female: 92.9% (2015 est.)
School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):
total: 14 years
male: 14 years
female: 15 years (2005)
Child labor - children ages 5-14:
total number: 959,942
percentage: 3%
note: data represents children ages 5-13 (2009 est.)
Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:
total: 15%
male: 12.3%
female: 18.7% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 76
GDP (purchasing power parity):
$3.166 trillion (2015 est.)
$3.265 trillion (2014 est.)
$3.26 trillion (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 8
GDP (official exchange rate):
$1.8 trillion (2015 est.)
GDP - real growth rate:
-3% (2015 est.)
0.1% (2014 est.)
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2.7% (2013 est.)

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country comparison to the world: 211
GDP - per capita (PPP):
$15,800 (2015 est.)
$15,800 (2014 est.)
$15,700 (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 101
Gross national saving:
14% of GDP (2015 est.)
15.6% of GDP (2014 est.)
17.2% of GDP (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 125
GDP - composition, by end use:
household consumption: 63.2%
government consumption: 20.7%
investment in fixed capital: 17.6%
investment in inventories: 0%
exports of goods and services: 13.9%
imports of goods and services: -15.4% (2015 est.)
GDP - composition, by sector of origin:
agriculture: 5.9%
industry: 22.2%
services: 71.9%
(2015 est.)
Agriculture - products:
coffee, soybeans, wheat, rice, corn, sugarcane, cocoa, citrus; beef
Industries:
textiles, shoes, chemicals, cement, lumber, iron ore, tin, steel, aircraft, motor vehicles and parts, other
machinery and equipment
Industrial production growth rate:
-5% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 190
Labor force:
109.2 million (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 6
Labor force - by occupation:
agriculture: 15.7%
industry: 13.3%
services: 71%
(2011 est.)
Unemployment rate:
6.4% (2015 est.)
4.8% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 73
Population below poverty line:
21.4%
note: approximately 4% of the population are below the "extreme" poverty line (2009 est.)
Household income or consumption by percentage share:
lowest 10%: 0.8%
highest 10%: 42.9% (2009 est.)
Distribution of family income - Gini index:
51.9 (2012)
55.3 (2001)
country comparison to the world: 17
Budget:
revenues: $631 billion
expenditures: $641.2 billion (2015 est.)
Taxes and other revenues:
35.1% of GDP (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 57
Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):
-0.6% of GDP (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 48
Public debt:
67.3% of GDP (2015 est.)
58.9% of GDP (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 50
Fiscal year:
calendar year
Inflation rate (consumer prices):
10.6% (2015 est.)
6.3% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 210
```

Central bank discount rate: 10% (31 December 2013) 11% (31 December 2011) country comparison to the world: 23 Commercial bank prime lending rate: 42.7% (31 December 2015 est.) 32.01% (31 December 2014 est.) country comparison to the world: 2 Market value of publicly traded shares: \$1.23 trillion (31 December 2012 est.) \$1.229 trillion (31 December 2011) \$1.546 trillion (31 December 2010 est.) country comparison to the world: 13 **Current account balance:** -\$72.8 billion (2015 est.) -\$103.6 billion (2014 est.) country comparison to the world: 194 **Exports:** \$189.1 billion (2015 est.) \$225.1 billion (2014 est.) country comparison to the world: 26 **Exports - commodities:** transport equipment, iron ore, soybeans, footwear, coffee, automobiles **Exports - partners:** China 19.1%, US 12.6%, Argentina 6.8%, Netherlands 5.3% (2014) Imports: \$174.2 billion (2015 est.) \$229.2 billion (2014 est.) country comparison to the world: 27 Imports - commodities: machinery, electrical and transport equipment, chemical products, oil, automotive parts, electronics **Imports - partners:** China 18.1%, US 15.3%, Germany 6%, Argentina 6%, Nigeria 4.2% (2014) Reserves of foreign exchange and gold: \$359.4 billion (31 December 2015 est.) \$363.6 billion (31 December 2014 est.) country comparison to the world: 10 Debt - external: \$712.5 billion (31 December 2014 est.) \$482.8 billion (31 December 2013 est.) country comparison to the world: 20Stock of direct foreign investment - at home: \$820.5 billion (31 December 2015 est.) \$755.5 billion (31 December 2014 est.) country comparison to the world: 13 Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad: \$333.1 billion (31 December 2015 est.) \$313.1 billion (31 December 2014 est.) country comparison to the world: 21 **Exchange rates:** reals (BRL) per US dollar -3.419 (2015 est.)



2.3535 (2014 est.) 2.3535 (2013 est.) 1.95 (2012 est.)



BRAZILIAN ANTARCTICA, see Antarctica.

BRCKO DISTRICT, in northeastern Bosnia and Herzegovina, is a neutral, self-governing administrative unit, under the sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is formally part of the Republika Srpska and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Link to map. Links to essential data: Wikipedia. The Brčko District in the north of the country was created in 2000 out of land from both entities. It officially belongs to both, but is governed by neither, and functions under a decentralized system of local government. For election purposes, Brčko District voters can choose to participate in either the Federation or Republika Srpska elections. The Brčko District has been praised for maintaining a multiethnic population and a level of prosperity significantly above the national average. The seat of the district is the city of Brcko. Languages – Bosnian, Serbian, Croatian. Ethnics (1991) – Bosniaks – 44%, Croats – 25%, Serbs – 21%. Government – Brcko District is a novel political experiment. In the impressive Habsburg-era city hall sits a municipal assembly with powers that more closely resemble a sovereign state. Brčko is almost entirely self-governing. As well as its own education system, the city has free-standing courts and separate health and police services. It is, in essence, a free city in Europe. Population - 93,028. Area – 493 sq km. Density – 189.

Flag – Article 3 of the District Statutes says: There shall be no flag and coat of arms for the Brcko District other than the flag and coat of arms of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY, see Antarctica.

BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY, Chagos Islands, a UK overseas territory in the Indian Ocean located halfway between Indonesia and Africa, it is not part of the European Union with the UK. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Formerly administered as a part of the British Crown Colony of Mauritius, the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) was established as an overseas territory of the UK in 1965. Subsequently, BIOT has consisted only of the six main island groups comprising the Chagos Archipelago. The largest and most southerly of the islands, Diego Garcia, contains a joint UK-US naval support facility. All of the remaining islands are uninhabited. According to the records, the earlier residents of the BIOT islands were Chagossians, who had settled in the islands from Madagascar and Mozambique. In order to establish the military facilities the BIOT were depopulated and the natives were made to relocate to nearby island countries of Seychelles and Mauritius between 1967 and 1973. Today the islands are directly administered from London and access to them is highly restricted. Spread across 54,400 sq km in the Indian Ocean, of which land area is only 60 sq km, near the equator, the 55 islands of BIOT are part of a much larger archipelago with over 2,300 islands. The islands under the Territory are within six coral atolls formed at the peaks of submerged volcanic mountains of the Chagos-Laccadive Ridge. The Islands here include Eagle, Nelsons, Salomon and Egmont Islands, Peros Banhos atoll, Danger Island, and the largest - Diego Garcia. Most of the islands have undisturbed equatorial forest vegetation and are part of the Chagos Marine Protected Area.

Capital – Diego Garcia. Language – English. Population – The total population was reported at 4,000 in 2006, of whom 2,200 were American military personnel or contractors, 1,400 were Filipino contract workers, 300 were Mauritian contract workers, and 100 were members of the British Armed Forces. There are no more native population in the island. Area – 60 sq km.



BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS – see Virgin Islands, British

BRUNEI, Brunei Darussalam, Negara Brunei Darussalam, in Southeast Asia. Brunei is an independent Islamic sultanate on the northern coast of the island of Borneo. <u>Link to map.</u> Links to essential data: <u>CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Data, Da</u>

Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. The Sultanate of Brunei's influence peaked between the 15th and 17th centuries when its control extended over coastal areas of northwest Borneo and the southern Philippines. Brunei subsequently entered a period of decline brought on by internal strife over royal succession, colonial expansion of European powers, and piracy. In 1888, Brunei became a British protectorate, independence was achieved in 1984. The same family has ruled Brunei for over six centuries. Brunei benefits from extensive petroleum and natural gas fields, the source of one of the highest GDP per capita in Asia. Brunei must rely on imports for nearly all its manufactured goods and most of its food. In an effort to ensure the country's economic stability, the government has since the late 20th century striven to diversify the economy by developing other sectors, such as agriculture, fisheries and tourism.

Capital – Bandar Seri Begawan. Language – Malay, English. Religion – Muslim – 75%, Christian – 9%, Buddhist – 9%, Folk religion – 6%. Ethnics – Malay – 66%, Chinese – 10%. Government – Absolute monarchy, head of state – executive, all authority vested in absolute monarch. Population – 422,675, rank – 175. Area – 5,765 sq km, rank – 173. Density – 73, rank – 123.



BULGARIA, Republic of Bulgaria, Balgarija, in Eastern Europe. <u>Link to map</u>. Links to essential data: <u>CIA Factbook</u>, <u>Enc. Britannica</u>, <u>Wikipedia</u>, <u>Nations Online</u>, <u>UN Data</u>, <u>BBC</u>, <u>World Atlas</u>, <u>Countries/World</u>, <u>List/Countries</u>, <u>Index Mundi</u>, <u>Oper/World</u>, <u>Internet/Stats</u>. Member of the UN, EU. The history of Bulgaria stretches back to prehistoric times, though its modern people have descended from the Thracian, Slav, and Bulgar ethnic groups. The region of Bulgaria became part of the Roman Empire and lated the Byzantine Empire. The Slavs arrived in the region from Ukraine aroung the 6th century and settled, becoming a powerful population. In the 7th century, the Central Asian Turkic Bulgar people arrived, merged with the local Slavic inhabitants and formed the First Bulgarian Empire around 681.

The empire grew in strength and size over the next centuries, and held off Arab attempts to conquer the region. The Byzantine forces succeeded in conquering the Bulgarian capital in 971, with its Emperor Basil II defeating the Bulgarian army in 1014. His death led to Bulgarian revolts, and Bulgaria was soon reestablished. This second Bulgarian Empire saw conflict with the Byzantine Empire, Hungarian Empire and the Mongols. Internal conflict led to the split of the country among three tsars, which weakened Bulgarian power. By the end of the 14th century the country was overrun by the Ottoman Turks. Northern Bulgaria attained autonomy in 1878 and all of Bulgaria became independent from the Ottoman Empire in 1908.

In the years following independence, Bulgaria increasingly militarised and was often referred to as the Balkan Prussia. But, having fought on the losing side in both World Wars, Bulgaria fell within the Soviet sphere of influence and became a People's Republic in 1946. Communist domination ended in 1990, when Bulgaria held its first multiparty election and moved toward a political democracy and a market economy while combating inflation, unemployment, corruption and crime. The country joined NATO in 2004 and the EU in 2007.

Capital – Sofia. Language – Bulgarian. Religion – Christian – 82%, Muslim – 14%. Ethnics – Bulgarian – 77%, Turkish – 8%, Roma – 4%. Government – Republic, head of state – ceremonial, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 6,924,716, rank – 103. Area – 110,879 sq km, rank – 105. Density – 62, rank – 143.



BURKINA FASO, formerly known as Haute-Volta, in West Africa. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Burkina Faso, a landlocked country, occupies an extensive plateau and its geography is characterized by a savanna that is grassy in the north and gradually gives way to sparse forests in the south. Before the conquest of the country by the French during the late 19th century it was ruled by various ethnic groups including the Mossi kingdoms. It gained independence in 1960 - the name Burkina Faso, which means "Land of Incorruptible People" was adopted in 1984. According to Transparency International's survey Burkina Faso, in spite of its name, is ranked 85 (1 is the most ethical - Denmark) and is a corrupt country with a score of 38 out of 100, like India and Jamaica. Yet, it is one of the least corrupt African countries, and most of the African countries are much more corrupt. Since independence it has been ruled primarily by the military and has experienced several coups. A new constitution was promulgated in 1991, and the country's first multiparty presidential elections were held soon after. Yet, political freedoms are severely restricted. Burkina Faso's high population growth and limited natural resources result in poor economic prospects.

Capital – Ouagadougou. Language – French, and national – Fula, Jula, More. Religion – Muslim – 62%, Christian – 22%, Folk religion – 15%. Ethnics – Mossi – over 40%, Fulani – 10%, Lobi – 7%, Bobo – 7%, Mande – 7%, Senufo - 5%, Gurunsi – 5%, Gurma – 5%, Tuareg – 3%. Government – today it is a semi-presidential republic. Blaise Compaore was the most recent president and ruled the country from 1987 until he was ousted from power by the popular youth upheaval of October 2014. The parliament consists of one chamber known as the National Assembly which has 111 seats with members elected to serve five-year terms. Population – 18,365,123, rank – 60. Area – 274,200 sq km, rank – 75. Density – 67, rank – 141.



BURMA – see Myanmar.

BURUNDI, Republic of Burundi, in Eastern Africa, bordering Lake Tanganyika. <u>Link to map</u>. Links to essential data: <u>CIA Factbook</u>, <u>Enc. Britannica</u>, <u>Wikipedia</u>, <u>Nations Online</u>, <u>UN</u>

Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Burundi has a very long history, with legends of its formation going back to the Kingdom of Burundy's ruler Cambarantama. Burundi's history is closely tied with neighboring Rwanda, from which it historically annexed some of its land. With the arrival of the Europeans in the mid-1800s, Burundi was colonized and was controlled by German East Africa. After Worl War I, that political entity was transferred to Belgium, becoming Ruanda-Urundi, along with Rwanda. Beginning in 1959, Burundi began its fight for independence from both ruling Belgium and Rwanda, and after much conflict, Burundi gained independence in 1962. The new nation suffered internal conflict, with revolts and even genocides. Burundi's first democratically elected president was assassinated in October 1993 after only 100 days in office, triggering widespread ethnic violence between Hutu and Tutsi factions. More than 200,000 Burundians perished during the conflict that spanned almost a dozen years. Hundreds of thousands of Burundians wer internally displaced or became refugees in neighboring countries. An internationally brokered power-sharing agreement between the Tutsi-dominated government and the Hutu rebels in 2003 paved the way for a transition process that integrated defense forces, established a new constitution in 2005, and elected a majority Hutu government in 2005, as the Hutus are the vast majority. Since 2006, Burundi has been working toward reconstruction, reform and keeping the peace.

Capital – Bujumbara. Language – French, Kirundi. Religion – Christian – 92%, Folk religion – 6%, Muslim – 3%. Ethnics – Hutu (Bantu) – 85%, Tutsi (Hamitic) – 14%. Government – Republic, head of state – executive, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 10,395,931, rank – 86. Area – 27,830 sq km, rank – 147. Density – 374, rank – 31.



CABO VERDE, see Cape Verde.

CAMBODIA, Kingdom of Cambodia, Kampuchea, in South-East Asia. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Most Cambodians consider themselves to be Khmers, descendants of the Angkor Empire. For 2,000 years Cambodia's civilization absorbed influences from China and India and, in turn, transferred them to other Southeast Asian civilizations. From the Hindu-Buddhist kingdoms of Funan and Chenla (1st to 8th century) through the classical age of the Angkor period (9th to 15th century), it held sway over territories that are now part of Thailand, Vietnam and Laos. The Khmer (Cambodian) empire reached its apex in the 12th century, a time marked by the construction of the massive temple complexes known as Angkor Wat and Bayon and the imperial capital of Angkor Thom. Following 400 years of decline, Cambodia became a French colony and during the 20th century experienced the turmoil of war, occupation by the Japanese, postwar independence, and political instability.

Between 1975 and 1979 the country was devastated by the reign of the Khmer Rouge, a rural communist guerilla movement. They captured Phnom Penh and evacuated all cities and towns. During the Khmer Rouge's rule, at least 1.5 million Cambodians were killed or died

from execution, forced hardships, or starvation, a monumental tragedy from which the country still suffers. A December 1978 Vietnamese invasion drove the Khmer Rouge into the countryside, began a 10-year Vietnamese occupation, and touched off 13 years of civil war.

The 1991 Paris Peace Accords mandated democratic elections and a ceasefire, which was not fully respected by the Khmer Rouge. A second round of national elections in 1998 led to the formation of a coalition government and renewed political stability. The remaining elements of the Khmer Rouge surrendered in early 1999. Prince Norodom Sihamoni was elected in 2004. The Cambodian economy has steadily improved, and the country seems to be living by the words of the Cambodian proverb: "Fear not the future, weep not for the past".

Capital – Phnom Penh. Language – Khmer. Religion – Buddhist – 97%, Muslim – 2%, Christian and others: 1%. Ethnics – Khmer – 90%, Vietnamese – 5%. Government – Constitutional monarchy, head of state – ceremonial, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 15,458,332, rank – 69. Area – 181,035 sq km, rank – 90. Density – 85, rank – 116.



CAMEROON, Republic of Cameroon, in Central Africa. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. Cameroon, country lying at the junction of western and central Africa, has an ethnically diverse population and is among the most urban in western Aftica. The country's name is derived from Rio dos Camaroes – River of Prawns – the name given to the Wouri River estuary by Portuguese explorers of the 15th and 16th centuries. French Cameroon became independent in 1960, the following year the southern portion of neighboring British Cameroon voted to merge with the new country to form the Federal Republic of Cameroon. In 1972, a new constitution replaced the federation with a unitary sate, the United Republic of Cameroon. The country has generally enjoyed stability, which has enabled the development of agriculture, roads and railways, as well as the petroleum industry. Despite slow movement toward democratic reform, political power remained firmly in the hands of President Biya.

Capital – Yaounde. Language – French, English. Religion – Christian – 70%, Muslim – 18%. Ethnics – Cameroons Highlanders – 31%, Equatorial Bantu – 19%, Kirdi – 11%, Fulani – 10%, Northwestern Bantu – 8%, Eastern Nigritic – 7%. Government – Republic, head of state – executive, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 23,130,708, rank – 54. Area – 475,440 sq km, rank – 54. Density – 49, rank – 157.



CANADA, in North North America. Canada is a federation of 10 provinces and 3 territories, some segments of the population of Quebec strive for independence. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. A land of vast distances and rich natural resources, Canada has been inhabited since around 24,500 BC in its Yukon Territory. After European contact beginning in the 15th century, many Native Americans became sick from diseases introduced by the explorers and their numbers dwindled. Early European explorers came from Scandinavia, Italy and Portugal. The French first explored Canada beginning in 1534 with Jacques Cartier, who claimed territory for France. The English claimed Newfoundland in 1583, followed by the thirteen colonies that later became the United States. Fur traders dominated the north, leading to the Beaver wars. France lost many of its North American colonies to the British at the end of the seven years war, which ended in 1763. The war of 1812, fought mainly in northern North America, resulted in British and Irish immigration to Canada, increasing its population. In 1840, Canada was united, becoming the Province of Canada.

Canada became a self-governing dominion in 1867, while retaining ties to the British Crown. Economically and technologically, the nation has developed in parallel with the US, its neighbor to the south across the world's longest unfortified border. Canada faces the political challenges of meeting public demands for quality improvements in health care, education, social services, and economic competitiveness, as well as responding to the particular concerns of predominantly francophone Quebec. Canada also aims to develop its diverse energy resources while maintaining its commitment to the environment. Canada is the second largest country in the world by total area after Russia, its territories extend up into the Arctic circle, though most of this land is covered in a thick layer of ice. The Canadian Forces Station Alert is the farthest north settlement in the world, located 817 km from the North Pole.

Capital – Ottawa. Language – English, French. English – federal, de jure official language in Manitoba, New Brunswick, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and the Yukon. French – federal, de jure official language in Manitoba, New Brunswick, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Quebec and the Yukon. English and French are the first languages of 60% and 23% of the population respectively. 98% of Canadians speak English or French: 58% speak English only, 22% speak French only, and 17% speak both. According to a 2012 NBC report, Canada is the most educated country in the world. The country ranks first worldwide in the number of adults having tertiary education, with 51% of Canadian adults having attained at least an undergraduate college or university degree, according to a 2012 OECD survey.

Religion – Christian – 67% (39% Catholic and 28% mostly Protestants), Unaffiliated/non religious – 24%, Muslim – 3%, Buddhist, Hindu, Sikhist, Jewish and Folk religion – about 1% each. Ethnics – White – 77%, Asian – 14%, Aboriginal – 4%, Black – 3%, Latin American – 1%, or alternatively - Canadian – 32%, English – 20%, French – 16%, Scottish – 14%, Irish – 14%, German – 10%, Italian – 5%, Chinese – 5%, North American Indian – 4%, Other – 51%. Percentages add up to more than 100% because respondents were able to

identify more than one ethnic origin. Government – Constitutional Monarchy, head of state – ceremonial, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Canada is a federal parliamentary democracy and a constitutional monarchy in which the monarch is the head of state and the prime minister is the head of government. Full sovereignty was attained when the Canada Act 1982 severed the vestiges of legal dependence on the British Parliament. Parliament consists of 308 members and the Senate has 105. The territories are under the direction of the federal government, while the provinces handle their own governments with some level of autonomy. Population – 34,834,841, rank – 38. About 80% of the population lives within 150 km of the US border. Area – 9,984,670 sq km, rank – 2. Density – 3.5, rank – 220.

37 VARIABLE PARAMETERS – SEE METHODOLOGY OF SEARCHING IN 60+ TABLES IN AUSTRALIA.

VARIABLE PARAMETERS FROM CIA WORLD FACTBOOK - PEOPLE & SOCIETY, ECONOMIC PARAMETERS:

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Median age:
total: 41.8 years
male: 40.6 years
female: 43.1 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 29
Population growth rate:
0.75% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 146
Birth rate:
10.28 births/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 190
Death rate:
8.42 deaths/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 81
Net migration rate:
5.66 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 22
Urbanization:
urban population: 81.8% of total population (2015)
rate of urbanization: 1.22% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)
Mother's mean age at first birth:
28.1 (2011 est.)
Maternal mortality rate:
7 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 147
Infant mortality rate:
total: 4.65 deaths/1,000 live births
male: 4.97 deaths/1,000 live births
female: 4.3 deaths/1,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 179
Life expectancy at birth:
total population: 81.76 years
male: 79.15 years
female: 84.52 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 18
Total fertility rate:
1.59 children born/woman (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 184
Health expenditures:
10.9% of GDP (2013)
country comparison to the world: 15
Physicians density:
2.07 physicians/1,000 population (2010)
Hospital bed density:
2.7 beds/1,000 population (2010)
Drinking water source:
improved:
urban: 100% of population
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rural: 99% of population

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total: 99.8% of population
unimproved:
urban: 0% of population
rural: 1% of population
total: 0.2% of population (2015 est.)
Sanitation facility access:
improved:
urban: 100% of population
rural: 99% of population
total: 99.8% of population
unimproved:
urban: 0% of population
rural: 1% of population
total: 0.2% of population (2015 est.)
HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:
HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:
NA
HIV/AIDS - deaths:
fewer than 400 (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 89
Obesity - adult prevalence rate:
30.1% (2014)
country comparison to the world: 48
Education expenditures:
5.3% of GDP (2011)
country comparison to the world: 62
Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:
total: 13.5%
male: 15%
female: 11.9% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 81
GDP (purchasing power parity):
$1.628 trillion (2015 est.)
$1.612 trillion (2014 est.)
$1.573 trillion (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 17
GDP (official exchange rate):
$1.573 trillion (2015 est.)
GDP - real growth rate:
1.2% (2015 est.)
2.4% (2014)
2% (2013)
country comparison to the world: 168
GDP - per capita (PPP):
$45,900 (2015 est.)
$45,400 (2014 est.)
$44,300 (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 32
Gross national saving:
21% of GDP (2015 est.)
21.9% of GDP (2014 est.)
21.5% of GDP (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 80
GDP - composition, by end use:
household consumption: 56.7%
government consumption: 21%
investment in fixed capital: 23.3%
investment in inventories: 0.3%
exports of goods and services: 32.2%
imports of goods and services: -33.5% (2015 est.)
GDP - composition, by sector of origin:
agriculture: 1.6%
industry: 28.9%
services: 70.5% (2015 est.)
Agriculture - products:
wheat, barley, oilseed, tobacco, fruits, vegetables; dairy products; fish; forest products
transportation equipment, chemicals, processed and unprocessed minerals, food products, wood and
paper products, fish products, petroleum, natural gas
Industrial production growth rate:
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2.3% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 105
Labor force:
19.3 million (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 31
Labor force - by occupation:
agriculture: 2%
manufacturing: 13%
construction: 6%
services: 76%
other: 3% (2006 est.)
Unemployment rate: 6.9% (2015 est.)
6.9% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 80
Population below poverty line:
note: this figure is the Low Income Cut-Off (LICO), a calculation that results in higher figures than
found in many comparable economies; Canada does not have an official poverty line (2008 est.)
Household income or consumption by percentage share:
lowest 10%: 2.6%
highest 10%: 24.8% (2000)
Distribution of family income - Gini index:
32.1 (2005)
31.5 (1994)
country comparison to the world: 110
Budget:
revenues: $585 billion
expenditures: $614.1 billion (2015 est.)
Taxes and other revenues:
37.2% of GDP (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 48
Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-): -1.9% of GDP (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 70
Public debt:
95.4% of GDP (2015 est.)
94.8% of GDP (2014 est.)
note: figures are for gross general government debt, as opposed to net federal debt; gross general
government debt includes both intragovernmental debt and the debt of public entities at the sub-
national level
country comparison to the world: 20
Fiscal year:
1 April - 31 March
Inflation rate (consumer prices):
1.2% (2015 est.)
1.9% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 75
Central bank discount rate:
1% (31 December 2010)
0.25% (31 December 2009)
country comparison to the world: 124
Commercial bank prime lending rate:
2.7% (31 December 2015 est.)
3% (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: <u>172</u>
Market value of publicly traded shares:
$2.016 trillion (31 December 2012 est.)
$1.907 trillion (31 December 2011)
$2.16 trillion (31 December 2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 7
Current account balance:
-$45.82 billion (2015 est.)
-$37.5 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 192
Exports:
$428.3 billion (2015 est.)
$478.4 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 13
Exports - commodities:
motor vehicles and parts, industrial machinery, aircraft, telecommunications equipment; chemicals,
plastics, fertilizers; wood pulp, timber, crude petroleum, natural gas, electricity, aluminum
Exports - partners:
US 76.7%, China 3.9% (2014)
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Imports:

\$440.9 billion (2015 est.) \$473.8 billion (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: 9

Imports - commodities:

machinery and equipment, motor vehicles and parts, crude oil, chemicals, electricity, durable consumer goods

Imports - partners:

US 53.3%, China 12.3%, Mexico 5.8% (2014)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:

\$74.7 billion (31 December 2014 est.) \$71.94 billion (31 December 2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 30

Debt - external:

\$1.491 trillion (31 December 2014 est.) \$1.395 trillion (31 December 2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 13

Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:

\$1.012 trillion (31 December 2015 est.) \$940.3 billion (31 December 2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: 10

Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:

\$1.18 trillion (31 December 2015 est.) \$1.137 trillion (31 December 2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: 9

Exchange rates:

Canadian dollars (CAD) per US dollar -

1.275 (2015 est.)

1.1047 (2014 est.)

1.0298 (2013 est.) 0.9992 (2012 est.)

0.9895 (2011 est.)





CANARY ISLANDS, see Spain.

CAPE VERDE, Republic of Cabo Verde, Cabo Verde, in West Africa. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. The uninhabited islands were discovered and colonized by the Portuguese in the 15th century. Cabo Verde subsequently became a trading center for African slaves and later an important coaling and resupply stop for whaling and transatlantic shipping. Following independence in 1975, and a tentative interest in unification with Guinea-Bissau, a one-party system was established and maintained until multi-party elections were held in 1990. Cabo Verde continues to exhibit one of Africa's most stable democratic governments. Repeated droughts during the second half of the 20th century caused significant hardship and prompted heavy emigration. As a result, Cabo Verde's expatriate population is greater than its domestic one. Most Cabo Verdeans have both African and Portuguese antecedents.

Capital – Praia. Language – Portuguese – official, Cape Verde Creole - national. Religion – Christian – 89%, Unaffiliated – 9%, Folk religion – 2%. Ethnics – Creole (Mulatto) – 71%, African – 28%, European – 1%. Government – Republic, head of state – executive, presidency independent of legislature, ministry subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 538,535, rank – 173. Area – 4,033 sq km, rank – 176. Density – 134, rank – 84.



CARTIER ISLANDS, see Ashmore and Cartier Islands.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, in the Greater Antilles, Caribbean, is a UK territory, they are not part of the European Union with the UK. The Cayman Islands are located in the Western Caribbean Sea, it consists of 3 islands – Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. They are located to the south of Cuba and northwest of Jamaica. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. The Cayman Islands were uninhabited until the 17th century, and very little is known about them before Christopher Columbus sighted the smaller island of Little Cayman in 1503. On his fourth and final voyage to the New World, Columbus saw the islands and named them Las Tortugas, due to the large numbers of turtles on the shores. However, Columbus did not set foot on the islands and the next European to "discover" the islands was Sir Francis Drake – an Englishman who arrived 80 years later. Drake named the island Cayman, from the word caimanis, which means crocodile, due to the salt water crocodiles he saw in the waters. The Cayman Islands were colonized from Jamaica by the British during the 18th and 19th centuries and were administered by Jamaica after 1863. The Cayman Islands chose to remain a British dependency and has transformed itself into a significant offshore financial center.

Capital – George Town. Language – English. Religion – Christian – 84%, Unaffiliated – 9%, Folk religion – 5%. Ethnics – Mixed – 40%, White – 20%, Black – 20%, Expatriates of various ethnic groups – 20%. Government – the Cayman Islands are British overseas territories that work in the framework of a parliamentary democracy. The head of state is the head of the British Crown, who is represented in the Caymans by the Governor. The Premier is the head of the government and that of a two-party system. Executive authority is vested in the Queen and exercised by the government, which comprises of the 7-member Cabinet and the Governor. Legislative power is exercised by the Legislative Assembly that comprises of 20 members who are elected into office through popular vote. Population – 54,914, rank – 207. Area – 264 sq km, rank – 211. Density – 208, rank – 59.



CELESTIAL BODIES, unclaimed territory of Outer Space, see Terra Nullius.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, formerly known as Oubangui-Chari - part of the French Equatorial Africa, Republique Centrafricaine, Kodorosese ti Beafrika, in Central Africa. <u>Link to map</u>. Links to essential data: <u>CIA Factbook</u>, <u>Enc. Britannica</u>, <u>Wikipedia</u>, <u>Nations Online</u>, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World,

Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. The area has been settled for at least 8,000 years, the earliest inhabitants were the probable ancestors of today's Aka – Pygmy peoples, who live in the wetern and southern forested regions of the country. The area was brought under French colonial rule late in the 19th century. In September 1940, during the Second World War, pro-Gaullist French officers took control of Oubangui-Chari and General Leclerc established his headquarters for the Free French Forces in Bangui. Colonial administrators favoured some ethnic groups over others, resulting in political rivalries that persist after independence in 1960. Following periods of civil strife and dictatorial government, including the infamous regime of Emperor Bokassa I, the country embarked on a course of democracy that was threatened at the end of the 20th century by interethnic civil war in neighbouring countries as well as by attempted coups d'etat. Weary of social chaos and shifting allegiances amoung contending elements of the power elite, the country's citizens quote a regional proverb: "When elephants fight, the grass suffers, when elephants make love, the grass still suffers".

Capital – Bangui. Language – French, Sango (national). Religion – Christian – 90%, Muslim – 8%, Folk religion – 1%. Ethnics – Baya – 33%, Banda – 27%, Mandjia – 13%, Sara – 10%, Mboum – 7%, M'Baka – 4%, Yakoma – 4%. Government – Republic, head of state – executive, presidency is independent of legislature. After three tumultuous decades of misrule, mostly by military governments, civilian rule was established in 1993 and lasted for one decade. In 2003 General Bozize deposed the former president in a military coup. In March 2013 rebels seized the capital and President Bozize fled the country. Population – 5,277,859, rank – 118. Area – 622,984, rank – 45. Density – 8.5, rank – 216.



CEUTA, is an autonomous city of Spain and an exclave located on the north coast of Africa, sharing a western border with Morocco. Separated from the Iberian peninsula by the Strait of Gibraltar. Ceuta lies along the boundary between the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. It is part of the European Union with Spain. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, BBC. The city of Ceuta is on a narrow isthmus that connects Mount Hacho also held by Spain to the mainland. Successively colonized by Cathaginians, Greeks, and Romans, Ceuta became independent under the Byzantine governor Count Julian. Because of Ceuta's commercial importance in ivory, gold and slaves, it was continually disputed until Portugal gained control in 1415. The port passed to Spain in 1580. At the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War in 1936, Gen. Francisco Franco dispatched an expedition to Spain from Ceuta. In 1995, the Spanish government approved statutes of autonomy for Ceuta, replacing the city council with an assembly similar to those of Spain's other autonomous communities.

Five centuries of Spanish Christian occupation have given the place a European rather than Moorish appearance, only about a third of the population is Muslim. With the construction of modern port facilities, Ceuta grew as a military, transport, and commercial centre. Ceuta is surrounded by a double fence with barbed wire to secure its borders. Even so, thousands of immigrants, mainly African refugees, unsuccessfully try to cross the border every year. Fishing and the drying and processing of the catch are important industries, as are brewing, metallurgy, and machine repairs. Tourism has gradually become significant. There is ferry

service to Algerias on the European side of the Strait of Gibraltar. A teacher-training college, business school and administrative school are affiliated with the University of Granada.

Language – Spanish. Religion/Ethnics – There are various estimates on the number of Spanish/Arab population in Ceuta. Wikipedia states that: Approximately 50% of the population is Spanish/Christian, approximately 49% is Arab-Berber/Muslim, 0.25% Jewish, 0.25% Hindu and 0.1% Roma. Population – 82,376. Area – 18 sq km. Density – 4,576.



CHAD, Republic of Chad, Tchad, in Central Africa. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Chad is a landlocked state in north-central Africa. The country's terrain is that of a shallow basin that rises gradually from the Lake Chad area in the west and is rimmed by mountains to the north, east, and south. Natural irrigation is limited to the Chari and Logone rivers and their tributaries, which flow from the southeast into Lake Chad. Chad, a largely semi-desert country, is rich in gold and uranium and stands to benefit from its recently-acquired status as an oil-exporting state. However, Africa's fifth-largest nation suffers from inadequate infrastructure, and internal conflict. Poverty is rife, health and social conditions compare unfavourably with those elsewhere in the region. Chad's post-independence history has been marked by instability and violence, stemming mostly from tension between the mainly Arab-Muslim north and the predominantly Christian and animist south.

Chad, part of France's African holdings until 1960, endured three decades of civil warfare, as well as invasions by Libya, before a semblance of peace was finally restored in 1990. From 2003 unrest in neighbouring Sudan's Darfur region spilled across the border, along with hundreds of thousands of Sudanese refugees. Since late 2013 Chad has played host to tens of thousands of refugees who have fled the fighting in the neighbouring Central African Republic, and in 2015 Chad pledged military support to Cameroon in repelling the Islamist Boko Haram insurgency. In 2014, Chad began a 2-year rotation on the UN Security Council.

Capital – N'Djamena. Language – French, Arabic. Religion – Muslim – 55%, Christian – 41%. Ethnics – Sara – 28%, Arab – 12%, Mayo-Kebbi – 12%, Kanem-Bornou – 9%, Ouaddai – 9%, Hadjarai – 7%, Tandjile – 7%, Gorane – 6%, Fitri-Batha – 5%. Government – Republic, head of state – executive, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 11,412,107, rank – 77. Area – 1,284,000 sq km, rank – 21. Density – 9, rank – 214.



CHAFARINAS ISLANDS, uninhabited territory of Spain, see Plazas de Soberania.

CHILE, Republic of Chile, in Western South America. Chile has two special territories – Easter Island and Juan Fernandez Islands in the Pacific Ocean. Chile has a claimed territory in Antarctica. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Prior to the arrival of the Spanish in the 16th century, the Inca ruled northern Chile while the Mapuche inhabited central and southern Chile. Although Chile declared its independence in 1810, decisive victory over the Spanish was not achieved until 1818. In the War of the Pacific (1879-1883) Chile defeated Peru and Bolivia and won its present northern regions. It was not until the 1880s that the Mapuche were brought under central government control. After a series of elected governments, the three-year-old Marxist government of Salvador Allende was overthrown in 1973 by a military coup led by General Augusto Pinochet, who ruled until a freely elected president was inaugurated in 1990. Sound economic policies maintained consistently since the 1980s, contributed to steady growth, reduced poverty rates by over half, and helped secure the country's commitment to democratic and representative government.

Chile's relief is for the most part mountainous, with the Andes range dominating the landscape. Because of the country's extreme length it has a wide variety of climates, from the coastal desert beginning in the tropical north to the cold subantarctic southern tip. Chile is also a land of extreme natural events: volcanic eruptions, violent earthquaques, and tsunamis originating along major faults of the ocean floor periodically beset the country. Fierce winter storms and flash floods alternate with severe summer droughts. Much of northern Chile is desert, the central part of the country is a temperate region where the bulk of the population lives and where the largest cities, including Santiago, are located. South-central Chile, with a lake and forest region, is temperate, humid and suitable for grain cultivation, and the southernmost third of the country, cut by deep fjords, is an inhospitable region – cold, wet, windy and limited in resources. The economy of Chile is based on primary economic activities: agricultural production, copper, iron, and nitrate mining, and the exploitation of sea resources. The culture that evolved in Chile was largely Spanish, the influence of the original Indian inhabitants is negligible. The people became largely mestizo, a blend of Spanish and Indian bloodlines. The society developed with a small elite controlling most of the land, the wealth and the political life. Chile did not, however, depend as heavily on agriculture and mining, but rather developed an economy based on manufacturing as well. Thus, Chile has become one of the more urbanized Latin American societies, with a burgeoning middle class.

UN. Capital – Santiago (official), Valparaiso (legislative). Language – Spanish. Religion – Christian – 89%, Unaffiliated – 9%. Ethnics – White and non-indigenous – 89%, Mapuche – 9%, Folk religion – 2%. Government - Except for a military junta that held power from 1973 to March 1990, the country has been relatively free of coups common to its neighbors. Head of state is executive, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 17,363,894, rank – 65. Area – 756,102 sq km, rank – 38. Density – 23, rank – 188.



CHILEAN ANTARTICA, see Antarctica.

CHINA, People's Republic of China, Zhong Guo, Zhonghua Renmin Gongheguo, in Eastern Asia, contains 5 autonomous regions: Guangxi, Inner Mongolia, Ningxia, Xinjiang and Tibet. Xinjiang and Tibet have separatist movements seeking independence. China has sovereignty over the Special Administrative Regions (SAR) of Hong Kong and Macau. China claims, but does not control, the de facto independent Taiwan. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. For centuries China stood as a leading civilization, outpacing the rest of the world in the arts and sciences, but in the 19th and early 20th centuries, the country was beset by civil unrest, major famines, military defeats, and foreign occupation. After Worl War II, the communists under Mao Zedong established an autocratic socialist system that, while ensuring China's sovereignty, imposed strict controls over everyday life and cost the lives of tens of millions of people. After 1978, Mao's successor Deng Xiaoping and other leaders focused on marketoriented economic development and by 2000 output had quadrupled. For much of the population, living standards have improved dramatically and the room for personal choice has expanded, yet political control remains tight. Since the early 1990s, China has increased its global outreach and participation in a large number of international organizations.

Within China's boundaries exists a highly diverse and complex country. Its topography encompasses the highest and one of the lowest places on Earth, and its relief varies from nearly impenetrable mountainous terrain to vast coastal lowlands. Its climate ranges from extremely dry, desertlike conditions in the northwest to tropical monsoon in the southeast, and China has the greatest contrast in temperature between its northern and southern borders of any country in the world. The diversity of both China's relief and its climate has resulted in one of the world's widest arrays of ecological niches, and these niches have been filled by a vast number of plant and animal species. Almost all types of Northern Hemisphere plants are found in China, a country that has also some of the world's most exotic animals.

Probably the single most identifiable characteristic of China to the people of the rest of the world is the size of its population. Some one-fifth of humanity is of Chinese nationality. The great majority of the population is Chinese (Han), and thus China is often characterized as an ethnically homogeneous country, but few countries have as wide a variety of indigenous peoples as does China. Even among the Han there are cultural and linguistic differences between regions; for example, the only point of linguistic commonality between two individuals from different parts of China may be the written Chinese language. Because China's population is so enormous, the population density of the country is also often thought to be uniformly high, but vast areas of China are either uninhabited or sparsely populated.

With more than 4,000 years of recorded history, China is one of the few existing countries that also flourished economically and culturally in the earliest stages of world civilization. Indeed, despite the political and social upheavals that frequently have ravaged the country, China is unique among nations in its longevity and resilience as a discrete politico-cultural unit. Much of China's cultural development has been accomplished with relatively little outside influence, the introduction of Buddhism from India constituting a major exception. Even when the country was penetrated by such "barbarian" peoples as the Manchu, these groups soon became largely absorbed into the fabric of Han Chinese culture.

This relative isolation from the outside world made possible over the centuries the flowering and refinement of the Chinese culture, but it also left China ill prepared to cope with that world when, from the mid-19th century, it was confronted by technologically superior foreign

nations. There followed a century of decline and decrepitude, as China found itself relatively helpless in the face of a foreign onslaught. The trauma of this external challenge became the catalyst for a revolution that began in the early 20th century against the old regime and culminated in the establishment of a communist government in 1949. Since then, China has come to rank among the most influential countries in the world, one of its largest economies.

Capital – Beijing. Language – Mandarin Chinese. Dozens of regional languages, including English in Hong Kong, Cantonese in Guangdong, Mongolian in Inner Mongolia, Portuguese in Macau, Russian in Shiwei, Tatar in Daquan, Tibetan in Tibet, Uzbek, Vietnamese, Korean, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Hmong (Miao)... Religion – Unaffiliated – 52%, Folk religion – 22%, Buddhist – 18%, Chrisitan – 5%, Muslim – 2%. Ethnics – Han Chinese – 92%, other 55 recognized ethnic groups, including Manchu, Uighur, Zhuang, Miao, Yi, Tujia, Tibetan, Mongol, Korean, Kazakh, Dai, Dong, Buyei, Yao, Bai, etc. – 8%. Government – Republic, head of state – executive, power constitutionally linked to a single political movement. Population – 1,355,692,576, rank – 1. Area – 9,596,960, rank – 4. Density – 141, rank – 79.

37 VARIABLE PARAMETERS – SEE METHODOLOGY OF SEARCHING IN 60+ TABLES IN AUSTRALIA.

VARIABLE PARAMETERS FROM CIA WORLD FACTBOOK - PEOPLE & SOCIETY, ECONOMIC PARAMETERS:

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Median age:
total: 36.8 years
male: 36 years
female: 37.7 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 66
Population growth rate:
0.45% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 162
Birth rate:
12.49 births/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 159
Death rate:
7.53 deaths/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 112
Net migration rate:
-0.44 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: <u>133</u>
Urbanization:
urban population: 55.6% of total population (2015)
rate of urbanization: 3.05% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)
Maternal mortality rate:
27 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 116
Infant mortality rate:
total: 12.44 deaths/1,000 live births
male: 12.58 deaths/1,000 live births
female: 12.27 deaths/1,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 121
Life expectancy at birth:
total population: 75.41 years
male: 73.38 years
female: 77.73 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 99
Total fertility rate:
1.6 children born/woman (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 181
Contraceptive prevalence rate:
84.6% (2006)
Health expenditures:
5.6% of GDP (2013)
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country comparison to the world: 126
Physicians density:
1.49 physicians/1,000 population (2011)
Hospital bed density:
3.8 beds/1,000 population (2011)
Drinking water source:
improved:
urban: 97.5% of population
rural: 93% of population
total: 95.5% of population
unimproved:
urban: 2.5% of population
rural: 7% of population
total: 4.5% of population (2015 est.)
Sanitation facility access:
improved:
urban: 86.6% of population
rural: 63.7% of population
total: 76.5% of population
unimproved:
urban: 13.4% of population
rural: 36.3% of population
total: 23.5% of population (2015 est.)
HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:
0.1% (2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 112
HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:
780,000 (2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 11
HIV/AIDS - deaths:
Major infectious diseases:
degree of risk: intermediate
food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever
vectorborne disease: Japanese encephalitis
soil contact disease: hantaviral hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (HFRS)
note: highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza has been identified in this country; it poses a negligible
risk with extremely rare cases possible among US citizens who have close contact with birds (2013)
Obesity - adult prevalence rate:
7.3% (2014)
country comparison to the world: 152
Children under the age of 5 years underweight:
3.4% (2010)
country comparison to the world: 109
Education expenditures:
NΑ
Literacy:
definition: age 15 and over can read and write
total population: 96.4%
male: 98.2%
female: 94.5% (2015 est.)
School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):
total: 13 years
male: 13 years
female: 13 years (2012)
People - note:
in October 2015, the Chinese Government announced that it would change its rules to allow all couples
to have two children instead of just one, as mandated in 1979; the new policy - to be officially adopted
in March 2016 - is being implemented to address China's rapidly aging population and economic needs
GDP (purchasing power parity):
$19.51 trillion (2015 est.)
$18.27 trillion (2014 est.)
$17.02 trillion (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 1
GDP (official exchange rate):
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exchange rate measure of GDP is not an accurate measure of China's output; GDP at the official exchange rate substantially understates the actual level of China's output vis-a-vis the rest of the world; in China's situation, GDP at purchasing power parity provides the best measure for comparing output across countries (2015 est.)

note: because China's exchange rate is determined by fiat, rather than by market forces, the official

GDP - real growth rate:

\$11.38 trillion

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6.8% (2015 est.)
7.3% (2014 est.)
7.7% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 19
GDP - per capita (PPP):
$14.300 (2015 est.)
$13,400 (2014 est.)
$12,400 (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 112
Gross national saving:
47.4% of GDP (2015 est.)
48.5% of GDP (2014 est.)
48.2% of GDP (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 3
GDP - composition, by end use:
household consumption: 38.1%
government consumption: 13.8%
investment in fixed capital: 42.4%
investment in inventories: 1%
exports of goods and services: 22.7%
imports of goods and services: -18% (2015 est.)
GDP - composition, by sector of origin:
agriculture: 8.9%
industry: 42.7%
services: 48.4%
(2015 est.)
Agriculture - products:
world leader in gross value of agricultural output; rice, wheat, potatoes, corn, peanuts, tea, millet,
barley, apples, cotton, oilseed; pork; fish
Industries:
world leader in gross value of industrial output; mining and ore processing, iron, steel, aluminum, and
other metals, coal; machine building; armaments; textiles and apparel; petroleum; cement; chemicals;
fertilizers; consumer products (including footwear, toys, and electronics); food processing;
transportation equipment, including automobiles, rail cars and locomotives, ships, aircraft;
telecommunications equipment, commercial space launch vehicles, satellites
Industrial production growth rate:
7% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 16
Labor force:
804 million
note: by the end of 2012, China's population at working age (15-64 years) was 1.004 billion (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 1
Labor force - by occupation:
agriculture: 33.6%
industry: 30.3%
services: 36.1%
(2012 est.)
Unemployment rate:
4.2% (2015 est.)
4.1% (2014 est.)
note: data are for registered urban unemployment, which excludes private enterprises and migrants
country comparison to the world: 40
Population below poverty line:
6.1%
note: in 2011, China set a new poverty line at RMB 2300 (approximately US $400)
(2013 est.)
Household income or consumption by percentage share:
lowest 10%: 1.7%
highest 10%: 30%
note: data are for urban households only (2009)
Distribution of family income - Gini index:
46.9 (2014 est.)
47.3 (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 29

Budget:
revenues: $2.426 trillion
expenditures: $2.718 trillion (2015 est.)
Taxes and other revenues:
21.3% of GDP (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 147
Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):
-2.6% of GDP (2015 est.)
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country comparison to the world: 93
Public debt:
16.7% of GDP (2015 est.)
14.9% of GDP (2014 est.)
note: official data; data cover both central government debt and local government debt, which China's
National Audit Office estimated at RMB 10.72 trillion (approximately US$1.66 trillion) in 2011; data
exclude policy bank bonds, Ministry of Railway debt, China Asset Management Company debt, and
non-performing loans
country comparison to the world: 160
Fiscal vear:
calendar year
Inflation rate (consumer prices):
1.5% (2015 est.)
2% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 89
Central bank discount rate:
2.25% (31 December 2014 est.)
2.25% (31 December 2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 111
Commercial bank prime lending rate:
4.4% (31 December 2015 est.)
5.6% (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 156
Market value of publicly traded shares:
$6.065 trillion (31 December 2014 est.)
$6.499 trillion (31 December 2013)
$5.753 trillion (31 December 2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 3
Current account balance:
$347.8 billion (2015 est.)
$219.7 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 2
Exports:
$2.27 trillion (2015 est.)
$2.244 trillion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 1
Exports - commodities:
electrical and other machinery, including data processing equipment, apparel, furniture, textiles,
integrated circuits
Exports - partners:
US 16.9%, Hong Kong 15.5%, Japan 6.4%, South Korea 4.3% (2014 est.)
$1.596 trillion (2015 est.)
$1.808 trillion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 3
Imports - commodities:
electrical and other machinery, oil and mineral fuels; nuclear reactor, boiler, and machinery
components; optical and medical equipment, metal ores, motor vehicles; soybeans
Imports - partners:
South Korea 9.7%, Japan 8.3%, US 8.1%, Taiwan 7.8%, Germany 5.4%, Australia 5% (2014 est.)
Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:
$3.217 trillion (31 December 2015 est.)
$3.869 trillion (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 1
Debt - external:
$949.6 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
$874.5 billion (31 December 2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 19
Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:
$1.723 trillion (31 December 2015 est.)
$1.334 trillion (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 4
Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:
$1.111 trillion (31 December 2015 est.)
$792.3 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 11
Exchange rates:
Renminbi yuan (RMB) per US dollar -
6.243 (2015 est.)
6.1434 (2014 est.)
6.1958 (2013 est.)
6.3123 (2012 est.)
6.4615 (2011 est.)
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CHINA, REPUBLIC OF, see Taiwan.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND, an external territory of Australia, located in the Indian Ocean near the island of Java, in Southeast Asia. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia. Named in 1643 for the day of its discovery by Captain William Mynors of the British East India Company, the island was annexed and settlement began by the UK in 1888 with the discovery of the island's phosphate deposits. The island was transferred to Australian jurisdiction in 1958. The island has a remote location and minimal human contact, resulting in the development of vast endemic flora and fauna there. With the recoverable reserves of phosphate nearly exhausted, efforts were turned toward developing tourism. Small-scale subsistence cropping & fishing are practised, but most food is imported.

Capital – The Settlement. Language – English. Religion – Buddhist – 75%, Christian – 12%, Muslim – 10%. Ethnics – Chinese – 70%, Malay – 20%, European – 10%. Most of the settlers are Chinese Australians, there are also Malay labourers and a small number of Europeans. Government – Christmas Island is a non self-governing territory of Australia, currently administered by the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government. The legal system is under the authority of the Governor-General of Australia

and Australian law. An administrator appointed by the Governor-General represents the monarch and Australia. Population -2,072. Area -135 sq km. Density -15.



CLIPPERTON ISLAND, Ile de Clipperton, Ile de la Passion, is a French dependency in the Northern Pacific Ocean, the island possession is uninhabited, and is not part of the European Union with France. The island is 2,545 km west of Costa Rica and 1,080 km southwest of Mexico. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia. The isolated atoll was named for John Clipperton, a pirate who was rumored to have made it his hideout early in the 18th century. The name Ile de la Passion was officially given to Clipperton in 1711 by French discoverers Martin de Chassiron and Michel Du Bocage.

Annexed by France in 1855 and claimed by the US, it was seized by Mexico in 1897. Arbitration eventually awarded the island to France in 1931, which took possession in 1935. In 2007, France assumed direct administration of the dependency, placing it under the authority of the Minister of Overseas France. The island's vegetation consists of low scrub, patches of wild tobacco, and a few coconut groves. Clipperton is surmounted by a 21 m high 19th century ruined lighthouse. The atoll has been occupied at various times by guano miners, would-be settlers or military personnel, mostly from Mexico. It has had no permanent inhabitants since 1945, but is visited on occasion by fishermen, French Navy patrols, scientific researchers, film crews and shipwreck survivors. Area – 6 sq km.



COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS, in South-East Asia, is an external territory of Australia. There are 27 coral islands in the group in the eastern Indian Ocean, 3,685 km west of Darwin. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia. Captain William Keeling discovered the islands in 1609, but they remained uninhabited until the 19th century. From the 1820s to 1978, members of the Clunie-Ross family controlled the islands and the copra produced from local coconuts. Annexed by the UK in 1857, the Cocos Islands were transferred to Australia in 1955. North Keeling Island was declared a national park in 1995. The inhabitants are predominantly the descendants of the original plantation workers, mostly Malayans, who were brought to the islands by John Clunies-Ross, a scotsman, in 1827-1831. The production and export of copra is the territory's economic mainstay. Much of the food must be imported, as must fuels and consumer goods. High unemployment rates are a continuing problem. Charles Darwin made observations of the coral reefs there in 1836.

Capital – West Island. Language – English. Religion – 60% are Sunni Muslim and 40% are Christian. Ethnics – Malays on Home Island – 500, Europeans on West Island – 100. Government – An administrator appointed by the Australian governor-general is the senior governmental official in the Cocos. In 1992 the legal structure of Western Australia was applied to the territory and the Shire Council was appointed. Cocos Islanders vote in Australian federal elections as part of the electoral district of Lingiari, in the Northern Territory. Population – 596, rank - 238. Area – 14 sq km, rank - 241. Density– 43, rank – 167.



COLOMBIA, Republic of Colombia, in North West South America. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. The only American nation that is named for Christopher Columbus, the discoverer of the New World, presents a remarkable study in contrasts, in both its geography and its society. The lofty snow-tipped peaks of the country's interior cordilleras tower high above equatorial forests and savannas where surviving Indian groups still follow the lifeways and traditions of their ancestors. In the cooler mountains, at intermediate elevations, modern cities are juxtaposed with traditional rural landscapes where mestizo farmers cultivate their small coffee, corn, or other crops plots. The more accessible Atlantic lowlands, dominated by large livestock haciendas and a tri-ethnic population, have a distinctively different character.

Columbia's population is heavily mestizo (of mixed European and Indian descent) with substantial minorities of European and African ancestry. The economy is traditionally based on agriculture, particularly coffee and fruit production, but industries and services are increasing in importance. The nation's political instability has been historically tied to the unequal distribution of wealth and the illicit trade in drugs, mainly cocaine, remains a major disruptive factor in Colombian life. Colombia was one of the three countries that emerged from the collapse of Gran Colombia in 1830, the others are Ecuador and Venezuela. A nearly five decade long conflict between government forces and anti-government insurgent groups heavily funded by the drug trade, escalated during the 1990s. The insurgents lack the military or popular support necessary to overthrow the government, but continue attacks against civilians. Large areas of the countryside are under guerrilla influence, but the Colombian Government has now a presence in every one of its administrative departments.

Capital – Bogota. Language – Spanish. Religion – Christian – 93%, Unaffiliated – 7%. Ethnics – Mestizo – 58%, White – 20%, Mulato – 14%, Black – 4%, Mixed Black-Amerindian – 3%, Amerindian – 1%. Government – Republic, head of state – executive, presidency is independent of legislature. Despite the internal conflicts and drug challenges, Colombia maintains relatively strong democratic institutions characterized by peaceful, transparent elections and the protection of civil liberties. Population – 46,245,297, rank – 30. Area – 1,138,910 sq km, rank – 26. Density – 41, rank – 165.



COMOROS, Union of the Comoros, Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros, Comores, Komori, Juzur al-Qamar, in Eastern Africa, is a federation of 3 islands, located in the Indian Ocean at the northern end of the Mozambique Channel off the eastern coast of Africa between northeastern Mozambique and northwestern Madagascar. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Although the early history of the islands is uncertain, they are thought to have been explored by Arab and Persian traders in antiquity and, like Madagascar, settled by small numbers of Malayo-Indonesian peoples, gaining a sizable population only when Bantuspeaking peoples from the African mainland settled there. Shirazi Persians are thought to have arrived later, establishing Sunni Islam as the dominant religion. The ensuing Shirazi sultanates established trade relations with other countries along the Indian Ocean and developed a thriving economy based on the sale of spices and slaves. The opening of the Suez Canal substantially lessened the islands' importance as an entrepot, though not their strategic value. European colonial powers agreed that the Comorian archipelago would come under French rule in 1886-1887, and it became an overseas territory of France in 1947.

Three of the islands gained independence in 1975. Comoros is poor, witnessing an ongoing exodus of educated and skilled workers to France and a steady decline in gross domestic product. The capital Moroni, located on the island of Ngazidja, has most of the modern commercial and manufacturing facilities located in the country. In the absence of other possibilities, most islanders must rely on subsistence farming. With miles of beautiful beaches, tourists have always been drawn to Comoros, but the islands' history of political unrest – more than 20 coups since 1975, however, has hampered efforts to promote tourism. Mayotte, once part of Comoros before independence, is currently a French overseas department, as it was the only island in the archipelago that voted against independence in 1974 and once again in 2011. The Comoros is the only state to be a member of the African Union, Francophonies, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Arab League and the Indian Ocean Commission. About half of the population lives below the \$1.25 a day poverty line.

Capital – Moroni. Language – Shikomor/Comorian, Arabic, French. Religion – Muslim – 98%. Ethnics – Mostly African-Arab origins. The Antalote, Cafre, Makoa, Oimatsaha and Sakalava are the main ethnic groups. There are also small minorities of Malagasy, Indian, Chinese and a white minority of French and European ancestry. Government – Republic, head of state – executive, presidency is independent of legislature. Each of the three major islands has a great amount of autonomy in the Union, including having their own constitutions, president and parliament. The presidency and Assembly of the Union are distinct from each of the Islands' governments. The presidency of the Union rotates between the islands. Population – 766,865, rank – 164. Area – 2,235 sq km, rank – 180. Density – 343, rank – 38.



CONGO, Democratic Republic of the Congo (Kinshasa), Republique Democratique du Congo, in Central Africa, formerly known as Zaire. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. More than 200 African ethnic groups live in Congo, of these Bantu peoples constitute a large majority of the country's population. They entered the territory of modern Congo between the 10th and the 14th century from the west and north and established kingdoms that were flourishing at the time of European penetration after the 16th century. The major kingdoms were those of the Kongo, Teke/Bateke, Luba, Pende, Yaka, Lunda, Songe, Tetela and Kuba peoples. The Pygmies, having arrived possibly during the Upper Paleolithic Period, are thought to have been the earliest inhabitants of the Congo basin. European and Asian groups constitute a significant part of the country's migrant population, most went to Congo for temporary employment. The remaining migrant population are non-Congolese Africans.

Established as an official Belgian colony in 1908, the country gained its independence in 1960, but its early years were marred by political and social instability. Colonel Joseph Mobutu seized power and declared himself president in a 1965 coup. He subsequently changed his name to Mobutu Sese Seko as well as that of the country to Zaire. Mobutu retained his position for 32 years through brutal force. Following the overthrow of Mobutu in 1997, the country's name, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, was reinstated. Congo subsequently was plunged into a devastating civil war, the conflict ended in 2003, although fighting continued in the eastern part of the country. The wars resulted in the deaths of 5.4 million people since 1998 with more than 90% of those deaths the result of malaria, diarrhea, pneumonia and malnutrition, aggravated by displacement and unsanitary and over-crowded living conditions. Nearly half of the victims were children under five. As of 2013, according to the Human Development Index – HDI – DR Congo has the lowest level of human development, ranking 186 out of 187 countries. Nevertheless, Congo is rich in natural resources, it boasts vast deposits of industrial diamonds, cobalt and copper, one of the largest forest reserves in Africa, and about half of the hydroelectric potential of the continent.

Capital – Kinshasa. Language – French, national – Lingala, Kikongo, Swahili, Tshiluba. Religion – Christian – 96%, Muslim – 2%. Ethnics – the majority are Bantu, the four largest tribes – Mongo, Luba, Kongo – all Bantu, and the Mangbetu-Azande – Hamitic, make up about 45% of the population. Government – Republic, head of state – executive, presidency independent of legislature, ministry subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 77,433,744, rank – 20. Area – 2,344,858, rank – 11. Density – 33, rank – 176.



CONGO, Republic of the Congo (Brazzaville), Republique du Congo, in Central Africa. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. About half of Congo's inhabitants identify with the Kongo peoples, whose major subgroups include the Sundi, Kongo, Lali, Kougni, Bembe, Kamba, Dondo, Vili, and Yombe. The Ubangi peoples include the Makoua, Kouyou, Mboshi, Likouala, Ngala, and Bonga. The Teke and the Sanga, or "Gabonese Bantu", are also divided into subgroups. The Binga Pygmies live in small bands, usually as clients of surrounding farming peoples. Upon independence in 1960, the former French region of Middle Congo became the Republic of Congo. A quarter century of experimentation with Marxism was abondoned in 1990 and a democratic elected government took office in 1992. After a brief civil war in 1997, southern-based rebel groups agreed to a final peace accord in 2003. Of the Europeans who remained in Congo prior to the civil strife of the late 1990s only a fraction remain. Congo Republic is one of Africa's largest petroleum producers, but with declining production it will need new offshore oil finds to sustain its oil earnings over the long term.

Much of the country is covered with tropical rainforest, although logging has cleared areas in the south. The dense growth of African oak, red cedar, walnut, softwood okume, or gaboon mahogany, and hardwood limba remaining in some regions provides an evergreen canopy over the sparse undergrowth of leafy plants and vines. Coconut palms, mangrove forests, and tall grasses and reeds grow in the coastal regions and eastern swamps. Several varieties of monkeys, chimpanzees, gorillas, elephants, okapis, wild boars, and buffaloes live in the forests. Wildlife in the savanna regions includes antelopes, jackals, wild dogs, hyenas, and cheetahs. On the plateaus, rhinoceroses and giraffes are numerous, but lions are scarce. Birdlife includes predatory eagles, hawks, and owls, scavenging vultures, and wading herons. Some one-sixth of Congolese territory is protected, national parks comprise more than 300 species of bird and more than 1,000 plant and tree species. Crocodiles inhabit the Congo River. The numerous snakes include such poisonous varieties as cobra, green mamba, puff adder, as well as species of python. The most dangerous insects are tsetse flies, which cause sleeping sickness in human beings, and mosquitoes, which carry malaria and yellow fever.

Capital – Brazzaville. Language – French, national – Lingala, Munukutuba. Religion – Christian – 86%, Unaffiliated – 9%, Folk religions – 3%, Muslim – 1%. Ethnics – Kongo – 48%, Sangha – 20%, Teke – 17%, M'Boshi – 12%. Government – Republic, head of state – executive, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 4,662,446, rank – 125. Area – 342, 000 sq km, rank – 64. Density – 14, rank – 207.



COOK ISLANDS, in Polynesia, Oceania. New Zealand has responsibilities for (but no right of control over) this freely associated state, which has diplomatic relations with other countries, full treaty-making capacity in the UN, and is a member of some UN specialized agencies. It shares a head of state with New Zealand as well as having shared citizenship. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, BBC, World Atlas. Named after Captain Cook, who sighted them in 1770, the islands became a British protectorate in 1888. By 1900, administrative control was transferred to New Zealand. In 1965, residents chose self-government in free association with New Zealand. The 15 volcanic islands and coral atolls of the Cook Islands are scattered over 1,800,000 sq km of the South Pacific, between American Samoa to the west and French Polynesia to the east. The economy centres on tourism, the territory's natural assets include fine beaches and volcanic mountains. More than twice as many native Cook Islanders live in New Zealand than live in the islands themselves. Black pearls are the chief export of Cook Islands. Agriculture, the sale of fishing licences to foreign fleets, and offshore finance are also key revenue earners.

Capital – Avarua. Language – English, Cook Islands Maori. Religion – 96% - Christian (over half of the population belongs to the Congregational Church. Roman Catholicism, Anglicanism, Seventh-day Adventism have smaller number of adherents), 3% - Unaffiliated. Ethnics - Cook Islands Maori - 81%, Part Cook Islands Maori - 7%. Government -Governments still seek advice on matters of culture, custom and land ownership from a council of hereditary leaders known as the House of Ariki. The Cook Islands is a representative democracy with a parliamentary system in an associated state relationship with New Zealand. Executive power is exercised by the government, with the Chief Minister as head of government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the Parliament of the Cook Islands. There is a pluriform multi-party system. The Head of State is the Queen of New Zealand/United Kingdom, who is represented by the Queen's Representative. The islands are self-governing in 'free association' with New Zealand, which retains primary responsibility for external affairs, with consultation with the Cook Islands Government. Cook Islands nationals are citizens of New Zealand and can receive New Zealand government services. As of 2014, the Cook Islands had direct diplomatic relations with 43 other countries. Population – 10,134, rank – 225. Area – 236 sq km, rank – 215. Density – 43, rank – 166.



CORAL SEA ISLANDS TERRITORY, an Australian territory since 1969, includes a group of small and mostly uninhabited tropical islands and reefs in the Coral Sea, northeast of

Queensland, Australia. The only inhabited island is Willis Island (South Islet), with a very small staff of 3-4 people to run the meteorological station. The territory covers 780,000 km², extending east and south from the outer edge of the Great Barrier Reef, and including Heralds Beacon Island, Osprey Reef, the Willis Group, and fifteen other reef/island groups. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia. In 1770 Captain James Cook explored parts of the region. The Coral Sea Islands were first chartered in 1803, in the 1870s and 1880s the islands were mined for guano but the absence of a permanent supply of fresh water prevented long-term inhabitation. The territory is a possession of Australia, administered from Canberra by the Attorney-General's Department. Defence is the responsibility of Australia, and the territory is visited regularly by the Royal Australian Navy. Australia claims a 370 km exclusive fishing zone. Area – 3 sq km, rank – 249.



COSTA RICA, Republic of Costa Rica, in Central America. <u>Link to map</u>. Links to essential data: <u>CIA Factbook</u>, <u>Enc. Britannica</u>, <u>Wikipedia</u>, <u>Nations Online</u>, <u>UN Data</u>, <u>BBC</u>, <u>World Atlas</u>, <u>Countries/World</u>, <u>List/Countries</u>, <u>Index Mundi</u>, <u>Oper/World</u>, <u>Internet/Stats</u>. Member of the UN. Although explored by the Spanish early in the 16th century, initial attempts at colonizing Costa Rica proved unsuccessful due to a combination of factors, including disease from mosquito-infested swamps, brutal heat, resistance by natives, and pirate raids. It was not until 1563 that a permanent settlement of Cartago was established in the cooler, fertile central highlands. The area remained a colony for some 2.5 centuries. In 1821, Costa Rica became one of several Central American provinces that jointly declared independence from Spain. Since the late 19th century, only two brief periods of violence have marred the county's democratic development. Although it still maintains a large agricultural sector, Costa Rica has expanded its economy to include strong technology and tourism industries. The standard of living is relatively high, land ownership is widespread. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s Costa Rica managed to stay relatively peaceful compared with its war-torn neighbours.

Costa Rica has one of the highest literacy rates, more than 90%, in the Western Hemisphere, and a solid educational system from the primary grades through the university level. Several renowned universities and an active network of bookstores and publishing houses tend to make San Jose the nucleus of intellectual life in Central America. Because of the country's peaceful reputation and its commitment to human rights, several nongovernmental organizations and pro-democracy foundations have their headquarters in San Jose. Costa Rica is also known for its strong commitment to the environment and for protecting its numerous national parks. These factors, along with an established ecotourism industry, have attracted foreign investments, which shifted the country's once agricultural-based economy to one dominated by services and technology. Costa Rica's numerous and varied life zones make the country attractive to biologists. Mammalian life is both abundant and varied – monkeys, anteaters, sloths, deer, wildcats, weasels, coyotes, foxes, and a wider variety of tropical birds.

Capital – San Jose. Language – Spanish. Religion – Christian – 91% (Catholic – 71%, Protestant – 14%), Unaffiliated – 8%. Ethnics – White – 66%, Mestizo – 14%, Immigrants – 9%, Mulatto – 7%, Amerindian – 2%, Black – 1%. The population of European ancestry is primarily of Spanish descent, with significant numbers of Italian, German, English, Dutch,

French, Irish, Portuguese, Polish families, as well as a sizable Jewish community. Government – Republic, head of state – executive, presidency is independent of legislature. Of all the Central American countries, Costa Rica is generally regarded as having the most stable and most democratic government. Its constitution of 1949 provides for a unicameral legislature, a fair judicial system, and an independent electoral body. Moreover, the constitution abolished the country's army, gave women the right to vote, and provided other social, economic, and educational guarantees for all of its citizens. Population – 4,755,234, rank – 124. Area – 51,100 sq km, rank – 130. Density – 93, rank – 111.



COTE D'IVOIRE, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, Ivory Coast, in West Africa. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. The indigenous people of Cote d'Ivoire included the Ehotile, Kotrowou, Ega, Dies, and Zehiri peoples. The Berbers of North Africa facilitated the trans-Saharan trade of salt, slaves, and gold, and the empires of Western Africa arose in the region. The religion of Islam spread during the migration of Arabs across Africa, reaching the region of Cote d'Ivoire by the 11th century. Western Africa saw the rise of the Ghana Empire, reaching its peak in the 11th century, followed by the Mali Empire, lasting until the end of the 14th century. The Songhai Empire grew out of that, and spread across the region through the next centuries. Several empires existed in Cote d'Ivoire over the next centuries, including the Abron Empire, the Kong Empire, and Sanwi Kingdom. The first contact with European explorers happened in the 15th century, with the Portuguese, who established trade with the people of West Africa.

The French arrived soon after, establishing the Assinie mission. The ivory trade with the Portuguese and French led to the country's name, which means Ivory Coast. Cote d'Ivoire became a French colony in 1893, exporting goods such as coffee and cocoa from the land. The French colonists faced resistance of the native groups, including the Wassoulou Empire. Cote d'Ivoire became part of the Federation of French West Africa in 1904. Cote d'Ivoire became independent in 1960. Close ties to France following independence, the development of cocoa production for export, and foreign investment, all made Cote d'Ivoire one of the most prosperous of the West African states, but did not protect it from political turmoil.

Capital – Yamoussoukro (official), Abidjan (administrative). Language – French. Religion – Christian – 44%, Muslim – 38%, Unaffiliated – 8%, Folk religion – 10%. Ethnics – Akan – 42%, Voltaiques or Gur – 18%, Northern Mandes – 17%, Krous – 11%, Southern Mandes – 10%. Government- Republic, head of state– executive, presidency- independent of legislature. Cote d'Ivoire has faced recently two civil wars caused by disputes over elections. Population – 22,848,945, rank – 55. Area – 322,463 sq km, rank – 69. Density – 71, rank – 133.



CROATIA, Republic of Croatia, Republika Hrvatska, in Southern Europe. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, EU. The present-day Croatia is composed of the historically Croatian regions of Croatia-Slavonia, Istria and Dalmatia. Croatia (Hrvatska) is an ancient nation, yet a very young nation state. Once a formidable kingdom under Tomislav in the tenth century, a naval power in the sixteenth and seventeenth, and an awakening national entity in the nineteenth, it had to endure a thousand years of foreign meddling, subjugation, incursions, and outright wars before being recognized in 1991 as a distinct entity. Croatia remained firmly Western-oriented in culture, acquiring a legacy of Roman Law, the Latin alphabet, and western European political and economic traditions and institutions. Croatia was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until the close of World War I. In 1918, the Croats, Serbs and Slovenes formed a kingdom later named Yugoslavia and following World War II, Yugoslavia became a federal independent communist state under the strong hand of Marshal Tito. Croatia declared its independence from Yugoslavia in 1991, but it took four years of sporadic fighting before occupying Serb armies were mostly cleared from Croatia's lands, along with a majority of Croatia's ethnic Serb population. Under UN supervision, the last Serb-held enclave in eastern Slavonia was returned to Croatia in 1998. The country joined NATO in 2009 and the EU in 2013, thus achieving at last its European trajectory. The service sector dominates Croatia's economy, followed by the industrial sector and agriculture. Tourism is a significant source of revenue, with Croatia ranked the 18th most popular tourist destination in the world. The state controls a part of the economy, with substantial government expenditure.

Capital – Zagreb. Language – Croatian. Religion – Catholic – 86%, Orthodox – 4%, Unaffiliated – 5%, Islam – 1.5%. Ethnics – Croat – 90%, Serb – 4%. Government – Republic, head of state – ceremonial, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 4,470,534, rank – 126. Area – 56,594 sq km, rank – 127. Density – 79, rank – 125.



CROZET ISLANDS, see French Southern Territories.

CUBA, Republic of Cuba, in the Greater Antilles, Caribbean. <u>Link to map</u>. Links to essential data: <u>CIA Factbook</u>, <u>Enc. Britannica</u>, <u>Wikipedia</u>, <u>Nations Online</u>, <u>UN Data</u>, <u>BBC</u>, <u>World Atlas</u>, <u>Countries/World</u>, <u>List/Countries</u>, <u>Index Mundi</u>, <u>Oper/World</u>, <u>Internet/Stats</u>. Member of the UN. Cuba was inhabited by American Indian people known as the Taino or Arawak, and

Guanajatabey and Ciboney people, before the arrival of the Spanish. The ancestors of these Native Americans migrated from the mainland of America several centuries earlier. The Taino called the island Caobana. The native Amerindian population of Cuba began to decline after the European discovery of the island by Christopher Columbus in 1492 and following its development as a Spanish colony during the next several centuries. Large numbers of African slaves were imported to work the coffee and sugar plantations, and Havana became the launching point for the annual treasure fleets bound for Spain from Mexico and Peru. Spanish rule eventually provoked an independence movement and occasional rebellions that were harshly suppressed. US intervention during the Spanish-American War in 1898 assisted the Cubans in overthrowing Spanish rule. Subsequently, the 1901 Platt Amendment to the Cuban cosntitution authorized the US to intervene in Cuba in the event of instability. The Treaty of Paris established Cuban independence from the US in 1902, after which the island experienced a string of governments mostly dominated by the military and corrupt politicians.

Fidel Castro led a rebel army to victory in 1959, his iron rule held the regime together, and in 2008 his brother Raul Castro was appointed president. Cuba's communist revolution with Soviet support was exported throughout Latin America and Africa during the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, but the country faced a severe economic downturn in 1990 following the withdrawal of former Soviet subsidies and the continuation of the US embargo, in place since 1961. The Cuban state claims to adhere to socialist principles in organizing its largely state-controlled planned economy. Most of the means of production are owned and run by the government and most of the labor force is employed by the state. Recent years have seen a trend toward more private sector employment. But, any firm wishing to hire a Cuban must pay the Cuban government, which in turn will pay the employee in Cuban pesos. The average monthly wage as of July 2013 was 466 Cuban pesos, which were woth about US\$19. Cuba is a country of the West Indies, the largest single island of the archipelago, and one of the more infulential states of the Caribbean region. Life in contemporary Cuba is challenging, given the limited access to food, transportation, electrical power, and other necessities. Even so, many Cubans show a fierce pride in their revolutionary society, the only one of its kind in Latin America. Cuba is a multicultural, largely urban nation, although it has only one major city - Havana the capital and commercial hub of the country. Cuba's cities, including Santiago and Trinidad, offer a rich legacy of colonial Spanish architecture to complement contemporary buildings.

Capital—Havana (La Habana). Language — Spanish. Religion — Christian — 59%, Unaffiliated — 23%, Folk religion — 17%. Ethnics — White — 64%, Mestizo — 27%, Black — 9%. Government - Republic, head of state — executive, power constitutionally linked to to a single political movement. Population — 11,047,251, rank — 78. Area — 110,860 sq km, rank — 106. Density — 100, rank — 103.



CURACAO, Korsou, a small island in the Southern Caribbean Sea, off the North coast of Venezuela. Following the dissolution of the Netherland Antilles in 2010, Curacao has become a constituent country, enjoying considerable autonomy. It is not part of the European Union with the Netherlands. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica,

Wikipedia, BBC, Countries/World, Index Mundi, Internet/Stats. The earliest people to settle in Curacao were the Arawak Indians who probably migrated from South America. One explanation for the origin of the name Curacao is that this name was the name the Arawak people had used to identify themselves. The name could also be derived from the Portuguese word for heart – coracao – referring to the island as a centre in trade. In 1499, the first Spanish expedition reached the island, and enslaved most of the inhabitants there. In 1634, after Netherlands won its independence from Spain, the island was occupied by the Dutch colonists. Sephardic Jews settled in the island with the Dutch and have had a significant influence on the culture and economy of the island. In the years before and after World War II, Ashkenazi Jews emigrated from Eastern Europe, many of whom were Romanian Jews.

Gradually, salt mining became an important activity on the island. The ownership of the island shifted between the Dutch, the French, and the British several times. In 1863, the Dutch abolished slavery leading to a major economic shift, as the island was the center of the Caribbean slave trade. Its prosperity was restored in the early 20^{th} century with the construction of the Isla Refineria to service the newly discovered Venezuelan oil fields. Shell has been the largest employer on the island since 1918. The refinery was an important source of fuel for allied forces in the World War II. Willemstad was a natural harbor which was ideally suited for trade. In spite of having scant rainfall or little fertile soil, the island developed a major sugarcane plantation economy under Dutch colonial rule. It now produces oranges, the dried peel of which is the base for the famous Curacao liqueur distilled there.

Capital – Willemstad. Language – Dutch, Papiamento, English. Curacao is a polyglot society. Dutch is the sole language for all administration and legal matters. The most widely spoken language is Papiamentu, a Portuguese creole spoken in all levels of society. Papiamentu was introduced as a language of primary school education in 1993, making Curacao one of a handful of places where a creole language is used as a medium to acquire basic literacy. Spanish became an important language in the 18th century due to the close economic ties with Spanish Venezuela and Colombia. Use of English dates to the early 19th century, when the British took Curacao. Papiamentu is the first language of 81% of the population. Most of Curacao's population is able to converse in at least two of the languages of Papiamentu, Dutch, English and Spanish. Religion – Roman Catholic – 85%, other denominations are the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Methodist Church. Alongside these Christian denominations, some inhabitants practice Montamentu, and other diaspora African religions.

There are also practising Muslims and Hindus. While small, Curacao's Jewish community has had a significant impact on the island's history. Curacao has the oldest active Jewsih congregation in the Americas, dating to 1651. The Curacao synagogue is the oldest synagogue of the Americas in continuous use, since its completion in 1732 on the site of a previous synagogue. Ethnics – there is an Afro-Caribbean majority of African descent, and also sizeable minorities of Dutch, Latin American, French, South and East Asian, Portuguese, Levantine, Sephardic and Ashkenazi Jews. The majority of the black population of Curacao are of mixed-race ancestry, primarily African, Dutch and Sephardic Jews.

Government – the head of state is the Dutch monarch, represented by a governor, and the head of government is the prime minister. A Council of Ministers, presided over by the prime minister, forms government policy. Curacao has a unicameral Parliament, Staten, with 21 members elected on the basis of proportional representation. Curacao is independent in internal affairs, but the Netherlands government is responsible for defense, foreign relations, and similar matters. The Supreme Court of the Netherlands is the court of final appeal. Population – 146,836, rank – 189. Area – 444 sq km, rank – 200. Density – 331, rank – 40.



CYPRUS, Republic of Cyprus, Kypros, an island in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, Western Asia. The northeastern part of the island is the de facto state of Northern Cyprus. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, BBC. World Atlas, Oper/World. Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, EU, CW. Cyprus was renowned since ancient times for its mineral wealth, superb wines and produce, and natural beauty. Cyprus comprises tall mountains, fertile valleys, and wide beaches. Settled for more than ten millenia, Cyprus stands at a cultural, linguistic, and historic crossroads between Europe and Asia. The island's strategic location between Western and Eastern countries exposed it to a large number of different major empires throughout its history – Assyrians, Egyptians, Persians, and the Greek empire of Alexander the Great in 333 BC. Subsequent empires that conquered the island include the Ptolemaic Egypt empire and the Roman Empire, the Byzantine Empire and finally the Ottoman Empire during the late 1500's. Its chief cities - Nicosia, Limassol, Famagusta and Paphos – have absorbed the influence of generations of conquerors, pilgrims, and travelers and have an aire that is both cosmopolitan and provincial.

Today, Cyprus is a popular tourist destination for visitors from Europe. A former British colony since 1925, Cyprus became independent in 1960 following years of resistance to British rule. Tensions between the Greek Cypriot majority and Turkish Cypriot minority came to a head in December 1963, when violence broke out in the capital of Nicosia. In 1974, a Greek Government-sponsored attempt to overthrow the elected president of Cyprus was met by military intervention from Turkey, which soon controlled more than a third of the island. In 1983, the Turkish Cypriot administered area declared itself – the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, but it is recognized only by Turkey. The entire island entered the EU on 1 May 2004, although the EU acquis applies only to the areas under the internationally recognized government. Cyprus is the third biggest island in the Mediterranean.

Capital – Nicosia. Language – Greek. Religion – Christian – 73%, Muslim – 25%. Ethnics - Greek – 77%, Turkish – 18%, Armenians and Maronites. Government – the Republic of Cyprus is a unitary presidential constitutional republic. The president is both Head of State and Head of Government, where the position is elected through popular vote and consists of a 5-year term. Legislative power is exercised by the House of Representatives that consist of 59 members, while executive power is exercised by the government. The Judiciary acts separately and independently of the executive and the legislative bodies of the government. Population – 1,172,458, of which there is an estimated 300,000 leaving in the Turkish north, rank – 161. Area – 9,251 sq km, of which 3,355 sq km are in North Cyprus, rank – 171. Density – 127, rank – 88.



CYPRUS, NORTHERN, see Northern Cyprus.

CZECH REPUBLIC, Ceska Republika, Cesko, in Eastern Europe. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, EU. The Czech republic comprises the historical provinces of Bohemia and Moravia, along with the southern tip of Silesia. Despite its landlocked location, there were brief periods in the Middle Ages during which Bohemia had access to the Baltic and Adriatic seacoasts. Bohemian kings opened the country to German colonization, which soon accounted for one-third of the total population and disatvantaged the majority Czechs, brought the seeds of discontent, resulting in an ugly, insolvable conflict in the 20th century. Religious antagonism prevailed over ethnic tensions when Czechs and Germans jointly led the Protestant uprising that started the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) against the Catholic Habsburgs, the Austro-Hungrarian dynasty that ruled Bohemia from 1526 to 1918. After the Habsburg victory, the German language replaced Czech for almost two centuries.

The collpase of the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the end of World War I brought the Czechs and Slovaks together for the first time as Czechoslovaks. The Czech became the ruling ethnic group in Czechoslovakia, a new state in which Germans and Hungarians lived as unwilling citizens, bound to become disloyal minorities bent on undermining the democratic constitution engendered by the country's founders – Tomas Masaryk and Edvard Benes. On the eve of World War II, Nazi Germany occupied the Czech part of the country, following the annexation of the Sudeten by the Germans in the Munich Agreement of 1938, and Slovakia became an independent state allied with Germany. After the war, Czechoslovakia fell within the Soviet sphere of influence. The peaceful "Velvet Revolution" swept the Communist party from power at the end of 1989 and inaugurated a return to democratic rule and market economy. In 1993 the union of the country was dissolved into its national components, Czech Republic and Slovakia. The Czech Republic joined NATO in 1999 and the EU in 2004.

Capital – Prague. Language – Czech. Religion – Christian – 23%, Unaffiliated – 76%. Ethnics – Czech – 64%, Moravian – 5%, Slovak – 1%, Unspecified – 28%. Government – Republic, head of state – ceremonial, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 10,627,448, rank – 83. Area – 78,867 sq km, rank- 116. Density – 135, rank – 81.



DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA – see Korea, North.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO - see Congo, Democratic Republic of the.

DENMARK, Kingdom of Denmark, Danmark, in Northern Europe, includes two Constituent Countries self-governing territories: Faroe Islands, Greenland. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, EU. Denmark has been inhabited by humans since about 12,000 years ago. Some of the early people of Denmark were the Jules, who inhabited the peninsula of Jutland, and the Danes, possibly descending from the Dani people, an ethnic group indigenous to Scandinavia. Though small in territory and population, Denmark has nonetheless played a notable role in European history. The Vikings were the people of Denmark, Sweden, and Norway during the 8th through the 10th centuries, who were known for being seafaring explorers and undertook marauding, trading, and colonizing expeditions. The Danish Vikings explored Western Europe, settling in the Faroe Islands, Iceland and Newfoundland. The Viking also invaded parts of Britain and France. Denmark became a Christian nation around 965, and the country was united around this time, and controlled many other territories in Europe.

During the Middle Ages, the Danish crown dominated northwestern Europe through the power of the Kalmar Union. In later centuries, shaped by geographic conditions favouring maritime industries, Denmark established trading alliances throughout northern and western Europe and beyond, particularly with Great Britain and the US. The history of Denmark is closely tied to Sweden and Norway, with the three joining together in 1397 as one kingdom. When Sweden separated in 1523, Denmark-Norway persisted as a powerful union until 1814, when Norway joined Sweden and Denmark kept the colonies. Denmark became a constitutional monarchy in 1849, which it remains to this day. Over its more recent history, Denmark has been invaded by Prussia, losing territories, and in 1940 by the Nazis.

Making an important contribution of world culture, Denmark also developed humane governmental institutions and cooperative, nonviolent approaches to problem solving, and has evolved into a modern, prosperous nation that is participating in the general political and economic integration of Europe. It joined NATO in 1949 and the EEC (now the EU) in 1973. However, the country has opted out of certain elements of the EU Maastricht Treaty, including the European Economic and Monetary Union, European defense cooperation, and issues concerning certain justice and home affairs. Denmark occupies the peninsula of Jutland which extends northward from the centre of continental western Europe, and an archipelago of more than 400 islands to the east of the peninsula. The largest of the country's islands are Zealand, Vendsyssel-Thy, and Funen. The country's capital, Copenhagen is located primarily on Zealand, the second largest city, Arhus, is the major urban centre of Jutland.

Capital – Copenhagen. Language – Danish. Religion – Christian – 84%, Muslim – 4%, Unaffiliated -12%. Ethnics – 90% of the population is of Danish descent – defined as having at least one parent who was born in Denmark and has Danish citizenship. Many of the remaining 10% are immigrants who came mainly from Turkey, Iraq, Somalia, Bosnia, South Asia and the Middle East, 34% are of a Western background and 66% have a non-Western background. Government – Constitutional monarchy, head of state – ceremonial, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Home rule was granted to the Faroes in 1948 and to Greenland in 1979, though foreign policy and defense remain under Danish control. Population – 5,569,077, rank – 115. Area – 43,094 sq km, rank – 134, does not include the Faroe Islands and Greenland. Density – 129, rank – 86.

GDP – \$211.3 billion, world rank – 55. GDP Per Capita - \$37,800, world rank – 32. GDP Real Growth Rate – 0.10%, rank – 195. Gross National Saving – 24.10% of GDP, rank – 54.

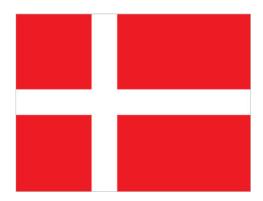
Industrial Production Growth Rate – 1.10%, rank – 143. Unemployment Rate – 6.00%, rank -59 (no. 1 – no unemployment). Annual Average Wage: Disposable Income - \$34,797, rank -7; Compulsory Deduction – 27.82%; Gross Income - \$48,209. Monthly Average Wage - \$na, rank - na. Median Household Income - \$44,360, Median Per-Capita Income - \$18,262, rank -4. Median Equivalised Disposable Household Income - \$26,421, rank - 9. Income Inequality - Gini - 24.8%, world rank - 137 (100% - the most unequal), almost the lowest inequality. Population Shares of the: Bottom Income Group below 75% - 26.8%, Middle Income Group 75%-125% - 46.5%, Top Income Group above 125% - 26.7%. This is a perfect distribution – almost half of the population is middle class (75% - 125%), and a quarter of the population each is in the bottom and top income categories. Taxes and Other Revenues – 55.9% of GDP, rank - 8. Size of Shadow Economy - 17.7% of GDP, rank - 22, 1 - lowest size. Budget Deficit - -2.50% of GDP, rank – 103 (highest surplus – no. 1). External Debt - \$586.7 billion, rank – 24. Gross Government Debt as % of GDP – 50,102%, Net – 7,626%. Inflation Rate – 0.80%, rank – 18 (lowest inflation – no. 1). Central Bank Discount Rate – 0.75%, rank – 133 (highest rate - no. 1). Commercial Bank Prime Lending Rate - 3.60%, rank - 162 (highest rate - no. 1).

Market Value of Public Traded Shares – \$179.5 billion, rank - 31. Current Account Balance - \$19.6 billion, rank – 16. Reserves of Foreign Exchange and Gold - \$89.5 billion, rank – 24. HDI – 0.900, world rank – 10 (best – 1.0). Newsweek World's Best Countries 2010 – rank - 10 (1 is best). Inequality Adjusted HDI – score – 0.838, rank – 8. Gender Inequality Index: rank – 5, value – 0.056 (most equal is no. 1 and closer to 0), 39.1% share of seats in parliament. Poverty – 13.40%, world rank – 133 (poorest – no. 1). Under \$1.25 a day – na%, under \$2 a day – na%. Poverty (Index Mundi) – 13.4%, rank – 131. Internet, IPR – 94.6%. World Happiness Report – 7.693, world rank – 1 (happiest – closest to 10, no. 1) – the most happy country – "paradise on earth". Currency – 6.5351 Danish Krone per US\$.

Corruption Perceptions Index – in 2014 - score of 92 (highest score of ethics is close to 100), rank - 1. 2013 - score - 91, 2012 - score - 90. 2005 - rank - 4, score - 9.5. 1996 - rank - 2, score – 9.33. 1995 – rank – 2, score – 9.32. Global Corruption Barometer – 1%, rank – 1 (1 – Lowest Bribes), the least corrupt country on earth with a marginal payment of bribes – about one percent to be compared to the most corrupt Sierra Leone (no. 95) with 84% paying bribes. Where to Be Born/Quality of Life Index - score - 8.01 (highest - 10), rank - 5 (1-best). Freedom in the World Index - free. Index of Economic Freedom - mostly free. Press Freedom Index – good situation. Democracy Index – score – 9.11 (highest – 10), rank – 5 (best – 1). Social Progress Index – score 86.55 (highest 100), rank – 9, Basic Human Needs Index – score – 95.73, rank – 1, Foundations of Well-Being Index – score – 84.82, rank – 8, Opportunity Index – score – 79.1, rank – 13. GDP (PPP) per Hour Worked/Productivity – 55.75, rank - 10. Global Peace Index – score – 1.193 (most peaceful – closer to 1), rank – 2. Not only "paradise" on earth in quite all the parameters, but also the most peaceful country – mostly appreciated by the author who lives in a country at war with its neighbors for more than a hundred years, but still a relative purgatorium in comparison to the hell in other countries of the Middle East - Syria, Lebanon, Algeria, Libya, Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan, Yemen, the extreme poverty in other countries, totalitarian states, extreme inequality, theocratic regimes of the Middle East in the so-called Arab Spring. Incarceration Rate – 73 per 100,000 population, rank - 175 (1-highest). This low figure can be appreciated in comparison to 707 in the US, about ten times more - thanks to the neo-liberal regime, privatization of prisons (see Capitalism a Love Story), extreme violence, high inequality, corruption, practically no gun control, more than 50% of Russia (470), much more than in the communist paradise of Cuba (510), 482 in Rwanda and 435 in Thailand. Level of

Discrimination (1.0 - lowest) - 3.6, rank - 8. Fragile States Index FSI - score - 21.5 (120 - most fragile), rank - 175, (1 - most fragile), surpassed only by Norway, Sweden and Finland.

Global Competitiveness – 5.29 (highest – most competitive), rank – 13 (1 – most competitive). Financial Development Index – score – 4.53, rank - 12. Gross National Income Per Capita – GNI –US\$ 61,680, rank no. 9. Total Health Expenditure Per Capita in PPP International \$4,467, in % of GDP – 11.1%, rank no. - 7. Credit Rating – AAA (AAA – best), stable. Education Index Pearson – score – 0.46, rank - 11. World Top 20 Education Poll – score – 7.0, rank - 11. U21 Higher Education – score – 82.9, rank - 3. Distribution of Wealth: Wealth Per Capita – rank – 27, PPP\$ 66,191, Wealth Per Adult – PPP\$ 86,807, Wealth Gini – 0.808 (completely unequal – 1). Environmental Performance: Rank – no. 13, score – 76.92 (highest – 100). Index of Globalization: Rank – no. 6, Score – 88.12 (no. 1 is the closest to 100). List of membership in Organizations: see at the end of Part IV. List of Countries Comparisons and Links to other parameters: see Part V - Bibliography.





DHEKELIA, see **Akrotiri and Dhekelia** (Greek: Ακρωτήρι και Δεκέλεια, *Akrotiri kai Dekeleia*), officially the **Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia**, is a British Overseas Territory on the island of Cyprus.



DJIBOUTI, Republic of Djibouti, in Eastern Africa, formerly known as French Somaliland. Link to map. Links to essential data: <u>CIA Factbook</u>, <u>Enc. Britannica</u>, <u>Wikipedia</u>, <u>Nations</u>

Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Djibouti is a small nation located on the Horn of Africa. The country has a very long history, with human habitation dating back to at least the 25th century BC. The region was historically part of the Land of Punt. Punt, which had ties to ancient Egypt, was a kingdom ruled by King Parahu and Queen Ati. The area later become a Muslim territory, and part of the Ifat Sultanate in medieval times. In the 19th century, treaties with France led to the formation of French Somaliland, which lasted from 1896 to 1967. In 1977 the people of Djibouti voted overwhelmingly for independence. Since Djibouti has been a sovereign state it has dealt with internal struggles and conflict, but after talks between opposing sides, the country has remained fairly stable. Unrest among the Afar minority during the 1990s led to a civil war that ended in 2001 with a peace accord between Afar rebels and the Somali Issa-dominated government. Djibouti occupies a strategic geographic location on the Bab el Mandeb Strait, which lies at the intersection of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden and serves as an important shipping portal for goods entering and leaving the east African highlands and transhipments between Europe, the Middle East and Asia. The government holds longstanding ties to France, which maintains a significant military presence in the country, and with the US, hosting several thousand of US soldiers.

Capital – Djibouti. Language – Arabic, French. Religion – Muslim – 97%, Christian – 2%. Ethnics – Somali – 60%, Afar – 35%. Government – Republic, head of state – executive, presidency independent of legislature, ministry subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 810,179, rank – 163. Area – 23,200 sq km, rank – 151. Density – 35, rank – 173.



DOMINICA, Commonwealth of Dominica, in the Lesser Antilles, Caribbean. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC. World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi. Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. Like many other Caribbean islands, Dominica was inhabited by Tainos, Arawak people, who arrived from the Orinoco River region of Venezuela and Colombia. The Tainos lived on the island peacefully until the arrival of the Caribs in the 14th century. The Caribs were the Kalinago tribe of warriors who dominated the land by the time Europeans first discovered it, beginning with the 1493 voyage of Chritopher Columbus. He named the island Dominica, Sunday, which was the day his crew first saw the island. Though the Spanish were the first Europeans to see the island, they were not able to settle there because of the Carib warriors. This did not stop the French from claiming the land in 1635, sending the first visitors to the island around 1650. The French did not settle there until 1715, when they fled from Martinique and established a French colony. The island was taken by Britain in the 1783 Treaty of Paris. After the abolition of slavery in the British colonies in 1834, tensions grew between the newly freed people and the wealthy British colonists. In 1978, Dominca became independent. Some 3,000 Carib Indians still living on Dominica are the only pre-Columbian population remaining in the eastern Caribbean.

Capital – Roseau. Language – English. Religion – Christian – 94%, Folk religion – 3%. Ethnics – Black – 87%, mixed – 9%, Carib Amerindian – 3%. Government – Republic, head

of state – ceremonial, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 73,449, rank – 202. Area – 751 sq km, rank – 189. Density – 98, rank – 106.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, Republica Dominicana, in the Greater Antilles, Caribbean. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. The Taino, indigenous inhabitants of Hispaniola prior to the arrival of the Europeans, divided the island into five chiefdoms and territories. Around the 15th century, the Caribs arrived and forced the Tainos to migrate nothward. Chritopher Columbus explored and claimed the island on his first voyage in 1492, it became a springboard for Spanish conquest of the Caribbean and the American mainland. In 1697, Spain recognized French dominion over the western third of the island, which in 1804 became Haiti. The remainder of the island, by then known as Santo Domingo, attained independence as the Dominican Republic in 1844. A legacy of unsettled, mostly non-representative rule followed, capped by the dictatorship of Trujillo from 1930 to 1961. Trujillo was assassinated in 1961, and to prevent a Communist takeover, the US intervened supervising elections. In 1966 Balaguer became president and maintained a tight grip on power until 1996.

Capital – Santo Domingo. Language – Spanish. Religion – Christian – 88%, Unaffiliated – 11%. Ethnics – mixed – 73%, white – 16%, black – 11%. Government – Republic, head of state – executive, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 10,349,741, rank – 87. Area – 48,670 sq km, rank – 132. Density – 213, rank – 57.



DONETSK, The **Donetsk People's Republic (DPR** or **DNR)** (Russian: Донецкая Наро́дная Респу́блика, tr. *Donetskaya Naródnaya Respúblika*, Ukrainian: Донецька Народна Республіка, *Donets'ka Narodna Respublika*) is a self-proclaimed state in the Donetsk Oblast of Ukraine in Eastern Europe. It has only been recognized by the partially recognized Republic of South Ossetia. It receives humanitarian and military backing from Russia. The Ukrainian government has designated it as a terrorist organization and it is at war with Ukraine, alongside the Luhansk People's Republic (LPR). It formed an unrecognized confederation of Novorossiya, referencing the corresponding historical region and its name with the also unrecognized LPR until its 20 May 2015 suspension, and since February 2015 has postured itself as the successor to the historic Donetsk–Krivoy Rog Soviet Republic. Along with the self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic and the Republic of Crimea, the

Donetsk People's Republic is one of what the Ukrainian government calls the "temporarily occupied territories". Link to map. Link to essential data: Wikipedia, Quora, Polgeonow.

Capital – Donetsk. Language – Russian, Ukrainian. Religion – Russian Orthodox. Ethnics – Russian, Ukrainian. Government – Unitary semi-presidential republic. Legislature – People's Soviet. Population – 2,682,357, Area – 8,539, Density – 314. See also Novorossiya.



EASTER ISLAND, Rapa Nui, Isla de Pascua, is a special territory of Chile in the southeastern Pacific Ocean. Easter Island is famous for its 887 extant monumental statues, called moai, created by the early Rapa Nui people. In 1995, UNESCO named Easter Island a World Heritage Site, with much of the island protected within Rapa Nui National Park. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia. Inhabitants of Easter Island have endured famines, epidemics, civil war, slave raids, colonialism, and near-deforestation; its population declined precipitously more than once. Estimated dates of initial settlement of Easter Island have ranged from 300 to 1200 AD, aprroximately coinciding with the arrival of the first settlers in Hawaii. To its original inhabitants the island is known as Rapa Nui (Great Rapa) or Te Pito et Henua (Navel of the World). The first European visitors, the Dutch, named it Paaseiland (Easter Island), in memory of their own day of arrival.

Capital – Hanga Roa. Language – Spanish, Rapa Nui. Religion – the Rapa Nui religion states a series of prohibitions and precepts, all of them related to what they consider sacred. The religious practice that persists in the island up to this day is called Ivi Atua, and is based on the immortality of the soul. Their beliefs evolve mainly around Make-Make, the creator god. Ethnics – 60% - Rapanui, 39% - Chileans of European or mixed European and Amerindian descent. Government - Administratively, the island is a province of the Valparaiso Region and contains a single commune. Both the province and the commune are called Isla de Pascua and encompass the whole island and its surrounding islets and rocks, plus Isla Salas y Gomez, some 380 km to the east. Population – 6,148. Area – 164 sq km. Density – 37.



EAST TIMOR, see Timor-Leste.

ECUADOR, Republic of Ecuador, in North West South America. Galapagos Islands is a province of Ecuador. <u>Link to map</u>. Links to essential data: <u>CIA Factbook</u>, <u>Enc. Britannica</u>, <u>Wikipedia</u>, <u>Nations Online</u>, <u>UN Data</u>, <u>BBC</u>, <u>World Atlas</u>, <u>Countries/World</u>, <u>List/Countries</u>, <u>Index Mundi</u>, <u>Oper/World</u>, <u>Internet/Stats</u>. Member of the UN. Traces of human life in the

region of Ecuador have shown that people had lived in the area from as early as 10,000BC. By 3000BC, agriculture civilizations had existed. During the 1450s, the Inca Empire started to invade and was met by resistance from the native tribes that lived in Ecuador. Eventually, the Inca Empire overpowered the original inhabitants and the region came under the Inca rule. The region formed part of the northern Inca Empire until the Spanish conquest in 1533. Quito became a seat of Spanish colonial government in 1563 and part of the Viceroyalty of New Granada in 1717. The territories of the Viceroyalty – New Granada (Colombia), Venezuela and Quito – gained their independence between 1819 and 1822 and formed a federation known as Gran Colombia. When Quito withdrew in 1830, the traditional name was changed in favor of the Republic of the Equator. Between 1904 and 1942, Ecuador lost territories in a series of conflicts with its neighbors. Although Ecuador marked 30 years of civilian governance in 2004, the period was marred by political instability. In late 2008, voter approved a new constitution, Ecuador's 20th since independence.

Ecuador is one of the most environmentally diverse countries in the world, and it has contributed notably to the environmental sciences. The first scientific expedition to measure the circumference of the Earth, led by Charles-Marie de la Condamine of France, was based in Ecuador, and research in Ecuador by the renowned naturalists Alexander von Humboldt of Prussia and Charles Darwin of England helped establish basic theories of modern geography, ecology, and evolutionary biology. Economically, Ecuador became known for exporting Panama hats and agricultural products, notably cacao, bananas and flowers. It is a major exporter of petroleum and an increasingly important tourist destination. Ecuador is unusual among Latin American countries in having two major centres of population and commerce, the vibrant port city of Guayaquil acting as a counterbalance to the Andean capital Quito.

Capital – Quito. Language – Spanish. Religion – Christian – 94%, Unaffiliated – 6%. Ethnics – mestizo (mixed Amerindian and white) – 72%, Montubio – 7%, Afroecuadorian – 7%, Amerindian – 7%, white – 6%. Government – Republic, head of state – executive, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 15,654,411, rank – 68. Area – 283,561, rank – 74. Density – 55, rank – 149.



EGYPT, Arab Republic of Egypt, Misr, in North East Africa, Middle East. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Egypt has one of the longest histories of any modern country, arising in the tenth millennium BC as one of the world's first nation states. Considered a cradle of civilisation, Ancient Egypt experienced some of the earliest developments of writing, agriculture, urbanisation, organised religion and central government. Iconic monuments such as the Giza Necropolis and its Great Sphinx, as well the ruins of Memphis, Thebes, Karnak, and the Valley of the Kings, reflect this legacy and remain a significant focus of archaeological study and popular interest worldwide. The last native dynasty fell to the Persians in 341 B.C., who in turn were replaced by the Greeks, Romans, and Byzantines. It was the Arabs who introduced Islam and the Arabic language in the 7th century and who ruled for the next six centuries. A local military

caste, the Mamluks took control about 1250 and continued to govern after the conquest of Egypt by the Ottoman Turks in 1517. Completion of the Suez Canal in 1869 elevated Egypt as an important world transportation hub. Ostensibly to protect its investments, Britain seized control of Egypt's government in 1882, but nominal allegiance to the Ottoman Empire continued until 1914. Partially independent from the UK in 1922, Egypt acquired full sovereignty from Britain in 1952.

In 1952 a military coup installed a revolutionary regime that promoted a combination of socialism and Pan-Arab nationalism. The new regime's extreme political rhetoric and its nationalization of the Suez Canal Company prompted the Suez Crisis of 1956, which was only resolved by the intervention of the United States and the Soviet Union, whose presence in the Mediterranean region thereafter kept Egypt in the international spotlight. During the Cold War, Egypt's central role in the Arabic-speaking world increased its geopolitical importance as Arab nationalism and inter-Arab relations became powerful and emotional political forces in the Middle East and North Africa. Egypt led the Arab states in a series of wars against Israel but was the first of those states to make peace with the Jewish state, which it did in 1979. Egypt's authoritarian political system was long dominated by the president, the ruling party, and the security services. With opposition political activity tightly restricted, decades of popular frustration erupted into mass demonstrations in 2011. The uprising forced Pres. Hosnī Mubārak to step down, leaving a council of military officers in control of the country. Power was transferred to an elected government in 2012, and a new constitution was adopted at the end of the year. This elected government, however, was toppled a year later when the military intervened to remove the newly elected president, Mohammed Morsi, a member of the Islamist Muslim Brotherhood, following a series of massive public demonstrations against his administration. In January 2014, voters approved a new constitution by referendum and in May 2014 elected Abdel Fattah EL SISI president. Egypt elected a new legislature in December 2015, the first parliament since 2012.

With about 90 million inhabitants, Egypt is the most populous country in North Africa and the Arab World, the third-most populous in Africa (after Nigeria and Ethiopia), and the fifteenth-most populous in the world. The great majority of its people live near the banks of the Nile River, an area of about 40,000 square kilometres (15,000 sq mi), where the only arable land is found. The large regions of the Sahara desert, which constitute most of Egypt's territory, are sparsely inhabited. About half of Egypt's residents live in urban areas, with most spread across the densely populated centres of greater Cairo, Alexandria and other major cities in the Nile Delta. Modern Egypt is considered to be a regional and middle power, with significant cultural, political, and military influence in North Africa, the Middle East and the Muslim world. Its economy is one of the largest and most diversified in the Middle East, with sectors such as tourism, agriculture, industry and services at almost equal production levels.

Capital – Cairo. Language – Arabic, Coptic – de jure language of the Coptic Church. Religion – Muslim – 95%, Christian Copt – 5%. Ethnics – Egyptian – 91%, Bedouin, Berber, Sudanese, Iraqi, Palestinian, Turk and Greek – 9%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency independent of legislature, ministry subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 86,895,099, rank – 16. Area – 1,001,450, rank – 30. Density – 87, rank – 117.



EL SALVADOR, Republic of El Salvador, in Central America. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. El Salvador was for centuries inhabited by several Mesoamerican nations, especially the Cuzcatlecs, as well as the Lenca and Maya. In the early 16th century, the Spanish Empire conquered the territory, incorporating it into the Viceroyalty of New Spain. In 1821, the country achieved independence from Spain as part of the First Mexican Empire, only to further secede as part of the Federal Republic of Central America in 1823. Upon the republic's dissolution in 1841, El Salvador became sovereign until forming a short-lived union with Honduras and Nicaragua called the Greater Republic of Central America, which lasted from 1895 to 1898. From the late 19th to the mid-20th century, El Salvador endured chronic political and economic instability characterized by coups, revolts, and a succession of authoritarian rulers. Persistent socioeconomic inequality and civil unrest culminated in the devastating Salvadoran Civil War (1979-1992), which was fought between the military-led government and a coalition of left-wing guerrilla groups. The conflict ended with a negotiated settlement that established a multiparty constitutional republic, which remains in place today.

El Salvador's economy was historically dominated by agriculture, beginning with the indigo plant (*añil* in Spanish), the most important crop during the colonial period, and followed thereafter by coffee, which by the early 20th century accounted for 90 percent of export earnings. El Salvador has since reduced its dependence on coffee and embarked on diversifying the economy by opening up trade and financial links and expanding the manufacturing sector. The colón, the official currency of El Salvador since 1892, was replaced by the U.S. dollar in 2001. As of 2010, El Salvador ranks 12th among Latin American countries in terms of the Human Development Index and fourth in Central America (behind Panama, Costa Rica, and Belize) due in part to ongoing rapid industrialisation. However, the country continues to struggle with high rates of poverty, inequality, and crime.

Capital – San Salvador. Language – Spanish. Religion – Christian – 88%, Unaffiliated – 11%. Ethnics – Mestizo – 86%, White – 13%, Amerindian – 1%. Government – Republic, executive presidency independent of legislature. Population – 6,125, 512, rank – 109. Area – 21,041, rank – 153. Density – 296, rank – 45.



EQUATORIAL GUINEA, Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Ecuatorial, in Central Africa, formerly known as Spanish Guinea. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Equatorial Guinea is the only sovereign African state in which Spanish is an official language. Equatorial Guinea consists of two parts, an insular and a mainland region. The insular region consists of the islands of Bioko (formerly Fernando Pό) in the Gulf of Guinea and Annobón, a small volcanic island south of the equator. The mainland region, Río Muni, is the location of Bata, Equatorial Guinea's largest city, and Oyala, the country's planned future capital. Rio Muni also includes several small offshore islands, such as Corisco, Elobey Grande, and Elobey Chico. Since the mid-1990s, Equatorial Guinea has become one of sub-Saharan Africa's largest oil producers. But the wealth is distributed very unevenly and few people have benefited from the oil riches. The country ranks 144th on the UN's 2014 Human Development Index. The UN says that less than half of the population has access to clean drinking water and that 20% of children die before reaching the age of five.

The country's authoritarian government has one of the worst human rights records in the world, consistently ranking among the "worst of the worst" in Freedom House's annual survey of political and civil rights. Reporters Without Borders ranks President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo among its "predators" of press freedom. Human trafficking is a significant problem, with the US Trafficking in Persons Report, 2012, stating that "Equatorial Guinea is a source and destination for women and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking." The report rates Equatorial Guinea as a "Tier 3" country, the lowest (worst) ranking: "Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so." The country is a member of the African Union, Francophonie and the CPLP. Equatorial Guinea is the host of major regional and international conferences and continues to seek a greater role in regional affairs.

Capital – Malabo. Language – Spanish. Religion - The principal religion in Equatorial Guinea is Christianity, the faith of 93% of the population. Roman Catholics make up (87%), while a minority are Protestants (5%). 2% of the population follows Islam (mainly Sunni). The remaining 5% practise Animism, Bahá'í Faith, and other beliefs. Ethnics – Fang – 86%, Bubi – 7%, Mdowe – 4%, Anobon – 2%, Bujeba – 1%. Government – Republic, executive presidency independent of legislature. Population – 722,254, rank – 167. Area – 28,051, rank – 146. Density – 26, rank – 183.



ERITREA, State of Eritrea, Hagere Ertra, in Eastern Africa. <u>Link to map</u>. Links to essential data: <u>CIA Factbook</u>, <u>Enc. Britannica</u>, <u>Wikipedia</u>, <u>Nations Online</u>, <u>UN Data</u>, <u>BBC</u>, <u>World Atlas</u>, <u>Countries/World</u>, <u>List/Countries</u>, <u>Index Mundi</u>, <u>Oper/World</u>, <u>Internet/Stats</u>. Member of the UN. The name *Eritrea* is based on the Greek name for the Red Sea (*Erythra Thalassa*), which was first adopted for Italian Eritrea in 1890. The Kingdom of Aksum, covering much

of modern-day Eritrea and northern Ethiopia, rose somewhere around the first or second centuries and adopted Christianity around the time Islam had spread through Egypt and the Levant. In medieval times much of Eritrea fell under the Medri Bahri kingdom, with a smaller region being part of Hamasien. The creation of modern-day Eritrea is a result of the incorporation of independent, distinct kingdoms and sultanates (for example, Medri Bahri and the Sultanate of Aussa) eventually resulting in the formation of Italian Eritrea. In 1947 Eritrea became part of a federation with Ethiopia, the Federation of Ethiopia and Eritrea. Subsequent annexation into Ethiopia led to the Eritrean War of Independence, ending with Eritrean independence following a referendum in April 1993. Hostilities between Eritrea and Ethiopia persisted, leading to the Eritrean-Ethiopian War of 1998-2000 and further skirmishes with both Djibouti and Ethiopia. ISAIAS Afworki has been Eritrea's only president since independence; his rule, particularly since 2001, has been highly autocratic and repressive. His government has created a highly militarized society by pursuing an unpopular program of mandatory conscription into national service, sometimes of indefinite length. Eritrea is a member of the African Union, the United Nations, and IGAD, and is an observer in the Arab League alongside Brazil, Venezuela, India and Turkey.

Capital – Asmara. Language - Arabic, Tigrinya, English. Religion – Christian – 63%, Muslim – 37%. Ethnics – 9 recognized ethnic groups – Tigrinya – 55%, Tigre – 30%, Saho – 4%, Kunama – 2%, Rashaida – 2%, Bilen – 2%, Afar, Beni Amir, Nera – 5%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, power constitutionally linked to a single political movement. Population – 6,380,803, rank – 107. Area – 101,000, rank – 101. Density – 63, rank - 144.



ESTONIA, Republic of Estonia, Eesti Vabariik, in Northern Europe. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN and EU. After centuries of Danish, Swedish, German, and Russian rule, Estonia attained independence in 1918. Forcibly incorporated into the USSR in 1940 - an action never recognized by the US - it regained its freedom in 1991 with the collapse of the Soviet Union. Since the last Russian troops left in 1994, Estonia has been free to promote economic and political ties with the West. It joined both NATO and the EU in the spring of 2004, formally joined the OECD in late 2010, and adopted the euro as its official currency on 1 January 2011. A developed country with an advanced, high-income economy and high living standards, Estonia ranks very high in the Human Development Index, and performs favourably in measurements of economic freedom, civil liberties, education, and press freedom (third in the world in 2012). Estonia is often described as one of the most internet-focused countries in Europe. The territory of Estonia consists of a mainland and 2,222 islands and islets in the Baltic Sea, and is influenced by a humid continental climate. Estonia is a democratic parliamentary republic divided into 15 counties, with its largest city and capital being Tallinn. It is one of the least-populous member states of the European Union, Eurozone, NATO, the OECD and the Schengen Area. Ethnic Estonians are Finnic people, and the official language, Estonian, is a Finno-Ugric language closely related to Finnish and the Sami languages, and distantly to Hungarian. This is unlike the Baltic neighbors of Latvia and Lithuania, who speak Baltic languages.

Capital – Tallinn. Language – Estonian. Religion – Christian – 40%, Unaffiliated – 60%. Ethnics – Estonian - 69%, Russian – 25%, Ukrainian – 2%. Government – Republic, Ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 1,257,921, rank – 158. Area – 45,228, rank – 133. Density – 30, rank – 180.



ETHIOPIA, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Ityop'iya, in Eastern Africa, is a federation of 9 regions and 2 chartered cities. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Ethiopia is one of the world's oldest countries, its territorial extent having varied over the millennia of its existence. In ancient times it remained centred on Aksum, an imperial capital located in the northern part of the modern state, about 100 miles (160 km) from the Red Sea coast. The present territory was consolidated during the 19th and 20th centuries as European powers encroached into Ethiopia's historical domain. Ethiopia became prominent in modern world affairs first in 1896, when it defeated colonial Italy in the Battle of Adwa, and again in 1935–36, when it was invaded and occupied by fascist Italy. Liberation during World War II by the Allied powers set the stage for Ethiopia to play a more prominent role in world affairs. Ethiopia was among the first independent nations to sign the Charter of the United Nations, and it gave moral and material support to the decolonization of Africa and to the growth of Pan-African cooperation. These efforts culminated in the establishment of the Organization of African Unity (since 2002, the African Union) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, both of which have their headquarters in Addis Ababa. In 1974, a military junta, the Derg, deposed Emperor Haile SELASSIE (who had ruled since 1930) and established a socialist state. Torn by bloody coups, uprisings, wide-scale drought, and massive refugee problems, the regime was finally toppled in 1991 by a coalition of rebel forces, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front. A constitution was adopted in 1994, and Ethiopia's first multiparty elections were held in 1995. A border war with Eritrea in the late 1990s ended with a peace treaty in December 2000. In August 2012, longtime leader Prime Minister MELES Zenawi died in office and was replaced by his Deputy Prime Minister HAILEMARIAM Desalegn, marking the first peaceful transition of power in decades.

Ethiopia is a multilingual nation with around 80 ethnolinguistic groups, most people in the country speak Afroasiatic languages of the Cushitic or Semitic branches. Ethiopia is the place of origin for the coffee bean. It is a land of natural contrasts, with its vast fertile West, jungles, and numerous rivers, and the world's hottest settlement of Dallol in its north. Ethiopia holds Africa's largest continuous mountain ranges, and the largest cave in Africa at Sof Omar. Ethiopia has the most UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Africa. Ethiopia's ancient Ge'ez script, also known as *Ethiopic*, is one of the oldest alphabets still in use in the world. A

substantial population of Ethiopian Jews, known as Beta Israel, resided in Ethiopia until the 1980s but most of them have since gradually emigrated to Israel. Despite being the main source of the Nile River –the longest river on Earth– Ethiopia underwent a series of famines in the 1980s, which was exacerbated by civil wars and adverse geopolitics. The country has begun to recover recently, and now has the largest economy (by GDP) in East Africa and Central Africa. Ethiopia has the 46th most powerful military in the world.

Capital – Addis Ababa. Language – Amharic. Religion – Christian – 63%, Muslim – 35%. Ethnics – Oromo – 34%, Amhara – 27%, Somali – 6%, Tigray – 6%, Sidama – 4%, Gurage – 3%. Government – Republic, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 96,633,458, rank – 14. Area – 1,000,000, rank – 27. Density – 97, rank - 108.



EUROPA ISLAND, part of the Scattered Islands, see French Southern and Antarctic Lands.

FALKLAND ISLANDS, Islas Malvinas, in Southern South America, is a UK territory, claimed also by Argentina, they are not part of the European Union with the UK. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, World Atlas. Internet/Stats. Falkland Islands is an internally self-governing overseas territory of the United Kingdom in the South Atlantic Ocean. It lies about 300 miles (480 km) northeast of the southern tip of South America and a similar distance east of the Strait of Magellan. In South America the islands are generally known as Islas Malvinas, because early French settlers had named them Malouines, or Malovines, in 1764, after their home port of Saint-Malo, France. The two main islands, East Falkland and West Falkland, and about 200 smaller islands form a total land area nearly as extensive as the U.S. state of Connecticut. The government of the Falkland Islands also administers the British overseas territory of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, including the Shag and Clerke rocks, lying from 700 to 2,000 miles (1,100 to 3,200 km) to the east and southeast of the Falklands. There are no longer any land mammals indigenous to the Falklands, the wild fox being extinct. About 65 species of birds, including black-browed albatrosses, Falkland pipits, peregrine falcons, and striated caracaras, are found on the islands. The Falklands are breeding grounds for several million penguins-mostly rockhopper, magellanic, and gentoo penguins. Dolphins and porpoises are common, and southern sea lions and elephant seals are also numerous.

The population of the Falkland Islands is English-speaking and consists primarily of Falklanders of British descent. The pattern of living on the islands is sharply differentiated between Stanley and the small, isolated sheep-farming communities. Four-fifths of the population lives in Stanley. Almost the whole area of the two main islands, outside of Stanley, is devoted to sheep farming. The wool is sold in Great Britain and is the Falklands' leading land-based export. In the early 1990s, seismic studies suggested the presence of offshore oil reserves, and licenses were granted to foreign companies for exploration. Tourism, especially ecotourism, grew rapidly beginning in the early 21st century to become another leading sector

of the economy. Such efforts have enabled the islands' economy to enjoy sustained growth since the late 20th century. Executive authority is vested in the British crown, and the islands' government is headed by a governor appointed by the crown. As outlined in the Falkland Islands constitution (2009), the governor is advised by an Executive Council consisting of three of the elected members of the Legislative Assembly and two ex officio, nonvoting members (the chief executive and the director of finance).

The English captain John Strong made the first recorded landing in the Falklands, in 1690, and named the sound between the two main islands after Viscount Falkland, a British naval official. The name was later applied to the whole island group. The French navigator Louis-Antoine de Bougainville founded the islands' first settlement, on East Falkland, in 1764, and he named the islands the Malovines. In 1820 the Buenos Aires government, which had declared its independence from Spain in 1816, proclaimed its sovereignty over the Falklands. In 1831 the U.S. warship Lexington destroyed the Argentine settlement on East Falkland in reprisal for the arrest of three U.S. ships that had been hunting seals in the area. In early 1833 a British force expelled the few remaining Argentine officials from the island without firing a shot. In 1841 a British civilian lieutenant governor was appointed for the Falklands, and by 1885 a British community of some 1,800 people on the islands was self-supporting. Argentina regularly protested Britain's occupation of the islands. On April 2 Argentina's military government invaded the Falklands. This act started the Falkland Islands War, which ended 10 weeks later with the surrender of the Argentine forces at Stanley to British troops who had forcibly reoccupied the islands. Although Britain and Argentina reestablished full diplomatic relations in 1990, the issue of sovereignty remained a point of contention. In a referendum held in March 2013, islanders voted nearly unanimously to remain a British overseas territory.

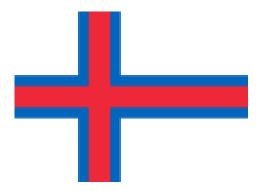
Capital – Stanley. Language – English. Religion – Christian – 67%, Unaffiliated – 32%. Ethnics – Falkland Islander – 57%, British – 25%, St. Helenian – 10%, Chilean – 5%. Government - As a British overseas territory, the Falklands have internal self-governance, and the United Kingdom takes responsibility for their defence and foreign affairs. Population – 2,840, rank – 231. Area – 12,173, rank – 165. Density – 0.23, rank – 233.



FAROE ISLANDS, Foroyar, Feroerne, in Northern Europe, are a self-governing territory of Denmark, but they are not part of the European Union with Denmark. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Faroe Islands is an island country consisting of an archipelago of small islands, approximately halfway between Norway and Iceland. The islands are an autonomous country within the Kingdom of Denmark. The archipelago is very rugged and has an extremely moderated subpolar oceanic climate that is windy, wet, cloudy and cool year round. In spite of its northerly latitude, temperatures average above freezing year round. The population of the Faroe Islands is largely descended from Viking settlers who arrived in the 9th century. Between 1035 and 1814, the Faroe Islands were part of the Kingdom of Norway. The 1814 Treaty of Kiel granted Denmark control over the islands, along with two other

Norwegian regions: Greenland and Iceland. The Faroe Islands have been a self-governing country within the Danish Realm since 1948. The Faroese have control of most domestic matters; areas that remain the responsibility of Denmark include military defence, police, justice, currency, foreign affairs. The Faroe Islands have representation in the Nordic Council as members of Denmark. The Faroe Islands also compete as independent in certain sports.

Capital – Thorshavn. Language – Faroese, Danish. Religion – Christian – 98%, Unaffiliated – 2%. Ethnics - **Faroese people** are a Germanic ethnic group and nation native to the Faroe Islands. The Faroese are of mixed Norse and Gaelic origins. About 21,000 Faroese live in neighbouring countries, particularly in Denmark, Iceland and Norway. Government - The Faroese government holds executive power in local government affairs. The head of the government is called the *Løgmaður* ("Law person") and serves as a prime minister. Any other member of the cabinet is called a *landsstýrismaður* ("national committee man") or *landsstýriskvinna* ("national committee woman"). The Faroese parliament – the *Løgting* ("Law assembly") – dates back to Viking times and is believed to be one of the oldest parliaments in the world. The parliament currently has 33 members. Today, elections are held at municipal, national (*Løgting*) and Danish (*Folketing*) levels. Population – 49,947, rank – 211. Area – 1,393, rank – 183. Density – 36, rank – 171.



FEDERAL STATE OF NOVOROSSIYA (DUNETSK, LUGANSK) – see Novorossiya.

FEDERTATED STATES OF MICRONESIA, see Micronesia.

FIJI, Republic of Fiji, Viti, in Melanesia, Oceania, has 1 autonomous region – Rotuma. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. Fiji is an island country in Melanesia in the South Pacific Ocean about 2,000 km northeast of New Zealand's North Island. Fiji is an archipelago of more than 330 islands, of which 110 are permanently inhabited, and more than 500 islets. The two major islands, Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, account for 87% of the population. The capital, Suva on Viti Levu, serves as Fiji's principal port. About three-quarters of Fijians live on Viti Levu's coasts, either in Suva or in smaller urban centres like Nadi (tourism) or Lautoka (sugar cane industry). Viti Levu's interior is sparsely inhabited due to its terrain. Fiji has one of the most developed economies in the Pacific due to an abundance of forest, mineral, and fish resources. Today, the main sources of foreign exchange are its tourist industry and sugar exports. The country's currency is the Fijian dollar. Fiji's local government, in the form of city and town councils, is supervised by the Ministry of Local Government and Urban Development. The majority of Fiji's islands were formed through volcanic activity starting around 150 million years ago. Today, some geothermal activity still occurs on the islands of Vanua Levu and Taveuni. Fiji has been inhabited since the second millennium BC, and was settled first by Austronesians and later by Melanesians, with some Polynesian influences. Europeans visited Fiji from the 17th century, and, after a brief period as an independent kingdom, the British established the Colony of Fiji in 1874. Fiji was a Crown colony until 1970, when it gained independence as a Commonwealth realm.

A republic was declared in 1987. Democratic rule was interrupted by two military coups in 1987 caused by concern over a government perceived as dominated by the Indian community (descendants of contract laborers brought to the islands by the British in the 19th century). The coups and a 1990 constitution that cemented native Melanesian control of Fiji led to heavy Indian emigration; the population loss resulted in economic difficulties, but ensured that Melanesians became the majority. A new constitution enacted in 1997 was more equitable. Free and peaceful elections in 1999 resulted in a government led by an Indo-Fijian, but a civilian-led coup in 2000 ushered in a prolonged period of political turmoil. Parliamentary elections held in 2001 provided Fiji with a democratically elected government led by Prime Minister Laisenia QARASE. Reelected in May 2006, QARASE was ousted in a December 2006 military coup led by Commodore Vorege BAINIMARAMA, who initially appointed himself acting president but in January 2007 became interim prime minister. Following years of political turmoil, long-delayed legislative elections were held in September 2014 that were deemed "credible" by international observers and that resulted in BAINIMARAMA being reelected.

Capital – Suva. Language – English, Fijian, Fiji Hindi. Religion – 64% - Christian, Hindu – 28%, Muslim – 6%. Ethnics – iTaukei – 57%, Indian – 37%. Government – Republic, head of state ceremonial, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 903,207, rank – 162. Area – 18,274, rank – 157. Density – 49, rank – 155.



FINLAND, Republic of Finland, Suomen Tasavalta, in Northern Europe. Includes Aland Islands, which are a neutral and demilitarized autonomous region. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, EU. Finland is a sovereign state in Europe. A peninsula with the Gulf of Finland to the south and the Gulf of Bothnia to the west, the country has land borders with Sweden to the northwest, Norway to the north, and Russia to the east. Estonia is south of the country across the Gulf of Finland. Finland is situated in the geographical region of Fennoscandia, which also includes Scandinavia. Finland's population is staying roughly on the same level over the past two decades. The majority of the population is concentrated in the southern region. In terms of area, it is the eighth largest country in Europe and the most sparsely populated country in the European Union. Finland is a parliamentary republic with a central government based in the capital Helsinki, local governments in 317 municipalities, and an autonomous region, the Åland Islands. Over 1.4 million people live in the Greater Helsinki metropolitan area, which produces a third of the country's GDP.

From the late 12th century, Finland was an integral part of Sweden, a legacy reflected in the prevalence of the Swedish language and its official status. In the spirit of the notion of Adolf Ivar Arwidsson (1791–1858), "Swedes we are no-longer, Russians we do not want to become, let us therefore be Finns", the Finnish national identity started to establish. Nevertheless, in 1809 Finland was incorporated into the Russian Empire as the autonomous Grand Duchy of Finland. In 1906, Finland became the second nation in the world to give the right to vote to all adult citizens and the first in the world to give full suffrage to all adult citizens. Following the 1917 Russian Revolution, Finland declared itself independent. In 1918, the fledgling state was divided by civil war, with the Bolshevik-leaning "Reds" supported by the equally new Soviet Union, fighting the "Whites," supported by the German Empire. After a brief attempt to establish a kingdom, the country became a republic. During World War II, the Soviet Union sought repeatedly to occupy Finland, with Finland losing parts of Karelia, Salla and Kuusamo, Petsamo and some islands, but retaining independence. Finland joined the United Nations in 1955 and established an official policy of neutrality. The Finno-Soviet Treaty of 1948 gave the Soviet Union some leverage in Finnish domestic politics during the Cold War era. It joined the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 1969, the NATO Partnership for Peace on 1994, the European Union in 1995, the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council on 1997 and finally the Eurozone at its inception in 1999.

Finland was a relative latecomer to industrialization, remaining a largely agrarian country until the 1950s. It rapidly developed an advanced economy while building an extensive Nordic-style welfare state, resulting in widespread prosperity and one of the highest per capita incomes in the world. However, since 2012 Finnish GDP growth has been negative, with a preceding nadir of -8% in 2009. Finland is a top performer in numerous metrics of national performance, including education, economic competitiveness, civil liberties, quality of life, and human development. In 2015, Finland was ranked first in the World Human Capital and the Press Freedom Index, and as the most stable country in the world in the Failed States Index. A large majority of Finns are members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, though freedom of religion is guaranteed under the Finnish Constitution.

Capital– Helsinki. Language – Finnish, Swedish. Religion – Christian – 82%, Unaffiliated – 18%. Ethnics – Finn- 93%, Swede – 6%. Government – Republic, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 5,268,799, rank – 119. Area – 303,815, rank – 65. Density – 17, rank – 195.



FRANCE, French Republic, *République française*, in Western Europe, has 5 overseas regions/departments: French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte and Reunion. It includes also the overseas collectivities of: Saint Barthelemy, Saint Martin, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Wallis and Futuna; the overseas territory uninhabited of French Southern and Antarctic Lands; the possession uninhabited of Clipperton Island; the overseas country of French Polynesia; the special collectivity of New Caledonia. A separatist movement in Corsica claims independence. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc.

Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, EU. The European part of France, called metropolitan France, extends from the Mediterranean Sea to the English Channel and the North Sea, and from the Rhine to the Atlantic Ocean. It is a unitary semi-presidential republic with the capital in Paris, the country's largest city and main cultural and commercial centre. The Constitution of France establishes the state as secular and democratic, with its sovereignty derived from the people. During the Iron Age, what is now Metropolitan France was inhabited by the Gauls, a Celtic people. The Gauls were conquered in 51 BC by the Roman Empire, which held Gaul until 486. The Gallo-Romans faced raids and migration from the Germanic Franks, who dominated the region for hundreds of years, eventually creating the medieval Kingdom of France. France emerged as a major European power in the Late Middle Ages, with its victory in the Hundred Years' War (1337 to 1453) strengthening French state-building and paving the way for a future centralized absolute monarchy. During the Renaissance, France experienced a vast cultural development and established the beginning of a global colonial empire. The 16th century was dominated by religious civil wars between Catholics and Protestants (Huguenots).

France became Europe's dominant cultural, political, and military power under Louis XIV. French philosophers played a key role in the Age of Enlightenment during the 18th century. In the late 18th century, the absolute monarchy was overthrown in the French Revolution. Among its legacies was the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, one of the earliest documents on human rights, which expresses the nation's ideals to this day. France became one of modern history's earliest republics until Napoleon took power and launched the First French Empire in 1804. Fighting against a complex set of coalitions during the Napoleonic Wars, he dominated European affairs for over a decade and had a long-lasting impact on Western culture. Following the collapse of the Empire, France endured a tumultuous succession of governments: the monarchy was restored, it was replaced in 1830 by a constitutional monarchy, then briefly by a Second Republic, and then by a Second Empire, until a more lasting French Third Republic was established in 1870. The French republic had tumultuous relationships with the Catholic Church from the dechristianization of France during the French Revolution to the 1905 law establishing *laïcité*. *Laïcité* is a strict but consensual form of secularism, which is nowadays an important federative principle in the modern French society.

France reached its territorial height during the 19th and early 20th centuries, when it ultimately possessed the second-largest colonial empire in the world. In World War I, France was one of the main winners as part of the Triple Entente alliance fighting against the Central Powers. France was also one of the Allied Powers in World War II, but came under occupation by the Axis Powers in 1940. Following liberation in 1944, a Fourth Republic was established and later dissolved in the course of the Algerian War. The Fifth Republic, led by Charles de Gaulle, was formed in 1958 and remains to this day. Following World War II, most of the French colonial empire became decolonized. Throughout its long history, France has been a leading global center of culture, making significant contributions to art, science, and philosophy. It hosts Europe's third-largest number of cultural UNESCO World Heritage Sites (after Italy and Spain) and receives around 83 million foreign tourists annually, the most of any country in the world. France remains a great power with significant cultural, economic, military, and political influence. It is a developed country with the world's sixth-largest economy by nominal GDP and ninth-largest by purchasing power parity. According to Credit Suisse, France is the fourth wealthiest nation in the world in terms of aggregate household wealth. French citizens enjoy a high standard of living, and the country performs well in international rankings of education, health care, life expectancy, civil liberties, and human development. France is a founding member of the United Nations, where it serves as one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. It is a member of the Group of 7, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and La Francophonie. France is a founding and leading member state of the European Union (EU).

Capital – Paris. Language – French – only official language according to French constitution. Religion – Christian – 63%, Muslim – 8%, Unaffiliated – 28%. Ethnics - Most French people are of Celtic (Gauls) origin, with an admixture of Latin (Romans) and Germanic (Franks) groups. Different regions reflect this diverse heritage, with notable Breton elements in western France, Aquitanian in the southwest, Scandinavian in the northwest, Alemannic in the northeast and Ligurian influence in the southeast. Large-scale immigration over the last century and a half has led to a more multicultural society. In 2004, the Institut Montaigne estimated that within Metropolitan France, 51 million people were White (85% of the population), 6 million were North African (10%), 2 million were Black (3.3%), and 1 million were Asian (1.7%). A law originating from the 1789 revolution and reaffirmed in the 1958 French Constitution makes it illegal for the French state to collect data on ethnicity and ancestry. In 2008, the TeO ("Trajectories and origins") poll conducted jointly by INED and the French National Institute of Statistics estimated that 5 million people were of Italian ancestry (the largest immigrant community), followed by 3 million to 6 million people of North African ancestry, 2.5 million people of Sub-Saharan African origin, and 200,000 people of Turkish ancestry. There are also sizeable minorities of other European ethnic groups, namely Spanish, Portuguese, Romani, Polish, Jewish, Romanian, Russian and Greek.

It is currently estimated that 40% of the French population is descended at least partially from the different waves of immigration the country has received since the early 20th century; between 1921 and 1935 alone, about 1.1 million net immigrants came to France. The next largest wave came in the 1960s, when around 1.6 million pieds noirs returned to France following the independence of its North African possessions, Algeria and Morocco. They were joined by numerous former colonial subjects from North and West Africa, as well as numerous immigrants from Spain and Portugal. France remains a major destination for immigrants, accepting about 200,000 legal immigrants annually. It is also Western Europe's leading recipient of asylum seekers, with an estimated 50,000 applications in 2005 (a 15% decrease from 2004). The European Union allows free movement between the member states, although France established controls to curb Eastern European migration, and immigration remains a contentious political issue. In 2008, the INSEE estimated that the total number of foreign-born immigrants was around 5 million (8% of the population), while their Frenchborn descendants numbered 6.5 million, or 11% of the population. Thus, nearly a fifth of the country's population were either first or second-generation immigrants, of which more than 5 million where of European origin and 4 million of Maghrebi ancestry. In 2008, France granted citizenship to 137,000 persons, mostly to people from Morocco, Algeria and Turkey.

Government – Republic, head of state – Executive, Presidency independent of legislature, ministry subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 66,259,012, rank – 22. Area – 551,500 – metropolitan, 643,801 with the overseas regions of French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte and Reunion, rank - 43. Density – 103 (including overseas), rank – 102.

GDP – \$2,276 billion, world rank – 10. GDP Per Capita - \$35,700, world rank – 39. GDP Real Growth Rate – 0.30%, rank – 191. Gross National Saving – 18.20% of GDP, rank – 87.

Industrial Production Growth Rate – -0.40%, rank – 170. Unemployment Rate – 10.20%, rank – 108 (no. 1 – no unemployment). Annual Average Wage: Disposable Income - \$22,718, rank – 21; Compulsory Deduction – 43.08%; Gross Income - \$39,913. Monthly Average Wage - \$2,886, rank – 11. Median Household Income - \$31,112, Median Per-Capita Income – \$12,445, rank – 11. Median Equivalised Disposable Household Income - \$24,233, rank – 15. Income Inequality – Gini – 30.6%, world rank – 117 (100% – the most unequal). Population Shares of the: Bottom Income Group below 75% - 26.9%, Middle Income Group 75%-125% - 41.1%, Top Income Group above 125% - 32.0%.

Taxes and Other Revenues – 51.5% of GDP, rank – 11. Size of Shadow Economy – 15.0% of GDP, rank – 13, 1 – lowest size. Budget Deficit - -4.10% of GDP, rank – 150 (highest surplus – no. 1). External Debt - \$5,371 billion, rank – 5. Gross Government Debt as % of GDP – 90.29%, Net – 84.06% . Inflation Rate – 0.90%, rank – 21 (lowest inflation – no. 1). Central Bank Discount Rate – 1.75%, rank – 114 (highest rate – no. 1). Commercial Bank Prime Lending Rate – 3.44%, rank – 166 (highest rate – no. 1).

Market Value of Public Traded Shares – \$1,538 billion, rank - 7. Current Account Balance - \$58.97 billion, rank – 188. Reserves of Foreign Exchange and Gold - \$198.7 billion, rank – 14. HDI – 0.884, world rank – 20 (best – 1). Newsweek World's Best Countries 2010 – rank – 16 (1 is best). Inequality Adjusted HDI – score – 0.804, rank – 18. Gender Inequality Index: rank – 12, value – 0.080 (most equal is no. 1 and closer to 0), 25.1% share of seats in parliament. Poverty – 7.90%, world rank – 151 (poorest – no. 1). Under \$1.25 a day – na%, under \$2 a day – na%. Poverty (Index Mundi) – 6.2%, rank – 151. Internet, IPR – 83.3%. World Happiness Report – 6.764, world rank – 25 (happiest – closest to 10, no. 1). Currency – 0.8779 Euros are equal to 1US\$.

Corruption Perceptions Index— in 2014 - score of 69 (highest score of ethics is close to 100), rank - 26. 2013 - score - 71, 2012 - score - 71. 2005 - rank - 18, score - 7.5. 1996 - rank - 19, score - 6.96. 1995 - rank - 18, score - 7.00. Global Corruption Barometer - na%, rank - na (1 - Lowest Bribes). Where to Be Born/Quality of Life Index - score - 7.04 (highest - 10), rank - 26 (1-best). Freedom in the World Index - free. Index of Economic Freedom - moderately free. Press Freedom Index - satisfactory situation. Democracy Index - score - 8.04 (highest - 10), rank - 23 (best - 1). Social Progress Index - score - 81.11 (highest 100), rank - 20, Basic Human Needs Index - score - 91.23, rank - 19, Foundations of Well-Being Index - score - 79.37, rank - 20, Opportunity Index - score - 72.72, rank - 21. GDP (PPP) per Hour Worked/Productivity - \$59.24, rank - 6. Global Peace Index - score - 1.808 (most peaceful - closer to 1), rank - 48. Incarceration Rate - 103 per 100,000 population, rank - 145 (1-highest). Level of Discrimination (1.0 -lowest) - 6.8, rank - 31. Fragile States Index FSI - score - 33.7 (120 - most fragile), rank - 160 (1 - most fragile).

Global Competitiveness – 5.08 (highest – most competitive), rank – 23 (1 – most competitive). Financial Development Index – score – 4.43, rank - 14. Gross National Income Per Capita – GNI –US\$ 43,460, rank no. 22. Total Health Expenditure Per Capita in PPP International - \$3,997, in % of GDP – 11.7%, rank no. 11. Credit Rating – AA (AAA – best), stable. Education Index Pearson – score – 0.17, rank - 23. World Top 20 Education Poll – score – na, rank - na. U21 Higher Education – score – 68.7, rank - 18. Distribution of Wealth: Wealth Per Capita – rank – 12, PPP\$ 94,557, Wealth Per Adult – PPP\$ 126,360, Wealth Gini – 0.730 (completely unequal – 1). Environmental Performance: Rank – no. 27, score – 71.05 (highest – 100). Index of Globalization: Rank – no. 18, Score – 83.86 (no. 1 is the closest to 100). List of membership in Organizations: see at the end of Part IV. List of Countries Comparisons and Links to other parameters: see Part V - Bibliography.





FRENCH GUIANA, Guyane, in Northern South America, is a French overseas department, it is part of the European Union with France. <u>Link to map</u>. Links to essential data: <u>Enc. Brittanica</u>, <u>Wikipedia</u>, <u>CIA Factbook</u>, <u>Nations Online</u>, <u>UN Data</u>, <u>BBC</u>, <u>World Atlas</u>, <u>Countries/World</u>, <u>List/Countries</u>, <u>Index Mundi</u>, <u>Oper/World</u>, <u>Internet/Stats</u>. **French Guiana** is an overseas department and region of France, located on the north Atlantic coast of South America in the Guyanas. It borders Brazil to the east and south, and Suriname to the west. Half of its inhabitants in 2013 were living in the metropolitan area of Cayenne, its capital. By

land area, it is the second largest region of France and the largest outermost region within the European Union. The area was originally inhabited by Native Americans. It was colonised by Frenchmen and other Europeans, who introduced African slaves and later Asian labourers and Hmong refugees from Laos. The official language is French, while each ethnic community has its own language, of which French Guianese Creole is the most widely spoken. Part of France since 1946, Guiana joined the European Union, and its official currency is the euro. The region is the most prosperous territory in South America with the highest GDP per capita. A large part of Guiana's economy derives from the presence of the Guiana Space Centre, now the European Space Agency's primary launch site near the equator.

Capital – Cayenne. Language – French. Religion – Christian – 84%, Unaffiliated – 3%, Muslim - 1%, Hindu - 2%, Folk religion - 9%. Ethnics - French Guiana's population is very ethnically diverse. At the 2011 census, 56.5% of the inhabitants of French Guiana were born in French Guiana, 9.3% were born in Metropolitan France, 3.4% were born in the French Caribbean départements (Guadeloupe and Martinique), and 30.5% were born in foreign countries (primarily Brazil, Suriname and Haiti). Estimates of the percentages of French Guiana ethnic composition vary, a situation compounded by the large proportion of immigrants. Mulattoes (people of mixed African and French ancestry), are the largest ethnic group, though estimates vary as to the exact percentage, depending upon whether the large Haitian community is included as well. Generally the Creole population is judged to be about 60 to 70% of the total population if Haitians (comprising roughly one-third of Creoles) are included, and 30 to 50% without. There are also smaller groups from various Caribbean islands, mainly Martinique, Guadeloupe, Saint Lucia as well as Dominica. Roughly 14% of the population is of European ancestry. The vast majority of these are of French heritage, though there are also people of Dutch, British, Spanish and Portuguese ancestry. The main Asian communities are the Chinese (about 3-4%, primarily from Zhejiang province and Guangdong province in mainland China) and Hmong from Laos (1–2%). Other Asian groups include East Indians, Lebanese and Vietnamese. The main groups living in the interior are the Maroons (formerly called "Bush Negroes") who are of African descent, and Amerindians. The Maroons, descendants of escaped African slaves, live primarily along the Maroni River. The main Maroon groups are the Saramaca, Aucan (both of whom also live in Suriname), and Boni (Aluku). The main Amerindian groups (forming about 3%–4% of the population) are the Arawak, Carib, Emerillon, Galibi (now called the Kaliña), Palikur, Wayampi and Wayana. There was also evidence of an uncontacted group of Wayampi as of the late 1990s.

Government - French Guiana, as part of France, forms part of the EU - the largest landmass for an area outside of Europe (since Greenland left the European Community in 1985), with one of the longest EU external boundaries. It is one of only three European Union territories outside Europe that is not an island (the others being the Spanish Autonomous Cities in Africa, Ceuta and Melilla). As an integral part of France, its head of state is the President of the French Republic, and its head of government is the Prime Minister of France. The French Government and its agencies have responsibility for a wide range of issues that are reserved to the national executive power, such as defense and external relations. The President of France appoints a prefect (resident at the prefecture building in Cayenne) as his representative to head the local government of French Guiana. There is one council, the Assemblée de Guyane. French Guiana sends two deputies to the French National Assembly, one representing the commune (municipality) of Cayenne and the commune of Macouria, and the other representing the rest of French Guiana. This latter constituency is the largest in the French Republic by land area. French Guiana also sends two senators to the French Senate. Population – 250,109, Area – 83,534, Density – 3. However, they are included in France.



FRENCH POLYNESIA, Polynesie Francaise, in Polynesia, Oceania, is a French overseas collectivity, it is not part of the European Union with France. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. French Polynesia is an overseas collectivity of the French Republic; collectivité d'outre-mer de la République française (COM), sometimes unofficially referred to as an overseas country; pays d'outre-mer (POM). It is composed of 118 geographically dispersed islands and atolls stretching over an expanse of more than 2,000 kilometres (1,200 mi) in the South Pacific Ocean. Its total land area is 4,167 square kilometres (1,609 sq mi). French Polynesia is divided into five groups of islands: The Society Islands archipelago composed of the Windward Islands and the Leeward Islands, the Tuamotu Archipelago, the Gambier Islands, the Marquesas Islands and the Austral Islands. Among its 118 islands and atolls, 67 are inhabited. Tahiti, which is located within the Society Islands, is the most populous island and the seat of the capital of the collectivity, Pape'ete. It has more than 68% of the population of the islands in 2012. Following the Great Polynesian Migration, European explorers visited the islands of French Polynesia on several occasions. Traders and whaling ships also visited. In 1842, the French took over the islands and established a French protectorate they called Etablissements des français en Océanie (EFO) (French Establishments/Settlements in Oceania). In 1946, the EFOs became an overseas territory under the constitution of the French Fourth Republic, and Polynesians were granted the right to vote through citizenship. In 1957, the EFOs were renamed French Polynesia. Since 28 March 2003, French Polynesia has been an overseas collectivity of the French Republic under the constitutional revision of article 74, and later gained, with law 2004-192 of 27 February 2004, an administrative autonomy; two symbolic manifestations of which are the title of the President of French Polynesia and its additional designation as an overseas country.

Capital – Papeete. Language – French. French Plynesia is not surveyed by Transparency International for its Corruption Perception Index. Religion – Christian – 94%, Unaffiliated – 5%. Ethnics – Polynesian – 78%, Chinese – 12%, local French – 6%, metropolitan French – 4%. Government - Under the terms of Article 74 of the French constitution and the Organic Law 2014-192 on the statute of autonomy of French Polynesia, politics of French Polynesia takes place in a framework of a parliamentary representative democratic French overseas collectivity, whereby the President of French Polynesia is the head of government, and of a multi-party system. Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the Assembly of French Polynesia (the territorial assembly). Population – 280,026, rank – 182. Area – 4,167 (118 islands and atolls), rank – 175. Density – 73, rank – 132.

37 VARIABLE PARAMETERS – SEE METHODOLOGY OF SEARCHING IN 60+ TABLES IN AUSTRALIA.

VARIABLE PARAMETERS FROM CIA WORLD FACTBOOK - PEOPLE & SOCIETY, ECONOMIC PARAMETERS:

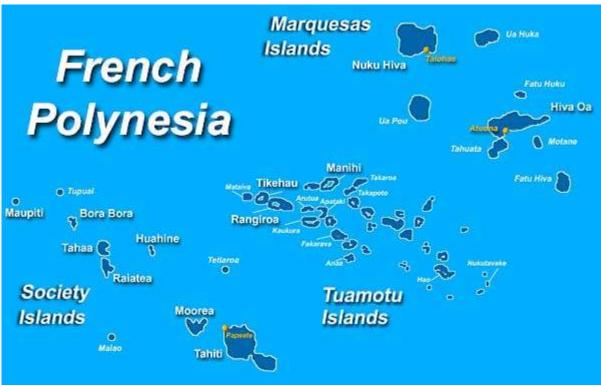
```
Median age:
total: 31 years
male: 30.9 years
female: 31.2 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 105
Population growth rate:
0.94% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 122
Birth rate:
15.22 births/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 131
Death rate:
5.02 deaths/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 189
Net migration rate:
-0.84 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 145
Urbanization:
urban population: 55.9% of total population (2015)
rate of urbanization: 0.85% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)
Infant mortality rate:
total: 4.73 deaths/1.000 live births
male: 5.25 deaths/1,000 live births
female: 4.18 deaths/1,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: <u>177</u>
Life expectancy at birth:
total population: 76.98 years
male: 74.72 years
female: 79.36 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 75
Total fertility rate:
1.92 children born/woman (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 133
Drinking water source:
improved:
urban: 100% of population
rural: 100% of population
total: 100% of population
unimproved:
urban: 0% of population
rural: 0% of population
total: 0% of population (2015 est.)
Sanitation facility access:
improved:
urban: 98.5% of population
rural: 98.5% of population
total: 98.5% of population
unimproved:
urban: 1.5% of population
rural: 1.5% of population
total: 1.5% of population (2015 est.)
HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:
HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:
HIV/AIDS - deaths:
NA
Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:
total: 34.2%
male: 31.4%
female: 38.5% (2007 est.)
GDP (purchasing power parity):
$7.15 billion (2012 est.)
$6.982 billion (2011 est.)
$6.963 billion (2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 165
GDP (official exchange rate):
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\$7.15 billion (2012 est.)

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GDP - real growth rate:
2.4% (2012 est.)
0.3% (2011 est.)
2.2% (2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 125
GDP - per capita (PPP):
$26,100 (2012 est.)
$26,000 (2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 70
GDP - composition, by sector of origin:
agriculture: 2.5%
industry: 13%
services: 84.5% (2009)
Agriculture - products:
coconuts, vanilla, vegetables, fruits, coffee; poultry, beef, dairy products; fish
Industries:
tourism, pearls, agricultural processing, handicrafts, phosphates
Industrial production growth rate:
Labor force:
114,300 (2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: <u>182</u>
Labor force - by occupation:
agriculture: 13%
industry: 19%
services: 68% (2013 est.)
Unemployment rate:
21.8% (2012)
11.7% (2010)
country comparison to the world: <u>171</u>
Population below poverty line:
19.7% (2009 est.)
Household income or consumption by percentage share:
lowest 10%: NA%
highest 10%: NA%
Budget:
revenues: $1.891 billion
expenditures: $1.833 billion (2011)
Taxes and other revenues:
26.4% of GDP (2012)
country comparison to the world: 112
Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):
0.8% of GDP (2012)
country comparison to the world: 21
Fiscal year:
calendar year
Inflation rate (consumer prices):
1.1% (2013 est.)
1.5% (2011 est.)
country comparison to the world: 72
Market value of publicly traded shares:
$NA
Exports:
$230 million (2013 est.)
$211 million (2005 est.)
country comparison to the world: 185
Exports - commodities:
cultured pearls, coconut products, mother-of-pearl, vanilla, shark meat
Exports - partners:
Japan 35%, US 24%, Hong Kong 17%, France 9.1%, China 4.2% (2014)
Imports:
$1.72 billion (2013 est.)
$1.706 billion (2005 est.)
country comparison to the world: 167
Imports - commodities:
fuels, foodstuffs, machinery and equipment
Imports - partners:
France 24%, South Korea 10%, China 9.6%, USA 9.3%, New Zealand 8.5%, Singapore 8.2%, Australia
4% (2014)
Debt - external:
$NA
Exchange rates:
Comptoirs Français du Pacifique francs (XPF) per US dollar -
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89.85 (2013 est.) 90.56 (2012 est.) 85.74 (2011 est.)





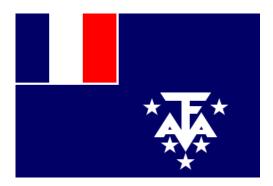
FRENCH SOUTHERN AND ANTARCTIC LANDS, The French Southern and Antarctic Lands (French: *Terres australes et antarctiques françaises*, TAAF), in full the Territory of the French Southern and Antarctic Lands (French: *Territoire des Terres australes et antarctiques françaises*) is an overseas territory, mostly uninhabited, (French: *Territoire d'outre-mer* or *TOM*) of France. It is not part of the European Union with France and consists of:

- 1. Kerguelen Islands (*Archipel des Kerguelen*), a group of volcanic islands in the southern Indian Ocean, southeast of Africa, approximately equidistant between Africa, Antarctica and Australia.
- 2. St. Paul and Amsterdam islands (*Îles Saint Paul et Amsterdam*), a group to the north of Kerguelen.
- 3. Crozet Islands (*Îles Crozet*), a group in the southern Indian Ocean, south of Madagascar.
- 4. Adélie Land (*Terre Adélie*), the French claim on the Antarctica continent. See Antarctica.

5. The Scattered Islands (*Îles Éparses*), a dispersed group of islands around the coast of Madagascar, comprising Glorioso Islands, Europa, Tromelin Island, Bassas da India and Juan de Nova Island.

Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. The territory is also called the French Southern Lands (French: Terres australes françaises) or French Southern Territories. The latter excludes Adélie Land and Scattered Islands, where French sovereignty is not widely recognized or disputed by another state. The territory has no permanent civilian population. Those resident consist of visiting military personnel, officials, scientific researchers and support staff. The territory includes Île Amsterdam, Île Saint-Paul, Îles Crozet and Îles Kerguelen in the southern Indian Ocean near 43°S, 67°E, along with Adélie Land, the sector of Antarctica claimed by France, named by the French explorer Jules Dumont d'Urville after his wife. Île Amsterdam and Île Saint-Paul are extinct volcanoes and have been delineated as the Amsterdam and Saint-Paul Islands temperate grasslands ecoregion. The highest point in the territory is Mont Ross on Îles Kerguelen at 1850 meters. There are very few airstrips on the islands, only existing on islands with weather stations, and the 1232 kilometers of coastline have no ports or harbors, only offshore anchorages. The territory's natural resources are limited to fish and crustaceans. Economic activity is limited to servicing meteorological and geophysical research stations and French and other fishing fleets. The main fish resources are Patagonian toothfish and spiny lobster. Both are poached by foreign fleets; because of this, the French Navy and occasionally other services patrol the zone and arrest poaching vessels. Such arrests can result in heavy fines and/or the seizure of the ship. France used to sell licenses to foreign fisheries to fish the Patagonian toothfish; because of overfishing, it is now restricted to a small number of fisheries from Réunion Island.

Capital – Port-aux-Français. Language – French. Government - The French Southern and Antarctic Lands have formed a *territoire d'outre-mer* (an overseas territory) of France since 1955. Formerly, they were administered from Paris by an *administrateur supérieur* assisted by a secretary-general; since December 2004, however, their administrator has been a *préfet*, currently Cécile Pozzo di Borgo, with headquarters in Saint-Pierre on Réunion Island. Each district is headed by a district chief, who has powers similar to those of a French mayor (including recording births and deaths and being an officer of judicial police). Because there is no permanent population, there is no elected assembly, nor does the territory send representatives to the national parliament. Population – no indigenous inhabitants, Iles Kerguelen – 50-100, Iles Crozet – 18-30, Seasonal Research Staff: Summer – 125, Winter – 26. Area – Ile Amsterdam – 55, Ile Saint Paul – 7, Iles Crozet – 325, Iles Kerguelen – 7,215, Iles Eparses: Bassas da India – 80, Europa Island – 28, Glorioso Island – 5, Juan de Nova Island – 4, Tromelin Island – 1. Adelie Land – 500,000 sq. km. in Antarctica.



GABON, Gabonese Republic, in Central Africa. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Gabon is a sovereign state on the west coast of Central Africa. Located on the equator, Gabon is bordered by Equatorial Guinea to the northwest, Cameroon to the north, the Republic of the Congo on the east and south, and the Gulf of Guinea to the west. Since its independence from France in 1960, Gabon has had three presidents. In the early 1990s, Gabon introduced a multi-party system and a new democratic constitution that allowed for a more transparent electoral process and reformed many governmental institutions. However, allegations of electoral fraud during local elections in 2002 and the presidential election in 2005 exposed the weaknesses of formal political structures in Gabon. Following President BONGO's death in 2009, a new election brought Ali BONGO Ondimba, his son, to power. Low population density, abundant petroleum, and foreign private investment have helped make Gabon one of the most prosperous countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, with the 4th highest HDI and the third highest GDP per capita (PPP) (after Equatorial Guinea and Botswana) in the region. However, because of inequality in income distribution, a significant proportion of the population remains poor.

Capital – Libreville. Language– French. Religion – Christian – 77%, Muslim – 11%. Unaffiliated – 6%, Folk religion – 6%. Ethnics – Bantu tribes, including four major tribal groupings – Fang, Bapounou, Nzebi, Obamba. Other Africans and Europeans – 154,000 including 10,700 French. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legistlature. Population – 1,672,597, rank – 154. Area – 267,667, rank – 77. Density – 6.5, rank -218.



GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, a province of Ecuador, see Ecuador.

GALMUDUG STATE, Galmudug State of Somalia, Dowlad Goboleedka Galmudug ee Soomaaliya, ولاية غامدوغ الصومال, an autonomous region in the center of Somalia, in Central Eastern Africa. The appellation *Galmudug* is a conflation of Galguduud and Mudug provinces. Link to map. Link to essential data: Wikipedia, BBC, Quora, Polgeonow. Unlike

the secessionist Somaliland region in northwestern Somalia, Galmudug is not trying to obtain international recognition as a separate nation. It considers itself an autonomous state within the larger Federal Republic of Somalia, as defined by the provisional constitution of Somalia. However the state is in secession since 2006.

Capital – South Galkayo. Language – Somali, Arabic. Religion – 100% Muslims. Ethnics - The Galmudug area in central Somalia is predominantly inhabited by people from the Somali ethnic group, with the Habar Gidir sub-clan of the Hawiye well-represented. After the merge in a single Galmudug, many other major clans supported the formation of a unified Galmudug State that ratified the inclusion of all major tribes such as Marehan, Murursade, Sheekhaal, Madhiban and Dir. Government - As of 2014, the autonomous Galmudug region's government is led by a President, Abdi Hasan Awale (Qaybdiid). He in turn has the power to appoint and dismiss Cabinet members. In April 2014, President Awale named a new twelvemember Cabinet. Additionally, the Galmudug administration appoints Governors for each of its constituent provinces. Population – 1,800,000, Area – 146,000, Density – 12.3.



GAMBIA, THE, Republic of The Gambia, the Islamic Republic of The Gambia, in West Africa. It is mostly surrounded by Senegal with a short strip of its coastline bordered with the Atlantic Ocean at its western end. It is the smallest country on mainland Africa. The Gambia is situated on either side of the Gambia River, the nation's namesake, which flows through the centre of the Gambia and empties into the Atlantic Ocean. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. The Gambia withdrew from the Commonwealth of Nations on 3 October 2013, the government stating it had "decided that the Gambia will never be a member of any neocolonial institution and will never be a party to any institution that represents an extension of colonialism". Banjul is the Gambian capital, and the largest cities are Serekunda and Brikama. The Gambia shares historical roots with many other West African nations in the slave trade, which was the key factor in the placing and keeping of a colony on the Gambia River, first by the Portuguese, during which era it was A Gâmbia, and later, on 25 May 1765, the Gambia was made a part of the British colony when the government formally assumed control, establishing the Province of Senegambia. On 18 February 1965, the Gambia gained independence from the United Kingdom. Since gaining independence, the Gambia has had two leaders - Dawda Jawara, who ruled from 1970 until 1994, when the current leader Yahya Jammeh seized power in a coup as a young army officer. The Gambia's economy is dominated by farming, fishing, and especially tourism. About a third of the population lives below the international poverty line of US\$1.25 a day.

Capital – Banjul. Language – English. Religion – Muslim – 95%, Christian – 5%. Ethnics – Mandinka – 42%, Fula – 18%, Wolof – 16%, Jola – 10%, Serahuli – 9%, non-African – 1%. Government – Republic, Executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 1,925,527, rank – 150. Area – 10,000, rank – 167. Density – 193, rank – 68.



GAZA STRIP, in Western Asia, the Middle East, is since 2007 controlled de facto by the Hamas and is not part of the Fatah-controlled Palestine (state or authority) comprising part of the West Bank. The Gaza strip was formerly occupied by the UK, Egypt and Israel. Link to map. Link to essential data: Wikipedia, BBC, Quora, Polgeonow. Inhabited since at least the 15th century B.C., Gaza has been dominated by many different peoples and empires throughout its history; it was incorporated into the Ottoman Empire in the early 16th century. Gaza fell to British forces during World War I, becoming a part of the British Mandate of Palestine. Following the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, Egypt administered the newly formed Gaza Strip; it was captured by Israel in the Six-Day War in 1967. Under a series of agreements known as the Oslo accords signed between 1994 and 1999, Israel transferred to the newly-created Palestinian Authority (PA) security and civilian responsibility for many Palestinian-populated areas of the Gaza Strip as well as the West Bank. Negotiations to determine the permanent status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip stalled in 2001, after which the area witnessed a violent intifada or uprising. In early 2003, the "Quartet" of the US, EU, UN, and Russia, presented a roadmap to a final peace settlement by 2005, calling for two states. Following PA President Yasir ARAFAT's death in late 2004 and the subsequent election of Mahmud ABBAS (head of the Fatah political faction) as the PA president in 2005, Israel and the Palestinians agreed to move the peace process forward. Israel by late 2005 unilaterally withdrew all of its settlers and soldiers and dismantled its military facilities in the Gaza Strip, but continues to control the Gaza Strip's land and maritime borders and airspace. In early 2006, the Islamic Resistance Movement, HAMAS, won a majority in the Palestinian Legislative Council election. Attempts to form a unity government between Fatah and HAMAS failed and violent clashes between their respective supporters ensued, culminating in HAMAS's violent seizure of all military and governmental institutions in the Gaza Strip in June 2007.

Israel and Egypt since HAMAS's takeover have enforced tight restrictions on movement and access of goods and individuals into and out of the territory. Since then, Fatah and HAMAS have reached a series of agreements aimed at restoring political unity between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank but have struggled to implement them. In April 2014, the two factions signed an agreement and two months later President ABBAS formed an interim government of independent technocrats, none of whom were affiliated with HAMAS. The factions, however, continue to disagree over how to implement the deal and HAMAS remains in de facto control of the Gaza Strip. In July 2014, HAMAS and other Gaza-based militant groups engaged in a 51-day conflict with Israel—the third conflict since HAMAS's takeover in 2007—culminating with an open-ended truce that continues to hold despite the absence of a negotiated cease-fire and occasional violations by both sides. Reconstruction efforts since the end of the conflict have been hampered by Israeli restrictions on goods entering the Gaza Strip and inadequate donor aid. The

UN in 2015 published a study assessing that the Gaza Strip could become uninhabitable by 2020 absent a substantial easing on border restrictions.

Capital – Gaza. Language – Arabic. Religion – 99.8% - Sunni Muslim, 0.2% - Christian. Ethnics – Palestinian Arabs, Bedouins. Government - The governance of the Gaza Strip is carried out by the Hamas administration, led by Ismail Haniyeh, from 2007. The Hamas administration is often referred to as the Hamas government in Gaza. The Hamas party won the Palestinian legislative elections on 25 January 2006, and Ismail Haniyeh was nominated as Prime Minister, establishing a Palestinian national unity government with Fatah, which effectively collapsed when Hamas and Fatah engaged in a violent conflict. Population – 1,816,379, rank – 152. Area – 360, rank – 206. Density – 5,046 – the 5th most densely populated country in the world.

37 VARIABLE PARAMETERS – SEE METHODOLOGY OF SEARCHING IN 60+ TABLES IN AUSTRALIA.

VARIABLE PARAMETERS FROM CIA WORLD FACTBOOK - PEOPLE & SOCIETY, ECONOMIC PARAMETERS:

```
Median age:
total: 18.4 years
male: 18.2 years
female: 18.6 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 210
Population growth rate:
2.81% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 13
Birth rate:
31.11 births/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 37
Death rate:
3.04 deaths/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 221
Net migration rate:
0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 96
Urbanization:
urban population: 75.3% of total population (2015)
rate of urbanization: 2.81% annual rate of change (2005-10 est.)
note: data represents Gaza Strip and West Bank
Mother's mean age at first birth:
note: median age at first birth among women 25-29 (2004 est.)
Maternal mortality rate:
45 deaths/100,000 live births
note: data represents Gaza Strip and West Bank (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 94
Infant mortality rate:
total: 14.94 deaths/1,000 live births
male: 15.97 deaths/1,000 live births
female: 13.86 deaths/1,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 105
Life expectancy at birth:
total population: 74.87 years
male: 73.11 years
female: 76.74 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 110
Total fertility rate:
4.08 children born/woman (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 35
Contraceptive prevalence rate:
52.5% (includes Gaza Strip and West Bank) (2010)
Physicians density:
```

```
2.1 physicians/1,000 population (2013)
Hospital bed density:
1.3 beds/1,000 population (2010)
Drinking water source:
improved:
urban: 50.7% of population
rural: 81.5% of population
total: 58.4% of population
unimproved:
urban: 49.3% of population
rural: 18.5% of population
total: 41.6% of population
note: includes Gaza and the West Bank (2015 est.)
Sanitation facility access:
improved:
urban: 93% of population
rural: 90.2% of population
total: 92.3% of population
unimproved:
urban: 7% of population
rural: 9.8% of population
total: 7.7% of population
note: includes Gaza and the West Bank (2015 est.)
HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:
HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:
HIV/AIDS - deaths:
Literacy:
definition: age 15 and over can read and write
total population: 96.5%
male: 98.4%
female: 94.5%
note: estimates are for Gaza and West Bank (2015 est.)
School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):
total: 13 years
male: 12 years
female: 14 years
note: data represents Gaza and West Bank (2013)
Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:
total: 41%
male: 37%
female: 64.7%
note: includes West Bank (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 14
GDP (purchasing power parity):
see entry for West Bank
GDP (official exchange rate):
$2.938 billion
note: excludes West Bank
GDP - real growth rate:
-15.2% (2014 est.)
5.6% (2013 est.)
7% (2012)
note: data exclude West Bank
country comparison to the world: 223
GDP - per capita (PPP):
see entry for West Bank
GDP - composition, by end use:
data exclude West Bank (2014 est.)
GDP - composition, by sector of origin:
4.7%
13.7%
81.6%
note: data exclude West Bank (2014 est.)
Agriculture - products:
olives, fruit, vegetables, flowers; beef, dairy products
Industries:
textiles, food processing, furniture
Industrial production growth rate:
3.1% see entry for West Bank
country comparison to the world: 82
```

Labor force:

471,000

note: excludes West Bank (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 157

Labor force - by occupation:

agriculture: 5.2% industry: 10% services: 84.8%

note: data exclude West Bank (2015 est.)

Unemployment rate: 43.9% (2014 est.) 32.6% (2013 est.)

note: data exclude West Bank

country comparison to the world: 197

Population below poverty line:

30%

note: data exclude West Bank (2011 est.)

Budget:

see entry for West Bank

Fiscal year:

calendar year

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

2.9% (2014 est.) -0.8% (2013 est.)

note: 2.9% excludes West Bank

country comparison to the world: <u>135</u> Commercial bank prime lending rate:

see entry for West Bank

Current account balance:

note: (2014 est.)

Exports:

\$1.692 billion (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 146

Exports - commodities:

strawberries, carnations, vegetables, fish (small and irregular shipments, as permitted to transit the Israeli-controlled Kerem Shalom crossing)

Imports:

see entry for West Bank

Imports - commodities:

food, consumer goods, fuel

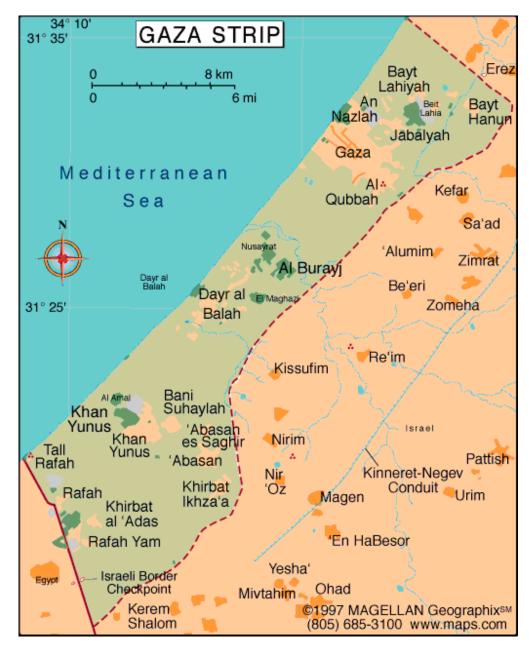
Debt - external:

see entry for West Bank

Exchange rates:

see entry for West Bank



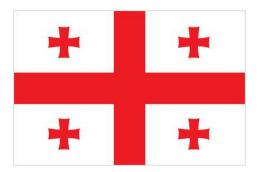


GEORGIA, Sak'art'velo, in Western Asia, has 2 autonomous regions – Adjara and Abkhazia. In Abkhazia and South Ossetia, de facto states have been formed. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. The region of present day Georgia contained the ancient kingdoms of Colchis and Kartli-Iberia. The area came under Roman influence in the first centuries A.D., and Christianity became the state religion in the 330s. Domination by Persians, Arabs, and Turks was followed by a Georgian golden age (11th-13th centuries) that was cut short by the Mongol invasion of 1236. Subsequently, the Ottoman and Persian empires competed for influence in the region. Georgia was absorbed into the Russian Empire in the 19th century. Independent for three years (1918-1921) following the Russian revolution, it was forcibly incorporated into the USSR in 1921 and regained its independence when the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991. Mounting public discontent over rampant corruption and ineffective government services, followed by an attempt by the incumbent Georgian Government to manipulate parliamentary elections in November 2003, touched off widespread

protests that led to the resignation of Eduard SHEVARDNADZE, president since 1995. In the aftermath of that popular movement, which became known as the "Rose Revolution," new elections in early 2004 swept Mikheil SAAKASHVILI into power along with his United National Movement (UNM) party. Progress on market reforms and democratization has been made in the years since independence, but this progress has been complicated by Russian assistance and support to the separatist regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Periodic flare-ups in tension and violence culminated in a five-day conflict in August 2008 between Russia and Georgia, including the invasion of large portions of undisputed Georgian territory. Russian troops pledged to pull back from most occupied Georgian territory, but in late August 2008 Russia unilaterally recognized the independence of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and Russian military forces remain in those regions.

Billionaire philanthropist Bidzina IVANISHVILI's unexpected entry into politics in October 2011 brought the divided opposition together under his Georgian Dream coalition, which won a majority of seats in the October 2012 parliamentary elections and removed UNM from power. Conceding defeat, SAAKASHVILI named IVANISHVILI as prime minister and allowed Georgian Dream to create a new government. Georgian Dream's Giorgi MARGVELASHVILI was inaugurated as president on 17 November 2013, ending a tense year of power-sharing between SAAKASHVILI and IVANISHVILI. IVANISHVILI voluntarily resigned from office after the presidential succession, and Georgia's legislature on 20 November 2013 confirmed Irakli GARIBASHVILI as his replacement. Georgia's recent elections represent unique examples of a former Soviet state that emerged to conduct democratic and peaceful government transitions of power. Popular and government support for integration with the West is high in Georgia. Joining the EU and NATO are among the country's top foreign policy goals.

Capital – T'bilisi. Language – Georgian. Religion – Christian – 89%, Muslim – 11%. Ethnics – Georgian – 84%, Azeri – 7%, Armenian – 6%, Russian – 2%. Republic, executive head of state, presidency independent of legislature, ministry subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 4,935,880, rank – 122. Area – 69,700, rank – 121. Density – 71, rank – 135.



GEORGIA, SOUTH, see South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

GERMANY, Federal Republic of Germany, Bundesrepublik Deutschland, in Western Europe, is a federation of 16 federated states, formerly divided between West and East Germany. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, EU. Germany has a largely temperate seasonal climate. Its capital and largest city is Berlin. Germany is the most populous member

state in the European Union. After the United States, it is the second most popular migration destination in the world. Various Germanic tribes have occupied the northern parts of current Germany since classical antiquity. A region named Germania was documented before 100 AD. During the Migration Period the Germanic tribes expanded southward. Beginning in the 10th century, German territories formed a central part of the Holy Roman Empire. During the 16th century, northern German regions became the centre of the Protestant Reformation. The rise of Pan-Germanism inside the German Confederation resulted in the unification of most of the German states in 1871 into the Prussian-dominated German Empire. After World War I and the German Revolution of 1918–1919, the Empire was replaced by the parliamentary Weimar Republic. The establishment of the national socialist dictatorship in 1933 led to World War II and systematic genocide. After 1945, Germany split into two states, East Germany and West Germany. In 1990, the country was reunified.

In the 21st century, Germany is a great power and has the world's fourth-largest economy by nominal GDP, as well as the fifth-largest by PPP. As a global leader in several industrial and technological sectors, it is both the world's third-largest exporter and importer of goods. Germany is a developed country with a very high standard of living sustained by a skilled and productive society. It upholds a social security and universal health care system, environmental protection and a tuition-free university education. Germany was a founding member of the European Union in 1993. It is part of the Schengen Area, and became a cofounder of the Eurozone in 1999. Germany is a member of the United Nations, NATO, the G8, the G20, and the OECD. The national military expenditure is the 9th highest in the world. Known for its rich cultural history, Germany has been continuously the home of influential

Capital – Berlin. Language – German. Religion – Christian - 69%: Protestant – 32%, Roman Catholic – 31%, Muslim – 6%, Unaffiliated – 25%. Ethnics – German – 92%, Turkish – 2%, Greek, Italian, Polish, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Spanish – 6%. Government – Republic, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 80,996,685, rank – 18. Area – 357,022, rank – 63. Density – 232, rank – 54.

37 VARIABLE PARAMETERS – SEE METHODOLOGY OF SEARCHING IN 60+ TABLES IN AUSTRALIA.

VARIABLE PARAMETERS FROM CIA WORLD FACTBOOK - PEOPLE & SOCIETY, ECONOMIC PARAMETERS:

```
Median age:
total: 46.5 years
male: 45.4 years
female: 47.5 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 3
Population growth rate:
-0.17% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 214
Birth rate:
8.47 births/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 217
Death rate:
11.42 deaths/1.000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 30
Net migration rate:
1.24 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 60
Urbanization:
urban population: 75.3% of total population (2015)
rate of urbanization: 0.16% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)
```

Mother's mean age at first birth: 29.2 (2012 est.) Maternal mortality rate: 6 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 165 **Infant mortality rate:** total: 3.43 deaths/1,000 live births male: 3.72 deaths/1,000 live births **female:** 3.12 deaths/1,000 live births (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 208 Life expectancy at birth: total population: 80.57 years male: 78.26 years female: 83 years (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 32 **Total fertility rate:** 1.44 children born/woman (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 206 **Contraceptive prevalence rate:** 66.2% note: percent of women aged 18-49 (2005) **Health expenditures:** 11.3% of GDP (2013) country comparison to the world: 13 **Physicians density:** 3.89 physicians/1,000 population (2012) **Hospital bed density:** 8.2 beds/1,000 population (2011) **Drinking water source:** improved: urban: 100% of population rural: 100% of population total: 100% of population unimproved: urban: 0% of population rural: 0% of population total: 0% of population (2015 est.) Sanitation facility access: improved: urban: 99.3% of population rural: 99% of population total: 99.2% of population unimproved: urban: 0.7% of population rural: 1% of population total: 0.8% of population (2015 est.) **HIV/AIDS** - adult prevalence rate: 0.15% (2013 est.) country comparison to the world: 103 HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS: 77,500 (2013 est.) country comparison to the world: 48 HIV/AIDS - deaths: 400 (2013 est.) country comparison to the world: 93 **Obesity - adult prevalence rate:** 22.7% (2014) country comparison to the world: 59 Children under the age of 5 years underweight: 1.1% (2006) country comparison to the world: <u>132</u> Education expenditures: 5% of GDP (2011) country comparison to the world: 74 School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education): total: 16 years male: 17 years female: 16 years (2012) Unemployment, youth ages 15-24: total: 7.9% male: 8.6% female: 7.1% (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 112

```
GDP (purchasing power parity):
$3.842 trillion (2015 est.)
$3.785 trillion (2014 est.)
$3.726 trillion (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 6
GDP (official exchange rate):
$3.371 trillion (2015 est.)
GDP - real growth rate:
1.5% (2015 est.)
1.6% (2014 est.)
0.4% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: <u>159</u>
GDP - per capita (PPP):
$47,400 (2015 est.)
$46,700 (2014 est.)
$45,900 (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 29
Gross national saving:
27.3% of GDP (2015 est.)
26.7% of GDP (2014 est.)
25.8% of GDP (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 33
GDP - composition, by end use:
household consumption: 54.2%
government consumption: 19.1%
investment in fixed capital: 20.2%
investment in inventories: -0.7%
exports of goods and services: 46.1%
imports of goods and services: -38.9% (2015 est.)
GDP - composition, by sector of origin:
agriculture: 0.7%
industry: 30.2%
services: 69.1%
(2015 est.)
Agriculture - products:
potatoes, wheat, barley, sugar beets, fruit, cabbages; milk products; cattle, pigs, poultry
Industries:
among the world's largest and most technologically advanced producers of iron, steel, coal, cement,
chemicals, machinery, vehicles, machine tools, electronics, automobiles, food and beverages,
shipbuilding, textiles
Industrial production growth rate:
1.5% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: <u>133</u>
Labor force:
45.04 million (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 15
Labor force - by occupation:
agriculture: 1.6%
industry: 24.6%
services: 73.8%
(2011)
Unemployment rate:
4.8% (2015 est.)
5% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 48
Population below poverty line:
15.5% (2010 est.)
Household income or consumption by percentage share:
lowest 10%: 3.6%
highest 10%: 24% (2000)
Distribution of family income - Gini index:
27 (2006)
30 (1994)
country comparison to the world: 133
Budget:
revenues: $1.515 trillion
expenditures: $1.484 trillion (2015 est.)
Taxes and other revenues:
45% of GDP (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 24
Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):
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227
0.9% of GDP (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 20
Public debt:
71.7% of GDP (2015 est.)
74.3% of GDP (2014 est.)
note: general government gross debt is defined in the Maastricht Treaty as consolidated general
government gross debt at nominal value, outstanding at the end of the year in the following categories
of government liabilities (as defined in ESA95): currency and deposits (AF.2), securities other than
shares excluding financial derivatives (AF.3, excluding AF.34), and loans (AF.4); the general
government sector comprises the sub-sectors of central government, state government, local
government and social security funds; the series are presented as a percentage of GDP and in millions
of euro; GDP used as a denominator is the gross domestic product at current market prices; data
expressed in national currency are converted into euro using end-of-year exchange rates provided by
the European Central Bank
country comparison to the world: 45
Fiscal year:
calendar year
Inflation rate (consumer prices):
0.2% (2015 est.)
0.8% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 44
Central bank discount rate:
0.05% (31 December 2013)
0.3% (31 December 2010)
note: this is the European Central Bank's rate on the marginal lending facility, which offers overnight
credit to banks in the euro area
country comparison to the world: 146
Commercial bank prime lending rate:
1.7% (31 December 2015 est.)
2.47% (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 182
Market value of publicly traded shares:
$1.486 trillion (31 December 2012 est.)
$1.184 trillion (31 December 2011)
$1.43 trillion (31 December 2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 9
Current account balance:
$286.3 billion (2015 est.)
$286.4 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 3
Exports:
$1.292 trillion (2015 est.)
$1.492 trillion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 4
Exports - commodities:
motor vehicles, machinery, chemicals, computer and electronic products, electrical equipment,
pharmaceuticals, metals, transport equipment, foodstuffs, textiles, rubber and plastic products
Exports - partners:
France 9.6%, UK 7.9%, US 6.9%, Netherlands 6.9%, China 5.8%, Austria 5.3%, Italy 5.1%, Poland
4.5%, Switzerland 4.3% (2014)
Imports:
$983.9 billion (2015 est.)
$1.188 trillion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 4
Imports - commodities:
machinery, data processing equipment, vehicles, chemicals, oil and gas, metals, electric equipment,
pharmaceuticals, foodstuffs, agricultural products
Imports - partners:
Netherlands 13.8%, France 8%, China 6.6%, Belgium 6.3%, Italy 5.4%, UK 4.8%, Poland 4.6%, Czech
Republic 4.4%, Austria 4.3%, Switzerland 4.1% (2014)
```

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:

\$192.8 billion (31 December 2014 est.)

\$198.2 billion (31 December 2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 14

Debt - external:

\$5.597 trillion (31 December 2014 est.)

\$5.998 trillion (31 December 2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 4

Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:

\$1.442 trillion (31 December 2015 est.) \$1.416 trillion (31 December 2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: 6

Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:

\$2.068 trillion (31 December 2015 est.)

\$1.986 trillion (31 December 2014 est.) country comparison to the world: 3 Exchange rates:

euros (EUR) per US dollar -

0.885 (2015 est.)

0.7525 (2014 est.)

0.7634 (2013 est.)

0.7752 (2012 est.) 0.7185 (2011 est.)





GHANA, Republic of Ghana, in West Africa. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. Ghana is a sovereign unitary presidential constitutional democracy, located along the Gulf of Guinea and Atlantic Ocean, in the subregion of West Africa. The word Ghana means "Warrior King" in Mande. The territory of present-day Ghana has been inhabited for millennia, with the first permanent state dating back to the 11th century. Numerous kingdoms and empires emerged over the centuries, of which the most powerful was the Kingdom of Ashanti. Beginning in the 15th century, numerous European powers contested the area for trading rights, with the British ultimately establishing control of the coast by the late 19th century. Following over a century of native resistance, Ghana's current borders were established by the 1900s as the British Gold Coast. In 1957, it became the first sub-saharan African nation to declare independence from European colonization. A multicultural nation, Ghana has a population spanning a variety of ethnic, linguistic and religious groups. Its diverse geography and ecology ranges from coastal savannahs to tropical jungles. Ghana is one of the world's largest gold and diamond producers, and is one of the largest producer of cocoa in the world. Ghana's growing economic prosperity and democratic political system has made it a regional power in West Africa. It is a member of the Non-Aligned Movement, the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Group of 24 (G24). Ghana endured a long series of coups before Lt. Jerry RAWLINGS took power in 1981 and banned political parties. After approving a new constitution and restoring multiparty politics in 1992, RAWLINGS won presidential elections in 1992 and 1996 but was constitutionally prevented from running for a third term in 2000. John KUFUOR succeeded him and was reelected in 2004. John Atta MILLS won the 2008 presidential election and took over as head of state, but he died in July 2012 and was constitutionally succeeded by his vice president, John Dramani MAHAMA, who subsequently won the December 2012 presidential election.

Capital – Accra. Language – English, regional - Akan, Fante, Twi, Ga, Dagbani, Ewe. Religion – Christian - 75%, Muslim – 16%, Unaffiliated – 4%, Folk religion – 5%. Ethnics – Akan – 48%, Mole-Dagbon – 17%, Ewe – 14%, Ga-Dangme – 7%, Gurma – 6%, Guan – 4%, Grusi – 3%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 25,758,108, rank – 49. Area – 238,533, rank – 82. Density – 113, rank – 92.



GIBRALTAR, in Southern Europe, is a UK overseas territory, is part of the European Union with the UK. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Strategically important, Gibraltar was reluctantly ceded to Great Britain by Spain in the 1713 Treaty of Utrecht; the British garrison was formally declared a colony in 1830. In a referendum held in 1967, Gibraltarians voted overwhelmingly to remain a British dependency. The subsequent granting of

autonomy in 1969 by the UK led Spain to close the border and sever all communication links. Between 1997 and 2002, the UK and Spain held a series of talks on establishing temporary joint sovereignty over Gibraltar. In response to these talks, the Gibraltar Government called a referendum in late 2002 in which the majority of citizens voted overwhelmingly against any sharing of sovereignty with Spain. Since late 2004, Spain, the UK, and Gibraltar have held tripartite talks with the aim of cooperatively resolving problems that affect the local population, and work continues on cooperation agreements in areas such as taxation and financial services; communications and maritime security; policy, legal and customs services; environmental protection; and education and visa services. Throughout 2009, a dispute over Gibraltar's claim to territorial waters extending out three miles gave rise to periodic non-violent maritime confrontations between Spanish and UK naval patrols and in 2013, the British reported a record number of entries by Spanish vessels into waters claimed by Gibraltar following a dispute over Gibraltar's creation of an artificial reef in those waters. A new noncolonial constitution came into effect in 2007, and the European Court of First Instance recognized Gibraltar's right to regulate its own tax regime in December 2008. The UK retains responsibility for defense, foreign relations, internal security, and financial stability.

Capital - Gibraltar. Language - English. Religion - Christian - 89%, Muslim - 4%, Unaffiliated -3%, Hindu -2%. Ethnics - Regarding the origin of names in the electoral roll there are: British (27%), Spanish (24%, mostly Andalusians but also some 2% of Minorcans), Genoese and other Italians (15%), Portuguese (15%), Maltese (8%). There are also small (less than 1%) peoples of other groups such as Moroccans, French, Austrians, Chinese, Japanese, Polish and Danish. The 2001 Gibraltar Census recorded the breakdown of nationalities in Gibraltar as being 83.22% Gibraltarian, 9.56% "Other British", 3.50% Moroccan, 1.19% Spanish and 1.00% "Other EU". Government - Gibraltar is a British overseas territory. The British Nationality Act 1981 granted Gibraltarians full British citizenship. Under its current constitution, Gibraltar has almost complete internal democratic self-government through an elected parliament, elected for a term of up to four years. The unicameral parliament presently consists of 17 elected members, and the Speaker who is not elected, but appointed by a resolution of the parliament. The government consists of 10 elected members. The head of state is Queen Elizabeth II, who is represented by the Governor of Gibraltar. The governor enacts day-to-day matters on the advice of the Gibraltar Parliament, but is responsible to the British government in respect of defence, foreign policy, internal security and general good governance. Judicial and other appointments are made on behalf of the Queen in consultation with the head of the elected government. Population – 29,185, rank – 219. Area – 6.5, rank – 243. Density -4,490, rank -6.



GLORIOSO ISLANDS, part of the Scattered Islands – see French Southern and Antarctic Lands.

GREAT BRITAIN, see United Kingdom.

GREECE, Hellenic Republic, Ellas/Ellada, in Southern Europe. Includes Mount Athos which is an autonomous part of Greece, that is jointly governed by the multinational "Holy Community" on the mountain and a civil governor appointed by the Greek government. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, EU. Greece is strategically located at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa. Greece consists of nine geographic regions: Macedonia, Central Greece, the Peloponnese, Thessaly, Epirus, the Aegean Islands (including the Dodecanese and Cyclades), Thrace, Crete, and the Ionian Islands. The Aegean Sea lies to the east of the mainland, the Ionian Sea to the west, and the Mediterranean Sea to the south. Greece has the longest coastline on the Mediterranean Basin and the 11th longest coastline in the world at 13,676 km in length, featuring a vast number of islands, of which 227 are inhabited. 80% of Greece is mountainous, with Mount Olympus being the highest peak at 2,918 metres.

Greece has one of the longest histories of any country, and is considered the cradle of Western civilization, and as such, is the birthplace of democracy, Western philosophy, the Olympic Games, Western literature, historiography, political science, major scientific and mathematical principles, and Western drama, including both tragedy and comedy. Greece was first unified under Philip of Macedon in the fourth century BC. His son Alexander the Great rapidly conquered much of the ancient world, spreading Greek culture and science from the eastern Mediterranean to the Indus River. Annexed by Rome in the second century BC, Greece became an integral part of the Roman Empire and its successor, the Byzantine Empire. The first century AD saw the establishment of the Greek Orthodox Church, which shaped the modern Greek identity and transmitted Greek traditions to the wider Orthodox World. Falling under Ottoman dominion in the mid-15th century, the modern nation state of Greece emerged in 1830 following the war of independence. Greece's rich historical legacy is reflected in large part by its 17 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, among the most in Europe and the world. Greece is a democratic and developed country with an advanced high-income economy, a high quality of life and a very high standard of living. Greece, which is one of the world's largest shipping powers, middle powers and top tourist destinations, has the largest economy in the Balkans, where it is an important regional investor.

Capital – Athens. Language – Greek. Religion – Christian – 88%, Muslim – 5%, Unaffiliated – 6%. Ethnics – Greek citizens – 93%, foreign citizens – 7%. Government – Republic, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 10,775,557, rank – 81. Area – 131,957, rank – 97. Density – 82, rank – 120.



GREENLAND, Kalaallit Nunaat/Gronland, in North America, is a self-governing territory of Denmark, but it is not part of the European Union with Denmark. <u>Link to map</u>. Links to essential data: <u>Enc. Brittanica</u>, <u>Wikipedia</u>, <u>CIA Factbook</u>, <u>Nations Online</u>, <u>UN Data</u>, <u>BBC</u>, <u>World Atlas</u>, <u>Countries/World</u>, <u>List/Countries</u>, <u>Index Mundi</u>, <u>Oper/World</u>, <u>Internet/Stats</u>.

Greenland, the world's largest island, is about 81% ice-capped. Vikings reached the island in the 10th century from Iceland; Danish colonization began in the 18th century, and Greenland became an integral part of the Danish Realm in 1953. It joined the European Community (now the EU) with Denmark in 1973 but withdrew in 1985 over a dispute centered on stringent fishing quotas. Greenland remains a member of the Overseas Countries and Territories Association of the EU. Greenland was granted self-government in 1979 by the Danish parliament; the law went into effect the following year. Greenland voted in favor of increased self-rule in November 2008 and acquired greater responsibility for internal affairs when the Act on Greenland Self-Government was signed into law in June 2009. Denmark, however, continues to exercise control over several policy areas on behalf of Greenland, including foreign affairs, security, and financial policy in consultation with Greenland's Self-Rule Government.

Capital – Nuuk. Language – Greenlandic, Danish. Religion – Christian – 96%, Unaffiliated – 3%, Folk religion – 1%. Ethnics – Inuit – 89%, Danish and others – 11%. Government - On 21 June 2009, Greenland gained self-rule with provisions for assuming responsibility for self-government of judicial affairs, policing, and natural resources. Also, Greenlanders were recognized as a separate people under international law. Denmark maintains control of foreign affairs and defence matters. Denmark upholds the annual block grant of 3.2 billion Danish kroner, but as Greenland begins to collect revenues of its natural resources, the grant will gradually be diminished. It is considered by some to be a step toward eventual full independence from Denmark. Greenlandic is now the sole official language of Greenland. Population – 57,728, rank – 206. Area – 2,166,086, rank – 12. Density – 0.03, rank – 235.



GRENADA, in the Lesser Antilles, Caribbean. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. Grenada is an island country consisting of Grenada itself and six smaller islands at the southern end of the Grenadines in the southeastern Caribbean Sea. Grenada is located northwest of Trinidad and Tobago, northeast of Venezuela, and southwest of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Grenada is also known as the "Island of Spice" because of the production of nutmeg and mace crops, of which it is one of the world's largest exporters. The national bird of Grenada is the critically endangered Grenada dove. Carib Indians inhabited Grenada when Christopher COLUMBUS discovered the island in 1498, but it remained uncolonized for more than a century. The French settled Grenada in the 17th century, established sugar estates, and imported large numbers of African slaves. Britain took the island in 1762 and vigorously expanded sugar production. In the 19th century, cacao eventually surpassed sugar as the main export crop; in the 20th century, nutmeg became the leading export. In 1967, Britain gave Grenada autonomy over its internal affairs. Full independence was attained in 1974 making Grenada one of the smallest independent countries in the Western Hemisphere.

Grenada was seized by a Marxist military council on 19 October 1983. Six days later the island was invaded by US forces and those of six other Caribbean nations, which quickly captured the ringleaders and their hundreds of Cuban advisers. Free elections were reinstituted the following year and have continued since then.

Capital – Saint George's. Language – English. Religion – Christian- 97%, Unaffiliated – 1%, Folk religion – 1%. Ethnics – Black – 82%, Mixed Black and European- 13%, European and East Indian – 5%. Government - As a Commonwealth realm, British King/Queen is Head of State. The Crown is represented by a Governor-General. Day-to-day executive power lies with the Head of Government, the Prime Minister. Although appointed by the Governor-General, the Prime Minister is usually the leader of the largest party in the Parliament. The Parliament consists of a Senate (thirteen members) and a House of Representatives (fifteen members). The senators are appointed by the government and the opposition, while the representatives are elected by the population for five-year terms. Population – 110,152, rank – 191. Area – 344, rank – 207. Density – 320, rank – 41.



GUADELOUPE, in the Lesser Antilles, Caribbean, is a French overseas department, it is part of the European Union with France. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Guadeloupe is an insular region of France located in the Leeward Islands, part of the Lesser Antilles in the Caribbean. Administratively, it is an overseas region consisting of a single overseas department. Guadeloupe's two main islands are Basse-Terre to the west and Grande-Terre to the east, which are separated by a narrow strait that is crossed with bridges. They are often referred to as a single island. The department also includes the Dependencies of Guadeloupe which include the smaller islands of Marie-Galante and La Désirade, and the Îles des Saintes. The island was called "Karukera" (or "The Island of Beautiful Waters") by the Arawak people, who settled on there in 300 AD/CE. During the 8th century, the Caribs came and killed the existing population of Amerindians on the island. During his second trip to America, in November 1493, Christopher Columbus became the first European to land on Guadeloupe, while seeking fresh water. He called it Santa María de Guadalupe de Extremadura, after the image of the Virgin Mary venerated at the Spanish monastery of Villuercas, in Guadalupe, Extremadura. The expedition set ashore just south of Capesterre, but left no settlers behind. Columbus is credited with discovering the pineapple on the island of Guadeloupe in 1493, although the fruit had long been grown in South America. He called it piña de Indias, which can be correctly translated as "pine cone of the Indies." During the 17th century, the Caribs fought against the Spanish settlers and repelled them. After successful settlement on the island of St. Christophe (St. Kitts), the French Company of the American Islands delegated Charles Lienard (Liénard de L'Olive) and Jean Duplessis Ossonville, Lord of Ossonville to colonize one or any of the region's islands, Guadeloupe, Martinique, or Dominica. Due to Martinique's inhospitable nature, the duo resolved to settle in Guadeloupe in 1635, took possession of the island, and wiped out many of the Carib Amerindians. It was annexed to the kingdom of France in 1674. Guadeloupe, like the other overseas departments, is an integral part of France. It is thus part of the European Union and the Eurozone; as for many Eurozone countries, its currency is the euro. As an overseas department, Guadeloupe is not part of the Schengen Area. The prefecture (regional capital) of Guadeloupe is the city of Basse-Terre, which lies on the island of the same name. The official language is French, and virtually the entire population except recent arrivals also speaks Antillean Creole (*Créole Guadeloupéen*).

Capital – Basse-Terre. Language – French. Religion – Religion – Roman Catholic – 86%, Protestant – 5%, Hindu – 2%, African Voodoo – 2%, Jehovah's Witnesses – 2%. Ethnics - African descent/Multiracial/Creole – primarily of European or African or Indian mix – 80%, Indian, mostly Tamil descent – 5%, White European, mostly of French descent – 10%, Lebanese/Syrians – 3%, Chinese/others – 2%. Government - Guadeloupe sends four deputies to the French National Assembly and three senators to the French Senate. Guadeloupe is divided into two arrondissements (Basse-Terre and Pointe-à-Pitre), 21 cantons and 32 communes. Population – 403,750, Area – 1,628, Density – 248.



GUAM, Guahan, in Micronesia, Oceania, is a US unincorporated organized territory. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Located in the northwestern Pacific Ocean, Guam is one of five American territories with an established civilian government. The most populous city of Guam is Dededo. Guamanians are American citizens by birth. Guam is the largest and southernmost of the Mariana Islands, and the largest island in Micronesia. The Chamorros, Guam's indigenous people, settled the island approximately 4,000 years ago. Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan was the first European to visit the island on March 6, 1521. Guam was colonized in 1668 with settlers, like Diego Luis de San Vitores, a Catholic missionary. Between the 1500s and the 1700s, Guam was an important stopover for the Spanish Manila Galleons. During the Spanish–American War, the United States captured Guam on June 21, 1898. Under the Treaty of Paris, Spain ceded Guam to the United States on December 10, 1898. Guam is amongst the seventeen Non-Self-Governing Territories of the United Nations. Before World War II, Guam and three other territories - American Samoa, Hawaii, and the Philippines - were the only American jurisdictions in the Pacific Ocean. On December 7, 1941, hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Guam was captured by the Japanese, and was occupied for thirty months. During the occupation, Guamanians were subjected to culture alignment, forced labor, beheadings, rape, and torture. Guam endured hostilities when American forces recaptured the island on July 21, 1944; Liberation Day commemorates the victory. Since the 1960s, the economy is supported by two industries: tourism and the United States Armed Forces.

Capital – Hagatna. Language – English, Chamorro. Religion – Christian – 94%, Unaffiliated – 2%, Buddhist – 1%, Folk religion – 2%. Ethnics – Chamorro – 37%, Filipino – 26%, White – 7%, Chuukese – 7%, Korean – 2%, Palauan – 2%, Japanese – 2%, Mixed – 9%.

Government - Guam is governed by a popularly elected governor and a unicameral 15-member legislature, whose members are known as senators. Guam elects one non-voting delegate to the United States House of Representatives. U.S. citizens in Guam vote in a straw poll for their choice in the U.S. Presidential general election, but since Guam has no votes in the Electoral College, the poll has no real effect. However, in sending delegates to the Republican and Democratic national conventions, Guam does have influence in the national presidential race. These delegates are elected by local party conventions. Population – 161,001, rank – 188. Area – 544, rank – 195. Density – 296, rank – 44.



GUANTANAMO BAY, a rented naval station in Cuba. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia. Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, also known as Naval Station Guantanamo Bay or NSGB, (also called *GTMO* because of the airfield designation code or *Gitmo* because of the common pronunciation of this code by the U.S. military) is located on 45 square miles (120 km²) of land and water at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, which the United States leased for use as a coaling and naval station in 1903 (for \$2,000 per year until 1934, for \$4,085 per year since 1938 until now). The base is on the shore of Guantánamo Bay at the southeastern end of Cuba. The area surrounding Guantanamo bay was originally inhabited by the Taíno people. On 30 April 1494, Christopher Columbus, on his second voyage, arrived and spent the night. The place where Columbus had landed is now known as Fisherman's Point. Columbus declared the bay *Puerto Grande*. The bay and surrounding areas came under British control during the War of Jenkins' Ear. Prior to British occupation, the bay was referred to as *Walthenham Harbor*. The British renamed the bay *Cumberland Bay*. The British retreated from the area after a failed attempt to march to Santiago de Cuba.

It is the oldest overseas U.S. Naval Base. Since the Cuban Revolution of 1959, the Cuban government has consistently protested against the U.S. presence on Cuban soil and called it illegal under international law, alleging that the military base was imposed on Cuba by force. At the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2013, Cuba's Foreign Minister demanded the U.S. return the base and the "usurped territory", which the Cuban government considers to be occupied since the U.S. invasion of Cuba during the Spanish–American War in 1898. Since 2002, the naval base has contained a military prison, the Guantanamo Bay detention camp, for unlawful combatants captured in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other places during the War on Terror. Cases of torture of prisoners, and their alleged denial of protection under the Geneva Conventions, have been condemned internationally. The military facilities at Guantanamo Bay employ over 9,500 U.S. sailors and Marines. It is the only military base the U.S. maintains in a communist country. Besides servicemen, the base houses a large number of civilian contractors working for the military. Largely imported from Jamaica and Philippines, they are thought to constitute up to 40% of the base's population.



GUATEMALA, Republic of Guatemala, in Central America. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. The dominance of an Indian culture within its interior uplands distinguishes Guatemala from its Central American neighbours. The origin of the name Guatemala is Indian, but its derivation and meaning are undetermined. Some hold that the original form was Quauhtemallan (indicating an Aztec rather than a Mayan origin), meaning "land of trees," and others hold that it is derived from Guhatezmalha, meaning "mountain of vomiting water"— referring no doubt to such volcanic eruptions as the one that destroyed Santiago de los Caballeros de Guatemala (modern-day Antigua Guatemala), the first permanent Spanish capital of the region's captaincy general. The country's contemporary capital, Guatemala City, is a major metropolitan centre; Quetzaltenango in the western highlands is the nucleus of the Indian population. The territory of modern Guatemala once formed the core of the Mayan civilization, which extended across Mesoamerica. Most of the country was conquered by the Spanish in the 16th century, becoming part of the viceroyalty of New Spain. Guatemala attained independence in 1821 as part of the Federal Republic of Central America, which dissolved in 1841. From the mid to late 19th century, Guatemala experienced chronic instability and civil strife. Beginning in the early 20th century, it was ruled by a series of dictators backed by the United Fruit Company and the United States government.

In 1944, authoritarian leader Jorge Ubico was overthrown by a pro-democratic military coup, initiating a decade-long revolution that led to sweeping social and economic reforms. A U.S.-backed military coup in 1954 ended the revolution and installed a dictatorship. From 1960 to 1996, Guatemala endured a bloody civil war fought between the U.S.-backed government and leftist rebels, which included massacres of the Mayan population perpetrated by the military. Since a United Nations-negotiated peace accord, Guatemala has witnessed both economic growth and successful democratic elections, though it continues to struggle with high rates of poverty, crime, drug trade, and instability. Guatemala's abundance of biologically significant and unique ecosystems, which includes a large number of endemic species, contributes to Mesoamerica's designation as a biodiversity hotspot. The country is also known for its rich and distinct culture, which is characterized by a fusion of Spanish and Indigenous influences.

Capital – La Nueva Guatemala de la Asuncion. Language – Spanish. Religion – Christian – 95%, Unaffiliated – 4%, Folk religion – 1%. Ethnics – Mestizo, mixed Amerindian-Spanish in local Spanish called Ladino and European – 59%, K'iche – 9%, Kaqchikel – 8%, Mam – 8%, Q'eqchi – 6%, other Mayan – 9%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 14,647,083, rank – 70. Area – 108,889, rank – 107. Density – 137, rank – 82.



GUERNSEY, a British Crown Dependency with independent administration, that is not part of the UK or EU, however its inhabitants are British citizens. The Bailiwick of Guernsey includes the islands of Alderney, Sark, Herm, and some small islands. Located in the Channel Islands, an archipelago in the English Channel off the Normandy coast of France. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Situated in the English Channel over to the coast of Normandy, the jurisdiction embraces not only all ten parishes on the island of Guernsey, but also the much smaller inhabited islands of Herm, Jethou and Lihou together with many small islets and rocks. The jurisdiction is not part of the United Kingdom. However, defence and most foreign relations are handled by the British Government. The whole jurisdiction lies within the Common Travel Area of the British Isles and is not a member of the European Union, but has a special relationship with it, being treated as part of the European Community for the purposes of free trade in goods. Taken together with the separate jurisdictions of Alderney and Sark it forms the Bailiwick of Guernsey. The two Bailiwicks of Guernsey and Jersey together form the geographical grouping known as the Channel Islands. Financial services, such as banking, fund management, and insurance, account for about 37% of GDP. Tourism, manufacturing, and horticulture, mainly tomatoes and cut flowers, especially freesias, have been declining. Light tax and death duties make Guernsey a popular offshore finance centre for private equity funds. Guernsey issues its own sterling coinage and banknotes. UK coinage and (English, Scottish and Northern Irish-faced) banknotes also circulate freely and interchangeably. In 2013 there were over 31,000 people employed in Guernsey, with 3,000 being self-employed. 2,038 employing businesses of which 20% are in the finance industry.

Capital – St Peter Port. Language – English. Religion - Roman Catholicism is the official religion in Guernsey; there are three Catholic churches in the British dependency of Guernsey. Ethnics – British and Norman-French descent with small percentages from other European countries. Government - The deliberative assembly of the States of Guernsey (*États de Guernesey*) is called the States of Deliberation (*États de Délibération*) and consists of 45 People's Deputies (reduced to 38 from 2016), elected from multi- or single-member districts every four years. There are also two representatives from Alderney, a semi-autonomous dependency of the Bailiwick, but Sark sends no representative since it has its own legislature. The Bailiff or Deputy Bailiff preside in the assembly. There are also two non-voting members: H.M. Procureur (Attorney General) and H.M. Comptroller (Solicitor General), both appointed by the Crown and collectively known as the Law Officers of the Crown. Population – 65,849, rank – 205. Area – 78, rank – 228. Density – 844, rank – 14.



GUIANA, FRENCH, see French Guiana.

GUINEA, Republic of Guinea, Guinee, Gine, in West Africa. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Guinea was formerly known as French Guinea (French: Guinée française), the modern country is sometimes referred to as Guinea-Conakry in order to distinguish it from other parts of the wider region of the same name, such as Guinea-Bissau and Equatorial Guinea. French, the official language of Guinea, is the main language of communication in schools, in government administration, in the media, and among the country's security forces, but more than twenty-four indigenous languages are also spoken. Guinea's economy is largely dependent on agriculture and mineral production. It is the world's second largest producer of bauxite, and has rich deposits of diamonds and gold. Human rights in Guinea remain a controversial issue. In 2011 the United States government claimed that torture by security forces, and abuse of women and children (e.g. female genital mutilation) were ongoing abuses of human rights. The country is named after the Guinea region. Guinea is a traditional name for the region of Africa that lies along the Gulf of Guinea. It stretches north through the forested tropical regions and ends at the Sahel. The English term Guinea comes directly from the Portuguese word Guiné, which emerged in the mid-15th century to refer to the lands inhabited by the Guineus, a generic term for the black African peoples below the Senegal River, as opposed to the 'tawny' Zenaga Berbers, above it, whom they called Azenegues or Moors. The country was at the core of the 2014 Ebola outbreak.

Capital – Conakry. Language – French, national - Maninka, Susu, Pular. Religion - Guinea is a predominantly Islamic country, with Muslims representing 84 percent of the population. 11% are Christian, 2% are unaffiliated, 3% have a folk religion. Ethnics – Peuhl – 40%, Malinke – 30%, Soussou – 20%, smaller ethnic groups – 10%. Government - Guinea is a republic. The president is directly elected by the people and is head of state and head of government. The unicameral Guinean National Assembly is the legislative body of the country, and its members are also directly elected by the people. The judicial branch is led by the Guinea Supreme Court, the highest and final court of appeal in the country. Population – 11,474,383, rank – 76. Area – 245,857, rank – 79. Density – 47, rank – 163.



GUINEA - BISSAU, Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Guine-Bissau, in West Africa, formerly known as Portuguese Guinea. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Guinea-Bissau was once part of the kingdom of Gabu, as well as part of the Mali Empire. Parts of this kingdom persisted until the 18th century, while a few others were under some rule by the Portuguese Empire since the 16th century. In the 19th century, it was colonized as Portuguese Guinea. Upon independence, declared in 1973 and recognised in 1974, the name of its capital, Bissau, was added to the country's name to prevent confusion with Guinea (formerly French Guinea). Guinea-Bissau has a history of political instability since independence, and no elected president has successfully served a full five-year term. Only 14% of the population speaks Portuguese, established as the official language in the colonial period. Almost half the population (44%) speaks Crioulo, a Portuguese-based creole language, and the remainder speak a variety of native African languages. The main religions are African traditional religions and Islam; there is a Christian (mostly Roman Catholic) minority. The country's percapita gross domestic product is one of the lowest in the world. Guinea-Bissau is a member of the United Nations, African Union, Economic Community of West African States, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, the Latin Union, Community of Portuguese Language Countries, La Francophonie and the South Atlantic Peace and Cooperation Zone.

Capital – Bissau. Language – Portuguese. Religion – Muslim – 45%, Christian – 20%, Folk religion – 31%, Unaffiliated – 4%. Ethnics – Balanta – 30%, Fula – 20%, Manjaca – 14%, Mandinga – 13%, Papel – 7%. European and Mulato – less than 1%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 1,693,398, rank – 153. Area – 36,125, rank – 138. Density – 47.



GUINEA, EQUATORIAL, see Equatorial Guinea.

GUYANA, Co-operative Republic of Guyana, in North Eastern South America, formerly known as British Guiana. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. Guyana is the fourth-smallest country on mainland South America after Uruguay and Suriname and French Guiana. The region known as "Guyana" comprised the large shield landmass north of the Amazon River and east of the Orinoco River known as the "Land of many waters". Originally inhabited by several indigenous groups, Guyana was settled by the Dutch before coming under British control in the late 18th century. It was governed as the plantation economy of British Guiana until independence in 1966, and officially became a republic within the British Commonwealth of Nations in 1970. The legacy of British rule is reflected in the country's diverse population, which includes Indian, African, Amerindian, and multiracial groups. Guyana also has the distinction of being the only South American nation in which English is the official language. The majority of the population, however, speak

Guyanese Creole, an English-based creole language with slight Dutch, Arawakan and Caribbean influences. In addition to being part of the Anglophone Caribbean, Guyana is one of the few Caribbean countries that is not an island in the West Indies. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM), of which Guyana is a member, is headquartered in Guyana's capital and largest city, Georgetown. In 2008, the country joined the Union of South American Nations as a founding member. The main economic activities in Guyana are agriculture (production of rice and Demerara sugar), bauxite mining, gold mining, timber, shrimp fishing and minerals. Chronic problems include a shortage of skilled labour and a deficient infrastructure. In 2008, the economy witnessed a 3% increase in growth amid the global economic crisis, grew an impressive 5.4% in 2011 and 3.7% in 2012.

Capital – Georgetown. Language – English, Guyanese Creole - national. Religion – Christian – 66%, Muslim – 6%, Hindu – 25%, Unaffiliated – 2%. Ethnics – East Indian – 44%, Black African – 30%, Mixed – 17%, Amerindian – 9%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 735,554, rank – 165. Area – 214,969, rank – 85. Density – 3.7, rank – 222.



HAITI, Republic of Haiti, Ayiti, in the Greater Antilles, Caribbean. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. The country is located on the island of Hispaniola, in the Greater Antilles archipelago of the Caribbean. It occupies the western three-eighths of the island which it shares with the Dominican Republic. Originally inhabited by the indigenous Taíno people, Spain first became aware of the island on 5 December 1492 during the first voyage of Christopher Columbus across the Atlantic. When Columbus initially landed in Haiti, he had thought he had found India or Asia. On Christmas day, Columbus' flagship the Santa Maria, ran aground north of what is now Limonade. As a consequence, Columbus ordered his men to salvage what they could from the ship, and he created the first European settlement in the Americas, naming it La Navidad after the day the ship was destroyed. The island was named Ispañiola and claimed by Spain, which ruled until the early 17th century. Competing claims and settlements by the French led to the western portion of the island being ceded to France, which named it Saint-Domingue. The development of sugarcane plantations, worked by slaves brought from Africa, led to the colony being among the most lucrative in the world.

In the midst of the French Revolution (1789-1799), slaves and free people of colour revolted in the Haitian Revolution (1791-1804), culminating in the abolishment of slavery and the defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte's army at the Battle of Vertières. Afterward the sovereign nation of Haiti was established on 1 January 1804 – the first independent nation of Latin America and the Caribbean, the second republic in the Americas, the only nation in the western hemisphere to have defeated three European superpowers (Britain, France and Spain), and the only nation in the world established as a result of a successful slave revolt. The rebellion that began in 1791 was led by a former slave and the first black general of the

French Army, Toussaint Louverture, whose military genius and political acumen transformed an entire society of slaves into the independent country. Upon his death in a prison in France, he was succeeded by his lieutenant, Jean-Jacques Dessalines, who declared Haiti's sovereignty and later became the first Emperor of Haiti, *Jacques I*. The Haitian Revolution lasted nearly a decade; and apart from Alexandre Pétion, the first President of the Republic, all the first leaders of government were former slaves. The Citadelle Laferrière is the largest fortress in the Americas. Henri Christophe – former slave and first king of Haiti, *Henri I* – built it to withstand a possible foreign attack. Hait has the lowest Human Development Index in the Americas. Most recently, in February 2004, a *coup d'état* originating in the north of the country forced the resignation and exile of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. A provisional government took control with security provided by the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti. Michel Martelly, the previous president, was elected in the 2011 general election.

Capital – Port-au-Prince. Language – French, Haitian Creole. Religion – Christian – 87%, Unaffiliated – 11%, Folk religion – 2%. Ethnics – Black – 95%, Mulatto and White – 5%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency independent of legislature, ministry subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 9,996,731, rank – 89. Area – 27,750, rank – 148. Density – 363, rank – 34.



HEARD ISLAND AND MCDONALD ISLANDS, external uninhabited territory of Australia, about two-third of the way from Madagascar to Antarctica. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. The Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands (abbreviated as HIMI) are an Australian external territory and volcanic group of barren Antarctic islands, about two-thirds of the way from Madagascar to Antarctica. The group's overall size is 412 square kilometres in area, rank – 203, and it has 101.9 km of coastline. Discovered in the mid-19th century, they have been territories of Australia since 1947 and contain the only two active volcanoes in Australian territory. The summit of one, Mawson Peak, is higher than any mountain on the Australian mainland. They lie on the Kerguelen Plateau in the Indian Ocean. The islands are among the most remote places on Earth: They are located approximately 4,099 km southwest of Perth, 3,845 km southwest of Cape Leeuwin, Australia, 4,200 km southeast of South Africa, 3,830 km southeast of Madagascar, 1,630 km north of Antarctica, and 450 km southeast of the Kerguelen Islands. The islands are currently uninhabited.

HERM, a self-governing island of the UK crown dependency Guernsey. See Guernsey. Herm (Guernésiais: *Haerme*) is one of the Channel Islands and part of the Parish of St Peter Port in the Bailiwick of Guernsey. It is located in the English Channel, north-west of France and south of England. It is 1.5 miles (2.4 km) long and under 0.5 miles (0.80 km) wide; orientated north-south, with several stretches of sand along its northern coast. The much larger island of Guernsey lies to the west and Jersey to the south-east, and the smaller island of Jethou is just off the south-west coast. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA

Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Herm was first discovered in the Mesolithic period, and the first settlers arrived in the Neolithic and Bronze Ages. Many tombs from that period remain today, the majority in the north of the island. The island was annexed to the Duchy of Normandy in 933, but returned to the English Crown with the division of Normandy in 1204. It was occupied by Germany in the Second World War and the scene of Operation Huckaback, but was largely bypassed. Herm is currently managed by Herm Island Ltd, formed by Starboard Settlement, who acquired Herm in 2008, following fears during the sale of the island that the 'identity' of the island was at threat. Herm's harbour is on its west coast. There are several buildings of note in the vicinity including the White House, St Tugual's Chapel, Fisherman's Cottage, "The Mermaid" pub and restaurant, and a small primary school with about eight children. During a busy summer season, up to 100,000 tourists visit the island, arriving by one of the catamaran ferries operated by the Trident Charter Company. Cars are banned from the island, as are bicycles; quad bikes and tractors used for staff and luggage transport respectively are allowed. Official language - English and French. Government – Dependency of Guernsey. Population – 60, Area – 2, Density – 30.



HERZEGOVINA, see Bosnia and Herzegovina.

HOLY SEE – see Vatican City.

HONDURAS, Republic of Honduras, in Central America. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Honduras was home to several important Mesoamerican cultures, most notably the Maya, prior to being conquered by Spain in the sixteenth century. The Spanish introduced Roman Catholicism and the now predominant Spanish language, along with numerous customs that have blended with the indigenous culture. Honduras became independent in 1821 and has since been a republic, although it has consistently endured much social strife and political instability, remaining one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere. Honduras has the world's highest murder rate. Its northern portions are part of the Western Caribbean Zone, as reflected in the area's demographics and culture. Honduras is known for its rich natural resources, including various minerals, coffee, tropical fruit, and sugar cane, as well as for its growing textiles industry, which serves the international market.

Capital – Tegucigalpa. Language – Spanish. Religion – Christian - 88%, Unaffiliated – 11%, Folk religion – 1%. Ethnics – Mestizo: mixed Amerindian and European – 90%, Amerindian – 7%, Black – 2%, White – 1%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independence of legislature. Population – 8,598,561, rank – 94. Area – 112,090, rank – 103. Density – 77, rank – 127.



HONG KONG, Heung Gong, Chinese: 香港; literally: "Fragrant Harbour", officially Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, is an autonomous territory on the southern coast of China at the Pearl River Estuary and the South China Sea, in Eastern Asia. China has sovereignty over the Special Administrative Region (SAR) of Hong Kong. Formerly it was a British colony of the UK. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Hong Kong is known for its skyline and deep natural harbour. It shares its northern border with Guangdong Province of Mainland China. Hong Kong is one of the world's most densely populated metropolises. After the First Opium War (1839-42), Hong Kong became a British colony with the perpetual cession of Hong Kong Island, followed by Kowloon Peninsula in 1860 and a 99-year lease of the New Territories from 1898. Hong Kong remained under continuous British control for about a century until the Second World War, when Japan occupied the colony from December 1941 to August 1945. British control resumed in 1945 following the Surrender of Japan. In the 1980s, negotiations between the United Kingdom and China resulted in the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration, which provided for the transfer of sovereignty of Hong Kong on 30 June 1997. The territory became a special administrative region of China with a high degree of autonomy on 1 July 1997 under the principle of one country, two systems. Disputes over the perceived misapplication of this principle have contributed to popular protests, including the 2014 Umbrella Revolution.

In the late 1970s, Hong Kong became a major entrepôt in Asia-Pacific. The territory has developed into a major global trade hub and financial centre. The 44th-largest economy in the world, Hong Kong ranks top 10 in GDP (PPP) per capita, but also has the most severe income inequality among advanced economies. Hong Kong is one of the three most important financial centres alongside New York and London, and the world's number one tourist destination city. The territory has been named the freest market economy. The service economy, characterised by free trade and low taxation, has been regarded as one of the world's most laissez-faire economic policies, and the currency, the Hong Kong dollar, is the 13th most traded currency in the world. The Hong Kong Basic Law is its quasi-constitution which empowers the region to develop relations and make agreements directly with foreign states and regions, as well as international organizations, in a broad range of appropriate fields. It is an independent member of APEC, the IMF, WTO, FIFA and International Olympic Committee among others. Limited land created a dense infrastructure and the territory became a centre of modern architecture, and has a larger number of highrises than any other city in the world. Hong Kong has a highly developed public transportation network covering 90% of the population, the highest in the world, and relies on mass transit by road or rail. Air pollution remains a serious problem. Loose emissions standards have resulted in a high level of atmospheric particulates. Nevertheless, residents of Hong Kong (sometimes referred to as *Hongkongers*) enjoy one of the longest life expectancies in the world.

Language – English, Chinese, Cantonese. Religion – Christian – 14%, Muslim – 2%, Unaffiliated – 56%, Buddhist – 13%, Folk religion – 13%. Ethnics – Chinese – 93%, Indonesian - 2%, Filipino - 2%. Government - Hong Kong enjoys a high degree of autonomy, as its political and judicial systems operate independently from those of mainland China. In accordance with the Sino-British Joint Declaration, and the underlying principle of one country, two systems, Hong Kong has a "high degree of autonomy as a special administrative region in all areas except defence and foreign affairs". The declaration stipulates that the region maintain its capitalist economic system and guarantees the rights and freedoms of its people for at least 50 years after the 1997 handover. The guarantees over the territory's autonomy and the individual rights and freedoms are enshrined in the Hong Kong Basic Law, the territory's constitutional document, which outlines the system of governance of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, but which is subject to the interpretation of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPCSC). The primary pillars of government are the Executive Council, the civil service, the Legislative Council, and the Judiciary. The Executive Council is headed by the Chief Executive who is elected by the Election Committee and then appointed by the Central People's Government. The civil service is a politically neutral body that implements policies and provides government services, where public servants are appointed based on meritocracy. The Legislative Council has 70 members, 40 seats are directly elected by universal suffrage by permanent residents of Hong Kong according to five geographical constituencies and a District Council functional constituency. 30 seats from functional constituencies are directly elected by a smaller electorate, which consists of corporate bodies and persons from various stipulated functional sectors. The entire council is headed by the President of the Legislative Council who serves as the speaker. Judges are appointed by the Chief Executive on the recommendation of an independent commission. Population – 7,112,688, rank – 102. Area – 1,104, rank – 184. Density -6,748, rank -4.



HOWLAND ISLAND, is an uninhabited coral island located just north of the equator in the Central Pacific Ocean, almost halfway between Hawaii and Australia. It is an unincorporated unorganized territory of the Unites States. Geographically, together with Baker Island it forms part of the Phoenix Islands. For statistical purposes, Howland is grouped as one of the United States Minor Outlying Islands. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Howland Island is an uninhabited coral island located just north of the equator in the central Pacific Ocean, about 1,700 nautical miles (3,100 km) southwest of Honolulu. The island lies almost halfway between Hawaii and Australia and is an unincorporated, unorganized territory of the United States. Geographically, together with Baker Island it forms part of the Phoenix Islands. For statistical purposes, Howland is grouped as one of the United States Minor Outlying Islands. Howland covers 4.50 km², with 4 miles (6.4 km) of coastline. The island has an elongated plantain-shape on a north-south axis. There is no lagoon. Howland Island National Wildlife Refuge

consists of the entire island and the surrounding 32,074 acres (129.80 km²) of submerged land. The island is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as an insular area under the U.S. Department of the Interior and is part of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument. The atoll has no economic activity. It is perhaps best known as the island Amelia Earhart was searching for but never reached when her airplane disappeared on July 2, 1937, during her planned round-the-world flight. Airstrips constructed to accommodate her planned stopover were subsequently damaged, were not maintained and gradually disappeared. There are no harbors or docks. The fringing reefs may pose a maritime hazard. There is a boat landing area along the middle of the sandy beach on the west coast, as well as a crumbling day beacon. The island is visited every two years by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

HUNGARY, Magyarorszag, in Eastern Europe. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, EU. Hungary is a sovereign state in Europe. It is situated in the Carpathian Basin and is bordered by Slovakia to the north, Romania to the east, Serbia to the south, Croatia to the southwest, Slovenia to the west, Austria to the northwest, and Ukraine to the northeast. The country's capital and largest city is Budapest. Hungary is a member of the European Union, NATO, the OECD, the Visegrád Group, and the Schengen Area. The official language is Hungarian, which is the most widely spoken non-Indo-European language in Europe. Following centuries of successive habitation by Celts, Romans, Huns, Slavs, Gepids, and Avars, the foundation of Hungary was laid in the late 9th century by the Hungarian grand prince Árpád in the Honfoglalás ("homeland-conquest"). His great-grandson Stephen I ascended to the throne in 1000 CE, converting the country to a Christian kingdom. By the 12th century, Hungary became a middle power within the Western world, reaching a golden age by the 15th century. Following the Battle of Mohács in 1526 and about 150 years of partial Ottoman occupation (1541-1699), Hungary came under Habsburg rule, and later formed a significant part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire (1867-1918). Hungary's current borders were first established by the Treaty of Trianon (1920) after World War I, when the country lost 71% of its territory, 58% of its population, and 32% of ethnic Hungarians. Following the interwar period, Hungary joined the Axis Powers in World War II, suffering significant damage and casualties. Hungary came under the influence of the Soviet Union, which contributed to the establishment of a four-decade-long communist dictatorship (1947– 1989). The country gained widespread international attention regarding the Revolution of 1956 and the seminal opening of its previously-restricted border with Austria in 1989, which accelerated the collapse of the Eastern Bloc. On 23 October 1989, Hungary again became a democratic parliamentary republic, and today has a high-income economy with a very high Human Development Index. Hungary is a popular tourist destination attracting 10.675 million tourists a year (2013). It is home to the largest thermal water cave system and the secondlargest thermal lake in the world (Lake Hévíz), the largest lake in Central Europe (Lake Balaton), and the largest natural grasslands in Europe (the Hortobágy National Park).

Capital – Budapest. Language – Hungarian. Religion – Christian – 81%, Unaffiliated – 19%. Ethnics – Hungarian – 92%, Roma – 2%. Government – Republic, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 9,919,128, rank – 90. Area – 93,028, rank – 110. Density – 111, rank – 96.

37 VARIABLE PARAMETERS – SEE METHODOLOGY OF SEARCHING IN 60+ TABLES IN AUSTRALIA.

VARIABLE PARAMETERS FROM CIA WORLD FACTBOOK - PEOPLE & SOCIETY, ECONOMIC PARAMETERS:

```
Median age:
total: 41.4 years
male: 39.5 years
female: 43.8 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 33
Population growth rate:
-0.22% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 216
Birth rate:
9.16 births/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 207
Death rate:
12.73 deaths/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 20
Net migration rate:
1.33 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 58
Urbanization:
urban population: 71.2% of total population (2015)
rate of urbanization: 0.47% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)
Mother's mean age at first birth:
28.3 (2011 est.)
Maternal mortality rate:
17 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 135
Infant mortality rate:
total: 5.02 deaths/1,000 live births
male: 5.3 deaths/1,000 live births
female: 4.74 deaths/1,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 176
Life expectancy at birth:
total population: 75.69 years
male: 71.96 years
female: 79.62 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 94
Total fertility rate:
1.43 children born/woman (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 207
Health expenditures:
8% of GDP (2013)
country comparison to the world: 61
Physicians density:
3.1 physicians/1,000 population (2012)
Hospital bed density:
7.2 beds/1,000 population (2011)
Drinking water source:
improved:
urban: 100% of population
rural: 100% of population
total: 100% of population
unimproved:
urban: 0% of population
rural: 0% of population
total: 0% of population (2015 est.)
Sanitation facility access:
improved:
urban: 97.8% of population
rural: 98.6% of population
total: 98% of population
unimproved:
urban: 2.2% of population
rural: 1.4% of population
total: 2% of population (2015 est.)
HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:
HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:
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HIV/AIDS - deaths:

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100 (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 107
Major infectious diseases:
degree of risk: intermediate
vectorborne diseases: tickborne encephalitis (2013)
Obesity - adult prevalence rate:
26% (2014)
country comparison to the world: 37
Education expenditures:
4.7% of GDP (2011)
country comparison to the world: 81
Literacy:
definition: age 15 and over can read and write
total population: 99.1%
male: 99.1%
female: 99% (2015 est.)
School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):
total: 15 years
male: 15 years
female: 16 years (2012)
Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:
total: 27.2%
male: 26.3%
female: 28.4% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 31
GDP (purchasing power parity):
$257 billion (2015 est.)
$249.5 billion (2014 est.)
$240.9 billion (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 60
GDP (official exchange rate):
$118.5 billion (2015 est.)
GDP - real growth rate:
3% (2015 est.)
3.6% (2015 est.)
1.5% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 98
GDP - per capita (PPP):
$26,000 (2015 est.)
$25,300 (2014 est.)
$24,400 (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 71
Gross national saving:
26.5% of GDP (2015 est.)
25.8% of GDP (2014 est.)
23.9% of GDP (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 40
GDP - composition, by end use:
household consumption: 49.8%
government consumption: 19.2%
investment in fixed capital: 21.8%
investment in inventories: 0.2%
exports of goods and services: 93.1%
imports of goods and services: -84.1% (2015 est.)
GDP - composition, by sector of origin:
agriculture: 4.4%
industry: 30.9%
services: 64.8% (2015 est.)
Agriculture - products:
wheat, corn, sunflower seed, potatoes, sugar beets; pigs, cattle, poultry, dairy products
Industries:
mining, metallurgy, construction materials, processed foods, textiles, chemicals (especially
pharmaceuticals), motor vehicles
Industrial production growth rate:
3% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 85
Labor force:
4.446 million (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 90
Labor force - by occupation:
```

agriculture: 7.1% **industry:** 29.7%

services: 63.2% (2011 est.) **Unemployment rate:** 6.8% (2015 est.) 7.7% (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: 79

Population below poverty line:

14.9% (2015 est.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share:

lowest 10%: 3.1% highest 10%: 22.6% (2009)

Distribution of family income - Gini index:

30.6 (2013 est.) 24.7 (2009)

country comparison to the world: 117

Budget:

revenues: \$56.71 billion

expenditures: \$59.44 billion (2016 est.)

Taxes and other revenues:

47.9% of GDP (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 19 Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):

-2.3% of GDP

note: Hungary has been under the EU Excessive Deficit Procedure since it joined the EU in 2004; in March 2012 the EU elevated its Excessive Deficit Procedure against Hungary and proposed freezing 30% of the country's Cohesion Funds because 2011 deficit reductions were not achieved in a sustainable manner; in June 2012, the EU lifted the freeze, recognizing that steps had been taken to reduce the deficit; the latest EC forecasts project the Hungarian deficit to increase above 3% both in 2013 and in 2014 due to sluggish growth and the government's fiscal tightening (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 83

Public debt:

75.5% of GDP (2016 est.)

76.2% of GDP (2014 est.)

note: general government gross debt is defined in the Maastricht Treaty as consolidated general government gross debt at nominal value, outstanding at the end of the year in the following categories of government liabilities: currency and deposits, securities other than shares excluding financial derivatives, and government, state government, local government, and social security funds.

country comparison to the world: 36

Fiscal year:

calendar year

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

0.3% (29 February, 2016 est.)

-0.2% (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: 46

Central bank discount rate:

1.35% (22 July 2015) 2.1% (23 July 2014)

country comparison to the world: 121

Commercial bank prime lending rate:

3% (31 December 2015 est.) 4.43% (31 December 2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: 169

Market value of publicly traded shares:

\$25.69 billion (31 December 2015 est.) \$22.8 billion (31 December 2011) \$27.71 billion (31 December 2010 est.) country comparison to the world: 61

Current account balance: \$5.925 billion (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 27

Exports:

\$97.57 billion (2015 est.) \$100 billion (2014 est.)

\$5.455 billion (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: 36

Exports - commodities:

machinery and equipment 53.5%, other manufactures 31.2%, food products 8.7%, raw materials 3.4%, fuels and electricity 3.9% (2012 est.)

Exports - partners:

Germany 28.8%, Austria 5.8%, Romania 5.7%, Slovakia 5.1%, Italy 4.8%, France 4.7%, Poland 4%, Czech Republic 4% (2014)

Imports:

```
$92.92 billion (2015 est.)
$96.42 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 34
Imports - commodities:
machinery and equipment 45.4%, other manufactures 34.3%, fuels and electricity 12.6%, food products
5.3%, raw materials 2.5% (2012)
Imports - partners:
Germany 25.6%, Austria 7.4%, Russia 7%, China 6.2%, Slovakia 5.5%, Poland 5.3%, France 4.8%,
Czech Republic 4.6%, Italy 4.5%, Netherlands 4.1% (2014)
Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:
$39.39 billion (31 December 2015 est.)
$42.02 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 46
Debt - external:
$129.2 billion (31 December 2015 est.)
$202.4 billion (31 December 2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 46
Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:
$119.8 billion (31 December 2015 est.)
$115.5 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 43
Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:
$50.3 billion (31 December 2015 est.)
$47.74 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 39
Exchange rates:
forints (HUF) per US dollar -
273.8 (2015 est.)
232.6 (2014 est.)
232.6 (2013 est.)
225.1 (2012 est.)
201.05 (2011 est.)
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ICELAND, Republic of Iceland, Lyoveldio Island, in Northern Europe. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Iceland, island country located in the North Atlantic Ocean. Lying on the constantly active geologic border between North America and Europe, Iceland is a land of vivid contrasts of climate, geography, and culture. Sparkling glaciers, such as Vatna Glacier (Vatnajökull), Europe's largest, lie across its ruggedly beautiful mountain ranges; abundant hot geysers provide heat for many of the country's homes and buildings and allow for hothouse agriculture year-round; and the offshore Gulf Stream provides a surprisingly mild climate for what is one of the northernmost inhabited places on the planet. Iceland was founded more than 1,000 years ago during the Viking age of exploration and settled by a mixed Norse and Celtic population. The early settlement, made up primarily of Norwegian seafarers and adventurers, fostered further excursions to Greenland and the coast of North America (which the Norse called Vinland). Despite its physical isolation some 500 miles (800 km) from Scotland-its nearest European neighbour-Iceland has remained throughout its history very much a part of European civilization. The Icelandic sagas, most of which recount heroic episodes that took place at the time the island was settled, are regarded as among the finest literary achievements of the Middle Ages, reflecting a European outlook while commemorating the history and customs of a people far removed from continental centres of commerce and culture. The capital, Reykjavík ("Bay of Smokes"), is the site of the island's first farmstead and is a thriving city, handsome in aspect and cosmopolitan in outlook. Other major population centres are Akureyri, on the north-central coast; Hafnarfjördhur, on the southwestern coast; and Selfoss, in the southern lowlands. Iceland is a Scandinavian country, the world's oldest democracy but modern in nearly every respect. Unlike most European

countries, however, it is ethnically homogeneous, so much so that genetic researchers have used its inhabitants to study hereditary disorders and develop cures for a host of diseases. Although increasingly integrated into the European mainstream, Icelanders take care to preserve their traditions, customs, and language. Many Icelanders, for example, still believe in elves, trolls, and other figures in the mythical landscape of the Norse past, while even Icelanders who live in cities harbour a vision of their country as a pastoral land.

Capital – Reykjavik. Language – Icelandic. Religion - Christian – 95%, Unaffiliated – 4%. Ethnics – Homogenous mixture of descendants of Norse and Celts – 94%, population of foreign origin – 6%. Government – Republic, ceremonial head of state, Ministry is subject to parliamentare confidence. Population – 317,351, rank – 180. Area – 103,000, rank – 108. Density – 3, rank – 226.



INDIA, Republic of India, India Bharat, in South-Central Asia, is federation of 29 states and 7 union territories. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. It is the seventh-largest country by area, the second-most populous country with over 1.2 billion people, and the most populous democracy in the world. Bounded by the Indian Ocean on the south, the Arabian Sea on the south-west, and the Bay of Bengal on the south-east, it shares land borders with Pakistan to the west; China, Nepal, and Bhutan to the north-east; and Myanmar (Burma) and Bangladesh to the east. In the Indian Ocean, India is in the vicinity of Sri Lanka and the Maldives; in addition, India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands share a maritime border with Thailand and Indonesia. Home to the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation and a region of historic trade routes and vast empires, the Indian subcontinent was identified with its commercial and cultural wealth for much of its long history. Four religions—Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism—originated here, whereas Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam arrived in the 1st millennium CE and also shaped the region's diverse culture. Gradually annexed by and brought under the administration of the British East India Company from the early 18th century and administered directly by the United Kingdom after the Indian Rebellion of 1857, India became an independent nation in 1947 after a struggle for independence that was marked by non-violent resistance led by Mahatma Gandhi. Currently, the Indian economy is the world's seventh-largest by nominal GDP and third-largest by purchasing power parity (PPP). Following market-based economic reforms in 1991, India became one of the fastest-growing major economies; it is considered a newly industrialised country. However, it continues to face the challenges of poverty, corruption, malnutrition, inadequate public healthcare, and terrorism. A nuclear weapons state and a regional power, it has the third-largest standing army in the world and ranks sixth in military expenditure among nations. India is a pluralistic, multilingual, and a multi-ethnic society. It is also home to a diversity of wildlife in a variety of protected habitats.

Capital – New Delhi. Language – English – Central Government, nationwide; only official language of Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh, Hindi – Central Government, ten states, and Delhi, Chandigarh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, regional - Assamese in Assam, Bengali in West Bengal, Bhutia, Sherpa, Nepali and many other languages in Sikkim (a small region, formerly independent), Gujarati in Gujarat, Kannada, Konkani and Portuguese in Goa, Malayalam in Kerala, Marathi in Maharashtra, Oriya in Odisha, Punjabi in Punjab, Sanskrit in Uttarakhand, Tamil in Tamil Nadu, Telugu in Andhra Pradesh, Kashmiri in Kashmir, French in Pondicherry, Urdu in Lucknow and Hyderabad. Religion – Hindu – 80%, Muslim – 14%, Christian – 3%, Buddhist – 1%. Ethnics – Indo-Aryan – 72%, Dravidian – 25%. Government – Republic, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 1,236,344,631, rank – 2. Area – 2,973,193, rank – 7. Density – 416, rank – 28.

37 VARIABLE PARAMETERS – SEE METHODOLOGY OF SEARCHING IN 60+ TABLES IN AUSTRALIA.

VARIABLE PARAMETERS FROM CIA WORLD FACTBOOK - PEOPLE & SOCIETY, ECONOMIC PARAMETERS:

```
Median age:
total: 27.3 years
male: 26.7 years
female: 28 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 139
Population growth rate:
1.22% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 98
Birth rate:
19.55 births/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 87
Death rate:
7.32 deaths/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 118
Net migration rate:
-0.04 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 112
Urbanization:
urban population: 32.7% of total population (2015)
rate of urbanization: 2.38% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)
Mother's mean age at first birth:
19.9 (2005/06 est.)
Maternal mortality rate:
174 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 55
Infant mortality rate:
total: 41.81 deaths/1,000 live births
male: 40.56 deaths/1,000 live births
female: 43.22 deaths/1,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 50
Life expectancy at birth:
total population: 68.13 years
male: 66.97 years
female: 69.42 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 163
Total fertility rate:
2.48 children born/woman (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 78
Contraceptive prevalence rate:
54.8% (2007/08)
Health expenditures:
4% of GDP (2013)
country comparison to the world: 159
Physicians density:
0.7 physicians/1,000 population (2012)
Hospital bed density:
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0.7 beds/1,000 population (2011)
Drinking water source:
97.1improved:
urban: 97.1% of population
rural: 92.6% of population
total: 94.1% of population
unimproved:
urban: 2.9% of population rural: 7.4% of population
total: 5.9% of population (2015 est.)
Sanitation facility access:
improved:
urban: 62.6% of population
rural: 28.5% of population
total: 39.6% of population
unimproved:
urban: 37.4% of population
rural: 71.5% of population
total: 60.4% of population (2015 est.)
HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:
0.26% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 90
HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:
2,079,700 (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 3
HIV/AIDS - deaths:
127,200 (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 3
Major infectious diseases:
degree of risk: very high
food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A and E, and typhoid fever
vectorborne diseases: dengue fever, Japanese encephalitis, and malaria
water contact disease: leptospirosis
animal contact disease: rabies
note: highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza has been identified in this country; it poses a negligible
risk with extremely rare cases possible among US citizens who have close contact with birds (2013)
Obesity - adult prevalence rate:
4.7% (2014)
country comparison to the world: 184
Children under the age of 5 years underweight:
43.5% (2006)
country comparison to the world: 2
Education expenditures:
3.8% of GDP (2012)
country comparison to the world: 134
Literacy:
definition: age 15 and over can read and write
total population: 71.2%
male: 81.3%
female: 60.6% (2015 est.)
School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):
total: 12 years
male: 12 years
female: 11 years (2011)
Child labor - children ages 5-14:
total number: 26,965,074
percentage: 12% (2006 est.)
Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:
total: 10.7%
male: 10.4%
female: 11.6% (2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 97
GDP (purchasing power parity):
$8.027 trillion (2015 est.)
$7.484 trillion (2014 est.)
$6.976 trillion (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 4
GDP (official exchange rate):
$2.183 trillion (2015 est.)
GDP - real growth rate:
7.3% (2015 est.)
```

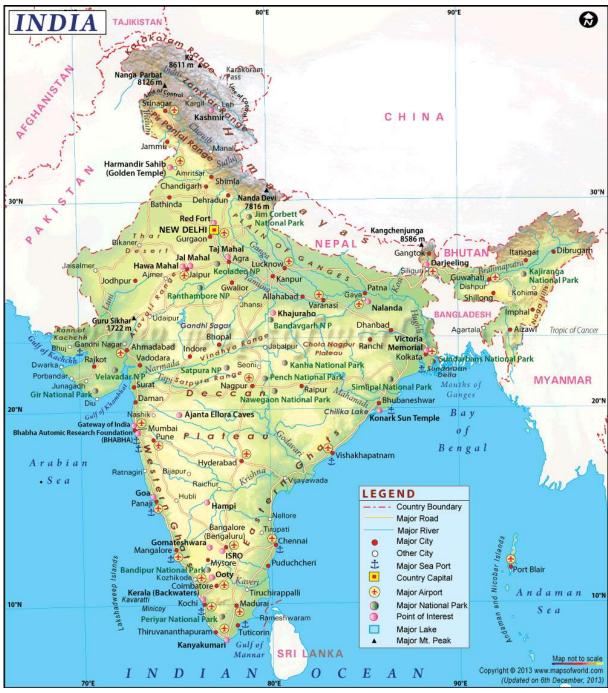
7.3% (2014 est.)

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6.9% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 13
GDP - per capita (PPP):
$6,300 (2015 est.)
$5,900 (2014 est.)
$5,500 (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: <u>159</u>
Gross national saving:
29.3% of GDP (2015 est.)
30.2% of GDP (2014 est.)
30.8% of GDP (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 22
GDP - composition, by end use:
household consumption: 59.7%
government consumption: 11.7%
investment in fixed capital: 26.8%
investment in inventories: 4.4%
exports of goods and services: 19.4%
imports of goods and services: -22% (2015 est.)
GDP - composition, by sector of origin:
agriculture: 16.1%
industry: 29.5%
services: 54.4% (2015 est.)
Agriculture - products:
rice, wheat, oilseed, cotton, jute, tea, sugarcane, lentils, onions, potatoes; dairy products, sheep,
goats, poultry; fish
Industries:
textiles, chemicals, food processing, steel, transportation equipment, cement, mining, petroleum,
machinery, software, pharmaceuticals
Industrial production growth rate:
2.8% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 92
Labor force:
502.1 million (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 2
Labor force - by occupation:
agriculture: 49%
industry: 20%
services: 31% (2012 est.)
Unemployment rate:
7.1% (2015 est.)
7.3% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 85
Population below poverty line:
29.8% (2010 est.)
Household income or consumption by percentage share:
lowest 10%: 3.6%
highest 10%: 31.1% (2005)
Distribution of family income - Gini index:
33.6 (2012)
37.8 (1997)
country comparison to the world: 103
Budget:
revenues: $236 billion
expenditures: $326.2 billion (2015 est.)
Taxes and other revenues:
10.8% of GDP (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 210
Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):
-4.1% of GDP (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: <u>149</u>
Public debt:
51.7% of GDP (2015 est.)
51.7% of GDP (2014 est.)
note: data cover central government debt, and exclude debt instruments issued (or owned) by
government entities other than the treasury; the data include treasury debt held by foreign entities; the
data exclude debt issued by subnational entities, as well as intra-governmental debt; intra-
governmental debt consists of treasury borrowings from surpluses in the social funds, such as for
retirement, medical care, and unemployment; debt instruments for the social funds are not sold at
public auctions
country comparison to the world: 78
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Fiscal year:

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1 April - 31 March
Inflation rate (consumer prices):
5.6% (2015 est.)
6.7% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 180
Central bank discount rate:
7.75% (31 December 2014)
7.75% (31 December 2013)
note: this is the Indian central bank's policy rate - the repurchase rate
country comparison to the world: 41
Commercial bank prime lending rate:
9.9% (31 December 2015 est.)
10.25% (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 83
Market value of publicly traded shares: $1.263 trillion (31 December 2012 est.)
$1.015 trillion (31 December 2011)
$1.616 trillion (31 December 2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 11
Current account balance:
-$30.38 billion (2015 est.)
-$27.53 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 188
Exports:
$287.6 billion (2015 est.)
$329.6 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 17
Exports - commodities:
petroleum products, precious stones, vehicles, machinery, iron and steel, chemicals, pharmaceutical
products, cereals, apparel
Exports - partners:
US 13.4%, UAE 10.4%, Hong Kong 4.3%, China 4.2%, Saudi Arabia 4% (2014)
Imports:
$432.3 billion (2015 est.)
$472.8 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 11
Imports - commodities:
crude oil, precious stones, machinery, chemicals, fertilizer, plastics, iron and steel
Imports - partners:
China 12.7%, Saudi Arabia 7.1%, UAE 5.9%, US 4.6%, Switzerland 4.6% (2014)
Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:
$370.7 billion (31 December 2015 est.)
$322.8 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 8
Debt - external:
$459.1 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
$427.4 billion (31 December 2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 28
Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:
$297.1 billion (31 December 2015 est.)
$252.1 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 22
Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:
$137.8 billion (31 December 2015 est.)
$129.8 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 30
Exchange rates:
Indian rupees (INR) per US dollar -
64.73 (2015 est.)
61.03 (2014 est.)
61.03 (2013 est.)
53.44 (2012 est.)
46.671 (2011 est.)
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INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORIES, see British Indian Ocean Territories.

INDONESIA, Republic of Indonesia, in Maritime South-East Asia, has 5 provinces with official special autonomy status: Aceh, Jakarta SCR, Yogyakarta SR, Papua and West Papua. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. It is the largest island country in the world by the number of islands, with more than fourteen thousand islands. Indonesia is the most populous Muslim-majority country. The world's most populous island of Java contains more than half of the country's population. Indonesia is a founding member of ASEAN and a member of the G-20 major economies. The Indonesian economy is the world's 16th largest by nominal GDP and the 8th largest by GDP at PPP. The Indonesian archipelago has been an important trade region since at least the 7th century, when Srivijaya and then later Majapahit traded with China and India. Local rulers gradually absorbed foreign cultural, religious and political models from the early centuries CE, and Hindu and Buddhist kingdoms flourished. Indonesian history has been influenced by foreign powers drawn to its natural resources. Muslim traders and Sufi scholars brought the now-dominant Islam, while European powers brought Christianity and fought one another to monopolise trade in the Spice Islands of Maluku during the Age of Discovery. Following three and a half centuries of Dutch colonialism starting from the East Indonesia of West Papua, Timor to eventually all of West Indonesia, at times interrupted by Portuguese, French and British rule, Indonesia secured its independence after World War II. Indonesia's history has since been turbulent, with challenges posed by natural disasters, mass slaughter, corruption, separatism, a democratisation process, and periods of rapid economic change. Indonesia consists of hundreds of distinct native ethnic and linguistic groups. The largest – and politically dominant - ethnic group are the Javanese. A shared identity has developed, defined by a national language, ethnic diversity, religious pluralism within a Muslim-majority population, and a history of colonialism and rebellion against it. Indonesia's national motto, "Bhinneka Tunggal Ika" ("Unity in Diversity" literally, "many, yet one"), articulates the diversity that shapes the country. Despite its large population and densely populated regions, Indonesia has vast areas of wilderness that support the world's second highest level of biodiversity. The country has abundant natural resources like oil and natural gas, tin, copper and gold. Agriculture mainly produces rice, tea, coffee, spices and rubber. Indonesia's major trading partners are Japan, the United States and the surrounding nations of Singapore, Malaysia and Australia.

Capital – Jakarta. Language – Bahasa Indonesia. Indonesia has more than 700 living languages. Religion – Muslim – 87%, Christian – 10%, Hindu – 2%, Buddhist – 1%. Ethnics – Javanese – 40%, Sundanese – 16%, Malay – 4%, Batak – 4%, Madurese – 3%, Betawi – 3%, Minangkabau – 3%, Buginese – 3%, Bantenese – 2%, Banjarese – 2%, Balinese – 2%, Acehnese – 1%, Dayak – 1%, Sasak – 1%, Chinese – 1%. Government – Indonesia's republican form of government includes an elected legislature and president. Indonesia has 34 provinces, of which five have Special Administrative status. Executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 253,609,643, rank – 5. Area – 1,811,569, rank – 15. Density – 140, rank – 80.

37 VARIABLE PARAMETERS – SEE METHODOLOGY OF SEARCHING IN 60+ TABLES IN AUSTRALIA.

VARIABLE PARAMETERS FROM CIA WORLD FACTBOOK - PEOPLE & SOCIETY, ECONOMIC PARAMETERS:

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total: 29.6 years
male: 29 years
female: 30.2 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 117
Population growth rate:
0.92% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 125
Birth rate:
16.72 births/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 110
Death rate:
6.37 deaths/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 151
Net migration rate:
-1.16 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: <u>152</u>
Urbanization:
urban population: 53.7% of total population (2015)
rate of urbanization: 2.69% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)
Mother's mean age at first birth:
note: median age at first birth among women 25-29 (2012 est.)
Maternal mortality rate:
126 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 52
Infant mortality rate:
total: 24.29 deaths/1,000 live births
male: 28.46 deaths/1,000 live births
female: 19.92 deaths/1,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 71
Life expectancy at birth:
total population: 72.45 years
male: 69.85 years
female: 75.17 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: <u>140</u>
Total fertility rate:
2.15 children born/woman (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 103
Contraceptive prevalence rate:
61.9% (2012)
Health expenditures:
3.1% of GDP (2013)
country comparison to the world: 180
Physicians density:
0.2 physicians/1,000 population (2012)
Hospital bed density:
0.9 beds/1,000 population (2012)
Drinking water source:
improved:
urban: 94.2% of population
rural: 79.5% of population
total: 87.4% of population
unimproved:
urban: 5.8% of population
rural: 20.5% of population
total: 12.6% of population (2015 est.)
Sanitation facility access:
improved:
urban: 72.3% of population
rural: 47.5% of population
total: 60.8% of population
unimproved:
urban: 27.7% of population
rural: 52.5% of population
total: 39.2% of population (2015 est.)
HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:
0.47% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 71
HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:
660,300 (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 14
HIV/AIDS - deaths:
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33,700 (2014 est.)

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country comparison to the world: 8
Major infectious diseases:
degree of risk: very high
food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever
vectorborne diseases: dengue fever and malaria
note: highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza has been identified in this country; it poses a negligible
risk with extremely rare cases possible among US citizens who have close contact with birds (2013)
Obesity - adult prevalence rate:
5.7% (2014)
country comparison to the world: 160
Children under the age of 5 years underweight:
19.9% (2013)
country comparison to the world: 31
Education expenditures:
3.6% of GDP (2012)
country comparison to the world: 143
Literacy:
definition: age 15 and over can read and write
total population: 93.9%
male: 96.3%
female: 91.5% (2015 est.)
School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):
total: 13 years
male: 13 years
female: 13 years (2012)
Child labor - children ages 5-14:
total number: 4,026,285
percentage: 7%
note: data represents children ages 5-17 (2009 est.)
Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:
total: 31.3%
male: 19.5%
female: 21.4% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 49
GDP (purchasing power parity):
$2.839 trillion (2015 est.)
$2.712 trillion (2014 est.)
$2.582 trillion (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 9
GDP (official exchange rate):
$872.6 billion (2015 est.)
GDP - real growth rate:
4.7% (2015 est.)
5% (2014 est.)
5.6% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 51
GDP - per capita (PPP):
$11,300 (2015 est.)
$10,800 (2014 est.)
$10.200 (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 132
Gross national saving:
31.7% of GDP (2015 est.)
31.7% of GDP (2014 est.)
30.9% of GDP (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 10
GDP - composition, by end use:
household consumption: 56.8%
government consumption: 9.4%
investment in fixed capital: 32.3%
investment in inventories: 1.2%
exports of goods and services: 21.7%
imports of goods and services: -21.4% (2015 est.)
GDP - composition, by sector of origin:
agriculture: 13.6%
industry: 42.8%
services: 43.6% (2015 est.)
Agriculture - products:
rubber and similar products, palm oil, poultry, beef, forest products, shrimp, cocoa, coffee, medicinal
herbs, essential oil, fish and its similar products, and spices
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Industries: petroleum and natural gas, textiles, automotive, electrical appliances, apparel, footwear, mining, cement, medical instruments and appliances, handicrafts, chemical fertilizers, plywood, rubber, processed food, jewelry, and tourism **Industrial production growth rate:** 4.5% (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 41 **Labor force:** 122.4 million (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 5 Labor force - by occupation: agriculture: 38.9% **industry:** 13.2% **services:** 47.9% (2012 est.) **Unemployment rate:** 5.5% (2015 est.) 5.9% (2014 est.) country comparison to the world: 61 Population below poverty line: 11.3% (2014 est.) Household income or consumption by percentage share: lowest 10%: 3.4% highest 10%: 28.2% (2010) Distribution of family income - Gini index: 36.8 (2009) 39.4 (2005) country comparison to the world: 80 **Budget:** revenues: \$123.3 billion expenditures: \$142.8 billion (2015 est.) Taxes and other revenues: 14.1% of GDP (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 198 Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-): -2.2% of GDP (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 80 **Public debt:** 27.7% of GDP (2015 est.) 25.9% of GDP (2014 est.) country comparison to the world: 146 Fiscal year: calendar year Inflation rate (consumer prices): 6.7% (2015 est.) 6.4% (2014 est.) country comparison to the world: 188 Central bank discount rate: 6.37% (31 December 2010) 6.46% (31 December 2009) note: this figure represents the 3-month SBI rate; the Bank of Indonesia has not employed the onemonth SBI since September 2010 country comparison to the world: 60 Commercial bank prime lending rate: 12.8% (31 December 2015 est.) 12.61% (31 December 2014 est.) note: these figures represent the average annualized rate on working capital loans country comparison to the world: 59 **Market value of publicly traded shares:** \$396.8 billion (31 December 2012 est.) \$390.1 billion (31 December 2011) \$360.4 billion (31 December 2010 est.) country comparison to the world: 25 **Current account balance:** -\$19.56 billion (2015 est.) -\$26.23 billion (2014 est.) country comparison to the world: 185 **Exports:** \$152.5 billion (2015 est.) \$176 billion (2014 est.) country comparison to the world: 30 **Exports - commodities:**

mineral fuels, animal or vegetable fats (includes palm oil), electrical machinery, rubber, machinery and

mechanical appliance parts

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Exports - partners:
Japan 13.1%, China 10%, Singapore 9.5%, US 9.4%, India 7%, South Korea 6%, Malaysia 5.5% (2014)
Imports:
$138.4 billion (2015 est.)
$178.2 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 31
Imports - commodities:
mineral fuels, boilers, machinery, and mechanical parts, electric machinery, iron and steel, foodstuffs
Imports - partners:
China 17.2%, Singapore 14.1%, Japan 9.6%, South Korea 6.7%, Malaysia 6.1%, Thailand 5.5%, US
4.6% (2014)
Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:
$103.4 billion (31 December 2015 est.)
$111.9 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 22
Debt - external:
$293.2 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
$266.1 billion (31 December 2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 33
Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:
$279 billion (31 December 2015 est.)
$253.1 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 25
Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:
$34.62 billion (31 December 2015 est.)
$24.05 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 50
Exchange rates:
Indonesian rupiah (IDR) per US dollar -
13,577.6 (2015 est.)
11,865.2 (2014 est.)
11,865.2 (2013 est.)
9,386.63 (2012 est.)
8,770.43 (2011 est.)
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INTERNATIONAL SEA, unclaimed territory of the seas, see Terra Nullius.

IRAN, Islamic Republic of Iran, in South-Central Asia. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Iran, historically known as Persia, has long been of geostrategic importance because of its central location in Eurasia and Western Asia, and its proximity to the Strait of Hormuz. Iran is home to one of the world's oldest civilizations, beginning with the formation of the Proto-Elamite and Elamite kingdoms in 3200–2800 BC. The Iranian Medes unified the area into the first of many empires in 625 BC, after which it became the dominant cultural and political power in the region. Iran reached the pinnacle of its power during the Achaemenid Empire founded by Cyrus the Great in 550 BC, which at its greatest extent comprised major portions of the ancient world, stretching from parts of the Balkans (Thrace-Macedonia, Bulgaria-Paeonia) and Eastern Europe proper in the west, to the Indus Valley in the east, making it the largest empire the world had yet seen. The empire collapsed in 330 BC following the conquests of Alexander the Great. The Parthian Empire emerged from the ashes and was succeeded by the Sassanid Dynasty in 224 AD, under which Iran again became one of the leading powers in the world, along with the Roman-Byzantine Empire, for a period of more than four centuries. In 633 AD, Rashidun Arabs invaded Iran and conquered it by 651 AD, largely converting Iranian people from their indigenous faiths of Manichaeism and Zoroastrianism to Islam. Arabic replaced Persian as the official language, while Persian remained the language of ordinary people and of literature. Iran became a major contributor to the Islamic Golden Age, producing many influential scientists, scholars, artists, and thinkers.

Establishment of the Safavid Dynasty in 1501, which promoted Twelver Shia Islam as the official religion, marked one of the most important turning points in Iranian and Muslim history. Starting in 1736 under Nader Shah, Iran reached its greatest territorial extent since the Sassanid Empire, briefly possessing what was arguably the most powerful empire at the time. During the 19th century, Iran irrevocably lost swaths of its territories in the Caucasus which made part of the concept of Iran for centuries, to neighboring Imperial Russia. Popular unrest culminated in the Persian Constitutional Revolution of 1906, which established a constitutional monarchy and the country's first Majles (parliament). Following a coup d'état instigated by the U.K. and the U.S. in 1953, Iran gradually became close allies with the United States and the rest of the West, remained secular, but grew increasingly autocratic. Growing dissent against foreign influence and political repression culminated in the 1979 Revolution, which led to the establishment of an Islamic republic on 1 April 1979. Tehran is the country's capital and largest city, as well as its leading cultural and economic center. Iran is a major regional and middle power, exerting considerable influence in international energy security and the world economy through its large reserves of fossil fuels, which include the largest natural gas supply in the world and the fourth-largest proven oil reserves. Iran's rich cultural legacy is reflected in part by its 19 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the 12th-largest in the world. Iran is a founding member of the UN, ECO, NAM, OIC, and OPEC.

Capital – Tehran. Language – Persian. Religion – Muslim – 99.5%, Unaffiliated – 0.1%... Historically, Proto-Iranian religion and the subsequent Zoroastrianism and Manichaeism were the dominant religions in Iran, particularly during the Median, Achaemenid, Parthian and Sassanid empires. This changed after the fall of the Sassanid Empire by the Muslim Conquest of Iran. Iran was predominantly Sunni until the conversion of the country (as well as the people of what is today the neighboring Republic of Azerbaijan) to Shia Islam by the order of the Safavid dynasty in the 16th century. Today, the Twelver Shia Islam is the official state religion, to which about 90% to 95% of the population officially belong. About 4% to 8% of the population are Sunni Muslims, mainly Kurds and Balochs. The remaining 2% are non-Muslim religious minorities, including Christians, Jews, Bahais, Mandeans, Yezidis, Yarsanis, and Zoroastrians. Judaism has a long history in Iran, dating back to the Achaemenid Conquest of Babylonia. Although many left in the wake of the establishment of the State of Israel and the 1979 Revolution, around 8,756 Jews remain in Iran, according to the latest census. Iran has the largest Jewish population in the Middle East outside of Israel. Around 250,000–370,000 Christians reside in Iran, and it is the largest recognized minority religion in the nation. Most are of Armenian background with a sizable minority of Assyrians.

Christianity, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, and the Sunni branch of Islam are officially recognized by the government, and have reserved seats in the Iranian Parliament. But the Bahá'í Faith, which is said to be the largest non-Muslim religious minority in Iran, is not officially recognized, and has been persecuted during its existence in Iran since the 19th century. Since the 1979 Revolution, the persecution of Bahais has increased with executions, the denial of civil rights and liberties, and the denial of access to higher education and employment. The government has not released statistics regarding irreligiosity. However, the irreligious figures are growing and are higher in the diaspora, notably among Iranian Americans. Ethnics: Many would think that if almost all the citizens of Iran are Muslims, ethnics would also be homogenous. But this is not the case. The population comprises: Persian – 61%, Azeri – 16%, Kurd – 10%, Lur – 6%, Baloch – 2%, Arab – 2%, Turkmen and Turkic tribes – 2%. Government - Iranian political system is based on the 1979 Constitution which combines elements of a parliamentary democracy with a theocracy governed by Islamic jurists under a

Supreme Leadership. Executive head of state, presidency is independent of legistlature. Population – 80,840,713, rank – 19. Area – 1,531,595, rank – 18. Density – 53, rank – 152.



IRAQ, Al-Iraq, in the Middle East, Western Asia, is a federation of 18 governments, 3 of which make up the autonomous Iraqi Kurdistan. Due to the civil war Iraq is divided de facto between the belligerents – the Iraqi government controls the south, ISIL – the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant controls the North and the Iraqi Kurds control the northeast. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, World Atlas, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Iraq has a narrow section of coastline measuring 58 km on the northern Persian Gulf and its territory encompasses the Mesopotamian Alluvial Plain, the northwestern end of the Zagros mountain range, and the eastern part of the Syrian Desert. Two major rivers, the Tigris and Euphrates, run south through the centre of Iraq and flow into the Shatt al-Arab near the Persian Gulf. These rivers provide Iraq with significant amounts of fertile land. The region between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, historically known as Mesopotamia, is most often referred to as humanity's cradle of civilisation. It was here that mankind first began to read, write, create laws, and live in cities under an organised government—notably Uruk, from which Iraq was derived. The area has been home to continuous successive civilisations since the 6th millennium BC. At different periods in its history, Iraq was the centre of the indigenous Akkadian, Sumerian, Assyrian, and Babylonian empires. It was also part of the Median, Achaemenid, Hellenistic, Parthian, Sassanid, Roman, Rashidun, Umayyad, Abbasid, Ayyubid, Mongol, Safavid, Afsharid, and Ottoman empires, and under British control as a League of Nations mandate.

Iraq's modern borders were mostly demarcated in 1920 by the League of Nations when the Ottoman Empire was divided by the Treaty of Sèvres. Iraq was placed under the authority of the United Kingdom as the British Mandate of Mesopotamia. A monarchy was established in 1921 and the Kingdom of Iraq gained independence from Britain in 1932. In 1958, the monarchy was overthrown and the Iraqi Republic was created. Iraq was controlled by the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party from 1968 until 2003. After an invasion by the United States and its allies in 2003, Saddam Hussein's Ba'ath Party was removed from power and multi-party parliamentary elections were held in 2005. The American presence in Iraq ended in 2011, but the Iraqi insurgency continued and intensified as fighters from the Syrian Civil War spilled into the country. Iraq mainly consists of desert, but near the two major rivers (Euphrates and Tigris) are fertile alluvial plains, as the rivers carry about 60,000,000 m³ of silt annually to the delta. The north of the country is mostly composed of mountains; the highest point being at 3,611 m. point, unnamed on the map opposite, but known locally as Cheekah Dar (black tent). Close to the coast and along the Shatt al-Arab (known as arvandrūd: اروندرود among Iranians) there used to be marshlands, but many were drained in the 1990s. Iraq's economy is dominated by the oil sector, which has traditionally provided about 95% of foreign exchange earnings. The lack of development in other sectors has resulted in 18%-30% unemployed and a depressed per capita GDP of \$4,000. Public sector employment accounted for nearly 60% of full-time employment in 2011. The oil export industry, which dominates the Iraqi economy, generates very little employment. Currently only a modest percentage of women (the highest estimate for 2011 was 22%) participate in the labour force. Intermittent conflict between Sunni, Shiite and Kurdish factions has led to increasing debate about the splitting of Iraq into three autonomous regions, including Kurdistan in the northeast, a Sunnistan in the west and a Shiastan in the southeast. The Iraqi Civil War is an ongoing armed conflict in the Middle East. In 2014, the Iraqi insurgency escalated into a civil war with the conquest of Fallujah and Mosul and major areas in northern Iraq by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as ISIS). This has resulted in the forced resignation of the Prime Minister, Nouri al-Maliki, airstrikes by the United States, Iran, Syria, and at least a dozen other countries, the participation of Iranian troops and military aid provided to Iraq by Russia.

Capital – Baghdad. Language – Arabic. Religion – Muslim – 99%, Christian – 1%. Ethnics – Arab – 75% - 80%, Kurdish – 15% - 20%, Turkoman, Assyrian, or other – 5%. Government – Republic, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 32,585,692, rank – 40. Area – 437,367, rank – 59. Density – 75, rank – 130.



IRAQI KURDISTAN, a de facto state in the north-eastern part of Iraq, in the Middle East, Western Asia. Link to map. Link to essential data: Wikipedia, BBC, Quora, Polgeonow. Iraqi Kurdistan, officially known as the Kurdistan Region (Central Kurdish: هەريمى كوردستان, translit. Herêmî Kurdistan; Arabic: إقليم كردستان, translit. Iqlīm Kurdistān), is located in the north of Iraq and constitutes the country's only autonomous region. Bordering the Kurdish-inhabited regions of Iran to the east, Turkey to the north, and Syria to the west, it is frequently referred to as Southern Kurdistan (Central Kurdish: بالشوورى كوردستان; Northern Kurdish: Başûrê Kurdistanê). The region is officially governed by the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), with the capital being Erbil. Kurdistan is a parliamentary democracy with a regional assembly that consists of 111 seats. Masoud Barzani, who was initially elected as president in 2005, was re-elected in 2009. In August 2013 the parliament extended his presidency for another two years. His presidency concluded on 19 August 2015 after the political parties failed to reach an agreement over extending his presidency term. The new Iraqi constitution defines the Kurdistan Region as a federal entity of Iraq, and establishes Kurdish and Arabic as Iraq's joint official languages. The four governorates of Duhok, Hawler, Silemani, and Halabja comprise around 41,710 square kilometres and have a population of 5.5 million (2015 estimate). In 2014, during the 2014 Iraq Crisis, Iraqi Kurdistan's forces also took over much of the disputed territories of Northern Iraq. The establishment of the Kurdistan Region dates back to the March 1970 autonomy agreement between the Kurdish opposition and the Iraqi government after years of heavy fighting. The agreement however failed to be implemented and by 1974 Northern Iraq plunged into another round of bloody conflict between the Kurds and the Arabdominated government of Iraq. Further, the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq War and especially the Anfal genocide campaign of the Iraqi army devastated the population and nature of Iraqi Kurdistan.

Following the 1991 uprising of Kurds in the north and Shias in the south against Saddam Hussein, the Peshmerga succeeded in pushing out the main Iraqi forces from the north. Despite significant casualties and the crisis of refugees in bordering regions of Iran and Turkey, the Peshmerga success and establishment of the northern no-fly zone following the First Gulf War in 1991 created the basis for Kurdish self-rule and facilitated the return of Kurdish refugees. As Kurds continued to fight government troops, Iraqi forces finally left Kurdistan in October 1991, leaving the region with *de facto* autonomy. In 1992, Kurdish major political movements of KDP and PUK established the semi-autonomous Kurdistan Regional Government. The 2003 invasion of Iraq and the subsequent political changes led to the ratification of a new Constitution of Iraq in 2005. Kurds generally consider Iraqi Kurdistan (Southern Kurdistan) to be one of the four parts of a greater Kurdistan, which also includes parts of southeastern Turkey (Northern Kurdistan), northern Syria (Western Kurdistan), and western Iran (Eastern Kurdistan).

Capital – Arbil. Language – Kurdish. The Kurdistan Region's official languages are Kurdish and Arabic; Kurdish is the most widely spoken language. The two main dialects of Kurdish are Sorani and Kurmanji in its Bahdini variant, but a part of the population also speaks Hawrami, especially in the Halabja region and in Shingal speaks a dialect of (Kurmanji) known as Shengali. Arabic, Assyrian Neo-Aramaic, Armenian are also spoken by their respective communities. Religion - Iraqi Kurdistan has a diverse religious population. The dominant religion is Islam, professed by the majority of its inhabitants. These include Kurds, Iraqi Turkmen and Arabs, belonging mostly to the Shafi'i, Sunni branch of Islam. There is also a small number of Shia Feyli Kurds, as well as Sufi Islam adherents. Christianity is professed by Assyrians and Armenians. Yezidism followers make up a significant minority, with some 650,000 in 2005, or 560,000 as of 2013, though those numbers decreased following the 2014 North Iraq crisis. Other indigenous Yazdani religions of Yarsan (Ahl-e Hagg or Kakai) and Shabaki number around 200,000 and 250,000 accordingly. More recently the Zoroastrian faith has gained strength among the Kurds in the region, claiming up to 100,000 adherents as of 2015. A tiny ethno-religious community of Mandeans also exists within the semi-autonomous region. Ethnics - The ethnic make-up of Iraqi Kurdistan is diverse and includes Kurdish majority and significant ethnic minorities: Arabs, Assyrians, Armenians and ethnically Kurdish religious groups of Shabaks, Kakai and Yazidis. Government - Elections for the Kurdistan National Assembly are held every four years. The latest elections for the parliament of Kurdistan were held on 21 September 2013. The leading political alliance was the Kurdistani List which consisted of the two main political parties, PUK, which held 18 seats and the PDK, which held 32 seats. The newer and less popular competing movement, the Gorran List ("Gorran" means "change" in Kurdish) headed by Nawshirwan Mustafa won 24 seats, a quarter of all parliamentary seats. The Gorran List had a strong showing in the city of Sulaymaniyah and the Sulaymaniyah governorate, which was previously considered PUK's stronghold. In the presidential election, Masoud Barzani was appointed President and won another term in 2009 by gaining 70% of votes. Dr. Kamal Miraudeli came second with approximately 30% of votes. In August 2015, this presidency has ended without an agreement between the political parties to extend his term. The subject of presidency in Iraqi Kurdistan and the legitimacy of extension beyond two terms is a volatile subject and the cause of the current public anger. Elections for the governorate councils are held every four years, however the last ones being held in 2005. Each council consists of 41 members. Population - Due to the absence of a proper population census, the exact population of Iraqi Kurdistan as well as the rest of Iraq is unknown, but the Kurdish government has recently started to publish better population figures. Iraqi Kurdistan has a young population with an estimated 36% of the population being under the age of 15. The 2015 estimation of the Population is 5.5 million, the Area is 78,736, the Density is 70. However, the population de facto is much larger as it includes millions of refugees from Syria and other Iraqi regions.



IRELAND, Eire, in Northern Europe. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, EU. The magnificent scenery of Ireland's Atlantic coastline faces a 2,000-mile- (3,200-km-) wide expanse of ocean, and its geographic isolation has helped it to develop a rich heritage of culture and tradition that was linked initially to the Gaelic language. Washed by abundant rain, the country's pervasive grasslands create a green-hued landscape that is responsible for the popular sobriquet Emerald Isle. Ireland is also renowned for its wealth of folklore, from tales of tiny leprechauns with hidden pots of gold to that of the patron saint, Patrick, with his legendary ridding the island of snakes and his reputed use of the three-leaved shamrock as a symbol for the Christian Trinity. But while many may think of Ireland as an enchanted land, the republic has been beset with perennial concerns—emigration, cultural and political identity, and relations with Northern Ireland (comprising the 6 of Ireland's 32 counties within the province of Ulster that remain part of the United Kingdom). At the beginning of the 21st century, however, Ireland's long-standing economic problems were abating, owing to its diverse export-driven economy; however, calamity struck again in 2008 when a new financial and economic crisis befell the country, culminating in a very costly bailout of the Irish economy by the European Union and the International Monetary Fund.

Capital – Dublin/Baile Atha Cliath. Language – Irish – first national language, minority language, English – second national language. Religion – Christian – 92%, Muslim – 1%, Unaffiliated – 6%. Ethnics – Irish – 85%, Other White, mainly Poles, Lithuanians, Czechs, Latvians – 10%, Asian – 2%, Black - 1%. Government – Republic, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 4,832,765, rank -123. Area – 68,883, rank – 120. Density – 70, rank – 137.



ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ AND THE LEVANT, THE (ISIL), also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), Da'ish, or the Islamic State, Ad-Dawlah al-Islamiyah fil-Iraq wash-Sham, in the Middle East, Western Asia, is a Sunni extremist jihadist self-proclaimed caliphate or state controlling the eastern part of Syria and the northern part of Iraq. Link to map. Link to essential data: Wikipedia, BBC, Quora, Polgeonow. As a caliphate, it claims

religious, political and military authority over all Muslims worldwide. The group's adoption of the name "Islamic State" and idea of a caliphate have been widely criticised, with the United Nations, various governments, and mainstream Muslim groups rejecting its statehood or caliphhood. ISIL affiliates control small areas of Libya, Nigeria and Afghanistan and operate in other parts of the world, including North Africa and South Asia. ISIL gained prominence in early 2014 when it drove Iraqi government forces out of key cities in its Western Iraq offensive, followed by the capture of Mosul and the Sinjar massacre. The subsequent possibility of a collapse of the Iraqi state prompted a renewal of US military action in the country. In Syria, the group has conducted ground attacks on both government forces and rebel factions. The number of fighters the group commands in Iraq and Syria was estimated by the CIA at 31,000, with foreign fighters accounting for around two thirds, while ISIL leaders claim 40,000 fighters, with the majority being Iraqis & Syrians.

Adept at social media, ISIL became notorious for its videos of beheadings of both soldiers and civilians, including journalists and aid workers, and for the destruction of cultural heritage sites. The United Nations holds ISIL responsible for human rights abuses and war crimes, and Amnesty International has charged the group with ethnic cleansing on a "historic scale" in northern Iraq. Around the world, Islamic religious leaders have overwhelmingly condemned ISIL's ideology and actions, arguing that the group has strayed from the path of true Islam and that its actions do not reflect the religion's real teachings or virtues. The group has been designated a terrorist organisation by the United Nations, the European Union and its member states, the <u>US</u>, Russia, India, Indonesia, Israel, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iran and other countries. Over 60 countries are directly or indirectly waging war against ISIL.

The group originated as *Jama'at al-Tawhid wal-Jihad* in 1999, which pledged allegiance to al-Qaeda and participated in the Iraqi insurgency following the March 2003 invasion of Iraq by Western forces. Joining other Sunni insurgent groups to form the Mujahideen Shura Council, it proclaimed the formation of the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) in October 2006. In August 2011, following the outbreak of the Syrian Civil War, ISI, under the leadership of al-Baghdadi, delegated a mission into Syria, which under the name *Jabhat an-Nuṣrah li-Ahli ash-Shām* (or al-Nuṣra Front) established a large presence in Sunni-majority Al-Raqqah, Idlib, Deir ez-Zor, and Aleppo provinces. The merger of ISI with al-Nuṣra Front to form the "Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant" (ISIL), as announced in April 2013 by al-Baghdadi, was however rejected by al-Nuṣra leader al-Julani, and by al-Qaeda leader al-Zawahiri who subsequently cut all ties with ISIL, in February 2014.

Capital – Ar-Raqqah (in Syria). Language – Arabic. Religion and Government - Since at least 2004, a significant goal of the group has been the foundation of a Sunni Islamic state. Specifically, ISIL has sought to establish itself as a caliphate, an Islamic state led by a group of religious authorities under a supreme leader—the caliph—who is believed to be the successor to Prophet Muhammad. In June 2014, ISIL published a document in which it claimed to have traced the lineage of its leader al-Baghdadi back to Muhammad, and upon proclaiming a new caliphate on 29 June, the group appointed al-Baghdadi as its caliph. As caliph, he demands the allegiance of all devout Muslims worldwide, according to Islamic jurisprudence (*fiqh*). Ethnics - The group that calls itself the Islamic State (IS)1 has carried out ethnic cleansing2 on a historic scale in northern Iraq. Amnesty International has found that the IS has systematically targeted non-Arab and non-Sunni Muslim communities, killing or abducting hundreds, possibly thousands, and forcing more than 830,000 others to flee the areas it has captured since 10 June 2014. Ethnic and religious minorities — Assyrian Christians, Turkmen Shi'a, Shabak Shi'a, Yezidis, Kakai and Sabean Mandaeans — have lived

together in the Nineveh province, much of it now under IS control, for centuries. Today, only those who were unable to flee when IS fighters seized the area remain trapped there, under threat of death if they do not convert to Islam. Hundreds, possibly thousands, of Yezidis, most of them women and children from the Sinjar region, were abducted as they fled the IS takeover in early August. At the time of writing, they continue to be held by the IS and, with a few exceptions, little is known of their fate or whereabouts. Some of those who managed to make contact with their families said they are being pressured to convert to Islam and some have reported that some of the women and children – both girls and boys – from their families were taken to unknown locations by their captors. Population - As of December 2015, the group has control over vast landlocked territory in Iraq and Syria, with a Population estimate ranging of about 5 million and where it enforces its interpretation of sharia law. The Area controlled by the Islamic State amounts to 76,000, and Density – 66.



ISLE OF MAN, it is not part of the UK or EU, but is a possession of the British Crown with an independent administration. Its inhabitants are British citizens. It is located in the Irish Sea between Scotland, England, Ireland and Wales. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. The island has been inhabited since before 6500 BC. Gaelic cultural influence began in the 5th century and the Manx language, a branch of the Gaelic languages, emerged. In 627, Edwin of Northumbria conquered the Isle of Man along with most of Mercia. In the 9th century, Norsemen established the Kingdom of the Isles. Magnus III, King of Norway, was also known as King of Mann and the Isles between 1099 and 1103. In 1266, the island became part of Scotland by the Treaty of Perth, after being a part of Norway. After a period of alternating rule by the kings of Scotland and England, the island came under the feudal lordship of the English Crown in 1399. The lordship revested into the British Crown in 1765, but the island never became part of the Kingdom of Great Britain or its successor the United Kingdom, retaining its status as an internally self-governing Crown dependency.

Capital – Douglas. Language– English, Manx. Religion – Christian - 84%, Unaffiliated – 15%. Ethnics – born in the Isle of Man – 48%, in the UK – 42%, in Ireland – 2%, in EU countries – 2%, Asian – 2%. Government - the head of state is Queen Elizabeth II, who holds the title of Lord of Mann. The Lord of Mann is represented by a Lieutenant Governor. Foreign relations and defence are the responsibility of the British Government. Population – 86,866, rank – 200. Area – 572, rank – 194. Density – 152, rank – 76.



ISRAEL, State of Israel, Yisra'el, in the Middle East, Western Asia. It annexed East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights (formerly part of Syria), and controls part of Judea and Samaria (the West Bank, formerly occupied by Jordan with East Jerusalem as well), it doesn't have anymore a presence in the Gaza Strip (formerly occupied by Egypt) which is controlled by the Hamas, while the Palestinian Authority controls part of the West Bank. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, World Atlas. Oper/World. Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. The country is situated at the southeastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea and the northern shore of the Gulf of Aqaba in the Red Sea. It shares land borders with Lebanon to the north, Syria in the northeast, Jordan on the east, the Palestinian territories (which are claimed by the State of Palestine and are partially controlled by Israel) comprising the West Bank and Gaza Strip to the east and west, respectively, and Egypt to the southwest. It contains geographically diverse features within its relatively small area. Israel's financial and technology center is Tel Aviv, while Jerusalem is both its self-designated capital and the most populous individual city under the country's governmental administration. On 29 November 1947, the United Nations General Assembly recommended the adoption and implementation of the Partition Plan for Mandatory Palestine. This UN plan specified borders for new Arab and Jewish states and also specified an area of Jerusalem and its environs which was to be administered by the UN under an international regime. The end of the British Mandate for Palestine was set for midnight on 14 May 1948. That day, David Ben-Gurion, the Executive Head of the Zionist Organization and president of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, declared "the establishment of a Jewish state in Eretz Israel, to be known as the State of Israel," which would start to function from the termination of the mandate. The borders of the new state were not specified in the declaration. Neighboring Arab armies invaded the former Palestinian mandate on the next day and fought the Israeli forces. Israel has since fought several wars with neighboring Arab states, in the course of which it has occupied the West Bank, Sinai Peninsula (1956-57, 1967-82), part of Southern Lebanon (1982-2000), Gaza Strip (1967-2005; still considered occupied after 2005 disengagement) and the Golan Heights. It extended its laws to the Golan Heights and East Jerusalem, but not the West Bank. Efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict have not resulted in peace. However, peace treaties between Israel and both Egypt and Jordan have successfully been signed. Since the early days of Zionism in 1860 until 2016 about twenty three thousands Israelis - soldiers and civilians - were killed in war, by terror, etc. This figure is identical to the number of Jews killed in one day in Treblinka, and it shows more than anything else why Israel exists and why the Jews have to rely only in their state, their army, and their freedom.

Israel is a developed country and an OECD member, with the 35th-largest economy in the world by nominal gross domestic product as of 2015. The country benefits from a highly skilled workforce and is among the most educated countries in the world with the one of the highest percentage of its citizens holding a tertiary education degree. The country has the highest standard of living in the Middle East and the fourth highest in Asia, and has one of the highest life expectancies in the world. Israel is considered the most advanced country in

Southwest Asia and the Middle East in economic and industrial development. Israel's quality university education and the establishment of a highly motivated and educated populace is largely responsible for spurring the country's high technology boom and rapid economic development. In 2010, it joined the OECD. The country is ranked 3rd in the region and 38th worldwide on the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index as well as in the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report. It has the second-largest number of startup companies in the world (after the United States) and the largest number of NASDAQ-listed companies outside North America. In 2010, Israel ranked 17th among the world's most economically developed nations, according to IMD's World Competitiveness Yearbook. The Israeli economy was ranked as the world's most durable economy in the face of crises, and was also ranked first in the rate of research and development center investments. The Bank of Israel was ranked as the worldwide leader in its supply of skilled manpower. The Bank of Israel holds \$78 billion of foreign-exchange reserves.

Despite limited natural resources, intensive development of the agricultural and industrial sectors over the past decades has made Israel largely self-sufficient in food production, apart from grains and beef. Imports to Israel, totaling \$77.59 billion in 2012, include raw materials, military equipment, investment goods, rough diamonds, fuels, grain, consumer goods. Leading exports include electronics, software, computerized systems, communications technology, medical equipment, pharmaceuticals, fruits, chemicals, military technology, and cut diamonds; in 2012, Israeli exports reached \$64.74 billion. Israel is a leading country in the development of solar energy. Israel is a global leader in water conservation and geothermal energy, and its development of cutting-edge technologies in software, communications and the life sciences have evoked comparisons with Silicon Valley. According to the OECD, Israel is also ranked 1st in the world in expenditure on Research and Development (R&D) as a percentage of GDP. Intel and Microsoft built their first overseas research and development centers in Israel, and other high-tech multi-national corporations, such as IBM, Google, Apple, HP, Cisco Systems, and Motorola, have opened R&D facilities in the country.

Capital – Jerusalem (not recognized by the international community). Language – Hebrew. Religion – Jewish – 75%, Muslim – 19%, Christian – 2%. Ethnics – Jewish – 75%: of which Israel-born - 74%, Europe/America/Oceania-born - 18%, Africa-born - 5%, Asia-born - 3%. The country's second largest group of citizens are denoted as Arabs, numbering 1,760,400 people (including the Druze and most East Jerusalem Arabs), 21%. The great majority of Israeli Arabs are settled Sunni Muslims, with smaller but significant numbers of semi-settled Negev Bedouins; the rest are Christians and Druze. Other far smaller minorities, about 4%, include Maronites, Samaritans, Dom people and Roma, Black Hebrew Israelites, other Sub-Saharan Africans, Armenians, Circassians, Vietnamese boat people, and others. Israel also hosts a significant population of non-citizen foreign workers and asylum seekers from Africa and Asia. Government - In its Basic Laws, Israel defines itself as a Jewish and democratic state. Israel is a representative democracy with a parliamentary system, proportional representation and universal suffrage. The Prime Minister serves as head of government and the Knesset serves as the legislature. Population – The population of Israel, as defined by the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics, was estimated in 2016 to be 8,476,600 people. It is the world's only Jewish-majority state, with 6,345,400 citizens, or 74.9% of Israelis, being designated as Jewish, rank – 97. Area – 21,632 (with Golan Heights and East Jerusalem and without water-covered areas), rank - 149. Density -388, rank - 34.

The number of immigrants to Israel since Zionism - 1882, mainly since statehood – 1948 until 2012 by country of birth is 3,620,586. Europe – 2,217,749, mainly from Soviet Union (Europe) – 1,234,679, Poland – 343,718, Romania – 317,691, Germany – 72,869, France – 52,384, Bulgaria – 51,429, Hungary – 42,365, Czechoslovakia – 41,213, UK – 33,749, Austria – 13,480, Greece – 12,736, Yugoslavia – 12,704, Italy – 6,481, Belgium – 5,358, Switzerland – 4,176, Sweden – 1,836, Spain – 1,750, Denmark – 1,548, Finland – 852, Ireland – 785, Albania – 389, Norway – 387, Portugal – 290. Immigrants from Africa – 547,426, mainly from Morocco – 272,077, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Abyssinia – 91,288, Tunisia – 56,394, Egypt and Sudan – 37,808, Libya – 36,811, Algerian – 29.034, South Africa – 20,010, Zimbabwe – 719. Immigrants from Asia – 498,683, mainly from Iraq – 130,994, Iran – 84,107, Soviet Union (Asia) – 74,410, Turkey – 71,102, Yemen – 69,843, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka – 28,718, Syria – 6,235, Lebanon – 4,162, Afghanistan – 4,148, China – 1,289. Americas and Oceania – 221,003, mainly from the US – 103,394, Argentina – 60,169, Brazil – 11,587, Canada – 10,705, Uruguay – 9,086, Chile – 5,731, Mexico – 4,552, Australia – 4,447, Colombia – 3,064, Peru – 3,021, Cuba – 1,863, Venezuela – 1,742.

GDP – \$273.2 billions, world rank – 49. GDP Per Capita - \$36,200, world rank – 37. GDP Real Growth Rate – 3.30%, rank – 104. Gross National Saving – 22.20% of GDP, rank – 68. Industrial Production Growth Rate – 5.50%, rank – 52. Unemployment Rate – 5.80%, rank – 56 (no. 1 – no unemployment). Annual Average Wage: Disposable Income - \$24,184, rank – 19; Compulsory Deduction – 16.56%; Gross Income - \$28,864. Monthly Average Wage - \$1,804, rank - 25. Median Household Income - \$30,364, Median Per-Capita Income – \$7,847, rank – 21. Median Equivalised Disposable Household Income - \$16,260, rank - 24. Income Inequality – Gini – 37.6%, world rank – 75 (100% – the most unequal). Population Shares of the: Bottom Income Group below 75% - na%, Middle Income Group 75%-125% - na%, Top Income Group above 125% - na%.

Taxes and Other Revenues – 40.2% of GDP, rank – 40. Size of Shadow Economy – 22.0% of GDP, rank - 28, 1 – lowest size. Budget Deficit - -1.50% of GDP, rank – 72 (highest surplus – no. 1). External Debt - \$96.3 billions, rank – 49. Gross Government Debt as % of GDP – 69.637%, Net – 69.574% . Inflation Rate – 1.70%, rank – 55 (lowest inflation – no. 1). Central Bank Discount Rate – 1.75%, rank – 117 (highest rate – no. 1). Commercial Bank Prime Lending Rate – 5.16%, rank – 151 (highest rate – no. 1).

Market Value of Public Traded Shares – \$145 billions, rank - 32. Current Account Balance - \$5.259 billions, rank – 30. Reserves of Foreign Exchange and Gold - \$80.740 billions, rank – 28. HDI – 0.888, world rank – 19 (best – 1). Newsweek World's Best Countries 2010 – rank – 22 (1 is best). Inequality Adjusted HDI – score – 0.793, rank – 20. Gender Inequality Index: rank – 17, value – 0.101 (most equal is no. 1 and closer to 0), 22.5% share of seats in parliament. Poverty – 21.00%, world rank – 102 (poorest – no. 1). Under \$1.25 a day – na%, under \$2 a day – na%. Poverty (Index Mundi) – 23.6%, rank – 91. Internet, IPR – 70.8%. World Happiness Report – 7.301, world rank – 11 (happiest – closest to 10, no. 1). Currency – 3.8916 new Shekels per US\$.

Corruption Perceptions Index— in 2014 - score of 60 (highest score of ethics is close to 100), rank - 37. 2013 - score - 61, 2012 - score - 60. 2005 - rank - 28, score - 6.3. 1996 - rank - 14, score - 7.71. 1995 - rank - na, score - na. Global Corruption Barometer - 12%, rank - 25 (1 - Lowest Bribes). Where to Be Born/Quality of Life Index - score - 7.23 (highest - 10), rank - 20 (1-best). Freedom in the World Index - free. Index of Economic Freedom - mostly free. Press Freedom Index - noticeable problesm. Democracy Index -, score - 7.63 (highest - 10), rank - 36 (best - 1). Social Progress Index - score (highest 100) - 71.4, rank - 39, Basic

Human Needs Index – score – 85.77, rank – 35, Foundations of Well-Being Index – score – 71.57, rank – 52, Opportunity Index – score – 56.87, rank – 50. GDP (PPP) per Hour Worked/Productivity – \$38.99, rank - 27. Global Peace Index – score – 2.689 (most peaceful – closer to 1), rank – 149. Incarceration Rate – 249 per 100,000 population, rank – 50 (1-highest). Level of Discrimination (1.0 -lowest) – 9.7, rank - 33. Fragile States Index FSI – score – 79.4 (120 – most fragile), rank - 68, (1 – most fragile).

Global Competitiveness – (highest – most competitive) – 4.95, rank – 27 (1 – most competitive). Financial Development Index – score – 3.94, rank - 24. Gross National Income Per Capita – GNI –US\$ 33,930, rank no. 29. Total Health Expenditure Per Capita in PPP International - \$2,041, in % of GDP – 7.7%, rank no. - 35. Credit Rating – A+ stable (AAA – best). Education Index Pearson – score – 0.15, rank - 29. World Top 20 Education Poll – score – 7.2, rank - 10. U21 Higher Education – score – 68.5, rank - 19. Distribution of Wealth: Wealth Per Capita – rank – 28, PPP\$ 64,633, Wealth Per Adult – PPP\$ 102,511, Wealth Gini – 0.677 (completely unequal – 1). Environmental Performance: Rank – no. 39, score – 65.78 (highest – 100). Index of Globalization: Rank – no. 29, Score – 77.27 (no. 1 is the closest to 100). List of membership in Organizations: see at the end of Part IV. List of Countries Comparisons and Links to other parameters: see Part V - Bibliography.





ITALY, Italian Republic, Italia, in Southern Europe, has 5 autonomous regions: Aosta Valley, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Sardinia, Sicily and Trentino-Alto Adige/Sudtirol. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, EU. Italy has a largely temperate seasonal climate; due to its shape, it is often referred to in Italy as lo Stivale (the Boot). Located in the heart of the Mediterranean Sea, Italy shares open land borders with France, Switzerland, Austria, Slovenia, San Marino and Vatican City. Since classical times, Greeks, Etruscans and Celts have inhabited the south, centre and north of the Italian Peninsula respectively, with various Italic peoples dispersed throughout Italy alongside other ancient Italian tribes and Greek, Carthaginian, and Phoenician colonies. The Italic tribe known as the Latins formed the Roman Kingdom, which eventually spread throughout Italy, assimilating and conquering other nearby civilizations and forming the Roman Republic. Rome ultimately emerged as the dominant power, conquering much of the ancient world and becoming the leading cultural, political, and religious centre of Western civilisation. The legacy of the Roman Empire is widespread and can be observed in the global distribution of civilian law, Republican governments, Christianity, the latin script.

During the Dark Ages, Italy suffered sociopolitical collapse amid calamitous barbarian invasions, but by the 11th century, numerous rival city-states and maritime republics rose to great prosperity through shipping, commerce, and banking, and even laid the groundwork for capitalism. These independent city-states and regional republics, acting as Europe's main port of entry for Asian and Near Eastern imported goods, often enjoyed a greater degree of democracy in comparison to the monarchies and feudal states found throughout Europe at the time, though much of central Italy remained under the control of the theocratic Papal States, while Southern Italy remained largely feudal, partially as a result of a succession of

Byzantine, Arab, Norman, Spanish, and Bourbon conquests of the region. During the Renaissance, a period of renewed interest in humanism, science, exploration and art, Italy and the rest of Europe entered the modern era. The Italian culture flourished at this time, producing famous scholars, artists, and polymaths such as Leonardo da Vinci, Galileo, Michelangelo and Machiavelli. Italian explorers such as Marco Polo, Christopher Columbus, Amerigo Vespucci, and Giovanni da Verrazzano discovered new routes to the Far East and the New World, helping to usher in the European Age of Discovery. Nevertheless, Italy's importance as a commercial and political power significantly waned with the opening of trade routes from the New World, as New World imports and trade routes became more influential in Europe and bypassed the East Asian and Mediterranean trade routes that the Italian citystates had dominated. Furthermore, the Italian city-states constantly engaged one another in bloody warfare, with this tension and violent rivalry culminating in the Italian Wars of the 15th and 16th centuries, a series of wars and foreign invasions that left the Italian states vulnerable to annexation by neighboring European powers. Italy would remain politically fragmented and fall prey to occupation and general foreign domination by European powers such as France, Spain, and later Austria, subsequently entering a long period of decline.

By the mid-19th century, a rising movement in support of Italian nationalism and Italian independence from foreign control lead to a period of revolutionary political upheaval known as the Risorgimento, which sought to bring about a rebirth of Italian cultural and economic prominence by liberating and consolidating the Italian peninsula and insular Italy into an independent and unified nation-state. After various unsuccessful attempts, the Italian Wars of Independence, the Expedition of the Thousand and the capture of Rome resulted in the eventual unification of the country, now a great power after centuries of foreign domination and political division. From the late 19th century to the early 20th century, the new Kingdom of Italy rapidly industrialized, especially in the so-called Industrial Triangle of Milan, Turin and Genoa in the North, and soon acquired a colonial empire. However, the southern areas of the country remained largely excluded from industrialization, fueling a large and influential diaspora. Despite being one of the main victors in World War I, Italy entered a period of economic crisis and social turmoil, leading the way to the rise of a Fascist dictatorship in 1922. The subsequent participation in World War II on the Axis side ended in military defeat, economic destruction and civil war. In the years that followed, Italy abolished the Italian monarchy, reinstated democracy, and enjoyed a prolonged economic boom, thus becoming one of the world's most developed nations. It has the third largest economy in the Eurozone and the eighth largest economy in the world. It has a very high level of human development and enjoys the highest life expectancy in the EU. Italy plays a prominent role in regional and global military, cultural and diplomatic affairs. Italy is a founding and leading member of the European Union and the member of numerous international institutions, including the UN, NATO, the OECD, the OSCE, the WTO, the G7/G8, G20, the Union for the Mediterranean, the Council of Europe, Uniting for Consensus, and many more. Italy is home to 51 World Heritage Sites, the most in the world, and is one of the most visited countries.

Capital – Rome. Language – Italian. Religion – Christian – 83%, Muslim – 4%, Unaffiliated – 12%. Ethnics – The Italian people includes small clusters of German, French and Slovene Italians in the north and Albanian and Greek Italians in the south. In 2014, Italy had about 4.9 million foreign residents, making up some 8.1% of the total population. The figures include more than half a million children born in Italy to foreign nationals—second generation immigrants, but exclude foreign nationals who have subsequently acquired Italian nationality; this applies to about 130,000 people a year. The official figures also exclude illegal immigrants, that were estimated in 2008 to number at least 670,000. Starting from the early

1980s, until then a linguistically and culturally homogeneous society, Italy begun to attract substantial flows of foreign immigrants. After the fall of the Berlin Wall and, more recently, the 2004 and 2007 enlargements of the European Union, large waves of migration originated from the former socialist countries of Eastern Europe (especially Romania, Albania, Ukraine and Poland). An equally important source of immigration is neighbouring North Africa (in particular, Morocco, Egypt and Tunisia), with soaring arrivals as a consequence of the Arab Spring. Furthermore, in recent years, growing migration fluxes from the Far East (notably, and the Philippines) and Latin America (mainly from Peru and Ecuador) have been recorded. Currently, about one million Romanian citizens (around one tenth of them being Roma) are officially registered as living in Italy, representing thus the most important individual country of origin, followed by Albanians and Moroccans with about 500,000 people each. The number of unregistered Romanians is difficult to estimate, but the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network suggested in 2007 that there might have been half a million or more. Overall, at the end of the 2000s (decade) the foreign born population of Italy was from: Europe (54%), Africa (22%), Asia (16%), the Americas (8%) and Oceania (0.06%). The distribution of immigrants is largely uneven in Italy: 87% of immigrants live in the northern and central parts of the country (the most economically developed areas), while only 13% live in the southern half of the peninsula. Government - Republic, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 61,680,122, rank – 24. Area – 294,140, rank – 72. Density – 210, rank – 58.

37 VARIABLE PARAMETERS – SEE METHODOLOGY OF SEARCHING IN 60+ TABLES IN AUSTRALIA.

VARIABLE PARAMETERS FROM CIA WORLD FACTBOOK - PEOPLE & SOCIETY, ECONOMIC PARAMETERS:

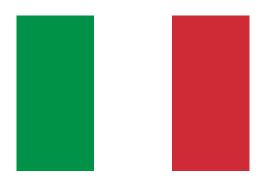
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Median age:
total: 44.8 years
male: 43.7 years
female: 45.9 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 6
Population growth rate:
0.27% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 177
Birth rate:
8.74 births/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 213
Death rate:
10.19 deaths/1.000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 40
Net migration rate:
4.1 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 30
Urbanization:
urban population: 69% of total population (2015)
rate of urbanization: 0.39% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)
Mother's mean age at first birth:
30.3 (2011 est.)
Maternal mortality rate:
4 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 180
Infant mortality rate:
total: 3.29 deaths/1,000 live births
male: 3.49 deaths/1,000 live births
female: 3.08 deaths/1.000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 212
Life expectancy at birth:
total population: 82.12 years
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male: 79.48 years
female: 84.92 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 14
Total fertility rate:
1.43 children born/woman (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 208
Health expenditures:
9.1% of GDP (2013)
country comparison to the world: 33
Physicians density:
3.76 physicians/1,000 population (2012)
Hospital bed density:
3.4 beds/1,000 population (2011)
Drinking water source:
improved:
urban: 100% of population
rural: 100% of population
total: 100% of population
unimproved:
urban: 0% of population
rural: 0% of population
total: 0% of population (2015 est.)
Sanitation facility access:
improved:
urban: 99.5% of population
rural: 99.6% of population
total: 99.5% of population
unimproved::
urban: 0.5% of population
rural: 0.4% of population
total: 0.5% of population (2015 est.)
HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:
0.28% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 85
HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:
122,000 (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 39
HIV/AIDS - deaths:
NA
Obesity - adult prevalence rate:
23.7% (2014)
country comparison to the world: 97
Education expenditures:
4.3% of GDP (2011)
country comparison to the world: 93
Literacy:
definition: age 15 and over can read and write
total population: 99.2%
male: 99.4%
female: 99% (2015 est.)
School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):
total: 16 years
male: 16 years
female: 17 years (2012)
Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:
total: 40%
male: 39%
female: 41.4% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 17
GDP (purchasing power parity):
$2.174 trillion (2015 est.)
$2.156 trillion (2014 est.)
$2.166 trillion (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 13
GDP (official exchange rate):
$1.819 trillion (2015 est.)
GDP - real growth rate:
0.8% (2015 est.)
-0.4% (2014 est.)
-1.7% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 188
GDP - per capita (PPP):
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$35,800 (2015 est.)
$35,500 (2014 est.)
$35,600 (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 50
Gross national saving:
18.3% of GDP (2015 est.)
18.4% of GDP (2014 est.)
18.2% of GDP (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 95
GDP - composition, by end use:
household consumption: 60.7%
government consumption: 19.4%
investment in fixed capital: 16.7%
investment in inventories: -0.2%
exports of goods and services: 30.1%
imports of goods and services: -26.7% (2015 est.)
GDP - composition, by sector of origin:
agriculture: 2.2%
industry: 23.6%
services: 74.2% (2015 est.)
Agriculture - products:
fruits, vegetables, grapes, potatoes, sugar beets, soybeans, grain, olives; beef, dairy products; fish
Industries:
tourism, machinery, iron and steel, chemicals, food processing, textiles, motor vehicles, clothing,
footwear, ceramics
Industrial production growth rate:
0.6% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 159
Labor force:
25.54 million (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 27
Labor force - by occupation:
agriculture: 3.9%
industry: 28.3%
services: 67.8% (2011)
Unemployment rate:
12.2% (2015 est.)
12.7% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 135
Population below poverty line:
29.9% (2012 est.)
Household income or consumption by percentage share:
lowest 10%: 2.3%
highest 10%: 26.8% (2000)
Distribution of family income - Gini index:
31.9 (2012 est.)
27.3 (1995)
country comparison to the world: 113
Budget:
revenues: $876 billion
expenditures: $930.5 billion (2015 est.)
Taxes and other revenues:
48.2% of GDP (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 18
Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):
-3% of GDP (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: <u>114</u>
Public debt:
135.8% of GDP (2015 est.)
132% of GDP (2014 est.)
note: Italy reports its data on public debt according to guidelines set out in the Maastricht Treaty;
general government gross debt is defined in the Maastricht Treaty as consolidated general government
gross debt at nominal value, outstanding at the end of the year, in the following categories of
government liabilities (as defined in ESA95): currency and deposits (AF.2), securities other than shares
excluding financial derivatives (AF.3, excluding AF.34), and loans (AF.4); the general government
sector comprises the central government, state government, local government and social security funds
country comparison to the world: 5
Fiscal year:
calendar year
Inflation rate (consumer prices):
0.3% (2015 est.)
0.2% (2014 est.)
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country comparison to the world: 47
Central bank discount rate:
0.25% (31 December 2013)
0.75% (31 December 2012)
note: this is the European Central Bank's rate on the marginal lending facility, which offers overnight
credit to banks in the euro area
country comparison to the world: 134
Commercial bank prime lending rate:
4.3% (31 December 2015 est.)
4.87% (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 158
Market value of publicly traded shares:
$480.5 billion (31 December 2012 est.)
$431.5 billion (31 December 2011)
$318.1 billion (31 December 2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 23
Current account balance:
$36.98 billion (2015 est.)
$41.11 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 11
Exports:
$454.6 billion (2015 est.)
$513.7 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 10
Exports - commodities:
engineering products, textiles and clothing, production machinery, motor vehicles, transport equipment,
chemicals; foodstuffs, beverages, and tobacco; minerals, nonferrous metals
Exports - partners:
Germany 12.8%, France 10.7%, US 7.2%, UK 5.3%, Switzerland 4.7%, Spain 4.6% (2014)
Imports:
$389.2 billion (2015 est.)
$448.4 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 14
Imports - commodities:
engineering products, chemicals, transport equipment, energy products, minerals and nonferrous
metals, textiles and clothing; food, beverages, tobacco
Imports - partners:
Germany 16.1%, France 9%, China 7.3%, Netherlands 5.8%, Spain 5%, Belgium 4.5% (2014)
Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:
$142.2 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
$145.5 billion (31 December 2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 18
Debt - external:
$2.459 trillion (31 December 2014 est.)
$2.635 trillion (31 December 2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 9
Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:
$505 billion (31 December 2015 est.)
$490.2 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 17
Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:
$692.6 billion (31 December 2015 est.)
$664.9 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 15
Exchange rates:
euros (EUR) per US dollar -
0.885 (2015 est.)
0.7525 (2014 est.)
0.7634 (2013 est.)
0.78 (2012 est.)
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0.7185 (2011 est.)





IVORY COAST, see Cote d'Ivoire.

JAMAICA, in the Greater Antilles, Caribbean. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. Jamaica is an island country, consisting of the third-largest island of the Greater Antilles. The island lies about 145 kilometres south of Cuba, and 191 kilometres west of Hispaniola, the island containing the nation-states of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Jamaica is the fourth-largest island country in the Caribbean. Previously inhabited by the indigenous Arawak and Taíno peoples, the island came under Spanish rule following the arrival of Christopher Columbus in 1494. Named Santiago, it remained a possession of Spain until 1655, when England (later Great Britain) conquered the island and renamed it Jamaica. Under British rule, Jamaica became a leading sugar exporter, with its plantation economy highly dependent on slaves imported from Africa, followed later by Chinese and Indian indentured labour. All slaves were fully emancipated in 1838, with independence from the United Kingdom achieved on 6 August 1962. Jamaica is the third most populous Anglophone country in the Americas (after the United States and Canada). Kingston is the country's capital and largest city, with a population of 937,700. Jamaicans are of predominately African descent, with significant European, Chinese, Indian, and mixed-race minorities. Due to a high rate of emigration since the 1960s, Jamaica has a large diaspora around the world, particularly in Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Though a small nation, Jamaican culture has a strong global presence. The musical genres reggae, ska, mento, rocksteady, dub, all originated in the island's vibrant, popular urban recording industry. Jamaica also played an important role in the development of punk rock, through reggae and ska. Reggae has also influenced American rap music, as they share roots as rhythmic, African styles of music.

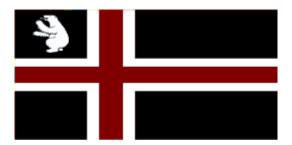
Capital – Kingston. Language – English. Religion – Christian – 77%, Unaffiliated – 17%, Folk religion – 5%. Ethnics – Black – 92%, Mixed – 6%, East Indian – 1%. Government - Jamaica is a Commonwealth realm, with Queen Elizabeth II as its monarch and head of state. Her appointed representative in the country is the Governor-General of Jamaica. Jamaica is a parliamentary constitutional monarchy with legislative power vested in the bicameral Parliament of Jamaica, consisting of an appointed Senate and a directly elected House of Representatives. Population – 2,930,050, rank – 140. Area – 10,831, rank – 168. Density – 271, rank – 47.



JAN MAYEN ISLAND, a volcanic island in the Arctic Ocean, is a Norwegian unincorporated dependency with some special status administered by the County Governor of the northern Norwegian county of Nordland. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Jan Mayen is a volcanic island in the Arctic Ocean and a part of the Kingdom of Norway. It is 55 km long (southwest-northeast) and 373 km² in area, partly covered by glaciers (an area of 114.2 km

around the Beerenberg volcano). It has two parts: larger northeast Nord-Jan and smaller Sør-Jan, linked by a 2.5 km wide isthmus. It lies 600 km northeast of Iceland (495 km NE of Kolbeinsey), 500 km east of central Greenland and 1,000 km west of the North Cape, Norway. The island is mountainous, the highest summit being the Beerenberg volcano in the north. The isthmus is the location of the two largest lakes of the island, Sørlaguna (South Lagoon), and Nordlaguna (North Lagoon). A third lake is called Ullerenglaguna (Ullereng Lagoon). Jan Mayen was formed by the Jan Mayen hotspot. Jan Mayen Island has one exploitable natural resource, gravel, from the site at Trongskaret. Other than this, economic activity is limited to providing services for employees of Norway's radio communications and meteorological stations located on the island. Jan Mayen has one unpaved airstrip. The 124.1 km coast has no ports or harbours, only offshore anchorages.

There are important fishing resources, and the existence of Jan Mayen establishes a large Exclusive Economic Zone around it. A dispute between Norway and Denmark regarding the fishing exclusion zone between Jan Mayen and Greenland was settled in 1988 granting Denmark the greater area of sovereignty. Significant deposits of petroleum and natural gas are suspected by geologists to lie below Jan Mayen's surrounding seafloors. Jan Mayen Island is an integral part of the Kingdom of Norway, and it is considered to be a dependency with some special status. Since 1995, Jan Mayen has been administered by the County Governor (fylkesmann) of the northern Norwegian county of Nordland to which it is closest. However, some authority over Jan Mayen has been assigned to the station commander of the Norwegian Defence Logistics Organisation, a branch of the Norwegian Armed Forces. The only inhabitants on the island are personnel working for the Norwegian Armed Forces or the Norwegian Meteorological Institute. Eighteen people spend the winter on the island, but the population may double (35) during the summer, when heavy maintenance is performed. Personnel serve either six months or one year, and are exchanged twice a year in April and October. The main purpose of the military personnel is to operate a Loran-C base. The support crew, including mechanics, cooks, and a nurse, are among the military personnel. Both the LORAN transmitter and the meteorological station are located a few kilometres away from the settlement Olonkinbyen (Olonkin City), where all personnel live.



JAPAN, Nippon, Nihon, in Eastern Asia. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Japan (Japanese: 日本 Nippon or Nihon; formally 日本国 Nippon-koku or Nihon-koku, "State of Japan") is an island country in East Asia. Located in the Pacific Ocean, it lies to the east of the Sea of Japan, the East China Sea, China, North Korea, South Korea and Russia, stretching from the Sea of Okhotsk in the north to the East China Sea and Taiwan in the south. The kanji that make up Japan's name mean "sun origin", and it is often called the "Land of the Rising Sun". Japan is a stratovolcanic archipelago of 6,852 islands. The four largest are Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu and Shikoku, which make up about ninety-seven percent of Japan's land area. The country is divided into 47 prefectures in eight regions. The population of

126 million is the world's tenth largest. Japanese make up 98.5% of Japan's total population. Approximately 9.1 million people live in the core city of Tokyo, the capital city of Japan, which is the sixth largest city proper in the OECD and the fourth leading global city in the world. The Greater Tokyo Area is the world's largest metropolitan area with over 35 million residents and the world's largest urban agglomeration economy.

Archaeological research indicates that Japan was inhabited as early as the Upper Paleolithic period. The first written mention of Japan is in Chinese history texts from the 1st century AD. Influence from other regions, mainly Imperial China and later from Western Europe, has characterized Japan's history. From the 12th century until 1868, Japan was ruled by successive feudal military shoguns who ruled in the name of the Emperor. Japan entered into a long period of isolation in the early 17th century, which was ended in 1853 when a United States fleet pressured Japan to open to the West. Nearly two decades of internal conflict and insurrection followed before the Meiji Emperor was restored as head of state in 1868 and the Empire of Japan was proclaimed, with the Emperor as a divine symbol of the nation. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, victories in the First Sino-Japanese War, the Russo-Japanese War and World War I allowed Japan to expand its empire during a period of increasing militarism. The Second Sino-Japanese War of 1937 expanded into part of World War II in 1941, which came to an end in 1945 following the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Since adopting its revised constitution in 1947, Japan has maintained a unitary constitutional monarchy with an Emperor and an elected legislature called the National Diet.

Japan is a member of the UN, the G7, G8, G20 and is considered a great power. The country has the world's third-largest economy by nominal GDP and the world's fourth-largest economy by purchasing power parity. It is also the world's fourth-largest exporter and fourth-largest importer. Although Japan has officially renounced its right to declare war, it maintains a modern military with the world's eighth largest military budget, used for self-defense and peacekeeping roles. Japan is a developed country with a high standard of living and Human Development Index whose population enjoys the highest life expectancy, the third lowest infant mortality in the world, and ranked first in the number of Nobel Laureates of any country in Asia. Japan is ranked first in the Country Brand Index, ranked sixth in the Global Competitiveness Report 2015–2016 and is the highest-ranked Asian country in the Global Peace Index. Japan was the first Asian country to host Summer and Winter Olympic Games.

Capital – Tokyo. Language – Japanese. Religion – Unaffiliated – 57%, Buddhist – 36%, Christian – 2%, other religions – 5%. Ethnics – Japanese – 98.5%, Korean - 0.5%, Chinese – 0.4%, other – 0.6%. Government – Constitutional monarchy, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 127,103,388, rank – 11. Area – 364,485, rank – 62. Density – 349, rank – 36.

37 VARIABLE PARAMETERS – SEE METHODOLOGY OF SEARCHING IN 60+ TABLES IN AUSTRALIA.

VARIABLE PARAMETERS FROM CIA WORLD FACTBOOK - PEOPLE & SOCIETY, ECONOMIC PARAMETERS:

Median age:
 total: 46.5 years
 male: 45.2 years
 female: 47.9 years (2015 est.)
 country comparison to the world: 2
 Population growth rate:
 -0.16% (2015 est.)

```
country comparison to the world: 212
Birth rate:
7.93 births/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 222
Death rate:
9.51 deaths/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 54
Net migration rate:
0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 93
Urbanization:
urban population: 93.5% of total population (2015)
rate of urbanization: 0.56% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)
Mother's mean age at first birth:
30.3 (2012 est.)
Maternal mortality rate:
5 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 176
Infant mortality rate:
total: 2.08 deaths/1,000 live births
male: 2.31 deaths/1,000 live births
female: 1.84 deaths/1,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 222
Life expectancy at birth:
total population: 84.74 years
male: 81.4 years
female: 88.26 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 2
Total fertility rate:
1.4 children born/woman (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 211
Contraceptive prevalence rate:
54.3%
note: percent of women aged 20-49 (2005)
Health expenditures:
10.3% of GDP (2013)
country comparison to the world: 22
Physicians density:
2.3 physicians/1,000 population (2010)
Hospital bed density:
13.7 beds/1,000 population (2009)
Drinking water source:
improved:
urban: 100% of population
rural: 100% of population
total: 100% of population
unimproved:
urban: 0% of population
rural: 0% of population
total: 0% of population (2015 est.)
Sanitation facility access:
improved:
urban: 100% of population
rural: 100% of population
total: 100% of population
unimproved:
urban: 0% of population
rural: 0% of population
total: 0% of population (2015 est.)
HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:
HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:
NA
HIV/AIDS - deaths:
Obesity - adult prevalence rate:
3.5% (2014)
country comparison to the world: 157
Education expenditures:
3.8% of GDP (2012)
country comparison to the world: 115
School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):
total: 15 years
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```
male: 15 years
female: 15 years (2012)
Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:
total: 6.9%
male: 7.6%
female: 6.2% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 114
GDP (purchasing power parity):
$4.658 trillion (2015 est.)
$4.631 trillion (2014 est.)
$4.613 trillion (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: \underline{5}
GDP (official exchange rate):
$4.127 trillion (31 October 2015 est.)
GDP - real growth rate:
0.6% (2015 est.)
1.6% (2014 est.)
0.8% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 192
GDP - per capita (PPP):
$38,200 (2015 est.)
$36,400 (2014 est.)
$36,200 (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 42
Gross national saving:
24.8% of GDP (2015 est.)
22.4% of GDP (2014 est.)
22% of GDP (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 52
GDP - composition, by end use:
household consumption: 59.6%
government consumption: 20.4%
investment in fixed capital: 21.2%
investment in inventories: -0.3%
exports of goods and services: 18.5%
imports of goods and services: -19.4% (2015 est.)
GDP - composition, by sector of origin:
agriculture: 1.2%
industry: 26.6%
services: 72.2% (2015 est.)
Agriculture - products:
vegetables, rice, fish, poultry, fruit, dairy products, pork, beef, flowers, potatoes/taros/yams, sugar
cane, tea, legumes, wheat and barley
Industries:
among world's largest and most technologically advanced producers of motor vehicles, electronic
equipment, machine tools, steel and nonferrous metals, ships, chemicals, textiles, processed foods
Industrial production growth rate:
0.7% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 156
Labor force:
64.32 million (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 9
Labor force - by occupation:
agriculture: 2.9%
industry: 26.2%
services: 70.9% (February 2015 est.)
Unemployment rate:
3.3% (2015 est.)
3.6% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 27
Population below poverty line:
16.1% (2013 est.)
Household income or consumption by percentage share:
lowest 10%: 2.7%
highest 10%: 24.8% (2008)
Distribution of family income - Gini index:
37.9 (2011)
24.9 (1993)
country comparison to the world: 75
Budget:
revenues: $1.439 trillion
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expenditures: $1.705 trillion (2015 est.)
Taxes and other revenues:
35% of GDP (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 58
Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):
-6.5% of GDP (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 188
Public debt:
227.9% of GDP (2015 est.)
226% of GDP (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 1
Fiscal year:
1 April - 31 March
Inflation rate (consumer prices):
0.7% (2015 est.)
2.7% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 62
Central bank discount rate:
0.3% (31 December 2015)
0.3% (31 December 2014)
country comparison to the world: 131
Commercial bank prime lending rate:
1.48% (31 December 2015 est.)
1.48% (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 183
Market value of publicly traded shares:
$4.782 trillion (31 December 2014 est.)
$4.584 trillion (31 December 2013)
$3.715 trillion (31 December 2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 4
Current account balance:
$124.3 billion (2015 est.)
$24.4 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: \underline{4}
Exports:
$624 billion (2015 est.)
$699.5 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 5
Exports - commodities:
motor vehicles 14.9%; iron and steel products 5.4%; semiconductors 5%; auto parts 4.8%; power
generating machinery 3.5%; plastic materials 3.3% (2014 est.)
Exports - partners:
US 20.1%, China 17.5%, South Korea 7%, Taiwan 5.9%, Hong Kong 5.6%, Thailand 4.5% (2015)
Imports:
$625.4 billion (2015 est.)
$798.6 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 5
Imports - commodities:
petroleum 16.1%; liquid natural gas 9.1%; clothing 3.8%; semiconductors 3.3%; coal 2.4%; audio and
visual apparatus 1.4% (2014 est.)
Imports - partners:
China 24.8%, US 10.3%, Australia 5.4%, South Korea 4.1%, Saudi Arabia 3.9% (2014)
Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:
$1.261 trillion (31 December 2014 est.)
$1.267 trillion (41639 est.)
country comparison to the world: \underline{2}
Debt - external:
$5.18 trillion (31 December 2013 est.)
$4.026 trillion (31 December 2012)
country comparison to the world: 6
Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:
$217.4 billion (31 December 2015 est.)
$193.5 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 28
Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:
$1.313 trillion (31 December 2015 est.)
$1.193 trillion (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 8
Exchange rates:
yen (JPY) per US dollar -
122.1 (2015 est.)
105.86 (2014 est.)
97.44 (2013 est.)
79.79 (2012 est.)
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JARVIS ISLAND, formerly known as Bunker Island, is an uninhabited coral island in the South Pacific Ocean, about halfway between Hawaii and the Cook Islands. It is an unincorporated, unorganized territory of the Unites States. Jarvis is one of the Line Islands and for statistical purposes is grouped as one of the United States Minor Outlying Islands. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Jarvis Island (formerly known as Bunker Island) is an uninhabited 4.5 km² coral island located in the South Pacific Ocean at about halfway between Hawaii and the Cook Islands. It is an unincorporated, unorganized territory of the United States, administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service of the United States Department of the Interior as part of the National Wildlife Refuge system. Unlike most coral atolls, the lagoon on Jarvis is wholly dry. While a few offshore anchorage spots are marked on maps, Jarvis island has no ports or harbors, and swift currents are a hazard. There is a boat landing area in the middle of the western shoreline near a crumbling day beacon, and another near the southwest corner of the island.[3] The center of Jarvis island is a dried lagoon where deep guano deposits accumulated, which were mined for about 20 years during the nineteenth century. The island has a tropical desert climate, with high daytime temperatures, constant wind, and strong sun. Nights, however, are quite cool. The ground is mostly sandy and reaches 7 meters at its highest point. The low-lying coral island has long been noted as hard to sight from small ships and is surrounded by a narrow fringing reef. Located only 40 km south of the equator, Jarvis has no known natural freshwater lens and scant rainfall. This creates a very bleak, flat landscape without any plants larger than shrubs. There is no evidence that the island has ever supported a self-sustaining human population. Its sparse bunch grass, prostrate vines and low-growing shrubs are primarily a nesting, roosting, and foraging habitat for seabirds, shorebirds, and marine wildlife.

JERSEY, a British Crown Dependency with independent administration, that is not part of the UK or EU, however its inhabitants are British citizens. The Bailiwick of Jersey includes some small islands. Located in the Channel Islands, an archipelago in the English Channel off the Normandy coast of France. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, <u>List/Countries</u>, <u>Index Mundi</u>, <u>Oper/World</u>, <u>Internet/Stats</u>. Jersey (Jèrriais: *Jèrri*), officially the Bailiwick of Jersey (French: Bailliage de Jersey; Jèrriais: Bailliage dé Jèrri), is a Crown dependency of the United Kingdom, a possession of the Crown in right of Jersey, off the coast of Normandy, France. The bailiwick consists of the island of Jersey, along with surrounding uninhabited islands and rocks collectively named Les Dirouilles, Les Écréhous, Les Minquiers, Les Pierres de Lecq, and other reefs. Jersey was part of the Duchy of Normandy, whose dukes went on to become kings of England from 1066. After Normandy was lost by the kings of England in the thirteenth century, and the ducal title surrendered to France, Jersey and the other Channel Islands remained attached to the English crown. The island of Jersey is the largest of the Channel Islands. Although the Bailiwicks of Jersey and Guernsey are often referred to collectively as the Channel Islands, the "Channel Islands" are not a constitutional or political unit. Jersey has a separate relationship to its Crown from the other Crown dependencies of Guernsey and the Isle of Man, although all three Crowns are held by the monarch of the United Kingdom. It is not part of the United Kingdom, and has an international identity separate from that of the UK, but the United Kingdom is constitutionally responsible for the defence of Jersey. The Commission has confirmed in a written reply to the European Parliament in 2003 that Jersey is within the Union as a European Territory for whose external relationships the United Kingdom is responsible. Jersey is not fully part of the European Union but has a special relationship with it, notably being treated as within the European Community for the purposes of free trade in goods.

Jersey's economy is based on financial services (40% of GVA in 2012), tourism & hospitality (hotels, restaurants, bars, transport & communications totalling 8.4% of GVA in 2012), retail and wholesale (7% of GVA in 2012), construction (6.2% of GVA in 2012) and agriculture (1.3% of GVA in 2012). Thanks to specialisation in a few high-return sectors, at purchasing power parity Jersey has high economic output per capita, substantially ahead of all of the world's large developed economies. Gross national income in 2009 was £3.7 billion (approximately £40,000 per head of population). However, this is not indicative of each individual resident's purchasing power, and the actual standard of living in Jersev is comparable to that in the United Kingdom outside central London. The island is recognised as one of the leading offshore financial centres. The growth of this sector however has not been without its controversies as Jersey has been characterised by critics and detractors as a place in which the "leadership has essentially been captured by global finance, and whose members will threaten and intimidate anyone who dissents." In June 2005 the States introduced the Competition (Jersey) Law 2005 to regulate competition and stimulate economic growth. This competition law was based on that of other jurisdictions. Tourism supports not only hotels, but also retail and services: in 2009 there were 685,200 visitors spending £230 million. Dutyfree goods are available for purchase on travel to and from the island.

Capital – Saint Helier. Language – English, French, Jerriais. Religion - In the 2015 Jersey Annual Social Survey, 54% of adults stated they had a religion, 39% said they did not, and 7% weren't sure. Of those who had a religion and gave details, 97% were Christian and the remaining 3% were Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, or Sikh. Christians broke down as 44% Anglican, 43% Catholic, and the remaining 13% another Christian denomination. Ethnics – Jersey – 46%, British – 33%, Potuguese – 8%, Polish – 3%, Irish, French and other White – 7%. Government - Jersey is a self-governing parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy, with its own financial, legal, judicial systems, and the power of self-determination. Population – 96,513, rank – 197. Area – 116, rank – 225. Density – 832, rank – 15.



JOHNSTON ATOLL, is an uninhabited atoll in the North Pacific Ocean, an unincorporated unorganized territory of the United States, and is grouped as one of the United States Minor Outlying Islands. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Johnston Atoll, also known as Kalama Atoll to Native Hawaiians, is an unincorporated territory of the United States currently administered by the United States Air Force (USAF) of the United States Department of Defense. The islands are visited annually by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Public entry is only by special-use permit from the United States Air Force. Johnston Atoll is an uninhabited atoll in the North Pacific Ocean located about 1,390 km southwest of the island of Hawai'i and is grouped as one of the United States Minor Outlying Islands. The atoll, which is located on a

coral reef platform, has four islands. Johnston (or Kalama) Island and Sand Island are both enlarged natural features, while *Akau* (North) and *Hikina* (East) are two artificial islands formed by coral dredging. The four islands compose a total land mass of 2.67 km². The climate is tropical but generally dry. Northeast trade winds are consistent and there is little seasonal temperature variation. With elevation ranging from sea level to 5 m at Summit Peak, the islands contain some low-growing vegetation and palm trees on mostly flat terrain and no natural fresh water resources. For nearly 70 years, the atoll was under the control of the American military. In that time it was used as a bird sanctuary, as a naval refueling depot, as an airbase, for nuclear and biological weapons testing, for space recovery, as a secret missile base, and as a chemical weapon and Agent Orange storage and disposal site. These activities left the area environmentally contaminated and remediation and monitoring continue.



JORDAN, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Al Urdun, in the Middle East, Western Asia. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Jordan (Arabic: וֹלֵע בּיטׁ Al-Urdun), officially the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (Arabic: المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية Al-Mamlakah Al-Urduniyah Al-Hashimiyah), is an Arab kingdom in Western Asia, on the East Bank of the Jordan River. Jordan is bordered by Saudi Arabia to the east and south, Iraq to the north-east, Syria to the north, and Israel and Palestine to the west. Jordan has a strategic location at the crossroads of Asia, Africa and Europe. Inhabited since the Paleolithic period by individual communities, three self-governed kingdoms later emerged on the territory of modern Jordan at the very end of the Bronze Age: Ammon, Moab and Edom. The lands were later part of several kingdoms and empires, most notably the Nabatean Kingdom, the Roman Empire and finally the Ottoman Empire. After the Partitioning of the Ottoman Empire after World War I by Britain and France, the Emirate of Transjordan was established as a British protectorate and was officially recognized by the Council of the League of Nations in 1922. In 1946, Jordan became an independent sovereign state officially known as the Hashemite Kingdom of Transjordan. Jordan captured the West Bank during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War and the name of the state was changed to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on 1 December 1948.

Jordan is a small almost landlocked country with a population numbering at 9.5 million. In the midst of surrounding turmoil, it has been greatly hospitable, accepting refugees from almost all surrounding conflicts as early as 1948, with most notably the estimated 2 million Palestinians and the 1.4 million Syrian refugees residing in the country. Jordan continues to demonstrate hospitality, despite the substantial strain the Syrian refugees put on national systems and infrastructure. The kingdom is also a refuge to thousands of Iraqi Christians fleeing the Islamic State. Jordan is considered to be among the safest of Arab countries in the Middle East, and has managed to keep itself away from terrorism and instability. Jordan has large investments despite having very limited natural resources, the country is not to be confused with oil-rich Arab states. Although Jordan is a constitutional monarchy, the king

holds wide executive and legislative powers. Jordan is classified as a country of "high human development" by the 2014 Human Development Report. Jordan has an "upper middle income" economy, and is a major tourist destination in the region. It also attracts medical tourism due to its well developed medical sector. Jordan is a founding member of the Arab League and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The kingdom is one of two Arab states to have signed a peace treaty with Israel. Sunni Islam is the dominant religion in Jordan making about 92% of the country's population along with a Christian minority.

Capital – Amman. Language – Arabic. Religion – Muslim – 97%, Christian – 2%. Ethnics –

The vast majority of Jordanians are Arabs, accounting for 98% of the population. The rest is attributed to other ethnic minorities which include 1% Circassian and 1% Armenians. The 2015 Jordanian census revealed that there are 1,265,000 Syrians, 636,270 Egyptians, 634,182 Palestinians who do not have national ID numbers, 130,911 Iraqis, 31,163 Yemenis, 22,700 Libyans and 197,385 from other nationalities residing in the country. However, other official data as of 2008 estimated that more than half of the Jordanian population was Palestinian -3million out of 5.91 million. Nevertheless, if we take into consideration unofficial statistics and mixed marriage citizens we arrive to a Palestinian population of at least 70% of all Jordanian inhabitants (without taking into consideration the new refugees from Syria, etc.). Mixed marriages between Palestinians and other Jordanians are widespread from the King who is married to a Palestinian Queen Rania and his children are therefore half Palestinians to the most humble citizens. Rania Al-Yassin was born in Kuwait to Palestinian parents Faisal Sedki al-Yassin and Ilham Yassin from Tulkarm in the West Bank. Government - Jordan is a constitutional monarchy. The king holds wide executive and legislative powers. He serves as Head of State and Commander-in-Chief and appoints the executive branch consisting of the Prime Minister and governors of the individual governorates. The prime minister is then free to choose his own cabinet, generally from the legislative body. The king's jurisdictions include dissolving the parliament and dismissing the government. Population – 7,930,491, rank – 98. Area – 88,802, rank – 112. Density – 89, rank – 115.



JUAN DE NOVA ISLAND, part of the Scattered Islands, see French Southern and Antarctic Lands.

JUAN FERNANDEZ ISLANDS, Archipelago Juan Fernandez, are a special territory of Chile, a sparsely inhabited island group reliant on tourism and fishing in the South Pacific Island. Situated 670 km off the coast of Chile, they are composed of three main volcanic islands: Robinson Crusoe, Alejandro Selkirk and Santa Clara. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia. Most of the inhabitants reside on Robinson Crusoe Island, mainly in the capital San Juan Bautista. The islands were discovered about 1563 by Juan Fernandez, a Spanish navigator, who received a grant and lived there for some years, stocking them with goats and pigs. After his departure, the islands were visited only occasionally. In 1704, Alexander Selkirk, a Scottish seaman, quarreled with his captain and was put ashore at Bahia Cumberland. He remained there alone until 1709 and his adventures are commonly

believed to have inspired Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe. The islands passed into Chilean possession in the early 19th century. Since then, they have been used as penal settlements.

Capital – San Juan Bautista. Language – Spanish. Most of the population is of European origin, mainly Spanish, British, German and other European nationalities. As a commune, the Juan Fernandez Islands are a third-level administrative division of Chile governed by a municipal council, headed by a mayor, who is directly elected every four years. The group of islands are part of Chile's Valparaison Region, which also includes Easter Island, and along with Desventuradas Islands form one of the nine communes of Valparaiso Province, named Juan Fernandez. Population – 900. Area – 100 sq km. Density – 9.



KAZAKHSTAN, Kazakhstan, Kazakh: Қазақстан, *Qazaqstan*, officially the Republic of Kazakhstan, is a country in Eurasia, situated at the crossroads of Eastern Europe and northern Central Asia, with Ural River being the border. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Kazakhstan is the world's largest landlocked country by land area and the ninth largest country in the world. Its territory is larger than all of Western Europe. By 2006, Kazakhstan had become the dominant nation of Central Asia economically, generating 60% of the region's GDP, primarily through its oil/gas industry. Kazakhstan has vast mineral resources. The terrain of Kazakhstan includes flatlands, steppe, taiga, rock canyons, hills, deltas, snow-capped mountains, deserts. The capital is Astana, where it was moved in 1997 from Almaty.

The territory of Kazakhstan has historically been inhabited by nomadic tribes. This changed in the 13th century, when Genghis Khan occupied the country as part of the Mongolian Empire. Following internal struggles among the conquerors, power eventually reverted to the nomads. By the 16th century, the Kazakh emerged as a distinct group, divided into three jüz (ancestor branches occupying specific territories). The Russians began advancing into the Kazakh steppe in the 18th century, and by the mid-19th century, they nominally ruled all of Kazakhstan as part of the Russian Empire. Following the 1917 Russian Revolution and subsequent civil war, the territory of Kazakhstan was reorganized several times. In 1936 it was made the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic, considered an integral part of the Soviet Union. Kazakhstan was the last of the Soviet republics to declare independence following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. The current President, Nursultan Nazarbayev, has been leader of the country since then, and is characterized as authoritarian, with a government history of human rights abuses and suppression of political opposition. Kazakhstan has worked to develop its economy, especially its dominant hydrocarbon industry. Human Rights Watch says that "Kazakhstan heavily restricts freedom of assembly, speech, and religion," and other human rights organizations regularly describe Kazakhstan's human rights situation as poor. Kazakhstan is populated by 131 ethnicities, including Kazakhs (who make up 63 percent of the population), Russians, Uzbeks, Ukrainians, Germans, Tatars, and Uyghurs. Islam is the religion of about 70% of the population, with Christianity practiced by 26%;^[14] Kazakhstan officially allows freedom of religion, but religious leaders who oppose the government are suppressed. The Kazakh language is the state language, and Russian has equal official status for all levels of administrative and institutional purposes

Capital – Astana. Language – Kazakh (national), Russian. Religion – Muslim – 70%, Christian - 25%, Unaffiliated – 4%. Ethnics – Kazakh – 63%, Russian – 24%, Uzbek – 3%, Ukrainian – 2%, Uighur – 1%, Tatar – 1%, German – 1%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 17,948,816, rank – 62. Area – 2,699,700, rank – 9. Density – 7, rank – 217.



KEELING ISLANDS, see Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

KENYA, Republic of Kenya, in Eastern Africa. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. Kenya is a founding member of the East African Community (EAC). Its capital and largest city is Nairobi. Kenya's territory lies on the equator and overlies the East African Rift covering a diverse and expansive terrain that extends roughly from Lake Victoria to Lake Turkana (formerly called Lake Rudolf) and further south-east to the Indian Ocean. Kenya has a warm and humid tropical climate on its Indian Ocean coastline. The climate is cooler in the savannah grasslands around the capital city, Nairobi, and especially closer to Mount Kenya, which has snow permanently on its peaks. Further inland, in the Nyanza region, there is a hot and dry climate which becomes humid around Lake Victoria, the largest tropical fresh-water lake in the world. This gives way to temperate and forested hilly areas in the neighboring western region. The north-eastern regions along the border with Somalia and Ethiopia are arid and semi-arid areas with near-desert landscapes. Kenya is known for its safaris, diverse climate and geography, and expansive wildlife reserves and national parks such as the East and West Tsavo National Park, the Maasai Mara, Lake Nakuru National Park, and Aberdares National Park. Kenya has several world heritage sites such as Lamu and numerous beaches, including in Diani and Kilifi, where international yachting competitions are held every year.

The African Great Lakes region, which Kenya is a part of, has been inhabited by humans since the Lower Paleolithic period. By the first millennium AD, the Bantu expansion had reached the area from West-Central Africa. The borders of the modern state consequently comprise the crossroads of the Niger-Congo, Nilo-Saharan and Afroasiatic areas of the continent, representing most major ethnolinguistic groups found in Africa. Bantu and Nilotic populations together constitute around 97% of the nation's residents. European and Arab presence in coastal Mombasa dates to the Early Modern period; European exploration of the interior began in the 19th century. The British Empire established the East Africa Protectorate in 1895, which starting in 1920 gave way to the Kenya Colony. Kenya obtained independence in December 1963. Following a referendum in August 2010 and adoption of a new constitution, Kenya is now divided into 47 semi-autonomous counties, governed by elected governors. The economy of Kenya is the largest by GDP in East and Central Africa.

Agriculture is a major employer; the country traditionally exports tea and coffee and has begun to export fresh flowers to Europe. The service industry is also a major economic driver.

Capital – Nairobi. Language – English, Swahili (national). Religion – Christian – 85%, Muslim – 10%, Unaffiliated – 3%, Folk religion – 2%. Ethnics – Kikuyu – 22%, Luhya – 14%, Luo – 13%, Kalenjin – 12%, Kamba – 11%, Kisii – 6%, Meru – 6%, Other African – 15%, Asian, European and Arab – 1%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 45,010,056, rank – 31. Area – 569,140, rank – 49. Density – 79, rank – 126.



KERGELEN ISLANDS, see French Southern Territories.

KINGMAN REEF, is a largely submerged, uninhabited reef located in the North Pacific Ocean, half way between Hawaii and American Samoa. It is the northernmost of the Northern Line Islands. Kingman Reef has the status of an unincorporated territory of the United States. For statistical purposes it is grouped as part of the United States Minor Outlying Islands. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. The reef encloses a lagoon up to 82 m deep in its western part. The total area within the outer rim of the reef is 75 km². There are two small strips of dry land composed of coral rubble and giant clamshells on the eastern rim with areas of 2 and 1 acre. The highest point on the reef is less than 1.5 m above sea level, which is wetted or awash most of the time, making Kingman Reef a maritime hazard. It has no natural resources and supports no economic activity. Kingman Reef is administered from Washington, DC by the U.S. Department of Interior. The atoll is closed to the public. For statistical purposes, Kingman Reef is grouped as part of the US Minor Outlying Islands. In January 2009, Kingman Reef was designated a marine national monument. The pre-20th century names Danger Reef, Caldew Reef, Maria Shoal and Crane Shoal refer to this atoll, which by then was entirely submerged at high tide. Kingman Reef was discovered by the American Captain Edmund Fanning of the ship Betsey on June 14, 1798. Captain W. E. Kingman (whose name the island bears) described it on November 29, 1853. Kingman Reef was claimed in 1860 by the United States Guano Company, under the name "Danger Reef". This claim was made under by the Guano Islands Act of 1856 although there is no evidence that guano existed or was ever mined on Kingman Reef. Lorrin A. Thurston formally annexed Kingman to the United States on May 10, 1922. The percentage of the total fish biomass on the reef is made up of 85% apex predators, creating a high level of competition for food and nutrients among local organisms — particularly sharks, jacks, and other carnivores. The threatened green sea turtles that frequent nearby Palmyra Atoll travel to Kingman Reef to forage and bask on the coral rubble spits at low tide. However, above sea level, the reef is usually barren of macroorganisms. Mainly constructed of dead and dried coral skeletons, providing only calcite as a source of nutrients, the small and narrow strips of dry land are only habitable by a handful of species for short periods of time. Most flora which begin to grow above water, primarily coconut palms, die out quickly due to the fierce tides and lack of resources necessary to sustain plant life.

KIRIBATI, Independent and Sovereign Republic of Kiribati, (Gilbertese: *Ribaberiki Kiribati*), Kiribas, in Micronesia, Oceania, formerly known as the Gilbert Islands. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. Kiribati is an island nation in the central Pacific Ocean. The nation comprises 33 atolls and reef islands and one raised coral island; Banaba. They have a total land area of 800 square kilometres and are dispersed over 3.5 million square kilometres. Their spread straddles the equator and the 180th meridian, although the International Date Line is indented to bring the Line Islands in the same day as the Kiribati Islands. The permanent population is just over 100,000 (2011), half of whom live on Tarawa Atoll. Kiribati became independent from the United Kingdom in 1979. The capital and now most populated area, South Tarawa, consists of a number of islets, connected by a series of causeways. These comprise about half the area of Tarawa Atoll.

Capital – Tarawa. Language – English, Gilbertese/Kiribati. Religion – Christian – 97%, Unaffiliated – 1%, Other religion – 2%. Ethnics – I-Kiribati – 90%, I-Kiribati/mixed – 10%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency and ministry are subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 104,488, rank – 194. Area – 811, rank – 187. Density – 129, rank – 87.



KOREA, NORTH, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Choson, in Eastern Asia. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. An independent kingdom for much of its long history, Korea was occupied by Japan beginning in 1905 following the Russo-Japanese War. Five years later, Japan formally annexed the entire peninsula. Following World War II, Korea was split with the northern half coming under Soviet-sponsored communist control. After failing in the Korean War (1950-53) to conquer the US-backed Republic of Korea (ROK) in the southern portion by force, North Korea (DPRK), under its founder President KIM Il Sung, adopted a policy of ostensible diplomatic and economic "self-reliance" as a check against outside influence. The DPRK demonized the US as the ultimate threat to its social system through state-funded propaganda, and molded political, economic, and military policies around the core ideological objective of eventual unification of Korea under Pyongyang's control. KIM II Sung's son, KIM Jong II, was officially designated as his father's successor in 1980, assuming a growing political and managerial role until the elder KIM's death in 1994. KIM Jong Un was publicly unveiled as his father's successor in 2010. Following KIM Jong Il's death in 2011, KIM Jong Un quickly assumed power and has now taken on most of his father's former titles and duties. After decades of economic mismanagement and resource misallocation, the DPRK since the mid1990s has relied heavily on international aid to feed its population. The DPRK began to ease restrictions to allow semi-private markets, starting in 2002, but then sought to roll back the scale of economic reforms in 2005 and 2009. North Korea's history of regional military provocations; proliferation of military-related items; long-range missile development; WMD programs including tests of nuclear devices in 2006, 2009, and 2013; and massive conventional armed forces are of major concern to the international community. The regime in 2013 announced a new policy calling for the simultaneous development of its nuclear weapons program and its economy.

Capital – P'yongyang. Language – Korean. Religion – Freedom of religion and the right to religious ceremonies are constitutionally guaranteed, but religions are restricted in practice. According to Religious Intelligence, 64.3% of the population are irreligious adherents of the Juche idea, 16% practice Korean shamanism, 13.5% practice Chondoism, 4.5% are Buddhist, and 1.7% are Christian. The cult of the Kims, the ruling family, together with the doctrine of Juche (self-reliance) are said by some to have religious overtones. Juche appeared in the 1960s as an idea of national autonomy but it has developed universal characters. The doctrine proclaims that human beings should break free of any dependency on spiritual ideas and realize that, working together, they can achieve all their goals without supernatural assistance. It promises believers that, through joining the Juche community, they can overcome death and become immortals. According to the Juche teachings, human beings only exist in social contexts. There is no human that is utterly alone, who has no relationships or interactions with other humans. Human beings will continue to exist even after physical death only if the society that defines them continues to exist. Some scholars see Juche as having Confucian features, but without the Confucian ancestral kinship structuration of society. Rather, Juche's aim is a national community. Moreover, Juche has as its spiritual focus the mythified figure of Kim Il-sung. He gained mythical connotations already in the 1930s for his heroic actions against the Japanese occupators. In Juche writings, Kim Il-sung and his successors are at times portrayed as divine beings. In addition, the North Korean Juche calendar counts the years starting from the birth of Kim Il-sung in 1912. Ethnics – racially homogenous, there is a small Chinese community and a few ethnic Japanese. Government - North Korea functions as a highly centralized, one-party republic. According to its 2009 constitution, it is a selfdescribed revolutionary and socialist state "guided in its activities by the Juche idea and the Songun idea". The Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) has an estimated 3,000,000 members and dominates every aspect of North Korean politics. It has two satellite organizations, the Korean Social Democratic Party and the Chondoist Chongu Party^[79] which participate in the WPK-led Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland. Another highly influential structure is the independent National Defence Commission (NDC). Kim Jong-un of the Kim family heads all major governing structures: he is First Secretary of the WPK, First Chairman of the NDC, and Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army. Kim Il-sung, who died in 1994, is the country's "Eternal President", while Kim Jong-il was announced "Eternal General Secretary" after his death in 2011. The unicameral Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) is the highest organ of state authority and holds the legislative power. Its 687 members are elected every five years by universal suffrage. Supreme People's Assembly sessions are convened by the SPA Presidium, whose president (Kim Yong-nam since 1998) also represents the state in relations with foreign countries. Deputies formally elect the President, the vice-presidents and members of the Presidium and take part in the constitutionally appointed activities of the legislature: pass laws, establish domestic and foreign policies, appoint members of the cabinet, review and approve the state economic plan, among others. However, the SPA itself cannot initiate any legislation independently of party or state organs. It is unknown whether it has ever criticized or amended bills placed before it, and the elections are based around a single list of WPK-approved candidates who stand without opposition. Executive power is vested in the Cabinet of North Korea, which is headed by Premier Pak Pong-ju. The Premier represents the government and functions independently. His authority extends over two vice-premiers, 30 ministers, two cabinet commission chairmen, the cabinet chief secretary, the president of the Central Bank, the director of the Central Statistics Bureau and the president of the Academy of Sciences. A 31st ministry, the Ministry of People's Armed Forces, is under the jurisdiction of the National Defence Commission. Population – 24,851,627, rank – 50. Area – 120,408, rank – 99. Density – 206, rank – 60.

GDP – \$40 billion, world rank – 106. GDP Per Capita - \$1,800, world rank – 198. GDP Real Growth Rate – 1.30%, rank – 167. Gross National Saving – na% of GDP, rank – na. Industrial Production Growth Rate – 0.50%, rank – 157. Unemployment Rate – na%, rank - na (no. 1 – no unemployment). Annual Average Wage: Disposable Income - \$na, rank - na; Compulsory Deduction - na%; Gross Income - \$na. Monthly Average Wage - \$na, rank - na. Median Household Income - \$na, Median Per-Capita Income – \$na, rank – na. Median Equivalised Disposable Household Income - \$na, rank - na. Income Inequality – Gini –na%, world rank – na (100% – the most unequal). Population Shares of the: Bottom Income Group below 75% - na%, Middle Income Group 75%-125% - na%, Top Income Group above 125% - na%.

Taxes and Other Revenues – 11.4% of GDP, rank – 206. Size of Shadow Economy – na% of GDP, rank - na, 1 – lowest size. Budget Deficit - -0.40% of GDP, rank – 55 (highest surplus – no. 1). External Debt - \$3 billion, rank – 137. Gross Government Debt as % of GDP – na%, Net - na% . Inflation Rate – na%, rank – na (lowest inflation – no. 1). Central Bank Discount Rate – na%, rank – na (highest rate – no. 1). Commercial Bank Prime Lending Rate – na%, rank – na (highest rate – no. 1).

Market Value of Public Traded Shares – \$na, rank - na. Current Account Balance - \$na, rank – na. Reserves of Foreign Exchange and Gold - \$na, rank –. HDI – 0,733, world rank – 156 (best – 1). Newsweek World's Best Countries 2010 – rank – na (1 is best). Inequality Adjusted HDI – score – na, rank – na. Gender Inequality Index: rank – na, value – na (most equal is no. 1 and closer to 0), na% share of seats in parliament. Poverty – na%, world rank – na (poorest – no. 1). Under \$1.25 a day – na%, under \$2 a day – na%. Poverty (Index Mundi) – na%, rank – na. Internet, IPR – na%. World Happiness Report – na, world rank – na (happiest – closest to 10, no. 1). Currency – 129 North Korean Won = 1US\$.

Corruption Perceptions Index— in 2014 - score of 8 (highest score of ethics is close to 100), rank - 174. 2013 - score - 8, 2012 - score - 8. 2005 - rank - na, score - na. 1996 - rank - na, score - na. 1995 - rank - na, score - na. Global Corruption Barometer - na%, rank - na (1 - Lowest Bribes). Where to Be Born/Quality of Life Index - score - na (highest - 10), rank - na (1-best). Freedom in the World Index - not free. Index of Economic Freedom - repressed. Press Freedom Index - very serious situation. Democracy Index - score - 1.08 (highest - 10), rank - 167, last (best - 1). Social Progress Index - score na (highest 100), rank - na, Basic Human Needs Index - score - na, rank - na, Foundations of Well-Being Index - score - na, rank - na, Opportunity Index - score - na, rank - na. GDP (PPP) per Hour Worked/Productivity - \$na, rank - na. Global Peace Index - score - 3.071 (most peaceful - closer to 1), rank - 153. Incarceration Rate - na per 100,000 population, rank - na (1-highest). Level of Discrimination (1.0 -lowest) - na, rank - na. Fragile States Index FSI - score - 93.8 (120 - most fragile), rank - 29, (1 - most fragile).

Global Competitiveness – na (highest – most competitive), rank – na (1 – most competitive). Financial Development Index – score – na, rank - na. Gross National Income Per Capita – GNI –US\$ na, rank no. 182. Total Health Expenditure Per Capita in PPP International \$na, in % of GDP – na%, rank no. - 192. Credit Rating – na (AAA – best). Education Index Pearson – score – na, rank - na. World Top 20 Education Poll – score – na, rank - na. U21 Higher Education – score – na, rank - na. Distribution of Wealth: Wealth Per Capita – na, rank – na, PPP\$ na, Wealth Per Adult – PPP\$ na, Wealth Gini – na (completely unequal – 1). Environmental Performance: Rank – no. na, score – na (highest – 100). Index of Globalization: Rank – no. na, Score – na (no. 1 is the closest to 100). List of membership in Organizations: see at the end of Part IV. List of Countries Comparisons and Links to other parameters: see Part V - Bibliography.





KOREA, SOUTH, Republic of Korea, Han-guk, in Eastern Asia, has 1 autonomous region, Jeju-do. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. An independent kingdom for much of its long history, Korea was occupied by Japan beginning in 1905 following the Russo-Japanese War. In 1910, Tokyo formally annexed the entire Peninsula. Korea regained its independence following Japan's surrender to the United States in 1945. After World War II, a democratic-based government (Republic of Korea, ROK) was set up in the southern half of the Korean Peninsula while a communist-style government was installed in the north (Democratic People's Republic of Korea, DPRK). During the Korean War (1950-53), US troops and UN forces fought alongside ROK soldiers to defend South Korea from a DPRK invasion supported by China and the Soviet Union. A 1953 armistice split the Peninsula along a demilitarized zone at about the 38th parallel. PARK Chung-hee took over leadership of the country in a 1961 coup. During his regime, from 1961 to 1979, South Korea achieved rapid economic growth,

with per capita income rising to roughly 17 times the level of North Korea. South Korea held its first free presidential election under a revised democratic constitution in 1987, with former ROK Army general ROH Tae-woo winning a close race. In 1993, KIM Young-sam (1993-98) became the first civilian president of South Korea's new democratic era. President KIM Dae-jung (1998-2003) won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2000 for his contributions to South Korean democracy and his "Sunshine" policy of engagement with North Korea. President PARK Geun-hye, daughter of former ROK President PARK Chung-hee, took office in February 2013 and is South Korea's first female leader. South Korea held a non-permanent seat (2013-14) on the UN Security Council and will host the 2018 Winter Olympic Games. Discord with North Korea has permeated inter-Korean relations for much of the past decade, highlighted by the North's attacks on a South Korean ship and island in 2010, multiple nuclear and missile tests, and the exchange of artillery fire across the DMZ.

South Korea over the past four decades has demonstrated incredible economic growth and global integration to become a high-tech industrialized economy. In the 1960s, GDP per capita was comparable with levels in the poorer countries of Africa and Asia. In 2004, South Korea joined the trillion-dollar club of world economies. A system of close government and business ties, including directed credit and import restrictions, initially made this success possible. The government promoted the import of raw materials and technology at the expense of consumer goods, and encouraged savings and investment over consumption. South Korea's tiger economy soared at an annual average of 10% for over 30 years in a period called the Miracle on the Han River, rapidly transforming it into an advanced developed country with Asia's highest income equality and the world's 11th largest economy by 1995. A long legacy of openness and focus in innovation made it successful. High civil liberties and freedom led to the rise of a globally influential pop culture such as K-pop and K-drama, a phenomenon called the Korean Wave, known for its distinctive fashionable and trendy style. Home of the UN Green Climate Fund and GGGI, South Korea is a leader in low carbon green growth, committed to helping developing countries as a major DAC contributor. South Korea is known for high quality brands like Samsung, the world's leading smartphone and TV maker, LG and Hyundai-Kia. South Korea was named the world's most innovative country in the Bloomberg Innovation Index, ranking first in business R&D intensity and patents filed per GDP. It has the world's fastest Internet speed and highest smartphone ownership, ranking first in ICT Development, e-Government, 4G LTE coverage and IoT devices online. The Asian financial crisis of 1997-98 exposed longstanding weaknesses in South Korea's development model, including high debt/equity ratios and massive short-term foreign borrowing. GDP plunged by 7% in 1998, and then recovered by 9% in 1999-2000. South Korea adopted numerous economic reforms following the crisis, including greater openness to foreign investment and imports. Growth moderated to about 4% annually between 2003 and 2007. South Korea's export focused economy was hit hard by the 2008 global economic downturn, but quickly rebounded in subsequent years, reaching over 6% growth in 2010. The US-Korea Free Trade Agreement was ratified by both governments in 2011 and went into effect in March 2012. Between 2012 and 2015, the economy experienced slow growth -2%-3% per year - due to sluggish domestic consumption and investment. South Korea faces the challenge of balancing heavy reliance on exports with developing domestic-oriented sectors, such as services. The South Korean economy's long-term challenges include a rapidly aging population, inflexible labor market, dominance of large conglomerates (chaebols), and the heavy reliance on exports, which comprise about half of GDP. In an effort to address the

long term challenges and sustain economic growth, the current government has prioritized structural reforms, deregulation, promotion of entrepreneurship and creative industries, and the competitiveness of small- and medium-sized enterprises.

Capital - Seoul. Language - Korean. Religion - Christian - 29%, Unaffiliated - 46%, Buddhist – 23%, Folk religion – 1%. Ethnics – homogenous, except for about 20,000 Chinese. Government - Under its current constitution the state is sometimes referred to as the Sixth Republic of South Korea. Like many democratic states, South Korea has a government divided into three branches: executive, judicial, and legislative. The executive and legislative branches operate primarily at the national level, although various ministries in the executive branch also carry out local functions. Local governments are semi-autonomous, and contain executive and legislative bodies of their own. The judicial branch operates at both the national and local levels. South Korea is a constitutional democracy. The South Korean government's structure is determined by the Constitution of the Republic of Korea. This document has been revised several times since its first promulgation in 1948 at independence. However, it has retained many broad characteristics and with the exception of the short-lived Second Republic of South Korea, the country has always had a presidential system with an independent chief executive. The first direct election was also held in 1948. Although South Korea experienced a series of military dictatorships from the 1960s up until the 1980s, it has since developed into a successful liberal democracy. Today, the CIA World Factbook describes South Korea's democracy as a "fully functioning modern democracy". South Korea is ranked 43rd on the Corruption Perceptions Index, with moderate control on corruption. Population – 49,039,986, rank – 27. Area – 96,920, rank – 109. Density – 506, rank – 23.



KOSOVO, Republic of Kosovo, Kosova, in Southern Europe, is claimed by Serbia. Kosovo unilaterally declared independence in 2008 and has received diplomatic recognition from many UN member states, it is formally under the administration of the UN Interim Administration mission in Kosovo. Kosovo is a member of the IMF and the World Bank, it has de facto control over most of the territory, with limited control in North Kosovo. Link to map. Link to essential data on de facto independent countries: Wikipedia, BBC, Quora, Polgeonow. While Serbia recognizes governance of the territory exclusively by Kosovo's elected government, it still continues to claim it as its own Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija, and the declaration of independence is contrary to the 2006 Constitution of Serbia. Kosovo is landlocked in the central Balkan Peninsula. In antiquity, the Dardanian Kingdom, and later the Roman province of Dardania was located in the region. It was part of Serbia in the Middle Ages, and many consider the Battle of Kosovo of 1389 to be one of the defining moments in Serbian medieval history. After being part of the Ottoman Empire from the 15th to the early 20th century, in the late 19th century Kosovo became the centre of the Albanian independence movement with the League of Prizren. As a result of the defeat in the First Balkan War (1912–13), the Ottoman Empire ceded the Vilayet of Kosovo to the Balkan League; the Kingdom of Serbia took its larger part, while the Kingdom of Montenegro annexed the western part before both countries became a part of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia after World War I. After a period of Yugoslav unitarianism in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, the post-World War II Yugoslav constitution established the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija within the Yugoslav constituent republic of Serbia.

Long-term severe ethnic tensions between Kosovo's Albanian and Serb populations left Kosovo ethnically divided, resulting in inter-ethnic violence, including the Kosovo War of 1998–99, part of the wider regional Yugoslav Wars. The war ended with a military intervention of NATO, which forced the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to withdraw its troops from Kosovo, which became a UN protectorate under UNSCR 1244. On 17 February 2008 Kosovo's Parliament declared independence. It has since gained diplomatic recognition as a sovereign state by 108 UN member states. Serbia refuses to recognize Kosovo as a state, although with the Brussels Agreement of 2013 it has accepted the legitimacy of Kosovo institutions. Today Kosovo is one of only two Muslim-majority territories on European mainland. Main constituent peoples of Kosovo are Kosovo Albanians, who make up majority of the population, and Kosovo Serbs. The country is poor by European standards with high unemployment, still not fully recovering from the past conflict. However Kosovo has been ranked as one of the most religiously tolerant nations in the world, by the IHEU.

Capital – Pristina. Language – Albanian, Serbian. Religion – Muslim – 87%, Christian – 11%, Unaffiliated – 2%. Ethnics – Albanian – 88%, Serb – 8%, Bosniak and Goran – 2%, Turk – 1%, Roma – 1%. Government – Republic, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. A wide range of legislation affecting minority communities requires not only a majority in the Assembly for passage or amendment, but also the agreement of a majority of those Assembly members who are Serbs or from other minorities. The Constitution provides extensive powers to the municipalities; boundaries of municipalities cannot be changed without their agreement. Three Serb-majority municipalities (North Mitrovica, Gračanica, and Štrpce) are directly given powers which other Kosovo municipalities do not have in the fields of university education and secondary health care; the constitutional right of Serb municipalities to associate and co-operate with each other means that, indirectly, they too have potential powers in these fields. Population – 1,859,203, rank – 151. Area – 10,887, rank – 169. Density – 171, rank – 74.



KURDISTAN, see Iraqi Kurdistan and Syrian Kurdistan.

KUWAIT, State of Kuwait, Al Kuwayt, in the Middle East, Western Asia. <u>Link to map</u>. Links to essential data: <u>CIA Factbook</u>, <u>Enc. Britannica</u>, <u>Wikipedia</u>, <u>Nations Online</u>, <u>UN Data</u>, <u>BBC</u>, <u>World Atlas</u>, <u>Countries/World</u>, <u>List/Countries</u>, <u>Index Mundi</u>, <u>Oper/World</u>, <u>Internet/Stats</u>. Member of the UN. Situated in the northern edge of Eastern Arabia at the tip of the Persian Gulf, it shares borders with Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Oil reserves were discovered in 1938.

From 1946 to 1982, the country underwent large-scale modernization. In the 1980s, Kuwait experienced a period of geopolitical instability and an economic crisis following the stock market crash. In 1990, Kuwait was invaded by Iraq. The Iraqi occupation came to an end in 1991 after military intervention by United States-led forces. At the end of the war, there were extensive efforts to revive the economy and rebuild national infrastructure. Kuwait is a constitutional emirate with a high income economy backed by the world's sixth largest oil reserves. The Kuwaiti dinar is the highest valued currency in the world. According to the World Bank, the country has the fourth highest per capita income in the world. The constitution was promulgated in 1962, making Kuwait the most politically progressive country in the region. In recent years, political instability has hindered the country's economic development. Kuwait has been ruled by the AL-SABAH dynasty since the 18th century. The threat of Ottoman invasion in 1899 prompted Amir Mubarak AL-SABAH to seek protection from Britain, ceding foreign and defense responsibility to Britain until 1961, when the country attained its independence. Kuwait was attacked and overrun by Iraq on 2 August 1990. Following several weeks of aerial bombardment, a US-led, UN coalition began a ground assault on 23 February 1991 that liberated Kuwait in four days. Kuwait spent more than \$5 billion to repair oil infrastructure damaged during 1990-91. The AL-SABAH family returned to power in 1991 and established one of the most independent legislatures in the Arab World. The country witnessed the historic election in 2009 of four women to its National Assembly. Amid the 2010-11 uprisings and protests across the Arab world, stateless Arabs, known as bidoon, staged small protests in February and March 2011 demanding citizenship, jobs, and other benefits available to Kuwaiti nationals. Youth activist groups - supported by opposition legislators - rallied repeatedly in 2011 for the prime minister's dismissal amid allegations of widespread government corruption, ultimately prompting the prime minister to resign in late 2011. Demonstrations, following a short lull, renewed in late 2012 in response to an Amiri decree amending the electoral law to reduce the number of votes per person from four to one. The opposition, led by a coalition of Sunni Islamists, tribalists, some liberals, and myriad youth groups, largely boycotted legislative elections in 2012 and 2013, which ushered in a legislature more amenable to the government's agenda. Since coming to power in 2006, the Amir has dissolved the National Assembly on five occasions (the Constitutional Court annulled the Assembly in June 2012 and again in June 2013) and shuffled the cabinet over a dozen times, usually citing political stagnation and gridlock between the legislature and the government.

Capital – Kuwait (City). Language – Arabic. Religion – Muslim – 74% - two thirds Sunni, one third Shia, Christian – 14%, Hindu – 9%, Buddhist – 3%. Ethnics – Kuwaiti – 31%, Other Arab – 28%, Asian – 38%, African – 2%, European and American – 1%. About 70% of the population are expatriates, however data on this topic is quite controversial. Government - Regionally, Kuwait is noted for having a robust public sphere and active civil society with greater freedom for political and social organizations that are parties in everything but name. Professional groups like the Chamber of Commerce maintain their autonomy from the government. The National Assembly is the legislature and has oversight authority. The National Assembly consists of fifty elected members, who are chosen in elections held every four years. Since the parliament can conduct inquiries into government actions and pass motions of no confidence, checks and balances are robust in Kuwait. The parliament can be dissolved under a set of conditions based on constitutional provisions. The Constitutional Court and Emir both have the power to dissolve the parliament, although the Constitutional Court can invalidate the Emir's dissolve. Executive power is executed by the government. The

Emir appoints the prime minister, who in turn chooses the ministers comprising the government. According to the constitution, at least one minister has to be an elected MP from the parliament. The parliament is often rigorous in holding the government accountable, government ministers are frequently interpellated and forced to resign. Kuwait has more government accountability and transparency than other GCC countries. Population -2.742.711, rank -141. Area -17.818, rank -158. Density -154, rank -75.



KYRGYZSTAN, Kyrgyz Republic, Kyrgyz Respublikasy, in Central Asia. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Kyrgyzstan formerly known as Kirghizia, is a landlocked country located in Central Asia. Kyrgyzstan's history spans over 2,000 years, encompassing a variety of cultures and empires. Although geographically isolated by its highly mountainous terrain – which has helped preserve its ancient culture – Kyrgyzstan has historically been at the crossroads of several great civilizations, namely as part of the Silk Road and other commercial and cultural routes. Though long inhabited by a succession of independent tribes and clans, Kyrgyzstan has periodically come under foreign domination and attained sovereignty as a nation-state only after the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991. Since independence, Kyrgyzstan has officially been a unitary parliamentary republic, although it continues to endure ethnic conflicts, revolts, economic troubles, transitional governments and political party conflicts. Ethnic Kyrgyz make up the majority of the country's people, followed by significant minorities of Uzbeks and Russians. The official language, Kyrgyz, is closely related to the other Turkic languages, although Russian remains widely spoken, a legacy of a century-long policy of Russification. The majority of the population (64 percent) are non-denominational Muslims. In addition to its Turkic origins, Kyrgyz culture bears elements of Persian, Mongolian and Russian influence. Kyrgyzstan was the second poorest country in the former Soviet Union, and is today the second poorest country in Central Asia. According to the CIA World Factbook, in 2011, a third of the country's population lived below the poverty line. According to UNDP, the level of poverty will continue to grow: in 2009 31% of the population lived below the poverty level while in 2011 it rose to 37%.

Capital – Bishkek. Language – Kyrgyz (national), Russian. Religion – Muslim – 88%, Christian – 11%. Ethnics – Kyrgyz – 65%, Uzbek – 14%, Russian – 13%, Dungan – 1%, Ukrainian – 1%, Uighur – 1%. Government – Republic, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 5,604,212, rank – 114. Area – 191,801, rank – 87. Density – 29, rank – 182.



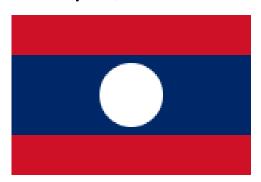
LAND PORTIONS ALONG THE DANUBE RIVER, as a consequence of the border dispute between Croatia and Serbia, there are some areas along the western bank of the Danube river that are unclaimed by Croatia and Serbia, see Terra Nullius.

LAOS, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lao, Lao: ສາທາລະນະລັດ ປະຊາທິປະໄຕ ປະຊາຊົນລາວ, pronounced [să:thá:lanalat pásá:thipátàj pásá:són lá:w] Sathalanalat Paxathipatai Paxaxon Lao), officially the Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR) (French: République démocratique populaire lao), or commonly referred to its colloquial name of Muang Lao (Lao: ເມືອງລາວ [mwan1]). A landlocked country in the heart of the Indochinese peninsula of Mainland Southeast Asia. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Present day Laos traces its historic and cultural identity to the kingdom of Lan Xang Hom Khao (Kingdom of a Million Elephants Under the White Parasol), which existed for four centuries as one of the largest kingdoms in Southeast Asia. Due to Lan Xang's central geographical location in Southeast Asia, the kingdom was able to become a popular hub for overland trade, becoming wealthy economically as well as culturally. After a period of internal conflict, Lan Xang broke off into three separate kingdoms— Luang Phrabang, Vientiane and Champasak. In 1893, it became a French protectorate, with the three territories uniting to form what is now known as Laos. It briefly gained independence in 1945 after Japanese occupation, but returned to French rule until it was granted autonomy in 1949. Laos became independent in 1953, with a constitutional monarchy under Sisavang Vong. Shortly after independence, a long civil war ended the monarchy, when the Communist Pathet Lao movement came to power in 1975. Laos is a one-party socialist republic. It espouses Marxism and is governed by a single party communist politburo dominated by military generals. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Vietnam People's Army continue to have significant influence in Laos. Laos' large cities include Luang Prabang, Savannakhet, and Pakse. Laos is a multi-ethnic country with the politically and culturally dominant Lao people making up approximately 60% of the population, mostly in the lowlands. Mon-Khmer groups, the Hmong, and other indigenous hill tribes, accounting for 40% of the population, live in the foothills and mountains.

Laos' strategy for development is based on generating electricity from its rivers and selling the power to its neighbours, namely Thailand, China, and Vietnam. Its economy is accelerating rapidly with the demands for its metals. According to the anti-corruption non-governmental organization Transparency International, Laos remains one of the most corrupt countries in the world. This has deterred foreign investment and created major problems with the rule of law, including the nation's ability to enforce contract and business regulation. This has contributed to a third of the population of Laos currently living below the international poverty line (living on less than US\$1.25 per day). Laos has a low-income economy, with one of the lowest annual incomes in the world. In 2014, the country ranked 141st on the Human Development Index, indicating lower medium development. According to the Global Hunger

Index (2015), Laos ranks as the 29th hungriest nation in the world out of the list of the 52 nations with the worst hunger situation(s). Laos has also had a poor human rights record.

Capital – Vientiane. Language – Lao. Religion – Buddhist – 66%, Folk religion – 31%, Christian – 2%. Ethnics – Lao – 55%, Khmou – 11%, Hmong – 8%, over 100 minor ethnic groups – 26%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, power constitutionally linked to a single political movement. Population – 6,803,699, rank – 104. Area – 230,800, rank – 84. Density – 29, rank – 181.



LATVIA, Republic of Latvia, Latvija, in the Baltic region of Northern Europe. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, World Atlas. Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, EU. The country has a temperate seasonal climate. Latvians and Livs are the indigenous people of Latvia. Latvian is an Indo-European language; it and Lithuanian are the only two surviving Baltic languages. Despite foreign rule from the 13th to 20th centuries, the Latvian nation maintained its identity throughout the generations via the language and musical traditions. Latvia and Estonia share a long common history. As a consequence of the Soviet occupation, both countries are home to a large number of ethnic Russians (26.9% in Latvia and 25.5% in Estonia), some of whom are non-citizens. Latvia is historically predominantly Protestant Lutheran, except for the Latgale region in the southeast, which has historically been predominantly Roman Catholic. The Republic of Latvia was founded on 18 November 1918. However, its de facto independence was interrupted at the outset of World War II. In 1940, the country was forcibly incorporated into the Soviet Union, invaded and occupied by Nazi Germany in 1941, and re-occupied by the Soviets in 1944 to form the Latvian SSR for the next fifty years. The peaceful Singing Revolution, starting in 1987, called for Baltic emancipation of Soviet rule. It ended with the Declaration on the Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Latvia on 4 May 1990, and restoring de facto independence on 21 August 1991. Latvia is a democratic and developed country and member of the European Union and NATO. For 2014, Latvia was listed 46th on the Human Development Index and as a high income country on 1 July 2014. It used the Latvian lats as its currency until it was replaced by the euro on 1 January 2014.

Capital – Riga. Language – Latvian. Religion – Christian – 56%, Unaffiliated – 44%. Ethnics – Latvian – 61%, Russian – 26%, Belarusian – 4%, Ukrainian – 2%, Polish – 2%, Lithuanian – 1%. Government – Republic, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 2,165,165, rank – 144. Area – 62,249, rank – 124. Density -35, rank – 175.



LEBANON, Lebanese Republic, Lubnan, in the Middle East, Western Asia. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Lebanon's location at the crossroads of the Mediterranean Basin and the Arabian hinterland facilitated its rich history and shaped a cultural identity of religious and ethnic diversity. The earliest evidence of civilization in Lebanon dates back more than seven thousand years, predating recorded history. Lebanon was the home of the Canaanites/Phoenicians and their kingdom, a maritime culture that flourished for over a thousand years (c. 1550-539 BC). In 64 BC, the region came under the rule of the Roman Empire, and eventually became one of the Empire's leading centers of Christianity. In the Mount Lebanon range a monastic tradition known as the Maronite Church was established. As the Arab Muslims conquered the region, the Maronites held onto their religion and identity. However, a new religious group, the Druze, established themselves in Mount Lebanon as well, generating a religious divide that has lasted for centuries. During the Crusades, the Maronites asserted their communion with Rome and Roman Catholic Church. The ties they established with the Latins have influenced the region into the modern era.

The region eventually came under the rule of the Ottoman Empire from 1516 to 1918. Following the collapse of the empire after World War I, the five provinces that constitute modern Lebanon were under the French Mandate of Lebanon. The French expanded the borders of the Mount Lebanon Governorate, which was mostly populated by Maronites and Druze, to include more Muslims. Lebanon gained independence in 1943, establishing a unique political system - confessionalism - a Consociationalism type of power sharing mechanism based on religious communities. Bechara El Khoury, first Lebanese president, Riad El-Solh, first Lebanese prime minister and Emir Majid Arslan II, first Lebanese minister of defence, are considered the founders of the modern Republic of Lebanon and are national heroes for having led the country's independence. Foreign troops withdrew completely from Lebanon on 31 December 1946. Before the Lebanese Civil War (1975–1990), the country experienced a period of relative calm and renowned prosperity, driven by tourism, agriculture, commerce, and banking. Because of its financial power and diversity in its heyday, Lebanon was referred to as the "Switzerland of the East" during the 1960s, and its capital Beirut attracted so many tourists that it was known as "the Paris of the Middle East". At the end of the war, there were extensive efforts to revive the economy and rebuild national infrastructure. Lebanese banks are high on liquidity and reputed for their security. Lebanon was one of the only seven countries in the world in which the value of the stock markets increased in 2008. The Syrian crisis has significantly affected Lebanese economic and financial situation. The demographic pressure imposed by the Syrian refugees now living in Lebanon has led to competition in the labour market. As a direct consequence unemployment has doubled in three years, reaching 20% in 2014. A loss of 14% of wages regarding the salary of less-skilled workers has also been registered. The financial constraints were also felt: the poverty rate increased with 170.000 Lebanese falling under the poverty threshold. In the period between 2012 and 2014, the public spending increased by \$1 billion and losses

amounted to \$7.5 billion. Expenditures related only to the Syrian refugees were estimated by the Central Bank of Lebanon as \$4.5 billion every year.

Capital – Beirut. Language – Arabic. Religion – Lebanon is the most religiously diverse country in the Middle East. As of 2014 the CIA World Factbook estimates the following: Muslim 54% (27% Shia Islam, 27% Sunni Islam), Christian 40.5% (includes 21% Maronite Catholic, 8% Greek Orthodox, 5% Melkite Catholic, 1% Protestant, 5.5% other Christian), Druze 5.6%. Ethnics - Arab - 95%, Armenian - 4%. Lebanon has witnessed a series of migration waves: over 1,800,000 people emigrated from the country in the 1975–2011 period. Millions of people of Lebanese descent are spread throughout the world, mostly Christians, especially in Latin America. Brazil has the largest expatriate population. Large numbers of Lebanese migrated to West Africa, particularly to the Ivory Coast (home to over 100,000 Lebanese) and Senegal (roughly 30,000 Lebanese). Australia is home to over 270,000 Lebanese (1999 est.). In Canada, there is also a large Lebanese diaspora of approximately 250,000–700,000 people having Lebanese descent. Another region with a significant diaspora is the Persian Gulf, where the countries of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar (around 25,000 people), Saudi Arabia and UAE act as host countries to many Lebanese. As of 2012, Lebanon was host to over 1,600,000 refugees and asylum seekers: 449,957 from Palestine, 5,986 from Iraq, over 1,100,000 from Syria, and 4,000 from Sudan. Their primary sources of income are UNRWA aid and menial labor sought in competition with about 500,000 Syrian guest workers. According to the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia of the United Nations, among the Syrian refugees, 71% live in poverty. The latest estimates by the United Nations put the number of Syrian refugees at more than 1,250,000. Government - Lebanon is a parliamentary democracy, which implements a special system known as confessionalism. This system is intended to deter sectarian conflict and attempts to fairly represent the demographic distribution of the 18 recognized religious groups in government. High-ranking offices are reserved for members of specific religious groups. The President, for example, has to be a Maronite Christian, the Prime Minister a Sunni Muslim, the Speaker of the Parliament a Shi'a Muslim, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Deputy Speaker of Parliament Eastern Orthodox. Until 1975, Freedom House considered Lebanon to be one of only two (together with Israel) politically free countries in the Middle East and North Africa region. The country lost this status with the outbreak of the Civil War, and has not regained it since 1975. Lebanon was rated as "Partly Free" in 2013. Even so, the United States still considers Lebanon to be one of the most democratic nations in the Arab world. Lebanon's national legislature is the unicameral Parliament of Lebanon. Its 128 seats are divided equally between Christians and Muslims, proportionately between the 18 different denominations and proportionately between its 26 regions. Prior to 1990, the ratio stood at 6:5 in favor of Christians; however, the Taif Agreement, which put an end to the 1975-1990 civil war, adjusted the ratio to grant equal representation to followers of the two religions. The Parliament is elected for a four-year term by popular vote on the basis of sectarian proportional representation. Population – 5,882,562, rank – 110. Area – 10,230, rank – 170. Density -575, rank -21.



LESOTHO, Kingdom of Lesotho, in Southern Africa, formerly known as Basutoland. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. The name Lesotho translates roughly into the land of the people who speak Sesotho. It is the only independent state in the world that lies entirely above 1,000 metres in elevation. Over 80% of the country lies above 1,800 metres. Lesotho is also the southernmost landlocked country in the world and is entirely surrounded by South Africa. Because of its altitude, Lesotho remains cooler throughout the year than other regions at the same latitude. Most of the rain falls as summer thunderstorms. Maseru and surrounding lowlands often reach 30 °C in summer. Winters can be cold with the lowlands getting down to -7 °C and the highlands to −18 °C at times. Snow is common in the highlands between May and September; the higher peaks can experience snowfalls year-round. Lesotho is geographically surrounded by South Africa and economically integrated with it as well. The economy of Lesotho is based on agriculture, livestock, manufacturing and mining, and depends heavily on inflows of workers' remittances and receipts from the Southern African Customs Union. The majority of households subsist on farming. The formal sector employment consists of mainly the female workers in the apparel sector, the male migrant labour, primarily miners in South Africa for 3 - 9 months and employment in the Government of Lesotho (GOL). The western lowlands form the main agricultural zone. Almost 50% of the population earn income through informal crop cultivation or animal husbandry with nearly two-thirds of the country's income coming from the agricultural sector. The percentage of the population living below USD Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) US\$1.25/day fell from 48% to 44% between 1995 - 2003. The country is among the "Low Human Development" countries (rank 160 of 187 on the Human Development Index) as classified by the UNDP, with 48.2 years of life expectancy at birth. Adult literacy is as high as 82%. Among the children below the age of 5 years, 20% are under weight. Nearly a quarter of the population is infected with HIV, and Lesotho faces high unemployment, economic collapse and a weak currency.

Lesotho has taken advantage of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) to become the largest exporter of garments to the US from sub-Saharan Africa. US brands and retailers sourcing from Lesotho include: Foot Locker, Gap, Gloria Vanderbilt, JCPenney, Levi Strauss, Saks, Sears, Timberland and Wal-Mart. In mid-2004 its employment reached over 50,000 mainly female workers, marking the first time that manufacturing sector workers outnumbered government employees. In 2008 it exported goods worth 487 million dollars mainly to the USA Since 2004 employment in the sector was somehow reduced to about 45,000, in mid-2011, due to intense international competition in the garment sector. It was the largest formal sector employer in Lesotho in 2011. In 2007, the average earnings of an employee in the textile sector were \$103 per month, and the official minimum wage for a general textile worker was \$93 per month. The average gross national income per capita in 2008 was \$83 per month. The sector initiated a major program to fight HIV/AIDS called Apparel Lesotho Alliance to Fight AIDS (ALAFA). It is an industry-wide program providing

prevention and treatment for the workers. Water and diamonds are Lesotho's significant natural resources. Water is utilised through the 21-year, multibillion-dollar Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP), under the authority of the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority. The project commenced in 1986. The LHWP is designed to capture, store, and transfer water from the Orange River system to South Africa's Free State and greater Johannesburg area, which features a large concentration of South African industry, population, and agriculture. Completion of the first phase of the project has made Lesotho almost completely self-sufficient in the production of electricity and generated approximately \$70 million in 2010 from the sale of electricity and water to South Africa. The World Bank, African Development Bank, European Investment Bank, and others financed the project.

Capital – Maseru. Language – Sesotho (national), English. Religion – Christian – 97%, Unaffiliated – 3%. Ethnics – Sotho – 99.7%, European, Asian and other – 0.3%. Government – Constitutional Monarchy, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. The Prime Minister is head of government and has executive authority. The King of Lesotho serves a largely ceremonial function; he no longer possesses any executive authority and is prohibited from actively participating in political initiatives. The Democratic Congress leads a coalition government in the National Assembly, the lower house of parliament. The upper house of parliament, called the Senate, is composed of twenty-two principal chiefs whose membership is hereditary, and eleven appointees of the king, acting on the advice of the prime minister. Population – 1,942,008, rank – 149. Area – 30,355, rank – 142. Density – 64, rank – 142.



LIBERIA, Republic of Liberia, in West Africa. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Liberia means "Land of the Free" in Latin. English is the official language and over 20 indigenous languages are spoken, representing the numerous tribes who make up more than 95% of the population. Forests on the coastline are composed mostly of salt-tolerant mangrove trees, while the more sparsely populated inland has forests opening onto a plateau of drier grasslands. The climate is equatorial, with significant rainfall during the May-October rainy season and harsh harmattan winds the remainder of the year. Liberia possesses about forty percent of the remaining Upper Guinean rainforest. It was an important producer of rubber in the early 20th century. The Republic of Liberia, beginning as a settlement of the American Colonization Society (ACS), declared its independence on July 26, 1847. The United States did not recognize Liberia's independence until during the American Civil War in 1862. Between January 7, 1822 and the American Civil War, more than 15,000 freed and free-born Black Americans from United States and 3,198 Afro-Caribbeans relocated to the settlement. The Black American settlers carried their culture with them to Liberia. The Liberian constitution and flag were modeled after the US. In 1848 Joseph Jenkins Roberts, a wealthy free-born Black American from Virginia who settled in Liberia, was elected as

Liberia's first president after the people proclaimed independence. Unlike other African countries, Liberia is the only African republic to have self-proclaimed independence without gaining independence through revolt from any other nation, being Africa's first and oldest republic. Liberia maintained and kept its independence during the European colonial era.

During World War II, Liberia supported the United States war efforts against Germany and in turn the United States invested in considerable infrastructure in Liberia to help its war effort, which also aided the country in modernizing and improving its major air transportation facilities. In addition, President William Tubman encouraged economic changes. Internationally, Liberia was a founding member of League of Nations, United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity. Longstanding political tensions from the 27 year rule of William Tubman resulted in a military coup in 1980 that overthrew the leadership soon after his death, marking the beginning of political instability. Five years of military rule by the People's Redemption Council and five years of civilian rule by the National Democratic Party of Liberia were followed by the First and Second Liberian Civil Wars. These resulted in the deaths and displacement of more than half a million people and devastated Liberia's economy. A peace agreement in 2003 led to democratic elections in 2005. Recovery proceeds but about 85% of the population live below the international poverty line. Liberia's economic and political stability was threatened in the 2010s by an Ebola virus epidemic; it originated in Guinea, entered Liberia in March 2014, and was declared officially ended on May 8, 2015.

Capital – Monrovia. Language – English. Religion – Chiritian – 86%, Muslim – 12%, Unaffiliated – 1%, Folk religion – 1%. Ethnics – Kpelle – 20%, Bassa – 13%, Grebo – 10%, Gio – 8%, Mano – 8%, Kru – 6%, Lorma – 5%, Kissi – 5%, Gola – 4%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 4,092,310, rank – 128. Area – 96,320, rank – 104. Density – 42, rank – 168.



LIBYA, State of Libya, Libyan Arab Jamahiri, in in the Maghreb region of North Africa, has one self-declared autonomous region – Cyrenaica. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. The three traditional parts of the country are Tripolitania, Fezzan and Cyrenaica. Libya is the fourth largest country in Africa, and is the 16th largest country in the world. Libya has the 10th-largest proven oil reserves of any country in the world. The largest city and capital, Tripoli, is located in western Libya and contains over one million of Libya's six million people. The other large city is Benghazi, which is located in eastern Libya. Libya has been inhabited by Berbers since the late Bronze Age. The Phoenicians established trading posts in western Libya, and Ancient Greek colonists established city-states in eastern Libya. Libya was variously ruled by Persians, Egyptians and Greeks before becoming a part of the Roman Empire. Libya was an early center of Christianity. After the fall of the Western Roman Empire, the area of Libya was mostly occupied by the Vandals until the 7th century, when invasions brought Islam and Arab colonization. In the sixteenth century, the Spanish Empire

and the Knights of St John occupied Tripoli, until Ottoman rule began in 1551. Libya was involved in the Barbary Wars of the 18th and 19th centuries. Ottoman rule continued until the Italian occupation of Libya resulted in the temporary Italian Libya colony from 1911 to 1943. During WWII Libya was an important area of warfare in the North African Campaign. The Italian population then went into decline. Libya became an independent kingdom in 1951. In 1969, a military coup overthrew King Idris I, beginning a period of sweeping social reform. The most prominent coup conspirator, Muammar Gaddafi, was ultimately able to fully concentrate power in his own hands during the Libyan Cultural Revolution, remaining in power until the Libyan Civil War of 2011, in which the rebels were supported by NATO. Since then, Libya has experienced instability and political violence which has severely affected both commerce and oil production. The European Union is involved in an operation to disrupt human trafficking networks exploiting refugees fleeing from the war for Europe.

With crude oil as the country's primary export, Gaddafi sought to improve Libya's oil sector. In October 1969, he proclaimed the current trade terms unfair, benefiting foreign corporations more than the Libyan state, and by threatening to reduce production, in December Jalloud successfully increased the price of Libyan oil. In 1970, other OPEC states followed suit, leading to a global increase in the price of crude oil. The RCC followed with the Tripoli Agreement, in which they secured income tax, back-payments and better pricing from the oil corporations; these measures brought Libya an estimated \$1 billion in additional revenues in its first year. Increasing state control over the oil sector, the RCC began a program of nationalization, starting with the expropriation of British Petroleum's share of the British Petroleum-N.B. Hunt Sahir Field in December 1971. In September 1973, it was announced that all foreign oil producers active in Libya were to be nationalized. For Gaddafi, this was an important step towards socialism. It proved an economic success; while gross domestic product had been \$3.8 billion in 1969, it had risen to \$13.7 billion in 1974, and \$24.5 billion in 1979. In turn, the Libyans' standard of life greatly improved over the first decade of Gaddafi's administration, and by 1979 the average per-capita income was at \$8,170, up from \$40 in 1951; this was above the average of many industrialized countries like Italy and the U.K. The Libyan economy depends primarily upon revenues from the oil sector, which accounts for 80% of GDP and 97% of exports. Libya holds the largest proven oil reserves in Africa and is an important contributor to the global supply of light, sweet crude. Apart from petroleum, the other natural resources are natural gas and gypsum. The IMF estimated Libya's real GDP growth at 122% in 2012 and 16.7% in 2013, after a 60% plunge in 2011. The World Bank defines Libya as an 'Upper Middle Income Economy', along with only seven other African countries. Substantial revenues from the energy sector, coupled with a small population, give Libya one of the highest per capita GDPs in Africa. This allowed the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya state to provide an extensive level of social security, particularly in the fields of housing and education. Libya faces many structural problems including a lack of institutions, weak governance, and chronic structural unemployment. The economy displays a lack of economic diversification and significant reliance on immigrant labour. Libya has traditionally relied on unsustainably high levels of public sector hiring to create employment. In the mid-2000s, the government employed about 70% of all national employees.

Capital – Tripoli. Language – Arabic, Berber. Religion – Muslim – 97%, Christian – 3%. Ethnics - Ethnically, the Libyan population is largely a mixture of Arab and Berber ethnicities. According to DNA studies, 90% of the Arab Libyan population descended from the Arab-Berber inter-ethnic mixture and the remaining 10% are Phoenicians, black Africans (especially in the south of the country) and other North African, Asian and European peoples. Government - At least two political bodies claim to be the government of Libya. The Council

of Deputies is internationally recognized as the legitimate government, but it does not hold territory in the capital, Tripoli, instead meeting in the Cyrenaica city of Tobruk. Meanwhile, the General National Congress (2014) purports to be the legal continuation of the General National Congress, elected in the Libyan General National Congress election, 2012 and was dissolved following the June 2014 elections but then reconvened by a minority of its members. The Supreme Court in the Libya Dawn and General National Congress-controlled Tripoli declared the Tobruk government unconstitutional in November 2014, but the internationally recognized government has rejected the ruling as made under threat of violence. Parts of Libya are outside of either government's control, with various Islamist, rebel, and tribal militias administering some cities and areas. The UN is sponsoring peace talks between the Tobruk and Tripoli-based factions. An agreement to form a unified interim government was signed on 17 December 2015. Under the terms of the agreement, a ninemember Presidency Council and a seventeen-member interim Government of National Accord would be formed, with a view to holding new elections within two years. The leaders of the new government, called the Government of National Accord, arrived in Tripoli on April 5, 2016. Since then the GNC, one of the two rival governments, has disbanded to support the new GNA. Population – 6,244,174, rank – 108. Area – 1,759,540, rank – 17. Density -3.55, rank -224.



LIECHTENSTEIN, Principality of Liechtenstein, (German: Fürstentum Liechtenstein), in Western Europe. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Liechtenstein is a doubly landlocked German-speaking microstate in Central Europe. It is a constitutional monarchy with the rank of principality, headed by the Prince of Liechtenstein. Liechtenstein is bordered by Switzerland to the west and south and Austria to the east and north. Divided into 11 municipalities, its capital is Vaduz and its largest city is Schaan. Economically, Liechtenstein has the third highest gross domestic product per person in the world when adjusted by purchasing power parity, after Qatar and Luxembourg, and the highest when not adjusted by purchasing power parity. The unemployment rate is one of the lowest in the world at 1.5%. An alpine country, Liechtenstein is mainly mountainous, making it a winter sport destination. Many cultivated fields and small farms are found both in the south (Oberland, *upper land*) and north (Unterland, lower land). The country has a strong financial sector centered in Vaduz. Liechtenstein is a member of the European Free Trade Association, and while not being a member of the EU, the country participates in both the Schengen Area and European Economic Area. It also has a customs union and a monetary union with Switzerland.

Capital – Vaduz. Language – German. Religion – Christian – 92%, Muslim – 5%, Unaffiliated – 3%. Ethnics - Population-wise, Liechtenstein is the fourth smallest country of Europe, after Vatican City, San Marino, and Monaco. Its population is primarily Alemannic-speaking, although its resident population is approximately one third foreign-born, primarily German speakers from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, other Swiss, Italians, and Turks.

Foreign-born people make up two-thirds of the country's workforce. Government – Constitutional Monarchy, executive head of state, monarch personally exercises power in concert with other institutions. The reigning Prince is the head of state and represents Liechtenstein in its international relations (although Switzerland has taken responsibility for much of Liechtenstein's diplomatic relations). The Prince may veto laws adopted by parliament. The Prince can call referenda, propose new legislation, and dissolve parliament, although dissolution of parliament may be subject to a referendum. Executive authority is vested in a collegiate government comprising the head of government (prime minister) and four government councilors (ministers). The head of government and the other ministers are appointed by the Prince upon the proposal and concurrence of parliament, thus reflecting the partisan balance of parliament. The constitution stipulates that at least two members of the government be chosen from each of the two regions. The members of the government are collectively and individually responsible to parliament; parliament may ask the Prince to remove an individual minister or the entire government. Population – 37,313, rank – 214. Area – 160, rank – 219. Density – 233, rank – 53.



LITHUANIA, Republic of Lithuania, Lietuva, in Northern Europe. One of the three Baltic states, it is situated along the southeastern shore of the Baltic Sea. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, EU. Lithuanians are a Baltic people. The official language, Lithuanian, along with Latvian, are the only two living languages in the Baltic branch of the Indo-European language family. For centuries, the southeastern shores of the Baltic Sea were inhabited by various Baltic tribes. In the 1230s, the Lithuanian lands were united by Mindaugas, the King of Lithuania, and the first unified Lithuanian state, the Kingdom of Lithuania, was created on 6 July 1253. During the 14th century, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was the largest country in Europe; present-day Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, and parts of Poland and Russia were the territories of the Grand Duchy. With the Lublin Union of 1569, Lithuania and Poland formed a voluntary two-state union, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The Commonwealth lasted more than two centuries, until neighboring countries systematically dismantled it from 1772-95, with the Russian Empire annexing most of Lithuania's territory. As World War I neared its end, Lithuania's Act of Independence was signed on 16 February 1918, declaring the establishment of a sovereign State of Lithuania. Starting in 1940, Lithuania was occupied first by the Soviet Union and then by Nazi Germany. As World War II neared its end in 1944 and the Germans retreated, the Soviet Union reoccupied Lithuania. On 11 March 1990, a year before the formal dissolution of the Soviet Union, Lithuania became the first Soviet republic to declare itself independent, resulting in the restoration of an independent State of Lithuania. Lithuania is a full member of the Schengen Agreement and NATO. The UN Human Development Index lists Lithuania as a "very high human development" country. Lithuania has been among the fastest growing economies in the EU and is ranked 20th in the world in the Ease of Doing Business Index. On 1 January 2015, Lithuania adopted the euro as the official currency.

Capital—Vilnius. Language — Lithuanian. Religion — Christian — 90%, Unaffiliated — 10%. Ethnics — Lithuanian — 84%, Polish — 7%, Russian — 6%, Belarusian — 1%. Government — Republic, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population — 3,505,738, rank — 134. Area — 62,680, rank — 123. Density — 56, rank — 151.



LORD HOWE ISLAND, unincorporated, self-governed, area of New South Wales, Australia. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Lord Howe Island is an irregularly crescent-shaped volcanic remnant in the Tasman Sea between Australia and New Zealand, 600 kilometres directly east of mainland Port Macquarie, and about 900 kilometres south-west of Norfolk Island. It is about 10 km long and between 2.0 km and 0.3 km wide with an area of 14.55 km², though just 3.98 km² of that comprises the low-lying developed part of the island. Along the west coast there is a sandy semi-enclosed sheltered coral reef lagoon. Most of the population lives in the north, while the south is dominated by forested hills rising to the highest point on the island, Mount Gower (875 m). The Lord Howe Island Group comprises 28 islands, islets and rocks. Apart from Lord Howe Island itself the most notable of these is the volcanic and uninhabited Ball's Pyramid about 23 kilometres to the south-east of Howe. To the north lies the Admiralty Group, a cluster of seven small uninhabited islands. The first reported sighting of Lord Howe Island took place on 17 February 1788 when Lieutenant Henry Lidgbird Ball, commander of the Armed Tender HMS Supply was on its way from Botany Bay to found a penal settlement on Norfolk Island. On the return journey Ball sent a party ashore on Lord Howe Island to claim it as a British possession. It subsequently became a provisioning port for the whaling industry, and was permanently settled in June 1834. When whaling declined, the 1880s saw the beginning of the worldwide export of the endemic kentia palms, which remains a key component of the Island's economy. The other continuing industry, tourism, began after World War II ended in 1945. The Lord Howe Island Group is part of the state of New South Wales and for legal purposes is regarded as an unincorporated area administered by the Lord Howe Island Board which reports to the New South Wales Minister for Environment and Heritage. The currency is the Australian dollar. Commuter airlines provide flights to Sydney, Brisbane, and Port Macquarie. UNESCO records the Lord Howe Island Group as a World Heritage Site of global natural significance. Most of the island is virtually untouched forest, with many of the plants and animals found nowhere else in the world. Other natural attractions include the diversity of the landscapes, the variety of upper mantle and oceanic basalts, the world's southernmost barrier coral reef, nesting seabirds, and the rich historical and cultural heritage. The Lord Howe Island Act of 1981 established a "Permanent Park Preserve" (covering about 70% of the island). The surrounding waters are a protected region designated the Lord Howe Island Marine Park. Early settlers were European and American whalers and many of their offspring have remained on the island for more than six generations. Residents are now involved with the kentia palm industry, tourism, retail, some fishing and farming.

Language – English. Religion - 30% Anglican, 22% no religion, 18% Catholic and 12% Seventh Day Adventist. Ethnics - 92% holding Australian citizenship. Government - In 1981 the *Lord Howe Island Amendment Act* gave islanders the administrative power of three members on a five-member Board. The Board also manages the Lord Howe Island Kentia Palm Nursery which, together with tourism, provides the island's only sources of external income. Under an amendment bill in 2004 the Board now comprises seven members, four of whom are elected from the islander community, thus giving about 350 permanent residents a high level of autonomy. The remaining three members are appointed by the Minister to represent the interests of business, tourism and conservation. The full Board meets on the island every three months while the day-to-day affairs of the island are managed by the Board's administration, with a permanent staff that had increased to 22 people by 1988. Population – 360, Area – 15, Density – 24. See also Australia.



LUGANSK, The Luhansk People's Republic (LPR or LNR), also known as Lugansk People's Republic (Russian: Луганская Народная Республика, tr. Luganskaya Narodnaya Respublika, LNR; Ukrainian: Луганська Народна Республіка, Luhanska Narodna Respublika) is a selfproclaimed state in eastern Ukraine, bordering the Russian Federation, the (also selfproclaimed) Donetsk People's Republic, and Ukraine itself. Along with the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic and the Republic of Crimea, the Luhansk People's Republic is one of what the Ukrainian government calls the "temporarily occupied territories". Link to map. Links to essential data: Wikipedia, BBC, Quora, Polgeonow. Following the Euromaidan protest movement and the overthrow of President Viktor Yanukovich in the 2014 Ukrainian revolution, local Antimaidan and pro-Russian protests intensified, culminating in the proclamation of the Luhansk People's Republic on 27 April 2014. The authorities of the Republic later held a referendum on 11 May to seek legitimacy for the proclamation, and subsequently declared independence on 12 May 2014. On 24 May 2014, the self-proclaimed government agreed to a merger with the Donetsk People's Republic into an unrecognized confederation known as Novorossiya (thereby making a reference to the corresponding historical region and its name). The Republic is recognised only by South Ossetia, which itself only has limited international recognition. On 20 May 2015 the leadership of the Federal State of Novorossiya announced the termination of the confederation 'project'. Ukraine classifies the Republic as a terrorist organization. The northern part of Luhansk Oblast, which is predominantly Ukrainian-speaking, has remained under Ukrainian control. Although the LPR lost control of much of the Oblast, and currently govern less than half of their territorial claim, the Ukrainian government estimates that about 64.4% of the population of the Oblast live under separatist rule. This is because the LPR's stronghold in the southern part of the Oblast is also the most densely populated area in the Oblast, and is the location of major cities like Luhansk, Alchevsk, and Krasnodon.

Capital – Luhansk. Official languages – Russian, Ukrainian. Religion - the Russian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate was declared the official religion. Ethnics – Russian,

Ukrainian. Government - The Luhansk People's Republic's parliament was called the *Supreme Soviet* and had 50 deputies. Population -2,239,500, Area -26,684, Density -84. See also Novorossiya.



LUXEMBOURG, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Letzebuerg, a land-locked country in Western Europe. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, EU. Luxembourg's capital Luxembourg City is together with Brussels and Strasbourg one of the three official capitals of the European Union and seat of the European Court of Justice, highest juridical instance in the EU. Its culture, people and languages are highly intertwined with its neighbors, making it essentially a mixture of French and Germanic cultures. The repeated invasions by its neighbor countries, especially in World War II, resulted in the country's strong will for mediation between France and Germany and led to the foundation of the European Union. Luxembourg comprises two principal regions: the Oesling in the north as part of the Ardennes massif, and the Gutland ("Good Land") in the south. With an area of 2,586 square kilometres, it is one of the smallest sovereign states in Europe (about the same size as the state of Rhode Island or the English county of Northamptonshire). Luxembourg had a population of 524,853 in October 2012, ranking it the 8th least-populous country in Europe. As a representative democracy with a constitutional monarch, it is headed by a grand duke, Henri, Grand Duke of Luxembourg, and is the world's only remaining grand duchy. Luxembourg is a developed country, with an advanced economy and the world's highest GDP (PPP) per capita, according to the United Nations in 2014. Its central location has historically made it of great strategic importance to numerous powers, dating back to its founding as a Roman fortress, its hosting of a vital Frankish castle during the Early Middle Ages, and its role as a bastion for the Spanish Road between the 16th and 17th centuries. Luxembourg is a founding member of the European Union, OECD, United Nations, NATO, and Benelux, reflecting its political consensus in favor of economic, political, and military integration. The city of Luxembourg, which is the country's capital and largest city, is the seat of several institutions and agencies of the EU. Luxembourg served on the United Nations Security Council for the years 2013 and 2014, which was a first in the country's history. In 2016, Luxembourgish citizens had visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 172 countries and territories, ranking the Luxembourgian passport 6th in the world, tied with states like Canada or Switzerland. The industrial sector, which was dominated by steel until the 1960s, has since diversified to include chemicals, rubber, and other products. During the past decades, growth in the financial sector has more than compensated for the decline in steel production. Services, especially banking and finance, account for the majority of economic output. Luxembourg is the world's second largest investment fund centre (after the US), the most important private banking centre in the eurozone and Europe's leading centre for reinsurance companies. Moreover, the Luxembourg government has aimed to attract internet start-ups, with Skype and Amazon being two of the many internet companies that have shifted their regional headquarters to Luxembourg.

Capital – Luxembourg. Language – Luxembourgish (national), German, French. Religion – Christian – 70%, Unaffiliated – 27%, Muslim – 2%. Ethnics – Luxembourger – 63%, Portuguese – 13%, French – 5%, Italian – 4%, German – 2%, Other EU – 7%. Government – Constitutional monarchy, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 520,672, rank – 174. Area – 2,586, rank – 179. Density – 201, rank – 64.

MACAO or Macau, Aomen, in Eastern Asia, is a city which is one of the Special Administrative Regions (SAR) of the People's Republic of China, formerly it was a Portuguese colony, 中華人民共和國澳門特別行政區 Região Administrativa Especial de Macau da República Popular da China. Macao is a autonomous territory on the southern coast of China. Macau lies on the western side of the Pearl River Delta across from Hong Kong, which is about 64 kilometers to the east, and it is also bordered by Guangdong of Mainland China to the north and the South China Sea to the east and south. Macao it is the most densely populated region in the world. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. As Portuguese Macau, it was administered by the Portuguese Empire and its inheritor states from the mid-16th century until late 1999, when it was the last remaining European colony in Asia under Portugal. Portuguese traders first settled in Macau in the 1550s. In 1557, Macau was rented to Portugal from Ming China as a trading port. The Portuguese Empire administered the city under Chinese authority and sovereignty until 1887, when Macau became a colony. Sovereignty over Macau was transferred to China on 20 December 1999. The Joint Declaration on the Question of Macau and Macau Basic Law stipulate that Macau operate with a high degree of autonomy until at least 2049, fifty years after the transfer. Under the policy of "one country, two systems", the State Council of the People's Republic of China is responsible for military defense and foreign affairs while Macau maintains its own legal system, the public security force, monetary system, customs policy, and immigration policy. Macau participates in many international organizations and events that do not require members to possess national sovereignty. Macau is one of the world's richest cities, and as of 2013 its GDP per capita by purchasing power parity is higher than that of any country in the world, according to the World Bank. It became the world's largest gambling centre in 2006, with the economy heavily dependent on gambling and tourism, as well as manufacturing. Cantonese people from Hong Kong and Guangdong, in addition to the recent mainland tourism from Mandarin-speaking regions, have boosted the economy of Macau significantly. According to The World Factbook, Macau has the fourth highest life expectancy in the world. Moreover, it is one of only a few regions in Asia with a "very high Human Development Index", ranking 14th as of 2013.

Language – Cantonese, Mandarin, Portuguese, Macanese. Religion – Folk religion – 59%, Unaffiliated – 15%, Buddhist – 17%, Christian – 7%. Ethnics – Chinese – 92%, Portuguese – 1%, Mixed – Macanese with mixed Portuguese and Asian ancestry and others – 6%. Government - The legislative organ of the territory is the Legislative Assembly, a 33-member

body comprising 14 directly elected members, 12 indirectly elected members representing functional constituencies and seven members appointed by the chief executive. Any permanent residents at or over 18 years of age are eligible to vote in direct elections. Indirect election is limited to organizations registered as "corporate voters" and a 300-member election committee drawn from broad regional groupings, municipal organizations, and central government bodies. Population – 587,914, rank – 170. Area – 28, rank – 237. Density – 20,848, rank – 1.



MACEDONIA, Republic of Macedonia, Makedonija, Македонија, tr. Makedonija, is a country in the Balkan peninsula in Southeast Europe. Because of the Macedonia naming dispute with Greece, it is referred to by the UN and a number of states and international organizations as "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia". Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. It is one of the successor states of the former Yugoslavia, from which it declared independence in 1991. A landlocked country, it constitutes approximately the northwestern third of the larger geographical region of Macedonia, which also comprises the neighbouring parts of northern Greece and smaller portions of southwestern Bulgaria and southeastern Albania. It has over fifty lakes, and sixteen mountains higher than 2,000 m. Since 2005 it has been a candidate for joining the European Union and has applied for NATO membership. Ranked as the fourth "best reformatory state" out of 178 countries ranked by the World Bank in 2009, Macedonia has undergone considerable economic reform since independence. The country has developed an open economy with trade accounting for more than 90% of GDP in recent years. Since 1996, Macedonia has witnessed steady, though slow, economic growth. The government has proven successful in its efforts to combat inflation and has implemented policies focused on attracting foreign investment and promoting the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The current government introduced a flat tax system with the intention of making the country more attractive to foreign investment. The flat tax rate was 12% in 2007 and was further lowered to 10% in 2008. The country's unemployment rate in the first quarter of 2015 decreased to 27.3%. Government's policies and efforts in regards to foreign direct investments have resulted with the establishment of local subsidiaries of several world leading manufacturing companies, especially from the automotive industry, such as: Johnson Controls Inc., Van Hool NV, Johnson Matthey plc, Lear Corp., Visteon Corp., Kostal GmbH, Gentherm Inc., Dräxlmaier Group, Kromberg & Schubert, Marquardt GmbH, Amphenol Corp., Tekno Hose SpA, KEMET Corp., Key Safety Systems Inc., ODW-Elektrik GmbH, etc. Macedonia has one of the highest shares of people struggling financially, with 72% of its citizens stating that they could only manage on their household's income "with difficulty" or "with great difficulty". Corruption and a relatively ineffective legal system also act as significant restraints on successful economic development. Macedonia still has one of the lowest per capita GDPs in Europe. Furthermore, the country's grey market is estimated at close to 20% of GDP.

Capital – Skopje. Language – Macedonian. Religion – Christian – 59%, Muslim – 39%, Unaffiliated – 1%. Ethnics – Macedonian – 64%, Albanian – 25%, Turkish – 4%, Roma – 3%, Serb – 2%. Government – Republic, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 2,091,719, rank – 147. Area – 25,433, rank – 150. Density – 82, rank – 121.



MACQUARIE ISLAND, uninhabited territory of Tasmania, Australia. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Macquarie Island lies in the southwest Pacific Ocean, about half-way between New Zealand and Antarctica. Politically a part of Tasmania, Australia, since 1900, it became a Tasmanian State Reserve in 1978, and a World Heritage Site in 1997. It was a part of Esperance Municipality until 1993 when the municipality was merged with other municipalities to Huon Valley. The island is home to the entire royal penguin population during their annual nesting season. Ecologically, the island is part of the Antipodes Subantarctic Islands tundra ecoregion. Since 1948 the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) has maintained a permanent base, the Macquarie Island Station, on the isthmus at the northern end of the island at the foot of Wireless Hill. The population of the base, the island's only human inhabitants, usually varies from 20 to 40 people over the year. A heliport is located near the base. The Australian/Briton Frederick Hasselborough discovered the uninhabited island accidentally on 11 July 1810 when looking for new sealing grounds. He claimed Macquarie Island for Britain and annexed it to the colony of New South Wales in 1810. The island took its name after Colonel Lachlan Macquarie, Governor of New South Wales from 1810 to 1821. Hasselborough reported a wreck "of ancient design", which has given rise to speculation that the island may have been visited before by Polynesians or others.

Fabian Gottlieb von Bellingshausen, who explored the area for Alexander I of Russia, produced the first map of Macquarie Island. Bellingshausen landed on the island on 28 November 1820, defined its geographical position and traded his rum and food for Macquarie Island's fauna with the sealers. Between 1810 to 1919, seals and then penguins were hunted almost to the point of extinction. The conditions on the island and the surrounding seas were considered so harsh that a plan to use it as a penal settlement was rejected. In 1877, the crew of the schooner *Bencleugh* was shipwrecked on the islands for four months; folklore says they came to believe there was hidden treasure on the island. The ship's owner, John Sen Inches Thomson, wrote a book on his sea travels, including his time on the island. The book, written in 1912, was entitled *Voyages and Wanderings In Far-off Seas and Lands*. In 1890, New South Wales transferred the island to Tasmania, which leased it to Joseph Hatch (1837–1928) between 1902 and 1920 for his oil industry based on harvesting penguins. Between 1911 and 1914, the island became a base for the Australasian Antarctic Expedition. George Ainsworth

operated a meteorological station between 1911 and 1913, followed by Harold Power (1913 to 1914) and by Arthur Tulloch from 1914 until it was shut down in 1915.

In 1933, the authorities declared the island a wildlife sanctuary under the Tasmanian Animals and Birds Protection Act 1928, and in 1972 it was made a State Reserve under the Tasmanian National Parks and Wildlife Act 1970. The Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions (ANARE) established its expedition headquarters on 25 May 1948 on Macquarie Island. On 5 December 1997, Macquarie Island was listed as a World Heritage Site mainly because of its unique geological features. On 23 December 2004, an earthquake measuring 8.1 on the Richter magnitude scale (one of the largest earthquakes ever recorded) rocked the island but caused little damage. On 12 April 2008, a 7.1 earthquake on the Macquarie Fault occurred near Macquarie Island. Geoscience Australia issued a Tsunami Inundation Advice for Macquarie Island Station. The paper indicates that in certain scenarios no warning of a significant tsunami caused by a local earthquake could be provided and would inundate the isthmus upon which the existing station resides. Such a Tsunami would likely affect other parts of the coastline and field huts located close to the shore. Such a significant earthquake at Macquarie Island capable of causing such a Tsunami is a high risk according to several papers. The island is about 34 km long and 5 km wide, with an area of 128 km². Near Macquarie Island are two small groups of minor islands, the Judge and Clerk Islets - 0.2 km² and the Bishop and Clerk Islets - 0.6 km² in area. The Bishop and Clerk Islets are part of the Australian state of Tasmania and mark the southernmost point of Australia (including islands). See also Australia.

MADAGASCAR, (Malagasy: Madagasikara), officially the Republic of Madagascar (Malagasy: Repoblikan'i Madagasikara; French: République de Madagascar), and previously known as the Malagasy Republic, is an island country in the Indian Ocean, off the coast of Southeast Africa. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. The nation comprises the island of Madagascar (the fourth-largest island in the world), as well as numerous smaller peripheral islands. Following the prehistoric breakup of the supercontinent Gondwana, Madagascar split from the Indian peninsula around 88 million years ago, allowing native plants and animals to evolve in relative isolation. Consequently, Madagascar is a biodiversity hotspot; over 90% of its wildlife is found nowhere else on Earth. The island's diverse ecosystems and unique wildlife are threatened by the encroachment of the rapidly growing human population and other environmental threats. The first archaeological evidence for human foraging on Madagascar dates to 2000 BC. Human settlement of Madagascar occurred between 350 BC and AD 550 by Austronesian peoples arriving on outrigger canoes from Borneo. These were joined around AD 1000 by Bantu migrants crossing the Mozambique Channel from East Africa. Other groups continued to settle on Madagascar over time, each one making lasting contributions to Malagasy cultural life. The Malagasy ethnic group is often divided into 18 or more sub-groups of which the largest are the Merina of the central highlands.

Until the late 18th century, the island of Madagascar was ruled by a fragmented assortment of shifting sociopolitical alliances. Beginning in the early 19th century, most of the island was united and ruled as the Kingdom of Madagascar by a series of Merina nobles. The monarchy collapsed in 1897 when the island was absorbed into the French colonial empire, from which the island gained independence in 1960. The autonomous state of Madagascar has since undergone four major constitutional periods, termed republics. Since 1992, the nation has officially been governed as a constitutional democracy from its capital at Antananarivo.

However, in a popular uprising in 2009, president Marc Ravalomanana was made to resign and presidential power was transferred in March 2009 to Andry Rajoelina. Constitutional governance was restored in January 2014, when Hery Rajaonarimampianina was named president following a 2013 election deemed fair and transparent by the international community. In 2012, 90% of Madagascar's population lived on less than \$2 per day. Malagasy and French are both official languages of the state. The majority of the population adheres to traditional beliefs, Christianity, or an amalgamation of both. Ecotourism and agriculture, paired with greater investments in education, health, and private enterprise, are key elements of Madagascar's development strategy. Under Ravalomanana, these investments produced substantial economic growth, but the benefits were not evenly spread throughout the population, producing tensions over the increasing cost of living and declining living standards among the poor and some segments of the middle class. As of 2014, the economy has been weakened by the recently concluded political crisis, and quality of life remains low for the majority of the Malagasy population.

Capital - Antananarivo. Language - Malagasy (official and national), French (official). Religion – Christian – 85%, Muslim – 3%, Unaffiliated – 7%, Folk religion – 5%. Ethnics -The Malagasy ethnic group forms over 90 percent of Madagascar's population and is typically divided into eighteen ethnic sub-groups. Recent DNA research revealed that the genetic makeup of the average Malagasy person constitutes an approximately equal blend of Southeast Asian and East African genes, although the genetics of some communities show a predominance of Southeast Asian or East African origins or some Arab, Indian or European ancestry. Southeast Asian origins – specifically from the southern part of Borneo – are most predominant among the Merina of the central highlands, who form the largest Malagasy ethnic sub-group at approximately 26 percent of the population, while certain communities among the coastal peoples (collectively called *côtiers*) have relatively stronger East African origins. The largest coastal ethnic sub-groups are the Betsimisaraka (14.9 percent) and the Tsimihety and Sakalava (6 percent each). Chinese, Indian and Comorian minorities are present in Madagascar, as well as a small European (primarily French) populace. Emigration in the late 20th century has reduced these minority populations, occasionally in abrupt waves, such as the exodus of Comorans in 1976, following anti-Comoran riots in Mahajanga. By comparison, there has been no significant emigration of Malagasy peoples. The number of Europeans has declined since independence, reduced from 68,430 in 1958 to 17,000 three decades later. There were an estimated 25,000 Comorans, 18,000 Indians, and 9,000 Chinese living in Madagascar in the mid-1980s. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency independent of legislature, ministry subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 23,201,926, rank – 53. Area – 581,540, rank – 47. Density – 40, rank – 169.



MADEIRA – Madeira is a Portuguese archipelago situated in the north Atlantic Ocean, west and slightly south of Portugal. Since 1976, the archipelago has been one of the two Autonomous regions of Portugal (the other being the Azores, located to the northwest). It

includes the islands of Madeira, Porto Santo, and the Desertas, administered together with the separate archipelago of the Savage Islands. It is an outermost region of the European Union. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Its total population was estimated in 2011 at 267,785. The capital of Madeira is Funchal on the main island's south coast. It is just under 400 kilometres north of Tenerife, Canary Islands. Madeira was claimed by Portuguese sailors in the service of Prince Henry the Navigator in 1419 and settled after 1420. The archipelago is considered to be the first territorial discovery of the exploratory period of the Portuguese Age of Discovery, which extended from 1415 to 1542. Its southerly marine position renders the warmest year-round subtropical climate in Portugal, with winters being extremely mild and summers long but with relatively modest heat. Today, it is a popular year-round resort, being visited every year by about one million tourists. The region is noted for its Madeira wine, gastronomy, historical and cultural value, its endemic flora and fauna, landscapes (Laurel forest) which are classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and embroidery artisans. Its annual New Year celebrations feature the largest fireworks show in the world, as officially recognized by Guinness World Records in 2006. The main harbour in Funchal is the leading Portuguese port in cruise liner dockings, being an important stopover for commercial and trans-Atlantic passenger cruises between Europe, the Caribbean and North Africa. Madeira is the second richest region of Portugal by GDP per capita, being only surpassed by Lisbon.

Capital – Funchal, Language – Portuguese, Religion – mostly Catholic church, Ethnics – essentially White Europeans, with minor West African (mainly Senegambian) and North African. Government – autonomous region of Portugal. Presidents of the Regional Government of Madeira are heads of government for the autonomous local authority of Madeira, since the Carnation Revolution that installed the democratic Third Portuguese Republic. The presidents were designated after the institutionalization of the autonomy statute that provided archipelago with its laws and democratic rights. Following the first elections, held on 27 June 1976, the leader of the first party was installed as first President of the Regional Government of Madeira (Jaime Ornelas Camacho), responsible for forming his executive and cabinet to administer the functioning of the public service in Madeira. Population – 267,785, Area – 801, Density – 801. See also Portugal.



MALAWI, Republic of Malawi, formerly known as Nyasaland, a landlocked country in southeast Africa. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. The country is separated from Tanzania and Mozambique by Lake Malawi. The name Malawi comes from the Maravi, an old name of the Nyanja people that inhabit the area. The country is also nicknamed "The Warm Heart of Africa". Malawi is among the smallest countries in Africa. Lake Malawi takes about a third of Malawi's area. The area of Africa now known as Malawi was settled by

migrating Bantu groups around the 10th century. Centuries later in 1891 the area was colonized by the British. In 1953 Malawi, then known as Nyasaland, a protectorate of the United Kingdom, became a protectorate within the semi-independent Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. The Federation was dissolved in 1963. In 1964 the protectorate over Nyasaland was ended and Nyasaland became an independent country under Queen Elizabeth II with the new name Malawi. Two years later it became a republic. Upon gaining independence it became a one-party state under the presidency of Hastings Banda, who remained president until 1994, when he lost an election. Peter Mutharika is the current president. Malawi has a democratic, multi-party government. Malawi has a small military force that includes an army, a navy and an air wing. Malawi's foreign policy is pro-Western and includes positive diplomatic relations with most countries and participation in several international organizations, including the United Nations, the Commonwealth of Nations and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Malawi is among the world's leastdeveloped countries. The economy is heavily based in agriculture, with a largely rural population. The Malawian government depends heavily on outside aid to meet development needs, although this need (and the aid offered) has decreased since 2000. The Malawian government faces challenges in building and expanding the economy, improving education, health care, environmental protection, and becoming financially independent. Since 2005, Malawi has developed several programs that focus on these issues, and the country's outlook appears to be improving, with a rise in the economy, education and healthcare seen in 2007 and 2008. Malawi has a low life expectancy and high infant mortality. There is a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS, which is a drain on the labour force and government expenditures. There is a diverse population of native peoples, Asians and Europeans, with several languages spoken and an array of religious beliefs. Although there was periodic regional conflict fuelled in part by ethnic divisions in the past, by 2008 it had diminished considerably and the concept of a Malawian nationality had re-emerged.

Capital – Lilongwe. Language – English, Chichewa (national). Religion – Christian – 83%, Muslim – 13%, Unaffiliated – 2%, Folk religion – 2%. Ethnics – Chewa – 33%, Lomwe – 18%, Yao – 14%, Ngoni – 11%, Tumbuka – 9%, Nyanja – 6%, Sena – 4%, Tonga – 2%, Ngonde – 1%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 17,377,468, rank – 64. Area – 94,080, rank – 100. Density – 185, rank – 69.



MALAYSIA, in Southern Asia, is a federatal constitutional monarchy consisting of 13 states and 3 federal territories. <u>Link to map</u>. Links to essential data: <u>CIA Factbook</u>, <u>Enc. Britannica</u>, <u>Wikipedia</u>, <u>Nations Online</u>, <u>UN Data</u>, <u>BBC</u>, <u>World Atlas</u>, <u>Countries/World</u>, <u>List/Countries</u>, <u>Index Mundi</u>, <u>Oper/World</u>, <u>Internet/Stats</u>. Member of the UN, CW. Malaysia has two similarly sized regions, Peninsular Malaysia and East Malaysia (Malaysian Borneo). The capital city is Kuala Lumpur, while Putrajaya is the seat of the federal government. The southernmost point of continental Eurasia, Tanjung Piai, is in Malaysia. Located in the

tropics, Malaysia is one of 17 megadiverse countries on earth, with large numbers of endemic species. Malaysia has its origins in the Malay kingdoms present in the area which, from the 18th century, became subject to the British Empire. The first British territories were known as the Straits Settlements, whose establishment was followed by the Malay kingdoms becoming British protectorates. The territories on Peninsular Malaysia were first unified as the Malayan Union in 1946. Malaya was restructured as the Federation of Malaya in 1948, and achieved independence on 31 August 1957. Malaya united with North Borneo, Sarawak, and Singapore on 16 September 1963. Less than two years later in 1965, Singapore was expelled from the federation. The country is multi-ethnic and multi-cultural, which plays a large role in politics. The constitution declares Islam the state religion while allowing freedom of religion for non-Muslims. The government system is closely modelled on the Westminster parliamentary system and the legal system is based on common law. The head of state is the king, known as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong. He is an elected monarch chosen from the hereditary rulers of the nine Malay states every five years. The head of government is the prime minister. Since its independence, Malaysia has had one of the best economic records in Asia, with its GDP growing at an average of 6.5% per annum for almost 50 years. The economy has traditionally been fuelled by its natural resources, but is expanding in the sectors of science, tourism, commerce and medical tourism. Today, Malaysia has a newly industrialized market economy, ranked third largest in Southeast Asia and 29th largest in the world.

Capital – Kuala Lumpur (official), Putrajaya (administrative). Language – Bahasa Malaysia (national), English (official). Religion – Muslim – 64%, Christian – 9%, Buddhist – 18%, Hindu – 6%, Folk religion – 2%, Unaffiliated – 1%. Ethnics – Malay – 50%, Chinese – 23%, Indigenous – 12%, Indian – 7%, Non-Citizens – 8%. Government – Constitutional monarchy, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 30,073,353, rank – 34. Area – 328,657, rank – 67. Density – 92, rank – 114.



MALDIVES, Republic of Maldives, Dhivehi Raajje, in South-Central Asia. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, World Atlas. Countries/World. List/Countries, Index Mundi. Oper/World. BBC. Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. Maldives is an island country and archipelago in the Indian Ocean. It lies southwest of India and Sri Lanka. The chain of 26 atolls stretches from Ihavandhippolhu Atoll to the Addu Atoll. The capital is Malé, traditionally called the "King's Island." Historically linked with the Indian subcontinent, Maldives is a Muslim-majority country. From the mid-sixteenth century colonial powers dominated the islands: Portugal, the Netherlands and Britain. The islands gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1965, becoming a republic in 1968. The country is ruled by a president and its government is authoritarian. The Maldivian economy is dominated by tourism and fishing. The World Bank classifies the country as having an upper middle income economy. Encompassing a territory spread over roughly 90,000 square kilometres, Maldives is one of the world's most geographically dispersed countries. It is the smallest Asian country in both land area and in population. The archipelago is located atop the Chagos-Maldives-Laccadive Ridge, a vast submarine mountain range in the Indian Ocean, which also forms a terrestrial ecoregion, together with the Chagos and the Lakshadweep. With an average ground-level elevation of 1.5 metres above sea level, it is the planet's lowest country. It is also the country with the lowest natural highest point in the world, at 2.4 metres. The government has pledged to make Maldives a carbon-neutral country by 2019 amid concerns about rising sea-levels.

Capital – Male. Language – Dhivehi. Religion – Muslim – 98%, Buddhist – 1%. Ethnics – The largest ethnic group are Dhivehis, native to the historic region of the Maldive Islands comprising today's Republic of Maldives and the island of Minicoy in Union territory of Lakshadweep, India. They share the same culture and speak the Dhivehi language. They are principally an Indo-Aryan people, closely related to the Sinhalese having traces of Arab, Malay, South Indian and African genes in the population. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 393,595, rank – 177. Area – 298, rank – 210. Density – 1,321, rank – 9.



MALI, Republic of Mali, a landlocked country in northwest Africa. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Mali consists of eight regions and its borders on the north reach deep into the middle of the Sahara Desert, while the country's southern part, where the majority of inhabitants live, features the Niger and Senegal rivers. The country's economy centers on agriculture and fishing. Some of Mali's prominent natural resources include gold, being the third largest producer of gold in the African continent, and salt. About half the population lives below the international poverty line of \$1.25 (U.S.) a day. Present-day Mali was once part of three West African empires that controlled trans-Saharan trade: the Ghana Empire, the Mali Empire (for which Mali is named), and the Songhai Empire. During its golden age, there was a flourishing of mathematics, astronomy, literature, and art. At its peak in 1300, the Mali Empire covered an area about twice the size of modern-day France and stretched to the west coast of Africa. In the late 19th century, during the Scramble for Africa, France seized control of Mali, making it a part of French Sudan. French Sudan (then known as the Sudanese Republic) joined with Senegal in 1959, achieving independence in 1960 as the Mali Federation. Shortly thereafter, following Senegal's withdrawal from the federation, the Sudanese Republic declared itself the independent Republic of Mali. After a long period of one-party rule, a coup in 1991 led to the writing of a new constitution and the establishment of Mali as a democratic, multi-party state. In January 2012, an armed conflict broke out in northern Mali, which Tuareg rebels took control of by April and declared the secession of a new state, Azawad. The conflict was complicated by a military coup that took place in March and later fighting between Tuareg and Islamist rebels. In response to Islamist territorial gains, the French military launched Opération Serval in January 2013. On 30 January, the coordinated advance of the French and Malian troops claimed to have retaken the last remaining Islamist stronghold of Kidal, which was also the last of three northern provincial capitals. On 2 February, the French President, François Hollande, joined Mali's interim President, Dioncounda Traoré, in a public appearance in recently recaptured Timbuktu. Presidential elections were held on 28 July 2013, with a second round run-off held on 11 August, and legislative elections were held on 24 November and 15 December 2013.

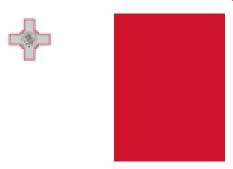
Capital – Bamako. Language – French, Bambara. Religion – Muslim – 92%, Christian – 3%, Unaffiliated – 3%, Folk religion – 2%. Ethnics – Mande – 50% (Bambara, Malinke, Soninke), Peul – 17%, Voltaic – 12%, Songhai – 6%, Tuareg and Moor – 10%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency independent of legislature, ministry subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 16,455,903, rank – 67. Area – 1,220,190, rank – 24. Density – 13, rank – 208.



MALTA, Republic of Malta, an island country located in the central Mediterranean Sea in Southern Europe. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, EU, CW. Malta, a small but strategically important group of islands, the archipelago has through its long and turbulent history played a vital role in the struggles of a succession of powers for domination of the Mediterranean and in the interplay between emerging Europe and the older cultures of Africa and the Middle East. As a result, Maltese society has been molded by centuries of foreign rule by various powers, including the Phoenicians, Romans, Greeks, Arabs, Normans, Sicilians, Swabians, Aragonese, Hospitallers, French, and British. The island of Malta specifically played a vital strategic role in World War II as a base for the Allied Powers. It was heavily bombarded by German and Italian aircraft, and by the end of the war Malta was devastated. In 1942 the island of Malta was presented with the George Cross, a British award for great gallantry, in recognition of the wartime bravery of the Maltese people. After the war, the movement for self-governance became stronger. The country of Malta became independent from Britain and joined the Commonwealth in 1964 and was declared a republic on Dec. 13, 1974. It was admitted to the European Union (EU) in 2004. A European atmosphere predominates in Malta as a result of close association with the Continent, particularly with southern Europe. The Maltese are renowned for their warmth, hospitality, and generosity to strangers, a trait that was noted in the Acts of the Apostles, with respect to the experience of St. Paul, the Apostle, who was said to have been shipwrecked off Malta in 60 CE. Roman Catholicism is a major influence on Maltese culture. Various traditions have evolved around religious celebrations, notably those honouring the patron saints of towns and villages. The eight-pointed, or Maltese, cross, adopted by the Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem in 1126, is commonly linked with Malta's identity and is printed on the country's euro coin.

Capital – Valletta. Language – Maltese (national), English. Religion – Christian – 97%, Unaffiliated – 3%. Ethnics – Descendants of ancient Carthaginians and Phoenicians with strong elements of Italian and other Mediterranean stock. Inhabited since prehistoric times, Malta was first colonized by Sicilians. Subsequently, Phoenicians, Romans, Byzantines,

Arabs in 870 CE who may have completely depopulated the islands but in 1224 were themselves expelled from Malta, Normans, Sicilians, Spanish, French and the British have influenced Maltese life and culture to varying degrees. Government – Republic, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 412,655, rank – 176. Area – 316, rank – 208. Density – 1,306, rank – 10.



MARIANA ISLAND, NORTHERN, see Northern Mariana Island.

MARIE BYRD LAND, unclaimed Antarctic territory, see Antarctica.

MARSHALL ISLANDS, Republic of the Marshall Islands, in Micronesia, Oceania. It is a self-governing state in free association with the US since 1986. Although the Marshall Islands is a recognized independent nation, however under the terms of the Compact of free association agreement, the US maintains the responsibility for the defense, social services, and funding grants of the Marshall Islands. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. The Marshall Islands is an island country located near the equator in the Pacific Ocean, slightly west of the International Date Line. Geographically, the country is part of the larger island group of Micronesia. The country's population is spread out over 29 coral atolls, comprising 1,156 individual islands and isletsAbout 27,797 of the islanders (at the 2011 Census) live on Majuro, which contains the capital. Micronesian colonists gradually settled the Marshall Islands during the 2nd millennium BC, with inter-island navigation made possible using traditional stick charts. Islands in the archipelago were first explored by Europeans in the 1520s, with Spanish explorer Alonso de Salazar sighting an atoll in August 1526. Other expeditions by Spanish and English ships followed. The islands derive their name from British explorer John Marshall, who visited in 1788. The islands were historically known by the inhabitants as "jolet jen Anij" (Gifts from God). The European powers recognized Spanish sovereignty over the islands in 1874. They had been part of the Spanish East Indies formally since 1528. Later, Spain sold the islands to the German Empire in 1884, and they became part of German New Guinea in 1885. In World War I the Empire of Japan occupied the Marshall Islands, which in 1919 the League of Nations combined with other former German territories to form the South Pacific Mandate. In World War II, the United States conquered the islands in the Gilbert and Marshall Islands campaign. Along with other Pacific Islands, the Marshall Islands were then consolidated into the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands governed by the US. Self-government was achieved in 1979, and full sovereignty in 1986, under a Compact of Free Association with the United States. Marshall Islands has been a United Nations member state since 1991.

Politically, the Marshall Islands is a presidential republic in free association with the United States, with the US providing defense, subsidies, and access to U.S. based agencies such as the FCC and the USPS. With few natural resources, the islands' wealth is based on a service

economy, as well as some fishing and agriculture; aid from the United States represents a large percentage of the islands' gross domestic product. The country uses the United States dollar as its currency. The majority of the citizens of the Marshall Islands are of Marshallese descent, though there are small numbers of immigrants from the United States, China, Philippines and other Pacific islands. The two official languages are Marshallese, which is a member of the Malayo-Polynesian languages, and English.

Capital – Majuro. Language – English, Marshallese (national). Religion – Christian – 98%. Almost the entire population of the islands practices some religion, with three-quarters of the country either following the United Church of Christ – Congregational in the Marshall Islands (UCCCMI) or the Assemblies of God. Ethnics – Marshallese – 92%, Mixed Marshallese – 6%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency and ministry are subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 70,983, rank – 203. Area land – 181, rank - 217. The archipelago includes 11,673 sq km of lagoon waters and encompasses the atolls of Bikini, Enewetak, Kwajalein, Majuro, Rongelap and Utirik. Density – 392, rank – 32.



MARTINIQUE, in the Lesser Antilles, Caribbean, is a French overseas department, it is part of the European Union with France. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. As with the other overseas departments, Martinique is one of the eighteen regions of France (being an overseas region) and an integral part of the French Republic. As part of France, Martinique is part of the European Union, and its currency is the euro. The official language is French, and virtually the entire population also speak Antillean Cre. The island was occupied first by Arawaks, then by Caribs. The Carib people had migrated from the mainland to the islands about 1201 CE, according to carbon dating of artifacts. They were largely displaced, exterminated and assimilated by the Taino, who were resident on the island in the 1490s. Martinique was charted by Columbus in 1493, but Spain had little interest in the territory. On 15 September 1635, Pierre Belain d'Esnambuc, French governor of the island of St. Kitts, landed in the harbor of St. Pierre with 150 French settlers after being driven off St. Kitts by the English. D'Esnambuc claimed Martinique for the French King Louis XIII and the French "Compagnie des Îles de l'Amérique" (Company of the American Islands), and established the first European settlement at Fort Saint-Pierre (now St. Pierre). D'Esnambuc died in 1636, leaving the company and Martinique in the hands of his nephew, Du Parquet. In 1637, his nephew Jacques Dyel du Parquet became governor of the island. In 1636, the indigenous Caribs rose against the settlers to drive them off the island in the first of many skirmishes. The French successfully repelled the natives and forced them to retreat to the eastern part of the island, on the Caravelle Peninsula in the region then known as the Capesterre. When the Carib revolted against French rule in 1658, the Governor Charles Houël du Petit Pré retaliated with war against them. Many were killed; those who survived were taken captive and expelled from the island. Some Carib had fled to Dominica or St. Vincent, where they were left at peace.

Because there were few Catholic priests in the French Antilles, many of the earliest French settlers were Huguenots who sought greater religious freedom than what they could experience in mainland France. They were quite industrious and became quite prosperous. Although edicts from King Louis XIV's court regularly came to the islands to suppress the Protestant "heretics", these were mostly ignored by island authorities until Louis XIV's Edict of Revocation in 1685. From September 1686 to early 1688, the French crown used Martinique as a threat and a dumping ground for mainland Huguenots who refused to reconvert to Catholicism. Over 1,000 Huguenots were transported to Martinique during this period, usually under miserable and crowded ship conditions that caused many of them to die en route. Those that survived the trip were distributed to the island planters as Engagés (Indentured servants) under the system of serf peonage that prevailed in the French Antilles at the time. As many of the planters on Martinique were themselves Huguenot, and who were sharing in the suffering under the harsh strictures of the Revocation, they began plotting to emigrate from Martinique with many of their recently arrived brethren. Many of them were encouraged by their Catholic brethren who looked forward to the departure of the heretics and seizing their property for themselves. By 1688, nearly all of Martinique's French Protestant population had escaped to the British American colonies or Protestant countries back home. The policy decimated the population of Martinique and the rest of the French Antilles and set back their colonization by decades, causing the French king to relax his policies in the islands yet leaving the islands susceptible to British occupation over the next century.

Martinique was occupied several times by the British including once during the Seven Years' War and twice during the Napoleonic Wars. Britain controlled the island almost continuously from 1794–1815, when it was traded back to France at the conclusion of the Napoleonic Wars. Martinique has remained a French possession since then. As sugar prices declined in the early 1800s, the planter class lost political influence. In 1848, Victor Schoelcher persuaded the French government to end slavery in the French West Indies. On 8 May 1902, Mont Pelée erupted and completely destroyed St. Pierre, killing 30,000 people. Due to the eruption refugees from Martinique arrived in boats to the southern villages of Dominica with some remaining permanently on the island. In Martinique the only survivor in the town of Saint-Pierre, Auguste Cyparis, was saved by the thick walls of his prison cell. Shortly thereafter the capital shifted to Fort-de-France, where it remains today. In 1946, the French National Assembly voted unanimously to transform the colony into an Overseas Department of France. In 1974, it became simply a Department.

Historically, Martinique's economy relied on agriculture, but by the beginning of the 21st century this sector had dwindled considerably. Sugar production has declined, with most of the sugarcane now used for the production of rum. Banana exports are increasing, going mostly to France. The bulk of meat, vegetable, and grain requirements must be imported, contributing to a chronic trade deficit that requires large annual transfers of aid from France. Tourism has become more important than agricultural exports as a source of foreign exchange. In 2000, the island hosted 500,000 tourists, and the tourism industry employed 7% of the total workforce. Roughly 16% of the total businesses on the island (some 6,000 companies) provide tourist-related services.

Capital – Fort-de-France. Language – French. Religion – An estimated 90% of residents are Roman Catholic; 5% are Hindu and another 5% practice other faiths, including Protestantism, pagan African belief systems, Judaism, or are non-religious. Ethnics - Most of Martinique's population is descended from enslaved Africans brought to work on sugar plantations during the colonial era, generally mixed with some French, Amerindian (Carib people), Indian

(Tamil), Lebanese or Chinese ancestry. Between 1 and 3% of the population is of Indian (Tamil) origin. Martinique also has a small Syro-Lebanese community, a small but increasing Chinese community, and the $B\acute{e}k\acute{e}$ community, descendants of European ethnic groups of the first French and Spanish settlers, who still dominate parts of the agricultural and trade sectors of the economy. Whites in total represent 5% of the population. Government - Together with Guadeloupe and French Guiana, Martinique is one of the Overseas Departments of France. It is also an outermost region of the European Union. The inhabitants of Martinique are French citizens with full political and legal rights. Martinique sends four deputies to the French National Assembly and two senators to the French Senate. Population – 386,486, Area – 1,128, Density – 340.



MAURITANIA, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Muritaniyah, in West Africa. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Independent from France in 1960, Mauritania annexed the southern third of the former Spanish Sahara (now Western Sahara) in 1976 but relinquished it after three years of raids by the Polisario guerrilla front seeking independence for the territory. Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed TAYA seized power in a coup in 1984 and ruled Mauritania with a heavy hand for more than two decades. A series of presidential elections that he held were widely seen as flawed. A bloodless coup in August 2005 deposed President TAYA and ushered in a military council that oversaw a transition to democratic rule. Independent candidate Sidi Ould Cheikh ABDALLAHI was inaugurated in April 2007 as Mauritania's first freely and fairly elected president. His term ended prematurely in August 2008 when a military junta led by General Mohamed Ould Abdel AZIZ deposed him and installed a military council government. AZIZ was subsequently elected president in July 2009 and sworn in the following month. AZIZ sustained injuries from an accidental shooting by his own troops in October 2012 but has continued to maintain his authority. He was reelected in 2014 to a second and final term as president (according to the present constitution). The country continues to experience ethnic tensions among three major groups: Arabic-speaking descendants of slaves (Haratines), Arabic-speaking "White Moors" (Bidhan), and members of Sub-Saharan ethnic groups mostly originating in the Senegal River valley (Halpulaar, Soninke, and Wolof). Mauritania confronts a terrorism threat by al-Qa'ida in the Islamic Maghreb, which launched successful attacks between 2005 and 2010. Mauritania, on the Atlantic coast of Africa, forms a geographic and cultural bridge between the North African Maghrib (Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia) and the westernmost portion of Sub-Saharan Africa. Culturally it forms a transitional zone between the Arab-Amazigh (Berber) populations of North Africa and the African peoples in the region to the south of the Tropic of Cancer known as the Sudan (a name derived from the Arabic bilād al-sūdān, "land of the blacks"). Much of Mauritania encompasses part of the Sahara desert, and, until the drought conditions that affected most of that zone of Africa in the 1970s, a large proportion of the population was nomadic. The country's mineral wealth includes large reserves of iron ore, copper, and gypsum, all of which are now being exploited, as well as some oil resources.

Capital – Nouakchott. Language – Arabic (official), French, national – Fula, Soninke, Wolof. Religion – Muslim – 99%. Ethnics – Black Moors – Haratines – Arab-speaking slaves, former slaves, and their descendants of African origin, enslaved by white Moors – 40%. White Moors of Arab-Berber descent, known as Bidhan – 30%. Black Africans, non-Arab speaking, Halpulaar, Soninke, Wolof, and Bamara ethnic groups – 30%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency independent of legislature, ministry subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 3,516,806, rank – 133. Area – 1,030,700, rank – 29. Density – 3.4, rank – 225.



MAURITIUS, Republic of Mauritius, Maurice, an island nation in the Indian Ocean, 2,000 kilometres off the southeast coast of the African continent. It has an autonomous island -Rodrigues. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. The country includes the island of Mauritius, Rodrigues [560 kilometres east], and the outer islands (Agaléga, St. Brandon and two disputed territories). The islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues form part of the Mascarene Islands, along with nearby Réunion, a French overseas department. The island of Mauritius was visited during the medieval period by the Arabs and then by the Portuguese, who named it Dina Arobi and Cirne, respectively. The island was uninhabited until the Dutch Republic established a colony in 1638, with the Dutch naming the island after Prince Maurice van Nassau. The Dutch colony was abandoned in 1710, and, five years later, the island became a French colony and was named Isle de France. Due to its strategic position, Mauritius was known as the "star and key" of the Indian Ocean. Mauritius became an important base on the trade routes from Europe to the East before the opening of the Suez Canal and was involved in the long power struggle between the French and the British. The French won the Battle of Grand Port, their only naval victory over the British during these wars, but they could not prevent the British from landing at Cap Malheureux three months later. They formally surrendered on the fifth day of the invasion, 3 December 1810, on terms allowing settlers to keep their land and property, the use of the French language, and the law of France in criminal and civil matters. Under British rule, the island's name reverted to Mauritius. The country became an independent state on 12 March 1968, following the adoption of a new constitution. In 1992, Mauritius became a republic within the Commonwealth of Nations.

The sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago is disputed between Mauritius and the United Kingdom (UK). The UK excised the archipelago from Mauritian territory prior to Mauritian independence in 1965. The UK gradually depopulated the archipelago's indigenous population and leased its biggest island, Diego Garcia, to the United States. The archipelago

is prohibited to casual tourists, the media, and its former inhabitants. Mauritius also claim sovereignty over Tromelin Island from France. The people of Mauritius are multiethnic, multi-religious, multicultural and multilingual. The island's government is closely modeled on the Westminster parliamentary system, and Mauritius is highly ranked for democracy and for economic and political freedom. Along with the other Mascarene Islands, Mauritius is known for its varied flora and fauna, with many species endemic to the island. The island is widely known as the only known home of the dodo, which, along with several other avian species, was made extinct by human activities relatively shortly after the island's settlement.

Capital – Port Louis. Language – English (official), French (national). Religion – Christian – 25%, Muslim – 17%, Hindu – 56%, Folk religion – 1%, Unaffiliated – 1%. Ethnics – Indo-Mauritian – 68%, Creole – 27%, Sino-Mauritian – 3%, Franco-Mauritian – 2%. Government - Mauritius is a democracy with a government elected every five years. The most recent National Assembly Election was held on 10 December 2014 in all the 20 mainland constituencies, and in the constituency covering the island of Rodrigues. Elections have tended to be a contest between two major coalitions of parties. The 2006–2014 Ibrahim Index of African Governance ranked Mauritius first in good governance. According to the 2011 Democracy Index compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit that measures the state of democracy in 167 countries, Mauritius ranks 24th worldwide and is the only African country with "full democracy". Population – 1,331,155, rank – 156. Area – 2,030, rank – 181. Density – 656, rank – 18.



MAYOTTE, in Eastern Africa, is a French overseas department, it is part of the European Union with France. It consists of a main island, Grande-Terre (or Maore), a smaller island, Petite-Terre (or Pamanzi), and several islets around these two. The archipelago is located in the northern Mozambique Channel in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Southeast Africa, between northwestern Madagascar and northeastern Mozambique. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. The biggest city and prefecture is Mamoudzou on Grande-Terre. However, the Dzaoudzi-Pamandzi International Airport is located on the neighbouring island of Petite-Terre. The territory is geographically part of the Comoro Islands. The territory is also known as Maore, the native name of its main island, especially by advocates of its inclusion in the Union of Comoros. The island was populated from neighbouring East Africa with later arrival of Arabs, who brought the Islamic religion. A sultanate was established in 1500. In the 19th century, Mayotte was conquered by Andriantsoly, former king of Iboina on Madagascar, and later by the neighbouring islands Mohéli and then Anjouan before being purchased by France in 1841. The people of Mayotte voted to remain politically a part of France in the 1974 referendum. Mayotte became an overseas department on 31 March 2011 and became an outermost region of the European Union on 1 January 2014, following a 2009 referendum with an overwhelming result in favour of the department status.

Capital - Mamoudzou. Language - French. The language of the majority is Shimaore, a Bantu language variety closely related to the varieties in the neighbouring Comoros islands. The second most widely spoken native language is Kibushi, a Malagasy language variety most closely related to the Sakalava dialect of Malagasy with influences from Shimaore. Religion – Muslim – 97%, Christian – 3%. Ethnics - 63.5% of the people living in Mayotte were born in Mayotte, 4.8% were born in the rest of the French Republic (either metropolitan France or overseas France except Mayotte), 28.3% were immigrants from the Comoros, 2.6% were immigrants from Madagascar, and the remaining 0.8% came from other countries. Government - The politics of Mayotte takes place in a framework of a parliamentary representative democratic French local government, whereby the President of the Departmental Council is the head of the local assembly, and of a multi-party system. Executive power is exercised by the French government. Mayotte also sends one deputy to the French National Assembly and two senators to the French Senate. Mayotte is an overseas department and region of France officially named Département de Mayotte. Unlike the other overseas regions and departments of France, Mayotte possesses a single local assembly, officially called the "departmental council" (conseil départemental), which acts both as a regional and departmental council. Population – 212,645, Area – 374, Density – 569.



MCDONALD ISLANDS, see Heard Island and McDonald Islands.

MELILLA (Berber: Mřič; Arabic: مليلية, Maliliyyah) is a Spanish autonomous city, located in the northern part of Morocco, which is part of the European Union with Spain. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi. Oper/World, BBC, Internet/Stats. Melilla has an area of 12.3 square kilometres. Melilla, along with Ceuta, is one of two permanently inhabited Spanish cities in mainland Africa. It was part of Málaga province until 14 March 1995 when the city's Statute of Autonomy was passed. Melilla, like Ceuta, was a free port before Spain joined the European Union. As of 2011, it had a population of 78,476 made up of ethnic Spaniards, ethnic Riffian Berbers, and a small number of Sephardic Jews and Sindhi Hindus. Both Spanish and Riffian-Berber are the two most widely spoken languages, with Spanish as the only official language. Melilla is officially claimed by Morocco, which considers it "occupied territory". In the first quarter of the 20th century, Melilla became a thriving port benefitting from the recently established Protectorate of Spanish Morocco in the contiguous Rif. The new architectural style of Modernisme was expressed by a new bourgeois class. This style, frequently referred to as the Catalan version of Art Nouveau, was extremely popular in the early part of the 20th century in Spain. The workshops inspired by the Catalan architect Enrique Nieto continued in the modernist style, even after Modernisme went out of fashion elsewhere. Accordingly, Melilla has the second most important concentration of Modernist works in Spain after Barcelona. Nieto was in charge of designing the main Synagogue, the Central Mosque and various Catholic Churches.

Capital – Melilla. Language – Spanish. Religion - Melilla has been praised as an example of multiculturalism, being a small city in which one can find four major religions represented. Christian – 60%, Muslim – 34%, Others – 6%. The Jewish and Hindu community has been shrinking due to economic emigration to mainland Spain (notably Malaga and Madrid). Jews, who had lived in Melilla for centuries, have been leaving the city in recent years (from 20% of the population before World War II to less than 5% today). Most of the Jewish population has left to Israel and Venezuela. There is a small, autonomous, and commercially important Hindu community present in Melilla, as well, which numbers about 100 members today. Ethnics – 66% - Spanish, 34% - Moroccans. Government - Melilla has held local elections for its 25-seat legislature every four years since 1979. Since its Statute of Autonomy in 1995, the legislature has been called the Assembly and its leader the Mayor-President. Population – 78,476, Area – 12.3, Density – 6,380.



MEXICO, United Mexican States, Estados Unidos Mexicanos, in North America, is a federation of 31 states and 1 federal district. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Mexico is the fifth largest country in the Americas by total area and the 13th largest independent nation in the world. Mexico is the eleventh most populous country and the most populous Spanish-speaking country in the world and the second most populous country in Latin America. Pre-Columbian Mexico was home to many advanced Mesoamerican civilizations, such as the Olmec, Toltec, Teotihuacan, Zapotec, Maya and Aztec before first contact with Europeans. In 1521, the Spanish Empire conquered and colonized the territory from its base in Mexico-Tenochtitlan, which was administered as the Viceroyalty of New Spain. Three centuries later, this territory became Mexico following recognition in 1821 after the colony's Mexican War of Independence. The tumultuous post-independence period was characterized by economic instability and many political changes. The Mexican-American War (1846–48) led to the territorial cession of the extensive northern borderlands, one-third of its territory, to the United States. The Pastry War, the Franco-Mexican War, a civil war, two empires and a domestic dictatorship occurred through the 19th century. The dictatorship was overthrown in the Mexican Revolution of 1910, which culminated with the promulgation of the 1917 Constitution and the emergence of the country's current political system.

Mexico has the fifteenth largest nominal GDP and the eleventh largest by purchasing power parity. The Mexican economy is strongly linked to those of its North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) partners, especially the United States. Mexico was the first Latin American member of the OECD, joining in 1994. It is classified as an upper-middle income country by the World Bank and a newly industrialized country by several analysts. The country is considered both a regional power and middle power, and is often identified as an emerging global power. Due to its rich culture and history, Mexico ranks first in the

Americas and sixth in the world by number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. In 2015 it was the 9th most visited country in the world, with 32.1 million international arrivals.

Capital – Mexico City. Language – Spanish, Nahuatl. Religion – Christian – 95%, Unaffiliated – 5%. Ethnics – Mestizo (Amerindian-Spanish) – 60%, Amerindian or predominantly Amerindian – 30%, White – 9%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 120,286,655, rank – 12. Area – 1,943,945, rank – 14. Density – 62, rank – 145.



MICRONESIA, FEDERATED STATES OF, in Micronesia, Oceania, is an independent sovereign island nation, a federation of 4 states - Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae - that are spread across the Western Pacific Ocean. Together, the states comprise around 607 islands (a combined land area of approximately 702 km²) that cover a longitudinal distance of almost 2,700 km just north of the equator. The state occupies more than 2,600,000 km² of the Pacific Ocean, giving the country the 14th largest Exclusive Economic Zone in the world. It is a selfgoverning state in free association with the US since 1986. Although Micronesia is a recognized independent nation, however under the terms of the Compact of free association agreement, the US maintains the responsibility for the defense, social services, and funding grants of Micronesia. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Each of its four states is centered on one or more main high islands, and all but Kosrae include numerous outlying atolls. The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is spread across part of the Caroline Islands in the wider region of Micronesia, which consists of thousands of small islands divided among several countries. The term Micronesia may refer to the Federated States or to the region as a whole. Other neighboring island entities formulated their own constitutional governments and became the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and the Republic of Palau (ROP). The ancestors of the Micronesians settled over four thousand years ago. A decentralized chieftain-based system eventually evolved into a more centralized economic and religious culture centered on Yap. European explorers—first the Portuguese in search of the Spice Islands (Indonesia) and then the Spanish—reached the Carolines in the sixteenth century. The Spanish incorporated the archipelago to the Spanish East Indies and in the 19th century established a number of outposts and missions. In 1887, they founded the town of Santiago de la Ascension in what today is Kolonia on the island of Pohnpei. Following defeat in the Spanish-American War, the Spanish sold the archipelago to Germany in 1899 under the German-Spanish Treaty of 1899. Germany incorporated it into German New Guinea. During World War I, it was captured by Japan. Following the war, the League of Nations awarded a mandate for Japan to administer the islands as part of the South Pacific Mandate. During World War II, a significant portion of the Japanese fleet was based in Truk Lagoon. In February 1944, one of the most important naval battles of the war, took place at Truk, in which many Japanese support vessels and aircraft were destroyed. Following World War II, Micronesia was administered by the United States under United Nations auspices in 1947 as part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Independence was formally concluded under international law in 1990, when the UN officially ended the Trusteeship status

Capital – Palikir. Language – English. Religion – Christian – 95%, Folk religion – 3%, Unaffiliated – 1%. Ethnics – Chuukese-Mortlockese – 49%, Pohnpeian – 30%, Kosraean – 6%, Yapese – 6%, Yap outer islanders – 5%, Polynesian – 2%, Asian – 1%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency and ministry are subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 105,681, rank – 193. Area – 702, rank – 191. Density – 151, rank – 77.



MIDWAY ISLAND, also called Midway atoll and Midway Islands, is an atoll in the North Pacific Ocean, midway between North America and Asia, and lies almost halfway around the world longitudinally from Greenwich, UK. It is an unorganized, unincorporated territory of the Unites States, for statistical purposes, Midway is grouped as one of the United States Minor Outlying Islands. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. The Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, encompassing 590,991.50 acres of land and water (mostly water) in the surrounding area, is administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Approximately 40 to 60 members of the Service live on the Atoll. The Battle of Midway, which was fought between June 4 and 6, 1942, was one of the most important battles of the Pacific campaign. The United States Navy defeated a Japanese battle group marking a turning point in the war in the Pacific Theater. USAAF aircraft based at the original Henderson Field on Eastern Island joined the attack against the Japanese fleet, which suffered losses of four carriers and one heavy cruiser. The economy is derived solely from governmental sources and tourist fees. All food and manufactured goods are imported. The refuge and most of its surrounding area are part of the larger Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. The Area of Midway is 6.2 sq km.



MOLDOVA, Republic of Moldova, (Romanian: *Republica Moldova*); Russian: Республика Молдо́ва, *Respublika Moldova*), is a landlocked country in Eastern Europe, it has 2 autonomous regions — Gagauzia and Transnistria, the latter of which has established a de facto state. <u>Link to map</u>. Links to essential data: <u>CIA Factbook</u>, <u>Enc. Britannica</u>, <u>Wikipedia</u>, <u>Nations Online</u>, <u>UN Data</u>, <u>BBC</u>, <u>World Atlas</u>, <u>Countries/World</u>, <u>List/Countries</u>, <u>Index Mundi</u>,

Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Due to a decrease in industrial and agricultural output following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the service sector has grown to dominate Moldova's economy and currently composes over 60% of the nation's GDP. However, Moldova remains the poorest country in Europe. In antiquity, Moldova's territory was inhabited by Dacian tribes. Between the 1st and 7th centuries AD, the south was intermittently under the Roman, then Byzantine Empires. Due to its strategic location on a route between Asia and Europe, the territory of modern Moldova was invaded many times in late antiquity and early Middle Ages, including by Goths, Huns, Avars, Bulgarians, Magyars, Pechenegs, Cumans, Mongols and Tatars. The Principality of Moldavia, established in 1359, was bounded by the Carpathian Mountains in the west, Dniester river in the east, and Danube River and Black Sea to the south. Its territory comprised the present-day territory of the Republic of Moldova, the eastern eight counties of Romania, and the Chernivtsi Oblast and Budjak region of Ukraine. Like the present-day republic and Romania's north-eastern region, it was known to the locals as *Moldova*. Moldavia was invaded repeatedly by Crimean Tatars and, since the 15th century, by the Turks. In 1538, the principality became a tributary to the Ottoman Empire, but it retained internal and partial external autonomy. Formerly known as Bessarabia, this region was an integral part of the Romanian principality of Moldavia until 1812, when it was ceded to Russia by its suzerain, the sultan of the Ottoman Empire. Bessarabia remained a province of the Russian Empire until after World War I, when it became a part of Greater Romania, and it reverted to Russian control in 1940-41 and again after World War II, when it was joined to a strip of formerly Ukrainian territory, the Moldavian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, on the left bank of the Dniester River (Moldovan: Nistru) to form the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic. Upon the collapse of the Soviet Union in August 1991, this republic declared its independence and took the name Moldova. The current Constitution of Moldova was adopted in 1994. A strip of Moldovan territory on the east bank of the river Dniester has been under the de facto control of the breakaway government of Transnistria since 1990.

Capital – Chisinau. Language – Romanian. Religion – Christian – 97%, Muslim – 1%, Unaffiliated – 1%. Ethnics – Moldovan – 76%, Ukrainian – 8%, Russian – 6%, Gagauz – 4%, Romanian – 2%, Bulgarian – 2%. Government – Republic, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 3,583,288, rank – 132. Area – 32,891, rank – 140. Density – 109, rank – 99.



MONACO, Principality of Monaco, in Southern Europe. It is a sovereign city-state and microstate, located on the French Riviera in Western Europe. France borders the country on three sides while the other side borders the Mediterranean Sea. <u>Link to map.</u> Links to essential data: <u>CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats.</u> Member of the UN. Monaco has a land border of 4.4 km, a coastline of 4.1 km, and a width that varies between 1,700 and 349 m. The highest point in the country is a narrow pathway named Chemin des Révoires on the slopes of Mont Agel, in the Les Révoires *Ward*, which is 161

metres above sea level. Monaco's most populous *Quartier* is Monte Carlo and the most populous *Ward* is Larvotto/Bas Moulins. Through land reclamation, Monaco's land mass has expanded by twenty percent. Although small, Monaco is very old and quite well known, especially because of its status as a playground for the rich and famous, who are a spectacle for tourists and an economic engine in the Mediterranean. In 2014 it was noted about 30% of the population was made up of millionaires, similar to Zürich or Geneva. Monaco is a principality governed under a form of constitutional monarchy, with Prince Albert II as head of state. Although Prince Albert II is a constitutional monarch, he wields immense political power. The House of Grimaldi have ruled Monaco, with brief interruptions, since 1297. The official language is French, but Monégasque, Italian, and English are widely spoken and understood. The state's sovereignty was officially recognized by the Franco-Monegasque Treaty of 1861, with Monaco becoming a full UN voting member in 1993. Despite Monaco's independence and separate foreign policy, its defense is the responsibility of France. However, Monaco does maintain two small military units.

Economic development was spurred in the late 19th century with the opening of the country's first casino, Monte Carlo, and a railway connection to Paris. Since then, Monaco's mild climate, splendid scenery, and upscale gambling facilities have contributed to the principality's status as a premier tourist destination and recreation center for the rich and famous. In more recent years, Monaco has become a major banking center and has successfully sought to diversify its economy into services and small, high-value-added, non-polluting industries. The state has no income tax, low business taxes, and is well known for being a tax haven. It is also the host of the annual street circuit motor race Monaco Grand Prix, one of the original Grands Prix of Formula One. Monaco is not formally a part of the European Union (EU), but it participates in certain EU policies, including customs and border controls. Through its relationship with France, Monaco uses the euro as its sole currency. Monaco joined the Council of Europe in 2004. It has the highest Human Development Index (HDI) in the world and the only HDI above 1, at 1.074.

Capital – Monaco. Language – French. Religion – Christian – 86%, Unaffiliated – 12%. Ethnics – Monaco's population is unusual in that the native Monegasques are a minority in their own country: the largest group are French nationals at 28.4%, followed by Monegasque (21.6%), Italian (18.7%), British (7.5%), Belgian (2.8%), German (2.5%), Swiss (2.5%) and U.S. nationals (1.2%). Government – Constitutional monarchy, executive head of state, Monarch personally exercises power in concert with other institutions. Population – 30,508, rank – 218. Area – 2, rank – 250. Density – 15,254, rank – 2.



MONGOLIA, Mongol Uls, is a landlocked state in East Asia. <u>Link to map</u>. Links to essential data: <u>CIA Factbook</u>, <u>Enc. Britannica</u>, <u>Wikipedia</u>, <u>Nations Online</u>, <u>UN Data</u>, <u>BBC</u>, <u>World Atlas</u>, <u>Countries/World</u>, <u>List/Countries</u>, <u>Index Mundi</u>, <u>Oper/World</u>, <u>Internet/Stats</u>. Member of the UN. Its area is roughly equivalent with the historical territory of Outer Mongolia, and that

term is sometimes used to refer to the current state. It is bordered by China to the south and Russia to the north. While it does not share a border with Kazakhstan, Mongolia is separated from Kazakhstan by only 36.76 kilometres. Ulaanbaatar, the capital and largest city, is home to about 45% of the country's population. The area of what is now Mongolia has been ruled by various nomadic empires, including the Xiongnu, the Xianbei, the Rouran, the Turkic Khaganate, and others. In 1206, Genghis Khan founded the Mongol Empire, and his grandson Kublai Khan conquered China to establish the Yuan dynasty. After the collapse of the Yuan, the Mongols retreated to Mongolia and resumed their earlier pattern of factional conflict, except during the era of Dayan Khan and Tumen Zasagt Khan. In the 16th century, Tibetan Buddhism began to spread in Mongolia, being further led by the Manchu-founded Qing dynasty, which absorbed the country in the 17th century. By the early 1900s, almost one-third of the adult male population were Buddhist monks. During the collapse of the Qing dynasty in 1911, Mongols established the Temporary Government of Khalkha on November 30, 1911. This was before the abdication of the last Qing emperor and the establishment of the Republic of China. On December 29, 1911, Mongolia declared independence from the Qing dynasty; the National Revolution of 1911 ended over 200 years of Qing rule, though it was not until the Revolution of 1921 that de facto independence from the Republic of China was firmly established. Shortly thereafter, the country came under the control of the Soviet Union, which had aided its independence from China. In 1924, the Mongolian People's Republic was declared as a Soviet satellite state. After the anti-Communist revolutions of 1989, Mongolia conducted its own peaceful democratic revolution in early 1990. This led to a multi-party system, a new constitution of 1992, and transition to a market economy. The country contains very little arable land, as much of its area is covered by grassy steppe, with mountains to the north and west and the Gobi Desert to the south. Approximately 30% of the population is nomadic or semi-nomadic; horse culture is still integral. The majority of its population are Buddhists. The non-religious population is the second largest group. Islam is the dominant religion among ethnic Kazakhs. The majority of the state's citizens are of Mongol ethnicity, although Kazakhs, Tuvans, & other minorities also live in the country, especially in the west.

Capital – Ulaanbaatar. Language – Mongolian. Religion – Buddhist – 55%, Folk religion – 4%, Unaffiliated – 36%, Muslim – 3%, Christian – 2%. Ethnics – Khalkh – 82%, Kazak – 4%, Dorvod – 3%, Bayad – 2%, Buryat-Bouriates – 2%, Zakhchin – 1%, Dariganga – 1%, Uriankhai – 1%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency independent of legislature, ministry subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 2,953,190, rank – 139. Area – 1,553,556, rank – 19. Density – 1.9, rank – 230.



MONTENEGRO, (Montenegrin: *Crna Gora/Црна Γορα*, meaning "Black Mountain"), Republic of Montenegro, Crna Gora, in Southeastern Europe. <u>Link to map</u>. Links to essential data: <u>CIA Factbook</u>, <u>Enc. Britannica</u>, <u>Wikipedia</u>, <u>Nations Online</u>, <u>UN Data</u>, <u>BBC</u>, <u>World Atlas</u>, <u>Countries/World</u>, <u>List/Countries</u>, <u>Index Mundi</u>, <u>Oper/World</u>, <u>Internet/Stats</u>. Member of the UN. Its capital and largest city is Podgorica, while Cetinje is designated as the *Prijestonica*, meaning the former Royal Capital City. In the 9th century, there were three

principalities on the territory of Montenegro: Duklja, roughly corresponding to the southern half, Travunia, the west, and Rascia, the north. In 1042, *archon* Stefan Vojislav led a revolt that resulted in the independence of Duklja and the establishment of the Vojislavljević dynasty. Duklja reached its zenith under Vojislav's son, Mihailo (1046–81), and his grandson Bodin (1081–1101). By the 13th century, *Zeta* had replaced *Duklja* when referring to the realm. In the late 14th century, southern Montenegro (Zeta) came under the rule of the Balšić noble family, then the Crnojević noble family, and by the 15th century, Zeta was more often referred to as *Crna Gora* (Venetian: *monte negro*). Large portions fell under the control of the Ottoman Empire from 1496 to 1878. Parts were controlled by Venice and First French Empire and Austria-Hungary, its successors. From 1515 until 1851 the prince-bishops (vladikas) of Cetinje were the rulers. The House of Petrović-Njegoš ruled until 1918. From 1918, it was a part of Yugoslavia. On the basis of an independence referendum held on 21 May 2006, Montenegro declared independence on 3 June of that year. Montenegro is classified by the World Bank as an upper middle-income country.

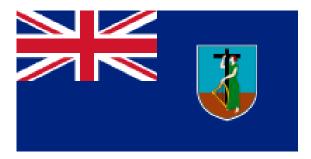
Capital – Podgorica. Language – Montenegrin. Religion – Christian – 78%, Muslim – 19%, Unaffiliated – 3%. Ethnics – Montenegrin – 45%, Serbian – 29%, Bosniak – 9%, Albanian – 5%, Muslim – 3%, Roma – 1%, Croat – 1%. Government – Republic, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 650,036, rank – 168. Area – 13,452, rank – 162. Density – 48, rank – 161.



MONTSERRAT is a British Overseas Territory, a Caribbean island - specifically in the Leeward Islands, which is part of the chain known as the Lesser Antilles, in the British West Indies. Montserrat is It is a British Overseas Territory. It is not part of the European Union with the UK. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Montserrat measures approximately 16 km long and 11 km wide, with approximately 40 km of coastline. Montserrat is nicknamed The Emerald Isle of the Caribbean both for its resemblance to coastal Ireland and for the Irish ancestry of many of its inhabitants. Archaeological field work in 2012, in Montserrat's Centre Hills indicated there was an Archaic (pre-Arawak) occupation between 4000 and 2500 BP. Later coastal sites show the presence of the Saladoid culture. In November 1493, Christopher Columbus passed Montserrat in his second voyage, after being told that the island was unoccupied due to raids by the Caribs. Montserrat came under English control in 1632 when anti-Catholic violence in Nevis forced a group of Irish people, transported from Ireland as indentured servants, to settle in Montserrat. A neo-feudal colony developed amongst the "redlegs". The colonists began to transport Sub-Saharan African slaves for labour, as was common to most Caribbean islands. The colonists built an economy based on the production of sugar, rum, arrowroot and sea island cotton, cultivated on large plantations manned by slave labour. By the late 1700s, numerous plantations had been developed on the island. Many Irish continued to be transported to the island, to work as indentured servants; some were exiled during the English Cromwellian conquest of Ireland. On 18 July 1995, the previously dormant Soufrière Hills

volcano, in the southern part of the island, became active. Eruptions destroyed Montserrat's Georgian era capital city of Plymouth. Between 1995 and 2000, two-thirds of the island's population was forced to flee, primarily to the United Kingdom. The volcanic activity continues, mostly affecting the vicinity of Plymouth, including its docking facilities, and the eastern side of the island around the former W. H. Bramble Airport, the remnants of which were buried by flows from volcanic activity on 11 February 2010. An exclusion zone that extends from the south coast of the island north to parts of the Belham Valley was imposed because of the size of the existing volcanic dome and the resulting potential for pyroclastic activity. Visitors are generally not permitted entry into the exclusion zone, but an impressive view of the destruction of Plymouth can be seen from the top of Garibaldi Hill in Isles Bay. Relatively quiet since early 2010, the volcano continues to be closely monitored by the Montserrat Volcano Observatory. It is the most studied volcano in the world and Montserrat is regarded as a 'Modern Day Pompeii' in the Caribbean. A new town and port is being developed at Little Bay, which is on the northwest coast of the island. While this construction proceeds, the centre of government and businesses rests at Brades.

Capital – Plymouth (official), Brades Estate (de facto). Language – English. Religion – Christian – 94%, Unaffiliated – 5%. Ethnics – African/Black – 88%, Mixed – 4%, Hispanic/Spanish – 3%, Caucasian/White – 3%, East Indian/Indian – 2%. Government - As a British Overseas Territory (BOT), defence of Montserrat remains the responsibility of the United Kingdom. Montserrat is one of four of the remaining fourteen BOTs that maintains its own military unit, the Royal Montserrat Defence Force. There is also a cadet corps for secondary school students. Population – 5,215, rank – 230. Area – 102, rank 226. Density – 51, rank – 154.



MOROCCO, (Arabic: المغرب al-Maghrib; Berber: المعرب Lmayrib; French: Maroc), Kingdom of Morocco, Al Maghrib, in Northern Africa, claims sovereignty over Western Sahara and controls most of it, which is disputed by the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Geographically, Morocco is characterized by a rugged mountainous interior and large portions of desert. It is one of only three countries (with Spain and France) to have both Atlantic and Mediterranean coastlines. The Arabic name al-Mamlakah al-Maghribiyah (Arabic: المملكة المغربية, meaning "The Western Kingdom") and Al-Maghrib (Arabic: المغرب, meaning "The West") are commonly used as alternate names. The largest city is Casablanca. Other major cities include Marrakesh, Tangier, Tetouan, Salé, Fes, Agadir, Meknes, Oujda, Kenitra, and Nador. A historically prominent regional power, Morocco has a history of independence not shared by its neighbours. Its distinct culture is a blend of Arab, indigenous Berber, Sub-Saharan African, and European influences. Morocco claims the non-self-governing territory of Western Sahara as its Southern Provinces. Morocco annexed the territory in 1975, leading to a guerrilla war with indigenous forces until a ceasefire in 1991. Peace processes have thus far failed to break the political deadlock. Morocco is a constitutional monarchy with an elected parliament. The King of Morocco holds vast executive and legislative powers, especially over the military, foreign policy and religious affairs. Executive power is exercised by the government, while legislative power is vested in both the government and the two chambers of parliament, the Assembly of Representatives and the Assembly of Councillors. The king can issue decrees called dahirs which have the force of law. He can also dissolve the parliament after consulting the Prime Minister and the president of the Constitutional court. Morocco's predominant religion is Islam, and the official languages are Arabic and Berber. Moroccan Arabic, referred to as *Darija*, and French are also widely spoken. Morocco is an influential member of the Arab League and a part of the Union for the Mediterranean. It has the sixth-largest economy in Africa.

Morocco's economy is considered a relatively liberal economy governed by the law of supply and demand. Since 1993, the country has followed a policy of privatization of certain economic sectors which used to be in the hands of the government. Morocco has become a major player in the African economic affairs, and is the 5th African economy by GDP (PPP). Morocco was ranked the 1st African country by the Economist Intelligence Unit' quality-of-life index, ahead of South Africa. However, Morocco has since then slipped into fourth place behind Egypt, but ahead of Angola. Government reforms and steady yearly growth in the region of 4–5% from 2000 to 2007, including 4.9% year-on-year growth in 2003–2007 helped the Moroccan economy to become much more robust compared to a few years ago. The services sector accounts for just over half of GDP and industry, made up of mining, construction and manufacturing, is an additional quarter. The industries that recorded the highest growth are tourism, telecoms, information technology, and textile.

Capital – Rabat. Language – Arabic, Berber. Religion – Muslim – 99.9%. Ethnics - Most Moroccans are of Berber, Arab, Moors or Gnawa descent. There is a significant minority of Sub-Saharan African and European people. Arabs and Berbers together make up about 99.1% of the Moroccan population. A sizeable portion of the population is identified as Haratin and Gnawa (or Gnaoua), black or mixed race descendants of slaves, and Moriscos, European Muslims expelled from Spain and Portugal in the 17th century. Berbers are the indigenous people and still make up the bulk of the population, although they have been largely Arabized. Morocco is home to more than 20,000 sub-Saharan African immigrants. Morocco's once prominent Jewish minority has decreased significantly since its peak of 265,000 in 1948, declining to around 5,500 today. Most of foreign residents in Morocco are French or Spanish. Some of them are descendants of colonial settlers, who primarily work for European multinational companies, while others are married to Moroccans or are retirees. Prior to independence, Morocco was home to half a million Europeans. Morocco has a large diaspora, most of which is located in France, which has reportedly over one million Moroccans of up to the third generation. There are also large Moroccan communities in Spain (700,000 Moroccans), Netherlands (360,000), Belgium (300,000). Other large communities can be found in Italy, Canada, the US, and Israel, where Moroccan Jews are thought to constitute the second biggest Jewish ethnic subgroup. Government - Constitutional monarchy, executive head of state, Monarch personally exercises power in concert with other institutions. Population – 32,987,206, rank – 39. Area – 446,300, rank – 58. Density – 74, rank – 131.



MOUNT ATHOS, it is an autonomous part of Greece, that is jointly governed by the multinational "Holy Community" on the mountain and a civil governor appointed by the Greek government. Mount Athos (Greek: Όρος Άθως, Oros Athos; Bulgarian-Света Γορα; Serbian Cyrillic: Света Гора) is a mountain and peninsula in Northern Greece. A World Heritage Site and autonomous polity within the Hellenic Republic under the official name Autonomous Monastic State of the Holy Mountain (Greek: Αὐτόνομη Μοναστική Πολιτεία Άγίου "Όρους, Aftonomi Monastiki Politia Agiou Orous), Mount Athos is home to 20 stauropegial Eastern Orthodox monasteries under the direct jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople. Mount Athos is commonly referred to as the "Holy Mountain" (Greek: Άγιον Όρος, Agion Oros) and the entity as the "Athonite State" (Greek: Αθωνική Πολιτεία, Athoniki Politia). Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. In the Classical era, while the mountain was called Athos, the peninsula was known as Acté or Akté (Ἀκτὴ). Mount Athos has been inhabited since ancient times and is known for its nearly 1,800-year continuous Christian presence and its long historical monastic traditions, which date back to at least 800 A.D. and the Byzantine era. Today, over 2,000 monks from Greece and many other Eastern Orthodox countries, such as Romania, Moldova, Bulgaria, Serbia and Russia, live an ascetic life in Athos, isolated from the rest of the world. The Athonite monasteries feature a rich collection of well-preserved artifacts, rare books, ancient documents, and artworks of immense historical value. Although Mount Athos is technically part of the European Union like the rest of Greece, the status of the Monastic State of the Holy Mountain, and the jurisdiction of the Athonite institutions, were expressly described and ratified upon admission of Greece to the European Community. The free movement of people and goods in its territory is prohibited, unless formal permission is granted by the Monastic State's authorities.

There is a prohibition on entry for women, called *avaton* (Άβατον) in Greek, to make living in celibacy easier for those who have chosen to do so. Monks feel that the presence of women alters the social dynamics of the community and therefore slows their path towards spiritual enlightenment. The ban was officially proclaimed by the Byzantine emperor Constantine Monomachos, as a chrysobull, in 1046. In the 14th century, Serbian Emperor Dušan the Mighty brought his wife, Helena of Bulgaria, to Mount Athos to protect her from the plague, but she did not touch the ground during her entire visit, as she was carried in the hand carriage all the time. French writer Maryse Choisy entered Mount Athos in the 1920s disguised as a sailor, and later wrote about her escapade in *Un mois chez les hommes* ("A Month With Men"). There was an incident in the 1930s regarding Aliki Diplarakou, the first Greek beauty pageant contestant to win the Miss Europe title, who shocked the world when she dressed up as a man and sneaked into Mount Athos. Her escapade was discussed in the 13 July 1953, *Time* magazine article entitled "The Climax of Sin". In 1953, Cora Miller, an American Fulbright Program teacher from Athens, Ohio, landed briefly along with two other women, stirring up a controversy among the local monks. A 2003 resolution of the European

Parliament requested lifting the ban for violating "the universally recognized principle of gender equality". On 26 May 2008, five Moldovans illegally entered Greece by way of Turkey, ending up on Athos; four of the migrants were women. The monks forgave them for trespassing and informed them that the area was forbidden to females.

Capital – Karyes. Language – Greek. Religion – Eastern Orthodoxy. Ethnics - All persons leading a monastic life thereon acquire Greek citizenship without further formalities, upon admission as novices or monks. Visits to the peninsula are possible for laymen, but they need a special permit known as a *diamonētērion* (διαμονητήριον), similar to a visa. Of the 20 monasteries located on the Holy Mountain, the brethren of 17 are predominantly ethnically Greek. Of the other 3, brethren are drawn from monks of primarily other origins, who become Greek subjects. These are the Helandariou Monastery (Serbian), the Zografou Monastery (Bulgarian) and the Agiou Panteleimonos Monastery (Russian). Among the sketes, most are predominantly ethnic Greek. However, two are Romanian, the coenobitic "Skētē Timiou Prodromou" (which belongs to the Megistis Lavras Monastery) and the idiorrythmic "Skētē Agiou Dēmētriou tou Lakkou", also called "Lakkoskētē" (which belongs to the Agiou Pavlou Monastery). Another one is Bulgarian, "Skētē Bogoroditsa" (which belongs to the Agiou Panteleimonos Monastery). There are several dozens of each of the above-mentioned nationalities. Government – autonomous theocratic society led by ecclesiastical council. Population – 1,811, Area – 336, Density – 5.4.



MOZAMBIQUE, Republic of Mozambique, Mocambique, (Portuguese: Moçambique or República de Moçambique), in Southeast Africa. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. The capital and largest city is Maputo (known as "Lourenço Marques" before independence). Between the 1st and 5th centuries AD, Bantu-speaking peoples migrated from farther north and west. Swahili, and later Arab, commercial ports existed along the coasts until the arrival of Europeans. The area was explored by Vasco da Gama in 1498 and colonized by Portugal from 1505. After over four centuries of Portuguese rule, Mozambique gained independence in 1975, becoming the People's Republic of Mozambique shortly thereafter. After only two years of independence, the country descended into an intense and protracted civil war lasting from 1977 to 1992. In 1994, Mozambique held its first multiparty elections and has remained a relatively stable presidential republic. Mozambique is one of the poorest and most underdeveloped countries in the world. Mozambique is endowed with rich and extensive natural resources. The country's economy is based largely on agriculture, but industry, mainly food and beverages, chemical manufacturing, aluminium and petroleum production, is growing. The country's tourism sector is also growing. South Africa is Mozambique's main trading partner and source of foreign direct investment. Belgium, Brazil, Portugal, and Spain are also among the country's most important economic partners. Since 2001, Mozambique's annual average GDP growth has been among the world's highest. However, the country ranks among the lowest in GDP per capita, human development, measures of inequality, and average life expectancy. The only official language of Mozambique is Portuguese, which is spoken mostly as a second language by about half of the population. Common native languages include Makhuwa, Sena, and Swahili. The country's population is composed overwhelmingly of Bantu people. The largest religion in Mozambique is Christianity, with significant minorities following Islam and African traditional religions. Mozambique is a member of the African Union, Commonwealth of Nations, Community of Portuguese Language Countries, the Latin Union, the Non-Aligned Movement, Southern African Development Community, and an observer at La Francophonie.

Capital – Maputo. Language – Portuguese. Religion – Christian – 57%, Muslim – 18%, Unaffiliated – 18%, Folk religion – 7%. Ethnics - The estimated four million Macua are the dominant group in the northern part of the country; the Sena and Shona (mostly Ndau) are prominent in the Zambezi valley, and the Shangaan (Tsonga) dominate in southern Mozambique. Other groups include Makonde, Yao, Swahili, Tonga, Chopi, and Nguni (including Zulu). Bantu people comprise 97.8% of the population, with the rest made up of White Africans (largely of Portuguese ancestry), Euro-Africans (*mestiço* people of mixed Bantu and Portuguese heritage), and Indians. Roughly 45,000 people of Indian descent reside in Mozambique. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 24,692,144, rank – 51. Area – 786,380, rank – 35. Density – 31, rank – 179.



MYANMAR, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Myanma Naingngandaw, in Southeast Asia, formerly known as Burma. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. One-third of Myanmar's total perimeter of 1,930 km forms an uninterrupted coastline along the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea. Early civilisations in Myanmar included the Tibeto-Burmanspeaking Pyu city-states in Upper Burma and the Mon kingdoms in Lower Burma. In the 9th century, the Bamar people entered the upper Irrawaddy valley and, following the establishment of the Pagan Kingdom in the 1050s, the Burmese language, culture and Theravada Buddhism slowly became dominant in the country. The Pagan Kingdom fell due to the Mongol invasions and several warring states emerged. In the 16th century, reunified by the Taungoo Dynasty, the country was for a brief period the largest empire in the history of Southeast Asia. The early 19th century Konbaung Dynasty ruled over an area that included modern Myanmar and briefly controlled Manipur and Assam as well. The British conquered Myanmar after three Anglo-Burmese Wars in the 19th century and the country became a British colony. Myanmar became an independent nation in 1948, initially as a democratic nation and then, following a coup d'état in 1962, a military dictatorship. For most of its independent years, the country has been engrossed in rampant ethnic strife and Burma's myriad ethnic groups have been involved in one of the world's longest-running ongoing civil wars. During this time, the United Nations and several other organizations have reported consistent and systematic human rights violations in the country. There is continuing criticism of the government's treatment of the Muslim Rohingya minority and its poor response to the religious clashes. In the landmark 2015 election, Aung San Suu Kyi's party won a majority in both houses, ending military rule. Myanmar is a country rich in jade and gems, oil, natural gas and other mineral resources. The income gap in Myanmar is among the widest in the world, as a large proportion of the economy is controlled by supporters of the former military government. As of 2013, according to the Human Development Index (HDI), Myanmar had a low level of human development, ranking 150 out of 187 countries.

Capital – Naypyidaw (new, past - Yangon/Rangoon). Language – Burmese. Religion – Buddhist – 80%, Christian – 8%, Muslim – 4%, Folk religion – 6%, Hindu – 2%. Ethnics – Burman – 68%, Shan – 9%, Karen – 7%, Rakhine – 4%, Chinese – 3%, Indian – 2%, Mon – 2%. Government - In 2011, the military junta was officially dissolved following a 2010 general election, and a nominally civilian government was installed. While former military leaders still wield enormous power in the country, Burmese Military have taken steps toward relinquishing control of the government. This, along with the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and political prisoners, has improved the country's human rights record and foreign relations, and has led to the easing of trade and other economic sanctions. In the landmark 2015 election, Aung San Suu Kyi's party won a majority in both houses, ending military rule. Population – 55,746,253, rank – 25. Area – 653,508, rank – 40. Density – 85, rank – 118.



NAGORNO-KARABAKH, Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, formerly an autonomous region of Azerbaijan, now a de facto independent state, claimed by Azerbaijan. Nagorno-Karabakh is a landlocked region in the South Caucasus, lying between Lower Karabakh and Zangezur and covering the southeastern range of the Lesser Caucasus mountains. Link to map. Link to essential data on de facto independent countries: Wikipedia, BBC, Quora, Polgeonow. The region is mostly mountainous and forested. Nagorno-Karabakh is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan, but most of the region is governed by the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, a de facto independent nation established on the basis of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic. Azerbaijan has not exercised political authority over the region since the advent of the Karabakh movement in 1988. Since the end of the Nagorno-Karabakh War in 1994, representatives of the governments of Armenia and Azerbaijan have been holding peace talks mediated by the OSCE Minsk Group on the region's disputed status. The region is usually equated with the administrative borders of the former Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast comprising an area of 4,400 square kilometres. The historical area of the region, however, encompasses approximately 8,223 square kilometres. Around the mid 7th century, the region was conquered by the invading Muslim Arabs through the Muslim conquest of Persia. Subsequently, it was ruled by local governors endorsed by the Caliphate. In 821 the Armenian prince Sahl Smbatian revolted in Artsakh and established the House of Khachen, which ruled Artsakh as a principality until the early 19th century. The name "Khachen" originated from Armenian word "khach," which means "cross". By 1000 the House of Khachen proclaimed the Kingdom of Artsakh with John Senecherib as its first ruler. Initially Dizak, in southern Artsakh, formed also a kingdom ruled by the ancient House of Aranshahik, descended of the earliest Kings of Caucasian Albania. In 1261, after the daughter of the last king of Dizak married the king of Artsakh, Armenian prince Hasan Jalal Dola, the two states merged into one Armenian Principality of Khachen. Subsequently Artsakh continued to exist as a de facto independent principality.

Karabakh became a protectorate of the Imperial Russia by the Kurekchay Treaty, signed between Ibrahim Khalil Khan of Karabakh and general Pavel Tsitsianov on behalf of Tsar Alexander I in 1805, according to which the Russian monarch recognized Ibrahim Khalil Khan and his descendants as the sole hereditary rulers of the region. However, its new status was only confirmed following the outcome of the Russo-Persian War (1804-1813), when through the loss in the war, Persia formally ceded Karabakh to the Russian Empire per the Treaty of Gulistan (1813), before the rest of Transcaucasia was incorporated into the Empire in 1828 by the Treaty of Turkmenchay, which came as an outcome of the Russo-Persian War (1826-1828). In 1822, 9 years after having passed from Iranian to Russian control, the Karabakh Khanate was dissolved, and the area became part of the Elisabethpol Governorate within the Russian Empire. After the transfer of the Karabakh Khanate to Russia, many Muslim families immigrated to Persia, while many Armenians were induced by the Russian government to emigrate from Persia to Karabakh. The present-day conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh has its roots in the decisions made by Joseph Stalin and the Caucasian Bureau (Kavburo) during the Sovietization of Transcaucasia. Stalin was the acting Commissar of Nationalities for the Soviet Union during the early 1920s, the branch of the government under which the Kayburo was created. After the Russian Revolution of 1917, Karabakh became part of the Transcaucasian Democratic Federative Republic, but this soon dissolved into separate Armenian, Azerbaijani, and Georgian states. Over the next two years (1918–1920), there were a series of short wars between Armenia and Azerbaijan over several regions, including Karabakh. In July 1918, the First Armenian Assembly of Nagorno-Karabakh declared the region self-governing and created a National Council and government. Later, Ottoman troops entered Karabakh, meeting armed resistance by Armenians. After the defeat of the Ottoman Empire in World War I, British troops occupied Karabakh. The British command provisionally affirmed Khosrov bey Sultanov (appointed by the Azerbaijani government) as the governor-general of Karabakh and Zangezur, pending final decision by the Paris Peace Conference. The decision was opposed by Karabakh Armenians. In February 1920, the Karabakh National Council preliminarily agreed to Azerbaijani jurisdiction, while Armenians elsewhere in Karabakh continued guerrilla fighting, never accepting the agreement. The agreement itself was soon annulled by the Ninth Karabagh Assembly, which declared union with Armenia in April.

In April 1920, while the Azerbaijani army was locked in Karabakh fighting local Armenian forces, Azerbaijan was taken over by Bolsheviks. On 10 August 1920, Armenia signed a preliminary agreement with the Bolsheviks, agreeing to a temporary Bolshevik occupation of these areas until final settlement would be reached. In 1921, Armenia and Georgia were also taken over by the Bolsheviks who, in order to attract public support, promised they would allot Karabakh to Armenia, along with Nakhchivan and Zangezur (the strip of land separating Nakhchivan from Armenia proper). However, the Soviet Union also had far-reaching plans concerning Turkey, hoping that it would, with a little help from them, develop along

Communist lines. Needing to placate Turkey, the Soviet Union agreed to a division under which Zangezur would fall under the control of Armenia, while Karabakh and Nakhchivan would be under the control of Azerbaijan. Had Turkey not been an issue, Stalin would likely have left Karabakh under Armenian control. As a result, the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast was established within the Azerbaijan SSR on 7 July 1923. With the Soviet Union firmly in control of the region, the conflict over the region died down for several decades. With the beginning of the dissolution of the Soviet Union in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the question of Nagorno-Karabakh re-emerged. Accusing the Azerbaijani SSR government of conducting forced Azerification of the region, the majority Armenian population, with ideological and material support from the Armenian SSR, started a movement to have the autonomous oblast transferred to the Armenian SSR. The oblast's borders were drawn to include Armenian villages and to exclude as much as possible Azerbaijani villages. The resulting district ensured an Armenian majority. In August 1987, Karabakh Armenians sent a petition for union with Armenia with tens of thousands of signatures to Moscow. Several world leaders have met with the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan over the years, but efforts to maintain the ceasefire have failed.

Capital – Stepanakert. Language – Armenian. Religion - Most of the Armenian population is Christian and belongs to the Armenian Apostolic Church. Ethnics - The population of the Nagorno-Karabach Republic is now almost exclusively Armenian. Almost all Azerbaijanis (41,000 at the territory of the Nagorno-Karabach AO in 1989) have left the area. The majority of the Russians and Ukrainians have also left. Government - Politics of Nagorno Karabakh takes place in a framework of a presidential representative democratic republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, whereby the President of Nagorno Karabakh is both head of state and head of government, and of a multi-party system; as of 2009, American organization Freedom House ranks Nagorno-Karabakh Republic above both the republic of Armenia and Azerbaijan in terms of political and civil rights. Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the National Assembly. The republic is de facto independent and de jure a part of Azerbaijan. None of the elections are recognized by any governing body and are condemned by Minks Group Observant as well Azerbaijan, Turkey and OIC countries have more harsh stance by saying that the elections delude the peace talks. The president is elected for a five-year term by the people. The National Assembly (Azgayin Zhoghov) has 33 members, 16 elected for a five-year term in single seat constituencies and 17 by proportional representation. Nagorno Karabakh has a multi-party system, with numerous parties in which no one party often has a chance of gaining power alone, and parties must work with each other to form coalition governments. Population – 146,573, Area – 4,400, Density – 33.



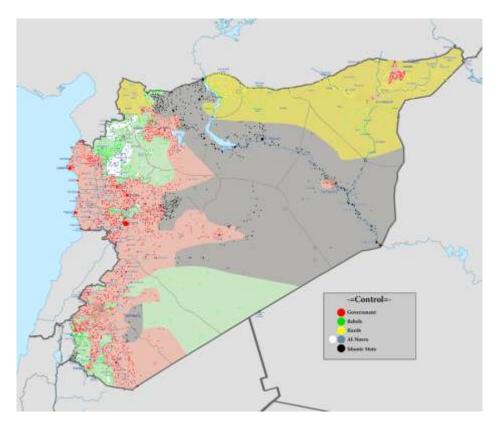
NAMIBIA, Republic of Namibia, in Southern Africa, formerly known as South-West Africa. Link to map. Links to essential data: <u>CIA Factbook</u>, <u>Enc. Britannica</u>, <u>Wikipedia</u>, <u>Nations Online</u>, <u>UN Data</u>, <u>BBC</u>, <u>World Atlas</u>, <u>Countries/World</u>, <u>List/Countries</u>, <u>Index Mundi</u>, <u>Oper/World</u>, <u>Internet/Stats</u>. Member of the UN, CW. Namibia gained independence from

South Africa on 21 March 1990, following the Namibian War of Independence. The dry lands of Namibia were inhabited since early times by San, Damara, and Namaqua, Since about the 14th century AD, immigrating Bantu arrived as part of the Bantu expansion. Since then the Bantu groups in total, known as the Ambo people, have dominated the population of the country and since the late 19th century, have constituted a large majority. In the late 19th century during European colonization, the German Empire established rule over most of the territory as a protectorate in 1884. It began to develop infrastructure and farming, and maintained this German colony until 1915, when South African forces defeated its military. After the end of World War I, in 1920 the League of Nations mandated the country to the United Kingdom, under administration by South Africa. It imposed its laws, including racial classifications and rules. From 1948, with the National Party elected to power, South Africa applied its apartheid policy also to what was known as South West Africa. In 1878 the British Cape Colony had annexed the port of Walvis Bay and the offshore Penguin Islands; these became an integral part of the new Union of South Africa at its creation in 1910. In the later 20th century, uprisings and demands for political representation by native African political activists seeking independence resulted in the UN assuming direct responsibility over the territory in 1966, but South Africa maintained de facto rule. In 1973 the UN recognised the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) as the official representative of the Namibian people; the party is dominated by the Ambo people, who are a large majority in the territory. Following continued guerrilla warfare, South Africa installed an interim administration in Namibia in 1985. Namibia obtained full independence from South Africa in 1990. But Walvis Bay and the Penguin Islands remained under South African control until 1994. Namibia has a population of 2.1 million people and a stable multi-party parliamentary democracy. Agriculture, herding, tourism and the mining industry – including mining for gem diamonds, uranium, gold, silver, and base metals - form the basis of its economy. The large, arid Namib Desert has resulted in Namibia being overall one of the least densely populated countries in the world. Namibia enjoys high political, economic and social stability.

Capital – Windhoek. Language – English, German, Afrikaans, Damara/Nama, Herero. Religion – Christian – 98%, Unaffiliated – 2%. Ethnics – Black – 88%, White – 6%, Mixed – 6%. About half of the population belongs to the Ovambo tribe and 9% to the Kavangos tribe. Other ethnic groups include – Herero – 7%, Damara – 7%, Nama – 5%, Caprivian – 4%, Bushmen – 3%, Baster – 2%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 2,198,406, rank – 143. Area – 823,290, rank – 34. Density – 2.7, rank -228.



NATIONAL COALITION FOR SYRIAN REVOLUTIONARY AND OPPOSITION FORCES, THE, known as the Syrian National Coalition, in the Middle East, Western Asia, is a coalition of opposition groups controlling de facto parts of Syria, but excluding ISIL and Kurdistan territories in Syria. Military situation in the Syrian Civil War as of May 1, 2016:



Controlled by Syrian Government forces Controlled by Kurdish forces (Rojava) Controlled by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant Controlled by al-Nusra Front Controlled by Syrian opposition forces

Link to essential data on de facto independent countries: Wikipedia, BBC, Quora, Polgeonow.

The National Coalition for Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces (Arabic: الائتلاف الوطني الائتلاف: Commonly named the Syrian National Coalition (Arabic: القوى الثورة والمعارضة السورية الوطني السوري), is a coalition of opposition groups in the Syrian Civil War that was founded in Doha, Qatar, in November 2012. Former imam of the Umayyad Mosque in Damascus, Moaz al-Khatib, considered a moderate, was elected the president of the coalition, and resigned on 21 April 2013. Riad Seif and Suheir Atassi, both prominent democracy activists and the latter a secular human rights advocate, were elected vice presidents. The post of a third vice president will remain vacant for a Kurdish figure to be elected. Mustafa Sabbagh was elected as the coalition's secretary-general. The coalition has a council of 114 seats, though not all of them are filled. On 31 May 2013, the coalition gave membership to 15 representatives of the Free Syrian Army, allowing direct representation of rebels from Syria in a political group for the first time. On 6 July, the coalition elected new leadership. Ahmad Asi Al-Jarba was elected president and Anas Al-Abdah was elected as secretary general. On 14 September 2013, the National Coalition selected Ahmad Tu'mah as prime minister of an interim government for Syria. On 25 September 2013, some Islamist factions rejected the Syrian National Coalition stating that "All groups formed abroad without having returned to the country do not represent us." The main aims of the National Coalition are replacing the Bashar al-Assad government and "its symbols and pillars of support", "dismantling the security services", unifying and supporting the Free Syrian Army, refusing dialogue and negotiation with the al-Assad government, and "holding accountable those responsible for killing Syrians, destroying [Syria], and displacing [Syrians]". The coalition is recognized by many countries, as Saudi Arabia, France, Turkey, Egypt, Jordan, Germany, Italy, the Arab League, the European Union, the United States, as the legitimate interim government of Syria.

Headquarters of the National Coalition - in Istanbul, Turkey. Language - Arabic. Religion there is not any data on the religion and ethnics of the population in the regions under control of the National Coalition. We would presume that Syria would be split more or less according to the broadlines of the religious and ethnic division. But in the Middle East nothing operates logically, ISIS strongholds in Iraq are in Kurds areas, Assad's Alawite strongholds are in Sunni's areas, and the belligerents are not divided strictly according to religious and ethnics parameters as in former Yugoslavia for example. Before the civil war Muslim were about 86%, of which Sunni about 74% and Alawite/Shiite about 11%; Christian - 8%, of which Orthodox about 5%, Roman Catholic about 2%; Druze about 3%, Unaffiliated – 3%. Ethnics - Syrian Arabs, together with some 600,000 Palestinian Arabs made up about 74% of Syria's population, and Sunni Arabs accout for 60% of the population, most Kurds (9%) and Turkomen (3%) are Sunni. Druze, who have a different religion and ethnicity, were 3% of the population, located mainly in the southern area of Jabal al-Druze. Government – see above detailed description. Population – the Syrian pre-war population was 24.5 million, while the current population is only 17.9 million, the difference being refugees in Turkey, Lebanon and Europe, and about half a million casualties. The Area of Syria was 185,180, and the new Density of the population is now 96. But those are the figures for all Syria and not for the parts of Syria under control of the National Coalition, ISIS, the Kurds, the Government, etc.



NAURU, Republic of Nauru, formerly known as Pleasant Island, is an island country in Micronesia, Oceania, in the Central Pacific. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. Settled by native peoples from Micronesia and Polynesia, Nauru was annexed and claimed as a colony by the German Empire in the late 19th century. After World War I, Nauru became a League of Nations mandate administered by Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. During World War II, Nauru was occupied by Japanese troops, who were bypassed by the Allied advance across the Pacific. After the war ended, the country entered into UN trusteeship. Nauru gained its independence in 1968. Nauru is a phosphate rock island with rich deposits near the surface, which allowed easy strip mining operations. It has some remaining phosphate resources which, as of 2011, are not economically viable for extraction. Nauru boasted the highest per-capita income enjoyed by any sovereign state in the world during the late 1960s and early 1970s. When the phosphate reserves were exhausted, and the island's environment had been seriously harmed by mining, the trust that had been established to manage the island's wealth diminished in value. To earn income, Nauru briefly became a tax haven and illegal money laundering centre. From 2001 to 2008, and again from 2012, it accepted aid from Australia in exchange for hosting the Nauru detention centre. As a result of heavy dependence on Australia, sources have identified Nauru as a client state of Australia.

Capital – Yaren District (no Capital City). Language – English, Nauruan. Religion – Christian – 79%, Folk religion – 8%, Bahai – 10%. Ethnics – Nauruan - 58%, Other Pacific Islander – 26%, Chinese – 8%, European – 8%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency and ministry are subject to parliamentary confidence. The president of Nauru heads a 19-member unicameral parliament. Population – 9,488, rank – 226. Area – 21, rank – 240. Density – 452, rank – 27.



NAVASSA, Navassa Island (French: l'île de la Navase; also La Navase) is a small, uninhabited island in the Caribbean Sea situated between Jamaica and Haiti. It is claimed by the US as part of its territory and is administered as unorganized unincorporated territory of the US through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Haiti has claimed sovereignty over Navassa since 1801 and claims the island in its constitution, disputing the U.S. claim. Navassa Island is about 5.2 km² in area. The terrain of Navassa Island consists mostly of exposed coral and limestone, the island being ringed by vertical white cliffs 9.1 to 15.2 m high, but with enough grassland to support goat herds. The island is covered in a forest of just four tree species: short-leaf fig (Ficus populnea var. brevifolia), pigeon plum (Coccoloba diversifolia), mastic (Sideroxylon foetidissimum), and poisonwood (Metopium brownei). Transient Haitian fishermen and others camp on the island but the island is otherwise uninhabited. It has no ports or harbors, only offshore anchorages, and its only natural resource is guano; economic activity consists of subsistence fishing and commercial trawling activities. In 1504, Christopher Columbus, stranded on Jamaica during his fourth voyage, sent some crew members by canoe to Hispaniola for help. They ran into the island on the way, but it had no water. They called it Navaza (from "nava-" meaning plain, or field), and it was avoided by mariners for the next 350 years.

Guano phosphate is a superior organic fertilizer that became a mainstay of American agriculture in the mid-19th century. Duncan transferred his discoverer's rights to his employer, an American guano trader in Jamaica, who sold them to the newly formed Navassa Phosphate Company of Baltimore. After an interruption for the American Civil War, the Company built larger mining facilities on Navassa with barrack housing for 140 black contract laborers from Maryland, houses for white supervisors, a blacksmith shop, warehouses, and a church. Mining began in 1865. The workers dug out the guano by dynamite and pick-axe and hauled it in rail cars to the landing point at Lulu Bay, where it was put into sacks and lowered onto boats for transfer to the Company barque, the S.S. Romance. The living quarters at Lulu Bay were called *Lulu Town*, as appears on old maps. Railway tracks eventually extended inland. Hauling guano by muscle-power in the fierce tropical heat, combined with general disgruntlement with conditions on the island, eventually provoked a

rebellion in 1889, in which five supervisors died. A U.S. warship returned eighteen of the workers to Baltimore for three separate trials on murder charges. A black fraternal society, the Order of Galilean Fisherman, raised money to defend the miners in federal court, and the defense built its case on the contention that the men acted in self-defense or in the heat of passion, and that the United States did not have jurisdiction over the island. The cases, including *Jones v. United States*, 137 U.S. 202 (1890) went to the U.S. Supreme Court in October 1890, which ruled the Guano Act constitutional, and three of the miners were scheduled for execution in the spring of 1891. A grass-roots petition drive by black churches around the country, also signed by white jurors from the three trials, reached President Benjamin Harrison, who commuted the sentences to imprisonment and mentioned the case in a State of the Union Address. Guano mining resumed on Navassa at a much reduced level. The Spanish–American War of 1898 forced the Phosphate Company to evacuate the island and file for bankruptcy, and the new owners abandoned the island after 1901.

Navassa became significant again with the opening of the Panama Canal in 1914. Shipping between the American eastern seaboard and the Canal goes through the Windward Passage between Cuba and Haiti. Navassa, a hazard to navigation, needed a lighthouse. The U.S. Lighthouse Service built Navassa Island Light, a 162-foot (46 m) tower on the island in 1917, 395 feet (120 m) above sea level. A keeper and two assistants were assigned to live there until the United States Lighthouse Service installed an automatic beacon in 1929. After absorbing the Lighthouse Service in 1939, the U.S. Coast Guard serviced the light twice each year. The U.S. Navy set up an observation post for the duration of World War II. The island has been uninhabited since then. Fishermen, mainly from Haiti, fish the waters around Navassa. A scientific expedition from Harvard University studied the land and marine life of the island in 1930. After World War II amateur radio operators occasionally visited to operate from the territory, which is accorded "entity" (country) status by the American Radio Relay League. [16] The callsign prefix is KP1. From 1903 to 1917, Navassa was a dependency of the U.S. Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, and from 1917 to 1996 it was under United States Coast Guard administration. Since January 16, 1996, it has been administered by U.S. Department of the Interior. A 1998 scientific expedition led by the Center for Marine Conservation in Washington, D.C. described Navassa as "a unique preserve of Caribbean biodiversity." The island's land and offshore ecosystems have survived the 20th century virtually untouched. In 1999 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service assumed administrative responsibility for Navassa, which became a National Wildlife Refuge Overlay, also known as Navassa Island National Wildlife Refuge. The Office of Insular Affairs retains authority for the island's political affairs, and judicial authority is exercised directly by the nearest U.S. Circuit Court. Access to Navassa is hazardous and visitors need permission from the Fish and Wildlife Office in Boquerón, Puerto Rico to enter its territorial waters or land.



NEPAL, Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, Nepala, in South-Central Asia, is a federation composed of 14 zones. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc.

Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. It is a landlocked country located along the Himalayas and bordered to the north by China and to the south, east, and west by India. Kathmandu is the nation's capital city and largest metropolis. The mountainous north of Nepal has eight of the world's ten tallest mountains, including the highest point on Earth, Mount Everest (Himalayas Mountains) (Nepali: Sagarmāthā). More than 250 peaks over 6,096 m above sea level are located in Nepal. The southern Madhesh region is fertile and humid. A large portion of the population, especially in the hill region, may identify themselves as both Hindu and Buddhist, which can be attributed to the syncretic nature of both faiths in Nepal. A monarchy throughout most of its history, Nepal was ruled by the Shah dynasty of kings from 1768—when Prithvi Narayan Shah unified its many small kingdoms—until 2008. A decade-long Civil War involving the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), followed by weeks of mass protests by all major political parties, led to the 12-point agreement of 22 November 2005. The ensuing elections for the 1st Nepali Constituent Assembly on 28 May 2008 overwhelmingly favored the abolition of the monarchy and the establishment of a federal multiparty representative democratic republic. Despite continuing political challenges, this framework remained in place, with the 2nd Nepali Constituent Assembly elected in 2013 in an effort to create a new constitution. On September 20, 2015, a new constitution was announced in the Constituent Assembly. The Constituent Assembly was transformed into a legislative parliament. The new constitution established Nepal as a federal democratic country by making seven unnamed states. Nepal is a developing country with a low income economy, ranking 145th of 187 countries on the Human Development Index (HDI) in 2014. It continues to struggle with high levels of hunger and poverty. Despite these challenges, Nepal has been making steady progress, with the government making a commitment to graduate the nation from least developed country status by 2022.

Capital – Kathmandu. Language – Nepali, Devanagari, English. Religion – Hindu – 81%, Buddhist – 10%, Muslim – 5%, Folk religion – 4%. Ethnics – Chhettri – 17%, Brahman-Hill – 12%, Magar – 7%, Tharu – 7%, Tamang – 6%, Newar – 5%, Kami – 5%, Muslim – 4%, Yadav – 4%, Rai – 2%, Gurung – 2%, Damai/Dholii – 2%, Thakuri – 2%, Limbu – 2%, Sarki – 1%, Teli – 1%, Chamar/Harijan/Ram – 1%, Koiri/Kushwaha – 1%. 125 Caste/Ethnic groups were reported in the 2011 national census. Government – Republic, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 30,986,975, rank – 42. Area – 143,351, rank – 94. Density – 216, rank – 56.



NETHERLANDS, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Nederland/Holland, in Western Europe, consists of 4 constituent countries: Netherlands, Aruba, Curacao, Sint Maarten. The monarch and his ministers form the government of the Kingdom as well as the government of its constituent country, the Netherlands. Following the dissolution of the Netherland Antilles, Nederlandse Antillen in the Caribbean, in 2010, Curacao and Sint Maarten have become

constituent countries, which, alongside Aruba, enjoy considerable autonomy. The other three islands - Bonaire, Saba, Sint Eustasius - became special municipalities of the Netherlands. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, EU, EU law applies only to the Netherlands in Europe. The largest and most important cities in the Netherlands are Amsterdam, The Hague and Rotterdam. Amsterdam is the country's capital, while The Hague holds the Dutch seat of government and parliament. The port of Rotterdam is the largest port in Europe - as large as the next three largest combined - and was the world's largest port between 1962 and 2004. The name Holland is also frequently used to refer informally to the whole of the country of the Netherlands. "Netherlands" literally means "lower countries", influenced by its low land and flat geography, with only about 50% of its land exceeding one metre above sea level. Most of the areas below sea level are man-made. Since the late 16th century, large areas (polders) have been reclaimed from the sea and lakes, amounting to nearly 17% of the country's current land mass. With a population density of 408 people per km² – 500 if water is excluded - the Netherlands is a very densely populated country. Only Bangladesh, South Korea, and Taiwan have both a larger population and a higher population density. Nevertheless, the Netherlands is the world's second-largest exporter of food and agricultural products, after the United States. This is partly due to the fertility of the soil and the mild climate. The Netherlands was the third country in the world to have an elected parliament, and since 1848 it has been governed as a parliamentary democracy and a constitutional monarchy, organised as a unitary state. The Netherlands has a long history of social tolerance and is generally regarded as a liberal country, having legalised abortion, prostitution and euthanasia, while maintaining a progressive drugs policy. In 2001, it became the world's first country to legalise same-sex marriage. The country is host to five international courts: the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Court and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. The first four are situated in The Hague, as is the EU's criminal intelligence agency Europol and judicial co-operation agency Eurojust. This has led to the city being dubbed "the world's legal capital". The Netherlands has a market-based mixed economy, ranking 17th of 177 countries according to the Index of Economic Freedom. It had the thirteenth-highest per capita income in the world in 2013 according to the International Monetary Fund. In 2013, the United Nations World Happiness Report ranked the Netherlands as the seventh happiest country in the world, reflecting its high quality of life.

Capital – Amsterdam (official), The Hague (administrative, legislative, and judicial). Language – Dutch, West Frisian (in Friesland). Religion – Christian – 51%, Muslim – 6%, Unaffiliated – 42%. Ethnics – Dutch and Frisians – 78%, Indonesian – 2%, Turkish and Kurdish – 2%, Surinamese – 2%, Moroccan and Berber – 2%, Germans – 2%, Caribbean – 1%, Polish – 1%, Belgians – 1%, about 0.5% each – former Yugoslavians, British, Russians, Chinese. Others – about 7% - Iraqis, Afghanis, Persians, Somalis, Vietnamese, Pakistanis... Government – Constitutional monarchy, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 16,877,351, rank – 66. Area – 33,893, rank – 135. Density – 498, rank – 25.

37 VARIABLE PARAMETERS – SEE METHODOLOGY OF SEARCHING IN 60+ TABLES IN AUSTRALIA.

VARIABLE PARAMETERS FROM CIA WORLD FACTBOOK - PEOPLE & SOCIETY, ECONOMIC PARAMETERS:

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Median age:
total: 42.3 years
male: 41.3 years
female: 43.2 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 23
Population growth rate:
0.41% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 164
Birth rate:
10.83 births/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 181
Death rate:
8.66 deaths/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 74
Net migration rate:
1.95 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 52
Urbanization:
urban population: 90.5% of total population (2015)
rate of urbanization: 1.05% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)
Mother's mean age at first birth:
29.4 (2011 est.)
Maternal mortality rate:
7 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 171
Infant mortality rate:
total: 3.62 deaths/1,000 live births
male: 3.91 deaths/1,000 live births
female: 3.32 deaths/1,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 201
Life expectancy at birth:
total population: 81.23 years
male: 79.11 years
female: 83.47 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 24
Total fertility rate:
1.78 children born/woman (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 155
Contraceptive prevalence rate:
note: percent of women aged 18-45 (2008)
Health expenditures:
12.9% of GDP (2013)
country comparison to the world: \underline{7}
Hospital bed density:
4.7 beds/1,000 population (2009)
Drinking water source:
improved:
urban: 100% of population
rural: 100% of population
total: 100% of population
unimproved:
urban: 0% of population
rural: 0% of population
total: 0% of population (2015 est.)
Sanitation facility access:
improved:
urban: 97.5% of population
rural: 99.9% of population
total: 97.7% of population
unimproved:
urban: 2.5% of population
rural: 0.1% of population
total: 2.3% of population (2015 est.)
HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:
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HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:

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HIV/AIDS - deaths:
Obesity - adult prevalence rate:
21.9% (2014)
country comparison to the world: <u>103</u>
Education expenditures:
5.9% of GDP (2011)
country comparison to the world: 45
School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):
total: 18 years
male: 18 years
female: 18 years (2012)
Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:
total: 11%
male: 10.8%
female: 11.2% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 102
GDP (purchasing power parity):
$831.4 billion (2015 est.)
$816.7 billion (2014 est.)
$808.5 billion (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 28
GDP (official exchange rate):
$750.8 billion (2015 est.)
GDP - real growth rate:
1.8% (2015 est.)
1% (2014 est.)
-0.5% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 150
GDP - per capita (PPP):
$49,300 (2015 est.)
$48,400 (2014 est.)
$47,900 (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2012 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 25
Gross national saving:
27.5% of GDP (2015 est.)
28.7% of GDP (2014 est.)
29% of GDP (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 32
GDP - composition, by end use:
household consumption: 45%
government consumption: 25.3%
investment in fixed capital: 19%
investment in inventories: -0.1%
exports of goods and services: 83.6%
imports of goods and services: -72.8% (2015 est.)
GDP - composition, by sector of origin:
agriculture: 1.6%
industry: 18.8%
services: 79.6% (2015 est.)
Agriculture - products:
grains, potatoes, sugar beets, fruits, vegetables; livestock
Industries:
agroindustries, metal and engineering products, electrical machinery and equipment, chemicals,
petroleum, construction, microelectronics, fishing
Industrial production growth rate:
1% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 145
Labor force:
7.884 million (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 62
Labor force - by occupation: agriculture: 1.8%
industry: 17%
services: 81.2% (2013 est.)
Unemployment rate:
6.9% (2015 est.)
7.4% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 82
Population below poverty line:
9.1% (2013 est.)
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Household income or consumption by percentage share:
lowest 10%: 2.1%
highest 10%: 24.5% (2012 est.)
Distribution of family income - Gini index:
25.1 (2013 est.)
32.6 (1994 est.)
country comparison to the world: 140
Budget:
revenues: $336.5 billion
expenditures: $351.8 billion (2015 est.)
Taxes and other revenues:
44.8% of GDP (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 25
Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):
-2% of GDP (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 73
Public debt:
68.9% of GDP (2015 est.)
68.8% of GDP (2014 est.)
note: data cover general government debt, and includes debt instruments issued (or owned) by
government entities other than the treasury; the data include treasury debt held by foreign entities; the
data include debt issued by subnational entities, as well as intra-governmental debt; intra-governmental
debt consists of treasury borrowings from surpluses in the social funds, such as for retirement, medical
care, and unemployment, debt instruments for the social funds are not sold at public auctions
country comparison to the world: 47
Fiscal year:
calendar year
Inflation rate (consumer prices):
0.3% (2015 est.)
0.3% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 45
Central bank discount rate:
0.05% (31 December 2013)
0.3% (31 December 2010)
note: this is the European Central Bank's rate on the marginal lending facility, which offers overnight
credit to banks in the euro area
country comparison to the world: <u>149</u>
Commercial bank prime lending rate:
2% (31 December 2015 est.)
2.27% (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 179
Market value of publicly traded shares:
$671.7 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
$698.6 billion (31 December 2013)
$578.9 billion (31 December 2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 20
Current account balance:
$72.21 billion (2015 est.)
$90.16 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 7
Exports:
$488.3 billion (2015 est.)
$571.8 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 9
Exports - commodities:
machinery and equipment, chemicals, fuels; foodstuffs
Exports - partners:
Germany 25.3%, Belgium 12.9%, UK 8.9%, France 8.6%, Italy 4.3% (2014)
Imports:
$404.6 billion (2015 est.)
$469 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 13
Imports - commodities:
machinery and transport equipment, chemicals, fuels, foodstuffs, clothing
Imports - partners:
Germany 14.5%, China 13%, Belgium 8.4%, US 6.5%, UK 6.1%, Russia 5.7%, Norway 4.1% (2014)
Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:
$42.92 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
$46.25 billion (31 December 2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 43
Debt - external:
$4.154 trillion (31 December 2014 est.)
$4.524 trillion (31 December 2013 est.)
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country comparison to the world: 7

Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:

\$561.4 billion (31 December 2015 est.) \$540.9 billion (31 December 2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: $\underline{16}$

Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:

\$1.029 trillion (31 December 2015 est.) \$930.1 billion (31 December 2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: 12

Exchange rates:

0.7185 (2011 est.)

euros (EUR) per US dollar -0.885 (2015 est.) 0.7525 (2014 est.) 0.7634 (2013 est.) 0.78 (2012 est.)



NETHERLAND ANTILLES, see Netherlands.

NEW CALEDONIA, Nouvelle-Caledonie, in Melanesia, Oceania, is a French overseas collectivity, and is not part of the European Union with France. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. It is a special collectivity of France located in the southwest Pacific Ocean, 1,210 km east of Australia and 16,136 km east of Metropolitan France. The archipelago, part of the Melanesia subregion, includes the main island of Grande Terre, the Loyalty Islands, the Chesterfield Islands, the Belep archipelago, the Isle of Pines, and a few remote islets. The Chesterfield Islands are in the Coral Sea. Locals refer to Grande Terre as *Le Caillou* ("the pebble"). Its population consists of a mix of Kanak people (the original inhabitants of New Caledonia), people of European descent (Caldoches and Metropolitan French), Polynesian people (mostly Wallisians), and Southeast Asian people, as well as a few people of Pied-Noir and Maghreban

descent. The earliest traces of human presence in New Caledonia date back to the Lapita period. The Lapita were highly skilled navigators and agriculturists with influence over a large area of the Pacific. British explorer Captain James Cook was the first European to sight New Caledonia, on 4 September 1774, during his second voyage. He named it "New Caledonia", as the northeast of the island reminded him of Scotland. The west coast of Grande Terre was approached by Jean-François de Galaup, comte de Lapérouse in 1788, shortly before his disappearance, and the Loyalty Islands were first visited in 1796. From then until 1840, only a few sporadic contacts with the archipelago were recorded. Contacts became more frequent after 1840, because of the interest in sandalwood from New Caledonia. As trade in sandalwood declined, it was replaced by a new form of trade, "blackbirding", a euphemism for enslaving people from New Caledonia, the Loyalty Islands, New Hebrides, New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands to work in sugarcane plantations in Fiji and Queensland. The trade ceased at the start of the 20th century. The victims of this trade were called "Kanakas", like all the Oceanian people, after the Hawaiian word for "man". The first missionaries from the London Missionary Society and the Marist Brothers arrived in the 1840s. In 1849, the crew of the American ship *Cutter* was killed and eaten by the Pouma clan. Cannibalism was widespread throughout New Caledonia. In 1946, New Caledonia became an overseas territory. By 1953, French citizenship had been granted to all New Caledonians.

The European and Polynesian populations gradually increased in the years leading to the nickel boom of 1969-1972, and the Melanesians became a minority, though they were still the largest ethnic group. Between 1976 and 1988, New Caledonia adopted five statutes. Each became a source of discontent and serious disorder, culminating in 1988 with a bloody hostage-taking in Ouvéa. The Matignon Agreements, signed on 26 June 1988, ensured a decade of stability. The Noumea Accord signed 5 May 1998, set the groundwork for a 20year transition that will gradually transfer competences to the local government. Financial support from France is substantial, representing more than 15% of the GDP, and contributes to the health of the economy. Tourism is underdeveloped, with 100,000 visitors a year, compared to 400,000 in the Cook Islands and 200,000 in Vanuatu. Much of the land is unsuitable for agriculture, and food accounts for about 20% of imports. According to FAOSTAT, New Caledonia is one of world's largest producers of: yams (33rd); taro (44th); plantains (50th); coconuts (52nd). The exclusive economic zone of New Caledonia covers 1.4 million square kilometers. The construction sector accounts for roughly 12% of GDP, employing 9.9% of the salaried population in 2010. Manufacturing is largely confined to small-scale activities such as the transformation of foodstuffs, textiles and plastics. New Caledonian soils contain about 25% of the world's nickel resources. The late-2000s recession has gravely affected the nickel industry, as the sector faced a significant drop in nickel prices (-31.0% year-on-year in 2009) for the second consecutive year. The fall in prices has led a number of producers to reduce or stop altogether their activity, resulting in a reduction of the global supply of nickel by 6% compared to 2008.

Capital – Noumea. Language – French. Religion – Christian – 85%, Muslim – 3%, Unaffiliated – 10%. Ethnics – Kanak – 40%, European – 29%, Wallisian, Futunian – 9%, Tahitian – 2%, Indonesian – 2%, Vietnamese – 1%, Ni-Vanuatu – 1%, Mixed Race – 9%. Government - New Caledonia is a *sui generis* collectivity to which France has gradually transferred certain powers. It is governed by a 54-member Territorial Congress, a legislative body composed of members of three provincial assemblies. The French State is represented in the territory by a High Commissioner. At a national level, New Caledonia is represented in the French Parliament by two deputies and two senators. At the 2012 French presidential

election, the voter turnout in New Caledonia was 61.19%. Population -267,840, rank -183. Area -18,275, rank -156. Density -15, rank -204.



NEW ZEALAND, New Zealand, Aotearoa, in Oceania, comprises the dependent territories of Ross Dependency and Tokelau. New Zealand is an island nation in the southwestern Pacific Ocean. The country geographically comprises two main landmasses - that of the North Island, or Te Ika-a-Māui, and the South Island, or Te Waipounamu – and numerous smaller islands. New Zealand has responsibilities for (but no right of control over) two freely associated states: Cook Islands and Niue, which have diplomatic relations with other countries, full treaty-making capacity in the UN, and are members of some UN specialized agencies. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. New Zealand is situated some 1,500 kilometres east of Australia across the Tasman Sea and roughly 1,000 kilometres south of the Pacific island areas of New Caledonia, Fiji, and Tonga. Because of its remoteness, it was one of the last lands to be settled by humans. During its long period of isolation, New Zealand developed a distinctive biodiversity of animal, fungal and plant life. The country's varied topography and its sharp mountain peaks, such as the Southern Alps, owe much to the tectonic uplift of land and volcanic eruptions. New Zealand's capital city is Wellington, while its most populous city is Auckland. Somewhere between 1250 and 1300 CE, Polynesians settled in the islands that were to become New Zealand, and developed a distinctive Māori culture. In 1642, Abel Tasman, a Dutch explorer, became the first European to sight New Zealand. In 1840, representatives of the British Crown and Māori Chiefs signed the Treaty of Waitangi, making New Zealand a British colony. Today, the majority of New Zealand's population of 4.5 million is of European descent; the indigenous Māori are the largest minority, followed by Asians and Pacific Islanders. Reflecting this, New Zealand's culture is mainly derived from Māori and early British settlers, with recent broadening arising from increased immigration. New Zealand is a developed country with a market economy that is dominated by the exports of dairy products, meat and wine, along with tourism. New Zealand is a World Bank high-income economy and ranks highly in international comparisons of national performance, such as health, education, economic freedom and quality of life. Nationally, legislative authority is vested in an elected, Unicameral Parliament, while executive political power is exercised by the Cabinet, led by the Prime Minister. Queen Elizabeth II is the country's head of state and is represented by a Governor-General. In addition, New Zealand is organised into 11 regional councils and 67 territorial authorities for local government purposes. The Realm of New Zealand also includes Tokelau (a dependent territory); the Cook Islands and Niue (self-governing states in free association with New Zealand); and the Ross Dependency, which is New Zealand's territorial claim in Antarctica.

Capital – Wellington. Language – English (official), Maori (statewide). Religion – Christian – 57%, Unaffiliated – 37%, Hindu – 2%, Buddhist – 2%, Muslim – 1%. Ethnics – European – 71%, Maori – 14%, Asian – 11%, Pacific peoples – 8%. Percentages add up to more than

100% because respondents to the census were able to identify more than one ethnic group. Government – Constitutional monarchy, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 4,401,916, rank – 127. Area – 267,710, rank – 76. Density – 16, rank - 199.



NICARAGUA, Republic of Nicaragua, in Central America, contains two autonomous regions: Atlantico Sur and Atlantico Norte. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Nicaragua is the largest country in the Central American isthmus. The multi-ethnic population includes indigenous peoples, Europeans, Africans, Asians. The main language is Spanish. Native tribes on the eastern coast speak their own languages. The Spanish Empire conquered the region in the 16th century. Nicaragua gained independence from Spain in 1821. Since its independence, Nicaragua has undergone periods of political unrest, dictatorship, and fiscal crisis—the most notable causes that led to the Nicaraguan Revolution of the 1960s and 1970s. Nicaragua is a representative democratic republic. The mixture of cultural traditions has generated substantial diversity in art and literature, particularly the latter given the literary contributions of Nicaraguan poets and writers, including Rubén Darío, Pablo Antonio Cuadra and Ernesto Cardenal. The biological diversity, warm tropical climate and active volcanoes make Nicaragua an increasingly popular tourist destination. In pre-Columbian times, in what is now known as Nicaragua, the indigenous people were part of the Intermediate Area, between the Mesoamerican and Andean cultural regions, and within the influence of the Isthmo-Colombian area. The Pipil migrated to Nicaragua from central Mexico after 500 BC. At the end of the 15th century, western Nicaragua was inhabited by several indigenous peoples related by culture to the Mesoamerican civilizations of the Aztec and Maya, and by language to the Mesoamerican Linguistic Area. Meanwhile, the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua was inhabited by other peoples, mostly Chibcha language groups. They had coalesced in Central America and migrated also to present-day northern Colombia and nearby areas. They lived a life based primarily on hunting and gathering.

In 1502, Christopher Columbus became the first European known to have reached what is now Nicaragua as he sailed southeast toward the Isthmus of Panama. On his fourth voyage, Columbus explored the Miskito Coast on the Atlantic side of Nicaragua. The Spanish then returned to the western part of what became known as Nicaragua and encountered the three most populous indigenous tribes of people in the land: the tribe led by Nicaragua, the indigenous chieftain Nicaragua is truly named after, but was erroneously thought to be Nicarao, the chief of another group of indigenous peoples, and Diriangen, the chieftain of a group of indigenous peoples living in central Nicaragua. The Spanish attempted to convert all three tribes to Christianity; Nicaragua and Nicarao and their people converted, but Dirangen, however, did not, and was openly hostile to the Spaniards. The first attempt to conquer what is now known as Nicaragua was by Gil González Dávila, who arrived in Panama in January 1520. After exploring and gathering gold in the fertile western valleys, González was attacked

by the indigenous people, some of whom were commanded by Nicarao, and an estimated 3,000 led by the chief Diriangén. The first Spanish permanent settlements were founded in 1524. Conquistador Francisco Hernández de Córdoba founded two of Nicaragua's principal towns in 1524: Granada on Lake Nicaragua was the first settlement, followed by León at a location west of Lake Managua. Córdoba soon built defenses for the cities and fought against incursions by other conquistadors. Córdoba was later publicly beheaded following a power struggle with Pedro Arias Dávila. His tomb and remains were discovered in 2000 in the ruins of León Viejo. The clashes among Spanish forces did not impede their destruction of the indigenous people and their culture. The series of battles came to be known as the "War of the Captains". Pedro Arias Dávila was a winner; although he had lost control of Panama, he moved to Nicaragua and successfully established his base in León. Through adroit diplomatic machinations, he became the first governor of the colony.

Without women in their parties, the Spanish conquerors took Niquirano and Chorotega wives and partners, beginning the multiethnic mix of native and European stock now known as "mestizo", which constitutes the great majority of the population in western Nicaragua. Many indigenous people died as a result of new infectious diseases, compounded by neglect by the Spaniards, who controlled their subsistence. In 1610, the Momotombo volcano erupted, destroying the capital. It was rebuilt northwest of what is now known as the ruins of Old León. During the American Revolutionary War, Central America was subject to conflict between Britain and Spain. Horatio Nelson led expeditions against San Fernando de Omoa in 1779 and San Juan in 1780, which had temporary success before being abandoned due to disease. Nicaragua is among the poorest countries in the Americas. Its gross domestic product (GDP) in purchasing power parity (PPP) in 2008 was estimated at \$17.37 billion USD. Agriculture represents 17% of GDP, the highest percentage in Central America. Remittances account for over 15% of the Nicaraguan GDP. Close to one billion dollars are sent to the country by Nicaraguans living abroad. According to the United Nations Development Programme, 48% of the population of Nicaragua live below the poverty line, 79.9% of the population live with less than \$2 per day, According to UN figures, 80% of the indigenous people (who make up 5% of the population) live on less than \$1 per day.

Capital – Managua. Language – Spanish. Religion – Christian – 86%, Unaffiliated – 13%, Folk religion – 1%. Ethnics – Mestizo – Mixed Amerindian and White – 69%, White – 17%, Black – 9%, Amerindian – 5%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 5,848,641, rank – 111. Area – 119,990, rank – 98. Density – 49, rank – 159.



NIGER, Republic of Niger, is a landlocked country in West Africa, named after the Niger river. <u>Link to map</u>. Links to essential data: <u>CIA Factbook</u>, <u>Enc. Britannica</u>, <u>Wikipedia</u>, <u>Nations Online</u>, <u>UN Data</u>, <u>BBC</u>, <u>World Atlas</u>, <u>Countries/World</u>, <u>List/Countries</u>, <u>Index Mundi</u>, <u>Oper/World</u>, <u>Internet/Stats</u>. Member of the UN. Niger is the largest country in West Africa,

with over 80 percent of its land area covered by the Sahara Desert. The country's predominantly Islamic population is mostly clustered in the far south and west of the country. The capital city is Niamey, located in the far-southwest corner of Niger. Niger is a developing country, and is consistently one of the lowest-ranked in the United Nations' Human Development Index (HDI); it was ranked last at 188th for 2014. Much of the non-desert portions of the country are threatened by periodic drought and desertification. The economy is concentrated around subsistence and some export agriculture clustered in the more fertile south, and the export of raw materials, especially uranium ore. Niger faces serious challenges to development due to its landlocked position, desert terrain, high fertility rates and resulting overpopulation without birth control, poor education and poverty of its people, lack of infrastructure, poor health care, and environmental degradation. Nigerien society reflects a diversity drawn from the long independent histories of its several ethnic groups and regions and their relatively short period living in a single state. Historically, what is now Niger has been on the fringes of several large states. Since independence, Nigeriens have lived under five constitutions and three periods of military rule. Following a military coup in 2010, Niger has become a democratic, multi-party state. A majority live in rural areas, and have little access to advanced education.

Capital – Niamey. Language – French. Religion – Muslim – 98%, Christian – 1%, Unaffiliated – 1%. Ethnics – Haoussa – 55%, Djerma Sonrai – 21%, Tuareg – 9%, Peuhl – 9%, Kanouri Manga – 5%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency independent of legislature, ministry subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 17,466,172, rank – 63. Area – 1,266,700, rank – 22. Density – 14, rank – 206.



NIGERIA, Federal Republic of Nigeria, in West Africa, is a federation of 36 states and 1 federal territory. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. Nigeria is officially a democratic secular country. Modern-day Nigeria has been the site of numerous kingdoms and tribal states over the millennia. The modern state originated from British colonial rule beginning in the 19th century, and the merging of the Southern Nigeria Protectorate and Northern Nigeria Protectorate in 1914. The British set up administrative and legal structures whilst practising indirect rule through traditional chiefdoms. Nigeria became a formally independent federation in 1960, and plunged into a civil war from 1967 to 1970. It has since alternated between democratically-elected civilian governments and military dictatorships, until it achieved a stable democracy in 1999, with its 2011 presidential elections being viewed as the first to be conducted reasonably freely and fairly. Nigeria is often referred to as the "Giant of Africa", owing to its large population and economy. With approximately 182 million inhabitants, Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and the seventh most populous country in the world. Nigeria has one of the largest populations of youth in the world. The country is viewed as a multinational state, as it is inhabited by over 500 ethnic groups, of which the three largest are the Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba; these ethnic groups speak over 500 different languages, and are identified with wide variety of cultures. The official language is English. Nigeria is divided roughly in half between Christians, who live mostly in the southern part of the country, and Muslims in the northern part. A minority of the population practise religions indigenous to Nigeria, such as those native to Igbo and Yoruba.

As of 2015, Nigeria is the world's 20th largest economy, worth more than \$500 billion and \$1 trillion in terms of nominal GDP and purchasing power parity respectively. It overtook South Africa to become Africa's largest economy in 2014. Also, the debt-to-GDP ratio is only 11 percent, which is 8 percent below the 2012 ratio. Nigeria is considered to be an emerging market by the World Bank; It has been identified as a regional power on the African continent, a middle power in international affairs, and has also been identified as an emerging global power. Nigeria is a member of the MINT group of countries, which are widely seen as the globe's next "BRIC-like" economies. It is also listed among the "Next Eleven" economies set to become among the biggest in the world. In the 2014 ebola outbreak, Nigeria was the first country to effectively contain and eliminate the Ebola threat that was ravaging three other countries in the West African region, as its unique method of contact tracing became an effective method later used by other countries, such as the United States, when Ebola threats were discovered. Since 2002, the North East of the country has seen sectarian violence by Boko Haram, an Islamist movement that seeks to abolish the secular system of government and establish Sharia law. Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan in May 2014 claimed that Boko Haram attacks have left at least 12,000 people dead and 8,000 people crippled. At the same time, neighbouring countries, Benin, Chad, Cameroon and Niger joined Nigeria in a united effort to combat Boko Haram in the aftermath of a world media highlighted kidnapping of 276 schoolgirls and the spread of Boko Haram attacks to these countries.

Capital – Abuja. Language – English (official), Hausa, Igbo, Yoruba, Pidgin English, Ibibio, Efik. Religion – Christian – 49%, Muslim – 49%, Folk religion – 1%. Ethnics – composed of more than 250 ethnic groups: Hausa and Fulani – 29%, Yoruba – 21%, Igbo – 18%, Ijaw – 10%, Kanuri – 4%, Ibibio – 4%, Tiv – 3%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 177,155,754, rank – 8. Area – 910,768, rank – 32. Density – 195, rank – 67.

37 VARIABLE PARAMETERS – SEE METHODOLOGY OF SEARCHING IN 60+ TABLES IN AUSTRALIA.

VARIABLE PARAMETERS FROM CIA WORLD FACTBOOK - PEOPLE & SOCIETY, ECONOMIC PARAMETERS:

• Median age:
total: 18.2 years
male: 18.2 years
female: 18.3 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 211
Population growth rate:
2.45% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 27
Birth rate:
37.64 births/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 12
Death rate:
12.9 deaths/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 18

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Net migration rate:
-0.22 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 121
Urbanization:
urban population: 47.8% of total population (2015)
rate of urbanization: 4.66% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)
Mother's mean age at first birth:
note: median age at first birth among women 25-29 (2013 est.)
Maternal mortality rate:
814 deaths/100.000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 11
Infant mortality rate:
total: 72.7 deaths/1,000 live births
male: 77.55 deaths/1,000 live births
female: 67.55 deaths/1,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 10
Life expectancy at birth:
total population: 53.02 years
male: 52 years
female: 54.1 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 213
Total fertility rate:
5.19 children born/woman (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 13
Contraceptive prevalence rate:
15.1% (2013)
Health expenditures:
3.9% of GDP (2013)
country comparison to the world: 109
Physicians density:
0.41 physicians/1,000 population (2009)
Hospital bed density:
0.53 beds/1,000 population (2004)
Drinking water source:
improved:
urban: 80.8% of population
rural: 57.3% of population
total: 68.5% of population
unimproved:
urban: 19.2% of population
rural: 42.7% of population
total: 31.5% of population (2015 est.)
Sanitation facility access:
improved:
urban: 32.8% of population
rural: 25.4% of population
total: 29% of population
unimproved:
urban: 67.2% of population
rural: 74.6% of population
total: 71% of population (2015 est.)
HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:
3.17% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 20
HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:
3,391,600 (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 2
HIV/AIDS - deaths:
174,300 (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 1
Major infectious diseases:
degree of risk: very high
food or waterborne diseases: bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A and E, and typhoid fever
vectorborne diseases: malaria, dengue fever, and yellow fever
water contact diseases: leptospirosis and schistosomiasis
respiratory disease: meningococcal meningitis
aerosolized dust or soil contact disease: one of the most highly endemic areas for Lassa fever
animal contact disease: rabies
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note: highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza has been identified in this country; it poses a negligible risk with extremely rare cases possible among US citizens who have close contact with birds (2013)

Obesity - adult prevalence rate: 9.7% (2014)

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country comparison to the world: 146
Children under the age of 5 years underweight:
31% (2013)
country comparison to the world: 12
Education expenditures:
Literacy:
definition: age 15 and over can read and write
total population: 59.6%
male: 69.2%
female: 49.7% (2015 est.)
School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):
total: 9 years
male: 10 years
female: 8 years (2005)
Child labor - children ages 5-14:
total number: 11,396,823
percentage: 29% (2007 est.)
GDP (purchasing power parity):
$1.105 trillion (2015 est.)
$1.063 trillion (2014 est.)
$1 trillion (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 22
GDP (official exchange rate):
$493 billion (2015 est.)
GDP - real growth rate:
4% (2015 est.)
6.3% (2014 est.)
5.4% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 66
GDP - per capita (PPP):
$6,400 (2015 est.)
$6,100 (2014 est.)
$5,800 (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 158
Gross national saving:
15.6% of GDP (2015 est.)
16% of GDP (2014 est.)
18.5% of GDP (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 113
GDP - composition, by end use:
household consumption: 74.1%
government consumption: 7.7%
investment in fixed capital: 16.8%
investment in inventories: 0%
exports of goods and services: 13%
imports of goods and services: -11.6% (2015 est.)
GDP - composition, by sector of origin:
agriculture: 20.3%
industry: 23.6%
services: 56.1% (2015 est.)
Agriculture - products:
cocoa, peanuts, cotton, palm oil, corn, rice, sorghum, millet, cassava (manioc, tapioca), yams, rubber;
cattle, sheep, goats, pigs; timber; fish
Industries: 📑
crude oil, coal, tin, columbite; rubber products, wood; hides and skins, textiles, cement and other
construction materials, food products, footwear, chemicals, fertilizer, printing, ceramics, steel
Industrial production growth rate:
-2.6% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 182
Labor force:
57.46 million (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 11
Labor force - by occupation:
agriculture: 70%
industry: 10%
services: 20% (1999 est.)
Unemployment rate:
23.9% (2011 est.)
4.9% (2011 est.)
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country comparison to the world: 176
Population below poverty line:
70% (2010 est.)
Household income or consumption by percentage share:
lowest 10%: 1.8%
highest 10%: 38.2% (2010 est.)
Distribution of family income - Gini index:
43.7 (2003)
50.6 (1997)
country comparison to the world: 48
Budget:
revenues: $14.37 billion
expenditures: $21.29 billion (2015 est.)
Taxes and other revenues:
2.9% of GDP (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 218
Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):
-1.4% of GDP (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 60
Public debt:
11.7% of GDP (2015 est.)
10.8% of GDP (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 165
Fiscal year:
calendar year
Inflation rate (consumer prices):
9.5% (2015 est.)
8.1% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 203
Central bank discount rate:
4.25% (31 December 2010)
6% (31 December 2009)
country comparison to the world: 94
Commercial bank prime lending rate:
17.3% (31 December 2015 est.)
16.55% (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 24
Market value of publicly traded shares:
$56.39 billion (31 December 2012 est.)
$39.27 billion (31 December 2011)
$50.88 billion (31 December 2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 50
Current account balance:
-$8.855 billion (2015 est.)
$1.2 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: <u>177</u>
Exports:
$50.74 billion (2015 est.)
$82.59 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 52
Exports - commodities:
petroleum and petroleum products 95%, cocoa, rubber (2012 est.)
Exports - partners:
India 15.4%, Brazil 10.2%, Netherlands 8.5%, Spain 8.5%, South Africa 5.5%, France 5.4%, Germany
5.1%, Japan 4.4% (2014)
Imports:
$48.41 billion (2015 est.)
$61.59 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 51
Imports - commodities:
machinery, chemicals, transport equipment, manufactured goods, food and live animals
Imports - partners:
China 25.3%, US 9.7%, India 4.7% (2014)
Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:
$28.76 billion (31 December 2015 est.)
$36.9 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 51
Debt - external:
$20.93 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
$18.67 billion (31 December 2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 86
Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:
$95.57 billion (31 December 2015 est.)
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\$92.75 billion (31 December 2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: 47

Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:
\$12.5 billion (31 December 2015 est.)
\$10.98 billion (31 December 2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: 57

Exchange rates:
nairas (NGN) per US dollar 196.9 (2015 est.)
158.55 (2014 est.)
158.55 (2013 est.)
156.81 (2012 est.)
154.7 (2011 est.)

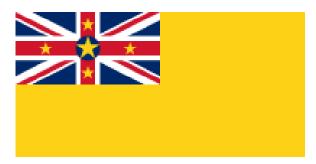






NIUE (Niuean: Niuē), in Polynesia, Oceania. Niue is an island country in the South Pacific Ocean, 2,400 kilometres northeast of New Zealand within the triangle formed by Tonga to the west, Samoa to the north, and the Cook Islands to the east. New Zealand has responsibilities for (but no right of control over) this freely associated state, which has diplomatic relations with other countries, full treaty-making capacity in the UN, and is a member of some UN specialized agencies. It shares a head of state with New Zealand as well as having shared citizenship. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. The island is commonly referred to as "The Rock", a reference to the traditional name "Rock of Polynesia". 90 to 95 percent of Niuean people live in New Zealand, along with about 70% of the speakers of the Niuean language. Niue is not a member of the United Nations, but UN organisations have accepted its status as a freely-associated state as equivalent to independence for the purposes of international law. As such, Niue is a full member of some UN specialised agencies (such as UNESCO, and the WHO), and is invited, alongside the other non-UN member state, the Cook Islands, to attend United Nations conferences open to "all states". In 2003, Internet Users Society-Niue began providing free wireless Internet access throughout the country. Most economic activity revolves around the government, as the government has been in charge of organising and managing the affairs of the country since 1974. However, since the economy has reached a stage where state regulation may now give way to the private sector, there is an ongoing effort to develop the private sector. Following Cyclone Heta, the government made a major commitment towards rehabilitating and developing the private sector. The government allocated \$1 million for the private sector, which was spent on helping businesses devastated by the cyclone, and on the construction of the Fonuakula Industrial Park. This industrial park is now completed and some businesses are already operating from it. The Fonuakula Industrial Park is managed by the Niue Chamber of Commerce, a not for profit organisation providing advisory services to businesses. Most families grow their own food crops for subsistence and some are sold at the Niue Makete in Alofi, some exported to their families in New Zealand. The taro is known in international markets as pink taro. Niue exports taro to New Zealand. The Niue taro is a natural variety and is very resistant to pests.

Capital – Alofi. Language – Niuean, English. Religion – Christian – 96%, Unaffiliated – 3%. Ethnics – Niuen – 67%, part-Niuen – 13%, non-Niuen – 20% - includes 12% European and Asian and 8% Pacific Islanders. Government - Niue is a self-governing state in free association with New Zealand, and New Zealand conducts most of its diplomatic relations on its behalf. Niueans are New Zealand citizens, and Queen Elizabeth II is head of state in her capacity as Queen of New Zealand. Population – 1,190, rank – 236. Area – 260, rank – 213. Density – 4.6, rank – 219.



NORFOLK ISLAND, in Oceania, is a small island in the Pacific Ocean located between Australia, New Zealand and New Caledonia. It is an external territory of Australia. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Norfolk Island (Norfuk: Norf'k Ailen) is a small island in the Pacific Ocean located between Australia, New Zealand and New Caledonia, 1,412 kilometres directly east of mainland Australia's Evans Head, and about 900 kilometres from Lord Howe Island. The island is part of the Commonwealth of Australia. Together with two neighbouring islands, it forms one of Australia's external territories. It has 1,796 inhabitants living on a total area of about 35 km². Its capital is Kingston. Norfolk Island was colonised by East Polynesians but was long unpeopled when it was settled by Great Britain as part of its settlement of Australia from 1788. The island served as a convict penal settlement from 6 March 1788 until 5 May 1855, except for an 11-year hiatus between 15 February 1814 and 6 June 1825, when it lay abandoned. On 8 June 1856, permanent civilian residence on the island began when it was settled from Pitcairn Island. In 1913, the UK handed Norfolk over to Australia to administer as an external territory. The evergreen Norfolk Island pine is a symbol of the island and thus pictured on its flag. Native to the island, the pine is a key export for Norfolk Island, being a popular ornamental tree on mainland Australia, where two related species grow, and also worldwide. Tourism, the primary economic activity, has steadily increased over the years. As Norfolk Island prohibits the importation of fresh fruit and vegetables, most produce is grown locally. Beef is both produced locally and imported. The island has one winery, Two Chimneys Wines. The Australian government controls the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and revenue from it extending 200 nautical miles (370 km) around Norfolk Island (roughly 428,000km2) and territorial sea claims to three nautical miles (6 km) from the island. There is a strong belief on the island that some of the revenue generated from Norfolk's EEZ should be available to providing services such as health and infrastructure on the island, which the island has been responsible for, similar to how the Northern Territory is able to access revenue from their mineral resources. The exclusive economic zone provides the islanders with fish, its only major natural resource. Norfolk Island has no direct control over any marine areas but has an agreement with the Commonwealth through the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) to fish "recreationally" in a small section of the EEZ known locally as "the Box". While there is speculation that the zone may include oil and gas deposits, this is not proven. There are no major arable lands or permanent farmlands, though about 25 per cent of the island is a permanent pasture. There is no irrigated land. The island uses the Australian dollar as its currency. In 2015 a company in Norfolk Island was granted a license to export medicinal cannabis. The medicinal cannabis industry has been viewed by some as a means of reinvigorating the economy of Norfolk Island.

Capital - Kingston. Language - English. Religion - In 2011, 34 percent of the ordinary residents identified as Anglican, 13 percent as Uniting Church, 12 percent as Roman Catholic and three percent as Seventh-day Adventist. Nine percent were from other religions. Twenty four percent had no religion, and the others did not indicate a religion. Ethnics – Australian – 80%, New Zealander - 13%, Fijian - 3%, Filipino - 1%, English - 1%. Government -Norfolk Island is the only non-mainland Australian territory to have achieved selfgovernance. The Norfolk Island Act 1979, passed by the Parliament of Australia in 1979, is the Act under which the island was governed until the passing of the Norfolk Island Legislation Amendment Act 2015. The Australian government maintains authority on the island through an Administrator. From 1979 to 2015, a Legislative Assembly was elected by popular vote for terms of not more than three years, although legislation passed by the Australian Parliament could extend its laws to the territory at will, including the power to override any laws made by the assembly. The Assembly consisted of nine seats, with electors casting nine equal votes, of which no more than two could be given to any individual candidate. It is a method of voting called a "weighted first past the post system". Four of the members of the Assembly formed the Executive Council, which devised policy and acted as an advisory body to the Administrator. The last Chief Minister of Norfolk Island was Lisle Snell. Other ministers included: Minister for Tourism, Industry and Development; Minister for Finance; Minister for Cultural Heritage and Community Services; and Minister for Environment. Population – 2,210, rank – 232. Area – 36, rank – 235. Density – 61, rank – 146.



NORTHERN CYPRUS, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Kuzey Kibris, in the Mediterranean, western Asia, is claimed by the Republic of Cyprus, and is not a part of the European Union, as well as the UN Buffer Zone, with Cyprus. Link to map. Link to essential data on de facto independent countries: Wikipedia, BBC, Quora, Polgeonow. Northern Cyprus (Turkish: Kuzey Kıbrıs), officially the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC; Turkish: Kuzey Kıbrıs Türk Cumhuriyeti), is a self-declared state that comprises the northeastern portion of the island of Cyprus. Recognised only by Turkey, Northern Cyprus is considered by the international community to be part of the Republic of Cyprus. Northern Cyprus extends from the tip of the Karpass Peninsula in the northeast to Morphou Bay, Cape Kormakitis and its westernmost point, the Kokkina exclave in the west. Its southernmost point is the village of Louroujina. A buffer zone under the control of the United Nations stretches between Northern Cyprus and the rest of the island and divides Nicosia, the island's largest city and capital of both states. A coup d'état in 1974, performed as part of an attempt to annex the island to Greece, prompted the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. This resulted in the eviction of much of the north's Greek Cypriot population, the flight of Turkish Cypriots from the south, and the partitioning of the island, leading to a unilateral declaration of independence by the North in 1983. Due to its lack of recognition, Northern Cyprus is heavily dependent on Turkey for economic, political and military support. Attempts to reach a solution to the Cyprus dispute have been unsuccessful. The Turkish Army maintains a large force in Northern Cyprus. While its presence is supported and approved by the TRNC government, the Republic of Cyprus and the international community regard it as an occupation force, and its presence has been denounced in several United Nations Security Council resolutions. Northern Cyprus is a semi-presidential, democratic republic with a cultural heritage incorporating various influences and an economy that is dominated by the services sector. The economy has seen growth through the 2000s and 2010s, with the GNP per capita more than tripling in the 2000s, but is held back by an international embargo due to the official closure of the ports in Northern Cyprus by the Republic of Cyprus. The official language is Turkish, with a distinct local dialect being spoken. The vast majority of the population consists of Sunni Muslims, while religious attitudes are moderate and secular. Northern Cyprus is an observer of the OIC and ECO, and has observer status in the PACE under the title "Turkish Cypriot Community". The economy of Northern Cyprus is dominated by the services sector (69% of GDP in 2007) which includes the public sector, trade, tourism and education. The revenues gained by the education sector in 2011 was \$400 million. Industry (light manufacturing) contributes 22% of GDP and agriculture 9%. The economy of Northern Cyprus is based on a free market approach and it became the top country in Europe in entrepreneurial intent to start a new business in 2014. Economic development is adversely affected by the continuing Cyprus problem. Northern Cyprus is under an international embargo as the Republic of Cyprus, as the internationally recognised authority, has declared airports and ports in the area not under its effective control closed. All UN member states other than Turkey respect the closure of those ports and airports. As a result, Northern Cyprus is heavily dependent on Turkish economic support, and is still dependent on monetary transfers from the Turkish government.

Capital – North Nicosia. Language – Turkish. Religion - The majority of Turkish Cypriots (99%) are Sunni Muslims, whilst a small number are Ahmadiyya Muslims. Northern Cyprus is a secular state. Alcohol is frequently consumed within the community and most Turkish Cypriot women do not cover their heads. Ethnics – Northern Cyprus's first official census was performed in 1996. The population recorded was 200,587. The second census, carried out in 2006, revealed the population of Northern Cyprus to be 265,100, of which majority is composed of indigenous Turkish Cypriots (including refugees from Southern Cyprus) and

settlers from Turkey. Of the 178,000 Turkish Cypriot citizens, 82% are native Cypriots (145,000). Of the 45,000 people born to non- Cypriot parentage, nearly 40% (17,000) were born in Cyprus. The figure for non-citizens, including students, guest workers and temporary residents stood at 78,000 people. Government - The politics of Northern Cyprus takes place in a framework of a semi-presidential representative democratic republic, whereby the President is head of state and the Prime Minister head of government, and of a multi-party system. Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the Assembly of the Republic. The Judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. The president is elected for a five-year term and is currently Mustafa Akıncı. The current Prime Minister is Hüseyin Özgürgün. The legislature is the Assembly of the Republic, which has 50 members elected by proportional representation from five electoral districts. Population – 2014 estimate – 313,626, 2011 census – 286,257. Area – 3,355, rank – 174. Density – 93, rank – 117.



NORTH KOREA, see Korea, North

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, in Micronesia, Oceania, is a US unincorporated organized territory with Commonwealth status. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. The Northern Mariana Islands, officially the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI; Chamorro: Sankattan Siha Na Islas Marianas), is one of five inhabited American insular areas. It is one of two territories with US "commonwealth" status; the other is Puerto Rico. It consists of fifteen islands in the northwestern Pacific Ocean. The CNMI and Guam together comprise the Marianas archipelago. The United States Department of the Interior cites a landmass of 183.5 square miles (475.26 km²). According to the 2010 United States Census, 53,883 people were living in the CNMI at that time. The vast majority of the population resides on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The other islands of the Northern Marianas are sparsely inhabited; the most notable among these is Pagan, which for various reasons over the centuries has experienced major population flux but has formerly had residents numbering in the thousands. The administrative center is Capitol Hill, a village in northwestern Saipan. Because the island is governed as a single municipality, most publications consider Saipan the capital. The first people of the Mariana Islands immigrated at some point between 4000 BC and 2000 BC from Southeast Asia. After first contact with Spaniards, they eventually became known as the Chamorros, a Spanish word similar to Chamori, the name of the indigenous caste system's higher division. The ancient people of the Marianas raised colonnades of megalithic capped pillars called latte stones upon which they built their homes. The Spanish reported that by the time of their arrival, the largest of these were already in ruins, and that the Chamorros believed the ancestors who had erected the pillars lived in an era when people possessed supernatural abilities. Archeologists in 2013 posited that the first people to settle in the Marianas may have made what was at that point the longest uninterrupted ocean-crossing voyage in human history, and that archeological evidence indicates Tinian may have been the first Pacific island outside of Asia to have been settled.

The first European explorer of the area was Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan in 1521. He landed on nearby Guam and claimed the islands for Spain. The Spanish ships were met offshore by the native Chamorros, who delivered refreshments and then helped themselves to a small boat belonging to Magellan's fleet. This led to a cultural clash: in Chamorro tradition there was little private property and taking something one needed, such as a boat for fishing, was not considered stealing. The Spanish did not understand this custom. The Spanish fought the Chamorros until the boat was recovered. Three days after he had been welcomed on his arrival, Magellan fled the archipelago. Then the islands were considered by Spain for annexation and later, under its government, as part of the Spanish East Indies. The Spanish built a royal palace in Guam to the Governor of the Islands. Its remains are visible even in the 21st-century; see the Plaza de España (Hagåtña) article. Guam was an important stopover from Mexico for galleons carrying gold between the Philippines and Spain. There are still some galleons sunk in Guam. In 1668 the islands were renamed by Father Diego Luis de San Vitores as Las Marianas in honor of Mariana of Austria, widow of Felipe IV. Most of the islands' native population (90–95%) died from Spanish diseases or married non-Chamorro settlers under Spanish rule. New settlers, primarily from the Philippines and the Caroline Islands, were brought to repopulate the islands. The Chamorro population gradually recovered, and Chamorro, Filipino and Carolinian languages and other ethnic differences remain in the Marianas.

Following its loss during the Spanish-American War of 1898, Spain ceded Guam to the United States and sold the remainder of the Marianas (i.e., the Northern Marianas), along with the Caroline Islands, to Germany under the German-Spanish Treaty of 1899. Germany administered the islands as part of its colony of German New Guinea and did little in terms of development. Early in World War I, Japan declared war on Germany and invaded the Northern Marianas. In 1919, the League of Nations awarded all of Germany's islands in the Pacific Ocean located north of the Equator, including the Northern Marianas, under mandate to Japan. Under this arrangement, the Japanese thus administered the Northern Marianas as part of the South Pacific Mandate. During the Japanese period, sugar cane became the main industry of the islands. Garapan on Saipan was developed as a regional capital, and numerous Japanese (including ethnic Koreans, Okinawan and Taiwanese) migrated to the islands. In the December 1939 census, the total population of the South Pacific Mandate was 129,104, of whom 77,257 were Japanese (including ethnic Taiwanese and Koreans). On Saipan the prewar population comprised 29,348 Japanese settlers and 3,926 Chamorro and Caroline Islanders; Tinian had 15,700 Japanese settlers (including 2700 ethnic Koreans and 22 ethnic Chamorro). On December 8, 1941, hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese forces from the Marianas launched an invasion of Guam. Chamorros from the Northern Marianas, which had been under Japanese rule for more than 20 years, were brought to Guam to assist the Japanese administration. This, combined with the harsh treatment of Guamanian Chamorros during the 31-month occupation, created a rift that would become the main reason Guamanians rejected the reunification referendum approved by the Northern Marianas in the 1960s. On June 15, 1944, near the end of World War II, the United States military invaded the Mariana Islands, starting the Battle of Saipan, which ended on July 9. Of the 30,000 Japanese troops defending Saipan, fewer than 1,000 remained alive at the battle's end. Over 20,000 Japanese civilians were also killed, or committed suicide rather than be captured. U.S. forces then recaptured Guam on July 21, and invaded Tinian on July 24; a year later Tinian was the takeoff point for the Enola Gay, the plane which dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

Rota was left untouched (and isolated) until the Japanese surrender in August 1945, due to its military insignificance. The war did not end for everyone with the signing of the armistice. The last group of Japanese holdouts surrendered on Saipan on December 1, 1945. On Guam, Japanese soldier Shoichi Yokoi, unaware that the war had ended, hid in a jungle cave in the Talofofo area until 1972. Japanese nationals were eventually repatriated to Japan.

After Japan's defeat in World War II, the Northern Marianas were administered by the United States pursuant to Security Council Resolution 21 as part of the United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, which gave responsibility for defense and foreign affairs to the United States. Four referenda offering integration with Guam or changes to the islands' status were held in 1958, 1961, 1963 and 1969. On each occasion, a majority voted in favor of integration with Guam. But, this did not happen: Guam rejected integration in a 1969 referendum. The people of the Northern Mariana Islands decided in the 1970s not to seek independence, but instead to forge closer links with the United States. Negotiations for territorial status began in 1972 and a covenant to establish a commonwealth in political union with the United States was approved in a 1975 referendum. A new government and constitution came into effect in 1978 after being approved in a 1977 referendum. The United Nations approved this arrangement pursuant to Security Council Resolution 683. Like other U.S. territories, the islands do not have representation in the U.S. Senate, but, since 2009, are represented in the U.S. House of Representatives by a delegate who may vote in committee but not on the House floor. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands benefits from its trading relationship with the federal government of the United States and cheap trained labor from Asia. Historically, the CNMI's economy has relied on garment manufacturing sector and tourism, mostly from Japan. The economy has declined since quotas were lifted in 2005, eventually leading all the garment factories on Saipan to close by 2009. Tourism also declined after 2005 when Japan Airlines stopped serving the Marianas.

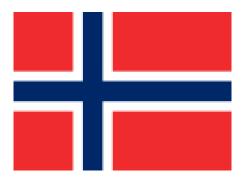
The Northern Mariana Islands had successfully used its position as a free trade area with the U.S., while at the same time not being subject to the same labor laws. For example, the \$3.05 per hour minimum wage in the Commonwealth, which lasted from 1997 to 2007, was lower than in the U.S. and some other worker protections are weaker, leading to lower production costs. That allowed garments to be labeled "Made in USA" without having to comply with all U.S. labor laws. However, the U.S. minimum wage law signed by President Bush on May 25, 2007, resulted in stepped increases in the Northern Marianas' minimum wage, which will allow it to reach the U.S. level by 2015. The first step (to \$3.55) became effective July 25, 2007, and a yearly increase of \$0.50 will take effect every May thereafter until the CNMI minimum wage equals the nationwide minimum wage. However, a law signed by President Obama in December 2009 delayed the yearly increase from May to September. As of September 30, 2014, the minimum wage is \$6.05 per hour. The island's exemption from U.S. labor laws had led to many alleged exploitations including recent claims of sweatshops, child labor, child prostitution, and even forced abortions. An immigration system mostly outside of federal U.S. control (which ended on November 28, 2009) resulted in a large number of Chinese migrant workers (about 15,000 during the peak years) employed in the islands' garment trade. However, the lifting of World Trade Organization restrictions on Chinese imports to the U.S. in 2005 had put the Commonwealth-based trade under severe pressure, leading to a number of recent factory closures. Adding to the U.S.-imposed scheduled wage increases, the garment industry became extinct by 2009. Agricultural production, primarily of tapioca, cattle, coconuts, breadfruit, tomatoes, and melons exists but is relatively unimportant.

Capital – Saipan. Language – English. Religion – Christian – 81%, Buddhist – 11%, Folk religion – 5%, Muslim – 1%, Unaffiliated – 1%. Ethnics – Chamorro – 24%, Carolinian – 5%, Other Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander – 6%, Filipino – 35%, Chinese – 7%, Korean – 4%, Other Asian – 4%, two or more ethnicities – 13%. Government - The Northern Mariana Islands have a multi-party presidential representative democratic system. The Northern Mariana Islands are a Commonwealth of the United States. Federal funds to the Commonwealth are administered by the Office of Insular Affairs of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Replicating the separation of powers in other U.S. territories and state governments, executive power is exercised by the Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands. Legislative power is vested in the bicameral Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature. The judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislative branches. Population – 51,483, rank – 210. Area – 464, rank – 197. Density – 111, rank – 95.



NORWAY, Kingdom of Norway, Norge (Bokmål), Noreg (Nynorsk), in Northern Europe. Svalbard is an integral part of Norway, but has a special status due to the Svalbard Treaty. Jan Mayen is an island that is an integral part of Norway, although unincorporated. Norway has the dependent territories of: Bouvet Island, Peter I Island and Queen Maud Land. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Until 1814, the Kingdom included the Faroe Islands (since 1035), Greenland (1261), and Iceland (1262). It also included Shetland and Orkney until 1468. King Harald V of the German House of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Glücksburg is the current King of Norway. A constitutional monarchy, Norway divides state power between the Parliament, the Cabinet, and the Supreme Court, as determined by the 1814 Constitution. The Kingdom is established as a merger of several petty kingdoms. By the traditional count from the year 872 the Kingdom has existed continuously for 1,144 years, and the list of Norwegian monarchs includes over sixty kings and earls. Norway has both administrative and political subdivisions on two levels: counties and municipalities. The Sámi people have a certain amount of self-determination and influence over traditional territories through the Sámi Parliament and the Finnmark Act. Norway maintains close ties with the European Union and the United States. The country maintains a combination of market economy and a Nordic welfare model with universal health care and a comprehensive social security system. Norway has extensive reserves of petroleum, natural gas, minerals, lumber, seafood, fresh water, and hydropower. The petroleum industry accounts for around a quarter of the country's gross domestic product. The country has the fourth-highest per capita income in the world on the World Bank and IMF lists, as well as ninth-highest on a more comprehensive CIA list. On a per-capita basis, it is the world's largest producer of oil and natural gas outside the Middle East. In 12 of the years from 2001 to 2014, Norway had the highest Human Development Index ranking in the world. Norway has also topped the Legatum Prosperity Index since 2010.

Capital – Oslo. Language – Norwegian Bokmal, Norwegian Nynorsk. Religion – Christian – 85%, Muslim – 4%, Unaffiliated – 10%, Buddhist – 1%. Ethnics - According to Norwegian Statistics the immigrant population makes up 16% of the population in Norway, about 815,000. The number includes immigrants and children born in Norway to two immigrant parents. The five largest immigrant groups in Norway are: Polish, Lithuanian, Swedish, Somali, and Pakistani. The 60 largest groups are in thousands: Poland – 91, Sweden – 38, Somalia – 36, Lithuania – 36, Pakistan – 34, Iraq – 30, Germany – 27, Vietnam – 22, Denmark – 21, Philippines – 20, Iran – 20, Russia – 19, Turkey – 17, Bosnia – 17, Thailand – 17, Afghanistan – 15, Sri Lanka – 15, UK – 15, Kosovo – 14, Eritrea – 14, India – 13, Romania – 11, China – 9, Lavtia – 9, Morocco - 9, US – 9, Iceland – 8, Netherlands – 8, Chile - 8, Ethiopia - 8, Finland - 7, France - 5, Bulgaria - 5, Estonia - 5, Spain - 5, Serbia - 4, Ukraine – 4, Brazil – 4, Syria – 4, Burma – 4, Palestine – 4, Slovakia – 4, Hungary – 4, Croatia – 4, Macedonia – 4, Italy – 3, Sudan – 3, Lebanon – 3, Congo DR – 3, Portugal – 3, Ghana – 2, Czech – 2, Nigeria – 2, Colombia – 2, Canada – 2, Greece – 2, Algeria – 2, Kenya - 2, Gambia - 2, and 78 more countries from 1468 down to 110, including Israel - 697. Government - Constitutional monarchy, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 5,147,792, rank – 121. Area – 304,282, rank – 68. Density -17, rank -196.



NOVOROSSIYA CONFEDERATION, Novorossiya or New Russia (Russian: Новоро́ссия, tr. Novorossiya; Ukrainian: Новоросія, Novorosiya), also referred to as the Union of People's Republics (Russian: Сою́з наро́дных респу́блик, tr. Soyuz Narodnykh Respublik; Ukrainian: Сою́з народних республік, Soyuz Narodnykh Respublik), was a proposed de facto confederation/federal state of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) and Luhansk People's Republic (LPR) in eastern Ukraine, both of which share a border with Russia. In Ukraine the 'confederation' was located in what is known as the Anti-Terrorist Operation Zone. The two constituent republics of the confederation have no diplomatic recognition, and Ukraine has classified them as terrorist organizations. The creation of Novorossiya was declared on 22 May 2014, and one month later spokesmen of both republics declared their merger into a confederal "Union of People's Republics". On 1 January 2015 founding leadership announced the project has been put on hold, and on 20 May the constituent members announced the freezing of the political project. Capital – Donetsk. Language – Russian, Ukrainian. See Donetsk and Lugansk/Luhansk for more details.



OMAN, (oh-MAAN; Arabic: عمان 'Umān), officially the Sultanate of Oman (Arabic: سلطنة Salṭanat 'Umān), is an Arab country in the southeastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula in the Middle East, Western Asia. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Holding a strategically important position at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, the Madha and Musandam exclaves are surrounded by the UAE on their land borders, with the Strait of Hormuz (which it shares with Iran) and Gulf of Oman forming Musandam's coastal boundaries. From the late 17th century, the Omani Sultanate was a powerful empire, vying with Portugal and Britain for influence in the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean. At its peak in the 19th century, Omani influence or control extended across the Strait of Hormuz to modern-day Iran and Pakistan, and as far south as Zanzibar (today part of Tanzania, also former capital). As its power declined in the 20th century, the sultanate came under the influence of the United Kingdom. Historically, Muscat was the principal trading port of the Persian Gulf region. Muscat was also among the most important trading ports of the Indian Ocean. Oman's official religion is Islam. Oman is an absolute monarchy. The Sultan Qaboos bin Said al Said has been the hereditary leader of the country since 1970. Sultan Qaboos is the longest-serving ruler in the Middle East. Oman has modest oil reserves, ranking 25th globally. Nevertheless, in 2010 the UNDP ranked Oman as the most improved nation in the world in terms of development during the preceding 40 years. A significant portion of its economy is tourism and trade of fish, dates, and certain agricultural produce. This sets it apart from its neighbors' solely oildependent economy. Oman is categorized as a high-income economy and ranks as the 74th most peaceful country in the world according to the Global Peace Index.

Capital – Muscat. Language – Arabic. Religion – 86%, Christian – 7%, Hindu – 6%, Buddhist – 1%. Ethnics – Omani Arab – 73%, Pakistani mostly Balochi – 7%, Indian – 13%, Egyptian – 2%, others, including Bangladeshi and African – 5%. Government – Absolute monarchy, executive head of state, all authority vested in absolute monarch. Population – 3,219,775, rank – 136. Area – 304,282, rank – 71. Density – 10, rank – 212.



OSSETIA, SOUTH - see South Ossetia.

PAKISTAN, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Islami Jumhuriyah-yi Pakistan, in South-Central Asia, is a federation of 4 provinces, 1 capital territory, and tribal regions. Pakistan disputes Indian sovereignty over Kashmir, it exercises control over some areas, but does not explicitly claim any part of it, instead regarding it as a disputed territory. The portions that it controls are divided into 2 territories, administered separately – Azad Kashmir – a self-governing state under Pakistani control, Gilgit-Baltistan – a group of areas with self-government. While parts of the country are controlled by the Taliban there is no de facto state of Taliban in Pakistan. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. The territory that now constitutes Pakistan was previously home to several ancient cultures, including the Mehrgarh of the Neolithic and the Bronze Age Indus Valley Civilisation, and was later home to kingdoms ruled by people of different faiths and cultures, including Hindus, Indo-Greeks, Muslims, Turco-Mongols, Afghans and Sikhs. The area has been ruled by numerous empires and dynasties, including the Indian Mauryan Empire, the Persian Achaemenid Empire, Alexander of Macedonia, the Arab Umayyad Caliphate, the Delhi Sultanate, the Mongol Empire, the Mughal Empire, the Durrani Empire, the Sikh Empire and the British Empire. Pakistan is unique among Muslim countries as it is the only country to have been created in the name of Islam. As a result of the Pakistan Movement led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the subcontinent's struggle for independence, Pakistan was created in 1947 as an independent nation for Muslims from the regions in the east and west of the Subcontinent where there was a Muslim majority. Initially a dominion, Pakistan adopted a new constitution in 1956, becoming an Islamic republic. A civil war in 1971 resulted in the secession of East Pakistan as the new country of Bangladesh. Pakistan is a federal parliamentary republic consisting of four provinces and four federal territories. It is an ethnically and linguistically diverse country, with a similar variation in its geography and wildlife. A regional and middle power, Pakistan has the seventh largest standing armed forces in the world and is also a nuclear power as well as a declared nuclear-weapons state, being the only nation in the Muslim world, and the second in South Asia, to have that status. It has a semi-industrialised economy with a well-integrated agriculture sector, its economy is the 26th largest in the world in terms of purchasing power and 45th largest in terms of nominal GDP and is also characterized among the emerging and growth-leading economies of the world. The post-independence history of Pakistan has been characterised by periods of military rule, political instability and conflicts with neighbouring India. The country continues to face challenging problems, including overpopulation, terrorism, poverty, illiteracy, and corruption. Despite these factors it maintains strategic endowments and development potential while it has made substantial progress in reducing poverty giving it the second lowest headcount poverty rate in South Asia. It is ranked 16th on the 2012 Happy Planet Index, while its stock exchange has been among the highest performing in Asia.

Capital – Islamabad. Language – English (official), Urdu (official, national), Hindco, Punjabi, Pushto, Balochi, Sindhi, Seraiki, Keshmiri. Religion – Muslim – 96%, Hindu – 2%, Christian – 2%. Ethnics – Punjabi – 45%, Pashtun – 15%, Sindhi – 14%, Sariaki – 8%, Muhajirs – 8%, Balochi – 4%. Government – Republic, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 196,174,380, rank – 7. Area – 770,875, rank – 36. Density – 254, rank – 51.



PALAU, Republic of Palau (Palauan: Beluu er a Belau), Belau, is an island country in Micronesia, Oceania, located in the western Pacific Ocean. It is a self-governing state in free association with the US since 1986. Although Palau is a recognized independent nation, however under the terms of the Compact of free association agreement, the US maintains the responsibility for the defense, social services, and funding grants of Palau. Links to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. The country's population is spread across 250 islands, which form the western chain of the Caroline Islands in Micronesia. The most populous of these is Koror. The capital Ngerulmud is located on the nearby island of Babeldaob, in Melekeok State. The country was originally settled approximately 3,000 years ago by migrants from the Philippines and sustained a Negrito population until around 900 years ago. The islands were first explored by Europeans in the 16th century, and were made part of the Spanish East Indies in 1574. Following Spain's defeat in the Spanish-American War in 1898, the islands were sold to Imperial Germany in 1899 under the terms of the German-Spanish Treaty, where they were administered as part of German New Guinea. The Imperial Japanese Navy conquered Palau during World War I, and the islands were later made a part of the Japaneseruled South Pacific Mandate by the League of Nations. During World War II, skirmishes, including the major Battle of Peleliu, were fought between American and Japanese troops as part of the Mariana and Palau Islands campaign. Along with other Pacific Islands, Palau was made a part of the United States-governed Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in 1947. Having voted against joining the Federated States of Micronesia in 1979, the islands gained full sovereignty in 1994 under a Compact of Free Association with the United States. Politically, Palau is a presidential republic in free association with the United States, which provides defense, funding, and access to social services. Legislative power is concentrated in the bicameral Palau National Congress. Palau's economy is based mainly on tourism, subsistence agriculture and fishing, with a significant portion of gross national product (GNP) derived from foreign aid. The country uses the United States dollar as its currency. The islands' culture mixes Japanese, Micronesian and Melanesian elements. The majority of citizens are of mixed Micronesian, Melanesian, and Austronesian descent, with significant groups descended from Japanese and Filipino settlers. The country's two official languages are Palauan (member of the wider Sunda-Sulawesi language group) and English, with Japanese, Sonsorolese, and Tobian recognised as regional languages.

Capital – Ngerulmud. Language – English, Palauan. Religion – 49.4% of the population is Roman Catholic, 21.3% Protestant, 5.3% Seventh-day Adventist, 8.7% Modekngei (a combination of Christianity, traditional Palauan religion and fortune telling) and the ancient Palauan religion are commonly observed. Only 1% of the population was estimated to be Buddhist in 2010, with the Chinese community also practicing Chinese folk religion as well. In 2009, the small Jewish community sent two cyclists to the 18th Maccabiah Games. Ethnics – Palauan – Micronesian with Malayan and Melanesian admixtures – 73%, Carolinian – 1%,

other Micronesian – 2%, Filipino – 16%, Chinese – 2%, Vietnamese – 2%, other Asian – 3%, White – 1%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 21,186, rank – 220. Area – 459, rank – 198. Density – 46, rank – 164.



PALESTINIAN NATIONAL AUTHORITY, Palestine, Filastin, in the Middle East, Western Asia. The State of Palestine (Arabic: دولة فلسطين Dawlat Filastīn), also known simply as Palestine, is a state in the Middle East. Its independence was declared on 15 November 1988 by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in Algiers as a government-in-exile. The State of Palestine claims the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with East Jerusalem as the designated capital, Most of the areas claimed by the State of Palestine have been occupied by Israel since 1967 in the aftermath of the Six-Day War. The Palestinian Authority applied for United Nations (UN) membership in 2011 and in 2012 was granted a non-member observer state status - which amounts to a de facto, or implicit, recognition of statehood. The Fatahcontrolled Palestinian Authority rebranded itself since 2013 as the State of Palestine, controlling de facto part of the West Bank, formerly occupied by the UK, Jordan and Israel. It does not control since 2007 the Gaza strip. The sovereignty over the West Bank is disputed by Israel. The proclaimed state has no agreed territorial borders, it is a UN observer state and a member state of UNESCO. In 2005, Transparency International surveyed Palestine in its Corruption Perception Index (see table) and Palestine got the rank of 107 with the score of 2.6, which is equivalent to the score of very corrupt countries in 2014. Link to map. Link to essential data on de facto independent countries: Wikipedia, Enc. Britannica, Nations Online, BBC, Quora, Polgeonow. Palestinian Authority (PA), formally Palestinian National Authority, Arabic al-Sultah al-Wataniyyah al-Filastīniyyah, governing body of the emerging Palestinian autonomous regions of the West Bank and Gaza Strip established in 1994 as part of the peace agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). Following years of hostility, secret meetings held in Norway in 1993 between the PLO and Israel led to the signing of the historic Declaration of Principles (the Oslo Accords), in which the two sides agreed to mutual recognition and terms whereby governing functions in the West Bank and Gaza—occupied by Israel since the Arab-Israeli war of 1967—would be progressively handed over to a Palestinian council. During that time—in what generally came to be known as the Oslo process—Israel and the Palestinians were to negotiate a permanent peace treaty to settle on the final status of these territories. The agreements between the sides called for the PA to take control over most population areas in the occupied territories. Security for those areas would rest with the Palestinian police, although Israelis would be guaranteed freedom of movement. Several militant Islamic groups, particularly Ḥamās, denounced the peace agreement. The first Israeli withdrawals took place in 1994. That same year the PA assumed control of many civil functions. Elections were held in PA-administered areas in 1996 for the presidency and the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC). PLO chairman Yāsir 'Arafāt was elected president easily, and his Fatah party gained a majority of seats within the PLC. In 2003 the post of prime minister was established, and Mahmoud Abbas became the first person to occupy the office. 'Arafat remained president until his death in 2004; he was succeeded as both chairman of the PLO and as president of the PA by Abbas.

During a summit in early 2005, Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon agreed to suspend hostilities, ostensibly ending the Aqṣā intifada, a violent Palestinian uprising that had begun in 2000. In September 2005 Israel completed its troop withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, and the PA assumed control of the territory. Elections for the PLC were held in 2006, and Ḥamās won a surprise victory over Fatah. Ḥamās and Fatah eventually formed a coalition government, but violence between their forces escalated in the Gaza Strip. After a week of fighting, Ḥamās forces defeated Fatah forces and took control of the Gaza Strip, leading Abbas to dissolve the Ḥamās-led government and declare a state of emergency in June 2007.

After a four-year schism, during which Ḥamās and Fatah governed separately in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, respectively, officials announced in April 2011 that Hamās and Fatah had reached a reconciliation agreement in negotiations mediated by Egypt. The plan, signed in Cairo on May 4, called for the formation of an interim government ahead of presidential and legislative elections that were to be held in 2012. After months of negotiations over the leadership of the interim government, the two parties announced in February 2012 that they had selected Abbas for the post of interim president. After a round of direct talks between Israel and the PA in 2010 quickly broke down over the construction of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, Abbas shifted his efforts toward gaining international recognition for a Palestinian state. In September 2011 he submitted a request to the UN Security Council asking for the admission of an independent Palestinian state to the UN. The action—which was opposed by Israel and the United States—had become necessary, he argued, because the U.S.-mediated peace negotiations had placed too little pressure on Israel to make concessions for peace. The bid for recognition by the Security Council stalled when it became clear that the United States would veto it and that several other members would abstain from voting. A year after the failure of the Palestinian bid for full membership in the UN, Abbas announced that he would seek the UN General Assembly's implicit recognition of Palestinian statehood by submitting a draft resolution requesting that the status of the Palestinian mission to the UN (officially called Palestine within the UN) be upgraded from "permanent observer" to "nonmember observer state." The designation, though falling short of full UN membership, would allow Palestinians to seek membership in international bodies such as the International Criminal Court. The resolution passed on November 29, 2012, with 138 countries in favour, 9 opposed, and 41 abstentions. The resolution also urged Israel and the Palestinians to resume stalled negotiations toward a two-state solution. Israeli officials opposed Abbas's bid for recognition, saying that such unilateral actions by the Palestinians would hold up negotiations with Israel.

Since the British Mandate, the term "Palestine" has been associated with the geographical area that currently covers the State of Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. General use of the term "Palestine" or related terms to the area at the southeast corner of the Mediterranean Sea beside Syria has historically been taking place since the times of Ancient Greece, with Herodotus writing of a "district of Syria, called Palaistine" in which Phoenicians interacted with other maritime peoples. Tourism in the Palestinian territories refers to tourism in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In 2010, 4.6 million people visited the Palestinian territories, compared to 2.6 million in 2009. Of that number, 2.2 million were foreign tourists while 2.7 million were domestic. This number of international visits is misleading, however, since most tourists come for only a few hours or as part of a day trip itinerary. In the last quarter of 2012 over 150,000 guests stayed in West Bank hotels; 40% were European and 9% were from the United States and Canada. Major travel guides write that "the West Bank is not the easiest place in which to travel but the effort is richly rewarded." In 2013 Palestinian Authority Tourism minister Rula Ma'ay'a stated that her

government aims to encourage international visits to Palestine, but the occupation is the main factor preventing the tourism sector from becoming a major income source to Palestinians. There are no visa conditions imposed on foreign nationals other than those imposed by the visa policy of Israel. Access to Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza is completely controlled by the Government of Israel. Entry to the occupied Palestinian territories requires only a valid international passport. There are a number of newspapers, news agencies, and satellite television stations in the State of Palestine. News agencies include Ma'an News Agency, Wafa, Palestine News Network, television includes Al-Aqsa TV, Al-Quds TV, Sanabel TV.

Capital - Ramallah, in the West Bank, located 10 km north of Jerusalem, serves as de facto administrative capital of the Palestinian National Authority/State of Palestine. Language -Arabic. Religion - Muslim - 98%, Christian - 2%. Ethnics - The history of a distinct Palestinian national identity is a disputed issue amongst scholars. Legal historian Assaf Likhovski states that the prevailing view is that Palestinian identity originated in the early decades of the 20th century. "Palestinian" was used to refer to the nationalist concept of a Palestinian people by the Arabs of Palestine in a limited way until World War I. After the creation of the State of Israel, the exodus of 1948, and more so after the exodus of 1967, the term came to signify not only a place of origin, but also the sense of a shared past and future in the form of a Palestinian state. According to Rashid Khalidi, the Palestinian nationalism developed a historiography that "anachronistically read back into the history of Palestine over the past few centuries, and even millennia, a nationalist consciousness and identity that are in fact relatively modern.". The modern Palestinian identity encompasses the heritage of all ages from biblical times up to the Ottoman period. In Palestine 99% of the population is Arab and about 1% Druze, 350 are Samaritans. According to Wikipedia, the Jews residing in East Jerusalem (about two hundred thousands), Judea and Samaria/West Bank (407,118), are not part of those statistics. East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights are now part of Israel.

Government - . The State of Palestine consists of the following institutions that are associated with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO):

- President of the State of Palestine appointed by the Palestinian Central Council
- Palestinian National Council the legislature that established the State of Palestine
- Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization performs the functions of a government in exile, maintaining an extensive foreign-relations network
 These should be distinguished from the President of the Palestinian National Authority,
 Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) and PNA Cabinet, all of which are instead associated

with the Palestinian National Authority. The State of Palestine's founding document is the Palestinian Declaration of Independence, and it should be distinguished from the unrelated PLO Palestinian National Covenant and PNA Palestine Basic Law.

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, the State of Palestine had population of 4,420,549 people in 2013. Within an area of 6,220 square kilometres (West Bank – 5,860, Gaza Strip – 360, 3% Water), there is a population density of 731 people per square kilometre. According to Wikipedia the total population of the Palestinians is now 12.37 million, divided as follows: State of Palestine – 4,750,000 (West Bank – 2,900,000, Gaza Strip – 1,850,000), Jordan – 3,240,000, Israel – 1,470,000, Syria – 630,000, Chile – 500,000, Lebanon – 402,582, Saudi Arabia – 280,245, Egypt – 270,245, US – 255,000, Honduras – 250,000, United Arab Emirates – 170,000, Mexico – 120,000, Qatar – 100,000, Germany – 80,000, Kuwait – 80,000, El Salvador – 70,000, Brazil – 59,000, Iraq – 57,000, Yemen – 55,000, Canada – 50,975, Australia – 45,000, Libya – 44,000, UK – 20,000, Peru – 15,000, Colombia – 12,000, Pakistan – 10,500, Netherlands – 9,000, Sweden – 7,000, Algeria – 4,030.

37 VARIABLE PARAMETERS – SEE METHODOLOGY OF SEARCHING IN 60+ TABLES IN AUSTRALIA.

VARIABLE PARAMETERS FROM UNDATA – WORLD STATISTICS POCKETBOOK – UN STATISTICS DIVISION:

onomic indicators			
GDP: Gross domestic product (million current US\$)	2013	12579	
GDP: Gross domestic product (million current US\$)	2010	8913	
GDP: Gross domestic product (million current US\$)	2005	4832	
GDP: Growth rate at constant 2005 prices (annual %)	2013	1.9	
GDP: Growth rate at constant 2005 prices (annual %)	2010	8.1	
GDP: Growth rate at constant 2005 prices (annual %)	2005	10.8	
GDP per capita (current US\$)	2013	2907.6	
GDP per capita (current US\$)	2010	2221.1	
GDP per capita (current US\$)	2005	1357.3	
GNI: Gross national income per capita (current US\$)	2013	3133.6	
GNI: Gross national income per capita (current JS\$)	2010	2370.4	
GNI: Gross national income per capita (current JS\$)	2005	1455.3	
Gross fixed capital formation (% of GDP)	2013	24.3	
Gross fixed capital formation (% of GDP)	2010	20.5	
Gross fixed capital formation (% of GDP)	2005	25.3	
Balance of payments, current account (million US\$)	2013	-1412	Refers to Wes Bank and the Gaza Strip.
Balance of payments, current account (million JS\$)	2010	-691	Refers to Wes Bank and the Gaza Strip.
Balance of payments, current account (million US\$)	2005	-1152	Refers to Wes Bank and the Gaza Strip.
CPI: Consumer price index (2000=100)	2013	160	Refers to Wes Bank and the Gaza Strip.
CPI: Consumer price index (2000=100)	2010	148	Refers to Wes Bank and the Gaza Strip.
CPI: Consumer price index (2000=100)	2005	119	Refers to Wes Bank and the Gaz Strip.
index of industrial production (2010=100)	2013		ISIC Rev. (BCD).
Index of industrial production (2010=100)	2010	100	ISIC Rev.4

			(BCD).	
Index of industrial production (2010=100)	2005	112	ISIC (BCD).	Rev.
Agricultural production index (2004-2006=100)	2013	93		
Agricultural production index (2004-2006=100)	2010	81		
Agricultural production index (2004-2006=100)	2005	107		
Food production index (2004-2006=100)	2013	93		
Food production index (2004-2006=100)	2010	81		
Food production index (2004-2006=100)	2005	107		
Unemployment (% of labour force)	2013	23.4		
Jnemployment (% of labour force)	2010	23.7		
Unemployment (% of labour force)	2005	26.0		
Employment in industrial sector (% of employed)	2013	26.3	ISIC 2012.	Rev.2
Employment in industrial sector (% of employed)	2010	24.6	ISIC Rev.2 in series.	. Brea
Employment in industrial sector (% of employed)	2005	26.3	ISIC Rev.3	
Employment in agricultural sector (% of employed)	2013	11.5	ISIC 2012.	Rev.2
Employment in agricultural sector (% of employed)	2010	11.8	ISIC Rev.2 in series.	2. Brea
Employment in agricultural sector (% of employed)	2005	14.6	ISIC Rev.3	
Labour force participation, adult female pop. (%)	2013	15.4		
_abour force participation, adult female pop. (%)	2010	14.7		
_abour force participation, adult female pop. (%)	2005	14.2		
Labour force participation, adult male pop. (%)	2013	66.4		
Labour force participation, adult male pop. (%)	2010	66.2		
Labour force participation, adult male pop. (%)	2005	67.2		
Tourist arrivals at national borders (000)	2013	545	Arrivals or resident to hotels and establishme	urists i simila
Tourist arrivals at national borders (000)	2010	522	Arrivals or resident to hotels and establishme	urists i simila
Tourist arrivals at national borders (000)	2005	88	Arrivals or resident to hotels and establishme	urists i simila
Energy production, primary (Petajoules)	2013	8	2012.	
Energy production, primary (Petajoules)	2010	9		
Energy production, primary (Petajoules)	2005	8		
Mobile-cellular subscriptions (per 100 inhabitants)	2013	73.7		
Mobile-cellular subscriptions (per 100 inhabitants)	2010	64.9		
Mobile-cellular subscriptions (per 100 inhabitants)	2005	15.9		

Individuals using the Internet (%)	2013	46.6	ITU estimate.
Individuals using the Internet (%)	2010	37.4	ITU estimate. Refers to total population.
Individuals using the Internet (%)	2005	16.0	ITU estimate. Population aged 10 and over.
Exports (million US\$)	2013	900.6	
Imports (million US\$)	2013	5163.9	
Balance (million US\$)	2013	-4263.3	
Major trading partners (% of exports)	2013	Israel (87.3), Jordan (6.2), United States (1.1)	
Major trading partners (% of imports)	2013	Israel (71.6), Turkey (5.6), China (4.6)	
ocial indicators			
Population growth rate (average annual %)	2010-2015	2.5	Including East Jerusalem.
Urban population growth rate (average annual %)	2010-2015	2.8	Including East Jerusalem.
Rural population growth rate (average annual %)	2010-2015	1.6	Including East Jerusalem.
Urban population (%)	2014	75.0	Including East Jerusalem.
Population aged 0-14 years (%)	2014	39.5	Including East Jerusalem.
Population aged 60+ years (females and males, $\%$ of total)	2014	4.9/4.4	Including East Jerusalem.
Sex ratio (males per 100 females)	2014	103.0	Including East Jerusalem.
Life expectancy at birth (females and males, years)	2010-2015	74.9/71.4	Including East Jerusalem.
Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births)	2010-2015	19.2	Including East Jerusalem.
Fertility rate, total (live births per woman)	2010-2015	4.1	Including East Jerusalem.
Contraceptive prevalence (ages 15-49, %)	2007-2013	52.5	
International migrant stock (000 and % of total population)	mid-2013	256.5/5.9	Including East Jerusalem. Refugees are not part of the foreign-born migrant stock in the State of Palestine.
Refugees and others of concern to UNHCR	mid-2014	0	Value is zero, not available or not applicable.
Education: Primary-secondary gross enrolment ratio (f/m per 100)	2007-2013	89.5/84.2	
Education: Female third-level students (% of total)	2007-2013	59.1	
Intentional homicide rate (per 100,000 population)	2008-2012	7.4	

VARIABLE PARAMETERS FROM CIA WORLD FACTBOOK - PEOPLE & SOCIETY, ECONOMIC PARAMETERS:

WEST BANK/PALESTINE (SEE ALSO GAZA STRIP)

Median age: total: 22.7 years male: 22.6 years

female: 22.9 years (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: <u>171</u>

Population growth rate:

1.95% (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: $\underline{51}$

Birth rate:

22.99 births/1,000 population (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 67

Death rate:

3.5 deaths/1,000 population (2015 est.) **country comparison to the world:** 216

Net migration rate:

0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 111

Urbanization:

urban population: 75.3% of total population (2015)

rate of urbanization: 2.81% annual rate of change (2005-10 est.)

note: data represents Gaza Strip and West Bank

Mother's mean age at first birth:

20

note: median age at first birth among women 25-29 (2004 est.)

Maternal mortality rate: 45 deaths/100,000 live births

note: data represents Gaza Strip and West Bank (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 95

Infant mortality rate:

total: 13.08 deaths/1,000 live births male: 14.7 deaths/1,000 live births

female: 11.37 deaths/1,000 live births (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: $\underline{115}$

Life expectancy at birth: total population: 75.91 years

male: 73.79 years

female: 78.17 years (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 92

Total fertility rate:

2.76 children born/woman (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 66

Contraceptive prevalence rate:

52.5% (includes Gaza Strip and West Bank) (2010)

Physicians density:

1.3 physicians/1,000 population (2013)

Hospital bed density:

1.2 beds/1,000 population (2010)

Drinking water source:

improved:

urban: 50.7% of population rural: 81.5% of population total: 58.4% of population

unimproved:

urban: 49.3% of population rural: 18.5% of population total: 41.6% of population

note: includes Gaza and the West Bank (2015 est.)

Sanitation facility access:

improved:

urban: 93% of population rural: 90.2% of population total: 92.3% of population

unimproved:

urban: 7% of population rural: 9.8% of population

```
total: 7.7% of population
note: includes Gaza and the West Bank (2015 est.)
HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:
HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:
HIV/AIDS - deaths:
NA
Literacy:
definition: age 15 and over can read and write
total population: 96.5%
male: 98.4%
female: 94.5%
notes: estimates are for Gaza and West Bank (2015 est.)
School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):
total: 13 years
male: 12 years
female: 14 years
note: data represents Gaza and West Bank (2013)
Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:
total: 41%
male: 37%
female: 64.7%
note: includes Gaza Strip (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world:
GDP (purchasing power parity):
$21.22 billion (2014 est.)
$20.15 billion (2013 est.)
$19.95 billion (2012 est.)
note: data are in 2014 US dollars; includes Gaza Strip
country comparison to the world: 141
GDP (official exchange rate):
$9.828 billion
note: excludes Gaza Strip (2014 est.)
GDP - real growth rate:
5.3% (2014 est.)
1% (2013 est.)
6% (2012 est.)
note: excludes Gaza Strip
country comparison to the world: 38
GDP - per capita (PPP):
$4,300 (2014 est.)
$4,400 (2013 est.)
$4,600 (2012 est.)
note: includes Gaza Strip
country comparison to the world: 176
Gross national saving:
7.8% of GDP (2014 est.)
9.5% of GDP (2013 est.)
5% of GDP (2012 est.)
note: includes Gaza Strip
country comparison to the world: 159
GDP - composition, by end use:
household consumption: 85.7%
government consumption: 21.9%
investment in fixed capital: 26%
investment in inventories: 2.3%
exports of goods and services: 24.5%
imports of goods and services: -60.4%
note: excludes Gaza Strip (2014 est.)
GDP - composition, by sector of origin:
agriculture: 3.5%
industry: 25.2%
services: 67.8%
note: excludes Gaza Strip (2014 est.)
Agriculture - products:
olives, citrus fruit, vegetables; beef, dairy products
Industries:
small-scale manufacturing, quarrying, textiles, soap, olive-wood carvings, and mother-of-pearl
souvenirs
Industrial production growth rate:
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note: includes Gaza Strip (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 178
Labor force:
828,000
note: excludes Gaza Strip (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: <u>148</u>
Labor force - by occupation:
agriculture: 11.5%
industry: 34.4%
services: 54.1%
note: excludes Gaza Strip (2013 est.)
Unemployment rate:
17.7% (2014 est.)
18.6% (2013 est.)
note: excludes Gaza Strip
country comparison to the world: 162
Population below poverty line:
18% (2011 est.)
Household income or consumption by percentage share:
lowest 10%: 3.2%
highest 10%: 28.2%
note: includes Gaza Strip (2009 est.)
Distribution of family income - Gini index:
34.5 (2009 est.)
38.7 (2007 est.)
note: includes Gaza Strip
country comparison to the world: 97
Budget:
revenues: $2.75 billion
expenditures: $4.077 billion
note: includes Palestinian Authority expenditures in the Gaza Strip (2014 est.)
Taxes and other revenues:
28% of GDP (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 95
Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):
-13.5% of GDP (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 213
Public debt:
24.4% of GDP (2014 est.)
23.8% of GDP (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 150
Fiscal year:
calendar year
Inflation rate (consumer prices):
1.2% (2014 est.)
3.1% (2013 est.)
note: excludes Gaza Strip
country comparison to the world: 74
Commercial bank prime lending rate:
7.7% (31 December 2015 est.)
6.41% (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 112
Market value of publicly traded shares:
$2.634 billion (31 December 2012 est.)
$2.532 billion (31 December 2011)
$2.45 billion (31 December 2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 97
Current account balance:
-$2.149 billion (2014 est.)
-$2.383 billion (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: <u>148</u>
Exports:
$937.4 million (2014 est.)
$1.692 billion (2013 est.)
note: excludes Gaza Strip
country comparison to the world: 162
Exports - commodities:
stone, olives, fruit, vegetables, limestone
Imports:
$5.683 billion (2014 est.)
$6.261 billion (2013 est.)
note: data include the Gaza Strip
country comparison to the world: 121
```

Imports - commodities: food, consumer goods, construction materials, petroleum, chemicals

Debt - external: \$1.089 billion (2014 est.) \$1.191 billion (2013 est.)

note: data include the Gaza Strip

country comparison to the world: $\underline{162}$

Exchange rates:

new Israeli shekels (ILS) per US dollar -

3.886 (2015 est.)

3.578 (2014 est.)

3.578 (2013 est.) 3.86 (2012 est.) 3.5781 (2011 est.)





PALMYRA ATOLL, is an unoccupied equatorial Northern Pacific atoll administered as an unorganized incorporated territory by the US. Part of the United States Minor Outlying Islands, which is otherwise made up of officially unincorporated territories. The 50 states, District of Columbia and Palmyra comprise the incorporated lands of the United States. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Its 12 sq km landmass hosts a variable temporary population of 4–25 "non-occupants", namely staff and scientists employed by various departments of the US government and The Nature Conservancy, as well as a rotating mix of Palmyra Atoll Research Consortium scholars pursuing research. Palmyra is one of the Northern Line Islands (southeast of Kingman Reef and north of Kiribati Line Islands), located almost due south of the Hawaiian Islands, roughly one-third of the way between Hawaii and American Samoa. The atoll consists of an extensive reef, two shallow lagoons, and some 50 sand and reef-rock

islets and bars covered with vegetation—mostly coconut trees, Scaevola, and tall Pisonia trees. The islets of the atoll are mostly connected. Average annual rainfall is approximately 4,400 mm per year. Daytime temperatures average 29 °C year round. Palmyra is an incorporated territory of the United States (the only such territory in existence since 1959), meaning that it is subject to all provisions of the U.S. Constitution and is permanently under American sovereignty. However, since Palmyra is also an unorganized territory, there is no Act of Congress specifying how Palmyra should be governed. Palmyra has no permanent residents; however, in 2004 accommodations were built to support a small number of temporary inhabitants. Palmyra was first sighted in 1798 by captain Edmund Fanning of Stonington, Connecticut, master of the American merchant ship Betsy, on a voyage to Asia. Fanning had woken three times during the night before. After the third time, he took it as a premonition, and he ordered Betsy to heave to for the rest of the night. The next morning, Betsy resumed sailing, but only about a nautical mile further on, she reached the reef of Palmyra. Had the ship continued on her course at night, the ship might have been wrecked. On November 7, 1802, USS Palmyra under Captain Sawle was shipwrecked on the reef, which was given the name of this vessel. In 1859, Palmyra Atoll was claimed for the United States by Dr. Gerrit P. Judd of the brig Josephine, in accordance with the Guano Islands Act of 1856, but there was no guano there to be mined. On February 26, 1862, King Kamehameha IV of Hawaii commissioned Captain Zenas Bent and Johnson Beswick Wilkinson, both Hawaiian citizens, to take possession of the atoll. On April 15, 1862, it was formally annexed to the Kingdom of Hawaii, while Bent and Wilkinson became joint owners. In 1898, the United States annexed the Polynesian kingdom of Hawaii, and Palmyra with it. On June 14, 1900, Palmyra became part of the new US Territory of Hawaii. To end all British claims, Congress passed a second act of annexation in 1911. This act made Palmyra the only "incorporated territory" of the United States at that time. In 2000, The Nature Conservancy acquired Palmyra Atoll from the Fullard-Leo family for \$30 million.



PANAMA, (Spanish: *Panamá*), officially called the Republic of Panama (Spanish: *República de Panamá*), is a country in Central America situated between North and South America. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. The capital and largest city is Panama City, whose metropolitan area is home to nearly half of the country's 3.9 million people. Panama was inhabited by several indigenous tribes prior to settlement by the Spanish in the 16th century. Panama broke away from Spain in 1821 and joined a union of Nueva Granada, Ecuador, and Venezuela named the Republic of Gran Colombia. When Gran Colombia dissolved in 1831, Panama and Nueva Granada remained joined, eventually becoming the Republic of Colombia. With the backing of the United States, Panama seceded from Colombia in 1903, allowing the Panama Canal to be built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers between 1904 and 1914. In 1977, an agreement was signed for the total transfer of the Canal from the United States to Panama by the end of the 20th century, which culminated

on 31 December 2000. Revenue from canal tolls continues to represent a significant portion of Panama's GDP, although commerce, banking, and tourism are major and growing sectors. Panama has the second largest economy in Central America and is also the fastest growing economy and largest per capita consumer in Central America. In 2013, Panama ranked 5th among Latin American countries in terms of the Human Development Index, and 59th in the world. Since 2010, Panama remains the second most competitive economy in Latin America, according to the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index. Covering around 40 percent of its land area, Panama's jungles are home to an abundance of tropical plants and animals – some of them to be found nowhere else on the planet.

Capital – Panama (City). Language – Spanish. Religion – Christian – 93%, Unaffiliated – 5%, Muslim – 1%. Ethnics – Mestizo – Mixed Amerindian and White – 70%, Amerindian and Mixed West Indian – 14%, White – 10%, Amerindian – 6%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 3,608,431, rank – 131. Area – 74,340, rank – 118. Density – 49, rank – 160.



PAPUA NEW GUINEA, (Tok Pisin: Papua Niugini; Hiri Motu: Papua Niu Gini), officially the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, is a state that occupies the eastern half of the island of New Guinea and its offshore islands in Melanesia, in Maritime Southeast Asia, a region of the southwestern Pacific Ocean north of Australia, Oceania, has one autonomous region - Bougainville. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. Its capital, located along its southeastern coast, is Port Moresby. The western half of New Guinea forms the Indonesian provinces of Papua and West Papua. Papua New Guinea is one of the most culturally diverse countries in the world; 852 languages are listed for the country, of which 12 have no known living speakers. Most of the population of over 7 million people live in customary communities, which are as diverse as the languages. It is also one of the most rural, as only 18 percent of its people live in urban centres. The country is one of the world's least explored, culturally and geographically; many undiscovered species of plants and animals are thought to exist in the interior, as well as groups of uncontacted people. Papua New Guinea is classified as a developing economy by the International Monetary Fund. Strong growth in Papua New Guinea's mining and resource sector led to the country becoming the sixth fastest-growing economy in the world in 2011. Mining remains a major economic factor, however, with talks of resuming mining operations in the previously closed-off Panguna mine ongoing with the local and national governments. Nearly 40 percent of the population lives a self-sustainable natural lifestyle with no access to global capital. At the local level, the majority of the population still live in strong customary societies and - while social life is overlaid with traditional religious cosmologies and modern practices, including conventional primary education - customary subsistence-based agriculture remains fundamental. These societies and clans are explicitly acknowledged within the nation's constitutional framework. The

Papua New Guinea Constitution expresses the wish for "traditional villages and communities to remain as viable units of Papua New Guinean society" and for active steps to be taken in their continuing importance to local and national community life. At the national level, after being ruled by three external powers since 1884, Papua New Guinea established its sovereignty in 1975 following almost 60 years of Australian administration. It became a separate Commonwealth realm with Queen Elizabeth II as its head of state and became a member of the Commonwealth of Nations in its own right.

Capital – Port Moresby. Language – English, Tok Pisin, Hiri Motu. The isolation created by the mountainous terrain is so great that some groups, until recently, were unaware of the existence of neighboring groups only a few kilometers away. The diversity, reflected in a folk saying, "For each village, a different culture", is perhaps best shown in the local languages. Spoken mainly on the island of New Guinea, about 650 of these Papuan languages have been identified; of these, only 350-450 are related. The remainder of the Papuan languages seem to be totally unrelated either to each other or to the other major groupings. In addition, many languages belonging to Austronesian language group are used in Papua New Guinea, and in total, more than 800 languages are spoken in Papua New Guinea. Native languages are spoken by a few hundred to a few thousand, although Enga language, used in Enga Province, is spoken by some 130,000 people. Tok Pisin serves as the lingua franca. Religion – Christian – 99%, many citizens combine their Christian faith with some traditional indigenous religious practices. Ethnics - major ethnic groupings: Melanesians, Papuans, Negritos, Micronesians, Polynesians. Minor ethnic groupings: Wopkaimin and over 700 others. Government – Constitutional monarchy, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population - 6,552,730, rank - 106. Area - 452,860, rank - 55. Density - 14, rank - 205.



PARACEL ISLANDS, known as Xisha in Chinese is a group of islands in the South China Sea, controlled and occupied by China and also claimed by Taiwan and Vietnam. China established the city of Sansha, under Hainan Province, to administer the area. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, BBC. World Atlas, Oper/World. Internet/Stats. The Paracel Islands, also known as Xisha in Chinese and Hoàng Sa in Vietnamese, is a group of islands, reefs, banks and other maritime features in the South China Sea. It is controlled (and occupied) by the People's Republic of China, and also claimed by Taiwan (Republic of China) and Vietnam. The archipelago includes about 130 small coral islands and reefs, most grouped into the northeast Amphitrite Group or the western Crescent Group. They are distributed over a maritime area of around 15,000 square kilometres, with a land area of approximately 7.75 square kilometres. The archipelago is approximately equidistant from the coastlines of China (PRC) and Vietnam; and approximately about onethird of the way from central Vietnam to the northern Philippines. Forces of the Republic of

China (RoC) landed on Woody Island in the Amphitrite Group in November 1946 but abandoned it in May 1950. The Amphitrite were thus unoccupied until forces of the People's Republic of China landed in late 1955. Meanwhile, French and 'Annamite' forces landed on Pattle Island in the Crescent Group in January 1947. By 1955 South Vietnam took possession of the Crescent islands until the Battle of the Paracel Islands in January 1974. South Vietnam's claim to the islands was inherited by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, which has ruled all of Vietnam since 1976. In July 2012, China (PRC) declared a city named Sansha, under Hainan Province, as administering the area. Turtles and seabirds are native to the islands, which have a hot and humid climate, abundant rainfall and frequent typhoons. The archipelago is surrounded by productive fishing grounds and a seabed with potential, but as yet unexplored, oil and gas reserves. The name 'Paracel' is found in the first Portuguese maps of the region. The Portuguese, whose vessels frequented the South China Sea as early as at the beginning of the 16th century, were the first to refer to these islands as 'Ilhas do Pracel' in the 16th century. Regarding the likely origin of the term *Paracel*, the word is a variant of the more common form pracel or parcel, from the Spanish: placer, which was used by the Portuguese and Spanish navigators to designate shallow sandy seas or submerged banks, such as *Placer de los Roques*. Pracel is a moderately elevated chain of islets, sandbanks, and reefs. These features are continuously distributed and stretched over a noticeable distance of tens or hundreds of kilometers in length. Pracel may not be a suitable place for human residents, but its irregular depth creates an ideal environment inhabited by fish. Pracel often forms a natural bulwark as an outer line of defense for a coast or a land. The Portuguese were later followed by the Dutch, the English, the Spanish, and the French in the waters of the island group. On the "Map of the coast of Tonquin and Cochinchina", made in 1747 by Pierre d'Hondt, the dangerous band of rugged rocks was labeled "Le Paracel", a French phonetic notation. Because of their location on an important seaborne route the Paracel Islands drew much attention from navigators and hydrographers in the Age of Exploration. Disputes in the area since the Second World War have again drawn attention to the islands. On the "Map of Europe, Africa and Asia" published in 1598 by Cornelis Claesz, an unnamed band of rocks and sandbanks are shown near the present-day location of the Paracel and Spratly Islands. About two decades later, the names Pracel and Costa de Pracel (Coast of Pracel) appeared on the Chart of Asia and eight city maps published in 1617 by Willem Jansz Blaeu, a Dutch map maker. The coast belonged to the Kingdom of Cauchi China. Paracel Islands' geographical and ecological traits are often likened as "China's Maldives", however, controversial conflicts between environment conservation and human activities including military operations, developments, and tourism on Paracel Islands have become public concerns in recent years. Local ecosystem include endangered ocean and bird species such as critically endangered green sea turtles and hawksbill sea turtles, however, direct damaging on ecosystem by military group and tourists have been documented. Governmental actions to cease illegal tourism are ongoing. The islands have been open for tourists since 1997. Chinese tourists can take a 20-hour ferry to the Islands, paying up to US\$2,000 for a 5-day cruise, and are placed on a long waitlist before being accepted. The BBC article states that "Chinese tourism has strong political implications, as the Chinese tourists are being used as 'foot soldiers of China' by Beijing to further China's territorial claims there".

Language – Chinese. Ethnics – Chinese. Government - In July 2012, China (PRC) declared a city named Sansha, under Hainan Province, as administering the area. Population – over 1,000, but no indigenous population. Area – 7.75.

PARAGUAY, (Guarani: *Paraguái*), officially the Republic of Paraguay (Spanish: *República del Paraguay*, Guarani: *Tetã Paraguái*), is a landlocked country in central South America.

Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Paraguay lies on both banks of the Paraguay River, which runs through the center of the country from north to south. Due to its central location in South America, it is sometimes referred to as Corazón de Sudamérica ("Heart of South America"). The indigenous Guaraní had been living in Paraguay for at least a millennium before the Spanish conquered the territory in the 16th century. Spanish settlers and Jesuit missions introduced Christianity and Spanish culture to the region. Paraguay was a peripheral colony of the Spanish Empire, with few urban centers and settlers. Following independence from Spain in 1811, Paraguay was ruled by a series of dictators who generally implemented isolationist and protectionist policies. Following the disastrous Paraguayan War (1864–1870), the country lost 60 to 70 percent of its population through war and disease, and about 140,000 square kilometers of territory to Argentina and Brazil. Through the 20th century, Paraguay continued to endure a succession of authoritarian governments, culminating in the regime of Alfredo Stroessner, who led South America's longest-lived military dictatorship from 1954 to 1989. He was toppled in an internal military coup, and free multiparty elections were organized and held for the first time in 1993. A year later, Paraguay joined Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay to found Mercosur, a regional economic collaborative. Paraguay's population is concentrated in the southeast region of the country. The capital and largest city is Asunción, of which the metropolitan area is home to nearly a third of Paraguay's population. In contrast to most Latin American nations, Paraguay's indigenous language and culture, Guaraní, remains highly influential. In each census, residents predominantly identify as mestizo, reflecting years of intermarriage among the different ethnic groups. Guaraní is recognized as an official language alongside Spanish, and both languages are widely spoken in the country.

The macro-economy in Paraguay has some unique characteristics. It is characterized by a historical low inflation rate -5% average (in 2013, the inflation rate was 3.7%), international reserves 20% of GDP and twice the amount of the external national debt. On top of that, the country enjoys clean and renewable energy production of 8,700 MW (current domestic demand 2,300 MW). Between 1970 and 2013, the country had the highest economic growth of South America, with an average rate of 7.2% per year. Paraguay is the fourth-largest soybean producer in the world, second-largest producer of stevia, second-largest producer of tung oil, sixth-largest exporter of corn, tenth-largest exporter of wheat and 8th largest exporter of beef. The market economy is distinguished by a large informal sector, featuring re-export of imported consumer goods to neighboring countries, as well as the activities of thousands of microenterprises and urban street vendors. Nonetheless, over the last 10 years the Paraguayan economy diversified dramatically, with the energy, auto parts and clothing industries leading the way. The country also boasts the third most important free commercial zone in the world: Ciudad del Este, trailing behind Miami and Hong Kong. A large percentage of the population, especially in rural areas, derives its living from agricultural activity, often on a subsistence basis. Because of the importance of the informal sector, accurate economic measures are difficult to obtain. The economy grew rapidly between 2003 and 2013 as growing world demand for commodities combined with high prices and favorable weather to support Paraguay's commodity-based export expansion.

Capital – Asuncion. Language – Spanish, Guarani. Religion – Christian – 97%, Unaffiliated – 1%, Folk religion – 2%. Ethnics – Mestizo – Mixed European and Amerindian – 95%, Amerindian – 2%, White – 3%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency

is independent of legislature. Population -6,703,860, rank -105. Area -397,302, rank -60. Density -17, rank -197.



PENON DE ALHUCEMAS, uninhabited territory of Spain, see Plazas de Soberania.

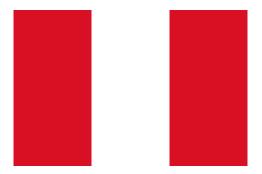
PENON DE VELEZ DE LA GOMERA, uninhabited territory of Spain, see Plazas de Soberania.

PERU, Spanish: Perú; Quechua: Piruw; Aymara: Piruw), officially the Republic of Peru (Spanish: República del Perú), is a country in western South America. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Peru is an extremely biodiverse country with habitats ranging from the arid plains of the Pacific coastal region in the west to the peaks of the Andes mountains vertically extending from the north to the southeast of the country to the tropical Amazon Basin rainforest in the east with the Amazon river. Peruvian territory was home to ancient cultures spanning from the Norte Chico civilization in Caral, one of the oldest in the world, to the Inca Empire, the largest state in Pre-Columbian America. The Spanish Empire conquered the region in the 16th century and established a Viceroyalty with its capital in Lima, which included most of its South American colonies. Ideas of political autonomy later spread throughout Spanish America and Peru gained its independence, which was formally proclaimed in 1821. After the battle of Ayacucho, three years after proclamation, Peru ensured its independence. After achieving independence, the country remained in recession and kept a low military profile until an economic rise based on the extraction of raw and maritime materials struck the country, which ended shortly before the war of the Pacific. Subsequently, the country has undergone changes in government from oligarchic to democratic systems. Peru has gone through periods of political unrest and internal conflict as well as periods of stability and economic upswing. Peru is a representative democratic republic divided into 25 regions. It is a developing country with a high Human Development Index score and a poverty level around 25.8 percent. Its main economic activities include mining, manufacturing, agriculture and fishing. The Peruvian population is multiethnic, including Amerindians, Europeans, Africans and Asians. The main spoken language is Spanish, although a significant number of Peruvians speak Quechua or other native languages. This mixture of cultural traditions has resulted in a wide diversity of expressions in fields such as art, cuisine, literature, and music.

The economy of Peru is classified as *upper middle income* by the World Bank and is the 39th largest in the world. Peru is, as of 2011, one of the world's fastest-growing economies owing to the economic boom experienced during the 2000s. It has a high Human Development Index of .752 based on 2011 data. Historically, the country's economic performance has been tied to exports, which provide hard currency to finance imports and external debt payments. Although they have provided substantial revenue, self-sustained growth and a more egalitarian distribution of income have proven elusive. According to 2010 data, 31.3% of its

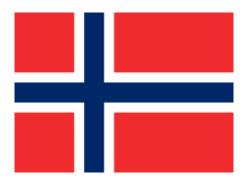
total population is poor, including 9.8% that lives in extreme poverty. Inflation in 2012 was the lowest in Latin America at only 1.8%, but increased in 2013 as oil and commodity prices rose; as of 2014 it stands at 2.5%. The unemployment rate has fallen steadily in recent years, and as of 2012 stands at 3.6%. Peruvian economic policy has varied widely over the past decades. The 1968-1975 government of Juan Velasco Alvarado introduced radical reforms, which included agrarian reform, the expropriation of foreign companies, the introduction of an economic planning system, and the creation of a large state-owned sector. These measures failed to achieve their objectives of income redistribution and the end of economic dependence on developed nations. Despite these results, most reforms were not reversed until the 1990s, when the liberalizing government of Alberto Fujimori ended price controls, protectionism, restrictions on foreign direct investment, and most state ownership of companies. Reforms have permitted sustained economic growth since 1993, except for a slump after the 1997 Asian financial crisis. Services account for 53% of Peruvian gross domestic product, followed by manufacturing (22.3%), extractive industries (15%), and taxes (9.7%). Recent economic growth has been fueled by macroeconomic stability, improved terms of trade, and rising investment and consumption. Trade is expected to increase further after the implementation of a free trade agreement with the United States signed on 12 April 2006. Peru's main exports are copper, gold, zinc, textiles, and fish meal; its major trade partners are the United States, China, Brazil, and Chile.

Capital – Lima. Language – Spanish, co-official – Aymara, Quechua. Relgion – Christian – 93%, Unaffiliated – 6%, Folk religion – 1%. Ethnics – Amerindian – 45%, Mestizo – Mixed Amerindian and White – 37%, White – 15%, Black, Japanese, Chinese and others – 3%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 30,147,935, rank – 43. Area – 1,279,996, rank – 20. Density – 24, rank – 187.



PETER I ISLAND, is an uninhabited volcanic island in the Bellingshausen Sea, 450 km. from Antarctica, and a dependency of Norway. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Peter I Island (Norwegian: Peter I Øy) is an uninhabited volcanic island in the Bellingshausen Sea, 450 kilometres from Antarctica. It is claimed as a dependency of Norway, and along with Queen Maud Land and Bouvet Island comprises one of the three Norwegian dependent territories in the Antarctic and Subantarctic. Peter I Island is 11 by 19 kilometres long and 156 square kilometres, slightly larger than Staten Island. The tallest peak is the ultra and 1,640-meter tall Lars Christensen Peak. Nearly all of the island is covered by a glacier and it is surrounded most of the year by pack ice, making it inaccessible almost all year round. There is little life on the island apart from seabirds and seals. The island was first sighted by Fabian Gottlieb von Bellingshausen on 21 January 1821 and was named for Peter I of Russia. Not until 2 February 1929 did anyone set foot on the island, when Nils Larsen and Ola Olstad's Second Norvegia Expedition, financed by Lars Christensen, was successful. They claimed it for

Norway, who annexed it in 1931 and made it a dependency in 1933. The next landing occurred in 1948 and the island has been subject to some scientific research and a limited amount of tourism. The island became subject to the Antarctic Treaty in 1961. Since 1987, there has been an automated meteorological station on the island. Three amateur radio DX-peditions have visited the island and there are sporadic landings by tourists. Government - Norwegian administration of the island is handled by the Polar Affairs Department of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, located in Oslo. The annexation of the island is regulated by the Dependency Act of 24 March 1933. It establishes that Norwegian criminal law, private law and procedural law applies to the island, in addition to other laws that explicitly state they are valid on the island. It further establishes that all land belongs to the state, and prohibits the storage and detonation of nuclear products.



PHILIPPINES, Republic of the Philippines, Pilipinas, in Southeast Asia, contains one autonomous region in Muslim Mindanao. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. The Philippines (Filipino: Pilipinas), officially known as the Republic of the Philippines (Filipino: Republika ng Pilipinas), is a sovereign island country in Southeast Asia situated in the western Pacific Ocean. It consists of about 7,641 islands that are categorized broadly under three main geographical divisions from north to south: Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. The capital city of the Philippines is Manila and the most populous city is Quezon City, both part of Metro Manila. The Philippines' location on the Pacific Ring of Fire and close to the equator makes the Philippines prone to earthquakes and typhoons, but also endows it with abundant natural resources and some of the world's greatest biodiversity. Population is growing faster than any other east Asian country. It is the seventh-most populated country in Asia and the 12th most populated country in the world. An additional 12 million Filipinos live overseas, comprising one of the world's largest diasporas. Multiple ethnicities and cultures are found throughout the islands. In prehistoric times, Negritos were some of the archipelago's earliest inhabitants. They were followed by successive waves of Austronesian peoples. Exchanges with Chinese, Malay, Indian, and Islamic states occurred. Then, various nations were established under the rule of Datus, Rajahs, Sultans or Lakans. The arrival of Ferdinand Magellan in Homonhon, Eastern Samar in 1521 marked the beginning of Hispanic colonization. In 1543, Spanish explorer Ruy López de Villalobos named the archipelago Las Islas Filipinas in honor of Philip II of Spain. With the arrival of Miguel López de Legazpi from Mexico City, in 1565, the first Hispanic settlement in the archipelago was established. The Philippines became part of the Spanish Empire for more than 300 years. This resulted in Roman Catholicism becoming the dominant religion. During this time, Manila became the western hub of the trans-Pacific trade connecting Asia with Acapulco in the Americas.

As the 19th century gave way to the 20th, there followed in quick succession the Philippine Revolution, which spawned the short-lived First Philippine Republic, followed by the bloody

Philippine-American War of re-conquest by US military force. Aside from the period of Japanese occupation, the United States retained sovereignty over the islands until after World War II, when the Philippines was recognized as an independent nation. Since then, the Philippines has often had a tumultuous experience with democracy, which included the overthrow of a dictatorship by a non-violent revolution. The nation's large population and economic potential have led it to be classified as a middle power. The Philippines is considered to be an emerging market and a newly industrialized country, which has an economy transitioning from being one based on agriculture to one based more on services and manufacturing. The Philippine economy is the 39th largest in the world. Primary exports include semiconductors and electronic products, transport equipment, garments, copper products, petroleum products, coconut oil, and fruits. Major trading partners include the United States, Japan, China, Singapore, South Korea, the Netherlands, Hong Kong, Germany, Taiwan, and Thailand. A newly industrialized country, the Philippine economy has been transitioning from one based upon agriculture to an economy with more emphasis upon services and manufacturing. Of the country's total labor force of around 40.813 Million, the agricultural sector employs close to 32% of the labor force, and accounts for 14% of GDP. The industrial sector employs around 14% of the workforce and accounts for 30% of GDP. 47% of workers involved in the services sector are responsible for 56% of GDP.

Capital – Manila. Language – Filipino/Tagalog (official, statewide, national), English (official, statewide), Spanish (statewide), Baybayin. Religion – Christian – 79%, Muslim – 11%, Unaffiliated – 4%, Buddhist – 4%, Folk religion – 2%. Ethnics – Tagalog – 28%, Cebuano – 13%, Llocano – 9%, Bisaya/Binisaya – 8%, Hiligaynon llonggo – 7%, Bikol – 6%, Waray – 3%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 107,668,231, rank – 13. Area – 298,170, rank – 73. Density – 361, rank – 35.



PITCAIRN ISLANDS, (Pitkern: *Pitkern Ailen*), officially Pitcairn, are a group of four volcanic islands in the southern Pacific Ocean that form the last British Overseas Territory in the Pacific. They are located in Polynesia, Oceania, and are a UK overseas territory, they are not part of the European Union with the UK. <u>Link to map</u>. Links to essential data: <u>Enc</u>. <u>Brittanica</u>, <u>Wikipedia</u>, <u>CIA Factbook</u>, <u>Nations Online</u>, <u>UN Data</u>, <u>BBC</u>, <u>World Atlas</u>, <u>Countries/World, List/Countries</u>, <u>Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats</u>. The four islands – Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie, and Oeno – are spread over several hundred miles of ocean and have a total land area of about 47 square kilometres. Only Pitcairn, the second-largest island that measures about 3.6 kilometres from east to west, is inhabited. The islands are inhabited mostly by descendants of the *Bounty* mutineers and the Tahitians (or Polynesians) who accompanied them, an event retold in numerous books and films. This history is still apparent in the surnames of many of the islanders. With inhabitants, originating from four main families, Pitcairn is the least populous national jurisdiction in the world. The United Nations Committee on Decolonization includes the Pitcairn Islands on the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories. The earliest known settlers of the Pitcairn Islands were

Polynesians who appear to have lived on Pitcairn and Henderson, as well as nearby Mangareva Island 400 kilometres to the northwest, for several centuries. They traded goods and formed social ties among the three islands despite the long canoe voyages between them, helping the small populations on each island survive despite having limited resources. Eventually, important natural resources were exhausted, inter-island trade broke down and a period of civil war began on Mangareva, causing the small human populations on Henderson and Pitcairn to be cut off and eventually become extinct. Although archaeologists believe that Polynesians were living on Pitcairn as late as the 15th century, the islands were uninhabited when they were rediscovered by Europeans.

Ducie and Henderson Islands were discovered by Portuguese sailor Pedro Fernandes de Queirós, sailing for the Spanish Crown, who arrived on 26 January 1606. He named them La Encarnación ("The Incarnation") and San Juan Bautista ("Saint John the Baptist"), respectively. However, some sources express doubt about exactly which of the islands were visited and named by Queirós, suggesting that La Encarnación may actually have been Henderson Island, and San Juan Bautista may have been Pitcairn Island. Pitcairn Island was sighted on 3 July 1767 by the crew of the British sloop HMS Swallow, commanded by Captain Philip Carteret. The island was named after Midshipman Robert Pitcairn, a fifteenyear-old crew member who was the first to sight the island. Robert Pitcairn was a son of British Marine Major John Pitcairn, who later was killed at the Battle of Bunker Hill in the American Revolution. In 1790 nine of the mutineers from the *Bounty*, along with the native Tahitian men and women who were with them (six men, eleven women and a baby girl), settled on Pitcairn Islands and set fire to the Bounty. The wreck is still visible underwater in Bounty Bay, discovered in 1957 by National Geographic explorer Luis Marden. Although the settlers survived by farming and fishing, the initial period of settlement was marked by serious tensions among them. Alcoholism, murder, disease and other ills took the lives of most mutineers and Tahitian men. John Adams and Ned Young turned to the scriptures, using the ship's Bible as their guide for a new and peaceful society. Young eventually died of an asthmatic infection. The Polynesians also converted to Christianity. They later converted from their original form of Christianity to Seventh-day Adventism, following a successful Adventist mission in the 1890s. After the rediscovery of Pitcairn, John Adams was granted amnesty for his part in the mutiny.

Ducie Island was rediscovered in 1791 by Royal Navy Captain Edwards aboard HMS Pandora, while searching for the Bounty mutineers. He named it after Francis Reynolds-Moreton, 3rd Baron Ducie, also a captain in the Royal Navy. The Pitcairn islanders reported it was not until 27 December 1795 that the first ship since the *Bounty* was seen from the island, but it did not approach the land and they could not make out the nationality. A second ship appeared in 1801, but made no attempt to communicate with them. A third came sufficiently near to see their house, but did not try to send a boat on shore. Finally, the American trading ship *Topaz* under Mayhew Folger became the first to visit the island, when the crew spent 10 hours on Pitcairn in February 1808. A report of Folger's discovery was forwarded to the Admiralty, mentioning the mutineers and giving a more precise location of the island. However this was not known to Sir Thomas Staines, who commanded a Royal Navy flotilla of two ships (HMS Briton and HMS Tagus) which found the island on 17 September 1814. Staines sent a party ashore and wrote a detailed report for the Admiralty. Henderson Island was rediscovered on 17 January 1819 by British Captain James Henderson of the British East India Company ship Hercules. Captain Henry King, sailing on the Elizabeth, landed on 2 March to find the king's colours already flying. His crew scratched the name of their ship into a tree. Oeno Island was discovered on 26 January 1824 by American Captain George Worth aboard the whaler *Oeno*.

Pitcairn Island became a British colony in 1838, and was among the first territories to extend voting rights to women. By the mid-1850s, the Pitcairn community was outgrowing the island and its leaders appealed to the British government for assistance and were offered Norfolk Island. On 3 May 1856 the entire community of 193 people set sail for Norfolk on board the *Morayshire*, arriving on 8 June after a miserable five-week trip. However, after eighteen months on Norfolk, seventeen of the Pitcairners decided to return to their home island; five years later another twenty–seven followed. In 1886 the Seventh-day Adventist layman John Tay visited the island and persuaded most of the islanders to accept his faith. He returned in 1890 on the missionary schooner *Pitcairn* with an ordained minister to perform baptisms. Since then, the majority of Pitcairners have been Adventists. Henderson, Oeno and Ducie islands were annexed by Britain in 1902: Henderson on 1 July, Oeno on 10 July and Ducie on 19 December. In 1938 the three islands, along with Pitcairn, were formally incorporated into a single administrative unit called the "Pitcairn Group of Islands". The population peaked at 233 in 1937 and has since fallen owing to emigration, primarily to New Zealand.

The Pitcairn Islands has the smallest population of any democracy in the world. The fertile soil of the Pitcairn valleys, such as Isaac's Valley on the gentle slopes southeast of Adamstown, produces a wide variety of fruits: including bananas (Pitkern: plun), papaya (paw paws), pineapples, mangoes, watermelons, cantaloupes, passionfruit, breadfruit, coconuts, avocadoes, and citrus (including mandarin oranges, grapefruit, lemons and limes). Vegetables include: sweet potatoes (kumura), carrots, sweet corn, tomatoes, taro, yams, peas, and beans. Arrowroot (Maranta arundinacea) and sugarcane are grown and harvested to produce arrowroot flour and molasses, respectively. Pitcairn Island is remarkably productive and its benign climate supports a wide range of tropical and temperate crops. Fish are plentiful in the seas around Pitcairn. Spiny lobster and a large variety of fish are caught for meals and for trading aboard passing ships. Almost every day someone will go fishing, whether it is from the rocks, from a longboat or diving with a spear gun. There are numerous types of fish around the island. Fish such as nanwee, white fish, moi and opapa are caught in shallow water, while snapper, big eye and cod are caught in deep water, and yellow tail and wahoo are caught by trawling. A range of minerals—including manganese, iron, copper, gold, silver and zinc—have been discovered within the Exclusive Economic Zone, which extends 370 km offshore and comprises 880,000 km².

In 1998 the UK's overseas aid agency, the Department for International Development, funded an apiculture programme for Pitcairn which included training for Pitcairn's beekeepers and a detailed analysis of Pitcairn's bees and honey with particular regard to the presence or absence of disease. Pitcairn has one of the best examples of disease-free bee populations anywhere in the world and the honey produced was and remains exceptionally high in quality. Pitcairn bees are also a placid variety and, within a short time, beekeepers are able to work with them wearing minimal protection. As a result, Pitcairn exports honey to New Zealand and to the United Kingdom. In London, Fortnum & Mason sells it and it is a favourite of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Charles. The Pitcairn Islanders, under the "Bounty Products" and "Delectable Bounty" brands, also export dried fruit including bananas, papayas, pineapples and mangoes to New Zealand. Tourism plays a major role on Pitcairn, providing the locals with 80% of their annual income. Tourism is the focus for building the future economy focusing on small groups coming by charter vessel and staying at "home stays". About ten times per year, passengers from expedition-type cruise ships will come ashore for a day,

weather permitting. Since 2009, the government has been operating the MV *Claymore II* as the island's only dedicated passenger/cargo vessel providing tourists with adventure tourism holidays to Pitcairn for three- or ten-day visits. Tourists stay with local families and get to experience the island's culture while contributing to the local economy. Providing accommodation is a growing source of revenue and some families have invested in private self-contained units adjacent to their homes for tourists to rent. Each year up to ten cruise ships call at the island for a few hours (weather permitting), generating income for the locals from the sale of souvenirs, and for the government from landing fees and the stamping of passports. Children under 16 require an entry clearance application to visit the island.

Capital – Adamstown. Language – English. Most resident Pitcairn Islanders are descendants of the Bounty mutineers and Tahitians (or other Polynesians). Pitkern is a creole language derived from 18th-century English, with elements of the Tahitian language. It is spoken as a first language by the population and is taught alongside English at the island's only school. It is closely related to the creole language Norfuk, spoken on Norfolk Island, because Norfolk was repopulated in the mid-19th century by Pitcairners. Religion - The entire population is Seventh-day Adventist. A successful Seventh-day Adventist mission in the 1890s was important in shaping Pitcairn society. In recent years, the church has declined, and as of 2000, eight of the then forty islanders attended services regularly, but most attend church on special occasions. From Friday at sunset until Saturday at sunset, Pitcairners observe a day of rest in observance of the Sabbath, or as a mark of respect for observant Adventists. The church was built in 1954 and is run by the Church board and resident pastor, who usually serves a twoyear term. The Sabbath School meets at 10 am on Saturday mornings, and is followed by Divine Service an hour later. On Tuesday evenings, there is another service in the form of a prayer meeting. Ethnics - descendants of the Bounty mutineers and their Tahitian wives. Government - The Pitcairn Islands are a British overseas territory with a degree of local government. The Queen of the United Kingdom is represented by a Governor, who also holds office as British High Commissioner to New Zealand and is based in Auckland. The 2010 constitution gives authority for the islands to operate as a representative democracy, with the United Kingdom retaining responsibility for matters such as defence and foreign affairs. The Governor and the Island Council may enact laws for the "peace, order and good government" of Pitcairn. The Island Council customarily appoints a Mayor of Pitcairn as a day-to-day head of the local administration. There is a Commissioner, appointed by the Governor, who liaises between the Council and the Governor's office. Population – 48, rank – 239. Area – 47, rank – 234. Density -1, rank -231.



PLAZAS DE SOBERANIA, literally "places of sovereignty", are the Spanish sovereign territories in continental North Africa bordering Morocco. The name refers to the fact that these territories have been a part of Spain since the formation of the modern Spanish State (1492-1556), to distinguish them from territories obtained during the 19th and 20th century. A part of Spain in all respects, they are also a part of the European Union and the Schengen

Area. Historically, a distinction was made between the so-called *major* sovereign territories, comprising the cities of Ceuta and Melilla, and the *minor* sovereign territories, referring to a number of smaller enclaves and islands along the coast. In the present, the term refers mainly to the latter, and includes: Islas Alhucemas - Penon de Alhucemas, Isla de Tierra, Isla de Mar; Islas Chafarinas - Isla del Congreso, Isla Isabel II, Isla del Rey; Penon de Velez de la Gomera, Isla Perejil, and Isla de Alboran. The Plazas de Soberania are governed from Spain. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. During the Reconquista and mainly following the conquest of Granada in 1492, forces of the Castilian and Portuguese kingdoms conquered and maintained numerous posts in North Africa for trade and as a defence against Barbary piracy. In 1415 the Portuguese conquered Ceuta. In 1481 the Papal bull Æterni regis had granted all land south of the Canary Islands to Portugal. Only this archipelago and the possessions of Santa Cruz de la Mar Pequeña (1476-1524), Melilla (conquered by Pedro de Estopiñán in 1497), Villa Cisneros (founded in 1502 in current Western Sahara), Mazalquivir (1505), Peñón de Vélez de la Gomera (1508), Oran (1509-1790), Algiers (1510-1529), Bugia (1510-1554), Tripoli (1511–1551), and Tunis (1535–1569) remained as Spanish territory in Africa. Finally, following the independence of Portugal from Spain, Ceuta was ceded by Portugal to Spain in 1668. In 1848, Spanish troops conquered the Islas Chafarinas. In the late 19th century, after the so-called Scramble for Africa, European nations had taken over colonial control of most of the African continent. The Treaty of Fez (signed on March 30, 1912) made most of Morocco a protectorate of France, while Spain assumed the role of protecting power over the northern part, Spanish Morocco. When Spain relinquished its protectorate and recognized Morocco's independence in 1956, it did not give up these minor territories. Spain had held them well before the establishment of its protectorate. The language spoken is Spanish.

The plazas de soberanía are small islands and peninsulas off the coast of Morocco (the only peninsula, Peñón de Vélez de la Gomera, was an island until a 1934 storm formed a sand bridge with the mainland). They are guarded by military garrisons and administered directly by the Spanish central government. Just like Ceuta and Melilla, they are an integral part of Spain, therefore also part of the European Union, and their currency is the euro. Morocco claims sovereignty over the Spanish North African territories, plus the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla. There was a time of splendor, almost a century ago now, when trade was plentiful at Peñón de Alhucemas: when the gates of the island fort swung open and the nearby residents of Rif would come in to sell their chickens, eggs, fruit, vegetables and coal. At another rock fortress, Peñón de Vélez de la Gomera, there were no fewer than five shops and taverns, including one shoe store. At every one of these tiny "plazas de soberanía" or sovereign strongholds held by Spain along the northern coast of Morocco, there were postal employees, border patrolmen, schoolteachers and lighthouse-keepers among a population that was over 400 in Alhucemas and Vélez (including the prisoners). Over at Isabel II, one of the Chafarinas islands - the largest of the minuscule Spanish archipelagos in the area - the population was more than 700 at one point, and there was a casino and a small military hospital on site. The population of the islands is now 250-400 Spanish soldiers, with no indigenous residents. The Area of Islas Alhucemas is 4.6 hectares, Islas Chafarinas – 52.5 ha, Penon de Velez de la Gomera – 1.9 ha, Isla Perejil – 15 ha, and Isla de Alboran – 0.07 sq km.



POLAND, (Polish: *Polska*), officially the Republic of Poland (Polish: *Rzeczpospolita Polska*), is a country in Eastern Europe. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, EU. Poland is a unitary state divided into 16 administrative subdivisions. The establishment of a Polish state can be traced back to 966, when Mieszko I, ruler of a territory roughly coextensive with that of present-day Poland, converted to Christianity. The Kingdom of Poland was founded in 1025, and in 1569 it cemented a longstanding political association with the Grand Duchy of Lithuania by signing the Union of Lublin. This union formed the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, one of the largest and most populous countries of 16th and 17th-century Europe. The Commonwealth ceased to exist in the years 1772–1795, when its territory was partitioned among Prussia, the Russian Empire, and Austria. Poland regained its independence (as the Second Polish Republic) at the end of World War I, in 1918. In September 1939, World War II started with the invasions of Poland by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union (as part of the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact). More than six million Polish citizens died in the war. In 1944, a Soviet-backed Polish Committee of National Liberation was formed which, after a falsified referendum in 1947 took control of the country and Poland became a satellite state of the Soviet Union, as People's Republic of Poland. During the Revolutions of 1989 Poland's Communist government was overthrown and Poland adopted a new constitution establishing itself as a democracy. Despite the large number of casualties and destruction the country experienced during World War II, Poland managed to preserve much of its cultural wealth. There are 14 heritage sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage and 54 Historical Monuments and many objects of cultural heritage in Poland.

Since the beginning of the transition to a primarily market-based economy that took place in the early 1990s, Poland has achieved a "very high" ranking on the Human Development Index, as well as gradually improving economic freedom. Poland is a democratic country with an advanced high-income economy, a high quality of life and a very high standard of living. Moreover, the country is visited by nearly 16 million tourists every year (2013), which makes it one of the most visited countries in the world. Poland is the sixth largest economy in the European Union and among the fastest rising economic states in the world. The country is the sole member nation of the European Union to have escaped a decline in GDP and in recent years was able to "create probably the most varied GDP growth in its history" according to OANDA, a Canadian-based foreign exchange company. Furthermore, according to the Global Peace Index for 2014, Poland is one of the safest countries in the world to live in. Poland's high-income economy is considered to be one of the healthiest of the post-Communist countries and is one of the fastest growing within the EU. Having a strong domestic market, low private debt, flexible currency, and not being dependent on a single export sector, Poland is the only European economy to have avoided the late-2000s recession. Since the fall of the communist government, Poland has pursued a policy of liberalising the economy. It is an example of the transition from a centrally planned to a primarily market-based economy. The country's most successful exports include machinery, furniture, foods and meats, motor boats, light planes, hardwood products, casual clothing, shoes and cosmetics. Germany is by far the biggest importer of Poland's exports as of 2013. The privatization of small and medium state-owned companies and a liberal law on establishing new firms have allowed the development of the private sector. As a consequence, consumer rights organizations have also appeared. Restructuring and privatization of "sensitive sectors" such as coal, steel, rail transport and energy has been continuing since 1990. The biggest privatisations have been the sale of the national telecoms firm Telekomunikacja Polska to France Télécom in 2000, and an issue of 30% of the shares in Poland's largest bank, PKO Bank Polski, on Polish stockmarket in 2004.

Capital – Warsaw. Language – Polish. Religion – Christian – 94%, Unaffiliated – 6%. World War II resulted in the death of one-fifth of the Polish population, with 90% or about 3 million of Polish Jewry killed along with approximately 3 million Polish non-Jews. The contemporary Polish Jewish community is estimated to have approximately 20,000 members, though the actual number of Jews, including those who are not actively connected to Judaism or Jewish culture, may be several times larger. Ethnics – Polish – 97%, Silesian – 1%, German – 0.2%..., Ukrainian – 0.1%. Government – Republic, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 38,346,279, rank – 35. Area – 304,255, rank – 70. Density – 126, rank – 89.



POLYNESIA, FRENCH, see French Polynesia.

PORTUGAL, officially the Portuguese Republic (Portuguese: República Portuguesa), is a country on the Iberian Peninsula, in Southwestern Europe. It is the westernmost country of mainland Europe. Portugal contains 2 autonomous regions - Azores, islands in the North Atlantic ocean, capital - Ponta Delgada, and Madeira, archipelago in the North Atlantic ocean, capital – Funchal, which are part of the European Union with Portugal. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, EU. The republic also includes the Atlantic archipelagos of the Azores and Madeira, both autonomous regions with their own regional governments. The land within the borders of current Portugal has been continuously settled, invaded and fought over since prehistoric times. The Iberians, Celts, Phoenicians, Carthaginians and the Romans were followed by the invasions of the Visigothic and the Suebi Germanic peoples, who were themselves later invaded by the Moors. These Muslim peoples were eventually expelled during the Christian Reconquista. Portuguese nationality can be traced back to the creation of the First County of Portugal, in 868. In 1139, Afonso Henriques was proclaimed King of Portugal, thus firmly establishing Portuguese independence, under the Portuguese House of Burgundy. In the 15th and 16th centuries, under the House of Aviz, which took power following the 1383-85 Crisis, Portugal expanded Western influence and established the first global empire, becoming one of the world's major economic, political and military powers. During this time, Portuguese explorers pioneered maritime exploration in the Age of Discovery, notably under royal patronage of Prince Henry the Navigator and King Manuel I, with such notable discoveries as Vasco da Gama's sea route to India (1497–98), Pedro Álvares Cabral's discovery of Brazil (1500), and Bartolomeu Dias's reaching of the Cape of Good Hope. Portugal monopolized the spice trade during this time, under royal command of the Casa da Índia, and the Portuguese Empire expanded with military campaigns led in Asia, notably under Afonso de Albuquerque, who was known as the "Ceasar of the East".

The destruction of Lisbon in a 1755 earthquake, the country's occupation during the Napoleonic Wars, the independence of Brazil (1822), and the Liberal Wars (1828-1834), all left Portugal crippled from war and diminished in its world power. After the 1910 revolution deposed the monarchy, the democratic but unstable Portuguese First Republic was established, later being superseded by the "Estado Novo" right-wing authoritarian regime. Democracy was restored after the Portuguese Colonial War and the Carnation Revolution in 1974. Shortly after, independence was granted to all its colonies, with the exception of Macau, which was handed over to China in 1999. This marked the end of the longest-lived European colonial empire, leaving a profound cultural and architectural influence across the globe and a legacy of over 250 million Portuguese speakers today. Portugal is a highly developed country with a high-income advanced economy and very high living standards. It is the 11th most peaceful country in the world, maintaining a unitary semi-presidential republican form of government. It has the 18th highest Social Progress in the world, putting it ahead of other Western European countries like France, Spain and Italy. Portugal is also known for having decriminalized the usage of all common drugs in 2001, the first country in the world to do so. However, the sale and distribution of these drugs is still illegal in Portugal. Since the Carnation Revolution of 1974, which culminated in the end of one of Portugal's most notable phases of economic expansion (that started in the 1960s), a significant change has occurred in the nation's annual economic growth. After the turmoil of the 1974 revolution and the PREC period, Portugal tried to adapt to a changing modern global economy. Since the 1990s, Portugal's public consumption-based economic development model has been slowly changing to a system that is focused on exports, private investment and the development of the high-tech sector. Consequently, business services have overtaken more traditional industries such as textiles, clothing, footwear and cork (Portugal is the world's leading cork producer), wood products and beverages. In the second decade of the 21st century the Portuguese economy suffered its most severe recession since the 1970s resulting in the country having to be bailed out by the European Commission, European Central Bank and International Monetary Fund. The bailout, agreed to in 2011, required Portugal to enter into a range of austerity measures in exchange for funding support of €78 billion. In May 2014 the country exited the bailout but reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining its reformist momentum. At the time of exiting the bailout the economy had contracted by 0.7% in the first quarter of 2014, however unemployment, while still high had fallen to 15.3 percent

Capital – Lisbon. Language – Portuguese. Religion – Christian – 94%, Unaffiliated – 4%, Muslim – 1%, Buddhist – 1%. Ethnics – Portugal's population has been relatively homogeneous for most of its history: a single religion (Catholicism) and a single language have contributed to this ethnic and national unity, namely after the expulsion of the Moors and Jews. A considerable number of Moors and Jews, nevertheless, stayed in Portugal, under the condition that they converted to Catholicism, and afterwards they were known as *Mouriscos* (former Muslims) and *Cristãos Novos* (New Christians or former Jews) some of whom may have continued to observe rabbinic Judaism in secret, as in the case of the secret Jews of Belmonte, who now observe the Jewish faith openly. After 1772 the distinction

between Old and New Christians was abolished by decree. Some famous Portuguese New Christians were the mathematician Pedro Nunes and the physician and naturalist Garcia de Orta. Native Portuguese are an Iberian ethnic group, whose ancestry is very similar to other Western and Southern Europeans and Mediterranean peoples, in particular Spaniards, followed by some regional French and Italians with whom they share a common ancestry, history and cultural proximity. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 10,813,834, rank – 80. Area – 91,470, rank – 111. Density – 118, rank – 90.



PRIDNESTROVIE, see Transnistria.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS, uninhabited territory of South Africa, see also South Africa. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. The Prince Edward Islands are two small islands in the subantarctic Indian Ocean that are part of South Africa. The islands were named by James Cook Marion Island (named after Marc-Joseph Marion du Fresne) and Prince Edward Island (named after Prince Edward, Duke of Kent and Strathearn). The Area of the Islands is 335 sq km, and the population is 50 non-permanent research staff. The islands in the group have been declared Special Nature Reserves under the South African Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, No. 57 of 2003, and activities on the islands are therefore restricted to research and conservation management. The only human inhabitants of the islands are the staff of a meteorological and biological research station run by the South African National Antarctic Programme on Marion Island. The islands were discovered on 4 March 1663 by Barent Barentszoon Lam of the Dutch ship Maerseveen and were named Dina (Prince Edward) and Maerseveen (Marion). In January 1772, Marc-Joseph Marion du Fresne visited the islands and spent five days trying to land, thinking he had found Antarctica (then not yet proven to exist). He named the islands Terre de l'Espérance (Marion) and Ile de la Caverne (Pr. Edward). In 1776, his expedition, now headed by his second-in-command, Jules Crozet, after the death of du Fresne, met James Cook in Cape Town. Cook subsequently set sail for the islands, but was unable to land.

The first recorded landing was either in 1799 by a group of French seal hunters of the *Sally*, or else in late 1803 by a group of seal hunters led by American captain Henry Fanning of the *Catharine*. These sealers, however, found signs of earlier human occupation, probably other sealers. James Clark Ross also visited the islands in 1840 but was also unable to land. In June 1849 the brig Richard Dart, with a troop of Royal Engineers under Lt. James Liddell, was wrecked on the island; only 10 of the 63 on board survived to be rescued by elephant seal hunters from Cape Town. Finally, the islands were surveyed by Captain George Nares in 1873. In 1908, the British government, assuming ownership of the islands, granted William

Newton the rights to exploit guano deposits for the next twenty-one years. Also in 1908, shipwrecked hunters established a village at the north coast, called Fairbairn Settlement. A ten-year grant for seal exploitation was issued by the British to a sealing company in 1926. In late 1947 and early 1948, South Africa, with Britain's agreement, annexed the islands and installed the meteorological station on Transvaal Cove on the north-east coast of Marion Island. The research station was soon enlarged and today researches the biology of the islands, in particular the birds (penguins, petrels, albatrosses, gulls) and seals. Today, the research station is called RSA Marion Station. On 22 September 1979, the Vela Incident occurred. One of the US Vela satellites used to monitor compliance with the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty recorded an event near the Prince Edward Islands that had the characteristic "double flash" signature of a small nuclear test. However it was never proven conclusively if this was a nuclear test or not, so the event remains controversial. Marion Island and Prince Edward Island were claimed for South Africa on 29 December 1947 and 4 January 1948 respectively, by a South African Navy force from HMSAS Transvaal under the command of John Fairbairn. On 1 October 1948 the annexation was made official when Governor-General Gideon Brand van Zyl signed the Prince Edward Islands Act, 1948. In terms of the Act, the islands fall under the jurisdiction of the Cape Town Magistrate's Court, and South African law as applied in the Western Cape applies on them. The islands are also deemed to be situated within the electoral district containing the Port of Cape Town.

PUERTO RICO, officially the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Spanish: Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico, lit. "Associated Free State of Puerto Rico"), is a United States territory located in the northeastern Caribbean in the Greater Antilles. It is a US unincorporated organized territory with Commonwealth status. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Puerto Rico is an archipelago that includes the main island of Puerto Rico and a number of smaller islands as Mona, Culebra and Vieques. The capital and most populous municipality is San Juan. The territory does not observe daylight saving time, and its official languages are Spanish, which is predominant, and English. Puerto Rico's rich history, tropical climate, diverse natural scenery, renowned traditional cuisine and attractive tax incentives make it a popular destination for visitors from around the world. Originally populated by the aboriginal Taíno people, the island was claimed in 1493 by Christopher Columbus for the Kingdom of Spain, enduring several invasion attempts by the French, Dutch, and British. During the four centuries of Spanish rule, the island's cultural and physical landscapes were transformed, with European knowledge, customs, and traditions being introduced, especially Roman Catholicism and the Spanish language. In 1898, following the Spanish-American War, Spain ceded the island to the United States under the terms of the Treaty of Paris. Puerto Ricans are natural-born citizens of the United States. Puerto Rico does not have a vote in the U.S. Congress, which governs the territory with full jurisdiction under the Puerto Rico Federal Relations Act of 1950. As a U.S. territory, American citizens residing on the island are "disenfranchised at the national level" and may not vote for the President and Vice President of the United States. However, Congress approved a local constitution, allowing US citizens on the territory to elect a governor.

A 2012 referendum showed a majority (54% of the electorate) disagreed with "the present form of territorial status," with full statehood as the preferred option among those who voted for a change of status. Following this vote, the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico enacted a concurrent resolution to request the President and the Congress of the United States to end its current status as an unincorporated U.S. territory, and to begin the process to admit Puerto

Rico to the Union as a State. However the 2012 referendum revealed that results for statehood (are) " a misleading impression. The referendum consisted of two questions. First, it asked voters if they wanted to keep their current U.S. commonwealth status (...) 52 percent (voted No). The referendum then asked if voters wanted to become a U.S. state, an independent country, or a freely associated state. (...) 61 percent chose statehood (but) (...) Over 470,000 voters intentionally left the second question blank, (so it seems) only 45 percent (...) supported statehood". Despite the Puerto Rican government juridical status with the United States as an unincorporated territory, at the United Nations the General Assembly had been adopting resolutions and decisions "reaffirming (...) that (...) [b]ecause of its culture, history, traditions and especially its people's unswerving will, Puerto Rico would continue to be a Latin American and Caribbean nation, with its own national identity."

Capital – San Juan. Language – Spanish. Religion – Christian – 97%, Unaffiliated – 2%, Folk religion - 1%. Ethnics - White - 76%, Black/African American - 12%, American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, other Pacific Islanders, etc. – 9%, Mixed – 3%. 99% of the population is Latino. Government - Puerto Rico has 8 senatorial districts, 40 representative districts and 78 municipalities. It has a republican form of government with separation of powers subject to the jurisdiction and sovereignty of the United States. Its current powers are all delegated by the United States Congress and lack full protection under the United States Constitution. Puerto Rico's head of state is the President of the United States. The government of Puerto Rico, based on the formal republican system, is composed of three branches: the executive, legislative, and judicial branch. The executive branch is headed by the governor. The legislative branch consists of a bicameral legislature called the Legislative Assembly, made up of a Senate as its upper chamber and a House of Representatives as its lower chamber. The Senate is headed by the President of the Senate, while the House of Representatives is headed by the Speaker of the House. The governor and legislators are elected by popular vote every four years. The judicial branch is headed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico. Members of the judicial branch are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Puerto Rico is represented in the United States Congress by a nonvoting delegate, the Resident Commissioner. Current congressional rules have removed the Commissioner's power to vote in the Committee of the Whole, but the Commissioner can vote in committee. Population – 3,620,897, rank – 130. Area – 8,870, rank -163. Density -408, rank -30.



PUNTLAND, (Somali: Buntlaand, Arabic: أرض البنط), officially the Puntland State of Somalia (Somali: Dowlad Goboleedka Buntlaand ee Soomaaliya), is an arid region in northeastern Somalia, centered on Garoowe in the Nugal province. Its leaders declared the territory an autonomous state in 1998. The move was in part an attempt to avoid the clan warfare engulfing southern Somalia. Nevertheless, the region has endured armed conflict, and grabbed the world headlines with an upsurge in pirate attacks on international shipping in the

Indian Ocean. Unlike its neighbour, breakaway Somaliland, Puntland says it does not seek recognition as an independent entity, wishing instead to be part of a federal Somalia. Link to map. Link to essential data on de facto independent countries: Wikipedia, BBC, Quora, Polgeonow. Puntland is bordered by the self-declared Republic of Somaliland to its west, the Gulf of Aden in the north, the Indian Ocean in the southeast, the central Galmudug region in the south, and Ethiopia in the southwest. A third of Somalia's population lives in the territory, which contains about a third of the nation's geographical area. Unlike the neighboring self-declared Republic of Somaliland, Puntland, as with all other regions in the country, does not seek outright independence from Somalia. The name "Puntland" is derived from the Land of Punt mentioned by ancient Egyptian sources. The exact location of the fabled territory is still a mystery. Many studies suggest that the Land of Punt was located in present-day Somalia, whereas others propose that it was situated elsewhere.

Capital – Garoowe. Language – Somali, Arabic. Religion - As with the rest of Somalia, Islam is the main religion of the Puntland region. With few exceptions, all residents of Puntland are Muslims. Ethnics - The region is primarily inhabited by people from the Somali ethnic group, with the Harti Darod especially well-represented. There are also a number of Mehri residents. Government – An autonomous presidential democracry. The legal structure of Puntland consists of the judiciary, legislative (House of Representatives) and the executive (the President and his nominated council of Ministries) branches of government. Population – 4,284,663, Area – 212,510, Density – 20.



QATAR, (Arabic: قطر *Oatar*;), officially the State of Qatar (Arabic: دولة قطر *Dawlat Qatar*), is a sovereign country located in Southwest Asia, occupying the small Qatar Peninsula on the northeastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Qatar's sole land border is with Saudi Arabia to the south, with the rest of its territory surrounded by the Persian Gulf. A strait in the Persian Gulf separates Qatar from the nearby island of Bahrain, as well as sharing sea borders with the United Arab Emirates and Iran. Following Ottoman rule, Qatar became a British protectorate in the early 20th century until gaining independence in 1971. Qatar has been ruled by the House of Thani since the early 19th century. Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed Al Thani was the founder of the State of Qatar. Qatar is a hereditary constitutional monarchy and its head of state is Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. The constitution was overwhelmingly approved in a constitutional referendum, with almost 98% in favour. In 2013, Qatar's total population was 1.8 million: 278,000 Qatari citizens, 15%, and 1.5 million expatriates. Non-Arab foreigners make up the vast majority of Qatar's population; Indians are the largest community, numbering 545,000 in 2013, followed by 341,000 Nepalis, 185,000 Filipinos, 137,000 Bangladeshis, 100,000 Sri Lankans and 90,000 Pakistanis among many other nationalities. After Saudi Arabia and Oman, Qatar is the most conservative society in the Gulf Cooperation Council. Qatar is a high income economy and is a developed country, backed by the world's third largest natural gas reserves and oil reserves. The country has the highest per capita income in the world. Qatar is classified by the UN as a country of very high human development and is the most advanced Arab state for human development. Qatar is a significant power in the Arab world, supporting several rebel groups during the Arab Spring both financially and through its globally expanding media group, Al Jazeera Media Network. For its size, Qatar wields disproportionate influence in the world, and has been identified as a middle power. Qatar will host the 2022 FIFA World Cup, becoming the first Arab country to do so.

Sharia law is the main source of Qatari legislation according to Qatar's Constitution. In practice, Qatar's legal system is a mixture of civil law and Sharia law. Sharia law is applied to laws pertaining to family law, inheritance, and several criminal acts (including adultery, robbery and murder). In some cases in Sharia-based family courts, a female's testimony is worth half a man's and in some cases a female witness is not accepted at all. Codified family law was introduced in 2006. Islamic polygamy is allowed in the Emirate. Flogging is used in Qatar as a punishment for alcohol consumption or illicit sexual relations. Article 88 of Qatar's criminal code declares the punishment for adultery is 100 lashes. In 2011, at least 21 people (mostly foreign nationals) were sentenced to floggings of between 30 and 100 lashes for offences related to "illicit sexual relations" or alcohol consumption. In 2012, six expatriates were sentenced to floggings of either 40 or 100 lashes. Only Muslims considered medically fit were liable to have such sentences carried out. It is unknown if the sentences were implemented. More recently in April 2013, a Muslim expatriate was sentenced to 40 lashes for alcohol consumption. In June 2014, a Muslim expatriate was sentenced to 40 lashes for consuming alcohol and driving under the influence. Judicial corporal punishment is common in Qatar due to the Hanbali interpretation of Sharia Law. Stoning is a legal punishment in Qatar. Apostasy is a crime punishable by the death penalty in Qatar. Blasphemy is punishable by up to seven years in prison and proselytizing can be punished by up to 10 years in prison. Homosexuality is a crime punishable by the death penalty. Alcohol consumption is partially legal in Qatar; some five-star luxury hotels are allowed to sell alcohol to their non-Muslim customers. Muslims are not allowed to consume alcohol in Qatar and Muslims caught consuming alcohol are liable to flogging or deportation. Non-Muslim expatriates can obtain a permit to purchase alcohol for personal consumption. The Qatar Distribution Company (a subsidiary of Qatar Airways) is permitted to import alcohol and pork; it operates the one and only liquor store in the country, which also sells pork to holders of licences. Qatari officials have indicated a willingness to allow alcohol in "fan zones" at the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

In recent years, Qatar has been using Islamist militants in a number of countries including Egypt, Syria, Libya, Somalia and Mali to further its foreign policy. Courting Islamists from the Muslim Brotherhood to Salafist groups has served as a power amplifier for the country, as it believes since the beginning of the Arab Spring that these groups represented the wave of the future. David Cohen, the Under Secretary for terrorism and financial intelligence at the U.S. Treasury, said that Qatar is a "permissive jurisdiction for terrorist financing." There is evidence that these groups supported by Qatar include the hard-line Islamic militant groups active in northern Syria. As of 2015, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Turkey are openly backing the Army of Conquest, an umbrella group of anti-government forces fighting in the Syrian Civil War that reportedly includes an al-Qaeda linked al-Nusra Front and another Salafi coalition known as Ahrar ash-Sham, a group "loosely tied" to ISIS. Qatar supported the democratically elected President Mohamed Morsi with diplomatic support and the state-owned Al Jazeera network before he was deposed in a military coup. Qatar offered Egypt a \$7.5 billion loan during the year he was in power. Qatar's alignment with Hamas, first reported in early 2012,

has drawn criticism from Israel, US, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, "who accuse Qatar of undermining regional stability by supporting Hamas." However, the Foreign Minister of Qatar has denied supporting Hamas, stating "We do not support Hamas but we support the Palestinians." Following a peace agreement, Qatar pledged \$1 billion in humanitarian aid to Gaza.

Capital – Doha (Al-Dawhah). Language – Arabic. Religion – Muslim – 68%, Christian – 14%, Hindu – 14%, Buddhist – 3%. Ethnics – Arab – 40% (Qataris, Egyptians, Palestinians, Sudanese, Lebanese, Tunisians, Moroccans, Iraqis, etc.) Indian – 18%, Pakistani – 18%, Iranian – 10%. Government – Absolute monarchy, executive head of state, all authority vested in absolute monarch. Population – 2,123,160, rank – 146. Area – 11,586, rank – 166. Density – 183, rank – 70.



QUEEN MAUD LAND, see Antarctica.

REPUBLIC OF CRIMEA, The Republic of Crimea (Russian: Республика Крым, tr. Respublika Krym; Crimean Tatar: Къырым Джумхуриети, Qırım Cumhuriyeti; Ukrainian: Республіка Крим, Respublika Krym) is a federal subject of Russia that is located on the Crimean Peninsula, in Southern Europe. After seceding from Ukraine it joined the Russian Federation. It is now a federal subject of Russian, which is a territory disputed between Ukraine and Russia. The republic was proclaimed following the 2014 Crimean crisis and subsequent Russian annexation, and it is included in the Crimean Federal District. Link to map. Link to essential data on de facto independent countries: Wikipedia, BBC, Quora, Polgeonow. The Republic joined the Russian Federation in March 2014 shortly after the ousting of Ukrainian President, Viktor Yanukovych. Following the takeover of Crimea by pro-Russian separatists and Russian Armed Forces, a controversial referendum was held on the issue of reunification with Russia; the official result was that a large majority wished to join with Russia. Russia then annexed the Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol as federal subjects of Russia. As the referendum and subsequent declaration of independence were held without the agreement of the Ukrainian government, both were widely condemned internationally as violations of international law. Russia disputes this, citing the right of the people of Crimea to self-determination and the Kosovo precedent. While Russia and six other UN member states recognize Crimea as part of the Russian Federation, Ukraine continues to claim Crimea as an integral part of its territory as the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, supported by most foreign governments and United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/262. In 1792, under the Russian Empress Catherine the Great, Crimea was ceded to Russia by the Ottoman Empire under the Treaty of Jassy, which formally ended the Russo-Turkish war of 1787-1792. From 1802, it constituted a southern part of the Taurida Governorate of the Russian Empire until the collapse thereof in 1917. During the Russian Civil War (1917–1921) Crimea changed hands multiple times, being inter alia the last territory held by the White Russian government in the European part of Russia in 1920, and finally became an autonomous republic within Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR) in 1921. During World War II, in 1944, the central Soviet authorities deported the Crimean Tatars for alleged collaboration with the Nazi occupation regime; in 1945, the region was stripped of its autonomy status. In 1954, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet transferred the region from the RSFSR to the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, another constituent republic of the USSR, then a highly centralized state, wherein borders between constituent republics was a technical issue of administration, despite the fact that Ukraine was a separate member of the UN. Crimean Tatars were allowed to return to Crimea in the mid-1980s under perestroika.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, Crimea became part of the newly independent Ukraine, which led to tensions between Russia and Ukraine. With the Black Sea Fleet based on the peninsula, worries of armed skirmishes were occasionally raised. Crimean Tatars began returning from exile and resettling in Crimea. Ukraine restored Crimea's autonomous status in 1991. Crimea's autonomous status was re-affirmed in 1996 with the ratification of Ukraine's current constitution, which designated Crimea as the "Autonomous Republic of Crimea", but also an "inseparable constituent part of Ukraine". On March 11, 2014, the Crimean parliament and the Sevastopol City Council jointly issued a letter of intent to unilaterally declare independence from Ukraine in the event of a 'Yes' vote in the referendum to join the region to Russia, that was to be held on March 16. The document specifically mentioned Kosovo as a precedent in the lead part. The referendum on the status of Crimea allowed citizens to vote on whether Crimea should apply to join Russia as a federal subject of the Russian Federation, or restore the 1992 Crimean constitution and Crimea's status as a part of Ukraine. The available choices did not include keeping the status quo of Crimea and Sevastopol as they were at the time the referendum was held. On March 16, 2014, according to statements of organizers of Crimean status referendum, a large majority (reported as 96.77% of the 81.36% of the population of Crimea who voted) voted in favour of independence of Crimea from Ukraine and joining Russia as a federal subject. [21][22] The referendum was not recognized by most of the international community and the reported results were disputed by numerous independent observers. The BBC reported that most of the Crimean Tatars that they interviewed were boycotting the vote. Reports from the UN criticized the circumstances surrounding the referendum, especially the presence of paramilitaries, self-defence groups and unidentifiable soldiers. The European Union, Canada, Japan and the United States condemned the vote as illegal. After the referendum, Crimean lawmakers formally voted both to secede from Ukraine and applied for their admission into Russia. The Sevastopol City Council, however, requested the port's separate admission as a federal city.

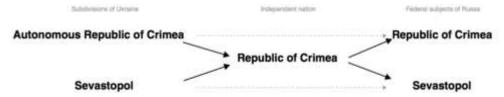


Diagram showing the merge, short-lived independence, and separation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol that led to the Republic of Crimea becoming a federal subject of Russia.

On March 18, 2014, the self-proclaimed independent Republic of Crimea signed a treaty of accession to the Russian Federation. The accession was granted but separately for each the former regions that composed it: one accession for the Autonomous Republic of Crimea as the *Republic of Crimea*— the same name as the short-lived self-proclaimed independent republic - and another one for Sevastopol as a federal city. The accession was only recognised internationally by a few states with most regarding the action as illegal. Though Ukraine refused to accept the annexation, its military began to withdraw from Crimea on March 19.

Starting in the summer of 2014 Crimea's government nationalized various large Crimean companies and assets; reasons given for this were (among others) "the company helped to finance military operations against Donetsk People's Republic and Lugansk People's Republic" and "the resort complex illegally blocked public access to nearby park lands". The government can nationalize assets considered to have "particular social, cultural, or historical value". In the case of the Zalyv Shipbuilding yard, Crimean "self-defense" forces stormed the company's headquarters to demand nationalization. Head of the Republic Sergey Aksyonov claimed that in at least one case "Employees established control of the enterprise on their own, we just helped them a little". The Crimean assets of Ihor Kolomoyskyi have also been nationalized; according to Aksyonov this was "totally justified due to the fact that he is one of the initiators and financiers of the special anti-terrorist operation in the Eastern Ukraine where Russian citizens are being killed". By late October 2014 90% of the heads of Crimean government-owned corporation were fired as part of a supposed anti-corruption campaign, although no charges have been filed against anyone. Human rights activists in the region have described the seizures as lacking a legal basis and dismissed the "anti-corruption" rationale. In June 2015 the Federal Security Service (FSB) started several anti-corruption criminal cases against high ranking Crimean officials. According to Aksyonov the FSB had opened these criminal cases because it was "interested in destabilizing the situation in Crimea".

In 2014 about two million tourists holidayed in Crimea, including 300,000 Ukrainians. In 2013 3.5 million Ukrainian and 1.5 million Russian tourists visited Crimea. Tourism is the mainstay of the Crimean economy. In August 2014 Head of the Republic Aksyonov was confident that in 2015 Crimea will welcome "at least five million visitors - I have no doubts about that". Early August 2015 the press service of his government stated that in 2015 2.02 million tourist had visited Crimea (16.5% more than in 2014). They stated in January 2016 (that in 2015) more than 4 million tourists had vacationed in the peninsula. On 6 May 2014 the National Bank of Ukraine ordered Ukrainian banks to cease operations in Crimea; the following weeks the Central Bank of Russia closed all Ukrainian banks on the peninsula because "they had failed to meet their obligations to creditors". [81] 8 months after the 21 March 2014 formal annexation of Crimea by Russia it had become impossible for clients of Ukrainian banks to access their deposit and most of them did not by their interest (on loans). A "Fund for the Protection of Depositors in Crimea", as part of Russia's Deposit Insurance Agency, was set up by Russia to compensate Crimeans. By 6 November 2014 it had paid out more than \$500 million to 196,400 depositors; the fund has a limit of about \$15,000 per bank account. In July 2015 25 banks operated in Crimea, prior to Russia's annexation of the peninsula there were 180 banks in Crimea. Many international businesses have left Crimea but because of fear of sanctions few Russian companies invest in Crimea. Because of international sanctions Crimea's once bustling IT-sector was reduced to a few IT companies.

Capital – Simferopol. Language – Russian, Ukrainian, Crimean Tatar. Religion – Slavic – 86%, mostly Orthodox Christians, Crimean Tatars – 13%, mostly Muslims. Ethnics – Russians – 65%, Ukrainians – 16%, Crimean Tatars – 13%, Tatars – 2%, Belarusians – 1%, Armenians – 0.5%. Government – The legislative body is a 75-seat parliament, the State Council of Crimea. Elections held on 14 September 2014 resulted in United Russia securing 70 of the 75 members elected. The executive power is represented by the Council of Ministers, headed by the Prime Minister (officially called Head of the Republic). The authority and operation of the State Council and the Council of Ministers of Crimea are determined by the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea and other Crimean laws, as well as by regular decisions carried out by the Council. Justice is administered by courts, as part of the judiciary of Russia. Under Russian law, all decisions delivered by the Crimean branches

of the judiciary of Ukraine up to its annexation remain valid. Including sentences (for "encroaching on Ukraine's territorial integrity and inviolability") for pre-2014 calls for an incorporation of Crimea into Russia. Crimeans who refused to get Russian citizenship are barred from holding government and municipal jobs. Till July 2015 20,000 Crimeans had renounced their Ukrainian citizenship. Population -1,891,465, Area -26,100, Density -72.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA, see Korea, South.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, see Moldova.

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, see Congo, Republic of the.

REPUBLIKA SRPSKA, (Serbian Cyrillic: Република Српска, pronounced [republika srpska]), is a de facto state of Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in Southern Europe. It is one of two entities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, comprising about half of the Bosnian territory, the other entity and half is the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Link to map. Link to essential data on de facto independent countries: Wikipedia, BBC, Quora, Polgeonow. The entities are largely autonomous. The *de facto* capital is Banja Luka (seat of entity government and national assembly). In a session on 14-15 October 1991, the Parliament of Bosnia approved the "Memorandum on Sovereignty", as had already been done by Slovenia and Croatia. The memorandum was adopted despite opposition from 83 Serb deputies belonging to the Serb Democratic Party (most of the Serb parliamentary representatives) as well as the Serbian Renewal Movement and the Union of Reform Forces, who regarded the move as illegal. On 24 October 1991, the Serb deputies formed the Assembly of the Serb People in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Skupština srpskog naroda u Bosni i Hercegovini) to be the highest representative and legislative body of the Bosnian Serb population, ending the tripartite coalition. The Union of Reform Forces soon ceased to exist but its members remained in the assembly as the Independent Members of Parliament Caucus. The assembly undertook to address the achievement of equality between the Serbs and other peoples and the protection of the Serbs' interests, which they contended had been jeopardized by decisions of the Bosnian parliament. On 9 January 1992, the assembly proclaimed the Republic of the Serb People of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Republika srpskog naroda Bosne i Hercegovine), declaring it part of Yugoslavia. On 28 February 1992 the assembly adopted the Constitution of the Serbian Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (the name adopted instead of the previous Republika srpskog naroda Bosne i Hercegovine), which would include districts, municipalities, and regions where Serbs were the majority and also those where they had allegedly become a minority because of persecution during World War II. The republic was part of Yugoslavia and could enter into union with political bodies representing other peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Bosnian parliament, without its Serb deputies, held a referendum on the independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina on 29 February and 1 March 1992, but most Serbs boycotted it since the assembly had previously (9-10 November 1991) held a plebiscite in the Serb regions, 96% having opted for membership of the Yugoslav federation formed by Serbia and Montenegro. The referendum had a 64% turnout and 92.7% or 99% (according to different sources) voted for independence. On 6 March the Bosnian parliament promulgated the results of the referendum, proclaiming the republic's independence from Yugoslavia. The republic's independence was recognized by the European Community on 6 April 1992 and by the United States on 7 April. On the same day the Serbs' assembly in session in Banja Luka declared a severance of governmental ties with Bosnia and Herzegovina. The name *Republika Srpska* was adopted on 12 August 1992.

The political controversy escalated into the Bosnian War, which would last until the autumn of 1995. The top military general, Ratko Mladić, was arrested on 26 May 2011 in connection with the Siege of Sarajevo and the Srebrenica massacre. The war was ended by the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, reached at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, on 21 November and formally signed in Paris on 14 December 1995. Annex 4 of the Agreement is the current Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, recognizing Republka Srpska as one of its two main political-territorial divisions and defining the governmental functions and powers of the two entities. The boundary lines between the entities were delineated in Annex 2 of the Agreement. Between 1992 and 2008, the Constitution of Republika Srpska was amended 121 times. Article 1 states that Republika Srpska is a territorially unified, indivisible and inalienable constitutional and legal entity that shall independently perform its constitutional, legislative, executive, and judicial functions. The war in Bosnia and Herzegovina resulted in major changes in the country, some of which were quantified in a 1998 UNESCO report. Outside the Serb region, 50% of homes were damaged and 6% destroyed, while in the Serb region, 25% of homes were damaged and 5% destroyed. Some two million people, about half the country's population, were displaced. In 1996 there were some 435,346 ethnic Serb refugees from the Federation in Republika Srpska, while another 197,925 had gone to Serbia. In 1991, 27% of the non-agricultural labor force was unemployed in Bosnia and this number increased due to the war. By 2009, the unemployment rate in Bosnia and Herzegovina was estimated at 29%, according to the CIA's The World Factbook. Republika Srpska's population of Serbs had increased by 547,741 due to the influx of ethnic Serb refugees from the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the former unrecognized state of the Republic of Serbian Krajina in the new Republic of Croatia. Ethnic cleansing reduced the numbers of other groups. Serb police, soldiers, and irregulars attacked Bosniaks and Croats, and burned and looted their homes. Some were killed on the spot; others were rounded up and killed elsewhere, or forced to flee. The number of Croats was reduced by 135,386 (the majority of the pre-war population), and the number of Bosniaks by some 434,144. In the early 2000s, discrimination against non-Serbs was alleged by NGOs and the Helsinki Commission. The International Crisis Group reported in 2002 that in some parts of Republika Srpska a non-Serb returnee is ten times more likely to be the victim of violent crime than is a local Serb. The Helsinki Commission, in a 2001 statement on "Tolerance and Non-Discrimination", pointed at violence against non-Serbs, stating that in the cities of Banja Luka and Trebinje, mobs attacked people who sought to lay foundations for new mosques. Non-Serbs have reported continuing difficulties in returning to their original homes and the assembly has a poor record of cooperation in apprehending individuals indicted for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. Although the constitution names Sarajevo as the capital of Republika Srpska, the northwestern city of Banja Luka is the headquarters of most of the institutions of government, including the parliament, and is therefore the de facto capital. After the war, Republika Srpska retained its army, but in August 2005, the parliament consented to transfer control of Army of Republika Srpska to a statelevel ministry and abolish the entity's defense ministry and army by 1 January 2006. These reforms were required by NATO as a precondition of Bosnia and Herzegovina's admission to the Partnership for Peace programme. Bosnia and Herzegovina joined the programme in December 2006.

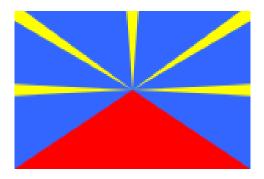
Capital – Banja Luka (de facto), Sarajevo East (de jure). Language – Serbian, and also Croatian, Bosnian. Religion (almost identical to ethnics) – Serb Orthodox – about 97%, Muslim – about 2%, Roman Catholic – about 1%. Ethnics – Serbs – 97%, Bosniaks – 2%, Croats – 1%. The second entity of Bosnia and Herzegovina – the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina has a minority of Serbs of only 2%, identical to the percentage of the minority of Bosniaks in Republika Srpska... Government – According to its constitution, Republika Srpska has its own president, people's assembly (the 83-member unicameral People's Assembly of Republika Srpska), executive government (with a prime minister and several ministries), its own police force, supreme court and lower courts, customs service (under the state-level customs service), and a postal service. It also has its symbols, including coat of arms, flag (a variant of the Serbian flag without the coat of arms displayed) and entity anthem. The Constitutional Law on Coat of Arms and Anthem of the Republika Srpska was ruled not in concordance with the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina as it states that those symbols "represent statehood of the Republika Srpska" and are used "in accordance with moral norms of the Serb people". Population – 1,326,991, Area – 24,857, Density – 53.

While the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina declared the coat of arms of Republika Srpska unconstitutional, claiming that it did not represent the non-Serb ethnicities living in the entity, the flag was deemed to be in line with the constitution. The court ruled that though the combination of the colours relates to the Serbian tricolour, the use of red, blue and white are considered to be pan-Slavic colours as well.



REUNION, Ile de la Reunion, in Eastern Africa, is a French overseas department and part of the European Union with France. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Réunion (French: La Réunion, previously *Île Bourbon*) is an insular region of France located in the Indian Ocean. It is situated east of Madagascar and about 175 kilometres southwest of Mauritius, the nearest island. As of 2014, its population numbered 844,994 inhabitants. The island has been inhabited since the 17th century, when people from Europe (mostly France), Madagascar and Africa settled there. Slavery was abolished on 20 December 1848 (a date celebrated yearly on the island), after which indentured workers were brought from South India, among other places. The island became an overseas department of France in 1946. The local language, spoken by the majority of the population, is Réunion Creole. The official language is French. Administratively, Réunion is one of the overseas departments of France. Like the other four overseas departments, it is also one of the 18 regions of France, with the modified status of overseas region, and an integral part of the Republic with the same status as those situated on the European mainland. Réunion is an outermost region of the European Union and, as an overseas department of France, a part of the Eurozone. In 2013, the GDP of Réunion was estimated at 16.7 billion euros and the GDP per capita was 19,854 euros. Sugar was traditionally the chief agricultural product and export. Tourism is now an important source of income. The island's remote location combined with its stable political alignment with Europe makes it a key location for satellite receiving stations and naval navigation. Unemployment is a major problem on Réunion; the rate stood at 30% in 2014 and 60% among young people. According to *Le Monde*, 42 percent of the population lived below the poverty line in 2010.

Capital – Saint-Denis. Language – French. Religion – Christian – 88%, Muslim – 4%, Hindu - 5%, Unaffiliated - 2%. Ethnics - Ethnic groups present include people of European, African, Malagasy, Indians and Chinese origin as well as many of mixed race. Local names for these are used: Yabs, Cafres, Malbars and Zarabes (both ethnic groups of Indian origin) and Chinois. The proportion of people of each ethnicity is not known exactly, since the 1958 constitution bans questions about ethnicity in compulsory censuses in France, and applies in Réunion. Extensive and long-going intermarriage also blurs the issue. Whites are estimated to make up approximately one-quarter of the population, Indians also roughly a quarter, and people of Chinese ancestry to form roughly 3%. The percentages of racially-mixed people and those of Afro-Malagasy origins vary wildly between estimates. Some people of Vietnamese ancestry also live on the island, though they are very few in number. People of Tamil and Gujarati origin make up the majority of the Indo-Réunionnais people; Bihari and other origins form the remainder of the population. The island's community of Muslims from modern region of Pakistan and North India and elsewhere is also commonly referred to as Zarabes. Creoles (a name given to those born on the island, of various ethnic origins), make up the majority of the population. Groups that are not creole include people from Metropolitan France (known as Zoreils) and those from Mayotte and the Comoros. Government -Administratively, Réunion is divided into four arrondissements, 49 cantons and 24 communes (municipalities). It is a French overseas département and hence a French overseas region. The low number of communes, compared with French metropolitan departments of similar size is unique: most Réunionnaises communes encompass several localities, sometimes separated by significant distances. Population – 844,994, Area – 2,511, Density – 340.



ROJAVA, see Syrian Kurdistan.

ROMANIA, (Romanian: *România*) is a republic in Southeast Europe, bordering the Black Sea. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, EU. It has a temperate-continental climate. The River Danube, Europe's second longest river, rises in Germany and flows southeastwards for a distance of 2,857 km, coursing through ten countries before emptying in Romania's Danube Delta. The Carpathian Mountains, with their tallest peak Moldoveanu at 2,544 m, cross Romania from the north to the southwest. Modern Romania emerged within the territories of the ancient Roman province of Dacia, and was formed in 1859 through a personal union of the Danubian Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia. The new state, officially named Romania since 1866, gained independence from the Ottoman Empire in

1877. At the end of World War I, Transylvania, Bukovina and Bessarabia united with the sovereign Kingdom of Romania. During World War II, Romania was an ally of Nazi Germany against the Soviet Union, fighting side by side with the Wehrmacht until 1944 when it then joined the Allied powers, facing occupation by the Red Army forces. Romania lost several territories, of which Northern Transylvania was regained after the war. Following the war, Romania became a socialist republic and member of the Warsaw Pact. After the 1989 Revolution, Romania began a transition back towards democracy and a capitalist market economy. Following rapid economic growth in the early 2000s, Romania has an economy predominantly based on services, and is a producer and net exporter of machines and electric energy, featuring companies like Automobile Dacia and OMV Petrom. It has been a member of NATO since 2004, and part of the EU since 2007. Around 81% of the population identify themselves as Eastern Orthodox Christians, and are native speakers of Romanian, a Romance language. With a rich cultural history, Romania has been the home of influential artists, musicians, inventors and sportspeople, and features a variety of tourist attractions.

Capital – Bucharest. Language – Romanian. Religion – Christian - 99.5%. Ethnics – Romanian – 83%, Hungarian – 6%, Roma – 3%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency independent of legislature, ministry subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 21,729,871, rank – 58. Area – 229,891, rank – 83. Density – 95, rank – 110.



ROSS DEPENDENCY, NEW ZEALAND, see Antarctica.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION, (Russian: Россия, tr. Rossija), also officially known as the Russian Federation (Russian: Российская Федерация, tr. Rossijskaja Federacija;), is a sovereign state in Eastern Europe and Northern Asia. Russia is officially a federation of 85 federal subjects - republics, oblasts, krais, autonomous okrugs, federal cities, and an autonomous oblast. Several of the federal subjects are ethnic republics. The Russian republics in the Caucasus: Chechnya, Dagestan, Ingushetia, Karachay-Cherkessia, Kaberdino-Balkeria, North Ossetia, have various degrees of fighting for independence. The Russian exclave of Kaliningrad on the Baltic Sea (formerly the German Konigsberg) is sandwiched between Poland to the south and Lithuania to the north and east. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Russia is a federal semi-presidential republic. Russia is the largest country in the world, covering more than one-eighth of the Earth's inhabited land area. Russia is the world's ninth most populous country. Extending across the entirety of northern Asia and much of Eastern Europe, Russia spans eleven time zones and incorporates a wide range of environments and landforms. From northwest to southeast, Russia shares land borders with Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland (both with Kaliningrad Oblast), Belarus, Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, China, Mongolia, and North Korea. It shares maritime borders with Japan by the Sea of Okhotsk and the U.S. state of Alaska across the Bering Strait. The nation's history began with that of the East Slavs, who emerged as a recognizable

group in Europe between the 3rd and 8th centuries AD. Founded and ruled by a Varangian warrior elite and their descendants, the medieval state of Rus arose in the 9th century. In 988 it adopted Orthodox Christianity from the Byzantine Empire, beginning the synthesis of Byzantine and Slavic cultures that defined Russian culture for the next millennium. Rus' ultimately disintegrated into a number of smaller states; most of the Rus' lands were overrun by the Mongol invasion and became tributaries of the nomadic Golden Horde in the 13th century. The Grand Duchy of Moscow gradually reunified the surrounding Russian principalities, achieved independence from the Golden Horde, and came to dominate the cultural and political legacy of Kievan Rus'. By the 18th century, the nation had greatly expanded through conquest, annexation, exploration to become the Russian Empire, which was 3rd largest empire in history, stretching from Poland - Europe to Alaska - North America.

Following the Russian Revolution, the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic became the largest and leading constituent of the Soviet Union abbreviated to USSR, the world's first constitutionally socialist state and a recognized world superpower, and a rival to the United States which played a decisive role in the Allied victory in World War II. The Soviet era saw some of the most significant technological achievements of the 20th century, including the world's first human-made satellite, and the first man in space. By the end of 1990, the Soviet Union had the world's second largest economy, largest standing military in the world and the largest stockpile of weapons of mass destruction (the state detonated in 1961 the Tsar Bomba, which was mankind's most powerful nuclear bomb ever built). Following the partition of the Soviet Union in 1991, fourteen independent republics emerged from the USSR; as the largest, most populous, and most economically developed republic, the Russian SFSR reconstituted itself as the Russian Federation and is recognized as the continuing legal personality (the sole successor state) of the Soviet Union. The Russian economy ranks as the tenth largest by nominal GDP and sixth largest by purchasing power parity in 2015. Russia's extensive mineral and energy resources, the largest reserves in the world, have made it one of the largest producers of oil and natural gas globally. The country is one of the five recognized nuclear weapons states and possesses the largest stockpile of weapons of mass destruction. Russia was the world's second biggest exporter of major arms in 2010-14, according to SIPRI data. Russia is a great power and a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, a member of the G20, the Council of Europe, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the World Trade Organization (WTO), as well as being the leading member of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and one of the 5 members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), along with Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

Capital – Moscow. Language – Russian. Russia's 160 ethnic groups speak some 100 languages, but Russina is the only official state language. Religion – Christian – 73%, Muslim – 10%, Unaffiliated – 16%. Ethnics – Russian – 78%, Tatar – 4%, Ukrainian – 1%, Bashkir – 1, Chuvash – 1%, Chechen – 1%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency independent of legislature, ministry subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 142,470,272, rank – 10. Area – 16,377,742, rank – 1. Density – 9, rank – 215.

37 VARIABLE PARAMETERS – SEE METHODOLOGY OF SEARCHING IN 60+ TABLES IN AUSTRALIA.

VARIABLE PARAMETERS FROM CIA WORLD FACTBOOK - PEOPLE & SOCIETY, ECONOMIC PARAMETERS:

Median age: total: 39.1 years male: 36.2 years female: 42.1 years (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 55 **Population growth rate:** -0.04% (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 203 Birth rate: 11.6 births/1,000 population (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 169 Death rate: 13.69 deaths/1,000 population (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 11 **Net migration rate:** 1.69 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 54 **Urbanization:** urban population: 74% of total population (2015) rate of urbanization: -0.13% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.) Mother's mean age at first birth: 24.6 (2009 est.) **Maternal mortality rate:** 25 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 119 **Infant mortality rate:** total: 6.97 deaths/1,000 live births male: 7.81 deaths/1,000 live births female: 6.07 deaths/1,000 live births (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 159 Life expectancy at birth: total population: 70.47 years male: 64.7 years female: 76.57 years (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 153 **Total fertility rate:** 1.61 children born/woman (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 179 Contraceptive prevalence rate: note: percent of women aged 15-44 (2011) **Health expenditures:** 6.5% of GDP (2013) country comparison to the world: 106 **Physicians density:** 4.31 physicians/1,000 population (2006) **Hospital bed density:** 9.7 beds/1,000 population (2006) **Drinking water source:** improved: urban: 98.9% of population rural: 91.2% of population total: 96.9% of population unimproved: urban: 1.1% of population rural: 8.8% of population total: 3.1% of population (2015 est.) Sanitation facility access: improved: urban: 77% of population rural: 58.7% of population total: 72.2% of population unimproved: urban: 23% of population rural: 41.3% of population total: 27.8% of population (2015 est.) HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:

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HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:
HIV/AIDS - deaths:
Major infectious diseases:
degree of risk: intermediate
food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhea
vectorborne disease: tickborne encephalitis
note: highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza has been identified in this country; it poses a negligible
risk with extremely rare cases possible among US citizens who have close contact with birds (2013)
Obesity - adult prevalence rate:
26.2% (2014)
country comparison to the world: 46
Education expenditures:
4.1% of GDP (2008)
country comparison to the world: 110
Literacv:
definition: age 15 and over can read and write
total population: 99.7%
male: 99.7%
female: 99.6% (2015 est.)
School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):
total: 15 years
male: 14 years
female: 15 years (2012)
Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:
total: 13.8%
male: 13.3%
female: 14.5% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 78
GDP (purchasing power parity):
$3.471 trillion (2015 est.)
$3.612 trillion (2014 est.)
$3.59 trillion (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 7
GDP (official exchange rate):
$1.236 trillion (2015 est.)
GDP - real growth rate:
-3.9% (2015 est.)
0.6% (2014 est.)
1.3% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 213
GDP - per capita (PPP):
$23,700 (2015 est.)
$24,700 (2014 est.)
$24,500 (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 79
Gross national saving:
23.7% of GDP (2015 est.)
23.1% of GDP (2014 est.)
23.3% of GDP (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 58
GDP - composition, by end use:
household consumption: 53.2%
government consumption: 20.2%
investment in fixed capital: 19.1%
investment in inventories: -3.3%
exports of goods and services: 32.2%
imports of goods and services: -21.4% (2015 est.)
GDP - composition, by sector of origin:
agriculture: 4.4%
industry: 35.8%
services: 59.7% (2015 est.)
Agriculture - products:
grain, sugar beets, sunflower seeds, vegetables, fruits; beef, milk
Industries:
complete range of mining and extractive industries producing coal, oil, gas, chemicals, and metals; all
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complete range of mining and extractive industries producing coal, oil, gas, chemicals, and metals; al forms of machine building from rolling mills to high-performance aircraft and space vehicles; defense industries (including radar, missile production, advanced electronic components), shipbuilding; road and rail transportation equipment; communications equipment; agricultural machinery, tractors, and

construction equipment; electric power generating and transmitting equipment; medical and scientific instruments; consumer durables, textiles, foodstuffs, handicrafts **Industrial production growth rate:** -3.5% (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 185 **Labor force:** 74.89 million (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: $\underline{8}$ Labor force - by occupation: agriculture: 9.4% **industry: 27.6%** services: 63% (2014) **Unemployment rate:** 5.4% (2015 est.) 5.2% (2014 est.) country comparison to the world: 58 Population below poverty line: 11.2% (2014 est.) Household income or consumption by percentage share: lowest 10%: 5.7% **highest 10%:** 42.4% (2011 est.) **Distribution of family income - Gini index:** 42 (2014) 41.7 (2011) country comparison to the world: 55 **Budget:** revenues: \$216.3 billion expenditures: \$251.6 billion (2015 est.) Taxes and other revenues: 17.5% of GDP (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 175 Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-): -2.9% of GDP (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 107 **Public debt:** 13.5% of GDP (2015 est.) 10.4% of GDP (2014 est.) note: data cover general government debt, and includes debt instruments issued (or owned) by government entities other than the treasury; the data include treasury debt held by foreign entities; the data include debt issued by subnational entities, as well as intra-governmental debt; intra-governmental debt consists of treasury borrowings from surpluses in the social funds, such as for retirement, medical care, and unemployment, debt instruments for the social funds are not sold at public auctions country comparison to the world: 162 Fiscal year: calendar year Inflation rate (consumer prices): 15.4% (2015 est.) 7.8% (2014 est.) country comparison to the world: 215 Central bank discount rate: 11% (31 December 2015 est.) 17% (31 December 2014) note: this is the so-called refinancing rate, but in Russia banks do not get refinancing at this rate; this is a reference rate used primarily for fiscal purposes country comparison to the world: 19 **Commercial bank prime lending rate:** 15.9% (31 December 2015 est.) 11.14% (31 December 2014 est.) country comparison to the world: 33 Market value of publicly traded shares: \$874.7 billion (31 December 2012 est.) \$796.4 billion (31 December 2011) \$1.005 trillion (31 December 2010 est.) country comparison to the world: 17 **Current account balance:** \$61.85 billion (2015 est.)

\$59.46 billion (2014 est.) country comparison to the world: 8 **Exports:** \$337.8 billion (2015 est.) \$497.8 billion (2014 est.) country comparison to the world: 15 **Exports - commodities:**

petroleum and petroleum products, natural gas, metals, wood and wood products, chemicals, and a wide variety of civilian and military manufactures

Exports - partners:

Netherlands 14%, China 7.5%, Italy 7.4%, Germany 7.3%, Turkey 5% (2014)

Imports:

\$197.3 billion (2015 est.)

\$308 billion (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: 23

Imports - commodities:

machinery, vehicles, pharmaceutical products, plastic, semi-finished metal products, meat, fruits and nuts, optical and medical instruments, iron, steel

Imports - partners:

China 17.6%, Germany 11.5%, US 6.6%, Italy 4.4%, Belarus 4.2%, Ukraine 4% (2014)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:

\$377.8 billion (31 December 2015 est.) \$385.5 billion (31 December 2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: 7

Debt - external:

\$599 billion (31 December 2014 est.) \$728.9 billion (31 December 2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: <u>23</u>

Stock of direct foreign investment - at home: \$360.9 billion (31 December 2015 est.)

\$353.4 billion (31 December 2014 est.) country comparison to the world: 20

Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:

\$404.4 billion (31 December 2015 est.) \$388.4 billion (31 December 2014 est.)

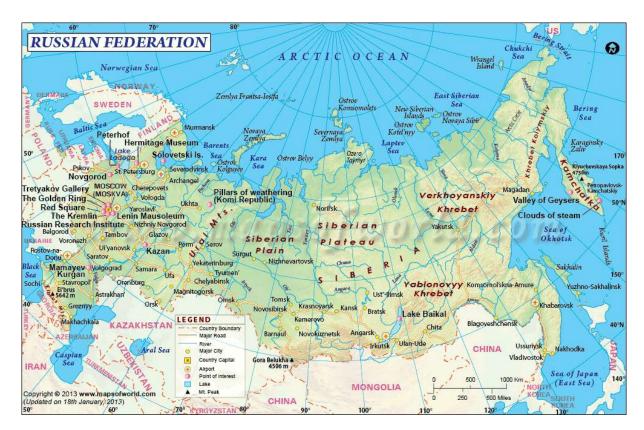
country comparison to the world: 19

Exchange rates:

Russian rubles (RUB) per US dollar -

61.27 (2015 est.) 38.378 (2014 est.) 38.378 (2013 est.) 30.84 (2012 est.)

29.382 (2011 est.)



RWANDA, (Kinyarwanda: *U Rwanda*), officially the Republic of Rwanda (Kinyarwanda: Republika y'u Rwanda; French: République du Rwanda), is a sovereign state in central and east Africa and one of the smallest countries on the African mainland. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. Located a few degrees south of the Equator, Rwanda is in the African Great Lakes region and is highly elevated; its geography dominated by mountains in the west and savanna to the east, with numerous lakes throughout the country. The climate is temperate to subtropical, with two rainy seasons and two dry seasons each year. The population is young and predominantly rural, with a density among the highest in Africa. Rwandans are drawn from just one cultural and linguistic group, the Banyarwanda, although within this group there are three subgroups: the Hutu, Tutsi and Twa. The Twa are a forestdwelling pygmy people descended from Rwanda's earliest inhabitants. Scholars disagree on the origins of and differences between the Hutu and Tutsi; some believe differences are derived from former social castes within a single people, while others believe the Hutu and Tutsi arrived in the country separately, and from different locations. Christianity is the largest religion in the country; the principal language is Kinyarwanda, spoken by most Rwandans, with French and English serving as official languages. Rwanda has a presidential system of government. Rwanda today has low corruption compared with neighbouring countries, although human rights organizations report suppression of opposition groups, intimidation and restrictions on freedom of speech. The country has been governed by a strict administrative hierarchy since precolonial times; there are five provinces delineated by borders drawn in 2006. Rwanda is one of only two countries with a female majority in the national parliament.

Hunter gatherers settled the territory in the stone and iron ages, followed later by Bantu peoples. The population coalesced first into clans and then into kingdoms. The Kingdom of Rwanda dominated from the mid-eighteenth century, with the Tutsi kings conquering others

militarily, centralizing power, and later enacting anti-Hutu policies. Germany colonized Rwanda in 1884 as part of German East Africa, followed by Belgium, which invaded in 1916 during World War I. Both European nations ruled through the kings and perpetuated a pro-Tutsi policy. The Hutu population revolted in 1959. They massacred numerous Tutsi and ultimately established an independent, Hutu-dominated state in 1962. The Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) launched a civil war in 1990. Social tensions erupted in the 1994 genocide, in which Hutu extremists killed an estimated 500,000 to 1 million Tutsi and moderate Hutu. The RPF ended the genocide with a military victory. Rwanda's economy suffered heavily during the 1994 Rwandan Genocide, but has since strengthened. The economy is based mostly on subsistence agriculture. Coffee and tea are the major cash crops for export. Tourism is a fast-growing sector and is now the country's leading foreign exchange earner. Rwanda is one of only two countries in which mountain gorillas can be visited safely, and visitors are prepared to pay high prices for gorilla tracking permits. Music and dance are an integral part of Rwandan culture, particularly drums and the highly choreographed *intore* dance. Traditional arts and crafts are produced throughout the country.

Capital – Kigali. Language – French, Kinyarwanda, English. Religion – Christian – 93%, Muslim – 2%, Unaffiliated – 4%, Folk religion – 1%. Ethnics – Hutu (Bantu) – 84%, Tutsi (Hamitic) – 15%, Twa (Pygmy) – 1%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 12,337,138, rank – 74. Area – 24,668, rank – 149. Density – 500, rank – 24.



SABA, an island in the Leeward Islands, Caribbean is a special municipality of the Netherlands, but is not part of the European Union with the Netherlands. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Saba, the smallest special municipality of the Netherlands juts abruptly out of the blue Caribbean Sea. It mainly consists of the remains of a (potentially-active) yet dormant volcano named Mt. Scenery. The origin of its name is still disputed to this day; some say it's from an Arawak Indian word meaning "rock," while most experts claim it's of Arabic and Greek origin. When Christopher Columbus spotted the island in 1493, he noted its position but did not come ashore because of the rocky coastline and strong offshore currents. History reports that in 1632 an English ship ran aground here and a small group of Englishmen became the first Europeans to set foot on Saba. Later rescued, they found the island rugged and uninhabited. Saba was claimed for France in 1635, but just a few years later the Dutch West India Company, from its base on the nearby island of St. Eustatius, sent a group of people to colonize this uninhabited rock, and colonize it they did. Over the next two centuries Saba was controlled (or traded) among the British, Dutch, French and some pirates of note. And like most other islands in the Caribbean, some African slaves were imported to do the work. With the above mentioned minor exceptions, The Netherlands have been (firmly) in possession of the island of Saba since the early 19th century. The island's small size has made it a secluded long-time haven for some, and in fact, the local population is less than 1,500, and most trace their family names to some earlier inhabitants. Saba has a rugged, steep topography, with most of the island sloping (rather dramatically) to the sea. Consequently, farming is all but impossible so most revenues come from tourism and the sea. There's a road (one road), and it took a masterful engineer and a few dozen years to complete. Visitors are often advised to leave the driving to experienced locals. And yes, there's an airport, but its landing strip is one of the shortest commercial runways in the world, so obviously no commercial jets, as only small airplanes are able to land. A great way to visit Saba (either for a day, or for a week) is by the ferry service from Sint Maarten. Three ferry services provide transport to Saba's Fort Bay throughout most of the week. Saba is famous for its numerous scuba diving venues, ecotourism opportunities, lobster fishing, a distinct lack of commercialism, and a relaxing, isolated solitude. In addition, this somewhat little-known speck of land is one of the favorite honeymoon destinations in all of the Caribbean.

Capital – The Bottom. Language – Dutch, English. Religion - Although in the beginning Sabans were Protestant now they are mostly Roman Catholic. There is also a Wesleyan Church Holiness community on the island. Other religions practiced on the island include Jehovah's Witnesses, Anglican, Seventh-day Adventist, Hindu, Muslim, and Jewish faiths. Ethnics - The population of Saba (the Sabans) consists of 1,991 people who come from all over the world. Saba's small size has led to a fairly small number of island families, who can trace their last names back to around a half-dozen families. This means that many last names are shared around the island, the most numerous being Hassell and Johnson. Most families are an intermixing of Dutch, English, Scottish, and African heritage. The population is also descended from the Irish who were exiled from that country after the accession of King Charles I of England in 1625. Charles exiled these Irish to the Caribbean in an effort to quell rebellion after he had forcibly procured their lands for his Scottish noble supporters. Historically, Saba was traded among the many European nations that fought for power in the region. Slaves were also imported to work on Saba. In recent years Saba has become home to a large group of expatriates, and around 250 immigrants who are either students or teachers at the Saba University School of Medicine. Government – Saba became a special municipality within the country of the Netherlands after the dissolution of the Netherlands Antilles on 10 October 2010. Population – 1,991, Area – 13, Density – 150.



SAHRAWI ARAB DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, see Western Sahara.

SAINT BARTHELEMY, (French: *Saint-Barthélemy*), officially the Territorial collectivity of Saint-Barthélemy (French: *Collectivité territoriale de Saint-Barthélemy*). Often abbreviated to *Saint-Barth* in French, or St. Barts or St. Barths in English, the indigenous people called the island Ouanalao, in the Greater Antilles, Caribbean, is a French overseas collectivity. <u>Link to map.</u> Links to essential data: <u>Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World,</u>

Internet/Stats. Archaeological finds suggest that before the Europeans arrived in the Caribbean, Indian tribes such as the Arawak and Caribs lived on the island for hundreds of years. It is widely believed that St. Barts was discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1493, and he later named it in honor of his brother, Bartolomeo. In the mid-1600s, the French arrived, fought off the Caribs the best they could, and built a small settlement. Because of the very harsh conditions and the consistent Indian raids, it soon failed. The French returned in the 18th century and established a small colony. Pirates who preyed on the Spanish colonies, and their treasure-loaded galleons returning to Spain used St. Barts as a staging point. Over time, some of those buccaneers (pirates) settled on the island; farming and fishing were the staples of survival as arid and rocky St. Barts was not conducive to the Caribbean's widespread sugar cane industry. The French remained in control here until 1784, when the French government surprisingly sold the entire island to Sweden for some lucrative Scandinavian trading rights. Consequently, the Swedes used St. Barts as a lucrative trading center, providing varied islands, colonial combatants of the day and pirates with war supplies. Near the end of the 19th century France repurchased the island from Sweden, but the remnants of that Sweden period remains to this day. The capital city was in fact named for Sweden's King Gustav III. In 1946, all people on the island became citizens of France, when St. Barts, as well as the French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, were given the legal status of a "Department of France." All were given passports, but now all must pay taxes to the homeland. Regardless, over the next few decades the local economy remained in a fragile state as promised economic support from France was slow to arrive. As an alternative, tourism began to develop which in the end completely transformed the island, and it now has the full support of France. Today St. Barts is considered by many to be the Caribbean's most beautiful island, with dozens of white sand beaches, crystal clear waters and a green, hilly landscape punctuated by numerous lagoons. St. Barts is definitely chic and upscale, and a favorite of the rich and famous. Gustavia, a duty-free port, is a picturesque place of red-roofed buildings, boutiques, a yacht-filled harbor, and a very relaxed lifestyle.

Capital - Gustavia. Language - French. Religion - Anglican, Evangelical, or Catholic, the population of Saint Barthélemy is very attached to its religions or its small prayer groups. The Catholic religion is transmitted from generation to generation, and is the largest on the island, with two churches: Notre Dame de l'Assomption in Gustavia and Notre Dame de l'Assomption in Lorient. Ethnics - Residents of Saint-Barthélemoise people) are French citizens and work at establishments on the island. Most of them are descendants of the first settlers, of Breton, Norman, Poitevin, Saintongeais and Angevin lineage. Government - Until 2007, administratively, the whole island of St. Barthélemy was a French commune (commune de Saint-Barthélemy) part of Guadeloupe, which is an overseas région and overseas département of France, and therefore part of the European Union. In 2003, the population voted through referendum in favour of secession from Guadeloupe in order to form a separate overseas collectivity (COM) of France. On 7 February 2007, the French Parliament passed a bill granting COM status to both St. Barthélemy and (separately) to the neighbouring Saint Martin. The new status took effect on 15 July 2007, when the first territorial council was elected, according to the law. The island has a president (elected every five years), a unicameral Territorial Council of nineteen members who are elected by popular vote and serve for five-year terms, and an executive council of seven members. One senator represents the island in the French Senate. St. Barthélemy became an overseas territory of the European Union on 1 January 2012, but the island's inhabitants remain French citizens with EU status holding EU passports. France is responsible for the defense of the island and as such has stationed a security force on the island comprising six policemen and thirteen gendarmes (posted on two-year term). The head of state is the French President, represented by a prefect appointed by the French president on the advice of the French Ministry of Interior. As a collectivity of France, the island's national anthem is La Marseillaise. Population -9,035, Area -25, Density -361.



SAINT HELENA, St Helena – capital: Jamestown, and its dependencies - Ascension Island – capital: Georgetown, and Tristan da Cunha - capital: Edinburgh of the Seven Seas - are remote islands about midway between Africa and South America in the South Atlantic Ocean. Though far from each other, they form a single territorial grouping under the sovereignty of the British Crown. Tristan da Cunha is the most remote inhabited archipelago in the world, lying 2,000 km from the nearest inhabited land, Saint Helena, 2,400 km from the nearest continental land, South Africa, and 3,360 km from South America. The three islands are not part of the European Union with the UK. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Saint Helena is a volcanic tropical island in the South Atlantic Ocean, 4,000 kilometres east of Rio de Janeiro and 1,950 kilometres west of the Cunene River, which marks the border between Namibia and Angola in southwestern Africa. It is part of the British Overseas Territory of Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha. Saint Helena measures about 16 by 8 kilometres and has a population of 4,255 (2008 census). It was named after Saint Helena of Constantinople. The island was uninhabited when discovered by the Portuguese in 1502, one of the most remote islands in the world. It was an important stopover for ships sailing to Europe from Asia and South Africa for centuries. Napoleon was imprisoned there in exile by the British, as were Dinuzulu kaCetshwayo (for leading a Zulu army against British rule) and more than 5,000 Boers taken prisoner during the Second Boer War. Between 1791 and 1833, Saint Helena became the site of a series of experiments in conservation, reforestation and attempts to boost rainfall artificially. This environmental intervention was closely linked to the conceptualization of the processes of environmental change and helped establish the roots of environmentalism. Saint Helena is Britain's second-oldest remaining overseas territory after Bermuda.

Capital – Jamestown. Language – English. Religion – Christian – 97%, Unaffiliated – 3%. Most residents belong to the Anglican Communion and are members of the Diocese of St Helena, which has its own bishop and includes Ascension Island. The 150th anniversary of the diocese was celebrated in June 2009. Other Christian denominations on the island include Roman Catholic (since 1852), Salvation Army (since 1884), Baptist (since 1845) and, in more recent times, Seventh-day Adventist (since 1949), New Apostolic, and Jehovah's Witnesses (of which one in 35 residents is a member, the highest ratio of any country). The Catholics are pastorally served by the Mission sui iuris of Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, whose office of ecclesiastical superior is vested in the Apostolic Prefecture of the Falkland Islands. The Baha'i Faith has also been represented on the island since 1954. Ethnics – African descent – 50%, White – 25%, Chinese – 25%. Government - Saint Helena is divided into eight districts, each with a community centre. The districts also serve as statistical

subdivisions. The island is a single electoral area and elects twelve representatives to the Legislative Council of fifteen. Population -4,255, Area -121. Density -35.



SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS, Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis, also known as the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis, is a two-island country in the West Indies. Located in the Leeward Islands chain of the Lesser Antilles, Caribben. It is the smallest sovereign state in the Americas, in both area and population. It is a federation of 14 parishes. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, Countries/World, List/Countries, World Atlas, Index Mundi. Oper/World. Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. The country is a Commonwealth realm, with the British Monarch as its head of state. The capital city is Basseterre on the larger island of Saint Kitts. The smaller island of Nevis lies about 3 km southeast of Saint Kitts across a shallow channel called "The Narrows." Saint Kitts and Nevis were among the first islands in the Caribbean to be settled by Europeans. Saint Kitts was home to the first British and French colonies in the Caribbean, and thus has also been titled "The Mother Colony of the West Indies." Saint Kitts and Nevis is a twin-island federation whose economy is characterized by its dominant tourism, agriculture and light manufacturing industries. Sugar was the primary export from the 1940s on, but rising production costs, low world market prices, and the government's efforts to reduce dependence on it have led to a growing diversification of the agricultural sector. In 2005, the government decided to close down the state-owned sugar company, which had experienced losses and was a significant contributor to the fiscal deficit. Former sugar plantations dominate the St. Kitts landscape. Many of the cane fields are being burned to make room for land development, especially on the northern side of the island, in the parishes of Saint John Capisterre and Christchurch. The agricultural, tourism, exportoriented manufacturing, and offshore-banking sectors are being developed and are now taking larger roles in the country's economy. The growth of the tourism sector has become the main foreign exchange earner for Saint Kitts and Nevis. The country has also developed a successful apparel assembly industry and one of the largest electronics assembly industries in the Caribbean. St. Kitts is dependent upon tourism to drive its economy. Tourism to the island has been expanding since 1978. In 2009 there were 587,479 arrivals to Saint Kitts compared to 379,473 in 2007. This growth represents an increase of just under 40% in a two-year period. As tourism grows the demand for vacation property increases in conjunction. In hopes of expanding tourism, St. Kitts hosts its annual St. Kitts Music Festival.

Capital – Basseterre. Language – English. Religion – Christian – 95%, Unaffiliated – 2%, Hindu – 2%, Folk religion – 1%. Ethnics – African descent 75%, Afro-European 12%, mixed race 5%, East Indian and Afro-East Indian 5%, South Asian ethnic groups 3%. Government – Constitutional monarchy, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 51,538, rank – 209. Area – 261, rank – 212. Densit – 197, rank – 66.



SAINT LUCIA, (French: Sainte-Lucie) is a sovereign island country in the Lesser Antilles, in the eastern Caribbean Sea on the boundary with the Atlantic Ocean. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. The French were the island's first European settlers. They signed a treaty with the native Carib Indians in 1660. England took control of the island from 1663 to 1667. In ensuing years, it was at war with France 14 times, and rule of the island changed frequently (it was seven times each ruled by the French and British). In 1814, the British took definitive control of the island. Because it switched so often between British and French control, Saint Lucia was also known as the "Helen of the West Indies". From 1958 to 1962, the island was a member of the Federation of the West Indies. On 22 February 1979, Saint Lucia became an independent state of the Commonwealth of Nations associated with the United Kingdom. Saint Lucia is a mixed jurisdiction, meaning that it has a legal system based in part on both the civil law and English common law. The Civil Code of St. Lucia of 1867 was based on the Quebec Civil Code of 1866, as supplemented by English common law-style legislation. It is also a member of La Francophonie. The island nation celebrates its independence every year with a public holiday. The financial sector has weathered the global financial crisis, but the recession has hurt tourism.

Capital – Castries. Language – English. Religion – Christian – 91%, Unaffiliated – 6%. Ethnics – Black/African descent – 85%, Mixed – 11%, East Indian – 2%. Government – Constitutional monarchy, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 163,362, rank – 187. Area – 606, rank – 193. Density – 270, rank – 48.



SAINT MARTIN, (French: *Saint-Martin*; Dutch: *Sint Maarten*) is an island in the northeast Caribbean, approximately 300 km east of Puerto Rico. The 87 square kilometres island is divided roughly 61/39 between France (53 square kilometres) and the Kingdom of the Netherlands (34 square kilometres); the two parts are roughly equal in population. The division dates to 1648. The southern Dutch part comprises *Sint Maarten* and is one of four constituent countries that form the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The northern French part comprises the *Collectivité de Saint-Martin* (Collectivity of St. Martin) and is an overseas collectivity of France, which is part of the European Union. <u>Link to map</u>. Links to essential

data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Saint Martin (French: Saint-Martin; Dutch: Sint Maarten) is an island in the northeast Caribbean, approximately 300 km east of Puerto Rico. The 87-square-kilometre island is divided roughly 60/40 between France (53 km²) and the Kingdom of the Netherlands (34 km²); the two parts are roughly equal in population though, with slightly more people living on the Dutch side. It is the smallest inhabited island divided between two nations. The division dates to 1648. The southern Dutch part comprises Sint Maarten and is one of four constituent countries that form the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The northern French part comprises the Collectivité de Saint-Martin and is an overseas collectivity of France. On January 1, 2009, the population of the entire island was 77,741 inhabitants, with 40,917 living on the Dutch side, and 36,824 on the French side. Collectively, the two territories are known as "St-Martin / St Maarten". The main industry of the island is tourism. In 2000, the island had about one million visitors annually. About 85% of the workforce was engaged in the tourist industry.

Capital – Marigot. Language – French. Religion - In French Saint-Martin, the most popular religion is Roman Catholicism. Dutch Sint Maarten favors Protestant denominations, particularly Methodism. The island also has small Jewish and Seventh-day Adventist communities. Ethnics – Due to a major influx of immigrants searching for better employment and living conditions, over the past twenty years the number of creoles has been surpassed by the number of immigrants. Today, the island's population is made up of people from some 70 different countries. Major ethnic groups represented include creole (mulatto), black, Guadeloupe *mestizo* (French-East Asia), white, and East Indian. Government - The unicameral Territorial Council of Saint-Martin has 23 seats, with members elected by popular vote to serve five-year terms. The major political parties are the Union Pour le Progres or UPP; the Rassemblement Responsabilite Reussite or RRR; and the Reussir Saint-Martin. Saint Martin also elects one seat to the French Senate. Population – 36,824, Area – 53, Density – 695.



SAINT PAUL AND AMSTERDAM ISLANDS, see French Southern Territories.

SAINT PIERRE ET MIQUELON, Overseas collectivity of Saint Pierre and Miquelon (French: *Collectivité d'Outre-mer de Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon*) is a self-governing territorial overseas collectivity of France, situated in the northwestern Atlantic Ocean near Newfoundland, Canada. It is a French overseas collectivity, which is not part of the European Union with France. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. It is the only remnant of the former colonial empire of New France that remains under French control. The islands are situated at the entrance of Fortune Bay, which extends into the southern coast of Newfoundland, near the Grand Banks. They are 3,819 kilometres from Brest, the nearest point in Metropolitan France, but 25

kilometres from the Burin Peninsula of Newfoundland, Canada. The first European encounter with Saint-Pierre and Miquelon was in 1520, by the Portuguese João Álvares Fagundes. They were made a French possession in 1536 by Jacques Cartier on behalf of the King of France. Though already frequented by Mi'kmaq people and Basque and Breton fishermen, the islands were not permanently settled until the end of the 17th century: four permanent inhabitants were counted in 1670, and 22 in 1691. In 1670, during Jean Talon's tenure as Intendant of New France, a French officer annexed the islands when he found a dozen French fishermen camped there. British warships soon began to harass the French, pillaging their camps and ships. By the early 1700s, the islands were again uninhabited, and were ceded to the British by the Treaty of Utrecht which ended the War of the Spanish Succession in 1713. Under the terms of the 1763 Treaty of Paris, which put an end to the Seven Years' War, France ceded all its North American possessions, but Saint-Pierre and Miquelon were returned to France. France also maintained fishing rights on the coasts of Newfoundland. Britain invaded and razed the colony in 1778, during the American Revolutionary War, and the entire population of 2,000 was sent back to France. In 1793, the British landed in Saint-Pierre and, the following year, expelled the French population, and tried to install British settlers. The British colony was in turn sacked by French troops in 1796. The Treaty of Amiens of 1802 returned the islands to France, but Britain reoccupied them when hostilities recommenced the next year. The 1814 Treaty of Paris gave them back to France, though Britain occupied them yet again during the Hundred Days War. France then reclaimed the then uninhabited islands in which all structures and buildings had been destroyed or fallen into disrepair. The islands were resettled in 1816. The settlers were mostly Basques, Bretons, Normans, who were joined by various other elements, particularly from the nearby island of Newfoundland. Only around the middle of the century did increased fishing bring a certain prosperity to the little colony.

During the early 1910s, the colony suffered severely as a result of unprofitable fisheries, and large numbers of its people emigrated to Nova Scotia and Quebec. The draft imposed on all male inhabitants of conscript age after the beginning of World War I crippled the fisheries, which could not be processed by the older people and the women and children. About 400 men from the colony served in the French military during World War I, 25% of whom died. The increase in the adoption of steam trawlers in the fisheries also contributed to the reduction in employment opportunities. Smuggling had always been an important economic activity in the islands, but it became especially prominent in the 1920s with the institution of prohibition in the United States. In 1931, the archipelago was reported to have imported 6,871,550 liters of whisky from Canada in 12 months, most of it to be smuggled into the United States. The end of prohibition in 1933 plunged the islands into economic depression. During World War II, despite opposition from Canada, Britain and the United States, Charles de Gaulle seized the archipelago from Vichy France, to which the local government had pledged its allegiance. In a referendum the following day, the population endorsed the Free French takeover. After the 1958 French constitutional referendum, the islands were given the option of becoming fully integrated with France, becoming a self-governing state within the French Community, or preserving the status of overseas territory; it decided to remain a territory. The inhabitants have traditionally earned their livelihood by fishing and by servicing fishing fleets operating off the coast of Newfoundland. The climate and the small amount of available land hardly favour activity such as farming and livestock (weather conditions are severe, which confines the growing season to a few weeks, and the soil is largely infertile). Since 1992, the economy has been in steep decline, following the depletion of fish stocks due to overfishing, the limitation of fishing areas and the ban imposed on all cod fishing by the Canadian Government. The rise in unemployment has been curtailed by the state financial aid for the retraining of businesses and individuals. The construction of the new airport also

helped sustain the activity in the construction industry and public works. Fish farming, crab fishing and agriculture are being developed to diversify the local economy. The future of Saint Pierre and Miquelon rests on tourism, fisheries and aquaculture. Explorations are underway to exploit deposits of oil and gas. Tourism relies on the proximity to Canada, while commerce and crafts make up the bulk of the business sector.

Capital – Saint-Pierre. Language – French. Religion - The majority of the population is Roman Catholic, and the islands are home to the Roman Catholic Vicariate Apostolic of Iles Saint-Pierre and Miquelon. Ethnics - While some ruins show a presence of indigenous American people on the archipelago, it is unlikely that there were year-round settlements beyond occasional fishing and hunting expeditions. The current population is the result of inflows of settlers from the French ports, mostly Normans, Basques, Bretons and Saintongeais, and also from Acadia and Newfoundland. Government - Since March 2003, Saint Pierre and Miquelon has been an overseas collectivity with a special status. The archipelago became an overseas territory in 1946, then an overseas department in 1976, before acquiring the status of territorial collectivity in 1985. The archipelago has two communes: Saint-Pierre and Miquelon-Langlade. A third commune, Isle-aux-Marins, existed until 1945, when it was absorbed by the municipality of Saint-Pierre. The inhabitants possess French citizenship and suffrage. Saint Pierre and Miquelon sends a senator and a deputy to the National Assembly of France in Paris, and enjoys an amount of autonomy concerning taxes, customs and excise. France appoints the Prefect of Saint Pierre and Miquelon, who represents the national government in the territory. The Prefect is in charge of national interests, law enforcement, public order and, under the conditions set by the statute of 1985, administrative control. The local legislative body, the Territorial Council (French: Conseil Territorial), has 19 members: four councillors from Miquelon-Langlade and 15 from Saint-Pierre. The President of the Territorial Council is the head of a delegation of "France in the name of Saint Pierre and Miquelon" for international events such as the annual meetings of NAFO and ICCAT. France is responsible for the defence of the islands. The Maritime Gendarmerie has maintained a patrol boat, the Fulmar, on the islands since 1997. Law enforcement in Saint Pierre and Miquelon is the responsibility of a branch of the French Gendarmerie Nationale. There are two police stations in the archipelago. Population -6,080, Area -242, Density -25.



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, is an island country in the Lesser Antilles island arc, in the southern portion of the Windward Islands, which lie at the southern end of the eastern border of the Caribbean Sea where the latter meets the Atlantic Ocean. The country is also known as St. Vincent. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. Its 389 km² territory consists of the main island of Saint Vincent and the northern two-thirds of the Grenadines, which are a chain of smaller islands stretching south from Saint Vincent

Island to Grenada. Most of Saint Vincent lies within the Hurricane Belt. Its capital is Kingstown, also its main port. Saint Vincent has a French and British colonial history. The main mother tongue is Vincentian Creole and the official language is English. Agriculture, dominated by banana production, is the most important sector of this lower-middle-income economy. The services sector, based mostly on a growing tourist industry, is also important. The government has been relatively unsuccessful at introducing new industries, and the unemployment rate remains high. The continuing dependence on a single crop represents the biggest obstacle to the islands' development as tropical storms wiped out substantial portions of bananas in many years. There is a small manufacturing sector and a small offshore financial sector whose particularly restrictive secrecy laws have caused some international concern. In addition, the natives of Bequia are permitted to hunt up to four humpback whales per year under IWC subsistence quotas. The tourism sector has considerable potential for development. The recent filming of the *Pirates of the Caribbean* movies on the island has helped to expose the country to more potential visitors and investors. Recent growth has been stimulated by strong activity in the construction sector and an improvement in tourism.

Capital – Kingstown. Language – English. Religion – Christian – 89%, Muslim – 2%, Unaffiliated – 2%, Hindu – 3%, Folk religion – 2%. Ethnics – Black – 66%, Mixed – 19%, East Indian – 6%, European – 4%, Carib Amerindian – 2%. Government – Constitutional monarchy, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 102,918, rank – 196. Area – 389, rank – 204. Density – 265, rank – 49.



SALVADOR, EL, see El Salvador

SAMOA, The Independent State of Samoa (Samoan: Malo Sa 'oloto Tuto 'atasi o Sāmoa), commonly known as Samoa (Samoan: Sāmoa) and formerly known as Western Samoa until 1997, is a Unitary Parliamentary Republic with eleven administrative divisions, in Polynesia, Oceania. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. The entire island group, which includes American Samoa, was called "Navigator Islands" by European explorers before the 20th century because of the Samoans' seafaring skills. Official languages are English and Samoan (Gagana Fa'asāmoa), which is also spoken in American Samoa. The two main islands are Savai'i and Upolu with four smaller islands surrounding the landmasses. The Lapita people discovered and settled the Samoan islands around 3,500 years ago. They developed a unique language and cultural identity. According to legend, Samoa is known as the "Cradle of Polynesia" because Savai'i island is said to be Hawaiki, the Polynesian homeland. Samoan culture is undoubtedly central to Polynesian life, and its styles of music, dance, and visual art have gained renown throughout the Pacific islands and the world. The country's international image is that of a tropical paradise inhabited by tourist-friendly, flower-wreathed peoples. Yet this belies the economic, social, and political challenges of this diverse and evolving Pacific microstate. Samoa gained its independence from New Zealand in 1962 after more than a century of foreign influence and domination, but it remains a member of the Commonwealth. Samoa was admitted to the UN in 1976.

Capital – Apia. Language – English (official), Samoan (national). Religion – Christian – 97%, Unaffiliated – 2%. Ethnics – Samoan – 93%, Euronesians – persons of European and Polynesian blood – 7%. Government – Republic, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 196,628, rank – 185. Area – 2,821, rank – 178. Density – 70, rank – 138.



SAMOA, AMERICAN, see American Samoa.

SANDWICH ISLANDS, SOUTH, see South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

SAN MARINO, Republic of San Marino, Serenissima Republica di San Marino, within Italy, in Southern Europe. San Marino claims to be the oldest surviving sovereign state and constitutional republic in the world, as the continuation of the monastic community founded on 3 September 301, by stonecutter Marinus of Arbe. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. San Marino, officially the Republic of San Marino (Italian: Republica di San Marino), also known as the Most Serene Republic of San Marino (Italian: Serenissima Republica di San Marino), is an enclaved microstate surrounded by Italy, situated on the Italian Peninsula on the northeastern side of the Apennine Mountains. Its largest city is Dogana. San Marino has the smallest population of all the members of the Council of Europe. San Marino claims to be the oldest surviving sovereign state and constitutional republic in the world, as the continuation of the monastic community founded on 3 September 301, by stonecutter Marinus of Arba. Legend has it that Marinus left Rab, then the Roman colony of Arba, in 257 when the future emperor Diocletian issued a decree calling for the reconstruction of the city walls of Rimini, which had been destroyed by Liburnian pirates. San Marino is governed by the Constitution of San Marino (Leges Statutae Republicae Sancti Marini), a series of six books written in Latin in the late 16th century, that dictate the country's political system, among other matters. The country is considered to have the earliest written governing documents (constitution) still in effect. The country's economy mainly relies on finance, industry, services and tourism. Despite having an extremely small economy for a nation state, it is one of the wealthiest countries in the world in terms of GDP (per capita), with a figure comparable to the most developed European regions. San Marino is considered to have a highly stable economy, with one of the lowest unemployment rates in Europe, no national debt and a budget surplus. It is the only country with more vehicles than people.

Capital – San Marino City. Language – Italian. Religion – Christian – 92%, Unaffiliated – 7%. Ethnics - San Marino has a population of approximately 33,000, with 4,800 foreign residents, most of whom are Italian citizens. Another 12,000 Sammarinese live abroad (5,700

in Italy, 3,000 in the USA, 1,900 in France and 1,600 in Argentina). Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency and ministry are subject to parliamentary confidence. San Marino has the political framework of a parliamentary representative democratic republic: the Captains Regent are both heads of state and heads of government, and there is a pluriform multi-party system. Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the Grand and General Council. The judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. San Marino was originally led by the Arengo, initially formed from the heads of each family. In the 13th century, power was given to the Great and General Council. In 1243, the first two Captains Regent were nominated by the Council. As of 2010, this method of nomination is still in use. The legislature of the republic is the Grand and General Council. The Council is a unicameral legislature with 60 members. There are elections every five years by proportional representation in all nine administrative districts. These districts (townships) correspond to the old parishes of the republic. Population – 32,742, rank – 215. Area – 61, rank – 229. Density – 537, rank – 22.



SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, Sao Tome e Principe, is a Portuguese-speaking island nation in the Gulf of Guinea, off the western equatorial coast of Central Africa. It contains one autonomous province – Principe. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. São Tomé and Príncipe consists of two archipelagos around the two main islands: São Tomé and Príncipe, located about 140 kilometres apart and about 250 and 225 kilometres, respectively, off the northwestern coast of Gabon. The islands were uninhabited until their discovery by Portuguese explorers in the 15th century. Gradually colonized and settled by Portugal throughout the 16th century, they collectively served as a vital commercial and trade center for the Atlantic slave trade. The rich volcanic soil and close proximity to the equator made São Tomé and Príncipe ideal for sugar cultivation, followed later by cash crops such as coffee and cocoa; the lucrative plantation economy was heavily dependent upon imported African slaves. Cycles of social unrest and economic instability throughout the 19th and 20th centuries culminated in peaceful independence in 1975. São Tomé and Príncipe has since remained one of Africa's most stable and democratic countries. São Tomé and Príncipe is the second-smallest African country after Seychelles, as well as the smallest Portuguese-speaking country. Its people are predominantly of African and mestiço descent, with most adhering to Roman Catholicism. The legacy of Portuguese rule is visible in the country's culture, customs, and music, which fuse European and African influences.

Capital – Sao Tome. Language – Portuguese. Religion – Christian – 82%, Unaffiliated – 13%, Folk relgion – 3%. Ethnics - Distinct ethnic groups on São Tomé and Príncipe include: *Mestiços*, or mixed-blood, descendants of Portuguese colonists and African slaves brought to

the islands during the early years of settlement from Benin, Gabon, the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Angola (these people also are known as filhos da terra or "children of the land"). Angolares, reputedly descendants of Angolan slaves who survived a 1540 shipwreck and now earn their livelihood fishing. Forros, descendants of freed slaves when slavery was abolished. Serviçais, contract laborers from Angola, Mozambique, and Cape Verde, living temporarily on the islands. *Tongas*, children of servicais born on the islands. Europeans, primarily Portuguese. Asians, mostly Chinese minority, including Macanese people of mixed Portuguese and Chinese descent from Macau. Government - The president of the republic is elected to a five-year term by direct universal suffrage and a secret ballot, and must gain an outright majority to be elected. The president may hold up to two consecutive terms. The prime minister is appointed by the president, and the fourteen members of cabinet are chosen by the prime minister. The National Assembly, the supreme organ of the state and the highest legislative body, is made up of 55 members, who are elected for a four-year term and meet semiannually. Justice is administered at the highest level by the Supreme Court. The judiciary is independent under the current constitution. São Tomé has functioned under a multiparty system since 1990. With regards to human rights in São Tomé, there exists the freedom of speech and the freedom to form opposition political parties. São Tomé and Príncipe finished 11th out of the African countries measured by the Ibrahim Index of African Governance in 2010, a comprehensive reflection of the levels of governance in Africa. Population – 190,428, rank – 186. Area – 964, rank – 185. Density -198, rank -65.



SARK, (French: Sercq; Sercquiais: Sèr or Cerq) is a small island in the Channel Islands in the southwestern English Channel, off the coast of Normandy, France. Sark is a self-governing island of the UK crown dependency Guernsey. See also Guernsey. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Sark It is a royal fief, which forms part of the Bailiwick of Guernsey, with its own set of laws based on Norman law and its own parliament. Sark is one of the few remaining places in the world where cars are banned from roads and only tractors and horse-drawn vehicles are allowed. In 2011, Sark was designated as a Dark Sky Community and the first Dark Sky Island in the world. Sark also exercises jurisdiction over the island of Brecqhou, only a few hundred feet west of Greater Sark. It is a private island, but it has recently been opened to some visitors. Since 1993, Brecqhou has been owned by Sir David Barclay, one of the Barclay brothers who are co-owners of *The Daily Telegraph*. They contest Sark's control over the island. In January 2011, the International Dark-Sky Association designated Sark as Europe's first Dark Sky Community and the first Dark Sky Island in the world. This designation recognizes that Sark is sufficiently clear of light pollution to allow naked-eye astronomy. Although Sark was aided in its achievement by its location, its historic ban on cars and the fact that there is no public lighting, it was also necessary for local residents to make adjustments, such as re-siting lights, to cut the light pollution.

In ancient times, Sark was almost certainly occupied by the Veneti. These people were subdued by the Roman Empire about 56 BC and the island annexed. After the Roman retreat during the fifth century AD, Sark was probably an outpost of one or other Breton-speaking kingdoms until 933, when it became part of the Duchy of Normandy. Following the Norman conquest of England in 1066, the island was united with the Crown of England. In the thirteenth century, the French pirate Eustace the Monk, having served King John, used Sark as a base of operations. During the Middle Ages, the island was populated by monastic communities. By the sixteenth century, however, it was uninhabited and used by pirates as a refuge and base. In 1565, Helier de Carteret, Seigneur of St. Ouen in Jersey, received letters patent from Queen Elizabeth I granting him Sark as a fief in perpetuity on condition that he kept the island free of pirates and occupied by at least forty of her subjects. This he duly did, installing forty families, mostly from St. Ouen, on the island. A subsequent attempt by the families to endow a constitution under a bailiff, as in Jersey, was stopped by the Guernsey authorities who resented any attempt to wrest Sark from their bailiwick. During World War II, the island, along with the other Channel Islands, was occupied by German forces between 1940 and 1945. German military rule on Sark began on 4 July 1940, the day after the Guernsey Kommandant Major Albrecht Lanz and his interpreter and chief of staff Major Maas visited the island to inform the Dame and Seigneur (Sibyl and Robert Hathaway) of the new regime. British Commandos raided the island several times, Operation Basalt during the night of 3-4 October 1942, captured a prisoner and Hardtack 7, was a failed British landing in December 1943. Sark was finally liberated on 10 May 1945, a full day after Guernsey.

Although geographically located within the Bailiwick of Guernsey, Sark is fiscally entirely separate from it and has been granted its own UN country code (680) to assist in identifying this fact to the world at large. Together with the islands of Alderney and Guernsey, Sark from time to time approves Bailiwick of Guernsey legislation, which, subject to the approval of all three legislatures, applies in the entire Bailiwick. Legislation cannot be made which applies on Sark without the approval of the Chief Pleas, although recently Chief Pleas has been delegating a number of Ordinance making powers to the States of Guernsey. Such powers are, however, in each case subject to dis-application, or repeal, by the Chief Pleas. By long standing custom, Sark's criminal law has been made by the States of Guernsey, and this custom was put on a statutory basis in Section 4 of the Reform (Sark) Law, 2008, by which Sark delegates criminal law making power to the States of Guernsey.

Languages - English, French, Sercquiais. Religion - In common with the other Channel Islands, Sark is attached to the Anglican diocese of Winchester. Sark has an Anglican church (St. Peter's, built 1820) and a Methodist church. Ethnics – almost all residents of Sark are British. Government - Sark was considered the last feudal state in Europe. Together with the other Channel Islands, it is the last remnant of the former Duchy of Normandy still belonging to the Crown. Sark belongs to the Crown in its own right and has an independent relationship with the Crown through the Lieutenant Governor in Guernsey. Formally, the Seigneur holds it as a fief from the Crown. In 2008, Sark dismantled its previous system of government, which had evolved gradually from its original system established in 1565. The change was advocated largely by the Barclay brothers who purchased an island within Sark's territorial waters in 1993 along with ownership of the hotels on the island. Their premise was that a change was necessary to comply with the European Convention on Human Rights though their objection was more likely at odds with certain property tax requirements and primogeniture laws affecting their holdings. Under the old system, Sark's parliament consisted of a 54-member chamber that included the Seigneur, the Seneschal, 40 tenant members and 12 deputies. On 16 January 2008 and 21 February 2008, the Chief Pleas approved a law

which introduced a 30-member chamber, with 28 members elected in island-wide elections, one hereditary member and one member appointed for life. The old system was described as feudal, and hence objectionable, because the Tenants were seen to be able to sit in Chief Pleas as of right, and the new system has been described as democratic, and hence acceptable. The Tenants were elected by and from among only the joint owners of each Tenement. On 9 April 2008, the Privy Council of the United Kingdom approved the Sark law reforms, The first elections under the new law were held in December 2008 and the new chamber first convened in January 2009. Population – 600, Area – 6, Density – 100.



SAUDI ARABIA, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Al-Mamlaka Al-Arabiyah as Saudiyah, in Arabian Peninsula, Middle East, West Asia. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Saudi Arabia, officially known as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), is an Arab state in Western Asia constituting the bulk of the Arabian Peninsula. Saudi Arabia is geographically the fifth-largest state in Asia and second-largest state in the Arab world (after Algeria). It is the only nation with both a Red Sea coast and a Persian Gulf coast, and most of its terrain consists of arid inhospitable desert or barren landforms. The area of modern-day Saudi Arabia formerly consisted of four distinct regions: Hejaz, Najd, and parts of Eastern Arabia (Al-Ahsa) and Southern Arabia ('Asir). The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was founded in 1932 by Ibn Saud. He united the four regions into a single state through a series of conquests beginning in 1902 with the capture of Riyadh, the ancestral home of his family, the House of Saud. Saudi Arabia has since been an absolute monarchy, effectively a hereditary dictatorship governed along Islamic lines. The ultra-conservative Wahhabism religious movement within Sunni Islam has been called "the predominant feature of Saudi culture", with its global spreading largely financed by the oil and gas trade. Saudi Arabia is sometimes called "the Land of the Two Holy Mosques" in reference to Al-Masjid al-Haram (in Mecca), and Al-Masjid an-Nabawi (in Medina), the two holiest places in Islam. The Kingdom has a total population of 28.7 million, of which 20 million are Saudi nationals and 8 million are foreigners. Petroleum was discovered in 1938 and followed up by several other finds in the Shia-majority Eastern Province. Saudi Arabia has since become the world's largest oil producer and exporter, controlling the world's second largest oil reserves, and the sixth largest gas reserves. The kingdom is categorized as a World Bank high-income economy with a high Human Development Index, and is the only Arab country to be part of the G-20 major economies. However, the economy of Saudi Arabia is the least diversified in the Gulf Cooperation Council, lacking any significant service or production sector (apart from the extraction of resources). A monarchical autocracy, [22][23] Saudi Arabia has the fourth highest military expenditure in the world, and in 2010-14, SIPRI found that Saudi Arabia was the world's second largest arms importer. Saudi Arabia is considered a regional and middle power. In addition to the GCC, it is an active member of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and OPEC. The country has attracted criticism for its lack of democratic

freedom, with a "Not Free" ranking by Freedom House, the status of women in Saudi society, as well as its usage of capital punishment.

Capital – Riyadh. Language – Arabic. Religion – Muslim – 93%, Christian – 4%, Hindu– 1%. Ethnics – Arab - 90%, Afro-Asian – 10%. Government – Absolute monarchy, executive head of state, all authority vested in absolute monarch. Population – 27,345,986, rank – 47. Area – 2,149,690, rank – 13. Density – 13, rank – 209.



SCATTERED ISLANDS, Glorioso Islands, Europa, Tomelin Island, Bassas da India and Juan de Nova Island, see French Southern Territories.

SENEGAL, Senegal (French: le Sénégal), officially the Republic of Senegal (French: République du Sénégal), is a country in West Africa. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Senegal is the westernmost country in the mainland of the Old World, or Afro-Eurasia, and owes its name to the Senegal River, which borders it to the east and north. The name "Senegal" comes from the Wolof "Sunuu Gaal," which means "Our Boat." The climate is Sahelian, but there is a rainy season. The territory of modern Senegal has been inhabited by various ethnic groups since the prehistoric era. Organized kingdoms emerged around the seventh century, and parts of the country were ruled by prominent regional empires such as the Wolof. The present state of Senegal has its roots in European colonialism, which began during the mid-15th century, when various European powers began competing for trade in the area. The establishment of coastal trading posts gradually gave way to control of the mainland, culminating in French rule of the area by the 19th century, albeit amid much local resistance. Senegal peacefully attained independence from France in 1960, and has since been among the more politically stable countries in Africa. Senegal's economy is centered mostly on commodities and natural resources. Major industries are fish processing, phosphate mining, fertilizer production, petroleum refining, construction materials, ship construction and repair. Like most African nations, agriculture is a major sector, with Senegal producing several important cash crops, including peanuts, sugarcane, cotton, green beans, tomatoes, melons, and mangoes. Owing to its relative stability, tourism and hospitality are also burgeoning sectors. A multiethnic and secular nation, Senegal is predominantly Sunni Muslim with Sufi and animist influences. French is the official language, although many native languages are spoken and recognized.

Capital – Dakar. Language – French. Religion – Muslim - 96%, Christian – 4%. Ethnics – Wolof – 43%, Pular – 24%, Serer – 15%, Jola – 4%, Mandinka – 3%, Soninke – 1%, European and Lebanese – 1%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency independent of legislature, ministry subject to parliamentary confidence. Senegal – 13,635,927, rank – 73. Area – 192,530, rank – 88. Density – 71, rank – 134.

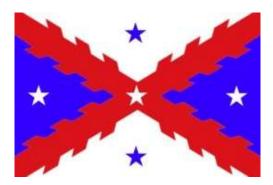


SERBIA, Serbia (Serbian: Cp6uja / Srbija), officially the Republic of Serbia (Serbian: Република Србија / Republika Srbija), is a sovereign state situated at the crossroads between Central and Southeast Europe, covering the southern part of the Pannonian Plain and the central Balkans. Serbia contains 2 autonomous regions – Vojvodina, Kosovo and Metohija, most of the latter is under the de facto control of the Republic of Kosovo. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Serbia is landlocked, the capital of Serbia, Belgrade, is one of the largest cities in Southeast Europe. Following the Slavic migrations to the Balkans from the 6th century onwards, Serbs established several states in the early Middle Ages. The Serbian Kingdom obtained recognition by Rome and Constantinople in 1217; it reached its peak in 1346 as a relatively short-lived Serbian Empire. By the mid-16th century, the entire modernday Serbia was annexed by the Ottomans, at times interrupted by the Habsburg Empire, which started expanding towards Central Serbia since the end of the 17th century, while maintaining foothold in northern Serbia. In the early 19th century, the Serbian Revolution established the nation-state as the region's first constitutional monarchy, which subsequently expanded its territory. Following disastrous casualties in World War I, and the subsequent unification of the Habsburg crownland of Vojvodina with Serbia, the country co-founded Yugoslavia with other South Slavic peoples, which would exist in various political formations until the Yugoslav Wars of the 1990s, which had devastating effects for the region. As a result, Serbia formed a union with Montenegro in 1992, which broke apart in 2006, when Serbia again became an independent country. In 2008 the parliament of Kosovo, Serbia's southern province with an Albanian ethnic majority, declared independence, with mixed responses from the international community. As a membership candidate, Serbia is currently negotiating its EU accession. The country is a militarily neutral state. Serbia is an upper-middle income economy with dominant service sector, followed by industry and agriculture. The country ranks high in Social Progress Index (45th), Global Peace Index (46th), relatively high in Human Development Index (66th), and an economically moderately free country (77th).

Capital – Belgrade. Language – Serbian. Religion – Christian - 93%, Muslim – 4%, Unaffiliated – 3%. Ethnics – Serb – 83%, Hungarian – 4%, Romany – 2%, Bosniak – 2%. Government – Republic, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 7,209,764, rank – 101. Area – 77,474, rank – 117. Density – 93, rank – 112.



SERRANILLA BANK, (Spanish: Isla Serranilla or Banco Serranilla) is a partially submerged reef, with small uninhabited islets, in the western Caribbean Sea. It is an unincorporated unorganized territory of the United States. It is situated about 350 kilometres northeast of Punta Gorda, Nicaragua, and roughly 280 kilometres southwest of Jamaica. The closest neighbouring land feature is Bajo Nuevo Bank, located 110 kilometres to the east. Serranilla Bank was first shown on Spanish maps in 1510. It is administered by Colombia as part of the department of San Andrés and Providencia. Although the bank is currently occupied by Colombia, it is subject to a sovereignty dispute involving Honduras, Nicaragua, and the United States. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Serranilla Bank is a former atoll, now a mostly submerged carbonate platform consisting of shallow reef environments. It is about 40 km in length and 32 km in width, covering an area of over 1,200 km², almost entirely under water. Three small cays and two rocks emerge above the water to form the bank's islands. These are West Breaker, Middle Cay, East Cay, Beacon Cay and Northeast Breaker. They are largely barren, with sparse vegetation of bushes and some trees. Most of the reef is drying and many shipwrecks are located in its vicinity. Beacon Cay is the largest islet in the Bank. It is overbuilt with small military facilities, which house a small rotating garrison of Colombian naval personnel. There is a lighthouse on a coral ledge in the southwest approach to the bank. It is a 33 m tall tower built atop a 3-storey crew residence. The lighthouse was first erected in 1982, and was reconstructed in May 2008 by the Colombian Ministry of Defence. It is currently maintained by the Colombian Navy, and overseen by the state's Maritime Authority.



SEVASTOPOL – is a city located in the southwestern region of the Crimean Peninsula on the Black Sea. As a result of the 2014 annexation of Crimea by Russia, the city is administered as a federal city within the Crimean Federal District of the Russian Federation, though Ukraine and most of the international community continue to regard Sevastopol as a city with special status within Ukraine. Link to map. Link to essential data on de facto independent countries: Wikipedia, BBC, Quora, Polgeonow. Sevastopol or traditionally Sebastopol (Russian: Севасто́поль, Ukrainian: Севасто́поль; Crimean Tatar: Акъяр, Aqyar; Greek: Σεβαστούπολη, Sevastoupoli) is a city located in the southwestern region of the Crimean

Peninsula on the Black Sea. As a result of the 2014 annexation of Crimea by Russia, the city is administered as a federal city within the Crimean Federal District of the Russian Federation, though Ukraine and most of the international community continue to regard Sevastopol as a city with special status within Ukraine. Sevastopol has a population concentrated mostly near the Bay of Sevastopol and surrounding areas. The location and navigability of the city's harbours have made Sevastopol a strategically important port and naval base throughout history. The city has been a home to the Russian Black Sea Fleet, which is why it was considered as a separate city in Crimea of significant military importance and was therefore once a closed city. Although relatively small, Sevastopol's unique naval and maritime features provide the basis for a robust economy. The city enjoys mild winters and moderate warm summers; characteristics that help make it a popular seaside resort and tourist destination, mainly for visitors from the former Soviet republics. The city is also an important centre for marine biology; in particular, dolphins have been studied and trained in the city.

West of the modern town stood the ancient Greek colony of Chersonesus, founded in 421 BCE. Originally a republic, Chersonesus (Heracleotic Chersonese) became, in turn, part of the kingdom of Pontus, of the Cimmerian Bosporus, of the Roman empire, and of the Byzantine Empire. In 988 or 989 Prince Vladimir of Kiev captured the town and was baptized there; he restored it to Byzantium, but it later passed to the Empire of Trebizond and declined into insignificance. In 1783 the Russians, having annexed the Crimean Peninsula, began the construction there of a naval base and fortress, named Sevastopol the following year. After the base's completion in 1804, it became the home of the Black Sea Fleet. In 1808 a commercial port was opened. From October 1854 to September 1855, during the Crimean War (1853–56), the Anglo-French armies laid siege to Sevastopol, which had been strongly fortified. After the war the severely damaged town was reconstructed, and its growth was stimulated by the coming of the railway in 1875. The transfer of the commercial harbour to Feodosiya in 1894, however, was a serious setback. In World War II the town again underwent a siege, this time for a month, by the Germans from June to July 1942. The town was reduced to rubble, but, after liberation in May 1944, it was again reconstructed. Among many memorials of the town's stormy history are several monuments devoted to the many defenses of Sevastopol and a vast panorama 115 metres long of the Crimean War siege. Following Ukraine's independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, Sevastopol became the principal base of the Ukrainian navy. A lease agreement between Ukraine and Russia allowed the Russian Black Sea Fleet to continue to be stationed there as well. After Russia occupied and annexed Crimea in 2014, it terminated the lease agreement, claiming that it no longer applied, as the region was now Russian territory.

Language – Russian, Ukrainian. Religion – the Russian Orthodox Church's Moscow Patriarchate is pre-eminent. There are about 100 congregations of Christians of Evangelical Faith in Crimea and Sevastopol. There are congregations that are historically more cooperative with churches on Russian territory. Ethnics – Russians – 72%, Ukrainians – 22%, Belorusians – 2%, Tatars and Crimean Tatars – 1%, Armenians, Jews, Moldovans and Azerbaijanis – 1%. Government - As of December 2014 the political status of Sevastopol remains uncertain, with most of the international community recognizing the city as part of Ukraine, while it is de facto controlled by Russia. On March 18, 2014 the Kremlin announced that Sevastopol will become the third federal city in the Russian Federation. The two others are Moscow and St. Petersburg. The executive power of Sevastopol is exercised by the Sevastopol City State Administration led by a chairman. Since April 2014 the executive power is held by the Government of Sevastopol, led by the City Governor. Population – 418,987, Area – 864, Density – 480.



SEYCHELLES, Republic of Seychelles, (French: République des Seychelles; Creole: Repiblik Sesel), is an archipelago of 115 islands in the Indian Ocean. It lies 1,500 kilometres east of mainland East Africa. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. Other nearby island countries and territories include Comoros, Mayotte, Madagascar, Réunion and Mauritius to the south. Seychelles has the smallest population of any independent African state; however, it does have a larger population than the British overseas territory Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha. The Seychelles were uninhabited throughout most of recorded history. Some scholars assume that Austronesian seafarers and later Maldivian and Arab traders were the first to visit the uninhabited Seychelles. The earliest recorded sighting by Europeans took place in 1502 by the Portuguese Admiral Vasco da Gama, who passed through the Amirantes and named them after himself (islands of the Admiral). The earliest recorded landing was in January 1609, by the crew of the "Ascension" under Captain Sharpeigh during the fourth voyage of the British East India Company. A transit point for trade between Africa and Asia, the islands were occasionally used by pirates until the French began to take control starting in 1756 when a Stone of Possession was laid by Captain Nicholas Morphey. The islands were named after Jean Moreau de Séchelles, Louis XV's Minister of Finance. The British controlled the islands between 1794 and 1810. Jean Baptiste Quéau de Quincy, French administrator of Seychelles during the years of war with the United Kingdom, declined to resist when armed enemy warships arrived. Instead, he successfully negotiated the status of capitulation to Britain which gave the settlers a privileged position of neutrality. Britain eventually assumed full control upon the surrender of Mauritius in 1810, formalised in 1814 at the Treaty of Paris. Sevchelles became a crown colony separate from Mauritius in 1903. Elections were held in 1966 and 1970. Independence was granted in 1976 as a republic within the Commonwealth. In the 1970s Seychelles was "the place to be seen, a playground for film stars and the international jet set". In 1977, a coup d'état by France Albert René ousted the first president of the republic, James Mancham. René discouraged over-dependence on tourism and declared that he wanted "to keep the Seychelles for the Seychellois". The 1979 constitution declared a socialist one-party state, which lasted until 1991. In the 1980s there were a series of coup attempts against President France-Albert René, some of which were supported by South Africa. In 1981, Mike Hoare led a team of 43 South African mercenaries masquerading as holidaying Rugby players in a coup attempt in what is known as The Seychelles affair. There was a gun battle at the airport, and most of the mercenaries later escaped in a hijacked Air India plane. In 1986, an attempted coup led by the Seychelles Minister of Defence, Ogilvy Berlouis, caused President René to request assistance from India. In Operation Flowers are Blooming, the Indian naval vessel INS Vindhyagiri arrived in Port Victoria to help avert the coup. The first draft of a new constitution failed to receive the requisite 60% of voters in 1992, but an amended version was approved in 1993. In January

2013, Seychelles declared a state of emergency; the tropical cyclone Felleng caused torrential rain, and flooding and landslides destroyed hundreds of houses.

Capital – Victoria. Language – Seychellois Creole, French, English. Religion – Christian – 94%, Unaffiliated – 2%, Hindu – 2%, Muslim – 1%. Ethnics – Racially mixed (70%), French, African, Indo-Seychellois (2,000), Chinese, and Arab. Through harmonious socioeconomic policies and developments over the years, today Seychelles is described as a fusion of peoples and cultures. Numerous Seychellois are considered multiracial: blending from African, Asian and European descent to create a modern creole culture. Evidence of this harmonious blend is also revealed in Seychellois food, incorporating various aspects of French, Chinese, Indian and African cuisine. As the islands of Seychelles had no indigenous population, the current Seychellois are composed of people who have immigrated. The largest ethnic groups were those of African, French, Indian and Chinese descent. Government - Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature. The Seychelles president, who is head of state and head of government, is elected by popular vote for a five-year term of office. The cabinet is presided over and appointed by the president, subject to the approval of a majority of the legislature. The unicameral Seychellois parliament, the National Assembly or Assemblée Nationale, consists of 34 members, 25 of whom are elected directly by popular vote, while the remaining nine seats are appointed proportionally according to the percentage of votes received by each party. All members serve five-year terms. The Supreme Court of Seychelles, created in 1903, is the highest trial court in Seychelles and the first court of appeal from all the lower courts and tribunals. The highest court of law in Seychelles is the Seychelles Court of Appeal, which is the court of final appeal in the country. Population – 91,650, rank – 198. Area – 455, rank – 199. Density – 201, rank – 63.



SIERRA LEONE, Republic of Sierra Leone, in West Africa. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. Sierra Leone has a tropical climate, with a diverse environment ranging from savannah to rainforests. Freetown is the capital, largest city, and its economic and political centre. Bo is the second largest city. The other major cities in the country with a population above 100,000 are Kenema, Makeni and Koidu Town. Sierra Leone is divided into four geographical regions: the Northern Province, Eastern Province, Southern Province and the Western Area, which are further divided into fourteen districts. About sixteen ethnic groups inhabit Sierra Leone, each with its own language and customs. The two largest and most influential are the Temne and the Mende people. The Temne are predominantly found in the north of the country, while the Mende are predominant in the south-east. Although English is the official language spoken at schools and government administration, the Krio language is the most widely spoken language in the country and unites all the different ethnic groups in the country, especially in their trade and social interaction with each other. Sierra Leone is a nominally Muslim country, though with an influential Christian minority. Technically, religious affiliation is 60% Muslim, 30% indigenous beliefs, and 10% Christian. However,

there is a high degree of syncretism of the indigenous beliefs into the organized religions. Sierra Leone is regarded as one of the most religiously tolerant nations in the world. Muslims and Christians collaborate and interact with each other peacefully. Religious violence is very rare in the country. Sierra Leone has relied on mining, especially diamonds, for its economic base. It is also among the largest producers of titanium and bauxite, a major producer of gold, and has one of the world's largest deposits of rutile. Sierra Leone is home to the third-largest natural harbour in the world. Despite exploitation of this natural wealth, 70% of its people live in poverty. Sierra Leone became independent in 1961. Government corruption and mismanagement of the country's natural resources contributed to the Sierra Leone Civil War (1991 to 2002), which for over more than a decade devastated the country. This proxy war left more than 50,000 people dead, much of the country's infrastructure destroyed, and over two million people displaced as refugees in neighbouring countries. More recently, the 2014 Ebola outbreak overburdened the weak healthcare infrastructure, leading to more deaths from medical neglect than Ebola itself. It created a humanitarian crisis situation and a negative spiral of weaker economic growth. The country has a very low life expectancy at 57.8 years.

Capital – Freetown. Language – English. Religion – Muslim – 78%, Christian – 21%, Folk religion – 1%. Ethnics – Temne – 35%, Mende – 31%, Limba – 8%, Kono – 5%, Kriole – 2%, Mandingo – 2%, Loko – 2%, other – 15%, includes refugees from Liberia's recent civil war and small numbers of Europeans, Lebanese, Pakistanis and Indians. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 5,743,725, rank – 112. Area – 71,620, rank – 119. Density – 80, rank 124.



SINGAPORE, Republic of Singapore, in Southeast Asia. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. Singapore, officially the Republic of Singapore, and often referred to as the Lion City, the Garden City, and the Red Dot, is a global city and sovereign state in Southeast Asia and the world's only island city-state. It lies one degree (137 km) north of the equator, at the southernmost tip of continental Asia and peninsular Malaysia, with Indonesia's Riau Islands to the south. Singapore's territory consists of the diamond-shaped main island and 62 islets. Since independence, extensive land reclamation has increased its total size by 23% (130 km²), and its greening policy has covered the densely populated island with tropical flora, parks and gardens. The islands were settled from the second century AD by a series of local empires. In 1819, Sir Stamford Raffles founded modern Singapore as a trading post of the East India Company; after the company collapsed, the islands were ceded to Britain and became part of its Straits Settlements in 1826. During World War II, Singapore was occupied by Japan. It gained independence from Britain in 1963, by uniting with other former British territories to form Malaysia, but was expelled two years later over ideological differences. After early years of turbulence, and despite lacking natural resources and a hinterland, the nation developed rapidly as an Asian Tiger economy, based on external trade and its human capital.

Singapore is a global commerce, finance and transport hub. Its standings include: "easiest place to do business" (World Bank) for ten consecutive years, most "technology-ready" nation (WEF), top International-meetings city (UIA), city with "best investment potential" (BERI), 2nd-most competitive country (WEF), 3rd-largest foreign exchange centre, 3rd-largest financial centre, 3rd-largest oil refining and trading centre and one of the top two busiest container ports since the 1990s. Singapore's best known global brands include Singapore Airlines and Changi Airport, both amongst the most-awarded in their industry; SIA is also rated by *Fortune* surveys as Asia's "most admired company". For the past decade, it has been the only Asian country with the top AAA sovereign rating from all major credit rating agencies, including S&P, Moody's and Fitch.

Singapore ranks high on its national social policies, leading Asia and 11th globally, on the Human Development Index (UN), notably on key measures of education, healthcare, life expectancy, quality of life, personal safety, housing. Although income inequality is high, 90% of citizens own their homes, and the country has one of the highest per capita incomes, with low taxes. The cosmopolitan nation is home to 5.5 million residents, 38% of whom are permanent residents and other foreign nationals. Singaporeans are mostly bilingual in a mother-tongue language and English as their common language. Its cultural diversity is reflected in its extensive ethnic "hawker" cuisine and major festivals-Chinese, Malay, Indian, Western—which are all national holidays. In 2015, Lonely Planet and The New York Times listed Singapore as their top and 6th best world destination to visit respectively. The nation's core principles are meritocracy, multiculturalism and secularism. It is noted for its effective, pragmatic and incorrupt governance and civil service, which together with its rapid development policies, is widely cited as the "Singapore model". Gallup polls shows 84% of its residents expressed confidence in the national government, and 85% in its judicial systems—one of the highest ratings recorded. Singapore has significant influence on global affairs relative to its size, leading some analysts to classify it as a middle power. It is ranked as Asia's most influential city and 4th in the world by Forbes. Singapore is a unitary, multiparty, parliamentary republic, with a Westminster system of unicameral parliamentary government. The People's Action Party has won every election since self-government in 1959. One of the five founding members of the ASEAN, Singapore is also the host of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Secretariat, and a member of the East Asia Summit, Non-Aligned Movement, and the Commonwealth of Nations.

Singapore gained independence as the Republic of Singapore (remaining within the Commonwealth of Nations) on 9 August 1965. Race riots broke out once more in 1969. In 1967, the country co-founded ASEAN, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and in 1970 it joined the Non-Aligned Movement. Lee Kuan Yew became Prime Minister, leading its Third world economy to First world affluence in a single generation. His emphasis on rapid economic growth, support for business entrepreneurship, limitations on internal democracy, and close relationships with China set the new nation's policies for the next halfcentury. In 1990, Goh Chok Tong succeeded Lee as Prime Minister, while the latter continued serving in the Cabinet as Senior Minister until 2004, and then Minister Mentor until May 2011. During Goh's tenure, the country faced the 1997 Asian financial crisis, the 2003 SARS outbreak and terrorist threats posed by Jemaah Islamiyah. In 2004, Lee Hsien Loong, the eldest son of Lee Kuan Yew, became the country's third Prime Minister. Goh Chok Tong remained in Cabinet as the Senior Minister until May 2011, when he was named Emeritus Senior Minister despite his retirement. He steered the nation through the 2008 global financial crisis, resolved the disputed 79-year old Malayan railways land, and introduced integrated resorts. Despite the economy's exceptional growth, PAP suffered its worst election results in 2011, winning 60% of votes, amidst hot-button issues of high influx of foreign workers and cost of living. Lee initiated a major re-structuring of the economy to raise productivity, improved universal healthcare and grants, especially for the pioneer generation of citizens, amongst many new inclusive measures. On 23 March 2015, its founding prime minister, Lee Kuan Yew, who had 'personified Singapore to the world' for nearly half a century died. In a week of national mourning, 1.7 million residents and guests paid tribute to him at his lying-instate at Parliament House and at community sites around the island. Singapore celebrated its Golden jubilee in 2015 – its 50th year of independence, with a year-long series of events branded **SG50**. The PAP maintained its dominance in Parliament at the September general elections, receiving 69.9% of the popular vote, its second-highest polling result behind the 2001 tally of 75.3%.

Singapore's governance model eschews populist politics, focusing on the nation's long-term interest, and is known to be clean, effective and pragmatic. As a small nation highly dependent on external trade, it is vulnerable to geo-politics and global economics. It places great emphasis on security and stability of the region in its foreign policies, and applies global best practices to ensure the nation's attractiveness as an investment destination and business hub. The legal system of Singapore is based on English common law, but with substantial local differences. Trial by jury was abolished in 1970 so that judicial decisions would rest entirely in the hands of appointed judges. Singapore has penalties that include judicial corporal punishment in the form of caning, which may be imposed for such offences as rape, rioting, vandalism, and certain immigration offences. There is a mandatory death penalty for murder, as well as for certain aggravated drug-trafficking and firearms offences. Amnesty International has said that some legal provisions of the Singapore system conflict with the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty, and that Singapore has "... possibly the highest execution rate in the world relative to its population". The government has disputed Amnesty's claims. In a 2008 survey of international business executives, Singapore received the top ranking with regard to judicial system quality in Asia. Singapore has been consistently rated among the least corrupt countries in the world by Transparency International. In 2011, the World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index ranked Singapore among the top countries surveyed with regard to "order and security", "absence of corruption", and "effective criminal justice". However, the country received a much lower ranking for "freedom of speech" and "freedom of assembly". All public gatherings of five or more people require police permits, and protests may legally be held only at the Speakers' Corner. The Singaporean military is arguably the most technologically advanced in Southeast Asia. It comprises the Singapore Army, Republic of Singapore Navy, and Republic of Singapore Air Force. It is seen as the guarantor of the country's independence. The nation's philosophy of defence is one of diplomacy and deterrence. This principle translates into the culture, involving all citizens in the country's defence. The government spends 4.9% of the country's GDP on the military, and one out of every four dollars of government spending is spent on defence. Singapore is part of the Five Power Defence Arrangements, a military alliance with Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.

Singapore attracts a large amount of foreign investment as a result of its location, skilled workforce, low tax rates, advanced infrastructure and zero-tolerance against corruption. There are more than 7,000 multinational corporations from the United States, Japan, and Europe in Singapore. There are also approximately 1,500 companies from China and a similar number from India. Foreign firms are found in almost all sectors of the country's economy. Singapore is also the second-largest foreign investor in India. Roughly 44 percent of the Singaporean workforce is made up of non-Singaporeans. Over ten free-trade agreements have been signed

with other countries and regions. Despite market freedom, Singapore's government operations have a significant stake in the economy, contributing 22% of the GDP. Singapore is considered a barometer of global economic health, especially within Asia, owing to its high dependence on external trade. Its foreign trade and capital flows is 407.9% of its GDP, making it the most trade dependent country in the world. It is the 14th largest exporter and the 15th largest importer in the world. Singapore has the world's highest percentage of millionaires, with one out of every six households having at least one million US dollars in disposable wealth. This excludes property, businesses, and luxury goods, which if included would increase the number of millionaires, especially as property in Singapore is among the world's most expensive. Singapore does not have a minimum wage, believing that it would lower its competitiveness. It also has one of the highest income inequalities among developed countries. Globally, Singapore is a leader in several economic sectors, including being 3rd-largest foreign exchange centre, 3rd-leading financial centre, 2nd-largest casino gambling market, [148] 3rd-largest oil-refining and trading centre, world's largest oil-rig producer and major hub for ship repair services, world's top logistics hub.

The economy is diversified, with its top contributors – financial services, manufacturing, oilrefining. Its main exports are refined petroleum, integrated circuits and computers which constituted 27% of the country's GDP in 2010, and includes significant electronics, petroleum refining, chemicals, mechanical engineering and biomedical sciences sectors. In 2006, Singapore produced about 10% of the world's foundry wafer output. Singapore's largest companies are in the telecoms, banking, transportation and manufacturing sectors, many of which started as state-run enterprises, and has since been listed on the Singapore Exchange, including Singapore Telecommunications (Singtel), Singapore Technologies Engineering, Keppel Corporation, Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation (OCBC), Development Bank of Singapore (DBS), United Overseas Bank (UOB). In 2011, amidst the global financial crisis, OCBC, DBS and UOB were ranked as the world's 1st, 5th, 6th "strongest banks in the world" respectively by Bloomberg surveys. The nation's best known global brands include Singapore Airlines, Changi Airport and Port of Singapore, all three are amongst the most-awarded in their respective industry sectors. Singapore Airlines is ranked as Asia's most-admired company, and world's 19th most-admired in 2015, by Fortune's annual "50 most admired companies in the world" industry surveys. It is also the world's most-awarded airline, including "Best international airline", by US-based Travel + Leisure reader surveys, for 20 consecutive years. Changi Airport connects over 100 airlines to more than 300 cities. The strategic international air hub has more than 480 "World's Best Airport" awards as of 2015, and is known as the most-awarded airport in the world. Tourism forms a large part of the economy, with over 15 million tourists visiting the city-state in 2014. To expand the sector, casinos were legalised in 2005, but only two licenses for "Integrated Resorts" were issued, to control money laundering and addiction. Singapore also promotes itself as a medical tourism hub: about 200,000 foreigners seek medical care there each year. Singapore medical services aim to serve at least one million foreign patients annually and generate USD3 billion in revenue. In 2015, Lonely Planet and The New York Times listed Singapore as their top and 6th best world destination to visit respectively. Singapore is an education hub, with more than 80,000 international students in 2006. 5,000 Malaysian students cross the Johor-Singapore Causeway daily to attend schools in Singapore. In 2009, 20% of all students in Singaporean universities were international students, a majority from ASEAN, China and India.

Capital – Singapore City. Language – English, Mandarin Chinese, Malay, Tamil. Singapore has four official languages: English, Malay, Mandarin Chinese, and Tamil. Native Language – Mandarin Chinese – 50%, English – 32%, Malay 12%, Tamil – 3%English is the common

language, and is the language of business, government, and the medium of instruction in schools. Public bodies in Singapore, such as the Singapore Public Service, (which includes the Singapore Civil Service and other agencies), conduct their business in English, and official documents written in a non-English official language such as Malay, Chinese or Tamil typically have to be translated into English to be accepted for submission. The Constitution of Singapore and all laws are written in English, and interpreters are required if one wishes to address the Singaporean Courts in a language other than English. English is the native tongue for only one-third of all Singaporeans, with roughly a quarter of all Singaporean Malays, a third of all Singaporean Chinese, and half of all Singaporean Indians speaking it as their native tongue. Twenty percent of Singaporeans cannot read or write in English. Religion - Buddhist - 34%, Christian - 18%, Muslim - 14%, Unaffiliated - 16%, Hindu - 5%, Folk religion – 2%, other – mostly Taoist – 11%. Ethnics – Chinese – 74.2%, Malay – 13.3%, Indian – 9.2%, Other, including Eurasian – 3.3%. Government - Singapore is a parliamentary republic with a Westminster system of unicameral parliamentary government representing constituencies. The country's constitution establishes a representative democracy as the political system. Executive power rests with the Cabinet of Singapore, led by the Prime Minister and, to a much lesser extent, the President. The President is elected through a popular vote, and has veto powers over a specific set of executive decisions, such as the use of the national reserves and the appointment of judges, but otherwise occupies a largely ceremonial post. The Parliament serves as the legislative branch of the government. Members of Parliament (MPs) consist of elected, non-constituency and nominated members. Elected MPs are voted into the Parliament on a "first-past-the-post" (plurality) basis and represent either single-member or group representation constituencies. The People's Action Party has won control of Parliament with large majorities in every election since self-governance was secured in 1959. Although the elections are clean, there is no independent electoral authority and the government has strong influence on the media. Freedom House ranks Singapore as "partly free" in its Freedom in the World report, and The Economist ranks Singapore as a "flawed democracy", the second best rank of four, in its "Democracy Index". Despite this, in the 2011 Parliamentary elections, the opposition, led by the Workers' Party, increased its representation to seven elected MPs. In the 2015 elections, PAP scored a landslide victory, winning 83 of 89 seats contested, with 70% of popular votes. Gallup polls reported 84% of residents in Singapore expressed confidence in the government, and 85% in its judicial systems and courts – one of the highest ratings in the world. Population -5,567,301,61% of whom are citizens, 39% - permanent citizens, foreign students/workers/dependents, rank -116. Area – 687, rank – 192. Density – 8,104, rank – 3.

37 VARIABLE PARAMETERS – SEE METHODOLOGY OF SEARCHING IN 60+ TABLES IN AUSTRALIA.

VARIABLE PARAMETERS FROM CIA WORLD FACTBOOK - PEOPLE & SOCIETY, ECONOMIC PARAMETERS:

Median age:

total: 34 years
male: 33.9 years
female: 34.1 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 83
Population growth rate:
1.89% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 57
Birth rate:

8.27 births/1,000 population (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 219

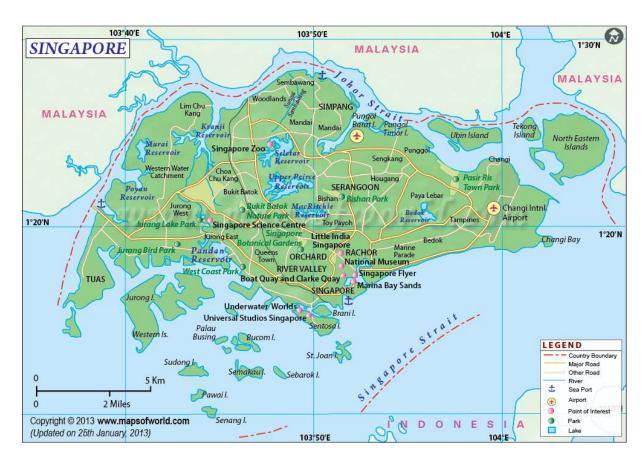
Death rate: 3.43 deaths/1,000 population (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 217 Net migration rate: 14.05 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 5 **Urbanization:** urban population: 100% of total population (2015) rate of urbanization: 2.02% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.) Mother's mean age at first birth: 29.8 (2010 est.) **Maternal mortality rate:** 10 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 182 **Infant mortality rate:** total: 2.48 deaths/1.000 live births male: 2.65 deaths/1,000 live births female: 2.28 deaths/1.000 live births (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 221 Life expectancy at birth: total population: 84.68 years male: 82.06 years female: 87.5 years (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 3 **Total fertility rate:** 0.81 children born/woman (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 224 **Health expenditures:** 4.6% of GDP (2013) country comparison to the world: <u>146</u> Physicians density: 1.95 physicians/1,000 population (2013) **Hospital bed density:** 2 beds/1,000 population (2011) **Drinking water source:** improved: urban: 100% of population total: 100% of population unimproved: urban: 0% of population total: 0% of population (2015 est.) Sanitation facility access: improved: urban: 100% of population total: 100% of population unimproved: urban: 0% of population total: 0% of population (2015 est.) **HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:** HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS: NA **HIV/AIDS - deaths:** NA **Obesity - adult prevalence rate:** 6.8% (2014) country comparison to the world: $\underline{142}$ **Education expenditures:** 2.9% of GDP (2013) country comparison to the world: <u>140</u> Literacv: definition: age 15 and over can read and write total population: 96.8% male: 98.6% **female:** 95% (2015 est.) Unemployment, youth ages 15-24: total: 7% male: 5.4% **female:** 9% (2013) country comparison to the world: 121

GDP (purchasing power parity): \$468.9 billion (2015 est.) \$458.8 billion (2014 est.)

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$445.8 billion (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 41
GDP (official exchange rate):
$294 billion (2015 est.)
GDP - real growth rate:
2.2% (2015 est.)
2.9% (2014 est.)
4.4% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 135
GDP - per capita (PPP):
$85,700 (2015 est.)
$83,900 (2014 est.)
$81,500 (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: \underline{5}
Gross national saving:
47.4% of GDP (2015 est.)
46.7% of GDP (2014 est.)
46.9% of GDP (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: \underline{2}
GDP - composition, by end use:
household consumption: 38.8%
government consumption: 10.1%
investment in fixed capital: 26.2%
investment in inventories: -0.5%
exports of goods and services: 184.3%
imports of goods and services: -158.9% (2015 est.)
GDP - composition, by sector of origin:
agriculture: 0%
industry: 23.8%
services: 76.2% (2014 est.)
Agriculture - products:
orchids, vegetables; poultry, eggs; fish, ornamental fish
Industries:
electronics, chemicals, financial services, oil drilling equipment, petroleum refining, rubber processing
and rubber products, processed food and beverages, ship repair, offshore platform construction, life
sciences, entrepot trade
Industrial production growth rate:
-3.5% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 184
Labor force:
3.588 million
note: excludes non-residents (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 98
Labor force - by occupation:
agriculture: 1.3%
industry: 14.8%
services: 83.9%
note: excludes non-residents (2013)
Unemployment rate:
2% (2015 est.)
2% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 12
Population below poverty line:
Household income or consumption by percentage share:
lowest 10%: 2.3%
highest 10%: 11% (2014)
Distribution of family income - Gini index:
46.4 (2014)
46.3 (2013)
country comparison to the world: 33
Budget:
revenues: $44.06 billion
expenditures: $45.48 billion
note: expenditures include both operational and development expenditures (2015 est.)
Taxes and other revenues:
15% of GDP (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 191
Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):
-0.5% of GDP (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 46
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Public debt:
105.6% of GDP (2015 est.)
99.3% of GDP (2014 est.)
note: Singapore's public debt consists largely of Singapore Government Securities (SGS) issued to
assist the Central Provident Fund (CPF), which administers Singapore's defined contribution pension
fund; special issues of SGS are held by the CPF, and are non-tradable; the government has not
borrowed to finance deficit expenditures since the 1980s; Singapore has no external public debt
country comparison to the world: 13
Fiscal year:
1 April - 31 March
Inflation rate (consumer prices):
-0.5% (2015 est.)
1% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 20
Commercial bank prime lending rate:
5.4% (31 December 2015 est.)
5.35% (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 141
Market value of publicly traded shares:
$787.3 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
$751.1 billion (31 December 2013)
$747.8 billion (31 December 2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 18
Current account balance:
$61.19 billion (2015 est.)
$58.77 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 9
$384.6 billion (2015 est.)
$437.3 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 14
Exports - commodities:
machinery and equipment (including electronics and telecommunications), pharmaceuticals and other
chemicals, refined petroleum products, foodstuffs and beverages
Exports - partners:
China 12.6%, Malaysia 12%, Hong Kong 11%, Indonesia 9.4%, US 5.9%, Japan 4.1%, South Korea
4.1% (2014)
Imports:
$294.2 billion (2015 est.)
$360.9 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 16
Imports - commodities:
machinery and equipment, mineral fuels, chemicals, foodstuffs, consumer goods
Imports - partners:
China 12.1%, Malaysia 10.7%, US 10.3%, South Korea 5.9%, Japan 5.5%, Indonesia 5.1%, UAE 4.2%,
Saudi Arabia 4% (2014)
Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:
$262 billion (31 December 2015 est.)
$256.9 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 12
Debt - external:
$1.33 trillion (31 December 2014 est.)
$1.323 trillion (31 December 2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 15
Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:
$981.1 billion (31 December 2015 est.)
$912.4 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 11
Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:
$614 billion (31 December 2015 est.)
$576.4 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 16
Exchange rates:
Singapore dollars (SGD) per US dollar -
1.38 (2015 est.)
1.2671 (2014 est.)
1.2671 (2013 est.)
1.25 (2012 est.)
1.258 (2011 est.)
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SINT EUSTATIUS, also known affectionately to the locals as Statia, is part of the Caribbean Netherlands: i.e. it is a Caribbean island and a special municipality (officially "public body") of the Netherlands, but is not part of the European Union with the Netherlands. The island lies in the northern Leeward Islands portion of the West Indies, southeast of the Virgin Islands. Sint Eustatius is immediately to the northwest of Saint Kitts, and to the southeast of Saba. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. The official language is Dutch, but English is the "language of everyday life" on the island and education is solely in English. A local English-based creole is also spoken informally. Travellers to the island by air arrive through F.D. Roosevelt Airport. Formerly part of the Netherlands Antilles, Sint Eustatius became a special municipality within The Netherlands on 10 October 2010. The name of the island, "Sint Eustatius", is the Dutch name for Saint Eustace (also spelled Eustachius or Eustathius), a legendary Christian martyr, known in Spanish as San Eustaquio and in Portuguese as Santo Eustáquio or Santo Eustácio. According to the Sint Eustatius government website, "Statia's economy is stable and well placed to grow in the near future. With practically no unemployment and a skilled workforce, we have a infrastructure in place to ensure sustained growth." In reference to this statement,

one should understand that the government itself is the largest employer on the island, and the oil terminal owned by "NuStar" is the largest private employer on the island.

The island was seen by Christopher Columbus in 1493 and claimed by many different nations. From the first settlement, in the 17th century until the early 19th century, St. Eustatius changed hands twenty two times. In 1636, the chamber of Zeeland of the Dutch West India Company took possession of the island that was then reported to be uninhabited. As of 1678, the islands of St. Eustatius, Sint Maarten and Saba fell under direct command of the Dutch West India Company, with a commander stationed on St. Eustatius to govern all three. At the time, the island was of some importance for cultivation of tobacco and sugar. In the 18th century, St. Eustatius' geographical placement in the middle of Danish (Virgin Islands), British (Jamaica, St. Kitts, Barbados, Antigua), French (St. Domingue, Ste. Lucie, Martinique, Guadeloupe) and Spanish (Cuba, Santo Domingo, Puerto Rico) territories—its large harborage, neutrality and status from 1756 as a free port with no customs duties were all factors in it becoming a major point of transhipment of goods, and a locus for trade in contraband. Its economy developed by ignoring the monopolistic trade restrictions of the British, French and Spanish islands. St. Eustatius's economy, under the Dutch, flourished. The island was known as The Golden Rock. The island sold arms and ammunition to anyone willing to pay. It was one of the few places from which the young United States could obtain military stores. The good relationship between St. Eustatius and the United States resulted in the noted "First Salute". On November 16, 1776, Captain Isaiah Robinson of the 14-gun American brig Andrew Doria, sailed into the anchorage below St. Eustatius' Fort Oranje. Robinson announced his arrival by firing a thirteen gun salute, one gun for each of the thirteen American colonies in rebellion against Britain. Governor Johannes de Graaff replied with an eleven gun salute from the cannons of Fort Oranje. International protocol required a two gun less acknowledgement of a sovereign flag. The Andrew Doria flew the Continental Colors of the fledgling United States. It was the first international acknowledgment of American independence. The Andrew Doria had arrived to purchase munitions for the American Revolutionary forces. She was also carrying a copy of the Declaration of Independence which was presented to Governor De Graaff. An earlier copy had been captured on the way to Holland by the British. It was wrapped in documents that the British believed to be a strange cipher. In reality the documents were written in Yiddish, to Jewish merchants in Holland. U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt came to St. Eustatius in 1939 to recognize the importance of the 1776 "First Salute". He presented a large brass plaque to St. Eustatius which is displayed today under a flagpole atop the walls of Fort Oranje.President Roosevelt visited the island for 2 hours on February 27th, 1939 on the USS Houston. The British took the incident seriously. Britain protested bitterly against the continuous trade between the United Colonies and St. Eustatius. In 1778, Lord Stormont claimed in Parliament that, "if Sint Eustatius had sunk into the sea three years before, the United Kingdom would already have dealt with George Washington". Nearly half of all American Revolutionary military supplies were obtained through St. Eustatius. Nearly all American communications to Europe first passed through the island. The trade between St. Eustatius and the US was the main reason for the Fourth Anglo-Dutch War, 1780-1784. The war was disastrous for the Dutch economy.

Britain declared war on Holland, December 20, 1780. Even before officially declaring war, Britain had outfitted a massive battle fleet to take and destroy the weapons depot and vital commercial center that St. Eustatius had become. British Admiral George Brydges Rodney was appointed the commander of the battle fleet. February 3, 1781, the massive fleet of 15 ships of the line and numerous smaller ships transporting over 3,000 soldiers appeared before St. Eustatius prepared to invade. Governor De Graaff did not know about the declaration of

war. Rodney offered De Graaff a bloodless surrender to his superior force. Rodney had over 1,000 cannons to De Graaff's dozen cannons and a garrison of sixty men. De Graaff surrendered the island, but first he fired two rounds as a show of resistance for the honor of Dutch Admiral Lodewijk van Bylandt, who commanded a ship of the Dutch Navy which was in the harbor. Ten months later, the island was conquered by the French, allies of the Dutch in the war. The Dutch regained control over the devastated island in 1784. At its peak, St. Eustatius may have had a largely transient population of about 10,000 people. Most were engaged in commercial and maritime interests. A census list of 1790 gives a total population (free and enslaved people combined) of 8,124. Commerce revived after the British left. Many of the merchants (including the Jews) returned to the island. However, French and British occupations from 1795 disrupted trade and also the North-Americans, now globally recognized as an independent nation, had meanwhile developed their own trading network and did not need St. Eustatius anymore. The island was eclipsed by other Dutch ports, such as those on the islands of Curação and Sint Maarten. During the last years of the 18th century Statia developed trade in aging rum. The economy declined in the early 19th century. St. Eustatius never recovered the durable robustness of the mid 18th century. The large merchant class, that was the life blood of St. Eustatius, did not fully return. The population declined and in 1950 the population stood at a mere 970.

The first record of Jews on St. Eustatius dates to 1660. The Jews were mainly merchants with significant international trading and maritime commercial ties. Jews were captains, owners or co-owners with Christian partners, of significant numbers of ships originating out of St. Eustatius. A few were island plantation-owners. Jews were estimated to have comprised at least 10% of the permanent population of St. Eustatius. Two days after the island surrendered to the British in early February 1781, Rodney ordered that the entire Jewish male adult population assemble for him. He immediately arrested and imprisoned 101 Jews in the warehouses of the lower city. Rodney said, after he first learned of the St. Eustatius Jews: "They (the Jews of St. Eustatius) cannot too soon be taken care of - they are notorious in the cause of America and France." Rodney singled out the Jews: the harshness was reserved for them alone. He did not do the same to French, Dutch, Spanish or even the American merchants on the island. He permitted the French to leave with all their possessions. Rodney was concerned that his unprecedented behavior would be repeated upon British islands by French forces when events were different. The Jews were kept imprisoned for days without food or water. Thirty one heads of families were summarily deported without word or mercy to their dependents. Governor De Graaff was also deported. Rodney confiscated Jewish warehouses, looted Jewish personal possessions, even stripping Jews to find money hidden in their clothing. When Rodney realized that the Jews might be hiding additional treasure, he dug up the Jewish cemetery. Later, in February 1782, Edmund Burke, the leading opposition member of the Whig Party, upon learning of Rodney's actions in St. Eustatius, rose to condemn Rodney's anti-Semitic, avaricious vindictiveness in Parliament.

Capital – Oranjestad. Language – Dutch, English. Religion – The majority are Protestant with a Roman Catholic minority. The following religions have services on the island: Seventh Day Adventist, Methodist, Roman Catholic, Jehovah Witnesses, Bahai Faith, Baptist, Anglican, Apostolic Faith, Pentecostal and World of Faith Ministry. Ethnics - Statia's population is made up mainly from people of black African descent, but also mixed black/Creole, Dutch, East Asian and others. The first inhabitants of Statia were the Saladoids, who arrived in great sea-going canoes from South America before the end of the 15th century. In the 1600's, slaves of African descent were brought to the island to cultivate the land, which had more than seventy plantations. At the end of the 18th century, slavery had been outlawed in the Dutch

Antilles. Today, people of more than 20 nationalities live in harmony on this peaceful Dutch Caribbean Island. Government - The special municipalities (Dutch: bijzondere gemeenten) carry many of the functions normally performed by Dutch municipalities. The executive power rests with the Governing Council headed by a Lieutenant governor. The main democratic body is the island council. Dutch citizens of these three islands are entitled to vote in Dutch national and (as all Dutch nationals) in European elections. Population – 4.020, Area – 21, Density – 191.



SINT MAARTEN, or Saint Martin, (French: Saint-Martin; Dutch: Sint Maarten) is an island in the northeast Caribbean, approximately 300 km east of Puerto Rico. The 87 square kilometres island is divided roughly 61/39 between France (53 square kilometres) and the Kingdom of the Netherlands (34 square kilometres); the two parts are roughly equal in population. The division dates to 1648. The southern Dutch part comprises Sint Maarten and following the dissolution of the Netherland Antilles in 2010 is one of four constituent countries that form the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and enjoys considerable autonomy, but it is not part of the European Union with the Netherlands. The northern French part comprises the Collectivité de Saint-Martin (Collectivity of St. Martin) and is an overseas collectivity of France. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. In 1493, during Christopher Columbus' second voyage to the West Indies, upon first sighting the island he named it Isla de San Martín after Saint Martin of Tours because it was 11 November, St. Martin's Day. However, though he claimed it as a Spanish territory, Columbus never landed there, and Spain made the settlement of the island a low priority. The French and Dutch, on the other hand, both coveted the island. While the French wanted to colonize the islands between Trinidad and Bermuda, the Dutch found San Martín a convenient halfway point between their colonies in New Amsterdam (present day New York) and Brazil. With few people inhabiting the island, the Dutch easily founded a settlement there in 1631, erecting Fort Amsterdam as protection from invaders. Jan Claeszen Van Campen became its first governor, and soon thereafter the Dutch East India Company began their salt mining operations. French and British settlements sprang up on the island as well. Taking note of these successful colonies and wanting to maintain their control of the salt trade, the Spanish now found St. Martin much more appealing. The Eighty Years' War which had been raging between Spain and the Netherlands provided further incentive to attack. Spanish forces captured Saint Martin from the Dutch in 1633, seizing control and driving most or all of the colonists off the island. At Point Blanche, they built what is now Old Spanish Fort to secure the territory. Although the Dutch retaliated in several attempts to win back St. Martin, they failed. Fifteen years after the Spanish conquered the island, the Eighty Years' War ended. Since they no longer needed a base in the Caribbean and St. Martin barely turned a profit, the Spanish lost their inclination to continue defending it. In 1648, they deserted the island. With St. Martin free again, both the Dutch and the French jumped at the chance to re-establish their settlements. Dutch colonists came from St. Eustatius, while the French came from St. Kitts. After some initial conflict, both sides realized that neither would yield easily. Preferring to avoid an all-out war, they signed the Treaty of Concordia in 1648, which divided the island in two. During the treaty's negotiation, the French had a fleet of naval ships off shore, which they used as a threat to bargain more land for themselves. In spite of the treaty, relations between the two sides were not always cordial. Between 1648 and 1816, conflicts changed the border sixteen times. In the end, the French came out ahead with 53 km² (61%) against 34 km² (39%) on the Dutch side.

With the new cultivation of cotton, tobacco, and sugar, the French and the Dutch imported a massive number of slaves to work on the plantations. The slave population quickly grew larger than that of the land owners. Subjected to cruel treatment, slaves staged rebellions, and their overwhelming numbers made them impossible to ignore. In 1848, the French abolished slavery in their colonies including the French side of St. Martin. Slaves on the Dutch side of the island protested and threatened to flee to the French side to seek asylum. The local Dutch authorities relented and emancipated the colonies' slaves. While this decree was respected locally, it was not until 1863 when the Dutch abolished slavery in all of their island colonies that the slaves became legally free. After abolition of slavery, plantation culture declined and the island's economy suffered. In 1939, St. Martin received a major boost when it was declared a duty-free port. The Dutch side began focusing on tourism in the 1950s, with the French side following suit two decades later. Because of being split up into a Dutch and a French part, the tourist boom was heavier on Sint Maarten than on the surrounding islands. Its Princess Juliana International Airport became one of the busiest in the Eastern Caribbean.

Capital – Philipsburg. Language – Dutch, English. Religion – Protestant denominations, particularly Methodism. The island has also small Jewish and Seventh-day Adventist communities. Ethnics – creole (mulatto), black, Guadeloupe mestizo (French – East Asia), White and East Indian. Over the past 20 years the number of creoles has been surpassed by the number of immigrants and the population is truly a melting pot of people from more than 70 different countries. Government – Unitary parliamentary representative democracy under constitutional monarchy. Population – 33,609, Area – 34, Density – 988.



SLOVAKIA, Slovakia (Slovak: *Slovensko*), officially the Slovak Republic (Slovak: *Slovenská republika*), is a landlocked country in Central Europe. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, EU. Slovakia's territory is mostly mountainous. The population comprises mostly ethnic Slovaks. The capital and largest city is Bratislava. The official language is Slovak, a member of the Slavic language family. The Slavs arrived in the territory of present-day Slovakia in the 5th and 6th centuries. In the 7th century, they played a significant role in the creation of Samo's Empire and in the 9th century established the Principality of Nitra. In the 10th century, the territory was integrated into the Kingdom of Hungary, which itself became part

of the Habsburg Empire and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. After World War I and the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Slovaks and Czechs established Czechoslovakia. A separate Slovak Republic (1939–1945) existed in World War II as a client state of Nazi Germany. In 1945, Czechoslovakia was reestablished under communist rule as a Soviet satellite. Slovakia became an independent state on 1 January 1993 after the peaceful dissolution of Czechoslovakia. Slovakia is a high-income advanced economy. The country joined the European Union in 2004 and the Eurozone on 1 January 2009. Slovakia is also a member of the Schengen Area, NATO, the United Nations, the OECD and the WTO.

The Slovak economy is a developed, high-income economy, with the GDP per capita equaling to 76% of the average of the European Union in 2014. The country used to be dubbed the "Tatra Tiger" before the recent global economic crisis. Slovakia successfully transformed from a centrally planned economy to a market-driven economy. Major privatizations are nearly complete, the banking sector is almost completely in private hands, and foreign investment has risen. Before the financial crisis of 2007-08, Slovakia had experienced high and sustained economic growth. In 2007, 2008 and 2010 (with GDP growth of 10.5%, 6% and 4% retrospectively), Slovakia was the fastest growing economy in the European Union. In 2011 and 2012, Slovakia was the 2nd fastest growing Eurozone member after Estonia. In 2012, more than 75% of Slovak exports went to, and more than 50% of Slovak imports came from, other European Union member states. The ratio of government debt to GDP in Slovakia reached 58% by the end of 2013. Although Slovakia's GDP comes mainly from the tertiary (services) sector, the industrial sector also plays an important role within its economy. The main industry sectors are car manufacturing and electrical engineering. Since 2007, Slovakia has been the world's largest producer of cars per capita, with a total of 571,071 cars manufactured in the country in 2007 alone. There are currently three automobile assembly plants: Volkswagen's in Bratislava, PSA Peugeot Citroën's in Trnava and Kia Motors' Žilina Plant. In 2018, Jaguar Land Rover is set to open the country's fourth automobile assembly plant in Nitra.

From electrical engineering companies, Foxconn has a factory at Nitra for LCD TV manufacturing, Samsung at Galanta for computer monitors and television sets manufacturing. ESET is an IT security company from Bratislava with more than 500 employees worldwide at present. Their branch offices are in the United States, Ireland, United Kingdom, Argentina, Czech Republic, Singapore and Poland. Bratislava's geographical position in Central Europe has long made Bratislava a crossroads for international trade traffic. Various ancient trade routes, such as the Amber Road and the Danube waterway, have crossed territory of presentday Bratislava. Today, Bratislava is the road, railway, waterway and airway hub. Slovakia features natural landscapes, mountains, caves, medieval castles and towns, folk architecture, spas and ski resorts. More than 1.6 million people visited Slovakia in 2006, and the most attractive destinations are the capital of Bratislava and the High Tatras. Most visitors come from the Czech Republic (about 26%), Poland (15%) and Germany (11%). Typical souvenirs from Slovakia are dolls dressed in folk costumes, ceramic objects, crystal glass, carved wooden figures, črpáks (wooden pitchers), fujaras (a folk instrument on the UNESCO list) and valaškas (a decorated folk hatchet) and above all products made from corn husks and wire, notably human figures. Souvenirs can be bought in the shops run by the state organization ÚĽUV (Ústredie ľudovej umeleckej výroby – Center of Folk Art Production). Dielo shop chain sells works of Slovak artists and craftsmen. These shops are mostly found in towns and cities. Prices of imported products are generally the same as in the neighboring countries, whereas prices of local products and services, especially food, are usually lower.

Capital – Bratislava. Language – Slovak. Religion – Christian – 85%, Unaffiliated – 14%. Ethnics – Slovak – 81%, Hungarian – 9%, Roma – 2%. Government – Republic, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 5,443,583, rank – 117. Area – 48,105, rank – 131. Density – 113, rank – 93.



SLOVENIA, (Slovene: Slovenija), officially the Republic of Slovenia (Slovene: Republika Slovenija), is a nation state in southern Central Europe, located at the crossroads of main European cultural and trade routes. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, EU. It is a parliamentary republic and a member of the United Nations, European Union, and NATO. The capital and largest city is Ljubljana. The territory is mostly mountainous with a mainly continental climate, with the exception of the Slovene Littoral that has a sub-Mediterranean climate and the north-western area that has an Alpine climate. Additionally, the Dinaric Alps and the Pannonian Plain meet on the territory of Slovenia. The country, marked by a significant biological diversity, is one of the most water-rich in Europe, with a dense river network, a rich aquifer system, and significant karst underground watercourses. Over half of the territory is covered by forest. The human settlement of Slovenia is dispersed and uneven. The Slavic, Germanic, Romance, and Hungarian languages meet here. Although the population is not homogeneous, the majority is Slovene. Slovene is the official language throughout the country. Slovenia is a largely secularized country, but its culture and identity have been significantly influenced by Catholicism as well as Lutheranism. The economy of Slovenia is small, open, and export-oriented and has been strongly influenced by international conditions. It has been severely hurt by the Eurozone crisis, started in the late 2000s. The main economic field is services, followed by industry and construction.

Historically, the current territory of Slovenia was part of many different state formations, including the Roman Empire and the Holy Roman Empire, followed by the Habsburg Monarchy. In October 1918, the Slovenes exercised self-determination for the first time by co-founding the internationally unrecognized State of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs, the Slovenians, mostly wanted to be with Germany and Austria, but merged that December with the Kingdom of Serbia into the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (renamed Kingdom of Yugoslavia in 1929). During World War II, Slovenia was occupied and annexed by Germany, Italy, and Hungary, with a tiny area transferred to the Independent State of Croatia, a Nazi puppet state. Afterward, it was a founding member of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia, later renamed the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, a communist state which was the only country in the Eastern Bloc never a part of the Warsaw Pact. In June 1991, after the introduction of multi-party representative democracy, Slovenia split from Yugoslavia and became an independent country. In 2004, it entered NATO and the European Union; in 2007 became the first former Communist country to join the Eurozone; and in 2010 joined the OECD, a global association of high-income developed countries.

Capital – Ljubljana. Language – Slovene. Religion – Christian – 78%, Unaffiliated – 18%, Muslim – 4%. Ethnics – Slovene – 83%, Serb – 2%, Croat – 2%, Bosniak – 1%. Government – Republic, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 1,988,292, rank – 148. Area – 20,151, rank – 155. Density – 99, rank – 105.



SOLOMON ISLANDS, is a sovereign country consisting of six major islands and over 900 smaller islands lying to the east of Papua New Guinea and northwest of Vanuatu and covering a land area of 28,400 square kilometres in Melanesia, Oceania. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. The country's capital, Honiara, is located on the island of Guadalcanal. The country takes its name from the Solomon Islands archipelago, which is a collection of Melanesian islands that also includes the North Solomon Islands (part of Papua New Guinea), but excludes outlying islands, such as Rennell and Bellona, and the Santa Cruz Islands. The islands have been inhabited for thousands of years. In 1568, the Spanish navigator Álvaro de Mendaña was the first European to visit them, naming them the Islas Salomón. Britain defined its area of interest in the Solomon Islands archipelago in June 1893, when Captain Gibson R.N., of HMS Curacoa, declared the southern Solomon Islands as a British Protectorate with the proclamation of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate. During World War II, the Solomon Islands campaign (1942–1945) saw fierce fighting between the United States and the Empire of Japan, such as in the Battle of Guadalcanal. The official name of the then British overseas territory was changed from "the British Solomon Islands Protectorate" to "Solomon Islands" in 1975. Self-government was achieved in 1976. Independence was obtained 2 years later. Today, Solomon Islands is a constitutional monarchy with Queen of Solomon Islands, currently Queen Elizabeth II, as its head of state.

Solomon Islands' per-capita GDP of \$600 ranks it as a lesser developed nation, and more than 75% of its labour force is engaged in subsistence and fishing. Most manufactured goods and petroleum products must be imported. Until 1998, when world prices for tropical timber fell steeply, timber was Solomon Islands' main export product, and, in recent years, Solomon Islands forests were dangerously overexploited. Other important cash crops and exports include copra and palm oil. In 1998 gold mining began at Gold Ridge on Guadalcanal. Minerals exploration in other areas continued. In the wake of the ethnic violence in June 2000, exports of palm oil and gold ceased while exports of timber fell. The islands are rich in undeveloped mineral resources such as lead, zinc, nickel, and gold. Solomon Islands' fisheries also offer prospects for export and domestic economic expansion. A Japanese joint venture, Solomon Taiyo Ltd., which operated the only fish cannery in the country, closed in mid-2000 as a result of the ethnic disturbances. Though the plant has reopened under local management, the export of tuna has not resumed. Negotiations are underway that may lead to the eventual reopening of the Gold Ridge mine and the major oil-palm plantation. Tourism, particularly diving, is an important service industry for Solomon Islands. Tourism growth is hampered by lack of infrastructure and transportation limitations.

Capital – Honiara. Language – English, Neo-Solomonic. Religion – Christian – 97%, Folk religion – 1%. Ethnics – Melanesian – 95%, Polynesian – 3%, Micronesian – 1%. Government – Constitutional monarchy, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 609,883, rank – 169. Area – 27,986, rank – 144. Density – 22, rank – 190.



SOMALIA, (Somali: Soomaaliya; Arabic: الصومال as-Sūmāl), officially the Federal Republic of Somalia (Somali: Jamhuuriyadda Federaalka Soomaaliya, Arabic: جمهورية الصومال الفدرالية Jumhūrīvat as-Sūmāl al-Fidirālīvah), is a country located in the Horn of Africa in Eastern Africa. Somaliland broke away in 1991 and is a de facto state, and Puntland and Galmudug have declared themselves as autonomous regions of Somalia. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Somalia has the longest coastline on Africa's mainland, and its terrain consists mainly of plateaus, plains and highlands. Climatically, hot conditions prevail year-round, with periodic monsoon winds and irregular rainfall. Somalia has a population of around 10.8 million. Around 85% of its residents are ethnic Somalis, who have historically inhabited the northern part of the country. Ethnic minorities are largely concentrated in the southern regions. The official languages of Somalia are Somali and Arabic, both of which belong to the Afroasiatic family. Most people in the country are Muslim, with the majority being Sunni. In antiquity, Somalia was an important commercial centre. It is among the most probable locations of the fabled ancient Land of Punt. During the Middle Ages, several powerful Somali empires dominated the regional trade, including the Ajuran Empire, the Adal Sultanate, the Warsangali Sultanate, and the Geledi Sultanate. In the late 19th century, through a succession of treaties with these kingdoms, the British and Italians gained control of parts of the coast and established the colonies of British Somaliland and Italian Somaliland. In the interior, Mohammed Abdullah Hassan's Dervish State repelled the British Empire four times and forced it to retreat to the coastal region. The Dervishes were defeated in 1920 by British airpower. Italy acquired full control of the northeastern and southern parts of the area after successfully waging the so-called Campaign of the Sultanates against the ruling Majeerteen Sultanate and Sultanate of Hobyo. Italian occupation lasted until 1941, yielding to British military administration. Northern Somalia would remain a protectorate, while southern Somalia became a United Nations Trusteeship under Italian administration in 1949. In 1960, the two regions united to form the independent Somali Republic under a civilian government. Mohamed Siad Barre seized power in 1969 and established the Somali Democratic Republic.

In 1991, Barre's government collapsed as the Somali Civil War broke out. Various armed factions began competing for influence in the power vacuum, particularly in the south. During this period, due to the absence of a central government, Somalia was a "failed state", and residents returned to customary and religious law in most regions. A few autonomous regions, including the Somaliland, Puntland, and Galmudug administrations, emerged in the north. The early 2000s saw the creation of fledgling interim federal administrations. The

Transitional National Government (TNG) was established in 2000, followed by the formation of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in 2004, which reestablished national institutions such as the military. In 2006, the TFG, assisted by Ethiopian troops, assumed control of most of the nation's southern conflict zones from the newly formed Islamic Courts Union (ICU). The ICU subsequently splintered into more radical groups such as Al-Shabaab, which battled the TFG and its AMISOM allies for control of the region. Due to the instability, violence, and protracted lack of a permanent central authority, Somalia also topped the Failed States Index (FSI) between 2008 and 2013. By mid-2012, the insurgents had lost most of the territory that they had seized. In 2011-2012, a political process providing benchmarks for the establishment of permanent democratic institutions was launched. Within this administrative framework a new provisional constitution was passed in August 2012, which reformed Somalia as a federation. Following the end of the TFG's interim mandate the same month, the Federal Government of Somalia, the first permanent central government in the country since the start of the civil war, was formed. A period of reconstruction began in Mogadishu. Through the years, Somalia has maintained an informal economy, mainly based on livestock, remittances from Somalis working abroad, and telecommunications.

Capital – Mogadishu. Language – Somali (national), Arabic. Religion – 100%. Ethnics – Somali – 85%, Bantu and other non-Somali – 15%, including 30,000 Arabs. Government – As part of the official "Roadmap for the End of Transition", a political process that provided clear benchmarks leading toward the formation of permanent democratic institutions in Somalia, the Transitional Federal Government's interim mandate ended on 20 August 2012. The Federal Parliament of Somalia was concurrently inaugurated, ushering in the Federal Government of Somalia, the first permanent central government in the country since the start of the civil war. On 10 September 2012, parliament elected Hassan Sheikh Mohamud as the new President of Somalia. President Mohamud later appointed Abdi Farah Shirdon as the new Prime Minister on 6 October 2012, who was succeeded in office by Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed on 21 December 2013. On 17 December 2014, former Premier Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke was reappointed Prime Minister. The Judiciary of Somalia is defined by the Provisional Constitution of the Federal Republic of Somalia. Adopted on 1 August 2012 by a National Constitutional Assembly in Mogadishu, Banaadir, the document was formulated by a committee of specialists chaired by attorney and incumbent Speaker of the Federal Parliament, Mohamed Osman Jawari. It provides the legal foundation for the existence of the Federal Republic and source of legal authority. The national court structure is organized into three tiers: the Constitutional Court, Federal Government level courts and Federal Member State level courts. A nine-member Judicial Service Commission appoints any Federal tier member of the judiciary. It also selects and presents potential Constitutional Court judges to the House of the People of the Federal Parliament for approval. If endorsed, the President appoints the candidate as a judge of the Constitutional Court. The five-member Constitutional Court adjudicates issues pertaining to the constitution, in addition to various Federal and subnational matters. Population – 10,428,043, rank – 85. Area – 627,337, rank – 44. Density – 17, rank – 198.

37 VARIABLE PARAMETERS – SEE METHODOLOGY OF SEARCHING IN 60+ TABLES IN AUSTRALIA.

VARIABLE PARAMETERS FROM CIA WORLD FACTBOOK - PEOPLE & SOCIETY, ECONOMIC PARAMETERS:

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total: 17.8 years
male: 18 years
female: 17.7 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 217
Population growth rate:
1.83% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 62
Birth rate:
40.45 births/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 8
Death rate:
13.62 deaths/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 13
Net migration rate:
-8.49 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 211
Urbanization:
urban population: 39.6% of total population (2015)
rate of urbanization: 4.06% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)
Maternal mortality rate:
732 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 3
Infant mortality rate:
total: 98.39 deaths/1,000 live births
male: 107.07 deaths/1.000 live births
female: 89.45 deaths/1,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 3
Life expectancy at birth:
total population: 51.96 years
male: 49.93 years
female: 54.06 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 218
Total fertility rate:
5.99 children born/woman (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 4
Contraceptive prevalence rate:
14.6% (2006)
Physicians density:
0.04 physicians/1,000 population (2006)
Drinking water source:
improved:
urban: 69.6% of population
rural: 8.8% of population
total: 31.7% of population
unimproved:
urban: 30.4% of population
rural: 91.2% of population
total: 68.3% of population (2011 est.)
Sanitation facility access:
improved:
urban: 52% of population
rural: 6.3% of population
total: 23.6% of population
unimproved:
urban: 48% of population
rural: 93.7% of population
total: 76.4% of population (2011 est.)
HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:
0.55% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 63
HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:
34,900 (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 65
HIV/AIDS - deaths:
2,400 (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 54
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food or waterborne diseases: bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A and E, and typhoid fever vectorborne diseases: dengue fever, malaria, and Rift Valley fever water contact disease: schistosomiasis animal contact disease: rabies (2013)

Obesity - adult prevalence rate:

Major infectious diseases: degree of risk: very high

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3.9% (2014)
country comparison to the world: 162
Children under the age of 5 years underweight:
32.8% (2006)
country comparison to the world: 9
Education expenditures:
NA
Child labor - children ages 5-14:
total number: 1,148,265
percentage: 49% (2006 est.)
GDP (purchasing power parity):
$4.431 billion (2014 est.)
$4.186 billion (2013 est.)
$5.607 billion (2008 est.)
note: data are in 2010 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 177
GDP (official exchange rate):
$5.8 billion (2014 est.)
GDP - real growth rate:
2.6% (2010 est.)
2.6% (2009 est.)
2.6% (2008 est.)
country comparison to the world: 115
GDP - per capita (PPP):
$400 (2014 est.)
$400 (2013 est.)
$600 (2008 est.)
country comparison to the world: 229
GDP - composition, by end use:
household consumption: 72.7%
government consumption: 8.7%
investment in fixed capital: 19.9%
investment in inventories: 0.4%
exports of goods and services: 0.3%
imports of goods and services: -1.7% (2013 est.)
GDP - composition, by sector of origin:
agriculture: 60.2%
industry: 7.4%
services: 32.5% (2013 est.)
Agriculture - products:
bananas, sorghum, corn, coconuts, rice, sugarcane, mangoes, sesame seeds, beans; cattle, sheep,
goats; fish
Industries:
light industries, including sugar refining, textiles, wireless communication
Industrial production growth rate:
2.5% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 103
Labor force:
3.109 million (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 103
Labor force - by occupation:
agriculture: 71%
industry and services: 29% (1975)
Unemployment rate:
NA%
Population below poverty line:
Household income or consumption by percentage share:
lowest 10%: NA%
highest 10%: NA%
Budget:
revenues: $145.3 million
expenditures: $151.1 million (2014 est.)
Taxes and other revenues:
2.5% of GDP (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 219
Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):
-0.1% of GDP (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 34
Fiscal year:
Inflation rate (consumer prices):
```

note: businesses print their own money, so inflation rates cannot be easily determined

Central bank discount rate:

NA%

Commercial bank prime lending rate:

NA%

Current account balance:

-\$644 million (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: 106

Exports:

\$819 million (2014 est.) \$779 million (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 166

Exports - commodities:

livestock, bananas, hides, fish, charcoal, scrap metal

Exports - partners: UAE 44.4%, Yemen 19.1%, Oman 15.4%, India 5.6% (2014)

Imports:

\$3.482 billion (2014 est.) \$3.322 billion (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: <u>138</u>

Imports - commodities:

manufactures, petroleum products, foodstuffs, construction materials, qat

Imports - partners:

Djibouti 19.8%, India 14.7%, Oman 9.1%, China 9%, Kenya 8.9%, Pakistan 4.7% (2014)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:

\$30.45 million (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: <u>170</u>

Debt - external:

\$3.054 billion (31 December 2013 est.) \$3.055 billion (31 December 2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 142Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:

\$NA

Exchange rates:

Somali shillings (SOS) per US dollar -20,227 (2014 est.) 19,276 (2013 est.)





SOMALILAND, (Somali: Somaliland, Arabic: صوماليلاند Ṣūmālīlānd or أرض الصومال Arḍ aṣ-Ṣūmāl), officially the Republic of Somaliland (Somali: Jamhuuriyadda Somaliland, Arabic: جمهورية صوماليلاند Jumhūrīyat Ṣūmālīlānd), is a self-declared state internationally recognized as an autonomous region of Somalia. It is a breakaway, semi-desert territory on the coast of the Gulf of Aden, Eastern Africa, that has declared independence in 1991. This de facto independent state was formerly known as the British Protectorate of Somaliland. It is claimed by Somalia and is not recognized by any other state. Link to map. Link to essential data on de facto independent countries: Wikipedia, BBC, Quora, Polgeonow. The government of

Somaliland regards itself as the successor state to the former British Somaliland protectorate, which as the State of Somaliland united as scheduled on 1 July 1960 with the Trust Territory of Somaliland (the former Italian Somaliland) to form the Somali Republic (Somalia). Somaliland lies in northwestern Somalia, on the southern coast of the Gulf of Aden. It is bordered by the autonomous region of the Puntland State of Somalia to the east, Djibouti to the northwest, and Ethiopia to the south and west. Its claimed territory has an area of 137,600 square kilometres, with approximately 4 million residents. The capital and the largest city is Hargeisa, with the population of around 1,200,000 residents. In 1988, the Siad Barre regime launched a crackdown against the Hargeisa-based Somali National Movement (SNM) and other militant groups, which were among the events that led to the Somali Civil War. The conflict left the country's economic and military infrastructure severely damaged. Following the collapse of Barre's government in early 1991, local authorities, led by the SNM, declared independence from Somalia on 18 May of the same year and reinstated the borders of the former short-lived independent State of Somaliland. Since then, the territory has been governed by democratically elected governments that seek international recognition as the Government of the Republic of Somaliland (Somali: Dowlada Jamhuuriyadda Somaliland, Arabic: جمهورية صوماليلاند Dawlat Jumhūrīyat Ṣūmālīlānd). The central government maintains informal ties with some foreign governments, who have sent delegations to Hargeisa. Ethiopia also maintains a trade office in the region. However, Somaliland's self-proclaimed independence remains unrecognized by any country or international organization. It is a member of the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization, whose members consist of indigenous peoples, minorities, and unrecognized or occupied territories.

The earliest human artifacts in the area are the Laas Geel cave paintings, dating from before 3000 BC. The region is sometimes thought to be part of the Land of Punt. Islam was introduced to the northern Somali littoral early on from the Arabian peninsula, shortly after the hijra. Various Muslim Somali kingdoms were formed around this period in the area. In the 14th century, Somaliland became a battleground between the Harla people and the forces of Ethiopian emperor Amda Seyon I. In the 1500s, the Ottoman Empire occupied Berbera and environs. Muhammad Ali, Pasha of Egypt, subsequently established a foothold in the area between 1821 and 1841. In 1888, after signing successive treaties with the then ruling Somali Sultans such as Mohamoud Ali Shire of the Warsangali Sultanate, the British established a protectorate in the region referred to as British Somaliland. The British garrisoned the protectorate from Aden and administered it as part of British India until 1898. British Somaliland was then administered by the Foreign Office until 1905, and afterwards by the Colonial Office. Generally, the British did not have much interest in the resource-barren region. The stated purposes of the establishment of the protectorate were to "secure a supply market, check the traffic in slaves, and to exclude the interference of foreign powers." The British principally viewed the protectorate as a source for supplies of meat for their British Indian outpost in Aden through the maintenance of order in the coastal areas and protection of the caravan routes from the interior. Hence, the region's nickname of "Aden's butcher's shop". Colonial administration during this period did not extend administrative infrastructure beyond the coast, and contrasted with the interventionist colonial experience of Italian Somaliland.

The war in southern Somalia between Islamist insurgents on the one hand, and the Federal Government of Somalia and its African Union allies on the other, has for the most part not directly affected Somaliland, which, like neighboring Puntland, has remained relatively stable. Since Somaliland is unrecognised, international donors have found it difficult to provide aid. As a result, the government relies mainly upon tax receipts and remittances from the large Somali diaspora, which contribute immensely to Somaliland's economy. [79]

Remittances come to Somaliland through money transfer companies, the largest of which is Dahabshiil, one of the few Somali money transfer companies that conform to modern money-transfer regulations. The World Bank estimates that remittances worth approximately US\$1 billion reach Somalia annually from émigrés working in the Gulf states, Europe and the United States. Analysts say that Dahabshiil may handle around two-thirds of that figure and as much as half of it reaches Somaliland alone. Since the late 1990s, service provisions have significantly improved through limited government provisions and contributions from non-governmental organisations, religious groups, the international community (especially the diaspora), and the growing private sector. Local and municipal governments have been developing key public service provisions such as water in Hargeisa and education, electricity, and security in Berbera. In 2009, the Banque pour le Commerce et l'Industrie – Mer Rouge (BCIMR), based in Djibouti, opened a branch in Hargeisa and became the first bank in the country since the 1990 collapse of the Commercial and Savings Bank of Somalia.

Various telecommunications firms also have branches in Somaliland. Among these companies is Golis Telecom Somalia, one of the largest such operators in northern Somalia. Founded in 2002 with the objective of supplying the local market with telecommunications services such as GSM, fixed line, and Internet access, it has an extensive network that covers all of Somalia's major cities and more than 40 districts in both the Somaliland and Puntland regions. Golis also offers among the cheapest international calling rates at US\$0.2 less than its nearest competitor. Other telecommunication firms serving the region include Somtel, Telcom and NationLink. Livestock is the backbone of the Somaliland region's economy. Sheep, camels, and cattle are shipped from the Berbera port and sent to Gulf Arab countries, such as Saudi Arabia. Agriculture is generally considered to be a potentially successful industry, especially in the production of cereals and horticulture. Mining also has potential, though simple quarrying represents the extent of current operations, despite the presence of diverse quantities of mineral deposits. The rock art and caves at Laas Geel, situated on the outskirts of Hargeisa, are a popular local tourist attraction. Totaling ten caves, they were discovered by a French archaeological team in 2002 and are believed to date back around 5,000 years. The government and locals keep the cave paintings safe and only a restricted number of tourists are allowed entry. Other notable sights include the Freedom Arch in Hargeisa and the War Memorial in the city centre. Natural attractions are very common around the region. The Naasa Hablood are twin hills located on the outskirts of Hargeisa that Somalis in the region consider to be a majestic natural landmark. The Ministry of Tourism has also encouraged travelers to visit historic towns and cities in Somaliland. The historic town of Sheekh is located near Berbera and is home to old British colonial buildings that have remained untouched for over forty years. Berbera also houses historic and impressive Ottoman architectural buildings. Another equally famous historic city is Zeila. Zeila was once part of the Ottoman Empire, a dependency of Yemen and Egypt and a major trade city during the 19th century. The city has been visited for its old colonial landmarks, offshore mangroves and coral reefs, towering cliffs, and beach. The nomadic culture of Somaliland has also attracted tourists. Most nomads live in the countryside.

Capital – Hargeisa. Language – Somali, Arabic, English. Religion - With few exceptions, Somalis in Somaliland and elsewhere are Muslims, the majority belonging to the Sunni branch of Islam and the Shafi'i school of Islamic jurisprudence. Ethnics - As of 2006, the largest clan family in Somaliland is the Isaaq and Dhulbahante comes second. The clan groupings of the Somali people are important social units, with clan membership playing a central part in Somali culture and politics. Clans are patrilineal and are often divided into subclans, sometimes with many sub-divisions. Somali society is traditionally ethnically

endogamous. To extend ties of alliance, marriage is often to another ethnic Somali from a different clan. The Isaaq constitute the largest Somali clan in most of Somaliland. They are concentrated in the Woqooyi Galbeed, Togdheer and the western portion of Sanaag region. The disputed eastern and western regions has large number of other clans. Sool's residents mainly hail from the Dhulbahante, a subdivision of the Harti confederation of Darod subclans. The Warsangali, another Harti Darod sub-clan, constitute a large number of residents in Sanaag. The Gadabuursi are also well represented in the Awdal region. Government - Under the Federal Constitution of Somalia, Somaliland is not officially a Federal Member State of the Federal Republic of Somalia. It has a hybrid system of governance under the Constitution of Somaliland, combining traditional and western institutions. In a series of inter-clan conferences, culminating in the Boorama Conference in 1993, a *qabil* (clan or community) system of government was constructed. The constitution separates government into an executive branch, a legislative branch, and a judicial branch, each of which functions independently from the others. The guurti worked with rebel leaders to set up a new government, and was incorporated into the governance structure, becoming the Parliament's House of Elders. The government became in essence a "power-sharing coalition of Somaliland's main clans," with seats in the Upper and Lower houses proportionally allocated to clans according to a predetermined formula, although not all clans are satisfied with their representation. In 2002, after several extensions of this interim government, Somaliland transitioned to multi-party democracy. The election was limited to three parties, in an attempt to create ideology based elections rather than clan based elections. The Executive is led by an elected president, whose government includes a vice-president and a Council of Ministers.^[47] The Council of Ministers, who are responsible for the normal running of government, are nominated by the President and approved by the Parliament's House of Representatives. [49] The President must approve bills passed by the Parliament before they come into effect. [47] Presidential elections are confirmed by the National Elections Commission. The President can serve a maximum of two five-year terms. Legislative power is held by the bicameral Parliament. Its upper house is the House of Elders, and the lower house is the House of Representatives. The lower house is chaired by Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi. Each house has 82 members. Members of the House of Elders are elected indirectly by local communities for six-year terms. The House of Elders shares power in passing laws with the House of Representatives, and also has the role of solving internal conflicts, and an exclusive power to extend the terms of the President and representatives under circumstances that make an election impossible. Members of the House of Representatives are directly elected by the people for five-year terms. The House of Representatives shares voting power with the House of Elders, though it can pass a law that the House of Elders rejects if it votes for the law by a 2/3's majority, and has absolute power in financial matters and confirmation of Presidential appointments (except for the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court). However, the Parliament provides weak oversight of the executive branch. Population – 4,500,000, Area – 137,600, Density -33.



SOUTH AFRICA, Republic of South Africa, South Africa, Suid-Afrika, iNingizimu Afrika, in Southern Africa. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. South Africa has an uninhabited territory - Prince Edward Islands. South Africa, officially the Republic of South Africa, is the southernmost sovereign state in Africa. It is bounded on the south by 2,798 kilometers of coastline of Southern Africa stretching along the South Atlantic and Indian Oceans. South Africa is the 25th-largest country in the world by land area, and is the world's 24th-most populous nation. It is the southernmost country on the mainland of the Old World or the Eastern Hemisphere. South Africa is a multiethnic society encompassing a wide variety of cultures, languages, and religions. Its pluralistic makeup is reflected in the constitution's recognition of 11 official languages, which is among the highest number of any country in the world. Two of these languages are of European origin: Afrikaans developed from Dutch and serves as the first language of most white and coloured South Africans; English reflects the legacy of British colonialism, and is commonly used in public and commercial life, though it is fourth-ranked as a spoken first language. The country is one of the few in Africa never to have had a coup d'état, and regular elections have been held for almost a century. However, the vast majority of black South Africans were not enfranchised until 1994. During the 20th century, the black majority sought to recover its rights from the dominant white minority, with this struggle playing a large role in the country's recent history and politics. The National Party imposed apartheid in 1948, institutionalizing previous racial segregation. After a long and sometimes violent struggle by the African National Congress and other anti-apartheid activists both inside and outside the country, discriminatory laws began to be repealed or abolished from 1990 onwards. About 80 percent of South Africans are of Sub-Saharan African ancestry, divided among a variety of ethnic groups speaking different Bantu languages, nine of which have official status. The remaining population consists of Africa's largest communities of European (white), Asian (Indian), and multiracial (coloured) ancestry. Since 1994, all ethnic and linguistic groups have had political representation in the country's democracy, which comprises a parliamentary republic and nine provinces. South Africa is often referred to as the "Rainbow Nation" to describe the country's newly developing multicultural diversity in the wake of segregationist apartheid ideology. Until late 2015, the World Bank classified South Africa as an upper-middle-income economy. South Africa today is a developed country and a newly industrialized country. Its economy is the second-largest in Africa, and the 34th-largest in the world. In terms of purchasing power parity, South Africa has the seventh-highest per capita income in Africa. However, poverty and inequality remain widespread, with about a quarter of the population unemployed and living on less than US\$1.25 a day. Nevertheless, South Africa has been identified as a middle power in international affairs, and maintains significant regional influence.

South Africa's remoteness—it lies thousands of miles distant from major African cities such as Lagos and Cairo and more than 10,000 km away from most of Europe, North America, and eastern Asia, where its major trading partners are located—helped reinforce the official system of apartheid for a large part of the 20th century. With that system, the government, controlled by the minority white population, enforced segregation between government-defined races in housing, education, and virtually all spheres of life, creating in effect three nations: one of whites (consisting of peoples primarily of British and Dutch [Boer] ancestry, who struggled for generations to gain political supremacy, a struggle that reached its violent apex with the South African War of 1899–1902; one of blacks (consisting of such peoples as the San hunter-gatherers of the northwestern desert, the Zulu herders of the eastern plateaus, and the Khoekhoe farmers of the southern Cape regions); and one of "Coloureds" (mixed-race

people) and ethnic Asians (Indians, Malays, Filipinos, and Chinese). The apartheid regime was disdained and even vehemently opposed by much of the world community, and by the mid-1980s South Africa found itself among the world's pariah states, the subject of economic and cultural boycotts that affected almost every aspect of life. Eventually forced to confront the untenable nature of ethnic separatism in a multicultural land, the South African government of F.W. de Klerk (1989–94) began to repeal apartheid laws. That process in turn set in motion a transition toward universal suffrage and a true electoral democracy, which culminated in the 1994 election of a government led by the black majority under the leadership of the long-imprisoned dissident Nelson Mandela. As this transition attests, the country has made remarkable progress in establishing social equity in a short period of time.

South Africa has three cities that serve as capitals: Pretoria (executive), Cape Town (legislative), and Bloemfontein (judicial). Johannesburg, the largest urban area in the country and a centre of commerce, lies at the heart of the populous Gauteng province. Durban, a port on the Indian Ocean, is a major industrial centre. East London and Port Elizabeth, both of which lie along the country's southern coast, are important commercial, industrial, and cultural centres. Today South Africa enjoys a relatively stable mixed economy that draws on its fertile agricultural lands, abundant mineral resources, tourist attractions, and highly evolved intellectual capital. Greater political equality and economic stability, however, do not necessarily mean social tranquility. South African society at the start of the 21st century continued to face steep challenges: rising crime rates, ethnic tensions, great disparities in housing and educational opportunities, and the AIDS pandemic.

South Africa has a mixed economy, the second largest in Africa after Nigeria. It also has a relatively high GDP per capita compared to other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (\$11,750 at PPP as of 2012). Despite this, South Africa is still burdened by a relatively high rate of poverty and unemployment, and is also ranked in the top 10 countries in the world for income inequality, measured by the Gini coefficient. Unlike most of the world's poor countries, South Africa does not have a thriving informal economy. Only 15% of South African jobs are in the informal sector, compared with around half in Brazil and India and nearly three-quarters in Indonesia. The OECD attributes this difference to South Africa's widespread welfare system. World Bank research shows that South Africa has one of the widest gaps between per capita GNP versus its Human Development Index ranking, with only Botswana showing a larger gap. After 1994 government policy brought down inflation, stabilised public finances, and some foreign capital was attracted, however growth was still subpar. From 2004 onward economic growth picked up significantly; both employment and capital formation increased. During the presidency of Jacob Zuma, the government has begun to increase the role of stateowned enterprises. Some of the biggest state-owned companies are Eskom, the electric power monopoly, South African Airways (SAA), and Transnet, the railroad and ports monopoly. Some of these state-owned companies have not been profitable, such as SAA, which has required bailouts totaling 30 billion rand (\$2.3 billion) over 20 years. South Africa is a popular tourist destination, and a substantial amount of revenue comes from tourism. Illegal immigrants are involved in informal trading. Many immigrants to South Africa continue to live in poor conditions, and the immigration policy has become increasingly restrictive since 1994. Principal international trading partners of South Africa—besides other African countries—include Germany, the United States, China, Japan, the United Kingdom and Spain. The South African agricultural industry contributes around 10% of formal employment, relatively low compared to other parts of Africa, as well as providing work for casual labourers and contributing around 2.6% of GDP for the nation. Due to the aridity of the land, only 13.5% can be used for crop production, and only 3% is considered high potential land. In

August 2013, South Africa was ranked as the top African Country of the Future by FDi magazine based on the country's economic potential, labour environment, cost-effectiveness, infrastructure, business friendliness, and Foreign direct investment Strategy. The FSI ranks South Africa as the 36th safest tax haven in the world, ahead of the Philippines.

Mining in South Africa has been the main driving force behind the history and development of Africa's most advanced and richest economy, after Nigeria. Large scale and profitable mining started with the discovery of a diamond on the banks of the Orange River in 1867 by Erasmus Jacobs and the subsequent discovery and exploitation of the Kimberley pipes a few years later. Gold rushes to Pilgrim's Rest and Barberton were precursors to the biggest discovery of all, the Main Reef/Main Reef Leader on Gerhardus Oosthuizen's farm Langlaagte, Portion C, in 1886, the Witwatersrand Gold Rush and the subsequent rapid development of the gold field there, the biggest of them all. Diamond and gold production may now be well down from their peaks, though South Africa is still number 5 in gold but South Africa remains a cornucopia of mineral riches. It is the world's largest producer of chrome, manganese, platinum, vanadium and vermiculite. It is the second largest producer of ilmenite, palladium, rutile and zirconium. It is also the world's third largest coal exporter. South Africa is also a huge producer of iron ore; in 2012, it overtook India to become the world third biggest iron ore supplier to China, who are the world's largest consumers of iron ore. Due to a history of corruption and maladministration in the South African mining sector, ANC secretary-general Gwede Mantashe announced at the beginning of 2013 that mining companies misrepresenting their intentions could have their licences revoked.

Capital – Pretoria (administrative), Cape Town (legislative), Bloemfontein (judiciary). Language - English, Afrikans, isiZulu, isiXhosa, Pedi, Sotho, Tswana, Venda, Tsonga, Swazi, Ndebele – all 11 languages are official, statewide. Religion – Christian – 81%, Unaffiliated – 15%, Muslim – 2%, Hindu – 1%. Ethnics – Black African – 79%, White – 9%, Colored – 9%, Indian/Asian – 3%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency and ministry are subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 48,375,645, rank – 28. Area – 1,214,470, rank – 25. Density – 40, rank – 170.

37 VARIABLE PARAMETERS – SEE METHODOLOGY OF SEARCHING IN 60+ TABLES IN AUSTRALIA.

VARIABLE PARAMETERS FROM CIA WORLD FACTBOOK -PEOPLE & SOCIETY, ECONOMIC PARAMETERS:

total: 26.5 years male: 26.2 years female: 26.7 years (2015 est.)

Median age:

country comparison to the world: 145

Population growth rate:

1.33% (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 90

Birth rate:

20.75 births/1,000 population (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 79

Death rate:

9.91 deaths/1,000 population (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 46

Net migration rate:

2.42 migrant(s)/1,000 population

note: Zimbabweans are increasingly migrating into South Africa and Botswana in search of better economic opportunities (2015 est.)

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country comparison to the world: 42
Urbanization:
urban population: 64.8% of total population (2015)
rate of urbanization: 1.59% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)
Maternal mortality rate:
138 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 38
Infant mortality rate:
total: 32.99 deaths/1,000 live births
male: 36.62 deaths/1,000 live births
female: 29.27 deaths/1,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 64
Life expectancy at birth:
total population: 62.34 years
male: 60.83 years
female: 63.87 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 191
Total fertility rate:
2.33 children born/woman (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 88
Health expenditures:
8.9% of GDP (2013)
country comparison to the world: \underline{42}
Physicians density:
0.78 physicians/1,000 population (2013)
Hospital bed density:
2.8 beds/1,000 population (2005)
Drinking water source:
improved:
urban: 99.6% of population
rural: 81.4% of population
total: 93.2% of population
unimproved:
urban: 0.4% of population
rural: 18.6% of population
total: 6.8% of population (2015 est.)
Sanitation facility access:
improved:
urban: 69.6% of population
rural: 60.5% of population
total: 66.4% of population
unimproved:
urban: 30.4% of population
rural: 39.5% of population
total: 33.6% of population (2015 est.)
HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:
18.92% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 4
HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:
6,836,500 (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 1
HIV/AIDS - deaths:
138,400 (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 2
Major infectious diseases:
degree of risk: intermediate
food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever
water contact disease: schistosomiasis (2013)
Obesity - adult prevalence rate:
25.6% (2014)
country comparison to the world: 24
Children under the age of 5 years underweight:
8.7% (2008)
country comparison to the world: 72
Education expenditures:
6.2% of GDP (2013)
country comparison to the world: 42
Literacv:
definition: age 15 and over can read and write
total population: 94.3%
male: 95.5%
female: 93.1% (2015 est.)
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School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):

total: 14 years

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male: 13 years
female: 14 years (2012)
Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:
total: 51.4%
male: 48%
female: 55.5% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 6
GDP (purchasing power parity):
$724 billion (2015 est.)
$714 billion (2014 est.)
$703.3 billion (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 31
GDP (official exchange rate):
$317.3 billion (2015 est.)
GDP - real growth rate:
1.4% (2015 est.)
1.5% (2014 est.)
2.2% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: <u>162</u>
GDP - per capita (PPP):
$13,400 (2015 est.)
$13,200 (2014 est.)
$13,000 (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 116
Gross national saving:
15.6% of GDP (2015 est.)
14.9% of GDP (2014 est.)
14.4% of GDP (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 114
GDP - composition, by end use:
household consumption: 59.6%
government consumption: 20%
investment in fixed capital: 22.2%
investment in inventories: -0.6%
exports of goods and services: 31.5%
imports of goods and services: -32.7% (2015 est.)
GDP - composition, by sector of origin:
agriculture: 2.4%
industry: 30.3%
services: 67.4% (2015 est.)
Agriculture - products:
corn, wheat, sugarcane, fruits, vegetables; beef, poultry, mutton, wool, dairy products
mining (world's largest producer of platinum, gold, chromium), automobile assembly, metalworking,
machinery, textiles, iron and steel, chemicals, fertilizer, foodstuffs, commercial ship repair
Industrial production growth rate:
1.7% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 125
Labor force:
20.86 million (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 30
Labor force - by occupation:
agriculture: 4%
industry: 18%
services: 66% (2014 est.)
Unemployment rate:
25.9% (2015 est.)
25.1% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 179
Population below poverty line:
35.9% (2012 est.)
Household income or consumption by percentage share:
lowest 10%: 1.2%
highest 10%: 51.7% (2009 est.)
Distribution of family income - Gini index:
62.5 (2013 est.)
59.3 (1994)
country comparison to the world: 4
Budget:
revenues: $84.15 billion
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expenditures: $98.26 billion (2015 est.)
Taxes and other revenues:
26.5% of GDP (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 111
Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):
-4.4% of GDP (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: <u>156</u>
Public debt:
45.4% of GDP (2015 est.)
44.8% of GDP (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 97
Fiscal year:
1 April - 31 March
Inflation rate (consumer prices):
4.8% (2015 est.)
6.1% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 173
Central bank discount rate:
5.75% (31 December 2014)
7% (31 December 2009)
country comparison to the world: 69
Commercial bank prime lending rate:
9.5% (31 December 2015 est.)
9.13% (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 87
Market value of publicly traded shares:
$1.007 trillion (31 December 2013)
$1.038 trillion (31 December 2012)
$855.7 billion (31 December 2011)
country comparison to the world: 15
Current account balance:
-$13.7 billion (2015 est.)
-$19.06 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 181
Exports:
$85.14 billion (2015 est.)
$92.54 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 38
Exports - commodities:
gold, diamonds, platinum, other metals and minerals, machinery and equipment
Exports - partners:
China 9.5%, US 7.1%, Japan 5.3%, Botswana 5.3%, Germany 5%, Namibia 5%, India 4.1% (2014)
Imports:
$86.81 billion (2015 est.)
$98.87 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 35
Imports - commodities:
machinery and equipment, chemicals, petroleum products, scientific instruments, foodstuffs
Imports - partners:
China 15.5%, Germany 10.1%, Saudi Arabia 7.2%, US 6.7%, Nigeria 5.2%, India 4.6% (2014)
Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:
$44.28 billion (31 December 2015 est.)
$49.09 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 42
Debt - external:
$145.1 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
$137.1 billion (31 December 2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 43
Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:
$164 billion (31 December 2015 est.)
$157.9 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 35
Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:
$143 billion (31 December 2015 est.)
$135.7 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 28
Exchange rates:
rand (ZAR) per US dollar -
12.63 (2015 est.)
10.8469 (2014 est.)
10.8469 (2013 est.)
8.2 (2012 est.)
7.2597 (2011 est.)
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SOUTHERN TERRITORIES, FRENCH, see French Southern Territories

SOUTH GEORGIA AND THE SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS, in the Southern Atlantic Ocean, are a UK overseas territory, they are not part of the European Union with the UK. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (SGSSI) is a British overseas territory in the southern Atlantic Ocean. It is a remote and inhospitable collection of islands, consisting of South Georgia and a chain of smaller islands known as the

South Sandwich Islands. South Georgia is 165 kilometres long and 1 to 35 km wide and is by far the largest island in the territory. The South Sandwich Islands lie about 700 kilometres southeast of South Georgia. The total land area of the territory is 3,903 square kilometres. There is no native population on the islands; the present inhabitants are the British Government Officer, Deputy Postmaster, scientists, and support staff from the British Antarctic Survey who maintain scientific bases at Bird Island and at the capital, King Edward Point, as well as museum staff at nearby Grytviken. The United Kingdom claimed sovereignty over South Georgia in 1775 and the South Sandwich Islands in 1908. The territory of "South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands" was formed in 1985; previously it had been governed as part of the Falkland Islands Dependencies. Argentina claimed South Georgia in 1927 and claimed the South Sandwich Islands in 1938. Argentina maintained a naval station, Corbeta Uruguay, on Thule Island in the South Sandwich Islands from 1976 until 1982 when it was closed by the Royal Navy. The Argentine claim over South Georgia contributed to the 1982 Falklands War, during which Argentine forces briefly occupied the island. Argentina continues to claim sovereignty over South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. As there are no native inhabitants, economic activity in South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands is limited. The territory has revenues of £4.5 million, 80% of which is derived from fishing licences (2011 figures). Other sources of revenue are the sale of postage stamps and coins, tourism and customs and harbour dues.

Capital – King Edward Point. Language – English. Government - Executive power is vested in the Monarch of the United Kingdom and is exercised by the Commissioner, a post held by the Governor of the Falkland Islands. A Chief Executive Officer with policy matters and is Director of SGSSI Fisheries, responsible for the allocation of fishing licences. An Executive Officer deals with administrative matters relating to the territory. There is also an Environmental Officer and a Marine & Fisheries Officer. The Financial Secretary and Attorney General of the territory are appointed *ex officio* similar appointments in the Falkland Islands' Government. As there are no permanent inhabitants on the islands, there is no legislative council and no elections are held. The UK Foreign Office manages the foreign relations of the territory. Since 1982 the territory celebrates Liberation Day on 14 June. Population – 30, no permanent inhabitants live in the islands. Area – 3,903.



SOUTH KOREA, see Korea, South.

SOUTH OSSETIA, Republic of South Ossetia, Khussar Iryston, Samkhret Oseti in Western Asia, formerly part of Georgia, now a de facto independent state, claimed by Georgia, it is recognized by a few countries. Link to map. Link to essential data on de facto independent countries: Wikipedia, BBC, Quora, Polgeonow. South Ossetia or Tskhinvali Region is a partially recognized state in the South Caucasus, located in the territory of the South Ossetian Autonomous Oblast within the former Georgian SSR. South Ossetia declared independence from Georgia in 1990, calling itself the Republic of South Ossetia. The Georgian government

responded by abolishing South Ossetia's autonomy and trying to re-establish its control over the region by force. The crisis escalation led to the 1991–92 South Ossetia War. Georgian fighting against those controlling South Ossetia occurred on two other occasions, in 2004 and 2008. The latter conflict led to the Russia–Georgia war, during which Ossetian and Russian forces gained full *de facto* control of the territory of the former South Ossetian Autonomous Oblast. In the wake of the 2008 South Ossetia War, Russia, Nicaragua, Venezuela and Nauru recognized South Ossetia's independence. Georgia does not recognize the existence of South Ossetia as a political entity, including most of the area in its Shida Kartli region, under the administration of the Provisional Administrative Entity of South Ossetia. Georgia and a significant part of the international community consider South Ossetia to be occupied by the Russian military. South Ossetia relies heavily on military, political and financial aid from Russia. Russia does not allow EU Monitoring Mission to enter South Ossetia. South Ossetia, Transnistria, Nagorno-Karabakh, and Abkhazia are post-Soviet "frozen conflict" zones.

The Ossetians are believed to originate from the Alans, a Sarmatian Iranian tribe. In the 17th century, Ossetians started migration from the North Caucasus to Georgia. Ossetian peasants, who were migrating to the mountainous areas of the South Caucasus, often settled in the lands of Georgian feudal lords. The Georgian King of the Kingdom of Kartli permitted Ossetians to immigrate. According to Russian ambassador to Georgia Mikhail Tatishchev, at the beginning of the 17th century there was already a small group of Ossetians living near the headwaters of the Greater Liakhvi River. In the 1770s there were more Ossetians living in Kartli than ever before. This period has been documented in the travel diaries of Johann Anton Güldenstädt who visited Georgia in 1772. The Baltic German explorer called modern North Ossetia simply Ossetia, while he wrote that Kartli (the areas of modern-day South Ossetia) was populated by Georgians and the mountainous areas were populated by both Georgians and Ossetians. Güldenstädt also wrote that the northernmost border of Kartli is the Major Caucasus Ridge. By the end of 18th century, the ultimate sites of Ossetian settlement on the territory of modern South Ossetia were in Kudaro (Jejora river estuary), Greater Liakhvi gorge, the gorge of Little Liakhvi, Ksani River gorge, Guda (Tetri Aragvi estuary) and Truso (Terek estuary). The Georgian Kingdom of Kartli-Kakheti, part of which was the major territory of modern South Ossetia, was annexed by the Russian Empire in 1801. According to Georgian historian Roland Topchishvili, Ossetian migration to Georgian areas continued in the 19th and 20th centuries, when Georgia was part of the Russian Empire and Ossetian settlements in Trialeti, Borjomi, Bakuriani and Kakheti emerged as well.

Following the Russian revolution, the area of modern South Ossetia became part of the Democratic Republic of Georgia. In 1918, conflict began between the landless Ossetian peasants living in Shida Kartli (Interior Georgia), who were influenced by Bolshevism and demanded ownership of the lands they worked, and the Menshevik government backed ethnic Georgian aristocrats, who were legal owners. Although the Ossetians were initially discontented with the economic policies of the central government, the tension soon transformed into ethnic conflict. The first Ossetian rebellion began in February 1918, when three Georgian princes were killed and their land was seized by the Ossetians. The central government of Tiflis retaliated by sending the National Guard to the area. However, the Georgian unit retreated after they had engaged the Ossetians. Ossetian rebels then proceeded to occupy the town of Tskhinvali and began attacking ethnic Georgian civilian population. During uprisings in 1919 and 1920, the Ossetians were covertly supported by Soviet Russia, but even so, were defeated. 3,000 - 7,000 Ossetians were killed during the crushing of the 1920 uprising, according to Ossetian sources ensuing hunger and epidemics were the causes of death of more than 13,000 people. The Soviet Georgian government, established after the

Red Army invasion of Georgia in 1921, created an autonomous administrative unit for Transcaucasian Ossetians in April 1922 under pressure from Kavburo, called the South Ossetian Autonomous Oblast. The economy is today very dependent on funding from Russia.

Capital – Tskhinvali. Language – Osseti, Georgian, Russian. Religion – Christianity is the major religion practiced by the Ossetians but Islam and the neopagan religion "Aetsaeg Din" also have followers. Ethnics – Ossetians – 89%, Georgians – 9%, Russians – 1%. Government - The South Ossetian and Russian presidents signed an "alliance and integration" treaty on 18 March 2015. The agreement includes provisions to incorporate the South Ossetian military into Russia's armed forces, integrate the customs service of South Ossetia into that of Russia's, and commit Russia to paying state worker salaries in South Ossetia at rates equal to those in the North Caucasus Federal District. The Associated Press described the treaty as calling for "nearly full integration" and compared it to a 2014 agreement between Russia and Abkhazia. The Georgian Foreign Ministry described the signing of the treaty as "actual annexation" of the disputed region by Russia, and the United States and European Union said they would not recognise it. In another move towards integration with the Russian Federation, South Ossetian President Leonid Tibilov proposed on December 29, 2015 a name change "emphasizing South Ossetia as part of Russia". According to Tibilov South Ossetia should to be named "South Ossetia-Alania" in analogy with "North Ossetia-Alania", a Russian federal subject. Tibilov furthermore expressed hopes that in the future this and a referendum on joining the Russian Federation to be held before April 2017 will lead to a united "Ossetia-Alania". On April 11, 2016, Tibilov said he plans to hold the referendum before August of that year. Population -53,559, Area -3,900, Density -14.



SOUTH SUDAN, Republic of South Sudan, in East-Central Africa, is a federation of 10 states. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. South Sudan, officially the Republic of South Sudan, is a landlocked country in northeastern Africa that gained its independence from Sudan in 2011. Its current capital is Juba, which is also its largest city. It is planned that the capital city will be changed to the more centrally located Ramciel in the future. South Sudan includes the vast swamp region of the Sudd, formed by the White Nile and known locally as the Bahr al Jabal. The territories of modern South Sudan and the Republic of the Sudan were occupied by Egypt under the Muhammad Ali Dynasty, and later governed as an Anglo-Egyptian condominium until Sudanese independence was achieved in 1956. Following the First Sudanese Civil War, the Southern Sudan Autonomous Region was formed in 1972 and lasted until 1983. A second Sudanese civil war soon developed and ended with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 2005. Later that year, southern autonomy was restored when an Autonomous Government of Southern Sudan was formed. South Sudan became an independent state on 9 July 2011, following a referendum that passed with 98.83% of the vote. South Sudan has suffered internal conflict since its independence; it has the highest score on the Fragile States Index (formerly the Failed States Index).

The Nilotic people of South Sudan—the Acholi, Anyuak, Bari, Dinka, Nuer, Shilluk, Kaligi (Arabic Feroghe), Zande and others—first entered South Sudan sometime before the 10th century. During the period from the 15th to the 19th centuries, tribal migrations, largely from the area of Bahr el Ghazal, brought the Anyuak Dinka, Nuer and Shilluk to their modern locations of both Bahr El Ghazal and Upper Nile Regions, while the Acholi and Bari settled in Equatoria. The people of South Sudan—the Azande, Mundu, Avukaya and Baka, who entered South Sudan in the 16th century—established the region's largest state of Equatoria Region. The Dinka are the largest, Nuer the second largest and Azande are the third-largest ethnic group in South Sudan while the Bari are fourth-largest. They are found in the Maridi, Yambio, and Tombura districts in the tropical rainforest belt of Western Equatoria, the Adio of Azande client in Yei, Central Equatoria and Western Bahr el Ghazal. In the 18th century, the Avungara sib rose to power over the rest of Azande society and this domination continued into the 20th century. Geographical barriers, including the swamplands along the White Nile and the British preference for sending Christian missionaries to the southern regions, including its Closed District Ordinance of 1922 (see History of Anglo-Egyptian Sudan), helped to prevent the spread of Islam to the southerners, thus enabling them to retain their social and cultural heritage, as well as their political and religious institutions. The major reasons include the long history of British policy preference toward developing the Arab north and its ignoring the Black south. After Sudan's first independent elections in 1958, the continued ignoring of the south by Khartoum (lack of schools, roads, bridges) led to uprisings, revolt and the longest civil war on the continent. As of 2012, peoples include Acholi, Anyuak, Azande, Baka, Balanda Bviri, Bari, Boya, Didinga, Dinka, Jiye, Kaligi (Arabic Faroghe), Kuku, Lotuka, Mundari, Murie, Nilotic, Nuer, Shilluk, Toposa and Zande.

Slavery had been an institution of Sudanese life throughout history. The slave trade in the south intensified in the 19th century and continued after the British had suppressed slavery in much of sub-Saharan Africa. Annual Sudanese slave raids into non-Muslim territories resulted in the capture of countless thousands of southern Sudanese, and the destruction of the region's stability and economy. The Azande have had good relations with the neighbors, namely the Moru, Mundu, Pöjulu, Avukaya, Baka and the small groups in Bahr el Ghazal, due to the expansionist policy of their king Gbudwe, in the 18th century. In the 19th century, the Azande fought the French, the Belgians and the Mahdists to maintain their independence. Egypt, under the rule of Khedive Ismail Pasha, first attempted to control the region in the 1870s, establishing the province of Equatoria in the southern portion. Egypt's first governor was Samuel Baker, commissioned in 1869, followed by Charles George Gordon in 1874 and by Emin Pasha in 1878. The Mahdist Revolt of the 1880s destabilized the nascent province, and Equatoria ceased to exist as an Egyptian outpost in 1889. Important settlements in Equatoria included Lado, Gondokoro, Dufile and Wadelai. European colonial maneuverings in the region came to a head in 1898, when the Fashoda Incident occurred at present-day Kodok; Britain and France almost went to war over the region. In 1947, British hopes to join South Sudan with Uganda as well as, living Western Equatoria as part of The Democratic Republic of Congo were dashed by the Rajaf Conference to unify North and South Sudan. South Sudan has an estimated population of 8 million, but, given the lack of a census in several decades, this estimate may be severely distorted. The economy is predominantly rural and relies chiefly on subsistence farming. Around 2005, the economy began a transition from this rural dominance, and urban areas within South Sudan have seen extensive development. The region has been negatively affected by two civil wars since Sudanese independence: from 1955 to 1972, the Sudanese government fought the Anyanya rebel army (Anya-Nya is a term in the Madi language which means 'snake venom') during the First Sudanese Civil War, followed by the Sudan People's Liberation Army/Movement (SPLA/M) in the Second Sudanese Civil War for over twenty years. As a result, the country suffered serious neglect, a lack of infrastructural development and major destruction and displacement. More than 2.5 million people have been killed and millions more have become refugees both within and outside the country.

Capital – Juba. Language – English. Religion – Christian – 61%, Muslim – 6%, Folk religion – 33%. Ethnics – Dinka – 36%, Nuer – 16%, Azande – 713,000, Bari – 542,000, Shilluk – 381,000, Toposa – 207,000, Otulo – 207,000, Luo – 171,000, Moru – 152,000, Acholi – 60,000, Baggara Arabs, Didinga, Tennet, and others. Government – The constitution establishes a mixed presidential system of government headed by a president who is head of state, head of government, and commander-in-chief of the armed forces. It also establishes the National Legislature comprising two houses: a directly elected assembly, the National Legislative Assembly; and a second chamber of representatives of the states, the Council of States. Population – 11,562,695, rank – 75. Area – 644,329, rank – 42. Density – 18.



SPAIN, Kingdom of Spain, España, in Southern Europe. Spain is divided into 17 autonomous communities and 2 special autonomous cities, Spanish territory includes the Balearic Islands in the Western Mediterranean - Majorca, Minorca, Ibiza and Formentera, capital - Palma de Mallorca; the Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean off the African coast - the most populated are Tenerife and Gran Canaria, capital - Las Palmas and Santa Cruz; three exclaves and several islands in North Africa - Ceuta, Melilla and Plazas de Soberania. Some segments of the population of Basque Country and Catalonia strive for independence. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, EU. Spain (Spanish: España), officially the Kingdom of Spain (Spanish: Reino de España), is a sovereign state largely located on the Iberian Peninsula in southwestern Europe, with archipelagos in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea, and several small territories on and near the north African coast. Along with France and Morocco, it is one of only three countries to have both Atlantic and Mediterranean coastlines. Extending to 1,214 km the Portugal-Spain border is the longest uninterrupted border within the European Union. Spanish territory includes two archipelagos: the Balearic Islands, in the Mediterranean Sea, and the Canary Islands, in the Atlantic Ocean off the African coast. It also includes two major exclaves, Ceuta and Melilla, in continental North Africa; and the islands and peñones (rocks) of Alborán, Alhucemas, Chafarinas and Vélez de la Gomera. Spain is the second largest country in Western Europe and the European Union, and the fourth largest country in Europe. By population, Spain is the sixth largest in Europe and the fifth in the European Union. Modern humans first arrived in the Iberian Peninsula around 35,000 years ago. Iberian cultures along with ancient Phoenician, Greek and Carthaginian settlements developed on the peninsula until it came under Roman rule around 200 BCE, after which the region was named *Hispania*. In the Middle Ages, the area was conquered by Germanic tribes and later by the Moors. Spain emerged as a unified country in the 15th century, following the marriage of the Catholic Monarchs and the completion of the centuries-long reconquest, or Reconquista, of the peninsula from the Moors in 1492. In the early modern period, Spain became one of history's first global colonial empires, leaving a vast cultural and linguistic legacy that includes over 500 million Spanish speakers, making Spanish the world's second most spoken first language, after Chinese and before English. Spain is a democracy organized in the form of a parliamentary government under a constitutional monarchy. It is a middle power and a developed country with the world's fourteenth largest economy by nominal GDP and sixteenth largest by purchasing power parity. It is a member of the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU), the Council of Europe (CoE), the Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the World Trade Organization (WTO), etc.

In 1469, the crowns of the Christian kingdoms of Castile and Aragon were united by the marriage of Isabella I of Castile and Ferdinand II of Aragon. 1478 commenced the completion of the conquest of the Canary Islands and in 1492, the combined forces of Castile and Aragon captured the Emirate of Granada, ending the last remnant of a 781-year presence of Islamic rule in Iberia. That same year, Spain's Jews were ordered to convert to Catholicism or face expulsion from Spanish territories during the Spanish Inquisition. The Treaty of Granada guaranteed religious tolerance toward Muslims, and although the tolerance was only partial, it was not until the beginning of the 17th century, following the Revolt of the Alpujarras, that Muslims were finally expelled. The year 1492 also marked the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the New World, during a voyage funded by Isabella. Columbus's first voyage crossed the Atlantic and reached the Caribbean Islands, beginning the European exploration and conquest of the Americas, although he remained convinced that he had reached the Orient. The colonization of the Americas started, with *conquistadores* like Hernán Cortés and Francisco Pizarro. Miscegenation was the rule between the native and the European cultures and people. As Renaissance New Monarchs, Isabella and Ferdinand centralized royal power at the expense of local nobility, and the word España, whose root is the ancient name Hispania, began to be commonly used to designate the whole of the two kingdoms. With their wide-ranging political, legal, religious and military reforms, Spain emerged as the first world power. The unification of the crowns of Aragon and Castile by the marriage of their sovereigns laid the basis for modern Spain and the Spanish Empire, although each kingdom of Spain remained a separate country, in social, political, laws, currency and language.

Spain was Europe's leading power throughout the 16th century and most of the 17th century, a position reinforced by trade and wealth from colonial possessions and became the world's leading maritime power. It reached its apogee during the reigns of the first two Spanish Habsburgs—Charles I (1516–1556) and Philip II (1556–1598). This period saw the Italian Wars, the Revolt of the Comuneros, the Dutch Revolt, the Morisco Revolt, clashes with the Ottomans, the Anglo-Spanish War and wars with France. Through exploration and conquest or royal marriage alliances and inheritance, the Spanish Empire expanded to include vast areas in the Americas, islands in the Asia-Pacific area, areas of Italy, cities in Northern Africa, as well as parts of what are now France, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. The first circumnavigation of the world was carried out in 1519–1521. It was the first empire on which it was said that the sun never set. This was an Age of Discovery, with daring explorations by sea and by land, the opening-up of new trade routes across oceans, conquests and the beginnings of European colonialism. Spanish explorers brought back precious metals, spices, luxuries, and previously unknown plants, and played a leading part in transforming the European understanding of the globe. The cultural efflorescence witnessed during this period is now referred to as the Spanish Golden Age. The expansion of the empire caused immense upheaval in the Americas as the collapse of societies and empires, and new

diseases from Europe devastated American indigenous populations. The rise of humanism, the Counter-Reformation and new geographical discoveries and conquests raised issues that were addressed by an intellectual movement - the School of Salamanca, which developed the first modern theories of what are now known as international law and human rights.

In the late 16th century and first half of the 17th century, Spain was confronted by unrelenting challenges from all sides. Barbary pirates, under the aegis of the rapidly growing Ottoman Empire, disrupted life in many coastal areas through their slave raids and the renewed threat of an Islamic invasion. This was at a time when Spain was often at war with France. The Protestant Reformation dragged the kingdom ever more deeply into the mire of religiously charged wars. The result was a country forced into ever expanding military efforts across Europe and in the Mediterranean. By the middle decades of a war- and plague-ridden 17thcentury Europe, the Spanish Habsburgs had enmeshed the country in continent-wide religious-political conflicts. These conflicts drained it of resources and undermined the economy generally. Spain managed to hold on to most of the scattered Habsburg empire, and help the imperial forces of the Holy Roman Empire reverse a large part of the advances made by Protestant forces, but it was finally forced to recognize the separation of Portugal (with whom it had been united in a personal union of the crowns from 1580 to 1640) and the Netherlands, and eventually suffered some serious military reverses to France in the latter stages of the immensely destructive, Europe-wide Thirty Years' War. In the latter half of the 17th century, Spain went into a gradual decline, during which it surrendered several small territories to France and the Netherlands; however, it maintained and enlarged its vast overseas empire, which remained intact until the beginning of the 19th century.

The decline culminated in a controversy over succession to the throne which consumed the first years of the 18th century. The War of the Spanish Succession was a wide-ranging international conflict combined with a civil war, and was to cost the kingdom its European possessions and its position as one of the leading powers on the Continent. During this war, a new dynasty originating in France, the Bourbons, was installed. Long united only by the Crown, a true Spanish state was established when the first Bourbon king, Philip V, united the crowns of Castile and Aragon into a single state, abolishing many of the old regional privileges and laws. The 18th century saw a gradual recovery and an increase in prosperity through much of the empire. The new Bourbon monarchy drew on the French system of modernizing the administration and the economy. Enlightenment ideas began to gain ground among some of the kingdom's elite and monarchy. Military assistance for the rebellious British colonies in the US War of Independence improved Spain's international standing.

The Spanish Civil War broke out in 1936. For three years the Nationalist forces led by General Francisco Franco and supported by Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy fought the Republican side, which was supported by the Soviet Union, Mexico and International Brigades but it was not supported by the Western powers due to the British-led policy of Non-Intervention. The civil war was viciously fought and there were many atrocities committed by all sides. The war claimed the lives of over 500,000 people and caused the flight of up to a half-million citizens from the country. [49][50] In 1939, General Franco emerged victorious and became a dictator. The state as established under Franco was nominally neutral in the Second World War, although sympathetic to the Axis. The only legal party under Franco's post civil war regime was the *Falange Española Tradicionalista y de las JONS*, formed in 1937; the party emphasized falangism, a form of fascism that emphasized anti-communism, nationalism and Roman Catholicism. Given Franco's opposition to competing political parties, the party was renamed the National Movement (*Movimiento Nacional*) in 1949. After World War II

Spain was politically and economically isolated, and was kept out of the United Nations. This changed in 1955, during the Cold War period, when it became strategically important for the US to establish a military presence on the Iberian Peninsula as a counter to any possible move by the Soviet Union into the Mediterranean basin. In the 1960s, Spain registered an unprecedented rate of economic growth which was propelled by industrialization, a mass internal migration from rural areas to cities and the creation of a mass tourism industry. Franco's rule was also characterized by authoritarianism, promotion of a unitary national identity, the favouring of a very conservative form of Roman Catholicism known as National Catholicism, and discriminatory language policies.

With Franco's death in November 1975, Juan Carlos succeeded to the position of King of Spain and head of state in accordance with the law. With the approval of the new Spanish Constitution of 1978 and the restoration of democracy, the State devolved much authority to the regions and created an internal organization based on autonomous communities. The proportion of Spain's foreign born population increased rapidly from around 1 in 50 in 2000 to almost 1 in 8 in 2010 but has since declined. In 2005 the Spanish government legalized same sex marriage. The bursting of the Spanish property bubble in 2008 led to the 2008–15 Spanish financial crisis and high levels of unemployment, cuts in government spending and Catalan independentism served as a backdrop to the 2011-12 Spanish protests. Spain's capitalist mixed economy is the 16th largest worldwide and the 5th largest in the European Union, as well as the Eurozone's 4th largest. Unemployment stood at 7.6% in October 2006, a rate that compared favourably to many other European countries, and especially with the early 1990s when it stood at over 20%. Perennial weak points of Spain's economy include high inflation, a large underground economy, and an education system which OECD reports place among the poorest for developed countries, together with the United States and UK. By the mid-1990s the economy had recommenced the growth that had been disrupted by the global recession of the early 1990s. The strong economic growth helped the government to reduce the government debt as a percentage of GDP and Spain's high unemployment began to drop steadily. With the government budget in balance and inflation under control Spain was admitted into the Eurozone in 1999. Since the 1990s some Spanish companies have gained multinational status, often expanding their activities in culturally close Latin America. Spain is the second biggest foreign investor there, after the United States. Spanish companies have also expanded into Asia, especially China and India. This early global expansion is a competitive advantage over its competitors and European neighbours. The reason for this early expansion is the booming interest toward Spanish language and culture in Asia and Africa and a corporate culture that learned to take risks in unstable markets.

Spanish companies invested in fields like renewable energy commercialisation (Iberdrola was the world's largest renewable energy operator), technology companies like Telefónica, Abengoa, Mondragon Corporation, Movistar, Hisdesat, Indra, train manufacturers like CAF, Talgo, global corporations such as the textile company Inditex, petroleum companies like Repsol and infrastructure, with six of the ten biggest international construction firms specialising in transport being Spanish, like Ferrovial, Acciona, ACS, OHL and FCC. In 2005 the Economist Intelligence Unit's quality of life survey placed Spain among the top 10 in the world. In 2013 the same survey (now called "Where-to-be-born index"), ranked Spain 28th in the world. In 2010, the Basque city of Bilbao was awarded with the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize, the city of Vitoria-Gasteiz received the European Green Capital Award in 2012.

Capital – Madrid. Language – Spanish (statewide), Catalan (in Catalonia, the Balearic Islands, Valencia), Galician (in Galicia), Basque (in Basque Country and Navarre), Asturian (in

Asturias), Occitan (in Catalonia), Aranese. Religion – Christian -79%, Muslim – 2%, Unaffiliated – 19%. Ethnics - Native Spaniards make up 88% of the total population of Spain. After the birth rate plunged in the 1980s and Spain's population growth rate dropped, the population again trended upward, based initially on the return of many Spaniards who had emigrated to other European countries during the 1970s, and more recently, fuelled by large numbers of immigrants who make up 12% of the population. The immigrants originate mainly in Latin America (39%), North Africa (16%), Eastern Europe (15%), and Sub-Saharan Africa (4%). In 2005, Spain instituted a three-month amnesty program through which certain hitherto undocumented aliens were granted legal residency. In 2008, Spain granted citizenship to 84,170 persons, mostly to people from Ecuador, Colombia and Morocco. A sizeable portion of foreign residents in Spain also comes from other Western and Central European countries. These are mostly British, French, German, Dutch, and Norwegian. They reside primarily on the Mediterranean coast and the Balearic islands, where many choose to live their retirement or telecommute. Substantial populations descended from Spanish colonists and immigrants exist in other parts of the world, most notably in Latin America. Beginning in the late 15th century, large numbers of Iberian colonists settled in what became Latin America and at present most white Latin Americans (who make up about one-third of Latin America's population) are of Spanish or Portuguese origin. Around 240,000 Spaniards emigrated in the 16th century, mostly to Peru and Mexico. Another 450,000 left in the 17th century. Between 1846 and 1932 it is estimated that nearly 5 million Spaniards emigrated to the Americas, especially to Argentina and Brazil. Approximately two million Spaniards migrated to other Western European countries between 1960 and 1975. During the same period perhaps 300,000 went to Latin America. Government – constitutional monarchy, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. The Spanish State is integrated by 17 autonomous communities and 2 autonomous cities, both groups being the highest or first-order administrative division in the country. Autonomous communities are integrated by provinces, of which there are 50 in total, and in turn, provinces are integrated by municipalities. In Catalonia, two additional divisions exist, the comarques (sing. comarca) and the vegueries (sing. vegueria) both of which have administrative powers; comarques being aggregations of municipalities, and the vegueries being aggregations of comarques. The concept of a comarca exists in all autonomous communities, however, unlike Catalonia, these are merely historical or geographical subdivisions. Autonomous communities are the first level administrative division in the country. These were created after the 1979 and current constitution came into effect in recognition of the right to self-government to the "nationalities and regions of Spain". Autonomous communities were to be integrated by adjacent provinces with common historical, cultural, and economical traits. This territorial organization, based on devolution, is known in Spain as the "State of Autonomies". The basic institutional law of each autonomous community is the Statute of Autonomy. The Statutes of Autonomy establish the name of the community according to its historical identity, the limits of their territories, the name and organization of the institutions of government and the rights they enjoy according to the constitution. The government of all autonomous communities must be based on a division of powers comprising:

- a Legislative Assembly whose members must be elected by universal suffrage according to the system of proportional representation and in which all areas that integrate the territory are fairly represented;
- a Government Council, with executive and administrative functions headed by a president, elected by the Legislative Assembly and nominated by the King of Spain;
- a Supreme Court of Justice, under the Supreme Court of the State, which head the judicial organisation within the autonomous community.

Catalonia, Galicia and the Basque Country, which identified themselves as "nationalities" were granted self-government through a rapid process. Andalusia also took that denomination in its first Statute of Autonomy, even though it followed the longer process stipulated in the constitution for the rest of the country. Progressively, other communities in revisions to their Statutes of Autonomy have also taken that denomination in accordance to their historical regional identity, such as the Valencian Community, the Canary Islands, the Balearic Islands, and Aragon. The autonomous communities have wide legislative and executive autonomy, with their own parliaments and regional governments. The distribution of powers may be different for every community, as laid out in their Statutes of Autonomy, since devolution was intended to be asymmetrical. Only two communities—the Basque Country and Navarre have full fiscal autonomy. Aside of fiscal autonomy, the "historical" nationalities—Andalusia, the Basque Country, Catalonia, and Galicia—were devolved more powers than the rest of the communities, among them the ability of the regional president to dissolve the parliament and call for elections at any time. In addition, the Basque Country, Catalonia and Navarre have police corps of their own: Ertzaintza, Mossos d'Esquadra and the Policía Foral respectively. Other communities have more limited forces or none at all, like the Policía Autónoma Andaluza in Andalusia or the BESCAM in Madrid. Nonetheless, recent amendments to existing Statutes of Autonomy or the promulgation of new Statutes altogether, have reduced the asymmetry between the powers originally granted to the "historical nationalities" and the rest of the regions. Finally, along with the 17 autonomous communities, two autonomous cities are also part of the State of Autonomies and are first-order territorial divisions: Ceuta and Melilla. These are two exclaves located in the northern African coast. Population – 47,737,941, rank – 29. Area – 498,980, rank 52. Density – 96, rank – 109.

37 VARIABLE PARAMETERS – SEE METHODOLOGY OF SEARCHING IN 60+ TABLES IN AUSTRALIA.

VARIABLE PARAMETERS FROM CIA WORLD FACTBOOK - PEOPLE & SOCIETY, ECONOMIC PARAMETERS:

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Median age:
total: 42 years
male: 40.8 years
female: 43.2 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 28
Population growth rate:
0.89% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 127
Birth rate:
9.64 births/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 201
Death rate:
9.04 deaths/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 68
Net migration rate:
8.31 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 13
Urbanization:
urban population: 79.6% of total population (2015)
rate of urbanization: 0.52% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)
Mother's mean age at first birth:
29.8 (2010 est.)
Maternal mortality rate:
5 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 170
Infant mortality rate:
total: 3.3 deaths/1,000 live births
male: 3.63 deaths/1,000 live births
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female: 2.96 deaths/1,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 211
Life expectancy at birth:
total population: 81.57 years
male: 78.57 years
female: 84.77 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 21
Total fertility rate:
1.49 children born/woman (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 197
Contraceptive prevalence rate:
65.7% (2006)
Health expenditures: 8.9% of GDP (2013)
country comparison to the world: 26
Physicians density:
4.95 physicians/1,000 population (2013)
Hospital bed density:
3.1 beds/1,000 population (2011)
Drinking water source:
improved:
urban: 100% of population
rural: 100% of population
total: 100% of population
unimproved:
urban: 0% of population
rural: 0% of population
total: 0% of population (2015 est.)
Sanitation facility access:
improved:
urban: 99.8% of population
rural: 100% of population
total: 99.9% of population
unimproved:
urban: 0.2% of population
rural: 0% of population
total: 0.1% of population (2015 est.)
HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:
0.42% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 73
HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:
150,400 (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 32
HIV/AIDS - deaths:
800 (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 70
Obesity - adult prevalence rate:
26.5% (2014)
country comparison to the world: 45
Education expenditures:
5% of GDP (2011)
country comparison to the world: 80
Literacv:
definition: age 15 and over can read and write
total population: 98.1%
male: 98.7%
female: 97.5% (2015 est.)
School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):
total: 17 years
male: 17 years
female: 18 years (2012)
Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:
total: 55.5%
male: 56.2%
female: 54.6% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: \underline{5}
GDP (purchasing power parity):
$1.636 trillion (2015 est.)
$1.588 trillion (2014 est.)
$1.566 trillion (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 16
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GDP (official exchange rate):

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$1.221 trillion (2015 est.)
GDP - real growth rate:
3.1% (2015 est.)
1.4% (2014 est.)
-1.2% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 97
GDP - per capita (PPP):
$35,200 (2015 est.)
$34,200 (2014 est.)
$33,700 (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 51
Gross national saving:
20.6% of GDP (2015 est.)
20.3% of GDP (2014 est.)
20.4% of GDP (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 83
GDP - composition, by end use:
household consumption: 58.8%
government consumption: 18.7%
investment in fixed capital: 19.3%
investment in inventories: 0.3%
exports of goods and services: 32.2%
imports of goods and services: -29.3% (2015 est.)
GDP - composition, by sector of origin:
agriculture: 2.5%
industry: 22.7%
services: 74.8% (2015 est.)
Agriculture - products:
grain, vegetables, olives, wine grapes, sugar beets, citrus; beef, pork, poultry, dairy products; fish
Industries:
textiles and apparel (including footwear), food and beverages, metals and metal manufactures,
chemicals, shipbuilding, automobiles, machine tools, tourism, clay and refractory products, footwear,
pharmaceuticals, medical equipment
Industrial production growth rate:
1.5% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 131
Labor force:
22.98 million (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 29
Labor force - by occupation:
agriculture: 2.9%
industry: 15%
services: 58.4% (2014 est.)
Unemployment rate:
22.5% (2015 est.)
24.5% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 173
Population below poverty line:
21.1% (2012 est.)
Household income or consumption by percentage share:
lowest 10%: 2.5%
highest 10%: 24% (2011)
Distribution of family income - Gini index:
35.9 (2012)
32 (2005)
country comparison to the world: 88
Budget:
revenues: $473.6 billion
expenditures: $527.9 billion (2015 est.)
Taxes and other revenues:
38.8% of GDP (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 43
Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):
-4.4% of GDP (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 155
Public debt:
101% of GDP (2015 est.)
97.7% of GDP (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 17
Fiscal year:
calendar year
Inflation rate (consumer prices):
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-0.6% (2015 est.)
-0.2% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 16
Central bank discount rate:
0.05% (10 September 2014)
0.25% (13 November 2013)
note: this is the European Central Bank's rate on the marginal lending facility, which offers overnight
credit to banks in the euro area
country comparison to the world: 152
Commercial bank prime lending rate:
9.1% (31 December 2015 est.)
9.44% (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 93
Market value of publicly traded shares:
$995.1 billion (31 December 2012 est.)
$1.031 trillion (31 December 2011)
$1.172 trillion (31 December 2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 16
Current account balance:
$10.62 billion (2015 est.)
$11.2 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 19
Exports:
$277.3 billion (2015 est.)
$317.1 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 20
Exports - commodities:
machinery, motor vehicles; foodstuffs, pharmaceuticals, medicines, other consumer goods
Exports - partners:
France 16.2%, Germany 10.7%, Portugal 7.6%, Italy 7.3%, UK 7.1% (2014)
Imports:
$298.3 billion (2015 est.)
$345.6 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 15
Imports - commodities:
machinery and equipment, fuels, chemicals, semi-finished goods, foodstuffs, consumer goods,
measuring and medical control instruments
Imports - partners:
Germany 13.4%, France 11.9%, Italy 6.2%, China 6.1%, Netherlands 4.8%, UK 4.4% (2014)
Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:
$50.35 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
$46.31 billion (31 December 2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 39
Debt - external:
$2.064 trillion (31 December 2014 est.)
$2.238 trillion (31 December 2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 10
Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:
$746.8 billion (31 December 2015 est.)
$721.9 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 14
Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:
$707 billion (31 December 2015 est.)
$674 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 14
Exchange rates:
euros (EUR) per US dollar -
0.885 (2015 est.)
0.7525 (2014 est.)
0.7634 (2013 est.)
0.7752 (2012 est.)
0.7185 (2011 est.)
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SPRATLY ISLANDS, Chinese islands located in the South China Sea off the coasts of the Philippines and Malaysia. Predominately structured by coral reefs, the islands span 4 square kilometers of land and 425,000 square kilometers of sea. In addition to various territorial claims, about 45 islands, reefs, cays and other features contain structures which are occupied by military forces from the People's Republic of China, the Republic of China (Taiwan), Vietnam, the Philippines and Malaysia. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. The Spratly Islands Tagalog: Kapuluan ng Kalayaan, Malay: Kepulauan Spratly, (Chinese: 南沙群岛; pinyin: Nánshā

Qúndão, Vietnamese: Quần đảo Trường Sa) are a disputed group of 14 islands, islets and cays and more than 100 reefs, sometimes grouped in submerged old atolls, in the South China Sea. The archipelago lies off the coasts of the Philippines, Malaysia, and southern Vietnam. Named after the 19th-century British whaling captain Richard Spratly who sighted Spratly Island in 1843, the Spratlys are one of the major archipelagos in the South China Sea which complicate governance and economics in this part of Southeast Asia due to their location in strategic shipping lanes. The islands have no indigenous inhabitants, but offer rich fishing grounds and may contain significant oil and natural gas reserves, and as such are important to the claimants in their attempts to establish international boundaries. A major territorial conflict append there between China and its neighbors. Some of the islands have civilian settlements, but of the approximately 45 islands, cays, reefs and shoals that are occupied, all contain structures that are occupied by military forces from Malaysia, Taiwan (ROC), China (PRC), the Philippines and Vietnam. Additionally, Brunei has claimed an exclusive economic zone in the southeastern part of the Spratlys, which includes the Louisa Reef. The Spratly Islands were, in 1939, fourteen coral islets mostly inhabited by countless seabirds. According to a Chinese 1986 source, the Spratly Islands consist of 14 islands or islets, 6 banks, 113 submerged reefs, 35 underwater banks, 21 underwater shoals.

The area northeast of the Spratlys is known to mariners as Dangerous Ground and is characterized by its many low islands, sunken reefs, and degraded sunken atolls with coral often rising abruptly from ocean depths greater than 1,000 metres - all of which makes the area dangerous for navigation. The 14 islands are all of the same nature. They are cays (or keys); sand islands formed on old degraded and submerged coral reefs. The Spratly Islands contain almost no significant arable land, have no indigenous inhabitants, and very few of the islands have a permanent drinkable water supply. All of the 14 islands are occupied by: the Philippines (7 islands, Thitu Island, West York Island, Northeast Cay, Nanshan Island, Loaita Island, Flat Island, Lankiam Cay and 3 reefs), Taiwan (RoC) (1 island Taiping Island, also known as Itu Aba Island and 1 reef) and Vietnam (6 islands, Spratly Island, Southwest Cay, Sin Cowe Island, Sand Cay, Namyit Island, Amboyna Cay, 16 reefs and 6 banks). Natural resources include fish and guano, as well as the possible potential of oil and natural gas reserves. Economic activity has included commercial fishing, shipping, guano mining, and more recently, tourism. The Spratlys are located near several primary shipping lanes. In 1987, the People's Republic of China installed a small military structure on Fiery Cross Reef on the pretext to build an oceanic observation station and install a tide gauge for the Global Sea Level Observing System. After a deadly skirmish with the Vietnamese Navy, China installed some military structures on more reefs in the vicinity of the Philippines and Vietnamese occupied islands and this had led to escalating tensions between these countries and China over the status and "ownership" of reefs. The 14 islands and cays (a sandy island), listed in descending order of area, are: Itu Aba Island, Thitu Island, West York Island, Spratly Island, Northeast Cay, Southwest Cay, Sin Cowe Island, Nanshan Island, Sand Cay, Loaita Island, Namyit Island, Amboyna Cay, Flat Island, Lankiam Cay.

SRI LANKA, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, in South-Central Asia, formerly known as Ceylon. <u>Link to map.</u> Links to essential data: <u>CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. Sri Lanka (Sinhalese: ③ ලංකා Śrī Laṃkā, Tamil: இலங்கை Ilankai), officially the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and known from the beginning of British colonial rule until 1972 as Ceylon, is an island country in South Asia near south-east India. Sri Lanka has maritime borders with India to the northwest and the Maldives to the southwest. Its documented history spans 3,000 years,</u>

with evidence of pre-historic human settlements dating back to at least 125,000 years. Its geographic location and deep harbours made it of great strategic importance from the time of the ancient Silk Road through to World War II. A diverse and multicultural country, Sri Lanka is home to many religions, ethnic groups, and languages. In addition to the majority Sinhalese, it is home to large groups of Sri Lankan and Indian Tamils, Moors, Burghers, Malays, Kaffirs and the aboriginal Vedda. Sri Lanka has a rich Buddhist heritage, and the first known Buddhist writings of Sri Lanka, the Pāli Canon, dates back to the Fourth Buddhist council in 29 BC. Sri Lanka's recent history has been marred by a thirty-year civil war which decisively ended when Sri Lankan military defeated Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in 2009. Sri Lanka is a republic and a unitary state governed by a Semi-presidential system. The legislative capital, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte, is a suburb of the commercial capital and largest city, Colombo. Sri Lanka has had a long history of international engagement, as a founding member of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), and a member of the United Nations, the Commonwealth of Nations, the G77, and the Non-Aligned Movement. Along with Maldives it is one of the two countries in South Asia that are currently rated "high" on the Human Development Index. According to the International Monetary Fund, Sri Lanka's GDP in terms of purchasing power parity is second only to the Maldives in the South Asian region in terms of per capita income. In the 19th and 20th centuries, Sri Lanka became a plantation economy, famous for its production and export of cinnamon, rubber and Ceylon tea, which remains a trademark national export. The development of modern ports under British rule raised the strategic importance of the island as a centre of trade. From 1948 to 1977 socialism strongly influenced the government's economic policies. Colonial plantations were dismantled, industries were nationalized and a welfare state established. In 1977 the Free market economy was introduced to the country, incorporating privatization, deregulation and the promotion of private enterprise. While the production and export of tea, rubber, coffee, sugar and other commodities remain important, industrialization has increased the importance of food processing, textiles, telecommunications and finance. The country's main economic sectors are tourism, tea export, clothing, rice production and other agricultural products. In addition to these economic sectors, overseas employment, especially in the Middle East, contributes substantially in foreign exchange. As of 2010, the service sector makes up 60% of GDP, the industrial sector 28%, and the agriculture sector 12%. The private sector accounts for 85% of the economy. India is Sri Lanka's largest trading partner. Economic disparities exist between the provinces, with the Western province contributing 45.1% of the GDP and the Southern province and the Central province contributing 10.7% and 10%, respectively. With the end of the war, the Northern province reported a record 22.9% GDP growth in 2010.

Capital – Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte (administrative), Colombo (commercial). Language – Sinhala, Tamil. Religion – Buddhist – 69%, Hindu – 14%, Muslim – 10%, Christian – 7%. Ethnics – Sinhalese – 74%, Sri Lankan Moors – 7%, Indian Tamil – 5%, Sri Lankan Tamil – 4%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency independent of legislature, ministry subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 21,866,445, rank – 57. Area – 64,630, rank – 122. Density – 338, rank – 39.



SRPSKA, REPUBLIKA, see Republika Srpska.

STATE OF PALESTINE, see Gaza Strip and Palestinian National Authority.

SUDAN, (Arabic: السودان as-Sūdān), officially the Republic of the Sudan (Arabic: جمهورية Jumhūrīyat as-Sūdān), is a country in north-east Africa. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Sudan is divided into 18 states. It is the third largest country in Africa. The River Nile divides the country into eastern and western halves. Its predominant religion is Islam. Sudan was home to numerous ancient civilizations, such as the Kingdom of Kush, Kerma, Nobatia, Alodia, Makuria, Meroë and others, most of which flourished along the Nile. During the pre-dynastic period Nubia and Nagadan Upper Egypt were identical, simultaneously evolved systems of pharaonic kingship by 3300 BC. By virtue of its proximity to Egypt, the Sudan participated in the wider history of the Near East inasmuch as it was Christianized by the 6th century, and Islamized in the 15th. As a result of Christianization, the Old Nubian language stands as the oldest recorded Nilo-Saharan language (earliest records dating to the 9th century). Sudan was the largest country in Africa and the Arab world until 2011, when South Sudan separated into an independent country, following an independence referendum. Sudan is now the third largest country in Africa (after Algeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo) and also the third largest country in the Arab world (after Algeria and Saudi Arabia). Sudan is a member of the United Nations, the African Union, the Arab League, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and the Non-Aligned Movement, as well as an observer in the World Trade Organization. Its capital is Khartoum, the political, cultural and commercial centre of the nation. It is a federal presidential representative democratic republic. The politics of Sudan is regulated by a parliamentary organization called the National Assembly. The Sudanese legal system is based on Islamic law.

Capital – Khartoum. Language – Arabic, English. Religion – Muslim – 91%, Christian – 5%, Unaffiliated – 1%, Folk religion – 3%. Ethnics - The Arab presence is estimated at 70% of the Sudanese population. Others include the Arabized ethnic groups of Nubians, Zaghawa, and Copts. Sudan has 597 groups that speak over 400 different languages and dialects. Sudanese Arabs are by far the largest ethnic group in Sudan. They are almost entirely Muslims; while the majority speak Sudanese Arabic, some other Arab tribes speak different Arabic dialects like Awadia and Fadnia tribes and Bani Arak tribes who speak Najdi Arabic; and Rufa'a, Bani Hassan, Al-Ashraf, Kinanah and Rashaida who speak Hejazi Arabic. In addition, the Western province comprises various ethnic groups, while a few Arab Bedouin of the northern Rizeigat and others who speak Sudanese Arabic share the same culture and backgrounds of the Sudanese Arabs. The majority of Arabized and indigenous tribes like the Fur, Zaghawa, Borgo, Masalit and some Baggara ethnic groups, who speak Chadian Arabic, show less cultural integration because of cultural, linguistic and genealogical variations with other Arab

and Arabized tribes. Sudan consists of numerous other non-Arabic groups, such as the Masalit, Zaghawa, Fulani, Northern Nubians, Nuba, and the Beja people. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 35,482,233, rank – 37. Area – 1,861,484, rank – 16. Density – 19.



SUDAN, SOUTH, see South Sudan.

SURINAME, (also spelled Surinam), officially known as the Republic of Suriname (Dutch: Republiek Suriname), is a sovereign state on the northeastern Atlantic coast of South America, formerly known as Dutch Guiana. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. It is the smallest country in South America. Most of Suriname's population live on the country's north coast, in and around the capital and largest city, Paramaribo. Settlement of Suriname dates back to 3,000 BC. The largest tribes were the Arawaks, a nomadic coastal tribe that lived from hunting and fishing. They were the first inhabitants in the area. The Caribs also settled in the area and conquered the Arawaks using their sailing ships. They settled in Galibi (Kupali Yumi, meaning "tree of the forefathers") on the mouth of the Marowijne River. While the larger Arawak and Carib tribes lived off the coast and savanna, smaller groups of indigenous peoples lived in the inland rainforest, such as the Akurio, Trió, Warrau, and Wayana. Suriname was explored and contested by European powers before coming under Dutch rule in the late 17th century. In 1954 the country became one of the constituent countries of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. On 25 November 1975, the country of Suriname left the Kingdom of the Netherlands to become an independent state, nonetheless maintaining close economic, diplomatic, and cultural ties to its former colonizer. Suriname is considered to be a culturally Caribbean country, and is a member of the Caribbean Community. While Dutch is the official language of government, business, media and education, there are at the same time many institutes of Higher learning who incorporate books written in English, or have their entire curriculum in English, and some media and printing houses who deliver news in the English language. At the same time, Sranan, an English-based creole language, is a widely used lingua franca, while English is also spoken by the majority of the younger populace. Suriname is the only territory outside Europe where Dutch is spoken by a majority of the population. The people of Suriname are among the most diverse in the world, spanning a multitude of ethnic, religious, and linguistic groups.

Capital – Paramaribo. Language – Dutch. Religion – Christian – 52%, Muslim – 15%, Unaffiliated – 5%, Hindu – 20%, Buddhist – 1%, Folk religion – 5%. Ethnics – Hindustani, also known locally as "East Indians", their ancestors emigrated from northern India in the latter part of the 19th century – 37%, Creole – mixed white and black – 31%, Javanese – 15%, Maroons – their African ancestors were brought to the country in the 17th and 18th century as slaves and escaped to the interior – 10%, Amerindian – 2%, Chinese – 2%, White – 1%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency and ministry are subject to

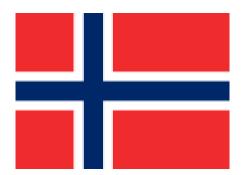
parliamentary confidence. Population -573,311, rank -171. Area -156,000, rank -92. Density -3.68, rank -223.



SVALBARD (known also by its Dutch name Spitsbergen) ARCHIPELAGO, islands in the Arctic Ocean, about midway between continental Norway and the North Pole, are unincorporated areas of Norway administered by a state-appointed governor, and has a special status due to the Svalbard Treaty. Svalbard is the northernmost place in the world with a permanent population. It is among the safest places on Earth with virtually no crime. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Situated north of mainland Europe, it is about midway between continental Norway and the North Pole. The largest island is Spitsbergen, followed by Nordaustlandet and Edgeøya. Administratively, the archipelago is not part of any Norwegian county, but forms an unincorporated area administered by a governor appointed by the Norwegian government. Since 2002, Svalbard's main settlement, Longyearbyen, has had an elected local government, somewhat similar to mainland municipalities. Other settlements include the Russian mining community of Barentsburg, the research station of Ny-Ålesund, and the mining outpost of Sveagruva. Svalbard is the northernmost settlement in the world with a permanent civilian population. Other settlements are farther north, but are populated only by rotating groups of researchers; e.g. Alert, Nunavut—the northernmost year-round community. The islands were first taken into use as a whaling base in the 17th and 18th centuries, after which they were abandoned. Coal mining started at the beginning of the 20th century, and several permanent communities were established. The Svalbard Treaty of 1920 recognizes Norwegian sovereignty, and the 1925 Svalbard Act made Svalbard a full part of the Kingdom of Norway. They also established Svalbard as a free economic zone and a demilitarized zone. The Norwegian Store Norske and the Russian Arktikugol remain the only mining companies in place. Research and tourism have become important supplementary industries, with the University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS) and the Svalbard Global Seed Vault playing critical roles. No roads connect the settlements; instead snowmobiles, aircraft and boats serve intercommunity transport. Svalbard Airport, Longyear serves as the main gateway. The archipelago features an Arctic climate, although with significantly higher temperatures than other areas at the same latitude. The flora takes advantage of the long period of midnight sun to compensate for the polar night. Svalbard is a breeding ground for many seabirds, and also features polar bears, reindeer, the Arctic fox, and certain marine mammals. Seven national parks and twenty-three nature reserves cover two-thirds of the archipelago, protecting the largely untouched, yet fragile, natural environment. Approximately 60% of the archipelago is covered with glaciers, and the islands feature many mountains and fjords.

Capital – Longyearbyen. Language – Norwegian. Religion - mostly Church of Norway (Protestant), with some Russian Orthodox and Roman Catholics. Ethnics – Norwegian – 55%, Russian and Ukrainian – 44%. Government - The Svalbard Treaty of 1920 established full

Norwegian sovereignty over the archipelago. The islands are, unlike the Norwegian Antarctic Territory, a part of the Kingdom of Norway and not a dependency. The treaty came into effect in 1925, following the Svalbard Act. All forty signatory countries of the treaty have the right to conduct commercial activities on the archipelago without discrimination, although all activity is subject to Norwegian legislation. The treaty limits Norway's right to collect taxes to that of financing services on Svalbard. Therefore, Svalbard has a lower income tax than mainland Norway, and there is no value added tax. There is a separate budget for Svalbard to ensure compliance. Svalbard is a demilitarized zone, as the treaty prohibits the establishment of military installations. Norwegian military activity is limited to fishery surveillance by the Norwegian Coast Guard as the treaty requires Norway to protect the natural environment. The Svalbard Act established the institution of the Governor of Svalbard (Norwegian: Sysselmannen), who holds the responsibility as both county governor and chief of police, as well as holding other authority granted from the executive branch. Duties include environmental policy, family law, law enforcement, search and rescue, tourism management, information services, contact with foreign settlements, and judge in some areas of maritime inquiries and judicial examinations, albeit never in the same cases as acting as police. Population -1,872, rank -233. Area -62,045, rank -125. Density -0.03, rank -234.



SWAZILAND, (Swazi: *Umbuso weSwatini*; sometimes called kaNgwane or Eswatini), Kingdom of Swaziland, is a sovereign state in Southern Africa. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. It is neighboured by Mozambique to its east and by South Africa to its north, west and south. The country and its people take their names from Mswati II, the 19th-century king under whose rule Swazi territory was expanded and unified. At no more than 200 kilometres north to south and 130 kilometres east to west, Swaziland is one of the smallest countries in Africa. Despite its size, however, its climate and topography is diverse, ranging from cool and mountainous to hot and dry. The population is primarily ethnic Swazis whose language is siSwati. They established their kingdom in the mid-18th century under the leadership of Ngwane III; the present boundaries were drawn up in 1881. After the Anglo-Boer War, Swaziland was a British protectorate from 1903 until 1967. It regained its independence on 6 September 1968. The country is an absolute monarchy, currently ruled by Ngwenyama ("King") Mswati III. He is head of state and appoints the country's prime ministers and a number of representatives of both chambers (Senate and House of Assembly) in the country's parliament. Elections are held every five years to determine the House of Assembly majority. The current constitution was adopted in 2005. Swaziland is a developing country with a small economy. Its GDP per capita of \$9,714 means it is classified as a country with a lower-middle income. As a member of the Southern African Customs Union and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, its main local trading partner is South Africa. Swaziland's currency, the lilangeni, is pegged to the South African rand. Swaziland's major overseas trading partners are the United States and the European Union. The majority of the country's employment is provided by its agricultural and manufacturing sectors. Swaziland is a member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union, the Commonwealth of Nations and the United Nations. The Swazi population faces major health issues: HIV/AIDS and, to a lesser extent, tuberculosis are serious challenges. As of 2013, Swaziland has an estimated life expectancy of 50 years. The population of Swaziland is fairly young with a median age of 20.5 years and people aged 14 years or younger constituting 37.4% of the country's total population. The present population growth rate is 1.195%. Swaziland is well known for its culture, mainly *Umhlanga*, held in August/September and *incwala*, the kingship dance held in December/January.

Capital – Mbabane (administrative), Lobamba (legislative). Language – English, Swazi. Religion – Christian – 88%, Unaffiliated – 10%, Folk religion – 1%. Ethnics – African – 97%, European – 3%. The majority of Swaziland's population is ethnically Swazi, mixed with a small number of Zulu and White Africans, mostly people of British and Afrikaner descent. Government – Absolute monarchy, executive king, all authority vested in absolute monarch. Population – 1,419,623, rank – 155. Area – 17,204, rank – 159. Density – 83, rank – 119.



SWEDEN, (Swedish: Sverige), officially the Kingdom of Sweden (Swedish: Konungariket Sverige), is a Scandinavian country in Northern Europe. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, EU. It borders Norway to the west and Finland to the east, and is connected to Denmark in the southwest via a bridge-tunnel across the Öresund. Sweden is the third-largest country in the European Union by area. Sweden has a low population density of 21 inhabitants per square kilometre, with the highest concentration in the southern half of the country. Approximately 85% of the population lives in urban areas. Southern Sweden is predominantly agricultural, while the north is heavily forested. Sweden is part of the geographical area of Fennoscandia. The climate is in general very mild for its northerly latitude due to significant maritime influence, that in spite of this still retains warm continental summers. Germanic peoples have inhabited Sweden since prehistoric times, emerging into history as the Geats/Götar and Swedes/Svear and constituting the sea peoples known as the Norsemen. Sweden emerged as an independent and unified country during the Middle Ages. In the 17th century, it expanded its territories to form the Swedish Empire, which became one of the great powers of Europe until the early 18th century. Swedish territories outside the Scandinavian Peninsula were gradually lost during the 18th and 19th centuries, beginning with the annexation of present-day Finland by Russia in 1809. The last war in which Sweden was directly involved was in 1814, when Norway was militarily forced into personal union. Since then, Sweden has been at peace, maintaining an official policy of neutrality in foreign affairs. The union with Norway was peacefully dissolved in 1905, leading to Sweden's current borders. Though it was formally neutral through both world wars, Sweden engaged in humanitarian efforts, such as taking in refugees from German-occupied Europe. After the end of the Cold War, Sweden joined the EU on 1 January 1995, but declined NATO membership.

Today, Sweden is a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary democracy, with the Monarch as the head of state. The capital city is Stockholm, which is also the most populous city in the country. Legislative power is vested in the 349-member unicameral *Riksdag*. Executive power is exercised by the Government, chaired by the Prime Minister. Sweden is a unitary state, currently divided into 21 counties and 290 municipalities. Sweden maintains a Nordic social welfare system that provides universal health care and tertiary education for its citizens. It has the world's eighth-highest per capita income and ranks highly in numerous metrics of national performance, including quality of life, health, education, protection of civil liberties, economic competitiveness, equality, prosperity and human development. Sweden has been a member of the European Union since 1 January 1995, but declined Eurozone membership following a referendum. It is also a member of the United Nations, the Nordic Council, Council of Europe, the World Trade Organization and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Capital – Stockholm. Language – Swedish. Religion – 67%, Unaffiliated – 27%, Muslim – 5%. Ethnics – Between 1820 and 1930, approximately 1.3 million Swedes, a third of the country's population, emigrated to North America, and most of them to the United States. There are more than 4.4 million Swedish Americans according to a 2006 US Census Bureau estimate. In Canada, the community of Swedish ancestry is 330,000 strong. There are no official statistics on ethnicity, but according to Statistics Sweden around 1,921,000 (20.1%) inhabitants of Sweden were of a foreign background in 2012, defined as being born abroad or born in Sweden to two parents born abroad. With the same definition, the most common countries of origin were Finland (2.38%), former Yugoslavia or its successing states (2.06%), Iraq (1.74%), Poland (0.91%) and Iran (0.84%). Government – constitutional monarchy, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 9,723,809, rank – 91. Area – 410,335, rank – 56. Density – 24, rank – 185.



SWITZERLAND, officially the Swiss Confederation (Latin: *Confoederatio Helvetica*, hence its abbreviation CH), is a federal republic in Western Europe, called Schweiz (German), Suisse (French), Svizzera (Italian), Svizra (Romansh). Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. While still named the "Swiss Confederation" for historical reasons, modern Switzerland is a federal directorial republic consisting of 26 cantons, with Bern as the seat of the federal authorities, called *Bundesstadt* ("federal city"). The country is situated in Western and Central Europe, and is bordered by Italy to the south, France to the west, Germany to the north, and Austria and Liechtenstein to the east. Switzerland is a landlocked country geographically divided between the Alps, the Swiss Plateau and the Jura, while the Alps occupy the greater

part of the territory. The Swiss population is concentrated mostly on the Plateau, where the largest cities are to be found: among them are the two global and economic centers, Zürich and Geneva. The establishment of the Swiss Confederation is traditionally dated to 1 August 1291, which is celebrated annually as the Swiss National Day. The country has a long history of armed neutrality—it has not been in a state of war internationally since 1815—and did not join the United Nations until 2002. Nevertheless, it pursues an active foreign policy and is frequently involved in peace-building processes around the world. In addition to being the birthplace of the Red Cross, Switzerland is home to numerous international organizations, including the second largest UN office. On the European level, it is a founding member of the European Free Trade Association, but notably it is not part of the European Union, nor the European Economic Area. However, the country does participate in the Schengen Area and the EU's single market through a number of bilateral treaties. Straddling the intersection of Germanic and Romance Europe, Switzerland comprises four main linguistic and cultural regions: German, French, Italian and Romansh. Therefore, the Swiss, although predominantly German speaking, do not form a nation in the sense of a common ethnicity or language; rather, Switzerland's strong sense of identity and community is founded on a common historical background, shared values such as federalism and direct democracy, and Alpine symbolism. Switzerland is one of the wealthiest countries in the world. Switzerland ranks at or near the top globally in several metrics of national performance, including government transparency, civil liberties, quality of life, economic competitiveness, and human development. It has the highest nominal wealth (financial and non-financial assets) per adult in the world according to Credit Suisse and the eighth-highest per capita gross domestic product on the IMF list. Zürich and Geneva have each been ranked among the top cities with the highest quality of life in the world, with Zurich ranked 2nd globally, according to Mercer.

The Old Swiss Confederacy was an alliance among the valley communities of the central Alps. The Confederacy facilitated management of common interests and ensured peace on the important mountain trade routes. The Federal Charter of 1291 agreed between the rural communes of Uri, Schwyz, and Unterwalden is considered the confederacy's founding document, even though similar alliances are likely to have existed decades earlier. By 1353, the three original cantons had joined with the cantons of Glarus and Zug and the Lucerne, Zürich and Bern city states to form the "Old Confederacy" of eight states that existed until the end of the 15th century. The expansion led to increased power and wealth for the federation. By 1460, the confederates controlled most of the territory south and west of the Rhine to the Alps and the Jura mountains, particularly after victories against the Habsburgs (Battle of Sempach, Battle of Näfels), over Charles the Bold of Burgundy during the 1470s, and the success of the Swiss mercenaries. The Swiss victory in the Swabian War against the Swabian League of Emperor Maximilian I in 1499 amounted to de facto independence within the Holy Roman Empire. The Old Swiss Confederacy had acquired a reputation of invincibility during these earlier wars, but expansion of the federation suffered a setback in 1515 with the Swiss defeat in the Battle of Marignano. This ended the so-called "heroic" epoch of Swiss history. The success of Zwingli's Reformation in some cantons led to inter-cantonal religious conflicts in 1529 and 1531 (Wars of Kappel). It was not until more than one hundred years after these internal wars that, in 1648, under the Peace of Westphalia, European countries recognized Switzerland's independence from the Holy Roman Empire and its neutrality.

In 1815 the Congress of Vienna fully re-established Swiss independence and the European powers agreed to permanently recognize Swiss neutrality. Swiss troops still served foreign governments until 1860 when they fought in the Siege of Gaeta. The treaty also allowed Switzerland to increase its territory, with the admission of the cantons of Valais, Neuchâtel

and Geneva. Switzerland's borders have not changed since, except for some minor adjustments. The restoration of power to the patriciate was only temporary. After a period of unrest with repeated violent clashes such as the Züriputsch of 1839, civil war (the Sonderbundskrieg) broke out in 1847 when some Catholic cantons tried to set up a separate alliance (the Sonderbund). The war lasted for less than a month, causing fewer than 100 casualties, most of which were through friendly fire. Yet however minor the Sonderbundskrieg appears compared with other European riots and wars in the 19th century, it nevertheless had a major impact on both the psychology and the society of the Swiss and of Switzerland. The war convinced most Swiss of the need for unity and strength towards its European neighbours. Swiss people from all strata of society, whether Catholic or Protestant, from the liberal or conservative current, realised that the cantons would profit more if their economic and religious interests were merged. Thus, while the rest of Europe saw revolutionary uprisings, the Swiss drew up a constitution which provided for a federal layout, much of it inspired by the American example. This constitution provided for a central authority while leaving the cantons the right to self-government on local issues. Giving credit to those who favoured the power of the cantons (the Sonderbund Kantone), the national assembly was divided between an upper house (the Council of States, two representatives per canton) and a lower house (the National Council, with representatives elected from across the country). Referenda were made mandatory for any amendment of this constitution. Switzerland was the last Western republic to grant women the right to vote. Some Swiss cantons approved this in 1959, while at the federal level it was achieved in 1971 and, after resistance, in the last canton Appenzell Innerrhoden (one of only two remaining Landsgemeinde) in 1990. After obtaining suffrage at the federal level, women quickly rose in politics, with the first woman on the seven member Federal Council executive being Elisabeth Kopp, who served from 1984–1989, and the first female president being Ruth Dreifuss in 1999. Gun politics in Switzerland are unique in Europe in that a relatively high percentage (29% vs. 43% in US) of citizens are legally armed. The large majority of firearms kept at home are issued militia weapons, but ammunition is not issued.

Switzerland has a stable, prosperous and high-tech economy and enjoys great wealth, being ranked as the wealthiest country in the world per capita in multiple rankings. In 2011 it was ranked as the wealthiest country in the world in per capita terms (with "wealth" being defined to include both financial and non-financial assets), while the 2013 Credit Suisse Global Wealth Report showed that Switzerland was the country with the highest average wealth per adult in 2013. It has the world's nineteenth largest economy by nominal GDP and the thirtysixth largest by purchasing power parity. It is the twentieth largest exporter, despite its small size. Switzerland has the highest European rating in the Index of Economic Freedom 2010, while also providing large coverage through public services. The nominal per capita GDP is higher than those of the larger Western and Central European economies and Japan. If adjusted for purchasing power parity, Switzerland ranks 8th in the world in terms of GDP per capita, according to the World Bank and IMF (ranked 15th according to the CIA Worldfactbook). The World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report currently ranks Switzerland's economy as the most competitive in the world, while ranked by the European Union as Europe's most innovative country. For much of the 20th century, Switzerland was the wealthiest country in Europe by a considerable margin (by GDP – per capita). In 2007 the gross median household income in Switzerland was an estimated 137,094 USD at Purchasing power parity while the median income was 95,824 USD. Switzerland also has one of the world's largest account balances as a percentage of GDP. Switzerland is home to several large multinational corporations. The largest Swiss companies by revenue are Glencore, Gunvor, Nestlé, Novartis, Hoffmann-La Roche, ABB, Mercuria Energy Group and Adecco. Also, notable are UBS AG, Zurich Financial Services, Credit Suisse, Barry Callebaut, Swiss Re, Tetra Pak, The Swatch Group and Swiss International Air Lines. Switzerland is ranked as having one of the most powerful economies in the world.

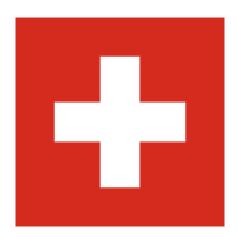
Switzerland's most important economic sector is manufacturing. Manufacturing consists largely of the production of specialist chemicals, health and pharmaceutical goods, scientific and precision measuring instruments and musical instruments. The largest exported goods are chemicals (34% of exported goods), machines/electronics (20.9%), and precision instruments/watches (16.9%). Exported services amount to a third of exports. The service sector - especially banking and insurance, tourism, and international organizations - is another important industry for Switzerland. Around 3.8 million people work in Switzerland; about 25% of employees belonged to a trade union in 2004. Switzerland has a more flexible job market than neighbouring countries and the unemployment rate is very low. The unemployment rate increased from a low of 1.7% in June 2000 to a peak of 4.4% in December 2009. The unemployment rate is 3.2% in 2014. Population growth from net immigration is quite high, at 0.52% of population in 2004. The foreign citizen population was 21.8% in 2004, about the same as in Australia. GDP per hour worked is the world's 16th highest, at 49.46 international dollars in 2012. Switzerland has an overwhelmingly private sector economy and low tax rates by Western World standards; overall taxation is one of the smallest of developed countries. Switzerland is a relatively easy place to do business, currently ranking 20th of 189 countries in the Ease of Doing Business Index. The slow growth Switzerland experienced in the 1990s and the early 2000s has brought greater support for economic reforms and harmonization with the European Union. According to Credit Suisse, only about 37% of residents own their own homes, one of the lowest rates of home ownership in Europe. Housing and food price levels were 171% and 145% of the EU-25 index in 2007, compared to 113% and 104% in Germany.

Capital – Bern. Languages – German – in Aargau, Appenzell Ausserrhoden Appenzell Innerhoden, Basel-Landschaft, Basel-Stadt, Bern, Fribourg, Glarus, Graubunden, Lucerne, Nidwalden, Obwalden, Saint Gallen, Schaffhausen, Schwyz, Solothurn, Thurgau, Uri, Valais, Zug and Zurich; French - in Bern, Fribourg, Geneva, Jura, Neuchatel, Valais and Vaud; Italian – in Ticino and Graubunden; Romansh in Graubunden, with three official languages. Religion – Christian – 81%, Muslim – 6%, Unaffiliated – 12%. Ethnics – German – 65%, French – 18%, Italian – 10%, Romansch – 1%. In 2012, resident foreigners made up 23.3% of the population. Most of these (64%) were from European Union or EFTA countries. Italians were the largest single group of foreigners with 15.6% of total foreign population. They were closely followed by Germans (15.2%), immigrants from Portugal (12.7%), France (5.6%), Serbia (5.3%), Turkey (3.8%), Spain (3.7%), and Austria (2%). Immigrants from Sri Lanka, most of them former Tamil refugees, were the largest group among people of Asian origin (6.3%). Additionally, the figures from 2012 show that 34.7% of the permanent resident population aged 15 or over in Switzerland, i.e. 2,335,000 persons, had an immigrant background. A third of this population (853,000) held Swiss citizenship. Government - The Federal Constitution adopted in 1848 is the legal foundation of the modern federal state. It is among the oldest constitutions in the world. A new Constitution was adopted in 1999, but did not introduce notable changes to the federal structure. It outlines basic and political rights of individuals and citizen participation in public affairs, divides the powers between the Confederation and the cantons and defines federal jurisdiction and authority. There are three main governing bodies on the federal level: [52] the bicameral parliament (legislative), the Federal Council (executive) and the Federal Court (judicial). The Swiss Parliament consists of two houses: the Council of States which has 46 representatives (two from each canton and one from each half-canton) who are elected under a system determined by each canton, and the National Council, which consists of 200 members who are elected under a system of proportional representation, depending on the population of each canton. Members of both houses serve for 4 years. When both houses are in joint session, they are known collectively as the Federal Assembly. Through referendums, citizens may challenge any law passed by parliament and through initiatives, introduce amendments to the federal constitution, thus making Switzerland a direct democracy. The Federal Council constitutes the federal government, directs the federal administration and serves as collective Head of State. It is a collegial body of seven members, elected for a four-year mandate by the Federal Assembly which also exercises oversight over the Council. The President of the Confederation is elected by the Assembly from among the seven members, traditionally in rotation and for a one-year term; the President chairs the government and assumes representative functions. However, the president is a primus inter pares with no additional powers, and remains the head of a department within the administration. The Swiss government has been a coalition of the four major political parties since 1959, each party having a number of seats that roughly reflects its share of electorate and representation in the federal parliament. The classic distribution of 2 CVP/PDC, 2 SPS/PSS, 2 FDP/PRD and 1 SVP/UDC as it stood from 1959 to 2003 was known as the "magic formula". Following the 2015 Federal Council elections, the seven seats in the Federal Council were distributed as follows:

- 1 seat for the Christian Democratic People's Party (CVP/PDC),
- 2 seats for the Free Democratic Party (FDP/PRD),
- 2 seats for the Social Democratic Party (SPS/PSS),
- 2 seats for the Swiss People's Party (SVP/UDC).

Population – 8,061,516, rank – 96, Area – 39,997, rank – 136. Density – 202, rank – 62.

Finally, a personal remark. I have visited many times Switzerland and for me it is "paradise on earth", together with Denmark, New Zealand, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Canada and Australia – the most ethical, prosperous and advanced countries in the world. I live in a country, Israel, where every day there are a lot of news, terror, corruption, polution, crime, wars, hatred between different segments of the population, huge social gaps, many countries and organizations want to exterminate Israel. In short – quite the opposite of Switzerland. The worst tragedy in Switzerland is a wood fire, and we were treated as savage foreigners because we didn't return the Supermarket cart to its exact place and we mixed several garbage categories. The most characteristic trait of Switzerland is that a "revolution occured" in 2003, after 44 years of the magic formula, there was a switch in the distribution of the 7 seats of the Federal Council - the Christian Democratic People's Party won another seat and the Swiss People's Party lost one seat... The Swiss live in another planet, although I prefer to live in my country Israel, mainly because I am Jew, I love my country in spite of all its default and I prefer to live in the imperfect Israel – the Purgatorium – instead of living in paradise. But even if I were a Christian French I would prefer to live in the imperfect France and not in Switzerland, because of France's perfect cultural heritage, and its people. Yet, I am lucky that I live in Israel as I could have been born in Syria, the next country after Switzerland, which is hell, or in a very poor African country. As a matter of fact, I was born in such a country – Egypt, and that is why I appreciate so much living in Israel. My room mate at Insead was a Swiss and we were quite good friends, I had my opportunity of living in Switzerland as I had a job as an economist in Bienne in June 1967, but I preferred to stay in Israel where we were at war against all our neighbors. At the decisive moment of leaving Israel on June 5 (my 23rd birthday) with the last ship leaving Israel where I had a ticket I preferred to stay in Israel during the Six-Day War, and I am convinced that I made the right choice, as I was much happier in my life, in spite of all the hardships. I met once a young Swiss woman on Mont Blanc and when I was astonished how she wanted to leave paradise in order to volunteer working in poor Africa she answered me that paradise is also so boring...



SYRIA, (Arabic: سورية or سورية, Sūriyā or Sūrīyah), officially the Syrian Arab Republic, is a country in the Middle East, Western Asia. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Syria's government controls de facto only parts of Syria, other parts are controlled by Syrian Kurdistan, ISIL – the Islamic State, the Syrian National Coalition, and Israel. De jure Syrian territory borders Lebanon and the Mediterranean Sea to the west, Turkey to the north, Iraq to the east, Jordan to the south, and Israel to the southwest, but the government's control now extends to approximately 30-40% of the de jure state area and less than 60% of the population. A country of fertile plains, high mountains, and deserts, Syria is home to diverse ethnic and religious groups, including Syrian Arabs, Greeks, Armenians, Assyrians, Kurds, Circassians, Mandeans and Turks. Religious groups include Sunnis, Christians, Alawites, Druze, Mandeans, Shiites, Salafis, and Yazidis. Sunni Arabs make up the largest population group in Syria. In English, the name "Syria" was formerly synonymous with the Levant (known in Arabic as al-Sham), while the modern state encompasses the sites of several ancient kingdoms and empires, including the Eblan civilization of the 3rd millennium BC. Its capital Damascus is among the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. In the Islamic era, Damascus was the seat of the Umayyad Caliphate and a provincial capital of the Mamluk Sultanate in Egypt. The modern Syrian state was established after the end of centuries of Ottoman control in World War I as a French mandate, and represented the largest Arab state to emerge from the formerly Ottoman-ruled Arab Levant. It gained independence as a parliamentary republic on 24 October 1945 when Syria became a founding member of the United Nations, an act which legally ended the former French Mandate – although French troops did not leave the country until April 1946. The post-independence period was tumultuous, and a large number of military coups and coup attempts shook the country in the period 1949-71. In 1958, Syria entered a brief union with Egypt called the United Arab Republic, which was terminated by the 1961 Syrian coup d'état. The Arab Republic of Syria came into being in late 1961 after December 1 constitutional referendum, and was increasingly unstable until the Ba'athist coup d'état, since which the Ba'ath Party has maintained its power. Syria was under Emergency Law from 1963 to 2011, effectively suspending most constitutional protections for citizens, and its system of government is considered to be non-democratic by American NGO Freedom House. Bashar al-Assad has been president since 2000 and was preceded by his father Hafez al-Assad, who was in office from 1970 to 2000. Syria is a member of one international organization other than the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement; it is currently suspended from the Arab League and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, and self-suspended from the Union for the Mediterranean. Since March 2011, Syria has been embroiled in an uprising against Assad and the Ba'athist government as part of the Arab Spring, a crackdown that contributed to the Syrian Civil War and to Syria's becoming one of the most violent countries in the world. The Syrian Interim Government was formed by the opposition umbrella group, the Syrian National Coalition, in March 2013. Representatives of this alternative government were subsequently invited to take up Syria's seat at the Arab League.

Influenced by major uprisings that began elsewhere in the region, and compounded by additional social and economic factors, antigovernment protests broke out first in the southern province of Dar'a in March 2011 with protesters calling for the repeal of the restrictive Emergency Law allowing arrests without charge, the legalization of political parties, and the removal of corrupt local officials. Demonstrations and violent unrest spread across Syria with the size and intensity of protests fluctuating. The government responded to unrest with a mix of concessions - including the repeal of the Emergency Law, new laws permitting new political parties, and liberalizing local and national elections - and military force. However, the government's response has failed to meet opposition demands for ASAD's resignation, and the government's ongoing violence to quell unrest and widespread armed opposition activity has led to extended clashes between government forces and oppositionists. International pressure on the ASAD regime has intensified since late 2011, as the Arab League, EU, Turkey, and the US expanded economic sanctions against the regime. In December 2012, the Syrian National Coalition, was recognized by more than 130 countries as the sole legitimate representative of the Syrian people. Peace talks between the Coalition and Syrian regime at the UN-sponsored Geneva II conference in 2014 failed to produce a resolution of the conflict. Unrest continues in Syria, and according to a January 2015 UN estimate, the death toll among Syrian Government forces, opposition forces, and civilians had reached 220,000. As of January 2016, approximately 13.5 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in Syria, with 6.5 million people displaced internally, and an additional 4.4 million Syrian refugees, making the Syrian situation the largest humanitarian crisis worldwide. Syria's economy continues to deteriorate amid the ongoing conflict that began in 2011, declining by 62% from 2010 to 2014. The government has struggled to address the effects of international sanctions, widespread infrastructure damage, diminished domestic consumption and production, reduced subsidies, and high inflation, which have caused dwindling foreign exchange reserves, rising budget and trade deficits, a decreasing value of the Syrian pound, and falling household purchasing power. During 2014, the ongoing conflict and continued unrest and economic decline worsened the humanitarian crisis and elicited a greater need for international assistance, as the number of people in need inside Syria increased from 9.3 million to 12.2 million, and the number of Syrian refugees increased from 2.2 million to more than 3.3 million. Prior to the turmoil, Damascus had begun liberalizing economic policies, including cutting lending interest rates, opening private banks, consolidating multiple exchange rates, raising prices on some subsidized items, and establishing the Damascus Stock Exchange, but the economy remains highly regulated. Long-run economic constraints include foreign trade barriers, declining oil production, high unemployment, rising budget deficits, increasing pressure on water

supplies caused by heavy use in agriculture, rapid population growth, industrial expansion, water pollution, and widespread infrastructure damage.

Capital – Damascus. Language – Arabic. Religion - Muslim 87% (official; includes Sunni 74% and Alawi, Ismaili, and Shia 13%), Christian 10% (includes Orthodox, Uniate, and Nestorian), Druze 3%, Jewish (few remaining in Damascus and Aleppo). Ethnics - Syrians are an overall indigenous Levantine people, closely related to their immediate neighbours, like Lebanese people, Palestinians, Iraqis, Maltese and Jordanians. Syria has a population of approximately 17,065,000 (2014 est.) Syrian Arabs, together with some 600,000 Palestinian Arabs, make up roughly 74% of the population (if Syriac Christians are excluded). The indigenous Christian Western Aramaic-speakers and Assyrians are numbered around 400,000 people, with the Western Aramaic-speakers living all over the country, particularly in major urban centers, while the Assyrians mainly reside in the north and northeast (Homs, Aleppo, Qamishli, Hasakah). Many (particularly the Assyrian group) still retain several Neo-Aramaic dialects as spoken and written languages, while villagers of Ma'loula, Jubb'adin and Bakh'a still retain Western Aramaic. The second largest ethnic group in Syria are the Kurds. They constitute about 9% of the population, or approximately 1.6 million people. Most Kurds reside in the northeastern corner of Syria and most speak the Kurmanji variant of the Kurdish language. Syria is also a home to several other ethnic groups mainly the Turkmens (number around 100,000), Circassians (number some 100,000), Greeks, and Armenians (number approximately 100,000), most arrived during the Armenian Genocide. Syria holds the 7th largest Armenian population in the world. They are mainly gathered in Aleppo, Qamishli, Damascus and Kesab. Syria was once home to a substantial population of Jews, with large communities in Damascus, Aleppo, and Qamishii. Due to a combination of persecution in Syria and opportunities elsewhere, the Jews began to emigrate in the second half of the 19th century to Great Britain, the United States, and Israel. The process was completed with the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948. Today only a few Jews remain in Syria. The largest concentration of the Syrian diaspora outside the Arab world is in Brazil, which has millions of people of Arab and other Near Eastern ancestries. Brazil is the first country in the Americas to offer humanitarian visas to Syrian refugees. The majority of Arab Argentines are from either Lebanese or Syrian background.

Government - Syria is formally a unitary republic. The constitution adopted in 2012 effectively transformed Syria into a semi-presidential republic due to the constitutional right for the election of individuals who do not form part of the National Progressive Front. The President is Head of State and the Prime Minister is Head of Government. The legislature, the Peoples Council, is the body responsible for passing laws, approving government appropriations and debating policy. In the event of a vote of no confidence by a simple majority, the Prime Minister is required to tender the resignation of their government to the President. The executive branch consists of the president, two vice presidents, the prime minister, and the Council of Ministers (cabinet). The constitution requires the president to be a Muslim but does not make Islam the state religion. The constitution gives the president the right to appoint ministers, to declare war and state of emergency, to issue laws (which, except in the case of emergency, require ratification by the People's Council), to declare amnesty, to amend the constitution, and to appoint civil servants and military personnel. According to the 2012 constitution, the president is elected by Syrian citizens in a direct election. Syria's legislative branch is the unicameral People's Council. Under the previous constitution, Syria did not hold multi-party elections for the legislature, with two-thirds of the seats automatically allocated to the ruling coalition. On 7 May 2012, Syria held its first elections in which parties outside the ruling coalition could take part. Seven new political parties took part in the elections, of which Popular Front for Change and Liberation was the largest opposition party. The armed anti-government rebels, however, chose not to field candidates and called on their supporters to boycott the elections.

The President is currently the Regional Secretary of the Ba'ath party in Syria and leader of the National Progressive Front governing coalition. Outside of the coalition are 14 illegal Kurdish political parties. Syria's judicial branches include the Supreme Constitutional Court, the High Judicial Council, the Court of Cassation, and the State Security Courts. Islamic jurisprudence is a main source of legislation and Syria's judicial system has elements of Ottoman, French, and Islamic laws. Syria has three levels of courts: courts of first instance, courts of appeals, and the constitutional court, the highest tribunal. Religious courts handle questions of personal and family law.[111] The Supreme State Security Court (SSSC) was abolished by President Bashar al-Assad by legislative decree No. 53 on 21 April 2011. The Personal Status Law 59 of 1953 (amended by Law 34 of 1975) is essentially a codified sharia. Article 3(2) of the 1973 constitution declares Islamic jurisprudence a main source of legislation. The Code of Personal Status is applied to Muslims by sharia courts. As a result of the ongoing civil war, various alternative governments were formed, including the Syrian Interim Government, the Democratic Union Party and localised regions governed by sharia law. Representatives of the Syrian Interim government were invited to take up Syria's seat at the Arab League on 28 March 2013 and was recognised as the "sole representative of the Syrian people" by several nations including the United States, United Kingdom and France. Parliamentary elections were held on 13 April 2016 in the government-controlled areas of Syria, for all 250 seats of Syria's unicameral legislature, the Majlis al-Sha'ab, or the People's Council of Syria. Even before results had been announced, several nations, including Germany, the United States and the United Kingdom, have declared their refusal to accept the results, largely citing it "not representing the will of the Syrian people. However, representatives of the Russian Federation have voiced their support of this election's results.

Population – 17,951,639, rank – 61. The UN has described as "the biggest humanitarian emergency of our era" - about 9.5 million Syrians, half the population, have been displaced since the outbreak of the Syrian Civil War in March 2011; 4 million are outside the country as refugees. Area – 183,630, rank - 89 (includes 1,295 sq km of the Golan Heights annexed by Israel and all the other parts of Syria controlled by the belligerents). Density – 98, rank – 107.



SYRIAN KURDISTAN, Rojava ("the West"), also known as Syrian Kurdistan, Western Kurdistan (Kurdish: رۆڑاڤاى كوردستان, Rojavayê Kurdistanê), is a de facto autonomous region originating in three self-governing cantons in northern Syria, in the Middle East, Western Asia. Link to map. Link to essential data on de facto independent countries: Wikipedia, BBC, Quora, Polgeonow. Rojava is formed of most of Al-Hasakah governate and northern parts of Al-Raqqah and Aleppo governates. The region gained its autonomy in November 2013, as

part of the ongoing Rojava conflict, establishing a society based on principles of direct democracy, gender equality, and sustainability. Rojava consists of the three cantons of (from east to west) Jazira, Kobani, and Afrin. It is unrecognized as autonomous by the government of Syria and is a participant in the Syrian Civil War. On 16 March 2016, the de facto administration of Rojava declared the establishment of a federal system of government as the Federation of Northern Syria – Rojava (Kurdish: Federasyona Bakurê Sûriyê – Rojava). Nationalist Kurds generally consider Rojava to be one of the four parts of a greater Kurdistan, which also includes parts of eastern and southeastern Turkey (Northern Kurdistan), northern Iraq (Southern Kurdistan), and northwestern Iran (Eastern Kurdistan). However, Rojavan government and society is polyethnic. During the Syrian Civil War, Syrian government forces withdrew from three Kurdish enclaves, leaving control to local militias in 2012. Because of the war, People's Protection Units (YPG) were created by the Kurdish Supreme Committee to defend the Kurdish-inhabited areas in Syria. In July 2012 the YPG established control in the towns of Kobanî, Amuda and Afrin. The two main Kurdish groups, the Kurdish National Council (KNC) and the Democratic Union Party (PYD), afterwards formed a joint leadership council to administer the towns. Later that month the cities of Al-Malikiyah (Dêrika Hemko), Ra's al-'Ayn (Serê Kaniyê), Al-Darbasiyah (Dirbêsî), and Al-Maabadah (Girkê Legê) also came under the control of the People's Protection Units. The only major Kurdish-majority cities that remained under government control were Al-Hasaka and Qamishli, although parts of both soon also came under the control of the YPG. In July 2013, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) began to forcibly displace Kurdish civilians from towns in Ar-Raqqah governorate. After demanding that all Kurds leave Tell Abyad or else be killed, thousands of civilians, including Turkmen and Arab families, fled on 21 July. Its fighters looted and destroyed the property of Kurds, and in some cases, resettled displaced Arab Sunni families from the Qalamoun area (Rif Damascus), Dayr Az-Zawr and Ar-Raggah, in abandoned Kurdish homes. A similar pattern was documented in Tel Arab and Tal Hassel in July 2013. As ISIL consolidated its authority in Ar-Raggah, Kurdish civilians were forcibly displaced from Tel Akhader, and Kobanî in March and September 2014, respectively.

In 2014, Kobanî was besieged by ISIL and later liberated by YPG forces and the Free Syrian Army cooperating as Euphrates Volcano, with air support from United States-led airstrikes. In January 2015, the YPG fought against Syrian regime forces in Hassakeh, and clashed with those stationed in Qamishli in June 2015. After the latter clashes, Nasir Haj Mansour, a Kurdish official in the northeast stated "The regime will with time get weaker ... I do not imagine the regime will be able to strengthen its position". On 13 October 2015, Amnesty International accused YPG of demolishing homes of village residents and forcing them out of areas under Kurdish control. According to Amnesty International, some displaced people said that the YPG has targeted their villages on the pretext of supporting ISIL; some villagers revealed the existence of a small minority that might have sympathized with the group. The YPG also threatened the villagers with US coalition airstrikes if they failed to leave. The village of Husseiniya was completely razed to the ground leaving 14 out of 225 houses standing. The YPG seized the Menagh military airbase and the Sunni Arab town of Tal Rifaat and announced that they had been given Kurdish names.

Capital – Qamislo/Qamishli. Language – Kurdish, Arabic, Syriac-Aramaic. Religion - Most people in Rojava are Muslim but some are Christian. There are also other minorities, such as Zoroastrians and Yazidism, and many Kurdish people in Rojava support laicism. Ethnics - The demographics of this area saw a huge shift in the early part of the 20th century due to the Assyrian and Armenian Genocides. Tens of thousands of Assyrians and Armenians fled to Syria from Turkey. Rojava's population has nearly doubled to about 4.6 million. The

newcomers are Sunni and Shia Syrian Arabs who have fled from violence taking place in southern parts of Syria. There are also Syrian Christians members of the Assyrian Church of the East, Chaldean Catholic Church, Syriac Catholic Church, Syriac Orthodox Church, and others, driven out by Islamist forces.

- **Kurds**: They speak the Kurdish language and are mostly Sunni Muslim.
- Arabs: There are many settlements of Arabs in Rojava, especially in the southern parts of the Jazira Canton and in the recently annexed Tell Abyad area, where they make up the majority. They speak Arabic language and are Sunni Muslim; some of them have their roots in various Bedouin tribes.
- Syriacs: They are present mostly in the Jazira, particularly in the urban areas (Qamishli, Hasaka, Ras al-Ayn), in the eastern corner of the canton (Qahtaniyah, Al-Malikiyah, Khanik) and in a group of villages along the Khabur River (in the Tell Tamer area). They traditionally speak Syriac language and are Christian (mostly adherents of the Syriac Orthodox Church, but also of the Chaldean Catholic Church and Syriac Catholic Church).
- **Yazidis**: they are a Kurdish-speaking ethno-religious minority.
- There are also smaller minorities of **Turkmens**, **Armenians** and **Chechens\Circassians**.

Government - The Kurdish Supreme Committee (Desteya Bilind a Kurd, DBK) was established by the Democratic Union Party (PYD) and the Kurdish National Council (KNC) as the governing body of Rojava in July 2012. The member board consists of an equal number of PYD and KNC members. In November 2013, the PYD announced an interim government divided into three non-contiguous autonomous areas or cantons, Afrin, Jazira and Kobani. The political system of Rojava is inspired by democratic confederalism and communalism. It is influenced by anarchist and libertarian principles, and is considered by many a type of libertarian socialism. The basic unit at the local level is the community which pools resources for education, protection and governance. At a national level communities are unrestricted in deciding their own economic decisions on who they wish to sell to and how resources are allocated. There is a broad push for social reform, gender equality and ecological stabilization in the region. Political writer David Romano describes it as pursuing "a bottom-up, Athenianstyle direct form of democratic governance". He contrasts the local communities taking on responsibility vs the strong central governments favoured by many states. In this model, states become less relevant and people govern through councils. Rojava divides itself into regional administrations called cantons named after the Swiss cantons.

Population -4,600,000 – half of them internal refugees. Area - Rojava lies to the west of the River Tigris along the Turkish border. There are three cantons: Jazira Canton, Kobani Canton and separately Afrin Canton. Jazira Canton also borders Iraqi Kurdistan to the southeast. Other borders are disputed in the Syrian Civil War. All cantons are at latitude approximately 36 and a half degrees north.



SYRIAN NATIONAL COALITION, see National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces, The.

TAIWAN, (Chinese: 臺灣 or 台灣), the Republic of China, T'ai-wan, in Eastern Asia, is claimed by the People's Republic of China. Taiwan is a state competing for recognition with the People's Republic of China as the government of China since 1949. Taiwan controls the island of Taiwan and associated islands, Quemoy, Matsu, the Pratas and parts of the Spratly Islands. The Republic of China is recognized by many countries and participates in international organizations under a variety of pseudonyms. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. The Republic of China, originally based in mainland China, has since 1945 governed the island of Taiwan, which constitutes more than 99% of its territory, as well as Penghu, Kinmen, Matsu, and other minor islands, following its loss of the mainland China territory in 1949 in the Chinese Civil War. This remaining area is also called the "Free area of the Republic of China", which is not ruled by the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in Beijing although only 22 countries recognize it as a country. Taiwan is one of the most densely populated countries in the world. Taipei is the seat of the central government, and together with the surrounding cities of New Taipei and Keelung forms the largest metropolitan area on the island. The island of Taiwan (formerly known as "Formosa") was mainly inhabited by Taiwanese aborigines until the Dutch and Spanish settlement during the Age of Discovery in the 17th century, when Han Chinese began immigrating to the island. In 1662, the pro-Ming loyalist Koxinga expelled the Dutch and established the first Han Chinese polity on the island, the Kingdom of Tungning. The Qing dynasty of China later defeated the kingdom and annexed Taiwan. By the time Taiwan was ceded to Japan in 1895, the majority of Taiwan's inhabitants were Han Chinese either by ancestry or by assimilation. The Republic of China (ROC) was established in mainland China in 1912. After Japan's surrender in 1945, the ROC gained control of Taiwan. During the Chinese Civil War, the Communist Party of China took full control of mainland China and founded the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1949. ROC loyalists fled to Taiwan and re-established the national government there, claiming to be the legitimate government of all of China. Effective ROC jurisdiction was actually now limited to Taiwan and its surrounding islands, with the main island making up 99% of its de facto territory. The ROC continued to represent China at the United Nations until 1971, when the PRC assumed China's seat via Resolution 2758. The ROC lost UN membership. International recognition of the ROC gradually eroded as most countries switched their 'China' recognition to the PRC. 21 UN member states and the Holy See currently maintain official diplomatic relations with the ROC. Numerous other states maintain unofficial ties through representative offices via institutions that function as de facto embassies and consulates. In the 1980s and early 1990s, the Republic of China transitioned from a military dictatorship with a one party system of governance dominated by the Kuomintang to a multi-party system with universal suffrage.

Today Taiwan maintains a stable industrial economy as a result of rapid economic growth and industrialization, which has been dubbed the Taiwan Miracle. Taiwan is one of the Four Asian Tigers and a member of the World Trade Organization and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation. The 21st-largest economy in the world, its high-tech industry plays a key role in the global economy. Taiwan is ranked highly in terms of freedom of the press, health care, public education, economic freedom, and human development. The complications of Taiwan's history since 1945 have created a number of practical issues for its people. Key among these are the exact nature of Taiwanese national identity, the ambiguous international political status of Taiwan, and the difficult cross-strait relations. In Taiwan, these issues generate debate among political parties and candidates. Though the ROC renounced in 1992 the conquest of PRC-controlled territories as a national goal, there is still dispute over whether the constitution still claims sovereignty over all of the ROC's pre-1949 territories, including Outer Mongolia and the entirety of the present PRC. In practical terms, settlement of questions such as whether the ROC identifies more as "Taiwan" or "China", and what the exact nature of its identity is relative to the PRC (whether international or domestic), rests with the political coalition most recently elected. Meanwhile, the PRC continues to assert the One China policy, in which it is sole legal government of "China" and that Taiwan is a province of China. As a result, the ROC is not recognized as a sovereign state by most countries and is not a member of the United Nations. The PRC has threatened the use of military force as a response to any formal declaration by Taiwan of national independence or to any decision by PRC leaders that peaceful annexation of Taiwan is no longer possible.

Capital - Taipei. Language - Chinese, Taiwanese (regional). Religion - There are approximately 18,718,600 religious followers in Taiwan as of 2005 (81.3% of total population) and 14–18% are non-religious. According to the 2005 census, of the 26 religions recognized by the ROC government, the five largest are: Buddhism (8,086,000 or 35.1%), Taoism (7,600,000 or 33%), Yiguandao (810,000 or 3.5%), Protestantism (605,000 or 2.6%), and Roman Catholicism (298,000 or 1.3%). The CIA World Factbook reports that over 93% of Taiwanese are adherents of a combination of the polytheistic ancient Chinese religion, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism; 4.5% are adherents of Christianity, which includes Protestants, Catholics, and other, non-denominational, Christian groups; and less than 2.5% are adherents of other religions. Taiwanese aborigines comprise a notable subgroup among professing Christians: "...over 64% identify as Christian... Church buildings are the most obvious markers of Aboriginal villages, distinguishing them from Taiwanese or Hakka villages." Confucianism is a philosophy that deals with secular moral ethics, and serves as the foundation of both Chinese and Taiwanese culture. The majority of Taiwanese people usually combine the secular moral teachings of Confucianism with whatever religions they are affiliated with. As of 2009, there were 14,993 temples in Taiwan, approximately one place of worship per 1,500 residents. 9,202 of those temples were dedicated to Taoism. In 2008, Taiwan had 3,262 Churches, an increase of 145. Ethnics - Taiwanese, including Hakka -84%, Mainland Chinese – 14%, Indigenous – 2%. The Hoklo people are the largest Han subgroup (70% of the total population), whose ancestors migrated from the coastal southern Fujian region across the Taiwan Strait starting in the 17th century. The Hakka comprise about 15% of the total population, and descend from Han migrants to Guangdong, its surrounding areas and Taiwan. Additional people of Han origin include and descend from the 2 million Nationalists who fled to Taiwan following the communist victory on the mainland in 1949. The indigenous Taiwanese aborigines number about 533,600 and are divided into 16 recognized groups. The Ami, Atayal, Bunun, Kanakanavu, Kavalan, Paiwan, Puyuma, Rukai, Saisiyat, Saaroa, Sakizaya, Sediq, Thao, Truku and Tsou live mostly in the eastern half of the island, while the Yami inhabit Orchid Island. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency independent of legislature, ministry subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 23,359,928, rank – 52. Area – 32,260, rank – 139. Density – 724, rank – 16.



TAJIKISTAN, (Persian: تاجیکستان Точикистон), officially the Republic of Tajikistan (Persian: Tajik: Чумхурии Точикистон, Çumhuriji Toçikiston/Jumhuriyi Tojikiston; Russian: Республика Таджикистан, Respublika Tadzhikistan), is a mountainous, landlocked country in Central Asia, it contains 1 autonomous region, Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous province. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Traditional homelands of Tajik people included present-day Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan. The territory that now constitutes Tajikistan was previously home to several ancient cultures, including the city of Sarazm of the Neolithic and the Bronze Age, and was later home to kingdoms ruled by people of different faiths and cultures, including the Oxus civilization, Andronovo culture, Buddhism, Nestorian Christianity, Zoroastrianism, and Manichaeism. The area has been ruled by numerous empires and dynasties, including the Achaemenid Empire, Sassanian Empire, Hephthalite Empire, Samanid Empire, Mongol Empire, Timurid dynasty, and the Russian Empire. As a result of the breakup of the Soviet Union, Tajikistan became an independent nation in 1991. A civil war was fought almost immediately after independence, lasting from 1992 to 1997. Since the end of the war, newly established political stability and foreign aid have allowed the country's economy to grow. Tajikistan is a presidential republic consisting of four provinces. Most of Tajikistan's belong to the Tajik ethnic group, who speak Persian Tajik, although many speak Russian. Mountains cover more than 90% of the country. It has a transition economy that is highly dependent on remittances, aluminium and cotton production.

Nearly 47% of Tajikistan's GDP comes from immigrant remittances (mostly from Tajiks working in Russia). The current economic situation remains fragile, largely owing to corruption, uneven economic reforms, and economic mismanagement. With foreign revenue precariously dependent upon remittances from migrant workers overseas and exports of aluminium and cotton, the economy is highly vulnerable to external shocks. In FY 2000, international assistance remained an essential source of support for rehabilitation programs that reintegrated former civil war combatants into the civilian economy, which helped keep the peace. International assistance also was necessary to address the second year of severe drought that resulted in a continued shortfall of food production. On August 21, 2001, the Red Cross announced that a famine was striking Tajikistan, and called for international aid for Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, however access to food remains a problem today. In January 2012, 680,152 of the people living in Tajikistan were living with food insecurity. Out of those, 676,852 were at risk of Phase 3 (Acute Food and Livelihoods Crisis) food insecurity and 3,300 were at risk of Phase 4 (Humanitarian Emergency). Those with the highest risk of food

insecurity were living in the remote Murghob District of GBAO. Tajikistan's economy grew substantially after the war. The GDP of Tajikistan expanded at an average rate of 9.6% over the period of 2000–2007 according to the World Bank data. This improved Tajikistan's position among other Central Asian countries (namely Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), which seem to have degraded economically ever since. The primary sources of income in Tajikistan are aluminium production, cotton growing and remittances from migrant workers. Cotton accounts for 60% of agricultural output, supporting 75% of the rural population, and using 45% of irrigated arable land. Aluminium industry is represented by the state-owned Tajik Aluminum Company, the biggest aluminium plant in Central Asia and one of world's biggest.

Capital – Dushanbe. Language – Tajiki-Persian. Religion – Muslim – 97%, Christian – 2%, Unaffiliated – 1%. Ethnics – Tajik – 80%, Uzbek – 15%, Russian – 1%, Kyrgyz – 1%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency independent of legislature, ministry subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 8,051,512, rank – 97. Area – 141,510, rank – 96. Density – 57, rank – 148.



TANZANIA, officially the United Republic of Tanzania or simply U.R.T (Swahili: Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania), is a large country in Eastern Africa within the African Great Lakes region. The semi-autonomous territory of Zanzibar maintains a political union with Tanzania, but has its own parliament and president. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. Parts of the country are in Southern Africa. Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain, is in northeastern Tanzania. Tanzania's population is diverse, composed of several ethnic, linguistic, and religious groups. Tanzania is a presidential constitutional republic, and since 1996, its official capital city has been Dodoma, where the President's Office, the National Assembly, and some government ministries are located. Dar es Salaam, the former capital, retains most government offices and is the country's largest city, principal port, and leading commercial centre. European colonialism began in mainland Tanzania during the late 19th century when Germany formed German East Africa, which gave way to British rule following World War I. The mainland was governed as Tanganyika, with the Zanzibar Archipelago remaining a separate colonial jurisdiction. Following their respective independence in 1961 and 1963, the two entities merged in April 1964 to form the United Republic of Tanzania.

The indigenous populations of eastern Africa are thought to be the click speaking Hadza and Sandawe hunter-gatherers of Tanzania. The first wave of migration was by Southern Cushitic speakers, who are ancestral to the Iraqw, Gorowa, and Burunge and who moved south from Ethiopia into Tanzania. Based on linguistic evidence, there may also have been two movements into Tanzania of Eastern Cushitic people at about 4,000 and 2,000 years ago, originating from north of Lake Turkana. Archaeological evidence supports the conclusion that Southern Nilotes, including the Datoog, moved south from the present-day South Sudan / Ethiopia border region into central northern Tanzania between 2,900 and 2,400 years ago. These movements took place at approximately the same time as the settlement of the iron-

making Mashariki Bantu from West Africa in the Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika areas. They brought with them the west African planting tradition and the primary staple of yams. They subsequently migrated out of these regions across the rest of Tanzania between 2,300 and 1,700 years ago. Eastern Nilotic peoples, including the Maasai, represent a more recent migration from present day South Sudan within the past 1,500 to 500 years. The people of Tanzania have been associated with the production of iron and steel. The Pare people were the main producers of highly demanded iron for peoples who occupied the mountain regions of northeastern Tanzania. The Haya people on the western shores of Lake Victoria invented a type of high-heat blast furnace, which allowed them to forge carbon steel at temperatures exceeding 1,820 °C more than 1,500 years ago. Travellers and merchants from the Persian Gulf and India have visited the east African coast since early in the first millennium A.D. Islam was practised by some on the Swahili Coast as early as the eighth or ninth century A.D.

In 1498, the Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama visited the Tanzanian coast. Later, in 1506, the Portuguese succeeded in controlling most of the Southeast African littoral. In 1699, the Portuguese were ousted from Zanzibar by Omani Arabs. Claiming the coastal strip, Omani Sultan Seyyid Said moved his capital to Zanzibar City in 1840. During this time, Zanzibar became the centre for the Arab slave trade. Between 65% and 90% of the population of Arab-Swahili Zanzibar was enslaved. One of the most infamous slave traders on the East African coast was Tippu Tip, who was himself the grandson of an enslaved African. The Nyamwezi slave traders operated under the leadership of Msiri and Mirambo. According to Timothy Insoll, "Figures record the exporting of 718,000 slaves from the Swahili coast during the 19th century, and the retention of 769,000 on the coast." In the late 19th century, Imperial Germany conquered the regions that are now Tanzania (minus Zanzibar) and incorporated them into German East Africa. The post-World War I accords and the League of Nations charter designated the area a British Mandate, except for the Kionga Triangle, a small area in the southeast that was incorporated into Portuguese East Africa (later Mozambique). During World War II, about 100,000 people from Tanganyika joined the Allied forces and were among the 375,000 Africans who fought with those forces. Tanganyikans fought in units of the King's African Rifles during the East African Campaign in Somalia and Abyssinia against the Italians, in Madagascar against the Vichy French during the Madagascar Campaign, and in Burma against the Japanese during the Burma Campaign. Tanganyika was an important source of food during this war, and its export income increased greatly compared to the prewar years of the Great Depression. Wartime demand, however, caused increased commodity prices and massive inflation within the colony.

In 1954, Julius Nyerere transformed an organisation into the politically oriented Tanganyika African National Union (TANU). TANU's main objective was to achieve national sovereignty for Tanganyika. A campaign to register new members was launched, and within a year TANU had become the leading political organisation in the country. Nyerere became Minister of British-administered Tanganyika in 1960 and continued as prime minister when Tanganyika became independent in 1961. British rule came to an end on 9 December 1961, but for the first year of independence, Tanganyika had a governor general who represented the British monarch. On 9 December 1962, Tanganyika became a democratic republic under an executive president. After the Zanzibar Revolution overthrew the Arab dynasty in neighbouring Zanzibar, which had become independent in 1963, the archipelago merged with mainland Tanganyika on 26 April 1964. On 29 October of the same year, the country was renamed the United Republic of Tanzania ("Tan" comes from Tanganyika and "Zan" from Zanzibar). The union of the two hitherto separate regions was controversial among many Zanzibaris (even those sympathetic to the revolution) but was accepted by both the Nyerere

government and the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar owing to shared political values and goals. In 1967, Nyerere's first presidency took a turn to the left after the Arusha Declaration, which codified a commitment to socialism as well-as Pan-Africanism. After the declaration, banks and many large industries were nationalised.

Tanzania was also aligned with China, which from 1970 to 1975 financed and helped build the 1,860-kilometre-long TAZARA Railway from Dar es Salaam to Zambia. Nonetheless, from the late 1970s, Tanzania's economy took a turn for the worse, in the context of an international economic crisis affecting both developed and developing economies. From the mid-1980s, the regime financed itself by borrowing from the International Monetary Fund and underwent some reforms. Since then, Tanzania's gross domestic product per capita has grown and poverty has been reduced, according to a report by the World Bank. In 1992, the Constitution of Tanzania was amended to allow multiple political parties. In Tanzania's first multi-party elections, held in 1995, the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi won 186 of the 232 elected seats in the National Assembly, and Benjamin Mkapa was elected as president.

Capital – Dar es Salaam (administrative), Dodoma (legislative). Language – English, Swahili (national). Religion – Muslim – 35%, Christian – 61%, Unaffiliated – 1%, Folk religion – 2%. Ethnics – Mainland – African – 99%, of which 95%, including the Sukuma and the Nyamwezi, are Bantu consisting of more than 130 tribes. The Nilotic peoples include the nomadic Maasai and Luo, both of which are found in greater numbers in neighbouring Kenya. The Sukuma, Nyamwezi, Chagga, and Haya peoples have more than 1 million members each. Asian, European and Arab – 1%. Thousands of Arabs and Indians were massacred during the Zanzibar Revolution of 1964. As of 1994, the Asian community numbered 50,000 on the mainland and 4,000 on Zanzibar. An estimated 70,000 Arabs and 10,000 Europeans lived in Tanzania. Zanzibar – Although much of Zanzibar's native population came from the mainland, one group known as Shirazis traces its origins to the island's early Persian settlers. More than 99% in Zanzibar are Muslim. Of Muslims, 16% are Ahmadiyya, 20% are non-denominational Muslims, 40% are Sunni, 20% are Shia and 4% are Sufi. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 49,639,138, rank – 26. Area – 885,800, rank – 31. Density – 56, rank – 150.



TERRA NULLIUS, is a Latin expression deriving from the Roman Law meaning "land belonging to no one", which is used in international law to describe territory which has never been subject to the sovereignty of any state. The current Terra Nullius are:

Marie Byrd Land – see Antarctica.

Bir Tawil – between Egypt and Sudan is the 2,060 km² landlocked territory of Bir Tawil, which was created by a discrepancy between borders drawn in 1899 and 1902, it has no settled population.

Land Portions along the Danube River- as a consequence of the border dispute between Croatia and Serbia, there are some areas along the western bank of the Danube river that are unclaimed by either party.

International Sea, under the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea of 1982, the international waters and international seabed are treated under the common heritage of mankind principle by the signatories of the convention.

Celestial Bodies, according to the Outer Space Treaty of 1967, Outer Space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means. They are treated under the common heritage of mankind principle by the signatories of the treaty.

THAILAND, (Thai: ประเทศไทย, Paiboon transliteration: "bprà-têet tai", RTGS: Prathet Thai); officially the Kingdom of Thailand (Thai: ราชอาณาจักรไทย, Paiboon transliteration: "raa-chá aanaa-jàk tai", RTGS: Ratcha-anachak Thai), formerly known as Siam (Thai: สยาม; RTGS: Sayam), is a country at the centre of the Indochinese peninsula in Mainland Southeast Asia. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Thailand is governed by the National Council for Peace and Order that took power in the May 2014 coup d'état. Its monarchy is headed by King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who has reigned since 1946 as Rama IX, as he is the ninth monarch of the Chakri Dynasty. He is currently the world's longest-serving head of state and the country's longest-reigning monarch. Thailand is the world's 51st-largest country. It is the 20th-mostpopulous country in the world. The capital and largest city is Bangkok, which is Thailand's political, commercial, industrial, and cultural hub. About 75-95% of the population is ethnically Tai, which includes four major regional groups: central Thai, northeastern Thai (Khon [Lao] Isan), northern Thai (Khon Mueang); and southern Thai. Thai Chinese, those of significant Chinese heritage, are 14% of the population, while Thais with partial Chinese ancestry comprise up to 40% of the population. Thai Malays represent 3% of the population, with the remainder consisting of Mons, Khmers and various "hill tribes". The country's official language is Thai and the primary religion is Theravada Buddhism, which is practised by around 95% of the population. Thailand experienced rapid economic growth between 1985 and 1996, becoming a newly industrialised country and a major exporter. Manufacturing, agriculture, and tourism are leading sectors of the economy. Among the ten ASEAN countries, Thailand ranks third in quality of life, and the country's HDI is rated as "high". Its large population and growing economic influence have made it a middle power in the region.

Despite European pressure, Thailand is the only Southeast Asian nation to never have been colonised. This has been ascribed to the long succession of able rulers in the past four centuries who exploited the rivalry and tension between French Indochina and the British Empire. As a result, the country remained a buffer state between parts of Southeast Asia that were colonised by the two colonial powers, Great Britain and France. Western influence nevertheless led to many reforms in the 19th century and major concessions, most notably the loss of a large territory on the east side of the Mekong to the French and the step-by-step absorption by Britain of the Shan and Karen people areas and Malay Peninsula. The losses initially included Penang and eventually culminated in the loss of four predominantly ethnic-Malay southern provinces, which later became Malaysia's four northern states, under the Anglo-Siamese Treaty of 1909. In 1917, Siam joined the Allies of World War I and is counted as one of the victors of World War I. In 1932, a bloodless revolution carried out by

the Khana Ratsadon group of military and civilian officials resulted in a transition of power, when King Prajadhipok was forced to grant the people of Siam their first constitution, thereby ending centuries of absolute monarchy. In 1939, the name of the kingdom, "Siam", was changed to "Thailand". Thailand is an emerging economy and is considered a newly industrialised country. Thailand had a 2013 GDP of US\$673 billion (on a purchasing power parity [PPP] basis). Thailand is the 2nd largest economy in Southeast Asia after Indonesia. Thailand ranks midway in the wealth spread in Southeast Asia as it is the 4th richest nation according to GDP per capita, after Singapore, Brunei, and Malaysia. Thailand functions as an anchor economy for the neighbouring developing economies of Laos, Myanmar, and Cambodia. In the third quarter of 2014, the unemployment rate in Thailand stood at 0.84% according to Thailand's National Economic and Social Development Board.

Capital – Bangkok. Language – Thai. Religion – Buddhist – 93%, Muslim – 6%, Christian – 1%. Ethnics – Thai – 96%, Burmese – 2%. Government - Thailand is governed by the National Council for Peace and Order that took power in the May 2014 coup d'état. Its monarchy is headed by King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who has reigned since 1946 as Rama IX, as he is the ninth monarch of the Chakri Dynasty. He is currently the world's longest-serving head of state and the country's longest-reigning monarch. The ruling junta led by Prayuth Chan-o-cha promised to hold new elections, but wants to enact a new constitution before the elections are held. An initial draft constitution was rejected by government officials in 2015. A national referendum, the first since the 2014 coup, on a newly drafted constitution is scheduled for early August 2016. The new draft constitution would grant the constitutional court final authority in times of crisis, a power previously held by the King. The draft would also allow a person other than a member of parliament to be the prime minister, which would open the prime minister post to a military official. However, there remain deep disagreements regarding how much power should rest with the democratically elected government. There are indications that public debate in the run up to the referendum will be severely curtailed by the military government. The head of the Thai army has announced the setting up of re-education camps for criitcs of the regime, "aimed at people who are still unable to understand the workings of the government and the National Council for Peace and Order". Population -67,741,401, rank – 21. Area – 510,890, rank – 51. Density – 133, rank – 85.



THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, see Macedonia.

THE GAMBIA - see Gambia.

TIMOR – LESTE, East Timor or Timor-Leste, Tetum: Timór Lorosa'e, officially the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (Portuguese: República Democrática de Timor-Leste, Tetum: Repúblika Demokrátika Timór-Leste), is a sovereign state in Maritime Southeast Asia. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. It comprises the eastern half of the island of

Timor, the nearby islands of Atauro and Jaco, and Oecusse, an exclave on the northwestern side of the island, within Indonesian West Timor. East Timor was colonised by Portugal in the 16th century, and was known as Portuguese Timor until November 1975, when the Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor (FRETILIN) declared the territory's independence. Nine days later, it was invaded and occupied by Indonesia and was declared Indonesia's 27th province the following year. The Indonesian occupation of East Timor was characterised by a highly violent decades-long conflict between separatist groups (especially FRETILIN) and the Indonesian military. In 1999, following the United Nations-sponsored act of self-determination, Indonesia relinquished control of the territory. East Timor became the first new sovereign state of the 21st century on 20 May 2002 and joined the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese Language Countries. In 2011, East Timor announced its intention to gain membership status in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations by applying to become its eleventh member. It is one of only two predominantly Christian nations in Southeast Asia, the other being the Philippines.

Capital – Dili. Language – Tetum, Portuguese. Religion – almost 100% Christian. Ethnics -The word Maubere, formerly used by the Portuguese to refer to native East Timorese and often employed as synonymous with the illiterate and uneducated, was adopted by FReTiLIn as a term of pride. Native East Timorese consist of a number of distinct ethnic groups, most of whom are of mixed Malayo-Polynesian and Melanesian/Papuan descent. The largest Malayo-Polynesian ethnic groups are the Tetum (100,000), primarily in the north coast and around Dili; the Mambai (80,000), in the central mountains; the Tukudede (63,170), in the area around Maubara and Liquiçá; the Galoli (50,000), between the tribes of Mambae and Makasae; the Kemak (50,000) in north-central Timor island; and the Baikeno (20,000), in the area around Pante Macassar. The main tribes of predominantly Papuan origin include the Bunak (50,000), in the central interior of Timor island; the Fataluku (30,000), at the eastern tip of the island near Lospalos; and the Makasae, toward the eastern end of the island. As a result of interracial marriage which was common during the Portuguese era, there is a population of people of mixed East Timorese and Portuguese origin, known in Portuguese as mestiços. There is a small Chinese minority, most of whom are Hakka. Many Chinese left in the mid-1970s. Government - The head of state of East Timor is the President of the Republic, who is elected by popular vote for a five-year term. Although his executive powers are somewhat limited, the president does have the power to veto government legislation. Following elections, the president usually, but not necessarily, appoints the leader of the majority party or majority coalition as the Prime Minister of East Timor and the cabinet on the proposal of the latter. As head of government, the prime minister presides over the cabinet. The unicameral East Timorese parliament is the National Parliament or Parlamento Nacional, whose members are elected by popular vote to a five-year term. The number of seats can vary from a minimum of fifty-two to a maximum of sixty-five. The East Timorese constitution was modelled on that of Portugal. The country is still in the process of building its administration and governmental institutions. Government departments include the Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste (police), East Timor Ministry for State and Internal Administration, Civil Aviation Division of Timor-Leste, and Immigration Department of Timor-Leste. Population – 1,201,542, rank – 160. Area – 14,874, rank – 160. Density – 81, rank – 122.



TOGO, officially the Togolese Republic (French: République togolaise), is a country in West Africa. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. It extends south to the Gulf of Guinea, where its capital Lomé is located. Togo is one of the smallest countries in Africa. Togo is a tropical, sub-Saharan nation, highly dependent on agriculture, with a climate that provides good growing seasons. The official language is French, with many other languages spoken in Togo, particularly those of the Gbe family. The largest religious group in Togo consists of those with indigenous beliefs, and there are significant Christian and Muslim minorities. From the 11th to the 16th century, various tribes entered the region from all directions. From the 16th century to the 18th century, the coastal region was a major trading center for Europeans in search of slaves, earning Togo and the surrounding region the name "The Slave Coast". In 1884, Germany declared Togoland a protectorate. After World War I, rule over Togo was transferred to France. Togo gained its independence from France in 1960. In 1967, Gnassingbé Eyadéma led a successful military coup d'état after which he became president. At the time of his death in 2005, Gnassingbé was the longest-serving leader in modern African history, after having been president for 38 years. In 2005, his son Faure Gnassingbé was elected president. Gnassingbé was re-elected for a second term in 2010. In the April 2015 presidential election, Gnassingbé won a third term, defeating his main challenger, Jean-Pierre Fabre, by a margin of about 59% to 35%, according to official results.

Capital – Lome. Language – French. Religion – Christian – 44%, Muslim – 14%, Unaffiliated – 6%, Folk religion – 36%. Ethnics – In Togo, there are about 40 different ethnic groups, the most numerous of which are the Ewe in the south who make up 32% of the population. Along the southern coastline they account for 21% of the population. Also found are Kotokoli or Tem and Tchamba in the center and the Kabye people in the north (22%). The Ouatchis are 14% of the population. Sometimes the Ewes and Ouatchis are considered the same, but the French who studied both groups considered them different people. Other Ethnic groups include the Mina, Mossi, and Aja people (about 8%). There is also a European population who make up less than 1%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 7,351,374, rank – 100. Area – 54,385, rank – 126. Density – 135, rank – 83.



TOKELAU, in the South Pacific Ocean, Oceania, formerly the Union Islands, is a dependent territory of New Zealand. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Tokelau is an island country and dependent territory of New Zealand in the South Pacific Ocean that consists of three tropical coral atolls (from the northwest, Atafu, Nukunonu and Fakaofo, as well as Swains Island which is governed as part of American Samoa). Its capital rotates yearly between the three atolls. Tokelau lies north of the Samoan Islands, Swains Island being the nearest, east of Tuvalu, south of the Phoenix Islands, southwest of the more distant Line Islands, and northwest of the Cook Islands. The United Nations General Assembly designates Tokelau a non-self-governing territory. Until 1976, the official name was Tokelau Islands. It is a New Zealand territory, and is sometimes referred to by its older colonial name, the Union Islands.

Capital – Atafu (unofficial), Fakaofo (official). Language – Tokelauan, English. Religion – Congregational Christian Church 62%, Roman Catholic 34%. Ethnics – Polynesian. Government – The head of state is Elizabeth II, the Queen in right of New Zealand, who also reigns over Australia, Britain and the other Commonwealth realms. The Queen is represented in the territory by acting Administrator Jonathan Kings (as of 2011). The current head of government is Foua Toloa (as of 2011-02-21), who presides over the Council for the Ongoing Governance of Tokelau, which functions as a cabinet. The Council consists of the *Faipule* (leader) and *Pulenuku* (village mayor) of each of the three atolls. The monarch is hereditary, the administrator appointed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade in New Zealand, and the office of head of government rotates between the three Faipule for a one-year term. The Tokelau Amendment Act of 1996 confers legislative power on the General Fono, a unicameral body. The number of seats each atoll receives in the Fono is determined by population – at present, Fakaofo and Atafu each have seven and Nukunonu has six. *Faipule* and *Pukenuku* (atoll leaders and village mayors) also sit in the Fono. Population – 1,337, rank – 235. Area – 12, rank – 242. Density – 111, rank – 94.



TONGA, Kingdom of Tonga, in Polynesia, Oceania. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. Tonga; Tongan: Pule 'anga Fakatu'i 'o Tonga), officially the Kingdom of Tonga, is a Polynesian sovereign state and archipelago comprising 169 islands of which 36 are inhabited. The total surface area is about 750 square kilometres scattered over 700,000 square kilometres of the southern Pacific Ocean. It has a population 103,000 people of whom 70% reside on the main island of Tongatapu. Tonga stretches over about 800 kilometres in a north-south line – about a third of the distance from New Zealand to Hawaii. Tonga became known as the Friendly Islands because of the congenial reception accorded to Captain James Cook on his first visit in 1773. He arrived at the time of the 'inasi festival, the yearly donation of the First Fruits to the Tu'i Tonga (the islands' paramount chief) and so received an invitation to the festivities. According to the writer William Mariner, the chiefs wanted to kill

Cook during the gathering but could not agree on a plan. Tonga became fully independent from Britain in May 1970, but had never relinquished its sovereignty to any foreign power. In 2010, Tonga took a decisive step towards becoming a fully functioning constitutional monarchy, after legislative reforms paved the way for its first partial representative elections.

Capital – Nuku'alofa. Language – English, Tongan (national). Religion – Christian – 99%. Ethnics – Tongan – 97%, part-Tongan – 2%. Government – Constitutional monarchy, executive head of state, monarch personally exercises power in concert with other institutions. Population – 106,440, rank – 192. Area – 717, rank – 190. Density – 148, rank – 78.



TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS, territory with a special status fitting the native land rights, Australia. See also Australia. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. The Torres Strait Islands are a group of at least 274 small islands which lie in Torres Strait, the waterway separating far northern continental Australia's Cape York Peninsula and the island of New Guinea. The islands are mostly part of Queensland, a constituent State of the Commonwealth of Australia, with a special status fitting the native (Melanesian) land rights, administered by the Torres Strait Regional Authority. A few islands very close to the coast of mainland New Guinea belong to the Western Province of Papua New Guinea, most importantly Daru Island with the provincial capital, Daru. Only 14 of the islands are inhabited, with many of the islands threatened by rising sea levels. The indigenous inhabitants of the Torres Strait Islands are the Torres Strait Islanders, an ethnically Melanesian people who also inhabited the northern tip of Cape York Peninsula, distinct from the Australian Aborigines who are the Indigenous Australians in the rest of the country. The Portuguese navigator Luís Vaz de Torres explored Torres Strait in 1606. Torres had joined the Queirós expedition which sailed from Peru across the Pacific Ocean in search of Terra Australis. Lieutenant James Cook first claimed British sovereignty over the eastern part of Australia at Possession Island in 1770. The London Missionary Society mission led by Rev. Samuel Macfarlane arrived on Erub (Darnley Island) on 1 July 1871. The Islanders refer to this as "The Coming of the Light", and all Island communities celebrate the occasion annually on 1 July. In 1879 Queensland annexed the Torres Strait Islands. They thus became part of the British colony of Queensland and (after 1901) of the Australian state of Queensland - although some of them lie just off the coast of New Guinea. In 1898–1899 the Cambridge Anthropological Expedition led by Alfred Cort Haddon visited the Torres Strait Islands. In 1904 the Torres Strait Islanders became subject to the Aboriginal Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act. The proximity to Papua became an issue when it started moving towards independence from Australia, which it gained as part of Papua New Guinea in 1975. The Torres Strait Islanders insisted that they were Australians, but the Papua New Guinea government objected to complete Australian control over the waters of the strait. Eventually an agreement was struck whereby the islands and their inhabitants remained Australian, but the maritime boundary between Australia and Papua New Guinea runs through the centre of the strait. In practice the two countries co-operate closely in the management of the strait's resources. From 1960 to 1973 Margaret Lawrie captured some of the Torres Strait Islander people's culture by recording the retelling of local myths and legends. Her anthropological work, stored at the State Library of Queensland, has recently been recognized and registered with the Australian UNESCO Memory of the World Programme. In 1982, Eddie Mabo and four other Torres Strait Islanders from Mer (Murray Island) started legal proceedings to establish their traditional land-ownership. Because Mabo was the first-named plaintiff, it became known as the Mabo Case. In 1992, after ten years of hearings before the Queensland Supreme Court and the High Court of Australia, the latter court found that Mer people had owned their land prior to annexation by Queensland. This ruling overturned the long-established legal doctrine of *terra nullius* ("no-one's land"), which held that native title over Crown land in Australia had been extinguished at the time of annexation. The ruling thus had far-reaching significance for the land claims of both Torres Strait Islanders and Australian Aborigines. On 1 July 1994 the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) was created.

Capital - Thursday Island. Language - Official language - English. Important Local Languages - Kalau Lagau Ya, Meriam Mir, Torres Strait Creole. This is a creole English similar to the closely related Tok Pisin in Papua New Guinea. Religion - Torres Strait Islanders are predominantly practising Christians having accepted the teachings of missionaries from the London Missionary Society and blended them with their traditional culture and zogo beliefs. The Coming of the Light festival, held each year, marks the day the London Missionary Society first arrived in Torres Strait. The missionaries landed at Erub Island on 1 July 1871. This is a significant day for Torres Strait Islanders and religious and cultural ceremonies across Torres Strait and mainland Australia are held on this day. Another important festival for Torres Strait Islanders is Tombstone Opening which is the culmination of a grieving and healing process after the death of a loved one. Ethnics - Torres Strait Islanders, the indigenous peoples of the islands, are predominantly Melanesians, culturally most akin to the coastal peoples of Papua New Guinea. Thus they are regarded as being distinct from other Aboriginal peoples of Australia, and are generally referred to separately despite ongoing historical trade and inter-marriage with mainland Aboriginal people. There are also two Torres Strait Islander communities on the nearby coast of the mainland, Bamaga and Seisia. Government - An Australian Commonwealth statutory authority called the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) is responsible for governance of the islands. The TSRA has an elected board comprising 20 representatives from the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal communities resident in the Torres Strait region. Population—4,248, Area—566, Density—7.5.



TRANSNISTRIA or Trans-Dniester, or Pridnestrovie, PMR – Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic, in Eastern Europe, formerly an autonomous region of Moldova, is now a de facto independent state, claimed by Moldova, and recognized only by a few de facto states. <u>Link to map</u>. Link to essential data on de facto independent countries: <u>Wikipedia</u>, <u>BBC</u>, <u>Quora</u>, <u>Polgeonow</u>. Transnistria (also called Trans-Dniestr or Transdniestria) is a disputed territory

and a partially recognized state located mostly on a strip of land between the River Dniester and the eastern Moldovan border with Ukraine. Since its declaration of independence in 1990, and especially after the War of Transnistria in 1992, it has been governed as the Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic (PMR, also known as Pridnestrovie), a state with limited recognition that claims territory to the east of the River Dniester, and also the city of Bender and its surrounding localities on the west bank, in the historical region of Bessarabia. The names "Transnistria" and "Pridnestrovie" both refer to the Dniester River. Unrecognised by any United Nations member state, Transnistria is designated by the Republic of Moldova as the Transnistria autonomous territorial unit with special legal status (Unitatea teritorială autonomă cu statut juridic special Transnistria), or Stînga Nistrului ("Left Bank of the Dniester"). After the dissolution of the USSR, tensions between Moldova and the breakaway Transnistrian territory escalated into a military conflict that started in March 1992 and was concluded by a ceasefire in July of the same year. As part of that agreement, a three-party (Russia, Moldova, Transnistria) Joint Control Commission supervises the security arrangements in the demilitarized zone, comprising twenty localities on both sides of the river. Although the ceasefire has held, the territory's political status remains unresolved: Transnistria is an unrecognized but de facto independent presidential republic with its own government, parliament, military, police, postal system, and currency. Its authorities have adopted a constitution, flag, national anthem, and coat of arms. However, after a 2005 agreement between Moldova and Ukraine, all Transnistrian companies that seek to export goods through the Ukrainian border must be registered with the Moldovan authorities. This agreement was implemented after the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) took force in 2005. Most Transnistrians also have Moldovan citizenship, but many Transnistrians also have Russian and Ukrainian citizenship. The largest ethnic group is Moldovan (32.1%), who historically had a higher share of the population, up to 49.4% in 1926. Transnistria, Nagorno-Karabakh, Abkhazia, and South Ossetia are post-Soviet "frozen conflict" zones. These four partially recognized states maintain friendly relations with each other and form the Community for Democracy and Rights of Nations. During the Romanian occupation of 1941-44, between 150,000 and 250,000 Ukrainian and Romanian Jews had been deported to Transnistria and the majority were executed or died from other causes in ghettos and concentration camps of the Governorate. Transnistria has a mixed economy. Following a large scale privatization process in the late 90s, most of the companies in Transnistria are now privately owned. The economy is based on a mix of heavy industry (steel production) electricity production and manufacturing (textile production) which together account for about 80% of the total industrial output. Transnistria has its own central bank, which issues Transnistrian currency, the Transnistrian ruble. It is convertible at a freely floating exchange rate but only in Transnistria. Transnistria's economy is frequently described as dependent on contraband and gunrunning, with some labelling it a mafia state. These allegations are denied by the Transnistrian government, and sometimes downplayed by the officials of Russia and Ukraine.

Capital – Tiraspol. Language – Official Languages: Russian, Romanian, Ukrainian. Official Script – Cyrillic-Moldovan Alphabet. Religion – 91% Eastern Orthodox Christianity, 4% Roman Catholicism. Ethnics – 32% Moldovans, 30% Russians, 29% Ukrainians, 3% Bulgarians. Government – PMR has a multi-party system and a unicameral parliament named the Supreme Council. Its legislature has 43 members elected by single-member district plurality. The president is elected to a five-year term by popular vote. Population – 505,153, Area – 4,163, Density – 125.



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, in Northern South America, Caribbean, contains one autonomous region – Tobago. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. It is a twin island country situated off the northern edge of South America mainland, lying 11 kilometres just off the coast of northeastern Venezuela and 130 kilometres south of Grenada. Trinidad and Tobago lies outside of the hurricane belt. The island of Trinidad was a Spanish colony from the arrival of Christopher Columbus in 1498 to the capitulation of the Spanish Governor, Don José Maria Chacón, on the arrival of a British fleet of 18 warships on 18 February 1797. During the same period, the island of Tobago changed hands among Spanish, British, French, Dutch and Courlander colonizers, more times than any other island in the Caribbean. Trinidad and Tobago (remaining separate until 1889) were ceded to Britain in 1802 under the Treaty of Amiens. The country Trinidad and Tobago obtained independence in 1962, becoming a republic in 1976. Trinidad and Tobago is the third richest country by GDP (PPP) per capita in the Americas after the United States and Canada. Furthermore, it is recognized as a high income economy by the World Bank. Unlike most of the English-speaking Caribbean, the country's economy is primarily industrial, with an emphasis on petroleum and petrochemicals. The country's wealth attributes to its large reserves and exploitation of oil and natural gas. Trinidad and Tobago is the leading Caribbean producer of oil and gas. Trinidad and Tobago is known for its Carnival and is the birthplace of steelpan, limbo, and the music styles of calypso, soca, Parang and chutney. The nation is also rich in wildlife and is one of the most biodiverse nations per square mile in the Caribbean. 400 species of birds and 100 species of mammals can be found in the county's small area.

Capital – Port-of-Spain. Language – English. Religion – Christian – 66%, Muslim – 6%, Unaffiliated – 2%, Hindu – 23%, Folk religion – 2%. Ethnics – East Indian – 35%, African – 34%, Mixed African/East Indian – 8%, Other Mixed – 15%. Government – Republic, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 1,223,916, rank – 159. Area – 5,128, rank – 174. Density – 239, rank – 52.



TRISTAN DA CUNHA, see also Saint Helena. Tristan da Cunha, colloquially Tristan, is both a remote group of volcanic islands in the south Atlantic Ocean and the main island of that group. It is the most remote inhabited archipelago in the world, lying 2,000 kilometres from the nearest inhabited land, Saint Helena, 2,400 kilometres from the nearest continental land,

South Africa, and 3,360 kilometres from South America. Tristan da Cunha is part of the British overseas territory of Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha. This includes Saint Helena and equatorial Ascension Island some 3,730 kilometres to the north of Tristan. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. The territory consists of the main island, also named Tristan da Cunha, which has a north-south length of 11.27 kilometres and has an area of 98 square kilometres, along with the smaller, uninhabited Nightingale Islands and the wildlife reserves of Inaccessible and Gough Islands. The island has a population of 267 as of January 2016. The islands were first sighted in 1506 by Portuguese explorer Tristão da Cunha; rough seas prevented a landing. He named the main island after himself, *Ilha de Tristão da Cunha*, which was anglicised from its earliest mention on British Admiralty charts to Tristan da Cunha Island. Some sources state that the Portuguese made the first landing in 1520, when the Lás Rafael captained by Ruy Vaz Pereira called at Tristan for water. The first undisputed landing was made in 1643 by the crew of the Heemstede, captained by Claes Gerritsz Bierenbroodspot. The first survey of the archipelago was made by the French corvette Heure du Berger in 1767. The first permanent settler was Jonathan Lambert, from Salem, Massachusetts, United States, who arrived at the islands in December 1810 with two other men. Lambert publicly declared the islands his property and named them the Islands of Refreshment. After being joined by an Andrew Millet, three of the four men died in 1812; however, the survivor among the original three permanent settlers, Thomas Currie (or Tommaso Corri) remained as a farmer on the island. It is so nice to find relatives named Corri in the most remote island in the world! I should visit there, maybe I'll find an old synagogue as I did in Coria, Spain, our hometown.

In 1816, the United Kingdom annexed the islands, ruling them from the Cape Colony in South Africa. This is reported to have primarily been a measure to ensure that the French would be unable to use the islands as a base for a rescue operation to free Napoleon Bonaparte from his prison on Saint Helena. The occupation also prevented the United States from using Tristan da Cunha as a cruiser base, as it had during the War of 1812. The islands were occupied by a garrison of British Marines and a civilian population was gradually built up. Whalers also set up on the islands as a base for operations in the Southern Atlantic. However, the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, together with the gradual move from sailing ships to coal-fired steam ships, increased the isolation of the islands, as they were no longer needed as a stopping port or for shelter for journeys from Europe to East Asia. In 1867, Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh and second son of Queen Victoria, visited the islands. The main settlement, Edinburgh of the Seven Seas, was named in honour of his visit. Lewis Carroll's youngest brother, the Reverend Edwin Heron Dodgson, served as an Anglican missionary and schoolteacher in Tristan da Cunha in the 1880s. From December 1937 to March 1938 a Norwegian party made the first ever scientific expedition to Tristan da Cunha. During their stay, the expeditionary party carried out observations and made recordings of the topography of the island, its people and how they lived and worked and the flora and fauna that inhabited the island. On 12 January 1938 by Letters Patent the islands were declared a dependency of Saint Helena. Prior to roughly this period, passing ships stopped irregularly at the island for a period of mere hours. During the Second World War, the islands were used as a top secret Royal Navy weather and radio station codenamed HMS Atlantic Isle, to monitor Nazi U-boats (which were required to maintain radio contact) and shipping movements in the South Atlantic Ocean. The first Administrator, Surgeon Lieutenant Commander E.J.S. Woolley, was appointed by the British government during this time.

The Duke of Edinburgh, the husband of Queen Elizabeth II, visited the islands in 1957 as part of a world tour on board the royal yacht Britannia. In 1958 as part of an experiment, Operation Argus, the United States Navy detonated an atomic bomb 160 kilometres high in the upper atmosphere about 175 kilometres southeast of the main island. The 1961 eruption of Queen Mary's Peak forced the evacuation of the entire populationvia Cape Town to Britain. The following year a Royal Society expedition went to the islands to assess the damage, and reported that the settlement of Edinburgh of the Seven Seas had been only marginally affected. Most families returned in 1963. On 23 May 2001, the islands experienced an extratropical cyclone that generated winds up to 190 kilometres per hour. A number of structures were severely damaged and a large number of cattle were killed, prompting emergency aid, provided by the British government. In 2005, the islands were given a United Kingdom post code (TDCU 1ZZ) to make it easier for the residents to order goods online. On 4 December 2007 an outbreak of an acute virus-induced flu was reported. This outbreak was compounded by Tristan's lack of suitable and sufficient medical supplies. On 13 February 2008, fire destroyed the fishing factory and the four generators that supplied power to the island. On 14 March 2008, new generators were installed and uninterrupted power was restored. This fire was devastating to the island because fishing is a mainstay of the economy. While a new factory was being planned and built, M/V Kelso came to the island and acted as a factory ship, with island fishermen based on board for stints normally of one week. The new facility was ready in July 2009, for the start of the 2009-10 fishing season. The St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Constitution Order 2009 ended the "dependency status" of Ascension and Tristan da Cunha. On 16 March 2011, the freighter MS Oliva ran aground on Nightingale Island, spilling tons of heavy fuel oil into the ocean, leaving an oil slick threatening the island's population of rockhopper penguins. Nightingale Island has no fresh water, so the penguins were transported to Tristan da Cunha for cleaning.

Capital – Edinburgh of the Seven Seas. Language – English. Tristan da Cunha's isolation has led to an unusual, patois-like dialect of English described by the writer Simon Winchester as "a sonorous amalgam of Home Counties lockjaw and 19th century idiom, Afrikaans slang and Italian." Bill Bryson documents some examples of the island's dialect in his book, *The Mother* Tongue. Religion - The only religion is Christianity, with denominations of Anglican and Roman Catholic. Ethnics - The current population is thought to have descended from 15 ancestors, eight males and seven females, who arrived on the island at various times between 1816 and 1908. The male founders originated from Scotland, England, the Netherlands, the United States and Italy, belonging to 3 Y-haplogroups: I (M170), R-SRY10831.2 and R (M207) (xSRY10831.2) and share just nine surnames: Collins, Glass, Green, Hagan, Lavarello, Repetto, Rogers, Squibb and Swain. There are 80 families on the island. Government - Executive authority is vested in the Queen, who is represented in the territory by the Governor of Saint Helena. As the Governor resides permanently in Saint Helena, an Administrator is appointed to represent the Governor in the islands. The Administrator is a career civil servant in the Foreign Office and is selected by London. Since 1998, each Administrator has served a single, three-year term (which begins in September, upon arrival of the supply ship from Cape Town.) The Administrator acts as the local head of government, and takes advice from the Tristan da Cunha Island Council. Alex Mitham was appointed Tristan da Cunha's 22nd Administrator and arrived, with his wife Hasene, to take over from Sean Burns in September 2013. The Island Council is made up of eight elected and three appointed members, who serve a 3-year term which begins in February (or March). Chief Islander: From amongst the 8 elected councillors, the one receiving the most votes is named "Chief Islander" and serves as Acting Administrator when that official is off the island: Ian Lavorello was elected, unopposed, for a second consecutive 3-year term in February 2013. As "Chief Islander" he lit the island's beacon celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. The Administrator and Island Council work from the Government Building, which is the only two-storey building on the island: the lower floor houses the Saint Helena Police Service office in Tristan da Cunha. It is sometimes referred to as "Whitehall" or the "H'admin Building" and contains the Administrator's Office, Treasury Department, Administration Offices and the Council Chamber where Island Council meetings are held. There are no political parties or trade unions on Tristan. Policing in Tristan da Cunha is undertaken by one full-time police officer (Inspector) and three special constables with the Saint Helena Police Service. Tristan da Cunha has some of its own legislation, but the law of Saint Helena applies generally (to the extent that it is not inconsistent with local law, insofar as it is suitable for local circumstances and subject to such modifications as local circumstances make necessary). Population – 267, Area – 207, Density – 1.3.



TROMELIN ISLAND, part of the Scattered Islands, see French Southern & Antarctic Lands.

TUNISIA, (Arabic: تونس $T\bar{u}nis$; Berber: $\Box\Box\Box\Box\Box$), officially the Tunisian Republic or the Republic of Tunisia (Arabic: الجمهورية التونسية al-Jumhūrīya at-Tūnisīya; Berber: 🗆 🗆 🗆 🗆 □ □ □ □ □ □ □) is the northernmost country in Africa, covering 165,000 square kilometres. <u>Link</u> to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Its northernmost point, Ras ben Sakka, is the northernmost point on the African continent. It is bordered by Algeria to the west, Libya to the southeast, and the Mediterranean Sea to the north and east. Tunisia's population was estimated to be just under 11 million in 2014. Tunisia's name is derived from its capital city, Tunis, which is located on Tunisia's northeast coast. Geographically, Tunisia contains the eastern end of the Atlas Mountains and the northern reaches of the Sahara desert. Much of the rest of the country's land is fertile soil. Its 1,300 kilometres of coastline includes the African conjunction of the western and eastern parts of the Mediterranean Basin and, by means of the Sicilian Strait and Sardinian Channel, features the African mainland's second and third nearest points to Europe after Gibraltar. Tunisia is the only democracy in the Arab World. It has a high human development index. It has an association agreement with the European Union and is a member of La Francophonie, the Union for the Mediterranean, the Arab Maghreb Union, the Arab League, the OIC, the Greater Arab Free Trade Area, the Community of Sahel-Saharan States, the African Union, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Group of 77 and obtained the status of major non-NATO ally. In addition, Tunisia is also a state party the principal world's institutions such as the United Nations or the International Criminal Court. Close relations with Europe – in particular with France and with Italy – have been forged through economic cooperation, privatization and industrial modernization. In ancient times, Tunisia was primarily inhabited by Berbers. Phoenician immigration began in the 12th century BC; these immigrants founded Carthage. A major mercantile power and a military rival of the Roman Republic, Carthage was defeated by the Romans in 146 BC. The Romans, who would occupy Tunisia for most of the next eight hundred years, introduced Christianity and left architectural

legacies like the El Djem amphitheater. Arabs conquered Tunisia in the first century of Islam, followed by the Ottomans between 1534 and 1574. The Ottomans held sway for over three hundred years. The French conquest of Tunisia occurred in 1881. Tunisia gained independence with Habib Bourguiba and declared the Tunisian Republic in 1957. In 2011, the Tunisian Revolution resulted in the overthrow of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, followed by parliamentary elections. The country voted for parliament again on 26 October 2014, and for President on 23 November 2014.

Capital – Tunis. Language – Arabic (national), Berber. Spoken Languages – Tunisian Arabic, Tamazight/Berber, French – commercial and educational. Religion – Muslim – almost 100%. Ethnics – Arab – 98%, European – 1%, Jewish and other – 1%. Government - Tunisia is a representative democracy and a republic with a president serving as head of state, prime minister as head of government, a unicameral parliament, and a civil law court system. The Constitution of Tunisia, adopted 26 January 2014, guarantees rights for women and states that the President's religion "shall be Islam". In October 2014 Tunisia held its first elections under the new constitution following the Arab Spring. The number of legalized political parties in Tunisia has grown considerably since the revolution. There are now over 100 legal parties, including several that existed under the former regime. During the rule of Ben Ali, only three functioned as independent opposition parties: the PDP, FDTL, and Tajdid. While some older parties are well-established and can draw on previous party structures, many of the 100-plus parties extant as of February 2012 are small. Rare for the Arab world, women held more than 20% of seats in the country's pre-revolution bicameral parliament. In the 2011 constituent assembly, women held between 24% and 31% of all seats. Tunisia is included in the European Union's European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), which aims at bringing the EU and its neighbours closer. On 23 November 2014 Tunisia held its first Presidential Election following the Arab Spring in 2011. The Tunisian legal system is heavily influenced by French civil law, while the Law of Personal Status is based on Islamic law. Sharia courts were abolished in 1956. A Code of Personal Status was adopted shortly after independence in 1956, which, among other things, gave women full legal status (allowing them to run and own businesses, have bank accounts, and seek passports under their own authority). The code outlawed the practices of polygamy and repudiation and a husband's right to unilaterally divorce his wife. Further reforms in 1993 included a provision to allow Tunisian women to transmit citizenship even if they are married to a foreigner and living abroad. The Law of Personal Status is applied to all Tunisians regardless of their religion. The Code of Personal Status remains one of the most progressive civil codes in North Africa and the Muslim world. Population – 10,937,521, rank – 79. Area – 155,360, rank – 93. Density – 70, rank – 136.



TURKEY, (Turkish: *Türkiye*), officially the Republic of Turkey (Turkish: *Türkiye Cumhuriyeti*), is a parliamentary republic in Eurasia, largely located in Western Asia, with the smaller portion of Eastern Thrace in Southeast Europe. Link to map. Links to essential data:

CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. The Bosphorus, the Sea of Marmara, and the Dardanelles (which together form the Turkish Straits) demarcate the boundary between Thrace and Anatolia; they also separate Europe and Asia. Turkey's location at the crossroads of Europe and Asia makes it a country of significant geostrategic importance. Turkey has been inhabited since the paleolithic age, including various ancient Anatolian civilizations, Aeolian, Dorian and Ionian Greeks, Thracians, Armenians, and Assyrians. After Alexander the Great's conquest, the area was Hellenized, a process which continued under the Roman Empire and its transition into the Byzantine Empire. The Seljuk Turks began migrating into the area in the 11th century, starting the process of Turkification, which was greatly accelerated by the Seljuk victory over the Byzantines at the Battle of Manzikert in 1071. The Seljuk Sultanate of Rûm ruled Anatolia until the Mongol invasion in 1243, upon which it disintegrated into several small Turkish beyliks. Starting from the late 13th century, the Ottomans united Anatolia and created an empire encompassing much of Southeastern Europe, Western Asia and North Africa, becoming a major power in Eurasia and Africa during the early modern period. The empire reached the peak of its power between the 15th and 17th centuries, especially during the 1520-66 reign of Suleiman the Magnificent. After the second Ottoman siege of Vienna in 1683 and the end of the Great Turkish War in 1699, the Ottoman Empire entered a long period of decline. The Tanzimat reforms of the 19th century, which aimed to modernize the Ottoman state, proved to be inadequate in most fields, and failed to stop the dissolution of the empire. The Ottoman Empire entered World War I (1914-18) on the side of the Central Powers and was ultimately defeated. During the war, major atrocities were committed by the Ottoman government against its Armenian, Assyrian and Pontic Greek citizens. Following the war, the conglomeration of territories and peoples that formerly comprised the Ottoman Empire was divided into several new states. The Turkish War of Independence (1919–22), initiated by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and his colleagues in Anatolia, resulted in the establishment of the modern Republic of Turkey in 1923, with Atatürk as its first president.

Turkey is a democratic, secular, unitary, constitutional republic with a diverse cultural heritage. According to the World Factbook, 70–75 percent of the population are ethnic Turks, while the Kurds are the largest minority at 18%. The vast majority of the population is Sunni Muslim, with Alevis making up the largest religious minority. Turkey is a member of the UN, NATO, OECD, OSCE, OIC and the G-20. After becoming one of the first members of the Council of Europe in 1949, Turkey became an associate member of the EEC in 1963, joined the EU Customs Union in 1995 and started full membership negotiations with the European Union in 2005. Turkey's growing economy and diplomatic initiatives have led to its recognition as a regional power. Turkey has a sizeable automotive industry, which produced over a million motor vehicles in 2012, ranking as the 17th largest producer in the world. Turkish shipbuilding exports were worth US\$1.2 billion in 2011. The major export markets are Malta, Marshall Islands, Panama and the United Kingdom. Turkish shipyards have 15 floating docks of different sizes and one dry dock. Tuzla, Yalova, and İzmit have developed into dynamic shipbuilding centres. In 2011, there were 70 active shipyards in Turkey, with another 56 being built. Turkish shipyards are highly regarded both for the production of chemical and oil tankers up to 10,000 dwt and also for their mega yachts. Turkish brands like Beko and Vestel are among the largest producers of consumer electronics and home appliances in Europe, and invest a substantial amount of funds for research and development in new technologies related to these fields. Other key sectors of the Turkish economy are banking, construction, home appliances, electronics, textiles, oil refining, petrochemical products, food, mining, iron and steel, and machine industry. In 2010, the agricultural sector accounted for 9 percent of GDP, while the industrial sector accounted for 26 percent and the services sector for 65 percent, including tourism. However, agriculture still accounted for a quarter of employment. In 2004, it was estimated that 46 percent of total disposable income was received by the top 20 percent of income earners, while the lowest 20 percent received only 6 percent. The rate of female employment in Turkey was 30 percent in 2012, the lowest among all OECD countries. Foreign direct investment (FDI) was \$8.3 billion in 2012. In 2012, Fitch Group upgraded Turkey's credit rating to investment grade after an 18-year gap; this was followed by a ratings upgrade by Moody's in May 2013, as the service lifted Turkey's government bond ratings to the lowest investment grade Baa3.

Capital – Ankara. Language – Turkish. Religion – Muslim – 98%, Unaffiliated – 1%, Christian and other – 1%. Ethnics – Turkish – 75%, Kurdish – 18%, other Minorities – 7% -Armenians – 40,000 (until 1914 – 2 million), Greeks – 2,500 (until 1914 – 1.5 million), Arabs - 1.5 million, Georgians - 1 million, Azerbaijanis - 800,000, Roma - 700,000, Laz -500,000, Assyrians, Bosniaks, Chechens, Circassians, Jews – 20,000. The greatest influx of Jews into Asia Minor and the Ottoman Empire, occurred during the reign of Mehmed the Conquerors's successor, Beyazid II (1481–1512), after the expulsion of the Jews from Spain, Portugal, South Italy and Sicily. The Sultan issued a formal invitation to Jews expelled from Spain and Portugal and they started arriving in the empire in great numbers. A key moment in Judeo-Turkic relations occurred in 1492, when more than 150,000 Spanish Jews fled the Spanish Inquisition, many to the Ottoman Empire. At that point in time, Constantinople's population was a mere 70,000 due to the various sieges of the city during the Crusades and the so-called Black Death of the 14th century, so this historical event was also significant for repopulation of the city. These Sephardic Jews settled in Constantinople as well as Salonika. The Jews satisfied various needs in the Ottoman Empire: the Muslim Turks were largely uninterested in business enterprises and accordingly left commercial occupations to members of minority religions. They also distrusted the Christian subjects whose countries had only recently been conquered by the Ottomans and therefore it was natural to prefer Jewish subjects to which this consideration did not apply. The Sephardi Jews were allowed to settle in the wealthier cities of the empire, especially in the European provinces (cities such as: Constantinople, Sarajevo, Salonica, Adrianople and Nicopolis), Western and Northern Anatolia (Bursa, Aydın, Tokat and Amasya), but also in the Mediterranean coastal regions (for example: Jerusalem, Safed, Damascus, Egypt). Izmir was not settled by Spanish Jews until later. The Jewish population at Jerusalem increased from 70 families in 1488 to 1,500 at the beginning of the 16th century. That of Safed increased from 300 to 2,000 families and almost surpassed Jerusalem in importance. Damascus had a Sephardic congregation of 500 families. Constantinople had a Jewish community of 30,000 individuals with 44 synagogues. Bayezid allowed the Jews to live on the banks of the Golden Horn. Egypt, especially Cairo, received a large number of the exiles, who soon out-numbered the native Jews. Gradually, the chief center of the Sephardic Jews became Salonica, where the Spanish Jews soon outnumbered their co-religionists of other nationalities and, at one time, the original native inhabitants. Although the status of the Jews in the Ottoman Empire may have often been exaggerated, it is undeniable that they enjoyed tolerance. Under the millet system they were organized as a community on the basis of religion, alongside the other millets (e.g. Orthodox millet, Armenian millet, etc.). In the framework of the millet they had a considerable amount of administrative autonomy and were represented by the Hakham Bashi, the Chief Rabbi. There were no restrictions in the professions Jews could practice analogous to those common in Western Christian countries. There were restrictions in the areas Jews could live or work, but such restrictions were imposed on Ottoman subjects of other religions as well. Like all non-Muslims, Jews had to pay the *harac* ("head tax") and faced other restrictions in clothing, horse riding, army service etc., but they could occasionally be waived or circumvented. Jews who reached high positions in the Ottoman court and administration include Mehmed II's minister of Finance ("defterdar") Hekim Yakup dumlupinar (dumlu) Pasa, his Portuguese physician Moses Hamon, Murad II's physician Ishak Pasha and Abraham de Castro, the master of the mint in Egypt.

Government - Turkey is a parliamentary representative democracy. Since its foundation as a republic in 1923, Turkey has developed a strong tradition of secularism. [97] Turkey's constitution governs the legal framework of the country. It sets out the main principles of government and establishes Turkey as a unitary centralized state. The President of the Republic is the head of state and has a largely ceremonial role. The president is elected for a five-year term by direct elections and Recep Tayyip Erdoğan is the first president elected by direct voting. Executive power is exercised by the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers which make up the government, while the legislative power is vested in the unicameral parliament, the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. The judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature, and the Constitutional Court is charged with ruling on the conformity of laws and decrees with the constitution. The Council of State is the tribunal of last resort for administrative cases, and the High Court of Appeals for all others. The prime minister is elected by the parliament through a vote of confidence in the government and is most often the head of the party having the most seats in parliament. Universal suffrage for both sexes has been applied throughout Turkey since 1933, and every Turkish citizen who has turned 18 years of age has the right to vote. There are 550 members of parliament who are elected for a four-year term by a party-list proportional representation system from 85 electoral districts. The Constitutional Court can strip the public financing of political parties that it deems anti-secular or separatist, or ban their existence altogether. The electoral threshold is 10 percent of the votes. Supporters of Atatürk's reforms are called Kemalists, as distinguished from Islamists, representing two extremes on a continuum of beliefs about the proper role of religion in public life. The Kemalist position generally combines a kind of democracy with a laicist constitution and westernised secular lifestyle, while supporting state intervention in the economy, education, and other public services. Since the 1980s, a rise in income inequality and class distinction has given rise to Islamic populism, a movement that in theory supports obligation to authority, communal solidarity and social justice, though what that entails in practice is often contested. Population -81,619,392, rank -17. Area -769,632, rank - 37. Density - 106, rank - 101.



TURKMENISTAN, (Turkmen: *Türkmenistan/Түркменистан*) is a country in Central Asia. <u>Link to map</u>. Links to essential data: <u>CIA Factbook</u>, <u>Enc. Britannica</u>, <u>Wikipedia</u>, <u>Nations Online</u>, <u>UN Data</u>, <u>BBC</u>, <u>World Atlas</u>, <u>Countries/World</u>, <u>List/Countries</u>, <u>Index Mundi</u>, <u>Oper/World</u>, <u>Internet/Stats</u>. Member of the UN. Turkmenistan has been at the crossroads of civilizations for centuries. In medieval times, Merv was one of the great cities of the Islamic world and an important stop on the Silk Road, a caravan route used for trade with China until the mid-15th century. Annexed by the Russian Empire in 1881, Turkmenistan later figured prominently in the anti-Bolshevik movement in Central Asia. In 1924, Turkmenistan became a constituent republic of the Soviet Union, Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic (Turkmen SSR); it became independent upon the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. Turkmenistan possesses the world's fourth largest reserves of natural gas resources. Most of the country is covered by the Karakum (Black Sand) Desert. Since 1993, citizens have received government-provided electricity, water and natural gas free of charge. Turkmenistan was ruled by President for Life Saparmurat Niyazov until his death in 2006. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow was elected president in 2007. President Berdimuhamedow promotes a personality cult in which he, his relatives, and associates enjoy unlimited power and total control over all aspects of public life.

Capital – Ashgabat. Language – Turkmen. Religion – Muslim - 93%, Christian – 6%. Ethnics – Turkmen – 85%, Uzbek – 5%, Russian – 4%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 5,171,943, rank – 120. Area – 469,930, rank – 53. Density – 11, rank – 211.



TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, in the Caribbean, parts of the Bahamas island chain, are a UK overseas territory, they are not part of the European Union with the UK. The Turks and Caicos Islands, or TCI for short, consist of the larger Caicos Islands and smaller Turks Islands, two groups of tropical islands in the Lucayan Archipelago of the Caribbean Sea and northern Caribbean region. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. The islands are known primarily for tourism and as an offshore financial centre. The Turks and Caicos Islands lie southeast of Mayaguana in the Bahamas island chain and north of the island of Hispaniola and the other Antilles archipelago islands. Cockburn Town, the capital since 1766, is situated on Grand Turk Island about 1,042 kilometres east-southeast of Miami, United States. The first recorded European sighting of the islands now known as the Turks and Caicos occurred in 1512. In the subsequent centuries, the islands were claimed by several European powers with the British Empire eventually gaining control. For many years the islands were governed indirectly through Bermuda, the Bahamas, and Jamaica. When the Bahamas gained independence in 1973, the islands received their own governor of TCI, and have remained a separate autonomous British Overseas Territory since. In August 2009, the United Kingdom suspended the Turks and Caicos Islands' self-government after allegations of ministerial corruption. Home rule was restored in the islands after the November 2012 elections. In 2009, GDP contributions were as follows: Hotels & Restaurants 34.67%, Financial Services 13.12%, Construction 7.83%, Transport, Storage & Communication 9.90%, and Real Estate, Renting & Business Activities 9.56%. Most capital goods and food for domestic consumption are imported. In 2010/2011, major sources of government revenue included Import Duties (43.31%), Stamp Duty on Land Transaction (8.82%), Work Permits and Residency Fees (10.03%) and Accommodation Tax (24.95%). The territory's gross domestic product as of late 2009 is approximately US\$795 million (per capita \$24,273).

Capital – Cockburn Town. Language – English. Religion - 35.8% Baptists, 11.7% Members of the Church of God, 11.4% Catholics, 10% Anglicans, 9.3% Methodists, 6% Seventh-Day Adventists, 1.8% Jehovah's Witnesses. Ethnics - 88% African and 8% European, with the remainder being primarily of mixed – 3%, or East Indian – 1% ancestry. Government - The Turks and Caicos Islands are a British Overseas Territory. As a British territory, its sovereign is Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom, represented by a governor appointed by the monarch, on the advice of the Foreign Office. The United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization includes the territory on the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories. Population – 49,070, rank – 212. Area – 948, rank – 186. Density – 52, rank - 153.

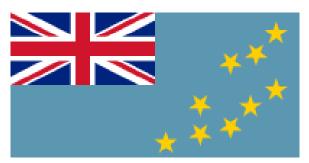


TUVALU, in Polynesia, Oceania, formerly known as the Ellice Islands, are located in the Pacific Ocean, midway between Hawaii and Australia. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. Tuvalu comprises three reef islands and six true atolls spread out between the latitude of 5° to 10° south and longitude of 176° to 180°, west of the International Date Line. Its nearest neighbours are Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa and Fiji. The first inhabitants of Tuvalu were Polynesians. The pattern of settlement that is believed to have occurred is that the Polynesians spread out from Samoa and Tonga into the Tuvaluan atolls, with Tuvalu providing a stepping stone to migration into the Polynesian Outlier communities in Melanesia and Micronesia. In 1568, Spanish navigator Álvaro de Mendaña was the first European to sail through the archipelago, sighting the island of Nui during his expedition in search of Terra Australis. In 1819 the island of Funafuti was named Ellice's Island; the name Ellice was applied to all nine islands after the work of English hydrographer Alexander George Findlay. The islands came under Britain's sphere of influence in the late 19th century, when each of the Ellice Islands was declared a British Protectorate by Captain Gibson of HMS Curacoa between 9 and 16 October 1892. The Ellice Islands were administered as British protectorate by a Resident Commissioner from 1892 to 1916 as part of the British Western Pacific Territories (BWPT), and then as part of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands colony from 1916 to 1974. A referendum was held in December 1974 to determine whether the Gilbert Islands and Ellice Islands should each have their own administration. As a consequence of the referendum, the Gilbert and Ellice Islands colony ceased to exist on 1 January 1976 and the separate British colonies of Kiribati and Tuvalu came into existence. Tuvalu became independent within the Commonwealth in 1978. In 2000 Tuvalu became a member of the UN.

From 1996 to 2002, Tuvalu was one of the best-performing Pacific Island economies and achieved an average real gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of 5.6% per annum. Since 2002 economic growth has slowed, with GDP growth of 1.5% in 2008. Tuvalu was exposed

to rapid rises in world prices of fuel and food in 2008, with the level of inflation peaking at 13.4%. The International Monetary Fund 2010 Report on Tuvalu estimates that Tuvalu experienced zero growth in its 2010 GDP, after the economy contracted by about 2% in 2009. On 5 August 2012, the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) concluded the Article IV consultation with Tuvalu, and assessed the economy of Tuvalu: "A slow recovery is underway in Tuvalu, but there are important risks. GDP grew in 2011 for the first time since the global financial crisis, led by the private retail sector and education spending. We expect growth to rise slowly". The IMF 2014 Country Report noted that real GDP growth in Tuvalu had been volatile averaging only 1 percent in the past decade. The 2014 Country Report describes economic growth prospects as generally positive as the result of large revenues from fishing licenses, together with substantial foreign aid. Banking services are provided by the National Bank of Tuvalu. Public sector workers make up about 65% of those formally employed. Remittances from Tuvaluans living in Australia and New Zealand, and remittances from Tuvaluan sailors employed on overseas ships are important sources of income for Tuvaluans. Approximately 15% of adult males work as seamen on foreign-flagged merchant ships. Agriculture in Tuvalu is focused on coconut trees and growing pulaka in large pits of composted soil below the water table. Tuvaluans are otherwise involved in traditional subsistence agriculture and fishing.

Capital – Fongafale in Funafuti. Language – Tuvaluan (national), English. Religion – Christian – 97%, Unaffiliated – 1%. Ethnics – Polynesian – 96%, Micronesian – 4%. Government – Constitutional monarchy, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 10,782, rank – 224. Area – 26, rank – 238. Density – 415, rank – 29.



UGANDA, Republic of Uganda, in Eastern Africa. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. Uganda, officially the Republic of Uganda, is a landlocked country in East Africa. The southern part of the country includes a substantial portion of Lake Victoria, shared with Kenya and Tanzania. Uganda is in the African Great Lakes region. Uganda also lies within the Nile basin, and has a varied but generally a modified equatorial climate. Uganda takes its name from the Buganda kingdom, which encompasses a large portion of the south of the country, including the capital Kampala. The people of Uganda were hunter-gatherers until 1,700 to 2,300 years ago, when Bantu-speaking populations migrated to the southern parts of the country. Beginning in 1894, the area was ruled as a protectorate by the British, who established administrative law across the territory. Uganda gained independence from Britain on 9 October 1962. The period since then has been marked by intermittent conflicts, including a lengthy civil war against the Lord's Resistance Army, which has caused tens of thousands of casualties and displaced more than a million people. The official languages are Swahili and English. Luganda, a central language, is widely spoken across the country, and several other languages are also spoken including Runyoro, Runyankole Rukiga, and Langi. The president of Uganda is Yoweri Museveni, who came to power in January 1986 after a protracted six-year guerrilla war. Transparency International has rated Uganda's public sector as one of the most corrupt in the world. In 2014, Uganda ranked 142nd worst out of 175 and had a score of 26 on a scale from 0 (perceived as most corrupt) to 100 (perceived as clean). According to the US State Department's 2012 Human Rights Report on Uganda, "The World Bank's most recent Worldwide Governance Indicators reflected corruption was a severe problem" and that "the country annually loses 768.9 billion shillings (\$286 million) to corruption."

Ugandan parliamentarians in 2014 were earning 60 times what was being earned by most state employees and they were seeking a major increase. This was causing widespread criticism and protests, including the smuggling of two piglets into the parliament in June 2014 to highlight corruption amongst members of parliament. The protesters, who were arrested, were using the word "MPigs" to highlight their grievance. A specific scandal, which had significant international consequences and highlighted the presence of corruption in highlevel government offices, was the embezzlement of \$12.6 mil in donor funds from the Office of the Prime Minister in 2012. These funds were "earmarked as crucial support for rebuilding northern Uganda, ravaged by a 20-year war, and Karamoja, Uganda's poorest region." This scandal prompted the EU, the UK, Germany, Denmark, Ireland, and Norway to suspend aid. Widespread grand and petty corruption involving public officials and political patronage systems have also seriously affect the investment climate in Uganda. One of the high corruption risk areas is the public procurement in which non-transparent under-the-table cash payments are often demanded from procurement officers. Uganda's economy generates export income from coffee (\$466.6 million annually), tea (\$72.1 million), fish (\$136.2 million), and other products. The country has commenced economic reforms and growth has been robust. In 2008, Uganda recorded 7% growth despite the global downturn and regional instability. Uganda has substantial natural resources, including fertile soils, regular rainfall, and sizeable mineral deposits of copper and cobalt. The country has largely untapped reserves of both crude oil and natural gas. While agriculture accounted for 56 percent of the economy in 1986, with coffee as its main export, it has now been surpassed by the services sector, which accounted for 52% of GDP in 2007. In the 1950s, the British colonial regime encouraged some 500,000 subsistence farmers to join co-operatives. Since 1986, the government (with the support of foreign countries and international agencies) has acted to rehabilitate an economy devastated during the regime of Idi Amin and the subsequent civil war.

In 2000, Uganda was included in the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) debt relief initiative worth \$1.3 billion and Paris Club debt relief worth \$145 million. These amounts combined with the original HIPC debt relief added up to about \$2& billion. In 2012, the World Bank still listed Uganda as on the HIPC list. Growth for 2001–2002 was solid despite continued decline in the price of coffee, Uganda's principal export. According to IMF statistics, in 2004 Uganda's GDP per capita reached \$300, a much higher level than in the 1980s but still at half the Sub-Saharan African average income of \$600 per year. Total GDP crossed the 8 billion dollar mark in the same year. Economic growth has not always led to poverty reduction. Despite an average annual growth of 2.5 percent between 2000 and 2003, poverty levels increased by 3.8% during that time. This has highlighted the importance of avoiding jobless growth and is part of the rising awareness in development circles of the need for equitable growth not just in Uganda, but across the developing world.

Capital – Kampala. Language – English, Swahili. Religion – Christian – 87%, Muslim – 12%, Folk religion – 1%. Ethnics – Baganda – 17%, Banyankole – 10%, Basoga – 8%, Bakiga – 7%, Iteso – 6%, Langi – 6%, Acholi – 5%, Bagisu – 5%, Lugbara – 4%, Bunyoro – 3%.

Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 35,918,915, rank – 36. Area – 197,100, rank – 81. Density – 182, rank – 72.



UKRAINE, Ukrayina, in Eastern Europe, does not control the southern territories of Crimea and Sevastopol annexed to Russia, and the federal de facto state of Novorossiya comprising the regions of Donetsk and Lugansk in Eastern Ukraine. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Ukraine is currently in territorial dispute with Russia over the Crimean Peninsula which Russia annexed in 2014 but which Ukraine and most of the international community recognize as Ukrainian. Including Crimea, Ukraine is the largest country entirely within Europe. The territory of modern Ukraine has been inhabited since 32,000 BC. During the Middle Ages, the area was a key centre of East Slavic culture, with the powerful state of Kievan Rus' forming the basis of Ukrainian identity. Following its fragmentation in the 13th century, the territory was contested, ruled and divided by a variety of powers, including Lithuania, Poland, the Ottoman Empire, Austria-Hungary, and Russia. A Cossack republic emerged and prospered during the 17th and 18th centuries, but its territory was eventually split between Poland and the Russian Empire, and later submerged fully into Russia. Two brief periods of independence occurred during the 20th century, once near the end of World War I and another during World War II, but both occasions would ultimately see Ukraine's territories conquered and consolidated into a Soviet republic, a situation that persisted until 1991, when Ukraine gained its independence from the Soviet Union in the aftermath of its dissolution at the end of the Cold War. Following independence, Ukraine declared itself a neutral state, but nonetheless formed a limited military partnership with the Russian Federation, other CIS countries and a partnership with NATO since 1994. In the 2000s, the government began leaning towards NATO, and a deeper cooperation with the alliance was set by the NATO-Ukraine Action Plan signed in 2002. It was later agreed that the question of joining NATO should be answered by a national referendum at some point in the future. Former President Viktor Yanukovych considered the current level of co-operation between Ukraine and NATO sufficient, and was against Ukraine joining NATO. In 2013, protests against the government of President Yanukovych broke out in downtown Kiev after the government made the decision to suspend the Ukraine-European Union Association Agreement and seek closer economic ties with Russia. This began a several-months-long wave of demonstrations and protests known as the Euromaidan, which later escalated into the 2014 Ukrainian revolution that ultimately resulted in the overthrowing of Yanukovych and the establishment of a new government. These events precipitated the annexation of Crimea by Russia in March 2014, and the War in Donbass in March 2014; both are still ongoing as of May 2016. On 1 January 2016, Ukraine joined the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area with the European Union. Ukraine has long been a global breadbasket because of its extensive, fertile farmlands, and it remains one of the world's largest grain exporters. The diversified economy of Ukraine includes a large heavy industry sector, particularly in aerospace and industrial equipment. Ukraine is a unitary republic under a semi-presidential system with separate powers: legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Its capital and largest city is Kiev. Ukraine maintains the second-largest military in Europe, after that of Russia, when reserves and paramilitary personnel are taken into account.

Capital – Kiev. Language – Ukrainian. Religion – Christian - 84%, Unaffiliated – 15%, Muslim – 1%. Ethnics – Ukrainian – 78%, Russian – 17%, Belarusian, Moldovan, Crimean Tatar, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Romanian, Polish – 0.6 to 0.3 each. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency independent of legislature, ministry subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 44,291,413, rank – 32. Area – 579,330, rank – 46. Density – 76, rank – 128.



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, (Arabic: دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة Dawlat al-Imārāt al-'Arabīyah al-Muttaḥidah), sometimes simply called the Emirates or the UAE, is a country located at the southeast end of the Arabian Peninsula on the Persian Gulf, Middle East, Western Asia. The country is a federation of 7 emirates – Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai, Fujairah, Ras al-Khaimah, Sharjah and Umm al-Quwain. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. The United Arab Emirates borders Oman to the east and Saudi Arabia to the south, as well as shares sea borders with Qatar and Iran. In 2013, the UAE's total population was 9.2 million, of which 1.4 million are Emirati citizens and 7.8 million are expatriates. Established in December 1971, the country is a federation of seven emirates. The constituent emirates are Abu Dhabi (which serves as the capital), Ajman, Dubai, Fujairah, Ras al-Khaimah, Sharjah, and Umm al-Quwain. Each emirate is governed by an absolute monarch; together, they jointly form the Federal Supreme Council. One of the monarchs is selected as the President of the United Arab Emirates. Islam is the official religion of the UAE, and Arabic is the official language, although English is widely spoken and is the language of business and education, especially in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. The UAE is a highly developed country with a high level of human development and is one of the wealthiest countries in the Middle East. It is also one of the world's fastest growing countries. The UAE's oil reserves are the seventh-largest in the world, while its natural gas reserves are the world's seventeenth-largest. The late Sheikh Zayed, ruler of Abu Dhabi and the first President of the UAE, oversaw the development of the Emirates and steered oil revenues into healthcare, education and infrastructure. The UAE's economy is the most diversified in the Gulf Cooperation Council, with its most populous city of Dubai emerging into a global city and international aviation hub. Nevertheless, the country remains extremely reliant on its export of petroleum and natural gas. The UAE has been criticized for its human rights record, including the role of Sharia law in its legal system. The UAE's rising international profile has led analysts to identify it as regional and middle power.

The UAE supported military operations from the US and other coalition nations engaged in the war against the Taliban in Afghanistan (2001) and Saddam Hussein in Iraq (2003) as well as operations supporting the Global War on Terror for the Horn of Africa at Al Dhafra Air Base located outside of Abu Dhabi. The air base also supported Allied operations during the 1991 Persian Gulf War and Operation Northern Watch. The country had already signed a military defense agreement with the U.S. in 1994 and one with France in 1995. In January 2008, France and the UAE signed a deal allowing France to set up a permanent military base in the emirate of Abu Dhabi. The UAE joined international military operations in Libya in March 2011. The first-ever national elections were held in the UAE on 16 December 2006. A small number of hand-picked voters chose half of the members of the Federal National Council—an advisory body. UAE has largely escaped the Arab Spring, which other countries have had; however, more than 100 Emirati activists were jailed and tortured because they sought reforms. Furthermore, some people have had their nationality revoked. A member of the ruling family in Ras al-Khaimah was put under house arrest in April 2012 after calling for political openness. Mindful of the protests in nearby Bahrain, in November 2012 the UAE outlawed online mockery of its own government or attempts to organize public protests through social media. Al Nahyan family, one of the six ruling families of the United Arab Emirates, is believed to have a fortune of \$150 billion collectively as a family.

Flag	Emirate	Capital	Population 2008	% of total population	Area (km²)	Area (mi²)	% of total area	Density
	Abu Dhabi	Abu Dhabi	1,548,655	31.2%	67,340	26,000	86.7%	25
	<u>Ajman</u>	<u>Ajman</u>	372,923	7.5%	259	100	0.3%	996
	<u>Dubai</u>	<u>Dubai</u>	1,770,533	35.6%	3,885	1,500	5.0%	336
	<u>Fujairah</u>	Fujairah	137,940	2.9%	1,165	450	1.5%	109
	Ras al- Khaimah	Ras al- Khaimah	171,903	3.4%	1,684	650	2.2%	122
	<u>Sharjah</u>	<u>Sharjah</u>	895,252	18.0%	2,590	1,000	3.3%	262
*)	Umm al- Quwain	Umm al- Qaiwain	69,936	1.4%	777	300	0.9%	88
	UAE	Abu Dhabi	4,967,142	100%	77,700	30,000	100%	56

Capital – Abu Dhabi. Language – Arabic. Religion – Muslim – 77%, Christian – 13%, Hindu – 7%, Buddhist – 2%, Unaffiliated – 1%. Ethnics – Emirati – 19%, Other Arab and Iranian – 23%, South Asian – 50%, Other Expatriates including Westeners and East Asians – 8%. Government – Constitutional monarchy, executive head of state, monarch personally exercises power in concert with other institutions. Population – 5,628,805 (July 2014 est.), rank – 113. Area – 83,600, rank – 115. Density – 67, rank – 140. The Area of the UAE – 83,600 sq km is according to CIA's World Factbook, Wikipedia, etc. However, Wikipedia gives another figure of 77,700 sq km, as seen in the table above. The reason for this

discrepancy is that: The land border with Qatar in the <u>Khawr al Udayd</u> area is a source of ongoing dispute (in fact, whether it even shares a land border with Qatar is <u>in dispute</u>). The total area of the UAE is approximately 83,600 square kilometers. The country's exact size is unknown because of disputed claims to several islands in the Persian Gulf, because of the lack of precise information on the size of many of these islands, and because most of its land boundaries, especially with Saudi Arabia, remain undemarcated.



UNITED KINGDOM, The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, commonly known as the United Kingdom (UK) or Britain, is a sovereign state in Europe. The United Kingdom is located in north-western Europe, and consists of 4 constituent countries – England, Northern Island, Scotland and Wales. The UK has the following overseas territories -Anguilla, Bermuda, British Indian Ocean Territory, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, Pitcairn Islands, Saint Helena Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, British Antarctic Territory. Akrotiri and Dhekelia in Cyprus are Sovereign Base Areas. The British monarch has direct sovereignty over three self-governing Crown dependencies – Isle of Man, Jersey, and Guernsey with 3 dependencies: Alderney, Herm, Sark. Some segments of the population of Scotland strive for independence and of Northern Ireland strive to be part of the Republic of Ireland. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, EU, CW. Lying off the northwestern coast of the European mainland, it includes the island of Great Britain (the name of which is also loosely applied to the whole country), the north-eastern part of the island of Ireland and many smaller islands. Northern Ireland is the only part of the UK that shares a land border with another state—the Republic of Ireland. Apart from this land border, the UK is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, with the North Sea to its east, the English Channel to its south and the Celtic Sea to its south-southwest. The Irish Sea lies between Great Britain and Ireland. The United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system of governance. Its capital city is London, an important global city and financial centre with an urban population of 10,310,000, the fourth-largest in Europe and second-largest in the European Union. The current monarch—since 6 February 1952—is Queen Elizabeth II. The UK consists of four countries: England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. The latter three have devolved administrations, each with varying powers, based in their capitals, Edinburgh, Cardiff, and Belfast, respectively. The nearby Isle of Man, Bailiwick of Guernsey and Bailiwick of Jersey are not part of the United Kingdom, being Crown dependencies with the British Government responsible for defense and international representation. The relationships among the countries of the United Kingdom have changed over time. Wales was annexed by the Kingdom of England under the Acts of Union of 1536 and 1542. A treaty between England and Scotland resulted in 1707 in a unified Kingdom of Great Britain, which merged in 1801 with the Kingdom of Ireland to form the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. In 1922, five-sixths of Ireland seceded from the country, leaving the present formulation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The UK has fourteen Overseas Territories. These are the remnants of the British Empire which, at its height in the 1920s, encompassed almost a quarter of the world's land mass and was the largest empire in history. British influence can be observed in the language, culture, and legal systems of many of its former colonies.

The United Kingdom is a developed country and has the world's fifth-largest economy by nominal GDP and ninth-largest economy by purchasing power parity. The UK is considered to have a high-income economy and is categorized as very high in the Human Development Index, currently ranking 14th in the world. It was the world's first industrialized country and the world's foremost power during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The UK remains a great power with considerable economic, cultural, military, scientific, and political influence internationally. It is a recognized nuclear weapons state and its military expenditure ranks fourth or fifth in the world. The UK has been a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council since its first session in 1946. It has been a leading member state of the European Union (EU) and its predecessor, the European Economic Community (EEC), since 1973; it is also a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, the Council of Europe, the G7 finance ministers, the G7 forum, the G20, NATO, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the World Trade Organization (WTO). The UK has a partially regulated market economy. Based on market exchange rates the UK is today the fifth-largest economy in the world and the second-largest in Europe after Germany. Pound sterling is the world's third-largest reserve currency (after the US Dollar and the Euro). Since 1997 the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, headed by the Governor of the Bank of England, has been responsible for setting interest rates at the level necessary to achieve the overall inflation target for the economy that is set by the Chancellor each year. The UK service sector makes up around 73% of GDP. London is one of the three "command centres" of the global economy (alongside New York City and Tokyo), it is the world's largest financial centre alongside New York, and it has the largest city GDP in Europe. Edinburgh is also one of the largest financial centres in Europe. Tourism is very important to the British economy and, with over 27 million tourists arriving in 2004, the United Kingdom is ranked as the sixth major tourist destination in the world and London has the most international visitors of any city in the world. The creative industries accounted for 7% GVA in 2005 and grew at an average of 6% per annum between 1997 and 2005.

The Industrial Revolution started in the UK with an initial concentration on the textile industry, followed by other heavy industries such as shipbuilding, coal mining and steelmaking. British merchants, shippers and bankers developed overwhelming advantage over those of other nations allowing the UK to dominate international trade in the 19th century. As other nations industrialized, coupled with economic decline after two world wars, the United Kingdom began to lose its competitive advantage and heavy industry declined, by degrees, throughout the 20th century. Manufacturing remains a significant part of the economy but accounted for only 16.7% of national output in 2003. The automotive industry is a significant part of the UK manufacturing sector and employs over 800,000 people, with a turnover of some £52 billion, generating £26.6 billion of exports. In 2008, the UK produced around 1.45 million passenger vehicles and 203,000 commercial vehicles. The UK is a major centre for engine manufacturing and in 2008 around 3.16 million engines were produced in the country. The UK has a significant presence in auto racing and the UK motorsport industry currently employs around 38,500 people, comprises around 4,500 companies and has an annual turnover of around £6 billion. The aerospace industry of the UK is the second- or third-largest national aerospace industry in the world depending upon the method of measurement and has an annual turnover of around £25 billion. The wings for the Airbus A380 and the A350 XWB are designed and manufactured at Airbus UK's world-leading Broughton facility, whilst over a quarter of the value of the Boeing 787 comes from UK manufacturers including Eaton (fuel subsystem pumps), Messier-Bugatti-Dowty (the landing gear) and Rolls-Royce (the engines). Other key names include GKN Aerospace—an expert in metallic and composite aerostructures that's involved in almost every civil and military fixed and rotary wing aircraft in production and development today.

Capital - London. Language - English, Welsh in Wales, Scots and Scottish Gaelic in Scotland, Irish in Northern Ireland, Cornish in Cornwall. Religion – Christian – 71%, Muslim - 4%, Unaffiliated - 21%, Hindu - 1%. Ethnics - Historically, indigenous British people were thought to be descended from the various ethnic groups that settled there before the 11th century: the Celts, Romans, Anglo-Saxons, Norse and the Normans. Welsh people could be the oldest ethnic group in the UK. A 2006 genetic study shows that more than 50% of England's gene pool contains Germanic Y chromosomes. Another 2005 genetic analysis indicates that "about 75% of the traceable ancestors of the modern British population had arrived in the British isles by about 6,200 years ago, at the start of the British Neolithic or Stone Age", and that the British broadly share a common ancestry with the Basque people. White – 87%, Black/African/Caribbean/Black British – 3%, Asian/Asian British: Indian 2%, Pakistani – 2%, Bangladeshi – 1%, Chinese – 1%, Mixed – 2%. Government – Constitutional monarchy, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. The UK has a parliamentary government based on the Westminster system that has been emulated around the world: a legacy of the British Empire. The parliament of the United Kingdom meets in the Palace of Westminster and has two houses: an elected House of Commons and an appointed House of Lords. All bills passed are given Royal Assent before becoming law. The position of prime minister, the UK's head of government, [163] belongs to the person most likely to command the confidence of the House of Commons; this individual is typically the leader of the political party or coalition of parties that holds the largest number of seats in that chamber. The prime minister chooses a cabinet and its members are formally appointed by the monarch to form Her Majesty's Government. By convention, the Queen respects the prime minister's decisions of government. Population -63,742,977, rank -23. Area -241,930, rank -80, Density -263, rank -50.

37 VARIABLE PARAMETERS – SEE METHODOLOGY OF SEARCHING IN 60+ TABLES IN AUSTRALIA.

VARIABLE PARAMETERS FROM CIA WORLD FACTBOOK - PEOPLE & SOCIETY, ECONOMIC PARAMETERS:

Median age:

total: 40.4 years male: 39.2 years

female: 41.6 years (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: $\underline{42}$

Population growth rate:

0.54% (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: $\underline{155}$ Birth rate:

12.17 births/1,000 population (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: <u>161</u>

Death rate:

9.35 deaths/1,000 population (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 60

Net migration rate:

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2.54 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 40
Urbanization:
urban population: 82.6% of total population (2015)
rate of urbanization: 0.88% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)
Mother's mean age at first birth:
28.1
note: data represents England and Wales only (2012 est.)
Maternal mortality rate:
9 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 148
Infant mortality rate:
total: 4.38 deaths/1,000 live births
male: 4.8 deaths/1,000 live births
female: 3.95 deaths/1,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 187
Life expectancy at birth:
total population: 80.54 years
male: 78.37 years
female: 82.83 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 33
Total fertility rate:
1.89 children born/woman (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 140
Contraceptive prevalence rate:
84%
note: percent of women aged 16-49 (2008/09)
Health expenditures:
9.1% of GDP (2013)
country comparison to the world: 30
Physicians density:
2.81 physicians/1,000 population (2013)
Hospital bed density:
2.9 beds/1,000 population (2011)
Drinking water source:
improved:
urban: 100% of population
rural: 100% of population
total: 100% of population
unimproved:
urban: 0% of population
rural: 0% of population
total: 0% of population (2015 est.)
Sanitation facility access:
improved:
urban: 99.1% of population
rural: 99.6% of population
total: 99.2% of population
unimproved:
urban: 0.9% of population
rural: 0.4% of population
total: 0.8% of population (2015 est.)
HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:
0.33% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 81
HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:
126,700 (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 36
HIV/AIDS - deaths:
fewer than 600 (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 82
Obesity - adult prevalence rate: 29.8% (2014)
country comparison to the world: 43
Education expenditures:
6% of GDP (2011)
country comparison to the world: 36
School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):
total: 16 years
male: 16 years
female: 17 years (2012)
Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:
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total: 20.9%

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male: 23.3%
female: 18.3% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 52
GDP (purchasing power parity):
$2.66 trillion (2015 est.)
$2.594 trillion (2014 est.)
$2.524 trillion (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 10
GDP (official exchange rate):
$2.865 trillion (2015 est.)
GDP - real growth rate:
2.5% (2015 est.)
2.8% (2014 est.)
1.7% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 118
GDP - per capita (PPP):
$41,200 (2015 est.)
$40,200 (2014 est.)
$39,000 (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: \underline{40}
Gross national saving:
12.8% of GDP (2015 est.)
11.9% of GDP (2014 est.)
12.5% of GDP (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 134
GDP - composition, by end use:
household consumption: 64.7%
government consumption: 19.1%
investment in fixed capital: 17.2%
investment in inventories: 0.2%
exports of goods and services: 27.6%
imports of goods and services: -28.8% (2015 est.)
GDP - composition, by sector of origin:
agriculture: 0.6%
industry: 19.7%
services: 79.6%
(2015 est.)
Agriculture - products:
cereals, oilseed, potatoes, vegetables; cattle, sheep, poultry; fish
machine tools, electric power equipment, automation equipment, railroad equipment, shipbuilding,
aircraft, motor vehicles and parts, electronics and communications equipment, metals, chemicals, coal,
petroleum, paper and paper products, food processing, textiles, clothing, other consumer goods
Industrial production growth rate:
1.8% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 121
Labor force:
32.94 million (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 19
Labor force - by occupation:
agriculture: 1.3%
industry: 15.2%
services: 83.5% (2014 est.)
Unemployment rate:
5.4% (2015 est.)
6.2% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 59
Population below poverty line:
15% (2013 est.)
Household income or consumption by percentage share:
lowest 10%: 1.7%
highest 10%: 31.1% (2012)
Distribution of family income - Gini index:
32.4 (2012)
33.4 (2010)
country comparison to the world: 108
Budget:
revenues: $1.101 trillion
expenditures: $1.229 trillion (2015 est.)
Taxes and other revenues:
38.4% of GDP (2015 est.)
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country comparison to the world: 45
Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):
-4.5% of GDP (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 160
Public debt:
90.6% of GDP (2015 est.)
88.1% of GDP (2014 est.)
note: data cover general government debt, and include debt instruments issued (or owned) by
government entities other than the treasury; the data include treasury debt held by foreign entities; the
data include debt issued by subnational entities, as well as intra-governmental debt; intra-governmental
debt consists of treasury borrowings from surpluses in the social funds, such as for retirement, medical
care, and unemployment; debt instruments for the social funds are not sold at public auctions
country comparison to the world: 25
Fiscal year:
6 April - 5 April
Inflation rate (consumer prices):
0.1% (2015 est.)
1.5% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 38
Central bank discount rate:
0.5% (31 December 2014)
0.5% (31 December 2013)
country comparison to the world: 127
Commercial bank prime lending rate:
4.5% (31 December 2015 est.)
4.45% (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: <u>152</u>
Market value of publicly traded shares:
$3.019 trillion (31 December 2012 est.)
$2.903 trillion (31 December 2011)
$3.107 trillion (31 December 2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 6
Current account balance:
-$135.8 billion (2015 est.)
-$173.9 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 195
Exports:
$442 billion (2015 est.)
$480.8 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 11
Exports - commodities:
manufactured goods, fuels, chemicals; food, beverages, tobacco
Exports - partners:
US 12.7%, Germany 10.5%, Netherlands 7.6%, France 6.5%, Ireland 6.2%, Belgium 4.2% (2014)
Imports:
$617.1 billion (2015 est.)
$680.4 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 6
Imports - commodities:
manufactured goods, machinery, fuels; foodstuffs
Imports - partners:
Germany 14.6%, China 8.9%, Netherlands 8%, US 6.8%, France 6.1%, Belgium 5.1%, Italy 4% (2014)
Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:
$107.7 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
$104.4 billion (31 December 2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 21
Debt - external:
$9.219 trillion (31 December 2014 est.)
$9.411 trillion (31 December 2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 3
Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:
$1.453 trillion (31 December 2015 est.)
$1.411 trillion (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 5
Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:
$1.767 trillion (31 December 2015 est.)
$1.711 trillion (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 4
Exchange rates:
British pounds (GBP) per US dollar -
0.6528 (2015 est.)
0.607 (2014 est.)
0.6391 (2013 est.)
0.6324 (2012 est.)
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0.624 (2011 est.)





UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, see Tanzania.

UNITED STATES, The United States of America (USA), commonly referred to as the United States (U.S.) or America, in North America. The US is a federal republic of 50 states (see list of states, their capital, largest city, population, area, etc. in Part V - Bibliography), 1 federal district and the incorporated territory of Palmyra Atoll. The US has sovereignty over the

following inhabited possessions and commonwealths: American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands. It also has sovereignty over several uninhabited territories: Baker Island, Howland Island, Jarvis Island, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, Midway Atoll, Navassa Island, Wake Island. 3 sovereign states have become associated states of the US under the Compact of Free Association: Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau. The US has a rented naval station in Cuba - Guantanamo Bay. The US also disputes sovereignty over the following territories: Bajo Nuevo Bank, Serranilla Bank. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World. World Atlas. Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. The United States of America is a federal republic composed of 50 states, the federal district of Washington, D.C., five major territories, and various possessions. The 48 contiguous states and Washington, D.C., are in central North America between Canada and Mexico. The state of Alaska is in the northwestern part of North America and the state of Hawaii is an archipelago in the mid-Pacific. The territories are scattered about the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. It is one of the world's most ethnically diverse and multicultural nations, the product of large-scale immigration from many countries. The geography and climate of the United States are also extremely diverse, and the country is home to a wide variety of wildlife. Paleo-Indians migrated from Asia to what is now the U.S. mainland at least 15,000 years ago, with European colonization beginning in the 16th century. The United States emerged from 13 British colonies along the East Coast. Numerous disputes between Great Britain and the colonies led to the American Revolution, which began in 1775. On July 4, 1776, as the colonies were fighting Great Britain in the American Revolutionary War, delegates from the 13 colonies unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence. The war ended in 1783 with recognition of the independence of the United States by the Kingdom of Great Britain, and was the first successful war of independence against a European colonial empire.

The country's constitution was adopted on September 17, 1787, and ratified by the states in 1788. The first ten amendments, collectively named the Bill of Rights, were ratified in 1791 and designed to guarantee many fundamental civil liberties. Driven by the doctrine of Manifest Destiny, the United States embarked on a vigorous expansion across North America throughout the 19th century. This involved displacing American Indian tribes, acquiring new territories, and gradually admitting new states and by 1848 the nation spanned the continent. During the second half of the 19th century, the American Civil War led to the end of legal slavery in the country. By the end of that century, the United States extended into the Pacific Ocean, and its economy, driven in large part by the Industrial Revolution, began to soar. The Spanish-American War and World War I confirmed the country's status as a global military power. The United States emerged from World War II as a global superpower, the first country to develop nuclear weapons, the only country to use them in warfare, and a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. The end of the Cold War and the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 left the United States as the world's sole superpower. The United States is a developed country and has the world's largest national economy by nominal and real GDP, benefiting from an abundance of natural resources and high worker productivity. Moreover, it ranks among the top 10 in the world in several measures of economic well-being, including average wage, Human Development Index, and per capita GDP. While the U.S. economy is considered post-industrial, the country continues to be one of the world's largest manufacturers. Accounting for 34% of global military spending and 23% of world GDP, it is the world's foremost military and economic power, a prominent political and cultural force, and a leader in scientific research and technological innovations.

The first inhabitants of North America migrated from Siberia by way of the Bering land bridge and arrived at least 15,000 years ago, though increasing evidence suggests an even earlier arrival. Some, such as the pre-Columbian Mississippian culture, developed advanced agriculture, grand architecture, and state-level societies. After the Spanish conquistadors made the first contacts, the native population declined for various reasons, primarily diseases such as smallpox and measles. Violence was not a significant factor in the overall decline, though it impacted specific tribes and colonial settlements. In the Hawaiian Islands, the earliest indigenous inhabitants arrived around 1 AD from Polynesia. Europeans under the British explorer Captain James Cook arrived in the Hawaiian Islands in 1778. In the early days of colonization, many European settlers were subject to food shortages, disease, and attacks from Native Americans. Native Americans were also often at war with neighboring tribes and allied with Europeans in their colonial wars. At the same time, however, many natives and settlers came to depend on each other. Settlers traded for food and animal pelts, natives for guns, ammunition and other European wares. Natives taught many settlers where, when and how to cultivate corn, beans and squash. European missionaries and others felt it was important to "civilize" the Native Americans and urged them to adopt European agricultural techniques and lifestyles. After Spain sent Columbus' on his first voyage to the New World in 1492, other explorers followed. The Spanish set up small settlements in New Mexico and Florida. France had several small settlements along the Mississippi River. Successful English settlement on the eastern coast of North America began with the Virginia Colony in 1607 at Jamestown and the Pilgrims' Plymouth Colony in 1620. Early experiments in communal living failed until the introduction of private farm holdings. Many settlers were dissenting Christian groups who came seeking religious freedom. The continent's first elected legislative assembly, Virginia's House of Burgesses created in 1619, and the Mayflower Compact, signed by the Pilgrims before disembarking, established precedents for the pattern of representative self-government and constitutionalism that would develop throughout the American colonies.

In 1920, the women's rights movement won passage of a constitutional amendment granting women's suffrage. The 1920s and 1930s saw the rise of radio for mass communication and the invention of early television. The prosperity of the Roaring Twenties ended with the Wall Street Crash of 1929 and the onset of the Great Depression. After his election as president in 1932, Franklin D. Roosevelt responded with the New Deal, which included the establishment of the Social Security system. The Great Migration of millions of African Americans out of the American South began before World War I and extended through the 1960s; whereas the Dust Bowl of the mid-1930s impoverished many farming communities and spurred a new wave of western migration. The United States has a capitalist mixed economy which is fueled by abundant natural resources and high productivity. According to the International Monetary Fund, the U.S. GDP of \$16.8 trillion constitutes 24% of the gross world product at market exchange rates and over 19% of the gross world product at purchasing power parity (PPP). The US's nominal GDP is estimated to be \$17.528 trillion as of 2014. From 1983 to 2008, U.S. real compounded annual GDP growth was 3.3%, compared to a 2.3% weighted average for the rest of the G7. The country ranks ninth in the world in nominal GDP per capita and sixth in GDP per capita at PPP. The U.S. dollar is the world's primary reserve currency. The United States is the largest importer of goods and second largest exporter, though exports per capita are relatively low. In 2010, the total U.S. trade deficit was \$635 billion. Canada, China, Mexico, Japan, and Germany are its top trading partners. In 2010, oil was the largest import commodity, while transportation equipment was the country's largest export. Japan is the largest foreign holder of U.S. public debt. The largest holder of the U.S. debt are American entities, including federal government accounts and the Federal Reserve, who hold the majority of the debt.

In 2009, the private sector was estimated to constitute 86.4% of the economy, with federal government activity accounting for 4.3% and state and local government activity (including federal transfers) the remaining 9.3%. The number of employees at all levels of government outnumber those in manufacturing by 1.7 to 1. While its economy has reached a postindustrial level of development and its service sector constitutes 67.8% of GDP, the United States remains an industrial power. The leading business field by gross business receipts is wholesale and retail trade; by net income it is manufacturing. In the franchising business model, McDonald's and Subway are the two most recognized brands in the world. Coca-Cola is the most recognized soft drink company in the world. Chemical products are the leading manufacturing field. The United States is the largest producer of oil in the world, as well as its second largest importer. It is the world's number one producer of electrical and nuclear energy, as well as liquid natural gas, sulfur, phosphates, and salt. The National Mining Association provides data pertaining to coal and minerals that include beryllium, copper, lead, magnesium, zinc, titanium and others. Agriculture accounts for just under 1% of GDP, yet the United States is the world's top producer of corn and soybeans. The National Agricultural Statistics Service maintains agricultural statistics for products that include peanuts, oats, rye, wheat, rice, cotton, corn, barley, hay, sunflowers, and oilseeds. In addition, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides livestock statistics regarding beef, poultry, pork, and dairy products. The country is the primary developer and grower of genetically modified food, representing half of the world's biotech crops.

Consumer spending comprises 68% of the U.S. economy in 2015. [412] In August 2010, the American labor force consisted of 154.1 million people. With 21.2 million people, government is the leading field of employment. The largest private employment sector is health care and social assistance, with 16.4 million people. About 12% of workers are unionized, compared to 30% in Western Europe. The World Bank ranks the United States first in the ease of hiring and firing workers. The United States is ranked among the top three in the Global Competitiveness Report as well. It has a smaller welfare state and redistributes less income through government action than European nations tend to. The United States is the only advanced economy that does not guarantee its workers paid vacation and is one of just a few countries in the world without paid family leave as a legal right, with the others being Papua New Guinea, Suriname and Liberia. However, 74% of full-time American workers get paid sick leave, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, although only 24% of part-time workers get the same benefits. While federal law currently does not require sick leave, it's a common benefit for government workers and full-time employees at corporations. In 2009, the United States had the third highest workforce productivity per person in the world, behind Luxembourg and Norway. It was fourth in productivity per hour, behind those two countries and the Netherlands. The 2008–2012 global recession had a significant impact on the United States, with output still below potential according to the Congressional Budget Office. It brought high unemployment (which has been decreasing but remains above prerecession levels), along with low consumer confidence, the continuing decline in home values and increase in foreclosures and personal bankruptcies, an escalating federal debt crisis, inflation, and rising petroleum and food prices. There remains a record proportion of longterm unemployed, continued decreasing household income, tax and federal budget increases.

Capital – Washington D.C. Language – English, Cajun French in Louisiana, Hawaiian in Hawaii. There are also 38 million Spanish native speakers - the US 2^{nd} language. Religion –

Christian – 78%: Protestant – 47%, Catholic – 21%, Mormon – 2%, Jehovah's Witnesses – 1%..., Muslim – 1%, Jew – 2%, Unaffiliated – 16%, Hindu – 1%, Buddhist – 1%. Ethnics – White – 80%, Black – 13%, Asian – 4%, Amerindian and Alaska Native – 1%, Two or more races – 2%. A separate listing for Hispanic is not included because the US Census Bureau considers Hispanic to mean persons of Spanish/Hispanic/Latino origin including those of Mexican, Cuban, Puerto Rican, Dominican Republic, Spanish and Central or South American origin living in the US who may be of any race or ethnic group (White, Black, Asian, etc.) – about 15% of the total US population is Hispanic. Ethnics Ancestries – German – 15%, Irish – 11%, African American – 9%, English – 9%, American – 7%, Mexican – 7%, Italian – 6%, Polish – 3%, French – 3%, American Indian – 3%, Scottish – 2%, Dutch – 2%, Norwegian – 2%, Swedish - 1%. Government - The United States is the world's oldest surviving federation. It is a constitutional republic and representative democracy, "in which majority rule is tempered by minority rights protected by law". The government is regulated by a system of checks and balances defined by the U.S. Constitution, which serves as the country's supreme legal document. For 2014, the U.S. ranked 19th on the Democracy Index and 17th on the Corruption Perceptions Index. In the American federalist system, citizens are usually subject to three levels of government: federal, state, and local. The local government's duties are commonly split between county and municipal governments. In almost all cases, executive and legislative officials are elected by a plurality vote of citizens by district. There is no proportional representation at the federal level, and it is rare at lower levels.

The federal government is composed of three branches:

- Legislative: The bicameral Congress, made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives, makes federal law, declares war, approves treaties, has the power of the purse, and has the power of impeachment, by which it can remove sitting members of the government.
- Executive: The President is the commander-in-chief of the military, can veto legislative bills before they become law (subject to Congressional override), and appoints the members of the Cabinet (subject to Senate approval) and other officers, who administer and enforce federal laws and policies.
- Judicial: The Supreme Court and lower federal courts, whose judges are appointed by the President with Senate approval, interpret laws and overturn those they find unconstitutional.

The House of Representatives has 435 voting members, each representing a congressional district for a two-year term. House seats are apportioned among the states by population every tenth year. At the 2010 census, seven states had the minimum of one representative, while California, the most populous state, had 53. The Senate has 100 members with each state having two senators, elected at-large to six-year terms; one third of Senate seats are up for election every other year. The President serves a four-year term and may be elected to the office no more than twice. The President is not elected by direct vote, but by an indirect electoral college system in which the determining votes are apportioned to the states and the District of Columbia. The Supreme Court, led by the Chief Justice of the United States, has nine members, who serve for life. The state governments are structured in roughly similar fashion; Nebraska uniquely has a unicameral legislature. The governor (chief executive) of each state is directly elected. Some state judges and cabinet officers are appointed by the governors of the respective states, while others are elected by popular vote.

Population – 318,892,103, rank – 4. Area – 9,161,966, rank – 3. Density – 35, rank – 174.

GDP – \$ 16,720 billion, world rank – 1. GDP Per Capita - \$52,800, world rank – 14. GDP Real Growth Rate – 1.60%, rank – 157. Gross National Saving – 13.50% of GDP, rank – 116. Industrial Production Growth Rate – 2.50%, rank – 115. Unemployment Rate – 7.30%, rank – 79 (no. 1 – no unemployment). Annual Average Wage: Disposable Income - \$45,582, rank - 4; Compulsory Deduction – 18.70%; Gross Income –\$56,067. Monthly Average Wage - \$3,263, rank - 4. Median Household Income - \$43,585, Median Per-Capita Income – \$15,480, rank – 6. Median Equivalised Disposable Household Income - \$30,932, rank - 4. Income Inequality – Gini – 45.0%, world rank – 41 (100% – the most unequal). Population Shares of the: Bottom Income Group below 75% - 34.0%, Middle Income Group 75%-125% - 29.9%, Top Income Group above 125% - 36.1%.

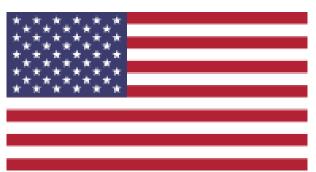
Taxes and Other Revenues – 17.0% of GDP, rank – 182. Size of Shadow Economy – 8.6% of GDP, rank - 2, 1 – lowest size. Budget Deficit - -4% of GDP, rank – 142 (highest surplus – no. 1). External Debt - \$15,680 billion, rank – 2. Gross Government Debt as % of GDP – 106.52%, Net – 87.86%. Inflation Rate – 1.50%, rank – 40 (lowest inflation – no. 1). Central Bank Discount Rate – 0.50%, rank – 137 (highest rate – no. 1). Commercial Bank Prime Lending Rate – 3.25%, rank – 167 (highest rate – no. 1).

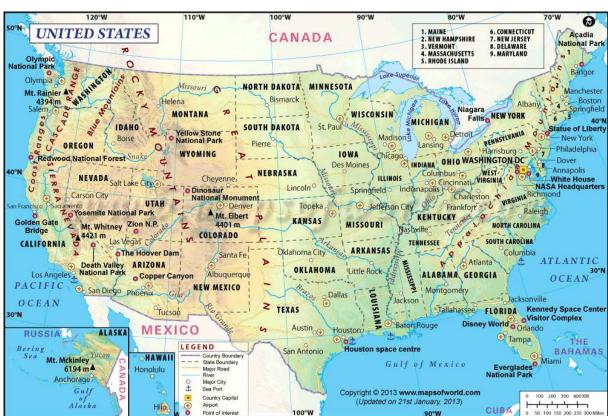
Market Value of Public Traded Shares – \$15,640 billion, rank - 1. Current Account Balance - \$-360.7 billion, rank – 193. Reserves of Foreign Exchange and Gold - \$150.2 billion, rank – 19. HDI – 0.914, world rank – 5 (best – 1). Newsweek World's Best Countries 2010 – rank – 11 (1 is best). Inequality Adjusted HDI – score – 0,755, rank – 28. Gender Inequality Index: rank – 47, value – 0,262 (most equal is no. 1 and closer to 0), 18.2% share of seats in parliament. Poverty – 15.1%, world rank – 125 (poorest – no. 1). Under \$1.25 a day – na%, under \$2 a day – na%. Poverty (Index Mundi) – 15.1%, rank – 123. Internet, IPR – 86.9%. World Happiness Report – 7.082, world rank – 17 (happiest – closest to 10, no. 1). Currency – US\$ 1 = Euro 0.8779.

Corruption Perceptions Index- in 2014 - score of 74 (highest score of ethics is close to 100), rank - 17. 2013 - score - 73, 2012 - score - 73. 2005 - rank - 17, score - 7.6. 1996 - rank -15, score – 7.66, 1995 – rank – 15, score – 7.79. Global Corruption Barometer – 7%, rank – 21 (1 – Lowest Bribes). Where to Be Born/Quality of Life Index – score – 7.38 (highest – 10), rank – 16 (1-best). Freedom in the World Index – free. Index of Economic Freedom – mostly free. Press Freedom Index – satisfactory situation. Democracy Index, score – 8.11 (highest – 10), rank – 19 (best – 1). Social Progress Index – score – 82.77 (highest 100), rank – 16, Basic Human Needs Index – score – 89.82, rank – 23, Foundations of Well-Being Index – score – 75.96, rank - 36, Opportunity Index - score - 82.54, rank - 5. GDP (PPP) per Hour Worked/Productivity - \$67.32, rank - 3. Global Peace Index - score - 2.137 (most peaceful closer to 1), rank - 101. Incarceration Rate - 707 per 100,000 population, rank - 2 (1highest). This is a record highest incarceration rate in the world, to be compared to the rate of Denmark the most ethical country in the world - 73 per 100,000 population, rank – 175. It is about ten times more than in Denmark - thanks to the US neo-liberal regime, the privatization of prisons (see Michael Moore's film - Capitalism a Love Story), extreme violence, high inequality, corruption, practically no gun control, and is 50% more than in Russia (470), much more than in the communist paradise of Cuba (510), 482 in Rwanda and 435 in Thailand. Level of Discrimination (1.0 -lowest) – 5.0, rank - 24. Fragile States Index FSI – score – 35.3 (120 – most fragile), rank - 158, (1 – most fragile).

Global Competitiveness -5.54 (highest - most competitive), rank -3 (1 - most competitive). Financial Development Index - score -5.27, rank -2. Gross National Income Per Capita - GNI -US\$ 53,470, rank no. 11. Total Health Expenditure Per Capita in PPP International -

\$8,233, in % of GDP – 17.6%, rank no. - 1. Credit Rating – AA+, stable (AAA – best). Education Index Pearson – score – 0.39, rank - 14. World Top 20 Education Poll – score – 5.6, rank - 20. U21 Higher Education – score – 100.0, rank - 1. Distribution of Wealth: Wealth Per Capita – rank – 3, PPP\$ 143,727, Wealth Per Adult – PPP\$ 201,319, Wealth Gini – 0.801 (completely unequal – 1). Environmental Performance: Rank – no. 33, score – 67.52 (highest – 100). Index of Globalization: Rank – no. 34, Score – 74.76 (no. 1 is the closest to 100). List of membership in Organizations: see at the end of Part IV. List of Countries Comparisons and Links to other parameters: see Part V - Bibliography.





UNITED STATES MINOR OUTLYING ISLANDS, is a statistical designation defined by the International Organization for Standardization. It consists of 8 United States insular areas in the Pacific Ocean – Baker Island, Howland Island, Jarvis Island, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, Midway Islands, Palmyra Atoll and Wake Island, and one in the Caribbean Sea – Navassa Island. See the specific insular areas.

UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS, see Virgin Islands, US.

URUGUAY, Oriental Republic of Uruguay, Republica Oriental del Uruguay, in Central East South America. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica,

Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Uruguay, officially the Eastern Republic of Uruguay (Spanish: República Oriental del Uruguay), is a country in the southeastern region of South America. It is bordered by Argentina to its west and Brazil to its north and east, with the "Río de la Plata" (River of Silver) to the south and with the Atlantic Ocean to the southeast. Uruguay is home to 3.3 million people, of whom 1.8 million live in the metropolitan area of its capital and largest city, Montevideo. With an area of approximately 176,000 square kilometres, Uruguay is geographically the second-smallest nation in South America after Suriname. Uruguay was inhabited by the Charrúa people for approximately 4000 years before the Portuguese established Colonia del Sacramento, one of the oldest European settlements in the country, in 1680. Montevideo was founded as a military stronghold by the Spanish in the early 18th century, signifying the competing claims over the region. Uruguay won its independence between 1811 and 1828, following a four-way struggle between Spain, Portugal, Argentina and Brazil. It remained subject to foreign influence and intervention throughout the 19th century, with the military playing a recurring role in domestic politics until the late 20th century. Modern Uruguay is a democratic constitutional republic, with a president who serves as both head of state and head of government. Uruguay is ranked first in Latin America in democracy, peace, lack of corruption, e-government, and is first in South America when it comes to press freedom, size of the middle class and prosperity. On a per-capita basis, Uruguay contributes more troops to United Nations peace-keeping missions than any other country. It ranks second in the region on economic freedom, income equality, per-capita income and inflows of FDI. Uruguay is the third-best country on the continent in terms of HDI, GDP growth, innovation and infrastructure. It is regarded as a high-income country (top group) by the UN. Uruguay is also the third-best ranked in the world in e-Participation. Uruguay is an important global exporter of combed wool, rice, soybeans, frozen beef, malt and milk. The Economist named Uruguay "country of the year" in 2013 acknowledging the innovative policy of legalizing the production, sale and consumption of cannabis. Same-sex marriage and abortion are also legal, leading Uruguay to be regarded as one of the most liberal nations in the world, and one of the most socially developed, outstanding regionally and ranking highly on global measures of personal rights, tolerance and inclusion issue.

Capital – Montevideo. Language – Spanish. Religion – Christian – 58%, Unaffiliated – 41%, Folk religion – 1%. Ethnics – White – 88%, Mestizo – 8%, Black – 4%, Amerindian – practically nonexistent. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 3,332,972, rank – 135. Area – 175,015, rank – 91. Density – 19, rank – 193.



UZBEKISTAN, Republic of Uzbekistan, (Uzbek: *Oʻzbekiston Respublikasi/Ўзбекистон Республикаси*), Uzbekiston Respublikasi, in Central Asia, contains 1 autonomous region –

Karakalpakstan. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Uzbekistan is a doubly landlocked country in Central Asia. It is a unitary, constitutional, presidential republic, comprising 12 provinces, 1 autonomous republic, and 1 capital city. Once part of the Turkic Khaganate and later Timurid Empires, the region that today includes the Republic of Uzbekistan was conquered in the early 16th century by Eastern Turkic-speaking nomads. The area was gradually incorporated into the Russian Empire during the 19th century, and in 1924 what is now Uzbekistan became a bordered constituent republic of the Soviet Union, known as the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic (Uzbek SSR). Following the breakup of the Soviet Union, it declared independence as the Republic of Uzbekistan on 31 August 1991 (officially celebrated the following day). Uzbekistan is officially a democratic, secular, unitary, constitutional republic with a diverse cultural heritage. The country's official language is Uzbek, a Turkic language written in latin alphabet and spoken natively by approximately 85% of the population; however, Russian remains in widespread use. Uzbekistan's economy relies mainly on commodity production, including cotton, gold, uranium, and natural gas. Despite the declared objective of transition to a market economy, its government continues to maintain economic controls which imports in favour of domestic "import substitution". Uzbekistan is the happiest country in the Commonwealth of Independent States, according to World Happiness Report.

Capital – Tashkent. Language – Uzbec. Religion – Muslim – 97%, Christian – 2%, Unaffiliated – 1%. Ethnics – Uzbek – 80%, Russian – 6%, Tajik – 5%, Kazakh – 3%, Karakalpak – 3%, Tatar – 2%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 28,929,716, rank – 45. Area – 425,400, rank -57. Density – 68, rank – 139.



VANUATU, officially the Republic of Vanuatu (French: *République de Vanuatu*, Bislama: *Ripablik blong Vanuatu*), is a Pacific island nation located in the South Pacific Ocean, in Melanesia, Oceania, formerly known as the New Hebrides, which was ruled by a French-British condominium. <u>Link to map</u>. Links to essential data: <u>CIA Factbook</u>, <u>Enc. Britannica</u>, <u>Wikipedia</u>, <u>Nations Online</u>, <u>UN Data</u>, <u>BBC</u>, <u>World Atlas</u>, <u>Countries/World</u>, <u>List/Countries</u>, <u>Index Mundi</u>, <u>Oper/World</u>, <u>Internet/Stats</u>. Member of the UN, CW. The archipelago, which is of volcanic origin, is some 1,750 kilometres east of northern Australia, 500 kilometres northeast of New Caledonia, east of New Guinea, southeast of the Solomon Islands, and west of Fiji. Vanuatu was first inhabited by Melanesian people. The first Europeans to visit the islands were a Spanish expedition led by Portuguese navigator Fernandes de Queirós, who arrived on the largest island in 1606. He then claimed the archipelago for Spain, as part of the colonial Spanish East Indies, and named it *Austrialia del Espiritu Santo*. In the 1880s, France and Great Britain claimed parts of the archipelago, and in 1906 they agreed on a framework for jointly managing the archipelago as the New Hebrides through a British–French Condominium. An independence movement arose in the 1970s, and the Republic of Vanuatu

was founded in 1980. The four mainstays of the economy are agriculture, tourism, offshore financial services, and raising cattle. There is substantial fishing activity, although this industry does not bring in much foreign exchange. Exports include copra, kava, beef, cocoa, and timber, and imports include machinery and equipment, foodstuffs, and fuels. In contrast, mining activity is unsubstantial. While manganese mining halted in 1978, there was an agreement in 2006 to export manganese already mined but not yet exported. The country has no known petroleum deposits. A small light-industry sector caters to the local market. Financial services are an important part of the economy. Vanuatu is a tax haven that until 2008 did not release account information to other governments or law-enforcement agencies. International pressure, mainly from Australia, influenced the Vanuatu government to begin adhering to international norms to improve transparency. In Vanuatu, there is no income tax, withholding tax, capital gains tax, inheritance tax, or exchange control. Many international ship-management companies choose to flag their ships under the Vanuatu flag, because of the tax benefits and favourable labour laws (Vanuatu is a full member of the International Maritime Organization and applies its international conventions). Vanuatu is recognised as a "flag of convenience" country.[47] Several file-sharing groups, such as the providers of the KaZaA network of Sharman Networks and the developers of WinMX, have chosen to incorporate in Vanuatu to avoid regulation and legal challenges. In response to foreign concerns the government has promised to tighten regulation of its offshore financial centre. Vanuatu receives foreign aid mainly from Australia and New Zealand.

Capital – Port-Vila. Language – French, English, Bislama (national). Religion – Christian – 93%, Folk religion – 4%, Unaffiliated – 1%. Ethnics – Ni-Vanuatu – 98%, part Ni-Vanuatu – 1%. Government – Republic, ceremonial head of state, ministry is subject to parliamentary confidence. Population – 266,937, rank – 184. Area – 12,189, rank – 164. Density – 22, rank – 189.



VATICAN CITY, Vatican City State, known also as the Holy See, Status Civitatis Vaticanae, within Rome, in Italy, Southern Europe. A UN observer state under the designation of Holy See. It is administered by the Holy See, a sovereign entity, governed by officials appointed by the Pope and ex officio sovereign of Vatican City. Vatican City (Italian: Città del Vaticano; Latin: Civitas Vaticana), officially Vatican City State or the State of Vatican City (Italian: Stato della Città del Vaticano; Latin: Status Civitatis Vaticanae), is a walled enclave within the city of Rome. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. With an area of approximately 44 hectares (110 acres), and a population of 842, it is the smallest state in the world by both area and population. It is an ecclesiastical or sacerdotal-monarchical state ruled by the Bishop of Rome – the Pope. The highest state functionaries are all Catholic clergy of various national origins. Since the return of the Popes from Avignon in 1377, they have generally resided at the Apostolic Palace within what is now Vatican City, although at times residing instead in the

Quirinal Palace in Rome or elsewhere. Vatican City is distinct from the Holy See (Latin: Sancta Sedes), which dates back to early Christianity and is the main episcopal see of 1.2 billion Latin and Eastern Catholic adherents around the globe. The independent city-state, on the other hand, came into existence in 1929 by the Lateran Treaty between the Holy See and Italy, which spoke of it as a new creation, not as a vestige of the much larger Papal States (756–1870), which had previously encompassed much of central Italy. According to the terms of the treaty, the Holy See has "full ownership, exclusive dominion, and sovereign authority and jurisdiction" over the city-state. The Holy See is the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Catholic Church in Rome, the episcopal see of the Pope, and an independent sovereign entity. It serves as the central point of reference for the Catholic church everywhere and the focal point of communion due to its position as the pre-eminent episcopal see of the universal church. It traces its origin to the 1st century during the apostolic era, when Saint Peter arrived in Rome to evangelize and forming a significant early Christian community of believers there. Today, it is responsible for the governance of all Catholics, organised in their Particular Churches, Patriarchates and religious institutes. As an independent sovereign entity, holding the Vatican City enclave in Rome as sovereign territory, it maintains diplomatic relations with other states. It is viewed as analogous to a state while administered by the Roman Curia (Latin for Roman Court), similar to a centralized government with the Cardinal Secretary of State as its chief administrator, and various dicasteries, comparable to ministries and executive departments. Diplomatically, the Holy See acts and speaks for the whole church. It is also recognized by other subjects of international law as a sovereign entity, headed by the Pope, with which diplomatic relations can be maintained. Often informally referred to as "the Vatican", the "Holy See" is not the same entity as the "Vatican City State", which came into existence only in 1929 because of the Lateran Treaty; the Holy See, the episcopal see of Rome, dates back to antiquity. Ambassadors are officially accredited not to the Vatican City State but to "the Holy See", and Papal representatives to states and international organizations are recognized as representing the Holy See, not the Vatican City State. The creation of the Vatican City state was meant to ensure the diplomatic and spiritual independence of the Pope. Though all episcopal sees may be considered holy, the expression "the Holy See" is normally used in international relations (and in the canon law of the Catholic Church) to refer to the See of Rome viewed as the central government of the Catholic Church.

Within Vatican City are religious and cultural sites such as St. Peter's Basilica, the Sistine Chapel and the Vatican Museums. They feature some of the world's most famous paintings and sculptures. The unique economy of Vatican City is supported financially by the sale of postage stamps and tourist mementos, fees for admission to museums, and the sale of publications. The name "Vatican" was already in use in the time of the Roman Republic for a marshy area on the west bank of the Tiber across from the city of Rome. Under the Roman Empire, many villas were constructed there, after Agrippina the Elder (14 BC – 18 October AD 33) drained the area and laid out her gardens in the early 1st century AD. In AD 40, her son, Emperor Caligula (31 August AD 12–24 January AD 41; r. 37–41) built in her gardens a circus for charioteers (AD 40) that was later completed by Nero, the Circus Gaii et Neronis, usually called, simply, the Circus of Nero. Even before the arrival of Christianity, it is supposed that this originally uninhabited part of Rome (the ager vaticanus) had long been considered sacred, or at least not available for habitation. A shrine dedicated to the Phrygian goddess Cybele and her consort Attis remained active long after the Constantinian Basilica of St. Peter was built nearby. The Vatican Obelisk was originally taken by Caligula from Heliopolis in Egypt to decorate the *spina* of his circus and is thus its last visible remnant. This area became the site of martyrdom of many Christians after the Great Fire of Rome in AD 64. Ancient tradition holds that it was in this circus that Saint Peter was crucified upside-down.

The Constantinian basilica was built in 326 over what was believed to be the tomb of Saint Peter. Popes gradually came to have a secular role as governors of regions near Rome. They ruled the Papal States, which covered a large portion of the Italian peninsula, for more than a thousand years until the mid-19th century, when all the territory belonging to the papacy was seized by the newly created Kingdom of Italy. For most of this time the popes did not live at the Vatican. The Lateran Palace, on the opposite side of Rome was their habitual residence for about a thousand years. From 1309 to 1377, they lived at Avignon in France. On their return to Rome they chose to live at the Vatican. They moved to the Quirinal Palace in 1583, after work on it was completed under Pope Paul V (1605–1621), but on the capture of Rome in 1870 retired to the Vatican, and what had been their residence became that of the King of Italy. In 1870, the Pope's holdings were left in an uncertain situation when Rome itself was annexed by the Piedmont-led forces which had united the rest of Italy, after a nominal resistance by the papal forces. Between 1861 and 1929 the status of the Pope was referred to as the "Roman Question". Italy made no attempt to interfere with the Holy See within the Vatican walls. However, it confiscated church property in many places. In 1871 the Quirinal Palace was confiscated by the king of Italy and became the royal palace. Thereafter the popes resided undisturbed within the Vatican walls, and certain papal prerogatives were recognized by the Law of Guarantees, including the right to send and receive ambassadors. But the Popes did not recognize the Italian king's right to rule in Rome, and they refused to leave the Vatican compound until the dispute was resolved in 1929; Pope Pius IX (1846-78), the last ruler of the Papal States, was referred to as a "prisoner in the Vatican". Forced to give up secular power, the popes focused on spiritual issues. This situation was resolved on 11 February 1929, when the Lateran Treaty between the Holy See and the Kingdom of Italy was signed by Prime Minister and Head of Government Benito Mussolini on behalf of King Victor Emmanuel III and by Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Gasparri for Pope Pius XI. The treaty, which became effective on 7 June 1929, established the independent state of Vatican City and reaffirmed the special status of Catholicism in Italy.

The Holy See, which ruled Vatican City, pursued a policy of neutrality during World War II, under the leadership of Pope Pius XII. Although German troops occupied the city of Rome after the September 1943 Armistice of Cassibile, and the Allies from 1944, they respected Vatican City as neutral territory. One of the main diplomatic priorities of the bishop of Rome was to prevent the bombing of the city; so sensitive was the pontiff that he protested even the British air dropping of pamphlets over Rome, claiming that the few landing within the citystate violated the Vatican's neutrality. The British policy, as expressed in the minutes of a Cabinet meeting, was: "that we should on no account molest the Vatican City, but that our action as regards the rest of Rome would depend upon how far the Italian government observed the rules of war". After the American entry into the war, the US opposed such a bombing, fearful of offending Catholic members of its military forces, but said that "they could not stop the British from bombing Rome if the British so decided". The British uncompromisingly said "they would bomb Rome whenever the needs of the war demanded".[[] In December 1942, the British envoy suggested to the Holy See that Rome be declared an "open city", a suggestion that the Holy See took more seriously than was probably meant by the British, who did not want Rome to be an open city, but Mussolini rejected the suggestion when the Holy See put it to him. In connection with the Allied invasion of Sicily, 500 American aircraft bombed Rome on 19 July 1943, aiming particularly at the railway hub. Some 1,500 people were killed; Pius XII himself, who had been described in the previous month as "worried sick" about the possible bombing, went to the scene of the tragedy. Another raid took place on 13 August 1943, after Mussolini had been ousted from power. On the following day, the new government declared Rome an open city, after consulting the Holy

See on the wording of the declaration, but the British had decided that they would never recognize Rome as an open city.

As the Vatican City is an enclave within Italy, its military defence is provided by the Italian armed forces. Vatican City has no armed forces of its own, although the Swiss Guard is a military corps of the Holy See responsible for the personal security of the Pope, and resident in the state. Soldiers of the Swiss Guard are entitled to hold Vatican City State passports and nationality. Swiss mercenaries were historically recruited by Popes as part of an army for the Papal States, and the Pontifical Swiss Guard was founded by Pope Julius II on 22 January 1506 as the pope's personal bodyguard and continues to fulfill that function. It is listed in the Annuario Pontificio under "Holy See", not under "State of Vatican City". At the end of 2005, the Guard had 134 members. Recruitment is arranged by a special agreement between the Holy See and Switzerland. All recruits must be Catholic, unmarried males with Swiss citizenship who have completed their basic training with the Swiss Army with certificates of good conduct, be between the ages of 19 and 30, and be at least 174 cm in height. Members are equipped with small arms and the traditional halberd (also called the Swiss voulge), and trained in bodyguarding tactics. The Palatine Guard and the Noble Guard, the last armed forces of the Vatican City State, were disbanded by Pope Paul VI in 1970. As Vatican City has listed every building in its territory on the International Register of Cultural Property under Special Protection, the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict theoretically renders it immune to armed attack. The Vatican City State budget includes the Vatican Museums and post office and is supported financially by the sale of stamps, coins, medals and tourist mementos; by fees for admission to museums; and by publications sales. The incomes and living standards of lay workers are comparable to those of counterparts who work in the city of Rome. Other industries include printing, the production of mosaics, and the manufacture of staff uniforms. The Institute for Works of Religion, also known as the Vatican Bank, and with the acronym IOR (Istituto per le Opere di Religione), is a bank situated in the Vatican that conducts worldwide financial activities. It has an ATM with instructions in Latin, possibly the only such ATM in the world.

Unlike citizenship of other states, which is based either on *jus sanguinis* (birth from a citizen, even outside the state's territory) or on *jus soli* (birth within the territory of the state), citizenship of Vatican City is granted *jus officii*, namely on the grounds of appointment to work in a certain capacity in the service of the Holy See. It usually ceases upon cessation of the appointment. Citizenship is extended also to the spouse, parents and descendants of a citizen, provided they are living with the person who is a citizen. The Holy See, not being a country, issues only diplomatic and service passports, whereas Vatican City State issues normal passports for its citizens. Anyone who loses Vatican citizenship and does not possess other citizenship automatically becomes an Italian citizen as provided in the Lateran Treaty.

As of 31 December 2005, there were, apart from the Pope himself, 557 people with Vatican citizenship, while there were 246 residents in the state who did not have its citizenship.

Of the 557 citizens, 74% were clergy:

- 58 cardinals, resident in Rome, mostly outside the Vatican;
- 293 clergy, members of the Holy See's diplomatic missions, resident in other countries, and forming well over half the total of the citizens;
- 62 other clergy, working but not necessarily living in the Vatican.

The 101 members of the Pontifical Swiss Guard constituted 18% of the total, and there were only 55 other lay persons with Vatican citizenship. As of 2013, there were about 30 female citizens. Vatican City is home to some of the most famous art in the world. St. Peter's Basilica, whose successive architects include Bramante, Michelangelo, Giacomo della Porta, Maderno and Bernini, is a renowned work of Renaissance architecture. The Sistine Chapel is famous for its frescos, which include works by Perugino, Domenico Ghirlandaio and Botticelli as well as the ceiling and Last Judgment by Michelangelo. Artists who decorated the interiors of the Vatican include Raphael and Fra Angelico. The Vatican Apostolic Library and the collections of the Vatican Museums are of the highest historical, scientific and cultural importance. In 1984, the Vatican was added by UNESCO to the List of World Heritage Sites; it is the only one to consist of an entire state. Furthermore, it is the only site to date registered with the UNESCO as a centre containing monuments in the "International Register of Cultural Property under Special Protection" according to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. At present, Vatican City is the only country where men but not women have voting rights. Only cardinals - men appointed as leaders of the Roman Catholic Church - have the right to vote in Vatican City, such as in the election of a new pope. Vatican City is one of two sovereign states that do not allow divorce, the other being the Republic of the Philippines.

Capital – Vatican City. Language – Italian, Latin. Religion – Christian - 100% - Catholic. Ethnics - The ethnicity of the people of Vatican City is quite unique and in a way matches the ethnicities of the people that practice Roman Catholicism. The country is home to many Roman Catholic priests and cardinals, who come from all over the world, but primarily Catholic countries, including much of Europe, South and North America, and pockets throughout Asia and Africa. Most of the residents (who are not citizens) are ethnic Italians, as they live and work in the country, but are originally from Rome or elsewhere in Italy. All the guards are Swiss citizens and are generally ethnic Germans, French, or Italians. The current head of state is Argentine and the next head of state can be from anywhere. Government -Absolute monarchy, executive head of state, all authority vested in absolute monarch. The government of Vatican City has a unique structure. The Pope is the sovereign of the state. Legislative authority is vested in the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State, a body of cardinals appointed by the Pope for five-year periods. Executive power is in the hands of the President of that commission, assisted by the General Secretary and Deputy General Secretary. The state's foreign relations are entrusted to the Holy See's Secretariat of State and diplomatic service. Nevertheless, the pope has absolute power in the executive, legislative and judicial branches over Vatican City. He is currently the only absolute monarch in Europe. There are specific departments that deal with health, security, telecommunications, etc. Population -842, rank -237. Area -0.44 sq km, rank -252. Density -1.914, rank -7.



VENEZUELA, officially the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (Spanish: República Bolivariana de Venezuela), is a federal republic located on the northern coast of South America. Venezuela is a federation of 23 states, 1 capital district, and federal dependencies. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Venezuela is considered a state with extremely high biodiversity (currently ranks 7th in the world's list of nations with the most number of species), with habitats ranging from the Andes Mountains in the west to the Amazon Basin rain-forest in the south, via extensive *llanos* plains and Caribbean coast in the center and the Orinoco River Delta in the east. The territory currently known as Venezuela was colonized by Spain in 1522 amid resistance from indigenous peoples. In 1811, it became one of the first Spanish-American colonies to declare independence, which was not securely established until 1821, when Venezuela was a department of the federal republic of Gran Colombia. It gained full independence as a separate country in 1830. During the 19th century, Venezuela suffered political turmoil and autocracy, remaining dominated by regional caudillos (military strongmen) until the mid-20th century. Since 1958, the country has had a series of democratic governments. Economic shocks in the 1980s and 1990s led to several political crises, including the deadly Caracazo riots of 1989, two attempted coups in 1992, and the impeachment of President Carlos Andrés Pérez for embezzlement of public funds in 1993. A collapse in confidence in the existing parties saw the 1998 election of former coupinvolved career officer Hugo Chávez and the launch of the Bolivarian Revolution, beginning with a 1999 Constituent Assembly to write a new Constitution of Venezuela. This new constitution officially changed the name of the country to República Bolivariana de Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela). Venezuela is a federal presidential republic consisting of 23 states, the Capital District (covering Caracas), and federal dependencies (covering Venezuela's offshore islands). Venezuela also claims all Guyanese territory west of the Essequibo River, a 159,500-square-kilometre tract dubbed Guayana Esequiba or the Zona en Reclamación (the "zone being reclaimed"). Venezuela is among the most urbanized countries in Latin America; the vast majority of Venezuelans live in the cities of the north, especially in the capital (Caracas) which is also the largest city in Venezuela.

Since the discovery of oil in the early 20th century, Venezuela has the world's largest oil reserves and has been one of the world's leading exporters of oil. Previously an underdeveloped exporter of agricultural commodities such as coffee and cocoa, oil quickly came to dominate exports and government revenues. The 1980s oil glut led to an external debt crisis and a long-running economic crisis, in which inflation peaked at 100% in 1996 and poverty rates rose to 66% in 1995 as (by 1998) per capita GDP fell to the same level as 1963, down a third from its 1978 peak. The recovery of oil prices in the early 2000s gave Venezuela oil funds not seen since the 1980s. The Venezuelan government then initiated populist/revisionist policies that initially boosted the Venezuelan economy and increased social spending, significantly reducing economic inequality and poverty. Such populist policies were questioned since their initiation and the over dependence on oil funds led to overspending on social programs while strict government policies, which were initially supposed to prevent capital flight, created difficulties for Venezuela's import-reliant businesses. Venezuela under Hugo Chávez suffered "one of the worst cases of Dutch Disease in the world" due to the Bolivarian government's large dependence on oil sales. Poverty and inflation began to increase into the 2010s. Nicolás Maduro was elected in 2013 after the death of Chavez. Venezuela devalued its currency in February 2013 due to the rising shortages in the country, which included those of milk, flour, and other necessities. This led to an increase in malnutrition, especially among children. In 2014, Venezuela entered an economic recession. In 2015, Venezuela had the world's highest inflation rate with the rate surpassing 100%, becoming the highest in the country's history. Economic problems, as well as crime and corruption, were some of the main causes of the 2014–16 Venezuelan protests, which left more than 50 protesters killed. Venezuela is considered a major renowned player in beauty pageants and cosmetics industry, a popular pastime of many Venezuelans, raking in with 22 victorious pageant titles to date.

Capital – Caracas. Language – Spanish. Religion – Christian – 89%, Unaffiliated – 10%. Ethnics – Mestizo – a mixture of European, Amerindian and African ancestry – 51%, White – 43% - mainly Spanish, Italians, Portuguese, Germans and Arabs, Blacks – 3%, Indigenous – 2%, mainly Wayuu – 58%, Warao – 7%, 5% Kariña, 4% Pemón, 3% Piaroa, 3% Jivi, 3% Añu, 3% Cumanágoto, 2% Yukpa, 2% Chaima and 1% Yanomami, Other ethnics – 1%, mainly Asians. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 28,868,486, rank – 46. Area – 882,050, rank – 83. Density – 33, rank – 177.



VIETNAM, (Vietnamese: Việt Nam), officially the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV; Vietnamese: Công hòa Xã hội chủ nghĩa Việt Nam), Viet Nam, is the easternmost country on the Indochina Peninsula in Southeast Asia. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Its capital city has been Hanoi since the reunification of North and South Vietnam in 1975. Vietnam was part of Imperial China for over a millennium, from 111 BC to AD 939. An independent Vietnamese state was formed in 939, following a Vietnamese victory in the Battle of Bach Đằng River. Successive Vietnamese royal dynasties flourished as the nation expanded geographically and politically into Southeast Asia, until the Indochina Peninsula was colonized by the French in the mid-19th century. Following a Japanese occupation in the 1940s, the Vietnamese fought French rule in the First Indochina War, eventually expelling the French in 1954. Thereafter, Vietnam was divided politically into two rival states, North and South Vietnam. Conflict between the two sides intensified in what is known as the Vietnam War. The war ended with a North Vietnamese victory in 1975. Vietnam was then unified under a communist government but remained impoverished and politically isolated. In 1986, the government initiated a series of economic and political reforms which began Vietnam's path towards integration into the world economy. By 2000, it had established diplomatic relations with all nations. Since 2000, Vietnam's economic growth rate has been among the highest in the world, and, in 2011, it had the highest Global Growth Generators Index among 11 major economies. Its successful economic reforms resulted in its joining the World Trade Organization in 2007.

Vietnam has been for much of its history a predominantly agricultural civilization based on wet rice cultivation. There is also an industry for bauxite mining in Vietnam, an important material for the production of aluminum. The Vietnamese economy is shaped primarily by the Vietnamese Communist Party in Five Year Plans made through the plenary sessions of the Central Committee and national congresses. The collectivization of farms, factories and economic capital is a part of this central planning, with millions of people working in government programs. Vietnam's economy has been plagued with inefficiency and corruption in state programs, poor quality and underproduction, and restrictions on economic activity. It also suffered from the post-war trade embargo instituted by the United States and most of Europe. These problems were compounded by the erosion of the Soviet bloc, which included Vietnam's main trading partners, in the late 1980s. In 1986, the Sixth National Congress of the Communist Party introduced socialist-oriented market economic reforms as part of the $D\hat{o}i$ Mới reform program. Private ownership was encouraged in industries, commerce and agriculture. Thanks largely to these reforms, Vietnam achieved around 8% annual GDP growth between 1990 and 1997, and the economy continued to grow at an annual rate of around 7% from 2000 to 2005, making Vietnam one of the world's fastest growing economies. Growth remained strong even in the face of the late-2000s global recession, holding at 6.8% in 2010, but Vietnam's year-on-year inflation rate hit 11.8% in December 2010, according to a GSO estimate. The Vietnamese dong was devalued three times in 2010 alone. Manufacturing, information technology and high-tech industries now form a large and fast-growing part of the national economy. Though Vietnam is a relative newcomer to the oil industry, it is currently the third-largest oil producer in Southeast Asia, with a total 2011 output of 318,000 barrels per day (50,600 m³/d). In 2010, Vietnam was ranked as the 8th largest crude petroleum producers in the Asia and Pacific region. Like its Chinese neighbours, Vietnam continues to make use of centrally planned economic five-year plans. Deep poverty, defined as the percentage of the population living on less than \$1 per day, has declined significantly in Vietnam, and the relative poverty rate is now less than that of China, India, and the Philippines. This decline in the poverty rate can be attributed to equitable economic policies aimed at improving living standards and preventing the rise of inequality; these policies have included egalitarian land distribution during the initial stages of the Đổi Mới program, investment in poorer remote areas, and subsidising of education and healthcare. According to the IMF, the unemployment rate in Vietnam stood at 4.46% in 2012.

Capital – Hanoi. Language – Vietnamese. Religion – Folk religion – 45%, Buddhist – 16%, Unaffiliated – 30%, Christian – 8%. Ethnics – Kinh (Viet) – 86%, Tay – 2%, Thai – 2%, Muong – 2%, Khmer – 2%, Mong – 1%, Nung – 1%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, power constitutionally linked to a single political movement. Population – 93,421,835, rank – 15. Area – 310,070, rank – 66. Density – 301, rank – 42.



VIRGIN ISLANDS, BRITISH, The British Virgin Islands (BVI), officially the Virgin Islands, is a British overseas territory located in the Caribbean to the east of Puerto Rico, in

the Lesser Antilles, Caribbean. They are not part of the European Union with the UK. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. The islands make up part of the Virgin Islands archipelago; the remaining islands constitute the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Spanish Virgin Islands. The official name of the Territory is still simply the "Virgin Islands", but the prefix "British" is often used to distinguish it from the neighbouring American territory which changed its name from the "Danish West Indies" to "Virgin Islands of the United States" in 1917. British Virgin Islands government publications continue to begin with the name "The Territory of the Virgin Islands", and the Territory's passports simply refer to the "Virgin Islands", and all laws begin with the words "Virgin Islands". Moreover, the Territory's Constitutional Commission has expressed the view that "every effort should be made", to encourage the use of the name "Virgin Islands". The British Virgin Islands consist of the main islands of Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada, and Jost Van Dyke, along with over fifty other smaller islands and cays. About 15 of the islands are inhabited. The capital, Road Town, is situated on Tortola, the largest island, which is approximately 20 km long and 5 km wide. British Virgin Islanders are classed as British Overseas Territories citizens and since 2002 have had an entitlement to take up full UK citizenship. Although the territory is not part of the EU and not directly subject to EU law, its citizens are deemed to be citizens of the EU.

As a tax haven with an opaque banking system, the British Virgin Islands enjoys one of the more prosperous economies of the Caribbean region, with a per capita average income of around \$42,300 (2010 est.). The average monthly income earned by a worker in the Territory was US\$2,452 as at the time of the 2010 Census. 29% of the population fell into the "low income" category. Although it is common to hear criticism in the British Virgin Islands' press about income inequality, no serious attempt has been made by economists to calculate a Gini coefficient or similar measure of income equality for the Territory. A report from 2000 suggested that, despite the popular perception, income inequality was actually lower in the British Virgin Islands than in any other OECS state, although in global terms income equality is higher in the Caribbean than in many other regions. The "twin pillars" of the economy are tourism and financial services. Politically, tourism is the more important of the two, as it employs a greater number of people within the Territory, and a larger proportion of the businesses in the tourist industry are locally owned, as are a number of the highly tourismdependent sole traders (for example, taxi drivers and street vendors). Economically however, financial services associated with the territory's status as an offshore financial centre are by far the more important. 51.8% of the Government's revenue comes directly from license fees for offshore companies, and considerable further sums are raised directly or indirectly from payroll taxes relating to salaries paid within the trust industry sector (which tend to be higher on average than those paid in the tourism sector).

Capital – Road Town. Language – English. Religion – Christian – 85%, Unaffiliated – 4%, Muslim – 1%, Hindu – 1%, Folk religion – 8%. Ethnics – Black – 83%, White – 7%, Indian, Mixed and others – 10% - includes East Indo-Caribbean, Carib/Amerindian, Black/Carib mixed, and mixed-race Hispanic. Government – The Territory operates as a parliamentary democracy. Ultimate executive authority in British Virgin Islands is vested in The Queen, and is exercised on her behalf by the Governor of the British Virgin Islands. The Governor is appointed by the Queen on the advice of the British Government. Defence and most Foreign Affairs remain the responsibility of the United Kingdom. The most recent constitution was adopted in 2007 (the Virgin Islands Constitution Order, 2007) and came into force when the Legislative Council was dissolved for the 2007 general election. The Head of Government

under the constitution is the Premier (before the new constitution the office was referred to as Chief Minister), who is elected in a general election along with the other members of the ruling government as well as the members of the opposition. Elections are held roughly every four years. A Cabinet is nominated by the Premier and appointed and chaired by the Governor. The Legislature consists of the Queen (represented by the Governor) and a unicameral House of Assembly made up of 13 elected members plus the Speaker and the Attorney General. Population – 32,680, rank – 216. Area – 151, rank – 220. Density – 216, rank – 55.



VIRGIN ISLANDS, US, in the Lesser Antilles, Caribbean, a US unincorporated organized territory. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. The U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI; also called the United States Virgin Islands or the American Virgin Islands), officially the Virgin Islands of the United States, are a group of islands in the Caribbean that are an insular area of the United States. The islands are geographically part of the Virgin Islands archipelago and are located in the Leeward Islands of the Lesser Antilles. The U.S. Virgin Islands consist of the main islands of Saint Croix, Saint John, and Saint Thomas, and many other surrounding minor islands. The territory's capital is Charlotte Amalie on the island of Saint Thomas. Tourism is the primary economic activity, although there is a significant rum manufacturing sector. Farming is done on a relatively smaller scale on the island of St. Croix, although it has seen a slow revival in recent years. Previously the Danish West Indies of the Kingdom of Denmark-Norway, they were sold to the United States by Denmark in the Treaty of the Danish West Indies of 1916. They are classified by the UN as a Non-Self-Governing Territory, and are currently an organized, unincorporated United States territory. The U.S. Virgin Islands are organized under the 1954 Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands and have since held five constitutional conventions.

The Virgin Islands were originally inhabited by the Ciboney, Carib, and Arawaks. The islands were named by Christopher Columbus on his second voyage in 1493 for Saint Ursula and her virgin followers. Over the next two hundred years, the islands were held by many European powers, including Spain, Great Britain, the Netherlands, France, and Denmark-Norway. The Danish West India Company settled on Saint Thomas in 1672, settled on Saint John in 1694, and purchased Saint Croix from France in 1733. The islands became royal Danish colonies in 1754, named the Danish West Indian Islands (Danish: *De dansk-vestindiske øer*). Sugarcane, produced by slave labor, drove the islands' economy during the 18th and early 19th centuries. St. John was the site of one of the first significant slave rebellions in the New World in 1733, when Akwamu slaves from the Gold Coast took over the island for six months. The Danish were able to defeat the enslaved Africans with help from the French in Martinique. Instead of allowing themselves to be recaptured more than a dozen of the ringleaders shot themselves before the French forces could capture them and call them to account for their activities

during the period of rebel control. It is estimated that by 1775, slaves outnumbered the Danish settlers by a ratio of 5:1. The indigenous Caribs and Arawaks were also used as slave labor to the point of the entire native population being absorbed into the larger groups. Slavery was abolished in the Virgin Islands on July 3, 1848.

Hurricane Hugo struck the Virgin Islands in 1989, causing catastrophic physical and economic damage. The territory was again struck by Hurricane Marilyn in 1995, killing eight people and causing more than \$2 billion in damage. The islands were again struck by Hurricanes Bertha, Georges, Lenny, and Omar in 1996, 1998, 1999, and 2008, respectively, but damage was not as severe in those storms. Tourism is the primary economic activity. The islands normally host 2 million visitors a year, many of whom visit on cruise ships. Additionally, the islands frequently are a starting point for private yacht charters to the neighboring British Virgin Islands. The manufacturing sector consists of mainly rum distilling. The agricultural sector is small, with most food being imported. International business and financial services are a small but growing component of the economy. Most energy is also generated from imported oil, leading to electricity costs four to five times higher than the U.S. mainland. The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority also uses imported energy to operate its desalination facilities to provide fresh water. Until February 2012, the Hovensa plant located on St. Croix was one of the world's largest petroleum refineries and contributed about 20% of the territory's GDP. It has since been largely shut down and is now operating as no more than an oil storage facility, provoking a local economic crisis.

Capital – Charlotte Amalie. Language – English. Religion – Christian – 95%, Unaffiliated – 4%. Ethnics – Black or Afro-Caribbean – 76% (66% non-Hispanic Black), White – 16% (14% non-Hispanic White), Asian – 1%, Mixed – 2%, Hispanic or Latino of any race – 17% (10% Puerto Rican, 5% Dominican). Government - The U.S. Virgin Islands are an organized, unincorporated United States territory. Even though they are U.S. citizens, U.S. Virgin Islands residents cannot vote in presidential elections. U.S. Virgin Islands residents are able to vote in presidential primary elections for delegates to the Democratic National Convention and the Republican National Convention. Unlike persons born on the mainland and naturalized citizens who derive their citizenship from the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. constitution, those born in the U.S. Virgin Islands derive their U.S. citizenship from Congressional statute. Population – 104,170, rank – 195. Area – 346, rank – 182. Density – 301, rank – 43.



WAKE ISLAND, also known as Wake Atoll is a coral atoll north of the Marshall Islands in North Pacific. It is an unorganized, unincorporated territory of the US, administered by the Office of Insular Affairs. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Wake Island is one of the most isolated islands in the world and the nearest inhabited island is Utirik Atoll in the Marshall

Islands, 953 kilometres to the southeast. Wake Island is administered by the United States Air Force, under agreement with the Department of the Interior. The center of activity on the atoll is at Wake Island Airfield (IATA: AWK, ICAO: PWAK) which is primarily used as a mid-Pacific refueling stop for military aircraft and as an emergency landing area. Located south of the runway is the Wake Island Launch Center, a Reagan Test Site missile launch facility operated by the United States Army Space and Missile Defense Command and the Missile Defense Agency. The Base Operations Support contractor at Wake is Chugach Alaska Corporation. There are about 94 people living on Wake Island and access to the island is restricted. On December 11, 1941, Wake Island was the site of Japan's first military setback against American forces during World War II when Marines, Navy and some civilian personnel on the island repelled an attempted Japanese invasion, sinking two destroyers and a transport. The island subsequently fell to Japanese forces 12 days later after a successful second invasion attempt on December 23, 1941, this time with extensive support from Japanese carrier-based aircraft returning from the attack on Pearl Harbor. Wake Island remained occupied by Japanese forces until the end of the war; the garrison surrendered the island back to United States forces on September 4, 1945. On January 5, 2009, President George W. Bush included the submerged and emergent lands at the atoll as a unit of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument. For statistical purposes, Wake Island is grouped as one of the United States Minor Outlying Islands (UM-79) by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO 3166).

Language – English. Government - On June 24, 1972, the United States Air Force assumed responsibility for the civil administration of Wake Island pursuant to an agreement between the Department of the Interior and the Department of the Air Force. The civil administration authority at Wake Island has been delegated by the Secretary of the Air Force to the General Counsel of the Air Force in accordance with U.S. federal law known as the *Wake Island Code*. Population – about 94 personnel. Area – 7, rank – 244.



WALLIS AND FUTUNA, officially the Territory of the Wallis and Futuna Islands (French: Wallis-et-Futuna or Territoire des îles Wallis-et-Futuna, Fakauvea and Fakafutuna: Uvea mo Futuna), is a French island collectivity in the South Pacific, in Polynesia, Oceania, a French overseas collectivity, which is not part of the European Union with France. Link to map. Links to essential data: Enc. Brittanica, Wikipedia, CIA Factbook, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Though both French and Polynesian, Wallis and Futuna is distinct from the entity known as French Polynesia. The territory is made up of three main volcanic tropical islands along with a number of tiny islets, and is split into two island groups that lie about 260 km apart, namely the Wallis Islands (Uvea) in the northeast, and the Hoorn Islands (also known as the Futuna Islands) in the southwest, including Futuna Island proper and the mostly uninhabited Alofi Island. Since 2003, Wallis and Futuna has been a French overseas

collectivity (*collectivité d'outre-mer*, or *COM*). Between 1961 and 2003, it had the status of a French overseas territory (*territoire d'outre-mer*, or *TOM*), though its official name did not change when the status changed.

Polynesians settled the islands that would later be called Wallis and Futuna around the year 1000, when the Tongan Empire expanded into the area. The original inhabitants built forts and other identifiable ruins on the islands, some of which are still partially intact. Dutch and British forces came upon the islands in the 17th and 18th centuries, but it was the French who were the first Europeans to settle in the territory, with the arrival of French missionaries in 1837, who converted the population to Roman Catholicism. Pierre Chanel, canonized as a saint in 1954, is a major patron of the island of Futuna and the region. The Wallis Islands are named after the British explorer, Samuel Wallis. On 5 April 1842, the missionaries asked for the protection of France after the rebellion of a part of the local population. On 5 April 1887, the Queen of Uvea (on the island of Wallis) signed a treaty officially establishing a French protectorate. The kings of Sigave and Alo on the islands of Futuna and Alofi also signed a treaty establishing a French protectorate on 16 February 1888. The islands were put under the authority of the French colony of New Caledonia. In 1917, the three traditional kingdoms were annexed to France and turned into the Colony of Wallis and Futuna, which was still under the authority of the Colony of New Caledonia.

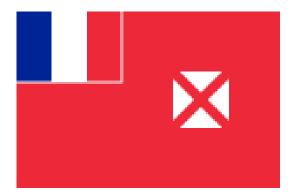
During World War II the island's administration was pro-Vichy until a Free French corvette from New Caledonia deposed the regime on 26 May 1942. Units of the US Marine Corps landed on Wallis on 29 May 1942. In 1959, the inhabitants of the islands voted to become a French overseas territory, effective in 1961, thus ending their subordination to New Caledonia. In 2005, the 50th King of Uvea, Tomasi Kulimoetoke II, faced being deposed after giving sanctuary to his grandson who was convicted of manslaughter. The King claimed his grandson should be judged by tribal law rather than by the French penal system. There were riots in the streets involving the King's supporters, who were victorious over attempts to replace the King. Two years later, Tomasi Kulimoetoke died on 7 May 2007. The state was in a six-month period of mourning. During this period, mentioning a successor was forbidden. On 25 July 2008, Kapiliele Faupala was installed as King despite protests from some of the royal clans. The territory is divided into three traditional kingdoms (*royaumes coutumiers*): Uvea, on the island of Wallis, Sigave, on the western part of the island of Futuna, and Alo, on the island of Alofi and on the eastern part of the island of Futuna.

The head of state is President of France as represented by the Administrator-Superior. The President of the Territorial Assembly is Petelo Hanisi since 11 December 2013. The Council of the Territory consists of three kings (monarchs of the three pre-colonial kingdoms) and three members appointed by the high administrator on the advice of the Territorial Assembly. The legislative branch consists of the unicameral Territorial Assembly or *Assemblée territoriale* of 20 seats; the members are elected by popular vote to serve five-year terms. Wallis and Futuna elects one senator to the French Senate and one deputy to the French National Assembly. Justice is generally administered under French law by a tribunal of first instance in Mata-Utu, but the three traditional kingdoms administer justice according to customary law (only for non-criminal cases). The court of appeal is in Nouméa, New Caledonia.

The GDP of Wallis and Futuna in 2005 was 188 million US dollars at market exchange rates. The territory's economy is limited to traditional subsistence agriculture, with about 80% of the labor force earning its livelihood from agriculture (coconuts and vegetables), livestock

(mostly pigs), and fishing. About 4% of the population is employed in government. Revenues come from French government subsidies, licensing of fishing rights to Japan and South Korea, import taxes, and remittances from expatriate workers in New Caledonia, French Polynesia and France. Industries include copra, handicrafts, fishing, and lumber. In 1991, BNP Nouvelle-Calédonie, a subsidiary of BNP Paribas, established a subsidiary, Banque de Wallis-et-Futuna, which currently is the only bank in the territory. Two years earlier Banque Indosuez had closed the branch at Mata-Utu that it had opened in 1977, leaving the territory without any bank.

Capital – Mata-Utu. Language – French. Religion – Christian – 97%, Unaffiliated – 1%, Folk religion – 1%. Ethnics - The vast majority of the population are of Polynesian ethnicity, with a small minority of Metropolitan French descent and/or native-born whites of French descent. More than 16,000 Wallisians and Futunians live as expatriates in New Caledonia, which is more than the total population of Wallis and Futuna. Population – 15,561, rank – 223. Area – 142, rank – 221. Density – 110, rank – 98.



WEST BANK, see Palestinian National Authority, also for detailed parameters.

WESTERN KURDISTAN, see Syrian Kurdistan.

WESTERN SAHARA, (Arabic: الصحراء الغربية aṣ-Ṣaḥrā' al-Gharbīyah; Spanish: Sahara Occidental; Berber: Tanezroft Tutrimt), Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic - SADR, As-Sahra al-Gharbiyah, in Northern Africa, a former Spanish colony named Western Sahara. SADR was proclaimed by the Polisario Front in 1976 in Bir Lehlou, Western Sahara. The territories under its control, 25% of the territory it claims, the so-called Free Zone, are a thin strip of landlocked area in the Western Sahara region, which are claimed in whole by Morocco as part of its Southern Provinces. In turn, the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic claims the part of Western Sahara to the west of the Moroccan Wall controlled by Morocco and considers it an occupied territory. Its government resides in exile in Tindouf, Algeria. It is recognized by many states. Link to map. Link to essential data on de facto independent countries: Wikipedia, BBC, Quora, Polgeonow. Western Sahara is a disputed territory in the Maghreb region of North Africa, bordered by Morocco to the north, Algeria to the northeast, Mauritania to the east and south, and the Atlantic Ocean to the west. It is one of the most sparsely populated territories in the world, mainly consisting of desert flatlands. 40% of the population lives in El Aaiún (also spelled Laâyoune), the largest city in Western Sahara. Occupied by Spain in the late 19th century, Western Sahara has been on the United Nations list of non-self-governing territories since 1963 after a Moroccan demand. It is the most populous territory on that list, and by far the largest in area. In 1965, the UN General Assembly adopted its first resolution on Western Sahara, asking Spain to decolonize the territory. One year later, a new resolution was passed by the General Assembly requesting that a referendum be held by Spain on self-determination. In 1975, Spain relinquished the administrative control of the territory to a joint administration by Morocco (which had formally claimed the territory since 1957) and Mauritania. A war erupted between those countries and the Sahrawi national liberation movement, the Polisario Front, which proclaimed the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) with a government-in-exile in Tindouf, Algeria. Mauritania withdrew in 1979, and Morocco eventually secured de facto control of most of the territory, including all the major cities and natural resources. Since a United Nations-sponsored ceasefire agreement in 1991, two thirds of the territory (including most of the Atlantic coastline) has been under de facto control by Morocco and the remainder by the SADR, strongly backed by Algeria. Internationally, countries such as the United States and Russia have taken a generally ambiguous and neutral position on each side's claims, and have pressed both parties to agree on a peaceful resolution. Both Morocco and Polisario have sought to boost their claims by accumulating formal recognition, essentially from African, Asian, and Latin American states in the developing world. The Polisario Front has won formal recognition for SADR from 37 states, and was extended membership in the African Union. Morocco has won recognition or support for its position from several African governments and from most of the Arab League. In both instances, recognitions have, over the past two decades, been extended and withdrawn according to changing international trends. As of 2006, no other member state of the United Nations has recognized Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara.

Capital – El Aaiun (proclaimed) in Moroccan controlled territory, Bir Lehlou (administrative) in SADR controlled territory. Language - Arabic, Spanish, Tamazight. Religion - almost 100% are Muslim. Ethnics – Arab, Berber. As of July 2004, an estimated 267,405 people (excluding about 160,000 Moroccan military personnel) lived in the Moroccan-controlled parts of Western Sahara. Many people from parts of Morocco have come to live in the territory, and these latest arrivals are today thought to outnumber the indigenous Western Sahara Sahrawis. The precise size and composition of the population is subject to political controversy. The Polisario-controlled parts of Western Sahara are barren. This area has a very small population, estimated to be approximately 30,000 in 2008. The population is primarily made up of nomads who engage in herding camels back and forth between the Tindouf area and Mauritania. However, the presence of mines scattered throughout the territory by the Moroccan army makes it a dangerous way of life. A 1974 Spanish census claimed there were some 74,000 Sahrawis in the area at the time (in addition to approximately 20,000 Spanish residents), but this number is likely to be on the low side, due to the difficulty in counting a nomad people, even if Sahrawis were by the mid-1970s mostly urbanized. Despite these possible inaccuracies, Morocco and the Polisario Front agreed on using the Spanish census as the basis for voter registration when striking a cease-fire agreement in the late 1980s, contingent on the holding of a referendum on independence or integration into Morocco. In December 1999, the United Nations' MINURSO mission announced that it had identified 86,425 eligible voters for the referendum that was supposed to be held under the 1991 Settlement plan and the 1997 Houston accords. By "eligible voter" the UN referred to any Sahrawi over 18 years of age that was part of the Spanish census or could prove their descent from someone who was. These 86,425 Sahrawis were dispersed between Moroccancontrolled Western Sahara and the refugee camps in Algeria, with smaller numbers in Mauritania and other places of exile. These numbers cover only Sahrawis 'indigenous' to Western Sahara during the Spanish colonial period, not the total number of "ethnic" Sahrawis (i.e., members of Sahrawi tribal groupings), who also extend into Mauritania, Morocco and Algeria. The number was highly politically significant due to the expected organization of a referendum on self-determination. The Polisario has its home base in the Tindouf refugee camps in Algeria, and declares the number of Sahrawi population in the camps to be approximately 155,000. Morocco disputes this number, saying it is exaggerated for political reasons and for attracting more foreign aid. The UN uses a number of 90,000 "most vulnerable" refugees as basis for its food aid program.

Government – The Morocco-controlled parts of Western Sahara are divided into several provinces that are treated as integral parts of the kingdom. The Moroccan government heavily subsidizes the Saharan provinces under its control with cut-rate fuel and related subsidies, to appease nationalist dissent and attract immigrants from Sahrawis and other communities in Morocco proper. The exiled government of the self-proclaimed Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) is a form of single-party parliamentary and presidential system, but according to its constitution, this will be changed into a multi-party system at the achievement of independence. It is presently based at the Tindouf refugee camps in Algeria, which it controls. It also controls the part of Western Sahara to the east of the Moroccan Wall, known as the *liberated territories*. This area has a very small population, estimated to be approximately 30,000 nomads. The Moroccan government views it as a no-man's land patrolled by UN troops. The SADR government whose troops also patrol the area have proclaimed a village in the area, Bir Lehlou and Tifariti, as SADR's former and actual temporary factual capitals. Population – 554,795, rank – 172. Area – 266,000, rank – 78. Density – 2, rank – 229.



YEMEN, (Arabic: اليَمَن al-Yaman), officially known as the Republic of Yemen (الجمهورية اليمنية al-Jumhūrīyah al-Yamanīyah), is an Arab country in Western Asia, occupying the southwestern to the southern end of the Arabian Peninsula, Middle East, Western Asia. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. Yemen is the second-largest country in the peninsula, occupying 527,970 km². The coastline stretches for about 2,000 km. Although Yemen's constitutionally stated capital is the city of Sana'a, the city has been under rebel control since February 2015. Because of this, Yemen's capital has been temporarily relocated to the port city of Aden, on the southern coast. Yemen's territory includes more than 200 islands; the largest of these is Socotra. Yemen was the home of the Sabaeans (biblical Sheba), a trading state that flourished for over a thousand years and probably also included parts of modern-day Ethiopia and Eritrea. In 275 AD, the region came under the rule of the later Jewish-influenced Himyarite Kingdom. Christianity arrived in the fourth century AD, whereas Judaism and local paganism were already established. Islam spread quickly in the seventh century and Yemenite troops were crucial in the expansion of the early Islamic conquests. Administration of Yemen has long been notoriously difficult. Several dynasties emerged from the ninth to 16th centuries, the Rasulid being the strongest and most prosperous. The country was divided between the Ottoman and British empires in the early 20th century. The Zaydi Mutawakkilite Kingdom of Yemen was established after World War I in North Yemen before the creation of Yemen Arab Republic in 1962. South Yemen remained a British protectorate until 1967. The two Yemeni states united to form the modern republic of Yemen in 1990. Yemen is a developing country. Under the rule of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Yemen was described as a kleptocracy. According to the 2009 international corruption Perception Index by Transparency International, Yemen ranked 164 out of 182 countries surveyed. In the absence of strong state institutions, elite politics in Yemen constituted a *de facto* form of collaborative governance, where competing tribal, regional, religious, and political interests agreed to hold themselves in check through tacit acceptance of the balance it produced. The informal political settlement was held together by a power-sharing deal between three men: president Ali Abdullah Saleh, who controlled the state; major general Ali Mohsen al-Ahmar, who controlled the largest share of the army; and sheikh Abdullah al-Ahmar, figurehead of the Islamist Islah party and Saudi Arabia's chosen broker of transnational patronage payments to various political players, including tribal sheikhs. The Saudi payments have been intended to facilitate the tribes' autonomy from the Yemeni government and to give the Saudi government a mechanism with which to weigh in on Yemen's political decision-making.

Yemen has been in a state of political crisis since 2011. In January 2011, a series of street protests began against poverty, unemployment, corruption, and president Saleh's plan to amend Yemen's constitution and eliminate the presidential term limit, in effect making him president for life. He was also grooming his eldest son Ahmed Saleh, the commander of the Republican Guard, to succeed him. The United States considers Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula to be the "most dangerous of all the franchises of Al-Qaeda". The U.S sought a controlled transition that would enable their counter-terrorism operations to continue, while Saudi Arabia's main concern was to maintain its influence in Yemen through some old regime figures and other tribal leaders who were part of the so-called "GCC initiative". President Saleh stepped down, the transition quickly proceeded per the "GCC Initiative"; the powers of the presidency were transferred to Vice President Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi, who was formally elected president on 21 February 2012 in a one-man election. The interim parliament conferred immunity on president Saleh and 500 of his associates that same month. A National Dialogue Conference was launched on 18 March 2012 to reach consensus on major issues facing the country's future. In January 2014, the National Dialogue Conference extended Hadi's term for another year.

The transitional process was disrupted by conflicts between the Houthis and Islah, as well as the al-Qaeda insurgency. In September 2014, the Houthis took over Sana'a, forcing Ali Mohsen al-Ahmar to flee the country, and prompted the formation of a new "unity government" including a variety of Yemeni factions. A draft constitution was discussed that would split Yemen into six federal regions, but the Houthis rejected the proposal. Hadi, his prime minister, and cabinet resigned on 22 January 2015 amid a political impasse against the Houthis and ongoing violence in the capital. Three weeks later, the Houthis declared themselves in control of the government in what Abdul-Malik al-Houthi called a "glorious revolution", although opposition politicians, neighbouring states, and the United Nations decried the takeover as a *coup d'état*. Most of Yemen's political factions and the international community have refused to recognise the Houthis' authority, and UN-brokered talks on a power-sharing deal are ongoing. However, on 21 February, Hadi rescinded his resignation and declared he was still the legitimate president in Aden. Hadi called on government institutions to gather in Aden, which he proclaimed on 21 March 2015 was Yemen's "economic and temporary capital" while Sana'a remains under Houthi control.

Most Yemenis are employed in agriculture. Sorghum is the most common crop. Cotton and many fruit trees are also grown, with mangoes being the most valuable. A big problem in Yemen is the cultivation of Khat, a mild narcotic plant that releases a stimulant when chewed,

and accounts for up to 40 percent of the water drawn from the Sana'a Basin each year, and that figure is rising. Some agricultural practices are drying the Sana'a Basin and displaced vital crops, which has resulted in increasing food prices. Rising food prices, in turn, pushed an additional six percent of the country into poverty in 2008 alone. Efforts are being made by the Government and Dawoodi Bohra community at North Yemen to replace qat with coffee plantations. Yemen's industrial sector is centered on crude oil production and petroleum refining, food processing, handicrafts, small-scale production of cotton textiles and leather goods, aluminum products, commercial ship repair, cement, and natural gas production. As of 2013, Yemen had an industrial production growth rate of 4.8%. [298] It also has large proven reserves of natural gas. Yemen's first liquified natural gas plant began production in October 2009.

Capital – Sanaa. Language – Arabic. Religion – Muslim – 99%, Hindu and Christian – 1%. Ethnics – Yemeni ethnic groups are predominantly Arab, followed by Afro-Arabs, South Asians and Europeans. When the former states of North and South Yemen were established, most resident minority groups departed. Yemen is a largely tribal society. In the northern, mountainous parts of the country, there are 400 Zaidi tribes. There are also hereditary caste groups in urban areas such as Al-Akhdam. There are also Yemenis of Persian origin. According to Muqaddasi, Persians formed the majority of Aden's population in the 10th century. Yemenite Jews once formed a sizable Jewish minority in Yemen with a distinct culture from other Jewish communities in the world. Most emigrated to Israel in the mid-20th century, following the Jewish exodus from Arab lands and Operation Magic Carpet. An estimated 100,000 people of Indian origin are concentrated in the southern part of the country, around Aden, Mukalla, Shihr, Lahaj, Mokha and Hodeidah. Government – Republic, executive head of state. Population – 26,052,966, rank – 48. Area – 527,968, rank – 50. Density – 49, rank – 156.



ZAMBIA, Republic of Zambia, is a landlocked country in Southern Africa, formerly known as Northern Rhodesia. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN, CW. The capital city is Lusaka, in the south-central part of Zambia. The population is concentrated mainly around Lusaka in the south and the Copperbelt Province to the northwest, the core economic hubs of the country. Originally inhabited by Khoisan peoples, the region was affected by the Bantu expansion of the thirteenth century. After visits by European explorers in the eighteenth century, Zambia became the British protectorate of Northern Rhodesia towards the end of the nineteenth century. For most of the colonial period, Zambia was governed by an administration appointed from London with the advice of the British South Africa Company. On 24 October 1964, Zambia became independent of the United Kingdom and prime minister Kenneth Kaunda became the inaugural president. Kaunda's socialist United National Independence Party (UNIP) maintained power from 1964 until 1991. From 1972 to 1991

Zambia was a one-party state with the UNIP as the sole legal political party under the motto "One Zambia, One Nation". Kaunda was succeeded by Frederick Chiluba of the social-democratic Movement for Multi-Party Democracy in 1991, beginning a period of social-economic growth and government decentralization. Levy Mwanawasa, Chiluba's chosen successor, presided over Zambia from January 2002 until his death in August 2008, and is credited with campaigns to reduce corruption and increase the standard of living. After Mwanawasa's death, Rupiah Banda presided as Acting President before being elected President in 2008. Holding office for only three years, Banda stepped down after his defeat in the 2011 elections by Patriotic Front party leader Michael Sata. Sata died on 28 October 2014, the second Zambian president to die in office. Guy Scott served briefly as interim president until new elections were held on 20 January 2015, in which Edgar Lungu was elected as the sixth President. In 2010, the World Bank named Zambia one of the world's fastest economically reformed countries. The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) is headquartered in Lusaka.

Presently, Zambia averages between \$7 billion and \$8 billion of exports annually. About 68% of Zambians live below the recognized national poverty line, with rural poverty rates standing at about 78% and urban rates at about 53%. Unemployment and underemployment in urban areas are serious problems. Most rural Zambians are subsistence farmers. Zambia ranked 117th out of 128 countries on the 2007 Global Competitiveness Index, which looks at factors that affect economic growth. Social indicators continue to decline, particularly in measurements of life expectancy at birth (about 40.9 years) and maternal mortality (830 per 100,000 pregnancies). The country's rate of economic growth cannot support rapid population growth or the strain which HIV/AIDS-related issues place on the economy. Zambia fell into poverty after international copper prices declined in the 1970s. The socialist regime made up for falling revenue with several abortive attempts at International Monetary Fund structural adjustment programmes (SAPs). The policy of not trading through the main supply route and line of rail to the sea – the territory known as Rhodesia (from 1965 to 1979), and now known as Zimbabwe – cost the economy greatly. After the Kaunda regime, (from 1991) successive governments began limited reforms. The economy stagnated until the late 1990s. In 2007 Zambia recorded its ninth consecutive year of economic growth. Inflation was 8.9%, down from 30% in 2000. Zambia is still dealing with economic reform issues such as the size of the public sector, and improving Zambia's social sector delivery systems. Economic regulations and red tape are extensive, and corruption is widespread. The bureaucratic procedures surrounding the process of obtaining licenses encourages the widespread use of facilitation payments. The Zambian government is pursuing an economic diversification program to reduce the economy's reliance on the copper industry. This initiative seeks to exploit other components of Zambia's rich resource base by promoting agriculture, tourism, gemstone mining, and hydro-power.

Capital – Lusaka. Language – English. Religion – Christian – 98%. Ethnics – Bemba – 21%, Tonga – 14%, Chewa – 7%, Lozi – 6%, Nsenga – 5%, Tumbuka – 4%, Ngoni – 4%, Lala – 3%, Kaonde – 3%, Namwanga – 3%, Lunda – 3%, Mambwe – 3%, Luvale – 2%, Lamba – 2%, Ushi – 2%, Lenje – 2%, Bisa – 2%, Mbunda – 1%. Government – Republic, executive head of state, presidency is independent of legislature. Population – 14,638,505, rank – 743,398, rank -39. Density – 20, rank – 191.



ZIMBABWE, Republic of Zimbabwe, is a landlocked sovereign state located in southern Africa, between the Zambezi and Limpopo Rivers, formerly known as Southern Rhodesia. Link to map. Links to essential data: CIA Factbook, Enc. Britannica, Wikipedia, Nations Online, UN Data, BBC, World Atlas, Countries/World, List/Countries, Index Mundi, Oper/World, Internet/Stats. Member of the UN. The capital and largest city is Harare. A country of roughly 13 million people, Zimbabwe has 16 official languages, with English, Shona, and Ndebele the most commonly used. Since the 11th century, present-day Zimbabwe has been the site of several organized states and kingdoms as well as a major route for migration and trade. The British South Africa Company of Cecil Rhodes first demarcated the present territory during the 1890s; it became the self-governing British colony of Southern Rhodesia in 1923. In 1965, the conservative white minority government unilaterally declared independence as Rhodesia. The state endured international isolation and a 15-year guerrilla war with black nationalist forces; this culminated in a peace agreement that established universal enfranchisement and de jure sovereignty in April 1980. The country then rejoined the Commonwealth of Nations (later suspended in 2003), and became a member of the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Robert Mugabe has been the president of Zimbabwe since 1980, when his ZANU-PF party won the elections following the demise of white minority rule. Under Mugabe's authoritarian regime, the state security apparatus has dominated the country and been responsible for widespread human rights violations. Mugabe has maintained the revolutionary socialist rhetoric from the Cold War era, blaming Zimbabwe's economic woes on conspiring Western capitalist countries. [13] Burnished by his anti-imperialist credentials, contemporary African political leaders have been reluctant to criticise Mugabe, despite being what Archbishop Desmond Tutu called "a cartoon figure of an archetypical African dictator."

Proto-Shona speaking societies first emerged in the middle Limpopo valley in the 9th century before moving on to the Zimbabwean highlands. The Zimbabwean plateau eventually became the centre of subsequent Shona states, beginning around the 10th century. Around the early 10th century, trade developed with Arab merchants on the Indian Ocean coast, helping to develop the Kingdom of Mapungubwe in the 11th century. This was the precursor to the more impressive Shona civilisations that would dominate the region during the 13th to 15th centuries, evidenced by ruins at Great Zimbabwe, near Masvingo, and other smaller sites. The main archaeological site uses a unique dry stone architecture. The Kingdom of Mapungubwe was the first in a series of sophisticated trade states developed in Zimbabwe by the time of the first European explorers from Portugal. They traded in gold, ivory, and copper for cloth and glass. From about 1300 until 1600, Mapungubwe was eclipsed by the Kingdom of Zimbabwe. This Shona state further refined and expanded upon Mapungubwe's stone architecture, which survives to this day at the ruins of the kingdom's capital of Great Zimbabwe. From c. 1450–1760, Zimbabwe gave way to the Kingdom of Mutapa. This Shona state ruled much of the area that is known as Zimbabwe today, and parts of central Mozambique. It is known by

many names including the Mutapa Empire, also known as *Mwene Mutapa* or *Monomotapa* as well as "Munhumutapa," and was renowned for its strategic trade routes with the Arabs and Portugal. The Portuguese sought to monopolise this influence and began a series of wars which left the empire in near collapse in the early 17th century. As a direct response to increased European presence in the interior, a new Shona state emerged, known as the Rozwi Empire. Relying on centuries of military, political and religious development, the Rozwi (meaning "destroyers") expelled the Portuguese from the Zimbabwean plateau by force of arms. They continued the stone building traditions of the Zimbabwe and Mapungubwe kingdoms while adding muskets to their arsenal and recruiting a professional army to defend recent conquests.

Around 1821, the Zulu general Mzilikazi of the Khumalo clan successfully rebelled against King Shaka and created his own clan, the Ndebele. The Ndebele fought their way northwards into the Transvaal, leaving a trail of destruction in their wake and beginning an era of widespread devastation known as the Mfecane. When Dutch trekboers converged on the Transvaal in 1836, they drove the tribe even further northward. By 1838, the Rozwi Empire, along with the other smaller Shona states were conquered by the Ndebele and reduced to vassaldom. After losing their remaining South African lands in 1840, Mzilikazi and his tribe permanently settled in the southwest of present-day Zimbabwe in what became known as Matabeleland, establishing Bulawayo as their capital. Mzilikazi then organised his society into a military system with regimental kraals, similar to those of Shaka, which was stable enough to repel further Boer incursions. Mzilikazi died in 1868 and, following a violent power struggle, was succeeded by his son, Lobengula. In the 1880s, white colonists arrived with Cecil Rhodes's British South Africa Company (BSAC). In 1888, Rhodes obtained a concession for mining rights from King Lobengula of the Ndebele peoples. He presented this concession to persuade the government of the United Kingdom to grant a royal charter to the company over Matabeleland, and its subject states such as Mashonaland as well. Rhodes used this document in 1890 to justify sending the Pioneer Column, a group of Europeans protected by well-armed British South Africa Police (BSAP) through Matabeleland and into Shona territory to establish Fort Salisbury (now Harare), and thereby establish company rule over the area. In 1893 and 1894, with the help of their new Maxim guns, the BSAP would go on to defeat the Ndebele in the First Matabele War. Rhodes additionally sought permission to negotiate similar concessions covering all territory between the Limpopo River and Lake Tanganyika, then known as "Zambesia".

In accordance with the terms of aforementioned concessions and treaties, [26] mass settlement was encouraged, with the British maintaining control over labour as well as precious metals and other mineral resources. In 1895 the BSAC adopted the name "Rhodesia" for the territory, in honour of Rhodes. In 1898 "Southern Rhodesia" became the official name for the region south of the Zambezi, which later became Zimbabwe. The region to the north was administered separately and later termed Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia). Shortly after Rhodes' disastrous Jameson Raid on the South African Republic, the Ndebele rebelled against their white rulers, led by their charismatic religious leader, Mlimo. The Second Matabele War lasted in Matabeleland until 1896, when Mlimo was assassinated. Shona agitators also staged unsuccessful revolts (known as *Chimurenga*) against company rule during 1896 and 1897. Following these failed insurrections, the Ndebele and Shona groups were finally subdued by the Rhodes administration, which organised the land with a disproportionate bias favouring Europeans, thus displacing many indigenous peoples. Southern Rhodesia was annexed by the United Kingdom on 12 September 1923. Shortly after annexation, on 1 October 1923, the first constitution for the new Colony of Southern Rhodesia came into force. Under the new

constitution, Southern Rhodesia became a self-governing British colony, subsequent to a 1922 referendum. Rhodesians of all races served on behalf of the United Kingdom during the two World Wars. Proportional to the white population, Southern Rhodesia contributed more per capita to both the First and Second World Wars than any other part of the Empire, including Britain itself. In 1953, in the face of African opposition, Britain consolidated the two Rhodesias with Nyasaland (Malawi) in the ill-fated Central African Federation, which was essentially dominated by Southern Rhodesia. Growing African nationalism and general dissent, particularly in Nyasaland, persuaded Britain to dissolve the Union in 1963, forming three separate divisions. While multiracial democracy was finally introduced to Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, however, Southern Rhodesians of European ancestry continued to enjoy minority rule. With Zambian independence, Ian Smith's Rhodesian Front (RF) dropped the designation "Southern" in 1964 and issued a Unilateral Declaration of Independence (commonly abbreviated to "UDI") from the United Kingdom on 11 November 1965, intent on effectively repudiating the recently adopted British policy of "no independence before majority rule". It was the first such course taken by a British colony since the American declaration of 1776, which Smith and others indeed claimed provided a suitable precedent to their own actions. In 1965, the conservative white minority government unilaterally declared independence as Rhodesia. The state endured international isolation and a 15-year guerrilla war with black nationalist forces; this culminated in a peace agreement that established universal enfranchisement and de jure sovereignty in April 1980.

Zimbabwe's first president after independence was Canaan Banana in what was originally a mainly ceremonial role as Head of State. Robert Mugabe, leader of the ZANU party, was the country's first Prime Minister and Head of Government. During the elections of February 1980, Robert Mugabe and the ZANU party secured a landslide victory. Opposition to what was perceived as a Shona takeover immediately erupted around Matabeleland. The Matabele unrest led to what has become known as *Gukurahundi* (Shona: "the early rain which washes away the chaff before the spring rains"). The Fifth Brigade, a North Korean-trained elite unit that reported directly to the Zimbabwean Prime Minister, entered Matabeleland and massacred thousands of civilians accused of supporting "dissidents". Estimates for the number of deaths during the five-year *Gukurahundi* campaign were as low as 3,750 in 1997, but by 2005 ranged from 10,000 to 30,000. Thousands of others were tortured in military internment camps. The campaign officially ended in 1987 after Nkomo and Mugabe reached a unity agreement that merged their respective parties, creating the Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front (ZANU–PF). Elections in March 1990 resulted in another victory for Mugabe and the Zanu-PF party, which claimed 117 of the 120 contested seats.

During the 1990s, students, trade unionists, and other workers often demonstrated to express their growing discontent with Mugabe and Zanu-PF party policies. In 1996, civil servants, nurses, and junior doctors went on strike over salary issues. The general health of the population also began to significantly decline; by 1997 an estimated 25% of the population had been infected by HIV in a pandemic that was affecting most of southern Africa. Land redistribution re-emerged as the main issue for the Zanu-PF government around 1997. Despite the existence of a "willing-buyer-willing-seller" land reform programme since the 1980s, the minority white Zimbabwean population of around 0.6% continued to hold 70% of the country's most fertile agricultural land. In 2000, the government pressed ahead with its Fast Track Land Reform programme, a policy involving compulsory land acquisition aimed at redistributing land from the minority white population to the majority black population. Confiscations of white farmland (accompanied by brutality and corruption), continuous droughts, and a serious drop in external finance and other supports led to a sharp decline in

agricultural exports, which were traditionally the country's leading export-producing sector. [58] Some 58,000 independent black farmers have since experienced limited success in reviving the gutted cash crop sectors through efforts on a smaller scale.

Accused of committing numerous human rights abuses and grossly mismanaging the economy, Mugabe and the Zanu-PF party leadership found themselves beset by a wide range of international sanctions. In 2002, the nation was suspended from the Commonwealth of Nations due to the reckless farm seizures and blatant election tampering. The following year, Zimbabwean officials voluntarily terminated its Commonwealth membership. Following elections in 2005, the government initiated "Operation Murambatsvina", an effort to crack down on illegal markets and slums emerging in towns and cities, leaving a substantial section of urban poor homeless. The Zimbabwean government has described the operation as an attempt to provide decent housing to the population, although according to critics such as Amnesty International, authorities have yet to properly substantiate their claims. On 29 March 2008, Zimbabwe held a presidential election along with a parliamentary election. The results of this election were withheld for two weeks, after which it was generally acknowledged that the Movement for Democratic Change – Tsvangirai (MDC-T) had achieved a majority of one seat in the lower house of parliament. In a surprising moment of candour at the ZANU-PF congress in December 2014, President Robert Mugabe accidentally let slip that the opposition had in fact won the contentious 2008 polls by an astounding 73%.

In late 2008, problems in Zimbabwe reached crisis proportions in the areas of living standards, public health (with a major cholera outbreak in December) and various basic affairs. In September 2008, a power-sharing agreement was reached between Tsvangirai and President Mugabe, permitting the former to hold the office of prime minister. Due to ministerial differences between their respective political parties, the agreement was not fully implemented until 13 February 2009. By December 2010, Mugabe was threatening to completely expropriate remaining privately owned companies in Zimbabwe unless "western sanctions" were lifted. A 2011 survey by Freedom House suggests that living conditions have improved since the power-sharing agreement. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs states in its 2012–2013 planning document that the "humanitarian situation has improved in Zimbabwe since 2009, but conditions remain precarious for many people". On 17 January 2013, the Vice-President John Nkomo died of cancer at St Anne's Hospital in Harare, Zimbabwe at the age of 78. A new constitution approved in the Zimbabwean constitutional referendum, 2013 curtails presidential powers. Mugabe was reelected president in the July 2013 Zimbabwean general election, again under accusation of widespread vote rigging.

Mineral exports, gold, agriculture, and tourism are the main foreign currency earners of Zimbabwe. The mining sector remains very lucrative, with some of the world's largest platinum reserves being mined by Anglo American plc and Impala Platinum. The Marange diamond fields, discovered in 2006, are considered the biggest diamond find in over a century. They have the potential to improve the fiscal situation of the country considerably, but almost all revenues from the field have disappeared into the pockets of army officers and ZANU-PF politicians. In terms of carats produced, the Marange field is one of the largest diamond producing projects in the world, estimated to produce 12 million carats in 2014 worth over \$350 million. Zimbabwe is the biggest trading partner of South Africa on the continent. Taxes and tariffs are high for private enterprises, while state enterprises are strongly subsidised. State regulation is costly to companies; starting or closing a business is slow and costly. Government spending was predicted to reach 67% of GDP in 2007. Tourism

was an important industry for the country, but has been failing in recent years. The Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force released a report in June 2007, estimating 60% of Zimbabwe's wildlife has died since 2000 due to poaching and deforestation. The report warns that the loss of life combined with widespread deforestation is potentially disastrous for the tourist industry. The ICT sector of Zimbabwe has been growing at a fast pace. A report by the mobile internet browser company, Opera, in June/July 2011 has ranked Zimbabwe as Africa's fastest growing market.

Capital – Harare. Language – English, Shona. Religion – Christian – 87%, Muslim – 1%, Unaffiliated – 8%, Folk religion – 4%. Ethnics – African – 98%: Shona – 82%, Ndebele – 14%, other – 2%; Mixed and Asian – 1%, White – less than 1%. Government - Zimbabwe is a republic with a presidential system of government. The semi-presidential system was done away with the adoption of a new constitution after a referendum in March 2013. Under the constitutional changes in 2005, an upper chamber, the Senate, was reinstated. The House of Assembly is the lower chamber of Parliament. President Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front (commonly abbreviated ZANU-PF) has been the dominant political party in Zimbabwe since independence. Robert Gabriel Mugabe (born 21 February 1924) is the current President of Zimbabwe, serving since 22 December 1987. As one of the leaders of the rebel groups against white minority rule, he was elected as Prime Minister, head of government, in 1980, and served in that office until 1987, when he became the country's first executive head of state. He has led the Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) since 1975. Population – 13,771,721, rank – 72. Area – 386,847, rank – 61. Density – 36, rank – 172.

37 VARIABLE PARAMETERS – SEE METHODOLOGY OF SEARCHING IN 60+ TABLES IN AUSTRALIA.

VARIABLE PARAMETERS FROM CIA WORLD FACTBOOK - PEOPLE & SOCIETY, ECONOMIC PARAMETERS:

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Median age:
total: 20.35 years
male: 20.4 years
female: 20.7 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 188
Population growth rate:
2.21% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 39
Birth rate:
32.26 births/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 34
Death rate:
10.13 deaths/1,000 population (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 41
Net migration rate:
0 migrant(s)/1,000 population
note: there is an increasing flow of Zimbabweans into South Africa and Botswana in search of better
economic opportunities (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 77
Urbanization:
urban population: 32.4% of total population (2015)
rate of urbanization: 2.3% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)
Mother's mean age at first birth:
note: median age at first birth among women 25-29 (2010/11 est.)
Maternal mortality rate:
443 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 15
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Infant mortality rate:
total: 26.11 deaths/1,000 live births
male: 28.4 deaths/1,000 live births
female: 23.76 deaths/1,000 live births (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 69
Life expectancy at birth:
total population: 57.05 years
male: 56.54 years
female: 57.57 years (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 205
Total fertility rate:
3.53 children born/woman (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 45
Contraceptive prevalence rate:
58.5% (2010/11)
Physicians density:
0.08 physicians/1,000 population (2011)
Hospital bed density:
1.7 beds/1,000 population (2011)
Drinking water source:
improved:
urban: 97% of population
rural: 67.3% of population
total: 76.9% of population
unimproved:
urban: 3% of population
rural: 32.7% of population
total: 23.1% of population (2015 est.)
Sanitation facility access:
improved:
urban: 49.3% of population
rural: 30.8% of population
total: 36.8% of population
unimproved:
urban: 50.7% of population
rural: 69.2% of population
total: 63.2% of population (2015 est.)
HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:
16.74% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 5
HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:
1,550,300 (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 4
HIV/AIDS - deaths:
38,600 (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: \underline{6}
Major infectious diseases:
degree of risk: high
food or waterborne diseases: bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever
vectorborne diseases: malaria and dengue fever
water contact disease: schistosomiasis
animal contact disease: rabies (2013)
Obesity - adult prevalence rate:
8.4% (2014)
country comparison to the world: 143
Children under the age of 5 years underweight:
11.2% (2014)
country comparison to the world: 69
Education expenditures:
2% of GDP (2010)
country comparison to the world: 155
Literacy:
definition: age 15 and over can read and write English
total population: 86.5%
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female: 84.6% (2015 est.)
School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):

total: 11 years male: 11 years female: 11 years (2012)

Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:

total: 8.7% male: 7.7%

male: 88.5%

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female: 9.8% (2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 116
GDP (purchasing power parity):
$27.92 billion (2015 est.)
$27.52 billion (2014 est.)
$26.66 billion (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 132
GDP (official exchange rate):
$13.91 billion (2015 est.)
GDP - real growth rate:
1.4% (2015 est.)
3.3% (2014 est.)
4.5% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 163
GDP - per capita (PPP):
$2,100 (2015 est.)
$2,100 (2014 est.)
$2,000 (2013 est.)
note: data are in 2015 US dollars
country comparison to the world: 201
Gross national saving:
-10.1% of GDP (2015 est.)
-8.9% of GDP (2014 est.)
-12.5% of GDP (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 178
GDP - composition, by end use:
household consumption: 68.9%
government consumption: 32.2%
investment in fixed capital: 22.5%
investment in inventories: -0.1%
exports of goods and services: 68.8%
imports of goods and services: -92.3% (2015 est.)
GDP - composition, by sector of origin:
agriculture: 20%
industry: 26%
services: 53.3% (2015 est.)
Agriculture - products:
tobacco, corn, cotton, wheat, coffee, sugarcane, peanuts; sheep, goats, pigs
Industries:
mining (coal, gold, platinum, copper, nickel, tin, diamonds, clay, numerous metallic and nonmetallic
ores), steel; wood products, cement, chemicals, fertilizer, clothing and footwear, foodstuffs, beverages
Industrial production growth rate:
4.2% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 52
Labor force:
5.777 million (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 71
Labor force - by occupation:
agriculture: 66%
industry: 10%
services: 24% (1996)
Unemployment rate:
95% (2009 est.)
80% (2005 est.)
note: figures include unemployment and underemployment; true unemployment is unknown and, under
current economic conditions, unknowable
country comparison to the world: 207
Population below poverty line:
72.3% (2012 est.)
Household income or consumption by percentage share:
lowest 10%: 2%
highest 10%: 40.4% (1995)
Distribution of family income - Gini index:
50.1 (2006)
50.1 (1995)
country comparison to the world: 22
Budget:
revenues: $3.732 billion
expenditures: $4.615 billion (2014)
Taxes and other revenues:
26.8% of GDP (2014)
country comparison to the world: <u>108</u>
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Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):
-6.4% of GDP (2014)
country comparison to the world: 187
Public debt:
205.3% of GDP (2015 est.)
184.1% of GDP (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 2
Fiscal year:
calendar year
Inflation rate (consumer prices):
0.1% (2015 est.)
1.63% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 41
Central bank discount rate:
7.17% (31 December 2010)
975% (31 December 2007)
country comparison to the world: 45
Commercial bank prime lending rate:
18% (31 December 2015 est.)
22% (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 20
Market value of publicly traded shares:
$4.073 billion (13 April 2015 est.)
$11.82 billion (31 December 2012)
$10.9 billion (31 December 2011 est.)
country comparison to the world: 90
Current account balance:
-$3.187 billion (2015 est.)
-$3.046 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 160
Exports:
$3.301 billion (2015 est.)
$3.263 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 127
Exports - commodities:
platinum, cotton, tobacco, gold, ferroalloys, textiles/clothing
Exports - partners:
China 27.8%, Democratic Republic of the Congo 12.3%, Botswana 11%, South Africa 6.8%, Belgium
4.4%, Zambia 4.1% (2014)
Imports:
$5.207 billion (2015 est.)
$5.135 billion (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 123
Imports - commodities:
machinery and transport equipment, other manufactures, chemicals, fuels, food products
Imports - partners:
South Africa 49.7%, China 8.8%, Zambia 5.5%, India 4.3% (2014)
Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:
$457 million (31 December 2015 est.)
$448 million (31 December 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: <u>152</u>
Debt - external:
$9.13 billion (31 December 2014 est.)
$8.193 billion (31 December 2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 109
Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:
$NA
Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:
$NA
Exchange rates:
Zimbabwean dollars (ZWD) per US dollar -
NA (2013)
234.25 (2010)
234.25 (2009)
9,686.8 (2007)
note: the dollar was adopted as a legal currency in 2009; since then the Zimbabwean dollar has
experienced hyperinflation and is essentially worthless
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PART IV – LISTS OF COUNTRIES COMPARISONS AND ANALYSIS OF THE SCORING OF ETHICS AND CORRUPTION WITH THE OTHER SALIENT PARAMETERS OF COUNTRIES

1. COUNTRY COMPARISON – POPULATION - CIA – WORLD FACTBOOK - DATE OF INFORMATION – MOSTLY JULY 2014 EST.

The 11 most ethical and least corrupt countries of the world in the TI - Transparency International index have a relatively small population – 1. Denmark (6M), 2. New Zealand (4M), 3. Finland (5M), 4. Sweden (10M), 5. Norway (5M), 6. Switzerland (8M), 7. Singapore (6M), 8. Netherlands (17M), 9. Luxembourg (0.5M), 10. Canada (35M), 11. Australia (23M).

They reside mostly in cold weathered Northern Europe - all the Scandinavian countries, even Iceland is ranked no. 12, all the Benelux countries: Luxembourg, the Netherlands, even Belgium is ranked no. 15, and Switzerland, or have mostly Northern/Anglo-Saxon European origins (Canada, New Zealand and Australia). The majority of their population has North/West Germanic ethnicity and languages (except Finland, but even Germany is ranked no. 12 and United Kingdom no. 14) and the majority of population shares Protestant religions.

Singapore is an exception, located right near the Equator, a former UK colony with a deep British influence, with a majority of Chinese and minorities of Malayans and Indians, and with a common language – English. However, China is ranked no. 100 in TI index, Malaysia – no. 50, and India – no. 85. The reason of Singapore's lack of corruption could be the leadership of its founder Lee Kuan Yew who lead and influenced Singapore since its inception, which could prove that ethical leadership is a very important indicator of ethics.

Even in the other most ethical countries ethnicity and religion are not the exclusive determinators - as Finns have no Germanic ethnicity and language but have a long legacy of social progressivism, in 1906 becoming the first nation in the world to give full suffrage to all adult citizens. French/Italian Switzerland, French Canada, and in Belgium (no. 15) the Walloons, as well as most of the non Anglo-Saxon immigrants to Australia and Canada, are not Germanic or Protestants. However, all peoples of those countries share the same ethical heritage and cultural beliefs, whether they are the descendants of the Vikings, Australian Greeks or Vietnamese (but Greece is ranked no. 69 and Vietnam – no. 119 in TI's index), Canadian Jews or Arabs (but Israel is ranked no. 37, Jordan - no. 55, Lebanon – no. 136, and Syria – no. 159), Swiss Italians (Italy is ranked no. 69), Dutch Indonesians (Indonesia is - no. 107), or in the case of the US (no. 17 in TI's index) – Mexicans, Russians or Haitians (Mexico - no. 103, Russia – 136, Haiti – 161), proving that culture is a very dominant factor of ethics.

We analyze occasionely, the second tier countries, scoring 74-79, ranked 12-17/20 – mostly: Germany (12) - the largest Germanic country, Iceland (12) – the 5th Scandinavian country, United Kingdom (14) – the parent nation of the Anglo-Saxon countries, Belgium (15) – the 3rd Benelux country, Japan (15) – the largest Eastern capitalist country, influenced deeply after World War II by the US constitution and capitalist model, Barbados (17) – an Afro-Caribbean population, with the deepest English influence, Hong Kong (17) – a Chinese population with the deepest English influence, Ireland (17) – the 5th Anglo-Saxon-Celtic capitalist country among the most ethical countries, and finally the United States (17) – the largest Anglo-Saxon Protestant country, and the model of modern capitalism in the world.

If we try to find a common denominator for the most ethical countries it could be - countries of Germanic ethnicity (most of the population in Scandinavia, Benelux, Germany, and Switerland), with Anglo-Saxon-Celtic origins (most of the existing or founding population of New Zealand, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, Ireland and the United States), with Anglo-Saxon capitalist influence (Singapore, Japan, Barbados, Hong-Kong), with a majority of protestant population in almost all those countries (except Singapore, Ireland Republic, and Japan). However, with substantial minorities from Latin, Slavic, African or Asian origins, with Catholic, Orthodox, Jews, Moslems and Eastern religions, but sharing the same ethical culture or influenced by ethical leaders as the founding fathers of the US or Lee Kuan Yew.

But what about the most corrupt countries, can we find for them also a common denominator that affects their ethics and cause them to have the worst scores in almost all the parameters? Who are those countries? The 10 most corrupt countries score 8 to 18 in TI's index, comparable to 80 to 90+ for the most ethical countries: 174. Somalia, North Korea, 173. Sudan, 172. Afghanistan, 171. South Sudan, 170. Iraq, 169. Turkmenistan, 166. Uzbekistan, 166. Libya, 166. Eritrea. What is common for all those countries? Most of them are Moslem countries, except South Sudan and North Korea (Eritrea is half Moslem). But we have to bear in mind that some Moslem Oil-Rich countries have a high ranking in TI's index – United Arab Emirates – 25, Qatar – 26. All of them have totalitarian regimes and limited civil rights, although some of them as Iraq and Afghanistan made attempts to be democratic. This is true also for the next 10 most corrupt countries (scoring 19-21). Most of them have made wars or suffered from civil unrest recently, like Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Libya, Yemen. All of them are very poor countries, most of them in Africa and some of them in Asia and Latin America. North Korea spends huge amounts for its defense and Venezuela is very generous towards communist regimes like Cuba. They suffer from the worst quality of life in the world, worst social progress and worst economic performance.

```
1
        China
                    1,355,692,576
2
                    1,236,344,631
        India
3
                             511,434,812
        European Union
4
        United States
                              318,892,103
5
        Indonesia
                              253,609,643
6
        Brazil
                     202,656,788
7
                     196,174,380
        Pakistan
8
        Nigeria
                     177,155,754
9
        Bangladesh
                              166,280,712
10
        Russia
                     142,470,272
11
        Japan
                     127,103,388
12
        Mexico
                     120,286,655
13
        Philippines
                              107,668,231
14
        Ethiopia
                     96,633,458
15
        Vietnam
                     93,421,835
                     86,895,099
16
        Egypt
17
        Turkey
                     81,619,392
18
        Germany
                              80,996,685
19
        Iran
                     80,840,713
20
        Congo, Democratic Republic of the
                                                77,433,744
21
        Thailand
                              67,741,401
22
                     66,259,012
        France
```

23	United Kingdom	63,742,977
24	Italy 61,680,1	
2 4 25	Burma 55,746,2	
25 26	Tanzania 55,740,2	
20 27		49,639,138 49,039,986
28	Korea, South South Africa	, ,
28 29		48,375,645
30	Spain 47,737,9 Colombia	
31		46,245,297
32	Kenya 45,010,0 Ukraine 44,291,4	
33	Argentina 44,291,4	43,024,374
33 34	Algeria 38,813,7	
3 4 35	Poland 38,346,2	
36	Uganda 35,918,9	
3 0	Sudan 35,482,2	
_	, -,	
38 39		
40	,	
40 41	Iraq 32,585,6	
41	Afghanistan	31,822,848
42	Nepal 30,986,9 Peru 30,147,9	
43 44	, ,	
44 45	Malaysia	30,073,353
	Uzbekistan	28,929,716
46	Venezuela	28,868,486
47	Saudi Arabia	27,345,986
48	Yemen 26,052,9	
49	Ghana 25,758,1	
50	Korea, North	24,851,627
51 52	Mozambique	24,692,144
52 53	Taiwan 23,359,9	
53	Madagascar	23,201,926
54 55	Cameroon	23,130,708
55	Cote d'Ivoire	22,848,945
<u>56</u>	Australia	22,507,617
57	Sri Lanka	21,866,445
58 50	Romania	21,729,871
59	Angola 19,088,1	
60	Burkina Faso	18,365,123
61	Syria 17,951,6	
62	Kazakhstan	17,948,816
63	NT! 4 # 4 / / /	=-
	Niger 17,466,1	
64	Malawi 17,377,4	168
64 65	Malawi 17,377,4 Chile 17,363,8	168 394
64 65 66	Malawi 17,377,4 Chile 17,363,8 Netherlands	168 394 <u>16,877,351</u>
64 65 <u>66</u> 67	Malawi 17,377,4 Chile 17,363,8 Netherlands Mali 16,455,9	168 894 <u>16,877,351</u> 903
64 65 66 67 68	Malawi 17,377,4 Chile 17,363,8 Netherlands 16,455,9 Ecuador 15,654,4	168 394 <u>16,877,351</u> 103 111
64 65 <u>66</u> 67 68 69	Malawi 17,377,4 Chile 17,363,8 Netherlands Mali 16,455,9 Ecuador 15,654,4 Cambodia	168 894 16,877,351 003 111 15,458,332
64 65 <u>66</u> 67 68 69 70	Malawi 17,377,4 Chile 17,363,8 Netherlands 16,455,9 Ecuador 15,654,4 Cambodia Guatemala	168 894 16,877,351 1003 111 15,458,332 14,647,083
64 65 <u>66</u> 67 68 69	Malawi 17,377,4 Chile 17,363,8 Netherlands Mali 16,455,9 Ecuador 15,654,4 Cambodia	168 894 16,877,351 1003 111 15,458,332 14,647,083

73	Senegal	13,635,927	
74	Rwanda	12,337,138	
75	South Sudan	11,562,6	95
76	Guinea	11,474,383	
77	Chad	11,412,107	
78	Cuba	11,047,251	
79	Tunisia	10,937,521	
80	Portugal 1	10,813,834	
81	Greece	10,775,557	
82	Bolivia	10,631,486	
83	Czech Repub	lic 10,627,4	148
84	Belgium	10,449,361	
85	_	10,428,043	
86	Burundi	10,395,931	
87	Dominican Ro	epublic	10,349,741
88		10,160,556	, ,
89		9,996,731	
90	Hungary	9,919,1	28
91	- •	9,723,809	
92	Azerbaijan	9,686,2	10
93	•	9,608,058	_ •
94	Honduras	8,598,5	61
95		8,223,062	-
96	Switzerland	8,061,5	16
97	Tajikistan	8,051,5	
98	•	7,930,491	
99		7,821,850	
100		7,351,374	
101		7,209,764	
102	Hong Kong	7,112,6	88
103		6,924,716	
104		6,803,699	
105	Paraguay	6,703,8	60
106	Papua New G	, ,	6,552,730
107		6,380,803	0,002,700
108		6,244,174	
109	El Salvador	6,125,5	12
110		5,882,562	
111	Nicaragua	5,848,6	41
112	Sierra Leone	5,743,7	
113	United Arab		5,628,805
114	Kyrgyzstan	5,604,2	
115	Denmark	5,569,0	
116	Singapore	5,567,3	
117		5,443,583	<u>01</u>
118	Central Afric		5,277,959
119		5,268,799	U,=11,7U)
120	Turkmenistai		43
120 121	Norway	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	-10
122		3,147,792 4,935,880	
144	Georgia	7,733,000	

123	Ireland 4,832,765
124	Costa Rica 4,755,234
125	Congo, Republic of the 4,662,446
126	Croatia 4,470,534
<i>127</i>	<i>New Zealand</i> 4,401,916
128	Liberia 4,092,310
129	Bosnia and Herzegovina 3,871,643
130	Puerto Rico 3,620,897
131	Panama 3,608,431
132	Moldova 3,583,288
133	Mauritania 3,516,806
134	Lithuania 3,505,738
135	Uruguay 3,332,972
136	Oman 3,219,775
137	Armenia 3,060,631
138	Albania 3,020,209
139	Mongolia 2,953,190
140	Jamaica 2,930,050
141	Kuwait 2,742,711
142	West Bank 2,731,052
143	Namibia 2,198,406
144	Latvia 2,165,165
145	Botswana 2,155,784
146	Qatar 2,123,160
147	Macedonia 2,091,719
148	Slovenia 1,988,292
149	Lesotho 1,942,008
150	Gambia, The 1,925,527
151	Kosovo 1,859,203
152	Gaza Strip 1,816,379
153	Guinea-Bissau 1,693,398
154	Gabon 1,672,597
155	Swaziland 1,419,623
156	Mauritius 1,331,155
157	Bahrain 1,314,089
158	Estonia 1,257,921
159	Trinidad and Tobago 1,223,916
160	Timor-Leste 1,201,542
161	Cyprus 1,172,458
162	Fiji 903,207
163	Djibouti 810,179
164	Comoros 766,865
165	Guyana 735,554
166	Bhutan 733,643
167	Equatorial Guinea 722,254
168	Montenegro 650,036
169	Solomon Islands 609,883
170	Macau 587,914
171	Suriname 573,311
172	Western Sahara 554,795

173	Cabo Verde		538,535		
<i>174</i>	Luxembourg		<i>520,672</i>		
175	Brunei	422,675			
176	Malta	412,655			
177	Maldives		393,595		
178		340,844			
179	Bahamas, The		321,834		
180	Iceland :	317,351			
181	Barbados		289,680		
182	French Polyne		280,026		
183	New Caledonia	a	267,840		
184		266,937			
185		196,628			
186	Sao Tome and	Princip		190,428	
187	Saint Lucia		163,362		
188	Guam	161,001			
189	Curacao	146,836			
190	Aruba	110,663			
191		110,152			
192	0	106,440			
193	Micronesia, Fe		States of		105,681
194	Kiribati	104,488			
195	Virgin Islands		104,170		
196	Saint Vincent		Grenadin	es	102,918
197	Jersey	96,513			
198	Seychelles		91,650		
199	Antigua and B	arbuda		91,295	
200	Isle of Man		86,866		
201	Andorra	85,458			
202	Dominica		73,449		
203	Marshall Islan	ıds	70,983		
204	Bermuda		69,839		
205	Guernsey		65,849		
206	Greenland		57,728		
207	Cayman Island		54,914		
208	American Sam		54,517		
209	Saint Kitts and			51,538	
210	Northern Mar	iana Isla		51,483	
211	Faroe Islands		49,947		
212	Turks and Cai	icos Islaı		49,070	
213	Sint Maarten		39,689		
214	Liechtenstein		37,313		
215	San Marino		32,742		
216	British Virgin	Islands		32,680	
217	Saint Martin		31,530		
218	Monaco	30,508			
219	Gibraltar		29,185		
220	D-1	21,186			
220	Palau	21,100			
221	Anguilla	16,086			
		,			

223	Akrotiri 15,700				
224	Wallis and Futuna		15,561		
225	Tuvalu 10,782		ŕ		
226	Cook Islands	10,134			
227	Nauru 9,488				
228	Saint Helena, Ascension	n, and Tr	istan da	Cunha	7,776
229	Saint Barthelemy	7,267			
230	Saint Pierre and Mique	elon	5,716		
231	Montserrat	5,215			
232	Falkland Islands (Islas	Malvinas	s)	2,840	
233	Norfolk Island	2,210			
234	Svalbard	1,872			
235	Christmas Island	1,530			
236	Tokelau 1,337				
237	Niue 1,190				
238	Holy See (Vatican City))	842		
239	Cocos (Keeling) Islands	S	596		
240	Pitcairn Islands	48			

2. COUNTRY COMPARISON – AREA (IN SQ.KM.) - CIA – WORLD FACTBOOK

One cannot find any common determinator of TI's index 11 most ethical and least corrupt countries in the world, as far as their areas is concerned. We have two of the largest countries in the world – Canada (10M), Australia (8M), 4 medium-sized countries – Sweden (450K), Finland (338K), Norway (324K), New Zealand (268K), however, most of their populations reside in a small part of the countries – southern Scandinavia and Canada, as well as southeast Australian coastline. We have three small countries – Denmark (43K), Netherlands (42K), Switzerland (41K), and two very small countries – Luxembourg (2.6K) and Singapore (0.7K).

Of the largest and most populated countries only the United States are very ethical (no. 17 in TI's index) and most of the other countries have a high level of perceived corruption – Russia (136), China (100), Brazil (69), India (85), Argentina (107), Congo DR (154), Mexico (103), Indonesia (107), Sudan (173), Iran (136). But even in similar countries in ethnics, language, religion, and other parameters as North Korea (population – 25M, area – 121K) and South Korea (population – 49M, area – 100K), there is a huge gap in ethics: South Korea is ranked no. 43 in TI's index (score – 55, quite ethical) while North Korea is ranked 174 – the most corrupt country in the world with a score of 8 (!) out of 100, sharing this rank with Somalia, while Sudan, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Iraq, Libya, Venezuela and Haiti are less corrupt.

The gap can be explained uniquely by the political and economic regimes of the sister-countries, and we can guess that if in the future the countries will be united the South Korean much more ethical culture will prevail, as happened between East and West Germany.

1	Russia	17,098,242	
2	Canada	<i>9,984,670</i>	
$\frac{2}{3}$	United States	9,826,675	
4	China	9,596,960	
5	Brazil	8,514,877	
<u>6</u> 7	Australia	7,741,220	
7	India	3,287,263	
8	Argentina	2,780,400	
9	Kazakhstan	2,724,900	
10	Algeria	2,381,741	
11	Congo, Demo	ocratic Republic of the	2,344,858
12	Greenland	2,166,086	
13	Saudi Arabia	2,149,690	
14	Mexico	1,964,375	
15	Indonesia	1,904,569	
16	Sudan	1,861,484	
17	Libya	1,759,540	
18	Iran	1,648,195	
19	Mongolia	1,564,116	
20	Peru	1,285,216	
21	Chad	1,284,000	
22	Niger	1,267,000	
23	Angola	1,246,700	
24	Mali	1,240,192	
25	South Africa	1,219,090	
26	Colombia	1,138,910	

27	Ethiopia	1,104,300)	
28	Bolivia	1,098,581		
29	Mauritania	, ,	1,030,700)
30	Egypt	1,001,450		
31	Tanzania		947,300	
32	Nigeria	923,768		
33	Venezuela	,	912,050	
34	Namibia	824,292		
35	Mozambique		799,380	
36	Pakistan	796,095		
37	Turkey	783,562		
38	Chile	756,102		
39	Zambia	752,618		
40	Burma	676,578		
41	Afghanistan		652,230	
42	South Sudan		644,329	
43	France	643,801		
44	Somalia	637,657		
45	Central Afric	an Repul	olic	622,984
46	Ukraine	603,550		,
47	Madagascar	,	587,041	
48	Botswana		581,730	
49	Kenya	580,367	,	
50	Yemen	527,968		
51	Thailand	,	513,120	
52	Spain	505,370		
53	Turkmenista	n	488,100	
54	Cameroon		475,440	
55	Papua New G	uinea		462,840
<u>56</u>	Sweden	450,295		,
57	Uzbekistan		447,400	
58	Morocco	446,550		
59	Iraq	438,317		
60	Paraguay		406,752	
61	Zimbabwe		390,757	
62	Japan	377,915		
63	Germany		357,022	
64	Congo, Repu	blic of the	9	342,000
<i>65</i>	Finland	338,145		
66	Vietnam	331,210		
67	Malaysia		329,847	
<u>68</u>	Norway	323,802		
69	Cote d'Ivoire		322,463	
70	Poland	312,685	ŕ	
71	Oman	309,500		
72	Italy	301,340		
73	Philippines	•	300,000	
74	Ecuador	283,561	ŕ	
75	Burkina Faso		274,200	
76	New Zealand		267,710	
	-		,	

77	Gabon	267,667		
78	Western Saha		266,000	
79	Guinea	245,857		
80	United Kingd	om	243,610	
81	Uganda	241,038		
82	Ghana	238,533		
83	Romania		238,391	
84	Laos	236,800		
85	Guyana	214,969		
86	Belarus	207,600		
87	Kyrgyzstan		199,951	
88	Senegal	196,722		
89	Syria	185,180		
90	Cambodia		181,035	
91	Uruguay	176,215		
92	Suriname		163,820	
93	Tunisia	163,610		
94	Nepal	147,181		
95	Bangladesh		143,998	
96	Tajikistan		143,100	
97	Greece	131,957		
98	Nicaragua		130,370	
99	Korea, North		120,538	
100	Malawi	118,484		
101	Eritrea	117,600		
102	Benin	112,622		
103	Honduras		112,090	
104	Liberia	111,369		
105	Bulgaria	110,879		
106	Cuba	110,860		
107	Guatemala		108,889	
108	Iceland	103,000		
109	Korea, South		99,720	
110	Hungary		93,028	
111	Portugal	92,090		
112	Jordan	89,342		
113	Azerbaijan		86,600	
114	Austria	83,871		
115	United Arab l	Emirates		83,600
116	Czech Repub	lic	78,867	
117	Serbia	77,474		
118	Panama	75,420		
119	Sierra Leone		71,740	
120	Ireland	70,273		
121	Georgia	69,700		
122	Sri Lanka		65,610	
123	Lithuania		65,300	
124	Latvia	64,589		
125	Svalbard		62,045	
126	Togo	56,785		

127	Croatia	56,594			
128	British Indian	Ocean T	Territory		54,400
129	Bosnia and Ho	erzegovir	na	51,197	
130	Costa Rica		51,100		
131	Slovakia	49,035			
132	Dominican Re	public		48,670	
133	Estonia	45,228			
<u>134</u>	Denmark		43,094		
135	Netherlands		41,543		
<i>136</i>	Switzerland		41,277		
137	Bhutan	38,394			
138	Guinea-Bissau	1	36,125		
139	Taiwan	35,980			
140	Moldova	33,851			
141	Belgium	30,528			
142	Lesotho	30,355			
143	Armenia	29,743			
144	Solomon Islan	ds	28,896		
145	Albania	28,748	,		
146	Equatorial Gu	,		28,051	
147	Burundi	27,830		,	
148	Haiti	27,750			
149	Rwanda	26,338			
150	Macedonia	,	25,713		
151	Djibouti	23,200	,-		
152	Belize	22,966			
153	El Salvador		21,041		
154	Israel	20,770	,-		
155	Slovenia	20,273			
156	New Caledoni		18,575		
157	Fiji	18,274			
158	Kuwait	17,818			
159	Swaziland	,	17,364		
160	Timor-Leste		14,874		
161	Bahamas, The	<u>.</u>	13,880		
162	Montenegro		13,812		
163	Puerto Rico		13,790		
164	Vanuatu	12,189	20,170		
165	Falkland Islan	,	Malvinas	s)	12,173
166	Qatar	11,586		-)	
167	Gambia, The	,-	11,295		
168	Jamaica	10,991	,		
169	Kosovo	10,887			
170	Lebanon	10,400			
171	Cyprus	9,251			
172	West Bank	- ,=	5,860		
173	Brunei	5,765	-,		
174	Trinidad and			5,128	
175	French Polyne	_	4,167	-,0	
176	Cabo Verde		4,033		
2.0			-,000		

177	South Georgia and S	outh Sandwich Isla	ands	3,903	
178	Samoa 2,831		allas	0,500	
179	Luxembourg	<i>2,586</i>			
180	Comoros	2,235			
181	Mauritius	2,040			
182	Virgin Islands	1,910			
183	Faroe Islands	1,393			
184	Hong Kong	1,104			
185	Sao Tome and Princi				
186	Turks and Caicos Isl	-			
187	Kiribati 811				
188	Bahrain 760				
189	Dominica	751			
190	Tonga 747				
191	Micronesia, Federate	ed States of	702		
<u>192</u>	Singapore	<i>697</i>			
193	Saint Lucia	616			
194	Isle of Man	572			
195	Guam 544				
196	Andorra 468				
197	Northern Mariana Is	slands 464			
198	Palau 459				
199	Seychelles	455			
200	Curacao 444				
201	Antigua and Barbud	a 443			
202	Barbados	430			
202 203	Barbados Heard Island and Mo	430		412	
		430 cDonald Islands	389	412	
203	Heard Island and Mo	430 cDonald Islands	389	412	
203 204	Heard Island and Mo Saint Vincent and th	430 cDonald Islands e Grenadines	389	412	
203 204 205	Heard Island and Mo Saint Vincent and th Jan Mayen	430 cDonald Islands e Grenadines 377	389	412	
203 204 205 206	Heard Island and Me Saint Vincent and th Jan Mayen Gaza Strip	430 cDonald Islands e Grenadines 377	389	412	
203 204 205 206 207 208 209	Heard Island and Me Saint Vincent and the Jan Mayen Gaza Strip Grenada 344 Malta 316 Saint Helena, Ascens	430 cDonald Islands e Grenadines 377 360 sion, and Tristan de		412	308
203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210	Heard Island and Me Saint Vincent and the Jan Mayen Gaza Strip Grenada 344 Malta 316 Saint Helena, Ascens Maldives	430 cDonald Islands e Grenadines 377 360 sion, and Tristan de 298		412	308
203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211	Heard Island and Me Saint Vincent and the Jan Mayen Gaza Strip Grenada 344 Malta 316 Saint Helena, Ascense Maldives Cayman Islands	430 cDonald Islands e Grenadines 377 360 sion, and Tristan de 298 264		412	308
203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212	Heard Island and Me Saint Vincent and the Jan Mayen Gaza Strip Grenada 344 Malta 316 Saint Helena, Ascense Maldives Cayman Islands Saint Kitts and Nevis	430 cDonald Islands e Grenadines 377 360 sion, and Tristan de 298 264		412	308
203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213	Heard Island and Me Saint Vincent and the Jan Mayen Gaza Strip Grenada 344 Malta 316 Saint Helena, Ascens Maldives Cayman Islands Saint Kitts and Nevis Niue 260	430 cDonald Islands e Grenadines 377 360 sion, and Tristan de 298 264		412	308
203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214	Heard Island and Me Saint Vincent and the Jan Mayen Gaza Strip Grenada 344 Malta 316 Saint Helena, Ascense Maldives Cayman Islands Saint Kitts and Nevis Niue 260 Saint Pierre and Mig	430 cDonald Islands e Grenadines 377 360 sion, and Tristan de 298 264 5 261 quelon 242		412	308
203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215	Heard Island and Me Saint Vincent and the Jan Mayen Gaza Strip Grenada 344 Malta 316 Saint Helena, Ascense Maldives Cayman Islands Saint Kitts and Nevis Niue 260 Saint Pierre and Mig Cook Islands	430 cDonald Islands e Grenadines 377 360 sion, and Tristan de 298 264 5 261 guelon 242 236		412	308
203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216	Heard Island and Me Saint Vincent and th Jan Mayen Gaza Strip Grenada 344 Malta 316 Saint Helena, Ascens Maldives Cayman Islands Saint Kitts and Nevis Niue 260 Saint Pierre and Mig Cook Islands American Samoa	430 cDonald Islands e Grenadines 377 360 sion, and Tristan de 298 264 5 261 quelon 242 236 199		412	308
203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217	Heard Island and Me Saint Vincent and th Jan Mayen Gaza Strip Grenada 344 Malta 316 Saint Helena, Ascens Maldives Cayman Islands Saint Kitts and Nevis Niue 260 Saint Pierre and Mig Cook Islands American Samoa Marshall Islands	430 cDonald Islands e Grenadines 377 360 sion, and Tristan de 298 264 5 261 guelon 242 236		412	308
203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218	Heard Island and Me Saint Vincent and the Jan Mayen Gaza Strip Grenada 344 Malta 316 Saint Helena, Ascense Maldives Cayman Islands Saint Kitts and Nevis Niue 260 Saint Pierre and Mig Cook Islands American Samoa Marshall Islands Aruba 180	430 cDonald Islands e Grenadines 377 360 sion, and Tristan de 298 264 5 261 quelon 242 236 199 181		412	308
203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219	Heard Island and Me Saint Vincent and th Jan Mayen Gaza Strip Grenada 344 Malta 316 Saint Helena, Ascens Maldives Cayman Islands Saint Kitts and Nevis Niue 260 Saint Pierre and Mig Cook Islands American Samoa Marshall Islands Aruba 180 Liechtenstein	430 cDonald Islands e Grenadines 377 360 sion, and Tristan de 298 264 5 261 quelon 242 236 199 181		412	308
203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220	Heard Island and Me Saint Vincent and the Jan Mayen Gaza Strip Grenada 344 Malta 316 Saint Helena, Ascense Maldives Cayman Islands Saint Kitts and Nevis Niue 260 Saint Pierre and Mig Cook Islands American Samoa Marshall Islands Aruba 180 Liechtenstein British Virgin Island	430 cDonald Islands e Grenadines 377 360 sion, and Tristan de 298 264 s 261 quelon 242 236 199 181 160 s 151		412	308
203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221	Heard Island and Me Saint Vincent and the Jan Mayen Gaza Strip Grenada 344 Malta 316 Saint Helena, Ascense Maldives Cayman Islands Saint Kitts and Nevis Niue 260 Saint Pierre and Mig Cook Islands American Samoa Marshall Islands Aruba 180 Liechtenstein British Virgin Island Wallis and Futuna	430 cDonald Islands e Grenadines 377 360 sion, and Tristan de 298 264 s 261 quelon 242 236 199 181 160 s 151 142		412	308
203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222	Heard Island and Me Saint Vincent and the Jan Mayen Gaza Strip Grenada 344 Malta 316 Saint Helena, Ascense Maldives Cayman Islands Saint Kitts and Nevis Niue 260 Saint Pierre and Mig Cook Islands American Samoa Marshall Islands Aruba 180 Liechtenstein British Virgin Island Wallis and Futuna Christmas Island	430 cDonald Islands e Grenadines 377 360 sion, and Tristan de 298 264 s 261 quelon 242 236 199 181 160 s 151		412	308
203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223	Heard Island and Me Saint Vincent and the Jan Mayen Gaza Strip Grenada 344 Malta 316 Saint Helena, Ascens Maldives Cayman Islands Saint Kitts and Nevis Niue 260 Saint Pierre and Mig Cook Islands American Samoa Marshall Islands Aruba 180 Liechtenstein British Virgin Island Wallis and Futuna Christmas Island Dhekelia 131	430 cDonald Islands e Grenadines 377 360 sion, and Tristan de 298 264 s 261 quelon 242 236 199 181 160 s 151 142		412	308
203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224	Heard Island and Me Saint Vincent and the Jan Mayen Gaza Strip Grenada 344 Malta 316 Saint Helena, Ascense Maldives Cayman Islands Saint Kitts and Nevis Niue 260 Saint Pierre and Mig Cook Islands American Samoa Marshall Islands Aruba 180 Liechtenstein British Virgin Island Wallis and Futuna Christmas Island Dhekelia 131 Akrotiri 123	430 cDonald Islands e Grenadines 377 360 sion, and Tristan de 298 264 s 261 quelon 242 236 199 181 160 s 151 142		412	308
203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223	Heard Island and Me Saint Vincent and the Jan Mayen Gaza Strip Grenada 344 Malta 316 Saint Helena, Ascens Maldives Cayman Islands Saint Kitts and Nevis Niue 260 Saint Pierre and Mig Cook Islands American Samoa Marshall Islands Aruba 180 Liechtenstein British Virgin Island Wallis and Futuna Christmas Island Dhekelia 131	430 cDonald Islands e Grenadines 377 360 sion, and Tristan de 298 264 s 261 quelon 242 236 199 181 160 s 151 142		412	308

227	Anguilla 91			
228	Guernsey	78		
229	San Marino	61		
230	French Southern and	l Antarctic L	ands	55
231	Saint Martin	54		
232	Bermuda	54		
233	Bouvet Island	49		
234	Pitcairn Islands	47		
235	Norfolk Island	36		
236	Sint Maarten	34		
237	Macau 28			
238	Tuvalu 26			
239	United States Pacific	Island Wild	life Refuges	22
240	Nauru 21			
241	Cocos (Keeling) Islan	ıds	14	
242	Tokelau 12			
243	Gibraltar	7		
244	Wake Island	7		
245	Clipperton Island	6		
246	Navassa Island	5		
247	Ashmore and Cartier	r Islands	5	
248	Spratly Islands	5		
249	Coral Sea Islands	3		
250	Monaco 2			
251	Howland Island	2		
252	Holy See (Vatican Ci	ty)	0	

3. COUNTRY COMPARISON: GDP - GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AT PPP - PURCHASING POWER PARITY EXCHANGE RATES, DATE OF INFORMATION (MOSTLY 2013 EST.) - CIA - WORLD FACTBOOK

The 11 most ethical and least corrupt countries in the world are also among the richest countries - proportionate to their size, population and distribution of wealth. A Gulf state can be very reach but most of the wealth belongs to a tiny minority of the population, while Finland can be "poorer", but most of the population benefits from the country's wealth. In the following tables one can see that the welfare of a country is not confined to its GDP or wealth, but to much more parameters, such as happiness, human development, democracy, freedom, ethics and minimal corruption, social progress, and least inequality and poverty.

Canada has a GDP of 1.5 trillion US dollars (PPP), Australia – 1 trillion US\$, Netherlands – 700 billion US\$, Sweden – 394 billion US\$, Switzerland – 371 billion US\$, the very small Singapore – 339 billion US\$, Norway – 282 billion US\$, Denmark – 211 billion US\$, Finland – 196 billion US\$, New Zealand – 136 billion US\$, and Luxembourg – 43 billion US\$. Denmark has a GDP smaller than the United Arab Emirates – 270 billion US\$ and a little more than Qatar – 199 billion US\$, but by all standards presented in this book the welfare of the Danish people is much greater than the majority of Qatar and United Arab Emirates.

1	United States	6 16,720	,000,000,000
2	European Union	5 15,850	,000,000,000
3	China \$ 13,390	,000,000,	000
4	India \$ 4,990	000,000,	000
5	Japan \$ 4,729	000,000,	000
6	Germany	3,227	,000,000,000
7	Russia \$ 2,553.	,000,000	
8	Brazil \$ 2,416	,000,000	000
9	United Kingdom		
10	O	000,000,	, ,
11		,000,000	
12		,000,000	
13	•	, ,	,000,000,000
<i>14</i>	Canada \$ 1,518,	000,000,0	
15		000,000,	
16	_		,000,000,000
17	Turkey \$ 1,167.	000,000,	000
<i>18</i>	Australia	998,3	00,000,000
19		00,000,00	
20			00,000,000
21	Taiwan \$ 926,4	00,000,00	
22	Poland \$ 814,0	00,000,00	00
23			000,000,000
24	Netherlands		00,000,000
25			00,000,000
26		,	00,000,000
27	Pakistan\$ 574,1	00,000,00	, ,
28	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	00,000,00	
29			00,000,000

```
30
                          $
        Malaysia
                              525,000,000,000
31
        Nigeria $
                     478,500,000,000
32
        Philippines
                              454,300,000,000
33
        Belgium $
                     421,700,000,000
34
        Venezuela
                          $
                              407,400,000,000
35
        Sweden $
                     393,800,000,000
36
        Hong Kong
                          $
                              381,300,000,000
                          $
37
        Switzerland
                              371,200,000,000
38
        Austria $
                     361,000,000,000
39
                     358,900,000,000
        Vietnam $
40
                     344,000,000,000
        Peru
        <u>Singapor</u>e
41
                          $ 339,000,000,000
42
        Ukraine $
                     337,400,000,000
43
                     335,400,000,000
        Chile
                 $
44
                          $
                              324,600,000,000
        Bangladesh
45
        Romania
                          $
                              288,500,000,000
        Czech Republic $
46
                              285,600,000,000
47
                     284,700,000,000
        Algeria $
        Norway $
48
                     282,200,000,000
49
                     273,200,000,000
        Israel
                 $
50
        United Arab Emirates
                                  $
                                      269,800,000,000
51
        Greece $
                     267,100,000,000
52
                     249,400,000,000
        Iraq
53
        Kazakhstan
                              243,600,000,000
54
        Portugal
                          $
                              243,300,000,000
                          $
55
        Denmark
                              211,300,000,000
                     198,700,000,000
56
        Qatar
57
                              196,600,000,000
        Hungary
                          $
<u>58</u>
        Finland $
                     195,500,000,000
59
                     190,400,000,000
        Ireland $
60
                     180,000,000,000
        Morocco$
61
        Kuwait $
                     165,800,000,000
62
        Ecuador $
                     157,600,000,000
63
        Belarus $
                     150,400,000,000
64
        New Zealand
                          $
                             136,000,000,000
65
                              134,500,000,000
        Sri Lanka
                     133,400,000,000
66
        Slovakia $
67
        Angola $
                     131,800,000,000
68
        Cuba
                     121,000,000,000
69
        Ethiopia $
                     118,200,000,000
70
        Uzbekistan
                              112,600,000,000
71
        Burma $
                     111,100,000,000
72
        Tunisia $
                     108,400,000,000
73
        Syria
                     107,600,000,000
74
        Bulgaria$
                     104,600,000,000
75
        Azerbaijan
                          $
                              102,700,000,000
76
        Dominican Republic
                                      101,000,000,000
77
        Oman
                 $
                      94,860,000,000
78
                 $
                      90.410.000.000
        Ghana
79
        Sudan
                      89,970,000,000
```

```
80
                         $
                              81,510,000,000
        Guatemala
        Serbia
                     80,470,000,000
81
82
        Kenya
                 $
                     79,900,000,000
83
        Tanzania
                              79,290,000,000
84
        Croatia $
                     78,900,000,000
85
        Libya
                     73,600,000,000
                              67,430,000,000
86
        Lithuania
87
        Puerto Rico
                              64,840,000,000
88
        Lebanon$
                     64,310,000,000
89
        Yemen $
                      61,630,000,000
90
                      61,540,000,000
        Panama $
91
                              61,430,000,000
        Costa Rica
92
        Bolivia $
                     59,110,000,000
93
                     57,360,000,000
        Slovenia $
94
        Uruguay$
                     56,270,000,000
95
        Turkmenistan
                         $
                              55,160,000,000
96
                     54,370,000,000
        Uganda $
97
        Cameroon
                              53,160,000,000
98
        Macau $
                     51,680,000,000
99
        El Salvador
                              47,470,000,000
                         $
                         $
100
        Paraguay
                              45,900,000,000
101
        Afghanistan
                         $
                              45,300,000,000
                          $
102
        Cote d'Ivoire
                              43,670,000,000
                          $
                              42,670,000,000
103
        Luxembourg
104
        Nepal
                      42,060,000,000
                      40,020,000,000
105
        Jordan $
106
        Korea, North
                         $
                              40,000,000,000
107
        Cambodia
                          $
                              39,640,000,000
108
        Honduras
                          $
                              39,230,000,000
                     38,870,000,000
109
        Latvia
110
                     34,960,000,000
        Bahrain $
111
        Botswana
                              34,000,000,000
112
        Bosnia and Herzegovina
                                       32,160,000,000
113
        Gabon $
                      30.060.000.000
114
        Estonia $
                     29,940,000,000
115
        Congo, Democratic Republic of the $
                                               29,390,000,000
                     28.340,000,000
116
        Albania $
117
        Mozambique
                          $
                              28,150,000,000
                     28,000,000,000
118
        Chad
119
                              27,970,000,000
        Nicaragua
120
        Senegal $
                     27,720,000,000
                     27,300,000,000
121
        Georgia $
        Trinidad and Tobago
                                       27,140,000,000
122
                                  $
123
        Burkina Faso
                         $
                              26,510,000,000
124
        Zambia $
                     25,470,000,000
125
        Timor-Leste
                          $
                              25,410,000,000
126
        Jamaica $
                      25,130,000,000
127
        Macedonia
                              22,570,000,000
128
        Brunei $
                      22,250,000,000
129
                              22,030,000,000
        Madagascar
                         $
```

604

```
130
                     21,620,000,000
        Cyprus $
131
        Mauritius
                              20,950,000,000
                     20,780,000,000
132
        Laos
133
        Armenia$
                     20,610,000,000
134
        Congo, Republic of the
                                  $
                                       20,260,000,000
135
        Papua New Guinea
                                  $
                                       19,960,000,000
136
                                  $
        Equatorial Guinea
                                       19,680,000,000
                              19,200,000,000
137
        Taiikistan
                      18,900,000,000
138
        Mali
                 $
                      17,790,000,000
139
        Namibia $
140
                              17,030,000,000
        Mongolia
141
                      16,650,000,000
        Benin
142
        Rwanda $
                     16,370,000,000
143
                     15,020,000,000
        Malawi $
144
        South Sudan
                              14,710,000,000
145
        Kyrgyzstan
                          $
                              14,300,000,000
146
        Kosovo $
                      14,110,000,000
147
        Niger
                 $
                     13,980,000,000
                 $
148
        Haiti
                     13,420,000,000
149
        Moldova$
                     13,250,000,000
150
        Iceland $
                     13,110,000,000
151
        Guinea $
                      12,560,000,000
        Bahamas, The
                              11,400,000,000
152
153
                      11,220,000,000
        Malta
                 $
154
        New Caledonia
                          $
                               9,280,000,000
                          $
155
        Sierra Leone
                               9,156,000,000
156
                          $
        Mauritania
                               8,204,000,000
157
                          $
        West Bank
                               8,022,000,000
158
                          $
                               7,496,000,000
        Zimbabwe
159
        Montenegro
                               7,429,000,000
160
                      7,348,000,000
        Togo
                 $
161
        Suriname
                               7,120,000,000
162
                               7,004,000,000
        Barbados
                      6,593,000,000
163
        Guyana $
164
        Swaziland
                               6,259,000,000
165
                      6,213,000,000
        Monaco $
166
        Somalia $
                      5.896,000,000
167
        Burundi $
                      5,750,000,000
168
        French Polynesia $
                               5,650,000,000
169
                               5,600,000,000
        Bermuda
170
        Bhutan $
                      5,235,000,000
171
        Jersey
                 $
                      5,100,000,000
        Eritrea $
                      4,717,000,000
172
173
        Guam
                 $
                      4,600,000,000
174
        Fiii
                      4.450.000.000
175
                      4,265,000,000
        Lesotho $
176
        Isle of Man
                               4,076,000,000
177
                               3,678,000,000
        Gambia, The
178
        Central African Republic $
                                       3,336,000,000
179
        Liechtenstein
                               3,200,000,000
```

605

```
180
        Andorra$
                      3,163,000,000
181
        Curacao $
                      3,128,000,000
182
        Belize
                      3,083,000,000
183
                               3,073,000,000
        Maldives
                          $
184
                      2,898,000,000
        Liberia $
185
                               2,742,000,000
        Guernsey
                      2,516,000,000
186
        Aruba $
187
        Djibouti $
                      2,505,000,000
188
        Seychelles
                               2,404,000,000
                          $
189
        Cayman Islands $
                               2,250,000,000
                          $
190
        Cabo Verde
                               2,222,000,000
                          $
191
        Saint Lucia
                               2,216,000,000
192
        Greenland
                               2,133,000,000
193
                          $
        Guinea-Bissau
                               2,005,000,000
194
        Solomon Islands $
                               1,958,000,000
195
        Antigua and Barbuda
                                        1,610,000,000
196
        Virgin Islands
                               1,577,000,000
197
        Faroe Islands
                               1,471,000,000
198
        Grenada$
                      1,458,000,000
199
        Saint Vincent and the Grenadines $
                                                1,335,000,000
200
        San Marino
                          $
                               1,306,000,000
201
        Gibraltar
                          $
                               1,275,000,000
                      1,270,000,000
202
        Vanuatu$
203
                      1,145,000,000
        Samoa $
204
        Dominica
                               1,015,000,000
205
        Saint Kitts and Nevis
                                        952,000,000
                                   $
206
        Comoros
                               911.000.000
                               906,500,000
207
        Western Sahara $
208
        Tonga $
                       846,000,000
209
                               798,300,000
        Sint Maarten
210
        Micronesia, Federated States of
                                                 754,000,000
                                           $
211
        Northern Mariana Islands $
                                        733,000,000
212
        Kiribati $
                       698,000,000
213
        Turks and Caicos Islands $
                                        632,000,000
                               575,300,000
214
        American Samoa $
215
        British Virgin Islands
                                        500,000,000
                                   $
                               486,000,000
216
        Marshall Islands $
217
        Sao Tome and Principe
                                   $
                                        421,000,000
218
        Palau
                 $
                       245,500,000
219
        Saint Pierre and Miguelon$
                                        215,300,000
220
        Cook Islands
                          $
                               183,200,000
                       175,400,000
221
        Anguilla $
                                                 164,500,000
222
        Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)
                                           $
223
        Wallis and Futuna
                                   $
                                         60,000,000
224
        Nauru
                       60,000,000
225
        Montserrat
                          $
                                43,780,000
226
                       40,000,000
        Tuvalu $
227
        Saint Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha
                                                            $
                                                                   31,100,000
228
        Niue
                 $
                       10.010.000
        Tokelau $
```

1,500,000

229

4. COUNTRY COMPARISON: GDP PER CAPITA - GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT ON A PPP - PURCHASING POWER PARITY BASIS, DIVIDED BY POPULATION AS OF 1 JULY FOR SAME YEAR (MOSTLY 2013 EST.) - CIA- WORLD FACTBOOK

One might get the impression that the 11 most ethical and least corrupt countries of the world do not obtain in this parameter the highest scores – Finland for example is ranked only no. 38 and New Zealand – no. 46, a good position in a 228 countries list, but still not among the 10 or even the 20 best countries. But if one analizes who share the best ranks we find that we have at least 14 countries that are not relevant to the comparison, as they are micro-states countries (except the huge Greenland that is almost empty), with population of thousands or tens of thousands people, that have a very limited economic activity, besides tax shelters and casinos, such as Liechtenstein, Monaco, Jersey, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Andorra, Isle of Man, Guernsey, Cayman Islands, British Virgin Islands, Greenland, St. Pierre and Miquelon, Faroe Islands and Bermuda, that may have a very high GDP per capita, but we cannot compare them to "comparable" countries such as Denmark, Canada, Singapore, or Australia.

The GDP per capita (PPP) of the 11 most ethical countries are in US\$ - Luxembourg - \$77,900, Singapore - \$62,400, Norway - 55,400, Switzerland - 54,800, Netherlands - 43,300, Canada - 43,100, Australia - 43,000, Sweden - 40,900, Denmark - 37,800, Finland - 35,900, New Zealand - \$30,400. If we leave only the comparable countries, we find that 7 (58%) out of the first 12 countries with the highest GDP per capita are the most ethical countries: Luxembourg, Singapore, Norway, Switzerland, Netherlands, Canada and Australia. And we include in those countries the very small but very rich in oil and gaz reserves Qatar with the highest GDP per capita - \$102,100, which proves that if ethics pays - oil pays even better

Still, Qatar is no. 26 in TI's index and United Arab Emirates are no. 25. In 2013, Qatar's total population was 1.8 million: 278,000 Qatari citizens and 1.5 million expatriates. If we take into consideration that it has a Gini coefficient of 41.1, higher even than Russia and Senegal, and it applies only to the citizens, we can deduct that the rulers earn so much that the figure of \$102,400 applies mostly to them and not to the majority of the citizens and of course not to the expatriates. We could find such similarities also with oil rich states as Brunei and Kuwait.

19 out of the 20 most ethical countries in 2014, adding Germany, Iceland, United Kingdom, Belgium, Japan, Hong Kong, Ireland and the United States (without Barbados...) are among the 32 richest countries in the world (without the states with micro population: 46-14=32), or 60% of the richest states are also the most ethical, while the others are mainly oil countries or ethical/quite ethical countries ranking down to 43: Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Brunei (rich in oil but with a high degree of inequality), Austria (TI - 23), France (26), Taiwan (35), Israel (37), South Korea (43), European Union that is not a country, dependencies... So, after all, Ethics Pays and the most ethical countries are almost exclusively the richest countries in the world, together with some oil rich countries and states with micro population.

The 20 -30 most corrupt countries score here again the worst results (\$400-\$1,800) and they are the poorest countries in the world: Democratic Rep. of the Congo, Zimbabwe, Somalia, Burundi, Central African Republic, Afghanistan, Guinea-Bissau, Eritrea, Haiti, South Sudan, Myanmar, North Korea and Kenya. But what about corrupt "rich" countries, rich in oil and minerals, apparently they are not poor in GDP per capita, but due to their high level of inequality, most of the population is very poor even if the GDP per capita is not so low. Those countries are economically disparate, with the majority of the nation's wealth concentrated in

a disproportionately small sector of the population: in \$ - Sudan - 2,600, Nigeria -2,800, Republic of the Congo - 4,800, Angola - 6,300, Iraq - 7,100, Venezuela - 13,600...

1	Qatar \$	102,100			
2	Liechtenstein	\$	89,400		
3	Macau \$	88,700	02,400		
4	Bermuda	\$	86,000		
5	Monaco \$	85,500	00,000		
6	Luxembourg	\$	77,900		
7		\$ \$	62,400		
<u>7</u>	Singapore Jersey \$	φ 57,000	02,400		
9	Norway \$	55,400			
10	Falkland Islands		(alvinac)	\$	55,400
10 11	Switzerland	\$ (151 a 5 1 v 1		Φ	33,400
12	Brunei \$	φ 54,800	<i>54,800</i>		
	Isle of Man		52 900		
13 14		\$ \$	53,800		
	United States	\$ ¢	52,800		
15	Hong Kong	\$	52,700		
16	Guernsey	\$	44,600		
17	Cayman Islands		43,800		
<u>18</u>	Netherlands	\$ 100	<i>43,300</i>		
<u>19</u>	Canada \$	43,100	42.000		
20	Gibraltar	\$	43,000		
<u>21</u>	Australia	\$	<i>43,000</i>		
22	Austria \$	42,600	ф	40.000	
23	British Virgin Is		\$	42,300	
24	Kuwait \$	42,100			
25	Ireland \$	41,300			
<u>26</u>	Sweden \$	40,900			
27	Iceland \$	40,700			
28	Taiwan \$	39,600			
29	Germany	\$	39,500		
30	Greenland	\$	38,400		
31	Belgium \$	37,800			
32	Denmark	\$	<i>37,800</i>		
33	New Caledonia	\$	37,700		
34	United Kingdom	\$	37,300		
35	Andorra\$	37,200			
36	Japan \$	37,100			
37	Israel \$	36,200			
38	Finland \$	<i>35,900</i>			
39	France \$	35,700			
40	Saint Pierre and	Miquelo	n\$	34,900	
41	European Union	\$	34,500		
42	Korea, South	\$	33,200		
43	Bahamas, The	\$	32,000		
44	Saudi Arabia	\$	31,300		
45	Faroe Islands	\$	30,500		
<u>46</u>	New Zealand	\$	30,400		
47	Spain \$	30,100			

48	United Arab Em	irates	\$	29,900
49	Bahrain \$	29,800	•	,
50	Oman \$	29,800		
51	Italy \$	29,600		
52	Malta \$	29,200		
53	Turks and Caico	,	\$	29,100
54	Guam \$	28,700	•	, , , ,
55	Slovenia \$	27,400		
56	Czech Republic	\$	26,300	
57	Sevchelles	\$	25,900	
58	Equatorial Guin	•	\$	25,700
59	Aruba \$	25,300		,
60	Barbados	\$	25,100	
61	Slovakia\$	24,700	,	
62	Cyprus \$	24,500		
63	Greece \$	23,600		
64	Portugal\$	22,900		
65	Lithuania	\$	22,600	
66	Estonia \$	22,400	,	
67	French Polynesia	,	22,000	
68	Timor-Leste	\$	21,400	
69	Poland \$	21,100	,	
70	Trinidad and To	,	\$	20,300
71	Hungary	\$	19,800	-)
72	Gabon \$	19,200	, ,	
73	Chile \$	19,100		
74	Latvia \$	19,100		
75	Argentina	\$	18,600	
76	Antigua and Bar	-	\$	18,400
77	Russia \$	18,100		,
78	Croatia \$	17,800		
79	Malaysia	\$	17,500	
80	Uruguay\$	16,600	,	
81	Panama \$	16,500		
82	Botswana	\$	16,400	
83	Saint Kitts and M	Nevis	\$	16,300
84	Puerto Rico	\$	16,300	,
85	Belarus \$	16,100	,	
86	Mauritius	\$	16,100	
87	Lebanon\$	15,800	,	
88	Mexico \$	15,600		
89	Sint Maarten	\$	15,400	
90	Turkey \$	15,300	,	
91	Curação \$	15,000		
92	Virgin Islands	\$	14,500	
93	Bulgaria\$	14,400	,	
94	Romania	\$	14,400	
95	Dominica	\$	14,300	
96	Kazakhstan	\$	14,100	
97	Grenada\$	13,800	, -	
	·	, -		

98	Northern Mariana Islands \$			13,600		
99	Venezuela	\$	13,600	,		
100	Saint Lucia	\$	13,100			
101	Suriname	\$	12,900			
102	Costa Rica	\$	12,900			
103	Iran \$	12,800	,			
104	Anguilla\$	12,200				
105	Brazil \$	12,100				
106	Saint Vincent an	*	enadines	\$	12,100	
107	Montenegro	\$	11,900			
108	South Africa	\$	11,500			
109	Libya \$	11,300				
110	Colombia	\$	11,100			
111	Serbia \$	11,100				
112	Peru \$	11,100				
113	Macedonia	\$	10,800			
114	Azerbaijan	\$	10,800			
115	Albania \$	10,700	,			
116	Ecuador \$	10,600				
117	Palau \$	10,500				
118	Cuba \$	10,200				
119	Tunisia \$	9,900				
120	Thailand	\$	9,900			
121	China \$	9,800	,			
122	Turkmenistan	\$	9,700			
123	Dominican Repu	ıblic	\$	9,700		
124	Cook Islands	\$	9,100	,		
125	Maldives	\$	9,100			
126	Jamaica \$	9,000	,			
127	Belize \$	8,800				
128	Marshall Islands	,	8,700			
129	Guyana \$	8,500				
130	Montserrat	\$	8,500			
131	Bosnia and Herz		\$	8,300		
132	Namibia \$	8,200	•	,		
133	Tonga \$	8,200				
134	American Samo	,	8,000			
135	Saint Helena, As		•	tan da Cu	ınha	\$ 7,800
136	Kosovo \$	7,600				,
137	El Salvador	\$	7,500			
138	Algeria \$	7,500				
139	Ukraine \$	7,400				
140	Micronesia, Fed		ates of	\$	7,300	
141	Iraq \$	7,100			*	
142	Bhutan \$	7,000				
143	Paraguay	\$	6,800			
144	Egypt \$	6,600	,			
145	Sri Lanka	\$	6,500			
146	Kiribati \$	6,400	,			
147	Angola \$	6,300				
		, -				

148	Armenia\$	6,300		
149	Samoa \$	6,200		
150	Georgia \$	6,100		
151	Jordan \$	6,100		
152	Mongolia	\$	5,900	
153	Niue \$	5,800	,	
154	Swaziland	\$	5,700	
155	Bolivia \$	5,500	·	
156	Morocco\$	5,500		
157	Guatemala	\$	5,300	
158	Indonesia	\$	5,200	
159	Syria \$	5,100		
160	Nauru \$	5,000		
161	Fiji \$	4,900		
162	Vanuatu\$	4,800		
163	Congo, Republic	of the	\$	4,800
164	Honduras	\$	4,800	
165	Philippines	\$	4,700	
166	Nicaragua	\$	4,500	
167	Cabo Verde	\$	4,400	
168	Vietnam \$	4,000		
169	India \$	4,000		
170	Wallis and Futur	ıa	\$	3,800
171	Uzbekistan	\$	3,800	
172	Moldova\$	3,800		
173	Ghana \$	3,500		
174	Tuvalu \$	3,500		
175	Solomon Islands	\$	3,400	
176	Laos \$	3,100		
177	Pakistan\$	3,100		
178	West Bank	\$	2,900	
179	Papua New Guin	ea	\$	2,900
180	Nigeria \$	2,800		
181	Djibouti \$	2,700		
182	Sudan \$	2,600		
183	Cambodia	\$	2,600	
184	Western Sahara	\$	2,500	
185	Kyrgyzstan	\$	2,500	
186	Chad \$	2,500		
187	Yemen \$	2,500		
188	Cameroon	\$	2,400	
189	Tajikistan	\$	2,300	
190	Mauritania	\$	2,200	
191	Sao Tome and Pr	rincipe	\$	2,200
192	Lesotho \$	2,200		
193	Senegal \$	2,100		
194	Bangladesh	\$	2,100	
195	Gambia, The	\$	2,000	
196	Zambia \$	1,800		
197	Kenya \$	1,800		

198	Korea, North	\$	1,800		
199	Cote d'Ivoire	\$	1,800		
200	Tanzania	\$	1,700		
201	Burma \$	1,700			
202	Benin \$	1,600			
203	Burkina Faso	\$	1,500		
204	Uganda \$	1,500			
205	Nepal \$	1,500			
206	Rwanda \$	1,500			
207	South Sudan	\$	1,400		
208	Sierra Leone	\$	1,400		
209	Haiti \$	1,300			
210	Comoros	\$	1,300		
211	Ethiopia \$	1,300			
212	Eritrea \$	1,200			
213	Mozambique	\$	1,200		
214	Guinea-Bissau	\$	1,200		
215	Afghanistan	\$	1,100		
216	Mali \$	1,100			
217	Togo \$	1,100			
218	Guinea \$	1,100			
219	Tokelau \$	1,000			
220	Madagascar	\$	1,000		
221	Malawi \$	900			
222	Niger \$	800			
223	Liberia \$	700			
224	Central African l	Republic	\$	700	
225	Burundi \$	600			
226	Somalia \$	600			
227	Zimbabwe	\$	600		
228	Congo, Democrat	tic Repub	olic of the	\$	400

5. COUNTRY COMPARISON: GDP REAL GROWTH RATE, ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION IN % - (MOSTLY 2013 EST.) - CIA - WORLD FACTBOOK

In this parameter the best results are achieved by developing countries (there are almost no developing countries among the most ethical countries) and ethical conduct seems at first not to affect the GDP real growth rate. As the ethical countries are very rich it is much more difficult to increase GDP substantially every year, while poorer countries such as South Sudan, Sierra Leone, Paraguay, or Mongolia increase their GDP at a rate of above 10% annually. Developing countries (excluding micro-states) prevail also in the growth bracket of 5%-10% - Moldova, Laos, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, China (7.7%), Panama, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Ethiopia, Burma, Philippines, Mauritania, Sri Lanka, Congo DR, Zambia, Bangladesh, Angola, Uganda – and only in the 47th rank we find the first oil-rich country – Qatar with 5.5%, followed by Bahrain, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and so on.

The first rich non-oil ethical country is Singapore with 4.1% (ranked no. 74), which is quite high taking into consideration the World Great Recession. The other 10 most ethical countries score much lower results: New Zealand – 2.5% (130), Australia – 2.5% (131), Switzerland – 2.0% (146), Canada – 1.6% (154), Norway – 1.6% (156), Sweden – 0.9% (177), Luxembourg -0.5% (187), Denmark -0.1% (195), Finland --0.6% (negative, rank -201), Netherlands --0.8% (negative, rank -202). You can't win them all – the most ethical countries score on the average very low scores, but still – if we recall that the European Union with its 28 states grows on the average -0.1%, i.e. no growth at all, we can appreciate the fact that most of the best ethical countries (6 out of 11) achieve growth rates much higher than the European Union average -0.1%, or even higher than the United States -1.6%, maybe because Norway, Canada, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore are not members of the EU.

3 of the most ethical countries, members of the EU, out of 11 score equal or higher scores than the EU – Sweden, Luxembourg, Denmark, and only 2 score negative growth – Finland and the Netherlands. If we enlarge the comparison to the 20 most ethical countries, we find that here also most of the countries perform better than the other developed countries and the European Union – Hong Kong – 2.9%, Japan – 2%, Iceland – 1.9%, United Kingdom – 1.8%, Ireland – 0.6%, Germany – 0.5%, Belgium – 0.1%, and as mentioned above – the United States (no. 17 in TI's index) GDP growth at a rate of 1.6%. Only Barbados scores a negative -0.8%. So, the 11 or 20 most ethical countries perform on the average better than less ethical developed countries, but much lower than developing poorer and unethical countries or than oil-rich states. Here again, we find that Ethics Pays, by comparing ethical developed countries with less ethical ones, proving that the GDP growth rate of ethical countries is much higher than comparable less ethical countries, even if in absolute terms it is still very low.

The most corrupt countries score here high results and we could be tempted to say that Ethics Pays but corruption pays even better. Which is true, but depending to whom – Ethics Pays for the majority of the population while corruption pays for a small minority of the population who receives the huge bribes. We find here that the most corrupt countries have also the highest growth rate: South Sudan (fifth most corrupt country) is no. 1 with a GDP growth rate of 24.7%. Followed by very corrupt countries, such as Sierra Leone – 13.3, Turkmenistan – 12.2, Paraguay – 12.0, Macau (gambling) – 11.9, Mongolia (TI -80) - 11.8, Moldova (TI – 103) – 8.9, Laos – 8.3, Liberia – 8.1, China (TI – 100) – 7.7, Eritrea, Cambodia, Uzbekistan...

- 1 **South Sudan** 24.70
- 2 Sierra Leone 13.30

2	75. 1	12.20	
3	Turkmenistar		
4	Paraguay	12.00	
5		.90	
6	Mongolia	11.80	
7	Turks and Ca		
8		90	
9		30	
10	Timor-Leste	8.10	
11		10	
12	Cote d'Ivoire	8.00	
13	Ghana 7.	90	
14	China 7.	70	
15	Rwanda 7.	50	
16	Panama 7.	50	
17	Kyrgyzstan	7.40	
18	Tajikistan	7.40	
19	Mozambique	7.00	
20	Eritrea 7.	00	
21	Cambodia	7.00	
22	Tanzania	7.00	
23	Uzbekistan	7.00	
24	Ethiopia 7.	00	
25	-	80	
26		80	
27	Philippines	6.80	
28		60	
29	Burkina Faso		
30	Gambia, The	6.40	
31	Mauritania	6.40	
32	Sri Lanka	6.30	
33		20	
34		20	
3 5	. 8	20	
36	O		5.20
3 0	<u> </u>	00). 4 U
37 38	Gibraltar	6.00	
39		5 80	
40	Azerbaijan	5.80	
41	Congo, Repub		
42	Bangladesh	5.80	
43	West Bank	5.70	
44	U	60	
45	U	60 50	
46	O	50	
47	•	50	
48	Papua New G		
49	Indonesia	5.30	
50	•	30	
51		30	
52	Isle of Man	5.20	

53	Oman	5.10		
54	Peru	5.10		
55	Morocco	5.10		
56	Kenya	5.10		
57	Kazakhsta	ın	5.00	
58	Djibouti	5.00		
59	Benin	5.00		
60	Malawi	5.00		
61	Mali	4.80		
62	Suriname		4.70	
63	Malaysia		4.70	
64	Cameroon	l	4.60	
65	Armenia	4.60		
66	Nicaragua	1	4.60	
67	Burundi			
68	Sao Tome		ncipe	4.50
69	Bahrain	4.40	P	110 0
70	Namibia	4.40		
71	Chile	4.40		
72	Iraq	4.20		
73	Colombia		4.20	
<i>74</i>	Singapore		4.10	
75	Lesotho	4.10	7.10	
76	Latvia	4.00		
77	Sint Maar		4.00	
78	Senegal	4.00	4.00	
79	Ecuador	4.00		
80	Solomon I		4.00	
81	United Ar			4.00
82	Sudan	3.90	accs	7.00
83	Chad	3.90		
84	Botswana	3.70	3.90	
85	Turkey	3.80	3.70	
86	Yemen	3.80		
87	Saudi Ara		3.60	
88	Pakistan	3.60	3.00	
89	Curacao	3.60		
90	Nepal	3.60		
91	Guinea-Bi		3.50	
92	Romania	ssau	3.50	
93	Costa Rica	.	3.50	
94	Comoros	ı	3.50	
9 5	Argentina		3.50	
96	Maldives		3.50 3.50	
90 97	Montserra	.	3.50 3.50	
97 98		 3.50	3.30	
	Uruguay Palau	3.50 3.50		
99 100	Paiau Lithuania	3.30	2 40	
100			3.40 3.40	
101	Mauritius Haiti	3.40	3.40	
102	114111	J.4U		

103	Vanuatu 3.30			
104	Israel 3.30			
105	Guatemala	3.30		
106	Jordan 3.30			
107	Seychelles	3.30		
108	India 3.20			
109	Zimbabwe	3.20		
110	Afghanistan	3.10		
111	Algeria 3.10			
112	Cuba 3.10			
113	Macedonia	3.10		
114	Greenland	3.00		
115	American Samoa	3.00		
116	Fiji 3.00			
117	Guernsey	3.00		
118	Kiribati 2.90	••••		
119	Thailand	2.90		
120	Hong Kong	2.90		
121	Guinea 2.90	2.70		
122	Faroe Islands	2.90		
123	Korea, South	2.80		
124	Tunisia 2.80	2.00		
125	Honduras	2.80		
125 126	Madagascar	2.60		
120 127	Somalia 2.60	2.00		
128	Belize 2.50			
128 129	Georgia 2.50			
130	New Zealand	2.50		
130 131	Australia	2.50 2.50		
131 132	Kosovo 2.50	2.30		
133	Aruba 2.40			
134	Malta 2.40			
135	Kuwait 2.30			
	Marshall Islands	2.30		
136 137	Brazil 2.30	2.30		
137	Taiwan 2.20			
139	Belarus 2.10	_	2.00	
140	Dominican Republic	c	2.00	
141	Serbia 2.00			
142	Japan 2.00	2.00		
143	South Africa	2.00	1	2.00
144	Saint Vincent and the		dines	2.00
145	Virgin Islands	2.00		
<u>146</u>		<u>2.00</u>	1.00	
147	Saint Kitts and Nev	IS	1.90	
148	Iceland 1.90	1.00		
149	Bahamas, The	1.90		
150	Egypt 1.80	4.00		
151	Liechtenstein	1.80		
152	United Kingdom	1.80		

153	Antigua and Barbu	da	1.70	
<u>154</u>	Canada 1.60			
155	Trinidad and Tobag	go	1.60	
<i>156</i>	<i>Norway</i> 1.60			
157	United States	1.60		
158	El Salvador	1.60		
159	Venezuela	1.60		
160	Estonia 1.50			
161	Lebanon 1.50			
162	Cabo Verde	1.50		
163	Montenegro	1.50		
164	Brunei 1.40			
165	Russia 1.30			
166	Poland 1.30			
167	Korea, North	1.30		
168	Guam 1.30			
169	British Virgin Islan	ds	1.30	
170	Mexico 1.20			
171	Dominica	1.10		
172	Cayman Islands	1.10		
173	Tuvalu 1.10			
174	Cocos (Keeling) Isla	nds	1.00	
175	Tonga 1.00			
176	Monaco 0.90			
<i>177</i>	Sweden 0.90			
178	Bosnia and Herzego	vina	0.80	
179	Grenada 0.80			
180	Slovakia 0.80			
181	Albania 0.70			
182	Micronesia, Federat	ted States	s of	0.60
183	New Caledonia	0.60		
184	Ireland 0.60			
185	Germany	0.50		
186	Bulgaria 0.50			
<u> 187</u>	Luxembourg	0.50		
188	Austria 0.40			
189	Ukraine 0.40			
190	Jamaica 0.40			
191	France 0.30			
192	Saint Lucia	0.20		
193	Hungary	0.20		
194	European Union	0.10		
<i>195</i>	Denmark	0.10		
196	Cook Islands	0.10		
197	Belgium 0.10			
198	Samoa 0.10			
199	Swaziland	0.00		
200	French Polynesia	-0.40		
201	Finland -0.60			
202	Netherlands	<i>-0.80</i>		
		_		

203	Barbados	-0.80	
204	Czech Republic	-0.90	
205	Croatia -1.00		
206	Slovenia -1.10		
207	Spain -1.30		
208	Iran -1.50		
209	Equatorial Guine	a	-1.50
210	Andorra -1.60		
211	Italy -1.80		
212	Portugal -1.80		
213	Syria -2.30		
214	Bermuda	-3.50	
215	San Marino	-3.50	
216	Greece -3.80		
217	Libya -5.10		
218	Puerto Rico	-5.80	
219	Anguilla -8.50		
220	Cyprus -8.70		
221	Central African R	Republic	-14.50

6. COUNTRY COMPARISON – GROSS NATIONAL SAVING AS % OF GDP – (MOSTLY 2013 EST.) - CIA - WORLD FACTBOOK

Gross National Savings as % of GDP is a very strong indicator of the sustainability of a country and many developing countries and oil-rich states have a high percentage, such as China – 50%, Kuwait and Qatar – 54%, Algeria and Saudi Arabia – 45%, Vietnam– 38%, etc. But if we compare developed countries – ethical and less ethical, we find that the most ethical countries perform much better than the less ethical ones. Thus, Singapore – 45%, Norway – 38%, Switzerland – 32%, Netherlands and Sweden – 26%, Australia and Denmark – 24% and Canada – 22%, have a much higher savings rate than the average of the European Union – 19%, and even Finland – 18% and New Zealand – 16% have a much higher savings rate than the United States – 14%. So, here again we have a proof that Ethics Pays by comparing ethical developed countries which save a large part of their earnings in comparison to less ethical developed countries, bearing in mind that adequate savings is also an ethical feature.

_	~ _			
1	Congo, Re	-	the	61.40
2	Kuwait	54.80		
3	Qatar	54.10		
4	China	50.00		
5	Chad	46.40		
6	Algeria	45.50		
7	Saudi Ara	bia	45.00	
8	Gabon	44.70		
9	Singapore		<i>44.60</i>	
10	Azerbaijai		41.00	
11	Cabo Verd	le	38.50	
12	Vietnam	38.40		
<u>13</u>	Norway	38.20		
14	United Ara		ites	36.80
15	Oman	36.20		
16	India	33.70		
17	Botswana		33.70	
18	Sao Tome	and Prin	cipe	32.70
19	Malaysia		32.30	
20	Saint Kitts	and Nev	v is	32.10
21	Mauritius		32.00	
22	Korea, Sou	ıth	31.90	
23	Switzerland		31.50	
24	Indonesia		31.50	
25	Taiwan	31.30		
26		31.20		
27	Thailand		30.80	
28	Iran	30.30		
29	Bhutan	29.60		
30	Jordan	29.10		
31	Kazakhsta		28.80	
32	Hong Kon		28.60	
33	Russia	28.30		
34	Banglades		28.30	
35	Sierra Leo		27.80	
36	Bahrain		47.00	
30	Dam am	27.00		

37	Mauritania	27.40	
38	Laos 27.40		
39	Sri Lanka	27.00	
40	Serbia 26.70		
41	Sudan 26.60		
<u>42</u>	Netherlands	<i>26.20</i>	
43	Tunisia 26.10		
44	Ecuador 26.00		
<i>45</i>	Sweden 25.80		
46	Bolivia 25.70		
47	Tanzania	25.70	
48	Morocco 25.40		
49	Belarus 24.80		
50	Germany	24.70	
51	Argentina	24.60	
52	Lebanon 24.60		
<u>53</u>	Australia	<i>24.40</i>	
54	Denmark	24.10	
55	Romania	24.10	
56	Austria 23.90		
57	Estonia 23.90		
58	Venezuela	23.80	
59	Niger 23.70		
60	Bulgaria 23.50		
61	Latvia 23.20		
62	Macedonia	23.20	
63	Philippines	22.90	
64	Equatorial Guinea	2	22.60
65	Senegal 22.40		
66	Slovenia 22.40		
67	Peru 22.20		
68	Israel 22.20		
69	Japan 22.10		
70	Colombia	21.90	
7 1	Cameroon	21.60	
<u>72</u>	Canada 2150		
73	<u>Canaaa 21.50</u>		
10	Canada 21.50 Djibouti 21.50		
74			
	Djibouti 21.50	21.10	
74	Djibouti 21.50 Slovakia 21.10	21.10	
74 75	Djibouti 21.50 Slovakia 21.10 Czech Republic	21.10	
74 75 76	Djibouti 21.50 Slovakia 21.10 Czech Republic Ghana 21.10	21.10	
74 75 76 77	Djibouti 21.50 Slovakia 21.10 Czech Republic Ghana 21.10 Mexico 21.00	21.10	
74 75 76 77 78	Djibouti 21.50 Slovakia 21.10 Czech Republic Ghana 21.10 Mexico 21.00 Chile 20.80	21.10	
74 75 76 77 78 79	Djibouti 21.50 Slovakia 21.10 Czech Republic Ghana 21.10 Mexico 21.00 Chile 20.80 Croatia 19.90	21.10	
74 75 76 77 78 79 80	Djibouti 21.50 Slovakia 21.10 Czech Republic Ghana 21.10 Mexico 21.00 Chile 20.80 Croatia 19.90 Turkey 19.40	21.10 19.20	
74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81	Djibouti 21.50 Slovakia 21.10 Czech Republic Ghana 21.10 Mexico 21.00 Chile 20.80 Croatia 19.90 Turkey 19.40 Belgium 19.20		
74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82	Djibouti 21.50 Slovakia 21.10 Czech Republic Ghana 21.10 Mexico 21.00 Chile 20.80 Croatia 19.90 Turkey 19.40 Belgium 19.20 European Union		
74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83	Djibouti 21.50 Slovakia 21.10 Czech Republic Ghana 21.10 Mexico 21.00 Chile 20.80 Croatia 19.90 Turkey 19.40 Belgium 19.20 European Union Angola 19.10		
74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84	Djibouti 21.50 Slovakia 21.10 Czech Republic Ghana 21.10 Mexico 21.00 Chile 20.80 Croatia 19.90 Turkey 19.40 Belgium 19.20 European Union Angola 19.10 Spain 18.90		

87	France	18.20		
88	Trinidad a		_ጀ	18.20
89	Georgia 18.00			10.20
90	Antigua a		ıda	18.00
91	Finland		····	10.00
92	Honduras	17.50	17.70	
93	Uganda	17.40	17.70	
94	Italy	17.40		
95	Saint Luci		17.40	
96	Uruguay		2,,,,	
97	Hungary	27.00	17.10	
98	~ •	16.90	17.10	
99	Poland	16.80		
100	Lithuania	10.00	16.50	
101	Costa Rica		16.30	
102	Gambia, T	_	16.30	
103	Armenia		10.50	
104	New Zeala		<i>15.90</i>	
105	Mali	15.80	13.70	
106	Nigeria			
107	Iceland			
108	Portugal			
109	South Afri		15.10	
110	Brazil		15.10	
111	Zambia			
112	Bahamas,		14.30	
113	Albania		17.50	
113	Libya	14.10		
115	Malta	13.70		
116	United Sta		13.50	
117	Ireland		13.30	
117	Cuba	13.40		
119	Eritrea	13.40		
120	Pakistan	12.70		
121	Kosovo	12.70		
121	Turkmeni		12.60	
123	Rwanda	12.60	12.00	
123 124	Tajikistan		12.40	
124 125	Egypt	12.30	14.40	
125 126	Egypt Burkina F		12.20	
120 127	Greece	12.20	12,20	
127 128	Burma	12.20 11.90		
128 129	Lesotho	11.90 11.40		
130 131	Jamaica Konyo	10.80 10.60		
	Kenya		10.50	
132	United Kin Ukraine	ngaom 10.10	10.50	
133			10 10	
134	Swaziland Panin		10.10	
135	Benin	9.90		
136	Togo	9.80		

137	Cambodia	9.60		
138	Dominica	9.20		
139	Kyrgyzstan	9.10		
140	Barbados	9.00		
141	El Salvador	9.00		
142	Bosnia and Herzego	vina	8.60	
143	Cyprus 8.40			
144	Malawi 8.20			
145	Guyana 6.20			
146	Syria 5.40			
147	Yemen 4.20			
148	Haiti 3.70			
149	Central African Rep	public	2.40	
150	Burundi -0.90			
151	Papua New Guinea		-1.90	
152	Grenada -3.60			
153	Madagascar	-3.70		
154	Saint Vincent and the	he Grena	dines	-4.70
155	Mozambique	-5.60		

7. COUNTRY COMPARISON – INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION GROWTH RATE IN % - (MOSTLY 2013 EST.) - CIA - WORLD FACTBOOK

The most ethical countries have in this indicator of 'industrial production growth rate' very low scores and ranks, as the developing countries have the highest ranks and scores: Kyrgyzstan and Congo DR – 12%, Burma and Laos – 11%, Philippines and Bangladesh – 9%, China and Zambia – 8%, etc. However, if we compare the most ethical countries which are all developed with the less ethical developed countries, we find here again that the ethical countries outperform the less ethical. Thus, 7 out of 11 – 64% outperform by far the score of the European Union which is negative – -0.3%: Australia – 3.2%, Switzerland – 2.2%, New Zealand – 1.9%, Singapore – 1.7%, Canada – 1.4%, Denmark – 1.1%, Netherlands – 0.5%, most of them are not members of the EU. Only Sweden and Luxembourg score much lower negative results - -1%, Norway - -3%, Finland - -4.2%. Maybe the most ethical countries which are developed and are welfare states are less "hungry" than the developing countries which are in most cases unethical with high growth rates of GDP and industrial production – indicators that probably are not so affected by ethics, unless we compare developed countries: ethical and less ethical – and in this comparison we see that Ethics Pays, as we compare countries in the same category of development, which tend to grow at much slower rates.

Here again, the most corrupt countries score high results and we could be tempted to say that Ethics Pays but corruption pays even better. Which is true, but depending to whom – Ethics Pays for the majority of the population while corruption pays for a small minority of the population who receives the huge bribes. We find here that the most corrupt countries have also the highest growth rate: Sierra Leone (TI - 119) is no. 1 with a growth rate of 42%. Followed by very corrupt countries, such as Guyana (TI – 124) – 13.5%, Kyrgyzstan (TI – 136) – 12.0, Democratic Republic of the Congo (TI – 154) – 12.0, Myanmar (TI – 156) – 11.4, Mongolia, Sudan, Laos, Chad, Libya, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Mauritania...

1	Sierra Leone		42.00		
2	Macau	17.60			
3	Maldives		14.00		
4	Solomon Islan	ds	14.00		
5	Guyana	13.50			
6	Kyrgyzstan		12.00		
7	Congo, Democ	ratic Rep	oublic of	the	12.00
8	Bosnia and He	erzegovin	a	11.70	
9	Burma	11.40			
10	Mongolia		11.00		
11	Sudan	11.00			
12	Laos	11.00			
13	Ghana	10.50			
14	Chad	10.00			
15	Sri Lanka		10.00		
16	Libya	9.60			
17	Cambodia		9.50		
18	Panama	9.20			
19	Philippines		9.00		
20	Bangladesh		9.00		
21	Ethiopia	9.00			

22	Djibouti	8.00		
23	Mauritania		8.00	
24	Mozambique		8.00	
25	Zambia	8.00		
26	Romania		8.00	
27	Turkmenistan		8.00	
28	New Caledonia	a	8.00	
29	China	7.60		
30	Tanzania		7.40	
31	Botswana		7.20	
32	Uzbekistan		7.10	
33	Mali	7.00		
34	Cote d'Ivoire		7.00	
35	Bhutan	7.00		
36	Eritrea	7.00		
37	Iraq	6.90		
38	Moldova	6.80		
39	Uruguay	6.60		
40	Slovakia	6.50		
41	Burkina Faso		6.50	
42	Timor-Leste		6.20	
43	Rwanda	6.00		
44	Haiti	6.00		
45	Niger	5.70		
46	Bolivia	5.60		
47	Paraguay		5.60	
48	Namibia	5.60		
49	Serbia	5.50		
50	Angola	5.50		
51	Papua New Gu	iinea		5.50
52	Israel	5.50		
53	Poland	5.20		
54	Togo	5.10		
55	Kenya	5.10		
56	Vietnam	5.00		
57	Malaysia		5.00	
58	Peru	5.00		
59	Vanuatu	4.80		
60	Yemen	4.80		
61	Bahrain	4.70		
62	Honduras		4.60	
63	Guinea	4.60		
64	Burundi	4.50		
65	Gabon	4.40		
66	Costa Rica		4.30	
67	Indonesia		4.30	
68	Lesotho	4.30		
69	Latvia	4.20		
70	Cameroon		4.10	
71	Kuwait	4.10		

72	Sao Tome and	Principe		4.00	
73	Madagascar		4.00		
74	Suriname		4.00		
75	Comoros		4.00		
76	Armenia	3.90			
77	Tajikistan		3.90		
78	Uganda	3.80			
79	Benin	3.70			
80	Guatemala		3.70		
81	Seychelles		3.70		
82	Zimbabwe		3.70		
83	Mexico	3.50			
84	Turkey	3.50			
85	Oman	3.50			
86	Pakistan	3.50			
87	Gambia, The		3.40		
88	Faroe Islands		3.40		
89	United Arab E	mirates		3.30	
90	Equatorial Gu	inea		3.20	
91	Australia		<i>3.20</i>		
92	Macedonia		3.20		
93	Albania	3.10			
94	Ecuador	3.10			
95	Lebanon	3.00			
96	Georgia	3.00			
97	Estonia	3.00			
98	Chile	3.00			
99	Brazil	3.00			
100	Azerbaijan		3.00		
101	West Bank		3.00		
102	Saint Vincent a		Frenadine)0
103	British Virgin			3.00	
104	Tunisia	3.00			
105	Turks and Cai		ds	3.00	
106	Senegal	3.00			
107	Nicaragua		3.00		
108	Qatar	2.90			
109	Jordan	2.80			
110	Malawi	2.80	• = 0		
111	Saudi Arabia		2.70		
112	Argentina		2.70		
113	Saint Lucia	• • •	2.60		
114	Cuba	2.60	• =0		
115	United States	2. 5 0	2.50		
116	Algeria	2.50	• =0		
117	Colombia		2.50	2.50	
118	Dominican Rep	-		2.50	
119	Fiji	2.50	3.5 0		
120	Korea, South		2.50		
<u>121</u>	Switzerland		<i>2.20</i>		

122	Kazakhstan	2.10	
123	El Salvador	2.10	
124	Congo, Republic of th	ne	2.00
125	Montserrat	2.00	
126	Lithuania	2.00	
127	Anguilla 2.00		
<i>128</i>	New Zealand	1.90	
129	Taiwan 1.80	<u>.</u>	
130	Cabo Verde	1.80	
131	Hungary	1.80	
<i>132</i>	Singapore	<i>1.70</i>	
133	Bahamas, The	1.50	
134	Cayman Islands	1.50	
135	Brunei 1.50		
136	Nepal 1.50		
137	Jamaica 1.50		
138	Egypt 1.40		
<i>139</i>	Canada 1.40		
140	Guinea-Bissau	1.20	
141	Morocco 1.20		
142	Trinidad and Tobago)	1.20
<i>143</i>	Denmark	<i>1.10</i>	
144	Tonga 1.00		
145	Japan 1.00		
146	Cook Islands	1.00	
147	Bulgaria 1.00		
148	Belarus 1.00		
149	Bermuda	1.00	
150	Venezuela	1.00	
151	Antigua and Barbuda	ı	1.00
152	India 0.90		
153	Nigeria 0.90		
154	South Africa	0.90	
155	Czech Republic	0.50	
156	Puerto Rico	0.50	
157	Korea, North	0.50	
158	Austria 0.50		
<u> 159</u>	Netherlands	0.50	
160	Saint Kitts and Nevis		0.50
161	Swaziland	0.40	
162	Ireland 0.20		
163	Belgium 0.20		
164	Mauritius	0.20	
165	Russia 0.10		
166	Hong Kong	0.00	
167	Germany	-0.30	
168	European Union	-0.30	
169	United Kingdom	-0.30	
170	France -0.40		
171	Slovenia -0.60		

172	Barbados		-0.70	
173	Belize	-1.00		
174	Portugal	-1.00		
<i>175</i>	Sweden	<i>-1.00</i>		
176	Dominica		-1.00	
<i>177</i>	Luxembourg		<i>-1.00</i>	
178	Iceland	-1.00		
179	San Marino		-1.10	
180	Spain	-1.20		
181	Croatia	-1.80		
182	Grenada	-2.00		
183	Italy	-2.70		
<u> 184</u>	Norway	<i>-3.00</i>		
185	Thailand		-3.10	
186	Greece	-3.50		
187	Cyprus	-3.50		
188	Finland	<i>-4.20</i>		
189	Samoa	-4.80		
190	Ukraine	-5.00		
191	Iran	-5.20		
192	Malta	-6.90		
193	Central Afric	an Repu	blic	-11.00
194	Syria	-20.60		
	=			

8. COUNTRY COMPARISON – UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN % OF LABOR FORCE THAT IS WITHOUT JOBS – (MOSTLY 2013 EST.) - CIA - WORLD FACTBOOK

It is quite incomprehensible how the rate of unemployment is less than 2% in such poor countries as Cambodia, Thailand, Belarus, Vietnam, Papua and Laos. But one has to assume that all the data in this book is correct, as the sources have an impeccable reputation, otherwise all the conclusions of the book are flawed. However, the most ethical countries have an unemployment rate which is relatively quite low and anyhow less than average, surely in comparison to more than a hundred countries ranked after them. Singapore – 1.9%, Switzerland – 3.2%, Norway – 3.6%, Luxembourg – 4.9%, Australia – 5.7%, Denmark – 6%, New Zealand – 6.4%, Canada – 7.1%, Sweden – 8.1%, Finland – 8.1%, Netherlands – 8.3%. Furthermore, the ethical countries have a sophisticated system of unemployment benefits and compensation, as well as social rights, which are much better than the unethical countries. All of the most ethical countries have unemployment rates which are much lower than the rate of the European Union – 10.5%, and most of them have a lower rate than the rate of the UK – 7.2% and the US – 7.3%, which are also among the 20 most ethical countries of the world.

The highest unemployment rates are in the most corrupt countries: Zimbabwe (TI - 156) has an unbelievable rate of 95% (nobody works there?), Liberia (TI - 94) - 85%, Burkina Faso (TI - 85) - 77%, Turkmenistan (TI - 169) - 60%, Djibouti (TI - 107) - 59%, Republic of the Congo (TI - 152) - 53%, Senegal, Nepal, Haiti (TI - 161) - 41%, Kenya (TI - 145) - 40%, Yemen (TI - 161) - 35%, Afghanistan (TI - 172), Mauritania, Libya (TI - 166) - 30%.

SEE ALSO THE LIST OF COUNTRIES BY AVERAGE WAGE AND THE LIST OF COUNTRIES BY MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD AND PER CAPITA INCOME

1	Cambodia 0.00	
2	Qatar 0.30	
3	Thailand 0.70	
4	Guernsey 0.90	
5	Belarus 1.00	
6	Vietnam 1.30	
7	Vanuatu 1.70	
8	Jersey 1.70	
9	Macau 1.80	
10	Papua New Guinea	1.90
11	Laos 1.90	
<u>12</u>	Singapore 1.90	
13	Kiribati 2.00	
14	Seychelles 2.00	
15	Monaco 2.00	
16	Isle of Man 2.00	
17	Bhutan 2.10	
18	Liechtenstein 2.30	
19	United Arab Emirates	2.40
20	Tajikistan 2.50	
21	Brunei 2.60	
22	Gibraltar 3.00	
23	Malaysia 3.10	
	<u> </u>	

24	Hong Kong	3.10	
<i>25</i>	Switzerland	<i>3.20</i>	
26	Korea, South	3.20	
27	Kuwait 3.40		
28	<i>Norway</i> 3.60		
29	Peru 3.60		
30	Andorra 4.00		
31	Cayman Islands	4.00	
32	China 4.10		
33	Taiwan 4.10		
34	Japan 4.10		
35	Guatemala	4.10	
36	Falkland Islands (1	(slas Malvinas)	4.10
37	Palau 4.20		
38	Ecuador 4.20		
39	Cuba 4.30		
40	Panama 4.50		
41	Saint Kitts and New	vis 4.50	
42	Iceland 4.50		
43	Honduras	4.50	
<i>44</i>	Luxembourg	<i>4.90</i>	
45	Mexico 4.90		
46	Austria 4.90		
47	Uzbekistan	4.90	
48	Bangladesh	5.00	
49	Sri Lanka	5.10	
50	Burma 5.20		
51	Kazakhstan	5.30	
52	Germany	5.30	
<u>53</u>	Australia	<i>5.70</i>	
54	Brazil 5.70		
55	Russia 5.80		
56	Israel 5.80		
57	Moldova 5.80		
58	Trinidad and Toba	0	
<u>59</u>	Denmark	<u>6.00</u>	
60	Azerbaijan	6.00	
61	Montserrat	6.00	
62	Chile 6.00		
63	Virgin Islands	6.20	
64	El Salvador	6.30	
65	Malta 6.40		
<u>66</u>	New Zealand	<u>6.40</u>	
67	Uruguay 6.50		
68	Pakistan 6.60		
69	Paraguay	6.60	
70	Indonesia	6.60	
71	Faroe Islands	6.80	
72	Aruba 6.90		
73	San Marino	7.00	

74	Czech Republic	7.10	
<u>75</u>	Canada 7.10		
76	United Kingdom	7.20	
77	Nicaragua	7.20	
78	Romania	7.30	
79	United States	7.30	
80	Bolivia 7.40		
81	Philippines	7.40	
82	Argentina	7.50	
83	Fiji 7.60		
84	Venezuela	7.90	
85	Costa Rica	7.90	
86	Central African Rep	•	8.00
87	Bermuda	8.00	
88	Ukraine 8.00		
89	Anguilla 8.00		
<u>90</u>	Sweden 8.10		
<i>91</i>	Finland 8.10		
92	Guam 8.20		
93	Mauritius	8.30	
94	Netherlands	<i>8.30</i>	
95	Kyrgyzstan	8.60	
96	British Virgin Islan	ds	8.70
97	Belgium 8.80		
98	India 8.80		
99	Mongolia	9.00	
100	Suriname	9.00	
101	Turkey 9.30		
102	Greenland	9.40	
103	Morocco 9.50		
104	Colombia	9.70	
105	Latvia 9.80		
106	Saint Pierre and Mi	quelon	9.90
107	Turks and Caicos Is		10.00
108	France 10.20		
109	Poland 10.30		
110	Algeria 10.30		
111	European Union	10.50	
112	Saudi Arabia	10.50	
113	Hungary	10.50	
114	Estonia 10.90		
115	Antigua and Barbu	da	11.00
116	Ghana 11.00		
117	Guyana 11.00		
118	Northern Mariana	Islands	11.20
119	Barbados	11.40	
120	Bulgaria 11.60		
121	French Polynesia	11.70	
122	Niue 12.00		
123	Sint Maarten	12.00	
		-	

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124
        Wallis and Futuna
                                    12.20
125
        Italy
                   12.40
126
        Lithuania
                            12.40
127
        Curacao
                   13.00
128
        Tonga
                   13.00
129
        Cook Islands
                            13.10
130
        Slovenia
                   13.10
131
        Egypt
                   13.40
132
        Ireland
                   13.50
133
        Jordan
                   14.00
134
        Saint Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha
                                                              14.00
135
        Slovakia
                   14.40
136
        Bahrain
                   15.00
137
        Dominican Republic
                                    15.00
138
                   15.00
        Georgia
139
        Oman
                   15.00
140
        Zambia
                   15.00
141
        Belize
                   15.50
142
        Iran
                   16.00
143
        Iraq
                   16.00
144
        Puerto Rico
                            16.00
145
        Bahamas, The
                            16.20
        Jamaica
146
                   16.30
147
        Portugal
                   16.80
148
        Albania
                   16.90
149
                            17.00
        Mozambique
150
        New Caledonia
                            17.10
151
        Tunisia
                   17.20
152
        Armenia
                   17.30
153
                   17.40
        Cyprus
154
        Ethiopia
                   17.50
155
        Syria
                   17.80
156
        Botswana
                            17.80
157
        Timor-Leste
                            18.40
158
        Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
                                             18.80
159
                            19.10
        Montenegro
160
                            20.00
        Comoros
161
        Saint Lucia
                           20.00
162
                   20.00
        Sudan
163
        Serbia
                   20.10
        Cabo Verde
                            21.00
164
165
        Gabon
                   21.00
                   21.60
166
        Croatia
167
        Micronesia, Federated States of
                                             22.00
168
        Equatorial Guinea
                                    22.30
169
        West Bank
                            22.50
170
        Gaza Strip
                           22.50
171
        Dominica
                            23.00
172
        Nigeria
                   23.90
173
        South Africa
                           24.90
```

174	Lesotho	25.00		
175	Spain	26.30		
176	Namibia	27.40		
177	Greece	27.90		
178	Maldives		28.00	
179	Macedonia	ı	28.60	
180	American	Samoa	29.80	
181	Cameroon		30.00	
182	Libya	30.00		
183	Mali	30.00		
184	Mauritani	a	30.00	
185	Kosovo	30.90		
186	Grenada	33.50		
187	Afghanista	ın	35.00	
188	Yemen	35.00		
189	Marshall I	slands	36.00	
190	Kenya	40.00		
191	Swaziland		40.00	
192	Haiti	40.60		
193	Bosnia and	l Herzego	ovina	44.30
194	Nepal	46.00		
195	Senegal	48.00		
196	Congo, Re	public of	the	53.00
197	Djibouti	_		
198	Cocos (Ke	eling) Isla	ands	60.00
199	Turkmenis	stan	60.00	
200	Burkina F	aso	77.00	
201	Liberia	85.00		
202	Nauru	90.00		
203	Zimbabwe	<u> </u>	95.00	

LIST OF COUNTRIES BY AVERAGE WAGE - THE AVERAGE WAGE IS A MEASURE FOR THE FINANCIAL WELL-BEING OF A COUNTRY'S INHABITANTS. AVERAGE WAGES ARE ADJUSTED TO LIVING EXPENSES. WAGE DISTRIBUTION IS RIGHT-SKEWED. A MAJORITY OF PEOPLE EARN LESS THAN AVERAGE WAGE

1ST TABLE: ANNUAL AVERAGE WAGE - GROSS INCOME, COMPULSORY DEDUCTION IN %, DISPOSABLE INCOME - OECD STATISTICS – 2012, in PPP US\$

2ND TABLE: MONTHLY AVERAGE WAGE ADJUSTED TO REFLECT VARIATIONS IN THE COST OF LIVING - INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION/ILO - 2009, IN PPP US\$

The most ethical countries have the highest disposable income, although their % of compulsory deduction varies between the very low 9.87% of Switzerland to the very high 37.56% of Sweden. Switzerland – 48,414, Luxembourg – 47,716, Australia – 42,617, Canada – 37,469, Denmark – 34,797, Norway – 32, 141, Netherlands – 32,120. If we enlarge the comparison to the 20 most ethical countries we find that most of them are in the list of the 17 highest disposable income of OECD countries, including Ireland, United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium, Japan, and closing with Sweden – 25,196 and Finland – 24,931.

We find similar results comparing the highest monthly average wage of the first 22 countries comprising the 20 most ethical countries: 1. Luxembourg – 4,089, 2. Norway – 3,678, United States, United Kingdom, Belgium, Sweden, Ireland, Finland, Canada, Germany, Singapore, Australia, Japan, Iceland and 22. New Zealand – 2,283. Interesting enough, we find in the first 22 also much less ethical countries such as Italy and Greece (both of them - 69 in TI's rank) and Spain (37 in TI's rank), which have a very high level of unemployment and most unsatisfactory economic results: Italy – 12.4% unemployment, Spain – 26.3% and Greece – 27.9%, which proves that it is not enough to have very high salaries – you have to keep them high without increasing unemployment and deteriorating the other economic indicators, like the most ethical countries do as they manage to have the best results with all the indicators.

The lowest average wages are in very unethical countries such as Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, India, Kyrgyzstan, Syria, Mongolia, Moldova, Dominican Republic, Thailand, Egypt, Mexico, China, Ukraine, Colombia, proving that the majority of the population suffers from corruption in their wages, which would be even lower if we figure the median wages.

OECD's statistics

Country	Disposable income in 2012 USD (PPP)	Compulsory deduction Family: 1 earner, 2 children	Gross income in 2012 USD (PPP)
Switzerland no. 1	<u>48,414</u>	<u>9.87%</u>	53,716
■ Ireland no. 2	48,073	6.14%	51,218
Luxembourg no. 3	<u>47,716</u>	<u>13.52%</u>	55,176

Country	Disposable income in 2012 USD (PPP)	Compulsory deduction Family: 1 earner, 2 children	Gross income in 2012 USD (PPP)
United States no. 4	45,582	18.70%	56,067
Australia no. 5	<u>42,617</u>	<u>16.52%</u>	<u>51,050</u>
<u>I◆I Canada</u> no. 6	<u>37,469</u>	<u>18.36%</u>	<u>45,896</u>
Denmark no. 7	<u>34,797</u>	27.82%	<u>48,209</u>
*** Norway no. 8	<u>32,141</u>	<u>31.12%</u>	<u>46,663</u>
<u>Netherlands</u> no. 9	<u>32,120</u>	32.32%	<u>47,458</u>
United Kingdom	no. 10 30,064	32.3%	41,496
South Korea	no. 11 29,357	18.54%	36,039
Germany no. 12	28,636	33.96%	43,361
Austria no. 13	28,051	37.89%	45,164
Belgium no. 14	28,015	41.29%	47,717
• <u>Japan</u> no. 15	26,122	25.72%	35,167
Sweden no. 16	<u>25,196</u>	<u>37.56%</u>	<u>40,352</u>
+ Finland no. 17	<u>24,931</u>	<u>37.42%</u>	<u>39,839</u>
Slovenia no. 18	24,750	23.20%	32,227
Israel no. 19	24,184	16.56%	28,864
Spain no. 20	22,866	34.73%	35,033
France no. 21	22,718	43.08%	39,913
Italy no. 22	21,096	38.67%	34,397
Portugal no. 23	16,664	27.91%	23,115
Czech Republic	no. 24 16,626	20.97%	21,037
Poland no. 25	15,768	29.63%	22,407
Slovakia no. 26	15,076	25.82%	20,323

Country	Disposable income in 2012 USD (PPP)	Compulsory deduction Family: 1 earner, 2 children	Gross income in 2012 USD (PPP)
Greece no. 27	15,061	43.90%	26,846
Hungary no. 28	13,419	34.19%	20,391
Estonia no. 29	12,421	32.39%	18,371

International Labour Organisation (ILO)'s statistics

Rank	Country	Monthly average wage in PPP dollars, 2009
<u>1</u>	Luxembourg	<u>\$4,089</u>
2 #	Norway	<u>\$3,678</u>
3	<u>Austria</u>	\$3,437
4	United States	\$3,263
5 🛃	United Kingdom	\$3,065
6	<u>Belgium</u>	\$3,035
<u>7</u>	<u>Sweden</u>	<u>\$3,023</u>
8	<u>Ireland</u>	\$2,997
<u>9</u> 🛨	<u>Finland</u>	<u>\$2,925</u>
10 🦫	South Korea	\$2,903
11	<u>France</u>	\$2,886
<u>12</u> 🛂	<u>Canada</u>	<u>\$2,724</u>
13	Germany	\$2,720
<u>14</u>	<u>Singapore</u>	<u>\$2,616</u>
<u>15</u> 🚻	<u>Australia</u>	<u>\$2,610</u>
16 🕏	<u>Cyprus</u>	\$2,605

Rank	Country	Monthly average wage in PPP dollars, 2009
17	<u>Japan</u>	\$2,522
18	<u>Italy</u>	\$2,445
19 🖁	<u>Iceland</u>	\$2,431
20 🝱	<u>Spain</u>	\$2,352
21 🍱	<u>Greece</u>	\$2,300
22 🌁	New Zealand	<u>\$2,283</u>
23	South Africa	\$1,838
24 *	Malta	\$1,808
25 🗷	<u>Israel</u>	\$1,804
26	Czech Republic	\$1,786
27 🍱	⊑ <u>Croatia</u>	\$1,756
28	Turkey	\$1,731
29	<u>Qatar</u>	\$1,690
30	Hong Kong	\$1,545
31	■ <u>Poland</u>	\$1,536
32 🛂	■ <u>Slovakia</u>	\$1,385
33	Hungary	\$1,374
34 🔰	Republic of Macedonia	\$1,345
35	Bosnia & Herzegovina	\$1,338
36	<u>Estonia</u>	\$1,267
37	Russian Federation	\$1,215
38 🕨	⋖ <u>Jamaica</u>	\$1,135
39	Lithuania	\$1,109
40	<u>Argentina</u>	\$1,108

Rank	Country	Monthly average wage in PPP dollars, 2009
41	<u>Latvia</u>	\$1,098
42 🖣	Serbia Serbia	\$1,058
43	<u>Chile</u>	\$1,021
44	<u>Botswana</u>	\$996
45 🖳	■ <u>Malaysia</u>	\$961
46	<u>Belarus</u>	\$959
47	Romania	\$954
48	<u>Bahrain</u>	\$917
49 📥	Panama	\$831
50	<u>Mauritius</u>	\$783
51	Brazil	\$778
52	<u>Macau</u>	\$758
53	<u>Kazakhstan</u>	\$753
54	Bulgaria	\$750
55	<u>Colombia</u>	\$692
56	<u>Ukraine</u>	\$686
57	<u>China</u>	\$656
58	Mexico	\$609
59 🕇	├ <u>Georgia</u>	\$603
60	Azerbaijan	\$596
61	<u>Egypt</u>	\$548
62	Thailand	\$489
63	Armenia Armenia	\$471
64	Dominican Republic	\$462

Rank	Country	Monthly average wage in PPP dollars, 2009
65	<u>Moldova</u>	\$438
66	<u>Mongolia</u>	\$415
67	<u>Syria</u>	\$364
68	<u>Kyrgyzstan</u>	\$336
69 🝱	<u>India</u>	\$295
70 🚬	<u>Philippines</u>	\$279
71	<u>Peru</u>	\$268
72 C	<u>Pakistan</u>	\$255

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME – GALLUP – 2013 – in PPP international dollars

Median income is the amount that divides the income distribution into two equal groups, half having income above that amount, and half having income below that amount. Mean income (average) is the amount obtained by dividing the total aggregate income of a group by the number of units in that group. Household income is not to be confused with family or personal income. Household income is often the combination of two income earners pooling their resources and should therefore not be confused with an individual's earnings.

In 2013, Gallup published a list of countries with median household income. Using median rather than mean income, results in a much more accurate picture of the average income of the middle class since the data will not be skewed by gains and abnormalities in the extreme ends. The figures are in international dollars using purchase power parity and are based on responses from at least 2,000 adults in each country, with the data aggregated from 2006 to 2012. The figures are before deduction of taxes and social contributions and are not adjusted for household size.

The median annual household income worldwide is \$9,733 and the median per-capita household income is \$2,920. Median per-capita incomes in the top 10 wealthiest populations are more than 50 times those in the 10 poorest populations – in Sub-Saharan Africa.

As the median household income and - even more - the median per-capita income are two of the most salient indicators of the wealth of the citizens, it is important to notice that the most ethical countries have the best results in PPP international dollars with 1. Norway – 51,489/19,308, 2. Sweden – 50,514/18,632, 3. Luxembourg, 4. Denmark, 5. Finland, 7. Canada, 8. Australia, 9. Netherlands, without forgetting Switzerland that is not in this survey but still has a mean disposable income of 61,249 Swiss Francs in 2011, thus ranking it as no. 1, with better results even than Norway. The other countries in the 20 most ethical countries - United States, Germany, United Kingdom, Belgium, Hong Kong and Ireland, rank with New Zealand (14), among the 20 richest and most egalitarian countries in the world, as the median

household income is a salient indicator of evenly distributed wealth. Singapore (24) is last among the ethical countries with 32,360 median household income and 7,345 median per capita income. The less ethical countries have much lower median income, proving once again that Ethics Pays, ranking at the highest places the most ethical countries. The developing countries with the lowest ethical ranking, China (67) with 1,786, South Africa (79) with 1,217, Peru (84) with 1,077, India (99) with 616, Philippines (108) with 478, Afghanistan (117) with 378, and most of all poorest populations of the Sub-Saharan countries in Africa, have the lowest results down to 118 median per-capita for Liberia (no. 131).

COUNTRIES RANKED BY MEDIAN PER CAPITA/HOUSEHOLD INCOME - GALLUP COUNTRIES MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME MEDIAN PER-CAPITA INCOME

1. Norway	51,489	19,308
2. Sweden	50,514	18,632
3. Luxembourg	52,493	18,418
4. Denmark	44,360	18,262
5. Finland	34,615	15,725
6. United States	43,585	15,480
7. Canada	41,280	<i>15,181</i>
8. Australia	46,555	15,026
9. Netherlands	38,584	14,450
10. Germany	33,333	14,098
11. France	31,112	12,445
12. United Kingdom	31,617	12,399
13. Austria	34,911	12,284
14. New Zealand	35,562	12,147
15. South Korea	40,861	11,350
16. Japan	33,822	10,840
17. Belgium	26,703	10,189
18. Hong Kong	35,443	9,705
19. Slovenia	25,969	8,656
20. Ireland	25,085	8,048
21. Israel	30,364	7,847

22. Czech Republic	22,913	7,821
23. Kuwait	40,854	7,487
24. Singapore	32,360	7,345
25. Spain	21,959	7,284
26. Taiwan	32,762	6,882
27. Italy	20,085	6,874
28. Malta	21,141	6,869
29. Greece	17,777	6,086
30. Portugal	16,186	5,519
31. Slovakia	17,415	5,455
32. Belarus	15,085	5,236
33. Croatia	16,231	5,177
34. Qatar	26,555	5,117
35. Estonia	12,577	5,031
36. Cyprus	18,242	4,932
37. Bahrain	24,633	4,778
38. Saudi Arabia	24,980	4,762
39. Lithuania	12,375	4,713
40. Poland	15,338	4,578
41. Hungary	12,445	4,493
42. Russia	11,724	4,129
43. Argentina	14,432	4,109
44. Latvia	10,461	4,000
45. Ukraine	11,074	3,876
46. Montenegro	11,519	3,123
47. Iran	12,046	3,115
48. Serbia	8,921	3,020
49. Lebanon	13,004	2,960
50. Mexico	11,680	2,900

51. Bulgaria	8,487	2,829
52. Romania	7,322	2,618
53. Bosnia	7,383	2,553
54. Turkey	8,955	2,538
55. Uruguay	7,949	2,488
56. Azerbaijan	11,446	2,430
57. Venezuela	11,239	2,328
58. Malaysia	11,207	2,267
59. Brazil	7,522	2,247
60. Costa Rica	8,923	2,232
61. Chile	8,098	2,040
62. Panama	8,356	2,011
63. Macedonia	8,606	1,990
64. Kazakhstan	7,492	1,958
65. Albania	7,314	1,902
66. Thailand	7,026	1,795
67. China	6,180	1,786
68. Ecuador	6,858	1,682
69. Tunisia	8,966	1,646
70. Dominican Rep.	6,302	1,623
71. Jordan	8,276	1,550
72. Colombia	6,544	1,534
73. Mongolia	5,922	1,440
74. Syria	8,193	1,431
75. Bolivia	6,399	1,403
76. Algeria	7,849	1,392
77. Moldova	4,158	1,329
78. Paraguay	6,179	1,292
79. South Africa	5,217	1,217

80. Nicaragua	6,488	1,173
81. Morocco	6,634	1,135
82. Vietnam	4,783	1,124
83. El Salvador	4,828	1,114
84. Peru	5,161	1,077
85. Libya	6,398	1,012
86. Armenia	3,865	926
87. Guatemala	4,516	838
88. Kyrgyzstan	4,034	828
89. Honduras	4,848	821
90. Mauritania	6,679	778
91. Botswana	3,603	740
92. Georgia	2,591	734
93. Angola	3,534	720
94. Sri Lanka	3,242	719
95. Tajikistan	5,137	713
96. Haiti	2,735	627
97. Egypt	3,111	623
98. Iraq	4,917	617
99. India	3,168	616
100. Laos	3,379	615
101. Comoros	3,912	598
102. Sudan	3,640	579
103. Bangladesh	2,819	567
104. Indonesia	2,199	541
105. Nepal	2,718	519
106. Nigeria	2,667	493
107. Pakistan	4,060	480
108. Philippines	2,401	478

109. Cambodia	2,308	451
110. Ghana	2,050	427
111. Congo (Braza.)	2,106	416
112. Cameroon	2,075	403
113. Senegal	3,897	402
114. Kenya	1,870	402
115. Yemen	3,178	400
116. Tanzania	2,154	384
117. Afghanistan	4,121	378
118. Chad	2,394	338
119. Congo (Kinsha.)	1,988	308
120. Niger	2,708	307
121. Uganda	1,775	296
122. Zambia	1,501	287
123. Togo	1,571	279
124. Benin	1,502	237
125. Rwanda	1,101	235
126. Sierra Leone	2,330	233
127. Madagascar	1,013	168
128. Burkina Faso	1,530	165
129. Mali	1,983	165
130. Burundi	673	129
131. Liberia	781	118

ANNUAL MEDIAN EQUIVALISED DIPOSABLE HOUSEHOLD INCOME – THE DISPOSABLE INCOME OF AN EQUIVALENT ADULT IN A HOUSEHOLD IN THE MIDDLE OF THE INCOME DISTRIBUTION IN A YEAR. DATA ARE IN US\$ AT CURRENT PRICES AND CURRENT PURCHASING POWER PARITY FOR PRIVATE CONSUMPTION FOR THE REFERENCE YEARS 2009 - 2012 - OECD

In this table we see how the annual median equivalised disposable income of OECD countries is the highest for the most ethical countries: 1. Luxembourg – 37,178, 2. Norway, 3. Switzerland, 5. Australia, 7. Canada, 8. Sweden, 9. Denmark, 10. Finland, 11. Netherlands –

25,487, and 17. New Zealand – 22,722, while the 20 most ethical countries share most of the 22 best ranks of median income: 4. United States, 12. Germany, 13. Iceland, 14. Belgium, 18. Ireland, 19. United Kingdom, 22. Japan. However, some of the less ethical countries (ranked down to 43 in TI's index) are also among the 22 countries with the highest median income: Austria – 23, France – 26, South Korea – 43, Slovenia – 39, Spain and Israel (37 in TI's rank and 23-24 in the ranks of the median income), while some of the much less ethical countries have quite high median income – Italy (69) – 21,444, Greece (69) – 13,366, Russia (136) – 10,765, proving once again that you have to consider all or most of the indicators in order to find a correlation between ethical conduct, income, peace, unemployment, credit rating, democracy, etc., as unethical countries may have high median income, but they fail in most of other indicators, sometimes they even fail in economic indicators because of the high income.

Rank	Country	Median income (US\$, PPP)	Year
<u>1</u> _	Luxembourg	<u>37,178</u>	<u>2011</u>
<u>2</u>	Norway Norway	<u>33,928</u>	<u>2011</u>
<u>3</u>	S witzerland	<u>33,669</u>	<u>2011</u>
4 📕	United States	30,932*	2012
<u>5</u> 🖁	<u> Australia</u>	<u>29,993</u>	<u>2012</u>
6	<u>Austria</u>	28,495	2011
<u>7</u> ■	◆ Canada	<u>28,404</u>	<u>2011</u>
8	<u>Sweden</u>	<u>26,644</u>	<u>2011</u>
<u>9</u>	D enmark	<u>26,421</u>	<u>2011</u>
<u>10</u>	F inland	<u>25,864</u>	<u>2012</u>
<u>11</u>	<u>Netherlands</u>	<u>25,487</u>	<u>2012</u>
12	Germany	24,623	2011
13	☐ <u>Iceland</u>	24,499	2011
14	Belgium	24,408	2010
15	France	24,233	2011
16	South Korea	23,236	2012
<u>17</u> 🌁	New Zealand	22,722	<u>2011</u>

18 I Ireland	22,101	2011
19 SEE <u>United Kingdom</u>	21,470	2011
20 I Italy	21,444	2011
21 Slovenia	19,994	2011
22 • Japan	19,974	2009
23 Spain	17,191	2011
24 <u>Israel</u>	16,260	2011
25 Slovakia	14,351	2011
26 <u>Czech Republic</u>	14,189	2011
27 Greece	13,366	2011
28 Portugal	13,116	2011
29 Poland	12,615	2011
30 Estonia	10,837	2011
31 Russia	10,765	2010
32 Hungary	10,476	2012
33 Chile	8,540	2011
34 C Turkey	7,958	2011
35 ■•■ <u>Mexico</u>	4,508	2012

Based on analysis of the CPS data, US median household income (based on "cash income" definition) has been consistently underestimated by a ratio of 83-85% (mean under-counted by 75%), thus making "true" median income \$37,228-\$38,272 but-for the undercounting. Other analysis has shown varying mean rates of quality among countries; For example, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, Germany, Austria, and UK all captured a mean of 85% or more income as compared to the national accounts.

9. COUNTRY COMPARISON – INCOME INEQUALITY – DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILY INCOME - MOSTLY IN 2007-2013 – GINI INDEX (MAX. EQUALITY – 0, MAX. INEQUALITY – 1 OR 100%) - CIA - WORLD FACTBOOK

SEE ALSO - POPULATION SHARES OF THE BOTTOM, MIDDLE & TOP INCOME GROUPS

Is equality of income ethical or not? The communist ideology strived to have a very high equality of income and it collapsed. On the other hand the capitalist ideology, and especially the neoliberal one, strives to have very high inequality of income which should be tied to the contribution to profitability. Yet, in the last decades inequality reached very high levels with a very high concentration of income in the hands of a small economic elite. No one wants to achieve a too high level of equality (Gini index close to 0), while most of the economists wanting to achieve social and economic justice, keeping a capitalist profit-oriented regime, advocate that a too high level of inequality disrupts the economy as countries become oligarchies instead of meritocracies (read also Thomas Piketty's – Capital in the 21st Century).

Scandinavia has become for many of us a model of a thriving economy based on solid capitalist foundations as well as social justice ideology. The Scandinavian countries have the lowest Gini indices, 23.0-26.8, and close to their scores we can find the most ethical countries achieving high degrees of equality with the best results in the other economic indicators as well – Sweden (no. 141 – last in inequality or first in equality) – 23.0, 137. Denmark - 24.8, 135. Norway – 25.0, 134. Luxembourg – 26.0, 131. Finland – 26.8, If we analyze those results – we find that the Scandinavian countries with Luxembourg are half of the 11 most ethical and most equal countries in the world. Interesting enough, the other most equal countries (besides Austria, TI – 23) are former communist countries such as Slovenia (TI – 39), Montenegro (TI – 76), Hungary (TI – 47), Czech Republic (TI – 53), Slovakia (TI – 54), which are much less ethical and much poorer than the Scandinavian countries.

That proves once again that you have to analyze the whole gamut of economic indicators in order to draw the right conclusions if ethics pays or not. It is not enough to be equal, you have to prosper in the other indicators as well, have the best quality of life, happiness and democracies, in order to compare to the most ethical Scandinavian countries. If we enlarge the criteria of equality to a Gini score of 23-32, with 32 being half of the score of 63 of the most unequal countries, we find that 9 out of the 11 most ethical countries have scores in this bracket which is equivalent to a high degree of equality - the Scandinavian countries and Luxembourg mentioned above, 123. Switzerland - 28.7, 120. Australia - 30.3, 115. Netherlands -30.9, Canada -32.1. And in this brackets we find on the one hand very ethical countries (among the 20 most ethical) such as Germany (rank – 130, score - 27.0), 126. Iceland – 28.0, 125. Belgium – 28.0, United Kingdom – 32.3, as well as 118. the European Union – 30.6, and on the other hand quite corrupt to very corrupt countries, very poor countries and former communist countries, such as Romania (TI – 69, 27.4), Belarus (TI – 119, 27.2), Kazakhstan (TI – 126, 28.9), Pakistan (TI – 126, 30.6), Egypt (TI – 94, 30.8), Bangladesh (TI – 145, 32.1), as well as the less ethical but rich countries, such as France (TI – 26, 30.6), South Korea (TI – 43, 31.1), Italy (TI – 69, 31.9), Spain (TI – 37, 32.0).

But, even in the opposite extreme of a most unequal distribution of family income, scoring 63-52, we find all the gamut of very ethical to most corrupt countries (but not even one of the 11 most ethical countries): 1. Lesotho, no. 1 in inequality with a score of 63.2 (TI - 55), 2. South Africa (TI - 67), 3. Botswana (TI - 31), 4. Sierra Leone (TI - 119), 5. Central African Republic (TI - 150), 6. Namibia (TI - 55), 7. Haiti (TI - 161), 8. Honduras (TI - 126), 9.

Zambia (TI – 85), 10. Colombia (TI – 94), 11. Guatemala (TI – 115), 12. Hong Kong (TI – 17), 13. Paraguay (TI – 150), 14. Chile (TI – 21), 15. Panama (TI – 94), 16. Brazil (TI – 69). Is ethics a precondition of equality or vice versa? We find that in most of the cases the most ethical countries became also the most equal, like in Scandinavia, following government policies (i.a. progressive taxation) and economic conduct (i.a. humane capitalism), yet we find cases that ethical countries are very unequal, also as a result of policies (i.a. neoliberals).

What can we deduct about 86. New Zealand (36.2) and even more 32. Singapore (46.3), as well as the United States (no. 17 in TI's index, no. 41 in the most unequal countries with a score of 45.0) and Milton Friedman's favorite regime - 12. Hong Kong (53.7!), which are very ethical, yet quite unequal? It has probably to do with their neoliberal regimes, advocating a very high degree of inequality as a precondition for a sound economy. Many roads lead to Rome or to business ethics (even neoliberal ones...), and we have to examine all the indicators in order to reach the right conclusion, as in this case of the Gini inequality index. We should not draw hasty conclusions from the level of the Gini index, as we have found that there are examples of poor and corrupt countries with a high degree of equality (Ethiopia, Moldova, Belarus, Niger, Bangladesh, Egypt and Pakistan) and there are examples of highly unequal and corrupt countries (Russia, Nigeria, South Africa, Iran, Haiti and Sierra Leone), and vice versa. However, if we want to find a pattern, we can conclude that most of the most ethical states (9/11 – Scandinavia, Switzerland, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Australia, Canada) have a very equal distribution of income, and only the exceptions have a quite unequal to a very unequal economic regime, like New Zealand, Singapore, United States, and Hong Kong.

Lesotho	63.2		
South Africa		63.1	
Botswana		63.0	
Sierra Leone		62.9	
Central Africa	ın Repub	lic	61.3
Namibia	59.7		
Haiti	59.2		
Honduras		<i>57.7</i>	
Zambia	57.5		
Colombia		55.9	
Guatemala		55.1	
Hong Kong		53.7	
Paraguay		53.2	
Chile	52.1		
Panama	51.9		
Brazil	51.9		
Papua New Gr	uinea		50.9
Swaziland		50.4	
Costa Rica		50.3	
Gambia, The		50.2	
Zimbabwe		50.1	
Sri Lanka		49.0	
Ecuador	48.5		
Mexico	48.3		
Peru	48.1		
Madagascar		47.5	
	South Africa Botswana Sierra Leone Central Africa Namibia Haiti Honduras Zambia Colombia Guatemala Hong Kong Paraguay Chile Panama Brazil Papua New Goods Swaziland Costa Rica Gambia, The Zimbabwe Sri Lanka Ecuador Mexico Peru	South Africa Botswana Sierra Leone Central African Republication Sep.7 Haiti 59.2 Honduras Zambia 57.5 Colombia Guatemala Hong Kong Paraguay Chile 52.1 Panama 51.9 Brazil 51.9 Papua New Guinea Swaziland Costa Rica Gambia, The Zimbabwe Sri Lanka Ecuador 48.5 Mexico 48.3 Peru 48.1	South Africa Botswana Sierra Leone Central African Republic Namibia 59.7 Haiti 59.2 Honduras 57.5 Colombia Guatemala Hong Kong Paraguay 53.7 Paraguay 53.2 Chile 52.1 Panama 51.9 Brazil Fanama 51.9 Brazil Swaziland Costa Rica Swaziland Costa Rica Gambia, The Si Lanka Ecuador 48.5 Mexico 48.3 Peru 63.1 63.0 63.0 63.0 63.0 63.0 63.0 63.0 63.0

27	China	47.3		
28	Dominican Rep	ublic		47.2
29	Bolivia	47.0		
30	El Salvador		46.9	
31	Rwanda	46.8		
32	Singapore		<i>46.3</i>	
33	Malaysia		46.2	
34	Georgia	46.0		
35	South Sudan		46.0	
36	Argentina		45.8	
37	Mozambique		45.6	
38	Jamaica ⁻	45.5		
39	Bulgaria	45.3		
40	Uruguay	45.3		
41	United States		45.0	
42	Philippines		44.8	
43	Cameroon		44.6	
44	Guyana	44.6		
45	Iran	44.5		
46	Uganda	44.3		
47	Nigeria	43.7		
48	Kenya	42.5		
49	Burundi	42.4		
50	Russia	42.0		
51	Cote d'Ivoire		41.5	
52	Senegal	41.3		
53	Djibouti	40.9		
54	Morocco	40.9		
55	Turkmenistan	1000	40.8	
56	Nicaragua		40.5	
57	Turkey	40.2	1010	
58	Mali	40.1		
59	Tunisia	40.0		
60	Jordan	39.7		
61	Burkina Faso	0747	39.5	
62	Ghana	39.4	57.5	
63	Guinea	39.4		
64	Thailand	0711	39.4	
65	Macedonia		39.2	
66	Mauritania		39.0	
67	Venezuela		39.0	
68	Malawi	39.0	67. 0	
69	Mauritius	57.0	39.0	
70	Bhutan	38.7	57.0	
70 71	Portugal	38.5		
72	Serbia	38.0		
73	Cambodia	20.0	37.9	
73 74	Yemen	37.7	0107	
7 4 75	Israel	37.6		
76	Japan	37.6		
70	oapan	57.0		

77	Tanzania		37.6	
78	Vietnam	37.6		
79	Maldives		37.4	
80	India	36.8		
81	Uzbekistan		36.8	
82	Indonesia		36.8	
83	Laos	36.7		
84	Mongolia	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	36.5	
85	Benin	36.5		
86	New Zealand		<i>36.2</i>	
87	Bosnia and Her	zegovina		36.2
88	Lithuania	2080 / 22200	35.5	
89	Algeria	35.3		
90	Latvia	35.2		
91	Macau	35.2 35.0		
92	Albania	34.5		
93	Greece	34.3		
94	Taiwan	34.3 34.2		
9 4 95	Poland			
		34.1		
96	Niger	34.0		
97	Ireland	33.9	22.5	
98	Azerbaijan		33.7	
99	Kyrgyzstan	22.0	33.4	
100	Moldova	33.0		
101	Ethiopia	33.0		
102	Nepal	32.8		
103	Tajikistan		32.6	
104	United Kingdon	n	32.3	
<u>105</u>	Canada	<i>32.1</i>		
106	Bangladesh		32.1	
107	Spain	32.0		
108	Croatia	32.0		
109	Italy	31.9		
110	Timor-Leste		31.9	
111	Estonia	31.3		
112	Korea, South		31.1	
113	Cyprus	31.0		
114	Armenia	30.9		
<u>115</u>	Netherlands		30.9	
116	Egypt	30.8		
117	France	30.6		
118	European Unio	n	30.6	
119	Pakistan	30.6		
120	Australia		<i>30.3</i>	
121	Kosovo	30.0	30,0	
122	Kazakhstan	• •	28.9	
123	Switzerland		28.7	
124	Ukraine	28.2	2017	
125	Belgium	28.0		
125 126	Iceland	28.0		
1=0	LCIUIIU	40.0		

127	Romania	27.4
128	Belarus 27.	2
129	Malta 27.	1
130	Germany	27.0
<i>131</i>	Finland 26.	<u>8</u>
132	Austria 26.	3
133	Slovakia 26.	0
<u>134</u>	Luxembourg	<i>26.0</i>
135	Norway 25.	<u>0</u>
136	Czech Republic	24.9
<i>137</i>	Denmark	24.8
138	Hungary	24.7
139	Montenegro	24.3
140	Slovenia 23.	7
<i>141</i>	Sweden 23.	<u>0</u>

POPULATION SHARES OF THE BOTTOM, MIDDLE & TOP INCOME GROUPS – 2004 – ECINE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF ECONOMIC INEQUALITY – WORKING PAPER SERIES – ON THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE "MIDDLE CLASS" – ANTHONY B. ATKINSON, ANDREA BRANDOLINI – ECINEQ 2011 – 217 – SEPTEMBER 2011 Based also on Luxembourg Income Study Working Paper Series – Working paper no. 517 – Public Policies and the Middle Class Throughout the World in the Mid 2000 – Steven Pressman, July 2009, also by Steven Pressman, 2006 – The Decline of the Middle Class: An International Perspective", Luxembourg Income Study Working Paper no. 280, an also by Steven Pressman, 2007, Journal of Economic Issues, pp. 181-200

The common definition of middle class is median adjusted household imcome +- 25%, the percentage of the household population earning between 75% to 125% of the median household income. The middle class is perceived as the engine of the economy, and a higher percentage of middle class guarantees a sounder economy. Middle class grows to close to half the nation's households also by generous government transfers and progressive taxes. Modern theories of political economy consider a large middle class to be a beneficial, stabilizing influence on society, because it has neither the possibly explosive revolutionary tendencies of the lower class, nor the absolutist tendencies of an entrenched upper class. A high level of midlle class guarantees a relative security against social crisis. The main reason for the economic growth of the twentieth century is related to a major increase in the middle class percentage of the population in the Western World as opposed to communist regimes which came into being in countries with a very high percentage of poverty, a very small middle class, and a high degree of inequality, like Russia, China and Cuba. However, since the eighties of the twentieth century the middle class shrinked substantially and inequality has increased, especially in neoliberal states such as the United States, United Kingdom & Israel.

The most ethical countries have in general a very high proportion of middle class: Norway – 49%, Sweden – 47%, Denmark – 47%, Finland – 44%, Luxembourg – 44%, and an almost equal share of the lower and upper classes – about 25% each. Other very ethical countries, such as Germany have a high percentage of 43%, the Netherlands – 40%, Switzerland – 38%, and to a lesser extent – Canada – 35% (lower – 31, higher – 34), United Kingdom – 33% (lower – 32, higher – 35) – with a population divided almost equally between the three categories, Australia – 29%, and the United States – 30% (lower – 34, higher – 36). The most ethical countries have in general a very high proportion of middle class: Norway – 49%,

Sweden -47%, Denmark -47%, Finland -44%, Luxembourg -44%, and an almost equal share of the lower and upper classes - about 25% each. Other very ethical countries, such as Germany have a high percentage of 43%, the Netherlands -40%, Switzerland -38%, and to a lesser extent - Canada -35% (lower -31, higher -34), United Kingdom -33% (lower -32, higher -35) - with a population divided almost equally between the three categories, Australia -29%, and the United States -30% (lower -34, higher -36). Most of the most ethical countries have therefore a very large middle class (49% -38%), but the neoliberal regimes have a middle class of only about one third of their population.

The percentage of the middle class in less ethical countries is lower than in the most ethical countries: Austria (rank 23 in TI's index) -44%, France -(TI - 26) - 41% (lower -27, higher -32), Poland (TI -35) -37%, Taiwan (TI -35) -36%, Spain (TI -37) -33%, Italy (TI -69) -33%, Israel (TI -37) -28%, Mexico (TI -103) -26%.

Table A3: Population shares of the bottom, middle and top income groups for an upper income cut-off at 125% of median, around 2004 -

Country			
	Above 125%	75%-125%	Below 75%
Austria	29.7	44.3	26.0
Canada	34.1	35.1	30.9
Denmark	26.7	46.5	26.8
Finland	29.2	44.0	26.8
France	32.0	41.1	26.9
Germany	30.5	42.8	26.7
Italy	34.7	33.0	32.4
Luxembourg	30.7	43.9	25.4
Mexico	38.8	25.6	35.6
Norway	26.6	49.1	24.3
Poland	33.1	37.3	29.6
Sweden	27.4	47.4	25.3
Taiwan	33.7	38.4	28.0
United	35.3	32.9	31.9
Kingdom			
United	36.1	29.9	34.0
States			

10. COUNTRY COMPARISON – TAXES AND OTHER REVENUES – RECEIVED BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT (MOSTLY 2013 EST.) – IN % OF GDP - TAXES INCLUDE PERSONAL AND CORPORATE INCOME TAXES, VALUE ADDED TAXES, EXCISE TAXES, AND TARIFFS. OTHER REVENUES INCLUDE SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS – SUCH AS PAYMENTS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY AND HOSPITAL INSURANCE – GRANTS AND NET REVENUES FROM PUBLIC ENTERPRISES – CIA WORLD FACTBOOK

SEE ALSO RANKING OF 151 COUNTRIES ACCORDING TO THE SIZE OF SHADOW ECONOMY – WORLD BANK

The most polemic issue in political economy is today the level of taxes and other revenues as % of GDP and % of the country's budget. Neoliberals want to bring taxes down to a minimum, especially for rich people and corporations, Socialists want the opposite, and both believe that the prosperity of a nation depends on the level of taxation. If you want to increase taxation you are labelled as a communist, anti-business, while countries prefer to reach the highest level of budget deficits and of indebtedness to foreign countries bringing them on the brink of bankruptcy, rather than increase even slightly taxation. No candidates would dare to promise financing the country's expenditures by an increase of taxation, and all the problems of the economy will be resolved (by magic probably) without increasing taxation.

We have a model, the Scandinavian model, which combines high taxation and other revenues with economic prosperity, highest ethics and best indicators, so something must be right in their model, including the high level of taxation: 6. Norway – 56.8% of the GDP, 8. Denmark – 55.9%, 10. Finland – 53.7%, 12. Sweden – 51.4%. The other countries with the highest level of taxation are not exactly the examples that we should imitate: Kuwait, Cuba, Lesotho, Libya, and micro-population states as Greenland, Tuvalu, Marshall Islands or Malta. One exception: 11. France – 51.5%, which is ethical (26th in TI's ranks), and has a strong socialist orientation. We are aware of the fact that other economic models thrive, such as the Singaporean (rank – 191 and TI'S rank - 7) with a level of taxation and other revenues of only 15.4% of the GDP and the US (rank – 182 and TI's rank -17) – 17.0%. Both are neoliberal economies which were influenced in the last decades by Milton Friedman's model.

Countries with moderate taxation models of 33%-43% of GDP are also very ethical and have excellent indicators' results: 24. Netherlands – 43.7, 46. Luxembourg – 39.5, 51. New Zealand – 38.2, 52. Canada – 37.7, 71. Switzerland – 33.7, 75. Australia – 33.2. Other countries which are very ethical (up to no. 20 in Tl's index) and have a rather high degree of taxation are: Belgium – 47.7, Germany – 43.7, Iceland – 42.7, United Kingdom – 41.1, Japan – 34.7, Ireland – 34.1. And of course, we have also countries which are very unethical and highly taxed (Iraq – 44.9, Republic of the Congo – 46.4, Angola – 42.5), or are very unethical but with a low level of taxation (Zambia – 21.6, Russia – 20.7, Egypt – 17.4, Ethiopia – 14.2). So, if we want to find a rule on the correlation between ethics and taxation, we can conclude that the most ethical countries have in general a high to medium-high level of taxation: 57%-33%.

The lowest taxation is in general in the most corrupt countries – South Sudan and Syria – 3.7%, Myanmar – 4.1, Nigeria – 4.8, Sudan – 8.6, Central African Republic – 9.1, India – 10.3, Afghanistan – 11.3, North Korea – 11.4, Iran – 11.6, Guatemala – 11.9, Bangladesh – 12.3, Pakistan – 12.6 (interesting enough – both parts of the former Pakistan west and east have even now the same level of taxation), Sri Lanka, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Ethiopia, Philippines, Turkmenistan – 14.8%, but close to them we find a most ethical country Singapore with a taxation level of 15.4% of its GDP, but this is due to its neo-liberal regime.

1	Greenland		79.6		
2	Cuba	65.9			
3	Kuwait	63.6			
4	Lesotho	59.5			
5	Libya	58.6			
6	Norway	<i>56.8</i>			
<u>6</u> 7	Tuvalu	56.7			
8	Denmark		<u>55.9</u>		
9	Marshall Is	slands	54.6		
<u>10</u>	Finland	<i>53.7</i>			
11	France	51.5			
<u>12</u>	Sweden	<i>51.4</i>			
13	Malta	50.8			
14	Bolivia	48.8			
15	Austria	47.9			
16	Belgium	47.7			
17	Hungary		47.7		
18	Italy	47.6			
19	Congo, Rep	public of	the	46.4	
20	Germany	-	45.3		
21	Iraq	44.9			
22	Faroe Islan	nds	44.2		
23	Greece	43.7			
24	Netherland	S	<i>43.7</i>		
25	Portugal	43.5			
26	Gibraltar		43.0		
27	Iceland	42.7			
28	Angola	42.5			
29	Brunei	42.2			
30	Saudi Arab	oia	42.1		
31	Oman	42.0			
32	Slovenia	41.8			
33	United Kin	gdom	41.1		
34	Bosnia and	Herzego	ovina	40.8	
35	Falkland Is	slands (Is	slas Malv	rinas)	40.8
36	Seychelles		40.7		
37	Ecuador	40.5			
38	Cyprus	40.4			
39	Palau	40.3			
40	Israel	40.2			
41	Mauritania	ı	40.1		
42	Equatorial	Guinea		40.0	
43	Serbia	40.0			
44	Solomon Is	lands	39.8		
45	Anguilla	39.6			
<i>46</i>	Luxembour	g	<i>39.5</i>		
47	Brazil	38.9			
48	Qatar	38.8			
49	Cook Islan	ds	38.7		
50	Belarus	38.5			

<u>51</u>	New Zealand	<i>38.2</i>	
<u>52</u>	<i>Canada 37.7</i>		
53	Macau 37.6		
54	Algeria 37.3		
55	Montenegro	37.2	
56	Spain 37.1		
57	Moldova 37.0		
58	Croatia 36.9		
59	Malawi 36.6		
		26.2	
60	Azerbaijan	36.3	
61	Latvia 35.9	25.0	
62	San Marino	35.8	
63	Northern Mariana		
64	United Arab Emir	rates 35.4	
65	Namibia 35.2		
66	Djibouti 35.1		
67	Bulgaria 35.0		
68	Estonia 35.0		
69	Japan 34.7		
70	Ireland 34.1		
71	Switzerland	<i>33.7</i>	
72	American Samoa	33.6	
73	Swaziland Sumou	33.5	
74	Slovakia 33.4	33.3	
<u>75</u>	Australia	33.2	
76	Mozambique	32.8	
70 77	Ukraine 32.7	32.0	
77	Saint Pierre and N	Miguelon 32.5	
78 79	Botswana	32.4	
	Uzbekistan	32.4 32.3	
80		34.3	
81	Kiribati 32.1	21.0	
82	Romania	31.8	
83	Micronesia, Feder		31.6
84	West Bank	31.6	
85	Congo, Democrati	_	31.3
86	Cayman Islands	31.1	
87	Mongolia	31.1	
88	Lithuania	31.0	
89	Macedonia	30.6	
90	Samoa 30.6		
91	Georgia 30.3		
92	Uruguay 30.0		
93	Dominica	29.9	
94	Kyrgyzstan	29.4	
95	Colombia	29.1	
96	Saint Kitts and No		
97	Peru 29.0	715 27. U	
97 98	Trinidad and Tob	ago 28.9	
90 99	Bahrain 28.7	agu 20.7	
100	Burundi 28.7		

101	C		20.6		
101	Czech Repul	blic	28.6		
102	Tajikistan		28.5		
103		8.2			
104	Maldives		28.1		
105	Venezuela		28.1		
106	Bhutan 2	7.6			
107	British Virgi	in Islan	ds	27.4	
108	Papua New	Guinea		27.1	
109	Sao Tome ar	nd Princ	cipe	27.0	
110	Barbados		27.0		
111	Argentina		26.8		
112	Kosovo 2	6.8			
113	Jamaica 2	6.6			
114		6.2			
115	Timor-Leste		26.1		
116	Comoros	•	25.8		
117		5.7	25.0		
117	Gambia, The		25.6		
119		e 5.6	23.0		
120		3.0	25.6		
	Nicaragua	E 4	25.0		
121		5.4			
122		5.2			
123		5.2			
124	Liechtenstein		25.2		
125	Vietnam 2	- A			
		5.2			
126	Guyana 2	5.2 5.1			
	Guyana 2				
126	Guyana 2 Belize 2	5.1			
126 127	Guyana 2 Belize 2	25.1 25.1 25.1	he Grena	dines	25.0
126 127 128	Guyana 2 Belize 2 Tunisia 2	5.1 5.1 5.1 nt and t	he Grena 25.0	dines	25.0
126 127 128 129	Guyana 2 Belize 2 Tunisia 2 Saint Vincer South Africa	5.1 5.1 5.1 nt and t		dines	25.0
126 127 128 129 130	Guyana 2 Belize 2 Tunisia 2 Saint Vincer South Africa Morocco 2	25.1 25.1 25.1 at and the		dines	25.0
126 127 128 129 130 131	Guyana 2 Belize 2 Tunisia 2 Saint Vincer South Africa Morocco 2 Aruba 2	5.1 5.1 5.1 at and the 4.9 4.8		dines	25.0
126 127 128 129 130 131 132	Guyana 2 Belize 2 Tunisia 2 Saint Vincer South Africa Morocco 2 Aruba 2 Korea, South	5.1 5.1 5.1 at and the 4.9 4.8	25.0	dines	25.0
126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133	Guyana 2 Belize 2 Tunisia 2 Saint Vincer South Africa Morocco 2 Aruba 2 Korea, South Vanuatu 2	5.1 5.1 5.1 at and the 4.9 4.8 h	25.0	dines	25.0
126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135	Guyana 2 Belize 2 Tunisia 2 Saint Vincer South Africa Morocco 2 Aruba 2 Korea, South Vanuatu 2 Laos 2	5.1 5.1 5.1 at and the 4.9 4.8 h	25.0	dines	25.0
126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136	Guyana 2 Belize 2 Tunisia 2 Saint Vincer South Africa Morocco 2 Aruba 2 Korea, South Vanuatu 2 Laos 2 Haiti 2	5.1 5.1 5.1 at and the 4.9 4.8 h 4.6 4.6	25.0	dines	25.0
126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137	Guyana 2 Belize 2 Tunisia 2 Saint Vincer South Africa Morocco 2 Aruba 2 Korea, South Vanuatu 2 Laos 2 Haiti 2 Albania 2	5.1 5.1 5.1 at and the 4.9 4.8 h	25.0 24.7	dines	25.0
126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137	Guyana 2 Belize 2 Tunisia 2 Saint Vincer South Africa Morocco 2 Aruba 2 Korea, South Vanuatu 2 Laos 2 Haiti 2 Albania 2 Isle of Man	5.1 5.1 5.1 at and the 4.9 4.8 h 4.6 4.6 4.0	25.0	dines	25.0
126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139	Guyana 2 Belize 2 Tunisia 2 Saint Vincer South Africa Morocco 2 Aruba 2 Korea, South Vanuatu 2 Laos 2 Haiti 2 Albania 2 Isle of Man Rwanda 2	5.1 5.1 5.1 at and the 4.9 4.8 h 4.6 4.6 4.0 4.0	25.0 24.7	dines	25.0
126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140	Guyana 2 Belize 2 Tunisia 2 Saint Vincer South Africa Morocco 2 Aruba 2 Korea, South Vanuatu 2 Laos 2 Haiti 2 Albania 2 Isle of Man Rwanda 2 Tonga 2	5.1 5.1 5.1 at and the 4.9 4.8 h 4.6 4.6 4.0 4.0 4.0	25.0 24.7	dines	25.0
126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140	Guyana 2 Belize 2 Tunisia 2 Saint Vincer South Africa Morocco 2 Aruba 2 Korea, South Vanuatu 2 Laos 2 Haiti 2 Albania 2 Isle of Man Rwanda 2 Tonga 2 Liberia 2	5.1 5.1 5.1 1.4.9 1.4.8 1.4.6 1.4.6 1.4.6 1.4.0 1.3.6 1.3.6 1.3.5	25.024.723.7	dines	25.0
126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141	Guyana 2 Belize 2 Tunisia 2 Saint Vincer South Africa Morocco 2 Aruba 2 Korea, South Vanuatu 2 Laos 2 Haiti 2 Albania 2 Isle of Man Rwanda 2 Tonga 2 Liberia 2 Burkina Fas	5.1 5.1 5.1 at and the 4.9 4.8 h 4.6 4.6 4.0 4.0 4.0 4.0 4.0 4.0	25.0 24.7	dines	25.0
126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142	Guyana 2 Belize 2 Tunisia 2 Saint Vincer South Africa Morocco 2 Aruba 2 Korea, South Vanuatu 2 Laos 2 Haiti 2 Albania 2 Isle of Man Rwanda 2 Tonga 2 Liberia 2 Burkina Fas Senegal 2	5.1 5.1 5.1 1.4.9 1.4.8 1.4.6 1.4.6 1.4.0 1.4.0 1.3.6 1.3.6 1.3.6 1.3.5 1.3.6 1.3.6 1.3.6 1.3.6 1.3.6 1.3.6 1.3.6 1.3.6 1.3.6 1.3.6 1.3.6 1.3.6 1.3.6 1.3.6 1.3.5	25.024.723.7	dines	25.0
126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143	Guyana 2 Belize 2 Tunisia 2 Saint Vincer South Africa Morocco 2 Aruba 2 Korea, South Vanuatu 2 Laos 2 Haiti 2 Albania 2 Isle of Man Rwanda 2 Tonga 2 Liberia 2 Burkina Fas Senegal 2 Turkey 2	5.1 5.1 5.1 1.4.9 1.4.8 1.4.6 1.4.6 1.4.0 1.3.6 1.3.6 1.3.5 1.3.5 1.3.5 1.3.2 1.3.2	25.024.723.7	dines	25.0
126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144	Guyana 2 Belize 2 Tunisia 2 Saint Vincer South Africa Morocco 2 Aruba 2 Korea, South Vanuatu 2 Laos 2 Haiti 2 Albania 2 Isle of Man Rwanda 2 Tonga 2 Liberia 2 Burkina Fas Senegal 2 Turkey 2 Ghana 2	5.1 5.1 5.1 14.9 14.8 14.6 14.6 14.0 14.0 13.6 13.6 13.6 13.5 10 13.2 13.2 13.2	25.024.723.7	dines	25.0
126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145	Guyana 2 Belize 2 Tunisia 2 Saint Vincer South Africa Morocco 2 Aruba 2 Korea, South Vanuatu 2 Laos 2 Haiti 2 Albania 2 Isle of Man Rwanda 2 Tonga 2 Liberia 2 Burkina Fas Senegal 2 Turkey 2 Ghana 2 Guinea 2	5.1 5.1 5.1 1.4.9 1.4.8 1.4.6 1.4.6 1.4.0 1.3.6 1.3.6 1.3.5 1.3.5 1.3.5 1.3.2 1.3.2	25.024.723.723.4	dines	25.0
126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147	Guyana 2 Belize 2 Tunisia 2 Saint Vincer South Africa Morocco 2 Aruba 2 Korea, South Vanuatu 2 Laos 2 Haiti 2 Albania 2 Isle of Man Rwanda 2 Tonga 2 Liberia 2 Burkina Fas Senegal 2 Turkey 2 Ghana 2 Guinea 2 Tanzania	5.1 5.1 5.1 5.1 6.1 6.4.9 6.4.8 6.4.6 6.4.0 6.4.0 6.3.6 6.3.5 6.3.5 6.3.2 6.3.2 6.3.2 6.3.2 6.3.2	25.024.723.7	dines	25.0
126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148	Guyana 2 Belize 2 Tunisia 2 Saint Vincer South Africa Morocco 2 Aruba 2 Korea, South Vanuatu 2 Laos 2 Haiti 2 Albania 2 Isle of Man Rwanda 2 Tonga 2 Liberia 2 Burkina Fas Senegal 2 Turkey 2 Ghana 2 Guinea 2 Tanzania Mexico 2	5.1 5.1 5.1 14.9 14.8 14.6 14.6 14.0 14.0 13.6 13.6 13.5 10 13.2 13.2 13.2 13.2	25.024.723.723.4	dines	25.0
126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147	Guyana 2 Belize 2 Tunisia 2 Saint Vincer South Africa Morocco 2 Aruba 2 Korea, South Vanuatu 2 Laos 2 Haiti 2 Albania 2 Isle of Man Rwanda 2 Tonga 2 Liberia 2 Burkina Fas Senegal 2 Turkey 2 Ghana 2 Guinea 2 Tanzania Mexico 2 Lebanon 2	5.1 5.1 5.1 5.1 6.1 6.4.9 6.4.8 6.4.6 6.4.0 6.4.0 6.3.6 6.3.5 6.3.5 6.3.2 6.3.2 6.3.2 6.3.2 6.3.2	25.024.723.723.4	dines	25.0

151	Andorra 21.4	
152	Hong Kong 21.2	
153	Cabo Verde 21.2	
154	Mauritius 21.1	
155	Malaysia 21.0	1
156	Chile 20.8	
157	Russia 20.7	
158	Guernsey 20.6	ı
159	Benin 20.5	
160	Guam 20.5	
161	Chad 20.3	
162	Thailand 20.2	,
163	Cote d'Ivoire 20.2	
164	Jordan 20.2	
165	Madagascar 20.1	
166	Grenada 20.1	
167	Antigua and Barbuda	19.6
168	Kazakhstan 19.5	
169	China 19.4	
170	Togo 19.2	
171	El Salvador 19.0	1
172		
173	Paraguay 18.9 Cameroon 18.3	
173 174		
174 175	Monaco 18.2 Poland 18.0	
176	Yemen 17.7	
177	Egypt 17.4	
178	Bermuda 17.4	
179	Kenya 17.4 Cambodia 17.2	
180		
181	Nepal 17.1	
182	United States 17.0	
183	Bahamas, The 16.8	
184	Curacao 16.6	
185	Honduras 16.5	
186	Suriname 16.5	
187	Jersey 16.3	
188	Guinea-Bissau 16.1	
189	Taiwan 16.1	
190	Indonesia 15.8	
<u>191</u>	Singapore 15.4	
192	French Polynesia 15.3	
193	Dominican Republic	15.2
194	Costa Rica 14.8	
195	Turkmenistan 14.6	
196	Philippines 14.3	
197	Ethiopia 14.2	
198	Uganda 14.2	
199	Saint Lucia 13.4	
200	Sierra Leone 13.3	

201	Sri Lanka	12.9	
202	Pakistan 12.6		
203	Bangladesh	12.3	
204	Guatemala	11.9	
205	Iran 11.6		
206	Korea, North	11.4	
207	Afghanistan	11.3	
208	India 10.3		
209	Central African R	Republic	9.1
210	Sudan 8.6	_	
211	Puerto Rico	7.2	
212	Nigeria 4.8		
213	Burma 4.1		
214	Syria 3.7		
215	South Sudan	3.7	

RANKING OF 151 COUNTRIES ACCORDING TO THE SIZE OF THE SHADOW ECONOMY – SHADOW ECONOMIES ALL OVER THE WORLD – NEW ESTIMATES FOR 162 COUNTRIES FROM 1999 TO 2007 & AVERAGE OF THE YEARS AS A % OF GDP – FRIEDRICH SCHNEIDER, ANDREAS BUEHN, CLAUDIO E. MONTENEGRO – WORLD BANK DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH GROUP – POVERTY & INEQUALITY TEAM AND EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA REGION – HUMAN DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS UNIT – POLICY RESEARCH WORKING PAPER 5356 - JULY 2010

The authors of the working paper find a clear negative trend in the size of the shadow economy. The unweighted average of the 162 countries in 1999 was 34.0% and in 2007 31.0%, hence a reduction of 3%. The driving forces of the shadow economy are an increased burden of taxation – both direct and indirect – combined with labor market regulations and the quality of public goods and services, as well as the state of the "official" economy. Activities associated with shadow economies are facts of life around the world. Most societies attempt to control those activities through various measures such as punishment, prosecution, economic growth or education. The shadow economy includes all market-based legal production of goods and services that are deliberately concealed from public authorities for any of the following reasons:

- 1. to avoid payment of income, value added or other taxes.
- 2. to avoid payment of social security contributions.
- 3. to avoid having to meet certain legal labor market standards, such as minimum wages, maximum working hours, safety standards, etc.
- 4. to avoid complying with certain administrative procedures, such as completing statistical questionnaires or othe administrative forms.

One is tempted to guess that as the taxation in the Scandinavian countries is very high -51% to 57% of GDP, they would have a very high percentage of shadow economy. At least, this is what neoliberal advocates would say to justify minimum taxation. But to our "surprise" we find that the shadow economy in those countries is very low -18% to 19% of the GDP, about half as much as the unweighted world average. However, it is higher than in lower taxation ethical countries as Singapore -13% and the US -9%, and also higher than in moderate to

high taxation ethical countries, as Switzerland – 9%, Luxembourg – 10%, New Zealand – 12%, Netherlands – 13%, Australia - 14%, Canada - 16%. It is also higher than in very ethical countries as Japan, Iceland, Ireland, Germany and Hong Kong, but lower than in heavy taxed Belgium - 22%. 84% of the 19 most ethical countries (16 countries, Barbados was not surveyed) are ranked in the 22 lowest ranks of shadow economies, with less than 18% of GDP. Three more countries – 30. Norway, 31. Sweden, 37. Belgium, are ranked higher.

But, as a rule, the most ethical countries have the lowest percentage of shadow economy, albeit the very high to high tax burden of most of them (57% - 38% of GDP) – Norway, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Iceland, United Kingdom, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Canada. This is in direct contradiction to the neoliberal doctrine that high taxation brings inexorably to high shadow economy. We learn from those results that ethics supersedes largely the temptation to evade paying taxes, although it is probably true to a minimal extent. So, what is better – to have a high to very high taxation with balanced budgets or a low deficit and with a low level of net debts as in most of the countries mentioned above or to have record levels of deficit and debt but with a low taxation? In any case, the impact on the shadow economy does not justify low taxation as we have seen. Furthermore, if we succede to achieve low taxation as Singapore or moderate taxation as Switzerland and Australia with a budget surplus or a very low deficit and very low net debt – all the better, but in most of the cases a too low taxation causes a high burden on the citizens with drastic cuts in government expenditures and services, high deficits and high net debts as with the US. The benefit of its very low shadow economy – 8.6% is not worth the price...

The other countries with a very low shadow economy are: Austria -9.7% (TI -23), Macao, 9. China -12.7% (TI -100). It is worthwhile to analyze what is the cause of the low shadow economy in the case of China and the US – the low level of taxation 19.4% of GDP for China and 17.0% for the US or the very heavy penalties for infringing the tax laws? Even if the reason is both – it shows that the impact of low taxation is not the exclusive reason for the low shadow economy, it may be that the very heavy penalties supersede the impact of the low level of taxation. France has a shadow economy of only 15.0% although its taxation is very high – 51.5% of GDP, close to the Scandinavian with excellent government services to the citizens and a high degree of ethics (TI - 26). So, this is another example that you can win them all, like Scandinavia, Netherlands and Germany, and ranking in the first ranks in all the parameters albeit the high level of taxation with a rather low level of shadow economy. A high level of taxation is not negative per se if you get the full benefits with a high level of services and a high quality of life, and you still maintain a sound economy with a high level of productivity and competitiveness. One more remark – countries that one would expect them having a very high level of shadow economy and tax evasion as Italy and Greece have a lower level of shadow economy than the world average – Italy – 27.0%, Greece – 27.5%. But Russia has a high level of shadow economy - 43.8% and Brazil - 39.0%, as many South American & African economies and most of the developing economies except India -22.2%.

The 20 countries with the highest levels of shadow economies – 46% to 66% of GDP – are also in most of the cases the most corrupt countries – Republic of the Congo (TI – 152), Belarus – 119, Angola – 161, Zambia – 85, Democratic Republic of the Congo – 154, Gabon – 94, Honduras – 126, Cambodia – 156, Ukraine – 142, Benin – 80, Guatemala – 115, Thailand – 85, Uruguay – 21 - this is indeed an exception of an ethical country with a very high level of shadow economy, Haiti – 161, Tanzania – 119, Peru – 85, Azerbaijan – 126, Zimbabwe – 156, Georgia with the highest shadow economy of 66% of GDP is quite ethical and ranks 50 in TI's index – so this is another exception, Bolivia – 103. It is worthwhile to

mention that both exceptions of Georgia and Uruguay have a moderate level of taxation – 30% of GDP, so the reason of the high level of shadow economy is elsewhere than taxation.

No. Country	Average
1 Switzerland	<i>8.5</i>
2 United States	8.6
3 Luxembourg	<i>9.7</i>
4 Austria	9.7
5 Japan	11.0
6 New Zealand	<i>12.4</i>
7 Macao, China	12.4
8 United Kingdom	12.5
9 China	12.7
10 Singapore	<i>12.9</i>
11 Netherlands	<i>13.2</i>
12 Australia	<i>14.0</i>
13 France	15.0
14 Vietnam	15.1
15 Iceland	15.6
16 Canada	<i>15.7</i>
17 Ireland	15.8
18 Germany	16.0
19 Hong Kong, Chir	na 16.0
	17.6
21 Finland	<i>17.7</i>
22 Denmark	<i>17.7</i>
23 Bahrain	17.9
24 Saudi Arabia	18.1
25 Slovak Republic	18.1
26 Iran, Islamic Rep	. 18.3
27 Czech Republic	18.4
28 Oman	18.4
29 Jordan	18.5
30 Norway	<i>18.7</i>
31 Sweden	<i>18.8</i>
32 Quatar	18.8
33 Indonesia	18.9
34 Syrian Arab Rep	ublic 19.0
35 Chile	19.3
36 Kuwait	19.3
37 Belgium	21.9
38 Israel	22.0
39 India	22.2
40 Spain	22.5
41 Mauritius	22.7
42 Portugal	23.0
43 Hungary	24.4
44 Taiwan	25.0

4= 4	
45 Argentina	25.3
46 Costa Rica	25.8
47 United Arab Emi	
48 Slovenia	26.2
49 Bahamas, The	26.5
50 Korea, Rep.	26.8
51 Italy	27.0
52 Yemen, Rep.	27.1
53 Poland	27.2
54 Malta	27.2
55 South Africa	27.3
56 Greece	27.5
57 Cyprus	28.0
58 Bhutan	28.7
59 Latvia	29.2
	29.5
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	29.6
62 Mexico	30.0
63 Namibia	30.3
64 Lesotho	
	30.5
65 Malaysia	30.9
66 Brunei Darussala	
67 Estonia	31.2
68 Turkey	31.3
69 Equatorial Guine	
70 Dominican Repu	blic 31.9
71 Cameroon	32.0
72 Lithuania	32.0
73 Croatia	32.1
74 Ecuador	32.4
75 Fiji	32.4
76 Algeria	32.6
77 Romania	32.6
78 Botswana	33.0
79 Lebanon	33.1
80 Kenya	33.2
81 Trinidad and Tol	
82 Solomon Islands	
83 Bosnia & Herzeg	
_	
84 Libyan Arab Jan	
85 Guyana	33.7
86 Venezuela, RB	33.8
87 Albania	34.3
88 Jamaica	34.8
89 Egypt, Arab Rep	
90 Morocco	34.9
91 Bangladesh	35.3
92 Bulgaria	35.3
93 Cape Verde	35.4
94 Pakistan	35.7

95 Papua New Guine	ea 36.7
96 Nepal	36.7
97 Tunisia	37.2
98 Colombia	37.3
99 Macedonia, FYR	37.6
100 Suriname	37.8
101 Ethiopia	38.7
102 Comoros	38.7
103 Paraguay	38.8
104 Guinea	39.0
105 Brazil	39.0
106 Burundi	39.5
107 Eritrea	40.1
108 Kyrgyz Republic	c 40.4
109 Burkina Faso	40.5
110 Ghana	40.6
111 Mali	40.7
112 Madagascar	40.8
- C	40.9
	41.1
115 Philippines	41.6
116 Malawi	41.8
	42.2
118 Uganda	42.3
119 Belize	42.9
120 Chad	43.7
	43.8
121 Senegal	
122 Russian Federat 123 Sri Lanka	
123 Sri Lanka 124 Armenia	43.9
	44.0
125 Liberia	44.2
126 Gambia, The	44.3
127 Nicaragua	44.6
128 Central African	-
129 El Salvador	45.1
	45.2
131 Sierra Leone	45.6
132 Congo, Rep.	46.4
133 Belarus	46.4
134 Angola	46.6
135 Zambia	47.1
136 Congo, Dem. Re	р. 47.3
137 Gabon	47.5
138 Honduras	48.3
139 Cambodia	48.7
140 Ukraine	49.7
141 Benin	49.8
142 Guatemala	50.5
143 Thailand	50.6
144 Uruguay	50.6
O	

145 Haiti	56.4
146 Tanzania	56.4
147 Peru	58.0
148 Azerbaijan	58.0
149 Zimbabwe	61.8
150 Georgia	65.8
151 Bolivia	66.1
Time Average	31.3

11. COUNTRY COMPARISON – BUDGET SURPLUS (+) OR DEFICIT (-) – THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES, EXPRESSED AS % OF GDP - (MOSTLY 2013 EST.) - CIA - WORLD FACTBOOK

Assuming that the neoliberal theories are correct, the low level of taxation should not result in budget deficits, as they are very dangerous to all the economic regimes, even communist ones. Unfortunately, we witness that in many cases (as with the United States), this is the result of a low taxation model. If an economy wants to have a low level of taxation it shouldn't be at the expense of a budget deficit, as a sound economy requires that all the budgets should be at least balanced. Countries' budgets are like families' budgets they can't be forever with deficits as someone has to foot the bill ultimately, and it isn't fair, like with the environment, to live at the expense of future generations or to go bankrupt and not pay your debts. This is not ethical and is not sound in all the capitalist, socialist or communist regimes.

The most ethical countries have either a budget surplus or a moderate deficit as a % of GDP: 4. Norway – 13.1, 23. Switzerland – 1.4, 24. Singapore – 1.3, 66. Australia – -1.3 (negative/deficit), 78. Luxembourg – -1.7, 86. New Zealand – -1.9, 88. Sweden – -2.0, 92. Finland – -2.3, 103. Denmark – -2.5, 120. Canada – -2.9, 132. Netherlands – -3.3. If we adhere to the principle that to have a deficit is unethical and uneconomic, then only 3 countries behave ethically also with this indicator: Norway, Switzerland, Singapore. But, if we bear in mind that the world is suffering from the Great Recession and a certain budget deficit is needed in order to boost the economy and anyhow the level of indebtedness is low, so a short-term deficit could be acceptable, and this is the case of the economies of the other very ethical countries: Australia, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Canada and the Netherlands. Even China has a budget deficit of 2.1, but Germany has a balanced budget (+0.1) and Hong Kong has a surplus of – 1.8. Still, all the most ethical countries are in a better shape than the less ethical: United Kingdom – -3.6, United States – -4.0, Ireland – -7.2, Japan –8.2, and the much less ethical countries: Greece – -4.0, Spain – -6.8, Egypt – -13.3.

Furthermore, when we analyze the countries that have a budget surplus or low deficit we find (not counting the micro-states and the oil-rich countries as Kuwait, Brunei, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates) unethical countries like the Republic of the Congo, Angola, North Korea (!), Peru, Iraq, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Mauritania, Mali and Belarus, with rather precarious economies. So, once again, with this indicator as with many others — what matters is the overall picture, the whole gamut of parameters, and in this respect we find that the most ethical countries outperform with most of the indicators the less ethical countries.

1	Kuwait 29.20	
2	Macau 23.30	
3	Congo, Republic of the	14.00
4	<i>Norway</i> 13.10	
5	Brunei 9.80	
6	Qatar 9.10	
7	Saudi Arabia 6.20	
8	Malta 5.50	
9	United Arab Emirates	5.00
10	Saint Kitts and Nevis	4.80
11	Saint Pierre and Miquelon	4.60
12	French Polynesia 3.90	

13	Belize	3.50			
14	Angola	3.40			
15	Solomon Islan	ds	2.50		
16	Montenegro		2.20		
17	Gibraltar		2.10		
18	Seychelles		2.00		
19	Greenland		1.90		
20	Hong Kong		1.80		
21	Brazil	1.60			
22	Micronesia, Fo	ederated	States of	•	1.50
23	Switzerland		<i>1.40</i>		
24	Singapore		1.30		
25	Guernsey		1.20		
26	Turkmenistan	l	1.10		
27	Cook Islands		1.00		
28	Bosnia and He	erzegovin		1.00	
29	Peru	1.00			
30	Iraq	0.90			
31	Korea, South	0.50	0.70		
32	Botswana		0.60		
33	Isle of Man		0.50		
34	Azerbaijan		0.50		
35	Marshall Islan	nds	0.40		
36	Comoros	IUS	0.40		
37	Colombia		0.40		
38	Vanuatu	0.30	0.10		
39	Equatorial Gu			0.20	
40	Bolivia	0.10		0.20	
41	Germany	0.10	0.10		
42	Poland	0.00	0.10		
43	Tajikistan	0.00	0.00		
44	British Virgin	Iclande	0.00	0.00	
45	Saint Vincent		Cranadir		0.00
46	Tonga	0.00	oi chaum	ics	0.00
47	Latvia	-0.20			
48	Belarus	-0.20			
49	Andorra	-0.30			
50	Armenia	-0.30			
51	Nicaragua	-0.50	-0.30		
52	Uzbekistan		-0.30		
53 53	Jersey	-0.40	-0.40		
54	Curacao	-0.40			
55		-0.40	-0.40		
56	Korea, North	-0.50	-v. 4 V		
50 57	Libya Russia	-0.50 -0.50			
57 58	Estonia	-0.50 -0.50			
58 59	Estonia Mauritania	-0.50	-0.60		
		0.70	-0.00		
60	Mali	-0.70		0 00	
61 62	Antigua and E			-0.80	
UZ	Lesotho	-0.90			

63	Chile	-1.00		
64	Swaziland		-1.10	
65	Monaco	-1.20		
<u>66</u>	Australia		<i>-1.30</i>	
67	Benin	-1.30		
68	Oman	-1.30		
69	Djibouti	-1.40		
70	Malawi	-1.40		
71	Iceland	-1.50		
72	Israel	-1.50		
73	Nigeria	-1.50		
74	Paraguay		-1.60	
75	Liechtenstein		-1.60	
76	Timor-Leste		-1.60	
77	Laos	-1.60		
<u>78</u>	Luxembourg		<i>-1.70</i>	
79	Moldova	-1.80		
80	Kosovo	-1.80		
81	Philippines		-1.80	
82	Trinidad and	Tobago		-1.80
83	Guinea-Bissau	1	-1.80	
84	Jamaica	-1.80		
85	Mauritius		-1.90	
<i>86</i>	New Zealand		<i>-1.90</i>	
87	Lithuania		-2.00	
88	Sweden	<i>-2.00</i>		
89	China	-2.10		
90	Czech Republ	ic	-2.10	
91	Turkey	-2.10		
92	Finland	<i>-2.30</i>		
93	Kazakhstan		-2.30	
94	Algeria	-2.30		
95	Madagascar		-2.30	
96	Suriname		-2.30	
97	Niger	-2.40		
98	Bulgaria	-2.40		
99	Palau	-2.40		
100	Bhutan	-2.40		
101	Bermuda		-2.50	
102	Cayman Islan	ds	-2.50	
<i>103</i>	Denmark		<i>-2.50</i>	
104	Ecuador	-2.50		
105	Mexico	-2.50		
106	Romania		-2.50	
107	Taiwan	-2.50		
108	Fiji	-2.60		
109	Uruguay	-2.60		
110	Panama	-2.60		
111	Cambodia		-2.70	
112	Guatemala		-2.70	
			-	

113	Uganda	-2.70			
114	Saint Lucia	-2.70	-2.70		
115		-2.70	-2.70		
116	Georgia				
	Ethiopia Liberia	-2.80			
117		-2.90			
118	Austria	-2.90	2.00		
119	Hungary	2.00	-2.90		
<u>120</u>	Canada	<i>-2.90</i>	• • •		
121	San Marino	• • •	-2.90		
122	Guam	-3.00			
123	Dominican Ro	epublic		-3.00	
124	Sierra Leone		-3.00		
125	Nepal	-3.10			
126	Puerto Rico		-3.10		
127	Argentina		-3.20		
128	Belgium	-3.20			
129	Burkina Faso		-3.20		
130	Italy	-3.30			
131	Burundi	-3.30			
<i>132</i>	Netherlands		<i>-3.30</i>		
133	Indonesia		-3.30		
134	Cote d'Ivoire		-3.40		
135	Burma	-3.40			
136	Slovakia	-3.40			
137	Congo, Demo	cratic Re	epublic of	f the	-3.50
138	United Kingd		-3.60		
	Omicu imeu	VIII	-3.00		
	0		-3.00		
139	Togo	-3.70	-3.00		
139 140	Togo Cuba	-3.70 -3.70	-3.00		
139 140 141	Togo Cuba Bahrain	-3.70			
139 140 141 142	Togo Cuba Bahrain United States	-3.70 -3.70	-4.00		
139 140 141 142 143	Togo Cuba Bahrain United States Gambia, The	-3.70 -3.70	-4.00 -4.00		
139 140 141 142 143 144	Togo Cuba Bahrain United States Gambia, The Thailand	-3.70 -3.70 -3.80	-4.00		
139 140 141 142 143 144 145	Togo Cuba Bahrain United States Gambia, The Thailand Tuvalu	-3.70 -3.70 -3.80	-4.00 -4.00		
139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146	Togo Cuba Bahrain United States Gambia, The Thailand Tuvalu Greece	-3.70 -3.70 -3.80	-4.00 -4.00 -4.00		
139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147	Togo Cuba Bahrain United States Gambia, The Thailand Tuvalu Greece El Salvador	-3.70 -3.70 -3.80 -4.00 -4.00	-4.00 -4.00		
139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147	Togo Cuba Bahrain United States Gambia, The Thailand Tuvalu Greece El Salvador Grenada	-3.70 -3.70 -3.80	-4.00 -4.00 -4.00		
139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149	Togo Cuba Bahrain United States Gambia, The Thailand Tuvalu Greece El Salvador Grenada Macedonia	-3.70 -3.70 -3.80 -4.00 -4.00	-4.00 -4.00 -4.00		
139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150	Togo Cuba Bahrain United States Gambia, The Thailand Tuvalu Greece El Salvador Grenada Macedonia France	-3.70 -3.70 -3.80 -4.00 -4.00 -4.10	-4.00 -4.00 -4.00		
139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151	Togo Cuba Bahrain United States Gambia, The Thailand Tuvalu Greece El Salvador Grenada Macedonia France Kenya	-3.70 -3.70 -3.80 -4.00 -4.10 -4.10	-4.00 -4.00 -4.00 -4.00	4.10	
139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152	Togo Cuba Bahrain United States Gambia, The Thailand Tuvalu Greece El Salvador Grenada Macedonia France Kenya Central Afric	-3.70 -3.70 -3.80 -4.00 -4.00 -4.10 -4.10 an Repu	-4.00 -4.00 -4.00 -4.00	-4.10	
139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153	Togo Cuba Bahrain United States Gambia, The Thailand Tuvalu Greece El Salvador Grenada Macedonia France Kenya Central Afric	-3.70 -3.70 -3.80 -4.00 -4.10 -4.10	-4.00 -4.00 -4.00 -4.10 blic	-4.10	
139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154	Togo Cuba Bahrain United States Gambia, The Thailand Tuvalu Greece El Salvador Grenada Macedonia France Kenya Central Afric Vietnam Cameroon	-3.70 -3.70 -3.80 -4.00 -4.00 -4.10 -4.10 an Repui	-4.00 -4.00 -4.00 -4.00	-4.10	
139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155	Togo Cuba Bahrain United States Gambia, The Thailand Tuvalu Greece El Salvador Grenada Macedonia France Kenya Central Afric Vietnam Cameroon Rwanda	-3.70 -3.70 -3.80 -4.00 -4.00 -4.10 -4.10 an Repu -4.20 -4.30	-4.00 -4.00 -4.00 -4.10 blic	-4.10	
139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155	Togo Cuba Bahrain United States Gambia, The Thailand Tuvalu Greece El Salvador Grenada Macedonia France Kenya Central Afric Vietnam Cameroon Rwanda Slovenia	-3.70 -3.70 -3.80 -4.00 -4.00 -4.10 -4.10 an Repui	-4.00 -4.00 -4.00 -4.10 blic -4.30	-4.10	
139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157	Togo Cuba Bahrain United States Gambia, The Thailand Tuvalu Greece El Salvador Grenada Macedonia France Kenya Central Afric Vietnam Cameroon Rwanda Slovenia Malaysia	-3.70 -3.70 -3.80 -4.00 -4.00 -4.10 -4.10 an Repui -4.20 -4.30 -4.40	-4.00 -4.00 -4.00 -4.10 blic	-4.10	
139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158	Togo Cuba Bahrain United States Gambia, The Thailand Tuvalu Greece El Salvador Grenada Macedonia France Kenya Central Afric Vietnam Cameroon Rwanda Slovenia Malaysia Croatia	-3.70 -3.70 -3.80 -4.00 -4.00 -4.10 -4.10 -4.10 -4.20 -4.20 -4.30 -4.40	-4.00 -4.00 -4.00 -4.10 blic -4.30	-4.10	
139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159	Togo Cuba Bahrain United States Gambia, The Thailand Tuvalu Greece El Salvador Grenada Macedonia France Kenya Central Afric Vietnam Cameroon Rwanda Slovenia Malaysia Croatia Sudan	-3.70 -3.70 -3.80 -4.00 -4.00 -4.10 -4.10 an Repu -4.20 -4.30 -4.40 -4.40	-4.00 -4.00 -4.00 -4.10 blic -4.30	-4.10	
139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160	Togo Cuba Bahrain United States Gambia, The Thailand Tuvalu Greece El Salvador Grenada Macedonia France Kenya Central Afric Vietnam Cameroon Rwanda Slovenia Malaysia Croatia Sudan Iran	-3.70 -3.70 -3.80 -4.00 -4.00 -4.10 -4.10 -4.10 -4.20 -4.20 -4.30 -4.40	-4.00 -4.00 -4.00 -4.10 blic -4.30 -4.40	-4.10	
139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161	Togo Cuba Bahrain United States Gambia, The Thailand Tuvalu Greece El Salvador Grenada Macedonia France Kenya Central Afric Vietnam Cameroon Rwanda Slovenia Malaysia Croatia Sudan Iran Kyrgyzstan	-3.70 -3.70 -3.80 -4.00 -4.00 -4.10 -4.10 -4.10 -4.20 -4.20 -4.30 -4.40 -4.40 -4.50	-4.00 -4.00 -4.00 -4.10 blic -4.30		
139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160	Togo Cuba Bahrain United States Gambia, The Thailand Tuvalu Greece El Salvador Grenada Macedonia France Kenya Central Afric Vietnam Cameroon Rwanda Slovenia Malaysia Croatia Sudan Iran	-3.70 -3.70 -3.80 -4.00 -4.00 -4.10 -4.10 -4.10 -4.20 -4.20 -4.30 -4.40 -4.40 -4.50	-4.00 -4.00 -4.00 -4.10 blic -4.30 -4.40	-4.10 -4.60	

1.00			4.00		
163	South Africa		-4.80		
164	Bangladesh	4.00	-4.90		
165	Serbia	-4.90			
166	Anguilla	-5.00			= 00
167	Falkland Islan	nds (Isla:		as)	-5.00
168	Costa Rica		-5.00		
169	Guinea	-5.10			
170	Portugal	-5.10			
171	Ukraine	-5.20			
172	Senegal	-5.30			
173	Haiti	-5.40			
174	Tanzania		-5.60		
175	India	-5.70			
176	Cyprus	-5.70			
177	Chad	-5.90			
178	American Sai	moa	-6.10		
179	Albania	-6.10			
180	Samoa	-6.10			
181	Honduras		-6.20		
182	Sri Lanka		-6.40		
183	Guyana	-6.40			
184	Namibia	-6.50			
185	Spain	-6.80			
186	Barbados		-7.00		
187	Ireland	-7.20			
188	Tunisia	-7.50			
189	Aruba	-7.50			
190	Dominica		-7.50		
191	Pakistan	-7.70			
192	Gabon	-7.90			
193	Northern Ma	riana Isla	ands	-7.90	
194	Syria	-8.00			
195	Morocco	-8.00			
196	Mongolia		-8.10		
197	Bahamas, Th	e	-8.20		
198	Japan	-8.20			
199	Zambia	-8.40			
200	Afghanistan		-8.70		
201	Mozambique		-8.80		
202	Lebanon	-9.40			
203	Ghana	-9.50			
204	Cabo Verde		-9.80		
205	Venezuela		-9.80		
206	Yemen	-10.30			
207	Jordan	-11.30			
208	Sao Tome and		e	-11.70	
209	Faroe Islands	_	-11.90	-	
210	Maldives		-12.30		
211	Niue	-12.60			
212	Eritrea	-13.00			
		-			

213	Egypt	-13.30	
214	South Sudan		-15.50
215	West Bank		-16.60
216	Kiribati	-29.80	

12. COUNTRY COMPARISON – EXTERNAL DEBT – COMPARES PRIVATE AND PUBLIC DEBT OWED TO NONRESIDENTS – CALCULATED ON AN EXCHANGE RATE BASIS (MOSTLY 2013 EST.) - CIA - WORLD FACTBOOK

SEE SECOND TABLE - GROSS AND NET GOVERNMENT DEBT AS % OF GDP

We cannot analyze the external debt comparison without the context of the gross and net government debt as % of GDP. The external debt shows more the level of globalization and financial activities of the countries: the first 6 countries are the most developed countries in the world, European Union - \$ 15,950 billion, United States - \$ 15,680B, United Kingdom - \$9,5777B, Germany - \$5,717B, France - \$5,371, Japan - \$3,017. But when we compare also the gross and net government debt as % of GDP, we find that the United States has a huge gross and net government debt – 107/88, Japan has even higher figures – 238/134, the United Kingdom has also high figures but much lower than the two first superpowers – 90/83, France – 90/84, but Germany is in a very sound position with 82% gross government debt but only 57% net government debt as % of GDP. So, we have to set the figures in the right proportion.

Analyzing the indicators of the most ethical countries, we find that Luxembourg has a huge external debt of \$2,935B, Netherlands - \$2,347B, Switzerland - \$1,544B and Singapore -\$1,174B. But, bearing in mind that the four ethical countries, small as they are, are also financial superpowers with large banks and a very high level of financial activities, we shouldn't be surprised of those figures. But then, we put them in proportion to the gross and net government debt in % of GDP and we find that Singapore has a gross government debt of 111%, but a net government debt of....0! So, those figures just show the level of financial activities but Singapore is a vey sound economy with a AAA credit rating. Netherlands has a gross government debt of 72% of GDP, but a net one of only 33%, also a very sound economy. Switzerland has a gross level of 49% and a net level of 28%, which proves the excellent financial position of this country and the former ones. And last but not least, Luxembourg has a gross level of only 21% and a net level of 0, like Singapore and the other sound and most ethical economies. It is unsound to have a high level of indebtedness, but we have to see the level of net indebtedness and the percentage of GDP in order to examine if the economy is sound or precarious. Even the US and Japan and to a lesser extent UK and France that have very high/high level of net indebtedness also as % of GDP are still sound economies as most of other indicators are very positive and they are also among the most ethical states.

Greece has very serious financial problems with a level of 158/155, and to a lesser extent Italy – 126/103 and Ireland 117/102. But the financial situation of the other most ethical countries is excellent: Australia – 1,506B, 27/12, a quite high level of indebtedness but the government debt as a % of GDP is the very low 27% gross and only 12% net. The figures for Canada are - \$1,331B, 86/35, Sweden - \$1,039, 38/-17, i.e. it has a surplus of 17% of net government indebtedness as % of GDP (other countries owe them 17% of the GDP), Norway - \$720.6B, 34/-165, which means that other countries owe to the government of Norway the huge 165% of its GDP. Finland - \$586.9B, 53/-51, here again other countries owe to the government of Finland 51% of its GDP, Denmark – \$586.7B, 50/8, and finally New Zealand – \$81.4B, 38/26. So, all the 11 most ethical countries have an outstanding financial position, very sound levels of indebtedness, which proves once again that Ethics Pays and is…liquid!

- 1 European Union \$ 15,950,000,000,000
- 2 United States \$ 15,680,000,000,000
- 3 United Kingdom \$ 9,577,000,000,000
- 4 Germany \$ 5,717,000,000,000
- 5 France \$ 5,371,000,000,000

	T
6	Japan \$ 3,017,000,000,000
7	Luxembourg \$ 2,935,000,000,000
8	Italy \$ 2,604,000,000,000
9	Netherlands \$ 2,347,000,000,000
10	Spain \$ 2,278,000,000,000
11	Ireland \$ 2,164,000,000,000
<u>12</u>	Switzerland \$ 1,544,000,000,000
<u>13</u>	Australia \$ 1,506,000,000,000
14	Belgium \$ 1,424,000,000,000
<u>15</u>	Canada \$ 1,331,000,000,000
<i>16</i>	Singapore \$ 1,174,000,000,000
17	Hong Kong \$ 1,159,000,000,000
<u> 18</u>	Sweden \$ 1,039,000,000,000
19	China \$ 863,200,000,000
20	Austria \$ 812,000,000,000
21	Norway \$ 720,600,000,000
22	Russia \$ 714,200,000,000
23	Finland \$ 586,900,000,000
24	Denmark \$ 586,700,000,000
25	Greece \$ 568,700,000,000
26	Portugal\$ 508,300,000,000
27	Brazil \$ 475,900,000,000
28	Korea, South \$ 430,900,000,000
29 29	India \$ 412,200,000,000
30	Poland \$ 365,200,000,000
31	Turkey \$ 359,500,000,000
32	• , , , ,
33	Indonesia \$ 223,800,000,000
34	Hungary \$ 170,300,000,000
35	United Arab Emirates \$ 167,900,000,000
36	Saudi Arabia \$ 149,400,000,000
37	Qatar \$ 149,400,000,000
38	Taiwan \$ 146,800,000,000
39	Thailand \$ 142,600,000,000
40	South Africa \$ 139,000,000,000
41	Ukraine \$ 138,300,000,000
42	Romania \$ 131,600,000,000
43	Kazakhstan \$ 131,300,000,000
44	Chile \$ 119,000,000,000
45	Argentina \$ 111,500,000,000
46	Czech Republic \$ 102,100,000,000
47	Iceland \$ 102,000,000,000
48	Malaysia \$ 100,100,000,000
49	Israel \$ 96,300,000,000
50	Cyprus \$ 95,280,000,000
51	Colombia \$ 85,830,000,000
52	New Zealand \$ 81,360,000,000
53	Venezuela \$ 74,870,000,000
54 54	Philippines \$ 72,810,000,000
55	Slovakia \$ 68,440,000,000
55	οιο ταινία ψ ους ττυς υυυς υυυ

670

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56
        Vietnam $
                      68,380,000,000
57
        Croatia $
                      60,470,000,000
58
        Iraq
                      59,490,000,000
59
                              56,820,000,000
        Puerto Rico
60
        Slovenia $
                      52,530,000,000
61
        Pakistan$
                      52,430,000,000
62
                      51.080.000.000
        Malta
                 $
63
        Peru
                      50,150,000,000
64
                 $
                      48,760,000,000
        Egypt
                 $
                      40,920,000,000
65
        Sudan
                      39,870,000,000
66
        Latvia
67
        Bulgaria$
                      37.850,000,000
68
        Morocco$
                      36,510,000,000
69
        Kuwait $
                     34,410,000,000
70
        Sri Lanka
                              33,670,000,000
71
        Serbia
                      33,600,000,000
72
        Bangladesh
                              30,690,000,000
73
        Lithuania
                              29,550,000,000
74
        Bahrain $
                      28,820,000,000
75
        Tunisia $
                      26,950,000,000
76
        Estonia $
                      26,740,000,000
77
        Lebanon$
                      26,740,000,000
78
                      23,440,000,000
        Cuba
79
        Angola $
                      22,710,000,000
80
        Jordan $
                      22,040,000,000
81
        Ecuador $
                      19,910,000,000
82
        Dominican Republic
                                       18,010,000,000
83
                              17,670,000,000
        Guatemala
84
                      17,610,000,000
        Uruguay$
85
                              17,560,000,000
        Bahamas, The
                          $
86
                      15,730,000,000
        Nigeria $
87
        Iran
                      15,640,000,000
88
        Panama $
                      15,220,000,000
89
                              15,100,000,000
        Costa Rica
90
        Ghana $
                      14,680,000,000
91
        El Salvador
                              14,440,000,000
92
                              13.820,000,000
        Tanzania
93
        Jamaica $
                      13,820,000,000
94
        Papua New Guinea
                                       13,610,000,000
95
        Ethiopia $
                      11,990,000,000
96
        Kenva
                      11,960,000,000
97
                      11,740,000,000
        Georgia $
98
        Bosnia and Herzegovina $
                                       11,140,000,000
99
        Oman
                 $
                      10,840,000,000
                      9,796,000,000
100
        Syria
101
        Azerbaijan
                          $
                               9,552,000,000
        Cote d'Ivoire
                          $
                               8,959,000,000
102
103
                          $
                               8,773,000,000
        Uzbekistan
104
        Zimbabwe
                               8,445,000,000
105
        Armenia$
                      7,839,000,000
```

```
Yemen $
106
                      7,806,000,000
107
        Macedonia
                          $
                               7,451,000,000
                          $
108
                               7.013.000.000
        Paraguay
109
        Congo, Democratic Republic of the $
                                                6,874,000,000
110
        Laos
                 $
                      6,690,000,000
111
        Libya
                 $
                      6,319,000,000
112
        Mozambique
                               6,276,000,000
                         $
113
        Moldova$
                      6,218,000,000
114
        Honduras
                               6,173,000,000
                      5,985,000,000
115
        Zambia $
116
        Burma $
                      5,379,000,000
                      5,278,000,000
117
        Algeria $
118
        Bolivia $
                      5,265,000,000
119
                      5,223,000,000
        Uganda $
120
                               4.954.000.000
        Mongolia
                         $
121
        Cambodia
                          $
                               4,912,000,000
122
        Trinidad and Tobago
                                  $
                                       4,823,000,000
123
        Nicaragua
                         $
                               4,532,000,000
124
        Barbados
                          $
                               4,490,000,000
125
        Senegal $
                      4,375,000,000
126
        Namibia $
                      4,312,000,000
127
        Nepal
                      3,956,000,000
128
                         $
        Kyrgyzstan
                               3,859,000,000
129
                               3,455,000,000
        Cameroon
130
        Gabon $
                      3,433,000,000
131
                               3,361,000,000
        Madagascar
132
                      3,349,000,000
        Mali
                 $
133
        Congo, Republic of the
                                       3,274,000,000
134
        Mauritania
                               3,233,000,000
135
                      3,213,000,000
        Albania $
136
                      3,050,000,000
        Somalia $
137
        Korea, North
                         $
                               3,000,000,000
                         $
138
        Mauritius
                               2,894,000,000
                         $
139
        Burkina Faso
                               2,863,000,000
140
        Guinea $
                      2,584,000,000
141
        Botswana
                               2,416,000,000
142
                               2,162,000,000
        Taiikistan
143
        Equatorial Guinea
                                       2,104,000,000
144
                      1,846,000,000
        Guyana $
145
        Chad
                      1,828,000,000
146
        Sevchelles
                         $
                               1,719,000,000
                               1,700,000,000
                          $
147
        Montenegro
                      1,656,000,000
148
        Rwanda $
149
        Malawi $
                      1,556,000,000
150
        Niger
                      1,556,000,000
151
        Bermuda
                         $
                               1,400,000,000
152
                         $
                               1,331,000,000
        Sierra Leone
153
                         $
                               1,328,000,000
        Cabo Verde
154
                          $
                               1.280,000,000
        Afghanistan
155
        Bhutan $
                      1,275,000,000
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672

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156
        Benin
                      1,236,000,000
157
        Belarus $
                      1,204,000,000
158
        Haiti
                 $
                      1,118,000,000
159
        Guinea-Bissau
                         $
                               1,095,000,000
160
        Eritrea $
                      1,094,000,000
161
        Belize
                      1,048,000,000
162
                               890,800,000
        Maldives
                         $
163
        Faroe Islands
                               888,800,000
                         $
164
        Suriname
                               860,000,000
165
        Djibouti $
                       821,600,000
                       794,000,000
166
        Lesotho $
167
        Fiji
                       779,900,000
168
        Togo
                       719,000,000
169
        Grenada$
                       679,000,000
170
                       677,200,000
        Burundi $
171
        Central African Republic $
                                        634,200,000
172
        Swaziland
                               609,500,000
173
        Aruba $
                       533,400,000
174
        Gambia, The
                         $
                               517,700,000
175
                       448,200,000
        Kosovo $
176
        Saint Lucia
                               446,400,000
177
        Antigua and Barbuda
                                  $
                                        441,200,000
178
                       438,100,000
        Liberia $
                               428,900,000
179
        Turkmenistan
180
        Sao Tome and Principe
                                        406,800,000
                                  $
181
        Samoa $
                       368,300,000
182
                       307,700,000
        Vanuatu$
183
                               274,900,000
        Dominica
                         $
184
        Solomon Islands $
                               255,500,000
        Saint Vincent and the Grenadines $
185
                                                255,300,000
186
                       215,800,000
        Tonga $
187
        Saint Kitts and Nevis
                                        158,900,000
188
        Comoros
                               142,900,000
189
        Cook Islands
                               141.000.000
190
        Marshall Islands $
                                87,000,000
191
        New Caledonia
                                79,000,000
192
        Micronesia, Federated States of
                                           $
                                                 60,800,000
193
        Greenland
                                36,400,000
194
        British Virgin Islands
                                        36,100,000
                                  $
195
        Nauru $
                       33,300,000
196
        Kiribati $
                       10,000,000
197
                                8,900,000
        Montserrat
                         $
198
                        8,800,000
        Anguilla $
199
        Wallis and Futuna
                                  $
                                         3,670,000
                        418,000
200
        Niue
                                    0
201
        Liechtenstein
                         $
202
                           0
        Brunei $
203
                           0
        Palau
204
        Macau $
                           0
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GROSS AND NET GOVERNMENT DEBT AS % OF GDP – SOURCE – IMF - 2012

Country	Gross government debt as % of GDP (IMF)	Net government debt as % of GDP (IMF)[2]	Date	Region
• Japan	237.918	134.325	2012	Asia
<u>Greece</u>	158.546	155.378	2012	Europe
✓ Jamaica	146.591		2012	Central America/Caribbean
<u>Lebanon</u>	139.527	134.18	2012	Middle East
■ Italy	126.978	103.208	2012	Europe
Eritrea	125.785		2012	Africa
Portugal ^[3]	122.985	111.556	2013	Europe
■ Ireland	117.122	102.324	2012	Europe
Grenada Grenada	112.567	112.567	2012	Central America/Caribbean
Singapore	<u>111.017</u>	No net debt Source – Gov. of Singapore	2012	Southeast Asia
United States	106.525	87.859	2012	North America
Cape Verde	103.353	97.252	2012	Africa
<u>Belgium</u>	99.600	83.304	2012	Europe
Iceland Iceland	99.083	68.23	2012	Europe
<u>Sudan</u>	97.642		2012	Africa
B\ United Kingdom	90.314	82.785	2012	Europe
France	90.291	84.065	2012	Europe

Country	Gross government debt as % of GDP (IMF)	Net government debt as % of GDP (IMF)[2]	Date	Region
Antigua and Barbuda	89.150	89.150	2012	Central America/Caribbean
	86.205		2012	Europe
I ◆ I Canada	<u>85.641</u>	<u>34.563</u>	2012	North America
▲ Saint Lucia	84.761		2012	Central America/Caribbean
<u>Spain</u>	84.082	71.931	2012	Europe
Saint Kitts and Nevis	82.962		2012	Central America/Caribbean
<u>Seychelles</u>	82.528	69.482	2012	Africa
Germany	81.964	57.224	2012	Europe
Egypt	80.155	68.807	2012	Africa
<u>Mauritania</u>	79.703		2012	Africa
Jordan Jordan	79.586	74.936	2012	Middle East
Hungary	79.003	72.772	2012	Europe
⊕ Belize	78.106	78.106	2012	Central America/Caribbean
<u>Maldives</u>	77.486		2012	Asia
Gambia, The	77.179	77.179	2012	Africa
Sao Tome and Principe	75.503		2012	Africa
<u>Austria</u>	73.717	53.491	2012	Europe
Barbados	72.634		2012	Central America/Caribbean

Country	Gross government debt as % of GDP (IMF)	Net government debt as % of GDP (IMF)[2]	Date	Region
* ■ <u>Malta</u>	72.538		2012	Europe
■► <u>Dominica</u>	72.164	72.164	2012	Central America/Caribbean
Bhutan	72.075		2012	Asia
<u>Netherlands</u>	<u>71.736</u>	32.502	<u>2012</u>	<u>Europe</u>
<u> Israel</u>	69.637	69.574	2014	Middle East
Brazil	68.469	35.209	2012	South America
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	67.084		2012	Central America/Caribbean
India India	66.842		2012	Asia
Serbia	63.650	56.888	2012	Europe
Pakistan Pakistan	62.079	58.771	2012	Asia
<u>Albania</u>	60.597	60.597	2012	Europe
<u>Zimbabwe</u>	60.451		2012	Africa
<u>Guyana</u>	60.333	57.689	2012	South America
Marshall Islands	60.043		2012	Oceania
Guinea-Bissau	59.751		2012	Africa
<u>Morocco</u>	59.587	59.057	2012	Africa
Venezuela	57.287		2012	South America
* Ghana	56.526	53.125	2012	Africa
<u>Croatia</u>	56.282		2012	Europe
Malaysia Malaysia	55.474		2012	Southeast Asia

Country	Gross government debt as % of GDP (IMF)	Net government debt as % of GDP (IMF)[2]	Date	Region
Poland	55.166	26.742	2012	Europe
<u>Malawi</u>	54.903	51.15	2012	Africa
<u>Uruguay</u>	53.686	36.335	2012	South America
+ Finland	53.335	<u>-50.933</u>	2012	<u>Europe</u>
Laos	53.082		2012	Southeast Asia
Slovenia Slovenia	52.610		2012	Europe
Slovakia	52.333		2012	Europe
El Salvador	52.193		2012	Central America/Caribbean
<u>Vietnam</u>	52.099	49.058	2012	Southeast Asia
Nicaragua Nicaragua	52.086		2012	Central America/Caribbean
Bahamas, The	51.856	51.856	2012	Central America/Caribbean
Fiji	51.642	46.906	2012	Oceania
Montenegro Montenegro	51.068	48.778	2012	Europe
<u>Mauritius</u>	50.29	50.29	2012	Africa
■ Denmark	50.102	7.626	<u>2012</u>	<u>Europe</u>
Switzerland	49.099	28.265	2012	<u>Europe</u>
Cote d'Ivoire	49.070		2012	Africa
<u>Kyrgyzstan</u>	48.935		2012	Asia
Kenya Kenya	48.185	43.167	2012	Africa
<u>★ Burma</u>	47.524		2012	Southeast Asia

Country	Gross government debt as % of GDP (IMF)	Net government debt as % of GDP (IMF)[2]	Date	Region
<u>Yemen</u>	46.743	44.781	2012	Middle East
<u>Togo</u>	46.706		2012	Africa
<u>Mozambique</u>	46.628		2012	Africa
Senegal Senegal	45.002		2012	Africa
<u>Argentina</u>	44.88		2012	South America
Sierra Leone	44.471	0	2012	Africa
<u> Tunisia</u>	44.466		2012	Africa
Bosnia and Herzegovina	44.265	38.545	2012	Europe
<u>Thailand</u>	44.252		2012	Southeast Asia
<u>Tuvalu</u>	43.727		2012	Oceania
Mexico Mexico	43.519	37.998	2012	North America
Czech Republic	43.146		2012	Europe
<u>Guinea</u>	42.993	42.993	2012	Africa
<u>Comoros</u>	42.613	42.613	2012	Africa
South Africa	42.282	35.561	2012	Africa
Philippines Philippines	41.919		2012	Southeast Asia
<u>Lesotho</u>	41.903	-2.141	2012	Africa
<u>Tanzania</u>	41.391		2012	Africa
<u>Taiwan</u>	40.938		2012	East Asia
Trinidad and Tobago	39.723	29.141	2012	Central America/Caribbean

Country	Gross government debt as % of GDP (IMF)	Net government debt as % of GDP (IMF) ^[2]	Date	Region
Lithuania	39.586	35.39	2012	Europe
<u>Armenia</u>	39.548		2012	Europe
Panama Panama	38.796	38.796	2012	Central America/Caribbean
<u>Djibouti</u>	38.618		2012	Africa
Madagascar	38.309		2012	Africa
New Zealand	38.154	26.416	2012	<u>Oceania</u>
Sweden	38.020	<u>-17.632</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>Europe</u>
Qatar	37.812	31.915	2012	Middle East
<u>Ukraine</u>	37.422	35.22	2012	Europe
Romania Romania	37.038		2012	Europe
<u>Belarus</u>	36.905	0	2012	Europe
<u>Latvia</u>	36.417	26.569	2012	Europe
<u>Turkey</u>	36.383	27.801	2012	Europe
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	36.047		2012	Africa
Costa Rica	34.821	34.821	2012	Central America/Caribbean
Honduras Honduras	34.676		2012	Central America/Caribbean
<u>Uganda</u>	34.532		2012	Africa
Chad	34.454		2012	Africa
Iraq	34.191		2012	Middle East

Country	Gross government debt as % of GDP (IMF)	Net government debt as % of GDP (IMF)[2]	Date	Region
# Norway	<u>34.118</u>	<u>-165.508</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>Europe</u>
<u>Bahrain</u>	33.727	33.727	2012	Middle East
* Korea, South	33.668	32.241	2012	Asia
Dominican Republic	33.486	33.486	2012	Central America/Caribbean
Macedonia Macedonia	33.271	29.006	2012	Europe
Nepal Nepal	33.129	33.129	2012	Asia
<u>Bolivia</u>	33.090	10.992	2012	South America
<u>Colombia</u>	32.838	24.594	2012	South America
+ Georgia	32.738		2012	Europe
Benin Benin	32.525		2012	Africa
<u>Tajikistan</u>	32.466		2012	Asia
Hong Kong	32.393		2012	Southeast Asia
Mali Mali	32.003	26.881	2012	Africa
Marundi Burundi	32.002		2012	Africa
Niger Niger	31.051	4.25	2012	Africa
Central African Republic	30.597		2012	Africa
<u>Angola</u>	29.295		2012	Africa
Liberia Liberia	29.076	-8.254	2012	Africa
<u>Cambodia</u>	28.503		2012	Southeast Asia
<u>Rwanda</u>	28.040		2012	Africa

Country	Gross government debt as % of GDP (IMF)	Net government debt as % of GDP (IMF)[2]	Date	Region
Burkina Faso	27.695		2012	Africa
Australia Australia	27.159	<u>11.641</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>Oceania</u>
Zambia Zambia	26.875	23.517	2012	Africa
<u>Namibia</u>	26.642	24.411	2012	Africa
Guatemala Guatemala	25.112		2012	Central America/Caribbean
Indonesia	24.004		2012	Southeast Asia
Moldova Moldova	23.845	23.845	2012	Europe
<u>China</u>	22.849		2012	Asia
<u>Gabon</u>	21.999		2012	Africa
Ethiopia	21.551	18.172	2012	Africa
Luxembourg	<u>21.138</u>		2012	<u>Europe</u>
Congo, Republic of the	21.136	21.136	2012	Africa
<u>Suriname</u>	20.464		2012	South America
<u>Vanuatu</u>	20.011		2012	Oceania
Peru Peru	19.759	4.456	2012	South America
<u>Swaziland</u>	19.041	7.607	2012	Africa
<u>Ecuador</u>	18.613		2012	South America
Bulgaria	18.497	-9.585	2012	Europe
Solomon Islands	18.228	6.737	2012	Oceania
■ ■ <u>Nigeria</u>	17.762	13.283	2012	Africa
United Arab Emirates	17.617	-93.486	2012	Middle East

Country	Gross government debt as % of GDP (IMF)	Net government debt as % of GDP (IMF)[2]	Date	Region
<u>Turkmenistan</u>	15.821		2012	Asia
- <u>Haiti</u>	15.446		2012	Central America/Caribbean
<u>Botswana</u>	14.920		2012	Africa
Cameroon	14.859	14.859	2012	Africa
<u>Kazakhstan</u>	12.318	-17.097	2012	Asia
<u>Azerbaijan</u>	11.599		2012	Europe
Paraguay	11.358		2012	South America
<u>Chile</u>	11.222	-7.792	2012	South America
Russia	10.877		2012	Europe
<u>Iran</u>	10.726	1.214	2012	Middle East
Algeria Algeria	9.900	-26.185	2012	Africa
<u>Uzbekistan</u>	8.636		2012	Asia
<u>Estonia</u>	8.498	2.511	2012	Europe
Equatorial Guinea	8.177	8.177	2012	Africa
Kuwait	7.290		2012	Middle East
Oman Oman	6.122		2012	Middle East
Saudi Arabia	3.622	-52.725	2012	Middle East
Brunei	2.406		2012	Southeast Asia
Andorra Andorra				Europe
<u>Aruba</u>				Central America/Caribbean

Country	Gross government debt as % of GDP (IMF)	Net government debt as % of GDP (IMF)[2]	Date	Region
Bangladesh				Asia
<u>Cuba</u>				Central America/Caribbean
Gibraltar				Europe
Korea, North				Asia
Libya	0	-95.035	2012	Africa
Papua New Guinea				Oceania
<u>San Marino</u>				Europe
Sri Lanka				Asia
Syria Syria				Middle East
Wallis and Futuna				Oceania
World				

13. COUNTRY COMPARISON – INFLATION RATE COMPARES THE ANNUAL % CHANGE IN CONSUMER PRICES WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S CONSUMER PRICES (MOSTLY 2013 EST.) - CIA - WORLD FACTBOOK

Is a low level of inflation good for the economy or bad? What about a deflation of a few percents? If a country has a high level of indebtedness a high inflation rate will erode most of the debt. The economists have a large gamut of ideas on this issue, but the majority believes that a low level of inflation is beneficial for the economy. So, how can we explain that Greece has a negative figure or a deflation of 0.8%. The answer should be found in the recession of its economy as in many other economies in the last few years. All the most ethical countries have a very low level of inflation, but in comparison to all the other countries it is quite high, as the Netherlands with the "highest" inflation rate of the most ethical countries – 2.5% is ranked no. 93, as 92 countries have a much lower rate. The other countries of the group are: 90. Singapore – 2.4, 89. Australia – 2.4, 76. Finland – 2.2, 66. Norway – 1.9, 62. Luxembourg – 1.8, 37. New Zealand – 1.3, 22. Canada – 1.0, 18. Denmark – 0.8, 7. Sweden – 0.0, 6. Switzerland - -0.4 or a deflation of 0.4%. But, effectively, there is no difference in the level of inflation of all the group of the most ethical countries, and if a low inflation is a good indicator, here again Ethics Pays and the price level of those countries remain stable.

If we compare the ethical countries to the unethical countries with corrupt regimes, we find that the most corrupt/corrupt countries have also the highest level of inflation: Syria – 59.1%, Venezuela – 56.2, Iran – 42.3, Sudan – 25.0, Argentina – 20.8, Belarus – 19.0, India – 9.6, Egypt – 9.0, and so on. The inflation rate of the second tier of ethical countries is very low – 40. United States – 1.5, 42. European Union – 1.5, Germany – 1.6, Belgium – 1.3, Japan – 0.2, Ireland – 0.6, United Kingdom – 2.0, Barbados – 2.1, but Iceland has a much higher inflation of 3.9 and Hong Kong – 4.4. As a rule, in general, most ethical countries have a very low level of inflation, while the most corrupt countries have a very high level of inflation.

1	Northern Ma	ariana l	Islands	-2.70
2	Aruba	-2.00		
3	Greece	-0.80		
4	Liechtenste	ein	-0.70	
5	Georgia	-0.50		
6	Switzerland	l	<i>-0.40</i>	
<u>6</u> <u>7</u> 8	Sweden	0.00		
8	Mali	0.10		
9	Cyprus	0.20		
10	Bosnia and	l Herze	govina	0.20
11	Kiribati	0.20	0	
12	Latvia	0.20		
13	Japan	0.20		
14	Portugal	0.40		
15	Ireland	0.60		
16	Ukraine	0.70		
17	Senegal	0.80		
<i>18</i>	Denmark		0.80	
19	Puerto Ric	0	0.90	
20	El Salvado	r	0.90	
21	France	0.90		
22	Canada	1.00		
23	Poland	1.00		

24	Brunei 1.00			
25	Malta 1.00			
26	Bahamas, The	1.00		
27	Taiwan 1.10			
28	French Polynesia	1.10		
29	Andorra 1.10			
30	Korea, South	1.10		
31	Italy 1.20			
32	Lithuania	1.20		
33	Gabon 1.20			
34	Falkland Islands (I	slas Malv	inas)	1.20
35	United Arab Emira	ates	1.30	
36	Belgium 1.30			
<i>37</i>	New Zealand	<i>1.30</i>		
38	Belize 1.30			
39	Czech Republic	1.40		
40	United States	1.50		
41	Bulgaria 1.50			
42	European Union	1.50		
43	Monaco 1.50			
44	Germany	1.60		
45	British Virgin Islaı	nds	1.60	
46	Oman 1.60			
47	West Bank	1.70		
48	South Sudan	1.70		
49	New Caledonia	1.70		
50	Slovakia 1.70			
51	Congo, Republic of	f the	1.70	
52	Chile 1.70			
53	Gaza Strip	1.70		
54	Albania 1.70			
55	Israel 1.70			
56	Bermuda	1.80		
57	Cayman Islands	1.80		
58	Dominica	1.80		
59	Slovenia 1.80			
60	Spain 1.80			
61	Kosovo 1.80			
<i>62</i>	Luxembourg	1.80		
63	Cabo Verde	1.90		
64	Vanuatu 1.90			
65	Hungary	1.90		
<i>66</i>	Norway 1.90			
67	Guinea-Bissau	1.90		
68	Niger 1.90			
69	Tonga 2.00			
70	Iraq 2.00			
71	United Kingdom	2.00		
72	Barbados	2.10		
73	Burkina Faso	2.10		

74	Austria 2.10			
75	Malaysia	2.20		
<u>76</u>	Finland 2.20			
77	Virgin Islands	2.20		
78	Togo 2.20			
79	Thailand	2.20		
80	Serbia 2.20			
81	Saint Kitts and Nev	is	2.20	
82	Croatia 2.20			
83	Cook Islands	2.20		
84	Colombia	2.20		
85	Faroe Islands	2.30		
86	Paraguay	2.30		
87	Grenada 2.40			
88	Benin 2.40			
<u>89</u>	Australia	<i>2.40</i>		
<u>90</u>	Singapore	<i>2.40</i>		
91	Azerbaijan	2.40		
92	Comoros	2.50		
<i>93</i>	Netherlands	<i>2.50</i>		
94	Turks and Caicos Is	slands	2.50	
95	Morocco 2.50			
96	Djibouti 2.50			
97	Cameroon	2.60		
98	Solomon Islands	2.60		
99	Ecuador 2.60			
100	China 2.60			
101	Palau 2.70			
102	Samoa 2.70			
103	Macedonia	2.80		
104	Kuwait 2.80			
105	Wallis and Futuna		2.80	
106	San Marino	2.80		
107	Greenland	2.80		
108	Gibraltar	2.80		
109	Saint Vincent and t		dines	2.80
110	Philippines	2.80		
111	Peru 2.90			
112	Cote d'Ivoire	2.90		
113	Fiji 3.00			
114	Antigua and Barbu	da	3.00	
115	Qatar 3.10			
116	Bahrain 3.10			
117	Anguilla 3.10			
118	Curacao 3.20			
119	Cambodia	3.20		
120	Romania	3.20		
121	Libya 3.20			
122	Micronesia, Federa		of	3.40
123	Guernsey	3.40		

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124
        Estonia
                   3.40
125
        Mauritius
                            3.50
126
        Jersey
                   3.70
127
        Tajikistan
                            3.70
128
                            3.70
        Saudi Arabia
129
        Tuvalu
                   3.80
130
        Papua New Guinea
                                    3.80
131
        Guyana
                   3.90
132
                   3.90
        Algeria
133
                   3.90
        Iceland
134
        Saint Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha
                                                              4.00
135
        Sint Maarten
                            4.00
136
        Mexico
                   4.00
137
                            4.00
        Montenegro
138
                   4.00
        Niue
139
        Guam
                   4.00
140
        Panama
                   4.10
141
                            4.20
        Suriname
142
        Seychelles
                            4.30
143
        Mozambique
                            4.40
144
        Hong Kong
                            4.40
145
        Guatemala
                            4.40
                            4.50
146
        Montserrat
147
        Saint Pierre and Miquelon
                                    4.50
148
        Chad
                   4.50
149
                            4.50
        Timor-Leste
150
                            4.60
        Mauritania
151
                   4.60
        Moldova
152
        Sri Lanka
                            4.70
153
                   5.00
        Lebanon
154
        Lesotho
                   5.00
155
        Isle of Man
                            5.00
156
        Dominican Republic
                                    5.00
157
        Maldives
                            5.10
158
        Honduras
                            5.20
                   5.20
159
        Liberia
160
        Saint Lucia
                            5.30
                                    5.40
161
        Trinidad and Tobago
162
        Namibia
                   5.50
163
        Macau
                   5.50
164
        Costa Rica
                            5.60
165
                   5.70
        Burma
                            5.70
166
        Nicaragua
167
        South Africa
                            5.80
168
        Kazakhstan
                            5.80
169
                   5.80
        Kenva
170
        Jordan
                   5.90
171
        Rwanda
                   5.90
172
                   6.00
        Cuba
173
        Equatorial Guinea
                                    6.00
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174	Gambia, T	he	6.00		
175	Swaziland		6.10		
176	Tunisia	6.10			
177	Botswana		6.10		
178	Uganda	6.20			
179	Armenia	6.20			
180	Brazil	6.20			
181	Haiti	6.30			
182	Bolivia	6.50			
183	Laos	6.50			
184	Russia	6.80			
185	Afghanista	n	6.80		
186	Kyrgyzstan		6.80		
187	Vietnam	6.80			
188	Central Afr	rican Rei	oublic	7.00	
189	Zambia	7.10			
190	Congo, Der		Republic	of the	7.10
191	Bangladesh		7.60		
192	Turkey	7.60			
193	Indonesia	7.00	7.70		
194	Pakistan	7.70	7.70		
195	Tanzania	7.70	7.80		
196	Mongolia		8.20		
197	Uruguay	8.30	0.20		
198	Ethiopia	8.40			
199	Zimbabwe	0.10	8.50		
200	Sao Tome a	and Prine		8.70	
201	Nigeria Nigeria	8.70	cipe	0.70	
202	Madagasca		8.80		
203	Angola	8.90	0.00		
204	Turkmenis		9.00		
205	Egypt	9.00	7.00		
206	Burundi	9.30			
207	Jamaica	9.40			
208	India	9.60			
209	Uzbekistan		10.10		
210	Bhutan	11.00	10.10		
211		11.00			
212	Sierra Leoi		11.10		
213	Yemen	11.80	11.10		
214		11.90			
215	Marshall Is		12.90		
213 216	Eritrea	13.00	12.90		
217	Belarus	19.00			
		19.00	20.80		
218 219	Argentina Sudan	25.00	∠ U.0U		
220		26.90 42.30			
221 222		42.30	56.20		
	Venezuela Syria	5 0 10	56.20		
223	Syria	59.10			

14. COUNTRY COMPARISON – CENTRAL BANK DISCOUNT RATE COMPARES THE ANNUALIZED INTEREST RATE A COUNTRY'S CENTRAL BANK CHARGES COMMERCIAL DEPOSITORY BANKS FOR LOANS TO MEET TEMPORARY FUNDS' SHORTAGES (MOSTLY 2007-2012) - CIA - WORLD FACTBOOK

Central Banks have opted since the Great Recession to set their discount rates to absurd levels of nearly zero, thus ofering loans at no cost, in order to "boost" the economy, but also to ruin the savings of old people and of consciencious citizens, to inflate the real estate and stock markets with unrealistic demands, to encourage speculation, and as always – to favor the very rich, the bankrupt banks and the unscrupulous companies, which in many cases make huge haircuts to the loans they take from the public. So, it is quite hard to say that the most ethical countries which have very low discount rates behave ethically or not in this respect. However, it is quite understandable that they have to comply to what the other developed countries do, otherwise it would disturb their whole economy with huge speculations against the countries that would set an economic and reasonable discount rate of about 5%, in real terms, which is probably the true price of money. Almost all the most ethical countries have very low discount rates, ranked as follows: 140. Canada – 0.25% (almost the lowest, just before Czech Republic and Oman with 0.05%), 138. Sweden – 0.5%, 133. Denmark – 0.75%, 132. Switzerland - 0.75%, 123. Finland - 1.5%, 120. Luxembourg - 1.5%, 118. Netherlands -1.5%, 115. Norway – 1.75%. Only two most ethical countries have much higher rates: 82. Australia – 4.35%, 70. New Zealand – 5.0%, but this was the rate for 2008-2010, and since then they had to cut rates substantially in order to avoid speculations against their currencies.

Most of the developed countries have very low rates – the other countries in the 20 first ranks of TI ethical index: Belgium – 1.5, United Kingdom – 0.5, Hong Kong – 0.5, US – 0.5, Japan – 0.3, Germany – 1.5, Ireland – 1.5, European Union – 0.5, but Iceland – 5.7 and Barbados – 7.0. The other countries that are quite ethical: Spain – 1.5, France – 1.75, Israel – 1.75 (but in 2015 it is 0.1), South Korea – 2.75, and higher rates for Poland – 4.0, Qatar – 4.93, etc. The unethical countries: Greece with its shaky economy - a rate of 1.5, Italy – 0.75, China – 2.25, Romania – 5.25, Mexico – 4.5, Bangladesh – 5.0, Iraq – 6.0, Nigeria – 6.0, Indonesia – 6.46, South Africa – 7.0, India – 8.0, Russia – 8.0, Egypt – 8.68, Botswana – 10.0, Brazil – 11, Ukraine – 11.97, Burma – 12, Pakistan – 14, Vietnam – 15, Turkey – 15. And the countries with the highest rates: Congo DR – 20, Venezuela – 29.5, Angola – 30, and Zimbabwe– 975!

1 **Zimbabwe** 975.00 2 Angola 30.00 3 Venezuela 29.50 4 **Sao Tome and Principe** 28.00 5 Costa Rica 23.00 6 Guinea 22.25 7 Congo, Democratic Republic of the 20.00 8 Ghana **17.00** 9 **Turkey** 15.00 10 Malawi 15.00 Vietnam 15.00 11 **12** Zambia 14.49 13 **Pakistan** 14.00 14 Belarus 13.50

15	Mongolia		12.25		
16	Belize	12.00			
17	Burma	12.00			
18	Mauritania	ì	12.00		
19	Namibia	12.00			
20	Ukraine	11.97			
21	Serbia	11.75			
22	Rwanda	11.25			
23	Gambia, T	he	11.00		
24	Brazil	11.00			
25	Lesotho	10.00			
26	Lebanon	10.00			
27	Botswana		10.00		
28	Burundi	10.00			
29	Uganda	9.65			
30	Uruguay	8.75			
31	Egypt	8.68			
32	Ecuador	8.68			
33	Russia	8.00			
34	India	8.00			
35	Sri Lanka		7.50		
36	Cabo Verd	e	7.50		
37	Kazakhsta		7.50		
38	Trinidad a			7.25	
39	Armenia	7.25	5 -		
40	Barbados		7.00		
41	Hungary		7.00		
42	Croatia	7.00			
43	South Afric	ca	7.00		
44	Maldives		6.96		
45	Papua New	Guinea		6.92	
46	Saint Vince		he Grena	dines	6.50
47	Grenada	6.50			
48	Montserrat	t	6.50		
49	Saint Lucia	ì	6.50		
50	Tajikistan		6.50		
51	Dominica		6.50		
52	Swaziland		6.50		
53	Antigua an	d Barbu	da	6.50	
54	Nepal	6.50			
55	Anguilla	6.50			
56	Saint Kitts	and Nev	is	6.50	
57	Indonesia		6.46		
58	Vanuatu	6.00			
59	Nigeria	6.00			
60	Iraq	6.00			
61	Paraguay		6.00		
62	Iceland	5.75			
63	Philippines		5.60		
64	Cambodia		5.25		

65	Azerbaija	n	5.25	
66	Romania		5.25	
67	Georgia	5.25		
68	Peru	5.05		
69	Banglades	sh	5.00	
<u>70</u>	New Zeala		5.00	
71	Syria	5.00		
72	Colombia		5.00	
73	Qatar	4.93		
74	Niger	4.75		
75	Congo, Re	epublic o	f the	4.75
76	Chad	4.75		
77	Guinea-Bi	issau	4.75	
78	Central A	frican R	epublic	4.75
79	Moldova	4.50		
80	Bahamas,	The	4.50	
81	Mexico	4.50		
<u>82</u>	Australia		<i>4.35</i>	
83	Burkina F	aso	4.25	
84	Equatoria	l Guinea	1	4.25
85	Mali	4.25		
86	Gabon	4.25		
87	Guyana	4.25		
88	Cote d'Ivo	oire	4.25	
89	Senegal	4.25		
90	Togo	4.25		
91	Benin	4.25		
92	Poland	4.00		
93	Algeria	4.00		
94	Laos	4.00		
95	Bolivia	4.00		
96	Albania	4.00		
97	Macedoni	a	3.75	
98	Tanzania		3.70	
99	Latvia	3.50		
100	Morocco	3.31		
101	Mozambio	que	3.25	
102	Thailand	-	3.25	
103	Aruba	3.00		
104	Libya	3.00		
105	Fiji	3.00		
106	Kuwait	3.00		
107	Malaysia		2.83	
108	Korea, So	uth	2.75	
109	Kyrgyzsta		2.50	
110	China	2.25		
111	Comoros		2.21	
112	Lithuania		2.06	
113	Taiwan	1.88		
114	France	1.75		

<i>115</i>	Norway 1.75	
116	Slovakia 1.75	
117	Israel 1.75	
<i>118</i>	Netherlands	1.50
119	Malta 1.50	
<u>120</u>	Luxembourg	1.50
121	Greece 1.50	
122	Germany	1.50
<i>123</i>	Finland 1.50	
124	Ireland 1.50	
125	European Union	1.50
126	Cyprus 1.50	
127	Belgium 1.50	
128	Spain 1.50	
129	Slovenia 1.50	
130	Portugal 1.50	
131	Italy 0.75	
<i>132</i>	Switzerland	0.75
<i>133</i>	Denmark	<i>0.75</i>
134	United Kingdom	0.50
135	Chile 0.50	
136	Hong Kong	0.50
137	United States	0.50
<i>138</i>	Sweden 0.50	
139	Japan 0.30	
<i>140</i>	Canada 0.25	
141	Bulgaria 0.22	
142	Czech Republic	0.05
143	Oman 0.05	

15. COUNTRY COMPARISON – COMMERCIAL BANK PRIME LENDING RATE COMPARES A SIMPLE AVERAGE OF ANNUALIZED INTEREST RATES COMMERCIAL BANKS CHARGE ON NEW LOANS FOR THEIR MOST CREDITWORTHY CUSTOMERS (MOSTLY 2012 ES.) - CIA - WORLD FACTBOOK

Commercial Bank prime lending rates for the most ethical countries are among the lowest in the world: 174. Finland – 2.06 (almost last), 172. Netherlands – 2.65, 171. Switzerland – 2.69, 169. Canada – 3.0, 163. Sweden – 3.57, 162. Denmark – 3.6, 160. Norway – 3.7, 145. Singapore – 5.38, 135. New Zealand – 5.82, 120. Australia – 6.98. One could investigate if the difference between the Central Bank discount rates and the Commercial Bank prime lending rates are the minimal in the most ethical countries, if the financial risks that the banks take in the most ethical countries are minimal, etc., but this is beyond the scope of this book. What we can do is compare the commercial bank rates to other ethical countries which are also very low: Japan – 1.48, Germany – 3.07, US – 3.25, Ireland – 3.55, Belgium – 3.62, United Kingdom – 4.22, Hong Kong – 5.0. Other rates worth mentioning are: France – 3.44, Israel – 5.16, Italy – 5.22, China – 6.0, Portugal (TI index – 31) – 6.37, Greece – 7.33, European Union- 7.52, Iceland – 8.33. And also the very high rates of the unethical countries: Madagascar – 56, Brazil – 37, Malawi – 32, Zimbabwe – 30, Paraguay – 29, Congo DR – 28, Uganda – 26, Yemen – 23, Sierra Leone – 21, Turkey – 19, Ukraine – 18, Angola, Nigeria – 17, Venezuela – 16, Argentina – 14, Vietnam, Bangladesh – 13, Iran, India – 11, Russia – 9%.

Madagasca	ar	56.25		
Brazil	36.64			
Malawi	32.40			
Zimbabwe	<u> </u>	30.00		
Paraguay		29.10		
Congo, De	mocratic	Republic of the 28.4		28.45
Kyrgyzstai	n	28.43		
Gambia, T	'he	28.00		
Guinea	27.00			
Uganda	26.31			
Sao Tome	and Prin	cipe	26.00	
Yemen	23.00	•		
Ghana	22.80			
Laos	22.30			
Georgia	22.08			
Sierra Leo	ne	21.00		
Belarus	19.49			
Peru	19.23			
Turkey	19.00			
Azerbaijar	1	18.50		
Honduras		18.45		
Ukraine	18.39			
Mongolia		18.20		
Jamaica	17.63			
Rwanda	17.50			
Armenia	17.23			
Tajikistan		17.13		
•	a	17.00		
	Brazil Malawi Zimbabwe Paraguay Congo, De Kyrgyzstar Gambia, T Guinea Uganda Sao Tome Yemen Ghana Laos Georgia Sierra Leo Belarus Peru Turkey Azerbaijar Honduras Ukraine Mongolia Jamaica Rwanda Armenia Tajikistan	Malawi 32.40 Zimbabwe Paraguay Congo, Democratic Kyrgyzstan Gambia, The Guinea 27.00 Uganda 26.31 Sao Tome and Prin Yemen 23.00 Ghana 22.80 Laos 22.30 Georgia 22.08 Sierra Leone Belarus 19.49 Peru 19.23 Turkey 19.00 Azerbaijan Honduras Ukraine 18.39 Mongolia Jamaica 17.63 Rwanda 17.50 Armenia 17.23	Brazil 36.64 Malawi 32.40 Zimbabwe 30.00 Paraguay 29.10 Congo, Democratic Republic Kyrgyzstan 28.43 Gambia, The 28.00 Guinea 27.00 Uganda 26.31 Sao Tome and Principe Yemen 23.00 Ghana 22.80 Laos 22.30 Georgia 22.08 Sierra Leone 21.00 Belarus 19.49 Peru 19.23 Turkey 19.00 Azerbaijan 18.50 Honduras 18.45 Ukraine 18.39 Mongolia 18.20 Jamaica 17.63 Rwanda 17.50 Armenia 17.23 Tajikistan 17.13	Brazil 36.64 Malawi 32.40 Zimbabwe 30.00 Paraguay 29.10 Congo, Democratic Republic of the Kyrgyzstan 28.43 Gambia, The 28.00 Guinea 27.00 Uganda 26.31 Sao Tome and Principe 26.00 Yemen 23.00 Ghana 22.80 Laos 22.30 Georgia 22.08 Sierra Leone 21.00 Belarus 19.49 Peru 19.23 Turkey 19.00 Azerbaijan 18.50 Honduras 18.45 Ukraine 18.39 Mongolia 18.20 Jamaica 17.63 Rwanda 17.50 Armenia 17.23 Tajikistan 17.13

29	Angola 16.81			
30	Mozambique	16.81		
31	Nigeria 16.79			
32	Venezuela	16.38		
33	Chad 15.50			
34	Dominican Repub	lic	15.48	
35	Tanzania	15.46		
36	Afghanistan	15.15		
37	Central African R	epublic	15.00	
38	Equatorial Guinea	_	15.00	
39	Gabon 15.00			
40	Guinea-Bissau	15.00		
41	Serbia 14.99			
42	Congo, Republic o	f the	14.80	
43	Ethiopia 14.50			
44	Sri Lanka	14.40		
45	Micronesia, Feder	ated Stat	es of	14.35
46	Burundi 14.32		. 5 01	
47	Senegal 14.30			
48	Argentina	14.06		
49	Cameroon	14.00		
50	Bhutan 14.00	1		
51	Guyana 13.86			
52 52	Kosovo 13.70			
53	Liberia 13.52			
54	Guatemala	13.49		
5 5	Vietnam 13.47	13,47		
56	Moldova 13.34			
57	Burma 13.00			
58	Bangladesh	13.00		
59	Cambodia	12.98		
60	Pakistan 12.41	12.70		
61	Belize 12.40			
62	Timor-Leste	12.21		
63	Seychelles	12.21		
64	Zambia 12.15	14,19		
65	Djibouti 12.00			
66	v			
67	Egypt 12.00 Indonesia	11 00		
	Suriname	11.80		
68		11.73		
69 70	Syria 11.70	11 40		
70 71	Romania	11.49		
71 72	Solomon Islands	11.28		
72 73	Uruguay 11.20	11 00		
73 74	Botswana 11.00	11.00		
74 75	Iran 11.00	_	10.03	
75 76	Papua New Guines	d	10.82	
76	India 10.63			
77 79	Bolivia 10.60	10 50		
78	Comoros	10.50		

```
79
        Tonga
                   10.36
80
        Albania
                   10.28
81
        Maldives
                            10.20
82
        Antigua and Barbuda
                                    10.13
83
        Lesotho
                   10.12
84
        Chile
                   10.06
85
        Cabo Verde
                            9.92
86
        Samoa
                    9.86
87
        Grenada
                    9.75
88
                    9.72
        Bulgaria
89
                            9.53
        Montenegro
90
                            9.50
        Saint Lucia
91
        Croatia
                    9.48
92
        Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
                                             9.43
93
        Anguilla
                    9.38
94
        Mali
                    9.30
95
        Russia
                    9.10
96
                            9.03
        Dominica
97
        Hungary
                            9.02
98
        Jordan
                    8.95
99
        Haiti
                    8.93
100
        South Africa
                            8.75
101
        Swaziland
                            8.75
102
        Poland
                    8.73
103
        Saint Kitts and Nevis
                                     8.73
104
        Namibia
                    8.70
105
        Barbados
                            8.70
106
        Mauritius
                            8.67
107
        Aruba
                    8.40
108
                    8.33
        Iceland
109
        Ecuador
                    8.17
110
        Montserrat
                            8.16
111
        Algeria
                    8.00
112
        Nepal
                    8.00
113
        Trinidad and Tobago
                                     7.70
114
        European Union
                            7.52
115
        Greece
                    7.33
                    7.25
116
        Lebanon
                            7.10
117
        Thailand
118
        Cyprus
                    7.05
119
                    7.00
        Fiji
120
        Australia
121
        West Bank
                            6.97
122
        Panama
                    6.91
123
        Bosnia and Herzegovina
                                     6.80
124
        Macedonia
                            6.80
125
        Saudi Arabia
                            6.80
126
        Tunisia
                    6.76
127
                            6.60
        Kazakhstan
128
        Portugal
                    6.37
```

129	Morocco	6.30	
130	Bahrain	6.05	
131	Libya	6.00	
132	China	6.00	
133	Vanuatu	6.00	
134	Iraq	6.00	
135	New Zealar		5.82
136	Estonia	5 . 75	0.02
137	Slovenia	5.70	
138	Philippines		5.68
139	Oman	5.65	2.00
140	El Salvado		5.60
141	Latvia Latvia	5.52	2.00
142	Brunei	5.50	
143			5.41
143 144	Czech Rep		5.39
	Korea, Sou	lln	
<u>145</u>	<u>Singapore</u>		5.38
146	San Marin		5.38
147	Qatar	5.38	= •••
148	Lithuania		5.28
149	Macau	5.25	
150	Italy	5.22	
151	Israel	5.16	
152	Hong Kong	g	5.00
153	Kuwait	5.00	
154	Bahamas, '	The	4.75
155	Mexico	4.73	
156	Malaysia		4.70
157	United Kin	ıgdom	4.22
158	Niger	4.00	
159	Cote d'Ivo	ire	4.00
<i>160</i>	Norway	3.70	
161	Belgium	3.62	
162	Denmark	0.02	3.60
163	Sweden	3.57	0.00
164	Ireland	3.55	
165	Slovakia	3.47	
166	France	3.44	
167	United Sta		3.25
168	Germany	ics	3.07
	•	2 00	3.07
169 170	<u>Canada</u>	3.00	
170	Taiwan	2.88	2.00
<u>171</u>	Switzerland		2.69
<u>172</u>	<u>Netherland</u>		2.65
173	Austria	2.50	
<u>174</u>	<u>Finland</u>	2.06	
175	Japan	1.48	
176	Malta	0.75	

16. COUNTRY COMPARISON – MARKET VALUE OF PUBLIC TRADED SHARES – THE LATEST PRICE PER SHARE x THE TOTAL NUMBER OF OUTSTANDING SHARES (ON 31.12.2011 OR 31.12. 2012) - CIA - WORLD FACTBOOK

This parameter comprises two components – the economic size of the country and the value of the shares of the companies in its stock exchange. It is understandable that the United States, the largest economy in the world and the most sophisticated has the highest market value of its public traded shares, although if the United States would have been more ethical, especially in the financial market and Wall Street, the Great Recession would not occur and the value of the shares and the size of the companies would have been much larger. It is also understandable that China ranks number two with its huge population and economy, although it ranks only no. 100 in TI's index, and right after it Japan, once the larger market after the US, and now in the third rank. United Kingdom, France, Germany and Brazil (TI – 69) are also super economic powers and they deserve as such their high ranks in the 10 largest market value of their shares, and right after them the unethical countries with large economies and populations - India, Russia, Italy, Mexico, South Africa, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines...

But then, how can we explain that the relatively small (in population at least) but very ethical countries ranking mostly in the 11 first ranks of TI, but also in the next 15 ranks, have reached the highest economic performances with thriving financial markets and a very high value of shares in their stock exchanges: Hong Kong ranks 5, Canada – 6, Australia – 9, Switzerland – 14, Singapore – 18, Netherlands – 19, Sweden – 20, Chile (TI - 21) - 27, Norway – 28, Denmark – 31, Finland – 33, Qatar (TI - 26) - 36, Ireland – 38, Austria (TI - 23) - 40, New Zealand – 41, United Arab Emirates (TI - 25) - 42, and finally Luxembourg – 43. In the first 43 countries rank 22 out of the 26 most ethical countries in the world and the other 21 are very large economies or oil-rich countries as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and quite ethical countries as South Korea (TI - 43), Spain and Israel (TI - 37), Poland and Taiwan (TI - 35).

1	United States \$ 15,640,000,000,000
2	China \$ 5,753,000,000,000
3	Japan \$ 3,541,000,000,000
4	United Kingdom \$ 2,903,000,000,000
5	Hong Kong \$ 2,814,000,000,000
6	Canada \$ 1,907,000,000,000
7	France \$ 1,538,000,000,000
8	Brazil \$ 1,229,000,000,000
9	Australia \$ 1,198,000,000,000
10	Germany \$ 1,184,000,000,000
11	Korea, South \$ 1,078,000,000,000
12	Spain \$ 1,031,000,000,000
13	India \$ 1,015,000,000,000
<u>14</u>	Switzerland \$ 932,200,000,000
15	South Africa \$ 855,700,000,000
16	Russia \$ 796,400,000,000
17	Taiwan \$ 784,100,000,000
<i>18</i>	Singapore \$ 709,400,000,000
<u> 19</u>	Netherlands \$ 651,000,000,000
20	Sweden \$ 470,100,000,000
21	Italy \$ 431,500,000,000

```
22
                     408,700,000,000
        Mexico $
23
        Malaysia
                              395,100,000,000
                          $
24
        Indonesia
                              390,100,000,000
25
                          $
                              383,000,000,000
        Thailand
26
        Saudi Arabia
                          $
                              338,900,000,000
27
        Chile
                 $
                     270,300,000,000
28
        Norway $
                     219,200,000,000
<del>29</del>
        Turkey $
                     201.800.000.000
30
        Philippines
                          $
                              198,400,000,000
31
        Denmark
                              179,500,000,000
32
                     145,000,000,000
        Israel
                 $
33
        Finland $
                     143,100,000,000
34
        Iran
                     140,800,000,000
35
                 $
        Poland
                     138,200,000,000
36
        Qatar
                     125,400,000,000
37
        Peru
                 $
                     121,600,000,000
        Ireland $
38
                     108,100,000,000
39
        Kuwait $
                     100,900,000,000
40
        Austria $
                     82,370,000,000
41
        New Zealand
                          $
                              71.660.000.000
42
        United Arab Emirates
                                   $
                                       71,330,000,000
43
        Luxembourg
                         $
                              67.630.000.000
44
                      61,690,000,000
        Portugal$
45
                      60,090,000,000
        Morocco$
46
        Czech Republic $
                              59,880,000,000
47
                      58,010,000,000
        Egypt
48
                      46,100,000,000
        Macau
49
                          $
                              43,580,000,000
        Argentina
50
        Kazakhstan
                          $
                              43,300,000,000
51
                      39,270,000,000
        Nigeria $
52
                      33,650,000,000
        Greece $
53
        Romania
                              31,710,000,000
54
        Jordan $
                      27,180,000,000
55
        Vietnam $
                      26,000,000,000
56
        Ukraine $
                      25,560,000,000
57
        Croatia $
                      23,240,000,000
58
                              22,800,000,000
        Hungary
59
        Oman
                      19,720,000,000
60
                              17,480,000,000
        Bangladesh
61
        Bahrain $
                      17,150,000,000
62
        Sri Lanka
                              17,050,000,000
63
                                       14,730,000,000
        Trinidad and Tobago
64
                              10,900,000,000
        Zimbabwe
                          $
65
        Panama $
                      10,680,000,000
66
        Lebanon$
                      10.160.000.000
67
                      9,662,000,000
        Tunisia $
68
        Papua New Guinea
                                        8,999,000,000
69
        Bulgaria$
                      8,253,000,000
70
                      7,727,000,000
        Uganda $
71
        Bolivia $
                      7,689,000,000
```

```
72
                          $
        Mauritius
                               7,667,000,000
                      7,451,000,000
73
        Serbia
74
        Jamaica $
                      7,223,000,000
75
        Slovenia $
                      6,310,000,000
76
                      5,779,000,000
        Ecuador $
77
        El Salvador
                          $
                              5,474,000,000
78
                          $
                               5,143,000,000
        Venezuela
                          $
79
        Botswana
                              4,107,000,000
80
        Lithuania
                               4,075,000,000
81
        Zambia $
                      4,009,000,000
82
        Nepal
                      3,849,000,000
83
                 $
        Malta
                      3,424,000,000
84
                               3,322,000,000
        Montenegro
85
        Ghana $
                      3,097,000,000
86
        Cyprus $
                      2,853,000,000
87
        Iraq
                      2,600,000,000
88
        West Bank
                          $
                               2,532,000,000
89
        Macedonia
                               2,423,000,000
90
        Iceland $
                      2,021,000,000
91
        Estonia $
                      1,611,000,000
92
                               1,579,000,000
        Mongolia
                          $
                          $
93
        Tanzania
                               1,539,000,000
                          $
94
                               1,443,000,000
        Costa Rica
95
        Bermuda
                               1,436,000,000
96
        Malawi $
                      1,384,000,000
97
        Namibia $
                      1,152,000,000
98
        Latvia $
                      1,076,000,000
99
                          $
                               958,100,000
        Paraguay
100
        Uzbekistan
                          $
                               715,300,000
101
                                        598,400,000
        Saint Kitts and Nevis
                                  $
102
        Guyana $
                       440,400,000
103
        Fiji
                       392,200,000
        Bhutan $
104
                       283,400,000
105
        Swaziland
                               203,100,000
106
        Cayman Islands $
                               183,500,000
                       174,600,000
107
        Uruguay$
108
        Kyrgyzstan
                               165,000,000
        Armenia$
                       139,600,000
109
```

51,460,000

110

Moldova\$

17. COUNTRY COMPARISON – CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE – NET TRADE IN GOODS & SERVICES + NET EARNINGS & NET TRANSFER PAYMENTS TO AND FROM OTHER COUNTRIES (2013 EST.) - CIA - WORLD FACTBOOK

A very high current account balance is an excellent indicator of a sound economy, but can be influenced also as in this table up to rank 37 by a very high focus on exports based on vey low salaries, such as in China, Taiwan, South Korea, Malaysia, Vietnam, and also by the high price of oil for oil-rich countries, such as Saudi Arabia, Russia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Nigeria, Iraq, Oman, Algeria, Brunei, Venezuela and Libya. Out of the 17 most ethical countries most of them (11) reach the highest ranks in this indicator with high salaries and no oil (except Norway) up to rank 37, which shows a very sound and sustainable economy - Germany, Norway, Netherlands, Switzerland, Japan, Singapore, Sweden, Denmark, Ireland, Hong Kong and Luxembourg. But in this indicator, for the first time in this survey, we find that in spite of their superior ethics many countries (7 of the first 20 most ethical countries) receive the worst scores in this indicator: 144. Finland - -2B (a deficit of 2 billion US\$), 173. New Zealand - -8.4B, 175. Belgium - -9.1B, (185. European Union - -34.5B), 186. Australia - -44.9B, 189. Canada - -59.5B, 192. United Kingdom - -93.6B, and the worst of all the countries in the world... 193. United States - -360.7B! They share these dubious ranks with the unethical countries: Brazil, India, Turkey, Indonesia, South Africa, Mexico, Ukraine, Colombia, Peru, Morocco, Iran, Egypt, Syria... This is perhaps the exception that proves the rule that Ethics Pays, but it shows that some of the most ethical countries can fail in a very important indicator, as it is highly unsustainable to rely on the fact that in the long run a country can subside in a very negative current account and still be a very sound economy and a very ethical one. We could even say that it is highly unethical to rely on others in the long run that would foot the bill of the highly irresponsible policy of having a huge deficit in the current account just because countries like the US or the UK can print money in global currencies as the dollar or the sterling to finance their huge deficits.

1	Germany \$ 257,100,000,000
2	China \$ 182,800,000,000
3	Saudi Arabia \$ 132,200,000,000
4	Russia \$ 74,800,000,000
5	Kuwait \$ 69,130,000,000
6	Norway \$ 67,400,000,000
7	Netherlands \$ 65,870,000,000
8	Switzerland \$ 65,600,000,000
9	Taiwan \$ 56,660,000,000
10	Japan \$ 56,600,000,000
11	Korea, South \$ 55,690,000,000
<i>12</i>	Singapore \$ 54,400,000,000
13	United Arab Emirates \$ 52,670,000,000
14	Qatar \$ 47,560,000,000
<u>15</u>	Sweden \$ 39,000,000,000
16	Denmark \$ 19,600,000,000
17	Macau \$ 18,690,000,000
18	Malaysia \$ 16,670,000,000
19	Nigeria \$ 16,160,000,000
20	Azerbaijan \$ 13,280,000,000
21	Iraq \$ 12,850,000,000

700

```
22
        Angola $
                      10,690,000,000
23
        Austria $
                      10,600,000,000
24
        Vietnam $
                      8,162,000,000
25
        Philippines
                               7,512,000,000
                          $
26
        Ireland $
                      7,300,000,000
27
        Oman
                      7,249,000,000
28
                      6,697,000,000
        Algeria $
29
        Hong Kong
                               5,614,000,000
30
        Israel
                      5,259,000,000
                 $
31
        Brunei
                      3,977,000,000
32
                               3,541,000,000
        Bangladesh
33
        Slovakia $
                      3,315,000,000
34
        Venezuela
                               3,195,000,000
35
        Slovenia $
                      2,954,000,000
36
                      2,727,000,000
        Libya
37
        Luxembourg
                               2,700<u>,000</u>,000
38
                          $
        Timor-Leste
                               2,375,000,000
39
        Spain
                 $
                      2,100,000,000
40
        Greece
                      2,021,000,000
41
        Kazakhstan
                               1,965,000,000
42
        Bahrain $
                      1,907,000,000
43
        Uzbekistan
                               1,801,000,000
44
                      1,783,000,000
        Gabon $
45
                               1,722,000,000
        Hungary
46
        Paraguay
                          $
                               1,376,000,000
47
                          $
        Botswana
                               1,375,000,000
48
        Bolivia $
                      1,012,000,000
49
        Portugal$
                      1,000,000,000
50
        Nepal
                       648,000,000
51
                                         638,200,000
        Congo, Republic of the
                                   $
52
        Trinidad and Tobago
                                   $
                                         414,100,000
53
        Bhutan $
                       401,500,000
54
        British Virgin Islands
                                   $
                                         362,600,000
55
                       289,800,000
        Cuba
                 $
56
        Turkmenistan
                          $
                                285,900,000
                       133,100,000
57
                 $
        Malta
58
        Suriname
                                102,500,000
59
                          $
        Cook Islands
                                26,670,000
60
        Solomon Islands $
                                -1,200,000
61
        Swaziland
                                -1,500,000
62
        Tuvalu $
                       -7,700,000
                 $
                       -20,800,000
63
        Palau
64
                 $
                       -32,000,000
        Belize
65
        Micronesia, Federated States of
                                            $
                                                 -34,300,000
66
        Kiribati $
                       -35,010,000
67
                       -43,300,000
        Tonga
68
                                -45,200,000
        Comoros
69
        Guinea-Bissau
                          $
                                -47,300,000
70
                       -54,300,000
        Anguilla $
71
        Sao Tome and Principe
                                   $
                                         -59,000,000
```

701

```
72
        Samoa $
                       -76,110,000
73
        Dominica
                               -91,500,000
                          $
74
        Cabo Verde
                          $
                               -100,000,000
75
        Iceland $
                      -100,000,000
76
        Croatia $
                      -102,300,000
                      -118,000,000
77
        Vanuatu$
78
                                       -133,100,000
        Saint Kitts and Nevis
79
        Central African Republic $
                                       -133,800,000
80
                               -140,000,000
        Sevchelles
                          $
81
        Gambia, The
                               -163,700,000
82
        Antigua and Barbuda
                                       -164,800,000
                                  $
83
        Bulgaria$
                      -182,300,000
84
        Macedonia
                               -194,100,000
85
        Saint Vincent and the Grenadines $
                                                -207,700,000
86
        Eritrea $
                      -210,100,000
87
        Saint Lucia
                               -210,200,000
88
        Grenada$
                      -214,400,000
89
        Diibouti $
                      -219,500,000
90
        Barbados
                               -276,600,000
91
        Malawi $
                      -280,100,000
92
        Tajikistan
                               -330,000,000
93
        Estonia $
                      -352,300,000
94
        Togo
                      -355,100,000
                      -358,200,000
95
        Cyprus $
96
        Burkina Faso
                               -364,900,000
97
        Sierra Leone
                               -463,300,000
98
                 $
        Laos
                      -484,300,000
99
                 $
        Fiji
                      -492,300,000
100
        Burundi$
                      -492,500,000
101
        Moldova$
                      -507,700,000
102
                      -510,700,000
        Guyana $
103
        Lesotho $
                      -518,400,000
104
        Lithuania
                          $
                               -567,000,000
                          $
105
        Zimbabwe
                               -576,000,000
106
        Maldives
                               -600,000,000
                      -613,900,000
107
        Latvia $
        Cote d'Ivoire
                               -623,000,000
108
109
        Namibia $
                      -658,400,000
110
        Rwanda $
                      -667,900,000
111
                      -699,300,000
        Benin
112
        Armenia$
                      -720,600,000
                      -742,400,000
113
        Liberia $
                               -743,900,000
114
        Afghanistan
                          $
115
        Ecuador $
                      -827,100,000
116
        Chad
                      -827,100,000
                 $
                      -918,000,000
117
        Mali
        Kosovo $
                      -919,700,000
118
119
        Bosnia and Herzegovina
                                        -939,500,000
120
                          $
                              -1.099.000.000
        Mauritius
121
        Kyrgyzstan
                          $
                              -1,125,000,000
```

```
122
                          $
        Mauritania
                              -1,240,000,000
123
        Zambia $
                     -1,250,000,000
124
        Cambodia
                              -1,262,000,000
125
                 $
                     -1,278,000,000
        Haiti
126
        Albania $
                     -1,280,000,000
127
        Senegal $
                     -1,291,000,000
128
        El Salvador
                              -1,331,000,000
                          $
129
                              -1,372,000,000
        Bahamas, The
                     -1,375,000,000
130
        Georgia $
131
        Niger
                     -1,450,000,000
132
                              -1,461,000,000
        Cameroon
133
        Nicaragua
                              -1,578,000,000
134
        Jamaica $
                     -1,583,000,000
135
        Honduras
                              -1,636,000,000
136
                     -1,754,000,000
        Guinea $
137
        Serbia
                     -1,807,000,000
138
                              -1,822,000,000
        Guatemala
                     -1,908,000,000
139
        Uganda $
140
        Montenegro
                          $
                              -1,938,000,000
141
        Madagascar
                              -1,945,000,000
                     -1,980,000,000
142
        Sudan $
143
        Romania
                              -1,986,000,000
                     -2,000,000,000
144
        Finland $
145
        West Bank
                              -2,100,000,000
        Dominican Republic
146
                                  $
                                       -2,330,000,000
147
                     -2,360,000,000
        Pakistan $
148
                              -2,371,000,000
        Argentina
                          $
149
        Papua New Guinea
                                  $
                                       -2,396,000,000
150
        Italy
                     -2,400,000,000
                              -2,452,000,000
151
        Sri Lanka
                          $
152
        Congo, Democratic Republic of the $
                                               -2,544,000,000
        Burma $
153
                     -2,596,000,000
154
        Costa Rica
                          $
                              -2,673,000,000
                     -2,721,000,000
155
        Uruguav$
156
        Ethiopia $
                     -2,744,000,000
157
        Equatorial Guinea
                                       -2,916,000,000
                              -3,200,000,000
158
        Thailand
159
                      -3,224,000,000
        Lebanon$
                              -3,270,000,000
160
        Czech Republic $
161
                     -3,312,000,000
        Yemen $
162
        Mongolia
                          $
                              -3,639,000,000
                      -4,245,000,000
163
        Belarus $
164
                     -4,495,000,000
        Kenva
165
        Tunisia $
                     -4,556,000,000
166
        Jordan $
                     -4.766.000.000
167
        Tanzania
                              -4,857,000,000
                      -5,064,000,000
168
        Panama $
169
                     -5,149,000,000
        Ghana
170
        Svria
                      -5.879,000,000
        Mozambique
                              -5,884,000,000
171
```

172	Egypt \$ -6,035,000,000
<i>173</i>	New Zealand \$ -8,358,000,000
174	Iran \$ -8,659,000,000
175	Belgium \$ -9,100,000,000
176	Morocco\$ -9,595,000,000
177	Peru \$ -10,310,000,000
178	Chile \$ -10,970,000,000
179	Colombia \$ -11,020,000,000
180	Poland \$ -11,060,000,000
181	Ukraine \$ -11,920,000,000
182	Mexico \$ -14,180,000,000
183	South Africa \$ -23,780,000,000
184	Indonesia \$ -28,720,000,000
185	European Union \$ -34,490,000,000
<i>186</i>	Australia \$ -44,900,000,000
187	Turkey \$ -58,350,000,000
188	France \$ -58,970,000,000
<i>189</i>	Canada \$ -59,500,000,000
190	India \$ -74,790,000,000
191	Brazil \$ -77,630,000,000
192	United Kingdom \$ -93,600,000,000
193	United States \$ -360,700,000,000

18. COUNTRY COMPARISON – RESERVES OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND GOLD MOSTLY AT THE $31^{\rm ST}$ OF DECEMBER 2013 - CIA - WORLD FACTBOOK

Adequate reserves of foreign exchange and gold are an indicator of a sound economy. But the level of reserves is also influenced by the size of the economy as in the cases of the United States, Brazil and India, by very large exports such as in the cases of China, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan, or a high price of oil in oil-rich countries as Saudi Arabia, Russia, Algeria and Libya, regardless of the level of ethics of those countries. We find very ethical and small countries, such as Switzerland, Hong Kong, and Singapore, as well as much larger and ethical economies, like Germany and France (TI – 26), with very large reserves of foreign currencies, with most unethical countries such as Italy, Thailand and Mexico with large reserves as well. Very ethical countries as Denmark, Netherlands, Canada, Sweden, Norway and Australia have also large reserves of \$89-49B, United Kingdom - \$87B, even Israel has a huge reserve of \$81B but it has nothing to do with exports but rather with keeping an adequate exchange rate of the local currency considerations. New Zealand has reserves of \$20B, Finland has reserves of \$11B and Luxembourg – about \$1B. In general, we can say that the most ethical countries have a large amount of foreign exchange reserves which shows a sound economy.

1	China \$ 3,821,0	000,000,000
2	Japan \$ 1,268,0	00,000,000
3	European Union \$	863,800,000,000
4	Saudi Arabia \$	
5	Switzerland \$	
6		0,000,000
7	Taiwan \$ 414,50	0,000,000
8	Brazil \$ 378,30	0,000,000
9	Korea, South \$	341,800,000,000
10	Hong Kong \$	311,200,000,000
11	India \$ 295,00	0,000,000
<u>12</u>	Singapore \$	273,100,000,000
13	Germany \$	248,900,000,000
14		0,000,000
15	Algeria \$ 192,50	0,000,000
16	Italy \$ 181,70	0,000,000
17	Thailand \$	167,200,000,000
18	Mexico \$ 167,10	0,000,000
19	United States \$	150,200,000,000
20	Malaysia \$	139,400,000,000
21	Libya \$ 120,90	0,000,000
22	Turkey \$ 117,60	0,000,000
23	Poland \$ 107,80	0,000,000
24	Denmark \$	<i>89,500,000,000</i>
25	United Kingdom \$	87,480,000,000
26	Philippines \$	85,040,000,000
27	Indonesia \$	83,450,000,000
28	Israel \$ 80,740	0,000,000
<u> 29</u>	Netherlands \$	71,950,000,000
30	Iraq \$ 71,240	0,000,000
<u>31</u>		0,000,000

```
32
                 $
                      68,060,000,000
        Iran
33
        Peru
                     65,150,000,000
34
        United Arab Emirates
                                       58,040,000,000
35
        Czech Republic $
                              56,220,000,000
        Sweden $
36
                     52,230,000,000
37
        Lebanon$
                     51,950,000,000
38
                     51,860,000,000
        Norway $
39
                 $
                     50.590,000,000
        Spain
40
        Australia
                         $
                              48,800,000,000
41
        Romania
                          $
                              48,780,000,000
42
                          $
        South Africa
                              48,460,000,000
43
                      47,700,000,000
        Nigeria $
44
        Colombia
                              43,740,000,000
45
        Oatar
                      40,090,000,000
46
                     39,890,000,000
        Chile
47
        Hungary
                              38,490,000,000
48
        Angola $
                     37,940,000,000
49
        Kuwait $
                     34,350,000,000
50
        Argentina
                              33,650,000,000
51
        Vietnam $
                     32,490,000,000
52
        Belgium $
                      30,770,000,000
53
        Kazakhstan
                              29,340,000,000
54
        Austria $
                      27,210,000,000
55
                     22,660,000,000
        Portugal$
56
        Turkmenistan
                              22,350,000,000
57
                     21,950,000,000
        Ukraine $
58
        Venezuela
                              21,150,000,000
59
                     20,690,000,000
        Bulgaria$
60
        New Zealand
                              20,010,000,000
61
        Morocco$
                     19.160.000.000
62
                      17,700,000,000
        Oman
                 $
63
        Egypt
                      17,030,000,000
64
        Uzbekistan
                              17,000,000,000
65
        Uruguay$
                      16,320,000,000
66
        Macau $
                      16,150,000,000
67
        Serbia
                      15,870,000,000
68
        Bangladesh
                              15.740.000.000
69
        Bolivia $
                      14,430,000,000
70
                              13,080,000,000
        Azerbaijan
71
        Jordan $
                      11,830,000,000
72
        Croatia $
                     11,460,000,000
73
                      11,180,000,000
        Pakistan$
74
                      10,600,000,000
        Finland $
75
        Lithuania
                          $
                              10,370,000,000
76
        Trinidad and Tobago
                                       10,070,000,000
77
                      8,278,000,000
        Burma $
78
        Tunisia $
                      8,113,000,000
79
        Botswana
                               7,933,000,000
                          $
80
        Costa Rica
                               7,406,000,000
81
        Greece $
                      7,255,000,000
```

706

```
82
                      7,220,000,000
        Latvia
83
        Sri Lanka
                         $
                              7,200,000,000
84
        Guatemala
                          $
                              7,118,000,000
85
                      6,574,000,000
        Nepal
86
        Paraguay
                              6,336,000,000
87
        Ghana $
                      6,016,000,000
88
                              5,983,000,000
        Afghanistan
89
        Bahrain $
                      5,933,000,000
90
        Iceland $
                      5,604,000,000
91
        Kenya
                      5,541,000,000
92
        Yemen $
                      5,538,000,000
93
                              5,415,000,000
        Cambodia
94
        Congo, Republic of the
                                  $
                                       5,239,000,000
95
        Bosnia and Herzegovina
                                       5,002,000,000
96
                      4,993,000,000
        Cuba
97
        Belarus $
                      4,513,000,000
98
        Dominican Republic
                                       4,379,000,000
99
        Tanzania
                         $
                              4,343,000,000
100
        Cote d'Ivoire
                          $
                              4,085,000,000
101
                                       4,027,000,000
        Equatorial Guinea
102
        Uganda $
                      3,579,000,000
103
        Ethiopia $
                      3.382,000,000
                              3,353,000,000
104
        Cameroon
105
                      3,317,000,000
        Georgia $
106
        Mauritius
                              3,286,000,000
107
                              2,990,000,000
        Mozambique
108
        Papua New Guinea
                                       2,926,000,000
109
        El Salvador
                              2,855,000,000
110
        Zambia $
                      2,833,000,000
111
        Albania $
                      2,827,000,000
112
                      2,814,000,000
        Moldova$
113
        Macedonia
                              2,747,000,000
114
        Panama $
                      2,666,000,000
115
        Ecuador $
                      2,625,000,000
116
        Gabon $
                      2,470,000,000
117
        Honduras
                              2,414,000,000
118
        Namibia $
                      2,267,000,000
119
        Slovakia $
                      2,258,000,000
120
                              2,199,000,000
        Kyrgyzstan
121
        Senegal $
                      2,150,000,000
122
        Nicaragua
                              1,993,000,000
                      1,900,000,000
123
        Jamaica $
124
                      1,895,000,000
        Syria
125
        Armenia$
                      1,863,000,000
126
        Ireland $
                      1,707,000,000
127
        Congo, Democratic Republic of the $
                                                1,582,000,000
128
        Rwanda $
                      1,354,000,000
129
        Haiti
                 $
                      1,335,000,000
130
                 $
        Chad
                      1.304.000.000
131
                              1,249,000,000
        Madagascar
```

122	D 11 D
132	Burkina Faso \$ 1,115,000,000
133	Tajikistan \$ 1,072,000,000
134	Suriname \$ 1,008,000,000
<u>135</u>	Luxembourg \$ 991,000,000
136	Fiji \$ 963,700,000
137	Slovenia \$ 889,000,000
138	Lesotho \$ 857,900,000
139	Guyana \$ 854,700,000
140	Cyprus \$ 853,000,000
141	Laos \$ 845,400,000
142	Bahamas, The \$ 830,000,000
143	Swaziland \$ 801,400,000
144	Benin \$ 720,300,000
145	Barbados \$ 712,600,000
146	Togo \$ 531,400,000
147	Zimbabwe \$ 437,000,000
148	Cabo Verde \$ 426,200,000
149	Montenegro \$ 400,000,000
150	Malta \$ 377,000,000
151	Estonia \$ 372,300,000
152	Malawi \$ 364,200,000
153	Seychelles \$ 362,400,000
154	Maldives \$ 356,000,000
155	Burundi \$ 314,600,000
156	San Marino \$ 308,600,000
157	Belize \$ 273,000,000
158	Gambia, The \$ 251,200,000
159	Sudan \$ 202,200,000
160	Eritrea \$ 192,900,000
161	Guinea \$ 183,100,000
162	Vanuatu\$ 174,200,000
163	Samoa \$ 168,700,000
164	Tonga \$ 147,100,000
165	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines \$ 115,000,000
166	Dominica \$ 90,000,000
167	Micronesia, Federated States of \$ 75,060,000
168	Sao Tome and Principe \$ 46,600,000
169	Montserrat \$ 32,080,000

19. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT (2013 EST.) - LIST OF COUNTRIES BY HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX (HDI) - WIKIPEDIA - SOURCE: UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME'S - HDI IS A COMPARATIVE MEASURE OF LIFE EXPECTANCY, LITERACY, EDUCATION, STANDARDS OF LIVING AND QUALITY OF LIFE, MEASURING WELL-BEING & STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY - VERY HIGH, HIGH, MEDIUM AND LOW

SEE ALSO: NEWSWEEK'S WORLD'S BEST COUNTRIES – 2010 – MEASURING EDUCATION, HEALTH, QUALITY OF LIFE, ECONOMIC DYNAMISM AND POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT IN 100 COUNTRIES – TOP 30 COUNTRIES

SEE ALSO: INEQUALITY ADJUSTED HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX – IHDI – BASED ON 2013 AND 2011 ESTIMATES – THE IHDI IS THE ACTUAL LEVEL OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT INEQUALITY, WHILE THE HDI CAN BE VIEWED AS AN INDEX OF THE POTENTIAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT THAT COULD BE ACHIEVED IF THERE IS NO INEQUALITY. THE GREATER THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO, THE GREATER IS THE INEQUALITY

SEE ALSO: GENDER INEQUALITY INDEX – 2013 – UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME – HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORTS – GENDER INEQUALITY VALUE AND RANK, SHARE OF SEATS IN PARLIAMENT

HDI or the Human Development Index is probably the most salient indicative of a sound country analyzed by all the relevant parameters: quality of life, standards of living, life expectancy, literacy, education, well-being and stage of development. One parameter is lacking in the UN index – ethics and lack of corruption - and if we add it to the analysis, we discover... a perfect match between the human development and ethics. In the first 14 countries of the HDI we find 12 of the 14 most ethical countries – Norway, Australia, Switzerland, Netherlands, Germany, New Zealand, Canada, Singapore, Denmark, Sweden, Iceland and the UK. Furthermore, the other two countries of the 14 countries with the highest human development are also very ethical countries: United States and Ireland (TI – 17). All of them score between 0.944 (1 is the highest HDI) and 0.892. But also the next countries with the highest HDI scores are very ethical and ethical ones: Hong Kong (TI – 17), Japan (TI – 15), France (TI – 26), Austria (TI – 23) and Belgium (TI – 15). The two other 11 most ethical countries score very high scores in HDI – 21. Luxembourg (0.881) and 24. Finland (0.879). Finally, the two other countries with the highest HDI scores are quite ethical: 15. South Korea (TI – 43) and 19. Israel (TI – 37). The correlation between HDI and ethics is amazing!

The other 25 countries in the category of Very High Human Development (0.874-0.808) are a mix of ethical and quite ethical countries (down to TI-47) – Slovenia, Spain, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Portugal, Poland, Cyprus, Chile, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, with quite unethical countries (down to TI-69) – Italy, Greece, Saudi Arabia, Czech Republic, Bahrain, Kuwait, Croatia, Cuba, with one exception – Argentina, the last country in the Very High Human Development (49) is a very unethical country (TI-107). In general, there is quite a perfect match between most of the 69 first countries in TI's index of ethical countries and the 48 countries with a Very High Human Development. Furthermore, the rank of the countries in both indices is almost similar, even in the lower ranks of TI & HDI indices.

It goes without saying that the countries with a Low Human Development are also the countries with the highest level of corruption: Sudan, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Yemen, Guinea-Bissau, Angola, Burundi, Zimbabwe, Myanmar, Haiti, Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Chad, Central African Republic, Papua New Guinea, Kenya, Uganda, Comoros, Nigeria, Madagascar, Togo, Pakistan, Nepal, Gambia, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Mozambique, Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, Malawi, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Niger, Liberia, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Benin, Cameroon. With 3 exceptions Rwanda (HDI – 151 but TI – 55), Lesotho (HDI – 162, TI – 55) and Senegal (HDI – 163, TI – 69), which score very low in their HDI but are moderately unethical. But in all other cases there is quite a perfect match between low HDI and low TI.

Complete list of countries

- \triangle = increase.
- = steady.
- **V**= decrease.

Very high human development

Ra	•	ian developme	Н	DI	Ra	nk		HDI	
2014 estimate s for 2013	Change in rank from previou s year ^[]]	Country	2014 estimate s for 2013	Change from previou s year	2014 estimate s for 2013	Change in rank from previou s year ^[]]	Country	2014 estimate s for 2013	Change from previou s year
<u>1</u>	_	# Norway	<u>0.944</u>	<u>0.001</u>	26	-	Italy	0.872	-
2		A 11	0.022	_	27	_	Spain Spain	0.869	-
<u>2</u>	=	<u> </u>	<u>0.933</u>	<u>0.002</u>	28	_	Czech Republic	0.861	-
<u>3</u>	_	• Switzerland	<u>0.917</u>	<u>0.001</u>	29	_	<u>Greece</u>	0.853	▼ 0.001
<u>4</u>	_	Netherland <u>s</u>	<u>0.915</u>	=	30	_	Brunei Darussalam	0.852	_
5	-	United States	0.914	0.002	31	_	Qatar	0.851	0.001
6	_	Germany	0.911	_					▼
7		New New	0.010	<u> </u>	32	_	Cyprus	0.845	0.003
<u>7</u>	=	<u>Zealand</u>	<u>0.910</u>	<u>0.002</u>	33	-	<u>Estonia</u>	0.840	0.001
<u>8</u>	_	I → I Canada	<u>0.902</u>	<u>0.001</u>	34	_	Saudi Arabia	0.836	0.003
<u>9</u>	<u>(3)</u>	Singapore	<u>0.901</u>	<u>0.003</u>	35	▲ (1)	Lithuani	0.834	A
<u>10</u>	=	<u> Denmark</u>	<u>0.900</u>	_	55	<u> </u>	<u>a</u>	0.054	0.003
11	▼ (3)	■ Ireland	0.899	•	35	▼ (1)	Poland	0.834	0.001

				0.002	37	-	<u>Andorra</u>	0.830	-
<u>12</u>	<u>V(1)</u>	<u>Sweden</u>	<u>0.898</u>	<u>0.001</u>	37	▲ (1)	Slovaki a	0.830	0.001
13	-	<u>Iceland</u>	0.895	0.002	39	-	* Malta	0.829	0.002
14	-	3 <u>United</u> <u>Kingdom</u>	0.892	0.002	40	_	United Arab Emirates	0.827	0.002
15	-	* Hong Kong	0.891	0.002	41	▲ (1)	<u>Chile</u>	0.822	0.003
15	▲ (1)	Korea, South	0.891	0.003	41		Portugal		0.003
17	▼ (1)	• <u>Japan</u>	0.890	0.002	43	_	Hungar Y	0.818	0.001
18	▼ (2)	<u>Liechtenste</u> <u>in</u>	0.889	0.001	44	-	Bahrain	0.815	0.002
19	-	<u> </u>	0.888	0.002	44	-	<u>Cuba</u>	0.815	0.002
20	-	France	0.884	-	46	▼ (2)	Kuwait	0.814	0.001
21	-	Austria	0.881	0.001	47	_	<u>Croatia</u>	0.812	_
21	-	<u>Belgium</u>	0.881	0.001	48	-	<u>Latvia</u>	0.810	0.002
<u>21</u>	=	<u>Luxembour</u>	<u>0.881</u>	<u></u> <u>0.001</u>	49	-	Argenti na	0.808	0.002
<u>24</u>	=	+ Finland	<u>0.879</u>	=					
25	-	<u>Slovenia</u>	0.874	-					

High human development

Rank		HDI		Ra	nk		HDI		
estimate s for	Change in rank from previou s year ^[1]	Country	estimate s for	Change from previou s year	estimate s for	Change in rank from previou s year ^[1]	Country	2014 estimate s for 2013	Change from previou s year
50	▲ (2) ≜	<u>Uruguay</u>	0.790	0.003	77	-	Jordan	0.745	0.001

51	-	Bahamas	0.789	0.001	77	▲ (1)	Serbia Serbia	0.745	0.002
51	▲ (1)	Monteneg ro	0.789	0.002	79	▲ (1)	◆ Brazil	0.744	0.002
53	▲ (1)	Belarus	0.786	0.001	79	▲ (2)	+ Georgia	0.744	0.003
54	▲ (1)	Romania	0.785	0.003	79	▼ (1)	Grenada	0.744	0.001
55	▼ (5)	<u>Libya</u>	0.784	0.005	82	-	Peru Peru	0.737	0.003
56	-	<u>Oman</u>	0.783	0.002	83	-	<u>Ukraine</u>	0.734	0.001
57	-	Russia	0.778	0.001	84	-	Belize	0.732	0.001
58	-	Bulgaria	0.777	0.001	84	▲ (1)	Macedon ia	0.732	0.002
59	V (1)	<u>Barbados</u>	0.776	_	86	_	Bosnia and	0.731	0.002
60	-	Palau Palau	0.775	0.002			<u>Herzegovina</u>		0.002
61	▼ (1)	Antigua and Barbuda	0.774	0.001	87	-	<u>Armenia</u>	0.730	0.002
62	_	Malaysia Malaysia	0.773	0.003	88	-	™ ≢ <u>Fiji</u>	0.724	0.002
63	_	<u>Mauritius</u>	0.771	0.002	89	_	<u>Thailand</u>	0.722	0.002
64		<u>Trinidad</u>	0.766	0.001	90	-	<u>Tunisia</u>	0.721	0.002
		and Tobago		0.001	91	▲ (2)	<u>China</u>	0.719	0.004
65		<u>Lebanon</u>	0.765	0.001			<u>Saint</u>		
65	▲ (2)	Panama Panama	0.765	0.004	91	-	Vincent and the Grenadines	0.719	0.002
67	▼ (1)	<u>Venezuela</u>	0.764	0.001	93	_	<u>Algeria</u>	0.717	0.002
68	▼ (1)	Costa Rica	0.763	0.002	93	▼ (1)	Dominic Dominic	0.717	0.001
69	_	C Turkey	0.759	0.003		` '	<u>a</u>		0.001
				0.002	95	△ (2)	<u>Albania</u>	0.716	0.002

70	_	Kazakhsta n	0.757	0.002	96		X Jamaica		-
71	▼ (1)	■ ■ <u>Mexico</u>	0.756	0.001	97		Saint Lucia		
71	▼ (1)	Seychelles	0.756	0.001	98	-	Colombi a	0.711	0.003
73	-	Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.750	0.001	98	-	Ecuador	0.711	0.003
73	▲ (2)	Sri Lanka	0.750	0.005	100	▲ (1)	Suriname	0.705	0.003
75	▼ (2)	<u>Iran</u>	0.749	_	100	-	Tonga	0.705	0.001
76	▼ (1)	Azerbaija <u>n</u>	0.747	0.002	_	_	<u>World</u>	0.702	0.002
					102	-	Dominic an Republic	0.700	0.002

Medium human development

Rank			H	DI	Rank			HDI	
2014 estimat es for 2013	Chang e in rank from previo us year ^[1]	Country	2014 estimat es for 2013	Chang e from previo us year	2014 estimat es for 2013	Chang e in rank from previo us year ^[1]	Country	2014 estimat es for 2013	Chang e from previo us year
103	-	Maldives Maldives	0.698	0.003	124	-	Micrones ia	0.630	0.001
103	▲ (3)	Mongolia Mongolia	0.698	0.006	125	_	Guatemal <u>a</u>	0.628	0.002
103	▲ (1)	Turkmenist an	0.698	0.005	125	▲ (1)	Kyrgyzst an	0.628	0.007
106	▼ (2)	<u>Samoa</u>	0.694	0.001	127	_	Namibia	0.626	0.004
107	-	Palestine Palestine	0.686	0.003	128	▲ (1)	Timor Leste	0.620	0.004
108	-	Indonesia	0.684	0.003	129	_	Honduras Honduras	0.617	0.001
109	▼ (1)	<u>Botswana</u>	0.683	0.002	129	△ (2)	Morocco	0.617	A

110	▼ (2)	<u>Egypt</u>	0.682	0.001					0.003
111	_	Paraguay	0.676	0.006	131	▼ (3)	<u>Vanuatu</u>	0.616	0.001
112	▼ (1)	Gabon	0.674	0.004	132	-	Nicaragu a	0.614	0.003
113	_	<u>Bolivia</u>	0.667	0.004	133	-	<u>Kiribati</u>	0.607	0.001
114	▲ (2)	Moldova Moldova	0.663	0.006	133	▲ (1)	Tajikista n	0.607	0.004
115	-	El Salvador	0.662	0.002	135	-	<u>India</u>	0.586	0.003
116	-	<u>Uzbekistan</u>	0.661	0.004	136	-	Bhutan	0.584	0.004
117	▲ (1)	<u>Philippines</u>	0.660	0.004	136	▲ (1)	Cambodi <u>a</u>	0.584	0.005
118	▲ (1)	South Africa	0.658	0.004	138	-	* Ghana	0.573	0.002
118	▼ (4)	Syria Syria	0.658	0.027	139	-	<u>Laos</u>	0.569	0.004
120	-		0.642		140	_	Congo, Republic of the	0.564	0.003
121	_	G uyana	0.638	0.003	1 / 1	^ (2)		0.561	A
121	_	★ <u>Vietnam</u>	0.638	0.003	141	▲ (2)	Zambia Zambia		0.007
123	▼ (2)	Cabo Verde	0.636	0.001	142	▲ (1)	Banglade sh	0.558	0.004
					142	▼ (1)	São Tomé and Príncipe	0.558	0.002
					144	▼ (3)	Equatoria 1 Guinea	0.556	-

Low human development

Rank			HDI
2014 estimates for 2013	Change in rank from previous year year	Country	2014 Change estimates from for 2013 previous

Ш			Ш	year [1]
145	-	Nepal	0.540	0.003
146	-	<u>Pakistan</u>	0.537	0.002
147	-	Kenya Kenya	0.535	0.004
148	-	<u>Swaziland</u>	0.530	0.001
149	-	Angola	0.526	0.002
150	-	M yanmar	0.524	0.004
151	-	Rwanda	0.506	0.004
152	-	Cameroon	0.504	0.003
152	▲ (1)	■ <u>Nigeria</u>	0.504	0.004
154	-	<u>Yemen</u>	0.500	0.001
155	-	Madagascar	0.498	0.002
156	▲ (4)	Zimbabwe	0.492	0.008
157	▼ (1)	Papua New Guinea	0.491	0.001
157	-	Solomon Islands	0.491	0.002
159	▼ (1)	<u>Comoros</u>	0.488	0.002
159	▲ (1)	<u>Tanzania</u>	0.488	0.004
161	▼ (2)	<u>Mauritania</u>	0.487	0.002
162	△ (1)	<u>Lesotho</u>	0.486	0.005
163	▼ (3)	<u>Senegal</u>	0.485	A

0.001

164 - Uganda 0.484 0.004

165 - Benin 0.476 0.003

166 - Sudan 0.473 0.001

Rank HDI

2014 Change

Rank			HDI			
2014 estimates for 2013	Change in rank from previous year ^[]]	Country	2014 estimates for 2013	Change from previou s year		
166	▲ (1)	Togo	0.473	0.003		
168	-	<u>Haiti</u>	0.471	0.002		
169	-	<u>Afghanistan</u>	0.468	0.002		
170	-	<u>Djibouti</u>	0.467	0.002		
171	-	Côte d'Ivoire	0.452	0.004		
172	-	<u>Gambia</u>	0.441	0.003		
173	-	Ethiopia	0.435	0.006		
174	-	<u>Malawi</u>	0.414	0.003		
175	-	Liberia Liberia	0.412	0.005		
176	-	<u>Mali</u>	0.407	0.001		
177	-	Guinea-Bissau	0.396	_		
178	▲ (1)	<u>Mozambique</u>	0.393	0.004		
179	▼ (1)	Guinea	0.392	0.001		

180	-	Burundi	0.389	0.003
181	-	Burkina Faso	0.388	0.003
182	-	Eritrea	0.381	0.001
183	▲ (1)	Sierra Leone	0.374	0.006
184	▼ (1)	<u>Chad</u>	0.372	0.002
185	-	Central African Republic	0.341	0.024
186	▲ (1)	Congo, Democratic Republic of the	0.338	0.005
187	▼ (1)	Niger Niger	0.337	0.002

Countries missing from latest report

Non-UN members (not calculated by the UNDP)

Year							
Publication	Data	Country or territory		HDI Rank Source			
Very high human development							
2014	2013	<u>Taiwan</u>	0.882	22	[nb 1]		
2014	2012	Macau	0.882	25	[10]		
2009	2008 🔀	<u>Jersey</u>	0.985	2	[7]		
2009	2008	Cayman Islands	0.983	4	[7]		
2009	2008	<u>Bermuda</u>	0.981	7	[7]		
2009	2008 🕂	<u>Guernsey</u>	0.975	9	[7]		
2009	2008	<u>Gibraltar</u>	0.961	20	[7]		
2009	2008	Norfolk Island	0.958	23	[7]		
2009	2008 🛨	Faroe Islands	0.950	33	[7]		

	2009	2008 Isle of Man	0.950	34	[7]
	2009	2008 British Virgin Islands	0.945	35	[7]
	2009	2008 Falkland Islands	0.933	43	[7]
	2009	2008 Aruba	0.908	49	[7]
	2009	2008 Puerto Rico	0.905	52	[7]
	2009	2008 Martinique	0.904	53	[7]
	2009	2008 Guam	0.901	54	<u>[7]</u>
		High human developmen	t		
	2012	2012 <u>Kosovo</u> *	0.714	87	[11]
	2009	2008 French Polynesia	0.895	58	[7]
	2009	2008 W U.S. Virgin Islands	0.894	59	[7]
	2009	2008 Northern Mariana Islands	0.875	71	[7]
	2009	2008 Turks and Caicos Islands	0.873	72	[7]
	2009	2008 Greenland	0.869	76	[7]
	2009	2008 New Caledonia	0.869	77	[7]
	2009	2008 Saint Pierre and Miquelon	0.865	78	[7]
	2009	2008 Anguilla	0.865	79	[7]
	2009	2008 Guadeloupe	0.839	91	[7]
	2009	2008 Cook Islands	0.829	101	[7]
	2009	2008 American Samoa	0.827	103	[7]
	2009	2008 Montserrat	0.821	106	[7]
	2009	2008 French Guiana	0.811	116	[7]
Medium human development					
	2009	2008 Réunion	0.799	123	[7]
	2009	2008 Saint Helena	0.797	125	[7]
	2009	2008 Niue	0.794	129	[7]

2009	2008 Wallis and Futuna	0.793 132	[7]
2009	2008 Tokelau	0.750 149	[7]
2009	2008 Mayotte	0.616 184	[7]

^{*} calculated by the UNDP

UN member states (latest UNDP data)

Year Publication Data		•	Country	HDI R		Rank Source	
		Data	Country	1101		ann Source	
	Very high human development						
	2009	2008	San Marino	0.961	21	<u>[7]</u>	
	2009	2008	Monaco	0.956	25	[7]	
Medium human development							
	2009	2008	<u>Marshall</u> Islands	0.738	155	171	
	2009	2008	Korea, North	0.733	156	[7]	
	2009	2008	Nauru Nauru	0.721	164	[7]	
	2009	2008	<u>Tuvalu</u>	0.711	168	[7]	
Low human development							
	2009	2008	* Somalia	0.364	229	[7]	
Other							
	N/A	N/A	South Sudan	N/A	N/A	UN member state not listed on above report	

Note: 2009 publication uses old HDI formula

NEWSWEEK'S WORLD'S BEST COUNTRIES – 2010 – MEASURING EDUCATION, HEALTH, QUALITY OF LIFE, ECONOMIC DYNAMISM AND POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT IN 100 COUNTRIES

Here, even more than in the HDI index, there is a perfect match between Newsweek's ranking of world's best countries and TI's ranking of the most ethical countries. If we take the first 14 best countries in the parameters of health, education, quality of life, economic dynamism and

political environment we find that most of them -12 - are also among the 14 most ethical countries: 1. Finland, 2. Switzerland, 3. Sweden, 4. Australia, 5. Luxembourg, 6. Norway, 7. Canada, 8. Netherlands, 10. Denmark, 12. Germany, 13. New Zealand and 14. United Kingdom. The other 2 countries in the 14 best countries of the world have a similar rank in TI's index: 9. Japan (15) and 11. United States (17). Only Singapore (TI – 7) ranks at a quite lower rank in the best countries – 20, possibly because of its political environment. Another opposite exception, South Korea – no. 15 in the best countries ranks only 43 in TI's index.

But most of the other first countries rank in general similarly in both indices: France (best – 16, TI – 26), Ireland (best – 17, TI – 17), Austria (best – 18, TI – 23), Belgium (best – 19, TI – 15). As Iceland, Hong Kong and Barbados were not surveyed by Newsweek, we find that all the 17 out of the top 20 countries of TI's index surveyed by Newsweek are among the first 20 best countries in the world – this is a perfect matching with no exception (besides different ranking within the 20), and even the 3 additional countries in Newsweek's top 20 (replacing the 3 TI's top 20 not surveyed) are ethical countries ranking 23, 26 and 43 in TI's index. So, Ethics Pays perfectly, and the most ethical countries are also the best countries of the world.

The question is which came first – the ethical counduct caused the countries to perform best in all other parameters, or as they are the best countries in the other parameters they conduct also ethically. An historical survey of the best ethical countries proves that the reason they achieved the best results in all the other parameters is because they were ethical and a main reason why unethical countries perform very poorly in the other parameters is because they are most/very corrupt, although in this case there are other reasons as well, but even so very poor countries perform better if they are ethical than the countries which are poor and most/very corrupt. Furthermore, Singapore that was a very poor country managed to become one of the richest and best states of the world because the state behaved ethically under the leadership of its leader Lee Kuan Yew, attracting foreign investments and international praise.

The 20 following countries (21-40) after the first 20 are ethical, quite ethical and quite corrupt countries ranking from 21 to 69 in TI's index, but none of the countries is a corrupt country ranking lower than 69 with a score lower than 43: 21. Spain (TI – 37), 22. Israel (37), 23. Italy (69), 24. Slovenia (39), 25. Czech Republic (53), 26. Greece (69), 27. Portugal (31), 28. Croatia (61), 29. Poland (35), 30. Chile (21), 31. Slovakia (54), 32. Estonia (26), 33. Hungary (47), 34. Lithuania (39), 35. Costa Rica (47), 36. Latvia (43), 37. Malaysia (50), 38. Bulgaria (69), 39. Romania (69), 40. Kuwait (67). Who are those countries in the second tier of the best countries in the world? Most of them – 11 - are European former communist states – this is an outstanding result for states that a generation ago were under a totalitarian communist regime, 5 states are southern European/Mediterranean states (in spite that 4 states suffered most from the economic crisis – Portugal, Italy, Greece and Spain, and that Israel, ranks 22, suffered from wars and terror), 2 of them – Chile (after Pinochet) and Costa Rica - are Latin American states, one is an Arab oil rich country – Kuwait (invaded in 1990 by Iraq and rescued by the coalition in 1991), and one is a Moslem Asian country – Malaysia, a former UK colony.

In the next 20 best (or worse) countries – 41-60, we find many corrupt countries, some ethical and some very corrupt, but in general this ranking validates the rule that Corruption Doesn't Pay as very rich countries that could have been among the best 20 or at least 40 states are located among the worse countries, however not the worst – 46. Argentina (107), 48. Brazil (69), 51. Russia (136), 59. China (100). Nevertheless, we find here a mixture of Ethical countries as 43. United Arab Emirates (25) and 44. Uruguay (21), Quite Corrupt countries as 50. Cuba (63), 53. Jordan (55), 60. Oman (64), 61. Turkey (64), Corrupt countries as 41. Panama (94), 42. Peru (85), 45. Mexico (103), 47. Jamaica (85), 55. Dominican Republic

(115), 56. Belarus (119), 57. Albania (110), 58. Thailand (85), and a Very Corrupt country (besides Russia) - 44. Ukraine (142). This symmetry fits more or less the rule that in the middle countries, far from the most ethical and most corrupt extremes, the findings are mixed as ethics is not the be-all cause of excellence like in the extremes, and other factors influence the parameters. However there is nevertheless some form of symmetry between the level of ethics and best countries, as in this median category there are almost no very corrupt states.

Going further down to the worst countries in the world, according to Newsweek, we find more and more very corrupt countries - 61. Kazakhstan (126), 68. Paraguay (150), 69. Azerbaijan (126), 71. Venezuela (161), 75. Nicaragua (133), 76. Honduras (126), 79. Iran (136), along ethical countries as 80. Botswana (30), once one of the poorest countries of the world but now one of the richest African countries, still compared to the other Sub-Saharan countries it is the best country in Africa. Other countries in the 61-80 countries are quite corrupt as 64. Saudi Arabia (55) and borderline 65. Tunisia (79) or corrupt countries as 2 borderlines 67. Morocco (80), 72. El Salvador (80), and 62. Colombia (94), 73. Indonesia (107), 74. Egypt (94), 79. India (85). Finally in the last category of the 80-100 countries, the worst countries according to Newsweek survey, we find the highest number of very corrupt and most corrupt countries as: 83. Syria (159), 87. Kenya (145), 88. Bangladesh (145), 89. Pakistan (126), 90. Madagascar (133), 92. Yemen (161), 96. Uganda (142), 98. Cameroon (136), 99. Nigeria (136), with some corrupt countries as: 81. Vietnam (119), 84. Guatemala (115), 85. Algeria (100), 93. Tanzania (119), 94. Ethiopia (110), 95. Mozambique (119), 97. Zambia (85), 100. Burkina Faso (85), and Quite Corrupt countries as 82. South Africa (67), 86. Ghana (61), 91. Senegal (69). As mentioned before, the numbers of very corrupt countries increase going down the ladder of the worst countries, proving that Corruption Doesn't Pay.

+ Finland **Switzerland** 3. Sweden **Maria** Australia 4. 5. Luxembourg **Norway** 6. 7. **I♦I** Canada 8. **Netherlands** Japan 9. 10. Denmark 11. United States 12. Germany 13. New Zealand 14. **See United Kingdom** 15. South Korea 16. France 17. Ireland 18. Austria 19. Belgium 20. <u>Singapore</u> 21. **Spain** 22. Israel 23. Italy

24. Slovenia

- 25. Czech Republic 26. Greece
- 27. Portugal
- 28. Croatia
- 29. Poland 30. Chile
- 31. SLOVAKIA
- 32. ESTONIA
- 33. HUNGARY
- 34. LITHUANIA
- 35. COSTA RICA
- 36. LATVIA
- 37. MALAYSIA
- 38. BULGARIA
- 39. ROMANIA
- 40. KUWAIT
- 41. PANAMA
- 42. PERU
- 43. UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
- 44. URUGUAY
- 45. MEXICO
- 46. ARGENTINA
- 47. JAMAICA
- 48. BRAZIL
- 49. UKRAINE
- 50. CUBA
- 51. RUSSIA
- 52. TURKEY
- 53. JORDAN
- 54. QATAR
- 55. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
- 56. BELARUS
- 57. ALBANIA
- 58. THAILAND
- 59. CHINA
- 60. OMAN
- 61. KAZAKHSTAN
- 62. COLOMBIA
- 63. PHILIPPINES
- 64. SAUDI ARABIA
- 65. TUNISIA
- 66. SRI LANKA
- 67. MOROCCO
- 68. PARAGUAY
- 69. AZERBAIJAN
- 70. ECUADOR
- 71. VENEZUELA
- 72. EL SALVADOR
- 73. INDONESIA
- **74. EGYPT**

- 75. NICARAGUA
- 76. HONDURAS
- 77. BOLIVIA
- 78. INDIA
- **79. IRAN**
- 80. BOTSWANA
- 81. VIETNAM
- 82. SOUTH AFRICA
- 83. SYRIA
- 84. GUATEMALA
- 85. ALGERIA
- 86. GHANA
- 87. KENYA
- 88. BANGLADESH
- 89. PAKISTAN
- 90. MADAGASCAR
- 91. SENEGAL
- 92. YEMEN
- 93. TANZANIA
- 94. ETHIOPIA
- 95. MOZAMBIQUE
- 96. UGANDA
- 97. ZAMBIA
- 98. CAMEROON
- 99. NIGERIA
- 100. BURKINA FASO

INEQUALITY ADJUSTED HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX – IHDI – BASED ON 2013 AND 2011 ESTIMATES – THE IHDI IS THE ACTUAL LEVEL OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT INEQUALITY, WHILE THE HDI CAN BE VIEWED AS AN INDEX OF THE POTENTIAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT THAT COULD BE ACHIEVED IF THERE IS NO INEQUALITY. THE LOSS % COLUMN INDICATES THE LOSS IN POTENTIAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT DUE TO INEQUALITY. UNDER PERFECT EQUALITY - HDI = IHDI, THE GREATER THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO, THE GREATER IS THE INEQUALITY – SOURCE: UNDP - 2014

Here again, there is a perfect match between the most ethical countries and the inequality-adjusted HDI – IHDI – as the most ethical countries have also the lowest level of inequality. This is a question of values – do you perform better if you have a low level of inequality? The neo-liberal countries would say that equality is equivalent to communism, and maybe so they have reached exorbitant levels of inequality with one percent of the population owning a very large part of the economy. History proves also that an adequate level of equality (the highest among capitalist countries) ensures the best results in all the parameters, as we see in the cases of Scandinavia, the Netherlands, Germany, etc. The 14 countries with the best results in Human Development Index Inequality Adjusted are 12 of the 17 most ethical countries – Norway, Australia, Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, Iceland, Sweden, Denmark, Canada,

Ireland, Finland and Luxembourg, while the two other countries rank quite high also in TI's index – Austria (23), Slovenia (39). We find therefore a perfect match between the indices.

In the subsequent ranks of the IHDI until rank 50 we can find other ethical and quite ethical countries as UK (TI – 14), Belgium (TI – 15), France (TI – 26), Japan (TI – 15), Spain and Israel (TI – 37), the US (TI – 17), Estonia, Malta, Hungary, Cyprus, Poland, Lithuania, Portugal, Chile, Uruguay, Latvia, Slovakia, and South Korea, but also quite unethical countries as Greece, Italy, Montenegro, Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria, and very unethical countries as Belarus, Ukraine, Argentina, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and Russia. This proves that equality can influence in both ways, in developed and democratic countries as Scandinavia it can bring about excellent economic results but in totalitarian, former coummunist and poor countries as Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan we have much equality but this is because almost everybody shares poverty (except of course a very small minority of very wealthy people). Equality may be a precondition of ethics, but it is not an exclusive one, as we can be equal and unethical as in Belarus, as well as ethical and very unequal as in the United States. It goes without saying that the lowest scores of IHDI -0.203 - 0.396 - goto the most unethical and poor countries - Central African Republic, Sierra Leone, Democratic Rep. Congo, Niger, Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Burundi, Liberia, Mozambique, Haiti, Angola, Nigeria, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Togo, Afghanistan, Yemen, Madagascar, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Zambia, Pakistan, Rep. of the Congo and Bangladesh.

2013 Inequality-adjusted HDI (IHDI) - 2014 report

Rank	Country	IHDI	Rank	Country	IHDI
<u>1</u>	Norway	<u>0.891</u>	73	Ecuador Ecuador	0.549
<u>2</u>	Australia Australia	<u>0.860</u>	74	* Vietnam	0.543
<u>3</u>	<u>Netherlands</u>	<u>0.854</u>	75	Brazil	0.542
<u>4</u>	• Switzerland	<u>0.847</u>	76	<u>Philippines</u>	0.540
5	Germany	0.846	77	Dominican Republic	0.535
6	Iceland	0.843	78	<u>Suriname</u>	0.534
<u>7</u>	<u>Sweden</u>	<u>0.840</u>	79	G uyana	0.522
<u>8</u>	<u> Denmark</u>	<u>0.838</u>	80	<u>Colombia</u>	0.521
<u>9</u>	I ◆ I Canada	<u>0.833</u>	81	<u>Maldives</u>	0.521
10	■ <u>Ireland</u>	0.832	82	<u>Kyrgyzstan</u>	0.519
<u>11</u>	+ Finland	<u>0.830</u>	83	Egypt	0.518
12	<u>Slovenia</u>	0.824	84	Syria Syria	0.518
13	<u>Austria</u>	0.818	85	Paraguay Paraguay	0.513

<u>14</u>	<u>Luxembourg</u>	<u>0.814</u>	86	Gabon	0.512
15	Czech Republic	0.813	87	Cape Verde	0.511
16	United Kingdom	0.812	88	Iraq	0.505
17	Belgium	0.806	89	Iran Iran	0.498
18	France	0.804	90	<u>Tajikistan</u>	0.491
19	• <u>Japan</u>	0.799	91	El Salvador	0.485
20	<u> Israel</u>	0.793	92	Bolivia	0.470
21	Slovakia Slovakia	0.778	93	Bhutan	0.465
22	<u>Spain</u>	0.775	94	Nicaragua Nicaragua	0.452
23	■ <u>Italy</u>	0.768	95	<u>Cambodia</u>	0.440
24	<u>Estonia</u>	0.767	96	Morocco	0.433
25	Greece	0.762	97	Timor Leste	0.430
26	* Malta	0.760	98	Guatemala	0.422
27	<u>Hungary</u>	0.757	99	<u>Botswana</u>	0.422
28	United States	0.755	100	India India	0.418
29	 ≤ Cyprus	0.752	101	Honduras Honduras	0.418
30	Poland Poland	0.751	102	<u>Kiribati</u>	0.416
31	<u>Lithuania</u>	0.746	103	<u>Bangladesh</u>	0.396
32	Portugal Portugal	0.739	104	<u> Ghana</u>	0.394
33	South Korea	0.736	105	Republic of the Congo	0.391
34	<u>Montenegro</u>	0.733	106	São Tomé and Príncipe	0.384
35	Belarus	0.726	107	Nepal Nepal	0.384
36	<u>Latvia</u>	0.725	108	<u>Pakistan</u>	0.375
37	<u>Croatia</u>	0.721	109	Solomon Islands	0.374
38	Romania Romania	0.702	110	Zambia	0.365
39	<u>Ukraine</u>	0.692			

40	Bulgaria	0.685	111	Kenya Kenya	0.360
41	<u>Argentina</u>	0.680	112	<u>Zimbabwe</u>	0.358
42	<u>Bahamas</u>	0.676	113	<u>Tanzania</u>	0.356
43	Russia	0.667	114	Swaziland	0.354
44	<u>Kazakhstan</u>	0.667	115	Namibia Namibia	0.352
45	<u>Serbia</u>	0.663	116	<u>Madagascar</u>	0.346
46	<u>Uruguay</u>	0.662	117	Cameroon	0.339
47	<u>Mauritius</u>	0.662	118	Rwanda	0.338
48	<u>Chile</u>	0.661	119	Yemen Yemen	0.336
49	<u>Azerbaijan</u>	0.659	120	<u>Uganda</u>	0.335
50	<u>Armenia</u>	0.655	121	Senegal Senegal	0.326
51	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.651	122	Afghanistan	0.321
52	Trinidad and Tobago	0.649	123	<u>Togo</u>	0.317
53	Sri Lanka	0.643	124	<u>Mauritania</u>	0.315
54	C· Turkey	0.639	125	<u>Lesotho</u>	0.313
55	+ Georgia	0.636	126	Benin	0.311
56	Macedonia	0.633	127	Ethiopia Ethiopia	0.307
57	* Albania	0.620	128	<u>Djibouti</u>	0.306
58	Mongolia Mongolia	0.618	129	■ <u>Nigeria</u>	0.300
59	Venezuela	0.613	130	Angola	0.295
60	Fiji	0.613	131	Haiti	0.285
61	Costa Rica	0.611		Malawi	0.282
62	Jordan	0.607	133	<u>Côte d'Ivoire</u>	0.279
63	<u>Lebanon</u>	0.606	134	<u>Mozambique</u>	0.277
64	Palestine Palestine	0.606	135	<u>Liberia</u>	0.273

65	Panama Panama	0.596	136	B urundi	0.257
66	Mexico Mexico	0.583	137	Burkina Faso	0.252
67	Moldova Moldova	0.582	138	<u>Guinea</u>	0.243
68	 <u>Jamaica</u>	0.579	139	Guinea-Bissau	0.239
69	Thailand	0.573	140	<u>Chad</u>	0.232
70	Peru Peru	0.562	141	Niger Niger	0.228
71	<u>Uzbekistan</u>	0.556	142	Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.211
72	<u>Indonesia</u>	0.553	143	Sierra Leone	0.208
			144	Central African Republic	0.203

GENDER INEQUALITY INDEX – 2013 – UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME – HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORTS – GENDER INEQUALITY VALUE AND RANK, SHARE OF SEATS IN PARLIAMENT

Equality is a good criterion of ethics and a sound economy as we have learned in the Gini index, but equality in all its aspects, including gender equality. And... here again, are the countries with the lowest gender inequality also the most ethical countries? Yes, but with a caveat. In the 43 most ethical countries, no. 39 – Slovenia (!) is no. 1 in gender equality, a Slavic Roman-Catholic, former communist small country, but it ranks no. 25 in HDI and has a quite high women share of seats in the parliament – 25%. Right after it come the "usual" most ethical countries – Switzerland no. 2 in gender equality (27% women in parliament, hereinafter we give only %). But this is still a surprise, as Switzerland - perceived as one of the best countries of the world in all aspects – GDP per capita, ethics, HDI, peace, lowest unemployment, highest net disposable income, lowest income inequality, etc. – was also the last Western republic to grant women the right to vote at a federal level in 1971 and in Appenzell Innerrhoden canton only in 1990... But women quickly rose in political significance, with the first woman on the seven member Federal Council executive being Elisabeth Kopp, who served from 1984 to 1989 and the first female president being Ruth Dreifuss (woman and Jew) in 1999. So, Switzerland rightly deserves no. 2 in gender equality.

Most Swiss are Germanic and protestants and so are most of the other countries ranking high in gender equality and ethics as well: 3. Germany (32%), 4. Sweden (45%), 5. Denmark (39%), 5. Austria (29%), 7. Netherlands (38%), 9. Norway (40%), 9. Belgium (39%), (Flemish), 14. Iceland (40%). And the very ethical Luxembourg (22%) (Germanic) ranking only 29 in gender equality. But the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic countries ranking very high in ethics have a much lower rank in gender equality: 19. Australia (29%), 20. Ireland (20%), 23. Canada (28%), 34. New Zealand (32%), 35. UK (23%) and... the very low rank for a very ethical country: 47. United States (only 18%). We leave to sociologists to analyze why equally ethical countries rank very high in gender equality if they are Germanic/Scandinavian and much lower if they are Anglo-Saxons. But, in general, we can say that the most ethical countries rank in most of the cases very high in gender equality and in some cases – somewhat lower, but still quite high in comparison to others and have a high % in parliament.

We continue the analysis: we find also Latin countries as 8. Italy ranking high in gender equality with women share of 31% of seats in parliament and being quite unethical (TI - 69). And the very ethical Finns (no. 11) are Nordic Scandinavian Protestants but Uralic, with one of the highest share of women in parliament - 42%. 12. France (TI - 26) is a Latin Catholic country with 25% women in parliament. 13. Czech Republic (TI - 53), another Slavic former communist country, with only 21% women in parliament. The very ethical 15. Singapore (mostly Chinese) with 24% women in parliament. 16. Latin Catholic Spain (TI - 37) with 35% women in parliament. 17. South Korea (TI - 43) with only 15% women in parliament.

The most unethical countries have the highest gender inequality: Niger, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, Chad, Sierra Leone, Eritrea, Burundi, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Liberia, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Afghanistan (ranking no. 149 in gender inequality, everybody knows why), Yemen, Zimbabwe, Papua New Guinea, Tanzania, Uganda, Sudan, Haiti and Iran. Yet, we find ethical countries as the Moslem Qatar with a very high inequality (113), but Saudi Arabia ranks 56 in gender equality, Kuwait – 50, Bahrain – 46, United Arab Emirates – 43, Libya – 40, almost as the US (47) - quite incomprehensible...

Finally, unethical countries as China rank quite high in gender equality (37), and so are Russia (52), Bulgaria, Bosnia Herzegovina, etc., probably as they shared a communist regime.

Table 4: Gender Inequality Index

HDI rank	Country	Gender Inequality Index Value, 2013	Gender Inequality Index Rank, 2013	Share of seats in parliament, 2013
	Very high human deve	lopment		
<u>1</u>	<u>Norway</u>	<u>0.068</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>39.6</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>Australia</u>	<u>0.113</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>29.2</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>Switzerland</u>	<u>0.030</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>27.2</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>Netherlands</u>	<u>0.057</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>37.8</u>
5	United States	0.262	47	18.2
6	Germany	0.046	3	32.4
<u>7</u>	New Zealand	<u>0.185</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>32.2</u>
<u>8</u>	<u>Canada</u>	<u>0.136</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>28.0</u>
<u>9</u>	<u>Singapore</u>	<u>0.090</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>24.2</u>
<u>10</u>	<u>Denmark</u>	<u>0.056</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>39.1</u>
11	Ireland	0.115	20	19.5
<u>12</u>	<u>Sweden</u>	<u>0.054</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>44.7</u>
13	Iceland	0.088	14	39.7
14	United Kingdom	0.193	35	22.6
15	Hong Kong, China (SAR)	a 		••
15	Korea (Republic of)	0.101	17	15.7
17	Japan	0.138	25	10.8
18	Liechtenstein	••	••	20.0
19	Israel	0.101	17	22.5
20	France	0.080	12	25.1

21	Austria	0.056	5	28.7
21	Belgium	0.068	9	38.9
<u>21</u>	<u>Luxembourg</u>	<u>0.154</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>21.7</u>
<u>24</u>	<u>Finland</u>	<u>0.075</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>42.5</u>
25	Slovenia	0.021	1	24.6
26	Italy	0.067	8	30.6
27	Spain	0.100	16	35.2
28	Czech Republic	0.087	13	20.6
29	Greece	0.146	27	21.0
30	Brunei Darussalam	••	••	••
31	Qatar	0.524	113	0.1 <u>f</u>
32	Cyprus	0.136	23	10.7
33	Estonia	0.154	29	20.8
34	Saudi Arabia	0.321	56	19.9
35	Lithuania	0.116	21	24.1
35	Poland	0.139	26	21.8
37	Andorra	••	••	50.0
37	Slovakia	0.164	32	18.7
39	Malta	0.220	41	14.3
40	United Arab Emirates	0.244	43	17.5
41	Chile	0.355	68	13.9
41	Portugal	0.116	21	28.7
43	Hungary	0.247	45	8.8
44	Bahrain	0.253	46	18.8
44	Cuba	0.350	66	48.9
46	Kuwait	0.288	50	6.2

47	Croatia	0.172	33	23.8
48	Latvia	0.222	42	23.0
49	Argentina	0.381	74	37.7
	High human developm	ent		
50	Uruguay	0.364	70	12.3
51	Bahamas	0.316	53	16.7
51	Montenegro	••	••	17.3
53	Belarus	0.152	28	29.5
54	Romania	0.320	54	11.6
55	Libya	0.215	40	16.5
56	Oman	0.348	64	9.6
57	Russian Federation	0.314	52	12.1
58	Bulgaria	0.207	38	24.6
59	Barbados	0.350	66	21.6
60	Palau	••	••	10.3
61	Antigua and Barbuda	••	••	19.4
62	Malaysia	0.210	39	13.9
63	Mauritius	0.375	72	18.8
64	Trinidad and Tobago	0.321	56	26.0
65	Lebanon	0.413	80	3.1
65	Panama	0.506	107	8.5
67	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	ⁿ 0.464	96	17.0
68	Costa Rica	0.344	63	38.6
69	Turkey	0.360	69	14.2
70	Kazakhstan	0.323	59	18.2

71	Mexico	0.376	73	36.0
71	Seychelles	••	••	43.8
73	Saint Kitts and Nevis	••	••	6.7
73	Sri Lanka	0.383	75	5.8
75	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	^c 0.510	109	3.1
76	Azerbaijan	0.340	62	16.0
77	Jordan	0.488	101	12.0
77	Serbia	••	••	33.2
79	Brazil	0.441	85	9.6
79	Georgia	••	••	12.0
79	Grenada	••	••	25.0
82	Peru	0.387	77	21.5
83	Ukraine	0.326	61	9.4
84	Belize	0.435	84	13.3
84	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	v 0.162	31	34.1
86	Bosnia and Herzegovina	¹ 0.201	36	19.3
87	Armenia	0.325	60	10.7
88	Fiji	••	••	••
89	Thailand	0.364	70	15.7
90	Tunisia	0.265	48	26.7
91	China	0.202	37	23.4
91	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	e 		13.0
93	Algeria	0.425	81	25.8
93	Dominica	••	••	12.5

95	Albania	0.245	44	17.9
96	Jamaica	0.457	88	15.5
97	Saint Lucia	••	••	17.2
98	Colombia	0.460	92	13.6
98	Ecuador	0.429	82	38.7
100	Suriname	0.463	95	11.8
100	Tonga	0.458	90	3.6
102	Dominican Republic	0.505	105	19.1
	Medium human develo	pment		
103	Maldives	0.283	49	6.5
103	Mongolia	0.320	54	14.9
103	Turkmenistan	••	••	16.8
106	Samoa	0.517	111	4.1
107	Palestine, State of	••	••	••
108	Indonesia	0.500	103	18.6
109	Botswana	0.486	100	7.9
110	Egypt	0.580	130	2.8
111	Paraguay	0.457	88	18.4
112	Gabon	0.508	108	16.7
113	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.472	97	30.1
114	Moldova (Republic of)	0.302	51	19.8
115	El Salvador	0.441	85	26.2
116	Uzbekistan	••	••	19.2
117	Philippines	0.406	78	26.9
118	South Africa	0.461	94	41.1

118	Syrian Arab Republic	0.556	125	12.0
120	Iraq	0.542	120	25.2
121	Guyana	0.524	113	31.3
121	Viet Nam	0.322	58	24.4
123	Cape Verde	••	••	20.8
124	Micronesia (Federated States of)	l 		0.1
125	Guatemala	0.523	112	13.3
125	Kyrgyzstan	0.348	64	23.3
127	Namibia	0.450	87	25.0
128	Timor-Leste	••	••	38.5
129	Honduras	0.482	99	19.5
129	Morocco	0.460	92	11.0
131	Vanuatu	••	••	0.1
132	Nicaragua	0.458	90	40.2
133	Kiribati	••	••	8.7
133	Tajikistan	0.383	75	17.5
135	India	0.563	127	10.9
136	Bhutan	0.495	102	6.9
136	Cambodia	0.505	105	18.1 <u>h</u>
138	Ghana	0.549	123	10.9
139	Lao People's Democratic Republic	S 0.534	118	25.0
140	Congo	0.617	135	9.6
141	Zambia	0.617	135	11.5
142	Bangladesh	0.529	115	19.7
142	Sao Tome and Principe	·•	••	18.2

144	Equatorial Guinea	••	••	18.8
	Low human developme	ent		
145	Nepal	0.479	98	33.2
146	Pakistan	0.563	127	19.7
147	Kenya	0.548	122	19.9
148	Swaziland	0.529	115	21.9
149	Angola	••	••	34.1
150	Myanmar	0.430	83	4.6
151	Rwanda	0.410	79	51.9
152	Cameroon	0.622	138	16.1
152	Nigeria	••	••	6.6
154	Yemen	0.733	152	0.7
155	Madagascar	••	••	15.8
156	Zimbabwe	0.516	110	35.1
157	Papua New Guinea	0.617	135	2.7
157	Solomon Islands	••	••	2.0
159	Comoros	••	••	3.0
159	Tanzania (United Republic of)	^d 0.553	124	36.0
161	Mauritania	0.644	142	19.2
162	Lesotho	0.557	126	26.8
163	Senegal	0.537	119	42.7
164	Uganda	0.529	115	35.0
165	Benin	0.614	134	8.4
166	Sudan	0.628	140	24.1
166	Togo	0.579	129	15.4

168	Haiti	0.599	132	3.5
169	Afghanistan	0.705	149	27.6
170	Djibouti	••	••	12.7
171	Côte d'Ivoire	0.645	143	10.4
172	Gambia	0.624	139	7.5
173	Ethiopia	0.547	121	25.5
174	Malawi	0.591	131	22.3
175	Liberia	0.655	145	11.7
176	Mali	0.673	148	10.2
177	Guinea-Bissau	••	••	14.0
178	Mozambique	0.657	146	39.2
179	Guinea	••	••	••
180	Burundi	0.501	104	34.9
181	Burkina Faso	0.607	133	15.7
182	Eritrea	••	••	22.0
183	Sierra Leone	0.643	141	12.4
184	Chad	0.707	150	14.9
185	Central African Republic	ⁿ 0.654	144	12.5
186	Congo (Democratic Republic of the)	^c 0.669	147	8.3
187	Niger	0.709	151	13.3

20. LIST OF COUNTRIES BY % OF POPULATION LIVING IN POVERTY - BELOW NATIONAL POVERTY LINE SET BY EVERY COUNTRY - WIKIPEDIA – SOURCE: CIA – MOSTLY 2010-2013 - RANK, %, WORLD BANK AND CIA - (YEAR OF EST. – AS MENTIONED) - AND BELOW INTERNATIONAL POVERTY LINE OF (IN \$ PPP) – 2 AND 1.25 A DAY – WORLD BANK – (YEAR OF EST. – AS MENTIONED)

SEE ALSO - POPULATION BELOW POVERTY LINE - INDEX MUNDI

More than half of the most ethical countries are not even mentioned in this table – Finland, Australia, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Sweden and Singapore. The percentage of population living below national poverty line is: in Canada – 9.4%, Denmark – 13.4%, Norway – 4.3%, Netherlands – 10.5%, Switzerland – 6.9%. These are among the lowest percentages of all nations, but does it prove that Ethics Pays and there is almost no poverty in ethical countries? We have to bear in mind that the national poverty line in those countries is much higher than in the poorer countries. If we examine all the 20 most ethical countries, we see that the countries ranking 12-20 have a higher poverty than the 11 most ethical, but still the poverty in those countries is among the lowest in the world: Germany: 15.5%, Ireland: 5.5%, Belgium: 15.2%, Japan: 16%, United Kingdom: 14%, United States: 15.1%. But it is very difficult to assess what is the true poverty line, as in Afghanistan it is much lower than in Germany, but both have the same poverty rate – about 16%, so it is impossible to draw the right conclusions on this criterion alone. The poorest country in Europe Albania has a poverty rate of 12.5%, lower than Denmark – the richest country – 13.4%. It reminds the old joke about the tycoon's daughter who had to write a composition about poverty and she wrote that she comes from a poor family – her gardener is poor, her driver is poor and her nanny is also poor. So, there is little use for such scores, as even among the poor countries we find discrepancies that cannot be explained – in Argentina 30% of the population are poor, twice as much as in Afghanistan, and in Azerbaijan we find the lowest rate of poverty -6%, like in Austria... Bolivia is twice as poor as Bangladesh, one of the poorest states in the world, and China has a lower poverty rate than the United Kingdom or the United States. So, is there any use of this index anyhow?

A much better indicator of poverty is the World Bank's survey of % of population living under \$PPP 1.25 and 2 a day, known as the International Poverty Line. In this index we find that the poorest countries are also in most of the cases the most corrupt, in fewer cases very corrupt, in even fewer corrupt and in some cases quite corrupt. As explained before, the symmetry between corruption and poverty is most salient in the extremes, and we start our findings of the % of poverty below \$2 a day in the last countries, ranked 145-174 and scoring 25-8, of TI's index – mostly in Africa and Asia: 145. Bangladesh – 77%, Guinea – 73, Kenya - 67, Laos - 62, Papua New Guinea - 57, Central African Republic - 80, Paraguay - only 8%!, Republic of the Congo – 57, Tajikistan – 28, Chad – 83, Democratic Republic of the Congo – 95%!, Cambodia – 53, Myanmar (CIA – 33% living under national poverty line), Zimbabwe (World Bank – 72% living under national poverty line), Burundi – 93, Syria – 17% (this was in 2004, long before the outbreak of the civil war. Today with the millions of refugees and population who lost their homes, with hundreds of thousands of casualties – the widows and orphans, with the ruined economy – the proportion of poverty is probably one of the highest), Angola – 67, Guinea-Bissau -78, Haiti – 78, Venezuela – 13% (this was in 2006, long before the economy collapsed and crime has attained the highest rates, in spite of being one of the richest countries in oil, as in the cases of Nigeria and Iraq), Yemen -47 (in 2005, long before the Arab Spring in Yemen, Syria, Libya and other Arab countries, causing between thousands to hundreds of thousands casualties, collapsing the economies, and causing "winter misery" all over most of the Arab world), Eritrea - 69% under the World Bank national poverty line, Liby - n/a, Uzbekistan - 16% under the national poverty line, Turkmenistan - 50, Iraq - 21 (in 2012, which seems very low, taking into consideration the endless war, civil unrest, massive terror and collapsed economy, and raising doubts how this figure was computed during the war), South Sudan - 51%, Afghanistan - 16% under the national poverty line (this figure seems also extremely low, taking into consideration that the country is in war lasting a few decades - fighting communism, Taliban, the coalition, etc.), Sudan - 44%, 174. North Korea- n/a, 174. Somalia- n/a - both countries are the most corrupt countries in the world and probably among the poorest, but they have no figures on poverty.

If we analyze the situation of poverty among the other nations with a high level of poverty we find first of all that none of the ethical and even quite ethical countries have a too high level of poverty, and only a few quite corrupt countries suffer from high levels of poverty, as corruption is not the be-all, although it is a very important factor, and there are many other causes for poverty: Ghana (ranked 61 in TI's index) – 52%, Lesotho (55) – 62%, Swaziland (69) - 60%, Namibia (55) - 43%, Rwanda (55) - 82%, Senegal (69) - 60%. There are much more corrupt countries with very high levels of poverty - India (85) - 61%, Mali (115) -79%, Cote d'Ivoire (115) – 46%, Mauritania (124) – 48%, Mozambique (119) – 82%, Niger (103) – 75%, Sierra Leone (119) – 76%, Zambia (85) – 83%, Liberia (94) – 95%, Malawi (110) – 90%, Indonesia (107) – 43%, Djibouti (107) – 41%, Ethiopia (110) – 72%, Benin (80) -74%, Burkina Faso (85) -73%. And even more poverty prevails in very corrupt countries as mentioned before in the last 30 countries in TI's index, as well as in Pakistan (126) - 51%, Comoros (142) – 65%, Timor-Leste (133) – 73%, Gambia (126) – 56%, Nepal (126) – 56%, Nigeria (136) – 82% (in spite of all the oil, but all the oil riches don't trickle down to most of the very poor population, because of the extreme corruption), Togo (126) - 69%, Uganda (142) - 63%. Corruption Doesn't Pay, at least not to the poors, the poorest people on earth.

POPULATION BELOW POVERTY LINE - CIA, DATA MOSTLY 2010-2013, RANK, %

1	Chad	80.00			
2	Liberia	80.00			
3	Haiti	80.00			
4	Congo, Dei	mocratic l	Republic o	of the	71.00
5	Sierra Leor	ne	70.20		
6	Suriname		70.00		
7	Nigeria	70.00			
8	Swaziland		69.00		
9	Zimbabwe		68.00		
10	Burundi	68.00			
11	Sao Tome a	and Princi	ipe	66.20	
12	Niger	63.00			
13	Zambia	60.50			
14	Comoros	60.00			
15	Honduras		60.00		
16	Senegal	54.00			
17	Guatemala		54.00		
18	Malawi	53.00			
19	Mexico	52.30			
20	Mozambiqu	ue	52.00		
21	South Suda	ın	50.60		
22	Eritrea	50.00			
23	Madagasca	r	50.00		

24	Lesotho	49.00		
25	Gambia, Th	ne	48.40	
26	Cameroon		48.00	
27	Guinea	47.00		
28	Burkina Fa	so	46.70	
29	Congo, Rep	oublic of t	he	46.50
30	Sudan	46.50		
31	Yemen	45.20		
32	Bolivia	45.00		
33	Rwanda	44.90		
34	Kenya	43.40		
35	Nicaragua		42.50	
36	Cote d'Ivoi	re	42.00	
37	Belize	41.00		
38	Timor-Lest	e	41.00	
39	Angola	40.50		
40	Mauritania		40.00	
41	Ethiopia	39.00		
42	Grenada	38.00		
43	Gaza Strip		38.00	
44	Benin	37.40		
45	Papua New	Guinea		37.00
46	El Salvador	r	36.50	
47	Mali	36.10		
48	Afghanista	n	36.00	
49	Tanzania	36.00		
50	Armenia	35.80		
51	Tajikistan		35.60	
52	•	35.00		
53	Paraguay			
54	Dominican	-		34.40
55	Kyrgyzstan		33.70	
56	Burma	32.70		
57	Colombia		32.70	
58	Togo	32.00		
59	Venezuela		31.60	
60	Bangladesh		31.50	
61	South Afric		31.30	
62	Fiji	31.00		
63	Macedonia		30.40	
64	Botswana		30.30	
65	Kosovo	30.00		
66	Cabo Verde	e	30.00	
67	Argentina		30.00	
68	Turkmenist		30.00	
69	Italy	29.90	20.00	
70	Mongolia	20.00	29.80	
71	India	29.80	20.00	
72 72	Dominica	1	29.00	
73	Virgin Islaı	nds	28.90	

		20.50			
74	Namibia	28.70			
75 7.	Ghana	28.50			
76	Lebanon	28.00			
77 7 2	Belarus	27.10	1.0	C	2 - 50
78 - 3	Micronesia			ot	26.70
79	Philippines		26.50		
80	Panama	26.00			
81	Peru	25.80			
82	Ecuador	25.60			
83	Nepal	25.20			
84	Iraq	25.00			
85	Costa Rica		24.80		
86	Uganda	24.50			
87	Ukraine	24.10			
88	Tonga	24.00			
89	Algeria	23.00			
90	Guam	23.00			
91	Anguilla	23.00			
92	Pakistan	22.30			
93	Romania	22.20			
94	Egypt	22.00			
95	Laos	22.00			
96	Moldova	21.90			
97	Bulgaria	21.80			
98	Brazil	21.40			
99	Spain	21.10			
100	Croatia	21.10			
101	Slovakia	21.00			
102	Israel	21.00			
103	Greece	20.00			
104	Cambodia		20.00		
105	French Poly	vnesia	19.70		
106	Hong Kong	•	19.60		
107	United Ara			19.50	
108	Djibouti		_	17.00	
109	Iran	18.70			
110	Uruguay	18.60			
111	Bosnia and		zina	18.60	
112	West Bank	_	18.30	10.00	
113	Portugal	18.00	10.50		
114	Estonia	17.50			
115	Trinidad an			17.00	
116	Uzbekistan	_	17.00	17.00	
117	Turkey	16.90	17.00		
117	Jamaica	16.50			
119	United Kin		16.20		
120	Maldives	-	10.20		
120		16.00			
121	Japan Korea, Sou		16.00		
122			10.00		
143	Germany	13.30			

124	Belgium 15.2	20
125	United States	15.10
126	Malta 15.1	.0
127	Chile 15.1	.0
128	Morocco 15.0	00
129	Albania 14.3	80
130	Jordan 14.2	20
131	Hungary 14.0	00
132	Slovenia 13.5	60
133	Denmark 13.4	10
134	Thailand 13.2	20
135	Bhutan 12.0	00
136	Syria 11.9	00
137	Indonesia	11.70
138	Vietnam 11.3	80
139	Bermuda 11.0	00
140	Russia 11.0	00
141	Poland 10.6	50
142	Czech Republic	9.80
143	Canada 9.4	0
144	Bahamas, The	9.30
145	Greenland	9.20
146	Georgia 9.20	0
147	Serbia 9.10	0
148	Netherlands	9.10
149	Sri Lanka	8.90
150	Mauritius	8.00
151	France 7.9	0
152	Switzerland	7.60
153	Montenegro	6.60
154	Austria 6.2	0
155	China 6.1	0
156	Azerbaijan	6.00
157	Ireland 5.50	0
158	Kazakhstan	5.30
159	Lithuania	4.00
160	Malaysia 3.8	0
161	Tunisia 3.8	0
162	Taiwan 1.50	0

Countries

Population living below national poverty line (%)

<u>Afghanistan</u>	15.8	2011	16	FY08/09	N/A	N/A
Albania	14.3	2012	12.5	2008 est.	N/A	N/A
Algeria	22.6	1995	23	2006 est.	N/A	N/A
Andorra Andorra	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Angola	36.6	2008	40.5	2006 est.	N/A	N/A
Anguilla	N/A	N/A	23	2002	N/A	N/A
Argentina Argentina	N/A	N/A	30	2013[8]	5.4	2013 ^[9]
Armenia Armenia	27.6	2008	34.1	2009 est.	N/A	N/A
<u>Austria</u>	N/A	N/A	6	2008	N/A	N/A
Azerbaijan Azerbaijan	7.6	2011	6	2012 est.	N/A	N/A
Bahamas, The	N/A	N/A	9.3	2004	N/A	N/A
Bangladesh	31.5	2010	26	2012 est.	N/A	N/A
Belarus	7.3	2011	27.1	2003 est.	N/A	N/A
Belgium Belgium	N/A	N/A	15.2	2007 est.	N/A	N/A
<u>Belize</u>	33.5	2002	43	2010 est.	N/A	N/A
Benin Benin	36.2	2011	37.4	2007 est.	N/A	N/A
Bermuda	N/A	N/A	19	2000	N/A	N/A
Bhutan	23.2	2007	23.2	2008	N/A	N/A
<u>Bolivia</u>	45.0	2011	51.3	2009 est.[10]	54.0	2007[11]
Bosnia and Herzegovina	17.9	2011	18.6	2007 est.	N/A	N/A
<u>Botswana</u>	19.3	2009	30.3	2003	N/A	N/A
Brazil	11.0	2013	21.4	2013	14.9	2011[11]
Bulgaria	20.7	2009	21.8	2008	N/A	N/A
Burkina Faso	46.7	2009	46.4	2004	N/A	N/A
<mark>▼ Burma</mark>	N/A	N/A	32.7	2007 est.	N/A	N/A

B urundi	66.9	2006	68	2002 est.	N/A	N/A
Cambodia	30.1	2007	31	2007 est.	N/A	N/A
Cameroon	39.9	2007	48	2000 est.	N/A	N/A
I+I Canada	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>9.4</u>	2008[12]	<u>4.9</u>	2004[13]
Cape Verde	26.6	2007	30	2000	N/A	N/A
Central African Republic	62	2008	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<u>Chad</u>	46.7	2011	80	2001 est.	N/A	N/A
<u>Chile</u>	14.4	2011	11.5	2012	10.4	2011[14]
<u>China</u>	N/A	N/A	13.4	2011[15]	N/A	N/A
<u>Colombia</u>	32.7	2012	32.7	2012 est.	45.5	2012[11]
<u>Comoros</u>	44.8	2004	60	2002 est.	N/A	N/A
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	71.3	2006	71	2006 est.	N/A	N/A
Congo, Republic of the	46.5	2011	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Costa Rica	20.6	2012	24.8	2011 est.	18.9	2009[11]
■ <u>Côte d'Ivoire</u>	42.7	2008	42	2006 est.	N/A	N/A
<u>Croatia</u>	11.1	2004	18	2009	N/A	N/A
Czech Republic	8.6	2012	9	2010 est.	N/A	N/A
<u> Denmark</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>13.4</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>N/A</u>	N/A
<u>Djibouti</u>	N/A	N/A	42	2007 est.	N/A	N/A
Dominica Dominica	N/A	N/A	29	2009 est.	N/A	N/A
Dominican Republic	34.4	2010	34.4	2010 est.	41.1	2009[11]
East Timor	49.9	2007	41	2009 est.	N/A	N/A
Ecuador Ecuador	27.3	2012	28.6	December 2011	40.2	2009[11][16]
Egypt	25.2	2011	20	2005 est.	N/A	N/A
El Salvador	34.5	2012	36.5	2010 est.	47.9	2009[11]

Equatorial Guinea	76.8	2006	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eritrea	69	1993	50	2004 est.	N/A	N/A
<u>Estonia</u>	N/A	N/A	17.5	2010	N/A	N/A
Ethiopia Ethiopia	38.9	2005	29.2	FY09/10 est.	N/A	N/A
Fiji	31	2009	25.5	FY90/91	N/A	N/A
France	N/A	N/A	6.2	2004	N/A	N/A
Gabon	32.7	2005	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gambia, The	48.4	2010	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gaza Strip	N/A	N/A	38	2010 est.	N/A	N/A
# Georgia	17.7	2011	9.7	2010	N/A	N/A
Germany	N/A	N/A	15.5	2010 est.	N/A	N/A
<u> Ghana</u>	24.2	2012	28.5	2007 est.	N/A	N/A
Greece	N/A	N/A	20	2009 est.	N/A	N/A
Greenland Greenland	N/A	N/A	9.2	2007 est.	N/A	N/A
Grenada	N/A	N/A	38	2008	N/A	N/A
<u>Guam</u>	N/A	N/A	23	2001 est.	N/A	N/A
<u>Guatemala</u>	53.7	2011	54	2011 est.	54.8	2006[11]
Guinea-Bissau	69.3	2010	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<u>Guinea</u>	55.2	2012	47	2006 est.	N/A	N/A
<u>Guyana</u>	N/A	N/A	35	2006	N/A	N/A
<u>Haiti</u>	58.5	2012	80	2003 est.	N/A	N/A
Honduras Honduras	60	2010	65	2010	68.9	2007[11]
<u>Hungary</u>	12.2	2009	13.9	2010	N/A	N/A
India India	21.9[17]	2012	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Indonesia	12.5	2011	13.33	2010	N/A	N/A

<u>Iran</u>	N/A	N/A	18.7	2007 est.	N/A	N/A
<u> Iraq</u>	22.9	2007	25	2008 est.	N/A	N/A
■ Ireland	N/A	N/A	5.5	2009	6.8	2004 est.[18]
<u> Israel</u>	N/A	N/A	23.6	2007[19]	N/A	N/A
<u>Jamaica</u>	17.6	2010	16.5	2009 est.	N/A	N/A
• <u>Japan</u>	N/A	N/A	16	2007[20]	N/A	N/A
<u>Jordan</u>	14.4	2010	14.2	2002	N/A	N/A
<u>Kazakhstan</u>	8.2	2009	8.2	2009	N/A	N/A
Kenya Kenya	45.9	2005	50	2000 est.	N/A	N/A
Korea, South	N/A	N/A	15	2006 est.	N/A	N/A
<u>Kosovo</u>	29.2	2010	30	2010 est.	N/A	N/A
<u>Kyrgyzstan</u>	33.7	2010	33.7	2011 est.	N/A	N/A
<u>Laos</u>	27.6	2008	26	2010 est.	N/A	N/A
<u>Latvia</u>	5.9	2004	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<u>Lebanon</u>	N/A	N/A	28	1999 est.	N/A	N/A
<u>Lesotho</u>	56.6	2003	49	1999	N/A	N/A
<u>Liberia</u>	63.8	2007	80	2000 est.	N/A	N/A
<u>Libya</u>	N/A	N/A	See note.	[21]	N/A	N/A
<u>Lithuania</u>	N/A	N/A	4	2008	N/A	N/A
Macedonia, Republic of	27.1	2010	30.9	2010	30.4	2011[22]
Madagascar	75.3	2010	50	2004 est.	N/A	N/A
<u>Malawi</u>	50.7	2010	53	2004	N/A	N/A
Malaysia Malaysia	3.8	2009	3.8	2007 est.	N/A	N/A
Maldives	N/A	N/A	16	2008	N/A	N/A
<u>Mali</u>	43.6	2010	36.1	2005 est.	N/A	N/A

<u>Mauritania</u>	42	2008	40	2004 est.	N/A	N/A
<u>Mauritius</u>	N/A	N/A	8	2006 est.	N/A	N/A
■•■ <u>Mexico</u>	51.3	2010	48.0	2013	48.0	2013[11]
Micronesia, Federated States of	N/A	N/A	26.7	2000	N/A	N/A
Moldova	16.6	2012	26.3	2009	N/A	N/A
Mongolia Mongolia	27.4	2012	39.2	2010	N/A	N/A
<u>Montenegro</u>	11.3	2012	6.6	2010 est.	N/A	N/A
<u>Morocco</u>	9	2007	15	2007 est.	N/A	N/A
<u>Mozambique</u>	54.7	2009	54	2008 est.	N/A	N/A
<u>Namibia</u>	28.7	2009	55.8	2005 est. ^[23]	N/A	N/A
Nepal Nepal	25.2	2011	25.2	2011	N/A	N/A
<u>Netherlands</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>10.5</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>
Nicaragua Nicaragua	42.5	2009	46.2	2005	61.9	2005[11]
Niger Niger	59.5	2007	63	1993 est.	N/A	N/A
■ <u>Nigeria</u>	46.0	2010	70	2007 est.	N/A	N/A
***Norway	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>4.3</u>	2007[24]
<u>Pakistan</u>	22.3	2006	22.3	FY05/06 est.	2013	21%[25]
Panama Panama	27.6	2011	26	2012 est.	26.4	2009[11]
Papua New Guinea	39.9	2009	37	2002 est.	N/A	N/A
Paraguay Paraguay	26.9	2012	34.7	2010 est.	56.0	2009[11]
Peru Peru	25.8	2012	31.3	2010	34.8	2009[11]
<u>Philippines</u>	25.2	2012	26.5	2009 est.	N/A	N/A
Poland Poland	7.6	2008	10.2	2003 est.	N/A	N/A
Portugal	N/A	N/A	18	2006	N/A	N/A
Romania	13.8	2006	22.2	2011 est.	N/A	N/A

Russia	12.7	2011	13.1	2010	13.1	Dec. 2008 ^[26]
Rwanda	44.9	2011	60	2001 est.	N/A	N/A
São Tomé and Príncipe	61.7	2009	54	2004 est.	N/A	N/A
Senegal Senegal	46.7	2011	54	2001 est.	N/A	N/A
<u>Serbia</u>	24.6	2011	9.1	2013 est.	N/A	N/A
Sierra Leone	52.9	2011	70.2	2004	N/A	N/A
Slovakia Slovakia	13.2	2011	21	2002	N/A	N/A
Slovenia Slovenia	N/A	N/A	12.3	2008	N/A	N/A
South Africa	23	2006	31.3	2009 est.	N/A	N/A
South Sudan	50.6	2009	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<u>Spain</u>	N/A	N/A	19.8	2005	26.4	$2012^{[27]}$
Sri Lanka	8.9	2010	8.9	2009 est.	N/A	N/A
<u>Sudan</u>	46.5	2009	40	2004 est.	N/A	N/A
<u>Suriname</u>	N/A	N/A	70	2002 est.	N/A	N/A
Swaziland Swaziland	63.0	2009	69	2006	N/A	N/A
Switzerland	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>6.9</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>
Syria Syria	N/A	N/A	11.9	2006 est.	N/A	N/A
<u>Taiwan</u>	N/A	N/A	1.16	2010 est.	N/A	N/A
Tajikistan	46.7	2009	53	2009 est.	N/A	N/A
<u>Tanzania</u>	28.2	2012	36	2002 est.	N/A	N/A
<u>Thailand</u>	13.2	2011	8.1	2009 est.	N/A	N/A
Togo Togo	58.7	2011	32	1989 est.	N/A	N/A
** Tonga	N/A	N/A	24	FY03/04	N/A	N/A
Trinidad and Tobago	N/A	N/A	17	2007 est.	N/A	N/A
© Tunisia	15.5	2010	3.8	2005 est.	3.8	2005[28]

18.1	2009	16.9	2010	20.5	2005[29]
N/A	N/A	30	2004 est.	N/A	N/A
24.5	2009	35	2001 est.	N/A	N/A
7.8	2011	35	2009	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	19.5	2003	0.0	2011[30]
N/A	N/A	14	2006 est.	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	15.1	2010 est.	14.5	2013[31]
12.4	2012	18.6	2010 est.	6.7	2012[32]
16.0	2011	26	2008 est.	N/A	N/A
25.4	2012	31.6	2011 est.	27.6	2008[11]
17.2	2012	14.5	2010 est.	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	28.9	2002	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	18.3	2010 est.	N/A	N/A
25.8	2011	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
34.8	2005	45.2	2003	N/A	N/A
59.3	2006	64	2006	N/A	N/A
72.3	2011	68	2004	N/A	N/A
	N/A 24.5 7.8 N/A N/A N/A 12.4 16.0 25.4 17.2 N/A N/A 25.8 34.8 59.3	24.5 2009 7.8 2011 N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 12.4 2012 16.0 2011 25.4 2012 17.2 2012 N/A N/A	N/A N/A 30 24.5 2009 35 7.8 2011 35 N/A N/A 19.5 N/A N/A 14 N/A N/A 15.1 12.4 2012 18.6 16.0 2011 26 25.4 2012 31.6 17.2 2012 14.5 N/A N/A 28.9 N/A N/A 18.3 25.8 2011 N/A 34.8 2005 45.2 59.3 2006 64	N/A N/A 30 2004 est. 24.5 2009 35 2001 est. 7.8 2011 35 2009 N/A N/A 19.5 2003 N/A N/A 14 2006 est. N/A N/A 15.1 2010 est. 12.4 2012 18.6 2010 est. 16.0 2011 26 2008 est. 25.4 2012 31.6 2011 est. 17.2 2012 14.5 2010 est. N/A N/A 28.9 2002 N/A N/A 18.3 2010 est. 25.8 2011 N/A N/A 34.8 2005 45.2 2003 59.3 2006 64 2006	N/A N/A 30 2004 est. N/A 24.5 2009 35 2001 est. N/A 7.8 2011 35 2009 N/A N/A N/A 19.5 2003 0.0 N/A N/A 14 2006 est. N/A N/A N/A 15.1 2010 est. 14.5 12.4 2012 18.6 2010 est. 6.7 16.0 2011 26 2008 est. N/A 25.4 2012 31.6 2011 est. 27.6 17.2 2012 14.5 2010 est. N/A N/A N/A 28.9 2002 N/A N/A N/A 18.3 2010 est. N/A 25.8 2011 N/A N/A N/A N/A 34.8 2005 45.2 2003 N/A 59.3 2006 64 2006 N/A

Population living under 1.25 and 2 dollar (PPP) a day (%) (International poverty line) – WORLD BANK

	Country	< \$1.25	< \$2	Year
<u>Albania</u>		0.5	3.00	2012
<u>Algeria</u>		6.79	23.61	1995
<u>Angola</u>		43.4	67.4	2009
Argentina	ı	1.4	2.9	2011

<u>Armenia</u>	1.28	12.43	2008
Bangladesh	29	76.54	2012 [5]
<u>Belarus</u>	0.10	0.19	2008
Belize	12.21	22.00	1999
Benin	51.6	74.3	2012
Mutan Bhutan	2.4	15.2	2012
Bolivia Bolivia	8.0	12.7	2012
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.04	0.19	2007
<u>Botswana</u>	13.4	27.8	2009
Brazil	3.8	6.8	2012
Bulgaria	1.9	3.9	2011
Burkina Faso	44.60	72.56	2009
B urundi	81.32	93.45	2006
Cambodia	22.75	53.27	2008
Cameroon	9.56	30.36	2007
Cape Verde	21.02	40.85	2002
Central African Republic	62.83	80.09	2008
<u>Chad</u>	61.94	83.28	2003
<u>Chile</u>	0.8	1.9	2011
<u>China</u>	6.3	18.6	2011
<u>Colombia</u>	5.6	12.0	2012
<u>Comoros</u>	46.11	64.98	2004
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	87.72	95.15	2006
Congo, Republic of the	32.8	57.3	2011
Costa Rica	1.4	3.1	2012

Côte d'Ivoire	23.75 46.34	4 2008
<u>Croatia</u>	0.06 0.09	9 2008
Czech Republic	0.00 0.00	2009
<u>Djibouti</u>	18.84 41.20	2002
Dominican Republic	2.24 8.8	3 2012
East Timor	37.44 72.82	2 2007
<u>Ecuador</u>	4.0 8.4	4 2012
Egypt	1.69 15.43	3 2008
El Salvador	2.5 8.8	3 2012
<u>Estonia</u>	0.46 0.9	2009
Ethiopia	36.8 72.2	2 2011
Fiji	5.88 22.90	2009
Gabon	4.84 19.59	9 2005
Gambia, The	33.63 55.93	3 2003
# Georgia	15.27 32.23	1 2008
<u> Ghana</u>	28.59 51.84	4 2006
<u>Guatemala</u>	13.53 26.33	3 2006
<u>Guinea</u>	40.9 72.7	7 2012
Guinea-Bissau	48.90 77.90	5 2002
<u>Guyana</u>	8.70 18.02	2 1998
<u>Haiti</u>	61.71 77.5	1 2001
Honduras Honduras	16.5 29.2	2 2011
Hungary	0.07 0.18	3 2002
India India	24.7 60.6	5 2011
Indonesia	18.06 43.3	3 2010

<u> Iran</u>	1.45	8.03	2005
<u>Iraq</u>	3.9	21.2	2012
✓ <u>Jamaica</u>	0.21	5.44	2004
<u>Jordan</u>	0.12	1.59	2010
<u>Kazakhstan</u>	0.11	1.12	2009
Kenya Kenya	43.37	67.21	2005
<u>Kyrgyzstan</u>	6.23	21.69	2009
Laos	33.88	62.00	2012
<u>Latvia</u>	0.14	0.37	2008
<u>Lesotho</u>	43.41	62.25	2003
<u>Liberia</u>	83.76	94.88	2007
<u>Lithuania</u>	0.16	0.44	2008
Macedonia, Republic of	0.00	5.91	2009
Madagascar	81.29	92.62	2010
<u>Malawi</u>	73.86	90.45	2004
Malaysia Malaysia	0.00	2.27	2009
<u>Mali</u>	50.43	78.66	2010
<u>Mauritania</u>	23.43	47.69	2008
Mexico Mexico	1.00	4.1	2012
Micronesia, Federated States of	31.15	44.69	2000
Moldova Moldova	0.2	2.8	2011
<u>Montenegro</u>	0.2	0.70	2011
<u>Morocco</u>	2.52	14.03	2007
<u>Mozambique</u>	59.58	81.77	2008
<u>Namibia</u>	23.5	43.20	2010

.	22.7	56.0	2010
<u>Nepal</u>	23.7	30.0	2010
Nicaragua Nicaragua	8.5	20.8	2009
Niger Niger	43.62	75.23	2008
■ Nigeria	62.0	82.2	2010
Pakistan	12.7	50.7	2011
Panama Panama	4.0	8.9	2012
Papua New Guinea	35.79	57.38	1996
Paraguay Paraguay	3.0	7.7	2012
Peru	2.9	8.0	2012
Philippines	10.42	21.53	2009
Poland	0.05	0.20	2009
Romania	0.41	1.67	2009
Rwanda	63.17	82.37	2011
Saint Lucia	20.93	40.58	1995
São Tomé and Príncipe	28.18	54.20	2001
Senegal Senegal	33.50	60.36	2005
Serbia Serbia	0.25	1.14	2004
<u>Seychelles</u>	0.25	1.84	2007
Sierra Leone	53.37	76.08	2003
Slovakia Slovakia	0.3	0.5	2011
<u>Slovenia</u>	0.00	0.00	2008
South Africa	9.40	26.2	2011
Sri Lanka	4.1	23.9	2010
<u>Sudan</u>	19.80	44.14	2009
<u>Suriname</u>	15.54	27.20	1999

<u>Swaziland</u>	39.3 60.40	2010
Syria Syria	1.71 16.85	2004
Tajikistan	6.56 27.69	2009
<u>Tanzania</u>	43.50 73.0	2012
<u>Thailand</u>	0.37 3.5	2010
<u>Togo</u>	38.68 69.31	2006
Trinidad and Tobago	4.16 13.53	1992
Tunisia	0.7 4.5	2010
<u>Curkey</u>	0.1 2.6	2011
Turkmenistan	24.82 49.65	1998
<u>Uganda</u>	37.8 62.9	2013
<u>Ukraine</u>	0.06 0.17	2009
<u>Uruguay</u>	0.30 1.3	2012
<u>Venezuela</u>	6.63 12.91	2006
<u>★ Vietnam</u>	2.4 12.50	2012
West Bank and Gaza	0.04 0.34	2009
Yemen Yemen	17.53 46.60	2005
Zambia	68.51 82.55	2006

ECONOMIC POPULATION BELOW POVERTY LINE – INDEX MUNDI – CIA WORLD FACTBOOK – INFORMATION ACCURATE AS OF 1.1.2012 – NATIONAL ESTIMATES OF THE PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION FALLING BELOW THE POVERTY LINE ARE BASED ON SURVEYS OF SUB-GROUPS, WITH THE RESULTS WEIGHTED BY THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN EACH GROUP. DEFINITIONS OF POVERTY VARY CONSIDERABLY AMONG STATES. RICH NATIONS GENERALLY EMPLOY MORE GENEROUS STANDARDS OF POVERTY THAN POOR NATIONS.

We mentioned the problematics of the poverty surveys as the poverty line varies considerably among states – in richer states it is much higher than in poorer states, so we can find a higher poverty rate in rich countries as compared to poor countries. Yet, we try to draw some conclusions after all. The poorest countries in the world with more than half and up to 80% of the population living below poverty line are also the least ethical countries – Chad, Haiti, Liberia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Burundi, Zambia, Niger, Honduras, South Sudan, Bolivia, Mexico, South Africa, Kenya, Eritrea, etc.

The most ethical countries have the lowest level of poverty – up to 16%: Ireland, Austria, France, Switzerland, Canada, Netherlands, United States, United Kingdom, Chile, Belgium, Japan, Germany, Denmark. But we also find very poor and unethical countries with lower poverty rate than the richest and most ethical countries (up to 16%): Thailand, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka, Albania, Russia, China, Vietnam, Syria, Azerbaijan, Indonesia, and up to 23% - Egypt (which has a lower poverty rate than Israel), Pakistan, Iran, Algeria, Moldova, Brazil, Turkey. If we don't want to be confused we just have to conclude that the most ethical countries have the lowest poverty rates, so Ethics Pays, but if very unethical countries have a similar poverty rate it doesn't show that you are not penalized by your unethical conduct it just shows that the poverty line is much higher in the rich country than in the poor country, so we cannot conclude the opposite about the reward of the unethical countries. Yet the most unethical countries have a very high poverty rate although their poverty line is much lower.

Rank	Country	Population below poverty line (%)	
1	Chad	80	
2	<u>Haiti</u>	80	
3	<u>Liberia</u>	80	
4	Congo, Democratic Republic of the	71	
5	Sierra Leone	70.2	
6	<u>Nigeria</u>	70	
7	Suriname	70	
8	Swaziland	69	
9	<u>Zimbabwe</u>	68	
10	<u>Burundi</u>	68	

11	Sao Tome and Principe	66.2	
12	Zambia	64	
13	Niger	63	
14	Comoros	60	
15	<u>Honduras</u>	60	
16	<u>Namibia</u>	55.8	
17	<u>Guatemala</u>	54	
18	<u>Mozambique</u>	54	
19	<u>Senegal</u>	54	
20	<u>Malawi</u>	53	
21	<u>Mexico</u>	51.3	
22	<u>Bolivia</u>	51.3	
23	South Sudan	50.6	
24	South Africa	50	
25	<u>Madagascar</u>	50	
26	<u>Kenya</u>	50	
27	<u>Eritrea</u>	50	
28	<u>Lesotho</u>	49	
29	Gambia, The	48.4	
30	Cameroon	48	
31	Guinea	47	
32	<u>Tajikistan</u>	46.7	
33	Burkina Faso	46.7	
34	Sudan	46.5	
35	<u>Nicaragua</u>	46.2	
36	Yemen	45.2	
37	<u>Rwanda</u>	44.9	
38	Belize	43	

39	<u>Djibouti</u>	42	
40	Cote d'Ivoire	42	
41	East Timor	41	
42	<u>Angola</u>	40.5	
43	<u>Mauritania</u>	40	
44	<u>Mongolia</u>	39.2	
45	<u>Grenada</u>	38	
46	Gaza Strip	38	
47	<u>Benin</u>	37.4	
48	<u>Colombia</u>	37.2	
49	Papua New Guinea	37	
50	El Salvador	36.5	
51	<u>Mali</u>	36.1	
52	<u>Tanzania</u>	36	
53	<u>Afghanistan</u>	36	
54	<u>Armenia</u>	35.8	
55	<u>Guyana</u>	35	
56	<u>Ukraine</u>	35	
57	<u>Paraguay</u>	34.7	
58	Dominican Republic	34.4	
59	<u>Kyrgyzstan</u>	33.7	
60	<u>Burma</u>	32.7	
61	<u>Togo</u>	32	
62	Bangladesh	31.51	
63	<u>Peru</u>	31.3	
64	Cambodia	31	
65	<u>Fiji</u>	31	
66	<u>Macedonia</u>	30.9	

67	<u>Botswana</u>	30.3	
68	<u>Argentina</u>	30	
69	Cape Verde	30	
70	Kosovo	30	
71	<u>Turkmenistan</u>	30	
72	<u>India</u>	29.8	
73	<u>Ethiopia</u>	29.2	
74	<u>Dominica</u>	29	
75	<u>Panama</u>	29	
76	<u>Virgin Islands</u>	28.9	
77	Ecuador	28.6	
78	<u>Ghana</u>	28.5	
79	<u>Lebanon</u>	28	
80	<u>Venezuela</u>	27.4	
81	<u>Belarus</u>	27.1	
82	Micronesia, Federated States of	26.7	
83	<u>Philippines</u>	26.5	
84	Laos	26	
85	<u>Uzbekistan</u>	26	
86	<u>Nepal</u>	25.2	
87	<u>Iraq</u>	25	
88	<u>Uganda</u>	24.5	
89	Costa Rica	24.2	
90	<u>Tonga</u>	24	
91	<u>Israel</u>	23.6	
92	<u>Bhutan</u>	23.2	
93	<u>Anguilla</u>	23	
94	<u>Algeria</u>	23	

95	Guam	23	
96	<u>Pakistan</u>	22.3	
97	<u>Moldova</u>	21.9	
98	<u>Bulgaria</u>	21.8	
99	<u>Brazil</u>	21.4	
100	Romania	21.1	
101	Slovakia	21	
102	Greece	20	
103	Egypt	20	
104	<u>Spain</u>	19.8	
105	United Arab Emirates	19.5	
106	<u>Bermuda</u>	19	
107	<u>Iran</u>	18.7	
108	Bosnia and Herzegovina	18.6	
109	<u>Uruguay</u>	18.6	
110	West Bank	18.3	
111	Croatia	18	
112	<u>Portugal</u>	18	
113	<u>Estonia</u>	17.5	
114	Poland	17	
115	Trinidad and Tobago	17	
116	<u>Turkey</u>	16.9	
117	<u>Jamaica</u>	16.5	
118	<u>Japan</u>	16	
119	<u>Maldives</u>	16	
120	Germany	15.5	
121	<u>Belgium</u>	15.2	
122	Chile	15.1	

123	<u>United States</u>	15.1	
124	Morocco	15	
125	Korea, South	15	
126	<u>Vietnam</u>	14.5	
127	<u>Jordan</u>	14.2	
128	<u>United Kingdom</u>	14	
129	Hungary	13.9	
130	<u>China</u>	13.4	
<u>131</u>	<u>Denmark</u>	<u>13.4</u>	
132	Russia	13.1	
133	Albania	12.5	
134	Indonesia	12.5	
135	Slovenia	12.3	
136	<u>Syria</u>	11.9	
137	<u>Azerbaijan</u>	11	
137 <u>138</u>	<u>Azerbaijan</u> <u>Netherlands</u>	11 <u>10.5</u>	
<u>138</u>	<u>Netherlands</u>	<u>10.5</u>	
138 139	<u>Netherlands</u> <u>Georgia</u>	10.5 9.7	
138 139 140	Netherlands Georgia Canada	10.5 9.7 <u>9.4</u>	
138 139 140 141	Netherlands Georgia Canada Bahamas, The	9.7 9.4 9.3	
138 139 140 141 142	Netherlands Georgia Canada Bahamas, The Greenland	9.7 9.4 9.3 9.2	
138 139 140 141 142 143	Netherlands Georgia Canada Bahamas, The Greenland Serbia	9.7 9.4 9.3 9.2 9.2	
138 139 140 141 142 143 144	Netherlands Georgia Canada Bahamas, The Greenland Serbia Czech Republic	9.7 9.4 9.3 9.2 9.2	
138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145	Metherlands Georgia Canada Bahamas, The Greenland Serbia Czech Republic Sri Lanka	9.7 9.4 9.3 9.2 9.2 9	
138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146	Metherlands Georgia Canada Bahamas, The Greenland Serbia Czech Republic Sri Lanka Kazakhstan	9.7 9.4 9.3 9.2 9.2 9.8 8.9	
138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147	Metherlands Georgia Canada Bahamas, The Greenland Serbia Czech Republic Sri Lanka Kazakhstan Thailand	9.7 9.4 9.3 9.2 9.2 9 8.9 8.2 8.1	

151	<u>France</u>	6.2	
152	<u>Austria</u>	6	
153	Ireland	5.5	
154	<u>Lithuania</u>	4	
155	<u>Malaysia</u>	3.8	
156	<u>Tunisia</u>	3.8	
157	Taiwan	1.16	

21. COUNTRY COMPARISON – INTERNET PENETRATION RATE (RPR) IS THE NUMBER OF INTERNET USERS DIVIDED BY THE POPULATION (IN %) – MOSTLY IN 2013/2014 - INTERNET WORLD STATS

We refer to Bhutan in the analysis of World Happiness, but many people should ask themselves what do they prefer - to live in a country like Bhutan, one of the happiest countries in the world, ranked by TI as no. 30 in the corruption perception index (close to France – 26), with a GDP per capita of only \$7,000 (but with a GDP growth rate of 6%), and an Internet penetration rate of only 30%, or to live in a modern country like South Korea, one of the richest countries in the world, with a GDP PPP per capita of \$35K, with an Internet penetration rate of 85%, ranked 41 in the world happiness report and 43 in TI's ethical report? What is better, a high degree of happiness or a high degree of development? Can we combine both of them? The answer is absolutely – Yes! The 11 most ethical countries in the world are also the most modern and the happiest as well, especially the Scandinavian countries who win all the trophies. Like the Swedish Abba song "the winner takes it all", Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland – the Scandinavian countries are the best in almost all parameters: they are not only the most ethical, happiest, richest, most democratic, with the highest equality in income and gender, but they are also the most modern, most competitive and with the highest efficiency records. Even in the parameter of internet penetration they score the highest grades: Sweden (TI – 4), Denmark (TI – 1) and Norway (TI – 5) – 95%, Finland (TI – 3) – 92%, and if we want to add the last and smallest Scandinavian country Iceland (TI - 12), we find that they have the highest Internet penetration in the world – 97%! (maybe because it is so cold there that you have to stay indoor and work on the Internet...). The other countries in the 11 most ethical have also among the highest Internet penetration rates: Canada - 95%, Netherlands and Luxembourg - 94%, Australia, Switzerland and New Zealand - 87%, but Singapore - 73% only. So, here again Ethics Pays by far.

However, if we add to those countries the other states ranking up to 20 in TI's index, we see that here also the Internet penetration is very high, although not as high as in most of the first 11: UK – 90%, Germany – 86%, US – 87%, Japan – 86%, Belgium – 82%, Ireland (and the European Union) – 78%, Hong Kong and Barbados - 75%. Going down from 21 in TI index to 47 we find that most of the countries have a lower Internet penetration which is quite high - on the average - 75%: Austria (81%), Bahamas, United Arab Emirates (88%), Qatar (85%), Chile, Uruguay, Estonia, France (83%), Cyprus, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Poland, Taiwan (80%), Israel – strartup nation - (71%), Spain (75%), Slovenia, South Korea (85%), Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Costa Rica and Hungary. However, Bhutan (TI – 30) – 30%, Botswana (TI – 31) - 15% - both countries are not developed by most of the standards yet are very ethical in comparison to other not developed countries. Unethical countries have a much lower Internet penetration rate - Brazil (TI - 69) - 54%, China (TI - 100) - 47%, Cuba (TI - 63) - 26%, Greece -60% and Italy 58%, both rank 69 in TI's index. India (TI - 85) - 20%, Russia (TI -136) – 61%, Iran – 56%, Indonesia – 28%, Mexico – 49%, Nigeria – 40%, Pakistan – 15%, South Africa – 49%, Tanzania – 15%. And the most corrupt countries of the world have also the lowest Internet penetration: Somalia – 2%, Sudan – 26%, Iraq – 9%, Afghanistan – 6%, South Sudan – 0%, Turkmenistan – 10%, Uzbekistan – 38%, Libya – 22%, Eritrea – 6%, Yemen – 20%, Angola – 22%, Venezuela – 50%, Haiti – 11%, Guinea-Bissau – 3%, Syria – 26%, Burundi – 4%, Zimbabwe – 39%, Bangladesh – 25%, Central African Republic – 3%, Myanmar – 1%, Cambodia – 6%, Democratic Republic of the Congo – 2%, Chad – 3%, Ethiopia – 2%, Vietnam – 44%, Papua New Guinea – 6%.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF COUNTRIES

Including the <u>latest</u> Internet Indicators, Usage, Penetration Rates, Population, Broadband and ISO 3316 Symbol

Alphabetical list of Countries:

Definitions:

- 1. Internet Penetration Rate (P.R.) is the number of Internet users divided by the population, and expressed in percentage
- 2. "Symbol" means the ISO 3166-1-alpha-2 code. You can see the original ISO Country codes at the ISO website.
- 3. "Broadband Speed" column is average download speed in Mbps, as defined by the Ookla Net Index.
- 4. The last column is defined as the date for Internet users data, month and year.
- 5. "n/a" means that the information is not available.
- 6. <u>Warning</u>: statistical and population figures displayed here are the latest available and will not necessarily be the same as the ones displayed in other tables at this website.

Country or Region Name	Sym -bol	Broadband Speed(2)	Population (latest)	Internet Users	Internet Penetration	Data date
<u>Afghanistan</u>	AF	1.11 Mbps	31,822,848	1,877,548	5.9 %	Dec/2013
<u>Africa</u>			1,158,353,014	313,600,573	27.1 %	Dec/2014
Aland Islands	AX	25.60 Mbps	28,355	n/a	n/a	Dec/2013
<u>Albania</u>	AL	7.56 Mbps	3,020,209	1,815,145	60.1 %	Dec/2013
<u>Algeria</u>	DZ	2.6 Mbps	39,542,166	6,669,927	16.9 %	Dec/2014
American Samoa	AS	n/a	54,517	3,040	5.6 %	Dec/2013
<u>Andorra</u>	AD	38.58 Mbps	85,458	80,331	94.0 %	Dec/2013
<u>Angola</u>	AO	5.93 Mbps	19,625,353	5,102,592	26.0 %	Dec/2014
<u>Anguilla</u>	Al	2.82 Mbps	16,086	10,424	64.8 %	Dec/2013
Antarctica	AQ	n/a	1,257	n/a	0.0 %	Dec/2013
Antigua & Barbuda	AG	4.53 Mbps	91,295	74,057	81.1 %	Dec/2013
<u>Argentina</u>	AR	5.18 Mbps	43,024,374	32,268,280	75.0 %	Dec/2013
<u>Armenia</u>	AM	14.99 Mbps	3,060,927	1,800,000	58.8 %	Dec/2013
<u>Aruba</u>	AW	13.46 Mbps	110,663	87,313	78.9 %	Dec/2013
<u>Asia</u>			4,032,654,624	1,394,736,872	34.6 %	Dec/2014
<u>Australia</u>	AU	16.04 Mbps	22,507,616	19,554,832	86.9 %	Dec/2013
<u>Austria</u>	AT	22.93 Mbps	8,223,062	6,629,433	80.6 %	Dec/2013
<u>Azerbaijan</u>	AZ	6.93 Mbps	9,686,210	5,685,805	58.7 %	Dec/2013
Bahamas, The	BS	12.93 Mbps	321,834	235,797	73.3 %	Dec/2013
<u>Bahrain</u>	BH	9.29 Mbps	1,314,089	1,182,680	90.0 %	Dec/2013
<u>Bangladesh</u>	BD	5.49 Mbps	166,280,712	40,800,000	24.5 %	June/2014
<u>Barbados</u>	BB	6.76 Mbps	289,680	217,260	75.0 %	Dec/2013
<u>Belarus</u>	BY	12.15 Mbps	9,608,058	5,204,685	54.2 %	Dec/2013
<u>Belgium</u>	BE	34.22 Mbps	10,449,361	8,586,240	82.2 %	Dec/2013
<u>Belize</u>	BZ	2.71 Mbps	340,844	108,048	31.7 %	Dec/2013

BeninBJBermudaBMBhutanBTBoliviaBOBonaire, St.Eustat, SabaBQBosnia and HerzegovinaBABotswanaBWBouvet IslandBVBrazilBRBritish Indian Ocean T.IOBritish Virgin IslandsVGBrunei DarussalamBN	1.19 Mbps 7.87 Mbps 4.0 Mbps 1.94 Mbps 7.03 Mbps 7.94 Mbps 3.65 Mbps n/a 9.91 Mbps n/a 7.41 Mbps	10,448,647 69,839 733,643 10,631,486 22,303 3,871,643 2,182,719 0 202,656,788	1,232,940 66,557 219,359 4,199,437 20,956 2,628,846 327,408	11.8 % 95.3 % 29.9 % 39.5 % 94.0% 67.9 % 15.0 %	Dec/2014 Dec/2013 Dec/2013 Dec/2013 Dec/2013 Dec/2014
Bhutan BT Bolivia BO Bonaire, St.Eustat, Saba BQ Bosnia and Herzegovina BA Botswana BW Bouvet Island BV Brazil BR British Indian Ocean T. IO British Virgin Islands VG	4.0 Mbps 1.94 Mbps 7.03 Mbps 7.94 Mbps 3.65 Mbps n/a 9.91 Mbps n/a	733,643 10,631,486 22,303 3,871,643 2,182,719 0 202,656,788	219,359 4,199,437 20,956 2,628,846 327,408	29.9 % 39.5 % 94.0% 67.9 % 15.0 %	Dec/2013 Dec/2013 Dec/2013 Dec/2013 Dec/2014
BoliviaBOBonaire, St.Eustat, SabaBQBosnia and HerzegovinaBABotswanaBWBouvet IslandBVBrazilBRBritish Indian Ocean T.IOBritish Virgin IslandsVG	1.94 Mbps 7.03 Mbps 7.94 Mbps 3.65 Mbps n/a 9.91 Mbps n/a	10,631,486 22,303 3,871,643 2,182,719 0 202,656,788	4,199,437 20,956 2,628,846 327,408	39.5 % 94.0% 67.9 % 15.0 %	Dec/2013 Dec/2013 Dec/2014
Bonaire, St.Eustat, Saba BQ Bosnia and Herzegovina BA Botswana BW Bouvet Island BV Brazil BR British Indian Ocean T. IO British Virgin Islands VG	7.03 Mbps 7.94 Mbps 3.65 Mbps n/a 9.91 Mbps n/a	22,303 3,871,643 2,182,719 0 202,656,788	20,956 2,628,846 327,408 0	94.0% 67.9 % 15.0 %	Dec/2013 Dec/2013 Dec/2014
Bosnia and HerzegovinaBABotswanaBWBouvet IslandBVBrazilBRBritish Indian Ocean T.IOBritish Virgin IslandsVG	7.94 Mbps 3.65 Mbps n/a 9.91 Mbps n/a	3,871,643 2,182,719 0 202,656,788	2,628,846 327,408 0	67.9 % 15.0 %	Dec/2013 Dec/2014
Botswana BW Bouvet Island BV Brazil BR British Indian Ocean T. IO British Virgin Islands VG	3.65 Mbps n/a 9.91 Mbps n/a	2,182,719 0 202,656,788	327,408 0	15.0 %	Dec/2014
Bouvet Island BV Brazil BR British Indian Ocean T. IO British Virgin Islands VG	n/a 9.91 Mbps n/a	0 202,656,788	0		
Brazil BR British Indian Ocean T. IO British Virgin Islands VG	9.91 Mbps n/a	202,656,788	0	n/al	
British Indian Ocean T. IO British Virgin Islands VG	n/a				Dec/2013
British Virgin Islands VG		n/a	109,773,650	54.2 %	Dec/2013
	7.41 Mbps	n/a	n/a	n/a	Dec/2013
Brunei Darussalam BN		32,680	14,620	44.7 %	Dec/2013
	7.37 Mbps	422,675	318,900	75.4 %	Dec/2013
Bulgaria BG	34.6 Mbps	6,924,716	3,674,254	53.1 %	Dec/2013
Burkina Faso BF	0.76 Mbps	18,931,686	1,003,379	5.3 %	Dec/2014
Burundi BI	n/a	10,742,276	526,372	4.9 %	Dec/2014
Cabo Verde CV	n/a	538,535	201,950	37.5 %	Dec/2013
<u>Cambodia</u> KH	5.6 Mbps	15,458,332	927,500	6.0 %	Dec/2013
<u>Cameroon</u> CM	n/a	23,130,708	1,486,815	6.4 %	Jun/2014
<u>Canada</u> CA	22.87 Mbps	34,834,841	33,000,381	94.7 %	Jun/2014
Caribbean, the		41,873,409	17,211,359	41.1 %	Jun/2014
Cayman Islands KY	10.00 Mbps	54,914	40,691	74.1 %	Dec/2013
Central African Republic CF	n/a	5,277,959	184,729	3.5 %	Dec/2013
Central America		164,210,961	72,373,646	44.1 %	June/2014
<u>Chad</u> TD	n/a	11,412,107	317,197	2.8 %	Jun/2014
<u>Chile</u> CL	13.06 Mbps	17,363,894	11,686,746	67.3 %	Jun/2014
China CN	23.22 Mbps	1,361,512,535	649,000,000	47.7 %	Dec/2014
Christmas Island CX	n/a	1,502	464	30.9 %	Dec/2013
Cocos (Keeling) Islands CC	n/a	584	n/a	n/a	Dec/2013
<u>Colombia</u> CO	6.80 Mbps	46,245,297	28,475,560	61.6 %	Dec/2013
Comoros KM	n/a	766,865	49,846	6.5 %	Dec/2013
Congo CG	n/a	4,662,446	307,721	6.6 %	Dec/2013
Congo, Dem. Rep. of the CD	1.19 Mbps	77,433,744	1,703,542	2.2 %	Dec/2013
Cook Islands CK	n/a	12,400	6,000	48.4 %	Dec/2013
Costa Rica CR	4.51 Mbps	4,755,234	4,028,302	84.7 %	June/2014
Cote D'Ivoire CI	2.79 Mbps	22,848,945	968,000	4.2 %	Dec/2013
Croatia HR	7.19 Mbps	4,470,534	3,167,838	70.9 %	Dec/2013
Cuba CU	1.25 Mbps	11,047,251	2,840,248	25.7 %	Dec/2013
Curação CW	n/a	147,695	138,774	94.0 %	Dec/2013
Cyprus CY	8.98 Mbps	1,172,458	767,374	65.5 %	Dec/2013
Czech Republic CZ	29.6 Mbps	10,627,448	7,876,002	74.1 %	Dec/2013

Country or Region Name	Sym -bol	Broadband Speed(2)	Population (Latest)	Internet Users	Internet Penetration	Data date
Denmark	DK	39.51 Mbps	5,569,077	5,270,018	94.6 %	Dec/2013
Djibouti	DJ	n/a	810,179	80,378	9.9 %	Jun/2014
<u>Dominica</u>	DM	3.01 Mbps	73,449	43,335	59.0 %	Dec/2013
Dominican Republic	DO	4.42 Mbps	10,349,741	6,054,013	58.5 %	Dec/2013
East Timor (Timor-Leste)	TP	n/a	1,201,542	13,217	1.1 %	Dec/2013
<u>Ecuador</u>	EC	5.74 Mbps	15,654,411	12,116,687	77.4 %	June/2014
<u>Egypt</u>	EG	2.44 Mbps	86,895,099	46,200,000	53.2 %	Aug/2014
El Salvador	SV	3.52 Mbps	6,125,512	1,742,832	28.5 %	Jun/2014
Equatorial Guinea	GQ	1.32 Mbps	722,254	124,035	17.2 %	Jun/2014
<u>Eritrea</u>	ER	n/a	6,380,803	377,363	5.9 %	Dec/2013
<u>Estonia</u>	EE	30.68 Mbps	1,257,921	1,006,337	80.0 %	Dec/2013
<u>Ethiopia</u>	ET	6.11 Mbps	96,633,458	1,836,035	1.9 %	Dec/2013
<u>Europe</u>			825,824,883	582,441,059	70.5 %	Jun/2014
European Union	EU		511,483,906	398,228,381	77.9 %	Jun/2014
Falkland Is. (Malvinas)	FK	n/a	2,932	2,841	96.9 %	Dec/2013
Faroe Islands	FO	11.83 Mbps	49,947	44,952	90.0 %	Dec/2013
<u>Fiji</u>	FJ	7.47 Mbps	903,207	335,090	37.1 %	Dec/2013
<u>Finland</u>	FI	31.71 Mbps	5,268,799	4,821,478	91.5 %	Dec/2013
<u>France</u>	FR	30.97 Mbps	66,259,012	52,221,000	83.3 %	Dec/2013
French Guiana	GF	n/a	253,511	71,360	28.1 %	Dec/2013
French Polynesia	PF	n/a	280,026	159,055	56.8 %	Dec/2013
French Southern Terr.	TF	n/a	120	n/a	0.0 %	Dec/2013
<u>Gabon</u>	GA	3.00 Mbps	1,672,597	657,928	39.3 %	June/2014
Gambia, the	GM	1.34 Mbps	1,925,527	271,711	14.1 %	Jun/2014
<u>Georgia</u>	GE	14.53 Mbps	4,935,880	2,127,364	43.1 %	Dec/2013
<u>Germany</u>	DE	27.41 Mbps	80,996,685	69,779,160	86.2 %	Dec/2013
<u>Ghana</u>	GH	6.56 Mbps	25,758,108	5,171,993	20.1 %	Jun/2014
<u>Gibraltar</u>	GI	n/a	29,185	20,660	70.8 %	Dec/2013
Greece	GR	9.13 Mbps	10,775,557	6,451,326		Dec/2013
Greenland	GL	n/a	57,728	52,000	90.1 %	Dec/2013
<u>Grenada</u>	GD	n/a	110,152	38,553		Dec/2013
Guadeloupe	GP	n/a	468,205	171,140	36.6 %	Dec/2013
Guam	GU	n/a	161,001	105,295	65.4 %	Dec/2013
<u>Guatemala</u>	GT	3.75 Mbps	14,647,083	2,885,475	19.7 %	Dec/2013
Guernsey and Alderney	GG	n/a	65,849	55,070		Dec/2013
Guiana, French	GF	n/a	253,511	71,360	28.1 %	Dec/2013
Guinea Bisson	GN	n/a	11,474,383	205,194	1.8 %	Jun/2014
Guinea-Bissau	GW	n/a	1,693,398	57,764	3.4 %	Jun/2014
Guinea, Equatorial	GP	n/a	722,254	118,450	16.4 %	Dec/2013
Guyana	GY	n/a	735,554	295,200	40.1 %	Jun/2014
Haiti	HT	n/a	9,996,731	1,059,653	10.6 %	Dec/2013
Heard & McDonald Is.	HM	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Dec/2013
Honduras	VA	n/a	842 9 509 561	480	57.0 %	Dec/2013
Hong Kong (China)	HN	4.21 Mbps	8,598,561	1,602,558		Jun/2014
Hong Kong, (China)	HK	92.12 Mbps	7,112,688	5,329,372	74.9 %	Dec/2013

<u>Hungary</u>	HU	32.34 Mbps	9,919,128	7,205,255	72.6 %	Dec/2013
<u>Iceland</u>	IS	36.15 Mbps	317,351	306,402	96.5 %	Dec/2013
<u>India</u>	IN	5.55 Mbps	1,236,344,631	243,000,000	19.7 %	June/2014
<u>Indonesia</u>	ID	4.84 Mbps	253,609,643	71,190,000	28.1 %	June/2014
Iran, Islamic Republic of	IR	3.99 Mbps	80,840,713	45,000,000	55.7 %	Dec/2013
<u>Iraq</u>	IQ	4.79 Mbps	32,585,692	2,997,884	9.2 %	Dec/2013
<u>Ireland</u>	IE	20.62 Mbps	4,832,765	3,781,639	78.3 %	Dec/2013
<u>Israel</u>	IL	26.21 Mbps	7,821,850	5,537,870	70.8 %	Dec/2013
<u>Italy</u>	IT	8.53 Mbps	61,680,122	36,058,199	58.5 %	Dec/2013
Ivory Coast (Cote d'Ivoire)	CI	n/a	22,848,945	968,000	4.2 %	Dec/2013
<u>Jamaica</u>	JM	n/a	2,930,050	1,581,100	54.0 %	Dec/2013
<u>Japan</u>	JP	26.09 Mbps	127,103,388	109,626,672	86.2 %	Dec/2013
<u>Jersey</u>	JE	n/a	96,513	45,800	47.5 %	Dec/2013
<u>Jordan</u>	JO	4.14 Mbps	6,528,061	2,885,403	44.2 %	Dec/2013

Country or	Sym	Broadband	Population	Internet	Internet	 Data
Region Name	-bol	Speed(2)	(Latest)	Users	Penetration	date
<u>Kazakhstan</u>	KZ	16.63 Mbps	17,948,816	9,692,360	54.0 %	Dec/2013
<u>Kenya</u>	KE	6.72 Mbps	45,010,056	21,273,738	47.3 %	Dec/2013
<u>Kiribati</u>	KI	n/a	104,488	12,016	11.5%	Dec/2013
Korea Dem. People's Rep.	KP	n/a	24,851,627	n/a	n/a	Dec/2013
Korea, (South) Republic of	KR	55.59 Mbps	49,039,986	41,571,196	84.8 %	Dec/2013
Kosovo	K۷	n/a	1,859,203	1,424,149	76.6 %	Dec/2013
<u>Kuwait</u>	KW	8.84 Mbps	2,742,711	2,069,650	75.5 %	Dec/2013
<u>Kyrgyzstan</u>	KG	12.84 Mbps	5,604,212	2,194,400	39.2 %	Dec/2013
Lao People's Dem. Rep.	LA	4.1 Mbps	6,803,699	850,425	12.5 %	Dec/2013
<u>Latvia</u>	LV	38.68 Mbps	2,165,165	1,628,854	75.2 %	Dec/2013
<u>Lebanon</u>	LB	2.83 Mbps	4,136,895	2,916,511	70.5 %	Dec/2013
<u>Lesotho</u>	LS	7.72 Mbps	1,942,008	110,065	5.0 %	Dec/2013
<u>Liberia</u>	LR	n/a	4,092,310	188,246	4.6 %	Dec/2013
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	LY	5.66 Mbps	6,244,174	1,362,604	21.8 %	Jun/2014
<u>Liechtenstein</u>	LI	n/a	37,313	35,000	93.8 %	Dec/2013
<u>Lithuania</u>	LT	45.59 Mbps	3,505,738	2,399,678	68.5 %	Dec/2013
Luxembourg	LU	33.83 Mbps	520,672	488,286	93.8 %	Dec/2013
Macao, (China)	MO	38.8 Mbps	587,914	386,847	65.8 %	Dec/2013
Macedonia, TFYR	MK	13.79 Mbps	2,091,719	1,280,132	61.2 %	Dec/2013
<u>Madagascar</u>	MG	11.91 Mbps	23,201,926	117,321,756	74.7 %	Jun/2014
<u>Malawi</u>	MW	1.90 Mbps	17,241,754	12,150,362	70.5 %	Jun/2014
<u>Malaysia</u>	MY	6.03 Mbps	30,073,353	20,140,125	67.0 %	Dec/2013
<u>Maldives</u>	MV	4.48 Mbps	393,595	173,575	44.1 %	Dec/2013
<u>Mali</u>	ML	1.69 Mbps	16,455,903	11,862,559	72.1 %	Jun/2014
<u>Malta</u>	MT	n/a	412,655	284,361	68.9 %	Dec/2013
Man, Isle of	IM	n/a	86,866	39,460	45.4 %	Dec/2013
Marshall Islands	МН	n/a	70,983	8,580	12.1 %	Dec/2013
Martinique (FR)	MQ	n/a	410,508	170,000	41.4 %	Dec/2013
<u>Mauritania</u>	MR	3.68 Mbps	3,516,806	455,553	13.0 %	Jun/2014

<u>Mauritius</u>	MU	n/a	1,331,155	519,150	39.0 %	Dec/2013
Mayotte (FR)	YT	n/a	217,909	107,940	49.5 %	Jun/2014
<u>Mexico</u>	MX	11.62 Mbps	120,286,655	59,200,000	49.2 %	June/2014
Micronesia, Fed. States of	FM	n/a	105,681	29,379	27.8 %	Dec/2013
Middle East			231,588,580	111,809,510	48.3 %	Jun/2014
Moldova, Republic of	MD	n/a	3,583,288	1,748,645	48.8 %	Dec/2013
Monaco	MC	n/a	30,508	27,671	90.7 %	Dec/2013
<u>Mongolia</u>	MN	13.93 Mbps	2,953,190	635,999	21.5 %	Dec/2013
<u>Montenegro</u>	CS	7.41 Mbps	650,036	369,220	56.8 %	Dec/2013
<u>Montserrat</u>	MS	n/a	5,215	2,847	54.6 %	Dec/2013
<u>Morocco</u>	MA	4.80 Mbps	32,987,206	20,207,154	61.3 %	Jun/2014
Mozambique	MZ	3.28 Mbps	24,692,144	1,467,687	5.9 %	Jun/2014
Myanmar (ex-Burma)	MM	5.98 Mbps	55,746,253	668,955	1.2 %	Dec/2013
Namibia	NA	9.11 Mbps	2,198,406	347,414	15.8 %	Jun/2014
Nauru	NR	n/a	9,488	560	5.9 %	Dec/2013
Nepal	NP	7.09 Mbps	30,986,975	4,121,268	13.3 %	Dec/2013
Netherlands	NL	45.71 Mbps	16,877,351	15,857,959	94.0 %	Dec/2013
Netherlands Antilles	AN	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Dec/2013
New Caledonia	NC	7.57 Mbps	267,840	176,774	66.0 %	Dec/2013
New Zealand	NZ	21.42 Mbps	4,401,916	3,810,144	86.6 %	Dec/2013
Nicaragua	NI	4.2 Mbps	5,848,641	906,539	15.5 %	Dec/2013
Niger	NE	0.77 Mbps	17,466,172	298,310	1.7 %	Jun/2014
Nigeria Nigeria	NG	5.38 Mbps	177,155,754	70,300,000	39.7 %	Jul/2014
Niue	NU	n/a	1,190	1,100	92.4 %	Dec/2013
Norfolk Island	NF	n/a	2,210	700	31.7 %	Dec/2013
North America			353,860,227	310,322,257	87.7 %	Jun/2014
Northern Mariana Islands	MP	n/a	51,483	15,980	31.0 %	Dec/2013
Norway	NO	32.74 Mbps	5,147,792	4,892,976	95.0 %	Dec/2013
<u>Oceania</u>			36,724,649	26,789,942	72.9 %	Jun/2014
<u>Oman</u>	ОМ	10.8 Mbps	3,219,775	2,139,540	66.4 %	Dec/2013
<u>Pakistan</u>	PK	2.98 Mbps	196,174,380	29,128,970	14.8 %	Dec/2013
<u>Palau</u>	PW	n/a	21,186	6,560	31.0 %	Dec/2013
Palestinian Territory	PS	n/a	2,731,052	1,512,273	55.4 %	Dec/2013
Panama	PA	6.12 Mbps	3,608,431	1,899,892	52.7 %	Dec/2013
Papua New Guinea	PG	6.22 Mbps	6,552,730	425,927	6.5 %	Dec/2013
Paraguay	PY	n/a	6,703,860	2,473,724	36.9 %	Dec/2013
Peru	PE	n/a	30,147,935	12,583,953	41.7 %	Jun/2014
Philippines Philippines	PH	3.45 Mbps	107,668,231	44,200,540	41.1 %	Dec/2013
Pitcairn Island	PN	n/a	54	n/a	n/a	Dec/2013
Poland	PL	20.33 Mbps	38,346,279	24,940,902	65.0 %	Dec/2013
Portugal	PT	25.06 Mbps	10,813,834	6,715,390	62.1 %	Dec/2013
Puerto Rico	PR	n/a	3,620,897	2,675,843		Dec/2013
		1,74	5,020,001	2,510,510	7 0.0 70	200/2010

Country or Region Name	Sym -bol	Broadband Speed(2)	Population (Latest)	Internet Users	Internet Penetration	Data date
<u>Qatar</u>	QA	11.67 Mbps	2,123,160	1,811,055	85.3 %	Dec/2013
Reunion (FR)	RE	n/a	867,687	300,000	34.6 %	Dec/2013
Romania	RO	55.54 Mbps	21,729,871	10,812,784	49.8 %	Dec/2013
Russia (Russian Fed.)	RU	23.91 Mbps	142,470,272	87,476,747	61.4 %	Dec/2013
<u>Rwanda</u>	RW	10.06 Mbps	12,337,138	1,110,043	9.0 %	Jun/2014
Sahara, Western	EH	n/a	554,795	n/a	n/a	Dec/2013
Saint Barthelemy (FR)	BL	n/a	7,267	1,540	21.2%	Dec/2013
Saint Helena (UK)	SH	n/a	4,255	1,600	37.6 %	Dec/2013
Saint Kitts and Nevis	KN	n/a	51,538	41,230	80.0 %	Dec/2013
Saint Lucia	LC	n/a	163,362	142,900	87.5 %	Dec/2013
Saint Martin (FR)	MF	n/a	31,530	n/a	n/a	Dec/2013
S Pierre & Miquelon(FR)	PM	n/a	5,716	n/a	n/a	Dec/2013
S Vincent & Grenadines	VC	n/a	102,918	76,000	73.8 %	Dec/2013
<u>Samoa</u>	WS	n/a	196,628	30,084	15.3 %	Dec/2013
San Marino	SM	n/a	32,742	17,000	51.9 %	Dec/2013
Sao Tome and Principe	ST	n/a	190,428	48,806	25.6 %	Jun/2014
Saudi Arabia	SA	10.19 Mbps	27,345,986	18,300,000	66.9 %	Jun/2014
<u>Senegal</u>	SN	6.58 Mbps	13,635,927	2,849,909	20.9 %	Dec/2013
<u>Serbia</u>	RS	8.96 Mbps	7,209,764	4,107,000	57.0 %	Dec/2013
<u>Seychelles</u>	SC	n/a	91,650	46,192	50.4 %	Dec/2013
Sierra Leone	SL	n/a	5,743,725	97,643		Dec/2013
<u>Singapore</u>	SG	77.96 Mbps	5,567,301	4,064,130	73.0 %	Dec/2013
Slovakia .	SK	25.29 Mbps	5,492,677	4,337,868	79.0 %	Dec/2013
<u>Slovenia</u>	SI	21.11 Mbps	1,988,292	1,445,091	72.7 %	Dec/2013
Solomon Islands	SB	n/a	609,883	48,791	8.0 %	Dec/2013
Somalia South Africa	SO	n/a	10,428,043	163,185	1.6 %	Jun/2014
South America	ZA	5.08 Mbps	48,375,645 406,194,811	23,655,690 230,727,557	48.9 % 56.8 %	Dec/2013 Jun/2014
South America	GS	 n/o				
S.George & S.Sandwich South Sudan	SS	n/a n/a	n/a 11,562,695	n/a 100	n/a 0.0%	Dec/2013 Dec/2013
Spain Sudan	ES	25.3 Mbps	47,737,941	35,705,960		Dec/2013
Sri Lanka (ex-Ceilan)	LK	2.35 Mbps	21,866,445	4,788,751	21.9 %	Dec/2013
Sudan	SD	2.28 Mbps	35,482,233	9,307,189		Jun/2014
Suriname	SR	n/a	573,311	214,418		Dec/2013
Svalbard & Jan Mayen Is.	SJ	n/a	1,872	n/a	n/a	Dec/2013
Swaziland	SZ	1.23 Mbps	1,419,623	350,647	24.7 %	Dec/2013
Sweden	SE	47.08 Mbps	9,723,809	9,216,226		Dec/2013
Switzerland	CH	44.23 Mbps	8,061,516	6,989,334		Dec/2013
Syrian Arab Republic	SY	1.56 Mbps	22,597,531	5,920,553		Dec/2013
Taiwan	TW	39.59 Mbps	23,359,928	18,687,942	80.0 %	Dec/2013
<u>Tajikistan</u>	TJ	14.88 Mbps	8,051,512	1,288,242		Dec/2013
Tanzania, United Rep. of	TZ	5.12 Mbps	49,639,138	7,590,794		Jun/2014
Thailand	TH	19.89 Mbps	67,741,401	20,100,000		Dec/2013
Timor-Leste (East Timor)	TP	n/a	1,201,542	13,217	1.1 %	Dec/2013
Togo	TG	n/a	7,351,374	356,300		Dec/2013

<u>Tokelau</u>	TK	n/a	1,337	800	59.8 %	Dec/2013
<u>Tonga</u>	TO	n/a	106,440	37,254	35.0 %	Dec/2013
Trinidad & Tobago	TT	n/a	1,223,916	780,858	63.8 %	Dec/2013
<u>Tunisia</u>	TN	3.15 Mbps	10,937,521	5,053,704	46.2 %	Dec/2013
<u>Turkey</u>	TR	11.73 Mbps	81,619,392	37,748,969	46.3 %	Dec/2013
<u>Turkmenistan</u>	TM	n/a	5,171,943	496,507	9.6 %	Dec/2013
Turks and Caicos Is.	TC	n/a	49,070	14,760	30.1 %	Dec/2013
<u>Tuvalu</u>	TV	n/a	10,782	4,300	39.9 %	Dec/2013
<u>Uganda</u>	UG	5.09 Mbps	35,918,915	6,523,949	18.2 %	Dec/2013
<u>Ukraine</u>	UA	23.5 Mbps	44,291,413	18,513,810	41.8 %	Dec/2013
United Arab Emirates	AE	23.7 Mbps	9,206,000	8,101,280	88.0 %	Dec/2013
United Kingdom	UK	28.97 Mbps	63,742,977	57,266,690	89.8 %	Dec/2013
United States	US	28.03 Mbps	318,892,103	277,203,319	86.9 %	Mar/2014
US Minor Outlying Isl.	UM	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Dec/2013
<u>Uruguay</u>	UY	n/a	3,332,972	2,017,280	60.5 %	Jun/2014
<u>Uzbekistan</u>	UZ	2.66 Mbps	28,929,716	11,051,151	38.2 %	Dec/2013
<u>Vanuatu</u>	VU	9.32 Mbps	266,937	30,164	11.3 %	Dec/2013
Vatican (Holy See)	VA	n/a	842	480	57.0 %	Dec/2013
<u>Venezuela</u>	VE	2.04 Mbps	28,868,486	14,548,421	50.4 %	Jun/2014
Viet Nam	VN	16.32 Mbps	93,421,835	41,012,186	43.9 %	Dec/2013
Virgin Islands, British	VG	n/a	32,680	14,620	44.7 %	Dec/2013
Virgin Islands, U.S.	VI	n/a	104,170	47,189	45.3 %	Dec/2013
Wallis and Futuna	WF	n/a	15,561	1,337	8.6 %	Dec/2013
Western Sahara	EH	n/a	491,519	n/a	n/a	Jun/2014
<u>Yemen</u>	YE	n/a	26,052,966	5,210,593	20.0 %	Dec/2013
<u>Zambia</u>	ZM	4.21 Mbps	14,638,505	2,313,013	15.8 %	Jun/2014
<u>Zimbabwe</u>	ZW	7.68 Mbps	13,771,721	5,348,433	38.8 %	Jun/2014
World Total (Est.)		22.5 Mbps	7,259,749,564	3,063,941,971	42.2 %	DEC/2014

NOTES: (1) The above list correspondes to the Country Codes in English according to ISO-3166, for countries listed in alphabetical order. (2) Broadband Speed is the average download speed in Mbps (Megabits by second) as measured by the Ookla Net Index. (3) Population figures displayed come mainly from the U.S. Census Bureau for the 2015 mid-year estimated population in each country or region. (4) Internet users are estimates from the latest Internet World Stats data base, showing the latest updated results available, on indicated date. (5) The Data Date column gives you an indication about how recent the estimated number of Internet users is and reflects the latest available data for each country, territory or region, and will be updated whenever new trustworthy data becomes available. (6) Warning: country and regional Internet and population figures displayed here are the latest recorded and may frequently change. Therefore, these figures will not necessarily be the same as the ones displayed on the other tables and charts of this website, which are generally updated quarterly (every three months). (7) For methology and sources, please view the surfing guide at the Site Surfing Guide. Copyright © 2015, Miniwatts Marketing Group. All rights reserved world-wide.

22. RANKING OF HAPPINESS 2010-2012 – THE WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT IS A MEASURE OF HAPPINESS PUBLISHED BY THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK – KEY VARIABLES: REAL GDP PER CAPITA, HEALTHY LIFE EXPECTANCY, HAVING SOMEONE TO COUNT ON, PERCEIVED FREEDOM TO MAKE LIFE CHOICES, FREEDOM FROM CORRUPTION, GENEROSITY. OTHER CAUSES OF HAPPINESS OR MISERY – ECONOMICS, PSYCHOLOGY, PROGRESS, MENTAL ILNESS, OBJECTIVE BENEFITS OF HAPPINESS, THE IMPORTANCE OF ETHICS, SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING AND THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT. 10 – PERFECT HAPPINESS. TABLE SHOWS RANKINGS FROM LEAST HAPPY TO HAPPIEST.

The term "gross national happiness" was coined in 1972 by Bhutan's king who opened Bhutan to the age of modernization. He used this phrase to signal his commitment to building an economy that would serve Bhutan's unique culture based on Buddhist spiritual values. The message originally was that happiness is more important than economic development. Through the contribution of many western and eastern scholars the concept developed into a full socioeconomic development framework. Bhutan is the only country in the world that has a "GNH", Gross National Happiness. It measures people's quality of life and makes sure that material and spiritual development happen together. Bhutan has done an amazing job of finding this balance. Bhutan is ranked as the happiest country in all of Asia and the eighth happiest country in the world according to Business Week. In the following table we present the World Happiness Report, measuring happiness and published by the UN. The index is based on economics, psychology, national statistics, progress, ethics, subjective well-being and the Human Development Report. And who is missing from this report? Bhutan!

But, long before the king of Bhutan, Aristotle wrote in his book "Ethics" that "man aspires to be happy in the sense of eudaimonia, happiness, as the summum bonum of his existence. Happiness is not identical to pleasure, and the ethical man will aspire to live a happy life but not necessarily a pleasurable life. Happiness is not the end of each action, but it is nevertheless the supreme goal of life." (Cory Jacques, *Activist Business Ethics*, p. 63, Springer, 2005). So, if happiness is the sense of life, one would think that the happiest countries in the world are the best countries, even if in the other parameters they don't perform so well. But, in our case, the most ethical countries manage to be the happiest, and the most democratic, and the richest, and the most peaceful, and the most equal and ethical!

The 13 happiest countries in the world include 9 of the 11 most ethical countries – Denmark, Norway, Switzerland, Netherlands, Sweden, Canada, Finland, Australia and New Zealand. And who are the additional 4 happy countries? Austria, ranking 23 in TI's index and one of the richest countries, Iceland – the fifth Scandinavian country (all the 5 Scandinavian countries are comprised in the 9 most happy countries) and no. 12 in TI's index. Israel, ranking 37 in TI's index, and among the last countries in the Global Peace Index, but one of the most advanced countries in the world. Costa Rica, ranking 47 in TI's index and having an average GDP PPP per capita of \$13,000. If we analyze the 30 happiest countries down to no. 30 – Singapore (TI – 7) – we find as a rule that the most ethical countries are also the happiest – 22 out of the 26 most ethical countries – are part of the 30 happiest countries of the world.

But, in addition to Israel and Costa Rica which are quite ethical, we find in the list of the 30 happiest countries - corrupt countries like Mexico (TI - 103), Panama (TI - 94), Venezuela (TI - 161!), Argentina (TI - 107), Oman (TI - 64) and Brazil (TI - 69). All of them, except Oman, are Latin American countries, and we wonder if it has something to do with the happy mentality of those states. Speaking of mentality, is this the reason that 3 of the most ethical

countries - the Far Eastern states of Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan, rank rather low in the happiness index: no. 30, 64 and 43 respectively? Or maybe there are other reasons as well?

In this index we notice, as in most of the other indices, that the least happy countries are also the most corrupt: Togo, Central African Republic, Burundi, Tanzania, Guinea, Syria, Madagascar, Afghanistan, Yemen, Chad, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Niger, Nepal, Liberia, Mali.., but we find also among the least happy countries states that are ethical like Botswana (TI – 31) or quite unethical as Rwanda (TI – 55), Bulgaria and Senegal (TI – 69), Georgia (TI– 50). So, in most of the cases ethics and a good conscience bring also happiness and wealth, while corruption brings misery and poverty, or as Marcel Pagnol's Topaze taught his young students: L'argent ne fait pas le bonheur – Money doesn't bring happiness. But, because of your state of mind, you can reach happiness without being rich, as we see in the Budhist Bhutan and the happy Latin American countries, and you can be quite unhappy even if you live in a rich country as Japan. In those cases ethics doesn't influence too much happiness.

It is not a sheer coincidence that the poorest countries and most corrupt Latin American countries rank very high in the happiness index. In the list of the 100 most unhappy states we find only four Latin American countries: Haiti (80% poverty), Dominican Republic (34%), Honduras (65%) and Nicaragua (46%) – one would tend to conclude that with such high rates of poverty you cannot be happy regardless of your state of mind. But if we examine the 55 happiest countries we find there most of the very poor, unequal and unethical Latin American countries – Peru (31%), Paraguay (35%), Bolivia (51%), El Salvador (36%), Ecuador (29%), Guatemala (54%), Suriname (70%, how can you be happy with such a huge level of poverty, squeezed in the happiness rank of 40 between the rich South Korea and Czech Republic?), Colombia (32%), Argentina (30%), Brazil (only 21%?, but still perceived as one of the countries with the highest number of poor people), Venezuela (32%) and Mexico (48%).

In the same bracket of about \$7,000 GDP PPP per capita we find Guatemala (TI - 115, poverty - 54%), El Salvador (TI - 80, poverty - 36%) and Bhutan (TI - 30, poverty - 23%) that are ranking among the 55 happiest countries in the world, while Swaziland (TI - 69, poverty - 69%) ranks 100, Morocco (TI - 80, poverty - 15%) ranks 99, Armenia (TI - 94, poverty - 34%) ranks 128 and Georgia (TI - 50, poverty - 10%) ranks 134, in the list of the most unhappy countries of the world. So, is it a question of mentality or of ethics after all?

We found in this book that at the extremes – the happiest countries are also the most ethical and the richest, while the most unhappy countries are also the most corrupt and the poorest. But between the extremes we find cases that are not as clearcut as in the extremes. It is worthwhile to mention that China ranks 93 in the happiness index compared to 111 for India, as the poverty overcomes probably the mentality, and the theocratic state of Iran ranks 115 even below the much poorer India, as religion doesn't make the Iranians so happy after all...

Poverty affects very much happiness – Egypt (130), Liberia (133), Congo Brazaville (129) and Sudan (124) - most of the 40 least happy countries are very poor African states, while most of the European and Anglo-Saxon states are very happy, except Bulgaria (144), Hungary and the former Yugoslavian states, maybe because they still live in the trauma of communism.

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156. Togo (2.936)
155. Benin (3.528)
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154. Central African Republic (3.623)

153. Burundi (3.706)

152. Rwanda (3.715)

151. Tanzania (3.770)

- 150. Guinea (3.847)
- 149. Comoros (3.851)
- 148. Syria (3.892)
- 147. Senegal (3.959)
- 146. Madagascar (3.966)
- 145. Botswana (3.970)
- 144. Bulgaria (3.981)
- **143.** Afghanistan (4.040)
- 142. Yemen (4.054)
- 141. Chad (4.056)
- 140. Cambodia (4.067)
- 139. Malawi (4.113)
- **138. Gabon (4.114)**
- 137. Sri Lanka (4.151)
- 136. Niger (4.152)
- 135. Nepal (4.156)
- 134. Georgia (4.187)
- 133. Liberia (4.196)
- 132. Mali (4.247)
- **131. Burkina Faso (4.259)**
- 130. Egypt (4.273)
- 129. Congo (Brazzaville) (4.297)
- 128. Armenia (4.316)
- 127. Sierra Leone (4.318)
- 126. Haiti (4.341)
- 125. Tajikistan (4.380)
- 124. Sudan (4.401)
- 123. Kenya (4.403)
- **122. Cameroon (4.420)**
- **121. Myanmar (4.439)**
- 120. Uganda (4.443)
- 119. Ethiopia (4.561)
- 118. Macedonia (4.574)
- 117. Congo (Kinshasa) (4.578)
- 116. Azerbaijan (4.604)
- 115. Iran (4.643)
- 114. Djibouti (4.690)
- 113. Palestinian Territories (4.700)
- **112.** Mauritania (4.758)
- 111. India (4.772)
- 110. Hungary (4.775)
- 109. Laos (4.787)
- 108. Bangladesh (4.804)
- 107. Bosnia and Herzegovina (4.813)
- 106. Serbia (4.813)
- 105. Iraq (4.817)
- **104. Tunisia (4.826)**
- 103. Zimbabwe (4.827)
- 102. Mongolia (4.834)
- 101. Somaliland region (4.847)

- **100. Swaziland (4.867)**
- 99. Morocco (4.885)
- 98. Lesotho (4.898)
- 97. Lebanon (4.931)
- 96. South Africa (4.963)
- 95. Dominican Republic (4.963)
- **94.** Mozambique (4.971)
- 93. China (4.978)
- **92. Philippines (4.985)**
- 91. Zambia (5.006)
- 90. Romania (5.033)
- 89. Kyrgyzstan (5.042)
- 88. Latvia (5.046)
- 87. Ukraine (5.057)
- 86. Ghana (5.091)
- 85. Portugal (5.101)
- 84. Honduras (5.142)
- 83. Kosovo (5.222)
- 82. Nigeria (5.248)
- 81. Pakistan (5.292)
- 80. Montenegro (5.299)
- 79. Bahrain (5.312)
- 78. Libya (5.340)
- 77. Turkey (5.345)
- **76. Indonesia (5.348)**
- 75. Jamaica (5.374)
- 74. Jordan (5.414)
- 73. Algeria (5.422)
- 72. Estonia (5.426)
- 71. Lithuania (5.426)
- 70. Greece (5.435)
- **69. North Cyprus (5.463)**
- 68. Russia (5.464)
- **67. Mauritius (5.477)**
- 66. Belarus (5.504)
- 65. Nicaragua (5.507)
- 64. Hong Kong (5.523)
- 63. Vietnam (5.533)
- **62.** Albania (5.550)
- 61. Angola (5.589)
- 60. Uzbekistan (5.623)
- **59. Turkmenistan (5.628)**
- 58. Croatia (5.661)
- **57. Kazakhstan (5.671)**
- 56. Malaysia (5.760)
- 55. Peru (5.776)
- **54. Paraguay (5.779)**
- **53. Moldova (5.791)**
- **52. El Salvador (5.809)**
- 51. Poland (5.822)

- **50. Bolivia (5.857)**
- 49. Ecuador (5.865)
- 48. Malta (5.964)
- 47. Guatemala (5.965)
- 46. Slovakia (5.969)
- 45. Italy (6.021)
- 44. Slovenia (6.060)
- 43. Japan (6.064)
- 42. Taiwan (6.221)
- **41. South Korea (6.267)**
- **40.** Suriname (6.269)
- **39. Czech Republic (6.290)**
- 38. Spain (6.322)
- 37. Uruguay (6.355)
- **36. Thailand (6.371)**
- **35.** Colombia (6.416)
- **34.** Cyprus (6.466)
- 33. Saudi Arabia (6.480)
- 32. Kuwait (6.515)
- 31. Trinidad and Tobago (6.519)
- **30. Singapore (6.546)**
- 29. Argentina (6.562)
- 28. Chile (6.587)
- 27. Qatar (6.666)
- 26. Germany (6.672)
- 25. France (6.764)
- 24. Brazil (6.849)
- 23. Oman (6.853)
- **22. United Kingdom (6.883)**
- 21. Belgium (6.967)
- 20. Venezuela (7.039)
- **19. Luxembourg (7.054)**
- 18. Ireland (7.076)
- 17. United States (7.082)
- 16. Mexico (7.088)
- 15. Panama (7.143)
- 14. United Arab Emirates (7.144)
- 13. New Zealand (7.221)
- 12. Costa Rica (7.257)
- 11. Israel (7.301)
- 10. Australia (7.350)
- 9. Iceland (7.355)
- 8. Austria (7. 369)
- 7. Finland (7.389)
- 6. Canada (7.477)
- 5. Sweden (7.480)
- **4. Netherlands (7.512)**
- **3. Switzerland (7.650)**
- 2. Norway (7.655)
- 1. Denmark (7.693)

23. CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE RATE TO THE US\$

WALL STREET JOURNAL – FEBR. 13, 2015 – EXCHANGE RATES NY CLOSING

SEE ALSO – XE – CURRENCY ENCYCLOPAEDIA

The most ethical countries: Denmark, New Zealand, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Singapore, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Canada and Australia, adopted a currency market oriented approach – the currency is let to float freely in the market. To those who criticize the most ethical, rich, democratic and egalitarian countries as "socialist, anti-business or even communist states", we can answer by facts instead of defamation that the most ethical countries have even freer markets than the neo-liberal countries, with free currencies, solid economic basis and best kept civil rights, and here again Ethics Pays in floating currencies...

	IN US\$		US\$ VS. %	СНС	PER US\$		
Country/currency	Fri	Thurs	1-Day	YTD	Fri	Thurs	
Americas							
Argentina peso	0.1152	0.1153	0.09	2.6	8.6805	8.6723	
Brazil real	0.3528	0.3544	0.45	6.7	2.8346	2.8219	
Canada dollar	0.8032	0.7994	-0.47	7.1	1.2451	1.251	
Chile peso	0.001616	0.001607	-0.53	2.0	618.80	622.1	
Colombia peso	0.0004197	0.0004185	-0.28	0.3	2382.50	2389.20	
Ecuador US dollar	1	1	unch	unch	1		
Mexico peso	0.0672	0.0671	-0.19	1.0	14.8848	14.913	
Peru new sol	0.3245	0.3256	0.33	3.3	3.0817	3.071	
Uruguay peso	0.04036	0.04075	0.98	3.2	24.7800	24.540	
Venezuela bolivar	0.15886759	0.15889031	0.01	unch	6.2946	6.293	
Asia-Pacific							
Australian dollar	0.7764	0.7734	-0.39	5.2	1.2880	1.293	
China yuan	0.1601	0.1601	-0.02	0.6	6.2446	6.246	
Hong Kong dollar	0.1289	0.1290	0.02	unch	7.7558	7.754	
India rupee	0.01610	0.01609	-0.07	-1.5	62.10880	62.1497	
Indonesia rupiah	0.0000786	0.0000782	-0.42	2.4	12726	1278	
Japan yen	0.00842	0.00840	-0.25	-0.8	118.80	119.1	

Kazakhstan tenge	0.00542	0.00540	-0.36	0.8	184.4	185.06	
Macau pataca	0.1252050	0.1259049	0.56	unch	7.987	7.943	
Malaysia ringgit	0.279	0.2786	-0.14	2.3	3.5848	3.5899	
New Zealand dollar	0.7453	0.7425	-0.38	4.6	1.3417	1.3468	
Pakistan rupee	0.00987	0.00988	0.09	0.5	101.35	101.26	
Philippines peso	0.0226	0.0225	-0.18	-1.0	44.2850	44.3650	
Singapore dollar	0.7380	0.7374	-0.08	2.2	1.3550	1.3561	
South Korea won	0.0009109	0.0009078	-0.34	0.4	1097.80	1101.56	
Sri Lanka rupee	0.0075216	0.0075352	0.18	1.3	132.95	132.71	
Taiwan dollar	0.03190	0.03198	0.24	-0.9	31.35	31.27	
Thailand baht	0.03067	0.03067	unch	-0.9	32.610	32.610	
Vietnam dong	0.00004694	0.00004699	0.12	-0.4	21305	21280	
Europe							
Bulgaria lev	0.58292	0.58299	0.01	6.1	1.716	1.715	
Croatia kuna	0.1480	0.1477	-0.18	6.8	6.7571	6.7694	
Czech Rep. koruna	0.04126	0.04124	-0.04	6.0	24.238	24.249	
Denmark krone	0.153	0.1532	0.10	6.2	6.5351	6.5286	
Euro area euro	1.1391	1.1404	0.11	6.2	0.8779	0.8769	
Hungary forint	0.00371802	0.00372814	0.27	2.8	268.96	268.23	
Iceland krona	0.007604	0.007607	0.05	3.1	131.51	131.45	
Norway krone	0.1317	0.1309	-0.60	1.9	7.5926	7.6388	
Poland zloty	0.2722	0.2737	0.54	3.7	3.6738	3.6541	
Romania leu	0.2564	0.2570	0.22	5.3	3.9004	3.8918	
Russia ruble	0.01577	0.01529	-3.02	4.8	63.422	65.399	
Sweden krona	0.1187	0.1185	-0.21	7.9	8.4238	8.4414	
Switzerland franc	1.0726	1.0742	0.15	-6.2	0.9323	0.9309	
Turkey lira	0.4070	0.4055	-0.37	5.2	2.4569	2.4660	
Ukraine hryvnia	0.0389	0.0387	-0.45	62.5	25.7080	25.8250	
U.K. pound	1.5397	1.5384	-0.08	1.2	0.6495	0.6500	
Middle East/Africa							

Bahrain dollar	2.6518	2.6518	unch	unch	0.3771	0.3771
Eqypt pound	0.1310	0.1310	-0.04	6.7	7.6310	7.6343
Israel shekel	0.2570	0.2582	0.47	-0.1	3.8916	3.8733
Kuwait dinar	3.3847	3.3860	0.04	0.9	0.2955	0.2953
Oman sul rial	2.59771	2.59804	0.01	unch	0.38	0.38
Qatar rial	0.2747	0.2746	-0.04	unch	3.6401	3.6414
Saudia Arabia riyal	0.2665	0.2665	0.02	unch	3.7528	3.7519
South Africa rand	0.0857	0.0854	-0.42	0.9	11.6660	11.7150
UAE dirham	0.2723	0.2723	unch	unch	3.6730	3.6730

Source: Tullett Prebon; historical data prior to 12/09/14: ICAP plc; historical data prior to 6/9/11: Thomson Reuters

XE - CURRENCY ENCYCLOPAEDIA

- USD US Dollar
- **EUR Euro**
- GBP British Pound
- INR Indian Rupee
- **AUD Australian Dollar**
- CAD Canadian Dollar
- SGD Singapore Dollar
- **CHF Swiss Franc**
- MYR Malaysian Ringgit
- JPY Japanese Yen
- CNY Chinese Yuan Renminbi
- NZD New Zealand Dollar
- THB Thai Baht
- **HUF** Hungarian Forint
- AED Emirati Dirham
- HKD Hong Kong Dollar
- MXN Mexican Peso
- ZAR South African Rand
- PHP Philippine Peso SEK Swedish Krona
- IDR Indonesian Rupiah
- SAR Saudi Arabian Riyal
- BRL Brazilian Real
- TRY Turkish Lira KES Kenyan Shilling
- KRW South Korean Won
- EGP Egyptian Pound
- IQD Iraqi Dinar
- **NOK Norwegian Krone**
- KWD Kuwaiti Dinar
- **RUB Russian Ruble**
- **DKK Danish Krone**
- PKR Pakistani Rupee
- ILS Israeli Shekel
- PLN Polish Zloty
- QAR Qatari Riyal
- XAU Gold Ounce
- OMR Omani Rial
- **COP Colombian Peso**

- CLP Chilean Peso
- TWD Taiwan New Dollar
- ARS Argentine Peso
- CZK Czech Koruna
- VND Vietnamese Dong
- MAD Moroccan Dirham
- JOD Jordanian Dinar
- BHD Bahraini Dinar
- XOF CFA Franc
- LKR Sri Lankan Rupee
- UAH Ukrainian Hryvnia
- NGN Nigerian Naira
- TND Tunisian Dinar UGX Ugandan Shilling
- RON Romanian New Leu
- BDT Bangladeshi Taka
- PEN Peruvian Nuevo Sol
- GEL Georgian Lari
- XAF Central African CFA Franc BEAC
- FJD Fijian Dollar
- VEF Venezuelan Bolivar
- BYR Belarusian Ruble
- HRK Croatian Kuna
- UZS Uzbekistani Som
- BGN Bulgarian Lev
- DZD Algerian Dinar
- IRR Iranian Rial
- **DOP Dominican Peso**
- ISK Icelandic Krona
- XAG Silver Ounce
- CRC Costa Rican Colon
- SYP Syrian Pound
- LYD Libyan Dinar
- JMD Jamaican Dollar
- MUR Mauritian Rupee
- GHS Ghanaian Cedi
- AOA Angolan Kwanza
- UYU Uruguayan Peso
- AFN Afghan Afghani
- LBP Lebanese Pound
- XPF CFP Franc
- TTD Trinidadian Dollar
- TZS Tanzanian Shilling
- ALL Albanian Lek
- XCD East Caribbean Dollar
- GTQ Guatemalan Quetzal
- NPR Nepalese Rupee
- BOB Bolivian Boliviano
- ZWD Zimbabwean Dollar
- BBD Barbadian or Bajan Dollar
- CUC Cuban Convertible Peso
- LAK Lao or Laotian Kip
- BND Bruneian Dollar
- BWP Botswana Pula
- HNL Honduran Lempira
- PYG Paraguayan Guarani
- ETB Ethiopian Birr
- NAD Namibian Dollar
- PGK Papua New Guinean Kina
- SDG Sudanese Pound
- MOP Macau Pataca
- NIO Nicaraguan Cordoba
- BMD Bermudian Dollar
- KZT Kazakhstani Tenge

- PAB Panamanian Balboa
- BAM Bosnian Convertible Marka
- GYD Guyanese Dollar
- YER Yemeni Rial
- MGA Malagasy Ariary
- KYD Caymanian Dollar
- MZN Mozambican Metical
- RSD Serbian Dinar
- SCR Seychellois Rupee
- AMD Armenian Dram
- SBD Solomon Islander Dollar
- AZN Azerbaijani New Manat
- SLL Sierra Leonean Leone TOP Tongan Pa'anga
- BZD Belizean Dollar
- MWK Malawian Kwacha
- GMD Gambian Dalasi
- BIF Burundian Franc
- SOS Somali Shilling
- HTG Haitian Gourde
- **GNF** Guinean Franc
- MVR Maldivian Rufiyaa
- MNT Mongolian Tughrik
- CDF Congolese Franc
- STD Sao Tomean Dobra
- TJS Tajikistani Somoni
- KPW North Korean Won
- MMK Burmese Kyat
- LSL Basotho Loti
- LRD Liberian Dollar
- KGS Kyrgyzstani Som
- GIP Gibraltar Pound
- XPT Platinum Ounce
- MDL Moldovan Leu
- CUP Cuban Peso
- KHR Cambodian Riel
- MKD Macedonian Denar
- VUV Ni-Vanuatu Vatu
- MRO Mauritanian Ouguiya
- ANG Dutch Guilder
- SZL Swazi Lilangeni
- CVE Cape Verdean Escudo
- SRD Surinamese Dollar
- XPD Palladium Ounce
- SVC Salvadoran Colon
- BSD Bahamian Dollar
- XDR IMF Special Drawing Rights
- RWF Rwandan Franc
- AWG Aruban or Dutch Guilder
- DJF Djiboutian Franc
- BTN Bhutanese Ngultrum
- KMF Comoran Franc
- WST Samoan Tala
- SPL Seborgan Luigino
- ERN Eritrean Nakfa
- FKP Falkland Island Pound
- SHP Saint Helenian Pound
- JEP Jersey Pound
- <u>TMT Turkmenistani Manat</u>
- TVD Tuvaluan Dollar
- IMP Isle of Man Pound
- **GGP Guernsey Pound**

24. CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDICES IN 2014-2012, 2005, 1996 AND 1995: TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL'S RANKING OF ETHICS AND CORRUPTION IN THE WORLD

SEE ALSO GLOBAL CORRUPTION BAROMETER – % OF PEOPLE WHO PAID BRIBES - TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL - 2013

Each year countries are scored on how corrupt their public sectors are perceived to be. It is a combination of surveys and assessments of corruption, collected by a variety of reputable institutions. The CPI is the most widely used indicator of corruption worldwide. Corruption comprises illegal activities, which are delibarately hidden and only come to light through scandals, investigations or prosecutions. There is no meaningful way to assess absolute levels of corruption in countries or territories on the basis of hard empirical data. Capturing perceptions of corruption of those in a position to offer assessments of public sector corruption is the most reliable method of comparing relative corruption levels in countries.

Transparency International (TI) maintains that corruption is a major threat facing humanity, it destroys lives and communities and undermines countries and institutions. It generates popular anger that threatens to further destabilise societies and exacerbate violent conflicts. The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) scores countries on a scale from 0 – highly corrupt – to 100 - very clean. While no country has a perfect score, two-thirds of the countries score below 50, indicating a serious corruption problem. Corruption translates into human suffering, with poor families being extorted for bribes to see doctors or to get access to clean drinking water. It leads to failure in the delivery of basic services like education or health care. It derails the building of essential infrastructure, as corrupt leaders skim funds. Corruption amounts to a dirty tax, and the poor and most vulnerable are its primary victims. Governments need to integrate anti-corruption actions into all aspects of decision-making. They must prioritise better rules on lobbying and political financing, make public spending and contracting more transparent, and make public bodies more accountable. But corruption is not limited only to the public sectors, as examined in the surveys of TI. It spills over to all the segments of activities in the country, first of all to business, but also to the relations with all the stakeholders in society – customers, environment, employees, community, suppliers, shareholders and especially minority shareholders, creditors, all levels of society, the media, education, welfare, hospitals, schools, universities, culture, and so on. Those problems are the leitmotive in all the research, courses, books, lectures and articles of Dr. Jacques Cory, who was also a member of TI's Board in Israel, and were presented to the management of Transparency International in Berlin in 2010 (see detailed synopsis at the end of this section).

The Scandinavian countries - Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway, with New Zealand, Switzerland, Singapore, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Canada and Australia are in most of the years among the 10-12 more ethical and least corrupt countries, scoring 80-90+. But those countries score also the best grades in most of the other data entries, thus proving that there is a direct causal connection between ethics, wealth, happiness, democracy, human development, quality of life, social progress, peace, competitiveness, and total freedom.

This book analyses the performance in the most salient parameters of the 11 most ethical and least corrupt countries in the world, scoring consistently over the years between 80 and 90+ - "very clean", namely Denmark, New Zealand, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Singapore, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Canada and Australia. But right after them one can find

Germany, Iceland and United Kingdom that have also scored in the past more than 80 but now they score less. We found common denominators and behavior of the ethical countries proving that "Ethics Pays" as they perform in general much better than the other countries. On the other hand the most corrupt countries score the worst results in almost all parameters: in ascending order - Somalia, North Korea, Sudan, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Iraq, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Libya, Eritrea. And the 10 following countries are: Yemen, Venezuela, Haiti, Guinea-Bissau, Angola, Syria, Burundi, Zimbabwe, Myanmar, Cambodia.

One can see how the most ethical and least corrupt countries score the highest ranks in most of the other parameters – Happiness based on real GDP per capita, healthy life expectancy, having someone to count on, perceived freedom to make life choices, freedom from corruption and generosity, HDI human development index based on education, literacy, life expectancy, standards of living and quality of life, Least Income Inequality (Gini Index) and Least Poverty, Quality of Life based on GDP per capita, life expectancy at birth, family life, political freedoms, job security - unemployment rate, climate, personal physical security ratings, community life, governance - ratings for corruption, gender equality in parliament seats, Freedom in the World, Economic Freedom and Press Freedom Indices, Democracy Index based on electoral process and pluralism, functioning of government, political participation, political culture, civil liberties, Social Progress Index based on 52 indicators of basic human needs, foundations of wellbeing and opportunity to progress, providing for the social and environmental needs of citizens, rather than economic factors, including ecosystem sustainability, health, wellness, shelter, sanitation, equity, personal freedom and personal safety; as well as purely Economic Indicators such as the efficiency parameter - highest GDP (PPP) per Hour Worked, lowest Unemployment Rates, best results in Wealth Indicators, etc. We have analyzed dozens of parameters, but we have not analyzed much more in order to focus only on the most salient parameters. However, it is worthwhile to mention that the most ethical countries score the best/lowest results also in other parameters, such as Life Expectancy at Birth, Maternal Mortality Rate, Infant Mortality Rate, people and society, economy, energy, communications, transportation and other important parameters as well.

The most ethical countries are located mostly in cold weathered Northern Europe - all the Scandinavian countries, even Iceland is ranked no. 12, all the Benelux countries: Luxembourg, the Netherlands, even Belgium is ranked no. 15, and Switzerland, or have mostly Northern/Anglo-Saxon European origins (Canada, New Zealand and Australia). The majority of their population has North/West Germanic ethnicity and languages (except Finland, but even Germany is ranked no. 12 and United Kingdom no. 14) and most of the population shares Protestant religions, but they have in many cases large religious minorities.

Singapore is an exception, located right near the Equator, a former UK colony with a deep British influence, with a majority of Chinese and minorities of Malayans and Indians, and with a common language – English. However, China is ranked no. 100 in TI index, Malaysia – no. 50, and India – no. 85. The reason of Singapore's lack of corruption could be the leadership of its founder Lee Kuan Yew who lead and influenced Singapore since its inception, which could prove that ethical leadership is a very important indicator of ethics.

Even in the other most ethical countries ethnicity and religion are not the exclusive determinators - as Finns have no Germanic ethnicity and language but have a long legacy of social progressivism, in 1906 becoming the first nation in the world to give full suffrage to all adult citizens. French/Italian Switzerland, French Canada, and in Belgium (no. 15) the Walloons, as well as most of the non Anglo-Saxon immigrants to Australia and Canada, are not Germanic or Protestants. However, all peoples of those countries share the same ethical

heritage and cultural beliefs, whether they are the descendants of the Vikings, Australian Greeks or Vietnamese (but Greece is ranked no. 69 and Vietnam – no. 119 in TI's index), Canadian Jews or Arabs (but Israel is ranked no. 37, Jordan - no. 55, Lebanon – no. 136, and Syria – no. 159), Swiss Italians (Italy is ranked no. 69), Dutch Indonesians (Indonesia is - no. 107), or in the case of the US (no. 17 in TI's index) – Mexicans, Russians or Haitians (Mexico - no. 103, Russia – 136, Haiti – 161), proving that culture is a very dominant factor of ethics.

We analyze occasionely, the second tier countries, scoring 74-79, ranked 12-17 – mostly: Germany (12) - the largest Germanic country, Iceland (12) – the 5th Scandinavian country, United Kingdom (14) – the parent nation of the Anglo-Saxon countries, Belgium (15) – the 3rd Benelux country, Japan (15) – the largest Eastern capitalist country, influenced deeply after World War II by the US constitution and capitalist model, Barbados (17) – an Afro-Caribbean population, with the deepest English influence, Hong Kong (17) – a Chinese population with the deepest English influence, Ireland (17) – the 5th Anglo-Saxon-Celtic capitalist country among the most ethical countries, and finally the United States (17) – the largest Anglo-Saxon Protestant country, and the model of modern capitalism in the world.

If we try to find a common denominator for the most ethical countries it could be - countries of Germanic ethnicity (most of the population in Scandinavia, Benelux, Germany, and Switerland), with Anglo-Saxon-Celtic origins (most of the existing or founding population of New Zealand, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, Ireland and the United States), with Anglo-Saxon capitalist influence (Singapore, Japan, Barbados, Hong-Kong), with a majority of protestant population in almost all those countries (except Singapore, Ireland Republic, and Japan). However, with substantial minorities from Latin, Slavic, African or Asian origins, with Catholic, Orthodox, Jews, Moslems and Eastern religions, but sharing the same ethical culture or influenced by ethical leaders as the founding fathers of the US or Lee Kuan Yew.

But what about the most corrupt countries, can we find for them also a common denominator that affects their ethics and cause them to have the worst scores in almost all the parameters? Who are those countries? The 10 most corrupt countries score 8 to 18 in TI's index, comparable to 80 to 90+ for the most ethical countries: 174. Somalia, North Korea, 173. Sudan, 172. Afghanistan, 171. South Sudan, 170. Iraq, 169. Turkmenistan, 166. Uzbekistan, 166. Libya, 166. Eritrea. What is common for all those countries? Most of them are Moslem countries, except South Sudan and North Korea (Eritrea is half Moslem). But we have to bear in mind that some Moslem Oil-Rich countries have a high ranking in TI's index – United Arab Emirates – 25, Qatar – 26. All of them have totalitarian regimes and limited civil rights, although some of them as Iraq and Afghanistan made attempts to be democratic. This is true also for the next 10 most corrupt countries (scoring 19-21). Most of them have made wars or suffered from civil unrest recently, like Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Libya, Yemen. All of them are very poor countries, most of them in Africa and some of them in Asia and Latin America. North Korea spends huge amounts for its defense and Venezuela is very generous towards communist regimes like Cuba. They suffer from the worst quality of life in the world, worst social progress and worst economic performance.

An important factor of analysis is the analysis over the years. We have chosen to compare the ranking of the most ethical countries, less ethical and most corrupt in 1995 – the first year of the Corruption Perception Index of Transparency International, with 41 countries surveyed, 1996 – the second year with 54 countries, and 2005 – the 11th year with 159 countries surveyed. We have analyzed above the ranking in 2014, the most recent results available in this book, but as we have also in the table the scoring in the years 2012, 2013 and 2014 (with 175 countries), we can compare the changes occuring in the last three years. In those years the

scoring of the 25 most ethical countries hasn't changed much (more than 3 points in 3 years) except for Australia, UK, Ireland. We see it all over the period of the index -20 years - that the ranking of the most ethical and corrupt countries haven't changed much and especially not within the brackets of the 10 and 20 most ethical countries as well as the most corrupt states.

In the period of the 3 years 2012-2014 the few material changes in the scoring of the countries were as follows: a deterioration of 7 points in Eritrea, 6 points in Syria, Guinea-Bissau, 5 points in Australia, Spain, Gambia, Timor-Leste, 4 points in Rwanda, Turkey, Liberia, Malawi, Tanzania, Madagascar, Yemen, an improvement of 4 points in UK, Lithuania, Slovakia, Lesotho, Philippines, Laos, Afghanistan, 5 points in Ireland, Estonia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, 6 points in Latvia, Swaziland, Myanmar, 7 (!) points in Greece, Senegal. Overall, if we don't count small changes of 1, 2 or 3 grades out of 100, there was a deterioration of 67 points in 2012-2014 an an improvement of 85 points, or a net improvement of 18 points for 175 states in three years, this isn't much but perhaps it shows a slight improvement in the fight against corruption over the years. One can be optimistic to find that corrupt countries as Greece, Myanmar, Egypt and Saudi Arabia have become more ethical over the years, and that former communist countries, as Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Slovakia, have become more ethical, as well as African countries such as Senegal, Swaziland, Lesotho, and Asian countries as Afghanistan, Philippines, Laos. On the other hand there was a sharp deterioration in ethics in very corrupt countries as Eritrea, Syria, Guinea-Bissau, Yemen, Tanzania, Madagascar, but also in ethical countries as Australia and Spain.

It is amazing to find that there was no change in the 10 most ethical countries over the years: In 1995 - New Zealand, Denmark, Singapore, Finland, Canada, Sweden, Australia, Switzerland, Netherlands, Norway – exactly like in 2014, twenty years after, bearing in mind that in 1995 Luxembourg was examined together with Belgium and not separately as in 2014. And who are in the first 10 places in 1996? - New Zealand, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Canada, Norway, Singapore, Switzerland, Netherlands, Australia. Exactly as in 1995 and 2014. And what happens in 2005, ten years after the first survey? Here we have a small surprise – Iceland in no. 1 with a fantastic score of 9.7, sic transit gloria mundi – 3 years later Iceland was involved in one of the worst unethical banking scandals of the Great Recession, and was ranked in 2012 in the 11th rank, excellent ranking but not no. 1 as a few years before, in 2013 – 12 and in 2014 – 12. But who comes just after Iceland? The same members of the exclusive club as in all the previous years: Finland, New Zealand, Denmark, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, Australia, Austria, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Luxembourg, Canada. The 11 most ethical countries of 2014 are here ranked from no. 2 to 14. And in 2012 – Denmark, Finland, New Zealand, Sweden, Singapore, Switzerland, Australia, Norway, Canada, Netherlands, Iceland, Luxembourg. Only a slight change: Luxembourg is here no. 12 while in 2014 Iceland is ranked no. 12 and not no. 11 as in 2012. But in 2013 we find the same results as in 2013 (but not in the same exact ranking within the 11 most ethical countries in 2014): Denmark, New Zealand, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Singapore, Switzerland, Netherlands, Australia, Canada, Luxembourg. All is the same in an ethical front!

The same similarity can be found as well in the next ethical countries up to no. 20 and even beyond a few rankings: in 1995 – Ireland, UK, Germany, Chile, USA, Austria, Hong Kong, France, Belgium/Luxembourg, Japan. Iceland and Barbados were not surveyed, and Chile, Austria and France are even in 2014 very close to no. 20. In 1996 – Ireland, UK, Germany, Israel, USA, Austria, Japan, Hong Kong, France, Belgium. In 1996 we find the same results in the 20 most ethical countries as in 1995 and as in 2014, but with one exception – Israel, ranked here no. 14 with a score of 7.71. Here we can say even more sic transit gloria mundi, as there was a huge deterioration in Israel ranking from no. 14 in 1996 to no. 37 in 2014, with

the very low score of 60 instead of 7.71. Israel has become a much more corrupt country in 18 years, going down 23 grades, perhaps the most drastic negative change in TI's surveys.

In 2005 we find in the ranks 12-22: United Kingdom, Luxembourg, Canada, Hong Kong, Germany, USA, France, Belgium, Ireland, Chile, Japan. Exactly the same countries as in the previous and following years. In 2012 – after Iceland in no. 11 and Luxembourg in no. 12, Germany, Hong Kong, Barbados, Belgium, Japan, United Kingdom, United States, Chile (and Ireland in no 25, due to the problems it had in the Great Recession). In 2013 – Germany, Iceland, United Kingdom, Barbados, Belgium, Hong Kong, Japan, United States, Uruguay, Ireland (in no. 21). So, in all those years as in 2014 we find the same countries in the 20 most ethical countries, with minor changes within the ranks in the Big 20, as in Iceland and Ireland. However, if we analyze the score of the first 10/11 ethical countries we find in 1995: 9.55-8.61, 1996: 9.43 – 8.60. 2005: 9.7 – 8.6, 2012: 90 – 82, 2013: 91 – 80, 2014: 92 – 80. The scores are much lower over the years, but the issue is too complex to be analyzed in this book. In the 11/12-20 countries the scores were in 1995: 8.57 – 6.72, 1996: 8.45 – 6.84, 2005: 8.6 – 7.4, 2012: 80 – 72, 2013: 78 – 73, 2014: 79 – 74. The gaps have narrowed over the years because there are now much more countries in the survey: 175 instead of 41-54, 20 years ago.

The most corrupt countries remained almost the same, though in the first years of TI's index most of them were not surveyed. In 1995 the most corrupt countries (in a total of 41 states) were Greece with a score of 4.04, Colombia, Mexico, Italy, Thailand, India, Philippines, Brazil, Venezuela, Pakistan, China, Indonesia with a score of 1.94. In 1996: Italy with a score of 3.42, Argentina, Bolivia, Thailand, Mexico, Ecuador, Brazil, Egypt, Colombia, Uganda, Philippines, Indonesia, India, Russia, Venezuela, Cameroon, China, Bangladesh, Kenya, Pakistan, Nigeria with a score of 0.69. In 2005: Burundi with a score of 2.3, Cambodia, Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Papua New Guinea, Venezuela, Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iraq, Liberia, Uzbekistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Pakistan, Paraguay, Somalia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Angola, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Nigeria, Haiti, Myanmar, Turkmenistan, Bangladesh, Chad with a score of 1.7. There were some changes over the years: Afghanistan has become much more corrupt, and so are Libya, Syria, Eritrea and so on, while Bangladesh is less corrupt, and so are Georgia, Indonesia, Cameroon, Liberia, etc. There is therefore hope for improvement over the years.

SCORES

SEE ALSO CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX IN 1995, 1996, 2005

2014 RANK 2014 2013 2012 **COUNTRY Denmark** <u>92</u> *91* <u>90</u> <u>1</u> 2 New Zealand <u>91</u> 91 90 <u>3</u> <u>89</u> <u>90</u> **Finland** <u>89</u> <u>4</u> <u>89</u> <u>88</u> <u>Sweden</u> <u>87</u> <u>5</u> <u>86</u> <u>Norway</u> <u>86</u> <u>85</u> <u>5</u> <u>85</u> **Switzerland** <u>86</u> <u>86</u>

<u>7</u>	<u>Singapore</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>87</u>
<u>8</u>	<u>Netherlands</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>84</u>
<u>9</u>	<u>Luxembourg</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>80</u>
<u>10</u>	<u>Canada</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>84</u>
<u>11</u>	<u>Australia</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>85</u>
12	Germany	79	78	79
12	Iceland	79	78	82
14	United Kingdom	78	76	74
15	Belgium	76	75	75
15	Japan	76	74	74
17	Barbados	74	75	76
17	Hong Kong	74	75	77
17	Ireland	74	72	69
17	United States	74	73	73
21	Chile	73	71	72
21	Uruguay	73	73	72
23	Austria	72	69	69
24	Bahamas	71	71	71
25	United Arab Emirates	70	69	68
26	Estonia	69	68	64
26	France	69	71	71
26	Qatar	69	68	68
29S	aint Vincent and the Grenadines	67	62	62
30	Bhutan	65	63	63
31	Botswana	63	64	65
31	Cyprus	63	63	66
31	Portugal	63	62	63
31	Puerto Rico	63	62	63
35	Poland	61	60	58

35	Taiwan	61	61	61
37	Israel	60	61	60
37	Spain	60	59	65
39	Dominica	58	58	58
39	Lithuania	58	57	54
39	Slovenia	58	57	61
42	Cape Verde	57	58	60
43	Korea (South)	55	55	56
43	Latvia	55	53	49
43	Malta	55	56	57
43	Seychelles	55	54	52
47	Costa Rica	54	53	54
47	Hungary	54	54	55
47	Mauritius	54	52	57
50	Georgia	52	49	52
50	Malaysia	52	50	49
50	Samoa	52#	*N/A#	N/A
53	Czech Republic	51	48	49
54	Slovakia	50	47	46
55	Bahrain	49	48	51
55	Jordan	49	45	48
55	Lesotho	49	49	45
55	Namibia	49	48	48
55	Rwanda	49	53	53
55	Saudi Arabia	49	46	44
61	Croatia	48	48	46
61	Ghana	48	46	45
63	Cuba	46	46	48
64	Oman	45	47	47

64	The FYR of Macedonia	45	44	43
64	Turkey	45	50	49
67	Kuwait	44	43	44
67	South Africa	44	42	43
69	Brazil	43	42	43
69	Bulgaria	43	41	41
69	Greece	43	40	36
69	Italy	43	43	42
69	Romania	43	43	44
69	Senegal	43	41	36
69	Swaziland	43	39	37
76	Montenegro	42	44	41
76	Sao Tome and Principe	42	42	42
78	Serbia	41	42	39
79	Tunisia	40	41	41
80	Benin	39	36	36
80	Bosnia and Herzegovina	39	42	42
80	El Salvador	39	38	38
80	Mongolia	39	38	36
80	Morocco	39	37	37
85	Burkina Faso	38	38	38
85	India	38	36	36
85	Jamaica	38	38	38
85	Peru	38	38	38
85	Philippines	38	36	34
85	Sri Lanka	38	37	40
85	Thailand	38	35	37
85	Trinidad and Tobago	38	38	39
85	Zambia	38	38	37

94 Armenia 37 36 94 Egypt 37 32 94 Gabon 37 34 94 Liberia 37 38 94 Panama 37 35 100 Algeria 36 36 100 China 36 40 100 Suriname 36 36 103 Bolivia 35 34 103 Mexico 35 34 103 Moldova 35 35 103 Moldova 35 34 107 Argentina 34 34 107 Argentina 34 34 107 Indonesia 34 32 110 Albania 33 31 110 Ecuador 33 35 110 Kosovo 33 33 110 Kosovo 33 33 115 Côte d'Ivoire 32 27 115 Dominican Republic 32 29 <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th>					
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94 Gabon 37 34 94 Panama 37 35 100 Algeria 36 36 100 China 36 40 100 Suriname 36 36 103 Bolivia 35 34 103 Mexico 35 34 103 Moldova 35 35 103 Niger 35 34 107 Argentina 34 34 107 Djibouti 34 36 107 Indonesia 34 32 110 Albania 33 31 110 Ethiopia 33 35 110 Kosovo 33 33 110 Kosovo 33 33 115 Côte d'Ivoire 32 27 115 Dominican Republic 32 29 115 Guatemala 32 29 115 Mali 32 28 119 Mozambique 31 3	36	36	37	Colombia	94
94 Liberia 37 38 94 Panama 37 35 100 Algeria 36 36 100 China 36 40 100 Suriname 36 36 103 Bolivia 35 34 103 Mexico 35 34 103 Moldova 35 35 103 Niger 35 34 107 Argentina 34 34 107 Indonesia 34 32 110 Albania 33 31 110 Ethiopia 33 33 110 Ethiopia 33 33 110 Kosovo 33 33 110 Malawi 33 37 115 Côte d'Ivoire 32 27 115 Guatemala 32 29 115 Guatemala 32 29 115 Mali 32 28 119 Mozambique 31 30	32	32	37	Egypt	94
94 Panama 37 35 100 Algeria 36 36 100 China 36 40 100 Suriname 36 36 103 Bolivia 35 34 103 Mexico 35 34 103 Moldova 35 35 103 Niger 35 34 107 Argentina 34 34 107 Indonesia 34 32 110 Albania 33 31 110 Ecuador 33 35 110 Ethiopia 33 33 110 Kosovo 33 33 110 Malawi 33 37 115 Côte d'Ivoire 32 27 115 Guatemala 32 29 115 Mali 32 28 119 Belarus 31 30 119 Mozambique 31 30 119 Sierra Leone 31 30 <td>35</td> <td>34</td> <td>37</td> <td>Gabon</td> <td>94</td>	35	34	37	Gabon	94
100 Algeria 36 36 100 China 36 40 100 Suriname 36 36 103 Bolivia 35 34 103 Mexico 35 34 103 Moldova 35 35 103 Niger 35 34 107 Argentina 34 34 107 Djibouti 34 36 107 Indonesia 34 32 110 Albania 33 31 110 Ecuador 33 35 110 Ethiopia 33 33 110 Kosovo 33 33 110 Malawi 33 37 115 Côte d'Ivoire 32 27 115 Dominican Republic 32 29 115 Mali 32 29 115 Mali 32 28 119 Belarus 31 30 119 Mozambique 31 3	41	38	37	Liberia	94
100 China 36 40 100 Suriname 36 36 103 Bolivia 35 34 103 Mexico 35 34 103 Moldova 35 35 103 Niger 35 34 107 Argentina 34 34 107 Indonesia 34 32 110 Albania 33 31 110 Ecuador 33 35 110 Ethiopia 33 33 110 Kosovo 33 33 110 Malawi 33 37 115 Côte d'Ivoire 32 27 115 Dominican Republic 32 29 115 Mali 32 28 119 Belarus 31 30 119 Mozambique 31 30 119 Sierra Leone 31 30	38	35	37	Panama	94
100 Suriname 36 36 103 Bolivia 35 34 103 Mexico 35 34 103 Moldova 35 35 103 Niger 35 34 107 Argentina 34 34 107 Djibouti 34 36 107 Indonesia 34 32 110 Albania 33 31 110 Ecuador 33 35 110 Ethiopia 33 33 110 Kosovo 33 33 110 Malawi 33 37 115 Côte d'Ivoire 32 27 115 Dominican Republic 32 29 115 Mali 32 28 119 Belarus 31 30 119 Mozambique 31 30 119 Sierra Leone 31 30	34	36	36	Algeria	100
103 Bolivia 35 34 103 Mexico 35 34 103 Moldova 35 35 103 Niger 35 34 107 Argentina 34 34 107 Djibouti 34 36 107 Indonesia 34 32 110 Albania 33 31 110 Ecuador 33 35 110 Ethiopia 33 33 110 Kosovo 33 33 115 Côte d'Ivoire 32 27 115 Dominican Republic 32 29 115 Guatemala 32 29 115 Mali 32 28 119 Belarus 31 30 119 Mozambique 31 30 119 Sierra Leone 31 30	39	40	36	China	100
103 Mexico 35 34 103 Moldova 35 35 103 Niger 35 34 107 Argentina 34 34 107 Djibouti 34 36 107 Indonesia 34 32 110 Albania 33 31 110 Ecuador 33 35 110 Ethiopia 33 33 110 Kosovo 33 33 110 Malawi 33 37 115 Côte d'Ivoire 32 27 115 Dominican Republic 32 29 115 Mali 32 28 119 Belarus 31 30 119 Mozambique 31 30 119 Sierra Leone 31 30	37	36	36	Suriname	100
103 Moldova 35 35 103 Niger 35 34 107 Argentina 34 34 107 Djibouti 34 36 107 Indonesia 34 32 110 Albania 33 31 110 Ecuador 33 35 110 Ethiopia 33 33 110 Kosovo 33 33 110 Malawi 33 37 115 Côte d'Ivoire 32 27 115 Dominican Republic 32 29 115 Mali 32 28 119 Belarus 31 29 119 Mozambique 31 30 119 Sierra Leone 31 30	34	34	35	Bolivia	103
103 Niger 35 34 107 Argentina 34 34 107 Djibouti 34 36 107 Indonesia 34 32 110 Albania 33 31 110 Ecuador 33 35 110 Ethiopia 33 33 110 Kosovo 33 33 110 Malawi 33 37 115 Côte d'Ivoire 32 27 115 Dominican Republic 32 29 115 Guatemala 32 29 115 Mali 32 28 119 Belarus 31 29 119 Mozambique 31 30 119 Sierra Leone 31 30	34	34	35	Mexico	103
107 Argentina 34 34 107 Djibouti 34 36 107 Indonesia 34 32 110 Albania 33 31 110 Ecuador 33 35 110 Ethiopia 33 33 110 Kosovo 33 33 110 Malawi 33 37 115 Côte d Tvoire 32 27 115 Dominican Republic 32 29 115 Guatemala 32 29 115 Mali 32 28 119 Belarus 31 29 119 Mozambique 31 30 119 Sierra Leone 31 30	36	35	35	Moldova	103
107 Djibouti 34 36 107 Indonesia 34 32 110 Albania 33 31 110 Ecuador 33 35 110 Ethiopia 33 33 110 Kosovo 33 33 110 Malawi 33 37 115 Côte d'Ivoire 32 27 115 Dominican Republic 32 29 115 Guatemala 32 29 115 Mali 32 28 119 Belarus 31 29 119 Mozambique 31 30 119 Sierra Leone 31 30	33	34	35	Niger	103
107 Indonesia 34 32 110 Albania 33 31 110 Ecuador 33 35 110 Ethiopia 33 33 110 Kosovo 33 33 110 Malawi 33 37 115 Côte d'Ivoire 32 27 115 Dominican Republic 32 29 115 Guatemala 32 29 115 Mali 32 28 119 Belarus 31 29 119 Mozambique 31 30 119 Sierra Leone 31 30	35	34	34	Argentina	107
110 Albania 33 31 110 Ecuador 33 35 110 Ethiopia 33 33 110 Kosovo 33 33 110 Malawi 33 37 115 Côte d'Ivoire 32 27 115 Dominican Republic 32 29 115 Guatemala 32 29 115 Mali 32 28 119 Belarus 31 29 119 Mozambique 31 30 119 Sierra Leone 31 30	36	36	34	Djibouti	107
110 Ecuador 33 35 110 Ethiopia 33 33 110 Kosovo 33 33 110 Malawi 33 37 115 Côte d'Ivoire 32 27 115 Dominican Republic 32 29 115 Guatemala 32 29 115 Mali 32 28 119 Belarus 31 29 119 Mozambique 31 30 119 Sierra Leone 31 30	32	32	34	Indonesia	107
110 Ethiopia 33 33 110 Kosovo 33 33 110 Malawi 33 37 115 Côte d'Ivoire 32 27 115 Dominican Republic 32 29 115 Guatemala 32 29 115 Mali 32 28 119 Belarus 31 29 119 Mozambique 31 30 119 Sierra Leone 31 30	33	31	33	Albania	110
110 Kosovo 33 33 110 Malawi 33 37 115 Côte d'Ivoire 32 27 115 Dominican Republic 32 29 115 Guatemala 32 29 115 Mali 32 28 119 Belarus 31 29 119 Mozambique 31 30 119 Sierra Leone 31 30	32	35	33	Ecuador	110
110 Malawi 33 37 115 Côte d'Ivoire 32 27 115 Dominican Republic 32 29 115 Guatemala 32 29 115 Mali 32 28 119 Belarus 31 29 119 Mozambique 31 30 119 Sierra Leone 31 30	33	33	33	Ethiopia	110
Côte d'Ivoire 32 27 Dominican Republic 32 29 Guatemala 32 29 Mali 32 28 Belarus 31 29 Mozambique 31 30 Sierra Leone 31 30	34	33	33	Kosovo	110
115 Dominican Republic 32 29 115 Guatemala 32 29 115 Mali 32 28 119 Belarus 31 29 119 Mozambique 31 30 119 Sierra Leone 31 30	37	37	33	Malawi	110
115 Guatemala 32 29 115 Mali 32 28 119 Belarus 31 29 119 Mozambique 31 30 119 Sierra Leone 31 30	29	27	32	Côte d'Ivoire	115
115 Mali 32 28 119 Belarus 31 29 119 Mozambique 31 30 119 Sierra Leone 31 30	32	29	32	Dominican Republic	115
119 Belarus 31 29 119 Mozambique 31 30 119 Sierra Leone 31 30	33	29	32	Guatemala	115
119 Mozambique 31 30 119 Sierra Leone 31 30	34	28	32	Mali	115
Sierra Leone 31 30	31	29	31	Belarus	119
	31	30	31	Mozambique	119
119 Tanzania 31 33	31	30	31	Sierra Leone	119
	35	33	31	Tanzania	119

119	Vietnam	31	31	31
124	Guyana	30	27	28
124	Mauritania	30	30	31
126	Azerbaijan	29	28	27
126	Gambia	29	28	34
126	Honduras	29	26	28
126	Kazakhstan	29	26	28
126	Nepal	29	31	27
126	Pakistan	29	28	27
126	Togo	29	29	30
133	Madagascar	28	28	32
133	Nicaragua	28	28	29
133	Timor-Leste	28	30	33
136	Cameroon	27	25	26
136	Iran	27	25	28
136	Kyrgyzstan	27	24	24
136	Lebanon	27	28	30
136	Nigeria	27	25	27
136	Russia	27	28	28
142	Comoros	26	28	28
142	Uganda	26	26	29
142	Ukraine	26	25	26
145	Bangladesh	25	27	26
145	Guinea	25	24	24
145	Kenya	25	27	27
145	Laos	25	26	21
145	Papua New Guinea	25	25	25
150	Central African Republic	24	25	26
150	Paraguay	24	24	25

152	Congo, Republic of	23	22	26
152	Tajikistan	23	22	22
154	Chad	22	19	19
154	Congo, Democratic Republic of	22	22	21
156	Cambodia	21	20	22
156	Myanmar	21	21	15
156	Zimbabwe	21	21	20
159	Burundi	20	21	19
159	Syria	20	17	26
161	Angola	19	23	22
161	Guinea-Bissau	19	19	25
161	Haiti	19	19	19
161	Venezuela	19	20	19
161	Yemen	19	18	23
166	Eritrea	18	20	25
166	Libya	18	15	21
166	Uzbekistan	18	17	17
169	Turkmenistan	17	17	17
170	Iraq	16	16	18
171	South Sudan	15	14#	N/A
172	Afghanistan	12	8	8
173	Sudan	11	11	13
174	Korea (North)	8	8	8
174	Somalia	8	8	8

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX – FIRST SURVEY – 1995 1995 TI CORRUPTION INDEX

How international businessmen and financial journalists perceive corruption in 41 countries around the world:

Country Score

- 1. New Zealand 9.55
- 2. Denmark 9.32
- 3. Singapore 9.26
- 4. Finland 9.12
- 5. Canada 8.87
- 6. Sweden 8.87
- 7. Australia 8.80
- 8. Switzerland 8.76
- 9. The Netherlands 8.69
- 10. Norway 8.61
- 11. Ireland 8.57
- 12. United Kingdom 8.57
- 13. Germany 8.14
- 14. Chile 7.94
- 15. USA 7.79
- 16. Austria 7.13
- 17. Hong Kong 7.12
- 18. France 7.00
- 19. Belgium/Luxembourg 6.85
- 20. Japan 6.72
- 21. South Africa 5.62
- 22. Portugal 5.56
- 23. Malaysia 5.28
- 24. Argentina 5.24
- 25. Taiwan 5.08
- 26. South Korea 4.29
- 27. Hungary 4.12
- 28. Turkey 4.10
- 29. Greece 4.04
- 30. Colombia 3.44
- 31. Mexico 3.18
- 32. Italy 2.99
- 33. Thailand 2.79
- 34. India 2.78
- 35. Philippines 2.77
- 36. Brazil 2.70
- 37. Venezuela 2.66
- 38. Pakistan 2.25
- 39. China 2.16
- 40. Indonesia 1.94

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX 1996

COUNTRY SCORE

- 1 New Zealand 9,43
- 2 Denmark 9,33
- 3 Sweden 9,08
- 4 Finland 9,05

5 Canada 8,96

6 Norway 8,87

7 Singapore 8,80

8 Switzerland 8,76

9 Netherlands 8,71

10 Australia 8,60

- 11 Ireland 8,45
- 12 United Kingdom 8,44
- 13 Germany 8,27
- 14 Israel 7,71
- 15 USA 7,66
- 16 Austria 7,59
- 17 Japan 7,05
- 18 Hong Kong 7,01
- 19 France 6,96
- 20 Belgium 6,84
- 21 Chile 6,80
- 22 Portugal 6,53
- 23 South Africa 5,68
- 24 Poland 5,57
- 25 Czech Rep. 5,37
- 26 Malaysia 5,32
- 27 South Korea 5,02
- 28 Greece 5,01
- 29 Taiwan 4,98
- 30 Jordan 4,89
- 31 Hungary 4,86
- 32 Spain 4,31
- 33 Turkey 3,54
- 34 Italy 3,42
- 35 Argentina 3,41
- 36 Bolivia 3,40
- 37 Thailand 3,33
- 38 Mexico 3,30
- 39 Ecuador 3,19
- 40 Brazil 2,96
- 41 Egypt 2,84
- 42 Colombia 2,73
- 43 Uganda 2,71
- 44 Philippines 2,69
- 45 Indonesia 2,65
- 46 India 2,63
- 47 Russia 2,58
- 48 Venezuela 2,50
- 49 Cameroon 2,46
- 50 China 2,43
- 51 Bangladesh 2,29
- 52 Kenya 2,21
- 53 Pakistan 1,00
- 54 Nigeria 0,69

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX 2005

Rank	Country/Territory	CPI 2005 Score	Confidence Range	Surveys Used
1	Iceland	9.7	9.5 - 9.7	8
<u>2</u>	<u>Finland</u>	<u>9.6</u>	<u>9.5 - 9.7</u>	9
	<u>New Zealand</u>	<u>9.6</u>	<u>9.5 - 9.7</u>	9
<u>4</u>	<u>Denmark</u>	<u>9.5</u>	<u>9.3 - 9.6</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>Singapore</u>	<u>9.4</u>	<u>9.3 - 9.5</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>Sweden</u>	<u>9.2</u>	<u>9.0 - 9.3</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>z</u>	<u>Switzerland</u>	<u>9.1</u>	<u>8.9 - 9.2</u>	9
<u>8</u>	<u>Norway</u>	<u>8.9</u>	<u>8.5 - 9.1</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>9</u>	<u>Australia</u>	<u>8.8</u>	<u>8.4 - 9.1</u>	<u>13</u>
10	Austria	8.7	8.4 - 9.0	9
<u>11</u>	<u>Netherlands</u>	<u>8.6</u>	<u>8.3 - 8.9</u>	9
	United Kingdom	8.6	8.3 - 8.8	11
<u>13</u>	<u>Luxembourg</u>	<u>8.5</u>	<u>8.1 - 8.9</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>14</u>	<u>Canada</u>	<u>8.4</u>	<u>7.9 - 8.8</u>	<u>11</u>
15	Hong Kong	8.3	7.7 - 8.7	12

Rank	Country/Territory	CPI 2005 Score	Confidence Range	Surveys Used
16	Germany	8.2	7.9 - 8.5	10
17	USA	7.6	7.0 - 8.0	12
18	France	7.5	7.0 - 7.8	11
19	Belgium	7.4	6.9 - 7.9	9
	Ireland	7.4	6.9 - 7.9	10
21	Chile	7.3	6.8 - 7.7	10
	Japan	7.3	6.7 - 7.8	14
23	Spain	7.0	6.6 - 7.4	10
24	Barbados	6.9	5.7 - 7.3	3
25	Malta	6.6	5.4 - 7.7	5
26	Portugal	6.5	5.9 - 7.1	9
27	Estonia	6.4	6.0 - 7.0	11
28	Israel	6.3	5.7 - 6.9	10
	Oman	6.3	5.2 - 7.3	5
30	United Arab Emirates	6.2	5.3 - 7.1	6
31	Slovenia	6.1	5.7 - 6.8	11

Rank	Country/Territory	CPI 2005 Score	Confidence Range	Surveys Used
32	Botswana	5.9	5.1 - 6.7	8
	Qatar	5.9	5.6 - 6.4	5
	Taiwan	5.9	5.4 - 6.3	14
	Uruguay	5.9	5.6 - 6.4	6
36	Bahrain	5.8	5.3 - 6.3	6
37	Cyprus	5.7	5.3 - 6.0	5
	Jordan	5.7	5.1 - 6.1	10
39	Malaysia	5.1	4.6 - 5.6	14
40	Hungary	5.0	4.7 - 5.2	11
	Italy	5.0	4.6 - 5.4	9
	South Korea	5.0	4.6 - 5.3	12
43	Tunisia	4.9	4.4 - 5.6	7
44	Lithuania	4.8	4.5 - 5.1	8
45	Kuwait	4.7	4.0 - 5.2	6
46	South Africa	4.5	4.2 - 4.8	11
47	Czech Republic	4.3	3.7 - 5.1	10

Rank	Country/Territory	CPI 2005 Score	Confidence Range	Surveys Used
	Greece	4.3	3.9 - 4.7	9
	Namibia	4.3	3.8 - 4.9	8
	Slovakia	4.3	3.8 - 4.8	10
51	Costa Rica	4.2	3.7 - 4.7	7
	El Salvador	4.2	3.5 - 4.8	6
	Latvia	4.2	3.8 - 4.6	7
	Mauritius	4.2	3.4 - 5.0	6
55	Bulgaria	4.0	3.4 - 4.6	8
	Colombia	4.0	3.6 - 4.4	9
	Fiji	4.0	3.4 - 4.6	3
	Seychelles	4.0	3.5 - 4.2	3
59	Cuba	3.8	2.3 - 4.7	4
	Thailand	3,8	3.5 - 4.1	13
	Trinidad and Tobago	3,8	3.3 - 4.5	6
62	Belize	3.7	3.4 - 4.1	3
	Brazil	3,7	3.5 - 3.9	10

Rank	Country/Territory	CPI 2005 Score	Confidence Range	Surveys Used
64	Jamaica	3.6	3.4 - 3.8	6
65	Ghana	3.5	3.2 - 4.0	8
	Mexico	3.5	3.3 - 3.7	10
	Panama	3.5	3.1 - 4.1	7
	Peru	3.5	3.1 - 3.8	7
	Turkey	3.5	3.1 - 4.0	11
70	Burkina Faso	3.4	2.7 - 3.9	3
	Croatia	3.4	3.2 - 3.7	7
	Egypt	3.4	3.0 - 3.9	9
	Lesotho	3.4	2.6 - 3.9	3
	Poland	3.4	3.0 - 3.9	11
	Saudi Arabia	3.4	2.7 - 4.1	5
	Syria	3.4	2.8 - 4.2	5
77	Laos	3.3	2.1 - 4.4	3
78	China	3.2	2.9 - 3.5	14
	Morocco	3.2	2.8 - 3.6	8

Rank	Country/Territory	CPI 2005 Score	Confidence Range	Surveys Used
	Senegal	3.2	2.8 - 3.6	6
	Sri Lanka	3.2	2.7 - 3.6	7
	Suriname	3.2	2.2 - 3.6	3
83	Lebanon	3.1	2.7 - 3.3	4
	Rwanda	3.1	2.1 - 4.1	3
85	Dominican Republic	3.0	2.5 - 3.6	6
	Mongolia	3.0	2.4 - 3.6	4
	Romania	3.0	2.6 - 3.5	11
88	Armenia	2.9	2.5 - 3.2	4
	Benin	2.9	2.1 - 4.0	5
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2.9	2.7 - 3.1	6
	Gabon	2.9	2.1 - 3.6	4
	India	2.9	2.7 - 3.1	14
	Iran	2.9	2.3 - 3.3	5
	Mali	2.9	2.3 - 3.6	8
	Moldova	2.9	2.3 - 3.7	5

Rank	Country/Territory	CPI 2005 Score	Confidence Range	Surveys Used
	Tanzania	2.9	2.6 - 3.1	8
97	Algeria	2.8	2.5 - 3.3	7
	Argentina	2.8	2.5 - 3.1	10
	Madagascar	2.8	1.9 - 3.7	5
	Malawi	2.8	2.3 - 3.4	7
	Mozambique	2.8	2.4 - 3.1	8
	Serbia and Montenegro	2.8	2.5 - 3.3	7
103	Gambia	2.7	2.3 - 3.1	7
	Macedonia	2.7	2.4 - 3.2	7
	Swaziland	2.7	2.0 - 3.1	3
	Yemen	2.7	2.4 - 3.2	5
107	Belarus	2.6	1.9 - 3.8	5
	Eritrea	2.6	1.7 - 3.5	3
	Honduras	2.6	2.2 - 3.0	7
	Kazakhstan	2.6	2.2 - 3.2	6
	Nicaragua	2.6	2.4 - 2.8	7

Rank	Country/Territory	CPI 2005 Score	Confidence Range	Surveys Used
	Palestine	2.6	2.1 - 2.8	3
	Ukraine	2.6	2.4 - 2.8	8
	Vietnam	2.6	2.3 - 2.9	10
	Zambia	2.6	2.3 - 2.9	7
	Zimbabwe	2.6	2.1 - 3.0	7
117	Afghanistan	2.5	1.6 - 3.2	3
	Bolivia	2.5	2.3 - 2.9	6
	Ecuador	2.5	2.2 - 2.9	6
	Guatemala	2.5	2.1 - 2.8	7
	Guyana	2.5	2.0 - 2.7	3
	Libya	2.5	2.0 - 3.0	4
	Nepal	2.5	1.9 - 3.0	4
	Philippines	2.5	2.3 - 2.8	13
	Uganda	2.5	2.2 - 2.8	8
126	Albania	2.4	2.1 - 2.7	3
	Niger	2.4	2.2 - 2.6	4

Rank	Country/Territory	CPI 2005 Score	Confidence Range	Surveys Used
	Russia	2.4	2.3 - 2.6	12
	Sierra Leone	2.4	2.1 - 2.7	3
130	Burundi	2.3	2.1 - 2.5	3
	Cambodia	2.3	1.9 - 2.5	4
	Congo, Republic of	2.3	2.1 - 2.6	4
	Georgia	2.3	2.0 - 2.6	6
	Kyrgyzstan	2.3	2.1 - 2.5	5
	Papua New Guinea	2.3	1.9 - 2.6	4
	Venezuela	2.3	2.2 -2.4	10
137	Azerbaijan	2.2	1.9 - 2.5	6
	Cameroon	2.2	2.0 - 2.5	6
	Ethiopia	2.2	2.0 - 2.5	8
	Indonesia	2.2	2.1 - 2.5	13
	Iraq	2.2	1.5 - 2.9	4
	Liberia	2.2	2.1 - 2.3	3
	Uzbekistan	2.2	2.1 - 2.4	5

Rank	Country/Territory	CPI 2005 Score	Confidence Range	Surveys Used
144	Congo, Democratic Republic	2.1	1.8 - 2.3	4
	Kenya	2.1	1.8 - 2.4	8
	Pakistan	2.1	1.7 - 2.6	7
	Paraguay	2.1	1.9 - 2.3	7
	Somalia	2.1	1.6 - 2.2	3
	Sudan	2.1	1.9 - 2.2	5
	Tajikistan	2.1	1.9 - 2.4	5
151	Angola	2.0	1.8 - 2.1	5
152	Cote d'Ivoire	1.9	1.7 - 2.1	4
	Equatorial Guinea	1.9	1.6 - 2.1	3
	Nigeria	1.9	1.7 - 2.0	9
155	Haiti	1.8	1.5 - 2.1	4
	Myanmar	1.8	1.7 - 2.0	4
	Turkmenistan	1.8	1.7 - 2.0	4
158	Bangladesh	1.7	1.4 - 2.0	7
	Chad	1.7	1.3 - 2.1	6

GLOBAL CORRUPTION BAROMETER - % OF PEOPLE WHO PAID BRIBES – TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL – 2013

All the surveyed countries out of the top 20 most ethical countries have the lowest percentage of paid bribes in the world - 1% to 7% - in the first 21 ranks of the Barometer: Australia, Denmark, Finland, Japan, Canada, New Zealand, Norway, Belgium, United Kingdom, Switzerland, United States. No mention of the reasons for not surveying the other top 20 countries was mentioned but from other sources they have probably also one of the lowest ranks of bribery and corruption: Sweden, Singapore, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Hong Kong, Barbados. This is another proof that Ethics Pays – in wealth and quality of life – but not in bribes! The other countries with the lowest % of bribes – up to 10% - are mostly ethical and quite ethical: Spain (TI -37), South Korea -43, Malaysia -50, Maldives, Portugal – 31, Uruguay – 21, Croatia – 61 (quite corrupt), Georgia – 50 (yet, it has the highest rate of shadow economy), Italy – 69 (quite corrupt), Estonia – 26, Slovenia – 39, Bulgaria – 69 (quite corrupt) and Chile – 21. In the first 24 countries paying bribes of 10% or less - we find all the most ethical and most of the ethical countries surveyed with a few exceptions of 3 quite corrupt countries but no corrupt or very corrupt countries. It shouldn't be too surprising, as paying bribes is per se not ethical and one expects to find that the most ethical countries do not pay bribes. In the following ranks of 20 countries paying bribes – up to 27% of the population - one can find a mixture of quite ethical, quite corrupt and up to very corrupt countries. As we have mentioned before that the rule that ethics pays is mostly true in the extremes of the 20 most ethical/20 most corrupt countries, this barometer shows the same.

25. El Salvador (TI – 80), 25. Hungary – 47, 25. Israel – 37, 25. Jamaica – 85, 25. Philippines - 85, all of them with 12% paying bribes. It is probably surprising that a corrupt country as Argentina (TI – 107) has only 13% paying bribes only a few percent more than Switzerland, and even more surpising than the most corrupt country in the world – Sudan – has only 17% of the population paying bribes, putting a question mark to the validity of the Barometer – bearing in mind that the Barometer is based on people being surveyed whether they have paid a bribe to a public body during the last year, with a margin of error for each country of 3%. Yet, for a small number of countries, including Brazil and Russia, data on particular questions has been excluded because of concerns about validity and reliability. People may be afraid to tell the truth in this matter. However, the percentage of people paying bribes increases drastically in most corrupt and very corrupt countries as Papua New Guinea and Venezuela (27%), Iraq, Pakistan, Madagscar, Ukraine, and inexorably we find that the 20 countries with the highest percentage of people paying bribes – 44%-84% - are in most of the cases also the most corrupt countries in the world - Kyrgyztan, Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cambodia, Cameroon, Libya, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Yemen, Nigeria, but in some cases also "just" corrupt countries as Liberia, Mozambique, Senegal, India, Morocco, South Africa, Ghana, Morocco, Tanzania. So, corruption is heavily linked to paying bribes.

Rank Country/Territory % of people who paid bribes

1= Australia	<u>a</u> 1
1= Denmark	1
1= Finland	1

1= ● <u>Japan</u>	1
5 Spain	2
6= I ◆ I <u>Canada</u>	3
6= Malaysia	3
6= Maldives	3
6= New Zealand	3
6= Norway	3
6= Portugal	3
6= South Korea	3
6= Uruguay	3
14= ■ Belgium	4
14= <u>Croatia</u>	4
14= + <u>Georgia</u>	4
17= ■ I Italy	5
$17 = \frac{\text{United}}{\text{Kingdom}}$	5
19= Estonia	6
19= Slovenia	6
21= Switzerland	7
21= United States	7
23 Bulgaria	8
24 <u>Chile</u>	10
25= El Salvador	12
25= <u>Hungary</u>	12
25= Israel	12
25= Jamaica	12

25= Palestine	12
25= Philippines	12
31= Argentina	13
31= Rwanda	13
31= Vanuatu	13
34 <u>Czech Republic</u>	15
35 Kosovo	16
36= Macedonia	17
36= Romania	17
36= <u>Sudan</u>	17
39= Armenia	18
39= Thailand	18
39= Tunisia	18
42= € <u>Cyprus</u>	19
42= <u>Latvia</u>	19
42= Sri Lanka	19
45 Peru	20
46= Slovakia	21
46= Turkey	21
48= <u>Colombia</u>	22
48= Greece	22
50 Paraguay	25
51= <u>Lithuania</u>	26
51= <u>Serbia</u>	26
53= Papua New Guinea	27

53=	<u>Venezuela</u>	27
55= <u>H</u>	Bosnia and Ierzegovina	<u>d</u> 28
55=	<u>Madagascar</u>	28
57=	<u>Iraq</u>	29
57=	Moldova Moldova	29
59	<u> ▼ Vietnam</u>	30
60	<u>Nepal</u>	31
61	<u>Mexico</u>	33
62=	<u>Kazakhstan</u>	34
62=	<u>Pakistan</u>	34
62= <u>Is</u>	Solomon Slands	34
65=	<u>Bolivia</u>	36
65=	<u>Egypt</u>	36
65=	<u>Indonesia</u>	36
65=	<u>Taiwan</u>	36
69=	<u>Jordan</u>	37
69=	<u>Ukraine</u>	37
71=	<u>Bangladesh</u>	39
71=	South Sudan	39
73	<u>Algeria</u>	41
74=	Ethiopia	44
74=	■ Nigeria	44
76=	<u>Kyrgyzstan</u>	45
76=	Mongolia Mongolia	45

78=	®	<u>Afghanistan</u>	46
78=		Democratic ublic of the go	46
80	\gg	South Africa	47
81	•	Morocco	49
82=	*	<u>Ghana</u>	54
82=	0	<u>India</u>	54
84		<u>Tanzania</u>	56
85=	álá	Cambodia	57
85=	*	Senegal	57
87	0	<u>Uganda</u>	61
88=	*	Cameroon	62
88=	Çı .	<u>Libya</u>	62
88=	*	Mozambique	62
88=	>	<u>Zimbabwe</u>	62
92		Kenya	70
93		Yemen	74
94	•	<u>Liberia</u>	75
95		Sierra Leone	84



Dr. Jacques Cory, giving a lecture on June 4, 2010, as Keynote Speaker to the management of Transparency International - TI - at its headquarters in Berlin. Moderator: Dr. Francois Valerian, Head of Private Sector Programmes, with the participation of Dr. Miklos Marschall, Regional Director Europe and Central Asia, and other executives. The topic of the lecture was "Drawing Lessons from the Great Recession of 2007-2010", and it was divided in three parts along the main themes of Die Dreigroschenoper, The Threepenny Opera, by Bertolt Brecht. The response to the lecture was enthusiastic, with a vivid Q&A of more than half an hour.

The first part on transparency, common to TI and Cory's books, appears in the first act of the play: The ballad singer in the Prologue - the ballad of Mack the Knife: "Und Macheath, der hat ein Messer, Doch das Messer sieht man nicht", And Macheath has got a knife, but the knife is seen by no one. Analogies between Mack the Knife and the criminals of Wall Street who hid their schemes and thefts offshore and off balance sheet, and no one saw their knives.

The second part on the dilemma of profitability versus ethics, which according to Cory are compatible but according to many businessmen are an oxymoron. At the end of the second act Macheath and Jenny sing: "Erst kommt das Fressen, dann kommt die Moral", Voracity is the first thing, Morals follow on. We do not talk just about food, but voracity, excess, lavishness, salaries of hundreds of million dollars to the CEOs in parallel to layoffs of millions. When "Fressen" comes first, we never have time or resources for Ethics or Social Responsibility.

The third part of the lecture and of the play is at the end of the third act when Mack the Knife is "Gerettet, gerettet!", reprieved, reprieved, and instead of being hanged for all his crimes the Queen of England (or the US President, European Prime Ministers, and so on), gives Mack the castle of Marmarel, likewise a pension of ten thousand pounds, like the criminals of the Great Recession who were bailed out (they could indeed sing with Mack the Knife – bailed out, bailed out...), whose schemes cost the world more than ten trillion dollars, as they were too big to fail, transferring the losses from their companies to the governments, i.e. to us. After socializing the losses in 2008, they privatized the profits in 2009, with salaries and bonuses of billions leading the world as the pied piper of Hamelin to a Doomsday Depression, with losses of hundreds of trillions, while no government would be able to bailout them or us!

THE RISE AND FALL OF BUSINESS ETHICS FOLLOWING THE GREAT RECESSION OF 2007/10 BY JACQUES CORY

King Solomon, the wisest man in history, said "Don't be right often". And indeed, the business world after The Great Recession of 2007-2010 is not willing to forgive those who were right in their forecast, who saw the catastrophe approaching and who now tell everybody "Look, we were right!" In the last decade, there were a few academics and businessmen who dared challenging the consensus of vox populi, the alchemy and euphoria of those who made gold out of subprime assets, and who forecasted that the markets will crash because of the excessive leverage, risk and overconfidence that no one would dare to harm those who are too big to fail. Warning lights could be seen from the "remote" times of the junk bonds collapse, the Asian, Latin American, Russian insolvency, the burst of the dot-com bubble, the corporate scandals and the subsequent meteoric rise of the stock markets which was not sustainable. Among the few who dared to oppose the prevailing neoliberal laissez-faire views was Joseph Stiglitz who did it very bravely in his books, articles, lectures and videos, who advocated a Third Way approach, with tighter regulation and who didn't believe in trickle-down economics and the Invisible Hand. He saw instead a greedy hand getting richer and richer, with the tacit cooperation of the neoliberal regimes in the U.S. and other Western economies.

When the Great Recession of 2007/10 occurred, ethicists and whistleblowers had a short-lived epiphany. Most of politicians, governments, international organizations, businessmen and faculties admitted being wrong and admitted that from now on they will act conscientiously, will devote all the time needed for business ethics courses, will work with lower leverage and more respect to other people's money, will increase regulation and not maximize profits with unfettered risk at the expense of the interests of the stakeholders. But following the trillions dollars bailouts and the miraculous recovery of the stock markets due to zero interest rates, none of the culprits was held responsible. Lehman's Dick Fuld is still active on the stock exchange market, LTCM's Myron Scholes is still the chairman of an Advisers company, and our old friend Drexel's Milken is a well-known philanthropist and Chairman of the Milken Foundation. Only poor Bernie Madoff was sentenced to 150 years in prison, but he was the only one indicted in the 65 billion fraud, or even on the Recession's quasi-frauds, a superman!

The Titanic was rescued at the last moment thanks to Hank Paulson and to the fact that global warming has thawed the icebergs in her route. The one and only Warren Buffet who called the derivatives a weapon of mass destruction buys Goldman Sachs's shares on the cheap instead of investing in clean technology, and the hero of the day is John Paulson who speculated on the downturn and won billions. Even if some regulation was enacted, we can bet that neo-Enron's wizards will find a way to circumvent it as they did with Sarbanes-Oxley Act that proved totally inefficient in the last Crisis. All is legal, crooks continue to donate money to politicians and to charities, and we, the fools, continue to invest in the stock exchange in unethical companies headed by unscrupulous businessmen, who will scheme our pension funds again and again, ad infinitum. The heavy smokers, who recovered miraculously from lung cancer, are smoking even more than in the past, since they know that nothing will happen to them, and if worse comes to worse, some minority shareholders with a victim's syndrome will donate one of their lungs (or even two, why not?) to them in order to enable them to catch their breath in the toxic assets environment where they breathe.

Inequality has reached an unprecedented level, unemployment is still very high, and the Economic Whirl, which has started twenty years ago with damages of billions, has reached

now damages of trillions. We are not far from a Doomsday Depression as we need to increase only by a factor of 10 in order to reach damages of tens of trillions, the world economy is only \$54 trillions, bringing about the collapse of the world's economy. When we reach this level, even maverick neoliberal economists will not be able to rescue us or to bailout their friends on Wall Street. In the meantime, they have sterilized every opponent, business ethics courses were eliminated or cut down drastically, as the universities don't have funds because of the Crisis or Madoff, or both. When they teach ethics the students learn about Aristotle, Kant or Adam Smith, but not about the Crisis and its causes which are mainly ethical. In corporations and banks no ethical screening for executives is practiced, and when we have now and then a Chief Compliance Officer, it is mostly the Legal Counsel who advises the corporate how to evade paying taxes legally, how to pollute the environment externalizing the costs legally, how to wrong minority shareholders legally and prevent labor's rights legally.

Yet, the ethicists were promoted, they are no longer hallucinated Don Quixotes, they are now the Enemies of the People, and everything is permitted to discredit their previsions. Instead of teaching business ethics courses of 50, 100 or 150 hours at the universities, the faculties continue to teach irrelevant quantitative theories that were proven wrong now, as with LTCM, and they invite once in a while Nassim Taleb to tell them fairy tales about Black Swans. It sounds nice but they wouldn't dare to invite Daniel Kahneman to teach about irrational economics. Economics is a science, prices of shares can be predicted, we can hedge them with CDS, we can speculate on Lehman's going bankrupt, with derivatives, shorts, put options, because if economics is not a science how would Scholes, Friedman and Von Hayek get a Nobel Prize? We are now like the Good Soldier Shweik at six o'clock after the First World War. We don't pay attention to Winston Churchill who is a grouchy old bore, to Bertolt Brecht's Threepenny Opera, to Keynes' theories. We live in the roaring twenties, with exiting new technologies, no regulation, financial engineering and unshakable optimism. The Economic Whirl will not deter us, illegitimi non carborundum, we have marginalized Joseph Stiglitz and Naomi Klein, and have managed to surround presidents and prime ministers with Wall Street's and equivalents old boys. We are the new Freemasons and our moral and metaphysical ideals, our new Supreme Being, are money, greed, maximization of profits, unfettered capitalism, unlimited risk, CBOs, CDOs, CLOs, CMBS, CMOs, CDS, LTCM, S&Ls, RMBS, CMBS, OPEC, NASDAQ (and good old Bernie, its Chairman), SEC (who?), TARP (shock therapy to the suckers), Fannie Mae & Mae West, Freddie Mac & McDonald's.

But it is not too late, we may have lost an eye and a tooth (not ours of course, but of the taxpayers, as we don't pay taxes, it is against our beliefs), we have another eye and plenty of teeth, maybe Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers were drowned in the tsunami, but the other banks with the bailout are stronger than ever. Main Street is recovering; we have time for a new beginning with business ethics, social responsibility and sustainability as a cornerstone. It is the only guarantee for a full long term recovery, with minimal leverage, low risk, living according to our means, humane capitalism, effective regulation and optimal profits taking into consideration the interests of all the stakeholders, including customers, suppliers, employees, creditors, minority shareholders, society and the environment. It depends on us to make the change, as the power is with the stakeholders, not with the tycoons and the politicians. Change will come from those who are not willing to be wronged anymore, who don't suffer from the victim's syndrome, who learned the lesson, who desire to live!

THE MAIN PRINCIPLES FOR THE FUTURE OF CAPITALISM IN THE NEW SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

Cory's theories analyze contemporary capitalism, the Great Recession and the Economic Whirl, based on Dr. Cory's research & books, and more than 150 books, 130 videos, thousands of articles and documents, researching them in a vivid, critical and captivating way. It examines various preferred solutions to the crisis of capitalism, corporate governance and conduct, adopted by regulators and business, recommended by eminent professors, writers and tycoons, and advocated by Dr. Cory in his works. In the next crisis which could occur within the current decade, as nothing has changed while the pace of the crises has increased exponentially, the world economy could indeed collapse, with damages reaching into the hundreds of trillions of dollars, far beyond the scope of the world GDP. Adoption of the remedies offered might prevent this collapse. These theories differ fundamentally from the prevailing neo liberal views, but are nevertheless contemporary, with a contrarian approach.

In this research endeavor, the author finds the most profound sources of financial and economic instability and suggests workable remedies that can be adopted without delay. It is true that the economic future is uncertain, but unfortunately as the causes of the instability do not change, the results of the systemic failures can be predicted, while the only thing that changes is the order of magnitude of the crises. Economists tend to over-simplify their models – the neoliberals adopt free market theories, the Keynesians and even Stiglitz try to find the right balance between regulation and free markets. These theories offer a much more complex solution, based first of all on moral and ethics, but also on sociology, psychology, philosophy, while giving workable economic solutions. A precondition for a sustainable future of capitalism is to adopt appropriate corporate governance as stipulated in Dr. Jacques Cory's previous books with the changes needed to reflect the crises of the last decade.

Finally, Dr. Cory's theories suggest a new political economy of the state, new strategy for the private and public sectors, new economy of income and wealth distribution, in the context of a proper humane policy bringing economic development. It calls into question the conduct of corporations, leaders, executives and regulators before and during the Great Recession in order to help the reader to understand how the business models of the invisible hand, minimal regulation and maximization of profits have a perverse impact on the world economy, society and stakeholders and ultimately – business and profitability. The theories encourage the reader to develop and follow his own insights, which could be different from the prevailing neo liberal ideology, and find the right equilibrium between profitability, business ethics, social responsibility, globalization, sustainability, complementing each other in the long run.

After witnessing, as a businessman and academic, the Economic Whirl starting in the eighties and culminating in the Great Recession of 2007-2010, Dr. Cory draws the lessons for the future of capitalism and the obvious necessary conclusions which are based and substantiated by the events, but are regrouped in the building blocks which are the preconditions for the new sustainable society, for the future of capitalism in a sustainable society, namely:

- * what is the raison d'être of the company
- * ethical leadership
- * low leverage and low risk with other people's money
- * discarding maximization of profits
- * financial moderation

- * transparency
- * adequate regulation
- * new mission of auditors and lawyers
- * changing the attitude of society
- * cooperation instead of cut-throat conduct
- * establishing the Institute of Ethics
- * electing truly independent directors
- * bridling of derivatives to be functional rather than speculative
- * analyzing long term Treasury Bills return on investment versus Dow Jones Index
- * pension funds investing only in T-Bills
- * full disclosure in financial reports and prospectuses
- * heavy penalties for fraud and tax evasion
- * adequate ratio between highest and lowest salaries
- * corporate social responsibility, environment and sustainability
- * business ethics, ethical strategic planning & screening of management, assimilating ethical standards
- * replacing neo liberal policies by humane capitalism
- * limiting government and business influence
- * encouraging whistleblowers
- * minimal social gaps and enlarging the middle class
- * activist conduct of stakeholders
- * Main Street creativity instead of financial creativity
- * obeying the Golden Rule
- * model citizenship
- * progressive taxation
- * abolishing investment in tax heavens and legal but unethical tax evasion
- * living within your means with minimal credit and adequate savings
- * drawing lessons from the Scandinavian Capitalism
- * eliminating "soft" corruption
- * paying very high salaries to politicians and civil servants
- * prohibiting crossing between public and private careers
- * a new balanced approach between unbridled capitalism and socialism
- * 90% taxation on excessive compensation
- * taking into consideration irrational economics
- * restraining contributions to politicians, political parties and lobbying
- * eliminating bailouts to "too big to fail" corporations
- * restraining monopolies, cartels, large multinationals and banks
- * ensuring an adequate return on investment for savings regardless of the Fed's monetary policy
- * devising from scratch a holistic sustainable economy doing justice to the people and not to tycoons

THE PRINCIPLES OF BUSINESS AND ETHICS IN THE ECONOMIC WORLD TOWARDS 2020

- 1. Companies should see profitability as a viability precondition and not as their only reason for existence, as corporations also employ people, sell products, and contribute to society.
- 2. The mantra of maximization of profits should be discarded, as it necessarily causes maximization of risks and wrongdoing of stakeholders: employees, customers, community and the ecology.
- 3. Financial moderation should prevail, with a balanced leverage (not 30:1 as in Lehman Brothers), sufficient equity, low indebtedness, a positive cash flow, integrity of the financial management, even if it is at the expense of maximizing profitability, growth and valuation.
- 4. Financial reports should be accurate and transparent and instead of spending tens of millions in order to circumvent the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, companies should spend millions to be ethical.
- 5. Lawyers who assist companies to evade taxes "lawfully" would be unemployed, as all companies would pay the full taxes, after being convinced that it is the only way to maintain law and order, eradicate crime and to fund defense, education, health and infrastructure equitably.
- 6. All pension funds should cease to invest in the stock exchange, no longer risking pensions, and minority shareholders should invest only in ethical funds and ethical companies.
- 7. Independent directors should be really independent and should ensure the stakeholders' rights.
- 8. An Institute of Ethics should be established, giving ethical ratings to companies, controlling shareholders and executives, and the management should have an impeccable ethical record, preventing the collapse of AAA ethical companies due to unethical conduct.
- 9. The internet would become the ultimate ethical vehicle, ensuring full transparency, preventing the use of insider information and enabling open communication between all stakeholders.
- 10. Cooperation, equilibrium and harmony would replace the principles of cut-throat competition and street fighting, having the killer instinct and adopting war tactics.
- 11. Companies should not compete in adopting unbridled marketing campaigns, deceptive advertising, deceiving customers, but should compete on who gives better service and products at fair prices, without putting "stumbling blocks" before the blind subprime customers.
- 12. Our examples of model businessmen would be Warren Buffett, Jerry Greenfield and Paul Hawken, and not Ken Lay and the executives of Lehman Brothers, Bear Stearns and AIG.
- 13. Society would not judge people by the size of their wallets but by the greatness of their minds.
- 14. The ideal manager should lead his company in an authoritative, democratic and humane approach, and not be inconsiderate, brutal and lacking in sensitivity.
- 15. We should prevent sexual harassment, race, gender, age and other discrimination, nepotism, and all workers should be treated equitably and recruited with ethical screening.
- 16. The ratio between the highest and lowest salaries in a company should not exceed 30:1.

- 17. The environment in our cities would be as good as in Copenhagen and not as bad as in Naples, and petrochemical companies would invest in preventive measures as in the Netherlands.
- 18. Our country would be rated among the ten most ethical countries in the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index, our model would be Finland and not Nigeria, and those who enforce the ethical laws would not cross the lines to work for those who infringe upon them.
- 19. Companies and tycoons should not perceive corporate social responsibility as the donations of one percent of profits being the essence of ethics, but should earn the other 99% ethically.
- 20. Government would not be neo-liberal or social democratic but neo-social, adopting the "third way" of Joseph Stiglitz, with a balanced equilibrium between free market and regulation.
- 21. Perception of success would not be living on a property of \$125 million but on a modest property, like Warren Buffett, known for his personal frugality despite his immense wealth.
- 22. The model of a politician would be Mahatma Gandhi, practitioner of non-violence, truth, integrity, austerity, simplicity and peace, as opposed to many corrupt politicians of today.
- 23. The excessive ties between government and business would be loosened, politicians would not be responsible to tycoons and their lobbies but to the people and would be funded by them. Civil servants should not be employed by the tycoons after quitting their jobs, putting their motives in doubt.
- 24. Milton Friedman's vision would be achieved that companies should not invest in social responsibility and the policy of the neo-liberals would be implemented with minimum regulation, because if companies are ethical, there will be no need for charity or regulation.
- 25. Society would not worship bankrupt businessmen who outsmarted their creditors, tax evaders who conned the government, and controlling shareholders who wronged minority shareholders, but nerds who pay their taxes, behave ethically and repay their debts.
- 26. White-collar criminals should be sentenced to 20 years imprisonment, without plead bargains, indirect or direct bribes, and judges should not be lenient toward bankers, tycoons and corrupt politicians, who are usually represented by the best lawyers.
- 27. Society would ostracize those who withhold payments to suppliers and employees, those who employ people without providing them with social benefits, and those who prevent unionizing aimed at improving working conditions.
- 28. Society should encourage and reward whistleblowers who warn against corruption, wrongdoing to stakeholders and ethical criminals.
- 29. Our country would have minimal social gaps and would rank close to Sweden, with 50% of its population in the middle class and not 50% of the wealth owned by the richest 1%, since democracy is not voting every few years, but having equity, welfare and equal opportunities.
- 30. We should take our fate in our own hands, acting lawfully and ethically but decisively, investing only in ethical companies, working only in ethical companies, buying only from ethical companies and welcoming only ethical and sustainable companies into our communities.
- 31. We should not aspire to be creative capitalists or creative accountants, but to be creative in our R&D in high tech, green energy and low tech, with holistic ethical strategic planning.

- 32. Quality and excellence should be the cornerstones of a company's activities, by adhering to specifications and standards, without jeopardizing quality and endangering people's lives.
- 33. Ethical standards, codes and assimilation would not be eyewash but the basics of a company.
- 34. Tenders would not be bent, positions would not be promised to the boys, and lawsuits would not drag on, in an economy with minimal red tape and an ethical environment and infrastructure.
- 35. We should return to basics: obeying the Golden Rule by not doing to others what we do not want to be done to us, acting in equity, moderation and equilibrium; the Categorical Imperative with its moral obligations should prevail, concluding in an All My Sons Credo.
- 36. The significant progress that has happened in the last decades in consumerism, quality, health, education and democracy would also be expanded to ethics, social responsibility, corporate governance and sustainability towards the year 2020, if we wish to preserve life.

PROFITABILITY AND BUSINESS ETHICS

Many businessmen believe that a company can either be profitable or ethical but that it can't be both at the same time. If a company has to compromise on one of those issues, it prefers to do so on ethics, as the success of a company and its management is primarily based on its profitability and not on its ethics. An unethical company is not penalized for its unethical conduct, if it does not infringe any law, and the same is true for its executives who continue to receive their high salaries, stock options and benefits, as long as they maximize profitability, even at the expense of ethics. We should examine the oxymoron stated by Milton Friedman, that the objective of a company is only to maximize profits and that a company should not have any objectives of social responsibility. Where are we maximizing our behavior in our lives? Do we maximize our eating, drinking, vacations, or even return on investment? Each maximization has a price tag: eating excessively results in bulimia, drinking too much results in drunkenness, too long vacations degenerate, while a very high return on investment has a tradeoff with risk or brings too many competitors. Aristotle preconized more than two thousand years ago that we should find moderation in everything we do, the golden mean, as excessiveness ultimately corrupts. His precepts were true then as they are true today. One should find the right balance between the hardware of business: production, sales, profitability and valuation, and the software of business: ethics, quality, integrity and humaneness. Only thus is it possible to find the perfect harmony that will ensure the long term prosperity of the company and its stakeholders.

There are 12 outstanding principles and basic conditions that are the prerequisites for an ethical and profitable company:

1. Ethics, Profitability and the Interests of the Stakeholders

Everybody believes that a prerequisite for a viable and prosperous company is profitability. A company that is not profitable will not be able to survive in the long run and we should do our best in order to be profitable. Profitability is like the oxygen that we breathe; it is a precondition for our living. However, nobody decides where to live exclusively on the basis of the amount of oxygen that exists in his neighborhood. Or paraphrasing Moliere in his play "L'avare" – we should be profitable (eat) in order to live but we should not live in order to be profitable (eat). The quality of life of every human being, like the quality of life of every company, has other parameters as well, primarily the safeguarding of the interests of the stakeholders of the company and fair conduct toward them: the employees, customers, suppliers, creditors and so on. The company has, therefore, to obey the Golden Rule: "Don't do unto others what you wouldn't want done to you". This issue will be further emphasized, as it is a key element in ethical thinking.

2. Financial Integrity and Strength

Financial creativity can ruin companies, as we have seen in many cases in recent years, such as Enron, Barings Bank and others. In order to survive in the long run a company has to be financially moderate, with a balanced leverage, sufficient equity, low indebtedness, a positive cash flow, integrity of the financial management, even if it is at the expense of maximum profitability, growth and valuation. A prerequisite of survival is security, for the individual, the corporation and the nation. As a nation spends a large part of its GNP for defense, so a

company has to ensure its security and cannot jeopardize its existence with financial creativity, transferring profits to affiliated companies, taking loans through related companies, reporting expenses in next year's financial statements, actualizing forecasted profits for the next ten years in this year's income statement, reporting R&D expenses as assets, and so on. Sometimes the auditors cooperate with the reckless executives; often the SEC or even the public look benevolently on such conduct, but a company that acts carelessly in its finances will not subsist in the long run.

3. Enforcement by an Authoritative and Democratic Management

Many believe that an authoritative and democratic management is an oxymoron, but the most successful and prosperous companies prove that it is feasible. Management has to be authoritative in a company as in a nation; it is impossible to manage in a flabby way, where everyone does whatever he wants, nobody is accountable, directives are not implemented, instructions are not enforced, and the whole company is managed like a fraternity. Therefore, a company has to be managed in an authoritative way, obeying management directives, enforcing the company policy and decisions. Nevertheless, enforcement has to be carried on graciously, not through a dictatorial management, and to take the inputs of lower level management and employees into consideration. Most of the modern business books preconize such methods of management, but unfortunately many companies are managed by brutal bosses, or in an anarchical manner; few companies are managed by an authoritative and democratic management. This mode of management can even be seen as a prerequisite for an ethical company, as it combines the best methods.

4. Quality and Excellence

The company in the third millennium perceives quality and excellence as prerequisites of success, but in many cases this is only a slogan or a panacea. How is it possible to solve the dilemma of improving quality while obtaining a profitability which is lower than the maximal one? What is the value of quality and to what extent should it be enhanced, even if it is not needed? Standards are set by the Standards Institutions, the customers' specifications set what is required and those who abide by the standards and the specs should encounter no problems. However, unethical companies that want to maximize profits at all costs do not abide by those rules, deliver products that do not comply with the specs, sometimes even endangering human lives. Maximization of profits is always at the expense of something else; you deliver lower quality products to your customers, you pay lower than average salaries to your employees, you postpone payments to your suppliers, you reschedule the installments of your loans, you evade paying taxes, you externalize your ecological expenses, and of course, you do not meet the standards and excellence required by an ethical company. An ethical company should, therefore, find the right balance between profitability, quality and excellence, while safeguarding the interests of all its stakeholders.

5. Truthful and Transparent Reporting

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act is supposed to improve the truthfulness and transparency of reporting of American companies and companies that are traded in the US. Many companies have reluctantly decided to abide by the new rules, even if they find them somewhat "draconic". Others invest huge amounts of money in order to find ways of circumventing the act without breaking the law. However, the obvious way should be to act ethically and give true and transparent reports as companies are bound by law to do. It is by far the simplest and cheapest way to cope with the Act, as it is ultimately more efficient to be ethical in the long run. Those who have a clean conscience should not be afraid of transparency. Opaque

reporting is a sign of unethical conduct, as we have seen at Enron, Barings, WorldCom and many others. Reporting should also be comprehensible to minority shareholders in financial statements, prospectuses, special reports and so on. It is recommended that companies should add ethical, social responsibility and ecological reports to their annual reports. Fraudulent reports are beneficial only to unethical executives, assisted by lawyers and auditors who operate in contradiction to their professional ethics, which require truthful and transparent reporting.

6. Aggressive and Creative Marketing

In a world that has limited wars to a minimum, the business world has become the outlet for aggression. "Street fighter" is a compliment for an aggressive businessman, but it is, however, recommended to limit the aggression to marketing instead of finance and human relations. Only in marketing should businessmen set free their native aggression and creativity, as we live in a very competitive market and the meek do not survive. A company can be ethical in its advertising and its conduct toward competitors while employing war-like tactics of cunning. Should a company abide by the rule of "let the buyer beware" or "giving full disclosure of all the products' deficiencies"? Does it have to emphasize its strengths as well as its weaknesses in the same manner? If you are transparent in marketing, should you light up your problems with a torch or show how your products are better than those of your competitors? In negotiations should you tell the whole truth or just not lie? A prerequisite to the success of a company is growth and obtaining a large market share. It is very difficult to find companies that can achieve that by being completely ethical. It is almost impossible to find companies or businessmen who are 100% ethical, and if you have to give leeway to your aggressions and cunning, it could be that it is preferable to do so in marketing rather than in finance, as the competitors are strong enough to care for their own interests and it is questionable if stakeholders in the company, such as the community or government, are.

7. The Humaneness of Management

The most important resource of a company is its employees and management. A company with the best products, with the most advanced technology, with the most revolutionary know-how, cannot survive without dedicated, excellent, motivated and honest employees, who see their company as their second home, who are loyal and give their utmost to the organization. In order to achieve this goal management has to be humane; there should be no sexual, racial, religious, or age discrimination, there shouldn't be too wide gaps in the level of salaries, there should be almost no temporary workers without social benefits and no wrongdoing done to employees. Many unethical companies achieve maximum profitability by paying minimal salaries, no social benefits, widely employing temporary workers, banning unions, adopting brutal methods to enforce discipline, with constant threats of layoffs, while keeping the huge salaries of top management untouched. Those companies can increase profitability in the short run, but cannot be profitable in the long run, as employees contribute most in a supportive environment. The basic quality of managers, doctors, teachers and civil servants who interact with people should be humaneness, and as a doctor with despicable conduct towards his patients is a bad doctor, even if he is very proficient, so is a brutal boss who enjoys rendering the lives of his subordinates miserable a bad manager and he will not succeed in his job in the long run.

8. Social Responsibility

In the last few years there is a confusion of terminology between business ethics, social responsibility and sustainability. The best specialists deal with those issues and many see their

terms as encompassing all the others. Social Responsibility, in its strict terminology, is the care of the community, society and the interests of the weaker segments of society. There could be a contradiction between business ethics and social responsibility, as the Mafia can contribute millions to society while obtaining the funds for their donations in the most unethical manner. Tobacco companies contribute millions to cultural activities but do they become ethical because of that? Companies that wrong minority shareholders in millions of dollars can donate part of those sums to a business school or even found a Center for Business Ethics. Social Responsibility is undoubtedly one of the pillars of Business Ethics, but it does not replace it. It is preferable that a company should not wrong its stakeholders: employees, customers, creditors and suppliers, while not contributing anything to social responsibility and the community, than to have a company that wrongs all its stakeholders and donates part of those unethical profits to the community. The community will be far better off if a company behaves ethically without giving any donations, as the community is comprised of the stakeholders of the company: the employees, the suppliers and the customers. Unethical companies wrong their stakeholders usually ten times more than the amounts that they donate to the community, so society has a much larger deficit incurred as a result of unethical conduct than the benefit it derives from social responsibility. The Robber Barons who wronged their employees, customers and suppliers donated only a fragment of what they have earned unethically to society. A company is perceived as very ethical if it donates one percent of its profits (not of its income...) to society. We are far more interested on how the company obtained the remaining 99% of its profits. The same token applies with sustainable companies who contribute to ecology while wronging their stakeholders. An unethical company which is socially responsible or sustainable is an oxymoron; it is sheer hypocrisy and eyewash!

9. Environment

One of the most common ways to maximize profitability is by externalizing expenses from the company to the government or the community. Those expenses, which the company does not incur although it causes them, are called externalities. Thus, if a company dumps its toxic waste into a river, into the air, the sea or the soil, it does not incur the cost it causes to ecology, which is incurred to the community or the government if they want to remediate the harm. Nowadays, there is quite extensive legislation on the preservation of the environment in the US, countries in Europe, Canada, Australia, and so on. However, the enforcement of those laws is not easy and unethical mega-corporations try very hard to evade them, as it is much cheaper to externalize the expenses to the community, thus maximizing profits. In many cases those companies contribute funds to unethical politicians, who assist them in evading the laws. The Government cannot allocate the funds to fight against those corporations, and NGOs, communities and individuals find it even harder. Thus, the main approach should be ethical, by abstaining from investing in companies that harm the environment and investing in ecological funds. The harm to the environment ultimately affects all of us, if not in this generation then in the next one. Cancer and many other illnesses result from those wrongdoings, as all of us breathe the same air and are affected by global warming. We are, after all, every one of us, part of the same life chain.

10. Ethical Infrastructure

An ethical company or an ethical individual cannot survive in a corrupt environment. The whole infrastructure should be ethical in order to facilitate the ethical conduct of a company. If society does not condemn wrongdoing and glorifies unethical conduct, there is no incentive to managers to behave ethically, as we are social-minded and most of us cannot live in a society where we are ostracized. In the past, religion was the watchdog of morals and of

ethics, although there were too many cases of abuse. Today, society should condemn ethical criminals instead of condemning whistleblowers who try to remedy their wrongdoing. A total change of attitude is needed in order to glorify and reward whistleblowers. Those who wrong their stakeholders should be banned from society, as should bankrupts who manage to salvage all their wealth by externalizing the bankruptcy to their creditors, employees and suppliers. Nowadays, the wrongdoers are treated by society as "smart guys", who con their creditors, who con the government while evading paying taxes by "tax-planning", which may be legal but is unethical. If it is possible to bribe judges and policemen, buy pardons and fix tenders, no ethical codes could prevent one from committing those crimes, as the prerequisite of the implementation of the ethical codes is that the managers and employees, as well as the society, should be ethical. Unethical companies, such as Enron, crumble in the same way that corrupt societies, such as the Soviet Union, crumbled. The infrastructure of the society, local administration, police, judicial system, politics and government will ultimately become ethical when the situation becomes unbearable, when corruption finally distorts the whole economy, as only ethical economies and nations can prosper in the long run. The same rule applies to the business environment. No ethical Don Quixote can remain ethical when all his colleagues are unethical; therefore education on ethical conduct is a prerequisite for a profitable and ethical company. In the same manner that a transportation, sewage and energy infrastructure is formed, so an ethical infrastructure for the survival of society has to be formed.

11. Ethical Tycoons

In order to discern which companies are ethical we have to examine who their executives are and take them as an example. Warren Buffett is a typical example of an ethical tycoon who has succeeded to be almost the richest man in the world by combining, in a remarkable manner ethical conduct with very high profitability. However, he is soon to give up most of his wealth to community, thus achieving social responsibility as well. Buffett believes that excessive wealth that was originated in society should go back to society, not 10% or 1%, but most of it, as he has shown. Not by legislation as in ultra-socialist countries, not by nationalization as in communist countries, but in a humane capitalistic regime, setting a voluntary example for every businessman. This is an inspiring example in an environment that has become less and less ethical, in a society where most of the wealth belongs to very few tycoons. We need to follow the example of ethical businessmen such as Buffett and to condemn the unethical conduct of the Lays and Skillings, in order to prove that being profitable and ethical is not an oxymoron. We should ostracize tycoons who made their fortunes by bribing corrupt politicians in order to receive privatized assets at a minimal price, by wronging minority shareholders, by stealing from pension funds and by manipulating the price of shares. We should glorify the ethical businessmen, with impeccable reputations and records of fair conduct to stakeholders, in order to induce managers to work in their companies and be proud of it, to convince customers to buy their products, services or funds, to influence banks to lend them money, as they should be set as an example for all of us.

12. A Holistic Business and Ethical Strategy

Each one of those principles is viable and a prerequisite for an ethical and profitable company. However, the precondition for their implementation is the orchestration of all of them in unison. Only a company that implements all the principles would/should prosper in the long run. It is obvious that nowadays there are many companies that do not comply with any of the principles, with the exception of marketing aggressiveness. Nevertheless, they prosper in the short run and sometimes even in the long run. Enron prospered for many years

and was set as an example in the best business schools. Companies that were founded by the Robber Barons exist even today. But we can decide if unethical companies prevail. We can decide not to work for them, not to lend them money, not to buy their products and not to sell them ours. We have the power as employees, with our unions and pension funds, as customers who can be organized, as minority shareholders who can obtain control of their companies, as communities who can forbid unethical companies to operate in their towns, as bankers who can decide not to lend them money. Recent history has proven how we can organize ourselves in such a way as to make ethical conduct prevail, thus safeguarding the interests of the stakeholders. It was the Labor Unions who forced unethical companies to pay fair wages to their employees. The Greens have forced mega-corporations to preserve the environment. Activist associations have changed resolutions which were unfair to the minority shareholders. Ethical countries have managed to eradicate bribery and corruption; ethical communities ostracize unethical corporations. We should exercise our power with a holistic approach, assisted by the Institutes of Ethics, the Supervision Boards, and the Ethical Funds, to find the ethical companies and invest only in them. We should trust only ethical companies and businessmen and ostracize the others. It is not a utopian dream; it is feasible if we are properly organized, if we train management to be ethical, if we prove that we can be both profitable and ethical. We can achieve this goal in the foreseeable future to the benefit of society and individuals who want to survive in a sustainable environment.

25. WHERE TO BE BORN INDEX FOR 2013, THE ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE UNIT - MEASURING QUALITY OF LIFE, MATERIAL WELL BEING – GDP PER CAPITA, LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH, FAMILY LIFE, POLITICAL FREEDOMS, JOB SECURITY – UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, CLIMATE, PERSONAL PHYSICAL SECURITY RATINGS, COMMUNITY LIFE, GOVERNANCE – RATINGS FOR CORRUPTION, GENDER EQUALITY – IN PARLIAMENT SEATS

The question "where to be born" is a philosophical and quite misleading question. It would be much more accurate to ask: "where is it better to live", as a man doesn't chose where to be born but he choses where to live. Even that takes into consideration only material parameters and some intangible ones. Is it better to live in Switzerland (no. 1 in the index) – a country that has contributed to the world culture much less than France (no. 26) just because the physical security and community life is better? Or is it better to live in Norway (no. 3) in spite of its very cold weather just because it is much more ethical than Italy (no. 21)? Why are the Israelis (no. 20) better off, in spite of the wars and terror, than Slovakia (no. 35)?

Well, in theory, it is better to be born in Switzerland, Australia or Norway – no. 1, 2 and 3, than in Nigeria, Kenya or Ukraine – no. 80, 79 and 78. But a Ukrainian patriot would never leave his country to live in Australia, in spite of all the benefits, and change his language, the scenery, his friends and his culture. So, this index should serve more as a model, a compass, as we should strive to be better in all the parameters where Switzerland and the other best countries excel, while keeping all the character and the essence of one's country, whether he is Indian, Russian or Angolan. After all, Muhammad Yunus taught us how in the poorest country of the world – Bangladesh (77) – he changed completely the economics of the state and the welfare of the poor people with his Grameen Bank and preferred to improve the quality of life in his motherland rather than being a professor of economics in the US (16).

It is amazing how here again we find that the 11 most ethical countries are also the 11 countries where it is better to live – Switzerland, Australia, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Singapore, New Zealand, Netherlands, Canada and Finland (with one exception – instead of Luxembourg that is not part of this survey comes Hong Kong – no. 17 in TI's index). If we analyze the 31 best countries we find there also most of the 12 - 31 most ethical states: Ireland, Austria, Belgium, Germany, US, UK, United Arab Emirates, Chile, Japan, France, Portugal and Cyprus. And the other countries in the 31 best countries are quite ethical countries ranking 35 – Taiwan, 37 – Spain and Israel, 43 – South Korea, 47 – Costa Rica. We have also only 3 quite unethical states: Czech Republic – 53, Kuwait – 67, Italy – 69. There is therefore almost a perfect symmetry between the most ethical countries and the best countries where to be born. And, it goes without saying that the most corrupt countries are also the worst countries where to be born: Nigeria, Kenya, Ukraine, Bangladesh, Angola, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Syria, Russia, Indonesia, Azerbaijan, Vietnam, India, Ecuador, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Iran, Algeria, El Salvador. At the down side we have also a perfect symmetry as in the upside.

Rank	Country or territory	Score (out of 10)
1	* Switzerland	<u>8.22</u>
2	Australia	<u>8.12</u>
3	<u>Norway</u>	<u>8.09</u>

Rank	Country or territory	Score (out of 10)
4	<u>Sweden</u>	<u>8.02</u>
5	<u>Denmark</u>	<u>8.01</u>
6	Singapore	<u>8.00</u>
7	New Zealand	<u>7.95</u>
8	<u>Netherlands</u>	<u>7.94</u>
9	■◆■ Canada	<u>7.81</u>
10	Hong Kong	7.80
<u>11</u>	Finland	<u>7.76</u>
12	■ <u>Ireland</u>	7.74
13	<u>Austria</u>	7.73
14	<u>Taiwan</u>	7.67
15	<u>Belgium</u>	7.51
16	Germany	7.38
16	<u>United States</u>	7.38
18	United Arab Emirates	7.33
19	South Korea	7.25
20	<u> Israel</u>	7.23
21	■ Italy	7.21
22	<u>Kuwait</u>	7.18
23	<u>Chile</u>	7.10
23	Cyprus	7.10
25	• <u>Japan</u>	7.08
26	France	7.04
27	Great Britain	7.01

Rank	Country or territory	Score (out of 10)
28	Czech Republic	6.96
28	Spain	6.96
30	Costa Rica	6.92
30	<u>Portugal</u>	6.92
32	Slovenia Slovenia	6.77
33	Poland	6.66
34	<u>Greece</u>	6.65
35	Slovakia Slovakia	6.64
36	Malaysia Malaysia	6.62
37	Brazil	6.52
38	Saudi Arabia	6.49
39	■•■ <u>Mexico</u>	6.41
40	<u>Argentina</u>	6.39
40	Cuba	6.39
42	<u>Colombia</u>	6.27
43	Peru Peru	6.24
44	<u>Estonia</u>	6.07
44	<u>Venezuela</u>	6.07
46	<u>Croatia</u>	6.06
46	Hungary	6.06
48	<u>Latvia</u>	6.01
49	<u>China</u>	5.99
50	Thailand	5.96
51	<u>Curkey</u>	5.95

Rank	Country or territory	Score (out of 10)
52	Dominican Republic	5.93
53	South Africa	5.89
54	<u>Algeria</u>	5.86
54	<u>Serbia</u>	5.86
56	<u>Romania</u>	5.85
57	<u>Lithuania</u>	5.82
58	<u>Iran</u>	5.78
59	© Tunisia	5.77
60	<u>Egypt</u>	5.76
61	Bulgaria	5.73
62	El Salvador	5.72
63	<u>Philippines</u>	5.71
63	Sri Lanka	5.71
65	Ecuador	5.70
66	<u>India</u>	5.67
66	<u>Morocco</u>	5.67
68	★ <u>Vietnam</u>	5.64
69	<u>Jordan</u>	5.63
70	Azerbaijan Azerbaijan	5.60
71	<u>Indonesia</u>	5.54
72	Russia	5.31
73	Syria Syria	5.29
74	<u>Kazakhstan</u>	5.20
75	<u>Pakistan</u>	5.17

Rank	Country or territory	Score (out of 10)
76	Angola	5.09
77	Bangladesh	5.07
78	<u>Ukraine</u>	4.98
79	Kenya Kenya	4.91
80	■ Nigeria	4.74

26. LIST OF FREEDOM INDICES – WIKIPEDIA – 2014 – FREEDOM IN THE WORLD INDEX (POLITICAL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES), INDEX OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM, PRESS FREEDOM INDEX – SOURCES: FREEDOM HOUSE, WALL STREET JOURNAL, REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS

It is very hard to imagine an ethical country without freedom – political rights, civil liberties, press freedom, and this indeed is the case with almost all ethical countries, but however there are a few exceptions. As al rule, the most ethical countries score the best results in Freedom in the World – political rights and civil liberties – "free" – 10 of the 11 most ethical countries score "free" -Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Singapore. One exception - Singapore - scoring "partly free", due to the totalitarian benevolent regime of Lee Kuan Yew and his successors. And this is a crucial question for developing nations: what is better for the population – to live in a "free" country as India with one of the largest poverty rates in the world, a corrupt country, scoring very low in most of the parameters of this book, or in a "partly free" regime as Singapore, whose leader Lee Kuan Yew has brought his country from a developing economy to one of the leading economies in the world, one of the most ethical countries, ranking among the first countries in most of the parameters. One shouldn't say - it is better to be free and democratic as in Switzerland, because this is not an option for many countries in the developing world. Furthermore, democracy is often a two-edged sword, as it enables undemocratic parties to be elected and then cancel the democracy, as happened in Germany in 1933 with the Nazzis, in Gaza in 2007 with the Hamas, in Egypt's Morsi regime, or that democracy brings chaos.

The index of economic freedom is the favorite of the neo-liberal regimes that advocate complete economic freedom, whatever is the cost to society, poverty, and enabling the top 1% to rule and own most of the economy. Is it better to have a mostly free economy like Scandinavia, Netherlands and Luxembourg, or a free economy as Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Switzerland and Singapore? Both types of economy are legitimate, but what is better for the whole population, not only 1% or even 10% of the population? Anyhow, the most ethical countries are split between the two types of economic systems. But, let us state clearly that even a mostly free economy like Sweden's is a full capitalist regime, and not a retrogade communist/socialist regime as the neo-liberals tend to accuse the Scandinavian regimes. Almost all the most ethical countries have a "good situation" in the Press Freedom Index, except Australia "satisfactory situation" and Singapore "difficult situation". So, the most ethical countries score the best results in all the freedom indices, as we think that "mostly free" in Economic Freedom is also a very good result. But what came first – freedom of the press, civil rights, economic freedom – or ethics? An ethical conduct is in most cases the condition sine qua non for obtaining freedom in all its aspects, and it applies also here.

The situation in the 19 countries with the least corruption (ranking 12-30) after the first 11 most ethical countries, is somewhat more complex but in general — even the slightly less ethical countries score the highest scores of freedom or slightly less: Germany, Ireland, Iceland, Austria and Estonia are free/mostly free/good situation in the three parameters as the most ethical countries. UK and US are free/mostly free/satisfactory situation, France and Uruguay are free/moderately free/satisfactory situation, Belgium is free/moderately free/good situation. However, Japan and Chile are: free/mostly free/noticeable problems, Hong Kong is partly free/free (the "model" of economic freedom of Milton Freedman)/noticeable problems. Qatar is not free/mostly free/noticeable problems, and United Arab Emirates are not free/mostly free/difficult situation. Finally, Bhutan is partly free/mostly unfree/noticeable problems, yet ranking no. 30 in TI's index, and is one of the happiest countries in the world.

The most corrupt countries have also the lowest scores in the freedom indices. Somalia, North Korea, Sudan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Eritrea are not free/repressed/very serious situation. South Sudan and Iraq are not free/n/a/difficult situation, Libya, Venezuela and Haiti are partly free/repressed, but the freedom of the press is difficult situation/very serious situation/satisfactory situation. China has a thriving economy, yet it is not free/mostly unfree/very serious situation, India the largest democracy in the world is free/mostly unfree/difficult situation, Iran a theocracy is partly free/repressed/difficult situation, Brazil is free/most unfree/noticeable problems and finally democratic Russia in 2014 (not during the communist regime!) is not free/mostly unfree/difficult situation – plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose – the more things change, the more they stay the same. Russia and Estonia, former members of the USSR, Estonia is now one of the most ethical countries and has freedom like Germany, Ireland and Iceland, while Russia, homeland of Tolstoy, Chekhov and Solzhenitsyn, is one of the most corrupt countries with freedom like South Sudan and Iraq.

List by country

Country	Freedom in the World 2014 ^[3]	2014 Index of Economic Freedom ^[4]	2014 Press Freedom Index ^[1]
Afghanistan	not free	n/a	difficult situation
<u>Albania</u>	partly free	moderately free	noticeable problems
<u>Algeria</u>	not free	mostly unfree	difficult situation
Andorra Andorra	free	n/a	good situation
Angola Angola	not free	repressed	difficult situation
Anguilla Anguilla	n/a	n/a	satisfactory situation
Antigua and Barbuda	free	n/a	satisfactory situation
<u>Argentina</u>	free	repressed	noticeable problems
<u>Armenia</u>	partly free	moderately free	noticeable problems
<u>Australia</u>	<u>free</u>	<u>free</u>	<u>satisfactory</u> <u>situation</u>
<u>Austria</u>	free	mostly free	good situation
Azerbaijan	not free	moderately free	difficult situation
<u>Bahamas</u>	free	moderately free	satisfactory situation
Bahrain Bahrain	not free	mostly free	very serious situation

Country	Freedom in the World 2014 ^[3]	2014 Index of Economic Freedom ^[4]	2014 Press Freedom Index ^[1]
Bangladesh	partly free	mostly unfree	difficult situation
<u>Barbados</u>	free	moderately free	satisfactory situation
Belarus	not free	mostly unfree	difficult situation
Belgium	free	moderately free	good situation
<u>Belize</u>	free	mostly unfree	satisfactory situation
Benin	free	mostly unfree	noticeable problems
<mark> ⊀ Bhutan</mark>	partly free	mostly unfree	noticeable problems
<u>Bolivia</u>	partly free	repressed	noticeable problems
Bosnia and Herzegovina	partly free	mostly unfree	noticeable problems
<u>Botswana</u>	free	mostly free	satisfactory situation
Brazil	free	mostly unfree	noticeable problems
British Virgin Islands	n/a	n/a	satisfactory situation
Brunei	not free	moderately free	difficult situation
Bulgaria	free	moderately free	noticeable problems
Burkina Faso	partly free	mostly unfree	satisfactory situation
<mark>≭ Burma</mark>	not free	repressed	difficult situation
X Burundi	partly free	mostly unfree	difficult situation
<u>Cambodia</u>	not free	mostly unfree	difficult situation
Cameroon	not free	mostly unfree	difficult situation
<u>I◆I</u> <u>Canada</u>	<u>free</u>	<u>free</u>	good situation
Cape Verde	free	moderately free	satisfactory situation
Central African Republic	not free	repressed	noticeable problems

Country	Freedom in the World 2014 ^[3]	2014 Index of Economic Freedom ^[4]	2014 Press Freedom Index ^[1]
<u>Chad</u>	not free	repressed	difficult situation
Chile	free	mostly free	noticeable problems
<u>China</u>	not free	mostly unfree	very serious situation
<u>Colombia</u>	partly free	mostly free	difficult situation
<u>Comoros</u>	partly free	mostly unfree	satisfactory situation
Costa Rica	free	moderately free	good situation
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	not free	repressed	difficult situation
Congo, Republic of the	not free	repressed	noticeable problems
<u>Croatia</u>	free	moderately free	noticeable problems
Cuba Cuba	not free	repressed	very serious situation
	free	moderately free	satisfactory situation
Czech Republic	free	mostly free	good situation
<u> Denmark</u>	<u>free</u>	mostly free	good situation
<u>Djibouti</u>	not free	mostly unfree	very serious situation
Dominica Dominica	free	moderately free	satisfactory situation
Dominican Republic	free	moderately free	noticeable problems
East Timor	partly free	repressed	noticeable problems
Ecuador Ecuador	partly free	repressed	noticeable problems
Egypt	not free	mostly unfree	difficult situation
El Salvador	free	moderately free	satisfactory situation
Equatorial Guinea	not free	repressed	very serious

Country	Freedom in the World 2014 ^[3]	2014 Index of Economic Freedom ^[4]	2014 Press Freedom Index ^[1]
			situation
Eritrea	not free	repressed	very serious situation
Estonia Estonia	free	mostly free	good situation
Ethiopia	not free	mostly unfree	difficult situation
™ ≢ <u>Fiji</u>	partly free	mostly unfree	noticeable problems
+ Finland	<u>free</u>	mostly free	good situation
France	free	moderately free	satisfactory situation
French Guiana	free	moderately free	satisfactory situation
<u>Gabon</u>	not free	mostly unfree	noticeable problems
<u>Gambia</u>	not free	mostly unfree	difficult situation
Gaza Strip	not free	n/a	difficult situation
+ Georgia	partly free	mostly free	noticeable problems
Germany	free	mostly free	good situation
<u> </u>	free	moderately free	satisfactory situation
<u>Greece</u>	free	mostly unfree	noticeable problems
Grenada	free	n/a	satisfactory situation
Guatemala	partly free	moderately free	difficult situation
<u>Guinea</u>	partly free	mostly unfree	noticeable problems
Guinea-Bissau	not free	mostly unfree	noticeable problems
G uyana	free	mostly unfree	noticeable problems
<u>Haiti</u>	partly free	repressed	satisfactory situation
Honduras Honduras	partly free	mostly unfree	difficult situation
* Hong Kong	partly free	free	noticeable problems

Country	Freedom in the World 2014 ^[3]	2014 Index of Economic Freedom ^[4]	2014 Press Freedom Index ^[1]
Hungary	free	moderately free	noticeable problems
 <u>Iceland</u>	free	mostly free	good situation
India India	free	mostly unfree	difficult situation
<u>Indonesia</u>	partly free	mostly unfree	difficult situation
Iran Iran	partly free	repressed	difficult situation
<u>Iraq</u>	not free	n/a	difficult situation
■ <u>Ireland</u>	free	mostly free	good situation
<u> Israel</u>	free	mostly ^[10] free	noticeable problems
■ <u>Italy</u>	free	moderately free	satisfactory situation
Ivory Coast	partly free	mostly unfree	noticeable problems
<u> Jamaica</u>	free	moderately free	good situation
• <u>Japan</u>	free	mostly free	noticeable problems
<u>Jordan</u>	not free	moderately free	difficult situation
<u>Kashmir</u>	partly free	n/a	difficult situation
C Kashmir	not free	n/a	difficult situation
<u>Kazakhstan</u>	not free	moderately free	difficult situation
Kenya Kenya	partly free	mostly unfree	noticeable problems
<u>Kiribati</u>	free	repressed	satisfactory situation
Korea, North	not free	repressed	very serious situation
Korea, South	free	mostly free	noticeable problems
<u>Kosovo</u>	partly free	n/a	noticeable problems
<u>Kuwait</u>	partly free	moderately free	noticeable problems
<u>Kyrgyzstan</u>	partly free	moderately free	noticeable problems

Country	Freedom in the World 2014 ^[3]	2014 Index of Economic Freedom ^[4]	2014 Press Freedom Index ^[1]		
<u>Laos</u>	not free	mostly unfree	very serious situation		
<u>Latvia</u>	free	moderately free	satisfactory situation		
<u>Lebanon</u>	partly free	mostly unfree	noticeable problems		
<u>Lesotho</u>	free	repressed	noticeable problems		
Liberia	partly free	mostly unfree	noticeable problems		
<u>Libya</u>	partly free	n/a	difficult situation		
<u>Liechtenstein</u>	free	n/a	good situation		
Lithuania	free	mostly free	satisfactory situation		
<u>Luxembourg</u>	<u>free</u>	mostly free	good situation		
<u>Macau</u>	n/a	mostly free	noticeable problems		
Macedonia Macedonia	partly free	moderately free	difficult situation		
Madagascar Madagascar	partly free	moderately free	noticeable problems		
<u>Malawi</u>	partly free	mostly unfree	noticeable problems		
<u>Malaysia</u>	partly free	moderately free	difficult situation		
<u>Maldives</u>	partly free	mostly unfree	noticeable problems		
<u>Mali</u>	partly free	mostly unfree	difficult situation		
* ■ <u>Malta</u>	free	moderately free	satisfactory situation		
Marshall Islands	free	n/a	satisfactory situation		
Mauritania Mauritania	partly free	mostly unfree	noticeable problems		
<u>Mauritius</u>	free	mostly free	noticeable problems		
Mexico Mexico	partly free	moderately free	difficult situation		
Micronesia, Federated States of	free	repressed	satisfactory situation		

Country	Freedom in the World 2014 ^[3]	2014 Index of Economic Freedom ^[4]	2014 Press Freedom Index ^[1]		
<u>Moldova</u>	partly free	mostly unfree	noticeable problems		
<u>Monaco</u>	free	n/a	satisfactory situation		
Mongolia Mongolia	free	mostly unfree	noticeable problems		
Montserrat	n/a	n/a	satisfactory situation		
<u>Montenegro</u>	free	moderately free	difficult situation		
<u>Morocco</u>	partly free	mostly unfree	difficult situation		
<u>Mozambique</u>	partly free	mostly unfree	noticeable problems		
Nagorno-Karabakh	not free	n/a	n/a		
<u>Namibia</u>	free	mostly unfree	good situation		
<u>Nauru</u>	free	n/a	satisfactory situation		
<u>Nepal</u>	partly free	mostly unfree	difficult situation		
Netherlands	<u>free</u>	mostly free	good situation		
New Caledonia	n/a	n/a	good situation		
New Zealand	<u>free</u>	<u>free</u>	good situation		
Nicaragua Nicaragua	partly free	mostly unfree	noticeable problems		
Niger Niger	partly free	mostly unfree	satisfactory situation		
■ Nigeria	partly free	mostly unfree	difficult situation		
Northern Cyprus	free	n/a	noticeable problems		
Norway Norway	<u>free</u>	mostly free	good situation		
<u>Oman</u>	not free	moderately free	difficult situation		
<u>Pakistan</u>	partly free	mostly unfree	difficult situation		
Palau Palau	free	n/a	satisfactory situation		
Palestine Palestine	not free	n/a	difficult situation		

Country	Freedom in the World 2014 ^[3]	2014 Index of Economic Freedom ^[4]	2014 Press Freedom Index ^[1]		
Panama Panama	free	moderately free	noticeable problems		
Papua New Guinea	partly free	mostly unfree	satisfactory situation		
Paraguay Paraguay	partly free	moderately free	noticeable problems		
Peru Peru	free	moderately free	noticeable problems		
<u>Philippines</u>	partly free	moderately free	difficult situation		
Poland Poland	free	moderately free	good situation		
Portugal	free	moderately free	satisfactory situation		
Puerto Rico	free	n/a	satisfactory situation		
Qatar	not free	mostly free	noticeable problems		
Romania Romania	free	moderately free	satisfactory situation		
Russia	not free	mostly unfree	difficult situation		
Rwanda	not free	moderately free	very serious situation		
Saint Kitts and Nevis	free	n/a	satisfactory situation		
Saint Lucia	free	mostly free	satisfactory situation		
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	free	moderately free	satisfactory situation		
Samoa Samoa	free	moderately free	satisfactory situation		
San Marino	free	n/a	satisfactory situation		
São Tomé and Príncipe	free	repressed	satisfactory situation		
Saudi Arabia	not free	moderately free	very serious situation		
Senegal	free	mostly unfree	noticeable problems		
Serbia	free	mostly unfree	noticeable problems		

Country	Freedom in the World 2014 ^[3]	2014 Index of Economic Freedom ^[4]	2014 Press Freedom Index ^[1]		
<u>Seychelles</u>	partly free	mostly unfree	noticeable problems		
Sierra Leone	partly free	mostly unfree	noticeable problems		
<u>Singapore</u>	partly free	<u>free</u>	<u>difficult situation</u>		
Slovakia Slovakia	free	moderately free	good situation		
Slovenia Slovenia	free	moderately free	satisfactory situation		
Solomon Islands	partly free	repressed	good situation		
* Somalia	not free	n/a	very serious situation		
<u>Somaliland</u>	partly free	n/a	n/a		
South Africa	free	moderately free	satisfactory situation		
South Sudan	not free	n/a	difficult situation		
Spain Spain	free	moderately free	satisfactory situation		
Sri Lanka	partly free	moderately free	very serious situation		
<u>Sudan</u>	not free	n/a	very serious situation		
Suriname	free	mostly unfree	satisfactory situation		
Swaziland	not free	moderately free	difficult situation		
<u>Sweden</u>	<u>free</u>	mostly free	good situation		
* Switzerland	<u>free</u>	<u>free</u>	good situation		
Syria Syria	not free	n/a	very serious situation		
<u>Taiwan</u>	free	mostly free	satisfactory situation		
<u>Tajikistan</u>	not free	mostly unfree	difficult situation		
T anzania	partly free	mostly unfree	noticeable problems		

Country	Freedom in the World 2014 ^[3]	2014 Index of Economic Freedom ^[4]	2014 Press Freedom Index ^[1]		
<u>Thailand</u>	partly free	moderately free	difficult situation		
<u>Tibet</u>	not free	n/a	n/a		
Togo	partly free	repressed	noticeable problems		
Tonga Tonga	free	mostly unfree	noticeable problems		
<u>Transnistria</u>	not free	n/a	n/a		
Trinidad and Tobago	free	moderately free	satisfactory situation		
<u>Tunisia</u>	partly free	mostly unfree	difficult situation		
<u>Turkey</u>	partly free	moderately free	difficult situation		
Turkmenistan	not free	repressed	very serious situation		
<u>Tuvalu</u>	free	n/a	satisfactory situation		
<u>Uganda</u>	partly free	mostly unfree	noticeable problems		
<u>Ukraine</u>	partly free	repressed	difficult situation		
United Arab Emirates	not free	mostly free	difficult situation		
United Kingdom	free	mostly free	satisfactory situation		
United States	free	mostly free	satisfactory situation		
Uruguay	free	moderately free	satisfactory situation		
<u>Uzbekistan</u>	not free	repressed	very serious situation		
<u>Vanuatu</u>	free	mostly unfree	good situation		
<u>Venezuela</u>	partly free	repressed	difficult situation		
* <u>Vietnam</u>	not free	mostly unfree	very serious situation		
West Bank	not free	n/a	difficult situation		
Western Sahara	not free	n/a	difficult situation		

Country	Freedom in the World 2014[3]	2014 Index of Economic Freedom ^[4]	2014 Press Freedom Index [□]		
<u>Yemen</u>	not free	mostly unfree	very serious situation		
Zambia Zambia	partly free	moderately free	noticeable problems		
Zimbabwe	not free	repressed	difficult situation		

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27. DEMOCRACY INDEX – THE ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE UNIT – 2014 – RANK, OVERALL SCORE

In the Democracy Index we find an almost perfect correlation between the most ethical countries of the world and the most democratic. The 11 most ethical countries are exactly the same as the 11 most democratic countries, with scores of 9.93 for Norway no. 1 down to 8.88 for Luxembourg no. 11. The other most ethical/democratic nations are as usual (the "usual suspects"): Sweden, New Zealand, Denmark, Switzerland, Canada, Finland, Australia, Netherlands. Still, one exception – Iceland no. 3 of the democracies (TI – 12) replaces Singapore – no. 75 in the democracies with 6.03 only (TI – 7), as it is perceived a flawed democracy. Interesting, in the same score (75, 6.03) we find Papua New Guinea (TI – 145). Both countries are ranked exactly in the same rank of democracy, but Singapore (because of its leadership) is one of the world's most ethical states and Papua – one of the most corrupt.

In the next 30 most democratic countries we find in most cases almost in the same ranks the most ethical countries: Ireland, Germany, Austria, Malta, UK, Uruguay, Mauritius, US, Japan, South Korea, Spain, France, Costa Rica, Belgium, Botswana, Cape Verde, Chile, Portugal (Democracies - 33, TI - 31), Taiwan (35/35), Israel (36/37), Slovenia (37/39), Lithuania (38/39), Latvia (39/43), Poland (40/35). But, still there are a few exceptions of very democratic countries which are quite corrupt: Czech Republic (25/53), India (27/85), Italy (29/69), South Africa (30/67), and the democratic but very corrupt Argentina (52/107). And in the opposite direction – countries which are ethical have the lowest scores of democracy: Qatar (136/26), United Arab Emirates (152/25), and a quite corrupt Saudi Arabia (161/55). China (144/100), Egypt (138/94) and Russia (132/136) are very corrupt countries which have also a very undemocratic regime. Finally, the "usual suspects", the most undemocractic regimes are also the most corrupt countries having a score down to 1.08 for North Korea – ranked 167 in the democracies – the most undemocratic country is also the most corrupt ranking 174 in TI's index with a score of 8 out of 100. The other most undemocratic and corrupt countries are: Central African Republic, Chad, Syria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Turkmenistan, Guinea-Bissau, Iran, Laos, Eritrea, Uzbekistan, Sudan, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, Yemen, Tajikistan, Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Azerbaijan, Djibouti.

Full democracies

Norway 1 - 9.93

Sweden 2 - 9.73

Iceland 3 - 9.58

New Zealand 4 - 9.26

Denmark 5 - 9.11

Switzerland 6 - 9.09

Canada 7 - 9.08

Finland 8 - 9.03

Australia 9 - 9.01

Netherlands 10 - 8.92

Luxembourg 11 - 8.88

Ireland 12 - 8.72

Germany 13 - 8.64

Austria 14 - 8.54

Malta 15 - 8.39

UK 16 - 8.31

Uruguay = 17 - 8.17

Mauritius =17 - 8.17

US 19 - 8.11

Japan 20 - 8.08

South Korea 21 - 8.06

Spain 22 - 8.05

France 23 - 8.04

Costa Rica 24 - 8.03

Flawed democracies

Czech Republic 25 - 7.94

Belgium 26 - 7.93

India 27 - 7.92

Botswana 28 - 7.87

Italy 29 - 7.85

South Africa 30 - 7.82

Cape Verde 31 - 7.81

Chile 32 - 7.80

Portugal 33 - 7.79

Estonia 34 - 7.74

Taiwan 35 - 7.65

Israel 36 - 7.63

Slovenia 37 - 7.57

Lithuania 38 - 7.54

Latvia 39 - 7.48

Poland 40 - 7.47

Greece 41 - 7.45

Cyprus 42 - 7.40

Jamaica 43 - 7.39

Brazil 44 - 7.38

Slovakia 45 - 7.35

Timor-Leste 46 - 7.24

Panama 47 - 7.08

Trinidad and Tobago 48 - 6.99

Indonesia 49 - 6.95

Croatia 50 - 6.93

Hungary 51 - 6.90

Argentina 52 - 6.84

Suriname =53 - 6.77

Philippines =53 - 6.77

Bulgaria 55 - 6.73

Serbia 56 - 6.71

Romania = 57 - 6.68

Mexico = 57 - 6.68

Dominican Republic 59 - 6.67

Lesotho 60 - 6.66

Mongolia 61 - 6.62

Colombia 62 - 6.55

Peru 63 - 6.54

El Salvador 64 - 6.53

Malaysia 65 - 6.49

Hong Kong 66 - 6.46

Zambia 67 - 6.39

Ghana 68 - 6.33

Moldova 69 - 6.32

Tunisia 70 - 6.31

Paraguay 71 - 6.26

Macedonia 72 - 6.25

Namibia 73 - 6.24

Senegal 74 - 6.15

Papua New Guinea = 75 - 6.03

Singapore =75 - 6.03

Hybrid regimes

Montenegro 77 - 5.94

Guyana 78 - 5.91

Ecuador 79 - 5.87

Honduras 80 - 5.84

Georgia 81 - 5.82

Guatemala 82 - 5.81

Bolivia =83 - 5.79

Mali =83 - 5.79

Bangladesh 85 - 5.78

Tanzania 86 - 5.77

Sri Lanka 87 - 5.69

Albania 88 - 5.67

Malawi 89 - 5.66

Benin 90 - 5.65

Fiji 91 - 5.61

Ukraine 92 - 5.42

Thailand 93 5.39

Nicaragua 94 - 5.32

Kyrgyz Republic 95 - 5.24

Uganda 96 - 5.22

Kenya 97 - 5.13

Turkey = 98 - 5.12

Lebanon = 98 - 5.12

Venezuela 100 - 5.07

Liberia 101 - 4.95

Bhutan 102 - 4.87

Bosnia and Hercegovina =103 - 4.78

Cambodia =103 - 4.78

Nepal 105 -4.77

Palestine 106 - 4.72

Mozambique 107 - 4.66

Pakistan 108 - 4.64

Sierra Leone 109 - 4.56

Madagascar 110 - 4.42

Iraq 111 - 4.23

Mauritania 112 - 4.17

Armenia 113 - 4.13

Burkina Faso 114 - 4.09

Niger 115 - 4.02

Authoritarian regimes

Morocco 116 - 4.00

Algeria 117 - 3.83

Haiti 118 - 3.82

Libya 119 - 3.80

Kuwait 120 - 3.78

Jordan = 121 - 3.76

Gabon =121 - 3.76

Nigeria =121 - 3.76

Ethiopia 124 - 3.72

Belarus 125 - 3.69

Côte d'Ivoire 126 - 3.53

Cuba = 127 - 3.52

Comoros =127 - 3.52

Togo 129 - 3.45

Vietnam =130 - 3.41

Cameroon =130 - 3.41

Russia 132 - 3.39

Angola 133 - 3.35

Burundi 134 - 3.33

Rwanda 135 - 3.25

Qatar 136 - 3.18

Kazakhstan 137 - 3.17

Egypt 138 - 3.16

Oman 139 - 3.15

Swaziland 140 - 3.09

Myanmar =141 - 3.05

Gambia =141 - 3.05

Guinea 143 - 3.01

China 144 - 3.00

Djibouti 145 - 2.99

Congo (Brazzaville) 146 - 2.89

Bahrain 147 - 2.87

Azerbaijan 148 - 2.83

Yemen 149 - 2.79

Zimbabwe 150 - 2.78

Afghanistan 151 - 2.77

United Arab Emirates 152 - 2.64

Sudan 153 - 2.54

Uzbekistan 154 - 2.45

Eritrea 155 - 2.44

Tajikistan 156 - 2.37

Laos 157 - 2.21

Iran 158 - 1.98

Guinea-Bissau 159 - 1.93

Turkmenistan 160 - 1.83

Saudi Arabia 161 - 1.82

Democratic Republic of the Congo 162 - 1.75

Syria 163 - 1.74

Equatorial Guinea 164 - 1.66

Chad 165 - 1.50

CAR 166 - 1.49

North Korea 167 - 1.08

28. SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX - PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIAL PROGRESS IMPERATIVE, BASED ON THE WRITINGS OF AMARTYA SEN, DOUGLAS NORTH AND JOSEPH STIGLITZ – 2014 – BASED ON 52 INDICATORS OF BASIC HUMAN NEEDS, FOUNDATIONS OF WELLBEING AND OPPORTUNITY TO PROGRESS – PROVIDING FOR THE SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL NEEDS CITIZENS, RATHER **THAN ECONOMIC** FACTORS, **INCLUDING** SUSTAINABILITY, **ECOSYSTEM** HEALTH. WELLNESS, SHELTER, SANITATION, EQUITY, PERSONAL FREEDOM, PERSONAL SAFETY

The Social Progress Index is probably the most comprehensive index as it includes quantitative and qualitative parameters – health, sustainability, ecosystem, sanitation, equity, personal freedom and safety, wellbeing, opportunity to progress, basic human needs, shelter... It is not difficult to guess – the 17 most ethical countries are also the 17 best countries according to the Social Progress Index, not nearly, not quite, but exactly the same, if we bear in mind that for some reason the "small" countries ranking high in the TI index are not included in the Social Progress Index: Luxembourg, Singapore, Barbados and Hong Kong.

The following 17 countries score between 88.24 to 82.63 in the Social Progress Index and are also among the first ranking in the Basic Human Needs, Foundations of Well-being and Opportunity indices: New Zealand, Switzerland, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Canada, Finland, Denmark, Australia, Austria (TI - 23), Germany, UK, Japan, Ireland, US, Belgium. However, Ireland and the US rank 37 and 36 in the Basic Human Needs, probably because of their neoliberal policies. In all the other indices they rank first, down to 23 only. This is another salient example as in all the other parameters that Ethics Pays and all the most ethical countries have also the best scores in the qualitative and quantitative indices of the Social Progress Index, Basic Human Needs, Foundations of Well-being and Opportunity.

The most corrupt countries ranking also the lowest in the Social Progress Index down to 132 and a score of 32.6 are: Chad, Pakistan, Burundi, Guinea, Sudan, Angola, Niger, Yemen, Central African Republic, Nigeria, Togo, Mauritania, Liberia, Madagascar, Iran, Mozambique, Cameroon, Djibouti, Tanzania, Mali, Uganda, Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, India, Kenya, Nepal. Here again Corruption Doesn't Pay and the most miserable countries in all aspects are also the most corrupt and have reached this miserable status because of their corruption, bribes, nepotism, oligarchy of the rich & mighty.

2014 Social Progress Index

Country	Rank (SPI)	Pragrace	Rank (BHN)		Rank (FW)	Foundations of Well-being	Rank (O)	Opportunity
New Zealand	<u>1</u>	<u>88.24</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>91.74</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>84.97</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>88.01</u>
Switzerland	<u>2</u>	<u>88.19</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>94.87</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>89.78</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>79.92</u>
<u>Iceland</u>	3	88.07	7	94.32	2	88.19	9	81.71

Country	Rank (SPI)	Social Progress Index	Rank (BHN)	Basic Human Needs	Rank (FW)	Foundations of Wellbeing	Rank (O)	Opportunity
<u>Netherlands</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>87.37</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>93.91</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>87.56</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>80.63</u>
Norway	<u>5</u>	<u>87.12</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>93.59</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>86.94</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>80.82</u>
<u>Sweden</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>87.08</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>94.59</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>84.71</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>81.95</u>
Canada	<u>7</u>	<u>86.95</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>93.52</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>80.31</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>87.02</u>
+ Finland	<u>8</u>	<u>86.91</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>94.63</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>84.17</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>81.92</u>
Denmark	<u>9</u>	<u>86.55</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>95.73</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>84.82</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>79.1</u>
Australia Australia	<u>10</u>	<u>86.1</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>92.47</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>80.27</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>85.54</u>
<u>Austria</u>	11	85.11	6	94.57	5	86.35	20	74.42
Germany	12	84.61	12	93.08	7	84.96	16	75.81
United Kingdom	13	84.56	16	91.9	19	79.47	6	82.29
• <u>Japan</u>	14	84.21	3	94.72	21	79.25	14	78.67
■ <u>Ireland</u>	15	84.05	9	93.63	37	75.89	4	82.63
United States	16	82.77	23	89.82	36	75.96	5	82.54
Belgium Belgium	17	82.63	13	92.74	23	78.81	15	76.34
<u>Slovenia</u>	18	81.65	15	92.05	12	83.6	25	69.3
<u>Estonia</u>	19	81.28	28	87.13	10	84.39	22	72.32
France	20	81.11	19	91.23	20	79.37	21	72.72
<u>Spain</u>	21	80.77	22	90.22	28	76.9	17	75.19
Portugal	22	80.49	20	90.93	33	76.11	19	74.43
Czech Republic	23	80.41	17	91.77	13	83.26	29	66.21
Slovakia Slovakia	24	78.93	21	90.49	14	83.25	35	63.04
Costa Rica	25	77.75	42	82.66	16	80.53	24	70.04

Country	Rank (SPI)	Social Progress Index	Rank (BHN)	Basic Human Needs	Rank (FW)	Foundations of Well-being	Rank (O)	Opportunity
<u>Uruguay</u>	26	77.51	34	85.79	48	72.18	18	74.56
Poland Poland	27	77.44	36	84.72	15	81.1	28	66.5
• South Korea	28	77.18	24	88.69	32	76.26	27	66.58
Italy	29	76.93	30	86.73	26	77.48	26	66.58
<u>Chile</u>	30	76.3	39	83.85	45	72.99	23	72.06
<u>Latvia</u>	31	73.91	41	82.77	22	79.11	41	59.85
<u>Hungary</u>	32	73.87	33	86.24	50	71.91	32	63.46
<u>Lithuania</u>	33	73.76	48	81.47	24	77.96	38	61.84
<u>Mauritius</u>	34	73.68	31	86.39	54	71.43	34	63.21
<u>Greece</u>	35	73.43	29	86.99	41	74.85	43	58.45
<u>Croatia</u>	36	73.31	26	88.16	29	76.87	57	54.88
United Arab Emirates	37	72.92	25	88.62	30	76.74	60	53.39
Panama Panama	38	72.58	57	77.39	25	77.85	37	62.48
<u> Israel</u>	39	71.4	35	85.77	52	71.57	50	56.87
<u>Kuwait</u>	40	70.66	27	87.56	44	73.11	67	51.32
Serbia Serbia	41	70.61	47	81.86	27	77.1	62	52.87
<u>Argentina</u>	42	70.59	54	77.77	58	70.62	33	63.38
 ✓ Jamaica	43	70.39	76	69.23	31	76.34	30	65.6
Bulgaria	44	70.24	45	82.01	51	71.72	49	56.98
Malaysia Malaysia	45	70	32	86.27	34	76.06	76	47.68
Brazil	46	69.97	74	71.09	38	75.78	36	63.03
Trinidad and Tobago	47	69.88	64	74.44	53	71.48	31	63.73

Country	Rank (SPI)	Social Progress Index	Rank (BHN)	Basic Human Needs	Rank (FW)	Foundations of Well-being	Rank (O)	Opportunity
<u>Albania</u>	48	69.13	50	80.12	43	73.13	58	54.14
Macedonia	49	68.33	46	81.87	69	67.9	55	55.23
Ecuador Ecuador	50	68.15	70	72.98	35	75.97	52	55.51
Romania	51	67.72	68	73.71	42	74.54	56	54.91
<u>Colombia</u>	52	67.24	75	69.56	39	75.72	51	56.45
<u>Montenegro</u>	53	66.8	51	78.91	65	69.01	65	52.48
■ Mexico	54	66.41	66	74.18	72	67.37	47	57.67
Peru Peru	55	66.29	79	68.71	46	72.94	48	57.21
<u>Philippines</u>	56	65.86	81	66.76	63	69.17	39	61.63
<u>Botswana</u>	57	65.6	83	65.88	47	72.67	44	58.25
<u>Belarus</u>	58	65.2	38	84.13	73	67.35	91	44.13
<u>Thailand</u>	59	65.14	67	74.1	49	71.97	72	49.34
Armenia	60	65.03	52	78.42	62	69.27	79	47.39
Bosnia and Herzegovina	61	64.99	37	84.52	89	63.53	80	46.93
<u>Ukraine</u>	62	64.91	53	77.98	92	61.42	54	55.33
El Salvador	63	64.7	78	68.98	75	67.2	46	57.92
<u>Turkey</u>	64	64.62	43	82.1	82	64.36	77	47.41
Saudi Arabia	65	64.38	40	83.12	60	69.84	106	40.18
# Georgia	66	63.94	63	75.11	70	67.64	73	49.07
Venezuela	67	63.78	85	65.47	40	75.02	68	50.86
Dominican Republic	68	63.03	84	65.78	56	71.38	66	51.93
South Africa	69	62.96	94	60.2	71	67.49	40	61.19

Country	Rank (SPI)	Social Progress Index	Rank (BHN)	Basic Human Needs	Rank (FW)	Foundations of Well-being	Rank (O)	Opportunity
<u>Tunisia</u>	70	62.96	56	77.72	77	66.76	90	44.39
<u>Bolivia</u>	71	62.9	88	63.44	55	71.42	59	53.85
Paraguay Paraguay	72	62.65	90	63.41	78	66.4	45	58.16
<u>Azerbaijan</u>	73	62.44	60	76.19	67	68.59	99	42.54
Nicaragua Nicaragua	74	62.33	91	63.31	57	70.91	63	52.77
<u>Jordan</u>	75	61.92	49	81.31	94	61.15	93	43.29
Guatemala	76	61.37	82	66.5	68	67.95	71	49.67
Honduras Honduras	77	61.28	89	63.42	59	70.57	70	49.84
<u>Namibia</u>	78	61.19	96	59.01	64	69.1	53	55.46
Cuba Cuba	79	61.07	44	82.1	103	58.11	95	42.99
Russia	80	60.79	72	72.15	87	63.66	81	46.58
Moldova Moldova	81	60.12	71	72.65	99	59.66	75	48.04
G uyana	82	60.06	80	68.49	102	58.36	61	53.35
<u>Lebanon</u>	83	60.05	65	74.35	93	61.28	89	44.52
<u>Egypt</u>	84	59.97	58	76.77	66	68.98	119	34.17
Sri Lanka	85	59.71	77	69.05	74	67.27	98	42.8
<u>Kazakhstan</u>	86	59.47	62	75.14	111	54.8	74	48.47
<u>Algeria</u>	87	59.13	59	76.25	83	64.25	116	36.9
Indonesia	88	58.98	87	63.65	61	69.42	92	43.86
Mongolia Mongolia	89	58.97	102	53.67	85	63.67	42	59.56
<u>China</u>	90	58.67	69	73.02	84	63.78	110	39.21
Morocco	91	58.01	73	71.86	90	62.57	107	39.6
<u>Uzbekistan</u>	92	57.34	61	75.88	115	53.28	97	42.87

Country	Rank (SPI)	Social Progress Index	Rank (BHN)	Basic Human Needs	Rank (FW)	Foundations of Well-being	Rank (O)	Opportunity
<u>Kyrgyzstan</u>	93	57.08	86	64.42	97	60.54	83	46.26
<u>Iran</u>	94	56.65	55	77.76	101	58.36	121	33.82
<u>Tajikistan</u>	95	56.05	92	62.68	96	60.88	88	44.6
* Ghana	96	55.96	103	52.39	80	65.63	69	49.85
<u>Senegal</u>	97	53.52	101	54.11	88	63.55	96	42.9
Laos	98	52.41	97	59.01	91	61.58	118	36.65
<u>Bangladesh</u>	99	52.04	98	57.28	100	59.4	108	39.44
<u>Cambodia</u>	100	51.89	110	47.44	76	66.89	103	41.33
Nepal	101	51.58	99	57.13	98	60.12	115	37.49
India	102	50.24	100	54.48	108	56.84	109	39.39
Kenya Kenya	103	50.2	111	45.8	79	66.38	113	38.41
Zambia	104	49.88	124	38.57	86	63.67	78	47.41
<u>Rwanda</u>	105	49.46	106	50.14	105	58.01	105	40.23
Benin	106	49.11	109	47.76	107	57.24	100	42.33
<u>Lesotho</u>	107	48.94	116	43.17	119	51.07	64	52.57
Swaziland	108	48.87	105	50.26	116	53.05	94	43.29
Malawi	109	48.79	113	44.92	110	55.65	84	45.8
Republic of Congo	110	47.99	128	34.18	81	64.38	86	45.42
<u>Uganda</u>	111	47.75	115	43.19	95	61	111	39.05
Burkina Faso	112	47.33	121	40.16	109	56.07	85	45.75
<u>Mali</u>	113	46.85	112	45.73	117	52.72	101	42.11
<u>Tanzania</u>	114	46.06	123	38.79	106	57.27	102	42.1
<u>Djibouti</u>	115	45.95	95	59.82	132	41.34	117	36.68

Country	Rank (SPI)	Social Progress Index	Rank (BHN)	Basic Human Needs	Rank (FW)	Foundations of Wellbeing	Rank (O)	Opportunity
Cameroon	116	45.51	114	44.13	114	53.73	112	38.65
<u>Mozambique</u>	117	45.23	119	41.19	120	49.86	87	44.64
<u>Iraq</u>	118	44.84	93	60.82	128	46.36	129	27.35
<u>Madagascar</u>	119	44.28	122	39.73	118	51.9	104	41.2
Liberia	120	44.02	125	36.77	121	48.99	82	46.29
<u>Mauritania</u>	121	43.11	107	49.43	112	54.03	131	25.88
Togo	122	42.8	120	40.67	113	53.78	120	33.96
■ Nigeria	123	42.65	126	36.57	104	58.08	122	33.29
Central African Republic	124	42.4	104	51.24	124	47.75	127	28.22
Yemen	125	40.23	108	48.5	123	47.88	132	24.31
Niger Niger	126	40.1	129	33.74	122	48.87	114	37.7
<u>Angola</u>	127	39.93	118	41.67	127	46.38	124	31.75
<u>Sudan</u>	128	38.45	117	42.27	126	46.57	130	26.5
<u>Guinea</u>	129	37.41	127	36.48	130	45.02	125	30.73
Burundi	130	37.33	130	32.84	129	46.05	123	33.1
<u>Pakistan</u>	131	34.17	131	27.42	125	47.38	128	27.7
<u>Chad</u>	132	32.6	132	25.94	131	42.42	126	29.45

29. GDP (PPP) PER HOUR WORKED – 2013 – GDP GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT NORMALIZED TO PPP PURCHASING POWER PARITY – IN US\$ NORMALIZED TO 2013 US\$ - MEASURES THE PRODUCTIVITY OF A COUNTRY WHEN NOT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT UNEMPLOYMENT OR HOURS WORKED PER WEEK. WORK IS MEASURED AS HOURS ACTUALLY WORKED DURING THE YEAR IN EMPLOYEE AND SELF-EMPLOYMENT JOBS

The 23 best countries in productivity of labor, measured by the GDP PPP per hour worked, are also almost identical to the 26 most ethical countries, thus proving that unlike the "defamatory" remarks on the ethical and welfare states that they have forgotten to work, they have too much social benefits, vacations, minimal work week, long maternity leaves, generous unemployment payments and so on, those countries have the best productivity, much more than the unethical countries. The GDP PPP per hour worked of those countries amount from US\$ 36.83 to 75.14. And the countries are: Norway (75.14), Luxembourg (73.22), US (67.32), Belgium (60.98), Netherlands (60.06), France (59.24, no. 6, the country with the best working conditions and social benefits has also the highest productivity, almost as high as the neoliberal US with much worse working conditions, what a blow for neoliberal ideology...), Germany (57.36), Ireland (56.05), Australia (55.87), Denmark (55.75), Sweden (55.28), Austria (54.83), UK (51.38), Canada (50.29), Iceland, Switzerland (49.88), Spain (49.59, TI – 37), Finland (48.79), Barbados, Italy (45.04, TI – 69, a quite high productivity for a quite unethical country, even higher than the much more ethical Japan), Japan (43.77, TI – 15), Singapore (41.46, TI – 7), 23. Hong Kong (41.30), and 28. New Zealand (36.83, TI – 2-!).

But further down the symmetry is not so clear-cut, which proves, in most of the cases, that the law that Ethics Pays is applicable mainly to the 20 most ethical countries and the opposite law that Corruption Doesn't Pay is applicable mainly to the 20 most corrupt countries. In the middle between the two extremes there are many mixed cases where more ethical countries perform worse than more corrupt countries, but also cases where they perform better. To illustrate this findings, we start with 37. Poland – 25.81 (TI – 35) almost identical to the ranking of productivity, but 39. Estonia – 23.50 (TI – 26) has the same productivity as 40. Turkey – 22.83 (TI – 64), which is much more corrupt than Estonia. Similarly, 42. Russia – 19.70 (TI – 136) one of the more corrupt countries has the same productivity as 43. Chile – 19.55 (TI – 21) one of the most ethical countries. 50. Romania – 15.46 (TI – 69) is quite unethical, but has the same productivity as the very corrupt 51. Venezuela – 15.05 (TI – 161). 57. Brazil – 10.78 (TI – 69) is quite corrupt and has a rather low productivity. The 3 states with the lowest productivity are also very corrupt: 59. Thailand – 8.54 (TI – 85), 60. Sri Lanka – 6.85 (TI – 85), 61. Bangladesh – 1.98 (TI – 145, one of the most corrupt countries).

Rank	Country	GDP (PPP) per hour 2013
1 #	<u>Norway</u>	<u>75.14</u>
2	Luxembourg	<u>73.22</u>
3	United States	67.32
4	<u>Belgium</u>	60.98

Rank	Country	GDP (PPP) per hour 2013
<u>5</u>	<u>Netherlands</u>	<u>60.06</u>
6	France	59.24
7	Germany	57.36
8	<u>Ireland</u>	56.05
<u>9</u> 📱	Australia Australia	<u>55.87</u>
<u>10</u>	<u>Denmark</u>	<u>55.75</u>
<u>11</u>	<u>Sweden</u>	<u>55.28</u>
12	<u>Austria</u>	54.83
13	United Kingdom	51.38
<u>14</u>	<mark> ◆</mark> <u>Canada</u>	<u>50.29</u>
15	<u>Iceland</u>	50.01
<u>16</u>	Switzerland	<u>49.88</u>
17	<u>Spain</u>	49.59
<u> 18</u>	Finland	<u>48.79</u>
19	Barbados	46.19
20	<u>Italy</u>	45.04
21	• <u>Japan</u>	43.77
22	<u>Singapore</u>	<u>41.46</u>
23	Hong Kong	41.30
24	Trinidad and Tobago	40.04
25	<u>Taiwan</u>	39.97
26	Slovenia Slovenia	39.78
27	<u> Israel</u>	38.99
28	New Zealand	<u>36.83</u>

Rank	Country	GDP (PPP) per hour 2013
29 *	<u>Malta</u>	36.02
30 🐸	■ <u>Slovakia</u>	33.44
31	<u>Greece</u>	32.77
32 🎏	South Korea	32.31
33	Czech Republic	31.23
34 💆	<u>Cyprus</u>	31.18
35	Lithuania	27.53
36 🧧	<u>Portugal</u>	27.23
37	■ <u>Poland</u>	25.81
38	Hungary	24.37
39	<u>Estonia</u>	23.50
40	Turkey	22.83
41	L atvia	21.15
42	■ <u>Russia</u>	19.70
43	■ Chile	19.55
44 🔼	Saint Lucia	18.58
45 🚢	<u>Uruguay</u>	18.16
46	Costa Rica	17.81
47 💻	■ <u>Bulgaria</u>	16.48
48 📟	■ <u>Malaysia</u>	16.47
49 📭	<u>Mexico</u>	16.23
50	Romania	15.46
51	Venezuela	15.05
52	<u>Argentina</u>	13.84

Rank	Country	GDP (PPP) per hour 2013
53	<u>Ecuador</u>	13.81
54 🔀	Jamaica	12.95
55	<u>Colombia</u>	11.26
56	<u>Peru</u>	10.95
57 🥌	<u>Brazil</u>	10.78
58	<u>Armenia</u>	10.00
59	<u>Thailand</u>	8.54
60	Sri Lanka	6.85
61	Bangladesh	1.98

The data of this list comes from <u>The Conference Board</u> and <u>Eurostat</u>. GDP is measured in purchasing power parity, normalised to 2013 US dollar (comparable to a 2013 <u>international dollar</u>). It is calculated from 2005 <u>EKS PPP</u> estimates from <u>Penn World Tables</u> (PWT 7), updated with <u>GDP deflator</u> changes. Work is measured as hours actually worked during the year in employee and self-employment jobs. B

- 1. "The Conference Board Total Economy Database Output, Labor, and Labor Productivity, 1950 2013" (Excel). The Conference Board. January 2014. GDP per Hour, in 2013 EKS\$.
- 2. http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tsdec31 https://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tsdec31 https://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tsdec31 https://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tsdec31 https://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tsdec31 <a href="https://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do.eu/table.do
- 3. "The Conference Board Total Economy Database: Methodological Notes" (PDF). The Conference Board.

30. GLOBAL PEACE INDEX & RATINGS – INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMICS AND PEACE – 2010-2014 RESULTS – WITHOUT MICRO-STATES – STATES WITH EITHER A POPULATION OF ABOVE 1 MILLION OR A LAND AREA GREATER THAN 20,000 SQUARE KILOMETERS – MOST PEACEFUL CLOSER TO 1

SEE ALSO – LIST OF COUNTRIES BY INCARCERATION RATE

SEE ALSO – LIST OF COUNTRIES BY FRAGILE STATES INDEX

The most fascinating finding in the list of the 10/20/31 most peaceful countries in the world is the fact that a few decades ago most of them were involved in wars where they had millions of casualties. Except a few countries: Iceland, Switzerland and Sweden, all the countries participated in world wars, colonial wars, civil wars, independence wars, or had totalitarian regimes in the twentieth century. And now all those countries have become the most peaceful in the world - Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia and Czech Republic which were invaded by Germany, Austria which was annexed to the Third Reich, Finland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand which fought in World War II, Japan and Germany which started World War II in Europe and Asia, Ireland which fought an Indepence war from Great Britain, Portugal fought colonial wars, Spain had a civil war, Taiwan, Chile and Uruguay had totalitarian regimes, etc. Those countries are without external and internal conflicts, have excellent relations with their neighbors, with very low levels of criminality in society, very few refugees and displaced persons, no political instability, terrorist activity, political terror, very few homicides, violent demonstrations, lowest percentage of jailed persons, low levels of police and military expenditures, but have financial and volunteer participation in UN peacekeeping missions, no nuclear weapons capability and strong restriction of access to small arms and light weapons – in short a model of peaceful countries!

7 of the 11 most peaceful countries are also the most ethical countries: Denmark (score – 1.193 – most peaceful is closer to 1), New Zealand, Switzerland, Finland, Canada, Norway, Sweden. If we enlarge the scope to the first 20 most peaceful countries we find there almost all the 11 most ethical countries, with Australia and the Netherlands, except Luxembourg which doesn't participate in this survey and Singapore in no. 25, and quite all of the 20 most ethical countries, including Germany, Ireland, Iceland – no. 1, the most peaceful country on earth with a score of 1.189, Japan, Belgium, and without Barbados and Hong Kong which do not participate in the survey. Yet, two major exceptions – the UK no. 47 and the US – no. 101! And if we enlarge the scope to the 31 most peaceful countries we find there quite all the 30 most ethical countries, with Chile, Uruguay, Austria, Estonia, Qatar, Bhutan, Singapore, and without Bahamas and St. Vincent and the Grenadines which do not participate. Yet two exceptions - United Arab Emirates in no. 40 and France in no. 48. So, practically all the most ethical countries are in the first 31 most peaceful countries, and if not there- somewhere lower down to the UK - no. 47 and France - no. 48, both of them participate in wars and suffer from terror, violent demonstrations and crime. The major exception is the US which rank very low in the most peaceful nations - no. 101, as they participate in wars, have a high level of criminality and homicides, high percentage of jailed persons (707 in 100,000 - the highest in the world, ten times more than peaceful Scandinavian countries), a high level of military expenditures, nuclear weapons, a very liberal policy of access to small arms & light weapons.

Argentina in spite of all the revolutions and terrorism in the past is quite peaceful today -43, Vietnam after the horrible wars of the 50's, 60's and 70's is now ranked 45, South Korea and Serbia after the terrible wars of the 50's and the 90's are now quite peaceful ranked 52, Bosnia is 61 and Kosovo is 64, after their wars of independence, but much lower we find countries

with very high level of criminality, totalitarian regimes, fighting wars, drug cartels and terrorism, or instigating terror, as: Saudi Arabia – 80, Liberia – 84, Greece – 86, Brazil – 91, Bangladesh – 98, Haiti – 99, Angola – 102, Sri Lanka – 105, Cambodia – 106, China – 108, Republic of the Congo – 109, Georgia – 111, Algeria – 114, Peru – 119, South Africa – 122, Eritrea – 124, Thailand – 126, Turkey – 128, Venezuela – 129, Burundi – 130, Iran – 131, Libya – 133, Myanmar – 136, Rwanda – 137, Mexico – 138, Ethiopia – 139, Ukraine – 141, Egypt – 143, India – 144 (when we think of India we think of peace of mind and harmony, yet India ranks in one of the lowest ranks of the Peace Index), Lebanon – 146, Yemen – 147, Zimbabwe – 148. Israel is ranked 149, in an even worse rank than Lebanon, Yemen, Egypt, India, and Zimbabwe, ranking 14 from the end with a very high score of unpeaceful status -2.689, but an ethical rank of 37, excellent economic results, in spite of the wars, terror, crime, and high level of military expenditures. The countries with the worst peaceful condition, all of them corrupt countries, poverty stricken, ranking lowest in most of the parameters, are: 150. Colombia, 151. Nigeria, 152. Russia (it would have been interesting to compare this doubtful rank with the rank of USSR and see if the situation of the population has ameliorated or deteriorated since the 90's), 153. North Korea, 154. Pakistan, 155. Democratic Republic of the Congo, 156. Central African Republic, 157. Sudan, 158. Somalia, 159. Iraq, 160. South Sudan, 161. Afghanistan, 162. Syria, the most unpeaceful country, with a score of 3.650.

	2014 rank	2014 score	2013 rank		2012 rank		2011 rank	2011 score	2010 rank	2010 score
Country										
Iceland	1	1.189	1	1.162	1	1.165	1	1.152	1	1.190
<u> Denmark</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1.193</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1.207</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1.207</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1.236</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1.290</u>
<u>Austria</u>	3	1.200	4	1.250	6	1.310	9	1.317	5	1.260
New Zealand	<u>4</u>	<u>1.236</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1.237</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1.235</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1.258</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1.200</u>
Switzerland	<u>5</u>	<u>1.258</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1.272</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1.258</u>	8	<u>1.309</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>1.310</u>
+ Finland	<u>6</u>	<u>1.297</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>1.297</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1.298</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1.303</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>1.300</u>
L+1 Canada	<u>7</u>	<u>1.306</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1.306</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>1.328</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>1.355</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>1.410</u>
• <u>Japan</u>	8	1.316	6	1.293	7	1.320	5	1.298	5	1.260
<u>Belgium</u>	9	1.354	10	1.339	10	1.366	14	1.380	13	1.370
Norway	<u>10</u>	<u>1.371</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>1.359</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>1.385</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1.275</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>1.310</u>
Czech Republic	11	1.381	14	1.404	15	1.406	12	1.347	14	1.390
<u>Sweden</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>1.381</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>1.319</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1.320</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>1.306</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1.250</u>
■ <u>Ireland</u>	13	1.384	12	1.370	11	1.372	16	1.407	12	1.360

				2013 score						2010 score
Country										
Slovenia Slovenia	14	1.398	13	1.374	13	1.374	11	1.338	11	1.330
<u> Australia</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>1.414</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>1.438</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>1.466</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>1.429</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>1.440</u>
Mutan Bhutan	16	1.422	20	1.487	20	1.515	40	1.715	44	1.750
Germany	17	1.423	15	1.431	18	1.451	18	1.440	18	1.440
<u>Portugal</u>	18	1.425	18	1.467	17	1.440	15	1.386	16	1.420
Slovakia Slovakia	19	1.467	33	1.622	28	1.583	24	1.550	23	1.510
<u>Netherlands</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>1.475</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>1.508</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>1.548</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>1.561</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>1.630</u>
<u>Hungary</u>	21	1.482	23	1.520	22	1.523	22	1.541	21	1.500
<u>Qatar</u>	22	1.491	19	1.480	12	1.373	10	1.331	10	1.320
Poland	23	1.532	25	1.530	23	1.530	26	1.552	30	1.610
<u>Mauritius</u>	24	1.544	21	1.497	26	1.571				
<u>Singapore</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>1.545</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>1.438</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>1.434</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>1.482</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>1.500</u>
<u>Spain</u>	26	1.548	27	1.563	21	1.522	29	1.601	33	1.640
<u>Croatia</u>	26	1.548	28	1.571	33	1.614	32	1.647	36	1.660
<u>Taiwan</u>	28	1.558	26	1.538	24	1.543	25	1.552	25	1.580
Uruguay	29	1.565	24	1.528	32	1.613	19	1.480	24	1.540
<u>Chile</u>	30	1.591	31	1.589	27	1.581	38	1.705	26	1.590
<u>Estonia</u>	31	1.635	38	1.710	38	1.706	47	1.798	44	1.765
Bulgaria	32	1.637	35	1.663	36	1.685	35	1.700	42	1.730
Malaysia Malaysia	33	1.659	29	1.574	30	1.590	21	1.513	23	1.510
■ Italy	34	1.675	34	1.663	34	1.661	34	1.682	38	1.680
Romania	35	1.677	30	1.584	29	1.585	30	1.637	34	1.650
<u>Botswana</u>	36	1.678	32	1.598	31	1.605	33	1.662	30	1.610

						2012 score		2011 score	2010 rank	2010 score
Country										
Kuwait	37	1.679	37	1.705	39	1.708	23	1.545	32	1.630
Laos	38	1.723	39	1.724	40	1.725	37	1.702	38	1.680
<u>Latvia</u>	39	1.745	41	1.772	44	1.773	46	1.776	56	1.820
United Arab Emirates	40	1.748	36	1.679	37	1.693	28	1.562	27	1.600
Mongolia Mongolia	41	1.778	64	1.921	63	1.922	61	1.878	84	2.050
Costa Rica	42	1.781	40	1.755	35	1.680	36	1.701	30	1.610
<u>Argentina</u>	43	1.789	60	1.907	43	1.760	51	1.830	56	1.820
Zambia Zambia	44	1.791	48	1.832	60	1.895	58	1.855	62	1.870
* <u>Vietnam</u>	45	1.792	41	1.772	42	1.736	43	1.741	49	1.790
<u>Lithuania</u>	46	1.797	43	1.784	46	1.800	48	1.787	39	1.700
United Kingdom	47	1.798	44	1.787	41	1.731	42	1.729	43	1.740
France	48	1.808	53	1.863	50	1.826	55	1.840	41	1.720
<u>Namibia</u>	48	1.808	46	1.807	47	1.806	54	1.839	66	1.910
<u>Lesotho</u>	50	1.839	49	1.840	56	1.869				
ĕ Cyprus	51	1.844	50	1.840	49	1.825	53	1.838	60	1.850
South Korea	52	1.849	47	1.822	51	1.838	60	1.868	45	1.760
<u>Serbia</u>	52	1.849	62	1.912	61	1.905	72	1.980	76	1.990
Indonesia	54	1.853	54	1.879	57	1.871	62	1.899	72	1.950
<u>Montenegro</u>	55	1.860	73	1.976	78	2.020	93	2.124	81	2.030
<u>Jordan</u>	56	1.861	52	1.858	54	1.859	50	1.828	62	1.870
Panama Panama	57	1.877	56	1.893	59	1.894	49	1.816	69	1.930
<u>Nicaragua</u>	58	1.882	66	1.931	80	2.028	70	1.967	64	1.890

		2014 score		2013 score		2012 score	2011 rank	2011 score	2010 rank	2010 score
Country										
Oman Oman	59	1.889	45	1.806	48	1.811	31	1.638	19	1.460
<u>Tanzania</u>	59	1.889	55	1.887	53	1.856	52	1.832	52	1.810
Bosnia and Herzegovina	61	1.902	71	1.967	71	1.968	63	1.901	56	1.820
Ghana	61	1.902	58	1.899	45	1.793	39	1.707	49	1.790
Morocco	63	1.915	57	1.897	58	1.889	57	1.848	60	1.850
Kosovo	64	1.929	72	1.969						
<u>Albania</u>	65	1.939	69	1.961	69	1.963	65	1.910	63	1.880
<u>Madagascar</u>	66	1.942	90	2.074	99	2.154	100	2.196	78	2.000
Sierra Leone	66	1.942	59	1.904	65	1.926	67	1.921	58	1.840
<u>Gabon</u>	68	1.945	76	1.995	75	2.002	79	2.049	75	1.980
Timor-Leste	69	1.947	51	1.854						
<u>Bolivia</u>	70	1.969	86	2.062	85	2.056	73	2.005	82	2.040
Moldova Moldova	71	1.971	74	1.984	74	1.991	69	1.957	78	2.000
<u>Senegal</u>	72	1.974	85	2.061	79	2.027	80	2.050	73	1.970
Paraguay Paraguay	73	1.976	84	2.060	64	1.926	64	1.907	75	1.980
<u>Djibouti</u>	74	1.979	63	1.917	66	1.933				
<u>Cuba</u>	75	1.986	65	1.922	67	1.945	66	1.916	69	1.930
<u>Nepal</u>	76	1.989	82	2.058	76	2.006	104	2.209	93	2.120
<u>Malawi</u>	77	1.995	74	1.984	70	1.967	45	1.773	65	1.900
Burkina Faso	78	1.998	87	2.064	55	1.864	47	1.784	56	1.820
Tunisia	79	2.001	77	2.005	73	1.978	41	1.725	36	1.660
Saudi Arabia	80	2.003	97	2.119	108	2.214	98	2.175	112	2.250

	2014 rank	2014 score	2013 rank	2013 score		2012 score	2011 rank	2011 score	2010 rank	2010 score
Country										
<u>Togo</u>	80	2.003	67	1.954						
<u>Mozambique</u>	82	2.004	61	1.910	52	1.847	56	1.840	46	1.770
Suyana	83	2.013	70	1.962	68	1.962	88	2.116	94	2.130
<u>Liberia</u>	84	2.014	80	2.048	86	2.067	85	2.058	91	2.110
Ecuador Ecuador	85	2.042	83	2.059	84	2.050	83	2.074	97	2.150
Greece	86	2.052	68	1.957	62	1.909	59	1.860	58	1.840
Macedonia	87	2.056	79	2.044	72	1.972	71	1.971	80	2.020
Swaziland	87	2.056	88	2.069	82	2.046	78	2.034	72	1.950
Trinidad and Tobago	89	2.065	90	2.074	90	2.092	75	2.023	86	2.070
Papua New Guinea	90	2.066	99	2.126	92	2.124	95	2.153	91	2.110
Brazil	91	2.073	81	2.051	83	2.046	77	2.028	84	2.050
Belarus	92	2.078	96	2.117	94	2.132	84	2.075	87	2.080
Equatorial Guinea	93	2.079	89	2.072	81	2.045	76	2.023	70	1.940
<u>Gambia</u>	94	2.085	93	2.091	77	2.019	68	1.949	67	1.920
Dominican Republic	95	2.093	94	2.103	87	2.077	86	2.107	86	2.070
<u>Turkmenistan</u>	95	2.093	103	2.154	104	2.182	94	2.132	104	2.190
<u>Armenia</u>	97	2.097	98	2.123	109	2.214	106	2.216	115	2.300
<u>Bangladesh</u>	98	2.106	105	2.159	97	2.150	92	2.123	93	2.120
Haiti	99	2.127	92	2.075	102	2.177	111	2.260	113	2.280
Benin Benin	100	2.129	104	2.156	110	2.229				
United States of	101	2.137	100	2.126	103	2.182	102	2.201	107	2.200

								2011 score		
Country										
<u>America</u>										
<u>Angola</u>	102	2.143	102	2.148	95	2.144	82	2.070	80	2.020
<u>Kazakhstan</u>	103	2.150	78	2.031	96	2.147	89	2.119	96	2.140
<u>Uzbekistan</u>	104	2.179	124	2.333	120	2.317	109	2.239	110	2.230
Sri Lanka	105	2.197	110	2.230	107	2.201	132	2.523	134	2.690
<u>Cambodia</u>	106	2.201	115	2.263	117	2.297	110	2.246	112	2.250
∠ <u>Jamaica</u>	107	2.203	117	2.274	113	2.268	103	2.203	88	2.090
People's Republic of China	108	2.207	101	2.142	98	2.154	96	2.157	101	2.160
Republic of the Congo	109	2.211	107	2.183	101	2.174	90	2.119	101	2.160
<u>Uganda</u>	110	2.221	106	2.180	106	2.200	105	2.211	110	2.230
Bahrain Bahrain	111	2.225	95	2.109	89	2.083	99	2.192	47	1.780
# Georgia	111	2.225	139	2.511	137	2.546	136	2.580	141	3.020
Cameroon	113	2.235	108	2.191	93	2.132	87	2.114	108	2.210
<u>Algeria</u>	114	2.239	119	2.284	118	2.298	129	2.445	118	2.330
Guatemala	115	2.248	109	2.221	119	2.314	122	2.337	107	2.200
El Salvador	116	2.280	112	2.240	122	2.327	101	2.200	103	2.180
Honduras Honduras	117	2.281	123	2.332	125	2.345	121	2.335	123	2.410
<u>Guinea</u>	118	2.296	116	2.272	100	2.156	97	2.161		
Peru	119	2.304	114	2.258	91	2.094	92	2.123	91	2.110
<u>Mauritania</u>	120	2.350	122	2.326	130	2.390	128	2.438	117	2.320
Niger Niger	121	2.351	127	2.362	129	2.387	126	2.426		

South Africa 122 2.364 121 2.292 114 2.270 115 2.272 115 2.300

								2011 score		2010 score
Country										
<u>Azerbaijan</u>	123	2.365	126	2.350	116	2.284	117	2.278	120	2.340
Eritrea	124	2.377	120	2.288	115	2.282	116	2.278		
<u>Kyrgyzstan</u>	125	2.382	131	2.391	127	2.360	113	2.268		
<u>Thailand</u>	126	2.395	130	2.378	131	2.395	119	2.294	124	2.440
<u>Tajikistan</u>	126	2.395	118	2.282	105	2.185	115	2.272		
<u>Curkey</u>	128	2.402	134	2.437	121	2.320	124	2.386	125	2.470
<u>Venezuela</u>	129	2.410	128	2.370	123	2.329	123	2.380	121	2.350
X Burundi	130	2.418	144	2.593	141	2.618	135	2.579	129	2.570
<u> Iran</u>	131	2.437	137	2.473	132	2.417	127	2.438	120	2.340
Kenya Kenya	132	2.452	136	2.466	124	2.332	120	2.306	122	2.380
Libya	133	2.453	145	2.604	148	2.822	138	2.653	52	1.810
<u>Philippines</u>	134	2.456	129	2.374	128	2.386	130	2.509	127	2.520
<u>Mali</u>	135	2.465	125	2.346	112	2.267	107	2.220	117	2.320
M yanmar	136	2.473	140	2.528	138	2.549	133	2.523	130	2.601
Rwanda	137	2.494	135	2.444	126	2.348	112	2.264	96	2.140
■● Mexico	138	2.500	133	2.434	134	2.444	118	2.282	101	2.160
Ethiopia	139	2.502	146	2.630	139	2.572	131	2.520	127	2.520
Cote d'Ivoire	140	2.546	151	2.732	136	2.494	125	2.410	103	2.180
<u>Ukraine</u>	141	2.546	111	2.238	88	2.081	81	2.054	101	2.160
<u>Chad</u>	142	2.558	138	2.493	145	2.631	139	2.685	139	2.940
Egypt	143	2.571	113	2.258	111	2.231	74	2.011	52	1.810
<u>India</u>	144	2.571	141	2.570	144	2.675	142	2.707	133	2.680
Guinea-Bissau	145	2.591	132	2.431	135	2.455				- 11

	2014 rank	2014 score	2013 rank	2013 score		2012 score	2011 rank	2011 score	2010 rank	2010 score
Country										
<u>Lebanon</u>	146	2.620	142	2.575	133	2.435	134	2.552	128	2.530
<u>Yemen</u>	147	2.629	152	2.747	145	2.697	141	2.706	133	2.680
Zimbabwe	148	2.662	149	2.696	140	2.599	143	2.767	135	2.700
<u> Israel</u>	149	2.689	150	2.730	147	2.767	145	2.883	140	3.000
<u>Colombia</u>	150	2.701	147	2.634	143	2.640	140	2.697	136	2.790
■ ■ <u>Nigeria</u>	151	2.710	148	2.693	146	2.707	137	2.613	131	2.630
<u>Russia</u>	152	3.039	155	3.060	152	2.969	146	2.982	142	3.080
North Korea	153	3.071	154	3.044	151	2.943	148	3.067	138	2.900
<u>Pakistan</u>	154	3.107	157	3.106	153	3.000	149	3.070	144	3.150
Democratic Republic of the Congo	155	3.213	156	3.085	154	3.099	147	3.052	144	3.150
Central African Republic	156	3.331	153	3.031	150	2.909	144	2.854	137	2.860
Sudan Sudan	157	3.362	158	3.242	157	3.398	152	3.360	145	3.270
* <u>Somalia</u>	158	3.368	161	3.394	158	3.486	153	3.446	147	3.460
<u>Iraq</u>	159	3.377	159	3.245	155	3.227	151	3.342	148	3.500
South Sudan	160	3.397	143	2.576						
<u>Afghanistan</u>	161	3.416	162	3.440	156	3.366	150	3.287	146	3.360
Syria Syria	162	3.650	160	3.393	149	2.869	108	2.228	107	2.200

LIST OF COUNTRIES BY INCARCERATION RATE – 2014 – SOURCE: WORLD PRISON BRIEF – INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR PRISON STUDIES

A major problem in this list of countries by incarceration rate is that probably many countries do not divulge the true numbers of incarcerated people, otherwise it is completely incomprehensible how in a totalitarian state as Syria where hundreds of thousands of people were killed in the civil war there are only 60 prisoners per 100,000 population exactly like the peaceful Sweden, one of the most peaceful countries in the world. Half of the 11 most ethical countries in the world have among the lowest incarceration rates: Finland – 58, Sweden – 60, Denmark – 73, Norway – 72, the Scandinavian countries have therefore almost the lowest number of prisoners in the world – Iceland (TI – 12) actually has even a lower number - 47, Netherlands – 82, Switzerland – 87. The other half of the most ethical countries have a higher number of prisoners but still quite low – Canada – 118, Luxembourg – 131, Australia – 143, New Zealand – 183, and authoritarian Singapore has the highest number of prisoners per 100,000 population – 233. Other ethical countries have a very low number – Japan – 51, Germany – 78, Ireland – 89, Austria – 98, Belgium – 108, France – 103, Qatar – 53, etc.

The most striking number of this list is the number of prisoners in the United States – 707 per 100,000, the highest incarceration rate in the world (except Seychelles), 10 times more than Scandinavian countries!, much higher than communist Cuba – 510, totalitarian Russia – 470, or crime ridden South Africa – 294, and Brazil – 274, higher even than theocratic dictatorship Iran – 284 and Saudi Arabia – 162. This very high number derives of course from the high criminality rate, but also from the neoliberal policies privatizing almost everything even prisons (watch the film by Michael Moore's – Capitalism, a Love Story). We learned already that Syria has only 60 prisoners, but Pakistan struggling against Al Qaeda has even less – 41, Chad – 39, Nigeria – 33, Central African Republic – 19, and China – 124... Something must be wrong in this list, probably the number of prisoners divulged by some of the countries...

The following statistics are worth to mention: San Marino has the lowest number of prisoners – 0, Liechtenstein – 19, Liberia – 43, Bangladesh – 45, Sudan – 50, Yemen (in spite of the civil war) – 53, Mozambique – 62, Indonesia – 62, Djibouti – 63, Senegal – 64, Egypt (the new regime is still fighting against the Muslim Brotherhood and terrorism and has one of the lowest number of prisoners, lower than the Netherlands…) – 76, Haiti – 95, Italy and Cambodia have both only 100, Uganda – 102, Greece – 120, Hong Kong – 126, Iraq (there is a civil war, Islamic State has conquered large parts of the country, terror is a daily routine, and it has a lower number of prisoners than peaceful Australia…) – 139, Serbia – 142, Vietnam – 143, Spain – 144, Bhutan – 145, Algeria – 162, Venezuela – 174, Turkey – 198, Mexico – 211, Morocco – 221, Colombia – 244, Israel – 249, Thailand – 435, Rwanda – 492.

We have to decide – what is better for an ethical country: to have a high level of incarceration rate like the US (TI - 17) - 707, or a very low level of incarceration like Finland (TI - 3) - 58. What does it mean? Maybe it is better to have a high level of incarceration as you imprison all the criminals, the terrorists, the thiefs and murderers. Maybe an ethical country has to put in jail all the crooks, the swindlers, the embezzlers, those who give and those who receive bribes, all the corrupt people, and therefore they should have the highest rate of prisoners, as in corrupt countries all the crooks are free. But if you are an ethical country – maybe a priori you don't have many criminals. We have to refer therefore to the figures that prove that the most ethical countries have the lowest rates of crime and the lowest number of prisoners as they are also the most peaceful countries, with the lowest number of criminals.

	Country (or dependent territory, subnational area, etc.)	Incarceration rate (Prisoners per 100,000 population)
1	<u>Seychelles</u>	868
2	United States of America	707
3	St. Kitts and Nevis	611
4	Anguilla (United Kingdom)	543
5	₩ <u>Virgin Islands (USA)</u>	535
6	Barbados	529
7	<u>Cuba</u>	510
8	<u>Belize</u>	495
9	Rwanda	492
10	Russian Federation	470
11	<u>Thailand</u>	435
12	Grenada Grenada	430
13	Virgin Islands (United Kingdom)	425
14	El Salvador	424
15	Guam (USA)	422
16	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	422
17	Bermuda (United Kingdom)	411
18	Sint Maarten (Netherlands)	396
19	Antigua and Barbuda	389
20	Panama Panama	383
21	<u>Bahamas</u>	379
22	Dominica	369

23	Trinidad and Tobago	362
24	American Samoa (USA)	349
25	Belarus	335
26	Puerto Rico (USA)	335
27	Cayman Islands (United Kingdom)	330
28	Lithuania Lithuania	322
29	St. Lucia	321
30	Maldives	320
31	Costa Rica	314
32	Greenland (Denmark)	301
33	South Africa	294
34	Kazakhstan	290
35	<u>Swaziland</u>	289
36	<u>Uruguay</u>	289
37	French Guiana/Guyane (France)	287
38	Cape Verde (Cabo Verde)	286
39	Curação (Netherlands)	285
40	<u>Iran</u>	284
41	<u>Bahrain</u>	275
42	⊗ Brazil	274
43	Mongolia Mongolia	274
44	<u>Taiwan</u>	273
45	<u>Ukraine</u>	271
46	Northern Mariana Islands (USA)	267

47	Latvia	264
48	≥ Guyana	260
49	<u>Chile</u>	250
50	<u> </u>	249
51	Dominican Republic	247
52	<u>Colombia</u>	244
53	Palau Palau	243
54	United Arab Emirates	238
55	Aruba (Netherlands)	233
56	Martinique (France)	233
57	Singapore	233
58	Tunisia Tunisia	230
59	<u>Estonia</u>	228
60	Samoa (formerly Western Samoa)	227
61	<u>Turkmenistan</u>	224
62	Morocco	221
63	Peru Peru	221
64	+Georgia	219
65	■ •■ <u>Mexico</u>	211
66	Azerbaijan Azerbaijan	210
67	Gabon	210
68	Gibraltar (United Kingdom)	210
69	Poland	210
70	<u>Botswana</u>	204

71	<u>Mauritius</u>	202
72	C Turkey	198
73	<u>Suriname</u>	194
74	Macau (China)	190
75	Guadeloupe (France)	188
76	Slovakia	188
77	Moldova (Republic of)	187
78	Hungary	184
79	New Zealand	183
80	Kyrgyzstan	182
81	<u>Namibia</u>	182
82	Albania	181
83	Venezuela Venezuela	174
84	Ecuador	173
85	Fiji	172
86	Montenegro	171
87	✓ Jersey (United Kingdom)	165
88	Czech Republic	163
89	Romania	163
90	Algeria	162
91	Saudi Arabia	162
92	Armenia	160
93	Honduras	160
94	<u>Uzbekistan</u>	160

153 152 152 149 148 160 161	95	Tonga	155
Second 149 148 148 148 148 149 149 149 149 148 148 148 148 148 149 147 100 147 100 147 100 147 100 147 100 147 100 147 100 147 100 147 100 147 100 147 100 147 100 147 100 147 100 147 100 140 140 140 110 1	96	Nicaragua Nicaragua	153
148 148 148 148 148 148 148 148 149 147 148	97	<u>Jamaica</u>	152
100	98	Argentina Argentina	149
101	99	+& <u>England and Wales</u>	148
102	100		148
103	101	French Polynesia (France)	147
104	102	Macedonia (former Yugoslav Republic of)	147
105	103	<u>Zimbabwe</u>	147
106	104	Scotland	146
107	105	Bhutan Bhutan	145
108	106	New Caledonia (France)	144
109 ✓ Vietnam 143 110 ✓ Serbia 142 111 ✓ Bolivia 140 112 Nauru 140 113 ✓ Iraq 139 114 ✓ Bulgaria 138 115 ✓ Kiribati 138 116 ✓ Portugal 138 117 Paraguay 136	107	Spain	144
110	108	Australia	143
111	109	<u>★ Vietnam</u>	143
112 Nauru 140 113 Iraq 139 114 Bulgaria 138 115 Kiribati 138 116 Portugal 138 117 Paraguay 136	110	<u>Serbia</u>	142
113 Iraq 139 114 Bulgaria 138 115 Kiribati 138 116 Portugal 138 117 Paraguay 136	111	<u>Bolivia</u>	140
114 Bulgaria 138 115 Kiribati 138 116 Portugal 138 117 Paraguay 136	112	Nauru Nauru	140
115 Kiribati 138 116 Portugal 138 117 Paraguay 136	113	Iraq	139
116 Portugal 138 117 Paraguay 136	114	Bulgaria Bulgaria	138
117 Paraguay 136	115	<u>Kiribati</u>	138
	116	Portugal	138
118 Malta 134	117	Paraguay	136
	118	* Malta	134

120	
122 Hong Kong (China) 126 123 Reunion (France) 126 124 Brunei Darussalam 125 125 China 124 or 172. See notes 126 Kenya 121 127 Tajikistan 121 128 Greece 120 129 Zambia 119	
123 Reunion (France) 126 124 Brunei Darussalam 125 125 China 124 or 172. See notes 126 Kenya 121 127 Tajikistan 121 128 Greece 120 129 Zambia 119	
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125 China 124 or 172. See notes 126 Kenya 121 127 Tajikistan 121 128 Greece 120 129 Zambia 119	
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127 Tajikistan 121 128 Image: Control of the c	below.
128 Greece 120 129 Zambia 119	
129 Zambia 119	
130	
130 Canada 118	
131 <u>Cameroon</u> 115	
Isle of Man (United Kingdom) 113	
133 Myanmar (formerly Burma) 113	
Philippines 113	
135 <u>Ethiopia</u> 111	
136 Cook Islands (New Zealand) 109	
137 <u>Belgium</u> 108	
138 <u>Croatia</u> 108	
139 Cyprus (Republic of) 108	
140 <u>Lebanon</u> 108	
141 <u>Lesotho</u> 107	
142 Angola 105	

143	Guatemala	105
144	Sri Lanka	105
145	France France	103
146	Micronesia, Federated States of	103
147	<u>Uganda</u>	102
148	→Northern Ireland	101
149	Cambodia	100
150	■ <u>Italy</u>	100
151	Sao Tome e Principe	100
152	<u>Austria</u>	98
153	Republic of (South) Korea	98
154	<u> Haiti</u>	95
155	<u>Jordan</u>	95
156	Kosovo/Kosova	93
157	■ Ireland, Republic of	89
158	*Switzerland	87
159	<u>Kuwait</u>	86
160	<u>Burundi</u>	85
161	<u>Afghanistan</u>	83
162	Madagascar	83
163	Libya	82
164	Netherlands	82
165	Bosnia and Herzegovina: Federation	80
166	<u>Tuvalu</u>	80

167	Monaco	79
168	Germany	78
169	Mayotte (France)	78
170	Benin Benin	77
171	Egypt	76
172	Malawi	76
173	<u>Vanuatu</u>	76
174	Bosnia and Herzegovina: Republika Srpska	75
175	■ Denmark	73
176	<u>Tanzania</u>	73
177	₩ Norway	72
178	Laos	71
179	Marshall Islands	68
180	<u>Togo</u>	67
181	Slovenia	66
182	South Sudan	65
183	<u>Senegal</u>	64
184	<u>Djibouti</u>	63
185	Indonesia	62
186	<u>Mozambique</u>	62
187	Sweden	60
188	Syria	60
189	Finland	58
190	Andorra	56
	1.	

191	Solomon Islands	56
192	Ghana Ghana	55
193	Sierra Leone	54
194	Gambia	53
195	Qatar	53
196	<u>Yemen</u>	53
197	Papua New Guinea	52
198	• <u>Japan</u>	51
199	Nepal Nepal	51
200	<u>Sudan</u>	50
201	lceland	47
202	Bangladesh	45
203	Cote d'Ivoire	44
204	<u>Liberia</u>	43
205	<u>Mauritania</u>	43
206	Pakistan	41
207	<u>■Niger</u>	40
208	Chad	39
209	Timor-Leste (formerly East Timor)	38
210	<u>Oman</u>	36
211	Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire)	35
212	Congo (Brazzaville)	33
213	■ Nigeria	33
214	Burkina Faso	32

215	<u>Mali</u>	32
216	India India	30
217	<u>Comoros</u>	28
218	Republic of Guinea	22
219	Faeroe Islands (Denmark)	21
220	Central African Republic	19
221	<u>Liechtenstein</u>	19
222	San Marino	0

DEFINITIONS OF THE FRAGILE STATES INDEX – 2015 – FUND FOR PEACE

This is a list of countries by order of appearance in the Fragile States Index (formerly the Failed States Index) of the United States think-tank Fund for Peace. The list aims to assess states' vulnerability to conflict or collapse, ranking all sovereign states with membership in the United Nations where there is enough data available for analysis. Taiwan, the Palestinian Territories, Northern Cyprus, Kosovo and Western Sahara are not ranked, despite being recognized as sovereign by one or more other nations. Ranking is based on the sum of scores for 12 indicators (see below). Each indicator is scored on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being the lowest intensity (most stable) and 10 being the highest intensity (least stable), creating a scale spanning 0-120. A fragile state has several attributes. Common indicators include a state whose central government is so weak or ineffective, that it has little practical control over much of its territory; non-provision of public services; widespread corruption and criminality; refugees and involuntary movement of populations and sharp economic decline. Since 2005, the index has been published annually by the Fund for Peace and the magazine Foreign Policy. The list has been cited by journalists and academics in making broad comparative points about countries or regions. The report uses 12 factors to determine the rating for each nation including security threats, economic implosion, human rights violations and refugee flows. The 12 factors are used by Fund For Peace to ascertain the status of a country.

Social

- Mounting demographic pressures.
- Massive displacement of refugees, creating severe humanitarian emergencies.
- Widespread vengeance-seeking group grievance.
- Chronic and sustained human flight.

Economic

- Uneven economic development along group lines.
- Severe economic decline.

Political

- Criminalization and/or delegitimization of the state.
- Deterioration of public services.
- Suspension or arbitrary application of law; widespread human rights abuses.
- Security apparatus operating as a "state within a state".
- Rise of factionalized elites.
- Intervention of external political agents.

DP – DEMOGRAPHIC PRESSURES, REF – REFUGEES AND IDPs, GG – GROUP GRIEVANCE, HF – HUMAN FLIGHT, UED – UNEVEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ECO – ECONOMIC DECLINE, SL – STATE LEGITIMACY, PS – PUBLIC SERVICES, HR – HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW, SEC – SECURITY APPARATUS, FE – FACTIONALIZED ELITES, EXT – EXTERNAL INTERVENTION

The index's ranks are based on twelve indicators of state vulnerability, grouped by category: social (4), economic (2), and political (6).

Scores are obtained via a process involving content analysis, quantitative data, and qualitative review. In the content analysis phase, millions of documents from over 100,000 English-language or translated sources (social media are excluded) are scanned and filtered through the Fund for Peace's Conflict Assessment Systems Tool (CAST), which utilizes specific filters and search parameters to sort data based on boolean phrases linked to indicators, and assigns scores based on algorithms. Following CAST analysis, quantitative data from sources such as the UN, WHO, World Factbook, Transparency International, World Bank, and Freedom House are incorporated, which then leads to the final phase of qualitative review of each indicator for each country.

Considered together in the Index, the indicators are a way of assessing a state's vulnerability to collapse or conflict, ranking states on a spectrum of categories labeled 'sustainable,' 'stable,' 'warning,' and 'alert.' Within each bracket, scores are also subdivided by severity. The score breakdown is as follows:

Category	FSI score*	Brackets (2015)
		Very high: 110+
Alert	90.0–120.0	High: 100–109.9
		Alert: 90–99.9
		High: 80–89.9
Warning	60.0–89.9	Warning: 70–79.9
		Low: 60-69.9
		Less stable: 50–59.9
Stable	30.0–59.9	Stable: 40–49.9
		More stable: 30–39.9
Sustainable	0.0-29.9	Sustainable: 20–29.9
		Very sustainable: 0–19.9
Not assessed	N/A	_

All countries in the top three categories display features that make their societies and institutions vulnerable to failure. However, the FSI is not intended as a tool to predict when states may experience violence or collapse, as it does not measure direction or pace of change. It is possible for a state sorted into the 'stable' zone to be deteriorating at a faster rate than those in the more fragile 'warning' or 'alert' zones, and could experience violence sooner. Conversely, states in the Pink zone, though fragile, may exhibit positive signs of recovery or be deteriorating slowly, giving them time to adopt mitigating strategies.

Indicators

The FSI scores, detailed above, are sums of scores for 12 separate indicators related to various aspects of state stability and strength. Each is scored between 0 and 10, with a higher number indicating a higher level of fragility. Indicators are divided into three categories - social, economic, and political.

Social indicators

- 1. **Demographic pressures:** Pressures deriving from high volume <u>population density</u> relative to food supply and other life-sustaining resources, which make it difficult for governments to protect citizens. Pressures include those stemming from disease, <u>natural disasters</u>, <u>population growth</u>, <u>infant mortality</u>, and environmental hazards. Governmental capacity and will to respond to such pressures are considered in the score.
- 2. Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): Pressures linked to population displacement, which can strain public resources and threaten security. This indicator concerns displacement in both directions: those leaving and those entering a state. Measures include the presence of refugee/IDP camps, refugees/IDPs per capita, absorption capacity, relief efforts, and targeted violence/repression.
- 3. **Group Grievance:** Existence of tension and/or violence between groups, which can undermine the state's provision of security. Pressures related to discrimination, ethnic violence, communal violence, sectarian violence, and religious violence are included alongside atrocities committed with impunity against groups singled out by state authorities or dominant groups for persecution or repression, and institutionalized political exclusion.
- 4. **Human flight and <u>brain drain</u>**: Measures related to migration per capita, particularly emigration of the educated population, which often occurs pre- or mid-conflict. <u>Remittances</u> and growth of exile/<u>expatriate</u> communities are also used as measurements.

Economic indicators

- 5. **Uneven economic development:** Group-based inequality, or perceived inequality, in education, jobs, and economic status can create uneven commitments to the social contract within a state. Measurements include group-based <u>poverty</u> and education levels, existence of <u>slums</u>, and fairness of housing and hiring practices.
- 6. **Poverty and economic decline:** Progressive economic decline of the society as a whole (measurements: per capita income, GNP, economic deficit, unemployment, poverty levels, business failures, and inflation) strains a state's ability to provide for its citizens, and can create inter-group friction. Also includes failure of the state to pay salaries of government employees and armed forces, or to meet other financial obligations to its citizens, such as pension payments.

Political indicators

7. **State legitimacy:** Corruption and lack of representativeness undermine the social contract, as citizens lose confidence in state institutions and processes. Measurements include corruption or profiteering by ruling elites, resistance to transparency, level of democracy, illicit economy, and protests/demonstrations.

- 8. **Public services:** Disappearance, or lack of, basic state functions indicate a state's inability to perform one of its key roles. Measurements include essential services, such as healthcare, education, sanitation, public transportation, police, and infrastructure. Also examined is the use of the state apparatus for agencies that serve ruling elites, such as security forces, executive staff, central bank, diplomatic service, customs and collection agencies.
- 9. <u>Human rights</u> and <u>rule of law:</u> The violation or uneven protection of basic rights mark a failure of a state to execute its primary responsibility. Measurements include press freedom and civil liberties, as well as any widespread abuse of legal, political and social rights for individuals, groups, or cultural institutions (e.g., harassment of the press, politicization of the judiciary, internal use of military for political ends, public repression of political opponents, religious or cultural persecution).
- 10. **Security apparatus:** An emergence of elite or <u>praetorian guards</u> that operate with impunity challenges the security apparatus' monopoly on the use of force, weakening the social contract. Measurements include internal conflict, riots/protests, military <u>coups</u>, rebel activity, and the emergence of state-sponsored or state-supported private militias that terrorize political opponents or civilians seen to be sympathetic to the opposition.
- 11. **Factionalised elites:** A fragmentation of ruling elites and state institutions along group lines undermines public confidence. Measurements include elite power struggles, flawed elections, and use of aggressive nationalistic rhetoric.
- 12. **External Intervention:** Intervention by external actors into a state's affairs signals a state's failure to meet domestic or international obligations. Measurements include level of foreign assistance, presence of <u>peacekeepers</u> or UN missions, foreign military intervention, <u>sanctions</u>, and <u>credit ratings</u>. Intervention by donors, especially if there is a tendency towards over-dependence on foreign aid or peacekeeping missions, is also considered.

Almost all the most ethical countries – 10 out of 11 are in the Sustainable and Very Sustainable categories with the lowest grades of the Fragile States Index – 17.8 for the best country Finland and 26.8 for one of the best countries Netherlands. The other countries in the Sustainable category are also very ethical – Iceland (12), Germany (12), Ireland (17), and ethical – Austria (23), Portugal (31), with grades of up to 29.7. Only Singapore is a most ethical country in the More Stable Category, due to its peculiar political condition, but still with a very good grade of 34.4. The other More Stable countries with grades of 30 to 40 are also very ethical, ethical, and quite ethical countries – Belgium (15), Slovenia (39), UK (14), France (26), US (17), Japan (15), South Korea (43), Uruguay (21), Czech Republic (53), Poland (35). It goes without saying that in this parameter as in all other parameters the most corrupt countries and the very corrupt receive the highest grades of instability, discrimination, violence, low human rights, and insecurity: South Sudan (171), Somalia (174), Central African Republic (150), Sudan (173), Congo (D. R.) 154, Chad (154), Yemen (161), Syria (159), Afghanistan (172), Haiti (161), Iraq (170), Zimbabwe (156), Guinea (145), etc.

OECD countries by discrimination and violence against minorities

The following is a list of <u>OECD</u> countries by the *Group Grievance* indicator, which was also used in the <u>Social Progress Index</u> as "discrimination and violence against minorities" under the "tolerance and inclusion" category. When tension and violence exists between groups, the

<u>state's</u> (or <u>non-state actor</u>'s) ability or willingness to provide security is undermined and fear and further violence may ensue. The indicator includes pressures and measures related to:

- <u>Discrimination</u>
- Powerlessness
- Ethnic violence
- Communal violence
- Sectarian violence
- Religious violence

Rank	Country	Level of discrimination and violence against minorities
1	<u>Iceland</u>	1.3
1	<u>Sweden</u>	1.3
3	Finland	1.6
4	■ Ireland	1.9
5	Portugal Portugal	2.6
6	Luxembourg	3.1
7	South Korea	3.4
8	■ Denmark	3.6
8	Switzerland	3.6
10	Norway	3.7
11	Czech Republic	3.8
12	Canada Canada	3.9
12	Netherlands Netherlands	3.9
12	<u>Slovenia</u>	3.9
15	<u>Chile</u>	4.1
15	<u>Belgium</u>	4.1
15	New Zealand	4.1

Rank	Country	Level of discrimination and violence against minorities
18	• <u>Japan</u>	4.2
19	Australia	4.3
19	Austria	4.3
21	Poland Poland	4.4
22	Germany	4.6
23	<u>Hungary</u>	4.7
23	■ Italy	4.9
24	<u>Greece</u>	5.0
24	United States	5.0
26	United Kingdom	5.6
27	<u>Spain</u>	5.8
28	Slovakia Slovakia	5.9
29	Mexico Mexico	6.4
30	<u>Estonia</u>	6.5
31	France France	6.8
32	<u>Curkey</u>	9.0
33	<u> Israel</u>	9.7

LIST OF COUNTRIES BY FRAGILE STATES INDEX – 2015 – FUND FOR PEACE

			††† D₽	REF	GG	HF	UED	<u>▼</u>	SL	PS	HR	SEC	FE) ∃XT	Tota
		Very High Alert													
	•	South Sudan	9.8	10.0	10.0	6.9	8.8	9.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	114.
	*	Somalia	9.6	9.8	9.5	9.2	9.0	9.1	9.3	9.3	10.0	9.7	10.0	9.5	114.
	#	Central African Rep.	8.4	10.0	9.6	6.9	9.7	8.3	9.5	9.9	10.0	9.8	10.0	9.8	111
)	Sudan	8.7	10.0	9.7	8.8	7.9	8.6	9.6	8.8	9.6	9.5	9.8	9.8	110
		High Alert													
	·/	Congo (D. R.)	9.5	9.4	9.5	7.1	8.8	7.9	9.0	9.7	10.0	9.5	9.5	9.8	109
		Chad	9.7	10.0	8.2	8.6	9.1	7.8	9.3	9.7	9.4	8.8	9.5	8.3	108
		Yemen	9.2	9.1	9.4	7.5	8.1	9.3	9.3	8.2	9.1	10.0	9.4	9.5	108
		Syria	8.1	10.0	10.0	7.4	7.0	7.5	9.9	8.2	10.0	10.0	9.9	9.9	107
	©	Afghanistan	9.3	9.1	8.9	8.1	7.2	8.6	9.7	9.3	8.6	10.0	9.3	9.8	107
)		Guinea	9.0	8.7	8.7	7.2	7.6	9.2	9.9	9.8	8.2	8.9	9.6	8.1	104
l	施	Haiti	9.5	8.2	6.7	9.3	9.3	9.1	9.4	9.1	7.4	7.5	9.1	9.9	104
2		Iraq	8.2	8.9	10.0	8.1	7.8	6.9	9.2	7.5	8.9	10.0	9.6	9.4	104
3	Ċ	Pakistan	9.0	8.9	10.0	7.0	7.3	7.7	8.6	7.9	8.4	9.6	9.2	9.3	102
1		Nigeria	8.8	7.5	9.9	7.1	8.8	7.6	9.1	9.1	8.8	9.9	9.8	6.0	102
5		Cote d'Ivoire	8.1	9.0	8.7	6.7	7.9	7.1	8.5	9.0	7.9	8.3	9.1	9.7	100
5		Zimbabwe	8.7	8.4	7.8	8.0	8.1	8.0	9.0	8.5	8.3	7.9	9.7	7.6	100
		Alert													
7		Guinea Bissau	8.2	7.8	5.7	8.5	8.4	8.7	9.0	9.2	7.2	8.8	9.6	8.8	99.
8	×	Burundi	9.2	9.0	8.0	6.8	7.7	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.2	7.7	7.9	8.4	98.
)	•	Niger	9.6	7.9	7.5	6.9	8.4	8.2	7.5	9.3	6.8	8.7	8.9	8.1	97.
)	<u> </u>	Ethiopia	9.2	9.4	8.5	7.0	7.1	6.9	7.4	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.6	7.9	97.
	=1=	Kenya	9.0	8.3	9.0	7.5	8.3	7.5	8.1	7.9	6.5	8.4	8.9	8.0	97.

21	•	Liberia	9.5	9.2	6.2	6.6	8.3	8.6	7.3	9.7	6.7	6.9	8.3	10.0	97.3
23	ø	Uganda	8.9	8.8	8.7	7.3	7.3	7.0	8.0	8.3	7.9	7.6	8.9	8.3	97.0
24	0_	Eritrea	8.8	7.8	6.1	7.6	7.2	8.3	9.1	8.7	9.3	7.7	8.1	8.2	96.9
25	(-	Libya	5.4	7.4	7.8	6.4	6.1	8.0	9.8	7.5	9.0	9.3	9.1	9.5	95.3
26	ن	Mauritania	8.6	8.5	6.9	6.3	7.1	8.0	7.9	8.9	8.0	7.4	8.8	8.5	94.9
27	*	Myanmar	6.8	8.3	9.7	5.7	8.2	6.5	9.0	8.6	8.3	8.3	8.3	7.0	94.7
28	*	Cameroon	8.0	7.8	8.1	7.5	7.8	6.2	8.4	8.8	8.0	7.6	9.1	7.0	94.3
29	0	North Korea	7.5	4.3	6.3	4.2	8.0	9.0	10.0	8.9	9.7	8.6	8.5	8.8	93.8
30		Mali	9.1	7.8	7.6	8.4	7.4	8.2	6.0	9.0	6.7	8.7	4.9	9.3	93.1
31		Sierra Leone	9.5	8.2	6.2	8.4	8.8	8.7	6.9	9.3	5.6	4.8	7.7	7.8	91.9
32		Bangladesh	8.1	6.6	8.4	7.5	7.2	6.7	8.5	8.1	7.7	7.7	9.6	5.7	91.8
33		Congo (Republic)	7.8	8.3	6.6	6.8	8.2	6.4	8.7	9.1	7.9	6.7	6.7	7.6	90.8
34	秦	Sri Lanka	6.0	8.2	9.3	7.8	7.6	5.9	8.0	5.6	8.8	7.9	9.1	6.4	90.6
34	→	Timor-Leste	8.9	6.8	6.5	7.0	6.7	8.4	7.4	8.4	5.8	7.7	8.3	8.7	90.6
36	A	Nepal	7.9	7.6	9.1	7.0	7.5	6.8	7.1	7.1	7.7	7.0	8.3	7.4	90.5
37	•	Rwanda	8.0	7.9	8.8	7.5	8.2	6.3	6.5	7.3	7.7	6.2	8.0	7.8	90.2
38	-	Egypt	7.1	6.7	8.7	4.7	6.5	8.1	8.7	5.4	9.8	8.2	9.0	7.1	90.0
		High Warning													
39		Burkina Faso	9.1	7.1	5.0	6.9	8.1	7.1	8.1	8.9	6.2	7.4	7.8	7.5	89.2
40	>	Djibouti	8.2	7.1	6.6	5.8	7.8	7.4	7.6	7.8	7.2	6.9	7.3	8.4	88.1
41	*	Lebanon	5.7	9.1	8.6	5.4	5.7	5.9	7.8	5.4	7.2	8.8	9.3	9.2	88.1
41	- Q	Angola	8.7	7.6	7.3	6.0	9.6	5.6	8.3	8.9	7.3	6.0	7.2	5.6	88.1
41		Cambodia	7.0	5.8	7.4	7.5	7.1	6.4	8.4	7.7	8.3	6.7	8.2	7.4	87.9
44	· ·	Iran	5.4	6.5	8.5	6.2	6.1	6.9	8.9	5.0	9.3	8.0	9.4	7.0	87.2
45	—	Mozambique	8.7	5.0	5.9	7.4	8.6	7.8	7.2	9.0	6.1	7.0	6.9	7.3	86.9
45	®	Malawi	8.8	6.1	5.4	8.1	8.4	8.6	6.9	7.8	6.2	4.8	7.7	8.1	86.9
47	•	Togo	8.0	7.1	4.5	7.3	8.1	6.8	8.1	8.6	7.2	7.0	7.6	6.5	86.8
48		Philippines	8.2	7.4	8.3	6.2	6.2	6.0	7.5	7.2	5.9	9.1	8.0	6.3	86.3
48	- () *(Swaziland	8.5	4.9	3.7	6.9	8.1	9.3	8.5	7.5	8.5	6.0	6.8	7.6	86.3
50		Solomon Islands	8.5	4.9	6.5	6.3	8.9	7.6	7.3	7.6	5.7	6.4	8.2	8.0	85.9

51		Gambia	8.2	6.4	3.7	7.7	7.2	7.8	7.8	7.7	8.6	6.0	6.8	7.5	85.4
51	•	Uzbekistan	6.1	6.0	7.6	6.3	7.0	6.8	9.6	5.4	9.1	7.6	8.8	5.1	85.4
53	Ĭ	Zambia	9.4	6.9	5.7	7.8	8.6	7.7	7.4	7.6	6.8	5.0	5.7	6.6	85.2
54	-	Equatorial Guinea	7.7	3.3	6.3	6.0	9.0	5.2	9.8	7.1	9.7	7.0	8.2	5.5	84.8
55	•	Laos	7.1	5.6	6.3	7.4	6.9	5.5	9.0	7.7	8.1	6.0	8.3	6.6	84.5
56		Madagascar	8.5	3.9	4.6	6.1	8.5	7.6	7.2	9.1	6.1	7.1	7.6	7.3	83.6
57	-	Tajikistan	7.8	4.8	7.3	6.3	5.6	7.4	9.1	5.9	7.6	6.8	8.4	6.4	83.4
57		Papua New Guinea	7.3	4.6	6.3	7.1	9.0	6.2	6.9	8.7	6.6	6.9	7.1	6.7	83.4
59		Comoros	7.6	4.5	5.0	7.8	7.0	8.0	6.8	8.0	6.1	7.2	7.5	7.8	83.3
60	•	Senegal	8.0	7.8	6.3	7.4	7.3	7.3	5.5	7.9	6.2	6.2	6.6	6.5	83.0
61		Colombia	6.9	7.8	8.0	6.7	7.5	3.8	7.1	6.0	7.3	7.3	7.6	6.5	82.5
62	0	Kyrgyz Republic	5.9	5.8	8.4	6.4	6.4	7.0	7.8	5.6	7.2	6.8	8.0	6.9	82.2
63		Tanzania	8.8	6.4	5.7	7.0	7.0	6.7	6.0	8.7	6.0	5.5	5.7	7.3	80.8
64	U)	Guatemala	7.3	5.5	7.9	6.7	8.0	6.0	6.6	7.4	6.6	7.0	6.0	5.4	80.4
65		Russia	5.1	5.7	9.3	4.5	6.4	4.4	7.9	4.7	8.9	9.1	8.1	5.9	80.0
		Warning													
66	Å	Lesotho	7.7	4.9	4.4	7.4	7.3	8.3	6.4	8.0	4.8	5.6	7.3	7.8	79.9
67	G	Algeria	5.7	6.4	8.2	5.1	6.0	6.4	7.8	5.8	7.1	8.0	7.7	5.4	79.6
68	-	India	8.0	5.4	8.3	5.5	7.5	5.6	5.2	7.5	5.9	7.9	7.3	5.3	79.4
68	0	Israel/West Bank	6.0	7.4	9.7	3.8	6.9	3.9	6.3	5.3	7.4	7.0	8.1	7.6	79.4
70	: :	Georgia	3.9	7.4	7.8	5.4	5.9	5.8	8.8	4.8	5.8	7.3	9.1	7.3	79.3
71		Thailand	6.9	6.0	8.5	4.1	5.8	4.0	8.0	4.9	7.7	8.9	10.0	4.3	79.1
72		Nicaragua	6.2	4.6	6.5	8.1	7.9	6.2	7.3	7.2	5.3	5.6	6.8	7.3	79.0
73		Benin	8.2	6.0	3.9	6.8	7.5	6.6	6.2	8.6	5.6	6.2	6.1	7.1	78.8
74	A.	Bhutan	6.0	6.9	7.9	6.8	6.9	5.7	5.0	6.6	6.5	5.0	7.5	7.9	78.7
75	*	Venezuela	5.1	4.8	7.3	5.2	6.7	6.5	8.6	7.2	8.3	6.5	8.1	4.3	78.6
76	8	Honduras	6.8	3.7	6.4	6.9	7.7	6.3	6.7	6.7	6.3	6.7	6.6	7.4	78.2
77	ő.	Bolivia	6.7	3.8	6.5	6.4	8.6	5.4	7.0	6.9	5.9	6.6	8.0	6.2	78.0
															77.5
78		Turkmenistan	5.7	3.9	7.1	5.1	6.9	5.0	9.7	6.1	8.8	6.8	7.8	4.6	77.5
78 79	ľ	Turkmenistan Bosnia	6.1	7.3	7.1	5.1	5.6	5.0	7.0	4.1	5.8	6.8	7.8 8.7	8.2	77.4

30		Azorbojion	5.1	7.6	6.4	4.3	5.9	4.1	8.6	5.4	8.4	6.7	7.9	6.9	77.
50		Azerbaijan	5.1			4.3		4.1	8.0			0.7		0.9	//.
31		Jordan	7.0	8.8	7.7	3.6	5.9	6.3	6.1	4.7	7.6	5.5	6.9	6.8	76.
32	₩ #	Fiji	4.7	3.4	7.0	7.6	6.8	6.7	7.4	4.5	6.9	6.7	7.9	7.2	76.
13	*)	China	7.4	5.6	8.3	4.6	7.4	3.4	8.0	6.2	9.2	5.9	7.2	3.2	76.
4		Ukraine	4.5	4.4	7.0	5.5	4.7	6.5	8.5	3.8	6.4	7.9	8.0	9.1	76.
35	Ē.	Ecuador	5.7	5.2	7.8	6.2	6.8	5.3	7.0	6.3	5.1	6.7	8.2	5.6	75.
6	0	Tunisia	4.7	4.1	7.8	5.5	5.4	6.6	7.0	4.9	7.0	7.8	8.1	6.9	75.
7		Belarus	5.6	4.1	6.8	3.4	5.2	6.1	8.6	4.7	8.4	6.6	8.3	7.8	75.
8		Indonesia	7.1	5.9	7.3	6.3	6.3	5.2	5.6	6.0	6.8	6.2	7.0	5.3	75.
9		Morocco	5.5	5.3	7.1	7.6	6.3	5.3	6.5	5.7	7.0	5.7	6.6	6.0	74
0	C•	Turkey	5.5	7.5	9.0	3.7	6.2	5.0	6.3	4.9	6.4	7.7	7.3	5.0	74
1		Maldives	5.8	4.7	4.6	5.6	4.1	6.4	8.5	6.1	7.5	6.1	7.8	7.0	74
2	ě	Serbia	5.5	7.0	8.1	5.3	5.3	6.7	5.7	4.7	4.9	6.0	8.0	6.6	73
3	• • •	Sao Tome & Principe	6.7	4.3	4.5	7.9	6.5	8.4	6.1	5.8	3.8	5.5	6.3	7.9	73
1	· 0	Micronesia	7.1	3.2	4.0	9.0	8.4	8.1	6.0	5.7	3.1	5.1	5.6	8.3	73
5	111	Cape Verde	7.1	4.1	4.0	8.6	7.5	6.2	5.7	6.5	4.5	5.7	5.5	8.1	73
6	-	Moldova	5.3	4.4	6.5	6.4	5.3	6.3	6.3	5.4	5.4	6.6	7.8	7.3	73
7	*	Vietnam	6.1	4.7	6.5	5.6	5.5	5.8	8.1	5.2	7.8	5.1	6.9	5.1	72
3		Peru	5.3	4.8	7.5	6.7	7.3	3.7	7.1	7.1	4.6	7.1	6.7	4.0	71
3	*	Ghana	7.1	5.5	4.6	7.6	7.1	6.3	5.0	7.9	5.2	4.1	4.9	6.6	71
00	٥	Mexico	6.2	4.4	6.4	5.8	6.6	4.6	5.9	6.8	6.5	8.0	5.1	5.5	71
)1	5,015	Saudi Arabia	5.8	4.6	7.4	3.7	5.8	4.4	7.8	3.7	9.2	6.4	8.0	4.8	71
02	٠	El Salvador	6.9	5.1	6.3	6.9	6.6	5.9	4.8	6.7	6.1	6.5	4.3	5.3	71
03	•	Paraguay	5.9	2.2	5.9	5.2	8.4	5.1	7.1	6.7	6.1	6.5	7.8	4.4	71
03		Gabon	7.1	5.0	3.7	5.5	6.9	4.8	7.4	6.8	6.9	5.0	7.1	5.1	71
04	36	Dominican Republic	6.8	3.8	5.8	7.6	6.3	5.3	6.0	6.8	5.5	5.2	6.2	5.9	71
06	//	Namibia	7.0	5.5	5.9	6.5	8.1	7.1	3.8	7.3	4.3	4.9	3.5	6.9	70
07	>	Guyana	5.6	3.6	6.5	9.1	6.2	6.2	5.9	6.1	3.9	5.8	5.1	6.5	70
		Low Warning													
08		Armenia	3.6	7.0	5.4	6.0	5.0	6.0	7.0	4.1	6.5	5.3	7.0	6.8	69

109	*	Suriname	5.3	3.0	5.8	7.3	6.6	6.8	5.5	5.8	4.9	5.4	5.8	6.2	68.4
110		Kazakhstan	5.0	3.5	7.0	3.6	4.7	6.5	8.0	4.5	7.5	5.7	7.6	4.7	68.3
111		Samoa	6.2	2.1	4.5	8.9	5.4	6.5	6.2	5.0	4.5	5.2	5.1	8.6	68.2
112	>	Cuba	5.6	4.5	4.5	5.7	5.9	4.5	7.0	4.7	7.3	5.7	7.0	5.0	67.4
113		South Africa	7.0	5.9	5.5	4.9	7.4	6.3	5.3	6.4	4.3	5.3	5.6	3.1	67.0
114	5	Cyprus	4.0	4.5	7.0	4.5	6.4	6.7	5.3	3.0	3.3	4.4	7.9	9.2	66.2
115	(•	Malaysia	5.8	4.2	6.2	4.5	5.3	3.6	6.9	4.7	7.2	6.8	6.5	4.2	65.9
116	0	Belize	5.9	4.1	4.1	6.5	6.2	5.9	5.7	5.8	4.1	5.8	4.3	6.9	65.3
117	\times	Jamaica	5.2	3.0	3.9	7.8	5.9	7.1	5.3	5.8	4.9	6.3	3.7	5.7	64.6
118	€	Macedonia	3.3	5.3	7.0	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.5	4.4	3.9	5.4	7.0	5.9	64.5
119		Bahrain	4.6	2.6	7.7	3.5	5.1	3.2	8.4	2.3	7.8	6.7	7.1	5.3	64.3
120	><	Grenada	5.2	3.2	3.8	8.4	5.3	5.9	5.9	3.7	3.7	5.6	5.6	7.1	63.4
121	4	Brunei	4.2	2.7	5.9	4.6	7.8	2.8	8.0	2.2	7.7	5.6	7.4	4.1	63.0
122		Botswana	7.5	5.2	5.4	5.1	7.7	6.3	3.8	6.0	4.4	3.5	3.3	4.6	62.8
123	♦	Brazil	7.6	3.1	5.9	4.1	7.7	3.9	5.1	5.9	5.8	5.9	4.9	2.7	62.6
124		Seychelles	5.1	3.1	4.5	5.5	6.0	4.6	5.7	3.2	4.6	6.6	5.7	7.5	62.1
125		Albania	4.1	3.1	5.0	7.1	4.2	5.2	6.2	4.5	5.5	4.7	6.2	6.1	61.9
		Less Stable													
126		Trinidad and Tobago	5.0	3.0	4.1	7.5	5.5	4.3	5.0	4.8	4.6	5.7	5.6	3.6	58.7
127	-	Antigua and Barbuda	4.6	3.0	3.9	7.3	5.0	5.0	5.9	3.9	4.5	5.2	3.7	5.8	57.8
128		Kuwait	5.1	4.0	4.7	3.1	4.7	3.0	7.3	2.5	7.3	3.9	7.5	4.4	57.5
129	nie 💮	Mongolia	5.5	2.4	4.3	3.1	6.4	4.3	4.5	5.7	4.8	4.0	5.5	6.5	57.0
130		Bulgaria	4.2	3.5	5.2	4.6	4.9	6.2	5.0	4.2	3.4	4.1	5.3	4.8	55.4
131		Panama	5.7	3.5	5.6	4.0	7.3	3.4	4.0	5.5	4.8	5.1	2.5	3.2	54.6
132	₩.	Montenegro	3.3	4.5	7.3	3.6	2.9	4.6	4.0	3.6	4.2	4.0	6.3	5.9	54.2
132		Romania	3.7	2.7	6.8	4.5	4.7	5.2	5.6	4.3	3.9	3.5	5.2	4.1	54.2
134		Greece	3.6	1.6	5.0	3.8	4.2	6.5	6.5	3.9	3.4	4.5	3.7	5.9	52.6
135	×	Oman	5.0	2.0	3.0	1.9	4.2	4.5	6.6	3.8	7.5	4.7	6.6	2.2	52.0
136		Bahamas	6.1	2.8	4.1	5.0	5.0	4.7	4.3	4.4	3.0	4.0	4.5	3.7	51.6
137		Croatia	3.6	4.9	5.7	4.5	3.8	5.3	3.4	2.9	4.1	4.0	4.4	4.4	51.0

		C4-L1-													
		Stable													
38	*	Barbados	3.8	2.7	4.1	5.4	5.1	5.7	3.0	2.7	2.9	4.3	4.2	5.4	49.
39		Hungary	2.3	2.5	4.7	3.3	4.3	5.9	6.6	3.3	4.5	2.4	5.3	4.0	49.
40		Latvia	3.4	2.9	7.4	4.4	4.6	4.0	3.9	3.4	3.0	3.5	4.3	3.8	48
41	٠	Argentina	3.8	2.0	5.0	3.0	5.4	4.9	4.7	4.3	4.1	3.6	2.8	4.0	47
12		Costa Rica	4.1	3.9	4.7	3.5	5.5	4.3	2.9	4.5	2.1	3.1	3.8	4.3	46
13		Qatar	4.3	1.8	4.6	3.1	5.2	2.6	6.0	1.8	6.2	2.5	5.0	3.2	46
14		United Arab Emirates	4.5	2.2	3.9	2.5	4.2	2.9	6.6	2.7	7.1	3.1	3.6	2.9	46
15		Mauritius	4.1	2.2	3.8	4.2	4.3	4.7	3.5	3.8	3.4	2.8	3.2	5.2	45
16		Estonia	3.3	2.9	6.5	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.2	3.4	2.0	3.1	5.5	3.1	43
17		Italy	3.1	3.7	4.9	2.0	3.4	5.6	4.2	2.3	2.5	4.4	4.9	2.2	43
18		Lithuania	3.3	2.6	4.3	4.2	5.0	5.0	3.2	4.0	2.4	3.0	3.0	3.0	43
9	•	Slovak Republic	2.8	2.0	5.9	4.2	4.0	5.1	3.7	2.9	2.7	2.3	3.7	3.3	42
0	•	Chile	5.1	2.1	4.1	3.2	5.1	3.6	3.0	4.5	3.4	3.1	1.7	2.6	41
51	•	Malta	2.8	4.6	3.9	4.0	2.9	4.2	3.9	2.3	3.3	3.4	2.0	3.6	40
1	Ç	Spain	2.5	1.7	5.8	2.4	4.0	5.0	3.3	2.7	1.9	3.3	6.1	2.2	40
		More Stable													
3		Poland	3.3	2.8	4.4	4.4	3.5	4.1	3.2	2.8	2.5	2.3	3.8	2.7	39
4		Czech Republic	1.9	2.0	3.8	2.8	3.2	4.8	4.2	3.1	2.1	2.6	4.3	2.6	37
5	•	Uruguay	3.5	1.9	3.0	4.4	4.2	3.2	1.4	3.4	2.2	3.7	2.7	2.9	36
6	(•)	South Korea	2.8	1.5	3.4	3.5	3.5	2.0	3.3	2.4	2.6	2.1	3.8	5.4	36
7	•	Japan	4.8	3.1	4.2	2.6	1.9	4.6	1.7	2.1	3.4	1.4	2.6	3.6	36
8		United States	3.0	2.1	5.0	1.5	4.8	2.8	2.4	2.1	3.7	2.8	4.0	1.1	35
9	()	Singapore	2.9	<u>1.1</u>	<u>3.1</u>	3.3	4.0	2.5	3.8	1.8	4.6	1.6	4.0	<u>1.7</u>	34
50		France	2.8	2.2	6.8	2.2	3.7	4.8	1.8	1.5	2.3	2.3	1.9	1.4	33
1	24	United Kingdom	2.6	2.4	5.6	2.1	3.7	3.9	2.0	2.1	1.8	2.5	3.5	1.2	33
2		Slovenia	2.8	1.4	3.9	2.8	3.9	4.2	2.6	2.0	2.0	2.1	1.6	2.3	31
63		Belgium	2.5	1.6	4.1	1.9	3.2	4.5	1.9	2.1	1.2	2.0	3.9	1.5	30

		Sustainable													
164	•	Portugal	2.6	1.6	2.6	2.2	2.9	5.1	1.8	2.7	2.3	1.6	1.8	2.5	29.7
165		Germany	2.5	3.0	4.6	2.1	3.3	2.9	1.2	1.6	1.5	2.1	2.0	1.3	28.1
166		<u>Netherlands</u>	<u>3.0</u>	<u>2.1</u>	<u>3.9</u>	2.6	2.7	<u>3.4</u>	<u>1.0</u>	<u>1.5</u>	<u>1.0</u>	<u>1.8</u>	2.6	<u>1.2</u>	<u>26.8</u>
167	ų	Austria	2.4	2.0	4.3	1.5	3.4	2.2	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.1	2.7	1.7	26.0
168	1+1	Canada	2.4	2.0	3.9	2.2	3.0	1.8	0.9	2.0	1.8	2.2	2.5	1.0	<u>25.7</u>
169		Ireland	2.2	1.4	1.9	2.8	2.7	4.1	1.5	1.9	1.2	1.8	1.3	1.9	24.7
170	**	<u>Australia</u>	<u>1.8</u>	<u>2.1</u>	4.4	<u>1.0</u>	<u>2.7</u>	<u>2.1</u>	<u>1.1</u>	2.0	<u>2.4</u>	<u>2.1</u>	<u>1.6</u>	<u>1.0</u>	24.3
171	#	Iceland	1.6	1.4	1.3	2.8	1.6	3.6	0.9	1.7	1.1	1.0	1.8	4.6	23.4
172	*	New Zealand	<u>1.9</u>	<u>1.1</u>	<u>4.1</u>	<u>2.1</u>	2.8	<u>3.9</u>	<u>0.5</u>	<u>1.9</u>	<u>1.0</u>	<u>1.1</u>	<u>1.1</u>	<u>1.1</u>	22.6
173	•	<u>Switzerland</u>	<u>1.9</u>	<u>2.1</u>	<u>3.6</u>	<u>2.1</u>	2.7	2.0	<u>1.0</u>	1.4	<u>1.8</u>	<u>1.4</u>	<u>1.0</u>	<u>1.3</u>	22.3
174		Luxembourg	<u>1.7</u>	<u>1.7</u>	<u>3.1</u>	<u>2.1</u>	<u>1.5</u>	<u>1.5</u>	<u>1.3</u>	<u>1.3</u>	<u>1.0</u>	2.0	<u>3.4</u>	<u>1.6</u>	22.2
175		<u>Denmark</u>	2.5	<u>1.4</u>	3.6	<u>1.9</u>	2.1	2.5	<u>0.5</u>	1.4	<u>1.3</u>	<u>1.5</u>	1.4	<u>1.4</u>	21.5
176	#	<u>Norway</u>	2.0	<u>1.9</u>	<u>3.7</u>	<u>1.6</u>	2.0	<u>1.7</u>	<u>0.4</u>	1.4	<u>1.3</u>	<u>2.5</u>	<u>1.1</u>	<u>1.2</u>	20.8
177	+	<u>Sweden</u>	<u>2.5</u>	2.3	<u>1.3</u>	<u>1.5</u>	<u>1.8</u>	2.3	<u>1.0</u>	<u>1.6</u>	<u>1.0</u>	<u>2.1</u>	<u>1.8</u>	<u>1.0</u>	<u>20.2</u>
-															
		Very Sustainable													
178	_	<u>Finland</u>	<u>1.5</u>	<u>1.5</u>	<u>1.6</u>	2.3	1.0	3.8	0.5	1.2	0.9	1.4	<u>1.1</u>	<u>1.0</u>	<u>17.8</u>
						_									

31. **GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS INDEX** – GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS REPORT 2014/2015 – WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM.

Comptetitiveness is the set of institutions, policies and factors that determine the level of productivity of a country, setting the level of prosperity that can be reached by an economy, and determining the rates of return obtained by investments in an economy and the growth rates. Methodology - the 12 pillars of competitiveness are: 1. Institutions - protection of property rights, efficiency and transparency of public administration, independence of the judiciary, physical security, business ethics and corporate governance in public and private institutions. 2. Infrastructure - quality and availability of transport, electricity and communication infrastructures. 3. Macroeconomic Environment – fiscal and monetary indicators, savings rate and sovereign debt rating. 4. Health and Primary Education – state of public heatlh, quality and quantity of basic education. 5. Higher Education and Training quality and quantity of higher education and on-the-job training. 6. Goods Market Efficiency - intensity of domestic and foreign competition, quality of demand conditions. 7. Labour Market Efficiency – labour market efficiency and flexibility, meritocracy and gender parity in the workplace. 8. Financial Market Development – efficiency, stability and trustworthiness of the financial and banking systerm. 9. Technological Readiness. 10. Domestic and Foreign Market Size. 11. Business Sophistication and Efficiency. 12. Innovation. Score 1-7 (best).

The prevailing misconceptions in the business world are that ethics doesn't pay, it is a panacea of the high-minded persons that have never worked in business in their life, it is not practical, it adds a burden on the company that has to maximize its profits, regardless of ethics. Furthermore, if we can increase profits unethically we should do it, because our sacred duty is to maximize profits, our Guru – Milton Friedman said so, the stakeholders don't pay us and if we act unethically towards customers, suppliers, minority shareholders, employees, society, ecology or government – it is fine, so long that we maximize profits/shareholders' value and we are rewarded for that by the shareholders who control the Board of Directors, even if they are a tiny minority of the total shareholders. So, we can fire employees even if we are very profitable if we can increase our profits by doing so, the CEO is often rewarded by the amount of employees that he has fired and is paid astronomic salaries and bonuses for doing so. We can wrong the rights of minority shareholders, supply deficient products, postpone payments to suppliers, increase the ecological damages, avoid paying taxes legally or not, etc.

The purpose of this book, as of the books by Dr. Jacques Cory on Business Ethics, is to prove that ethics pays for the country, the company and the individuals. The message of a businessman like Cory proving that Ethics Pays in business sounds much more convincing than the message of philosophy professors who haven't worked in business in their life. It has worked well in his books, his courses, articles, lectures, and now this rule is analyzed also in a macro approach of countries, as an exact symmetry is found in the most ethical and least ethical countries and a lesser symmetry is found in the middle cases, with mixed results.

It is not a coincidence that the most ethical countries are also the richest and have the best quality of life. If we prove that those countries are also the most competitive it gives the final blow to all those who are convinced that ethics is irrelevant or even harmful for countries and companies. It is one thing if we prove that the most ethical countries have also the best scores in the Social Progress Index, Democracy or Gender Equality, even if we prove that they have the best GDP per capita, these are remote indices that are not linked directly to competitivity, to companies, to profits. Therefore, it is very important to prove that in this crucial parameter most ethical countries are also the most competitive, as this is a salient business criterion. By

proving so, outspoken critics may start to listen, as this index analyzes the set of institutions, policies and factors that determine the level of prosperity that can be reached by an economy and determine the rates of return obtained by investments in an economy and the growth rates.

This index is based on the 12 pillars of competitiveness, which are very important to all businessmen – protection of property rights, efficiency and transparency of public administration, independence of the judiciary, physical security, business ethics and corporate governance in public and private institutions. The index takes into consideration the infrastructure – quality and availability of transport, electricity and communication, as well as the macroeconomic environment – fiscal and monetary indicators, savings rate and sovereign debt rating. The index is based also on health, education, training, goods market efficiency, intensity of domestic and foreign competition, labour market efficiency and flexibility, meritocracy, gender parity in the workplace, financial market development, efficiency, stability and trustworthiness of the financial and banking system, technoligical readiness, domestic and foreign market size, businesss sophistication, efficiency and innovation – exactly what business needs to succeed. If this is achieved in ethical states- this is the ultimate proof that Ethics Pays, as ethics are worth money, making us competitive and profitable.

If we analyze the 10/20/30 most competitive countries we find a perfect similarity between them and the most ethical countries, they may vary slightly between the rankings, but all the most ethical countries are there: in examining the first 11 states - Switzerland is no. 1 with a score of 5.70, then come Singapore, Finland, Netherlands, Sweden, Norway has a score of 5.35 – and they are 6 of the 11 most ethical states. But all the other 5 countries ranking among the first 11 most competitive countries are also very ethical – United States 3rd most competitive and 17th most ethical, Germany – 5th most competitive and 12th most ethical, Japan – 6th most competitive and 15th most ethical, Hong Kong – 7th most competitive and 17th most ethical, and finally the United Kingdom–9th most competitive and 14th most ethical.

If we analyze the 12-22 most competitive countries we find there all the other 5 of the 11 most ethical countries – Denmark, Canada, New Zealand, Luxembourg and Australia. But also the ethical countries: United Arab Emirates (TI – 25), Taiwan (TI – 35), Qatar (TI -26), Belgium (TI – 15) and Austria (TI – 23). In the other 8 most competitive countries down to 30, we find the ethical countries: France (TI – 26), Ireland (TI – 17), Estonia (TI – 26), Iceland (TI – 12), and even Israel (TI – 37) and South Korea (TI – 43), but we find also the much less ethical – Saudi Arabia (TI – 55) and the corrupt China (TI – 100). Further down we find in most of the cases a correlation between competitiveness and the moderate ethical rankings of: Chile, Spain, Portugal, Czech Republic, Poland, Mauritius, Lithuania, Latvia. But we find also corrupt countries, such as 31. Thailand (TI – 85), 34. Indonesia (TI – 107), 38. Azerbaijan (TI – 126), 40. Kuwait (TI – 67), 44. Bahrain (TI – 55), 45. Turkey (TI – 64), 46. Oman (TI – 64), 47. Malta (TI – 43, an exception of a quite ethical country), 48. Panama (TI – 94), 49. Italy (TI – 69) and 50. Kazakhstan (TI – 126). The correlation between the parameters (here competitivenes) and ethics is very clear in the 20 first and 20 last, but as we move from extremes, we find more and more exceptions, in the ranks 40-50 and downwards.

Russia is moderately competitive (53) but very corrupt (136), South Africa ranks similarly in competitiveness (56) and ethics (67), Brazil 57/69, Mexico is quite competitive but corrupt 61/103, Vietnam 68/119, India 71/85, Botswana is quite uncompetitive 74 but is much more ethical – 31, and so Uruguay 80/21, Greece is quite uncompetitive – 81 and quite corrupt – 69, Iran 83/136, and Swaziland is very uncompetitive but only quite corrupt 123/69. As expected, the least competitive countries are also the most corrupt, proving that Corruption Doesn't Pay at least in the extremes, from the lowest competitiveness rank of 144 – Guinea scoring 2.79

and upwards to the rank of 115: Chad, Yemen, Mauritania, Angola, Burundi, Sierra Leone, Haiti, Burkina Faso, Myanmar, Mozambique, Malawi, Venezuela, Madagascar, Pakistan, Mali, Nigeria, Libya, The Gambia, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Tanzania, Paraguay, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guyana, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, as in corrupt countries it is very difficult to conduct business & be competitive. In the short run you may win but in the long run you always lose!

	Rank (out	
Country/Economy	of 144)	Score
Switzerland	<u>1</u>	<u>5.70</u>
<u>Singapore</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5.65</u>
United States	3	5.54
<u>Finland</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5.50</u>
Germany	5	5.49
Japan	6	5.47
Hong Kong SAR	7	5.46
<u>Netherlands</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>5.45</u>
United Kingdom	9	5.41
<u>Sweden</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>5.41</u>
<u>Norway</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>5.35</u>
United Arab Emirates	12	5.33
<u>Denmark</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>5.29</u>
Taiwan, China	14	5.25
<u>Canada</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>5.24</u>
Qatar	16	5.24
New Zealand	<u>17</u>	<u>5.20</u>
Belgium	18	5.18
<u>Luxembourg</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>5.17</u>
Malaysia	20	5.16
Austria	21	5.16
<u>Australia</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>5.08</u>
France	23	5.08
Saudi Arabia	24	5.06
Ireland	25	4.98
Korea, Rep.	26	4.96
Israel	27	4.95
China	28	4.89
Estonia	29	4.71
Iceland	30	4.71
Thailand	31	4.66
Puerto Rico	32	4.64
Chile	33	4.60
Indonesia	34	4.57
Spain	35	4.55
Portugal	36	4.54
Czech Republic	37	4.53
Azerbaijan	38	4.53

Mauritius	39	4.52
Kuwait	40	4.52
Lithuania	41	4.51
Latvia	42	4.50
Poland	43	4.48
Bahrain	44	4.48
Turkey	45	4.46
Oman	46	4.46
Malta	47	4.45
Panama	48	4.43
Italy	49	4.42
Kazakhstan	50	4.42
Costa Rica	51	4.42
Philippines	52	4.40
Russian Federation	53	4.37
Bulgaria	54	4.37
Barbados	55	4.36
South Africa	56	4.35
Brazil	57	4.34
Cyprus	58	4.31
Romania	59	4.30
Hungary	60	4.28
Mexico	61	4.27
Rwanda	62	4.27
Macedonia, FYR	63	4.26
Jordan	64	4.25
Peru	65	4.24
Colombia	66	4.23
Montenegro	67	4.23
Vietnam	68	4.23
Georgia	69	4.22
Slovenia	70	4.22
India	71	4.21
Morocco	72	4.21
Sri Lanka	73	4.19
Botswana	74	4.15
Slovak Republic	75	4.15
Ukraine	76	4.14
Croatia	77	4.13
Guatemala	78	4.10
Algeria	79	4.08
Uruguay	80	4.04
Greece	81	4.04
Moldova	82	4.03
Iran, Islamic Rep.	83	4.03
El Salvador	84	4.01
Armenia	85	4.01

Jamaica	86	3.98
Tunisia	87	3.96
Namibia	88	3.96
Trinidad and Tobago	89	3.95
Kenya	90	3.93
Tajikistan	91	3.93
Seychelles	92	3.91
Lao PDR	93	3.91
Serbia	94	3.90
Cambodia	95	3.89
Zambia	96	3.86
Albania	97	3.84
Mongolia	98	3.83
Nicaragua	99	3.82
Honduras	100	3.82
Dominican Republic	101	3.82
Nepal	102	3.81
Bhutan	103	3.80
Argentina	104	3.79
Bolivia	105	3.77
Gabon	106	3.74
Lesotho	107	3.73
Kyrgyz Republic	108	3.73
Bangladesh	109	3.72
Suriname	110	3.71
Ghana	111	3.71
Senegal	112	3.70
Lebanon	113	3.68
Cape Verde	114	3.68
Côte d'Ivoire	115	3.67
Cameroon	116	3.66
Guyana	117	3.65
Ethiopia	118	3.60
Egypt	119	3.60
Paraguay	120	3.59
Tanzania	121	3.57
Uganda	122	3.56
Swaziland	123	3.55
Zimbabwe	124	3.54
Gambia, The	125	3.53
Libya	126	3.48
Nigeria	127	3.44
Mali	128	3.43
Pakistan	129	3.42
Madagascar	130	3.41
Venezuela	131	3.32
Malawi	132	3.25

Mozambique	133	3.24
Myanmar	134	3.24
Burkina Faso	135	3.21
Timor-Leste	136	3.17
Haiti	137	3.14
Sierra Leone	138	3.10
Burundi	139	3.09
Angola	140	3.04
Mauritania	141	3.00
Yemen	142	2.96
Chad	143	2.85
Guinea	144	2.79

32. **FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT INDEX** – 2012 – OVERALL INDEX – THE FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2012 – WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM – MEASURES THE INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT, BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT, FINANCIAL STABILITY, BANKING FINANCIAL SERVICES, NON-BANKING FINANCIAL SERVICES, FINANCIAL MARKETS, FINANCIAL ACCESS (SCORE 1-7)

The most ethical states are perceived as "nerds", playing strictly by the book, strictly according to the rules. When it comes to financial development, when you have to be rather creative, you are not expected to be too ethical, sometimes you even circumvent the law, as was the case in the Great Recession of 2007-2010. But, what a surprise, when we find that the 20 most ethical states are also the 20 countries getting the highest scores in the financial development index from 5.31 for the first – Hong Kong (TI – 17), 5.27 for the second– United States (TI – 17), 5.21 for the third – United Kingdom (TI – 14). It goes without saying that the 9 most ethical countries (Luxembourg and New Zealand are not in this survey) are among the 17 countries scoring the best results in the Financial Development Index. But, indeed the most sophisticated financial markets are located in the most ethical countries, after Hong Kong, US and UK, we find Singapore, Australia, Canada, Japan (TI – 15), Switzerland, Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, Denmark, Norway, France (TI – 26), South Korea (TI – 43), Belgium (TI – 15), Finland, Malysia (TI – 50), Spain (TI – 37) and Ireland (Iceland and Barbados don't participate in this survey). There are a few exceptions, but not in the first ranks, only in the 15th, 18th, 19th rank, and these refer also not to unethical countries, but to quite ethical states.

How come that small countries as Switzerland, Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Denmark or Singapore rank so high in the financial development index? Is it because they are among the 8 most ethical countries? And what comes first – because they are so ethical they have scored also the highest grades in the Financial Development Index? Probably yes, as this index comprises the institutional and business environment, financial stability, banking and nonbanking financial services, financial markets and financial access. In the long run – an ethical conduct in all those parameters is a condition sine qua non for a sound financial development. So, Ethics Pays in cash, with stability, sophistication, excellent services, and strong markets.

As mentioned often, significant results are found mainly in the 20 first and 20 last countries, and the results in between are rather mixed, in many cases in striking similarity between ethics and the other indices, but in other cases with quite opposite results. The Financial Development rank is similar to the ethical rank in the following countries: Austria, Israel, United Arab Emirates, Portugal, Chile, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Greece and Romania. But there are also very large economies that in spite of being very corrupt achieve a moderate rank in the Financial Development Index: 23. China (TI – 100), 28. South Africa (TI – 67), 30. Italy (TI – 69), 32. Brazil (TI – 69), 34. Thailand (TI – 85), 39. Russia (TI – 136), 40. India (TI – 85), 43. Mexico (TI – 103). Although China, India & Russia's economies are very corrupt they still are so large that they obtain a moderate rank in this Financial index.

Finally, in the lowest ranks of the Finacial Development Index we find the most corrupt countries in the world: Colombia, Kazakhstan, Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Egypt, Kenya, Argentina, Ghana, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Ukraine, Tanzania, Nigeria and Venezuela. So, unless you are very large as the corrupt BRICS states: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa; that have a moderate rank in the Financial Development Index, though much lower than small & ethical Switzerland, Netherlands & Singapore; all the corrupt countries share also the lowest ranks in the Financial Development Index. And if you have a low rank as Egypt, Kenya and Nigeria, the chances are that companies would not want to invest in your country and you'll remain in the lowest ranks of wealth, development and employment.

Country/economy	Rank	Score
Hong Kong SAR	1	5.31
United States	2	5.27
United Kingdom	3	5.21
Singapore	4	5.10
Australia	5	5.01
Canada	6	5.00
Japan	7	4.90
Switzerland	8	4.78
Netherlands	9	4.73
Sweden	10	4.71
Germany	11	4.61
Denmark	<i>12</i>	4.53
Norway	13	4.52
France	14	4.43
Korea, Rep.	15	4.42
Belgium	16	4.30
Finland	<i>17</i>	4.24
Malaysia	18	4.24
Spain	19	4.22
Ireland	20	4.14
Kuwait	21	4.03
Austria	22	4.01
China	23	4.00
Israel	24	3.94
Bahrain	25	3.93
United Arab Emirat	es 26	3.84
Portugal	27	3.76
South Africa	28	3.71
Chile	29	3.69
Italy	30	3.69
Saudi Arabia	31	3.68
Brazil	32	3.61
Jordan	33	3.56
Thailand	34	3.55
Czech Republic	35	3.49
Panama	36	3.42
Poland	37	3.41
Slovak Republic	38	3.34
Russian Federation	39	3.30
India	40	3.29
Peru	41	3.28
Turkey	42	3.27
Mexico	43	3.25
Hungary	44	3.16
Morocco	45	3.15
Colombia	46	3.15
Kazakhstan	47	3.13
Greece	48	3.12

Philippines	49	3.12
Indonesia	50	2.95
Romania	51	2.93
Vietnam	52	2.92
Egypt	53	2.78
Kenya	54	2.75
Argentina	55	2.68
Ghana	56	2.67
Bangladesh	57	2.62
Pakistan	58	2.61
Ukraine	59	2.56
Tanzania	60	2.55
Nigeria	61	2.46
Venezuela	62	2.37

33. **GROSS NATIONAL INCOME – GNI – PER CAPITA** – IN 2013 AT NOMINAL VALUE, ACCORDING TO THE ATLAS METHOD, AN INDICATOR OF INCOME DEVELOPED BY THE WORLD BANK. IT IS THE DOLLAR VALUE OF A COUNTRY'S FINAL INCOME IN A YEAR, DIVIDED BY ITS POPULATION. IT REFLECTS THE AVERAGE INCOME OF A COUNTRY'S CITIZENS, AND GIVES THE GENERAL STANDARD OF LIVING ENJOYED BY THE AVERAGE CITIZEN

GNI is perceived by many as a most salient parameter of the welfare of citizens, better than GDP per capita, as GNI is the the final income of a country in a year divided by its population, reflecting the average income of a country's citizen, or the general standard of living enjoyed by the average citizen. This differs from the average wage of citizens, which measures all the wages of citizens and divide it by the number of citizens. If we neutralize tiny countries as Monaco, Liechtenstein, San Marino and Andorra, which distort the ranking, as well as dependencies, we find that the ten most ethical countries in the world are among the 13 countries with the highest GNI per capita: Norway with \$102,610, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Australia, Sweden, Denmark, Singapore, Canada, Netherlands and Finland with \$48,820. The amount of income varies largely, Norway has more than twice Finland's income, but the ranking doesn't change and is exactly like the ranking of the most ethical countries, with one exception – New Zealand, ranking 24, with \$35,550. Here again Ethics Pays, with a perfect symmetry, as it is amazing to find every time the same "club" members.

Furthermore, we find all the 20 most ethical countries in the list of the 24 countries with the highest GNI per capita (except Barbados): the abovementioned countries as well as United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Belgium, Ireland, Hong Kong. The other countries in the first 24 are: 3. Qatar (TI – 26), oil rich country, 12. Austria (TI – 23), 18. Kuwait (TI – 67) oil rich country, 19. France (TI – 26), 22. United Arab Emirates (TI – 25) oil rich country, 23. Italy (TI – 69). All the countries with the first 24 GNI per capita rank also high in TI's index down to 26, which is very close, with two exceptions oil rich Kuwait and quite corrupt Italy, but otherwise we find an almost perfect symmetry between the highest GNI per capita, which is a salient parameter of the welfare of the citizens and their standard of living, and the ethical ranking of the countries, mostly even in the quite high 14-24 ranks.

The 20 countries after New Zealand are mostly quite ethical and rank in similar ranks as in TI's index: Israel - \$33,930 and Spain (TI – 37), South Korea (TI – 43), Cyprus (TI – 31), Slovenia (TI – 39), Bahamas (TI – 24), Portugal (TI – 31), Latvia (TI – 43), Chile - \$15,230 and Uruguay (TI – 21), Lithuania (TI – 39), Malta (TI – 43), Taiwan (TI – 35), Estonia (TI – 26), Czech Republic (TI – 53), Slovakia (TI – 54) – those countries are quite ethical but not so rich, with a moderate GNI per capita. However, in this bracket of high-income group we find quite corrupt countries as Saudi Arabia (TI – 55), Oman (TI – 64), Greece (TI – 69), Bahrain (TI – 55), and the very corrupt Russia (TI – 136) with \$13,850. The high income comes mainly from oil or from an unequal distribution of income, as the figures are average.

In the upper middle-income group with countries ranking from 51 downwards we find corrupt and very corrupt countries as Libya, Venezuela, Brazil (\$11,690), Kazakhstan, Turkey, Panama, Gabon, Mexico (\$9,940), Lebanon, Romania, Bulgaria, Azerbaijan, South Africa, Turkmenistan, Belarus, Iraq, China, Argentina, Peru, Cuba, Iran, Ecuador, Algeria, Angola, Belize, Tunisia (\$4,200), but also more ethical countries such as Malaysia (TI - 50), Costa Rica, Mauritius (TI - 47) and African Botswana, ranking quite high (TI - 31). As explained before with other parameters, the symmetry between ethics and GNI per capita is most salient in the extremes of the first and last 20 countries, and in the middle we get mixed results. It is

therefore a strong incentive to be a most ethical country, as only then we get the best results in the other parameters, while in the less ethical countries – the impact of ethics is not so strong.

In the low-income group, we find as usual the most corrupt countries, proving once again that Corruption Doesn't Pay, especially if it is excessive: Kenya (\$1,160), Chad, Bangladesh, Tajikistan, Myanmar, Cambodia, Zimbabwe, Haiti, Nepal, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Uganda, North Korea, Togo, Gambia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Madagascar, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Niger, Central African Republic, Malawi, Burundi, and Somalia, the most corrupt & poorest country - \$150.

List of countries and dependencies

High-income group

High-income group							
Rank	Country	GNI per capita (US\$)[1]	Year	Rank		GNI per capita (US\$) ^[1]	Year
1	Monaco	186,950	2008	31	Spain Spain	29,920	2013
2	<u>Liechtenstein</u>	136,770	2009	_	Guam (USA)	not available	N/A
	Bermuda (UK)	104,610	2012	32	Saudi Arabia	26,260	2013
<u>3</u>	<u> Norway</u>	<u>102,610</u>	<u> 2013</u>	32		20,200	2013
<u>4</u>	* Switzerland	<u>90,760</u>	<u>2013</u>	_	Greenland (Denmark)	26,020	2009
5	<u>Qatar</u>	86,790	2013	33	Korea, South	25,920	2013
<u>6</u>	<u>Luxembourg</u>	<u>69,900</u>	<u>2013</u>	_	Aruba (Netherlands)	not available	N/A
<u>7</u>	Australia Australia	<u>65,390</u>	<u>2013</u>	2.4	Commen	25 210	2012
	├ XChannel <u>Islands</u> (UK)	65,440	2007	34 35	CyprusOman	,	20132012
	Macau (China)	64,050	2012	_	Turks and Caicos	not	N/A
<u>8</u>	<u>Sweden</u>	<i>61,760</i>	2013		<u>Islands</u> (UK)	available	
_		(1 (00	2012	36	<u>Slovenia</u>	23,210	2013
<u>9</u>	<u>Denmark</u>	<u>61,680</u>	<u>2013</u>	37	<u>Greece</u>	22,690	2013
_	Cayman Islands (UK)	not available	N/A	38	Bahamas, The	21,570	2013
<u>10</u>	Singapore	<u>54,040</u>	<u> 2013</u>	39	Portugal	21,260	2013
11	United States	53,470	2013		Sint Maarten (Netherlands)	not available	N/A

_	+ Faroe Islands (Denmark)	not available	N/A	40	* Malta	20,980	2013
<u>12</u>	L+1 Canada	<u>52,200</u>	<u>2013</u>	41	Taiwan [2] (China)	not available	N/A
13	San Marino	51,470	2008	42	<u>Bahrain</u>	19,700	2012
<u>14</u>	<u>Netherlands</u>	<u>51,060</u>	<u>2013</u>	_	Puerto Rico (USA)	19,210	2013
15	<u>Austria</u>	50,430	2013	43	Czech Republic	18,950	2013
<u>16</u>	+ Finland	<u>48,820</u>	<u>2013</u>	44	<u>Slovakia</u>	17,810	2013
	Isle of Man (UK)	48,550	2007	45	<u>Estonia</u>	17,690	2013
17	Germany	47,270	2013		Saint Martin (France)	not available	N/A
18	Iceland Iceland	46,400	2013		French Polynesia		
19	• Japan	46,330	2013		(France)	15,990	2000
20	Belgium	46,290	2013	46	Trinidad and Tobago	15,760	2013
21	<u>Kuwait</u>	45,130	2011	47	Latvia	15,280	2013
22	France	43,460	2013		_	ŕ	
23	<u>Andorra</u>	43,110	2008	48	<u>Chile</u>	15,230	
24	■ Ireland, Republic of	43,110	2013	4950	<u>Uruguay</u> Barbados Barbados ■ Barbados	ŕ	20132012
25	United Kingdom	41,680	2013	51	<u>Lithuania</u>	14,900	2013
_	Hong Kong (China)	38,420	2013	52	Equatorial Guinea	14,320	2013
26	United Arab Emirates	38,360	2012	_	New Caledonia (France)	14,020	2000
27	■ I taly	34,860	2013	53	Saint Kitts and Nevis	13,890	2013
<u>28</u>	New Zealand	<u>35,550</u>	<u>2012</u>	54	Russia	13,850	2013
29	<u> Israel</u>	33,930	2013		₩ <u>Virgin</u> <u>Islands,</u> <u>U.S.</u> (USA)	13,660	1989
_	<u>Curaçao</u> (Netherlands)	not available	N/A	_	™ Northern Mariana		N/A
30	Brunei Darussalam	31,590	2009		<u>Islands</u> (USA)	available	

55	<u>Croatia</u>		13,430	2013
56	Poland Poland		13,240	2013
57	Antigua Barbuda	and	13,050	2013

Upper-middle-income group

Rank	Country	GNI per capita (US\$) ^[1]	Year	Rank		GNI per capita (US\$)[1]	Year
58	<u>Hungary</u>	13,260	2013	84	Turkmenistan	6,880	
59	<u>Seychelles</u>	13,210	2013	85	Belarus	6,730	
60	<u>Libya</u>	12,930	2009	86	- Iraq	6,720	
61	<u>Venezuela</u>	12,550	2013	87	China	6,560	
62	Brazil	11,690	2013	07		0,500	2013
63	<u>Kazakhstan</u>	11,550	2013	88	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	6,460	2013
64	Palau Palau	10,970	2013	89	<u>Argentina</u>	6,290	2006
65	<u>Curkey</u>	10,970	2013	90	Peru	6,270	2013
66	Panama Panama	10,700	2013	91	Serbia	6,050	2013
_	World	10,679	2013	92	<u>Cuba</u>	5,890	2011
67	<u>Gabon</u>	10,650	2013	93	Namibia Namibia	5,870	2013
68	Malaysia Malaysia	10,430	2013	94	Tuvalu Tuvalu	5,840	2013
69	Mexico	9,940	2013	95	Iran Iran	5,780	2013
70	<u>Lebanon</u>	9,870	2013	96	Dominican Republic	5,770	2013
71	Costa Rica	9,550	2013	97	Ecuador Ecuador	5,760	2013
72	<u>Suriname</u>	9,370	2013	98	<u>Maldives</u>	5,600	2013
73	<u>Mauritius</u>	9,290	2013	99	Thailand	5,340	2013
74	<u>Romania</u>	9,060	2013	100	<u>Algeria</u>	5,330	2013
	(USA)	<u>a</u> not available	N/A	101	 <u>Jamaica</u>	5,220	2013

75	<u>Botswana</u>	7,770	2013	102	Angola Angola	5,170	2013
76	<u>Colombia</u>	7,590	2013	103	<u>Jordan</u>	4,950	2013
77	Grenada Grenada	7,490	2013	104	Macedonia, Republic of	4,870	2013
78	<u>Bulgaria</u>	7,360	2013		<u>01</u>		
79	<u>Azerbaijan</u>	7,350	2013	105	Bosnia and Herzegovina	4,780	2013
80	Montenegro	7,250	2013	106	<u>Albania</u>	4,710	2013
81	South Africa	7,190	2013	107	Belize	4,510	2013
82	Saint Lucia	7,060	2013	108	Tonga Tonga	4,490	2013
83	Dominica	6,930	2013	109	™ ∓ <u>Fiji</u>	4,370	2013
				110	Marshall Islands	4,310	2013
				111	© Tunisia	4,200	2013

Lower-middle-income group

Rank	Country	GNI per capita (US\$) ^[1]	Year	Rank	Country	GNI per capita (US\$)	Year
112	Paraguay Paraguay	4,010	2013	137	Moldova	2,470	2013
113	<u>Samoa</u>	3,970	2013	138	Bhutan	2,330	2013
114	<u>Ukraine</u>	3,960	2013	139	Honduras	2,180	2013
115	Kosovo	3,940	2013	140	Papua New Guinea	2,010	2013
116	Timor Leste	3,940	2012	141	<u>Uzbekistan</u>	1,880	2013
117	<u>Armenia</u>	3,800	2013	142	Syria Syria	1,850	2007
118	Mongolia Mongolia	3,770	2013	143	Zambia Zambia	1,810	2013
119	S Guyana	3,750	2013	144	Nicaragua Nicaragua	1,790	2013
120	El Salvador	3,720	2013	145	<u> Ghana</u>	1,770	2013
121	Cabo Verde	3,620	2013	146	<u>★ Vietnam</u>	1,740	2013
122	Indonesia	3,580	2013	147	Solomon Islands	1,600	2013

123	# Georgia	3,570	2013	148	India	1,570	2013
124	Guatemala	3,340	2013	149	Sudan	1,550	2013
125	Micronesia, Federated States of	3,280	2013	150	<u>Lesotho</u>	1,500	2013
126	<u>Philippines</u>	3,270	2013	151	São Tomé and Príncipe	1,470	2013
127	Sri Lanka	3,170	2013	152	Laos	1,450	2013
128	<u>Egypt</u>	3,140	2013	153	Côte d'Ivoire	1,450	2013
129	<u>Vanuatu</u>	3,130	2013	154	<u>Pakistan</u>	1,360	2013
130	Palestine Palestine	3,070	2012	155	<u>Yemen</u>	1,330	2013
131	<u>Morocco</u>	3,020	2013	156	Cameroon	1,290	2013
132	Swaziland	2,990	2013	157	<u>Kyrgyzstan</u>	1,210	2013
133	■ Nigeria	2,710	2013	158	<u>Mauritania</u>	1,060	2013
134	<u>Kiribati</u>	2,620	2013	159	Senegal Senegal	1,050	2013
135	Congo, Republic of the	2,590	2013	160	<u>Djibouti</u>	1,030	
136	<u>Bolivia</u>	2,550	2013	161	South Sudan	950	2013

Low-income group

Rank	Country	GNI per capita (US\$)[1]		Rank	Country	GNI per capita (US\$)[1]	
162	<u>Kenya</u>	1,160	2013	179	Mozambique Mozambique	610	2013
163	<u>Chad</u>	1,020	2013	180	Guinea-Bissau	590	2013
164	Bangladesh	1,010	2013	181	<u>Uganda</u>	550	2013
165	Tajikistan	990	2013	182	Korea, North	not available	N/A
166	★ Myanmar	not available	N/A	183	Togo	530	2013
167	<u>Cambodia</u>	950	2013	184	Gambia Gambia	500	2013
168	Z imbabwe	860	2013	185	Eritrea	490	2013

169	<u>Comoros</u>	840	2013	186	Ethiopia	470	2013
170	<u>Haiti</u>	810	2013	187	Guinea	460	2013
171	Benin Benin	790	2013	188	Madagascar	440	2013
172	<u>Nepal</u>	730	2013	189	Congo, Democratic Republic of the	430	2013
173	<u>Afghanistan</u>	690	2013	190	<u>Liberia</u>	410	2013
174	<u>Mali</u>	670	2013	191	■ Niger	400	2013
175	Burkina Faso	670	2013	40.	Central African	220	2012
176	Sierra Leone	660	2013	192	Republic	320	2013
177	<u>Tanzania</u>	630	2013	193	<u>Malawi</u>	270	2013
178	Rwanda	630	2013	194	B urundi	260	2013
				195	* Somalia	150	1990

Notes and references

- 1. ""GNI per capita, Atlas method (current US\$)", The World Bank, April 2014". Retrieved 2015-01-03.
- 2. "Where are your data on Taiwan?". Retrieved 2014-04-16.

34. LIST OF COUNTRIES BY TOTAL HEALTH EXPENDITURE PPP PER CAPITA – WHO – WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION – IN PPP INT.\$, % OF GDP – 2010

Mens sana in corpore sano – a healthy soul in a healthy body. Ethical conduct is a precondition of a healthy soul and it is expected to reside also in a healthy body. The parameters examined in this book are quantitative and qualitative and health expenditure is undoubtedly a quantitative parameter. Many find it very sad that no. 1 in the world in health expenditure - the United States are spending so much for health – 17.6% of GDP - \$8,233 with such unsatisfactory results, due mainly to an excessive privatization resulting from their neoliberal policies. The European health budgets are much more effective – Scandinavia, France, Germany, Benelux and Switzerland, as well as Canada and Australia, all of them ranking first in this index and first in TI's ethical countries. As a matter of fact, there is only one country in the world that spends more in relation to its GDP – Sierra Leone, ranking 141, spending 20.8% of GDP on health, but only \$171 per capita... After the US (TI – 17) we find 6 of the 11 most ethical countries (we don't include tiny states as Monaco and Niue):

Luxembourg - \$6,712 - 7.9%, Norway - \$5,391 - 9.3%, Switzerland, Netherlands, Denmark, Canada (\$4,443) – 11.4%, spending 11%-12% of their GDP on health. Following the first 7, we find Sweden - \$3,760 - 9.6%, Australia – 9%, Finland – 9%, ranking 16, in total 9 of the 11 most ethical states in the first 16 ranks. But if we enlarge the scope of the analysis to the 24 highest expenditures they include almost all the 20 most ethical states, as well as other welfare states, some of them in the 20's: Austria (TI – 23), Germany, France (TI – 26), Belgium, Ireland, Japan - \$3,120 - 9.2%, Greece (TI – 69) - \$3,069 - 10.8%, Spain (TI – 37), Italy (TI – 69) - \$3,046 - 9.5%, New Zealand - \$2,992 - 10.1%, Portugal (TI – 31) and finally in rank 24 – Singapore - \$2,592 - 4.5%, one of the lowest % of GDP, but still a substantial amount. Only Hong Kong, not participating in this survey, and Barbados are not part of the 24 countries with the largest health expenditure per capita, as all are welfare states and almost all are the most ethical countries in the world, except the quite corrupt Italy and Greece. So, Ethics Pays for health, because a healthy and ethical soul needs also a healthy body.

After the 24 first countries we find another 24 countries, ranking in most cases at a moderate ranking in TI's ethical index: Slovenia, Bahamas, Taiwan, Malta, Cyprus, Israel, South Korea, Qatar, United Arab Emirate, Barbados, Poland, Estonia, Lithuania, Hungary, but also the less ethical Czech Republic and Slovakia (TI 53-54) and Croatia (TI - 61). A few exceptions, though, corrupt Trinidad and Tobago, and Argentina (TI – 107) - \$1,321 – 8.3% of GDP. Following them, there are mixed results: ethical countries as Chile, Uruguay, Latvia, Botswana and Buthan that just don't have enough resources for health expenditure, and corrupt countries that have moderate health expenditure: Russia - \$1,277 – 6.5%, Turkey, Brazil – 1,009 – 9.0%, Mexico, South Africa, Lebanon, Iran, Belarus, Venezuela, Colombia, Libya, Kazakhstan, Paraguay, Peru, Belize, China - \$373 – 5%, Algeria, Iraq, Egypt, Bolivia, Morocco, Vietnam, Angola. Two countries are worth to mention: 104. Cuba that spends and invests quite a lot in health and doctors for all the population, although it is a very poor country (watch Michael Moore's Sicko) - \$414 – 10.2%, but still is quite corrupt (TI – 63), and 105. Swaziland (TI – 69) that, although poor, invests substantial amounts - \$411 – 7.8%.

Finally, we find the most corrupt countries with the lowest health expenditure: Zimbabwe, South Sudan, Somalia, North Korea, Eritrea - \$17, 2.9%, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Pakistan, Central African Republic, Madagascar, Niger, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Burundi, Mozambique, Chad, Nepal, Bangladesh, Laos, Guinea, Mali, Kenya, Togo, Haiti, Guinea-Bissau, Timor-Leste, Liberia, Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Papua New Guinea,

Uganda, Cameroon, Indonesia, India, Nigeria, Cambodia, Sudan, Yemen, Syria, Sri-Lanka, Djibouti. Corruption Doesn't Pay for health or for any other social services, as most of the money goes to corrupt people who govern those countries, leaving almost nothing to others.

Rank	Country	Total health expenditure per capita PPP Int.\$	Total health expenditure % of GDP
1	United States	8,233	17.6
<u>2</u>	<u>Luxembourg</u>	<u>6,712</u>	<u>7.9</u>
3	Monaco	5,915	4.4
<u>4</u>	**Norway	<u>5,391</u>	<u>9.3</u>
<u>5</u>	Switzerland	<u>5,297</u>	<u>10.9</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>Netherlands</u>	<u>5,112</u>	<u>12.1</u>
<u>7</u>	<u>Denmark</u>	<u>4,467</u>	<u>11.1</u>
<u>8</u>	■◆■ Canada	<u>4,443</u>	<u>11.4</u>
9	<u>Austria</u>	4,398	11.0
10	Germany	4,342	11.5
11	France France	3,997	11.7
12	Belgium Belgium	3,975	10.5
<u>13</u>	<u>Sweden</u>	<u>3,760</u>	<u>9.6</u>
14	■ Ireland	3,720	9.2
<u>15</u>	Australia Australia	<u>3,685</u>	<u>9.0</u>
16	United Kingdom	3,433	9.6
<u>17</u>	+ Finland	<u>3,252</u>	<u>9.0</u>
18	<u>Iceland</u>	3,230	9.3
19	Niue Niue	3,200	16.2
20	San Marino	3,178	7.2

Rank	Country	Total health expenditure per capita PPP Int.\$	Total health expenditure % of GDP
21	Andorra Andorra	3,122	7.2
22	• <u>Japan</u>	3,120	9.2
23	Greece	3,069	10.8
24	<u>Spain</u>	3,057	9.6
25	■ Italy	3,046	9.5
<u>26</u>	New Zealand	<u>2,992</u>	<u>10.1</u>
27	Portugal	2,729	10.7
<u>28</u>	Singapore	<u>2,592</u>	<u>4.5</u>
29	<u>Slovenia</u>	2,429	9.0
30	Bahamas, The	2,348	7.5
31	Taiwan ^[3]	2,307	6.5
32	Malta Malta	2,290	8.5
33		2,218	7.4
34	Slovakia Slovakia	2,097	9.0
35	<u> Israel</u>	2,041	7.7
36	Korea, South	2,035	7.1
37	Czech Republic	1,885	7.5
38	<u>Qatar</u>	1,621	2.1
39	Trinidad and Tobago	1,615	6.3
40	<u>Palau</u>	1,605	11.5
41	Hungary Hungary	1,601	7.8
42	United Arab Emirates	1,562	3.7

Rank	Country	Total health expenditure per capita PPP Int.\$	Total health expenditure % of <u>GDP</u>
43	Barbados	1,520	6.7
44	Brunei	1,503	2.9
45	<u>Croatia</u>	1,475	7.8
46	Equatorial Guinea	1,395	4.2
47	Poland	1,377	7.0
48	<u>Argentina</u>	1,321	8.3
49	<u>Estonia</u>	1,294	6.3
50	<u>Lithuania</u>	1,286	7.0
51	Russia	1,277	6.5
52	Panama Panama	1,221	8.7
53	Costa Rica	1,197	10.3
54	<u>Chile</u>	1,191	7.4
55	<u>Serbia</u>	1,176	10.4
56	<u>Latvia</u>	1,157	6.7
57	<u>Montenegro</u>	1,154	9.0
58	Kuwait Kuwait	1,133	2.6
59	<u>Uruguay</u>	1,132	8.1
60	Bulgaria	1,057	7.6
61	<u>Curkey</u>	1,039	6.7
62	Brazil	1,009	9.0
63	Antigua and Barbuda	981	5.9
64	■•■ <u>Mexico</u>	962	6.3

Rank	Country	Total health expenditure per capita PPP Int.\$	Total health expenditure % of GDP
65	<u>Bahrain</u>	937	4.3
66	South Africa	915	8.7
67	Saudi Arabia	914	4.0
68	Bosnia and Herzegovina	893	10.2
69	Romania	881	5.9
70	Lebanon	872	6.2
71	<u>Mauritius</u>	835	6.2
72	<u>Seychelles</u>	806	3.3
73	<u>Iran</u>	797	5.3
74	<u>Belarus</u>	762	5.6
75	Macedonia, Republic of	758	6.6
76	Dominica Dominica	717	5.9
77	<u>Botswana</u>	711	5.1
78	Saint Lucia	703	7.7
79	Saint Kitts and Nevis	696	4.7
80	Malaysia Malaysia	645	4.4
81	<u>Venezuela</u>	642	5.3
82	Ecuador Ecuador	635	7.9
83	Grenada Grenada	632	5.8
84	<u>Colombia</u>	614	6.5
85	Oman Oman	591	2.7
86	Libya	573	3.0

Rank	Country	Total health expenditure per capita PPP Int.\$	Total health expenditure % of GDP
87	Tunisia Tunisia	544	5.7
88	Gabon	532	3.5
89	<u>Kazakhstan</u>	528	4.3
90	<u>Ukraine</u>	527	7.8
91	+ Georgia	524	10.2
92	<u>Azerbaijan</u>	520	5.3
93	Albania	515	6.0
94	<u>Maldives</u>	510	6.2
95	Dominican Republic	509	5.5
96	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	499	4.7
97	Jordan Jordan	493	8.3
97	Paraguay Paraguay	493	9.6
99	Peru Peru	463	4.9
100	El Salvador	456	6.9
101	Federated States of Micronesia	453	13.6
102	<u>Suriname</u>	449	5.7
103	<u>Belize</u>	428	5.8
104	<u>Cuba</u>	414	10.2
105	Swaziland Swaziland	411	7.8
106	Cook Islands	404	4.6
107	 <u>Jamaica</u>	397	5.2
108	<u>Tuvalu</u>	384	14.5

Rank	Country	Total health expenditure per capita PPP Int.\$	Total health expenditure % of GDP
109	N amibia	380	5.5
110	Marshall Islands	374	17.1
111	<u>China</u>	373	5.0
112	Algeria	364	4.3
113	Moldova Moldova	362	11.7
114	Iraq	346	8.5
115	Honduras Honduras	340	8.7
116	Thailand	331	3.9
117	Guatemala Guatemala	327	6.9
118	Egypt	293	4.7
119	Nicaragua Nicaragua	276	9.9
120	<u>Samoa</u>	275	6.3
121	<u>Bolivia</u>	264	5.5
122	Kiribati Kiribati	262	10.7
123	<u>Morocco</u>	257	5.4
124	<u>Armenia</u>	240	4.5
125	<u>Vanuatu</u>	230	5.2
126	Bhutan	226	4.3
126	*** Tonga	226	5.0
128	Mongolia Mongolia	221	5.5
129	Nauru Nauru	220	9.6
130	<u>Turkmenistan</u>	219	2.5

Rank	Country	Total health expenditure per capita PPP Int.\$	Total health expenditure % of GDP
131	★ <u>Vietnam</u>	216	6.8
132	Solomon Islands	200	7.4
133	<u>Angola</u>	194	3.4
133	™ ∓ <u>Fiji</u>	194	4.2
133	Suyana	194	5.6
136	<u>Djibouti</u>	184	7.9
136	<u>Lesotho</u>	184	11.5
138	<u>Uzbekistan</u>	177	5.6
139	Sri Lanka	175	3.5
139	Syria Syria	175	3.4
141	Sierra Leone	171	20.8
142	<u>Philippines</u>	164	4.1
143	Sudan	162	7.2
144	Yemen Yemen	155	5.6
145	<u>Kyrgyzstan</u>	152	6.7
146	São Tomé and Príncipe	151	7.5
147	<u>Mauritania</u>	138	6.1
148	Cambodia	132	6.0
149	<u>Tajikistan</u>	129	6.0
150	■ Nigeria	128	5.4
151	India India	126	3.7
152	Indonesia	123	2.8

Rank	Country	Total health expenditure per capita PPP Int.\$	Total health expenditure % of GDP
153	Cameroon	122	5.1
154	Rwanda Rwanda	120	10.4
155	<u>Uganda</u>	117	9.2
156	Côte d'Ivoire	115	6.2
157	Senegal Senegal	111	5.8
158	Papua New Guinea	101	4.1
159	<u>Tanzania</u>	100	7.2
160	Congo, Republic of the	97	2.3
161	Burkina Faso	92	7.4
161	Zambia Zambia	92	6.0
163	Gambia, The	90	4.4
164	Liberia Liberia	88	16.4
165	Ghana Ghana	85	5.2
166	Timor-Leste	84	5.7
167	Guinea-Bissau	82	7.0
168	Cape Verde	80	2.3
169	<u>Haiti</u>	76	6.9
170	<u>Malawi</u>	74	8.4
170	Togo	74	7.5
172	Kenya Kenya	72	4.4
173	Benin Benin	70	4.3
174	<u>Mali</u>	69	6.5

Rank	Country	Total health expenditure per capita PPP Int.\$	Total health expenditure % of GDP
175	Guinea	67	6.2
175	Laos	67	2.6
177	<u>Bangladesh</u>	61	3.7
177	Nepal Nepal	61	5.1
179	<u>Chad</u>	60	4.0
180	<u>Comoros</u>	58	5.3
181	<u>Mozambique</u>	57	6.3
182	X Burundi	54	9.1
183	<u>Afghanistan</u>	52	10.4
184	Ethiopia	50	4.8
185	Niger Niger	36	4.8
186	Madagascar	35	3.6
187	Central African Republic	30	3.8
188	<u>Pakistan</u>	28	1.0
189	★ Burma	26	2.0
189	Congo, Democratic Republic of the	26	7.5
191	Eritrea	17	2.9
192	Korea, North		
192	* Somalia		
192	South Sudan		2.1
192	Zimbabwe		

35. LIST OF COUNTRIES BY CREDIT RATING – STANDARD & POORS – MAINLY 2011-2015 – FOR S&P, A BOND IS CONSIDERED INVESTMENT GRADE IF ITS CREDIT RATING IS BBB- OR HIGHER. BONDS RATED BB+ AND BELOW ARE CONSIDERED TO BE SPECULATIVE OR "JUNK" BONDS

Many people don't take seriously anymore S&P's credit rating after the scandals of 2008 when they gave AAA rating to CDOs that collapsed in the Great Recession like a house of cards. However, as we don't have a better method of analyzing the credit rating we have to base our judgement on credit rating for ethical and unethical countries according to the S&P rating, but we checked if they were too generous by giving AAA rating to many countries. We thought that in this index we would find surprises, low credit rating for some ethical countries and high credit rating for some corrupt countries, but inexorably the same rule of "Ethics Pays" applies for the most ethical and corrupt countries. Furthermore, the ethical countries that received the highest rating of AAA stable were the only ones to receive this rating and none of the corrupt countries, even if they are huge economic powers received the highest ratings.

8 of the 11 most ethical countries received the highest rating of AAA and a stable outlook – Australia, Canada, Denmark, Luxembourg, Norway, Singapore, Sweden and Switzerland. We checked if there is an "inflation" of AAA rating, but we found that only 3 other countries have the same rating and all of them are very ethical countries: Germany (TI – 12), United Kingdom (TI – 14) and Hong Kong (TI – 17). The law that Ethics Pays applies significantly in this parameter as well. But, we have 2 other most ethical countries that obtained a slightly lower rating: Finland and the Netherlands received AA+ stable. So, maybe in this rating we find many countries, but the only country that shares this rating is the United States, the most powerful economy in the world, and also ranking 17 in TI's index. The EU shares also this rating. Only one of the most ethical countries has a lower rating – AA stable – New Zealand, but who else has this rating? Qatar (TI – 26), Abu Dhabi – UAE (TI – 25), France (TI – 26), and one exception for a quite corrupt and small country – oil rich Kuwait (TI – 67).

In this analysis we disregard as usual tiny states or dependencies as Liechtenstein or Isle of Man. If we examine all the 20 countries scoring the highest ethical grades, on top of the countries mentioned above, we find that Belgium has a rating of AA but a negative outlook, Japan has AA- and a negative outlook, Ireland - A stable, Iceland BBB- stable (after their banking scandals, nobody is perfect even in Scandinavia, and anyhow its ethical rating is also lower than in the past, but it is still 12), and Barbados BB+ negative. If we examine all the 30-43 most ethical countries, on top of countries mentioned above, we find Chile AA- positive, Uruguay BBB- stable, Austria AA+ negative, Bahamas BBB stable, Spain BBB stable, South Korea A+ stable, Portugal BB negative, Poland A- positive, Cyprus B+ positive, Estonia AAstable, Latvia and Lithuania A- stable, Israel A+ stable, Malta BBB+ stable, Taiwan AAstable, Slovenia A- stable. Botswana is the only African country among the first 40 most or almost ethical countries (TI - 31). It ranks quite high in many parameters, probably because it is a democracy since its independence, and in credit rating it receives A- stable. Almost all the most ethical countries have high to moderate credit rating, with very few exceptions of very small countries as Cyprus or Barbados, and Portugal ranking 31 in TI's index but with a low rating due to the crisis. Yet, there are only a few corrupt countries with similar credit ratings.

The credit ratings of the following corrupt countries are in most cases much lower than the credit ratings even of the quite ethical countries: Vietnam BB- negative, Ukraine CCC stable, Uganda B+ stable, Tunisia BB- negative, Turkey BB+ negative, Thailand BBB+ stable, Sri Lanka B+ positive, South Africa BBB- stable, Saudi Arabia AA- stable, Russia BB+ negative, Philippines BBB stable, Peru BBB+ stable, Panama BBB stable, Argentina SD negative,

Belarus B- positive, Bolivia BB- positive, Brazil BBB- stable, China AA- stable, Colombia BBB stable, Ecuador B+ positive, Egypt B- stable, Greece B stable, India BBB- stable, Indonesia BB+ positive, Italy BBB- stable, Mexico BBB+ stable, Morocco BBB- stable, Nigeria BB- stable, Pakistan B- stable. All those countries, except oil rich Saudi Arabia and economic superpower China, have a borderline credit rating, as from BB+ and below their bonds are perceived as speculative or junk bonds, and none of them has a credit rating of A.

So, Corruption Doesn't Pay after all, even if you are one of the largest economies as Russia, India and Brazil. But what about the most corrupt countries — what is their credit rating? Here we find that most of them don't have at all a credit rating, at least not in this list, going upwards from the most corrupt countries to the less corrupt countries: Somalia, Sudan, North Korea, South Sudan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Libya, Eritrea, Yemen, Venezuela CCC negative, Haiti, Guinea-Bissau, Angola BB- stable, Syria, Burundi, Zimbabwe, Myanmar, Cambodia B stable, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, Tajikistan, Republic of the Congo, Paraguay BB- stable, Central African Republic, Papua New Guinea B+ stable, Laos, Kenya B+ stable, Guinea, Bangladesh BB- stable, and so on.

Country	Rating	Outlook	Date
Abu Dhabi, UAE	AA	Stable	2012-02-20
<u>Albania</u>	B+	Stable	2012-02-20
<u>Andorra</u>	A-	Negative	2012-02-20
<u>Angola</u>	BB-	Stable	2012-02-20
<u>Argentina</u>	SD	Negative	2014-06-17
<u>Aruba</u>	A-	Stable	2012-02-20
Australia Australia	<u>AAA</u>	<u>Stable</u>	<u>2012-02-20</u>
<u>Austria</u>	AA+	Negative	2012-02-20
Azerbaijan	BBB-	Positive	2012-02-20
<u>Bahamas</u>	BBB	Stable	2012-02-20
<u>Bahrain</u>	BBB	Negative	2012-02-20
<u>Bangladesh</u>	BB-	Stable	2012-02-20
Barbados	BB+	Negative	2012-02-20
<u>Belarus</u>	B-	Positive	2013-04-17
Belgium	AA	Negative	2012-02-20

Belize	B-	Negative	2012-02-20
Benin	В	Stable	2012-02-20
Bermuda	AA-	Stable	2012-02-20
<u>Bolivia</u>	BB-	Positive	2012-02-20
Bosnia and Herzegovina	В	Negative	2012-02-20
<u>Botswana</u>	A-	Stable	2012-02-20
Brazil	BBB-	Stable	2014-03-24
Bulgaria	BB+	Stable	2014-12-12
Burkina Faso	В	Stable	2012-02-20
Cambodia	В	Stable	2012-02-20
Cameroon	В	Stable	2012-02-20
<u>I◆I</u> <u>Canada</u>	<u>AAA</u>	<u>Stable</u>	<u>2012-02-20</u>
Cape Verde	B+	Stable	2012-02-20
<u>Chile</u>	AA-	Positive	2012-12-26
China	AA-	Stable	2012-02-20
<u>Colombia</u>	BBB	Stable	2013-04-24
Cook Islands	B+	Negative	2012-02-20
Costa Rica	BB	Stable	2012-02-20
<u>Croatia</u>	BB+	Stable	2012-12-14
<u>Curacao</u>	A-	Stable	2012-02-20
Cyprus	B+	Positive	2014-04-24
Czech Republic	AA-	Stable	2012-02-20
Denmark	AAA	<u>Stable</u>	<u>2012-02-20</u>
Dominican Republic	B+	Stable	2012-02-20
Ecuador	B+	Positive	2014-08-20

Egypt	B-	Stable	2013-11-15
El Salvador	BB-	Stable	2012-02-20
European Union	AA+	Stable	2013-12-20
Estonia	AA-	Stable	2012-10-19
™ ∓ <u>Fiji</u>	В	Stable	2012-02-20
+ Finland	<u>AA+</u>	<u>Stable</u>	<u>2014-10-10</u>
France	AA	Stable	2012-02-20
Gabon	BB-	Stable	2012-02-20
# Georgia	BB-	Stable	2012-02-20
Germany	AAA	Stable	2013-03-27
<u> Ghana</u>	В	Stable	2011-11-29
<u>Greece</u>	В	Stable	2012-12-18
Grenada	SD	Negative	2013-03-13
■■ Guatemala	BB	Negative	2011-11-29
- Guernsey	AA+	Stable	2011-11-29
Honduras Honduras	B+	Positive	2012-06-08
* Hong Kong	AAA	Stable	2011-11-29
<u>Hungary</u>	BB	Stable	2012-11-23
lceland Iceland	BBB-	Stable	2011-11-29
India India	BBB-	Stable	2012-04-25
Indonesia	BB+	Positive	2011-11-29
■ <u>Ireland</u>	A	Stable	2014-12-05
▼ Isle of Man	AA+	Stable	2011-11-29
<u> Israel</u>	A+	Stable	2011-11-29
■ Italy	BBB-	Stable	2014-12-05
<u> Jamaica</u>	CCC+	Negative	2013-03-07

•	<u>Japan</u>	AA-	Negative	2011-11-29
•	<u>Jordan</u>	BB	Negative	2011-11-29
	<u>Kazakhstan</u>	BBB+	Negative	2014-05-13
	<u>Kenya</u>	B+	Stable	2011-11-29
	Kuwait	AA	Stable	2011-11-29
_	<u>Latvia</u>	A-	Stable	2014-05-30
*	Lebanon	В	Stable	2011-11-29
a .	Liechtenstein	AAA	Stable	2011-11-29
	<u>Lithuania</u>	A-	Stable	2014-04-11
	<u>Luxembourg</u>	<u>AAA</u>	<u>Stable</u>	<u>2013-08-12</u>
*	Macedonia	BB	Stable	2011-11-29
(<u>•</u>	Malaysia	A-	Stable	2011-11-29
*	Malta	BBB+	Stable	2013-01-16
a	Mexico	BBB+	Stable	2014-07-30
à	Mongolia	BB-	Stable	2011-11-29
*	Montenegro	BB-	Negative	2011-11-29
美美	Montserrat	BBB-	Stable	2011-11-29
	Morocco	BBB-	Stable	2011-11-29
	Mozambique	B+	Stable	2011-11-29
	<u>Netherlands</u>	<u>AA+</u>	<u>Stable</u>	<u>2013-11-29</u>
美	New Zealand	<u>AA</u>	<u>Stable</u>	<u>2011-11-29</u>
	Nigeria	BB-	Stable	2011-11-29
╬	<u>Norway</u>	AAA	<u>Stable</u>	<u>2011-11-29</u>
	<u>Oman</u>	A	Negative	2011-11-29
C	<u>Pakistan</u>	B-	Stable	2011-11-29
•	<u>Panama</u>	BBB	Stable	2012-07-02

Papua New Guinea	B+	Stable	2011-11-29
Paraguay	BB-	Stable	2011-11-29
Peru Peru	BBB+	Stable	2013-08-19
<u>Philippines</u>	BBB	Stable	2014-05-08
Poland Poland	A-	Positive	2013-03-07
Portugal	BB	Negative	2013-07-05
<u>Qatar</u>	AA	Stable	2011-11-29
Ras Al Khaimah, UAE	A	Stable	2011-11-29
Romania Romania	BBB-	Stable	2014-05-16
Russia	BB+	Negative	2015-01-26
<u>Rwanda</u>	В	Stable	2012-09-29
Saudi Arabia	AA-	Stable	2011-11-29
<u>★ Senegal</u>	B+	Negative	2011-11-29
Serbia Serbia	BB-	Negative	2012-08-07
Singapore	<u>AAA</u>	<u>Stable</u>	<u>2011-11-29</u>
Slovakia Slovakia	A	Positive	2014-08-01
<u>Slovenia</u>	A-	Stable	2013-02-13
South Africa	BBB-	Stable	2014-05-13
South Korea	A+	Stable	2012-09-14
<u>Spain</u>	BBB	Stable	2014-05-23
Sri Lanka	B+	Positive	2011-11-29
<u>Suriname</u>	BB-	Stable	2011-11-29
<u>Sweden</u>	<u>AAA</u>	<u>Stable</u>	<u>2012-10-24</u>
Switzerland	AAA	<u>Stable</u>	<u>2011-11-29</u>
<u>Taiwan</u>	AA-	Stable	2011-11-29

<u>Thailand</u>	BBB+	Stable	2011-11-29
Trinidad and Tobago	A	Stable	2011-11-29
Tunisia	BB-	Negative	2013-02-20
<u>Curkey</u>	BB+	Negative	2013-03-27
<u>Uganda</u>	B+	Stable	2011-11-29
<u>Ukraine</u>	CCC	Stable	2014-10-11
United Kingdom	AAA	Stable	2012-04-13
United States	AA+	Stable	2013-06-10
Uruguay	BBB-	Stable	2012-04-03
<u>Venezuela</u>	CCC	Negative	2015-02-09
<u>★ Vietnam</u>	BB-	Negative	2014-05-20
Zambia Zambia	B+	Stable	2011-11-29

36. EDUCATION INDEX – THE LEARNING CURVE - PEARSON GLOBAL REPORT ON EDUCATION – 2014 - THE BEST EDUCATION SYSTEMS IN THE WORLD IN 2014 AND 2012 – THE INDEX COMBINES NATIONAL DATA AND A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL RANKING, INCLUDING PISA – PROGRAMME FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSESSMENT, TIMSS – TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCES STUDIES, PIRLS – PROGRESS ON INTERNATIONAL READING STUDY – TO PROVIDE AN INTERPRETATION OF HOW COUNTRIES ARE PERFORMING RELATIVE TO EACH OTHER

SEE ALSO WORLD TOP 20 POLL RANKING EDUCATION SYSTEMS

SEE ALSO U 21 RANKING OF NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEMS

The Learning Curve by Pearson is the most salient survey on the best education systems in the world. The Index was first published in 2012 and updated in 2014. The Index is based on Cognitive skills and Educational Attainment comparing the performances of 40 countries. It examines the cognitive skills of students, the levels of reading, maths and science, attaining a high level of literacy, success in educating students to secondary and tertiary degree level. The 10 most ethical countries (Luxembourg was not surveyed) rank high in the 24 best education systems: 3. Singapore, 5. Finland, 7. Canada, 8. Netherlands, 11. Denmark, 15. Australia, 16. New Zealand, 20. Switzerland, 21. Norway, 24. Sweden. They are not the top 10 as usual, but they are nevertheless on the top 20 or 24, you can't win them all, but still it is an outstanding result. However, if we analyze the 20 most ethical countries we find all of them in the top 21, Japan, Hong Kong, United Kingdom, Ireland, Germany, United States, Belgium, with one exception Sweden (in no. 24), Barbados and Iceland were not surveyed.

Similar results were obtained also in 2012. So, after all Ethics Pays at least for the 20 most ethical countries. In the top 20 we find also in no. 1 - South Korea. This country is consistently in the ranks of 40 in the TI index -43 in 2014 with a score of 55, 40 in 2005 with a score of 5.0, in 1995 it was in no. 26 out of 41 with a score of 4.29 and in 1996 it was in no. 27 out of 54 with a score of 5.02. It is at the borderline between ethical and corrupt countries which is around 5.0, in the first half in the earlier periods and at the bottom of the first quarter today. Still, the country has many economic achievements and in education it ranks no. 1. Education is an important facet of ethics and at least in this parameter South Korea is the best country in the world. Japan ranking 15 in TI's index is ranked in Education no. 2, Singapore (TI - 7) is here no. 3, and Hong Kong (TI - 17) is ranked no. 4 in education. It is not a coincidence that 4 Far East countries are ranked no. 1-4 in the best education systems in the world. In other Education surveys we see also China ranking in the top ranks of education.

It is to the credit of the education systems in those Asian countries that they rank so high, due to their competitive and achievement-oriented emphasis. Some people may be concerned that their education systems are too tough and prefer the more permissive Western education systems. Another important finding – former communist countries rank very high in the quality of their education systems: Poland (TI – 35) is ranked no. 10, Russia (TI – 136) is ranked no. 13, Czech Republic (TI – 53), is no. 19, Hungary (TI – 47) is no. 22, Slovakia (TI – 54) is no. 27, Bulgaria (TI – 69) is no. 30, Romania (TI – 69) is no. 31. It is to the credit of those seven former communist countries that they rank so high with their good education system. Communism has failed in most of the parameters, but in education and culture they had quite impressive achievements, much better than their borderline ethical rankings.

Israel has achieved a good result in the level of its education – rank 17, although its ethical ranking is much lower – 37. Other countries as France, Austria, Portugal, Spain and Chile have a similar ranking in education, although Spain's is higher and Chile's is lower. Finally, unethical countries as Italy (TI - 69) is ranked 25 in Education, just after the most ethical Sweden, Greece (TI - 69) is ranked 33, Turkey (TI - 64) is ranked 34, and the most corrupt countries - Thailand, Colombia, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Indonesia are ranked in the last ranks of Education, although as only 40 countries were surveyed we do not know what would have been their rank if there were 175 countries suveyed as in TI's ethical index.





WORLD TOP 20 EDUCATION POLL RANKING SYSTEM – THE NEW JERSEY MINORITY EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (NJMED) - 2014

The New Jersey Minority Education Development – NJMED - gathers data to rate the poll in calculating early childhood enrollments (4 and under), the elementary and middle school levels in math, reading and science, high school graduation rates, college bachelors and graduate degrees into a single ranking system of five levels. The data is derived from the OECD, PISA – Programme for International Student Assessment study – 65 nations, UNESOC – United Nation's Economic and Social Council – 54 countries, EIU – the Economist Intelligence Unit – 187 nations, TIMSS – Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study – 59 nations and PIRLS – Progress in International Reading Study – 46 states.

The Top 20 countries in 2014 comprise most - 14 of the 20 - most ethical countries, namely: Japan, United Kingdom, Singapore, Canada, Netherlands, Germany, Finland, Denmark, Hong Kong, Norway, Ireland, Iceland, Switzerland and the USA. Bearing in mind that some

countries in the 20 most ethical countries were not surveyed, we find here almost all the most ethical countries. Some of the countries missing are ranked high in the rates of the top five education systems in the five levels of education, and all the countries missing – Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, Luxembourg and Belgium are ranked also in other surveys as in Pearson's among the 20 countries with the best education systems (Sweden – 24, Barbados is not surveyed). In 2012 the Top 20 countries included also the 3 countries missing – New Zealand, Australia and Belgium: 1. Finland, 2.South Korea, 3. Hong Kong, 4. Japan, 5. Singapore, 6. United Kingdom, 7. Netherlands, 8. New Zealand, 9. Switzerland, 10. Canada, 11. Ireland, 12. Denmark, 13. Australia, 14. Poland, 15.Germany, 16. Belgium, 17. USA, 18. Hungary, 19. Slovakia, 20. Russia. Finland is perceived by many as the best education system in the world, although it differs widely from the Japanese and South Korean systems – it is based on helping the students with the lowest grades to improve their results with the help of the best students, because what matters is the achievement of all the class and not the best students. Sweden is not ranked among the 20 best countries but obtains a 24 quite good rank.

We wrote already about the excelent achievements of the education systems of the 4 Far East countries – South Korea (no. 1 in 2014) which ranked only 43 in TI's index, Japan – no. 2, Singapore – no. 4 and Hong Kong – no. 13. In the Top 20 survey we find also China (TI – 100) ranking no. 12. Israel is ranked here no. 10 although in TI's ranking it is only 37. Russia (TI – 136) is the only former communist country ranking in the 2014 survey in the quite high rank of 7. But in 2013 we find 3 other former communist countries among the Top 20 – Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and Russia is ranked only 20, all those countries achieve excellent education results although their ethical ranking is much lower than the 20 most ethical states.

In education we find minor exceptions to the rule that "only" Ethics Pays, as there are some Top 20 Education countries which are nevertheless ranked in TI's index far below the 20 most ethical countries, as South Korea, Israel, Slovenia (TI - 39) and Spain (TI - 37), and some Top 20 Education countries which are very corrupt as China and Russia which achieve excellent education results, in spite of their corruption. However, the most corrupt countries in other education indices rank very low as corruption in most of the cases is detrimental to education and health care as well as most of the other parameters, while ethics in most cases is very beneficial to education, health care and all the other parameters examined in this book.

Country	AVG	PTS
1. South Korea	14.4	72
2. Japan	14.2	71
3. United Kingdom	11.6	58
4 Singapore	<u>10.4</u>	<u>52</u>
5. Canada	<u>10.0</u>	<u>50</u>
6. Netherlands	<u>10.0</u>	<u>50</u>
7. Russia	8.8	44
8. Germany	8.2	41
9. Finland	<u>8.2</u>	<u>41</u>
10. Israel	7.2	36
11. Denmark	<u>7.0</u>	<u>35</u>
12. China	6.6	33
13. Hong Kong	6.6	33
<u>14. Norway</u>	<u>6.4</u>	<u>32</u>
15. Ireland	6.4	32
16. Iceland	6.4	32
17. Spain	5.8	29
18. Switzerland	<u>5.8</u>	<u>29</u>
19. Slovenia	5.8	29
20. USA	5.6	28

U21 RANKING OF NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEMS – 2014 – UNIVERSITAS 21 – UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

The 2014 Universitas 21 ranking of national systems takes into account stages of economic development and attributes of Resources, Environment, Connectivity and Output – total expenditure, government expenditure, R&D expenditure, gender balance of students and academic staff, data quality variable, measures of interaction with business and industry, numbers of international students, research articles written with international collaborators and web-based connectivity, research output and its impact, presence of world-class universities, participation rates and qualifications of the workforce. The main ranking compares a country's performance against the best in the world on each measure.

9 of the 11 most ethical countries in the world rank among the first 11 best higher education systems – Sweden (ranked 24 in Pearson's Global Report on Education, but in higher education it ranks no. 2, with a score of 86.7), 3. Canada, 3. Denmark, 5. Finland with a score of 80.4, 6. Switzerland, 7. Netherlands, 9. Australia, 10. Singapore, 11. Norway with a score of 75.0. Luxembourg is not ranked here and New Zealand, with a score of 70.4, is ranked no.16. United States of America has the best higher education system in the world and United Kingdom is ranked no. 8 with a score of 79.2. All the other countries ranking in the 20 most ethical countries rank as well in the 20 best education systems (Luxembourg, Iceland and Barbados are not ranked in this survey): besides the first 10, US and UK, we find all the other countries: Belgium, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan. The other three countries in the top 20 are also ethical: Austria, France and to a lesser extent – Israel, with a score of 68.5, ranked here in no. 19, before Japan. In this index we find that Ethics Pays at universities as well.

Following the 20 most ethical countries we find in a similar ethical and higher education ranking less ethical countries with a higher education system not as good as the first 20 but nevertheless quite good, although their score is 61.6 and less. 21. South Korea, 22. Taiwan, 23. Spain, 24. Portugal, 25. Slovenia, 26. Czech Republic. We found that besides the fact that all the most ethical countries are here in the best ranking, there are 5 Far East countries in high ranking of higher education, but lower than in the Education Index: Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Taiwan ranked 22, but China is ranked here only in no. 35 out of 50.

We find also 11 former communist countries ranking quite high, compared to their ethical ranking, but not as high as in the Education Index: Slovenia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Serbia, Russia (TI-136) ranks at the much lower 35 rank, Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine (TI-142), Croatia. As only 50 countries are surveyed in this Index, we cannot draw conclusions on the relative ranking in higher education compared to the ethical ranking, however we just mention the two rankings, which show a higher ranking in higher education than in ethics, but these differences in rankings are not significantly conclusive.

Italy is ranked 27 although its TI ranking is 69, Malaysia 28/50, Saudi Arabia 30/55, Greece 32/69, Chile is ranked lower in higher education compared to its ethical ranking 33/21, Brazil 38/69, Argentina 41/107, Thailand 42/85, South Africa 45/67, Mexico 46/103, Turkey 47/64, Indonesia 48/107, Iran 49/136, India 50/85. The law that the most corrupt countries rank low in all the other parameters apply here as well as the most corrupt countries have the lowest rankings in higher education systems. The law that the most ethical countries have the highest rankings in higher education, and the moderately corrupt are ranked in between, applies also.

Rank Country	Score
1. United States of America	100.0
2. Sweden	<i>86.7</i>
3. Canada	82.9
3. Denmark	82.9
5. Finland	82.2
6. Switzerland	81.5
7. Netherlands	<i>80.4</i>
8. United Kingdom	79.2
9. Australia	<i>78.0</i>
10. Singapore	<i>76.3</i>
11. Norway	<i>75.0</i>
12. Austria	73.7
13. Belgium	73.1
14. Germany	71.1
15. Hong Kong	70.6
16. New Zealand	<i>70.4</i>
17. Ireland	69.7
18. France	68.7
19. Israel	68.5
20. Japan	64.9
21. Korea	61.6
22. Taiwan	61.3
23. Spain	61.1
24. Portugal	60.3
25. Slovenia	59.6
26. Czech Republic	58.2
27. Italy	53.7
28. Malaysia	53.4

29. Hungary	52.5
30. Saudi Arabia	52.4
31. Poland	50.8
32. Greece	50.3
33. Chile	49.1
34. Serbia	48.7
35. China	48.6
35. Russia	48.6
37. Slovakia	47.9
38. Brazil	46.1
39. Romania	45.4
40. Bulgaria	45.0
41. Argentina	44.9
42. Thailand	43.9
42. Ukraine	43.9
44. Croatia	43.7
45. South Africa	43.4
46. Mexico	42.6
47. Turkey	39.1
48. Indonesia	38.5
49. Iran	37.8
50. India	36.8

37. **DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH** – COMPARES THE WEALTH OF VARIOUS MEMBERS OR GROUPS IN A SOCIETY. IT LOOKS AT THE DISTRIBUTION OF OWNERSHIP OF THE ASSETS IN A SOCIETY, WEALTH=ASSETS-LIABILITIES, A PERSON'S NET WORTH: WEALTH PER CAPITA, WEALTH PER ADULT, WEALTH GINI – FOR 2000, BASED ON PURCHASING POWER PARITY PPP\$, BASED ON A 2008 PAPER OF THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH. HIGHER GINI COEFFICIENTS SIGNIFY GREATER INEQUALITY IN WEALTH DISTRIBUTION, WITH 1 BEING COMPLETE INEQUALITY AND 0 BEING COMPLETE EQUALITY. THE TOP 10% OWNED 71% OF WORLD WEALTH

Analyzing Income per capita has to be complemented by analyzing Wealth per capita as well, and also Wealth per adult and Wealth Gini, to learn wether the country is more equal with a score close to 0 or unequal with a score closer to 1. 17 out of the 20 most ethical countries are located in the 21 richest countries in the world with the highest wealth per capita and per adult (the other 3 are located close enough, with ranks 27, 30, 32): 1. Hong Kong – Wealth per capita - \$188,699, Wealth per adult - \$246,307, Wealth Gini 0.740. This is the result of the neoliberal policies of Hong Kong, advocated by Milton Friedman who perceived Hong Kong as "THE" model of a neoliberal economy. Hong Kong is the richest state in Wealth per capita, but in the other parameters it receives lower results, yet in most cases among the top performing countries (TI – 17). 2. Luxembourg – Wealth Gini - 0.650, as wealth is distributed much more equally than in Hong Kong. We have to bear in mind that the World averages is: Wealth per capita - 26,416, Wealth per adult - 43,494, Wealth Gini 0.804. The richest countries have a wealth 6-7 times higher than the world average, and the equality of wealth distribution is in most cases substantially higher than the world average. 3. United States – 0.801, like the world average. 4. Switzerland – 0.803 – like the world average, 5. United Kingdom-0.697, 6. Japan -0.547, one of the most equal wealth distribution in the world. 7. Netherlands – 121,165/159,910/0.650. The most ethical countries differ in their Wealth Gini.

We see that within the most ethical states there are large differences in the wealth parameter – first of all in the order of magnitude – Hong Kong is 1.5 times richer than Netherlands, twice as high as in France, and thrice richer than Denmark. The reason for those differences could be the taxation which is much lower in Hong Kong than in France or Denmark (2.5 times more in Denmark compared to Hong Kong). Most of the ethical countries are very egalitarian and have a Wealth Gini much lower than the world average, and some have a similar Gini. Income Inequality of Hong Kong is one of the highest in the world, while Scandinavian countries have one of the lowest. But the data on Wealth Gini is rather confusing with Hong Kong having a Wealth Gini, or inequality of wealth, of 0.740, much lower than the Wealth Gini of Denmark – 0.808, which is even higher than the world average. Furthermore, the world average Wealth Gini is 0.804 and in this list none of the countries has a higher Gini, except Denmark and Namibia..., and all the other countries have a much lower Wealth Gini.

8. Italy (TI - 69) - 0.609, Italy in spite of being corrupt has a very high wealth per capita and high wealth Gini equality as well. 9. Singapore -0.689, 10. Barbados -0.706, 11. Taiwan (TI -35) -0.655, 12. France (TI - 26) - 94,557/126,360/0.730, 13. Spain -0.570, 14. Ireland -0.581, 15. Australia -0.622, 16. Germany -0.667, 17. Canada -0.688, 18. Belgium -0.662, 19. Iceland -0.664, 20. Norway -0.633, 21. Sweden -78,148/102,996/0.742, 22. Puerto Rico, 23. Malta, 24. Austria (TI - 23), 25. Macau, 26. Greece (TI - 69) - 69,855/89,477/0.654. 27. Denmark (TI - 1) - 66,191/86,807/0.808 – Hong Kong is much richer than Denmark, but in most of the other parameters Denmark achieves much better results than Hong Kong. 28.

Israel (TI– 37): 64,633/102,511/0.677, a quite similar ethical & wealth ranking, 29. Mauritius, 30. New Zealand – 55,823/79,585/0.651, 31. Portugal, 32. Finland – 53,154/70,461/0.615.

The following countries have a moderate wealth ranking, although they are less ethical than the top 20: 34. South Korea (TI – 43) – 0.579, 35 – Slovenia (TI – 39) – 0.626, 36. Argentina (TI – 107) – 0.740, the country is maybe bankrupt but the wealth per capita is quite high – 36,740. 37. Czech Republic, 38. Hungary, 39. Chile, 41. Poland, 42. Estonia, 43. Slovakia, 44. Mexico (TI – 103), 45. Turkey, 47. Saudi Arabia, 48. Croatia, 49. Lithuania, 51. Uruguay, 52. Lebanon, 53. Tunisia, 54. Brazil (TI – 69) – 19,676/32,825/0.784, 55. Latvia, 59. Russia (TI – 136) – 16,579/22,604/0.699, 60. South Africa (TI – 67) – 0.763, 61 Botswana (TI – 31) – 15,719/32,401/0.751, 62. Egypt, Bulgaria, Panama, Gabon, Romania, Macedonia, Costa Rica, Venezuela, 71. Belarus, 72. Thailand. Most of the countries in this bracket of 40 states (33-72) are moderately ethical or corrupt, 14 are former communist states which managed to gather within a few years a quite high wealth per capita, with a few exceptions of very corrupt countries as Argentina, Mexico, Russia, Belarus, that have nevertheless quite high wealth.

Other countries worth to mention, most of them very corrupt are: 81. Malaysia, 82. Philippines, 85. Peru, 86. China (TI – 100) – 11,267/16,749/0.550, 94. Ukraine (TI – 142) – 9,547/12,821/0.667, 96. Syria (TI – 159), 98. Indonesia, 102. Algeria, 106. India (TI – 85) – 6,513/11,655/0.669. The last countries with the smallest amounts of wealth per capita are in the "club" of the most corrupt countries, and a few are moderately corrupt but nevertheless very poor: 107. Bangladesh, 108. Haiti, 109. Zimbabwe, 110. Pakistan, 112. Vietnam, 114. Cameroon, 115. Ivory Coast, 120. Senegal (TI – 69) – 4,309/9,802/0.697, 125. Kenya, 128. Rwanda (TI – 55), 130. Uganda – 2,889/7,495/0.723, 131. Lesotho (TI – 55), Mozambique, Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Madagascar, Togo, Burkina-Faso, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Central African Republic, Burundi, Mali, Niger, Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Yemen, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, and last one - 150. Nigeria – 905/2,070/0.736.

	Wealth per Capita	Wealth per adult	Wealth Gini
≠ Hong Kong 1.	188699	246307	0.740
Luxembourg 2.	<u>185231</u>	<u>245479</u>	<u>0.650</u>
United States 3.	143727	201319	0.801
Switzerland 4.	<u>137549</u>	<u>179345</u>	<u>0.803</u>
United Kingdom 5.	128959	172461	0.697
• <u>Japan</u> 6.	124858	157146	0.547
Netherlands 7.	<u>121165</u>	<u>159910</u>	<u>0.650</u>
■ Italy 8.	120897	150327	0.609
Singapore 9.	<u>113632</u>	<u>157942</u>	<u>0.689</u>

	Wealth per Capita	Wealth per adult	Wealth Gini
Barbados 10.	102932	144376	0.706
Taiwan 11.	100009	143405	0.655
France 12.	94557	126360	0.730
Spain 13.	93086	117837	0.570
■ Ireland 14.	91432	131367	0.581
Australia 15.	<u>90906</u>	<u>126635</u>	<u>0.622</u>
Germany 16.	90768	115325	0.667
■◆■ <u>Canada</u> <u>17.</u>	<u>89252</u>	<u>120326</u>	<u>0.688</u>
Belgium 18.	86205	112492	0.662
Lceland 19.	81945	118439	0.664
<u>Norway 20.</u>	<u>79292</u>	<u>106970</u>	<u>0.633</u>
Sweden 21.	<u>78148</u>	<u>102996</u>	<u>0.742</u>
Puerto Rico 22.	77876	114475	0.753
Malta 23.	74246	102515	0.664
Austria 24.	73047	94305	0.646
<u>Macau</u> 25.	71660	102755	0.580
Greece 26.	69855	89477	0.654
Denmark 27.	<u>66191</u>	<u>86807</u>	<u>0.808</u>
<u>Israel</u> 28.	64633	102511	0.677
Mauritius 29.	60398	91954	0.661
New Zealand 30.	<u>55823</u>	<u>79585</u>	<u>0.651</u>
Portugal 31.	53811	69840	0.667
+ Finland 32.	<u>53154</u>	<u>70461</u>	<u>0.615</u>
Trinidad /Tobago 33.	51101	80369	0.689

	Wealth per Capita	Wealth per adult	Wealth Gini
South Korea 34.	45278	63716	0.579
Slovenia 35.	37019	47867	0.626
Argentina 36.	36740	58161	0.740
Czech Republic 37.	32431	42205	0.626
Hungary 38.	31452	41055	0.651
<u>Chile</u> 39.	27536	43265	0.777
Seychelles 40.	26486	47673	0.760
<u>World</u>	26416	43494	0.804
Poland 41.	24654	34204	0.657
Estonia 42.	24556	33023	0.675
Slovakia 43.	24049	33297	0.629
Mexico 44.	23488	41881	0.749
Turkey 45.	22379	37806	0.718
46. Saint Kitts/Nevis	22339	37767	0.763
Saudi Arabia 47.	22025	43046	0.737
Croatia 48.	22021	28925	0.654
Lithuania 49.	21566	29626	0.666
50. Antigua/Barbuda	20944	30915	0.747
<u>Uruguay</u> 51.	20926	30957	0.708
Lebanon 52.	20560	34522	0.762
Tunisia 53.	20534	34833	0.693
Brazil 54.	19676	32825	0.784
Latvia 55.	18958	25422	0.670
El Salvador 56.	18408	34115	0.746

	Wealth per Capita	Wealth per adult	Wealth Gini
Saint Lucia 57.	18013	31128	0.763
<u>Iran</u> 58.	16673	32494	0.707
Russia 59.	16579	22604	0.699
South Africa 60.	16266	29118	0.763
Botswana 61.	15719	32401	0.751
<u>Egypt</u> 62.	15541	29415	0.689
Grenada 63.	15250	25782	0.763
Bulgaria 64.	15120	19527	0.652
Panama 65.	15003	25571	0.766
Gabon 66.	14833	31279	0.784
Romania 67.	14806	19930	0.651
Macedonia 68.	14759	21214	0.661
Costa Rica 69.	14718	25319	0.732
Venezuela 70.	14711	26206	0.712
Belarus 71.	14659	20043	0.628
Thailand 72.	13920	21295	0.710
73. <u>Dominican Repu</u> .	13873	25696	0.723
Colombia 74.	13826	24067	0.765
Kazakhstan 75.	13723	21699	0.655
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 76.	13287	23932	0.741
Guatemala 77.	12858	28796	0.779
Swaziland 78.	12773	29417	0.780
Dominica 79.	12717	21500	0.763

	Wealth per Capita	Wealth per adult	Wealth Gini
Belize 80.	12550	25444	0.763
Malaysia 81.	12458	22135	0.733
Philippines 82.	12453	24066	0.717
Morocco 83.	12440	22491	0.690
₩ Georgia 84.	12358	17537	0.725
Peru 85.	11577	20939	0.738
<u>China</u> 86.	11267	16749	0.550
Paraguay 87.	10879	22016	0.766
Cape Verde 88.	10801	24144	0.688
Jordan 89.	10792	21687	0.678
Albania 90.	10574	17497	0.642
Sri Lanka 91.	10337	16168	0.665
Fiji 92.	9928	17764	0.709
✓ Jamaica 93.	9601	16787	0.686
Ukraine 94.	9547	12821	0.667
Armenia 95.	9480	14711	0.684
<u>Syria</u> 96.	8917	18929	0.704
Namibia 97.	8843	19159	0.847
Indonesia 98.	7973	13401	0.764
Moldova 99.	7790	11508	0.691
Guinea 100.	7756	16877	0.693
Equator. Guinea 101.	7404	16110	0.688
Algeria 102.	7320	13635	0.670
Ecuador 103.	6758	12285	0.760

	Wealth per Capita	Wealth per adult	Wealth Gini
Azerbaijan 104.	6737	11391	0.678
Bolivia 105.	6654	13269	0.762
<u>India</u> 106.	6513	11655	0.669
Bangladesh 107.	6305	12226	0.660
<u>Haiti</u> 108.	6244	13238	0.755
Zimbabwe 109.	6104	13654	0.845
Pakistan 110.	5987	12566	0.698
➤ Guyana 111.	5697	9790	0.707
★ <u>Vietnam</u> 112.	5621	10045	0.682
Honduras 113.	5318	11293	0.743
Cameroon 114.	5290	11525	0.711
Ivory Coast 115.	5212	11584	0.712
<u>Comoros</u> 116.	5182	11490	0.711
Kyrgyzstan 117.	5174	9469	0.680
Nicaragua 118.	5161	11228	0.755
Cambodia 119.	4890	10658	0.714
Senegal 120.	4309	9802	0.697
Mauritania 121.	3966	8566	0.686
<u>★ Ghana</u> 122.	3903	8234	0.692
Gambia 123.	3894	7964	0.723
Papua New Guinea 124.	3629	7559	0.738
<u>Kenya</u> 125.	3442	7878	0.699
Benin 126.	3378	7812	0.713

	Wealth per Capita	Wealth per adult	Wealth Gini
São Tomé and Príncipe 127.	3235	7251	0.711
<u>Rwanda</u> 128.	2955	7296	0.714
Tajikistan 129.	2940	6318	0.664
Uganda 130.	2889	7495	0.723
Lesotho 131.	2876	6236	0.767
Mozambique 132.	2820	6245	0.689
Republic of the Congo 133.	2806	6573	0.711
Malawi 134.	2559	5927	0.736
Madagascar 135.	2226	4965	0.722
<u>Togo</u> 136.	2217	4999	0.711
Burkina Faso 137.	2123	5222	0.728
Sierra Leone 138.	2043	4311	0.687
Zambia 139.	2010	4762	0.766
Central African Republic 140.	1949	4235	0.782
™ Burundi 141.	1876	4668	0.699
Mali 142.	1798	4464	0.750
<u>Niger</u> 143.	1755	4344	0.729
<u>Chad</u> 144.	1726	4051	0.681
Guinea-Bissau 145.	1673	3884	0.710
<u>Yemen</u> 146.	1426	3548	0.613
Ethiopia 147.	1412	3224	0.652
Democratic Republic of the Congo 148.	1400	3328	0.711

	Wealth per Capita	Wealth per adult	Wealth Gini
Tanzania 149.	1216	2716	0.676
■ Nigeria 150.	905	2070	0.736
	Wealth per capita	Wealth per adult	Wealth Gini

38. **ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE INDEX** – EPI- YALE UNIVERSITY – 2014 – INDICATORS: HEALTH IMPACTS, AIR QUALITY, WATER AND SANITATION, WATER RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, FOREST, FISHERIES, BIODIVERSITY AND HABITAT, CLIMATE AND ENERGY– BY RANK AND EPI SCORES (100 IS HIGHEST)

The most ethical countries have also the best environmental performance in the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) – with the following indicators: health impacts, air quality, water and sanistation, water resources, agriculture, forest, fisheries, biodiversity and habitat, climate and energy. The four countries with the best EPI are also the most ethical countries: 1. Switzerland – 87.67, 2. Luxembourg – 83.29, 3. Australia – 82.4, 4. Singapore – 81.78. The other 11 most ethical countries rank also very high in the EPI: 9. Sweden, 10. Norway, 11. Netherlands – 76.92, 13. Denmark, 16. New Zealand, 18. Finland, 24. Canada – 73.14. Other countries in the top 20 ethical countries rank also very high in the EPI – 6. Germany, 12. United Kingdom, 14. Iceland, 19. Ireland, 26. Japan, but much lower we find in rank no. 33. USA, 36. Belgium (Barbados and Hong Kong are not ranked). The United States and Belgium have achieved a poorer environmental performance than the top 20, and achieved lower results compared to their top performances in all the other parameters examined in this book, but even those results are still very high in comparison to others. Not only Ethics Pays, but it also pays in a similar pattern to the environmental performance.

Other countries ranking somewhat lower in TI's index (21-54 down to an ethical score of 50) have achieved an excellent to moderate environmental performance: 5. Czech Republic (EPI score - 81.47), 7. Spain, 8. Austria, 15. Slovenia, 17. Portugal, 20. Estonia (74.66), 21. Slovakia, 25. United Arab Emirates, 27. France (71.05), 28. Hungary, 29. Chile (EPI score - 69.93), 30. Poland, 34. Malta, 38. Cyprus, 39. Israel (65.78), 40. Latvia, 43. South Korea, 44. Qatar, 46. Taiwan, 49. Lithuania, 51. Malaysia, 54. Costa Rica, 56. Mauritius (58.09). We also find much lower in the EPI - ethical states performing poorly in their environment – 70. Uruguay (TI – 21), 100. Botswana (TI – 31), 103. Bhutan (TI – 30), 105. Bahamas (TI – 24).

However, we find in high environmental ranks quite corrupt and corrupt countries as 22. Italy and 23. Greece, both ranking 69 in TI's index, 31. Serbia (TI – 78), 32. Belarus (TI – 119), 35. Saudi Arabia (TI – 55), 41. Bulgaria (TI – 69), 42. Kuwait (TI – 67), 45. Croatia (TI – 61). And from an environmental rank of 48 downwards we find in most of the cases very corrupt countries: Armenia and Egypt (TI – 94), Ecuador (TI – 110), Venezuela, Azerbaijan, Cuba, 65. Mexico, Syria, Sri Lanka, 72. South Africa, 73. Russia, Moldova, 77. Brazil, Thailand, Iran, Kazakhstan, Colombia, Bolivia, Algeria, Argentina, Zimbabwe, Ukraine, Peru, Indonesia, Philippines, Namibia, 118. China, Central African Republic and Libya. In the last 50 countries of the EPI we find most of the most corrupt countries performing poorly in this parameter as in all the other parameters as well: Papua New Guinea (score of 41.09), Laos, Rep. Congo, Paraguay, Nigeria – 39.2, Nepal, Kenya, Cameroon, Niger, Guinea-Bissau, Cambodia, Pakistan, Iraq, India, Chad, Yemen – 30.16, Mozambique, Angola, Djibouti, Guinea - 26.03, Togo, Myanmar, Madagascar, Burundi, Eritrea, Bangladesh – 25.61, Dem. Rep. Congo, Sudan, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan – 21.57, Haiti, Mali, Somalia - 15.47.

Rank	Country	EPI Score
<u>1</u>	<u>Switzerland</u>	<u>87.67</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>Luxembourg</u>	<u>83.29</u>
3	Australia	82.4

1	Singapara	01 70
<u>4</u> 5	Singapore	<u>81.78</u>
	Czech Republic	81.47
6	Germany	80.47
7	Spain	79.79
8	Austria	78.32
<u>9</u>	<u>Sweden</u>	<u>78.09</u>
	Norway	<u>78.04</u>
<u>11</u>		<u>77.75</u>
12	United Kingdom	77.35
<u>13</u>		<u>76.92</u>
14		76.5
15		76.43
<u>16</u>		<u>76.41</u>
	Portugal	75.8
	<u>Finland</u>	<u>75.72</u>
19		74.67
20		74.66
21		74.45
	Italy	74.36
23		73.28
	<u>Canada</u>	<u>73.14</u>
25		72.91
26	Japan	72.35
27	France	71.05
28	Hungary	70.28
29		69.93
	Poland	69.53
31		69.13
32	Belarus	67.69
22	United States of	07.50
33	America	67.52
34	Malta	67.42
35		66.66
	Belgium Brunei Deruseelem	66.61
37	Brunei Darussalam	66.49
38	Cyprus	66.23
39	Israel	65.78
40	Latvia	64.05
41	Bulgaria	64.01
42	Kuwait	63.94
43		63.79
44		63.03
45	Croatia	62.23
46	Taiwan	62.18
47	S	61.68
48	Armenia	61.67

49	Lithuania	61.26
50	Egypt	61.11
51	•	59.31
52	•	58.99
53	Ecuador	58.54
54	Costa Rica	58.53
55	Jamaica	58.26
56	Mauritius	58.09
57		57.8
58		56.84
59		55.82
60		55.78
61		55.56
62	•	55.52
63	O .	55.47
64	•	55.07
65		55.03
66		54.91
67	•	54.73
68		54.5
69	•	53.88
70		53.61
71		53.57
72		53.51
73		53.45
74		53.36
75		53.24
76	Fiji	53.08
77	Brazil	52.97
78	Thailand	52.83
79	Trinidad and Tobago	52.28
80	Palau	51.96
81		51.89
82	Bahrain	51.83
83		51.08
84	Kazakhstan	51.07
85		50.77
86	Romania	50.77
87	Bolivia	50.48
88	Belize	50.46
89	Macedonia	50.41
90		50.32
	Nicaragua	
91	Lebanon	50.15
92	Algeria Argentina	50.08
93	Argentina	49.55
94	Zimbabwe	49.54

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95	Ukraine	49.01
96	Antigua and Barbuda	48.89
97	Honduras	48.87
98	Guatemala	48.06
99	Oman	47.75
100		47.6
101	•	47.23
102		47.08
103		46.86
104		46.6
105	Bahamas	46.58
106	Vanuatu	45.88
	Bosnia and	
107	Herzegovina	45.79
108	Barbados	45.5
109	Turkmenistan	45.07
110	Peru	45.05
111	Mongolia	44.67
112	3	44.36
113		44.07
	•	
114	Philippines	44.02
115	El Salvador	43.79
116	Namibia	43.71
117		43.23
118	China	43
	Central African	
119	Republic	42.94
120	Libya	42.72
121	Zambia	41.72
122	Papua New Guinea	41.09
123	Equatorial Guinea	41.06
124	Senegal	40.83
125	Kyrgyzstan	40.63
126	Burkina Faso	40.52
127	Laos	40.37
128	Malawi	40.06
129	Cote d'Ivoire	39.72
130	Congo	39.44
131	Ethiopia	39.43
132	Timor-Leste	39.41
133	Paraguay	39.25
134	Nigeria	39.2
135	Uganda	39.18
136	Viet Nam	38.17
137	Guyana	38.07
138	Swaziland	37.35
		

139	Nepal	37
140	Kenya	36.99
141	•	36.68
142		36.28
143	S	36.19
144		35.98
145		35.44
146		35.41
147	Grenada	35.24
148	Pakistan	34.58
149	Iraq	33.39
150	Benin	32.42
151	Ghana	32.07
152	Solomon Islands	31.63
153	Comoros	31.39
154	Tajikistan	31.34
155	India	31.23
156	Chad	31.02
157	Yemen	30.16
158	Mozambique	29.97
159	Gambia	29.3
160	Angola	28.69
161	Djibouti	28.52
162	Guinea	28.03
163	Togo	27.91
164	Myanmar	27.44
165	Mauritania	27.19
166	Madagascar	26.7
167	Burundi	25.78
168	Eritrea	25.76
169	Bangladesh	25.61
170	Dem. Rep. Congo	25.01
171	Sudan	24.64
172	Liberia	23.95
173	Sierra Leone	21.74
174	Afghanistan	21.57
175	Lesotho	20.81
176	Haiti	19.01
177		18.43
178	Somalia	15.47

39. **INDEX OF GLOBALIZATION** – 2013 – SOURCE – KOF (ETH) SWISS ECONOMIC INSTITUTE - MEASURES ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DIMENSIONS OF GLOBALIZATION REFERRING TO ACTUAL ECONOMIC FLOWS, ECONOMIC RESTRICTIONS, DATA ON INFORMATION FLOWS, DATA ON PERSONAL CONTACT AND DATA ON CULTURAL PROXIMITY

The most ethical countries are not secluded in their ethics as Bhutan, but have a thriving economy in the epicenter of globalization. They achieve the highest rankings in the Globalization Index. The 10 most ethical countries rank high in the 21 most globalized economies: 3. Netherlands (score – 91.33), 5. Singapore, 6. Denmark, 7. Sweden (87.63), 10. Switzerland, 13. Canada, 14. Luxembourg, 16. Finland, 20. Norway, 21. Australia (81.59). New Zealand ranks somewhat lower in no. 28 (78.22). Most of the other top 20 ethical countries rank also high in the Globalization Index: 1. Belgium, the capital of the European Union (92.30) 2. Ireland, 12. United Kingdom (85.39), 22. Germany (81.08), and a surprising relative low rank for the United States – 34 (74.76), 37. Iceland, and the very low rank, compared to their top achievements in the other parameters, for Japan – 56 (63.73). We have to bear in mind that this index measures also economic restrictions, which may explain the lower ranks of the US and especially Japan. Hong Kong is not in this index and Barbados ranks 93 (54.95). But as a rule, the most ethical countries achieve also here the best ranks.

The small most ethical countries are also the most globalized: rank no. 1. For Belgium, 2. Ireland, 3. Netherlands, 4. Austria (TI - 23), 5. Singapore, 6. Denmark, 7. Sweden, 8. Portugal (TI - 31). 9. Hungary (TI - 47), a former communist country ranks here very high, with 15. Czech Republic (TI - 53) and 19. Slovakia (TI - 54) - those are 3 former communist countries or 15% of the top 20 in the Globalization Index, quite an achievement for states that started to globalize only in the 90's. 10. Switzerland, 11. Cyprus (TI - 31), 14. Luxembourg, 20. Norway. As a matter of fact only 2 super economic powers are among the top 20 – 12. UK, 18. France (TI - 26), as well as 2 medium sized economies – 13. Canada, 17. Spain (TI - 37), all the others are small countries, ranking exclusively in the Globalization Index top 11.

We find in high ranks of the Globalization Index countries which have moderate ethical ranking or moderate corrupt ranking. In the top Globalization Index 20 there are only 12 countries which are in the top TI's index, or 60% - one of the lowest ratios of compatibility between the two indices – normally there are at least 15 top TI 20 in the top 20 of every parameter, and sometimes there is an almost perfect match between the two parameters. But what is special in the globalization index is that the 8 countries which are not in the top TI's 20 have a much lower TI's ranking than usual – Czech Republic – 53, Slovakia – 54, Hungary – 47, Spain – 37, Cyprus and Portugal – 31, and only two of the "usual" contenders – Austria – 23 and France – 26. However, at least none of the Globalization top 20 is a quite corrupt country with an ethical score of less than 50, but there are a few in a borderline position.

Another finding – the remainder TI's top 20 are not located right after the 20 most globalized countries, but rather scattered – 2 right after: Australia 21 and Germany 22, but New Zealand is 28, the US are 34, Iceland is 38, Japan is 56 and Barbados is 93. Furthermore, much higher in the Globalization Index we find corrupt countries as 23. Italy and 24. Greece which are ranked 69 in TI's index, and down to a ranking of 40, we find more borderline cases of ethical countries ranking down to 54 with a score of 50 or above – Malaysia, Lithuania, Croatia (TI – 61), Poland, Slovenia, Malta, Israel, more ethical countries – Estonia, Chile, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, and two quite corrupt countries – Romania and Bulgaria, both ranked 69 in TI's index with Italy and Greece. So, in the 40 most globalized countries we find a mixture of

the most ethical countries in the top positions, with less ethical countries and even quite corrupt countries, but nevertheless we don't find corrupt countries ranking less than TI's 70.

The corrupt and very corrupt countries are ranked from 47 down, with scores of globalization of 67.78 for 48. Russia (TI – 136), Ukraine, Lebanon, Moldova, Thailand, Peru, Nigeria, 73. China (59.43), Argentina, Egypt, Paraguay, Philippines, Zambia, Indonesia, Namibia, Belarus, Armenia, Ecuador, Algeria, Colombia, 107. India. But we find in those rankings also moderate corrupt countries as Saudi Arabia, Serbia, South Africa, 76. Brazil (59.21), and quite ethical countries as 52. Uruguay, 60. South Korea, 62. Mauritius. In the least globalized countries with scores of 50 and less we find very few quite ethical states as 129. Botswana, 133. Cape Verde, 181. Bhutan, but mostly - the most corrupt countries: Guyana, Zimbabwe, Togo, Republic of the Congo, Sri Lanka, Djibouti, Venezuela, Libya, Kenya, Cambodia, Vietnam, Mali, Uganda, Papua New Guinea, Yemen, Cameroon, Angola, Syria, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Bangladesh, Chad, Iraq (40.10), Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Nepal, Niger, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Central African Republic, Haiti, Burundi, Palestine, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Liberia, Eritrea, Laos, 187. Timor-Leste (24.35).

Rank	Country	Globalization Index
1	Belgium	92.30
2	■ Ireland	91.79
<u>3</u>	<u>Netherlands</u>	<u>91.33</u>
4	<u>Austria</u>	89.48
<u>5</u>	<u>Singapore</u>	<u>88.89</u>
<u>6</u>	<u> Denmark</u>	<u>88.12</u>
<u>7</u>	<u>Sweden</u>	<u>87.63</u>
8	<u>Portugal</u>	87.07
9	<u>Hungary</u>	86.85
<u>10</u>	* Switzerland	<u>86.28</u>
11	€ Cyprus	86.08
12	United Kingdom	85.39
<u>13</u>	I◆I Canada	<u>85.38</u>
<u>14</u>	Luxembourg	<u>85.15</u>

Rank	Country	Globalization Index
15	Czech Republic	86.08
<u>16</u>	+ Finland	<u>84.85</u>
17	<u>Spain</u>	84.21
18	France France	83.86
19	Slovakia Slovakia	83.49
<u>20</u>	Norway Norway	<u>81.99</u>
<u>21</u>	Australia Australia	<u>81.59</u>
22	Germany	81.08
23	■ Italy	81.01
24	Greece	80.31
25	<u>Estonia</u>	79.72
26	Poland	79.10
27	Malaysia Malaysia	78.23
<u>28</u>	New Zealand	<u>78.22</u>
29	<u> Israel</u>	77.27
30	<u>Slovenia</u>	76.85
31	* Malta	76.09
32	United Arab Emirates	75.66
33	<u>Croatia</u>	75.36
34	United States	74.76
35	<u>Chile</u>	72.91
36	Lithuania Lithuania	72.79
37	Iceland Iceland	72.73
38	<u>Romania</u>	72.53

Rank	Country	Globalization Index
39	Qatar Qatar	72.03
40	Bulgaria	71.73
41	Kuwait	70.97
42	Jordan Jordan	70.10
43	<u>Curkey</u>	69.02
44	<u>Latvia</u>	69.00
45	Montenegro	68.86
46	Bahrain Bahrain	68.34
47	<u>Ukraine</u>	67.78
48	Russia	67.78
49	<u>Lebanon</u>	67.51
50	Saudi Arabia	67.49
51	Panama Panama	67.43
52	Uruguay	65.28
53	<u>Serbia</u>	64.90
54	South Africa	64.39
55	Peru Peru	64.30
56	• Japan	63.73
57	Thailand Thailand	63.64
58	Moldova Moldova	63.49
59	El Salvador	62.59
60	South Korea	62.31
61	Bosnia and Herzegovina	62.31

Rank	Country	Globalization Index
62	<u>Mauritius</u>	61.78
63	Costa Rica	61.64
64	# Georgia	61.56
65	Morocco	61.38
66	Oman Oman	61.38
67	■ Nigeria	61.20
68	Honduras Honduras	60.93
69	Dominican Republic	60.22
70	Macedonia	60.10
71	Guatemala	59.67
72	Tunisia Tunisia	59.58
73	<u>China</u>	59.43
74	■●■ <u>Mexico</u>	59.25
75	 <u>Jamaica</u>	59.21
76	Brazil	59.21
77	Brunei	58.54
78	<u>Albania</u>	58.32
79	<u>Argentina</u>	58.30
80	™ ∓ <u>Fiji</u>	58.28
81	<u>Egypt</u>	58.10
82	<u>Kazakhstan</u>	58.04
83	Trinidad and Tobago	57.97
84	Paraguay Paraguay	57.57
85	Mongolia Mongolia	57.29

Rank	Country	Globalization Index
86	<u>Azerbaijan</u>	56.71
87	<u>Kyrgyzstan</u>	56.12
88	<u>Philippines</u>	56.12
89	Zambia Zambia	55.62
90	Indonesia	55.20
91	Namibia Namibia	54.99
92	Belarus	54.98
93	Barbados	54.95
94	<u>Armenia</u>	54.72
95	Ghana Ghana	54.55
96	Grenada	54.51
97	Nicaragua Nicaragua	54.42
98	Ecuador Ecuador	54.01
99	Gabon	53.45
100	Senegal Senegal	53.08
101	<u>Bolivia</u>	53.08
102	<u>Colombia</u>	52.40
103	Algeria	52.37
104	Ivory Coast	52.05
105	Bahamas	51.84
106	<u>Pakistan</u>	51.68
107	<u>India</u>	51.57
108	Gambia Gambia	51.51

Rank	Country	Globalization Index
109	<u>Swaziland</u>	51.14
110	Suyana	50.88
111	Zimbabwe	50.70
112	<u>Togo</u>	50.67
113	Republic of the Congo	50.56
114	Sri Lanka	49.85
115	<u>Djibouti</u>	49.82
116	Venezuela Venezuela	49.44
117	Libya	48.94
118	<u>Cuba</u>	48.88
119	Kenya Kenya	48.79
120	<u>Belize</u>	48.23
121	Antigua and Barbuda	48.16
122	<u>Seychelles</u>	47.99
123	<u>Vanuatu</u>	47.98
124	<u>Suriname</u>	47.68
125	Cambodia	47.68
126	★ <u>Vietnam</u>	47.02
127	<u>Lesotho</u>	47.00
128	Mali Mali	46.87
129	Botswana	46.24
130	<u>Uganda</u>	46.18
131	Saint Lucia	46.06

Rank	Country	Globalization Index
132	<u>Mozambique</u>	46.05
133	Cape Verde	45.76
134	Papua New Guinea	45.71
135	<u>Samoa</u>	45.54
136	Cameroon	45.22
137	Yemen Yemen	45.18
138	Palau Palau	45.07
139	Angola	44.73
140	<u>Mauritania</u>	44.43
141	Burkina Faso	44.35
142	New Caledonia	44.05
143	Benin Benin	43.97
144	<u>Aruba</u>	43.68
145	Syria Syria	43.67
146	<u>Malawi</u>	42.60
147	Guinea-Bissau	42.58
148	Madagascar	42.53
149	<u>Guinea</u>	42.31
150	French Polynesia	42.26
151	Rwanda	42.24
152	<u>Maldives</u>	42.20
153	Saint Kitts and Nevis	41.65
154	Tajikistan	40.79

Rank	Country	Globalization Index
155	<u>Macau</u>	40.75
156	Bangladesh	40.65
157	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	40.56
158	<u> Iran</u>	40.24
159	<u>Chad</u>	40.15
160	Iraq	40.10
161	■ Dominica	39.94
162	<u>Tanzania</u>	39.12
163	Sierra Leone	38.97
164	Nepal	38.05
165	<u>Niger</u>	37.81
166	Ethiopia	37.46
167	Democratic Republic of the Congo	36.87
168	Central African Republic	36.33
169	Sudan	36.19
170	<u>Turkmenistan</u>	36.06
171	Bermuda Bermuda	35.75
172	<u>Haiti</u>	35.20
173	São Tomé and Príncipe	35.00
174	<u>Uzbekistan</u>	34.41
175	X Burundi	33.50
176	Palestine Palestine	32.79
177	Myanmar	31.98

Rank	Country	Globalization Index
178	<u>Afghanistan</u>	31.46
179	<u>Comoros</u>	31.05
180	Liberia Liberia	30.81
181	<mark> </mark>	27.91
182	Eritrea	27.34
183	Solomon Islands	26.72
184	<u>Laos</u>	26.52
185	Equatorial Guinea	26.26
186	<u>Kiribati</u>	25.46
187	East Timor	24.35

40. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & GROUPS - CIA, WORLD FACTBOOK

advanced developing countries

another term for those less developed countries (LDCs) with particularly rapid industrial development; see newly industrializing economies (NIEs)

a term used by the International Monetary FUND (IMF) for the top group in its hierarchy of advanced economies, countries in transition, and developing countries; it includes the following 33 advanced economies: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, NZ, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, UK, US; note - this group would presumably also cover the following nine smaller countries of Andorra, Bermuda, Faroe Islands, Guernsey, Holy See, Jersey, Liechtenstein, Monaco, and San Marino that are included in the more comprehensive group of "developed countries"

African Development Bank Group (AfDB)

note - regional multilateral development finance institution temporarily located in Tunis, Tunisia; the Bank Group consists of the African Development Bank, the African Development Fund, and the Nigerian Trust Fund

established - 10 September 1964

aim - to promote economic development and social progress

regional members - (53) Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambio, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rigeria, Randa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia,

nonregional members - (25) Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Kuwait, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UAE (ADF members only), UK, US

African Union (AU)

note - replaces Organization of African Unity (OAU)

aim - to achieve greater unity among African States; to defend states' integrity and independence; to accelerate political, social, and economic integration; to encourage international cooperation; to promote democratic principles and institutions

members - (54) Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea (suspended), Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (Western Sahara), Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID)

aim - to contribute to the restoration of security conditions which will allow safe humanitarian assistance throughout Darfur, to contribute to the protection of civilian populations under imminent threat of physical attack, to monitor, observe compliance with, and verify the implementation of various ceasefire agreements

members - (47) Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kenya, South Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palau, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States (ACP Group)

established - 6 June 1975

aim - to manage their preferential economic and aid relationship with the EU

members - (79) Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, members - (79) Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, The Banamas, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cook Islands, Cote d'Noire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Federated States of Micronesia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, Vanuatu, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL)

note - acronym from Organismo para la Proscripcion de las Armas Nucleares en la America Latina y el Caribe (OPANAL)

established - 14 February 1967 under the Treaty of Tlatelolco; effective - 25 April 1969 on the 11th ratification

aim - to encourage the peaceful uses of atomic energy and prohibit nuclear weapons

(33) Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyanan, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela

Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)

established - November 1990

aim - to call attention to threats of sea-level rise and coral bleaching to small islands and lowlying coastal developing states from global warming; to emphasize the importance of information and information technology in the process of achieving sustainable development

members - (39) Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cabo Verde, Comoros, Cook Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Kiribati, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Suriname, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

observers - (5) American Samoa, Guam, Netherlands Antilles, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands

Andean Community (CAN)

note - formerly known as the Andean Group (AG) and the Andean Common Market (Ancom)

established - 26 May 1969; present name established 1 October 1992; effective - 16 October 1969

aim - to promote harmonious development through economic integration

members - (4) Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru

associate members - (5) Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay

observers - (1) Spain

Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (ABEDA)

note - also known as Banque Arabe de Developpement Economique en Afrique (BADEA)

established - 18 February 1974; effective - 16 September 1974

aim - to promote economic development

members - (17 plus the Palestine Liberation Organization) Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, UAE, Palestine Liberation Organization; note - these are all the members of the Arab League excluding Comoros, Djibouti, Somalia, Yemen

Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD)

established - 16 May 1968

aim - to promote economic and social development

members - (20 plus the Palestine Liberation Organization) Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia (suspended 1993), Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen, Palestine Liberation Organization

Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)

established - 17 February 1989

aim - to promote cooperation and integration among the Arab states of northern Africa

members - (5) Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia

Arab Monetary Fund (AMF)

established - 27 April 1976; effective - 2 February 1977

aim - to promote Arab cooperation, development, and integration in monetary and economic affairs

members - (21 plus the Palestine Liberation Organization) Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen, Palestine Liberation Organization

Arctic Council

established - 18 September 1996

aim - to address the common concerns and challenges faced by Arctic governments and the people of the Arctic; to protect the Arctic environment

members - (8) Canada, Denmark (Greenland, Faroe Islands), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, US

permanent participants - (6) Aleut International Association, Arctic Athabaskan Council, Gwich'in Council International, Inuit Circumpolar Conference, Russian Association of Indigenous People of the North, Saami Council

observers - (12) China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Netherlands, Poland, Singapore, Spain, UK

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

established - 25 July 1994

aim - to foster constructive dialogue and consultation on political and security issues of common interest and concern

members - (27) Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Canada, China, EU, India, Indonesia, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, NZ, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, US, Vietnam

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

established - 7 November 1989

aim - to promote trade and investment in the Pacific basin

members - (21) Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, NZ, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, US, Vietnam

observers - (3) Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Pacific Economic Cooperation Council, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

established - 19 December 1966

aim - to promote regional economic cooperation

members - (48) Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, Georgia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, South Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal, NZ, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vietnam

nonregional members - (19) Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, US

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

established - 8 August 1967

aim - to encourage regional economic, social, and cultural cooperation among the non-Communist countries of Southeast Asia

members - (10) Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam

dialogue partners - (10) Australia, Canada, China, EU, India, Japan, South Korea, NZ, Russia, US

observers - (2) Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste

Australia Group (AG)

established - June 1985

aim - to consult on and coordinate export controls related to chemical and biological weapons

members - (42) Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, NZ, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, UK, US

Australia-New Zealand-United States Security Treaty (ANZUS)

established - 1 September 1951; effective - 29 April 1952

aim - to implement a trilateral mutual security agreement, although the US suspended security obligations to NZ on 11 August 1986; Australia and the US continue to hold annual meetings

members - (3) Australia, NZ, US

Baltic Assembly (BA)

established - 12 May 1990

aim - to thoroughly discuss various cooperation issues between Baltic states

members - (3) Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

Bank for International Settlements (BIS)

established - 20 January 1930; effective - 17 March 1930

aim - to promote cooperation among central banks in international financial settlements

members - (60) Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, European Central Bank, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, NZ, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovah Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, UAE, UK, US; note - Montenegro has a separate central bank; its links with BIS are currently under review

Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

established - June 1997

aim - to foster socio-economic cooperation among members

members - (7) Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand

Benelux Union (Benelux)

note - acronym from Belgium, Netherlands, and Luxembourg; was formerly known as Benelux Economic Union

established - 3 February 1958; effective - 1 November 1960; changed names 17 June 2008

 $\operatorname{\mathbf{aim}}$ - to develop closer economic and legal cooperation and integration

members - (3) Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands

Big Seven

note - membership is the same as the Group of 7

established - 1975

 $\operatorname{\mathbf{aim}}$ - to discuss and coordinate major economic policies

 $\boldsymbol{members}$ - (7) Big Six (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK) plus the US

Black Sea Economic Cooperation Zone (BSEC)

established - 25 June 1992

aim - to enhance regional stability through economic cooperation

members - (12) Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine; note - Macedonia is in the process of joining

observers - (17) Austria, Belarus, Black Sea Commission, EU, Croatia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Energy Charter Secretariat, France, Germany, International Black Sea Club, Israel, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Tunisia, US; note - Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia have applied for observer status

BRICS

note - note: the name of the organization stands for the first letter of each of the five members' names

established - BRIC established 16 June 2009; BRICS established 24 December 2011

aim - to seek common ground in political and economic venues; to achieve peace, security, development, and cooperation; to contribute significantly to the development of humanity and to establish a more equitable world

members - (5) Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa

Caribbean Community and Common Market (Caricom)

established - 4 July 1973; effective - 1 August 1973

aim - to promote economic integration and development, especially among the less developed countries

members - (15) Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago

associate members - (5) Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands

observers - (8) Aruba, Colombia, Curacao, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Sint Maarten, Venezuela

Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)

established - 18 October 1969; effective - 26 January 1970

aim - to promote economic development and cooperation

regional members - (21) Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Colombia, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, Venezuela

nonregional members - (5) Canada, China, Germany, Italy, UK

Central African Customs and Economic Union (UDEAC)

see Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC)

Central African States Development Bank (BDEAC)

note - acronym from Banque de Developpement des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale

established - 3 December 1975

aim - to provide loans for economic development

members - (11) African Development Bank (AfDB), Cameroon, Central African States Bank (BEAC), Central African Republic, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, France, Gabon, Kuwait, Libya

Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE)

note - acronym from Banco Centroamericano de Integracion Economico

established - 13 December 1960 signature of Articles of Agreement; 31 May 1961 began operations

aim - to promote economic integration and development

members - (5) Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua

nonregional members - (7) Argentina, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panama, Spain, Taiwan

Central American Common Market (CACM)

established - 13 December 1960, collapsed in 1969, reinstated in 1991

aim - to promote establishment of a Central American Common Market

members - (5) Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua

Central American Integration System (SICA)

established - 13 December 1991; operational 1 February 1993

aim - to strengthen democracy; to set up a new model of regional security; to promote freedom; to achieve a regional system of welfare and economic and social justice; to attain economic unity and strengthen the area as an economic bloc; to act as a bloc in international matters

members - (7) Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama

associated member - (1) Dominican Republic

observers - (15) Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, France, Germany, Holy See, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Peru, Spain, US

Central European Initiative (CEI)

note - evolved from the Quadrilateral Initiative and the Hexagonal Initiative

established - 11 November 1989 as the Quadrilateral Initiative, 27 July 1991 became the Hexagonal Initiative, July 1992 its present name was adopted

aim - to form an economic and political cooperation group for the region between the Adriatic and the Baltic Seas

members - (18) Albania, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine

centrally planned economies

a term applied mainly to the traditionally Communist states that looked to the former USSR for leadership; most are now evolving toward more democratic and market-oriented systems; also known formerly as the Second World or as the Communist countries; through the 1980s, this group included Albania, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, North Korea, Laos, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, USSR, Vietnam, Yugoslavia, but now is limited to Cuba and North Korea, and less so to China

Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)

established - 7 October 2002

aim - to coordinate military and political cooperation, to develop multilateral structures and mechanisms of cooperation for ensuring national security of the member states

members - (7) Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

Colombo Plan (CP)

established - May 1950 proposal was adopted; 1 July 1951 commenced full operations

aim - to promote economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

members - (27) Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Burma, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, South Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, NZ, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, US, Vietnam

Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

note - formerly known as Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa (PTA)

established - treaty signed 5 November 1993; treaty ratified 8 December 1994

aim - recognizing, promoting and protecting fundamental human rights, commitment to the principles of liberty and rule of law, maintaining peace and stability through the promotion and strengthening of good neighborliness, commitment to peaceful settlement of disputes among member states

members - (19) Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius,

Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Commonwealth (C)

note - also known as Commonwealth of Nations

established - 31 December 1931

aim - to foster multinational cooperation and assistance, as a voluntary association that evolved from the British Empire

members - (53) Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, The Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Brunei, Cameroon, Canada, Cyprus, Dominica, Fiji (suspended), Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, NZ, Nigeria, Pakistan (reinstated 2004), Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, UK, Vanuatu, Zambia; note - on 7 December 2003 Zimbabwe withdrew its membership from the Commonwealth

Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

established - 8 December 1991; effective - 21 December 1991

aim - to coordinate intercommonwealth relations and to provide a mechanism for the orderly dissolution of the USSR

members - (11) Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan (unofficial), Ukraine (unofficial), Uzbekistan; note - neither Ukraine as a participating member nor Turkmenistan as an associate member have signed the 1993 CIS charter, although both participate in meetings; Georgia left the organization in August 2009

Communist countries

traditionally the Marxist-Leninist states with authoritarian governments and command economies based on the Soviet model; most of the original and the successor states are no longer Communist; see centrally planned economies

Community of Democracies (CD)

established - 27 June 2000

aim - "to respect and uphold core democratic principles and practices" including free and fair elections, freedom of speech and expression, equal access to education, rule of law, and freedom of peaceful assembly

signatories of the Warsaw Declaration - (110) Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, South Korea, Kuwait, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, NZ, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, UK, US, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia

Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)

note - successor to the Rio Group and the Latin America and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development

established - created 23 February 2010; established July 2011

aim - to deepen the integration within Latin American and to reduce the influence of the US in the politics and economics of that part of the world

members - (33) Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela

Comuinidade dos Paises de Lingua Portuguesa (CPLP)

established - 1996

aim - to establish a forum for friendship among Portuguese-speaking nations where Portuguese is an official language

members - (8) Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe, Timor-Leste

associate observers - (3) Equatorial Guinea, Mauritius, Senegal

Conference of Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA)

established - proposed 5 October 1992; established 14 September 1999

aim - promoting a multi-national forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security, and stability in Asia

members - (23 and the Palestine Liberation Organization) Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cambodia, China, Egypt, India, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, South Korea, Russia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, UAE, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, and the Palestine Liberation Organization

observers - (13) Bangladesh, Indonesia, Japan, League of Arab States, Malaysia, OSCE, Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic Speaking Countries, Philippines, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Ukraine, UN, US

Convention of the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC)

note - successor to Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) formed in 1996 to help the Southeast European countries rebuild and stabilize through access to resources

established - 7 October 2011

aim - to provide support for Member States and enhance coordination in preventing and combating crime in trans-border activity

members - (13) Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey

observers - (15) Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Canada, France, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Ukraine, UK, US

Coordinating Committee on Export Controls (COCOM)

established in 1949 to control the export of strategic products and technical data from member countries to proscribed destinations; members were: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, UK, US; abolished 31 March 1994; COCOM members established a new organization, the Wassenaar Arrangement, with expanded membership on 12 July 1996 that focuses on nonproliferation export controls as opposed to East-West control of advanced technology

Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CEMA)

note - also known as CMEA or Comecon

established 25 January 1949 to promote the development of socialist economies and abolished 1 January 1991; members included Afghanistan (observer), Albania (had not participated since 1961 break with USSR), Angola (observer), Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia (observer), GDR, Hungary, Laos (observer), Mongolia, Mozambique (observer), Nicaragua (observer), Poland, Romania, USSR, Vietnam, Yemen (observer), Yugoslavia (associate)

Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU)

established - 3 June 1957; effective - 30 May 1964

aim - to promote economic integration among Arab nations

members - (17 plus the Palestine Liberation Organization) Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen, Palestine Liberation Organization

candidates - (4) Comoros, Djibouti, Mauritania, Somalia

Council of Europe (CE)

established - 5 May 1949; effective - 3 August 1949

aim - to promote increased unity and quality of life in Europe

members - (47) Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, UK

observers - (6) Canada, Holy See, Israel, Japan, Mexico, US

Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS)

established - 6 March 1992

aim - to promote cooperation among the Baltic Sea states in the areas of aid to new democratic institutions, economic development, humanitarian aid, energy and the environment, cultural programs and education, and transportation and communication

members - (12) Denmark, Estonia, EC, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden

observers - (10) Belarus, France, Italy, Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Slovakia, Ukraine, UK, US

Council of the Entente (Entente)

established - 29 May 1959

aim - to promote economic, social, and political coordination

members - (5) Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Niger, Togo

countries in transition

a term used by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the middle group in its hierarchy of formerly centrally planned economies; IMF statistics include the following 28 countries in transition: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan; note - this group is identical to the group traditionally referred to as the "former USSR/Eastern Independent of Managing of Managing and Managing of Managing in the properties of Managing and Managing in the properties of Managing in Managing in Managing in the properties of Managing in Ma Europe" except for the addition of Mongolia

Customs Cooperation Council (CCC)

note - see World Customs Organization (WCO)

developed countries (DCs)

the top group in the hierarchy of developed countries (DCs), former USSR/Eastern Europe (former USSR/EE), and less developed countries (LDCs); includes the market-oriented economies of the mainly democratic nations in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Bermuda, Israel, South Africa, and the European ministates; also known as the First World, high-income countries, the North, industrial countries; generally have a per capita GDP in excess of \$15,000 although four OECD countries and South Africa have figures well under \$15,000 and eight of the excluded OPEC countries have figures of more than \$20,000; the DCs include: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bermuda, Canada, Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, NZ, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, US; note - similar to the new International Monetary Fund (IMF) term "advanced economies" that adds Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore, and Taiwan but drops Malta, Mexico, South Africa, and Turkey

developing countries

a term used by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the bottom group in its hierarchy of advanced economies, countries in transition, and developing countries; IMF statistics include the following 126 developing countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Aruba, The Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cambodia, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad. Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominica Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritinia, Mauritinia, Mauritinis, Mexico, Federated States of Micronesia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands Antilles, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Quinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Catar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegaj, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomo Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, UAE, Uganda, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe; note - this category would presumably also cover the following 46 other countries that are traditionally included in the more comprehensive group of "less developed countries": American Samoa, Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Brunei, Cayman Islands, Christmas Island, Cocos Islands, Cook Islands, Cuba, Eritrea, Falkland Islands, French Guiana, French Polynesia, Gaza Strip, Gibraltar, Greenland, Grnada, Guadeloupe, Quam, Guerns

Developing Eight (D-8)

established - 15 June 1997

aim - to improve developing countries' positions in the world economy, diversify and create new opportunities in trade relations, enhance participation in decision-making at the international level, provide better standards of living

member - (8) Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Turkey

East African Community (EAC)

note - originally established in 1967, it was disbanded in 1977

established - January 2001

aim - to establish a political and economic union among the countries

members - (5) Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda

East African Development Bank (EADB)

established - 6 June 1967; effective - 1 December 1967

aim - to promote economic development

members - (4) Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda

East Asia Summit (EAS)

established - 14 December 2005

aim - to promote cooperation in political and security issues; to promote development, financial stability, energy security, economic integration and growth; to eradicate poverty and narrow the development gap in East Asia, and to promote deeper cultural understanding

members - (18) Australia, Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Laos, Malaysia, NZ, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, US, Vietnam

Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC)

note - was formerly the Central African Customs and Economic Union (UDEAC)

established - 8 December 1964; effective - 1 January 1966

aim - to promote the establishment of a Central African Common Market

members - (7) Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, The Gambia

Economic and Monetary Union (EMU)

note - an integral part of the European Union; also known as the European Economic and Monetary Union

established - 1-2 December 1969 (proposed at summit conference of heads of government; 7 February 1992 (Maastricht Treaty signed)

aim - to promote a single market by creating a single currency, the euro; timetable - 2 May 1998: European exchange rates fixed for 1 January 1999; 1 January 1999: all banks and stock exchanges begin using euros; 1 January 2002: the euro goes into circulation; 1 July 2002 local currencies no longer accepted

members - (18) Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

established - 26 June 1945; effective - 24 October 1945

aim - to coordinate the economic and social work of the UN; includes five regional commissions (Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia) and nine functional commissions (Commission for Social Development, Commission on Human Rights, Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Commission on the Status of Women, Commission on Population and Development, Statistical Commission, Commission on Science and Technology for Development, Commission on Sustainable Development, and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice)

members - (54) selected on a rotating basis from all regions

Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL)

note - acronym from Communaute Economique des Pays des Grands Lacs

established - 20 September 1976

aim - to promote regional economic cooperation and integration

members - (3) Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda; note - organization collapsed because of fighting in 1998; reactivated in 2006

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

established - 28 May 1975

aim - to promote regional economic cooperation

members - (15) Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo

Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)

established - 27-29 January 1985

aim - to promote regional cooperation in trade, transportation, communications, tourism, cultural affairs, and economic development

members - (10) Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Eurasian Economic Community (EAEC or EurasEC)

note - merged with Central Asian Cooperation Organization (CACO) in 2005

established - May 2001

 \mathbf{aim} - to create a common economic and energy policy

members - (6) Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

observers - (3) Armenia, Moldova, Ukraine

Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC)

note - began as the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC); an extension of NATO

established - 8 November 1991; effective - 20 December 1991

aim - to discuss cooperation on mutual political and security issues

members - (50) Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark,

Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, UK, US, Uzbekistan

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

established - 8-9 January 1990 (proposals made); 15 April 1991 (bank inaugurated)

aim - to facilitate the transition of seven centrally planned economies in Europe (Bulgaria, former Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, former USSR, and former Yugoslavia) to market economies by committing 60% of its loans to privatization

members - (66) Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, EU, European Investment Bank (EIB), Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, NZ, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, UK, US, Uzbekistan

European Central Bank (ECB)

established - 1 June 1998

aim - to administer the monetary policy of the EU Eurozone member states

members - (18) Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain

European Community (or European Communities, EC)

established 8 April 1965 to integrate the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom), the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), the European Economic Community (EEC or Common Market), and to establish a completely integrated common market and an eventual federation of Europe; merged into the European Union (EU) on 7 February 1992; member states at the time of merger were Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, UK

European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

established - 4 January 1960; effective - 3 May 1960

aim - to promote expansion of free trade

members - (4) Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland

European Investment Bank (EIB)

established - 25 March 1957; effective - 1 January 1958

aim - to promote economic development of the EU and its predecessors, the EEC and the EC

members - (28) Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, UK

European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)

note - acronym retained from the predecessor organization Conseil Europeenne pour la Recherche Nucleaire

established - 1 July 1953; effective - 29 September 1954

 $\operatorname{\mathbf{aim}}$ - to foster nuclear research for peaceful purposes only

members - (20) Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK

observers - (7) EC, India, Japan, Russia, Turkey, United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), US

European Space Agency (ESA)

established - 31 May 1975

aim - to promote peaceful cooperation in space research and technology

members - (20) Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK

cooperating states - (3) Estonia, Hungary, Slovenia

European Union (EU)

note - see European Union entry at the end of the "country" listings

Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI)

established - October 2002 Initiative announced; June 2003 first EITC Plenary Conference

aim - to set a global standard for transparency in the extractive industries in an effort to make natural resources benefit all

stake holders or implementing countries - (17) Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Qatar, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, US

compliant countries - (23) Albania, Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Peru, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Togo, Yemen, Zambia; note - Central African Republic is suspended

candidate countries - (13) Afghanistan, Chad, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Indonesia, Philippines, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine; note - Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, and Sierra Leone are suspended

Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

established - by G-7 Summit in Paris in 1989

 $\operatorname{\mathbf{aim}}$ - to develop and promote policies to combat money laundering and terrorist financing

members - (36) Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, EC, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Gulf Cooperation Council, Hong Kong, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands (Aruba, Curacao, Sint Maarten), NZ, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, US

First World

another term for countries with advanced, industrialized economies; this term is fading from use; see developed countries (DCs)

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

established - 16 October 1945

aim - to raise living standards and increase availability of agricultural products; a UN specialized agency

members - (195) includes all UN member countries except Liechtenstein (192 total); plus Cook Islands, EU, and Niue

associate members - (2) Faroe Islands, Tokelau

former Soviet Union (FSU)

former term often used to identify as a group the successor nations to the Soviet Union or USSR; this group of 15 countries consists of: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

former USSR/Eastern Europe (former USSR/EE)

the middle group in the hierarchy of developed countries (DCs), former USSR/Eastern Europe (former USSR/EE), and less developed countries (LDCs); these countries are in political and economic transition and may well be grouped differently in the near future; this group of 27 countries consists of: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Yugoslavia; this group is identical to the IMF group "countries in transition" except for the IMF's inclusion of Mongolia

Four Dragons

the four small Asian less developed countries (LDCs) that have experienced unusually rapid economic growth; also known as the Four Tigers; this group consists of Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan; these countries are included in the IMF's "advanced economies" group

Franc Zone (FZ)

note - also known as Conference des Ministres des Finances des Pays de la Zone Franc

established - 1964

aim - to form a monetary union among countries whose currencies were linked to the French franc

members - (16) Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, France, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo

Front Line States (FLS)

established to achieve black majority rule in South Africa; has since gone out of existence; members included Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)

see the World Trade Organization (WTO)

General Confederation of Trade Unions (GCTU)

established - 16 April 1992

aim - to consolidate trade union actions to protect citizens' social and labor rights and interests, to help secure trade unions' rights and guarantees, and to strengthen international trade union solidarity

members - (10) Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Ukraine

Group of 10 (G-10)

note - also known as the Paris Club; includes the wealthiest members of the IMF who provide most of the money to be loaned and act as the informal steering committee; name persists despite increased membership

established - October 1962

aim - to coordinate credit policy

members - (11) Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, US

observers - (4) BIS, EC, IMF, OECD

Group of 11 (G-11)

established - 2006

 $\operatorname{\mathbf{aim}}$ - to narrow the income gap with the world's richest nations

members - (11) Croatia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia, Honduras, Indonesia, Jordan, Morocco, Pakistan, Paraguay, Sri Lanka

Group of 15 (G-15)

note - byproduct of the Nonaligned Movement; name persists despite increased membership

established - September 1989

aim - to promote economic cooperation among developing nations; to act as the main political organ for the Nonaligned Movement

members - (17) Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Venezuela, Zimbabwe

Group of 20 (G-20)

established - created 1999; inaugurated 15-16 December 1999

aim - to promote open and constructive discussion between industrial and emerging-market countries on any issues related to global economic stability; helps to support growth and development across the globe

members - (20) Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, EU, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, UK, US

Group of 24 (G-24)

established - 1 August 1989

aim - to promote the interests of developing countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America within the IMF

members - (24) Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Iran, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syria, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela

observers - (1) China

Group of 3 (G-3)

established - September 1990

aim - mechanism for policy coordination

members - (2) Colombia, Mexico; note - Panama shows interest in joining

Group of 5 (G-5)

note - with the addition of Italy, Canada, and Russia, it is now known as the Group of 8 or G-8; meanwhile the Group of 5 now refers to Brazil, China, India, Mexico, and South Africa

established - 22 September 1985

aim - to coordinate the economic policies of five major noncommunist economic powers

members - (5) France, Germany, Japan, UK, US

Group of 6 (G-6)

also known as Groupe des Six Sur le Desarmement (not to be confused with the Big Six) was established in 22 May 1984 with the aim of achieving nuclear disarmament; its members were Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden, Tanzania

Group of 7 (G-7)

note - membership is the same as the Big Seven

established - 22 September 1985

aim - to facilitate economic cooperation among the seven major noncommunist economic powers

members - (7) Group of 5 (France, Germany, Japan, UK, US) plus Canada and Italy

Group of 77 (G-77)

established - 15 June1964; October 1967 first ministerial meeting

aim - to promote economic cooperation among developing countries; name persists in spite of increased membership

members - (132 plus the Palestine Liberation Organization) Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, The Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cambodia, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Repub

Group of 8 (G-8)

established - October 1975

aim - to facilitate economic cooperation among the developed countries (DCs) that participated in the Conference on International Economic Cooperation (CIEC), held in several sessions between December 1975 and 3 June 1977

members - (8) Canada, EU, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, US

Group of 9 (G-9)

established - NA

aim - to discuss matters of mutual interest on an informal basis

members - (9) Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Sweden

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

note - also known as the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf

established - 25 May 1981

 $\textbf{aim -} to \ promote \ regional \ cooperation \ in \ economic, \ social, \ political, \ and \ military \ affairs$

members - (6) Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE

high income countries

another term for the industrialized countries with high per capita GDPs; see developed countries (DCs)

Indian Ocean Commission (InOC)

established - 21 December 1982

aim - to organize and promote regional cooperation in all sectors, especially economic

members - (5) Comoros, France (for Reunion), Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles

industrial countries

another term for the developed countries; see developed countries (DCs)

Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)

note - also known as Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID)

established - 8 April 1959; effective - 30 December 1959

aim - to promote economic and social development in Latin America

members - (48) Argentina, Austria, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, UK, US, Uruguay, Venezuela

Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

note - formerly known as Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD)

established - 15-16 January 1986 as the Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development; revitalized - 21 March 1996 as the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development

aim - to promote a social, economic, and scientific community among its members

members - (6) Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda; note - Eritrea declared its suspension in 2007

partners - (20) Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, EC, France, Germany, Greece, International Organization for Migration, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, UN Development Program, US, World Bank

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

established - 1889

aim - fosters contacts among parliamentarians, considers and expresses views of international interest and concern with the purpose of bringing about action by parliaments and parliamentarians, contributes to the defense and promotion of human rights, contributes to better knowledge of representative institutions

members - (162 and the Palestine Liberation Organization) Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cambodia, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, The Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indionesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, North Korea, South Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Federated States of Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, NZ, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Sam Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somatia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tanzania, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, UAE, UK, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Palestine Liberation Organization

associate members - (10) Andean Parliament, Central American Parliament, East African Legislative Assembly, European Parliament, Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union, Latin American Parliament, Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States, Parliament of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Transitional Arab Parliament

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

established - 26 October 1956; effective - 29 July 1957

 $\operatorname{\mathbf{aim}}$ - to promote peaceful uses of atomic energy

members - (162) Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, The Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, South Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monacoo, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambia, Repal, Netherlands, NZ, Nicaragua, Nijer, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, UAE, UK, US, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)

note - also known as the World Bank

established - 22 July 1944; effective - 27 December 1945

 $\operatorname{\mathbf{aim}}$ - to provide economic development loans; a UN specialized agency

members - (188) includes all UN member countries except Andorra, Cuba, North Korea, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Nauru; plus Kosovo

International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

established - 1919

aim - to promote free trade and private enterprise and to represent business interests at national and international levels

members - 128 plus the Palestine Liberation Organization

countries with national committees - (93 and the Palestine Liberation Organization) Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Caribbean, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, South Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, NZ, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, UAE, UK, US, Uruguay, Palestine Liberation Organization; note - Peru is restructuring

countries with no national committees having direct members - (35) Afghanistan, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bermuda, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burma, Cote d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gibraltar, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, North Korea, Latvia, Liberia, Macedonia, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Oman, Peru, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

established - 7 December 1944; effective - 4 April 1947

aim - to promote international cooperation in civil aviation; a UN specialized agency

members - (191) includes all UN member countries except Dominica, Liechtenstein, and Tuvalu (190 total); plus Cook Islands

International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti (MICAH)

established 17 December 1999 to promote respect for human rights; members included Argentina, Benin, Canada, France, India, Mali, Niger, Senegal Togo, Tunisia, US; closed 2001

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

established - 17 February 1863

aim - to provide humanitarian aid in wartime

members - (15-25 individuals) all Swiss nationals

International Court of Justice (ICJ)

also known as the World Court; primary judicial organ of the UN

established - 26 June 1945 with the signing of the UN Charter (inaugural sitting of the Court was on 18 April 1946); superseded Permanent Court of International Justice (attached to the League of Nations)

aim - to settle disputes submitted by member states and to provide advice to UN organs and other international agencies

members - (15 judges) elected by the UN General Assembly and Security Council to represent all principal legal systems; judges elected to nine-year terms (eligible for two additional terms); elections held every three years for one-third of the judges

jurisdiction - based on the principle of consent in contentious issues; consent to compulsory jurisdiction is outlined in Statute 36 of the ICJ; states provide declarations of consent to compulsory jurisdiction of the ICJ either with or without reservations (date in parens after each state is when the declaration was deposited with the UN Secretary-General); Haiti, Luxembourg, Nicaragua, and Uruguay deposited declarations with the Permanent Court of International Justice prior to 1945 and these were later transferred to the ICJ)

states accepting compulsory jurisdiction with reservations - (57) Australia (22 March 2002), Barbados (1 August 1980), Belgium (17 June 1958), Botswana (16 March 1970), Bulgaria (21 June 1992), Cambodia (19 September 1957), Canada (10 May 1994), Democratic Republic of the Congo (8 February 1989), Cote d'Ivoire (29 September 2001), Cyprus (3 September 2002), Denmark (10 December 1956), Dibbouti (2 September 2005), Egypt (22 July 1957), Estonia (31 October 1991), Finland (25 June 1958), The Gambia (22 June 1966), Germany (30 April 2008), Greece (10 January 1994), Guinea (4 December 1998), Honduras (6 June 1986), Hungary (22 October 1992), India (18 September 1974), Japan (9 July 2007), Kenya (19 April 1965), Lesotho (6 September 2000), Liberia (20 March 1952), Liechtenstein (29 March 1950), Lithuania (26 September 2012), Madgascar (2 July 1992), Malawi (12 December 1966), Malta (2 September 1983), Marshall Islands (23 April 2013), Mauritius (23 September 1968), Mexico (28 October 1947), Netherlands (1 August 1956), New Zealand (23 September 1977), Nicaragua (24 September 1929), Nigeria (30 April 1998), Norway (25 June 1996), Pakistan (13 September 1960), Panama (25 October 1921), Peru (7 July 2003), Philippines (18 January 1972), Poland (25 March 1996), Portugal (25 February 2005), Senegal (2 December 1985), Slovakia (28 May 2004), Somalia (11 April 1963), Spain (20 October 1990), Sudan (2 January 1958), Suriname (31 August 1987), Swaziland (26 May 1969), Sweden (6 April 1957), Switzerland (28 July 1948), Togo (25 October 1979), Uganda (3 October 1963), United Kingdom (5 July 2004)

states accepting compulsory jurisdiction without reservations - (13) Austria (19 May 1971), Cameroon (3 March 1994), Costa Rica (20 February 1973), Dominica (31 March 2006), Dominican Republic (30 September 1924), Georgia (20 June 1995), Guinea-Bissau (7 August 1989), Haiti (4 October 1921), Ireland (15 December 2011), Luxembourg (15 September 1930), Paraguay (25 September 1996), Timor-Leste (21 September 2012), Uruguay (28 January 1991)

International Criminal Court (ICCt)

established - 1 July 2002

aim - to hold all individuals and countries accountable to international laws of conduct; to specify international standards of conduct; to provide an important mechanism for implementing these standards; to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice

members - 21 judges (three judges form the Presidency) and six judges each in the Pre-trial, Trial, and Appeals Divisions; judges elected by secret ballot by the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute for nine-year terms (not eligible for reelection)

governed by the Statute of the International Criminal Court treaty (or Rome Statute), adopted 17 July 1998 at the UN Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Rome and entered into force 1 July 2002

states accepting jurisdiction - (122) Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Cook Islands, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, The Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, South Korea, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands, NZ, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, UK, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Zambia

International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol)

established - September 1923 set up as the International Criminal Police Commission; 13 June 1956 constitution modified and present name adopted

aim - to promote international cooperation among police authorities in fighting crime

members - (190) Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, The Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Curacao, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, The Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, South Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, NZ, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sint Maarten, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriane, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, UAE, UK, US, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

subbureaus - (11) American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Macau, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, Turks and Caicos Islands

International Development Association (IDA)

established - 26 January 1960; effective - 24 September 1960

aim - to provide economic loans for low-income countries; UN specialized agency and IBRD affiliate

members - (173) Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, The Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, EU, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, The Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Halti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, South Korea,

Kosovo, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Federated States of Micronesia, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, NZ, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senbagal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, UAE, UK, US, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

International Energy Agency (IEA)

established - 15 November 1974

aim - to promote cooperation on energy matters, especially emergency oil sharing and relations between oil consumers and oil producers; established by the OECD

members - (29) Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, EC, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Luxembourg, Netherlands, NZ, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, US

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRCS)

note - formerly known as League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (LORCS)

established - 5 May 1919

aim - to organize, coordinate, and direct international relief actions; to promote humanitarian activities; to represent and encourage the development of National Societies; to bring help to victims of armed conflicts, refugees, and displaced people; to reduce the vulnerability of people through development programs

members - (187 plus the Palestine Liberation Organization) Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, The Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, The Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, North Korea, South Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Federated States of Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, NZ, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunsia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, UAE, UK, US, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, V

observers - (3) Cyprus, Eritrea, and Tuvalu

International Finance Corporation (IFC)

established - 25 May 1955; effective - 24 July 1956

aim - to support private enterprise in international economic development; a UN specialized agency and IBRD affiliate

members - (183) includes all UN member countries except Andorra, Brunei, Cuba, North Korea, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Nauru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Tuvalu; plus Kosovo

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

established - November 1974

aim - to promote agricultural development; a UN specialized agency

members - (171)

List A - (23 industrialized aid contributors) Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, NZ, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, US

List B - (12 petroleum-exporting aid contributors) Algeria, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Venezuela

List C - (136 aid recipients) Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, The Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, The Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, North Korea, South Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritiania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Niue, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)

note - name changed from International Hydrographic Bureau on 22 September 1970

established - June 1919; effective - June 192

aim - to train hydrographic surveyors and nautical cartographers to achieve standardization in nautical charts and electronic chart displays; to provide advice on nautical cartography and hydrography; to develop the sciences in the field of hydrography and techniques used for descriptive oceanography

members - (81) Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Burma, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China (including Hong Kong and Macau), Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Kuwait, Latvia, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, NZ, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, UAE, UK, US, Uruguay, Venezuela; note - members approved but waiting for Instrument of Accession: Bulgaria, Mauritania, Montenegro, Sierra Leone

International Labor Organization (ILO)

established - 28 June 1919 set up as part of Treaty of Versailles; 11 April 1919 became operative; 14 December 1946 affiliated with the UN

aim - to deal with world labor issues; a UN specialized agency

members - (185) includes all UN member countries except Andorra, Bhutan, North Korea, Liechtenstein, Federated States of Micronesia, Monaco, Nauru, Tonga; note - includes the following dependencies: Netherlands (Aruba, Curacao, Sint Maarten)

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

note - name changed from Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) on 22 May 1982

established - 6 March 1948 set up as the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization; effective - 17 March 1958

aim - to deal with international maritime affairs; a UN specialized agency

members - (170) includes all UN member countries except Afghanistan, Andorra, Armenia, Belarus, Bhutan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Mali, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niger, Rwanda, South Sudan, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Zambia; and Cook Islands

associate members - (3) Faroe Islands, Hong Kong, Macau

International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO)

established - 15 April 1999

aim - acts as watchdog over Inmarsat (International Maritime Satellite Organization), a private company, to make sure it follows ICAO standards and recommended practices; plays an active role in the development of international telecommunications policies

members - (98) Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, The Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, nembers - (90) Algeria, Antigua and Barduda, Argentina, Australia, The Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, North Korea, South Korea, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Malaysia, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, NZ, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thalland, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, UAE, UK, US, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

established - 22 July 1944; effective - 27 December 1945

aim - to promote world monetary stability and economic development; a UN specialized agency

members - (188) includes all UN member countries except Andorra, Cuba, North Korea, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Nauru; plus Kosovo; note - includes the following dependencies or areas of special interest: China (Hong Kong and Macau), Netherlands (Aruba, Curacao, Sint Maarten)

International Olympic Committee (IOC)

established - 23 June 1894

aim - to promote the Olympic ideals and administer the Olympic games: 2012 Summer Olympics in London, UK; 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia

National Olympic Committees - (204 and the Palestine Liberation Organization) Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, American Samoa, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, The Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bermuda, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cayman Islands, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Demark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, The Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guam, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, North Korea, South Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgystan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Federated States of Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, NZ, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovakia, Slovania, Sonalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and To

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

note - established as Provisional Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe; renamed Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) on 15 November 1952; renamed Intergovernmental Committee for Migration (ICM) in November 1980; current name adopted 14 November 1989

established - 5 December 1951

aim - to facilitate orderly international emigration and immigration

members - (151) Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, The Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Republic, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprys, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, The Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, India, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, South Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Muritiania, Mauritius, Mexico, Federation of Micronesia, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, NZ, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leono, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, UK, US, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambbia, Zimbabwe Zimbabwe

observers - (12) Bahrain, Bhutan, China, Cuba, Indonesia, Macedonia, Qatar, Russia, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan

International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

established - February 1947

aim - to promote the development of international standards with a view to facilitating international exchange of goods and services and to developing cooperation in the sphere of intellectual, scientific, technological and economic activity

members - (114 national standards organizations) Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Irlad, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, North Korea, South Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, NZ, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, UAE, UK, US, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

correspondent members - (45 plus the Palestine Liberation Organization) Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brunei, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cambodia, Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Gabon, The Gambia, Georgia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hong Kong, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Macau, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Moldova, Montenegro, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Suriname, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Togo, Turkmenistan, Zambia, Palestine Liberation Organization

subscriber members - (4) Antigua and Barbuda, Honduras, Laos, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

International Organization of the French-speaking World (OIF)

name changed from Agency of Cultural and Technical Cooperation (ACCT) in 1997; also known as Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie

established - 20 March 1970

aim - founded around a common language to promote and spread the cultures of its members and to reinforce cultural and technical cooperation between

members - (57) Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Belgium, Benin, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Canada - New Brunswick, Canada - Quebec, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominica, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, France, French Community of Belgium, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Halti, Laos, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Moldova, Monaco, Morocco, Niger, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Vanuatu, Vietnam

observers - (20) Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Mozambique, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Thailand, Ukraine, UAE, Uruguay

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (ICRM)

aim - to promote worldwide humanitarian aid through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in wartime, and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or LORCS) in peacetime

National Societies - (187 countries and the Palestine Liberation Organization); note - same as membership for International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRCS)

International Telecommunication Satellite Organization (ITSO)

established - August 1964

to act as a watchdog over Intelsat, Ltd., a private company, to make sure it provides on a global and non-discriminatory basis public telecommunication services

members - (150) Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, The Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunel, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, The Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea, Bissau, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, North Korea, South Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malla, Mauritania, Mauritania, Mauritus, Mexico, the Federated States of Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, NZ, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, UAE, UK, US, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

established - 17 May 1865 set up as the International Telegraph Union; 9 December 1932 adopted present name; effective - 1 January 1934; affiliated with the UN - 15 November 1947

aim - to deal with world telecommunications issues; a UN specialized agency

members - (193) includes all UN member countries except Palau (192 total); plus Holy See

International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

note - its predecessors were the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) and the World Confederation of Labor (WCL)

established - 3 November 2006

aim - to promote the trade union movement

members - (325 affiliated organizations in 156 countries or territories and the Palestine Liberation Organization as of 2013) Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bermuda, Bonaire, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Curacao, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fjil, Finland, France, French Polynesia, Gabon, The Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Giineae-Bissau, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, South Korea, Kosovo, Kuwait, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Caledonia, NZ, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, UK, US, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and the Palestine Liberation Organization

Islamic Development Bank (IDB)

established - 15 December 1973 by declaration of intent; effective - 12 August 1974

aim - to promote Islamic economic aid and social development

members - (55 plus the Palestine Liberation Organization) Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Brunei, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Suriname, Syria, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, UAE, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Palestine Liberation Organization

Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (LAES)

note - also known as Sistema Economico Latinoamericana (SELA)

established - 17 October 1975

aim - to promote economic and social development through regional cooperation

(28) Argentina, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Salvador, Grenada, Uruguay, Venezuela

Latin American Integration Association (LAIA)

note - also known as Asociacion Latinoamericana de Integracion (ALADI)

established - 12 August 1980; effective - 18 March 1981

aim - to promote freer regional trade

members - (14) Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela

observers - (29) China, Corporacion Andina de Fomento, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, EC, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Inter-American Development Bank, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Latin America Economic System, Nicaragua, Organizacion Panamericana de la Salud, Organizacion Mundial de la Salud, Organization of American States, Pakistan, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Secretaria General Iberoamericana, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Nations Development Program, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

League of Arab States (LAS)

note - also known as Arab League (AL)

established - 22 March 1945

aim - to promote economic, social, political, and military cooperation

members - (20 plus the Palestine Liberation Organization) Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen, Palestine Liberation Organization

observers - (4) Brazil, Eritrea, India, Venezuela

least developed countries (LLDCs)

that subgroup of the less developed countries (LDCs) initially identified by the UN General Assembly in 1971 as having no significant economic growth, per capita GDPs normally less than \$1,000, and low literacy rates; also known as the undeveloped countries; the 44 LLDCs are: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Moldova, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Togo, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Uganda, Zambia

less developed countries (LDCs)

the bottom group in the hierarchy of developed countries (DCs), former USSR/Eastern Europe (former USSR/EE), and less developed countries (LDCs); mainly countries and dependent areas with low levels of output, living standards, and technology; per capita GDPs are generally below \$5,000 and often less than \$1,500; however, the group also includes a number of countries with high per capita incomes, areas of advanced technology, and rapid rates of growth; includes the advanced developing countries, developing countries, Four Dragons (Four Tigers), least developed countries, undeveloped countries; the 172 LDCs are: Afghanistan, Algeria, American Samoa, Angola, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Aruba, The Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Brunei, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cayman Islands, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Christmas Island, Cocos Islands, Colombia, Comors, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Falkland Islands, Fili, French Guinea, French Polynesia, Gabon, The Gambia, Gaza Strip, Ghana, Gibraltar, Greenland, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guam, Guatemala, Guernsey, Guinea, Guinea, Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Isle of Man, Jamaica, Jersey, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, North Korea, South Korea, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Macau, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Martinique, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mayotte, Federated States of Micronesia, Mongolia, Montserrat, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands Antilles, Ne Caledonia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, Norfolk Island, Northern Mariana Islands, Oman, Palau, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Pitcairn Islands, Puerto R

low-income countries

another term for those less developed countries with below-average per capita GDPs; see less developed countries (LDCs)

middle-income countries

another term for those less developed countries with above-average per capita GDPs; see less developed countries (LDCs)

Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)

established - 12 April 1988

aim - encourages flow of foreign direct investment among member countries by offering investment insurance, consultation, and negotiation on conditions for foreign investment and technical assistance; a UN specialized agency

(179) includes all UN member countries except Andorra, Bhutan, Brunei, Burma, Cuba, Kiribati, North Korea, Liechtenstein, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Nauru, San Marino, Somalia, Tonga, Tuvalu; plus Kosovo

Russian term for the 14 non-Russian successor states of the USSR, in which 25 million ethnic Russians live and in which Moscow has expressed a strong national security interest; the 14 countries are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

new independent states (NIS)

a term referring to all the countries of the FSU except the Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania)

newly industrializing countries (NICs)

former term for the newly industrializing economies; see newly industrializing economies (NIEs)

newly industrializing economies (NIEs)

that subgroup of the less developed countries (LDCs) that has experienced particularly rapid industrialization of their economies; formerly known as the newly industrializing countries (NICs); also known as advanced developing countries; usually includes the Four Dragons (Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan), and Brazil

Nonaligned Movement (NAM)

aim - to establish political and military cooperation apart from the traditional East or West blocs

members - (119 plus the Palestine Liberation Organization) Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, The Bahamas, Bahrain,

Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, North Korea, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritiania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, UAE, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Palestine Liberation Organization

observers - (17) Argentina, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, El Salvador, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Montenegro, Paraguay, Serbia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uruguay

Nordic Council (NC)

established - 16 March 1952; effective - 12 February 1953

aim - to promote regional economic, cultural, and environmental cooperation

members - (5) Denmark (including Faroe Islands and Greenland), Finland (including Aland Islands), Iceland, Norway, Sweden

observers - (6) Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and the Sami (Lapp) local parliaments of Finland, Norway, and Sweden

Nordic Investment Bank (NIB)

established - 4 December 1975; effective - 1 June 1976

aim - to promote economic cooperation and development

members - (8) Denmark (including Faroe Islands and Greenland), Estonia, Finland (including Aland Islands), Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden

North

a popular term for the rich industrialized countries generally located in the northern portion of the Northern Hemisphere; the counterpart of the South; see developed countries (DCs)

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

established - 17 December 1992

aim - to eliminate trade barriers, promote fair competition, increase investment opportunities, provide protection of intellectual property rights, and create procedures to settle disputes

members - (3) Canada, Mexico, US

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

established - 4 April 1949

aim - to promote mutual defense and cooperation

members - (28) Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, UK, US

Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA)

note - also known as OECD Nuclear Energy Agency

established - 1 February 1958

aim - to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy; associated with OECD

members - (31) Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, (37) Adduna, Adduna, Dengiulii, Caliada, Ozech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Slovakia, Slovania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, US

Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)

note - also known as the London Suppliers Group or the London Group

established - 1974: effective - 1975

aim - to establish guidelines for exports of nuclear materials, processing equipment for uranium enrichment, and technical information to countries of proliferation concern and regions of conflict and instability

members - (48) Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, NZ, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, UK, US

observer - (2) Chairman of the Zangger Committee, European Commission (a policy-planning body for the EU)

Organization for Democracy and Economic Development (GUAM)

note - acronym standing for the member countries, Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Moldova; formerly known as GUUAM before Uzbekistan withdrew in 5 May 2005

established - 7 June 2001

aim - commits the countries to cooperation and assistance in social and economic development, the strengthening and broadening of trade and economic relations, and the development and effective use of transport and communications, highways, and related infrastructure crossing the boundaries of the

members - (4) Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

established - 14 December 1960; effective - 30 September 1961

aim - to promote economic cooperation and development

members - (34) Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, NZ, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan Switzerland, Turkey, UK, US

special member - (1) EC

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

note - formerly the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) established 3 July 1975

established - 1 January 1995

aim - to foster the implementation of human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy, and the rule of law; to act as an instrument of early warning, conflict prevention, and crisis management; and to serve as a framework for conventional arms control and confidence building measures

members - (57) Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, UK, US, Uzbekistan

partners for cooperation - (11) Afghanistan, Algeria, Australia, Egypt, Israel, Japan, Jordan, South Korea, Morocco, Thailand, Tunisia

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

established - 29 April 1997

aim - to enforce the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction; to provide a forum for consultation and cooperation among the signatories of the Convention

members (countries that have ratified the Convention) - (190) Affaniatan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, The Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Djibouti, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, The Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea, Britrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, The Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, South Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Federated States of Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, NZ, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, T

signatory states (countries that have signed, but not ratified, the Convention) - (2) Burma, Israel

Organization of African Unity (OAU)

see African Union

Organization of American States (OAS)

established - 14 April 1890 as the International Union of American Republics; 30 April 1948 adopted present charter; effective - 13 December 1951

aim - to promote regional peace and security as well as economic and social development

members - (35) Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba (suspended), Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, US, Uruguay, Venezuela

observers - (68) Albania, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, EU, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, UK, Vanuatu, Yemen

Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC)

established - 9 January 1968

aim - to promote cooperation in the petroleum industry

members - (11) Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia (suspended), UAE

Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

established - 18 June 1981; effective - 4 July 1981

aim - to promote political, economic, and defense cooperation

members - (9) Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

note - formerly the Organization of the Islamic Conference

established - 22-25 September 1969

aim - to promote Islamic solidarity in economic, social, cultural, and political affairs

members - (56 plus the Palestine Liberation Organization) Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Brunei, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Suriname, Syria, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, UAE, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Palestine Liberation Organization

observers - (12) AU, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Central African Republic, ECO, LAS, Moro National Liberation Front, NAM, Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States, Russia, Thailand, Turkish Muslim Community of Kibris, UN

Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

established - 14 September 1960

aim - to coordinate petroleum policies

members - (12) Algeria, Angola, Ecuador, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Venezuela; note - Indonesia left OPEC in 2008

Pacific Alliance

established - 28 April 2011

aim - to reduce trade barriers between member countries, to install visa-free travel, to install a common stock exchange, and to set up joint embassies in some countries

members - (5) Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru

observers - (29) Australia, Canada, China, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador , Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Panama, Paraguay, Portugal, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay

Pacific Community (SPC)

local name of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)

note - formerly known as South Pacific Forum (SPF)

established - 5 August 1971

aim - to promote regional cooperation in political matters

members - (16) Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, NZ, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

associate members - (2) French Polynesia, New Caledonia

partners - (14) Canada, China, EU, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, UK, US

observers - (12) ACP Group, American Samoa, Asia Development Bank, The Commonwealth, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Guam, Timor-Leste (special observer), Tokelau, UN, Wallis and Futuna, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, the World Bank

Paris Club

established - 1956

aim - to provide a forum for debtor countries to negotiate rescheduling of debt service payments or loans extended by governments or official agencies of participating countries; to help restore normal trade and project finance to debtor countries

members - (19) Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, US

associate members - (13) Abu Dhabi, Argentina, Brazil, Israel, South Korea, Kuwait, Mexico, Morocco, NZ, Portugal, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey

Partnership for Peace (PFP)

established - 10-11 January 1994

aim - to expand and intensify political and military cooperation throughout Europe, increase stability, diminish threats to peace, and build relationships by promoting the spirit of practical cooperation and commitment to democratic principles that underpin NATO; program under the auspices of NATO

members - (22) Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Finland, Georgia, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Russia, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan; note - a nation that becomes a member of NATO is no longer a member of PFP

Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)

established - 29 July 1899

aim - to facilitate the settlement of international disputes

members - (115) Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, South Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, NZ, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, UAE, UK, US, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Petrocaribe

established - 29 June 2005

aim - to eliminate existing social inequities, to foster high standards of living, to promote effective people's participation in shaping their own destiny

members - (18) Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Venezuela

Rio Group (RG)

note - formerly known as Grupo de los Ocho, established NA December 1986; composed of the Contadora Group and the Lima Group

established in 1988 to consult on regional Latin American issues; its members were Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica (representing CARICOM), Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela; in 2010 joined with the Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development (CALC) to form the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)

Schengen Convention

established - signed June 1990; effective March 1995

aim - to allow free movement within an area without internal border controls

members - (26) Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland; note - UK and Ireland have not joined; Cyprus will probably join in the near future; Bulgaria and Romania are still not fully implemented

De Facto members (microstates within or between Schengen states) - (5) Andorra, Holy See, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino

Second World

another term for the traditionally Marxist-Leninist states of the USSR and Eastern Europe, with authoritarian governments and command economies based on the Soviet model; the term is fading from use; see centrally planned economies

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

established - 6 February 1947; effective 29 July 1948

aim - to serve island development in 22 Pacific countries; to develop technical assistance and professional, scientific, and research support; to build planning and management capability

members - (26) America Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, NZ, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, US, Wallis and Futuna

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

established - 15 June 2001

aim - to combat terrorism, extremism, and separatism; to safeguard regional security through mutual trust, disarmament, and cooperative security; and to increase cooperation in political, trade, economic, scientific and technological, cultural, and educational fields

members - (6) China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

dialogue members - (3) Belarus, Sri Lanka Turkey

observers - (5) Afghanistan, India, Iran, Mongolia, Pakistan

socialist countries

in general, countries in which the government owns and plans the use of the major factors of production; note - the term is sometimes used incorrectly as a synonym for Communist countries

South

a popular term for the poorer, less industrialized countries generally located south of the developed countries; the counterpart of the North; see less developed countries (LDCs)

South American Community of Nations (CSN)

established on 9 December 2004; its aim was to coordinate common policies regarding multilateral organizations, to integrate physical infrastructure, and to consolidate the merger of CAN and Mercosur; the members were Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Surinam, Uruguay, Venezuela; in 2008 it became Union of South American Nations (UNASUR)

South Asia Co-operative Environment Program (SACEP)

established - January 1983

aim - to promote regional cooperation in South Asia in the field of environment, both natural and human, and on issues of economic and social development; to support conservation and management of natural resources of the region

members - (8) Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

established - 8 December 1985

 $\operatorname{\textbf{aim}}$ - to promote economic, social, and cultural cooperation

members - (8) Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

observers - (9) Australia, Burma, China, EU, Iran, Japan, South Korea, Mauritius, US

South Pacific Forum (SPF)

note - see Pacific Island Forum

South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement (Sparteca)

established - 1981

aim - to redress unequal trade relationships of Australia and New Zealand with small island economies in the Pacific region

members - (16) Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji (suspended), Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, NZ, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

Southern African Customs Union (SACU)

established - 11 December 1969

aim - to promote free trade and cooperation in customs matters

members - (5) Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland

Southern African Development Community (SADC)

note - evolved from the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC)

established - 17 August 1992

aim - to promote regional economic development and integration

members - (15) Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Southern Cone Common Market (Mercosur) or Southern Common Market

note - also known as Mercado Comun del Cono Sur (Mercosur)

established - 26 March 1991

aim - to increase regional economic cooperation

members - (6) Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay (suspended), Uruguay, Venezuela

associate members - (6) Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Surinam

Third World

another term for the less developed countries; the term is obsolescent; see less developed countries (LDCs)

underdeveloped countries

refers to those less developed countries with the potential for above-average economic growth; see less developed countries (LDCs)

refers to those extremely poor less developed countries (LDCs) with little prospect for economic growth; see least developed countries (LDCs)

Union Latina

established - 15 May 1954; became functional 1983

aim - to project, protect, and promote the common heritage and unifying identities of the Latin, and Latin-influenced, world

members - (36) Andorra, Angola, Bolivia, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Chile, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Moldova, Monaco, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Spain, Timor-Leste, Uruguay, Venezuela

observers - (4) Argentina, Holy See, Mexico, Order of Malta

Union of South American Nations (UNASUR - Spanish; UNASUL - Portuguese)

formerly South American Community of Nations (CSN) which terminated on 16 April 2007

established - 23 May 2008

aim - to model a community after the European Union which will include a common currency, parliament, passport, and defense policy

members - (12) Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela

observers - (2) Mexico, Panama

United Nations (UN)

established - 26 June 1945; effective - 24 October 1945

aim - to maintain international peace and security and to promote cooperation involving economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian problems

constituent organizations - the UN is composed of six principal organs and numerous subordinate agencies and bodies as follows:

- 2) General Assembly: International Computing Center (ICC), International Trade Center (ITC), Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UN-AIDS), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Center for Human Settlements (UN-Habitat), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC), United Nations University (UNU), United Nations Women, World Food Program (WFP)
- 3) Security Council: International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), United Nations Compensation Commission, United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), United Nations Interim Force for Abyei (UNIFSA), United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), United Nations Mission in Mission in Mail (MINUSMA), United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI), United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), and United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)
- 4) Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC): Commission for Social Development, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Commission on Narcotics Drugs, Commission on Population and Development, Commission on Science and Technology for Development, Commission on Sustainable Development, Commission on the Status of Women, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Statistical Commission, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Energy Agency (IAEA), Preparatory Commission for the Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Center for Secretariat of Investment Disputes (ICSID), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), International Development Association (IDA), International Endopment (IFAD), International Agriculture Development (IFAD), International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), Statistical Commission, United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Forum on Forests, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Universal Postal Union (UPU), World Heatth Organization (WHO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), and World Trade Organization (WTO), Statistical Commission, UN Forum on Forests
- 5) Trusteeship Council (inactive; no trusteeships at this time)
- 6) International Court of Justice (ICJ)

UN members - (193) Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, The Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, The Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, North Korea, South Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malit, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Federated States of Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, NZ, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sam Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, UAE, UK, US, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Veezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe; note all U

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)

established - January 2010

aim - to support the government of Afghanistan, in its attempt to improve security, governance, and economic development and regional cooperation; protect civilians and support efforts to support human rights

note - gives civilian support only

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

note - acronym retained from the predecessor organization, UN International Children's Emergency Fund

established - 11 December 1946

aim - to help establish child health and welfare services

executive board members - (36) selected on a rotating basis from all regions

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

established - 30 December 1964

aim - to promote international trade

members - (194) all UN members plus Holy See

United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

established - 22 November 1965

aim - to provide technical assistance to stimulate economic and social development

members (executive board) - (36) selected on a rotating basis from all regions

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)

established - 31 May 1974

aim - to observe the 1973 Arab-Israeli cease-fire; established by the UN Security Council

members - (6) Fiji, India, Ireland, Nepal, Netherlands, Philippines

United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

established - 16 November 1945; effective - 4 November 1946

aim - to promote cooperation in education, science, and culture

members - (194 plus the Palestine Liberation Organization) includes all UN member countries except Liechtenstein (192 total); plus Cook Islands, Niue, and the Palestine Liberation Organization

associate members - (9) Anguilla, Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Curacao, Faroe Islands, Macau, Sint Maarten, Tokelau

United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)

established - 15 December 1972

aim - to promote international cooperation on all environmental matters

members - (58) selected on a rotating basis from all regions

United Nations General Assembly

established - 26 June 1945; effective - 24 October 1945

 $\operatorname{\textbf{aim}}$ - to function as the primary deliberative organ of the UN

members - (193) all UN members are represented in the General Assembly

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

established - 3 December 1949; effective - 1 January 1951

 $\operatorname{\mathsf{aim}}$ - to ensure the humanitarian treatment of refugees and find permanent solutions to refugee problems

members (executive committee) - (87) Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Holy See, Hungary, India, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, South Korea, Lebanon, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambiue, Namibia, Netherlands, NZ, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Serbia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, UK, US, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

established - 17 November 1966; effective - 1 January 1967

aim - UN specialized agency that promotes industrial development especially among the members

members - (174) includes all UN member countries except Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Brunei, Canada, Estonia, Iceland, Kiribati, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, San Marino, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, US

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

established - 11 December 1963 adoption of the resolution establishing the Institute: effective - 24 March 1965

aim - to help the UN become more effective through training and research

members (Board of Trustees) - (12) Algeria, Brazil, Republic of the Congo, Guatemala, India, Iran, Jamaica, Nigeria, Norway, Russia, South Africa, Switzerland; note - the UN Secretary General can appoint up to 30 members

United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT)

established - 25 August 2006

aim - to support the Government, to support the electoral process, to ensure the restoration and maintenance of public security

members - (15) Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Fiji, Japan, India, Malaysia, Nepal, NZ, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Sierra Leone, Singapore

United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)

established - 10 June 1999

aim - to promote the establishment of substantial autonomy and self-government in Kosovo; to perform basic civilian administrative functions; to support the reconstruction of key infrastructure and humanitarian and disaster relief

note - gives civilian support only; works closely with NATO Kosovo Force (KFOR)

United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)

established - 19 March 1978

aim - to confirm the withdrawal of Israeli forces, and assist in reestablishing Lebanese authority in southern Lebanon; established by the UN Security Council

members - (37) Armenia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Cyprus, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, South Korea, Macedonia, Malaysia, Nepal, Nigeria, Qatar, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Turkey

United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA)

established - 27 June 2011

aim - to protect civilians and humanitarian workers in Abyei

members - (28) Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, India, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Ukraine, Uruguay, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)

established - 24 January 1949

aim - to observe the 1949 India-Pakistan cease-fire; established by the UN Security Council

members - (9) Chile, Croatia, Finland, Italy, South Korea, Philippines, Sweden, Thailand, Uruguay

United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)

established - 29 April 1991

aim - to supervise the cease-fire and conduct a referendum in Western Sahara; established by the UN Security Council

members - (30) Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Croatia, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Ghana, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, South Korea, Malawi, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Russia, Sri Lanka, Togo, Uruguay, Yemen

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

established - 19 September 2003

aim - to support the cease-fire agreement and peace process, protect UN facilities and people, support humanitarian activities, and assist in national security reform

members - (43) Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, The Gambia, Ghana, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, South Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Moldova, Montenegro, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Russia, Senegal, Serbia, Togo, Ukraine, US, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT)

established on 25 September 2007; to create the security and conditions which will to contribute to the protection of refugees, displaced persons, and citizens in danger, to facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance in eastern Chad and the northeastern Central African Republic, to create favorable conditions for the reconstruction and economic and social development of these areas; members were Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Ireland, Kenya, Mali, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Russia, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Togo, Tunisia, US; MINURCAT was dissolved in December 2010

United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS)

established - 8 July 2011

aim - to consolidate peace and security and to establish the conditions in South Sudan which will strengthen its ability to govern effectively and democratically and establish good relations with its neighbors

members - (54) Australia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, China, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, South Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, NZ, Nigeria, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Togo, Uganda, Ukraine, UK, US, Yemen, Zambia

United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS)

established in March 2005 to support implementation of the comprehensive Peace Agreement by monitoring and verifying the implementation of the Cease Fire Agreement, by observing and monitoring movements of armed groups, and by helping disarm, demobilizing and reintegrating armed bands; members were Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, China, Croatia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, India, Indoesia, Iran, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherland, NZ, Niger, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, UK, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe; UNMIS was dissolved on 9 July 2011

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, MINUSMA

established - 25 April 2013

aim - to support political processes and carry out a number of security-related tasks

members - (36) Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chad, China, Cote d'Ivoire, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, The Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Liberia, Mauritania, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, UK, US, Yemen

United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI)

established - 27 February 2004

aim - to facilitate the implementation by the Ivorian parties of the peace agreement signed by them in January 2003

members - (44) Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Chad, China, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, The Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, India, Ireland, Jordan, South Korea, Malawi, Moldova, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Russia, Senegal, Serbia, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)

established - 28 May 2010

aim - to protect the civilians; to assist the government in the areas of stabilization and peace consolidation

members - (49) Algeria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Egypt, France, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Jordan, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Romania, Russia, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Tunisia, Ukraine, UK, US, Uruguay, Yemen, Zambia

United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)

established - 4 March 1964

aim - to serve as a peacekeeping force between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots in Cyprus; established by the UN Security Council

members - (13) Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, Hungary, Paraguay, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine, UK

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

note - acronym retained from predecessor organization UN Fund for Population Activities

established - July 1967

aim - to assist both developed and developing countries to deal with their population problems

members (executive board) - (36) selected on a rotating basis from all regions

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)

established - 8 December 1949

aim - to provide assistance to Palestinian refugees

members (advisory commission) - (25) Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Turkey, UK, US

observers - (3) EC, LAS, Palestine Liberation Organization

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)

established - 1963

aim - to conduct research into the problems of economic development during different phases of economic growth

members - no country members, but a Board of Directors consisting of a chairman appointed by the UN Secretary General and 10 members confirmed by ECOSOC and a representative of the Secretary General

United Nations Secretariat

established - 26 June 1945; effective - 24 October 1945

aim - to serve as the primary administrative organ of the UN; a Secretary General is appointed for a five-year term by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council

members - the UN Secretary General and staff

United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

established - 26 June 1945; effective - 24 October 1945

 $\operatorname{\mathbf{aim}}$ - to maintain international peace and security

permanent members - (5) China, France, Russia, UK, US

nonpermanent members - (10) elected for two-year terms by the UN General Assembly; Argentina (2013-14), Australia (2013-14), Chad (2014-15), Chile (2014-15), Jordan (2014-15), Lithuania (2014-15), Luxembourg (2013-14), South Korea (2013-14), Nigeria (2014-15), Rwanda (2013-14)

United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)

established - June 1948

aim - to supervise the 1948 Arab-Israeli cease-fire; currently supports timely deployment of reinforcements to other peacekeeping operations in the region as needed; initially established by the UN Security Council

members - (24) Argentina, Australia, Australa, Belgium, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Nepal, Netherlands, NZ, Norway, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, US

United Nations Trusteeship Council

established on 26 June 1945, effective on 24 October 1945, to supervise the administration of the 11 UN trust territories; members were Chin a, France, Russia, UK, US; it formally suspended operations 1 November 1994 after the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Palau) became the Republic of Palau, a constitutional government in free association with the US; the Trusteeship Council was not dissolved

United Nations University (UNU)

established - 3 December 1973

aim - to conduct research in development, welfare, and human survival and to train scholars

members - (16 members of UNU Council and the Rector are appointed by the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Director General of UNESCO)

Universal Postal Union (UPU)

established - 9 October 1874, affiliated with the UN 15 November 1947; effective - 1 July 1948

aim - to promote international postal cooperation; a UN specialized agency

members - (192) includes all UN member countries except Andorra, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau (189 total); plus Aruba, Curacao, and Sint Maarten; and Holy See; and Overseas Territories of the UK; note - includes the following dependencies or areas of special interest: Australia (Norfolk Island), China (Hong Kong, Macau), Denmark (Faroe Islands, Greenland), France (French Guiana, French Polynesia including Clipperton Island, French Southern and Antarctic Lands, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, New Caledonia, Reunion, Saint Barthelemy, Saint Martin, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Scattered Islands [Bassas da India, Europe, Juan de Nova, Glorioso Islands, Tromelin], Wallis and Futuna), Netherlands (Aruba, Curacao, Sint Maarten), NZ (Cook Island, Niue, Tokelau), UK (Guernsey, Isle of Man, Jersey; Anguilla, Bermuda, British Indian Ocean Territory, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, Pitcairn Islands, Saint Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, Turks and Caicos), US (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands)

Warsaw Pact (WP)

established 14 May 1955 to promote mutual defense; members met 1 July 1991 to dissolve the alliance; member states at the time of dissolution were Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and the USSR; earlier members included German Democratic Republic (GDR) and Albania

West African Development Bank (WADB)

note - also known as Banque Ouest-Africaine de Developpement (BOAD); is a financial institution of WAEMU

established - 14 November 1973

aim - to promote regional economic development and integration

regional members - (8) Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo

West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)

note - also known as Union Economique et Monetaire Quest Africaine (UEMOA)

established - 1 August 1994

aim - to increase competitiveness of members' economic markets; to create a common market

members - (8) Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo

Western European Union (WEU)

established 23 October 1954; effective - 6 May 1955; aim to provide mutual defense and to move toward political unification; 10 members: Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, UK; 6 associate members: Czech Republic, Hungary, Iceland, Norway, Poland, Turkey; 7 associate partners: Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia; 5 observers: Austria, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Sweden; note - to cease existence completely by June 2011

World Bank Group

includes International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Development Association (IDA), International Finance Corporation (IFC), and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)

World Confederation of Labor (WCL)

established 19 June 1920 as the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions (IFCTU), renamed 4 October 1968; aim was to promote the trade union movement; on 31 October 2006 it merged with the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) to form the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC); members were (105 national organizations) Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Aruba, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, French Guiana, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macdeonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Martinique, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, US, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe

World Customs Organization (WCO)

note - began as the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC)

established - 15 December 1950

aim - to promote international cooperation in customs matters

members - (180) Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Australia, Azerbaijan, The Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bermuda, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Curacao, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, EU, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji; Finland, France, Gabon, The Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, South Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macau, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritiania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, NZ, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Soundia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, UAE, UK, US, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)

established - 3 October 1945

aim - to promote the trade union movement

members - (in 2013 there were 126 participating nations and territories and the Palestine Liberation Organization); (in 2009 there were 125 nations and the Palestine Liberation Organization) Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Democratic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Dibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, French Guiana, The Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamanica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, North Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Martinique, Mauritius, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, New Caledonia, NZ, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Reunion, Romania, Russia, Saint Lucia, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zimbabwe, Palestine Liberation Organization

World Food Program (WFP)

established - 24 November 196

aim - to provide food aid in support of economic development or disaster relief; an ECOSOC organization

members (Executive Board) - (36) selected on a rotating basis from all regions

World Health Organization (WHO)

established - 22 July 1946; effective - 7 April 1948

aim - to deal with health matters worldwide; a UN specialized agency

members - (194) includes all UN member countries except Liechtenstein (192 total); plus Cook Islands and Niue

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

established - 14 July 1967; effective - 26 April 1970

aim - to furnish protection for literary, artistic, and scientific works; a UN specialized agency

members - (185) includes all UN member countries except Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu (185 total); plus Holy See

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

established - 11 October 1947; effective - 4 April 1951

aim - to sponsor meteorological cooperation; a UN specialized agency

members - (185) includes all UN member countries except Andorra, Equatorial Guinea, Grenada, Liechtenstein, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino (183 total); plus Cook Islands and Niue

World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

established - 2 January 1975

aim - to promote tourism as a means of contributing to economic development, international understanding, and peace

members - (156) Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Australia, Azerbaijan, The Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Gabon, The Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, North Korea, South Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Siera Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, UAE, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambbia, Zimbabwe

associate members - (6) Aruba, Flemish Community of Belgium, Hong Kong, Macau, Madeira Islands, Puerto Rico

observers - (1 plus Palestine Liberation Organization) Holy See, Palestine Liberation Organization

World Trade Organization (WTO)

note - succeeded General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT)

established - 15 April 1994; effective - 1 January 1995

aim - to provide a forum to resolve trade conflicts between members and to carry on negotiations with the goal of further lowering and/or eliminating tariffs and other trade barriers

members - (159) Albania, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, EU, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, The Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Bissau, Guyana, Halit, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, South Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macau, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, NZ, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, UAE, UK, US, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe

observers - (25) Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Azerbaijan, The Bahamas, Belarus, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Holy See, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Seychelles, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan, Yemen; note - with the exception of the Holy See, an observer must start accession negotiations within five years of becoming observers

Zangger Committee (ZC)

established - early 1970s

aim - to establish guidelines for the export control provisions of the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty (NPT)

members - (39) Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Luxembourg, Netherlands, NZ, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, UK, US

observers - (1) European Commission

Α

PART V: BIBLIOGRAPHY, INTERNET LINKS, REFERENCES, FURTHER READING AND WATCHING

COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD'S DATA - BIBLIOGRAPHY AND INTERNET LINKS

Basic Data on the Countries of the World

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2. Encyclopaedia Britannica: Independent States: http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/1993160/list-of-countries

Populated Dependencies: http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/1966886/Dependent-States-in-2013/314324/Pacific-Ocean#toc314365

3. Wikipedia (see below Internet Websites)

Independent States (UN) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Member_states_of_the_United_Nations

Populated & Unpopulated Dependent States: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dependent_territory

De Facto Independent: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_states_with_limited_recognition

- 4. Nations Online: Independent and Dependent Countries http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/countries of the world.htm
- 5. UN Data Countries, World Statistics Pocketbook Independent and Dependent States: http://data.un.org/CountryProfile.aspx
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- 7. BBC Countries Profiles Independent, Dependent and De Facto Independent States: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/default.stm
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- 18. Ha Encyclopedia Ha –Ivrit, in Hebrew
- 19. National Geographic Countries: http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/countries

Internet Websites

The Wikipedia: Articles on the countries and other data, Member States of the United Nations, Dependent Territories, States with Limited Recognition, Outlying Territories, Exclusive Economic Zones, List of Enclaves and Exclaves, Members States of the European Union, the Commonwealth of Nations, Articles on Antarctica, Territorial Claims in Antarctica, Demographics of Antarctica, Research Stations in Antarctica, etc.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_sovereign_states - Independent, Dependent and De Facto

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Member_states_of_the_United_Nations

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dependent_territory

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_states_with_limited_recognition

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Member_state_of_the_European_Union

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Member_states_of_the_Commonwealth_of_Nations

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antarctica

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Territorial_claims_in_Antarctica

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Antarctica

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Research_stations_in_Antarctica

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outlying_territory - An Outlying Territory is a state territory geographically separated from its parent territory and lying beyond Exclusive Economic Zone of its parent territory: in the same continent, outside the continent, outlying uninhabited dependent territories, outlying dependent territories and areas of special sovereignty.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exclusive_economic_zone - Exclusive Economic Zone

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_enclaves_and_exclaves - List of Enclaves and Exclaves

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US - CIA - The World Factbook: Data on most of the countries in the world (except most of the disputed de facto independent states, such as Transnistria, South Ossetia, Somaliland...), with the following chapters: Introduction, Geography, People and Society, Government, Economy, Energy, Communications, Transportation, Military, Transnational Issues.

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https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/docs/refmaps.html

US - CIA – The World Factbook: Flags, Maps and Data on Each Country of the World.

 $\underline{https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/docs/flagsoftheworld.html}$

US – CIA – The World Factbook: Country Comparisons (some of the total):

Geography: Area.

People and Society: Population, Population Growth Rate, Birth Rate, Death Rate, Net Migration Rate, Life Expectancy at Birth, Total Fertility Rate.

Economy: GDP (PPP), GDP – Real Growth Rate, GDP – Per Capita (PPP), Labor Force, Unemployment Rate, Industrial Production Growth Rate, Taxes and Other Revenues (% of GDP), Distribution of Family Income – Gini Index, Budget Surplus or Deficit, Gross National Saving, Public Debt (% of GDP), Inflation Rate, Central Bank Discount Rate, Current Account Balance, Exports, Imports, Reserves of Foreign Exchange and Gold.

Energy – Electricity Production and Consumption, Electricity from Fossil Fuels,...From Other Renewable Sources, Crude Oil/Natural Gas – Production, Exports, Imports, Proved Reserves.

Communications: Telephones - Main Lines in Use, Mobile Cellular, Internet Users.

Transportation: Airports, Railways, Roadways, Waterways, Merchant Marine.

Military Expenditure: % of GDP.

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US – CIA – The World Factbook: International Organizations and Groups

https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/appendix/appendix-b.html

US – CIA – The World Factbook: Exchange Rates of World Currencies to the US \$

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Lists of Sovereign and Dependent Countries

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List of Dependent Territories: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dependent territory

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Countries Listed by Continent and Other Data: http://www.worldatlas.com/cntycont.htm

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http://www.mapsofworld.com/north-america (including Central America and the Caribbean)

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Maps of the countries of Australia, Oceania and Antarctica:

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List of Countries and Dependencies, Their Capitals and Official Languages: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_and_their_capitals_in_native_languages

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List of Countries and Dependencies by Area km2, mi2 – Land and Water, % of Water: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_area

List of Sovereign States & Dependent Territories by Population Density, Area & Population: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_sovereign_states and dependent territories by population density

List of Population Density, Alphabetical:

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Current Reigning Monarchs by Length of Reign:

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Of Country Subdivisions: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flags_of_country_subdivisions

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Videos and Trips of National Geographic to Most Countries of the World: http://www.nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/destinations/africa http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/player/places/countries-places

Videos on the Countries of the World – View from Space, the 10 Most Populated Countries, 10 Largest, 10 Smallest, 10 Poorest, 10 Greenest, 10 Most Polluted, 10 Most Dangerous, 10 Most Corrupt, 10 Strongest, 10 Most Beautiful, 10 Fattest, We Are Happy in 157 Countries... https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=videos+on+the+countries+of+the+world

The Top 10 World's Safest Countries in the World: 10. Finland, 9. Austria, 8. Sweden, 7. Australia, 6. Ireland, 6. Netherlands, 5. Denmark, 5. Switzerland, 4. Norway, 3. Japan, 3. Iceland, 2. Singapore, 2. Tuvalu, 1. New Zealand. 9 of them are among the 11 most ethical countries in the world, according to Transparency International's Index, Austria is no. 23 in Tl's index, Ireland – 17, Japan – 15, Iceland – 12. So, here again Ethics Pays in safety also. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vE6IIYB0wl8

Video Clip – Top 15 Best Countries in the World: 15. South Korea, 14. United Kingdom, 13. New Zealand, 12. Germany, 11. USA, 10. Denmark, 9. Japan, 8. Netherlands, 7. Canada, 6. Norway, 5. Luxembourg, 4. Australia, 3. Sweden, 2. Switzerland, 1. Finland. These countries were ranked according to education, health, quality of life, economic dynamism and political environment. All the first 8 countries as well as Denmark (no. 10) are among the 11 most ethical countries in the world by Transparency International Index. New Zealand (TI – 2) is ranked no. 13. Only Singapore (no. 7 in TI's index) is not part of the best 15, but Japan (TI – 15), United States (TI – 17), Germany (TI – 12), United Kingdom (TI – 14) are also part of the best 15. Only South Korea ranks much lower in TI's index – no. 43. Ethics Pays! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uT41RPzfX1E&list=RDuT41RPzfX1E#t=407

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LIST OF WORKS ON THE FUTURE OF CAPITALISM & ETHICS

All My Sons, 1948, 95 min., based on Arthur Miller's play, Director Irving Reis, with Edward G. Robinson, Burt Lancaster

All My Sons TV 1986, 122 min., Director Jack O'Brien, with Aidan Quinn, James Whitmore

Architecture to Zucchini: The people, companies and organizations pioneering sustainability, 2006, 129 min., 12 segment educational video

The Ascent of Money: Boom and Bust, 2008, 120 min., Director Adrian Pennink, with Niall Ferguson

The Ascent of Money: The Financial History of the World, 2008, 240 min., Director Adrian Pennink, with Niall Ferguson

Babbitt, 1934, 74 min., Director William Keighley, with Guy Kibbee and Aline MacMahon, based on Sinclair Lewis' book – Babbitt

Bad Seed: The Truth about our Food, 2006, 112 min., Director Adam Curry

The Bank, 2001, 106 min., Director Robert Connolly, with David Wenham, Anth. LaPaglia

Barbarians at the Gate, 1993, TV, 107 m., Director Glenn Jordan, based on the book by Bryan Burrough & John Helyar, on the RJR Nabisco takeover, with James Garner, Jonathan Price

BBC – 1929, The Great Crash, 2009, 60 min.

BBC – The Love of Money, 2009, Part I – The Bank that Bust the World (Lehman), 51 min., Part II – The Age of Risk, 51 min., Part III – Back from the Brink, 51 min.

BBC – The Madoff Hustle, 2009, 51 min.

Beyond Borders, 2003, 127 min., Director Martin Campbell, with Angelina Jolie, NGOs

Beyond the Line, Turn the Risks of Climate and Environmental Change into Compelling Business Opportunities, 2009, 55 minutes, with interviews of Anthony Simon and key management of GE, Ikea, Marks & Spencer, Marriott, and experts from the Carbon Disclosure Project, Environmental Defense Fund, Forum for the Future, World Resources Institute and other organizations partnering with companies to help them reduce their environmental impacts and increase their business performance.

The Big One, 1997, 91 min., Director Michael Moore, who tries to convince Phil Knight to open a Nike factory in Flint, Michigan instead of the sweat shops in Asia

Biography, Andrew Carnegie, 2000, 50 min., documentary on Carnegie

Biography – Ben & Jerry's, 2008, 50 min., starring: Ben Cohen, Jerry Greenfield

Biography - Bill Gates: Sultan of Software, 2004, 50 min., documentary on Microsoft

Biography, Henry Ford, 1999, 50 min., documentary on the Ford Automobile Company

Biography, J. Pierpont Morgan, 2000, 50 min., documentary on Morgan

Biography, Sam Walton: Bargain Millionaire, 2004, 50 min., documentary on WalMart

Boiler Room, 2000, 118 min., Director Ben Younger, with Giovanni Ribisi, Vin Diesel

Capitalism: A Love Story, 2009, 127 min., starring and directed by Michael Moore

Charlie Rose interviews Sheila Bair (October 17, 2008), 2008, 27 min. out of a DVD of 57 min.

Charlie Rose, Warren Buffett (October 1, 2008), 2008, 57 min.

Charlie Rose, Jamie Dimon (July 7, 2008), 2008, 57 min.

Charlie Rose, A Conversation with Author Thomas L. Friedman, about his book Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution – and How it Can Renew America; September 9, 2008, 57 min.

Charlie Rose with Thomas L. Friedman (August 31, 2005), 60 min., documentary. An interview of Thomas L. Friedman, columnist for the New York Times and author of The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century

Charlie Rose with Hank Paulson (May 19, 2004), 2006, 57 min.

Charlie Rose with Nassim Taleb (December 3, 2008), 2008, 21 minutes out of a DVD of 57 minutes

Charlie Rose with Muhammad Yunus (June 4, 2004), 2006, 57 min.

China Blue, 2005, 86 min., Director Micha X. Peled, documentary on globalization in China

The China Syndrome 1979, 122 m, Director James Bridges, with Jane Fonda, Jack Lemon

A Civil Action, 1998, 112 min., Director Steven Zaillian, with John Travolta, Robert Duvall, based on Jonathan Harr's book

Class Action, 1991, 110 min., Direc. Michael Apted, with Gene Hackman, M.E. Mastrantonio

Collapse, 2009, 80 min., Director Chris Smith, based on a book by Michael Ruppert

The Corporation, 2003, 145 min., Directors Jennifer Abbott, Mark Achbar, based on the book by Joel Bakan "The Corporation: A Pathological Pursuit of Profit and Power", with Noam Chomsky, Peter Drucker, Milton Friedman, Ray Anderson, Naomi Klein, Michael Moore, Howard Zinn

The Crooked E, the Unshredded Truth about Enron, TV 2003, 100 min., Director Penelope Spheeris, with Christian Kane and Brian Dennehy, based on the book by Brian Cruver

Damaged Care, 2002 (TV), 114 min., Director Harry Winer, with Laura Dern

Professor Daniel Kahneman interviewed by Chrystia Freeland, Reuters, Fireside Chat Zeitgeist Europe, 2010, 27 min. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uUYQrLsmNMM

Dealers, 1989, 87 min., Director Colin Bucksey, with Paul McGann, Rebecca De Mornay

Death of a Salesman, TV 1985, 130 min., based on Arthur Miller's play, Director Volker Schloendorff, with Dustin Hoffman and John Malkovich

The Devil's Advocate, 1997, 144 m, Director Taylor Hackford, based on the novel by Andrew Neiderman, with Al Pacino, Keanu Reeves, Charlize Theron, Jef. Jones, Judith Ivey

Disclosure, 1994, 128 min., Director Barry Levinson, based on the novel by Michael Crichton, with Michael Douglas, Demi Moore, Donald Sutherland, Caroline Goodall

The Divine Comedy by Dante Alighieri, (1999) Kultur Video

Endgame, 2007, 140 min., Director Alex Jones

An Enemy of the People, 1978, 90 min., Director George Schaefer, with Steve McQueen Ganashatru 1989, 99 min., Director Satyajit Ray, Indian film based on Henrik Ibsen's play

Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room, 2005, documentary film, Director Alex Gibney, 109 min., with Peter Coyote as Narrator, with Andrew Fastow, Ken Lay and Jeff Skilling, based on the book by Bethany McLean and Peter Elkind, who also appear in the film - The Smartest Guys in the Room: The Amazing Rise and Scandalous Fall of Enron

Erin Brockovich, 2000, 132 mi., Director Steven Soderbergh, with Julia Roberts, A. Finney

Executive Suite, 1954, 104 min., Director Robert Wise, based on the novel by Cameron Hawley, with William Holden, Frederic March, Barbara Stanwick, June Allyson, Walter Pidgeon, Shelley Winters, Nina Foch, Louis Calhern, Paul Douglas

The Firm, 1993, 154 min., based on the novel by John Grisham. Director Sydney Pollack, with Tom Cruise, Ed Harris, Gene Hackman, Jeanne Tripplehorn, Hol Holbrook

F.I.S.T., 1978, 145 min., Director Norman Jewison, with Sylvester Stallone, Rod Steiger

The Flaw, 2010, 82 min., Director - David Sington, with Joseph Stiglitz, Robert Shiller, Louis Hyman

Ford: The Man and the Machine, 1987 (TV), 200 min., Director Allan Eastman, based on book by Robert Lacey, with Cliff Robertson, Hope Lange, Heather Thomas, R. H. Thomson

Four Horsemen, 2012, 97 min., Director/Writer Ross Ashcroft, with Joseph Stiglitz, Noam Chomsky

Free to Choose, Milton Friedman's TV series, 1990, 243 min., 5 Volumes, 3 DVDs: The Power of the Market, The Tyranny of Control, Freedom & Prosperity, The Failure of Socialism, Created Equal

Frontline: Black Money (2009), 2009, 60 min., starring and directed by Lowell Bergman

Frontline: Breaking the Bank (2009), 2009, 60 min.

Frontline: Inside the Meltdown, 2009, 60 min., Director Michael Kirk

Frontline: The Madoff Affair (2009), 2009, 60 min.

Frontline: Ten Trillion and Counting (2009), 2009, 60 min.

Frontline: The Warning (2009), 2010, 60 min., Director Michael Kirk, Reported by Jim Gilmore

The Future of Food, 2004, 88 min., Director Deborah Koons Garcia

Glengarry Glen Ross, 1992, 100 min., Director James Foley, based on David Mamet's play, with Jack Lemmon, Al Pacino, Ed Harris, Alan Arkin, Kevin Spacey, Alec Baldwin, Jonathan Price

Globalization & Human Rights, 1998, TV, 60 min., Writing credits: Rory O'Connor, Danny Schechter, hosted by Charlayne Hunter-Gault

The Gold Rush, 1925, 96 min. - silent or 69 min. remastered 1942 sound release. Director Charles Chaplin, with Charles Chaplin, Mark Swain

The Great Gatsby, 1974, 140 min., Director Jack Clayton, with Robert Redford, Mia Farrow, based on Frances Scott Fitzgerald's Book

The Great Gatsby, 2013, 137 min., Director Baz Luhrmann, with Leoanrdo DiCaprio (Gatsby), Tobey Maguire (Nick), Carey Mulligan (Daisy)

Greed, 1924, 239 min., Director Erich von Stroheim, based on the novel by Frank Norris, with Zasu Pitts, Gibson Gowland

How to Save the World, 2007, 103 min., Directors Thomas and Barbara Burstyn

How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, 1967, 121 min., Director David Swift

Il Conformista 1970, 115 min., Director Bernardo Bertolucci, based on Alberto Moravia's book The Conformist, with Jean-Louis Trintignant, Stefania Sandrelli, Yvonne Sanson

An Inconvenient Truth, 2006, 96 min., Director Davis Guggenheim, Narrated by Al Gore

Inequality for All, 2013, 86 min., Director Jacob Kornbluth, with Robert Reich, based on his book Aftershock: The Next Economy and America's Future

Inside Job, 2010, 109 minutes, written and directed by Charles Ferguson, narrated by Matt Damon

The Insider, 1999, 157 min., Director Michael Mann, with Al Pacino and Russel Crowe

The Inspector General 1949, 102 min., Director Henry Koster, with Danny Kaye, based on Revisor by Nikolai Gogol

It's a Wonderful Life, 1946, 130 min., Director Frank Capra, with James Stewart, Donna Reed

Jean de Florette, 1986, 122 min., Director Claude Berri, with Yves Montand, Gerard Depardieu, based on Marcel Pagnol's book

Julius Caesar 1953, 120 min., Director Joseph Mankiewicz, with Marlon Brando, James Mason, based on William Shakespeare's play

La Curee 1966, 98 min., Director Roger Vadim, with Jane Fonda and Michel Piccoli

L'Argent TV, 1988, 250 min, based on Emile Zola's book L' Argent, about the financier Aristide Saccard, Director Jacques Rouffio, with Claude Brasseur, Miou-Miou, M. Galabru L' Argent, 1928, 195 min., Director Marcel L' Herbier, with Pierre Alcover, Alfred Abel

Les Grandes Familles 1958, 92 min., based on Maurice Druon's book, Director Denys de la Patteliere, with Jean Gabin, Bernard Blier, Pierre Brasseur, Jean Dessailly, Jean Murat

Life and Debt, 2001, 80 min., Director Stephanie Black, globalization, IMF, Jamaica

Life of Emile Zola 1937, 116 min., Director William Dieterle, with Paul Muni, Henry O'Neill

Lois Gibbs and the Love Canal, TV 1982, 100 min., Director Glenn Jordan, with Marsha Mason, based on the Love Canal scandal

Man of La Mancha 1972, 132 min., Director Arthur Hiller, with Peter O'Toole, Sophia Loren, based on Don Quijote by Miguel de Cervantes

Manon des Sources 1986, 113 min, Director Claude Berri, with Emmanuele Beart, Daniel Auteuil, based on Marcel Pagnol's book

Manufacturing Consent: Noam Chomsky and the Media, 1992, 167 min., Directors Mark Achbar and Peter Wintonick, about corporate media's role in modern propaganda

Marie: A True Story, 1985, 112 min., Director Roger Donaldson, with Sissy Spacek

McLibel, 2005, 85 min., Director Franny Armstrong, on McDonald's libel suit in the UK

The Merchant of Venice, 2004, 138 min., Director Michael Radford, with Al Pacino, Jeremy Irons, based on William Shakespeare's play

The Merchant of Venice, TV 1973, 131 min., Director John Sichel, with Laurence Olivier The Merchant of Venice TV 1980, 157 min., Director Jack Gold, with Warren Mitchell

Milton Friedman, 2002, 73 m., Interviewed by Gary S. Becker, Intellectual Portrait Series

Modern Times, 1936, 87 min., Director Charles Chaplin, with Charles Chaplin, Paulette Goddard

Nassim Nicholas Taleb: The Future Has Always Been Crazier Than We Thought, 2008, 90 min.

Nine to Five, 1980, 110 min., Director Colin Higgins, with Jane Fonda, Dolly Parton

No Logo, 2003 V, 42 mi., Director Sut Jhally, documentary based on the book "No Logo" by Naomi Klein on globalization, hegemony of brands and democratic resistance

Nova - Trillion Dollar Bet, 2000, 50 m., documentary on Long Term Capital Management

The Odyssey TV 1997, 173 min., Director Andrei Konchalovsky, with Gretta Scacchi, Irene Papas, based on Homer's book

Other People's Money, 1991, 103 min., Director Norman Jewison, based on Jerry Sterner's play, with Danny DeVito, Gregory Peck, Penelope Ann Miller, Piper Laurie

Outsourced, 2006, 103 min., Director John Jeffcoat, with Josh Hamilton, Ayesha Dharkar, Asif Basra, Matt Smith

Patterns, 1956, 83 min., Director Fielder Cook, with Van Heflin, Ed Beg

Paul Hawken: The New Great Transformation, 2007, 71 min., Director Chris Baldwin, Speaker: Paul Hawken

Pirates of Silicon Valley, 1999, TV, 95 min., Director Martin Burke, with Anthony Michael Hall as Bill Gates of Microsoft, Noah Wyle as Steve Jobs of Apple, Joey Slotnick as Steve Wozniak of Apple, John DiMaggio as Steve Ballmer of Microsoft

Precarity, 2004, 197 min., Concept & Realization: Francesca Bria, Tora Krogh, Lize de Clercq. A compilation of 17 videos on victims of globalization, from Italy, Spain, Korea, Mexico, Japan, Netherlands, France, US, Michael Moore, Naomi Klein, The Take

Rhinoceros, 1974, 104 min., Director Tom O'Horgan, with Zero Mostel and Gene Wilder, based on Eugene Ionesco's play

Rigoletto 1982, 130 min., Verdi's opera with Piave's libretto based on Victor Hugo's play Le roi s'amuse, Director John Michael Phillips, with John Rawnsley as Rigoletto and Marie McLaughlin as Gilda. The English National Opera in an adaptation to contemporary Mafia. Rigoletto 1982, 128 min., Director Jean-Pierre Ponnelle, with Luciano Pavarotti

Ripped Off: Madoff and the Scamming of America, and Crash: The Next Great Depression, 2009, 94 min., History, Starring Bernie Madoff

The Rise of Disaster Capitalism, 2009, with Naomi Klein, 77 minutes

The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism, Naomi Klein, Bioneers, 2008, 33 minutes

The Shock Doctrine, 2009, Documentary by Michael Winterbottom and Mat Whitecross, with Naomi Klein, 89 minutes

RJR/Nabisco, Braces for Buyouts, The History Channel, documentary, 2002, 50 min.

Roger & Me, 1989, 91 min., Director Michael Moore, on GM plant shutdown and downsizing

Rogue Trader 1999, 101 min., based on Nick Leeson's autobiography about the disastrous collapse of UK's Barings Bank, Director James Dearden, with Ewan McGregor, Anna Friel

Runaway Jury, 2003, 127 m., Director Gary Fleder, based on the novel by John Grisham, with John Cusack, Gene Hackman, Dustin Hoffman, Rachel Weisz, Bruce McGill

Seven Samurai 1954, 190 min., Director Akira Kurosawa, with Toshira Mifune

Shaping the Future: 2008 Global Conference: A Discussion with Nobel Laureates in Economics, 2008, 75 min., Milken Institute

Sicko, 2007, 123 min., Director Michael Moore, a documentary on the American healthcare system

Silkwood, 1983, 131 min., Director Mike Nichols, with Meryl Streep, Cher, Kurt Russell

Startup.com, 2001, 107 min., Director Chris Hegedus, Jehane Noujaim, documentary with Kaleil Tuzman and Tom Herman, on the rise and fall of the Internet company govWorks.com

Super Size Me, 2004, 100 min., Director and Actor - Morgan Spurlock. McDonalds, fast food unhealthy effects, the first ever reality-based movie, beginning and ending in 30 days

Syriana, 2005, 126 min., Director Stephen Gaghan, with George Clooney, C. Plummer, Matt Damon

The Take, 2004, 87 min., documentary directed by Avi Lewis, written by Naomi Klein, Argentina

The Threepenny Opera: Die Dreigroschenoper, 1931, music Kurt Weill, 112 min., Director Georg Pabst, with Lotte Lenya, based on Bertolt Brecht's play

The Beggar's Opera 1953, 94 min., Director Peter Brook, with Laurence Olivier, Hugh Griffith

Too Big to Fail, 2011, 100 min., Director Curtis Hanson, with James Woods, William Hurt, Paul Giamatti, writers Peter Gould, Andrew Ross Sorkin

Topaze 1951, 136 min, Director Marcel Pagnol, with Fernandel, based on Marcel Pagnol's play

Topaze, 1933, 78 min., Director Harry d'Abbadie d'Arrast, with John Barrymore, Mirnay Loy Topaze, 1935, 103 min., Director Louis J. Gasnier, with Louis Jouvet, Edwige Feuillere.

Triumph of the Nerds: The Rise of Accidental Empires, 1996, 165 min., TV, Director Robert Cringely, documentary on the origins of the personal computer with Paul Allen (co-founder Microsoft), Steve Ballmer, Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak, Gordon Moore

The Visit 1964, 100 min., Director Bernhard Wicki, with Ingrid Bergman Hyenas, 1992, 113 m., Director Djibril Diop Mambety, African film based on the play The Visit of the Old Lady by Friedrich Durrenmatt

Wall Street, 1987, 120 min., Director Oliver Stone, with Michael Douglas, Martin Sheen Wall Street 2: Money Never Sleeps, 2010, 127 min., Director Oliver Stone, with Michael Douglas

Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price, 2005, 95 min., Director Robert Greenwald

Warren Buffett - Oracle of Omaha, 2000, 60 min., about the story of Berkshire Hathaway

We're Not Broke, 2012, 53 min., Directors and Writers Victoria Bruce and Karin Hayes

Where is the World Going to, Mr. Stiglitz?, 2007, 380 min., starring Joseph Stiglitz

Who Killed the Electric Car?, 93 min., Director Chris Paine, Narrated by Martin Sheen

Working Girl, 1988, 115 min., Director Mike Nichols, with Harrison Ford, Sigourney Weaver, Melanie Griffith, Alec Baldwin

The Yes Men, 2003, 2003, 83 min., Directors Dan Ollman and Sarah Price, WTO satire

Yes, Prime Minister, UK 1992, 461 min., Director Sidney Lotterby, with Paul Edington, Nigel Hawthorne, TV series and books by Jonathan Lynn and Anthony Jay (Yes, Minister)

Dr. JACQUES CORY – CURRICULUM VITAE

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Home Address: 2, Costa Rica Street, Haifa, Israel 34981

Telephone: 972-4-8256608 or 972-4-8246316. Mobile: 972-544-589518.

Fax: 972-4-8343848

E-mail: coryj@zahav.net.il or cory@netvision.net.il

Website: http://www.businessethics.co.il

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Business Administration (with distinction), CNAM - Conservatoire National des Arts et Metiers, Paris, France, 2004. Doctoral Dissertation in French - 'Business Ethics and the Minority Shareholders' - the first dissertation on this subject in the world.

MBA Business Administration, INSEAD, Fontainebleau, France, 1968. An International MBA in a trilingual program: English, French and German.

BA Economics and Political Sciences, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, 1966.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

- 2004-2013 Lecturer at the MBA, International MBA, MA, BA programs, and 17 classes of the Naval Academy, at The University of Haifa, Israel, on: Corporate Governance, Business Administration, Social & Economic Justice, Business Ethics, CSR Corporate Social Responsibility, Sustainability, Globalization, M&A Mergers & Acquisitions, Business and Government, Leadership and Stakeholders, NGOs and the Public Sector. Elected in 2005 as the Best Lecturer of the University of Haifa and received appreciation letters from deans and students.
- **2010-2011** Lecturer at the International MBA program in English, at The Tel Aviv University, Israel, on: The Future of Capitalism in a Sustainable Society, a Contemporary Course in the Context of the Great Recession of 2007-2010; and a Course on Business Ethics.
- **2009-2010** Lecturer at the Executive MBA program, at The Technion Israel Institute of Technology, Tel Aviv, Israel, on: Business Ethics & the Future of Capitalism in a Sustainable Society.
- **2006** Visiting Professor, INSEAD, Singapore, on: Semestrial Course of Business Ethics 'Individual, Business & Society: The Ethical Dilemma'.
- 2005 Lecturer at the Ruppin Academic Center on Business Ethics.
- **2010-2014** Lecturer at the Carmel Academic Center in English and in Hebrew on Business Ethics and the Future of Capitalism.

BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

Writing of Ethical Code, 10 Case Studies, and Training for Sibat, the International Defense Cooperation Agency

2006 Chairman of the Advisory Board, Taditel, Israel.

2005 Business Manager CycleTec, affiliate of American Israeli Paper Mill, Israel.

2002 General Manager Corporate Recovery Management, W&S Israel.

1981 - 2000 Top-level management of large and small hi-tech companies, M&A and

strategic partnerships, international business, know-how transfer with conglomerates, shares and debentures offerings in the US & Israel, subsidiaries management, international turnarounds, initiating new ventures. Business

activities in France, US, Europe, Israel.

Turnaround Plans and successful implementation of Elbit (1981-1982), Elscint's subsidiaries (1987-1988), NBase (1995-1996), and other companies, in hi-tech and low-tech, in France, the US and Israel, increasing in several cases valuation by more than 1,000%.

M&A and JV Negotiations of Israeli, U.S., Canadian, French, German, and Spanish companies in the computer, Internet, data communication, telecom, imaging, semi-conductor, and aerospace industries. Due diligence, negotiations, 100 business plans, strategic planning.

Technology Transfer: conducting of negotiations and agreements, including development, manufacturing and marketing rights, between large European, American and Israeli companies, such as Nixdorf, Alcatel, Hon and Global. Management of a Satellite Communications Consortium (1991-1993) comprised of some of the largest Israeli companies: IAI, Rafael/Galram, Elisra, Gilat, Technion.

<u>Management</u>: (1981-1987) Vice President in charge of business activities, sales and finance of Elbit, one of the largest Israeli hi-tech companies. Was directly responsible for the transition from heavy losses to peak profits, M&A, and international business breakthrough. Managed U.S. and Israeli public offerings. Member of U.S. and Israeli Boards of Directors. Initiated and managed Strategic Planning.

1973-1980: Sales Manager and Head of the Defense Sales Department at Elbit, Israel.

1970-1973: Export Manager and Assistant to the Executive CEO at Electra, Israel.

1968-1970: Assistant to the Strategic Planning VP of Israel Aircraft Industries, Israel.

BOOKS

"Business Ethics for a Sustainable Society: Conquering the Corporate Frankenstein", The Edwin Mellen Press, US, 2009. An academic book in English, focusing on the Economic Whirl, starting in the eighties with damages of billions and culminating in the Great Economic Crisis of 2008 with damages of trillions, its origins, analysis and potential solutions. The book comprises of theoretical issues, cases based on business experience, and works: on business ethics, sustainability, globalization, corporate governance, & social responsibility. Hard cover - 2009, soft cover - 2010, used as textbook.

"Selected Issues in Business Ethics and Social Responsibility", published by Magnes Publishers, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, in July 2008: Analysis of theoretical issues and ethical dilemmas in original cases, films, plays & novels, forecasting the world economic crisis & presenting practical vehicles to overcome the crisis. Received an outstanding acclaim and used as textbook.

Two books - "Business Ethics: The Ethical Revolution of Minority Shareholders" and "Activist Business Ethics", published by Kluwer Academic Publishers Boston, US, in 2001 (now Springer). Paperback Editions by Springer, US, 2004. Pioneer research, based on case studies of U.S., French & Israeli companies and extensive business experience, with a modern approach on activism in business ethics. The books found the rules that govern unethical conduct towards minority shareholders, which were validated by the Enron scandal. Activist Business Ethics is quoted on Wikipedia & other websites, is quoted several times in the entry "Business Ethics" of Wikipedia, is recommended in Wikipedia and Answers.com for "Further Reading", and is treated as a standard text/source book in Talk: Business Ethics in Wikipedia. The book is in about one thousand university libraries all over the world (USA – 750, Germany – 41, Canada – 36, France, UK, Netherlands, Belgium, Norway, Denmark, Poland, Italy, Switzerland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Mexico, Colombia, Lebanon, Israel, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Qatar, South Korea, South Africa, Malaysia, Singapore, China, etc.), and sells also in Russia, India, Japan, Greece, Thailand, Brazil, etc.

Doctoral Dissertation in French - 'Business Ethics & the Minority Shareholders', 2004, at CNAM, Paris, France, in 2004 and at other locations. Book "L'ethique des affaires et les actionnaires minoritaires", published by Editions Universitaires Europeennes in France in 2012. Used as textbook.

Novel in Hebrew "Beware of Greeks' Presents", Bimat Kedem, Israel, 2001, a modern Odyssey on Business Ethics, with the essay "Business Ethics in Israel – the Dream and the Calamity", one of the first essays on this topic. Used as textbook. A Play in Hebrew - "Nelly's Choice", Jacques Cory with Amalia Eyal, in 2005 (on Cory's website and at the library of the University of Haifa). Used as textbook. Reading of the play was performed at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem on July 30, 2008. Translated into French in 2008 by Saskia Cohen - "Le choix de Nelly", published in 2012 in France by Edilivre. A Play in Hebrew "Nelly Doron" by Jacques Cory, written in 1997 and published on Cory's website, University of Haifa, Transparency International Israel, Ometz, Carmel websites, etc. in 2012.

Chapters in Edited Books — "Une maniere originale d'enseigner la RSE" (An original method to teach CSR), in the book "La RSE — La responsabilite sociale des entreprises — Theories et pratiques", by Francois Lepineux, Jean-Jacques Rose, Carole Bonanni, Sarah Hudson, published by Dunod in France in 2010. "In the Name of Citizens, Business or Officials? Insights on the Public Responsibility of the Government and Public Administration" by Eran Vigoda Gadot and Jacques Cory, in the book "Public Responsibility in Israel" by Raphael Cohen-Almagor, Ori Arbel-Ganz, Asa Kasher, published by Hakibbutz Hameuchad Publishing House & The Jerusalem Center for Ethics, in Hebrew, in Israel, 2012. One of the first essays on Business & Government & Social Justice in Israel.

2012 - "Social, Economic & Governmental Justice: Essays, Articles & the Play "Nelly Doron" free ebook in Hebrew, published on the Internet at Jacques Cory's website in HOME, BOOKS and HEBREW, at the University of Haifa's Library website - http://lib.haifa.ac.il (search by name of author or book), Transparency International Israel, Ometz, Carmel Academic Center websites, etc. Includes also short stories: "Baruch Ashem", "Rain Fairy", correspondence, appreciation letters, social justice projects, satires, Ladino activities, case studies... Based on "Essays & Articles on Social & Economic Justice, Business & Government in Israel", published since 2010 on journals & websites. Additional essays, articles, case studies and a code of ethics appear on Cory's and other organizations' websites and might be part of a published printed version of the eBook, if a publisher would

publish the book in Israel. The updated eBook is split in two eBooks: a professional book – **2016** – "Ethical Codes and Case Studies, Essays and Articles on Social, Economic and Governmental Justice", and a book on general and personal topics – **2016** – "Essays, Memoirs and Articles on General and Personal Topics".

2010 - "The Future of Capitalism in a Sustainable Society" in English, based on The Great Recession of 2007-2010: book in progress, along an outline on Cory's website. Bibliography of 120 books, a similar number of videos, and hundreds of articles, was read and hundreds of notes were prepared as basis for writing the book upon receipt of adequate financing. The book calls into question the conduct of corporations, leaders, executives and regulators before, during and after the Recession and shows how the invisible hand, minimal regulation and maximization of profits have a perverse impact on the world economy, society, stakeholders, business and profitability. Finally, the book suggests a new political economy of the state, new strategy for the private and public sectors, new economy of income and wealth distribution, in the context of a proper humane policy bringing sustainable development.

2016 – "Ethics Pays: A Comprehensive Atlas of Salient Parameters in the 300 Countries of the World Proving that Ethics Pays" in English. The eBook proves that the most ethical countries obtain the best results in all the parameters - GDP per capita, democracy, peace, equality, freedom, happiness, social progress, efficiency, globalization, competitiveness, etc., and the most corrupt countries obtain the worst results. The book is also a geography book describing the 18 - 55 most salient parameters of the world's countries, and comparing the achievements of all the 300 countries of the world. The most salient parameters can be allocated to each country, or can remain in the tables of the book and in the links of the book.

2016 – "Cory's Cosmopolitan Cultural Credo: Autobiography – A Lifetime Companion for the Universal Intellectual Humanist" in English. An eBook describing Cory's experience, works and thoughts on his fields of interest, a new kind of literature, comprising of a mixture of: novels, drama, biographies, non-fiction, linguistics, geography, business, ethics, academics, economics, history, music, arts, films, philosophy, poetry, folklore, sociology, travel, and even humor. Cory blended all those ingredients in his long careers in diverse occupations and avocations, which might interest the intellectual reader of the book. The book is Cory's credo and truth, an ode to humanism, moderation and harmony, in Cory's cosmopolitan, polyglot and holistic approach. It can be read, seen, or heard during thousands of hours, everybody can find interest in parts of this book, which hopefully will arise a desire to learn languages, literature, philosophy, history, geography, ethics, and drama, and watch the best films, music, folklore, and arts. In this book Cory wants to shake the complacency of businessmen, statesmen, fundamentalists, peacelovings, academics, & intellectuals, who often don't see the whole picture, as this book does, encompassing most of the facets of culture.

2016 – "**Ijiko and His Grandparents in the Jungle**" – in Hebrew. The children book by Jacques Cory, illustrated by Elena Gat, edited by Shirly Garfunkel, exists in a book format with illustrations but it was not published yet, and also as an eBook (without the illustrations) at Jacques Cory's website. This book is based on the author's jungle stories to his children and grandchildren, who also contributed their inputs to the plot, with names primarily deriving from funny words in Ladino, as the lion Hastrapula, the giraffe Siskerina, the monkey Sholobolo, the peacock Zurzuvi, the witch-doctor Melizina, the rhinoceros Haftona, etc.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 2013 Member of the Advisory Board of I.Q.L. The Israeli Directors Forum Ltd. The Forum (Integrity, Quality & Leadership) is designed to upgrade the work of directors as well as to enrich and equip them with professional tools for performance of their duty.
- 2012 Initiating a proposal for the Award of Sustainable Justice Prizes in Israel and in other countries, member of the Prize Committee with well-known ethical experts in the award fields of: Social Justice, Economic Justice, Governmental Justice, Environmental Justice, Media Justice, Educational Justice & Cultural Justice, i.a. Nobel Prize laureate Professor Dan Shechtman, famous playwright Joshua Sobol, and leading professors, journalists & activists.
- 2011 Organization of Symposium on Social & Economic Justice with the University of Haifa & Ometz in Haifa, Israel. Lecture by Cory, Participation of Leading Professors, Businessmen, Social Activists, NGO Leaders & Daphni Leef. Symposium filmed by the Academic Channel.
 - Participation in the Forums of the Israeli Social Protest Movement and Others for Enhancing Social Justice in Israel, Transparency, Ethics, & Reducing Business & Government Relations.
- **2001 -** Lectures at Conferences, Universities, Organizations, Companies and Governmental Forums, in the U.S., Europe and Israel. Transcripts, Films & Articles on Lectures on Cory's website.

Transparency International, Berlin – Drawing Lessons from the Great 2008 Recession - 2010

Insead, Fontainebleau, France - Lectures and Workshops at Ethics Days - 2001/2003 European Union - Stresa, Italy, Lecture on Trends in M&A - 2001

Ethics & Management - Symposium of Paris' high ranking executives - 2003

In Europe – meetings for promoting Cory's books in Paris, London, Frankfurt, Amsterdam and Copenhagen, with collaboration of Kluwer – 2001

In the USA – meetings for promoting Cory's books in Washington, Boston and New York, participating at the annual meeting of Society for Business Ethics in Washington – 2001

Israel: Keynote Speaker - Top Management of Israeli Bank Leumi, Transparency International, Israeli SEC, the Israeli Electric Company, Elbit, IAI, Apax & Insead Anciens Association, Ernst & Young. Magnes Launching of Book – ZOA hall, Tel Aviv, Bimat Kedem Launching of Book – Suzan Dalal hall, Tel Aviv. Speaker at the Hi-Tech Summit (Technology & People), Directors' Convention, Ethics Center at the Israeli Stock Exchange, Internal Auditors Convention, Mishkenot Shaananim Ethics Center, Ethics & Engineering, BDO, Migdal Insurance Group, Izraeli Ethics Center, Ometz, forums of the Technion and the University of Haifa, Reali High School, and on Israeli radio & TV.

- 2013 Articles in Walla Business and Ethics Center Mishkenot Shaananim Bulletin
- 2010 Publicist, News First Class, NFC, News 1, a leading Israeli News Website

2009-2011 - Columnist, "Ethics and You" - The Israeli CPA Review

2008- Articles in Transparency International Israel and Ometz

- 2006 Member of the Editorial Advisory Board, Society and Business Review, Emerald.
- **2001 -** Israel: Essays and Articles on Social & Economic Justice, Business Ethics, Business & Government

PUBLIC ACTIVITIES

2015 – Award of the Israeli highest ethical prize by Ometz "Itur Hamofet".

1981 - Member of the Society for Business Ethics in the US; the France and United Kingdom Chambers of Commerce in Israel. Member of the Boards of Directors/Management of Transparency International Israel, Ometz ethical NGO, Haifa Theater, Haifa Film Festival.

LANGUAGES

Fluent in English, French (mother tongue), Spanish, Ladino, Hebrew. Fair knowledge of Italian, German, Portuguese, Romanian, Interlingua. Reading capabilities in more than 40 other languages.

AVOCATIONS

Theater, Literature, Cinema, Languages, Research, Travel.

FAMILY AND PERSONAL STATUS

Married Ruthy Popliker, August 19, 1969. Three children: Joseph, Amir, Shirly, all of them married with children. Born in Cairo, Egypt, June 5, 1944, studied in French at the Lycee Francais du Caire. Living in Israel since 1953. Israeli citizen (mother Pauline Simon Cory was a Greek citizen).

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS – Dr. JACQUES CORY

BOOKS

2012 - "Social, Economic & Governmental Justice: Essays, Articles & the Play "Nelly Doron" free ebook in Hebrew, published on the Internet at Jacques Cory's website in HOME, BOOKS and HEBREW, at the University of Haifa's Library website - http://lib.haifa.ac.il (search by name of author or book), Transparency International Israel, Ometz, Carmel Academic Center websites, etc. Includes also short stories: "Baruch Ashem", "Rain Fairy", correspondence, appreciation letters, social justice projects, satires, Ladino activities, case studies... Based on "Essays & Articles on Social & Economic Justice, Business & Government in Israel", published since 2010 on journals & websites. Additional essays, articles, case studies and a code of ethics appear on Cory's and other organizations' websites and might be part of a published printed version of the eBook, if a publisher would publish the book in Israel. The updated eBook is split in two eBooks: a professional book – 2016 – "Ethical Codes and Case Studies, Essays and Articles on Social, Economic and Governmental Justice", and a book on general and personal topics – 2016 – "Essays, Memoirs and Articles on General and Personal Topics".

2010 - "**The Future of Capitalism in a Sustainable Society**" in English, based on The Great Recession of 2007-2010: book in progress, along an outline on Cory's website. Bibliography of 120 books, a similar number of videos, and hundreds of articles, was read and hundreds of

notes were prepared as basis for writing the book upon receipt of adequate financing. The book calls into question the conduct of corporations, leaders, executives and regulators before, during and after the Recession and shows how the invisible hand, minimal regulation and maximization of profits have a perverse impact on the world economy, society, stakeholders, business and profitability. Finally, the book suggests a new political economy of the state, new strategy for the private and public sectors, new economy of income and wealth distribution, in the context of a proper humane policy bringing sustainable development.

- **2016** "Ethics Pays: A Comprehensive Atlas of Salient Parameters in the 300 Countries of the World Proving that Ethics Pays" in English. The eBook proves that the most ethical countries obtain the best results in all the parameters GDP per capita, democracy, peace, equality, freedom, happiness, social progress, efficiency, globalization, competitiveness, etc., and the most corrupt countries obtain the worst results. The book is also a geography book describing the 18 55 most salient parameters of the world's countries, and comparing the achievements of all the 300 countries of the world. The most salient parameters can be allocated to each country, or can remain in the tables of the book and in the links of the book.
- **2016** "Cory's Cosmopolitan Cultural Credo: Autobiography A Lifetime Companion for the Universal Intellectual Humanist" in English. An eBook describing Cory's experience, works and thoughts on his fields of interest, a new kind of literature, comprising of a mixture of: novels, drama, biographies, non-fiction, linguistics, geography, business, ethics, academics, economics, history, music, arts, films, philosophy, poetry, folklore, sociology, travel, and even humor. Cory blended all those ingredients in his long careers in diverse occupations and avocations, which might interest the intellectual reader of the book. The book is Cory's credo and truth, an ode to humanism, moderation and harmony, in Cory's cosmopolitan, polyglot and holistic approach. It can be read, seen, or heard during thousands of hours, everybody can find interest in parts of this book, which hopefully will arise a desire to learn languages, literature, philosophy, history, geography, ethics, and drama, and watch the best films, music, folklore, and arts. In this book Cory wants to shake the complacency of businessmen, statesmen, fundamentalists, peacelovings, academics, & intellectuals, who often don't see the whole picture, as this book does, encompassing most of the facets of culture.
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- **2010** "Une maniere originale d'enseigner la RSE" (An original method to teach CSR), in the book "La RSE La responsabilite sociale des entreprises Theories et pratiques", by Francois Lepineux, Jean-Jacques Rose, Carole Bonanni, Sarah Hudson, published in French by Dunod in France. On teaching CSR with plays, novels & films on business, CSR & ethics.
- **2009** "Business Ethics for a Sustainable Society: Conquering the Corporate Frankenstein", The Edwin Mellen Press, US. An academic book in English, focusing on the Economic Whirl, starting in the eighties with damages of billions and culminating in the Great Economic Crisis of 2008 with damages of trillions, its origins, analysis and potential solutions. The book comprises of theoretical issues, cases based on business experience, and works: on business ethics, sustainability, globalization, corporate governance, & social responsibility. Hard cover 2009, soft cover 2010, used as textbook.

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Two books - "Business Ethics: The Ethical Revolution of Minority Shareholders" and "Activist Business Ethics", published by Kluwer Academic Publishers Boston, US, in 2001 (now Springer). Paperback Editions by Springer, US, 2004. Pioneer research, based on case studies of U.S., French & Israeli companies and extensive business experience, with a modern approach on activism in business ethics. The books found the rules that govern unethical conduct towards minority shareholders, which were validated by the Enron scandal. Activist Business Ethics quoted on Wikipedia & other websites, is quoted several times in the entry "Business Ethics" of Wikipedia, is recommended in Wikipedia and Answers.com for "Further Reading", and is treated as a standard text/source book in Talk: Business Ethics in Wikipedia. The book is in about one thousand university libraries all over the world (USA – 750, Germany – 41, Canada – 36, France, UK, Netherlands, Belgium, Norway, Denmark, Poland, Italy, Switzerland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Mexico, Colombia, Lebanon, Israel, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Qatar, South Korea, South Africa, Malaysia, Singapore, China, etc.), and sells also in Russia, India, Japan, Greece, Thailand, Brazil, etc.

Doctoral Dissertation in French - 'Business Ethics & the Minority Shareholders', 2004, at CNAM, Paris, France, in 2004 and at other locations. Book "L'ethique des affaires et les actionnaires minoritaires", published by Editions Universitaires Europeennes in France in 2012. Used as textbook.

Novel in Hebrew "Beware of Greeks' Presents", Bimat Kedem, Israel, 2001, a modern Odyssey on Business Ethics, with the essay "Business Ethics in Israel – the Dream and the Calamity", one of the first essays on this topic. Used as textbook. A Play in Hebrew - "Nelly's Choice", Jacques Cory with Amalia Eyal, in 2005 (on Cory's website and at the library of the University of Haifa). Used as textbook. Reading of the play was performed at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem on July 30, 2008. Translated into French in 2008 by Saskia Cohen - "Le choix de Nelly", published in 2012 in France by Edilivre. A Play in Hebrew "Nelly Doron" by Jacques Cory, written in 1997 and published on Cory's website, University of Haifa, Transparency International Israel, Ometz, Carmel websites, etc. in 2012.

2016 – "**Ijiko and His Grandparents in the Jungle**" – in Hebrew. The children book by Jacques Cory, illustrated by Elena Gat, edited by Shirly Garfunkel, exists in a book format with illustrations but it was not published yet, and also as an eBook (without the illustrations) at Jacques Cory's website. This book is based on the author's jungle stories to his children and grandchildren, who also contributed their inputs to the plot, with names primarily deriving from funny words in Ladino, as the lion Hastrapula, the giraffe Siskerina, the monkey Sholobolo, the peacock Zurzuvi, the witch-doctor Melizina, the rhinoceros Haftona, etc.

ARTICLES

2009 – 2011 – Columnist: "Ethics and You" at Roeh Haheshbon, Israeli CPA Review

June 2011, Holistic Ethics, "Ethics & You", Column in Roeh Haheshbon, Israeli CPA Review

March 2011 - Inside Information and Insider Trading, "Ethics and You", Israeli CPA Review October 2010 - Lessons for the Insurance Industry, "Ethics and You", Israeli CPA Review August 2010 - Teaching Business Ethics with Plays, "Ethics and You", Israeli CPA Review (also in French)

June 2010, The Greatest Scheme in History, "Ethics and You", Israeli CPA Review April 2010 - Mark to Market & the Great Recession, "Ethics and You", Israeli CPA Review February 2010 - Sustainability - Paul Hawken, "Ethics and You", Israeli CPA Review (also in English)

October 2009 - Drawing Lessons from the Great Recession of 2008, Israeli CPA Review (also in English)

August 2009 - CPA's Ethical Mission, "Ethics and You" Column in Israeli CPA Review (also in English)

June 2009 - Chinese Wall's Illusion, "Ethics and You" Column in Israeli CPA Review

April 2007 – Essay "The Twelve Commandments", 12 Rules on Reconciliation between Profitability and Ethics, in Roeh Haheshbon, the Israeli CPA Review (also in English)

2013 - Walla Business, a Leading Israeli News Website

May 2013 – Lapid, Fisher, Netanyahu, Bourgeoisie's Knights

March 2013 – Linking Economy and Society

2010 - Publicist at News First Class, NFC, News 1, a Leading Israeli News Website

March 2014 – On Theater, Cameri, Frost/Nixon

March 2014 – On Orientalism and Europocentrism

February 2014 – Eulogy for Zvi Aviel, one of the greatest Israeli's Poets, with Translation from German by Cory of one of his first stories

February 2014 – Spanish Citizenship for Sephardim

November 2013 – Ethics Starts at the Top

April 2013 - Sustainable Justice in the World's Cultures

March 2013 – Who Is the Real Aristocracy in Israel?

November 2012 - Social, Economic and Governmental Justice

August 2012 – The Nightmare of Julia, a satire

June 2012 - Absolute Responsibility for the Carmel Disaster and the Breaking of the Social Justice Movement

March 2012 - Social & Economic Justice Activists - Anarchists, Communists & Impudents?

February 2012 - Essay - The Actual Context of the Play "The Visit of the Old Lady"

November 2011 - Social & Economic Justice in Israel (Published also on Ometz's website)

August 2011 - Open Letter to the Leaders of the Social Movement

March 2011 – How I Discovered the Synagogue of Coria?

December 2010 - Brethren, Our Country is on Fire

July 2010 - Bibliotherapy and Me

2013 – Ethics Center Mishkenot Shaananim Bulletin

March 2013 – Social, Economic and Governmental Justice

2011 – Initiated and Participated with Ladinokomunita in the Translation and Editing of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights into Ladino, published on the UN Website, and on the website eSefarad Spain in Ladino.

2008 - 2009 - Transparency International Israel's Website and Nihul Shakuf

October 2009 - The Decline of Ethics following the Great Recession of 2008

November 2008 - 36 Principles of Business and Ethics in the Economic World Towards 2020 (also in English)

2009 - Ometz's (Israeli Ethical Organization) Website

December 2009 - Article on the Great Recession

May 2009 - Futuristic Satire "Children of Winter 1973 – 2049"

April 2009 - The Basic Principles of the Political Platform of the Israeli Second Republic Movement

February 2009 - The Ethical Failures of the World Economic Crisis

(As well as articles published on other websites from 2010 onwards)

2004 - Articles published in Globes, a leading economic daily newspaper

September 2008 - (G Magazine pp. 25-30) an Interview with Cory and a Review by Dror Feuer on Cory's Book

August 2008 - Anat Cohen, On Ethical Screening for MBA Students, with Interviews of Leading Academics, including Jacques Cory

July 2004 – an Article by Jacques Cory "Stop the Rhinoceros we want to step down"

Other Articles

2014 – Spanish Citizenship for Sephardim in Ladino, Diyalog Turkey May 2014, pp. 87-89, Satire April 2014

2011 - How I discovered the synagogue of Coria? written by Cory in 5 languages, published: in Tarbut Sefarad Spain, in Spanish... Aurora Israel, in Spanish... Anajnu Chile, in Spanish... Shelanu Argentina, in Spanish... CCIU Uruguay, in Spanish... eSefarad Argentina, in Ladino & Spanish... Ladinokomunita USA, in Ladino... Forojudio Mexico, in Ladino... Los Muestros Belgium, in Ladino... Aki Yerushalaim Israel, in Ladino... Sephardic Horizons USA, in Ladino... News1 Israel, in Hebrew... Sharsheret Hadorot Israel, in English & Hebrew... Halapid US, in English... Nahar Misraim France, in French... Letter from the Spanish Ambassador in Israel in Spanish with translation into English... Afterword by Cory in English

April 2005 - Site of Ladino Poem – "Onde estas mujer kerida?" (published in Aki Yerushalayim no. 77, p. 75), Text of the Ladino Poem, with Hebrew Translation

Site of "Oriental Wind – Who is Oriental?" (Hakivun Mizrah Review no. 2, p. 12, - Bimat Kedem), Text of the poem

August 2002 - Academic Books appear in home page of Kluwer's site as "Books Relating to the Enron Scandal".

July 2002 - Review on "Business Ethics" and novel in the National Chapter Bulletin of Transparency International

June 2002 - Essay on "Internet and Transparency as Ethical Vehicles" in the Israeli review "Status"

2002 - Review on "Business Ethics" in the European IQ Magazine no. 2, 2002, with a circulation of 30,000 copies to the Insead Alumni and Companies' contacts

2001 - 36 Laws of Wrongdoing to Minority Shareholders in Unethical Companies

2001 - Essay on Business Ethics in Israel (with a summary of Cory's Kluwer academic books)

Ethical Strategic Planning, The International Ethical Fund, The Global Center for Business Ethics, Integrity Tests

September/October 2001: The Internet and Transparency as Ethical Vehicles (Mashavei Enosh, 165-166)

How to Implement a Turnaround Plan (published in Investment & Society Israel 1989, Seven Days Ltd., pp. 36-37)

Summer 2001 - Review on "Business Ethics" in Transparency and Management, Transparency International Journal, Shvil

Introducing new materials on Jacques Cory's website: www.businessethicscory.com Book in Hebrew "Social, Economic & Governmental Justice", Articles, Extracts of Books, Social, Economic, Cultural, Travel & Linguistic Activities, Courses, Photos, Lectures & Videos of Lectures, Correspondence, Audio Play, Screenplay, Play "Nelly Doron", Stories, Lists, Internet Links...

APPENDIX 1 – INTERNATIONAL CASE STUDIES, ANALYSES OF NOVELS, PLAYS, FILMS, DOCUMENTARIES - IN EUROPE, NORTH & SOUTH AMERICA, AFRICA, ASIA– US, UK, RUSSIA, NORWAY, ARGENTINA, FRANCE, SINGAPORE, ISRAEL AND SWITZERLAND; PAUL HAWKEN ON SUSTAINABILITY, WARREN BUFFETT ON ETHICS & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, JOSEPH STIGLITZ ON GLOBALIZATION & SOCIAL JUSTICE, TEN COMPONENTS OF SUSTAINABLE JUSTICE, UNITED NATION'S UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

1. FRANCE - ETHICS FOR MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS IN BANKING & THE STOCK EXCHANGE - THE BOOK & FILM "L'ARGENT" BY EMILE ZOLA

Based on the book "L'Argent" (1890) by Emile Zola

The film is based on the book with slight changes:

L'Argent TV 1988, 250 minutes, Director Jacques Rouffio, with Claude Brasseur, Miou-Miou and Michel Galabru

Summary and Analysis:

If we could chose one film, book or play that describes in the most trenchant way the dilemmas of business ethics, tycoons, the stock exchange, banking, and especially ethics for minority shareholders it is undoubtedly the book L'Argent (Money) by Emile Zola, which was adapted to the screen and the stage several times. Zola was one of the first, together with Ibsen, to deal with business ethics in literature and he did it in a superb way, in a moving style that touched readers and spectators very deeply. Zola, who was a social radical, dared to attack the capitalist system, the stock exchange, the tycoons and the banks, at least the "rotten apples" of this system.

The plot of the book takes place during the Second Empire, that of Napoleon III in France, the nephew of the great Napoleon. Napoleon III epitomized all the corruption and hypocrisy of French society, but also the glory, the joie de vivre and the debauched life. If the emperor had a mistress whom he acquired at an astronomical price, Aristide Saccard, the hero of the book, had to get her at a higher price, and ensured that all of Parisian high society knew it, as it was a status symbol and was also good for business. But Saccard was also close to a pure soul, Caroline Hamelin, who was attracted to him like a butterfly to a flame. She becomes his mistress and in spite of the enormous difference in their characters and way of thinking, she falls in love. His vitality, his unending energy and his occasional bursts of kindness facilitated her infatuation. Saccard, who was bankrupt, gains the confidence of a princess who founds an orphanage from her own money, and he assists her pro bono. But he also tries to receive the management of her immense fortune from her, 500 million francs that she inherited from her husband. He wants to speculate with the money on the stock exchange, but she refuses categorically, as this money was acquired by her husband in unethical but legal ways on the stock exchange. Her husband was responsible for the loss of the savings of poor minority

shareholders, and that is why she wants to invest it only in philanthropy and not be ashamed anymore.

Saccard was bankrupt because of his rivalry with Gundermann, a Jewish banker, serious and ascetic. Gundermann is the opposite of Saccard the hedonist. Both visit the same luxurious restaurants, but while Saccard eats the best gourmet dishes with the most refined wines Gundermann drinks only a glass of milk and behaves modestly in spite of his legendary wealth. At one of the family dinners of Saccard and Caroline, he hears from her brother, Georges Hamelin, that all the projects that Georges devised to develop Lebanon/the Middle East – mining, transport, schools, hospitals, industry, cannot actualize because of a lack of funds. George's vision fades, and he is unable to achieve his dream, as a fervent Catholic, to enable the Pope to return to the Holy Land and to spare him the humiliation that he receives from the nationalist Italians who want to chase him away from his territories. Saccard, the eternal entrepreneur, sees an opportunity in Georges' plans to sway the Catholic masses with the dream of reclamation of the desert in the Middle East and the Holy Land. He markets dreams, like the modern entrepreneurs, only a fraction of which ultimately succeed in their high tech ventures. Saccard choses a challenging name: La Banque Universelle, no more, no less. One could ask: who is the true entrepreneur - Georges who had the vision, made the plans, spent long periods in the Middle East, or Saccard who implemented the programs in the real world, found the money (l'argent) to make the vision come true... or not, as we shall see later on?

Saccard meets Mazaud, a broker, and asks him to raise 25 million francs. "Think Big", as our modern tycoons would say, while leveraging their investment with unreasonable proportions of 10:1, ten times more loans than the private equity that they bring in. In Saccard's case, as in many other modern schemes, the entrepreneur doesn't bring any money of his own, because he doesn't have any or he doesn't want to risk it. If he succeeds - the benefits will be his because he was the entrepreneur, but if he loses - the banks or the shareholders will bear the costs. The slogan of many of the modern tycoons is to work with "Other People's Money". Mazaud is astonished at Saccard's daring, he knows that he doesn't have a dime, that the project is not even his, and nevertheless he wants to raise tens of millions, later even hundreds of millions. But Saccard believes that you need two things in order to succeed in life: dream like a crazy and work like an animal, and he excels in both. When Caroline asks him if he doesn't want to rest he answers her that rest means death.

Saccard approaches a colleague who manages an Otoman Bank in the Middle East and wants to interest him in the project. The banker answers him in Russian and Saccard goes to his friend Sigsimond who speaks many languages and who is in the process of translating the Communist Manifest by Karl Marx. He is a fervent communist, but Saccard likes people who fight for their causes, such as Sigsimond the communist or Georges Hamelin the Catholic. Saccard says that "Passion" is the most important thing, it is what makes the world go around, it sounds like "Money/l'argent, makes the world go around" of "Cabaret" or "Greed makes the world go around", as maintained by Gordon Gekko in "Wall Street". Sigsimond reads the letter and tells Saccard that the Banker's answer is affirmative. Sigsimond is very ill and Bush takes care of him. Bush is a loan shark, who specializes in collecting bad debts. Thus, for many years he has been trying to find a man who gave IOUs to a young woman who gave birth to his child, but disappeared. By comparing Saccard's handwriting to that of this man, he understands that Saccard is the man he is looking for. Saccard has changed his name several times in his career because of his schemes, but Bush tells his partner Madame Mechain, that the time is not appropriate to approach Saccard as he doesn't have any money to pay for the IOUs. Indeed, Saccard is the same man that we know from Zola's previous book "La Curee";

he became rich and lost all his money several times, he was married twice, had plenty of mistresses. He even has a legitimate son from his first marriage to Renee – Maxime, who inherited money from his rich mother after she died, but his son doesn't want to help his father as he knows of his schemes. Saccard's illegitimate son from the young woman who received the IOUs is Victor, who became an unbridled vagabond. Originally Saccard was called Rougon, the origin of his family is from the south of France and he is the brother of Son Excellence Eugene Rougon (Zola's hero in another of his books in the series of the Rougon-Macquart), a prominent minister in Napoleon III's regime. Eugene disavows Saccard, as he knows of his schemes, and doesn't want to have any ties with him.

Saccard goes to a luxurious restaurant, where he meets Gundermann. He tells him defiantly that he has founded a new bank with a capital of 25 million francs. He asks him, cynically, if he would be willing to invest in his bank as the shares will rise enormously. Gundermann of course refuses and predicts that Saccard will fall once again, however from a greater height, as he has connections and support from other tycoons, the Catholic milieu and possibly the Pope. Saccard's drive beyond the lucrative aspects, are ego considerations: he wants to win in the showdown with his rival, as it is a struggle between different temperaments, religions and ideologies. It reminds us of The Merchant of Venice, but this time the prudent Jew wins while the frivolous Catholic loses. It is not surprising if we remember that Zola would write "J'accuse" on the Dreyfus affair several years later. The world has evolved since the times of the Duke of Venice. We are in the 19th century, in a democratic France, but the hatred of the Jews was still prevalent. Nobody likes the stern Gundermann, while masses of minority shareholders like Saccard very much and are even willing to forgive him his bankruptcy as the Jews are to blame in their conspiracy against the Catholics and the Pope. Zola based his novel on a similar case that had happened in France a few years earlier, when a Catholic bank collapsed because of its speculations and the Jewish Rothschild bank was blamed by those who lost their money. Yet, Saccard and his likes do not exist anymore, while the Rothschilds still exist and prosper. We know of course that speculation has nothing to do with religion. There are many Jewish (and Israeli) speculators who behaved unethically to their stakeholders, while other bankers and tycoons who were Catholic, Protestant or Moslem behaved ethically and meticulously fulfilled all their obligations. The Bible invented business ethics, but the Jews do not have the copyright on ethics. Business Ethics is universal and has nothing to do with religion and Zola proves it in his book L'Argent. Saccard also wants to prove to his arrogant brother Eugene that he can succeed even more than he had, as he is as good. The book proves to us, once again, that what makes the business world go around is not Adam Smith's invisible hand, but primarily feelings, psychology, love, hate, ego, envy and competition.

Saccard meets Huret, his brother Rougon's confidant, and asks him to intercede in his favor with his brother. Huret tells him that he doesn't have a chance, as Eugene despises him, but when Saccard offers him shares in the bank and a seat on the Board of Directors, Huret is willing to comply. Saccard tries to play the Catholic card but Huret tells him that Gundermann has come to the rescue of the government with loans when it needed them and the stern banker has the favor of the Emperor. Saccard tells Caroline that the business world is like a war and those who are afraid die first. All that happened long before the admiration street fighters get today. Zola "invented" modern business ethics, and if I had to choose between reading the books of the best modern ethicists or Zola's "L'Argent", I would recommend Zola, as he encompasses most of the issues in a much more interesting way. Saccard is willing to risk everything (especially as it is not his money), he has the mentality of a gambler, as it is his only possibility to rise once again from the ashes. Zola also invents the "externalities" here, the stakeholders bear the costs and risks, while Saccard doesn't risk a

thing. The directors of La Banque Universelle have not invested anything in the Bank; they have received their shares (illegally) from Saccard, if they are "wise" enough they can sell their shares at their peak as some of them do, if they are too loyal they risk losing their money and reputation. Yet, this is only in Zola's book. Zola, who is a moralist, shows that at the end the speculators lose, bringing down thousands of innocent minority shareholders with them, while in modern economies in most cases the unethical businessmen do not bear the costs of their speculations, except in a few cases such as Enron, WorldCom, Barings and so on. By externalizing the costs and the risks, those who pay the price are the minority shareholders who lose their savings, the employees who lose their jobs, the banks who lose their loans, the suppliers who are not paid and the customers who don't get the goods and services that they paid for, and, of course the environment and the community who have to pay to remove the toxic waste.

Caroline is in love, she is still young but has grey hair after suffering from an earlier love affair. She only sees Saccard's positive sides: he is brave, impulsive and generous. In comparison to him, Daigremont is much more cynical. He is a tycoon who wants to win easily, eat and drink in the best restaurants, have women and entertainment, with a minimal risk. He is willing to cooperate with Saccard as long as he has something to gain from it. Daigremont is willing to join the bank but only if Rougon backs the venture. Saccard adds Sabatini to the Board; here is an unscrupulous hedonist with a dubious past, who remained friendly with Saccard in his bad moments. Another acquisition to the Board is the Marquis de Bohain, contributing his name and pedigree to the Bank. However, he is also a hedonist who cheats in cards and entangles Saccard in his problems. Another protagonist in the novel and the film is the journalist Jantrou, who founds a journal named L'Esperance (Hope) with Saccard's money. He is Saccard's straw-man, writing laudatory articles about him and the Bank, as well as about the regime and Rougon. Huret intercedes with Rougon in favor of Saccard, but the minister answers him: "Let my brother do whatever he likes, but he shouldn't count on me". But Saccard tells Huret: "The ministry is not eternal, the empire is not eternal, but money is eternal". Finally, he convinces Huret to tell everybody that Rougon cannot back up Saccard openly because he is his brother, but he said nevertheless: "Let my brother do whatever he likes". Telling half truths and not behaving transparently is something as common in Zola's time as it is nowadays. Huret doesn't repeat the end of the sentence, he remains vague, he doesn't disclose the bad news, and exaggerates the good.

The conscientious and moral Caroline, who became Saccard's mistress, continues to be skeptical of her lover's work methods, but he shows her her brother's plans of and convinces her that he'll manage to build factories, mines and schools from them. People will find employment, sick people will be cured, prosperity will be achieved. Caroline is worried, as according to the law, the issued capital should also be paid up, but some of the founders have not paid for their shares, like Huret and de Bohain. He appeases her by telling her that everybody does the same thing, another typical excuse of unethical businessmen. The bank keeps some shares illegally, under the name of Sabatini, who is his straw-man, exactly like Topaze in Pagnol's play, written 40 years later. Saccard mocks Caroline who is always worried, but she answers him that she loves him and doesn't want him to be hurt. And, indeed Saccard has a winning personality, he is liked by almost everybody, like many unethical businessmen (Gordon Gekko, to name one). It is hard not to like him as it is easy to hate Gundermann the righteous, cold and distant man, with his eternal glass of milk. Drinking milk and not wine to a Frenchman is probably pure heresy. However, Saccard also wants his bank to be perceived as a modest and serious bank, it is a bank working for people with modest income, with a solid appearance, a modest building, he even asks for the Princess' permission to locate the bank initially in her orphanage. But later on, Saccard intends to start his speculations. He thinks that the Bank's regulations are intended only for the notaries, it is not regulations that built the Suez Canal, it is the energy, the inventiveness, the vision. He says that speculation, to the masses, is a dirty word, but it is speculation (in Boesky's words Greed) that develops the country, it is the new world, it reinforces. Without the stock exchange and speculation everything is small, it is at a standstill, it is dead. But with the stock exchange everything is possible, there are factories, employment, railways, prosperity, and new opportunities. MONEY (l'ARGENT) IS GOD, ALL THE WORLD WILL BE RICH WITH THE BANQUE UNIVERSELLE, AND EVERYBODY WILL BE HAPPY, BECAUSE OF ME!, says Saccard. Saccard is much more convincing than Ivan Boesky or Michael Milken. He is much more picturesque, true and credible, although he is fiction and they are real, but Zola's style is so real that he makes a fictional novel sound like a documentary.

Saccard governs the Board of Directors in typical corporate governance, where the yes-men agree with whatever Saccard does, even if it is unethical or illegal, nobody cares about the minority shareholders anyway and everybody owes his seat to Saccard. The film chooses to show the Board meeting like in a silent movie and as a matter of fact an earlier version of "L'Argent" was a silent movie by L'Herbier. Words are superfluous anyhow, as nothing is different in Board meetings of unethical companies, either in Zola's times or nowadays. Gundermann says about Saccard: "Saccard thinks that I despise him because he is not a Jew. It is untrue. I will break him as I respect our mission as bankers. I don't like people fooling with the seriousness of the banks. I will let him grow, take his revenge on me and then I'll break him." And in the meantime the shares are sold at higher and higher prices. Pensioners buy them, as do noblemen and merchants. But Maxime is not willing to invest in his father's bank, he knows too well who his father is. At the Shareholders' Meeting nobody asks any questions, decisions are taken unanimously. We should bear in mind that as always Zola was a pioneer, he was one of the first to describe at length what happens in Board meetings, shareholders' meetings, banks, minority shareholders, speculation, entrepreneurs. Today it is obvious, but in the romantic 19th century his naturalistic approach was unheard of. However, even today Zola's "L'Argent" seems modern, as if it were written in the US, France or Israel of the years 2000. His protagonists are immortal, his plot is universal and his insight is unmatchable.

Saccard asks his friend Sigsimond how in his communist world people will live without money, and he answers him "they'll live freely". The communist is even eager that Saccard succeed, as in the days of the revolution the proletariat will nationalize all the private enterprises and instead of nationalizing many banks they'll have to nationalize only one -Saccard's. Lenin would say a few years later that the worse it gets the better it gets for the communists, who managed to rule Russia because of the catastrophes of the Tzarist regime. We are curious to know what Zola would say of the neo-liberal world of today, with a few tycoons and multinationals controlling the world's economy, not so far from the communist world of Sigsimond and the Soviet Union where the state controlled everything, and very similar to the worship of speculation, greed and money by Saccard. Speculation and greed are bad; they ruin companies, economies, make millions miserable and enrich the few. Gundermann's way of thinking is sensible, cautious, moderate, even if he or his likes are not as charismatic as Saccard or Gekko. Masses and shareholders tend to follow the demagogues, the speculators, the panaceas of the scoundrels. We are today somewhat blasé, tired of revolutions: fascists, communists, nationalists, tired of socialists, neo-liberal and ultracapitalist regimes. We should return to the basics: to Aristotelian moderation, to Stiglitz's third way, to Zola's neo-social doctrines. Extremism is bad; we have seen it from the French revolution to Milton Friedman's nightmarish inhuman world where you have to maximize profits, widen the social gaps, pay exorbitant salaries to executives, while more and more

people have McJobs. The third way doctrines are not utopic, they exist in Scandinavia, in the Netherlands, even in many ways in France. They don't exist in the US or in Israel and in many other countries, but reading Zola's novels, studying Stiglitz's academic books and watching movies like Erin Brockovich could assist in bringing about the changes. This is the ultimate purpose of my book in bringing together all these elements and illustrating them by case studies based on an international business career, academic studies and teaching, and analyzing the immortal masterpieces of Zola, Ibsen, Arthur Miller or the prophet Amos.

The minority shareholder is characterized by the junior employee of the newspaper Dejoie, who invested all his savings in the Bank's shares in order to pay for his daughter's dowry. When the Bank collapses, he blames his ambition (the victim's syndrome) not Saccard. In some way he is right, as he had enough money for the dowry but then he wanted to have money for his pension as well, and his appetite grew bigger and bigger until the price of the shares collapsed and he lost everything. So, should we blame him for being greedy or Saccard, who ruined Dejoie? I believe categorically that there is only one guilty party: Saccard. Dejoie is "blind" and Saccard put a stumbling block to his feet, like in the Bible's time, like in the subprime mortgage crisis. He doesn't have the insider information of Saccard, he is innocent and cannot follow the intricacies of the stock exchange. Of course he shouldn't speculate, people like him should save money in saving accounts and it should be forbidden for pension funds to invest in the stock exchange, least of all in speculative shares. If pension funds want to invest a small amount of their funds in the stock exchange they could at least do it in Ethical Funds and thus avoid the risks of unethical investments. Dejoie's daughter leaves him as her fiancé broke the engagement and she is not willing to forgive his father. She runs away with an "aged" man of 40 in a way that will bring her to perdition. Dejoie cries in the presence of Caroline after the bankruptcy and when she blames Saccard he resents and says: "Saccard was right when he persuaded me not to sell. The business is fantastic. We could have won if the traitors hadn't have left us. Only Saccard can save us now and it is a pity that he was sent to jail. I told the judge to give him back to us and I'll give him all my savings, my life, once more as this man is God, he did whatever he wanted. Tell Saccard when you see him that we'll always be with him." After these astonishing and true statements of the minority shareholders who never learn, we should not be surprised if Gilda, Rigoletto's daughter, is willing to sacrifice her life in order to save the life of the man who abducted her, the Duke of Mantua, who complains that women are frivolous, la donna e mobile. The victims' syndrome is a very common mental sickness in love as on the stock exchange.

Back to the novel's plot - Saccard doubles the capital of the Bank, he raises money from the public several times at higher and higher prices, as he is always short of money in order to keep up with the speculation. He illegally keeps 3,000 shares, which could assist him in crucial votes at Shareholders' meetings, as he knows that Gundermann is secretly buying shares in the Bank in order to ruin him in due course. Saccard forces George to sign a false statement stating that all the shares were funded and he entangles him in an illegal act that could put him in jail, as indeed ultimately it does. When George and Caroline come to Saccard in order to pay for the shares that they have illegally received for free, after they inherited enough money to pay for the shares, Saccard doesn't allow them to do so. His rationale is that they deserve the money for their initiative, but he really wants to make them his accomplices, after they declared that they had paid for the shares and the books had been forged accordingly. The tycoons have a vital interest in making their partners accomplices in their schemes as in this manner they cannot disclose all the illegal deeds of the tycoons. When the partners participate in the schemes they do it for "peanuts", while the tycoons gain the millions, in most of the cases they sign on behalf of the tycoons as Georges did for Saccard, Bud Fox did so for Gordon Gekko, and all the junior managers do it for their bosses, unless

they become state witnesses, as in Enron or in other scandals. Caroline is worried because of the war with Prussia that is imminent, but Saccard tells her that it doesn't interest him, as all his thoughts are with the Bank and the minority shareholders... This is another typical excuse of unethical tycoons who are always worried about the employment of their employees, the welfare of the community, the country's prosperity, while they are maximizing their profits to the detriment of all the stakeholders, the minority shareholders; they don't pay taxes, externalize the waste and hurt the environment but advertise that they are green companies who donate 1% (!) of their profits to welfare, while obtaining the other 99% by schemes and unethical acts. And Saccard summarizes that the motto of business is to create a snow ball based on the trust of the shareholders.

The Baroness Sandorf is a compulsive speculator who invests all her money without the knowledge of her husband, who is a counselor in the Austro-Hungarian Embassy in Paris. Jantrou, the journalist, is willing to give her some insider information in return for her favours, but she prefers to give them to Saccard, who treats her like a prostitute, but delivers some useful information from time to time. Saccard and Jantrou mislead the investors with disinformation on the happenings in Lebanon, where the Bank's money is invested in order to enliven the speculation. What is essential is not what happens but what is reported in the newspaper; this is a kind of virtual reality, of a perception of the truth and not of the sheer truth. The only truth is what is written in the news, and, of course, they never heard of transparency. The strong ties of unethical tycoons with the media are present throughout books, plays and films such as An Enemy of the People, The Visit, Topaze, The Insider. Sometimes the role of the media is positive, as in The China Syndrome. In L'Argent, Jantrou wants to convince the readers that the imminent war with Prussia will not affect the Bank as all its investments are in the Middle East. Caroline who is always worried prays "God, make all this succeed", and Saccard replies: "Leave God outside, he is too far away from the stock exchange". Saccard receives insider information from his partner Huret that France was summoned to act as a mediator in the Austro-Prussian war and the war is nearing its end. He decides to risk all his money (correction - other people's money that he controls) and all the money of the saving accounts of the Bank's clients (without their knowledge of course) to speculate, resulting in a huge profit of 20 million francs. Saccard doesn't risk anything, he knows for sure, because of the insider information, what the result of the war will be and this shows, once again, how the market is not perfect, as maintained by all the neo-liberals. If the speculation succeeds the Saccards benefit from all the profits, but if it fails it is the minority shareholders, the clients and the employees who bear the costs. If worse comes to worse, Ken Lay and Jeff Skilling are called Bad Apples and those who were not caught continue their schemes in spite of Sarbanes-Oxley.

Saccard wins 20 million francs and gives a million to Georges and Caroline. He is undoubtedly generous, he is not a miser; he helps his accomplices, in contrast to Gundermann, who doesn't keep his word. And Gundermann summarizes the event in his laconic way: "I like the profit of 20 million francs that Saccard has made. It will make him conceited and it is like the plague". Caroline tells Saccard that he has become a slave to money, but Saccard answers her that money is a vehicle to create employment, education, hospitals, prosperity. This dual language is like a mantra of unethical tycoons. Saccard buys a palace from Gundermann for the Bank; it is no longer the modest bank but an extravagant bank, as Enron was an extravagant company before it collapsed. This time Saccard explains it by saying that the clients would prefer a sumptuous bank, a bank that makes plenty of money and shows it off. And de Bohain even adds "and an honest bank as well". The share price of the bank is now 1,300. Caroline continues to love Saccard, as he has something exciting, gentle, that makes her forget his swindling. In the meantime he continues to artificially boil

the kettle of the market until it explodes. Saccard's new ambition is to reach a price of 3,000, not the employment of tens of thousands; he has forgotten this argument, it is now sheer speculation.

In one of the comic interludes of the film we see a ball in Parisian high society near the end of the reign of Napoleon III. Saccard's new mistress, who has been the emperor's mistress, introduces the two. Bismarck, the guest of honor at the ball, who will, in a short while, win the war against France and make the rotten regime collapse, remarks: "Both started from zero, both will have the same end, the end of the adventurers". But Saccard is at the height of his career and believes that his success will last forever. Daigremont raises a toast in Saccard's honor at the ball and congratulates him for being the King of Paris. Meanwhile, a friendship starts between Maxime and Caroline. He urges her to leave Saccard and not to endanger her money in his schemes as he ruins everyone with whom he works. Maxime sees Georges as a weak man who is under the influence of the charismatic Saccard; he is risking his reputation and freedom with the false financial statements, the straw-men, the false statements on the capital of the Bank, the fraud on the Bank's books. Caroline is weighing whether to sell her shares but decides not to do so, as she believes and loves Saccard and could not face his disappointment if he learned about it. But Huret tells Saccard that he doesn't believe in him anymore and forces him to buy out his shares in cash. Saccard's friends start to leave him, but even at the price of 3,000 Saccard has no intention stopping, because if the price stagnates the shareholders will lose their confidence in the Bank and start selling their stock, and Gundermann will take over the Bank. The final gunfight between the two is imminent. Finally, Caroline sells all their shares after seeing that the Pope is not willing to back up Saccard. The Pope is not willing to back up a speculative bank even if it is Catholic. Saccard conceals the decision by the Pope from the public, as he is afraid of the collapse of the share' price. The Baroness comes to Gundermann and offers him information in return for assistance. Gundermann tells her that he is aware of the conduct of all the directors of the Bank. He confesses that he is a lonely man without any joy of life. He promises to recompense her generously. However, when she tells him of all the plans made by Saccard, her lover, he sends her away without giving her anything, because he doesn't like traitors. When she insists on receiving some piece of advice from him he tells her: "Don't deal with money, it makes you ugly". Gundermann's conduct presents us with another ethical dilemma: should you reward squealers who assist you or not. What is more important: a promise made by Gundermann or not keeping a promise to squealers?

The price of the share reaches 3,000. Saccard is exhilarated, but more and more people are leaving the sinking boat. The last of them is Jantrou, Saccard's closest counselor. Gundermann has already purchased 40% of the capital of the bank. He lets Saccard know that he is going to attack him on November 22, the day of the dividend' payment. Gundermann plans to sell more shares than Saccard could buy, thus making the Bank collapse. Saccard is convinced that he is going to win this time also and that he will become France's no. 1 banker. However, Daigremont betrays him, after learning that Rougon doesn't back his brother; he sells all his shares. Saccard then tries to convince his former friend, in the name of the small shareholders who are going to lose all their money. Daigremont tells him that he should have thought of them before he lied to him about his brother. After the fall, Mazaud, the broker who committed fraud and lost his reputation, commits suicide. His wife and children discover his body when Caroline visits them. And Maxime tells Caroline: "My father has caused victims throughout his life: his wives, his mistresses, his friends, those who trusted him, you, your brother, me, all of us were betrayed, were knifed by him, and when I think that he called his newspaper Hope, he should have called it shame, lie, rubbish". Caroline, still backing Saccard, tells Maxime that Saccard was willing to sell all his belongings in order to save the

minority shareholders, but he hasn't had enough time to do it. Only after she visits Saccard in jail she is convinced that he is an incorrigible cheat without remorse. He claims that they call him a cheat because he has lost the battle, but if he had won, everybody would have praised him as they had in the past. He has no remorse, as he is not guilty, he hasn't caused the death of Mazaud, Daigremont has done it with his betrayal. However, in his trial he intends to disclose everything and reveal the behaviour of the elites, the haute finance, all those who have brought about his ruin. He will make them share his ruin, they will fall with him and he will start all over again. He will even find money to compensate the minority shareholders. But those have lost everything, their world has collapsed, their lives are ruined. Caroline is too sensitive to their fate and when Saccard tells her that he'll make her rich once again, when she sees that he has no remorse, she decides to leave him. However, as nowadays, the rotten apples don't pay the price. Rougon who is afraid of the scandal involving his reputation as well, decides to banish his brother to Amsterdam. In the puritan Netherlands Saccard starts all over again, making a presentation to a Dutch Board of Directors, trying to convince them to build a huge dam in order to dry part of the sea; it will be a project similar to the Suez Canal, which will add huge amounts of fertile soil to the small country, bringing about employment and prosperity. And he ends by saying: "Give me the money and I'll give you life". Saccard perceives himself to be like God, who brings life, not like Satan, who brings destruction. He continues in his endeavors, like many other unethical tycoons who destroy economies, the lives of innocent people, the ecology and even the earth. The ethical people can unite against the demonic power of the Saccards, as we - workers, customers, the community - have the power, as ethics is the ultimate guarantee for justice, prosperity, life!

2. ISRAEL - BRIBE CASE – ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT TENDERS

(All the characters and plot and all the names of the companies in this case are fictitious)

It was undoubtedly a macabre scene. Emil and Simon walked in mourning behind the coffin of their neighbor who had died of cancer at the age of sixty. When all of a sudden Simon told Emil: "Look what is happening in our country, that a nobody dares to sue large and respectable companies like Shannont. Not long ago a dubious person came to me at the District Court where I am judge with a bizarre lawsuit requesting a commission from Shannont for the receipt of a huge project of Telecommunications, \$300M or so. During the trial, he told us that he had acted as middleman between Shannont and a high ranking government official who supposedly was their consultant in this deal. He didn't have a signed contract and it smelled bad to me, as if he had mediated a bribe. I didn't at all understand what he wanted from me. You should have seen how Shannont's first rate lawyer made him a laughing stock in court. Finally, I sentenced this blackmailer to pay damages to Shannont." They continued to follow the coffin with the widow and children, the sun was burning and Simon continued to tell his story: "Why am I telling you all this? I remember that you once worked at Shannont and you know how ethical and honest they are. So, maybe you can tell me, now that the trial is over, if you have heard anything about this story as, in retrospect, it looks really odd. Why should such a man wake up one morning and sue such a respectable company, just like that..."

Emil phoned his friend Maurice, who was the CEO of the company that was the main competitor of Shannont in this project. Maurice burst into a roaring laughter and said: "Look, there is no end to the idiocy of our dear judges. You rightfully earned a lavish lunch that would dispel the bad taste of the confession in the morgue that you had to suffer." The day after that they met at the most expensive restaurant in town. They ate calamari, drank fine French wines and, a little tipsy, Maurice said: "Perhaps you remember the Shannont of ten years ago when you worked there, but it is no longer the ethical and honest company that you used to know. In the last few years they wanted to reach a sales turnover of a billion dollars at all cost. They had to increase their earnings every quarter in order to meet the analysts' forecasts, and somewhere in the middle of the road they lost their compass. They could no longer grow from their own resources, they tried to enter into new market segments but to no avail, they acquired companies but failed in merging them; in short, Norbert, the CEO, did not succeed in the legitimate ways of growth and he was looking for new unorthodox methods. And then, Patrick, his CFO, came to him with the brilliant idea that they should participate in the \$300M telecommunications tender. There was only one slight problem; they didn't know a thing about this market segment, while my company was the market leader. You remember the tender, all the newspapers wrote about it and especially about the scandal of how Shannont won, with no experience, while we, who had delivered tens of projects in this field, couldn't do a thing. When we heard that Shannont was competing, we grinned and didn't take them seriously. So, when they won I knew that there was something fishy in it. After hiring the best detectives in the country, we learned that Patrick had a brother-in-law, who was the mediator who sued Shannont, This man told him casually at one of the family dinners that if Shannont wanted to win the telecommunications contract he could mediate with the high ranking government official responsible for the project and they would win. It would cost them the moderate amount of \$0.5M to be paid, in Switzerland, to the law abiding civil servant. The mediator asked for only \$100K for his mediation and he was also willing to receive it in Switzerland, after receipt of the contract. However, the official insisted on receiving the money immediately, as he had been conned in the past and believed only in cash a priori." Emil and Maurice were eating their soufflé with an excellent digestif and Emil congratulated his colleague on the excellent choice of the restaurant.

"Don't mention it; anyhow, it is at my company's expense... But, the best part of the story is yet to come. Patrick proposed to Norbert that he pay the bribe and report it in the company's books as the import of software. Nobody would ever know a thing, he promised him, "but you have to give me your word of honor that my brother-in-law will receive his commission after receipt of the order. It is peanuts if you take into consideration what we'll earn from the project; you should be grateful that we are not in South America, as those guys would charge you with a much higher bribe. The government officials in our ethical countries can be bought at reasonable prices, so why not seize the opportunity instead of investing in R&D and acquiring expensive companies." Norbert was hesitant as to whether he should comply with Patrick's offer. Until now they hadn't ever bribed anyone, at least not in their own country. However, he heard from his colleagues that today it was quite common to win a tender by paying bribes and they did it often. And if we didn't pay the bribe our competitors would... We have to meet our ambitious target of a billion dollar sales or we will be sacked. Norbert had a duty towards his controlling shareholders to maximize profits and this was the cheapest way to do it, no risks, a high return on investment, nobody will ever know." Maurice continued: "You probably wonder how I quote whole conversations of the two rascals, but you'll soon understand. Therefore Patrick received the green light, transferred the bribe to the official's bank account in Switzerland and Shannont got the contract. We were all stunned, Shannont admitted that they didn't know anything in this field but told the reporters that it had been its strategic objective for a long time to enter this new market and they would invest millions of their own funds in R&D." Maurice paid, Emil left a large tip and they left the restaurant.

"Let us go along the boardwalk, we'll soon get to the "puenta". Norbert, my dear colleague, probably forgot that I was not born yesterday and I smelled that all this business was not kosher. I hired the best detective bureau in town, they gathered all the information on what really happened and within a few weeks I learned all that I told you. In our young country we do not have yet the law of Omerta, and everybody talks. We don't have the tradition of silence like in the civilized countries where you don't say a word on the bribes you pay and on the mistresses you take. And this is how I cracked the secret; cherchez la femme, my friend. Patrick told everything to his mistress; she wanted to break up anyhow and she recorded him on tape. My detectives bought Patrick's bedroom confessions from his mistress for \$20K, gave me the tapes and I showed them to poor Patrick. I told him that he had two choices, either go to the police himself or let me do it, but the only chance he got was to be a state's witness. He said that he wanted to consult Norbert before he went to the police and I strongly recommended him not to do so. But he insisted, I warned him that Norbert was a dangerous guy, he belonged to the elites, played golf with all the ministers and millionaires, he was a personal friend of the chief of police and his lawyer was a special advisor to the Prime Minister. Norbert would never agree to get mixed up in such a story and he would put all the blame on Patrick if the stinking story were discovered."

On the beach hundreds were sunbathing, playing and eating. Maurice continued: "Oh, how I envy those who have the time to go to the beach. I work so hard and they do nothing... On Monday morning Patrick met Norbert. Nobody knows what happened in this meeting, but the yelling was heard in all the adjoining offices. Patrick left Norbert's office after a couple of hours and told his secretary that he was going home to rest. He got into bed and never woke up; they said that he had a heart attack, but I know that Patrick was the healthiest man I ever

met. Without Patrick I didn't have a case anymore and I couldn't do a thing against Shannont. The day after, I attended Patrick's funeral and I don't know why I had the impression that I was participating in a carnival. Everybody looked happy, as if they were relieved of something. I couldn't avoid going to Norbert to pay my condolences. You should thank God, as Patrick's death saves you from prison, I told him. Norbert answered me smiling - what can I do, God is always on my side, my mother told me that I have a guardian angel who will rid me of any foe that I'll encounter in my life. I grinned and answered Norbert - an angel or his associate - pointing at him. Norbert looked at me with such murderous eyes that I felt a chill up and down my spine. I returned to my office and decided to bury the case. Rather bury the case than be buried, life is too short, I have to enjoy it and not risk it even for my company's sake. Patrick didn't learn the lesson and he paid the full price!"

Emil was smoking an expensive cigar and offered one to Maurice. He suddenly said: "I don't know yet how Judge Simon got into the picture." Maurice smiled and continued: "It is true, because of that I invited you to lunch. The mediator saw that all at once he would be deprived of the \$100K that had been guaranteed by Patrick, God save his soul. He came to Norbert and asked him to pay the money. Norbert told him that he didn't know what he was talking about and if he had any recrimination against Patrick, he should sue him in hell. The mediator was furious and tried to receive the money from the government official, who told him that they hadn't made any agreement between them. He had no choice but to sue Shannont for \$1M the \$100K promised to him and \$900K for aggravation. He went to the press, but everywhere he went, he was perceived as a madman and blackmailer, especially since Norbert used all his contacts to discredit him. Norbert hired his lawyer friend who managed to win a similar case where another "blackmailer" had sued Shannont prior to an IPO for breaking its obligations and causing them huge losses. The brilliant lawyer managed to receive damages from the blackmailer although everybody knew that Shannont was guilty. The same lawyer appeared before Simon and impressed him with his learned arguments. Simon, who didn't understand anything in business and was impressed by the rhetoric of the lawyer, the honorable appearance of Norbert and Shannont's witnesses, perceived them as honest and ethical people suffering from the lunatic allegations of a blackmailer. He dismissed the case and forced the mediator to pay for Shannont's legal fees."

Emil and Maurice departed with a handshake. After all, it was a pleasant afternoon, much more interesting than an idle sunbath at the beach. A copious meal in a luxurious restaurant, an entertaining story, good wines and an expensive cigar, what could be better than that to strengthen your joie de vivre!

ANALYSIS AND TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION ON: BRIBE CASE - ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT TENDERS

Topics for consideration on the personal, business and ethical dilemmas of the main protagonists of the case: 1. Maurice, CEO of a telecommunications company, 2. Norbert, CEO of Shannont, 3. Patrick, CFO of Shannont, 4. Simon, a District Court Judge.

- * Is the criticism against the District Court Judge Simon justified? Had he any chance of discovering the truth?
- * Do you know of similar cases? Do you think it is a fictitious case or that similar cases could happen also in your country?
- * Why did Simon choose to "confess" to Emil at their neighbor's funeral?
- * If you were Simon, how would you solve the case?
- * Who is Maurice: A warrior for justice and ethics, a revengeful man who wants to get his revenge for losing the tender, a coward who doesn't want to mess with people like Norbert?
- * Why does Maurice tell Emil the story after all?
- * Patrick a tragic character of a rogue, a loyal executive of Shannont who wants its success, a blackmailer who wants to involve Norbert in his schemes?
- * What do you think happened during the meeting between Norbert and Patrick?
- * Was Patrick right when he went to consult Norbert before becoming a state's witness?
- * Do you believe that such an honorable man as Norbert would mess in criminal acts against Patrick or does he only want to be perceived as a dangerous man?
- * Describe the metamorphosis that happened to Norbert who turned from an ethical man into a bribe giver, or possibly a murderer?
- * What were the alternatives Maurice had after Patrick's death?
- * Why has the mediator decided to sue Shannont against all odds?
- * Are there any prejudices in the legal system: <u>in favor</u> of large companies, brilliant lawyers, members of the elites, and <u>against</u> minority shareholders, third rate lawyers, John Does who cannot express themselves in the right legal jargon?
- * How can you explain that such an intricate case comprising the dubious death of an executive, a legal suit, bribe allegations, an investigation of Maurice's company, was not covered by the media, there was no police investigation, and no tattle-tale ever spoke?
- * Would it change the story if Patrick were single, married, old, young, with low class or elite origins, Afro-American, a WASP?
- * Describe the apologetics on Norbert's part: he has to act this way because of the cut-throat competition, the controlling shareholders putting pressure on him, the analysts wanting him to meet his forecasts, he failed as a CEO but still has to deliver the goods. Isn't a bribe the speediest and safest way to meet his objectives, it was not his idea to give the bribe, he didn't give written instructions, Patrick was too dangerous and could jeopardize Shannont's success.

- * Why did Maurice decide to threaten Patrick and not go straight to Norbert?
- * Why are the low or middle level executives always those who go to jail, if at all, in such cases? Why are the CEOs and Tycoons almost always exonerated?
- * What are the lessons that you can draw from this case: live and let live, if you want a long life don't mess with the elites, justice will prevail after all, as Emil will start a campaign against Shannont and Norbert?

CONCLUSION

Emil didn't start a campaign against Shannont and Norbert. Even if he wanted to do so he had no smoking gun evidence. Shannont was acquired a few years later by an ethical tycoon who managed to get rid of the unethical executives. One of the first moves he made was to fire Norbert, with a golden parachute of \$10M.

Patrick died, but his memory will always be with us. Norbert published a book in memory of Patrick, financed by Shannont. In the foreword of the book, Norbert wrote: "I have seldom worked with such a dedicated, ethical and loyal executive as Patrick. As VP Finance, Patrick's name became synonymous with integrity and honesty. He had an employee aged 70 and in spite of the pressure put on him to let him retire, he kept him in his department, as he was a good employee and a good example for the young managers. My father, said Patrick, was laid off at the age of 55 and it ruined his life. I want everybody to know that you can continue to work at Shannont even if you are old and not as efficient as in the past, but yet with the right motivation and dedication. However, unfortunately, Patrick didn't manage to reach 70 or even 55. He died relatively young and his loss is our loss. Dear Patrick, we love you and will never forget you. Rest in peace, our friend, your example will always guide us!"

Maurice continues to work hard, he changed several jobs and is now independent. He has completely forgotten the Patrick saga and if it were not for Emil he wouldn't even remember it. He continues to eat gourmet dinners and generously invites his friends. However, his doctors told him that if he doesn't go on a diet he might suffer from obesity. Recently he received a cigar box from Emil, who was in Cuba on business.

Norbert succeeded very well in his career. Over the years he gave bribes of many millions in his country and abroad. He always managed to do so secretly, most of the time indirectly, to family members - sons or cousins, in anonymous bank accounts. Nobody ever dared let him down, everybody knew, after the Patrick case, that you shouldn't mess with him. He only complained that the bribes he had to pay in his country were higher and higher, it was no longer like in the good old times when you could buy a \$300M tender for only \$500K. As he is an honorable man, he pays the bribes every time on the dot and his clients can count on him.

Last year, Norbert joined the ruling party and his name has been mentioned by the newspapers as a serious candidate for the Treasury Ministry. It is high time he says in his interviews that our country had ministers who are businessmen with integrity, taking care of the interests of all the stakeholders, and not corrupt politicians, who are always on trial for corrupt practices. We need ethical executives like me, let me lead our people!

Norbert never contributed anything to the community. He says that his contribution is much more than a miserable million or two to a hospital or a university. His contribution is in committing his life to the country, its economy and its people. Nevertheless, he was quite disappointed at not getting the highest honors of his country, as many old professors did. He said: "They write articles on subjects that nobody understands, while I am maintaining this country with my bare hands. My country is ungrateful, as they cannot recognize my merits."

Recently, Norbert received an anonymous letter with a citation of Cicero's first oration against Catiline: "Nihil agis, nihil moliris, nihil cogitas, quod non ego non modo audiam, sed etiam videam planeque sentiam". He didn't understand it, after all he was never good in Latin...

3. NORTH AMERICA - TRUST & FAIRNESS CASE - BRIDGING IN MERGERS

(Due to confidentiality and editing reasons some of the names and details have been changed. The amounts are given for indication purpose only)

When Anthony was invited to lunch by Douglas, the President and Owner of American Furniture, he was not convinced that he should accept the invitation. Douglas' company was one of the largest furniture companies in the world and its subsidiary in his country was the main competitor of one of Anthony's major clients - International Furniture. Anthony, formerly a high tech executive and currently an International M&A program manager, maintained impeccable ethical standards and this was part of his reputation, together with the high rate of success of his M&A. He was a personal friend of Christian's, the President and Owner of International Furniture. In spite of the age differences and their different hobbies (Christian was a well-known sportsman while Anthony never watched a basketball or soccer game) they became close friends. Anthony started to work for Christian a few years ago and assisted his company in strategic planning, know-how agreements with a large American multinational, the turnaround of the company's activities, financial matters and the organization of the sales department. Anthony naturally informed Christian that he was about to meet Douglas, but promised him that he wouldn't disclose insider information on his client. Christian encouraged him to meet Douglas, as he was aware of the fact that the American company was dissatisfied with the performance of its local subsidiary. Both companies were competing in the same market and in the multimillion tenders they engaged in cut-throat competition to the detriment of both. This competition had a very negative impact on their profitability and on their market share, but Christian's company balanced the losses with the multimillion royalties it received for its know-how from the American company, with whom it had signed a know-how agreement, with the assistance of Anthony.

Douglas was very friendly to Anthony, he told him the story of his life, a holocaust refugee who came to America penniless and constructed a multibillion empire with his own hands. Douglas told Anthony that he had heard excellent reports about him, his success with International Furniture, and complimented him on the fact that Christian's company was so profitable, probably because of Anthony's contribution. Anthony answered him that he was only a consultant to Christian and all the credit was due to Christian and his partner, who were excellent managers and experts in their fields. They had transformed their company into a high-tech company although it was in the furniture business, and most of their customers were indeed high-tech companies that liked the modern and sophisticated designs and their state-ofthe-art technologies very much. Towards the end of the meal, Douglas told Anthony what the reason for his invitation was; he asked Anthony to assist him in the same manner that he had helped Christian to overcome the losses of the local subsidiary and to prepare and implement its strategic planning. Anthony told him right away that it would be impossible for him to do so as it contradicted his ethical standards, but Douglas clarified that he didn't expect him to divulge any secrets from Christian's operations but just implement the same methods which were not proprietary, and he would receive a very high remuneration for that. When Anthony insisted in his refusal, Douglas asked him: "So, what do you suggest?"

Anthony told him that instead of engaging in a cut-throat competition they should merge their local operations. He suggested that Christian and his partner conduct the merger with the local subsidiary and turn the merged company around with Anthony's assistance and thus bring the

merged company to very high profitability. Anthony specified that that was his own opinion and he hadn't consulted Christian on this, but Douglas, who was very impressed by Anthony's integrity and his competence, gave him a full mandate to pursue his proposal, on the one condition that he, Anthony, would conduct the negotiations as a mediator and he would be remunerated equally by both parties. Anthony was very surprised by this act of confidence; for the first time in his very long career he was offered such a deal. He was sure that he could be a fair mediator, but he asked Douglas nevertheless: "Don't you think that I might be more inclined to be on Christian's side, since he is not only my client but also my personal friend?" Douglas answered him with a smile: "A few minutes ago you passed your integrity test brilliantly and I have no doubt that in the near future we will also become good friends".

Christian immediately agreed to concur with Anthony's proposal. He was also convinced that there was no point in having such fierce competition in such a small market as the local market, selling similar products with similar quality and similar prices. There were enough competitors, local and foreign, and together they could achieve a critical mass in the local market that would enhance sales and profitability. Although he didn't want to lose control of his company, he was aware of the fact that the modern business world belongs to mega corporations and in the long run he needed to join forces with such a large company as Douglas'. He checked into past merger possibilities, with Anthony's assistance, with some of the American companies but they were not interested, as the local market seemed too small for them. Douglas' case was different, as he had already a local subsidiary, although it lost money, and Christian could give him an added value. Christian had tried to make an IPO without success, as the stock exchange was interested only in high-tech companies and a small foreign furniture company was not attractive enough. Therefore, the idea of merging with Douglas' subsidiary made sense. He knew that Douglas was a sophisticated businessman with an excellent ethical reputation. Christian hoped that he would convince him to merge only the local operations in a 50%-50% partnership, but in the back of his mind he knew that ultimately his company would be acquired fully by American Furniture, as it didn't make sense to have a joint venture while a fully integrated subsidiary would be much more profitable. He was still young and hoped that he would succeed in making an impact in the multibillion company in the European organization or even in the American organization. He was confident of his managerial skills and his state-of-the-art products and he knew that he had much more to offer than in managing the local business. Christian's partner in the local company was more reserved, but he agreed to investigate the matter further.

In preparation for the negotiations in America Anthony prepared a document that included four subjects: the logic of the merger, the preferences of both companies, parameters for the valuation, details on the financial statements of International Furniture. In the document on the logic of the merger the advantages of a larger company were detailed, especially in manufacturing and sales, the substantial savings in overhead, the avoidance of a cut-throat competition, keeping the two brand names with their relative advantages and segmentation of the market accordingly, increase of the local market share, making the activities of the American subsidiary profitable, contribution of the state-of-the-art technology of International Furniture to the R&D activities of the Americans, introducing revolutionary locally-designed products to the product mix of the Americans throughout the world, unification of the manufacturing facilities on the premises of Christian's company, thus benefiting the subsidiary's products, which were not manufactured in a development zone from the approved enterprise status, similar objectives for both companies, a similar entrepreneurial and ethical mission, a very fast return on investment, minimal exposure and low risk, rationalizing of the manufacturing and purchasing process, a combined and aggressive management.

The preference of the local company was that the merger be executed only with the subsidiary. The subsidiary had a similar turnover of several tens of millions of dollars annually, but they encountered a problem of valuation, as the subsidiary lost money and its pricing was based on transfer prices from the American parent company for the imported products. However, a large part of the sales were of products manufactured in the local subsidiary, which also exported part of its production to Europe. Christian preferred that all the manufacturing of products to Europe should be done locally due to the proximity to Europe and the trade agreements with the EU. He also hoped that in the near future it would be possible to make an IPO of the merged company in Europe or the US. The American company was already a public company.

Nevertheless, the Americans were interested in acquiring 100% of the local company and merging its operations with the parent company. Anthony suggested that in this event part of the consideration should be in cash and part in shares of the American company guaranteed with a bank guarantee on the nominal value. Both parties agreed that part of the consideration should be linked to the performance of the merged company, as it was agreed that Christian and his partner would continue to work in the merged company for at least three more years. The prospects seemed bright as the common objectives were far more prevalent than the differences, but very soon some cardinal divergences of opinions were perceived: a very large gap between the valuations of the local company by the parties, the distribution of the consideration to the different components, and who was going to manage the merged company. Anthony perceived his main task in bridging between the opposite views of the parties.

Christian figured that Douglas would offer him no more than a valuation of \$40M, based on the net profit of the local company with a multiple of 15. In the furniture business this was the maximum that could be achieved as the multiples were not as high as in the high-tech industry. This was also the multiple of the American company that was profitable on the American stock exchange. Furthermore, Christian asked for royalties of 3% on the sales of some revolutionary products that were developed but not yet marketed, as the Americans did not agree to incorporate them in the valuation of the company. Anthony suggested to Christian that he agree to receive part of the consideration in shares of the American company with a bank guarantee on the nominal value. Christian and his partner agreed to receive their current salaries, but required bonuses of up to 50% of their annual salaries if they meet objectives mutually agreed upon. Douglas requested, after signing a confidentiality agreement, that he receive full disclosure on the local company, including the know-how agreements, the royalties and sales breakdown, pricing data and other details of the financial statements. He was particularly interested in data on the local factory, the equipment, R&D, aging of customer' debts, banks loans, details on the salaries and the forecasts of sales of the different products. After a preparatory meeting with Douglas and his managers and discussions with Christian and his management, Anthony suggested a detailed proposal according to the following lines.

The minority shareholders of International Furniture, who owned one third of the shares and were mainly relatives of the first generation founders, would not be employed by the company after the merger. Christian believed that they would be willing to agree to a much lower valuation of the company as they were interested in an immediate exit and would not contribute to the success of the merged company, as the two CEOs would. Christian and his partner, the two CEOs, who held two thirds of the shares, would remain in the company as executives and contribute to the success, sales and profitability of the merged company locally, in Europe and in America. The agreement would be for five years and they would

receive an employment agreement, including salaries, bonuses and warrants. The bonuses and warrants would be tied to objectives, but would not be part of the consideration for selling their company. The minimum payments for the company were open for discussion by the parties. Those figures were based, inter alia, on the savings in costs due to the merger, the increase in profitability, the sales growth, obtaining more lucrative tenders by avoiding competition, the new products, the decrease in overhead, the relocation of the subsidiary's facilities to the approved enterprise zone, economies of scale and so on. All the proposals were given in full transparency and the minority shareholders had to agree to the different valuations for them and for the partners.

It was proposed that the minority shareholders, who held one third of the shares, would receive \$7M, half in cash - \$3.5M - and half in shares of the American company, with a bank guarantee of \$3.5M for 5 years. This guarantee would not be subject to any objectives. If Douglas' forecasts of an annual 25% increase in the price of the shares of his company materialized, the value of the shares would increase to \$10M after 5 years and they would therefore receive \$13.5M in five years, amounting to a valuation of \$40M, as they had one third of the shares. In the worst case, they would receive \$7M, with a valuation of \$21M, thus giving them an upside of twice the valuation, which is equivalent to the price that they wanted, and a downside of half this price, but they knew that the Americans did not want to acquire the company for its assets, but mainly because of the two partners who would contribute to the growth of the merged company; for that reason Christian and his partner deserved to receive more. This differentiation between the shareholders, with full transparency, was one of the main ingredients of the compromise that was ultimately achieved in the negotiations in order to overcome the huge gaps between the requirements of the buyer and the sellers. The minority shareholders, who wanted to have an exit and couldn't get it unless the company was sold or traded, were willing to compromise much more than the two partners.

Anthony proposed that Christian and his partner, who remained in the merged company and continued to manage it, should receive the following consideration: a cash payment of \$6.5M and shares of the American company amounting to \$6.5M and guaranteed by a five year bank guarantee. However, if the profitability of the merged local activities dropped lower than the current profitability of American Furniture, including its local subsidiary, the bank guarantee would only amount to \$3.2M, or 50%. If, on the other hand, the valuation of the American company did not increase as forecasted, threefold in five years, the bank guarantee would increase to \$13M, or twice the initial amount, provided that the profitability of the merged local company increased by at least twice in those five years, at the same rate of increase as the bank guarantee. This compromise bridged between the large gaps of the parties' positions in a sophisticated manner, as it reflected the profitability of the local company, which was influenced by the performance of the local partners, and the profitability of the American company which was influenced by the performance of the American partners.

Anthony also proposed that the local partners should receive 3% royalties on the revolutionary new products. Christian believed, after conducting market research and consulting his worldwide distributors, that the sales of these products would amount to \$200M in five years. They would therefore receive \$6M in royalties. If the Americans decided to exercise the option to market those products and did not market or succeed in marketing the products, the partners would get at least \$3M, or more if sales were higher. However, if the Americans did not exercise the option to market the products, the local partners were free to find other companies that would want to market the products and give them royalties. Therefore Christian and his partner would receive, in the optimal case of an

increase of threefold in the price of the shares in five years, the amount of \$32M (6.5 in cash, 6.5x3 in shares, 6 in royalties) with a valuation of \$48M, which was similar to what they wanted originally: a valuation of \$40M and 3% royalties on sales of \$200M or \$6M. In the more realistic case, that the price of the shares did not increase threefold and the bank guarantee on an increase of twofold were exercised, and if Christian's forecasts on the profitability of the local merged company and the royalties did materialize, they would receive \$26M (6.5 in cash, 6.5x2 in shares, 6 in royalties), with a valuation of \$39M. In the worst case, they would receive \$13M (6.5 in cash, 3.2 in shares, 3 in royalties) or a valuation of \$20M.

The exposure of the Americans was \$20M maximum, for the whole company (\$10M in cash for the partners and the minority shareholders and \$10M in shares or actually dilution of their ownership). This amount would increase to \$26M if the increase in the price of the shares in five years were less than twice, but could also decrease to \$17M if the profitability of the local operations were less than forecasted. The royalties were not taken into account in the amount of the exposure, as the Americans had the option not to market the new products. According to Anthony's proposal, the local partners received what they wanted: a valuation of \$40M in realistic scenarios, and the Americans were exposed to a valuation of \$20M which was the price that they were willing to pay, and even this, only half in cash and half in shares. How was this alchemy achieved? By the differentiation of the minority shareholders with full transparency, payment of half the consideration in shares with a bank guarantee on the original amount and by keeping the new products and their royalties out of the formula. Other parameters were also introduced into these proposals, linking the consideration to the performance of local activities and the conduct of the price of the shares. We will see that ultimately the compromise that was achieved was even more complicated, but kept however the same principle, that the local partners get what they want and the Americans pay only what they want, in spite of the large gap between the positions of the two parties.

A few weeks later more parameters were added to this formula. First of all, it was decided that the Americans would not acquire the local company, but its activities, assets and liabilities, goodwill, etc., with some clauses on the loans made by International Furniture to its shareholders, and it was decided that the local partners would maintain ownership of the premises of the plant in the development zone. The Americans committed to a five-year lease contract of the manufacturing facilities with an option to increase it to ten years that they would enter upon signature of the agreement, paying an annual rent payment of \$0.6M. The Americans committed themselves to pay the partners a sum of \$10M in five years subject to achieving certain objectives. This amount was based on 50% of the increase of the merged local company's profitability in five years compared to the aggregate profitability of International Furniture and the loss of the subsidiary in the base year. On top of the salaries of the partners, which would remain unchanged, they would receive bonuses of 5% of the pretax profitability of the merged local company. The partners would also receive, upon achieving their objectives, 30,000 five-year warrants to purchase shares of the American company, to be exercised at the price that was on the stock exchange on the day that they received the warrants.

In the following weeks negotiations were held, with frequent business trips, in an attempt to overcome the gaps between the positions of the parties, to investigate the tax implications, the problems of issuing new shares, managing the merged operations and so on. Anthony examined different scenarios with both parties, optimistic, pessimistic, realistic, minimum and maximum exposure, forecasts of the locally merged operations, sales and profitability in the next five years, financial and legal implications and so on. The possibility of giving

convertible debentures instead of shares was examined, the requirements for bank guarantees, what the prerequisites were to signing the agreement: approval of the Boards of Directors, approval of the Chief Scientist, approval for the approved enterprise status, approval of the anti-trust authorities, approval of the owners of the know-how, approval of the banks that had liens and so on. Anthony flew back and forth to America and tried to keep his status of a fair mediator.

In November 1998, two months after the beginning of negotiations, the local partners received a formal proposal from the Americans as follows: American Furniture will purchase the activities, assets and liabilities, goodwill, know-how, and so on of International Furniture, excluding some of the assets and liabilities. American Furniture will pay a sum of \$10M for the acquisition in convertible debentures of the company that can be converted into shares within five years but that cannot be traded during this period. American Furniture will give a five-year bank guarantee for those debentures. The premium of convertibility will be of 15% over the price of the shares on the stock exchange on the day of signature of the agreement. The interest rate of the debentures will be the US Libor. The bank guarantee is accepted as collateral for getting bank loans. The cost of the loans will be the difference between the bank interests and the Libor. If the local partners do not convert the debentures within five years and the price of the shares after five years is lower than the conversion rate, the local partners will exercise the bank guarantee. However, if the price of the shares is higher, the local partners will be compelled to convert the debentures to shares, but they will be able, of course, to sell the shares on the stock exchange immediately. During those five years it will be possible to partially convert the debentures into shares.

The additional conditions that the Americans proposed were: they will pay the shareholders of International Furniture \$1M, which will enable them to reimburse the bank loan that they took in the past in order to invest this amount in their company. In parallel, the local partners will keep the bank loans that they have taken in order to build the plant in the development zone and will continue to pay the interest. The Americans will have the option to purchase 50% of the plant for a cash payment of \$1.5M. The value of the plant and the land is about \$6M and the outstanding loans amount to \$3M, thus the net value of the plant is \$3M. The rent will amount to \$600K annually, in a five-year contract renewable to five more years. The Americans will have the option to acquire the rights on the new products and pay the local shareholders 3% royalties on the sales of the new products. If they do not exercise the option within a few months, the local shareholders will have the option to sell the know-how to other parties.

The local partners will receive \$2M every year for the first three years of the agreement, to a total \$6M, for both. The precondition for receiving those amounts is their work in the merged company during each year of this period. The Americans insisted on adding other conditions such as best efforts in their work and so on. Both parties were very suspicious of the implementation of this clause: the Americans were afraid that the two executives would only come to work and do nothing in order to receive the \$6M, while the local partners were afraid that the Americans would try to find excuses for not paying those amounts, saying they have not made their "best efforts", and so on. It will then be too late for them to do anything, as the company will already be owned by the Americans. In addition, the local partners were to receive, from the Americans, an amount of \$9M in five years, subject to meeting several objectives: 50% of the additional profitability of the merged company, compared to the initial profitability up to a maximum of \$1.8M annually, or \$9M in five years. This topic raised many arguments as the local partners wanted to be involved in the international activities of American Furniture and didn't want to be evaluated only on the profitability of the local

organization, it was not clear what the base profitability was, as the subsidiary was losing money and received transfer prices for some of their products, there were many non recurring costs, how would the profits be calculated on the sales of the products manufactured locally to the other subsidiaries in Europe, how would the R&D component of the P&L be neutralized from the calculation, and so on. The partners were requested to sign a five-year employment contract with American Furniture on the basis of the existing salaries and social benefits; every partner would receive a bonus of 5% on the annual pretax profit of the locally merged company on the first \$1M, 4% on the second million, 3% on all the other profits. The partners would also receive 30,000 warrants each for purchasing the shares of the American company according to the employees stock options plan. It was not decided what the positions of the two partners in the company would be.

On November 27, 1998, a Letter of Intent was signed according to the abovementioned outlines. This was much less than what the local partners wanted and the risks involved were much larger. No cash payment was granted, in the best case the partners were about to receive \$28M, 67% of \$20M (10 debentures, 3 net for the lease of the plant, 1 loan, 6 royalties) or \$13M as well as specific payments of \$15M (6 employment contract, 9 additional profitability), in total \$28M or a valuation of \$42M. The valuation of the company for the minority shareholders was the abovementioned \$20M, as they expected and it also left them an upside if the price of the shares increased, but without a guarantee on the basic payment if the price of the shares did not increase. For the Americans the exposure was minimal, as except for the repayment of \$1M of the loan in cash, they didn't pay anything in cash. They issued convertible debentures that they knew would be converted, as they were confident that the price of the shares would increase in five years, the dilution was minimal, they were not required to buy the facilities of the plant and they benefited from the rent that was according to market prices, receiving approved enterprise status and transferring their manufacturing facilities there, saving large amounts of overhead. They were not required to exercise the option on the new products, but they committed to pay an unconditional \$6M to the partners and \$9M subject to meeting profitability objectives. However, the Americans were convinced that they would increase the local profits by at least \$25M in five years, and pay to the partners \$15M. The Americans bought a company with a large potential for almost nothing, with an adequate solution to the losses in their local subsidiary; it was a good transaction for them.

The risk for the local partners was in the fact that half of the consideration was linked to the objectives and working in the merged company; as the Americans were not enthusiastic about purchasing the new products, the prospects of finding other partners for those products was slim; they would not receive anything in cash, they were not happy with the proposal of convertible debentures, and it was probable that the amount that they would receive would be \$20M or less if there were no royalties and if they received only half of the conditional consideration (4+6+67%x14). However, in spite of all the risks, there were many prospects, as they were convinced that they would increase the profitability substantially, they knew that they would continue to be employed by the company as they believed in the integrity of the Americans, they hoped for a substantial increase in the share' prices and had a moderate hope of receiving at least part of the royalties. On second thought, they believed that they might receive a valuation that would be similar to the \$40M valuation that they wanted initially. If only they could receive part of the consideration in cash they would be satisfied with the agreement. Therefore, in spite of the signature on the Letter of Intent, which was subject to the approval of the Boards and receipt of many other approvals, the parties continued to negotiate in order to clarify different points, with an indefatigable Anthony, who tried to bridge between the divergent standpoints of the parties.

In parallel to the negotiations, a thorough due diligence was conducted on the local company, all the repercussions of the merger were examined including tax considerations and an employment contract was ultimately devised. It was decided that the salary base of the workers in the two local entities would be unified, without increasing the labor costs substantially, in spite of large gaps in the salaries of the two organizations. Similar gaps were also in the number of company vehicles. It was decided to make profit centers for the main activities of the merged company, with the involvement of the managers in the decisions on transfer prices, sale prices, efficiency criteria and so on. A joint organization was devised and it was decided that Christian would be General Manager of Sales, his partner would be General Manager of Design and Development, and Taylor, the President of the merged company, would continue to benefit from the full confidence of Douglas and would be the boss of the two partners. Taylor was a newcomer and was not responsible for the losses of the subsidiary and the partners agreed to receive his leadership after they knew him better. Taylor did his utmost to attenuate their apprehensions and they were confident that they would manage to work as a team as they had a lot to gain in bonuses and incentives from the success of the merged company. Nevertheless, it was decided that only Douglas would have the authority to fire Christian and his partner.

In February 1999, a local newspaper published an article disclosing that International Furniture was contemplating the possibility of introducing a strategic partner to the company -American Furniture. For half a year the parties managed to keep their negotiations confidential, but after such a long period of time and after many parties were now involved in the negotiations, it was no longer possible to hide it from the press. No amounts were disclosed and the newspaper wrote only about partnership and not full acquisition. The suspicions of the parties were still very high and Anthony had to work overtime in order to attenuate them, taking into consideration that the lawyers of the parties also tended to augment the suspicions level. It is not clear if this was a tactic of negotiations, but every disclosure on obligations to the banks, ecological problems, problems with suppliers and customers, in the know-how agreements, taxation and so on increased the suspicions and the final contract comprised hundreds of pages and it took more than a year to finish the legal negotiations. Anthony continued to have the full confidence of both parties, but it was harder and harder for him. The local partners couldn't understand why the American lawyers spent thousand of hours trying to find insurmountable problems on issues that seemed trivial to them, the exorbitant legal costs didn't improve the confidence of the parties.

In the final agreement, there were no more convertible debentures and the basic consideration decreased to \$8M in cash, much less than what was stipulated in the letter of intent and of course less than in the initial phases of the negotiations. However, the parties were exhausted after more than a year of negotiations and the local shareholders were eager to receive at least part of the consideration in cash. The Americans committed to assuming all the liabilities of the company and the personal guarantees of the shareholders. This amount was corrected according to the profitability of 1999. The local plant remained under the ownership of the local shareholders and the Americans committed to rent it as mentioned above. The salaries, social benefits and bonuses were as mentioned above. However, the amount subject to employment in the company was reduced from \$6M to \$4M in three years. The conditions for receiving those amounts were employment in the company, working fully and exclusively for the company, devoting reasonable best efforts to enhancing the interests of the company (on these topics only the parties negotiated for a week...), the partners would not engage in activities that might bring substantial harm to the interests of the company, while the financial results were not part of those activities. The \$4M payments would be paid in shares of the American company according to the share price prevalent on the date of the signature of the

contract, thus if the shares increased twice or thrice in three years the partners would receive two or three times more if they sold their shares immediately. The partners would also receive consulting fees of \$20K monthly for five years and in total \$1.2M. The overall amount that was not linked to performance amounted to \$5.2M (4+1.2) instead of \$6M in the letter of intent; this amount was slightly less than in the LOI but most of it would be paid in shares that might double.

In addition, a special bonus would be paid conditional to increase in sales and gross profit every year for three years. The maximum amount to be paid would be \$2M in three years, the conditions for obtaining it were easier than in the letter of intent, but the amount was much less - \$2M in three years instead of \$9M in five years. The royalties were as stipulated in the letter of intent but the Americans didn't exercise their option and the local partners didn't succeed in finding a company that was interested in the know-how. The maximum amount of conditional payments was therefore reduced by \$13M (6 royalties and 7 bonuses). If we add the reduction in the basic payments to that, the consideration that the local shareholders received was much less than what they wanted, what they were promised in the first stages of the negotiations and what they signed for in the letter of intent. The Americans managed, after more than a year of attrition, to obtain the commitment of the local partners, who couldn't retreat, and maybe because they had come to the conclusion that the local company was not as profitable as they hoped, their liabilities were much higher and the risks larger, to acquire the company for \$8M; as for all the other considerations, they managed to pay them from the increase in profitability and the saving of expenses.

The minority shareholders received a minimal amount, although they could have vetoed the transaction if they were not satisfied, as everything was done with full transparency. They actually received a valuation of \$11M (8 cash and 3 net for the plant); as they held one third of the shares, they received \$3.5M, most of it in cash; as for the plant, it was also in cash, in monthly leasing payments. This was much less than \$20M and of course less than \$40M that they had hoped to receive at the beginning of the negotiations, but it was at least in cash and they got the exit that they were so eager to receive. The two partners received \$15M (11x67%+4+1.2+2) instead of the \$25M or more that they had hoped to receive. It represented a valuation of \$22M, half of their original requirements. However, we have to remember that the initial amount included the royalties that became irrelevant, shares, and conditional payments subject to meeting very aggressive objectives. Now, the amounts were much less, but with a much lower risk. There was also a substantial upside with 3% to 5% of the annual profit for every partner and a potential increase in the price of the shares in the first three years of an amount of up to \$4M. After such a long and exhausting Odyssey, they thought that they had achieved the best that they could get.

In retrospective of years, Anthony continued to keep a very warm friendship with Christian, the merger was a tremendous success, the merged company had high profits, in the harsh years of the recession they managed to survive while individually they could have collapsed, and the merger saved large amounts of expenses. The local partners received a substantial consideration and an excellent employment agreement, the Americans had, at last, substantial profits from their local operations, with almost no risk and exposure on their part. Douglas continued to be in touch with Anthony and congratulated him on favorable developments in his career. This case is therefore an excellent example of success for all parties involved, proving that ethics and trust, excellent business competence, alchemic and charismatic bridging can bring any difficult transaction to a win-win situation.

ANALYSIS AND TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION ON: TRUST AND FAIRNESS CASE - BRIDGING IN MERGERS

Topics for consideration on the personal, business and ethical dilemmas of the main protagonists of the case: 1. Christian, President and Owner of International Furniture, 2. Douglas, President and Owner of American Furniture, 3. Anthony, Program Manager of the Merger, 4. Taylor, President of the local Subsidiary of American Furniture.

- * What are the ethical motives of the case and how did they affect the results?
- * The friendship relations between a client and a consultant, an advantage or a disadvantage?
- * To what extent is the merger the result of Anthony's initiative and would the merger occur even without his involvement?
- * Was there a party who won, lost, won partially, and does it matter, in view of the fact that all parties were satisfied with the results?
- * What would have happened to the local subsidiary of American Furniture if the merger had not taken place?
- * What would have happened to International Furniture if the merger would not have taken place?
- * Has the merger contributed favorably to the local economy, although part of the competition was eliminated together with its cut throat price wars?
- * Do you know of other cases where two parties divided the remuneration of a consultant who bridged between their positions?
- * How did the two partners of International Furniture agree to become salaried after they had been owners throughout their whole career?
- * Why are shareholders reluctant to purchase low tech shares, especially of small companies?
- * To what extent did the full transparency assist the Americans, the minority shareholders and the two local partners?
- * What are the benefits of the merger to the merged company in this case?
- * Why was the alternative of a 50%-50% merger between the local subsidiary of American Furniture and International Furniture ultimately not chosen by the parties?
- * Prepare a table of the changes in the valuation of International Furniture throughout the case.
- * To what extent did the final valuation match Anthony's original proposal?
- * What were the major ingredients of Anthony's "alchemy formula", which gave each party what they wanted?
- * Was the different valuation of the shares of the minority shareholders ethical for them?

- * Was the substantial reduction in valuation offered by the Americans at the end of the negotiations ethical towards the local shareholders?
- * How did the negotiators overcome the ego differences of the three executives of the merged company?
- * What do you think of the creative solutions of: offering of shares with a bank guarantee on their nominal value, leaving the facilities in the development under the ownership of the local shareholders and renting them with a long-term contract to the Americans, different valuation to minority and controlling shareholders, linkage of part of the remuneration to profitability objectives that do not cost anything to the Americans, as their alternative is currently a loss of their subsidiary, taking the new products out of the valuation of the company and giving royalties on their sales should the company succeed in marketing them, and so on?
- * How were Anthony's bridging-proposals of balanced between both parties and did he perform his job as a mediator fairly?
- * Why was Douglas so interested in the management skills of Christian and his partner and would he have acquired the company without them?
- * Why has the merged company failed to find customers for the new products and why didn't the local shareholders receive any royalties?
- * Was the chain of events of the negotiations intricate or normal, taking into considerations the large amounts and the length of the negotiations?
- * What were the reasons for the American lawyers in finding more and more hurdles during the negotiations? Was it a war of attrition, was it justified, to whom? Were the lawyers ethical towards Douglas who paid them more than a million dollars, or did Douglas save much more in valuation because of the lawyers' tactics?
- * Why were all parties concerned satisfied with the results of the negotiations?
- * What was the exposure of the Americans and did they take unnecessary risks? Were those risks higher than those they took when they opened their local subsidiary?
- * Were the Americans right in forcing all the executives to work together: their local CEO, who was not an expert in furniture but was a good executive, and the two local executives, who were considered as the best experts in designing and marketing of furniture?
- * What is the difference between acquiring the company and acquiring its activities, assets and liabilities?
- * What were the reasons for the length of negotiations more than a year?
- * Do you think that the consideration which is linked to the performance of the company is justified and contributes to the success of the company?
- * How have the parties overcome the mutual suspicions in linking part of the remuneration to the performance of the merged company?
- * Was the trade-off between the amount and the mix of the consideration reasonable?
- * Why were the Americans so afraid of finding skeletons in the closets and why didn't they ultimately discover any skeletons?

- * Could the premature publication of the merger in the press jeopardize the success of the merger?
- * Is this case indeed a good example of a win-win transaction?

4. ARGENTINA - LABOR RIGHTS IN THE GLOBAL CONTEXT - THE DOCUMENTARY FILM "THE TAKE" - SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

Based on the film:

The Take, 2004, 87 min., documentary directed by Avi Lewis, written by Naomi Klein.

Summary and Analysis:

The film "The Take", based on Naomi Klein's screenplay, describes the struggle of workers in Argentina against unemployment and bankruptcy of their factories, due to the collapse of the economy, IMF involvement and corruption. It shows that cooperative alternatives do work. Naomi Klein's parents were war-resistant, her father is an alternative doctor and her mother a militant feminist. Naomi crossed Canada at the age of 16, campaigning against nuclear power. She wrote her best seller "No Logo", attacking globalization, in her twenties. Klein's film about the economic catastrophe that hit Argentina relates the weary campaign of unemployed steel workers to join a couple of hundred other factory "occupations" and take control of their abandoned steel works. Klein and her spouse, Avi Lewis, were in Argentina for about six months, with a substantial crew and budget.

In suburban Buenos Aires, 30 unemployed auto-parts workers walk into their idle factory, roll out sleeping mats and refuse to leave. All they want is to re-start the silent machines. But this simple act - the take - has the power to turn the globalization debate on its head. Armed only with slingshots and an abiding faith in shop-floor democracy, the workers face off against the bosses, bankers and a whole system that sees their beloved factories as nothing more than scrap metals for sale. With "The Take", Avi Lewis, one of Canada's most outspoken journalists, and Naomi Klein champion a radical economic manifesto for the 21st century. Argentina is a rich country that was impoverished by its regimes. Carlos Menem, President of Argentina in the nineties, reshaped Argentina's economy according to the directives of IMF: turnaround, downsizing, privatization, selling the government assets into private hands. This was followed by massive unemployment. The model was approved by the IMF and its management, including Stanley Fisher. This miracle, the recovery of Argentina's economy, soon turned into a disaster. Half of the country slipped beneath the poverty level. Argentina became the capitalistic Far West, with a large part of the population unemployed, with a free flow of money, utilized by the multinational banks to transfer out of the country 40 billion dollars without any opposition. The government panicked and froze all the bank accounts. The middle class Argentineans all of a sudden became poor, deprived of their savings while the rich people found ways to transfer all their money abroad.

But this could not occur without reaction. Millions invaded the streets, broke shop-windows, rioted. The people shouted slogans like "Que se vayan todos", down with all who were connected with this catastrophe. 30 people were killed by the police. Within three weeks five presidents took office, and during the same month that Enron went bankrupt, December 2001, Argentina also went bankrupt, the largest bankruptcy of any country in history. The basic rules of capitalism - repayment of loans and open bank accounts - were broken by complete adherence to the capitalistic precepts. The public was fed up with the model, in the same wave of resistance that spread from Seattle to South Africa. This economic policy was global and the resistance also became global. The advocates of globalization blamed Naomi Klein, Avi

Lewis, and the anti-globalization movement in general for only being "anti", without suggesting alternative ways. Lewis and Klein looked for alternatives and they heard of a new movement starting in Argentina, a new economic model with hundreds of factories taken over by their workers after they were shut down by their owners. The workers operated the factories independently, as cooperatives, without bosses. The national organization of the reorganized factories adhered to a slogan: seize, resist, manufacture. The film takes us to a factory - Forja San Martin, the steel factory of San Martin, whose workers received a permit from the bankruptcy court to find proof in the factory that the former owners had sold off factory assets without the court's permission. If they succeeded in finding the proof, they would have the right to take over the factory and manage it by themselves. They found that the owners had taken out the raw materials and the cables.

The workers decide to take over the factory, receive modest and equal salaries and manage the factory as a cooperative. They seize the company in order to prevent the owners from taking out other assets from "their" (the workers or the owners, to whom does the factory belong - to the owners who caused its bankruptcy and left it, or to the stakeholders, the workers who want to make a living out of the ruins) factory. The workers hope to convince the court to approve. The Zanon factory is their model; it is another factory where the workers have taken over. They manufacture ceramics; it has been operated successfully by its workers for two years now; it is the forefather of the resistance movement - the take. Zanon has 300 workers, the decisions are taken by the assembly of the workers, where every one has an equal vote; the salaries are equal for all. The former owners accumulated huge debts after receiving huge subsidies from the government and now, after the recovery, the former owner wants Zanon back. Zanon's owner is sure of his case, although he caused the collapse of the company and the workers made the turnaround. He says that the government owes it to him, but the workers guard the factory 24 hours a day and do not permit the restitution of the factory to its former owner. They fight the policemen with slingshots, they are backed by the public, as they are convinced that those who successfully operate the factory should own it and not the owner who caused its ruin.

The workers are employed, the ceramics are cheaper than before, so the customers also benefit from the take, and the future seems bright. The former owners received huge subsidies from the government but didn't invest them in the factory. As we know, Argentina is one of the most corrupt countries in the world, and that is one of the main reasons for the collapse of its economy. If a factory owner had committed such a crime in Singapore, one of the most ethical countries in the world, we let you imagine what would have happened to him? Ethics should be enforced with determination by all countries. Nevertheless, one should also think of the legal implications of such takeovers. What should prevail - ethics or the law? The owner says that it is legally his factory, it is worth \$90M; therefore the workers have stolen his property from him. The workers answer that it is not stealing but confiscating, as the factory was idle anyhow. They donate ceramics to hospitals and schools. Thousands of sympathizers invade the factory every time the police want to interfere, defending their jobs by force. Today, the factory is still owned by the workers.

We remember the response of the French young people to the legitimate laws of a government who wanted to enable the employers to fire them without cause. They invaded the streets of Paris, rioted, clashed with the police; the students rallied to the struggle and they prevailed. Is it justified, legal, ethical, effective? More than 15,000 workers have taken over factories in Argentina. The number of takes doubles itself every year. It is not a new phenomenon. We could compare it to the worst dictatorial regimes of the Soviet Union or Cuba. But there the confiscation was done forcefully by a socialistic-regime, while in

Argentina the takes come from the people and the factories are not managed by bureaucrats who are more corrupt than the darkest capitalistic regimes, but by the workers themselves. It proves, according to them, that no bosses are needed (what would business schools do if this model proves to be successful?). The takes happen in shipyards, in schools, in clinics, in ice-cream factories, in textile, all of them operated by cooperative management with their own unions, and today there are two hundred companies that have brought thousands back to employment. So is this phenomenon justified or should the government restitute the factories to their previous (legal?) owners?

However, the factories need business plans, marketing, "professional" management. They receive inspiration from a tractor factory, Zanelo, operated by its workers, which made a partnership with a group of former managers and with the distributors. Zanelo decided not to pay everyone the same salary, so the model of the take is not uniform and has many derivatives. Every factory decides what course of action to take; it is direct democracy. The Zanelo factory decides to send the raw material to the Forja San Martin, the Forja will manufacture the tractors parts and will sell them to Zanelo. The Forja workers hope that the judge, Dr. Fernandez, will understand their plea and approve the take. The cooperatives are a threat to many stakeholders: the owners, the receivers, the creditors who want their money back. These are factories that went bankrupt and the creditors are not paid by the workers who took over the factories, so what will happen to their debts? But what are their alternatives as the factories had virtually no assets and the equipment would be sold as scrap? In court, the judge, Fernandez, says that no one would want to buy a factory (the Forja) that was taken over by its workers. The receiver says that nothing is missing in the factory, but the workers say that a lot is missing. The judge tells the workers that they hinder the prospects of finding a buyer for the factory who would repay at least some of the debts. She requests that the workers leave the factory and give it back to the receiver.

Many citizens want Menem back, the leader who sold them the dream of recovery as he compared himself to Jesus. IMF proposes "the same old lady", a drastic cut of government expenses (it will not affect the rich of course, but only the poor and the former middle class, who have lost their money, their savings, their jobs and who receive some money from the government), a massive increase in the price of electricity and water (here again those who foot the bill are the majority of the people, but not the rich, who have most of the assets, if they are not already expatriated). One of the key employees of the IMF is arrested on corruption charges. The IMF is not very popular in Argentina, to say the least. A wife of one of the Forja's workers says that the politicians have stolen their self respect, as there is nothing sadder than to see a man unemployed, a humiliated man, but she hopes that the take succeeds. The Brokeman suits factory is restituted to its former owners. It is not just one of the factories; it is the first factory that was taken. In the Brokeman factory the owners decided to face the competition from poorer countries by cutting the salaries of their workers and threatening to close the factory. One day the owners just left the factory and disappeared. But the workers decided to continue operations, did it successfully and now they have been thrown out of the factory, which was given back to the owner who deserted it. The Brokeman workers were very popular; they were adopted by the widows of May Square, who had lost their husbands when the fascistic Junta took over the government and murdered tens of thousands of "leftist" Argentineans without proper trials. Massive demonstrations are held in favor of the Brokeman workers.

But the Forja workers are luckier. The La Plata parliament votes in a law to give the Forja to its workers. The workers cry out of joy; in the background we hear a song by Mercedes Sosa: "Quien dijo que todo esta perdido, Yo vengo ofrecer mi corazon, Hablo de cambiar esta

nuestra casa" - who said that everything is lost, I come to offer my heart, I speak of changing our home. Masses of workers attack policemen who are guarding the closed Brokeman factory. A former worker who got cancer tells us that the owners deducted the hours in which she went to receive chemotherapy treatments from her salary. However, the workers who now operate the company assist her, as they have moral values. When Naomi Klein and Avi Lewis came to Argentina the first time they received a letter from a local citizen saying: "We are your mirror that you should look into. We are the mistake that you should not make. Argentina is the ruin of a country that was globalized. We stand in the place in the direction all of you are going." But what they saw in Argentina was a country trying to learn from its mistakes. Menem finally lost to Nestor Kirshner. The workers hope that he will help the cooperatives and not the multinationals. The cooperatives are the way the Argentineans have found to create a modern world, to sweep away the old wicked one. Six months later, Naomi and Avi returned to Argentina, where they saw a Forja San Martin operating successfully, Zanon has increased its production and hired new workers. In spite of his promises, Kirshner has signed a new agreement with the IMF, very similar to the former agreements. The parliament of Buenos Aires has restituted the Brokeman factory to ... the workers. The factory has opened once again and is now being operated by its workers.

5. UK AND SINGAPORE - ETHICS IN BANKING - BARINGS BANK - THE FILM "ROGUE TRADER" - SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

Based on the book by Nick Leeson with Edward Whitley: Rogue Trader, How I brought down Barings Bank and Shook the Financial World, Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1996

The film is based on the book with slight changes:

Rogue Trader 1999, 101 min., Director James Dearden, with Ewan McGregor, Anna Friel

Summary and Analysis:

The film shows the importance of the CEO's personal example for the ethical climate of the bank/company. Peter Baring, the Chairman of Barings Bank is the descendant of an illustrious family of bankers who has managed the English bank for over 200 years. He succumbs to the business environment and instructs the managers to make profits at all cost, disregarding the conservative image that the bank has maintained throughout the years. This example has permeated throughout the whole organization until it gets to Nick Leeson who caused to the bank a loss of over a billion pounds, because of an irresponsible conduct in trading in the futures and options market in Singapore. Leeson is cited as an example by his superiors as he earns fictitious profits of up to ten million pounds in a week. There is no effective control and management of Leeson's transactions which are extremely intricate. The immediate cause that the Bank of England found for the bank's collapse in 1995 was lack of control of the bank. But no measures were taken against the managers and controllers of the bank, probably due to the extensive connections of the family with English society.

Peter Baring boasted in 1993 that it is not so difficult to make large profits on the stock exchange. The failure of the bank was also caused by lack of transparency, predominance of profitability over ethics, and lack of ethical screening of employees which enabled a careless and uneducated person like Leeson to reach such a high level position in the bank. As "usual", the people responsible for the collapse of the bank were not punished (besides Leeson of course who was caught because of his clumsiness), and those who lost were the stakeholders, shareholders, customers, community and employees. In the Barings case, as in Enron, the executives were interested mainly in receiving huge bonuses, overlooking Leeson's scams which were apparent long before the collapse. The British press gave a very negative coverage of the scandal and complained the fact that Leeson was the only manager found guilty.

Some of the issues raised by the film and the book are: Could a rogue such as Nick Leeson be recruited in our company/bank/organization or promoted to a senior position? What are the most sensitive positions in our company and how could we avoid recruiting people such as Leeson? Should there be an ethical screening for positions in sales, purchasing, finance, control, human resources, quality control, top-level management? Why is ethics and the implementation of the Ethical Code the ultimate guarantee that such cases as Barings' collapse would not take place in our organization? Even if people like Leeson would infiltrate an organization and the control would fail in detecting unethical acts, such cases would not have occurred if there was no aggressive policy of granting huge bonuses to management regardless of ethical considerations. What are the positive aspects in the conduct of Leeson, Peter Baring and Barings Bank's management and control, if any? Following Barings' precedent should we become paranoid and suspect every one or should we still trust people

and expect that most managers are ethical? Is the integrity of management the most important characteristic in a company? If not - what is the most important one?

Can a similar case occur in a French Bank – Societe Generale for example, with another young man named Jerome Kerviel in 2008? Milton Friedman commented on Enron as a rotten apple, when will they ever learn that was is rotten is not the apples but the system, putting emphasis only in maximizing profits and valuation, disregarding values, ethics, social responsibility? The only preventive cure for those cases is by educating all the echelons of management in business ethics, screening the candidates first of all on integrity and ethics basis, and by returning to basics, namely that the mission of companies and banks is not to mazimize profits but to optimize profits while finding the right equilibrium between the rights of all the stakeholders.

6. SOUTH AMERICA - CORRUPTION CASE - ETHICS IN SALES

(All the characters and plot and all the names of the companies in this case are fictitious)

Claudio immigrated to his country from Argentina when he was one year old. He of course didn't remember a thing from his Latin American childhood, he didn't even dream in Spanish as his parents did, both of them were professors of Spanish Literature who immigrated for economic reasons. His mother tongue was indeed Spanish as the Argentineans in his new country didn't want to relinquish their heritage. Claudio made over the years frequent trips to Argentina to visit his many uncles and ants who remained in Buenos Aires. When he compared his fate to the fate of his cousins he was very happy that his parents have decided to immigrate. He loathed the corrupted ambience in Argentina, the corrupted politicians, the regime that was often dictatorial, the shaky economy and the poverty that he encountered in the streets. He received his MBA from one of the best Californian universities. He enjoyed very much the couple of years that he spent there, the weather was fair, the mentality was American but most of his friends there were Hispanic. Nevertheless, when he received an offer that he couldn't refuse he decided to return immediately to his country. He was offered a job as sales manager to Latin America of one of the leading defense companies, Global Defense, that sold tens of millions dollars annually to this continent. He was not bothered by the fact that in many cases he sold similar military systems to belligerent countries which had often border skirmishes and he contributed to the arms race in those countries, which were the poorest in the world. He enjoyed every moment during his frequent trips to Latin America, he was single and the long negotiations didn't tire him. He did not encounter corruption cases as he worked with local agents and what they did with the 10% commission he gave them from the sales to the armies was none of his business. His conscience was crystal clear.

After several years in which he succeeded very much in his job Claudio received the most important assignment of his career. He was about to submit a proposal of \$80M to the Air Force of one of the leading armies in the region. It was the largest proposal his company ever made and, if he succeeded in receiving the contract, there was a good chance that he would replace his boss as VP Sales and his boss, John, will become CEO of the company. "Not bad", he thought, "to become a VP of one of the leading companies in my country being younger than 30. My mother would finally forgive me for not becoming a lawyer or a physician as most of the children of her friends." At about this period he started to date a young lawyer of his age who wanted to get married very soon and have children. He worked night and day to prepare the proposal to his agent Jesus, who was the brother-in-law of the Chief of Staff of this country's army. Claudio's client was Jose, a Colonel in the local Air Force, with whom he made excellent personal contacts. They visited often local bars, got drunk, met with local women, although Jose was married and had children, and plaid tennis every morning when Claudio was in the capital. Now and then Jose hinted to him that the receipt of "goodies" would improve the chances of receiving the large contracts but Claudio insisted on giving only a 10% commission to Jesus and only after the award of the contract. John backed this attitude and told him that when you start to give bribes you never know when to stop. But Jesus insisted on receiving at least a few hundred thousand dollars in the proposal phase in order to improve the chances of receiving the contract.

This time the situation was different. If Global Defense would receive the contract, the company's profitability would increase by twenty million dollars, a substantial percentage of its annual profit. There was no doubt that after receipt of the contract Claudio and John would

receive very large bonuses, and this would help Claudio to start his married life. He made the trip to his client with mixed feelings. He knew that Jesus insisted on receiving a "prepayment" of at least \$1M in order to pay it to the Chief-of-Staff - his brother in law, the Air Force Commander and Jose. But he knew that in the past there were many cases that such prepayments were paid by his competitors and they didn't get the contract after all. He was in a big ethical dilemma, although the problem was only of the timing of the payment of the bribe, prior to the receipt of the contract or as a part of the 10% commission - or \$8M - that Jesus would receive after the signature of the contract. There was a long delay in the flight and Claudio figured that he would arrive at one o'clock in the morning of Saturday when the deadline for submitting the proposal was on Friday midnight. He could therefore miss the deadline for technical reasons and lose everything, even his job. Claudio phoned in panic from the stopover where he was delayed and begged Jesus to do his utmost for obtaining him a few hours delay. Jesus told him "not to worry" in his nonchalant way but Claudio told him harshly "you are about to receive \$8M from this contract for a few hours work so do anything needed in order to get the contract..."

When Claudio arrived to the Airport gates, Jesus waited for him with a large smile. "Why are you so happy?" asked him the nervous Claudio "Have you got a postponement?" "Better than that", answered Jesus, but he didn't want to explain. Claudio tried to get from him an explanation but Jesus remained silent. "Paciencia", he told him at last, "you will know soon". Claudio noticed that they drove in a new direction which was not the hotel or Jesus' home. "Where are we going?" he asked, but before Jesus could answer the car stopped in front of a large hacienda in one of the most luxurious suburbs of the capital. "Take with you the proposal and some blank pages with your company's letterhead" said Jesus. The door of the hacienda opened and Jose received Claudio to his home with a strong "abrazo". "Mi casa es tu casa", he said. It was the first time that Claudio visited Jose's home, as Jose preferred to prevent Claudio from meeting his wife (and the "suegra") for obvious reasons. When the worried Claudio asked him where his wife was, Jose answered him with a wink: "I sent her to the country with her mother, as we are going to have a very special machos' entertainment". "Ay", thought Claudio, "This sex maniac must have invited call girls instead of taking care of the proposal. He forgot that I am almost a married man!"

But Jose took him to his study where he found five open envelopes with all the proposals of Claudio's competitors. The envelope of Global Defense contained a hundred blank pages. "This is your envelope that Jesus has submitted to us duly sealed right on time. As I have received the proposals to review them during the week-end, and in view of our warm friendship, and if you promise to lose five consecutive times in our tennis matches, you are invited to hand me your proposal now. We read all the proposals and found that the cheapest one is the American with \$91M, so that we ask you kindly to submit your proposal at a price of \$90M instead of the \$80M that Jesus told me that you intended to submit. It will still be the lowest bidder, but Jesus and his friends are going to receive a commission of \$18M instead of the original \$8M, let us say because of our warm hospitality. Your company will receive \$72M net and will not lose a thing, you will meet the deadline although you were late, my country will give the contract to the lowest bidder and will not lose a thing. It is a win-win situation, but you have to give us an immediate answer and you cannot consult anybody as we are afraid of bugs. What do you decide? Say yes and the contract is yours!" Claudio knew that he stood at the most important ethical crossroad of his career, he couldn't delude himself anymore, this was the "real" thing, he was asked to pay bribe, to commit an unlawful act. If he would decline the friendly offer he might lose the contract and even his job, after all he was late and they did him a favor to receive his proposal. He might even get fired because of his negligence of not coming a day earlier. If he agreed, John might disapprove as he told him

several times not to give any bribes. But was it a bribe? After all, he only increased the commission from ten to 20%, his company would receive anyhow the \$72M it has forecasted, the profitability will be enormous, he will be promoted to VP, receive huge bonuses, John might agree after all and nobody would ever know. Should he accept or decline the offer?

ANALYSIS AND TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION ON: CORRUPTION CASE - ETHICS IN SALES

Topics for consideration on the personal, business and ethical dilemmas of the main protagonists of the case: 1. Claudio, Sales Manager Latin America in Global Defense, 2. John, VP Sales in Global Defense, 3. Jesus, Global Defense's local agent, 4. Jose, Colonel in the local Air Force.

- * Describe the ethical attitude of Claudio.
- * Is it possible to conduct business in a corrupted country and remain ethical?
- * Is the argument that "paying a 10% commission to the local agent in a corrupted country after the receipt of the contract" valid from an ethical point of view or is it only self delusion?
- * To what extent does the background of Claudio affect his decision: his Latin American origin, his revulsion from the corrupted practices in Argentina, the ethical education that he received at home, the ethical deterioration in his country's business environment, the ethical standards of Global Defense, the ethical standards or double standards in the defense industries in the world?
- * Do Jesus and Jose see the imbroglio that has developed as a problem or an opportunity?
- * How will John react when Claudio will tell him about the events: if he agrees to the friendly persuasion or declines it?
- * Acceptance of Jose's offer would break Claudio's country law, the local law, the American law?
- * Does Claudio incur a risk of being arrested by the local authorities?
- * Jesus tempts Claudio (he knows well enough the ethical inhibitions of his "client") by telling him that Global Defense would receive exactly what it had forecasted with a large profit, there is no a priori bribe, there is no direct bribe, the country of Jesus doesn't suffer as it gives the contract to the lowest bidder, is it really a win-win situation?
- * Claudio's conscience might be corrupted as he is involved now for the first time in his life in giving directly a bribe. He knows that Jose shouldn't show him his competitors' proposals, that he shouldn't let him participate in the bid as he was late, that his friends will benefit from the additional ten million dollars and not their country, that the lowest bidder the American company will not get the bid although technically they should win.
- * What do you think of the scenario that Claudio would tell his hosts: "It is all fine, but I haven't been in Jose's home. I came to give a proposal of \$80M and this is what I shall do, take it or leave it!" Would his hosts agree reluctantly to his attitude, would it affect their future relationships, should he inform John later on of all that happened if they agree or if they refuse?
- * What do you think of the scenario that Claudio would tell his hosts: "You are asking me to risk going to jail in your country and the prisons are quite filthy here. I risk ten years of my life and don't get a thing while you will be \$10M richer. I agree on one condition that you give me a kickback of \$2M, you'll still get \$16M instead of \$8M, doubling your commission, and I'll get \$2M for the risk that I take. This is really a win-win situation to all!"

- * How do you think would be the reaction of Claudio's fiancée when she hears of what happened if he will agree to Jose's offer? She works in the state's prosecutor office. Should he tell her, assuming that they have no secrets from each other?
- * What are the risks that Jose incurs in this tricky case?
- * Whose initiative was it to make the offer to Claudio? Who is going to receive most of the "increased commission"?
- * What will happen to Claudio in his future career if he agrees to the offer?
- * The US have enacted an Anti Corruption Act in 1977 prohibiting paying bribes in foreign countries. Most of the Western countries have issued similar laws. Claudio's country has not. Can Claudio be charged according to the US Act, can Jesus and Jose be charged, assuming that the American company that offered \$91M and lost the bid although technically it was the winner would discover all the scheme? Is there any chance that they would discover it?
- * In Rome do as the Romans do. Is it valid in a Latin American country that is used to bribes? Is it valid in an anthropophagic tribe if you visit there? What about your own values?
- * Is business ethics universal as the Declaration of Human Rights?
- * Is paying bribes an ethical wrongdoing? Why? How does it distort competition, the local country's budget, the local social justice, the income gaps between the richest and the poorest?
- * Was Claudio right in befriending with Jose? Would the situation be different if they were not old buddies?
- * Claudio is not yet 30. Can he afford to commit unethical acts at his young age, but promise to himself that in the future he will always be ethical? Are elder men/women more ethical?
- * How would the situation change if the Sales Manager Latin America was woman aged 40 with a lot of experience in Sales and was not from a Latin American family?
- * Did John hoped in the deep of his heart that Claudio, being a "Latin American", would find a way to deal with his compatriots without telling him how he does it?
- * Would John agree to give a written or tacit approval to Claudio to accept Jose's offer?
- * What are the lessons that you can draw from this case? How would you act if you were Claudio? John? Can you be more Catholic than the Pope? Do you have first of all an allegiance to your company, yourself, your country, who cares about the other stakeholders?

CONCLUSION

Claudio agreed to increase his proposal to \$90M and accepted Jose's offer. He wrote a letter to Jesus stating that if they will receive the contract he will get a commission of \$18M, to be sent to whatever location Jesus will indicate.

Global Defense received the contract. The profitability of the company increased subsequently to unprecedented levels, the shares' prices increased by 30% and the executives, including Claudio and John who had options, received huge amounts. The "deal" remained the secret of four people: Claudio, Jesus, Jose, and later on John.

John backed Claudio retroactively but didn't give him a written approval. He even congratulated him on his resourcefulness. John was promoted CEO of Global Defense and Claudio became its VP Sales.

Claudio married his sweetheart but he didn't tell her what happened.

Global Defense continued to conduct business with local agents mainly with Latin America and South East Asia. But the amounts and percentages of "commissions" skyrocketed and amounted sometimes even to 40% of the contracts.

After five years, the internal auditor of Global Defense discovered a kickback deal in which Claudio received from his South Asian agent half of the commission of \$30M that the agent received from a \$90M contract. The auditor learned it from the Chinese ex-wife of the South East agent who didn't receive from her ex-husband the alimony that she hoped to get and decided to blow the whistle and tell everything she knew, thus incriminating her ex-husband and all his associates.

Claudio was fired on the spot by John, although he denied the allegations of the agent's exwife. "I am innocent!" he said, "This is a second Dreifuss case!" Claudio's wife divorced him after speaking with the ex-wife who told her that Claudio received also "other kinds" of bribes...

The agent's ex-wife was found drowned in suspicious circumstances in the pool of her beautiful house. The police discovered that the South East agent was connected also to the local mafia that probably received part of the commission. Claudio and the agent were exonerated after the police couldn't find any evidence on the kickback, the only witness being dead.

Claudio felt outraged from the alleged suspicions to his impeccable integrity and immigrated to a Polynesian Island State. He married there the daughter of the local Prime Minister. Claudio was appointed recently as his country's consul in this tiny state, and it has become the most fervent supporter of his country in the United Nations. Claudio even invested \$2M in the local tourism and boosted by far the local economy.

7. US - SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY - THE FILM "IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE" - SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

Based on the film:

It's a Wonderful Life, 1946, 130 min., Director Frank Capra, with James Stewart, Donna Reed

Summary and Analysis:

George Bailey spends his entire life giving up his big dreams for the good of his town. His family's business a mortgage bank is what stands between the citizens and Mr. Potter, the evil richest man in town, who takes sick pleasure in taking from everybody, without even caring how it affects them. Bailey's guardian angel comes to earth in a moment of despair when George contemplates suicide and shows him how his town, family and friends would turn out if he had never been born. Bailey decides to return to his family and discovers that the entire town has united in rescuing him. This marvelous fairy tale about social responsibility is modern even today.

George Bailey rescues his brother from drowning, his father's bank from collapsing, decides to stay in town in order to help poor people to obtain cheap loans, marry Mary and raise four children. Bailey is falsely accused of embezzlement but decides to continue his struggle against evil embodied by the unscrupulous Potter. At the unforgettable ending scene on Christmas' eve all those who were rescued by George come to his assistance. Can it happen in today's business world, does gratitude exist today?

Some of the issues raised by the film are: Why does Bailey continue his struggle in favor of the stakeholders in spite of all the hurdles? We can try to figure, following George's example, what would have happened if we were never born. What would happen to our family, friends, company, subordinates, country, community, colleagues, competitors, enemies? What are the risks of assisting stakeholders relentlessly? Why does Potter do his utmost to ruin Bailey, tempt him to leave his bank, discredit him? What are the motives of Potter? What are the motives of Bailey? What are the alternatives facing an ethical businessman when he reaches an impasse: continue his struggle against all odds, commit suicide, quitting the business world and start teaching at school or at a university like Dr Wigand in The Insider, relying on friends, fight against the system if not against the corrupted businessmen, leave the country?

After George's father death Potter tells the Board of Directors of the mortgage bank that the way he managed the bank was not businesslike, was utopian and unpractical. Is it true? Bailey defends the cause of the so called "rabble" the hard working people who benefit from the cheap loans of the mortgage bank in order to purchase a modest house instead of renting the slums of Potter. George's first dilemma is to forego his studies at the university in order to takeover the bank and continue his father's mission. He foregoes his own good for the good of the community. After his marriage, he plans to go on a honeymoon but invests all the money he has in order to rescue the bank from its customers' panic that were willing to sell their shares at half their price to Potter if Bailey would not have invested all his money.

Georges' social responsibility is also in erecting Bailey's Park with new small houses for the hard working people who at last have their own houses. Potter tells Bailey that he is an old man whom nobody loves and who loves nobody, he is lonesome, although he owns most of the town. He offers him a huge salary to come and work for him, thus closing the mortgage

bank. George is tempted but refuses. Ultimately, what is the purpose of a company: maximize profits, valuation, benefits to the controlling shareholders, answering the needs of the customers, suppliers, community, country, employees, minority shareholders? What are the lessons drawn from the film? Has it changed our attitude towards ethics? Is the social responsibility the main mission of a company as every company should have a social meaning?

8. ISRAEL - THE WORTHWHILENESS OF TRUST CASE – THE ETHICS OF VALUATION

(Due to confidentiality and editing reasons some of the names and details have been changed. The amounts are given for indication purpose only)

Amos tried often to understand what was the reason that some negotiations were concluded promptly while others dragged on and on for months or over a year, costing millions of dollars. If it only were possible to increase the level of trust between parties so that negotiations would last minutes or hours and be concluded in a handshake... It would save millions in transactions costs in the average M&A negotiations on due diligence, contractual negotiations, financial negotiations. Think of how many people are involved in an M&A process: the management of both parties, employees of both parties, lawyers receiving hundreds of dollars per hour, they come sometimes by two, three or even six together on each side, they submit invoices on thousands of hours amounting sometimes to millions of dollars for transactions of only millions or even tens of millions dollars, expenses of auditors and due diligence, consultants of every kind, analysts, investment bankers, not including sometimes illegal taping, detectives and business intelligence.

The costs of mistrust are the Achilles' Hills of modern business and amount to tens of billion dollars annually. We could solve all the hunger problems of the world if businessmen would only trust each other. We could behave like in the diamond industry were deals in millions are concluded by a handshake and saying the Hebrew words: "Mazal Oubraha", luck and blessing. But, today, even in the diamond industry there are a lot of breaches in these norms. Nevertheless, the application of ethics and integrity by both sides could save most of the costs if you would reduce the due diligence and the length of negotiations. The problems are more acute in modern business with multinationals as you need a vast knowledge of many issues, especially if the companies are unethical and hide skeletons in their closets. If an Institute of Ethics would rate the companies by their ethics like the ratings of solvency, the costs of mistrust could be reduced as in M&A negotiations between ethical companies only minimal costs would be invested in due diligence and contractual negotiations. Bear in mind, that in any case there should be financial negotiations as it is not expected even from the most ethical companies to agree on the prices and terms right away. Or is it so? as this case will describe.

In 1993, Amos received an urgent phone call from his friend Oded, CEO of Telephonia Israel. Oded worked with Amos in the past on several projects and they trusted and appreciated each other. Oded was appointed CEO of the company a few months ago by Zalman, the owner of the company, an orthodox Jewish tycoon who received a franchise on callback calls from Israel to other countries. Oded hired a professional company to prepare a business plan on the feasibility of the project in order to present it to a multibillion American mega corporation, a leader in this field, that showed interest in the project. The CEO of the mega corporation was Steve who urged Zalman to come to Los Angeles in order to conclude the deal.

Zalman, an orthodox Jew in his thirties, learned in a Yeshiva most of his life but his family, American billionaires, wanted him to go into business. He was married to an educated and beautiful wife and had already five small children. His family contributed a very large amount to a well-known American Business School and consulted them on how they could teach Zalman business administration. The Dean built for Zalman a special program with his best lecturers and after a short while Zalman graduated and was ready to enter into business. But he preferred to learn Torah, Talmud and the holy books, Zalman met several times a week the

most holy Israeli orthodox rabbi (who also blessed his business), donated large amounts to the community, widows and orphans, and was perceived as the most cherished (and rich) man in the orthodox community in Israel. As a matter of fact, if you are a billionaire it is probably enough to understand the business issues, as you can always hire professional businessmen who would conduct all the necessary business transactions and manage your companies. Or is it not? Anyhow, Zalman hired Oded, gave him a large office in his house in an orthodox neighborhood, and from this office Oded managed the orthodox startup of Telephonia Israel.

But the business plan was not prepared on time and did not meet the standards expected by Steve's company - Telecommunications Inc. The negotiations were due to start within a week and the business plan was not ready. Even worse, the preliminary version didn't prove the expected valuation of the owners for the expected merger with the Americans, it didn't look professional enough and did not suit a company like Telephonia Israel that was positioned as an Israeli leader in its field. In this critical timing Oded phoned Amos and asked him to rescue them urgently in return to a substantial amount. "Leave everything else that you are doing and come for a week to the orthodox town. You'll have to work around the clock, eat Kosher food ("You don't mind, do you?"), and finish the business plan before we leave for LA." Amos left home and came to Zalman, who was considerate enough not to ask him to wear a yarmulke in his house. Amos was agnostic but he respected all cultures and religions, including his own.

Since Amos started to be a program manager for M&A he worked with all kinds of clients, from all backgrounds, socio-economic conditions, religions and countries. He worked with tycoons, basketball players, rural Arabs, people with elementary school education and university professors, former taxi drivers, former Generals, Kibbutzniks, labor union leaders, government organizations, public and private companies, companies selling less than a million dollars or over a billion dollars annually, high tech wizards, young people in their twenties, aged people in their seventies, Israelis, Americans, Chinese, Frenchmen, Italians, Germans, Englishmen, Latin Americans, Spanish, Swiss, men and women, and so on. But Zalman was really an exception, very shy in spite of being a billionaire, a Yeshiva man but also an elite tycoon, a devoted family man who runs his army of aides, cooks, servants, nannies, bodyguards, chauffeurs, teachers and gardeners. Amos befriended the small kids who were baffled who was this strange guy who was the only one at home not wearing a yarmulke.

Oded told Zalman that Amos was the only one in Israel who could accomplish the job on time, he trusted him fully, he was very competent (and expensive), but his work was first rate. He saw how Amos convinced mega corporations, with sophisticated fully documented business plans in English, on high valuations of small Israeli companies. Zalman fully backed Oded's decision and returned to his beloved studies of the Talmud. When Amos arrived to Oded's office in Zalman's house he was bewildered by all the material gathered for the business plan. He read everything thoroughly, had to understand the technical background of the business plan, employed the company's managers in order to analyze all the calculations, and started to contribute his creative ideas. He deliberated with Oded and Zalman what should be the valuation of the company. Amos saw often in his long career valuations of companies that amounted to \$17.88M and were backed by piles of documentations. He believed that valuation should not be based exclusively on mathematical formulas, but on many other considerations, such as the value for the acquirer of the company, know-how, market positioning, competence of the executives, and so on. Those methods of valuation were not less legitimate than the mathematical ones with their "accurate" forecasts and present values.

In the case of Telephonia it was only a franchise that its value could be set according to the business it will bring. There were several market researches with different estimates, which

could validate a valuation of \$5M as well as \$20M. After many deliberations he asked his colleagues: "Forget about all the material. Tell me truly what do you think would be fair for you and for the Americans. Would you invest in the company with such a valuation if you were the Americans? My experience shows me to try always to understand the other party. It doesn't mean that I should agree with them but it indicates me what to do. Sometimes the valuation that I can get is much higher than what I thought but if this is how the acquirer values me this is the true valuation. On the other hand if I am convinced that I should get a very high valuation but I know that the other party wouldn't want to pay it, what does it matter if I put this exorbitant valuation that he wouldn't pay anyhow? Don't forget that you are bringing a strategic partner in the company that you would have to live with him for many years. If he'll think that you conned him he'll get even with you in the long run. So be fair to him while not forgetting your own interests and you'll find the right valuation." Finally, they decided on a pre-money valuation of \$8M. With this number Amos validated the valuation rather easily, as he also thought that it was a fair price. He prepared the outlines of a detailed business plan with full substantiation, but he had a problem - it was already Friday afternoon and the flight to LA was scheduled on Monday morning.

Zalman asked Amos if he would be ready for the meeting on Tuesday morning LA time. Amos answered him that he would be ready only if he worked on Saturday. The meeting could not be postponed as many American managers were invited with a very tight schedule, as it is always the case with such mega corporations. But Zalman didn't even want to consider that Amos would work on the Sabbath. He was ready to lose the project and not sign the deal but not to ask one of his subcontractors to infringe the religious precepts. "Why do you care?", said Amos, "I am anyhow agnostic, I always work on the Sabbath, seven days a week, I even work in Yom Kippur and of course I don't fast." But Zalman made Amos swear that he will not work on the business plan at home nor phone to one of Zalman's employees or even think about the project. "You'll go home a couple of hours before the Sabbath as you are not also allowed to drive on the holy day and you'll come back a couple of hours after the Sabbath. If it is necessary you'll work all night and on Sunday. You are flying with us on first class on Monday morning and you'll be able to sleep on the plane. I am paying you and I am responsible that you'll not commit a religious offence on by behalf. Trust me, if you'll do it, God will be with us and we'll win the contract. But if you'll not be ready, it means that God was not willing to let us win."

Amos thought that it was very convenient to be religious, as it is a win-win situation even if you loose, but didn't want to cross his employer. He kept his word and didn't work on the business plan. He even had a guilty conscience as he remembered that the deal on which he worked on Yom Kippur didn't come through, maybe because of him. After returning to Zalman's "castle" he worked around the clock and managed to finish the business plan a couple of hours before the flight. During the long flight he prepared very thoroughly the presentation, the justification of the price, the details of the negotiations.

The meeting took place in the Board room of the multibillion American mega corporation. Steve came with six VPs, lawyers and consultants. Zalman came with Oded, Amos, a lawyer and the technical manager. After a few words of welcome by Steve, Zalman stood up, explained the project in a few sentences and asked Amos to present the business plan in details. Steve stopped Zalman and told him: "I understand that you ask for \$4M in return of one third of the company, or a pre-money valuation of \$8M. We intend to invest this amount in equipment and training. Tell me with your word of honor - do you believe in the business plan, in the project, in the investment? Do you think that it is fair to us as well as to you and can we trust each other as partners? In short, do you recommend me to invest according to

this valuation?" Everybody in the room was silent, the lawyers of both parties looked at each other with uneasiness. Oded and Amos looked at Zalman with wondering eyes and were not sure what will be his answer.

But Zalman answered with full confidence that he believed in the program, the valuation and the investment. He was convinced that it was fair to all parties concerned. Steve continued: "I know your family for many years and have learned that all your deals are done with integrity and ethics and your reputation was never stained by a foul deal. I accept your word of honor as the best guarantee and I renounce to any due diligence and contractual negotiations. I just ask the lawyers of both parties to prepare a one-page memorandum of understanding highlighting what we have agreed. Gentlemen, thank you for coming to LA, the meeting is over!" Amos was stunned, throughout all his long career he has never encountered such an event. He has witnessed once a case where the parties decided to break apart after a few hours of negotiations, but such a "miracle" has never happened to him - to conclude an agreement in a few minutes based on trust. Zalman would say that it was due to a divine interference, Amos preferred to believe that it was due to trust, ethics and a good reputation. On the same day, the MOU was signed and the Americans instructed their division to send the equipment as agreed by the parties.

Amos made all the way to LA and back for a few minutes. He barely had time to enjoy the treat of the luxurious Beverly Hills hotel. The victory dinner was held in the Kosher restaurant of the mother of Steven Spielberg. When they were in the last course, Zalman winked to Amos and told him: "All this happened because you didn't work on the Sabbath. This is the reward of a Mitzve." After returning home Amos didn't continue working with Zalman, he continued to manage other M&A projects, not so short as this one (otherwise he wouldn't have a livelihood). But he was not cross at Zalman, he paid him fairly and Amos was glad that all went well with his client. Oded informed Amos every now and then on the new developments of the project and learned that everything was working on schedule. Suddenly, Amos heard of the tragic death of Zalman. His wife tried to continue the business, but unfortunately she didn't have even the elementary background in business that Zalman had and, in spite of her efforts, the company collapsed. The Americans lost apparently their money and Oded and the employees were fired.

Amos didn't become religious and started to believe in miracles after these events. But it reinforced his conviction that the most important factors in business should be ethics, trust and integrity (and of course luck, as Zalman lost his life and the Americans their money for not being lucky). Maybe the diamond dealers who wish each other with their hand shake "Luck and Blessing" are the wisest of all - why luck it is obvious, but the blessing is probably the ethics, trust and integrity that bless every ethical transaction and make it prosperous. Amos was convinced that if there is trust between the parties the merger succeeds, Amos started to conduct researches, write academic books and doctorate dissertations on the connections between ethics and success in business. No, definitely business ethics is not an oxymoron, and Amos teaches it in many courses to different audiences, in what can be named in context of the religious events of this case - the Gospel of Amos...

ANALYSIS & TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION ON: THE WORTHWHILENESS OF TRUST CASE - THE ETHICS OF VALUATION

Topics for consideration on the personal, business and ethical dilemmas of the main protagonists of the case: 1. Zalman, Owner of Telephonia Israel, 2. Oded, CEO of Telephonia Israel, 3. Steve, CEO of Telecommunications Inc., 4. Amos, Program Manager of the Deal.

- * What are the most important characteristics for the success of M&A?
- * What are the interests of the different parties involved in M&A, are they contradictory, are they bridgeable?
- * Give examples of negotiations that ended promptly because of the trust between the parties.
- * Give examples of lengthy negotiations that took months and years because of the lack of trust between the parties.
- * How is it possible to bridge over the lack of trust between the parties?
- * Which due diligence is essential even in case of full trust between the parties?
- * Is there a connection between the professional capabilities of the lawyers and the complexity of the contracts that they prepare?
- * Give examples in which lawyers were instrumental in the successful completion of deals.
- * Give examples in which lawyers raised pointless arguments and entangled negotiations unnecessarily.
- * What is in your opinion the professional ethics of lawyers in M&A?
- * Does the adding of an M&A program manager facilitate or not the closing of the deal? How do the other professionals involved in the negotiations lawyers, executives and auditors accept it?
- * Why are there more and more lawyers who graduate also in accounting, economics and business?
- * What is in your opinion the professional ethics of auditors in M&A?
- * Should there be in your opinion full transparency in M&A negotiations? After the Merger?
- * Was there full transparency in the negotiations on the Telephonia merger?
- * Describe the ethical characteristics of the case.
- * Is there a connection between the ethics of Zalman and the fact that he is an orthodox Jew?
- * Give examples on the connection between ethics and religion in the business world: Christians Catholics, Protestants, Fundamentalists, Orthodox, Quakers; Jews Orthodox, Secular; Moslems, Buddhists, Atheists, Freemasons, Witnesses of Jehovah, Pagans (Aristotle...), and so on.

- * Why was the deal signed within minutes according to the conditions asked by the Israelis? Because of Zalman's ethics, his family record and reputation, his orthodoxy, the blessing of the Rabbi before the trip, the good deeds and contributions of Zalman, the business plan of Amos, the deal was very small for the mega corporation, Amos didn't work on the Sabbath?
- * How much could be saved in the business world if there were trust between the parties?
- * To what extent can Ethical Funds assist in the establishment of trust in business?
- * Is it possible to conclude deals like in the diamond business with a hand shake and saying the Hebrew words: "Mazal Oubraha", luck and blessing?
- * Is a process of long negotiations and thorough due diligence a prerequisite for a successful M&A?
- * Is a process of short negotiations and minimal due diligence too risky and does it jeopardize the M&A?
- * Can you be a good businessman as well as an intellectual or a scholar in the Bible? Is there a contradiction between the characteristics or is it a precondition for the success of the deal?
- * Does a second-generation tycoon need to be an MBA in order to succeed in business or can he hire professional businessmen?
- * Was the method of the project's pricing ethical?
- * What is the ethical way of setting a price for a company, or is it just a negotiations issue that has to be resolved by give and take?
- * What is the value of a franchise, how can it be validated?
- * Is the multiculturalism of the program manager an important condition for the success of the negotiations? How was Amos able to conduct M&A negotiations in completely different ambiences, mentality, business practices and countries: Israel, Europe, China, Latin America, US, orthodox Jews and Christians, Arabs, socialists and capitalists, men and women?
- * What are Steve's considerations in deciding not to conduct a due diligence and contractual negotiations?
- * To what extent were instrumental the trust and friendship between Amos and Oded to the success of the deal?
- * Why Telephonia didn't continue its business relations with Amos after signing the deal?
- * Was Zalman a frustrated Yeshiva scholar or a sophisticated businessman or both?
- * Was Oded a good manager or did he pilot the decisions to Zalman and the work to Amos?
- * Was Steve's decision to invest in the project justified although he lost all his investment due to force majeure?
- * What are the lesson that you draw from this case? How would be your conduct if you were each one of the protagonists?

9. RUSSIA - CORRUPTION IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT - THE PLAY "REVIZOR"- SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

Based on the play Revizor (1842) by Nikolai Gogol

The film is based on the play with substantial changes:

The Inspector General, 1949, 102 min., Director Henry Koster, with Danny Kaye

Summary and Analysis:

Gogol introduces us into the ethical dilemma of the play from the first line when the mayor tells his colleagues: "I have invited you in order to announce you very unpleasant news, a Revizor is coming to inspect us". Following the astonishment of his colleagues he tells them that it is a revizor from Petersbourg who is about to visit the town incognito with secret instructions. The revizor is about to disturb their peace of mind, preventing them from receiving bribes and not fulfilling their duties, while none of the citizens is complaining. They do their schemes in obscurity and all of a sudden the revizor will shed light on their stealing and they will become transparent. When the alleged revizor (a bum who is mistakenly perceived as the incognito revizor) agrees to receive from them bribes they can at last obtain their peace of mind, as "he is one of us and we can come to terms with him, like with all the others".

The merchants who dare to complain are rebuffed by the Mayor who tells them that he is a good friend with the Revizor, who intends to marry the Mayor's daughter (The Mayor doesn't know of course that his wife tried to seduce as well the Revizor but he possibly wouldn't mind if the Revizor would be willing to overlook the Mayor's crimes). In the climax of the euphoria comes the postmaster with a letter from the alleged revizor where he describes cynically to his friend all the defaults of the elites of the town. They finally understand that they, who normally con everbody else, have been conned by a smarter crook. And then the real revizor comes and the play ends showing their astonished faces.

Gogol describes the mayor as a man who gets old in his position, very clever, receiving bribes but perceived as a man of honor. Many politicians could fit into this profile. All the important men of the town are honorable men, but beneath their conduct they are corrupted as the worst thieves. They are willing to bribe the revizor or the inspector general in the English version, as it is a price worthwhile to be paid in order to perpetuate their schemes. The play was actual in Tsarist Russia as it is actual today all over the world, especially in unethical countries.

The Russian censors were afraid to authorize the play but the Tsar Nikolai I had to interfere personally in order to allow the play to be staged as he wanted to eradicate the corruption in his country. The Mayor and the corrupted civil servants claim that this is the way to do business and nothing can be changed in the human nature. These are the usual norms and what is ethics after all if not abiding to the common norms. But if corruption is universal so is ethics and one cannot say that it does not apply in his country.

Gogol's satire has no sympathetic characters, all are crooked, distorted, corrupted. The play displays greed, stupidity and corruption. Khlestakov, the alleged revizor, is reckless, irresponsible and light-minded. Revizor can be played as a realistic or surrealistic play. It is

even perceived as the precursor of the absurd movement, of Ionesco and Rhinoceros. It deals with the hypocrisies of everyday life as with the essence of the corruption of the elites.

10. AFRICA AND SWITZERLAND - UNIVERSALITY OF ETHICS - THE PLAY "THE VISIT" AND THE AFRICAN FILM "HYENAS" - SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

Based on the play:

The Visit (Der Besuch der alten Dame), 1964, by Friedrich Duerrenmatt.

The films are based on the play with some changes:

Hyenas, 1992, 113 min., Director Djibril Diop Mambety, African film

The Visit 1964, 100 min., Director Bernhard Wicki, with Ingrid Bergman

Summary and Analysis:

The town Guellen, where the play happens, is probably in Switzerland, the homeland of Duerrenmatt, but could be also in Africa, India, Israel, US, France or anywhere where money has a supreme importance overshadowing all other values. Goethe visited Guellen, Brahms has composed there a quartet, it has cultural institutions, a mayor, a teacher, a priest, all very civil, all of them honorable men with culture and values. But the town is in bankruptcy and its inhabitants need money at all cost. The play demonstrates what the trade-off between money and values is. Duerrenmatt believes that only a desperate town would agree to sacrifice a person for a billion dollars. Duerrenmatt is not aware of the ethics of some modern corrupted businessmen, otherwise he would know that the price is too high for such a minor "crime". In the beginning of the play the citizens do not know who has caused their bankruptcy. They blame the usual people: the Freemasons, the Jews, the business tycoons, the communists. In fact, it is Claire Zahanassian, the richest person in the world, who has caused it in order to take revenge of Ill and the citizens who have wronged her in her youth, when she was pregnant with Ill's child. Ill hired false witnesses to prove that it was not his child, as he wanted to marry a rich woman.

The mayor asks Claire to donate large amounts to the town in order to help them on those harsh days, they praise her and overlook the causes of her departure from the town. They even ask Ill to convince her to rescue the bankrupt town. Ultimately she agrees to donate one billion dollars to the town and its citizens in return to the execution of Ill. Claire, the widow of the richest man in the world, tries to corrupt all the officials - the mayor, the chief of police, the priest, the doctor - and make them collaborate to her scheme. Ill was very popular in town and was about to be nominated as mayor, but the citizens are dazzled by the huge amounts at stake (Duerrenmatt wants to prove that everyone has his price, is it true? if yes, what is yours?) and after protesting vehemently they agree to execute Ill. Not even one objects, including his wife and children. Ill tries to convince Clara that he married the rich Mathilda to save Clara from a wretched and poor life with him. This excuse that the wrongdoer commits a crime for the benefit of the victim is common to all criminals, such as Cesar in Jean de Florette, Gekko in Wall Street and The Mayor in An Enemy of the People. But this time the victim is too clever and rich.

Claire has not forgotten a thing, she is willing to invest any sum in order to get a revenge. Scoundrels tend to say that they have "a great soul" and look ahead but the victims cannot look ahead until they get their revenge. Why is it always the victims who have to pardon their aggressor? Not all the victims can afford to avenge the offences but Clara can do it. The mayor is shocked by her proposal, he refuses in the name of humanity, it is better to remain poor but pure, but Claire gives them credit to satisfy their needs and when she asks for repayment they have to sacrifice Ill and their conscience. We can give recent examples in the business world and in some regimes where people sacrifice their conscience and innocent people (not guilty ones like III) for much less than a billion. The friends of III buy on credit from his store as they know that he can't afford to turn them down, they promise to repay him, but he knows that they will do it only after his death. Ill asks the chief of police to arrest Claire but he refuses as he doesn't have "smoking gun evidence". This is what is requested also from minority shareholders and stakeholders who are wronged, but they can't afford to gather those evidences, especially as most of the ethical crimes are committed in the dark and are subject to the laws of Omerta. Ill goes to the Mayor and tells him that he is afraid. But the mayor answers him that as he is himself guilty towards Claire he has not the moral right to ask for protection. Is it true?

Ill is doomed but everyone treats him nicely, Claire, the mayor, the teacher and practically all the citizens. Ethical criminals tend to be nice to their victims, they wrong (or kill) them with a smile and with all the best intentions, as it is for their benefit, as nothing is personal. The priest even finds references from the bible that Ill is not entitled to mercy as he has offended Claire and it is only just that he should be punished. But how can you justify a murder in order to remedy an offence which happened long ago and who was subject to imprisonment, and if so, why didn't they apply their "justice" before Claire returned? The teacher states that it is impossible to compromise with one's conscience and offers Claire to buy the assets of the town, but she answers him that she has already done it secretly and she has caused the bankruptcy of the town. He asks her to forgive them and she answers that nobody forgave or pitied her when she was thrown away from the town forcing her to become a prostitute and to lose her child, although she was innocent and loved Ill, who abandoned her for a rich woman. Now that she is rich she is entitled to revenge. She says that noble sentiments apply only to normal people, the richest men have their own code of conduct and they are allowed to transgress all moral laws as money transcends them. An honest man is one who pays and Claire is willing to pay, prosperity in return to a corpse...

When the press comes to the town the law of Omerta applies and nobody tells the reporters of the deal offered by Claire. Only the teacher who is drunk wants to disclose the crime but Ill forbids him to do so as he is doomed anyway. Ill achieves greatness when admitting his crime and recognizing that he deserves the punishment, he only asks his friends to condemn him as he doesn't want to alleviate their conscience by committing suicide as requested by the mayor. The teacher says that crime will not stop at Ill's death, once you start to become a criminal you perpetuate your conduct towards everyone, as there is no "justified" crime. The town stage a trial, or rather a "mock trial" where the true offenses and punishment is concealed in order to save the reputation of Ill for the sake of his family, but rather to keep appearances of an ethical town with high moral standards. The image of criminals should be kept intact, just as the gloves of Mack the Knife are always white, and his knife is never seen. Duerrenmatt conveys a message that wealth corrupts people. Most of the time the victims even cooperate with their oppressors even if they are completely innocent. There is a tendency of the victims to belittle themselves in front of the rich who are allowed to commit any crime. Duerrenmatt paints everything in the play in yellow or gold. The leaves are yellow in the fall, the new

shoes are yellow, Ill drives in the yellow air with the new car that his family has purchased on credit waiting for his death. They go to a movie and he goes to his death.

If we state the ethical and unethical conduct of the protagonists of the play: Clara, Ill, Ill's wife, the teacher, the priest, the mayor, the chief of police, can we decise who is more ethical? Ultimately, the teacher states in a typical double standard rationalization that Ill is condemned in the name of justice. Murder is called by the powerful justice, the wronged minority shareholders are called speculators, the absurdity of the play perpetuates very often in the business world were absurdity is the name of the game, the wronged oppress their aggressors, the lamb offends the wolf, and humanists are called enemies of the people. Money equals conscience, crime equals morals, truth is murdered, opaqueness is the name of the game, transparency is the act of tell-tales, and the journalists report that Ill died happily, maybe during the intermission of the movie when his wife and children were eating their popcorn and drinking their cokes.

While the African version of The Visit (Hyenas) keeps with a chilling realism the spirit of Duerrenmatt, the version of Bernhard Wicki has a happy ending and Ill is not executed after being sentenced to death. The Old Lady decides to leave him among his "friends" and in this way she thinks that her vengeance would be complete. He'll know that his so-called friends were willing to murder him for money and he'll not forgive them, while the citizens will have every day in front of them the proof of their treason. Wicki is wrong and the African Mambety and of course the original author are right. Ill is corrupted, he is a criminal and deserves to be punished. He already sold his soul, his love and his child for a grocery store, he understands the mentality of his friends, his wife and children. After all, he could be an example for them and he should be the last one to complain when somebody sells his soul for money. On the contrary, the citizens are very ethical in comparison to Ill, they sentence to death a criminal that maybe doesn't deserve death but deserves a severe punishment, they have extenuating circumstances - their town is bankrupt, they are dying of hunger, they want to do what Ill did without any justification, except greed. So, if Ill remains in town he'll probably resume his good relationships with his friends, he will participate in the booty that Claire left and become even richer, he'll continue to love his wife and children, and probably he will be elected Mayor in the next election. Greedy and corrupted people find always a common interest and work in unison. Claire will not be avenged and everything will return to normal, or even worse, because now all the crooks will share her money and think in sarcasm how idiotic Claire was she wanted to punish them in such a clumsy way. Duerrenmatt and Mambety truly sense the atrocity of a corrupted society and an unethical business world and convey it in the clearest way in what can be perceived as a masterpiece in Business Ethics.

11. NORWAY AND INDIA -A WHISTLEBLOWER WITH SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY - THE PLAY "AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE" & THE INDIAN FILM "GANASHATRU" - SUMMARY & ANALYSIS

Based on the play "An Enemy of the People" (En Folkefiende), 1882, by Henrik Ibsen

The films:

An Enemy of the People, 1978, 90 min., Director George Schaefer, with Steve McQueen, is based on the play with slight changes

Ganashatru, 1989, 99 min., Director Satyajit Ray, Indian masterpiece based on the play, with substantial changes

Summary:

Dr. Thomas Stockmann is a doctor in a small Norwegian town and the medical officer of the baths developed by his initiative under the management of his brother Peter, the Mayor of the town. The baths brought a surge in tourism and the financial conditions of the citizens improved substantially. Thomas and his wife have many friends who are often invited to dinner at their home, especially Hovstad the editor of the local newspaper and Billing the subeditor. Thomas is a family man worshipped by his daughter Petra, a teacher, and by his sons Eilif & Morten. His father-in-law is Morten Kill, a tanner, whose factory pollutes the water of the baths. When Thomas discovers the pollution he decides to write an article in the local newspaper in order to warn the citizens of the danger to their health. The editors and Aslaksen, the publisher of the newspaper, back him at first and Thomas tells them modestly that he doesn't want them to honor him with a dinner for his contribution to society. But, after the interference of the Mayor, the publisher and editors change their mind and decide not to publish Thomas' report, as they are afraid that the citizens will have to bear the costs of repairing the contamination. Thomas refuses to accept this and decides to convene a meeting of the town's citizens in order to explain them the dangers of the pollution. In the meeting, the Mayor convinces the citizens to back him, Thomas is denounced as a lunatic, anti-democrat, as he maintains that he is right and the majority is wrong. He is proclaimed an Enemy of the People, is fired from his position at the Baths, his daughter is fired, hooligans break the windows of his house and he is asked to leave his house. Thomas decides to remain in town and fight for his principles against all odds.

Analysis:

The play illustrates the dilemma of the whistleblower and his moral motives. Is he a despicable tell-tale, a martyr, or a fearless hero? Society bans the whistleblower, even when he blows the whistle in order to rescue the people. Ibsen shows the double talk of unethical persons who talk like the Mayor on a need of tolerance and civility, but act on behalf of the town's rich people. Another aspect is the consideration of ego in business: whose idea it was to open the Spa - Peter's or Thomas'. But things are not clearcut. We see the modesty of unethical people like Peter as compared to the lavishness of ethical people like Thomas. Is it at all relevant to the ethical issues? The unethical businessmen depict those who fight for ethics as having their own agenda, they are megalomaniac, lunatics, anti-business, short or

long in their shares' transactions, they are unfaithful to their wives or husbands, they are shoplifters if they refuse to pay for a damaged can-opener, and so on.

In the play we see the joy of creation of Thomas the innovator as compared to the gloom of Peter the bureaucrat. Thomas is very generous by inviting his friends frequently to dinners, however it doesn't pay off. We face the dilemma whether Thomas was right when he didn't disclose to Peter his suspicion about the polluted water. Thomas should be loyal and transparent, but to whom? To his superiors in the Spa's board, to his brother the Mayor, to the inhabitants of his town, to the tourists who use the Spa, to his family, to his conscience, to his profession? Is it justifiable to blow the whistle on corrupted business practices? Is the Mayor correct in telling Thomas that the individual in society should be loyal to the authorities of society who are responsible for the welfare of the public? To what extent should the individual adapt himself to the norms of society, and be a "conformist"? As those who are not ready to conform risk the retaliation of society, their bosses, their colleagues...

The Mayor doesn't have broad interests and is very narrow-minded, he confines himself to work only, but he is very efficient. However, he is under the pressure of election, and being slightly paranoiac he is afraid that all the "schemes" of Thomas and his father-in-law are all intended to undermine his position and to benefit from the low prices of the shares of the Baths. The pressure on Peter reminds of the pressure exerted on politicians by election to the parliament or the presidency, on executives of companies traded on the stock exchange by quarterly reports, controlling shareholders, audits, etc. Does it justify an unethical conduct of the managers? Ibsen, Thomas and the Captain, who hosts the citizens' assembly, believe in elitism. This raises the question: Who should lead: the elites, assuming that they are competent and ethical, or the masses, even if they are ignorant and without values?

Other facets of the analysis: The criticism of Petra on hiding the truth at school where she teaches and at home towards her younger brothers. Dr. Stockmann is in favor of maximum transparency and raising the curtain on the evils of society. But is it always justifiable? The ecology as a driving factor in this play, one of the first plays to raise ecological issues. What is more important economy and progress or ecology, should there be a contradiction between them? Should we always be concerned by economic factors even when human lives and health is at stake? If we advocate maximization of profits - the answer is yes.

Another facet is: The naivety of whistleblowers like Stockmann who believe that society will give them prizes and honor to reward them of what they have discovered. But are all Thomas' intentions pure, to what extent is his conduct motivated by rivalry with his brother, revulsion from his father-in-law the tanner who spoils the water of the Spa with his factory's waste, ego considerations, revenge from the Spa's board who wanted to save the costs of expensive piping? What about the rationality of economics? And maybe the most important issue: Is Dr. Stockmann a Don Quixote who doesn't have an economic vision or are his considerations valid for the long run only? Possibly, a little more cunning (like Ulysses and the Trojan Horse) would have assisted Thomas in his campaign, if the end justify the means. After all, what has Stockmann achieved? He has lost his job, Petra was fired, they cannot live anymore in their house, their children are beaten, the pollution will continue and people will get sick and die, he was declared an enemy of the people and has lost most of his friends. So, what can we suggest Thomas to do in order to achieve at least part of his plea, without giving up his convictions? Could he embark in such a campaign without a political sense?

Dr. Stockmann thinks that his brother will envy him because it was he who discovered the pollution. His more practical wife suggests him to tell the Mayor that it was his idea from the beginning. The attitude of Mrs. Stockmann up to the people's assembly is quite critical and

down-to-earth, but when she sees how the editors and the people treat her husband she decides to back him fully, although she might disagree with his methods. The citizens do not want to recognize the truth about the pollution and convince themselves that it is a sheer invention of the lunatic Dr Stockmann. Ultimately, a simple problem like the water's pollution becomes a pawn in the campaign of the tanner against the Mayor, the journalist against the tycoons, the Mayor in his election campaign, and the citizens who do not want to pay more taxes. Hovstad mutates from the journalist who starts as a fighter against the tycoons and ends as their most fateful lackey. This raises the question whether it is a common aspect in the relations of the media with business?

Thomas starts as the most popular man in town and ends up as an enemy of the people. He is inconsistent as he is in favor of majority when he thinks that everybody is with him and favors the minority when he learns that he is left almost alone. The victim is always guilty. Peter blames Thomas that the Spa will be closed because of him and not because he objected investing enough money in the piping. Peter objects the disclosure of the pollution for ethical reasons as it will hurt his credibility as a civil servant. The Mayor, as well as many unethical businessmen state "that the public does not need new ideas, as the old ones serve us pretty well". Would Galileo, Emile Zola and Brutus agree? The mayor accuses Thomas of being paranoiac and individualistic, and in fact it is a very common accusation against the whistleblowers. Peter asks Thomas to retract from his disclosure, although he knows that Thomas would not be able to do so. But even if he would have agreed, it would discredit Thomas in the eyes of his few supporters and he would be fired anyway, as he is perceived as a whistleblower. Another common allegation against the whistleblowers is that they oppose everyone who is their superior. Is the ideal employee the obedient yes-man, who agrees with the whims of his bosses even when their commands are unlawful and unethical?

The silence of the lambs, the law of Omerta, community of thought, like in The Enemy of the People, may be slogans of the Mafia, totalitarian regimes, banana republics, but they often apply to a part of the business world. The Mayor tells Thomas that as an employee he is not entitled to his own opinion and especially if it contradicts the ideas of his superiors. This statement is very common in many companies, but in any case one should find the golden mean between this idea of total discipline as opposed to total chaos and insubordination. Peter tries to convince his sister-in-law to call to order her husband for the sake of her family and welfare. This tactic is very common - to try and influence or intimidate the family of the whistleblower - and succeeds only in cases were the family is not cohesive enough, like in The Insider or The Visit, but not in cases like the Dreyfuss Affair. The whistleblowers are not rewarded for their actions, they are dismissed and banned. Often because they are not politically correct in their allegations, like Dr. Stockmann who finds an analogy between the polluted water and the polluted moral climate of his town. But, who loves the town more: the Mayor or the physician? One would tend to think that the physician, but we can also find justifications to the Mayor's conduct as well.

Mrs. Stockmann tells her husband that justice without power has no value. We could think of many examples that validate this statement and the opposite one as well. The communists believed that they were just but they didn't prevail until they had the power. However, the dissidents like Solzhenitzyn and the East Germans democrats at the end of the eighties, as well as the Indians in 1948 prevailed although they didn't have the power. These argumenst raise the question: Does the end justify the means and is a person who fights for justice allowed to act against his people, his religion or his country? To the detriment of his family, his welfare, his health and even his life? Is the whistleblower a modern hero who fights for justice? Thomas may sound selfish when he doesn't pay attention to the admonition of his

wife who tells him to think of his family and compromise with the evils of society. But Thomas perseveres in his fight even against the whole world. Thomas may also sound manipulative when he says that he wants to be able to look in the eyes of his sons when they will grow up and be free men. Here again he acts on behalf of the victims, for their own good, without even asking them, although Petra supports him from the start.

Dr Stockmann is accused of being a revolutionary, and so is Lowel Bergman in The Insider. Is it a compliment, an insult, a fact? Was it his intention from the start? As Thomas didn't want to be a revolutionary but was driven to that, we could argue that circumstances make most of revolutionaries what they are. Dr. Stockmann could have sticked to his findings as a scientist and not transgress his fight to political issues. Doing so, it wouldn't have hampered his credibility and allow slander that he is motivated by revenge against his brother or by ambition to become the new Mayor. Aslaksen states that he is a coward in the local arena but is not afraid to state his own views in the national arena. We could explain that by his fear of personifying the struggle. Aslaksen and Hovstad change their views by 180 degrees after they talk to the Mayor, as the strength of their moral convictions is in opposite function to the strength of the pressure exerted on them. On some people putting pressure is effective but with others it goes on the opposite way and strengthen their resistance. Ibsen shows how flattery is effective in the business world. The mayor flatters Aslaksen and is successful but Dr Stockmann fails, because he is too blunt. Aslaksen was ready to fight for a cause when it was abstract. But when it affects his welfare and the welfare of his colleagues he opposes it. Charity begins at home.

Why do Aslaksen and Hovstad fall into the trap of the Mayor? They could have said that the Spa's company which is entitled to all the profits should bear also all the investment for repairing the pipes. The piping should not be on the community expenses as they don't share the profits. But this is a common attitude of unethical businessmen to ask for the assistance of government and community when the situation deteriorates but not to share with them profits when it improves. Thomas sounds sometimes as a macho, when he tells his wife to go home and take care of the household while he will take care of the problems of society. Another issue which is relevant even today is: Who decides what should be written in the newspaper: the editor, the owner, the readers, the authorities? Hovstad, Aslaksen, Dr Stockmann or the Mayor? Does mediocrity shut the truth up or is 'vox populi vox dei'? We could see many commonalities between the town's citizens meeting and the shareholders' meetings. The chances of an individual shareholder or a man with dissident opinions to express himself and to influence others are very slim, as the Chairman and the mighty act in both cases arbitrarily.

Aslaksen advocates for the golden mean like Aristotle, Dr Stockmann is a "revolutionary" who wants to destroy the corrupted society. But who is more ethical? Aslaksen and Hovstad, the conformists are expected to receive their reward from the Mayor and the wealthy people in due time, indirectly, as they owe them now. Dr. Stockmann in the meeting does not flatter his people but attacks them, still he wants their support, or is he trying to maintain a cause which he know has no chance to prevail? Stockmann wants the destruction of his hometown as it is based on lies. Is it effective? We could draw analogies from Soviet Russia and Great Britain. In the Soviet Union the revolution didn't work on behalf of the masses while in Great Britain the masses are in much better conditions without any revolution. What about other political regimes, racial conflicts, economic and social conflicts? Is destruction the only way to remedy the evils? The examples of the fascist and communist regimes as opposed to democracies where people compromise and don't destroy are illuminating in advocating for moderation.

When they don't find rational arguments against Stockmann his friends resort to slander: he is crazy, he wants a raise in his salary, he wanted to purchase the shares of the Spa with his father-in-law at a very low price and that's why he invented the story about pollution. Ibsen raises another issue: what is preferable to stick to your country and society even if they are corrupt and you are persecuted in order to change them from within or emigrate. Dr. Stockmann wanted to emigrate to the US but ultimately he decides to stay and fight in his hometown. "One should not wear his best trousers when he wants to fight for truth and freedom". Is it a private joke of Ibsen or does it contain a lot of truth about the risks of the struggle? Ibsen illustrates the brutality of society and the mighty who break Stockmann's windows, threaten him and his family, fire him and the captain his only friend, his daughter... Is it common also today? The cases and the research show that in many cases it is still common. Peter tries to convince Thomas to sign a declaration that he was wrong and maybe they will hire him back in the future. This is a common communist device to give a so-called appearance of justification to their brutal acts. But luckily Thomas refuses as he doesn't want to deny his convictions, as Galileo said e pur si muove and Dreyfus maintained that he was innocent. Thomas' father-in-law, Morten Kiil, tries to bribe him as he wants to preserve his reputation. Unethical persons insist in maintaining a faultless reputation and they are willing to pay for it. Finally, is Dr. Stockmann a model for imitation, will he achieve success at least in the long run?

Norway is today the most ethical country in the world, and Ibsen has contributed to it with his plays. However, in the Indian film Ganashatru we have a happy ending, with many young people coming to support the enemy of the people and others deciding to publish his report, still India is among the most corrupt countries in the world. What approach is best for reform?

Ganashatru (Bengali: গণাজ Gônoshotru "Enemy of the People") is a 1990 Indian film by Satyajit Ray. It is an adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's play An Enemy of the People. Ray adapts the play to an Indian setting: a flourishing township in Bengal, in which a temple attracts devotees as well as tourists. Dr. Ashoke Gupta is the head of the of a town hospital. Gupta's younger brother Nisith is the head of the committees running the hospital and the temple. Both were built by a local industrialist. The temple is a big tourist attraction. Dr. Gupta is convinced that the holy water of the temple is contaminated due to the faulty pipe-laying. It is causing an epidemic in the town and he warns his brother Nisith.

Nisith, the industrialist and other town officials reject the idea that holy water might be the cause of the epidemic. They refuse to close the temple to carry out the repairs because of the loss that will ensue. Dr. Gupta wants to write an article in the newspaper to warn people, but giving-in to the pressure from the powerful people, the editor refuses to publish it. Left with no alternative, Dr. Gupta organizes a public meeting that is also sabotaged. And Dr. Gupta is proclaimed an enemy of the people.

The movie brings forth the eternal conflict between hard scientific fact and the opposing religious doctrine. In the movie the young generation ultimately favors science and this optimism about India that Ray has envisioned is completely unrealistic. There are two possibilities to warn the people – tell them the truth as Ibsen did and cover-up the truth as Ray does. If you want that the audience of the play or the film would go home in a good mood – you can adopt Ray's methods, but if you want to educate the people even if they would be reluctant at first to see the truth that hurts – adopt Ibsen's methods, which in the long run has brought Norway to the top of the ethical countries, while people in India are still in a nirvana watching Bollywood movies.

12. FRANCE & ISRAEL - CULTURAL, ETHICAL & MENTALITY GAPS IN INTERN'L BUSINESS CASE - THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING A POLYGLOT

(Due to confidentiality and editing reasons some of the names and details have been changed. The amounts are given for indication purpose only)

English has become a long time ago the international business language. Most of the international agreements are written in English and the business negotiations are held in this language. The due diligence is performed in English, and businessmen from Sweden, Italy, Russia, Japan, Argentina, Egypt and Israel speak among themselves in English, with a foreign accent, with spelling and grammatical mistakes, but they understand each other quite well. Only one country in the world insists in keeping its language and heritage in spite of the global trends and refuses to be swept by the English tides - France. It is very harsh for the nation of Louis XIV, Napoleon and De Gaulle to relinquish its international position after being until half a century ago a global superpower with a transcontinental empire, with a fabulous history, a magnificent culture, leadership in all the fields: technology, science, aviation, cinema, theater, fashion, gastronomy, tourism, literature, music, arts and most of the other fields. Furthermore, French was until a century ago the international diplomatic language, French schools were scattered all over the world, and the francophone culture did not succumb to the English culture that became the dominant culture after World War II. Towards the end of the 20th century cracks started to appear in the French fortress and the young French businessmen speak fluently English, sometimes even without an accent. The high tech revolution, New Economy and the Internet, globalization and M&A are the main reasons for this change, and France has discovered that if it wanted to survive in the global economy, being in the center of Europe (and the world...?), it had to speak English as everybody else. Board meetings of French multinational companies, such as Alcatel, Vivendi and Thomson, are held in English, correspondence is in English, even French/European business schools become the Business Schools for the World and courses are held exclusively in English. The language of the European Union is effectively English, in spite of its official 20 languages, and all the largest legal and audit firms in France operate in English, if they are not American or British firms located in Paris.

The mother tongue of Emile was French. He was not born in France but in one of the francophone diasporas and in the French school where he studied in his childhood the young children: Jews, Moslems, Christians, French, Italians, Greeks, Armenians and Copts, learned about the French heritage, their forefathers the Galls, and learned by heart the poetry of Hugo and the plays by Racine. The exposure to multiculturalism was a major ingredient in the personality of Emile and he was fluent in more than ten languages - French, English, Spanish, German, Italian, etc. In the M&A negotiations he had a very important edge when he could speak with his business colleagues in their mother tongues, about their culture: Lorca, Moliere, Shakespeare, Pirandello or Brecht. In 1979, a few days after the birth of his youngest daughter, he conducted business negotiations in Taiwan for six long weeks on a huge contract. The Chinese decided to submit this European businessman to Chinese torture in attrition tactics that succeeded in most of the cases. They held for a long week negotiations on the penalties clause, made long breaks, and were convinced that this young businessman will not be able to stay for such a long period in Taipei, which was not very "international" in those days. Emile and his colleague stood alone against hosts of Chinese counterparts, exhausted and homesick. They knew that the Chinese had among them one who was fluent in their tongue and they volunteered disinformation in this tongue while communicating also in Romanian, the mother tongue of Emile's wife, which he learned in order to understand her culture. But as the weeks went by and because of the intellectual curiosity of Emile, he started to study Chinese and he told his Chinese colleagues every morning what new sayings of Confucius he had learned. His Chinese accent was despicable but his colleagues learned from his attitude that he was not ready to succumb to their tactics. He joked that his people was a people as ancient as the Chinese, and both nations were known for their patience. After Emile started to go every night to Chinese operas, his counterparts gave up and agreed to the conditions of Emile. The contract was signed after six weeks, the most profitable contract ever in Emile's high tech company. Emile learned a lesson that he was to cherish throughout his whole business career that a multicultural attitude is the cornerstone of most of international negotiations.

Philippe, the President and owner of Electronique France, was a fervent catholic, aged seventy, who prayed devotedly every day in the ancient cathedral of his hometown near Paris. He started his own company that manufactured electronic components for electronic scales when he was quite aged as he hoped that his son Louis will continue to manage the company. But over the years he had to admit that Louis, in spite of being a brilliant salesman and a good engineer, was not made of the stuff of a manager and preferred to be employed most of his time in the flourishing flower business of his second wife. Philippe didn't speak English but Louis spent many years in the US with his first wife and was fluent in English. Philippe called the shots, but his health was deteriorating and he wanted to sell his company as soon as possible. The only company that was interested in Electronique France was Scales, a foreign company that needed the French technology. Richard, the CEO of Scales, was a successful businessman who managed his company very efficiently. He came to Philippe at the beginning of the negotiations, assisted by foreign auditors and lawyers. The negotiations with Philippe, who belonged to the old school, did not succeed and the main problems were in the cultural gaps between parties. Richard who didn't understand French decided to hire Emile, who spoke this language fluently and had a vast experience in doing business with French companies.

Emile insisted that the first meetings with Philippe, after his employment in mid October 1997, were to be held tête-à-tête and indeed within a short while he found a common language with Philippe and a good chemistry was established between the aged fervent catholic and the agnostic Emile who was twenty years younger. They talked about French literature, theater, history, Paris, arts and almost any subject other than business. Frenchmen, especially those of the older generation, want to evaluate firstly your character, your culture, your scope of interests, your integrity, before they start to speak about business. With the same generalization, and indeed one should not generalize, an American will treat you as an extraterrestrial if in a business lunch you'll speak with him about Arthur Miller or Scott Fitzgerald. The maximal detour from business allowed in a lunch is a discussion about the merits of the restaurants in New York, San Francisco or Los Angeles. After breaking the ice between Emile and Philippe, they started to talk business and a formula was found within a short while that could overcome the gaps. As a matter of fact there was not a large gap between the parties in the prices and conditions. The gaps were in the payment terms, as Philippe was afraid that the (greedy?) foreigners would not pay the last payments that would be withheld until the acquisition was completed. In their original proposal the buyers requested that the Dutch law would prevail in this contract and finally the parties agreed on the French law. Emile convinced Richard to give up on immaterial clauses which raised the suspicion level of Philippe, as he knew that Richard was an honest person and Philippe's apprehensions were not justified.

Scales is a public company with a sales turnover of \$100M and plants in England, Germany, Israel, the US and China. The company, which one third of its ownership is held by a British company selling \$400M annually, had several product lines including electronic scaling and they needed the electronic components of the French company in order to rationalize and decrease the production costs. After acquiring the French company, the buyers wanted to appoint a local VP Finance. Later on, they wanted to appoint a French CEO and Emile was asked to find with a local head hunter a French candidate. Finally, a Scales executive with a French background was sent to manage the company. Scales was registered as a Dutch company for various reasons. They offered the French \$2M for the company as the valuation seemed fair for the know-how, the plant (1,200 sq.m.), the on-going concern and the employees. In M&A there is a minimal threshold of price, which below that renders the acquisition expenses prohibitive. In fact, if we calculate the acquisition expenses, including legal and audit - French and local, the remuneration of Emile, the frequent trips, hotels, French meals, due diligence, restructuring costs and so on, we can arrive to a conclusion that those expenses amount to a substantial part of the acquisition costs. But in our case, in spite of those considerations, Scales paid those expenses willingly as the know-how of the French company was very valuable for Scales' operations. Philippe wanted to sell his company at any price as he didn't have a genuine alternative, operating in a very small niche, and he thought that the valuation that he received was adequate.

Electronique France was a sarl company, as most of the small companies in France. In the Financial Statements of 9.9.97 it was stated that the two companies (operations and assets) had no Boards of Directors, the CEO had very large responsibilities, there was no need of an audited report, the accepted accounting standards were not needed for the financial reports, there could be only one shareholder and the exclusive signature requirements could be only of the CEO. In a SA company there was a Board of Directors comprising of at least 3 people, an external audit has to be nominated who would be employed for at least 6 years, the Financial Statements have to be audited according to accepted accounting standards, there should be at least 7 shareholders, the responsibilities of the CEO are similar in both methods. The social benefits in Electronique France amount to 42.5% of the salaries, 13 monthly salaries are paid every year, the salaries are examined twice a year. It was found that \$200K were missing to the pension funds. After the due diligence it was decided to acquire the equity of the company with its shares and not only its assets and liabilities. On 14.10.1997 Richard sent to Philippe a Letter of Intent specifying the terms and conditions of the acquisition. It was proposed that \$1.1M would be paid for the company upon signature of the contract, \$0.6M would be paid a month after receiving the audited 1997 report of the company and \$0.3M would be paid within 6 months of the signature. The topics requiring due diligence were decided upon, it was decided that the company would not be offered for sale until the expected signature date of 15.1.1998, that the parties would bear each his own expenses, there would not be a public disclosure until the signature, validity, law, and so on.

In the clause 2.2 of the Letter of Intent it was stated that the severance pay of Louis, Philippe's son, would be deducted from the purchase price. It was not stated what was agreed already that Scales would reimburse the loans that Philippe has given to Electronique France, Philippe objected and disagreed that his company would be part of the transaction that should be exclusively with the shareholders of the company with a guarantee of Philippe to the accuracy of the financial reports of the company. Philippe was surprised that the transformation of his company to a SA has become a prerequisite of the transaction, he was ready to discuss financial adaptations but only according to French accepted accounting standards. He insisted that only \$0.4M of the consideration would be withheld until the date of the acquisition financial statements. He wanted to be reimbursed of the \$200K that he had given as a loan to

his company and he was willing to be a guarantor on the accuracy of the financial statements up to a maximum of 40% of the consideration price. He insisted that the French law would prevail on the transaction. In this intricate situation Emile started his involvement in the project. He approached several law firms, but because of economic considerations they remained with the original law firm that Richard has hired although another partner was chosen. The audit firm, which was one of the largest ones in the world, chose another auditor, who had worked in the past several times with Emile. This audit firm was also the auditor of Scales. Emile held in the 3rd to 7th of November meetings with the lawyers and auditors, visited the company and met with Philippe.

Electronique France sold \$5M annually and had 32 employees. The breakdown of sales was: 75% products and 25% services. Materials were 23% of sales and subcontractors 17%, labor costs 50% and depreciation 5%. The Net Profit amounted to 5% of the sales. The equipment was obsolete and the insurance companies evaluated the net value of the company at \$7M. In the balance sheet of the company to the end of 1997 there were \$100K in cash, accounts receivable \$1.3M, stocks \$0.9M, fixed assets (excluding the plant) \$0.1M, in total \$2.9M. The bank loans of the company amounted to \$0.5M, accounts payable \$0.4M, Net Worth \$1M. In the Assets company (the Plant of the company) the assets amounted to \$0.9M and the bank loans to \$0.6M, loans from Philippe's family \$150K, the Net Worth \$40K. It was decided that all the expenses of the transformation of the company to a SA would be paid by Scales. 84% of the shares of the company were held by Philippe's family and 16% by partners who agreed a priori to Philippe's moves. Richard learned that upon signature of the agreement three directors have to be appointed, while the CEO has to be a citizen of the EU. As in a SA there has to be at least 7 shareholders it was required to give the names of 4 people or companies on top of the three directors. It was agreed to reimburse the \$200K loan that Philippe gave to the company, the guarantee of Philippe to the company on the accuracy of the financial statements was limited to \$400K. The acquisition agreement that was written in French was signed on 12.2.1998. It was between Philippe's family and Scales. Philippe committed to transfer to Scales all the shares of the company, including those of his partners. The patents of the company were included in the agreement. Philippe stated that the stocks were salable, there is no lien on the equipment, that there are no legal claims against the company, that it has paid all its taxes, that the employment contracts have no clauses that are not standard, that the company complies with the ecological requirements, that there was no deterioration in the business conditions of the company since the date of the 1997 financial statements until the date of the acquisition, that the loans of the company are \$200K, etc. It was decided that the French law would prevail on the acquisition contract, no competition for five years, arbitration clauses and so on. In a separate contract the ownership of the plant and its liabilities was transferred to Scales.

A few months after Emile became to be involved in this case an agreement was signed between Electronique France and Scales. During those months dozens of meetings were held between Philippe and Emile, Louis and Emile, as well as meetings with Richard, the lawyers and the auditors. The hurdles were overcome and the parties have reached a high level of trust. The acquisition of the company was done without any problems and all the consideration was paid on time to the owners. Possibly, a few prejudices also disappeared. The good ambience was also due to the gourmet meals in the hometown of Philippe and in Paris, the good wine and the excellent food contributed to the high spirits and to the flexibility of the parties. All parties were satisfied with the results of the negotiations although they saw previously insurmountable hurdles that disappeared, often because of the contribution of Emile who put things in the right proportions, and assisted in overcoming the cultural gaps. No turnaround plans were devised, no sophisticated negotiations tactics were used, the due

diligence was rudimentary and the length of negotiations was relatively short. Richard participated only in the decisive meetings and of course on the signing of the agreement, thus saving a lot of his management attention and enabling him to attend more important matters. He didn't understand a word of the documents he signed, of the financial statements and of the representations. He leaned now and then towards Emile and whispered to him: "I trust you blindly, I depend on you that you wouldn't put us in a difficult situation because of misunderstandings due to the language and the contents". Emile assured him that he can count on his competence and integrity and he would not have to regret the signature of the agreement and the trust that he put on him. And so, Richard continued to sign the hundreds of pages... This case describes the cultural gaps facets of international business, which are neglected in many cases, but are one of the main causes of the failure of those business. Many workshops are held on negotiation tactics in Japan and China, but this case proves that it would be advisable to try and understand cultural gaps much closer home, in countries like France, Germany or Italy.

ANALYSIS AND TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION ON: CULTURAL, ETHICAL AND MENTALITY GAPS IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CASE - THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING A POLYGLOT

Topics for consideration on the personal, business and ethical dilemmas of the main protagonists of the case: 1. Richard, President of Scales, 2. Philippe, President of Electronique France, 3. Louis, the son of Philippe, 4. Emile, manager of the M&A program.

- * Describe the importance of the knowledge of languages and cultures in the modern business world.
- * English has become the international business language, can we be satisfied with that?
- * The importance of Ethics and the knowledge of languages and business cultures in the business faculties a necessity or a luxury?
- * Describe problems of cultural gaps that you have encountered in your business career? In the US?
- * Is France an exception in its business mentality or is it common to all Europe?
- * Describe the Chinese experience of Emile, was it because of intellectual curiosity, negotiations tactics, or both?
- * Businessmen learn golf in order to reach a common "language" with their colleagues, why shouldn't they learn languages and cultures?
- * Were the suspicions of Philippe based on prejudices or ignorance?
- * Describe the mentality gaps between Philippe and Louis.
- * Why was Philippe convinced that he made a good deal in spite of the low valuation of his company?
- * Would the negotiations end successfully without the involvement of Emile?
- * To what extent is the personality of Emile an exception in the modern business world?
- * What was the background of the trust that Richard had to Emile?
- * What would have happened if one of the parties, including Emile, would not act in good faith?
- * What were the mistakes of Richard, if any, in the conduct of negotiations with Philippe prior to the employment of Emile?
- * Do the French, English, Chinese or Americans have prejudices towards their business counterparts and even towards their compatriots?
- * If we will not do business with those who have prejudices towards us, with whom will we do business?
- * Is it easy or difficult to overcome suspicions between people from different cultures and are the necessary steps to be taken in order to overcome them prohibitive?

- * What is the proportion of the fixed costs out of the total costs of every transaction: legal, audit, consulting and so on?
- * Is it more difficult to conduct negotiations with French businessmen than with Americans, Italians, Germans or Chinese?
- * Is there a distinct business mentality to the French, British, Dutch, Scandinavian, Japanese, Latin American, Singaporean, Swiss businessmen?
- * Is it important for a foreign company conducting business in France not to agree to have the French law as the binding law of the acquisition agreement?
- * Richard had companies in England, Germany, Israel, the US and China. Why has he encountered problems only in France?
- * Are there ethical gaps between France, Great Britain, Singapore and the US?
- * Why did Emile insist that the first meetings with Philippe will be held tête-à-tête?
- * Why have Philippe and Emile found a common language despite of the huge differences between them?
- * Is the mentality of Emile similar to a chameleon that adapts himself to every interlocutor, or does it have a backbone?
- * Are the French businessmen, as they appear in this case, more intellectual than the Americans, or is it only not usual to speak in the US about culture in business dinners? What about Germany, China, Japan, Italy, Spain and other countries?
- * Would there be a better chemistry if the negotiations would be held between Richard and Louis?
- * What is preferable for a foreign company acquiring a French company, to appoint a French, foreign, or foreign with a French culture as a CEO?
- * Is it preferable to have the Europeans headquarters in Paris, London, Zurich, Rome, Amsterdam, Brussels, or Frankfurt?
- * What is the difference between a sarl and a SA company in France, why did Scales insist to change the company to SA before its acquisition? Is it because of the consolidation of the financial statements with the parent company?
- * To what extent is it difficult for a foreign company in France to adapt to the labor legislation and the high social benefits?
- * What are the differences between the Letter of Intent of Richard and the final agreement?
- * How can you explain that Louis learned from the Letter of Intent that he had no job in the merged company?
- * Why did Philippe answer with such a harsh letter to the Letter of Intent of Richard?
- * Is the business valuation of Electronique France equal to the Net Worth in the Balance Sheet \$1M, the selling price of \$2M, the valuation for insurance purposes \$7M, other? Is it important in view of the fact that the company was sold?

- * Do you learn from the financial statements of Electronique France about any problems or is the company in a sound financial condition?
- * Why did Philippe agree to be a guarantor of the accuracy of the financial statements?
- * Why was the company that had the ownership of the assets of Electronique France a separate company from the company that was responsible for the business activities?
- * Was the length of negotiations between the parties reasonable?
- * How were improved, with the assistance of Emile, the relations between Philippe and Richard, and how they became by the end of the negotiations almost friends?
- * Describe your impression on the importance of the cultural gaps in business. How do you think that you will be able to overcome those gaps in your business career?

13. SUSTAINABILITY – PAUL HAWKEN - THE BOOK "THE ECOLOGY OF COMMERCE" - SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

Based on the book:

Hawken Paul, The Ecology of Commerce, HarperCollins, 1994

Based on the film:

The New Great Transformation, 2007, 71 min., Paul Hawken hosted by Stewart Brand

Summary and Analysis:

Paul Hawken is perceived by many as the prophet of sustainability. He is not only an excellent writer, his books move us deeply, but he is also a very successful businessman. This combination is very uncommon in business ethics, social responsibility and sustainability. Normally, you can be an ethical businessman but you don't write on ethics, you can be an excellent ethicist but you don't practice business. Rather, this "oxymoron", adds so much to the credibility of Hawken's books and activities, that it has influenced millions of people. One of the people he has influenced most is Ray Anderson, the founder and chairman of Interface, the world's largest carpet manufacturer of commercial carpet. After reading The Ecology of Commerce by Hawken, Anderson wept, he reached the conclusion that until then he was a "plunderer of the earth" and he decided to change his company into a sustainable company because it is good to earth, to society, to humans and to business.

Biography of Paul Hawken from his official website:

"Paul Hawken is an environmentalist, entrepreneur, and author. Starting at age 20, he dedicated his life to sustainability and changing the relationship between business and the environment. His practice has included starting and running ecological businesses, writing and teaching about the impact of commerce on living systems, and consulting with governments and corporations on economic development, industrial ecology, and environmental policy.

He has appeared on numerous media including the Today Show, Larry King, Talk of the Nation, Charlie Rose, and has been profiled or featured in hundreds of articles including the Wall Street Journal, Newsweek, Washington Post, Business Week, Esquire, and US News and World Report. His writings have appeared in the Harvard Business Review, Resurgence, New Statesman, Inc, Boston Globe, Christian Science Monitor, Mother Jones, Utne Reader, Orion, and over a hundred other publications.

He is author and co-author of dozens of articles, op-eds, papers, as well as six books including *The Next Economy* (Ballantine 1983), *Growing a Business* (Simon and Schuster 1987), and *The Ecology of Commerce* (HarperCollins 1993). *The Ecology of Commerce* was voted in 1998 as the #1 college text on business and the environment by professors in 67 business schools. His book, *Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution* (Little Brown, September 1999) co-authored with Amory Lovins, is published in fourteen languages and has been read and referred to by several heads of state including President Bill Clinton

who has called it one of the five most important books in the world today. His books have been published in over 50 countries in 27 languages and have sold over 2 million copies. *Growing a Business* became the basis of a 17-part PBS series, which Mr. Hawken hosted and produced. The program, which explored the challenges and pitfalls of starting and operating socially responsive companies, was shown on television in 115 countries and watched by over 100 million people. His piece on Seattle and the WTO entitled "N30" was published on over 100 websites and by 13 magazines. His latest book was published by Viking in May 2007 entitled *Blessed Unrest: How the Largest Movement in the World Came Into Being, and Why No One Saw It Coming.* www.blessedunrest.com

Companies he has founded or co-founded software companies specializing in proprietary content management tools; Smith & Hawken, the garden and catalog retailer; and several of the first natural food companies in the US that relied solely on sustainable agricultural methods. He is presently the head of PaxIT, PaxAuto, and PaxFan, three companies associated with Pax Scientific, Inc., a research and development company focused on energy-saving technologies that apply biomimicry to fluid dynamics.

Paul heads Highwater Research LLC in Sausalito, California. Highwater Research was established to promote a new methodology for reviewing and rating corporate social, ethical and environmental behavior. Highwater believes their methodology raises the standards for the SRI industry as a whole, and will become the preferred method for SRI selection in the future. By establishing standards for social and environmental responsibility, bringing transparency to current business behavior, and driving investment to those companies who have adapted to these higher standards, Highwater reasserts the original intent of SRI - to influence the way business is done. Baldwin Brothers, Inc.and Highwater Research launched the Highwater Global Fund on September 1, 2005, to address global sustainability opportunities by building a team of experts combining environmental, social and financial research into an alpha driven public equity fund.

Paul heads the Natural Capital Institute (www.naturalcapital.org), a research organization located in Sausalito, California. The Natural Capital Institute has created a hub for global civil society (www.WiserEarth.org). It is a collaboratively written, free content, open source networking platform that links NGOs, funders, business, government, social entrepreneurs, students, organizers, academics, activists, scientists, and citizens.

As a speaker, he has given keynote addresses to the Liberal Party of Canada, King of Sweden at his inaugural Environmental Seminar, American Bookseller's Association, Urban Land Institute, SRI International, Harvard University, Stanford University, Wharton, Cornell, Prime Minister of New Zealand's Conference on Natural Capitalism, US Department of Commerce, Australian Business Council, Yale University and Yale University Commencement, University of California (Berkeley) Commencement, Ministry of Agriculture France, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Prince of Wales Conference on Business and the Environment—Cambridge University, Commonwealth Club, Herman Miller, National Wildlife Federation, State of Washington, American Society of Landscape Architects, American Institute of Architects, American Institute of Graphic Arts, American Solar Energy Association, Apple Computer, World Business Council for Sustainable Development, Cleveland City Club, Conference Board, U.S. Forest Service, Ontario Hydro, Environment Canada, EPA, and several hundred others.

He has served on the board of many environmental organizations including Point Foundation

(publisher of the Whole Earth Catalogs), Center for Plant Conservation, Trust for Public Land, Friends of the Earth, and National Audubon Society. Among recognition and awards received are: The 2008 Green Prize for Sustainable LIterature Award by the Santa Monica Public Library, Green Cross Millennium Award for Individual Environmental Leadership presented by Mikhail Gorbachev in 2003; World Council for Corporate Governance in 2002; Small Business Administration "Entrepreneur of the Year" in 1990; Utne "One Hundred Visionaries who could Change our Lives" in 1995, Western Publications Association "Maggie" award for "Natural Capitalism" as the best Signed Editorial/Essay" in 1997; Creative Visionary Award by the International Society of Industrial Design; Design in Business Award for environmental responsibility by the American Center for Design; Council on Economic Priorities' 1990 Corporate Conscience Award; American Horticultural Society Award for commitment to excellence in commercial horticulture; Metropolitan Home Design 100 Editorial Award for the 100 best people, products and ideas that shape our lives; the Cine Golden Eagle award in video for the PBS program "Marketing" from Growing a Business; California Institute of Integral Studies Award "For Ongoing Humanitarian Contributions to the Bay Area Communities"; Esquire Magazine award for the best 100 People of a Generation (1984); and five honorary doctorates."

In "The Ecology of Commerce" Hawken maintains (p.xiv-xv) that in order to be sustainable we must begin with a set of objectives: 1. Reduce absolute consumption of energy and natural resources in the North by 80 percent within the next half century, it amounts to making things last twice as long with about half the resources. We already have the technology to do this in most areas, including energy usage. 2. Provide secure, stable, and meaningful employment for people everywhere. (Hawken, a humanist, sees sustainability as a holistic concept that encludes of course employment, welfare and happiness). 3. Be self-actuating as opposed to regulated or morally mandated. Humans want to flourish and prosper, and they will eventually reject any system of conservation that interferes with those desires. 4. Honor market principles. We can't just ask people to pay more to save the planet. They won't do it in some cases – and can't in most. 5. Be more rewarding than our present way of life. Presentday limits need to become opportunities. 6. Exceed sustainability by restoring degraded habitats and ecosystems to their fullest biological capacity. Any viable economic program must turn back the resource clock and devote itself actively to restoring damaged and deteriorating systems. 7. Rely on current income. Redesigning all industrial, residential, and transportation systems so that everything we use springs easily from the earth and returns back to it. 8. Be fun and engaging, and strive for an aesthetic outcome. Government, business and environmental organization cannot create a sustainable society. It will only come about through the accumulated effects of daily acts of billions of eager participants. Furthermore, the urge to create beauty exists in commerce as well as in society.

Hawken, as Joel Bakan in "The Corporation", as Aristotle and the Bible, believes that: "The ultimate purpose of business is not, or should not be, simply to make money. Nor is it merely a system of making and selling things. The promise of business is to increase the general well-being of humankind through service, a creative invention and ethical philosophy. Making money is, on its own terms, totally meaningless, an insufficient pursuit for the complex and decaying world we live in... Businesspeople must either dedicate themselves to transforming commerce to a restorative undertaking, or march society to the undertaker." (Hawken, The Ecology of Commerce, p.1-2) It is quite untorthodox for a businessman to say that the ultimate purpose of business is not to make money. Not only not to mazimize profits, but simply not to make money. Business should ensure the general well-being of humankind,

not the well-being of tycoons, of controlling shareholders, or even of executives. Business should be restorative or society would march to the undertaker. This is not the saying of a detached philosopher, Hawken is a successful businessman, and he substantiates his theories in his books in business terms. 15 years later, Bill Gates will advocate a new kind of capitalism, a creative or social capitalism, Warren Buffett will donate most of his wealth to society.

Hawken says that business has three basic issues to face: what it takes, what it makes, and what it wastes. The harmful way it exploits natural resources, the excessive amounts of toxins and pollutants it produces, and the excessive energy it consumes in the process. This is completely uneconomical, as in nature there is no waste. Business should be patterned according to basic ecological principles. In nature, waste equals food, all growth is driven by solar energy, and the overall well-being of the system depends on diversity and thrives of difference. Everything should be reclaimed, reused or recycled. In the restorative economy some businesses will get smaller but hire more people (bioagriculture in small farms for example), more money can be made by selling the absence of a product or service (for instance, where public utilities sell efficiency rather than additional power), and where profits increase when productivity is lowered. In short, those recommendations are quite the opposite of current business theories as preconized by Milton Friedman. It is indeed a revolution, a fresh and pioneering school of thought, advocated by few, as Ray Anderson, but feasible.

But there are always the skeptics, the groups of interests, oil companies, politicians who don't believe or prefer not to believe that sustainability issues are so important. Still, Hawken maintains that we must levy a carbon tax on energy, and issue significant green taxes on hydrocarbon-based chemicals, replacing them with processes derived from the organic, nonpolluting, renewable resources, because it will ultimately help to eliminate most of the toxins in our food and water and the ozone-destroying chemicals in our atmosphere. "If we contine on the same path and find out forty, fifty, or one hundred years from now that the scientific projections about global warming were correct, it may be too late to mount an effective counter-strategy. On the other hand, if we choose to make the transition to an economy that runs on perpetual solar income and we later find ount that the CO2 buildup was less a problem that anticipated, we are still ahead on every count. We have eliminated hundreds of billions of tons of pollution from the air, ground and water, and improved health worldwide. We have engendered a myriad of new, safer, and friendlier technologies to replace those deposed. We have not poisoned the planet or our bodies with the toxins produced in a hydrocarbon-based economy. We have created hundreds of thousands of new companies and many more jobs than we lost, while moving toward a world whose work and money are infused with meaning and vision, toward a just and constructive future." (same, p.182-183)

Hawken is visionary and practical; he tackles the issues generically and specifically. Resources are not infinite in supply and we see that they are being depleted at an alarming rate. Therefore, Hawken introduces the term biological accounting, we have to end waste, shift to renewable power (solar, hydro, wind), and Hawken concludes: "We have to recognize that we've reached a watershed in the economy, a point at which 'growth' and profitability will be increasingly derived from the abatment of environmental degradation, the furthening of ecological restoration, and the mimicking of natural systems of production and consumption." (same, p.210)

14. SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF MODERN BUSINESS TYCOONS - WARREN BUFFETT (BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY) - SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

Based on the film:

Warren Buffett - Oracle of Omaha, 2000, 60 minutes, documentary about the story of Berkshire Hathaway.

Not all financial tycoons are Gordon Gekkos, Michael Milken or Ivan Boesky. Warren Buffett is an excellent example of a tycoon, controlling Berkshire Hathaway with integrity, taking into consideration the interests of the stakeholders, with a humane approach to business, while still becoming a billionaire. Recently, he decided to donate most of his fortune to the community.

In the 2002 Annual Report of Bershire Hathaway Inc. Warren Buffett wrote that "Derivatives are financial weapons of mass destruction". He wrote this five years before the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression that was due mainly to the unethical use of derivatives with massive leverage, taking advantage of other people's money and ultimately being rescued by the government and the tax payer. Wall Street was at that period in euphoria and Buffett was among the few who saw the writing on the wall. He wrote: "The range of derivatives contracts is limited only by the imagination of man (or sometimes, so it seems, madmen). At Enron, for example, newsprint and broadband derivatives, due to be settled many years in the future, were put on the books. Or say you want to write a contract speculating on the number of twins to be born in Nebraska in 2020. No problem - at a price, you will easily find an obliging counterparty. When we purchased Gen Re, it came with General Re Securities, a derivatives dealer that Charlie and I didn't want, judging it to be dangerous. We failed in our attempts to sell the operation, however, and are now terminating it. But closing down a derivatives business is easier said than done. It will be a great many years before we are totally out of this operation (though we reduce our exposure daily). In fact, the reinsurance and derivatives businesses are similar: Like Hell, both are easy to enter and almost impossible to exit."

Nicknamed "The Oracle of Omaha", Buffett is one of the few sages in the world economy who did not participate in the Economic Whirl, whether it is the Dot.com Bubble, the Corporate Scandals or the Subprime Crisis. He saw the dangers of the virtual economy and wrote: "Another commonality of reinsurance and derivatives is that both generate reported earnings that are often wildly overstated. That's true because today's earnings are in a significant way based on estimates whose inaccuracy may not be exposed for many years... the parties to derivatives also have enormous incentives to cheat in accounting for them. Those who trade derivatives are usually paid (in whole or part) on "earnings" calculated by mark-to-market accounting. But often there is no real market (think about our contract involving twins) and "mark-to-model" is utilized. This substitution can bring on large-scale mischief... In recent years, some huge-scale frauds and near-frauds have been facilitated by derivatives trades. In the energy and electric utility sectors, for example, companies used derivatives and trading activities to report great "earnings" – until the roof fell in when they actually tried to convert the derivatives-related receivables on their balance sheets into cash. "Mark-to-market" then turned out to be truly "mark-to-myth." I can assure you that the

marking errors in the derivatives business have not been symmetrical. Almost invariably, they have favored either the trader who was eyeing a multi-million dollar bonus or the CEO who wanted to report impressive "earnings" (or both). The bonuses were paid, and the CEO profited from his options. Only much later did shareholders learn that the reported earnings were a sham... Charlie and I believe, however, that the macro picture is dangerous and getting more so. Large amounts of risk, particularly credit risk, have become concentrated in the hands of relatively few derivatives dealers, who in addition trade extensively with one other. The troubles of one could quickly infect the others. On top of that, these dealers are owed huge amounts by non-dealer counterparties. Some of these counterparties, as I've mentioned, are linked in ways that could cause them to contemporaneously run into a problem because of a single event (such as the implosion of the telecom industry or the precipitous decline in the value of merchant power projects). Linkage, when it suddenly surfaces, can trigger serious systemic problems. Indeed, in 1998, the leveraged and derivatives-heavy activities of a single hedge fund, Long-Term Capital Management, caused the Federal Reserve anxieties so severe that it hastily orchestrated a rescue effort... The derivatives genie is now well out of the bottle, and these instruments will almost certainly multiply in variety and number until some event makes their toxicity clear. Knowledge of how dangerous they are has already permeated the electricity and gas businesses, in which the eruption of major troubles caused the use of derivatives to diminish dramatically. Elsewhere, however, the derivatives business continues to expand unchecked. Central banks and governments have so far found no effective way to control, or even monitor, the risks posed by these contracts. Charlie and I believe Berkshire should be a fortress of financial strength - for the sake of our owners, creditors, policyholders and employees. We try to be alert to any sort of megacatastrophe risk, and that posture may make us unduly apprehensive about the burgeoning quantities of long-term derivatives contracts and the massive amount of uncollateralized receivables that are growing alongside. In our view, however, derivatives are financial weapons of mass destruction, carrying dangers that, while now latent, are potentially lethal." One would think that this essay was written as a penitential confession of an investment banker or a regulator in 2009...

Warren Edward Buffett (born August 30, 1930) is a wealthy American investor and businessman. Buffett has amassed an enormous fortune from astute investments, particularly through his company Berkshire Hathaway. In 2008, Buffett was ranked by Forbes as the richest person in the world with an estimated net worth of approximately \$62 billion. Despite his immense wealth, Buffett is famous for his unpretentious and frugal lifestyle. He continues to live in the same suburban house in Omaha he bought in 1957 for \$31,500. His chairman's salary from Berkshire Hathaway of \$100,000 per annum is extremely modest by corporate American standards. Buffett is also a notable philanthropist, having pledged to give away 85% of his fortune to the Gates Foundation.

"Warren Buffett is not easy to describe. Physically, he is unremarkable, with looks often described as grandfatherly. Intellectually, he is considered a genius, yet his down-to-earth relationship with people is truly uncomplicated. He is simple, straightforward, forthright, and honest. He displays an engaging combination of sophisticated dry wit and cornball humor. He has a profound reverence for all things logical and a foul distate for imbecility. He embraces the simple and avoids the complicated.... When reading Berkshire's annual reports,... unabashed honesty. Buffett is candid in his reporting. He emphasizes both the pluses and the minuses of Berkshire's businesses... When Buffett took control of Berkshire the corporate net worth was \$22 million. Forty years later, it has grown to \$69 billion.... Since he took control of Berkshire in 1964, the gain has been much greater: Book value per share has grown from \$19 to \$50,498, a rate of 22.2 percent compounded annually." (Hagstrom, 2005, p.4)

Buffett's investment philosophy is based on a three-prong approach:

Generals: undervalued securities that possess margin of safety and meet expected risk/return characteristics

Arbitrages: company events that are not related to broader market changes such as mergers and acquisitions, liquidation, etc.

Controls: build sizable holdings, ally with other shareholders or employ proxies to effect changes in companies

Buffett views himself as capital allocator more than anything else. His primary responsibility is to allocate capital to businesses with good economics and keep their existing management to lead the company. Besides his skills in managing Berkshire's cash flow statement and income statement, Buffett is skilled in managing the company's balance sheet. Since taking over Berkshire Hathaway, Buffett has weighted every decision against their impact on the balance sheet. Knowing that he is not a computer prodigy or an innovation genius, Buffett set out to obtain a competitive advantage by building a financial fortress. Buffett takes comfort that in the foreseeable future his company will not be one of those shaken by economic or natural catastrophes. He repeated over the years that his insurance operation is the only one he knew that can clear the check the next morning. However, Berkshire Hathaway was shaked by the 2008 crisis. It suffered a 77% drop in earnings during Q3 2008 and several of his recent deals appear to be running into large mark-to-market losses. Buffett has called the downturn in the financial sector "poetic justice", but this justice penalized him as well. Yet, he remained faithful to his saying that one should be fearful when others are greedy and greedy when others are fearful, and after being very cautious in his investment policy in the years before the downturn he made during the 2008-2009 downturn large investments in what he perceives as lucrative investments.

Over the years, his purchases of entire companies with Berkshire's cash included National Indemnity from Jack Ringwalt, National Fire and Marine Insurance, Illinois National Bank and Trust from Eugene Abegg, Blue Chip Stamps, See's Candies, Buffalo News, Wesco Financials, Mutual Savings and Loans, Associated Retail Stores, etc. When choosing common stocks, Berkshire employs a focused strategy with a medium to long term horizon. Stock picks from 1970s through 1980s included GEICO, Washington Post Company, Capital Cities/ABC, Ogilvy & Mather International, Interpublic Group of Companies, Knight-Ridder Newspaper, Kaiser Industries, SAFECO Corporation, Amerada Hess, Affiliated Publications, Media Generals, Times Inc., General Foods, R.J. Reynolds Industries, Beatrice, F.W. Woolworth Company, Exxon Corporation, Handy & Harman, Freddie Mac, Coca-Cola Companies, etc. Arbitrage positions included Arcata Corporation which was sold to KKR.

While being very ethical, Buffett does not focus his investments in ethical investments, clean technologies or ethical funds. During the RJR Nabisco, Inc. hostile takeover fight in 1987, Buffett was quoted as telling John Gutfreund: "I'll tell you why I like cigarette business. It costs a penny to make. Sell it for a dollar. It's addictive. And there's fantastic brand loyalty." Jeffrey Wigand wouldn't have liked this remark after having sacrificed his career in order to prove that cigarettes were addictive, thus saving probably the lives of millions by his revelations. Buffett cannot be compared either to Paul Hawken or Ray Anderson, to Ben & Jerry's and many other ethical investors and executives. But we need heroes, different than the "rotten apples" that are increasing exponentially. Even if he invests in investment banks, in AIG or in Coca Cola, that would not be the prime choice of ethical funds, he does it in a very ethical way, transparent, honest, achieving one of the highest return on investment with a

minimal risk in the long run. Buffet stated that he only paid 19% of his income fro 2006 in total federal taxes, while his employees paid 33% of theirs, despite making much less money. Buffett favors the inheritance tax and believes government should not be in the business of gambling. That is quite different than the neo liberal approach on taxation and regulation, and he cannot be nicknamed "anti-business" as many neo social thinkers that hold similar views are named, because he is the richest businessman in the world and we all know that "you can't argue with success..."

15. JOSEPH STIGLITZ – A THIRD WAY ALTERNATIVE FOR CAPITALISM, GLOBALIZATION, AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Joseph Eugene Stiglitz, born in 1943, is an American economist and a member of the Columbia University faculty. He received the Nobel Prize in 2001. Stiglitz served in the Clinton Administration as the chair of the President's Council of Economic Advisers. Former Senior Vice President and Chief Economist of the World Bank, he is famous for his critical view of globalization, free-market economists (market fundamentalists, neo-liberals or Washington Consensus advocates) and some international institutions like the IMF and the World Bank. Stiglitz writes: "The Washington Consensus policies, however, were based on a simplistic model of the market economy, the competitive equilibrium model, in which Adam Smith's invinsible hand works, and works perfectly. Because in this model there is no need for government – that is, free, unfettered, "liberal" markets work perfectly – the Washington Consensus policies are sometimes referred to as "neo-liberals", based on "market fundamentalism", a resuscitation of the laissez-faire policies that were popular in some circles in the nineteenth century. In the aftermath of the Great Depression and the recognition of other failings of the market system, from massive inequality to unlivable cities marred by pollution and decay, these free market policies have been widely rejected in the more advanced industrial countries, though within these countries there remains an active debate about the appropriate balance between government and markets." (Stiglitz, Globalization and its Discontents, p.74)

Stiglitz perceives a danger that following the neo-liberal policies, the social cohesiveness of the countries will be eroded. The citizens will cease to abide by the rules and a social agitation will occur. One of the "rules" is that the poor should benefit from the prosperity in times of growth and the rich would bear their part of the burden in times of recession. Unfortunately, the present situation is in many cases similar to the song "With you it's all or nothing – all for you and nothing for me". In times of recession the poors are requested to bear their part in the burden and the state assists the corporations and tycoons, cut the taxes and subsidizes them. In times of growth the poors do not share the growth, as nothing trickles down, and the state is not rewarded by the corporations, although many officials may be rewarded personally with positions in multinationals, huge salaries and stock options. "Trickle-down economics was never much more than just a belief, an article of faith. Pauperism seemed to grow in nineteenth-century England even though the country as a whole prospered. Growth in America in the 1980s provided the most recent dramatic example: while the economy grew, those at the bottom saw their real incomes decline. The Clinton administration had argued strongly against trickle-down economics; it believed that there had to be active programs to help the poor." (same, p.78) Stiglitz says that one Nobel Prize winner, Arthur Lewis, argued that inequality was good for development and economic growth, since the rich save more than the poor, and the key to growth is capital accumulation. However, South Korea, China, Taiwan and Japan showed that high savings did not require high inequality, that one could achieve rapid growth, without a substantial increase in inequality. Governments ensured that wage inequalities were kept in bounds, that educational opportunity was extended to all. Their policies led to social and political stability, which in turn contributed to an economic environment in which business flourished.

Elsewhere, where governments adopted the Washington Consensus policies, the poor have benefited less from growth. In Latin America, growth has not been accompanied by a

reduction in inequality, or even a reduction in poverty. In some cases poverty has actually increased, as evidenced by the urban slums that dot the landscape. The IMF talks with pride about the progress Latin America has made in market reforms over the last decade of the century. But most of the progress didn't trickle down to the poor, Argentina, the star student, collapsed in 2001, and recession and stagnation have afflicted many "reform" countries recently. Stiglitz examines at length the economic saga of Russia and its oligarchs: "At one point, they claimed to control 50 percent of the country's wealth! Defenders of the oligarchs liken them to America's robber barons, the Harrimans and Rockfellers. But there is a big difference between the activities of such figures in nineteenth-century capitalism, even those carving out railway and mining baronies in America's Wild West, and the Russian oligarchy's exploitation of Russia, what has been called the Wild East. America's robber barons created wealth, even as they accumulated fortunes. They left a country much richer, even if they got a big slice of the larger pie. Russsia's oligarchs stole assets, stripped them, leaving their country much poorer. The enterprises were left on the verge of bankruptcy, while the oligarch's bank accounts were enriched." (same, p.160) Stiglitz even sees an analogy between the neo-liberals' methods and the bolshevists' methods, after all - why not?, as extremists behave identically if they are fascists, capitalists or bolshevists, fundamentalists or fanatics, in a way that oppresses the masses and is profoundly undemocratic and inhumane. This is the insurmountable difference between the precepts of Aristotle, Kant and the Bible and those of Machiavelli, the Darwinists and the Utilitarians: "In effect, the radical reformers employed Bolshevik strategies - though they were reading from different texts. The Bolsheviks tried to impose communism on a reluctant country in the years following 1917. They argued that the way to build socialism was for an elite cadre to 'lead' (often a euphemism for 'force') the masses into the correct path, which was not necessarily the path the masses wanted or thought best. In the 'new' post-Communist revolution in Russia, an elite, spearheaded by international bureaucrats, similarly attempted to force rapid change on a reluctant population." (same, p.163)

Stiglitz traces his credo in the last chapter of his book - "The Way Ahead", maintaining that there is an alternative to the neo-liberal ideology and it works well in many countries, a Third Way, an Aristotelian way, a balanced view: "But there is not just one market model. There are striking differences between the Japanese version of the market system and the German, Swedish, and American versions. There are several countries with per capita income comparable to that of the United States, but where inequality is lower, poverty is less, and health and other aspects of living standards higher (at least in the judgment of those living there). While the market is at the center of both the Swedish and American versions of capitalism, government takes on quite different roles. In Sweden, the government takes on far greater responsibilities promoting social welfare; it continues to provide far better public health, far better unemployment insurance, and far better retirement benefits than does the United States. Yet it has been every bit as successful, even in terms of the innovations associated with the 'New Economy'. For many Americans, but not all, the American model has worked well; for most Swedes, the American model is viewed as unacceptable - they believe their model has served them well. For Asians, a variety of Asian models has worked well, and this is true for Malaysia and Korea as well as China and Taiwan, even taking into account the global financial crisis... In my own work – both in my writings and in my role as the president's economic adviser and chief economist of the World Bank - I have advocated a balanced view of the role of government, one which recognizes both the limitations and failures of markets and government, but which sees the two as working together, in partnership, with the precise nature of that partnership differing among countries, depending on their stages of both political and economic development. But at whatever stage of political and economic development a country is, government makes a difference. Weak governments and too-intrusive governments have both hurt stability and growth. The Asia financial crisis was brought on by a lack of adequate regulation of the financial sector. Mafia capitalism in Russia by a failure to enforce the basics of law and order. Privatization without the necessary institutional infrastructure in the transition countries led to asset stripping rather than wealth creation. In other countries, privatized monopolies, without regulation, were more capable of exploiting consumers than the state monopolies. By contrast, privatization accompanied by regulation, corporate restructuring, and strong corporate governance has led to higher growth." (same, p.217-220)

Stiglitz believes that we can use the force of the markets to provide incentives in order to make globalization and national economies better. We have learned how to temper the problems of market economy. We have learned how to make sure that the market's benefits do not go just to a few people at the top but are enjoyed broadly by society as a whole. We have learned that we have to regulate markets, there is an important role of government providing safety nets, supporting research, developing new ideas, providing first rate education. We have striven to get a balance between the role of the market and government. These lessons have to be extended to the way we run global economy. We have a global society, in which we become more interdependent, but we don't have yet a global system of dealing with the political consequences, and it is this gap between economic globalization and political globalization that is at the core of so many problems that we see with globalization today. Stiglitz believes that not only is another world possible, he believes that another world is necessary. He knows that economically this other world is possible. He knows that on the basis of economics we can make globalization work. The issue today is one of politics. Can we use the forces of democracy; can we narrow the gap between economic globalization and political globalization? If we can, then he believes that we can reshape globalization, we can make globalization and national economies work not only for the rich and the richest countries of the world but for the poor and the rich in the developed and the developing countries alike.

Tycoons, multinationals and neo-liberal governments need the employees to work in their companies and to pay income taxes, need the consumers to buy their products and to pay sales taxes, need the suppliers, the communities, need also environment and earth as business cannot exist in a vacuum. It is possible that corporations would prefer to have a minimum number of workers, as some garment and athletic shoes companies, will subcontract all their production or possibly their R&D, QA, accounting, human resources, sales and advertising. A company of one person, the CEO, could be the Milton Friedman's ideal, outsourcing everything, working with temporary workers without social benefits, with subcontractors in sweat shops, and with American Idols as Michael Jordan. It is possible that corporations would prefer to be a monopoly, controlling 95% of the market as some hi-tech or software companies, charging very high prices for their products with an insurmountable amount of bugs as there is no alternative for the customers. It is even possible that companies would ruin the environment like many petrochemical companies, externalizing all their costs, forcing communities to pay for cleaning the pollution while other companies will manage to force all of us to buy their patented genetically engineered seeds together with their unsustainable herbicides.

But if the customers, the employees and the communities would exert their strength and their rights, if we could find alternatives, if we could change the ideology from maximizing profits to finding the right equilibrium between all the stakeholders, we could restore David's fallen tent, repair its broken places, renew its ruins, and build the corporation as it used to be - an organization intended to serve society, to take part in the community activities, to employ many employees that would be contented with their work, to deliver goods and services

which will satisfy the customers, to be sustainable and not pollute the environment, and to have a social responsibility, all that while obtaining an optimal profitability and and adequate return on investment. Not maximizing anything but achieving a holistic harmony of the interests of all stakeholders – employees and executives, customers, controlling and minority shareholders, suppliers, community, country, ecology, earth, in a healthy and sustainable environment with happy, equal and sociable people, working in companies which do not exist in order to be profitable but which are profitable in order to live.

16. SUSTAINABLE JUSTICE – TEN COMPONENTS IN TEN LANGUAGES

The cosmopolitan gist of this book elaborates ten components of sustainable justice in ten languages summarizing Cory's beliefs on sustainable, social, economic, governmental, public, ecological and global justice, meaning the same in all the languages, philosophy and religions, in Hebrew, Aramaic, Spanish, Latin, Norwegian, English, German, Italian, Ladino or French.

1. Sustainable Justice should be holistic, encompassing all systems of life in harmonious unity.

"There are seven things that will destroy us: Wealth without Work, Pleasure without Conscience, Knowledge without Character, Religion without Sacrifice, Politics without Principle, Science without Humanity, Business without Ethics." Mahatma Gandhi. In English, Indian philosophy.

2. Social Justice should not be received from government, tycoons, but coming from the people.

"Justice is not requested. Justice is not given. Justice is growing from the bottom, from the people, from a man who helped his friend in need, from a house who was open for the poor, from a husband who was kind to his wife, from a son who respected his father, from a friend who didn't cheat his friend. Justice is like wheat and barley. You cannot find it in another country – but in your country." Milhemet bnei or, Moshe Shamir, in Hebrew.

"צדק אין מבקשים אותו. צדק אינו ניתן . צדק דרכו שהוא צומח. מקרקעו של עם, מאדם שסייע לחברו בשעת הדחק, מבית שנפתחה דלתו לאביון, מאדם שנהג חיבה באשתו, מבן שנהג כבוד באביו, מחבר שלא הונה את חברו. צדק כמוהו כחיטה וכשעורה. לא בארץ אחרת תמצאנו - אלא בארצך".

דברי שמעון בן שטח, מלחמת בני אור, משה שמיר

3. There is no Economic Justice when society doesn't ostracize the wrongdoers, the "haircutters".

"Hoy resulta que es lo mismo ser derecho que traidor...! Ignorante, sabio o chorro, generoso o estafador...! Todo es igual. Nada es mejor." Tango Cambalache, Enrique Santos Discepolo.

"Today, there is the same result if you are honest or you don't keep your promises! Ignorant, wise, licentious, generous or scoundrel! Everybody is the same. No one is better!" Tango Cambalache, Enrique Santos Discepolo, Argentina, in Spanish.

- 4. For achieving Governmental and Public Justice, one should denounce the wrongs.
- "Qui tacet, consentire videtur, ubi loqui debuit ac potuit" Latin proverb, in Latin.
- "He who is silent, when he ought to have spoken and was able to, is taken to agree."
- 5. There is no Legal Justice when there is a huge gap between the law which favors the rich and powerful and justice which is meant to assist the weak and poor.

"Les lois sont des toiles d'araignées à travers lesquelles passent les grosses mouches et où restent les petites" La maison Nucingen, Honoré de Balzac.

"The laws are spider's webs that the fat flies succeed to go through, while the small flies get stuck to them." La maison Nucingen, Honore de Balzac, in French.

6. Communication Justice is achieved with transparency and full reporting of the wrongdoing to the public without interference of the government or powerful tycoons.

"Und Macheath, der hat ein Messer

Doch das Messer sieth man nicht." Die Dreigroschenoper, Bertolt Brecht.

"Und Macheath has got a knife

But the knife remains unseen."

The Threepenny Opera, Bertolt Brecht, in German.

7. Educational Justice is meant to prevent conformism and imitation of the wrongdoers.

"Chi va con lo zoppo impara a zoppicare".

"He who goes with the crook learns to be a crook". Italian proverb, in Italian.

8. Cultural Justice will be achieved if the intelligentsia will dare to express itself, even if they are alone, against the wrongdoing of the government, business and society.

"Den sterkeste mann i verden, det er han som står mest alene." En Folkefiende, Henrik Ibsen. "The strongest man in the world is he who stands alone most of the time." An Enemy of the People, Ibsen, in Norwegian.

9. Ecological Justice will be achieved if we can perceive on time the storm that is ahead of us, that can ruin the world.

"La dulse esperansa repoza sovre su kuesta,

I no lo desha sentir la boz de una tempesta

Ke furioza, menaza de destruyir el mundo."

La Vinya de Navot, Yosef Avraam Papo

"Sweet hope resides on its summit

Without being able to hear the noise of the tempest

That furious, is threathening to destroy the world."

La Vinya de Navot, Yosef Avraam Papo, in Ladino.

10. Global Justice will be achieved when all nations, societies and human beings will adhere to the Golden Rule, which is the basis of ethics and justice.

"דעליך סני לחברך לא תעביד" (שבת לא א – הלל

One should not treat others in ways that one would not like to be treated. (Shabat, 31:1), in Aramaic. In Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Confucionism, Buddhism, Hinduism, etc.

17. COSMOPOLITAN QUOTES ON BUSINESS ETHICS

1. "Morten: And what are we going to do, when you have made liberal-minded and high-minded men of us?
Dr. Stockman: Then you shall drive all the wolves out of the country, my boys!"
(Ibsen, An Enemy of the People, Act V)
2. "Selon que vous serez puissant ou miserable,
Les jugements de Cour vous rendront blanc ou noir."
According to your mighty or miserable position,
The judgment of court will render you white or black.
(La Fontaine, Fables, Livre septieme, Fable I)
3. "All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it's accepted as being self-evident."
(Arthur Schopenhauer, German philosopher, 1788-1860)
4. "I've become rich, friendless and mean,
and in America, that's as far as you can go."
(Mr. Vandergelder, "Hello, Dolly!")
5. "The accomplice of a thief is his own enemy;
He is put under oath and dare not testify."
(The Bible, Proverbs, 29:24)
6. "In a too limpid water, there are no fishes."
(Zen Proverb)

7. "Dr. Stockman: And just look here, Katherine - they have torn a great rent in my black

Mrs. Stockman: Oh, dear! – and they are the best pair you have got!

trousers too!

Dr. Stockman: You should never wear your best trousers when you go out to fight for freedom and truth."

(Ibsen, An Enemy of the People, Act V)

8. "Now a traveler came to the rich man,

But the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle

To prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him.

Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man

And prepared it for the one who had come to him."

David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan,

"As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this deserves to die!

He must pay for the lamb four times over,

Because he did such a thing and had no pity."

Then Nathan said to David: "You are the man!"

(The Bible, 2 Samuel, 12:4-7)

9. "Obsequium amicos veritas odium parit"

Readiness to oblige creates friends, frankness engenders hatred

(Terence, Andrienne, I,1,68)

10. "Hippolyte – Quelques crimes toujours precedent les grands crimes.

Quiconque a pu franchir les bornes legitimes

Peut violer enfin les droits les plus sacres;

Ainsi que la vertu, le crime a ses degres;

Et jamais on n'a vu la timide innocence

Passer subitement a l'extreme licence."

(Racine, Phedre, Acte IV, Scene II, 1094-1098)

"Hippolyte - Some crimes always precede major crimes.

Whoever has crossed the legitimate borders

Can ultimately violate the most sacred rights;

As with virtue, crime has its degrees;

And never have we seen timid innocence

Cross over suddenly to extreme license."

11. "He who walks righteously and speaks what is right,

who rejects gain from extortion and keeps his hand from accepting bribes,

who stops his ears against plots of murder

and shuts his eyes against contemplating evil -

this is the man who will dwell on the heights,

whose refuge will be the mountain fortress.

His bread will be supplied, and water will not fail him.

Your eyes will see the king in his beauty

and view a land that stretches afar.

In your thoughts you will ponder the former terror:

'Where is that chief officer?

Where is the one who took the revenue?

Where is the officer in charge of the towers?'

You will see those arrogant people no more,

those people of an obscure speech,

with their strange, incomprehensible tongue."

(The Bible, Isaiah, 34:15)

12. "The problem with being in the rat race is, even if you win, you're still a rat."

(Lily Tomlin)

13. "Les vertus se perdent dans l'interet comme les fleuves se perdent dans la mer."

Virtues get lost by personal interests like rivers that disappear into the sea.

(La Rochefoucauld, Maximes)

14. "God loves from whole to parts; but human soul

Must rise from individual to the whole.

Self-love but serves the virtuous mind to wake,

As the small pebble stirs the peaceful lake;

The centre moved, a circle strait succeeds,

Another still, and still another spreads;

Friend, parent, neighbour, first will it embrace;

His country next; and next all human race."

(Alexander Pope, 1688-1744, An Essay on Man)

15. "The truth can wait, for it lives a long life"

(Arthur Schopenhauer, German philosopher, 1788-1860)

16. "This is the land of the great big dogs, you don't love a man here, you eat him! That's the principle; the only one we live by."

(Miller, All My Sons, Act Three)

17. "It is often easier to fight for principles than to live up to them."

(Adlai E. Stevenson in a lecture in New York City in 1952)

18. "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be

devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money." (The Bible, The

New Testament, Luke, 16:13)

19. "Do not exploit the poor because they are poor

And do not crush the needy in court,

For the Lord will take up their case

And will plunder those who plunder them."

(The Bible, Proverbs, 22:22-23)

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"על דאטפת – אטפוך, וסוף מטיפיך – יטופון"

Al deateft atafouh - vesof metifaih yetoufoun (Aramaic).

"Because you have drowned others - you were drowned, and those who have drowned you - will be

drowned."

When Hillel the wise, as told in the Jewish Mishna, saw the head of a robber whom he knew,

floating in the river, Hillel said: "Because you have robbed and murdered your victims and thrown

their bodies into the river, your murderers who are also criminals have murdered you, and their crime will be punished by other criminals who will also kill them and throw their bodies into the

river."

The Mishna says in Sanhedrin (kof, ain aleph):

"במידה שאדם מודד – מודדין לו"

Bemida sheadam moded - modedin lo.

"A criminal is punished by the same measure of his crime."

Haman wanted to hang Mordachai and he himself was hanged. The Egyptians drowned the Hebrew babies and were themselves drowned while chasing the Hebrews who fled from Egypt.

20. "And We showed them the two highways. But they have not embarked upon the steep road.

And what will convey to you what the steep road is? Emancipating a slave, or feeding on a day of

hunger an orphaned relative or a pauper in misery. The one will be of those who believe, and enjoin

patience on one another, and exhort each other to kindness: they are the company on the Right

Hand. But those who repudiate our signs, they are the company on the Left Hand: over them will

be a vault of fire."

(Koran, The City, 10-20)

21. "Dr. Stockman: Well, but is it not the duty of a citizen to let the public share in any new ideas

he may have?

Peter Stockman: Oh, the public doesn't require any new ideas. The public is best served by the good, old-established ideas it already has."

(Ibsen, An Enemy of the People, Act II)

22. "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter

kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

(The Bible, Matthew, 18:3-4)

23. The TV series Yes Minister describes the trials of the British minister James Hacker and his chief of cabinet, Sir Humphrey Appleby. The minister discovers that the British government has received a contract from an Arab country by paying bribes. He is scandalized by his discovery and

tries to clarify the facts with Sir Humphrey.

"Humphrey. Are you telling me that BES got the contract through bribery?"

He looked pained. 'I wish you wouldn't use words like 'bribery', Minister.'

I asked if he'd prefer that I use words like slush fund, sweeteners, or brown envelopes.

He patronisingly informed me that these are, in his view, extremely crude and unworthy expressions for what is no more than creative negotiation.

'It is the general practice', he asserted.

I asked him if he realised just what he was saying. After all, I ratified this contract myself, in good

faith.

'And in that communique I announced to the press a British success in a fair fight.'

'Yes,' he mused, 'I did wonder about that bit.'

'And now,' I fumed, 'you are telling me we got it by bribery?'

'No, Minister,' he replied firmly.

There seemed to be a light at the end of the tunnel. My spirits lifted.

'Ah,' I said, 'we didn't get it by bribery.'

- 'That's not what I said,' he said carefully.
- 'Well what did you say?'
- 'I said I am not telling you we got it by bribery."

(Lynn and Jay, Yes Minister, p. 412)

- 24. "- Signor Hakham, el asno se cayo al poso!
- No se puede hazer nada, car c'est Hilul Shabat, il est défendu de travailler le jour du Sabbath.
- Ma es su asno, signor Hakham!
- Ah Dio santo! Se deve salvarlo! Mon Dieu, dans ce cas la, Pikuah nefesh dokhe Shabat, pour

sauver une âme on peut faire outre du Sabbath."

(Kuento, Judeo-Spanish folk story, told in Ladino, French and Hebrew, by Pauline & Albert Cory)

- "- Mister Rabbi, the donkey has fallen into the well!
- We cannot do anything, as it would be the sacrilege of Sabbath if we work on the holy day.
- But it is your donkey, Mister Rabbi!
- Good Lord! We have to save him! It is permitted in the Law to work on Sabbath in order to save a

soul."

25. "Conscience is but a word that cowards use,

Devis'd at first to keep the strong in awe:

Our strong arms be our conscience, swords our law.

March on, join bravely, let us to't pell-mell;

If not to heaven, then hand in hand to hell."

(Shakespeare, Richard III, Act V, Scene III)

26. "Theories are like nets: only those who throw them, will fish."

(Novalis)

27. "Who will guard the guards themselves?"

(Juvenal, Satires)

28. "A gift from the Danaans, and no ruse?

Is that Ulysses' way, as you have known him?

Achaeans must be hiding in this timber,

Or it was built to butt against our walls,

Peer over them into our houses, pelt

The city from the sky. Some crookedness

Is in this thing. Have no faith in the horse!

Whatever it is, even when Greeks bring gifts

I fear them, gifts and all. 'Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes.' "

(Virgil, The Aeneid, Book II, 62-70)

29. Nihil agis, nihil moliris, nihil cogitas, quod non ego non modo audiam, sed etiam videam planeque sentiam.

Nothing you do, nothing you undertake, nothing you plan that I would not only hear but would indeed plainly see and observe.

(Cicero in the Senate, the first oration against Catiline)

30. "Je fis souffler un vent révolutionnaire.

Je mis un bonnet rouge au vieux dictionnaire.

Plus de mot sénateur! plus de mot roturier!

Je fis une tempête au fond de l'encrier,

Et je mêlai, parmi les ombres débordées,

Au peuple noir des mots l'essaim blanc des idées;

Et je dis: Pas de mot ou l'idee au vol pur

Ne puisse se poser, toute humide d'azur!...

Je bondis hors du cercle et brisai le compas.

Je nommai le cochon par son nom; pourquoi pas?"

(Victor Hugo, Reponse a un acte d'accusation, Reply to a bill of indictment)

"I have swept a revolutionary wind.

I have put a red hat on the old dictionary.

No more noble! no more common people!

I have made a tempest at the bottom of the inkstand,

And I have blended, between the overloaded shadows,

The white swarm of ideas with the black multitude of words;

And I said: No words where the pure flight of ideas

Cannot land on, all humid from the azure sky!...

I have leaped out of the ring and broken the compass.

I have pointed the finger at the pig; why not?"

18. THE UNITED NATIONS' UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Jacques Cory has quoted in his books the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights and teaches it in his courses. The Declaration was translated into 444 languages and Cory has initiated, translated (with Ladinocomunita) and edited the translation of the document into Ladino, his mother tongue. This Declaration is the most comprehensive document on cosmopolitan human rights, business ethics, sustainable, social, economic, educational, and governmental justice. It is the common basis of international ethics and law.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Preamble

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

Now, therefore,

The General Assembly,

Proclaims this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

Article 1

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Article 3

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 4

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 6

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 7

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

Article 8

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Article 9

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 10

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

Article 11

- Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.
- 2. No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

Article 12

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 13

- 1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State.
- 2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Article 14

- 1. Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.
- 2. This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 15

- 1. Everyone has the right to a nationality.
- 2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Article 16

- 1. Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.
- 2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.
- 3. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Article 17

- 1. Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.
- 2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

Article 18

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article 20

- 1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
- 2. No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

Article 21

- 1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
- 2. Everyone has the right to equal access to public service in his country.
- 3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Article 22

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Article 23

- 1. Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.
- 2. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.
- 3. Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.
- 4. Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Article 24

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

Article 25

- Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.
- 2. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

Article 26

- 1. Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.
- Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.
- 3. Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Article 27

- 1. Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.
- 2. Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

Article 28

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

Article 29

1. Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.

- 2. In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.

 3. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles
- of the United Nations.

Article 30

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

19. COUNTRIES VISITED BY JACQUES CORY

(B – Business, A – Academic and Studies, T – Tourism and Residence)

The following links ,with written material, photos, video and audio, to the 60+ countries are to the Encyclopaedia Britannica, but there are also links to those countries in <u>National Geographic Countries</u>, and in BBC, Wikipedia, CIA and other websites.

I. AMERICA

- 1. <u>U.S.A.</u> B, A, T
- 2. Canada B, T
- 3. Venezuela T
- 4. **Peru** B, T
- 5. Brazil B, T
- 6. Argentina T
- II. AFRICA
- 1. Egypt A, T
- 2. $\underline{\text{Kenya}} B$, T
- 3. Mozambique B, T
- 4. South Africa B, T
- 5. Zaire (Congo) B, T
- 6. Nigeria B, T
- 7. Ghana B, T
- 8. Ivory Coast/Cote d'Ivoire B, T
- 9. Senegal B, T

III. ASIA

- 1. Israel B, A, T
- 2. Turkey T
- 3. Hong Kong T
- 4. <u>Taiwan</u> B, T
- 5. Thailand T
- 6. Singapore B, A, T
- 7. Japan T

- 8. West Bank/Judea and Samaria/Palestine T
- 9. Golan Heights/Syria T
- IV. OCEANIA
- 1. Australia T
- 2. New Zealand T
- V. EUROPE
- 1. Portugal B, T
- 2. <u>Spain</u> B, T
- 3. <u>France</u> B, A, T
- 4. Monaco T
- 5. <u>Italy</u> B, A, T
- 6. Vatican T
- 7. Greece B, T
- 8. Cyprus T
- 9. Hungary T
- 10. Czech Republic T
- 11. Croatia T
- 12. Slovenia T
- 13. Switzerland B, A, T
- 14. Germany (West) B, A, T
- 15. Germany (East) T
- 16. <u>Austria</u> T
- 17. United Kingdom B, A, T
- 18. <u>Belgium</u> B, A, T
- 19. Netherlands B, A, T
- 20. Denmark A, T
- 21. <u>Sweden</u> T
- 22. <u>Norway</u> T
- 23. Finland T

- 24. Russia T
- 25. Estonia T
- 26. Andorra T
- 27. Serbia T
- 28. Bosnia and Herzegovina T
- 29. Republika Srpska T
- 30. <u>Crna Gora/Montenegro</u> T
- 31. Albania T
- 32. Macedonia T
- 33. Bulgaria T
- 34. Romania T

The visits to East and West Germany were when they were separate countries, to Hong Kong when it was a British colony. There were also short stays in <u>Iceland</u>, <u>Ireland</u>, etc, visits in territories in dispute: Golan Heights – Syria, West Bank – Jordan, etc, and visits along the borders of <u>Turkish Cyprus</u>, <u>Lebanon</u>, <u>Laos</u>, <u>Burma-Myanmar</u>, <u>China</u>, etc.

All 60+ visits to countries were for Tourism (residence – Egypt, France, Israel), visits to 25 countries were for Business, visit to 12 countries were for – Academic, including studies at the Lycee in Egypt, studies up to BA in Israel, MBA & PhD in France, German studies in Germany, seminars in U.S.A., Switzerland, Israel, France..., Teaching and Lecturing in France, Singapore, Israel, Italy...

I am not the ultimate cosmopolitan, 60 countries may sound a lot, but I visited most of the countries for short visits of a few days and only once. I never relocated and stayed in Israel from the age of 9, more than 60 years, with a one year break when I studied at Insead, in Fontainebleau near Paris, France, in 1967/1968. The short stays of a day to a few days were in: Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil, all the African countries stated above except Egypt, Hong Kong, Japan, Vatican, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovenia, East Germany, Austria, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Andorra, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska, Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia, Bulgaria and Romania. I have stayed for a week, two weeks and up to a month in: Peru, Turkey, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, Portugal, Monaco, Cyprus, Croatia, Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, and Norway. I have stayed for more than a month up to a few months in aggregate in: Canada, Taiwan, Singapore, Spain, Italy, Greece, Switzerland, West Germany/Germany, and United Kingdom. I have stayed in Egypt for 9 years, in France in the aggregate about two years, in the US in the aggregate about a year, and in Israel – about 60 years less than the periods that I traveled abroad, and short visits to the West Bank and Golan Heights.

20. UNITED STATES – BUSINESS AND TRAVEL, ABOUT SERVICE & PUNCTUALITY

Visits to more than 25 states in the USA – <u>Washington</u>, <u>California</u>, <u>Nevada</u>, <u>Utah</u>, <u>Arizona</u>, <u>Minnesota</u>, <u>Texas</u>, <u>Michigan</u>, <u>Illinois</u>, <u>Louisiana</u>, <u>New York</u>, <u>Vermont</u>, <u>Massachusetts</u>, <u>New Jersey</u>, <u>District of Columbia (Washington)</u>, <u>Virginia</u>, <u>South Carolina</u>, <u>Pennsylvania</u>, <u>Florida</u>, <u>North Carolina</u>, <u>Ohio</u>, <u>New Mexico</u>, <u>Kansas</u>, <u>Alaska</u>, <u>Connecticut</u>, <u>Delaware</u>, <u>Maryland</u>...

If I accumulated all the <u>long periods</u> that I <u>stayed in the</u> US on <u>business and tourism</u>, or visiting <u>my son's family</u>, it would <u>amount to about</u> a year, with long stays of 3 to 6 weeks. I <u>worked with</u> a group of 26 <u>people on a contract with a large</u> aerospace <u>company at</u> Fort Worth for 5 weeks, I <u>traveled for months</u> when my <u>company got public</u> and raised <u>money on an</u> IPO, in New York and <u>on a road</u> show <u>from coast to coast</u>, I acquired <u>a company in</u> Boston and spent weeks in <u>negotiations and</u> as a <u>member of the</u> Board of Directors <u>of the subsidiary</u>. As VP Finance and Sales <u>and as a business</u> consultant, <u>I had plenty of</u> business in the US <u>— in sales, finance</u>, M&A, turnarounds, <u>selling know-how</u>, but I also <u>visited most of the country from</u> the Grand Canyon, I <u>was so amazed</u> from the <u>scenery that I stared at it for hours</u>, to Las Vegas, hell on earth, as it <u>represented all</u> what <u>I hated — gambling</u>, Mafia, <u>excessive heat</u>, artificial kitsch architecture, miserable people losing <u>all their money</u>. I <u>liked most</u> San Diego <u>and Boston</u>, but I enjoyed also the <u>intellectual experience</u> of <u>New York and</u> Broadway, <u>where I also</u> visited my cousin Betty who <u>lived there</u>. I <u>worked for a company in Los Angeles</u>, visited my son Amir's family in Palo <u>Alto and</u> before <u>that in Seattle...</u>

I have endless memories from my visits to the US, I'll just mention some events on service and punctuality comparing them to Israel. I was astonished in my first visits in the US from the excellent service that we encountered wherever we went, in malls, restaurants, banks and hotels. When Ruthy, my wife, visited for the first time the US it was in the eighties to visit her sister who spent a couple of years with her family in Palo Alto. She visited for the first time a mall, that her sister recommended, and entered a large store with an Israeli friend. At the store she was extremely surprised from the excellent service she received (how are you today, have a good day, don't worry I've plenty of time for you). After a while she addressed the saleswoman telling her that she probably thinks that she is Rachel who comes here a lot, but she is her twin sister... Her Israeli friend, who lived already for twenty years there, laughed and told her that this is the way that customers are treated even when they come to the shop for the first time and nag them incessantly. Her friend remembered that when she was on visit to Israel she went to an exclusive boutique, dressed casual as she was used to in spite of the multimillion exit of her husband, and wanted to purchase a very expensive dress, the shop assistant looked at her casual dress and told her that she'll show her other dresses as this one was too expensive for her budget...

A few years ago, I was asked to buy a camera accessory in New York, but mind you I was told: "buy it only where I tell you as they have the best quality at the cheapest price". I noticed that the shop is open on Sunday but closed on Saturday and when I arrived to the shop I understood why – it was a huge shop in the middle of Manhattan run by ultra-orthodox Jews who held most of the positions in the shop and managed the shop as well. I had to wait on line for a quarter of an hour as I came earlier than the opening hour and was sure that I'll spend there all morning with so many people waiting to be served. I was surprised that five minutes after the shop opened I came in and there was no queue. It took me less than ten minutes to buy the accessory who had to be brought from the warehouse and before a quarter of an hour after the shop opened I have purchased and paid. I was so astonished that I asked to speak with the manager of the shop who was also an ultra-orthodox standing nearby. I told him that

I wanted to congratulate him as this was the best run shop that I have ever visited in my life, and asked him how come that the ultra-orthodox here in the US excel so much in work while in Israel they spend all day long in the Yeshivas in most/many cases not ever working. He smiled and told me that it is because the US government is not foolish enough as the Israeli one to finance idle people, that the Torah requires explicitly for everyone to work even if they learn, and that the patent of religious people studying all day long without working was exclusive to Israel, unlike what happens in the US and Europe.

But I have encountered the most salient example of an excellent service, this time too good service, when I was the CFO of an Israeli very large high tech company. In those times I was Jack of all trades, responsible for Sales, Marketing, Finance, M&A and strategic planning. As I found out that the best way to expand in the US is by acquiring a US company, I negotiated with a local US company and decided to purchase it. The time of the closing arrived and we had to transfer a very large multimillion amount to the private owners of the company who came especially to Israel in order to sign all the agreement documents. At 4PM, when the US bank where we held our substantial deposits opened I phoned the bank, introduced myself -Jacques Cory, CFO of ..., and said that I have to transfer this huge amount to an American company. After a few moments I was transferred to the manager responsible for those transactions, I introduced myself, and asked him to transfer this amount from our bank account to the bank account of the sellers. He was very polite, said that he'll do it right away, and when I asked when they would see the amount in their bank account he said that it will be there within 10 minutes. After 10 minutes the bank of the sellers phoned them and told them that they have received the full amount. There were "bezos y abrazos" as we say in Spanish "hugs and kisses", well actually there were no kisses, es passt nicht with Americans, but we drank on the occasion (I drank only water), and the closing was very jovial, we congratulated each other, and hoped for the best...

In the middle of the night I had a nightmare and awoke in cold sweat. I dreamt that a swindler has phoned our American bank and transferred all our money to his private account. When I reconstructed what has happened I noticed that one of the largest US banks has transferred this huge amount without knowing me, without requesting a written confirmation, without demanding to speak to the CEO, they wanted to oblige us, to comply to our request and to speed their excellent service to us. First of all – the customer must be happy! In the morning I came sullen to my office, convened all the employees of the Finance department, rebuked the treasurer, and prepared instantly a detailed procedure how to transfer money from our US bank account, requesting prior identification, written confirmation, special codes known only to the CFO, the CEO, the US Branch manager, approval in writing and verbal from our CEO, and so on. I phoned the US bank at 4PM and asked to speak to the Branch manager, he expected congratulations but I reproached him for the careless way in which they have transferred the huge amount. What would have happened if I would have transferred the amount to my private account or if somebody else introducing himself as me would have taken all our money and transferred it to his account. The Americans were very surprised at my reaction as they thought that they had behaved correctly giving the best service to their clients, they were not also accustomed to be reprimanded as you never offend someone doing business in the US, even if he is wrong, and he made you lose money. You just fire him, wishing him a nice day...

And from service to punctuality in the US and Israel. On my first trip to the US in 1968, we travelled for almost a month in the most populated parts of this great nation, from the Nigara Falls to Washington DC, from Detroit to New York. The whole trip was financed for most of the alumnis of Insead by David Rockfeller who wanted to promote business between the US

and the Common Market and I received my diploma from him personally at the Chase Manhattan headquarters in New York, but was too poor to purchase the expensive photo. It is said that L'exactitude est la politesse des rois – punctuality is the politeness of kings, and although I am not a descendant of kings, not even a baron (although I met of course several times the Baron Edmond de Rothschild, who gave me the scholarship for Insead), I was almost never late throughout all my life. But in the trip I was late once (for 5 minutes), and the story goes like that: I sat in the bus and shared a room throughout the trip with a count (at Insead "half" of the students were barons, counts or marqueses, or at least sons of tycoons, except me of course who wore the same jacket all the year round) from a country which I'll not disclose its name in order not to strenghten prejudices. We became very good friends and once in Philadelphia, after we have put our luggage on the bus, we went to a nearby coffee shop for a breakfast. In the past few days, there were some alumni who were late, and it disturbed the schedule of the trip. So, the alumnus who was in charge of the trip, decided that the bus shall leave Philadelphia at 9 sharply and the students who will not be on time in the bus will remain in Philadelphia. There was only one problem, he was also a count from a family with hundreds of years of animosity with the family of my count. It goes without saying that they were from different nationalities.

At ten minutes to nine, I reminded my friend that we have to pay and go to the bus, otherwise we'll stay in Philadelphia. My friend laughed and said: "I know those bastards, they just talk and talk but he wouldn't dare to leave us here." At five minutes to nine, I got nervous, and said that I'll leave him and go by myself to the bus, but he said: "Don't behave like a chicken, you Israelis are supposed to be very brave". It was after the Six Day War, and what he implied but didn't say that you should be brave as opposed to your Jewish compatriots whom I know from my country. Well, now it was a question of honor, and I had to prove him that all his prejudices were incorrect. So, I stayed, and at nine we paid and ran for the bus, but alas, we saw the bus leaving without us. None of the students complained, although we were very good friends with most of them, which is another issue. We remained in Philadelphia without money (it was in our luggage), without knowing where we have to stay for the night in Washington, and of course we missed all the visits of the day. But we were young and resourceful, and we went to the reception of the hotel, phoned the organization who took care of the logistics and they told us the name of the hotel in Washington and advanced us \$100 for meals and bus tickets. We visited Philadelphia, and since then I didn't have the opportunity to visit the city, maybe because of the trauma, but my son Amir spent two fantastic years there as a Wharton student. In the late afternoon we took a bus to Washington with the rest of our money and when we arrived there it was late at night and we didn't have enough money for a taxi, so we had to go by foot for an hour in a dangerous neighborhood, but fortunately my count was very bulky and muscular, and we had enough mishaps for the day already, and fate was smiling for us at last, so all went well.

When we arrived at last to the hotel, the rival count laughed at us and said: "I told you that we'll leave pünktlich at nine and so we did!" I didn't disclose the nationality of the guy, as the Insead alumni spoke five languages and we used pünktlich in our English conversation as well. I'll just add that the other count was slim and strong only in words, and leave the reader to imagine what ensued, what we said to our friends who all of a sudden were against the organizer, they apologized that they didn't notice that we were missing, and when they did it was too late to return. Almost 50 years have elapsed since this event and I'm still not in speaking terms with the rival count, especially that if I disclosed the names and nationalities of the protagonists, with their family conduct in World War II, it would be clear what was the true reason that the count decided to leave both of us in Philadelphia, but of course he maintains until today that he did it only because we disrupted the trip, as he was extremely

politically correct. When we arrived to New York, my friend invited me to a party at his family penthouse near Central Park. I remember that I met there a girl named Gwendolyn who was astonished that I arrived to the party after spending the day in Harlem. It was 1968, and you had to be very courageous (or careless) to visit Harlem, but as I don't have prejudices and I was always a sympathizer of the underpriviledged, it was after the murder of Martin Luther King and Bob Kennedy, I was sure that nothing will ever happen to me. But Gwendolyn told her friends of my bravery and this was helpful to eradicate more entranched prejudices of her family and friends. It is worthwhile to mention that I received during all my life the doubtful compliments – outside Israel that I don't look or behave like a Jew, and in Israel that I don't look and behave like an oriental. Those who are prejudiced continue to cherish their prejudices, and they feel good that they are not racists as they have their "Jewish friend" or "Oriental friend". But I had also my prejudices, that however, I abandoned during this breakthrough year at Insead, the month before in Berlin and the month after in the US. I had negative prejudices against Germans whom I thought before were mostly anti-Semite, I found out that on the contrary they were extremely pro-Israelis, although some of them, but no more than the usual average were indeed against Jews. I lost also my prejudices against Arabs, as our best friends were Lebanese and Syrians, and on the contrary I found out that my positive prejudices towards French and Americans were unfounded and they were just like every other nationality, some were good and some were bad, no more and no less than the others, no more and no less than the Jews, Israelis, Italians, Poles, Arabs, Germans or English.

So, since then I don't think that I have any prejudices towards anybody, and especially not towards aristocrats and rich people. In Israel and in Egypt I never met aristocrats and rich people (I met some nouveaux riches who behaved pompously and I ridiculed them). At Insead in 1967 and 1968, most of the students and most of my friends, and I had dozens of friends, were aristocrats or rich people as the tuition and living expenses were very high and only rich people could afford to pay it. Very few had scholarships and only some of the Israelis had a scholarship for all their expenses paid by the baron Edmond de Rothschild. I felt like a fish in the water at Insead and not as an outsider as I felt at the University of Jerusalem. I received a socialist education, despising aristocrats and rich people without knowing them, brainwashed by the propaganda in my youth movement and by the literature I read. At Insead, first of all, I was at last at the same age as the other students and not the youngest student (I finished my graduate studies at the age of 20) as in Israel. Furthermore, I didn't like the faculty of Economics and I attended as few courses as possible, while I liked very much the international business studies at Insead. In Israel I was also one of the few "orientals" (less than 10% studied after high school, out of a population of more than 50% of the Israelis), and surely one of the poorest students. In a society which was quite racist and despiteful to poor people, at least at the University of Jerusalem which was then the only university in Israel with the Technion which taught only BSc courses. I felt that most of the students in Economics at the University were snobs, judging people by the size of their wallet, their origins, and on what can they benefit from the friendship.

What I say here may be completely untrue and give only my subjective feelings, but I felt during my academic studies and also during most of my primary and secondary studies (except for the first two years of high school) estranged and not belonging, which didn't prevent me to have very good friends (a few only) in spite of that. At Insead at last I felt completely at home, the aristocrats and rich people by the dozens were my good friends, didn't patronize me although they knew that I didn't have money, and behaved as equals, cordial, and as true friends. This was maybe due to the fact that all the studies were based on case studies and group dynamics in which I excelled, I had the hello as an Israeli after the glorious Six Day War, and I didn't have any inferiority complex towards anybody. I assisted

also the other students whenever needed, I was an excellent student, and a very thoughtful friend. Even, the baron as we called Edmond de Rothschild behaved equally although in his case he also paid for the tuition. I remember that he came once to have lunch with his Israelis grantees at the students' restaurant and for our bad luck they served chicken with the bones. So, we looked at each other baffled, not knowing how to behave in front of the baron, who would think that the Israelis are barbarians and don't have any manners. He noticed our confusion, and he told us that he didn't know either how to eat the chicken, so he grabbed it with his hands and, relieved, we did the same. In comparison to the nouveaux riches that I knew from Israel those aristocrats and rich people who lived in riches for generations didn't need the affected manners that they thought came with the riches. I owe at least the kick-off of my career to the baron, without him it would have taken me much longer if at all to succeed. I wrote also how David Rockfeller financed our trip to the US for a month, so in spite of my prejudices I benefited a lot from philanthropists, although many tycoons of today have a despicable conduct and I write about that a lot in my ethical books and articles.

Many socialist friends say that I have a selective memory and tycoons are OK as long as they give me scholarships or grants, because the forefathers of the Rockfellers and the Rothschilds behaved unethically towards their stakeholders, but I hope that I am objective, and if you check the history of every aristocrat or philanthropist's families you may find skeletons in their closets, but so can we find in every nation as well - Spanish with the Inquisition, German with the Hollocaust, French with Vichy and Dreyfus, Arabs with the Israeli War of Independence, Six Day War, etc., UK, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, Japan, etc. with colonialism, US with Vietnam, and our lovers would also add Israel and the West Bank occupation. What matters after all is what happens today – Germany is the most friendly country towards Israel, France has uprooted most of the anti-Semitic seeds that it had 70-100 years ago (now, I am not so sure, as they don't do enough to eradicate the animosity of some of their radical Muslim minorities, extreme left and right parties, and "ordinary" racists), there is no more segregation in the US, apartheid in South Africa, and Spain wants to give citizenship to all the Sephardis. Edmond de Rothschild was one of the most ethical bankers in his generation, and David Rockfeller behaved quite opposite to how the robber barons behaved. If you remember too much what has each country done in the past, or what the family of a benefactor did two generations ago, you would remain without friends and stay confined to your country - you have to judge a country upon its conduct in the present generation or a man only upon his conduct during his life time. Beware of too much purism, otherwise you'll always be spiteful and angry.

As I have chosen to speak in this chapter about punctuality, I will bring here three other stories – one when I arrived on time after all, one when I was late for the first time, and one when I did not arrive. During my years as a consultant and projects manager, I managed large projects, one of them was to get an Approved Enterprise for an American company that wanted to invest \$270 million in Israel. This was by far my largest project and also the highest amount ever approved to an investment in Israel, so it brought a lot of attention. The tycoons who "didn't see from a meter" as we say in Hebrew, were all of a sudden my best friends, there were articles in the newspapers, I met personally Ariel Sharon who was the Minister of Industry and Shimon Peres who was the Minister of Finance, everybody wanted to be my friend and receive a part of the investment or finance it. The final meeting for getting the approved enterprise was to be held in Jerusalem at the headquarters of the Ministry of Industry at 9 AM. I live in Haifa, so I left home at 5 AM, four hours before the meeting, while normally it took then two to three hours to arrive by car to Jerusalem. This day all the mishaps happened, there were accidents, traffic jams, and finally when I arrived to the Ministry I couldn't find parking. At ten minutes to nine, I had to reach a decision – it was unthinkable

that I would be late, becaused of the importance of the issues, the fact that the general manager of the ministry was to attend and I couldn't be late. So, I parked... on the parking lot of the general manager! This was the only one available and I figured that even if he arrived at the last moment, his driver would take care of his car. When we finished the meeting a few hours later (I didn't disclose the "crime" that I did, possibly my worst crime ever) I saw that my car was not there. I didn't ask where my car was, as I didn't want to make a bad impression, and so I took a taxi to the tow car parking garage, I paid the fine of a few hundred Shekels willingly (I would have paid also a thousand dollars – which gives me an idea for a business – parking lot for latecommers that cost a hundred dollars for parking), took my car and returned home. For the first time in my life I parked where I was not supposed to park. Does the end justifies the means? I would in no case park on the parking lot of a handicapped, but for once, because of the extreme situation, I made something that for me was extremely unethical.

I taught for ten years at seven univesities, in Israel and abroad, in Haifa, Tel Aviv, Netanya, Singapore, etc. and was never late for my courses. When I taught at Tel Aviv, I used to arrive a couple of hours before time - as a buffer in case that the train would be late, to talk to students who knew that they can always find me before the course, and to cool off before starting to teach. If I was sick I came to teach, and I gave my conduct as an example to the students who were often late - they gave a lot of excuses, but I argued that there is no excuse for being late. However, once I was late by 40 minutes... to my course at the Tel Aviv University. I took an early train as always, I found in my waggon a student from the Carmel College, and read a novel as I always did during my travels on train. This was a novel by Balzac, so I didn't notice what was going on the train. All of a sudden I saw fire on both sides of the waggon and it was full of smoke. There was quite a panic, bearing in mind that the driver didn't notice the fire and the train continued its travel to Tel Aviv. The doors were locked as a safety measure when the train was moving. I didn't lose my temper, I am at my best in extreme situations, and together with other passengers banged on the driver waggon. His wagon is also locked because in case of a terrorist attack they would not take hold of the train. Finally, after a couple of minutes, that we thought were an eternity he heard our bangs and saw the fire, he opened his door and stopped the train. We had to evacuate the train hastily, but there was a problem as we stopped in the middle of nowhere where there were large rocks and we had to jump to the rocks that were two meters below. The young people, and my student the first one jumped and received us "the elderly', women and children in his arms, and we were not hurt. A couple of days later at my course I praised this student as a hero, as he saved us from wounds, as 120 other passengers were. The cause of the wounds was that the doors of the waggons didn't open although the train has stopped and the other passengers, especially in the wagon next to us which caught fire, had to break the windows and jump from the broken windows to the rocks, and so were wounded. The wounded were taken care by some of the passengers who were doctors, nurses, soldiers and train staff.

The first thing that I did after jumping from the burning train was to phone home and tell Ruthy that I am OK and not to worry to the news that she would hear shortly. The second thing that I did was to phone the faculty at the Tel Aviv university, explained to them that our train was on fire and there were many wounded, but I was OK, except that I have inhaled a lot of smoke. They told me to return home, but I answered that I'll come to the course and tell the students to stay in the class, but I don't know when they will evacuate the passengers who were not wounded. As we stopped in the wilderness (there are still some wild spots from Haifa to Tel Aviv) there was no way to evacuate us. The wounded finally were taken to the hospitals, including those who inhaled smoke. But although I inhaled smoke and could barely breathe, I refused to be evacuated and remained there until finally, after a couple of hours

buses came to take us to Tel Aviv and from there I took a taxi to the University and started my course right away with a 40 minutes delay, the first (and only) time in my academic career. The students were amazed how I continued my routine without interruption and I told them that I'll teach them two more lessons on the first week of the vacations to compensate for the loss of the 40 minutes and those who didn't have the opportunity to present their case studies would do that next week. I suffered very much from this event, both physically and mentally – as having inhaled a lot of smoke I had problems in giving my lectures (at those times I lectured for 20 hours every week), but the students didn't notice it, but even more mentally as I suffered from the fact that my course, which always went punctually started on time and ended on time, after having accomplished all the assignments of the lecture, were for the first time unbalanced for a couple of weeks. I nearly got killed, if the train would not have stopped all the train would got burned, and we were in the waggon just after the one that caught fire, so it was just a question of minutes that saved my life, and furthermore I was not even wounded by the rocks, but luckily the only damage was this minor one. I try to find the right proportions in my reaction to what happens to me, on the one hand events that disturb my harmonious life annoy me very much, and on the other hand loss of health and money, rejection of my books by publishers or of my candidacy to PhD programs by universites don't bother me too much. My basic attitude is that if I can't change the course of events I am not annoyed, as it is not worthwhile to lose your temper on "acts of God or devil", but if I can – I do my best to change the situation, even if the events are minor.

The third event of punctuality was an event where I didn't arrive at all to the meeting with my directeur de these in Paris. If you write a dissertation for a PhD in France, you have to be in excellent terms with your directeur de these, as he directs your thesis/dissertation and no one else gets involved in the process until the end when they appoint a jury who examines you in a session open to the public at a large hall of your univesity in Paris. I was lucky to find a good directeur de these who was interested in my subject – ethics to minority shareholders – a breakthrough dissertation, the first one ever in the world on this topic, which is one of the most accute in the business world, and after the scandals of 2001/2 and the Great Recession of 2008/9 even more. This professor worked at the University of Paris, the most prestigious university in France and one of the best in the world. I started to work on the dissertation, first of all reading more than a hundred books, and much more articles, including the professional books that she recommended me, and after that started to write my dissertation, reseraching cases of wrongdoing to minority shareholders in the US, France and Israel. Every month or two months I traveled to Paris on business, as I worked on many projects there, and also to meet my professor. All what I had to pay was a registration fee of 200 Euros, as education in France is free up to the PhD and also to foreign students. All went well for a couple of years and the directeur de these was happy with my progress (I continued to work full time, and I made my research, read the books, and afterwards wrote the 500 pages dissertation on top of that in a 25 hours day). In 2000, after having finished the writing and arriving to conclusions - finding the rules that govern wrongdoing to the minority shareholders, I sent it to my professor, and we scheduled to meet during my next visit to Paris. But, l'homme propose et Dieu dispose, man can plan but God or fate decides, on the day that I scheduled to meet her there was a general strike in Paris.

There was no metro, no buses, no taxis, and the meeting place was not in a walking distance from my hotel. I tried for a couple of hours to get a taxi, that were almost unaivable, to no avail, and finally I had to phone her and tell her that I cannot get to the meeting. I saw that she was pissed off (the directeur de these is like a God for the PhD students, less so for a student aged 55 who had accomplished a thing or two in his life), she said that it will have bad repercussions on my PhD, that she was not contented with my conclusions, and that I should

try again and again to meet her as she wanted to tell me in details what were her reservations. I tried to hire a car, I told the reception of my hotel that I was willing to pay any price for a taxi or a car but to no avail. Ultimately, when I met her on the next month in my new visit to Paris she told me that if I was not willing to change my conclusions she would not approve my dissertation. I told her that my conclusions were scientifically proven and were based on a thorough research and on 30 years of experience, it was the essence of the dissertation and there was no way that I would change her. So, she said that in this case she would not approve my dissertation and that all what I have worked would be worthless as no other university or professor would want to work with me. She thought that I would give in, but I wouldn't give up. Actually, she was almost true, as it was quite impossible to find a university or a professor who would accept my dissertation after what happened with the University of Paris. I am an expert in finding a way out of hopeless situation. After consulting many professors, applying to more than 100 universities all over the world, I decided to translate my dissertation into English, and write two books that would be based on my dissertation. I found one of the most prominent academic publishers in the world Kluwer that agreed to publish both books in 2001. The books received good reviews, but even more, I could present them as the basis for my new dissertation, especially after that the Enron scandal in December 2001 and the other corporate scandals that ensued proved that I was right in all my conclusions, and that I had foreseen the scandals in my books. This fact received the academic attention, I was approached by another directeur de these at CNAM, one of the best universities in Europe and the best one in business ethics. They were willing to meet me during my next visit to Paris. On the day of the meeting at 8.30 AM, guess what? There were no metros available, I waited for half an hour to no avail, no taxis as well. I thought that I live in a "déjà vu", that it was impossible that history would turn against me twice the same way in the same city on the same topic. I phoned the professor telling him of the problem and getting his permission to be late. Finally, I found a taxi, arrived an hour late, but luckily there was a perfect chemistry with this professor who became my directeur de these. He thought highly of me, my books and my experience, I wrote once again a new dissertation based on the corporate scandals of Enron, etc. and on my two academic books. My dissertation was received warmly by my directeur de these and by the Jury comprising of five prominent professors, I got finally my PhD at the age of 60 (it is never too late and four years after scheduled), started my academic career, wrote many other books, taught thousands of student, and invented myself newly. Thinking that all that would not have occurred because I was late to a meeting and late again to another meeting at another university a few years later... So, maybe after all the fact that I am so punctual has affected very favorably my career, and one should do his utmost never to be late!

21. VISA PROBLEMS IN CANADA AND PERU

I worked for a Canadian company and managed an M&A agreement that took more than a year to conclude, I sold a simulator system to Peru and went there on business several times. In those two countries I had problems with my working visas, but from opposite angles. In Canada I came for the first times on a tourist visa, as my employers didn't tell me that I needed a working visa. Only after I was asked by the Canadian official what is the purpose of my frequent visits I told him that I come on business for a Canadian company. I was held for several hours at the airport until the company paid a large amount of money to "release" me. Nevertheless, I had a fantastic experience in Canada, sensing that it is indeed a model country, like Australia and New Zealand, so beautiful, with lovely sceneries, the lakes, the Niagara Falls, Victoria, Vancouver, with such friendly people. It is indeed a pity that some Canadians have an inferiority complex towards their big brother the US, but they should be proud of their country – its political and economic model, aiming primarily to improve its citizens' welfare – in education, health, safety, clean air, equality, culture, indeed a model country. They even have overcome the linguistic problem with the French Canadians, and study (God forbids...) two languages, amazing!

In Peru, the problem was exactly opposite. I had a working visa although I came to sell and was not employed by the Peruvians. When I was about to leave Lima's airport, on Friday night with my colleague, to spend a weekend in Rio for the first time, my friend went ahead of me, and the official asked me why I didn't have a certificate that I had concluded business. I answered that the negotiations are still in process, but the official insisted that he needs a certificate. My friend, who was already on the other side, gesticulated and showed me to put money for the official. But this was against my principles, so I had to return to the hotel, stayed in Lima for the weekend, and on Monday I got the certificate. I didn't dance samba in Rio, but my conscience remained clear. And what if I would have been arrested for bribing officials? Well, a clear conscience is something quite subjective, as the worst economic and political criminals, the most wicked gangsters, have also a clear conscience, as Mark Twain said: "A clear conscience is the sure sign of a bad memory." Nevertheless, I have managed to sail on the troubled water of business with a clear conscience and a good memory...

But this visa problem was insignificant in comparison to the loveliness of the Peruvian country, the friendliness of the Peruvians, the wonderful time that I had at Iquitos, cruising the Amazon and trekking the jungle, inventing stories for my children and grandchildren about Indians named funny names as Gigimushu, Chichibamba and Gagaraga, animals named even funnier names based on Ladino words – such as the lion Hastrapula, the giraffe Siskerina, and the monkey Sholobolo. Those stories made the delight of the children and I wrote with the assistance of my daughter Shirly and grandson Ido, who were the most addicted to the stories, a children book "Ijiko and his grandparents in the jungle" illustrated by a friend painter Elena Gat. But I wrote other children books as "The Rain Fairy", dedicated to my wife Ruthy - my fairy, illustrated by my son Joseph, and told captivating stories invented or based on books such as the Odyssey and Ulysses, Alice in the wonderland, etc., to my children Joseph, Amir and Shirly, and then to my grandchildren Tomer, Doron, Ophir, Noga, Itai, Noam David, Ido and Yaeli. I made very short visits in transit from business in Venezuela – to visit my wife's family, Argentina that looked so European, and Brazil, where I extremely enjoyed Rio and visited my family in Sao Paulo. I love Latin/South America and plan to visit it for a few months, though not as a muchilero. I feel there at home (minus the bribing, in this respect I am Danish), the songs move me to tears, I like the people who are happy and friendly in spite of the poverty, but I am aware to what I hear from my Venezolan and Brazilian families, that besides the folklore there is much crime and theft, that fortunately I have not experienced.

22. CHILDHOOD IN EGYPT, JEWISH AND ARAB REFUGEES, BUSINESS IN AFRICA

I was born in Cairo in Africa, and lived there for 9 years. I remember visiting the Pyramids, the Museum of Cairo with all its mummies & glorious past, seeing at least 3 films per week with my parents, most of them in open-air cinemas, staying every year about a month in Alexandria and going to the beach. The desert, the Nile, the sea, my family, my friends, the poverty of the local people, the cosmopolitan environment with Arabs, Copts, Greeks, Italians, Jews, French, English, Armenians. I studied at the French school - the Lycee from the age of 5 in the second grade, as my mother Pauline taught me to read and write from the age of 3, and suffered a lot from being the smallest kid in class. I (aged 7-9) had a traumatic experience from the revolution in 1952, the burning of Cairo by the Shabab, the fear of the Jews from the Arabs... As a matter of fact, the fact that I was born in Cairo is purely incidental, as it didn't affect me in any way, as for example my life in Israel, my Sephardic origins, my European affinities, my business trips all over the world. I know many people that were born in China or Kazakhstan, as their parents fled the Nazis in Europe and relocated as far as they could from the war in Europe. They were born in China but it didn't make them Chinese or Kazaks in any way, especially if they remained there only for a few years, as I did in Cairo until the age of 9. Furthermore, the Chinese or the Kazakhs were not their enemies as the Egyptians, who were the enemies of the Jews after Israel was founded in 1948, and we had to fear them even more as my father was a Zionist, and after Cairo was burned by the Shabab and the revolution took place in 1952. This does not mean that I deprecate in any way the Egyptians, the Arabs or the Africans. There were Jews who lived for generations in Egypt and were part of the social texture of the country, but even my parents lived in Egypt for 31-43 years, as we were of Sephardic/Spanish and Portuguese origin, and my family lived in Greece, Turkey, Italy for most of the time after 1492, and in the 20th century received an education in English (my father), in French (my mother, my brother and me), in Hebrew (me).

Many compatriots, Jews who like me left Egypt at the age of 9 or 10, have a vivid and positive memory of Egypt and have written books glorifying those days. I personally was very glad to leave Egypt as we lived there in fear, and I never returned to visit the country as many friends have done. By the way, most of them were very saddened to see that nothing remains from the sites that they left, as Alexandria and Cairo were European cities when we lived there and now have become very poor, Judenrein and Europeanrein, with huge Egyptian populations and without Jews or Europeans, as in all the Arab states except Morocco. One of the sagas that Jews in Arab countries lived peacefully with the Arabs is completely false, with pogroms in Syria and Iraq, persecutions in Egypt and Yemen, so Jews had to flee in order not to be murdered. Martin Gilbert wrote in 2010: In Ishmael's House: A History of the Jews in Muslim Lands, New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, ISBN 978-0-300-16715-3. This book challenges the commonly view that Jews in Muslim lands were treated well most of the time, more often they were regarded as second class citizens, dhimmi, and were subject to physical attacks and harassment. In Egypt the situation was relatively better due to the British soldiers, but after they were evacuated and even sooner the Egyptians killed, wounded and emprisoned all those that were suspect of "treason".

This precarious situation worsened extremely with the creation of the State of Israel in 1948 and after the Israeli army has vanquished all the Arab armies who tried to kill all the Jews and complete what Hitler has not succeeded to do when his army has lost the battle of El Alamein. The position of the Jews became rapidly intolerable with the only solution of mass migration, while leaving behind all of their possessions. Today, there are only a few thousands Jews left in all the Muslim lands. And one symptomatic story – after the Egyptian revolution in 1952

the new nationalistic government has forbidden the Jews to mention in the Haggadah at Passover that the Egyptian army of the Pharaohs has drowned in the sea by Jehova who rescued the Jewish slaves. This mention was pejorative against the glory and heroism of the Egyptian Army from the times of the Pharaohs until 1953. My father who was a Zionist was shocked by this and asked the Chief Rabbi how can the new regime interfere even in the prayers. The Chief Rabbi smiled and answered him: "My son, whatever they ask us to do, you and me know exactly what is the truth!"

Those of us who are interested in the story of Egyptian Jews who fled and were expelled from Egypt can read about a dozen books in English and French and much more in Hebrew, according to the following list. The first two books have succeeded very much in the US and were written by very good friends of mine – Gormezano Goren and Bar-Av who arrived with us from Egypt to a small village in Israel Kfar Ata. I have read some of those books, and according to the reviews they are all excellent and worth reading. My play takes place in Israel, but the protagonists are also Sephardic Jews - Greeks and Egyptians - who live still in the past. And read also the masterpiece by Lawrence Durrell about cosmopolian Egypt – The Alexandria Quartet.

Yitzhak Gormezano Goren - Alexandrian Summer

Avraham Bar-Av (Bentata) - 17, Sheikh Hamza Street, Cairo

Andre Aciman - Out of Egypt

Lucette Lagnado - The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit

Lucette Lagnado - The Arrogant Years

Jean Naggar - Sipping from the Nile

Liliane Dammond - The Lost World of the Egyptian Jews

Lucienne Carasso - Growing Up Jewish in Alexandria

Ada Aharoni - Not in vain

Aslan Ben Eliahou - I am a Jew from Egypt

Alain Bijio - The Journey

Jacques Cory - Le Choix de Nelly

Tobie Nathan - Ce Pays qui te ressemble

The Palestinians have succeeded in brainwashing the Western World with the refugees' problem. 500,000 to 700,000 refugees have left Palestine, most of them induced to do so by their leaders who have promised them to return within a few weeks after the Arabs would annihilate the Jews in Israel, half a million against a hundred million Arabs. From those refugees only 50,000 are still alive, 67 years after they left, while the so-called 5 million refugees wanting the right of return were not born in Palestine and the Arab states have preferred to finance with their billions petrodollars wars and terrorist attacks instead of solving once and for all the refugees problem in their countries where they are only a very small minority. The Jews from the Arab states who were expelled and fled after 1948 were 900,000, 50% more than the Palestinian refugees. Their assets that were confiscated were

much more than the assets of the Palestinians. All of them were integrated in Israel, France, Brazil, US, UK, Australia, Canada, etc, in one or two years without the assistance of the UN of tens of billions dollars. They have succeeded very much in business, academics, liberal professions (the books that I've mentioned are only a small example) and none of them is a terrorist. The Palestinian refugees will return to Israel and Palestine when the German refugees will return to Koenigsberg in Russia, Stettin in Poland, the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia. Oh, but the Germans have lost the war and must bear the consequences. Well, the Arabs who attacked Israel have also lost the war and must bear the consequences. Why nobody asks for the right of return of the Greeks from Smyrna and Asia Minor (Erdogan would be delighted) and Turks from the Balkans, Poles, Ukrainians, Africans, Americans, Asians, the Serbs, Croats, Bosnians - in Republika Sprska, Croatia, Bosnian Federation, Cyprus, Pakistan and India - where 14 millions moved to the other side and up to half a million were murdered...

Nobody has helped the Egyptian Jews and me, and some of them have written books and will continue to live again the past in books and dreams, as this is the only way to solve the problem of the refugees. What upsets me is the effective brainwashing of the Palestinians that convinces many Americans and Europeans who have adopted the anti-Semitic and racist precepts of BDS, who advocate the right of return, thus the end of Israel. When the forefathers of the Palestinians lived in Palestine it was a very poor country, as many Arab states are today. The Arab states could have kept the Jewish and Christian populations, trying to prosper jointly in a multi-cultural state, like Canada and Australia. They opted for a policy of expulsion, as in Algeria and Egypt. They had their reasons of course, as they thought that the European populations prevented the Muslims to succeed and exploited the poor Arabs. But the result was that their countries are now very poor, even poorer than when the Europeans lived there. Herzl had a vision in Altneuland that the Jews and the Arabs will build together an exemplary state. Unfortunately, this did not happen, and the Jews and Arabs blame each other for that. Most of the attempts of economic collaboration have failed (I witnessed one of them while teaching at the Palestinian-Israeli MBA in the University of Haifa). It is impossible to prosper when the Jews are depicted as Nazis by the Palestinians who launch a Nazi-like propaganda against Israel and the Jews. Herzl had many merits – he had a vision, he was a gifted writer, he was a good politician - but he was not an orientalist and believed that the Arabs would welcome the Jews trying to build together an exemplary state. If he would have lived 20 years more (he died at the age of 44...) he would have witnessed the collapse of the multi-national Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Arab riots against the Jews in Palestine in 1921, and the independence of Ireland, as people prefer to be poorer but free in an independent entity, than richer in a two-nationalities state. Even the exemplary Scandinavians did not succeed to have a united kingdom in Norway, Sweden and Denmark. And so, the Scots want to get independence, as well as the Catalans, Basques, etc.

A two-nationalities state does not exist in most of the countries of the world – not anymore in Czechoslovakia, in Rwanda, Burundi, in India, Pakistan, in Romania, Poland, Ukraine, in Turkey, Greece, and in Yugoslavia. It still exists in Belgium, but the Flemish want independence, and anyhow they are now the majority, the same applies to Switzerland where the Swiss Germans are the majority, there is a lot of resentment from the French speaking Quebec in Canada, and Canada is now much more an emigration melting pot, as Australia and the United States are. I am very skeptic about what will happen in South Africa, it did not work in North and South Rodesia, but there are millions of Europeans in South Africa, who are the richest and hold top positions, however many of them are emigrating to other countries, as the crime rates and economic crises have become unberarable to large segments of them. I often wonder why so many African and Asian countries have not opted to take

from the European/American model what is essential to succeed, and adapt it to the local heritage. Singapore, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Botswana, and many other countries have done it, without inferiority complexes and thrive, having grown to the forefront of progress. Why most of the Muslim states have not opted to adopt the European/American model (except Ata Turk's Turkey, at least prior to becoming more and more a fundamentalist state)? Is it a question of pride (Japan was a much prouder nation), of complexes, of fundamentalism? Nothing prevents the Muslim states to reach the forefront of progress like Japan or Taiwan, more so the petrodollars rich countries, to become democratic, with a respect to human rights, with gender equality, with a humane capitalism country. Muslim states were at the forefront of progress in the Middle Ages, Lebanon was before the civil war broke out, Iran would have become so before the Ayatollas took over, Turkey was so for a long period. But the civil wars, the totalitarian governments, corruption, gender inequality, trampling of human rights, extreme fundamentalism prevented them to become first world countries, not "genetic" problems as the Arabs and Muslims are intelligent and competent at least as the Jews and Christians, not lack of funds as with the petrodollars all the economic and social problems (including the refugees) would have been solved within a few years, if they would distribute the riches of petroleum like Norway and not kept the riches for a few families.

The Jews and Arabs in Israel, like the Chinese, Malays and Indians in Singapore have made the two underdeveloped countries to first world countries at the forefront of progress. Israel has become a High Tech country, with an ultramodern agriculture and industry, water desalination, petrochemical and pharmaceutic industries. Israel is the only democratic country in the Middle East, while in most of the neighboring countries - Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Afghanistan, Algeria, Sudan, Lebanon, there are/were civil wars with hundreds of thousands of casualties, millions in an aggregate account, while in all the Palestinian conflicts there were "only" thousands of casualties on both sides. When one or four Palestinian children are killed because rockets were launched by the Hamas and Israel retaliated against the launching sites that were set by the Hamas in populated areas - all the world is outraged, the press, humanitarian organizations, students, but when hundreds of Israeli children in Tel Aviv, Haifa and Jerusalem are killed by terrorists nobody even wince, as also is the case when hundreds of thousands of civilians are killed in civil wars. In the other Arab countries there is extreme poverty as in Egypt, or plutocracies in the oil-rich countries, where most of the wealth belongs to a few families. Most of Israeli population has turned into hawks because of the extreme hypocrisy of the UN and many countries, that condemn all the time Israel while not condemning the most savage regimes, because of the Nazi propaganda and terrorist attacks of the Palestinians and the aggression of Hamas/Gaza and Hizballah/Lebanon after we have withdrawn. We do not believe anymore the mantra that the occupation brings about terror, as terror increases after we have withdrawn from all the territories in Gaza, Lebanon and most of the West Bank in 2000, as we saw that a Dovish behavior has only brought worse reactions, as happened with the pacifist behavior of France and UK towards Germany (militarisation, Munich, Anschluss...) before World War II.

But the sympathizers of BDS will learn the hard way with whom they are dealing, when dozens of attacks as 9/11 will occur by the soldiers of ISIS who infiltrate in Europe with the refugees and are installed among the Muslim populations in Europe and America. The politically correct attitude of Europe in the name of free speech is suicidal as they let extreme Muslim fundamentalists preach in some of the Madrasas against the countries that are hospitable to them, give them work and social benefits. The majority of the Arabs and the Muslims want to live in peace and integrate in Israel or in Europe, but their extreme fundamentalist leaders, financed by nuclear Iran and by petrodollars (and the West continues

to court those countries), do whatever they can to annihilate the Christian and Jewish states in order to revive the Islamic State/Empire, as can be seen in the map of ISIS that encompasses southern Europe (but Scandinavia, Germany, France, UK, Benelux will come next...), half of Africa and a great part of Asia. Israel is not the stronghold of Apartheid, as the Arabs who live with us have the best living conditions in the Arab world and are excellent doctors, students, farmers, contractors... Israel is a European stronghold in the Middle East, it is the avant-garde of progress, democracy and freedom, that is assisting to prevent the right of return to the Middle Ages in the retrograde Islamic State.

I made only one business trip to Africa in 1972, trying to sell them Israeli air conditioners, for a few days in every country - Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Zaire, Nigeria, Ghana, Ivory Coast and Senegal. I remember the exotic scenery, the slow motion of living in comparison to the hectic pace in the US, the poverty. I met family (who lived before in Egypt) in Zaire and Israeli friends in Ivory Coast and Nigeria, who made me aware of much crime and theft. My friends in Nigeria traveled to visit their next door neighbor only by car as it was dangerous to go by foot even a few meters. I asked my friends what were the automotive carcasses by the dozens that were lying by the highway between Lagos and Ibadan and was told that these were the cars that broke and within minutes came locals from the bushes, murdered the passengers and robed everything. So, i asked them, how could they live in such conditions and they told me that they earned a lot of money and within a few years they can save enough money to buy a house in Israel. In Ivory Coast i remembered that at the end of the programs on TV I heard the national hymn that started with the words - soyez beni Houphouet-Boigny – be blessed Houphouet-Boigny, the leader of the country. He was commonly known as the Sage of Africa, who however moved the country's capital from Abidjan to his hometown of Yamoussoukro where he built the world's largest church – at a cost of US\$300 million..., but Ivory Coast was much safer than Nigeria or Zaire. In Ghana, I saw the plane that had to take me to Ivory Coast flying over the airport without landing as it was already full, and I had to wait for another day at Accra.

In Kenya I took a safari and visited a Maasai village, in Senegal I was amazed that the business hours were only from nine to noon, as it was too hot to work in the afternoon. Lourenco Marques (Maputo) was one of the loveliest towns that I have ever seen, but I heard that the situation changed drastically after the Portuguese left, and I was impressed by Pretoria and Johannesburg, much less by the extreme poverty of the population in comparison to the wealth of the white people, that reminded me of Cairo. Communist, fascist, and colonial regimes are very bad for their population, but when they are overthrown by the population it can change the situation for the better or worse. Poland and the Czech Republic have managed extremely well in comparison to Russia and Belarus. Israel and Singapore are among the richest countries in the world after they became independent, starting from zero, Botswana is in a much better situation than Zimbabwe. In many countries in Africa the local dictators or the civil wars deteriorated the situation of the population much more than before. After the French and the English left their colonies, in most of the Arab states there are civil wars or dictatorships and none of them has become democratic or has achieved a high standard of living (except for some segmnets of the population in the oil rich countries). Yet, Jordan, Morocco and the Gulf states are in a much better situation than Yemen, Iraq or Syria. But before condemning the populations of African and Arab countries who suffer most and are the victims of their regimes, we should bear in mind that while the poor people in the Western neoliberal countries are in a much better situation than the poors in Africa or the Arab countries, the inequality in those countries is sometimes equivalent, the gaps between rich and poor have reached umprecedented levels, and racism has sometimes increased. Although Milton Friedman boasts that there is freedom and democracy in the neoliberal

countries how come that they are effectively plutocracies, with the highest levels of incarceration, and where the top 1% or 0.01 percent have most of the assets of the country?

I didn't make any business in Africa and have not visited the continent since this trip, although I am aware that some of the best tourist sites are in Africa, most of the Africans and the Egyptians are very friendly, Egypt has to offer some of the World's wonders. I haven't visited either the Arab countries since the peace agreements, as there is a lot of animosity towards Israelis tourists and endless demonstrations against Israel, there is almost no economic cooperation, the diplomatic corps is ostracised, and Jews are treated like devils in cartoons and at schools, with no criticism on the atrocities all over the world and in the Arab countries. I understand the allegations against Israel that we don't want to assimilate into the Middle East, but I wonder with which models we should assimilate - the model of civil wars, dictatorship, and suicide bombing in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, Algeria, or Libya, the economic and political model of extremely poor Egypt, the model of gender inequality that doesn't allow women to drive and kill young girls who want to go to school, the fundamentalist model of Iran, or the model of Europe and Scandinavia. Is Israel a European enclave in the Middle East, should it be like its neighbors? Nevertheless, Israelis should learn Arabic and be fluent in the language, should know Arab history and folklore, music and heritage. think that Arabs as Jews should be assimilated American/European/Humanist economic, democratic, tolerant, and political model, while keeping of course their own language, cultural and folkloric heritage. The Asians and Africans who did it succeeded very much, and most of all Japan, South Korea, Botswana and Singapore.

Israel is accused of Apartheid when the Arabs are fully integrated in the Israeli economy, the police forces, and the universities. They excel at the hospitals, as nurses, doctors and managers with an equal treatment to Jewish and Arab patients. It is true that there is more poverty among the Arabs and their salaries are lower than those of the Jews, and this should be treated without delay, but if their situation is so bad how come that almost none of them has relocated to Palestine? I am convinced that there should be peaceful relations between Israel and its Arab neighbors and especially the Palestinians, I had excellent relations with my Arab students who received high grades and participated enthusiastically in my classes, at the Haifa University International MBA which comprised 50% Arabs from the West Bank, 25% Israeli Arabs and 25% Israeli Jews, when my students gave me the best feedbacks. I have made a joint venture with Arabs - The Christian Heritage backed by the Arab Mayor of Nazareth and with the participation of Arab partners, which unfortunately didn't take off because of the Intifada. I live in Haifa, the most integrated city in Israel, comprising of a high percentage of Arabs - Moslems and Christians, Hassidic/Orthodox Jews and Russian secular new immigrants, who live in harmony, including in the neighborhood where I grew up in midtown, in the same streets and the same houses. I wrote in my books about business ethics in the Quran, and after reading large parts of it in English, started to read it in Arabic as well. I am convinced that the best way to overcome the antagonism between the two peoples is by economic cooperation and cultural exchange. In one of my visits to Switzerland, I was on the Mont Blanc, and met a Swiss woman who marveled at the exotic places that I have visited, Cairo where I was born, Nigeria, Zaire, Ghana... She said that those are the places she intended to visit, as Switzerland is so boring, so clean, so perfect, so ethical and honest... I was amazed that you can be bored by perfection, but respected her choices and wished her luck, as I haven't got the answers to those questions yet, still baffled- how can we find a right balance between European progress and Oriental heritage.

23. TURKEY— TRAVEL, SEPHARDIC HERITAGE, SAYINGS: IN TURKISH/ENGLISH

I went for two visits to Turkey – one to Istanbul where I also met my cousin and one to Club Med in Bodrum. On the way back from Bodrum a bus took all the Club Med tourists to Bodrum's airport for their different destinations all over Europe. It was late at night, most of the people were tired or sleeping, but I noticed that the bus travels for more than a quarter of an hour, and this didn't make sense. So, I went to the bus driver and asked him why it takes so long to get to the airport. The driver answered that he was told to get us to Izmir's airport. I said that it is a mistake and they we are already late for the flights in Bodrum. But the driver didn't agree to return to Bodrum, and he continued to drive towards Izmir. He barely spoke English and I thought that maybe it is "Mektoub" that I have to visit at last the city where my father was born, but I preferred to fly back to Israel. Only, after I organized a tumult, awaking all the sleeping beauties, and after the driver threatened that he will take all of us to the police, and after we phoned Club Med, the driver consented to take us to Bodrum's airport. Luckily, the planes were late, and we got back to Israel on the same night. We'll not draw any conclusions on Israeli/Jewish suspicious characters always on the alert, European trustful characters that if the bus is planned to get them to Bodrum's airport it will take them there, as they can't figure that the driver received a wrong direction, and of course this was an exception to the otherwise perfect and warmful hospitality of the Turks during my visits, the beauty of Istanbul, its cultural and architectural richness, and all the other sites visited.

The Turkish people are an ancient people, with a fabulous history and culture, who has suffered throughout the years of misconception from the Europeans. The Sephardic Jews will never forget how from all the people in the world the Turks were the only ones to welcome hundreds of thousands of Jewish immigrants, as they figured that it will do well for both sides. Indeed, history has proved that those relations proved benefitial to all, and the Jews lived in harmony with their Turkish hosts for hundreds of years, which was not the case in many European and Arab countries, where the Jews suffered from pogroms and anti-Semitism – in Spain, Portugal, Germany, Poland, Russia, Syria, Iraq, etc. We bring here some Turkish sayings with their equivalents in English and literal translation, proving the commonalities in popular wisdom.

Güneşte yanmayan gölgenin kıymetini bilmez.

Translation: Who has never been burned in the sun won't know the value of shadow.

English equivalent: He knows good best who has experienced evil.

Sabir acidir, meyvesi tatlıdır.

Translation: Patience is bitter, but its fruit is sweet.

Dost kara günde belli olur.

Translation: A friend is known on black (i. e bad days).

English equivalent: A friend is known in adversity, like gold is known in fire.

Çıkmayan candan umit kesilmez.

Translation: Hope won't be cut from the soul that has not expired.

English equivalent: As long as there is life, there is hope.

Zorla güzellik olmaz.

Translation: Forced beauty won't do.

E Havlayan köpek ısırmaz.

Translation: A barking dog doesn't bite.

English equivalent: Barking dogs seldom bite.

Meaning: "People who make the most or the loudest threats are the least likely to take action."

Gözden uzak olan gönülden de uzak olur.

Translation: Who is far from the eye will also be far from the heart.

English equivalent: Out of sight, out of mind.

Babası oğluna bir bağ bağışlamış, oğul babaya bir salkım üzüm vermemiş.

Translation: The father donated a vineyard to his son, the son didn't give a single bunch of grapes to the father.

Note: Used when a person does something ungrateful and selfish to another person who made good deeds for him.

English equivalent: Ingratitude is the world's reward

Ateş olmayan yerden duman çıkmaz.

Translation: No smoke will come out from a place where there is no fire.

English equivalent: Where there is smoke, there is fire.

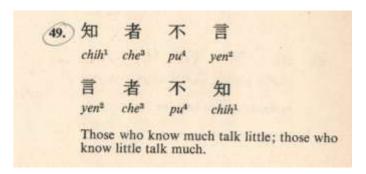
Meaning: "There is no effect without some cause. or It is supposed that if there is a rumour, there must be some truth behind it."

24. CHINESE: BUSINESS IN TAIWAN, SAYINGS - MANDARIN/ENGLISH

It was a pleasure conducting business with Chinese, in Taiwan and Singapore. In 1979, a few days after the birth of my youngest daughter, I conducted business negotiations in Taiwan for six long weeks on a huge contract. The Chinese decided to submit this European (actually African/Asian) businessman to Chinese torture in attrition tactics that succeeded in most of the cases. They held for a long week negotiations on the penalties clause, made long breaks, and were convinced that this young businessman will not be able to stay for such a long period in Taipei, which was not very "international" in those days. I knew that the building for the simulator system could not be ready on time and that my company would suffer from it as we wouldn't receive full payment for the delivery which was after acceptance tests. So, I tried to put in the contract a clause of reciprocity that as my company would have to pay penalties if we were late on deliveries, the Taiwanese would pay penalties if they would be late in erecting the building for the simulator. My counterparts were offended, "You don't trust us? We are never late!". I answered that if they don't fear that they would be late they shouldn't mind putting a clause of reciprocity. "But, that is a question of principle, we never can admit that we'll not fulfill our promises" they said, and I answered them "Likewise, we are also offended that you suspect us for not delivering on time". "But it is not comparable, you are the seller and we are the buyer, and we have never heard that the buyer pays to the seller penalties!" they said.

This negotiation took place for a week, and the <u>Chinese were</u> sure that I will break and return to my family with a minimal profit and no reciprocity. But I didn't give up and gave my counterparts the feeling that I was enjoying my stay in Taipei. Every morning I came with a new saying of Confucius which I learned in my Chinese courses and told them how I enjoyed <u>Chinese Opera</u>. Until, one day, after weeks of negotiations, I said: "Don't you think that if you are late in the delivery of the building we need to have at least compensation?" My counterparts smiled and answered: "Compensation - yes, but Penalties – no!". And so I got the essence of reciprocity that I wanted, without the offending terminology, but with the same amounts of compensation. The Chinese saved face and I went back to my baby Shirly, with the most profitable contract ever of my company, with a tie result between Chinese and Jews.

As a final touch we'll bring here a Chinese saying from my book of Chinese, which I quoted in Chinese to my Taiwanese colleagues, when they complained, in one of the 20 courses meals that I was invited to, that I didn't drink and didn't talk much, as other Europeans do:



We bring here a selected collection of sayings of Chinese Sages. The Chinese are one of the wisest people, with an ancient and glorious history, philosophy and culture, recovering only now their due place in the world. For those who are not fluent in Mandarin, we bring the English counterparts and literal translation, as after all, there are many commonalities between Eastern & Western civilizations, culture, ethical precepts, sayings, proverbs. Ultimately, we are all alike.

There's no use crying over spilt milk.

覆水难收 fù shuǐ nán shōu ("Spilt water is hard to recover.")

The early bird gets the worm.

捷足先登 jié zú xiān dēng ("A fast foot is first to climb.")

We'll cross that bridge when we come to it.

船到桥头自然直 chuán dào qiáotóu zì rán zhí ("The ship will reach the end of the bridge in due course.")

What goes around, comes around.

善有善报,恶有恶报 shànyǒushànbào, èyǒu'èbào ("Kind deeds pay rich dividends, evil is repaid with evil.")

种瓜得瓜 zhòngguādéguā ("As you sow a melon, so you shall reap one.")

Like father, like son.

有其父必有其子 yǒu qí fù bì yǒu qí zǐ ("The son is like his father.") 虎父无犬子 hǔ fù wú quǎn zǐ ("A tiger does not father a dog.")

A friend in need is a friend indeed.

患难见真情 huànnàn jiàn zhēnqíng ("In adversity, true feelings are revealed.")

No pain, no gain; nothing ventured, nothing gained.

不入虎穴, 焉得虎子 bù rù hǔxuè, yāndé hǔ zǐ ("If you don't enter the tiger's den, how will you get the tiger's cub?")

Don't put off until tomorrow what can be done today.

今日事, 今日毕 jīnrì shì, jīnrì bì ("Today's task, today's job to complete.")

If you want something done well, do it yourself.

求人不如求己 qiúrén bùrú qiújǐ ("It's better to rely on yourself than on the help of others.")

Once bitten, twice shy.

一朝被蛇咬,十年怕井绳 yī zhāo bèi shé yǎo, shí nián pà jǐng shéng ("Bitten by a snake on one morning, afraid of the rope by the well for ten years.")

All good things come to an end.

人无千日好, 花无百日红 rén wú qiān rì hǎo, huā wú bǎi rì hóng ("There is no person that has 1000 good days in a row, and no flower that stays red for 100 days.")

When in Rome, do as the Romans do.

入乡随俗 rù xiāng suí sú ("When entering a village, follow its customs.")

When it rains, it pours.

屋漏偏逢连夜雨 wū lòu piān féng lián yè yǔ ("When the roof is leaking, that's when you get several continuous nights of rain.")

一波未平, 一波又起 yī bō wèi píng yī bō yòu qǐ ("Just as one wave subsides, another one comes.")

Rome wasn't built in a day.

冰冻三尺,非一日之寒 bīng dòng sān chǐ, fēi yī rì zhī hán ("Three feet of ice is not the result of one cold day.")

Heaven helps those who help themselves.

皇天不负苦心人 huángtiān bù fù kǔxīn rén ("Heaven won't betray people who try their best.")

Beggars can't be choosers.

饥不择食 jībùzéshí ("The starving can't choose their meals.")

Speak of the devil and he shall appear.

说曹操,曹操到 shuō Cáo Cāo, Cáo Cāo dào ("Speak of Cao Cao and he arrives.")

The first step is the hardest.

万事起头难 wànshì qǐtóu nán ("The first step in a thousand different matters is always difficult.")

You get what you pay for.

一分钱, 一分货 yī fēn qián, yī fēn huò ("Ten yuan of money, ten yuan of goods.")

Great minds think alike.

英雄所见略同 yīngxióng suŏjiànlüètóng ("The views of heroes are roughly alike.")

One can't have one's cake and eat it too.

鱼与熊掌不可兼得 yú yǔ xióng zhǎng bù kě jiān dé ("One cannot get fish and bear's paw at the same time.")

又要马儿好,又要马儿不吃草 ("You want a good horse, but won't give it grass to eat.")

Haste makes waste.

欲速则不达 yùsù zé bùdá ("You desire speed but cannot reach your destination.")

How time flies!

光阴似箭 guāngyīn sì jiàn ("Time is like an arrow.")

Seeing is believing.

百闻不如一见 bǎi wén bùrú yī jiàn ("Hearing something one hundred times is not as good as seeing it once.")

Money talks.

钱可通神 qiánkětōngshén or 钱能通神 qiánnéngtōngshén ("Money is divine.")

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

情人眼里出西施 qíngrén yǎnlǐ chū Xī Shī ("In the eyes of a lover, Xi Shi [one of the renowned Four Beauties of ancient China] appears."

25. SINGAPORE – ONE OF THE MOST ETHICAL COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD

I made short stays in Hong Kong and Japan, and was much impressed by the megatowns of Hong Kong – so lively and interesting, and Tokyo where I saw a Kabuki performance. I took the opportunity to visit Thailand with Ruthy, as I had a vacation of 10 days for the Chinese New Year, while I was teaching a semester at Insead Singapore. Thailand is a touristic treasure, so exotic, with friendly people, with too much poverty, at very affordable prices that attract European and Asian tourists, and especially Israeli youngsters who think that it is a must to stay weeks and months at the beaches, including my daughter Shirly. Personally, I prefer by far Singapore, as for me the best countries to visit are ethical, clean, safe, even if they are less beautiful or exotic than others. Well, you can travel to Switzerland which has all the merits, but Singapore has also its special beauty, its people are much friendlier than the Swiss, and a European or Japanese can feel himself at home there, very safe, and not estranged by extreme poverty, filth and diseases. You had the feeling that the government there cared for the citizens.

I was amazed by my visit to <u>Singapore</u> in 2006. I had visited the country before, but I marvelled to see what a beautiful, friendly, clean, rich, ethical, and hospitable country it had become. Everything was so efficient, so sophisticated, so honest, better than in most European countries. No wonder that businessmen from the richest countries felt at home there, in spite of the harsh weather. I enjoyed less shoping, but I was aware of the perfection and good bargains that they had achieved there. The cultural achievements were also extraordinary, museums, concerts, universities. Singapore changed from third world to first, and ranks among the best countries in the world on most parameters, because of its ethical conduct and the ethical leadership of its late leader Lee Kuan Yew, and did not start to behave ethically after becoming one of the richest countries in the world, but quite the opposite. Among the ten most ethical countries, Singapore is an exception, located right near the Equator, a former UK colony with a deep British influence, with a majority of Chinese and minorities of Malayans and Indians, and with a common language – English. However, China is ranked no. 100 in Transparency International – TI's index, Malaysia – no. 50, and India – no. 85.

The reason of Singapore's lack of corruption is therefore primarily because of the leadership of its founder Lee Kuan Yew, who lead and influenced Singapore since its inception, which could prove that ethical leadership is a very important indicator of ethics. Analyzing the indicators of the most ethical countries, we find that Luxembourg has a huge external debt of \$2,935B, Netherlands - \$2,347B, Switzerland - \$1,544B and Singapore - \$1,174B. But, bearing in mind that the four ethical countries, small as they are, are also financial superpowers with large banks and a very high level of financial activities, we shouldn't be surprised of those figures. But then, we put them in proportion to the gross and net government debt in % of GDP, and we find that Singapore has a gross government debt of 111%, but a net government debt of....0! So, those figures just show the level of financial activities but Singapore is a very sound economy with a AAA credit rating. I was aware that Singapore learned a lot from Israel in its early days and now it can be an example to Israel.

26. THE ULTIMATE TRIP TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

My most enjoyable vacation was a trip for one whole month to Australia and New Zealand in 1999, which I took with my daughter Shirly, after she finished her military service, to compensate her that I abandoned her for the negotiations in Taiwan when she was a baby. The trip was planned to the minute, and luckily enough, all went exactly like planned. In Australia we took one day or half a day organized tours and made the reservations for the hotels, commuting on our own from site to site. No Australian tour was so extensive to take us during a couple of weeks to all the sites in Sydney, Melbourne, Cairns, Darwin, Ayers Rock, etc. But in New Zealand we took a two-week organized tour that took care of everything without the headache of organizing the tour. Both tours went well, luckily. I am a very organized and efficient person, condensing to the maximum my work and my trips (also in Provence, the Balkans, Spain, Germany, US, Scandinavia...), my readings and my hobies. In the one month tour we took 21 flights, with a consecutive flight from Tel Aviv (after driving from Haifa) to Athens, to Bangkok, to Sydney and to Melbourne. We had to do it in "one" day (a very long day indeed), as in the morning after - we had our first tour to Great Ocean Road. We commuted in flights to every site: from Melbourne to Darwin, via Adelaide, from Darwin to Cairns via Gove, from Cairns to Ayers Rock, via Alice Springs, from Ayers Rock to Sydney, from Sydney to Auckland in New Zealand, from Wellington to Christchurch, from Christchurch to Mount Cook, from Christchurch to Sydney and all the way back to Tel Aviv, via Bangkok and Athens. We took flights on balloon in Cairns, with Cesna in Ayers Rock to King Canyon, with helicopter from Franz Josef Glacier, Fox Glacier to the top of Mount Cook. We took also 12 cruises in the Yellow Waters of Kakadu, Daintry River in Cape Tribulation, Pamaigiri in Cairns with an Army Duck, from Cairns to Barrier Rief to Green Island, with a Glass Boat in the island, in Waitomo Glowworm Caves in New Zealand, Milford Sound – fjord cruise, Lake Wakitpu (a 80 years old steamboat, but completely safe), Shotover Jet in Queenstown also completely safe, Showboat and Captain Cook riverboats in Sydney Harbour, Gondolas in Christchurch. Well, you get the message, Shirly was 20 but I, who wanted to visit as much as possible, was 55...

But this was only the preamble. We went to 12 tours in Australia - Melbourne City Tour, Phillip Island penguins and farms, Great Ocean Road – a whole day very hard trip just after landing in Melbourne and having a few hours sleep, we didn't have the time for a jetlag. Darwin City Tour, Kakadu National Park, Green Island forests and beaches, Cape Tribulation National Park which was also very safe, as everything else in Australia and New Zealand – jungles, deserts, caves, baloons, helicopter to the top of a snowy mountain, Cessna flight in a very narrow Canyon, Pamaigiri and Koala Parks (also the Koalas are very safe, the Kangaroos, etc.). Then we visited Ayers Rock – sunrise and sunset, Olgas, Sydney Tour and Koala Park, Blue Mountains Kangaroos. The trip was under the sign of 12 – in New Zealand also: Auckland, Mount Eden, Waitomo Caves, Rotorua, Wakarewa, Rainbow Springs, Huka Falls, Lake Taupo, Mount Tongerino, Volcanoes - Mounts Ruapalu and Ngawake (the New Zealanders live in harmony with the Maoris, the Australians try to do so with the Aborigins). Wellington, Mount Cook National Park, Mountains and lakes from Mount Cook to Queenstown, Queenstown, Fiordland National Park (every National Park is kept like a pharmacy), West Coast Haast Pass from Queenstown to Fox, Franz Josef Glacier to Greymouth, Tranzalpine Express, Christchurch.

There were also 12 shows, plays, etc. Sweeny Todd in Wellington, Turandot at Sydney Opera House (the first time Shirly got to the opera and she enjoyed it very much), Fame in Casino

Sydney, A letter of resignation in Sydney, Maori and Aborigin shows, Agrodome – sheep in Rotorua, Walter Peaks – animals in Queenstown, etc. There were also 7 cable cars, 7 special dinners in the most exotic places, and finally 7 hikes just to keep in shape in Mount Cook – very high mountains, Blue Mountains - mountains and hills, Lakes and Falls - lakes and rivers, Ayers Rock - desert, bush, Snow and Glaciers, Beaches and Jungles in Kakadu and Tribulation. Well, this entire trip lasted less than a month, including two days flights in each direction. On the last day I had scheduled a tour to Canberra from Sydney - four hours in each direction just to see the capital of Australia. As I looked already green, and Shirley was afraid that I will have a heart attack on the flight back, she cancelled on her own the tour and instead we had an "easy" day in Sydney, visiting the aquarium, a harbor cruise with the showboat, some shopping, presents to the friends and family, and theater at night. One last remark – we had a fantastic group in New Zealand, but on the first morning a couple of the tourists, a priest and his wife, asked Shirly and me very carefully what were the relations between us. Shirly and me told them that we were father and daughter, but we didn't understand the question. So, the priest told us that a few minutes before he approached another couple – a woman of 70 and a man of 30 - and told them that he was very moved how a mother took her son to a trip even at her age. But the old lady was offended, and told him that they were husband and wife and they were on their honeymoon. Shirly made friends with everybody and enjoyed being the tour "queen". She admitted that this month was much more enjoyable than the other trips that her friends made to Goa in India, Thailand Beaches, Patagonia, or Vietnam. And her father was indeed a Mensch!

This book will not describe the tours, business trips and study of me and my family in Europe. The intermediate number of countries visited is 34 (abovementioned). So, as it would take at least 100 pages to tell the story of the touring visits to Europe, and as most of the time the family spent abroad was in Europe (well, the US can count as Europe also), I studied there for my MBA and PhD, worked there for most of the time that I spent outside Israel, went to hundreds of plays and concerts over the years (some of them are mentioned in this book), we'll skip the saga of the European visits, except the Balkans, and leave the impression that I am not a European experience is present all over the book anyhow, with anecdotes and stories by the dozens.

28. A TRIP TO THE BALKANS IN 2015

We made in 2015 with an excellent guide and good friends a fantastic trip to the Balkans. To be exact – 8 countries (or 9...) in 16 days, an average of two days for each country, to those who would condemn me for dilettantism I would say – that I have visited dozens of times Paris, the United States, and still want to visit them more, but I thought that 16 days would be enough to find the gist of the Balkans, that's why we call the trip Tastes of the Balkans. I took out Greece, that I have visited several times and am willing to visit it even more – as very few countries can offer such culture, music, scenery, lovely and friendly people, and... lousy economics! Without Greece and Slovenia which we visited a few years ago - we visited all the Balkans (last time we visited for a week the National Parks of Croatia, and this time we were only a day in Dubrovnik). We decided not to visit Kosovo, because frankly we couldn't find any interesting sites to visit. So, we visited for the first time - Serbia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia, Bulgaria and Romania. If we add to it Croatia (Dubrovnik) and Republika Srpska, it amounts to 9 countries, and if we add to it Greece and European Turkey that we visited before – it means that we visited all the countries in the Balkans (Kosovo is not yet recognized by the UN). Now, 99% of the readers would ask: what is Republika Srpska, is it Serbia, a renegade state or what?

To tell the truth, I didn't know either until I started to plan the trip to the Balkans. I knew that there is Serbia (Republika Srbija), which was once the core of Yugoslavia with its capital Belgrade, and now - sic transit gloria mundi - after conducting civil wars against Bosnia, Croatia and Kosovo, had to divest itself from all the republics of Yugoslavia, including Montenegro, Macedonia and Slovenia, and also from Kosovo, which was an integral part of the republic of Serbia. So, what is this republic which has an almost identical name to Serbia? Can we visit it, do we need visas, has it international borders, a different language (to Serbian, Croatian, Montenegrin, Macedonian, Slovenian and Bosnian?). Well, apparently the panacea of Bosnia Herzegovina is no more than a panacea, comprising of two so called autonomous regions but actually different and independent states: the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina which comprises completely autonomous Croatian and Bosnian cantons, and Republika Srpska spread on no less than half of Bosnia! This is a Serb nation bordering Serbia, that was recognized as a separate entity, and a so-called joined ruling of the country of Bosnia and Herzegovina. After the war between Bosnia and Serbia, 50% of the houses in the Federation were damaged, while in the Serbian region only 25% were damaged. Two million people, about half of former Bosnia's population was displaced, 435,346 Serbian refugees came to Republika Srpska and 197,925 have gone to Serbia. Ethnic cleansing has considerably reduced the number of other groups.

According to Wikipedia: "Serb police, soldiers, and irregulars attacked Muslims and Croats, and burned and looted their homes. Some were killed on the spot, others were rounded up and killed elsewhere, or forced to flee." So, now, the territory of Republika Srpska is 24,857 sq km, about half of the country. The population of 1,326,991 is divided as follows: Serbs: 97%, Bosniaks 2%, Croats 1%. According to its constitution, Republika Srpska has its own president, parliament, executive government with a prime minister and several ministries, its own police force, supreme court and lower courts, customs service, and a postal service. It also has its symbols, including coat of arms, flag – a variant of the Serbian flag, and national anthem. East Sarajevo is the capital of Republika Srpska, but Banja Luka is the headquarters of most of the institutions of government, including the parliament, and is therefore the de facto capital. Bosnia and Herzegovina has a bicameral legislature and a three-member

Presidency composed of a member of each major ethnic group – Serbs, Croats and Bosniaks. The central government's power is highly limited, as the country is largely decentralized and comprises two autonomous entities: the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska, with a third region, the Brcko District, governed under local government. The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is itself complex and consists of 10 federal units – cantons: Croats and Bosniaks. In short, the artificial structure of Bosnia and Herzegovina is a panacea, and Republika Srpska acts de facto as an independent state, populated fully by Serbs, and paying only a lip service to the united Bosnia.

When you speak with locals, they tell you that this artificial structure will not continue forever. To a foreigner like me I cannot understand the reasons for the civil war in former Yugoslavia, the languages are almost identical, they look alike, the folklore is very similar, and they would have gained much more from a unified economy and country than from a divided country comprising 6 to 10 states (it depends if you include Kosovo, Republika Srpska, Brcko District, and the autonomous Croat cantons in Bosnia). But, so are buffled foreigners when they come to the Middle East as they don't understand the reasons of the conflicts. Well, we know of course what are the causes of the tensions in the Balkans as in the Middle East – if we think that Croats are the same as Serbs and Bosniaks this is not at all how they perceive themselves - completely different ethnically and religiously - Croats and Slovenians are Catholics, Serbians, Montenegrins and Macedonians are Christian Orthodox, Bosniaks and Albanian Kosovars are Muslims. If we examine the whole of the Balkans, we find of course the Greeks who are not Slavs as most of the former Yugoslavians, and the Turks who differ from all the others. The same is in the Middle East – Jews and Arabs feel that they are completely different ethnically, religiously and mentally, Sunnis and Shiites feel that they are completely different relgiously, and of course Kurds, Druzes, and other minorities differ totally from the Arabs and Jews. Only after wars of attrition like in Yugoslavia and the Middle East will terminate, the situation might improve like it did in Europe where the people perceive much more what unites them and they don't mind at all ethnic and religious differences, having reached at last the peace equlibrium. The people of former Yugoslavia should not count on UN or NATO forces, it didn't help the Muslims in the Srebrenica massacre where the UN peacekeepers could not prevent the town's capture by the Serbs and the subsequent massacre. We, in the Middle East know too well, what is the effect of demilitarisation as proposed for Palestine, what had the UN forces done in Lebanon before the Second Lebanon War, in Sinai before the Six Day War, in the Golan Heights... The UN forces act like the old Romanian proverb – the shirt is close to the body but the skin is even closer, why should they risk their lives for Bosniaks, Serbs, Jews or Arabs?

The origins of Ruthy and me are mainly from the Balkans – Greece, Romania and Turkey (European Turkey is part of the Balkans and Smyrna was mainly European with Greeks settling in all the West Coast of Anatolia), and many of the Israelis originate from the Balkans or countries with a similar culture and Slavic language as Bulgaria and the countries of former Yugoslavia, like Poland and Russia. The Balkans has its feet in the East and its head in the West, the religion, language, and folklore are mainly from Eastern Europe, but the aspirations were always to be Western, in the case of Greece – they gave the Western world a large portion of its culture – theater, literature, democracy, philosophy, mythology. Even, when it was conquered by the Muslim Turks, the people didn't assimilate and kept their European culture and religion, and so did the Jews who continued to speak Ladino and didn't assimilate in the Turkish population. Most of the Jews who came from Arabic countries had a European culture (in the Maghreb, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon – French, in Iraq – English, and in Lybia – Italian), so Israel, like the Balkans, has a European culture and European aspirations. Part of

the Balkans is already member of the EU (Slovenia, Croatia, Bulgaria and Romania) and the other countries would like very much to join the EU (Montenegro for example has set the Euro as its currency, Serbia and Bosnia's EU aspiration has contributed to their peace agreements). So, because of the affinities with the Balkans, it was very interesting for Ruthy and me to visit the Balkans, and we found many analogies between the countries, their animosities, and their mentality and folklore.

The trip to the Balkans was organized like my other trips to Provence, Australia, Spain, the US, to ten countries in Europe in the family's first trip in 1978, etc., very tightly with maximum coverage, no time for shopping, imponderable, or leisure, trying to see as much as possible in the shortest time. In the evenings we saw folklore shows or visited the towns and cities by night. However, I was completely mistaken in my planning of travel time – I thought that a distance of 100 or 200 kms between two main cities would take one to two hours, but I learned in the hard way that it took twice or thrice as much because of the condition of the roads and highways, border checks (we had 24 border checks...) and travel problems. When traveling from Mostar in Bosnia to Dubrovnik in Croatia, we had 6 border checks, as Bosnia has an enclave to the sea in the middle of the highway to Dubrovnik, every country checks all the passports, and sometimes the driver had to pay small amounts in order to speed up matters (we learned that afterwards), in one instance we didn't receive back two of the passports, in another case the policeman (who was not dressed in uniforms) told our drive that he didn't stop at a stop signal and didn't fasten his seatbelt, so the fine would be 240 Euros and he would have to go to the police station to pay, but he was ready to settle this matter if he would pay him 120 Euros. We learned that also a posteriori, and that presented to us (or to me at least) an ethical dilemma, to complain, to whom, to lose time, there were no proofs and the driver would not want to complain, the bribe was not paid by us, possibly the policemen who were waiting in their cars outside the border station cooperated with the guy who took the bribe... Ruthy and me decided not to visit anymore this country, but why should we penalize a whole country for the misdeeds of one corrupt person?

Anyhow, the driver was so shocked that he decided to return home and we had to find a local bus and guides, who were by the way excellent. I noticed throughout the trip that the drivers were extremely polite and in roads where we climbed to steep mountains where there was only one lane (for both directions) one of the drivers had to return back sometimes a whole kilometer until we found a way to continue our trip. In other countries that I know, drivers would have cursed and refuse to give way or argue who should give way first, but in the Balkans the drivers of buses, private cars or trucks behave so politely, that I couldn't believe how a few years ago their countrymen killed thousands of civilians without pity, and their politeness was only superficial or applied only to unimportant matters. I don't want that one should get the impression that we didn't enjoy our trip, on the contrary – the trip was very successful, even if we travelled more than scheduled we had enough time to visit all the sites that we planned and were very much impressed by the beauty of those countries, all of them – Albania (visiting beautiful Tirana and the mosque, that was built from 1789 to 1821 – one of the most turbulent periods in Europe, is a perfect answer to the racists who think that all Muslims are extremists, the country was totally European, men and women dressed like in the Christian countries, it was amazing how a few years ago this country was ruled by a retrogade regime and how it returned to "normal" so fast), Montenegro (one of the few countries that didn't suffer from the civil war, we enjoyed much Kotor Bay), Macedonia (where the Cyrillic script was developed by Cyril and Methodius, we enjoyed very much Ohrid), Croatia (Dubrovnik is one of the most beautiful towns in the world), Serbia (we enjoyed much Novi Sad and strolling along the Danube), Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo and Mostar are two jems worth visiting), Bulgaria (Veliko Turnovo has one of the most beautiful fortresses that I

have ever seen), and Romania (where Ruthy was born and she visited it for the first time since she was 3, Bucharest – not quite Paris, but a nice try, the extravagant parliament palace, beautiful Brasov, and Dracula's palace that is not so frightening).

In Republika Srpska we visited the ethno village Stanisici, near Bijeljina, the second largest city in the Republika Srpska, a few kilometers from the border with Serbia. The complex contains the Saint father Nicola monastery, old original barn houses, restaurants, etc. After we visited the village and took pictures with the black and white swans we lunched there and continued to Sarajevo. Back home, I looked on the Internet what happened in Bijeljina. The city was invaded by the Serbs in April 1992, non-Serbs were killed or expelled. Those who want to learn what happened during the war in the region can search it on Wikipedia. We saw in Serbia, Bosnia, Republika Srpska and a few years ago in Croatia the terrible signs of the war, buildings in ruin, bullets holes in the walls of buildings, the tunnel of hope in Sarajevo. It is incredible to see what damages the war has done to the towns, but of course it is much worse to see what has happened to the population. Now, it is summer, the sun shines, tourists are visiting, except the signs kept on purpose, all would be forgotten, but the wounds are still apparent. The Middle East and the Balkans, sites of interminable wars over the centuries, suffering of millions of peoples, but is the suffering different than what has happened during the recent wars in Poland, Russia, France, Germany, Netherlands, Ukraine, China, Japan, Vietnam, Cambodia, all over Africa? The most tragic is that those wars could have been prevented, but I cannot say if the way to prevent them would have been hawkish or dovish – we saw what the result of the dovish attitude of France and England towards Germany in 1938 was, we saw what the result of the hawkish attitude of Germany prior and during World War II was, especially to the Russian, the Jews and ultimately the Germans too. How should we behave to countries like Iran, Afghanistan, North Korea, towards organizations as Daesh, Al-Qaeda, Hamas... Who is to blame for the tragedy of the Balkans, how has Tito managed to keep a prosperous and peaceful country over dozens of years, and why have his successors failed, is the problem – in leadership, undoubtedly, but it is not the unique problem. Anyhow the trip to the Balkans was most instructing and unforgettable.

Finally, we would like to check what was the Transparency International's rating of Ethics and Lack of Corruption for the Balkans countries. We see that their ethical ranking varies between quite ethical to corrupt countries and most of them rank between 60 to 80 (1 is the most ethical country and 174 is the most corrupt country), so the Balkans countries are ranked on the average at the lower ranks of the first half of the countries. Slovenia is an exception as it is quite ethical with the rank of 39, one of the four most ethical countries among the former communist countries, with Estonia, Poland and Lithuania. All of them are members of the EU, together with more corrupt countries: Croatia (61), Bulgaria, Greece and Romania – all three are ranked 69. Macedonia is ranked 64 with Turkey, Montenegro – 76, Serbia – 78, Bosnia and Herzegovina – 80. The most corrupt countries of the Balkans are – Albania and Kosovo – 110. Yet, they are not the most corrupt countries in Europe, as Belarus, Russia and Ukraine are much more corrupt.

29. PLANS TO VISIT ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES

What about the plans to visit additional countries? At 70 you start to visit all the places that you hadn't time to visit when you were younger. You have the time, you have sufficient money, and health is not catastrophic, anyhow if you don't travel now health will be worse in a decade. The easiest way to travel at this age is with cruises and the ultimate cruise is the double Around The World Cruises of Oceania during six months each. In every cruise you visit about fifty countries, many of them tiny islands, and even if you visit a large country as China you visit only Shanghai, Hong Kong and possibly Beijing. This is the ideal way to travel if you don't want to suffer from the poverty and filth and you make a short visit until evening, returning to the ship soon enough to have your dinner with no stomach aches, to watch the night show, possibly with one of the local groups, and go to sleep in your clean bed. This is not exactly a muchileros trip, but it is enough to give you an idea of what you have lost by not visiting those countries when you were younger. In this way you can visit the following ports in the northern part of the globe in the cruise leaving Miami in July, as you can visit in the most convenient conditions such frozen countries as Greenland and Iceland, exotic countries as Israel, Jordan and the Persian Gulf states, Singapore, Hong Kong, and some countries in Asia and Africa that some are afraid to visit on their own. As a bonus you visit Eastern Canada, Western Europe, Southern Europe and exotic islands as Seychelles and Caribbean islands: Miami, Port Canaveral, Norfolk, New York, Boston, Bar Harbor, Saint John, Halifax, Sydney, Charlottetown, Saguenay, Quebec City, Montreal, Trois-Rivieres. Corner Brook, Nuuk, Paamiut, Qaqortoq, Isafjordur, Reykjavik, Torshavn, Bergen, Kristiansand, Oslo, Hamburg, Amsterdam, Bruges, London, Bordeaux, Biarritz, Gijon, La Coruna, Oporto, Lisbon, Seville, Barcelona, Florence, Rome, Amalfi, Taormina, Valletta, Rhodes, Limassol, Jerusalem, Agaba, Salalah, Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Fujairah, Mumbai, Goa, Mangalore, Cochin, Colombo, Rangoon, Phuket, Singapore, Ko Samui, Sihanoukville, Bangkok, Saigon, Hue, Hanoi, Hong Kong, Manila, Kota Kinabalu, Muara, Kuching, Penang, Male, Mahe, La Digue, Mombasa, Zanzibar, Dar Es Salaam, Nosy Be, Maputo, Richards Bay, Durban, East London, Cape Town, Luderitz, Walvis Bay, Luanda, Sao Tome, Bom Bom Island, Lome, Sekondi-Takoradi, Abidjan, Banjul, Dakar, Mindelo, Bridgetown, Fort de France, Pointe a Pitre, St. George's, Willemstad, Key West, Miami.

In the "true" around the world trip leaving Miami in January you visit also about 50 countries, but this time in the southern part of the globe, many of them tiny islands in the Caribbean and the Pacific, you visit again Singapore, some countries in Asia and Africa, but this time you visit richer countries as China – Xiamen, Shanghai and Beijing, South Korea Seoul, Japan – Hiroshima, Kyoto and Okinawa, you visit Australia and New Zealand, and also Mexico, Central America, Brazil, etc. In those cruises you don't visit most of South America - Peru, Argentina, Chile...: Miami, Oranjestad, Willemstad, Kralendijk, St. George's, Castries, Fort de France, Bridgetown, Scarborough, Devil's Island, Belem, Fortaleza, Natal, Recife, Lome, Cotonou, Sao Tome, Luanda, Walvis Bay, Luderitz, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, East London, Durban, Richards Bay, Maputo, Nosy Be, Dar Es Salaam, Zanzibar, Mombasa, Mahe, Male, Mangalore, Cochin, Rangoon, Penang, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Ko Samui, Bangkok, Sihanoukville, Saigon, Hanoi, Sanya, Hong Kong, Xiamen, Shanghai, Beijing, Seoul, Hiroshima, Kyoto, Okinawa, Manila, Boracay Island, Kota Kinabalu, Muara, Kuching, Bali, Komodo, Darwin, Cooktown, Cairns, Townsville, Newcastle, Sydney, Hobart, Picton, Napier, Rotorua, Auckland, Apia, Pago Pago, Raiatea, Bora Bora, Papeete, Huahine, Rangiroa, Nuku Hiva, Hilo, Honolulu, Lahaina, Nawiliwili, Los Angeles, San Diego, Cabo San Lucas, Acapulco, Puerto Quetzal, Corinto, Puntarenas, Cartagena, Key West, Miami. This is all fine, provided that you have the time to be away from your country and your family, for six months and possibly a year, that you have 200,000 Euros to pay for a couple in the cheapest staterooms, that you don't work at all, and your health is good enough for such a trip.

Many more countries are waiting for our visits, and first of all South America. I feel myself at home in Latin America because of the mutual culture and mentality (but not the corruption and crime – in this respect I feel more Scandinavian, Swiss and Singaporean). I devised two trips of 25 days each, one to mid South America and one to south South America, with cruises and flights, folkloric shows and trekking. The first trip is to Peru - Lima, Paracas, Nazca Lines, Ballestas Islands, Cusco, Machu Picchu, Sacred Valley of the Incas, Lake Titicaca, Puno, Uros Islands, Taquile Island. Then to Bolivia - Tiwanaku, La Paz, Salar de Uyuni and Sucre. The Amazon - Brazil - Manaus, Rio Negro, Rio Solimoes, Colombia- Leticia in a jungle lodge with trekking and canoeing, Indian villages, flora and fauna. Finally to Ecuador - Quito, Quilotoa Crater Lake, the Equator Monument, Panamerica Highway, Galapagos Islands. The second trip is to Chile and Argentina - Santiago, Valparaiso, Bariloche, Parque Nacional Vicente Perez Rosales, Cordillera de los Andes, Puerto Montt, Puerto Natales, Punta Arenas, Torres del Paine National Park, Lagos Pehoe and Grey, glaciers, Bernardo O'Higgins National Park, Lago Argentino, Parque Nacional Los Glaciares, Ushuaia, one day flight to Antarctica, Buenos Aires. In Uruguay - visit Montevideo, Colonia and in Paraguay - Itaipu Dam and Ciudad del Este. In Brazil - Iguazu Falls, Ecological Jungle Train, Devil's Throat Canyon. Salvador de Bahia, Peninsula d'Itapagipe, Cachoeira, Rio Paraguacu, Rio de Janeiro, Petropolis, The Carnival.

What other countries and sites it is worthwhile to visit? Canadian Rocky Mountains, Nashville Dixieland, Memphis, Orlando, Cape Carnaveral, Epcot, Yellowstone, Death Valley, Lake Tahoe, Grand Teton National Park, other parks in the US and Canada, Alaska cruise, indepth visit to Central America - Mexico, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama, and Carribean cruise to Jamaica, Barbados, Virgin Islands. Mississipi River Cruise from New Orleans to Saint Paul with stopovers in St. Louis, Memphis, etc. A Danube Cruise from Germany to the Danube Delta in Romania. Russia – in a cruise, with the Trans Siberian, or by bus – Moscow, Volga, Astrakhan, Kazan, Rostov, Siberia. Visit to Ireland, northern Spain, west coast of France, Madeira, Canary Islands, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine, Crimea, Odessa, San Marino, Lichtenstein, France - Alsace, Lorraine, Bourgogne, cruises. Greece - Larissa, Olympus, monasteries, Peleponese. China, Korea, Mongolia, Tibet, Manchuria, Japan, Tasmania, Australia, Singapore, Club Med... And of course cultural visits to Paris, London, Berlin, New York, San Francisco, Madrid, Rome, Milano, Saint Petersburg, Moscow, Vienna, Prague, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Barcelone, etc. I have attented every year in the last years the Haifa Film Festival, and occasionally the film festivals in London and Vancouver, occasionally theater festivals in Israel, Edimburgh and Avignon, classical music festivals in Israel. I have seen hundreds of plays, mainly in Paris, London and New York, and of course in Israel, and I intend to see even more in the future. But my ideal trips would be to attend the film festivals in Cannes, Berlin, Venezia, etc., the theater, opera and classical music festivals all over the world, but especially in France, UK, US, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, etc. in the best rows and with the ability to hear well everything.

30. DETAILS ON JACQUES CORY'S WORKS – BOOKS, eBOOKS, ACADEMIC BOOKS, NOVEL, PLAYS, COLLECTIONS OF ESSAYS & ARTICLES, LANGUAGES, ETHICAL CODES, CASE STUDIES, COURSES AND LECTURES, BIOGRAPHIES, TRAVEL, POETRY, SATIRES, CHILDREN BOOKS, DIARY, STORIES, WEBSITE, PERSONAL AND ACADEMIC CORRESPONDENCE, SCREENPLAY, AUDIOPLAY, AUTOBIOGRAPHY, PHOTOS, VIDEOS, PHILOSOPHY, GEOGRAPHY, MUSIC, THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT, BUSINESS PLANS AND WORKS

PUBLICATION OF BOOKS: 10 (from page 1383 onwards in Cory's autobiography)

1. <u>BUSINESS ETHICS: THE ETHICAL REVOLUTION OF MINORITY</u> SHAREHOLDERS

Kluwer Academic Publishers – 2001 – hard cover, First Springer Science+Business Media, Inc. – 2005 – soft cover, and in subsequent years additional soft cover and eBook editions. ISBN - hard cover 0-7923-7300-6, 9780792373001, soft cover 0-387-23040-8, 9780387230405, eBook 0387232311, 9780387232317, held by 700+ libraries worldwide.

The first published academic book in the world on business ethics to minority shareholders. A pioneer research, based on case studies of U.S., French & Israeli companies and on the author's extensive business experience, with a modern approach on activism in business ethics. The book found the rules that govern unethical conduct towards minority shareholders, which were validated by the Enron, WorldCom and corporate scandals after the publication of the book. You can read extracts, details, purchasing, and reviews of the English book on Cory's website in Books.

2. ACTIVIST BUSINESS ETHICS

Kluwer Academic Publishers -2002 - hard cover, First Springer Science+Business Media, Inc. -2005 - soft cover, and in subsequent years additional soft cover and eBook editions. ISBN - hard cover 0-7923-7566-1, 9780792375661, soft cover 0-387-22848-9, 9780387228488, eBook -0387229140, 9780387229140, held by 1000+ libraries worldwide.

Activist Business Ethics is an academic book in English quoted on Wikipedia and many other websites, and several times in the entry "Business Ethics" of Wikipedia, is recommended in Wikipedia and Answers.com for "Further Reading", and is treated as a standard text/source book in Talk: Business Ethics in Wikipedia. The book examines international aspects, business ethics in the religions, psychological and sociological aspects of business ethics, ethical and democratic evolution, the personification of stakeholders, the predominance of values & ethics for CEOs, & the inefficient safeguards of the stakeholders' interests. The book presents new vehicles for the safeguard of those interests, such as the Internet, Transparency, Ethical Funds and Activist Associations, and future activist vehicles, such as the Supervision Board and the Institute of Ethics. You can read extracts, details, purchasing, and reviews of the book on Cory's website in Books.

3. <u>BUSINESS ETHICS FOR A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY: CONQUERING THE</u> CORPORATE FRANKENSTEIN

The Edwin Mellen Press – 2009 hard cover, 2010 soft cover. ISBN – hard cover 0-7734-3848-3, 9780773438484, soft cover- 0-7799-1291-8, 9780779912919.

The academic book in English is a pioneering book on business ethics, social responsibility, sustainability, corporate governance and globalization. It covers the three main facets of those subjects: the theoretical with 11 chapters on the essence of ethics and sustainability in the context of the Economic Whirl and the ethical credo of the author, the empirical with 20 case studies written mostly as short and compelling stories on ethical and corporate governance dilemmas in international business, and the emotional with the analysis of dozens of films, plays, novels - masterpieces on those subjects. You can read extracts, details, purchasing, and reviews of the book on Cory's website in Books.

4. SELECTED ISSUES IN BUSINESS ETHICS AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

סוגיות נבחרות באתיקה עסקית ובאחריות חברתית מאת יעקב קורי

SUGYOT NIVHAROT BE-ETIKAH 'ISKIT UVE-AHRAYUT HEVRATIT

The Hebrew University Magnes Press -2008 soft cover, and subsequently eBook edition. ISBN -978-965-493-355-1, 9654933551

The academic book "Selected Issues in Business Ethics and Social Responsibility" in Hebrew is unique in the sense that it comprises theoretical chapters, case studies that are based on the large business experience and the academic research of the author, and the analysis of films, plays, documentaries and novels - masterpieces on business ethics. The parts of the book focus on the ethical facets of leadership, integrity, whistleblowers, corporate governance, stock market, banking, government and business, corruption and bribes, wrongdoing of stakeholders, trust, transparency, decency, sustainability, social responsibility, activism, environment, globalization, international aspects and business ethics in Israel. You can read extracts, details, purchasing, and reviews of the book on Cory's website in Books.

5. <u>L'ETHIQUE DES AFFAIRES ET LES ACTIONNAIRES MINORITAIRES: DES VOIES NOUVELLES POUR SAUVEGARDER LES INTERETS DES ACTIONNAIRES MINORITAIRES</u>

BUSINESS ETHICS & THE MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS: NEW WAYS FOR SAFEGUARDING THE INTERESTS OF THE MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS. Editions Universitaires Europeennes – ISBN – 978-3-8417-9771-1, 3841797717. Sudwestdeutscher Verlag fur Hochschulschriften GmbH & Co. KG, 2012, soft cover.

Le livre examine le contexte actuel de l'éthique des affaires envers les actionnaires minoritaires, et propose des voies nouvelles. Il traite successivement de la nécessité de mener une recherche pionnière ; de l'intérêt d'une recherche qualitative et des études de cas ; de la légitimité de la recherche littéraire dans le cadre d'un livre académique ; des règles concluant le livre; de l'analyse comparative de l'affaire Enron et du livre. Le livre montre comment les mécanismes ou instances traditionnels visant à garantir les droits des actionnaires

minoritaires; à savoir le système légal, les actions collectives, les dirigeants des entreprises, les membres des conseils d'administration, les administrateurs indépendants, l'autorité de tutelle des marchés boursiers, les auditeurs, les analystes, les soumissionnaires et la presse; n'apportent pas souvent une protection suffisante aux actionnaires minoritaires. You can read extracts, details, purchasing, and reviews of the French academic book on <u>Cory's website in Books</u>.

6. L'ETHIQUE DES AFFAIRES ET LES ACTIONNAIRES MINORITAIRES

BUSINESS ETHICS AND THE MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS

Thèse de doctorat en Sciences de gestion sous la direction de Yvon Pesqueux, soutenue en 2004 à CNAM, Paris, France. PhD dissertation on Business Ethics, 2004, at the libraries of CNAM Paris and ANRT Grenoble, France, as well as at the library of the University of Haifa, Israel.

The French thesis by publications, Business ethics and the minority shareholders, is based on two books by Jacques Cory that were published in 2001 by Kluwer Academic Publishers in Boston: Activist Business Ethics and Business Ethics: the ethical revolution of minority shareholders. The dissertation examines the actual context of business ethics towards minority shareholders, the new vehicles to safeguard their rights, expands on the necessity to conduct a pioneer research, the methodology of the publications, the qualitative research, the case studies, the legitimacy of literary research as part of an academic research, the rules that conclude the books, a comparative analysis of Enron and the publications, describes in detail the basis of the bibliographical research and ends with the repercussions of the thesis on future research. You can read extracts and reviews of the thesis/dissertation/academic book in French on Cory's website in Books.

7. BEWARE OF GREEKS' PRESENTS

הישמרו מדורון יווני מאת יעקב קורי

HISHAMRU MI-DORON YEVANI – NOVEL IN HEBREW

Kedem Publishing, Sidrat Keshet ha-Mizrah, 2001, soft cover.

ISBN - 965-7103-11-8, 9789657103111.

The Hebrew novel "Beware of Greeks' Presents" describes in a trenchant way the corruption in the business world, as only a businessman who knows the reality from personal knowledge can describe. This is the basis of the book's originality, that is very convincing by its authenticity and by the message it conveys about the future of society in the new Millennium, a message of despair mixed with some hope. The protagonists of the book are Ully (Ulysses) and Nelly (Penelope) Doron, an Israeli couple, who is not ready to succumb to the new norms and pays the full price for that, followed by the betrayal of their best friends. Their ordeal is related as a modern Odyssey, as the heroes are from Greek origin and are compared to those of Homer. You can read extracts, details, purchasing, and reviews of the book: in English on Cory's website in Books, and in Hebrew, and watch a film of two hours on the launching of the book in 2001.

8. LE CHOIX DE NELLY

NELLY'S CHOICE - BEHIRATA SHEL NELLY

בחירתה של נלי מאת יעקב קורי ועמליה אייל

A play in French by Jacques Cory and Amalia Eyal, with an introduction and review by Joshua Sobol, translated from the Hebrew play by Saskia Cohen, the French text was edited by Jacques Cory.

Edilivre, 2012, soft cover and eBook editions

ISBN – 978-2-332-50663-4 soft cover, 9782332506641 eBook

The play in Hebrew has not been published yet in a printed version, but it can be found at the library of the University of Haifa, the text of the play and the music of the play are - on Cory's website, and reading of the play was performed at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem on July 30, 2008.

La pièce *Le Choix de Nelly* décrit d'une façon incisive la corruption qui règne au sein du monde des affaires, comme seul un homme d'affaires qui connaît personnellement la réalité peut le faire. Le thème de la corruption du monde des affaires, en particulier des méfaits commis à l'encontre des actionnaires minoritaires, n'a pas encore été étudié de façon adéquate dans la littérature contemporaine, et il n'existe presque pas de livres écrits par des hommes d'affaires sur ce sujet. La pièce originale et convaincante transmet un message sur l'avenir de la société moderne en ce siècle - un message de désespoir et d'espérance mêlés. La pièce aborde des problèmes tels que la corruption du monde des affaires, le racisme, la libération de la femme, l'amour et la trahison. You can read extracts, details, purchasing, and reviews of the French play: in French and in English on Cory's website in Books, and in Hebrew, as well as the music of the play – the list and the audio.

9. ESSAY: UNE MANIÈRE ORIGINALE D'ENSEIGNER LA RSE – IN THE BOOK: <u>LA RSE</u> – LA RESPONSABILITE SOCIALE DES ENTREPRISES: THEORIES ET PRATIQUES BY FRANCOIS LEPINEUX, JEAN-JACQUES ROSE, CAROLE BONANNI, SARAH HUDSON

ESSAY - AN ORIGINAL METHODOLOGY FOR TEACHING CSR - IN THE BOOK: THE CSR - THE CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBITY: THEORIES AND PRACTISES - IN FRENCH

Dunod Edition, 2010, soft cover and eBook editions. ISBN - 978-2-10-052648-2, 2100526480 soft cover, 9782100526482, 2100526480 eBook

La responsabilité sociale des entreprises (RSE) est un concept dans lequel les entreprises intègrent les préoccupations sociales, environnementales et économiques dans leurs activités et dans leurs interactions avec leurs parties prenantes. Cet ouvrage est le premier manuel de référence en français consacré à la RSE. Il présente les origines et le développement progressif de ce concept, puis montre comment la RSE se décline dans les différentes disciplines des sciences de gestion, et dans les différentes fonctions des entreprises. Enfin, il met l'accent sur les nouveaux types de gouvernance avec la RSE. L'ouvrage propose une approche interdisciplinaire (sciences de gestion, sociologie, sciences politiques...) et une orientation internationale (par les exemples choisis). Il contient des entretiens avec des

spécialistes, tel Jacques Cory d'Israel. The French essay of Cory can be read in French on Cory's website in Articles, and in a Hebrew version of it.

10. ESSAY: IN THE NAME OF CITIZENS, BUSINESS OR OFFICIALS? (ON SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE) BY ERAN VIGODA-GADOT AND JACQUES CORY – IN THE BOOK: PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY IN ISRAEL, EDITED BY RAPHAEL COHENALMAGOR, ORI ARBEL-GANZ, ASA KASHER

מסה: בשם האזרחים, העסקים או העסקנים? הארות על האחריות מסה: בשם האזרחים, העסקים או העסקנים? הארות על האחריות בשם האזרחים, העסקים או העסקנים? הארות ציבורית בישראל, עורכים: רפאל כהן-אלמגור, אורי ארבל-גנץ, אסא כשר. Hakibbutz Hameuchad Publishing House and the Jerusalem Center for Ethics, 2012, hard cover and eBook editions. ISBN -0.0310005170.5

Public responsibility is often conceptualized as an objective and universal expression beyond time and era. However, the individual's understandings and interpretations may emphasize the personal perspective of bureaucrats and elected officials' duties. How can one bridge between citizens' expectations and subjective concepts of the term *public responsibility* and the limited definition drawn by the public sector? These and other related questions are addressed in this seminal volume. For the first time, leading Israeli scholars and experts have gathered to explore the meaning of public responsibility. Each of the distinguished authors - historians, political scientists, sociologists, social-psychologists, philosophers, literature scholars, law professors, policy analysts, economists, former judges, legislatures and ministers – had clarified a different aspect of *Public Responsibility*, based on his professional discipline and resulting understandings of the discussed concept. The result in this academic book in Hebrew is a thorough review of the meaning of public responsibility. The essay of Cory can be read on Cory's website: in the version with the co-author Eran Vigoda-Gadot - extracts, full text, and in the original version by Jacques Cory.

WRITING OF eBOOKS: 11-20

11. SOCIAL, ECONOMIC & GOVERNMENTAL JUSTICE: ESSAYS, ARTICLES

צדק חברתי, כלכלי ושלטוני: מסות ומאמרים מאת יעקב קורי כלכלי ושלטוני:

The academic eBook in Hebrew is a compilation of essays and articles on Social, Economic and Governmental Justice, written by Jacques Cory and published in leading universities and organizations websites. The book gives an alternative method to conduct business, more social in its approach, more humane – the opposite of the neoliberal approach prevailing in the United States and Israel. Its political implication is a new regime – the Second Republic of Israel – focused on the welfare of the 99% of citizens, which are not represented adequately in the Israeli government. But the ideology of the book is universal, as the same economic and social injustice prevails in all the neoliberal regimes and in many other so-called social regimes, which advocate minimal regulation, extensive ties between government and the tycoons ruling business, and a reckless market economy, which is in fact ruled by monopolies and oligarchs. Finally, the book analyzes the Scandinavian model and suggests adopting most of their precepts in order to achieve best results. The eBook from 2012 exists only in this format, and anyone can print it, as Cory and others did, or read it free of charge. The eBook can be found at the websites of the libraries of the University of Haifa and Carmel Academic Center, Israel, the websites of Transparency International Israel, Ometz Israel, Cory...

12. <u>ETHICAL CODES</u> AND CASE STUDIES, ESSAYS AND ARTICLES ON SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND GOVERNMENTAL JUSTICE

קודים אתיים ואירועים על קודים אתיים, מסות ומאמרים על צדק חברתי, כלכלי ושלטוני

An academic eBook in Hebrew published in 2016, comprising ethical codes, generic case studies on ethical codes, professional essays and articles on social, economic and governmental justice, published until 2015. The eBook exists only in this format, and anyone can print it as Cory and others did, or read it free of charge. The eBook can be found at the websites of the libraries of the <u>University of Haifa</u> and Carmel Academic Center, Israel, the websites of <u>Cory</u>, organizations, etc...

13. **ESSAYS, MEMOIRS** AND ARTICLES ON GENERAL AND PERSONAL TOPICS מסות, זכרונות ומאמרים על נושאים כלליים ואישיים

An eBook in Hebrew on general and personal topics published in 2016, comprising essays and articles on general topics, memoirs and personal topics based on Cory's autobiography, on literature, biographies, drama, linguistics, correspondence, a youth diary, Cory's Ladino activities, and views on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The eBook exists only in this format, and anyone can print it, as Cory and others did, or read it free of charge. The eBook can be found at the websites of the libraries of the <u>University of Haifa</u> and Carmel Academic Center, Israel, the websites of <u>Cory</u>, organizations, etc...

14. THE RAIN FAIRY – A CHILDREN BOOK IN HEBREW

פיית הגשם מאת יעקב קורי, איורים מאת יוסי קורי

This children book is a fairy tale on the Rain Fairy, who is there to assist everyone encountering difficult situations, sorrow, sickness or catastrophes. The Rain Fairy falls in love with a poor young man and decides to quit the fairy world and become human in order to live with her love. The children eBook in Hebrew, by Jacques Cory, illustrated by Joseph Cory, from 2012, exists only in this format and anyone can print it, as Cory and others did, or read it free of charge. It was <u>published with the academic eBook</u> Social, Economic and Governmental Justice on all the websites mentioned above and can be found in pp. 469-476 of the academic eBook, with other works by Jacques Cory and also on Cory's website as a separate booklet.

15. IJIKO AND HIS GRANDPARENTS IN THE JUNGLE

איז'יקו מטייל בג'ונגל מאת יעקב קורי, איורים מאת הלנה גת, עריכה מאת שירלי גרפונקל

This children book is based on the author's jungle stories to his children and grandchildren with names primarily deriving from funny words in Ladino, as the lion Hastrapula, the giraffe Siskerina, the monkey Sholobolo, the peacock Zurzuvi, the witch-doctor Melizina, the rhinoceros Haftona, etc. The children eBook in Hebrew, by Jacques Cory, illustrated by Elena Gat, edited by Shirly Garfunkel, from 2016, exists in a book format with illustrations but it was not published yet, and also as an eBook (without the illustrations) on Jacques Cory's website, and on the websites of the University of Haifa and Carmel Academic Center, Israel, as part of the book "Essays, Memoirs, Articles..." We have approached several publishers and we hope that it will be published as a printed book in the near future.

16. <u>ETHICS PAYS</u>: A COMPREHENSIVE ATLAS OF SALIENT PARAMETERS IN THE 300 COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD PROVING THAT ETHICS PAYS

Ethics Pays is a unique book analyzing multiple facets of academic findings in ethics, geography, economics, politics, business, psychology and sociology. The book analyzes the most relevant and actual parameters of performance in all the countries of the world in the prism of their ethical conduct and level of corruption. The book has a message – it proves that "Ethics Pays", as the most ethical and least corrupt countries score the highest ranks in quite all the parameters examined in this book. The book condenses also the most salient parameters per country for the 300 countries in an abbreviated format or an extensive format, in 60+ tables/lists and 180+ links to the best sources, thus in one or two clicks one can find all the parameters he needs. Within a few minutes the readers can find all the relevant data on the country, its maps, flag, population, area, but also in the tables - the GDP, exchange rates, external debt, budget surplus, unemployment, or even corruption perceptions and quality of life indices. If the readers want even more data - they can with one click visit the best Internet's websites on those countries. The book was published in 2016 in English as an eBook, due to its thousands of links, it is offered free of charge and anyone can print it, as Cory and others did. In the future it will be probably published in a hard cover and a soft cover format by a publisher. It was published as an eBook on the websites of ESCP Europe in France, the University of Haifa, Carmel Academic Center, Israel, organizations and on Cory's website.

17. <u>CORY'S COSMOPOLITAN CULTURAL CREDO</u>: AUTOBIOGRAPHY – A LIFETIME COMPANION FOR THE UNIVERSAL INTELLECTUAL HUMANIST

An eBook in English describing Cory's experience, works and thoughts on his fields of interest, a new kind of literature, comprising of a mixture of: novels, drama, biographies, non-fiction, linguistics, geography, business, ethics, academics, economics, history, music, arts, films, philosophy, poetry, folklore, sociology, travel, and even humor. Cory blended all those ingredients in his long careers in diverse occupations and avocations, which might interest the intellectual reader of the book. The book is Cory's credo and truth, an ode to humanism, moderation and harmony, in Cory's cosmopolitan, polyglot and holistic approach. It can be read, seen, or heard during thousands of hours, everybody can find interest in parts of this book, which hopefully will arise a desire to learn languages, literature, philosophy, history, geography, ethics, and drama, and watch the best films, music, folklore, and arts. The book was published in 2016 in English as an eBook, due to its thousands of links, it is offered free of charge and anyone can print it, as Cory and others did. In the future it will be probably published in a hard cover and a soft cover format by a publisher. It was published as an eBook on the websites of ESCP Europe in France, the University of Haifa, Carmel Academic Center, Israel, organizations and on Cory's website.

18. DIARY – A PORTRAIT OF THE IDEALIST AS A YOUNG MAN

דיוקן של אידיאליסט כנער בוגר מאת יעקב קורי

After more than 50 years the author reads once again a diary written between the ages of 13 and 17 and is astonished how the character of the author was shaped in his early youth, while he had opposite materialistic and idealistic inclinations, intellectual and superficial tastes, egoistic and humanistic tendencies... What were his views on poverty and wealth, women, friendship, ethics, how he perceived his aims in life, on career, family, children, love, what kind of a man he wanted to be 50 years from now and what kind of a man he became? The author laughs, cries, is excited, amazed, finds analogies with his grandsons' conduct, and also

a unique approach to life. The diary in Hebrew comprises hundreds of pages, but the Portrait in Hebrew, written in 2013, gives its gist in 26 pages. As a matter of fact, the diary should be listed as Opus 1 of Jacques Cory's Works. It was published in 2016 in an eBook format as part of the eBook "Essays, Memoirs, Articles..." on the websites of the University of Haifa, Carmel Academic Center, Israel, organizations, and on Cory's website, as part of the eBook "Essays, Memoirs, Articles..." and also as a separate booklet.

19. NELLY DORON

Google Books יעקב קורי מאת מערכות, מאת יעקב הורי

The plot of the play commences at a surprise party that Ully throws in his Tel Aviv house to his wife Nelly, in which all their friends participate. In the party a scheme is conceived to takeover at a manipulated price a company that Ully assisted its founder to make public and invested heavily in it, thus making him lose all his money as well as the investment of the minority shareholders. Ully, a modern Ulysses, is a shrewd and tough businessman, who tries to fight the corruption while keeping elementary ethical norms. However, he is not able to cope with the ruthless businessmen who act without any inhibitions and are backed by almost all the society. On the other hand Nelly, a modern Penelope, develops out of the crisis from an innocent teacher to a fearless warrior. She ceases to be the submissive woman, weaving all day and keeping a complete fidelity to her husband, and becomes a modern woman who takes her fate in her own hands in order to save her husband, herself and their marriage. Finally, the solution is found by introducing a Trojan horse, a Greeks' present, into the fortress of the enemy. But, is the victory complete, are the methods employed by the protagonists adequate, are they not corrupting also, what is the limit that one should not cross when fighting corruption, and is such a victory worthwhile? This is the main dilemma of the play that every one of us faces with his own inclinations and finds the parallels in his personal experience, in France, Israel or the US.

The eBook play Nelly Doron in Hebrew, by Jacques Cory, published in 2012, exists only in this format and anyone can print it, as Cory and others did, or read it free of charge. It was <u>published with the academic eBook</u> Social, Economic and Governmental Justice on all the websites mentioned above, and can be found in pp. 487-649 of the academic eBook, with other non-academic works by Jacques Cory, and also on Cory's website as a separate book.

20. NELLY'S CHOICE - BEHIRATA SHEL NELLY - PLAY IN HEBREW

<u>בחירתה של נלי</u> מאת יעקב קורי ועמליה אייל

By Jacques Cory and Amalia Eyal. The play is an adaptation of Nelly Doron to the theater. The eBook play published in French in 2012 was not published yet in Israel in Hebrew, but is on Cory's website, at the library of the University of Haifa and at Cory's library in a printed format. Cory has chosen the music of the play, songs, arias, folk and classical music in ten languages – one and a half hour long - and it can be heard on Cory's website.

Nelly's Choice, a Play in Hebrew by Jacques Cory and Amalia Eyal – Summary, Review by Joshua Sobol and List of Musical Numbers, Audio of Music Part 1, *Part 2* – direct links.

OTHER WORKS – 21 TO 36

21. COURSES IN ENGLISH & FRENCH ON BUSINESS ETHICS, ETC. COURSES IN HEBREW ON BUSINESS ETHICS...: PART I/PART II

Most of the courses were taught at International MBA and BA courses in Israel and abroad and received an excellent acclaim (see Cory's website). The courses are based on an extensive bibliography read and analyzed by Dr. Jacques Cory, as well as on his books and articles. In many cases, the courses were the base of Cory's books, especially in the case on the Future of Capitalism. Apparently no courses in the whole world are based on the Great Recession 2007-2010 and on the books that were written subsequently, and Cory's contemporary courses appeal to a need perceived by Cory since 2004, and by thousands of students who organized after the Great Recession and in response to the "dictatorship of the neoliberal teaching" at most of the universities in the world, in the "International Student Initiative for Pluralism in Economics".

22. THE FUTURE OF CAPITALISM IN A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY - OUTLINE

The book addresses the most important issues of the world economy - the future of capitalism in a sustainable society - in the context of the Great Recession of 2007-2010, finding a pattern of the Economic Whirl starting in the eighties with damages of billions and incurring in 2008 damages of trillions. The book is unique in its holistic and comprehensive approach: psychological, economic, sociological, philosophical and moral, rather than descriptive as most of the books on this subject. It is less theoretical, more practical and understandable in approach to the issue of the future of capitalism. The book analyzes contemporary capitalism, the Recession and the Whirl, based on Dr. Cory's research and books, and more than 120 books, 130 videos, thousands of articles and documents, as well as hundreds outlines, researching them in a vivid, critical and captivating way. It examines various preferred solutions to the crisis of capitalism, corporate governance and conduct, adopted by regulators and business, recommended by eminent professors, writers and tycoons, and advocated by Cory in his works. This book is not only timely, but urgent. In the next crisis which could occur not later than 2020, as nothing has changed while the pace of the crises has increased exponentially, the world economy could indeed collapse, with damages reaching into the hundreds of trillions of dollars, far beyond the scope of the world GDP. Adoption of the remedies offered might prevent this collapse. Academic, private and public institutions approached by Dr. Cory are not willing yet to fund the book as it differs fundamentally from the prevailing neo liberal views. This is the outline of the book. The book will be written provided that it will be financed by an organization, university or individual, that are broadminded enough to support this novel, contemporary, and in a way contrarian approach.

In addition or alternatively a Hebrew academic book in progress: THE GREAT RECESSION OF 2007-2010 IN THE WORLD AND IN ISRAEL – see <u>extracts</u>, <u>outline</u>, <u>TOC</u>, <u>bibliography</u>.

23. AUDIOPLAY: RUTHY - THIS IS YOUR LIFE - IN WRITING, IN MUSIC, CORRESPONDENCE BY RUTHY AND JACQUES CORY

AUDIOPLAY OF PROGRAM BY JACQUES CORY TO RUTHY CORY ON THEIR 20TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY IN 1989, WRITTEN AND READ BY JACQUES, LETTERS OF JACQUES AND RUTHY IN 1969 PRIOR TO MARRIAGE, HEBREW TEXT, AUDIOPLAY AND SONGS IN 12 LANGUAGES. SUMMARY OF THE AUDIOPLAY.

<u>RECORDING OF THE AUDIOPLAY IN ALBUMS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 – IN TOTAL 4 HOURS AND 38 MINUTES.</u> – links to Cory's website. Cory has chosen all the music, songs, arias, folk and classical music of the audioplay, and has written the text of the play as well – four and a half hours long.

Audioplay (4'38") of Program by Jacques on 20th wedding anniversary, 1989, written & read by Cory, Letters of Jacques & Ruthy in 69, prior to marriage, text, music, play & songs in 12 languages, *Summary*, Albums 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 – links to the Audioplay, Summary, 6 Albums.

24. SCREENPLAY: SURPRISE PARTY - IN WRITING, IN VIDEO, IN MUSIC

SCREENPLAY AND DIRECTION OF FILM BY JACQUES CORY ON RUTHY'S 45TH BIRTHDAY IN 1992. SUMMARY, LIST OF CLIPS & SONGS, VIDEO 1, 2 – 1'20" HOURS. – links to Cory's website. Cory has chosen all the music, songs, arias, folk and classical music of the screenplay, clips from films and other sources, and has written the text of the play as well – about one hour long.

<u>Screenplay/Direction of 1'20" Film by Jacques on Ruthy's 45th Birthday in 1992, Summary, List of Clips/Songs, Video 1, 2</u> – links to the Screenplay, Summary, List of Clips, Video 1, 2.

25. OTHER FAMILY VIDEOS, RECORDS AND MUSIC

<u>The Surprise Party film was published on YouTube in two parts, as well as academic lectures and interviews.</u> Additional clips of Jacques Cory on YouTube - links to the <u>70th anniversary</u> - clip of photos, <u>Greetings of family</u> - video of greetings.

The Surprise Party film and the Audioplay are on Cory's website: in <u>Hebrew Read More</u>, the academic lectures and interviews are: in <u>Hebrew Lectures</u>, and the music of the play Nelly Doron is: in <u>Hebrew</u>. The DVDs of all those are in Cory's DVD library and most of them is also in Cory's Books library.

Nelly's Choice, a Play in Hebrew by Jacques Cory and Amalia Eyal – Summary, Review by Joshua Sobol and List of Musical Numbers, Audio of Music Part 1, *Part 2* – direct links.

HUNDREDS OF HOURS OF FAMILY VIDEOS, INCLUDING TRIPS ALL OVER THE WORLD, BIRTHDAYS, EVENTS, RECORDS OF CHILDRENS' VOICES, MUSIC, CHILDREN'S WEDDINGS, ARE PARTLY ON CORY'S WEBSITE, ON YOU TUBE, AND MOSTLY IN CORY'S AUDIOTAPES AND VIDEO/DVD LIBRARY. SEE ALSO IN CORY'S COSMOPOLITAN CULTURAL CREDO PAGES 1534-1535.

26. FAMILY PHOTOS

120+ ALBUMS OF THOUSANDS OF FAMILY PHOTOS OVER MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY FROM CORY'S CHILDHOOD TO CORY'S GRANDCHILDREN. HUNDREDS OF PHOTOS ARE ALSO ON CORY'S WEBSITE, IN CORY'S BOOKS, IN CORY'S MYPICTURES, DVDs, etc. SEE ALSO IN CORY'S COSMOPOLITAN CULTURAL CREDO PAGES 1534-1550.

27. JACQUES CORY'S WEBSITE - WWW.BUSINESSETHICSCORY.COM

Comprises texts of all unpublished eBooks, courses, part of correspondence, videos, music, photos, all published articles, details on the published books, details on all the lectures, links to lectures, symposiums, YouTube, connected websites, CVs, etc.

28. CORRESPONDENCE

Part of business and personal correspondence is on Cory's website, in Cory's books, emails, but most of the correspondence with Ruthy, children, family, friends, business colleagues, etc. is in Cory's study/office. Correspondence between Joshua Sobol, one of the leading playwrights in the world, and Jacques Cory, in Hebrew. Review of Cory's play "Nelly's Choice" by Joshua Sobol (emails translated into English). Appreciation letters in Hebrew. Appreciation letters in English. Correspondence and Speeches in Hebrew, English, French, Romanian, etc., including on the translation of the UN Declaration of Human Rights into Ladino. Correspondence of Jacques and Ruthy Cory in the months prior to their wedding in 1969 – photocopies and reading of letters by Jacques Cory – see Audioplay and Screenplay.

29. POETRY, SATIRES, EULOGIES AND LADINO ACTIVITIES

On Cory's website one can find extensive material on Cory's poetry, satires, eulogies, and Ladino activities, on the following pages: HL2, Articles, HA2. Worth mentioning are Cory's Ladino activities published in newspapers, magazines and websites, and especially the initiation of the translation into Ladino of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, participation in the translation (with Ladinokomunita), and editing of the text. This is a unique case that combines Cory's ethical activities – teaching in all his courses the UN Declaration of Human Rights, as a cornerstone of universal ethical conduct, linguistic activities – reading in 72 languages the Declaration, as a finalization of learning 50+ languages, and Ladino activities, including poetry, literature, folklore, music, films, plays, prayers, history, culminating with the translation of the Declaration and the discovery of the synagogue of Coria in Spain. Cory has written poetry, satires, eulogies..., that were published in eBooks, on Cory's website, or were not published yet.

30. BUSINESS PLANS, TURNAROUND PLANS, APPROVED ENTERPRISES, etc.

Most of the hundreds plans are in the format of books of about a hundred pages each. All the plans were aimed primarily to achieve a specific goal – find investors, receive an approved enterprise status or grants from the Chief Scientist, technology transfer, strategic planning, turnarounds, etc. Some of the books, as a business plan of a Jewel company, were also designed artistically, with a layout including photos of the jewels, the factory..., cover pages, fonts, colors of pages, graphs designed by Cory and so on.

Writing of Turnaround Plans and successful implementation of Elbit (1981-1982), Elscint's subsidiaries (1987-1988), NBase (1995-1996), and other companies, in hi-tech and low-tech, in France, the US and Israel, increasing in several cases valuation by more than 1,000%.

M&A/JV Negotiations of Israeli, U.S., Canadian, French, German, and Spanish companies in the computer, Internet, data communication, telecom, imaging, semi-conductor, and aerospace industries. Due diligence, negotiations, writing of 100 business plans, strategic planning.

Technology Transfer: conducting of negotiations and agreements, including development, manufacturing and marketing rights, between large European, American and Israeli companies, such as Nixdorf, Alcatel, Hon and Global. Management of a Satellite Communications Consortium (1991-1993) comprised of some of the largest Israeli companies: IAI, Rafael/Galram, Elisra, Gilat, Technion. Writing of the applications to the Chief Scientist.

Obtaining Approved Enterprise Status: including writing the investments plans and conducting the negotiations with the Ministry. Mainly for foreign companies, including for huge investments, for new companies, for small and large companies, high tech and low tech.

31. ON LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

Cory has written hundreds of pages on linguistics and languages, part of it in Cory's autobiography. The autobiography in English, comprising 1566 pages, and the Hebrew book "Essays, Memoirs and Articles...", comprising 1020 pages, could be actually split into several books of 100-200-300... books each – the biography part of a few hundred pages, and the essays, memoirs and articles of a few hundred pages, to be inserted as they were in the eBooks, but also separate books on different topics, as detailed in the next 6 paragraphs. The first one is languages and linguistics - the methodology of learning languages, texts in Aramaic, Latin, Dutch, Haitian, Yiddish, Provencal, etc., an essay on learning 5 languages at school, an essay on Cory's experience in learning languages, comparison of 120+ languages, polyglot greetings, sayings in many languages, links to hundreds of popular songs, dance and music in dozens of languages, lists of countries where English, French, Spanish, Portuguese... have an official status, reflections on the intellectual damage of the new constructed languages, aptitude to languages, how to become a polyglot, trifles about new languages, deciphering IKEA's instructions in 30 languages, entries on dozens of languages, texts in hundreds of languages - the Bible, prayers - Pater Noster, the Little Prince, and the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

32. ON MODERN AND CLASSIC LITERATURE

A survey on Modern World Literature comprises lists by Cory and others, as well as Cory's insights on modern literature, from 1860 until nowadays, in dozens of languages - the most cosmopolitan list, analysis of dozens of books, links to 1000+ books, to the best-selling books of all times, Jewish authors in modern literature, the contribution of Jews to the world's welfare and culture, in the context of the resurgent anti-Semitism in Europe, in Arab and Moslem countries. Classic literature and personal insights on the literature, authors and best books, in the ten languages that Cory knows best - German, Romanian, Interlingua, Ladino, Portuguese, Italian, Spanish, English, French, Hebrew. Insights on conscious and subconscious considerations, Sephardic Jews, singing Agada in Ladino to Harry Recanati who burst out crying, on happiness, on Dante's inferno, the Sorrows of Young Werther, the poet Eminescu, Italy's merits, Lorca – a las 5 de la tarde, Shakespeare, James Joyce and Cory, on nonconformism, Friulian, Galego, Irish Gaelic, children songs in dozens of languages, Pagnol, Zola, Hugo, Balzac, Proust, Scott Fitzgerald, Sinclair Lewis, Cervantes, Llosa, le comte de Monte Cristo – on revenge and forgiveness, Hebrew – community singing, Agnon, Amos Oz – peacelovings, cosmopolitan society and literature, most translated books, on cosmopolitan communism and the Internationale, the methodology of reading...

33. ON DRAMA, PLAYS AND THEATER

Favorite playwrights, plays read in 30+ languages, Cory's subjective impressions on reading plays and watching drama. Plays read (and mostly watched) in their original language - The Threepenny Opera in German in Berlin and Cory's lecture at Transparency International based on it, Cory's academic courses based on plays, Joshua Sobol's Ghetto (Hebrew), Arthur Miller's All My Sons (English), Cory's first memory – Edmond Rostand's play L'aiglon (French) at a theater in Cairo, Egypt, Best business ethics notion – Henrik Ibsen's An Enemy of the People (Norwegian), Modern plays by Pirandello – Sei personaggi in cerca d'autore (Italian), Lorca – La casa de Bernarda Alba (Spanish), Strindberg – Froeken Julie (Swedish), Chekhov – Tri sestry (Russian), plays in Ladino – La vinya de Navot by Yosef Avraam Papo, Catalan – Terra Baixa by Angel Guimera, Portuguese – Frei Luis de Sousa by Almeida Garrett, Latin – Medea by Seneca, Haitian – Mouche Defas/Tartuffe, Romanian - Tartuffe, Esperanto – The Tempest, Asturian – Xuacu busca criau I y na mas, Gascon – La pastorala deu paisan, etc. Glengarry Glen Ross by David Mamet, Rhinoceros by Eugene Ionesco, Shakespeare – All the World's a stage, we are players. Comments on plays seen in Israel, London, Paris, New York, Berlin, videos of plays...

34. ON BIOGRAPHIES AND LIVES OF PROMINENT PERSONALITIES

It is fascinating to read biographies of the best politicians, businessmen, composers, musicians, painters, writers, actors, kings and emperors, heads of states and ministers, economists, etc. One can learn a lot from the good and the bad examples, from Churchill, F.D. Roosevelt, De Gaulle, Ben Gurion, Lee Kuan Yew, but also from Hitler, Mussolini, Franco, Mao Zedong, and Stalin. Biographies are probably the form of literature that I enjoy most, as they are a synergy between documentary and fiction. I read about ten biographies/novels of Dona Gracia, finding that probably she was responsible for rescuing my forefathers who were obliged to convert to Christianity in Portugal, and enabling them to escape to the Ottoman Empire. After reading all the books by Emile Zola, my most beloved author, I read several biographies of his life, until I started reading the monumental biography of Zola by Henri Mitterand in 3 volumes of about a thousand pages each, being sure that I'll never finish it, as I read in parallel tens of other biographies, I have postponed reading literature until I finished all the 120 books about Capitalism, and I am writing presently the book Ethics Pays. But, it is very interesting to read in parallel the biographies of the leaders of the world in World War II, and notice how the conflict started and evolved from all the possible angles. I started reading also in parallel biographies of my most preferred authors from Shakespeare to Thomas Mann, from Cervantes to Marcel Pagnol. But, as I decided to focus on one book of each category, I intend to read once in ten days Zola's biography, and so I may finish it within a couple of years, but I would have to postpone for that reading the biographies of Churchill, Proust, Shaw, Renoir, Moliere, Verdi, Steve Jobs. I can of course read only biographies, but what about the languages that I will forget if I abandon Anna Karenina in Russian, the plays, the geography books, and the books in Spanish and English? The best 36 biographies of prominent personalities that I have read rather recently are: Dona Gracia, Honore de Balzac, David Ben-Gurion, Brutus, Charles Chaplin, Felix Mendelssohn, Arthur Rubinstein, Charles de Gaulle, Theodor Herzl, Henrik Ibsen, Lee Kuan Yew and Singapore, Alma Mahler, Karl Marx, Arthur Miller, Victor Hugo, Mahatma Gandhi, Federico Garcia Lorca, Liv Ullmann, George Sand, Emile Zola, Jean-Paul Sartre, Lev Tolstoi, Rembrandt, Rachel, Verdi, Warren Buffett, Renoir, Paul Hawken, Disraeli, Marcel Dassault, Don Isaac Abravanel, Coco Chanel, Sarah Bernhardt, Shelley, Alberto Moravia, Anne Frank. And I intend to read in the future the

36 biographies that I have started reading in parallel: <u>Shai Agnon, Woody Allen, Ingmar Bergman, Ludwig van Beethoven, Bertolt Brecht, Miguel de Cervantes, Winston Churchill, Leonardo da Vinci/Eine Kindheitserrinerung des Leonardo da Vinci by Sigmund Freud, Michelangelo Buonarroti, Alfred Dreyfus, Bob Dylan, Ernest Hemingway, Heinrich Heine, Albert Einstein, Isaac Newton, Napoleon, Moliere, Marcel Pagnol, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Rothschild, William Shakespeare, George Bernard Shaw, August Strindberg, The Brothers Mann (Heinrich and Thomas), Tennessee Williams, Yisrael Meir Lau, Steve Jobs, Lee Iacocca, Lorenzo da Ponte, Marcel Proust, Augustus, Henri IV, Goethe, Elias Canetti, Yitzhak Navon.</u>

35. ON THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT, DOVES AND RADICAL ISLAM

Until now I have never referred to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in writing, as I did not have much to contribute. I have sometimes voted for hawk leaders and sometimes for dove leaders, and I even had the surprise to vote for Menachem Begin, the ultra-hawk, who was the first to make a peace agreement with an Arab country – Egypt. But today, Israel is under siege, by a coalition of Radical Islam countries and terrorist groups as Iran, Hamas, the Palestinian Authority, Hizballah, ISIS, etc., by anti-Semites in Western countries, by the extreme left and extreme right in Europe, by peaceloving organizations, BDS, by the UN organizations, and even by many Israelis organizations and individuals. Therefore, I have decided to write my credo on this topic in a few hundred pages in my autobiography in English and in my book "Essays, Memoirs and Articles..." in Hebrew. I emphasize that this book – as it really can be a book, is not against Arabs and Muslims to whom I have great respect, as I have showed in my career, or against the Quran which I taught in my courses as example of business ethics.

I observe the situation **today** – not in the history – and today development, ethics, democracy, human rights, technological progress, are practiced especially in "Western" societies, including Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong, Israel, Chile, Barbados, or Botswana. Bearing in mind that those countries are not in the West, but rather in the East, and of course are not Europeans, one should refer to Western – as to the development, democracy, ethics, human rights and technological progress that prevail and originate mainly in Europe, the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and were adopted by other countries in the East. This is what I mean by Eurocentrism/Western/Humane socio-economic culture, which is universal, but unfortunately does not prevail in Arab and Muslim countries and in many developing countries, not because of the Quran, which is as humane as the other religions, but due to a faulty and fundamentalist implementation of the Quran and human rights, which prevents in most of the cases democracy and human rights, gender equality, and keep their countries far away from development, progress, peace, ethics, in backwardness, poverty, extreme inequality, corruption, racism, sanctifying death instead of life.

The "book", or rather the parts of my books dealing on those issues, comprises the following topics: on Europecentrism and Western culture, against racist remarks on Jews and Muslims, on delegitimization of Israel and the Jews, the unbearable lightness of slandering Israel in the theater, the danger of ISIS expansionism - right of return to Europe, a sober point of view on the Middle East crisis, a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, on BDS and defamatory organizations, Israeli boycott by our Irish friends, the monstrous analogy between the Holocaust and the Nakba, the Palestinian and Israeli impasse preventing them to make peace, the Muslim society's blame on not condemning fundamentalists, Muslim Nobel Prize laureates, Israeli Nobel Prize laureates, On Muslims called Jihad and Shahid, double meaning statements of Palestinians, the danger of Muslim extremism to the Western world, Are

Fundamentalists Muslims the only terrorists nowadays, first they came for the others and we did not speak out, is Israel an Apartheid country and Sharia a democratic law, is Jewish, Israelis, Swedish et al. criticism against Israel justified, a satire on the Middle East conflict based on Moliere's Tartuffe, Palestinian right of return – myth and reality, fundamental Muslim anti-Semitism and Nazism, burning of books, what would happen if fundamentalist Islam would win, Jews and Israel are today as in the past the usual scapegoats, divide et impera – persecution of Christian by Muslims, who makes ethnic cleansing – Muslims or Jews, a few questions to the Christians who blame Israel, right of return of Jews out of Israel, all segments of Israel should join forces, focus on the most important issues, Israel should assume total responsibility for the situation, Muslim shahids fantasy on 72 virgins in paradise.

36. ON FILMS, MUSIC, ARTS, PHILOSOPHY, GEOGRAPHY, TRAVEL, HUMOR...

Finally, from all the other topics in my two books mentioned above we could make a new book on some of my most important fields of interest, mainly films, music and arts, with lists of the most favorite films, classical music, operas, shows, painters, and so on. This book would include also the other fields of interest not mentioned previously, namely– Geography, Philosophy, History, Travel, Humor, Innovation, etc. The best museums in Paris, New York and London, on Impressionism, the best painters, lists of festival films with grades, the best films seen in Cory's youth, lists of films in Cory's business ethics courses and books, lists of Cory's best cosmopolitan films, the best directors, screenwriters, actors, actresses, cinema of Israel, lists of Israeli films, on the films - Wall Street, Other People's Money, The Crooked E, Damaged Care, The Insider, Erin Brockovich, Silkwood, A Civil Action, McLibel, The Big One, The Take, Rogue Trader, It's a Wonderful Life, The Visit of the Old Lady/The Visit/Hyenas, Enemy of the People/Ganashatru, Jean de Florette/Manon. Best shows and concerts, best concerts seen recently, best classical music, opera, Rigoletto. Essay on Aristotle's book "Ethics", Epicurean thought, On Stoicism. The Cory theory on paradise on earth for the just – reading the books of the 720 best authors, 72 biographies of the most prominent persons, watching 72 best plays, 72 best operas, 72 best concerts, 360 best films, 72 best singers' performances, 72 best painters, knowledge of 72 languages, 72 fields of interests, etc. Israel - startups, inventions, the book Start-Up Nation. American and British sitcoms that Cory likes best, comic musicals, films and plays, Topaze, Les marchands de gloire, Yes Minister, business humor and jokes, Jewish humor, Rossini's Largo al factotum from Il Barbiere di Siviglia. Cory has also written humoristic letters/emails, most of them remain unpublished. On extensive travel all over the world, comments on countries visited, A visit to the Balkans. Cosmopolitan aspects of all those fields of interest in holistic harmony.

EPILOGUE

The books that I am writing are a new form of literature, as they combine an autobiography, memoirs, dissertations on the topics that I like most – linguistics (with a focus on the languages that I have learned), literature (with a focus on modern literature), drama (with a focus on the plays that I like most), music (with a focus on the composers I like most), philosophy (expanding on my views on life), geography (expanded in my book Ethics Pays), films (with a focus on the films of my courses), biographies (especially of the personalities I admire most), ethics (summarizing my pioneering activities), business (focusing on case studies of my career), the Middle East conflict (expanding for the first time on my political agenda), history (a personal view on pages of history), innovation (contribution of peoples and Israel to innovation), humor and saying (focusing on the main topics of the book), arts and museums (the painters I like most), culture (my contribution to culture), cosmopolitanism (my cosmopolitan and multicultural experience), Judaism, Zionism, xenophilia, poetry,

religion, my wife and family, links to photos, classical music, plays, operas, books, songs, films, personalities, history, geography, Wikis, etc. My books can be read in an hour – if one chooses from the table of contents a few topics only, a few days – if one reads the full parts of the books that interest him, a few weeks – if one reads one of the books, a few months – if one reads and watches all the links of the book, a whole life – if one expands on all the personalities, issues, topics, languages, books, music, countries mentioned in my 36+ books.

I have published 20 to 36+ books and eBooks (depending on definition) as specified above. First, we can find the 10 books that were published as printed books -4 academic books in English and Hebrew that comprise similar and different contents, a doctorate dissertation in French in the format of a book and a dissertation, a novel in Hebrew based on a play published in French, 2 edited books in French and Hebrew comprising my essays, and so on. Second, we can find the 10 eBooks that were published on my website and partly on universities, colleges and organizations' websites and libraries – 3 eBooks in Hebrew on original and updated essays and articles, including new materials as ethical codes, case studies, memoirs, on professional, general and personal topics, one geography and ethics eBook in English, one autobiography eBook in English, 2 versions of a play in Hebrew with 1.5 hours music chosen by Cory, 2 children eBooks in Hebrew – one of them was also in a book format, 1 youth diary in Hebrew – with extracts published on the Internet. To those 20 books we can add Cory's courses in English, French, Hebrew, correspondence published on the Internet, in books and unpublished, Cory's website, an Audioplay - text and music in DVD, a Screenplay – text, video and music in DVD, poetry and satires, 2 books in progress with hundreds of pages as notes, hundreds of hours of family videos, records and music – mostly unpublished, thousands of photos over more than half a century partly published in books and website, business plans, turnaround plans, approved enterprise – with only one artistic business plan as a sample, and 6 books comprising of essays, surveys and original inputs, that were published as part of the 1566 pages autobiography and 1020 pages book "Essays, Memoirs and Articles...", in addition to the autobiography and memoirs contents, on Modern and Classic Literature, on Linguistics and Languages, on Drama, Plays and Theater, on Biographies and Lives of Prominent Personalities, on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, Doves and Radical Islam, on Films, Music, Arts, Philosophy, Geography, Travel, Humor... If we add to those 36 books/works - turnaround and strategic plans, 100 business plans, business, finance and sales reports in format of books/brochures, they amount to hundreds. See also video in English on the 36 Books, eBooks and Works on my website.

Dr. JACQUES CORY - Short CV

Dr. Jacques Cory (Ph.D. with Distinction, CNAM, France, 2004, MBA Insead, France, 1968, BA University of Jerusalem, 1966) is an international businessman specializing in M&A in the US, Europe and Israel, as well as a pioneering author in business ethics, and a lecturer at the University of Haifa (2004-2013 in MBA, International MBA in English, BA and Naval Academy), the University of Tel Aviv (International MBA in English – 2010/11), the Technion (MBA 2009/10), Insead (2006), and other universities. Cory is the author of articles (i.a. columnist on Business Ethics in the Israeli CPA Review 2009/11) and academic books published in the US at Kluwer and Springer (Business Ethics: The Ethical Revolution of Minority Shareholders, and Activist Business Ethics, in 2001, and in soft cover in 2004), Mellen (Business Ethics for a Sustainable Society: Conquering the Corporate Frankenstein, in 2009, and in soft cover in 2010), and in Israel at Magnes, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Selected Issues in Business Ethics and Social Responsibility, in 7/2008), an ethical novel (Beware of Greeks' Presents, in 2001 in Israel), a play in Hebrew "Nelly's Choice" published in France "Le choix de Nelly" in 2012, a PhD dissertation in French (L'ethique des affaires et

les actionnaires minoritaires, in 2004, CNAM) published in France in 2012, chapters of books in French (CSR) published in France in 2010 & in Hebrew (Public Responsibility in Israel) published in Israel, 2012, a book in Hebrew "Social, Economic & Governmental Justice: Essays, Articles & the Play "Nelly Doron"" published in 2012 on the Internet, updated in 2016 and split in two books: a professional with Ethical Codes and Case Studies, a general and personal with essays & memoirs, 2016 eBooks: Ethics Pays: A Comprehensive Atlas of Salient Parameters in the 300 Countries of the World Proving that Ethics Pays, Cory's Cosmopolitan Cultural Credo – an Autobiography, books in progress since 2010 on the Future of Capitalism and the Great Recession, 2016 – Ijiko and His Grandparents in the Jungle.

Cory's books, articles, lectures and courses focus on business ethics to minority shareholders, in banks, M&A, the stock exchange, the future of capitalism in the context of the Great Recession of 2007-2010, business & government, CSR, corporate governance, directors, sustainability, globalization, leadership. Cory's book "Activist Business Ethics" is quoted several times in the entry "Business Ethics" on Wikipedia and on other websites, and was purchased by more than a thousand libraries of the best universities all over the world. His books were the first ones in the world on the topic of business ethics to minority shareholders, and have anticipated the corporate scandals from 12/2001 onwards, the Economic Crisis of 9/2008, and the new Great Depression forecasted until 2020. In 2014 Cory wrote an Ethical Code, 10 case studies and conducted training for Sibat, the International Defense Cooperation Agency. Cory held senior positions in the high tech industry, was VP Finance & Sales (1981-1987) of Elbit, one of the largest high tech companies in Israel, led issues on Wall Street and in Israel, wrote over 100 business plans, and has conducted M&As, turnaround plans, and know-how agreements in the US, Europe and Israel. Cory received in 2015 the Israeli highest ethical prize by Ometz "Itur Hamofet", was elected as the best lecturer of the University of Haifa, and was a Member of the Boards of Directors of companies in the US & Israel, Transparency International Israel, the Haifa Theater, and the Haifa Film Festival. Cory is a Member of the Advisory Board of I.Q.L. The Israeli Directors Forum Ltd. Cory has a website describing his activities in the US, Europe & Israel, with books, articles, courses, lectures, business, correspondence, culture, linguistics.

Cory gave lectures at Transparency International's headquarters in Berlin, a European Union Forum at Stresa, Italy, Ethics & Management Symposium of Paris' high ranking executives, Insead Ethics Days in Fontainebleau, France; and in Israel: at the Hi-Tech Summit, Directors' Convention, Top Management of Israeli Bank Leumi, Transparency International, Israeli SEC, Ethics Center at the Israeli Stock Exchange, Internal Auditors Convention, Magnes Launching of Book - ZOA hall, Tel Aviv, Mishkenot Shaananim Ethics Center, Bimat Kedem Launching of Book – Suzan Dalal hall, Tel Aviv, Ethics & Engineering, BDO, Elbit, IAI, Migdal Insurance Group, the Israeli Electric Company, Ernst & Young, Izraeli Ethics Center, Apax & Insead Anciens Association, Ometz, forums of the Technion, the University of Haifa and other universities, and on the radio and TV. Cory organized a Symposium on Social & Economic Justice with the Haifa University & Ometz in Haifa, Israel, 2011. Cory is fluent in English, French (mother tongue), Spanish, Ladino, Hebrew; and has a fair knowledge of Italian, German, Portuguese, Romanian, Interlingua, with reading capabilities in 40 other languages. He is married to Ruthy Popliker since 1969, and has three children: Joseph, Amir, Shirly. Born in Cairo, Egypt, 1944, where he studied at the Lycee, Cory is an Israeli citizen living in Israel since 1953.







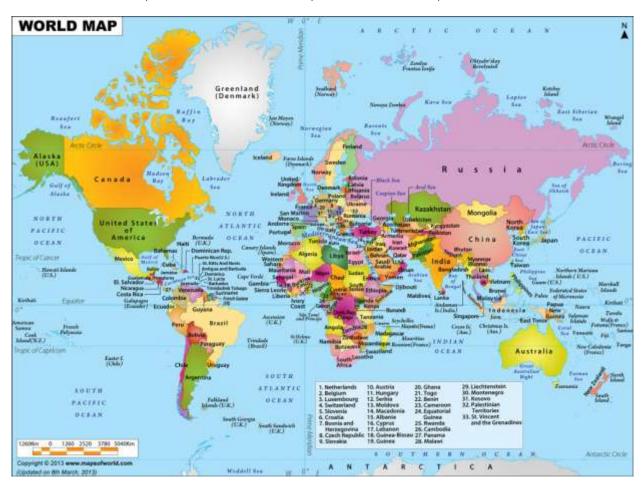






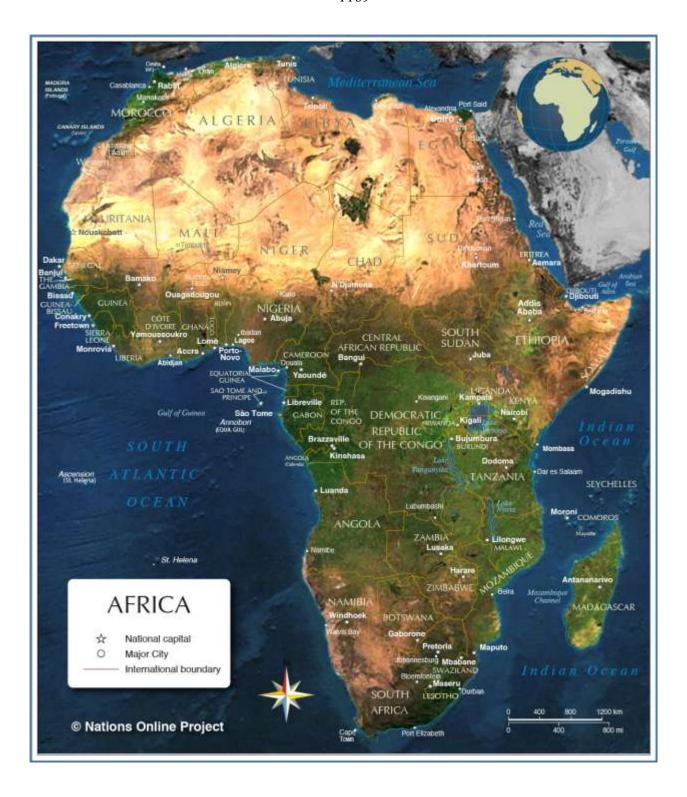
APPENDIX 2 - MAPS OF THE WORLD, CONTINENTS, COUNTRIES, CAPITALS, POPULATION, FLAGS, PHOTOS ON TRIPS OF CORY'S FAMILY

MAPS OF THE WORLD, CONTINENTS – AFRICA, NORTH & SOUTH AMERICA, CENTRAL AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN, WESTERN, CENTRAL & EASTERN ASIA, EUROPE, OCEANIA, ANTARCTICA - COUNTRIES, TERRITORIES, CAPITALS, POPULATION



Countries and Territories in Africa: Algeria | Angola | Benin | Botswana | Burkina Faso | Burundi | Cameroon | Cape Verde |
Central African Republic | Chad | Comoros | Democratic Republic of the Congo | Congo, Republic of the | Côte d'Ivoire | Djibouti |
Egypt | Equatorial Guinea | Eritrea | Ethiopia | Gabon | Gambia, The | Ghana | Guinea | Guinea-Bissau | Kenya | Lesotho |
Liberia | Libya | Madagascar | Malawi | Mali | Mauritania | Mauritius | Morocco | Mozambique | Namibia | Niger | Nigeria |
Réunion | Rwanda | Sao Tome and Principe | Senegal | Seychelles | Sierra Leone | Somalia | South Africa | Sudan | Swaziland |
Tanzania, United Republic of | Togo | Tunisia | Uganda | Zambia | Zimbabwe |

Maps of African Countries: Algeria Map | Angola Map | Benin Map | Botswana Map | Burkina Faso Map | Burundi Map | Cameroon Map | Cape Verde Map | Central African Republic Map | Chad Map | Comoros Map | Congo-Brazzaville Map | Congo-Kinshasa Map | Cote d'Ivoire Map | Djibouti Map | Equatorial Guinea Map | Eritrea Map | Ethiopia Map | Gabon Map | Gambia Map (see Senegal Map) | Ghana Map | Guinea Map | Guinea-Bissau Map | Kenya Map | Lesotho Map (see South Africa Map) | Liberia Map | Libya Map | Madagascar Map | Malawi Map | Mali Map | Mauritania Map | Mauritius | Morocco Map | Mozambique Map | Namibia Map | Niger Map | Nigeria Map | Rwanda Map | Senegal Map | Sierra Leone Map | Somalia Map | South Africa Map | South Sudan (see Sudan Map) | Sudan Map | Swaziland Map | Tanzania Map | Togo Map | Tunisia Map | Uganda Map | Zambia Map | Zimbabwe Map



Country	Population	Maps	Capital City
<u>Burundi</u>	8,500,000	Burundi Map	<u>Bujumbura</u>
<u>Comoros</u>	727,000	Comoros Map	<u>Moroni</u>
<u>Djibouti</u>	900,000	<u>Djibouti Map</u>	<u>Djibouti</u>
<u>Eritrea</u>	5,200,000	Eritrea Map	<u>Asmara</u>
<u>Ethiopia</u>	85,000,000	Ethiopia Map	Addis Ababa
<u>Kenya</u>	40,000,000	Kenya Map	<u>Nairobi</u>
<u>Madagascar</u>	20,100,000	Madagascar Map	<u>Antananarivo</u>
<u>Malawi</u>	15,400,000	Malawi Map	Lilongwe
<u>Mauritius</u>	1,300,000		Port Louis
<u>Mozambique</u>	23,400,000	Mozambique Map	<u>Maputo</u>
Réunion	800,000	Réunion Map	Saint-Denis
Rwanda	10,400,000	Rwanda Map	<u>Kigali</u>
<u>Seychelles</u>	100,000		<u>Victoria</u>
<u>Somalia</u>	9,400,000	Somalia Map	<u>Mogadishu</u>
<u>Tanzania</u>	45,000,000	Tanzania Map	Dodoma, Dar es Salaa
<u>Uganda</u>	33,800,000	Uganda Map	<u>Kampala</u>
<u>Zambia</u>	13,300,000	Zambia Map	<u>Lusaka</u>
<u>Zimbabwe</u>	12,600,000	Zimbabwe Map	<u>Harare</u>

Central Africa (Middle Africa, or also Equatorial Africa)					
Country	Population	Maps	Capital City		
<u>Angola</u>	19,000,000	Angola Map	<u>Luanda</u>		
Cameroon	20.000.000	Cameroon Map	Yaoundé		

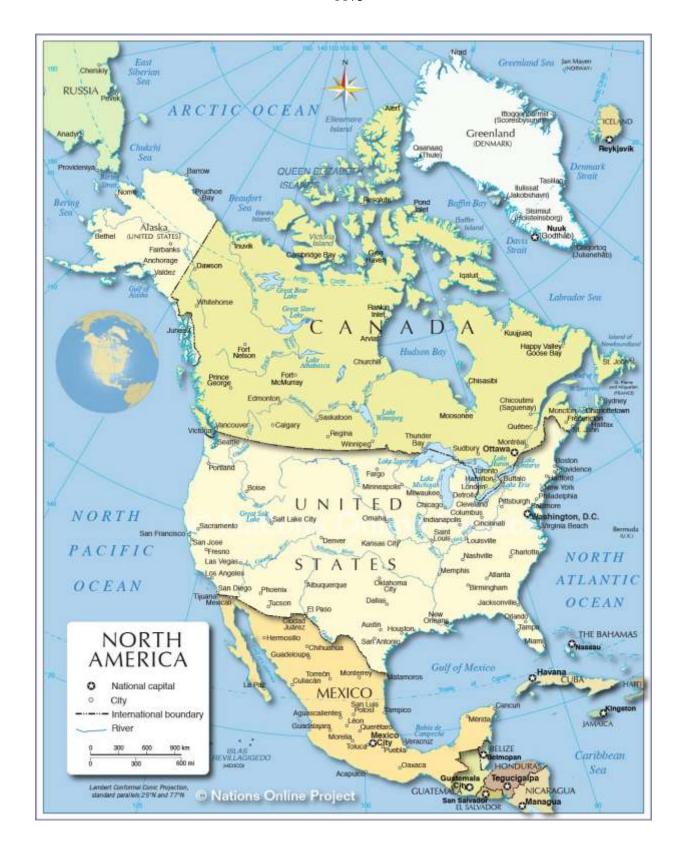
Central African Republic	4,800,000	Central African Republic Map	<u>Bangui</u>
Chad	11,500,000	Chad Map	<u>N'Djamena</u>
Congo, Rep. (Brazzaville)	3,900,000	Congo, Rep. Map	<u>Brazzaville</u>
Congo, Dem. Rep. (Kinshasa)	67,800,000	Congo, Dem. Rep. Map	<u>Kinshasa</u>
Equatorial Guinea	700,000	Equatorial Guinea Map	<u>Malabo</u>
<u>Gabon</u>	1,500,000	Gabon Map	<u>Libreville</u>
São Tomé and Príncipe	200,000		São Tomé

Northern Africa or North Africa					
Country	Population	Maps	Capital City		
Algeria	36,000,000	Algeria Map	<u>Algiers</u>		
<u>Egypt</u>	80,400,000	Egypt Map	Cairo		
<u>Libya</u>	6,500,000	<u>Libya Map</u>	<u>Tripoli</u>		
<u>Morocco</u>	31,900,000	Morocco Map	Rabat		
South Sudan	9,000,000	see: <u>Sudan Map</u>	<u>Juba</u>		
Sudan	36,000,000	Sudan Map	<u>Khartoum</u>		
<u>Tunisia</u>	10,500,000	Tunisia Map	<u>Tunis</u>		
Western Sahara	500,000	see: Mauritania Map	(El Aaiún)		

Southern Africa	ı		
Country	Population	Maps	Capital City
<u>Botswana</u>	1,800,000	Botswana Map	Gaborone
<u>Lesotho</u>	1,900,000		<u>Maseru</u>
<u>Namibia</u>	2,200,000	Namibia Map	Windhoek

Swaziland	1,200,000	Swaziland Map	Mbabane, Lobamba
South Africa	49,900,000	South Africa Map	Pretoria, Bloemfontein, Cape Town

Vestern Africa			
Country	Population	Maps	Capital City
<u>Benin</u>	9,800,000	Benin Map	Porto-Novo, Cotonou
Burkina Faso	16,200,000	Burkina Faso Map	<u>Ouagadougou</u>
Cape Verde	500,000	Cape Verde Map	<u>Praia</u>
<u>Côte d'Ivoire</u> (Ivory Coast)	22,000,000	Ivory Coast Map	Yamoussoukro, Abidjan
Gambia, The	1,800,000	see: <u>Senegal Map</u>	<u>Banjul</u>
<u>Ghana</u>	24,000,000	Ghana Map	<u>Accra</u>
<u>Guinea</u>	10,800,000	Guinea Map	Conakry
Guinea-Bissau	1,600,000	Guinea-Bissau Map	Bissau
<u>Liberia</u>	4,100,000	<u>Liberia Map</u>	<u>Monrovia</u>
<u>Mali</u>	15,200,000	<u>Mali Map</u>	<u>Bamako</u>
<u>Mauritania</u>	3,400,000	Mauritania Map	Nouakchott
Niger	15,900,000	Niger Map	Niamey
<u>Nigeria</u>	158,300,000	Nigeria Map	<u>Abuja</u>
Saint Helena	6,000		Jamestown
<u>Senegal</u>	12,500,000	Senegal Map	<u>Dakar</u>
Sierra Leone	5,800,000	Sierra Leone Map	<u>Freetown</u>
<u>Togo</u>	6,800,000	Togo Map	<u>Lomé</u>



The Americas: Complete Map Set



Countries and Territories in the Caribbean (capitals in parentheses):

Anguilla (The Valley) | Antigua and Barbuda (Saint John's) | Aruba (Oranjestad) | Bahamas (Nassau) | Barbados (Bridgetown) | British Virgin Islands (Road Town) | Cuba (Havana) | Dominica (Roseau) | Dominican Republic (Santo Domingo) | Grenada (Saint George's) | Guadeloupe (Basse-Terre) | Haiti (Port-au-Prince) | Jamaica (Kingston) | Martinique (Fort-de-France) | Montserrat (Plymouth) | Netherlands Antilles (Willemstad) | Puerto Rico (San Juan) | Saint Kitts and Nevis (Basseterre) | Saint Lucia (Castries) | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (Kingstown) | Trinidad and Tobago (Port-of-Spain) | U.S. Virgin Islands (Charlotte Amalie)

Countries of Middle and Central America (capitals in parentheses):

Belize (Belmopan), Costa Rica (San José), El Salvador (San Salvador), Guatemala (Guatemala City), Honduras (Tegucigalpa), Mexico (Mexico City), Nicaragua (Managua), Panama (Panama City)

Maps of Countries in North America, Capitals and Countries:

Canada Map, Mexico Map, USA Map Washington D.C. (United States) Ottawa (Canada) Mexico City (Mexico) Nuuk (Greenland)

Maps of Countries in Central America:

Belize Map, Costa Rica Map, El Salvador Map, Guatemala Map, Honduras Map, Nicaragua Map, Panama Map

Maps of Caribbean Islands

Cuba Map, Dominican Republic Map, Haiti Map, Jamaica Map, Puerto Rico Map

Countries (sovereign states) in South America (capital cities in parentheses)

Argentina (Buenos Aires) | Bolivia (La Paz) | Brazil (Brasilia) | Chile (Santiago) | Colombia (Bogotá D.C.) | Ecuador (Quito) | French Guiana (Cayenne) | Guyana (Georgetown) | Paraguay (Asunción) | Peru (Lima) | Suriname (Paramaribo) | Uruguay (Montevideo) | Venezuela (Caracas), the island nation of Trinidad and Tobago (Port-of-Spain) comprising of two islands, is considered to be part of the Caribbean, but it's just off the northeastern coast of Venezuela.



States and Territories of the Americas and the Caribbean

Caribbean

Country	Population	Maps	Capital City
<u>Anguilla</u>	13,000		The Valley
Antigua and Barbuda	100,000		Saint John's
<u>Aruba</u>	103,000		<u>Oranjestad</u>
<u>Bahamas</u>	300,000	Bahamas Map	<u>Nassau</u>
<u>Barbados</u>	300,000		<u>Bridgetown</u>
<u>Bermuda</u>	65,000		<u>Hamilton</u>
British Virgin Islands	22,000		Road Town
Cayman Islands	38,000		George Town
<u>Cuba</u>	11,200,000	Cuba Map	<u>Havana</u>
<u>Dominica</u>	100,000		Roseau
Dominican Republic	9,900,000	Dominican Rep. Map	Santo Domingo
<u>Grenada</u>	100,000		Saint George's
<u>Guadeloupe</u>	400,000		Basse-Terre
<u>Haiti</u>	9,800,000	<u>Haiti Map</u>	Port-au-Prince
<u>Jamaica</u>	2,700,000	Jamaica Map	<u>Kingston</u>
<u>Martinique</u>	400,000		Fort-de-France
<u>Montserrat</u>	5,000		<u>Plymouth</u>
Netherlands Antilles	220,000		Willemstad
Puerto Rico	3,900,000	Puerto Rico Map	San Juan
Saint Kitts and Nevis	100,000		<u>Basseterre</u>
Saint Lucia	200,000		Castries

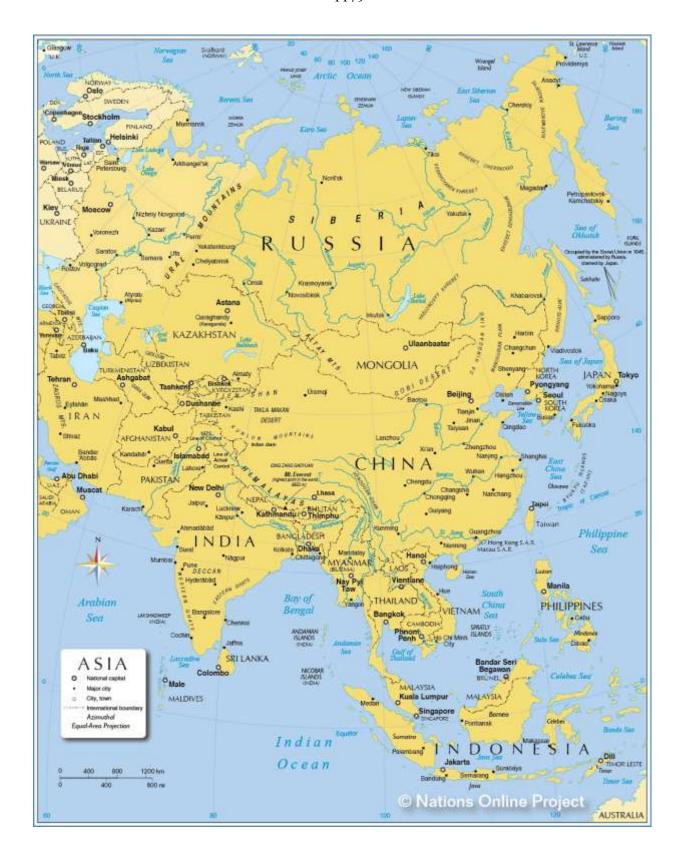
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	the 100,000	<u>Kingstown</u>
Trinidad and Tobago	1,300,000	Port-of-Spain
US Virgin Islands	93,000 <u>U.S. Virgin Is. Map</u>	Charlotte Amalie

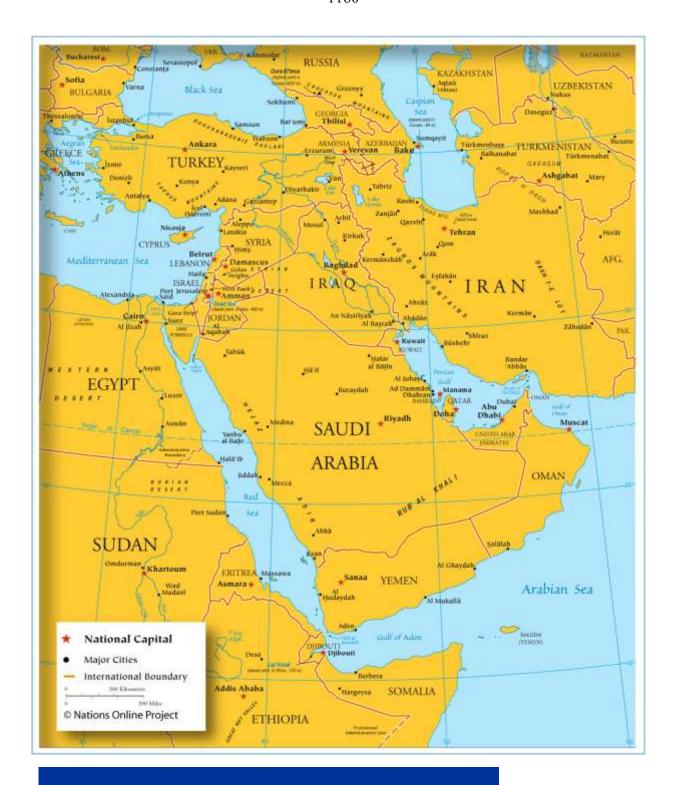
С	Central America					
	Country	<u>Population</u>	Maps	Capital City		
	<u>Belize</u>	300,000	Map of Belize	<u>Belmopan</u>		
	Costa Rica	4,600,000	Map of Costa Rica	San José		
	<u>El Salvador</u>	6,200,000	Map of El Salvador	San Salvador		
	Guatemala	14,400,000	Map of Guatemala	Guatemala (City)		
	<u>Honduras</u>	7,600,000	Map of Honduras	<u>Tegucigalpa</u>		
	<u>Nicaragua</u>	6,000,000	Map of Nicaragua	<u>Managua</u>		
	<u>Panama</u>	3,500,000	Map of Panama	Panama (City)		

S	South America					
_	Country	<u>Population</u>	Maps	Capital City		
	<u>Argentina</u>	40,500,000	Map of Argentina	Buenos Aires		
	<u>Bolivia</u>	10,400,000	Map of Bolivia	La Paz, Sucre		
	<u>Brazil</u>	193,300,000	Map of Brazil	Brasilia - São Paulo		
	<u>Chile</u>	17,100,000	Map of Chile	<u>Santiago</u>		
	Colombia	45,500,000	Map of Colombia	Bogotá D.C.		
	Ecuador	14,200,000	Map of Ecuador	<u>Quito</u>		
	French Guiana	200,000	French Guiana Map	<u>Cayenne</u>		
	<u>Guyana</u>	800,000	Map of Guyana	Georgetown		

<u>Paraguay</u>	6,500,000	Map of Paraguay	<u>Asunción</u>
Peru	29,500,000	Map of Peru	<u>Lima</u>
<u>Suriname</u>	500,000	Map of Suriname	<u>Paramaribo</u>
<u>Uruguay</u>	3,400,000	Map of Uruguay	<u>Montevideo</u>
<u>Venezuela</u>	28,800,000	Map of Venezuela	<u>Caracas</u>

North America			
Country	<u>Population</u>	Maps	Capital City - Largest City
<u>Canada</u>	34,00,000	Map of Canada	Ottawa - Toronto
<u>Mexico</u>	112,000,000	Map of Mexico	Mexico (City)
<u>United States</u>	313,000,000	United States Map	Washington - New York





Country	Population	Maps	Capital City
<u>China</u>	1,338,100,000	Map of China	<u>Beijing</u>
China, Hong Kong SAR	7,000,000		Hong Kong
China, Macao SAR	500,000		Macao City

China Tibet	2 620 000		<u>Lhasa</u>
<u>Japan</u>	127,400,000	Map of Japan	<u>Tokyo</u>
Korea (North)	22,800,000	Map of North Korea	<u>Pyongyang</u>
Korea (South)	48,900,000	Map of South Korea	Seoul
<u>Mongolia</u>	2,800,000	Map of Mongolia	<u>Ulaanbaatar</u>
<u>Taiwan</u>	23,200,000	Taiwan Map	<u>Taipei</u>

Northern Asia			
Country	Population	Maps	Capital City
Russian Federation	144,000,000	Map of Russia	Moscow

Sou	South-Central Asia						
Co	ountry	Population	Maps	Capital City			
Afg	ghanistan	29,100,000	Map of Afghanistan	<u>Kabul</u>			
Ba	<u>ingladesh</u>	164,400,000	Map of Bangladesh	<u>Dhaka</u>			
<u>Bh</u>	<u>utan</u>	700,000	Map of Bhutan	<u>Thimphu</u>			
Inc	<u>dia</u>	1,188,800,000	Map of India	New Delhi			
<u>Ira</u>	<u>n</u>	75,100,000	Map of Iran	<u>Tehran</u>			
Ka	zakhstan	16,300,000	Map of Kazakhstan	<u>Astana</u>			
<u>Ky</u>	rgyzstan	5,300,000	Map of Kyrgyzstan	<u>Bishkek</u>			
Ma	<u>aldives</u>	300,000		<u>Male</u>			
Ne	epal	28,000,000	Map of Nepal	Kathmandu			
<u>Pa</u>	<u>kistan</u>	184,800,000	Map of Pakistan	<u>Islamabad</u>			
<u>Sri Lanka</u>	<u>Lanka</u>	20,700,000	Map of Sri Lanka	Colombo			
<u>Ta</u>	<u>jikistan</u>	7,600,000	Map of Tajikistan	<u>Dushanbe</u>			

<u>Turkmenistan</u>	5,200,000	Map of Turkmenistan	<u>Ashgabat</u>
<u>Uzbekistan</u>	28,100,000	Map of Uzbekistan	<u>Tashkent</u>

South-East Asia					
Country	Population	Maps	Capital City		
Brunei Darussalam	412,000		Bandar Seri Begawan		
<u>Cambodia</u>	15,100,000	Map of Cambodia	Phnom Penh		
<u>Indonesia</u>	235,500,000	Map of Indonesia	<u>Jakarta</u>		
Lao PDR	6,400,000	Map of Laos	<u>Vientiane</u>		
<u>Malaysia</u>	29,000,000	Map of Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur		
Myanmar (Burma)	53,400,000	Map of Myanmar	Naypyidaw, Yangon		
<u>Philippines</u>	94,000,000	Map of Philippines	<u>Manila</u>		
Singapore	5,100,000	Map of Singapore	<u>Singapore</u>		
<u>Thailand</u>	68,100,000	Map of Thailand	<u>Bangkok</u>		
Timor-Leste (East Timor)	1,200,000		<u>Dili</u>		
<u>Vietnam</u>	89,000,000	Map of Vietnam	<u>Hanoi</u>		

Western Asia and Middle East						
Country	Population	Maps	Capital City			
<u>Armenia</u>	3,100,000	Map of Armenia	<u>Yerevan</u>			
<u>Azerbaijan</u>	9,500,000	Map of Azerbaijan	<u>Baku</u>			
<u>Bahrain</u>	1,300,000	Map of Bahrain	<u>Manama</u>			
<u>Cyprus</u>	1,100,000	Map of Cyprus	Nicosia (Lefkosia)			
<u>Georgia</u>	4,600,000	Map of Georgia	<u>T'bilisi</u>			
Iraq	31,500,000	Map of Iraq	<u>Baghdad</u>			

<u>Israel</u>	7,600,000	Map of Israel	Jerusalem (claimed)
<u>Jordan</u>	6,500,000	Map of Jordan	<u>Amman</u>
<u>Kuwait</u>	3,100,000		Kuwait (City)
<u>Lebanon</u>	4,300,000	Map of Lebanon	<u>Beirut</u>
<u>Oman</u>	3,100,000	Map of Oman	Muscat
Palestinian territories	4,000,000	see: Map of Israel	<u>Jerusalem</u> (claimed)
<u>Qatar</u>	1,700,000	Map of Qatar	Doha (Al-Dawhah)
Saudi Arabia	29,200,000	Map of Saudi Arabia	Riyadh
<u>Syria</u>	22,500,000	Map of Syria	<u>Damascus</u>
<u>Turkey</u>	73,600,000	Map of Turkey	<u>Ankara</u>
United Arab Emirates	5,400,000 <u>L</u>	United Arab Emirates Map	Abu Dhabi
<u>Yemen</u>	23,600,000	Map of Yemen	Sanaa



E	Eastern Europe							
	Country	Population	Maps	Capital City Largest City	Currency			
	<u>Belarus</u>	9,500,000	Belarus Map	<u>Minsk</u>	Belarusian Ruble			
	* <u>Bulgaria</u>	7,500,000	Bulgaria Map	<u>Sofia</u>	Lev			
	* Czech Republic	10,500,000	Czechia Map	<u>Prague</u>	Czech Koruna			
	* <u>Hungary</u>	10,000,000	Hungary Map	<u>Budapest</u>	Forint			

<u>Moldova</u>	4,100,000	Moldova Map	Chisinau	Moldovan Leu
* <u>Poland</u>	38,200,000	Poland Map	<u>Warsaw</u>	Złoty
* <u>Romania</u>	21,500,000	Romania Map	<u>Bucharest</u>	Romanian Leu
Russian Federation	144,000,000	Russia Map	Moscow	Russian Ruble
* <u>Slovakia</u>	5,400,000	Slovakia Map	<u>Bratislava</u>	Euro
<u>Ukraine</u>	46,000,000	Ukraine Map Crimea Map	<u>Kiev</u>	Hryvnia

orthern Europe						
Country	Population	Maps	Capital City Largest City	Currency		
* <u>Denmark</u>	5,500,000	Denmark Map	Copenhagen	Danish Krone		
* <u>Estonia</u>	1,300,000	Estonia Map	<u>Tallinn</u>	Euro		
Faroe Islands (DK)	43 000	Faroe Is. Map	Tórshavn	Faroese Króna		
* <u>Finland</u>	5,400,000		<u>Helsinki</u>	Euro		
Greenland (DK)	56 854	<u>Greenland</u> <u>Map</u>	Nuuk (Godthab)	Danish Krone		
+ <u>Iceland</u>	300,000	Iceland Map	<u>Reykjavik</u>	Icelandic Króna		
* <u>Ireland</u>	4,500,000	Ireland Map	<u>Dublin</u> (City)	Euro		
* <u>Latvia</u>	2,200,000	Latvia Map	<u>Riga</u>	Euro		
* <u>Lithuania</u>	3,300,000	Lithuania Map	<u>Vilnius</u>	Euro		
Northern Ireland (UK)	1 690 000	<u>UK Map</u>	<u>Belfast</u>	Pound Sterling		
+ <u>Norway</u>	4,900,000		Oslo	Norwegian Krone		
Scotland (UK)	5 200,000	UK Map	Edinburgh Glasgow	Pound Sterling		
* <u>Sweden</u>	9,400,000	Sweden Map	Stockholm	Swedish Krona		

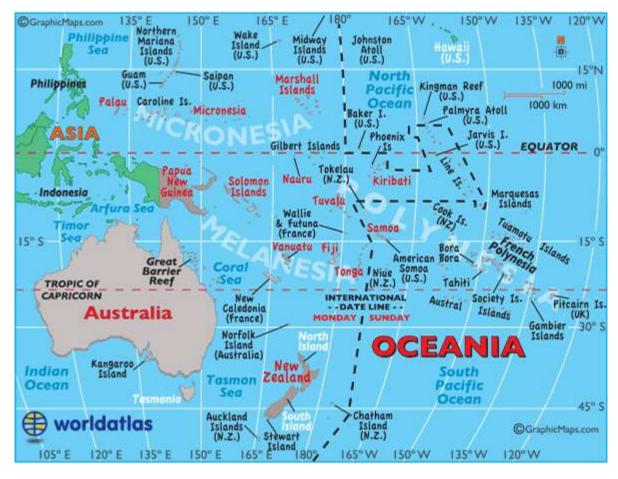
* <u>United Kingdom</u>	62,200,000	UK Map	London Birmingham, Manchester	Pound Sterling
Wales (UK)	2 750 000	UK Map	Cardiff	Pound Sterling

Southern Europe								
Country	Population	Maps	Capital City Largest City	Currency				
<u>Albania</u>	3,200,000	Albania Map	<u>Tirana</u>	Lek				
Andorra	100,000		Andorra la Vella	Euro				
Bosnia & Herzegovina	3,800,000		<u>Sarajevo</u>	Convertible Mark				
Croatia (Hrvatska)	4,400,000	Croatia Map	<u>Zagreb</u>	Croatian Kuna				
* Cyprus	1,100,000	Cyprus Map	Nicosia (Lefkosia)	Euro / Turkish lira				
Gibraltar (UK)	25 000		Gibraltar	Gibraltar Pound				
* Greece	11,300,000	Greece Map	Athens	Euro				
Vatican City State	1 000	Holy See Map	Vatican City	Euro				
* <u>Italy</u>	60,500,000	Italy Map	Rome - Milan	Euro				
Macedonia, Rep. of	2,100,000	Macedonia Map	Skopje	Macedonian Denar				
* <u>Malta</u>	400,000		<u>Valletta</u>	Euro				
Montenegro	600,000	Montenegro Map	<u>Podgorica</u>	Euro				
* <u>Portugal</u>	10,700,000	Portugal Map	Lisbon	Euro				
San Marino	30,000		San Marino	Euro				
<u>Serbia</u>	7,300,000	Serbia Map	Belgrade	Serbian Dinar				
* <u>Slovenia</u>	2,100,000	Slovenia Map	<u>Ljubljana</u>	Euro				
* <u>Spain</u>	47,100,000	Spain Map	<u>Madrid</u>	Euro				
<u>Turkey</u>	73,600,000	Turkey Map	Ankara - Istanbul	Turkish Lira				

Western Europe									
	Country	Population	Maps	Capital City Largest City	Currency				
	* Austria	8,400,000	Austria Map	<u>Vienna</u> (Wien)	Euro				
	* <u>Belgium</u>	10,800,000	Belgium Map	<u>Brussels</u>	Euro				
	* France	63,000,000	France Map	<u>Paris</u>	Euro				
	* Germany	81,600,000	Germany Map	<u>Berlin</u>	Euro				
	+ <u>Liechtenstein</u>	40,000		<u>Vaduz</u>	Swiss Franc				
	* <u>Luxembourg</u>	500,000	Luxembourg Map	Luxembourg	Euro				
	Monaco	40,000		Monaco	Euro				
	* Netherlands	16,600,000	Netherlands Map	The Hague, Amsterdam	Euro				
	+ <u>Switzerland</u>	7,800,000	Switzerland Map	Bern - Zürich	Swiss Franc				

 $^{^{\}star}$ Member States of the European Union (EU)

⁺ Member States of European Free Trade Association (EFTA)



Searchable Maps of Countries and Island Nations in the South Pacific:

American Samoa

Australia

Fiji

Guam

Kiribati

Marshall Islands

Micronesia

Nauru

New Caledonia

New Zealand

Northern Mariana Islands

Palau

Papua New Guinea

<u>Samoa</u>

Solomon Islands

Tahiti

Tonga

Tuvalu

<u>Vanuatu</u>

States of Australia and Oceania

Australia/New Zealand

Country	Population	Maps	Capital City
<u>Australia</u>	22,400,000	Map of Australia	<u>Canberra</u> - <u>Sydney</u>
New Zealand	4,400,000	Map of New Zealand	Wellington - Auckland

Melanesia - the islands in the southwestern part of Oceania.

Country	Population	Maps	Capital City	
<u>Fiji</u>	900,000		<u>Suva</u>	
New Caledonia	300,000		<u>Nouméa</u>	
Papua New Guinea	6,800,000	Map of Papua New Guinea	Port Moresby	
Solomon Islands	500,000		<u>Honiara</u>	
<u>Vanuatu</u>	200,000		Port-Vila	
<u>Map</u>		of		<u>Melanesia</u>

P <u>iviap</u>		Of		weianesia
Reference	Мар		of	Melanesia.

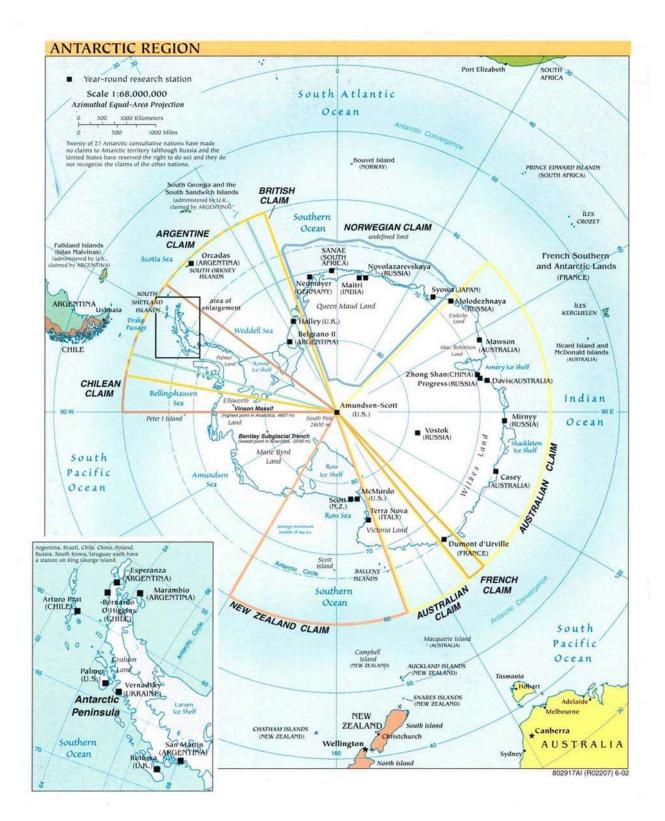
Micronesia, the islands in the northwestern part of Oceania.

	Country	Population	Maps	Capital City
	Guam	200,000	Map of Guam	Hagåtña (Agana)
ee.	<u>Hawaii</u>	1,300,000	Map of Hawaii	<u>Honolulu</u>
	<u>Kiribati</u>	100,000		<u>Tarawa</u>
	Marshall Islands	100,000		<u>Majuro</u>

Reference Map)	of	Micronesia.
▶Map	of		Micronesia
<u>Palau</u>	20 000		Ngerulmud, Melekeok
Northern Mariana Islands	78 000		<u>Saipan</u>
<u>Nauru</u>	12,000		
Micronesia (Federated States of)	100,000		<u>Palikir</u>

Polynesia, the islands in the eastern part of Oceania.

Country	Population	Maps	Capital City
American Samoa	68 000	Tutuila Map	Pago Pago
Cook Islands	20 000		Avarua
French Polynesia (Tahiti)	300,000		<u>Papeete</u>
Niue	2 000		Alofi
<u>Pitcairn</u>	>100		Adamstown
<u>Samoa</u>	200,000	Map of Samoa	<u>Apia</u>
<u>Tonga</u>	100,000		<u>Nuku'alofa</u>
<u>Tuvalu</u>	10,000		<u>Funafuti</u>



ANTARCTICA MAP WITH COUNTRIES' CLAIMS

FLAGS OF THE WORLD - Member states and observers of the United Nations

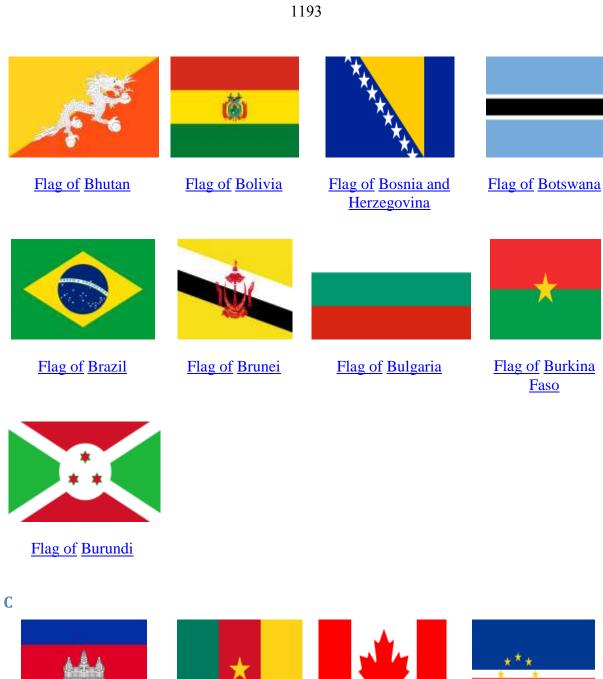
Flag of Belarus

Flag of Belgium

Flag of Belize

Flag of Benin









Flag of Colombia



Flag of the Comoros



Flag of the Democratic
Republic of the Congo



Flag of the Republic of the Congo



Flag of Costa Rica



Flag of Croatia



Flag of Cuba

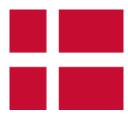


Flag of Cyprus



Flag of the Czech Republic





Flag of Denmark



Flag of Djibouti



Flag of Dominica

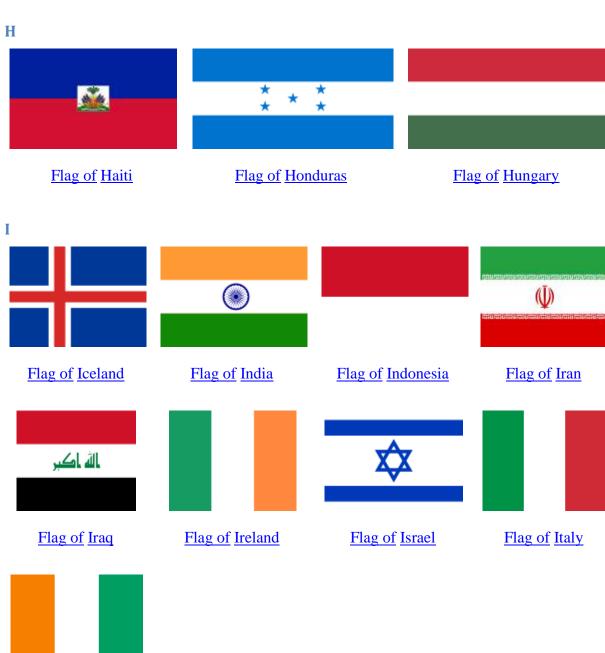


Flag of the Dominican Republic

E







Flag of Ivory Coast





Flag of Monaco

Flag of Mongolia

Flag of Montenegro

Flag of Moldova







Flag of Oman

P Flag of Pakistan Flag of Palau Palestine – Gaza Flag of Panama Strip, West Bank Papua New Guinea Flag of Paraguay Flag of Peru The **Philippines** Flag of Poland Flag of Portugal Q Flag of Qatar R

Flag of Russia

Flag of Rwanda

Flag of Romania



Flag of Saint Kitts and Nevis



Flag of Saint Lucia



Flag of Saint
Vincent and the
Grenadines



Flag of Samoa



Flag of San Marino



Flag of São Tomé and Príncipe



Flag of Saudi Arabia



Flag of Senegal



Flag of Serbia



Flag of the Seychelles



Flag of Sierra Leone



Flag of Singapore



Flag of Slovakia



Flag of Slovenia



Flag of the Solomon Islands



Flag of Somalia



Flag of South Africa



Flag of South Sudan



Flag of Spain



Flag of Sri Lanka



Flag of Turkmenistan

Flag of Tuvalu



Flag of Timor-Leste

U



V



Y



Flag of Yemen





Flag of Zambia

Flag of Zimbabwe

Other states - De facto states



Flag of Abkhazia



Flag of the Cook
Islands



Flag of Kosovo



The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic



Flag of Niue



Flag of Northern Cyprus



The Sahrawi Arab
Democratic Republic



Flag of Somaliland



Flag of South Ossetia



Flag of Taiwan



Flag of Transnistria



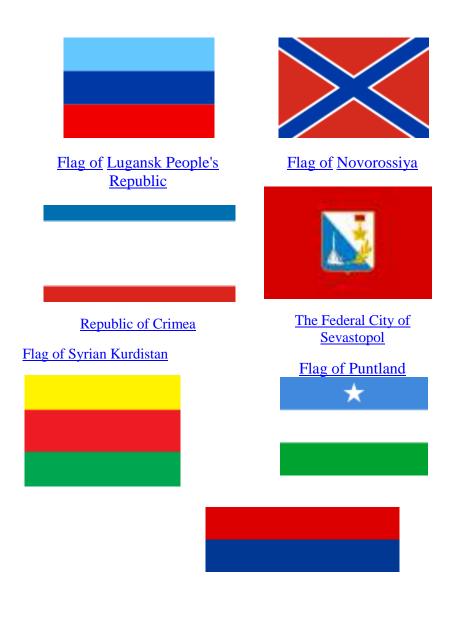
Flag of Donetsk People's Republic



Galmudug State



Iraqi Kurdistan



Flag of Republika Srpska



Flag of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria/

The Levant – ISIS/ISIL/Daesh



Flag of the National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces

GALLERY OF FLAGS OF DEPENDENT TERRITORIES

Argentina



Argentine Antarctica

Australia



Flag of Christmas Island



Flag of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands



Flag of Norfolk Island



Flag of Torres Strait Islands



Flag of Lord Howe Island (unofficial)



Australian Antarctic
Territory

Chile



Easter Island

People's Republic of China





Flag of Hong Kong

Flag of Macau

Denmark





Flag of the Faroe <u>Islands</u>

Flag of Greenland

Finland



Flag of Åland

France



Flag of French
Guiana (unofficial)



Flag of French Polynesia



Flag of the French
Southern and
Antarctic Lands



Flag of Guadeloupe (unofficial)









Flag of Martinique (unofficial)



Flag of Mayotte (unofficial)



Flag of New Caledonia



Flag of Réunion (unofficial)



Flag of Saint
Barthélemy
(unofficial)



Flag of Saint Pierre and Miquelon (unofficial)



Flag of Wallis and Futuna (unofficial)



Flag of Saint Martin (unofficial)

Greece



Mount Athos

Netherlands

Countries



Flag of Aruba



Flag of Curação



Flag of Sint Maarten

Public Bodies







Flag of Bonaire

Flag of Sint Eustatius

Flag of Saba

New Zealand









Flag of the Cook
Islands

Flag of Niue

Flag of Ross Dependency (unofficial)

Flag of Tokelau

Portugal





Flag of Madeira

Flag of Azores

Spain



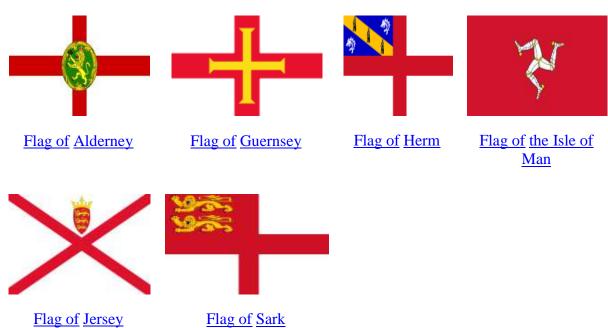


Flag of Ceuta

Flag of Melilla

United Kingdom

Crown Dependencies



British Overseas Territories



Flag of Anguilla



Flag of Ascension Island (part of Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha)



Flag of Bermuda



Flag of the British Antarctic Territory



Flag of the British
Indian Ocean
Territory



Flag of the British Virgin Islands



Flag of the Cayman Islands



Flag of the Falkland Islands



Flag of Gibraltar



Flag of Montserrat



Flag of the Pitcairn Islands



Flag of Saint
Helena (part of
Saint Helena,
Ascension and
Tristan da Cunha)



Flag of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands



Flag of Tristan da
Cunha (part of Saint
Helena, Ascension
and Tristan da
Cunha)



Flag of the Turks and Caicos Islands

United States



Flag of American Samoa



Flag of Guam



Flag of Johnston Atoll (unofficial)



Flag of Midway
Atoll (unofficial)



Flag of Navassa Island (unofficial, disputed)



Flag of the Northern Mariana Islands



Flag of Palmyra Atoll (unofficial)



Flag of Puerto Rico



Flag of the <u>U.S.</u> <u>Virgin Islands</u>



Flag of Wake Island (unofficial)

TOTAL NUMBER OF FLAGS OF THE WORLD

The world has more than 300 countries divided roughly into three categories of sovereignty – Independent States, De Facto Independent States, and Dependencies. The first category has the flags of the 195 member states and observers of the United Nations, 193 members and two observers – Palestine and Vatican City. In this book we have included 197 independent states – 193 UN members. To those we add: the observer Vatican City, which is an independent state recognized all over the world since hundreds of years. Niue and Cook Islands, which are undisputedly independent, and are in an associated state relationship with New Zealand. They are not members of the United Nations, but UN organizations have accepted their status as freely-associated states as equivalent to independence for the purposes of international law. Finally, Taiwan is an independent state and was a member of the UN, but because China replaced it, it is no more a member of the UN. So, altogether we have 197 independent states.

To those independent states we have to add 22 de facto independent states, as stipulated in this book. We have included here 23 flags but according to the book's terminology we have to add the Palestinian National Authority – part of the West Bank, as well as the Gaza Strip, which are de facto two separate states not completely independent, and the Brcko District in Bosnia which has no flag. We have to subtract Novorossiya which is de facto replaced by Lugansk and Donetsk. We have to subtract Taiwan, Cook Islands and Niue as stipulated above. So, we add 3 states and subtract 4, and we arrive to the 22 de facto independent states.

The dependencies have here 71 flags, but there are other dependencies with the same flag as the ruling country, as the UK for Akrotiri and Dhekelia, the US for Guantanamo Bay, Spain for Plazas de Soberania, Norway for Queen Maud Land and Svalbard, Brazilian Antarctica, Chilean Antarctic Territory, Australia for Ashmore and Cartier Islands, the US for Bajo Nuevo Bank and Baker Island and so on, but in fact much more than those 11 examples, as detailed in this book. The dependencies amount therefore to more than 82, 71 of which have separate flags. Nevertheless, many flags are unofficial as the flags of Guadeloupe.

The world has nowadays about 300 states - 197 independent states, 22 de facto states, 82 + dependencies. We brought here 289 different flags - 195 flags of UN members and observers, 23 flags of de facto states, 71 flags of dependencies. And if we add to them the 11 flags of the dependencies which are the same as the flags of the ruling nations we arrive to 300 flags.

PHOTOS ON TRIPS OF CORY'S FAMILY ALL OVER THE WORLD AND SELECTED PHOTOS IN ISRAEL

JACQUES CORY IN DARWIN AUSTRALIA, BELOW LEFT (1999), AND BELOW RIGHT RECEIVING AN APPRECIATION LETTER FROM HIS CLASS (2005).



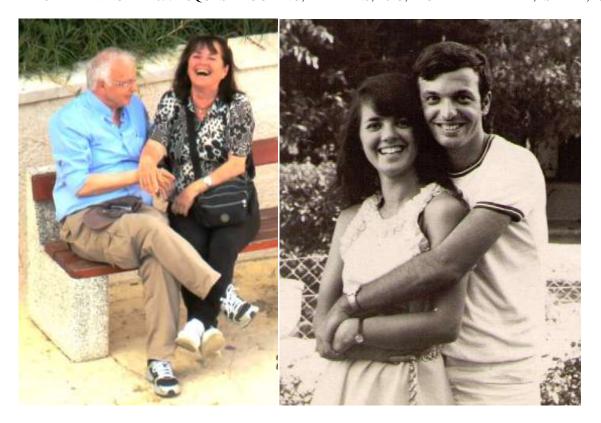




Jacques Cory with his family - wife Ruthy; children - Amir, Shirly, Joseph; granchildren - Itai, Ophir, Doron, Noga, Yael, Noam, Ido, Tomer.

Jacques Cory in his family photo, from left to right: Amir Cory - son, Itai Cory - son of Amir, Jacques Cory, Noga Cory - daughter of Amir, Ruthy Cory (formerly Popliker) - Jacques' wife, Yael Garfunkel - daughter of Shirly, Shirly Garfunkel (formerly Cory) - daughter, Joseph/Yossi Cory - son, Tomer Cory - son of Joseph. In front of them - Ophir Cory - son of Joseph, Doron Cory - son of Joseph, Noam David Garfunkel - son of Shirly, Ido Garfunkel - son of Shirly. Other members of the family, not in this picture but in other pictures on Cory's website: Ronny Garfunkel - Shirly's husband, Ella Shechtman Cory (formerly Shechtman) - Amir's wife, Nira Cory (formerly Shaham) - Joseph's wife, Haim Cory - Jacques' brother, Rachel Zeiler (formerly Popliker) - Ruthy's twin sister. And of course, Jacques' parents - Pauline & Albert Cory, Ruthy's parents - Fany & David Popliker, grandparents, family, friends...

BELOW LEFT: RUTHY & JACQUES LAUGHING, BALKANS, 2015, RIGHT–NAHARIYA, ISRAEL, 1969





ABOVE - JACQUES AND RUTHY CORY, KOTOR BAY, MONTENEGRO, 2015

BELOW - RUTHY CORY, APOLONIA, ALBANIA, 2015





Jacques Cory at a Christmas Dinner, Athens, 2000, at Georg & Mariana Heine's house

Cory lecturing, below: High Tech Summit (2001) - right, Internal Auditors Conference (2006) - left, at a class with his students of the University of Haifa, Israel – further below. Cory (left) leading Elbit's NASDAQ IPO due diligence (1987) – bottom.









Cory telling his grandson Ido in Hebrew the story of the Greek Homer's Odyssey, in a French comics book, with Odysseus (Ulysses in Latin), his wife Penelope, his son Telemachus, Calypso, Circe, Poseidon, the Cyclops Polyphemus, Aeolus, the Lotus-eaters, Athena, and the kid remembered all.

Below – Cory with the Archeologist of Coria in Spain in the patio of the house, apparently the old synagogue of Coria, which Cory has discovered.





Above – Photo of signining in April 2014 the Ethical Code of Sibat, the Israel Ministry of Defense/MOD International Defense Cooperation Directorate, which Cory has written, assisted by the Director of Sibat <u>Brigadier General Shamaya Avieli</u>, its top management, as well as the initiator of the process Shahar Horev. In the photo - the top management and the employees, from center to right – the Director, Shahar Horev, and Dr. Jacques Cory.

Below left - Jacques Cory at the Celebration of the PhD award on March 23, 2004, with the Jury's members: from left - Professors Henri-Claude De Bettignies - Cory's Academic Mentor, Henk Van Luijk, Gregory Katz Benichou, Yvon Pesqueux – directeur de these, Aldo Levy. Below right – Jacques cory in front of the university – CNAM in Paris, France.







Above - Baron Edmond de Rothschild, 7th from right, with the Israeli grantees of Insead MBA's studies, in front of the Palace of Fontainebleau, where Insead was located originally. Professor Teddy Weinshal is 6th from right, Jacques Cory is 2nd from right.



Jacques Cory in front of part of his library in 2008. Photo by Hagai Aharon for the main article of Globes' Magazine on Cory's achievements and books in the context of the Great Recession which he has foreseen. Cory's library has thousands of books: novels, plays, biographies, non-fiction, linguistics, cinema, arts, music, ethics, in 50+ languages.



Jacques Cory with friends dancing SUR LE PONT D'AVIGNON in Provence, France, 2014



Jacques Cory in Singapore, 2006, where he taught Business Ethics at Insead Singapore



Ruthy Cory with her in-law Danny Shechtman, at a dinner in Cory's house, celebrating his winning the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2011



Above left – Ruthy Cory in Toulouse, 2014, right – at the Castle of Pau, Pau, France, in 2014



Ruthy (left) and Rachel aged 18 looking like Siamese twins with 2 heads, 1 body and 2 arms

Below - Ruthy and Jacques at a synagogue in Portugal



Below – Cory (center) in East Berlin (August 1967) with French and German friends









Cory in Corfu, Greece





Left - <u>Jacques & Ruthy at Club Med in Bodrum, Turkey</u>, Right - <u>Jacques and Ruthy by the museum/mosque/basilica Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, Turkey</u>



Ruthy Cory at the Champs Elysees, Paris



Ruthy and Jacques Cory in Thailand, 2006



Jacques Cory's Parents - Pauline and Albert, with Cory's children - Shirly, Amir and Joseph

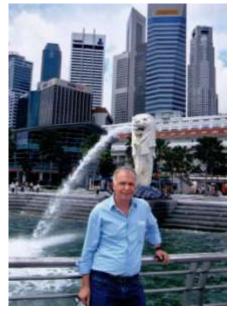


Ruthy Cory's parents – Fanny, David Popliker with Cory's boys – Joseph (Bar Mitsva), Amir





Jacques Cory with parents in Cairo, Egypt, 1946 Ruthy Popliker in Botosan, Romania, 1949 Below left – Cory touring Singapore, 2006, right – Shirly with Aborigins, Australia, 1999



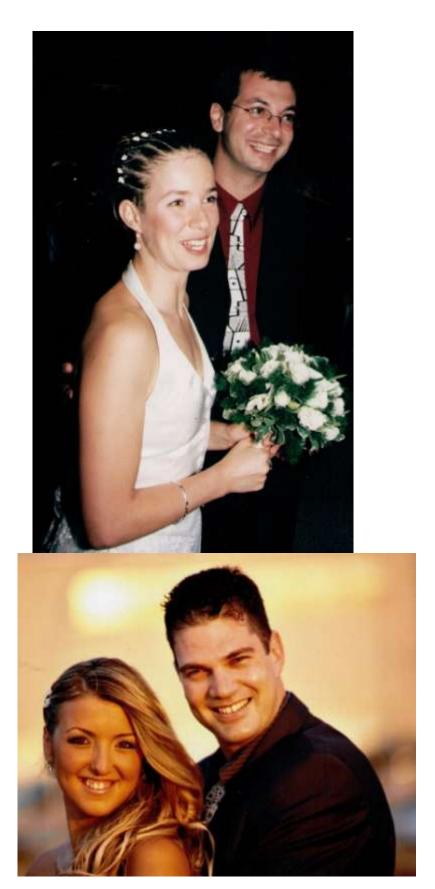




Fanny Popliker as the guest of honor at Amir's wedding, with Amir and Ella, 2004



David Popliker with his grandson Amir



Above: Joseph & Nira at their wedding, 1998, below: Shirly & Ronny at their wedding, 2006





Joseph at the age of 7 in Oslo – left, today – right. Below right Ruthy and Jacques, 1969







above: Shirly today, below: aged 7





Amir Cory today. right, at the age of 4 in Copenhagen (center between girl and boy talking...)





Above left Ruthy- Berlin, right- Paris. Below: Jacques- San Francisco, Ruthy- Spain, Switz.











Ruthy left in Italy, right in Spain





Left – Shirly and Jacques on a jet boat in New Zealand, right - on a baloon in Australia, 1999





Above – Ruthy, Joseph and Amir, 1978. Left at Cambridge, right at Windermere, England.

Below left – Fanny Popliker, Ruthy's mother. Right – Pauline Cory, Jacques's mother, and David Popliker, Ruthy's father.









Above and below left, Jacques and Ruthy at their wedding in Nahriya, Isral, 19.8.1969.



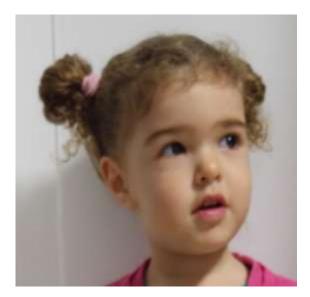
Ruthy at a school trip



Ruthy with her trumpet









Above left – Noam David, right – Ido, Below left – Yael – the Garfunkels, Shirly's children. Below right – Ophir Cory, Joseph's son.









Above left – Doron – Joseph's son, right – Itai – Amir's son. Below left – Tomer – Joseph's son, right – Noga, Amir's daughter.



Jacques Cory receiving the highest ethical award by Ometz, 2015



Amir, Noga and Itai, at Cory's home, Haifa, Mount Carmel, Israel, 2013



Above: Ruthy laughing at St Remy, Provence, France, 2014. Below – Noga and Itai laughing.







Jacques on a stormy weather in Haifa - left, in Germany – right. Below – Bryce Canyon – left, Arc de Triomphe, Paris - right. Bottom – at the soutenance de these, CNAM, 23.3.2004.











Above left – Jacques at a Taiwanese village, 1979, right as a small child with long hair (centre) at a garden in Cairo. Haim his brother to his left. Bottom left Jacques in Tokyo, Japan, 1979, right – in Johannesburg, South Africa, 1972.







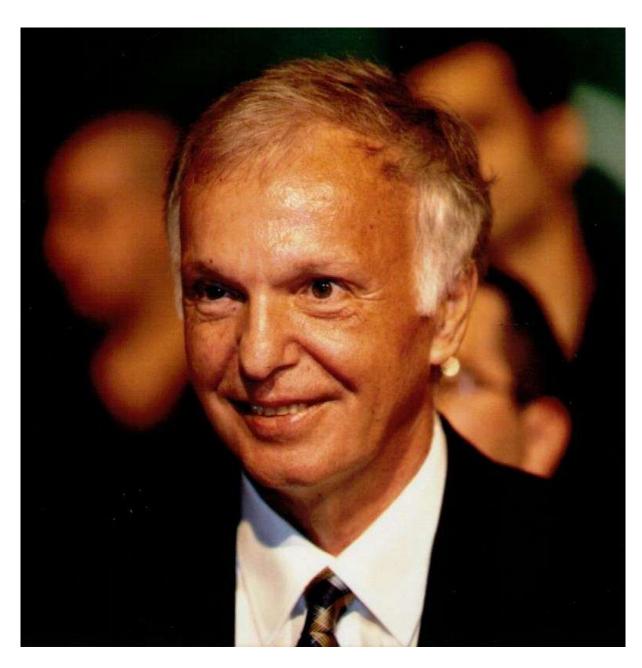


Above left Jacques and Shirly on top of Mount Cook in New Zealand, 1999, with the helicopter that brought them there. Right – Jacques at the Amazon, near Iquitos, Peru.





Jacques and Ruthy Cory in front of Insead's Main Building at Fontainebleau, France – left, Jacques celebrating his 70^{th} anniversary – right.



JACQUES CORY - 2006