

# A Historical View of Economic and Political Structures and their Effects on Standard of Living in the World Today

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## Abstract

In a general sense, throughout the course of human history, developments in knowledge and technology have helped to gradually raise the standard of living of the global population. At the same time, it has been noticed that there is a disparity in average standard of living between citizens of various nation-states; trends have arisen between the average standard of living and the economic and political institutions of an individual's nation-state, indicating that these societal institutions help to contribute to the average standard of living within their respective nation. In this context, average standard of living refers to a degree of wealth and material comfort on a community level.

**C. 10000-2000 BCE:** Development of new farming practices and technology allow more crops to be produced, increasing the sustainable population

**C. 1604:** The First English Enclosure Act passed, allowing private property rights and increasing crop yield, allowing a higher population

**C. 1870-1914:** The Second Industrial Revolution takes place on a global scale, creating new technology and improving lives of the people

**C. 1970-Present:** The Information Age causes an exponential growth in globalization and becomes part of standard by which quality of life is measured

**C. 800 CE:** The metal plough and three field system are used for the first time in Western Europe, allowing more crops to be produced

**C. 1760-1830:** The First Industrial starts in Great Britain, leading to a rise in mechanization, production, and urbanization of the general population

**C. 1914-1945:** Large scale global wars help to jumpstart an age of globalization and an end to colonization in the modern world

## Country Ranking by Index

### United Nations HDI (2017)

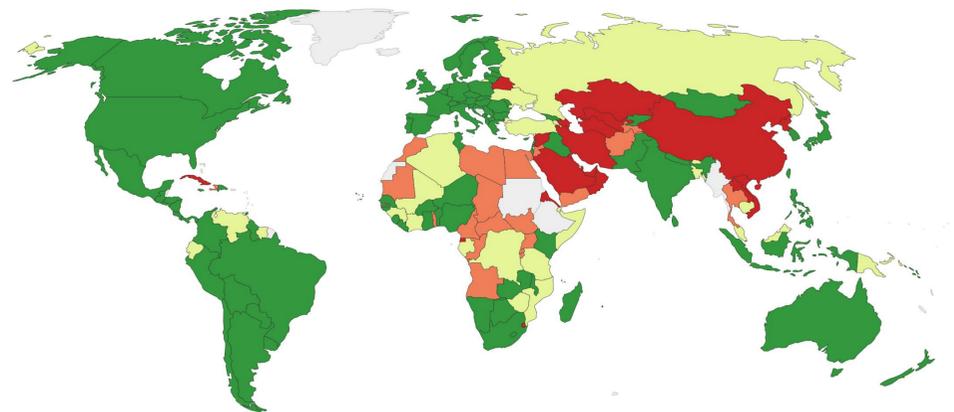
### World Bank GNIPPP (2017)

### CIA GDP per capita (2017)

High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
1. Norway	185. Burundi	1. Qatar	219. Niger	1. Lichten.	225. Mozamb.
2. Switz.	186. Chad	2. Singapore.	220. DRC	2. Qatar	226. Tokelau
3. Ireland	187. S. Sudan	3. Brun. Dar.	221. Burundi	3. Monaco	227. DRC
4. Australia	188. C. Af. Re	4. Kuwait	222. C. Af. Re	4. Macau	228. C. Af. Re
5. Germany	189. Niger	5. UAE	223. Liberia	5. Lux.	229. Burundi

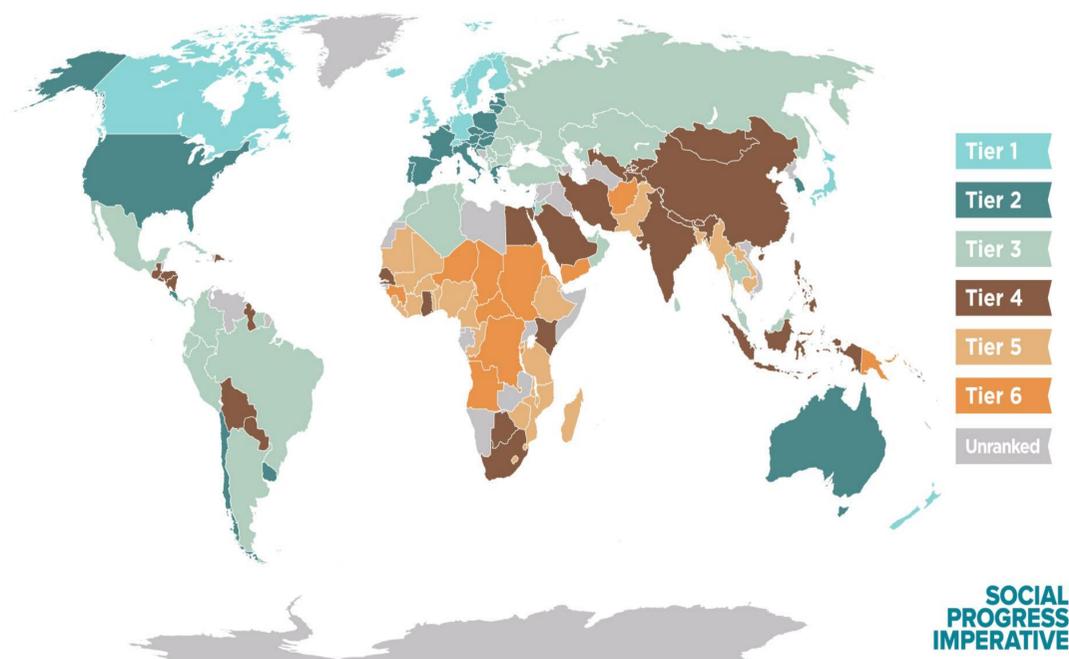
## Political Regime, 2015

The Polity IV score classifies the type of political regime for each country on a range from -10 (full autocracy) to +10 (full democracy). Regimes that fall into the middle of this spectrum are called anocracies.

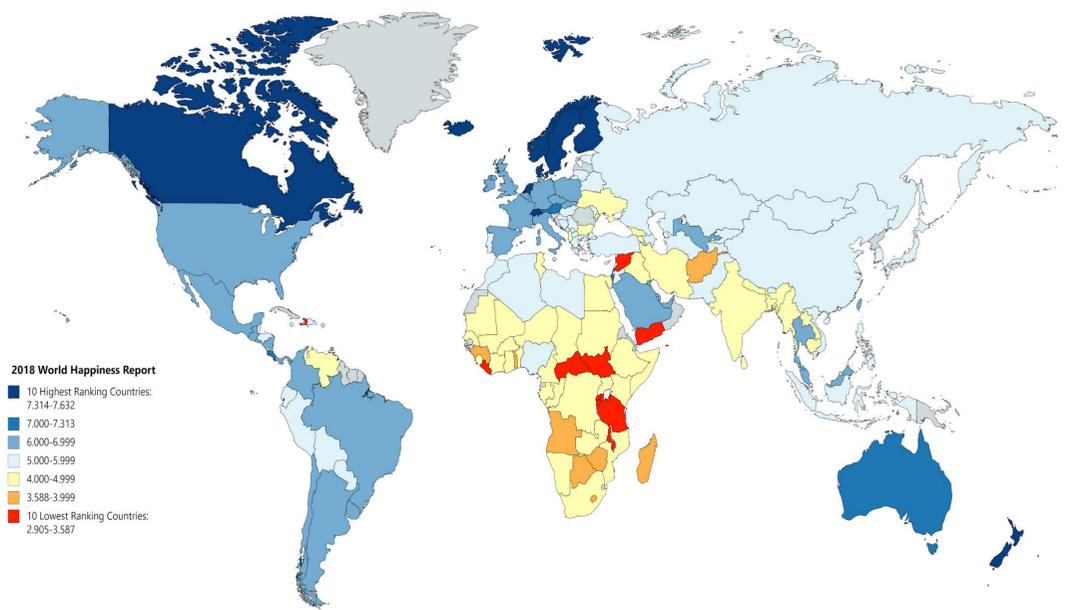
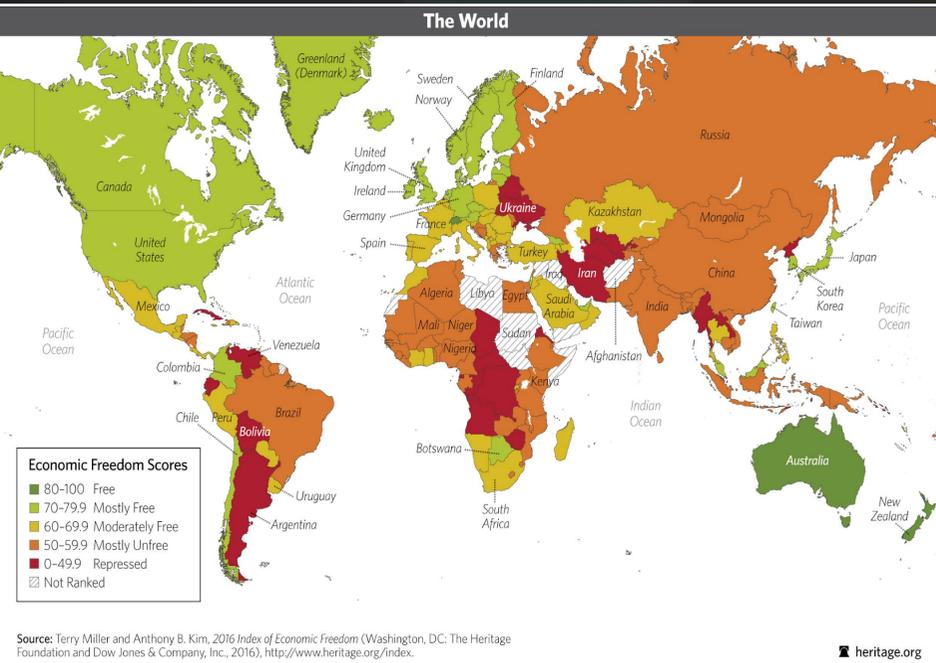


No data | Colony | Autocracy (-10 to -6) | Open Anocracy (1 to 5)

Source: Political Regime (OWID based on Polity IV and Wimmer & Min) | OurWorldInData.org/democracy/ • CC BY-SA  
Note: See the linked democracy entry for some discussion of the complexity in defining democracy and the limitations of this data.



SOCIAL PROGRESS IMPERATIVE



**2018 World Happiness Report**  
10 Highest Ranking Countries: 7.314-7.632  
7.000-7.313  
6.000-6.999  
5.000-5.999  
4.000-4.999  
3.588-3.999  
10 Lowest Ranking Countries: 2.905-3.587

## Conclusion

While different rankings use varying methods to measure standard of living, similarities can be seen as shown through the overall consistency in both the highest and lowest ranking countries. It is proposed that this is because happiness and standard of living are interconnected ideologies. Throughout history, the average standard of living has risen consistently as a result of advances in knowledge, technique, and technology; in the modern world, countries that tend to score higher on quality of life indices tend to have highly intellectual populations and access to a variety of government programs, such as universal healthcare. Countries that score lower on these indices tend to either have a troubled history, political instability, lack of access to modern technology, or a generally uneducated population, all of which impede potential economic progress within these countries. Given this, some best practice approaches for improving the standard of living within these lower ranking countries is to assist them with modernization by fostering greater access to modern technology, aiding in establishing governance and policies for well-being, and getting them involved in the process of globalization, all of which should contribute to their economic growth. This in turn should help to raise their standard of living and thus, their quality of life and happiness.

## References

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