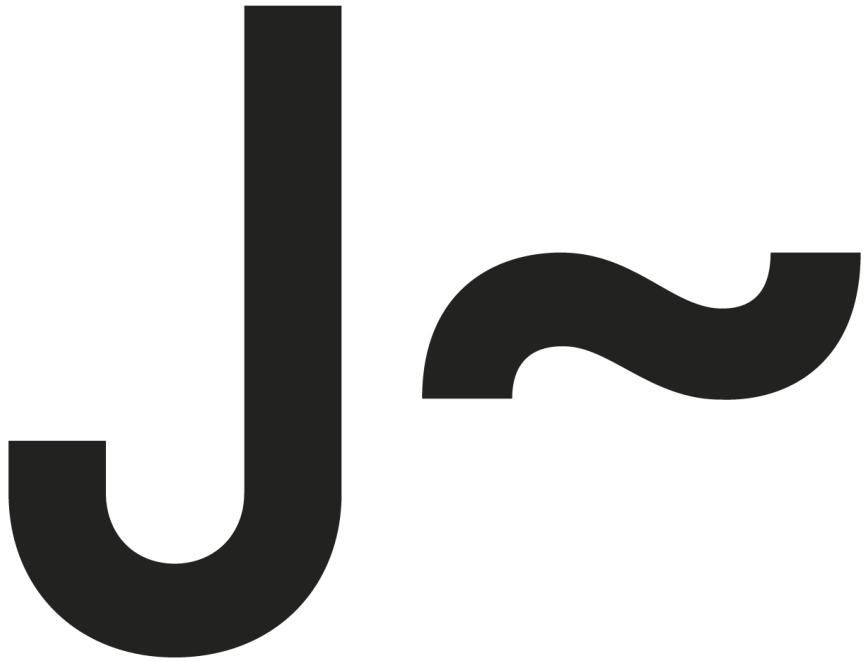


Jabok - Vyšší odborná škola
sociálně pedagogická
a teologická

THE SOCIETY & THE ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

CURRENT SOCIAL ISSUES
FROM THE GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Social Issues … Society

- Wiki: A society is a **large social group sharing the same spatial or social territory**, typically subject to the same political authority and dominant cultural expectations. Societies are **characterized by patterns of relationships** (social relations) between individuals who share a distinctive culture and institutions; a given society may be described as the sum total of such relationships among its constituent members.
- Types of societies: pre-industrial, industrial, postindustrial
- What are some typical social issues in „our world“?
- What are expected social norms and roles? … Where do they come from?

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Various world map projections

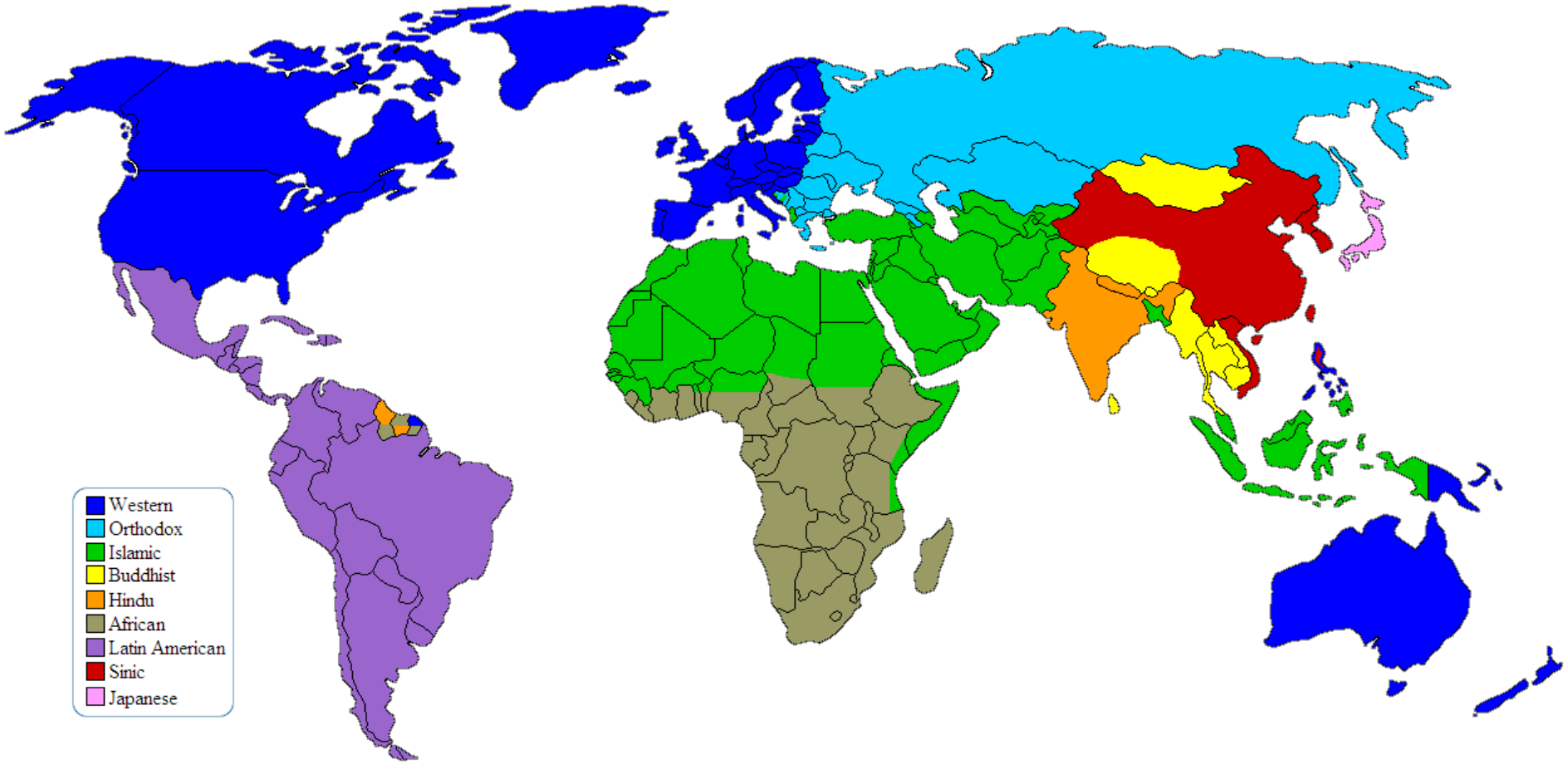
From Mercator´s projection to Equal Earth projection





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Huntington´s Major Civilaztions



Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clash_of_Civilizations#cite_note-10

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The Roots of our Society

- Judaism
- Christianity
- Ancient Greece

- Medieval Chivalry, split – distinction between body and soul
- Enlightenment – scientific methodology / rationalism, empiricism – religious doubt
- Post – modern, factual, truth, …???

- What else would you add?

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Think of Europe-centrism

- Near East - Middle East - Far East
- Names of countries: Burma, Ceylon, Rhodesia, Persia …
- Did you know these? I mention only the latest renames:
  - Swaziland → Eswatini (2018)
  - Portuguese Timor → Timor-Leste (2002)
  - Republic of the Congo (Léopoldville) (1960) → Zaire (1971) → Democratic Republic of the Congo (1997)
  - German Southwest Africa → Southwest Africa (1915) → Namibia (1990)
  - Take a look here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographical_renaming

- Names of Religions (Hinduism)
- ???

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What are the values of the Western world

- Freedom (thought, individual, speech, …)
- Rights (human rights, insurance, happiness?, …)
- Equality
- Democracy
- Leisure
- Wealth & Health
- ... What do you miss?

- How about living in harmony with the environment?
- How about caring about those in need? Equality? …
- How about maintaining well-being and happiness of the whole society?
- …

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Ecological Footprint



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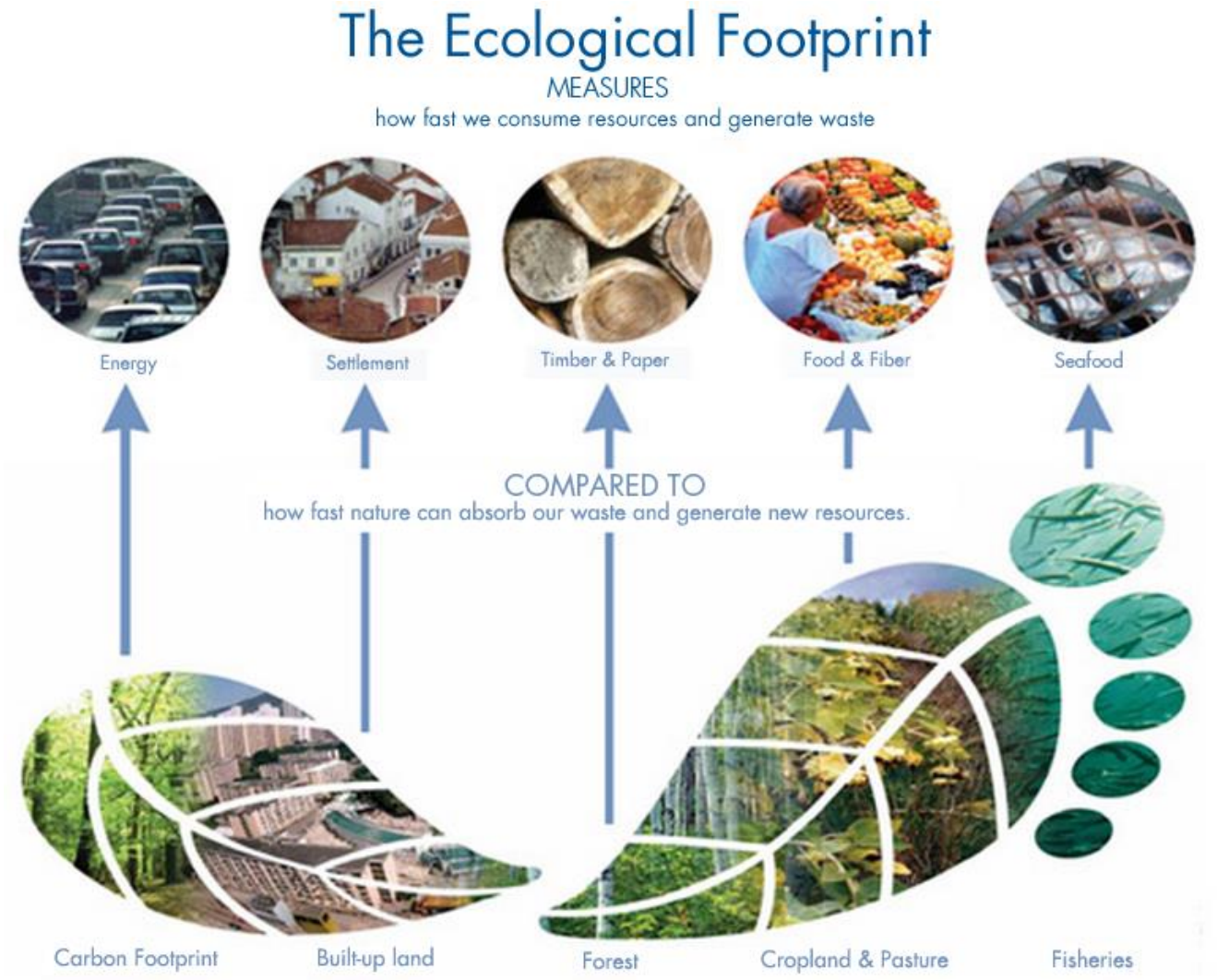
Ecological Footprint in a nutshell

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g_aguo7V0Q4
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fACkb2u1ULY
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d07B3_aFzK8

- The ecological footprint (EF) **estimates the biologically productive land and sea area needed to provide the renewable resources that a population consumes and to absorb the wastes it generates**—using prevailing technology and resource-management practices—rather than trying to determine how many people a given land area or the entire planet can support. It **measures the requirements for productive areas** (croplands, grazing lands for animal products, forested areas to produce wood products, marine areas for fisheries, built-up land for housing and infrastructure, and forested land needed to absorb carbon dioxide emissions from energy consumption). One can estimate the EF, **measured in "global hectares" (gha),** at various scales—for individuals, regions, countries, and humanity as a whole. (One hectare equals 2.47 acres.) The resulting figures can also be compared with how much productive area—or biocapacity—is available.

Source: https://www.britannica.com/science/ecological-footprint

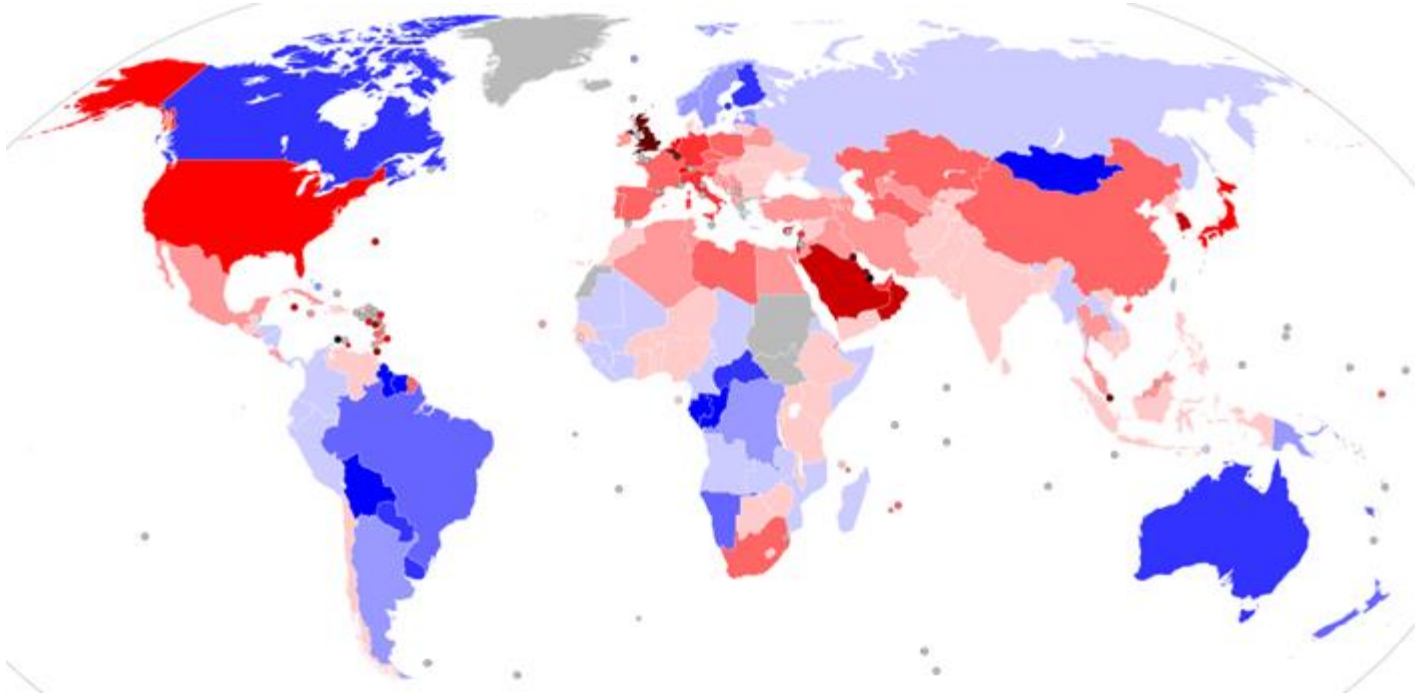
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The Ecological Footprint
MEASURES
how fast we consume resources and generate waste
Energy
Settlement
Timber & Paper
Food & Fiber
Seafood
COMPARED TO
how fast nature can absorb our waste and generate new resources.
Carbon Footprint
Built-up land
Forest
Cropland & Pasture
Fisheries

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Ecological Footprint maps

- https://worldmapper.org/maps/grid-ecologicalfootprint-2019/
- National ecological surplus or deficit, measured as a country's biocapacity per person (in global hectares) minus its ecological footprint per person (also in global hectares). Data from 2013



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Footprint Calculator



- https://www.footprintcalculator.org
- https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/questionnaire

- What do you do to minimize your ecological footprint?

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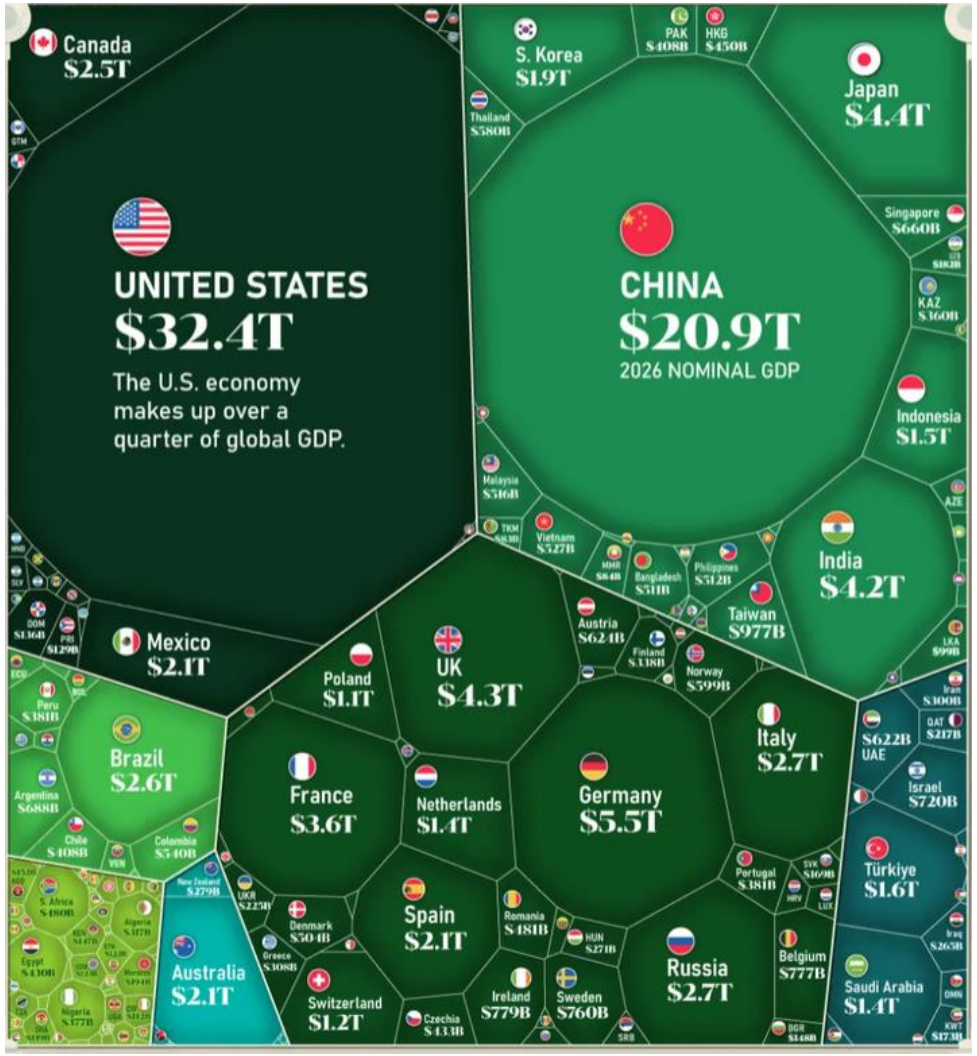
Countries according to their Ecological footprint

Rank	Country/region	Ecological footprint	Biocapacity	Biocapacity deficit or reserve	Population (millions)	Total biocapacity deficit or reserve (gMha)	Population (millions) for biocapacity to equal ecological footprint*
		(gha/person)					
	World	2.51	1.48	−1.03	8231.61	−8518.35	4839.101287
1	Qatar	11.73	0.83	−10.90	3.12	−33.96	0.221140
2	Luxembourg	10.12	1.20	−8.92	0.68	−6.07	0.080430
3	Mongolia	7.53	12.49	4.96	3.52	17.46	5.836978
4	United States of America	7.05	3.68	−3.37	347.28	−1170.71	181.285561
5	Estonia	6.67	9.23	2.56	1.34	3.45	1.861147
6	Canada	6.62	13.46	6.84	40.13	274.56	81.587732
7	Latvia	6.52	8.92	2.40	1.85	4.45	2.536771
8	Denmark	6.45	3.71	−2.74	6.00	−16.42	3.454800
9	Lithuania	5.71	5.41	−0.30	2.83	−0.86	2.679932
10	Malta	5.66	0.42	−5.24	0.55	−2.86	0.040130
11	Slovenia	5.39	2.43	−2.96	2.12	−6.26	0.955760
12	Russian Federation	5.39	7.38	1.98	144.00	285.61	196.960710
13	Austria	5.38	2.76	−2.62	9.11	−23.90	4.669472
14	Korea, Republic of	5.11	0.65	−4.45	51.67	−230.18	6.585580
15	Czech Republic	5.05	2.52	−2.53	10.61	−26.85	5.297189
16	Sweden	5.05	8.21	3.16	10.66	33.70	17.335631
17	Oman	4.94	1.30	−3.65	5.49	−20.05	1.440226
18	Montenegro	4.93	2.64	−2.29	0.63	−1.45	0.338738
19	Belgium	4.82	0.98	−3.83	11.76	−45.06	2.401609
20	Bhutan	4.77	4.64	−0.14	0.80	−0.11	0.774108
34	Israel	3.98	0.19	−3.79	9.52	−36.06	0.463947
35	Italy	3.97	0.98	−2.99	59.18	−176.93	14.612295
36	Mauritius	3.96	0.76	−3.20	1.27	−4.06	0.242562
37	Japan	3.94	0.67	−3.26	123.10	−401.73	21.031796
38	Switzerland	3.87	1.06	−2.80	8.97	−25.15	2.465440
39	Germany	3.78	1.60	−2.18	84.08	−183.18	35.586950
40	Tonga	3.76	1.48	−2.28	0.10	−0.24	0.040841
41	Chile	3.76	3.11	−0.65	19.86	−12.91	16.425625
42	China	3.76	0.79	−2.96	1447.33	−4289.12	305.721474
43	Grenada	3.68	1.85	−1.83	0.12	−0.22	0.058899
44	Greece	3.56	1.42	−2.13	9.94	−21.21	3.975530
45	Serbia and Montenegro	3.42	1.49	−1.93	8.17	−15.80	3.557198
46	United Kingdom	3.41	1.08	−2.33	69.55	−162.20	21.966696
47	Republic of North Macedonia	3.39	1.72	−1.66	1.81	−3.02	0.922973
48	Türkiye	3.18	1.51	−1.67	87.69	−146.34	41.689539
49	Spain	3.18	1.23	−1.95	47.89	−93.42	18.475528

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_ecological_footprint

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Back to GDP and its implications



- https://www.futurelearn.com/info/courses/social-wellbeing/0/steps/17290
- Source of the picture: https://www.visualcapitalist.com/the-126t-global-economy-in-one-chart/

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Nominal GDP (in USD) per capita by country

	Country/Territory	IMF (2026)[a][5]	World Bank (2025)[6]	United Nations (2023-24)[7]
1	Monaco	—	288,002 (2024)	288,002
2	Liechtenstein	226,809	220,167 (2024)	216,392
3	Luxembourg	158,733	147,252	138,596
	Bermuda	—	142,250 (2024)	136,766
4	Ireland	140,186	131,593	109,874
5	Switzerland	126,177	114,769	104,973
6	Iceland	110,048	98,324	84,450
7	Singapore	107,758	98,814	93,853
8	Norway	105,877	94,594	86,717
	Cayman Islands	—	104,293 (2024)	102,833
9	United States	94,430	90,027	84,817
	Isle of Man	—	90,015 (2023)	—
10	Denmark	83,445	76,970	71,021
17	Austria	67,761	62,930	58,634
18	Germany	65,303	60,496	55,113
19	Belgium	65,112	60,750	56,613
	Greenland	—	58,499 (2023)	62,078
20	United Kingdom	61,056	57,602	53,313
21	Canada	60,305	55,698	57,120
22	Finland	60,130	56,149	53,174
33	Slovenia	40,630	37,376	34,212
34	Czech Republic	39,795	35,917	32,139
	British Virgin Islands	—	—	38,627
35	Saudi Arabia	37,811	34,537	36,927
36	Estonia	37,718	34,418	31,434
	Turks and Caicos Islands	—	37,507 (2024)	37,760
37	South Korea	37,412	36,227	36,262

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(nominal)_per_capita

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What does GDP tell us and what it doesn´t tell?

- **GDP (Gross Domestic Product)** is the monetary value of the goods and services produced within a country over a period of time. **GDP per capita = GDP ÷ population. =** rough measure of **economic output per person**

1. It doesn't tell us how income is distributed
2. It doesn't tell us about poverty
3. It doesn't tell us people's quality of life – health, education, leisure, public services, personal security, equality/inequality, …
4. It largely ignores unpaid work & quality of jobs
5. It doesn't properly account for environmental damage
6. It doesn't tell us whether economic growth is sustainable
7. It doesn't tell us about wealth (income ≠ wealth)

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What is GDP? What does it show?

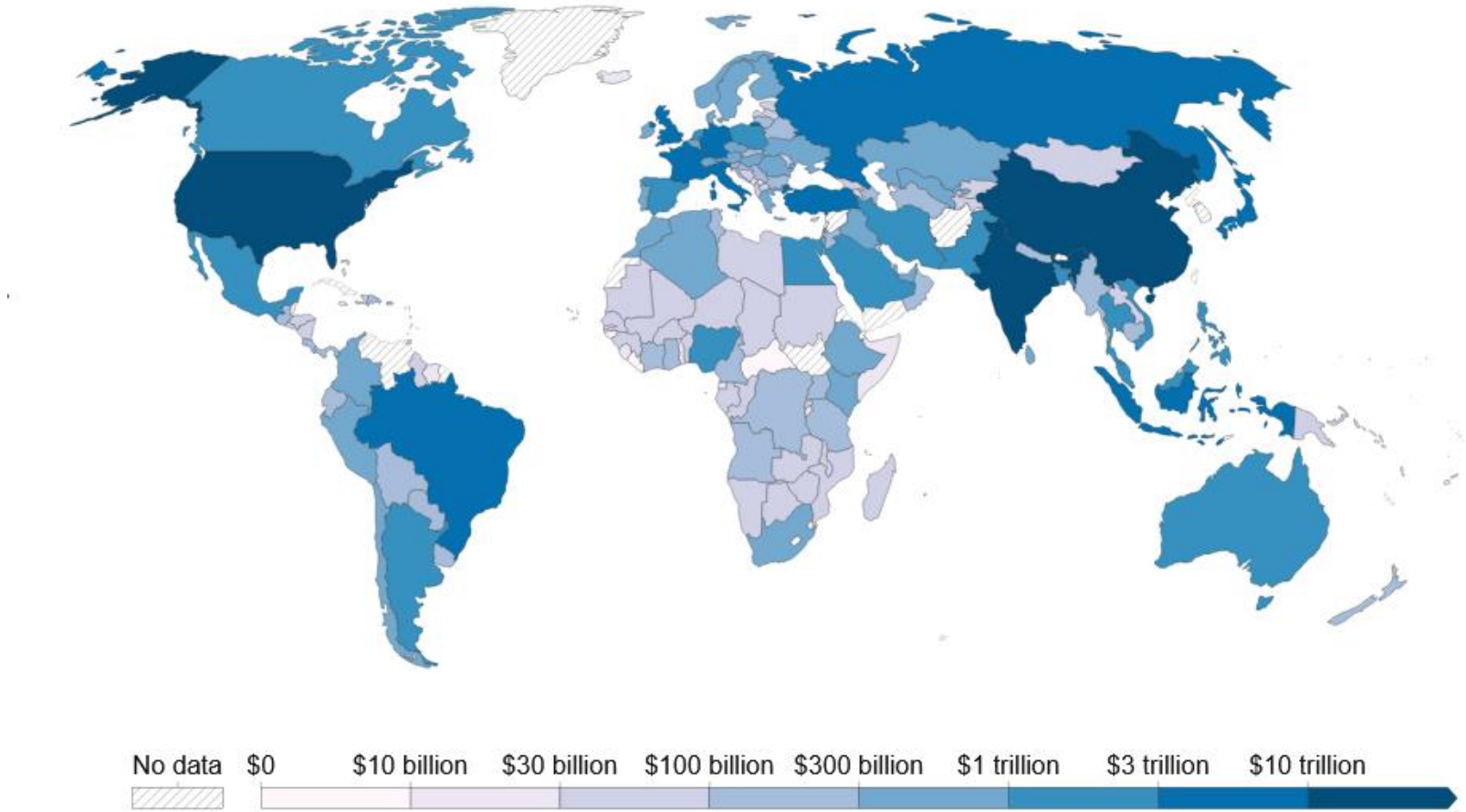
- Monetary measure of the market value of all final goods and services produced in a period of time = measures, how large the economy is
- GDP (nominal) per capita does not, however, reflect differences in the cost of living and the inflation rates of the countries; therefore, using a basis of GDP per capita at purchasing power parity (PPP) is arguably more useful when comparing living standards between nations, while nominal GDP is more useful comparing national economies on the international market.

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GDP in 2024

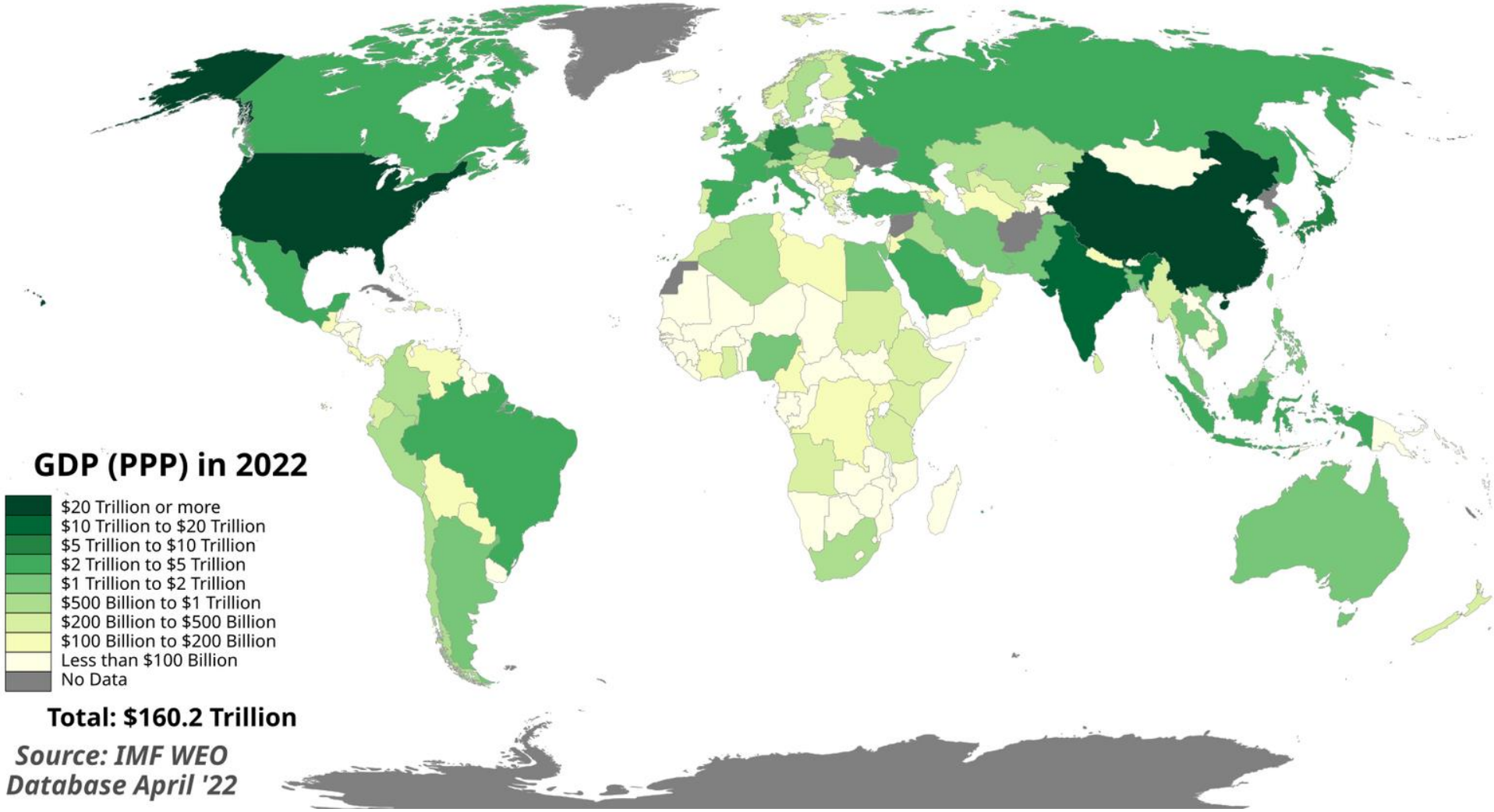
Gross domestic product (GDP), 2024

This data is adjusted for inflation and differences in living costs between countries.



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GDP – Purchasing Power per Capita

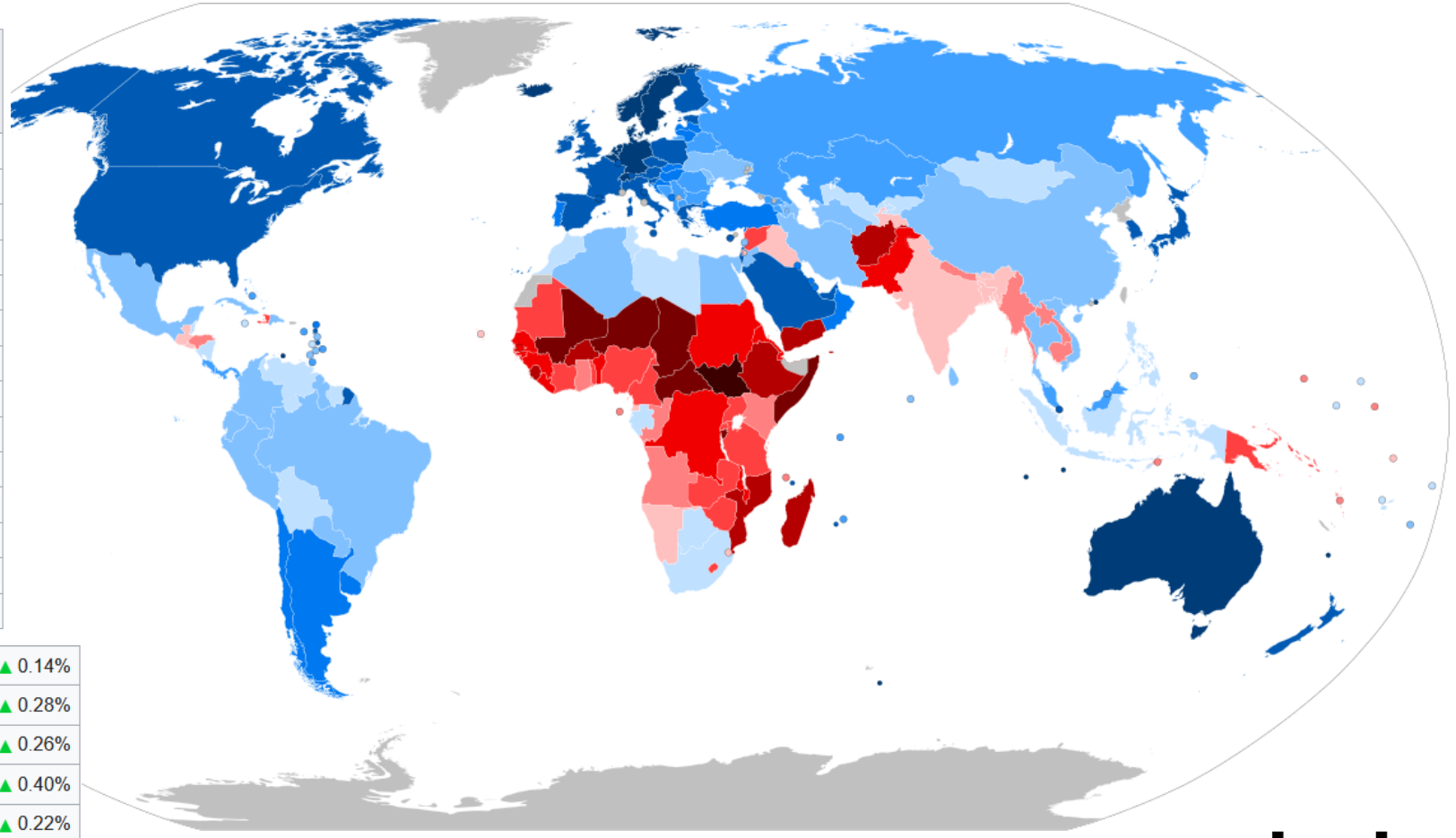


https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purchasing_power_parity#/media/File:GDP_(PPP)_by_country.svg

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Countries by Human Development Index

Rank	Change since 2015	Country or territory	HDI value	% annual growth (2010–2023)
1	▲ (2)	Iceland	0.972	▲ 0.28%
2	▼ (1)	Norway	0.970	▲ 0.25%
	–	Switzerland		▲ 0.24%
4	▲ (2)	Denmark	0.962	▲ 0.35%
5	▼ (1)	Germany	0.959	▲ 0.19%
	–	Sweden		▲ 0.38%
7	▲ (1)	Australia	0.958	▲ 0.20%
8	▼ (1)	Hong Kong	0.955	▲ 0.38%
	▲ (2)	Netherlands		▲ 0.26%
10	▲ (3)	Belgium	0.951	▲ 0.26%
11	▲ (4)	Ireland	0.949	▲ 0.38%
12	▼ (4)	Finland	0.948	▲ 0.27%
13	▼ (2)	Singapore	0.946	▲ 0.25%
	▲ (2)	United Kingdom		▲ 0.24%
25	▼ (3)	Luxembourg	0.922	▲ 0.14%
26	▼ (1)	France	0.920	▲ 0.28%
27	▼ (3)	Israel	0.919	▲ 0.26%
28	–	Spain	0.918	▲ 0.40%
29	▼ (3)	Czechia	0.915	▲ 0.22%
	▲ (1)	Italy		▲ 0.30%
	▼ (2)	San Marino		▼ 0.32%



Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_Human_Development_Index

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Some questions

- GDP per capita is often used as an indicator of living standards …
- Is the rise of GDP desired?
- Has the GDP index anything to do with people´s happiness?

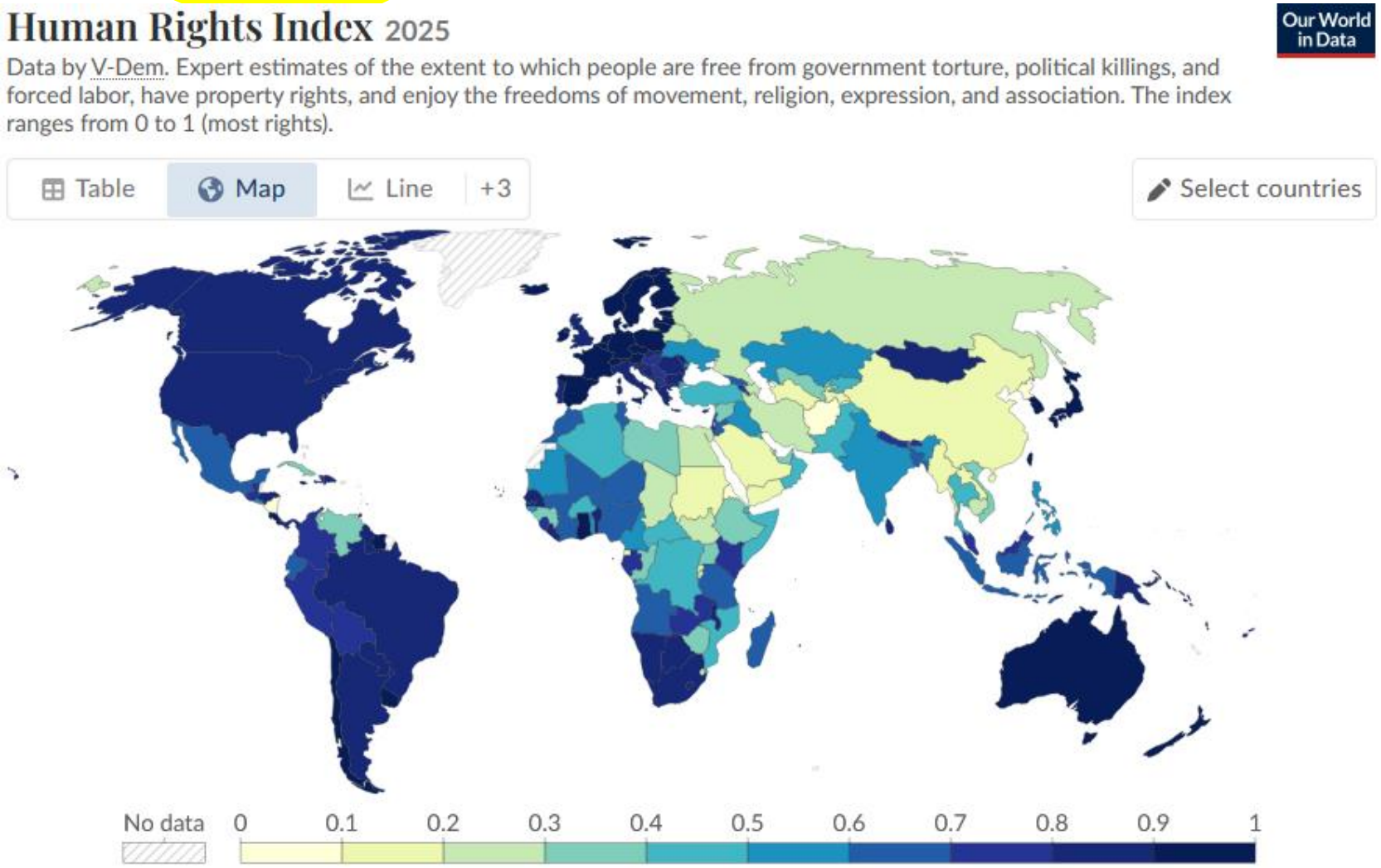
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What GDP does not show?

- Differences in the cost of living
- Inflation rates of the countries
- Purchasing power parity (PPP)
- Account for leisure time
- Levels of environmental cleanliness, health, and learning
- Life expectancy or infant mortality
- Literacy and basic mathematic skills of people
- Shadow economy
- Level of inequality in society
- Variety available (white or rye bread – GDP does not care)
- Technology and products which are available
- …

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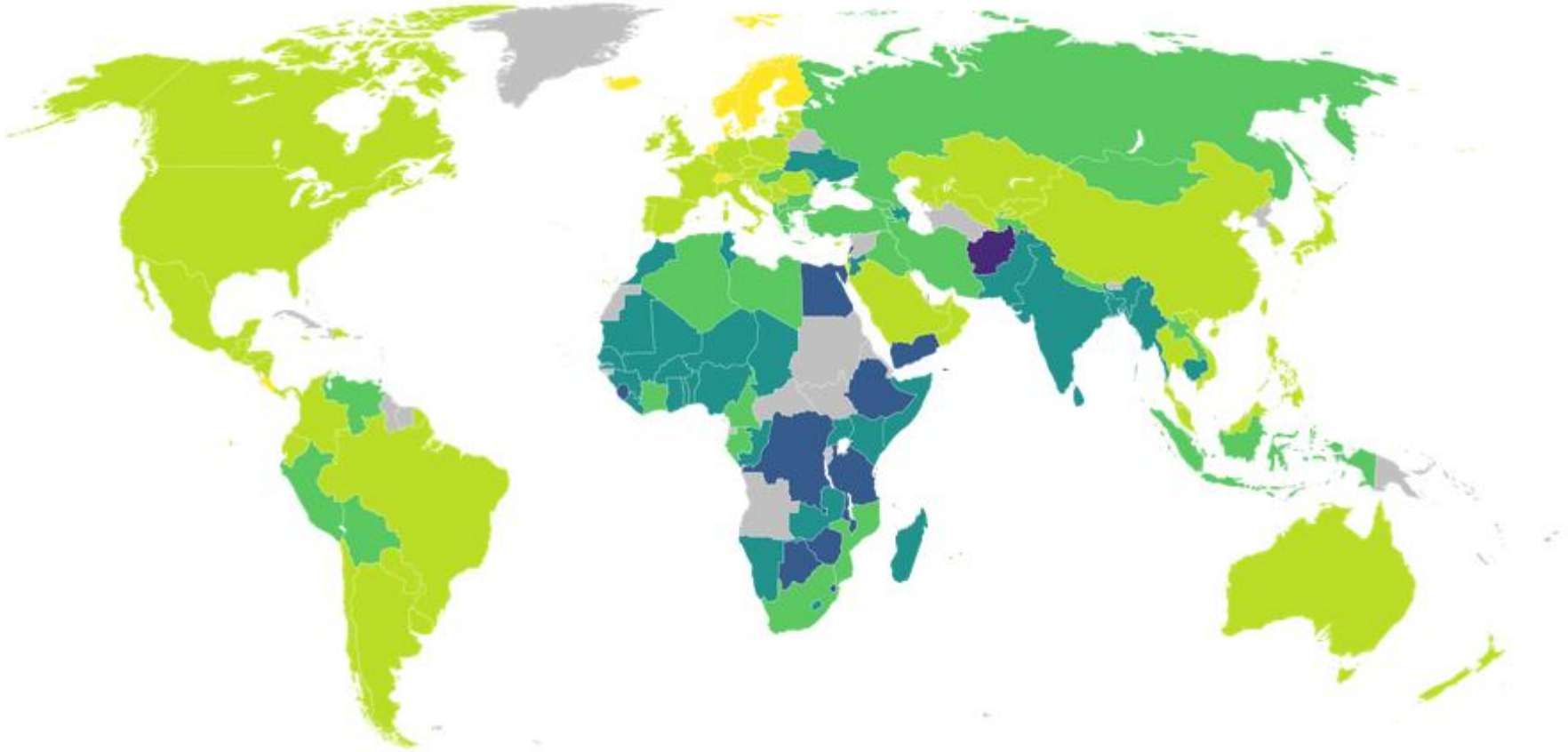
Human Rights Protection



Source: https://ourworldindata.org/human-rights

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World Happiness Report



Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:World_Happiness_Report_2026.svg

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Well Being



- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4PkD4JebMAY
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGCKHX4Lr9o
- Source of the picture:

https://www.wisconsin.edu/ohrwd/well-being/wp-content/uploads/sites/284/2020/02/Dimensions-of-Well-being-copy-993x1024.png

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Inequality

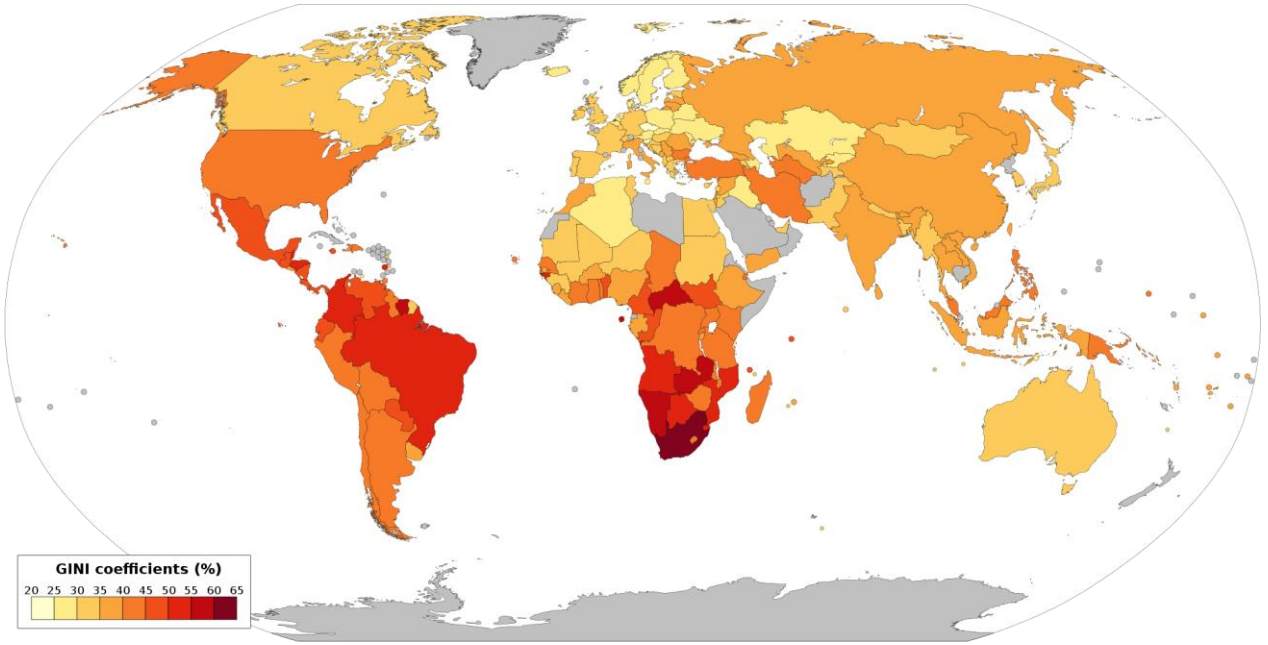


https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/unequal-vs-inequality-negative-prefix-usage

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Video – Richard Wilkinson

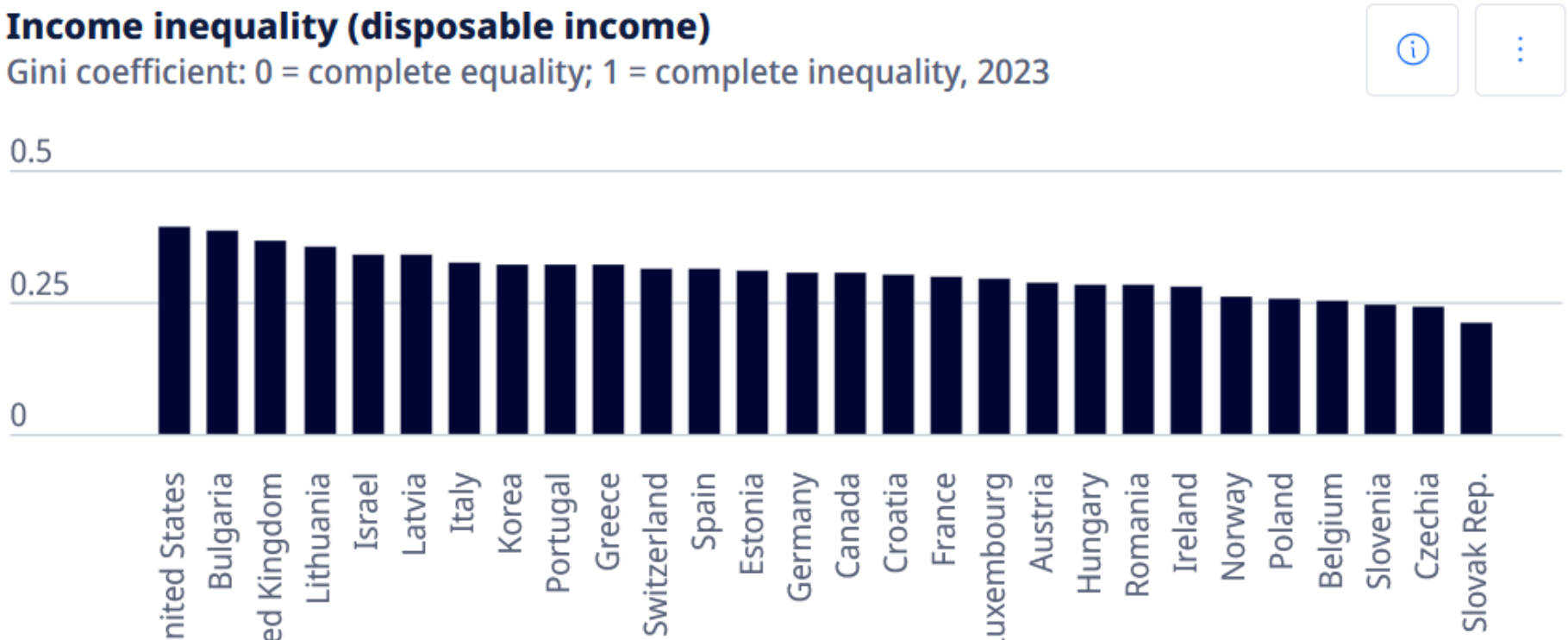
- https://www.ted.com/talks/richard_wilkinson#t-142462
- Does wealth of a state corelate with life expectancy of its inhabitants?
- Does wealth of an individual corelate with his/her life expectancy?
- What else do you remember from the video?
- …



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_income_equality#/media/File:GINI_index_World_Bank_up_to_2018.svg

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Income Inequality



https://data.oecd.org/inequality/income-inequality.htm

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