

AC PAPER NO. 5: UN HDI INDEX

UNITED NATIONS ON THE BEST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD

The UN 2010 Human Development Index report, released early in November 2010, tells us which countries are best to live in, as measured by HDI. To find it, go to the following URL: < <http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/> >.

The HDI measures the average achievements in a country in three basic dimensions of human development:

- A long and healthy life, as measured by life expectancy at birth.
- Knowledge, as measured by the adult literacy rate (with two-thirds weight) and the combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio (with one third weight).
- A decent standard of living, as measured by gross domestic product (GDP) per capita at purchasing power parity (PPP) in USD.

Each year UN member states are listed and ranked.

Of the top ten countries, six are constitutional monarchies.

Constitutional monarchies are a select group of countries. Almost all are concentrated at the top.

**AUSTRALIA IS NUMBER 2 (0.937), JUST AFTER NORWAY (0.938) (ALSO A CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY)
THE REPUBLIC OF USA IS NUMBER 4 (0.902)**

NB. Nearly all countries the UN classed as "Low HDI" are republics.

SUMMARY

Constitutional monarchies are better systems of government for their citizens than republics.

According to the United Nations:	
Republics	Constitutional Monarchies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only 3 republics appear in the top ten countries by HDI • Nearly all the lowest 61-ranking countries assessed by the UN as having "Low HDI" are republics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70% of the top 10-ranking countries by HDI are Constitutional Monarchies. • 55% of the top 20-ranking countries by HDI are Constitutional Monarchies. • 42.8% of all the top 42 countries assessed by the UN as having "Very High HDI" are Constitutional Monarchies or Dyarchies. • Out of all the lowest 61-ranking countries assessed by the UN as having "Low HDI", only 2 are Constitutional Monarchies

2009 UN Human Development Index country rankings**Very High Human Development**

1. Norway
2. Australia
3. New Zealand
4. United States
5. Ireland
6. Liechtenstein
7. Netherlands
8. Canada
9. Sweden
10. Germany
11. Japan
12. Korea (Republic of)
13. Switzerland
14. France
15. Israel
16. Finland
17. Iceland
18. Belgium
19. Denmark
20. Spain

21. Hong Kong, China (SAR)
22. Greece
23. Italy
24. Luxembourg
25. Austria
26. United Kingdom
27. Singapore
28. Czech Republic
29. Slovenia
30. Andorra
31. Slovakia
32. United Arab Emirates
33. Malta
34. Estonia
35. Cyprus
36. Hungary
37. Brunei Darussalam
38. Qatar
39. Bahrain
40. Portugal
41. Poland
42. Barbados

High Human Development

43. Bahamas
44. Lithuania
45. Chile
46. Argentina
47. Kuwait
48. Latvia
49. Montenegro
50. Romania
51. Croatia
52. Uruguay
53. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
54. Panama
55. Saudi Arabia
56. Mexico
57. Malaysia
58. Bulgaria
59. Trinidad and Tobago
60. Serbia
61. Belarus

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|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| 62. Costa Rica | 97. Philippines | 133. Yemen |
| 63. Peru | 98. Botswana | 134. Benin |
| 64. Albania | 99. Moldova (Republic of) | 135. Madagascar |
| 65. Russian Federation | 100. Mongolia | 136. Mauritania |
| 66. Kazakhstan | 101. Egypt | 137. Papua New Guinea |
| 67. Azerbaijan | 102. Uzbekistan | 138. Nepal |
| 68. Bosnia and Herzegovina | 103. Micronesia (Federated States of) | 139. Togo |
| 69. Ukraine | 104. Guyana | 140. Comoros |
| 70. Iran (Islamic Republic of) | 105. Namibia | 141. Lesotho |
| 71. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | 106. Honduras | 142. Nigeria |
| 72. Mauritius | 107. Maldives | 143. Uganda |
| 73. Brazil | 108. Indonesia | 144. Senegal |
| 74. Georgia | 109. Kyrgyzstan | 145. Haiti |
| 75. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) | 110. South Africa | 146. Angola |
| 76. Armenia | 111. Syrian Arab Republic | 147. Djibouti |
| 77. Ecuador | 112. Tajikistan | 148. Tanzania (United Republic of) |
| 78. Belize | 113. Viet Nam | 149. Côte d'Ivoire |
| 79. Colombia | 114. Morocco | 150. Zambia |
| 80. Jamaica | 115. Nicaragua | 151. Gambia |
| 81. Tunisia | 116. Guatemala | 152. Rwanda |
| 82. Jordan | 117. Equatorial Guinea | 153. Malawi |
| 83. Turkey | 118. Cape Verde | 154. Sudan |
| 84. Algeria | 119. India | 155. Afghanistan |
| 85. Tonga | 120. Timor-Leste | 156. Guinea |
| | 121. Swaziland | 157. Ethiopia |
| | 122. Lao People's Democratic Republic | 158. Sierra Leone |
| | 123. Solomon Islands | 159. Central African Republic |
| | 124. Cambodia | 160. Mali |
| | 125. Pakistan | 161. Burkina Faso |
| | 126. Congo | 162. Liberia |
| | 127. São Tomé and Príncipe | 163. Chad |
| | | 164. Guinea-Bissau |
| | | 165. Mozambique |
| | | 166. Burundi |
| | | 167. Niger |
| | | 168. Congo (Democratic Republic of the) |
| | | 169. Zimbabwe |

Medium Human Development

86. Fiji
87. Turkmenistan
88. Dominican Republic
89. China
90. El Salvador
91. Sri Lanka
- 92. Thailand**
93. Gabon
94. Suriname
95. Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
96. Paraguay

Low Human Development

128. Kenya
129. Bangladesh
130. Ghana
131. Cameroon
132. Myanmar

NB: Constitutional Monarchies are in **BOLD**. PS The 2012 Report was not published at the time of this paper initially going to press. It is not greatly different.

NB. While not a single country amongst the 24 "Low HDI" countries on this list is a constitutional monarchy, sixteen of the 38 "Very High HDI" countries therein are, like Australia, constitutional monarchies.

Breaking News

When Gross National Income (GNI) gets extracted from the HDI, Australia is listed as first in its 2010 rankings. - <http://hdr.undp.org/en/humandev/lets-talk-hd/> (Mon. 10 Jan. 2011 18:00:28 GMT edition.)

A REPUBLICAN SPEAKS

Republican sees the Truth

In his article "Monarchies rule" (*ABC Unleashed*, 0900 hrs, 28 Aug. 2008; retrievable from <http://www.abc.net.au/unleashed/stories/s2348261.htm>), well known left-wing author and republican Bob Ellis notes a worry that, despite his republicanism, "the best countries in the world are monarchies."