**GOING GLOBAL**



**ODDITIES OF GLOBALISM**

1. Honda & Toyota make more cars in American factories, using American labor, than Ford, Chrysler, or GM do. Japan makes more of its Komatsu tractors in the U.S. than John Deere makes of its tractors.
2. Ultimately, consumers cause sweatshops (when they purchase products made by workers paid less than they can live on), but they don’t know it.
3. American Wal\_Mart shoppers are helping the Chinese economy (which manufactures almost all Wal-Mart merchandise) more than the American economy.
4. Global corporations are more patriotic to global markets than to their own home nation.
5. Women hold the key to 21st century economic growth (because they are the most under-employed economic asset in today’s world).
6. A high currency value is not always best for a nation (because it makes the nation’s exports most expensive for foreigners to purchase).
7. American tax cuts over the past 30 years have weakened U.S. global power (by increasing federal government deficits financed in large part by foreigners.)
8. Most of China’s exports belong to Western companies (who off-shore their manufacturing to China).
9. The largest global companies have more assets than most nations.
10. In the 21st century, economic power makes nations more powerful than military power.
11. The most valuable corporate assets today are invisible (patents, copyrights, invention and innovation).
12. $3 trillion crosses national borders every day.
13. The richest nation in the world (the USA) is also the most indebted nation in the world.

**Cars.com 2010 American-Made Index** Rank Make/Model (U.S. Assembly Location) 2009 Rank
1. Toyota Camry (Georgetown, Ky., and Lafayette, Ind.) 1
2. Honda Accord (Marysville, Ohio, and Lincoln, Ala.) --
3. Ford Escape (Kansas City, Mo.) --
4. Ford Focus (Wayne, Mich.) --
5. Chevrolet Malibu (Kansas City, Kan.) 3
6. Honda Odyssey (Lincoln, Ala.) 4
7. Ram 1500\* (Warren, Mich.) --
8. Toyota Tundra (San Antonio) 7
9. Jeep Wrangler (Toledo, Ohio) --
10. Toyota Sienna (Princeton, Ind.) 6

Cars.com disqualifies models with a domestic parts content rating below 75%, models built exclusively outside the U.S., or lines soon to be discontinued without a U.S.-built successor.

•**Foreign cars made in the USA**. Honda's Ohio-built Accord is 70% domestic parts. Toyota's Corolla is made in a California plant alongside General Motors models.

•**American cars made abroad.** Ford's hit Fusion sedan is made in Mexico; only half its parts are from the USA or Canada. GM pitches its small HHR sport utility and giant Suburban straight at the American market, but they, too, are built in Mexico. HHR has only 41% American and Canadian parts.

•**Famous American names and foreign owners.** More than three-quarters of the parts in Dodge's new Nitro SUV, which is assembled in Toledo, Ohio, are American or Canadian. But the profits go to Germany because Dodge is part of DaimlerChrysler. Chrysler Group, meanwhile, just became the first major automaker to announce it's going to make small cars for the U.S. market in China.

Ford Motor's ([F](http://www.dailyfinance.com/quotes/ford-motor-company/f/nys)) popular F-150 pickup truck contains so many foreign-sourced parts that it failed to make Cars.com's top rankings of its [American-Made Cars index](http://www.cars.com/go/advice/Story.jsp?section=top&subject=ami&story=amMade0710) for 2010. Meanwhile, Japan's Toyota Motor ([TM](http://www.dailyfinance.com/quotes/toyota-motor-corporation/tm/nys)), had more models on the list than other manufacturer, taking three of the top 10 slots. Just 55% of the parts used to manufacture the 2010 model of the venerable F-150 come from domestic sources, the online car-buying guide says. In past years, the F-150 has held steady with around 80% domestic content. The 2009 redesign reduced that amount to a still-respectable 75% rating. Other Ford models did make the list, however: The Escape SUV and Focus compact took third and fourth, respectively.

The F-150 typically tops vehicle sales charts in the U.S. year in and year out. But its two competitors for that No. 1 sales spot, the Toyota Camry and the Honda ([HMC](http://www.dailyfinance.com/quotes/honda-motor-co-ltd-honda-giken-kogyo-kabushiki-kaisha-japan/hmc/nys)) Accord, contained the most domestic content of any popular vehicles sold in the U.S., according to Cars.com's analysis. Camry's first-place ranking was a repeat for Toyota. The popular sedan, manufactured in Georgetown, Ky., and Lafayette, Ind., displaced the F-150 last year to take the top spot. At No. 2, with a 75% domestic content and strong sales, the Accord is new to the index. All Accords sold in the U.S. are now assembled in either Ohio or Alabama.

America's other top nameplate, Chevrolet -- General Motors' "baseball, hot dogs and apple pie" brand -- had only one model on this year's top 10 list: the Malibu midsized sedan, built in Kansas City, Kan., ranked No. 5. GM's Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra full-sized pickups once regularly appeared on the American-Made Index. But with production of both trucks now split between the U.S. and Mexico, today's models have only 65% domestic-parts content.

Chrysler Group's Ram 1500 and Toyota's Tundra pickups, however, did make the top 10, finishing seventh and eighth, respectively, with Chrysler's iconic Jeep Wrangler SUV, built in Toledo, Ohio, taking ninth. In addition to the Tundra and the Camry, one other Toyota made the list at No. 6, the Sienna minivan, which is made in Indiana.

**22 products which are made in America:**

* Toys: Crayola's [Silly Putty](http://www.sillyputty.com/) (Easton, PA)
* Cosmetics: [Burt's Bees](http://www.burtsbees.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/StoreView?langId=-1&storeId=10001&catalogId=10051) (Durham, NC)
* Cosmetics: [Merle Norman Cosmetics](http://www.merlenorman.com/AboutUs/today.html) (Los Angeles, CA)
* Toys: [Slinky Toys](http://www.poof-slinky.com/history.asp) (Hollidaysburg, PA)
* Candles: Yankee Candles (South Deerfield, MA)
* Teddy Bears: [Vermont Teddy Bear Company](http://shop.vermontteddybear.com/) (Burlington, VT)
* Jeans: [Union Jean Company](http://www.unionjeancompany.com/) (Arcanum, OH)
* Playing Cards: [United States Playing Card Company](http://www.usplayingcard.com/uspcconsumer.html) (Cincinnati, OH)
* Outdoor Gear: [Cabela's, Inc.](http://www.cabelas.com/) (NYSE: [CAB](http://finance.aol.com/quotes/cabela-s-incorporated/cab/nys?tabs=quotesandnews)) (Sydney, Nebraska)
* Sound Systems: [B&K Components](http://www.bkcomp.com/aboutbk.asp) (Buffalo, NY)
* Carbon Bicycles: [Aegis Bicycles](http://aegisbicycles.com/contact.html) (Camden, ME)
* Boots: [Red Wing Shoes](http://www.redwingshoe.com/contact/) (Red Wing, MN)
* House Tools: [Stride Tool Inc.](http://www.stridetool.com/contact.html) (Glenwillow, OH)
* Handbags: [Unique Bag and Design](http://members.aol.com/uniquebag/companyinfo.html) (Akron. OH)
* Women's Baseball Caps: [Madcapz](http://www.madcapz.net/contactus.php) (Chicago, IL)
* Plastic Boxes : [Oppenheim Plastics Co.](http://www.oppenheimplastics.com/) (Saddle River, NJ)
* Appliances: [KitchenAid Appliances](http://www.gourmetkitchenstore.com/kitchenaid.html) (Benton, MI) (manufactured in Ohio, Mississippi; Arkansas; Tennessee; and Indiana).
* Baskets: [Longaberger Baskets](http://www.longaberger.com/) (Dresden, OH)
* Kitchen cabinets: [Merillat Industries](http://www.merillat.com) (Adrian, MI) (manufactured in 11 U.S. plants)
* Paper supplies: [Mrs. Grossman's Paper Company](http://www.mrsgrossmans.com/whois/company.shtml) (Petaluma, CA)
* Louisville Slugger Baseball Bats: [Hillerich & Bradsby](http://www.slugger.com/) Company (Louisville, KY)
* Clothing: [Pendleton Woolen Mills](http://www.pendleton-usa.com/) (Portland, OR)

**GLOBAL DEBT**

**PER CAPITA EXTERNAL DEBT**

Ireland: $448,000

UK: $151,000

Netherlands: $137,000

France: $68,000

Germany: $54,000

Spain: $50,000

USA: $42,000

Russia: $2599

Brazil: $1234

China: $271

India:$130

**U.S. DEBT AS % OF ANNUAL GDP**

2001: 33%

2002: 34%

2003: 35%

2004: 37%

2005: 37.5%

2006: 37%

2007: 37%

2008: 41%

2009: 60%

2010 est.: 67%

2011 est: 69%

**2004 GOVT. DEFICIT AS % OF TOTAL NATIONAL BUDGET**

USA: 26%

Japan: 25%

Germany: 8%

UK: 7%

France: 7%

Italy: 7%

China: 10%

Canada: 4% surplus

**% FOREIGN OWNERS OWN OF U.S. TREASURY SECURITIES**

China: 23%

Japan: 21%

UK: 6%

Oil exporters: 5.5%

Caribbean banks: 5.6%

Brazil: 4%

Russia: 3%

Hong Kong: 3%

**GLOBAL WEALTH DISTRIBUTION**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Region | Percent of world population | Percent of world net worth ([PPP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purchasing_power_parity)) | Percent of world net worth (exchange rates) | Percent of world GDP (PPP) | Percent of world GDP (exchange rates) |
| North America | 5.17 | 27.1 | 34.39 | 23.88 | 33.67 |
| Central/South America | 8.52 | 6.51 | 4.34 | 8.49 | 6.44 |
| Europe | 9.62 | 26.42 | 29.19 | 22.8 | 27.06 |
| Africa | 10.66 | 1.52 | 0.54 | 2.36 | 1.01 |
| Middle East | 9.88 | 5.07 | 3.13 | 5.69 | 4.1 |
| Asia | 52.18 | 29.4 | 25.61 | 31.07 | 24.1 |
| Other | 3.14 | 3.7 | 2.56 | 5.4 | 3.38 |

A report released in 2006 by a United Nations group documents the **staggering levels of global inequality in household wealth**. The report gives a partial portrait of a world society characterized by extreme concentrations of wealth in the hands of the richest sections of the population, with the position of much of the remainder ranging from general economic insecurity to dire poverty.

According to the report, published by the World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER) and based on data from 2000, the **top one percent of the world’s adult population (about 37 million people) owns 40 percent of the world’s wealth, while the top two percent owns over half and the top 10 percent owns 85 percent.** Wealth is defined as physical and financial assets minus liabilities. In contrast, the bottom half of the world’s adult population—or about 1.85 billion people—owns collectively only one percent of the world’s assets.

This means **that the top one percent of the world’s adult population owns 40 times more than the bottom 50 percent, and nearly 3 times more than the bottom 90 percent.** Put another way, the authors note, “The average member of the top decile [top 10 percent] owns nearly 3,000 times the mean wealth of the bottom decile, and the average member of the top percentile [top one percent] is more than **13,000 times richer**.”

The **United States** has a mean wealth of **$144,000** per person, the highest in the world, while **India** has a mean wealth of only **$6,500** (the poorest of those for which data was available). However, in the US, wealth concentration is among the highest of those countries with sufficient data to make these calculations.

According to the report, the **top one percent of the population in the US owns 32.7 percent of the wealth, trailing only Switzerland, where the top one percent owns 34.8 percent**. Other countries with a particularly high share of wealth owned by the top one percent include **Denmark (25 percent), Indonesia (28.7 percent) and the UK (23 percent)**..The share owned by the top ten percent, a figure that is available for a larger set of countries, ranges from **41.4 percent in China to 69.8 percent in the US.**

The UN figures indicate that **45.5 percent of the US adult population** (or about 92 million people) is in the **top 10 percent of the world’s population by wealth**. However, to qualify for the top 10 percent requires total assets of only $61,041. For the bulk of American workers who reach this level, the majority of these assets are tied up in their homes and vehicles. A US census report based on 2000 data found that 67 percent of the population reported ownership of a home, and that the median net worth of this house (that is, the value of the house minus mortgages) amounted to $59,000.

 “While many poor people in poor countries are in debt, their debts are relatively small in total. This is mainly due to the absence of financial institutions that allow households to incur large mortgage and consumer debts, as is increasingly the situation in rich countries... Many people in high-income countries have negative net worth and—somewhat paradoxically—are among the poorest people in the world in terms of household wealth.”

Despite being the wealthiest country in the world, the **savings rate in the US is zero**: **most Americans borrow on average more than they earn**. As the housing market in the US and other countries begins to slow, and home values decline, there will be a corresponding decline in the relative net wealth. Therefore, many of those classified in the top ten percent of the world’s population by household wealth in fact live from paycheck to paycheck, in **a state of constant financial insecurity**.

**The poorest 60 million Americans reported average incomes of less than $7 a day** in 2004. The richest one-tenth of one percent of the population, or about 300,000 Americans, reported significantly higher combined pretax income in 2004 than the poorest 120 million.

A new study on The World Distribution of Household Wealth by the Helsinki-based [World Institute for Development Economics Research](http://www.wider.unu.edu) of the United Nations University shows **the richest 2% of adults in the world own more than half of global household wealth**. The most comprehensive study of personal wealth ever undertaken also reports that **the richest 1% of adults alone owned 40% of global assets in the year 2000, and that the richest 10% of adults accounted for 85% of the world total**. **The bottom half of the world adult population owned barely 1% of global wealth.** The research finds that assets of US$2,200 per adult placed a household in the top half of the world wealth distribution in the year 2000. To be among the richest 10% of adults in the world required US$61,000 in assets, and more than US$500,000 was needed to belong to the richest 1%, a group which — with 37 million members worldwide — is far from an exclusive club.

The world map shows per capita wealth of different countries. **Average wealth amounted to $144,000 per person in the USA in year 2000, and $181,000 in Japa**n. Lower down among countries with wealth data are **India, with per capita assets of $1,100**, and **Indonesia with $1,400** per capita. Per capita wealth levels vary widely across countries. Even within the group of high-income OECD nations the range includes **$37,000 for New Zealand and $70,000 for Denmark and $127,000 for the UK**.

**Wealth is heavily concentrated in North America, Europe, and high income Asia-Pacific countries. People in these countries collectively hold almost 90% of total world wealth**. **Although North America has only 6% of the world adult population, it accounts for 34% of household wealth.** Europe and high income Asia-Pacific countries also own disproportionate amounts of wealth. In contrast, the overall share of wealth owned by people in Africa, China, India, and other lower income countries in Asia is considerably less than their population share, sometimes by a factor of more than ten. **The study finds wealth to be more unequally distributed than income across countries**. High income countries tend to have a bigger share of world wealth than of world GDP. The reverse is true of middle- and low-income nations. However, there are exceptions to this rule, for example the Nordic region and transition countries like the Czech Republic and Poland.

The concentration of wealth within countries varies significantly but is generally high. **The share of the top 10% ranges from around 40% in China to 70% in the United States**, and higher still in other countries. The Gini value, which measures inequality on a scale from zero to one, gives numbers in the range from 35% to 45% for income inequality in most countries. In contrast, Gini values for wealth inequality are usually between 65% and 75%, and sometimes exceed 80%. Two high wealth economies, Japan and the United States, show very different patterns of wealth inequality, with **Japan having a wealth Gini of 55% and the USA a wealth Gini of around 80%.**

**Wealth inequality for the world as a whole is higher still. The study estimates that the global wealth Gini for adults is 89%.** The same degree of inequality would be obtained if one person in a group of ten takes 99% of the total pie and the other nine share the remaining 1%. According to the study, **almost all of the world’s richest individuals live in North America, Europe, and rich Asia-Pacific countries. Each of these groups of countries contribute about one third of the members of the world’s wealthiest 10%.**

**China occupies much of the middle third of the global wealth distribution, while India, Africa, and low-income Asian countries dominate the bottom third.** For all developing regions of the world, the share of population exceeds the share of global wealth, which in turn exceeds the share of members of the wealthiest groups. **A small number of countries account for most of the wealthiest 10% in the world. One quarter are Americans and another 20% are Japanese. These two countries feature even more strongly among the richest 1% of individuals in the world, with 37% residing in the USA and 27% in Japan.**

The authors go on to note that ‘**many people in high-income countries have negative net worth** and—somewhat paradoxically—are among the poorest people in the world in terms of household wealth.

**A study by the World Institute for Development Economics Research at United Nations University reports that the richest 1% of adults alone owned 40% of global assets in the year 2000, and that the richest 10% of adults accounted for 85% of the world total.** **The bottom half of the world adult population owned 1% of global wealth.**[**[11]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Distribution_of_wealth#cite_note-un-wider-10) **Moreover, another study found that the richest 2% own more than half of global household** [**assets**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asset)**.**[**[12]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Distribution_of_wealth#cite_note-really-11)

**In the United States at the end of 2001, 10% of the population owned 71% of the wealth and the top 1% owned 38%. On the other hand, the bottom 40% owned less than 1% of the nation's wealth.**[**[14]**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Distribution_of_wealth#cite_note-13)

According to this 2006 study by the [Federal Reserve System](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Reserve_System), from 1989 to 2004, **the distribution in the United States had been changing with indications there was a greater concentration of wealth held by the top 10% and top 1% of the population, at the expense of the bottom 50% of the population.**

**NATIONAL PER CAPITA GDP COMPARISONS**

Algeria   $1,592

Argentina $8,810

Australia $21,750

Austria $26,740

Belgium $25,670

Brazil   $3,280

Bulgaria $1,530

Canada  $22,394

Chile   $4,950

China   $790

Colombia $1,795

Czech Republic $5,580

Denmark $32,576

Egypt   $1,499

Estonia  $3,778

Finland  $27,979

France  $24,956

Germany  $27,337

Greece  $11,860

Hong Kong  $18,400

Hungary  $ 5,180

India   $     540

Indonesia  $840

Iran     $1,050

Iraq   $313

Ireland  $26,510

Israel   $16,100

Italy   $21,393

Japan   $30,720

Jordan  $1,229

Kazakhstan  $1,020

Kenya   $292

Latvia   $2,794

Lebanon  $5,769

Lithuania  $2,865

Malaysia  $3,808

Mexico  $5,040

Netherlands  $27,200

New Zealand  $14,310

Nigeria  $450

Norway  $35,853

Pakistan  $430

Philippines  $1,033

Poland  $4,290

Portugal  $11,621

Romania  $1,480

Russia   $1,410

Saudi Arabia $  6,560

Singapore  $17,870

Slovakia  $3,920

South Africa  $3,150

South Korea  $9,040

Spain   $14,623

Sweden  $28,417

Switzerland  $36,166

Taiwan  $13,832

Thailand  $2,140

Turkey  $3,120

Ukraine  $590

United Kingdom $23,947

United States $33,946

Venezuela  $4,410

Vietnam   $367

**POLITICAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS** (primarily from business)

|  |
| --- |
| **HOUSE** |
| **Party** | **No. of Cands** | **Total Raised** | **Total Spent** | **Total Cashon Hand** | **Totalfrom PACs** | **Totalfrom Indivs** |
| All | 435 | $640,383,311 | $597,077,283 | $179,280,656 | $264,741,773 | $328,495,199 |
| Dems | 257 | $394,282,864 | $353,377,508 | $116,047,274 | $172,170,571 | $196,693,150 |
| Repubs | 178 | $246,100,447 | $243,699,775 | $63,233,382 | $92,571,202 | $131,802,049 |

|  |
| --- |
| **SENATE** |
| **Party** | **No. of Cands** | **Total Raised** | **Total Spent** | **Total Cashon Hand** | **Totalfrom PACs** | **Totalfrom Indivs** |
| All | 35 | $255,427,744 | $263,881,448 | $34,891,871 | $59,810,772 | $168,414,962 |
| Dems | 20 | $157,508,389 | $162,079,887 | $23,932,959 | $30,530,371 | $110,250,274 |
| Repubs | 15 | $97,919,355 | $101,801,561 | $10,958,912 | $29,280,401 | $58,164,688 |

**Top 20 PAC Contributors to Candidates, 2009-2010** (**PAC** = Political Action Committee)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PAC Name** | **Total Amount** | **Dem Pct** | **Repub Pct** |
| [AT&T Inc](http://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/ultlookup.php?txt=AT%26T+Inc) | $2,258,725 | 50% | 50% |
| [Intl Brotherhood of Electrical Workers](http://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/ultlookup.php?txt=Intl+Brotherhood+of+Electrical+Workers) | $2,208,873 | 99% | 2% |
| [Honeywell International](http://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/ultlookup.php?txt=Honeywell+International) | $2,080,150 | 56% | 44% |
| [Operating Engineers Union](http://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/ultlookup.php?txt=Operating+Engineers+Union) | $2,044,550 | 89% | 11% |
| [National Beer Wholesalers Assn](http://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/ultlookup.php?txt=National+Beer+Wholesalers+Assn) | $1,809,500 | 57% | 43% |
| [American Assn for Justice](http://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/ultlookup.php?txt=American+Assn+for+Justice) | $1,797,500 | 97% | 3% |
| [American Bankers Assn](http://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/ultlookup.php?txt=American+Bankers+Assn) | $1,687,930 | 41% | 58% |
| [American Fedn of St/Cnty/Munic Employees](http://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/ultlookup.php?txt=American+Fedn+of+St%2FCnty%2FMunic+Employees) | $1,618,500 | 99% | 0% |
| [Teamsters Union](http://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/ultlookup.php?txt=Teamsters+Union) | $1,562,410 | 98% | 2% |
| [International Assn of Fire Fighters](http://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/ultlookup.php?txt=International+Assn+of+Fire+Fighters) | $1,534,400 | 84% | 16% |
| [Lockheed Martin](http://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/ultlookup.php?txt=Lockheed+Martin) | $1,478,950 | 57% | 43% |
| [American Crystal Sugar](http://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/ultlookup.php?txt=American+Crystal+Sugar) | $1,453,500 | 67% | 33% |
| [Boeing Co](http://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/ultlookup.php?txt=Boeing+Co) | $1,453,000 | 60% | 40% |
| [National Community Pharmacists Assn](http://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/ultlookup.php?txt=National+Community+Pharmacists+Assn) | $1,386,983 | 63% | 37% |
| [Laborers Union](http://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/ultlookup.php?txt=Laborers+Union) | $1,364,000 | 95% | 5% |
| [Plumbers/Pipefitters Union](http://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/ultlookup.php?txt=Plumbers%2FPipefitters+Union) | $1,362,475 | 96% | 4% |
| [Machinists/Aerospace Workers Union](http://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/ultlookup.php?txt=Machinists%2FAerospace+Workers+Union) | $1,347,500 | 99% | 1% |
| [Credit Union National Assn](http://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/ultlookup.php?txt=Credit+Union+National+Assn) | $1,345,846 | 59% | 41% |
| [National Assn of Realtors](http://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/ultlookup.php?txt=National+Assn+of+Realtors) | $1,345,298 | 59% | 41% |
| [National Air Traffic Controllers Assn](http://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/ultlookup.php?txt=National+Air+Traffic+Controllers+Assn) | $1,342,200 | 82% | 18% |

From 2005 to 2007, U.S. [**House**](http://www.helium.com/items/1219435-who-do-politicians-serve) **members** raised more than **$700 million dollars** in campaign contributions. **Because this figure excludes individual contributions of less than $200, it can be assumed that most of it comes from wealthy donors and corporations**. [**Fannie Mae**](http://business-news-issues.helium.com/topic/5031-fannie-mae) **and** [**Freddie Mac**](http://www.helium.com/topic/5344-freddie-mac) (federal-government coordinators of mortgage markets) **alone have donated over $4.8 million to members of Congress since 1989 and that during the past few years securities and investment firms have donated over $113 million to campaign funds**.

**From 2005 to 2007, 79% percent of campaign funds raised by U.S. house members came from outside of their districts. 97% of House members raised more than half of their funds outside of their districts.**

In 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled for the first time that American politicians can accept campaign contributions from any **foreign nation, foreign organization, or foreign person**.

**THE GODZILLAS**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Rank** | [Company](http://www.forbes.com/lists/2009/18/global-09_The-Global-2000_Company.html) | [Country](http://www.forbes.com/lists/2009/18/global-09_The-Global-2000_Counrty.html) | [Industry](http://www.forbes.com/lists/2009/18/global-09_The-Global-2000_IndName.html) | [Sales ($bil)](http://www.forbes.com/lists/2009/18/global-09_The-Global-2000_Sales.html) | [Profits ($bil)](http://www.forbes.com/lists/2009/18/global-09_The-Global-2000_Prof.html) | [Assets ($bil)](http://www.forbes.com/lists/2009/18/global-09_The-Global-2000_Assets.html) | [Market Value ($bil)](http://www.forbes.com/lists/2009/18/global-09_The-Global-2000_MktVal.html) |
| 1  | [General Electric](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=2380498) | United States  | Conglomerates  | 182.52  | 17.41  | 797.77  | 89.87  |
| 2  | [Royal Dutch Shell](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=B09CBL4) | Netherlands  | Oil & Gas Operations  | 458.36  | 26.28  | 278.44  | 135.10  |
| 3  | [Toyota Motor](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=6900643) | Japan  | Consumer Durables  | 263.42  | 17.21  | 324.98  | 102.35  |
| 4  | [ExxonMobil](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=2326618) | United States  | Oil & Gas Operations  | 425.70  | 45.22  | 228.05  | 335.54  |
| 5  | [BP](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=0798059) | United Kingdom  | Oil & Gas Operations  | 361.14  | 21.16  | 228.24  | 119.70  |
| 6  | [HSBC Holdings](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=0540528) | United Kingdom  | Banking  | 142.05  | 5.73  | 2,520.45  | 85.04  |
| 7  | [AT&T](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=2831811) | United States  | Telecommunications Services  | 124.03  | 12.87  | 265.25  | 140.08  |
| 8  | [Wal-Mart Stores](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=2936921) | United States  | Retailing  | 405.61  | 13.40  | 163.43  | 193.15  |
| 9  | [Banco Santander](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=5705946) | Spain  | Banking  | 96.23  | 13.25  | 1,318.86  | 49.75  |
| 9  | [Chevron](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=2838555) | United States  | Oil & Gas Operations  | 255.11  | 23.93  | 161.17  | 121.70  |
| 11  | [Total](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=B15C557) | France  | Oil & Gas Operations  | 223.15  | 14.74  | 164.66  | 112.90  |
| 12  | [ICBC](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=B1G1QD8) | China  | Banking  | 53.60  | 11.16  | 1,188.08  | 170.83  |
| 13  | [Gazprom](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=4364928) | Russia  | Oil & Gas Operations  | 97.29  | 26.78  | 276.81  | 74.55  |
| 14  | [PetroChina](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=6226576) | China  | Oil & Gas Operations  | 114.32  | 19.94  | 145.14  | 270.56  |
| 15  | [Volkswagen Group](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=5497102) | Germany  | Consumer Durables  | 158.40  | 6.52  | 244.05  | 75.18  |
| 16  | [JPMorgan Chase](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=2190385) | United States  | Banking  | 101.49  | 3.70  | 2,175.05  | 85.87  |
| 17  | [GDF Suez](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=B0C2CQ3) | France  | Utilities  | 115.59  | 9.05  | 232.71  | 70.46  |
| 18  | [ENI](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=7145056) | Italy  | Oil & Gas Operations  | 158.32  | 12.91  | 139.80  | 80.68  |
| 19  | [Berkshire Hathaway](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=2093666) | United States  | Diversified Financials  | 107.79  | 4.99  | 267.40  | 122.11  |
| 20  | [Vodafone](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=B16GWD5) | United Kingdom  | Telecommunications Services  | 70.39  | 13.30  | 252.08  | 93.66  |
| 21  | [Mitsubishi UFJ Financial](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=6335171) | Japan  | Banking  | 61.43  | 6.38  | 1,931.17  | 53.63  |
| 22  | [Procter & Gamble](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=2704407) | United States  | Household & Personal Products  | 83.68  | 14.08  | 138.26  | 141.18  |
| 23  | [CCB-China Construction Bank](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=B0LMTQ3) | China  | Banking  | 42.98  | 9.45  | 903.35  | 119.03  |
| 24  | [Verizon Communications](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=2090571) | United States  | Telecommunications Services  | 97.35  | 6.43  | 202.35  | 81.04  |
| 25  | [Petrobras-Petróleo Brasil](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=2682365) | Brazil  | Oil & Gas Operations  | 92.08  | 14.12  | 120.68  | 110.97  |
| 26  | [Nippon Telegraph & Tel](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=6641373) | Japan  | Telecommunications Services  | 107.02  | 6.36  | 179.95  | 59.07  |
| 27  | [EDF Group](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=B0NJJ17) | France  | Utilities  | 89.46  | 4.73  | 278.76  | 71.53  |
| 28  | [IBM](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=2005973) | United States  | Software & Services  | 103.63  | 12.34  | 109.53  | 123.47  |
| 29  | [BNP Paribas](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=7309681) | France  | Banking  | 107.96  | 4.20  | 2,888.73  | 29.98  |
| 30  | [Bank of China](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=B154564) | China  | Banking  | 40.10  | 7.70  | 817.84  | 105.04  |
| 31  | [Telefónica](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=5732524) | Spain  | Telecommunications Services  | 80.70  | 10.57  | 129.16  | 85.56  |
| 32  | [Nestlé](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=7123870) | Switzerland  | Food, Drink & Tobacco  | 103.01  | 16.91  | 97.12  | 118.99  |
| 33  | [Sinopec-China Petroleum](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=6373728) | China  | Oil & Gas Operations  | 154.28  | 7.43  | 100.41  | 93.50  |
| 34  | [Crédit Agricole](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=7262610) | France  | Banking  | 107.75  | 5.90  | 2,064.17  | 21.91  |
| 35  | [Siemens](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=5727973) | Germany  | Conglomerates  | 108.76  | 8.05  | 128.46  | 44.18  |
| 36  | [Hewlett-Packard](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=2424006) | United States  | Technology Hardware & Equip  | 118.70  | 8.05  | 109.63  | 69.57  |
| 37  | [Intesa Sanpaolo](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=4076836) | Italy  | Banking  | 50.56  | 10.58  | 835.15  | 31.43  |
| 38  | [Bank of America](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=2295677) | United States  | Banking  | 113.11  | 4.01  | 1,817.94  | 25.29  |
| 39  | [Honda Motor](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=6435145) | Japan  | Consumer Durables  | 120.27  | 6.01  | 124.98  | 44.32  |
| 40  | [BBVA-Banco Bilbao Vizcaya](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=5501906) | Spain  | Banking  | 56.51  | 6.99  | 747.99  | 27.56  |
| 41  | [ArcelorMittal](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=B03XPL1) | Luxembourg  | Materials  | 124.94  | 9.40  | 133.09  | 26.80  |
| 42  | [Johnson & Johnson](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=2475833) | United States  | Drugs & Biotechnology  | 63.75  | 12.95  | 84.91  | 138.29  |
| 43  | [ENEL](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=7144569) | Italy  | Utilities  | 82.92  | 7.37  | 177.21  | 31.00  |
| 44  | [UniCredit Group](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=4232445) | Italy  | Banking  | 83.72  | 8.70  | 1,482.98  | 18.37  |
| 45  | [Generali Group](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=4056719) | Italy  | Insurance  | 118.39  | 4.26  | 546.50  | 21.35  |
| 46  | [France Telecom](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=5176177) | France  | Telecommunications Services  | 74.50  | 5.67  | 125.32  | 58.92  |
| 47  | [Samsung Electronics](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=6771720) | South Korea  | Semiconductors  | 104.42  | 7.87  | 99.47  | 45.82  |
| 48  | [Deutsche Bank](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=5750355) | Germany  | Diversified Financials  | 124.78  | 9.47  | 2,946.88  | 14.40  |
| 49  | [Microsoft](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=2588173) | United States  | Software & Services  | 61.98  | 17.23  | 65.79  | 143.58  |
| 50  | [Pfizer](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=2684703) | United States  | Drugs & Biotechnology  | 48.30  | 8.10  | 111.15  | 83.03  |
| 51  | [Wells Fargo](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=2649100) | United States  | Banking  | 51.65  | 2.66  | 1,309.64  | 51.28  |
| 52  | [BHP Billiton](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=6144690) | Australia/United Kingdom  | Materials  | 59.47  | 15.39  | 72.40  | 96.65  |
| 53  | [StatoilHydro](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=7133608) | Norway  | Oil & Gas Operations  | 93.38  | 6.20  | 82.42  | 53.30  |
| 54  | [Sumitomo Mitsui Financial](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=6563024) | Japan  | Banking  | 46.06  | 4.62  | 1,114.89  | 25.56  |
| 55  | [China Mobile](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=6073556) | Hong Kong/China  | Telecommunications Services  | 47.09  | 11.49  | 76.42  | 175.85  |
| 56  | [Goldman Sachs Group](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=2407966) | United States  | Diversified Financials  | 53.58  | 2.32  | 884.55  | 42.06  |
| 57  | [RWE Group](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=4768962) | Germany  | Utilities  | 66.16  | 3.56  | 127.64  | 33.68  |
| 58  | [Roche Holding](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=7110388) | Switzerland  | Drugs & Biotechnology  | 42.75  | 8.41  | 69.77  | 98.47  |
| 59  | [Commonwealth Bank](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=6215035) | Australia  | Banking  | 34.98  | 4.58  | 467.83  | 28.01  |
| 60  | [Société Générale Group](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=5966516) | France  | Banking  | 99.25  | 2.80  | 1,572.73  | 17.77  |
| 61  | [Novartis](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=7103065) | Switzerland  | Drugs & Biotechnology  | 42.01  | 8.30  | 73.22  | 82.97  |
| 62  | [E.ON](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=4942904) | Germany  | Utilities  | 120.74  | 1.76  | 215.15  | 47.44  |
| 63  | [Deutsche Telekom](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=5842359) | Germany  | Telecommunications Services  | 85.89  | 2.07  | 162.51  | 52.96  |
| 64  | [Rosneft](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=B17KP48) | Russia  | Oil & Gas Operations  | 46.99  | 11.12  | 77.40  | 34.07  |
| 65  | [Mizuho Financial](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=6591014) | Japan  | Banking  | 42.29  | 3.12  | 1,545.23  | 21.46  |
| 65  | [Sanofi-aventis](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=5671735) | France  | Drugs & Biotechnology  | 38.40  | 5.36  | 96.01  | 67.84  |
| 67  | [National Australia Bank](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=6624608) | Australia  | Banking  | 41.87  | 3.58  | 515.83  | 21.90  |
| 68  | [Royal Bank of Canada](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=2754383) | Canada  | Banking  | 30.01  | 3.52  | 575.21  | 34.29  |
| 69  | [Cisco Systems](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=2198163) | United States  | Technology Hardware & Equip  | 39.58  | 7.49  | 61.36  | 85.05  |
| 69  | [Rio Tinto](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=0718875) | United Kingdom/Australia  | Materials  | 54.26  | 3.68  | 88.25  | 39.42  |
| 71  | [Tesco](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=0884709) | United Kingdom  | Food Markets  | 93.85  | 4.21  | 59.80  | 37.50  |
| 72  | [China Life Insurance](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=6718976) | China  | Insurance  | 26.20  | 5.32  | 127.83  | 83.26  |
| 73  | [Mitsubishi Corp](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=6596785) | Japan  | Trading Companies  | 60.43  | 4.64  | 117.84  | 20.89  |
| 74  | [Vale](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=2196286) | Brazil  | Materials  | 30.75  | 9.28  | 79.26  | 66.14  |
| 75  | [Munich Re](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=5294121) | Germany  | Insurance  | 64.20  | 2.09  | 291.87  | 24.29  |
| 76  | [Lukoil](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=4560588) | Russia  | Oil & Gas Operations  | 66.86  | 9.51  | 59.14  | 26.62  |
| 77  | [Barclays](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=3134865) | United Kingdom  | Banking  | 59.82  | 6.40  | 2,947.84  | 11.15  |
| 78  | [Banco Bradesco](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=B00FM53) | Brazil  | Banking  | 39.97  | 3.26  | 194.51  | 26.75  |
| 79  | [Unilever](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=B12T3J1) | Netherlands/United Kingdom  | Food, Drink & Tobacco  | 56.44  | 7.00  | 48.75  | 58.24  |
| 80  | [BASF](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=5086577) | Germany  | Chemicals  | 86.77  | 4.06  | 69.41  | 25.62  |
| 81  | [Nokia](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=5902941) | Finland  | Technology Hardware & Equip  | 70.63  | 5.55  | 52.29  | 35.32  |
| 82  | [Sony](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=6821506) | Japan  | Technology Hardware & Equip  | 88.89  | 3.70  | 124.12  | 17.12  |
| 83  | [CVS Caremark](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=2577609) | United States  | Retailing  | 87.47  | 3.21  | 60.96  | 37.46  |
| 83  | [Daimler](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=5529027) | Germany  | Consumer Durables  | 133.43  | 1.88  | 180.08  | 21.21  |
| 85  | [United Technologies](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=2915500) | United States  | Conglomerates  | 58.68  | 4.69  | 56.47  | 38.53  |
| 86  | [Saudi Basic Industries](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=B1324D0) | Saudi Arabia  | Chemicals  | 40.62  | 5.87  | 72.39  | 31.44  |
| 87  | [Iberdrola](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=B288C92) | Spain  | Utilities  | 35.09  | 3.98  | 114.81  | 32.42  |
| 88  | [Nissan Motor](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=6642860) | Japan  | Consumer Durables  | 108.46  | 4.83  | 119.00  | 14.14  |
| 89  | [Panasonic](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=6572707) | Japan  | Technology Hardware & Equip  | 90.87  | 2.82  | 71.85  | 28.93  |
| 90  | [MetLife](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=2573209) | United States  | Insurance  | 50.99  | 3.21  | 501.68  | 15.10  |
| 91  | [Westpac Banking Group](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=6076146) | Australia  | Banking  | 25.90  | 3.05  | 346.22  | 31.40  |
| 92  | [GlaxoSmithKline](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=0925288) | United Kingdom  | Drugs & Biotechnology  | 35.55  | 6.72  | 52.67  | 79.06  |
| 93  | [Morgan Stanley](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=2262314) | United States  | Diversified Financials  | 62.26  | 1.71  | 658.81  | 21.00  |
| 94  | [Telecom Italia](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=7634394) | Italy  | Telecommunications Services  | 41.97  | 3.08  | 117.81  | 23.82  |
| 95  | [Intel](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=2463247) | United States  | Semiconductors  | 37.59  | 5.29  | 50.72  | 70.86  |
| 96  | [Zurich Financial Services](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=5983816) | Switzerland  | Insurance  | 32.35  | 3.04  | 325.04  | 19.60  |
| 97  | [Mitsui & Co](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=6597302) | Japan  | Trading Companies  | 57.50  | 4.11  | 97.15  | 17.12  |
| 98  | [Comcast](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=2044545) | United States  | Media  | 34.26  | 2.55  | 113.02  | 37.62  |
| 99  | [AXA Group](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=7088429) | France  | Insurance  | 156.95  | 1.28  | 936.92  | 19.47  |
| 100  | [Bayer Group](http://finapps.forbes.com/finapps/jsp/finance/compinfo/CIAtAGlance.jsp?sedol=5069211) | Germany  | Chemicals  | 45.85  | 2.55  | 71.39  | 36.97  |

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| **Rank↓** | **Country↓** | **Exports + Imports↓** | **Date ofinformation↓** |
| - | http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/b/b7/Flag_of_Europe.svg/22px-Flag_of_Europe.svg.png [European Union](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union) (Extra-EU27) | $3,197,000,000,000 | 2009 [[26]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_trade#cite_note-25) |
| 1 | http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/a/a4/Flag_of_the_United_States.svg/22px-Flag_of_the_United_States.svg.png [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) | $2,439,700,000,000 | 2009 est. |
| 2 | http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/f/fa/Flag_of_the_People%27s_Republic_of_China.svg/22px-Flag_of_the_People%27s_Republic_of_China.svg.png [People's Republic of China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Republic_of_China) | $2,208,000,000,000 | 2009 est. |
| 3 | http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/b/ba/Flag_of_Germany.svg/22px-Flag_of_Germany.svg.png [Germany](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germany) | $2,052,000,000,000 | 2009 est. |
| 4 | http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/9/9e/Flag_of_Japan.svg/22px-Flag_of_Japan.svg.png [Japan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japan) | $1,006,900,000,000 | 2009 est. |
| 5 | http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/c/c3/Flag_of_France.svg/22px-Flag_of_France.svg.png [France](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France) | $989,000,000,000 | 2009 est. |
| 6 | http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/a/ae/Flag_of_the_United_Kingdom.svg/22px-Flag_of_the_United_Kingdom.svg.png [United Kingdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom) | $824,900,000,000 | 2009 est. |
| 7 | http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/2/20/Flag_of_the_Netherlands.svg/22px-Flag_of_the_Netherlands.svg.png [Netherlands](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Netherlands) | $756,500,000,000 | 2009 est. |
| 8 | http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/0/03/Flag_of_Italy.svg/22px-Flag_of_Italy.svg.png [Italy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italy) | $727,700,000,000 | 2009 est. |
| - | http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/5b/Flag_of_Hong_Kong.svg/22px-Flag_of_Hong_Kong.svg.png [Hong Kong](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hong_Kong) | $672,600,000,000 | 2009 est. |
| 9 | http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/0/09/Flag_of_South_Korea.svg/22px-Flag_of_South_Korea.svg.png [South Korea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Korea) | $668,500,000,000 | 2009 est. |
| 10 | http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/9/92/Flag_of_Belgium_%28civil%29.svg/22px-Flag_of_Belgium_%28civil%29.svg.png [Belgium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belgium) | $611,100,000,000 | 2009 est. |
| 11 | http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/c/cf/Flag_of_Canada.svg/22px-Flag_of_Canada.svg.png [Canada](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada) | $603,700,000,000 | 2009 est. |
| 12 | http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/9/9a/Flag_of_Spain.svg/22px-Flag_of_Spain.svg.png [Spain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spain) | $508,900,000,000 | 2009 est. |
| 13 | http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/f/f3/Flag_of_Russia.svg/22px-Flag_of_Russia.svg.png [Russia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia) | $492,400,000,000 | 2009 est. |
| 14 | http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/f/fc/Flag_of_Mexico.svg/22px-Flag_of_Mexico.svg.png [Mexico](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexico) | $458,200,000,000 | 2009 est. |
| 15 | http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/4/48/Flag_of_Singapore.svg/22px-Flag_of_Singapore.svg.png [Singapore](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Singapore) | $454,800,000,000 | 2009 est. |
| 16 | http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/4/41/Flag_of_India.svg/22px-Flag_of_India.svg.png [India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India) | $387,300,000,000 | 2009 est. |
| 17 | http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/7/72/Flag_of_the_Republic_of_China.svg/22px-Flag_of_the_Republic_of_China.svg.png [Taiwan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_China) | $371,400,000,000 | 2009 est. |
| 18 | http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/f/f3/Flag_of_Switzerland.svg/20px-Flag_of_Switzerland.svg.png [Switzerland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Switzerland) | $367,300,000,000 | 2009 est. |
| 19 | http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/b/b9/Flag_of_Australia.svg/22px-Flag_of_Australia.svg.png [Australia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australia) | $322,400,000,000 | 2009 est. |
| 20 | http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/c/cb/Flag_of_the_United_Arab_Emirates.svg/22px-Flag_of_the_United_Arab_Emirates.svg.png [United Arab Emirates](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Arab_Emirates) | $315,000,000,000 | 2009 est. |

 **America’s Largest Employers**

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|  **Company** | **Employees** |
| 1. [Wal-Mart](http://nyjobsource.com/walmart.html) | 1,800,000 |
| 2. [McDonald's](http://nyjobsource.com/mcdonalds.html) | 447,000 |
| 3. [United Parcel Service](http://nyjobsource.com/ups.html) | 407,000 |
| 4. [Sears Holdings](http://nyjobsource.com/sears.html) | 355,000 |
| 5. [Home Depot](http://nyjobsource.com/homedepot.html) | 345,000 |
| 6. [Target](http://nyjobsource.com/target.html) | 337,000 |
| 7. [IBM](http://nyjobsource.com/ibm.html) | 329,373 |
| 8. [General Motors](http://nyjobsource.com/gm.html) | 327,000 |
| 9. [General Electric](http://nyjobsource.com/ge.html) | 316,000 |
| 10. [Citigroup](http://nyjobsource.com/citigroup.html) | 303,000 |
| 11. [Ford Motor](http://nyjobsource.com/ford.html) | 300,000 |
| 12. [Kroger](http://nyjobsource.com/kroger.html) | 289,000 |
| 13. [Albertson's](http://nyjobsource.com/albertsons.html) | 240,000 |
| 14. [United Technologies](http://nyjobsource.com/utc.html) | 222,200 |
| 15. [Verizon Communications](http://nyjobsource.com/verizon.html) | 217,000 |
| 16. [FedEx](http://nyjobsource.com/fedex.html) | 215,838 |
| 17. [Safeway](http://nyjobsource.com/safeway.html) | 201,000 |
| 18. [Altria Group](http://nyjobsource.com/altria.html) | 199,000 |
| 19. [Aramark](http://nyjobsource.com/aramark.html) | 195,000 |
| 20. [Berkshire Hathaway](http://nyjobsource.com/berkshire.html) | 192,012 |
| 21. [AT&T](http://nyjobsource.com/att.html) | 189,950 |
| 22. [Delphi](http://nyjobsource.com/delphi.html) | 185,200 |
| 23. [Bank of America](http://nyjobsource.com/bankofamerica.html) | 176,638 |
| 24. [JP Morgan Chase](http://nyjobsource.com/jpmorganchase.html) | 168,847 |
| 25. [Yum Brands](http://nyjobsource.com/yum.html) | 165,920 |
| 26. [HCA](http://nyjobsource.com/hca.html) | 165,450 |
| 27. [Lowe's](http://nyjobsource.com/lowes.html) | 164,794 |
| 28. [PepsiCo](http://nyjobsource.com/pepsico.html) | 157,000 |
| 29. [Walgreen](http://nyjobsource.com/walgreen.html) | 155,200 |
| 30. [Wells Fargo](http://nyjobsource.com/wellsfargo.html) | 153,500 |
| 31. [Boeing](http://nyjobsource.com/boeing.html) | 153,000 |
| 32. [Darden Restaurants](http://nyjobsource.com/darden.html) | 150,100 |
| 33. [Hewlett-Packard](http://nyjobsource.com/hp.html) | 150,000 |
| 34. [Gap](http://nyjobsource.com/gap.html) | 150,000 |
| 35. [JC Penney](http://nyjobsource.com/jcpenney.html) | 150,000 |
| 36. [Starwood Hotels and Resorts](http://nyjobsource.com/starwood.html) | 145,000 |
| 37. [Marriott International](http://dcjobsource.com/marriott.html) | 143,000 |
| 38. [Sara Lee](http://nyjobsource.com/saralee.html) | 137,000 |
| 39. [Lockheed Martin](http://dcjobsource.com/lockheed.html) | 135,000 |
| 40. [Walt Disney](http://nyjobsource.com/disney.html) | 133,000 |
| 41. [Alcoa](http://nyjobsource.com/alcoa.html) | 129,000 |
| 42. [Northrop Grumman](http://nyjobsource.com/northrop.html) | 123,600 |
| 43. [Electronic Data Systems](http://nyjobsource.com/eds.html) | 117,000 |
| 44. [Honeywell](http://nyjobsource.com/honeywell.html) | 116,000 |
| 45. [Johnson & Johnson](http://nyjobsource.com/jnj.html) | 115,600 |
| 46. [Lear](http://nyjobsource.com/lear.html) | 115,113 |
| 47. [Starbucks](http://nyjobsource.com/starbucks.html) | 115,000 |
| 48. [Emerson Electric](http://nyjobsource.com/emerson.html) | 114,200 |
| 49. [CVS](http://nyjobsource.com/cvs.html) | 114,000 |
| 50. [Tyson Foods](http://nyjobsource.com/tyson.html) | 114,000 |

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**WEALTH OF GLOBAL CORPORATIONS**

1. **Of the 100 largest economies in the world, 51 are corporations**; only 49 are countries (based on a comparison of corporate sales and country GDPs).
2. **The Top 200 corporations' sales are growing at a faster rate than overall global economic activity.** Between 1983 and 1999, their combined sales grew from the equivalent of 25.0 percent to 27.5 percent of World GDP.
3. **The Top 200 corporations' combined sales are bigger than the combined economies of all countries minus the biggest 10.**
4. **The Top 200s' combined sales are 18 times the size of the combined annual income of the 1.2 billion people** (24 percent of the total world population) living in "severe" poverty.
5. While the sales of the Top 200 are the equivalent of 27.5 percent of world economic activity, they employ only 0.78 percent of the world's workforce.
6. **Between 1983 and 1999, the profits of the Top 200 firms grew 362.4 percent, while the number of people they employ grew by only 14.4 percent**.
7. **A full 5 percent of the Top 200s' combined workforce is employed by Wal-Mart**, a company notorious for union-busting and widespread use of part-time workers to avoid paying benefits. The discount retail giant is the **top private employer in the world,** with **1,140,000 workers, more than twice as many as No. 2, DaimlerChrysler,** which employs 466,938.
8. U.S. corporations dominate the Top 200, with 82 slots (41 percent of the total). Japanese firms are second, with only 41 slots.
9. Of the U.S. corporations on the list, 44 did not pay the full standard 35 percent federal corporate tax rate during the period 1996-1998. **Seven of the firms actually paid less than zero in federal income taxes in 1998** (because of rebates). These include: Texaco, Chevron, PepsiCo, Enron, Worldcom, McKesson and the world's biggest corporation - General Motors.
10. Between 1983 and 1999, the share of total sales of the Top 200 made up by service sector corporations increased from 33.8 percent to 46.7 percent. Gains were particularly evident in financial services and telecommunications sectors, in which most countries have pursued deregulation.

**MEDIA OWNERSHIP CONCENTRATION**

**GENERAL ELECTRIC** (donated 1.1 million to GW Bush for his 2000 election campaign)
Television Holdings:
\* **NBC:** includes 13 stations, 28% of US households.
\* NBC Network News: The Today Show, Nightly News with Tom Brokaw, Meet the Press, Dateline NBC, NBC News at Sunrise.
\* **CNBC** business television; **MSNBC** 24-hour cable and Internet news service (co-owned by NBC and Microsoft); **Court TV** (co-owned with **Time Warner),** **Bravo** (50%), **A&E** (25%), **History Channel** (25%).
The "MS" in **MSNBC means Microsoft**
3==================================================
**WESTINGHOUSE / CBS INC.**Westinghouse Electric Company, part of the Nuclear Utilities Business Group of British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL)
whos #1 on the Board of Directors? None other than:
Frank Carlucci (of the Carlyle Group)

Television Holdings:
\* **CBS**: includes **14 stations and over 200 affiliates in the US.**
\* CBS Network News: 60 minutes, 48 hours, CBS Evening News with Dan Rather, CBS Morning News, Up to the Minute.
\* **Country Music Television**, The **Nashville Network,** 2 **regional sports networks**.
\* Group W Satellite Communications.
Other Holdings:
\* Westinghouse Electric Company: provides services to the nuclear power industry.
\* Westinghouse Government Environmental Services Company: disposes of nuclear and hazardous wastes. Also operates 4 government-owned nuclear power plants in the US.
\* Energy Systems: provides nuclear power plant design and maintenance.
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**VIACOM INTERNATIONAL INC.**
Television Holdings:
\* Paramount Television, Spelling Television, **MTV**, **VH-1, Showtime, The Movie Channel**, UPN (joint owner), **Nickelodeon, Comedy Central, Sundance Channel** (joint owner), **Flix.**
\* **20 major market US stations**.
Media Holdings:
\* **Paramount Pictures, Paramount Home Video, Blockbuster Video, Famous Players Theatres, Paramount Parks.
\* Simon & Schuster Publishing.**
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**DISNEY / ABC / CAP (donated 640 thousand to GW's 2000 campaign)**Television Holdings:
\* **ABC:** includes 10 stations, 24% of US households.
\* ABC Network News: Prime Time Live, Nightline, 20/20, Good Morning America.
\* **ESPN**, **Lifetime Television** (50%), as well as **minority holdings in A&E, History Channel and E!**
\* Disney Channel/Disney Television, Touchtone Television.
Media Holdings:
\* Miramax, Touchtone Pictures.
\* Magazines: Jane, Los Angeles Magazine, W, Discover.
**\* 3 music labels, 11 major local newspapers**.
\* **Hyperion book publishers.**
\* Infoseek Internet search engine (43%).
Other Holdings:
\* Sid R. Bass (major shares) crude oil and gas.
\* All Disney Theme Parks, Walt Disney Cruise Lines.
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**TIME-WARNER TBS - AOL** (donated 1.6 million to GW's 2000 campaign)
America Online (**AOL**) acquired Time Warner–the largest merger in corporate history.
Television Holdings:
\* **CNN, HBO, Cinemax, TBS Superstation, Turner Network Television, Turner Classic Movies, Warner Brothers Television, Cartoon Network, Sega Channel, TNT, Comedy Central (50%), E! (49%), Court TV (50%).**
\* **Largest owner of cable systems in the US with an estimated 13 million subscribers.**
Media Holdings:
**\* HBO Independent Productions, Warner Home Video, New Line Cinema, Castle Rock, Looney Tunes, Hanna-Barbera.
\* Music: Atlantic, Elektra, Rhino, Sire, Warner Bros. Records, EMI, WEA, Sub Pop (distribution) = the world’s largest music company.
\* 33 magazines including Time, Sports Illustrated, People, In Style, Fortune, Book of the Month Club, Entertainment Weekly, Life, DC Comics (50%), and MAD Magazine.
Other Holdings:
\* Sports: The Atlanta Braves, The Atlanta Hawks, World Championship Wrestling.**=======================================================
**NEWS CORPORATION LTD. / FOX NETWORKS** (Rupert Murdoch) (donations see bottom note)
Television Holdings:
\* **Fox Television**: includes 22 stations, 50% of US households.
\* Fox International: extensive worldwide cable and satellite networks include **British Sky Broadcasting (40%); VOX, Germany (49.9%); Canal Fox, Latin America; FOXTEL, Australia (50%); STAR TV, Asia; IskyB, India; Bahasa Programming Ltd., Indonesia (50%); and News Broadcasting, Japan (80%).
\* The Golf Channel (33%).**
MEDIA HOLDINGS:
\* **Twentieth Century Fox,** Fox Searchlight.
\* **132 newspapers (113 in Australia alone) including the New York Post, the London Times and The Australian.
\* 25 magazines including TV Guide and The Weekly Standard.
\* HarperCollins books.
OTHER HOLDINGS:
\* Sports: LA Dodgers, LA Kings, LA Lakers, National Rugby League.
\* Ansett Australia airlines, Ansett New Zealand airlines.
\* Rupert Murdoch: Board of Directors, Philip Morris (USA).**

In addition to its more than **11.5 million direct broadcast satellite (DBS) subscribers**, Murdoch manages the assets of Hughes Electronics, DirecTV’s parent company, which gave News Corp. increased clout over programming in Latin America.

America’s first broadcast network, **NBC**, owns and operates more than 14 stations, along with CNBC, a business-news network, and **Telemundo,** the nation’s second-largest Spanish-language broadcaster. NBC has recently acquired **Bravo, the Arts and Film cable network**.

Viacom owns theatres in Canada (Famous Players) and other places—United Cinemas International, in partnership with Vivendi, for example.

**CNN** International can be seen in 212 countries, with a daily audience of 1 billion globally.

* ‘Dollar’ is the most common [currency](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/cur_cur%26int%3D-1) name, followed by ‘franc,’ ‘pound,’ ‘dinar,’ ‘peso,’ and ‘rupee.’

You can be [imprisoned for not voting](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/dem_com_vot_pen) in [Fiji](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/fj), [Chile](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ci) and [Egypt](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/eg) - at least in theory.

* In the last [Argentinian](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ar) elections, [21% of the votes were declared invalid](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/dem_par_ele_inv_vot).
* In [Belgium](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/be), [55% of government ministers](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/dem_fem_min) are female. The country’s first [female parliamentarian](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/dem_fir_fem_par%26int%3D-1) was appointed in 1921.
* Most people live in [poverty](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/eco_pop_bel_pov_lin%26id%3DAFR) in most [African](http://www.nationmaster.com/region/AFR) countries.
* The top nations for per capita [imports](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/eco_imp_cap%26int%3D10) and [exports](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/eco_exp_cap%26int%3D10) tend to be very small.
* The eight [most developed countries](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/eco_hum_dev_ind) all speak Germanic languages.
* [72%](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/eco_pop_und_1_a_day) of people in [Mali](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ml/) earn less than $1 per day.
* 41% [world's poor people](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/eco_pov_sha_of_all_poo_peo) live in [India](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/in/).
* The [ten most generous countries](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/eco_eco_aid_don) are all in Europe.
* Americans are [15% more innovative](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/eco_inn) than the Japanese. But in percentage terms, the Japanese grant 3.5 times more [patents](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/eco_pat_gra).
* United we stand? The [United Kingdom](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/uk) and [United States](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/us) are both in the top ten for [Gross Domestic Product](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/eco_gdp) - and for [child poverty](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/eco_chi_pov).
* Three of the top ten countries for [GDP per capita](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/eco_gdp_cap) are island nations: [Bermuda](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/bd), [Cayman Islands](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/cj), and [Iceland](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ic).
* [France](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/fr) is the top destination in the world for tourists, accounting for [11 percent of all tourist arrivals](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/eco_tou_arr) worldwide.
* The top ten tourist destinations [France](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/fr), [Spain](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/sp), [USA](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/us), [Italy](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/it), [China](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ch), [UK](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/uk), [Austria](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/au), [Mexico](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/mx), [Germany](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/gm) and [Canada](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ca) account for 49.6 percent of all [tourist arrivals](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/eco_tou_arr) worldwide.
* The number of [tourists](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/eco_tou_arr_cap%26int%3D50) in [San Marino](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/sm) is almost 19 times the resident population.
* Want your kids to stay in [school](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/edu_sch_lif_exp_tot)? Send them to [Norway](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/no).
* English speaking kids are the world's biggest [novel readers](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/edu_you_lon_rea) - but the least enthusiastic [comic readers](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/edu_you_sho_rea).
* [Japanese](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ja) and [South Korean](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ks) kids are the best in the world at [science](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/edu_sci_lit) and math..
* Three quarters of [Japanese](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ja) kids read [comics](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/edu_you_sho_rea).
* [American](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/us) adults have spent more time than anyone in [education](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/edu_ave_yea_of_sch_of_adu) .
* There are 22 countries where more than half the population is [illiterate](http://www.nationmaster.com/red/graph/edu_lit_tot_pop%26int%3D100). Fifteen of them are in [Africa](http://www.nationmaster.com/region/AFR).
* [Clipperton Island](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ip) wins our prize for the most unusual looking country.
* Only two countries in the world are doubly [landlocked](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/geo_coa): [Liechtenstein](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ls) and [Uzbekistan](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/uz).
* Sick of crowds? Move to [Greenland](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/gl)! Greenlanders have 38 [square kilometres of land per person](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/geo_are_lan_cap).
* If you thought [Antarctica](http://www.nationmaster.com/encyclopedia/Antarctica) was inhospitable, think again - its land area is only [*ninety-eight* percent ice](http://www.nationmaster.com/red/graph/geo_lan_use_oth%26int%3D10). Reassuringly, the other 2% is categorised as "barren rock".
* The Mall in Washington, D.C. is [1.4 times larger](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/geo_are_com) than [Vatican City](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/vt).
* The four largest nations are [Russia](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/rs), [China](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ch), [USA](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/us), and [Canada](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ca).
* [Brazil](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/br) takes up [47.8%](http://www.nationmaster.com/pie-B/geo_are_tot%26id%3DSAM) of [South America](http://www.nationmaster.com/region/SAM).
* [Canada](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ca/) lays claim to more [water](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/geo_are_wat) than any other nation.
* Almost the entire [Cook Islands](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/cw) are covered by [forest](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/geo_for_lan).
* Contrary to the popular rhyme, the [rain](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/geo_pre) falls mainly on [Guinea](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/gv).
* [Australia](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/as) has more than 28 times the [land area](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/geo_are_lan%26int%3D-1) of [New Zealand](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/nz), but its [coastline](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/geo_coa%26int%3D-1) is not even twice as long.
* Got a parking ticket in [Finland](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/fi)? Better just pay up - it is the least [corrupt nation](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/gov_cor) in the world.
* Members of the armed forces and the police [cannot vote](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/gov_suf) in the [Dominican Republic](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/dr).
* [Nauru](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/nr), [Tokelau](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/tl) and [Western Sahara](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/wi) are the only three countries without [official capital cities](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/gov_cap_cit%26int%3D-1).
* [Nauru](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/nr) is the world's smallest independent [republic](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/gov_gov_typ).

Most [Zambians](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/za) don't live to see their [40th birthday](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/hea_pro_of_not_rea_40).

* On the [probability of not reaching 40](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/hea_pro_of_not_rea_40) graph, the top 34 countries are all [African](http://www.nationmaster.com/region/AFR).
* In [Botswana](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/bc/Health), more than one in three adults aged 15-49 are [infected with HIV/AIDS](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/hea_hiv_aid_adu_pre_rat).
* The average woman in [New Zealand](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/nz/) doesn't [give birth](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/hea_age_of_wom_at_fir_chi) until she is nearly 30 years old.
* [Mexican](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/mx/) women spend 15.3% of their life [in ill health](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/hea_per_of_lif_liv_in_ill_hea_fem).
* 22% of [American](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/us/) women aged 20 [gave birth while in their teens](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/hea_tee_pre_sha). In [Switzerland](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/sz/) and [Japan](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ja/), only 2% did so.
* In [Ethiopia](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/et), nine out of ten [births](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/hea_bir_wit_hea_sta) occur without skilled health staff present.
* The [United States](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/us) tops the world in [plastic surgery procedures](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/hea_pla_sur_pro). Next comes [Mexico](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/mx).
* Sick people is [Switzerland](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/sz) [stay in hospital](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/hea_dur_of_hos) for longer than the people of any other nation - almost 10 days, on average. [Switzerland](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/sz) also has the world's highest number of [hospital beds per capita](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/hea_hos_bed).
* Only 4% of married women in [Chad](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/cd) are using [contraceptives](http://www.nationmaster.com/red/graph/hea_con%26int%3D-1).
* More than half of all doctors in [Finland](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/fi) are [female](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/lab_fem_doc%26int%3D50).
* One in three [Italian](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/it) babies is [born by caesarean section](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/hea_bir_by_cae_sec).

[Libya](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ly) is the only country with a [single-colored flag](http://www.nationmaster.com/images/flags/ly-lgflag.gif).

* NationMaster.com is now 40 times the size of the CIA World Factbook!
* [Nepal’s flag](http://images.nationmaster.com/images/flags/np-lgflag.gif) isn’t square or rectangular. It’s a double triangle.
* [Peru](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/pe/)’s [national bird](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/bac_nat_bir) is the Andean cock of the rock (Rupicola peruviana).
* [Libya](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ly)’s [full name](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/ide_cou_nam_con_lon_for%26int%3D-1) is the Great Socialist People’s Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.
* Of the eight countries which include the word "democratic" in their [conventional long form name](http://www.nationmaster.com/red/graph/ide_cou_nam_con_lon_for%26int%3D-1),
* three are dictatorships: [North Korea](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/kn) (Democratic People's Republic of Korea), [Laos](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/la) (Lao People's Democratic Republic) and the [Democratic republic of the Congo](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/cg).
* The top five [countries of origin for refugees](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/imm_ref_out) are all in [Africa](http://www.nationmaster.com/region/AFR).
* [Canada](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ca) is immigrant-friendly. It confers the most [new citizenships per capita](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/imm_new_cit_cap) and [per $ GDP](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/imm_new_cit_gdp), and the second-most [new citizenships overall](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/imm_new_cit).
* Apparently, [the Federated States of Micronesia](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/fm) is the [place to leave](http://www.nationmaster.com/red/graph/imm_net_mig_rat%26int%3D-1) - and [Afghanistan](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/af) is the [place to go](http://www.nationmaster.com/red/graph/imm_net_mig_rat%26int%3D-1).
* Want to go to the United States? Try going to [Albania](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/al) first. [Albania](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/al) has more [U.S visa lottery winners per capita](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/imm_us_vis_lot_win_cap%26int%3D-1) than anywhere else in the world.
* In 2002, every 1000 [Swedes](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/sw) made a [bus](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/ind_bus_pro_cap).
* [Japan](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ja) leads the world in [car production](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/ind_car_pro), producing almost 50% more cars than either of its next closest competitors, [Germany](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/gm) and the [United States.](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/us)
*
* [Around](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/us) [80% of all livejournal users](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/int_liv_use) are from the [United States of America](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/us).
* [Guatamalan](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/gt) women [work](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/lab_tot_wor_tim_fem) 11.5 hours a day, while [South African](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/sf) men [work](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/lab_tot_wor_tim_mal) only 4.5.
* [Kenyan](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ke) women [work](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/lab_tot_wor_tim_fem_ove_mal) 35% longer than their menfolk.
* [Ethiopians](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/et) are by far the most agricultural people on earth (both [men](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/lab_agr_wor_mal) and [women](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/lab_agr_wor_fem))
* Looking for [Czech](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ez) and [Slovak](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/lo) men? Half are in [factories](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/lab_ind_wor_mal).
* Women are flooding into the [workforce](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/lab_fem_eco_act_gro) in many Muslim countries.
* [American](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/us) women have the most [powerful jobs](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/lab_fem_dec_mak).
* Southern European women hugely [outnumber their menfolk](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/lab_une_gen_rat) amongst the unemployed.
* A [three-minute local phone call](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/med_ave_cos_of_loc_cal%26int%3D-1) in Ecuador costs 60 U.S. cents, 60 times as much as in [Ukraine](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/up), [Macedonia](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/mk), [Saudi Arabia](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/sa), [Nepal](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/np), or [Uzbekistan](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/uz).
* [Taiwan](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/tw) and [Luxembourg](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/lu) are the only countries in the world where the [mobile phones](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/med_mob_pho%26int%3D-1) outnumber the people!

[Israel](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/is) enjoys a [GDP per capita](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/eco_gdp_cap%26id%3Dgz%26id%3Dis%26id%3Dwe) 21 times that of the Palestinian [West Bank](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/we) and 33 times that

of the [Gaza Strip](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/gz). Its [military spending per capita](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/mil_exp_dol_fig_cap) tops the world.

* [North Korea](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/kn) spends the [most of its GDP](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/mil_exp_per_of_GDP) on its military.
* [The United States](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/us) spends more money on its military than [the next 12 nations combined](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/mil_exp_dol_fig%26int%3D13).
* In the 1990's, nearly half of all [arms exported to developing countries](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/mil_exp_to_dev_nat) came from [the United States of America](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/us/).
* If you're looking to invade someone by sea, try [Canada](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ca)! [Canada](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ca) has only 9000 [Navy personnel](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/mil_nav_per) guarding the [longest national coastline in the world](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/geo_coa%26int%3D-1).
* [Bolivia](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/bl) has 4,500 [Navy personnel](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/mil_nav_per) - which seems like quite a lot for a [landlocked country](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/geo_coa).
* [Moldova](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/md) has one of the [smallest artillery forces in Europe](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/mil_for_in_eur_art), and the highest rate in the world of [death by powered lawnmower](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/mor_con_wit_pow_law_cap). Coincidence? Surely not.
* On average, more than 70 [persons die of varicose veins](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/mor_var_vei_of_low_ext) per year per country.
* If someone you know [died from falling out of a tree](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/mor_fal_fro_tre), you’re probably [Brazilian](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/peo_nat_nou%26int%3D-1).
* You are more likely to be reported as having been [killed by lightning](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/mor_vic_of_lig_cap%26int%3D50) in [Cuba](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/cu) than in any other country.
* [Andorrans](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/an) [live the longest](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/hea_lif_exp_at_bir_tot_pop), four years longer than in neighboring [France](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/fr) and [Spain](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/sp).
* [China's](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ch) [labor force](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/lab_lab_for) stands at 706 million people, almost three times that of [Europe](http://www.nationmaster.com/region/EUR) and twice that of [North](http://www.nationmaster.com/region/NAM) and [South America](http://www.nationmaster.com/region/SAM) combined
* [Luxembourgers](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/lu) are the world's [richest](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/eco_gdp_cap) people - and also the [most generous](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/eco_eco_aid_don).
* If you like kids, then [Uganda](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ug) might be the place for you. Half the population is [under 15](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/peo_age_str_0_14_yea%26int%3D-1)!
* Senior gentlemen might consider a trip to [Russia](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/rs), where there are two [women over 65 for every man](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/peo_sex_rat_65_yea_and_ove).
* Single guys should check out [The Virgin Islands](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/vq), where [the women outnumber the men](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/peo_sex_rat_15_64_yea%26int%3D-1).
* [South America](http://www.nationmaster.com/region/SAM) is unusual in that it is both [highly urbanized](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/peo_urb) and [poor](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/eco_gdp_cap).
* Many [Americans](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/us) live alone - the [United States](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/us) leads the world in [one person households](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/peo_one_per_hou).
* [Kazakhstan](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/kz) is the [world's largest](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/geo_are_lan%26id%3Daf%26id%3Dau%26id%3Dbo%26id%3Dbt%26id%3Dbl%26id%3Dbc%26id%3Dby%26id%3Dct%26id%3Dcd%26id%3Dez%26id%3Dhu%26id%3Dkz%26id%3Dkg%26id%3Dla%26id%3Dlt%26id%3Dmk%26id%3Dmi%26id%3Dml%26id%3Dmd%26id%3Dmg%26id%3Dnp%26id%3Dng%26id%3Dpa%26id%3Drw%26id%3Dlo%26id%3Dwz%26id%3Dsz%26id%3Dti%26id%3Dtx%26id%3Dug%26id%3Dwe%26id%3Dza%26id%3Dzi) [landlocked](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/geo_coa) country.
* Looking for geniuses? Head straight to [Iceland](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ic). There are more than 3 [Nobel Prize Winners](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/peo_nob_pri_lau_cap) for every million Icelanders.
* [Sri Lanka](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ce/) has lowest [divorce rate](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/peo_div_rat) in the world - and the highest rate of [female suicide](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/hea_sui_rat_fem).
* [Australians](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/as) have a huge 380,000 sq m of [land per person](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/geo_are_lan_cap) - and yet 91% live in [urban areas](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/peo_urb).
* Nearly a quarter of people in [Monaco](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/mn) are [over 65](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/peo_age_str_65_yea_and_ove).
* The [United States](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/us) has the world's highest [marriage rate](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/peo_mar_rat%26int%3D-1) - as well as the world's highest [divorce rate](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/peo_div_rat).
* If you're [Dutch](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/da) or [Swedish](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/sw), you're among the world's most likely to end up [living in a retirement home](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/peo_eld_liv_in_ins). If you're [Japanese](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/peo_nat_nou%26int%3D-1), you'll probably end up [living with your children](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/peo_eld_liv_wit_chi).
* Of all the nations of the world, [China](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ch) has the most [people](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/peo_pop%26int%3D-1). But there are 71 nations that are [more crowded](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/geo_pop_den%26int%3D-1).
* Most [households](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/peo_ave_siz_of_hou) in [Europe](http://www.nationmaster.com/region/EUR) and [North America](http://www.nationmaster.com/region/NAM) contain fewer than three people.
* Like living in cities? [Guadeloupe](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/gp), [Nauru](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/nr), [Monaco](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/mn), [Singapore](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/sn), [Gibraltar](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/gi) and [Bermuda](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/bd) are only nations that are 100% [urbanized](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/peo_urb).
* There are 11 countries where the average woman has [more than six children](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/peo_tot_fer_rat). Ten of them are in [Africa](http://www.nationmaster.com/region/AFR).
* [Mexico](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/mx) has the most [Jehovah's Witnesses per capita](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/rel_jeh_wit_cap%26id%3DOECD) in the [OECD](http://www.nationmaster.com/region/OECD).
* At least 9 out 10 [Nigerians](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ng) [attend church](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/rel_chu_att) regularly. Only 4 out of 10 [Americans](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/us) claim to do so.
* [Finns](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/fi) are perhaps the world's greatest athletes, ranking first in medals per capita for [Summer Olympics](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/spo_sum_oly_med_all_tim_cap), and third for [Winter Olympics](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/spo_win_oly_med_all_tim_cap%26int%3D10).
* [Russia](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/rs) won the first [World Air Games](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/spo_air_gam_tot_med), held in [Turkey](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/tu) in 1997. Events included hang-gliding, sky-surfing, and ballooning.
* Don't start a company in [Australia](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/au). More than 20% of the tax collected in [Australia](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/au) is [corporate income tax](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/tax_com_of_tax_cor_inc_tax).
* In [Denmark](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/da), more than 50% of the tax collected is [personal income tax](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/tax_com_of_tax_per_inc_tax). In the [Netherlands](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/nl), [personal income tax](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/tax_com_of_tax_per_inc_tax) makes up less than 15%.
* People in [Germany](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/gm), [Belgium](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/be), [Hungary](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/hu) and [Sweden](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/sw) have to [pay almost half their salaries in tax](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/tax_tot_tax_wed_sin_wor).
* [Tax](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/tax_tot_tax_as_of_gdp) makes up half of the of Gross Domestic Product in [Denmark](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/da) and [Sweden](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/sw). In [Japan](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ja) and the [United States](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/us), it makes up less than 30%.
* [Brazil](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/br) is the [heliport](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/tra_hel) capital of the world.
* In [Australia](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/as), there's *plenty* of [open road](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/tra_hig_tot_cap). Which is just as well, because you wouldn't want to [park your car](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/cri_car_the_cap).
* [American](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/us) planes [take-off](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/tra_air_dep) a staggering 8.5 million times per year - almost half the number of [take-offs](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/tra_air_dep) worldwide.
* More than a third of the world's [airports](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/tra_air) are in the [United States of America](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/us).

In [Germany](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/gm) and [Italy](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/it), every second person [owns a car](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/tra_car).

The [Pitcairn Islands](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/pc) have the world’s shortest highway system, with only [6.4 kilometers of road](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/tra_hig_tot%26int%3D-1).

They also have the fourth-fewest [main phone lines](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/med_tel_mai_lin_in_use).

About one-quarter of all nations [drive on the left-hand-side of the road](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/tra_dri_sid_of_the_roa_lef_or_rig). Most of them are former British colonies.

Train spotters should go to [Australia](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/as) - [Australians](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/as) have more [railway per capita](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/tra_rai_tot_cap) than anyone else on the globe.

**Austria**

The World Competitiveness Yearbook ranked Austria No. 2 in quality of life,

surpassing the U.S. and Japan.

Between 1994 and 2004, productivity in Austria grew by 52 percent, far faster than in

the U.S. (38 percent) and Japan (30 percent).

The company that makes Red Bull, the world’s No. 1 energy drink, is headquartered in

Fuschl, Austria.

Austrian firms lead the world market for encapsulated photovoltaic cell technology.

**Belgium**

Belgium has the highest density of roads and the highest density of railroads in the

world.

Belgium is the world’s largest diamond center and second largest petrochemical center.

Belgium has the 2nd highest concentration of diplomatic missions (159 Embassies)

after Washington, D.C.

One third of all dredging work in the world is done by Belgian companies.

According to the UN Human Development Index 2005, Belgium was the 9th most

‘liveable’ country in the world. (one place ahead of the U.S.)

**Cyprus**

Cypriot culture is among the oldest in the Mediterranean. By 3700 BC, the island was

well inhabited, a crossroads between East and West.

Since 1974, Cyprus has been divided. While the entire territory of the Republic of

Cyprus joined the EU in 2004, full application of EU laws and policies is suspended in

the areas not controlled by the government of Cyprus.

In the past 20 years, the economy has shifted from agriculture to light manufacturing

and services. The service sector, including tourism, contributes roughly 76 percent to

the GDP and employs 72 percent of the labor force.

**Czech Republic**

The Czech Republic is No. 2 in investment incentives and No. 3 in investment in

telecommunications among 60 leading economies.

The Czech Republic boasts an extraordinarily high number of cultural monuments.

Over 2,000 preserved castles and chateaux are open to the public (more per square mile

than any other country in the world) and represent an important part of national cultural

heritage, in terms of their number and their historical and artistic value. The Czech

Republic is the birthplace of many well-known people, notably Antonin Dvorak and

Madeleine Albright.

The Czech Republic has the largest number of incoming tourists per capita, with Prague

being the most visited city. Many popular spas exist in the Czech Republic, which have

been frequented by numerous renowned personalities, including such European cultural

giants as Goethe, Schiller, Chopin, Beethoven, and Wagner.

The Czech Republic is the number one beer-brewing nation in the world and can lay

claim to many “beer firsts”: first in per capita beer consumption, first beer museum in

the world, first beer brewing textbook, first Pilsener, first Budweiser, and first president

to have written an absurdist play based on his experiences working in a Czech beer

brewery in 1974.

**Denmark**

Denmark is an advanced society with a high level of education, state of the art

infrastructure, and high tech industry.

Denmark has one of the strongest economies in Europe with a public expenditure

surplus, trade surplus, and the lowest unemployment rate in Europe. More than 50 per

cent of its GDP derives from foreign trade.

Denmark is a world leader in energy efficiency and conservation. Today, Denmark is

favored by a flexible and diverse energy supply structure marked by a high percentage

of renewables. Wind energy alone accounts for 20 per cent of the total power

generation in Denmark.

Denmark leads the world in public and private investment in educational institutions as

a share of GDP, according to the World Competitiveness Yearbook.

**Estonia**

Estonia was the first country to adopt a flat tax. It has no hidden taxes and corporate

investment is exempt from corporate income tax.

Estonia has had an average growth rate of about 6 percent over the past five years. It is

so wired that it is nicknamed E-stonia. Bars and cafes are universally equipped with

wireless connections.

Skype, designed by Estonian developers, offers free calls over the Internet to millions

of people.

**Finland**

Finland is ranked as the most competitive economy in the world, ahead of the United

States, according to the World Economic Forum. Finland is ranked as the world leader

in business-academia cooperation by the World Competitiveness Yearbook.

Finland has been ranked the least corrupt country for several consecutive years.

Finland ranks No. 1 in press freedom, according to the Freedom House annual survey.

According to the OECD, 15-year-old Finns have the best literary skills in the world.

Finnish students are the world champions in math, reading, and science.

**France**

France is the most visited country in the world.

French-based Arianespace is the world's commercial space launch leader, with more

than 50 percent of the global market for launching satellites into geostationary orbit.

Clients include NASA, AT&T and the Hughes Aircraft Corporation.

In 2004, the French built the Queen Mary 2, the world's largest, most advanced

passenger cruise ship ever conceived.

The French constructed the world's tallest bridge in 2005; the Millau Viaduct's roadway

is almost four times the height of the roadway on the Golden Gate Bridge; its tallest

tower is just 125 feet shorter than the Empire State Building.

**Germany**

Germany has the world’s third largest and Europe’s largest economy.

Germany leads the world in exports; 10.1 percent of world exports come from

Germany.

Germany was ranked by the World Competitiveness Yearbook as No. 1 in patent and

copyright protection.

Germany plays the largest role next to that of the United States in the campaign to bring

stability and development to Afghanistan and other countries.

**Greece**

Greece has the largest merchant fleet in the world.

Greek-owned ships lead in the world’s merchant tonnage.

The Greek fleet accounts for 16 percent of the global shipping force.

**Hungary**

Hungary tops the world’s leading trading nations in imports and exports as a share of

GDP.

Forty-five of the top fifty multinational companies are present in Hungary.

Stock prices at the Budapest Stock market rose by 40 percent from mid 2003 to mid

2004.

**Ireland**

Ireland leads the world in high technology exports as a share of total exports. Over half

of Ireland's manufacturing exports are high technology products.

Ireland is the world's biggest recipient of foreign direct investment dollars as a share of

GDP.

Ireland was proclaimed the third most liberalized economy in the world—almost

displacing number two ranked Singapore—in the most recent Heritage Foundation-

Wall Street Journal Index of Economic Freedom.

**Italy**

Italy is ranked as the world’s 6th largest industrial economy. According to the OECD,

Italy's Gross Domestic Product (GDP at PPP values) is the sixth largest in the world.

Italy is home to the greatest number of sites on UNESCO’s world heritage list; many

exhibits in America and throughout the world originated in Italy.

Italy has been and is a major player, along with the United States and other European

allies, in peacekeeping, stabilization, and reconstruction in the Balkans and the Broader

Middle East, including Afghanistan and Iraq.

The city of Torino hosted the 2006 Winter Olympic Games, which were a great success

in terms of organizational efficiency and security as well as an intense celebration of

sport and friendship.

**Latvia**

Latvia has the highest GDP growth in the EU: 10.2 percent in 2005.

The Latvian Lats to U.S. dollar exchange rate is approximately 1:2--$2=1 Lats.

A high number of women are represented in Latvia’s political leadership, including the

Latvian President, Speaker of Parliament, and Minister of Defense.

Cell phone coverage is available over 99 percent of Latvia’s territory.

**Lithuania**

In March 1990, Lithuania became the first Soviet republic to declare its independence

from Moscow.

The inflation rate in Lithuania is the lowest in Europe.

The productivity growth of Lithuanian companies exceeds the rapidly rising average

productivity growth of Central European companies.

Lithuania is the largest EU contributor to the NBA: 6 players this year.

**Luxembourg**

Residents of Luxembourg rank No. 2 in the world in their standard of living and per

capita income.

Luxembourg leads the world in mobile telephone access. In 2003, Luxembourg had

more cell phones than total inhabitants.

Luxembourg ranks as the world’s top city for personal safety and security.

Luxembourg has the highest GDP per capita ($58,900) in the world.

Malta is home to seven Megalithic structures that are designated UNESCO World

Heritage Sites, with the oldest structures dating from the 6th Millenium BCE, making it

1,000 years older than the Pyramids of Egypt. Very little is known about the

mysterious yet highly complex civilization that built them over a span of thousands of

years. Valletta, a walled, 16th century gem of baroque architecture and the capital city

is yet another World Heritage site.

Malta welcomes 1.2 million tourists a year (triple its population of 400,000), who flock

to the island not only to experience its natural beauty, climate, and clean seas, but also

its ancient heritage—the island’s 7,000 year old history and pre-history. Tourism

accounts for 24.3 percent of Gross National Product and over 25 percent of exports of

goods and services. Malta has also become a center for Conferences and Learning of

English as a Foreign Language.

In 1967, Arvid Pardo, the Maltese Ambassador to the UN, proposed that the UN

declare the seabed and ocean floor "underlying the seas beyond the limits of present

national jurisdiction" to be "the common heritage of mankind." The UN General

Assembly convened the 1973 Third UN Conference of the Law of the Sea to write a

new treaty. The convention came into force on November 14, 1994.

There are two main political parties in Malta and elections generate a widespread voter

turnout exceeding 96 percent. The margin between the two parties is so narrow that a

52 percent share of the votes can still be considered a "landslide" for the winning party.

**The Netherlands**

Although often called ‘Holland’, our official name is ‘The Netherlands’ – which means

lowlands. One-third of the Netherlands is below sea level. The Netherlands' highest

point is about 1000 feet high and they call it a ‘mountain.’

While the Netherlands comprises only 0.008% of the world's area, it is the world's third

largest agricultural exporter. Rotterdam’s seaport is the world’s largest port in size and

tonnage.

The Dutch are strong inventors and developed the compact disc, the microscope, and

the artificial heart.

800 Dutch companies in the U.S. employ over 350,000 Americans. Skippy Peanut

Butter, Ponds, Ben & Jerry’s, Hellman’s, Slim Fast, and Close-up are Dutch products.

**Poland**

Poland gave birth to one of the largest citizens’ movements in modern history, led by

Nobel laureate, Lech Walesa, which led to the fall of Communism in Europe.

Polish glass makers built and operated the first factory in the New World, in

Jamestown, Virginia, in 1608.

Poland’s labor force is among the strongest in the world and is ranked 3rd for labor

utilization, above the U.S. and Japan.

Poland holds the world's fifth-largest proven reserves of hard and brown coal in

addition to deposits of copper, sulfur, zinc, lead, and silver, as well as magnesium and

rock salt

**Portugal**

Portugal could become the world's 10th largest tourism market by 2020, attracting

almost quadruple the current number of tourists, according to the World Tourism

Organization. Wine tourism is growing at a strong 7 to 12 per cent a year in Europe,

and Portugal is one of the main destinations. Portugal’s annual income from the golf

industry represents 1.25 per cent of national income and 14 per cent of all income from

tourism.

In relative terms, Portugal invests more than the EU average in education; the average

ratio of one teacher to every nine students is one of the highest in the world.

Portugal ranks as number one among the advanced industrialized nations in the number

of Internet subscribers per capita.

Portugal had the second highest GDP growth rates in Europe over the last 40 years.

**Slovakia**

Eugen Andrew Cernan, Apollo 17 captain, and the second American who walked on

the Moon, was of the Slovak origin.

Among Slovakia’s reknowned native sons are: Jozef Murgaš**,** inventor of

radiotelegraphy; Štefan Banič, constructed the first parachute based on the principle of

the umbrella; Maximilián Hell (1720 – 1792), a mathematician and astronomer, was the

first to measure the distance between the Earth and the Sun.

The hill known as Krahule near the town Kremnica, Slovakia, is the geographical

center of Europe.

In 2007, the Slovakian automotive industry will produce 950,000-1,000,000 cars per

year, giving the country the highest per capita car production in the world.

**Slovenia**

Slovenia is one of the best economic performers in Central and Eastern Europe--with

GDP per capita at $17,008 in 2005--and receives the highest credit rating of all

transtion economies.

Slovenia's Port of Koper on the Adriatic Sea provides a 7-10 day shorter route for

shipments arriving from Asia than do Europe's northern ports.

Slovenians in their first state, Carinthia, practiced the unique custom of the Installation

of the Dukes of Carinthia (7th –14th century). According to some scholars, the ritual of

installing Carinthian dukes carried out in the Slovenian language and the democratic

arrangement between people and ruler is said to have influenced Thomas Jefferson's

drafting of the Declaration of Independence.

Several exceptional sporstmen of this nation of two million have made it into the halls

of fame of extreme sports achievements. Among them are ultramarathon swimmer

Martin Strel, the first to swim the Mississippi River, and Jure Robic, the two time

winner of RAAM - the endurance bicycle race from the west to the east coast of the

United States.

**Spain**

Thirteen of the 15 major North American oil and gas companies have Spanish

management, control, and information systems installed.

The Tampa Bay Water Authority has selected a Spanish firm to repair, redesign, and

operate the Apollo Beachplant, the largest desalination facility in the U.S.

Six Spanish companies were among the top 10 private infrastructure-management

companies of 2004, according to Public Works Financing, the leading industry

magazine.

A Spanish company, Abengoa Bioenergy, is the second largest biofuels producer in the

world.

**Sweden**

Sweden has the second highest proportion of women in its national parliament, 45.3 per

cent, according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Sweden’s Ericsson is a world-leading provider of telecommunications equipment and

related services to mobile and fixed network operators globally. Over 1,000 networks in

140 countries utilize network equipment from Ericsson and 40 percent of all mobile

calls are made through Ericsson’s systems.

Sweden is the third largest music exporter in the world, after the U.S. and Britain.

Sweden is the number one nation in environmental protection and sustainability

policies and aims to be the first country in the world to become oil independent by the

year 2020.

**United Kingdom**

London has the world's largest foreign exchange market.

The United Kingdom is the largest exporter to the United States and the largest

recipient of U.S. investment in Europe.

With less than 1 percent of the world’s population, the UK is responsible for 5.5

percent of global R&D. Tim Berners-Lee of the UK invented the World Wide Web.

The UK is ranked first in the world for wind energy, according to the Ernst & Young

Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness.

**Bulgaria**

Bulgaria occupies a strategic location between Europe and Asia, and is a center of

political and economic stability in South-Eastern Europe. Historically, Bulgaria has

been a nation of proven ethnic and religious tolerance.

Bulgaria is second in the world in international IQ tests and SAT scores and fourth in

the world in per capita university education after the U.S., Japan, and the United

Kingdom.

Bulgaria boasts a highly skilled labour force that is cost-competitive, with 5,000

computer science graduates annually and more that 20,000 professionals employed in

the IT sector (from a population of 7.9 million). Intensive foreign language training is

part of the curriculum - e.g. 429,000 secondary school students follow the English only

language program every year.

Bulgaria has established itself as a preferred tourist destination, with almost 5 million

tourists in 2005 (more than half of the country's population and an increase of 16

percent over 2004), visiting its spa, mountain and sea resorts as well as

its archaeological sites and cultural monuments.

**Romania**

Romania has been one of the five fastest growing economies in Europe during the last

five years. Romania is number four in the top of 10 countries with highest growth rate

in tourism development, with an estimated potential of 8 percent from 2007 – 2016

(The World Travel and Tourism Council).

Constanta Port, located on the Romanian Black Sea Coast, is the 2nd largest port in

Europe.

Romania is one of the largest wine producers in Europe with a vineyard surface of

243,000 hectares and an annual production of 5 to 6 million hectoliters. Archaeological

finds and historical documents place the beginnings of wine culture on the present

territory of Romania some 4000 years ago.

Romanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci was the the first Olympic gymnast ever to score a

perfect 10, at the Montreal Olympics in 1976.

Canada has no president. Canada's govenment is a Parliamentary democracy (federal constitutional monarchy) whose Monarch is Queen Elizabeth II. Canada has a Prime Minister.

The smallest country is Nauru with 21,2 square km.

In English pubs, ale is ordered by pints and quarts. So in old England, when customers got unruly, the bartender used to yell at themto mind their own pints and quarts and settle down. From where we get "mind your own P's and Q's".

China banned the pigtail in 1911 as it was seen as a symbol of feudalism.
In [Britain](http://interestingfactshere.blogspot.com/2008/10/interesting-facts-about-countries.html) 70% mothers go to work.

Angel Falls in Venezuela is the world’s highest waterfall, The water of Falls drops 3,212 feet (979 meters).

California has issued at least 6 drivers licenses to people named Jesus Christ.

In India the number of motorized vehicles has increased from 0.2 million in 1947 to 36.3 million in 1997.

India never invaded any country in her last 10,000 years of history.

Singapore is one of two cities in the world with a tropical rainforest.

[Burma](http://interestingfactshere.blogspot.com/2008/10/interesting-facts-about-countries.html) is the only country where the cars are right hand-driven and driven on the right side of the road.

[Laos](http://interestingfactshere.blogspot.com/2008/10/interesting-facts-about-countries.html) is the most bombed country in the world.

Norway is the world's third largest oil exporter.

Interesting Facts is that The Mini Moke used to be the official transport for the police in Macau.

England's first great industry was wool. Its export had become the nation's largest source of income by the late Middle Ages.

The Republic of San Marino is the world's smallest republic (24 sq. miles) and possibly the oldest state in Europe (founded 4th century AD, according to tradition.)

In Eastern Africa you can buy banana beer. This beer is brewed from bananas.
Colorado is one of only two states in the [United States](http://interestingfactshere.blogspot.com/2008/10/interesting-facts-about-countries.html) in which ALL the water the state has FLOWS OUT of the state; NONE Flows in! (the other is [Hawaii](http://interestingfactshere.blogspot.com/2008/10/interesting-facts-about-countries.html)).

In England up until the 1950s attempted suicide was a capital offense.

Tokyo has had 24 recorded instances of people either killed or receiving serious skull fractures while bowing to each other with the traditional Japanese greeting.

Interesting Facts is that Less than one per cent of the 500 Chinese cities have clean air, respiratory disease is China's leading cause of death.

State with the highest percentage of people who walk to work: Alaska.

City with the most Rolls Royces per capita: Hong Kong.

The principality of Monaco consists of 370 acres.

Florida's beaches lose 20 million cubic yards of sand annually.

Russia has the most movie theaters in the world.

The state of California raises the most turkeys out of all of the states.

Interesting Facts is that [France](http://interestingfactshere.blogspot.com/2008/10/interesting-facts-about-countries.html) has the highest per capita consumption of cheese.

Japan is the largest exporter of frog's legs.

New Jersey has a spoon museum with over 5,400 spoons from almost all the states.

Maine is the toothpick capital of the world.

A 2003 American film dramatized the end of the Samurai class in Japan. It starred Tom Cruise and Ken Watanabe, and was nominated for several Academy Awards.

In 1894, Japan went to war with China in what would later be known as the First Sino-Japanese War. The two nations fought for control of Korea. It was fought between the Qing Dynasty in China and the Meji Empire of Japan. The war ended in less than a year with the Treaty of Shimonoseki, through which Korea remained fully independent from both nations.

The Second Sino-Japanese War began in 1937 and lasted until the end of World War II in 1945. Among other factors, the war was fought due to Japan's desire to dominate China and secure its natural resources and raw materials to fuel the Japanese Empire.

On December 7, 1941, Japanese war planes (fighters and torpedo bombers) attacked the U.S. Navy Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The attack came in two waves and included more than 350 aircraft launched from six aircraft carriers in the Pacific Ocean.

While the attack on Pearl Harbor did not totally destroy the U.S. Navy, it was devastating nonetheless. The attack seriously damaged a number of battleships, cruisers, destroyers and more. The attack destroyed 188 U.S. aircraft and killed 2,388 sailors.

The attack on Pearl Harbor partially sunk five battleships (the harbor is shallow, so none were completely sunk). These included the USS Utah, the USS Oklahoma, the USS Arizona, the USS California and the USS West Virginia. The California and the West Virginia were later raised from the harbor and repaired. The Arizona remains where it sunk and is now a memorial that tourists can visit.

Japan surrendered to Allied Forces on August 15, 1945, effectively bringing WWII to an end. Germany was already out of the war by then. The official surrender ceremony took place on September 2 aboard the USS Missouri (a battleship of the U.S. Navy).

The current flag of Japan, referred to as the *Hinomaru*, has a white background with a red disc that symbolizes the rising sun.

Modern Japan is a technological powerhouse. We import many of our electronics, automobiles, machinery and other technology products from Japan. They are the world's largest producer of cars, as well as a leader in the field of robotics.

Japan is an island nation located in the Pacific Ocean.

In geographical terms Japan is an archipelago (group of islands) that includes more than 3,000 individual islands. Going from north to south, the four major islands include Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu.

Japan's neighbors to the west include Russia, North and South Korea and China.

At its closest point, Japan is only about 360 miles from China, its neighbor to the west. The East China sea separates the two countries at this point, and the two nations have long argued over territorial claims and fishing rights in these waters.

The first permanent capital of unified Japan was the city of Nara, which became the capital in 710 BC.

The capital would later be shifted to the city of Nagaoka and, ultimately, to Heian (modern day Kyoto).

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| Africa is the second largest of the earth’s seven continents and makes up approximately 22% of the earth’s total land area.g With the inclusion of the disputed Western Sahara territory and the island nations off the continental coast, there are a total of 54 independent nations in Africa.a The current population of Africa is nearly one billion people. Due to rapid population growth in the continent over the last 40 years, its general population is relatively young. In many African states, more than half of the population is under the age of 25.g Africa is the most centrally located of all of the continents with both the prime meridian (0 degrees longitude) and the equator (0 degrees latitude) passing through it.a The primary region of Africa is often called sub-Saharan Africa and excludes the mostly Islamic countries of North Africa: Western Sahara, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt. Sub-Saharan Africa includes 42 nations on mainland Africa and the six island nations.a While Africa makes up about 16% of the world’s population, fully one quarter of the world’s languages are spoken only in Africa.g Arabic (in various dialects) is the most common language spoken in Africa with about 170 million speakers, primarily residing in North Africa. In the continent as a whole, there are over 2,000 recognized languages spoken.g Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa, with an estimated population of 125–145 million people. Egypt is the second most populous country with over 76 million people.g The most populated city in Africa is the Egyptian capital of Cairo with an estimated 17 million residents in the metropolitan area.g The largest country in Africa is Sudan with a total area of 967,490 square miles (2.5 million square kilometers), and the smallest country is the island nation of The Seychelles with a total area of just 175 square miles (453 square kilometers).g Population experts estimate that there are at least 3,000 distinct ethnic groups (tribes) in Africa. Nigeria alone has more than 370 recognized tribes within its population.h

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| lake victoria |
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| The Nile River is the longest river in the world with a total length of 4,132 miles |
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Lake Victoria is the largest lake in Africa and the second-largest freshwater lake in the world, covering an area of 26,830 square miles (69,490 square kilometers).e The Nile River, which drains into the Mediterranean Sea at the northeastern edge of Africa, is the longest river in the world with a total length of 4,132 miles (6,650 kilometers). It is formed from the juncture of two smaller rivers: the White Nile and the Blue Nile.e Africa contains the world’s largest desert, the Sahara, which makes up an area greater in size than the entire continental U.S.e Egypt is the most popular tourist destination in Africa, attracting around 10 million visitors per year. While Egypt is most well known for its pyramids, the Republic of Sudan actually has 223 of its own pyramids, double the number of pyramids in Egypt. Smaller and steeper than their Egyptian counterparts, the pyramids of Sudan are not nearly as famous.e Four of the five fastest land animals reside in Africa: the cheetah, the wildebeest, the lion, and the Thomson’s gazelle. All of these animals can run at speeds above 50 miles per hour, with the cheetah reaching a top speed of about 70 miles per hour.e Africa is home to the world’s largest living land animal, the African elephant, which can weigh between 6 and 7 tons.e The novel Tarzan of the Apes, set in Africa and published by American author Edgar Rice Burroughs in 1912, created such a compelling image of Africa and the book’s title character that a New Orleans newspaper writer only half-jokingly suggested that if Tarzan were to run for president in 1929, he would receive as many votes as incumbent president Herbert Hoover.e The deserts of Tunisia housed the original Star Wars movie sets for the film's planet Tatooine. More than 30 years after the premier of the first movie in the series, the sets are still very well preserved and visitors to Tunisia can even stay in Luke Skywalker’s home.e Africa is the poorest and most underdeveloped of all of the continents, despite its wealth of natural resources. The average poor person in sub-Saharan Africa is estimated to live on just $.70 a day.g More than 17 million people in sub-Saharan Africa have died of AIDS, and experts estimate that at least 25 million more people in Africa are HIV-positive.f Approximately 90% of all cases of malaria worldwide occur in Africa, and 3,000 African children die each day from its effects.f

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Scientists believe Africa was once joined with Earth’s other continents in a super-continent called Pangaea. While Asia and South America split from Africa in the late Cretaceous epoch (roughly 80 million years ago), the African continent remained relatively stable and has not moved much throughout time. Geologists believe the large island of Madagascar split from the African continent as early as 160 millions years ago.h Central eastern Africa is believed by most scientists to be the origin place of both humans and great apes. The earliest remains of the modern human species Homo sapiens have been found in Ethiopia and date to roughly 200,000 years ago.h The scientist Charles Darwin was the first to suggest that the ancestors of human beings may have originated in Africa. However, prejudicial attitudes toward the continent made many people in the Western world highly resistant to the idea until well into the twentieth century.h In 1974, the skeleton of “Lucy,” a hominid who lived approximately 3.2 million years ago and has been considered a common ancestor to the human family, was discovered in Hadar, Ethiopia. In 1979, a 165-foot trail of the earliest hominid footprints was discovered in the Kibish region of Tanzania. The two discoveries indisputably marked northeastern Africa as the birthplace of humanity.h Throughout human prehistory, Africa contained no major nation-states and was inhabited primarily by small groups of hunter-gatherers. Scientists believe that cattle were domesticated by hunter-gatherers in Africa as early as 6000 B.C., long before the advent of agriculture on the continent. The oldest literate civilization in Africa is the Pharaonic civilization of ancient Egypt. Historical records date the rise of the Egyptian state to about 3300 B.C. and the fall from influence at 343 B.C., making it one of the world’s oldest and longest-lasting civilizations. Europeans first began exploring the northern coast of Africa around 332 B.C., when Alexander the Great came into Egypt and established the city of Alexandria. The Roman Empire soon after began to integrate much of North Africa’s Mediterranean coastline into the Roman system. While there are several different theories regarding the origin of the name “Africa,” most etymologists believe the name derived from Afri, the title for a group of people who dwelt in North Africa near Carthage around the third century B.C., and -ca, the Roman suffix for “country” or “land.”

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| africa sunny |
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| The name ”Africa” was derived from Greek and Latin words that highlighted the continent's sunny, warm climate |
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Ancient Greeks and Romans originally used the term “Africa” to apply only to the northern region of the continent. In Latin, the word Africa means “sunny,” and the word Aphrike in Greek means “without cold.” By the first century A.D., Africa had been subdivided by geographers into three distinct regions: Egypt, Libya, and Ethiopia. The last term was more or less used to describe the whole of sub-Saharan Africa.The African region of Ethiopia is featured prominently in several ancient Greek dramas and poems. The Greek poet Homer mentions Ethiopians in both the Iliad and the Odyssey as a “blameless race” and “amongst the noblest of men.” Islam became a prominent influence in North Africa by the seventh century A.D. and spread into sub-Saharan Africa through trade routes and migration. The population of North Africa is still considered widely Muslim today.Prior to the colonization of the African continent, historians believe Africa was made up of as many as 10,000 different states and autonomous groups, ranging in size from small family groups of hunter-gatherers to large kingdoms. While slavery has been practiced in Africa all throughout recorded history, Africa is the only continent to have a large percentage of its inhabitants transported elsewhere for slave labor. Historians estimate that approximately 7–12 million slaves were transferred from Africa to the Americas between the fifteenth and nineteenth centuries.Only two African nations have never been under European colonial power: Liberia, an independent nation settled largely by African Americans, and Ethiopia, an Orthodox Christian nation known in Europe as Abyssinia. The rest of the continent was colonized by European imperial powers in the nineteenth century “scramble for Africa.” During the 1950s, colonized African states began to fight for independence from imperial rule with Libya being the first African nation to declare its independence. The independence movements brought great hope and inspired U.S. civil rights leaders like Malcolm X to fight for increased freedoms at home. South Africa was one of the first African nations to gain its independence from colonial rule after the imperial period. However, black residents of the state lived under a forced system of segregation called Apartheid (meaning “separateness”) until 1994 when the country held its first democratic elections with universal suffrage. The famous civil rights leader Nelson Mandela was elected as president.

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| http://www.randomhistory.com/photos/2009/congolese-soldiers.jpg |
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| Children were commonly recruited and even compelled to serve as soldiers in the Second Congo War |
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The Second Congo War, which began in 1998 and involved eight African nations, is the largest war in African history. An estimated 5.4 million people died as a result of the war and its aftermath, making it the deadliest worldwide conflict since World War II. The war officially ended in 2006, but hostilities still continue today. Africa is currently politically organized into the African Union, a federation created in 2001 and consisting of all of Africa’s nations except Morocco Islam is currently the largest religion in Africa, with Christianity following closely behind. These two religions make up 85% of the continent’s population, while just 15% of the population are nonreligious or follow traditional African religions. While Africa is the second largest of the earth’s seven continents, it has the shortest coastline, due to very few jutting edges and bays in its landscape. Among the native population of Africa, there are more physical variations than on any other continent in the world. There are fewer people with Internet access in the entire continent of Africa than in New York City alone. The average life expectancy on the African continent ranges from 74 years in the island nation of Mauritius to just under 32 years in sub-Saharan Swaziland. Two of the most popular sports in Africa are soccer (called football) and cricket. Both sports were introduced during colonial times and have flourished on the continent due to the international success of African teams. A popular fashion statement in eastern Africa is to wear a kanga, a large cotton cloth with a message printed on it. Kanga are worn by both men and women and they originated during the nineteenth century in Zanzibar and Mombassa. The “evil eye” is a term that originated in North Africa and the Mediterranean and is widely believed to cause harm, especially to the sick and vulnerable. In Morocco, it is common for men and boys to decorate the backs of their cloaks with bright red eyes to reflect back and cast off the look of the evil eye. In Tunisia, images of fish are often used to protect against evil. New buildings often have fish bones or tails embedded in them as they are built, and cars have brightly colored plastic or cloth fish attached to them to provide protection to the people inside.  |

**GLOBAL TRIVIA**

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**MISCELLANEA**

More than a quarter of all potatoes sold in the U.S. are turned into fries, which are McDonald’s largest volume item. At Burger King, 90% of all customers order fries.

The 3 longest rivers in the world are the:

 A. Nile (4,132 miles)

        B. Amazon (3,900 miles) and

        C. Mississippi (3,860) miles.

The four largest nations geographically are the USA, Canada, Brazil and China.

The words tsangpo, sungai, stroom, song, shatt, myit, nahr, kong, fluss, fleuve, flume, batang, and alf all mean river.

Percent of world religions:  Christianity:  32%; Islam: 17%; Nonreligious: 17%; Hindu: 14%; Buddhist: 6%; Confucian: 5%; atheistic: 4%

**The Driest Place** **on Earth:**
Atacama, on the Pacific cost of north central Chile,  (less than 1/16 of an inch of precipitation annually)

**The Highest Point:**
Mount Everest (29,078 feet, in the eastern Himalayas , between Tibet and Nepal )

**The Lowest Point on Land:**
The shores of the Dead Sea (1,312 feet below sea level in Israel and Jordan )

**Oceans: 4** The Pacific Ocean alone is larger in area than all the land in the world combined: 64,186,300 square miles and 3,496,000,000,000,000,000,000 gallons

**Number of** **Seas:** 32

**The Deepest Point in the Oceans**: The Mariana Trench (35,810 feet in the western Pacific)

**Most Populated City**: Toyko

**Most Plentiful Metallic Element:** Aluminum

**Largest Crop:** Rice

Running through the middle of the Pacific Ocean, at 180 degrees longitude, is the International Date Line.  The line is always perplexing to travelers who get consumed in the intricacies of the construct of time.  Here’s the short version: When you cross the line while traveling west, you add a day ( 6 p.m. Monday becomes 6 p.m. Tuesday).  When you cross the line while traveling east, you subtract a day (6 p.m. Tuesday becomes 6 p.m. Monday).

The severity of quakes is usually measured on the Richter scale.  On this scale, every whole-number increase is equal to ten times the earthquake’s magnitude. A Seven on the Richter scale represents an earthquake ten times as powerful as a six. A nine on the scale has never been recorded—an earthquake of that magnitude would result in virtually total destruction.

The Seven Natural Wonders of the World. Mount Everest, Victoria Falls, in eastern Africa; the Grand Canyon, the Great Barrier Reef, skirting Australia’s east coast; the northern lights (or aurora borealis), Paricutin, volcano in west-central Mexico, and the Rio de Janeiro harbor.

At one point on the Antarctica ice plateau, the ice thickness has been measured at 15,670 feet.  To put this measurement in perspective, consider that the tallest building in the United States is the Sears Tower in Chicago, at 1,454 feet.  The depth of Antarctic ice is, therefore, more than ten times the height of the Sears tower.

**THE MAIN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE POLES**

A. One is north, and the other is south.  The poles are 180 degrees apart, on opposite   sides of the glove—as far apart as you can get on earth.

B. No polar bears live on Antarctica.

C. The South Pole is on land; the North Pole is in the middle of an ocean.

D. Santa lives only at the North Pole (apparently he’s a seafaring sort of elf).

E. Although they’re both cold, the South Pole is considerably colder than the North Pole.

F. The South Pole is almost entirely covered by glacial ice; the North Pole has nary a glacier.

H. Antarctica has a mountain more than 16,000 feet high and a depression more than 8,000 feet deep.  The North Pole is pretty much at a sea level.

No national claims to have the North Pole have been made, although many countries have claimed.

J. Several “permanent” stations exist on Antarctica, though only temporary floating stations exist at the North Pole.

**THE MAIN SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE NORTH AND SOUTH POLES:**

Both are located at 90 degrees latitude (ignore the fact that one’s north latitude and one’s south.

During the winter, the sun never rises in either place.

During the summer, the sun never sets in either place.  Both have lots of ice and snow.

If you stand on either pole, no matter which you face, you can travel in only one direction (only south from the North Pole and only north from the South Pole).

Seals live on both poles.

Both are extremely cold.

Neither pole has trees.

You can forget about using your magnetic compass in either place.

The earth’s lowest temperature was recorded at Vostok Station, Antarctica. On July 21, 1983, the temperature dropped to 129 degrees below zero F. (If you spit while you’re there, it will freeze before it hits the ground!)

If the earth’s polar ice caps were to melt the mean seal level would rise by about sixty miles, a catastrophe that would submerge half the world’s population.

Nations that have the least amount of financial openness:  China, Russia, Indonesia, Turkey, South Korea.  Nations with the greatest amount of financial transparency: Singapore, United States, Chile, Britain, Hong Kong.

Most visited global destinations:  France, Spain, United States, Italy, Britain, China, and Mexico.  Least visited destinations:  Japan, Croatia, South Korea, Tunisia, Argentina, and Indonesia.

Taiwan’s share of global computer hardware markets:  scanners (96%); mother boards (65%); monitors (58%); notebook PCs (38%); CD-ROM drives (36%); desktop PCs (22%).

Most valuable global brand names (by sales and market value):  Coca Cola, Microsoft, IBM, General Electric, Ford, Disney, Intel, McDonalds, AT&T, Marlboro.

Highest adult illiteracy rates in developing nations:  Pakistan (50% illiterate); Egypt (48%); India (45%); China (20%).  Highest literacy rates in the developing world: Russia , Hungary , Argentina , South Korea , and Philippines .

Highest percentage of women in elected federal government positions: Sweden (41%), Denmark, (34%), Netherlands, (28%), Germany (22%).

Highest global housing prices (based on percent of family disposal income devoted to housing):  Japan (32%), Germany (19%), Ireland (17%), Netherlands (16%). The cost of housing in the United States is 9% of family disposable income.

Highest percentage of undernourished population:  Somalia (78%), Afghanistan (72%), Haiti (62%), Mozambique (58%), North Korea (57%). The lowest percentage of undernourished population within developing countries:   Chile (3%), Mexico (2%), Russia (2%), Indonesia (2%).

Highest household saving rates:  Japan (17%), Belgium (15%), France (14%), Ireland (12%), Germany (11%).  The U.S. rate is 3%.

Highest child mortality rates:  Angola (30%), Niger (28%), Afghanistan (21%), Zambia (20%).  Lowest rates for the developing world:  Cuba , Malaysia , Russia , Libya .

Best overall environments for conducting business:  Hong Kong, Britain, Netherlands, Singapore, United States, and Canada.  Worst environments in the developed world:  Hungary, South Korea, Thailand, Israel, Japan.

Nations with the greatest income inequality:  Sierra Leone, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Paraguay, Panama, Brazil, South Africa, Colombia. Lowest income inequality nations:  Slovakia, Czech Republic, Austria, Norway, Finland, Hungary.

Nations with the highest international debt:  Brazil , Mexico , China , South Korea , Indonesia , Russia , Argentina , India , Thailand .

Greatest economic freedom:  Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Czech Republic, Chile, South Korea, Malaysia, Thailand.  Lowest economic freedom:  China, India, Russia, Venezuela, Egypt, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia.

Highest income tax rates:  Netherlands (60%), Denmark (59%), Finland (58%), Sweden (57%), Belgium (56%).

Nations with the most global 500 corporations:  United States (172), Japan (112), Germany (42), France (38), Britain (35).

Cities with most hours worked per year:  Santiago, Chile (2,250); Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (2,180); Bogotá, Colombia (2,080); Hong Kong (2,160); Taipei, Taiwan (2,150).  Lowest working hours per year:  Paris (1,600); Frankfurt (1,650); Helsinki (1,690); Oslo (1,700).

Nations where companies are least likely to pay bribes:  Sweden , Australia , Canada , Austria , Switzerland , Netherlands , U.K. , Belgium , Germany , United States .  Nations in which companies are most likely to pay bribes:  China and Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan, Italy, Malaysia, Japan, France, Spain.

Oldest populations:  Japan, Italy, Germany, Greece, Belgium, Spain, Britain. Youngest populations:  Philippines, Egypt, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Mexico.

Least corrupt nations:  Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Canada, Singapore, Switzerland.  Most corrupt nations:  Cameroon, Nigeria, Indonesia, Russia, India, Turkey, Brazil, Italy, and South Africa.

Highest oil consumption per person:  United States (25 barrels annually per person); Japan (17); EU (13); Britain (11); Latin America (4); emerging Asia (2.5).

Cost of living index (New York =100):  Tokyo (160), Belgrade (124), Hong Kong (123), Seoul (110), and Taipei (105).  Least expensive cities:  Karachi (48), Manila (47), Budapest (46), Bangkok (53).

Highest percent of foreign population as citizens:  Australia (22%), Switzerland (18%), Austria (8%), Germany (7%).  Lowest foreign population: Japan (3%), Spain (4%), Italy (5%).

Nations with greatest overall business risk:  Iraq, Myanmar (Burma), Kenya, Indonesia, Pakistan, Russia.  Nations with lowest business risk:   Singapore, Hong Kong, Chile, Botswana, and United Arab Emirates.

Highest quality of life cities:  Zurich , Vancouver , Sydney , Geneva , Copenhagen , Frankfurt , Stockholm , Amsterdam , San Francisco , Brussels , Tokyo , Paris .  Lowest quality of life:  Moscow , Beijing , Mexico City, Cairo , Bangkok , Rio De Janeiro

To convert temperatures in Fahrenheit to Celsius, subtract 32 from the Fahrenheit temperature, multiply by 5, and divide by 9.  Celsius into Fahrenheit: multiply by 9, divide by 5, and add 32.

Vietnam pirates more software than any other nation: 97%.  China pirates 95% of all the software they use; Indonesia pirates 92%.  Next n order of piracy are Russia (92%), Bolivia (90%), Thailand (88%), and Greece (82%). About 22% of software is pirated in the USA .

France relies on nuclear power more than any other nation (75% of total electrical usage), followed by Belgium (58%), Sweden (42%), Slovakia (41%), and South Korea (39%).  The Netherlands are lowest in the world (6%), Mexico (8%), Canada (16%), and the USA (20%).

Nations with the oldest workforces (% of men working past the age of 60): Niger (84% of working men are over 60; Uganda ( 81%); Kenya (79%); Indonesia (59%); Iceland (50%)

Executions in 2000 per million population: Singapore = 21 executions per million people; Egypt = 48; USA = 85; Saudi Arabia = 123; China = 1000

Population density in 2000 measured by number of people per square mile: Singapore = 6587 people per square mile; South Korea = 479; Netherlands = 469; India = 342; Japan = 337; Israel = 302; Britain = 247; China = 135; USA = 31; Brazil = 20; Chile = 20; Argentina = 14; Russia = 9; Canada = 3; Australia = 2.

Projected population in millions for 2015: Tokyo = 26 million projected; Mexico City = 18; Sao Paulo = 17.8; Mumbai, India = 18.1; Shanghai, China = 17; New York = 16.6; Lagos, Nigeria = 13.4; Buenos Aires = 12.6; Dhaka, Bangladesh = 12.3

Births per 1000 population projected for the 2000-2005 period: Pakistan = 37 births per 1000 people; Indonesia = 20; Brazil = 19; USA = 12; Japan = 9; Eastern Europe = 8; Russia = 7; Ukraine = 6.

Life expectancy for males projected for the 2000-2005 period: Japan = 78 years of age; Britain = 76; USA = 74; Poland = 69; Indonesia = 66; Brazil = 64; Eastern Europe = 63; Pakistan = 62; Russia = 59

The world’s longest underwater mountain range is the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, extending from Iceland almost to Antarctica, down the center of the Atlantic Ocean.

The world’s largest saltwater lake:  the Caspian Sea, straddling Europe and Asia.

The equator crosses South America and Africa

Antarctica’s mountains are an extension of South America’s Andes and complete the broken chain of mountains that begin with the Rockies in northern Canada, become Mexico’s Sierra Madre, and continue through Central America to meet the Andes in Colombia.  If the ice melted, the mountains would actually be islands.

Approximately 90 percent of the world’s ice and snow can be found in Antarctica.

The most desolate place on Earth, Antarctica is the only continent that has no flowering plants, no grasses, no large mammals, and no permanent population.

Polynesia is a region of many islands (thus the poly, meaning “many”) with a common history and culture.  It includes Tonga, Easter, Western Samoa, American Samoa, Pitcairn, Tuvalu, and French Polynesia island groups concentrated east of Indonesia.  New Zealand’s Cook Islands, Tokelau Islands, and Niue also make up Polynesia, as do New Zealand itself and the Hawaiian Islands.

In 1867 the United States government purchased Alaska from Russia for $7.2 million, at a price of two cents per acre.  The territory was admitted to the Union as the forty-ninth state in 1959.

Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia are collectively known as the Baltic States.

Siberia is home to more than three-quarters of the world’s reindeer, but they can also be found in Canada, Lapland, and Alaska.

Canada’s 480-square-mile Hudson Bay is the world’s largest bay.

Manitoulin Island, on the Canadian side of Lake Huron, at 1,068 square miles, is the world’s largest island in a lake.  The island encloses more than 100 lakes, of which 41.09-square-mile.  Manitou Lake is the world’s largest lake within a lake.

Lassen Peak (10,453 feet) in California is one of the two active volcanoes in the continuous United States, its last activity occurred between 1914 and 1917.

Mt. St. Helens in southwestern Washington, spewed smoke, ash, and debris in 1980. Other volcanoes include: Mt. Hood (Oregon; Mt. Mazanma (Oregon) Mt. Rainier (Washington); and Mt. Baker (Washington), which has been steaming since 1975 but shows no signs of pending eruption.

The U.S. didn’t always look the same as it does today.  At first there were just the original colonies.  In the early 1800s, Congress authorized the acquisition of additional territories, a process that continued into the mid-twentieth century with the Northern Marianas and Marshall Islands.

The first of these additions was the Louisiana Purchase in 1803.  The U.S. government paid France $15 million for 831,321 square miles of land, extending from the Gulf of Mexico to British America (now known as Canada) and from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains.  Florida was acquired in 1822.  The 69,866-square-mile tract was purchased from Spain for $5 million.  Then came the following:

Texas, 1845, An area of 384,958 square miles was added when the United States annexed the Republic of Texas on July 5, 1845.  The territory became a state the following December.

Oregon, 1846.  Following the Oregon Treaty, resolving disputes between American settlers and the Hudson Bay Company, England dropped its claim to a 283,439-square-mile area. The treaty extended the border at 49o north latitude to the Pacific Ocean.

C. Mexican Cession, 1848.  When settlers started moving north from Mexico, Texas land   came under dispute.  President James K. Polk ordered that the land be seized, touching off the Mexican War, which lasted from 1846 to 1848.  In February 1848 a treaty was signed in which Mexico agreed to cede claims to Texas, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, and parts of Wyoming and Colorado.  The U.S. assumed $3 million in American claims and paid Mexico $15 million.

D. Gadsden Purchase , 1853.  Following negotiations by James Gadsden, U.S. minister to Mexico, the United States paid Mexico $10 million for 29,640 acres of land that are not   part of New Mexico and Arizona.  Texas had claimed sovereignty over this same territory after it won independence from Mexico.

E. Alaska , 1867.  Russia sold 591,004 square miles to the United States for $7.2 million.

The site of world’s first planned capital city, Washington, D.C. , was chosen in 1790 and encompassed a 100-square-mile area on the Potomac River .  Virginia contributed about 30 percent of the land for the establishment of the capital and Maryland provided 70 percent.  Virginia’s portion was returned to the state in 1846.

Snake River Canyon (Hell’s Canyon), on the boundary between Idaho and Oregon, is the world’s deepest ravine, at 7,900 feet.

Los Angeles, California , is the world’s only major city with a mountain range running through its center.

Washington’s Olympia Peninsula is the rainiest place in the contiguous United States, followed closely by southern Louisiana.

The world’s shortest river, the D, connects Devil’s Lake in Oregon with the Pacific Ocean.  At low tide it’s only 440 feet long.

Christopher Columbus discovered several Caribbean islands, including Cuba and Puerto Rico, from 1493 to 1496.

. Hernán Cortés conquered the Aztecs between 1519 and 1521, establishing Mexico City on the site of the Aztec capital.  This became the ruling center for all of New Spain, which eventually extended north, far into the present-day United States.

Central America is geographically considered the southern portion of North America.

Cuba gained its independence from Spain primarily through the intervention of the United States, which went to war with Spain in 1889 following the sinking of the battleship USS Maine in Havana harbor.  By the terms of the treaty ending the Spanish-American War, Cuba became an independent republic under American protection.

**U.S. states with Indian names:**

Alabama, from the name of a tribe in the Creek confederacy

Alaska, the Russian version of the Aleutian (or Eskimo) word meaning “peninsula,” “great lands,” or “land that is not an island”

Illinois, from the Algonquin word meaning “warriors” or “men”
 Michigan, from the Chippewa word meaning “great water,” referring to Lake Michigan

Mississippi, from the Chippewa word meaning “great river”; the Algonquin word messipi also means “great river”

Wisconsin, believed to be Chippewa for “grassy place”.

Tennessee, from the name of Cherokee villages on the Little Tennessee River.

Texas was used by Caddo and other Native American tribes to mean “friend” or “ally.” (The Texas state motto, in fact, is “friendship.”)

Other state names based on Native American languages include Connecticut, from Mohican and other Algonquin words meaning “long river place”

Dakota (North and South) is a Sioux word meaning “friend” or “ally”

Idaho is a Kiowa Apache term for the Comanche, according to one theory, although it may also be a coined word with an invented meaning (“gem of the mountains”)

Kansas, Sioux for “south wind people”

Massachusetts, from the name of a tribe named after “large hill place”

Minnesota, a Sioux word meaning “cloudy water” or “sky-tinted water” for the Minnesota River

Missouri, an Algonquin word meaning “muddy water,” referring to the Missouri River

Nebraska, from an Omaha or Otos word meaning “broad water” or “flat river,” describing the Platte River

Ohio, an Iroquois word meaning “fine or good river”

There are about 25 active or potentially active volcanoes in Chile and Colombia alone.  The world’s highest volcano, Guallatiri (19,900 feet), is in Chile.

Bolivia & Paraguay are the only two landlocked countries in South America.

Brazil, Colombia, and Ecuador are crossed by the equator.

Chile and Ecuador are the only 2 South American nations that don’t border Brazil.

After nearly 70 years of Communism, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics officially ceased to exist in December 1991, when 11 former Soviet republics constituted themselves as the Commonwealth of Independent States.  On the verge of civil war, the Republic of Georgia did not participate in the formation of the Commonwealth, although it did send an observer to the negotiations.  The Baltic States also chose not to join after they finally gained international recognition of their independence.  Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania did not want any ties with the former Soviet republics.

The Commonwealth of Independent States does not unite the republics into a single nation with a central government.  Initially formed by the Slavic republics of Belarus (formerly Byelorussia), Russia, and Ukraine, it is a loose association of sovereign nations dedicated, in large part, to reversing the political and economic chaos that developed in recent years.  The top governmental body is a council of heads of state and government, assisted by committees of republic ministers in such areas as defense and economics.

The independent states officially recognized as founders of the Commonwealth include the Republic of Armenia, the Azerbaijani Republic, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, and Ukraine.  (Although much of the Commonwealth officially extends into Asia, we are including discussion of all of the republics here.)

Hawaii is actually a 1,500–mile-long chain of islands, the tops of submerged volcanic mountains, with a total land area of more than 6,400 square miles.  The U.S. state of Hawaii officially includes the eight major islands—Hawaii, Oahu, Maui, Kauai, Niihau, Lanai, Molokai, and Kahoolawe.  The more than 100 northwestern Hawaiian Islands (except for Midway) are an administrative part of Hawaii.  The island of Kauai is the wettest spot in the United States, with an annual rainfall of 444 inches.  The state capital, Honolulu, is on the island of Oahu.

Every day 16 million barrels of oil are exported by the Middle East, enough to fill a soft drink can with oil for everyone on earth, or to power every motor vehicle on earth for 25 miles.

The oldest nations in the world (based on percentage of people 60 and over as a % of the total population): Italy (25% aged 60 or over); Japan (23%); Germany (22.5%); Greece (22%); Sweden (21%). About 17% of the USA population is 60 or over. The youngest nations in the world are: Niger (3% over 60); Uganda (4%), Kenya (4.5%); Egypt (7%).

AIDS global statistics: A recent UN study predicts that 70 million people will die of AIDS by 2020. Thus far, there have been 20 million worldwide deaths and there are currently 40 million known cases. In southern African nations, 20% of adults are HIV positive. In Botswana and Zimbabwe, over 35% of pregnant women are HIV positive. The number of cases of AIDS in southern Africa will double in just 5 years, to a total of 60 million. Only 4% of AIDS patients currently receive medicine, and $10 billion will be needed annually (primarily from the richest nations) to medicate those who already have the disease.

Starvation in sub-Saharan Africa is also a major social problem. The worst hit nations are Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, and Angola. In Zimbabwe, half of the population (6 million) will depend on food aid sometime during 2002, and 5 million of these need help immediately. Three million in Malawi require immediate food aid .Zambia not only has trouble feeding its own citizens, but 300,000 political refuges from Angola and Congo have been uprooted and lack the means to produce food. Malawi’s government is highly corrupt, like most governments in the region, and recently stole 167 tons of emergency grain.

The 9 largest companies in the world (2202): Wal-Mart, Exxon-Mobil, GM, British Petroleum, Ford, Daimler Chrysler, Shell, GE, Toyota, Mitsubishi

Highest and lowest rankings on the Human Rights Index (life expectancy, education, per capita income, etc.): Highest ranked in the world (in descending order): Norway , Sweden , Canada , Belgium , Australia , USA , France , Britain , Germany , Hong Kong . Lowest ranked in the world (from lowest to next lowest, etc.): Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Botswana, India, South Africa, Equatorial Guinea, China, and Turkey)

National statistics for percent of children born to unwed parents: Iceland (65%), Sweden (55%), Denmark (48%), France (42%), Britain (40%), Finland (38%), USA (33%). The 3 lowest are: Japan (1%), Greece (5%), Italy (9%)

The 27 least developed nations in the world are all in Africa.

Former colonies of the United Kingdom include: the USA , India , Hong Kong , Singapore , Rhodesia ( Zimbabwe ), Australia , New Zealand , Malaysia , South Africa , and much of East Africa .

As the direct result of mandatory birth control in China over the past 20 years, there are currently 117 boys born for every 100 girls. This gender ration is even more lopsided in certain areas of China, such as in southern Hainan province, where there are 135 boys for every girl. This has resulted in a current shortage of 50 million females. Shortage of marriage partners for men has become a significant problem in many rural areas of China. In numerous villages, 80% of children between the ages of 5-10 are boys, giving rise to the new social problem of “incest villages.” In 1990, female births were down 500,000 compared with 1980. In 2000, there were 900,000 fewer registered female births. Sonograms has made it much easier to detect the gender of fetuses and hence to abort females.

In 2002, average life expectancy in 16 African nations was at least 10 years lower than it would have been without AIDS. HIV/AIDS is also exacerbating Africa’s food crisis, threatening about 38 million people with starvation.

Though Africa carries the greatest burden of disease, the epidemic is growing fastest in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, where it is linked to intravenous drug use, high unemployment, and crumbling public health facilities. In Russia, up to 90 percent of registered infections are due to drug use.

Nearly 4 million people are infected in India. In all, China reports an estimated 1 million infections, with drug use and heterosexual transmission continuing the spread.

Only 4 percent of those who need treatment in low- and middle-income countries receive it. The price of anti-retrovirals has fallen dramatically, from $10,000-12,000 a year per person in early 2000 to $350 by December 2001. The world’s poorest, however, cannot afford even this.

Global cigarette production fell to 5.6 trillion pieces in 2002, a decrease of 0.5 percent over 2001. Per capita output to 897 cigarettes per person a year.

Of the more than 1.1 billion smokers world wide, 82 percent live in low- or middle-income countries. Between high population growth and aggressive tobacco marketing campaigns in these regions, most of the growth in smoking is expected to occur in these nations—a development that will increasingly burden public health systems already straining from a lack of resources and from diseases like AIDS.

Currently, smoking kills 4.9 million people a year—one in 10 adult deaths—from a range of illnesses that includes heart disease, various forms of cancer, and stroke. By 2030, experts foresee smoking becoming the leading cause of death, responsible for 10 million deaths a year—of which 7 of every 10 would occur in low- or middle-income countries.

In the United States, cigarettes cost $76 billion a year in health care expenditures and another $82 billion in lost productivity.

In 1960, the per capita gross domestic product (GDP) in the 20 richest countries was 18 times that in the 20 poorest countries, according to the World Bank. By 1995 the gap between the richest and poorest nations had more than doubled—to 37 times.

Between 1980 and the late 1990s, inequality also increased within 48 of 73 countries for which good data are available, including China, Russia and the United States.

Inequality remained constant in 16 countries and decreased in only 9: France, Norway, the Bahamas, Honduras, Jamaica, Malaysia, Tunisia, South Korea, and the Philippines.

The most dramatic surges in inequality have occurred in nations in transition from Communist rule to market-based economies.

Of all high-income nations, the United States has the most unequal distribution of income, with over 30 percent of income in the hands of the richest 10 percent and only 1.8 percent going to the poorest 10 percent.

The richest 5 percent of the population has experienced the greatest percentage gain in income, and within that group, the top 1 percent gained more than the next 4 percent.

The difference between the compensation of corporate chief executive officers (CEOs) and the pay of factory workers is gaping and growing steadily in the United States. In 2001, executives of surveyed corporations in the United States made more than $11 million—some 350 times as much as the average factory worker. And this earnings differential grew more than fivefold between 1990 and 2001.

Today, the U.S. gap is at least 10 times greater than the differential in other industrial nations, where tax laws and cultural norms have prevented huge increases in executive pay.

The average executive compensation of $11 million in the United States compares with the average pay of factory workers of $31,260.

Cannabis is by far the most widely grown, sold, and consumed illicit drug. It is cultivated in an estimated 120 countries, compared with 35 countries where opium poppies are grown and just 6 with coca production.

Coca—a bush whose leaves, which are used to make cocaine is grown primarily in Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia. These three nations produce 98 percent of the world’s cocaine, and Colombia alone is responsible for over 75 percent of global production.

In 2001, however, Afghan production plummeted by 94 percent—from 3,276 to 185 tons—after the ruling Taliban banned poppy cultivation. As a result, production at the global level dropped by 65 percent, from 4,700 tons to 1,600 tons. More recently, opium growers have taken advantage of the power vacuum created by the fall of Taliban regime and the U.S.-led war to once again make that nation the world’s largest producer of opium poppies—with an estimated production of 3,400 tons in 2002.

With recent instability in Afghanistan, the “Golden Triangle” of Southeast Asia, defined by Myanmar, Laos, and northern Thailand, has reemerged as an important opium production center.

Analysts estimate global illicit drug sales at between $300 billion and $500 billion each year, compared with just over $300 billion in annual drug sales for the pharmaceutical industry. In some countries the illegal drug trade generates more money than any other single legal industry. In Colombia and Mexico, for instance, drug exports rival revenues from oil, the top legal export. Bolivia’s estimated coca and cocaine exports in the early 1990s were half the size of the nation’s total legal exports. A 1998 estimate found that marijuana was the fourth most lucrative crop in the United States, after corn, soybeans, and hay, and the biggest grossing crop in several states.

The largest profits in the drug business come at the retail end, with an estimated 90 percent or more of the final sale price going to local dealers and often a minuscule share going to the farmer.

In Mexico, many farmers are turning to opium or marijuana because their corn and other crops cannot compete with cheaper imported food.

An estimated 2-5 percent of Peru’s work force and between 8 and 17 percent of Bolivia’s work force—in other words, hundreds of thousands of people—are directly employed in drug production or processing. One analysis, suggests this share approaches 50 percent in Colombia’s centers of coca production.

185 million people worldwide use drugs each year, roughly 4.3 percent of the population over the age of 15. This includes at least 147 million marijuana users and roughly 13 million users of cocaine and heroin. Use tends to be highest among men, single people, the unemployed, and people aged 15 to 35.

North America and Western Europe remain the first and second largest markets respectively, for illegal drugs.

At the beginning of 2002, roughly one out of every 300 persons on Earth—19.8 million people in all—were classified as “people of concern.” Of this total, 12 million were officially recognized as refugees.

The other nearly 8 million included 940,800 asylum seekers, 462,700 returned refugees, 5.3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), 241,000 returned IDPs, and 1 million others “of concern.” 50 million people were environmental refugees.

Developing countries produced 86 percent of the world’s refugees over the past decade, but at the same time they also provided asylum for 72 percent of the global refugee population. Asia hosted the largest overall refugee population (5.8 million).

Acupuncture is provided by 77 percent of the pain clinics in Germany; in the United Kingdom, 46 percent of doctors, recommend patients get acupuncture elsewhere or perform it themselves.

At the end of 2001, an estimated 13.4 million, children under the age of 15 in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean had lost a parent to AIDS.

By 2010, the number of children orphaned by AIDS is projected to reach 25 million. Most of these children—20 million of them—will live in sub-Saharan Africa.

Botswana and Zimbabwe will be the hardest hit by 2010, with orphans due to AIDS accounting for nearly 90 percent of all children who have lost a parent; in Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland, and Zambia, the figure is expected to top three quarters.

Projections for Asia indicate that by 2010, orphans due to AIDS will number 4.3 million, accounting for 7.5 percent of all orphans.

In 1999, two thirds of 57,000 people polled in 60 countries…believed that their country was not governed by the will of the people. Three fourths of citizens in Central and Eastern Europe believed that most or all of their public officials were corrupt.

A study of transition economies in Eastern Europe and Central Asia found that gross domestic investment averaged 20 percent less in countries with high corruption compared with countries with medium levels of corruption.

A parliamentary committee in the Philippines calculated in 2002 that corruption costs that government some $1.9 billion annually—twice the size of the national education budget. The World Bank estimates the cost of corruption in Colombia at $2.6 billion a year.

In Indonesia, a recent study found that many of the logging concessions, covering more than half of the nation’s total forest area, were awarded by former President Suharto to relatives and political allies, that at least 16 million hectares of natural forest were approved for conversion to plantations, in direct contradiction of existing laws, and that corrupt officials allowed illegal logging, that accounted for some 65 percent of total supply in 2000.

In oil-rich Nigeria and Angola, public officials have used oil money for arms, and for personal gain. In July 2002, the family of Nigeria’s former dictator Sani Abacha agreed to return some $1.2 billion that he took from Nigeria’s central bank.

Since World War II…an estimated 170 million people have died in 250 conflicts. From April to July 1994…some 800,000 Rwandans—roughly 10 percent of that country’s population—were murdered during ethnic violence between Hutus and Tutsis. An estimated 10,000 ethnic Albanians were killed in Kosovo by the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, from March to early June 1999. On August 30, 1999, East Timor voted in favor of independence from Indonesia; following the vote, militia forces massacred hundreds, and possibly thousands, of East Timorese. And about 300,000 people perished under the rule of Idi Amin, the de facto President of Uganda from 1971 to 1979.

World military expenditures amounted to a conservatively estimated $839 billion in 2001,…this works out to $2.3 billion each day—almost $100 million an hour.

World military spending amounted to $137 per capita in 2001. More than three quarters of the total is spent by just 15 countries. The United States is now the world’s sole military colossus, accounting for 36 percent of all military spending—as much as the next nine biggest spenders combined.

The other nine countries can be grouped into two tiers. The first includes Russia, France, Japan, and the United Kingdom—together accounting for 21 percent of world spending. The second encompasses Germany, China, Saudi Arabia, Italy, and Brazil—with a combined 15 percent share.

The most militarized countries—with the highest per capita spending—are located in the Middle East. States in that region imported close to $190 billion worth of weapons from 1990 to 2001; Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf states accounted for almost two thirds of that sum.

**CURRENCY NAMES**

Baht: Thailand

Bolivar: Venezuela

Duetsche mark: Germany

Dinar: Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait

Dirham: United Arab Emirates

Dollar: US, Canada, New Zealand, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore

Drachma: Greece

Escudo: Portugal

Franc: France, Belgium, and Switzerland

Forint: Hungary

Guilder: Netherlands

Koruna: Czech Republic

Krona: Sweden

Krone: Denmark, Norway

Lira: Italy

Mark: Germany

Markka: Finland

Peseta: Spain

Peso: Mexico

Pound: United Kingdom, Lebanon, and Ireland

Punt: Ireland

Rand: South Africa

Real: Brazil

Renminbi: China

Ringgit: Malaysia

Riyal: Saudi Arabia

Rupee: India, Sri Lanka

Rupiah: Indonesia

Schilling: Austria

Shekel: Israel

Sucre: Ecuador

Won: South Korea

Yen: Japan

Zloty: Poland

**THE EASY WAY TO UNDERSTAND WORLD ECONOMIC SYSTEMS**

1. **Socialism**: You have two cows.  Give one to your neighbor.

2 **Communism**: You have two cows. Give both cows to the government, and they may give you some of the milk.

3. **Fascism**: You have two cows.  You give all of the milk to the government, and the government sells it.

4. **Nazism**: You have two cows. The government shoots you and takes both cows.

5. **Anarchism**: You have two cows.  Keep both of the cows, shoot the government agent, and steal another cow.

6. **Capitalism**: You have two cows.  Sell one cow and buy a bull.

**EXAMPLES OF RECENT INTERNATIONAL MERGERS AND JOINT VENTURES**

Note: > indicates corporate takeover/buyout        + indicates a voluntary joint venture between companies

Vodafone Air-Touch (British, mobile phone company) > Germany’s Mannesmann = world’s largest mobile phone company.  Vodafone also has JVs with Ericsson & Nokia (Sweden) and IBM to provide Internet services on mobile phones.

Stora Enso (Swedish-Finnish paper company) > Consolidated Papers (USA) for $6.5B

Havas (France) > Snyder (USA) for $2.1B to create the world’s 4th largest advertising agency

Alcatel (French telecom maker) > Newbridge Networks (Canadian telecom) for $7.1B

Deutsche Bank (Germany) + SAP (software company) + AOL Europe to provide financial services online

Time Warner (USA) > EMI (Britain) to become the world’s record company

France Telecom > Global One (dissolved JV between Sprint + Deutsche Telecom)

Italtel (Italian telecom maker) + Cisco (America’s largest networking equipment maker)

Gemplus (French smartcard maker) + Texas Pacific Group (American venture capital firm) to help Gemplus penetrate the U.S. credit card market

Boehringer Ingelheim (German drug company) > SSP (Japanese drug firm)

Glaxo Wellcome > SmithKline Beecham (USA companies that now form the world’s drug company)

Pfizer > Warner-Lambert and American Home Products (all USA) to form the world’s second largest drug company

PwC (PriceWaterhouse + Coopers & Lybrand) is now the world’s largest auditing firm

LaFarge (French building materials & cement supplier) > Blue Circle Industries (Britains’ largest cement firm) to form the world’s largest cement company

Toyota + GM to produce GM’s Onstar in-car communications system

America Online > Time Warner to produce the world’s largest general media company

Groupe Danone (France) > McKeeson Water Products (USA)

Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria (Spain) + Terra Networks (USA) + Telefoncia (Spain’s leading telecom company) to bring Internet banking to Latin nations

Renault > Samsung

Ford > Daewoo

T-Online (Internet provider owned by German Deutsche Telekom) > Club Internet (owned by France’s Lagardere Group)

European Aeronautic Defence and Space, a subsidiary of the JV between DaimlerChrysler Aerospace (Germany) + Aerospatiale Matra (France) + Casa (Spain)

Sara Lee (USA) > Courtaulds Textiles (Britain) to acquire CT’s underwear product group

MCI WorldCom > Sprint (USA), worth $180B

Rogers & Wells (New York) + Punder, Volhard, Weber & Axster (Germany) + Clifford Chance (London) to produce the world’s largest law firm

Pacific Century Cyberworks (Hong Kong) > HKT (Hong Kong) for $36B

Cap Gemini (France) > Consultant division of Ernst & Young (USA) for $11.1B

PowerGen (British energy company) > LG&E (USA utility in Kentucky) for $3B

Sears (USA) + Carrefour (France) to form the GlobalNetXchange, an internet system to link retailers and suppliers

Tata Tea (India) > Tetley Tea (Britain)

GM (USA) acquired 20% stock in Fiat (France) for $2.4B

Sema (French computer services) > LHS (USA mobile phone software firm) for $4.7B

Chase Manhattan Bank (USA) > Robert Fleming (British investment bank)

Scottish & Newcastle (Britain’s largest brewer) > Danone (French food group) for $2.6B

BASF (German chemicals company) > Cynamid (owned by USA’s American Home Products) for $3.8B

France Telecom > MobilCom (German mobile phone company) for $3.6B

EM.TV (German television company) > 50% share of Formula One racing (USA) for $1.65B

DaimlerChrysler (Germany) > 33% stake in Mitsubishi (Japan) for $1.3B

Deutsche Bank (Germany) > Dresdner Bank (Germany) for $1.2T, creating the 2nd largest bank in the world

MeritaNordbanken (Norway) > Unidanmark (Denmark) for $5.7 B

Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria (Spain) > Uno-E and First-E (Ireland)

QXL (British Internet auction company) > Bidlet (Norway)

C&N Touristic (German travel firm) > Thomson Travel (Britain's largest tour company)

Nokia & Ericsson (Sweden) + Motorola (USA), developing technolgy for a single standard for e-commerce on mobile phones

Pacific Century CyberWorks (Hong Kong) + Telstra (Australia), $3B Internet venture

Volvo (Sweden) > Renault (France) trucking divisions

Unilever (British-Dutch) > Slim Fast Foods (USA), $2.3B

Unilever (British-Dutch) > Ben & Jerry's ice cream, $326M

Unilever (British-Dutch) > BestFoods (USA), $18.4B

ING (Dutch bank) > ReliaStar (America's 11th largest life insurance company), $6.1B

HABC (British bank) + Merrill Lynch, to produce the first global online retail bank

Siemens (German manufacturer) + Robert Bosch will buy Atecs (engineering subsidiary of German Mannesmann)

Nomura International bank (Japan) > Hyder (Welsh utilities company)

Thomson (Canadian publisher) > Primark (U.S. information company) for $842M

Ford > Volvo for $6.5B

Old Mutual (South Africa) > United Asset Management (USA)

Vivendi (French media & utilities group) > Seagram (Canadian media & distillery) for $34B

Deutsche Telekom (German phone service company) > Powertel (U.S. mobile phone company) for $6B

Deutsche Telekom (German phone service company) > VoiceStream (U.S. mobile phone company) for $30B

**NATIONAL PER CAPITA GDP COMPARISONS**

Algeria   $1,592

Argentina $8,810

Australia $21,750

Austria $26,740

Belgium $25,670

Brazil   $3,280

Bulgaria $1,530

Canada  $22,394

Chile   $4,950

China   $790

Colombia $1,795

Czech Republic $5,580

Denmark $32,576

Egypt   $1,499

Estonia  $3,778

Finland  $27,979

France  $24,956

Germany  $27,337

Greece  $11,860

Hong Kong  $18,400

Hungary  $ 5,180

India   $     540

Indonesia  $840

Iran     $1,050

Iraq   $313

Ireland  $26,510

Israel   $16,100

Italy   $21,393

Japan   $30,720

Jordan  $1,229

Kazakhstan  $1,020

Kenya   $292

Latvia   $2,794

Lebanon  $5,769

Lithuania  $2,865

Malaysia  $3,808

Mexico  $5,040

Netherlands  $27,200

New Zealand  $14,310

Nigeria  $450

Norway  $35,853

Pakistan  $430

Philippines  $1,033

Poland  $4,290

Portugal  $11,621

Romania  $1,480

Russia   $1,410

Saudi Arabia $  6,560

Singapore  $17,870

Slovakia  $3,920

South Africa  $3,150

South Korea  $9,040

Spain   $14,623

Sweden  $28,417

Switzerland  $36,166

Taiwan  $13,832

Thailand  $2,140

Turkey  $3,120

Ukraine  $590

United Kingdom $23,947

United States $33,946

Venezuela  $4,410

Vietnam   $367

**INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT INDIA**

Did you know that in India:

One million babies are born each month (1.1 billion total population)

More babies are born annually than there are people in Australia

There are 15 languages and nearly 1000 dialects

India will be larger than China In 100 years

The Indian elephant weighs almost 11,000 pounds, stands more than 10 feet high, eats 500 pounds of forage a day, and drinks 50 gallons of water a day.

**TOUGH REALITIES AND INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT RUSSIA**

Russia 's birth rate is among the lowest in the world (1.17 children per woman vs. a replacement rate of 2.14). Having children is a passport to poverty and worry in Russia.

Abortion is the main form of birth control in Russia.  One-third of Russian women are infertile as a result.

Two thirds of Russian men smoke, and they drink twice as much as Americans.

Russian men now have an average life span of 60, down from 64 in 1991.

The number of Russians who have contracted syphilis (the best predictor of future AIDS outbreaks) is 100 times higher than in the West.  It is predicted that 10 million Russians will be HIV positive in just a few years.

The Nazi’s exacted a horrible toll on the Soviet people.  Some estimates place the Soviet battlefield deaths at more than 13.6 million.  Civilian deaths, including in labor camps and concentrations camps, totaled another 7.7 million.  With more than 21.3 million military and civilian deaths, almost every family in the Soviet Union lost a loved one.

Rather than risk the crime, bribery, and out-of-control taxation of Russia, many international companies are setting up shop just outside the Russian border.  Acer built its new plant at Lappeenranta , Finland —less than 13 miles from the Russian border.

In Moscow, restaurant employees had to be specially trained to smile in the friendly McDonald’s way.  That’s because Russians do not feel comfortable smiling at strangers.

It is a good idea to have on hand a large supply of business cards when meeting Russians.  The university degree of the business visitor should be included on the card and it should be printed in Cyrillic (the Russian alphabet).  At negotiations involving many C.I.S. officials, be sure to give a card to everyone present, in order not to overlook someone who might turn out to be important.

If you need to give a business gift, items that appeal to the intellect or aesthetics are particularly prized, such as recordings, art prints and books.

**INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT EUROPE**

English explorer James Cook sailed around the world twice, made three voyages to the Pacific Ocean and discovered Hawaii, eastern Australia, the Cook Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, and the Antarctic ice cap.

Iceland has only 56,000 people.  Population density is 7 people per square mile.

The Danube river runs through or touches more countries than any other river on earth, including Ukraine , Moldova , Romania , Bulgaria , Yugoslavia , Croatia , Hungary , Slovakia , Austria , and Germany .

Germany has the largest population in Europe.

Multicultural Brussels has become a favorite locale for test marketing.  There are few European cultures more different than the Dutch and the French, and both are represented in Brussels.  A product that can appeal to both is likely to be a winner. The population of Belgium is largely split between the Flemish and the Walloons.  The Flemish speak a dialect of Dutch.  The Walloons speak French.

The 3 regions of France most famous for producing world-class wine are Burgundy, Champagne , and Bordeaux .

Sweden was recently connected to the European continent by a trans-ocean bridge in Denmark.

Germany did not form as a European nation until 1871.  Germany is bordered by ten countries (France, Luxembourg, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland).

Each of following firms has been controlled by Sweden’s Wallenberg family.  The Wallenberg group controls more than 35% of the capitalization on the Swedish stock market.  This is the largest share controlled by one family in any industrialized country in the world: Stora-Great (the world’s oldest company); Electrolux (the world’s biggest manufacturer of household appliances); ASEA Brown Boveri (the world’s biggest electrical engineering company); SKF (the world’s biggest maker of ball bearings); Ericsson (the telecommunications giant;) Saab-Scandia (the automotive and aerospace manufacturer).

Coca-Cola tried to introduce the two-liter plastic bottle in Spain, but market entry was difficult.  The company soon discovered that few Spaniards had refrigerator doors with compartments large enough to accommodate the large-size bottle.

In the 1990s one in five doctors and one in three mathematicians left Poland.

Europeans and South Americans write the date with the day first and year last.

Amsterdam has over 1000 bridges.

Denmark controls Greenland.

Scandinavian capitals:

Sweden:  Stockholm

Norway:  Oslo

Finland:  Helsinki

Denmark:  Copenhagen

Netherlands:  Amsterdam

The 2 most northern capitals in the world are Helsinki, Finland and Reykjavik, Iceland.

France is the largest European nation geographically.

The Mediterranean is the world’s largest inland sea.

Switzerland and Austria are the 2 most mountainous nations in Europe.

Ireland ’s longest river is the Shannon .

Belgium and the Netherlands have the highest population density.

The Berlin Wall stood 29 years (1961-1990)

The most heavily used waterway in Europe is the Rhine River.

Switzerland has the world's highest per capita income.

France is the largest agricultural producer in Europe.

France and Portugal are the #1 and #2 wine producers in Europe.

A third of the land in the Netherlands has been reclaimed from the sea.

Per capita income for EU nations in 2000 expressed on a base number of 100 (where the EU average = 100): Luxembourg = 181.7 (meaning that the average income in Luxembourg is 81.7% higher than the EU average per capita income); Denmark = 118; Ireland = 117; Netherlands =

116; Austria = 114; Belgium = 113; Germany = 111; Finland = 109; Britain = 102; Sweden = 101; France = 100; Italy = 96; Spain = 82; Portugal = 77; Greece = 65

The river that inspired Johann Strauss’s “Blue Danube” waltz flows through Austria, Hungary, and former Yugoslavia

Interesting facts about the introduction of the Euro in 2002:

Throughout the EU, 14 billion bank notes (worth $132 billion) had to be delivered for the introduction of the Euro, and 37.5 billion coins (weighing 340, 000 tons, equal to the weight of 24 Eiffel Towers). It would have required 478,000 vans to distribute the cash in a single day. Just the Euro bank notes received by Germany would have been 50 times higher than Mount Everest.

The 6 new Euro coins replaced 70 different national coins previously used in the 15 member nations.

Galeries Lafayette, a French food retailer, had to supply 25,000 cash registers with the new currency and convert 15,000 weighing scales. The company's total conversion cost was estimated at 150 million Euros.

Polls showed that two thirds of Europeans suspected that retailers would try to cheat them in initial price conversions.

Conversion to a common currency quickly made visible unwarranted price differentials throughout Europe on a wide range of common products.  For example, a kilo of beef in Paris cost 15 Euros in Paris vs. 21 in Amsterdam vs. 9.9 in Madrid.  A movie theater ticket cost 8 Euros in Brussels vs. 24.3 in Helsinki.  Aspirin that cost 3.7 Euros in Athens cost 12.9 in Rome and Berlin.

Travel consultants recommend that non-Europeans use a credit card for purchases in the Euro's first year to avoid possible overpayment due to currency confusion.

Germany lost its African colonies in the peace settlement following World War I.

Italy lost Abyssinia (now known as Ethiopia) with its defeat in World War II.

Spain collected an empire that covered most of Central and South America and scattered places in Asia. The Spanish Empire was essentially over by the end of the nineteenth century,

The Portuguese Empire, roughly one hundred times the land area of Portugal at its greatest extent, was the earliest European colonial regime, and the latest. Portugal lost its African colonies in the mid-1970s, and finally gave up its last handful of Asian soil, Macao, in 1999.

The Dutch Empire, at one point fifty-five times bigger than the Netherlands, was taken over in 1942 by the Japanese, who carefully studied European colonial methodology and then bested their teachers in the first months of World War II.

Belgium controlled a swath of Africa roughly eighty times as big as Belgium, but lost its last foreign holding in 1960,

France, with foreign colonies twenty times as large as France itself, fought and lost a series of colonial wars following World War II. Paris gave up in Southeast Asia in the 1950s; the north and central African colonies peeled off in the 1960s.

 Percentage of their national wealth they give away in foreign aid—

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Nation** | **ODA as a percentage of GDP** |
| Denmark | .96% |
| Norway | .89 |
| Sweden | .83 |
| Netherlands | .81 |
| Luxembourg | .77 |
| Belgium | .43 |
| Ireland | .40 |
| France | .38 |
| Japan | .23 |
| United States | .13 |

A bridge and tunnel joined the main islands of Denmark to the Jutland Peninsula, the long thumb of land jutting northward from the heart of Europe into the Baltic. The 4-billion-euro “Oresund Fixed Link”—a bridge, a tunnel, and an artificial island to connect them—spanned ten miles.

The European Union officially described itself as “an area without internal frontiers.” In a treaty signed at Schengen, Luxembourg, in 1985, the member states agreed to eliminate border controls between EU countries—

Today, in the EU, it is basically illegal to compile, keep, or pass on personal information about anybody without written consent from each individual whose records are on file. Every company, European or foreign, that has a record on any European customer must give those customers a periodic warning that information is being held, and the right to check the corporate records to make sure the personal date is accurate. The EU rules essentially prohibit many practices that are considered the basic stuff of business in the United States. They make it hard—in fact, nearly impossible—for companies to collect or trade basic data about customers, including name, address, phone number, buying history, and credit history.

An American farmer is shipping crop all over the world; if you don’t follow the EU rules, you lose some of the best markets we’ve got.” Europeans view “Frankenfoods” as if they contained anthrax or cyanide. Relatively few American farmers share this alarmist view, and yet large numbers of them refuse to go anywhere near the new generation of genetic hybrids.

France has developed the most advanced transit infrastructure on earth—with sleek TGV trains racing everywhere—to get people out of their cars. France has shut down so many fossil-fueled power plants that the country now gets more than three-quarters of its electricity from nuclear power.

Small country marks the dividing line between Europe’s Latin and Germanic languages.

Contrary to common usage, “Holland” is not interchangeable with “the Netherlands.” Rather, North Holland and South Holland are constituent states of the country. The Holland region, on the North Sea (“Zuider Zee”) coast, is actually below sea level.

Luxembourg with a higher ratio of banks to people (one bank company for every 2,500 residents) than any other nation. That explains the astronomical per capita income figure of almost $50,000, the highest of any nation. Residents of the Grand Duchy like to paint its national motto on the walls: “We want to remain what we are.”

Norway doesn’t use much oil itself, because the rivers running down from its glacier beds provide most of the nation’s electricity through hydropower. Thus virtually all of Norway’s oil production can be exported. That helps explain why Norway ranks second only to Luxembourg among the European nations in per capita wealth. The Norwegians are doing so well on their own that they show minimal interest in joining the EU.

Austria spends more of its national budget on opera than on its military.

Slovenia is the only piece of the former Yugoslavia to qualify for EU membership.

With a budget in excess of $150 billion and some 30,000 Eurocrats (or *fonctionnaires*, to use the preferred Brussels terminology) on the EU payroll,

members are constantly fighting among themselves and dividing into smaller parties. The Parliament is the most democratic branch of Europe’s government; the only way to get in is to be elected by the people of your home district. The parliament, frankly doesn’t do much. There are some policy areas—environmental law and public health law, for example—where the member nations have ceded some of their legislative authority to Brussels; The parliament has some control over the budget, and it must vote on appointments to the commission.

Thick reports from the various EU committees and commissions and study panels—many of them hundreds of pages long—have to be printed twenty different times, one for each language.

“The United Nations has only six official languages. No other international organization would pay the price we do for interpretation and translation.”

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|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Euro note** | **Era** | **Color** |
| 5-euro | Classical (Greco-Roman) | Gray |
| 10-euro | Romanesque | Pink |
| 20-euro | Gothic | Blue |
| 50-euro | Renaissance | Orange |
| 100-euro | Baroque-Rococo | Green |
| 200-euro | Iron and glass | Yellow |
| 500-euro | Twenty-first-century postmodern | Lavender |
|  |  |  |

The manufacture and delivery of this brand-new money—about 600,000,000,000 euros in cash was required for the initial rollout that began on New Year’s Day—turned out to be the biggest logistical exercise Europe had seen since World War II. There were about 51 billion new coins to mint and ship, and some 14.5 billion bills to print and distribute…if all the bills were stacked in a pile, they would tower fifty times higher than Everest, the total weight of the new coins was heavier than twenty-four Eiffel Towers. Virtually every delivery van in Europe—not to mention tens of thousands of military vehicles—had to be pressed into euro duty to get the bills and notes where they had to be. Some banks had to shore up their aging floors to bear the weight of the old coinage being handed in together with the new euro coins to be handed out.

Jeep made by a subsidiary of Germany’s DaimlerChrysler. Shell and Texaco stations in the United States are both run by the Netherlands oil company Royal Dutch Shell.

Dunkin’ Donuts is the property of Allied Domecq, A British beverage conglomerate. The diet drink Slim Fast belongs to the Dutch-British packaged goods company Unilever. Baby Ruth is made by a subsidiary of the Swiss food and candy titan, Nestle, as are Power Bars and Alpo dog food. Snapple is owned by Britain’s Cadbury-Schweppes. The Holiday Inn chain belongs to the hotel/motel holding company Six Continents…A British firm Miller Lite is one of several American beers owned by a SAB Brewers, a multinational operation with headquarters in Britain. Bazooka gum is now a product of Badbury-Schweppes, as is A&W Root Beer.

Tom Clancy, John Grisham, and Philip Roth are all published by European-owned companies. The Verizon cellular phone network is an American subsidiary of the British giant Vodafone, the world’s biggest operator of cellular networks. Brooks Brothers is part of a broad network of fashionable stores owned by Italy’s Retail Brand Alliance. Lean Cuisine is a Nestle product, and Ben & Jerry’s belongs to Unilever. Dr. Pepper belongs to Cadbury Schweppes. The Travelodge motel chains is part of the portfolio of Britain’s Compass hotel group.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Brand** | **Country** |
| Archway Cookies | Italy |
| Hellman’s Mayonnaise | Netherlands |
| Hawaiian Punch | U.K. |
| Snapple | U.K. |
| Dove Soap | Netherlands |
| Vaseline | Netherlands |
| Pennzoil | Netherlands |

Motown Records was bought by a French company. Britney Spears’s label, Zomba, belongs to the German media giant Bertelsmann. Squirt, Country Time Lemonade, Welch’s grape juice, RealLemon, Chicken Tonight, Dreyer’s ice Cream, and even I Can’t Believe It’s Not Butter are now European-owned. Quaker State Motor Oil is part of the Royal Dutch Shell. RCA belongs to Germany’s Bertelsmann. The *American Heritage Dictionary* was published by a subsidiary of the French media from Vivendi.

**INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT LATIN AMERICA**

Every day in Mexico City, 11,000 tons of pollutants are dumped into the air.

The Bolivian government has had more changes over the past 150 years than any other nation in the world:  190 changes

Olympia reportedly tried to introduce a photocopier in Chile under the name ROTO.  The copiers, however, did not sell well.  Why?  Two possible explanations:  (1) roto is the Spanish word for “broken,” and (2) roto is the word used to delineate the lowest class in Chile.

Chile has an average width of slightly more than a hundred miles and a length of twenty-seven hundred miles.

Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Columbia, and Peru are members of the Andean Pact.  The members of MERCOSUR (the Southern Common Market) include Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay.

Most of Brazil’s 146m live within 200 miles of the coast 90% of the people live on 10% of the land.

Because of its stability and tradition of democracy, Costa Rica (the name means Rich Coast) has long been known as the “Switzerland of Central America.”  The Costa Ricans (who call themselves ticos) are proud of their peaceful traditions.  Costa Rica does not even have an army.

A U.S. executive went to Chile for a final negotiating round with the owner of a major Chilean corporation.  Unfortunately, the gentleman from the U.S.A. wore a heavy gold ring with a diamond, plus a gold watch.  The Chileans interpreted this jewelry as proof that the American was in business to amass personal wealth, and furthermore had the poor taste to display it.  The Chilean contract went to an Italian firm.

The Aztecs were the last great empire, but the Spanish conquered them in 1591.  The Spanish, who ruled until the 19th century, virtually destroyed the Aztec culture.

In 1493, Columbus arrived in the region now known as Puerto Rico and claimed the island for Spain, calling it San Juan Bautista.  In 1508, Spanish settlers began colonizing the island, and they began importing African slaves in 1513.  During this period of colonization, the indigenous Taino tribe was virtually wiped out.

In 1898, during the Spanish-American War, the United States invaded the island of Puerto Rico and defeated the Spaniards.  Spain ceded the island to the U.S. in that year.  Puerto Rico became the first colony of the United States.

In 1917, Puerto Rico became a U.S. territory, and its people were granted citizenship.

The issue of commonwealth status has been volatile and has sometimes caused violence to erupt.  In 1954, militants from Puerto Rico shot several congressmen in Washington during a session of the House of Representatives.  Today, Puerto Ricans continue to be divided over the issue of whether to request statehood or remain a commonwealth.

La Paz , Bolivia (12,000 feet) is the highest capital city in the world.

The full name of the city of El Paso is El Paso Del Norte.

The Andes are the world’s largest mountain chain.

Kidnapping of business executives in developing countries is a growing problem, and foreign executives should consider themselves at risk.  Never assume that you are safe because your company is small or your position is unimportant; criminals have frequently kidnapped the wrong people.  Kidnap and ransom insurance is recommended; policies not only pay ransom but the cost of security consultants to handle negotiations and the kidnap victim’s loss of income. As the country with the most kidnappings in the world, insurance premiums for Colombia are the most expensive.

The seven nations of Central America are:  Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama.

There are 31 states in Mexico.

Paraguay is the least developed nation in South America because it is landlocked.

Ecuador is the only South American nation that straddles the equator.

The following diseases brought by the Spanish conquistadors wiped out the Ameridians:  Smallpox, typhoid fever, measles, flu, and the mumps.

The 6 states Mexico yielded to the U.S. in the 1846-1848 war were:  Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Wyoming.

Columbia is the only South American nation with coastlines on both the Pacific and Caribbean.

The Andes cut Chile off from the rest of South America.  Isolation is a fact of life even within Chile itself; the deserts of Northern Chile are a long way from the rainy hills of Southern Chile.

Lake Titicaca (in the Andes between Peru and Bolivia) is the world’s highest lake above sea level.  (12,507 feet)

Batista ruled Cuba before Castro.

Mexico’s largest mountain range is the Sierra Madre.

If Brazil were as densely populated as Belgium, all of the world’s population would fit into Brazil.

The Christ the Redeemer statue is located on top of the mountain Corcovado in Brazil.

The Mayan civilization was located in Guatemala.

Buenas Aires, Argentina is the largest city south of the equator.

Bolivia is the only South American nation named after its founder.  (Simon Bolivar)

South America has 13 nations.

The length of the presidential term in Mexico is 6 years.

The 4 largest exports of Mexico are oil, cotton, shrimp, and coffee.

Angel Falls in Venezuela is the tallest waterfall in the world.

**INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT ASIA**

The first hydrogen bomb was detonated in the Bikini Atoll of the Marshall Islands.

**Indonesia** is made up of 13,760 islands that stretch 3,200 miles; only 6,000 of the islands are inhabited. Indonesia has more than 60 ethnic groups, each with its own customs, culture and language.  The Javanese people form the largest group. Indonesia became a Dutch colony in 1816 and remained under Dutch rule until the1940s. Independence from the Netherlands was proclaimed in August 1945. A republic was formed under President Sukarno. People usually shake hands only when introduced for the first time or when congratulating someone. On other occasions, it isn’t customary to shake hands.  Shake hands lightly and state your name when first meeting someone.  If someone touches her/his heart while shaking hands that means that the greeting is very heartfelt and that the person being greeted is very special.  It is appropriate to bow slightly when greeting an older person. Women usually do not shake hands. The atmosphere of most business meetings may be informal.  Do not voice criticism at a meeting. It is always given in private. Most Indonesian businesses close for two to three hours in the middle of the day.  Business and government offices close at midday on Friday for worship. Indonesians do business with “friends.”  Developing a rapport and a friendship is crucial. While quality and price are important, they remain secondary to the personal interaction of the business partners. There are no sales without face-to-face negotiation.

The Dutch followed the Portuguese into **Malaysia** in 1641, and were, in turn, followed by the British, who acquired the island of Penang in 1786.  By 1795, the British had taken over most of the Malay peninsula’s west coast.  By the early 20th century, Britain had gained control of all the Malay states including those on Borneo as colonies or protectorates. The period after World War II was marked by a 12-year Communist insurrection, which led to Great Britain granting independence to Malaysia in 1957.  The nation was then called the Federation of Malaya. Six years later the Federation of Malaya and the former British colonies of Singapore, Sarawak and North Borneo (Sabah) united to become Malaysia.  Tension between the Malay-dominated government in Malaya and the Chinese-dominated government in Singapore led to the creation of an independent Singapore in 1965. Malaysia has two different and distinct land regions:  the Malaysia Peninsula and East Malaysia, which is located on the island of Borneo. Malaysia is a multi-ethnic country:  the Chinese people are the predominant residents in urban areas as well as in business, and Malays (mostly Muslim) predominantly live in rural areas.

The **Philippines** is a collection of 7,107 islands.  Many of these islands are uninhabited.  Most of the population is on 11 main islands, of which Luzon and Mindanao are the largest. José Rizal, a Filipino writer and a patriot, inspired a revolt against Spain in 1896.  At the same time, Spain and the U.S. were engaged in war.  When Spain lost the war, they handed over the Philippines to the U.S. On July 4, 1946, the Philippines became an independent republic with a constitution based on the U.S. model. In the Philippines, 80 different languages are used, including some Spanish.  While Tagalog (or Filipino) has been declared the official language, it has failed to replace English as the country’s unifying language.  English is widely spoken and is the de facto national language in law, commerce, government and popular entertainment. Remember that Filipinos almost never cook anything by itself, except for fish, which is broiled or grilled.  Chicken, fish, vegetables and noodles are all combined in soups and stews and then served with rice.  The rice and food are mixed together on the plate and bagoong or patis are added.  Bagoong is a pungent fish or shrimp paste; patis is an amber-colored liquid fish seasoning.  In homes, there will be bottles of these two condiments on the table, while in restaurants they are added to the food in the cooking.  Filipino food tends to be sweet or salty, rather than bland or intensely spiced. Don’t be surprised to see men or boys holding hands with one another (or women and women).  The gesture has no sexual implications.  In contrast, physical contact with members of the opposite sex have no such implications. Remember that in the Philippines, raising the eyebrows means “No.” Don’t be surprised if a Filipino smiles when upset or embarrassed.  This is the Filipino way of changing the atmosphere during a difficult moment or situation.

**Singapore** is an island nation located off the tip of the Malaysian peninsula.  Singapore is actually a city-state without any truly rural areas. Three major cultures (Chinese, Malay and Indian) are all represented in Singapore.  About 75% of the population has a Chinese heritage. Singapore’s strategic location and natural deep-water ports attracted the British in the early 19th century.  In 1819, Sir Stamford Raffles established a British trading post on the island.  Britain acquired it as a possession in 1824. Singapore became a British Crown Colony in 1948.  Internal self rule was granted in 1959.  It became part of Malaysia in 1963.  But this caused domestic political problems and the island became independent in 1965. In 1993, Singapore revamped and enhanced the office of the president, to which Ong Teng Cheong was elected later that year.  He and Prime Minister Goh have maintained a hard line against anyone critical of Singapore or its government.  They believe that authoritarian means are justifiable when the ends are economic prosperity and a safe, clean environment.

A number of military dictators have ruled **Thailand** over the last few decades.  A popular revolt in 1973 overthrew Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn and Prapas Charusathiara, who had annulled the constitution and declared martial law two years earlier.  A civilian-led government lasted only three years. Although the gap between the rich and the poor is large, the Thai economy is one of the fastest growing in East Asia.  The government has taken on environmental problems and infrastructure development is moving ahead.  It remains to be seen whether the military can be kept out of politics, and whether a stable democracy will emerge.  Another major issue is AIDS, as Thailand has the fastest growing infected population in Asia.

At the end of World War II , **Vietnam** was divided into two zones.  In the south, the British restored French rule; in the north, China ceded power to Vietnam’s emperor, Boa Dai,who abdicated in favor of Ho Chi Minh.  Ho Chi Minh declared Vietnam’s independence in1946 and subsequently led a revolt against the French and their southern allies.The French were defeated in 1954 at Dien Bien Phu. The U.S., alarmed at the possibility of the spread of Communism, gave support to South Vietnam, including troops and supplies. The war spread to Cambodia and Laos. The war ended with the withdrawal of U.S. troops and the fall of Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City) in April 1975.  Vietnam, as well as Laos and Cambodia, came under Communist rule.  Thousands of people fled the area.  For those who remained, difficult years of repression, poverty and isolation followed. Vietnam was officially reunited in 1976 as the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.  The U.S. refused to recognize the new government and did not establish diplomatic ties.  This kept Vietnam relatively isolated from Western nations. In 1978, Vietnam invaded Cambodia deposing the Pol Pot regime and installing a government loyal to Hanoi.  In 1989, Vietnam withdrew from Cambodia. During the same period,  Vietnam fought off a Chinese invasion. The Communist leaders of Vietnam introduced market reforms in 1986 and stepped up its efforts to improve relations with their non-communist neighbors as well as with the West. The peace treaty with Cambodia led the U.S. to renew relations with Vietnam.  The U.S. opened a diplomatic office in Hanoi in 1991 to coordinate the search for American MIAs (missing in action) and to pave the way to better relations.  Economic sanctions were lifted on February 4,1994 and full diplomatic relations were announced in July 1995.

**PER CAPITA INCOMES OF THE RICHEST NATIONS IN THE WORLD:**

Luxembourg: $44,500

USA: $35,900

Bermuda: $34,400

San Marino: $33,900

Cayman Islands: $32,600

Switzerland: $31,700

Norway: $31,600

Belgium: $28,965

Denmark: $28,963

Canada: $28,932

PER CAPITA INCOMES OF THE POOREST NATIONS IN THE WORLD:

East Timor: $436

Sierra Leone: $481

Somalia: $529

Congo: $579

Burundi: $$581

Tanzania: $594

Gaza Strip: $612

Ethiopia: $680

**REALITIES IN DEVELOPING NATIONS**

In Haiti it takes 203 days to register a new company versus two days in Australia.

In Sierra Leone is costs 1,268% of the average person’s annual income to register a business.

To register a business in Ethiopia, the owner must deposit the equivalent of 18 years’ average income in a bank account, which is then frozen.

In Legos Nigeria recording a property sale involves 21 processes and takes 274 days. Official fees are 27% of the cost of the property (versus 2.5% of the property price in Norway).

Businesses in developing nations face three times the administrative costs and twice as many bureaucratic procedures as companies in developed nations.

In Burkina Faso, night and weekend work are forbidden. In order to fire someone the employer must first retrain him, then place him in another job, and pay 18 months’ severance wages. This is one reason why 90% of people in this nation still have agricultural jobs.

In Turkey, women who marry are allowed a year to decide whether to quit a job. If they do quit, their company must give them a large severance package, so Turkish firms hire almost all men (only 16% of Turkish women have jobs).

In Guatemala it takes an average of 1459 days to force a debtor to pay up (versus 48 days in the Netherlands). In 12 developing countries, it costs more to reclaim a debt than the amount of the debt itself.

**GLOBAL ECOLOGICAL REALITIES**

There are currently 6.1 billion people in the world.

Deforestation in the tropics has occurred at the rate of one acre a second over the past 20 years.

Fifteen to 20% of all species in the world may be extinct by 2000, due mostly to tropical deforestation.

An area about the size of Maine is rendered barren every year by deforestation.

At the present rate, carbon dioxide will double in the atmosphere circa 2050 raising the world’s average temperatures near the equator 2-3 full degrees Celsius.

From the dawn of history to 1900 the global population reached 1.5 billion. Over the next 33 years the population doubled; in the past 25 years global population increased 50% from 4 to 6 billion, with nearly all occurring in the developing world.

Five to 6 billion pounds of pesticide are released into the global environment each year.

Thirty-three—50% of all the world’s forests are now all gone and about half of wetlands.

The agricultural productivity of a fourth of all usable land has been significantly degraded due to mismanagement and overuse.

More than a third of the world’s land surface has been converted to human use, and an additional third could be converted to human use in the current century.

In 1900 the world had 16 cities with a population of a million or more. Currently there are 400 such cities, nearly 100 of them in China.

Sixty percent of native fish species in the US wetlands are either extinct or in risk of extinction.

The global catch of fish has consistently declined every year since 1988.

Between 1960—1990 about 20% of the world’s total tropical forest cover was lost.

About 15% of the Brazilian Amazon rain forest (an area equal to the size of France) has been lost to deforestation. An area about the size of Connecticut is being cleared every year, mostly illegally.

About 2.5 billion pounds of toxic wastes are released annually in the USA.

More than 1/3 of US rivers and half of lakes are currently too polluted for either fishing or swimming.

Global warming has been caused by the cumulative effects of several greenhouse gases that have built up steadily in the atmosphere: carbon dioxide from fossil fuels and deforestation; methane from fossil fuels and agricultural activities; nitrous oxide from agriculture and the chemical industry (especially CFCs).

Since the 1970s the floating Arctic icecap has thinned by almost ½. It diminished about 10% annually in the 1980s and 1990s, a rate that will lead to its complete disappearance in the next 2-3 decades.

The US now contributes the same amount of greenhouse gases as the 2.6 billion people living in 151 developing nations.

With just 36 percent of the global population, Africa and Southeast Asia account for 75 percent of deaths from such diseases.

As the world’s single largest contributor to carbon emissions, the United States is doing more than any other nation to warm the global atmosphere. It is therefore striking that the United States has abandoned the Kyoto Protocol to combat climate change while most of the world is moving forward to adopt it.

World grain production has more than doubled since 1961, mainly due to farmers harvesting more grain from each hectare.

The average harvest of grain from a given hectare has more than doubled worldwide.

China, India and the United States alone account for 46 percent of global production. Europe, including the former Soviet states, grows another 21 percent.

The United States is responsible for at least one third of the global corn harvest.

Global grain production exceeded consumption between 1996 and 1998, but the harvest has slipped below demand for the last four years.

Meat production has doubled since 1977, and over the last half-century it has increased fivefold.

Yet two thirds of the gains in meat consumption in 2002 occurred in developing countries.

The United States produces and consumes the most poultry in the world, and Brazil is the world’s largest producer of beef and its second-largest consumer, behind only the United States.

The United States uses about 26 percent of global oil.

China accounts for 23 percent of global coal use.

Global average temperature climbed to 14.52 degrees Celsius in 2002, supplanting 2001 as the second hottest year since recordkeeping began in the late 1800s.

Scientists have linked the warming trend that took oil in the twentieth century to the buildup of carbon dioxide (CO2) and other heat-trapping gases. By burning fossil fuels.

There was an 18-percent increase in CO2 levels from 1960 to 2002. Scientists estimate that levels have risen 31 percent since the onset of the Industrial Revolution around 1750.

The gross world product (GWP) in 2002 was $48 trillion.

In the United States, per capita GDP grew 77 percent from 1975 to 2000

Humanity is withdrawing resources 20 percent faster than Earth can renew them.

Humans have fully exploited or depleted two thirds of ocean fisheries and have transformed or degraded up to half of Earth’s land.

More than half of the debt is owed to private, commercial lenders; the rest is owed, to national governments, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and regional development banks.

Some 78 percent of the debt in 2001 was owed by middle-income nations.

The IMF has proposed a Sovereign Debt Restructuring Mechanism (SDRM) as a bankruptcy process to streamline the restructuring of developing-country debt that would be similar to what is in place within many countries for companies and municipalities.

The total external debt of some nations is higher than they will be able to repay. This “debt overhang” deters foreign investment and drags down the economy as governments fail to meet people’s basic health and education needs. Zambia devoted more than 30 percent of its budget to debt repayments each year in the 1990s, for example, while spending roughly 10 percent on basic social services.

Starting in the late 1980s, through the Paris Club, creditor nations announced a series of special terms for poor nations struggling with high debt—offering longer repayment periods and canceling some debts. Then in 1996 the Group of Seven industrial nations called on the World Bank and the IMF to administer a Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) program which was expanded in 1999, largely in response to pressure from a coalition of nongovernmental organizations called Jubilee 2000.

Some 42 countries, mostly in Africa, can qualify for debt relief after they show a track record of reforms to promote macroeconomic stability and draw up a poverty reduction strategy in consultation with civil society groups.

Global advertising expenditures in 2002 were $444 billion

The United States at $235 billion accounts for over half of the total advertising market.

Japan is the second largest advertising market and buys 12 percent of major media advertising. Germany, the third biggest market and the largest one in Europe.

In 2001, for 5 of the top 10 advertisers were car companies.

American children are bombarded wit 40,000 television ads per year, up from 20,000 in the 1970s.

To reduce children’s exposure to marketing several countries, including Denmark, Greece and Belgium, restrict television advertising to children; Sweden and Norway totally ban it.

Tourism-related spending accounted for some $4.2 trillion of global economic activity in 2002.

Since 1950, annual car production has grown fivefold. Production of sport utility vehicles and other “light trucks” reached a record 15.8 million in 2002.

In the United States, model-year 2001 light trucks emitted 2.4 times more smog forming pollutants and 1.4 times more carbon than passenger cars.

A gasoline-powered car accounts for about 68 percent of the greenhouse gases emitted.

Producing and distributing the fuel on which it runs accounts for another 21 percent.

Fuel economy has remained flat since 1990 in the United States, after substantial improvements since the early 1970s.

In 1970, Americans drove some 80 million cars close to 1 trillion miles burning 5.25 million barrels of fuel per day. By 2000, there were about 128 million cars—60 percent more. They traveled 2.3 trillion miles (a growth of 146 percent), consumed 8.2 mb/d of fuel (up 56 percent) and emitted 302 million tons of carbon.

Opportunity for some and a source of increasing pressure and anxiety for many more. The world economy has grown sevenfold since 1950.

People go hungry not because of a scarcity of food, but because they are too poor to buy enough.

A substantial share of world grain supplies is sold as food not for hungry people but for livestock.

Poverty and inequality manifest themselves in highly unequal educational opportunities, heightened vulnerability to preventable and curable diseases, and a gaping digital divide. For the poor, this translates into underfunded social programs due to crushing foreign debt burdens, greater exposure to armed conflict and human rights violations, and heightened susceptibility to natural disasters.

Between 1960 and 1995, the disparity in per capita income between the world’s 20 richest and 20 poorest nations more than doubled from 18 to 1 to 37 to 1.

Growth under conditions of high inequality brings few benefits to the “have-nots,” does little to reduce poverty, and may even constrain future economic growth. In addition, corruption saps economic development and skews public investment away from the priority areas of education and health that are most likely to reduce poverty.

In Mexico, Peru, and Colombia, farmers are turning to drug crops like opium, coca, or cannabis because their food crops cannot compete with cheaper, mass-produced imports.

Global deforestation accounted for 10-20% of carbon (the chief culprit in global warming) released into the air during the 1990s.

Road development over the next 20 years in the Amazon region could cause 30-40% deforestation.

In the twentieth century, global sea level rose 10-20 centimeters, averaging 1-2 millimeters per year. The sea level rises from melting continental ice masses and from the expansion of the oceans due to climate change.

Over the next century, global sea level rise is expected to accelerate. The sea level will rise 9-88 centimeters in the next 100 years, with a mid-estimate rise of 50 centimeters. This translates into 5 millimeters per year—two to four times faster than during the twentieth century.

Accelerated sea level rise brings up the possibility that, for the first time in history, an entire sovereign country could be lost due to environmental change. The height of low-lying atolls, like those in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, rarely exceeds 2 meters, with maximum heights of 3-4 meters. New Zealand has drawn up a plan to accept immigrants from the tiny Pacific island country of Tuvalu, where residents fear losing their homes to future sea level rise. And the Indian Ocean nation of the Maldives—has evacuated residents from four of the lowest lying islands to larger ones over the past few years.

While the long-term threat to these islands is inundation, the more immediate and pressing problems are those associated with storm surges, flooding, coastal erosion, saltwater intrusion into freshwater supplies, coral bleaching, and economic attrition.

Prevention of soil erosion worldwide would require something on the order of $24 billion annually; the elimination of starvation and malnutrition, $19 billion; reproductive health for all women, $12 billion; safe, clean drinking water, $10 billion; prevention of acid rain, $8 billion; and elimination of illiteracy, $5 billion. Although these are substantial sums, they pale in comparison with the funds being made available for military purposes.

World population, growing by 76 million people every year (about 240,000 people per day), will pass 6.4 billion this year. There will be about 8.9 billion people on Earth by 2050. And, total population will begin to shrink over the next hundred years.

The annual rate of population growth has decreased since 1970—from about 2 percent to 1.3 percent today—*the rate is applied to a much larger population* than ever before.

Populations in the world’s 48 least-developed countries could triple by 2050.

Half the world’s original forest cover is gone and another 30 percent is degraded or fragmented.

An estimated 10-20 percent of the world’s cropland, and more than 70 percent of the world’s rangelands, are degraded.

Over 100 million girls will be married before their 18th birthdays in the next decade, some as young as 8 or 9. Early childbearing is the leading cause of death and disability for women between the ages of 15 and 19 in developing countries.

Two-thirds of the world’s 87 million illiterates are women and a majority of the 11 million children not attending grade school are girls.

Each year: 23 million unplanned births; 22 million induced abortions; 1.4 million infant deaths; 142,000 pregnancy related-deaths (including 53,000 from unsafe abortions); and 505,000 children losing their mothers due to pregnancy-related causes.

Family size has declined in most wealthy nations.

At about 280 million people, the United States is now the third most populous nation in the world and its population is expected to reach 400 million by 2050. If every person alive today consumed at the rate of an average person in the United States, three more planets would be required to fulfill these demands.

The world supply of oil would last approximately 50 years at current production rates. The global natural gas supply is considered adequate for about 50 years and coal supplies for at least 100 years. U.S. reserves may be depleted in as little as 20 years.

90 percent of U.S. oil resources already have been mined. U.S. net imports of oil rose to about 53 percent of total consumption in 2002 and are still going up.

The 2000 census put the sex ratio at 117 boys to 100 girls, China may have as many as 40 million single men by 2020. Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates have male-to-female ratios ranging between 116:100 and 186:100.)

105 boys to every 100 girls, which is the international average.

Shanghai was the first region in China to have negative fertility growth.

Of the 34 countries on the UN list of Low Human Development indicators, all but four are in Africa. This inevitably means that illiteracy rates are high, infrastructure is inadequate, and health services are rudimentary. In 2002 Africa’s total debt stood at $204 billion, 64 percent of GDP.

In sub-Saharan Africa as a whole, only 17 percent of married women are using contraceptives, as against 50 percent in North Africa and the Middle East, 39 percent in South Asia, 76 percent in East Asia and the Pacific and 68 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean.

About one-third of the world’s population already lives in countries with moderate to high water stress. In Africa agriculture supports 66 percent of the population.

Pregnancy and unsafe abortion are the leading causes of death among women of reproductive age in most African countries.

Deaths due to HIV/AIDS in Africa will soon surpass the 20 million Europeans killed by the plague epidemic of 1347-1351.

The incubation period for HIV infection to develop into AIDS, which is up to 10 years in men, is believed to be shorter in women.

Despite the ongoing conflicts and disheartening statistics on AIDS, the outlook for Africa is improving.

The average age of retirement in Western Europe was 65 in 1960, but is 60 today. In the United States the average age of retirement was 66 in 1960, but is down to under 63 today.

In 1950, the average overall birth rate in the European union was still above replacement at 2.7. Today it is 1.5 and falling. Similar rates are now observed in Japan, China, and Russia. In the United States, the birth rate is just above 2, in part because many of the country’s Latino immigrants still prefer large families. If current trends continue, the working-age population of Europe will fall by 18 percent (40 million people) by 2050, while the corresponding U.S. group will increase by a similar amount. In that period the average age of the German population will increase to 54, while the average American will still be only 35.

In 1798, the average life expectancy was probably no more than 35.

In 1889, the average life expectancy was 48.

Now, the life expectancy of Europeans, Japanese, and Americans alike is around 77.

The U.S. has 4% of the global population but contributes 25% of global warming.

The American is half the size as it was 50 years ago but American homes are twice as large.

**AMERICAN MISTRENDING-1**

* The financial wealth of the top one percent of households now exceeds the combined wealth of the bottom 95 percent.
* The wealth of the *Forbes 400* richest Americans grew by an average $940 million each from 1997-1999 while over a recent 12-year period the net worth of the bottom 40 percent of households declined 80 percent.
* For the well-to-do, that's an average increase in wealth of $1,287,671 per day. If that were wages earned over a 40-hour week, that would be $225,962 an hour or 43,876 times the $5.15 per hour minimum wage.
* The Federal Reserve found in its latest survey of consumer finances that although median family net worth rose 17.6 percent between 1995 and 1998, family wealth was "substantially below" 1989 levels for all income groups under age 55.
* From 1983-1997, only the top five percent of households saw an increase in their net worth while wealth declined for everyone else.
* As of 1997, the median household financial wealth (marketable assets less home equity) was $11,700, $1,300 lower than in 1989.
* Anticipated Social Security payments are now the largest single "asset" for a majority of Americans. Funded by a levy on jobs, the Social Security payroll tax is now the largest tax paid by a majority of Americans (the largest for 90 percent of GenXers), funded with a flat tax of 12.4 percent on earnings up to $72,600.
* For the first time since the Great Depression, the national savings rate turned negative (during the first quarter of 1999).
* What about the largest intergenerational transfer of wealth in history -- that $12 trillion in the hands of baby-boomers' parents? Current wealth patterns indicate that one-third of that pending transfer will go to 1 percent of the boomers ($1.6 million each). Another third will go to the next 9 percent ($336,000). The final slice will be divided by the remaining 90 percent (an average $40,000 apiece).
* The richest 400 Americans hold wealth equivalent to one-eighth of the GDP.
* The average wealth of the *Forbes 400* was $200 million in 1982, just after the enactment of the Reagan-Bush "supply-side" tax package - paid for with $872 billion in deficit financing. By 1986, their average wealth was $500 million.
* In 1982, inclusion on the *Forbes 400* required personal wealth of $91 million. The list then included 13 billionaires. By 1999, $625 million was required for inclusion on a list that included 268 billionaires.
* The federal debt was $909 billion in 1980. At the close of the Reagan-Bush era, the debt was $4,202 billion. It currently hovers around $5,700 billion.
* Government debt securities are owned dominantly by upper-crust households. The latest figures show that tax-exempt interest was reported on 4.9 million personal tax returns for 1997, about 4 percent of all taxpayers. Total tax-exempt interest income was $48.5 billion in 1997.
* The combined net worth of the *Forbes 400* topped $1 trillion in September 1999, up from $738 billion 12 months earlier, for an average one-year increase of $655 million each ($12.6 million per week).
* Less than one-fifth of that increase ($48.4 billion) would have been enough to bring every American up to the official poverty line, leaving each of the *Forbes 400* with an average one-year increase of $534 million ($10.2 million per week).
* While the number of households expanded 3 percent from 1995 to 1998, households with a net worth of $10 million or more grew 44.7 percent.
* Eighty-six percent of stock market gains between 1989 and 1997 flowed to the top ten percent of households while 42 percent went to the most well-to-do one percent.
* If Congress adopts Martin Feldstein's proposal for the partial privatization of Social Security, the U.S. Treasury will pump budget surpluses equal to 2.3 percent of the national payroll into the stock market each year. That's $100 billion-plus per year in tax revenues to boost stock prices.
* In 1998 the top-earning one percent had as much income as the 100 million Americans with the lowest earnings.
* From 1983-1995, only the top 20 percent of households saw any real increase in their income while the middle-earning 20 percent, if they lost their jobs, had enough savings to maintain their standard of living for 1.2 months (36 days), down from 3.6 months in 1989.
* Economist Robert Frank reports that the top one percent captured 70 percent of all earnings growth since the mid-1970's.
* The Federal Reserve found that "median income between 1989 and 1998 rose appreciably only for families headed by college graduates."
* On an inflation-adjusted basis, the median hourly wage in 1998 was 7 percent lower than in 1973 - when Richard Nixon was in the White House.
* The pay gap between top executives and production workers grew from 42:1 in 1980 to 419:1 in 1998 (excluding the value of stock options).
* Executive pay at the nation's 365 largest companies rose an average 481 percent from 1990 to 1998 while corporate profits rose 108 percent.
* Had the typical worker's pay risen in tandem with executive pay, the average production worker would now earn $110,000 a year and the minimum wage would be $22.08.
* *Business Week* reports that in 1998 the average large company chief executive was paid $10.6 million, a 36 percent jump over 1997. That omits unexercised stock options.
* Compensation expert Graef Crystal identifies five CEOs who each saw their wallets widen by more than $232 million in 1998 as they exercised their stock options. For a 40-hour week, that's $116,000 per hour.
* The work year has expanded by 184 hours since 1970, an additional 4-1/2 weeks on the job for the same or less pay.
* Household working hours reached 3,149 in 1998, roughly 60 hours a week for the typical family, moving Americans into first place worldwide in the number of hours worked, nudging aside the workaholic Japanese.
* According to the Bureau of Labor statistics, the typical American now works 350 hours more per year than a typical European -- almost nine full weeks.
* More than 65 million anti-depressant prescriptions were written in 1998.
* Parents spend 40 percent less time with their children today than they did thirty years ago.
* A 40-hour week at today's minimum wage of $5.15 per hour nets a pre-tax annual income of $10,300. That's $6,355.00 below the official 1998 poverty line for a family of four.
* Had increases in the minimum wage kept pace with inflation since the 1960s, the minimum wage would now exceed the earnings of nearly 30 percent of U.S. workers.
* The after-tax income flowing to the middle 60 percent of households in 1999 is the lowest recorded since 1977. Among the bottom fifth of households, average after-tax income fell nine percent from 1977 to 1999.
* In New York, the highest-income five percent of families gained nearly $108,000 in average income per family from the late 1970s to the late 1990s, while the lowest-income 20 percent of New Yorkers lost $2,900.
* The Census Bureau reports that the pretax median income was $1,001 higher in 1998 than in 1989. For the decade of the 1990s, that's an average annual raise, adjusted for inflation, of $111.22, or 0.3 percent.
* According to the Census Bureau, the top fifth of households now claim 49.2 percent of national income while the bottom fifth gets by on 3.6 percent.

**AMERICAN MISTRENDING-2**

* Except for inflation adjustments, today's poverty formula remains unchanged since 1965 when it was designed by Lyndon Johnson to address severe nutritional deprivation but only if "the housewife is a careful shopper, a skillful cook and a good manager who will prepare all the family's meals at home."
* The national poverty rate remains above that for any year in the 1970's.
* One in every four preschoolers in the United States now lives in poverty.
* Bill Clinton reported a 12.7 percent poverty rate in September 1999, the lowest level in a decade.
* Raising the poverty threshold to $19,500 (as recommended by the Census Bureau) boosts the poverty rate to a record-high 17 percent, leaving 46 million Americans short of that minimal level.
* In 1998, the nation's three primary income security programs -- Social Security, Medicare and civil service pensions -- consumed $805.2 billion in federal tax revenues. Meanwhile, the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) reports that we need $112 billion to repair dilapidated public schools.
* In 1973, the United States imprisoned 350,000 people nationwide. By 1998, the prison population was 1.8 million or roughly 674 people in prison per 100,000, while Europe-wide the imprisonment rate is 60 to 100 per 100,000. Florida now spends more on corrections than on colleges. California spent nine percent of its 1998 budget on prisons as it responded to an 8-fold increase in its prison population over the past two decades. The Rand Corporation projects that California's prison spending will top 16 percent by 2005. In 1998, Disney CEO Michael Eisner received a pay package totaling $575.6 million, 25,070 times the average Disney worker's pay.
* In the same year (1998) when one American (Bill Gates) amassed more wealth than the combined net worth of the poorest 45 percent of American households, a record 1.4 million Americans filed for bankruptcy -- 7,000 bankruptcies per hour, 8 hours a day, 5 days a week. Personal bankruptcy filings topped 1.3 million in 1999.
* Since 1992, mortgage debt has grown 60 percent faster than income while consumer debt (mostly auto loans and credit cards) has grown twice as fast. The fastest growing segment of the credit card market consists of low-income holders, with the average amount owed growing 18 times faster than income.
* Nine years into the longest economic expansion in the nation's history, labor's share of the national income remains two to four percentage points below the levels reached in the late 1960's and early 1970's.
* Household debt as a percentage of personal income rose from 58 percent in 1973 to an estimated 85 percent in 1997.
* In 1997, 142,556 people reported adjusted gross income of $1 million or more, according to the IRS, up from 86,998 for 1995.
* For 1999, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projects that the top one percent will report average before-tax income of $786,000 and average after-tax income of $516,000.
* The top one percent pocketed, on average, an annual tax cut of $40,000 since 1977, an amount exceeding the average annual income of the middle fifth of households.
* If the richest one percent of the population had received the same share of the nation's after-tax income in 1999 as it did in 1977, it would have received $271 billion less in 1999 -- $226,000 less per household.
* Between 1977 and 1999, the after-tax income of the top one percent grew faster (115 percent) than their before-tax income (96 percent).
* In 1998, 9,257 new and existing homes sold for $1 million or more, triple the number of million-dollar homes on the market in 1995. Annual mortgage interest payments on a newly purchased $1 million home total $79,247 (assuming 10 percent down and a 30-year adjustable rate mortgage at 8 percent). The home mortgage interest deduction for someone in the top 39.6-percent tax bracket saves on that house $31,382 a year in federal income taxes. When that saving is added to the $40,000 average annual tax cut allowed the top one percent since 1977, that $1 million home costs $7,865 per year, or $655 per month.
* Federal tax law allows a personal income tax deduction on home mortgage interest costs up to $1 million. If that limit were reduced to $300,000, the CBO calculates that federal tax receipts would increase by $40.8 billion over nine years. In 1998, four percent of new mortgages exceeded $300,000.
* For every age group under 55, home ownership remains below where it was in the early 1980s. If your financial wealth is $225,000 (about 20 times the national median) and you give $1,500 to charity, how large a donation would be required for Bill Gates to experience a similar dent in his net worth? According to Wired magazine, $6.7 billion. That's almost seven times the amount he pledged in September 1999 to provide 20,000 minority scholarships over the next two decades. With the December 1999 completion of Windows 2000, the value of Gates's personally held Microsoft shares rose to more than $130 billion, almost 12 times the $11 billion or so in securities owned by all 33 million African-Americans combined.
* If an entry-level *Forbes 400* member gives away $1 million of their income, how much would a median-level household need to donate to make a similar financial sacrifice? A bit less than $60.
* The world's 200 richest people more than doubled their net worth in the four years to 1999, to more than $1 trillion, for an average $5 billion each. Their combined wealth (the top seven are Americans) equals the combined annual income of the world's poorest 2.5 billion people. Microsoft co-founders Bill Gates and Paul Allen plus Berkshire Hathaway's Warren Buffet have a net worth larger than the combined GDP of the 41 poorest nations and their 550 million people.
* Warren Buffet's 1999 net worth ($31 billion) equals the GDP of Kuwait.
* The wealth of the world's 84 richest individuals exceeds the GDP of China with its 1.3 billion people.
* If the value of Bill Gates's Microsoft stock continues to grow at the same pace as it has since Microsoft's 1986 initial public offering (58.2 percent a year), Wired projects he will become a trillionaire in March 2005, at the age of 49, and his Microsoft holdings will top $1 quadrillion (one million billion) in March 2020, at the age of 64. The Gross World Product for 1998 was $39,000 billion. The rate of child poverty in the U.S. is four times that of Western Europe. Among all industrialized countries, we’re #1. Number one in child poverty. Number one in the gap between rich and poor. Number one in unimmunized children. Number one in teen pregnancy. Number one in deaths by gunfire. Number one in poverty among the elderly. Number one in citizens without medical coverage.
* Nike pays Michael Jordan more to advertise their shoes than they pay all the workers in all the factories who make them. If Michael were willing to get by on just the several millions a year he gets for actually playing basketball, he could double the salary of all the women and children making Nike shoes.
* In 1952, the average factory worker had to work one day to earn the closing costs for a brand new home in Levittown, PA. In 1991, it took the average factory worker (if he was lucky enough to have a job) 126 days to earn the closing costs on the same (now 40-year old) house! What’s worse, the average factory worker now doesn’t make enough to qualify for a mortgage on that 40-year old tract house.
* In 1970, the median Philadelphia family paid $1,689 in income and social security taxes. In 1989, they paid $8,491. Meanwhile, the average taxes paid by millionaires went down by $436,389 each per year.
* In 1982, 75% of workers at companies with 100 or more employees had fully-paid health coverage. In 1989, only 48% of them were covered.
* The standard of living in this country is going down fairly rapidly. All too often both husband and wife must work, and many have two and three jobs, none of which have benefits or retirement plans. We used to be told productivity was everything. Has productivity gone down? In fact, productivity has been going up so fast that companies can get by with a small fraction of the work force they once employed.
* Manufacturing workers produce an average of $95,519 worth of product per year, or $1,837 per week. Of this, $330 goes to the worker, $64 goes to the government in taxes, and $1,443 goes to the corporation for overhead, interest, advertising, and profits. Corporate lobbyists try to get workers excited about the $64 in taxes they’re not getting. Nobody mentions the $1,443 per week they’re being "taxed" by the corporation. In the good old days, the average CEO made a salary 10 to 15 times that of the average factory worker. Today, they make 150 times as much!

Dunkin’ Donuts is the property of Allied Domecq, A British beverage conglomerate. The diet drink Slim Fast belongs to the Dutch-British packaged goods company Unilever. Baby Ruth is made by a subsidiary of the Swiss food and candy titan, Nestle, as are Power Bars and Alpo dog food. Snapple is owned by Britain’s Cadbury-Schweppes. The Holiday Inn chain belongs to the hotel/motel holding company Six Continent. A British firm Miller Lite is one of several American beers owned by a SAB Brewers, a multinational operation with headquarters in Britain. Bazooka gum is now a product of Badbury-Schweppes, as is A&W Root Beer.

Motown Records was bought by a French company. Britney Spears’s label, Zomba, belongs to the German media giant Bertelsmann. Squirt, Country Time Lemonade, Welch’s grape juice, RealLemon, Chicken Tonight, Dreyer’s ice Cream, and even I Can’t Believe It’s Not Butter are now European-owned. Quaker State Motor Oil is part of the Royal Dutch Shell. RCA belongs to Germany’s Bertelsmann. The *American Heritage Dictionary* was published by a subsidiary of the French media from Vivendi.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Brand** | **Country** |
| Archway Cookies | Italy |
| Hellman’s Mayonnaise | Netherlands |
| Hawaiian Punch | U.K. |
| Snapple | U.K. |
| Dove Soap | Netherlands |
| Vaseline | Netherlands |
| Pennzoil | Netherlands |

**FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF AMERICAN CORPORATIONS**

* Anheuser-Busch: Belgium
* Miller and Coors beer: South Africa
* 7-11: Japan
* French's mustard: Britian
* Citgo gas: Venezuelan government
* Frigidaire: Sweden
* Holiday Inn: Britain
* Shell gas: Netherlands
* Chrysler building in New York: Abu Dhabi
* Church’s Chicken: Bahrain
* Crown Plaza hotel, New York: Saudi Arabia
* Trader Joe: Germany
* Dial soap: Germany
* T-Mobile: Germany
* Toll House cookies: Swiss (Nestle)
* Many toll roads: joint ventures with construction companies in Spain, Australia, Canada

% Of American Industries Owned By Foreign Investors

* Sound recording: 97%
* Brokers for commodities: 79%
* Motion picture industry: 64%
* Wineries & distilleries: 64%
* Book publishers: 63%
* Rubber products: 53%
* Glass products: 48%
* Coal mining: 48%
* Sugar & confectionary products: 48%
* Advertising: 41%
* Pharmaceuticals: 40%
* Securities brokerage: 38%

**GLOBAL MISTRENDING**

* The UN Development Program (UNDP) reports that 80 countries have per capita incomes lower than a decade ago. Sixty countries have been growing steadily poorer since 1980. Three billion people live on less than $2 per day while 1.3 billion of those get by on less than $1 per day. In 1960, the income gap between the fifth of the world's people living in the richest countries and the fifth in the poorest countries was 30 to 1. By 1990, the gap had widened to 60 to 1. By 1998, it had grown to 74 to 1.
* With global population expanding 80 million each year, World Bank President Jim Wolfensohn cautions that, unless we address this "challenge of inclusion," 30 years hence we will have 5 billion people living on less than $2 per day.
* The UNDP reports that two billion people suffer from anemia, including 55 million in industrial countries. Current trends suggest that in three decades we could inhabit a world where 3.7 billion people suffer from anemia. UNDP's assessment of today's development trends: "Development that perpetuates today's inequalities in neither sustainable nor worth sustaining."
* In Indonesia, 61.7 percent of the stock market's value is held by the nation's 15 richest families. The comparable figure for the Philippines is 55.1 percent and 53.3 percent for Thailand.
* The world's 200 largest corporations account for 28 percent of global economic activity while employing less than one-quarter of one percent of the global workforce.
* Every jet fighter sold by a developed country to a developing country costs the schooling of three million children. The cost of a submarine denies safe drinking water to 60 million people.
* Experts report that the well-to-do have hidden at least $8 trillion in tax havens.
* If the international community identified the owners of that $8 trillion -- held in an estimated 1.5 million offshore corporations (up from 200,000 just since the late 1980s) -- an annual "freeloader levy" of 3.5 percent, less than the typical sales tax, could generate $280 billion each year. That's 165 times the current budget for all UN development programs. Or 93 times the UN's annual expenditure for peacekeeping operations, now raised pass-your-hat style. That's enough to build 140,000 schools at $2 million apiece. That's also the bulk of the $300 billion that environmental researchers at Cambridge and Sheffield Universities report would be required each year to "save the planet."
* Eighty percent of the world's people live in developing countries.
* Ninety-five percent of the next generation's children will be born to women there.
* Seventy percent of those women live on less than $1 per day.
* Ninety percent of those women labor on average 35 hours more per week than the typical paid workman. None of their work is reflected in the GDP.
* Women in developing countries produce 80 percent of the food and receive 10 percent of the agricultural assistance.
* Fifty percent of women over age 18 can neither read nor write.
* Less than one percent of the world's assets are held in the name of women.
* From 1977 to 1989 the top 1% (income over $350,000/yr) received 72% of the country’s income gains (while at the same time their taxes were cut $83 billion a year). During this same period, the bottom 60% of us actually had our incomes go down.
* From 1973 to 1993, wages of low income laborers (janitors, etc.) went down 15%. Wages of production workers went down 20%. Wages of young male high school grads went down 30%. Wages of middle-age men with 4 years of college went down 24%. And the total wages of those earning a million dollars or more a year shot up an average of 243% per year.

Bottom of Form

**GLOBAL ECOLOGY**

**GLOBAL GROWTH OR CANCER?**

1. 35% increase in the global population from 1980-2000
2. 40% increase in world energy use
3. 70% increased global consumption of meat
4. 45% increase in auto production
5. 90% increase global paper use
6. 100% increase in global consumer advertising

Americans use 18 times more of the world’s ecological resources than Indians. Thus, from an ecological perspective, America is the most over-populated nation in the world—by far.

The U.S. comprises just 6% of the global population but uses 25% of the world’s total ecological resources. India & China constitute half of the world’s entire population but consume only 20% of its total resources.

Americans consume over half of all the goods and services of the world, spending over $10 billion annually on pet food alone. The three richest Americans have assets that exceed the combined gross domestic product of the 48 least developed nations.

**AUTOMOBILE MILES PER GALLON COMPARISONS BETWEEN NATIONS:**

Japan: 48 MPG vehicle average

Europe: 42

China: 36

Australia: 32

Canada: 30

USA: 25

Americans use 20M barrels of oil a day—7B barrels annually. Without importing foreign oil, American oil reserves would last only 4 years. Americans drive 1/3 of the world’s 700M vehicles, but contribute almost half of greenhouse gases emitted by vehicles worldwide. This is because American cars get lower mileage compared to the rest of the world, drive farther distances, & use fuel with a higher carbon content.

Americans produce 472B pounds of trash annually, including 96B pounds of wasted food--more than 300 pounds per person. American landfills contribute the lion’s share of the 7M tons of methane gas (the chief cause of global warming) spewed by the world each year into the atmosphere. Americans receive 100 pieces of junk mail annually.

Filling up the 25-gallon gas tank of an SUV with ethanol (currently the alternative fuel source with the highest potential) requires over 450 pounds of corn, which is a year’s supply for one person. Because of unprecedented experimentation with ethanol, corn futures prices have zoomed over the past year, doubling the cost of corn tortillas in Mexico (which imports 80% of its corn from the U.S.). Since Mexicans derive most of their protein from corn, the higher tortilla prices presents a serious dietary challenge for many poor Mexican families

Average footprint size for nations = 2.3 hectares

World’s smallest footprint: Bangladesh (0.5h); China = 1.36h

The largest footprint: America = 9.57h

If all nations had the average footprint of 2.3, 1.5 earths would be needed; 25 earths would be needed if all nations had an American size footprint.

**HOW MUCH THE ECOLOGICAL CONSUMPTION OF DEFICIT NATIONS HAS EXCEEDED THEIR ECOLOGICAL “FOOTPRINT” (PER CAPITA SHARE OF NATURE) 1 hectare= 2.47 acres**

1. Britain: 205,000 hectares
2. Germany: 300,000 hectares
3. India: 320,000 hectares
4. Russian Fed: 350,000 hectares
5. Japan: 420,000 hectares
6. China: 460,000 hectares
7. USA: 970,000 hectares (3,745 square mile excessive footprint)

**TOTAL CO2 EMISSIONS IN MILLIONS OF TONS, 2005**

USA: 5817 million tons

China: 5101

Japan: 1214

India: 1147

Germany: 813

Canada: 549

UK: 530

Italy: 454

 SK: 449

France: 388

Whole world: 27,137 million tons

**PER CAPITA CARBON EMISSIONS (chief cause of global warming)**

1. India: ½ ton per person annually
2. China: 1.1 tons
3. Japan: 2.5 tons
4. Britain: 2.5 tons
5. Germany: 2.8 tons
6. USA: 5.2 tons per American

**PER CAPITA AMOUNT OWED TO THE WORLD BY DEFICIT NATIONS FOR WHAT THEY HAVE OVER-CONSUMED OF THE WORLD’S ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

1. Singapore: $127 per citizen (.4% of GDP) owed to the world
2. New Zealand: $252 (1.8% of GDP)
3. Canada: $252 (1.3% of GDP)
4. Australia: $317 (2.0% of GDP)
5. USA: $382 (1.8% of GDP)

**CHINA’S FOOTPRINT IS GETTING LARGER**

1. In 2006, China surpassed the U.S. as the world’s largest carbon dioxide polluter, due mainly to its large use of coal & cement as the energy staple of its booming 21st century economy.
2. However, America is still the world’s largest carbon polluter on a per person basis: 42,500 pounds of carbon emissions per American, vs. 10,000 pounds per Chinese.
3. The U.S. has been responsible for 27% of carbon currently “stuck” in the earth's atmosphere, vs. 20% for Europe & 8% for China.

**BAD MOON RISING**

**AMERICAN BUSINESS FRAUD IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM**

**“Enron era” accounting fraud scandals** (early 2000s): Enron; Arthur Anderson; KPMG; Deloitte & Touche; Ernst & Young; PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS; WorldCom (MCI); J.P. Morgan Chase; Citigroup; Merrill Lynch; Tyco; Adelphia Communications; IMClone; Qwest; Global Crossing; HealthSouth; “Freddy Mac”; Parmalat; Krispy Kreme Doughnuts; Dynergy; Rite Aid; Peregrine Systems; Adecco; TXU; Computer Associates; Global Crossing; Shell Petroleum; Royal Ahold (Europe); Parmalat (Europe)

**Mutual funds industry/Wall Street investment banks: financial manipulation/ stock sell-off backdating/”trade through rules” fraud** (mid-2000s)**:** Bear Stearns; Goldman, Sachs; Lehman Brothers; Morgan Stanley; J.P. Morgan; Merrill Lynch; Janus Capital; Citigroup; Credit Suisse; Apple Computer; Monster Worldwide; United Health Group; UBS Securities; Alliance Capital; Bank of America; Bank One; Charles Schwab; Citigroup; Federated Investors; Prudential Securities; Putnam Securities; Strong Capital Management; Baxter & Associates; UBS; AIG; Societe Generale; Dresdner Kleinwort Wasswestein; LaBranche & Co.; Spear, Leeds, & Kellogg; Flett Specialist;

Van der Moolen Specialist; Bear Waagner Specialists; Pilgram, Baxter & Associates; Franklin Resources; Canadian Imperial Bank; Federated Investors; Security Trust; Security Trust; Pimco Advisors; Fred Alger and Co.; Invesco; Prudential Securities; Charles Schwab; Citigroup Smith Barney; A.G Edwards; Bank One

**Ponzi schemes:** (late 2000s): (last names of perpetrators) Madoff ($50B); Petters Group Worldwide ($37B); Stanford (BU grad, $7B); Rothstein ($1.2B); Melbye, Coughlin, Harrison ($485M); Kiley ($190M); Vassallo & Kenitzer ($40M); Bledt (32M); Pimstein ($30M); Elkinson ($29M); Ossie ($25M); Wady ($25M); Russo ($20M); Pacheco ($15M); Hernandez ($11M); Morgan et. al ($11M); Regan ($9M)

**Non-profit organization scandals** (late 1990s-2000s): U.S. Homeland Security; U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); Arlington National Cemetery; United nations Food-for-Iraq Oil scandal under Saddam Hussein: Chevron; El Paso Gas; Ingersoll-Rand; Textron; York International; DaimlerChysler; Siemans; Volvo Construction; Taurus Oil

**Savings & loan industry wipeout** (mid-1980s): “Between 1980 and 1994 more than 1,600 banks insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) were closed or received FDIC financial assistance. From 1986 to 1995, the number of US federally insured savings and loans in the United States declined from 3,234 to 1,645. This was primarily, but not exclusively, due to unsound real estate lending. From 1986 to 1995, the number of US federally insured savings and loans in the United States declined from 3,234 to 1,645. The US government ultimately appropriated 105 billion dollars to resolve the crisis. After banks repaid loans through various procedures, there was a net loss to taxpayers of approximately $124 billion dollars by the end of 1999.The concomitant slowdown in the finance industry and the real estate market may have been a contributing cause of the [1990–1991 economic recession](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_1990s_recession). Between 1986 and 1991, the number of new homes constructed dropped from 1.8 to 1 million, the lowest rate since World War II.”

**Subprime mortgage derivatives global scandal** (late 2000s): Bear Stearns; Goldman, Sachs; Lehman Brothers; Morgan Stanley; J.P. Morgan; Merrill Lynch; Citigroup; Credit Suisse; “Fannie Mae”; “Freddie Mac”; Countrywide; Deutsche Bank; RBS Green; approximately insolvent 200 banks who participated in hyper-risky subprime mortgage derivatives

**Costs of bailing out (with taxpayer money) these fraudulent corporations/banks/weak U.S. companies to avoid a meltdown of the U.S. & global economy:**

$29 billion for Bear Stearns
$143.8 billion for AIG (thus far, it keeps growing)
 $100 billion for Fannie Mae
$100 billion for Freddie Mac
$700 billion for Wall Street, including Bank of America (Merrill Lynch),
Citigroup, JP Morgan (WaMu), Wells Fargo (Wachovia), Morgan Stanley, Goldman
Sachs, and a lot more
$25 billion for The Big Three in Detroit
 $8 billion for IndyMac
$150 billion stimulus package (from January)
 $50 billion for money market funds
 $138 billion for Lehman Bros. (post bankruptcy) through JP Morgan
$620 billion for general currency swaps from the Fed

ROUGH TOTAL: $2,063,800,000,000 (over $2 trillion dollars, or $6,800 for every American man, woman, and child)

**Systemic Causes of These Unprecedented Business Scandals**

1. Deregulation of the financial & energy industries
2. Systematic “de-fanging” of financial federal regulatory agencies via staff reductions, budget cuts, appointing former business executives to head regulatory agencies, etc.
3. Public accounting and financial investment firms that diversified into conflict-of-interest services (especially auditing + consulting and stock analysis + brokering)
4. Complicity of the federal government, Congress, and the Federal Reserve Board in prolonging historically low “subprime” mortgage rates to artificially buoy the economy
5. Meteoric rise of high-risk, speculative “derivative” investments throughout the financial services industry
6. Complicity of corporate boards and executives in artificially, often fraudulently, spiking corporate stock prices via the invention of numerous novel forms of “creative accounting” fraud (aided and abetted by the “Big-6” public accounting oligopoly)
7. Precipitous rise of enormous big business campaign contributions (“legal bribes”) to both parties in Congress over the past 2 decades

**WHILE BUSINESS PLAYS, COMMUNITY PAYS**

**ENRON SCANDAL**

Enron's shareholders lost $74 billion in the four years before the company's bankruptcy ($40 to $45 billion was attributed to fraud).[[145]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enron_scandal#cite_note-74BEnron-144) As Enron had nearly $67 billion that it owed creditors, employees and shareholders received limited, if any, assistance aside from severance from Enron.[[146]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enron_scandal#cite_note-67BillionNYT-145) To pay its creditors, Enron held auctions to sell its assets including art, photographs, logo signs, and its pipelines.[[147]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enron_scandal#cite_note-ArtNYT-146)[[148]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enron_scandal#cite_note-TiltedE-147)[[149]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enron_scandal#cite_note-SellPipes-148)

More than 20,000 of Enron's former employees in May 2004 won a suit of $85 million for compensation of $2 billion that was lost from their pensions. From the settlement, the employees each received about $3,100 each.[[150]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enron_scandal#cite_note-May04Settlement-149) The following year, investors received another settlement from several banks of $4.2 billion.[[145]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enron_scandal#cite_note-74BEnron-144) In September 2008, a $7.2-billion settlement from a $40-billion lawsuit, was reached on behalf of the shareholders. The settlement was distributed among the lead plaintiff, [University of California](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_California) (UC), and 1.5 million individuals and groups. UC's law firm [Coughlin Stoia Geller Rudman and Robbins](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coughlin_Stoia_Geller_Rudman_and_Robbins), received $688 million in fees, the highest in a U.S. securities fraud case.[[151]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enron_scandal#cite_note-72BillionSet-150) At the distribution, UC announced "We are extremely pleased to be returning these funds to the members of the class. Getting here has required a long, challenging effort, but the results for Enron investors are unprecedented."[[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enron_scandal#cite_note-Distribution-151)

On February 13, 2002, due to the instances of corporate malfeasances and accounting violations, the SEC called for changes to the stock exchanges' regulations. In June 2002, the [New York Stock Exchange](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_Stock_Exchange) announced a new governance proposal, which was approved by the SEC in November 2003. The main provisions of the final NYSE proposal are:[[154]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enron_scandal%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-Chhaochharia79-153)

* All firms must have a majority of independent directors.
* Independent directors must comply with an elaborate definition of independent directors.
* The compensation committee, nominating committee, and audit committee shall consist of independent directors.
* All audit committee members should be financially literate. In addition, at least one member of the audit committee is required to have accounting or related financial management expertise.
* In addition to its regular sessions, the board should hold additional sessions without management.

**CPA SCANDALS**

“In 2001 alone, 270 corporations fraudulently “restated” the numbers in their financial statements. From 1997-2001, a total of 1,089 companies apparently did so. All told, these transactions have cost investors billions of dollars. It increasingly appears that the economic “boom” of the 1990s may have been a house of cards built on fraud. The Pied Piper of the bull market and the elusive dream of endless profits put the economy and the culture into an addictive state of financial irresponsibility.”

**SUBPRIME MORTGAGE CRISIS**

Between June 2007 and November 2008, Americans lost more than a quarter of their net worth. By early November 2008, a broad U.S. stock index, the S&P 500, was down 45 percent from its 2007 high. Housing prices had dropped 20% from their 2006 peak, with futures markets signaling a 30-35% potential drop. Total home equity in the United States, which was valued at $13 trillion at its peak in 2006, had dropped to $8.8 trillion by mid-2008 and was still falling in late 2008. Total retirement assets, Americans' second-largest household asset, dropped by 22 percent, from $10.3 trillion in 2006 to $8 trillion in mid-2008. During the same period, savings and investment assets (apart from retirement savings) lost $1.2 trillion and pension assets lost $1.3 trillion. Taken together, these losses total a staggering $8.3 trillion.[[166]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subprime_mortgage_crisis#cite_note-165) Members of USA [minority groups](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_the_United_States) received a disproportionate number of subprime mortgages, and so have experienced a disproportionate level of the resulting [foreclosures](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foreclosure).[[167]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subprime_mortgage_crisis#cite_note-166)[[168]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subprime_mortgage_crisis#cite_note-167)[[169]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subprime_mortgage_crisis#cite_note-168)

The crisis began to affect the financial sector in February 2007, when [HSBC](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HSBC), the world's largest (2008) bank, wrote down its holdings of subprime-related MBS by $10.5 billion, the first major subprime related loss to be reported.[[170]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subprime_mortgage_crisis#cite_note-169) During 2007, at least 100 [mortgage](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mortgage_law) companies either shut down, suspended operations or were sold.[[171]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subprime_mortgage_crisis#cite_note-bloomberg1-170) Top management has not escaped unscathed, as the CEOs of [Merrill Lynch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merrill_Lynch) and [Citigroup](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citigroup) resigned within a week of each other in late 2007.[[172]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subprime_mortgage_crisis#cite_note-171) As the crisis deepened, more and more financial firms either merged, or announced that they were negotiating seeking merger partners.[[173]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subprime_mortgage_crisis#cite_note-172)

Mortgage defaults and provisions for future defaults caused profits at the 8533 USA [depository institutions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Depository_institution) insured by the [FDIC](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FDIC) to decline from $35.2 billion in 2006 Q4 to $646 million in the same quarter a year later, a decline of 98%. 2007 Q4 saw the worst bank and thrift quarterly performance since 1990. In all of 2007, insured depository institutions earned approximately $100 billion, down 31% from a record profit of $145 billion in 2006. Profits declined from $35.6 billion in 2007 Q1 to $19.3 billion in 2008 Q1, a decline of 46%.[[178]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subprime_mortgage_crisis#cite_note-177)[[179]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subprime_mortgage_crisis#cite_note-178)

As of August 2008, [financial firms](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Financial_institutions) around the globe have [written down](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Write_down) their holdings of subprime related securities by US$501 billion.[[180]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subprime_mortgage_crisis#cite_note-179) The IMF estimates that financial institutions around the globe will eventually have to write off $1.5 trillion of their holdings of subprime MBSs. About $750 billion in such losses had been recognized as of November 2008. These losses have wiped out much of the capital of the world banking system. Banks headquartered in nations that have signed the [Basel Accords](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basel_Accords) must have so many cents of [capital](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_requirement) for every dollar of credit extended to consumers and businesses. Thus the massive reduction in bank capital just described has reduced the credit available to businesses and households.[[181]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subprime_mortgage_crisis#cite_note-foreignaffairs1-180)

When [Lehman Brothers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lehman_Brothers) and other important financial institutions failed in September 2008, the crisis hit a key point.[[182]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subprime_mortgage_crisis#cite_note-181) During a two day period in September 2008, $150 billion were withdrawn from USA [money funds](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Money_fund). The average two day outflow had been $5 billion. In effect, the [money market](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Money_market) was subject to a [bank run](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bank_run). The money market had been a key source of credit for banks ([CDs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Certificate_of_Deposit)) and nonfinancial firms ([commercial paper](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commercial_paper)). The [TED spread](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TED_spread) (see graph above), a measure of the risk of interbank lending, quadrupled shortly after the Lehman failure. This credit freeze brought the global financial system to the brink of collapse. The response of the USA [Federal Reserve](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Reserve), the [European Central Bank](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Central_Bank), and other central banks was immediate and dramatic. During the last quarter of 2008, these central banks purchased US$2.5 trillion of government debt and troubled private assets from banks. This was the largest liquidity injection into the credit market, and the largest monetary policy action, in world history. The governments of European nations and the USA also raised the capital of their

The International Monetary Fund estimated that large U.S. and European banks lost more than $1 trillion on toxic assets and from bad loans from January 2007 to September 2009. These losses are expected to top $2.8 trillion from 2007-10. U.S. banks losses were forecast to hit $1 trillion and European bank losses will reach $1.6 trillion. The IMF estimated that U.S. banks were about 60 percent through their losses, but British and eurozone banks only 40 percent.[[184]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subprime_mortgage_crisis#cite_note-183)

**SAVINGS & LOAN INDUSTRY CRISIS**

While not part of the savings and loan crisis, many other banks failed. Between 1980 and 1994 more than 1,600 banks insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) were closed or received FDIC financial assistance.[[20]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Savings_and_loan_crisis#cite_note-19)

From 1986 to 1995, the number of US federally insured savings and loans in the United States declined from 3,234 to 1,645.[[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Savings_and_loan_crisis#cite_note-autogenerated3-9) This was primarily, but not exclusively, due to unsound real estate lending.[[21]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Savings_and_loan_crisis#cite_note-20)

The market share of S&Ls for single family mortgage loans went from 53% in 1975 to 30% in 1990.[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Savings_and_loan_crisis#cite_note-autogenerated2-1) US General Accounting Office estimated cost of the crisis to around USD $160.1 billion, about $124.6 billion of which was directly paid for by the US government from 1986 to 1996.[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Savings_and_loan_crisis#cite_note-autogenerated1-0) That figure does not include thrift insurance funds used before 1986 or after 1996. It also does not include state run thrift insurance funds or state bailouts.

The US government ultimately appropriated 105 billion dollars to resolve the crisis. After banks repaid loans through various procedures, there was a net loss to taxpayers of approximately $124 billion dollars by the end of 1999.[[22]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Savings_and_loan_crisis#cite_note-CurryShibut-21)

The concomitant slowdown in the finance industry and the real estate market may have been a contributing cause of the [1990–1991 economic recession](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_1990s_recession). Between 1986 and 1991, the number of new homes constructed dropped from 1.8 to 1 million, the lowest rate since World War II. [[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Savings_and_loan_crisis#cite_note-autogenerated2-1)

Some commentators believe that a taxpayer-funded government bailout related to mortgages during the savings and loan crisis may have created a [moral hazard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moral_hazard) and acted as encouragement to lenders to make similar higher risk loans during the [2007 subprime mortgage financial crisis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2007_subprime_mortgage_financial_crisis).[[23]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Savings_and_loan_crisis#cite_note-22)

**BRITISH PETROLEUM OIL SPILL**

But are such costs alone likely to prevent future disasters? Not according to the [Institute for Policy Studies (IPS)](http://www.ips-dc.org/), which says BP has a history of big pay-outs. Only last year it paid a $87.43 million fine for health and safety mistakes that led to the death of 15 workers and injury to 170 in an explosion at its Texas City refinery in March 2005.

'That may sound like a lot,' says IPS director Daphne Wysham, 'but BP made $163 billion in profits between 2001 and 2009 and another $5.6 billion in the first three months of 2010. Along the way it paid fines for violating the law that totalled roughly $530 million, or one-third of 1 per cent of the company's profits over the same period.'

The spill threatens environmental disaster due to factors such as [petroleum toxicity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_issues_with_petroleum#Toxicity), [oxygen depletion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hypoxia_%28environmental%29) and the use of [Corexit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corexit) dispersant.[[188]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-187)[[189]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-188) Eight U.S. [national parks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Park) are threatened.[[190]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-189) More than 400 [species](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Species) that live in the [Gulf islands and marshlands](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gulf_Islands_National_Seashore) are at risk, including the endangered [Kemp's Ridley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kemp%27s_Ridley) turtle. In the national refuges most at risk, about 34,000 birds have been counted, including [gulls](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gulls), [pelicans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pelicans), [roseate spoonbills](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roseate_spoonbills), [egrets](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egrets), [terns](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terns), and [blue herons](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Blue_Heron).[[67]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-numbers-66) A comprehensive 2009 inventory of offshore Gulf species counted 15,700. The area of the oil spill includes 8,332 species, including more than 1,200 fish, 200 birds, 1,400 molluscs, 1,500 crustaceans, 4 sea turtles, and 29 marine mammals.[[191]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-190)[[192]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-191) As of July 29, 3,613 dead animals had been collected, including 3,054 birds, 494 sea turtles, 64 dolphins and other mammals, and 1 reptile.[[193]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-192) According to the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Fish_and_Wildlife_Service), cause of death had not been determined as of late June. Also, dolphins have been seen which are lacking food, and "acting drunk" apparently due to the spill.[[194]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-193) A reporter kayaking in the area of Grand Isle reported seeing about 60 dolphins blowing oil through their blow holes as they swam through oil-slick waters.[[195]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-194)

[Duke University](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duke_University) [marine biologist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marine_biologist) Larry Crowder said [threatened](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Threatened_species) [loggerhead turtles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loggerhead_turtle) on Carolina beaches could swim out into contaminated waters. Ninety percent of North Carolina's commercially valuable sea life spawn off the coast and could be contaminated if oil reaches the area. Douglas Rader, a scientist for the [Environmental Defense Fund](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_Defense_Fund), said [prey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prey) could be negatively affected as well. Steve Ross of [UNC-Wilmington](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_North_Carolina_at_Wilmington) said [coral reefs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coral_reef) could be smothered.[[196]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-195) In early June Harry Roberts, a professor of Coastal Studies at Louisiana State University, stated that 4 million barrels (170,000,000 US gallons; 640,000 cubic metres) of oil would be enough to "wipe out marine life deep at sea near the leak and elsewhere in the Gulf" as well as "along hundreds of miles of coastline." Mak Saito, an Associate Scientist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts indicated that such an amount of oil "may alter the chemistry of the sea, with unforeseeable results."[[197]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-196) Samantha Joye of the [University of Georgia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Georgia) indicated that the oil could harm fish directly, and [microbes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microbe) used to consume the oil would also reduce [oxygen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxygen) levels in the water.[[198]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-collins-197) According to Joye, the ecosystem could require years or even decades to recover, as previous spills have done.[[199]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-198) Oceanographer John Kessler estimates that the crude gushing from the well contains approximately 40% methane, compared to about 5% found in typical oil deposits.[[200]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-methane-199) Methane could potentially suffocate marine life and create dead zones where oxygen is depleted.[[200]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-methane-199) Also oceanographer [Dr. Ian MacDonald](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dr._Ian_MacDonald) at [Florida State University](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Florida_State_University) believes that the natural gas dissolving below the surface has the potential to reduce the Gulf oxygen levels and emit [benzene](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benzene#Health_effects) and other toxic compounds.[[64]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-bw0615-63)[[201]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-200) In early July, researchers discovered two new previously unidentified species of [bottom-dwelling](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bottom-dwelling) [pancake batfish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pancake_batfish) of the [*Halieutichthys*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halieutichthys) genus, in the area affected by the oil spill.[[202]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-201) Damage to the [ocean floor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ocean_floor) is as yet unknown.[[186]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-Schoof-185)

In late July, [Tulane University](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tulane_University) scientists found signs of an oil-and-dispersant mix under the shells of tiny blue crab larvae in the Gulf, indicating that the use of [dispersants](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dispersants) has broken up the oil into droplets small enough they can easily enter the food chain. Marine biologists from the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory began finding orange blobs under the shells of crab larvae in May, and reportedly continue to find them "in almost all" of the larvae they collect from over 300 miles of coastline stretching from Grand Isle, Louisiana, to Pensacola, Florida.[[203]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-202)

As of June 21, 2010, the area closed to fishing encompassed 86,985 square miles (225,290 km2), or about 36% of Gulf of Mexico federal waters.

In BP's Initial Exploration Plan, dated March 10, 2009, they said that "it is unlikely that an accidental spill would occur" and "no adverse activities are anticipated" to fisheries or fish habitat.[[43]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-Initial_Exploration_Plan_Mississippi_Canyon-42) On April 29, 2010, [Louisiana Governor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louisiana_Governor) [Bobby Jindal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bobby_Jindal) declared a [state of emergency](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_of_emergency) in the state after weather forecasts predicted the oil slick would reach the Louisiana coast.[[204]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-state_of_emergency-203) An emergency shrimping season was opened on April 29 so that a catch could be brought in before the oil advanced too far.[[205]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-CITEREFbbc2010a-204) By April 30 the Coast Guard received reports that oil had begun washing up to wildlife refuges and seafood grounds on the Louisiana [Gulf Coast](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gulf_Coast_of_the_United_States).[[206]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-fishing.241-205) On May 22 The Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board stated said 60 to 70 percent of [oyster](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oyster) and [blue crab](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_crab) harvesting areas and 70 to 80 percent of fin-fisheries remained open.[[207]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-206) The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals closed an additional ten oyster beds on May 23, just south of [Lafayette, Louisiana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lafayette%2C_Louisiana), citing confirmed reports of oil along the state's western coast.[[208]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-207)

On May 2 the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Oceanic_and_Atmospheric_Administration) closed commercial and recreational fishing in affected federal waters between the mouth of the Mississippi River and Pensacola Bay. The closure initially incorporated 6,814 square miles (17,650 km2).[[209]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-208)[[210]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-209) By June 21 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration had increased the area under closure over a dozen times, encompassing by that date 86,985 square miles (225,290 km2), or approximately 36% of Federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico, and extending along the coast from [Atchafalaya Bay, Louisiana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atchafalaya_Basin) to [Panama City, Florida](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panama_City%2C_Florida).[[211]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-210)[[212]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-211) On May 24 the federal government declared a fisheries disaster for the states of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.[[213]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-212) Initial cost estimates to the fishing industry were $2.5 billion.[[206]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-fishing.241-205)

On June 23, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ended its fishing ban in 8,000 square miles (21,000 km2) square miles, leaving 78,597 square miles (203,570 km2) with no fishing allowed,[[214]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-213) or about one-third of the Gulf. The continued fishing ban helps assure the safety of seafood, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration inspectors have determined that as of July 9, Kevin Griffis of the [Commerce Department](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Department_of_Commerce) said, only one seafood sample out of 400 tested did not pass, though even that one did not include "concerning levels of contaminants".[[215]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-Skoloff-214)

Although many people cancelled their vacations at first, hotels close to the coasts of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama reported dramatic increases in business from 2009 during the first half of May 2010. On May 25 BP gave Florida $25 million to promote its beaches, which the oil had not reached, and the company planned $15 million each for Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. The Bay Area Tourist Development Council bought [digital billboards](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_billboard) showing recent photos from the gulf coast beaches as far north as [Nashville, Tennessee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nashville%2C_Tennessee) and [Atlanta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlanta). Along with these and other assurances that the beaches are so far unaffected, hotels have cut rates and offered deals such as free [golf](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golf). Also, cancellation policies have changed, and refunds have been promised to those where oil arrives. However, 2009 was a slow year, and those working to deal with the spill have rented rooms in the area. Revenues remain below 2009 levels due to the special deals.[[216]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-215) By June many people were cancelling vacations while they could do so, fearing the arrival of oil on the beaches.[[90]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-Anderson-89)

The U.S. Travel Association estimated that the economic impact of the oil spill on tourism across the Gulf Coast over a three-year period could exceed approximately $23 billion, in a region that supports over 400,000 travel industry jobs generating $34 billion in revenue annually.[[217]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-216)[[218]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-217)

On July 5 BP reported that its own expenditures on the oil spill had reached $3.12 billion, including the cost of the spill response, containment, relief well drilling, grants to the Gulf states, claims paid, and federal costs.[[219]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-BP_costs_for_oil_spill_response_pass_.243.C2.A0billion-218)[[220]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-US_Stocks_Futures_Lose_Gains-219) The United States [Oil Pollution Act of 1990](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oil_Pollution_Act_of_1990) limits BP's liability for non-cleanup costs to $75 million unless gross negligence is proven.[[221]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-220) BP has said it would pay for all cleanup and remediation regardless of the statutory liability cap. Nevertheless, some Democratic lawmakers are seeking to pass legislation that would increase the liability limit to $10 billion.[[222]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-221)[[223]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-222) Analysts for [Swiss Re](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swiss_Re) have estimated that the total insured losses from the accident could reach $3.5 billion. According to [UBS](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UBS), final losses could be $12 billion.[[224]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-Timeslitigation-223) According to [Willis Group Holdings](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willis_Group_Holdings), total losses could amount to $30 billion, of which estimated total claims to the market from the disaster, including control of well, re-drilling, third-party liability and seepage and pollution costs, could exceed $1.2 billion.[[225]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-upstream040610-224)

On June 25 BP's market value reached a 52-week low. The company's total value lost since April 20 was $105 billion. Investors saw their holdings in BP shrink to $27.02, a nearly 54 percent loss of value in 2010.[[226]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-BP.27s_stock_hits_new_low-225) A month later, the company's loss in market value totalled $60 billion, a 35 percent decline since the explosion. At that time, BP reported a second-quarter loss of $17 billion, its first loss in 18 years. This includes a one-time $32.2 billion charge, including $20 billion for the [fund](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#Spill_response_fund) created for reparations and $2.9 billion in actual costs.[[139]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-Wardell-138)

BP gas stations, the majority of which the company does not own, have reported sales off between 10 and 40 percent due to backlash against the company. Some BP station owners that lost sales say the name should change back to [Amoco](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amoco), while others say after all the effort that went into promoting BP, such a move would be a gamble, and the company should work to restore its image.[[227]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-226)

Local officials in Louisiana have expressed concern that the [offshore drilling moratorium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_U.S._Deepwater_Drilling_Moratorium) imposed in response to the spill will further harm the economies of coastal communities.[[228]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-CSM_Sasser-227) The oil industry employs about 58,000 Louisiana residents and has created another 260,000 oil-related jobs, accounting for about 17 percent of all Louisiana jobs.[[228]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-CSM_Sasser-227) BP has agreed to allocate $100 million for payments to offshore oil workers who are unemployed due to the six-month moratorium on drilling in the deep-water Gulf of Mexico.[[117]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-upstream170610-116)

The real estate prices and a number of transactions in the Gulf of Mexico area have decreased significantly since beginning of the oil spill. As a result, area officials want the state legislature to allow [property tax](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Property_tax) to be paid based on current market value, which according to [State Rep.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Florida_Legislature) [Dave Murzin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dave_Murzin) could mean millions of dollars in losses for each county affected.[[229]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-228)

The [Organization for International Investment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organization_for_international_investment), a [Washington](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington%2C_D.C.)-based advocate for overseas investment into the U.S., warned in early July that the political rhetoric surrounding the disaster is potentially damaging the reputation of all British companies with operations in the U.S.[[230]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-229) and sparked a wave of U.S. protectionism that has restricted British firms from winning government contracts, making political donations and lobbying.[[231]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-230)

By May 26 over 130 lawsuits relating to the spill had been filed[[224]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-Timeslitigation-223) against one or more of BP, Transocean, Cameron International Corporation, and [Halliburton Energy Services](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halliburton),[[232]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-BP.2C_Transocean_Lawsuits_Surge-231) although it is considered likely by observers that these will be combined into one court as a [multidistrict litigation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multidistrict_litigation).[[232]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-BP.2C_Transocean_Lawsuits_Surge-231) By June 17 over 220 lawsuits were filed against BP alone.[[233]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-BP_Suits_Should_Be_Sent_to_New_Orleans.2C_U.S._Says-232) Because the spill has been largely lingering offshore, the plaintiffs who can claim damages so far are mostly out-of-work fishermen and tourist resorts that are receiving cancellations.[[234]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-post170510-233) The oil company says 23,000 individual claims have already been filed, of which 9,000 have so far been settled.[[224]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-Timeslitigation-223) BP and Transocean want the cases to be heard in [Houston](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Houston), seen as friendly to the oil business. Plaintiffs have variously requested the case be heard in Louisiana, Mississippi or Florida.[[234]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-post170510-233) Five New Orleans judges have recused themselves from hearing oil spill cases because of stock ownership in companies involved or other conflicts of interest.[[235]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-234) BP has retained [law firm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law_firm) [Kirkland & Ellis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kirkland_%26_Ellis) to defend most of the lawsuits arising from the oil spill.[[236]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-235)

As of May 29, ten oil spill clean-up workers had been admitted to West Jefferson Medical Center in [Marrero, Louisiana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marrero%2C_Louisiana). All but two had been hospitalized suffering from symptoms emergency room doctors diagnosed as dehydration. At a press briefing about the May 26 medical evacuation of seven crewmembers from Vessels of Opportunity working in the Breton Sound area, Coast Guard Captain Meredith Austin, Unified Command Deputy Incident Commander in [Houma, LA](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Houma%2C_LA), said that air monitoring done in advance of beginning work showed no volatile organic compounds above limits of concern. No respiratory protection was issued, said Austin "because air ratings were taken and there were no values found to be at an unsafe level, prior to us sending them in there."[[237]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-236) Crude oil contains a mixture of volatile hydrocarbon compounds, which include [polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polycyclic_aromatic_hydrocarbons) (PAHs), [benzene](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benzene), [toluene](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toluene), [ethylbenzene](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethylbenzene), and [xylenes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xylene), which are known [carcinogens](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carcinogens). PAHs have caused tumors in laboratory animals when they breathed these substances. Symptoms of exposure to these petroleum compounds include dizziness, headaches, nausea, and rapid heart beat, which are all shared symptoms of [dehydration](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dehydration). Kerosene (a component of the dispersants being used in the Gulf) exposure causes similar symptoms.[[238]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-237)

On June 15, Marylee Orr, Executive Director for Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN),[[239]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-238) said on [MSNBC](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MSNBC)'s [Countdown with Keith Olbermann](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Countdown_with_Keith_Olbermann) that people along the Gulf Coast are getting very sick, with symptoms of [dizziness](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dizziness), [vomiting](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vomiting), [nausea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nausea), [headaches](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Headaches), and [chest pains](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chest_pains), not only from the first responders to the crisis, but residents living along the coast as well. LEAN's director reported that BP has threatened to fire their workers if they use respirators distributed by LEAN, though health and safety officials have not required their use, as they may exacerbate risks of heat exhaustion.[[240]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-239)[[241]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-240) By June 21, 143 oil spill exposure-related cases had been reported to the [Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louisiana_Department_of_Health_and_Hospitals) (DHH) since the crisis began; 108 of those cases involved workers in the oil spill clean-up efforts, while thirty-five were reported by the general public.[[242]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-241)

The [Institute of Medicine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Institute_of_Medicine) of the [U. S. National Academies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_National_Academies) held a workshop 22 and June 23 to assess known health effects of this and previous oil spills and to coordinate epidemiological monitoring and ongoing medical research. Louisiana state health officer Jimmy Guidry stated that need as: “This is more than a spill. This is ongoing leakage of a chemical, and adding chemicals to stop the chemicals. We're feeling like we're in a research lab."[[243]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-242)[[244]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-243) On the second day of the meeting the suicide of William Allen Kruse, a charter boat captain working as a BP clean-up worker,[[245]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-244) intensified previous expert commentary on the current and likely long-term mental health effects of the ongoing crisis. David Abramson, director of research for Columbia's National Center for Disaster Preparedness, noted the increased risk of mental disorders and stress-related health problems.[[246]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-245)[[247]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-246)

After the *Deepwater Horizon* explosion a six-month offshore drilling (below 500 feet (150 m) of water) moratorium was enforced by the [United States Department of the Interior](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Department_of_the_Interior).[[248]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-upstream240610-247) Secretary of the Interior [Ken Salazar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ken_Salazar) ordered immediate inspections of all deep-water operations in the Gulf of Mexico. An Outer Continental Shelf safety review board within the Department of the Interior is to provide recommendations for conducting drilling activities in the Gulf.[[137]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-CITEREFupstream2010a-136) The moratorium suspended work on 33 rigs.[[248]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-upstream240610-247) It was challenged by several drilling and oil services companies. On June 22, a [United States federal judge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_federal_judge) on the [United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_District_Court_for_the_Eastern_District_of_Louisiana) [Martin Leach-Cross Feldman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Leach-Cross_Feldman) when ruling in the case [Hornbeck Offshore Services LLC v. Salazar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hornbeck_Offshore_Services_LLC_v._Salazar), lifted the moratorium finding it too broad, arbitrary and not adequately justified.[[248]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-upstream240610-247) The Department of Justice appealed to the [5th Circuit Court of Appeals](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/5th_Circuit_Court_of_Appeals), which granted the request for an expedited hearing. A three judge panel is scheduled to hear oral arguments on July 8.[[249]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-248)[[250]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-249)

On June 30, Salazar said that "he is working very hard to finalize a new offshore drilling moratorium".[[251]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-upstream300610a-250) [Michael Bromwich](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Bromwich), the head of the newly created [Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bureau_of_Ocean_Energy_Management%2C_Regulation_and_Enforcement), said that a record of "bad performance, deadly performance" by an oil company should be considered "a relevant factor" for the government when it decides if that company should be awarded future drilling leases.[[251]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-upstream300610a-250) Representative [George Miller](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Miller_%28California_politician%29) plans to introduce to the energy reform bill under consideration in the [United States House of Representatives](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_House_of_Representatives) that a company's safety record should factor into leasing decisions. By this amendment he wants to ban BP from leasing any additional offshore acreage for seven years because of "extensive record of serious worker safety and environmental violations".[[252]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-upstream300610b-251)

On April 28 the [National Energy Board](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=National_Energy_Board&action=edit&redlink=1) of Canada, which regulates offshore drilling in the [Canadian Arctic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_Arctic) and along the [British Columbia Coast](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Columbia_Coast), issued a letter to oil companies asking them to explain their argument against safety rules which require same-season relief wells.[[253]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill#cite_note-canadian_regulator_response-252) Five days later, the Canadian [Minister of the Environment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minister_of_the_Environment_%28Canada%29) [Jim Prentice](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jim_Prentice) said the government would not approve

**GLOBAL IMMIGRATION**

Immigrant labor (10M strong) is the largest international industry in the Southwest USA

**THE IMPACT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ON THE U.S. ECONOMY**

* $1.8 trillion: annual spending, U.S.
* $220.7 billion: annual spending, Texas
* $652 billion: annual contribution to U.S. GDP
* $27 billion or more: the costs of education, health care and incarceration in six states, including Texas

**ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN THE USA**

1. Estimated 9.3M illegal aliens in 2002; 50% Mexican and 23% other Latin American; 23% in California, 12% in Texas (approx. 1.1M), 10% in Florida
2. 6M of the 9.3M are believed to be employed, making up 5% of the total U.S. labor force.
3. Growth of the illegal alien population in America: 13M in 1994; 16M in 1997; 17.4M in 2000; 19.7M in 2003
4. Median weekly earnings of full-time illegal immigrants in America: $489 versus $643 for legal Americans
5. 5. Twenty thousand new H-1B visas were approved by Congress in 2004 to bring in skilled specialty immigrant workers (computer programmers, nurses) to the American economy
6. 6. 75% of day laborers in the U.S. (including 2/3 of all workers in construction & agriculture) are illegal.
7. 7. 2/3 of the 20M foreign-born workers in the Texas workforce are non-citizens.

**RECENT GLOBAL LABOR TRENDS**

1. The overall % of immigrants in the European & American workforces is rising. Immigrants comprise approx. 15% of the American workforce today.

2. China & developing nations have doubled the amount of manufacturing they do for Western nations since the early 1990s.

3. The IMF estimates that the global labor supply has increased 4-fold since 1980.

4. In a recent study of 18 nations, the average real pay of workers has increased 0.24%, raising questions about how much workers have benefited from the world’s recent growth.

**ESTIMATED % OF IMMIGRANT EMPLOYMENT IN U.S. INDUSTRIES**

Agriculture: 61%

Domestic housekeeping: 36%

Drywall installers: 27%

Landscaping: 26%

Maintenance: 26%

Meat handlers: 25%

Hand packers: 22%

Cement finishers: 22%

Roofers: 21%

Animal slaughter: 20%

Cleaning: 19%

Laundry: 17%

Apparel: 16%

Hospitality: 14%

Restaurants: 11%

**LATIN AMERICA**

**SOUTH AMERICAN PER CAPITA GDP**

Chile: $14,500

Argentina.: $14,400

Uruguay: $13,300

Venezuela: $12,800

Peru: $8,600

Columbia: $8,200

Ecuador: $7,700

Paraguay: $4,800

Bolivia: $4,300

**CENTRAL AMERICAN PER CAPITA GDP**

MX: $9803

Costa Rica: $9481

Dominican: $7499

El Salvador: $5041

Guatemala: $4313

Honduras: $2876

Nicaragua: $3634

**AVERAGE GROWTH RATE OF LATIN AMERICAN NATION, 1990-2000**

Argentina: 3.2%

Brazil: 1.3%

Chile: 4.9%

Colombia: 0.8%

Mexico: 1.8%

Peru: 2.1%

Venezuela: -0.1%

Latin america overall: 2.0

**LATIN AMERICAN PER CAPITA GDP**

Mexico: $9803

Costa Rica: $9481

Dominican Rep: $7499

El Salvador: $5041

Guatemala: $4313

Honduras: $2876

Nicaragua: $3634

**EUROPEAN UNION**

**EU ECONOMIC POTENCY**

1. 7% of the world’s population—28% of the global GDP (larger than the USA)
2. 454M population & 60% more consumers than the USA
3. The 12 member nations using the Euro exclusively account for 67% of the population & 74% of the EU GDP %
4. One third of the world’s 100 largest corporations are European

**EU vs. U.S.**

1. Population of 454M for EU, 1.5 times larger than U.S.
2. EU gross regional product of $12.5T vs. $11.7T for U.S.

**UNEMPLOYMENT RANKINGS OF EU NATIONS**

Luxembourg (lowest unemployment, around 4.5%), Netherlands, Austria, Cyprus, Ireland, UK, Denmark, Sweden, Hungary, Portugal, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Belgium, Malta, Italy, Finland, Greece, France, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Spain, Lithuania, Slovakia, Poland (highest unemployment, 18%)

**EU POPULATIONS**

* Austria: 8M
* Belgium: 10M
* Cyprus: 1M
* Denmark: 5M
* Estonia: 1M
* France: 60M
* Finland: 5M
* Germany: 83M
* Greece: 11M
* Hungary: 10M
* Italy: 58M
* Ireland: 4M
* Latvia: 2M
* Lithuania: 3M
* Luxembourg: 16M
* Poland: 38M
* Portugal: 11M
* Spain: 42M
* Sweden: 9M
* UK: 60M

**STANDARD OF LIVING DISPARITIES BETWEEN EU MEMBERS (**2003 per capita incomes)

Germany: $27,600

Poland: $5,400

Romania: $4,084

Bulgaria: $3,735

Ukraine: $1,000 (potential future member)

**ASIA AND CHINA**

**ASIAN EXPORTS AS A % OF 2004 NATIONAL GDP**

China: 190%

Indonesia: 31%

Japan: 12%

Malaysia: 44%

South Korea: 121%

Thailand: 71%

Taiwan: 65%

**ASIAN IMPORTS AS A % OF 2004 NATIONAL GDP**

CHINA: 89%

INDONESIA: 27%

JAPAN: 10%

Malaysia: 100%

South Korea: 40%

Thailand: 66%

Taiwan: 53%

**CHINA OVERVIEW**

1. Population of 1.28B, 2/5 in urban areas; 800M in rural areas
2. 31 provinces, 656 cities, 48,000 districts, 7 major Chinese language dialects, 80 languages
3. Labor force of 750M (more than combined total of largest industrial nations)
4. 10 largest regions or cities: Chongqing (31M), Shanghai (16M), Beijing (14M), Chendu (10.2M), Tianjin (10M), Guangzhou (9.9M), Harbin (9.4M), Wuhan (8.3M), Qingdao (7M), Xian (6.2M)
5. Chinese currency: the yuan, or renminbi (”people’s money”)
6. China is the world’s 6th largest economy (larger than Britain or France), but still only 1/6 the size of the U.S. economy. It is the world’s 3rd largest trader ($1.42 annually).
7. China’s annual share of global GDP rose from 8.9% in 1913 to 11% in 2000 & 13% in 2004.
8. China’s GDP grew at an average annual rate of 9.3% from 1991-2003.
9. China consumes 40% of the world’s cement, a third of the coal, a quarter of steel, & is the world’s second largest oil user.
10. China had a trade surplus of $102B in 2005, triple the 2004 total.
11. China’s trade surplus with the U.S. is $200B, meaning China exported that more to America than it imported from America.
12. $60B in FDI is invested in China annually (2/3 from neighbors Hong Kong, Macau, & Taiwan).
13. 10M people annually move from rural villages to cities
14. Urban migration patterns will take another 30 years to complete (only half of the rural population has moved into city jobs)
15. 40% domestic savings rate
16. On a per capita basis, Chinese workers produce 4 times as much as in the early 1990s.
17. China’s total population will peak at 1.3B around 2019 & then begin to decline rapidly (due to the rapid aging of the Chinese population as the result of the one-child policy over the past generation). By 2024, 58% of Chinese will be over 40 years of age.
18. “The current job-seeking move of peasants into urban areas is the greatest migration in human history. With pay averaging less than 50 cents an hour, Chinese workers are so disciplined, they out-compete every other group of workers in the world.”
19. Since 2000, China has contributed more to the growth of global GDP than the USA & India, Brazil, & Russia combined.
20. In 2010, China surpassed the U.S. to became the largest consumer of energy in the world.
21. China has brokered oil & food deals with several anti-American nations: Iran, Venezuela, Sudan, & Zimbabwe.
22. China owns enough U.S. Treasury bonds to affect their global interest rate.
23. China’s military spending has increased by more than 10% annually over the past decade.

CHINESE ECONOMIC STATS & REALITIES

1. China wants to quadruple its GDP by 2020
2. 6th largest overall economy in world currently ($1.4T)
3. Size of economy doubles every decade; exports double every 5 years
4. China will overtake the USA as world’s largest overall economy & largest global trader around 2040
5. GDP has average 9% growth over past 25 years
6. 15% annual foreign investment growth rate ($1B every week)
7. Chinese private companies created 17.5M permanent jobs (plus 75M temp jobs in the “street vendor” economy) between 1995-2001
8. The two largest Gold Coast exporting provinces (backed by Hong Kong & Taiwan ethnic Chinese $) Guangdong & Jiangsu (adjacent Taiwan)
9. Urban incomes have increased at 14% annually rate since 1978
10. America’s trade deficit with China is twice as large as with Japan
11. China passed up German in 2009 as the world’s largest exporter ($1.2T). It should surpass Japan as the world’s 2nd largest economy by 2011.

**CHINA’S GLOBAL PRODUCT LINE STRENGTHS**

1. 70% of the world’s toys
2. 60% of bicycles
3. 50% of shoes
4. 33% of luggage
5. Substantial global market share in wooden furniture, textiles, apparel, & televisions (China’s TLC is the world’s largest TV maker, selling under a variety of brand names, such as Apex Digital)

**CHINA’S LARGEST CORPORATIONS**

1. PetroChina (oil)
2. Sinopec (oil)
3. CNOOC (oil)
4. Baosteel (Steel)
5. Chaico (Aluminum)
6. Lenova (computer hardware & PCs)
7. SAIC (Cars)
8. TCL (TV/electronics)
9. Haier (appliances)
10. Wanxiang (Auto parts)
11. Huawei (Telecom equipment)

**DEVELOPING NATIONS**

**WAGES OF CLOTHING WORKERS IN DEVELOPING NATIONS**

Cambodia: 32 cents/hour

India: 38 cents/hour

Pakistan: 41 cents/hour

Sri Lanka: 48 cents/hour

China: 68 cents/hour

Jordan: 81 cents/hour

Thailand: 91 cents/hour

Honduras: $1.48/hour

El Salvador: $1.59

Mexico: $2.45/hour

**DEPENDENCE ON CLOTHING/TEXTILE EXPORTS**

Macau: 82% the nation’s total exports

Bangladesh: 82%

Cambodia: 77%

Pakistan: 75%

Sri Lanka: 58%

Tunisha: 42%

Turkey: 38%

China: 21%

**AIDS**

1. 78M people are currently HIV positive in the world (with Africa having the 7 most infected nations)

2. 34M have died worldwide from AIDS thus far

3. Sub-Saharan Africa has been losing 10-18% of its working population annually to AIDS

4. Between 11.5-15M children have been orphaned by AIDS

5. HIV rates increased by half (1.1M) in East Asia between 2002-2204

6. The death rate from AIDS has starting declining in 30 nations

7. Global funding for AIDS increased from $2.1B in 2001, to $6.1B in 2004

8. As a group, developing nations owe more than a trillion dollars to foreign creditors.

9. The 43 mostly sub-Saharan African nations (500 million total population) are getting poorer. They lost one quarter of their income between 1980-2000.

10. Africa & South Asia had more malnourished children in 2000 than in 1975.

11. During the 1990s in Russia, the percent of people living in poverty went from 2% to over 50%.

Business scams and frauds of unprecedented magnitude ($30B+) hit Eastern European nations during the 2000s. Romania had 600+ Ponzi schemes, where crooked finance companies continuously borrow money from a growing chain of unsuspecting investors and create the short-term appearance of financial gain using money from new “suckers.” Romania had 600+ Ponzi schemes & more than half of Albanians and their government were fooled by similar scams.

Over the past 2 decades, the following nations were classified for varying amounts of time as “failed nation states” (with corrupt non-functioning governments/institutions & lack of law & order): Ethiopia, Eritrea, Afghanistan, Somalia, Liberia, Yemen, Sierra Leon, & Rwanda.

**ECONOMIC SPECIALIZATION OF DEVELOPING NATIONS**

1. Low wages manual labor : China, Indonesia, Philippines,
2. Skilled labor manufacturing: South Korea, Taiwan
3. Specialized foods: Thailand, Vietnam, New Zealand, Chile
4. Computer hardware: & electronics: China, Taiwan
5. Oil, gas, & minerals: Mexico, Venezuela, Indonesia, Russia

**EXAMPLES OF ECONOMIC GROWTH IN DEVELOPING NATIONS**

1. 86% of the world's population is located in developing countries, but because many of these nations are beginning to develop a middle class, thus making them “emerging markets” with strong future potential for both economic growth & business profit.
2. These emerging markets will be the key driver of the global economy over the first half of the 21st century.
3. If just 6% of the developing world succeeds in achieving a annual income of $10,000, 350M people (more than the population of the U.S.) will gradually become middle class consumers.
4. U.S. corporations on the Standard & Poor’s 500-stock index generate 35% of profits from foreign markets.
5. America’s General Electric projects that 66% of its growth over the next decade (vs. just 20% over the past decade) will come from emerging markets.
6. China’s Haier is currently the second largest refrigerator company in the world; Mexico’s Cemex is the third largest cement maker; Turkey’s Koc group of manufacturing & service companies grossed over $11B in 2003.
7. “Bollywood” (India’s movie industry) makes over 4500 movies annually (vs. 1,200 for

 Hollywood) & sells 12M movie tickets daily.

1. India’s Hindustan Motors Rural Transport Vehicles (RTVs) are a big profit generator because their versatile design (people carriers, delivery vans, troop carriers, school buses, ambulances, etc.) meets the needs of multiple target markets.
2. China’s retail market has been growing 15% annually for the past 20 years (with Nestle being the only Western company among the top 5 packaged goods companies in China).
3. America’s share of the Indian high-turnover consumer goods industry is already $10B & expected to double in the next decade.
4. Western Union has 225,000 outlets in 200 countries (including 21,000 in China) for transferring funds electronically (a highly profitable and growing market, since emerging market countries lack strong consumer banking services).
5. Frito-Lay has experienced considerable success marketing its Mexican Sabritas brand to the U.S. Hispanic market.
6. Mexico's largest mortgage company recently opened a New York office to accommodate the number of work visa Mexicans who want to wire money back to relatives in Mexico.
7. More than 100 US. banks now accept “matricula consular” identity cards for Mexicans who want to open temporary bank accounts.
8. Carnegie Mellon University is developing a low cost ($250) wireless communication device that combines PC-TV-DVD-phone. It’s targeted for the 4B people in emerging markets who make less than $2000 annually.
9. Consumer companies in China have cashed in profitably on economical beds & tables with built-in drawers.
10. Advanced Micro Devices has just developed a $185 Personal Internet Communicator (including monitor) that is capable of connecting ½ of the global population with Internet hook-up.
11. The Indian Institute of Science markets the $200 “Simputer,” which uses a stylus-based text system instead of a keyboard.
12. India’s Grameen Bank (with a staff of 11,000) has made grassroots “microloans” (small uncollateralized loans to sole proprietor businesses) to 3M borrowers in 43,000 villages.
13. Makers of Islamic “halal” products (consumer items with approved organic ingredients similar to kosher” products in Jewish cultures) are experiencing rapid growth via developing new food & hygiene products not previously available with halal standards.
14. India’s largest private bank, ICICI, provides a vast array of financial services (banking, insurance) & other electronic services (games, e-commerce, email, etc.) via computer kiosks in high traffic retail areas.

**HOURLY MANUFACTURING PAY COMPARISONS**

* USA: $21.33
* EU: $20.18
* Japan: $18.83
* S Korea: $9.16
* Singapore: $7.27
* Taiwan: $5.41
* Brazil: $2.57
* Mexico: $2.35
* China: $0.69

**% OF POPULATION WHO AGREE THAT FREE-MARKET CAPITALISM IS THE BEST ECONOMIC SYSTEM FOR THE FUTURE:**

1. China: 74%
2. USA: 73%
3. India: 72%
4. Britain: 70%
5. Germany: 68%
6. Italy: 60%
7. Russia: 40%
8. France: 36%

**MANUFACTURING INVOLVEMENT OF WESTERN NATIONS**

Germany: 24% of economy in manufacturing

Italy: 21%

Japan: 18%

France: 15%

Britain: 14%

Canada: 13%

USA: 9% (80% of Americans are involved in the service sector)

**GLOBAL COMPETITION IS TOUGH**

**Most Global Companies Do It**

1. Advertising and public relations
2. Benchmarking (copying) competitor products
3. Consumer lifestyle catering
4. Economies-of-scale manufacturing (the more you make of something, the less each unit costs)
5. Flex-speed operations efficiency to capitalize on emerging market opportunities before competitors do
6. Hyper-marketing of brands
7. Mergers or joint ventures with competitors to pursue grandiose business opportunities
8. Outbidding competitors on contracts
9. Part-time employees to cut down on paying benefits or over-time work
10. Political lobbying and corporate campaign contributions
11. Product invention and innovation
12. Products high on the valued-added chain
13. Protecting products via intellectual property laws (copyrights, patents, etc.)
14. Push credit/debt consumer consumption
15. Turbo capitalism: Using the assets of other companies or nations

**Some Do It**

1. Covert partnerships with government agencies (such as the State Department and CIA) to exploit the use of domestic corporations in nationalistic global projects
2. Executives hand-pick their own board members.
3. Large fees and penalties for customer late payments
4. Low national currency value to promote high domestic exports
5. Monopoly or oligopoly industry control
6. No-bid contracts for government contracting, especially within the “military industrial complex” (government stimulates its economy by engaging in long-term military actions backed by large domestic high tech companies)
7. Paying federal government fines for accidents and malfunctions as a cheaper outcome than fixing the problem
8. Product dumping (temporarily selling below cost to eliminate competitors)
9. Regional free-trade agreements which drop tariffs for members only
10. Social off-shoring: moving outlawed corporate practices (especially environmental pollution) to nations where they are tolerated
11. Stonewalling suits and government investigations through overwhelming legal legerdemain
12. Tariff protection or subsidies provided by the home nation government
13. Telemarketing phone surveys disguised as “research”

**A Walk on The Wild Side**

1. Bribery ranging from the grass-roots level to high levels of government
2. Funneling untaxed profits to offshore tax havens
3. Going out of business to evade financial penalties for fraudulent corporate operations
4. Hiring illegal aliens below the minimum wage level
5. Illegal accounting gimmicks to hide corporate liabilities and boost short-term stock price
6. Industrial espionage
7. Letting corporate executives or high level staff take the fall for a corporate crime and giving them financial pay-offs after prison
8. Paying anonymous consultants to serve as middlemen and potential “fall-guys” for unethical corporate operations
9. Use of illegal insider financial information by executives to make highly profitable stock deal