

IV. The Global Peace Index 2012

CAMILLA SCHIPPA AND THOMAS MORGAN
INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMICS AND PEACE

Now in its sixth year, the Global Peace Index (GPI) measures the peacefulness of countries based on a scoring model that uses 23 indicators to rank 158 countries by their relative states of peace. The selected indicators are the best available data sets that reflect the incidence or absence of peace. They contain both quantitative data and qualitative scores from a range of trusted sources. The GPI is produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), guided by an international expert panel of independent experts and supported by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), which collates the data and calculates the rankings in conjunction with the IEP.¹

The GPI's principal aim is to investigate positive peace. It does this by identifying correlations between GPI scores and a range of other indexes and databases that measure key social, economic, education, health, governance and political factors. Investigating the statistical relevance of these factors allows the identification of a range of potential determinants that may influence the creation and nurturing of a peaceful society.

The Global Peace Index 2012 records improvements in the average scores of all regions apart from the Middle East and North Africa (see table 2.9 below).² The uprisings, protests and revolutions of the Arab Spring (see section I above) made the Middle East and North Africa the least peaceful region; GPI scores deteriorated most sharply in Syria, Egypt, Tunisia and Oman (see table 2.8). For the first time since the GPI was launched, in 2007, sub-Saharan Africa was not the least peaceful region; there were notable improvements in Madagascar, Gabon and Botswana.

Iceland was the country most at peace for the second successive year. Small, stable democracies dominate the top 10 once more. Qatar, ranked 12th, is the highest-placed Middle Eastern country (and non-democracy). Bhutan moved into the top 20 for the first time, mainly as a result of easing tensions surrounding ethnic Nepali refugees. Norway fell out of the top 10, dropping from 9th to 18th position as a result of the July 2011 attacks in which 77 people were killed and deteriorations in several measures of militarization. Sri Lanka experienced the greatest improvement in its overall peacefulness, following the ending of decades of civil war.

¹ More information on the IEP is available at <<http://www.economicsandpeace.org/>>. The panel included the following experts in 2011–12: Kevin Clements, Chairman (University of Otago), Ian Anthony (SIPRI), Sultan Barakat (University of York), Nick Grono (International Crisis Group), Toshiya Hoshino (Osaka University), Manuela Mesa (Centro de Educación e Investigación para la Paz, Madrid) and Ekaterina Stepanova (IMEMO).

² For full details see IEP, *2012 Global Peace Index* (IEP: Sydney, 2012).

Table 2.8. Countries with the greatest change in Global Peace Index scores, 2011–12

| Country | Score, 2012 | Change in score, 2011–12 | Rank, 2012 | Change in rank, 2011–12 ^a |
|----------------------|-------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Top 5 risers</i> | | | | |
| Sri Lanka | 2.145 | -0.292 | 103 | +27 |
| Zimbabwe | 2.538 | -0.186 | 140 | - |
| Bhutan | 1.481 | -0.182 | 19 | +11 |
| Guyana | 1.937 | -0.178 | 69 | +21 |
| Philippines | 2.415 | -0.157 | 133 | +2 |
| <i>Top 5 fallers</i> | | | | |
| Syria | 2.830 | +0.523 | 147 | -31 |
| Egypt | 2.220 | +0.215 | 111 | -40 |
| Tunisia | 1.955 | +0.193 | 72 | -29 |
| Oman | 1.887 | +0.150 | 59 | -20 |
| Malawi | 1.894 | +0.146 | 60 | -19 |

^a The Global Peace Index (GPI) 2011 included only 153 countries while the 2012 GPI includes 158 countries, which affects changes in ranking between 2011 and 2012.

War-ravaged Somalia remained the country least at peace in 2012 for the second successive year, with ongoing conflict in several regions (with the notable exception of Somaliland; see section II above). Afghanistan's score deteriorated and it dropped to second-lowest position. Iraq became slightly more peaceful as a result of a reduction in the likelihood of violent demonstrations and a fall in the number of displaced people, albeit from high levels. Syria's descent into civil war caused its score to deteriorate by the largest margin and it dropped by 31 places to 147th position.

The world has become slightly more peaceful in the past year. The average score for the 158 countries ranked in the 2012 GPI was 2.02 (based on a 1–5 scale), a slight decline—indicating an increase in peacefulness—compared with 2011, when the average was 2.05. This follows two consecutive years in which overall peacefulness fell, with many countries experiencing growing instability and heightened disharmony linked to rises in fuel, food and commodity prices and the global economic downturn. There is little variance between the scores of the top 25 countries in 2012: 0.435, from 1.113 for Iceland to 1.548 for Spain. The spread in scores of the 25 lowest-ranked countries was more than double this: 0.973, from 2.419 for Côte d'Ivoire to 3.392 for Somalia, a slight increase on the spread in 2011 (0.956).

Among the GPI indicators, the largest change from the 2011 GPI was the deterioration in perceptions of criminality in society. Other significant changes were all in measures of societal safety and the security situation, reflecting the turmoil in the Arab world and beyond. The greatest improvement was in the political terror scale, and there were gains in several indicators of militarization as defence budgets were squeezed.

Table 2.9. The Global Peace Index 2012

| Rank | Country | Score | Change | Rank | Country | Score | Change |
|------|----------------------|-------|--------|------|---------------------|-------|--------|
| 1 | Iceland | 1.113 | -0.037 | 50 | Ghana | 1.807 | +0.066 |
| 2 | Denmark | 1.239 | -0.041 | 51 | Zambia | 1.830 | -0.013 |
| 2 | New Zealand | 1.239 | -0.034 | 52 | Sierra Leone | 1.855 | -0.027 |
| 4 | Canada | 1.317 | -0.033 | 53 | Lesotho | 1.864 | .. |
| 5 | Japan | 1.326 | +0.032 | 54 | Morocco | 1.867 | +0.007 |
| 6 | Austria | 1.328 | -0.001 | 55 | Tanzania | 1.873 | +0.020 |
| 6 | Ireland | 1.328 | -0.054 | 56 | Burkina Faso | 1.881 | +0.054 |
| 8 | Slovenia | 1.330 | -0.040 | 56 | Djibouti | 1.881 | .. |
| 9 | Finland | 1.348 | -0.015 | 58 | Mongolia | 1.884 | +0.006 |
| 10 | Switzerland | 1.349 | -0.077 | 59 | Oman | 1.887 | +0.150 |
| 11 | Belgium | 1.376 | -0.033 | 60 | Malawi | 1.894 | +0.146 |
| 12 | Qatar | 1.395 | -0.005 | 61 | Panama | 1.899 | +0.080 |
| 13 | Czech Republic | 1.396 | +0.064 | 62 | Jordan | 1.905 | -0.009 |
| 14 | Sweden | 1.419 | +0.010 | 63 | Indonesia | 1.913 | -0.045 |
| 15 | Germany | 1.424 | +0.011 | 64 | Serbia | 1.920 | -0.136 |
| 16 | Portugal | 1.470 | +0.018 | 65 | Bosnia–Herzegovina | 1.923 | +0.026 |
| 17 | Hungary | 1.476 | -0.028 | 66 | Albania | 1.927 | +0.024 |
| 18 | Norway | 1.480 | +0.113 | 66 | Moldova | 1.927 | +0.026 |
| 19 | Bhutan | 1.481 | -0.182 | 68 | Macedonia, FYR | 1.935 | -0.095 |
| 20 | Malaysia | 1.485 | +0.031 | 69 | Guyana | 1.937 | -0.178 |
| 21 | Mauritius | 1.487 | .. | 70 | Cuba | 1.951 | -0.014 |
| 22 | Australia | 1.494 | +0.034 | 71 | Ukraine | 1.953 | -0.043 |
| 23 | Singapore | 1.521 | -0.052 | 72 | Tunisia | 1.955 | +0.193 |
| 24 | Poland | 1.524 | -0.032 | 73 | Cyprus | 1.957 | -0.059 |
| 25 | Spain | 1.548 | -0.101 | 74 | Gambia | 1.961 | +0.046 |
| 26 | Slovakia | 1.590 | +0.002 | 75 | Gabon | 1.972 | -0.095 |
| 27 | Taiwan | 1.602 | -0.040 | 76 | Paraguay | 1.973 | +0.007 |
| 28 | Netherlands | 1.606 | -0.027 | 77 | Greece | 1.976 | +0.035 |
| 29 | United Kingdom | 1.609 | -0.016 | 78 | Senegal | 1.994 | -0.041 |
| 30 | Chile | 1.616 | -0.107 | 79 | Peru | 1.995 | -0.076 |
| 31 | Botswana | 1.621 | -0.080 | 80 | Nepal | 2.001 | -0.153 |
| 32 | Romania | 1.627 | -0.126 | 81 | Montenegro | 2.006 | -0.098 |
| 33 | Uruguay | 1.628 | +0.101 | 81 | Nicaragua | 2.006 | -0.007 |
| 34 | Viet Nam | 1.641 | -0.032 | 83 | Brazil | 2.017 | -0.033 |
| 35 | Croatia | 1.648 | -0.051 | 84 | Bolivia | 2.021 | -0.008 |
| 36 | Costa Rica | 1.659 | -0.027 | 85 | Ecuador | 2.028 | -0.075 |
| 37 | Laos | 1.662 | -0.013 | 85 | Swaziland | 2.028 | +0.031 |
| 38 | Italy | 1.690 | -0.089 | 87 | Equatorial Guinea | 2.039 | +0.011 |
| 39 | Bulgaria | 1.699 | -0.147 | 88 | United States | 2.058 | -0.007 |
| 40 | France | 1.710 | +0.016 | 89 | China | 2.061 | -0.015 |
| 41 | Estonia | 1.715 | -0.084 | 90 | Dominican Republic | 2.068 | -0.061 |
| 42 | South Korea | 1.734 | -0.100 | 91 | Bangladesh | 2.071 | - |
| 43 | Lithuania | 1.741 | -0.027 | 92 | Guinea | 2.073 | -0.040 |
| 44 | Argentina | 1.763 | -0.100 | 93 | Papua New Guinea | 2.076 | -0.053 |
| 45 | Latvia | 1.774 | -0.029 | 94 | Trinidad and Tobago | 2.082 | +0.042 |
| 46 | United Arab Emirates | 1.785 | +0.099 | 95 | Angola | 2.105 | -0.014 |
| 47 | Kuwait | 1.792 | +0.141 | 95 | Guinea-Bissau | 2.105 | .. |
| 48 | Mozambique | 1.796 | -0.020 | 97 | Cameroon | 2.113 | +0.012 |
| 49 | Namibia | 1.804 | -0.039 | 98 | Uganda | 2.121 | -0.032 |

| Rank | Country | Score | Change | Rank | Country | Score | Change |
|------|-----------------------|-------|--------|------|----------------------|-------|--------|
| 99 | Madagascar | 2.124 | -0.123 | 129 | Honduras | 2.339 | +0.013 |
| 99 | Tajikistan | 2.124 | -0.094 | 130 | Turkey | 2.344 | -0.071 |
| 101 | Liberia | 2.131 | -0.014 | 131 | Kyrgyzstan | 2.359 | +0.069 |
| 102 | Mali | 2.132 | -0.039 | 132 | Azerbaijan | 2.360 | -0.009 |
| 103 | Sri Lanka | 2.145 | -0.292 | 133 | Philippines | 2.415 | -0.157 |
| 104 | Republic of the Congo | 2.148 | -0.009 | 134 | Côte d'Ivoire | 2.419 | -0.009 |
| 105 | Kazakhstan | 2.151 | +0.007 | 135 | Mexico | 2.445 | +0.092 |
| 106 | Saudi Arabia | 2.178 | -0.003 | 136 | Lebanon | 2.459 | -0.121 |
| 107 | Haiti | 2.179 | -0.097 | 137 | Ethiopia | 2.504 | +0.031 |
| 108 | Cambodia | 2.207 | -0.085 | 138 | Burundi | 2.524 | -0.005 |
| 109 | Belarus | 2.208 | -0.080 | 139 | Myanmar | 2.525 | -0.014 |
| 110 | Uzbekistan | 2.219 | -0.017 | 140 | Zimbabwe | 2.538 | -0.186 |
| 111 | Egypt | 2.220 | +0.215 | 141 | Georgia | 2.541 | -0.019 |
| 111 | El Salvador | 2.220 | - | 142 | India | 2.549 | -0.026 |
| 113 | Jamaica | 2.222 | -0.012 | 143 | Yemen | 2.601 | -0.057 |
| 114 | Benin | 2.231 | .. | 144 | Colombia | 2.625 | -0.062 |
| 115 | Armenia | 2.238 | -0.016 | 145 | Chad | 2.671 | -0.074 |
| 116 | Niger | 2.241 | -0.082 | 146 | Nigeria | 2.801 | +0.074 |
| 117 | Turkmenistan | 2.242 | -0.004 | 147 | Libya | 2.830 | +0.037 |
| 118 | Bahrain | 2.247 | -0.106 | 147 | Syria | 2.830 | +0.523 |
| 119 | Rwanda | 2.250 | +0.061 | 149 | Pakistan | 2.833 | -0.070 |
| 120 | Kenya | 2.252 | -0.031 | 150 | Israel | 2.842 | -0.062 |
| 121 | Algeria | 2.255 | -0.156 | 151 | Central African Rep. | 2.872 | +0.022 |
| 122 | Eritrea | 2.264 | +0.044 | 152 | North Korea | 2.932 | -0.153 |
| 123 | Venezuela | 2.278 | -0.110 | 153 | Russia | 2.938 | -0.029 |
| 124 | Guatemala | 2.287 | -0.107 | 154 | Congo, Dem. Rep. | 3.073 | +0.057 |
| 125 | Mauritania | 2.301 | -0.078 | 155 | Iraq | 3.192 | -0.107 |
| 126 | Thailand | 2.303 | +0.052 | 156 | Sudan | 3.193 | -0.038 |
| 127 | South Africa | 2.321 | -0.041 | 157 | Afghanistan | 3.252 | +0.043 |
| 128 | Iran | 2.324 | -0.036 | 158 | Somalia | 3.392 | +0.021 |

.. = not ranked in 2011; - = no change.

Sources and methods

The GPI's 23 indicators are divided into three thematic categories: ongoing domestic and international conflict; societal safety and security; and militarization. All of the indicators are assigned a score ('banded') on a 1–5 scale. EIU country analysts score the qualitative indicators, and gaps in the quantitative data are filled by estimates. The GPI is intended to review the state of peace in countries over the period 16 March 2011–15 March 2012, but many indicators are based on available data from 2010 and 2011.

Weights are assigned to each indicator, based on their relative importance, on a 1–5 scale. Two sub-component weighted indices are then calculated from the 23 indicators: one that measures a country's level of internal peace and one that measures a country's level of external peace (its state of peace beyond its borders). The overall composite score and index are then calculated by applying a weight of 60 per cent to the measure of internal peace and 40 per cent for external peace. A heavier weight is applied to internal peace on the assumption that a greater level of internal peace is likely to correlate with a lower level of external conflict.

1. *Measures of ongoing domestic and international conflict.* The five indicators in this category are: (a) number of external and internal conflicts fought (from the UCDP Armed Conflict

Dataset), with weight 5; (b) estimated number of deaths from organized external conflict (UCDP), with weight 5; (c) number of deaths from organized internal conflict (International Institute for Strategic Studies, IISS, Armed Conflict Database), with weight 5; (d) level of organized internal conflict (EIU), with weight 5; and (e) relations with neighbouring countries (EIU), with weight 5.

Data reflecting a country's historical experience of domestic and international conflict is not included since the GPI uses data on ongoing intra- and interstate conflicts.

2. *Measures of societal safety and security.* The 10 indicators in this category are: (a) perceptions of criminality in society (EIU), with weight 3; (b) number of displaced people as a percentage of the population (UN High Commissioner for Refugees Statistical Yearbook and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre), with weight 4; (c) political instability (EIU), with weight 4; (d) political terror scale (Mark Gibney and Matthew Dalton, University of North Carolina/Amnesty International), with weight 4; (e) terrorist acts (IEP and Global Terrorism Database, University of Maryland), with weight 2; (f) number of homicides per 100 000 people (UN Surveys on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, CTS), with weight 4; (g) level of violent crime (EIU), with weight 4; (h) likelihood of violent demonstrations (EIU), with weight 3; (i) number of prisoners per 100 000 people (International Centre for Prison Studies, King's College London, World Prison Population List) with weight 3; and (j) number of internal security officers and police per 100 000 people (CTS), with weight 3.

3. *Measures of militarization.* The eight indicators in this category are: (a) military expenditure as a percentage of GDP (IISS, *The Military Balance*), with weight 2; (b) number of armed services personnel per 100 000 people (IISS, *The Military Balance*), with weight 2; (c) volume of transfers of major conventional weapons (imports) per 100 000 people (SIPRI Arms Transfers Database), with weight 2; (d) volume of transfers of major conventional weapons (exports) per 100 000 people (SIPRI Arms Transfers Database), with weight 3; (e) funding for UN peace operations (IEP), with weight 2; (f) aggregate weighted number of heavy weapons per 100 000 people (IEP), with weight 3; (g) ease of access to small arms and light weapons (EIU), with weight 3; and (h) military capability/sophistication (EIU), with weight 2.

This category reflects the assertion that the level of militarization and access to weapons is directly linked to how at peace a country feels internationally. Financial support to UN peace operations is considered a contribution to increasing peace.

For the precise definition of each indicator see Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), *2012 Global Peace Index* (IEP: Sydney, 2012), annex A.

Changes to the methodology for 2012

The panel of experts that oversees the compilation of the Global Peace Index chose to include five additional countries in the 2012 edition: Benin, Djibouti, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho and Mauritius. This brings the total coverage in the 2012 GPI to 158 states, encompassing more than 99 per cent of the world's population.

Subsequent editions of the GPI will include other states, but not microstates; the panel decided that countries in the GPI must either have a population of more than 1 million or a land area greater than 20 000 square kilometres.

The panel recommended that the Global Terrorism Database, an authoritative and up-to-date quantitative measure of terrorist acts compiled by the University of Maryland, would be a useful addition to the GPI. This year it replaces the qualitative indicator 'Likelihood of terrorist acts', which was scored by EIU analysts.