

IV. The Global Peace Index 2014

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Introduction

The 2014 Global Peace Index (GPI) is the eighth edition of the world's leading study on global levels of peacefulness. The GPI ranks 162 states using 22 qualitative and quantitative indicators from highly respected sources, which gauge three broad themes: the level of safety and security in society; the extent of domestic or international conflict; and the degree of militarization (see table 4.9 and 4.10). The GPI is produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), guided by an international 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 By generating new information on the state of peace at the national and global levels, the IEP seeks to make a valuable contribution to an improved understanding of how civil society, researchers, policy makers and government can create a more peaceful society.

In 2014, the overall level of global peace, as measured by the GPI, deteriorated slightly for the sixth year in a row, continuing to record a gradual slide in global peacefulness since 2008. Five of the nine geographical regions experienced an improvement in the level of peacefulness in 2014. Among those that became less peaceful, substantial changes in the GPI were seen in only two: the Middle East and North Africa (which continues to suffer from the political aftermath of the Arab Spring) and sub-Saharan Africa. Supported by a lack of domestic and external conflicts, Europe maintains its position as the most peaceful region in the world. The largest improvement was seen in what nonetheless remains the world's most violent region—South Asia, which includes Afghanistan.

In terms of societal safety and security, two notable changes were: a reduction in the incarceration rate and deterioration in the level of violent crime indicator. The perception of criminality in society also deteriorated. Outside sub-Saharan Africa, where criminality is often fuelled by ethnic strife and political unrest, Latin America remained the world's most violent region in terms of crime. This was highlighted in its poor results in most related indicators, particularly in Central America and the Caribbean,

¹ On the IEP see <<http://www.economicsandpeace.org/>>. The panel was made up of the following experts in 2013–14: Kevin Clements, Chairman (University of Otago), Sabina Alkire (University of Oxford), Ian Anthony (SIPRI), Vasu Gounden (ACCORD), Nick Grono (Walk Free), Manuela Mesa (Centro de Educación e Investigación para la Paz) and Ekaterina Stepanova (IMEMO, Moscow).

Table 4.9. The Global Peace Index, 2014

Rank	Country	Score	Change	Rank	Country	Score	Change
1	Iceland	1.189	+0.027	48	Namibia	1.808	+0.001
2	Denmark	1.193	-0.001	50	Lesotho	1.839	-0.001
3	Austria	1.200	-0.049	51	Cyprus	1.844	+0.004
4	New Zealand	1.236	0.000	52	Serbia	1.849	-0.063
5	Switzerland	1.258	-0.001	52	South Korea	1.849	+0.027
6	Finland	1.297	0.000	54	Indonesia	1.853	-0.039
7	Canada	1.306	0.000	55	Montenegro	1.860	-0.117
8	Japan	1.316	+0.023	56	Jordan	1.861	-0.011
9	Belgium	1.354	+0.001	57	Panama	1.877	-0.016
10	Norway	1.371	+0.025	58	Nicaragua	1.882	-0.049
11	Czech Republic	1.381	-0.023	59	Oman	1.889	+0.056
11	Sweden	1.381	+0.062	59	Tanzania	1.889	+0.002
13	Ireland	1.384	0.000	61	Bosnia-Herzegovina	1.902	-0.066
14	Slovenia	1.398	-0.002	61	Ghana	1.902	-0.024
15	Australia	1.414	-0.024	63	Morocco	1.915	+0.032
16	Bhutan	1.422	-0.052	64	Kosovo	1.929	-0.053
17	Germany	1.423	-0.021	65	Albania	1.939	-0.023
18	Portugal	1.425	-0.029	66	Madagascar	1.942	-0.145
19	Slovakia	1.467	-0.155	66	Sierra Leone	1.942	+0.038
20	Netherlands	1.475	-0.033	68	Gabon	1.945	-0.077
21	Hungary	1.482	-0.038	69	Timor-Leste	1.947	+0.093
22	Qatar	1.491	+0.038	70	Bolivia	1.969	-0.094
23	Poland	1.532	+0.002	71	Moldova	1.971	0.000
24	Mauritius	1.544	+0.020	72	Senegal	1.974	-0.087
25	Singapore	1.545	+0.080	73	Paraguay	1.976	-0.071
26	Croatia	1.548	-0.023	74	Djibouti	1.979	+0.062
26	Spain	1.548	-0.014	75	Cuba	1.986	+0.037
28	Taiwan	1.558	-0.007	76	Nepal	1.989	-0.069
29	Uruguay	1.565	+0.037	77	Malawi	1.995	-0.016
30	Chile	1.591	+0.003	78	Burkina Faso	1.998	-0.093
31	Estonia	1.635	-0.075	79	Tunisia	2.001	+0.010
32	Bulgaria	1.637	-0.053	80	Saudi Arabia	2.003	-0.116
33	Malaysia	1.659	+0.072	80	Togo	2.003	+0.023
34	Italy	1.675	+0.012	82	Mozambique	2.004	+0.080
35	Romania	1.677	+0.066	83	Guyana	2.013	+0.064
36	Botswana	1.678	+0.053	84	Liberia	2.014	-0.034
37	Kuwait	1.679	-0.026	85	Ecuador	2.042	-0.004
38	Laos	1.723	-0.001	86	Greece	2.052	+0.109
39	Latvia	1.745	-0.027	87	Macedonia, FYR	2.056	-0.001
40	United Arab Emirates	1.748	+0.069	87	Swaziland	2.056	-0.013
41	Mongolia	1.778	-0.170	89	Trinidad and Tobago	2.065	-0.009
42	Costa Rica	1.781	0.000	90	Papua New Guinea	2.066	-0.060
43	Argentina	1.789	-0.118	91	Brazil	2.073	+0.009
44	Zambia	1.791	-0.040	92	Belarus	2.078	-0.038
45	Vietnam	1.792	+0.020	93	Equatorial Guinea	2.079	+0.006
46	Lithuania	1.797	-0.014	94	Gambia	2.085	-0.006
47	United Kingdom	1.798	-0.003	95	Dominican Republic	2.093	-0.037
48	France	1.808	-0.068	95	Turkmenistan	2.093	-0.061

Rank	Country	Score	Change	Rank	Country	Score	Change
97	Armenia	2.097	-0.026	130	Burundi	2.418	-0.175
98	Bangladesh	2.106	-0.053	131	Iran	2.437	-0.036
99	Haiti	2.127	+0.052	132	Kenya	2.452	-0.028
100	Benin	2.129	-0.027	133	Libya	2.453	-0.204
101	United States	2.137	+0.011	134	Philippines	2.456	+0.082
102	Angola	2.143	-0.005	135	Mali	2.465	+0.119
103	Kazakhstan	2.150	+0.119	136	Myanmar	2.473	-0.056
104	Uzbekistan	2.179	-0.141	137	Rwanda	2.494	+0.051
105	Sri Lanka	2.197	-0.033	138	Mexico	2.500	+0.040
106	Cambodia	2.201	-0.062	139	Ethiopia	2.502	-0.128
107	Jamaica	2.203	-0.097	140	Côte d'Ivoire	2.520	-0.212
108	China	2.207	+0.065	141	Ukraine	2.546	+0.295
109	Congo, Rep. of	2.211	+0.028	142	Chad	2.558	+0.092
110	Uganda	2.221	+0.041	143	Egypt	2.571	+0.314
111	Bahrain	2.225	+0.090	143	India	2.571	0.000
111	Georgia	2.225	-0.272	145	Guinea-Bissau	2.591	+0.146
113	Cameroon	2.235	+0.044	146	Lebanon	2.620	+0.032
114	Algeria	2.239	-0.032	147	Yemen	2.629	-0.117
115	Guatemala	2.248	+0.014	148	Zimbabwe	2.662	-0.034
116	El Salvador	2.280	+0.013	149	Israel	2.689	-0.041
117	Honduras	2.281	-0.038	150	Colombia	2.701	+0.067
118	Guinea	2.296	+0.024	151	Nigeria	2.710	+0.003
119	Peru	2.304	+0.033	152	Russia	3.039	-0.021
120	Mauritania	2.350	+0.038	153	North Korea	3.071	0.000
121	Niger	2.351	-0.011	154	Pakistan	3.107	0.000
122	South Africa	2.364	+0.045	155	Congo, Dem. Rep. of	3.213	+0.128
123	Azerbaijan	2.365	+0.028	156	Central African Rep.	3.331	+0.313
124	Eritrea	2.377	+0.089	157	Sudan	3.362	+0.120
125	Kyrgyzstan	2.382	-0.009	158	Somalia	3.368	-0.026
126	Tajikistan	2.395	+0.100	159	Iraq	3.377	+0.132
126	Thailand	2.395	+0.017	160	South Sudan	3.397	+0.795
128	Turkey	2.402	-0.048	161	Afghanistan	3.416	-0.025
129	Venezuela	2.410	+0.040	162	Syria	3.650	+0.244

Note: Because of small methodology and data updates, the baseline figures used for 2013 are not the same as the numbers in the 2013 SIPRI Yearbook. Since the publication of that Yearbook, all the numbers in the GPI have been updated and the time series made comparable and harmonized.

which has many of the world's highest homicide rates. Improved scores were seen in the indicators of political instability and the political terror scale throughout the world, although it is notable that the political instability indicator deteriorated slightly in Europe, which has suffered from austerity-driven dissatisfaction and unrest in recent years. The political terror indicator either improved or remained static in all regions except sub-Saharan Africa, which indicates less widespread use of state repression on a global scale. This bodes well for the gradual consolidation of democratic institutions in some of the world's more fragile states, although a

Table 4.10. Countries with the greatest change in Global Peace Index scores, 2013–14

Country	Score, 2014	Change in score, 2013–14	Rank, 2014	Change in rank, 2013–14
<i>Top 5 risers</i>				
Georgia	2.225	-0.272	111	+28
Côte d'Ivoire	2.52	-0.212	140	+11
Libya	2.453	-0.204	133	+14
Burundi	2.418	-0.175	130	+13
Mongolia	1.778	-0.17	41	+25
<i>Top 5 fallers</i>				
South Sudan	3.397	+0.795	160	-16
Egypt	2.571	+0.314	143	-31
CAR	3.331	+0.313	156	-3
Ukraine	2.546	+0.295	141	-30
Syria	3.65	+0.244	162	-1

CAR = Central African Republic.

Note: A fall in the GPI score indicates an increase in peace.

higher likelihood of violent demonstrations in many regions stands out as a latent risk. Finally, the number of refugees and internally displaced persons increased in the past year, exacerbated by internal conflict primarily in the Middle East and North Africa, but also in certain Latin American countries, most notably Colombia and Haiti. In the case of Colombia, a potential peace plan between the Government and Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC, Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) offers hope of an end to one of the region's long-standing conflicts.

With regard to domestic and international conflict, a decrease in the number of deaths linked to organized external conflict was offset by a rise in those originating from internal conflict, triggered primarily by a small number of severe crises in key global hotspots. In the case of sub-Saharan Africa, this was largely driven by outbreaks of ethnic warfare in the Central African Republic (CAR), Mali and South Sudan. Although internal in origin, these crises have affected relations with neighbouring countries and foreign powers, resulting in French military intervention in the CAR and Mali. The Middle East and North Africa GPI average scores deteriorated as a result of the added international dimension of the Syrian civil war—which, during 2013, came close to involving military operations by Western powers before an agreement was reached to dismantle Syria's chemical weapon arsenal. The ousting of Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi and the violence that both preceded and followed it meant that Egypt also negatively affected the region's scores significantly. Scores for the Middle East and North Africa deteriorated in four of the five indicators that com-

prise the domestic and international conflict dimension of the GPI; notably it was only region without an improvement in at least one of the five indicators. Elsewhere, the primary contentious issue has been the ongoing crisis between Russia and Ukraine, triggered by the Euromaidan protests in November 2013, which later escalated into a Russian military intervention in Crimea. Apart from incidents in these three regions, however, there was little in the way of international conflict in the past year—a year that saw no new major war between states.

The militarization domain was characterized by a widespread reduction in the number of armed services personnel. This contrasts with the overall increase in military expenditure as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) in three key regions: sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and especially the Middle East and North Africa. The arms trade also saw a decrease in inter-European transfers (both exports and imports). The flow of Russian arms to the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific continued, however, most of which were sent to support Syrian Government forces against the various rebel groups. A major positive development has been the decrease in nuclear- and heavy-weapon capabilities indicator. This trend is most evident in some of the world's most militarized regions, such as Europe, Russia and Eurasia, and the Middle East and North Africa, although in the latter case this was partly due to losses incurred by Syrian Government forces in the civil war. This broad improvement, however, may prove to be short-lived if there is greater impetus for rearmament among North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries as a result of Russian aggression. This would be particularly evident in some of the NATO states bordering or close to Russia, but could also affect core countries, such as Germany, which have trimmed down their armed forces and stocks of heavy weaponry in recent years.

Seven-year trends of the Global Peace Index

In 2008–14 the GPI recorded gradual and successive falls in the global level of peacefulness each year. This trend in declining world peace has been predominately driven by deteriorations in internal peace indicators, especially those related to societal safety and security, although external indicators have also deteriorated slightly.

Only four indicators improved over the seven-year period, while 18 indicators deteriorated. The key indicators that deteriorated most significantly over the period were the level of terrorist activity, the homicide rate, the likelihood of violent demonstrations, levels of organized conflict and perceptions of criminality. These changes were driven by international events, such as the major outbreaks of violence in the Middle East, a continued deterioration in security in Afghanistan and Pakistan, the onset of civil war

in Libya and Syria, the escalation of the drug war in Central America, continued deteriorations in peace in Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, and violent demonstrations associated with the economic downturn in a number of European countries.

On the positive side, the improvements in peace were mainly driven by declining rates of militarization linked to the winding down of military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and stagnating military spending due to the eurozone budget crisis. This resulted in improvements in the indicators for nuclear- and heavy-weapon capabilities, military spending as a percentage of GDP and the number of armed service personnel.

Although this seven-year trend indicates increasing violence, this should not necessarily be seen as indicative of the long-term trend. It is well established in conflict-related studies that there has been a remarkable improvement in the levels of peace since the end of World War II, especially related to the regularity of conflict between states. Even though the increase in terrorist violence in the past seven years has been notable in reaching its highest-ever recorded level as measured by fatalities inflicted by terrorist activity, this new pattern of violence is far less deadly on average than conflict between states. This underlines the fact that compared to previous decades, the world is still more peaceful today than it was in all periods before the year 2000.

Sources and methods

The GPI's 22 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 2013–15 March 2014, but many indicators are based on available data from 2012 and 2013.

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 22 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 refugees and internally displaced persons 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 activity (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 seven 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) nuclear- and heavy-weapon capability (IEP), with weight 3; and (g) ease of access to small arms and light weapons (EIU), with weight 3. 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), *2014 Global Peace Index* (IEP: Sydney, 2014), annex A.