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# Comparative International Governments

 Media List

The debatable issue for this argument-centered project is:

 **Which country has the best national government: China, North**

**Korea, Qatar, Sweden, Turkey, or the United States?**

This media list contains sources that can be used to research evidence to support arguments and counter-arguments on this debatable issue. Arguments should be built around the four criteria for the effectiveness of national governments:

1. Freedom
2. Prosperity
3. International Standing/Reputation
4. Stability

China

<https://maketheworldworkbetter.wordpress.com/2012/09/30/china-should-make-us-rethink-our-assumptions-about-democracy-effective-government-and-the-will-of-the-people/>

China’s government is authoritarian, not democratic, but it might be the best suited to rule over an enormous country of 1.2 billion people with an economy that has moved from pre-industrial to advanced in a very short time-frame (about 25 years). It is a government that has fostered stability in China.

<http://www.theglobaleconomy.com/compare-countries/>

The **Country Comparator** from the World Bank shows that China is doing well comparatively in its economy, but doing poorly comparatively in its political stability and respect for freedoms and the rule of law. **The Country Comparator is actually usable to compare all six of the countries in the debatable issue.**

<http://www.bloombergview.com/articles/2015-11-03/china-s-slump-might-be-much-worse-than-we-thought>

China’s economy is slowing and slowing more sharply than most everyone believes.

<http://money.cnn.com/2016/01/15/investing/china-stock-market/>

China’s government doesn’t seem to know what it’s doing when it comes to the economy – in part because it is Communist government trying to manage a free market (Capitalist) economy – and the impact is the possibility of an economic collapse in China.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lin-yifu/western-analysts-china-economy_b_4762222.html>

China’s economy is actually very strong, despite Western claims to the contrary.

<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2015/country-chapters/china-and-tibet>

The 2015 Human Rights Watch report on China is highly critical of its authoritarian government as one that does not respect of protect basic, fundamental human rights and liberties.

North Korea

<http://countrystudies.us/north-korea/55.htm>

The U.S. Library of Congress’s background report on the government of North Korea, which is fact-based and provides historical context for the current state of affairs there.

[http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2013/04/13/north-korea-factoids/2078831/#](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2013/04/13/north-korea-factoids/2078831/)

USA Today’s “20 Facts about North Korea” highlights the severe political repression, terribly low state of the economy, and high degree of militarized instability attributable to the failing North Korean state.

<http://www.nationalinterest.org/feature/doomsday-the-coming-collapse-north-korea-13107>

Because China’s support for North Korea will soon decline sharply, the North Korean national government will likely collapse soon. Though this could cause a high degree of regional and even global instability, it would also be good for the North Korean people.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2015/08/04/the-north-korean-government-is-getting-weaker-and-more-vulnerable-that-should-scare-you/>

North Korea’s extraordinarily repressive government is pushing the country closer and closer to collapse.

<http://www.heritage.org/index/country/northkorea>

The North Korean government has made its country an economic basket case.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2011/04/north-koreas-digital-underground/308414/>

North Korea’s digital underground represents some hope for political liberalization.

Qatar

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/160077.pdf>

A 2011 report from the U.S. Department of State on the Qatari government provides basic background information and a specific look at various freedoms that either have or have not been respected by the national government. As a constitutional monarchy legislatively influenced by Sharia law, there are major restrictions on individual liberty, especially on the rights of women to participate in society and of foreign workers (which make up a sizable portion of the population), generally.

<http://politicsandpolicy.org/article/qatar-rise-underdog>

Qatar is becoming an increasingly influential and significant country in the Middle East, building relationships with Western and regional Islamic powers.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/qa.html>

Summary of Qatar’s governmental status, political conditions, and economic outlook from the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) World Factbook. Qatar has significant strengths and weaknesses in these areas.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14702226>

The economy and its emerging status an international media hub are elevating Qatar.

<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/2011/10/27/strange-power-qatar/>

Long, detailed examination in the *New York Review of Books* of Qatar’s particular blend of restrictiveness on individual freedoms, high degree of social stability, and cosmopolitanism.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/08/world/middleeast/qatars-support-of-extremists-alienates-allies-near-and-far.html?_r=0>

Qatar’s government is coming under increasing criticism for supporting Islamic extremists.

Sweden

<http://www.thelocal.se/20101015/29628>

Sweden ranks near the top of the world in its respect for the rule of law and its guaranteeing of individual human rights, according to a 2010 World Justice Project report.

<https://sweden.se/society/the-swedish-system-of-government/>

The Swedish government outlines the ways in which its system of government is highly democratic, respecting individual liberties and the stable rule of law.

<http://taxfoundation.org/blog/how-scandinavian-countries-pay-their-government-spending>

Sweden pays for substantial “safety net” (socialist) programs through very high taxes, including a 56% income tax rate that (unlike the U.S.’s income tax rate is relatively flat, meaning most people pay it, rather than a lower, progressive rate, as in the U.S.) and a 25% value-added tax (i.e., sales tax).

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Global-News/2015/1108/Is-the-anti-immigration-right-on-the-rise-in-Sweden>

Anti-immigrant nationalism is on the rise and becoming increasingly influential in Sweden.

<http://www.focus-economics.com/countries/sweden>

Swedish economic growth is currently high and is forecasted to continue through 2016.

<http://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/6697/sweden-collapse>

The mass influx of migrants – mainly from Syria, but from elsewhere in the Middle East, too – is threatening the Swedish economy and social stability with collapse.

Turkey

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/tu.html>

Summary of Turkey’s governmental status, political conditions, and economic outlook from the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) World Factbook. Turkey is a reasonably stable democratic republic, but its economy is showing real signs of weakness and vulnerability, despite increasing privatization of important sectors by the government.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Turkey#cite_note-8>

The military has had and continues to have much more involvement in and influence over the government than is true of Western liberal democracies. Coups in Turkey are not uncommon.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/01/16/why-turkeys-growing-anti-intellectualism-is-a-threat-to-academic-freedom/>

The Turkish government’s crackdown on intellectuals writing and speaking against Turkish oppression of the Kurdish minority represents a growing wave of autocratic rule in Turkey.

<http://www.economist.com/news/europe/21579491-turkey-remains-highly-exposed-loss-confidence-foreign-investors-strong-vulnerable>

The economy in Turkey is strong but vulnerable, particularly if it loses the confidence of foreign investors.

<http://www.invest.gov.tr/en-US/turkey/factsandfigures/Pages/LegalAndPoliticalStructure.aspx>

According to the government of Turkey, the Turkish legal system is strong, individual and property rights are protected, and the rule of law prevails in Turkey.

United States

<http://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/human_rights_and_the_united_states#HR%20and%20US%20Law>

The U.S. protects political and civil rights, but does not do nearly as well in protecting social, economic, and cultural rights. American democracy protects “freedoms of” (the press, speech, religion) but not “freedoms from” (poverty, ignorance, homelessness).

<http://www.adaction.org/pages/issues/social-and-domestic/marriage-equality-and-lgbt-rights/civil-rights-and-liberties.php>

Governmental anti-terrorism and other law enforcement practices are threatening civil liberties in the U.S.

<http://www.americasquarterly.org/node/1766>

America remains the beacon of the free world.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/us-economy-still-in-good-shape-2015-8>

The U.S. economy is actually doing very well.

<http://nationalinterest.org/feature/american-hegemony-here-stay-13089>

The United States is a global hegemon, and will be so for a long time to come.

<http://www.cato.org/publications/commentary/us-is-no-longer-global-hegemon>

The United States no longer has its status as the world’s most dominant and influential nation. The days of U.S. hegemony are over.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/consumers-drive-the-us-economy-2015-9>

U.S. consumer confidence and spending are driving a healthy and growing American economy.

<http://www.businessweek.com/debateroom/archives/2009/05/government_stay_out_of_the_economy.html>

Two sides – a pro and a con – to the American government’s management of the U.S. economy.

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-failing-of-us-government/>

According to Columbia University economist Jeffrey Sachs, the U.S. federal government is failing to implement policies and programs effectively or successfully. We are experiencing a systems failure of American governmental policy.