



World Index of Moral Freedom

WIMF 2020

Gloria Álvarez, Yasuhiro Kotera & Juan Pina



THIRD BIENNIAL EDITION



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The 2020 edition of the WIMF has been fully funded by the Foundation's own resources, without any grants or sponsorship from any other institutions or companies.



Published by: Freedom Press, SL, July of 2020.
Previous indices: 2016 and 2018.
Cover image: © Tang Yan Song. Maps: MapChart..
www.freedompress.es | contacto@freedompress.es



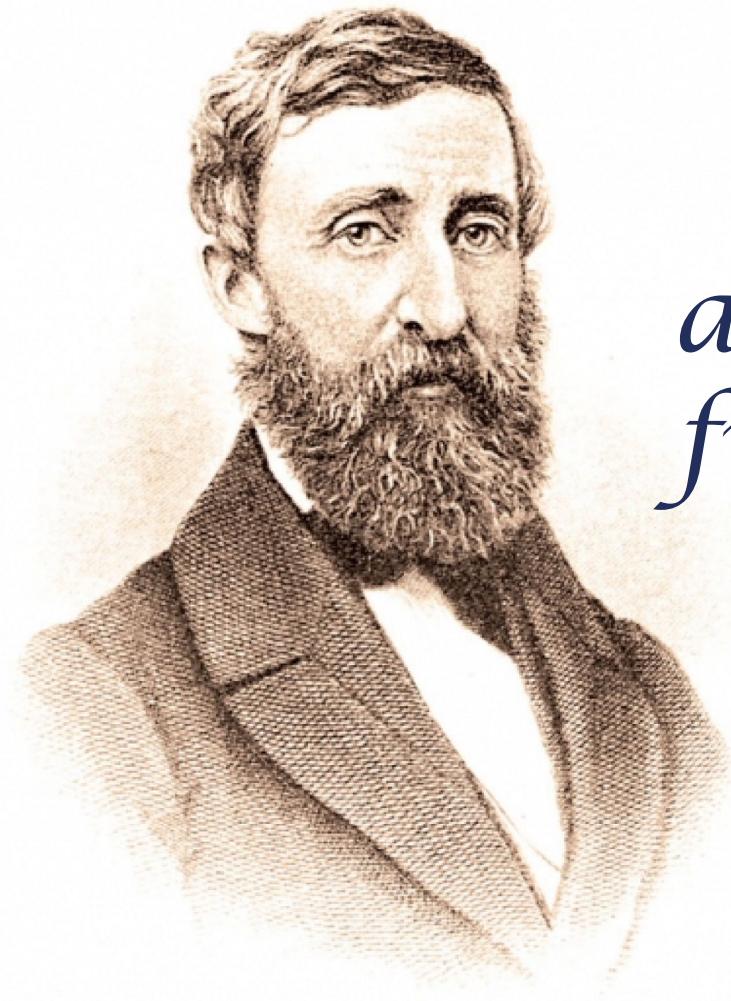
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ISBN: 978-84-949138-8-4 | Dep. legal TO 162-2020
Printed in Toledo, Spain by Canoprint.
Impreso en España - Imprimé en Espagne

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*What is
the value of
any political
freedom, but
as a means
to moral
freedom?*

*Henry David Thoreau
(1817-1862)*

On behalf of the Foundation for the Advancement of Liberty, I am proud to present this third biennial edition of the World Index of Moral Freedom (WIMF).

Back in 2016, when we first launched the Index, we aimed at providing an effective tool to benchmark as many countries as possible on their levels of individual freedom regarding ethics and morality. We did this because a number of well known, prestigious indices took care of economic freedom, and we thought —and continue to believe— that it was equally important to visualize the state of moral freedom so that scholars, experts, policy makers and the public at large could consider any correlations.

As a libertarian foundation we certainly advocate for as little government as possible, and a really limited government has a very small role to play on the ethical dilemmas and decisions faced by individuals —if any at all. Our index has shown that, generally speaking, countries with a higher respect for moral freedom tend to perform better in the other freedom indices published by several institutions, including our own World Electoral Freedom Index (WEFI) which has also reached its third edition. There is also a considerable amount of correlation between a country's moral freedom and its degree of economic development and ability to produce wealth, which confirms our idea that government interference in people's lives is not only detrimental to human dignity but also to individual and collective prosperity.



The WIMF has been praised for its simple, yet rigorous approach to moral freedom. We take the most relevant and controversial moral debates of our time, from bio-ethics to sexual issues or from gender to drugs policies to name but a few. Through seventeen indicators fed with data from prestigious, published sources, and assessment on policy reform and social trends, the WIMF projects an accurate image of the state of moral freedom in 160 countries. This involves reviewing sources, converting or setting scales and producing 2,720 specific figures which, through our algorithm, result

in one global score and five category scores per country, plus the ranking. I wish to thank political scientist Gloria Álvarez, a member of our Foundation's Council, and ethics researcher, professor Yasuhiro Kotera, for joining our efforts on this third edition.

Once more, the Netherlands are on top, and once more I am not surprised. But the Dutch need to be careful because Portugal's impressive evolution over the past few years is challenging their long held title as the most morally free country in the world. In expressing our congratulations to these two countries, I must also regret that over half of humankind is still subject to unbearably low levels of moral freedom. I do hope that our research will contribute to expose this and boost the necessary reforms.

*Roxana Nicula, Chair,
Foundation for the Advancement of Liberty*



Moral freedom matters. An introduction to WIMF 2020

"Never complain of that of which it is at all times in your power to rid yourself"

Adam Smith,
The Theory of Moral Sentiments (1759).



It was the founding father of free market economics, Adam Smith who eloquently recognized the importance of individual freedom in moral issues as a previous and necessary condition to live in a peaceful society where voluntary transactions could be allowed without coercion.

For many decades, enemies of liberty have tried to hide the profound academic, philosophical and intellectual work that both the Libertarian and Objectivist schools of thought have dedicated to the understanding of true morality, which is reflected in the issues that this index measures around the globe.

Our Foundation's research effort towards this World Index of Moral Freedom results in a much needed tool to complete the understanding of individual liberty beyond free market economics. Along with the Human Freedom Index published by the Cato Institute, or the Economic Freedom indices made by the Heritage Foundation and the Fraser Institute, freedom fighters around the globe can use the WIMF's results in order to better explain how freedom brings progress, improves the quality of life and allows individuals to pursue their own happiness. Precisely because freedom cannot be considered separately from

one's own decisions regarding morality, this work is so much needed.

To live, a man must act, to act he must make choices, to make choices, he must define a code of values; in order to define that code he must know what he is and where he is: he must know his own nature and the nature of the universe in which he acts. The purpose of morality is about learning the different kinds of lives that you can live, and choosing.

Morality is open to choice. It has nothing to do with obeying dogma while ignoring what reality, science, neuroscience, his-

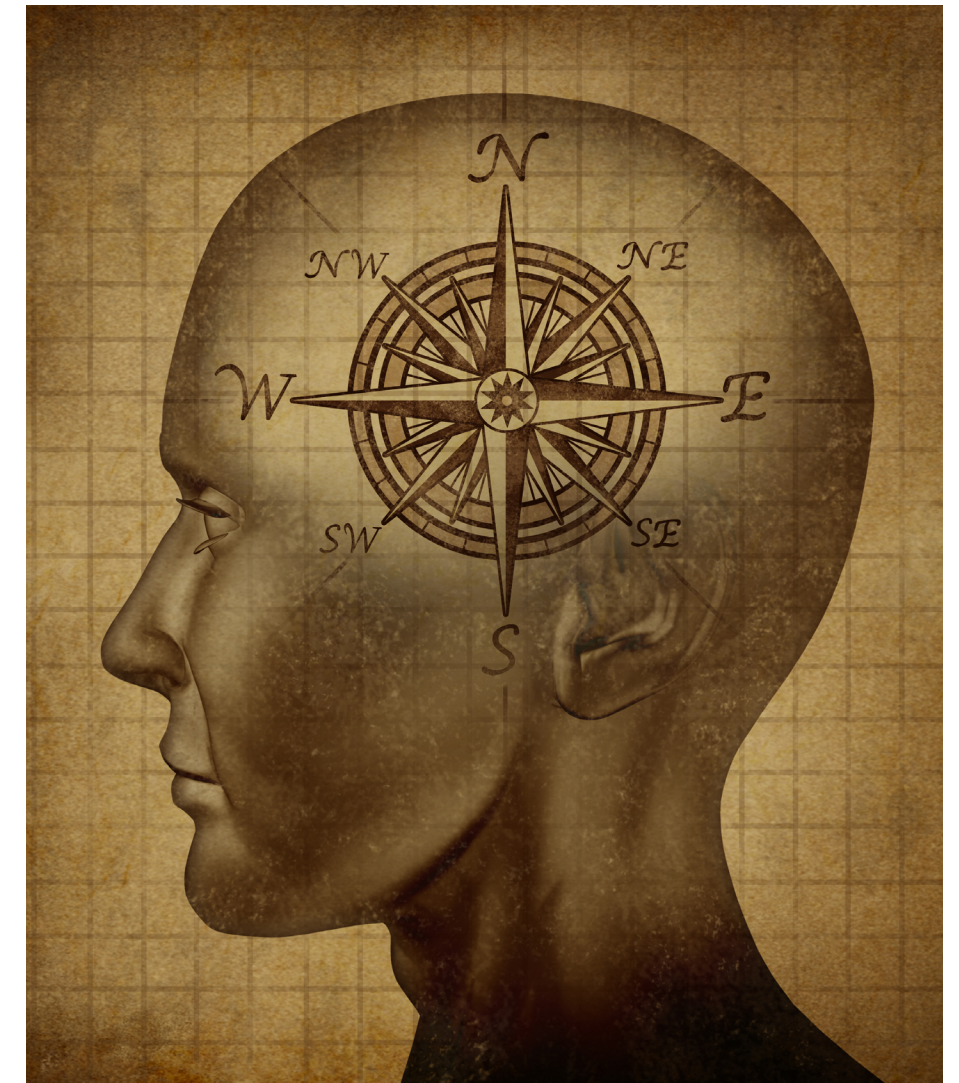
tory and economics teach us about the true human condition regarding his biology, his psychology or the radical self-reliance he can accomplish whenever his individual rights are respected; as well as the wonderful things that happen when his radical self-expression is guaranteed in societies that embrace the diversity of its members: their right to be free, as well as their obligation in respecting that same freedom in others.

You and I are self-made souls. You make your own soul. You are always responsible for how you act, no matter how you feel. By observing and understanding the reality we live in and our interaction with others, we come to realize that independence, integrity and honesty are core virtues with corresponding values: reason (the human form of consciousness), purpose (productiveness: to organize one's life with consciousness) and self-esteem (happiness and pride as a result of living ac-

cording to one's own values). The key is accepting that every single one of us is a self-purpose. That we do not live to be servants of others and that no one lives to be our servant either. What Ayn Rand so eloquently wrote in her famous novel *Atlas Shrugged*: "I swear by my life and my love of it that I will never live for the sake of another man, nor ask another man to live for mine."

Thus, the standard by which one judges good and evil is man's life. Not statist nor religious dogma. Life becomes the pursuit of values. It involves deep thinking about man's existence. Values as morals to attend, and virtues as means to attend those values.

Sadly, we are still overcoming centuries of oppression and ignorance where morality was never studied outside dogmatic obedience to certain gods or kings. Morality as a self-discovery journey was (and still is) a vision unpopu- larly sustained by classical liberals, objectivists and libertarians, who do not only oppose the dogmatic views of both conservatives and socialists, —which threaten the freedom to love, to live, to think and to trade—, but also against



some modern atheists who deny the existence of free will, thus devaluating the importance of freedom and responsibility in one’s own choices.

Because morality has been confused with various dogmatic sets of rules that vary from culture to culture and from country to country, there are people who believe that it is perfectly moral for girls not to go to school, not to receive sexual education; for homosexuals to be beaten and stoned to death; or for people to be discriminated by their skin color.

Due to this successful but cruel accomplishment of sacrificial indoctrination, which has been implemented both by religions and states, the individual's role has been reduced to that of a mere tool for the “common good”. Nowadays, many people still believe that morality comes from the state or from a certain god and his institutions, be they at the Vatican or in Mecca. They believe that without these institutions, we would simply live in anarchy, chaos and immorality. Collectivists crown the state as the ruler of morality. But as Hayek pointed out in *Why I Am Not A Conservative*, conservatives who advocate for state intervention in moral conducts are people who don’t believe that their peers are willing to dedicate energy, time and resources to the service of others, unless the moral authority “encourages” them to do so.

But this interpretation of moral responsibility is wrong from the anthropological perspective and is not backed by empirical evidence. With only a glimpse on how individuals step up to help others in need whenever a natural disaster occurs, or when a global pandemic, like the current one, spreads due to government inefficiency, one can witness the moral superiority of a civil society organized through spontaneous order. We saw this

happen as people self-organized to help after the earthquakes hit Mexico, or after the volcanic eruptions in Guatemala, and we have seen it again in the huge amounts privately donated through CAF (Charities Aid Foundation) to alleviate the Covid-19 worldwide pandemic during 2020.

Few are the human beings who understand that the true role of morality lies in the respect of the life, liberty and private property of the smallest and most valuable minority of them all: the individual. Part of those few, are the creators of the Moral Freedom Index that you are about to read. I want to deeply thank the Foundation for the Advancement of Liberty for letting me be part of this research effort. It is not easy, coming from the Ibero-American region, to take upon the task of highlighting with data and reason the most relevant and challenging moral debates of our time, all intersected in the need of valuing the individual and his freedom, as the only moral goal.

When reading the Moral Freedom Index, I hope you bring your own personal experience regarding “how free” you really are to live your life in your own country: to live by your own system of beliefs, to consume any substance you choose, to express your sexuality with no fear, to be included in the economic, political and social decisions that affect you.

I hope this work becomes a tool, particularly for all those who have lost their freedom, to question if their life is a result of choice or of dogma. Of reason or of ignorance. Of morality as freedom.

Gloria Álvarez,
Council Member, Foundation for the Advancement of Liberty

Who takes the morality-related decisions in your country? Is it you or the state? To which extent are moral decisions constrained by state intervention, whether derived from ideology, religion or tradition, and whether aiming at preserving the existing values or at changing them? In other words, is there a moral bias in your country's laws —or in its government’s practice— that reduces the reach of a person's power to make moral choices? How much social engineering is applied onto the society where you live, so that morality is set and oriented in a certain way, according to the rulers' worldview or agenda?

If freedom is rightly described as the absence of coercion, moral freedom may equally be defined as the absence of moral coercion. Strong state intervention may dramatically distort the spontaneous evolution of a society, as we see both in countries

where a particular religion dominates the state and in those where all of them are forbidden. Fighting state moral interference is not about being right wing or left wing, straight or gay, Christian or Muslim, religious or atheist. It is not about choosing a traditional or a modern set of values and its correlated life-style. It is just about keeping government at bay when it comes to morality-related matters and preventing it from taking our ethically challenging decisions for us. Those decisions are far too important for us to blindly delegate them to our politicians or civil servants, and we shouldn't be forced to do so.

If government is allowed to meddle even in our most intimate ethical quandaries, what would deter it from also taking any other decisions for us, including the economic ones? Moral freedom is thus quintessential to all other aspects of human freedom.

TOP TEN & BOTTOM TEN IN THE WORLD INDEX OF MORAL FREEDOM (WIMF) 2020			
1	The Netherlands	160	Afghanistan
2	Portugal	159	Yemen
3	Canada	158	United Arab Emirates
4	Belgium	157	Saudi Arabia
5	Uruguay	156	Sudan
6	Luxembourg	155	Somalia
7	Austria	154	Iran
8	Spain	153	Oman
9	Mexico	152	Kuwait
10	Italy	151	Brunei



For six years now, this biennial index has shed some light on the state of moral freedom in our world by benchmarking each country against all others, thus offering a rather accurate picture of moral freedom in the 160 sovereign states for which a score and rank is provided.

Indicators and moral neutrality of the Index

The index is built on the most relevant and challenging moral debates of our time. It works by measuring the degree of individual freedom enjoyed by the citizens of each country when confronted with those issues. The purpose is not to endorse a particular position on any of those debates, but to show whether tight rules are imposed or decisions are freely

taken according to each person's particular beliefs and ideas, be they coincident or not with those of the majority or the state elite. This remark is important as some of the debates are controversial and tend to provoke heated discussions. We keep a neutral position and do not establish how "moral" or "immoral" a country's laws or government are, but how much they force their citizens to act in line with an officially sanctioned set of values –or to refrain from acting in line with particular sets of values not endorsed by the country's authorities.

Categories and methodology

The index is divided into five categories of indicators, each of them worth 20% of the final score:

INDICATOR CATEGORIES USED TOWARDS THE WORLD INDEX OF MORAL FREEDOM IN 2016, 2018 AND 2020	
A. Religion indicators	How free is the practice of any religion or none, and how religious-controlled is the country's current government, or the state as such.
B. Bioethical indicators	How free is individual decision making on the main matters and issues which pose a bioethical dilemma.
C. Drugs indicators	How free is the production, trade and consumption of substances which are usually deemed harmful.
D. Sexuality indicators	How free are sexual intercourse, pornography and the provision of sex services for profit among consenting adults.
E. Gender indicators	How free are women and LGBTI individuals compared to the country's male and straight population.

Each of these categories is made up of various indicators (normally one or two leading indicators adjusted by one or two lesser weighted ones), the weight of which is set in view of their inferred relevance towards a category's overall score as further detailed below. Indicator weights are of course the same for all countries. Countries have been classified towards each category according to the information available in the sources reviewed. All category results and the general index itself are presented in a 0-100 scale. All original data considered and recombined in our research are chosen among rigorous and reputable sources. Where necessary, their values have been converted to our scale, or values have been attributed to the source's non quantified categories or intervals.

Religion indicators

In this category we measure how free is the state from any religious bias, and, on the other hand, how free is the individual to practice any religion, or to not practice any. Roughly half of the points available go to each of these matters. 37,5% of the weight is allocated to the amount of religious influence onto the state, including its formal institutional status and governmental practice. In addition to this, another 10% is assigned to moral censorship of online content. Likewise, 37,5% is allocated to religious freedom, mostly based on constitutional and legal provisions and adjusted to reflect any well known breaches in practice. 15% is then given to the indicator reflecting religion-related Human Rights, which takes into account the existing rate of incarceration of prisoners of conscience in each of the countries.

Bioethical indicators

Bioethical issues are at the frontline whenever moral freedom is discussed. One particularly important –and highly controversial– issue is abortion. Whatever the views anyone may have on this practice, this indicator is broadly perceived by both the pro-life and pro-choice sectors of society as revealing a country's broader policy on moral decisions. A certain abortion policy normally indicates a general approach to most or all other bioethical issues and to the general role the state is attributed in shaping or guarding certain moral values in society. For this reason, and counting on abundant and accurate information, the legal status of abortion has been used as the main indicator and allocated roughly two thirds (62,5%) of this category, while euthanasia (where laws tend to be slightly more similar around the world) weighs 12,5%. One of the main methodological changes in this year's edition of the WIMF is the third indicator, which weighs 25% of this category. In the past two editions we had considered a combination of all other bioethical choices. Due to unavailability or lack of sufficient updating in some of the sources, and especially because of the increasingly heated debate on surrogacy, we have now substituted this combination of minor sub-indicators by an assessment of surrogacy. As countries introduce their choice of rules on this issue, many of them taking rather ideological lines in favour or against, this new indicator emerges as a particularly useful tool to separate interventionist from non interventionist approaches on individual morality. The authors stress that nothing in the whole category of bioethical indicators may be construed as support or rejection for any particular individual's decisions.



Drugs indicators

Cannabis is rapidly moving from social tolerance to legal acknowledgement. Just like abortion, policy on this particular substance strongly characterizes a country's choice for either an individual or a collective approach to moral issues. Therefore, 70% of this category goes to this leading indicator, but this is adjusted with the general policy on all drugs and with the estimated amount of drug-related inmates in the country's prisons (which provides information on how strict are drugs laws and their subsequent enforcement). Each of these further indicators accounts for 15% of the total score in this category.

Sexuality indicators

As the sexual revolution keeps spreading to reach all places, the amount of government interference provides useful information on a country's individual freedom on moral decisions. In this category, indicator weights are more distributed: 40% is allocated to the free consumption of pornographic content. This is significant because censorship still plays a role in many countries, while technology makes it increasingly harder for states. 35% is reserved to the legal status of prostitution, and 25% to the legal age of sexual consent.

Gender indicators

In traditional societies still suffering from strong state control over morality, women are particularly victimized. Their

freedom from government interference in their activities and movement is thus a valid indicator of a country's evolution regarding moral freedom. Therefore, 20% of this category's weight accounts for women's freedom, particularly focusing on their freedom of movement compared to that of the male population. Cohabitation of unmarried couples is worth another 20%.

Because of its relative novelty, the status of same sex marriage is relevant to figure out the general amount of moral freedom in a society. But, as legislations tend to converge towards equal marriage, we have this year introduced the issue of same sex adoption into this indicator. Therefore, countries with freedom to both marry and adopt are ranked higher than those which allow LGBTI people to marry but not to adopt. In terms of weight, this slight methodological change on this leading indicator now accounts for half of the points in this category instead of the 40% allocated in the previous editions, where adoption was not included. Finally, 10% continues to be given to the status of transgender individuals in each country, based on their freedom to unilaterally change their gender status.

Updating and stability across the three biennial editions

So that proper comparison can be made with the previous edition data, the same general categories have been kept, with the abovementioned, slight changes in their indicators and weight. Major changes have been noticed in the status of several countries, which are partly due to improvements in the sources, thus correcting previous assessments. This is particularly the case of Cambodia and a few other countries.

To reflect changes occurred since 2018, our research has re-introduced all data for all countries across the vast majority of indicators, except for a couple of cases where the data did not vary or the sources had not been updated by the sources. The 2020 research on our seventeen indicators concluded on June 24th.

Classification of countries by moral freedom

Just like in the two previous editions, the following classification has been applied in view of the 160 countries' performance in the World Index of Moral Freedom:

CLASSIFICATION OF COUNTRIES BY LEVEL OF MORAL FREEDOM (0-100 SCORE)			
SCORE	COUNTRY LABEL	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES (2020)	PASSING / FAILING
90-100	HIGHEST MORAL FREEDOM	4	76 OUT OF 160 COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN FOUND TO HAVE AN ACCEPTABLE OR HIGHER LEVEL OF MORAL FREEDOM
80-90	VERY HIGH MORAL FREEDOM	12	
60-80	HIGH MORAL FREEDOM	35	
50-60	ACCEPTABLE MORAL FREEDOM	25	
40-50	INSUFFICIENT MORAL FREEDOM	37	84 OUT OF 160 COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN FOUND TO HAVE AN INSUFFICIENT OR LOWER LEVEL OF MORAL FREEDOM
20-40	LOW MORAL FREEDOM	35	
10-20	VERY LOW MORAL FREEDOM	11	
0-10	LOWEST MORAL FREEDOM	1	



Key findings of the third edition

Moral freedom keeps improving

The state of moral freedom has improved globally since the second edition of this index (2018), a tendency we had already observed then in comparison with 2016. In spite of the methodological adjustments introduced this year, 109 countries improve their scores and only 51, well under one third, obtain less points this time around.

The Netherlands are no longer the only country obtaining the "highest moral freedom" label, as three more countries get over 90 points. In fact, the admirable progress of Portugal (third in 2016 and already second in 2018) has now put this country just 0.01 points below the ranking leader, a fact that very much exemplifies the continued and certainly impressive evolution of the once morally interventionistic countries of Latin culture at both sides of the Atlantic, albeit with a few notorious exceptions.

While some of the minor increases and decreases in score are due to the slight methodological changes (especially in the cases of Cambodia and, to a much lesser extent, the United States or India), it needs to be noted that 28 countries advance by over ten per cent compared to their previous records, while just under five countries fall heavily.

It is regrettable that over eighty countries around the world continue to receive "insufficient" or lower marks in moral freedom. And, contrary to the second edition, we now have one country falling into the "lowest" moral freedom area again, by scoring less than ten points: Afghanistan.

Once more, progress has been particularly intense in the Western world, including Latin America. In the rest of the coun-

tries, two cases of particular concern are Russia and Turkey, with substantial loss of score and position, far beyond the levels that could be attributed to the methodological adjustments.

Generally speaking, Latin America has been normalized

The high score of most Latin American countries came as a surprise in 2016 but was confirmed in 2018. There is a clear trend towards a fast cultural alignment of this region with North America and Europe. Two Latin American countries, Uruguay and Mexico, continue to be part of the top ten, thus surpassing many anglo-saxon or more developed countries. They both increase their score but lose one position each to other countries.

While the general result of Latin America is remarkable, it is worth noting that internal variations within some countries probably prevail, especially when comparing the moral freedom enjoyed in capitals and larger cities with that of rural areas.

Only six Latin American countries fail to pass the test by scoring under fifty points, and these include the region's far left wing regimes of Cuba and Venezuela as well as the rather traditional societies of some tiny Central American countries.

Argentina's increase in score is almost seven points and the country is about to enter the "very high moral freedom" area. Colombia's is very fast also, which makes this country join Mexico and Uruguay in the said area. Nevertheless both countries lose ranking positions as other countries around the world grow more than them. Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Costa Rica and Bolivia all obtain the "high moral freedom" label. Honduras

shows the highest increase in the region and joins them in this area, while some of its Central American neighbours perform much more poorly, some of them even failing to pass the fifty point threshold. Paraguay and Panama remain in the "acceptable moral freedom" level.

Canada leads the way for North America

There's high competition at the top of this year's index and Canada remains in the third place it obtained in 2018, after radically improving by ten score points and nine positions from its previous, 2016 record, due to several policy reforms. But in spite of remaining third, Canada's score again advances over five points, while its neighbour is particularly affected by the methodological adjustments, nevertheless remaining in the "high moral freedom" zone attained in the previous editions. The positive growth of other countries makes the U.S. lose many positions by not following the same trend to introduce policy reforms towards a higher moral freedom.

Europe is the largest bastion of moral freedom

Europe continues to be the most morally free region. The exceptions are Russia, Belarus and Azerbaijan, which fall in the "insufficient" moral freedom area. Oddly enough, so does Monaco, probably due to outdated, unreformed legislation affecting some indicators, while the social reality is more likely to be similar to neighbouring France. The other micro-states analyzed by this index have improved their ranks, which also used to be rather poor.

The Netherlands continues to lead the index as the first of the four countries with over ninety points, thus classified as having the "highest moral freedom". But Portugal, second again, is now only one hundredth away. The two other Benelux countries, Belgium and Luxembourg, both grow rapidly and join the top ten, as do Austria and Italy. Other high increases in moral freedom have been revealed for Georgia, Denmark, Norway, Finland and Ireland. With just small increases in score, Germany and Switzerland go down in rank as they are overtaken by other countries. A similar situation applies to France, while Spain only loses one position and remains in the top ten. The United Kingdom has increased its score by over nine points, but it loses two positions in the ranking as other countries perform better this time.

Four Eastern European or Baltic countries experience particularly tough falls in rank: Estonia, Romania, Slovakia and Montenegro. So does the Czech Republic, which is no longer part of the top ten, in spite of just losing under half a point in score. Greece has a large score increase but advances one position only.

There's moral freedom down under, and also in Israel

New Zealand is a success story as it scores over ten points more than in 2018, and advances five positions in the table, but still falls under the "high", not "very high" moral freedom level. Australia, on the other hand, shows one of the most spectacular growths by going up over sixteen score points and seven ranking positions, thus attaining the "very high moral freedom" label for the first time.



A few places below New Zealand is Israel, one of the fastest growing countries in the ranking. With over twenty score points more than in 2018, Israel changes from the "acceptable" to the "high" moral freedom area.

Islamic countries continue to be far from morally free

The only three predominantly Islamic countries to even pass the 50 point threshold are Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and Tajikistan. Therefore, two of them are in Europe (Bosnia and Herzegovina even makes it to the "high moral freedom area, albeit by just 0.36 points) and the third one, which narrowly passes this test, is in Central Asia. Furthermore, only six other countries have "insufficient moral freedom", as the vast majority of the Islamic world falls within even lower levels. In fact, Islamic countries take all the lowest positions and one needs to go up 23 countries from the bottom to find the first non Islamic one. This reveals the problem's magnitude.

While Turkey continues to be in the "insufficient" area, its has lost almost six points in two years, plummeting by over thirty ranking positions. On the other hand, Indonesia, the fourth most populated country in the world, has experienced considerable advance in score and gains six ranking positions, but still falls in the "low moral freedom" zone of the index with just over thirty points in our 0-100 scale.

Much worse continues to be the situation on the Arabic Peninsula. Five of its seven countries fall even below the 20 points threshold and thus get the "very low moral freedom" label. These are Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab

Emirates and Yemen. The other two, Qatar and Bahrain, narrowly make it to the bottom of the "low moral freedom" area. And yet the only country falling below ten points into "lowest moral freedom" is further away: Afghanistan.

Asia and Africa really need to improve their moral freedom

Most Asian countries continue to maintain a poor moral freedom performance. The only exception used to be Cambodia but a newer assessment and sources now place this country in a level which is similar to its neighbours.

Only Mongolia, South Korea, Japan, Singapore and India manage to "pass the test", together with the already mentioned Tajikistan and Israel. All other Asian countries fail to obtain even fifty points, and normally fall much further down to the lower levels of our table. In several countries, this low ranking is due to strong religious influence on the state, but it is worth stressing that all four remaining Asian communist regimes (Laos, Vietnam, China and North Korea) also fall in the "low moral freedom" zone.

South Africa continues to be a positive surprise. This "high moral freedom" country scores over thirteen points more than in 2018 and gains twelve positions. But only five other countries pass the fifty points mark. However, this is quite an improvement as South Africa used to be either alone or accompanied by Mozambique only. Nevertheless, Africa's moral freedom scores are a similar disaster to Asia's. In Africa we also find the largest amount of countries for which no sufficient data can be obtained, and are therefore excluded from the Index in this edition, as in the previous ones.

World Index of Moral Freedom: The 2020 ranking

On the next sixteen pages we present the full table of this third edition of the World Index of Moral Freedom (WIMF), sorted by ranking. The table includes the current and 2018 score with the variation occurred, as well as the position held in the previous ranking and the corresponding variation.

The five categories are included to show each countries strengths and weaknesses. To make them comparable, they have been converted up to the 0-100 scale in use for the overall WIMF, with two decimals. While unlikely, this might result in some partials not adding up exactly. Decimals are separated by commas.



RANK	COUNTRY	2020 SCORE	2018 SCORE	VARIATION IN SCORE	2018 RANK	VARIATION IN RANK
1	Netherlands, The	95,44	91,33	4,11	1	0
2	Portugal	95,43	86,93	8,50	2	0
3	Canada	91,94	86,58	5,36	3	0
4	Belgium	90,82	78,98	11,84	11	7
5	Uruguay	89,99	84,50	5,49	4	-1
6	Luxembourg	87,61	72,23	15,38	13	7
7	Austria	86,06	72,13	13,93	14	7
8	Spain	86,05	81,60	4,45	7	-1
9	Mexico	85,14	81,33	3,81	8	-1
10	Italy	84,61	66,38	18,23	23	13
11	Germany	84,53	83,03	1,50	6	-5
12	Denmark	83,39	71,08	12,31	16	4
13	Switzerland	83,28	80,88	2,40	9	-4
14	Czech Republic	83,21	83,63	-0,42	5	-9
15	Australia	82,80	66,48	16,32	22	7
16	Colombia	81,15	76,15	5,00	12	-4
17	Argentina	77,82	71,08	6,74	15	-2
18	Slovenia	76,47	69,63	6,84	18	0
19	New Zealand	76,45	66,38	10,07	24	5
20	Norway	76,15	62,50	13,65	33	13

RELIGION INDICATORS	BIOETHICAL INDICATORS	DRUGS INDICATORS	SEXUALITY INDICATORS	GENDER INDICATORS	OVERALL MORAL FREEDOM CLASSIFICATION
97,13	95,00	97,59	97,50	90,00	HIGHEST
97,13	91,88	98,13	100,00	90,00	HIGHEST
99,57	95,00	94,65	82,50	88,00	HIGHEST
98,00	95,00	73,58	97,50	90,00	HIGHEST
97,13	78,75	88,08	100,00	86,00	VERY HIGH
97,13	80,00	73,43	97,50	90,00	VERY HIGH
98,00	68,75	73,53	100,00	90,00	VERY HIGH
97,13	68,75	76,89	97,50	90,00	VERY HIGH
95,38	77,50	96,06	87,50	69,25	VERY HIGH
96,83	68,75	92,49	100,00	65,00	VERY HIGH
96,83	75,00	60,85	100,00	90,00	VERY HIGH
97,13	88,75	39,06	100,00	92,00	VERY HIGH
97,13	75,00	77,54	97,50	69,25	VERY HIGH
99,00	67,50	97,05	100,00	52,50	VERY HIGH
98,41	93,13	72,45	60,00	90,00	VERY HIGH
95,96	48,75	75,06	100,00	86,00	VERY HIGH
95,67	26,88	71,55	100,00	95,00	HIGH
96,13	68,75	56,47	100,00	61,00	HIGH
97,13	60,63	36,99	97,50	90,00	HIGH
97,13	68,75	42,85	80,00	92,00	HIGH



RANK	COUNTRY	2020 SCORE	2018 SCORE	VARIATION IN SCORE	2018 RANK	VARIATION IN RANK
21	Finland	75,57	65,83	9,74	27	6
22	France	75,00	68,15	6,85	21	-1
23	South Africa	74,62	61,33	13,29	35	12
24	Brazil	74,46	68,93	5,53	20	-4
25	Greece	74,42	65,88	8,54	26	1
26	Ireland	74,39	64,05	10,34	31	5
27	Israel	74,27	50,53	23,74	62	35
28	United States of America	73,68	79,15	-5,47	10	-18
29	Croatia	73,04	59,50	13,54	39	10
30	Chile	72,43	63,28	9,15	32	2
31	Ecuador	72,37	65,13	7,24	29	-2
32	Estonia	72,02	69,03	2,99	19	-13
33	Sweden	71,69	65,95	5,74	25	-8
34	Malta	70,73	55,33	15,40	44	10
35	Cyprus	70,34	53,35	16,99	51	16
36	Georgia	70,00	49,25	20,75	67	31
37	Hungary	69,27	64,75	4,52	30	-7
38	United Kingdom	69,20	60,63	8,57	36	-2
39	Peru	67,47	60,58	6,89	37	-2
40	Bulgaria	66,80	52,45	14,35	56	16

RELIGION INDICATORS	BIOETHICAL INDICATORS	DRUGS INDICATORS	SEXUALITY INDICATORS	GENDER INDICATORS	OVERALL MORAL FREEDOM CLASSIFICATION
96,13	37,50	56,71	97,50	90,00	HIGH
96,83	68,75	36,93	82,50	90,00	HIGH
96,25	82,50	88,38	45,00	61,00	HIGH
95,67	30,63	56,03	100,00	90,00	HIGH
94,25	88,75	38,58	100,00	50,50	HIGH
96,13	68,75	38,82	76,25	92,00	HIGH
92,38	57,50	71,49	100,00	50,00	HIGH
97,12	88,13	65,18	30,00	88,00	HIGH
92,38	62,50	73,82	65,00	71,50	HIGH
94,25	26,88	71,52	100,00	69,50	HIGH
95,09	36,25	71,51	100,00	59,00	HIGH
97,41	62,50	37,20	100,00	63,00	HIGH
97,13	68,75	20,09	82,50	90,00	HIGH
95,13	0,00	73,04	97,50	88,00	HIGH
94,25	87,50	38,71	93,75	37,50	HIGH
94,95	87,50	71,07	62,50	34,00	HIGH
93,21	88,75	19,91	100,00	44,50	HIGH
96,83	57,50	41,65	60,00	90,00	HIGH
94,25	36,25	76,83	100,00	30,00	HIGH
96,13	62,50	20,63	100,00	54,75	HIGH



RANK	COUNTRY	2020 SCORE	2018 SCORE	VARIATION IN SCORE	2018 RANK	VARIATION IN RANK
41	Iceland	65,99	54,08	11,91	46	5
42	Macedonia	64,78	53,75	11,03	48	6
43	Slovakia	64,24	61,95	2,29	34	-9
44	Poland	64,22	52,70	11,52	54	10
45	Latvia	63,98	59,25	4,73	40	-5
46	Bolivia	62,30	65,30	-3,00	28	-18
47	Jamaica	62,06	53,50	8,56	49	2
48	Costa Rica	62,03	53,45	8,58	50	2
49	Serbia	61,43	53,13	8,30	53	4
50	Honduras	60,84	42,45	18,39	107	57
51	Bosnia and Herzegovina	60,36	55,25	5,11	45	-6
52	Lithuania	59,56	52,25	7,31	57	5
53	Moldova	57,74	52,50	5,24	55	2
54	Romania	57,73	56,50	1,23	41	-13
55	Trinidad and Tobago	57,60	45,38	12,22	94	39
56	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	57,20	48,38	8,82	74	18
57	Paraguay	56,38	55,63	0,75	43	-14
58	Montenegro	56,28	59,65	-3,37	38	-20
59	Panama	55,20	51,75	3,45	58	-1
60	Armenia	55,13	49,95	5,18	64	4

RELIGION INDICATORS	BIOETHICAL INDICATORS	DRUGS INDICATORS	SEXUALITY INDICATORS	GENDER INDICATORS	OVERALL MORAL FREEDOM CLASSIFICATION
97,99	62,50	21,95	82,50	65,00	HIGH
96,13	67,50	55,25	75,00	30,00	HIGH
96,13	67,50	19,58	100,00	38,00	HIGH
94,25	36,25	54,58	100,00	36,00	HIGH
97,13	67,50	19,76	97,50	38,00	HIGH
96,13	36,25	39,13	100,00	40,00	HIGH
96,13	31,25	90,43	62,50	30,00	HIGH
89,50	31,25	34,39	100,00	55,00	HIGH
90,50	62,50	20,16	100,00	34,00	HIGH
89,50	15,63	19,07	100,00	80,00	HIGH
92,38	67,50	21,41	82,50	38,00	HIGH
97,13	67,50	36,69	62,50	34,00	ACCEPTABLE
95,13	62,50	54,59	42,50	34,00	ACCEPTABLE
95,25	67,50	20,90	65,00	40,00	ACCEPTABLE
96,13	31,25	70,62	65,00	25,00	ACCEPTABLE
96,13	31,25	68,61	65,00	25,00	ACCEPTABLE
94,25	20,63	37,02	100,00	30,00	ACCEPTABLE
96,13	62,50	19,76	65,00	38,00	ACCEPTABLE
94,25	31,25	16,49	100,00	34,00	ACCEPTABLE
92,79	87,50	21,36	40,00	34,00	ACCEPTABLE



RANK	COUNTRY	2020 SCORE	2018 SCORE	VARIATION IN SCORE	2018 RANK	VARIATION IN RANK
61	Albania	54,69	53,13	1,56	52	-9
62	Mongolia	54,40	47,70	6,70	77	15
63	Korea, South	54,38	46,38	8,00	82	19
64	Japan	53,53	50,85	2,68	60	-4
65	San Marino	53,43	49,55	3,88	66	1
66	Mozambique	53,41	49,70	3,71	65	-1
67	Singapore	53,32	45,70	7,62	89	22
68	Kenya	53,19	36,95	16,24	120	52
69	Ukraine	52,88	47,58	5,30	78	9
70	India	51,39	56,35	-4,96	42	-28
71	Senegal	51,15	47,25	3,90	80	9
72	Guinea-Bissau	51,12	45,25	5,87	95	23
73	Andorra	50,96	45,00	5,96	96	23
74	Ghana	50,62	48,63	1,99	72	-2
75	Mali	50,30	39,30	11,00	117	42
76	Tajikistan	50,29	47,50	2,79	79	3
77	Madagascar	49,70	46,33	3,37	83	6
78	Botswana	49,53	39,50	10,03	115	37
79	Kazakhstan	49,22	50,70	-1,48	61	-18
80	Guatemala	48,60	43,83	4,77	100	20

RELIGION INDICATORS	BIOETHICAL INDICATORS	DRUGS INDICATORS	SEXUALITY INDICATORS	GENDER INDICATORS	OVERALL MORAL FREEDOM CLASSIFICATION
96,13	62,50	19,85	65,00	30,00	ACCEPTABLE
96,13	62,50	20,85	62,50	30,00	ACCEPTABLE
94,80	73,75	38,37	25,00	40,00	ACCEPTABLE
96,25	47,50	23,42	62,50	38,00	ACCEPTABLE
96,13	15,63	39,91	65,00	50,50	ACCEPTABLE
86,75	31,25	21,56	97,50	30,00	ACCEPTABLE
74,60	72,50	12,02	77,50	30,00	ACCEPTABLE
96,25	36,25	20,97	87,50	25,00	ACCEPTABLE
63,64	87,50	37,78	42,50	33,00	ACCEPTABLE
63,21	57,50	35,74	67,50	33,00	ACCEPTABLE
96,13	15,63	21,48	97,50	25,00	ACCEPTABLE
95,13	15,63	22,35	97,50	25,00	ACCEPTABLE
98,13	15,63	21,54	65,00	54,50	ACCEPTABLE
95,13	31,25	39,22	62,50	25,00	ACCEPTABLE
78,25	31,25	22,01	100,00	20,00	ACCEPTABLE
53,00	67,50	16,94	80,00	34,00	ACCEPTABLE
86,75	15,63	21,11	100,00	25,00	INSUFFICIENT
98,00	31,25	19,38	70,00	29,00	INSUFFICIENT
48,19	87,50	16,41	60,00	34,00	INSUFFICIENT
89,50	15,63	20,36	87,50	30,00	INSUFFICIENT



RANK	COUNTRY	2020 SCORE	2018 SCORE	VARIATION IN SCORE	2018 RANK	VARIATION IN RANK
81	Kyrgyzstan	48,52	46,00	2,52	84	3
82	Tunisia	48,35	42,58	5,77	106	24
83	Lebanon	48,20	33,90	14,30	129	46
84	Belarus	47,70	45,70	2,00	88	4
85	Guinea	47,69	49,00	-1,31	69	-16
86	Nepal	47,59	48,83	-1,24	71	-15
87	Bahamas, The	47,52	45,50	2,02	90	3
88	El Salvador	47,38	39,20	8,18	118	30
89	Monaco	46,70	48,95	-2,25	70	-19
90	Saint Lucia	46,64	45,88	0,76	86	-4
91	Malawi	46,47	48,45	-1,98	73	-18
92	Seychelles	46,36	47,88	-1,52	76	-16
93	Liberia	46,33	45,50	0,83	91	-2
94	Nicaragua	46,15	36,33	9,82	122	28
95	Angola	46,09	36,13	9,96	124	29
96	Ivory Coast	45,65	46,70	-1,05	81	-15
97	Russia	45,47	54,00	-8,53	47	-50
98	Venezuela	45,43	50,38	-4,95	63	-35
99	Cambodia	45,38	70,50	-25,12	17	-82
100	Suriname	44,80	45,00	-0,20	97	-3

RELIGION INDICATORS	BIOETHICAL INDICATORS	DRUGS INDICATORS	SEXUALITY INDICATORS	GENDER INDICATORS	OVERALL MORAL FREEDOM CLASSIFICATION
52,25	62,50	16,34	77,50	34,00	INSUFFICIENT
79,66	62,50	19,58	50,00	30,00	INSUFFICIENT
91,05	15,63	37,84	67,50	29,00	INSUFFICIENT
73,15	87,50	17,36	22,50	38,00	INSUFFICIENT
95,13	31,25	22,08	65,00	25,00	INSUFFICIENT
81,13	62,50	38,82	22,50	33,00	INSUFFICIENT
98,00	31,25	15,87	62,50	30,00	INSUFFICIENT
93,25	0,00	13,65	100,00	30,00	INSUFFICIENT
60,50	31,25	21,26	82,50	38,00	INSUFFICIENT
96,13	31,25	18,30	62,50	25,00	INSUFFICIENT
95,38	15,63	38,86	62,50	20,00	INSUFFICIENT
94,25	31,25	16,28	65,00	25,00	INSUFFICIENT
96,13	31,25	21,75	52,50	30,00	INSUFFICIENT
85,75	0,00	17,52	97,50	30,00	INSUFFICIENT
98,70	15,63	21,11	65,00	30,00	INSUFFICIENT
91,38	15,63	21,27	70,00	30,00	INSUFFICIENT
46,32	87,50	17,06	42,50	34,00	INSUFFICIENT
80,94	20,63	16,08	77,50	32,00	INSUFFICIENT
72,72	62,50	36,70	25,00	30,00	INSUFFICIENT
96,13	15,63	19,76	62,50	30,00	INSUFFICIENT



RANK	COUNTRY	2020 SCORE	2018 SCORE	VARIATION IN SCORE	2018 RANK	VARIATION IN RANK
101	Ethiopia	44,57	34,25	10,32	128	27
102	Guyana	44,12	51,45	-7,33	59	-43
103	Solomon Islands	44,12	45,75	-1,63	87	-16
104	Gambia, The	43,62	45,43	-1,81	92	-12
105	Cuba	43,53	49,00	-5,47	68	-37
106	Tonga	43,40	40,38	3,02	113	7
107	Azerbaijan	42,47	42,30	0,17	108	1
108	Turkey	42,14	48,03	-5,89	75	-33
109	Cameroon	41,60	45,88	-4,28	85	-24
110	Haiti	41,11	43,75	-2,64	101	-9
111	Zimbabwe	40,89	43,70	-2,81	102	-9
112	Mauritius	40,74	45,38	-4,64	93	-19
113	Philippines, The	40,40	39,63	0,77	114	1
114	Dominica	39,48	42,75	-3,27	105	-9
115	Tuvalu	38,77	41,93	-3,16	109	-6
116	Dominican Republic	38,31	40,78	-2,47	112	-4
117	Laos	38,26	44,25	-5,99	98	-19
118	Comoros	38,14	29,25	8,89	131	13
119	Vietnam	37,90	35,38	2,52	126	7
120	Eswatini	37,63	41,50	-3,87	111	-9

RELIGION INDICATORS	BIOETHICAL INDICATORS	DRUGS INDICATORS	SEXUALITY INDICATORS	GENDER INDICATORS	OVERALL MORAL FREEDOM CLASSIFICATION
78,48	31,25	20,60	67,50	25,00	INSUFFICIENT
92,38	62,50	18,24	22,50	25,00	INSUFFICIENT
96,13	15,63	21,33	62,50	25,00	INSUFFICIENT
87,30	31,25	22,04	52,50	25,00	INSUFFICIENT
49,78	62,50	14,85	57,50	33,00	INSUFFICIENT
68,88	15,63	20,01	82,50	30,00	INSUFFICIENT
53,10	67,50	15,23	42,50	34,00	INSUFFICIENT
31,32	62,50	31,39	47,50	38,00	INSUFFICIENT
96,13	31,25	20,64	40,00	20,00	INSUFFICIENT
96,13	15,63	21,30	52,50	20,00	INSUFFICIENT
82,39	31,25	38,29	22,50	30,00	INSUFFICIENT
96,13	15,63	19,46	42,50	30,00	INSUFFICIENT
79,08	15,63	37,32	45,00	25,00	INSUFFICIENT
96,13	15,63	18,17	42,50	25,00	LOW
84,88	15,63	20,85	42,50	30,00	LOW
95,13	0,00	18,95	47,50	30,00	LOW
67,00	31,25	38,05	25,00	30,00	LOW
31,13	31,25	18,35	65,00	45,00	LOW
37,66	82,50	16,83	22,50	30,00	LOW
85,75	31,25	18,63	22,50	30,00	LOW



RANK	COUNTRY	2020 SCORE	2018 SCORE	VARIATION IN SCORE	2018 RANK	VARIATION IN RANK
121	China	36,86	39,30	-2,44	116	-5
122	Uzbekistan	36,73	43,93	-7,20	99	-23
123	Sri Lanka	36,39	21,90	14,49	144	21
124	Thailand	36,20	29,38	6,82	130	6
125	Equatorial Guinea	35,96	43,13	-7,17	104	-21
126	Korea, North	35,75	34,50	1,25	127	1
127	Nigeria	35,50	27,28	8,22	135	8
128	Papua New Guinea	35,41	43,25	-7,84	103	-25
129	Malaysia	34,53	26,20	8,33	137	8
130	Algeria	34,35	20,25	14,10	149	19
131	Central African Republic	33,50	37,23	-3,73	119	-12
132	Rwanda	32,66	36,20	-3,54	123	-9
133	Uganda	32,34	41,88	-9,54	110	-23
134	Morocco	32,06	26,20	5,86	138	4
135	Bangladesh	31,38	28,53	2,85	134	-1
136	Indonesia	30,61	22,93	7,68	142	6
137	Myanmar	29,79	26,13	3,66	139	2
138	Jordan	29,58	35,88	-6,30	125	-13
139	Eritrea	27,03	26,80	0,23	136	-3
140	Turkmenistan	26,89	36,88	-9,99	121	-19

RELIGION INDICATORS	BIOETHICAL INDICATORS	DRUGS INDICATORS	SEXUALITY INDICATORS	GENDER INDICATORS	OVERALL MORAL FREEDOM CLASSIFICATION
38,08	62,50	20,70	25,00	38,00	LOW
44,15	62,50	16,50	22,50	38,00	LOW
51,38	15,63	38,43	42,50	34,00	LOW
50,07	35,63	22,29	45,00	28,00	LOW
89,50	31,25	21,56	12,50	25,00	LOW
37,50	62,50	28,75	25,00	25,00	LOW
48,79	36,25	21,96	52,50	18,00	LOW
96,13	15,63	21,57	18,75	25,00	LOW
77,34	31,25	19,05	30,00	15,00	LOW
22,75	31,25	20,24	77,50	20,00	LOW
20,88	15,63	18,51	87,50	25,00	LOW
59,73	31,25	14,84	32,50	25,00	LOW
76,05	31,25	16,89	12,50	25,00	LOW
38,84	31,25	32,70	32,50	25,00	LOW
21,81	15,63	35,47	60,00	24,00	LOW
20,51	31,25	17,27	60,00	24,00	LOW
12,14	15,63	33,69	62,50	25,00	LOW
29,60	31,25	19,53	62,50	5,00	LOW
20,13	31,25	11,25	47,50	25,00	LOW
5,00	67,50	10,47	22,50	29,00	LOW



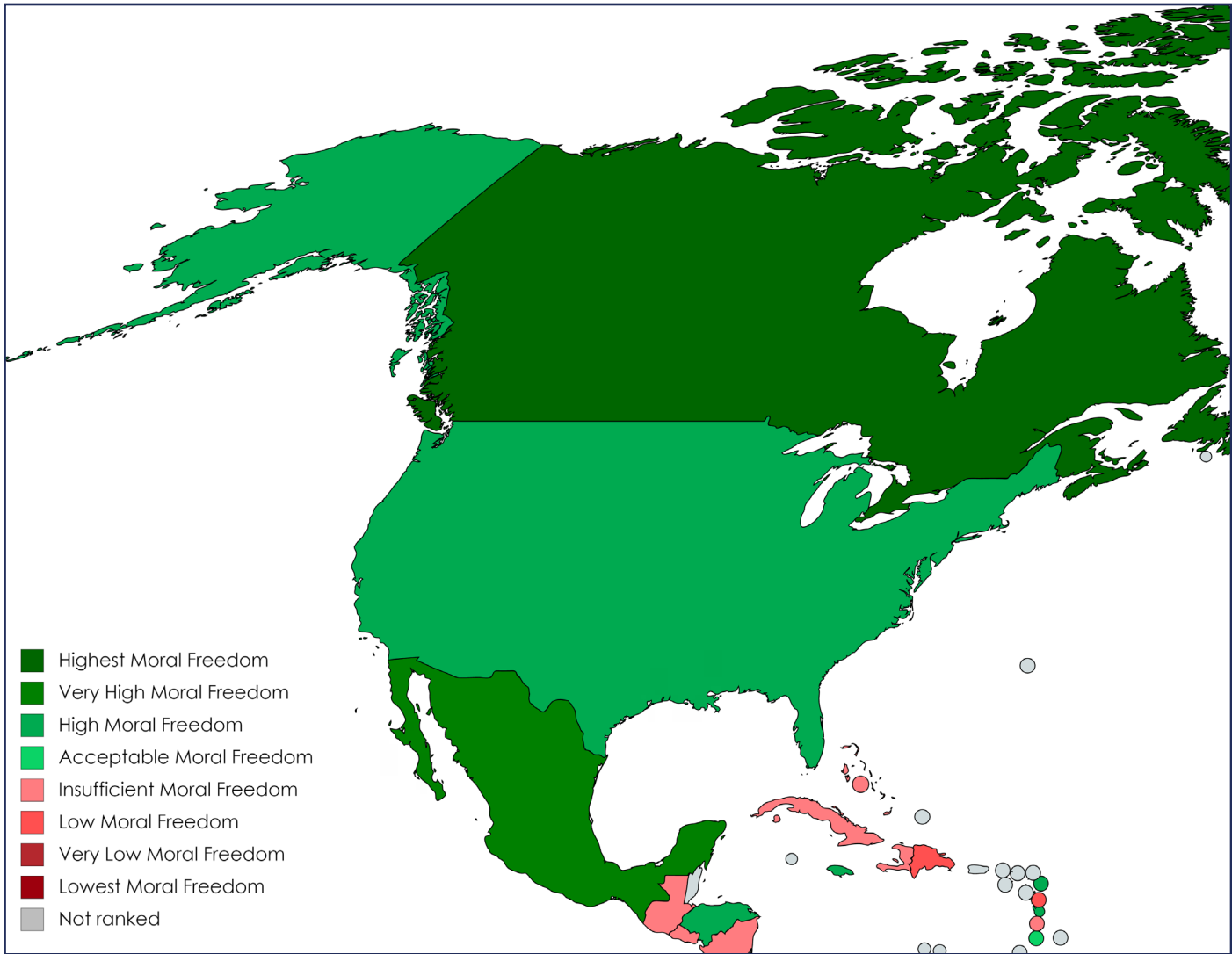
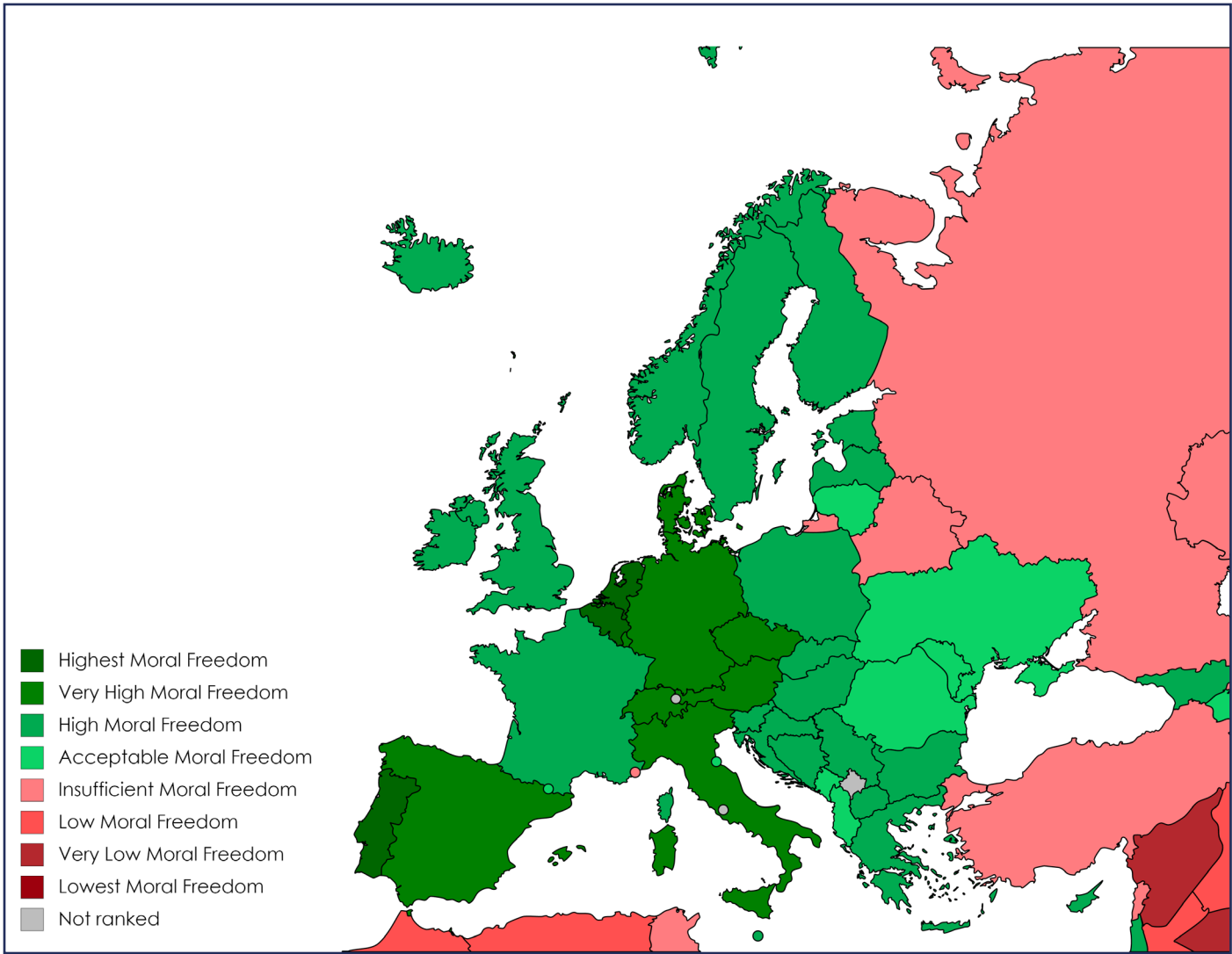
RANK	COUNTRY	2020 SCORE	2018 SCORE	VARIATION IN SCORE	2018 RANK	VARIATION IN RANK
141	Djibouti	26,73	29,13	-2,40	132	-9
142	Mauritania	24,44	28,73	-4,29	133	-9
143	Egypt	24,42	17,25	7,17	153	10
144	Pakistan	22,20	18,05	4,15	151	7
145	Iraq	21,80	12,63	9,17	157	12
146	Bahrain	21,55	21,25	0,30	146	0
147	Qatar	20,47	15,63	4,84	156	9
148	Maldives	20,28	25,75	-5,47	140	-8
149	Syria	19,78	23,30	-3,52	141	-8
150	Libya	17,98	21,00	-3,02	147	-3
151	Brunei	16,05	19,88	-3,83	150	-1
152	Kuwait	16,02	15,93	0,09	155	3
153	Oman	15,77	20,63	-4,86	148	-5
154	Iran	15,51	17,75	-2,24	152	-2
155	Somalia	15,13	22,25	-7,12	143	-12
156	Sudan	14,79	21,43	-6,64	145	-11
157	Saudi Arabia	12,86	10,13	2,73	160	3
158	United Arab Emirates	12,14	11,50	0,64	158	0
159	Yemen	10,19	11,23	-1,04	159	0
160	Afghanistan	9,59	16,50	-6,91	154	-6

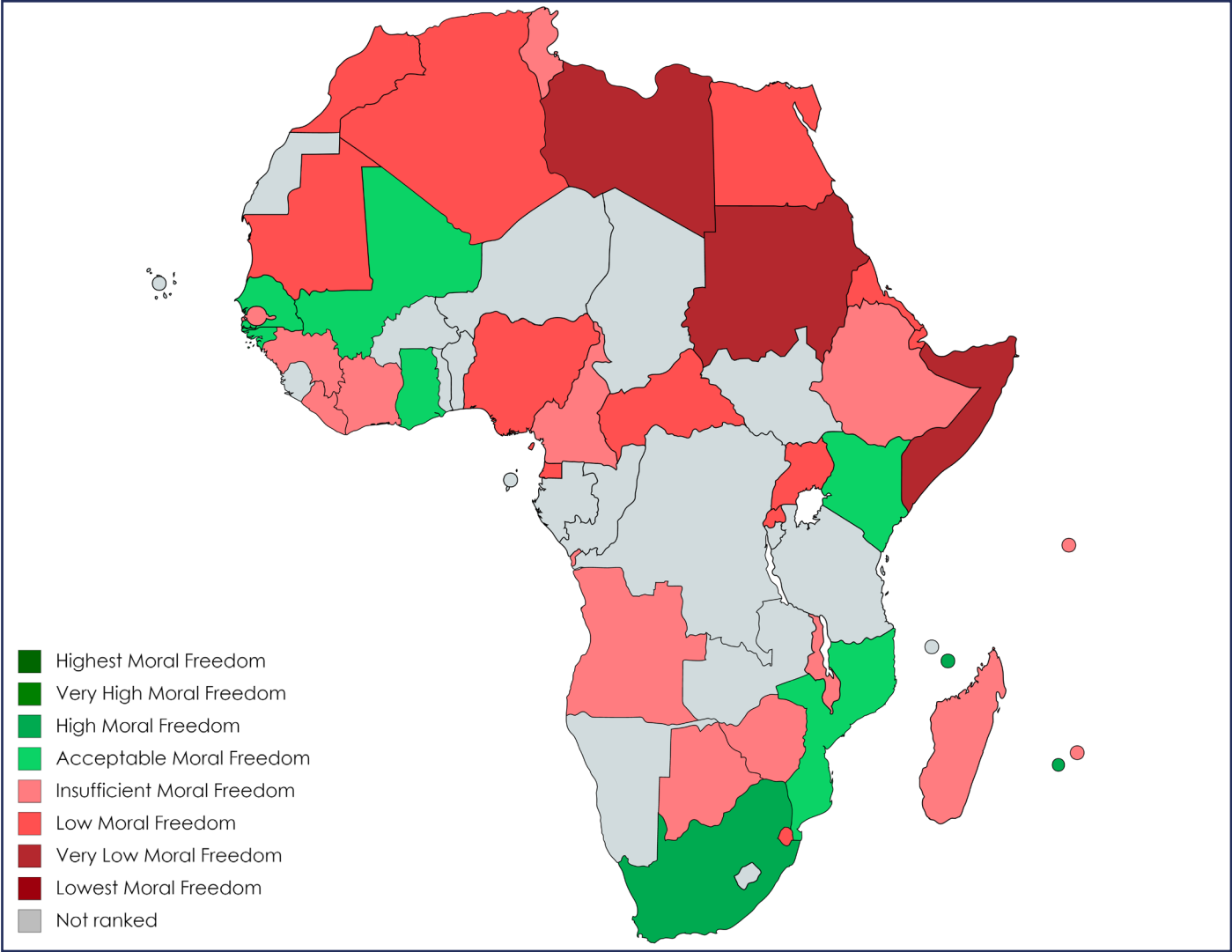
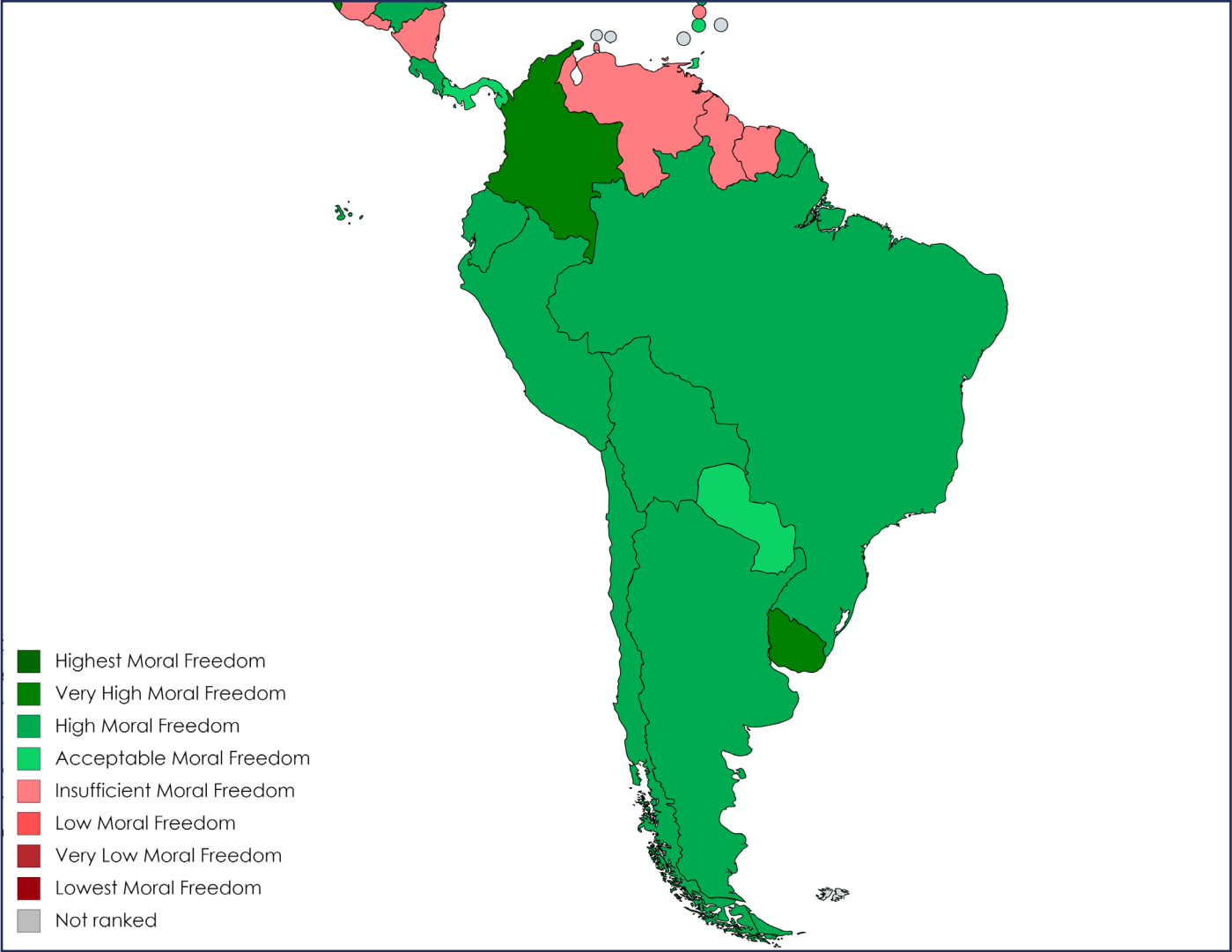
RELIGION INDICATORS	BIOETHICAL INDICATORS	DRUGS INDICATORS	SEXUALITY INDICATORS	GENDER INDICATORS	OVERALL MORAL FREEDOM CLASSIFICATION
26,50	15,63	14,01	52,50	25,00	LOW
12,38	15,63	21,71	52,50	20,00	LOW
21,94	15,63	17,01	52,50	15,00	LOW
15,31	31,25	39,43	0,00	25,00	LOW
19,00	15,63	16,86	52,50	5,00	LOW
15,00	67,50	15,24	0,00	10,00	LOW
31,88	31,25	21,71	12,50	5,00	LOW
35,13	31,25	15,02	0,00	20,00	LOW
30,45	15,63	17,85	25,00	10,00	VERY LOW
18,21	31,25	20,42	0,00	20,00	VERY LOW
21,75	15,63	10,40	22,50	10,00	VERY LOW
21,88	31,25	17,00	0,00	10,00	VERY LOW
24,38	31,25	18,21	0,00	5,00	VERY LOW
7,08	20,63	31,84	0,00	18,00	VERY LOW
16,25	15,63	11,25	12,50	20,00	VERY LOW
3,48	31,25	14,22	25,00	0,00	VERY LOW
8,53	31,25	4,55	0,00	20,00	VERY LOW
17,90	15,63	17,19	0,00	10,00	VERY LOW
12,38	15,63	17,96	0,00	5,00	VERY LOW
12,38	15,63	9,95	0,00	10,00	LOWEST

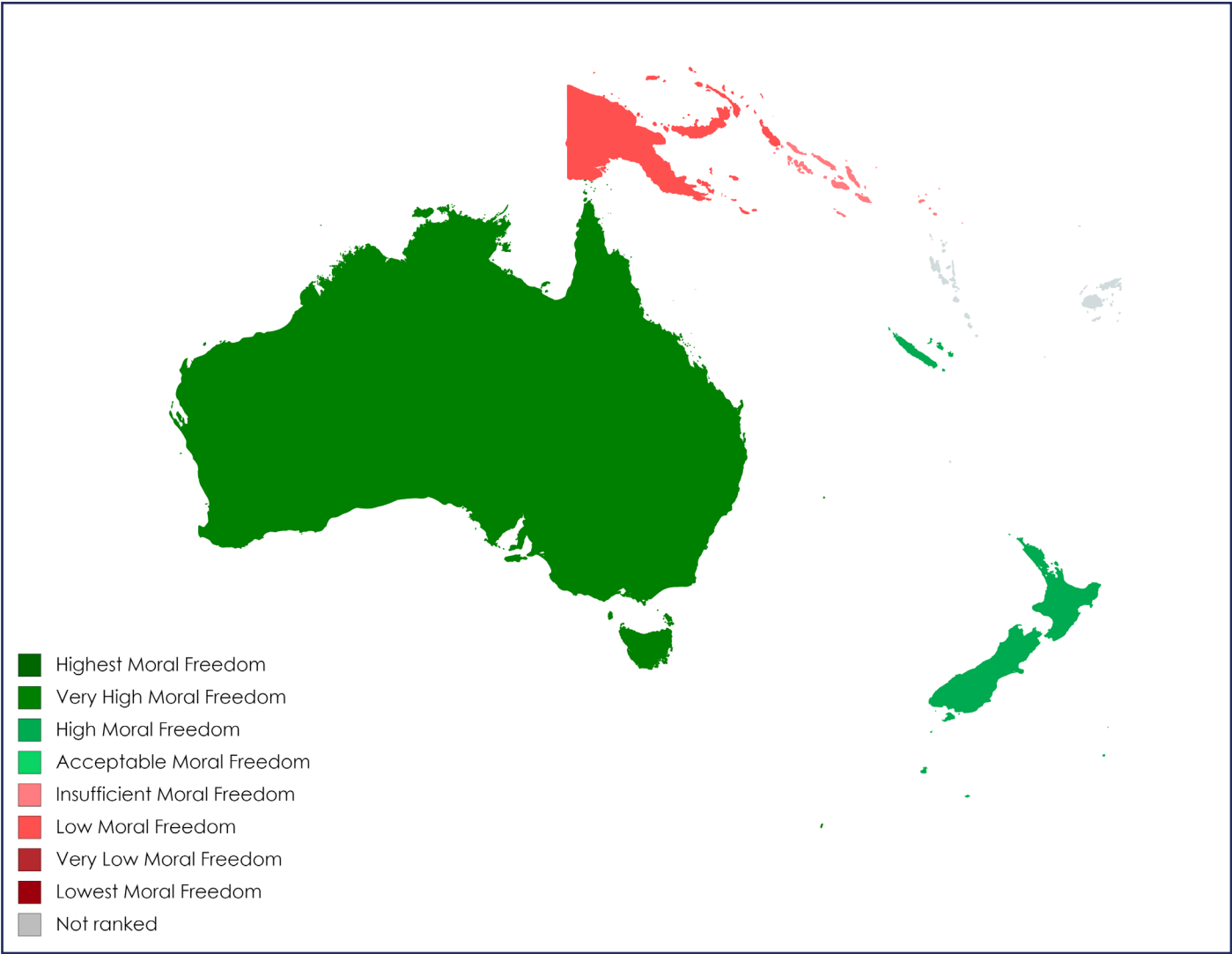
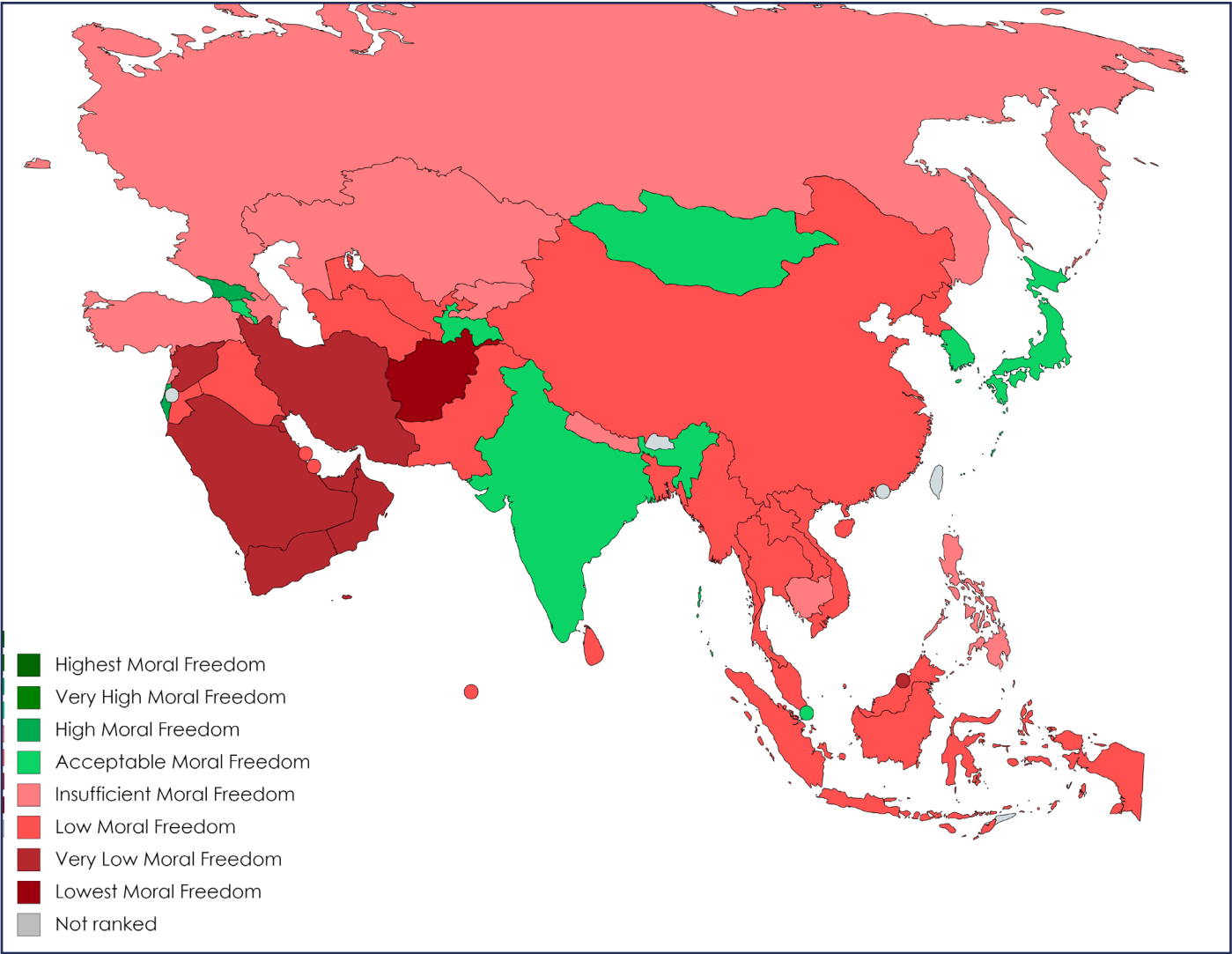


World Index of Moral Freedom: The 2020 maps

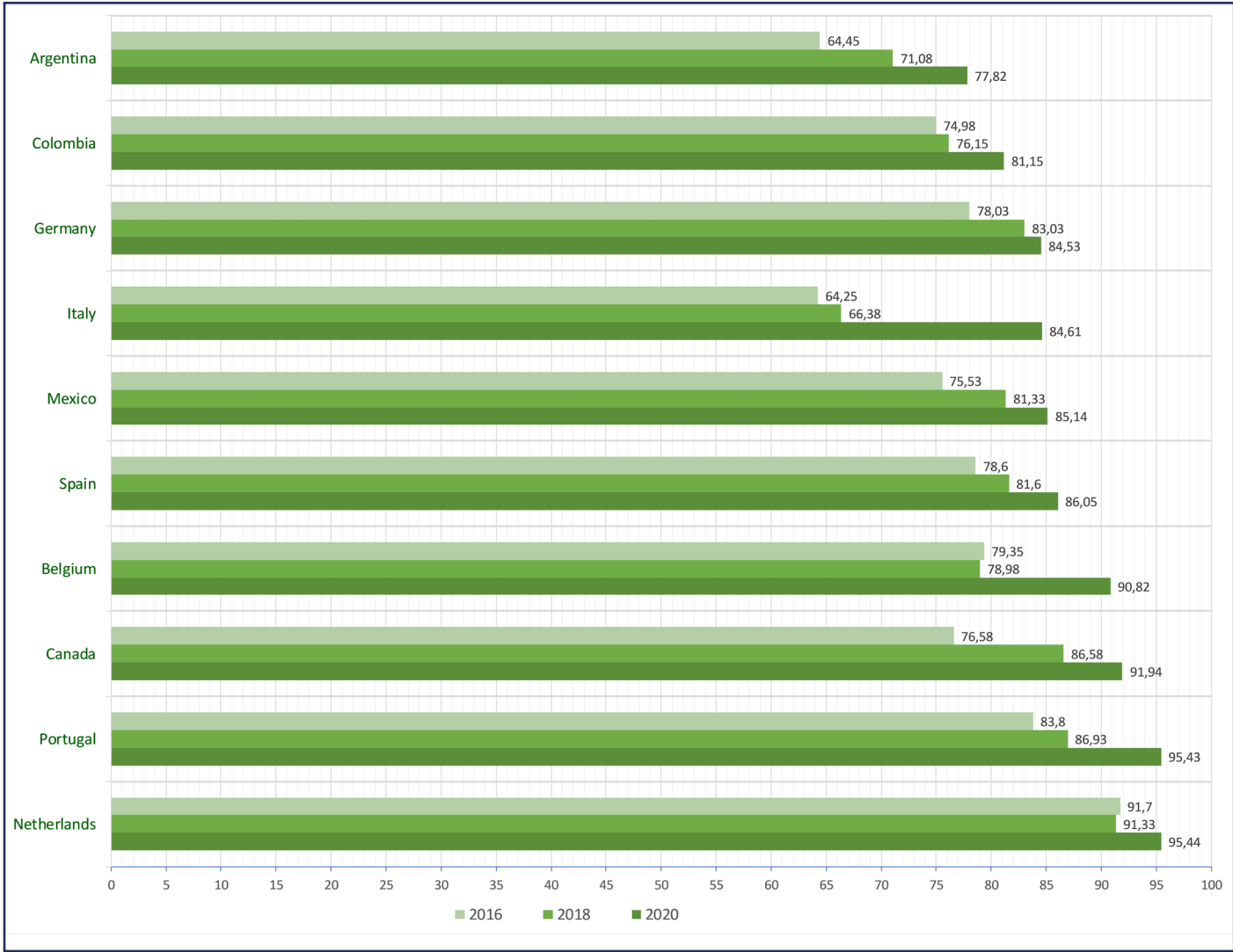
Álvarez, Kotera & Pina







Evolution graph for selected countries



Relevant resources

ACN report
Ageofconsent.net
Amnesty International reports
Assemblée Nationale
Ayuda a la Iglesia Necesitada
Center for Genetics and Society
Center for Reproductive Rights
Central Intelligence Agency: The World Factbook
California Legislative Information
Cato Institute: The Human Freedom Index
Dignity South Africa: Assisted Suicide Laws (World)
Europa.eu: Unmarried Couples
Euthanasia Research and Guidance Organization: World Laws on Assisted Suicide
Euthanasia.com
Freedom House: Freedom of the Net report
Freedom House: Freedom in the World report
Federal Registration of Legislation
Government of Canada
Government Offices of Sweden
Heritage Foundation: Index of Economic Freedom
Human Rights Watch: World Report
International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Inter-sex Association (ILGA): Worldwide Legislation
Internet Censorship World Map
Legislation.gov.uk
OECD: Social Institutions & Gender Index
OECD: Partnership and prevalence of cohabitation
OpenNet Initiative: Global Internet Filtering and Country Profiles
Pew Research Center, Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life
Procon.org: World chart of prostitution legal status
Queensland Legislation: Criminal Code Act 1899
The Guardian: Women's Rights Country By Country
TGEU: Trans Rights Europe Index
UNAIDS
United Kingdom Government Publications: Drugs International Comparators
UNO Human Development Report
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC): World Drug Report
UNO Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: Human Rights by Country
United States Department of State: International Narcotics Control Strategy Report
United States Department of State: International Religious Freedom Report
United States Commission on International Religious Freedom
Women, Business and the Law 2020
World Bank: Women, Business and the Law
World Justice Project: Rule of Law Index
World Prison Brief



About the authors



Gloria ÁLVAREZ

Gloria Álvarez is the author of three best selling essays: *The Populist Deception* (2016, co-authored with Axel Kaiser), *How to Talk to a Progressive* (2017) and *How to Talk to a Conservative* (2019). After receiving her degree in International Relations and Political Science at Guatemala's Francisco Marroquín University, she studied International Development at La Sapienza University in Rome. A very well known radio and television host, she has lectured on freedom issues world-wide. Since 2019 she's a member of the Foundation for the Advancement of Liberty's Council.



Yasuhiro KOTERA

Yasuhiro Kotera is Academic Lead in Counselling, Psychotherapy & Psychology, and Chair of the Research Ethics Committee at the University of Derby (United Kingdom), Online Learning. As an Accredited Psychotherapist and certified Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) Trainer, he has worked with diverse clients and trained practitioners internationally. His research focuses on cross-culture, mental health, self-compassion and NLP. Professor Kotera joins the Foundation's research team for the 2020 edition of the World Index of Moral Freedom.



Juan PINA

A political scientist and Master in Institutional Communication, Juan Pina is the secretary-general of Spain's Foundation for the Advancement of Liberty, and leads its comparative research area, which produces four freedom indices: two domestic and two international. He co-authored the first edition of WIMF with Andreas Kohl (2016) and the second one with Emma Watson (2018). He directs the Foundation's *Avance* magazine. His most recent book is *Adiós al Estado-nación* (Good-bye Nation-State). He is a member of the Atlas Network's Global Influencer Summit.



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World Index of Moral Freedom

WIMF 2020

Is it you or the state? Who takes the moral decisions in your country? In the WIMF's third biennial edition, researchers Álvarez, Kotera and Pina provide answers to these questions by analyzing 160 countries across five categories of indicators which reflect the great ethical debates of our time, from drugs issues or LGBTI rights to bio-ethics and sexuality, and from religious influence on the state to the right to practice any faith or none.

While the majority of those countries fail to pass the test, and while the state of moral freedom in some parts of the world is certainly poor, a strong positive evolution is also evident. This trend towards more individual freedom on ethically challenging matters is particularly strong in the developed world but it has reached most of Latin America and it is quickly permeating other developing regions. The Foundation hopes WIMF 2020 will be helpful to all those who work for moral freedom, especially in countries where there is still a lot of room for its improvement.



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