

The GeoPOLITICS of MEDIA, FREEDOM, POWER, DEVELOPMENT & HAPPINESS

Barriers-Challenges-Opportunities

Saudi Arabia unveils plans for 'entertainment city' near Riyadh

© 8 April 2017

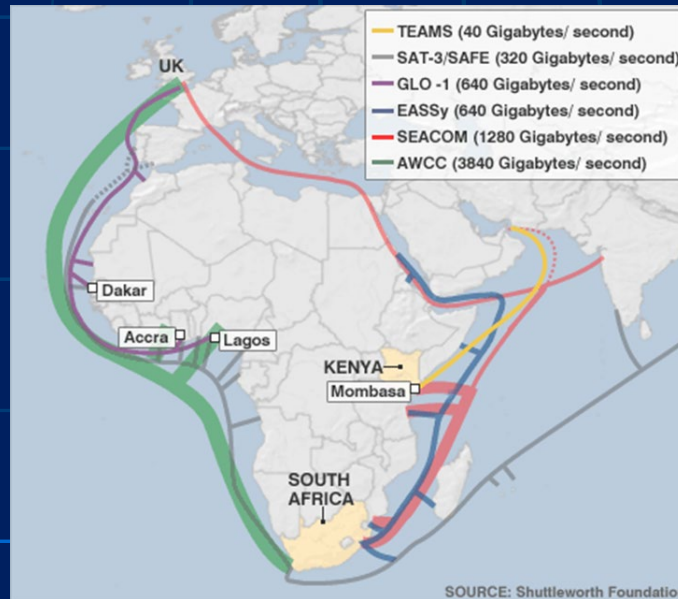
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Saudi Arabia has unveiled plans for an entertainment city on the edge of Riyadh which will be 50 times the size of Gibraltar once complete.

The 334 sq km (129 sq mile) attraction - about the same as Las Vegas - will offer cultural, sporting and entertainment activities - including a Six Flags park and a safari park.

The announcement boasts it will be the first of its kind in the world.



GEO-POLITICS

What does “GEOPOLITICS” mean?

- The ways in which **INTERNATIONAL/GLOBAL affairs** can be examined and understood through multiple **GEOGRAPHICAL FACTORS**.
 1. **PHYSICAL LANDSCAPES**
 - Natural features: Mountains, Forests, Rivers, Lakes, Oceans
 2. **CLIMATE/CLIMATE CHANGES:** Heat/Cold, Rain (or lack thereof), Snow, Dust, Sand, rising seas, ozone
 3. **ELEVATION/Altitude**
 4. **CULTURAL REGIONS** based on language, ethnicity, race, religion, politics, gender, etc.
 5. **NATURAL RESOURCES:** Oil, water, arable land/top soil, natural gas, forests, etc.

SOVEREIGNTY: NATIONAL or CULTURAL

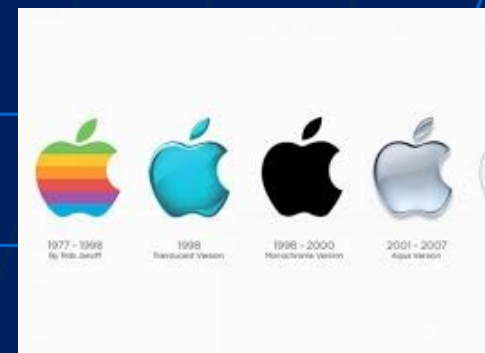
What does “sovereignty” mean?

1. The **FREEDOM(S)** to **control** and develop **one's own destinies** on one's own **TIME-TABLE**.
Implies a moral necessity to have it as a cornerstone of free will and the democratic process.
2. The **QUALITY** and the **REALITY** of having **independent authority** over **ones own life** as well as a **VALUED VOICE** in the **SYSTEMS of GOVERNANCE** (Economic, Political, Cultural).
3. **MEDIA SOVEREIGNTY** usually refers to the capability to produce and control one's own media and communications systems **AS WELL AS** the **INFORMATION/content** **WITHOUT outside interference.**

CULTURAL IMPERIALISM & NEO-COLONIALISM

CULTURAL IMPERIALISM → THE imposition by one politically or economically dominant community of various aspects of its own culture onto another non-dominant community.

- ▶ **DIRECT POWER**: Control by force or by political or economic **DOMINATION**.
 - **MILITARY CONTROL/INTERVENTION**
 - U.S. → Panama, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Iraq,
 - Russia → Ukraine
 - **COLONIALISM** or **NEO-COLONIALISM** the broader use of economic, political, cultural, or other pressures to control or influence other countries, especially former dependencies
- ▶ **SOFT POWER**:
 - ▶ **Imposing protocols or value systems** (and viewpoints) **over the other population**.
 - ▶ **MAJOR FORMS**: MEDIA, schooling, customs, traditions, religion, language, social and moral norms, and other aspects of the imposing community



GEO POLITICS: Physical/Geographic Barriers to Sovereignty & Development

- Geographic FEATURES which STRUCTURE/LIMIT

- Islands, Mountains, Water (Oceans), Time Zones

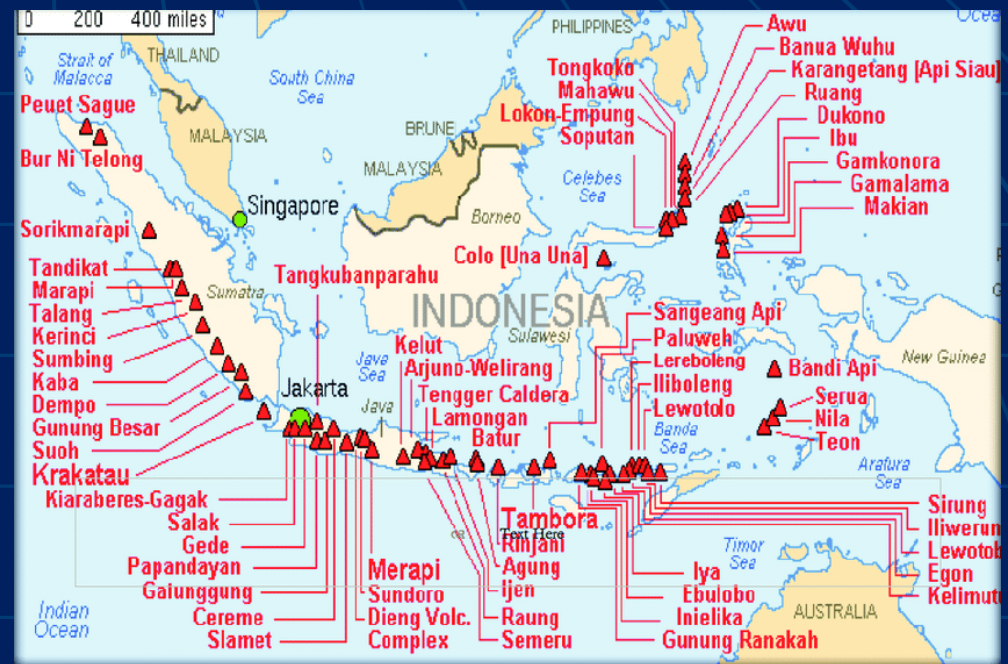
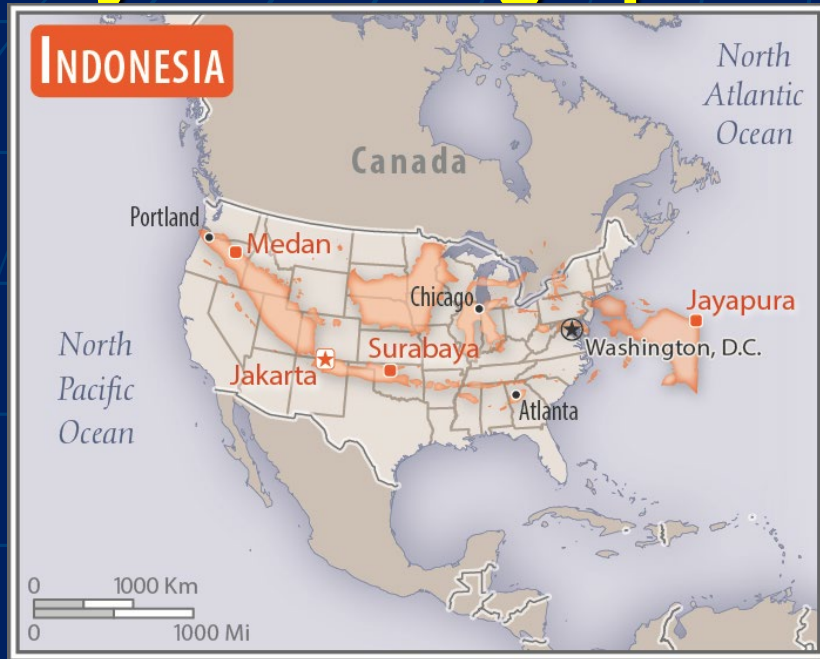
Indonesia = 18,307 islands across 3,500 miles



Micronesia = 1,500 islands across 1,800 miles



Physical/Geographic

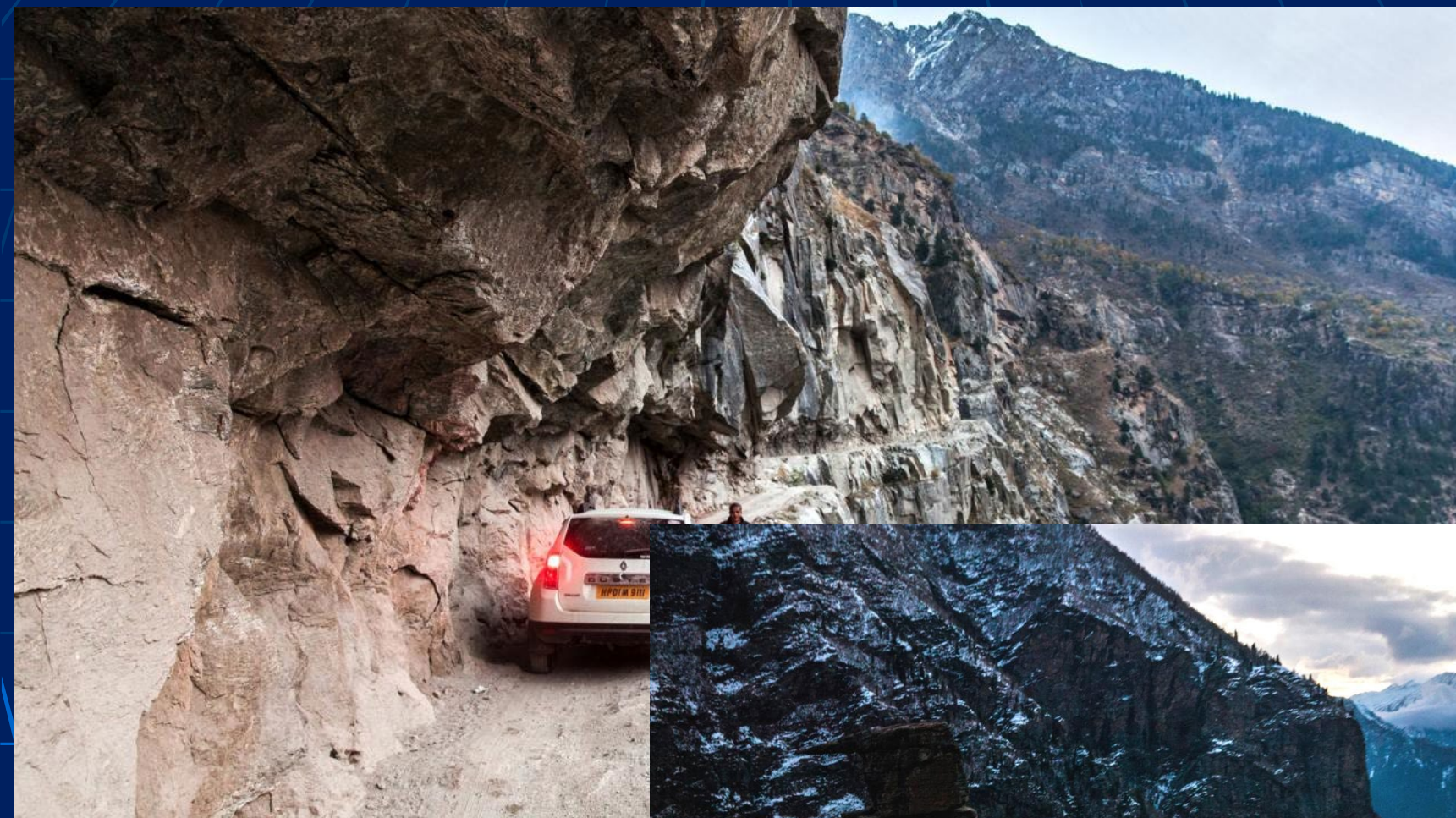


Geography & Infrastructure -- Roads, Bridges, Buildings...

Scarcity and/or Abundance of Resources (Water, Arable Land, Gas/oil, Electricity, Paper, Food)
Trans-Bolivian Highway (Andes→Amazon)



India: North/Western Himalayas





Haiti – Dominican Republic



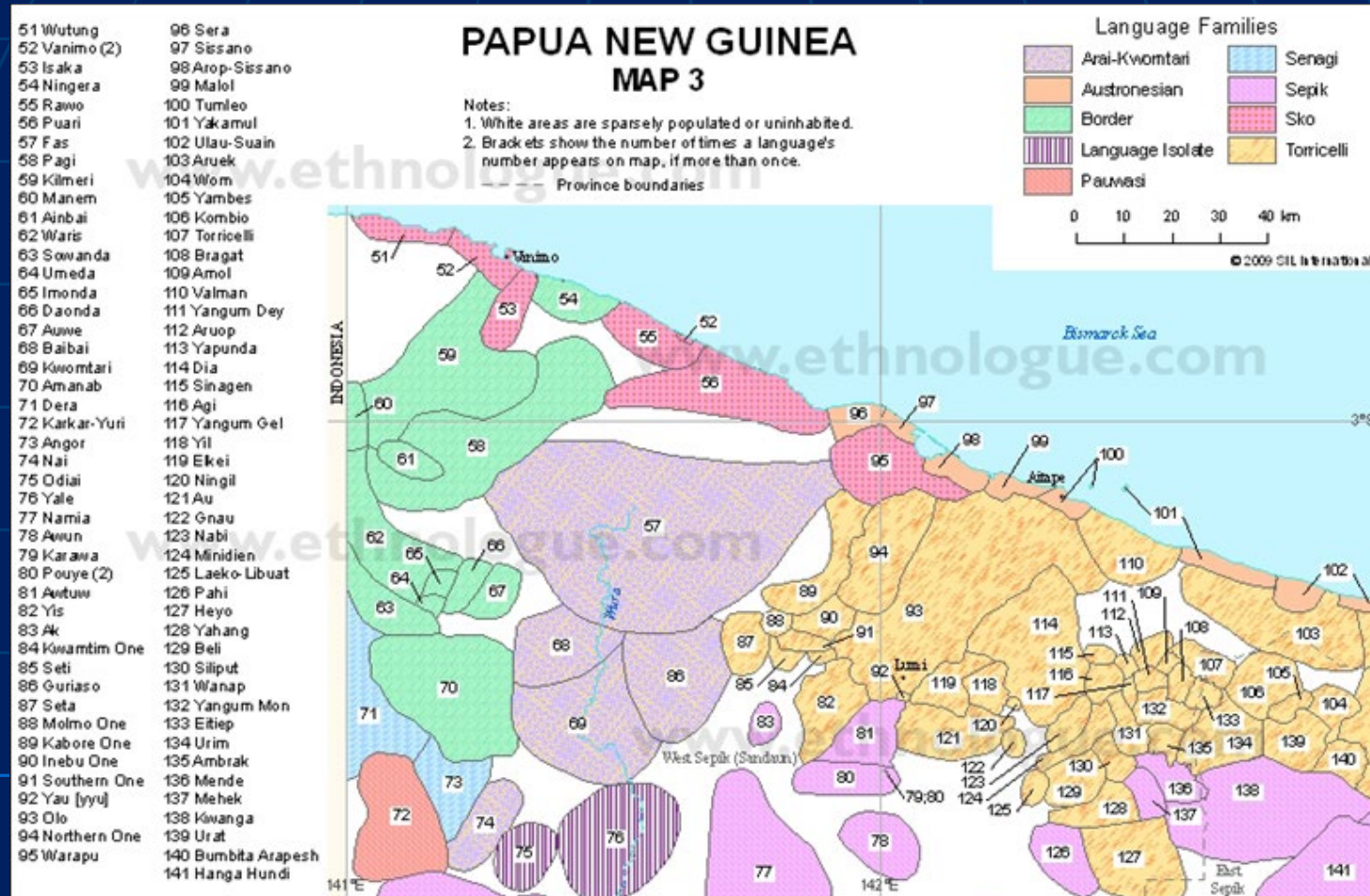
Linguistic Barriers/Hurdles to Sovereignty

Linguistic Diversity within Nations

Country	# of languages	% of world languages	Official or national language(s)	Total population (July 2005 est.)
Papua New Guinea	820	11.86%	Hiri Motu, Tok Pisin, English	5,545,268
Indonesia	742	10.73%	Indonesian	241,973,879
Nigeria	516	7.47%	Edo, Efik, Adamawa Fulfulde, Hausa, Idoma, Igbo, Central Kanuri, Yoruba, English	128,771,988
India	427	6.18%	<i>Lingua franca</i> : English & Hindi <i>Official languages</i> : Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Marathi, Meitei, Nepali, Oriya, Eastern Panjabi, Sanskrit, Santali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu.	1,080,264,388
Mexico	297	4.30%	Spanish	106,202,903
Cameroon	280	4.05%	English, French	16,380,005
Australia	275	3.98%	English	20,090,437
China	241	3.49%	Mandarin Chinese <i>Regional</i> : Daur, Kalmyk-Oirat, Lu, Peripheral Mongolian, Central Tibetan, Uyghur, Xibe, Northern Zhuang	1,306,313,812
Dem Rep Congo	216	3.12%	Koongo, Lingala, Luba-Kasai, Congo Swahili, French	60,085,804
Brazil	200	2.89%	Portuguese	186,112,794
Philippines	180	2.60%	Filipino, English	87,857,473
Malaysia	147	2.13%	Malay	23,953,136
Canada	145	2.10%	English, French	32,805,041
Sudan	134	1.94%	Standard Arabic	40,187,486
Chad	122	1.92%	Standard Arabic, French	9,826,419
Russia	129	1.87%	Russian	143,420,309
Tanzania	128	1.85%	Swahili, English	36,766,356
Nepal	125	1.81%	Nepali	27,676,547
Vanuatu	115	1.66%	Bislama, English	205,754

Linguistic Barriers/Hurdles to Sovereignty

Linguistic Diversity within Nations



Linguistic Diversity within Nations

- ## Pidgin - West African lingua franca



Akwasi Sarpong from Ghana and Didi Akinyelure from Nigeria speak Pidgin.

The BBC is launching 11 new language services and one of them is English-based Pidgin, which is one of the most widely spoken languages across West Africa, even though it is not officially recognised.

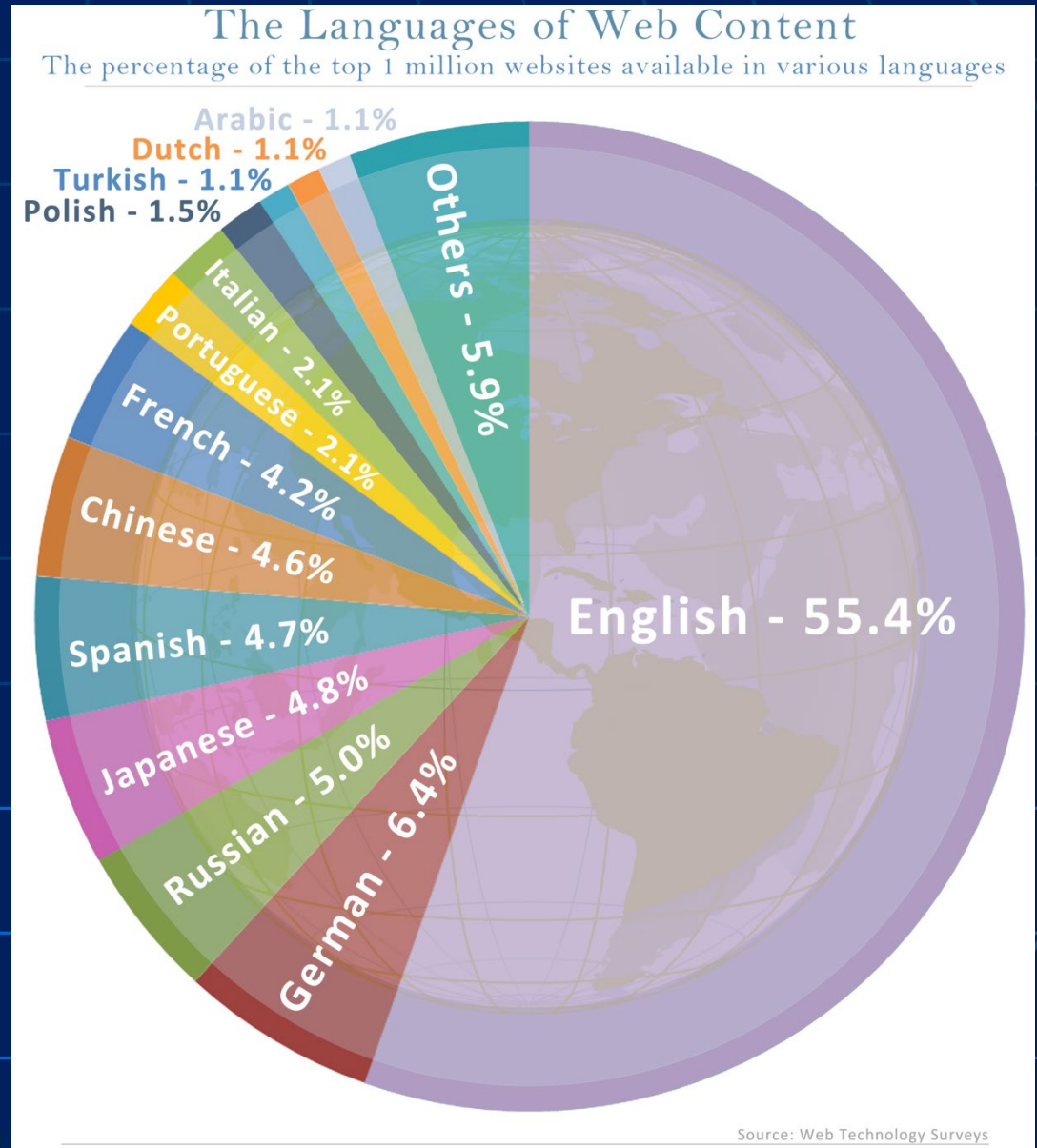
What is Ridge?



2nd non-Native language dominance

Hierarchy and Status of Languages w/in a nation


- ✓ **“National Language”** different from the language of the people
- ✓ **Colonial Linguistic ties**
- ✓ **English as a “Global Language”**
- ✓ **Schools**
- ✓ **Government**
- ✓ **Business**



Language: Formal vs. Informal vs. Legal

Conflicts around language in a nation

✓ Language and POWER Politics



'I was detained for speaking Spanish in the US'

Ana Suda and a friend were stopped by police in Montana for speaking Spanish.


The video of the incident in May 2018 went viral and Ana's life has since been turned upside down.

Video by Angélica María Casas. Produced and voiced by Patricia Sulbarán

This video is part "¿Hablas español?", a BBC road trip around the US to show the power of the Spanish language and Latinos in the age of Trump. You can follow the trip [in Spanish at BBCMundo](#)

12 Nov 2019

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12 Nov 2019

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saw that you guys were speaking Spanish.



'Granny, I've been shot,' said Palestinian student targeted in Vermont

28th November 2023, 09:14 EST [Share](#)

By Nadine Yousif
BBC News, Burlington, Vermont

Watch: Palestinian students called for help: 'Granny I've been shot'

After being ambushed and shot in the spine on a US street at the weekend, Hisham Awartani called police. Then the Palestinian-American student phoned his British-born grandmother.

"Granny, I've been shot," the 20-year-old said, his uncle told the BBC.

Mr Awartani was targeted on Saturday in Burlington, Vermont, along with two fellow Palestinian-American students.

He and the other victims - Kinnan Abdalhamid and Tahseen Aliahmad - are expected to survive.

EDUCATION:

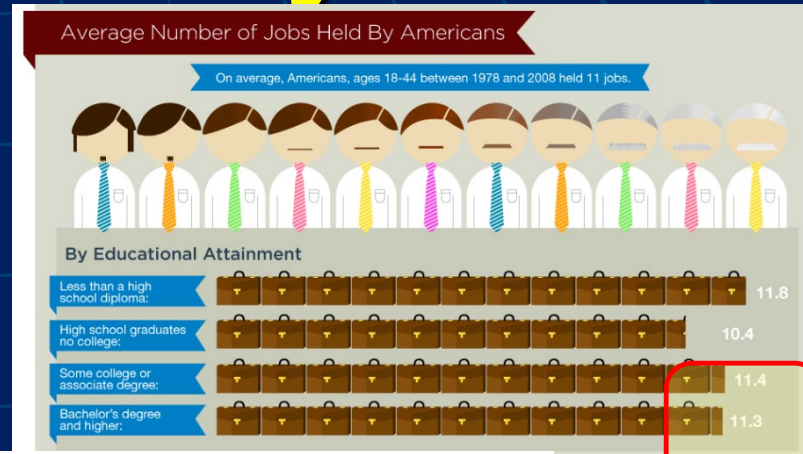
FORMAL + INFORMAL

Education → Opportunity

- ✓ Americans **change jobs 10-15 times (avg.)** during the course of their working lives.
- ✓ National average salary for someone with a **bachelor's degree is \$57,026**, compared to **\$34,197** for someone with just a **high school diploma**.
- ✓ B.A. = **\$1-1.5 million** over the course of a lifetime

Quality of Life

- **HEALTH:** 69% of college graduates, as opposed to 45% of high school graduates, reported **exercising** each week.
- **COMMUNITY.** 39% of those with a bachelor's degree **volunteered** in 2015, as opposed to 16% with a high school diploma.
- **VOICE.** 45% college graduates **voted** compared to high school graduates (20%) in the same age group.
- The **children** of college graduates were 5X more likely to be involved in a variety of educational activities with their families.



Almost **one third** of Americans have **completely changed fields** since starting their first job.

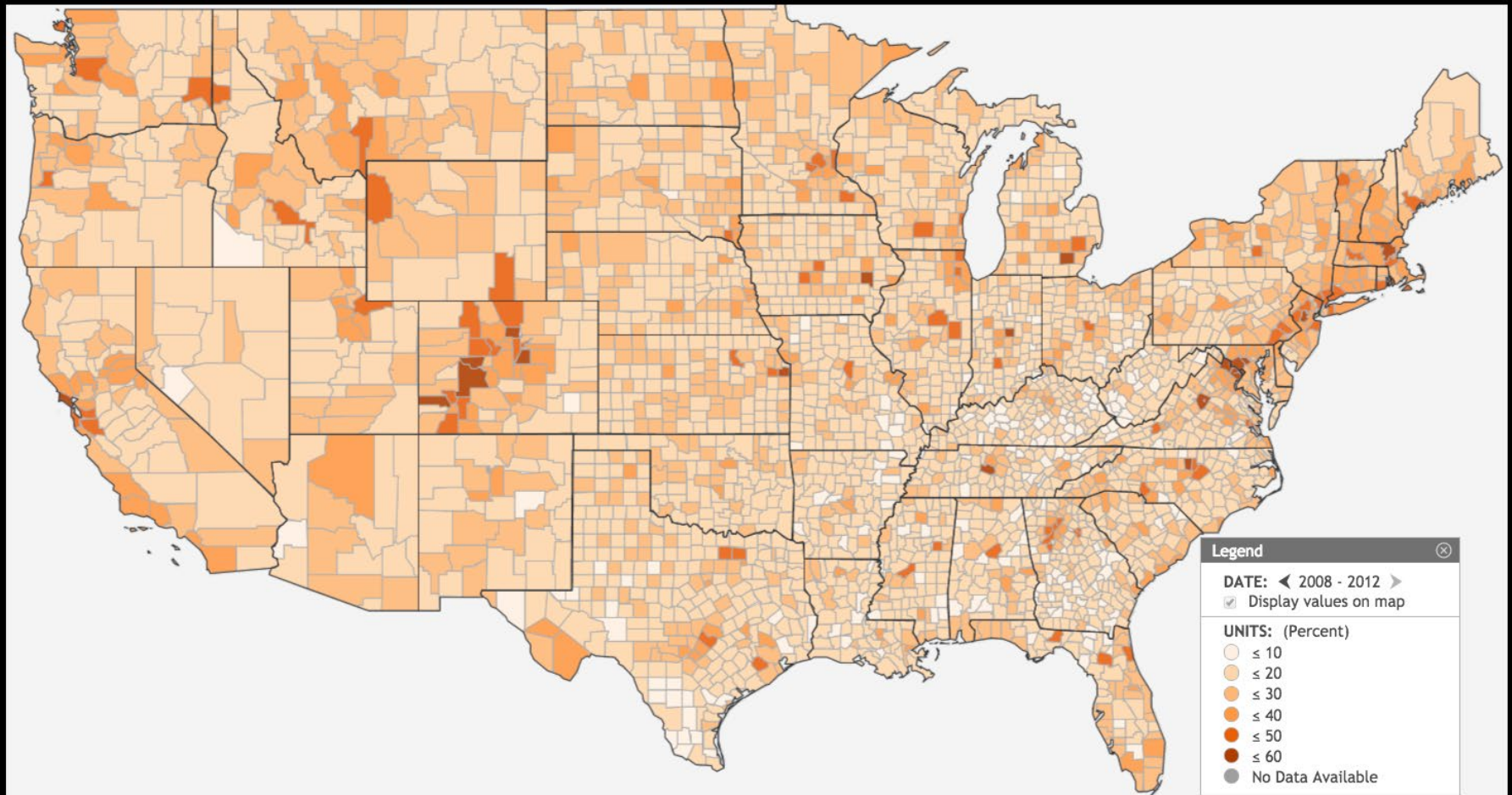
The Wage Gap Between College and High School Grads Just Hit a Record High

By: Adam Hardy
Published: Feb 14, 2022 | 5 min read

SHARE

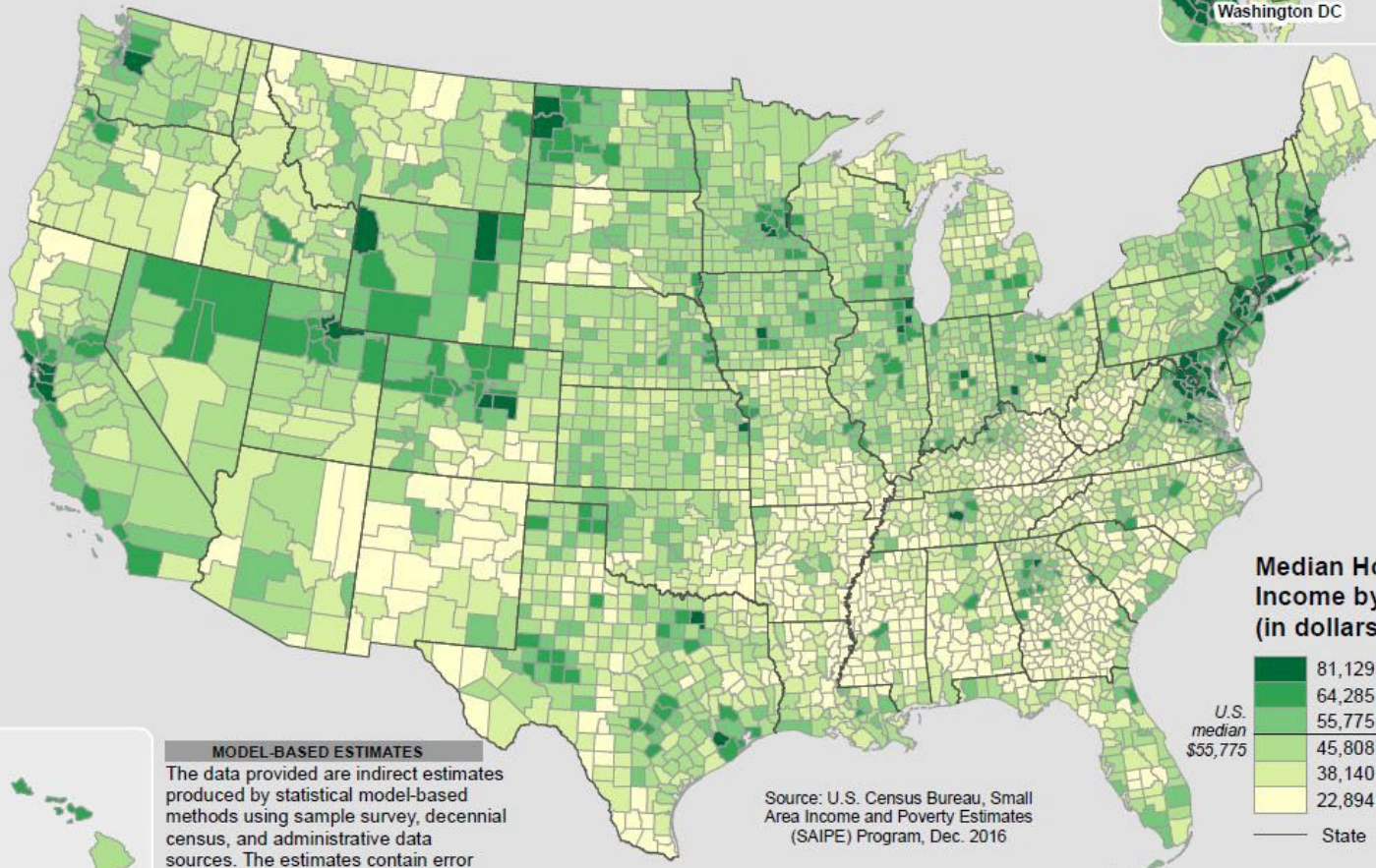


Bachelor's Degree or Higher by County

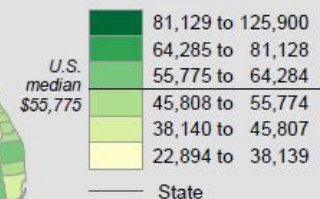


Income Distribution across geography

Median Household Income of the Total Population by County: 2015



Median Household Income by County (in dollars)



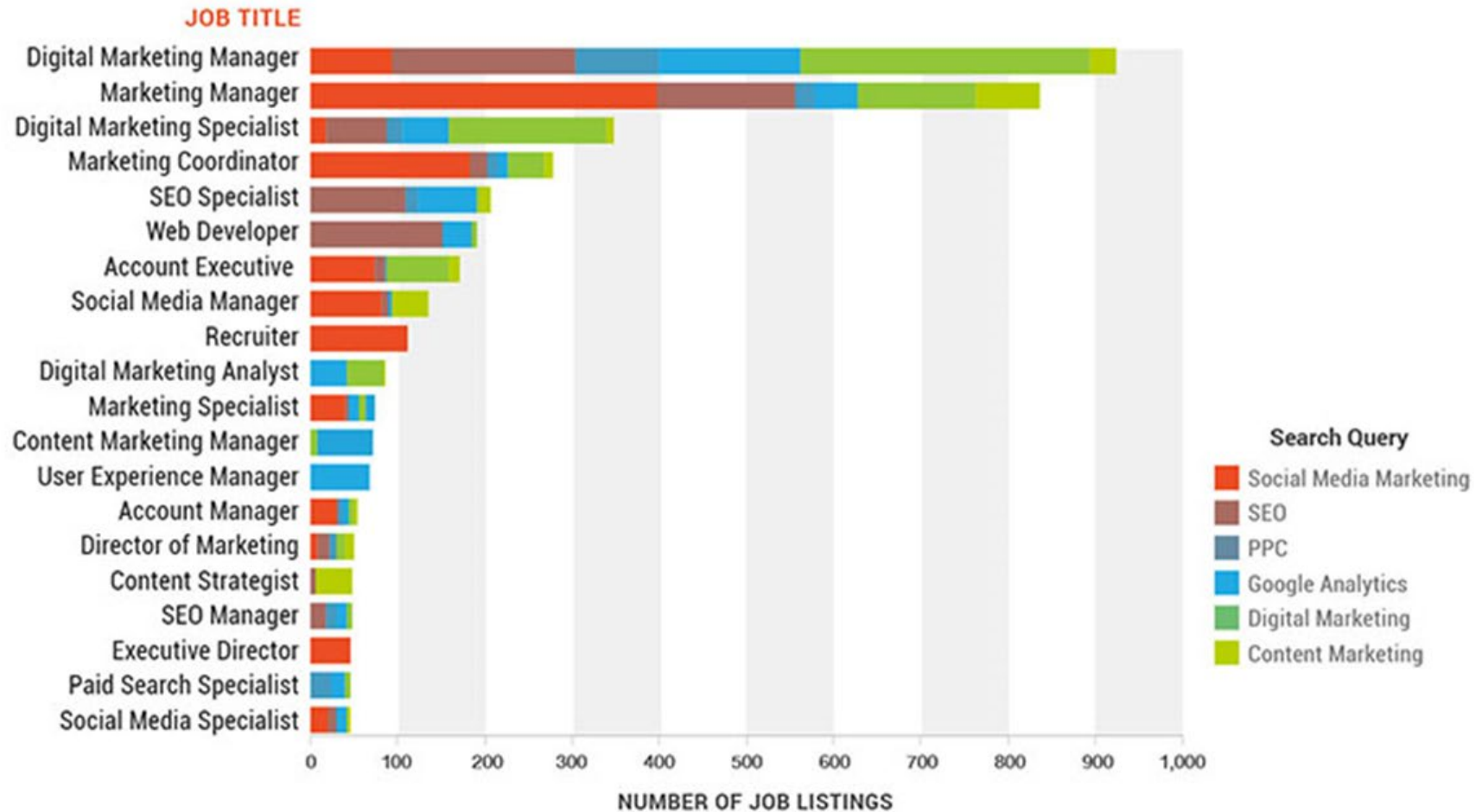
MODEL-BASED ESTIMATES

The data provided are indirect estimates produced by statistical model-based methods using sample survey, decennial census, and administrative data sources. The estimates contain error stemming from model error, sampling error, and nonsampling error.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) Program, Dec. 2016

Education → Opportunities 2022

Media & Communication Related Careers



Educational Barriers & Opportunities

Access/Costs/Funding for Schools

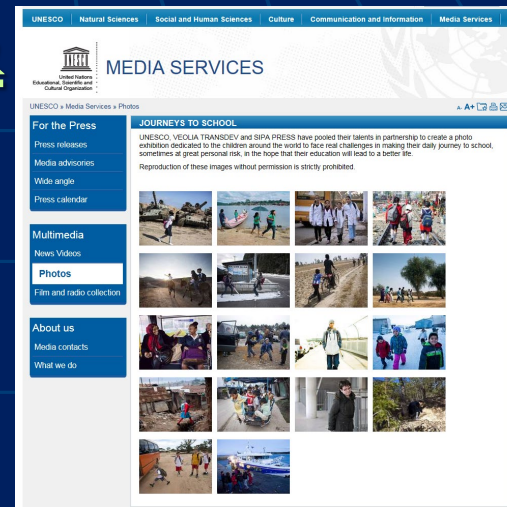
- Daily Transportation/Travel to School
- Job/financial loss for low income families
- School Uniforms
- Books
- Government/State/Local → Tax base
- Yearly Budget? Approval?
- International Organizations (Strings Attached)?
- Funding for teacher Training?

Priorities/Allegiances of Schools/Teaching

- Gender
- Income
- Religious/Cultural
- Math/Science
- Reading/Writing
- Test taking

Time spent in Educational Environments

- Formal schooling?
- Informal schooling (Media/work)?



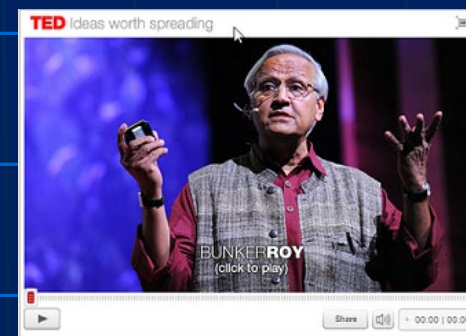
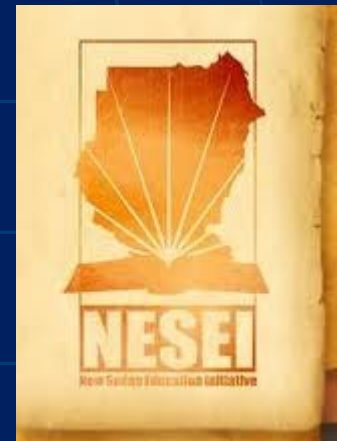
Kids Risking Their Lives to Reach School

by Kaushik · 9 YEARS AGO · 0 Comments

For most parents and kids, crossing the street to catch the school bus is perhaps the riskiest part of the school run. But take a look at these Chinese schoolchildren from the village of Genguan. Everyday, these young kids walk along a precarious path carved by the side of a cliff, as they make their way to class in Bijie, in southwest China's Guizhou Province. Banpo Elementary School is located halfway up a mountain and the path to it winds through treacherous hillside passes and tunnels hewn out of the rock. The pebble-covered footpath is less than 0.5 meters wide, which means the children have to walk single file and press themselves into the side of the mountain if someone wants to squeeze past. This footpath was created 40 years ago as an irrigation ditch and although there is another safer route, but taking this means the children have to spend two hours to walk to school. The only assurance for parents is that Headmaster Xu Liangfan accompanies the 49 kids to school.



The story might sound incredible to some, but it isn't uncommon for children from less privileged regions facing immense hardship on their commute to the institute of learning. You will be surprised at the great lengths some children are willing to go to reach school.



Bunker Roy



Getting to School



Scenes from schools around the world


Kids Risking Their Lives to Reach School

by Kaushik -

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MEDIA SERVICES

UNESCO » Media Services » Photos

For the Press

- Press releases
- Media advisories
- Wide angle
- Press calendar

Multimedia

- News Videos
- Photos**
- Film and radio collection

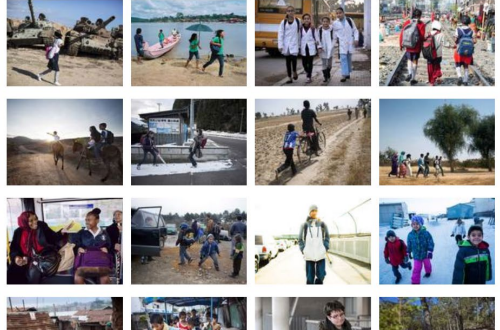
About us

- Media contacts
- What we do

JOURNEYS TO SCHOOL

UNESCO, VEOLIA TRANSDEV and SIPA PRESS have pooled their talents in partnership to create a photo exhibition dedicated to the children around the world to face real challenges in making their daily journey to school, sometimes at great personal risk, in the hope that their education will lead to a better life.

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World Happiness Report (WHR)



EQUALITY AND HAPPINESS THROUGH EDUCATION



Media and Education

- “Container Schools”
- 3D Programming and Positive Emotional Contagion Psychology
- Replicating Drugs in H.S. Chemistry



Smiling 'helps children in the classroom'

26 September 2013 Last updated at 18:08 BST

At Reykjavik University, a lot of important learning goes on. The Icelandic education system is often lauded as the best in the world. But it is not just traditional teaching methods that are used in the country.



AfricanBrains

Special Presentation by Mr Thierry Boulanger

IT and Business to Business Director
Samsung



Innovation Africa 2013
15-17 October, Gaborone, Botswana



Martin Shkreli: Australian boys recreate life-saving drug

1 December 2016 | Australia

Share



The Sydney students at work in their high school laboratory

The man who sparked outrage last year by hiking the price of a life-saving drug may have met his match in some Australian schoolboys.

US executive Martin Shkreli became a symbol of greed when he raised the price of a tablet of Daraprim from \$13.50 (£11) to \$750.

Now, Sydney school students have recreated the drug's key ingredient for just \$20.

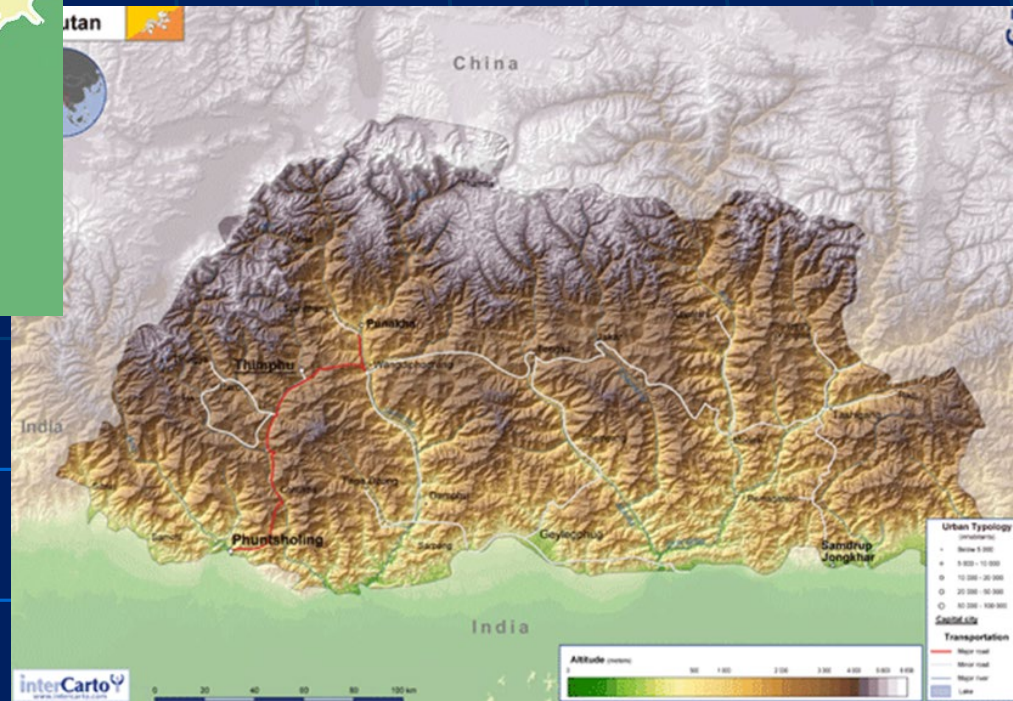
Daraprim is an anti-parasitic drug used by malaria and Aids patients.

Martin Shkreli: 'The most hated man in America'

The Sydney Grammar boys, all 17, synthesised the active ingredient, pyrimethamine, in their school science laboratory.

"It wasn't terribly hard but that's really the point, I think, because we're high school

Bordering China & India



Bhutan - faqs

- Total population 750,000 (**slightly larger than Vermont**)
- 60% of population is under 25
- **LANGUAGES:**
 - **Dzongkha** + Nepali + Tshangla + English
- Dominant Religion: Buddhist (Tibetan)
- **1960** construction on first auto roads
 - 1500km since then
- **1970s** to Present:
 - Electricity to rural areas
 - Bhutan gets first stoplight
 - Bhutan Takes down only stoplight
- **DEMOCRACY!** King Abdicates in favor of democracy 2007.
 - **MOCK/PRACTICE ELECTION** = April 21, 2007
 - Real Election : December 31, 2007
- **2008 National Assembly and Prime Minister ELECTED!**



Bhutan King Jigme Khesa Wangchuck and Queen Jetsun Pema



21ST CENTURY Media Transformations in bhutan:

One of the last nations on earth to be connected to the internet & television

- **1999: Television Enters (Satellite TV 45→200 Channels)**
- **2000: The Web/Internet COMES TO BHUTAN!**
- **2005: Cell Phone Telecom**
- **2010: SmartPhone/iPhone**
- **2010: The Credit Card arrives**
- **2011: BHUTAN CENTRE FOR MEDIA AND DEMOCRACY & St. Michael's College MEDIA NOMADS PROJECT**



BHUTAN:

Pearls of happiness From the Geography of Bliss

BUDDHISM as a belief system

- ✓ Suffering and Happiness: Two sides to the same coin
 - ✓ Suffering is an **inherent** part of life. The **art of life** is learning how to **suffer well**.
- ✓ Happiness and sorrow **are our own responsibilities** – and completely within our control. Train the **mind** to manage both.
- ✓ Mental and Physical **RESILIENCE** and coping strategies.
- ✓ **Muditā** → sympathetic or vicarious joy; The pleasure that comes from delighting in **other people's well-being**.
- ✓ **WANTING**: people should **not be too focused on wanting** many different things as the enjoyment won't last

- Deliberate attentiveness to others → Hospitality
- Low to no crime rate
- Fewer **UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS**
- **GNH = GROSS NATIONAL HAPPINESS** as an enacted policy
- The Bhutanese don't always do things that make **ECONOMIC SENSE** if the economics don't make human/environmental sense.



SMC-BCMD Media Education Project

MEDIA NOMADS!

- ✓ 12 month – Educational Service-Learning Project on Media Education/Literacy
- ✓ 2 SMC FACULTY + 4 DMC Students
 - ✓ Profs. Hyde & Kusserow)
 - ✓ SMC students: Kayle Schnell, Lynne Anderson, Bobby Gaglini, Alex Greene
- ✓ Bhutan Centre for Media & Democracy
 - ✓ Pek Dorji
- ✓ BHUTANESE TEACHERS and STUDENTS





SMC-BCMD Media Education Project

Topics:

- Media Gross National Happiness
- Media Literacy/Education
- Global Media
- Media Use/Addiction
- Advertising/Consumerism
- Media & Health/Well-Being
- Media Violence/Fear
- Media and Democracy



MEDIA

**Happiness
& Freedom**

MEDIA FREEDOM/Sovereignty

■ Increasing the quantity of the available kinds of media

- “Home-Grown” and/or “native” to the country and its people.
- **Grassroots:** Books, magazines, TV shows, Films which come out of local citizen’s stories, fears, hopes, and dreams.
- **NOT from outside corporations** or outside political systems

■ Improving the QUALITY of Media =

- **USEFUL INFORMATION**, or means of communication. Implied notion of **EMPOWERMENT**—enacting important or needed changes
- **REPRESENTATIVE** of the needs, wants, desires, and VOICES of actual people within the country.



MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

Media DEVELOPMENT = TRIPLE (x5) Meaning:

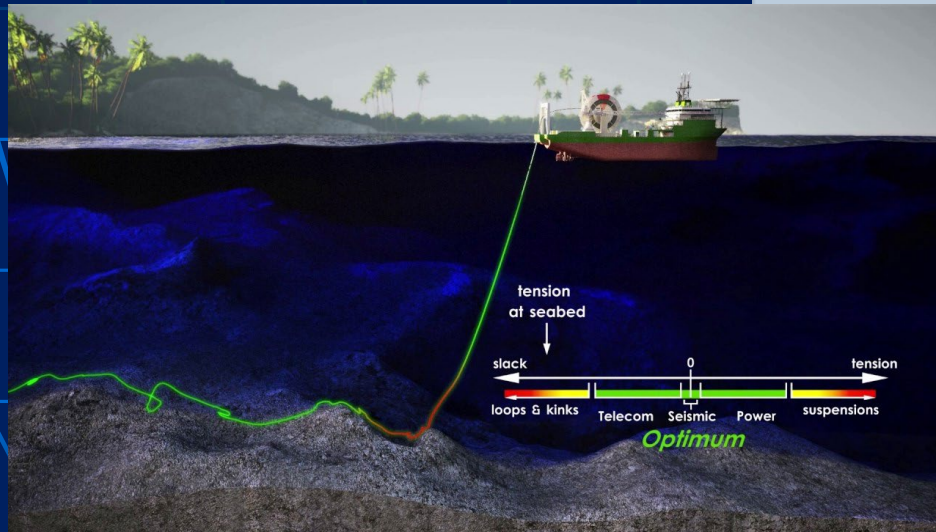
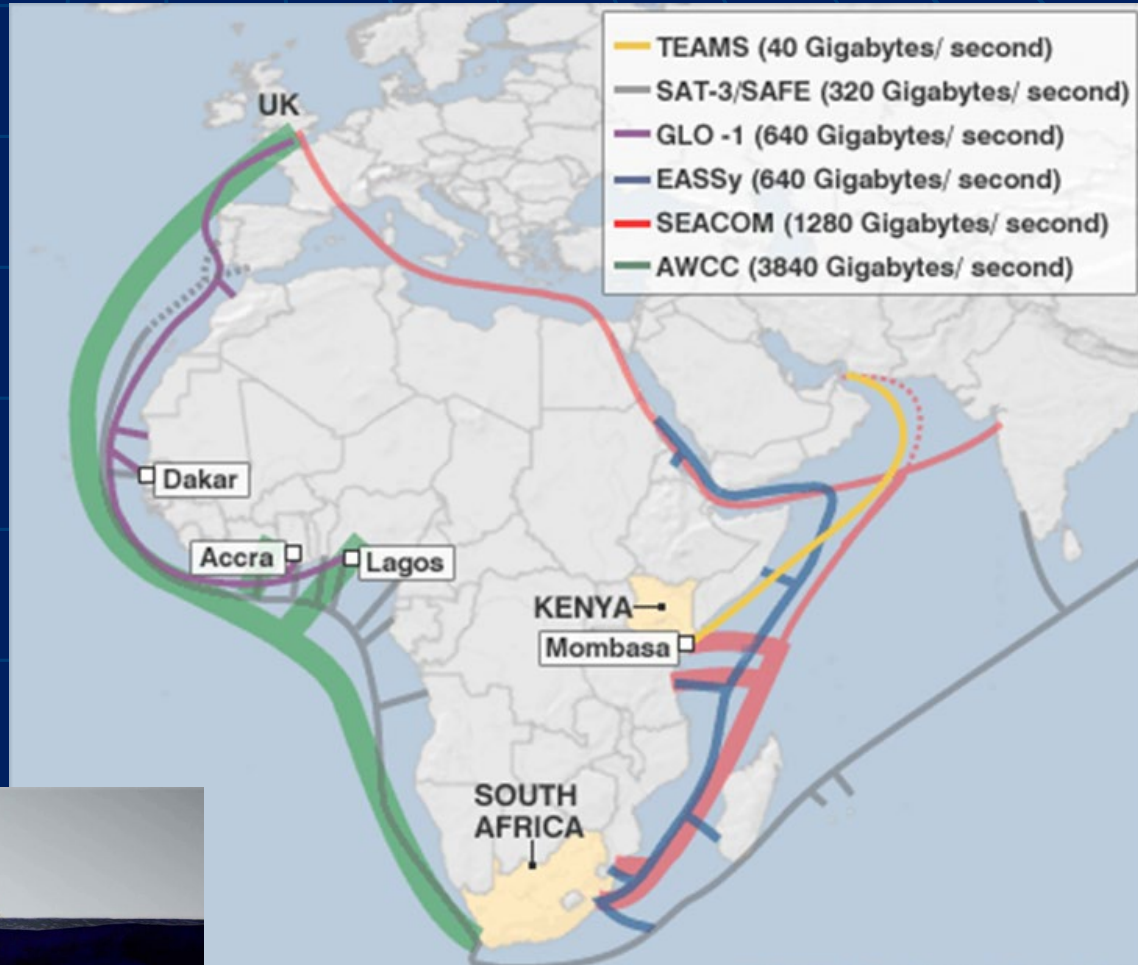
1. Improving **AUDIENCE ACCESS** and types of **INTERACTIONS** for **ALL CITIZENS** (not just the wealthy)
 - **FREE or LOW COST Access to SCHOOLS**, Books, Phones, TVs, Satellites, Fiber optics, computers, newspapers...along with the **educational centers** of learning
 - Improving the **QUALITY** - "interactions," "transactions," and resulting "resonance" that happen during and b/c of media use/consumption.
2. Improving the **Physical Technologies** and **up-dating older SYSTEMS** used to transmit OR distribute information/messages.
 - Fiber optics, WIFI, Bandwidths, micro-nets, devices
3. Improving the **QUALITY** of **CONTENT/PROGRAMMING**
4. Improving **MEDIA EDUCATION** and **Crap-detecting Literacy**
5. Improving the actual **ORGANIZATIONS (People, Communications & Services)** which provide information to a people



Africa: Sub Marine Cables

Of the 945 million people living on the continent, just 104 million use the internet regularly.

40% of African nations are connected to the world through one or two fibre-optic cables.



Submarine Cable Map

The internet's undersea world

The vast majority of the world's communications are not carried by satellites but an altogether older technology: cables under the earth's oceans. As a ship accidentally wipes out Asia's net access, this map shows how we rely on collections of wires of less than 10cm diameter to link us all together

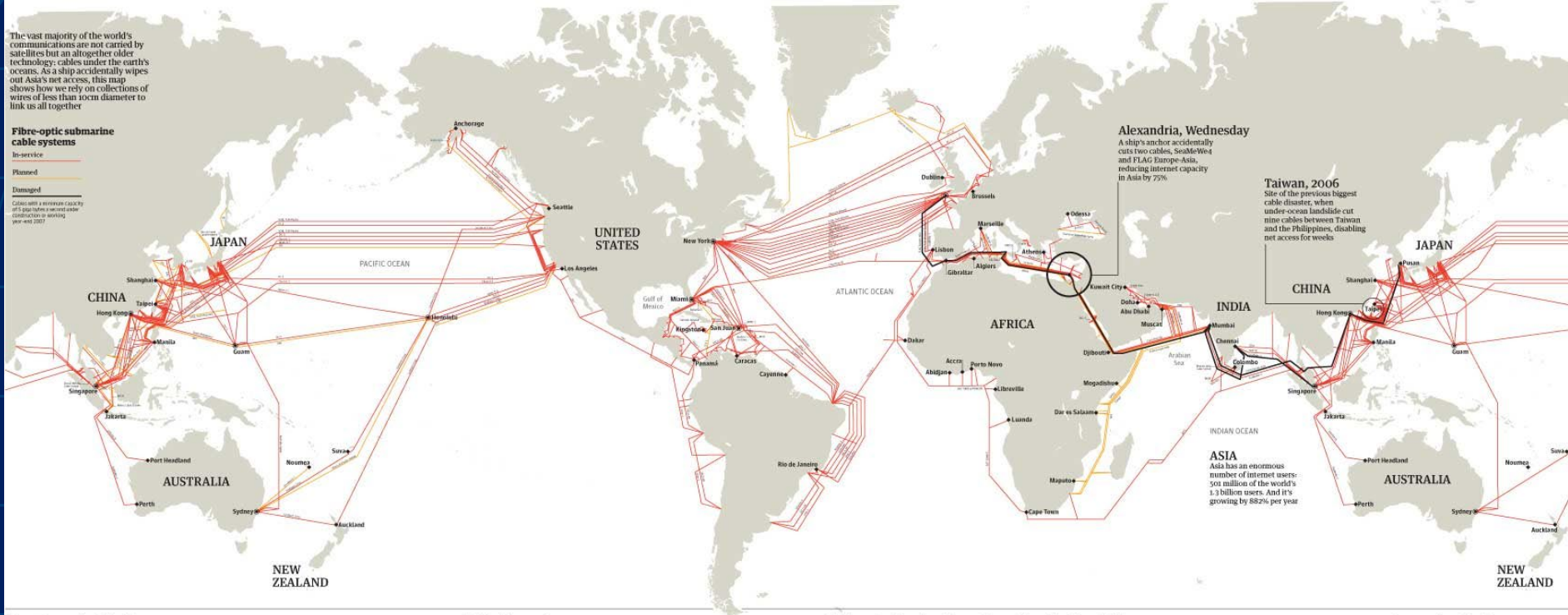
Fibre-optic submarine cable systems

In-service

Planned

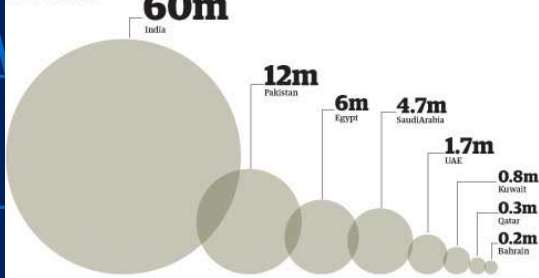
Damaged

Cables with a maximum capacity of 100 Tbps are shown in red. Cables with a maximum capacity of 10 Tbps are shown in orange. Cables with a maximum capacity of 1 Tbps are shown in yellow.



Internet users affected by the Alexandria accident

The main countries affected in Wednesday's event



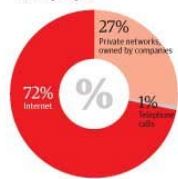
World cable capacity

Submarine cable operators light (turn on) capacity on their systems to sell bandwidth to other carriers. Carriers buy extra capacity, mainly to hold in reserve. On the trans-Atlantic route 80% of the bandwidth is purchased, but only 25% is used

Capacity in terabytes a second



What makes up "used capacity"?



The longest submarine cables

The SeaMeWe-3 system from Norden in Germany to Keeloo, South Korea connects 32 different countries with 39 landing points

SeaMeWe-3	39,000 km
Southern Cross	30,500 km
China-US	30,476 km
FLAG Europe-Asia	28,000 km
South America-1	25,000 km

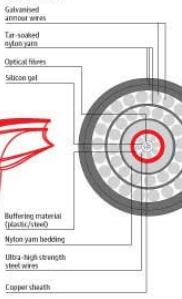
The world's cables in bandwidth

The first intercontinental telephony submarine cable system, TAT-1, connected North America to Europe in 1958 and had an initial capacity of 640,000 bytes per second. Since then, total trans-Atlantic cable capacity has soared to over 7 trillion bps



Cross-section of a cable

Cables of this strength are typically 60 mm in diameter and weigh over 10,000 kilograms a kilometre. In deeper waters, lighter and less insulated cables are used



New Developments: Estonia & Saudi Arabia

Could Estonia be the first 'digital' country?

Bryan Lufkin
October 2017

Estonia, the Baltic nation of 1.3m, has been pursuing a grand idea since 1997: putting their entire government online. But is the idea a grand one, or a complicated one?

futurenow

Your guide to a fast-changing world

More articles

Over the next month, we're celebrating technology and innovation in a new series called Bright Sparks. As part of the series, we're bringing back some of our favourite articles about the people and ideas that are changing the world with technology.

We've all been there: standing in an interminable queue in a stark government building, staring into space, waiting for what seems like endless hours to fill out reams of forms at the tax office or department of motor vehicles.

The e-Estonia website says the programme is "the evolution of the e-state".

Launched in 1997, it's let citizens file taxes online since 2000 (95% of Estonians file taxes online), and allows Estonians to obtain medical prescriptions and test results, sign documents, even vote and allow foreigners to become e-residents, all online.

"Today, the information is stored inside the country," says Anna Piperal, a spokesperson for e-Estonia. "But we are working on a governmental cloud that will be backed up in Estonian embassies around the world."

e-Estonia pumps out technical roles to support the system

And they're not alone. Finland, Japan and Cyprus have all taken cues from Estonia, either working with Estonian companies to build e-tax platforms in their own countries, for example, or borrowing the Estonian ID card system, which assigns each citizen a **catch-all ID** that can be used for purposes ranging from social security to voting to disaster response.

"The country has made more progress than any other," says Darrell West, vice president and director of governance studies at the Brookings Institute think tank in Washington DC.

Saudi Arabia unveils plans for 'entertainment city' near Riyadh

8 April 2017



The new complex will be built on the edge of Riyadh (pictured)

Saudi Arabia has unveiled plans for an entertainment city on the edge of Riyadh which will be 50 times the size of Gibraltar once complete.

The 334 sq km (129 sq mile) attraction - about the same as Las Vegas - will offer cultural, sporting and entertainment activities - including a Six Flags park and a safari park.

The announcement boasts it will be the first of its kind in the world.

Media TECH BARRIERS to Cultural Sovereignty

Mobile Phone Costs → As a Percentage of Monthly Income

World's most expensive phone costs:

- **Malawi** - **56.29%** of average monthly earnings
- **Madagascar** - **52.55%** of average monthly earnings
- **Central African Republic** - **51.63%** of average monthly earnings



World's Cheapest phone costs:

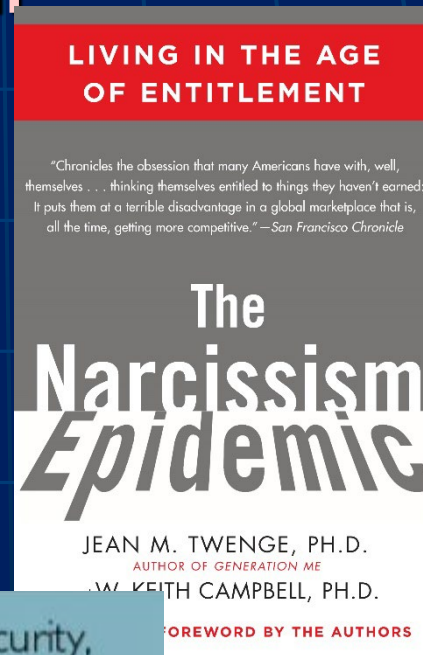
- **Macau, China** - **0.11%** of average monthly earnings
- **Hong Kong, China** - **0.18 %** of average monthly earnings
- **Denmark** - **0.19%** of average monthly earnings

New Media BIAS: The SELF and One's CLAN

Narcissism + Self-Centered CLAN

Narcissistic BIAS → Addiction:

- SMART PHONE FILTERS
- META/Facebook/Instagram
- TikTok
- Apple-Facetime



HOW TO SPOT NARCISSISTS ONLINE

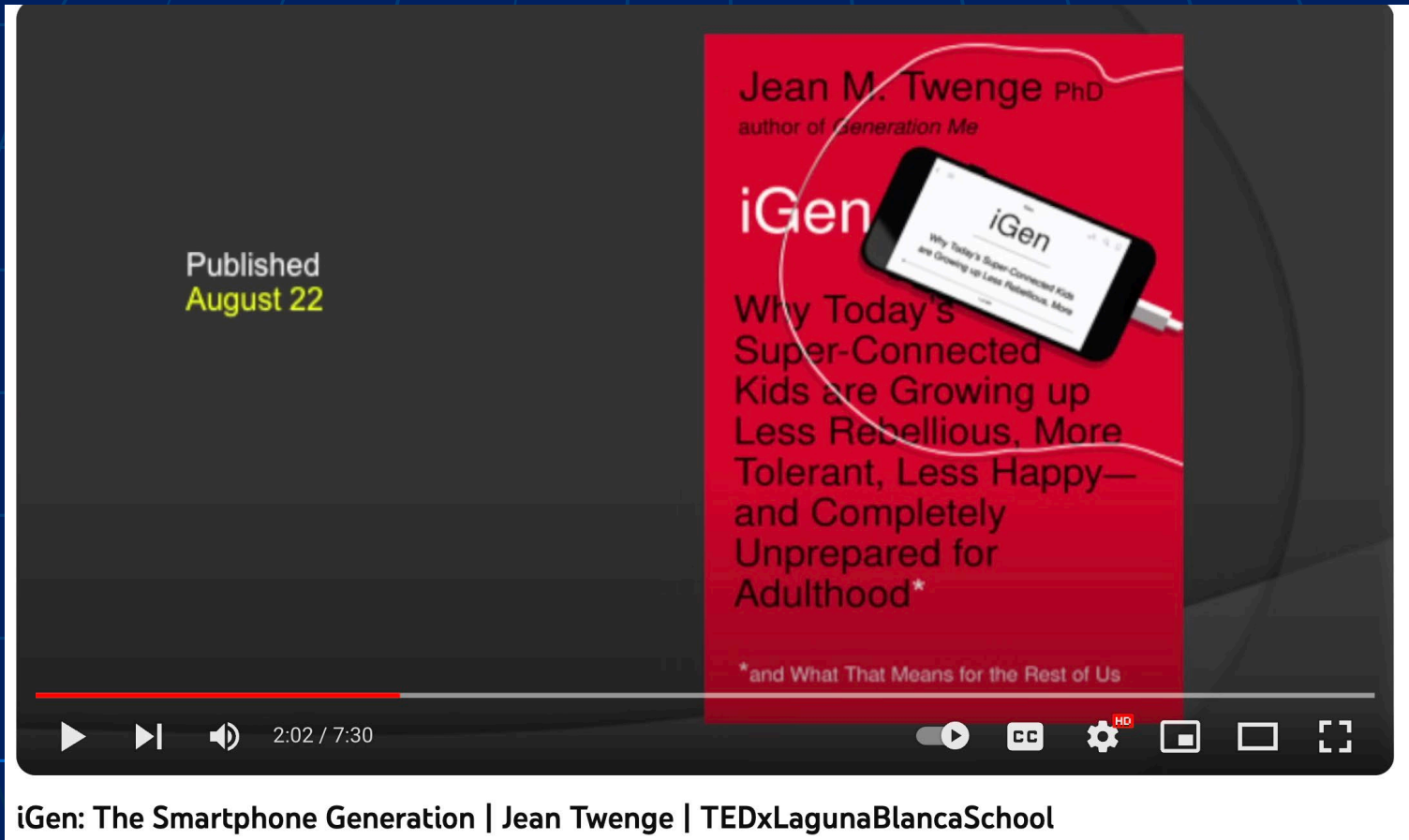
- POST ATTRACTIVE PHOTOS; DRESS MORE ELEGANTLY.
- ACTIVE ON TWO PLATFORMS; PREFER WEAK CONTENT.
- USUALLY HAVE LOTS OF FRIENDS OR FOLLOWERS.
- PUBLISH MORE CONTENT; MORE TRAVEL PICS.
- POST MORE OFTEN, POST SELF-PROMOTING CONTENT.
- USE PROFANE VULGARITY; PRONOUNS "I", "ME", "MY".



It appears you suffer from insecurity, loneliness and low self-esteem. I suggest you post daily Selfie pics for strangers online until you feel better.



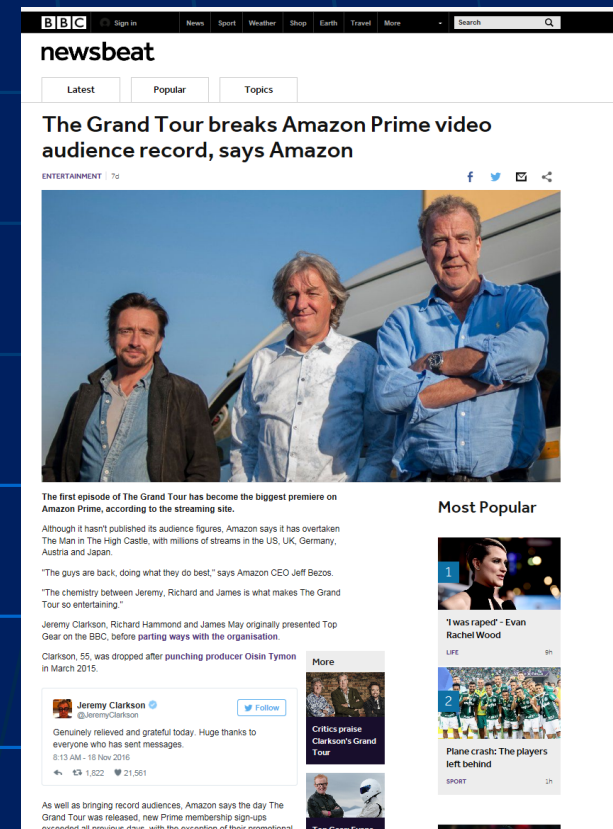
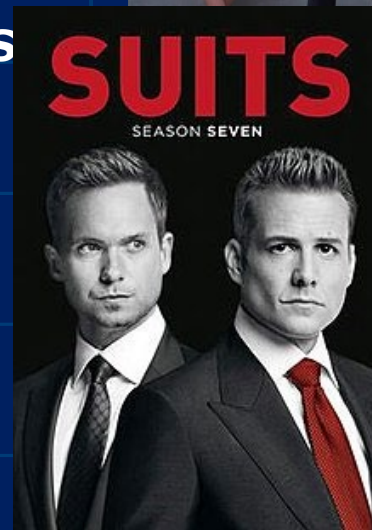
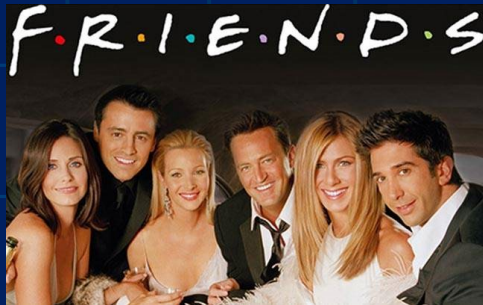
Jean Twenge: iGen



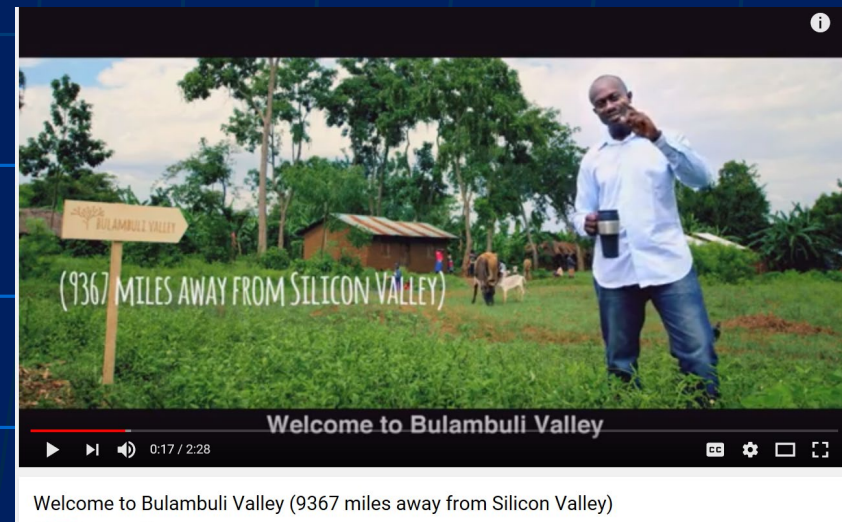
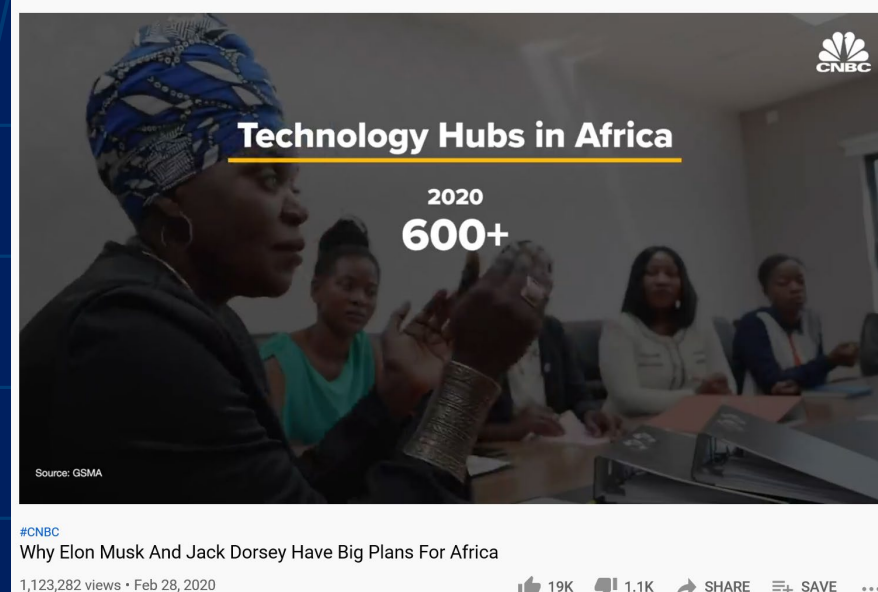
Media BARRIERS to Cultural Sovereignty

"The ENTERTAINMENT Media"

- Represents a Privileged Class
- Racially WHITE
- It does NOT tell/represent LOCAL realities or stories which really challenge POWER & THE STATUS
 - The pseudo shield of "objectivity" or "impartiality"
 - Romance of the "elites"
 - National and "nationalistic" focus



Media and Cultural Development in Africa



BBC Pidgin + Google's Noto

