

# WORLD HAPPINESS

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# History

- In July 2011, the [UN General Assembly](#) adopted resolution 65.309 *Happiness: Towards a Holistic Definition of Development*<sup>[5]</sup> inviting member countries to measure the happiness of their people and to use the data to help guide public policy. On April 2, 2012, this was followed by the first UN High Level Meeting called *Wellbeing and Happiness: Defining a New Economic Paradigm*,<sup>[6]</sup> which was chaired by UN Secretary General [Ban Ki-moon](#) and Prime Minister [Jigme Thinley](#) of [Bhutan](#), a nation that adopted [gross national happiness](#) instead of [gross domestic product](#) as their main development indicator.<sup>[7]</sup>
- The first World Happiness Report was released on April 1, 2012 as a foundational text for the UN *High Level Meeting: Well-being and Happiness: Defining a New Economic Paradigm*,<sup>[8]</sup> drawing international attention.<sup>[9]</sup> The report outlined the state of world happiness, causes of happiness and misery, and policy implications highlighted by case studies. In 2013, the second World Happiness Report was issued, and since then has been issued on an annual basis with the exception of 2014.<sup>[10]</sup> The report primarily uses data from the [Gallup World Poll](#). Each annual report is available to the public to download on the World Happiness Report website.<sup>[11]</sup>

# Which is the happiest and the un-happiest nation in the world and why?

- The world happiness report 2016 has stated that **Denmark** is currently **the happiest country in the world**
- The report has stated the presumed reasons of : **GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom to make life choices, generosity, perceptions of corruption and dystopian attitude.**



# Which is the happiest and the un-happiest nation in the world and why?

- Central African Republic is the unhappiest country in the world.
- The report has stated the presumed reasons of : there is no normal Economy, no normal Infrastructure, no adequate Education and Healthcare.



59	 Honduras	5.860	0.642	1.236
60	 Kazakhstan	5.809	1.173	1.508
61	 Bolivia	5.779	0.776	1.209
62	 Hungary	5.758	1.201	1.410
63	 Paraguay	5.743	0.855	1.475
64	 Northern Cyprus	5.718	1.263	1.252
65	 Peru	5.697	0.960	1.274
66	 Portugal	5.693	1.221	1.431
67	 Pakistan	5.653	0.677	0.886
68	 Russia	5.648	1.183	1.452
69	 Philippines	5.631	0.807	1.293
70	 Serbia	5.603	1.004	1.383
71	 Moldova	5.529	0.685	1.328
72	 Libya	5.525	1.044	1.303
73	 Montenegro	5.523	1.051	1.361
74	 Tajikistan	5.467	0.493	1.098

# What about super powers like the US and China?

- The years since 2010 have not been good ones for happiness and well-being among Americans. Even as the United States economy improved after the end of the Great Recession in 2009, happiness among adults did not rebound to the higher levels of the 1990s, continuing a slow decline ongoing since at least 2000 in the General Social Survey (Twenge et al., 2016; also see Figure 5.1). Happiness was measured with the question, “Taken all together, how would you say things are these days—would you say that you are very happy, pretty happy, or not too happy?” with the response choices coded 1, 2, or 3.



This decline in happiness and mental health seems paradoxical. By most accounts, Americans should be happier now than ever. The violent crime rate is low, as is the unemployment rate. Income per capita has steadily grown over the last few decades. This is the Easterlin paradox: As the standard of living improves, so should happiness – but it has not

**Figure 5.1: General happiness, U.S. adults, General Social Survey, 1973-2016**



# China's Happiness Paradox

- Over the last several decades, happiness has become a serious topic of research and policy engineering, such that there is now a sizable body of research, with organizations like Gallup, Pew, and others providing regular data from countries around the world. And what that data says about China presents an enigma.
- In this year's [World Happiness Report](#) — published under the auspices of the UN and compiled by an independent panel of researchers with data from multiple international surveys — China scored in the lower 50 percentile. Its ranking at No. 93 puts it behind the likes of Libya, the Philippines, and Guatemala. More concerning, this latest ranking represents a drop from previous years.



- By all accounts, China's people should be happy: The country has been on the ascent for more than a generation, and is now richer and more influential than ever. Yet how can there be such a disparity between the apparent prosperity of a nation and the happiness of its citizenry? China is the world's greatest economic success story, a miracle of development, and yet its people seem to have little cause for joy



- 1)Where do you prefer to live? In which country?
- 2)What criteria can a country be happy?
- 3) Then the first World Happiness Report was released?