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2020

### Prisoners and The Wealth of Nations

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#### Recommended Citation

Dua, Michael, "Prisoners and The Wealth of Nations" (2020). *Research Days Posters Spring 2020*. 19.  
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The Wrongful Treatment of Prisons: A Country’s GDP and its Effect on Institutions

PRESENTER: Michael Dua

LEGAL FRAMEWORK: My research is based on the Mandela Rules (a newer version of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners), which ensures that institutions around the world respect the basic rights of prisoners, and that virtually no other right besides the right of freedom of movement is infringed upon.

BACKGROUND: My study is significant because it determines if there is a correlation between a country’s wealth and its ability to accommodate prisoners and respect all their rights that have been laid out in legal instruments.

METHODS

- 1. I obtained the GDPs (Gross Domestic Product) of the respective 15 countries that I was researching from.
- 2. I tested it alongside the guidelines from my mentor, Dr. Cingranelli. The guidelines would measure how human-rights friendly a country is (based data from a country’s World Report from 2019) towards their prisoners out of a possible score of 14.
- 3. To illustrate, I’ll take a country like Saudi Arabia, which has a GDP that is ranked 155th in the world (according to the World Population Review, which has the GDPs of all the countries in the world) of 4.22 billion, which is considerably below average. Then, after reading the World Report for Sierra Leone (which analyzes a country's adherence to human rights), I “grade” the world report on its adherence to 14 categories, which include how the conditions are in a country’s institution and the administration’s overall attitude towards their prisoners.



Through my findings, I’ve discovered that there’s not a definitive correlation between a country’s wealth and the treatment of a country’s prisoners. It plays a factor, as the greater the wealth of a country, the better the country should be able to treat their prisoners. As my results, have shown, this isn’t exactly the case. For example, a country like Spain (which is one of the wealthiest countries in the world) earned an above average score by Dr. Cingranelli’s guidelines. On the other end of the spectrum, a place like the Solomon Islands that has a GDP on the lower side of the spectrum has earned a respectable score of 9.5.



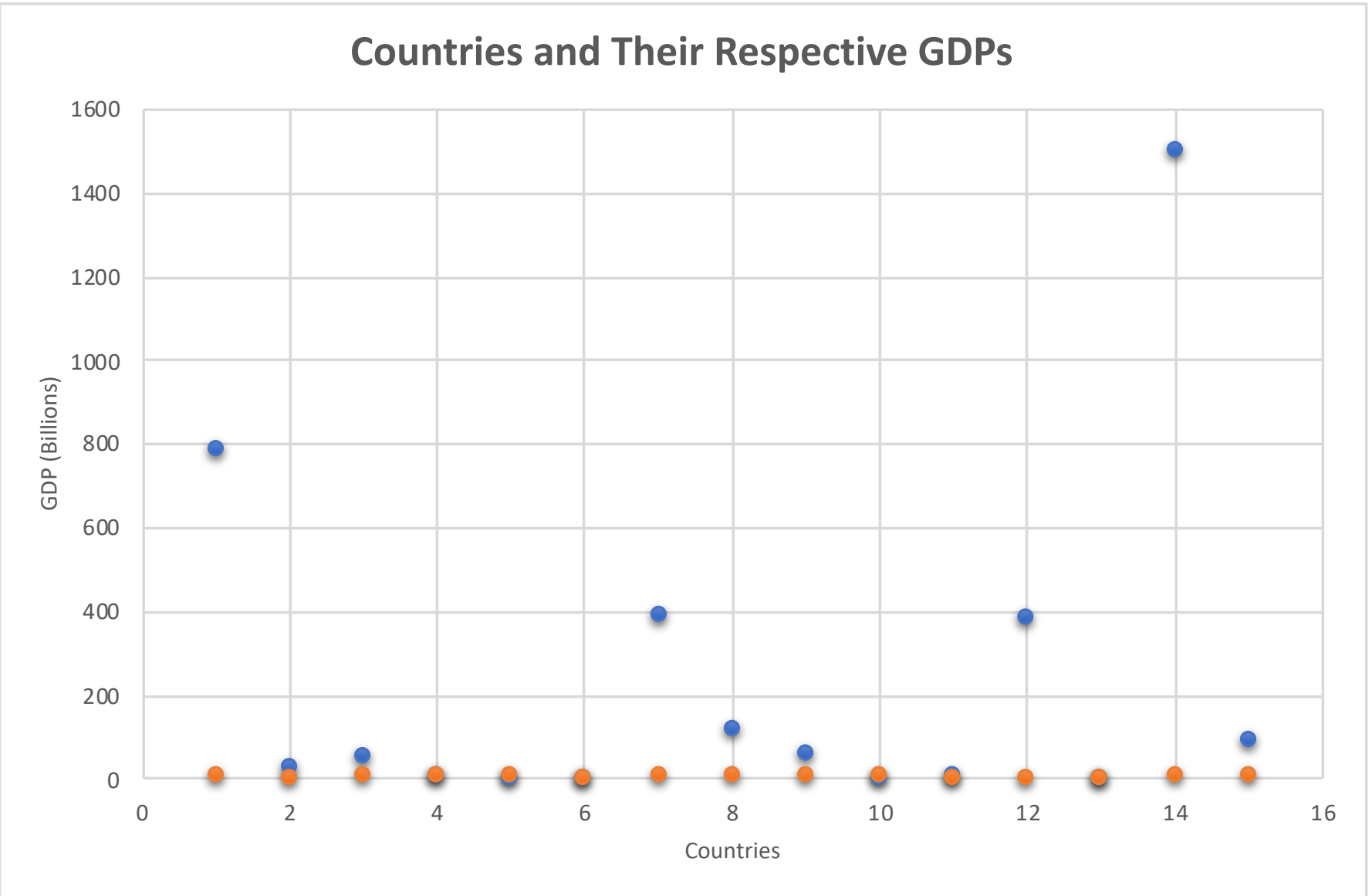
This is Nelson Mandela, a human rights advocate after which the Mandela Rules were named. He was South Africa’s First President elected from a democratic election. An avid activist, his policies got him into trouble with the law, and he spent many years of his life imprisoned.

RESULTS:



Country	Total Score	Torture	Discrimination	Rehabilitation	Overcrowding	Separation	Sanitary	Food and Water	Health care	Cleanliness	Family Access	Records	Commitment Order	Informed of Rights	Central Authority
Saudi Arabia	7.75	0.5	0	1	0.5	0	0	0.25	1	0.5	0.5	1	0.5	1	1
Senegal	3	0	0.5	0.25	0	0	0	0	0.25	0	0	0.25	0.5	0.25	1
Serbia	7.75	0	0.5	1	0.5	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.5	1	0.25	1	1	1
Montenegro	5.5	0.5	0.25	0.25	0	0.25	0	0.25	0.25	0	0.5	0.25	1	1	1
Seychelles	10.25	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	0.25	1	0.25	1	1	0.25	1	1	1
Sierra Leone	5.25	1	1	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.25	0	1	0.5
Singapore	9.75	1	0.25	1	1	0.25	1	0.25	0.25	1	1	1	0.5	0.25	1
Slovak Republic	5.75	0.5	0.5	1	0.25	0	0	0.25	0.25	0	1	0.25	0.5	0.25	1
Slovenia	10	1	1	0.25	0.5	0.25	1	0.25	0.25	0.5	1	1	1	1	1
Solomon Island	9.5	1	0.25	0.25	0.25	1	1	0.25	0.25	1	1	0.25	1	1	1
Somalia	5	0	0.25	0.25	0	0.5	0.5	0	1	0	0.5	1	0	1	0
South Africa	3	0	0.25	0.25	0	0.25	0	0	0	0	0.25	0.5	0	0.5	1
South Sudan	2.5	0	0	0.25	0	0	0	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0	0.25	0
Spain	6.75	0.5	0	0.25	0.5	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1	0.25	0.25	1	1	1
Sri Lanka	6.5	0	0	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.25	1	0.25	0.25	0.25	0	1	1

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Country	GDP (Billions)	Score
Saudi Arabia	790.06	7.75
Senegal	28.06	3
Serbia	56.89	7.75
Montenegro	5.74	5.5
Seychelles	1.74	10.25
Sierra Leone	4.22	5.25
Singapore	391.88	9.75
Slovak Republic	117.4	5.75
Slovenia	58.21	10
Solomon Island	1.61	9.5
Somalia	8.34	5
South Africa	386.73	3
South Sudan	2.8	2.5
Spain	1500	6.75
Sri Lanka	89.94	6.5

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