

Reader's Guide

Junior Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations, Fourth Edition, presents profiles of 193 countries of the world, arranged alphabetically from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, in 10 volumes. *Junior Worldmark* is based on the eleventh edition of the reference work, *Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations*. The *Worldmark* design organizes facts and data about every country in a common structure. Every profile contains a map, showing the country and its location in the world.

For this fourth edition of *Junior Worldmark*, the pages were redesigned to make the information more accessible to student researchers. Facts were updated and elements were developed or expanded. The profile of the current political leader of each country was expanded; most leader profiles are accompanied by a photo. Approximately 100 new photographs were chosen to illustrate the landscape or society of the countries of the world. Many depict people engaged in activities of everyday life (especially young people or families at home, at school, or at work).

The *Junior Worldmark* structure—35 numbered headings—allows students to

compare two or more countries in a variety of ways. To further the opportunity for comparisons, most country profiles feature graphical presentations of data: Geographic Profile, Growth Rate of the Economy, Components of the Economy, Yearly Balance of Trade, and a standard table comparing selected social indicators.

The Geographic Profile table ranks the country in land area among the 193 countries of the world. The highest and lowest points in the country are given, as well as average rainfall and temperature. The table entitled Selected Social Indicators offers a snapshot of the country and its development in relation to the other nations of the world in terms statistics available as of 2004. Included are data for eight key characteristics—per capita gross national product, population growth rate (overall and in urban areas), life expectancy, population per physician, pupils per teacher in primary schools, illiteracy rate, and per capita energy consumption. The country's statistics are compared to the averages for low-income countries, high-income countries, and the United States.

Because of differences in exchange rates, economic systems, government instability or lack of resources, and government reporting procedures, it is difficult—in some cases impossible—to find data for all of the categories listed in the articles. If a country profile lacks any of the graphical elements, in most cases it was due to lack of reliable statistical information.

The statistics, however, are more than complete enough to paint a disturbing picture of the great discrepancy in wealth between the industrialized nations and those of most of the rest of the world. As every Selected Social Indicators table illustrates, nearly half of the world's people live in countries where the yearly per capita gross national product averages \$2,110.

Because many terms used in this encyclopedia will be new to students, each volume includes a comprehensive glossary. A keyword index to all ten volumes appears in Volume 10.

Profile Features

Each country profile begins by defining eight ways that the country is known to its neighbors and to the rest of the world:

Country names are reported in three forms. The first, the common name, is the name most English-speaking people use when talking about the country. In smaller type below the common name is the official name, in English. Finally, the name, in the language of the country, appears in italic type below the official name.

Capitals are named in the common English-language form, with the native lan-

guage (if available) following in parentheses.

National emblems and flags are provided in color on the end pages of each volume, and in black and white accompanying the country's entry; the flag is also described in the text appearing below the flag.

National Anthem. The title of the national anthem is provided in the native language (with English translation in parentheses). Some anthems are untitled. In those cases, the first line of the anthem, or the phrase commonly used to refer to the anthem, is provided in the native language (with English translation in parentheses).

Monetary Unit of the country is described, with information about its history where available. Exchange rates are provided to give the student a relative idea of the value of the currency, and to enable broad comparisons between currencies of different countries. For the twelve European nations that are members of the European Union, conversions are provided for the euro as well. For up-to-the-minute information on exchange rates, the student should consult a newspaper or bank.

Weights and measures vary around the world, and *Junior Worldmark* reports on the system used by each country.

Holidays listed are official public holidays celebrated by the government and its citizens. A movable holiday falls on a different date each year, like Labor Day (first Monday in September) in the United States.

Time is standard time given by time zone in relation to Greenwich mean time (GMT). The world is divided into 24 time zones, each one hour apart. The Greenwich me-

ridian, which is 0 degrees, passes through Greenwich, England, a suburb of London. Greenwich is at the center of the initial time zone, known as Greenwich mean time (GMT). All times given are converted from noon in this zone. The time reported for the country is the official time zone.

The body of each country's profile is arranged in 35 numbered headings.

1 ■ Location and Size. The country is located on its continent in the world. Statistics are given on area and boundary length. Size comparisons are made to states of the United States, and a descriptive location for the capital is provided.

3 ■ Topography. Features of the terrain and major rivers and lakes are described. A geographic profile accompanies this section, and provides information on points of highest and lowest elevation, climate, and ranks the country in land area among the 193 countries of the world.

3 ■ Climate. Temperature and rainfall are given for the various regions of the country in both English and metric units.

4 ■ Plants and Animals. Described here are the plants and animals native the country.

5 ■ Environmental. Destruction of natural resources—forests, water supply, air—is described here. Statistics on solid waste production and endangered and extinct species are also included.

6 ■ Population. Census statistics from the country, from the United Nations, and from the United States are provided. Population density and major urban populations are summarized.

7 ■ Migration. This section describes movements of the country's people, both within the country, and emigration to other nations of the world. Also described is the country's policy on refugees and immigration from other countries.

8 ■ Ethnic Groups. The major ethnic groups are ranked in percents. Where appropriate, some description of the influence or history of ethnicity is provided.

9 ■ Languages. The official language is listed, along with other languages spoken in the country.

10 ■ Religions. The population is broken down according to religion.

11 ■ Transportation. Statistics on roads, railways, waterways, and air traffic, along with a listing of key ports for international trade and travel, are provided.

12 ■ History. Concise summary of the country's history from ancient times (where appropriate) to the present.

13 ■ Government. The form of government is described, and the process of governing is summarized. A brief biographical profile of the current political leader is provided, accompanied by his or her photo.

14 ■ Political Parties. Descriptions of the political parties of significance through history where appropriate, and of influence as of 2004.

15 ■ Judicial System. Structure of the court system and the jurisdiction of courts in each category is provided.

16 ■ Armed Forces. Statistics on troops and weapons are provided, along with description of the structure of the military.

17 ■ Economy. This section summarizes the key elements of the economy and describes key trading alliances. In most countries, two graphical presentations of data accompany the text. These are a bar graph showing the yearly growth rate of the country's economy, and a pie chart illustrating the percentage of the economy devoted to agriculture, industry, and services.

18 ■ Income. Gross national product, total and per person in us\$, along with the average inflation rate.

19 ■ Industry. Key industries are listed, and important aspects of industrial development in the country are described.

20 ■ Labor. Statistics on the civilian labor force, including numbers of workers, percent of workers by industry segment, employment outlook including unemployment statistics, wage rates where available.

21 ■ Agriculture. Statistics on key agricultural crops for internal consumption and export are provided.

22 ■ Domesticated Animals. Statistics on livestock—cattle, hogs, sheep, etc.—and the land area devoted to raising them are given.

23 ■ Fishing. The relative significance of fishing to the country is provided, with statistics on fish and seafood products.

24 ■ Forestry. Land area classified as forest is given, along with a listing of key forest

products and a description of government policy toward forest land.

25 ■ Mining. Description of mineral deposits and statistics on related mining activity and export are provided.

26 ■ Foreign Trade. Value of exports and imports in us\$, with key products, are listed. For most countries, a graph illustrates the trend in balance of trade (exports minus imports).

27 ■ Energy and Power. Description of the country's power resources, including electricity produced and oil reserves and production, are provided.

28 ■ Social Development. Government social programs are described and statistics given. Included are insurance for the elderly, unemployed, disabled, and children. The status of women is summarized.

29 ■ Health. Statistics and description on such public health factors as life expectancy, principal causes of death, access to safe drinking water, numbers of hospitals and medical facilities appear here.

30 ■ Housing. Housing shortages and government programs to build housing are described. Statistics on numbers of dwellings, percentage with water, plumbing, and electricity are provided.

31 ■ Education. Statistical data on literacy, compulsory education, and primary and secondary schools are given. Major universities are listed, and government programs to foster education are described.

32 ■ Media. The state of telecommunications—television, radio, telephone—and print media is summarized.

33 ■ Tourism and Recreation. A summary of the importance of tourism to the country is given, and factors affecting the tourism industry (such as war or natural disasters) are described. Key tourist attractions are listed.

34 ■ Famous People. In this section, a few of the best-known citizens of a country are listed. When a person is noted in a country that is not the country of his or her birth, the birthplace is given.

35 ■ Bibliography. Suggestions are provided as a guide for further reading.

Glossary. Appearing in every volume of *Junior Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations, Fourth Edition*, the glossary expands upon information given in the body of the profile.

Index. A keyword index to all ten volumes appears in Volume 10.

Acknowledgments

Junior Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations, Fourth Edition, draws on the eleventh edition of the *Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations*. Readers are directed to that work for a complete list of contributors, too numerous to list here.

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Photographs of World Leaders

The following sources provided images of the leaders of the nations of the world that appear in most entries. Sources for other photos illustrating the entries are credited in association with the image.

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