

WE'RE NUMBER ONE!?

AMERICA'S UNCERTAIN STANDING IN THE WORLD

A RECENT STUDY LOOKS AT AMERICA'S STANDING IN THE WORLD, FOCUSING NOT ON FOREIGN POLICY, BUT ON DOMESTIC POLICY. IT LOOKS AT HOW THE UNITED STATES COMPARES WITH OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED, DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES IN VARIOUS FIELDS OF DOMESTIC POLICY—HOUSING, EDUCATION, TAKING CARE OF THE HOMELESS, SOCIAL SAFETY NET, AND OTHER AREAS. THIS STUDY WAS DONE BY DENNIS W. JOHNSON, A RETIRED PROFESSOR FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY.

THE SUBTITLE OF THIS PRESENTATION AND THE BOOK—"AMERICA'S UNCERTAIN STANDING IN THE WORLD"—SAYS IT ALL: IN TOO MANY AREAS OF DOMESTIC PUBLIC POLICY, THE UNITED STATES FALLS FAR SHORT, EMBARRASSINGLY SHORT, OF OTHER COUNTRIES. WITH ALL OUR TALENT, WITH ALL OUR WEALTH, AND WITH ALL OUR BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES, SHOULDN'T THE UNITED STATES BEING DOING BETTER?

SLIDE 1: WE'RE NUMBER ONE: AMERICA'S UNCERTAIN STANDING IN THE WORLD.

SLIDE 2: WE ASK THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION: "HOW DOES THE UNITED STATES RANK IN COMPARISON TO OTHER DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES?"

SLIDE 3: A WIDE VARIETY OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS PUBLISH RANKINGS OF ITS MEMBER COUNTRIES. THE MOST IMPORTANT FOR THIS STUDY HAS BEEN THE OECD—THE ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOP. THIS IS AN ORGANIZATION OF NEARLY ALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, CANADA, U.S., MEXICO, COSTA RICA, JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, ISRAEL, TURKEY, AND CHILE. IN ALL THERE ARE 38 MEMBERS OF THE OECD.

SLIDE 4: IN ADDITION, THERE ARE RANKINGS FROM THE WORLD BANK.

SLIDE 5: ALSO, THE UNITED NATIONS.

- SLIDE 6: ALTOGETHER, 30 OTHER RANKING AGENCIES.
- SLIDE 7: THIS STUDY LOOKS AT DOMESTIC POLICY AND ACHIEVEMENTS, NOT FOREIGN POLICY. AND THERE ARE ABOUT 75 COMPARISONS.
- SLIDE 8: WHERE DOES THE UNITED STATES RANK? WE LOOK AT SEVERAL BROAD AREAS. THE FIRST IS FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY.
- SLIDE 9: NEXT IS INCOME, WEALTH, POVERTY, AND EQUALITY.
- SLIDE 10: THEN SUPPORTING THE FAMILY AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS.
- SLIDE 11: NEXT IS OBESITY, HUNGER, AND ADDICTION.
- SLIDE 12: NEXT IS SOCIAL SAFETY NET.
- SLIDE 13: THEN COMES EDUCATION
- SLIDE 14: THEN HEALTHCARE
- SLIDE 15: THEN, CRIME, PUNISHMENT, AND FIREARMS
- SLIDE 16: THEN, BUDGET, TAXES, SPENDING, AND PRIORITIES
- SLIDE 17: NEXT, INFRASTRUCTURE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION
- SLIDE 18: LET'S LOOK AT WHERE THE US IS NUMBER ONE. WE'RE NUMBER ONE IN THE SIZE OF OUR NATIONAL ECONOMY
- SLIDE 19: WE'RE NUMBER ONE IN HAVING THE MOST VALUABLE CORPORATIONS
- SLIDE 20: WE'RE NUMBER ONE IN HIGHER EDUCATION
- SLIDE 21: WE'RE NUMBER ONE IN SIZE OF THE NATIONAL BUDGET
- SLIDE 22: WE'RE NUMBER ONE IN DEFENSE SPENDING
- SLIDE 23: WE'RE NUMBER ONE IN WORLDWIDE CURRENCY
- SLIDE 24: AND WE'RE NUMBER ONE IN NUCLEAR POWER GENERATION
- SLIDE 25: WE DO WELL IN OTHER RANKINGS AS WELL. FOR INSTANCE, WE RANK NUMBER 2 IN AVERAGE INDIVIDUAL WEALTH.
- SLIDE 26: WE'RE NUMBER 2 IN GETTING OUR ENERGY FROM WIND AND SOLAR
- SLIDE 27: WE'RE NUMBER 3 IN GLOBAL INNOVATION

- SLIDE 28: IN SPENDING ON PRIMARY EDUCATION, WE'RE NUMBER 4; IN SPENDING ON SECONDARY EDUCATION, WE'RE NUMBER 5.
- SLIDE 29: HOWEVER, LET'S LOOK AT THE AREAS WHERE WE'RE NOT DOING GOOD AT ALL!
- SLIDE 30: WE'RE NUMBER 1 WHEN IT COMES TO WEALTH CONCENTRATED IN TOP 10 PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS.
- SLIDE 31: WE'RE NUMBER 1 IN HAVING THE HIGHEST INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES.
- SLIDE 32: WE HAVE THE HIGHEST RATE OF ADULT AND CHILD OBESITY.
- SLIDE 33: WE HAVE THE HIGHEST RATE OF OPIOID ADDICTION.
- SLIDE 34: WE ALSO HAVE THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF HOMELESS PERSONS.
- SLIDE 35: WE HAVE THE HIGHEST TOTAL PRISON POPULATION AND HIGHEST INCARCERATION RATE.
- SLIDE 36: WE HAVE THE HIGHEST RATE OF GUN OWNERSHIP AND GUN VIOLENCE.
- SLIDE 37: LET'S LOOK AT CATEGORIES WHERE WE'RE NOT NUMBER 1, BUT STILL PRETTY EMBARRASSING. WE'RE THE SECOND WORST COUNTRY IN TERMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.
- SLIDE 38: WE HAVE THE SECOND HIGHEST TOTAL OF GREENHOUSE GASES.
- SLIDE 39: WE'RE THIRD WORST WHEN IT COMES TO TOTAL FOOD WASTED, AND FIFTH WORST FOR TOTAL FOOD WASTED PER CAPITA.
- SLIDE 40: AND WE'RE ONLY NINTH WHEN IT COMES TO BROADBAND PERFORMANCE.
- SLIDE 41: HIGHEST MINIMUM WAGE. WE'RE NUMBER 17.
- SLIDE 42: WE'RE NUMBER 17 IN ROAD QUALITY.
- SLIDE 43: ELECTRIC CAR NEW SALES, IN TERMS OF MARKET SHARE. WE'RE NUMBER 21.
- SLIDE 44: LEAST PUBLIC CORRUPTION. WE'RE NUMBER 24.
- SLIDE 45: SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX. WE'RE NUMBER 26. THIS IS AN INTERESTING RANKING. IT TAKES ABOUT 50 DIFFERENT

MEASURES OF QUALITY OF LIFE AND THEN RANKS THE COUNTRIES. SADLY, WE'RE 26TH.

- SLIDE 46: **LIFE EXPECTANCY**. WE'RE NUMBER 27.
- SLIDE 47: IN COMBATTING **ADULT POVERTY**. WERE NUMBER 28.
- SLIDE 48: WE ARE ALSO NUMBER 28 IN **CHILDCARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**.
- SLIDE 49: IN TERMS OF **SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS**, WE'RE 29TH.
- SLIDE 50: IN TERMS OF **INCOME INEQUITY**, WE ARE NUMBER 32.
- SLIDE 51: CITIZENS IN 32 OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE GREATER **TRUST IN GOVERNMENT**.
- SLIDE 52: FOR **CHILD WELL-BEING**, WE RANK 36TH.
- SLIDE 53: **BEST CLIMATE MITIGATION**, WE'RE RANKED 52ND. AND THIS IS BEFORE PRESIDENT TRUMP VIRTUALLY CLOSED DOWN ANY CLIMATE CHANGE MONIES AND EFFORTS.
- SLIDE 54: **PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN NATIONAL LEGISLATURES**. WE RANK 70TH IN THE WORLD.
- SLIDE 55: WE ARE THE ONLY COUNTRY THAT HAS AN **ELECTORAL COLLEGE SYSTEM** OF CHOOSING A PRESIDENT.
- SLIDE 56: WE'RE THE ONLY COUNTRY THAT HAS A **CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS**.
- SLIDE 57: AMONG OUR PEER NATIONS, WE ARE THE ONLY COUNTRY THAT HAS NOT ADOPTED **VOTING AS A NATIONAL HOLIDAY**.
- SLIDE 58: WE ARE THE ONLY COUNTRY ON EARTH (EXCEPT FOR OMAN AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA) THAT DOES NOT HAVE NATIONAL **PAID FAMILY LEAVE**.
- SLIDE 59: WE ARE THE ONLY COUNTRY AMONG OUR PEERS THAT DOES NOT HAVE A **UNIVERSAL NATIONAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM**.
- SLIDE 60: WE ARE THE ONLY COUNTRY AMONG OUR PEERS THAT DOES NOT HAVE A **VALUE-ADDED TAX (VAT)** SYSTEM.
- SLIDE 61: LET'S LOOK AT A FEW CONCRETE EXAMPLES: FIRST, OPIOID DEATHS IN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES. **EUROPE HAS A**

COMBINED POPULATION OF 440 MILLION; IN 2020 IN HAD 5,800 OVERDOSE DEATHS.

SLIDE 62: THE U.S. HAS A POPULATION OF 340 MILLION—100 MILLION LESS THAN EUROPE. IN 2022, THERE WERE 107,000 OPIOID OVERDOSE DEATHS IN THE U.S.

SLIDE 63: DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH. THE 400 RICHEST AMERICAN FAMILIES HAVE MORE WEALTH THAN 43 MILLION AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILIES.

SLIDE 64: THE BOTTOM 50 PERCENT OF AMERICANS HOLD JUST 2.3 PERCENT OF THE COUNTRY'S WEALTH.

SLIDE 65: THE TOP 1 PERCENT OF AMERICANS HOLD 31.8 PERCENT OF U.S. WEALTH.

SLIDE 66: THE TOP 10 PERCENT OF AMERICANS HOLD 69.2 PERCENT OF U.S. WEALTH.

SLIDE 67: INCARCERATION. NEARLY EVERY U.S. STATE HAS MORE PRISONERS THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD.

SLIDE 68: THE HIGHEST INCARCERATION RATES IN THE U.S. ARE IN LOUISIANA, THEN IN MISSISSIPPI.

SLIDE 69: AFRAID TO VENTURE TO A FOREIGN COUNTRY? WHAT ARE THE SAFEST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD? ICELAND, NEW ZEALAND, IRELAND, DENMARK, AUSTRIA, AND PORTUGAL.

SLIDE 70: WHERE DOES THE U.S. RANK? 129TH.

SLIDE 71: WHEN LOOKING AT ALL RANKINGS, WE FIND THAT THE U.S. HAS 14 TOP 10 RANKINGS—MOSTLY IN TECHNOLOGY AND ECONOMICS.

SLIDE 72: WHO DOES BETTER? BEST PERFORMANCE COMES FROM DENMARK, RANKING IN THE TOP 10 A TOTAL OF 28 TIMES.

SLIDE 73: NEXT IS NORWAY, 26 TIMES IN THE TOP 10.

SLIDE 74: IN THIRD PLACE IS GERMANY, 23 TIMES.

SLIDE 75: ALSO IN THIRD PLACE IS FINLAND, 23 TIMES.

SLIDE 76: ADDITIONALLY, NETHERLANDS, 23 TIMES.

SLIDE 77: LIKEWISE, SWEDEN, 23 TIMES.

- SLIDE 78: AUSTRIA, 20 TIMES, RANKS 7TH.
- SLIDE 79: FRANCE, 20 TIMES, COMES IN 8TH
- SLIDE 80: BELGIUM, 19 TIMES, RANKS 9TH
- SLIDE 81: SWITZERLAND, 18 TIMES, RANKS 10TH.
- SLIDE 82: JAPAN, 17 TIMES, IS NEXT.
- SLIDE 83: ICELAND, 15 TIMES. ALL THESE RANK BETTER THAN THE U.S. IN TERMS OF TOP 10; BUT IN MANY WAYS THE U.S. IS MIRED IN THE 20S, 30S, 40S, AND EVEN WORSE.
- SLIDE 84: ALL THESE RANKINGS ARE BEFORE TRUMP TOOK OFFICE IN 2025. WILL THE U.S. RANK HIGHER IN FUTURE INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS? OR WILL IT FALL FURTHER?
- SLIDE 85: TO KEEP UP WITH ALL THE ACTION OF THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION AND THE REASSESSMENTS FOUND IN INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS, CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE “WE’RE NUMBER ONE!?” AT WWW.WERENUMBER.ONE
- SLIDE 86: SEE MUCH MORE ON THIS SUBJECT IN THE NEW BOOK, “*WE’RE NUMBER ONE: AMERICA’S UNCERTAIN STANDING IN THE WORLD*” COMING OUT IN JULY 2025.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS PRESENTATION AND THE ACCOMPANYING POWER POINT ARE NOT TO BE SOLD, BUT ARE FOR YOUR USE IN PRESENTING THIS MATERIAL TO YOUR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES. ALL MATERIAL IS UNDER COPYRIGHT, BY DENNIS W. JOHNSON