

What makes a country a superpower?

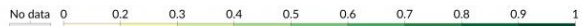
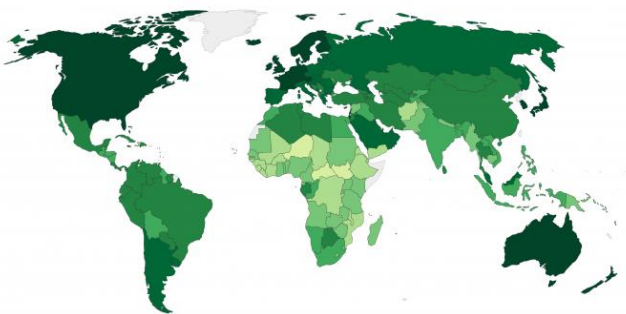
The 5 criteria that determine whether a country is a superpower:

- Size (landmass)
- Wealth (GDP)
- Standard of Living (HDI)
- Technology
- Military Power/Influence

Human Development Index, 2017

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, a good education, and having a decent standard of living.

Our World in Data



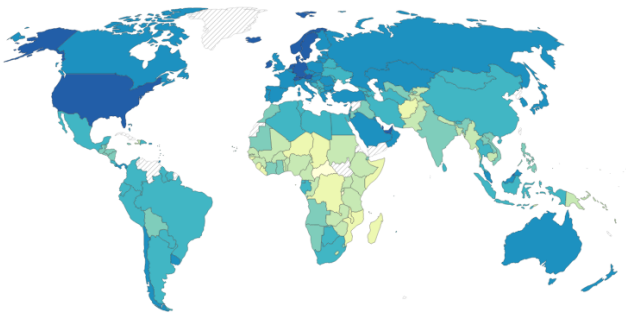
Source: UNDP (2018)

OurWorldInData.org/human-development-index/ • CC BY

GDP per capita, 2020

This data is adjusted for inflation and for differences in the cost of living between countries.

Our World in Data



Source: Data compiled from multiple sources by World Bank

Note: This data is expressed in international-\$ at 2017 prices.

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Key definitions:

Superpower - a country with a strong global influence. It is a large, wealthy country with a big population, great military power and political influence.

British Empire – describes all the places around the world that were once ruled by Britain.

Geopolitical Influence – the ability of one country to influence the policies and government of other countries.

USSR - Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (Soviet Union)

Eastern Bloc - Soviet states to the east of the Berlin Wall

Democracy - a system of government that has representatives elected by the population.

Communism - a political and economic system that creates a 'classless' society.

Capitalism - an economic and political system in which a country's trade and industry are controlled by private owners

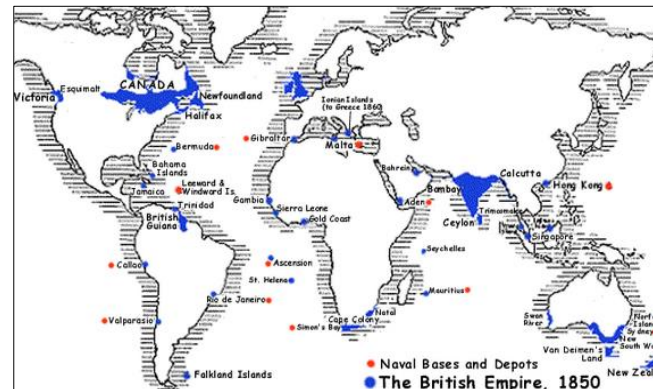
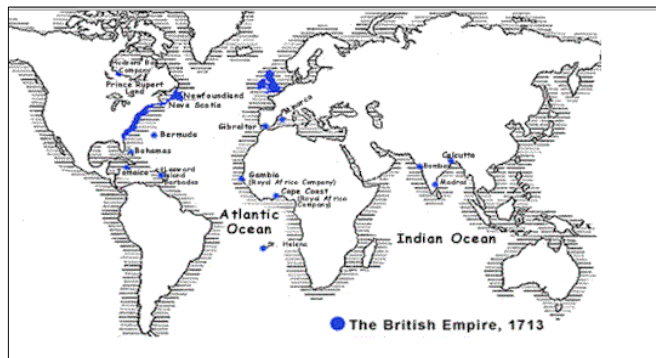
NATO - North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

Proxy War - War fought on behalf of another country.

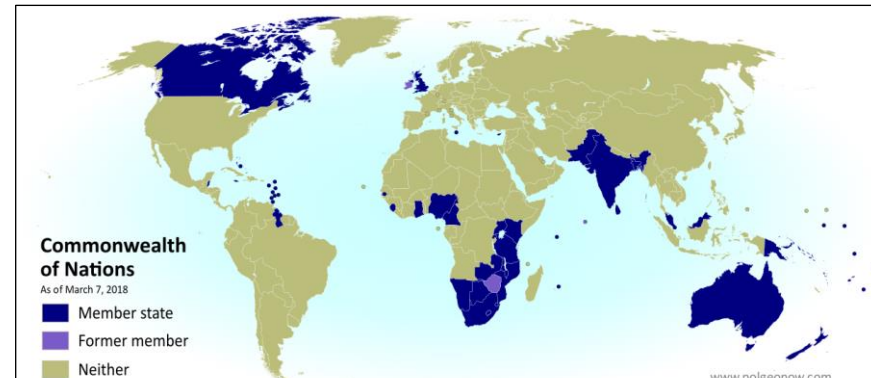
BRICS: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – potential emerging superpowers of the future.

Development indicators - such as **HDI** and **GDP** can be used to measure a country's superpower status.

Was the British Empire a Superpower? Mapping through history



The Commonwealth was formed in 1949 to maintain an association between countries that had once been part of the British Empire. It is made up of 54 countries, including the UK.



The Cold War:

- It began in 1947 and ended in 1991.
- It was a period of tension between democratic countries in the West and communist countries in the East.
- The West was led by the USA, and the East was led by the USSR/Soviet Union. Both of these became known as Superpowers.
- The Superpowers never actually declared war on each other, but instead fought indirectly in the arms race, the space race and proxy wars.
- There was great distrust between the countries in the West and the Soviet Union. They were concerned with Stalin's brutal communist leadership.

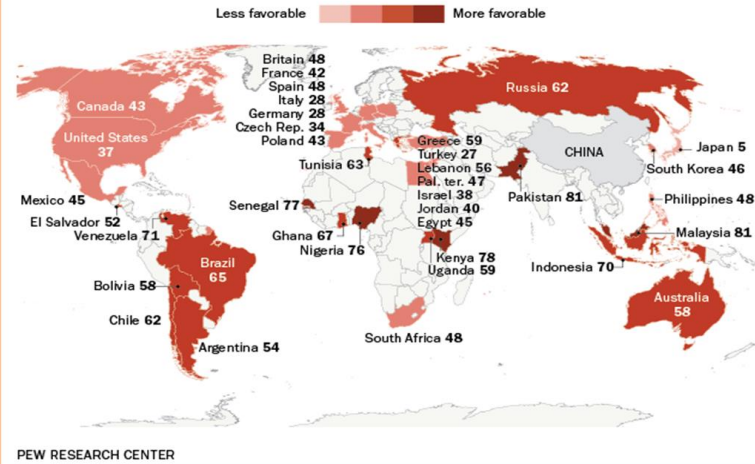


Potential Superpowers of the Future:



International Image of China

Percent who have a favorable view of China



China may become a superpower in the future, as its economical, technological, military, and political influence continues to expand.

Issues that could prevent India from becoming a superpower in the future:

Pollution - In 2014, 13 of the world's 20 most polluted rivers were in India. India is the third largest producer of CO2 in the world.

Education - School is compulsory for everyone between 6-14. However, there are problems such as poor infrastructure in primary schools, expensive higher education, and the 'brain drain' as highly educated and skilled people leave to work overseas.

Medical Care - Life expectancy is increasing, however India has only one government doctor for every 11,528 people and one nurse for every 483 people.

Poverty - 17.4% of people in urban areas still live in slum houses.

Factors that will help India become a superpower in the future:

Natural Resources - India's biggest exports are petroleum products, gems and diamonds and pharmaceutical products. Its natural resources include iron ore, diamonds, natural gas, oil and arable farmland.

Population - India has a population of 1.4 billion people. 650 million people are below the age of 25. A youthful population at working age will contribute to the growth of GDP.

Landmass - India is the 7th largest country in the world with a landmass of 3.287 million km².

Nuclear Power - There are only 9 countries in the world with nuclear weapons: India, Russia, United States, UK, France, China, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea.