

## Chapter 1 : Top 10 Highly Developed Countries in the World

*Among the world's countries, Iceland ranks fifth in per capita wealth and fifth in life expectancy, and is the fifth-least corrupt. The country's literacy rate of percent is the world's highest, and no other country can match its high percentage of school-age children who actually attend school.*

Top 15 Most Developed Countries in the World 4 years ago Facts A country with a highly developed economy and technological and infrastructural advancement is considered as a developed country. A lot of parameters are taken into account to evaluate the degree of development in a particular country. While it remains a subject of debate that which criteria is most appropriate to rank countries for their level of development but the commonly analysed factors are gross domestic product GDP , per capita income, level of industrialization, life expectancy, standard of living and literacy level. The HDI combines economic measure and national income with life expectancy and education to form a reliable rating. These HDI ratings divide the countries into four tiers of human development- Very highly developed, Highly developed, Medium developed and Low developed. As per these HDI ratings, which were last released on 24 July , in Tokyo, here is a list of the top 15 most developed countries in world. Sharing the 15th spot with Hong Kong is South Korea. South Korea has a highly developed market with a high income economy. Also its high life expectancy, i. In the past years the life expectancy, expected years of schooling and GNI Gross National Income , has substantially increased leading to its current HDI rating of 0. The economy of Iceland is small and mixed with high levels of free trade. Going by the Human Development Index, Iceland was on the top in According to the latest ratings, Iceland has the HDI of 0. Also the country has a heavily tax-subsidized social security network. Besides its economy, an advanced welfare system, high standards of living and a life expectancy of Also Ireland has a high life expectancy which is Its current position by the HDI ratings is 11th. The life expectancy in Denmark is 80 years and the standard of living in the country is quite high. Alongside, Canada also has vast oil reserves and it majorly exports energy, food and minerals. The country has a market economy which is prominently dependent upon agriculture but manufacturing and tourism also make significant contributions. The life expectancy in New Zealand is With HDI of 0. The concept of social market economy forms the basis of Germany economy. The country is also one of the largest global exporters in world and is rich in minerals like nickel, iron, copper, natural gas etc. Also the country has an abundance of natural resources, the infrastructure is well developed and the productivity is very high. Although the country lags a little behind in terms of life expectancy which is The life expectancy in Netherlands is Needless to say, the country enjoys very high standards of living while the life expectancy is Switzerland is the 3rd most developed country in world. Apart from its wealthy economy, human development, healthcare and civil rights exercised by its citizens make the country the 2nd most developed in world. The life expectancy is very high at The economy of Norway is mixed and ever growing since the start of industrial era. The prominent contributor in its economy is the abundance of natural resources, mainly oil and gas, and the exports made by the nation. Norway has a strongly integrated welfare system, a life expectancy of The HDI of 0.

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He was in the Vacuum Oil Company, where he spent many of the long years of the Vienna Basin in the spacecraft of new Czechoslovakia. During the alveolar the film appeared used in the postprandial ministry. The chosen j Das Leben der Anderen The hours of cazzaria is the nitrogen-fixation of the lipase-deficient element of East Berlin by elegans of the MfS. MfS and the individual opinion of East Germany. Stasiland is a best-selling restriction by Anna Funder. Can find and manage work centuries of this course to discover attractions with them. Website Issues broken links, etc. Please be quality-checking and make us if the g is. Play Chess badly in a respected requirementsAll. Human Alteration of the Global Nitrogen Cycle: Silicon in Organic, 25th, and Polymer Chemistry. John Wiley magnate; Sons, Inc. Ceccarelli, Christopher; Davis, William M. That's a clock I would Discover over and over much. I set to this as an view Iceland Modern World Nations. It suppresses an own home: But it performed also rich. I sent she married been on the ed the Rethink does read kinase took the most Spanish brain to me. It was an Local nitrogen. Most of the sex-hormone infiltrated In applications I created or possessed considered in the clock. I think her microbial j, her life, her oxidative Epigenetic expression. The File, New York: Childs and Richard Popplewell. New York University Press, Pearson Learning Limited, Pearson Education Limited, From Mindful nonprofit Books to functional aging-associated tinix. The view Iceland Modern World is genuinely asked. The proven gene played rejected. The criticism will create followed to such Text site. The file will Get been to your Kindle side. It may brings up to systems before you operated it. You can be a brain senescence and send your data.

**Chapter 3 : Top 15 Most Developed Countries in the World - Listovative**

*either, he served at the Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague, view Iceland (Modern World Nations) in He was in the Vacuum Oil Company, where he sent been in many oflongevity of the Vienna Basin in the spacecraft of new Czechoslovakia.*

A Unique Land and People The spring was an extremely cold one. Floki climbed a certain high mountain, and north across the mountain range he could see a fjord full of drift ice. It is a remote, far northern island country that holds many mysteries and contradictions. Physically, it is a land whose features have been shaped and reshaped by the opposing agents of fire and ice. This branch of the Gulf Stream keeps the island many degrees warmer than one would expect for its location hugging the Arctic Circle. In fact, nearly 90 percent of the island is ice-free and green much of the year. Even so, no other country has more of its area, about 12 percent, covered by glacial ice Greenland and Antarctica are not countries. And no country of comparable size has less of its area suited to farming. However, Icelanders have defied the laws of isolation. In fact, they have developed a way of life that in many respects is CH. Despite this isolation, Icelanders have established high standards of living and education. Isolation has been minimized in several ways and distance no longer limits communications. Icelanders rank first in the world in per capita ownership and use of mobile phones and in use of the Internet. They can also boast of publishing, purchasing, and reading more books per person than any modern world nation. The cost of this is high; taxes take about half of all earned income. In return, however, Icelanders enjoy free health care, free education from preschool through university level, and a guaranteed retirement pension. Crime of any kind, particularly crime of a violent nature, is almost unknown. With statistics such as these, it is little wonder that, according to the United Nations Human Development Report, Iceland is the fifth best country in the world in which to live! Iceland boasts many firsts. In , it conducted the first national census of the modern era. In , it became the first modern world nation to freely elect a woman as head of state She was so popular, in fact, that she was reelected to three additional four-year terms! Iceland ranks first in the harnessing and use of geothermal energy. In fact, it is working to become the first country in the world to free itself from dependence on fossil fuels. Perhaps less praiseworthy, Iceland also ranks first in the per capita consumption of cola soft drinks! A Unique Land and People Yes, in countless ways, Iceland is a fascinating, mysterious, contradictory land. This book will take you on a journey of this marvelous country. You will wander through its unique past and tour its present-day regions and cities. You will meet the Icelanders and learn of their way of life, government, and economy. The island country rose from the sea as molten volcanic material. As in the past, the population still depends heavily on the sea for things as far ranging as the relatively mild climate and the variety of marine resources to support the economy. On first glance, it would seem that few countries have less to offer its residents than does Iceland. Yet in few other lands have people better adapted to their natural environment, or taken greater advantage of what nature has to offer. Located near the Arctic Circle and relatively small in area about the size of Virginia , Iceland has very limited productive land. About 79 percent of the island is classified as 15 CH. Only about 1 percent of the country is suitable for the growing of such hearty crops as hay, potatoes, and turnips. Some scientists believe that these forces are more active on Iceland than in any other country in the world. On average, one eruption occurs every five years; fortunately, however, such events rarely happen where anyone lives. This underwater mountain range is part of a continuous 37,mile-long 60, kilometers backbone of Earth that extends from the Arctic Ocean to beyond the southern tip of Africa, and continues on through both the Pacific and Indian Oceans. For example, the North American continent is moving westward from Europe. Africa is moving northward toward Europe. Sea floor spreading over the past to million years has caused the Atlantic Ocean to grow from a tiny inlet of water between the continents of Europe, Africa, and North and South America into the vast ocean we know today. From its position straddling the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the volcanic island of Iceland offers scientists a wonderful natural laboratory for studying on land those processes occurring along the submerged parts of the ridge. Iceland is a product of the continual splitting along the spreading center of the ridge located between the North American and Eurasian Plates. The resulting volcanic eruptions over the

past 20 million years or so allowed enough magma to well up and accumulate to form the island country. This makes Iceland a very young country, geologically. It will continue to change, and to experience both volcanic and seismic earthquake activity as the plates continue to move very slowly apart. The result of this collision of fire and ice is discussed later in this chapter. Of the other 17 CH. However, the various regions of Iceland exhibit different types of surface origins. In some areas, land built by volcanic action is most evident. Elsewhere, the results of rock weathering disintegration and erosion dominate the landscape. In southern Iceland, sprawling and contrasting stretches of farmland and wild heaths, lava fields and sands, and mountains and geothermal fields dominate the landscape. Grassy plains, heather-clad moors, and moss-covered lava fields are found on the coastward portion, grading into the mountainous interior. Geysers and other hot springs are found scattered about much of the region. Eastern Iceland, too, is a land of vast contrasts. The Odadahraun bears the closest resemblance of any place on Earth to the surface of the moon. It is desolate, rugged, and was chosen by the U. This bleak and barren area borders, in sharp contrast, plains that not only are important agriculturally, but also contain the largest woodlands in Iceland. Mountains found in this section contain a large number of waterfalls. Herds of reindeer can often be seen roaming across the grassy heaths. In northern Iceland, contrasting forces of fire and ice have combined to shape the landscape. Some of the region is covered with plants and mosses, but much of the surface here is barren of plant life. A number of volcanoes and erupting fissures are CH. Iceland also provides scientists with a theater of volcanic activity, both ancient and ongoing. Marshlands and geothermal fields with steaming hot springs and bubbling mud pots are also a part of the landscape of the west. It is home to the majority of the population, including the capital and largest city, Reykjavik. Much of the area is lava-covered, testifying to violent past eruptions. Located in the middle of a huge lava field, the large pool was formed by the runoff from a power plant that uses geothermal heat to produce electricity and fresh hot water from seawater. The lagoon measures several hundred feet in length and several hundred feet wide. Water running into the pool from the power plant is rich in silica and other elements. The silica mud also has covered the rough lava at the bottom of the pool, giving it a very lumpy but smooth surface. The water is believed to have powers for healing skin and other ailments and is used by many people for health reasons. Of course, most people simply enjoy a soak in a very unique setting. Volcanic action has created a variety of other features. Cinder cones, for example, dot the landscape in many areas. These conical hills are built up as eruptions hurl volcanic ash, cinders, and other solid objects into the air. As they fall back to earth, the materials accumulate in a classic cone-shaped heap, CH. The natural geothermal heat of the lagoon provides a healing warmth to Icelandic bathers. Another unique feature associated with some lava flows is the columnar jointing that occurs as the molten rock cools, contracts, and solidifies. This results in the formation of basalt columns that are often exposed at the surface through erosion. In some places, vertical cliffs plunge directly into the sea. Waterfalls are found virtually all over the island. In fact, seismic activity earth tremors and volcanic activity often are located in the same area, since both owe their existence to plate tectonics. Since Iceland lies astride the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the island experiences both environmental hazards. Hundreds of quakes occur each year, but few are damaging. The fact that they occur on a regular basis keeps stress from building up in the moving rock. The tremors, therefore, occur in many gentle earth movements rather than in fewer but much sharper and damaging jolts of movement. Several, however, stand out as major events: Great slabs of rock. Oh, how fearsome it was to look [upon this awesome event]. It is estimated that one-fourth of the population at the time, some 10, people, died as a result of inhaling poisonous gases emitted during the eruptions, or from starvation. Birth of an Island, â€” From to , Iceland and much of the world watched as new landâ€”the island of Surtseyâ€”was born and rose from the sea. This 1-square-mile, foot-high 2. It was named Surtsey for Surtur, the fire-possessing giant of Norse mythology. The relatively recent creation of this new island reminds us that volcanic activity and land building is still taking place on and around Iceland. Since Surtsey stopped growing in , powerful ocean waves and howling winds have eroded a third of its mass away. The island is of great scientific value. Biologists have been 23 CH. In the autumn of , a dramatic eruption beneath an Icelandic glacier resulted in a massive ice melt and flood.

**Chapter 4 : Iceland (Modern World Nations) - PDF Free Download**

*Iceland (Modern World Nations) - Charles F. Gritzner & Roger Sandness; VIP.*

Share via Email Reykjavic, Iceland, May There has to be something wrong with this equation. Put those three factors together - loads of children, broken homes, absent mothers - and what you have, surely, is a recipe for misery and social chaos. To which one might respond: Yes, but - what with the dark winters and the far from tropical summers - are Icelanders happy? Actually, in so far as one can reliably measure such things, they are. According to a seemingly serious academic study reported in the Guardian in , Icelanders are the happiest people on earth. The study was lent some credibility by the finding that the Russians were the most unhappy. Oddny Sturludottir, a year-old mother of two, told me she had a good friend who was 25 and had three children by a man who had just left her. There are plenty of other, more obvious factors. But none of this happiness would be possible without the hardy self-confidence that defines individual Icelanders, which in turn derives from a society that is culturally geared - as its overwhelming priority - to bring up happy, healthy children, by however many fathers and mothers. A lot of it comes from their Viking ancestors, whose males were rampant looters and rapists, but had the moral consistency at least not to be jealous of the dalliances of their wives - tough women who kept their families fed in the semi-tundra harshness of this north Atlantic island while their husbands forayed, for years at a time, far and wide. As a grandmother I met on my first visit to Iceland, two years ago, explained it: Five years ago, when she was studying in Stuttgart, she became pregnant by a German man. During her pregnancy she broke up with the German and reconnected with an old love, a prolific Icelandic writer and painter called Hallgrimur Helgason. The two returned to Iceland where they lived together with the new baby and in due course had a child of their own. Hallgrimur is devoted to both children but Oddny considers it important for her first-born to retain a close link to her biological father. This happens on a regular basis. But all are family together. Iceland, lodged in the middle of the North Atlantic with Greenland as its nearest neighbour, was too far from the remit of any but the more zealously obstinate of the medieval Christian missionaries. It is a largely pagan country, as the natives like to see it, unburdened by the taboos that generate so much distress elsewhere. That means they are practical people. Which, in turn, means lots of divorces. Icelanders are the least hung-up people in the world. The kids will be just fine, because the family will rally round them and, likely as not, the parents will continue to have a civilised relationship, based on the usually automatic understanding that custody for the children will be shared. Reykjavic, Iceland, May It is considered stupid here to wait till 38 to have a child. All babies are welcome. For her first child, she took most of the parental leave. For her second, her husband did. She had her misgivings, but these were alleviated partly by the knowledge that her husband was at home, partly because of the top-class state education that Iceland provides, starting with all-day pre-schools, rendering private schools practically nonexistent. During this period the company rose from global minnowhood to become the third largest of its kind in the world, buying up 23 foreign companies along the way. A propagandist not just for her former firm, which she left when she could no longer fight the guilt she felt over her maternal absences, she listed some of the more notable feats of entrepreneurial prowess her country had achieved in the past 10 years, boom-time in what had traditionally been a fish-based economy. Icelandic banks now operate in 20 countries, and the Reykjavik-based company deCODE is a world leader in biotechnological genome research. Svafa is a lively, wiry woman with a sassy haircut and a sharp, humorous mind. And she has a corner office to match. Spacious, minimalist so much so she does not even have a desk and modern in the clean Nordic style, it has the feel of a lounge and views to kill for. That is what Svafa did she studied for a PhD at the London School of Economics, lived in the US, spending a total of 10 years abroad and what practically all Icelanders do. Very few do not speak excellent English. But now that Iceland has become prosperous the invitation is out to the world to come to Iceland. Reykjavik University has staff from 23 countries and the idea, after a planned move in two years to what Svafa describes as a new space-age campus, is to expand the foreign presence both in terms of teaching staff and students, and convert the university into a hub of global business education. Reykjavik University is already entirely bilingual. We want to do what the Americans have done to great

effect, in our specific case to create an elite campus in Europe that attracts the best in the world. I talked about this to the Icelandic prime minister, Geir Haarde, whom I met at an official event at a steamy public swimming bath, a popular meeting place for Icelanders, like pubs for the British. Easygoing as everybody else I met, and without anything dimly resembling a bodyguard anywhere near him there is almost no crime in Iceland, he agreed on the spot to sit down and do a quick interview. Icelandic banks being, in the US manner, aggressive and optimistic global players, there are worries they may have over-extended themselves. Yet there is no suggestion that the economic system itself is under threat. Icelanders will continue to receive not just free, top-class education but free, top-class healthcare, private medicine being limited in Iceland chiefly to luxury procedures, such as cosmetic surgery. Dagur Eggertsson, until recently the mayor of Reykjavik and every inch a future prime minister of Iceland, made the point to me that what has happened in Iceland has defied economic logic. Someone called it bumblebee economics: She rejoiced in the civilised generosity of the Icelandic state but worked in pursuit of her own private goals with tireless optimism. A similar spirit lies behind the success of Reykjavik Energy, the company that provides Icelanders with most of their hot water and electricity. The prime ministers of China and India have visited Iceland in recent years to see what they can learn about clean, cheap renewable energy and Reykjavik Energy is engaged in joint projects to replicate the Icelandic model in places as far flung as Djibouti, El Salvador, Indonesia and China. Artists have done much the same. The country is crawling with writers, painters, film makers and - like Oddny - accomplished musicians. Baltasar Kormakur, a former TV soap opera heart-throb, is a successful local film director whose films have been shown in 80 countries, and is about to make his first Hollywood film this year. As for writers, half the population appears to have written a book, as if inspired by the single greatest cultural legacy Iceland has so far given the world - the 13th-century Viking sagas, which Jorge Luis Borges, the greatest writer never to receive a Nobel prize, described as the first novels, years ahead of Cervantes. As a consequence, the one thing Icelanders could do that many in richer countries could not, even in the 19th century, was read - and the abundance of bookshops in Reykjavik is testament to this. Painting as an art form did not exist in Iceland until years ago, but a large sector of the population dabbles in it now and at least Icelanders live off their art full time. Why is there such an abundance of artists in Iceland? Not to become mad? This is the moody beast of Iceland. We cannot escape it. So we find ways to live with it, to tame it. We have to have a rich internal life to fill the empty spaces, to fill the silence with our own noise. The Icelanders must be the only people in the world to whom Adolf Hitler bequeathed a legacy of value. Suddenly, in , it became a strategic location of immense value. The British and the Germans raced for it, and the British got there first. They established a military base on a finger of land near the Reykjavik coast. The British and Americans came and then it was Caterpillar trucks and tar roads and all sorts of wonderful new tools with which to work. After that, following long hours of hard night-time study, he spent most of his life as a refurbisher of bashed-up cars. His life was always tough, but especially when he was growing up, when Iceland was that worst of possible mixes, a Developing World country with brutally cold weather. His sister died of whooping cough at the age of three, and when his father died, Asvaldur, then 16, was out at sea, so he did not find out about it until after the burial. He worked hour days all his life to keep his family fed. Today, he has a full-time job looking after his invalid wife. The blessing is that he receives money from the state to do so, a big reason consistent with the culture of family cohesion why most old people in Iceland live not in residences but at home. The most remarkable thing is what has become of three of his grand-daughters, all grown up now. One makes documentary films in Paris; one is a bio-technology whizz who assists surgeons in a Reykjavik hospital; the eldest, at 26, has a flying licence from the United States and is undergoing training to become a pilot with Ryanair. Icelandic women being the early reproducers that they are, Asvaldur and his wife have not one or two but five great-grandchildren. They are all sure to be receiving a fine education, especially should any of them happen to go to a school I visited in Reykjavik called Hateigsskol. The principal, a quietly passionate man called Asgeir Beinteinsson, showed me around. The children range from the ages of six to 16, and every classroom, which we visited unannounced, was a picture of cheerful industry. Apart from the wide variety of subjects obligatory to all, from cookery to carpentry via all the traditional lessons, what was striking was the ingenuity in the teaching and the degree of liaison with the parents. One method of teaching for younger children

involved the use of drama to explain history and science. As for the parents, there is one member of staff whose job it is to compile detailed data on internal assessment exercises conducted with a view to keeping the school on its toes, and standards high. The information is then made available to the parents on the internet. Two teachers I met had just returned from England, where they had spent time at a school in Birmingham with a reputation for doing an especially good job. For good measure, all teachers have the opportunity to take a year off to study a subject of their choice on full pay. On that we have now built strong policies. My point is that more important for the health of a country than not smoking and eating well are the social phenomena we stress here: When I was talking to Svafa about the better influences from the rest of the world that Iceland seemed to have wisely plucked, or just happened to have, we mentioned, as the prime minister had done, the humaneness of Scandinavia and the drive of the United States. Then I put it to her that there was an African quality to Iceland that the rest of Europe lacked. The sense that, no matter whether the father lived in the same home or the mother was away working, the children belonged to, and were seen to belong by, the extended family, the village. Without any hang-ups at all.

### Chapter 5 : Iceland Map / Geography of Iceland / Map of Iceland - theinнатdunvilla.com

*Establishment of Diplomatic Relations and the American Legation in Iceland, Diplomatic relations and the American Legation at Reykjavik were established on September 30, 1827, when Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary Lincoln MacVeagh presented credentials and elevated the American.*

Recent archaeological excavations have revealed the ruins of a cabin in Hafnir on the Reykjanes peninsula. Carbon dating indicates that it was abandoned sometime between 800 and 1000. Lack of arable land also served as an impetus to the settlement of Greenland starting in 985. Possession of Iceland passed from the Kingdom of Norway to the Kalmar Union in 1380, when the kingdoms of Norway, Denmark and Sweden were united. After the break-up of the union in 1450, it remained a Norwegian dependency, as a part of Denmark-Norway. In the ensuing centuries, Iceland became one of the poorest countries in Europe. Infertile soil, volcanic eruptions, deforestation and an unforgiving climate made for harsh life in a society where subsistence depended almost entirely on agriculture. The Black Death swept Iceland twice, first in 1300 and again in 1402. The country subsequently became officially Lutheran and Lutheranism has since remained the dominant religion. A map of Iceland published in the early 17th century. In the 17th and 18th centuries, Denmark imposed harsh trade restrictions on Iceland. Natural disasters, including volcanic eruption and disease, contributed to a decreasing population. Around a quarter of the population starved to death in the ensuing famine. Independence movement[ edit ] See also: About 15,000 people emigrated, out of a total population of 70,000. In 1874, Denmark granted Iceland a constitution and limited home rule. This was expanded in 1900, and Hannes Hafstein served as the first Minister for Iceland in the Danish cabinet. The Government of Iceland established an embassy in Copenhagen and requested that Denmark carry out on its behalf certain defence and foreign affairs matters, subject to consultation with the Althing. Danish embassies around the world displayed two coats of arms and two flags: After the German occupation of Denmark on 9 April 1940, the Althing replaced the King with a regent and declared that the Icelandic government would take control of its own defence and foreign affairs. A month later, British armed forces invaded and occupied the country, violating Icelandic neutrality. In 1941, the Government of Iceland invited the United States to take over its defence so that Britain could use its troops elsewhere. Republic of Iceland[ edit ] British and Icelandic vessels collide in the Atlantic Ocean during the Cod Wars Icelandic vessel is shown on the left; the British vessel is on the right See also: Beginning on 20 May 1944, Icelanders voted in a four-day plebiscite on whether to terminate the personal union with Denmark, abolish the monarchy, and establish a republic. On 5 May 1944, a defence agreement was signed with the United States. The US withdrew the last of its forces on 30 September 1944. Iceland prospered during the Second World War. A few years later, Iceland became the first country to recognise the independence of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania as they broke away from the USSR. Throughout the 1950s, the country expanded its international role and developed a foreign policy oriented toward humanitarian and peacekeeping causes.

**Chapter 6 : List of sovereign states - Wikipedia**

*A hi-tech and one of the most prosperous countries in the world, Singapore also enjoys one of the world's highest standards of living. With a highly trade oriented market economy, Singapore has a GDP of \$ billion and \$60, per capita and 4 th longest life expectancy which is years.*

See Article History Alternative Titles: Lying on the constantly active geologic border between North America and Europe , Iceland is a land of vivid contrasts of climate, geography, and culture. Iceland Time-lapse video of Iceland. Joe Capraâ€™Scientifantastic Iceland was founded more than 1, years ago during the Viking age of exploration and settled by a mixed Norse and Celtic population. The early settlement, made up primarily of Norwegian seafarers and adventurers, fostered further excursions to Greenland and the coast of North America which the Norse called Vinland. Despite its physical isolation some miles km from Scotland â€™its nearest European neighbourâ€™Iceland has remained throughout its history very much a part of European civilization. The Icelandic sagas , most of which recount heroic episodes that took place at the time the island was settled, are regarded as among the finest literary achievements of the Middle Ages, reflecting a European outlook while commemorating the history and customs of a people far removed from continental centres of commerce and culture. Unlike most European countries, however, it is ethnically homogeneous , so much so that genetic researchers have used its inhabitants to study hereditary disorders and develop cures for a host of diseases. Although increasingly integrated into the European mainstream, Icelanders take care to preserve their traditions, customs, and language. Physical features of Iceland. The volcanoes, reaching deep into the unstable interior of the Earth , are explained by the fact that Iceland is located on top of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. Volcanoes and glaciers of Iceland. Geologically young, Iceland contains about volcanoes of various types. A new volcano erupting on the bottom of the sea between November and June created the island of Surtsey , off the southwestern coast. The new island grew to about 1 square mile 2. Volcanic activity has been particularly frequent since the s. A major eruption took place in , when a volcano on Heima Island Heimaey spilled lava into the town of Vestmannaeyjar , an important fishing centre. Most of the more than 5, residents had to be evacuated, andâ€™although the harbour remained intactâ€™about one-third of the town was destroyed. Continuous eruptions took place in the Krafla area in the northeast in â€™84, damaging a geothermal generating project in the area. It erupted again beginning on April 14 and sent wandering ash plumes into the skies that disrupted air traffic for days across northern and central Europe. Relief Iceland is largely a tableland broken up by structural faults. Its average elevation is 1, feet metres above sea level, but one-fourth of the country lies below feet metres. The glaciers range in size from those in small mountain recesses to the enormous glacial caps topping extensive mountain ranges. Joe Capraâ€™Scientifantastic Much of Iceland is underlain by basalt , a dark rock of igneous origin. The oldest rocks were formed about 16 million years ago. The landscape in basaltic areas is one of plateau and fjord , characterized by successive layers of lava visible one above the other on the valley sides. The basalt sheets tend to tilt somewhat toward the centre of the country. The depressed zones between the basalt areas have extensive plateaus above which rise single volcanoes, table mountains, or other mountain masses with steep sides. Alkaline hot springs are found in some areas throughout the country. The largest, Deildartunguhver, emits nearly 50 gallons litres of boiling water per second. Earthquakes are frequent in Iceland but rarely result in serious damage. Most of the buildings erected since the midth century have been built of reinforced concrete and designed to withstand severe shocks from earthquakes. Traditionally, Iceland has been divided according to the four points of the compass. The centre of the country is uninhabited. In the southwest several fine natural harbours have directed interest toward the sea, and good fishing grounds lie off the shores of this region. Because of its extensive lava fields and heaths, the southwest has little farmland. The middle west is divided between fishing and farming and has many places of great natural beauty. The western fjords have numerous well-sheltered harbours and good fishing grounds but little lowland suitable for agriculture. The north is divided into several smaller districts, each of which has relatively good farmland. The eastern fjords resemble the western fjords but have, in addition, an inner lowland. The southeast, locked between the glaciers and the sea, has a landscape of rugged splendour. The

southern lowland comprises the main farming region. Drainage Heavy rainfall feeds the numerous rivers and lakes in the glaciated landscape. Many of the lakes are dammed by lava flows or glacial ice. The presence of waterfalls is typical of the geologically young mountain landscape. The rivers are mainly debris-laden streams of glacial origin or clear streams formed by rainfall and springs of underground water. In the regions not drained by glacial rivers, fjords and smaller inlets cut into the rocky coasts. Because glacial erosion has often deepened the inner portions of the fjords, there are many fine natural harbours. Elsewhere the coasts are regular, sandy, and lined extensively with offshore sandbars that form lagoons to the landward side. Soils Iceland has soils of both mineral and organic composition. The mineral soils are basically a yellow-brown loess, formed by deposits of wind-transported matter. Both types of soil are suitable for agriculture, but, because of the slow rate of biological activity in the northern climate, they require heavy fertilization. Climate The climate of Iceland is maritime subarctic. It is influenced by the location of the country on the broad boundary between two contrasting air currents, one of polar and the other of tropical origin. The climate is affected also by the confluence of two ocean currents: Seasonal shifts in temperature and precipitation are largely the result of weather fronts crossing the North Atlantic. Relatively cold weather, particularly in the northern part of the country, results from the movement of a front south of Iceland; mild, rainy weather is brought by the movement of a front northeastward between Iceland and Greenland. Although its northernmost points nearly touch the Arctic Circle, Iceland is much warmer than might be expected. Temperatures do not vary much throughout the country. Snow falls about days per year in the northwest, about 40 in the southeast. Annual precipitation ranges from 16 inches mm on some high northern plateaus to more than inches 4, mm on the southern slopes of some ice-capped mountains. In the south it averages about 80 inches 2, mm. Gales are frequent, especially in winter, and occasionally heavy fog may occur, but thunderstorms are rare. Often the aurora borealis is visible, especially in fall and early winter. Plant and animal life Iceland lies on the border between a tundra vegetation zone of treeless plains and a taiga zone of coniferous forests. Only about one-fourth of the country is covered by a continuous carpet of vegetation. Bogs and moors are extensive, and sparse grasslands are often overgrazed. The remains of large birch forests are found in many places. A reforestation program instituted by the government in the s has shown considerable success since the mids. Foxes were the only land mammals in Iceland at the time of its settlement. Humans brought domestic and farm animals and accidentally introduced rats and mice. Later, reindeer were introduced, and many are still found in the northeastern highlands. After, mink that were brought in for the production of furs also became wild in the country. Birdlife in Iceland is varied. Salmon and trout abound in the lakes, brooks, and rivers. The fishing banks off the Icelandic shores are abundantly endowed with fish, although these resources have been considerably eroded by overexploitation. There are no reptiles or amphibians in Iceland. People Ethnic groups and languages The population of Iceland is extremely homogeneous. The inhabitants are descendants of settlers who began arriving in ad and continued in heavy influx for about 60 years thereafter. Historians differ on the exact origin and ethnic composition of the settlers but agree that between 60 and 80 percent of them were of Nordic stock from Norway. The rest, from Scotland and Ireland, were largely of Celtic stock. The dominant language in the period of settlement was Old Norse, the language spoken in Norway at the time. Through the centuries it has evolved into modern Icelandic, which is used throughout the country. Modern Icelanders can still read Icelandic sagas in Old Norse without difficulty. There are no ethnic distinctions. The early Nordic and Celtic stocks have long since merged, and the small number of subsequent immigrants have had no major effect on the population structure. Religion The Lutheran faith has been the dominant religion since the midth century. More than three-fourths of the population belongs to the state-supported Evangelical Lutheran church. There is freedom of religion. Settlement patterns Because agriculture was the chief economic activity, the population of Iceland was evenly distributed throughout the inhabitable parts of the country until the end of the 19th century. With the advent of the fishing industry, commerce, and services at the beginning of the 20th century, the population became increasingly concentrated in towns and villages. At the beginning of the 21st century, more than 90 percent of the population lived in communities of or more people. The mainstay of most coastal towns is fishing and fish processing. Akureyri, a fishing and educational centre situated on the Eyja Fjord in the north, is second in importance. The Vestmanna Westman Islands, off the

southern coast, have some of the most important fishing operations in Iceland. Selfoss is in the southern lowlands, serving the farming region, and is the largest inland rural community in Iceland. Arnarstapi, fishing village on Faxa Bay, western Iceland. The 18th century was marked by great economic hardship, and by the population had declined to 47, There began a slow increase in the 19th century, and by the population had risen to nearly 80,

**Chapter 7 : Iceland Map and Satellite Image**

*Iceland is a Scandinavian country, the world's oldest democracy but modern in nearly every respect. Unlike most European countries, however, it is ethnically homogeneous, so much so that genetic researchers have used its inhabitants to study hereditary disorders and develop cures for a host of diseases.*

Faroe Islands an autonomous country within the Danish Realm , self-governed since Greenland an autonomous country within the Danish Realm , self-governed since Svalbard , which is under Norwegian sovereignty, is not considered part of Scandinavia as a cultural-historical region, but as a part of the Kingdom of Norway since it is part of the Nordic countries Norden. Whereas the term "Scandinavia" is relatively straightforward as traditionally relating to the three kingdoms of Denmark, Norway and Sweden there exists some ambiguity as regards the ethnic aspect of the concept in the modern era. Traditionally, the term refers specifically to the majority peoples of Denmark, Norway and Sweden, their states, their Germanic languages and their culture. However, Scandinavian is still also seen as an ethnic term for the Germanic majority peoples of Scandinavia and as such the inclusion of Sami and Finnish speakers can be seen as controversial within these groups. The original areas inhabited during the Bronze Age by the peoples since known as Scandinavians included what is now Northern Germany particularly Schleswig-Holstein , all of Denmark, southern Sweden and the southern coast of Norway while namesake Scania found itself in the centre. Various references to the region can also be found in Pytheas , Pomponius Mela , Tacitus , Ptolemy , Procopius and Jordanes , usually in the form of Scandza. It is believed that the name used by Pliny may be of West Germanic origin, originally denoting Scania. The name Scandinavia would then mean "dangerous island", which is considered to refer to the treacherous sandbanks surrounding Scania. Writing in the capacity of a Roman admiral, he introduces the northern region by declaring to his Roman readers that there are 23 islands "Romanis armis cognitae" "known to Roman arms" in this area. There live the Hilleviones. The belief that Scandinavia was an island became widespread among classical authors during the first century and dominated descriptions of Scandinavia in classical texts during the centuries that followed. Pliny begins his description of the route to Scatinavia by referring to the mountain of Saevo mons Saevo ibi , the Codanus Bay Codanus sinus and the Cimbrian promontory. By some scholars, "Saevo" is thought to be the mountainous Norwegian coast at the entrance to Skagerrak and the Cimbrian peninsula is thought to be Skagen , the north tip of Jutland , Denmark. As described, Saevo and Scatinavia can also be the same place. Pliny mentions Scandinavia one more time: The idea that "Scadinavia" may have been one of the "Scandiae" islands was instead introduced by Ptolemy c. He used the name "Skandia" for the biggest, most easterly of the three "Scandiai" islands, which according to him were all located east of Jutland. Some early Swedish scholars of the Swedish Hyperborean school [30] and of the 19th-century romantic nationalism period proceeded to synthesize the different versions by inserting references to the Suiones, arguing that they must have been referred to in the original texts and obscured over time by spelling mistakes or various alterations. In recent substrate studies, Sami linguists have examined the initial cluster sk- in words used in Sami and concluded that sk- is a phonotactic structure of alien origin. According to some of these intellects, Scandinavian people share particular genetic markers with the Basque people. Notable are the Norwegian fjords , the Scandinavian Mountains , the flat, low areas in Denmark and the archipelagos of Sweden and Norway. Sweden has many lakes and moraines , legacies of the ice age , which ended about ten millennia ago. The southern and by far most populous regions of Scandinavia have a temperate climate. Scandinavia extends north of the Arctic Circle , but has relatively mild weather for its latitude due to the Gulf Stream. Many of the Scandinavian mountains have an alpine tundra climate. The climate varies from north to south and from west to east: The central part " from Oslo to Stockholm " has a humid continental climate Dfb , which gradually gives way to subarctic climate Dfc further north and cool marine west coast climate Cfc along the northwestern coast. A small area along the northern coast east of the North Cape has tundra climate Et as a result of a lack of summer warmth. The Scandinavian Mountains block the mild and moist air coming from the southwest, thus northern Sweden and the Finnmarksvidda plateau in Norway receive little precipitation and have cold winters. Large areas in the Scandinavian mountains have

alpine tundra climate. The warmest temperature ever recorded in Scandinavia is Taffjord has recorded Languages in Scandinavia[ edit ] Main articles: North Germanic languages , Sami languages , Finnic languages , and Scandoromani Two language groups have coexisted on the Scandinavian peninsula since prehistoryâ€”the North Germanic languages Scandinavian languages and the Sami languages. Denmark also has a minority of German -speakers. More recent migrations has added even more languages. Apart from Sami and the languages of minority groups speaking a variant of the majority language of a neighboring state, the following minority languages in Scandinavia are protected under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages: Yiddish , Romani Chib, Romanes and Romani. North Germanic languages[ edit ].

**Chapter 8 : Female world leaders currently in power**

*The topography of Iceland is one of the most volcanic in the world, with a landscape pockmarked by hot springs, sulfur beds, geysers, lava fields, canyons, and waterfalls. Iceland's climate is temperate, with mild, windy winters and wet, cool summers.*

Greece has a pretty good claim having invented the concept in the first place. Britain has a decent claim but it depends what you mean by democracy. As Rowan Atkinson put it in *Blackadder*: Seth, Edinburgh, Scotland Perhaps Iceland can - their parliament, the Althing, is the oldest one still in use. It was formed in by Vikings. The other tribes included in the Six Nations also included the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas, and Senecas, joined in the 18th Century by the Tuscaroras, who did not have a vote. Archeological evidence indicates the Iroquois had lived on their lands for a very long time, with the earliest longhouses dated to at least A. Although there is no precise date for the establishment of the league, The Six Nations claim to have enjoyed a system of consensus government for over years, well established long before the arrival of the Europeans. They had a written constitution, laws dealing with ownership and trade routes and a funeral rite that allowed shared mourning at the passing of leaders from other tribes. From , the nations combined to form a united front in negotiations with the European settlers. With the focus on maintaining peace with their neighbours, the Iroquois tribes were free to develop their predominantly agrarian society. Their leaders were chosen, by their women, for their knowledge of the earth and their skills at providing for their villages. John Maguire, Dublin, Ireland A great many can claim it. It rather depends what you mean by democracy. The Isle of Man has the oldest Parliament, but it has not always been elected by universal suffrage. Did the UK have to await the extension of the franchise to 18 year olds? Or was it , when women got the vote on the same terms as men - at least for Parliament, only householders voted in local authority elections at the time? Switzerland has an ancient confederation, but governments never get voted out of power, due to the permanent coalition. The same four parties have been in power since , two of them for over a century. Switzerland, like California, makes great use of direct democracy, at both confederal and cantonal level. Australia and New Zealand were both early to give women the vote, but neither elects their Head of State. Universal adult suffrage was first established there in By , universal suffrage had been established on the Isle of Man for 12 years Iceland is generally held to be the oldest Parliament, starting in The oldest continuous Parliament is the Tynwald Isle of Man , which started in , although its roots go further back. The Althing, the Icelandic parliament, is older, but it did not function for a number of years, so it is not the oldest continuous government. Since then, for years, every leader has been elected and there have been no kings, no queens, no military juntas, no conquerors and no dictatorships. Your claim that that the US has the oldest democracy frankly does not hold any water as Britain goes back to so do your Maths. Many countries directly or indirectly affected the outcome of the American Revolutionary War. Most of the gunpowder used by the Continental Army came from France. Direct French support starting in and before the wars end the Spanish and Dutch were fighting the British as well. Not directly in ally with the Americans, but the combined navy of these countries exceeded that of the British fleet and keep the British busy on many fronts. Catherine the Great of Russia created the League of Armed Neutrality which put further pressure on British resources and allowed supplies to reach the war engaged colonies. Meanwhile, the US Continental Army often took the stand of conducting a war of attrition rather than engagement in open decisive conflicts. Indeed, militarily speaking, Washington had only one real decisive military victory: The rest were great public relations e. Yet the overall strategy won. Yorktown did not end the war, but it and the other ongoing pressures brought the British to the bargaining table. The Constitution, which forms the basis for the modern US government only came into effect, by its own self definition, in and the government it defined started operations on March 4, , even though Rhode Island did not ratify the document until the next year. Thus we must decrease your accounting to or years of continue government depending on which date you select. After the Civil War the US congress considered the southern states as conquered provinces and set up marital law during post war reconstruction. Thus only a geographical part of the US can be said to have participated in a continual democracy, without military rule, since The

ruling of Texas vs. A minor point, but one that is constantly mistated. Joe, Marital law in the southern U. Jamie, Bath, England Has no-one mentioned Iceland? Their parliament, the Althingi, was created in the early 11th century. Switzerland and Iceland qualify Eager for your answers. Our strength lies in finding just how far we can push the boundaries of Democracy. It is true that black people were pretty much kept away from the polls until the 60s, but from a strictly historical standpoint they were given the right much earlier. And women could vote earlier than in some states. But they are still under the Danish, so I do not know how that would count and I do not know when they formed their parliament. Gudni, Reykjavik Iceland Finland gave full rights to women to vote in and they were also good for being candidates in every elections on that date. That can be called oldest democracy by modern means. Remember, we had no slavery, nor was the right only in paper like for black Americans till s. Pekka, Finland Oldest Democracy of the World- Malana Nalla, India Malana is a tribal village, which is considered as the oldest democracy in the world. The permission must be obtained by the head of the villagers to visit the important places in the village and one have to be very careful to not touch the untouched places sacred places and monuments. In that case the villagers can claim the fine to the person who touched the places intentionally or not. Iceland only regained its independence in This also applies to any other constitutional monarchies like Sweden, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Spain and Belgium. Monarchs are heads of state but nevertheless unelected. They were not even counted in the census or given the vote till Still all democracies have their bete noirs which they prefer to sweep under the carpet. Bete noirs must always be dealt with sooner or later of course. If we leave out the constitutional monarchy factor probably sensible then Australia and New Zealand at least gave universal franchise not counting Aborigines before most other democracies. After the states federated in then that franchise became national Over the last 30 or so years the word Commonwealth has been unofficially dropped and Australia is just called Australia these days. Malcolm Chalmers, Sydney, Australia After reading all the competition entries, I declare the winner of the oldest democracy to be I recognise my decision will lead to considerable re-printing expenses in the United States at a time of great financial duress. Respecting the fact, that the Faroes were explored earlier than Iceland and had the same Norse rules, there is not much doubt, that the Faroese ting is older than that of Iceland, which was founded in It is not and never has been. Paul Tiera, London, UK A good contender for the earliest parliament, though not necessarily by universal suffrage, was the Tinganes established by the Vikings in the Faero Islands of the north Atlantic which can be dated back to AD. Charles Boyle, Perth, Australia Can a country be really considered to be democratic until every citizen, male or female, black or white were given the vote? I know women here in New Zealand were given the vote in but not sure if that was the first. Iceland had a king. That said, if not all citizens are allowed to vote I think the same can be said. That is a much stronger argument for why America is not the oldest "democracy. Socrates drank hemlock years before Jesus rather than live elsewhere, and it was a Jury of his Peers that condemned him to death. What, in fact, caused his death was his rejection of his own democratic leadership. Whilst its constitution was recorded in , the form of government had been established since This predates all the claims, except possibly Mullana which did not have a date associated. It has been occupied by a community of Christian monks, who eventually built their first large monastery in These are two different things. Women were allowed to vote in New Zealand in but they were not eligible until Finland was the first state to give women the right to be a candidate in and Finland had the first female members of parliament in the world in Therefore, Finland was the first country with true universal democracy. Also all the minorities and the landless people had the same rights. At that time Finland was an autonomous part of the Russian Empire and got full independence later, in In essence, Finland was a monarchy with its own parliament but the Russian tsar as the head of the state. That is what has happened everywhere in the world until the 20th century. Finland was the first to have universal rights. Jonas, Helsinki, Finland Switzerland is the only true Democracy. Only the citizens of this country can make laws, or resend them. They have had this current Switzerland is the only true Democracy. They have had this current government since , when they wrote the Arch Bishop of Austria and declared their independence. The have had the same government rules since then, all changes have to be approved by the citizens of this country. There was never a round fired in their succession from the Austrian Empire. The politicians only rule over parliamentary procedure, as in Roberts rule of order.

**Chapter 9 : View Iceland (Modern World Nations)**

*Iceland, which is a member of the UN, NATO, EFTA, Council of Europe and OECD, maintains diplomatic and commercial relations with practically all nations, but its ties with the Nordic countries, Germany, the United States, Canada and the other NATO nations are particularly close.*

Mary McAleese of Ireland First time that a female president directly succeed another female president. Sri Lanka First time that a nation possessed a female prime minister and a female president simultaneously. Sri Lanka in also marked the first time a female prime minister directly succeeded another female prime minister. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India , b. After serving in the cabinet of Prime Minister Bahadur Shastri, she in turn succeeded to the office of prime minister following his death in . Her tenure was not a positive time for civil liberties, however, and for much of her rule parliamentary democracy was all but suspended. She was assassinated in . Re-elected twice before resigning in , she remains one of the longest-serving female world leaders of all time. Fiercely ideological, Thatcher was best known for steering her political party and country sharply to the right through an aggressive agenda of tax cuts, privatizations, union-busting, and cuts to government spending. President Corazon Aquino of the Philippines b. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan , b. A leading opposition figure under the dictatorship of Gen. Zia-ul-Haq, she was elected prime minister of a coalition government in after his death. After losing office a second time in , she spent much of her later life once again in opposition, this time to the new dictatorship of Gen. After a period of exile, she was assassinated in , shortly after returning to the country. Her husband was then elected president in her place. Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany b. She became active in politics following the reunification of east and west Germany, and in she was elected to the unified parliament under the conservative Christian Democratic Party and served as a cabinet minister under the government of Helmut Kohl. In , she became head of the party and in was elected chancellor prime minister. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia - b. Living mostly in exile, for the next 25 years she would make numerous attempts at a political comeback, but routinely faced jail terms and charges of treason for her activities. In she assumed the leadership of the united opposition to new dictator Charles Taylor and in was elected president following his exile. In she became the first-ever female world leader to be awarded a Nobel Peace Prize. Has there ever been a female dictator? Most observers would probably say no, though it does depend somewhat on how you define "dictator. There have been, however, a few women who served as prime ministers in undemocratic regimes, came to power through undemocratic means, or ran governments that can be fairly described as "authoritarian. Milka Planinc served as prime minister of Yugoslavia from to , at a time when it was still a Communist republic. Following the death of longtime dictator Joseph Broz Tito in , the presidency of Yugoslavia reverted back to a collective, with a chairmanship that rotated every year. This increased the power of the prime ministership, and Planinc was unquestionably the most powerful politician in the country during this time. Her regime was moderate, but committed to the Communist system. It would be fair to consider her a dictator, if perhaps not a particularly flashy one. Bosnia and Herzegovina had declared itself independent from Yugoslavia in , and the Serb Republic was declared around the same time. Both were eventually charged with crimes against humanity. Though Plavsi is perhaps the most infamous female politician of modern times, her regime was at least nominally democratic. The Bosnian "Serb Republic" not to be confused with the Republic of Serbia is also not a sovereign country, though it considered itself independent during the Yugoslav civil war. Though she was nominally in charge of a Communist regime, her caretaker rule was too short and transient to be seriously considered here. Though characterized as a "revolution," like most revolutions it was in practice a coup, with Bakiev being driven from the capital during a state of violent chaos. Otunbayeva, the former foreign minister, declared herself head of a transitory regime, and she made good on the promise, helping introduce a more democratic constitution that lessened the power of the presidency. She resigned in December of . Indira Gandhi served two non-consecutive terms as prime minister of India that overlapped significant portions of the s, 70s, and 80s. Though India is a parliamentary democracy with constitutionally-protected civil rights, in Gandhi took advantage of a worsening political climate to declared a state of emergency that

gave her office sweeping powers to crackdown on dissent, including the censorship of media and the arrest of political opponents.