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The World's Worst Dictators



Kim Jong-il, North Korea
 Age: 65
 In Power Since 1994
 Last Year's Rank: 2

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My Life Under a Dictator

One man's escape from the tyrant of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe. [Read the article »](#)

Who Would You Add to the List?

Tell us who we missed! In your opinion, what dictators deserve to be called the world's worst?

[Add Comment](#) | [View All Comments](#)
 Total: 709

ohhh, calvin, the "bitterness".....
 by jack posted:04/27/2008 02:16:PM

.....the Bush haters seething with bitterness.....maybe if you could just cling to guns, religion, or something - life would be tolerable.....but having no problem with the slavery to the Democrat party, a party full of empty promises in return for your vote.

[REPLY TO THIS](#) | Number of replies:0

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 Total: 709

TOP 10 OF 2008

- | | | | |
|-----------|--|--|--|
| 1 | | Kim Jong-il, North Korea
Runs the world's most repressive regime. | |
| 2 | | Omar Al-Bashir, Sudan
Darfur continues to be a hotbed of violence. | |
| 3 | | Than Shwe, Myanmar
Ordered troops to fire at crowds of protesters. | |
| 4 | | King Abdullah, Saudi Arabia
Most oppressed women in the world. | |
| 5 | | Hu Jintao, China
Controls all media and represses religion. | |
| 6 | | Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe
Unemployment high, food supplies low. | |
| 7 | | Sayyid Ali Khamenei, Iran
Officials carry out public hangings. | |
| 8 | | Pervez Musharraf, Pakistan
Suspended Pakistan's constitution. | |
| 9 | | Islam Karimov, Uzbekistan
Government engages in torture of its citizens. | |
| 10 | | Isayas Afewerki, Eritrea
No national elections, no constitution. | |

Dishonorable Mentions

Click on the name of each dictator to learn more.

- 11** **Muammar al-Qaddafi, Libya**
- 12** **Bashar al-Assad, Syria**
- 13** **Teodoro Obiang Nguema, Equatorial Guinea**
- 14** **King Mswati III, Swaziland**
- 15** **Meles Zenawi, Ethiopia**
- 16** **Aleksandr Lukashenka, Belarus**
- 17** **Hosni Mubarak, Egypt**
- 18** **Raúl Castro, Cuba**
- 19** **Choummaly Sayasone, Laos**
- 20** **Idriss Déby, Chad**

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Who Do You Think Is the Worst?

Click on the arrow next to the dictator who you think should top the list. ?

1. Kim Jong-il, North Korea	640
2. Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe	407
3. Sayyid Ali Khamenei	343
4. Hu Jintao, China	308
5. Isayas Afewerki, Eritrea	303
6. Omar Al-Bashir, Sudan	268
7. King Abdullah, Saudi Arabia	268
8. Than Shwe, Myanmar	241
9. Pervez Musharraf, Pakistan	237
10. Islam Karimov, Uzbekistan	214

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1. Kim Jong-il

By David Wallechinsky
Published: February 17, 2008



 [view the slideshow >>](#)

Kim Jong-il
 Country: North Korea
 Age: 66
 In Power Since 1994
 Last Year's Rank: 2

Kim Jong-il runs the most isolated, repressive regime in the world. His citizens have no access to information other than government propaganda. His harsh system includes collective punishment (three generations of a family can be punished for one member's alleged crime); detainment of roughly 200,000 citizens in labor camps; and the capture, torture and jailing of those who try to flee to China.

U.S. LINK: Last year, Kim's government carried out its pledge to the U.S. and other nations to shut down its nuclear reactors. However, it missed December's deadline to disclose its full nuclear inventory.

[2. Omar Al-Bashir >](#)

What Do You Think?

Is Kim Jong-il one of the worst dictators in the world? Share your comments below.

Or, tell us who you would [add to the list](#).

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Kim Jong Il

by Rhonda posted:02/20/2008 01:26:PM

Not only is his regime the most oppressive, he would rather hide what is going on than appeal for help or compromise to keep his people from starving. It reminds me of when the Berlin Wall was built to keep the people suffering in East Berlin and shot them for trying to get freedom. In addition, some of his behavior indicates that he is probably mentally ill--up there with Idi Amin. Dictators who have mental health issues that affect their political views are particularly dangerous.

[REPLY TO THIS](#) | Number of replies:0

North Korea

by Goebel posted:02/20/2008 01:25:PM

We need to move our troops out of South Korea before this nut starts a war. South Korea has had plenty of years to learn to protect themselves.

[REPLY TO THIS](#) | Number of replies:0

If Kim is the worst...

by Joe posted:02/20/2008 12:18:PM

If Kim is the worst...where would've Saddam ranked? Bush chose to take out Saddam, who had done nothing to the US, and tolerates Kim, Castro...and others including King Abdulah, who is Bushies buddy...as seen recently holding hands as they inspected the Saudi troops. Follow the money...as Danny Devito said..."Money talks and bull**** walks."

[REPLY TO THIS](#) | Number of replies:1

‡ [RE:](#) by Dan Whats Bush got ...

[Add Comment](#) | [View All Comments](#) **Total: 12**



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2. Omar Al-Bashir

By David Wallechinsky
Published: February 17, 2008



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Omar Al-Bashir
 Country: Sudan
 Age: 64
 In Power Since 1989
 Last Year's Rank: 1

Under Bashir's rule, the Darfur region of Sudan continues to be the site of a violent power struggle among government forces and allied militia, rebels and bandits. In 2007, Bashir ordered aerial bombing raids that killed dozens of civilians. While Bashir did appoint an official to investigate the human-rights situation in Darfur, the appointee himself has been suspected of war crimes by the International Criminal Court.

U.S. LINK: The U.S. government has harshly criticized the abuses in Sudan. The Clinton Administration issued trade sanctions in 1997, but it exempted gum arabic, which is used in products ranging from soft drinks and candy to shoe polish and stamps. The U.S. still imports more than 4000 tons of the substance from Sudan annually.

[« 1. Kim Jong-il](#) | [3. Than Shwe »](#)

What Do You Think?

Is Omar Al-Bashir one of the worst dictators in the world? Share your comments below.

Or, tell us who you would [add to the list](#).

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[Add Comment](#) Total: 1

How is he not worse than Kim jong il?

by zach posted:03/09/2008 12:01:PM

Thank you parade for kindly leaving out this year that nice little 300,000 person death toll because of this guy. Yes Kim Jong is terrible but simple numbers dont compare to the suffering this man has caused. I dont wish to down play anything but it needs to be like the years before, this person has to be first.

[REPLY TO THIS](#) | Number of replies:0

Total: 1



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3. Than Shwe

By David Wallechinsky
Published: February 17, 2008



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Than Shwe
Country: Burma (Myanmar)
Age: 75
In Power Since 1992
Last Year's Rank: 6

In August and September, Buddhist monks led pro-democracy demonstrations against 45 years of military rule. Than Shwe ordered troops to fire at the crowds: They killed dozens of protestors, and his forces detained several thousand more. Burma's symbol of democracy, Nobel Peace Prize-winner Aung San Suu Kyi, remains under house arrest.

U.S. LINK: President Bush ended imports from Burma in 2003, but the U.S. sells the country more than \$7 million in exports each year. After the fall crackdowns, Bush accused Than Shwe of "vicious persecution."

[< 2. Omar Al-Bashir](#) | [4. King Abdullah >](#)

What Do You Think?

Is Than Shwe one of the worst dictators in the world? Share your comments

below.

Or, tell us who you would [add to the list.](#)

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Total: 0



The World's Worst Dictators



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4. King Abdullah

By David Wallechinsky
Published: February 17, 2008



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King Abdullah
Country: Saudi Arabia
Age: 84
In Power Since 1995
Last Year's Rank: 5

Under King Abdullah, Saudi Arabia adheres to a punitive justice system in which young teens can be sentenced to death and defendants tortured. Women are more oppressed than in any other country—they can't even seek medical care without a male guardian's permission.

U.S. LINK: Every President since the 1940s has sought good relations with petroleum-rich Saudi Arabia. American companies have sold its government more than \$15 billion in arms in the last decade. Last year, U.S. oil imports totaled more than \$30 billion. King Abdullah promised to crack down on extremists after we learned that 15 of the 9/11 hijackers were Saudis. Yet researchers at West Point say that the largest number of al-Qaeda fighters in Iraq still come from Saudi Arabia.

[« 3. Than Shwe](#) | [5. Hu Jintao »](#)

What Do You Think?

Is King Abdullah one of the worst dictators in the world? Share your comments below.

Or, tell us who you would [add to the list](#).

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[Add Comment](#) | [View All Comments](#) **Total: 15**

God Bless The King

by Chet posted:05/28/2008 03:40:PM

It is very obvious that few or none of you have ever traveled to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I have been living and working there for the past 2 years and have enjoyed my stay here in the Kingdom. Now my point of view from a Christian Male living in the most conservative muslim country in the world. The People are warm and friendly for the most part. Now the people there by western standards dont treat women like we do but believe it or not Saudis are comfortable with their society. Crime is punished harshly because people there feel crime should not be tolerated. If they go soft on crime it Will be a slippery slope to the bottom. By our standards it seems intolerant but Saudis are comfortable with it and to me thats all that counts. Its their country so let them live the way they want to. The King does quite a few things correct and here they are. 1. Keeps the price of gas low, \$.67 a gallon when he could sell it to europe for alot more. 2. Subsidise the cost of food in the Kingdom so people can eat. This helps alot since Saudis have large families. 3 Passed a law to allow women to Drive. 4. For years have kept the price of oil low through supple controls. Now the demand is so high for Oil we are producing all we can and its not enough. WORD TO ALL THOSE SUV OWNERS. QUIT USING SO MUCH FUEL AND THE PRICE WILL DROP! Its just that simple you cant simply expect us to turn some majical valve and have move oil.

[REPLY TO THIS](#) | **Number of replies:0**

We Musn't forget the treatment of women

by Andrew posted:03/28/2008 12:16:AM

Even if it is due to their religion, Saudi women are treated only a notch above the brutality of the Taliban. Saudi women cannot vote. They are not allowed to drive. They cannot be admitted to a hospital or examined by a doctor (Amnesty International). They are forbidden to travel abroad or leave the house without the express permission and/or company of an immediate male family member. At all times they are forced to wear black sackcloth (called an abaya) over their heads, and if any of these laws are broken, the punishment is death by stoning. Though they are sometimes let off with a warning (Human Rights Watch). Here again, is the evidence of dictatorial oppression.

[REPLY TO THIS](#) | **Number of replies:0**

And... ATOMIC?

by Andrew posted:03/28/2008 12:13:AM

As if this prospect was not worrying enough, Saudi Arabia may have its eyes on atomic bombs. The International Atomic Energy Agency approved a deal June 16, 2005, that keeps nuclear inspectors out of Saudi Arabia, enabling them to have all the nuclear tests they want. Not only that, but The Saudis qualified for a âsmall quantities protocol, â which frees countries from reporting the possession of up to 10 tons of natural uranium (enough to make a bomb) or up to 20 tons

of depleted uranium, depending on the degree of enrichment, and 2.2 pounds of plutonium. Worrying? Yes.

[REPLY TO THIS](#) | **Number of replies:0**

[Add Comment](#) | [View All Comments](#) **Total: 15**

The World's Worst Dictators



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5. Hu Jintao

By David Wallechinsky
Published: February 17, 2008



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Hu Jintao
 Country: China
 Age: 65
 In Power Since 2002
 Last Year's Rank: 4

Last year, Hu came down harder on human-rights activists and increased censorship. Hu's government also forces abortions, controls all media and harshly limits the practice of religion. There's little criminal justice to be found in China—99% of all trials result in a guilty verdict.

U.S. LINK: China is a close economic ally and our second leading trade partner (behind Canada). Our country's trade deficit with China stands at almost \$1 billion a day, and the U.S. government owes Chinese lenders \$388 billion. At the same time, a 2007 report to Congress said that Chinese espionage activities in the United States "comprise the single greatest risk to the security of American technologies."

[« 4. King Abdullah](#) | [6. Robert Mugabe »](#)

What Do You Think?

Is Hu Jintao one of the worst dictators in the world? Share your comments below.

Or, tell us who you would [add to the list](#).

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What about his recent work?

by Sir posted:05/20/2008 12:28:AM

He has shown great compassion for his people recently in the Wenchuan Earthquake aftermath. He was down there on "ground zero." He was helping rescuers remove rubble and he fed survivors. His recent work should remove him from the worst 5...at least.

REPLY TO THIS | Number of replies:0

Um, he kind of does?

by Megan posted:04/30/2008 03:45:PM

He most definitely DOES deserve to be on this list. If you force abortion and harshly limit religion than you deserve to be on the list. I am 16 years old and cant even imagin being told who to worship or being forced to give up a baby. its crazy and ridiculous. Hu Jintao is a horrible guy. Thats just my opinion. Like it or not, it doesnt really matter to me. Just like, my opinion doesnt matter to you.

REPLY TO THIS | Number of replies:1

‡ [RE:](#) by Sir Just because yo...

Jeremy is definitely wrong

by CJ posted:02/24/2008 01:47:AM

Taiwan is recognized as part of China, which is a fact in this world. Tibet rebellers and Falun Gong are trying to get their supports from US based on the lies they made to world everyday. Only those knowing nothing about Darfur and Kosova will blame China on these international issues. It is not wise to say that you mom likes spitting to any body else. Some old people just know little about the current world, and sometimes the Alzheimers will prevent them from thinking in the right way. China is peacefully rising and offering wide support to Africa and some other small countries. China is building friendship to most of the countries and always stand on the right side in international affairs. China is pushing the world's economy going from hope to realization. Sending blames to solve a problem usually is not helpful for solving the problem at the end. Everybody has the freedom to judge something with its own criteria, but if you try to make others think it on your way, you will lose yourself too. It is complicated world, so it is totally ridiculous to give such a list and what is even worse is you put China president Hu's name on this list.

[REPLY TO THIS](#) | Number of replies:1

‡ [RE:](#) by Gu possibly as you...

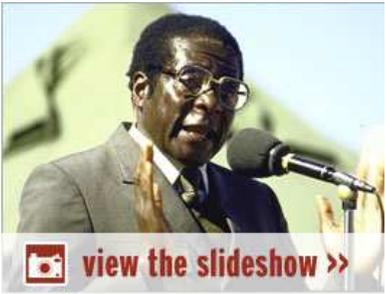
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6. Robert Mugabe

By David Wallechinsky
Published: February 17, 2008



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Robert Mugabe
 Country: Zimbabwe
 Age: 83
 In Power Since 1980
 Last Year's Rank: 7

Zimbabwe's economy went from bad to worse last year. Inflation exploded to more than 8000%, unemployment reached 80%, and food supplies continued to dwindle. One-quarter of the country's population has fled. Nevertheless, Mugabe is running for a sixth term. The opposition is trying to unite, but police arrested and beat 50 opposition leaders last March.

U.S. LINK: American politicians from both parties have condemned Mugabe's many abuses, and Bush called Zimbabwe's policies "an assault on its people" in a September speech to the United Nations. However, U.S. trade with Zimbabwe has increased in each of the last four years, led by our imports of the metals ferrochromium and nickel (both used to make stainless steel).

[« 5. Hu Jintao](#) | [7. Sayyid Ali Khamenei »](#)

What Do You Think?

Is Robert Mugabe one of the worst dictators in the world? Share your comments below.

Or, tell us who you would [add to the list](#).

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mugabe you look like your breath sink your too b

by jackie posted:05/23/2008 03:33:PM

it is sad his first wife was dyeing and he married this young girl .i don't get it he seem like he could not even get it hard who want him on them his bearth sinking give me a break he will ose.LOSER why would he have to still be ther if he lose.

[REPLY TO THIS](#) | **Number of replies:0**

Zimbos

by Hondo posted:03/29/2008 12:29:PM

Well, call him what ever you like: dictator...but he will win today's elections. viva Mugabe, lÃ¼ng live Bob.

[REPLY TO THIS](#) | **Number of replies:0**

Castro out,Mugabe still up-its **!**

by Absolom posted:02/21/2008 07:49:AM

Its a stinking reality that mindboggles! It looks like by priority standards Mugabe was supposed to be the first out yet he is stubbornly still up! It still means more assaults on the people, continued media repression and an out-of-this-world neurotic leadership. We dont mind having Castro in Zimbabwe, if good leadership still has a dearth! Go 'Bob' go

[REPLY TO THIS](#) | **Number of replies:0**

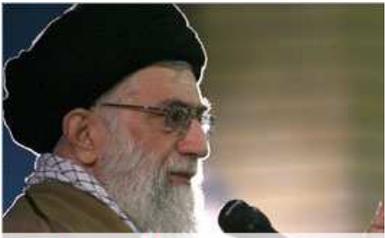
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7. Sayyid Ali Khamenei

By David Wallechinsky
Published: February 17, 2008



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Sayyid Ali Khamenei
 Country: Iran
 Age: 68
 In Power Since 1989
 Last Year's Rank: 3

While a recent intelligence report concluded that Iran had halted its nuclear-weapons program, the Ayatollah Khamenei and his council have adopted increasingly repressive measures. Last year, officials carried out public hangings, stoned a man to death for adultery, shut down music studios and cafés, and persecuted dissidents.

U.S. LINK: The U.S. seemed on the verge of attacking Iran last year, and Bush recently called it "the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism." Still, trade has increased, and U.S. exports to Iran rose from \$8 million a year in 2001 to over \$125 million a year in 2007.

[« 6. Robert Mugabe](#) | [8. Pervez Musharraf »](#)

What Do You Think?

Is Sayyid Ali Khamenei one of the worst dictators in the world? Share your comments below.

Or, tell us who you would [add to the list](#).

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yeah...

by James posted:03/10/2008 09:06:PM

Im not directly affected by the "supreme ruler", but I am doing a report on him. I gotta say i laughed at the guy who was all like " bush is a liar, he lies, Khamenei is good". He sounds like the Iraqi minister of propaganda! remember that guy???

REPLY TO THIS | Number of replies:1

‡ RE: by muwahid just a claim!

Communism, Capitalism and Mullahs!

by Dashtaba posted:03/07/2008 02:14:AM

First of all i'm sorry for the guy who claims Khamenei is "good"!!!! i think this guy suffers from masochism. Go to a psychologist... the unhappines of Iranians who live under horrible conditions in a country run by crazy Mullahs is all due to the fight between two "ideologies" ie "Communism" & "Capitalism" ie "USSR" & "USA". Iran was on the verge of becoming communist like Iraq and Afghanistan was. US brought the crazy Sadam and Taliban and of course the Mullahs to power to automatically destroy communism in these countries whereby to combat USSR and to avoid going to another Vietnam war.Now that there is no Communism US does not need Mullahs and Sadam and Taliban. US destroyed Sadam and Taliban but the main Evi ie the Mullahs are still in power and US does nothing to destroy them. Maybe in the near future... Who knows?

REPLY TO THIS | Number of replies:1

‡ RE: by muwahid islam as an ide...

He is the worse dictator in middle eat

by mohammad posted:02/23/2008 09:45:AM

beside what you mentioned in his profile I should add that nowadays police in his command arrest young girls for wearing boot! or their dress. they just recently cut the hands and legs of some iranian in Sistan and sentenced a boy to death for drinking wine. Iranian people are highly pressured both economically and socially. If you come to Iran please meet ordinary people not just those who go to friday pray!!

REPLY TO THIS | Number of replies:3

‡ RE: by muwahid he is the best ...

‡ [RE](#): by Fariborz Seyyed Ali Kham...

‡ [RE](#): by muwahid yeah possibly h...

[Add Comment](#) | [View All Comments](#) **Total: 11**



The World's Worst Dictators



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8. Pervez Musharraf

By David Wallechinsky
Published: February 17, 2008



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Pervez Musharraf

Country: Pakistan
Age: 64
In Power Since 1999
Last Year's Rank: 15

In recent months, Musharraf suspended Pakistan's constitution, shut down the courts, arrested several thousand dissidents and passed a law removing challenges to his continuation as president. He allowed former prime ministers Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto to return to Pakistan but barred Sharif from running in elections. Bhutto was assassinated—an act that some observers tie to Musharraf's government.

U.S. LINK: The U.S. considers Pakistan a valuable economic and political ally. Americans bought almost \$3 billion worth of Pakistani cotton clothing and fabrics in 2007. Even after Musharraf suspended the constitution, Bush said Musharraf had “advanced democracy in Pakistan.” The U.S. has given him more than \$7 billion in military aid in the last six years, which critics say has largely been spent on arms to fight India, not terrorists.

[« 6. Sayyid Ali Khamenei | 8. Islam Karimov »](#)

What Do You Think?

Is Pervez Musharraf one of the worst dictators in the world? Share your comments below.

Or, tell us who you would [add to the list.](#)

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Mushi is a curse over the Nation

by Muhammad posted:03/01/2008 12:30:AM

Musharraf isn't a dictator. Its a very polite word to be used for him rather he is a vindictive tyrant. His 8 long years dictatorship proved a curse for the nation that tarnished the lives of even middle class.The 8 long years of president Musharraf is now in worst crisis and the Govt's massive brag on economic statistics proved to be air balloons whose implications the country will find hard to grasp fully. Juggleries of words, fake economic figures, disastrous monetary policies and extensive corruption have pushed the nation towards long-lasting miseries and depression. Despite severe price-hike, unavailability of Atta (flour) in the markets and heavy load shedding (both gas & electricity), Musharraf is boasting economic stability. Worsening Law and order situation in the country, unemployment, poverty and dearth of justice has further made the common man under par. Little surprise then that the government has little time to worry about the people whose lives have been torn asunder by their erroneous policies. The curse of suicidal attacks all around, watching scenes of carnage, though it may be in Karachi, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Swat, Wana or Peshawar has further gloomed the picture. All the more, sacking of Supreme Court judges in the wake of emergency and killing of Benazir Bhutto has ruthlessly changed the social, judicial and political scene of ****stan but we still get the news from Govt corridors that all is okay. Today, the country faces grave economic and security problems: inflation is squeezing the people dry, and acts of terrorism have added to the public sense of insecurity. The Govt under president Musharraf failed to appear with a relief to the people since it had no roots in general public. Muhammad Zafar Khan Safdar - Puktoon khwa - ****stan

REPLY TO THIS | Number of replies:0

NO DICTATOR BUT A CURSE ON ****STANIS

by Muhammad posted:03/01/2008 12:23:AM

Musharraf isn't a dictator. Its a very polite word to be used for him rather he is a vindictive tyrant. His 8 long years dictatorship proved a curse for the nation that tarnished the lives of even middle class.The 8 long years of president Musharraf is now in worst crisis and the Govt's massive brag on economic statistics proved to be air balloons whose implications the country will find hard to grasp fully. Juggleries of words, fake economic figures, disastrous monetary policies and extensive corruption have pushed the nation towards long-lasting miseries and depression. Despite severe price-hike, unavailability of Atta (flour) in the markets and heavy load shedding (both gas & electricity), Musharraf is boasting economic stability. Worsening Law and order situation in the country, unemployment, poverty and death of justice has further made the common man under par. Little surprise then that the government has little time to worry about the people whose lives have been torn asunder by their erroneous policies. The curse of suicidal attacks all around, watching scenes of carnage, though it may be in Karachi, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Swat, Wana or Peshawar has further gloomed the picture. All the more, sacking of Supreme Court judges in the wake of emergency and killing of Benazir Bhutto has ruthlessly changed the social, judicial and political scene of ****stan but we still get the news from Govt corridors that all is okay. Today, the country faces grave economic and security problems: inflation is squeezing the people dry, and acts of terrorism have added to the public's sense of insecurity. The Govt under president Musharraf failed to appear with a relief to the people since it had no roots in general public.

REPLY TO THIS | Number of replies:0

Not only Dictator but Terrorist as well

by Atiq posted:02/16/2008 12:53:AM

If anyone call the "Musharra" dictator only then its not enough. He is well trained "TERRORIST" as well, using the Army's secret agencies to produce,promote militants groups and exploit them as "TALIBBAN". Infact, 90% bomb blast in last few years were either remote controled or time devices but were reported "Sucide Blasts" to attract the media attention and to remind the Western World that there are Islamic Activits in the country and that he is the only one to oppose them. Musharraf, you are bringing my homeland to a "failed State" and what you are doing is more than what the "HALAKU KHAN" did

[REPLY TO THIS](#) | **Number of replies:0**

Total: 3



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9. Islam Karimov

By David Wallechinsky
Published: February 17, 2008



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Islam Karimov
 Country: Uzbekistan
 Age: 70
 In Power Since 1989
 Last Year's Rank: 8

The Uzbek constitution imposes a two-term limit, but Karimov was elected to a third term in December. His government engages in routine torture of citizens and has subjected dissenters to forced psychiatric treatment.

U.S. LINK: The U.S. showed little interest in Uzbekistan until 9/11, when its 85-mile border with Afghanistan made it an appealing ally. Karimov allowed U.S. forces to use an Uzbek air base but kicked the Americans out after Bush criticized Karimov for ordering the massacre of hundreds of people. Nonetheless, U.S. imports have doubled since 2002 because Uzbekistan has a rich supply of uranium, which is needed for our power plants and weapons.

[« 8. Pervez Musharraf](#) | [10. Isayas Afewerki »](#)

What Do You Think?

Is Islam Karimov one of the worst dictators in the world? Share your comments below.

Or, tell us who you would [add to the list](#).

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Karimov's achievements for his people

by Martin posted:02/18/2008 10:22:AM

Despite suppressing dissent, particularly that of Islamists, and failing to root out corruption, President Karimov would probably be re-elected in a fair and open election. That's because Uzbeks appreciate their relative social stability, modest economic growth, and national independence since Karimov assumed power in 1991. This is the opinion of many of us who visit the country, although we also think he should make way for a democratic successor.

[REPLY TO THIS](#) | Number of replies:0

Total: 1



The World's Worst Dictators



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10. Isayas Afewerki

By David Wallechinsky
Published: February 17, 2008



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Isayas Afewerki
 Country: Eritrea
 Age: 62
 In Power Since 1991
 Last Year's Rank: 13

Afewerki's ban on privately owned media makes Eritrea one of the world's worst abusers of press freedom. During his rule, Afewerki has never allowed national elections or the implementation of a constitution.

U.S. LINK: The U.S. has provided aid and food to Eritrea, but Afewerki ordered American aid workers out in 2005. The U.S. still conducts trade with Eritrea, but it's largely limited to our country's export of sorghum.

[« 9. Islam Karimov](#) | [11. Muammar al-Qaddafi »](#)

What Do You Think?

Is Isayas Afewerki one of the worst dictators in the world? Share your comments below.

Or, tell us who you would [add to the list](#).

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IT DEPENDS WHERE THE INFORMATION COME FROM

by Awet posted:02/22/2008 09:08:PM

Mr.Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore also called a dictator.But he made Singapore one of the wealthiest countries in the region during his rule.Press freedom is the last thing in a hungry person's mind. What is wrong with a leader wanting his country to be self reliant. The heads of aid agencies do not like him or his administration because he wouldn't be part of their scheme to embezzle well intentioned aid money which most African leaders agree to enrich themselves. This president lives so modestly .

[REPLY TO THIS](#) | Number of replies:0

Isaias is abig-time dictator

by Tekle posted:02/19/2008 11:37:AM

The people of Eritrea (inside Eritrea)know full well that Isaias is one of the worst dicators in the world. The majority of diaspora Eritreas, for reasons I could not really understand, love to deny this fact.

[REPLY TO THIS](#) | Number of replies:0

SAM

by SAm posted:02/18/2008 01:00:PM

TYPO....I MEAN TO SAY I AGREE WITH MAYKO..THE COMMENT THAT WAS LEFT BELOW.

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11. Muammar al-Qaddafi

By David Wallechinsky
Published: February 17, 2008



Muammar al-Qaddafi

Country: Libya
Age: 65
In Power Since 1969
Last Year's Rank: 9

Long considered an enemy of the United States, Qaddafi has recently made peace with the West. The U.S. imported almost \$3 billion worth of Libyan oil last year, and the Libyans have purchased airplanes and oilfield equipment from our country.

[« 10. Isayas Afewerki](#) | [12. Bashar al-Assad »](#)

What Do You Think?

Is Muammar al-Qaddafi one of the worst dictators in the world? Share your comments below.

Or, tell us who you would [add to the list](#).

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12. Bashar al-Assad

By David Wallechinsky
Published: February 17, 2008



Bashar al-Assad

Country: Syria
Age: 42
In Power Since 2000
Last Year's Rank: 10

On the one hand, the United States considers Assad's government to be a supporter of Islamic terrorist organizations. On the other hand, in a well-documented case the U.S. kidnapped Syrian-Canadian Maher Arar and handed him over to Syrian authorities to be tortured and interrogated, before he was finally released without charge.

[« 11. Muammar al-Qaddafi | 13. Teodor Obiang Nguema »](#)

What Do You Think?

Is Bashar al-Assad one of the worst dictators in the world? Share your comments below.

Or, tell us who you would [add to the list](#).

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13. Teodoro Obiang Nguema

By David Wallechinsky
Published: February 17, 2008



Teodoro Obiang Nguema

Country: Equatorial Guinea
Age: 65
In Power Since 1979
Last Year's Rank: 11

U.S. oil companies enjoy good business relations with Obiang, and last year, the U.S.-based security firm MPRI signed a contract to train Obiang's personal Presidential Guard.

[« 12. Bashar al-Assad | 14. King Mswati III »](#)

What Do You Think?

Is Teodoro Obiang Nguema one of the worst dictators in the world? Share your comments below.

Or, tell us who you would [add to the list](#).

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14. King Mswati III

By David Wallechinsky
Published: February 17, 2008



King Mswati III

Country: Swaziland
Age: 39
In Power Since: 1986
Last Year's Rank: 12

King Mswati is the last remaining absolute monarch in Africa. The U.S. provides training for the king's defense forces through our International Military Education and Training program, and Swaziland has been declared eligible to receive military equipment through the U.S. Excess Defense Articles program. Alarming health fact: Swaziland has the world's highest rate of AIDS/HIV, with 25.9% of its citizens between ages 15 and 49 infected with the disease.

[« 13. Teodoro Obiang Nguema](#) | [15. Meles Zenawi »](#)

What Do You Think?

Is King Mswati III one of the worst dictators in the world? Share your comments below.

Or, tell us who you would [add to the list](#).

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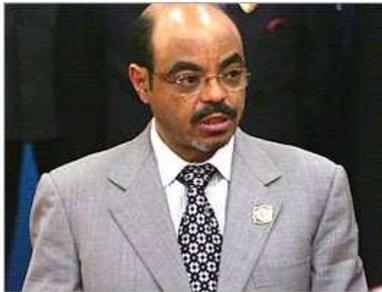
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15. Meles Zenawi

By David Wallechinsky
Published: February 17, 2008



Meles Zenawi

Country: Ethiopia
Age: 52
In Power Since 1995
Last Year's Rank: 17

When the United States became involved in the conflict in neighboring Somalia, it chose Ethiopia as its regional partner, providing support for former guerrilla leader Meles Zenawi. The U.S. has even given its approval to North Korea's Kim Jong-il to sell weapons to Meles Zenawi.

[« 14. King Mswati III](#) | [16. Aleksandr Lukashenka »](#)

What Do You Think?

Is Meles Zenawi one of the worst dictators in the world? Share your comments below.

Or, tell us who you would [add to the list](#).

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Meles zenawi " The prince of Darkness"

by Junior posted:03/12/2008 09:39:AM

Zenawi is the number one dictator more than anybody else. He ordered his security forces and killed thousands of people in Ethiopia. He will be accountable for his crimes in the near future. Death to Zenawi.

[REPLY TO THIS](#) | Number of replies:0

The Big Disaster of The Nation

by abdel Kerim posted:03/06/2008 04:02:AM

How on cam imagine that, the worst dictator of the world who hates the land as well as the people of Ethiopia, be ranked @ the 15th. No, to be genuine he deserves the first rank. He is the disaster given to our land. Even i do not have words to express his evil deeds. But one day in the near future he will face justice. Insha alah.

[REPLY TO THIS](#) | Number of replies:0

Meles- A walking Evil!

by Jerrico posted:02/24/2008 10:19:AM

I am quite impressed with the 15th grading for this Evil...I can't imagine a leader any worse than this...This man has ruined our nation. He will have to stand before court for the blood shed he has brought to the nation...and that too in not too long!! Parade...do revise your criteria and please don't deny him the first place he deserves in the rally for Dictatorship!!

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16. Aleksandr Lukashenka

By David Wallechinsky
Published: February 17, 2008



Aleksandr Lukashenka

Country: Belarus
Age: 53
In Power Since 1994
Last Year's Rank: 14

Lukashenka is Europe's only dictator and is considered a pariah on the international scene. In November, the U.S. Treasury Department announced new sanctions against certain Belarusian businesses. Nonetheless, U.S. trade with Lukashenka's country has actually increased for eight straight years, driven by American purchases of oil and potash (a kind of fertilizer).

[« 15. Meles Zenawi | 17. Hosni Mubarak »](#)

What Do You Think?

Is Aleksandr Lukashenka one of the worst dictators in the world? Share your comments below.

Or, tell us who you would [add to the list](#).

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This country needs change!!!

by George posted:02/17/2008 12:14:PM

Belarus is abundant in well educated people. Most western businesses have left (Ford) due to the high cost of Lukashenka's government. He has sights on the Russian Presidency, but it is unlikely. Freedom to choose it's leaders could propel Belarus to great productivity in the future.

[REPLY TO THIS](#) | Number of replies:0

Belarus

by Dom posted:02/15/2008 10:08:AM

Sounds like a bad dude.

[REPLY TO THIS](#) | Number of replies:1

‡ [RE:](#) by George You are right

Total: 3



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17. Hosni Mubarak

By David Wallechinsky
Published: February 17, 2008



Hosni Mubarak
 Country: Egypt
 Age: 79
 In Power Since 1981
 Last Year's Rank: 18

According to the U.S. State Department, Mubarak has the ability to transfer any criminal case from the civilian judicial system to a military court, and the use of torture by his officials is common. In recent months journalists have been jailed for “insulting the president.” The U.S. gives Egypt \$2 billion in aid a year, including \$1.3 billion in military assistance.

[« 16. Aleksandr Lukashenka](#) | [18. Raul Castro »](#)

What Do You Think?

Is Hosni Mubarak one of the worst dictators in the world? Share your comments below.

Or, tell us who you would [add to the list](#).

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He belongs here, but...

by Jasper posted:02/15/2008 04:22:PM

He belongs here, but Ehud Olmert has killed a lot more people. Yes, Olmert was elected, but most of the people who were born in his country are not able to vote as they have been expelled and/or denied citizenship.

[REPLY TO THIS](#) | Number of replies:0

Total: 1



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18. Raúl Castro

By David Wallechinsky
Published: February 17, 2008



Raúl Castro

Country: Cuba
Age: 76
In Power Since 2006
Last Year's Rank: Unranked

Due to health problems, Fidel Castro transferred power to younger brother Raúl in 2006. Even before that, Raúl had long been in charge of Cuba's military, which also manages GAESA, a huge conglomerate of Cuban businesses involved in tourism, mining, consulting, construction and international trade. Although the U.S. government maintains a strict ban on importing goods from Cuba, U.S. exports to Cuba, primarily food products, have grown from \$7 million in 2001 to about \$400 million in 2007.

The Castro regime also keeps a stranglehold on the media. Since 2003, some 24 journalists have been imprisoned and three foreign reporters were forced to leave the country, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. No publication is permitted to criticize the government.

[« 17. Hosni Mubarak](#) | [19. Choummaly Sayasone »](#)

What Do You Think?

Is Raul Castro one of the worst dictators in the world? Share your comments below.

Or, tell us who you would [add to the list](#).

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Worst Dictator

by Raymond posted:02/19/2008 07:11:PM

Is he one of the worst dictators? Absolutely. As far as ranking, if you go by longevity, 50 years as right-hand henchman to his brother would probably win him the #1 spot hands down. However, I'm not sure how this survey is structured. If, though, you simply base the rankings on the indescribable levels of misery endured by the dictator's countrymen, then I would probably have to say that Mr. North Korea is numero uno. But in my book, however, Raul (and the not-dead-yet Fidel) would rank a close second.

[REPLY TO THIS](#) | **Number of replies:0**

worst dictators

by Ann posted:02/18/2008 01:33:PM

Fidel Castro is the one who has been there so long. He should be #1. He is the worst. Just what they did to Saddam Hussien should have been done to him. He is one and the same. He has murdered, tortured and imprisoned many innocent people and yet he is allowed to do it and no one does anything about it. He is still in control not Raul. When will we free those people from that insane dictator?

[REPLY TO THIS](#) | **Number of replies:0**

Raul Castro

by carlos posted:02/17/2008 05:57:PM

Fidel Castro is still in control of everything that happens in Cuba... and he has been doing this for almost 50 years. By far, more time that the rest of the dictators that you mentioned. No disagreements is publicly expressed or long years in prison, without a trial or adequate representation. Thousands of people rot in cuban jails.... what it is up to you, people??? don't you read the news. Shame on you that the Number One Dictator of the world you didn't put Fidel Castro!

[REPLY TO THIS](#) | **Number of replies:1**

‡ [RE:](#) by Luis The Castro dict...

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19. Choummaly Sayasone

By David Wallechinsky
Published: February 17, 2008



Choummaly Sayasone

Country: Laos
Age: 71
In Power Since 2006
Last Year's Rank: 16

Laos is run by an old-fashioned Communism Party headed by elderly men, and Choummaly Sayasone sits at the top. Between 1964 and 1973, the U.S. dropped two million tons of bombs on Laos—1 000 pounds of explosives for every man, woman and children in the country. Twenty-five years later, the two nations are friendly, and trade between the U.S. and Laos doubled over the last year.

[« 18. Raul Castro](#) | [20. Idriss Deby »](#)

What Do You Think?

Is Choummaly Sayasone one of the worst dictators in the world? Share your comments below.

Or, tell us who you would [add to the list.](#)

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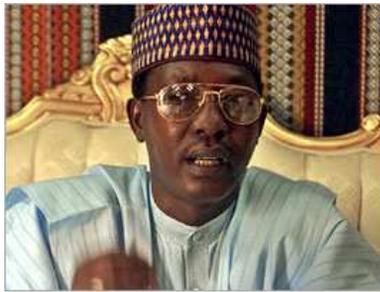
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20. Idriss Déby

By David Wallechinsky
Published: February 17, 2008



Idriss Déby

Country: Chad
Age: 55
In Power Since 1990
Last Year's Rank: Unranked

The United States has criticized Déby's government for a wide range of human-rights abuses, including the use of torture, politically-motivated disappearances and life-threatening prison conditions. However, Chad is a major producer of oil, and last year the U.S. bought about \$2 billion worth of the product from it.

[« 19. Choummaly Sayasone | 'Dictators' Home »](#)

What Do You Think?

Is Idriss Deby one of the worst dictators in the world? Share your comments below.

Or, tell us who you would [add to the list](#).

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