

BTI 2024 COUNTRY REPORT

by ertelsmann Stiftung · Language: EN

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Overview

The BTI 2024 Country Report, published by the Bertelsmann Stiftung, offers a comprehensive and comparative analysis of the quality of democracy, market economy, and governance in 137 developing and transition countries. This edition continues the long-standing tradition of the Bertelsmann Transformation Index, providing a detailed assessment based on expert surveys and quantitative data collected over several years. The report systematically evaluates the progress and setbacks in political and economic transformation, identifying global and regional trends that shape the developmental trajectories of nations striving for sustainable development and democratic consolidation. It serves as a crucial tool for understanding the complex dynamics of societal change across diverse contexts, offering a nuanced perspective on the challenges and opportunities for reform.

The main argument of the BTI 2024 report likely centers on the continued erosion of democratic norms and institutions in many parts of the world, often accompanied by a decline in the quality of governance and the rule of law. It examines how external shocks, such as global pandemics, geopolitical conflicts, and economic instability, have significantly impacted these transformation processes, frequently exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and hindering reform efforts. The report underscores the critical importance of effective, accountable governance, robust rule of law, and inclusive social policies in navigating these multifaceted challenges and fostering resilient societies capable of adapting to a rapidly changing global landscape. By providing granular data, expert analysis, and comparative insights, the BTI 2024 aims to inform policymakers, civil society organizations, and researchers about the current state of global transformation and to stimulate evidence-based policy responses to promote democratic and market-economic development.

Key Takeaways

- Global democratic backsliding continues, with many countries experiencing a decline in political rights and civil liberties.
- The quality of governance, including administrative capacity and corruption control, remains a critical determinant of successful transformation.
- External shocks like pandemics and conflicts have significantly hindered reform efforts and exacerbated existing vulnerabilities in many nations.

- Market economy reforms show mixed results, with some countries achieving economic stability while others struggle with social inequality and structural deficits.
- The rule of law is increasingly under pressure, impacting judicial independence and the protection of fundamental rights in numerous states.
- Social inclusion and equity are vital for sustainable transformation, yet many countries face growing disparities and limited opportunities for marginalized groups.
- International cooperation and support are essential for countries striving to overcome transformation challenges and consolidate democratic gains.

Chapter Summaries

Executive Summary and Global Trends

This section provides an overarching summary of the report's key findings, highlighting the most significant global trends observed in democratic, economic, and governance transformation across the 137 assessed countries. It offers a concise overview of the overall state of political and economic development worldwide, emphasizing areas of progress and major setbacks.

Methodology and Indicators

This chapter details the analytical framework, including the criteria, indicators, and expert survey process employed by the Bertelsmann Stiftung to assess the quality of democracy, market economy, and governance. It explains how data is collected, evaluated, and aggregated to ensure a consistent and comparative analysis across all countries.

State of Democracy and Political Transformation

This part analyzes the status of political participation, rule of law, stability of democratic institutions, and political culture in the assessed countries. It identifies patterns of democratic consolidation, stagnation, or backsliding, examining the factors that contribute to these trends and their implications for citizens' rights and freedoms.

Market Economy and Economic Transformation

This section examines the performance of market-based economies in the developing and transition countries, including aspects like economic stability, welfare regimes, and environmental sustainability. It discusses the challenges of fostering inclusive growth, reducing poverty, and managing structural economic reforms amidst global economic pressures.

Governance Performance and Steering Capability

This chapter assesses the effectiveness of governments in steering reforms, their resource efficiency, capacity for consensus-building, and engagement in international cooperation. It evaluates how well political leaderships manage transformation processes and implement policies to achieve democratic and market-economic goals.

Regional Overviews and Comparative Analysis

This section offers in-depth regional analyses, comparing transformation trends and challenges within different geographical areas, such as Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe, and Asia. It highlights specific regional dynamics, common obstacles, and varying paces of reform among countries in similar contexts.

Challenges, Outlook, and Policy Recommendations

The concluding chapter discusses the major obstacles to successful transformation, provides an outlook on anticipated future developments, and offers concrete policy recommendations. These recommendations are aimed at national governments, international organizations, and civil society actors to address identified issues and promote sustainable democratic and market-economic development.

Themes

- Democratic backsliding
- Economic transformation
- Governance quality
- Rule of law
- Social inclusion
- Political stability

Frequently Asked Questions

What is BTI 2024 COUNTRY REPORT about?

The BTI 2024 Country Report assesses the quality of democracy, market economy, and governance in 137 developing and transition countries. It provides a comprehensive, comparative analysis of their progress and setbacks in political and economic transformation, identifying global and regional trends.

Is BTI 2024 COUNTRY REPORT worth reading?

Yes, it is highly valuable for anyone interested in global development, political science, and economics. It offers data-driven insights, expert analysis, and a comparative perspective on the state of transformation worldwide, making it a crucial resource for research and policy.

How does BTI 2024 COUNTRY REPORT end?

Spoiler: The report concludes with an analysis of major challenges to transformation, an outlook on future trends, and a set of policy recommendations for national governments and international actors to address identified issues. It does not have a narrative ending.

Who should read BTI 2024 COUNTRY REPORT?

Policymakers, researchers, academics, students of political science and development studies, journalists, and professionals in non-governmental organizations focused on democracy, human rights, and economic development will find this report highly relevant.

How long does it take to read BTI 2024 COUNTRY REPORT?

Given its comprehensive nature, reading the main analytical report thoroughly could take approximately 8-10 hours, depending on reading speed and the depth of engagement with the detailed country assessments.