

# Wealth Year 1500



The University of Sheffield.

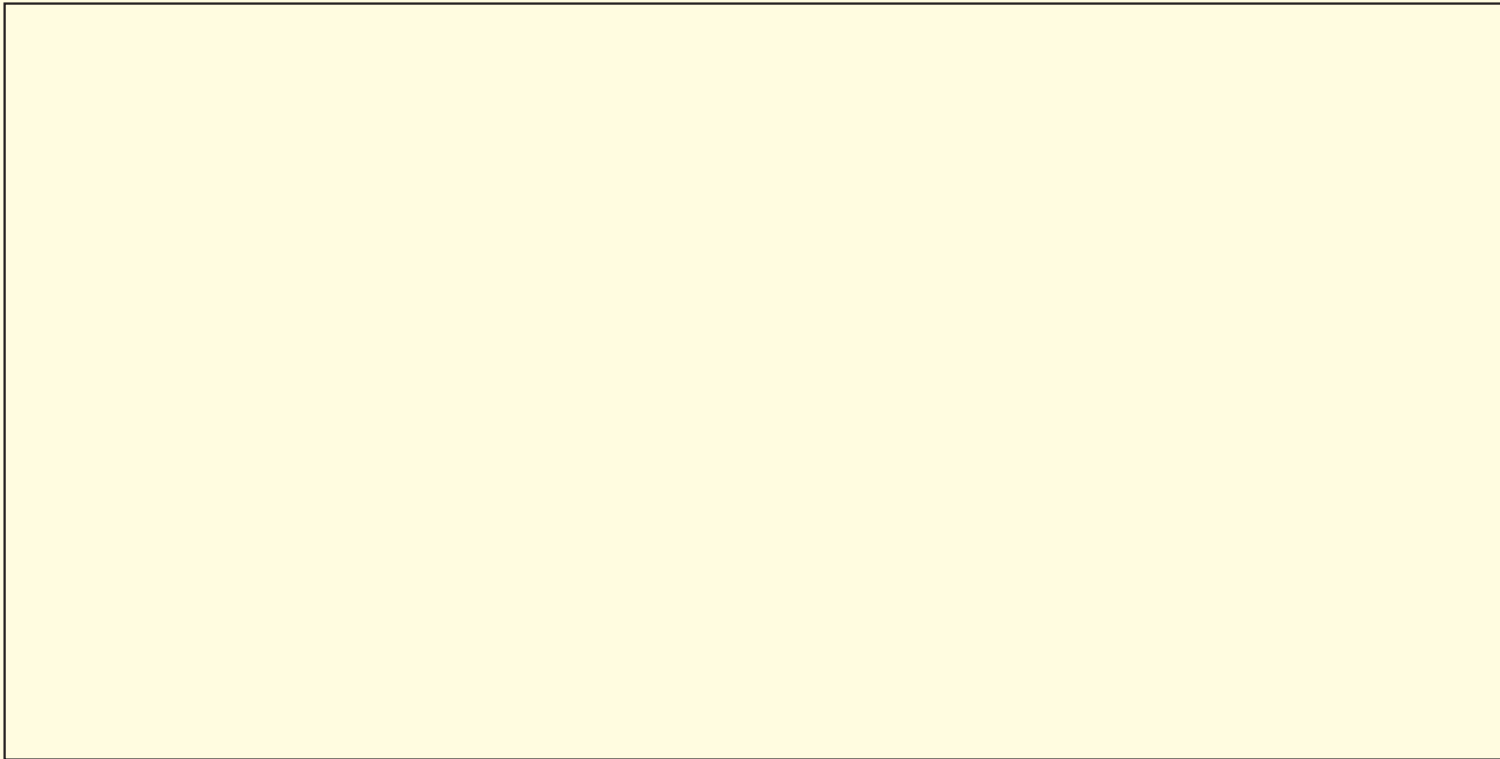


The Leverhulme Trust



Geographical Association

Produced by the SASI group (Sheffield) and Mark Newman (Michigan)

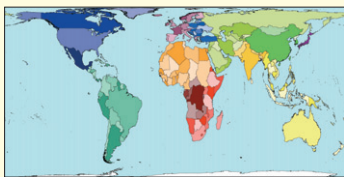


In the year 1500 European territories were some of the wealthiest on earth, when measured by the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per person.

The regions with the largest total GDPs were Eastern Asia and Southern Asia. These were also the most populous regions at that time.

The regions with the lowest GDP in 1500 were Central Africa and Southeastern Africa. These regions also had the lowest GDP per person. In 2002 these regions enjoyed an even smaller proportion of the world total GDP expressed in purchasing power parity dollars than they did in 1500.

Territory size shows the proportion of worldwide Gross Domestic Product equalised in US\$ in purchasing power parity that was produced there in 1500.



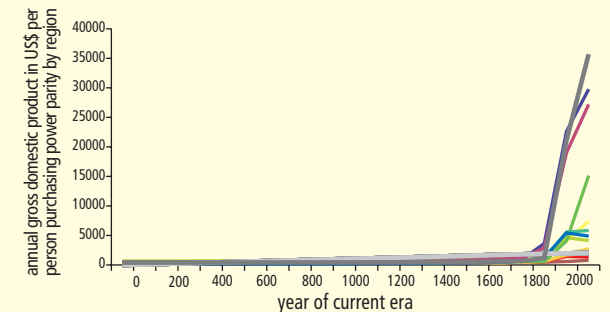
Land area

## TOP TEN AND OTHER NOTABLE RATES OF WEALTH PER PERSON IN YEAR 1500

Rank	Territory	Value	Rank	Territory	Value
1	Italy	1100	11	Norway	640
2	Belgium	875	12	Switzerland	632
3	Netherlands	761	21	Portugal	606
4	Denmark	738	23	China	600
5	France	727	53	India	550
6	United Kingdom	714	60	Ireland	526
7	Austria	707	61	Japan	500
8	Sweden	695	65	Iraq	499
9	Germany	688	86	Turkey	496
10	Spain	661	106	Egypt	475

US\$ of Gross Domestic Product in purchasing power parity per person in 1500\*

## TIMELINE OF WORLD WEALTH



### Technical notes

- Data are from Angus Maddison's 2003 The World Economy.
- Gross Domestic Product is measured in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) US\$, thus PPP US\$1 has the same purchasing power in every territory. This PPP is in 1990 prices.
- See website for further information.

*“Slaves captured in raids and war grew in importance as a commodity ... Kola nuts ... were also important, as were the dyestuffs of northern Nigeria. All these goods were highly prized in and around the Mediterranean basin.”*

Richard Effland, 2003