

## RR 54- Appendix A: Academic Freedom

Appendix A includes brief annotations and URLs for each chapter in [New Threats to Academic Freedom in Asia](#). **Table 2** ranks the top 10 countries in the world for freedoms in the five indexes. **Table 3** has the top 10 from the 22 countries in East Asia. There is a stand-alone Table 4 that has complete results for East Asia.

### ***New Threats to Academic Freedom in Asia***

The book uses “Asia” to cover the countries in East and Southeast Asia, highlighting Japan, Singapore, China, and Indonesia. The introduction provides an overview of each chapter. For those who like data, I recommend Chapter One, which has the broadest coverage of countries.

**Table of contents** with links to chapters in *New Threats to Academic Freedom in Asia*:

**Introduction** – Progress under threat: Academic freedom in Asia: An overview of each chapter, highlighting the challenges to academic freedom in East Asia (Gueorguiev)

<https://www.asianstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/Introduction-Dimitar-Gueorguiev.pdf>

**Chapter 1** Academic Freedom in Asia 1900-2021: A quantitative overview including results from AFI, covering a cross-national and cross-regional overview of academic freedom in Asia over time. It covers the broadest range of countries in the region, disaggregating data from [V-Dem’s](#) Academic Freedom index (AFI). The regional average is below the world average. Only MENA (Middle East and Africa) has lower scores. Countries that have deteriorated over time include India, Thailand, and Hong Kong. According to V-dem regime types, political polarization, and lack of institutional autonomy are factors in negative trends. (Kinzelbach), <https://www.asianstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/Chapter-One-Katrin-Kinzelbach.pdf>

**Chapter 2** - Contesting academic freedom in **Japan**: Threats to academic freedom in Japan are deeply rooted in the way academic institutions and academic funding are dependent on the state (Kingston), <https://www.asianstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/Chapter-Two-Jeff-Kingston.pdf>

**Chapter 3** - The state of academic freedom in **Singapore’s** world-beating universities (George, Chong, and Ang) summarized in article, <https://www.asianstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/Chapter-Three-George-Chong-Ang.pdf> (George, Chong, & Ang ).

**Chapter 4** - Academic freedom in **China**: An empirical inquiry through the lens of student informants (Jiang ), <https://www.asianstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/Chapter-Four-Jiang.pdf>

**Chapter 5** – In the name of the nation: Restrictions on academic freedom in contemporary **Indonesian** higher education (Nugroho). I found this chapter interesting since the government issued a new criminal code in December 2022 (Yamin). Indonesia is eight out of 22 eastern Asian countries. Its academic freedom score has changed over time with changes in the government. With an upcoming election in 2024, it is not known how the criminal code will be used by the future administration. According to Nugroho, caution is needed in all the topics that she mentions in the chapter <https://www.asianstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/Chapter-Five-Nugroho.pdf>

**Afterward** – Canary in a coal mine, the impact of China’s National Security Law (NSL) on academic freedom in the UK and other countries (Thornton), <https://www.asianstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/Afterword-Thornton.pdf>. The chapter includes the results of a survey quantifying the impact of laws such as the NSL on researchers. (University of Exeter).

Although there is no chapter on India, it is covered in the introduction and in Chapter One. Recent articles involving Modi and the [BBC](#) raise additional concerns about India (Wright).

**FREEDOM INDEXES** are at a country level. [RR 21](#) introduced them in conjunction with flagship universities and updated them in [RR 48 Part 2](#), new indicators. The indexes publish background information, with data and visualizations. AFI, now released by [V-Dem](#), is the only index specifically designed to measure academic freedom. It uses five categories of freedoms:

- Freedom to research & teach
- Freedom of academic exchange & dissemination
- Institutional autonomy of universities
- Campus integrity
- Freedom of academic & cultural expression

The entire dataset is available for download.

**Top Countries in the world:** Table 2 lists the top ten countries in the world across the five indexes. What do these countries have in common? Most are from northern Europe with populations around the world median of 6 million (US Census) and in the top 25% of gross national income per capita (World Bank). Using US News Global, 15 universities from these 24 top-ranked countries are in the world’s top 10.

**RR 54 Appendix A - Table 2: Top countries in the world in five freedom indexes**

Rank	AFI	HFI	DI	Freedom House	RSF
	177	165	165	210	180
1	Germany	Switzerland	Norway	Norway	Norway
2	Italy	New Zealand	New Zealand	Finland	Denmark
3	Slovakia	Estonia	Iceland	Sweden	Sweden
4	Sweden	Denmark	Sweden	New Zealand	Estonia
5	Switzerland	Ireland	Finland	Canada	Finland
6	Estonia	Sweden	Denmark	Denmark	Ireland
7	Argentina	Iceland	Switzerland	Netherlands	Portugal
8	Luxembourg	Finland	Ireland	Uruguay	Costa Rica
9	Belgium	Netherlands	Netherlands	Ireland	Lithuania
10	Peru	Luxembourg	Taiwan	Luxembourg	Liechtenstein

**NOTES:** Highlighted countries appear in more than one ranking. Sweden is in the top ten for all five indexes, followed by Denmark, Ireland, and Finland in four, and Switzerland, Estonia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, and New Zealand in three. 11 countries are in the top 10 in the world in more than one of the indexes. These 11 countries have a total population of less than one percent of the world’s population. Overall, 17 of those ranked in the top 10 are in Europe. Readers interested in a European perspective can listen to “Rebuilding history, (re) building the nation - no freedom for academics” (Popović).

**Countries in East Asia:** Results are different for East Asia, with the number one county rankings ranging from 10 to 42 in the world and the tenth from 66 to 139. 19 countries have populations larger than the world’s median and just five have Gross National Income per capita in the world top 50 (World Bank). Bhutan, India, and Nepal are in the bottom 30 percent in income and literacy and Bhutan and Nepal each rank first in an index. **Appendix C** includes rankings for all 22 East Asian countries.

**Table 3 – Top Countries in East Asia**

RR 54 Appendix A - Table 3: Top countries in East Asia in five freedom indexes

	AFI	HFI	DI	Freedom House	RSF
	177	165	165	210	180
1	Nepal	Taiwan	Taiwan	Japan	Bhutan
2	Mongolia	Japan	Japan	Taiwan	Taiwan
3	South Korea	South Korea	South Korea	Mongolia	South Korea
4	Taiwan	Hong Kong	Malaysia	South Korea	Japan
5	Philippines	Singapore	India	India	Nepal
6	Japan	Mongolia	Philippines	Bhutan	Mongolia
7	Sri Lanka	Malaysia	Indonesia	Indonesia	Malaysia
8	Indonesia	Nepal	Thailand	Nepal	Thailand
9	Pakistan	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	Philippines	Indonesia
10	Singapore	Bhutan	Mongolia	Sri Lanka	Singapore

**Something to think about:** After mapping these countries to population, income, and literacy I asked myself “How important are these freedoms in day-to-day quality of life? “US News ranks the quality of life and China is 25 out of 85. <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/rankings/quality-of-life>

**RESOURCES**

EIU (2 Feb 2023). Democracy Index 2022: Frontline democracy and the battle for Ukraine – <https://www.eiu.com/n/campaigns/democracy-index-2022>

Freedom House [https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/FIW\\_2022\\_PDF\\_Booklet\\_Digital\\_Final\\_Web.pdf](https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/FIW_2022_PDF_Booklet_Digital_Final_Web.pdf)  
 Rankings: <https://freedomhouse.org/countries/nations-transit/scores>

George, C, Chong, J.I., & Ang S. (29 Nov 2022) "Universities In Singapore; climbing world rankings while reigning in academic freedom". Academic Views, <https://www.academia.sg/academic-views/rankings-and-academic-freedom/>

Kinzelbach, K., Lindberg, S.I, et.al (2022) **Academic Freedom Index 2022 Update**, <https://www.pol.phil.fau.eu/files/2022/03/AFi-update-2022.pdf>

RSF's World Press Freedom Index: A new era of polarisation (May 2022). Released annually on May third, UNESCO's World Press Freedom day, <https://rsf.org/en/rsf-s-2022-world-press-freedom-index-new-era-polarisation-0>

Spannagel, J & Kinzelbach, K. (13 Oct 2022). The Academic Freedom Index and its indicators: Introduction to new global time-series V-Dem data. *Quality and Quantity*, <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11135-022-01544-0>

RR 21 Flagship universities in Asia: From Bibliometrics to Econometrics to Social Indicators ( 22 Oct. 2016). <https://librarylearningspace.com/ruths-rankings-21-flagship-universities-asia-bibliometrics-econometrics-social-indicators/> - lists other country level indicators in Table 21.4 <https://librarylearningspace.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Table-21.4-Freedom.pdf>

RR 48 Part 2 (31 Dec 2022). County and company environmental rankings... <https://librarylearningspace.com/ruths-rankings-48-part-2-country-and-company-environmental-rankings-add-new-sets-of-indicators-to-our-vocabulary>

United States Census ( 2023). [https://www.census.gov/data-tools/demo/idb/#/table?COUNTRY\\_YEAR=2023&COUNTRY\\_YR\\_ANIM=2023](https://www.census.gov/data-tools/demo/idb/#/table?COUNTRY_YEAR=2023&COUNTRY_YR_ANIM=2023)

University of Exeter (22 Feb 2022). Over two-thirds of UK social scientists warn their academic freedom is under threat, a new study shows, <https://www.fenews.co.uk/education/over-two-thirds-of-uk-social-scientists-warn-their-academic-freedom-is-under-threat-new-study-shows/>

Vasquez, I. et al. (26 Jan 2023). **Human Freedom Index** : A global measurement of Personal, Civil, and Economic Freedom - Cato and Fraser are [Libertarian](#) think tanks that prioritize the lack of government intervention. The index uses V-Dem for some of its personal freedom metrics. <https://www.cato.org/sites/cato.org/files/2023-01/human-freedom-index-2022.pdf>

World Bank (21 Nov 2022)., GNI Per Capita ranking, Atlas method and PPP based, <https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/search/dataset/0038128/GNI-per-capita-ranking--Atlas-method-and-PPP-based>

Wright, G. (15 Feb 2023). BBC India offices searched by income tax officials. *BBC News*, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-64634711>