

Social tolerance under harsh conditions

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What is tolerance?

A complex, multidimensional phenomenon, has been extensively studied and discussed in psychological and sociological literature since 1960-ies.

In general, tolerance is an acceptance of others with mutual respect and understanding.

According to The Declaration of Principles on Tolerance, proclaimed and signed by the Member States of UNESCO, tolerance as “an active attitude” and “a responsibility that upholds human rights, pluralism (including cultural pluralism), democracy and the rule of law”.

The Article 1 of the Declaration states that tolerance is respect, acceptance and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world's cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human.

Is it still possible to add anything to the discussion?

Yes, at least there are two reasons:

1. A crisis of multi-cultural society in the West;
2. Contradiction between specific regional studies and wider scale comparative research findings supporting cultural and economic modernization theories.

Why “social tolerance” term is used in this research project?

Tolerance implies non-violent behavior, and the object of tolerant attitude may vary. A tolerant individual is ready to tolerate a person or a social group, that provoke irritation, dissatisfaction, anger. Social tolerance is synonymous to intercultural dialog, peaceful co-habitation, consensus in multicultural setting etc. Social tolerance is a necessity for peace and for the economic and social advancement of any country. It is a topical issue for many countries nowadays: a preventive aspect of research relevance of social tolerance is associated with the elaboration of social policy measures for the fight with the extreme manifestations of intolerance, such as terrorism, extremism, ethnic intolerance, xenophobia, and others.

What contributes to tolerance?

Various factors of social, economic, psychological, educational, environmental nature, like respondents' level of income, subjective well-being, social status, region of residence, basic values, nationality etc.

“Xenophobia thrives under conditions of rapid change and insecurity” (R. Inglehart)

“Along with trust, subjective well-being, political activism and self-expression, tolerance is intrinsic to post-industrial societies with high levels of existential security” (R. Inglehart, C. Welzel)

Initially, the project addressed the problem of social tolerance in societies under “harsh”, or difficult, conditions, such as existential insecurity, environmental threats, poverty, low quality of life, crime threat, considerable social differentiation, political instability, state of war and other harsh circumstances.

Still, not all developed and secure states are characterized by high levels of tolerance to out-groups. Apart from economics, security and quality of life, cultural factors, like long tradition of positive cultural contacts, long-standing multicultural communication due to heterogenous ethnic composition also may have significant impact on social tolerance.

Moreover, even in highly insecure environment, which provokes stress reactions to everyday challenges, people are able to adapt psychologically to social change, new norms, harsh environment, adjust to new challenges of life.

Data:

WVS 5th wave (52 countries); composite global indices of social, economic and political development; national statistics data (UN, World bank).

Variables used for social tolerance index

9 indicators on tolerance, “On this list are various groups of people. Could you please sort out any that you would not like to have as neighbors?” asked in 52 countries in the 5th wave:

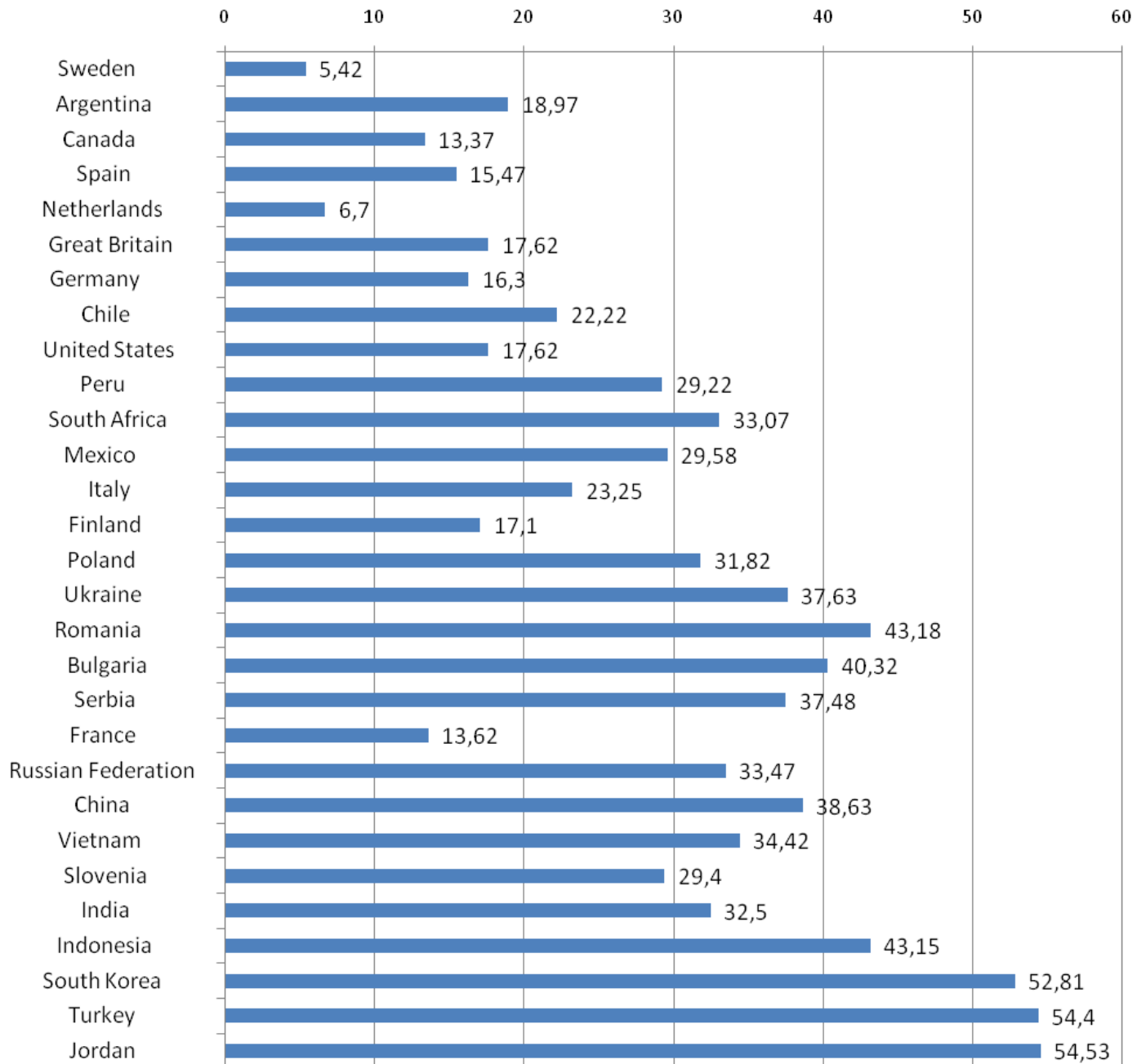
- People of a different race;
- Heavy drinkers;
- Immigrants/foreign workers;
- People who have AIDS;
- Neighbours: Drug addicts;
- Neighbours: Homosexuals;
- Neighbours: People of a different religion;
- Neighbours: Unmarried couples living together;
- Neighbours: People who speak a different language.

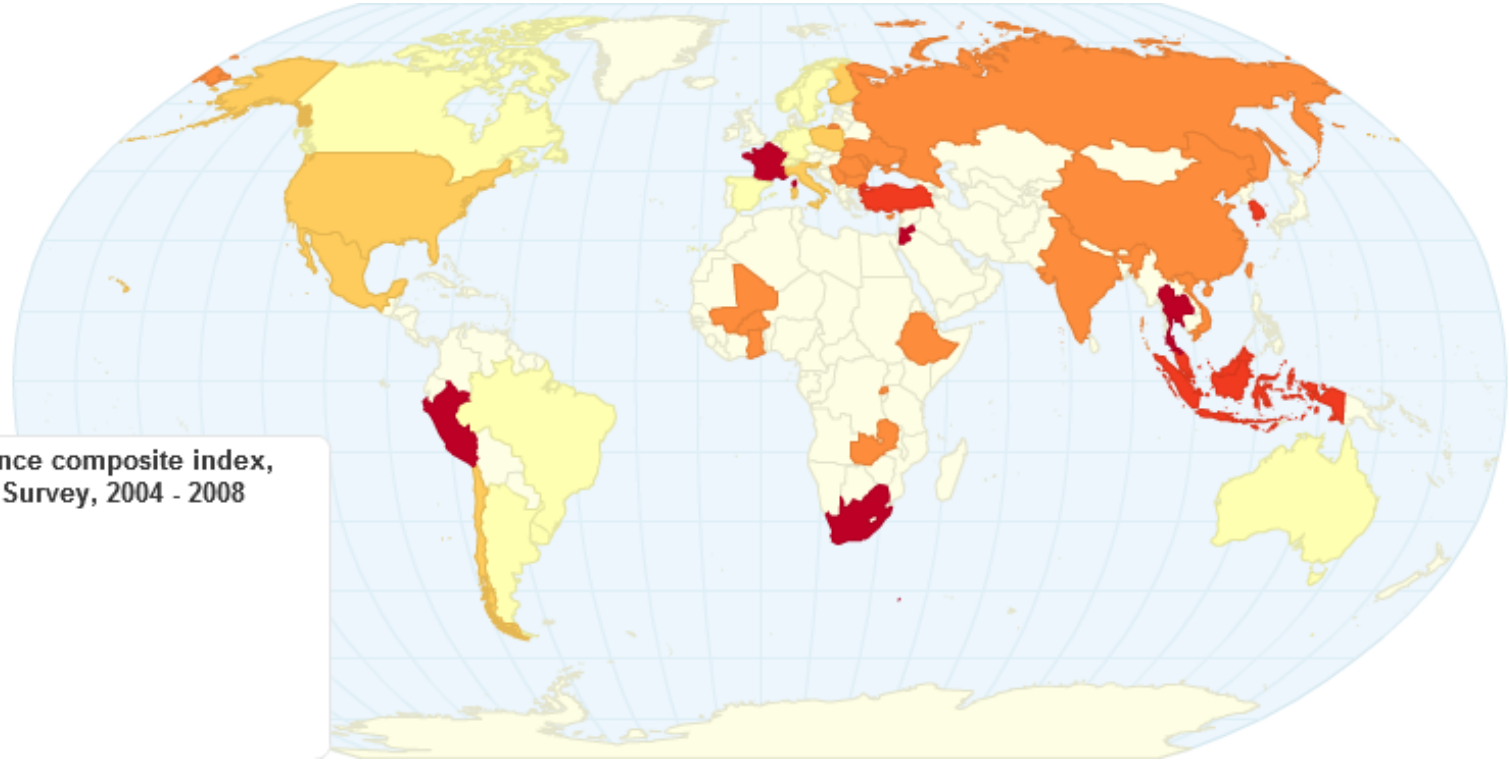
Composite tolerance indexes:

- Social tolerance index (factor scores, 9 indicators, wave 5)
- Overall tolerance index (constructed for the project "Democratic Citizenship and Good Governance" by Prof. Ch. Welzel)
- Global tolerance index (WVS, 2005; Das J., DiRienzo C., & Tiemann T. , 2008)
- R. Florida`s tolerance index (WVS, 2005)
- Tolerance of different origins (a composite index, mean values, VWS, 5th wave)
- Tolerance of different ways of life (a composite index, mean values, VWS, 5th wave)

	Social intolerance index (factor scores 9 indicators wave 5)
Social tolerance mean	,955**
Overall tolerance composite index	-,949**
Tolerance of different origins	-,946**
Tolerance of different ways of life	-,863**
Global Tolerance Index 2005	,814**
Florida`s Tolerance Index 2005	-,449*

R. Florida's global tolerance index (2005)

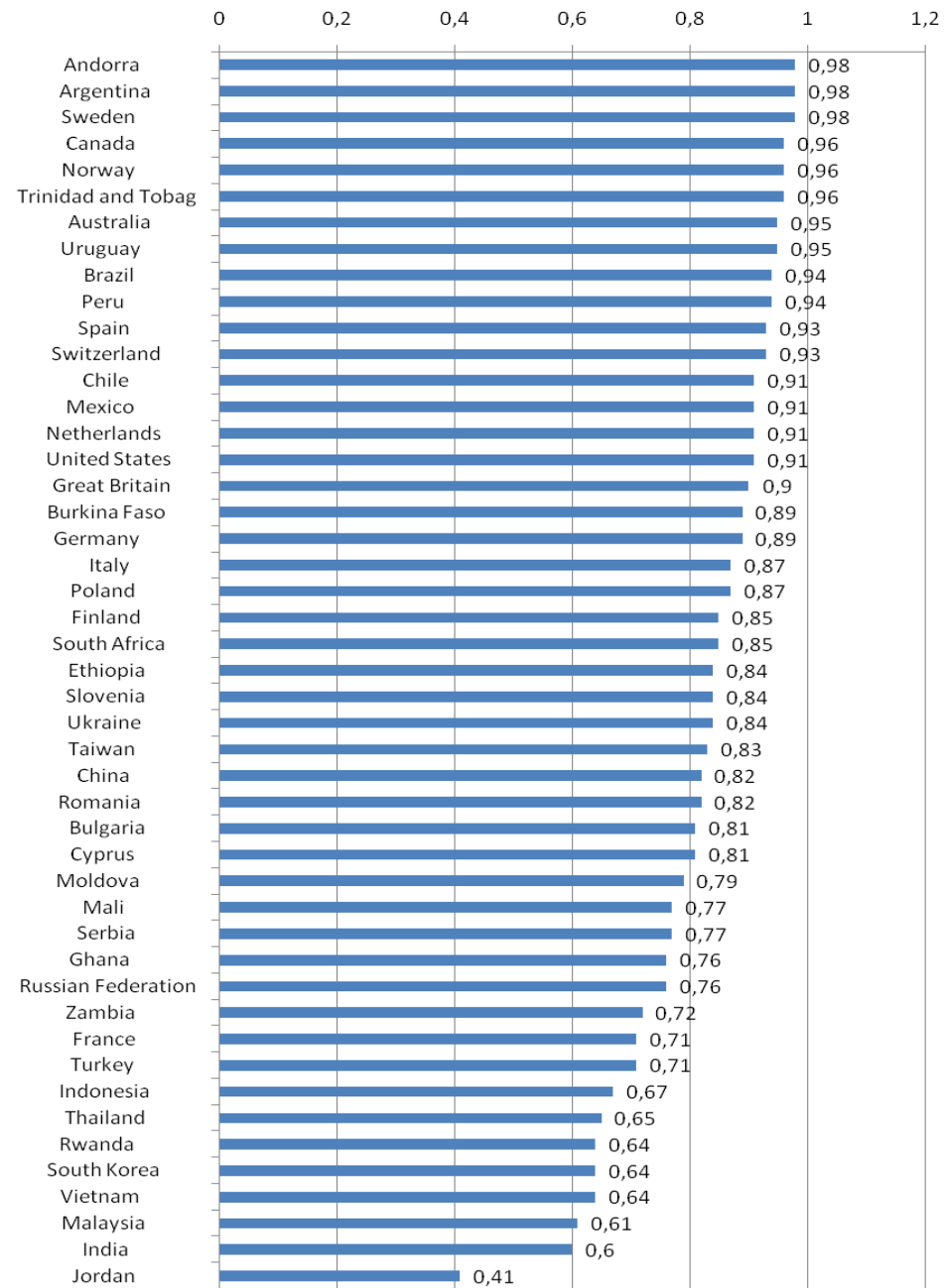




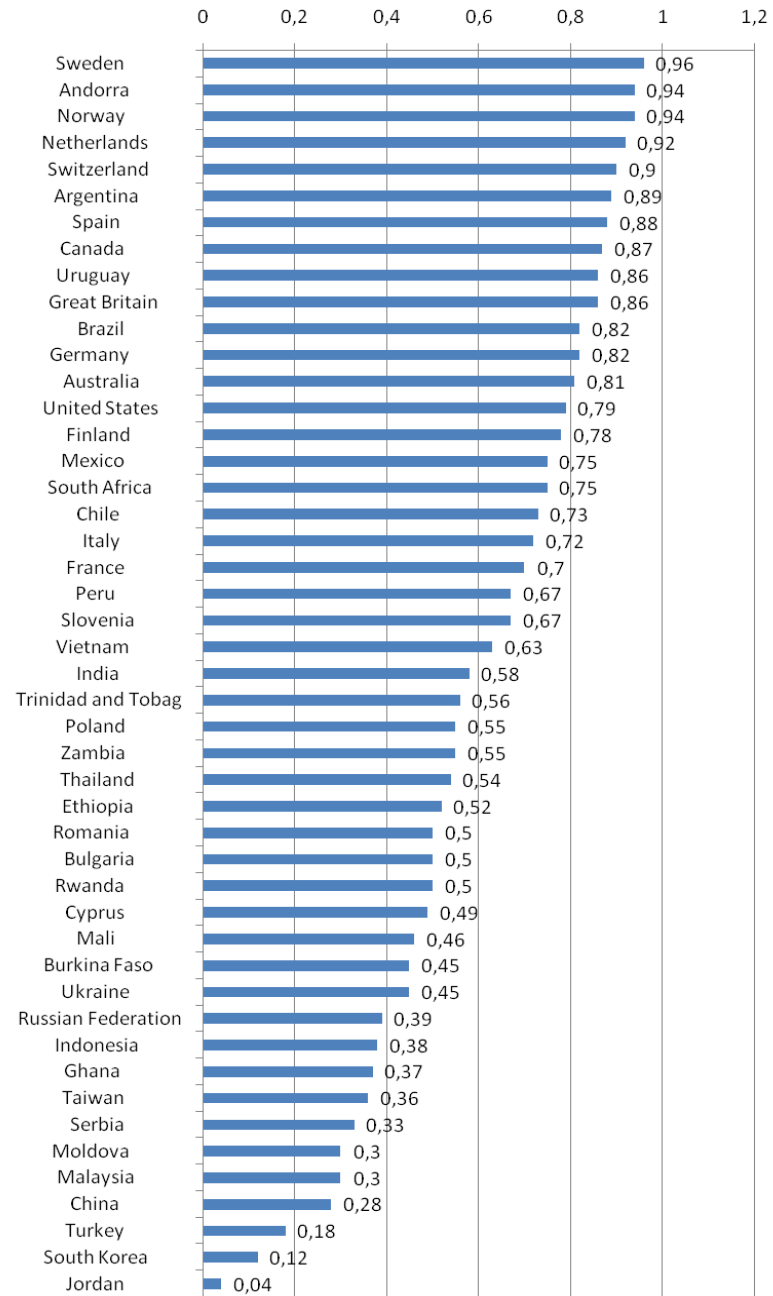
**Overall tolerance composite index,
World Values Survey, 2004 - 2008**

- Less than 22
- 22 - 52
- 52 - 68
- 68 - 85
- 85 - 97
- No data

Tolerance of different origins



Tolerance of different way of life



Micro level predictors of intolerance:

- Individual economic position (Lipset, Persell, Green, Gurevich)
- Gender (Britton, Yang, Adorno)
- Family status (Dejowski, Smith)
- Type of settlement (Stephan, McMullin)
- Religious affiliation (Brewer, Fischer, Hout, Olson, Gadge, Harrison)
- Social class (Andersen, Fetner)
- Education (Stouffler, Maykovich)
- Age
- Life satisfaction, stress, social optimism and other psychological factors.

Macro level predictors of tolerance:

- Existential insecurity (poverty, crime, war, inequality, environmental threats etc.)
- Communist past (Inglehart, Welzel, Baker)
- Perceived threat to dominant groups by subordinate groups, “scape-goating” (Blumer, Quillan)
- Intergroup contacts, multicultural setting (Wagner et al.)
- Ethnic composition

Composite global indices as predictors of social intolerance		R²	Adj. R²	N
1	Civil liberties sub score (Freedom House)	0,357***	0,343	47
2	Corruption index (International Country Risk Guide)	0,243**	0,225	43
3	Corruption perception index (Transparency International)	0,334***	0,319	45
4	Democracy index (the Economist Intelligence Unit)	0,395***	0,382	46
5	Democratic accountability (International Country Risk Guide)	0,101*	0,080	44
6	Economic and social rights fulfillment index	0,143**	0,122	41
7	Environmental sustainability index	0,245***	0,228	44
8	Ethnic tensions (International Country Risk Guide)	0,117*	0,096	43
9	Freedom from corruption (Heritage)	0,299***	0,283	45
10	Gender inequality index (UNDP)	0,253***	0,235	42
11	Global peace index	0,121**	0,099	40

Composite global indices as predictors of social intolerance		R ²	Adj. R ²	N
12	Human development index (UNDP)	0,240***	0,223	45
13	Information source diversity (composite index, WVS)	0,231***	0,214	45
14	Information technology use (composite index, WVS)	0,266**	0,250	45
15	Integrated modernization index (China Modernization Report)	0,348***	0,332	42
16	Political rights sub score (Freedom House)	0,251***	0,234	47
17	Primary modernization index (China Modernization Report)	0,191**	0,171	42
18	Right to food (a component of the Economic and Social Rights Fulfillment Index)	0,238**	0,219	41
19	Second modernization index (China Modernization Report)	0,296***	0,279	42
20	Subjective well-being (composite index, WVS)	0,259***	0,242	45
21	The failed states index	0,416***	0,402	43
22	Voice and accountability (Worldwide governance indicators, World Bank)	0,384**	0,370	47

National statistics data as predictors of social intolerance		R²	Adj. R²	n
1	Alcohol consumption	0,114**	0,094	46
2	Burden of disease attributable to the environment	0,103**	0,083	45
3	Confidence in government (WVS)	0,216***	0,198	45
4	Confidence in political institutions (WVS)	0,170**	0,152	46
5	Confidence in state institutions (WVS)	0,187**	0,169	45
6	GDP per capita (constant 2000 US\$)	0,339***	0,324	46
7	GNI per capita (at current prices – US\$)	0,354***	0,339	45
8	Internet users	0,293***	0,277	44
9	Life expectancy at birth	0,166**	0,146	44
10	PC use (WVS)	0,320***	0,305	44
11	Deaths attributable to the environment	0,275***	0,258	45
12	Disability-Adjusted Life Years attributable to the environment	0,266***	0,249	45
13	The proportion of “indigenous” population, trace recent descent to the native inhabitants of that territory	0,157**	0,137	43
14	Theft rate	0,401***	0,383	33

Dependent variable: Index of general social intolerance

GDP per capita	-0,582*** (-4,801)	-0,490*** (-4,205)	-0,573*** (-5,382)	-0,361** (-2,521)
Inconfidence in government		0,373** (3,203)		
Inconfidence in state institutions			0,453*** (4,257)	0,476*** (4,630)
Political stability and absence of violence/terrorism				-0,395** (-2,126)
Constant	0,277** (3,054)	-0,496* (-2,001)	-0,866** (-3,163)	-0,998*** (-3,692)
R ²	0,339	0,452	0,524	0,571
Adj. R ²	0,324	0,426	0,501	0,540
n	46	44	44	44

- **International migrants as a percentage of the population**

Estimated number of international migrants divided by the total population, expressed as a percentage.

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division/ Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2008 Revision (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2008).

- **The proportion of indigenous population**

This is the proportion of the population who are 'indigenous', i.e. trace recent descent to the native inhabitants of that territory.

- **The proportion of population, descended from “settlers”**

This is the proportion of the population who are descended from 'settlers', i.e. trace recent descent to a country outside of that territory. The goal of the matrix is to identify where the ancestors of the permanent residents of today's countries were living in 1500 C.E. The matrix indicates where the ancestors of each country's present population were living in 1500, where “present” refers to information from sources referring to the late 1990s and early 2000s. The data identifies the origins of long-term residents only, so where possible, temporary migrants were leaved out.

From the Chanda and Putterman (2007) dataset. Source:

http://www.econ.brown.edu/fac/Louis_Putterman/world%20migration%20matrix.htm

Migration and ethnic composition as predictors of general social intolerance

Dependent variable: Index of general social intolerance

GDP per capita	-0,733*** (-6,247)	-0,470** (-2,758)	-0,676*** (-6,061)
International migrants	0,465*** (3,833)	0,436*** (3,706)	0,348** (2,879)
Population descended from “settlers”	-0,338** (-3,053)	-0,309** (-2,882)	-0,266** (-2,500)
Voice and accountability index	-	-0,331* (-2,056)	-
Unconfidence in state institutions	-	-	0,335** (3,129)
Constant	0,288** (3,084)	0,248** (2,692)	-0,570** (-2,029)
R ²	0,546	0,591	0,627
Adj. R ²	0,512	0,549	0,587
n	43	43	41

Migration and ethnic composition as predictors of tolerance of different origins

Dependent variable: Tolerance of different origins (composite index, WVS, 5th wave)

GDP per capita	0,529*** (3,845)	0,529*** (3,846)	0,482** (2,854)	0,378** (2,541)	0,342** (2,225)
International migrants	-0,680*** (-4,570)	-0,680*** (-4,572)	-0,733*** (-4,033)	-0,642*** (-4,379)	-0,403** (-3,226)
Population descended from “settlers”	0,303* (2,300)	-	0,456** (3,131)	0,308** (2,392)	0,335** (2,889)
“Indigenous” population, trace recent descent to the native inhabitants of that territory	-	0,304* (-2,303)	-	-	-
Public expenditure on education	-	-	0,364* (2,505)	-	-
Democratic accountability	-	-	-	0,283** (2,173)	-
Civil liberties	-	-	-	-	-0,397** (-2,728)
Constant	0,781*** (27,513)	0,913*** (16,715)	0,584*** (7,045)	0,616*** (7,466)	0,873 (17,756)
R ²	0,368	0,368	0,365	0,425	0,523
Adj. R ²	0,325	0,325	0,303	0,370	0,477
n	47	47	45	46	46

Migration and ethnic composition as predictors of tolerance of different ways of life

Dependent variable: Tolerance of different ways of life (composite index, WVS, 5th wave)

GDP per capita	0,762*** (6,249)	0,505** (2,943)	0,520*** (3,572)	0,441** (2,688)
International migrants	-0,457*** (-3,498)	-0,493*** (-3,841)	-0,320** (-2,719)	-0,410** (-3,242)
Population descended from “settlers”	0,300** (2,597)	0,300** (2,669)	0,246* (2,273)	0,255* (2,336)
Corruption (Int. Country Risk Guide)	-	0,351* (2,085)	-	-
Civil liberties	-	-	-0,324* (-2,363)	-
Voice and accountability	-	-	-	0,408** (2,720)
Constant	0,469*** (12,093)	0,317*** (3,907)	0,636*** (7,599)	0,494*** (13,214)
R ²	0,504	0,550	0,572	0,577
Adj. R ²	0,470	0,507	0,531	0,538
n	47	46	46	47

Migration and ethnic composition as predictors of different kinds of social intolerance

Dependent variable: Rejected neighbors

	People of different race	Immigrants / foreign workers	People of a different religion	People who speak a different language	Homosexuals	People who have AIDS	Unmarried couples living together
GDP per capita	-0,539*** (-4,012)	-0,494*** (-3,539)	-0,701*** (-5,997)	-0,616*** (-4,523)	-0,775*** (-6,402)	-0,652*** (-4,989)	-0,610*** (-4,496)
International migrants	0,675*** (4,685)	0,663*** (4,396)	0,353** (2,929)	0,388** (2,751)	0,361** (2,781)	0,462** (3,291)	0,321* (2,296)
Population descended from “settlers”	-0,331** (-2,613)	-0,284* (-2,121)	-0,368*** (-3,393)	-0,276* (-2,152)	-0,224* (-1,9530)	-0,344** (-2,786)	-0,263* (-2,085)
Constant	0,201*** (7,827)	0,236*** (7,507)	0,250*** (11,718)	0,197*** (9,186)	0,608*** (13,862)	0,489*** (11,387)	0,328*** (7,388)
R ²	0,378	0,337	0,518	0,379	0,501	0,409	0,361
Adj. R ²	0,337	0,293	0,485	0,333	0,467	0,371	0,317
n	49	48	47	44	48	49	46

Migration and ethnic composition as predictors of intolerance of other race

Dependent variable: Rejected neighbors, people of a different race

GDP per capita	-0,539*** (-4,012)	-0,386** (-2,610)	-0,482** (-3,034)	-0,411** (-2,773)	-0,551*** (-5,575)
International migrants	0,675*** (4,685)	0,641*** (4,443)	0,756*** (4,503)	0,392** (3,283)	0,393*** (3,411)
Population descended from “settlers”	-0,331** (-2,613)	-0,334** (-2,650)	-0,496*** (-3,719)	-0,397*** (-3,614)	0,366*** (-3,909)
Democratic accountability	-	-0,272* (-2,110)	-	-	-
Public expenditure on education	-	-	0,417** (-3,072)	-	-
Civil liberties	-	-	-	0,320* (2,293)	-
Population density	--	-	-	-	0,620*** (6,316)
Constant	0,201*** (7,827)	0,347*** (4,516)	0,410*** (5,708)	0,138** (3,137)	0,216*** (11,332)
R ²	0,378	0,425	0,424	0,542	0,670
Adj. R ²	0,337	0,371	0,370	0,500	0,641
n	49	47	47	48	49

Migration and ethnic composition as predictors of intolerance of immigrants / foreign workers

Dependent variable: Rejected neighbors, immigrants / foreign workers

GDP per capita	-0,494*** (-3,539)	-0,347* (-2,268)	-0,504*** (-4,222)
International migrants	0,663*** (4,396)	0,625*** (4,143)	0,437** (3,121)
Population descended from “settlers”	-0,284* (-2,121)	-0,290* (-2,192)	0,309** (-2,700)
Democratic accountability	-	-0,277* (-2,064)	-
Population density	-	-	0,498*** (4,178)
Constant	0,236*** (7,507)	0,418*** (4,404)	0,528*** (6,337)
R ²	0,337	0,392	0,525
Adj. R ²	0,293	0,334	0,482
n	48	46	48

	Intolerance to other race		
	coefficient	t-ratio	odds ratio
Intercept	-1.112	-8.362***	0.329
<i>Country-level Effects:</i>			
GDP	-0.040	-7.040***	0.961
International migrants	0.042	1.609***	1.043
Settlers	-1.544	-6.082***	0.214
<i>Individual-level Effects:</i>			
Gender	0.047	1.347	1.048
Age	0.003	2.201**	1.004
Education	-0.056	-2.931**	0.945
Type of settlement	-0.030	-2.129*	0.970
Income	-0.011	-1.594	0.979
<i>Cross-Level Interactions:</i>			
Education* International Migrants	-0,005	-2.839**	0.995
Sex* International Migrants	0.014	5.418***	1.014
Conditional probability	0,25		
ICC	0,10		
76257 respondents, 52 countries			
Note: * p 0.05; ** p 0.01; *** p < .001.			
Method of estimation: full maximum likelihood via EM-Laplace 2. Distribution at Level-1: Bernoulli.			
Individual-level variables are group-mean centred; societal-level variables are grand-mean centred.			

	Intolerance to other race			Intolerance to other race		
	coefficient	t-ratio	odds ratio	coefficient	t-ratio	odds ratio
Intercept	-1.622	-7.279***	0.197	-1.178	-9.927***	0.307
<i>Country-level Effects:</i>						
GDP	-0.031	-5.517***	0.969	-0.039	-6.871***	0.961
International migrants	0.041	2.877**	1.041	0.046	3.347**	1.047
Settlers	-1.430	-5.616***	0.240	-1.484	-6.037***	0.227
Civil liberties subscore	0.150	2.665**	1.161	-	-	-
Armed conflicts	-	-	-	0.024	3.347***	1.025
<i>Individual-level Effects:</i>						
Gender	0.047	1.364	1.048	0.047	1.339	1.048
Age	0.004	2.218**	1.003	0.003	2.207**	1.003
Education	-0.057	-2.940**	0.950	-0.058	-3.043**	0.944
Type of settlement	-0.030	-2.175**	0.970	-0.030	-2.121**	0.970
Income	-0.011	-1.002	0.989	-0.011	-0.976	0.989
Conditional probability	0,16			0,24		
ICC	0,10			0,10		

Thank you for attention!