**Peace Project**

1. **Description**
   1. Question – Can we statistically “measure peace?”[[1]](#footnote-1)

The Global Peace Index (GPI), currently in its ninth edition (2015), is a project of the Institute for Economics and Peace (<http://economicsandpeace.org/>). The report ranks the nations of the world according to their level of peacefulness. The index is composed of 23 qualitative and quantitative indicators from highly respected sources and ranks 162 independent states, covering 99.6 per cent of the world’s population. The index gauges global peace using three broad themes: *the level of safety and security in society*, the extent of *domestic and* *international conflict* and the degree of *militarisation*. [[2]](#footnote-2)

1. **Guidelines**
   1. Your task is to answer the question, “can we measure peace” using statistics
   2. Begin by selecting two of the 162 independent states addressed in the Index, select one of the 81 countries that “became more peaceful” and one of the 78 countries that “became less peaceful”
   3. Organize the statistical data available for each of the countries on the three themes measured by the Index
      1. The level of safety and security?
      2. The extent of domestic and international conflict?
      3. The degree of militarization?
2. Organize raw data using MS Excel
3. Make graphs that illustrate your findings and your conclusions. Graph types might one or more of the following as appropriate to your project
   * 1. Histogram
     2. Time series
     3. Scatter plots
     4. Bar graph
     5. Pie chart
4. **Project Elements and Due Dates**
   1. For the final product you may choose to write paper or give a class presentation, and you may work alone or in pairs. If you are working with a partner, you have until week 8 of the semester to disband the partnership.
   2. Your final project must include
      1. Title
      2. An introduction that explains your topic
      3. Body
         1. Relevant historical background
         2. Presentation of your project, includes a narrative explanation and the graphs you created to illustrate your findings
         3. Answers to the following questions
            1. What does the data tell us regarding why one of the states became more peaceful and the other less so?
            2. Why is the measure of peace even important?
            3. After looking at the data

Do you think it is possible to use statistics to measure peace? Why/why not?

If it is useful, in what way(s) might this data help move more countries into the more peaceful category?

If the data is not useful, what might be better?

* + - * 1. Conclusion

After reviewing the data, what is your prognosis for a more peaceful planet?

Explain

* 1. Papers
     1. Must be 2,000 – 2,500 words exclusive of citations and Works Cited/Bibliography, and must include your graphs – properly labeled
     2. 1” margins, 12 point font, double spaced
     3. You must have proper citations and a Works Cited or Bibliography (depending on the citation style you use)
  2. Presentations
     1. Must be 10 – 12 minutes
     2. Must be made in PowerPoint or similar presentation software
     3. You must submit in writing proper citations and a Works Cited or Bibliography (depending on the citation style you use)
  3. **Due Dates and Points**
     1. Due dates
        1. Week 5 – raw data with relevant citations, organized in MS Excel
        2. Week 10 – historical context
        3. Final papers are due the day of the final exam
        4. I will have a sign-up sheet for presentations
        5. The entire project is worth 400 points as follows
           1. Raw data with relevant citations, organized in MS Excel = 100 points
           2. Historical context = 100 point
           3. Final product = 200 points

1. **Sources – Places to Begin**
   1. The Index, find it here: <http://economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Global-Peace-Index-Report-2015_0.pdf>
   2. Institute for Economics and Peace: <http://economicsandpeace.org/>
   3. Corette Library:
      1. Data and Statistics: <http://carroll.libguides.com/c.php?g=133510&p=873570>
      2. United Nations - general UN data: <http://carroll.libguides.com/c.php?g=133510&p=873561>
   4. Amnesty International: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/>
   5. World Bank: <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SM.POP.REFG>
   6. World Health Organization: <http://www.who.int/en/>
   7. WolframAlpha: <https://www.wolframalpha.com/>
   8. Secondary literature that provides context: historical, political, and cultural etc.

1. <http://economicsandpeace.org/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://economicsandpeace.org/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)