

Wired Countries of the World

Urban Digital Divide II Internet Access & Daily Income

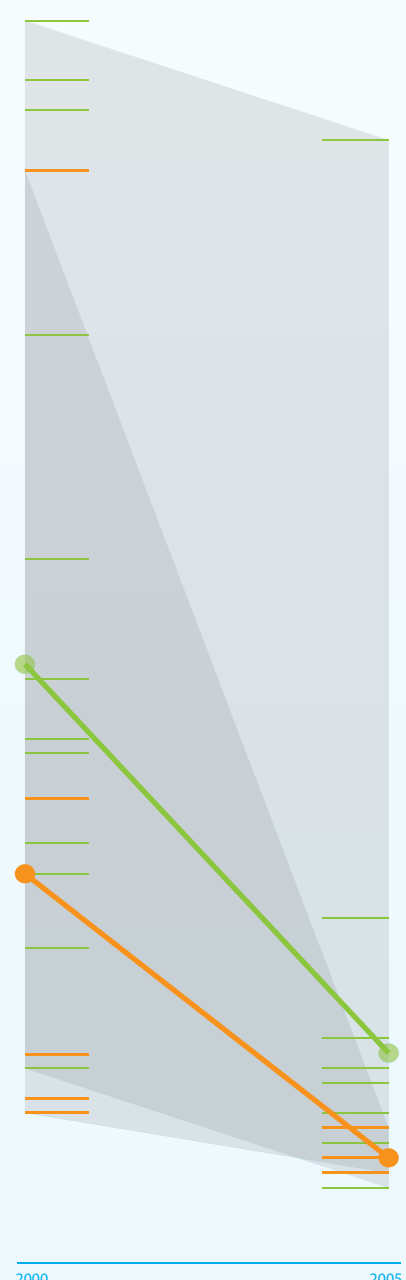
Every major city in the world has cybercafés or other commercial internet access points. From city to city, both income and the average cost of going online varies immensely.

In the wealthiest of countries, the cost of internet access for the average person has dropped significantly while the average income rose. In many cities in developing world, the cost of going online did not fall as dramatically, nor incomes rise as fast. In Lagos and Rio, the cost of going online for the average person has actually increased over time.

In 2000, on average, people in a developed world city spent around 26 of their daily income to use the internet for an hour and by 2005, the average person spent just 7 percent of their income. In contrast, people living in a developing world city spent 40 percent of their daily income to use the internet for an hour in 2000, and 14 percent of their income in 2005. In other words, an hour of internet access in a cybercafé can cost the resident of a developing city twice as much of their daily income as such access can cost the resident of a developed city.

Percentage of Daily Income Spent on One Hour of Internet Access

	2000	2005
Delhi	83	75
Calcutta	79	23
Karachi	77	15
Moscow	73	15
Mumbai	62	14
Dhaka	62	13
Tehran	47	12
Beijing	39	10
Lagos	35	10
Buenos Aires	34	9
London	31	9
Jakarta	28	9
Cairo	26	8
Manila	21	7
Tokyo	14	7
Rio De Janeiro	14	7
Osaka	14	7
Shanghai	13	6
Seoul	13	6
Mexico City	13	6
Los Angeles	11	6
New York	10	6
Shanghai	10	6
Manila	5	5
Seoul	5	5
Developing Avg.	40	14
Developed Avg.	26	7



Legend

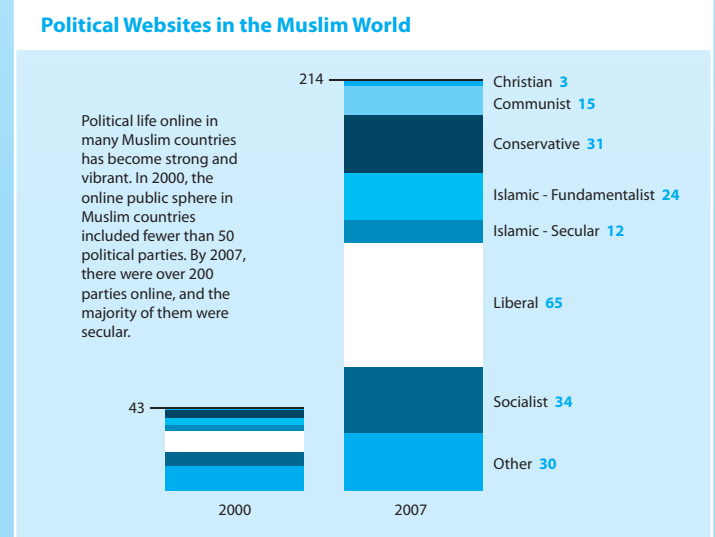
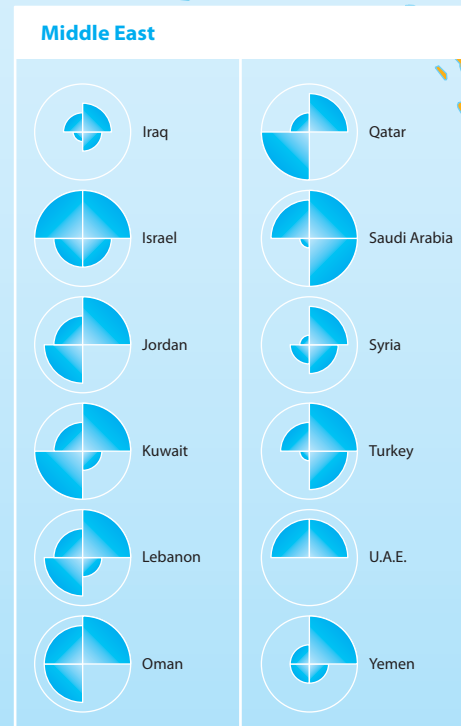
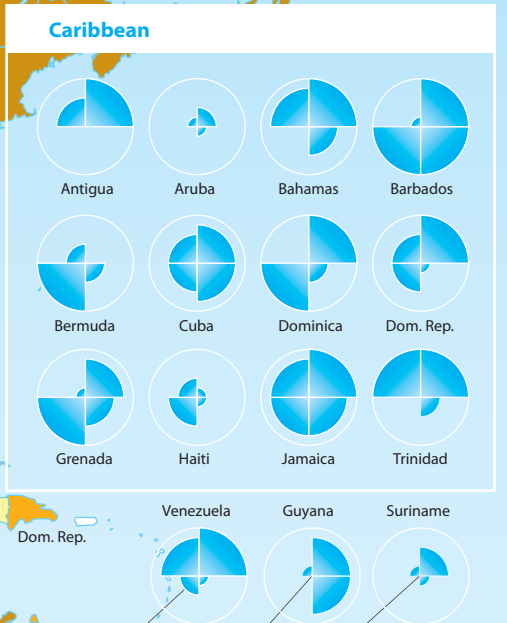
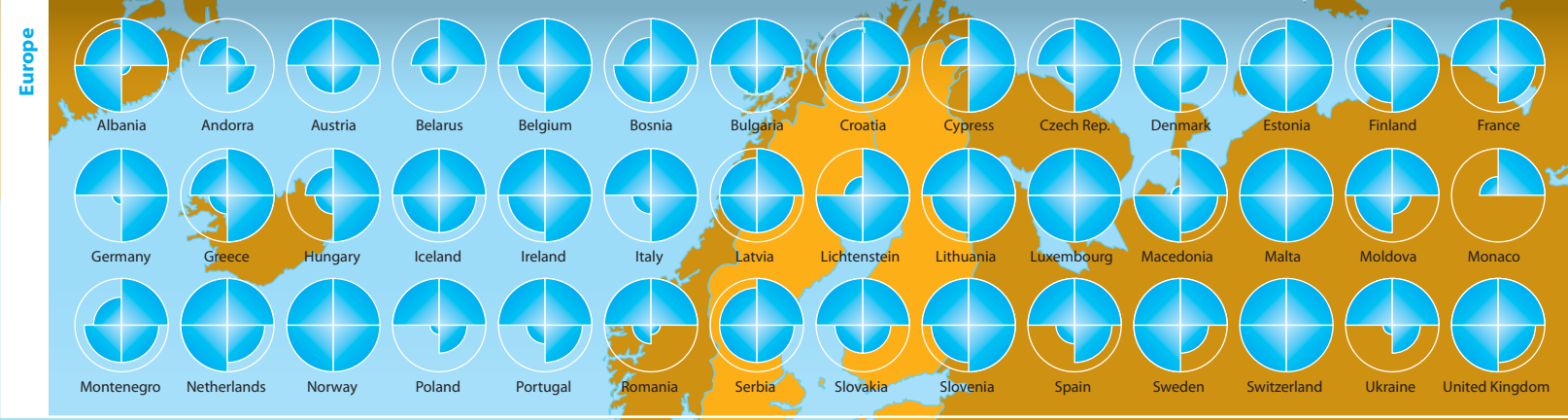
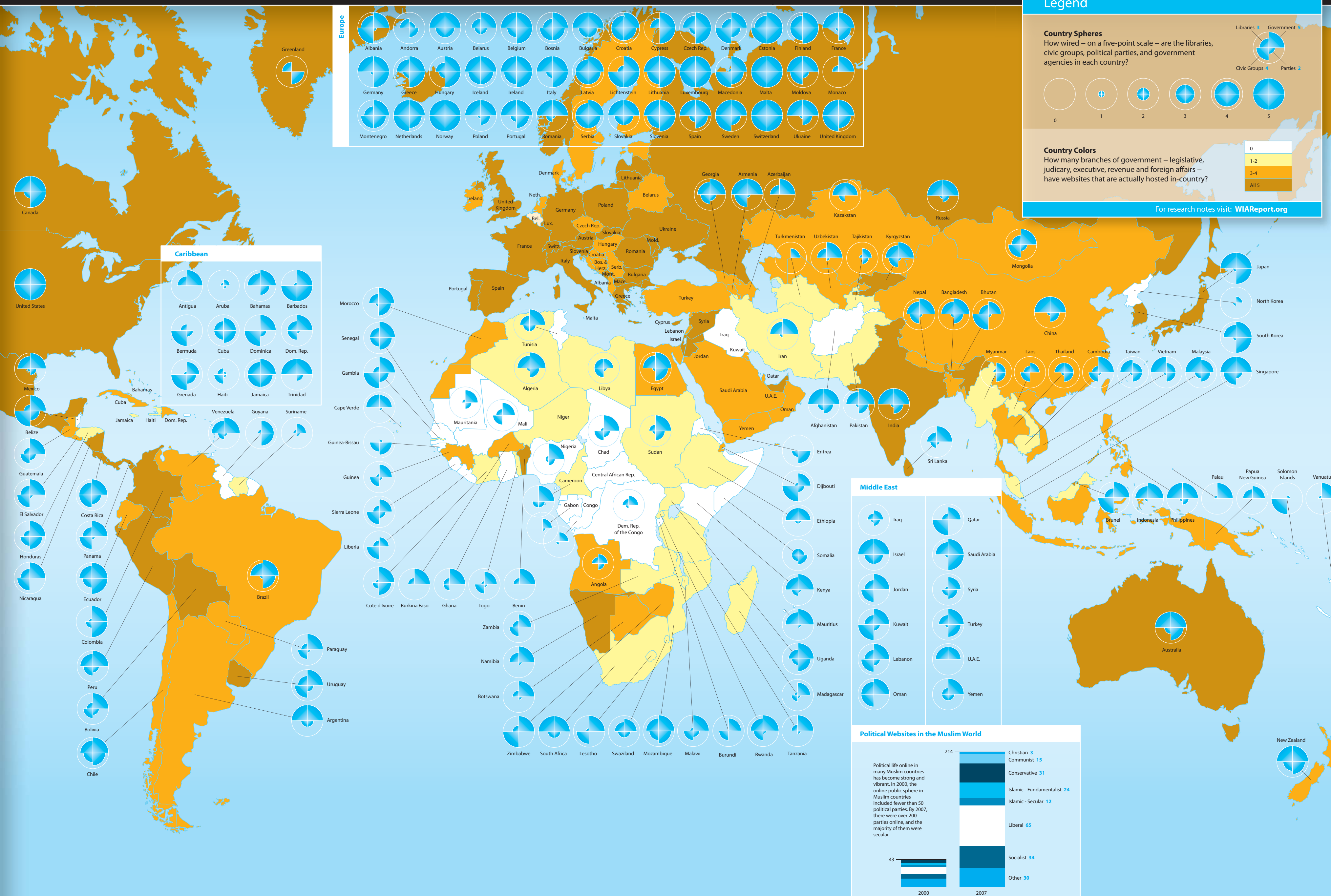
Country Spheres
How wired – on a five-point scale – are the libraries, civic groups, political parties, and government agencies in each country?

0 1 2 3 4 5

Country Colors
How many branches of government – legislative, judiciary, executive, revenue and foreign affairs – have websites that are actually hosted in-country?

0 1-2 3-4 All 5

For research notes visit: WIAReport.org



The internet is an increasingly important part of political life for a growing number of citizens around the world. In some countries, many government agencies and civic groups are online, while in others there are very few online resources for researching public policy options. Wired polities, whether democratic or authoritarian, have several kinds of public organizations online, such as libraries,

government agencies, civic groups, and political parties. For each country we determined whether there were websites for five branches of the government (legislative, judiciary, and executive branches, as well as the revenue authority and foreign affairs ministry); the five largest libraries; the major and minor political parties; and civic groups working in or based in each country. Wired polities also have the capacity to maintain an information

infrastructure for their own government. Even though every country in the world has been assigned a top-level domain name, not all have the organizational capacity to host their own government Web sites. Wired polities have the state capacity to host major government Web sites in-country, and nations without this capacity are dependent on hosting services in other countries.

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