

## FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY — SOUTH KOREA

### PAPER

*SOUTH KOREA*

Please choose 1 ~~Asian Country~~. You are asked to perform a modified country risk analysis on this country. The structure of the analysis is quite simple: you are going to do a modified STEEP analysis. Please see the modified country risk methodology that has been uploaded under the shared files/final project materials folder, for a more dynamic look at a country risk analysis.

### PREFACE

You are in charge of an investigating unit for the UN Development Program (UNDP, found at <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home.html>) There have been charges in the UN General Assembly that your chosen country has undermined UN development efforts in the region. UNDP has sent your team to investigate these charges.

### Due Week 7: Final Paper: Modified Country Risk Analysis: (10 points)

- Develop an 8–10 page paper analyzing your chosen Asian country using a modified STEEP analysis. The analysis will include:
  1. Specific, relevant data and facts about the country's political, social, legal, cultural, and historical environment related to its development, and general conclusions pertinent to any charges of aiding or undermining the United Nations' efforts at development in the region;
  2. Your analysis will include all significant issues that have had a direct impact on political, social, cultural and/or economic development. You should focus your analysis on a small but critical set of available factors. Such a small range of factors *could* be (ethnic rivalries, languages spoken, attitudes towards foreigners, religious and/or philosophical inputs into the legal or political system, ascribed vs. assumed groups, etc.)  
  
Obviously, this is just 1 small range of factors that may not be useful in your particular circumstance. You will develop your own "decision framework."
- Format your paper using APA guidelines.
- Include a minimum of 5-7 peer reviewed sources, which may consist of readings from the University Library, your text, other selections, and your own experiences.

### PRESENTATION

Please create a 10-12 slide PowerPoint slide show of your final project paper.

1. You will "give" the presentation in-class in week 8.
2. The presentation will be 8-10 minutes in length, with 3-5 minutes worth of question & answers; because inquiring minds want to know.

## **[MODIFIED] COUNTRY RISK ANALYSIS**

A country risk analysis is another name for a STEEP analysis; or, STEP with macro-environmental factors "thrown in for good measure." The structure that we will be using for our final project is below:

### **I. SOCIO-CULTURAL VARIABLES:**

#### **A. Sociology:**

1. Availability of sub-cultures;
2. Availability of caste or striation of society based on something other than economics (religion, race, ethnicity, gender, etc.);
3. Ethnic rivalries;
4. Corruption, bribery, and society's attitude towards corruption and bribery. That is, how does that society "legitimize" such behavior.

#### **B. Cultural:**

1. Attitude towards private & foreign investment. This is, attitudes towards foreigners;
2. Religion(s) and how those religions express themselves in daily life;
3. Language:
  - a. Official language(s)- number and type;
  - b. Multi-linguistic polity or the availability of or permissibility of other languages in society;
  - c. Availability of non-verbal cues, such as body language. Is the culture an high-context or low-context culture? Does the spoken language equal the written language, or are there "unspoken" cues in one not available in the other?
4. Role of men versus women- gender issues;
5. Time & communication considerations;
6. Ethnic strife;
7. High-contact vs. low-contact culture. Does the culture have a "personal space" about individuals? Does the culture have "taboos" against crossing "the invisible boundary?"

#### **C. Demographic Variables:**

1. Birth/death rates;
2. Composition of population ethnically, gender, age, racially, etc.
3. Infant mortality rates;

4. Geographic distribution of population. That is, does the majority of that society's population live near water in urban centers, or is the population fairly "spread out" in suburban or village centers?

## II. ENVIRONMENTAL VARIABLES:

### A. Infrastructure:

1. Transportation system(s)- Large number of roads, railroads, airports. Are the roads "modern" roads, or are they "1-camel roads?" Does the country's transportation system interlink the entire country, or is there a distinct lack of connection outside of urban centers?
2. Electrical generation systems- How modern, how widespread, etc.
3. Port facilities- How modern, how built up, capacity, etc.
4. Free trade zones. Has the government created free trade zones (FTZ's) inside their country such that the "normal" cultural behaviors of that society "do not apply" within the FTZ's?
5. Environmental issues, such as pollution. Does the religion of the area influence any of these things? If so, how?
6. Banking, educational, and health delivery systems. Does the religion of the area influence any of these things? If so, how?

### B. Geographic variables:

1. Availability of natural resources. What do they use internally, what does the country trade externally that provides that country with currency.
2. Climate issues. Obviously, deserts are a big "issue" in the Middle East & North Africa. How has this affected the societies of this region?
3. Topological or topographical issues. Outside of deserts and their impact on Middle Eastern culture in general, what other topological features have influenced cultural and social development in the area?

## III. POLITICAL VARIABLES:

### A. Political System and Foreign Policy:

1. Stability of the political system;
2. State-owned and/or -operated industries. Does the government of this country own companies that operate in this region?
3. Treaties, trade agreements, and the country's reputation for honoring them;

4. Threat of nationalization, or expropriation of industry. That is, does the government of this country have a reputation for "taking" the operations/equipment of foreign-owned businesses doing business in this country? What are the reasons for the "taking?"

B. Legal:

1. Fairness of legal (court) systems. What affect (if any) does religion play in the set-up of, the administration of, and the discourse of justice within your chosen country?
2. Clear & enforceable corporate laws and regulations
3. Labor/employment laws. What affect (if any) does religion play in labor and employment laws in your chosen country? What aspects of labor/employment law in your chosen country are different from your firm's home country that could impact the entry of your firm into your chosen country?
4. Corruption and the legitimacy of the legal infrastructure to combat corruption in all its forms. What affect (if any) does religion play in the government's efforts to combat corruptive behavior? How legitimate are the government's efforts to combat corruptive behaviors in society, or is it "going through the motions?"

Also, because this is a paper, an introduction & conclusion are still necessary parts of the paper. You can substitute the executive summary for the introduction.