

# Readings1

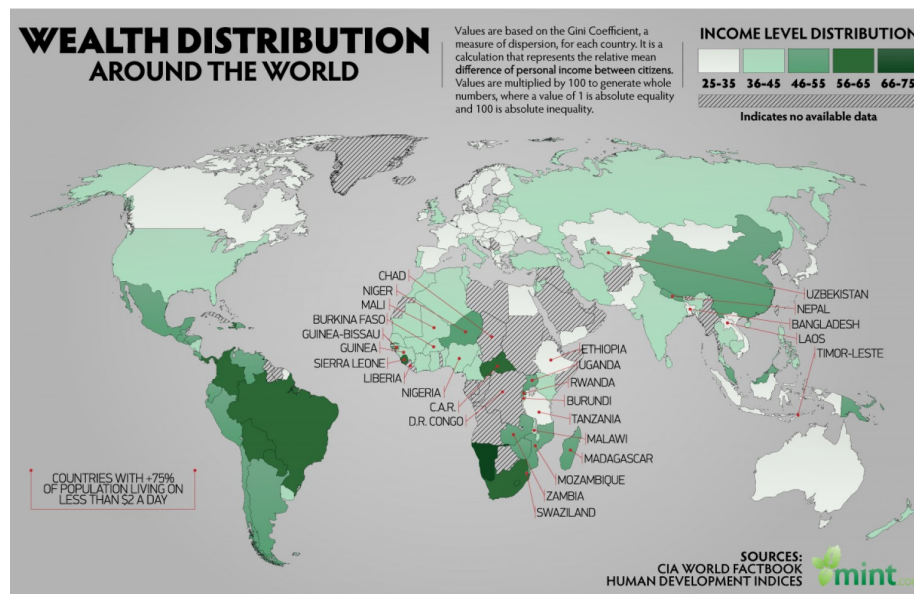
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## 1 Resources

For this exercise I used the following infographic to discuss: URL: <http://visual.ly/wealth-distribution-around-world>

## 2 Questions



1. Find a visualization online and answer the following questions pertaining to that visualization. Attach the visualization as a screenshot in your submission.

See Picture embedded above.

2. Consider Bertin's characterization of visual variables (position, size, shape, value, color, orientation, and texture). Pick 2 of Bertin's visual variables, and discuss them in relation to your visualization. The

author of this visualization has taken into account the importance of Bertins' visual variable value and colour, as can be seen in the embedded picture above. Although one could easily read the data and info from this visualization the author could have done it a little different in my opinion. Instead of using shaded surfaces for countries where no data was retrieved he could have used the colour white which would slightly simplify the infographic

**3. Do you agree that visualization is a functional art? Explain.**

I certainly do agree that visualization is a functional art. One could create a very neat and beautiful infographic or visualization and, in the worst case, neglect its useful and functional purposes that the audience/readers expect from the author his work. To simplify my perspective I will make a simple analogy: One cannot deny that in order to explain a theory to a student, the teacher has to fully understand the theory and its flaws. I think that the same applies to visualization: In order to explain and clarify data to your audience/readers the author has to take into account the functional aspects/properties a visualization needs

**4. Ask yourself what the designer is trying to convey and think of three to four possible tasks this visualization should help you with. Does the visualization achieve any of your tasks? (To view an example, see Albert Cairo, pages 26-28.)**

Obviously the designer intended to clarify the difference in income per country and perhaps even emphasize that the wealth distribution in most parts of the world is properly distributed. Furthermore this infographic shows no particular correlation between wealth inequality and country size. Compare China to Russia. China has a greater difference in wealth between its citizens whereas Russia has almost no difference in wealth. Although one should take into account that large parts of Russia are uninhabitable. It is unfortunate that this is merely a snapshot, read: time independent, of the worlds wealth ditribution. Perhaps a time dependent infographic would give a better insight on the development of humanity.