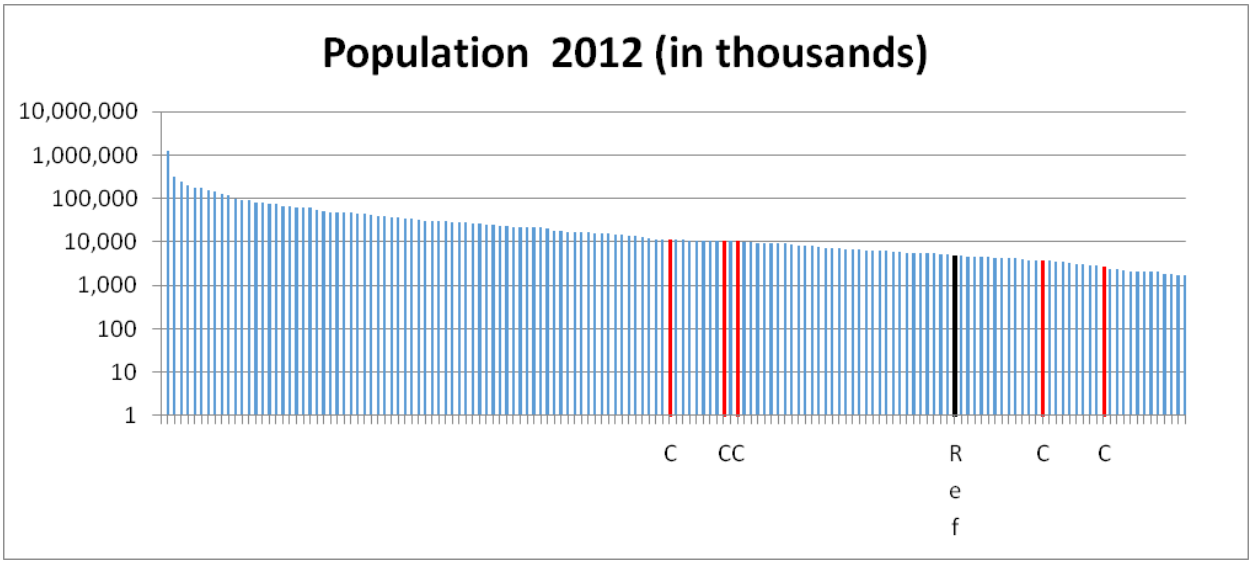
Course: Configuring the world: a political economic approach
Assignment 1: Configuring the world 1
Name: Klaas Joris Schut

Region: Caribbean (Coded C in the graphs)

Reference country: Costa Rica (Central America) (coded REF in the graphs)

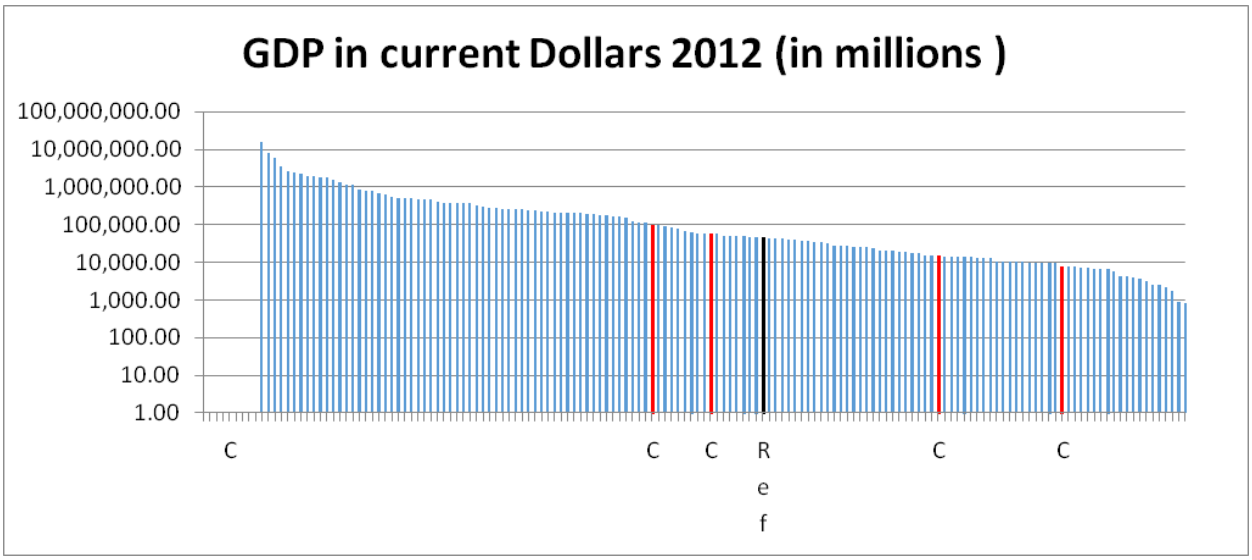
Population in 2012



In terms of population the countries of the selected region are in the lower half of the spectrum. Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti are close to the halfway mark but Puerto Rico and Jamaica are near to the end of the spectrum. The reference country is in between the two groups of countries. A possible explanation of the displayed effect here is the land size of the various countries. The presumption behind this hypothesis is that larger countries can support more people, given the same population per square kilometer.

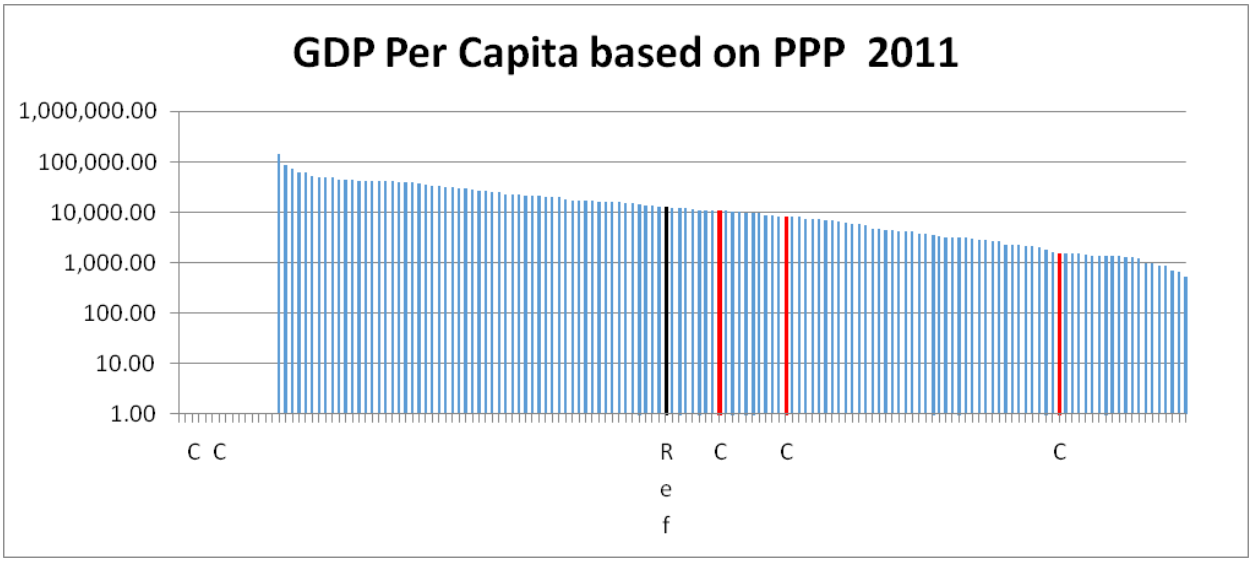
The distribution itself shows characteristics of a so called power law.

GDP in current dollars 2012



In terms of population the countries from the selected region follow a similar pattern as that of the population the surprising high GDP from Puerto Rico (compared to its population) can be explained by its link with the United States of America. The fact data is missing of Cuba can possibly be explained by the US sanctions that exist. The reference country ranks slightly higher than is the case in the population results.

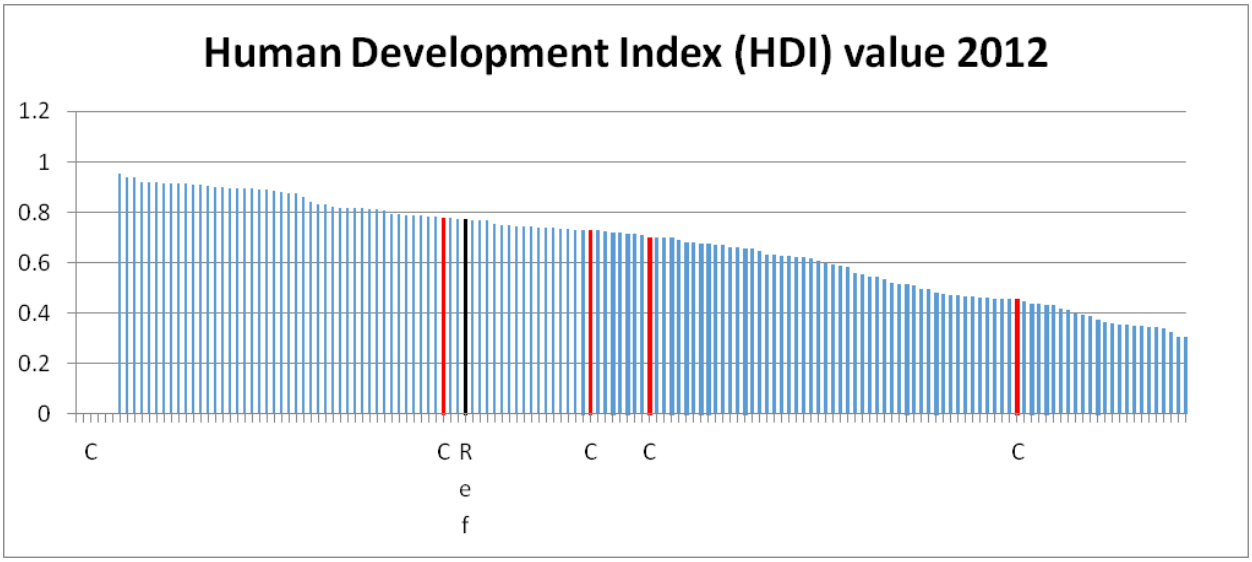
GDP Per Capita based on PPP



The same distribution of the countries within the region can be seen as with population and GDP. However, the reference country now moved up to the lower regions of the first half. This would mean people from the reference country are better of besides having a lower overall GDP than some of the

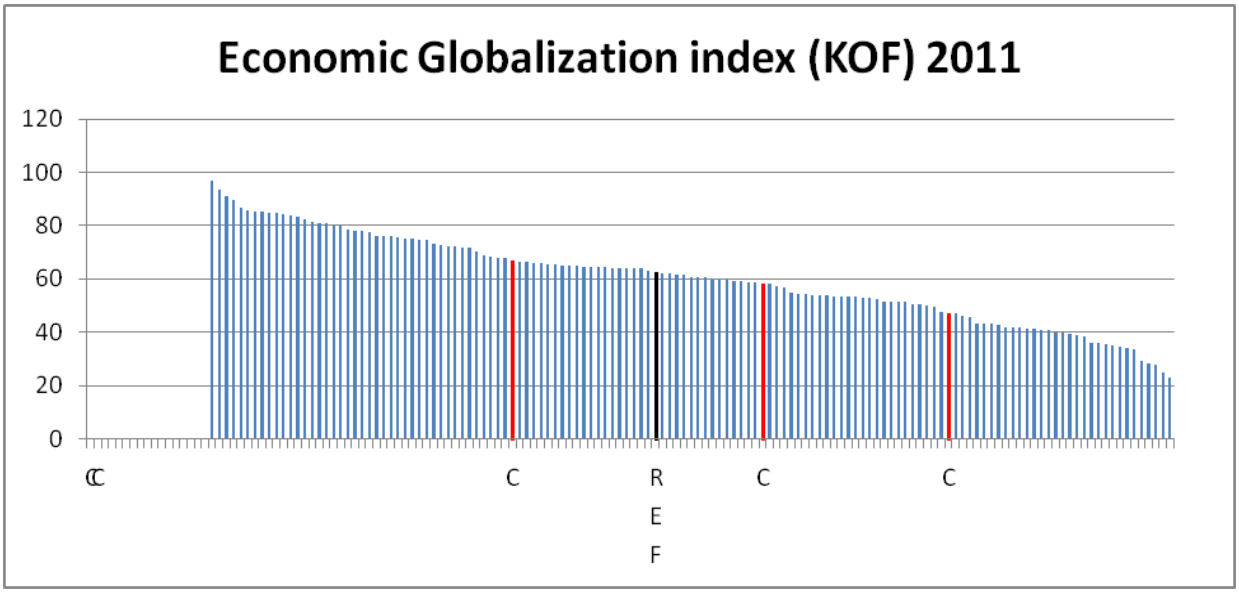
countries in the selected region. This would mean that, relatively speaking, that prices are lower in the reference country.

HDI 2012



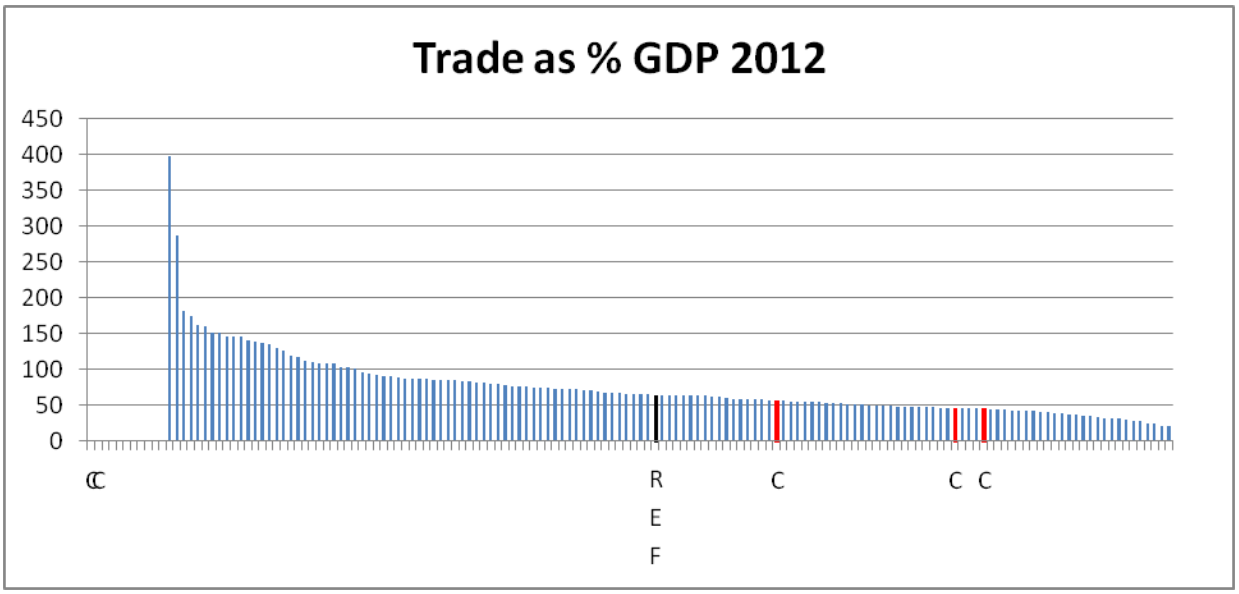
Here, we see a wide distribution of the countries in the selected region. Cuba is doing notably well as well as the reference country. The other 3 countries in the set remain in similar, yet slightly better than on other indicators. Haiti remains behind as is also the case in all other indicators looked at so far.

Economic globalization



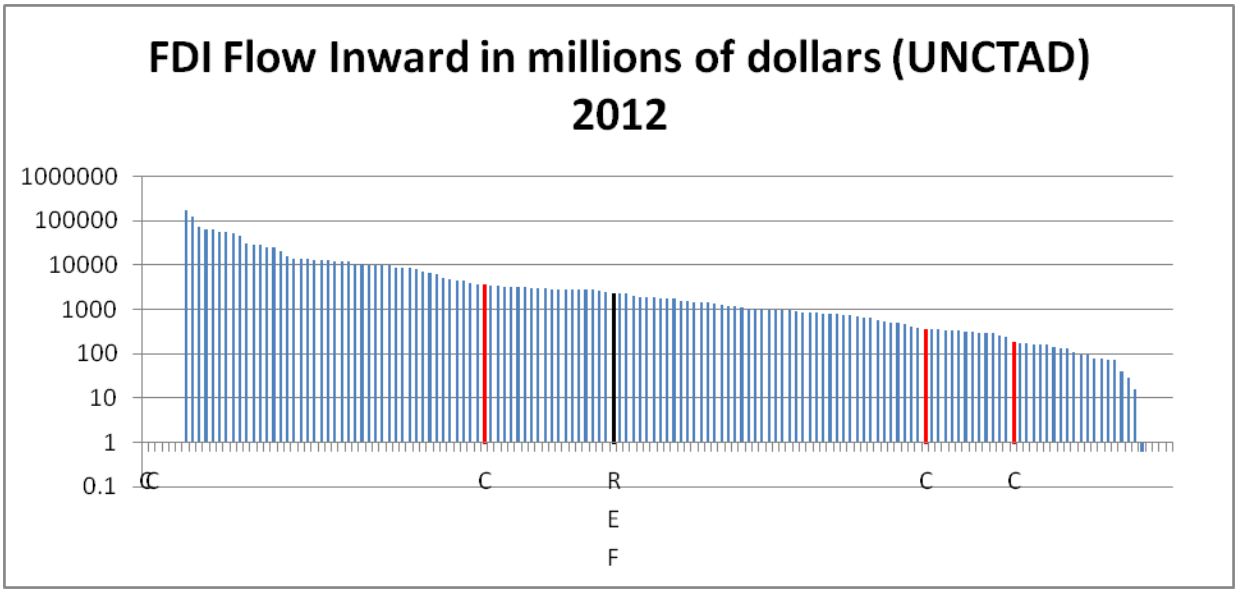
A similar distribution can be seen with the Economic Globalization Index as with the HDI indicator. The main difference here is that the reference county is ranked lower (but is more in line with the other indicators discussed previously).

Trade



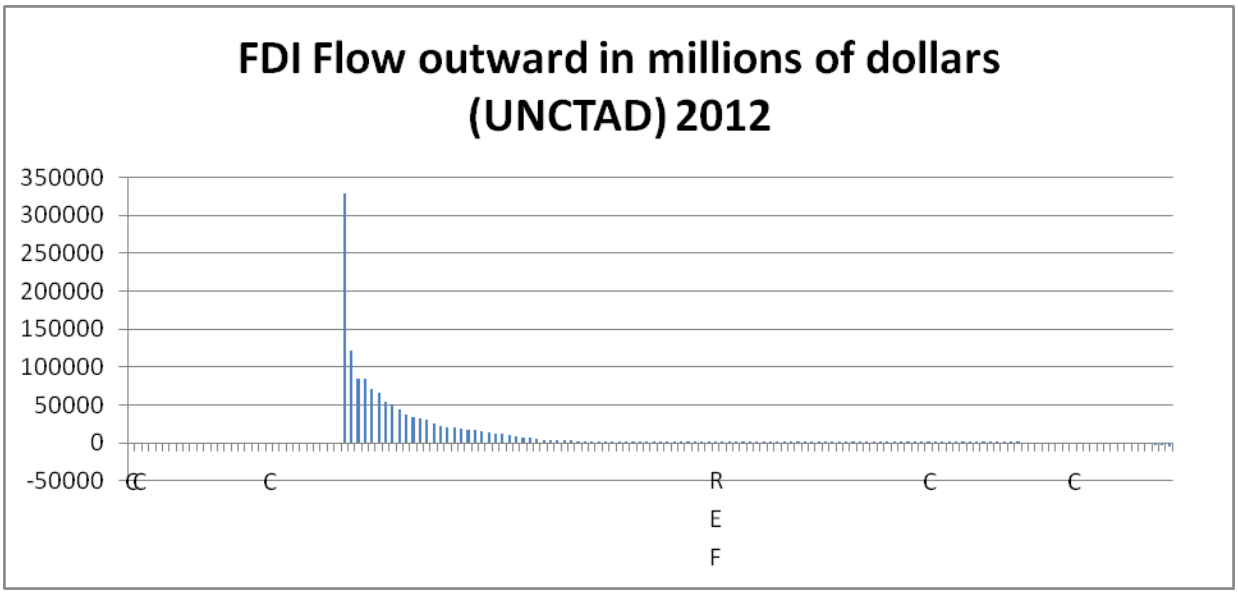
When looking at the percentage of trade a difference with the previous indicators is visible. Although the spread of the countries in the chosen region remains more or less the same, the rank number drops. The reference country however remains more or less on the same rank. This shift in ranking might be explained by the fact the economies of the countries in the selected region rely heavily on tourism instead of trade. This reduces the percentage of GDP of trade which in turn leads to a lower ranking.

FDI Inward



A similar distribution and ranking to most of the previously discussed indicators can be seen here again.

FDI outward



A distribution similar to the trade indicator is found when looking at the FDI outward flow. Although the distribution is that of a strong power law, it does not affect the ranking of the countries in the selected region or the reference country. Nevertheless, it causes the FDI outward flow of the region (and the reference country) to receive a high ranking number. This appearance on the low end of the spectrum might be caused by the high percentage of GDP that is earned in the touristic sector. This sector does not allow for great outward flows of investment.