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# Mapped: Where Women Hold the Most & Least Political Power

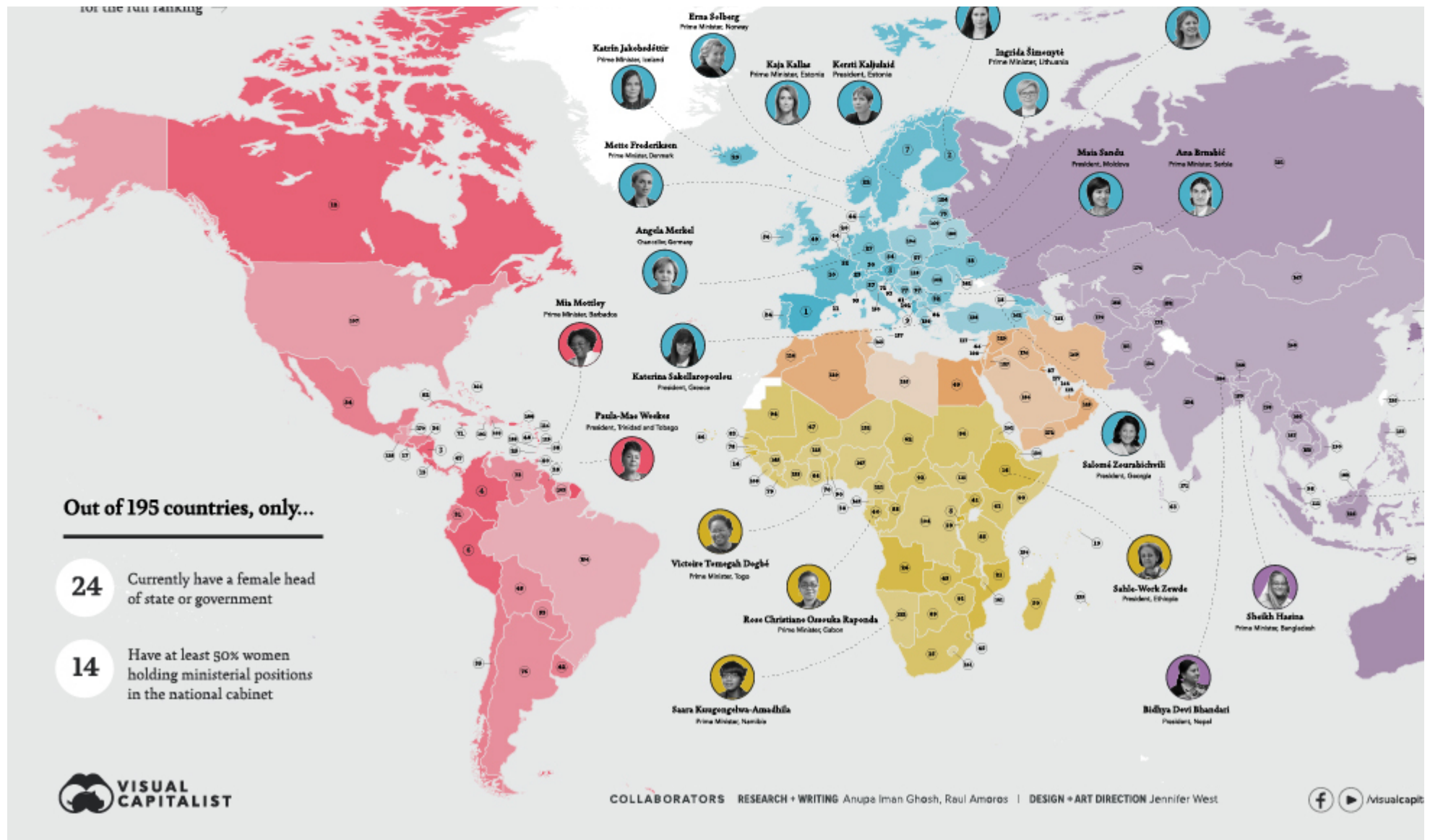


Published 7 months ago on March 8, 2021

By **Iman Ghosh**

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# Where Women Hold the Most and Least Political Power

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From the right to vote, to owning property and assets, women's legal and economic rights have come a long way.

International Women's Day, held annually on March 8th is an opportunity to commemorate global improvements around gender equality. One big driver for this is women's **political participation**—however, progress in this area has not been distributed evenly worldwide.

## Women's Political Power: Share of Ministers in Cabinets

In this map, we dig into how much political power women hold around the world. The [Council on Foreign Relations](#) pulls the latest data from UN Women and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to examine the shares of women holding ministerial positions in 195 national cabinets.

Here are the top five countries with the highest percentages of women's political power:

-  Spain: 66.7%
-  Finland: 61.1%
-  Nicaragua: 58.8%
-  Colombia: 57.9%
-  Austria: 57.1%

Even though women make up half the global population, they're not always represented at higher levels of government. Only **14 countries** have at least 50% women holding ministerial positions in the national cabinet.

Search:

Country	Region	% Women in National Cabinet
Venezuela	Americas	23.5
Vietnam	Asia-Pacific	0.0
Yemen	Middle East/North Africa	6.3
Zambia	Sub-Saharan Africa	32.3
Zimbabwe	Sub-Saharan Africa	20.8

Showing 191 to 195 of 195 entries

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On the flip side, **nine countries** have 0% women in their national cabinet, such as Saudi Arabia and Thailand.

The silver lining to this is that **Saudi Arabia** is actually improving in some areas of women's economic rights in recent years, such as granting more freedom of movement to travel and prohibiting employment discrimination on the basis on gender.

## The Most Powerful Women: Female Heads of State/Government

From Indira Gandhi to Margaret Thatcher, many women have held notable and influential leadership positions in the past, serving as tours de force for the global economy.

Presently, there are only **24 countries** with a female head of state or government. **Moldova's** Maia Sandu is the latest to rise into a Presidential role as of December 2020. Here's who the rest are, and their titles.

Country	Name	Title
 Bangladesh	Sheikh Hasina	Prime Minister
 Barbados	Mia Mottley	Prime Minister

Country	Name	Title
 Denmark	Mette Frederiksen	Prime Minister
 Estonia	Kersti Kaljulaid	President
 Estonia	Kaja Kallas	Prime Minister
 Ethiopia	Sahle-Work Zewde	President

Showing 1 to 6 of 24 entries

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As the chancellor of **Germany**, Angela Merkel holds the longest consecutive term of all female heads of state/government. With 15 years under her belt, Merkel is largely seen as a de facto leader of Europe. However, she intends to step down as chancellor after her term ends in September 2021.

Since 1946, **Switzerland** has had five total elected or appointed female heads of state or governments—the highest of any country. Simonette Sommaruga, the most recent female president of the nation, was only succeeded in the new year and dropped off this list.

## Glass Ceiling in Politics?


While women have made strides in reaching their political potential worldwide, it's interesting to note that they generally have a harder time ascending to office in larger countries compared to smaller economies.

For example, **Estonia** is the first country to have two female heads of state/government with both the president and prime minister positions being filled by women. On the flipside, many other countries have never had even one female head of state.

That said, shares of women holding seats in national legislatures are growing worldwide, which means that progress in these upper levels may be just around the corner.

*“No country can ever truly flourish if it stifles the potential of its women and deprives itself of the contributions of half its citizens.”*

—MICHELLE OBAMA



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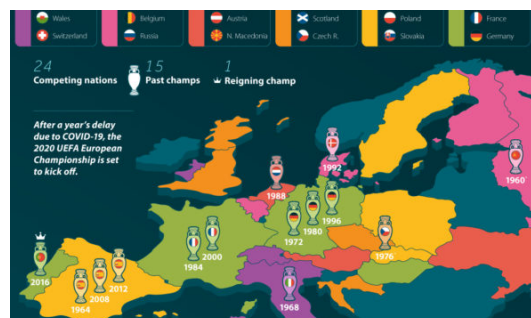
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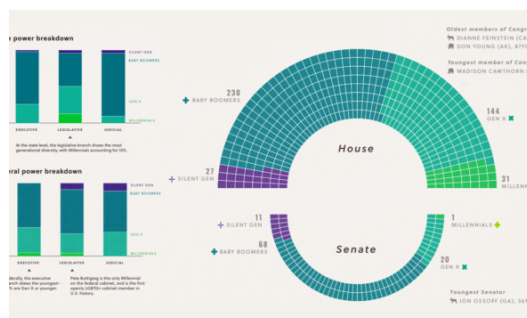
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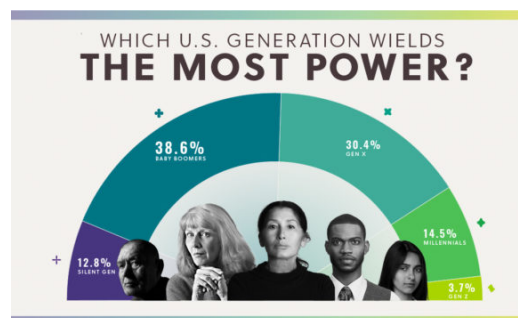
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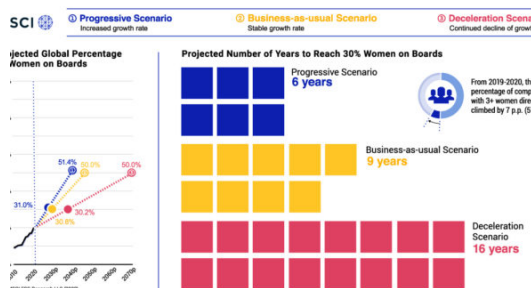
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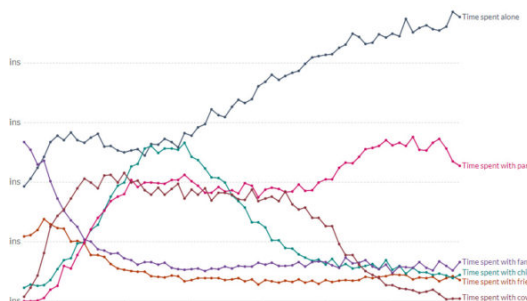
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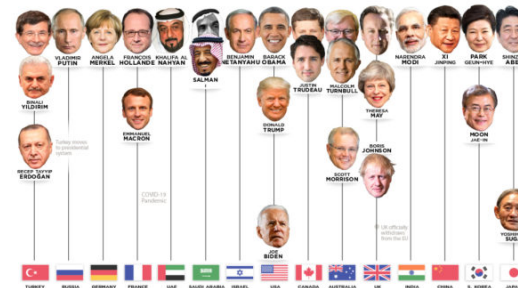
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How much does each country in the military alliance contribute to NATO defense spending? We break it down with this map.



Published 6 days ago on September 23, 2021

By **Avery Koop** 





## This Is How Much NATO Countries Spend on Defense

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) exists for the sole purpose of facilitating a political and military alliance between almost 30 countries. All are obligated to one another in times of war, but some countries have much stronger militaries and defense systems than others.

Using data from [NATO](https://www.nato.int), this map reveals what each NATO member country spends on its own national defense.

*Note: Numbers are 2021 projections.*

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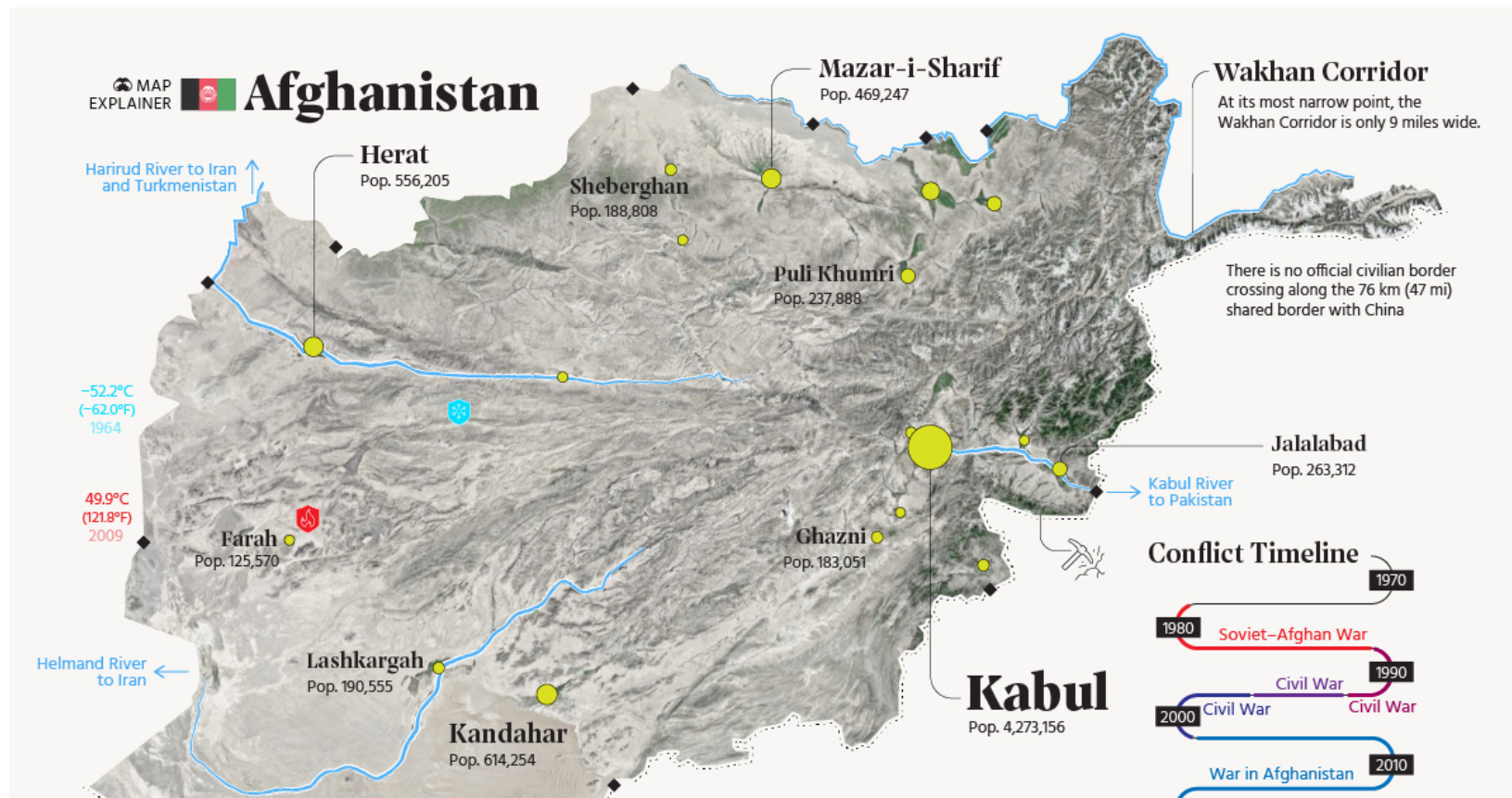
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This map explainer looks at Afghanistan from a structural point of view, delving into geography and population patterns.



Published 1 month ago on August 18, 2021

By **Nick Routley** 



### Map Explainer: Key Facts About Afghanistan

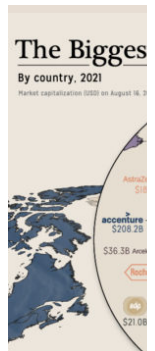
The country of Afghanistan has a long and complicated history of domination by foreign powers and conflict between factions within the country.

While Afghanistan is well covered in headlines and news stories, the lion's share of this coverage is directly related to conflict. As a result, Afghanistan is viewed by many in Western countries as a war-torn desert, with conflict, ideology, and geopolitical power obscuring more practical information about the country and its people.



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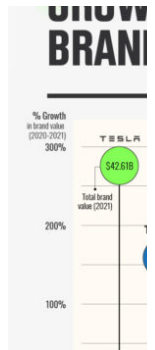


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