

# The Economist's country of the year for 2023

制定、通过、颁布法令

《经济学人》杂志2023年度国家

It is possible to **enact** painful economic reforms and still get re-elected



Dec 20th 2023

Historians will not look back on 2023 as a happy year for **humanity**. Wars **blazed**,

人类总称

熊熊燃烧

**autocratic** regimes **swaggered** and in many countries **strongmen** **flouted** laws and

/ˌɔːtəˈkrætɪk/独裁的、专制的 /reɪˈʒɪnz/统治制度、政权 大摇大摆的走、趾高气扬的行走或行事

独裁者

公然蔑视

curb: 抑制 自由、自由权

**curbed** liberty. This is the **grim** backdrop to our annual “country of the year” award.

严肃的、坚定的 背景幕

If our prize was for the **resilience** of ordinary people in the face of **horror**, there

恢复力、复原力

震惊、恐惧

would be **an abundance** of **candidates**, from the Palestinians and Israelis in their

/əˈbʌndəns/大量、丰富 候选人、申请者

bitter **conflict** to the **Sudanese** **fleeing** as their country **implodes**.

苏丹人

逃离

内爆、崩溃

seek to : 试图寻求或者寻找某物

Yet since we started naming countries of the year in 2013, we have **sought** to

recognise something different: **the place that has improved the most**. The search for

亮点

不乐观的、无望的

绝望

提议

a **bright** spot in a **bleak** world led some of our staff to **despair** and **propose** **Barbie**

Land, the <sup>虚构的 粉红色的 乌托邦</sup> fictional pink utopia of a Hollywood <sup>一鸣惊人的事物</sup> blockbuster. But in real life, there are two sets of countries that deserve <sup>表彰、赞誉</sup> recognition in 2023. (尽管自从我们在2013年设立年度国家评选以来, 我们努力认可的是那些取得最显著进步的地方。在这个充满阴霾的世界中搜寻希望之光, 一度让我们的一些员工陷入失望, 并提议设立芭比乐园这样一个好莱坞大片里的虚构粉红色理想国。但在现实生活中, 2023年有两组国家实实在在值得我们给予肯定。)

The first includes places that have stood up to <sup>/ˈbɒlɪŋ/恃强凌弱的行为</sup> bullying by <sup>专制、独裁</sup> autocratic neighbours. One cannot say that life in Ukraine improved, but the country <sup>/ˈvæliəntli/勇敢的、英勇的</sup> valiantly continued its struggle against <sup>普京</sup> Vladimir Putin's war machine, despite <sup>摇摆不定</sup> wobbling by its Western supporters. (不能说乌克兰的生活状况有所改善, 但这个国家勇敢地持续对抗弗拉基米尔·普京的战争机器, 尽管其西方支持者们表现出了摇摆不定。) <sup>/mɒl'dəʊvə/摩尔多瓦 (东欧内陆国家)</sup> Moldova <sup>阻挡、抵制</sup> resisted Russian intimidation. <sup>威胁</sup> Finland joined the <sup>北大西洋公约组织 (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)</sup> nato alliance and <sup>瑞典</sup> Sweden will follow soon. In Asia a number of countries <sup>保持冷静</sup> held their nerve in the face of xx aggression, often in collaboration with America. The Philippines defended its <sup>海上的、海事的</sup> maritime boundaries, and the law of the sea, against much bigger xx ships. In August Japan and South Korea put aside their historical <sup>/ˈɡrɪvəns/不满、不平</sup> grievances to deepen their co-operation. The island state of <sup>图瓦卢 (西太平洋岛国, 旧称埃利斯群岛)</sup> Tuvalu, with a population of 11,000, has just signed a <sup>/ˈtriːti/条约、协定</sup> treaty with Australia that insures its population against climate change and includes a security guarantee to prevent it from falling under xx thumb. (图瓦卢这个人口为11,000的岛国, 刚刚与澳大利亚签署了一项条约, 为其人民抵御气候变化的影响提供了保险, 并包括一项安全保证, 以防止他落入xx的掌控之下)

Our second group of countries defended democracy or liberal values at home. (我们的第二组国家在国内捍卫了民主或自由价值观。) <sup>脆弱的</sup> Fragile, <sup>战争创伤的</sup> war-scarred <sup>/lɪˈbɪəriə/利比里亚</sup> Liberia managed a peaceful transfer of power. So did <sup>东帝汶 (东南亚的一个国家)</sup> Timor-Leste, which maintained its reputation for respecting human rights and a free press. In some mid-sized countries, such as Thailand and Turkey, hope <sup>闪烁、闪耀</sup> flickered as the opposition pushed hard to eject autocratic regimes, but those regimes held on at elections <sup>/skjuːd/歪斜的、曲解的</sup> skewed in their favour. (但是那些政权在对他们有利的不公平选举中依然具有权利)

Three countries stand out for turning back to **moderation** after a walk on the **wild side**. (通常指的是一段偏离常规、冒险或非传统的经历 (这些国家在尝试或经历激进行为后，又恢复或转向了更加稳定、适度和平衡的政府形式或国家管理方式。)) **Brazil**

**swore** in a centre-left president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, after four years of **mendacious** **populism** under Jair Bolsonaro, who spread **divisive** **conspiracy**

**theories**, **coddled** **trigger-happy** **cops**, supported **rainforest-torching** farmers,

refused to accept **electoral** defeat and encouraged his **devotees** to attempt an **insurrection**. The new administration quickly restored **normality**—and reduced

the pace of **deforestation** in the Amazon by nearly 50%. Brazil's impressive record was **marred**, however, by Lula's habit of **cosying up** to Mr Putin and

Venezuela's **despot**, Nicolás Maduro. As a result, Brazil misses out on the award.

(三个国家因为经历了“走出去”之后重新回归温和立场而脱颖而出 (这些国家正在尝试或经历前瞻性行为后，又恢复或转向更加稳定、适应和平衡的政府形式或国家管理方式。)) 巴西中左翼总统路易斯·伊纳西奥·卢拉·达席尔瓦 (Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva) 在任职四年后宣誓就职博尔索纳罗领导下的虚假民粹主义，散布分裂阴谋理论，溺爱好战的警察，支持焚烧雨林的农民，拒绝接受选举失败并鼓励他的追随者尝试起义。新政府迅速恢复了正常状态，并将亚马逊地区的森林砍伐速度降低了50%。巴西令人印象深刻

然而，由于卢拉习惯于讨好普京和委内瑞拉的独裁者尼古拉斯·马杜罗。结果，巴西错失了该奖项。)

**Poland** had a remarkable 2023: its economy withstood the shock of the war next

door; it continued to host nearly 1m Ukrainian refugees; and to **deter** Russia it

raised its defence spending to above 3% of gdp, giving its **stingy** nato peers an

example to **emulate**. The country's biggest problem has been the dominance of

the **populist-nationalist** Law and Justice (pis) party, which has run the

government for the past eight years, **eroding** the independence of the courts,

stuffing state media with lackeys and **nurturing** **crony** capitalism. In October voters

dumped pis in favour of an array of opposition parties. It is early days for a new

**coalition** government, led by Donald Tusk, a veteran **centrist**, but if it does a good

job of mending the damage pis did to **democratic** institutions, Poland will be a

strong candidate for our prize next year.

That leaves our winner, **Greece**. Ten years ago it was **crippled** by a debt crisis and

**ridiculed** on Wall Street. Incomes had **plunged**, the social contract was **fraying** and

extremist parties of the left and right were **rampant**. The government grew so

desperate that it cuddled up to xx and later sold its main port, Piraeus, to a Chinese firm. Today Greece is far from perfect. A rail crash in February exposed corruption and shoddy infrastructure; a wire-tapping scandal and the mistreatment of migrants suggested civil liberties can be improved.

But after years of painful restructuring, Greece topped our annual ranking of rich-world economies in 2023. Its centre-right government was re-elected in June. Its foreign policy is pro-America, pro-eu and wary of Russia. Greece shows that from the verge of collapse it is possible to enact tough, sensible economic reforms, rebuild the social contract, exhibit restrained patriotism—and still win elections. With half the world due to vote in 2024, democrats everywhere should pay heed.