

Chapter 1 : Syria crisis: Where key countries stand - BBC News

France today is a sophisticated powerhouse of architecture, art, cinema, cuisine, fashion, literature, music and wine. Its countless attractions, enchanting culture and pastoral countryside attract more visitors than any other country on the planet.

April 2, The Future of World Religions: Over the next four decades, Christians will remain the largest religious group, but Islam will grow faster than any other major religion. If current trends continue, by 2050 the number of Muslims will nearly equal the number of Christians around the world. The global Buddhist population will be about the same size it was in 2010, while the Hindu and Jewish populations will be larger than they are today. India will retain a Hindu majority but also will have the largest Muslim population of any country in the world, surpassing Indonesia. In the United States, Christians will decline from more than three-quarters of the population in 2010 to two-thirds in 2050, and Judaism will no longer be the largest non-Christian religion. Muslims will be more numerous in the U.S. Four out of every 10 Christians in the world will live in sub-Saharan Africa. These are among the global religious trends highlighted in new demographic projections by the Pew Research Center. Islam was second, with 1.5 billion adherents. If current demographic trends continue, however, Islam will nearly catch up by the middle of the 21st century. As a result, according to the Pew Research projections, by 2050 there will be near parity between Muslims and Christians. 2. The global Buddhist population is expected to be fairly stable because of low fertility rates and aging populations in countries such as China, Thailand and Japan. In 2010, censuses and surveys indicate, there were about 1.5 billion Buddhists. At the same time, however, the unaffiliated are expected to continue to increase as a share of the population in much of Europe and North America. As the example of the unaffiliated shows, there will be vivid geographic differences in patterns of religious growth in the coming decades. One of the main determinants of that future growth is where each group is geographically concentrated today. Religions with many adherents in developing countries — where birth rates are high, and infant mortality rates generally have been falling — are likely to grow quickly. Much of the worldwide growth of Islam and Christianity, for example, is expected to take place in sub-Saharan Africa. Globally, Muslims have the highest fertility rate, an average of 3.1. Worldwide, Jewish fertility is 1.8. All the other groups have fertility levels too low to sustain their populations: Another important determinant of growth is the current age distribution of each religious group — whether its adherents are predominantly young, with their prime childbearing years still ahead, or older and largely past their childbearing years. All the remaining groups have smaller-than-average youth populations, and many of them have disproportionately large numbers of adherents over the age of 40. In addition to fertility rates and age distributions, religious switching is likely to play a role in the growth of religious groups. But conversion patterns are complex and varied. In some countries, it is fairly common for adults to leave their childhood religion and switch to another faith. In others, changes in religious identity are rare, legally cumbersome or even illegal. The Pew Research Center projections attempt to incorporate patterns in religious switching in 70 countries where surveys provide information on the number of people who say they no longer belong to the religious group in which they were raised. In the projection model, all directions of switching are possible, and they may be partially offsetting. In the United States, for example, surveys find that some people who were raised with no religious affiliation have switched to become Christians, while some who grew up as Christians have switched to become unaffiliated. These types of patterns are projected to continue as future generations come of age. For more details on how and where switching was modeled, see the Methodology. For alternative growth scenarios involving either switching in additional countries or no switching at all, see Chapter 1. Over the coming decades, Christians are expected to experience the largest net losses from switching. Globally, about 40 million people are projected to switch into Christianity, while 100 million are projected to leave, with most joining the ranks of the religiously unaffiliated. All told, the unaffiliated are expected to add 97 million people and lose 36 million via switching, for a net gain of 61 million by 2050. Modest net gains through switching also are expected for Muslims (3 million), adherents of folk religions (3 million) and members of other religions (2 million). Jews are expected to experience a net loss of about 1 million people due to switching, while Buddhists are

expected to lose nearly 3 million. International migration is another factor that will influence the projected size of religious groups in various regions and countries. Forecasting future migration patterns is difficult, because migration is often linked to government policies and international events that can change quickly. For this reason, many population projections do not include migration in their models. But working with researchers at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Laxenburg, Austria, the Pew Research Center has developed an innovative way of using data on past migration patterns to estimate the religious composition of migrant flows in the decades ahead. For details on how the projections were made, see Chapter 1. The impact of migration can be seen in the examples shown in the graph at the right, which compares projection scenarios with and without migration in the regions where it will have the greatest impact. In Europe, for instance, the Muslim share of the population is expected to increase from 5. In North America, the Hindu share of the population is expected to nearly double in the decades ahead, from 0. Beyond the Year This report describes how the global religious landscape would change if current demographic trends continue. With each passing year, however, there is a chance that unforeseen events — war, famine, disease, technological innovation, political upheaval, etc. Owing to the difficulty of peering more than a few decades into the future, the projections stop at Readers may wonder, though, what would happen to the population trajectories highlighted in this report if they were projected into the second half of this century. And, if so, when? The answer depends on continuation of the trends described in Chapter 1. After that, the number of Muslims would exceed the number of Christians, but both religious groups would grow, roughly in tandem, as shown in the graph above. Due to the heavy concentration of Christians and Muslims in this high-fertility region, both groups would increase as a percentage of the global population. It bears repeating, however, that many factors could alter these trajectories. Or if disaffiliation were to become common in countries with large Muslim populations — as it is now in some countries with large Christian populations — that trend could slow or reverse the increase in Muslim numbers. Regional and Country-Level Projections In addition to making projections at the global level, this report projects religious change in countries and territories with at least , people as of , covering Population estimates for an additional 36 countries and territories are included in regional and global totals throughout the report. Ongoing growth in both regions will fuel global increases in the Muslim population. One exception is Hindus, who are overwhelmingly concentrated in India, where the population is younger and fertility rates are higher than in China or Japan. As previously mentioned, Hindus are projected to roughly keep pace with global population growth. Europe is the only region where the total population is projected to decline. While Christians will remain the largest religious group in Europe, they are projected to drop from three-quarters of the population to less than two-thirds. Over the same period, the number of Hindus in Europe is expected to roughly double, from a little under 1. Buddhists appear headed for similarly rapid growth in Europe — a projected rise from 1. In the United States, for example, the share of the population that belongs to other religions is projected to more than double — albeit from a very small base — rising from 0. And by the middle of the 21st century, the United States is likely to have more Muslims 2. But Nigeria also will continue to have a very large Christian population. Indeed, Nigeria is projected to have the third-largest Christian population in the world by , after the United States and Brazil. As of , the largest religious group in France, New Zealand and the Netherlands is expected to be the unaffiliated. About These Projections While many people have offered predictions about the future of religion, these are the first formal demographic projections using data on age, fertility, mortality, migration and religious switching for multiple religious groups around the world. The projections cover eight major groups: Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jews, Muslims, adherents of folk religions, adherents of other religions and the unaffiliated see Appendix C: Defining the Religious Groups. Because censuses and surveys in many countries do not provide information on religious subgroups — such as Sunni and Shia Muslims or Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox Christians — the projections are for each religious group as a whole. Data on subgroups of the unaffiliated are also unavailable in many countries. As a result, separate projections are not possible for atheists or agnostics. The projection model was developed in collaboration with researchers in the Age and Cohort Change Project at IIASA, who are world leaders in population projections methodology. The model uses an advanced version of the cohort-component method typically employed by demographers to forecast population growth. It starts

with a population of baseline age groups, or cohorts, divided by sex and religion. Each cohort is projected into the future by adding likely gains immigrants and people switching in and by subtracting likely losses deaths, emigrants and people switching out year by year. For more details, see the Methodology. An initial set of projections for one religious group, Muslims, was published in , although it did not attempt to take religious switching into account. Some social theorists have suggested that as countries develop economically, more of their inhabitants will move away from religious affiliation. While that has been the general experience in some parts of the world, notably Europe, it is not yet clear whether it is a universal pattern. Rather, the projections extend the recently observed patterns of religious switching in all countries for which sufficient data are available 70 countries in all. And the projections assume that people gradually are living longer in most countries. These and other key input data and assumptions are explained in detail in Chapter 1 and the Methodology Appendix A. Since religious change has never previously been projected on this scale, some cautionary words are in order. Population projections are estimates built on current population data and assumptions about demographic trends, such as declining birth rates and rising life expectancies in particular countries. The projections are what will occur if the current data are accurate and current trends continue. But many events – scientific discoveries, armed conflicts, social movements, political upheavals, natural disasters and changing economic conditions, to name just a few – can shift demographic trends in unforeseen ways. That is why the projections are limited to a year time frame, and subsequent chapters of this report try to give a sense of how much difference it could make if key assumptions were different. For more details on the possible impact of religious switching in China, see Chapter 1. Finally, readers should bear in mind that within every major religious group, there is a spectrum of belief and practice. The projections are based on the number of people who self-identify with each religious group, regardless of their level of observance. What it means to be Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish or a member of any other faith may vary from person to person, country to country, and decade to decade. Acknowledgements These population projections were produced by the Pew Research Center as part of the Pew-Templeton Global Religious Futures project, which analyzes religious change and its impact on societies around the world.

France overemphasizes geography and doesn't mention the national holiday or flag. There are other titles that are more interesting and attractive, and better organized. Martin Hintz's Norway (Children's Press,) is readable and useful.

The change gave Germany a more solid appearance as they sought to bring solidity and cohesion back following a chaotic World Cup campaign, where they were accused of lacking motivation, commitment and camaraderie. The first real chance fell to Timo Werner in the 18th minute, but even that was a speculative effort which goalkeeper Alphonse Areola comfortably dealt with. Olivier Giroud went extremely close after 35 minutes, the Chelsea front man expertly flicking a header towards goal to force an equally exceptional diving save from Manuel Neuer. Improved second period France set the tone in the second half, with Antoine Griezmann hitting a swerving shot from long range which saw Neuer produce another fine stop. That attack seemed to spark Germany into gear, as they began to take control of the match and create chance after chance. Werner was looking dangerous cutting in from the left flank, but was struggling to find a final product. In the 57th minute, his pace left Benjamin Pavard for dead before seeing his cross-shot saved for a corner. That minute salvo, however, was about the last of the action as the game petered out and ended in a goalless draw. But the dearth of creativity is still a problem and the lack of penetration in the final third a familiar concern. A fairly dull opening period got a lot more exciting in the second half, with Germany really growing into the game. France goalkeeper Alphonse Areola was probably the man of the man, producing a string of good saves to keep the match scoreless. Can he prove the difference? If they can sneak a goal it would be a pretty big win in terms of getting over their World Cup hangover. Hummels then gets a crack, driving the ball into the ground, but Areola saves. Nice from the hosts. That was tidy from Germany. Nice run from the speedster. What do you expect from two center-backs? Defensively, though, they have improved since the World Cup debacle. Boateng staying back and assisting Hummels helps, of course. France have been happy to grow into the game and they looked dangerous at times. Hopefully we see some changes sooner rather than later! The Nations League title is not fooling anyone. It is still goalless. Giroud with the best chance in a relatively goalmouth-free opening period. Neuer was well positioned for his header, however, and made a diving save. Bit too wide for a serious shot, but Mbappe and Griezmann are over it Less susceptible in defence, and more organized to stop counters. But glass half full, right? But another decent delivery from Kroos is wasted. Nice ball from Kante. It looks a fair bet at this stage, not much goalmouth action to speak of. His shot is easily saved by Areola, though. And they have a corner. It amounts to nothing. There was a juicy chance to counter there. Kroos sends it in but the referee blows for an offensive foul in the build-up. France happy to let them have it, a tactic which served Deschamps very well in the World Cup. Not much has changed it seems And the Eintracht Frankfurt man is down with an apparent shoulder injury.

Chapter 3 : Economy of France - Wikipedia

Germany's first match after their World Cup catastrophe saw a more spirited and determined performance as they drew with world champions France in the new UEFA Nations League. There were.

The powerful Romans arrived, defeated the Gauls by 52 BC, and subsequently Rome ruled for almost years. As the Roman Empire faded, France was overrun by a series of barbarian invaders and shattered into varied factions. Political fragmentation, wars and countless self-serving rulers followed, and by the end of the 8th century the population of Gaul diminished as its countryside was in ruins and commerce was almost non-existent. In , Hugh Capet was chosen by the remaining nobles as king, and the Capetian Dynasty began its year rule from Paris. This marked the birth of France as a separate kingdom, and a long list of kings would soon assume the throne; some good, some not so good. This brought the inevitable conflicts with others, and especially with England. Religious conflicts and civil wars continued, and then in , Louis XIV assumed the throne. Although he instigated many wars, France grew in stature, strength and wealth during his reign, and became a real cultural and economic power across the continent. Fresh from unrelated military victories the ambitious general, Napoleon Bonaparte, seized the moment and took control of France in His armies quickly conquered much of Europe but he was later defeated at the Battle of Waterloo in and banished to the island of Saint Helena, where he died in Assorted kings, emperors and unproductive wars would follow. In the monarchy was finally ended, and a republican constitution was adopted. In , church and state were separated by law and France would never again bow to an autocratic king. Although on the victorious side in World Wars I and II, France ultimately suffered extensive losses to its empire, manpower, wealth and status as a dominant nation-state. World War I was especially brutal as over one million French troops were killed. Over the last half-century, the French have aggressively and tenaciously recovered, and although recently rocked by the violent protests of youth, modern France is a strong economic force and a consequential leader among European nations. Its presidential democracy is stable and it proudly stood at the forefront in the development of the European Union EU. France today is a sophisticated powerhouse of architecture, art, cinema, cuisine, fashion, literature, music and wine. Its countless attractions, enchanting culture and pastoral countryside attract more visitors than any other country on the planet. As always, the celebration of life continues here, non-stop, so pop the cork and fill your glass to the brim with the sparkling champagne that is France.

Chapter 4 : Political Map of France - Nations Online Project

France, officially French Republic, French France or République Française, country of northwestern Europe, is one of the most important nations in the Western world, France has also played a highly significant role in international affairs, with former colonies in every corner of the globe.

France has the largest land area of any Western European nation and lies between the Mediterranean Sea on the southeast and the Bay of Biscay and English Channel to the north and west. France has a total land area of 643,801 square kilometers, 248,572 square miles and a coastline of 3,427 kilometers, 2,128 miles. Its area is about four-fifths of the size of Texas. Other cities with over a million people including surrounding areas are Lyon, Marseille, and Lille. It has about 117 inhabitants per square kilometer or about 303 people per square mile. Roughly one-sixth of the entire population lives in the Greater Paris area. While the majority of the population 65 percent falls between the ages of 15 and 64, about 16 percent are older than 65 years of age. The remaining 19 percent are 14 years old and younger. At the turn of the 19th century, France was the most populous country in Europe. But by the late 19th and early 20th century, France experienced the lowest birth rate in the continent. Due to government efforts and the post-World War II baby boom, however, France reached a birth rate of 21 per 1,000 people in the post-war era. This growth declined to 18 and The influx of immigrants into France at the last quarter of 20th century, though, has moderated the trend toward a shrinking population. It is estimated that France has received 10 million immigrants. The ratio between males and females is nearly one-to-one in almost all age strata of French population, with the exception of those over age 65, where there are 0.97 females for every male. This is mainly because the life expectancy for females at birth is about 83 years while it is only 75 for males. Life expectancy for the total population averages 79 years. In 2000, France was the sixteenth most populous nation in the world. The French population is expected to decline by the year 2050 when France will rank twenty-fifth in the world. The United Nations Development Program UNDP estimates that the population will reach 61 million in 2050, but drop to 59 million in 2060, with 30 percent of the population over 80 years of age. This number was 16 percent in 2000. This means that the potential support ratio the number of people aged 15 to 64 for each person aged 65 years or older in 2050 will be half of its level. In other words, every 2 working people will be supporting a retired person in 2050, which doubles the burden on the society from 1 to 2 in providing care and benefits for the elderly. Archaic immigration policies make France somewhat unattractive for foreigners who seek work or asylum, even though the need for more workers has been recognized by many. The government provides generous family and health support programs, though these have not necessarily encouraged population growth. Individuals with health problems, the unemployed, and the retired are protected from bankruptcy by the social security system. Some cities even tried to implement their own programs to encourage population growth, but they were aimed at French or European races, and thus quickly denounced as racist. It is a member of the G8, a group of countries which comprises the 7 largest industrial democracies, plus the Russian Federation. Investment in the industrial manufacturing sector was 100 billion francs in 2000. These figures excluded the energy and agricultural manufacturing sectors. Firms operating in the industrial manufacturing sector produced a variety of goods such as consumption goods, items related to the auto industry, and equipment such as electronics, machinery, and intermediate goods. The well-established name for French products in the fashion world helps France in the export of perfumes and even flowers. The consumption goods industry made nearly 100 billion francs from sales abroad in 2000. The contribution of the auto industry to the French exports figures in 2000 was almost 100 billion francs. France is one of the largest producers of passenger cars and commercial vehicles in the world, along with Japan, the United States, and Germany. New industrial areas emerged around the English Channel and Mediterranean Sea in order to save shipment costs of imported raw materials. Even though some French companies, such as Renault and Airbus, are world famous, most French firms are characterized as moderate to small-sized. But small firms tend to be ineffective in the world market because of heavy competition from companies based in countries with cheaper labor costs or higher and better production technologies. The pressure of competition was felt heavily with the unification of the European markets under the umbrella of EU, in which movement of capital and labor is not constrained. Unless smaller and relatively inefficient

French firms can adapt, labor and capital may move elsewhere. With the advent of the euro, many French companies have had to restructure and form mergers. The major European airplane producing company is Airbus, which is based in France but also supported by Germany and Britain. With more than 4, aircraft orders placed by international customers as of April , Airbus is the world leader in aircraft production. Airbus and Boeing of the United States are in competition, and they have conflicting ideas about the future of the world air travel. The perception of future demand and air travel habits shapes the design of aircraft to be produced. Airbus believes that huge aircraft with a short flight range will shape demand in the future. Boeing, on the other hand, believes that passengers will be flying long miles in smaller aircraft. Time will show which one is on the right track. One other field where French companies are strong is construction and civil engineering. However, a recent declining trend in enrollment in science classes in the country is a major concern of education authorities. France is the second ranked producer and the leading exporter of agri-foodstuffs processed food such as wine, cheese, and pasta in Europe. It is the fourth-largest exporter in the world in chemicals, rubber, and plastics; and third ranked in pharmaceuticals and pharmaceuticals. Mining is not a field in which France competes, and only a very minor fraction of the labor force less than 1 percent is engaged in mining. Most of these fields do not have economically viable reserves compared to other big producers because they lack sufficient amounts in some cases or are difficult to extract. Many coal fields have shut down since the s. France is an importer of petroleum but processes petroleum at home to produce several oil products which are sold domestically and abroad. France has a developed credit market which channels savings to investors very efficiently and in large volumes. The market capitalization of shares listed on the Paris Stock Exchange, the fifth largest in the world, accounts for about 32 percent of the French GDP. Market capitalization at the end of reached an extraordinary 4 trillion francs. The Paris Stock Exchange is an internationally used capital market, and foreign investors hold about 35 percent of French stocks. This puts Paris in an advantageous position to attract more international capital with the help of the euro, the common currency of the EU. In an effort to adjust to the introduction of the new currency, all asset management companies in France started to offer their services in euros as of January , the date the euro was introduced as the common currency of Europe. Since not all EU, let alone the European countries, decided to adopt the euro as their currency, authorities in the Paris Stock Exchange believe it has a comparative advantage over the stock markets of these nations since it can offer more opportunities via its reach to wider international audience. The Paris Stock Exchange has gone through extensive technological and legal restructuring to become more investor friendly in the international market. The French banking system is also quite competitive in the world market. In Europe, banks are allowed to engage in activities that would normally be reserved for either commercial banks or investment banks in the United States. In a unified Europe, there will be one central bank, while national central banks will be largely autonomous. Like banking and the stock market, the French insurance sector is also a world player, ranking among the top 5 in the global insurance market. Although French insurance firms have a global presence, 60 percent of their total international activity is carried out within the borders of EU. Like other insurance industries, French insurers are institutional investors. The largest chunk of investments in the insurance industry is in the form of bonds, at 69 percent. Stocks account for only 15 percent of investment, and the rest is real estate, commercial paper and other assets. French insurers saw their overall value rise 16 percent from to The introduction of the common currency is expected to boost profits in the insurance industry. Over 60 million tourists visit France every year, making it one of the largest tourist centers of the world. Visitors are attracted to its high fashion or haute couture , beautiful scenery, historic heritage, and cultural activities. With about 67 million annual tourists, France trailed behind only the United States and Spain in France has a surplus in tourism in its balance of payments accounts. The more than , businesses directly or indirectly involved in tourism in generated over billion French francs. Investments in the sector came close to 15 billion francs in that same year. According to the Ministry of Tourism, there were about , people employed in the various categories of the tourism sector including travel agencies, restaurants, and hotels. About one-sixth of this figure is employed for less than full-time. A Study in Paradoxes. Economist Intelligence Unit, Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industry. United Nations Development Program. Human Development Report Oxford University Press, FY Country

Commercial Guide:

Chapter 5 : Top 10 Wine Regions of The World | Wine Folly

Located in Western Europe, France is one of the world's oldest countries, and its reach extends around the globe through science, politics, economics and perhaps above all, culture.

Chapter 6 : List of countries by GDP (nominal) - Wikipedia

The influence France has on the world, both in the past and today, is difficult to overstate. Located in Western Europe, France is one of the world's oldest countries, and its reach extends.

Chapter 7 : France | World | The Guardian

France has several major seaports, largest port is Marseille, followed by Le Havre, Dunkirk, and Nantes/Saint-Nazaire. Bookmark/share this page One World - Nations Online.

Chapter 8 : France Facts on Largest Cities, Populations, Symbols - calendrierdelascience.com

This is a list of countries and areas in the world in alphabetical order, with the official names and alternative names. English and French country names as well as local names of the countries. Links will lead you to the respective One World - Nations Online country information and internet resources page.

Chapter 9 : World Countries List, a-z list of Countries and Regions in the World :: Nations Online Project

Exports. In France exported \$B, making it the 6th largest exporter in the world. During the last five years the exports of France have decreased at an annualized rate of %, from \$B in to \$B in