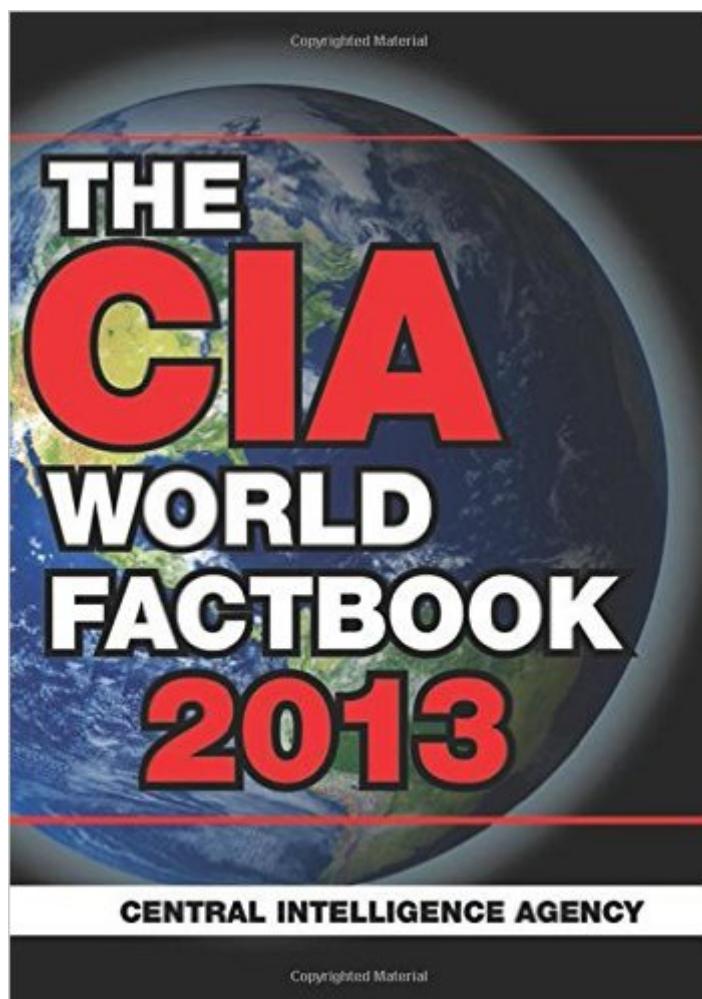


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The CIA World Factbook 2013



Synopsis

From Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, The CIA World Factbook 2013 offers complete and up-to-date information on the world's nations. This comprehensive guide is packed with detailed information on the politics, populations, military expenditures, and economics of 2013. For each country, The CIA World Factbook 2013 includes:  Detailed maps with new geopolitical data  Statistics on the population of each country, with details on literacy rates, HIV prevalence, and age structure  New data on military expenditures and capabilities  Information on each country's climate and natural hazards  Details on prominent political parties, and contact information for diplomatic consultation  Facts on transportation and communication infrastructure  And much more!  Also included are appendixes with useful abbreviations, international environmental agreements, international organizations and groups, weight and measure conversions, and more. Originally intended for use by government officials, this is a must-have resource for students, travelers, journalists, and business people with a desire to know more about their world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I just received my new CIA WORLD FACTBOOK 2013 and am happy to say it is everything prior reviewers have said about the 2012 version. An info freak's delight, this book in its 922 pages (not 960, as the Product Info. states) gives wonderfully detailed information about every nation in the world, even jurisdictions too small or politically compromised to have made it to the 2012 London

Olympics. We learn not only the "World Almanac" type of basic facts like location, language and religion but also receive a brief typology of climate, how the nation came to be politically, "Political Parties and Leaders," "Political Pressure Groups and Leaders," what international organizations the country belongs to, what kind of diplomatic relations it has with the USA, an explanation of how the executive, legislative and judicial branches work, and a nearly exhaustive breakout of economics -- even where each country rates overall in terms of cell phone usage and paved airport runways. Is there any other one-volume reference work so detailed? Not at this price, not that I know of. A couple of remarks: as prior reviewers have noted, the maps are perfunctory at best: muddy, black-and-white drawings that seem to have been photo-reduced from more useful cartography. Also, since the CIA is funded (one hopes) mainly by U.S. taxpayers, why was this volume printed in Canada?

The first line in the introduction tells us much about this thick volume (page viii): "The World Factbook is prepared by the Central Intelligence Agency for the use of US government officials, and the style, format, coverage, and contents are designed to meet their specific requirements." Then, the book described the history of American intelligence and the Factbook. Pages xxx-xxxi lay out the organizational format for each country considered--including geography, people, government, economy, communications, transportation, military, and transnational issues (such as drugs, trafficking, and disputes). To illustrate, let's consider the first country in the book, Afghanistan. There is a brief introduction. Geography? We see the territorial component (652,230 square kilometers, ranking it the 41st nation in the world, in terms of land). Current geographical issues include limited natural freshwater, soil degradation, deforestation, and air and water pollution. People: the coverage notes the divided ethnic structure and the many languages spoken. Startling (and a real problem)--42% of the population is between 0-14 years of age. Transportation appears to be an issue: there are 42,150 kilometers of roadway (86th in the world), with only 12,350 kilometers of paved roads. The book considers countries from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. The last segment of the book is a variety of maps. All in all, a treasure for those who want basic information about the countries of the world.

I recently had been assigned a research paper on the Middle East from a college class I am taking. One of my first moves was to order this book. I was very pleased as this book proved to be immensely helpful and it is absolutely filled to the brim with information on every country in the world. Highly quotable and easy to reference, I feel strongly that using this book as a source for

research is highly recommended as few would find the CIA to be lacking in credibility. Furthermore, most college professors dislike when students reference Wikipedia; which is of course probably the most common source of similar info, but being as it is that Wikipedia can be edited by nearly anyone, there are some questions as to the reliability of information posted therein. I had heard before that the CIA World Fact Book was originally intended to serve as an all-encompassing, accurate, and concise reference for various public officials such as diplomats, bureaucrats, politicians, etc. With that being said, this book will not provide you with a detailed historical background, nor will you find much fluff and explanations. Rather, it is listed with various numbers, such as national GDP, GDP per-capita, population and growth, etc, while also giving a brief outline on current political events, political parties, and so on. This book serves its purpose remarkably well, it is a must have source for anyone conducting research within the field, and provides the reader with invaluable information from a reliable source.

I use this book as a supplement for my research during speech competitions and I absolutely love it! It has more data and detail than anyone probably needs, but this makes it an essential tool when researching anything in the geopolitical arena. It has everything from the number of airports in a certain country, to the same country's Gross National Income.

There's nothing 'wrong' with this product per se, its just that most of the information is available in the World Almanac and the latter has quite a bit more information than the CIA factbook. I am astonished at the lack of detail made available on the armed forces of each country. Truly a minimalist job that doesn't really tell you anything. I'm not looking for secrets but detail on the order of the ISS publications would be very welcome.

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