

News from Taiwan, Germany and Philippines

Tuesday's World Events - February 3, 2015

Questions

1. For each of the 3 countries, give the following information:

- a) capital
- b) location/the countries that share its borders:
- c) the religious breakdown of the population:
- d) the type of government:
- e) the chief of state (and head of government if different) [If monarch or dictator, since what date has he/she ruled? – include name of heir apparent for monarch]:
- f) the population:

[Find the answers at the [CIA World FactBook website](#). For each country, answers can be found under the “Geography” “People” and “Government” headings. Go to [worldatlas.com](#) for a list of continents.]

NOTE: Before answering the questions below, read the info under “Background” and watch the videos under “Resources.”

2. For **TAIWAN**:

- a) list the who, what, where and when of the news item
- b) What does the regulation require parents to do specifically?
- c) What is the purpose of the newly passed regulation?
- d) What is the penalty for violating the new regulation?
- e) What do you think: How should such a law be enforced? Should a similar law be passed in the U.S? Explain your answers.

3. For **ZIMBABWE**:

- a) list the who, what, where and when of the news item
- b) What are the vision and 3 objectives of the African Union? (see “Background” below)
- c) Robert Mugabe has been president of Zimbabwe since 1987. The once-prosperous country has struggled since his administration began seizing white-owned farms in 2000. During his address to the African Union on Friday, Mugabe defended his controversial land reform programs, which he said were "meant for Zimbabweans to assume ownership of land."

In 2008, President Mugabe’s political party (ZANU-PF) and state security forces staged a "widespread and systematic" crackdown on opponents, which led to the killings of up to 200 opposition supporters and the beating and torture of 5,000 more.

What do you think: Can the African Union effectively carry out its mission with Mr. Mugabe as its chairperson? Explain your answer.

(The outgoing chairman is the president of Mauritania, where at least 20% of the population are slaves.)

4. For **PHILIPPINES**:

a) list the who, what, where and when of the news item

b) Define autonomous.

c) In the wake of the killing of 44 policemen by Muslim rebels, President Aquino has urged legislators not to abandon a plan for an autonomous Muslim region in the south of the mainly Catholic state, the next step in ending the rebels' 45-year insurgency which has killed 120,000 people. Which do you think is more important: completing the peace process by giving the rebels an autonomous region, or exacting justice for the 44 policemen who were killed? Explain your answer.

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Background

ZIMBABWE -

According to human rights organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch the government of Zimbabwe violates the rights to shelter, food, freedom of movement and residence, freedom of assembly and the protection of the law. There are assaults on the media, the political opposition, civil society activists, and human rights defenders. (from [wikipedia](#))

The African Union: The African Union (AU) is a union consisting of 54 African states. The only African state that is not a member is Morocco.

The vision of the African Union is that of: “An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in global arena.”

3 of the African Union's 14 objectives are:

- To promote peace, security, and stability on the continent.
- To promote democratic principles and institutions, popular participation and good governance.
- To promote and protect human and peoples' rights in accordance with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and other relevant human rights instruments. The most important decisions of the AU are made by the Assembly of the African Union, a semi-annual meeting of the heads of state and government of its member states. The Assembly is chaired by Robert Mugabe, President of Zimbabwe.

