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## How the World Compares

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The core of these books offers data drawn from international organisations (especially the OECD but also from sources such as agencies of the United Nations and World Bank) and analysis, concentrating on the 18 affluent democracies that have the most in common. There is an examination of global distributions, as well as emerging global trends between the major powers in key areas such as population, economics, energy use, and so forth. Finally there is national data concentrating on the specified country alone. The first country to be analysed is the United States.

The books cover as many aspects of social life as possible, from taxation to traffic accidents, homicide rates to health expenditure, and interest rates to internet usage. The discussion focuses on changes over time and comparisons between countries, looking at how the data relate to national debates about policies, performance and prospects, especially if these have been conducted in a vacuum.

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