

**Title:** Why Is the US Ranked Lower than Switzerland in the Human Freedom Index? A Comparison between Two Democratic Countries

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According to “The Human Freedom Index 2018” the U.S. ranks only number 17 from 162 countries and Switzerland ranked number two (Porcnik, & Vasquez, 2018). Four independent variables need to be discussed to explain the ranking. The first variable is the rule of law which concerns if prisoners are treated humanely in custody. My second independent variable is security and safety which is the right to live in security because security is needed to fully exercise our freedom. My third variable is political participation such as voting. There is a correlation between democracy and human freedom where political participation is a measurement for democracy. The higher the democracy, the higher the human freedom. The last variable measures the economic freedom of individuals through freedom of movement of humans. For the research, I read scholarly articles, books, and searched for data in databanks of the government. Switzerland emphasizes rehabilitation of inmates which reduces the recidivism rate and the number of overcrowded prisons whereas the U.S. struggles with higher recidivism rates of young people because of less access to rehabilitation programs (Alper, Durose, & Markman, 2018). The Swiss live in a securer place than the Americans because robbery, rape and homicide rates are lower (U.S. Department of Justice, 2017). Americans have more obstacles if they want to vote due to voting registration. Overall, Switzerland provides employers more freedom to access human capital because Switzerland is a member of the Schengen area (OECD, 2018), whereas the U.S. has a complex visa system.

## References

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