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The 10 Most Corrupt Countries in the World

10. Eritrea

- Corruption score: 18
- Power structure: Single-Party Presidential Democracy

Eritrea is a new entrant onto the list this year, having vaulted from number 25 to number 10 in 2014. Many people may have never even heard of Eritrea, let alone be aware of the corruption issues the country faces. Eritrea is located in Africa, bordering the Red Sea directly across from Saudi Arabia, bordering Djibouti to the south and Sudan to the north. Eritrea is a small and relatively poor country, with [a GDP of only \\$3.44 billion](#), and a population of 6.3 million.

The situation in Eritrea is clearly in flux. After years of relative self-imposed isolation, Eritrea has [begun opening its borders](#) to foreign business and investment, along with privatizing state-owned assets. That has allowed for some government officials, and others in power, to take advantage of their positions for personal profit. With undeveloped legal, economic, and political framework, the country has had a lot of trouble finding a stable foothold in the international community.

Until Eritrea can sort out its internal problems, it's likely that the country's numerous issues will continue. Due to rule by a single party — despite being a democracy — a suitable minority party that can successfully challenge for power is likely what is needed. The economy is expected to continue to stagnate, and the prospect of war in the region spilling over into the country's borders are also concerns for foreign investors.

Written by

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