

# Review of: "The Intelligence of Nations. National IQs and Correlates"

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"*The Intelligence of Nations: National IQs and Correlates*" by Ronald Henss is an interesting article, particularly for its courage in approaching a delicate topic such as "intelligence." Throughout the introduction, the historical context is presented in a well-organized sequence that integrates psychometric intelligence research, international student assessment studies, and Piagetian cross-cultural developmental psychology, culminating in the article's objectives. Although it is difficult to separate intelligence from its strong interconnection with cultural context, the author reminds us that the focus is not on evaluating the effects of underlying causes but on measuring the phenotypic intelligence of nations using data from psychometric intelligence tests and student assessment studies. The study also shows a high correlation between national IQs and diverse variables linked to different aspects of life. More than rankings for mere meaningless competition, this article provides indicators and clues that deserve reflection on how to improve the well-being of nations.

Some suggestions that could improve the Methods section (page 6) include clarifying the statement, "internal aspects concern the estimate of national IQs," which involves using a database of psychometric intelligence tests and tests from student assessment studies. The author refers to "estimate," which suggests the use of the arithmetic mean as a statistical parameter, although the results are referred to as the median. This doubt could be dispelled if the author added a brief explanation of the measures used (whether the national IQ was calculated as an arithmetic mean or as a median) and how the IQ estimate for each nation was determined, for example, by indicating the applied equation.

On page 7, Henss states, "The five sets are the basis of our analysis. We have made only three minor modifications." The explanation of the necessary changes for Cuba, Pakistan, and Cambodia is pertinent. However, the author concludes by mentioning, "The non-useful scores were, of course, excluded," leaving uncertainty about what the changes were. Thus, a brief description of the scores used to determine these IQs would clarify the method adopted.

Regarding Table 5 (page 10), which represents the central objective of the article, the choice of two columns—one with IQ data in descending order and the other in alphabetical order—results in redundant information. I believe that one of the two formats would be sufficient (I would choose alphabetical order). Additionally, it would be desirable to include results from the respective dispersion measures (variance, standard deviation, or other) in the same table, which would provide greater depth in interpreting national IQs.

