The International Country Risk Guide (ICRG)

With volatility and risk returning to world markets, political and county risk forecasting and analyses continue to evolve, driven increasingly by comprehensive data-series and sophisticated algorithms, designed to capture even the subtlest changes to a country’s risk profile and corresponding impact on asset classes.

Despite a plethora of approaches that can obfuscate clear and balanced analyses, ICRG makes its risk assessments relevant by quantifying its forecasts and ratings across 140 countries, over a 40-year period, and applying them to the behavior and protection of assets.

Since its beginnings in the early 1980s as *International Reports*, a widely-respected publication on international finance and economics, ICRG continues to serve the world’s largest institutional investors, trans-national firms, multilateral organizations, hedge funds, central banks, sovereign wealth funds, and leading academic institutions.

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**The World’s Preeminent Source**

Each month, ICRG clients receive:

- Independently back-tested, data-driven country ratings and analyses focusing on key events affecting political, economic, and financial risk, and 27 comprehensive statistical tables on GDP growth, inflation, fiscal and current accounts, external, liquidity, and exchange rate stability.

- Risk assessments that account for the occurrence of Type-II errors by posing alternative risk scores over one- and five-year time horizons.

- Over 8,000 data points (some 90,000 annually) that can be applied easily to a range of artificial intelligence applications for even greater insight and predictability. (Contact PRS for details).

- Overviews of the most recent political and country risk trends affecting each of the regions covered (Asia, Africa, Americas, Middle East, Eastern and Western Europe), and commentary on the changes to the country ratings for the month.

- Global Maps of Political Risk, providing a visual of key risks, by region and by country.

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*...Great Predictive Value with respect to future equity returns.*
— Gene Epstein, Barron’s

THE PRS GROUP

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THE INTERNATIONAL COUNTRY RISK GUIDE (ICRG)

UNRIVALED INSIGHTS FOR PRICING RISK, ANTICIPATING MARKET RETURNS

Among the unique findings of the ICRG Ratings and datasets:

- The ability to extract the part of a sovereign spread due to political risk, even for countries that have never issued debt!
- The capacity to link political risk with market risk, and thus measure the cost of political risk using market prices for assets.
- Numerous correlations with equity and bond returns, as well as interventions by central banks in the FX market.
- Significantly predictive of future risk realizations.
- Risk portfolios that have generated returns of 20% annually.

A LEADING INVESTMENT RISK COMPANY.
— Jim Rogers
Former Partner of the Quantum Fund, and Chairman of Rogers Holdings

ICRG USES OVER 30 METRICS AFFECTING POLITICAL, FINANCIAL, AND ECONOMIC RISK FOR 140 DEVELOPED, EMERGING, AND FRONTIER MARKETS...

A VITAL SOURCE FOR MANAGING AND ADVISING INVESTMENT FUNDS THAT FOCUS ON VOLATILE COUNTRIES...
— Dr Michel-Henry Bouchet
Distinguished Finance Professor Skema Business School, Paris

ICRG’S EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN

Since 2006, ICRG has been led by Dr. Christopher McKee, a 20-year veteran of political and country risk analyses, and PRS’ CEO and Owner. Christopher directs a team of analysts globally and oversees the ICRG ratings each month.

An international political economist, entrepreneur, global investor, and former professor at the University of British Columbia, Christopher has worked in the fields of limited recourse financing, private sector development, and microfinance in a range of emerging and frontier markets. Christopher has appeared in such publications as the Wall Street Journal, The Financial Times, Bloomberg, Institutional Investor, Euromoney, and has appeared on CNBC.