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[What do you think of Jose Mujica the president of Uruguay?](#)

The evidence below speaks for itself. An update on the first commentator for his approval rating. He left office with a 70% approval rating. This was reported by the Independent an English newspaper free of local biases. The other evidence provided in graphs and charts are all from the World Bank

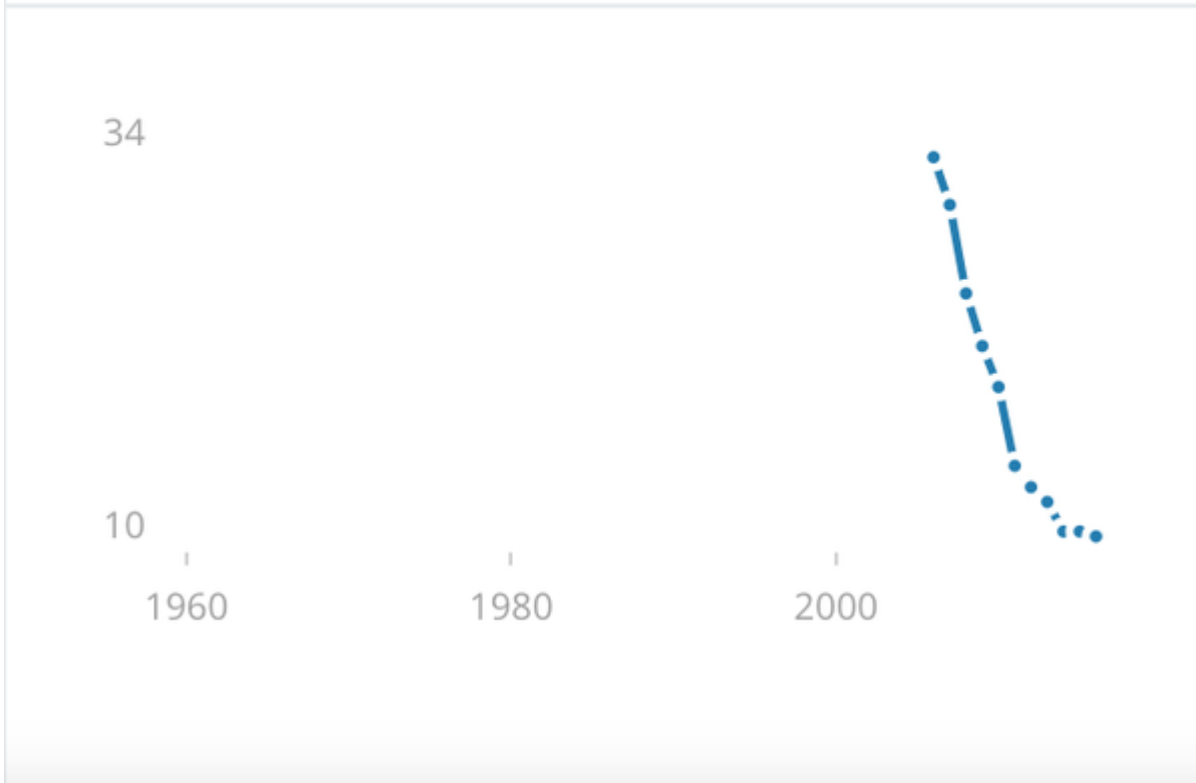
[Uruguay's cannabis-friendly president Jose Mujica hands over power to new leader](#)



The Graph above shows Uruguay's GDP per capita increase from 2010–2015 the time that corresponded with Mujica's presidency.

Poverty headcount ratio at n...

[Details](#)



The graph above shows extreme poverty overtime. Extreme poverty has almost been eliminated, with much empirical gains coming from 2010–2015

I would like to touch on both the economic indicators available from the World Bank, and as well discuss some of the slander of calling into question his actions as a revolutionary. The country at the time was a military dictatorship not a democracy. Fighting against a military dictatorship should be seen very differently than the FARC in Colombia for example whom fought against a democratically elected government.

Unlike the other commentators I will use evidence to build the economic case. Which includes for example the World Bank's glowing account of development during his tenure (I have copied and pasted this below). Inequality fell making it the best in the region in that account. GDP per capita rose to the highest in the region. Foreign Investment rose to its highest mark in Uruguay's history. It was of course named the country of the year in 2013 by the *The Economist Magazine*. It has the highest internet speed of any country in Latin America, and has drawn record investment from tech industries during this time. In the quality of life and standard of living rankings produced by Mercer ranks Montevideo as the highest in South America at 79. Chile's Santiago was ranked 95 in comparison.

Some of the other commentators have not put into context the situation the country was in when Mujica was part of a revolutionary Marxist group known as the Tupamaros. The democratically elected presidency was dissolved in 1973 and the military assumed leadership. By 1981 the dictatorship had borrowed 4 billion dollars for a country of only 3 million GDP fell by 20% and unemployment rose to 17%. Social spending was cut, as well as the privatization of many state businesses which means less access to resources for a large portion of the population. 10% of Uruguayans left the country at this time, over 5,000 people were detained or went missing. The government also censored the media. Mujica actively working to undermine a dictatorship that tanked the

economy, murdered dissidents, jailed political opponents, and practiced crony capitalism is much different than it is portrayed below. What is the definition of terrorism? Would the government also fit that description?

I am much better qualified and informed to discuss the economic situation. There is a commentator that wrote the right wing was unhappy with his leadership. Stated above the rightwing had a dictatorship which saw the economy fall by 20%. The right wing is almost solely supported in most of Latin America by the wealthy landed class whom obtained their wealth by inheritance. Their is a strange sense of entitlement or of deserving what one owns whether it was obtained through I will start with what the World Bank has written about Uruguay. I have below copied word for word from the world bank website. Uruguay rose to the highest standard of living in Latin America under Mujica

“Uruguay stands out in Latin America for being an egalitarian society and for its high per capita income, low level of inequality and poverty and the almost complete absence of extreme poverty. In relative terms, its middle class is the largest in America, and represents 60% of its population. Uruguay occupies the top spots in the region in terms of various measures of well-being, such as the Human Development Index, the Human Opportunity Index and the Economic Freedom Index. Institutional stability and low levels of corruption are reflected in the high level of confidence that citizens have on the government. According to the World Bank’s Human Opportunity Index, Uruguay has managed to attain a high level of equality of opportunity in terms of access to basic services such as education, running water, electricity and sanitation.”

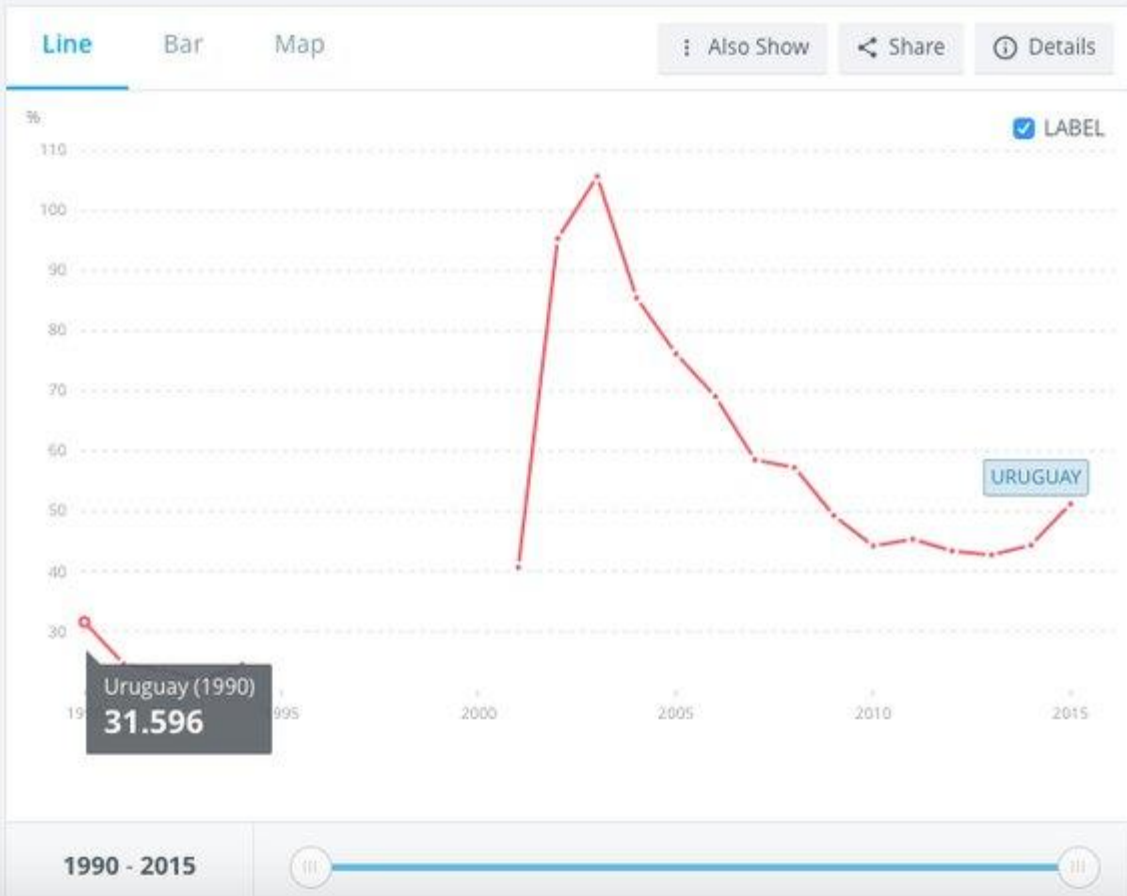
“In July of 2013, the World Bank placed Uruguay as a high-income country. By 2016, the PPA gross NATIONAL per capita income stood at US\$21,625. Two main characteristics —a solid social contract and economic openness— paved the way to the reduction in poverty and the promotion of shared prosperity that Uruguay successfully followed in the last decade.”

Right wing policies in Latin America often lead to increased inequality. The extreme leftist policies in Venezuela have accomplished the same. However, moderate left policies in both Ecuador and Uruguay have seen the two countries transform themselves. Right wing policies of lower taxation have to be balanced by cuts. Cuts in developing countries are much more severe than in wealth nations. The quality of public education falls, the cost of private education increases especially in universities, public healthcare investment falls. This all leads to less of a meritocracy. People are given opportunities not based on talent or ability but rather on wealth and status. In many Latin American countries Colombia and Guatemala being maybe the most extreme, the wealth was accumulated by enriching society, but rather by expropriated wealth passed down from the first colonizers, and a consolidation of power and limiting of competition over time. With less resources to create an equal playing field into which to compete, monopolies often thrive. Communism isn’t the answer, however a rightwing system like Uruguay’s dictatorship that cratered the economy, or Chile’s rightwing dictatorship which declared bankruptcy in my birth year of 1982 are not great examples of creating a more utopian society.

Central government debt, total (% of GDP)

International Monetary Fund, Government Finance Statistics Yearbook and data files, and World Bank and OECD GDP estimates.

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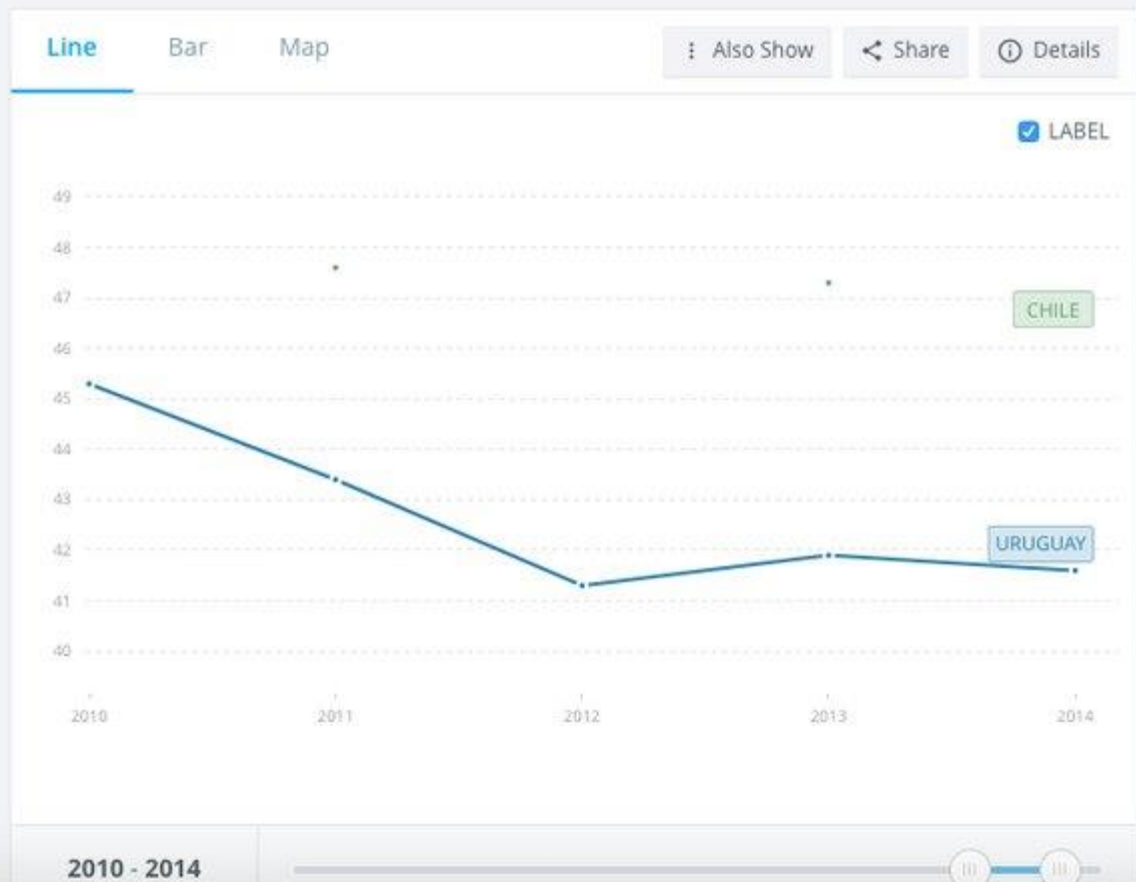


The argument made by some of soaring debt doesn't match the evidence. Debt to GDP is not near record levels.

GINI index (World Bank estimate)

World Bank, Development Research Group. Data are based on primary household survey data obtained from government statistical agencies and World Bank country departments. For more information and methodology, please see PovcalNet (research.worldbank).

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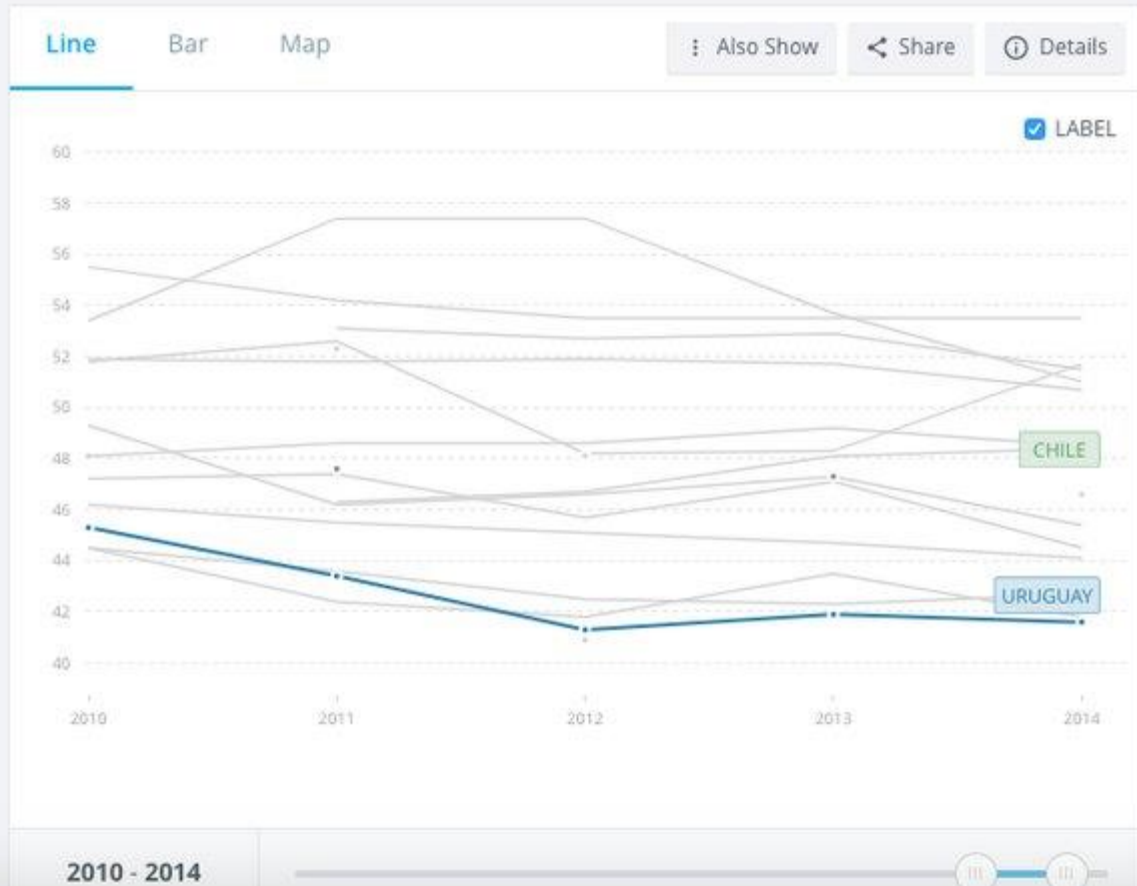


The GINI Index measures inequality. A score of 1 is perfect inequality which is one person that has all the wealth, and 0 is everyone has the same amount. The lower the number the better according the United Nations, the World Bank and any sensible economist. Chile is also demarcated here. Chile has much higher inequality and poverty levels

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The measurement of inequality during Mujica's tenure in comparison to Latin American countries. Uruguay started his tenure as having the third lowest levels of inequality and finished his tenure as having the lowest.

Depth of credit information index (0=low to 8=high)

World Bank, Doing Business project (doingbusiness.org).

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Credit rating is only available starting in 2013 from the World Bank in Uruguay. However, we do know that during Mujica's presidency Uruguay reached its highest credit rating in history

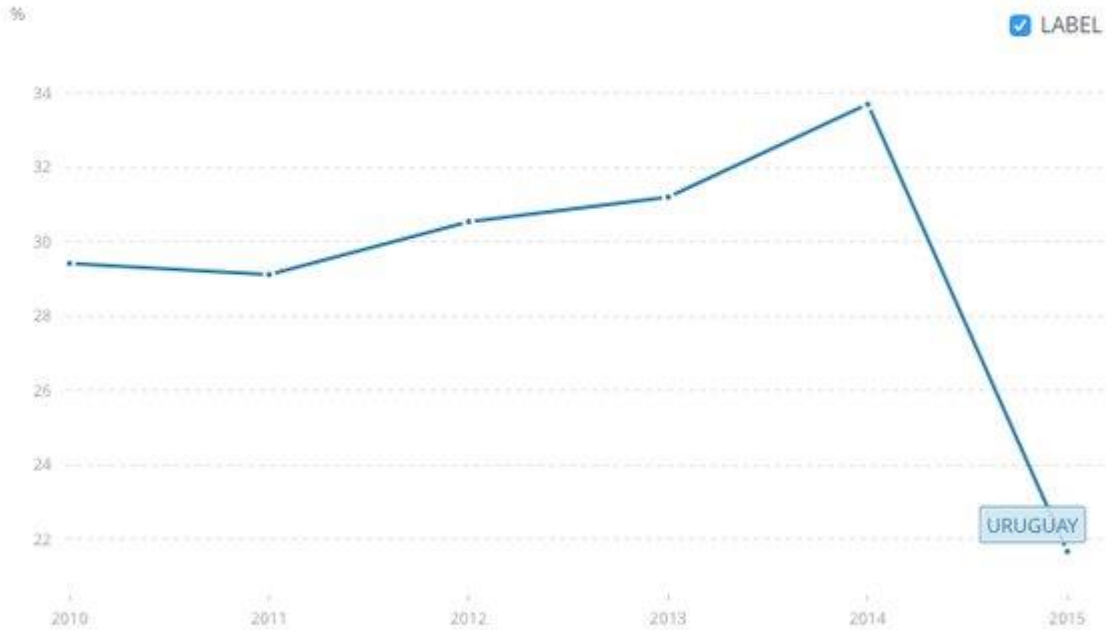
Public Sector i

Expense (% of GDP)

Also Show

Share

Details



2010 - 2015

54 Uruguay 0.692 0.742 0.780 0.784 0.788 0.791 0.794 0.795 2 0.70 0.50 0.37 0.55

Lowering inequality happened in Uruguay while simultaneously lowering government expenses to GDP.
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