

### Time 100 List of Most Influential People in the World

RE "The 100 Most Influential People in the World" [May 5-12]: I must confess that this volume has been among the most refreshing I have read of late. Selecting the 100 most influential people could never have been easy. Choices are based on arguable and sometimes challenging principles. But this particular volume was scholarly preceded by Nancy Gibbs's editorial, which shielded your team from possible allegations of questionable biases and nuances. TIME has evolved very well in deciding what criteria to use for selecting the world's most influential people. Bravo!

*Akpovire Oduaran,*  
MMabatho, South Africa

I enjoyed your issue a lot but have to express my confusion about the picture on the cover. While TIME is promoting women's rights and their continuously evolving role in society quite authentically throughout the issue, I am wondering whether there is some deeper sense of irony that I am failing to grasp behind portraying Beyoncé half-naked, in almost *Playboy*-style posture.

*Maximilian Barghoorn,*  
Hamburg



Undoubtedly there are many on your list who are major influences for good or bad on the global stage, but there are too many whose influence is restricted to within the U.S.; I fail to see how American football player Richard Sherman is a "world influencer." In the future, you should differentiate between U.S. and global influencers. The list does nothing for TIME's global standing.

*Warwick Woodhouse,*  
London

Including Thuli Madonsela on your excellent list is nothing short of a vote of confidence in the future of South Africa. Her sterling work as the public protector deserves admiration and gratitude of all right-minded people, among whom unfortunately the country's President Jacob Zuma and his little band of sycophants and oligarchs are not included.

*Mariano Castrillón,*  
Johannesburg

adapted from *TIME*, 2014