2) Based on the plot above, we chose K to be a value of 4. When we look at the plot, we notice a slight “elbow” at the value four. While it is not as apparent as it was in the videos on Coursera, we think it is still notable enough to warrant the “elbow” label.

3) Cluster 0: Albania, Algeria, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cape Verde, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Fiji, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Haiti, Indonesia, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mexico, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Swaziland, Tunisia, Tuvalu, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Palestine (State of)

Cluster 1: Afghanistan, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, China, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Oman, Qatar, Rwanda, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Zimbabwe

Cluster 2: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay
Cluster 3: Argentina, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, Madagascar, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Niger, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Spain, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam

4) We chose to look at the United States since we both live there. Unsurprisingly, the United States was put in cluster 2. Cluster 2 contains similar countries such as Canada, the United Kingdom, Sweden, and Switzerland. These countries all have fairly high per capita income relative to the rest of the world. Additionally, all are relatively at the same level of economic development, which is high. Thus, we can infer that quality of life in these countries is fairly equal. Consequently, it makes sense that citizen’s in each country weight social issues similarly. Moreover, every country on this list is a democratic country. In fact, most countries in this list rank in the top 20 of the world’s strongest democracies as measured by the democracy index. Additionally, the top 10 countries on the 2016 democracy index are included in cluster 2 (In order: Norway, Iceland, Sweden, New Zealand, Denmark, Canada, Ireland, Switzerland, Finland, Australia) However, not every country matches this profile. The most unexpected country is Palau. Palau is a small island nation located in the south pacific. Before WWII it was held under Japanese control, but was captured by the United States in WWII. Thus, there may be some social influence from the United States. Additionally, Palau is a democratic nation, but their per capita income is relatively low so the explanation for their similar weightings is unclear.