

READING SLIDES

- Billions spent on democracy promotion
- Eyeball test:
 - ▶ North Korea ... nope
 - ▶ Norway ... sure
 - ▶ Russia ... probably not?

WHAT DOES DEMOCRACY MEAN?

- constraints on the elites
 - ▶ executive constraint is the most important sub-component of Polity
- individual rights and freedoms
 - ▶ Freedom House weights these heavily
- The Economist, for example, produces a measure of democracy that sees mandatory voting as bad for democracy because it infringes on individual rights.

TAKE AWAYS

- To say that one measure is more accurate than another misses the point, since they represent different visions of a highly complex phenomenon
- Good measures are especially important for evaluating mixed regimes
- All measures are biased
- Know what is baked into the definition

A DOZEN WAYS TO BE MIDDLE CLASS

- Many theories on the behavior of “middle” class voters
- how do we categorize someone as middle class
 - ▶ income
 - ▶ education
 - ▶ specific jobs
 - ▶ family money
- how many people can be middle class?

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

HOW POLITICAL SCIENCE BECAME IRRELEVANT

IN CLASS EXERCISE - PREDICTION

PARTNER VIOLENCE

In this exercise, we examine cross-national differences in attitudes towards domestic violence and access to information. We explore the hypothesis that there is an association at an aggregate level between the extent to which individuals in a country have access to knowledge and new information, both through formal schooling and through the mass media, and their likelihood of condemning acts of intimate partner violence. This exercise is in part based on:

Pierotti, Rachel. (2013). "Increasing Rejection of Intimate Partner Violence: Evidence of Global Cultural Diffusion." *American Sociological Review*, 78: 240-265

We use data from the Demographic and Health Surveys, which are a set of over 300 nationally, regionally and residentially representative surveys that have been fielded in developing countries around the world, beginning in 1992. The surveys have identical questionnaires and trainings for interviewers, enabling the data from one country to be directly compared with data collected in other countries. It is important to note that different groups of countries are surveyed every year.

THE DATA

```
# Access to Information and Attitudes towards Intimate Partner Violence  
dviolence = read.csv("C:/Users/afisher/Documents/R Code/qss/MEASUREMENT/dviolence.csv")
```

- `beat_goesout`: Percentage of women in each country that think a husband is justified to beat his wife if she goes out without telling him.
- `beat_burnfood`: Percentage of women in each country that think a husband is justified to beat his wife if she burns his food.
- `no_media`: Percentage of women in each country that rarely encounter a newspaper, radio, or television.
- `sec_school`: Percentage of women in each country with secondary or higher education.
- `year`: Year of the survey
- `region`: Region of the world
- `country`: Country