**Working Paper CLIO-INFRA: Latent democracy variable**

1. Title

- Latent Democracy variable

2. Author(s)

- Foldvari,P.

3. Production date

- 27.06.2014

4. Version

- 1st version.

5. Variable group(s)

- Institutions

6. Variable(s)

- Latent democracy variable

7. Unit of analysis

- dimensionless (extracted latent variable)

8. Keywords

- democracy, politics, institutions, polityIV, Index of Democracy, Vanhanen,

9. Abstract (200 words)

- The latent democracy variable extracted from five components of the PoltiyIV (XRCOMP, XROPEN, XCONST, PARCOMP, PARREG) and two components of Vanhanen’s Index of Demcoracy (participation and competition)

10. Time period

- 1850-2000

11. Geographical coverage

- varying 38 (1850) between 139 (2000) countries

12. Methodologies used for data collection and processing

- Factor Analysis (measurement error model)

13. Data quality

iii. Estimates

iv. Conjectures

14. Period of collection

n.a.

15. Data collectors

n.a.

16. Sources

As specified in Foldvari, P.: A latent democracy measure 1850-2000, Utrecht University, Centre for Global Economic History, Working paper no. 59.

17. Text

The indicator should be used for cross-country comparisons. It is based on standardized democracy measures, hence its values should be interpreted as relative and not as absolute measures of the degree of democracy. The time trend observed for a particular country does not reflects changes in the magnitude of democracy, but rather its relative position within the sample. For further information or links to the original data please visit the institutions hub of the CLIO-INFRA: <http://www.cgeh.nl/institutions-hub> .

When using this data please refer to Foldvari, P.: A latent democracy measure 1850-2000, Utrecht University, Centre for Global Economic History, Working paper no. 59., June 2014 (<http://www.cgeh.nl/working-paper-series/>) or any later versions that may be published in the future.