

Outlining the Relationship Between Regime Type and Economic Development

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Background

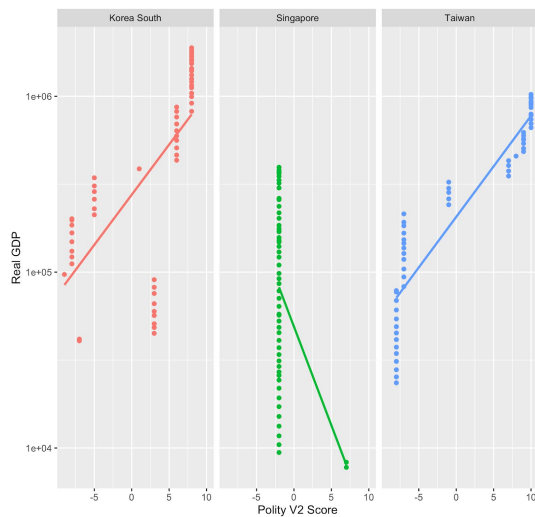
This project was inspired by my fascination with examples of autocratic states, such as Singapore and autocratic South Korea, defying the expectations of political scientists and economists by achieving exponential economic development within the short span of three decades. I remember learning about the examples of the Asian Tigers my freshman year and wanting to be able to explore this phenomenon not just qualitatively, but quantitatively, but lacking the tools to do so. My project, 'Outlining the Relationship Between Regime Type and Economic Development' is an extension of my continued fascination with the relationship between regime and economic development, as well as the implications of any observations.

Data

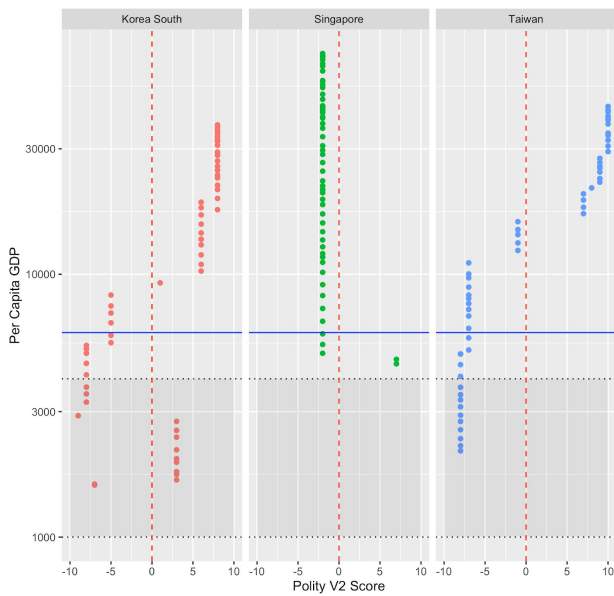
The raw data was obtained from Polity IV as well as the Penn World Tables. I used RStudio to clean, merge, and analyze my data. Lastly, I used the Shiny App interface, a program of RStudio, to display my project and findings.

Plots

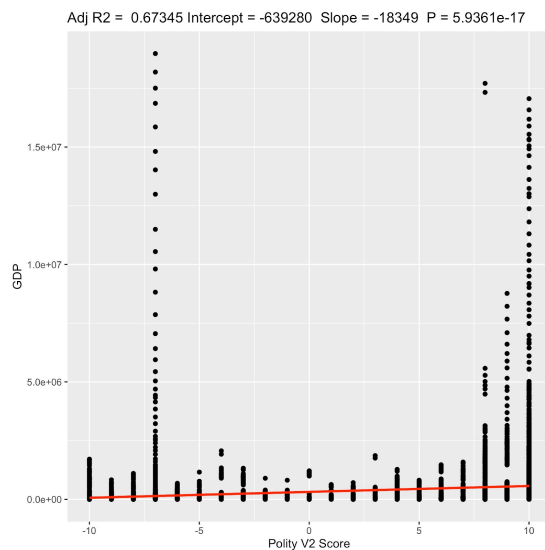
Below are the plots I created from the data:



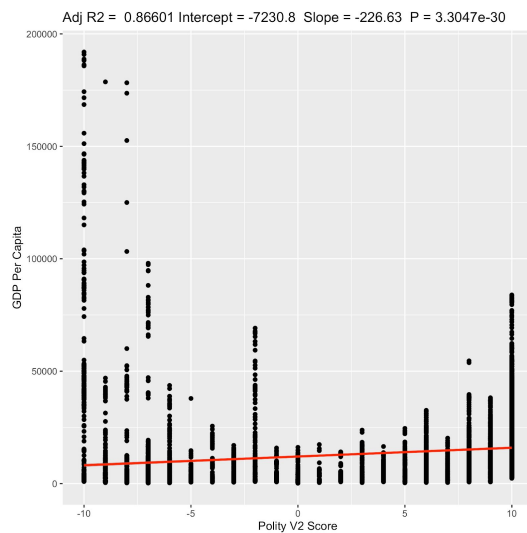
This regression plot outlines the relationship between GDP and Polity V2 Score for South Korea, Singapore, and Taiwan from 1960-2018.



This plot outlines the relationship between GDP per capita and Polity V2 Score for South Korea, Singapore, and Taiwan from 1960-2018. The black lined region is that at which autocratic regimes are most vulnerable to democratization. The blue line is that at which autocratic countries are safe from democratization once it is surpassed. This is per the research done by Przeworski and Limongi.



This is a fixed effects plot (fixing for country and year) for the relationship between GDP and Polity V2 score.



This is a fixed effects plot (fixing for country and year) for the relationship between GDP per capita and Polity V2 score.

Recommendations for Future Research

My findings help support theories that autocracy can in fact inact economic development. They also help support a previous theory by Przeworski and Limongi about the relationship between GDP per capita and democratization. What remains unclear, though, is a defined and neat relationship between regime and economic development, and it is unclear if a tidy theory could ever be defined for such a messy real-world phenomenon. Furthermore, another limitation (and reason for further and more extensive research and analysis) is lack of outlining a causal relationship(s), and the need for further research to dig deeper into the specifics of this relationship with the help of qualitative data, and outlining causality.

References

A., & Limongi, F. (1997). Modernization: Theories and Facts. *World Politics*, 49(02), 155-183.

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