

# Crisis of Democracy

## Straight Talk from the Frontline

dag.tanneberg@wzb.eu

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- 1 Why we should talk about this
- 2 Negotiating terms
- 3 Physical integrity violations in established democracies
- 4 Wrap-up

# Is crisis the latest thing?

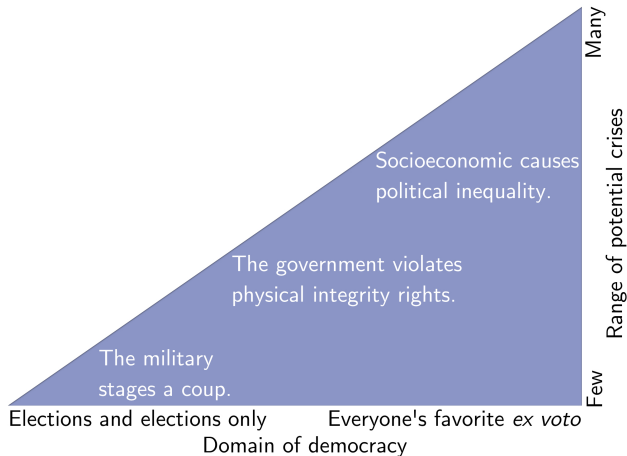
“The demands on democratic government grow, while the capacity of democratic governments stagnates. This, it would appear, is the central dilemma of the governability of democracy which has manifested itself in Europe, North America, and Japan in the 1970s.”

Michel Crozier, Samuel P. Huntington, and Joji Watanuki (1975): *The Crisis of Democracy*, New York University Press: New York, p. 9.

# Some often heard claims

- 1 Negative externalities of economic markets
  - socioeconomic translates into political inequality
- 2 Rise of anti-democratic forces
  - right-wing populism in Europe and the US
- 3 Ungovernable social heterogeneity
  - international migration & refugee flows

# Balancing democracy and crisis



# Lessons learned on terminology

## **Content conditions scope**

The more things go into democracy the more observations may qualify as crises.

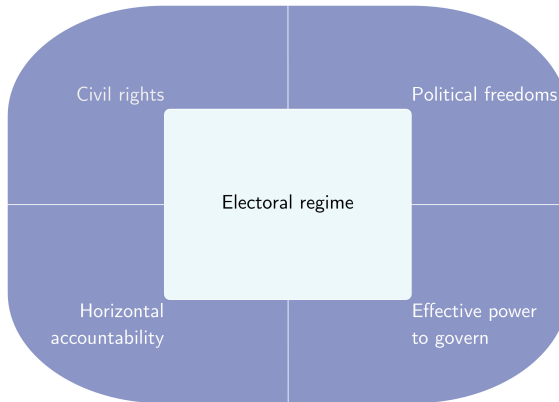
## **Scope changes texture**

As the domain of democracy increases, the range of possible crises shifts from acute, short-term disruptions to latent, long-term decline.

# Research questions

- 1 Do established democracies violate human rights?
- 2 Why do established democracies violate human rights?
- 3 What institutions prevent violent government behavior?

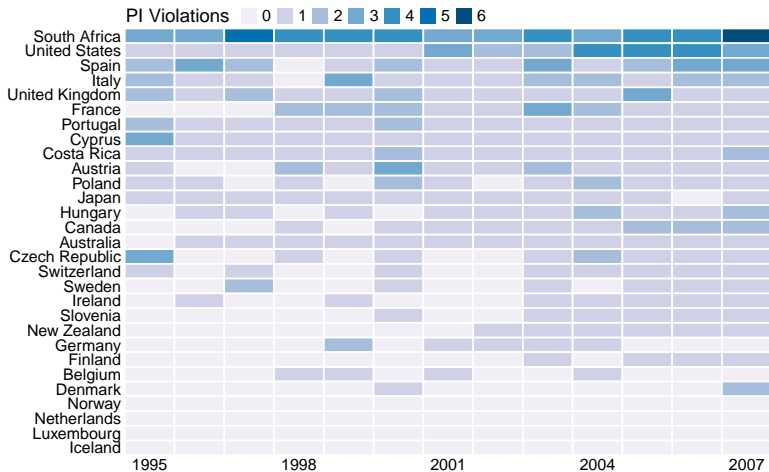
# Embedded democracy at a glance



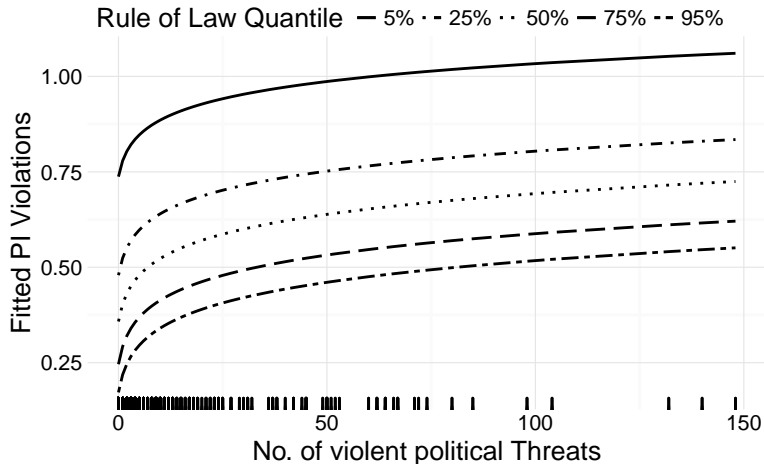
Wolfgang Merkel (2004): Embedded and Defective Democracies, in: Democratization, 11(5), pp. 33-58, 37.



# Established democracies violate physical integrity.



# Horizontal accountability does not constrain.



# Wrap-up

- 1 The crisis of democracy has been a topic for decades, and it touches on real world concerns.
- 2 What we call democracy changes systematically what we call crisis.
- 3 There may be grain of truth to the debate, established democracies fail their own standards for systematic reasons.