



About Polity

The Polity5 Project continues the Polity research tradition of coding authority characteristics of states in the world system for purposes of comparative, quantitative analysis. An improved and enhanced [Polity5 version](#) in the series is currently in development.

The Polity5 dataset covers all major, independent states in the global system over the period 1800-2018 (i.e., states with a total population of 500,000 or more in the most recent year; currently 167 countries with Polity5 refinements completed for about half those countries). With the support of the Political Instability Task Force (PITF), the Polity IV Project was transformed into a living data collection effort, meaning that it constantly monitors regime changes in all major countries and provides annual assessments of regime authority characteristics, changes and data updates. The PITF terminated its support for Polity in early 2020.

Global Trends in Governance, 1800-2018

