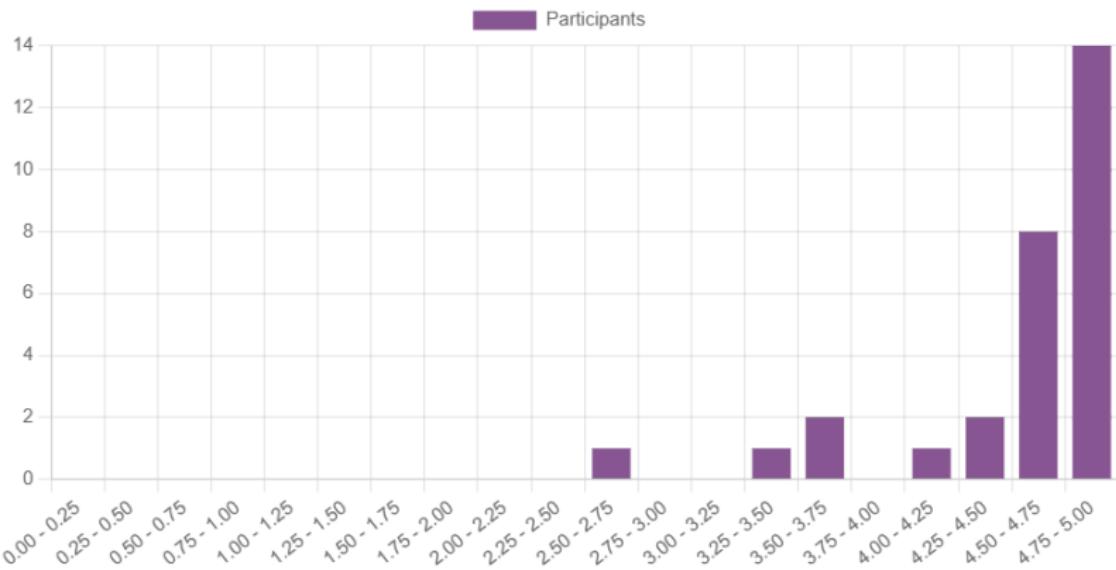


# Doing Political and Social Research

Week 7

# Quiz 1

## Overall number of students achieving grade ranges



[Show chart data](#)

## Recap: Case studies

- ▶ Evaluate the analytical strength/relevance of some specified arguments
- ▶ Comparative studies v single-case study?
- ▶ Additional things to consider
  - Alternative or rival theories?
  - Alternative methods (interviews, ethnography and archival research)?
  - Can you combine all of them?



## Article contents

Abstract

Footnotes

References

# Democracy by Mistake: How the Errors of Autocrats Trigger Transitions to Free Government

Published online by Cambridge University Press: 10 June 2020

DANIEL TREISMAN

Article

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## Abstract

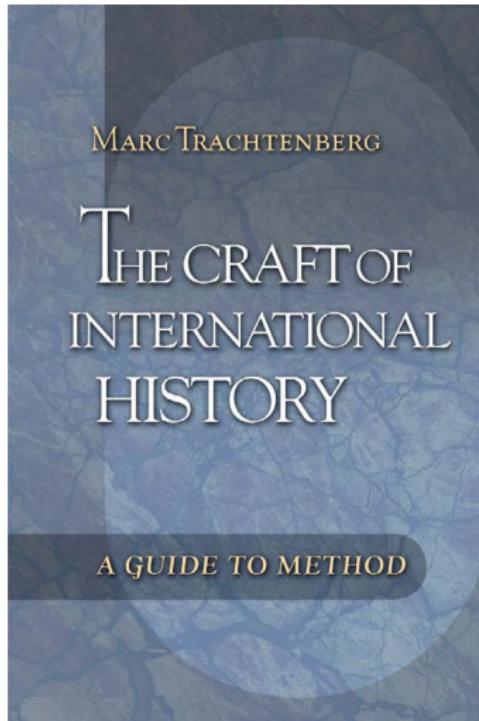
How does democracy emerge from authoritarian rule? Certain influential theories contend that incumbents deliberately choose to share or surrender power. They do so to prevent revolution, motivate citizens to fight wars, incentivize governments to provide public goods, outbid elite rivals, or limit factional violence. Examining the history of all democratizations since 1800, I show that such deliberate-choice arguments may help explain up to about one-third of the cases. In more than two-thirds, the evidence suggests that democratization occurred not because incumbents chose it but because, while trying to prevent it, they made mistakes that weakened their hold on power. Rather than being granted by farsighted elites or forced on them by the rise of new classes, democracy appears to have spread most often because of incumbents' missteps that triggered previously latent factors.

Type Research Article

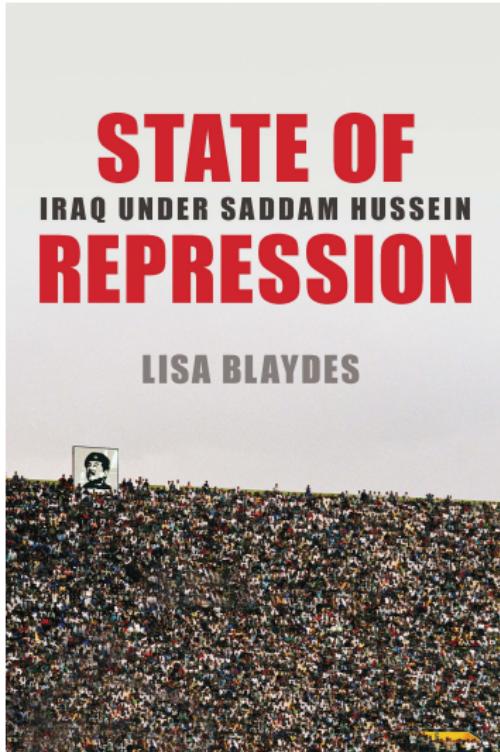
Information [American Political Science Review, Volume 114, Issue 3, August 2020, pp. 792 - 810](#)  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055420000180>

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# General principles of archival research

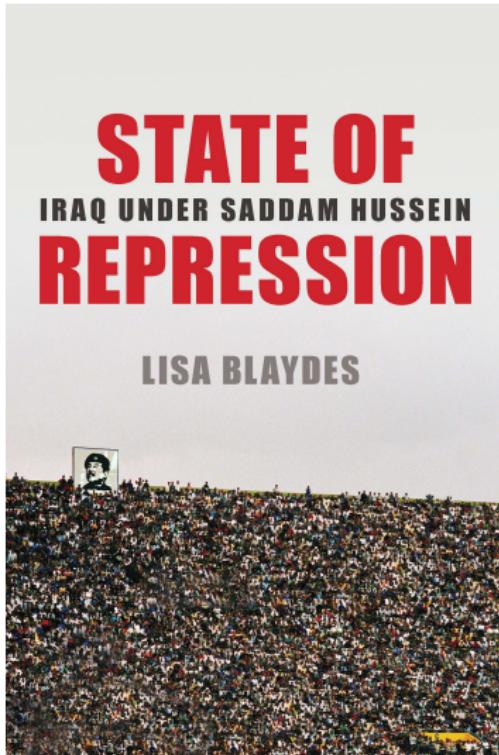


- ▶ Be clear about the questions; think through the strategies (induction v deduction)
- ▶ Be mindful of the underlying politics of information production, conservation, and declassification
- ▶ Be transparent as you are trying to form your interpretations (as well as the selection of details to be reported)
- ▶ Be patient and open-minded – read (and document) as much information as possible; do not jump into conclusion



**RQ: Daily political life in dictatorships largely remains a black box**

- ▶ What did the Ba'thist regime actually know about its citizens?
- ▶ Why did it use blunt, seemingly suboptimal, forms of punishment against its population?
- ▶ What explains variation in the types of compliance and resistance behaviors undertaken by Iraqis during Hussein's dictatorship?



## Archives

- ▶ "The Iraqi Secret Police Files"  
(University of Colorado Boulder)
- ▶ Miscellaneous tapes and associated transcripts (Hoover Institution)

**Interviews** via the Iraq Memory Foundation



## International Organization

### Article contents

Abstract

Early Modern Layered  
Sovereignty

Emergence of a  
Company-State

Company Sovereignty  
as Self-Possessed  
Right

# Corporate Sovereign Awakening and the Making of Modern State Sovereignty: New Archival Evidence from the English East India Company

Published online by Cambridge University Press: 04 March 2022

Swati Srivastava 

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[Article](#)   [Figures](#)   [Supplementary materials](#)   [Metrics](#)

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### Abstract

The English East India Company's "company-state" lasted 274 years—longer than most states. This research note uses new archival evidence to study the Company as a catalyst in the development of modern state sovereignty. Drawing on the records of 16,740 managerial and shareholder meetings between 1678 and 1795, I find that as the Company grew through wars, its claim to sovereign authority shifted from a privilege delegated by Crown and Parliament to a self-possessed right. This "sovereign awakening" sparked a reckoning within the English state, which had thus far tolerated ambiguity in Company sovereignty based on the early modern shared international understanding of divisible, nonhierarchical layered sovereignty. But self-possessed nonstate sovereignty

**A1. Outside cover and binding of directors' meeting minutes, IOR-B.88 [the engraved number does not match the record number].**



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A2. A scan of director meeting minutes from September 23, 1772 (IOR-B.88: 182)

182

23. September 1772.

of declaring the half yearly Dividend which will become due at  
Christmas next, that a Treaty having been commenced with  
Administration on the present Situation of the Company's Affairs,  
therefore until that Treaty is determined, the Court of Directors  
cannot recommend it to the General Court to come to any  
Resolution relative to such Dividend

The Court entering into a Debate thereon  
And the Minutes of the General Court held the  
30. October last being called for

The same were read.

And it was thereupon moved

That a Committee, consisting of Nine  
Proprietors, possessed respectively of £300. or  
upwards of the Capital Stock of this Company, b



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A2. A scan of director meeting minutes from September 23, 1772 (IOR-B.88: 182)

182

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Digitalization, deskwork, sampling and reading



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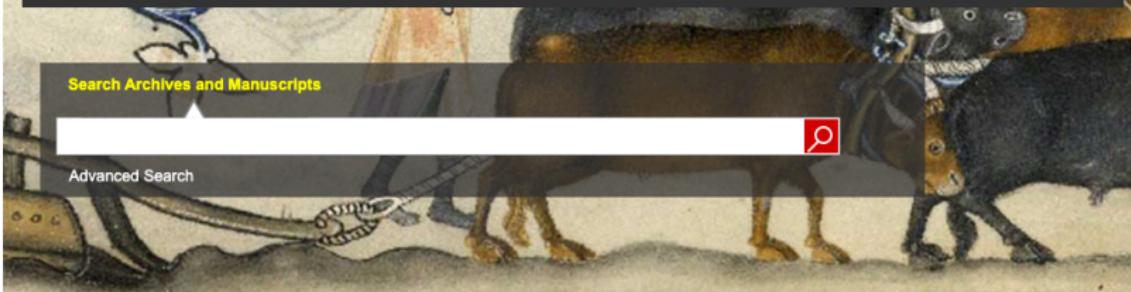
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# Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem)



## Datasets

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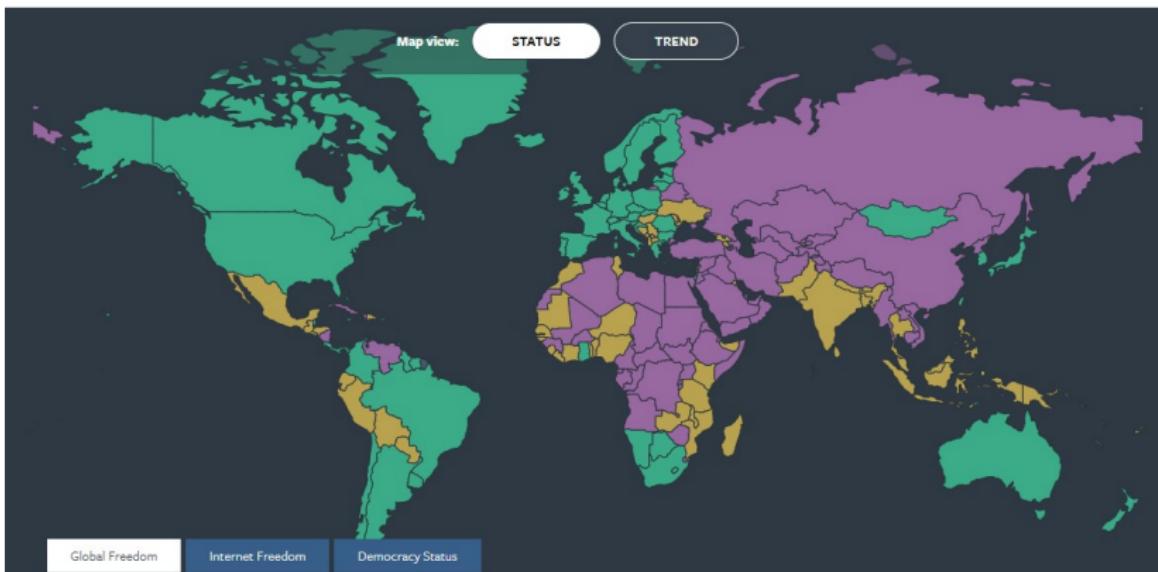


## Democracy Reports

Download our annual report on democracy in the world



<https://v-dem.net/>



<https://freedomhouse.org/>

# DD

Classification of political regimes as democracy and dictatorship. Classification of democracies as parliamentary, semi-presidential (mixed) and presidential. Classification of dictatorships as military, civilian and royal. Coverage: 202 countries, from 1946 or year of independence to 2008.

Citation:

Cheibub, José Antonio, Jennifer Gandhi, and James Raymond Vreeland. 2010. "Democracy and Dictatorship Revisited." *Public Choice*, vol. 143, no. 2-1, pp. 67-101.

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<https://sites.google.com/site/joseantoniocheibub/datasets/dd>



## The Polity Project

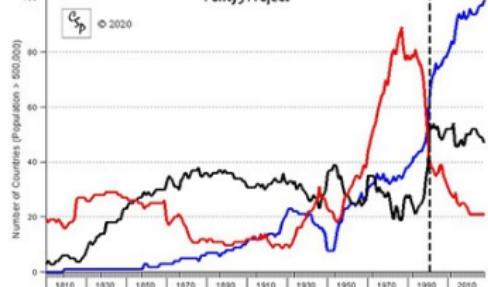
### About Polity

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

Polity Project



<https://www.systemicpeace.org/polityproject.html>



# AUTOCRATIC REGIMES

Data and research

About

**Autocratic Regime Data**

How Dictatorships Work

Research

## AUTOCRATIC REGIME DATA

2015 APSA Lijphart/Przeworski/Verba Data Set Award winner

Top-10 most cited articles published in *Perspectives on Politics* since 2003

**Article** Barbara Geddes, Joseph Wright, and Erica Frantz. 2014.

"Autocratic Breakdown and Regime Transitions: A New Data Set."

*Perspectives on Politics* 12(2): 313-331 Arabic translation

**Code Book** coding rules; narratives of the historical events that constitute autocratic regime failures and starts; list of sources used to code data; comparison with alternative democracy data set

**Autocratic regimes** start/end dates, regime types, level of violence during regime failure event, categorization of regime failure events

**All political regimes** typology of autocracies and non-autocracies (including democracies)

*THIS PROJECT IS SUPPORTED BY THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION BCS-0904478 AND BCS-0904463*

<https://sites.psu.edu/dictators/>