

While I was browsing through certain web pages that talk about politics and statistics, I came across the [BTI transformation index](#) which tracks and provides data across a wide range of countries' economic and political dimensions and subdimensions. I checked their methodology, their purpose, and the team that collects/provides/runs the entire scheme and it seemed like a fairly reliable and valid resource.

Although the nature of the data itself is suitable for a spatial analysis, the datasets that were provided (or I could find) were not suitable for a spatial analysis as they lacked the geometrical component. Thus, I decided it would be best if I ran an exploratory analysis of different regression models to see what the data itself has to tell me possibly. Although I do not have perfectly laid out hypotheses, I do have some insight into what might the data tell me and what the research topic itself is. The dataset categorizes and scores over 130 countries on 3 main dimensions (economic, democratic, political), all of which include certain subdimensions with numerous items where each item's score is averaged to obtain a score for each subdimensions and dimension. The dataset has these beginning from 2006 to 2022 biannually, so it is also a form of a time-series data. Furthermore, although the exact geometric components for a spatial analysis is lax, there is another variable that categorizes countries into 7 distinct regions which might be used as a quasi-spatial nominal variable in my regression analysis. I expect to find a strong effect of region in that sense and stability across years for each country (numbers do not fluctuate a lot across the years for a given item). I also expect to further analyze subdimensions or sub-subdimensions (i.e., items, but I'd argue they are also very general thematic categories e.g., 'fiscal stability', 'social safety networks', 'environmental policy') and see how one might predict/correlate with the other.

It is important to emphasize here that it is rather hard to pinpoint which dimension or subdimension might be *causally* related to the other, so I will be qualitatively picking out certain items that might fit into a causal relationship to (hopefully) obtain a model that might be able to predict a country's certain dimension (for example, 'free and fair elections') based on a variety of different other dimensions (for example, region, 'freedom of expression', 'monopoly on the use of force', 'association/assembly rights', 'equal opportunity', and 'civil society traditions')