

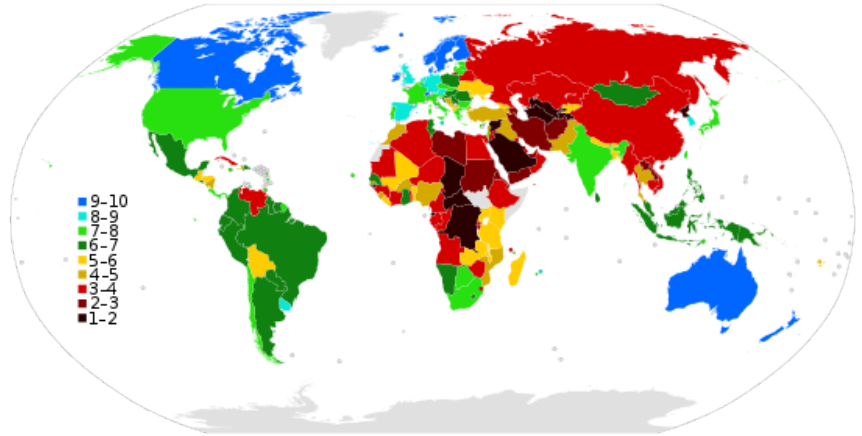


The Economist Democracy Index

This is an old revision of this page, as edited by [Smeagol 17](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) at 16:29, 15 April 2018 (→*Classification definitions*). The present address (URL) is a permanent link to this revision, which may differ significantly from the current revision.

The **Democracy Index** is an index compiled by the UK-based company the [Economist Intelligence Unit](#) (EIU) that intends to measure the state of democracy in 167 countries, of which 166 are sovereign states and 165 are UN member states.

The index was first produced in 2006, with updates for 2008, 2010 and the following years since then. The index is based on 60 indicators grouped in five different categories measuring pluralism, civil liberties and political culture. In addition to a numeric score and a ranking, the index categorises countries as one of four regime types: *full democracies*, *flawed democracies*, *hybrid regimes* and *authoritarian regimes*.



The [Economist Intelligence Unit Democracy Index](#) map for 2017.^[1]
Bluer colours represent more democratic countries as reported by the company.

Method

As described in the report,^[2] the democracy index is a weighted average based on the answers of 60 questions, each one with either two or three permitted alternative answers. Most answers are "experts' assessments"; the report does not indicate what kinds of experts, nor their number, nor whether the experts are employees of the [Economist Intelligence Unit](#) or independent scholars, nor the nationalities of the experts. Some answers are provided by public-opinion surveys from the respective countries. In the case of countries for which survey results are missing, survey results for similar countries and expert assessments are used in order to fill in gaps.

The questions are distributed in the five categories: electoral process and pluralism, civil liberties, functioning of government, political participation, and political culture. Each answer is translated to a mark, either 0 or 1, or for the three-answer alternative questions, 0.5. With the exceptions mentioned below, the sums are added within each category, multiplied by ten, and divided by the total number of questions within the category. There are a few modifying dependencies, which are explained much more precisely than the main rule procedures. In a few cases, an answer yielding zero for one question voids another question; e.g., if the elections for the national legislature and head of government are not considered free (question 1), then the next question, "*Are elections... fair?*" is not considered, but automatically marked zero. Likewise, there are a few questions considered so important that a low score on them yields a penalty on the total score sum for their respective categories, namely:

1. "Whether national elections are free and fair";
2. "The security of voters";
3. "The influence of foreign powers on government";
4. "The capability of the civil servants to implement policies".

The five category indices, which are listed in the report, are then averaged to find the Democracy Index for a given country. Finally, the Democracy Index, rounded to two decimals, decides the regime type classification of the country.

The report discusses other indices of democracy, as defined e.g. by Freedom House, and argues for some of the choices made by the team from the [Economist Intelligence Unit](#). In this comparison, a higher emphasis has been put on the public opinion and attitudes, as measured by surveys, but on the other hand, economic living standard has not been weighted as one criterion of democracy (as seemingly some other investigators have done).^{[3][4]}

The report is widely cited in the international press as well as in peer reviewed academic journals.^[5]

Classification definitions

Full democracies are nations where civil liberties and basic political freedoms are not only respected, but also reinforced by a political culture conducive to the thriving of democratic principles. These nations have a valid system of governmental checks and balances, independent judiciary whose decisions are enforced, governments that function adequately, and media that is diverse and independent. These nations have only limited problems in democratic functioning.^[6]

Flawed democracies are nations where elections are fair and free and basic civil liberties are honored but may have issues (e.g. media freedom infringement). Nonetheless, these nations have significant faults in other democratic aspects, including underdeveloped political culture, low levels of participation in politics, and issues in the functioning of governance.^[6]
































Hybrid regimes are nations where consequential irregularities exist in elections regularly preventing them from being fair and free. These nations commonly have governments that apply pressure on political opponents, non independent judiciaries, and have widespread corruption, harassment and pressure placed on the media, anemic rule of law, and more pronounced faults than flawed democracies in the realms of underdeveloped political culture, low levels of participation in politics, and issues in the functioning of governance.^[6]

Authoritarian regimes are nations where political pluralism has vanished or is extremely limited. These nations are often absolute monarchies or dictatorships, may have some conventional institutions of democracy but with meager significance, infringements and abuses of civil liberties are commonplace, elections (if they take place) are not fair and free, the media is often state-owned or controlled by groups associated with the ruling regime, the judiciary is not independent, and they are characterised by the presence of omnipresent censorship and suppression of governmental criticism.^[6]



Democracy Index by country (2017)






































Listing by country is available on *The Economist* website.^[7]

Democracy Index 2017




Rank	Country	Score	Electoral process and pluralism	Functioning of government	Political participation	Political culture	Civil liberties	Category
1	 Norway	9.87	10.00	9.64	10.00	10.00	9.71	Full democracy
2	 Iceland	9.58	10.00	9.29	8.89	10.00	9.71	Full democracy
3	 Sweden	9.39	9.58	9.64	8.33	10.00	9.41	Full democracy
4	 New Zealand	9.26	10.00	9.29	8.89	8.13	10.00	Full democracy
5	 Denmark	9.22	10.00	9.29	8.33	9.38	9.12	Full democracy
=6	 Ireland	9.15	9.58	7.86	8.33	10.00	10.00	Full democracy
=6	 Canada	9.15	9.58	9.64	7.78	8.75	10.00	Full democracy
8	 Australia	9.09	10.00	8.93	7.78	8.75	10.00	Full democracy
=9	 Finland	9.03	10.00	8.93	7.78	8.75	9.71	Full democracy
=9	 Switzerland	9.03	9.58	9.29	7.78	9.38	9.12	Full democracy
11	 Netherlands	8.89	9.58	9.29	8.33	8.13	9.12	Full democracy
12	 Luxembourg	8.81	10.00	8.93	6.67	8.75	9.71	Full democracy
13	 Germany	8.61	9.58	8.21	8.33	7.50	9.41	Full democracy
14	 United Kingdom	8.53	9.58	7.50	8.33	8.13	9.12	Full democracy
15	 Austria	8.42	9.58	8.21	8.33	6.88	9.12	Full democracy
16	 Mauritius	8.22	9.17	8.21	5.56	8.75	9.41	Full democracy
17	 Malta	8.15	9.17	8.21	6.11	8.75	8.53	Full democracy
18	 Uruguay	8.12	10.00	8.93	4.44	7.50	9.71	Full democracy
19	 Spain	8.08	9.17	7.14	7.78	7.50	8.82	Full democracy
Rank	Country	Score	Electoral process and pluralism	Functioning of government	Political participation	Political culture	Civil liberties	Category
20	 South Korea	8.00	9.17	7.89	7.22	7.50	8.24	Flawed democracy
=21	 United States	7.98	9.17	7.14	7.22	8.13	8.24	Flawed democracy
=21	 Italy	7.98	9.58	6.43	7.22	8.13	8.53	Flawed democracy
=23	 Japan	7.88	8.75	8.21	6.11	7.50	8.82	Flawed democracy
=23	 Cape Verde	7.88	9.17	7.86	6.67	6.88	9.12	Flawed democracy
=23	 Costa Rica	7.88	9.58	7.14	6.67	6.88	9.12	Flawed democracy
=26	 Chile	7.84	9.58	8.57	4.44	7.50	9.12	Flawed democracy
=26	 Portugal	7.84	9.58	7.50	6.11	6.88	9.12	Flawed democracy
28	 Botswana	7.81	9.17	7.14	6.11	7.50	9.12	Flawed democracy
29	 France	7.80	9.58	7.50	7.78	5.63	8.53	Flawed democracy
=30	 Estonia	7.79	9.58	7.86	6.11	6.88	8.53	Flawed democracy
=30	 Israel	7.79	9.17	7.50	8.89	7.50	5.88	Flawed democracy
Rank	Country	Score	Electoral process and pluralism	Functioning of government	Political participation	Political culture	Civil liberties	Category

Rank	Country	Score	Electoral process and pluralism	Functioning of government	Political participation	Political culture	Civil liberties	Category
32	 Belgium	7.78	9.58	8.93	5.00	6.88	8.53	Flawed democracy
33	 Taiwan	7.73	9.58	8.21	6.11	5.63	9.12	Flawed democracy
34	 Czech Republic	7.62	9.58	6.43	6.67	6.88	8.53	Flawed democracy
35	 Cyprus	7.59	9.17	6.43	6.67	6.88	8.82	Flawed democracy
36	 Slovenia	7.50	9.58	6.79	6.67	6.25	8.24	Flawed democracy
37	 Lithuania	7.41	9.58	5.71	6.11	6.25	9.41	Flawed democracy
=38	 Greece	7.29	9.58	5.36	6.11	6.88	8.53	Flawed democracy
=38	 Jamaica	7.29	9.17	7.14	4.44	6.88	8.82	Flawed democracy
40	 Latvia	7.25	9.58	5.71	5.56	6.88	8.53	Flawed democracy
41	 South Africa	7.24	7.42	7.50	8.33	5.00	7.94	Flawed democracy
42	 India	7.23	9.17	6.97	7.22	5.63	7.35	Flawed democracy
43	 Timor-Leste	7.19	9.08	6.97	5.56	6.88	7.65	Flawed democracy
44	 Slovakia	7.16	9.58	6.97	5.56	5.63	8.24	Flawed democracy
45	 Panama	7.08	9.58	6.97	6.11	5.00	7.94	Flawed democracy
46	 Trinidad and Tobago	7.04	9.58	7.14	5.56	5.00	7.94	Flawed democracy
47	 Bulgaria	7.03	9.17	6.43	7.22	4.38	7.94	Flawed democracy
48	 Argentina	6.96	9.17	5.00	6.11	6.88	7.65	Flawed democracy
49	 Brazil	6.86	9.58	5.36	6.11	3.75	8.24	Flawed democracy
50	 Suriname	6.76	9.17	6.43	5.56	5.00	7.65	Flawed democracy
51	 Philippines	6.71	9.17	5.71	7.22	4.38	7.06	Flawed democracy
52	 Ghana	6.69	8.33	5.71	6.67	6.25	6.47	Flawed democracy
=53	 Poland	6.67	9.17	6.07	6.11	4.38	7.65	Flawed democracy
=53	 Colombia	6.67	9.17	6.79	4.44	4.38	7.94	Flawed democracy
55	 Dominican Republic	6.66	9.17	5.36	6.11	6.25	7.06	Flawed democracy
=56	 Lesotho	6.64	9.17	5.00	6.67	5.63	6.76	Flawed democracy
=56	 Hungary	6.64	8.75	6.07	4.44	6.88	7.06	Flawed democracy
58	 Croatia	6.63	9.17	5.36	5.56	5.00	6.76	Flawed democracy
Rank	Country	Score	Electoral process and pluralism	Functioning of government	Political participation	Political culture	Civil liberties	Category

Rank	Country	Score	Electoral process and pluralism	Functioning of government	Political participation	Political culture	Civil liberties	Category
59	 Malaysia	6.54	6.92	7.14	6.11	6.25	7.06	Flawed democracy
60	 Mongolia	6.50	9.17	5.71	5.56	5.00	6.76	Flawed democracy
61	 Peru	6.49	9.17	5.36	5.56	5.00	7.35	Flawed democracy
62	 Sri Lanka	6.48	7.83	7.14	5.00	6.25	6.18	Flawed democracy
63	 Guyana	6.46	8.75	5.71	6.11	4.38	7.35	Flawed democracy
64	 Romania	6.44	9.17	5.71	5.00	4.38	7.94	Flawed democracy
65	 El Salvador	6.43	9.17	5.36	4.44	5.00	7.06	Flawed democracy
=66	 Serbia	6.41	8.25	5.36	6.67	5.00	7.35	Flawed democracy
=66	 Mexico	6.41	7.83	6.43	7.22	4.38	6.18	Flawed democracy
68	 Indonesia	6.39	6.92	7.14	6.67	5.63	5.59	Flawed democracy
=69	 Tunisia	6.32	6.00	5.71	7.78	6.25	5.88	Flawed democracy
=69	 Singapore	6.32	4.33	7.86	6.11	6.25	7.06	Flawed democracy
=71	 Hong Kong	6.31	3.92	6.07	5.56	7.50	8.53	Flawed democracy
=71	 Namibia	6.31	5.67	5.36	6.67	5.63	8.24	Flawed democracy
=71	 Paraguay	6.31	8.75	6.07	5.00	4.38	7.35	Flawed democracy
74	 Senegal	6.15	7.50	6.07	4.44	6.25	6.47	Flawed democracy
75	 Papua New Guinea	6.03	6.92	6.07	3.89	5.63	7.65	Flawed democracy
76	 Ecuador	6.02	8.75	4.64	5.56	4.38	6.76	Flawed democracy
Rank	Country	Score	Electoral process and pluralism	Functioning of government	Political participation	Political culture	Civil liberties	Category
77	 Albania	5.98	7.00	4.71	5.56	5.00	7.65	Hybrid regime
78	 Moldova	5.94	7.50	4.64	6.11	4.38	7.06	Hybrid regime
79	 Georgia	5.93	8.67	4.29	6.11	5.00	5.59	Hybrid regime
80	 Guatemala	5.86	7.92	5.71	3.89	5.00	6.76	Hybrid regime
81	 Fiji	5.85	6.58	5.36	6.11	5.63	5.59	Hybrid regime
82	 Honduras	5.72	8.25	5.36	4.44	4.38	6.18	Hybrid regime
=83	 Ukraine	5.69	6.17	3.21	6.67	6.25	6.18	Hybrid regime
=83	 Montenegro	5.69	6.08	5.36	5.56	4.38	7.06	Hybrid regime
85	 Zambia	5.68	6.17	5.00	3.89	6.88	6.47	Hybrid regime
86	 Mali	5.64	7.42	3.93	4.44	6.25	6.18	Hybrid regime
87	 Benin	5.61	6.50	5.36	5.00	5.63	5.59	Hybrid regime
88	 North Macedonia	5.57	6.50	5.00	5.56	3.75	7.06	Hybrid regime
Rank	Country	Score	Electoral process and pluralism	Functioning of government	Political participation	Political culture	Civil liberties	Category

Rank	Country	Score	Electoral process and pluralism	Functioning of government	Political participation	Political culture	Civil liberties	Category
=89	 Bolivia	5.49	7.00	4.64	5.00	3.75	7.06	Hybrid regime
=89	 Malawi	5.49	6.58	4.29	4.44	6.25	5.88	Hybrid regime
91	 Tanzania	5.47	7.00	5.00	5.00	5.63	4.71	Hybrid regime
92	 Bangladesh	5.43	7.42	5.07	5.00	4.38	5.29	Hybrid regime
93	 Liberia	5.23	7.42	2.57	5.56	5.00	5.59	Hybrid regime
94	 Nepal	5.18	4.33	5.36	5.00	5.63	5.59	Hybrid regime
=95	 Kenya	5.11	3.50	5.36	6.67	5.63	4.41	Hybrid regime
=95	 Kyrgyzstan	5.11	6.58	2.93	6.67	4.38	5.00	Hybrid regime
=95	 Madagascar	5.11	6.08	3.57	5.56	5.63	4.71	Hybrid regime
98	 Uganda	5.09	5.25	3.57	3.89	6.88	5.88	Hybrid regime
99	 Bhutan	5.08	8.33	6.07	2.78	4.38	3.82	Hybrid regime
100	 Turkey	4.88	5.33	6.07	5.00	5.63	2.35	Hybrid regime
=101	 Morocco	4.87	5.25	4.64	4.44	5.63	4.41	Hybrid regime
=101	 Bosnia and Herzegovina	4.87	6.50	2.93	5.00	3.75	6.18	Hybrid regime
103	 Burkina Faso	4.75	4.42	4.29	4.44	5.63	5.00	Hybrid regime
104	 Lebanon	4.72	3.50	2.57	7.22	5.63	4.71	Hybrid regime
=105	 Sierra Leone	4.66	6.58	1.86	3.33	6.25	5.29	Hybrid regime
=105	 Nicaragua	4.66	3.42	3.29	3.89	5.63	7.06	Hybrid regime
107	 Thailand	4.63	3.00	4.29	5.00	5.00	5.88	Hybrid regime
108	 Palestine	4.46	3.83	2.50	7.78	4.38	3.82	Hybrid regime
109	 Nigeria	4.44	6.08	4.64	3.33	3.75	4.41	Hybrid regime
110	 Pakistan	4.26	6.50	5.36	2.22	2.50	4.71	Hybrid regime
111	 Armenia	4.11	5.25	2.86	5.00	1.88	5.59	Hybrid regime
112	 Iraq	4.09	4.33	0.07	7.22	5.00	3.82	Hybrid regime
113	 Gambia	4.06	4.48	3.93	3.33	5.63	2.94	Hybrid regime
114	 Haiti	4.03	5.17	2.21	2.22	4.38	6.18	Hybrid regime
115	 Mozambique	4.02	4.42	2.14	5.00	5.00	3.53	Hybrid regime
Rank	Country	Score	Electoral process and pluralism	Functioning of government	Political participation	Political culture	Civil liberties	Category
116	 Ivory Coast	3.93	4.42	2.14	3.33	5.63	4.12	Authoritarian
=117	 Jordan	3.87	3.58	4.29	3.89	4.38	3.24	Authoritarian
=117	 Venezuela	3.87	2.17	2.86	6.11	4.38	3.82	Authoritarian
119	 Kuwait	3.85	3.17	4.29	3.89	4.38	3.53	Authoritarian
120	 Myanmar	3.83	3.67	3.93	3.89	5.63	2.06	Authoritarian
121	 Mauritania	3.82	3.00	3.57	5.00	3.13	4.41	Authoritarian
122	 Niger	3.76	5.25	1.14	3.33	4.38	4.71	Authoritarian
123	 Comoros	3.71	4.33	2.21	4.44	3.75	3.82	Authoritarian
124	 Cambodia	3.63	1.33	5.71	2.22	5.63	3.24	Authoritarian
125	 Angola	3.62	1.75	2.86	5.56	5.00	2.94	Authoritarian
Rank	Country	Score	Electoral process and pluralism	Functioning of government	Political participation	Political culture	Civil liberties	Category

Rank	Country	Score	Electoral process and pluralism	Functioning of government	Political participation	Political culture	Civil liberties	Category
=126	 Gabon	3.61	2.58	2.21	4.44	5.00	3.82	Authoritarian
=126	 Cameroon	3.61	4.00	2.86	3.89	4.38	2.94	Authoritarian
128	 Algeria	3.56	2.58	2.21	3.89	5.00	4.12	Authoritarian
129	 Ethiopia	3.42	0.00	3.57	5.56	5.63	2.35	Authoritarian
130	 Egypt	3.36	3.58	3.21	3.33	3.75	2.94	Authoritarian
131	 Cuba	3.31	1.33	4.29	3.89	4.38	2.65	Authoritarian
132	 Republic of the Congo	3.25	3.17	2.50	3.89	3.75	2.94	Authoritarian
=133	 Qatar	3.19	0.00	4.29	2.22	5.63	3.82	Authoritarian
=133	 Rwanda	3.19	0.83	5.00	2.78	4.38	2.94	Authoritarian
135	 Russia	3.17	2.17	1.79	5.00	2.50	4.41	Authoritarian
136	 Zimbabwe	3.16	0.50	2.00	4.44	5.63	3.24	Authoritarian
137	 Guinea	3.14	3.50	0.43	4.44	4.38	2.94	Authoritarian
138	 Belarus	3.13	0.92	2.86	3.89	5.63	2.35	Authoritarian
139	 China	3.10	0.00	5.00	2.78	6.25	1.47	Authoritarian
140	 Vietnam	3.08	0.00	3.21	3.89	5.63	2.65	Authoritarian
141	 Kazakhstan	3.06	0.50	2.14	4.44	4.38	3.82	Authoritarian
142	 Togo	3.05	3.17	0.79	2.78	5.00	3.53	Authoritarian
143	 Oman	3.04	0.00	3.93	2.78	4.38	4.12	Authoritarian
144	 Eswatini	3.03	0.92	2.86	2.22	5.63	3.53	Authoritarian
145	 Djibouti	2.76	0.42	1.79	3.33	5.63	2.65	Authoritarian
146	 Bahrain	2.71	0.83	3.21	2.78	4.38	2.35	Authoritarian
147	 United Arab Emirates	2.69	0.00	3.57	2.22	5.00	2.65	Authoritarian
148	 Azerbaijan	2.65	0.50	2.14	3.33	3.75	3.53	Authoritarian
149	 Afghanistan	2.55	2.50	1.14	2.78	2.50	3.82	Authoritarian
150	 Iran	2.45	0.00	3.21	4.44	3.13	1.47	Authoritarian
=151	 Eritrea	2.37	0.00	2.14	1.67	6.88	1.18	Authoritarian
=151	 Laos	2.37	0.83	2.86	1.67	5.00	1.47	Authoritarian
153	 Burundi	2.33	0.00	0.43	3.89	5.00	2.35	Authoritarian
154	 Libya	2.32	1.00	0.36	1.67	5.63	2.94	Authoritarian
155	 Sudan	2.15	0.00	1.79	2.78	5.00	1.18	Authoritarian
156	 Yemen	2.07	0.00	0.00	4.44	5.00	0.88	Authoritarian
157	 Guinea-Bissau	1.98	1.67	0.00	2.78	3.13	2.35	Authoritarian
158	 Uzbekistan	1.95	0.08	1.86	2.22	5.00	0.59	Authoritarian
=159	 Saudi Arabia	1.93	0.00	2.86	2.22	3.13	1.47	Authoritarian
=159	 Tajikistan	1.93	0.08	0.79	1.67	6.25	0.88	Authoritarian
161	 Equatorial Guinea	1.81	0.00	0.43	2.78	4.38	1.47	Authoritarian
162	 Turkmenistan	1.72	0.00	0.79	2.22	5.00	0.59	Authoritarian
163	 Democratic Republic of the Congo	1.61	0.50	0.71	2.22	3.75	0.88	Authoritarian
164	 Central African Republic	1.52	2.25	0.00	1.11	1.88	2.35	Authoritarian
Rank	Country	Score	Electoral process and pluralism	Functioning of government	Political participation	Political culture	Civil liberties	Category

Rank	Country	Score	Electoral process and pluralism	Functioning of government	Political participation	Political culture	Civil liberties	Category
165	 Chad	1.50	0.00	0.00	1.11	3.75	2.65	Authoritarian
166	 Syria	1.43	0.00	0.00	2.78	4.38	0.00	Authoritarian
167	 North Korea	1.08	0.00	2.50	1.67	1.25	0.00	Authoritarian
Rank	Country	Score	Electoral process and pluralism	Functioning of government	Political participation	Political culture	Civil liberties	Category

Changes from 2010 onwards

According to the issue of the index for 2012, Norway scored a total of 9.93 on a scale from zero to ten, keeping the first-place position it has held since 2010, when it replaced Sweden as the highest-ranked country in the index. North Korea scored the lowest with 1.08, remaining at the bottom in 167th place, the same as in 2010 and 2011.^[2]

There was no significant improvement or regression in democracy between 2011 and 2012. In 2012 the index score stayed the same for 73 out of 167 countries, improved for 54 countries, and declined for 40. Libya experienced the biggest increase of any country in its score in 2012. Average regional scores in 2012 were very similar to scores in 2011. An exception is the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) where the average score increased by more than a tenth of a point, from 3.62 to 3.73 and three countries moved from authoritarian to hybrid regimes (Egypt, Libya, Morocco).^[2]

The Democracy Index for 2011 highlighted the impact of the Arab Spring and the greater effects it might have, as well as the impact of the global financial crisis in 2007–08 on politics throughout most of Europe. The Democracy Index score was lower in 2011 than in 2010 in 48 countries out of the 167 that are covered. It was higher in 41 ranked countries, and it stayed the same in 78.^[8]

In nine countries there was a change in regime type between 2010 and 2011; in four of these there was regression. Russia was downgraded from a hybrid regime to an authoritarian regime, which the report attributes to concerns over the December 4 legislative election and Vladimir Putin's decision to run again in the 2012 presidential election. Portugal was also downgraded to the flawed democracy category, attributed to the effects of the global financial crisis. Tunisia, Mauritania, Egypt, and Niger were all upgraded to hybrid regimes, and Zambia moved up to the flawed democracy category.^[8]

In 2016, the United States was downgraded from a full democracy to a flawed democracy;^[9] its score, which had been experiencing a persistent downward trend, crossed the threshold from 8.05 in 2015 to 7.98 in 2016. The report states that this was not due only to the election of Donald Trump,^[9] but was caused by other factors as well — dating back to the late 1960s^[10] — that led to his election.^[11]

The 2017 Democracy index registered the worst year for global democracy since 2010-11 in the aftermath of the global economic and financial crisis. 89 countries experienced a decline in their total score compared with 2016, more than three times as many as the countries that recorded an improvement (27). Asia was the worst performing region overall, while Venezuela was downgraded from a "hybrid regime" to an "authoritarian regime" and Armenia was reupgraded from an "authoritarian regime" to a "hybrid regime".^[12]

Australia (ranked 8th) and Taiwan (ranked 33rd) both legalised gay marriage in 2017. In China, Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China, further entrenched his power by writing his theoretical contribution to the Chinese Communist Party's ideology, dubbed “Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era” (or “Xi Jinping Thought”), into the party’s constitution. Moldova was downgraded from a “flawed democracy” to a “hybrid regime” as a result of problematic elections. By contrast, Armenia moved from the authoritarian category to a “hybrid regime” as a result of constitutional changes that shifted power from the presidency to parliament.^[13]

Democracy Index by regime type

The following table gives the number and percentage of countries and the percentage of the world population for each regime type in 2017:^[1]

Type of regime	Scores (s)	Number of countries	Percentage of countries	Percentage of world population
Full democracies	$8 \leq s \leq 10$	19	11.4	4.4
Flawed democracies	$6 \leq s < 8$	57	34.1	44.3
Hybrid regimes	$4 \leq s < 6$	39	23.4	17.7
Authoritarian regimes	$0 \leq s < 4$	52	31.1	32.3

World population refers to the total population of the 167 countries covered by the Index. Since this excludes only micro-states, this is nearly equal to the entire estimated world population.

Democracy Index by region

The following table gives the index average by world region, and the number of covered countries in 2017. Note that some regional groups (e.g. Eastern Europe) are very heterogeneous and composed of full democracies as well as authoritarian regimes:

Rank	Region	Countries	2006 ^[4]	2008 ^[14]	2010 ^[3]	2011 ^[8]	2012 ^[2]	2013 ^[15]	2014 ^[16]	2015 ^[6]	2016 ^[17]	2017 ^[1]
1	Northern America	2	8.64	8.64	8.63	8.59	8.59	8.59	8.59	8.56	8.56	8.56
2	Western Europe	21	8.60	8.61	8.45	8.40	8.44	8.41	8.41	8.42	8.40	8.38
3	Latin America and the Caribbean	24	6.37	6.43	6.37	6.35	6.36	6.38	6.36	6.37	6.33	6.26
4	Asia and Australasia	28	5.44	5.58	5.53	5.51	5.56	5.61	5.70	5.74	5.74	5.63
5	Central and Eastern Europe	28	5.76	5.67	5.55	5.50	5.51	5.53	5.58	5.55	5.43	5.40
6	Sub-Saharan Africa	44	4.24	4.28	4.23	4.32	4.33	4.36	4.34	4.38	4.37	4.35
7	Middle East and North Africa	20	3.54	3.48	3.52	3.62	3.73	3.68	3.65	3.58	3.56	3.54
	World	167	5.52	5.55	5.46	5.49	5.52	5.53	5.55	5.55	5.52	5.48

See also

- Democracy promotion
- Democracy Ranking
- Freedom in the World
- List of freedom indices

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External links

- The Economist Intelligence Unit's website (<https://www.eiu.com>)
 - EIU Democracy Index main page (<https://www.eiu.com/topic/democracy-index>)
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