

## Appendix 1: V-DEM data variable selection

Note: Strikethrough means a column is dropped in the analysis due to missingness.

category	full variable name	variable name	type
<b>Legitimation</b>	Person of the Leader	v2exl_legitlead	ordinal
<b>Exclusion</b>	Power distributed by urban-rural location	v2pepwrgeo	ordinal
	Gender equality in respect for civil liberties	v2clgencl	ordinal
	Political group equality in respect for civil liberties	v2clpolcl	ordinal
	Access to public services distributed by social group	v2peapssoc	ordinal
	Access to public services distributed by gender	v2peapsgen	ordinal
	Access to public services distributed by socio-economic position	v2peapsecon	ordinal
	Access to public services distributed by political group	v2peapspol	ordinal
	Access to public services distributed by urban-rural location	v2peapsgeo	ordinal
<b>Political Equality</b>	Power distributed by socioeconomic position	v2pepwrse	ordinal
	Power distributed by social group	v2pepwrsoc	ordinal
	Power distributed by gender	v2pepwrge	ordinal
	Educational equality	v2peedueq	ordinal
	Health equality	v2pehealth	ordinal
<b>Media</b>	Government censorship effort – Media	v2mecenefm	ordinal
	Internet censorship effort	v2mecenefi	ordinal
	Print/broadcast media critical	v2mecrit	ordinal
	Media self-censorship	v2meslfcen	ordinal
	Media bias	v2mebias	ordinal
	Media corrupt	v2mecorrpt	ordinal
<b>Civil Society</b>	CSO entry and exit	v2cseeorgs	ordinal
	CSO repression	v2csreprss	ordinal

category	full variable name	variable name	type
<b>Civil Liberty</b>	Freedom of academic and cultural expression	v2clacfree	ordinal
	Freedom of religion	v2clrelig	ordinal
	Transparent laws with predictable enforcement	v2cltrnslw	ordinal
	Rigorous and impartial public administration	v2clrspct	ordinal
	Freedom of discussion for men	v2cldiscm	ordinal
	Freedom of discussion for women	v2cldiscw	ordinal
<b>The Judiciary</b>	Judicial reform	v2jureform	ordinal
	Government attacks on judiciary	v2jupoatck	ordinal
	Court packing	v2jupack	ordinal
	High court independence	v2juhcind	ordinal
	Lower court independence	v2juncind	ordinal
	Judicial review	v2jureview	ordinal
<b>The Legislature</b>	Executive oversight	v2lgotovst	ordinal
	Legislature opposition parties	v2lgoppart	ordinal
	Legislature controls resources	v2lgfunds	nominal
	Legislature amends constitution	v2lgamend	nominal
	Percentage of indirectly elected legislators lower chamber	v2lginello	continuous
	Percentage of indirectly elected legislators upper chamber	v2lginclup	continuous
<b>The Executive</b>	HOS removal by legislature in practice	v2exremhsp	ordinal
	HOS = HOG	v2exhoshog	nominal
	HOG removal by legislature in practice	v2exremhog	ordinal
	Executive respects constitution	v2exrescon	ordinal
	Executive bribery and corrupt exchanges	v2exbribe	ordinal
	HOG selection by legislature in practice	v2exaphogp	nominal

category	full variable name	variable name	type
	HOS selection by legislature in practice	v2exaphos	nominal
<b>Direct Democracy</b>	Initiatives permitted	v2ddlexci	nominal
	Referendums permitted	v2ddlexrf	nominal
	Plebiscite permitted	v2ddlexpl	nominal
<b>Political Parties</b>	Barriers to parties	v2psbars	ordinal
	Opposition parties autonomy	v2psoppaut	ordinal
	Distinct party platforms	v2psplats	ordinal
	Legislative party cohesion	v2pscohesv	ordinal
<b>Elections</b>	Disclosure of campaign donations	v2eldonate	ordinal
	Public campaign finance	v2elpubfin	ordinal
	EMB autonomy	v2elembaut	ordinal
	Elections multiparty	v2elmulpar	ordinal
	Election vote buying	v2elvotbuy	ordinal
	Election government intimidation	v2elintim	ordinal
	Election free campaign media	v2elfrcamp	ordinal
	Election free and fair	v2elfrfair	ordinal
	Election losers accept results	v2elaccept	ordinal
	Election assume office	v2elasmoff	ordinal
	Election turnout	v2eltrnout	ordinal