**Puzzle- Variation in DV (global mobility ranking): Do you have any ideas about how best to visualize this variation?**

In 2019, the United Arab Emirates’ (UAE) passport became the “number one” most powerful passport in the world.[[1]](#footnote-1) Historical data on passport rankings also shows that this leap occurred in a highly concentrated amount of time. In 2006, UAE citizens could only visit thirty-five countries without a visa, by 2019 this number increased almost five-fold. 167 countries and territories now permit UAE citizens to travel without any kind of individualized pre-departure vetting. In other words, in just over a decade, the majority of countries in the world have changed their perception of UAE citizens from being a population that needs to be inspected by the destination countries’ own consular services and security forces, to entrusting that vetting process to the UAE’s authorities. How did the UAE government change the perception of 132 destination countries towards Emirati citizens in such a concentrated amount of time?

Possible things to show:

--increase in UAE’s mobility

--linkages between UAE and specific states

--speed of changes in these relationships

--how exceptional is this change compared to how much other countries move up or down these rankings during the same timeframe

Useful links:

<https://www.passportindex.org/comparebyPassport.php?p1=ae&p2=us&fl=&s=yes>

<https://www.henleypassportindex.com/passport>

<https://www.passportindex.org/byHistoric.php>

1. The UAE is ranked number 1 in the Arton passport index, with a visa-free score of 173 (116 countries allowing UAE citizens to enter without a visa and 57 countries allowing them to purchase a visa upon arrival). In Henley’s passport index, the UAE moved up in the rankings from number 62 in 2006 (when this ranking was first produced) to number 21 in 2019 (access to 167 countries without a visa). The difference between the Arton and Henley rankings of global mobility is due to differences in the number of possible destinations that each index includes, as well as slight differences in methodology and data sources. Global mobility scores are calculated in the following way: for each travel destination, if no visa is required for passport holders from a country, then a score with value = 1 is created for that passport. A score with value = 1 is also applied if passport holders can obtain a visa on arrival, a visitor’s permit, or an electronic travel authority (ETA) when entering the destination. These visa-types require no pre-departure government approval, because of the specific visa waiver programs in place. Arton’s passport index disaggregates the number of visa-free, visa-upon arrival, and visa-needed scores whereas Henley’s passport index only provides a total mobility score (assigning a value = 0 for destinations that require pre-departure government approval). In Arton’s passport index, the highest possible score for any one country is 199, which is based on the calculation of 193 United Nation member state countries, in addition to six territories (ROC Taiwan, Macao (SAR China), Hong Kong (SAR China), Kosovo, Palestinian Territory and the Vatican). Meanwhile, the Henley passport index has a highest possible score of 227, because the index ranks 199 passports based on how easily passport-holders can access 227 destinations (including territories that are not sovereign and do not have the authority to issue their own passports). The Henley passport index is primarily based on International Air Transport Authority (IATA) data, which the firm enhances with its own research and open-source online data. The Arton passport index data is based on proprietary research from publicly available sources and on official information provided by government agencies. When two or more countries have the same mobility score, the Arton index allows multiple countries to have the same ranking. The Henley index, on the other hand, draws from the United Nations Development Programme’s Human Development Index (HDI) to break any ties generated by the mobility scores and individually rank countries. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)