**3. Data**

**3.1. Sources of data**

Two types of data are used for the present research project. The first consists in individual – level data measuring social attitudes and political orientations. The second represents characteristics of countries like economic development, the level of democracy or the historical circumstances of each country.

**Individual – level social and political attitudes**

The World Values Survey (WVS) provides a wide range of indicators measuring political and social attitudes in samples from many countries. The number of countries in which the World Values Survey was conducted increased from 11 countries in the first wave (1981-1984) to 100 countries in the seventh wave (2017 - 2022). The European Values Survey (EVS) is designed for compatibility with the World Values Survey. It was conducted at intervals of roughly 10 years, spanning the first (1981), second (1990), third (1999), fourth (2008) and fifth (2017) waves. The Integrated Values Survey (IVS) represents the merged datasets from the World Values Survey and the European Values Survey.

**Country-level predictors**

Country-level predictors for the correlations between the indices of political orientation can be divided into two categories. Two variables, related to the cultural and political history of each country, were coded manually. Other two variables, related to the economic and political development of various countries, are the Human Development Index and the Liberal Democracy Index that is part of the Varieties of Democracy Project.

One of these variables is about whether a country was governed by Marxist-Leninist or other type of authoritarian socialist regime in the past. Countries with a history of communist rule receive a score of 1, countries governed in the past by other varieties of authoritarian socialism (such as Baʽathism, Nasserism, African socialism, or the “Burmese way to socialism”) were coded with 0.5, while countries that were never ruled by authoritarian socialist regimes were coded with 0. The other manually coded variable concerns the cultural heritage of each country and its path to modernization. The United States, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, Australia, and the New Zealand were coded with 1. The United Kingdom is the country where the modern industrial revolution originated. The other Anglophone countries mentioned were former settler colonies of the British Empire. They imported British-style industrialism and classical liberal economics relatively early compared with other countries. Western European countries were coded with 0.66. Latin American countries were coded with 0.33. They have strong ties with Western European culture since they were settler colonies of Spain or Portugal. Non-Western countries were coded with 0.

The HDI is published by the Human Development Programme supported by the United Nations, while the Liberal Democracy Index is component of the Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) project organized by a global team of political science researchers who are members of the V-Dem Institute, with headquarters at the University of Gothenburg (Sweden).

**3.2. Selection of variables and calculated indices**

Eight categories of variables were extracted from the Integrated Value Survey (IVS). They measure demographic characteristics of individuals, or social - political attitudes related to individual freedom, social welfare, gender equality, ethnicity & immigration, family values, nationalism, and religiosity.

**Demographics**

Five variables measuring the demographic properties of respondents were selected. They are the gender, self-reported education level, social class identity, self-reported income, and size of the settlement where the respondents live. Education was originally measured on a scale from 1 to 7, ranging from no formal education to a PhD degree. The variable was recoded. 0 means no formal education or only up to middle school. 0.5 means high school or professional school. 1 means higher education taking the form of a bachelor’s degree, a master’s degree, or a PhD degree. Social class was measured by asking respondents to choose between “upper class”, “upper middle class”, “lower middle class”, “working class”, or “lower class”. Self-reported income bracket was measured on a scale from 1 to 10. The size of the settlement where respondents live was coded by the interviewer on a scale with the following options: “under 2000”, “2000-5000”, “5000-10000”, “10000-20000”, “20000-50000”, “50000-100000”, “100000-500000”, respectively “500000 and more”.

**Individual freedom**

The index measuring socio-political attitudes in favour of individual freedom is build from four subindices. The first subindex measures attitudes toward child education. Respondents are asked to select up to five qualities they think children should learn at home from a list of possible child qualities. Three qualities are relevant for the concept of individual freedom: independence, imagination, and obedience. Independence and imagination were coded to 1 as they are favourable to the free development of a child’s personality, while obedience was coded with 0 as it is incompatible with personal freedom. The three variables were averaged to calculate the subindex about child qualities. The second subindex is formed from one item asking respondents if an increased level of respect for authority in society would be a good thing, a neutral thing, or a bad thing. Saying that an increased level of respect for authority would be a bad thing is most compatible with a value system centred on individual freedom. Therefore the “bad thing” answer option was coded with one. The neutral option was coded with 0.5, while the “good thing” option was coded with 0. The next subindex is composed from two questions about what goals or priorities the respondent thinks are most important for their country and for themselves as individual citizens.

**Socialism and welfare**

Support for socialism and public welfare was measured with four variables, all of which took the response format of a scale with ten steps. The questions asked to the respondents are whether they think incomes should be made more equal or there should be inequalities to stimulate hard work, whether private or public ownership of business should be increased, whether the government has the responsibility to take care of citizens when they are in need, and whether they think competition is harmful. All variables were recoded so that higher values indicate a pro-socialist or pro-welfare orientation while lower values indicate support for free markets.

**Family values**

The family values index measures whether respondents adopt modern attitudes supportive of individual autonomy and free choice in matters related to family relationships, sexuality, and reproduction. There are four variables measured on a scale from 1 to 10, asking respondents whether they think homosexuality, prostitution, abortion, and divorce are morally justifiable or not. Approval of homosexuality signifies the rejection of the traditional family ideal consisting of man and a woman who marry to have children and continue the family line of their ancestors in favour of a model of family oriented around personal satisfaction and the free expression of an individual sexual orientation. Acceptance of prostitution suggest a rejection of traditional religious teaching concerning sexual modesty and the adoption of a stance that regards sexual activity as primarily driven by personal pleasure instead of reproduction. Abortion is related to women’s autonomy over their own bodies, while divorce is often a way for individuals to protect their freedom by abandoning an unwanted or abusive relationship. Considering each of the four issues as morally acceptable indicates a modern orientation regarding family, sexuality, and reproduction.