

Comparing Political Systems

Democratic rules and democratization

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Lecture 2

Plan

- 1 Conceptualizing democracy
- 2 Measuring democracy
- 3 Democratization
- 4 Conclusion

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Democracy

Definition from textbook

- ▶ A political system in which government is based on a fair and open mandate from all qualified citizens of a state

Key elements

- ▶ Contestation (“fair and open mandate”)
- ▶ Inclusion (“all qualified citizens”)
- ▶ NB: same elements as Dahl 1998, see Further Reading List

Note on types of democracy

Democratic ideal

- ▶ Government by the people, and for the people
- ▶ Direct democracy

Today

- ▶ Representative democracy
- ▶ Citizens elect deputies who act on their behalf (mandate)
- ▶ Because of practical considerations

New innovations

- ▶ e-democracy
- ▶ Sortition

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Classifying measures

Two criteria

- ▶ Whether measure is dichotomous or continuous variable
- ▶ Whether measure focuses only on procedures only (minimalist) or on for procedures + civil rights (maximalist)

	Dichotomous	Continuous
Procedures only	Democracy-Dictatorship	Polity IV
Procedures + civil right		Freedom House

See also

- ▶ Electoral Integrity: <https://www.electoralintegrityproject.com>
- ▶ VDEM: <https://www.v-dem.net/en/data/data-version-10/>

Democracy-Dictatorship

Sources

- ▶ Przeworski et al (2000), see Further Reading List
- ▶ Data available:
<https://sites.google.com/site/joseantoniocheibub/datasets/democracy-and-dictatorship-revisited>

Based on one procedure

- ▶ Whether an alternation of power is possible or not
- ▶ Start from the observation of a (real) alternation
- ▶ Then, retro-evaluation of the preceding years

Critiques

- ▶ Can only know once there have been an alternation
- ▶ Too crude measure?

Polity IV

Sources

- ▶ <https://www.systemicpeace.org/polity/polity4.htm>

Based on multiple procedures

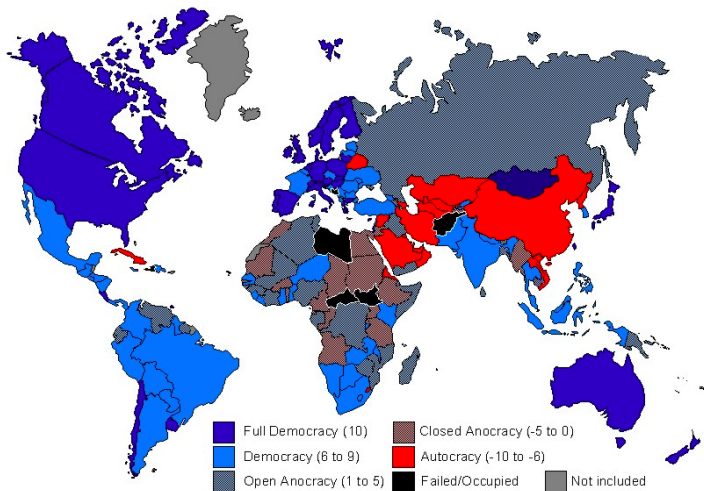
- ▶ Competitiveness of executive recruitment
- ▶ Openness of executive recruitment
- ▶ Regulation of political participation
- ▶ Competitiveness of political participation
- ▶ Executive constraints
- ▶ (Experts rank countries on a scale from -10 to +10 for each of them)

Critiques

- ▶ Final score is an average of procedures, not clear which one is more important
- ▶ Experts can be biased

Polity IV

Ranking in 2019



Freedom House

Sources

- ▶ Freedom House: <https://freedomhouse.org/>

Based on procedures and civil rights

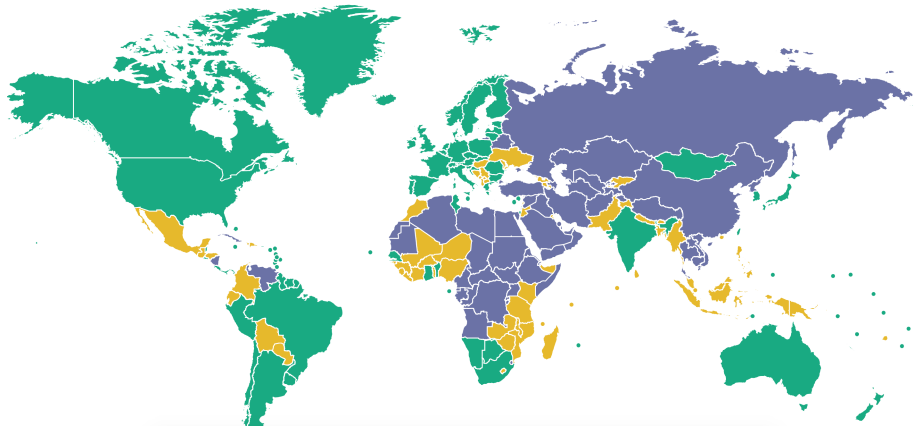
- ▶ Political rights (= elections, participation...)
- ▶ Civil right (freedom of speech, application of rule of law...)
- ▶ (Experts rank countries on a scale from -10 to +10)

Critiques

- ▶ Final score is an average of procedures AND civil rights, not clear which one is more important
- ▶ Experts can be biased

Freedom House

Ranking in 2019. Green = Free (score: 1-2). Yellow = Partly free (score 3-5). Blue = Not free (score 6-7)



Many definitions focus on elections

Why focus on elections

- ▶ Most important component of democracy (Dalton et al 2006, see Further Reading List)
- ▶ Elections are everywhere (even in non-democracies)

But devil in the details

- ▶ Elections can have more or less integrity
- ▶ Example: Electoral Integrity (Norris et al 2014, see Further Reading List)

Dimensions of electoral integrity

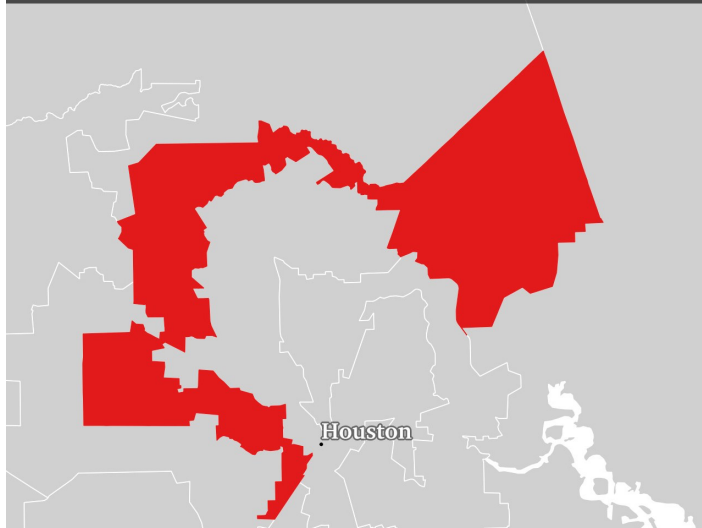


Turkey districts



US district

District: Texas (02)



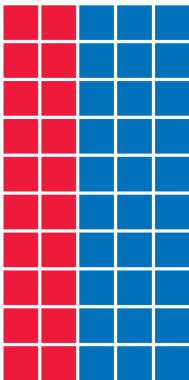
114th Congress

Rep: Ted Poe

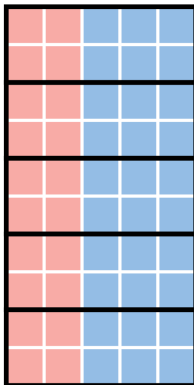
Party: Republican

Gerrymandering

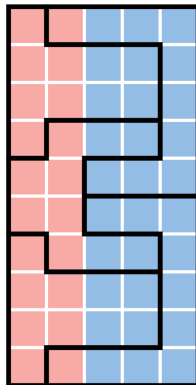
HOW TO STEAL AN ELECTION



50 PRECINCTS
60% BLUE
40% RED



5 DISTRICTS
5 BLUE
0 RED
BLUE WINS



5 DISTRICTS
3 RED
2 BLUE
RED WINS

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Two types of explanations

Specific explanations (for historians)

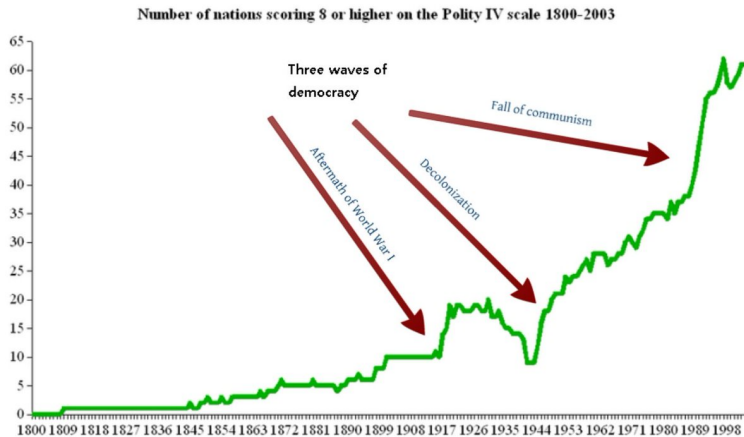
- ▶ Those who only applied to a country or a time period
- ▶ Example 1: The personality of Mandela explains democratization in South Africa in 1994
- ▶ Example 2: The diffusion of decolonization explains democratization (1943-1973)

General explanations (for political scientists)

- ▶ General causes of a phenomenon
- ▶ Might apply again in the future

Three historical waves

Huntington, Samuel D. (1991). *The Third Wave*. University of Oklahoma Press



General causes

Lipset (1959), see Further Reading List

Modernization theory

- ▶ A good economy fosters democracy because...
- ▶ Less inequalities (development of middle class that benefit from democracy)
- ▶ Less incentives for corruption
- ▶ Development of mass education

General causes

Inglehart and Welzel (2005), see Further Reading List

Cultural theory

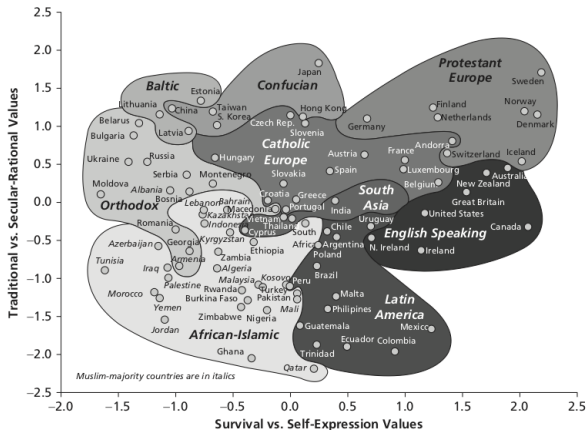
- ▶ Economic development changes citizens' value
- ▶ Some values makes people more supportive of democracy
- ▶ But differences between countries because of cultural resistance

Two sets of values

- ▶ Traditional -> Secular (less emphasis on religion/family, less deference to authority)
- ▶ Survival -> Self-expression (less emphasis on economic/physical security, more emphasis on freedom)

Cultural explanations

FIGURE 7.2 A Cultural Map of the World



(Inglehart and Welzel 2005)

Summary

Measures of democracy can be

- ▶ Dichotomous (Democracy-Dictatorship) or continuous (Polity IV or Freedom House)
- ▶ Minimalist (Democracy-Dictatorship, Polity IV, Electoral Integrity) or maximalist (Freedom House)

Democratization comes from

- ▶ Modernization theory (increase in socio-economic level)
- ▶ Cultural explanation (culture as moderating factor)