

# UNDP: Trends in Democratic Institutions Around the World

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## 1 Regimes of the World (2001 - 2021)

### 1.1 Number of Autocracies and Democracies

We can see from Figure 1 that the number of democracies and autocracies in the world is about the same as it was two decades ago. Figure 2 shows that the number of Liberal Democracies started trending downwards and the number of Closed Autocracies started trending upwards around 2012.

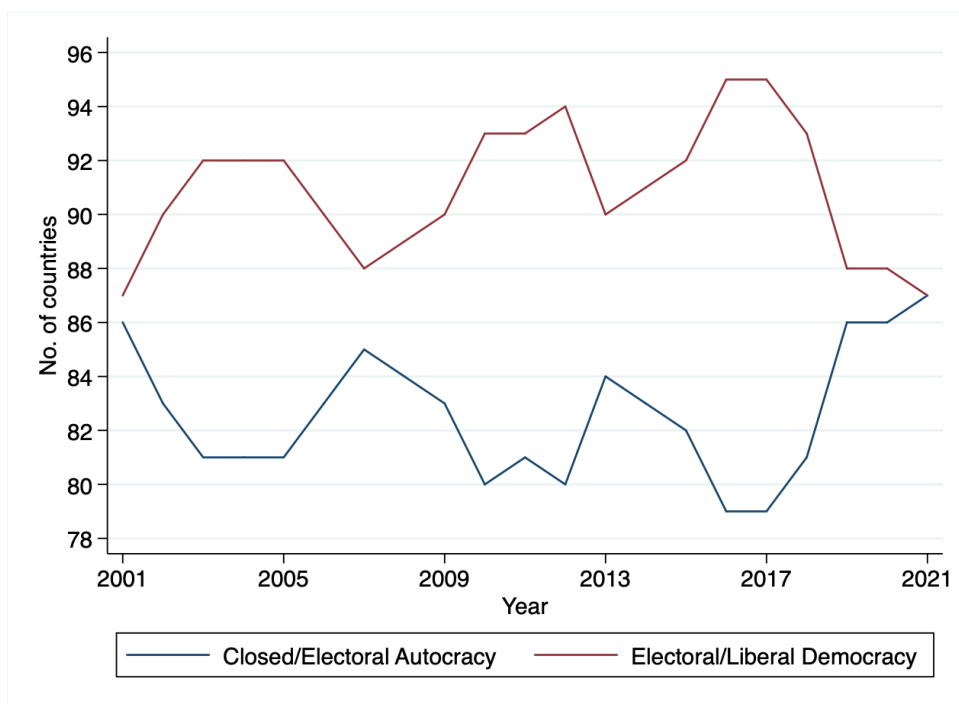


Figure 1: Number of Closed/Electoral Autocracies and Electoral/Liberal Democracies

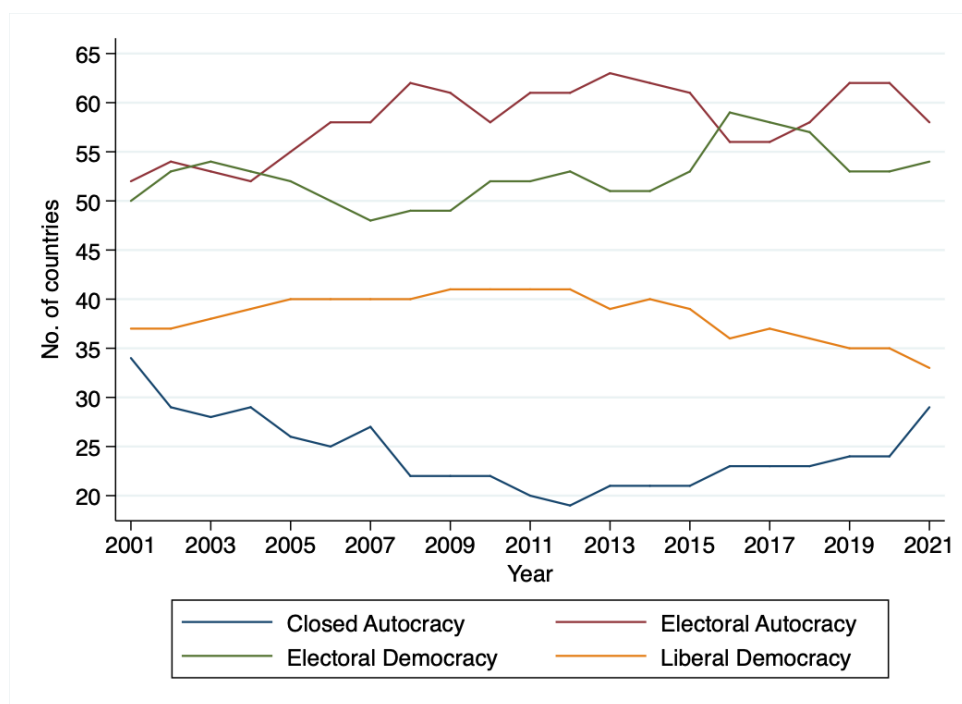


Figure 2: Breakdown of Closed/Electoral Autocracies and Electoral/Liberal Democracies

## 1.2 HDI and Democratic Backsliding

29 countries experienced democratic backsliding in the past two decades. That is, they either went from a Liberal Democracy to an Electoral Democracy, from an Electoral Democracy to an Electoral Autocracy, or from an Electoral Autocracy to a Closed Autocracy (or multiple steps together). These countries are: South Africa, Yemen, Poland, Portugal, El Salvador, Bangladesh, Honduras, Mali, Sudan, India, Philippines, Thailand, Venezuela, Benin, Nicaragua, Zambia, Guinea, Papua New Guinea, Syria, Turkey, Chad, Uzbekistan, Austria, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Mauritius, Serbia, Slovenia and Hungary.

Out of these countries that went through democratic backsliding in the past two decades, only Yemen, Venezuela and Syria experienced a drop in their HDI indices. The HDI indices for all the others kept going up, as can be seen in Figure 3 and 4 below.

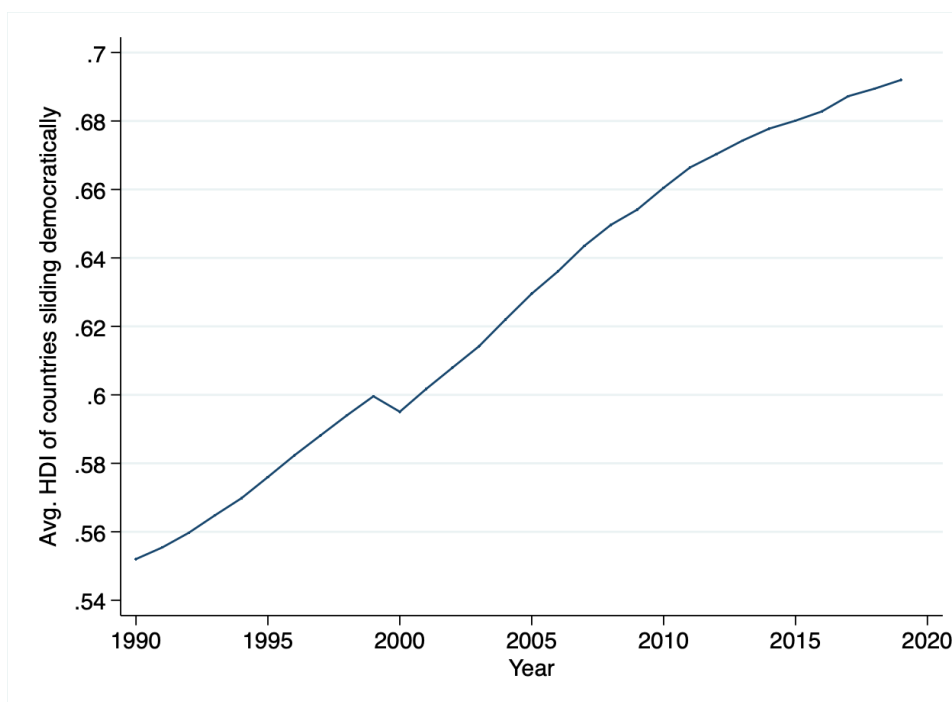


Figure 3: Avg. HDI of Countries that experienced Democratic Backsliding in the last two decades

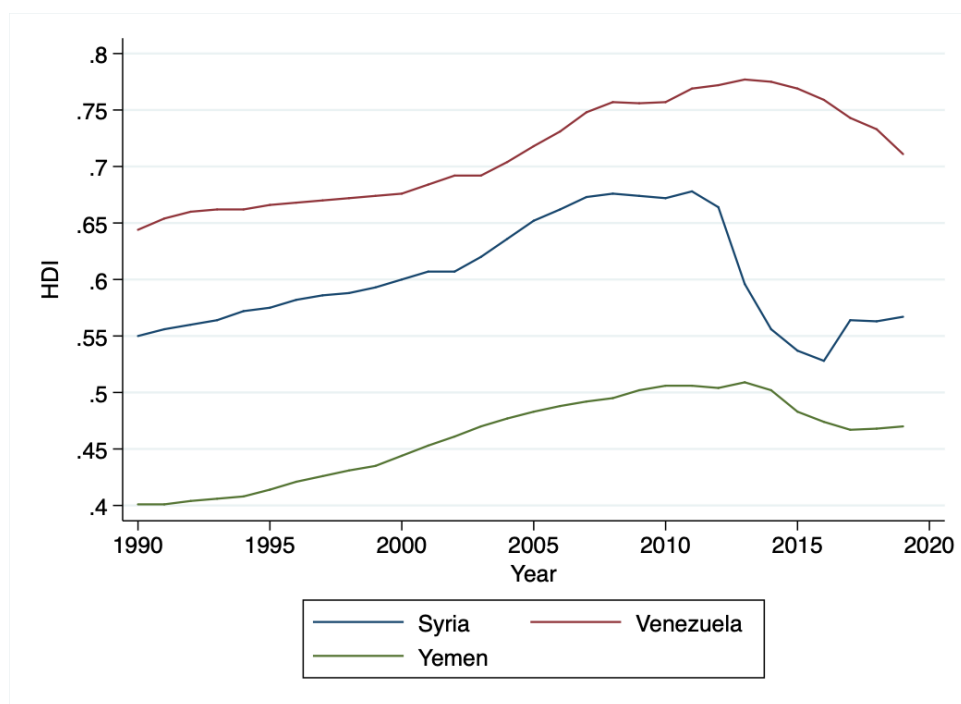


Figure 4: HDI of Yemen, Venezuela and Syria

## 2 V-Dem (2011 - 2021)

### 2.1 High-Level Democracy Indices (averages by HDI-level)

Figures 5-9 clearly show that the countries with "Very High" HDI-levels have shown the greatest drop across the five high-level democracy indices in the past decade.

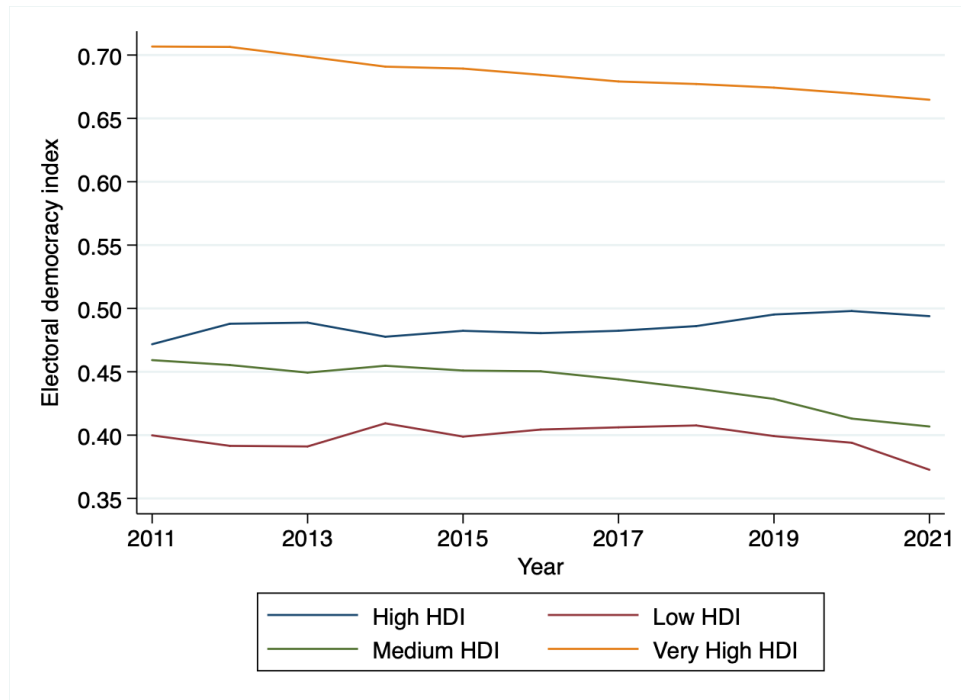


Figure 5: Electoral Democracy Index

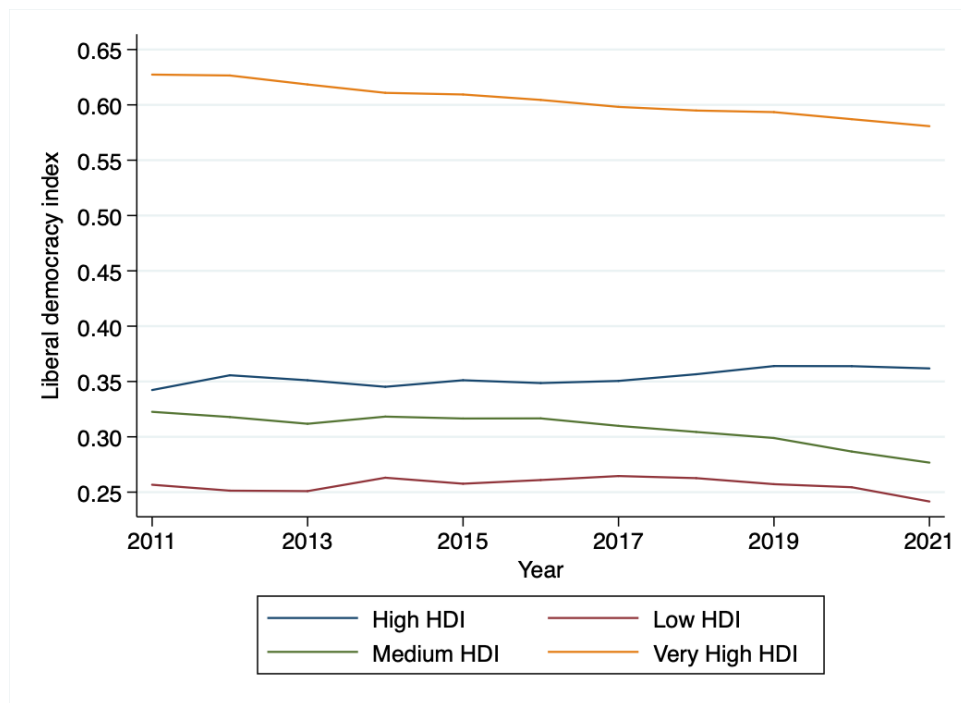


Figure 6: Liberal Democracy Index

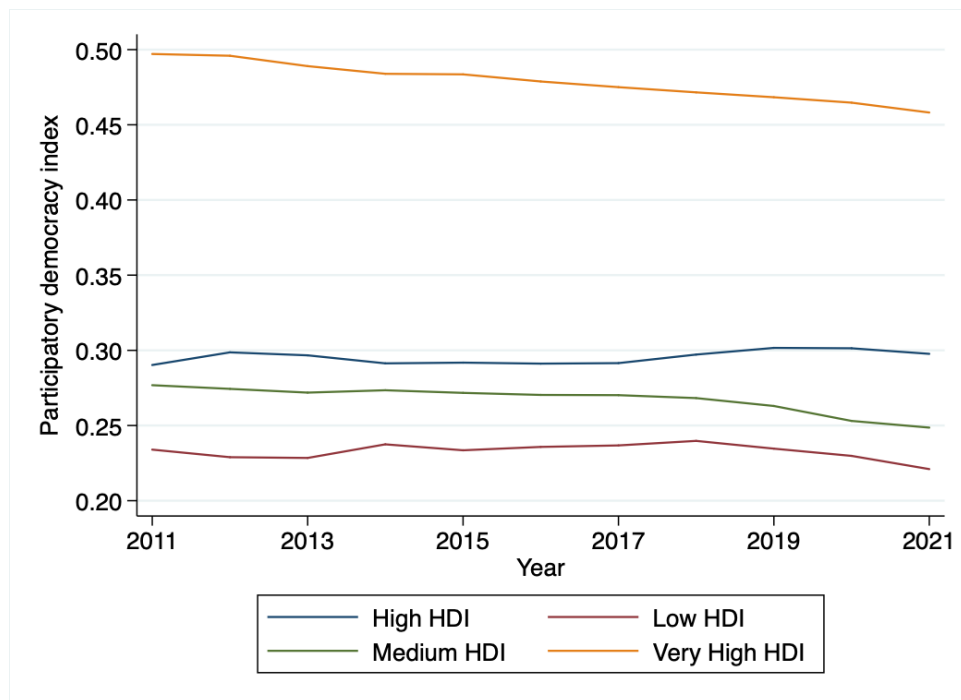


Figure 7: Participatory Democracy Index

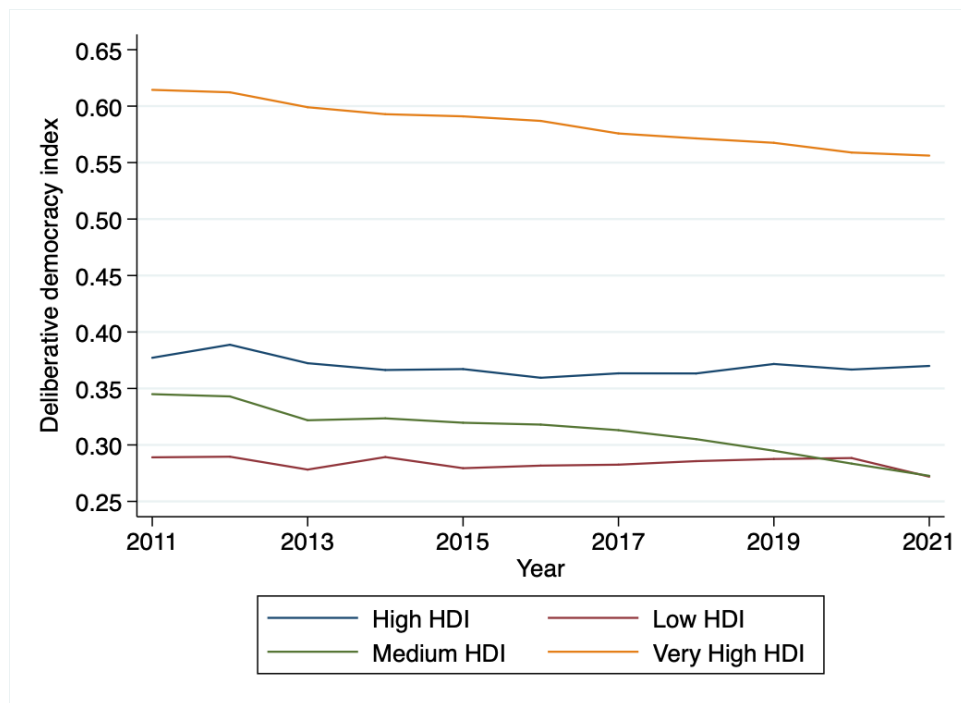


Figure 8: Deliberative Democracy Index

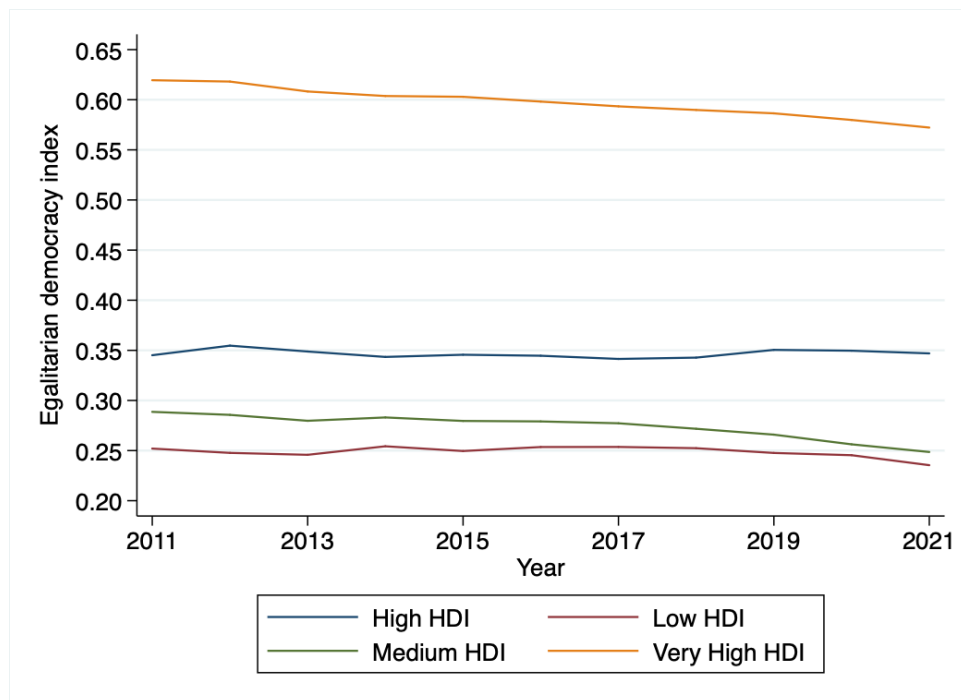


Figure 9: Egalitarian Democracy Index

## 2.2 High-Level Democracy Indices (averages by region)

Figures 10-14 show that the five democracy indices have a negative or constant trend in the past decade in almost all regions of the world except Oceania (when excluding Australia and New Zealand).

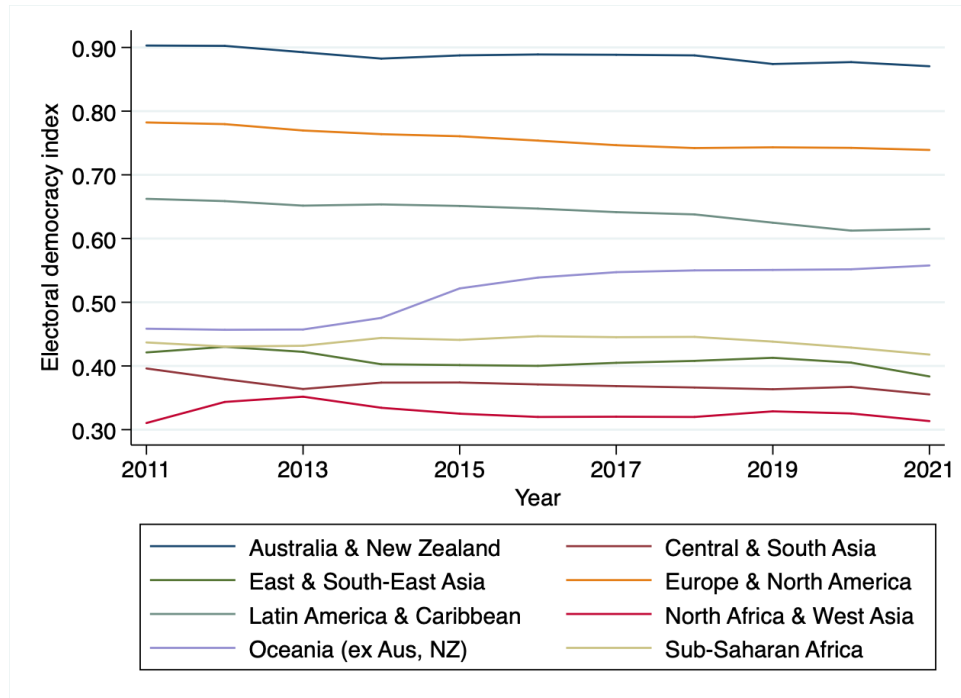


Figure 10: Electoral Democracy Index



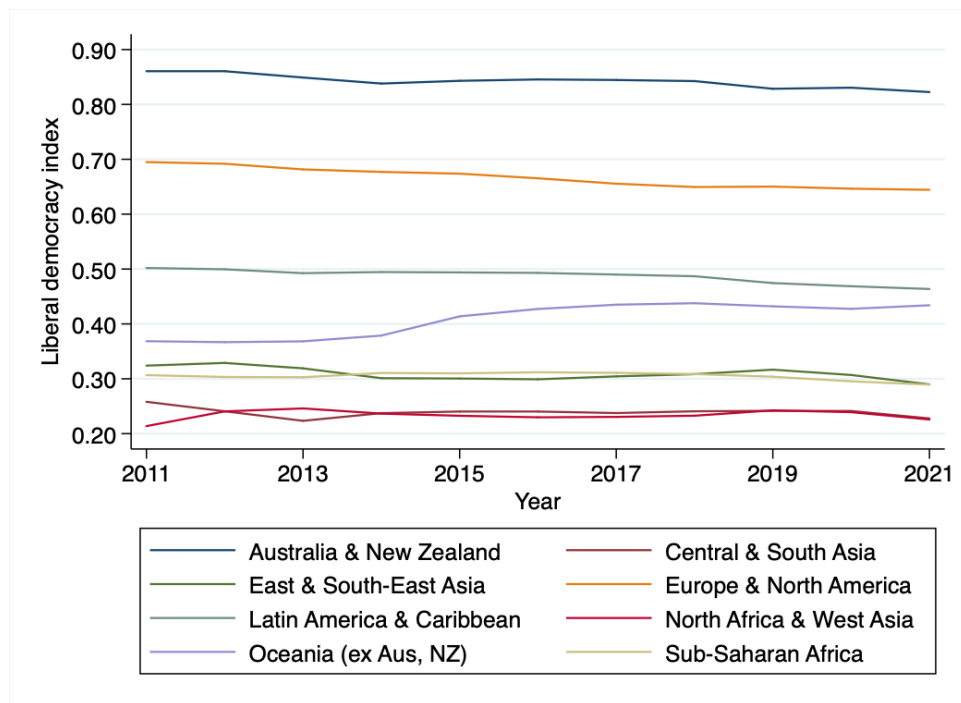


Figure 11: Liberal Democracy Index

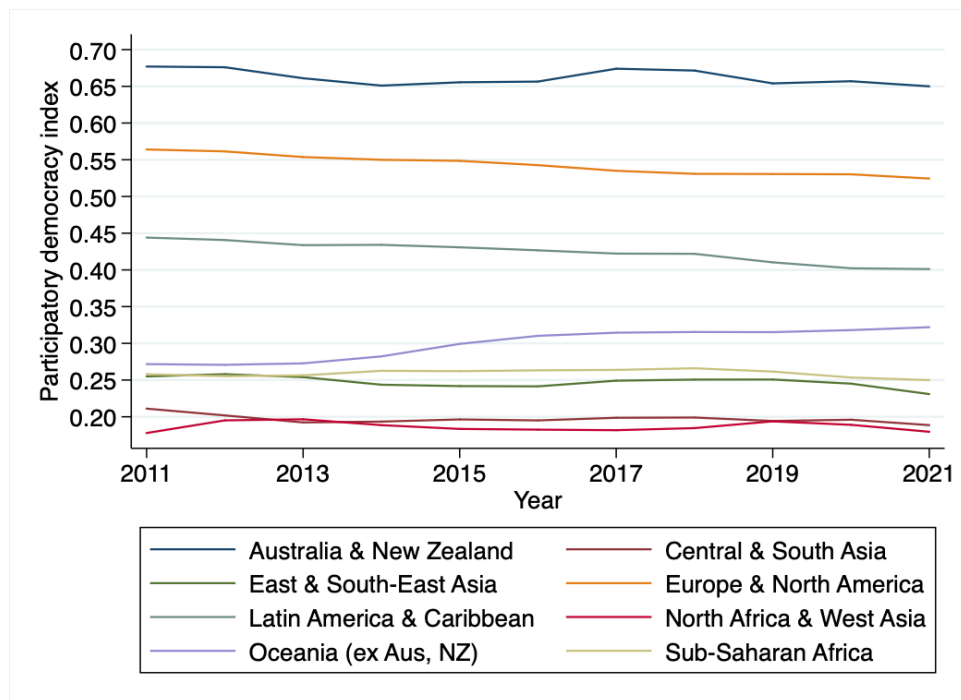


Figure 12: Participatory Democracy Index

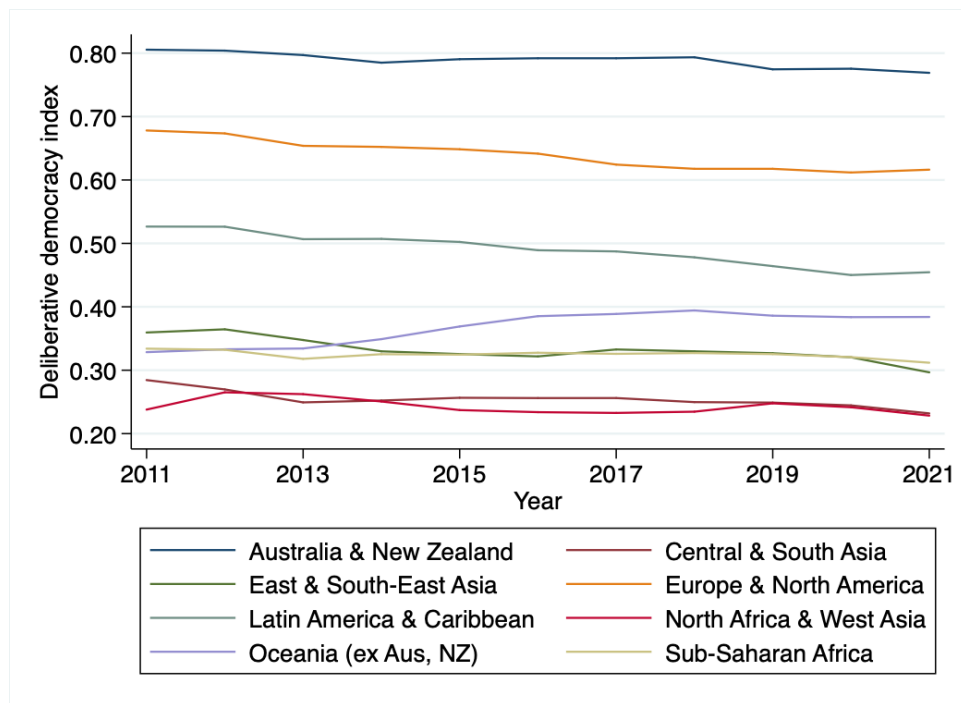


Figure 13: Deliberative Democracy Index

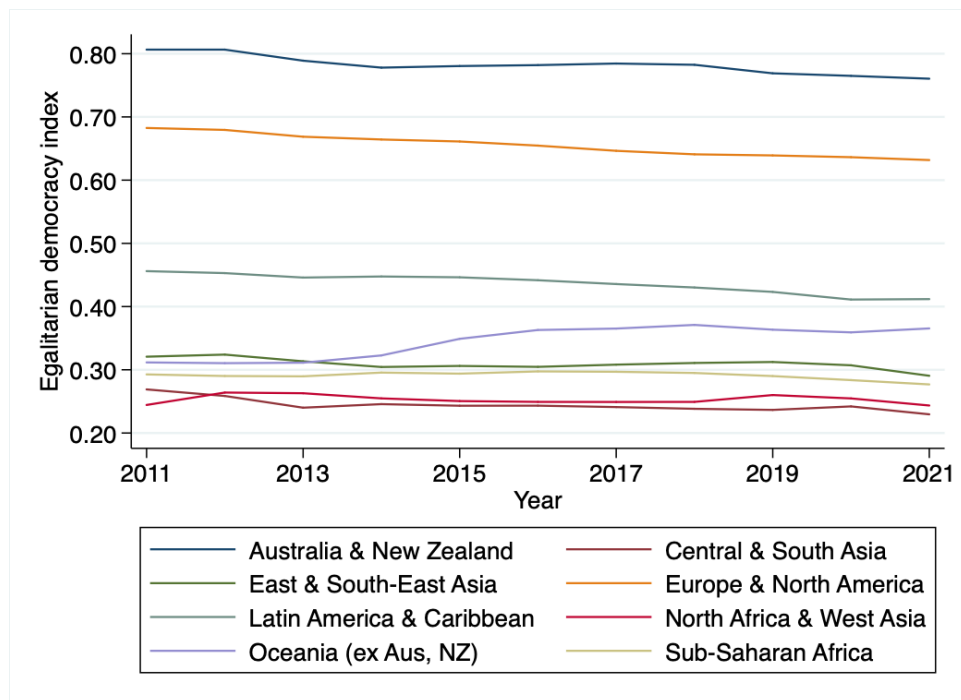


Figure 14: Egalitarian Democracy Index

## 2.3 Other lower-level indexes showing worsening outcomes (averages by region)

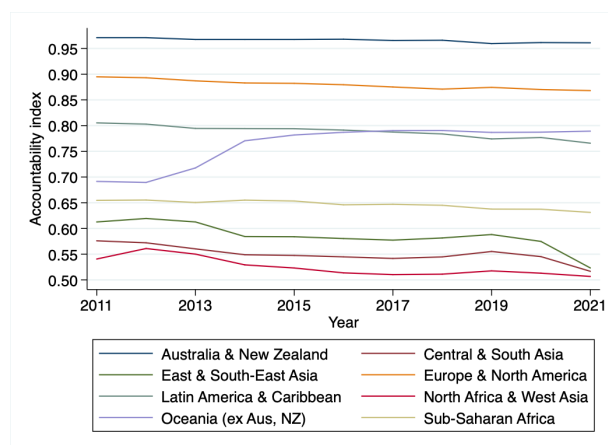


Figure 15: Accountability Index

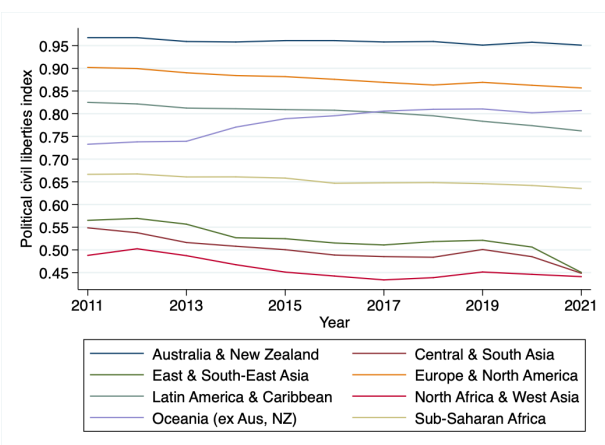


Figure 16: Political Civil Liberties Index

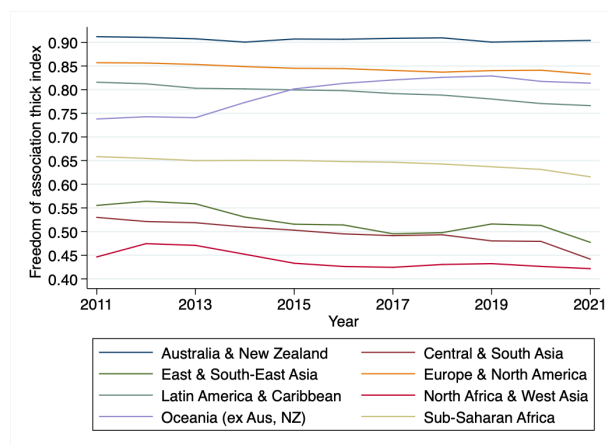


Figure 17: Freedom of Association Index

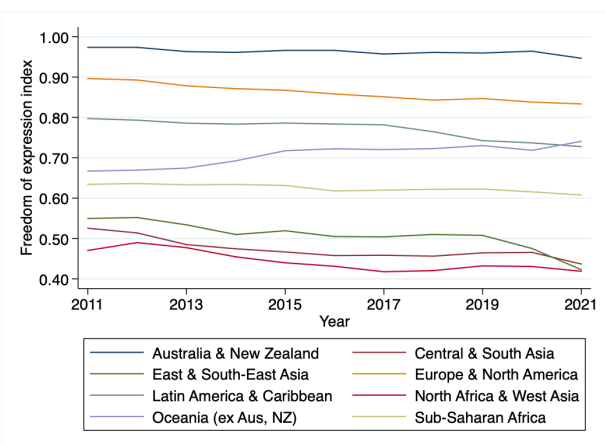


Figure 18: Freedom of Expression Index

## 2.4 Other indexes showing improving outcomes (averages by region)

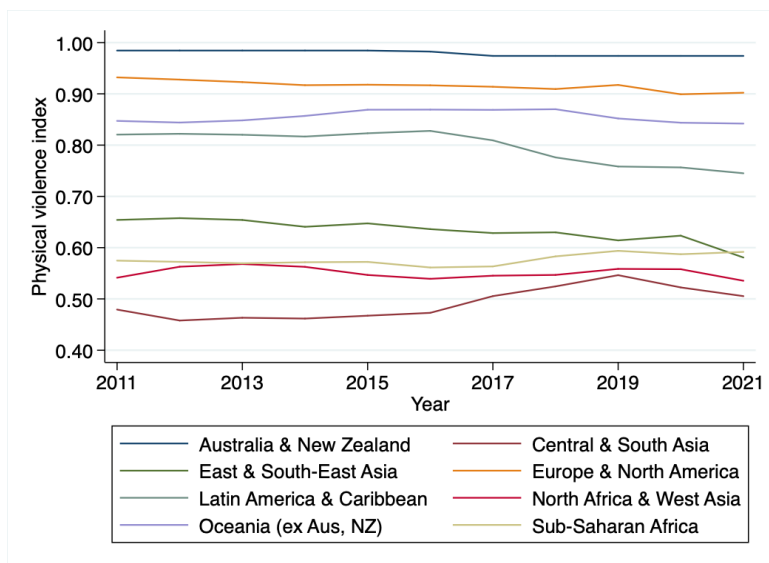


Figure 19: Physical Violence Index

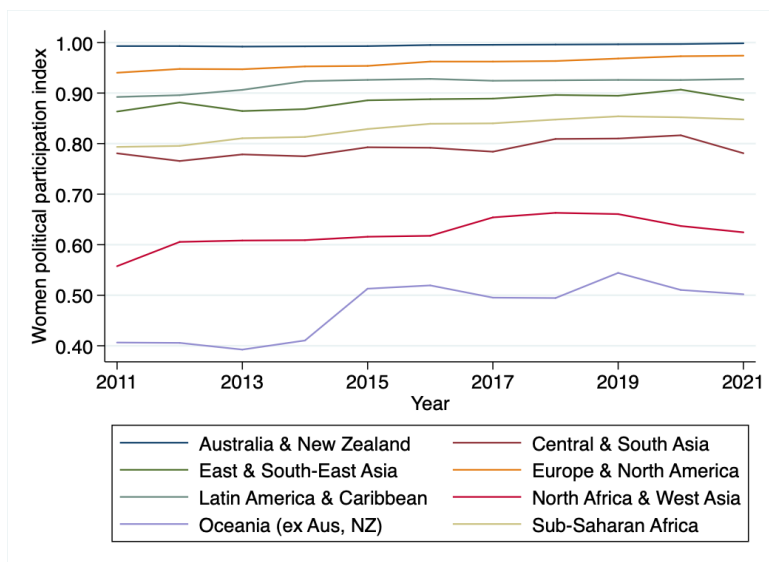


Figure 20: Women's Political Participation Index

### 3 Polity 5 (2008 - 2018)

#### 3.1 Autocracy and Political Competition (by HDI-level)

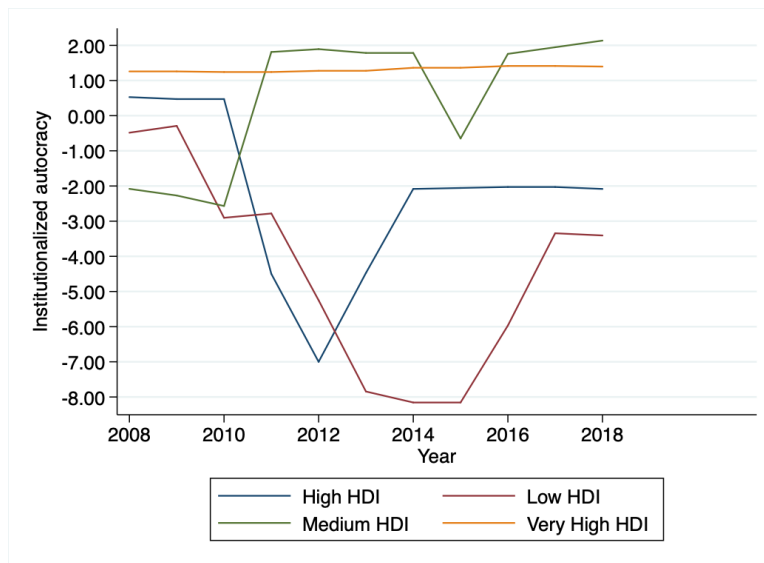


Figure 21: Institutionalized Autocracy

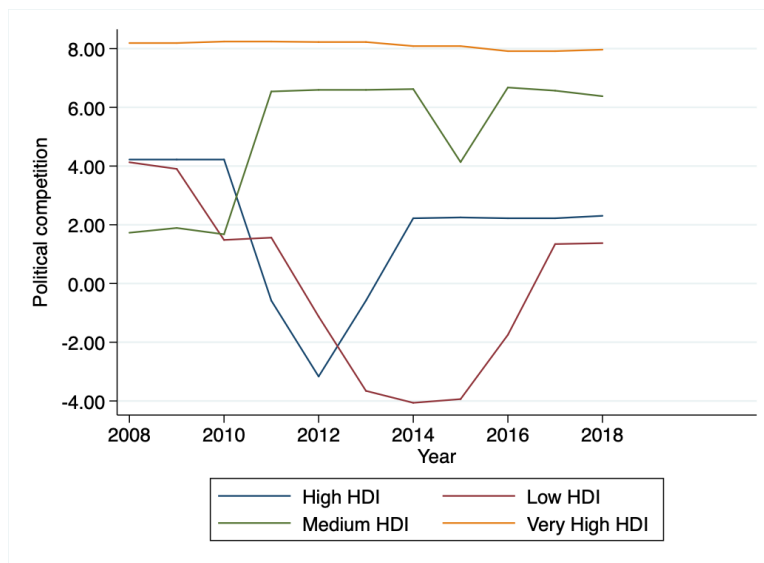


Figure 22: Political Competition

### 3.2 Autocracy and Political Competition (by region)

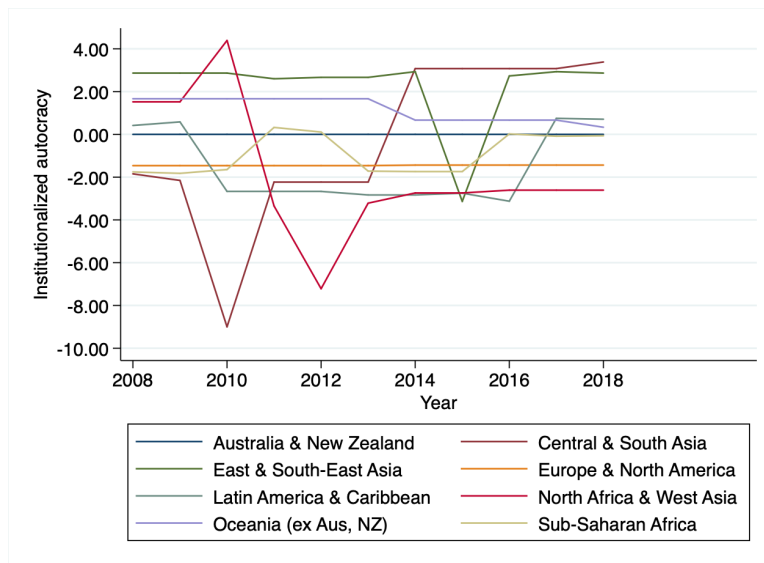


Figure 23: Institutionalized Autocracy

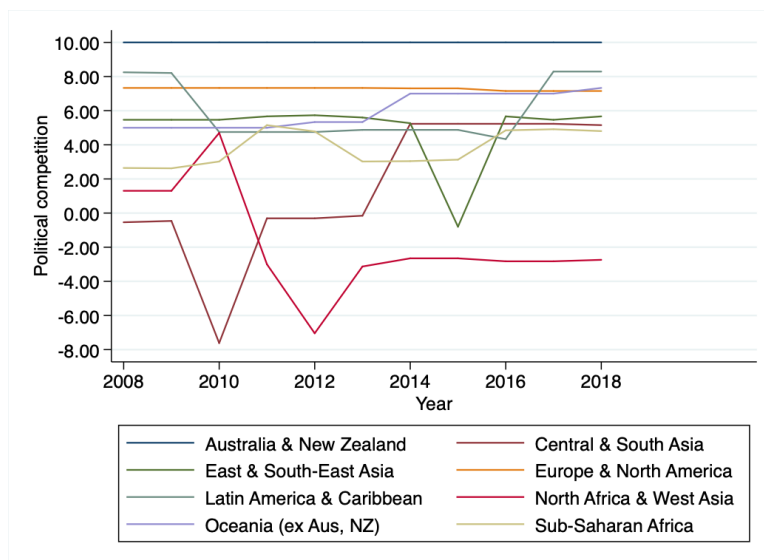


Figure 24: Political Competition

## 4 Worldwide Governance Indicators Dataset (2010 – 2020)

### 4.1 All indicators (averages by region)

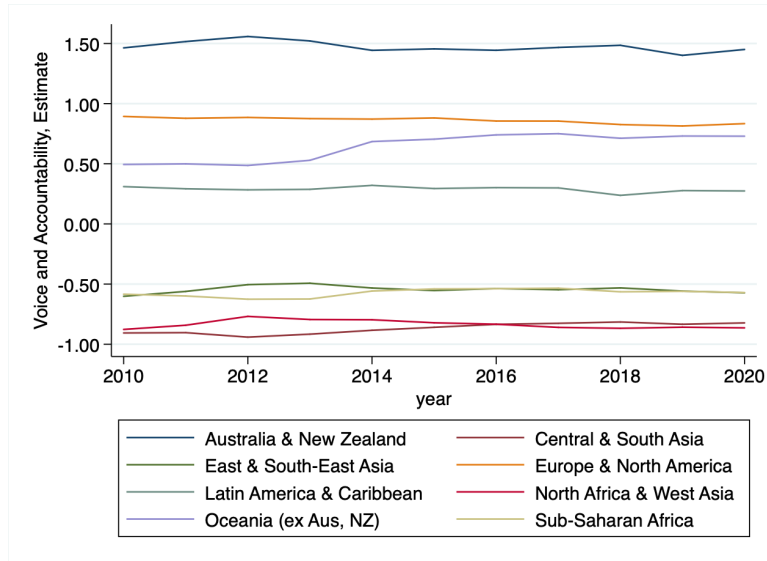


Figure 25: Voice and Accountability

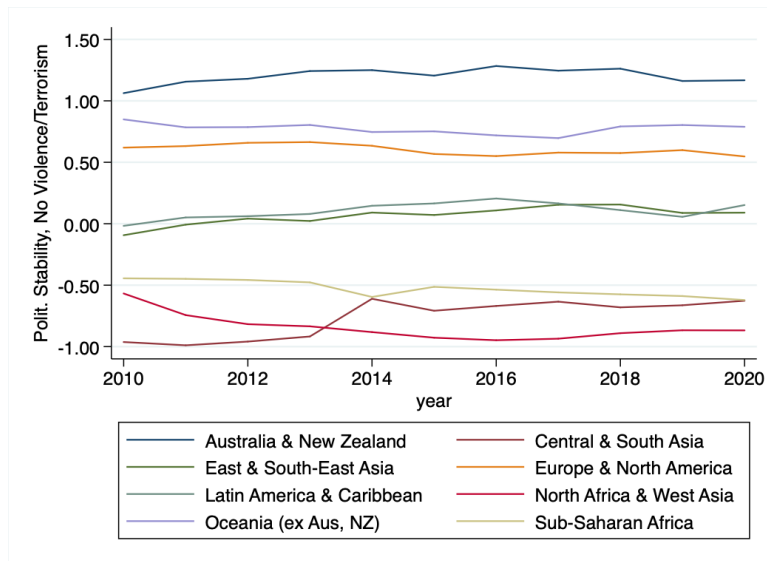


Figure 26: Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism

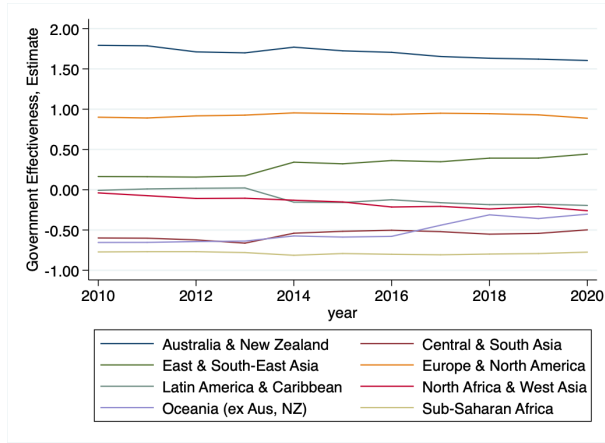


Figure 27: Government Effectiveness

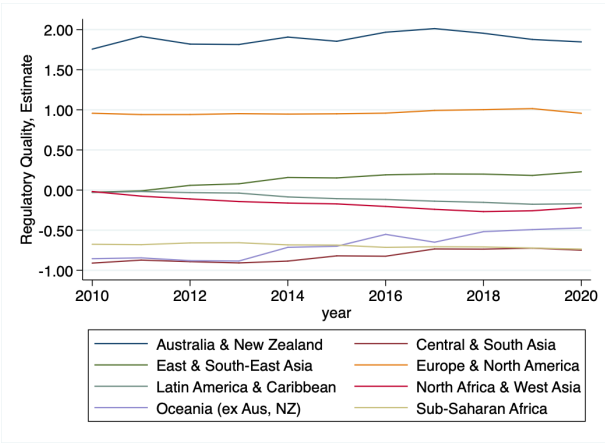


Figure 28: Regulatory Quality

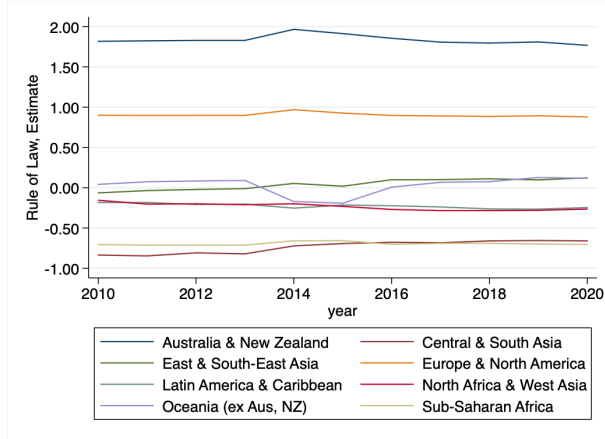


Figure 29: Rule of Law

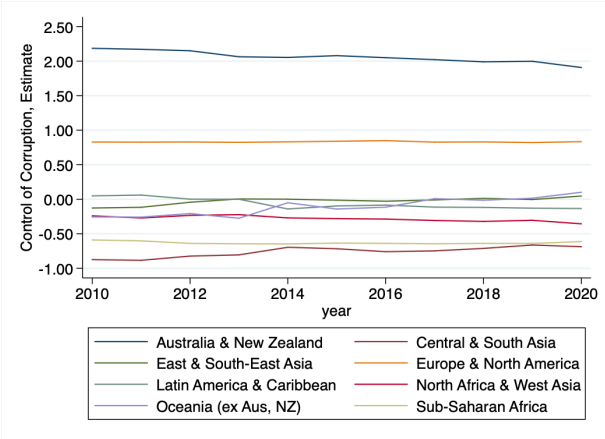


Figure 30: Control of Corruption