

Questions 10-18 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

This passage is adapted from Moisés Naím, *The End of Power: From Boardrooms to Battlefields and Churches to States, Why Being in Charge Isn't What It Used to Be*. ©2013 by Moisés Naím.

The number of democracies in the world today is unprecedented. And remarkably, even the remaining autocratic countries are less authoritarian than
 Line before, with electoral systems gaining strength and
 5 people empowered by new forms of contestation that repressive rulers are poorly geared to suppress. Local crises and setbacks are real, but the global trend is strong: power continues to flow away from autocrats and become more fleeting and dispersed.

10 The data confirm this transformation: 1977 was the high-water mark of authoritarian rule, with 90 authoritarian countries. A respected source, Freedom House, assessed whether countries are electoral democracies, based on whether they hold
 15 elections that are regular, timely, open, and fair, even if certain other civic and political freedoms may be lacking. In 2011 it counted 117 of 193 surveyed countries as electoral democracies. Compare that with 1989, when only 69 of 167 countries made the
 20 grade. Put another way, the proportion of democracies in the world increased by just over half in only two decades.

What caused this global transformation? Obviously local factors were at work, but scholar
 25 Samuel Huntington noted some big forces as well. Poor economic management by many authoritarian governments eroded their popular standing. A rising middle class demanded better public services, greater participation, and eventually more political freedom.

30 Western governments and activists encouraged dissent and held out rewards for reform, such as membership in NATO or the EU or access to funds from international financial institutions. A newly activist Catholic Church under Pope John Paul II
 35 empowered opposition in Poland, El Salvador, and the Philippines. Above all, success beget success, a process accelerated by the new reach and speed of mass media. As news of democratic triumphs spread from country to country, greater access to media by
 40 increasingly literate populations encouraged emulation. In today's digital culture, the force of that factor has exploded.

There have been exceptions, of course—not just countries where democracy has yet to spread but
 45 others where it has experienced reversals. Larry Diamond, a leading scholar in this field, calls the stalling in recent years in countries like Russia, Venezuela, or Bangladesh a “democratic recession.” Yet against this is mounting evidence that public
 50 attitudes have shifted. In Latin America, for example, despite persistent poverty and inequality, and constant corruption scandals, opinion polls show greater confidence in civilian government than in the military.

55 Even autocracies are less autocratic today. According to one study of the world's democratic electoral systems, Brunei may be the only country where “electoral politics has failed to put down any meaningful roots at all.” With far fewer repressive
 60 regimes in the world, one might have expected the holdouts to be places where freedom and political competition are increasingly suppressed. But in fact the opposite is true. How? Elections are central to democracy but they are not the only indicator of
 65 political openness. Freedom of the press, civil liberties, checks and balances that limit the power of any single institution (including that of the head of state), and other measures convey a sense of a government's grip on society. And the data show that
 70 on average, even as the number of authoritarian regimes has gone down, the democracy scores of countries that remain politically closed have gone up. The sharpest improvement occurred in the early 1990s, suggesting that the same forces that pushed so
 75 many countries into the democratic column at that time had profound liberalizing effects in the remaining nondemocratic countries as well.