Online data representativity

## *Digital Society Project data*

#### *Mechkova, Valeriya, Daniel Pemstein, Brigitte Seim, and Steven Wilson. 2020. “DSP [Country-Year] Dataset v2” Digital Society Project (DSP).*

#### 1. Correlations (the year 2018)

#### We see strong positive correlations between government dissemination of false information and government social media monitoring, Internet filtering, and blocking. Average people’s use of social media to organize offline action is positively correlated with elites’ use of social media to organize offline action, Internet shut down, and - online media fractionalization. Strong negative relationships between online media fractionalization and elites’ use of social media to organize offline action.

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### Plotting Digital Society Project data

#### 2. Government dissemination of false information domestically. The lower score of the index indicates a more frequent spread of false info by the national government. Russia is the only country with a 0 score (extremely often). In Hungary, Egypt, and Hong Kong, frequency is often. In some established democracies like UK, USA, and Italy, governments sometimes also spread false info.

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#### 3. Government social media shut down in practice. The lower score of the index indicates a more frequent ban of social media by the national government. Practiced mainly in Egypt, Russia, less in Indonesia. Interestingly, minor differences between the UK and Hong Kong. Almost never in Hungary (score even higher than in Germany and France).

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#### 4. Government Internet filtering in practice: the highest value of the index, the lowest government censors political information. In democracies government almost never censor. Sometimes filter in Brazil, Kenya, Malaysia, and South Africa. Often filter in Egypt, Russia, Hong Kong. Compared to Poland, censorship in Hungary is harsher (even harsher than in Mexico). Interestingly, Poland follows Sweden in the sense that government almost never filters Internet content.

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#### 5. Government Internet filtering and shut down in practice. Lower scores of both measures indicate more frequent use of such techniques. In general, we see a positive linear relationship between two indicators meaning that the more frequent national government filters Internet content, the more it’s likely that access to the Internet can be blocked. We also can spot the possible connection to the regime since most non-democratic states are at the bottom of the plot while democratic countries are at the top.

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#### 6. Government social media monitoring and average people use social media to organize offline political action of any kind. We see that mostly in Russia, followed by Hong Kong, and Egypt is the highest comprehensiveness of the surveillance of political content in social media by the government or its agents. Interestingly, there are minor differences between Nigeria and the USA, where governments surveil most content on social media, with comprehensive monitoring of most key political issues. Monitoring is less extensive in Poland, Hungary, France, Germany, UK, Brazil, South Africa, and Mexico. The only distinguishable outliners in media monitoring are Sweden and Spain, where governments almost do not monitor it. Although there are probably some regime explanations for this relationship, it’s seen that discrepancies are relatively small between countries plotted in the middle of the graph. Interestingly, we see that in the UK, the average number of people using media for political action is the highest. We also spot that in Russia and Hong Kong, people sometimes use media for political activities.

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#### 7. Average people’s use of social media to organize offline action is positively correlated with Internet shut down. We see that in countries where the Internet is rarely or never blocked, people more use social media for political action. In general, people in UK, Spain, and France use social media the most for political action. In countries like the USA, Poland, Italy, Estonia, and Sweden, fewer people use social media for political action (which is probably connected with the frequency of political activities in general). Noticeably, in such states as Russia, Hong Kong, and to a lesser extent in South Africa, political actions using social media are held quite often despite harsh Internet blocking. It appears that in Egypt Internet is blocked on the harshest scale, and people don’t use social media for protesting.

Chart

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#### 8. Online media fractionalization (the higher score - the more similar pictures present major domestic online media). We see that the most fractionalized online media are in Hungary, followed by Spain and Germany. The most negligible differences in representation are observed in Mexico, followed by Estonia, Egypt, and Poland. The relatively small differences between Russia and Sweden. Probably not related to the regime.

Chart, bar chart

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#### 9. Polarization of society - the higher score indicates the greater polarization on major political issues. 3 score (USA, Poland, Hungary, Brazil, France, Indonesia, Mexico) - serious differences on political matters, very polarized societies. Russia the least polarized on major political issues.

Scatter chart

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## *QofG Cross-sectional data*

#### *Teorell, Jan, Aksel Sundström, Sören Holmberg, Bo Rothstein, Natalia Alvarado Pachon & Cem Mert Dalli. 2021. The Quality of Government Standard Dataset,version Jan21. University of Gothenburg: The Quality of Government Institute,* [*doi:10.18157/qogstdjan21*](doi:10.18157/qogstdjan21)

###### Hong Kong is absent in the analysis because it’s not present in QofG Standart data

#### 10. Correlations: strong positive correlation between vdem\_mecorrpt, vdem\_libdem, dr\_eg (Economic globalization), mad\_gdppc (real GDP), and all International Telecommunications data (lower with E-Government Index). vdem\_corr - Political corruption index negatively correlates with all indicators. Less significant relationships between vdem\_partip - Participatory component index and online media data.

Background pattern

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#### 11. The index assesses each country’s national website in the native language, including the national portal, e-services portal, and e-participation portal, as well as the websites of the related ministries of education, labour, social services, health, finance, and environment as applicable. The lowest score belongs to Egypt and Nigeria, with slightly higher scores in Indonesia and Hungary. Hungary is the only country from the European region with a score of 0.75, all others, including EU member states, have higher. The index is also higher for South Africa, Brazil, and Russia.

#### Original source: International Telecommunications Union (ITU) <https://www.itu.int>

Chart, scatter chart

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#### 12. Fixed-broadband Internet subscriptions/100 pop by country. The highest numbers are Western Europe, followed by Eastern Europe and developing economies. The lowest in African countries. The green line shows the average number of subscriptions around the world for the year 2018. In developing economies, numbers are below the world average.

#### Original source: International Telecommunications Union (ITU) <https://www.itu.int>

Chart, bar chart

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#### 13. Mobile-cellular telephone subscriptions are the most spread in Russia, South Africa, and Estonia. The green vertical line marks the average for the world. Lower than the world’s average numbers are in Spain, France, Hungary, Brazil, UK, and African countries.

#### Original source: International Telecommunications Union (ITU) <https://www.itu.int>

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#### 14. Internet users. % pop. Quite a similar trend as Fixed-broadband Internet subscriptions, but considerably more users in Nigeria, Indonesia, Kenya, and South Africa. Only in such countries as Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, Egypt, Nigeria, Indonesia, and Kenya, number of users is below the world’s average (marked by the green vertical line).

#### Original source: International Telecommunications Union (ITU) <https://www.itu.int>

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#### 15. Telecommunication Infrastructure Index measures internet users, mobile subscribers, main fixed telephone lines, etc. Index’s values are the lowest in Kenya, Nigeria, and Egypt. In general, the same trend as for Fixed-broadband Internet subscriptions.

#### Original source: International Telecommunications Union (ITU) <https://www.itu.int>

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#### 16. Positive relationships between economic development and Internet users and a negative one with Political Corruption Index. In developed democratic systems, there are more Internet users. However, there are many users in Russia, Hungary, and Poland, where GDP per capita is lower and political corruption higher. The most insufficient numbers of users, as well as worse economic development and higher political corruption, are observed in African states.

#### Original sources: Bolt, J., & van Zanden, J. L. (2020). Maddison project database, version 2020. Retrieved from <https://www.rug.nl/ggdc/historicaldevelopment/maddison/research>; Coppedge, M., Gerring, J., Knutsen, C. H., Lindberg, S. I., Teorell, J., Altman, D., . . . Ziblatt, D.(2020). V-dem [country-year/country-date] dataset v10. Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Project.doi: 10.23696/vdemds20

Chart, scatter chart

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#### 17.The Human Capital Index (HCI) consists of four components: adult literacy rate; the combined primary, secondary, and tertiary gross enrolment ratio; expected years of schooling; and average years of schooling. The positive relationship between the Human Capital Index and a number of Internet subscriptions/100 pop. Probably the relationship is also dependent on GDP level, as it’s shown in the previous graph.

#### Original sources: Department of Economic and Social Aairs. (2020). United nations e-government survey. United Nations. Retrieved from <https://publicadministration.un.org/egovkb/en-us/Reports/UN-E-Government-Survey-2020>; International Telecommunications Union (ITU) <https://www.itu.int>

Chart, scatter chart

Description automatically generated

#### 18. In general positive correlation between the Liberal Democracy Index and the number of mobile subscriptions/100 pop. Several outliners as Russia and Malaysia, where regimes have low scores of liberal democracy, but a lot of people use mobile phones.

#### Original sources: Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2020). United nations e-government survey. United Nations. Retrieved from <https://publicadministration.un.org/egovkb/en-us/Reports/UN-E-Government-Survey-2020>, 2020; International Telecommunications Union (ITU) <https://www.itu.int>; Coppedge, M., Gerring, J., Knutsen, C. H., Lindberg, S. I., Teorell, J., Altman, D., . . . Ziblatt, D.(2020). V-dem [country-year/country-date] dataset v10. Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Project.doi: 10.23696/vdemds20

Chart, scatter chart

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## *Merged data*

#### 19. The higher score of liberal democracy - to a lesser degree governments censor and block political information on the Internet. In Poland, the values of the Liberal Democracy Index are lower, but the government doesn’t filter and block the Internet. The Internet is almost never blocked in Hungary, Brazil, and Mexico, but governments filter it more often in these countries, and regimes are less liberal in general. In Egypt and Russia, governments filter and block the Internet very often and are characterized by illiberal regimes.

#### Original sources: Coppedge, M., Gerring, J., Knutsen, C. H., Lindberg, S. I., Teorell, J., Altman, D., . . . Ziblatt, D.(2020). V-dem [country-year/country-date] dataset v10. Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Project.doi: 10.23696/vdemds20; Mechkova, Valeriya, Daniel Pemstein, Brigitte Seim, and Steven Wilson. 2020. “DSP [Country-Year] Dataset v2” Digital Society Project (DSP)

Chart, scatter chart

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#### 20. Countries with lower scores of corruption perception are more polarized on political issues. Russia is a country with strong perceptions of corruption but very low polarization in society. We also see that in highly polarized societies average use of social media to organize political actions is higher (here also Russia seems to be an outliner).

#### Original sources: Transparency International. (2021). Corruption perception index 2020. Retrieved from <http://www.transparency.org/cpi> (Licensed under CC-BY-ND 4.0); Mechkova, Valeriya, Daniel Pemstein, Brigitte Seim, and Steven Wilson. 2020. “DSP [Country-Year] Dataset v2” Digital Society Project (DSP)

Chart, scatter chart

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#### 21. The higher numbers of arrests for political content online are in undemocratic regimes. In general, the relationship looks very linear. We see that the likelihood that a citizen is arrested is highest in Egypt, followed by Russia and then Malaysia. The probability that a citizen is arrested for political context is likely in Indonesia, Brazil, Mexico, South Africa and also Hungary, and Poland. The likelihood of an arrest is relatively higher in such democratic systems as UK, France, the USA, and Spain compared to Sweden, Germany, Estonia, and Italy. It can be connected with the political culture of protesting in general, the frequency of the protests and media use for political actions (See Figure 6).

#### Original sources: Coppedge, M., Gerring, J., Knutsen, C. H., Lindberg, S. I., Teorell, J., Altman, D., . . . Ziblatt, D.(2020). V-dem [country-year/country-date] dataset v10. Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Project.doi: 10.23696/vdemds20; Mechkova, Valeriya, Daniel Pemstein, Brigitte Seim, and Steven Wilson. 2020. “DSP [Country-Year] Dataset v2” Digital Society Project (DSP)

Chart, scatter chart

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#### 22. Lower scores on the y scale - more often government spreads false information. We see a strong linear relationship between the two indicators. It appears that in more corrupted systems, governments more often spread false information domestically, which might be directly related to the wish to silent corruption scandals. In Russia, authorities spread false information extremely often (compared to other countries). Interestingly, the perceived corruption by citizens (Transparency International Index) in Russia is comparable with Kenya, Nigeria, and Mexico, but the governments in these countries are less likely to spread false information. Hungary is also marked relatively low in both indexes meaning that government disseminates false information often (possible to compare with Brazil and Kenya), and people perceive the regime as corrupt. In opposite, less corrupted regimes are in Sweden, UK, and Germany. But in the UK government rarely spreads false information compared to Sweden and Germany, where it’s almost never. Poland occupies a middle position in both ratings (government can spread false information, and the regime is perceived as relatively corrupted).

#### Original sources: Transparency International. (2021). Corruption perception index 2020. Retrieved from <http://www.transparency.org/cpi> (Licensed under CC-BY-ND 4.0); Mechkova, Valeriya, Daniel Pemstein, Brigitte Seim, and Steven Wilson. 2020. “DSP [Country-Year] Dataset v2” Digital Society Project (DSP)

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#### 23. The ethnic fractionalization index measures diversity as a steadily increasing function of the number of groups in a country, including linguistic and ethnic diversity. The highest values of the index indicate that there are many groups in societies such as Kenya, South Africa, Nigeria, Indonesia, and Spain. Although the relationship is ambiguous, we can spot that in these countries public is also relatively polarized on major political issues. Outliners are Hungary and Poland, where ethnic fractionalization is very low, but the polarization of political opinions the highest among studied cases. We also see that in less ethnically and linguistically diverse countries as Germany, Sweden, and Russia spectrum of political opinions is more narrow. However, the relationship between factors is probably moderated by other significant factors.

#### Original source: Drazanova, Lenka, 2019, “HIEF\_data.tab”, Historical Index of Ethnic Fractionalization Dataset (HIEF), <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/4JQRCL/GZLWGZ>, Harvard Dataverse, V2, UNF:6:z4J/b/PKbUpNdIoeEFPvaw== [fileUNF]; Mechkova, Valeriya, Daniel Pemstein, Brigitte Seim, and Steven Wilson. 2020. “DSP [Country-Year] Dataset v2” Digital Society Project (DSP)

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## 

**Countries overview and political context**

*Hong Kong*

In Hong Kong so-called Umbrella Revolution took place in 2014. Students were protesting against electoral reforms showing the highest level of public participation. Another series of protests escalated in 2019-2020 against the extradition law passed by the government, which allows extradition of citizens to China and Taiwan. Protesters succeeded, and the bill was retracted. In the last years, the average use of social media to organize political actions peaked, and young protesters invented new mobilization methods through them.

*Brazil*

The political landscape of Brazil is turbulent and characterized by protests. For instance, in 2013, many demonstrations across the country were held against the poor quality of social services and the 2014 World Cup expenses. In 2015 people protested against a major corruption scandal involving president Dilma Rousseff (removed from office in 2016). In 2020 and 2021 country experienced coronavirus protests connected with slow response to the pandemic outbreak. After 2015 regime became less liberal with strengthened presidential powers. Contextually, it is associated with president’s Dilma Rousseff removal from office by the Congress and election of Jair Bolsonaro in 2019.

*Indonesia*

Variations of the regime status over time are relatively stable in Indonesia. However, with a closer look, one can spot the decreasing values of the liberal democracy index, the rise of society’s polarization on major political issues, a slight increase in the president’s power, and filtering of the Internet by the government. Contextually, Joko Widodo won the presidential elections in 2014 against an ex-general candidate. He was re-elected as president in 2019.

*Malaysia*

Since 2017 Malaysian regime became more liberal, less corrupted, with better protection of freedom of expression. In 2016 corruption scandal involving Prime Minister Najib caused the eruption of protests. After that, Mahathir Mohamad becomes a new Prime-Minister leading a coalition of four parties. This is also a turning point of weakened presidential powers in the country. However, his government collapses in 2020 and steps up to a new one. The reasons behind the government’s fall lie in the historical polarization of Malaysian society. The Malay majority, which composes around 50%, enjoys better access to power, protection by laws, and status in the community, while Chinese and Indian Malaysians are subject to discrimination. The country is divided among religious, race, and reform views. The political fragmentation is enhanced by the role of social media, where elites deliver alternative messages. The liberalization of the Internet after the state’s monopoly has gradually happened after 2010.

*Nigeria*

The Nigerian landscape of the last ten years is characterized by Boko Haram uprising – an Islamist movement attacking civilians and bombing. Since 2012-2013 elections became more competitive in the country and the regime more liberal. In 2015 was the first time in the country’s history when opposition candidate - Muhammadu Buhari won the presidential elections. However, from 2015 government filters the Internet more, presidentialism was enforced as well as the average use of social media to organize political actions.

*South Africa*

Since 2010 regime transformed from liberal democracy to an electoral one. In 2009 Jacob Zuma was elected as a president and ran the country till 2018 when he resigned after several corruption scandals. In the 2010s country witnessed protests against the shrinking economy, inequality, and other social reasons. However, the freedom of expression and alternative sources of information remain pretty stable in the county and the index’s values are relatively high, comparable with the USA.

*Kenya*

From 2012 to 2015, there was a peak of electoral democracy in Kenya, but authoritarian backlash happened in 2015-2016. In 2010 a new constitution aimed to limit the presidents’ powers and devolve power to the regions was adopted in the country after the national referendum. In 2013 Uhuru Kenyatta won the presidential elections as well as repeated his victory in 2017. However, the 2017 election results were highly contested, causing an eruption of protests and violence by police against protesters. The general elections were annulled, and the incumbent president obtained a victory at the next polls capturing 98% of the vote. Besides, the period is characterized by the al-Shabab attacks and discovery of oil in 2012, which brought a boom in the country’s GDP growth. Moreover, online media became more fractionalized in the country during the observed period.

*USA*

One of the most significant political events in recent US recent history is Donald Trump’s victory in the 2016 presidential elections. Starting from his time in office US’s positions have dropped in the Freedom House’s annual rankings, especially values accessing the unequal treatment of minority groups, influence of money in politics, and increased polarization. Since the 2016 elections, American society is also characterized by greater polarization on major political issues (Indicator from the Digital Society Project). Since 2016-2017 a slight increase on the presidentialism scale is also spotted. In the last year, the Black Lives Matter movement and electoral protests after the 2020 elections happened in the USA. From 2014 average use of social media to organize political actions also raised.

*Italy*

The last decade was characterized by the migration crisis in Italy, corruption scandals and former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's sentencing for tax fraud, austerity measures connected with the financial crisis, the rise of populism. On central political regime indicators, Italy’s positions have remained the same. While the political corruption index measured by the V-Dem stays relatively constant across time, its values are higher compared to other EU member states as Spain and France. The average use of social media to organize political actions became more common in Italy, but the index’s values are lower than in Western European countries, Poland, and Hungary.

*Spain*

During the observed period, political polarization in Spain has considerably increased while the central regime’s indexes show relatively constant trends. The financial crisis brought up harsh economic consequences and caused waves of protests in 2010. In 2013 country’s unemployed reached a peak of 27.2%. The rise of populism can be dated in 2015 with the appearance of the anti-austerity movement Podemos on the political landscape. Protests for Catalonia independence after the referendum in 2017 also took place. From the studies cases, Spain is the country with the highest use of social media to organize political actions and one of the most dramatic increases in polarization on major political issues since 2012. From this time point, the Spanish state also attempts more to filter the Internet.

*France*

The consequences of the financial crisis were also harmful in France, leading to budget cuts. In 2010 waves of protests were held in the country against government plans to raise the retirement age to 62. The landscape is also characterized by anti-Islamist laws, terrorist attacks, intervention in Mali in 2013. The far-right National Front has gained political power in France by gaining votes in the 2014 elections. However, the far-right candidate Marine Le Pen lost the 2017 presidential elections to centrist Emmanuel Macron. His movement also gained the majority in the parliamentary elections. In 2018 protests were held in the country by railway workers against labor market reforms and nationwide "yellow vest" protests. The political regime indexes, political polarization, corruption level, media fractionalization remain constant across 2010-2020. A slight rise in media usage for protesting can be spotted. Besides, the French government filters content on the Internet to a greater degree than governments in Spain, Sweden, and Poland.

*Sweden*

The only indicators that slightly change in Sweden for the studied period are the polarization of society on major political issues (slightly more polarized since 2014, but compared to other countries, polarization is very low); a shift in power distribution (from equal to almost equal) after 2012.

Interestingly, Sweden and Kenya are the only countries where the average use of social media to organize political actions has not increased during 2010-2020. In general, indicator values are relatively low.

*UK*

In general, there are relatively stable trends for all included in the analysis indicators in the UK, except polarization (values slightly raised since 2015). This trend might be related to such significant events as the first victory of the Conservative Party on the 2015 general elections since 1992, the 2016 referendum on leaving the EU, and following Prime Minister David Cameron’s resignation and Theresa May’s time in office. In 2019 Theresa May was succeeded by Boris Johnson, who pushed the Brexit to proceed. Notable, in the UK, the average use of media for protesting remains constant for the whole period. The reason may lie down behind the fact that the indicator was initially high at the beginning of the 2010s.

*Hungary*

In 2010 Fidesz party, previously in the opposition, won the parliamentary election. Jobbik party also entered the legislature. Since that time, liberal democracy has been continuously undermined in the country. In 2011-2013 government amended the Constitution, electoral law, media law, passes the central bank’s reform facing criticism from the EU side. In the 2014 elections, Fidesz again performed the best, but restrictive rules and pro-incumbent media coverage characterized the campaign. After elections government passes a law on Internet use that causes protests in the capital. During the 2015 migration crisis, Hungary opposed the relocation of migrants and held the national referendum, supporting this position. In 2017 government passed the law that requires NGOs to register as foreign organizations if they receive funding from abroad. In the 2018 elections, victory for the Fidesz–KDNP alliance happened. The illiberal trend was supported by the recent restrictions of academic freedoms and the campaign against Central European University. Notably, Hungary is the most polarized society on major political issues in the studied sample. Despite the deterioration of freedoms and enhanced presidentialism, the Hungarian government has not started to filter the Internet more, and the level of filtering is comparable with France and Germany. Among EU member states, corruption is the most significant in Hungary and can be compared to the South African level.

*Poland*

Turn to the right occurred in Poland after the 2015 elections, where Law and Justice candidate Andrzej Duda won over incumbent Bronislaw Komorowski in the presidential election. Law and Justice also captured the majority in the parliamentary elections. Since then, the decrease of the liberal democracy index is witnessed. Freedom of Expression and Alternative Sources of Information index’s value considerably dropped since 2015, too, while the society became more polarized on major political subjects. The new laws were passed to limit the power of the Constitutional Court and on the government’s appointing of heads of state TV and radio. Since 2016 there were waves of protests against the government’s attempts to ban abortion rights.

Despite the illiberal trend, political corruption did not worsen in Poland, and the index’s values are lower than in Italy. Online media has fractionalized more after 2017. This is also a time point from which presidentialism power was raised. From 2015 a significant rise in social media usage for protesting is spotted.

*Russia*

The beginning of the decade is described by elections and followed by them non-democratic measures. In the 2011 parliamentary elections, pro-state party United Russia captured fewer votes than previously. Mass protests were held against electoral fraud. In 2012 Putin became the president for the third time after Medvedev step the office. Simultaneously, a new law was introduced classifying NGOs receiving money from abroad as foreign agents. The year 2014 became a crucial juncture in Russian history because of the war outbreak in Ukraine and the annexation of Crimea. In 2018 Putin became the president for the fourth time, initiating a Constitutional referendum allowing him to stay in power till 2024 in 2020. In 2020 the opposition politician Alexei Navalny was poisoned and sentenced to prison months later. Considering the non-democratic trend, it is compelling that Russia is the country with one of the highest average use of social media to organize political action (indicator has been continuously rising since 2010). Russia, as well as Sweden, are one of the most unpolarized societies on major political issues. However, the Russian political system is also characterized by the highest score of presidentialism and corruption among studies cases.

*Egypt*

The 2010-2020 decade started in Egypt with the revolution. Authoritarian leader Hosni Mubarak resigned after nationwide protests against his almost 30-year rule and voter rigging at the elections. In 2012 Mohammed Morsi, a candidate from the Muslim Brotherhood party, won presidential elections. He attempted to approve the new Constitution restricting freedom of speech and expression. However, the mass protested escalated in 2013, leading to the army overthrowing the president, declaration of the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist group, and banning religious parties in the newly approved Constitution. In 2014 Former army chief Abdul Fattah al-Sisi wins the presidential elections and starts to accumulate power. After this time, the enhanced role of president, deterioration of freedoms, and Internet filtering by the government are spotted.

In April 2019, President Abdel-Fattah al-Sissi initiated the referendum, which allowed him to stay in power till 2030, expand the president’s control over judicial appointments and enhance the military’s role. Besides, numerous attacks of the Islamic State also characterize this period.

Considering the shifting power between military, civilians, and even religious parties, the variations of the power distribution are the most notable in Egypt for the studied period.

*Germany*

The Eurozone crisis management heavily depended on Germany. For instance, Chancellor Merkel insisted on the second bail-out for Greece to protect the euro. During the migration crisis and Merkel’s third term of office as chancellor, the country also provided asylum for refugees and tried to combat the migration crisis. The latter can be named a case of populism rise and strong results of Anti-migrant Alternative for Germany party. Party entered the parliament for the first time after the 2017 federal elections.

From 2010 there is a significant enhancement of polarization and increased use of social media to organize political actions (all other studies indicators stay relatively constant).

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## V-dem Time-Series data

### Coppedge, Michael, John Gerring, Carl Henrik Knutsen, Staffan I. Lindberg, Jan Teorell, Nazifa Alizada, David Altman, Michael Bernhard, Agnes Cornell, M. Steven Fish, Lisa Gastaldi, Haakon Gjerløw, Adam Glynn, Allen Hicken, Garry Hindle, Nina Ilchenko, Joshua Krusell, Anna Lührmann, Seraphine F. Maerz, Kyle L. Marquardt, Kelly McMann, Valeriya Mechkova, Juraj Medzihorsky, Pamela Paxton, Daniel Pemstein, Josefine Pernes, Johannes von Römer, Brigitte Seim, Rachel Sigman, Svend-Erik Skaaning, Jeffrey Staton, Aksel Sundström, Eitan Tzelgov, Yi-ting Wang, Tore Wig, Steven Wilson and Daniel Ziblatt. 2021.“V-Dem [Country–Year/Country–Date] Dataset v11.1” Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Project. <https://doi.org/10.23696/vdemds21>.

#### 24. In terms of Liberal Democracy (V-Dem Index), downturn trends in Hungary (steadily), a sharp decline in Poland in 2015, Brazil 2015, US 2016. Rise of the index in Malaysia from 2017, steadily in Nigeria.

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#### 25. In terms of regime, the Polish regime changed from Liberal democracy to Electoral democracy in 2016; Hungarian from Electoral democracy to Electoral autocracy; in South Africa from Liberal democracy to Electoral democracy in 2012-2013; in Egypt, there was a period of closed autocracy in 2012 which turned back to Electoral democracy in 2014 (approx.). In Nigeria regime changed from autocracy to Electoral democracy in 2011; in Kenya, there was a peak of Electoral democracy (2012-15), but authoritarian backlash happened in 2015-2016.

#### Originak source: Lührmann, A., Tannenberg, M. & Lindberg, S. I. (2018), ‘Regimes of the World (RoW): Opening New Avenues for the Comparative Study of Political Regimes’, Politics and Governance 6(1), 1–18.

Calendar

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#### 26. Use of social media to organize offline action. The common trend is more frequent use of social media, especially in Germany, Russia, Poland. Moderate upward trend spotted in Mexico, US, France, Italy, Hungary, Brazil. The peak in Hong Kong in 2019 and backlash in 2020. The declining trend in South Africa in 2019.

#### Original source: Mechkova, Valeriya, Daniel Pemstein, Brigitte Seim, and Steven Wilson. 2020. “DSP [Country-Year] Dataset v2” Digital Society Project (DSP)

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#### 27. Polarization of society (lower score - higher polarization). Considerable increase of polarization in Brazil; more modest in Germany, Spain, Estonia, Poland, US. The common trend - enhanced polarization on major political issues everywhere.

#### Original source: Mechkova, Valeriya, Daniel Pemstein, Brigitte Seim, and Steven Wilson. 2020. “DSP [Country-Year] Dataset v2” Digital Society Project (DSP)

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#### 28. Freedom of Expression and Alternative Sources of Information index (V-Dem index). One can see a decline in Brazil, Poland, Hungary and a slight drop in Russia. Dramatic decline was spotted in Egypt in 2013. Significant improvement in Malaysia from 2017.

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#### 29. Presidentialism (index created using V-dem data). The significant rise of the index in Poland in 2015, Brazil in 2015. Slight increase in Hungary, fluctuations in Egypt. Rise in Hong Kong in 2019. Considerable decline in Malaysia in 2017.

#### Original source: Sigman and Lindberg (2017, V-Dem Working Paper Series 2017:56); Sigman and Lindberg (2018); Pemstein et al. (2021, V-Dem Working Paper Series 2021:21)

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#### 30. Government Internet filtering in practice (the lower the score - more often Internet content is filtered). Steadily increased filtering in Russia and Nigeria, notably rise in Brazil (especially after 2015), the relative rise in Indonesia. A fluctuations trend was observed in Spain between 2012-2018. Increased filtering in the UK after 2014 and in Egypt after improvements of 2012. Stable trends in Estonia, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Spain, and interestingly in Hungary. There was slightly more filtering in Poland in 2015-2016, but then the situation normalized. The same trend for Mexico in 2018 (approx.) In such countries as Malaysia and South Africa, governments filter less in the last years.

#### Original source: Mechkova, Valeriya, Daniel Pemstein, Brigitte Seim, and Steven Wilson. 2020. “DSP [Country-Year] Dataset v2” Digital Society Project (DSP)

Calendar

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#### 31. Online media fractionalization (the higher score - the more similar pictures present major domestic online media). We see that the most fractionalized online media are in Hungary, followed by Spain and Germany. The most negligible differences in representation are observed in Mexico, but since mid-2017 online media is more fractionalized. In Egypt, media became less polarized after 2014 (there was the rise of presidentialism and decreased freedom of expression). After 2017 online media has polarized in Poland. Almost constant trends are seen in Brazil, South Africa, the USA, France, and the UK. Rise of the index in Hong Kong after 2018. There is a relatively small difference between Russia from 2015 and Sweden.

#### Original source: Mechkova, Valeriya, Daniel Pemstein, Brigitte Seim, and Steven Wilson. 2020. “DSP [Country-Year] Dataset v2” Digital Society Project (DSP)

A picture containing calendar

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#### 32. Power distributed by social group (V-Dem indicator). The social group is differentiated within a country by caste, ethnicity, language, race, region, religion, or other. The highest score has Germany and Italy. Almost equal societies are considered to be in France, UK, Estonia, the US, and Poland. In Sweden, there was a shift in power distribution in 2012 and Spain in 2015. A majority in Hungary monopolizes power since 2017, Indonesia since 2012, Brazil since 2018. Fluctuation trend in Egypt. Malaysia is the only country where political power is monopolized by one social group comprising a minority of the population, and this monopoly is institutionalized.

Table, calendar

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#### 33. V-Dem Political corruption index (higher scores = more regime corruption). For most of the cases index is relatively stable in time. The lowest levels of corruption are in Sweden, Estonia, Germany, France, UK. A bit higher corruption is in the US, Hong Kong, Italy, and Poland. Index’s value is notably higher in Hungary, and this country is probably more compared on this indicator with Brazil and South Africa rather than EU member states. The highest corruption is in Nigeria, followed by Egypt, Indonesia, and Russia. Regimes, especially in Egypt and Russia, are also one of the most illiberal. Interestingly, there is a significant drop in corruption in Malaysia after 2016 (the regime also became more liberal after this period).

Calendar

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