**2.1.2 Liberal democracy index (D) (v2x\_libdem)**

*Project Manager(s)*: Jan Teorell  
*Additional versions*: \*\_codelow, \*\_codehigh, \*\_sd  
*Question*: To what extent is the ideal of liberal democracy achieved?

*Clarification*: The liberal principle of democracy emphasizes the importance of protecting individual and minority rights against the tyranny of the state and the tyranny of the majority. The liberal model takes a "negative" view of political power insofar as it judges the quality of democracy by the limits placed on government. This is achieved by constitutionally protected civil liberties, strong rule of law, an independent judiciary, and effective checks and balances that, together, limit the exercise of executive power. To make this a measure of liberal democracy, the index also takes the level of electoral democracy into account.

*Scale*: Interval, from low to high (0-1).  
*Source(s)*: v2x\_liberal v2x\_polyarchy  
*Data release*: 1-12. Release 1, 2, and 3 used a different, preliminary aggregation formula.

*Aggregation*: The index is aggregated using this formula: v2x\_libdem =

.25 ∗ v2x\_polyarchy1.585 + .25 ∗ v2x\_liberal + .5 ∗ v2x\_polyarchy1.585 ∗ v2x\_liberal *Citation*: Coppedge *et al.* (2015, *V-Dem Working Paper Series* 2015:6); *V-Dem Codebook* (see

suggested citation at the top of this document). *Years*: 1789-2021

**2.2.8 Liberal component index (D) (v2x\_liberal)**

*Project Manager(s)*: Jan Teorell  
*Additional versions*: \*\_codelow, \*\_codehigh, \*\_sd  
*Question*: To what extent is the liberal principle of democracy achieved?

*Clarification*: The liberal principle of democracy emphasizes the importance of protecting individual and minority rights against the tyranny of the state and the tyranny of the majority. The liberal model takes a "negative" view of political power insofar as it judges the quality of democracy by the limits placed on government. This is achieved by constitutionally protected civil liberties, strong rule of law, an independent judiciary, and effective checks and balances that, together, limit the exercise of executive power.

*Scale*: Interval, from low to high (0-1).  
*Source(s)*: v2xcl\_rol v2x\_jucon v2xlg\_legcon v2lgbicam *Data release*: 1-12.

*Aggregation*: This index is formed by averaging the following indices: equality before the law and individual liberties (v2xcl\_rol), judicial constraints on the executive (v2x\_jucon), and legislative constraints on the executive (v2xlg\_legcon). Prior to the calculation v2xlg\_legcon gets set to 0 whenever v2lgbicam is 0.

*Citation*: Coppedge *et al.* (2015, *V-Dem Working Paper Series* 2015:6); *V-Dem Codebook* (see suggested citation at the top of this document).

*Years*: 1789-2021

**2.1.1 Electoral democracy index (D) (v2x\_polyarchy)**

*Project Manager(s)*: Jan Teorell  
*Additional versions*: \*\_codelow, \*\_codehigh, \*\_sd  
*Question*: To what extent is the ideal of electoral democracy in its fullest sense achieved?

*Clarification*: The electoral principle of democracy seeks to embody the core value of making rulers responsive to citizens, achieved through electoral competition for the electorate’s approval under circumstances when suffrage is extensive; political and civil society organizations can operate freely; elections are clean and not marred by fraud or systematic irregularities; and elections affect the composition of the chief executive of the country. In between elections, there is freedom of expression and an independent media capable of presenting alternative views on matters of political relevance. In the V-Dem conceptual scheme, electoral democracy is understood as an essential element of any other conception of representative democracy — liberal, participatory, deliberative, egalitarian, or some other.

*Scale*: Interval, from low to high (0-1).  
*Source(s)*: v2x\_freexp\_altinf v2x\_frassoc\_thick v2x\_suffr v2xel\_frefair v2x\_elecoff *Data release*: 1-12. Release 1-5 used a different, preliminary aggregation formula.

*Aggregation*: The index is formed by taking the average of, on the one hand, the weighted average of the indices measuring freedom of association thick (v2x\_frassoc\_thick), clean elections (v2xel\_frefair), freedom of expression (v2x\_freexp\_altinf), elected officials (v2x\_elecoff), and suffrage (v2x\_suffr) and, on the other, the five-way multiplicative interaction between those indices. This is half way between a straight average and strict multiplication, meaning the average of the two. It is thus a compromise between the two most well known aggregation formulas in the literature, both allowing partial "compensation" in one sub-component for lack of polyarchy in the others, but also punishing countries not strong in one sub-component according to the "weakest link" argument. The aggregation is done at the level of Dahl’s sub- components with the one exception of the non-electoral component. The index is aggregated using this formula:

*v2x\_polyarchy* = .5 ∗ *MPI* + .5 ∗ *API*= .5 ∗ (*v2x\_elecoff* ∗ *v2xel\_frefair* ∗ *v2x\_frassoc\_thick*∗

*v2x\_suffr* ∗ *v2x\_freexp\_altinf*)

+ .5 ∗ ((1/8) ∗ *v2x\_elecoff* + (1/4) ∗ *v2xel\_frefair*

+ (1/4) ∗ *v2x\_frassoc\_thick* + (1/8) ∗ *v2x\_suffr*

+ (1/4) ∗ *v2x\_freexp\_altinf*)  
*Citation*: Teorell *et al.* (2019); *V-Dem Codebook* (see suggested citation at the top of this

document). *Years*: 1789-2021