Democracy & Dictatorship

Political Science 225
North Dakota State University

States, Regimes, and Governments

States, Regimes, and Governments

- State: entity that uses coercion and threat of force to rule a given territory
- Government: Set of people who run the state
- Regime: Set of rules, norms, or institutions that determines how government is constituted and organized
  - Presidential, parliamentary, semi-presidential
  - Military, personal, one-party

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    - Class division, lower class rule
    - Instability
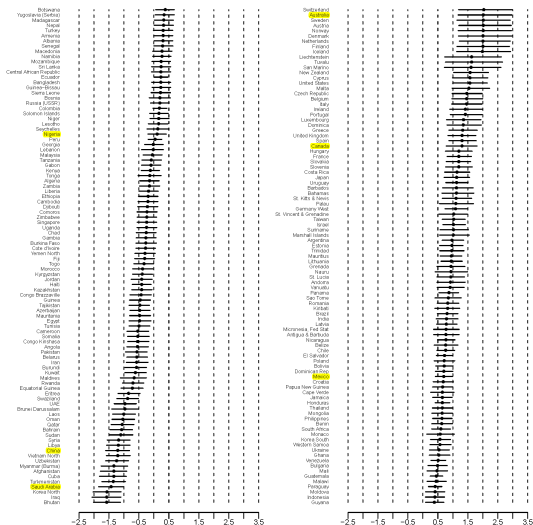- Concept has evolved over time

Countries

- Saudi Arabia, Australia, Mexico, Canada, China, Nigeria

For each country:

- How democratic would you rate these countries are on a 10 point scale?
- Is the country democratic or authoritarian?
- Briefly tell me what criteria you used to place each one

Some Plausible Rankings

Defining Democracy?

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  - Property rights
  - Limited government
  - Economic justice
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Procedural view

- Classification based on institutions, procedures
  - Government organization
  - Electoral rules
  - Laws governing political activity

- Objective

Dahl's Dimensions of Democracy

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- Minimal definition of democracy: polyarchy

Measuring Democracy

Democracy measures are a dime a dozen—more than 10 significant ones. But four dominate the field.
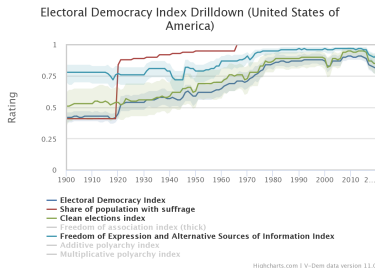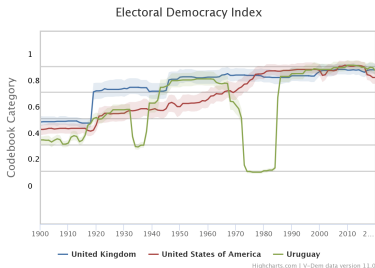
- PACL/DD
- Polity
- Freedom House
- V-Dem

Each measure produces ratings of each country for every year for at least the past 40+ years.

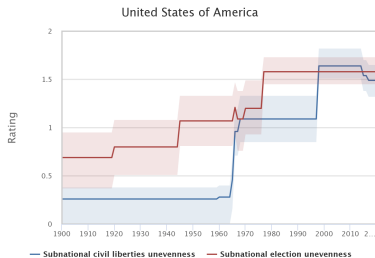## "More or Less" or "Yes or No?"

Is democracy

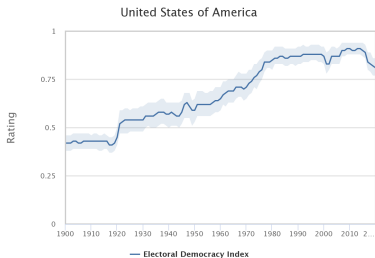- continuous (more or less democracy)
- dichotomous (democracy or authoritarian)

Electoral Democracy Index

Electoral Democracy Index Drilldown (United States of America)

- What happened in US/UK around 1920?
- What about in the US in the 1960s?
- Explain US pattern in terms of the sub-dimensions of Polyarchy.
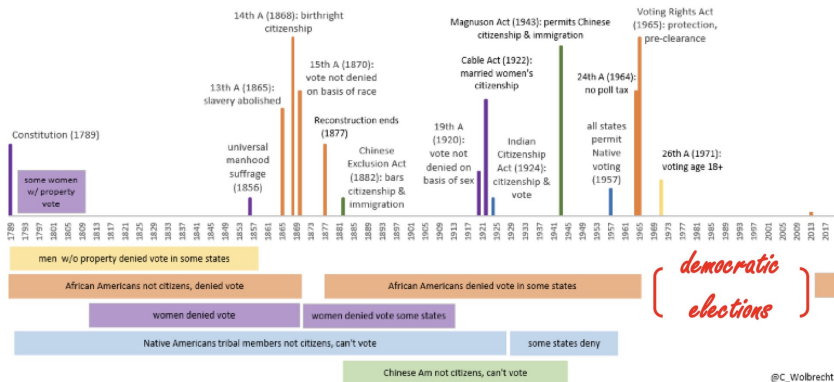
World's Oldest Democracy?

United States of America

Electoral Democracy Index

United States of America

Subnational civil liberties unevenness — Subnational election unevenness

Mississippi Counties 1946

County	White population	Colored population	Total registered	Negroes registered	Negroes voted
Adams	10,344	16,885	3,371	147	0
Harrison	40,742	10,046	11,000	340	12
Hinds	51,826	55,445	27,386	414	195
Lauderdale	35,435	22,810	12,000	188	27
Leflore	14,394	38,970	4,345	26	0
Marshall	7,556	17,965	2,370	17	5
Washington	18,568	48,831	5,200	126	25
Winston	13,638	9,062	5,000	25	0

Source: Special Committee to Investigate Campaign Expenditures, *Report, Campaign Expenditures*, 1946, p. 12. The above figures from counties investigated conclusively show the end result of the campaign to keep the Negro from the polls.

World's Oldest Democracy?

SUFFRAGE & CITIZENSHIP IN THE U.S., 1789-2021

@C_Wolbrecht

Issues in Democratic Measurement

- Minimal vs. Substantive
- Dichotomous vs. Continuous
- Dimensionality
- Nominal (PACL) vs. ordinal vs. interval (Polity+FH) measurement
- Reliability
- Replicability

Exercise: Polyarchy Drill-Down

- Use V-Dem codebook (`https://bit.ly/3hVR3DX`) to select 5 key indicators (see TOC, section 3, starting on pg. 5) of polyarchy. Use only indicators in section 3

- Use V-Dem's online graphing tools (`https://www.v-dem.net/en/analysis/CountryGraph/`) to graph these measures for the US 1900–present. Save your figure as a PDF (click on the 3 bar icon on the top right of the figure)

- Identify one score change that seems "weird" and try to figure it out using Google/Wikipedia