# How Autocratization is Threatening Our World

## - Democracy Trumped?

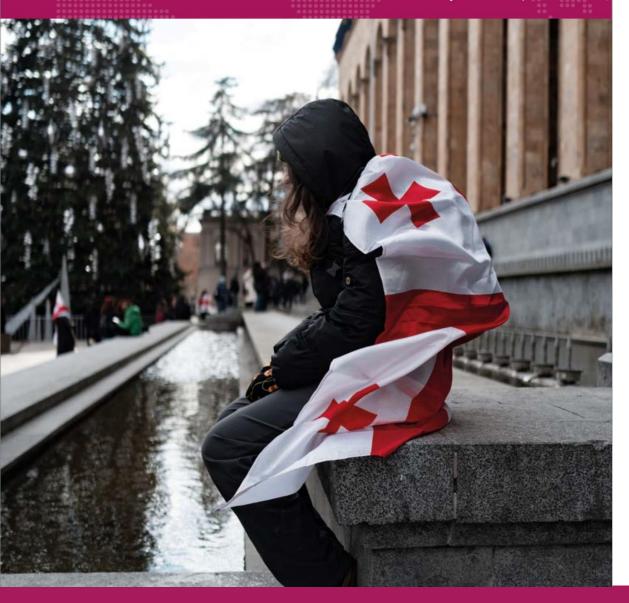
**Professor Staffan I Lindberg** 

Director, V-Dem Institute sil@v-dem.net



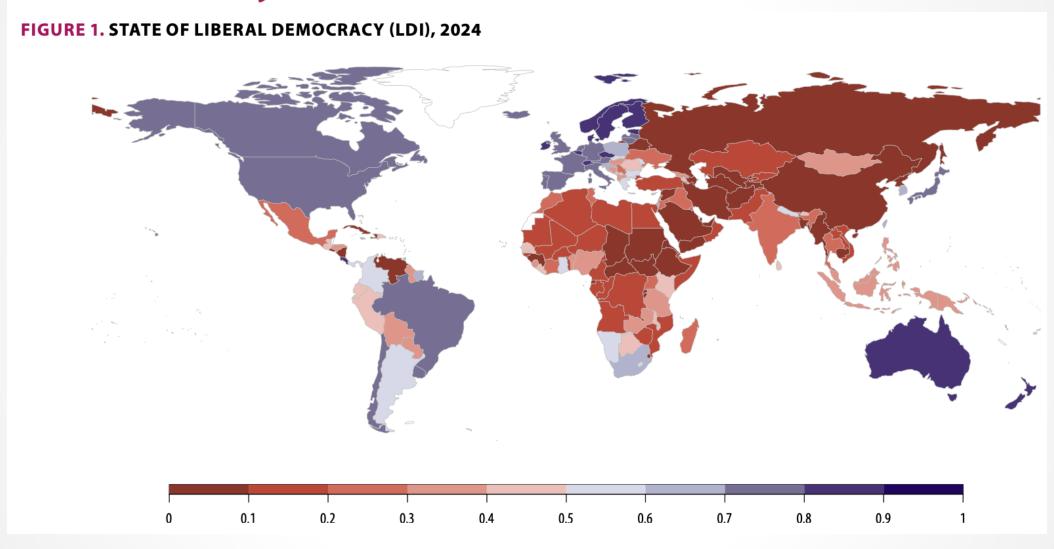
**DEMOCRACY REPORT 2025** 

25 Years of Autocratization – Democracy Trumped?

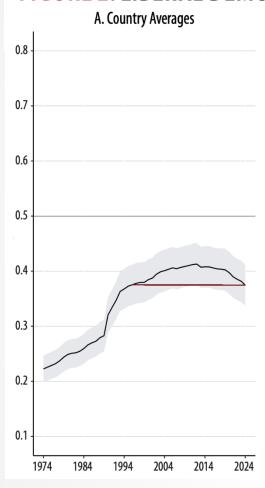




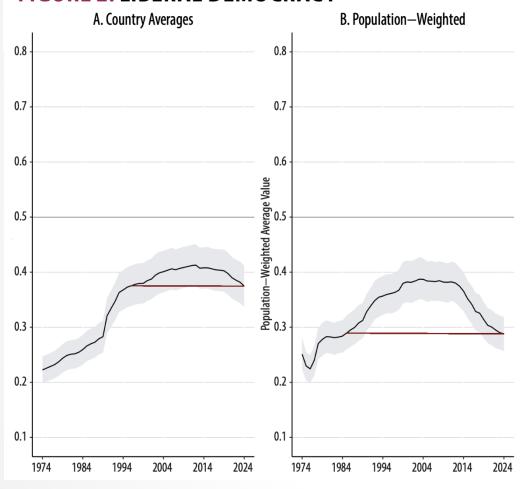




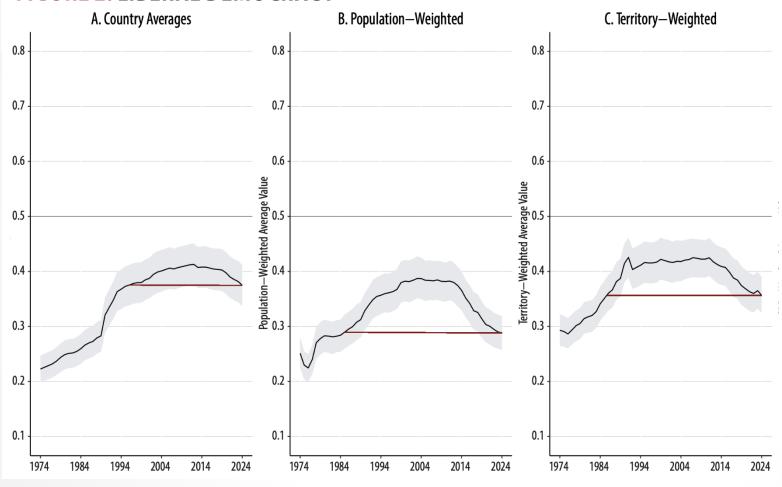




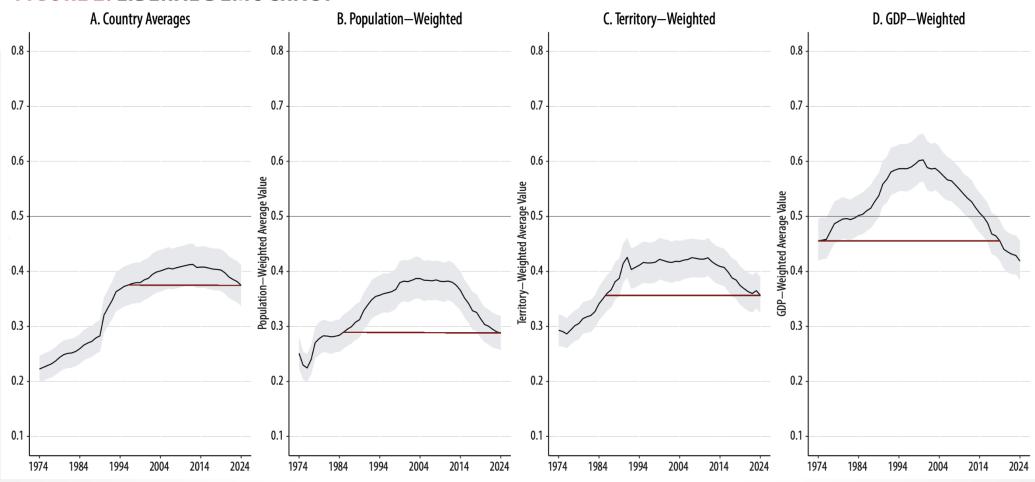




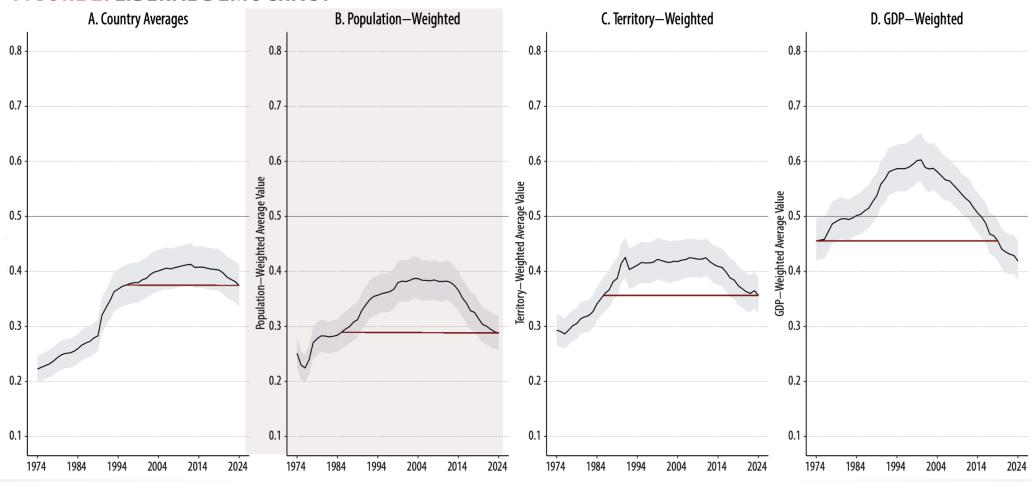












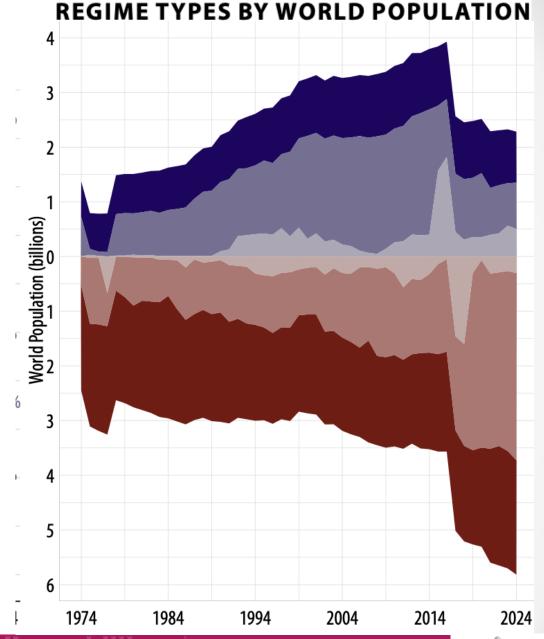


AUTOCRACY			DEMOCRACY	
Closed Autocracy	Electoral Autocracy	Grey Zone	Electoral Democracy	Liberal Democracy
No multiparty elections for the executive; absence of fundamental democratic components such as freedom of expression, freedom of association, and free and fair elections.	Multiparty elections for the executive exist; insufficient levels of fundamental requisites such as freedom of expression and association, and free and fair elections.	Countries belong in this category if confidence intervals overlap making the classification more uncertain.	Multiparty elections for the executive are free and fair; satisfactory degrees of suffrage, freedom of expression, freedom of association.	Requirements of Electoral Democracy are met; judicial and legislative constraints on the executive along with the protection of civil liberties and equality before the law.





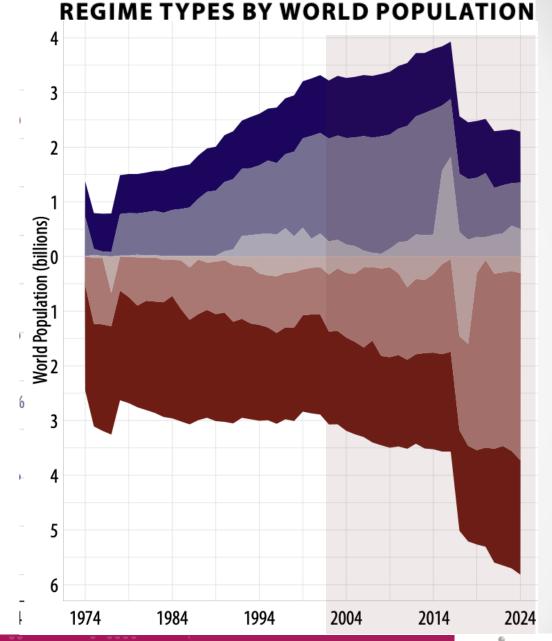
- **Electoral Democracy**
- Democratic Grey Zone
- Autocratic Grey Zone
- Electoral Autocracy
- Closed Autocracy





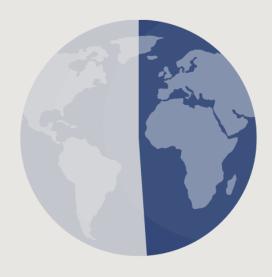


- **Electoral Democracy**
- Democratic Grey Zone
- Autocratic Grey Zone
- Electoral Autocracy
- Closed Autocracy





## SHARE OF WORLD POPULATION LIVING IN AUTOCRACIES



<sup>2004:</sup> 49%

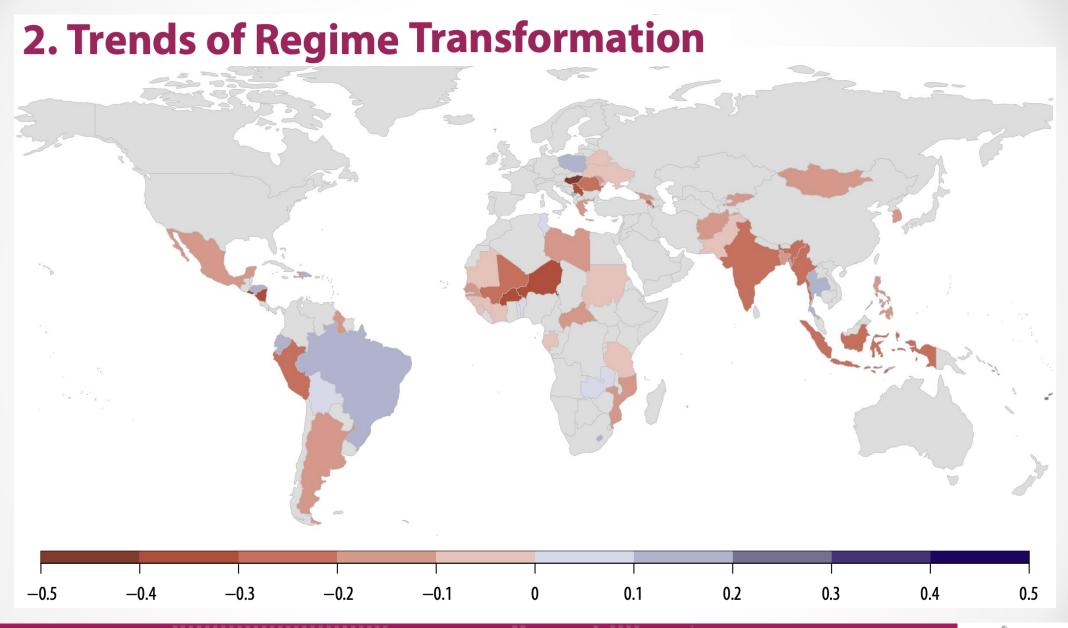


<sup>2024:</sup> **72%** 



## 2. Trends of Regime Transformation





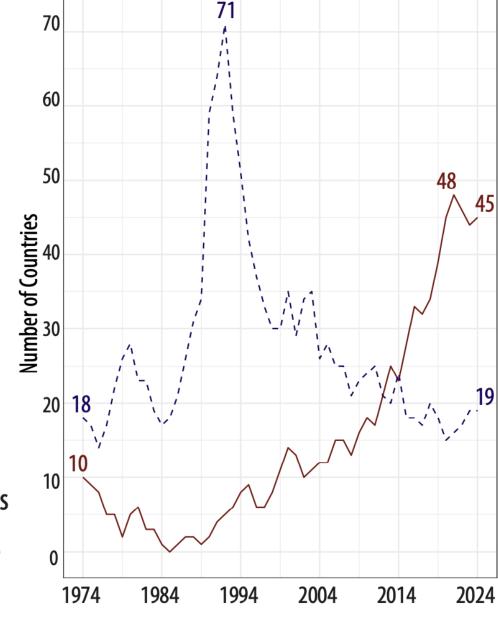


## 3. Autocratizing Countries

- An increasing number of countries
  - now 45 are autocratizing.



# 2. Trends of Regime Transformation

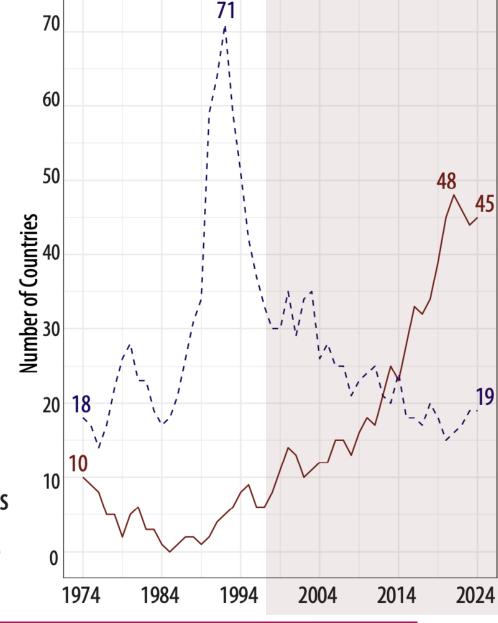


--- Democratizing Countries

— Autocratizing Countries



# 2. Trends of Regime Transformation



--- Democratizing Countries

— Autocratizing Countries

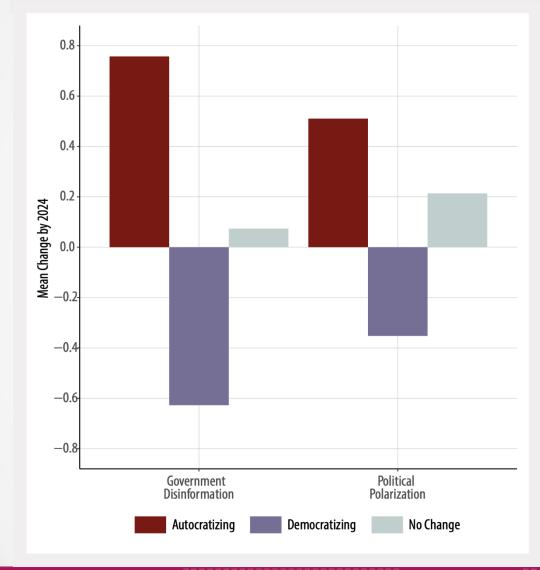


## 3. Autocratizing Countries

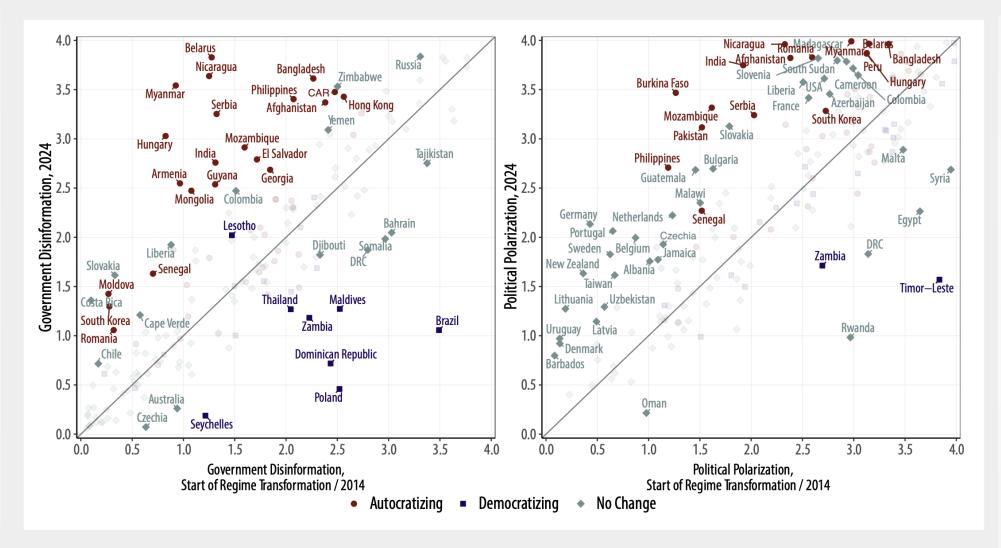
- An increasing number of countries
   now 45 are autocratizing.
- 27 of the 45 autocratizers were democracies at the start of their episode. Of these, only 9 remain democracies in 2024. The fatality rate is 67%.



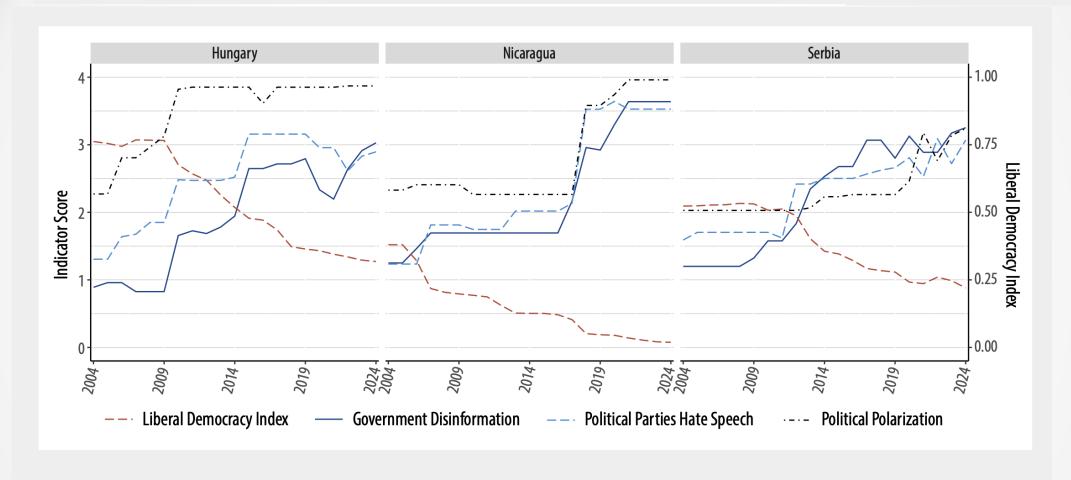








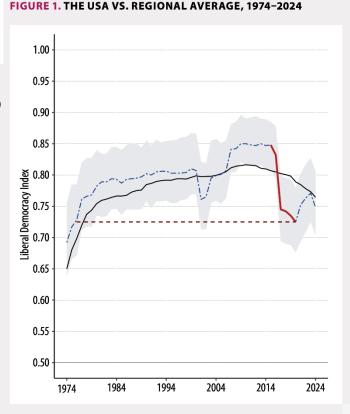






**BOX 9. USA – A DEMOCRATIC BREAKDOWN IN THE MAKING?** 

**USA DEMOCRACY AND TRUMP 1.0** 





**BOX 9. USA — A DEMOCRATIC BREAKDOWN IN THE MAKING?** 

**USA DEMOCRACY AND TRUMP 1.0** 

TRUMP 2.0: A (QUASI) TOTAL ATTACK ON THE INSTITUTIONS

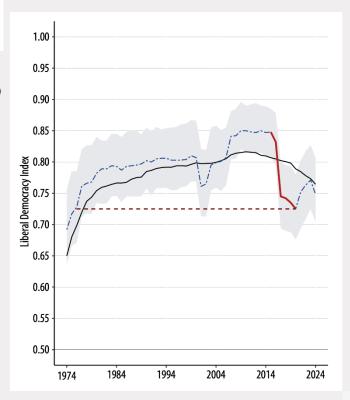


FIGURE 1. THE USA VS. REGIONAL AVERAGE, 1974-2024

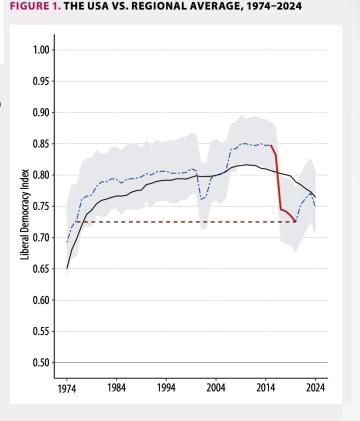


**BOX 9. USA — A DEMOCRATIC BREAKDOWN IN THE MAKING?** 

**USA DEMOCRACY AND TRUMP 1.0** 

TRUMP 2.0: A (QUASI) TOTAL ATTACK ON THE INSTITUTIONS

Attacks on the rule of law





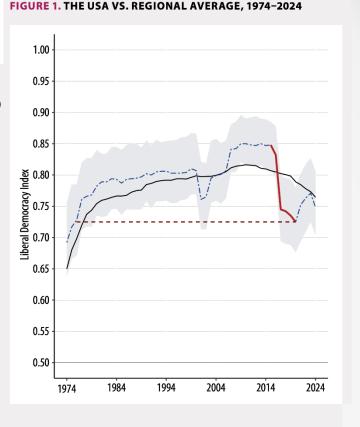
#### **BOX 9. USA — A DEMOCRATIC BREAKDOWN IN THE MAKING?**

**USA DEMOCRACY AND TRUMP 1.0** 

TRUMP 2.0: A (QUASI) TOTAL ATTACK ON THE INSTITUTIONS

Attacks on the rule of law

**Abolition of accountability institutions** 





#### **BOX 9. USA — A DEMOCRATIC BREAKDOWN IN THE MAKING?**

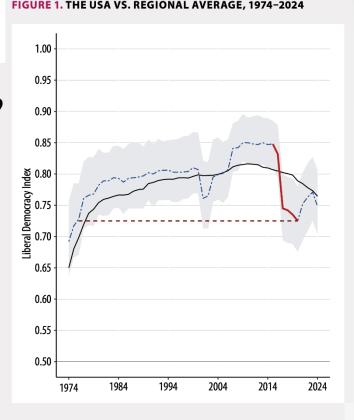
**USA DEMOCRACY AND TRUMP 1.0** 

TRUMP 2.0: A (QUASI) TOTAL ATTACK ON THE INSTITUTIONS

Attacks on the rule of law

**Abolition of accountability institutions** 

**Purges in the military** 





#### **BOX 9. USA — A DEMOCRATIC BREAKDOWN IN THE MAKING?**

**USA DEMOCRACY AND TRUMP 1.0** 

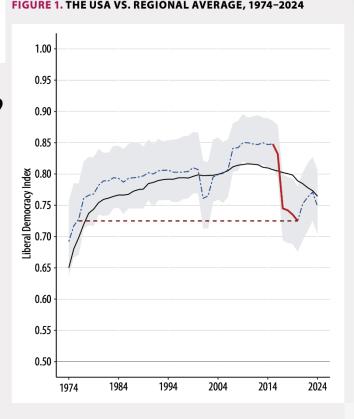
TRUMP 2.0: A (QUASI) TOTAL ATTACK ON THE INSTITUTIONS

Attacks on the rule of law

**Abolition of accountability institutions** 

**Purges in the military** 

Attacks on freedom of the media





#### **BOX 9. USA — A DEMOCRATIC BREAKDOWN IN THE MAKING?**

**USA DEMOCRACY AND TRUMP 1.0** 

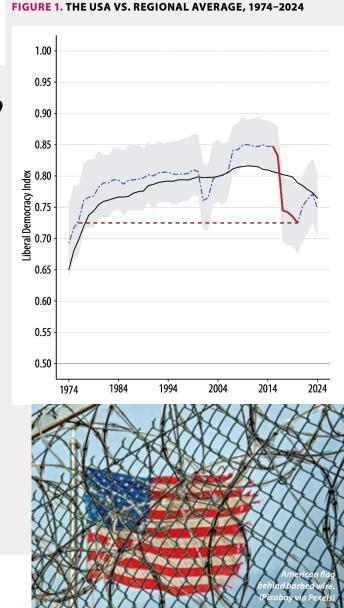
TRUMP 2.0: A (QUASI) TOTAL ATTACK ON THE INSTITUTIONS

Attacks on the rule of law

Abolition of accountability institutions

Purges in the military

Attacks on freedom of the media





V-Dem provides a multidimensional and disaggregated dataset that reflects the complexity of the concept of democracy as a system of rule that goes beyond the simple presence of elections. We distinguish between five high-level principles of democracy: electoral, liberal, participatory, deliberative, and egalitarian, and collect data to measure these principles.



**About V-Dem** Learn more about V-Dem, our methodology, and team



**Graphing Tools** Use our graphing tools specially designed to visualize V-Dem data



Explore summarised findings from policy-related research



**Working Papers** Discover our latest findings before they are published

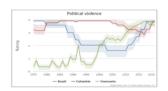
#### **Graphing Tools**

The V-Dem Graphing Tools is a platform for making data visualization intuitive, accessible and easy to use. Here you find user-friendly tools specially designed to visualize V-Dem data in various forms depending on your needs and interest. Select one of the tools to start exploring the data.



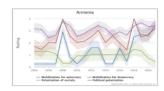
#### **Mapping Tool**

Interactive tool that visualize data by creating a color-coded map to view the distribution of scores for an indicator around the world.



#### Variable Graph

Compares multiple countries for one indicator/or index. Select one indicator and multiple countries/regions. The data are aggregated by year.



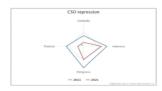
#### **Country Graph**

Compares multiple variables/indices for one country/region. Select one country/region and multiple indicators/indices. The data are aggregated by year.



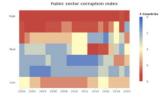
#### **Country Radar Chart**

This tool displays multiple variables and indices for one country/region in a radar chart. Select one country/region and multiple indicators/indices.



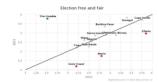
#### **Variable Radar Chart**

This tool displays multiple countries (three or more) for one indicator/index in a radar chart. Select one indicator/index and multiple countries.



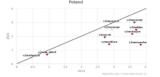
#### **Heat Map**

This tool displays one indicator/index on a heat map - a graphical representation of data where values are represented by colors.



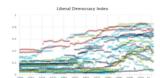
#### **Regional Comparison**

This tool displays the development of a V-Dem indicator/index in a region between two selected years.



#### **Thematic Comparison**

Displays the development of a thematic category between two selected years.



#### Scatter Chart

Displays one indicator/index as a scatter plot.



#### **Contingency Tables**

By utilizing novel sequencing methods, this tool shows sequencing relationships between indicators in a selected category with a comparison between country vs. region.



#### **Low Hanging Fruit Tool**

The tool is based on novel sequencing methods, data analysis and scenario modeling, and can explain which indicators should be developed in order to reach progress in a selected category.



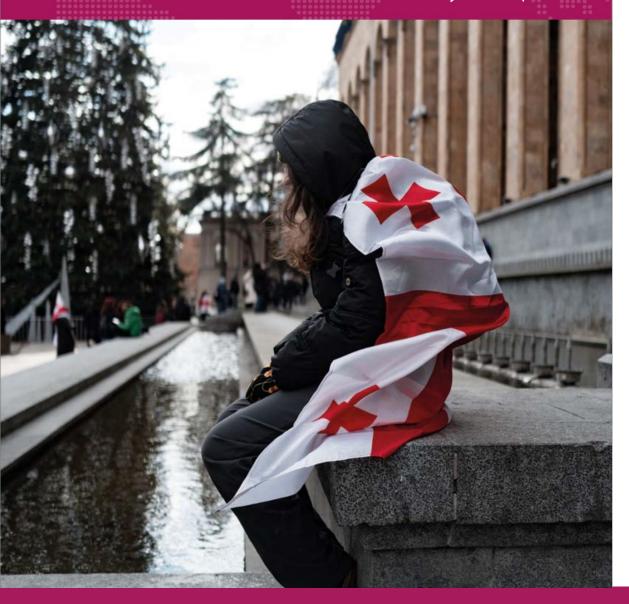
#### V-Forecast

The Predicting Adverse Regime Transitions (PART) project uses V-Dem data and other sources to estimate the risk of adverse regime transitions during the next two years.



#### **DEMOCRACY REPORT 2025**

25 Years of Autocratization – Democracy Trumped?



# Thanks for listening

