



Global State of
Democracy Initiative

The Global State of Democracy Initiative

Democracy Assessment Unit

International IDEA



The Global State of Democracy Initiative

Tools/Datasets



GSoD Indices

30 indices of democracy
Covering 174 countries
Updated annually



Democracy Tracker

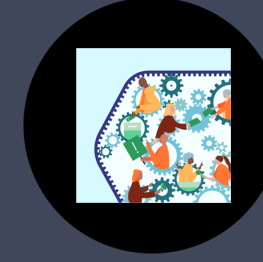
Qualitative event reports
Country profile pages
Updated monthly



State of Democracy Assessments

Framework for locally-led, primarily qualitative studies of democracy at the local or national level

Analysis



GSoD Analysis

Annual GSoD Report
In Focus reports
Blogs & Op-eds

Collaborations



Regional Partnership Networks

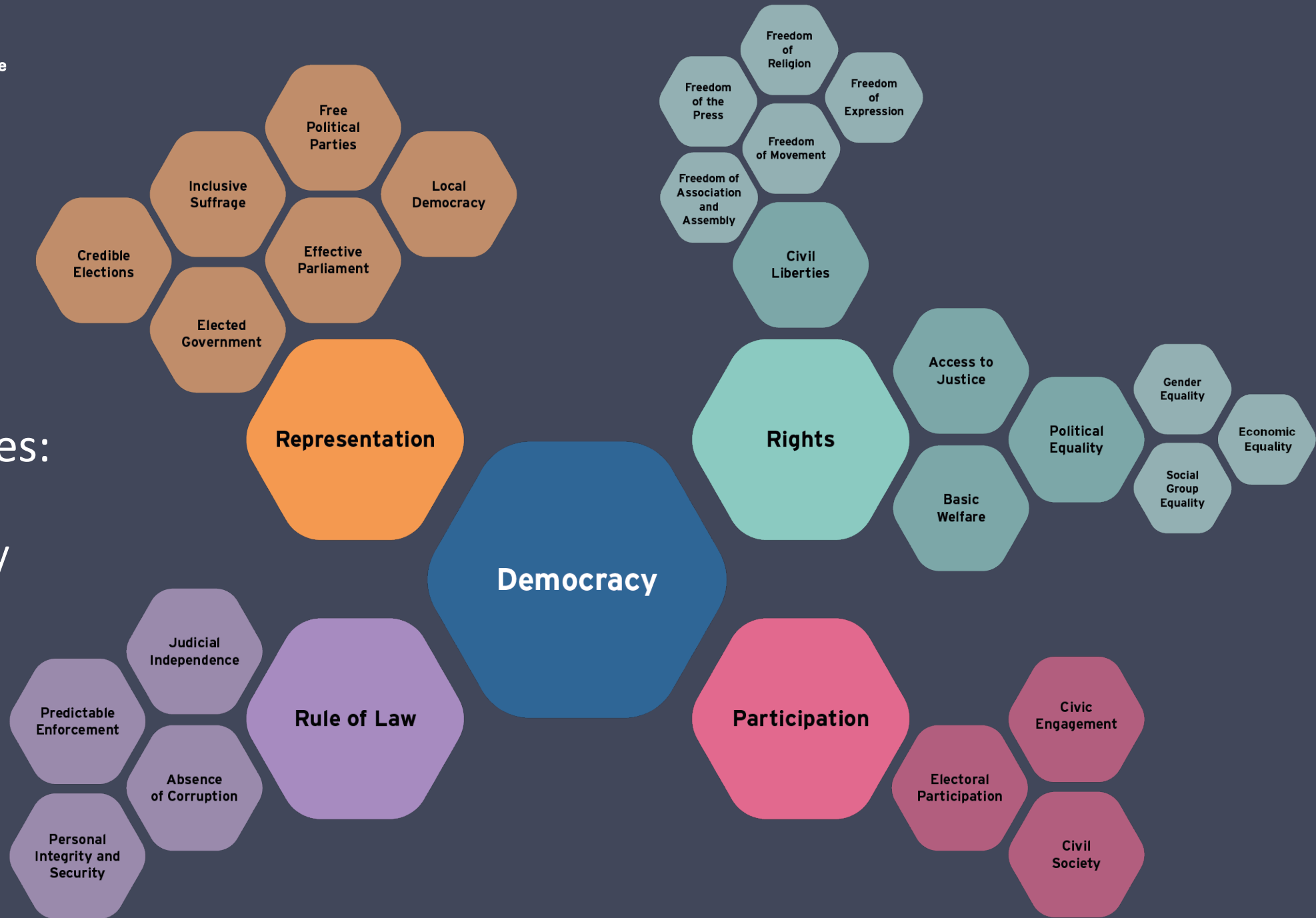
Outlook reports
Regional outlook forums

Global State of Democracy Indices: Conceptual framework and methodology



Defining principles:

1. Popular control
2. Political equality





How do we measure democratic performance?





**We aggregate a whole lot of
data.**



24 data sources

- Bertelsmann Stiftung's Transformation Index (BTI)
- Bjørnskov-Rode Regime Data (BRRD)
- Child Mortality Estimates (CME)
- CIRIGHTS
- Civil Liberties Dataset (CLD)
- Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Food Balances
- Freedom in the World
- Freedom on the Net
- Global Educational Attainment Distributions
- Global Gender Gap Report
- Global Media Freedom Dataset (MFD)
- ILOSTAT
- Lexical Index of Electoral Democracy (LIED)
- Political Terror Scale (PTS)
- Polity5
- SWIID
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) statistics
- United Nations E-Government Survey
- **Varieties of Democracy dataset**
- Voter Turnout Database
- World Bank, Global Findex Database
- World Health Organization, Global Health Observatory
- World Population Prospects (WPP)

Coverage

- 174 countries
- 1975-2023 (8,003 country-years)
- 30 indices

GSoDI data set as a knowledge graph

- 165 input variables
- 8 subfactors
- 17 factors
- 4 categories
- 1 latent concept

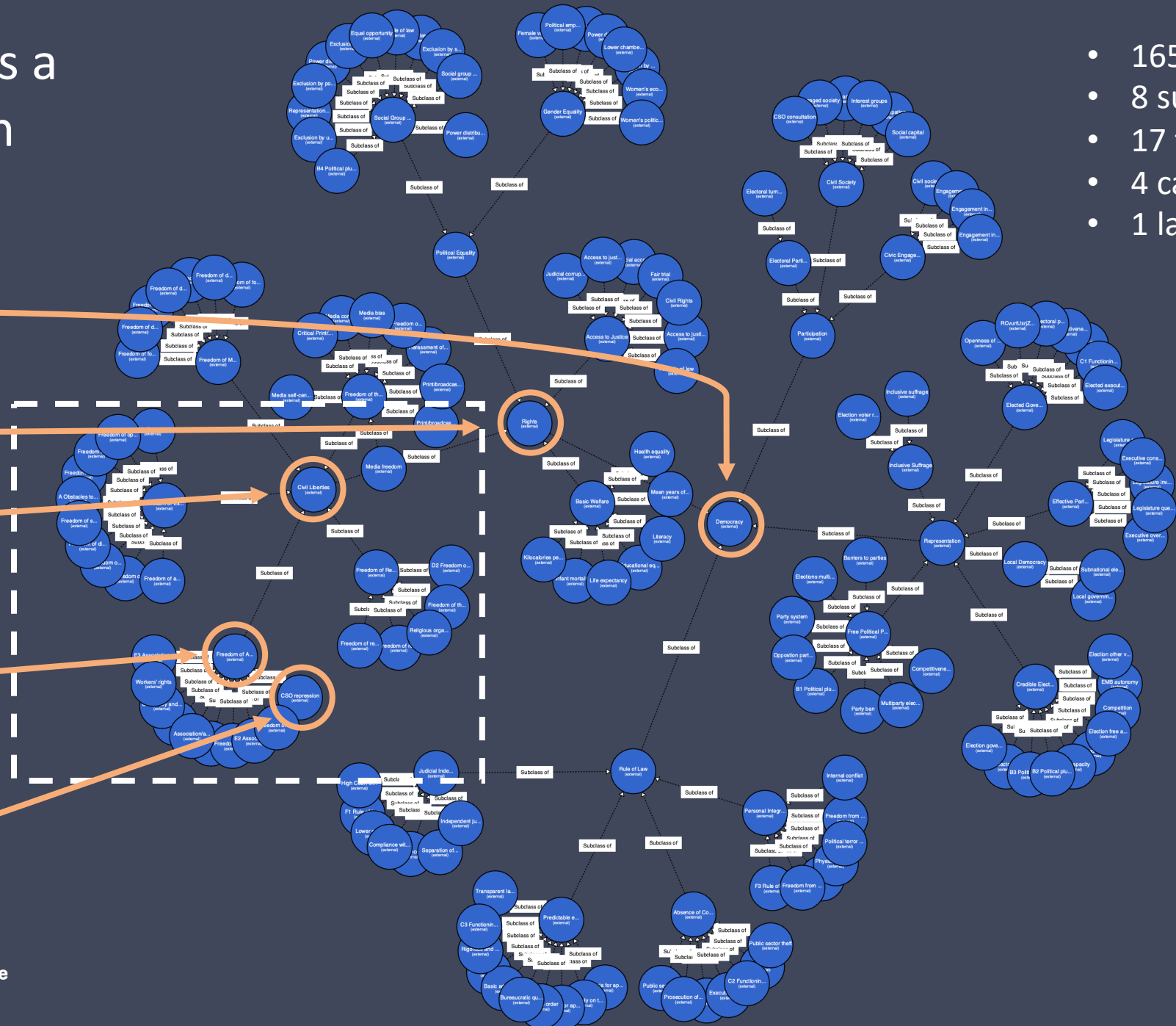
Democracy
(unmeasured)

Rights (category)

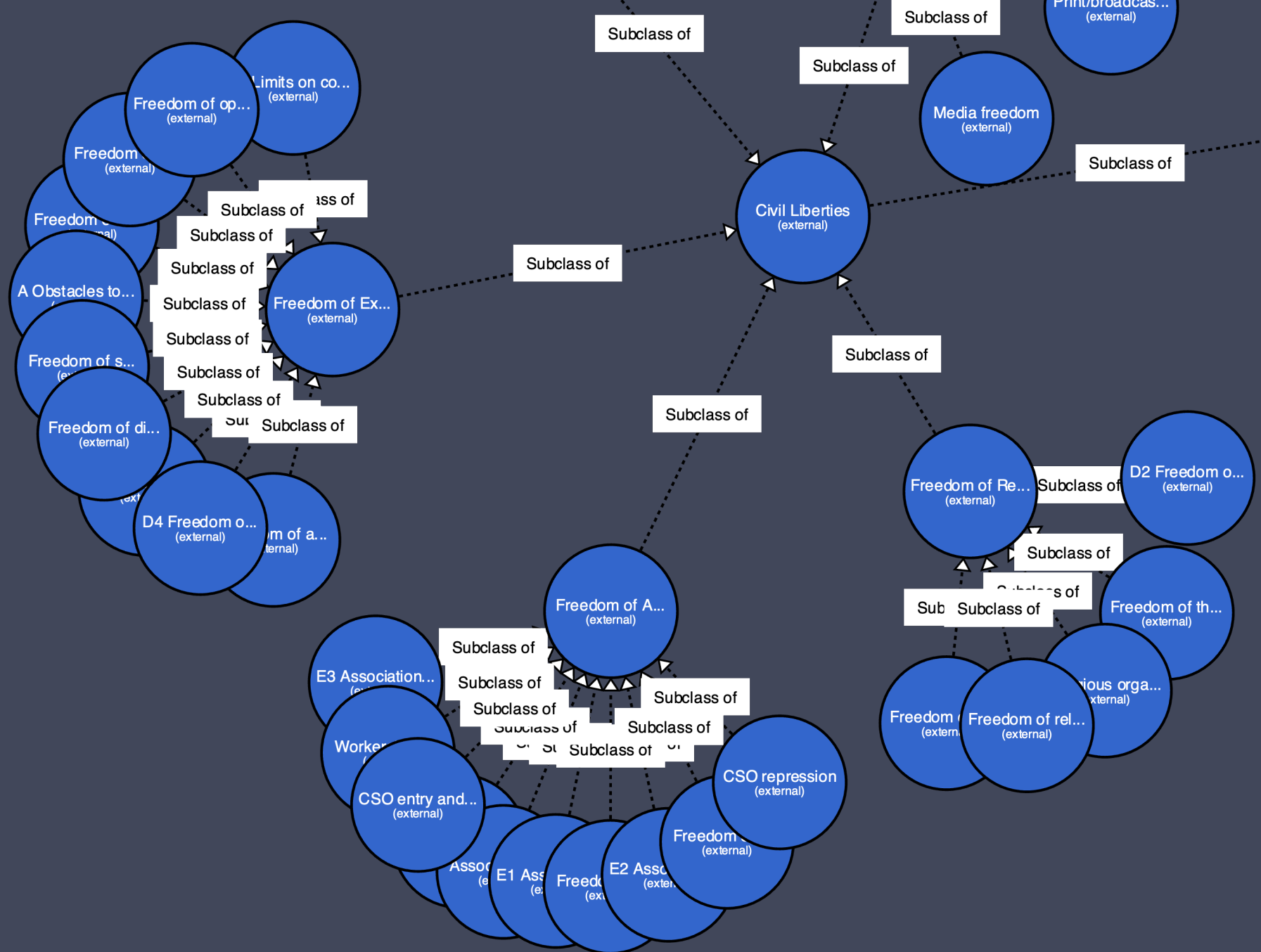
Civil Liberties
(factor)

Freedom of
Association and
Assembly
(subfactor)

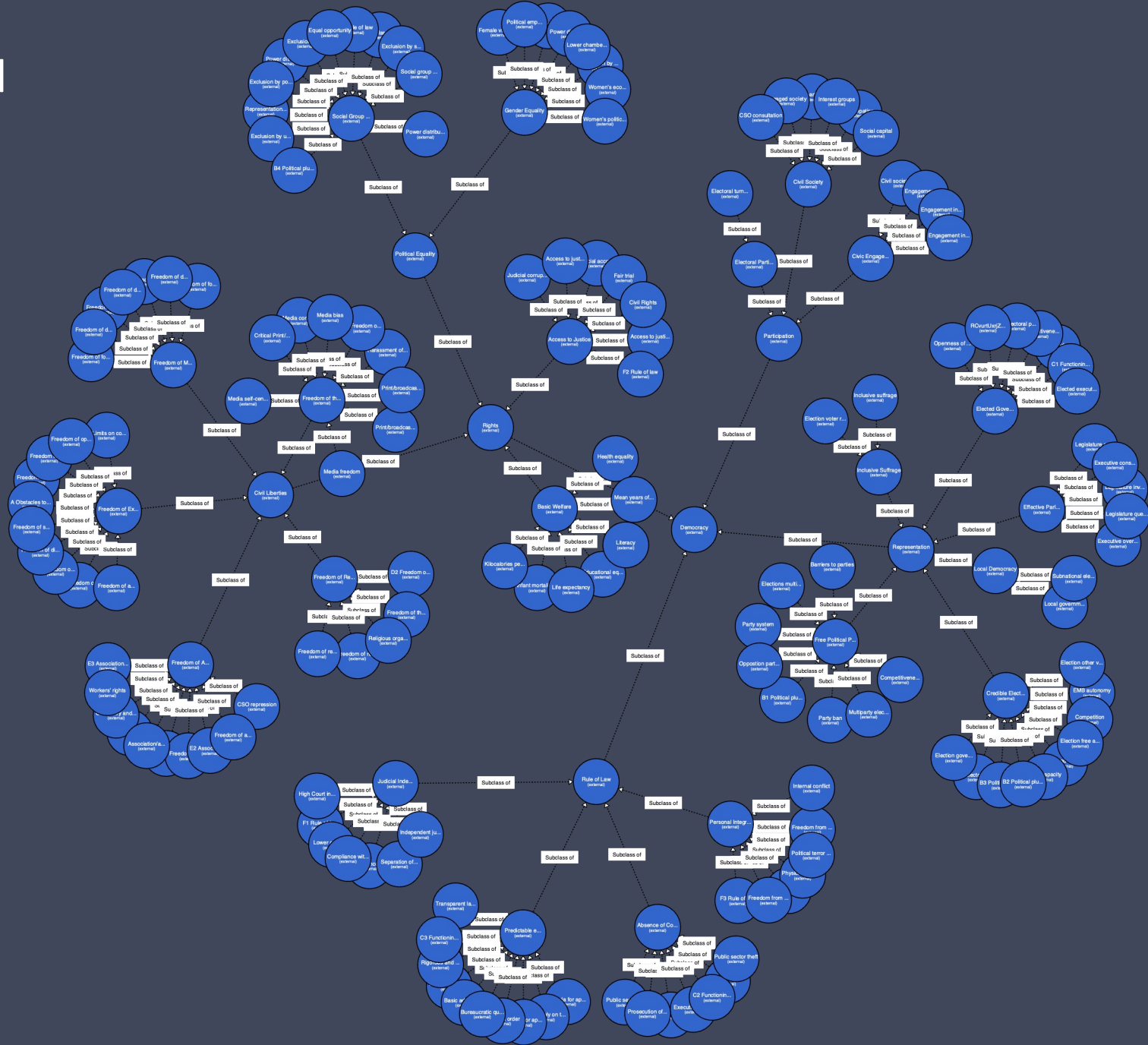
CSO repression
(input variable)



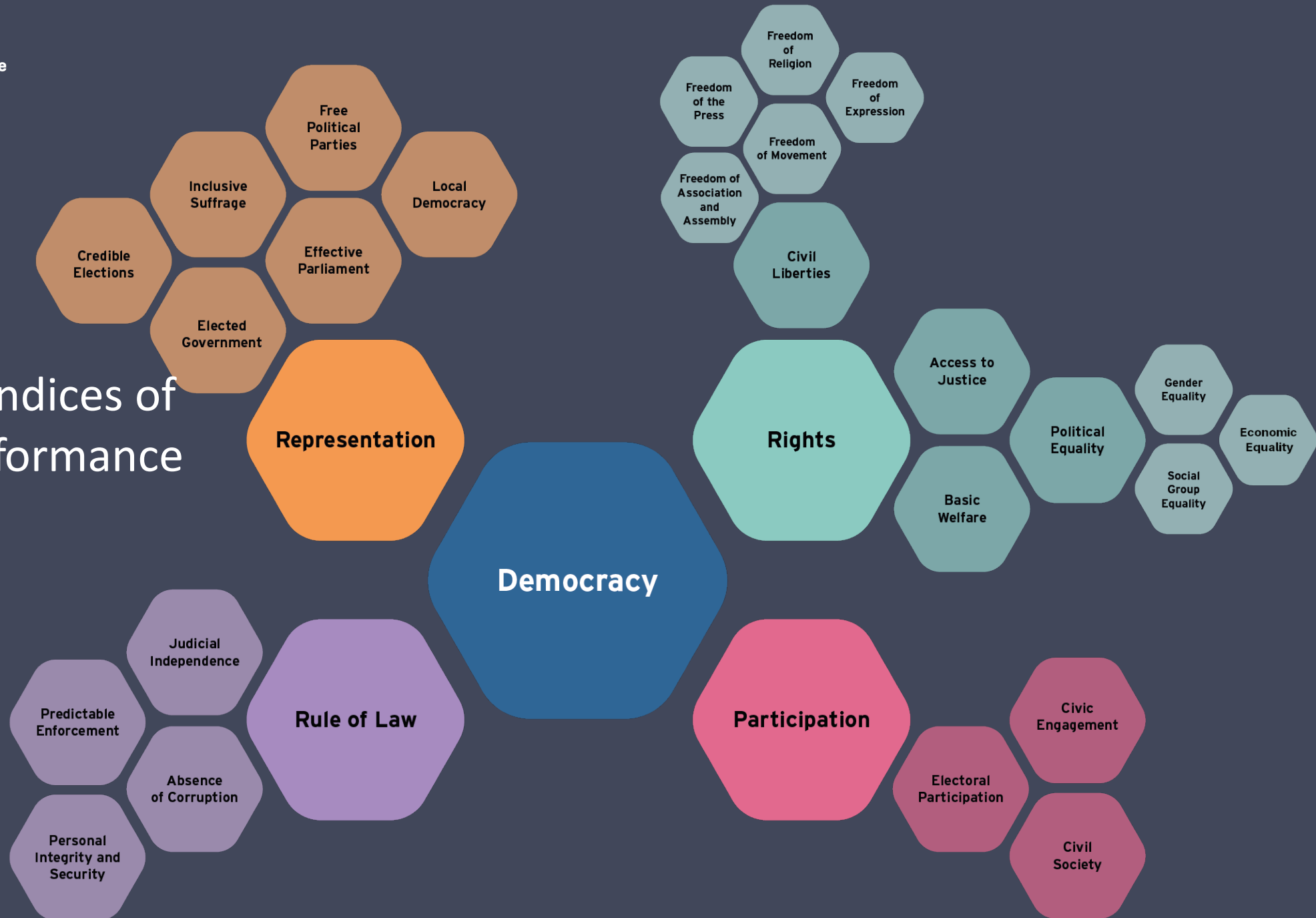
Reduction of dimensionality via Bayesian Factor Analysis models or Item Response Theory models



- State of the world
- ↓ Expert coders / observations
- Source datasets
- ↓ Input variables
- ↓ Subfactors
- ↓ Factors
- Categories



30 aggregated indices of democratic performance

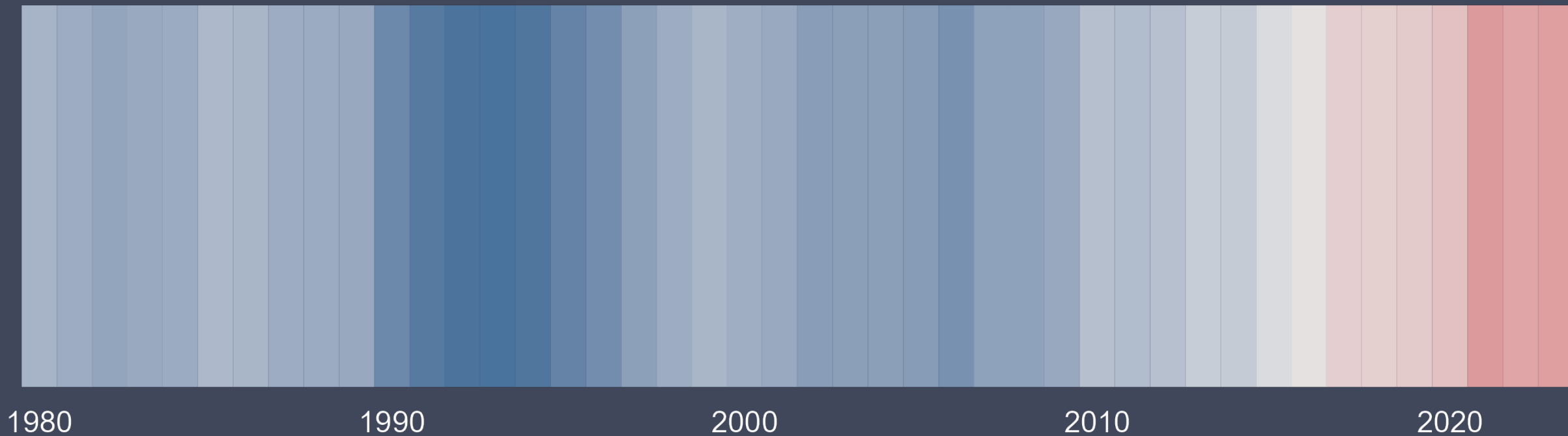


Advantages of the GSoD Indices

- Comprehensive theoretical framework
- Policy-appropriate level of aggregation
- Derived from multiple high-quality sources
- Methodological transparency
- Simple, interactive online tools

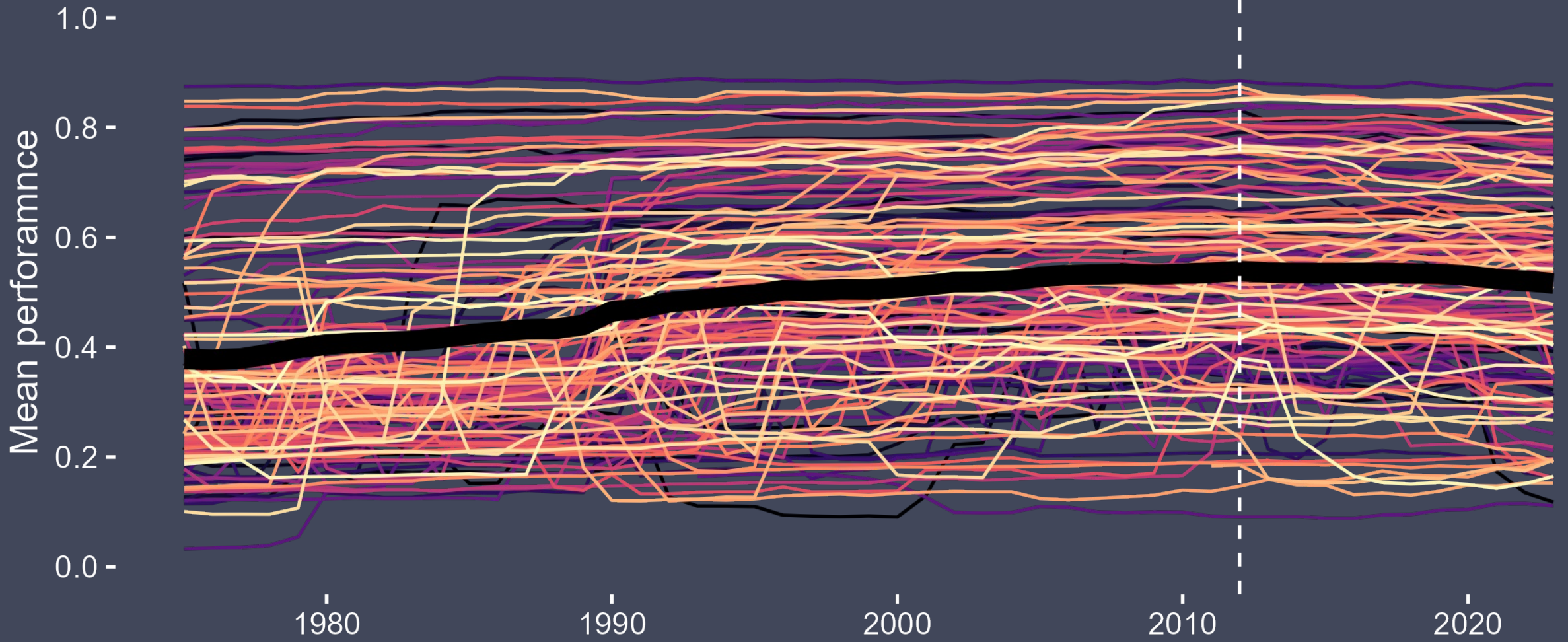
Insights from the data





More countries
advancing

More countries
declining



Freedom of Expression

Credible Elections

Economic Equality

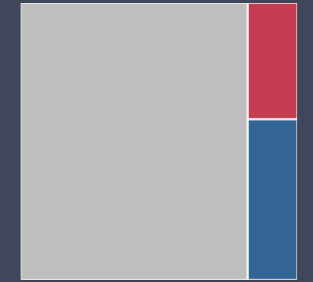
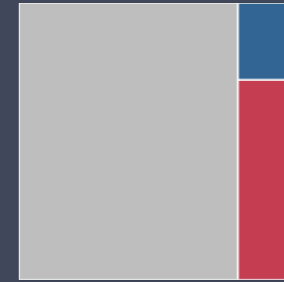
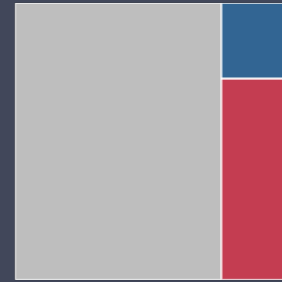
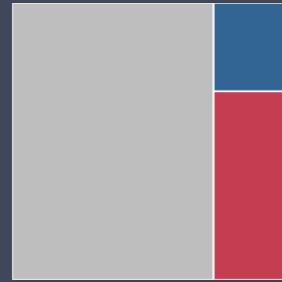
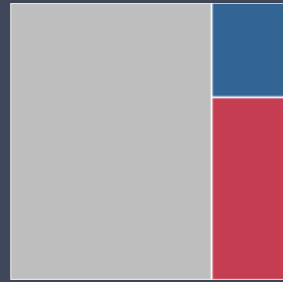
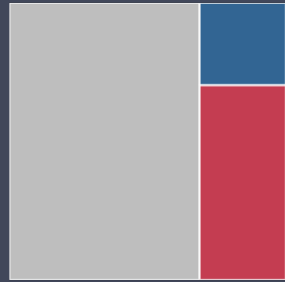
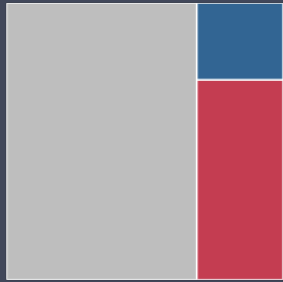
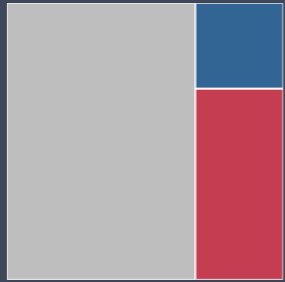
Access to Justice

Freedom of the Press

Effective Parliament

Elected Government

Absence of Corruption



Civil Liberties

Free Political Parties

Judicial Independence

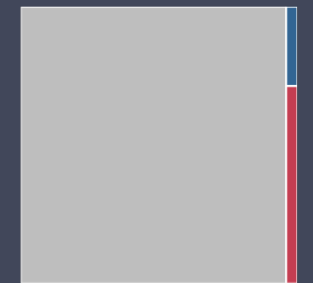
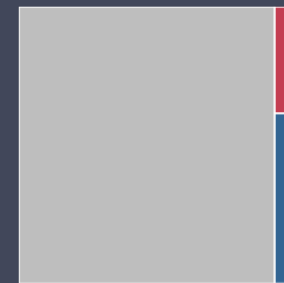
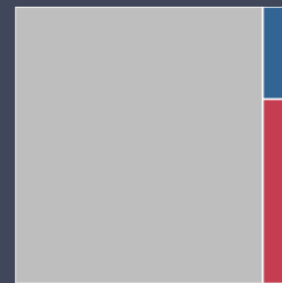
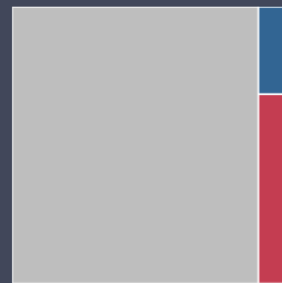
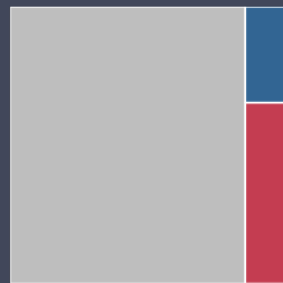
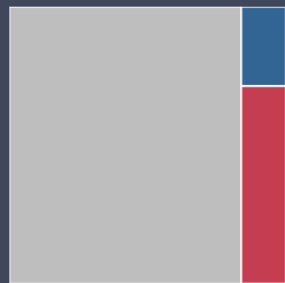
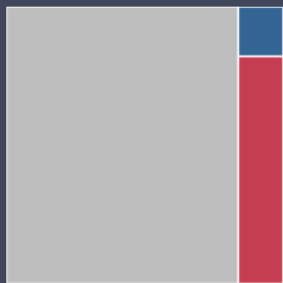
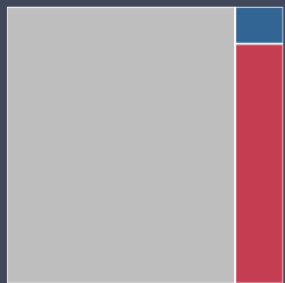
Predictable Enforcement

Personal Integrity and Security

Civil Society

Gender Equality

Civic Engagement



Declines

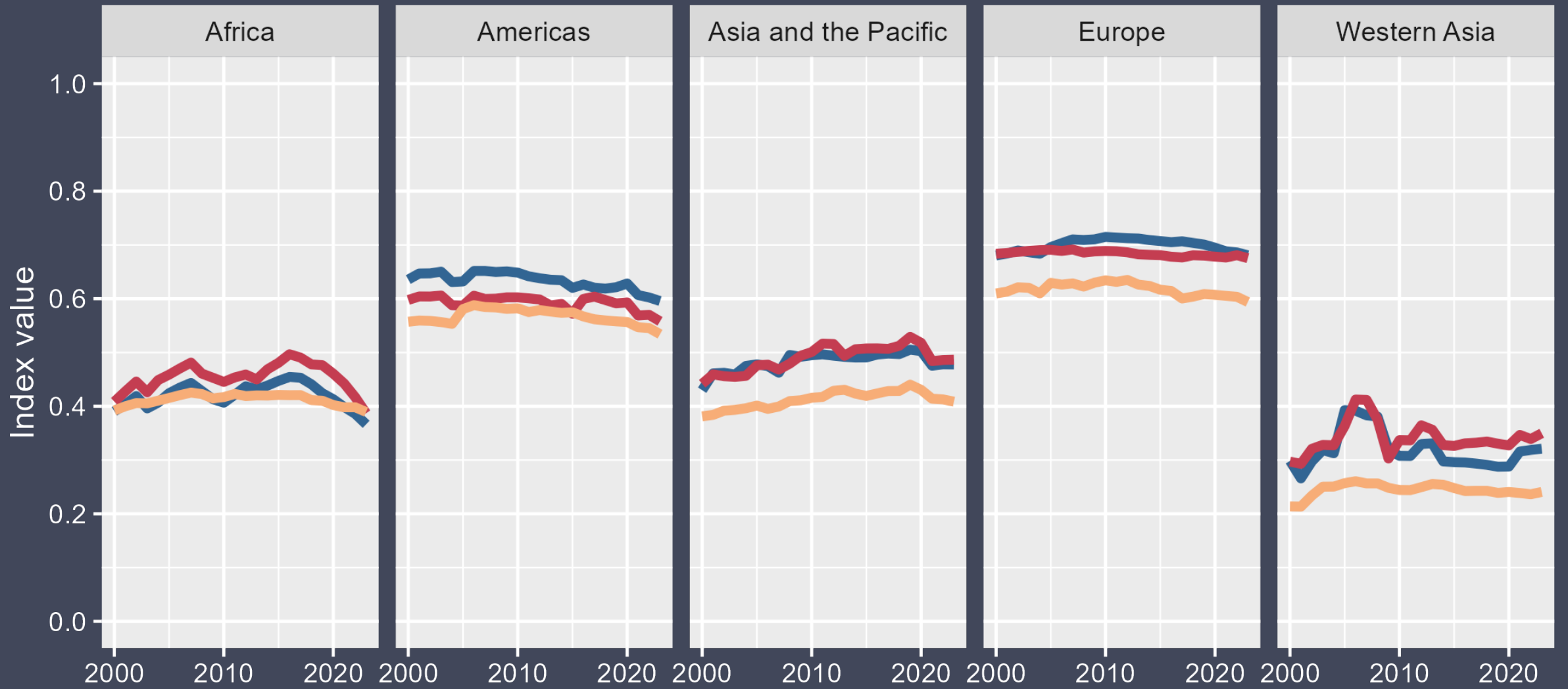


Advances



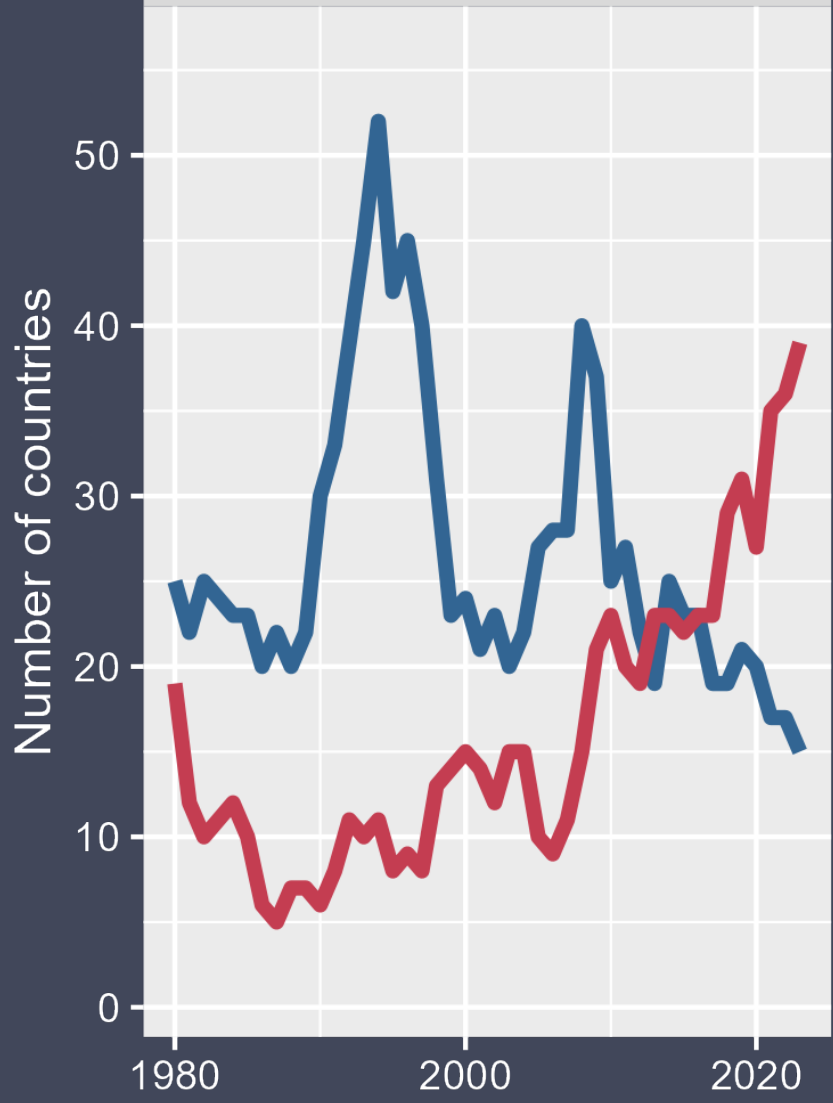
No change



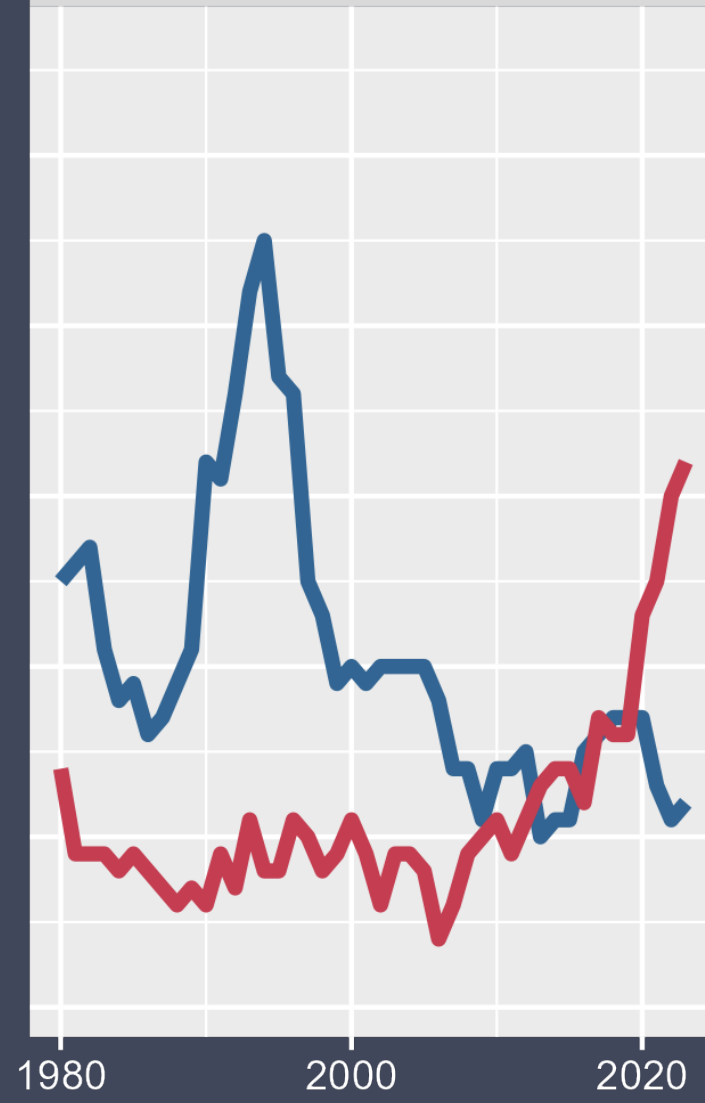


Credible Elections
 Effective Parliament
 Free Political Parties

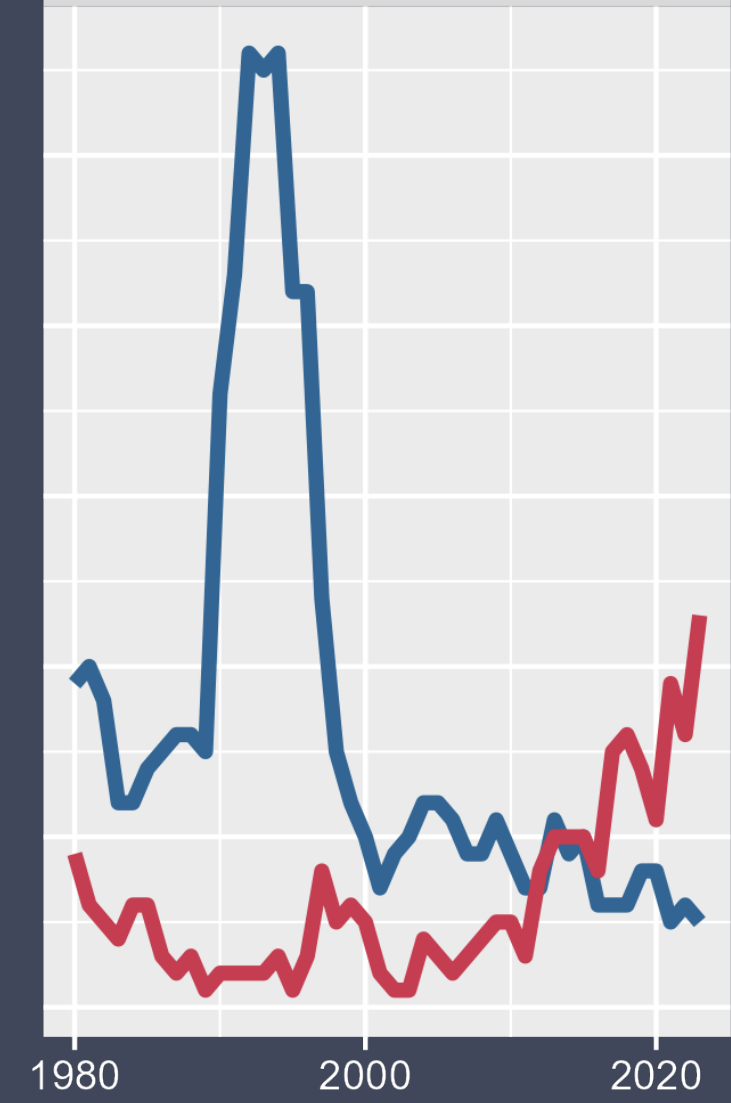
Credible Elections



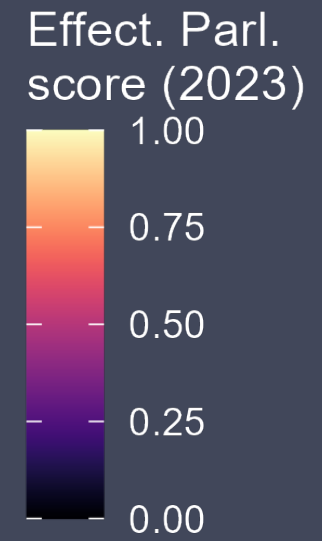
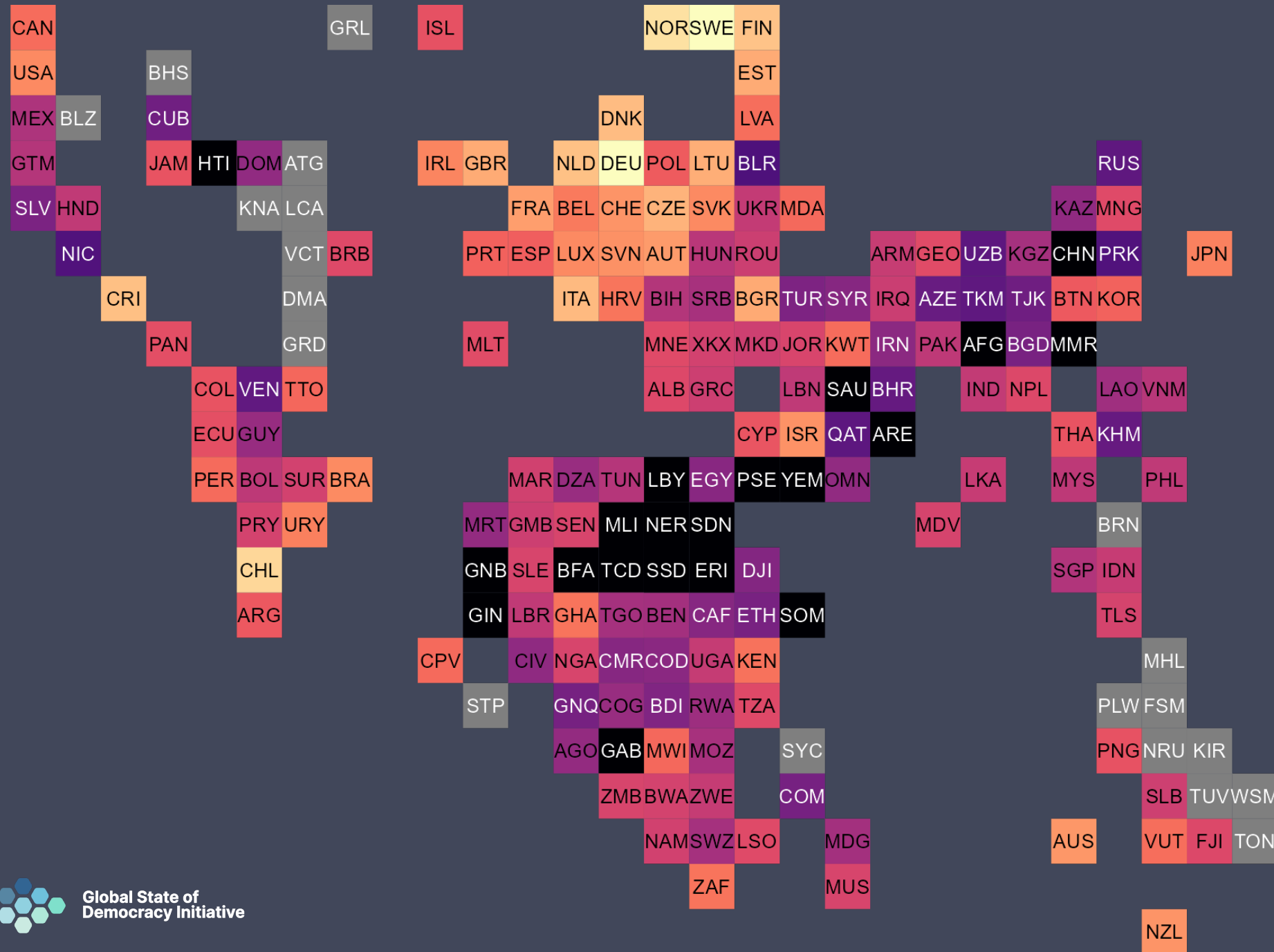
Effective Parliament

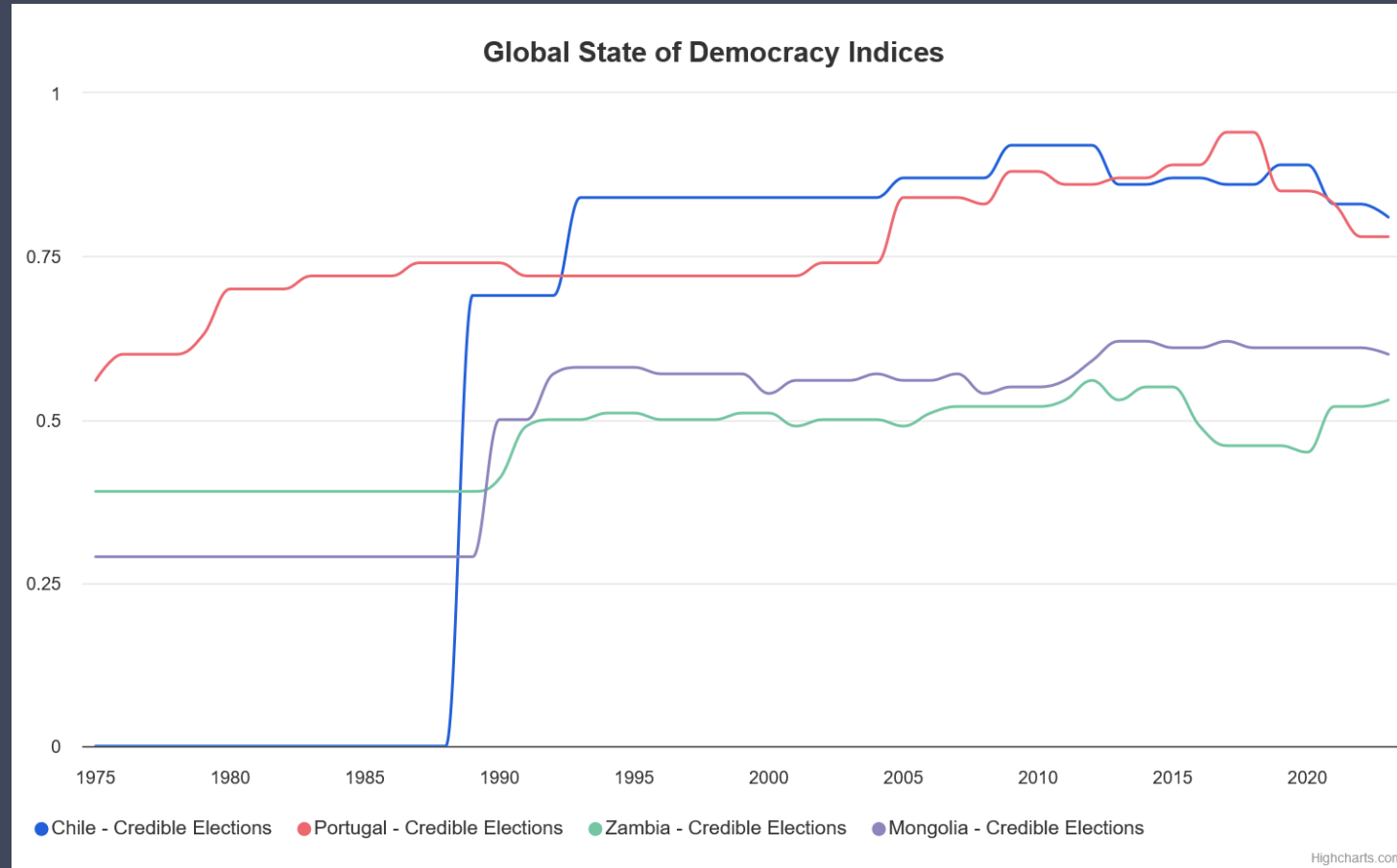


Free Political Parties



— Advancing — Declining





Source: International IDEA, The Global State of Democracy Indices v7.1, 2023