

Varieties of Democracy Dataset - Version 8

SND-ID: ext0309-1.

Is part of collection at SND: [Varieties of Democracy](#)

Associated documentation

v-dem_codebook_v8.pdf (2.98 MB)

v-dem_country_coding_units_v8.pdf (1.48 MB)

v-dem_methodology_v8.pdf (2.89 MB)

v-dem_organizationmanagement_v8.pdf (2.54 MB)

v-dem_structure_of_indices_v8.pdf (1.22 MB)

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Description

Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) is a new approach to conceptualizing and measuring democracy. We provide 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. The V-Dem project distinguishes between five highlevel principles of democracy: electoral, liberal, participatory, deliberative, and egalitarian, and collects data to measure these principles.

V-Dem draws on theoretical and methodological expertise from its worldwide team to produce data in the most objective and reliable way possible. Approximately half of the indicators in the V-Dem dataset are based on factual information obtainable from official documents such as constitutions and government records. The other half consists of evaluative indicators on topics like political practices and compliance with de jure rules. On such issues, typically five experts provide ratings. V-Dem works closely with leading social science research methodologists and has developed a state of the art Bayesian Item Response Theory measurement model that, to the extent possible, minimizes coder error and addresses issues of comparability across countries and over time. V-Dem also draws on the team's academic expertise to develop theoretically informed techniques for aggregating indicators into mid- and high-level indices. In this sense, V-Dem is at the cutting edge of developing new and improved methods of social science measurement.

Language

[English](#)

Unit of analysis

[Geographic unit](#)

[Individual](#)

Population

Countries

Time Method

[Other](#)

Sampling procedure

[Other](#)

Time period(s) investigated

1789-12-31 – 2017-12-31

Variables

4641

Number of individuals/objects

26537

Data format / data structure

[Numeric](#)

Geographic spread

Geographic location: [North America](#), [Asia](#), [Africa](#), [Europe](#), [South America](#), [Oceania](#)

Lowest geographic unit

Country

Highest geographic unit

Country

Responsible department/unit

V-Dem Institute

Identifiers

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.23696/vdemcy18>

URL: <https://www.v-dem.net/en/data/data-version-8/>

Research area

[Government, political systems and organisations](#) (CESSDA Topic Classification)

[Political science \(excluding public administration studies and globalisation studies\)](#) (Standard för svensk indelning av forskningsämnen 2011)

Keywords

[Elections](#), [Social inequality](#), [Election data](#), [Democracy](#), [Corruption](#), [Political parties](#), [Democratization](#), [Heads of state](#), [Electoral issues](#), [Sovereignty](#), [Legislature](#), [Gender equality](#)

Publications

Wilson, Matthew Charles, and Josef Woldense. "Contested or established? A comparison of legislative powers across regimes." *Democratization* 26, no. 4 (2019): 585-605.

Teorell, Jan, Michael Coppedge, Staffan Lindberg, and Svend-Erik Skaaning. "Measuring polyarchy across the globe, 1900–2017." *Studies in Comparative International Development* 54, no. 1 (2019):

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Povitkina, Marina, and Ketevan Bolkvadze. "Fresh pipes with dirty water: How quality of government shapes the provision of public goods in democracies." *European Journal of Political Research* (2019).

Maerz, Seraphine F. "Simulating pluralism: the language of democracy in hegemonic authoritarianism." *Political Research Exchange* (2019).

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Wilson, Matthew Charles. "A Closer Look at the Limits of Consociationalism." *Comparative Political Studies* (2019): 1-34.

van Ham, Carolien, and Staffan Lindberg. "Reconsidering African Elections." *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*. 25 Jun. 2019; Accessed 3 Sep. 2019.

<https://oxfordre-com.ezproxy.ub.gu.se/politics/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.001.0001/acrefore-9780190228637-e-861>.

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Lührmann, Anna, and Staffan I. Lindberg. "A third wave of autocratization is here: what is new about it?." *Democratization* (2019): 1-19.

Lührmann, Anna, Valeriya Mechkova, Sirianne Dahlum, Laura Maxwell, Moa Olin, Constanza Sanhueza Petrarca, Rachel Sigman, Matthew C. Wilson, and Staffan I. Lindberg. "State of the world 2017: autocratization and exclusion?." *Democratization* 25, no. 8 (2018): 1321-1340.

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Marquardt, Kyle L., and Daniel Pemstein. "IRT models for expert-coded panel data." *Political Analysis* 26, no. 4 (2018): 431-456.

Sigman, Rachel, and Staffan I. Lindberg. "Democracy for all: Conceptualizing and measuring egalitarian democracy." *Political Science Research and Methods* 7, no. 3 (2019): 595-612.

Lueders, Hans, and Ellen Lust. "Multiple measurements, elusive agreement, and unstable outcomes in the study of regime change." *The Journal of Politics* 80, no. 2 (2018): 736-741.

Accessibility level

Access to data through an external actor
Data are freely accessible

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Homepage

[Varieties of Democracy \(V-Dem\)](#)

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