V Dem

VARIETIES OF DEMOCRACY

Structure of V-Dem Indices, Components, and Indicators

V 8 - April 2018

Democracy Index Name	Mid-Level Democracy and Governance Index Name	Lower-Level Democracy and Governance Index Name	Indicator Name	Tag	Uniqueness Score (Un-modeled Variance)*
Electoral democracy index				v2x_polyarchy	
	Additive polyarchy index			v2x_api	
	Multiplicative polyarchy index			v2x_mpi	
		Freedom of expression and alternative sources of information index		v2x_freexp_altinf	
			Government censorship effort—Media	v2mecenefm	0.2784
			Harassment of journalists	v2meharjrn	0.3274
			Media self-censorship	v2meslfcen	0.3142
			Media bias	v2mebias	0.2638
			Print/broadcast media perspectives	v2merange	0.2763
			Freedom of discussion for men	v2cldiscm	0.2726
			Freedom of discussion for women	v2cldiscw	0.2726
			Freedom of academic and cultural expression	v2clacfree	0.3502
		Freedom of association index (thick)		v2x_frassoc_thick	
			Party ban	v2psparban	0.3228
			Barriers to parties	v2psbars	0.257
			Opposition parties autonomy	v2psoppaut	0.2574
			Elections multiparty	v2elmulpar	0.4058
			CSO entry and exit	v2cseeorgs	0.3705
			CSO repression	v2csreprss	0.4114
		Share of population with suffrage		v2x_suffr	
			Percent of population with suffrage	v2elsuffrage	
		Clean elections index		v2xel_frefair	
			EMB autonomy	v2elembaut	0.3871
			EMB capacity	v2elembcap	0.4767
			Election voter registry	v2elrgstry	0.4671
			Election vote buying	v2elvotbuy	0.619
			Election other voting irregularities	v2elirreg	0.3724
			Election government intimidation	v2elintim	0.4057
			Election other electoral violence	v2elpeace	0.6608
			Election free and fair	v2elfrfair	0.3409
		Elected officials index		v2x_elecoff	
			Legislature bicameral	v2lgbicam	
			Lower chamber elected	v2lgello	
			Upper chamber elected	v2lgelecup	
			Percentage of indirectly elected legislators lower chamber	v2lginello	
			Percentage of indirectly elected legislators lower chamber	v2lginelup	
			HOS appointment in practice	v2expathhs	
			HOG appointment in practice	v2expathhg	
			HOS selection by legislature in practice	v2exaphos	
			HOG selection by legislature in practice	v2exaphogp	

Democracy Index Name	Mid-Level Democracy and Governance Index Name	Lower-Level Democracy and Governance Index Name	Indicator Name	Tag	Uniqueness Score (Un-modeled Variance)*
			HOS appoints cabinet in practice	v2exdfcbhs	
			HOG appoints cabinet in practice	v2exdjcbhg	
			HOS dismisses ministers in practice	v2exdfdmhs	
			HOG dismisses ministers in practice	v2exdfdshg	
			HOS = HOG?	v2exhoshog	
			Chief executive appointment by upper chamber	v2exapup	
			Chief executive appointment by upper chamber implicit approval	v2exapupap	
			HOS dismisses ministers in practice	v2exdfdmhs	
			HOG dismisses ministers in practice	v2exdfdshg	
			HOS = HOG?	v2exhoshog	
			Chief executive appointment by upper chamber	v2exapup	
			Chief executive appointment by upper chamber implicit approval	v2exapupap	
Liberal democracy index				v2x_libdem	
	Electoral democracy index			v2x_polyarchy	
	Liberal component index			v2x_liberal	
		Equality before the law and individual liberty index		v2xcl_rol	
			Rigorous and impartial public administration	v2clrspct	0.5089
			Transparent laws with predictable enforcement	v2cltrnslw	0.3726
			Access to justice for men	v2clacjstm	0.2344
			Access to justice for women	v2clacjstw	0.2344
			Property rights for men	v2clprptym	0.4594
			Property rights for women	v2clprptyw	0.4594
			Freedom from torture	v2cltort	0.3957
			Freedom from political killings	v2clkill	0.4086
			Freedom from forced labor for men	v2clslavem	0.4852
			Freedom from forced labor for women	v2clslavef	0.4852
			Freedom of religion	v2clrelig	0.5745
			Freedom of foreign movement	v2clfmove	0.4246
			Freedom of domestic movement for men	v2cldmovem	0.3861
			Freedom of domestic movement for women	v2cldmovew	0.3861
		Judicial constraints on the executive index		v2x_jucon	
			Executive respects constitution	v2exrescon	0.5771
			Compliance with judiciary	v2jucomp	0.3243
			Compliance with high court	v2juhccomp	0.3389
			High court independence	v2juhcind	0.4309
			Lower court independence	v2juncind	0.4134
		Legislative constraints on the executive index		v2xlg_legcon	
			Legislature questions officials in practice	v2lgqstexp	0.4954
			Executive oversight	v2lgotovst	0.375

Democracy Index Name	Mid-Level Democracy and Governance Index Name	Lower-Level Democracy and Governance Index Name	Indicator Name	Tag	Uniqueness Score (Un-modeled Variance)*
			Legislature investigates in practice	v2lginvstp	0.2417
			Legislature opposition parties	v2lgoppart	0.3822
Deliberative democracy index				v2x_delibdem	
	Electoral democracy index			v2x_polyarchy	
	Deliberative component index			v2xdl_delib	
			Reasoned justification	v2dlreason	0.3317
			Common good	v2dlcommon	0.5885
			Respect counterarguments	v2dlcountr	0.3221
			Range of consultation	v2dlconslt	0.2659
			Engaged society	v2dlengage	0.2426
Egalitarian democracy index				v2x_egaldem	
	Electoral democracy index			v2x_polyarchy	
	Egalitarian component index			v2x_egal	
		Equal protection index		v2xeg_eqprotec	
			Social class equality in respect for civil liberties	v2clacjust	0.2003
			Social group equality in respect for civil liberties	v2clsocgrp	0.584
			Weaker civil liberties population	v2clsnlpct	0.7884
		Equal access index		v2eg_eqaccess	
			Power distributed by gender	v2pepwrgen	0.4758
			Power distributed by socioeconomic position	v2pepwrses	0.4659
			Power distributed by social group	v2pepwrsoc	0.4451
		Equal distribution of resources index		v2xeg_eqdr	
			Means-tested vs. universalistic	v2dlunivl	0.6244
			Encompassingness	v2dlencmps	0.6801
			Educational equality	v2peedueq	0.2356
			Health equality	v2pehealth	0.1712
Participatory democracy index				v2x_partipdem	
	Electoral democracy index			v2x_polyarchy	
	Participatory component index			v2x_partip	
		Civil society participation index		v2x_cspart	
			Candidate selection—National/local	v2pscnslnl	0.7531
			CSO consultation	v2cscnsult	0.3921
			CSO participatory environment	v2csprtcpt	0.3997
			CSO womens participation	v2csgender	0.642
		Direct popular vote index		v2xdd_dd	
			Initiatives permitted	v2ddlexci	
			Initiatives signatures %	v2ddsigpci	
			Initiatives signature-gathering time limit	v2ddsiglci	
			Initiatives signature-gathering period	v2ddsigdci	
			Initiatives level	v2ddlevci	
			Initiatives participation threshold	v2ddpartci	

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Democracy Index Name	Mid-Level Democracy and Governance Index Name	Lower-Level Democracy and Governance Index Name	Indicator Name	Tag	Uniqueness Score (Un-modeled Variance)*
			Initiatives approval threshold	v2ddapprci	
			Initiatives administrative threshold	v2ddadmci	
			Initiatives super majority	v2ddspmci	
			Occurrence of citizen-initiative this year	v2ddyrci	
			Referendums permitted	v2ddlexrf	
			Referendums signatures %	v2ddsigprf	
			Referendums signature-gathering period	v2ddsigdrf	
			Referendums participation threshold	v2ddpartrf	
			Referendums approval threshold	v2ddapprrf	
			Referendums super majority	v2ddspmrf	
			Referendums administrative threshold	v2ddadmrf	
			Occurrence of referendum this year	v2ddyrrf	
			Plebiscite permitted	v2ddlexpl	
			Plebiscite participation threshold	v2ddpartpl	
			Plebiscite approval threshold	v2ddapprpl	
			Plebiscite super majority	v2ddspmpl	
			Plebiscite administrative threshold	v2ddadmpl	
			Occurrence of plebiscite this year	v2ddyrpl	
			Constitutional changes popular vote	v2ddlexor	
			Obligatory referendum participation threshold	v2ddpartor	
			Obligatory referendum approval threshold	v2ddappor	
			Obligatory referendum super majority	v2ddspmor	
			Obligatory referendum administrative threshold	v2ddadmor	
			Occurrence of obligatory referendum this year	v2ddyror	
			Obligatory referendum credible threat	v2ddthreor	
			Popular referencum credible threat	v2ddthrerf	
			Plebiscite credible threat	v2ddthrepl	
		Local government index		v2xel_locelec	
			Local government elected	v2ellocelc	
			Local offices relative power	v2ellocpwr	
			Local government exists	v2ellocgov	
		Regional government index		v2xel_regelec	
			Regional government elected	v2elsrgel	
			Regional offices relative power	v2elrgpwr	
			Regional government exists	v2elreggov	

* Uniqueness is the variance that is 'unique' to the variable and not shared with other variables.

0.1 Indices Created Using V-Dem Data

Democracy Indices Created Using V-Dem Data Name	Lower-Level Democracy and Governance Index Name	Indicator Name	Tag	Uniqueness Score (Un-modeled Variance)*
Electoral regime index			v2x_elecreg	
	Legislative or constituent assembly election		v2xel_elecparl	
		Election type	v2eltype_0	
		Election type	v2eltype_1	
		Election type	v2eltype_4	
		Election type	v2eltype_5	
	Legislature closed down or aborted		v2xlg_leginter	
		Legislature bicameral	v2lgbicam	
	Presidential election		v2xel_elecpres	
		Election type	v2eltype_6	
		Election type	v2eltype_7	
	Chief executive no longer elected		v2x_hosinter	
		HOS = HOG?	v2exhoshog	
		HOG appointment in practice	v2expathhg	
		HOS appointment in practice	v2expathhs	
	Presidential election aborted		v2x_hosabort	
		HOS = HOG?	v2exhoshog	
		HOG appointment in practice	v2expathhg	
		HOS appointment in practice	v2expathhs	
		Presidential election	v2xel_elecpres	
	Legislative or constituent assembly election aborted		v2x_legabort	
		Legislature bicameral	v2lgbicam	
		Legislative or constituent assembly election	v2xel_elecparl	
Executive electoral regime index			v2xex_elecreg	
	Presidential election		v2xel_elecpres	
		Election type	v2eltype_6	
		Election type	v2eltype_7	
	Chief executive no longer elected		v2x_hosinter	
		HOS = HOG?	v2exhoshog	
		HOG appointment in practice	v2expathhg	
		HOS appointment in practice	v2expathhs	
	Presidential election aborted		v2x_hosabort	
		HOS = HOG?	v2exhoshog	
		HOG appointment in practice	v2expathhg	
		HOS appointment in practice	v2expathhs	
		Presidential election	v2xel_elecpres	
Legislative electoral regime index			v2xlg_elecreg	
	Legislative or constituent assembly election		v2xel_elecparl	
		Election type	v2eltype_0	
		Election type	v2eltype_1	
		Election type	v2eltype_4	
		Election type	v2eltype_5	
	Legislature closed down or aborted		v2xlg_leginter	
		Legislature bicameral	v2lgbicam	

Democracy Indices Created Using V-Dem Data Name	Lower-Level Democracy and Governance Index Name	Indicator Name	Tag	Uniqueness Score (Un-modeled Variance)*
		Legislative or constituent assembly election aborted	v2x_legabort	
		Legislature bicameral	v2lgbicam	
		Legislative or constituent assembly election	v2xel_elecparl	
Regimes of the World index			v2x_regime	
		Elections multiparty	v2elmulpar_osp	
		Exectuive elections multiparty	v2elmulpar_osp_ex	
		Legislative elections multiparty	v2elmulpar_osp_leg	
		Election free and fair	v2elfrfair_osp	
		Legislative election free and fair	v2elfrfair_osp_leg	
		Executive election free and fair	v2elfrfair_osp_ex	
		HOS appointed by legislature	v2ex_legconhos	
		Relative power of the HOS	v2ex_hosw	
		Access to justice for men	v2clacjstm_osp	
		Access to justice for women	v2clacjstw_osp	
		Transparent laws with predictable enforcement	v2cltrnslw_osp	
	Electoral regime index		v2x_elecreg	
	Executive electoral regime index		v2xex_elecreg	
	Legislative electoral regime index		v2xlg_elecreg	
	Electoral democracy index		v2x_polyarchy	
	Liberal component index		v2x_liberal	
Women political empowerment index			v2x_gender	
	Women civil liberties index		v2x_gencl	
		Freedom of domestic movement for women	v2cldmovew	0.4432
		Freedom from forced labor for women	v2clslavef	0.4869
		Property rights for women	v2clprptyw	0.4233
		Access to justice for women	v2clacjstw	0.3626
	Women civil society participation index		v2x_gencs	
		Freedom of discussion for women	v2cldiscw	0.5375
		CSO womens participation	v2csgender	0.2294
		Percent (%) female journalists	v2mefemjrn	0.5378
	Women political participation index		v2x_genpp	
		Power distributed by gender	v2pepwrgen	
		Lower chamber female legislators	v2lgfemleg	
Corruption index			v2x_corr	
		Legislature corrupt activities	v2lgcrrpt	
		Judicial corruption decision	v2jucorrdc	
	Public sector corruption index		v2x_pubcorr	
		Public sector corrupt exchanges	v2excrptps	
		Public sector theft	v2exthftps	
	Executive corruption index		v2x_execorr	
		Executive bribery and corrupt exchanges	v2exbribe	
		Executive embezzlement and theft	v2exembez	

Democracy Indices Created Using V-Dem Data Name	Lower-Level Democracy and Governance Index Name	Indicator Name	Tag	Uniqueness Score (Un-modeled Vari-ance)*
Electoral component index			v2x_EDcomp_thick	
	Freedom of association index (thick)		v2x_frassoc_thick	
		Party ban	v2psparban	0.3228
		Barriers to parties	v2psbars	0.257
		Opposition parties autonomy	v2psoppaut	0.2574
		Elections multiparty	v2elmulpar	0.4058
		CSO entry and exit	v2cseeorgs	0.3705
		CSO repression	v2csreprss	0.4114
	Share of population with suffrage		v2x_suffr	
		Percent of population with suffrage	v2elsuffrage	
	Clean elections index		v2xel_frefair	
		EMB autonomy	v2elembaut	0.3871
		EMB capacity	v2elembcap	0.4767
		Election voter registry	v2elrgstry	0.4671
		Election vote buying	v2elvotbuy	0.619
		Election other voting irregularities	v2elirreg	0.3724
		Election government intimidation	v2elintim	0.4057
		Election other electoral violence	v2elpeace	0.6608
		Election free and fair	v2elfrfair	0.3409
	Elected officials index		v2x_elecoff	
		Legislature bicameral	v2lgbicam	
		Lower chamber elected	v2lgello	
		Upper chamber elected	v2lgelecup	
		Percentage of indirectly elected legislators lower chamber	v2lginello	
		Percentage of indirectly elected legislators lower chamber	v2lginelup	
		HOS appointment in practice	v2expathhs	
		HOG appointment in practice	v2expathhg	
		HOS selection by legislature in practice	v2exaphos	
		HOG selection by legislature in practice	v2exaphogp	
		HOS appoints cabinet in practice	v2exdfcbhs	
		HOG appoints cabinet in practice	v2exdjcbhg	
		HOS dismisses ministers in practice	v2exdfdmhs	
		HOG dismisses ministers in practice	v2exdfdshg	
		HOS = HOG?	v2exhoshog	
		Chief executive appointment by upper chamber	v2exapup	
Freedom of expression index			v2x_freexp	
		Government censorship effort — Media	v2mecenefm	0.2869
		Harassment of journalists	v2meharjrn	0.337
		Media self-censorship	v2meslfcen	0.3563
		Freedom of discussion for men	v2cldiscm	0.2189
		Freedom of discussion for women	v2cldiscw	0.2189
		Freedom of academic and cultural expression	v2clacfree	0.2983

Democracy Indices Created Using V-Dem Data Name	Lower-Level Democracy and Governance Index Name	Indicator Name	Tag	Uniqueness Score (Un-modeled Variance)*
Civil liberties index			v2x_civlib	
	Private civil liberties index		v2x_clpriv	
		Freedom from forced labor for men	v2clslavem	0.4639
		Freedom from forced labor for women	v2clslavef	0.4639
		Property rights for men	v2clprptym	0.4085
		Property rights for women	v2clprptyw	0.4085
		Freedom of foreign movement	v2clfmove	0.3682
		Freedom of domestic movement for men	v2cldmovem	0.272
		Freedom of domestic movement for women	v2cldmovew	0.272
		Freedom of religion	v2clrelig	0.4932
		Religious organization repression	v2csrlgrep	0.5174
	Physical violence index		v2x_clphy	
		Freedom from political killings	v2clkill	
		Freedom from torture	v2cltort	
	Political civil liberties index		v2x_clpol	
		Government censorship effort — Media	v2mecenefm	0.3126
		Harassment of journalists	v2meharjrn	0.3516
		Media self-censorship	v2meslfcen	0.3731
		Freedom of discussion for men	v2cldiscm	0.2302
		Freedom of discussion for women	v2cldiscw	0.2302
		Party ban	v2psparban	0.4088
		Barriers to parties	v2psbars	0.3465
		Opposition parties autonomy	v2psoppaut	0.3602
		CSO entry and exit	v2cseeorgs	0.2895
		CSO repression	v2csreprss	0.3134
*Accountability index***			v2x_accountability	
	Vertical accountability index		vv2x_veracc	
		Electoral regime index	v2x_elecreg	
		HOS appointed by legislature	v2ex_legconhos	
		Relative power of the HOS	v2ex_hosw	
		EMB autonomy	v2elembaut	
		EMB capacity	v2elembcap	
		Election voter registry	v2elrgstry	
		Election other voting irregularities	v2elirreg	
		Election government intimidation	v2elintim	
		Elections multiparty	v2elmulpar	
		Election free and fair	v2elfrfair	
		Percentage of population with suffrage	v2elsuffrage	
		HOS appointment in practice	v2expathhs	
		HOG appointment in practice	v2expathhg	
		HOG selection by legislature in practice	v2exaphogp	
		Party ban	v2psparban	

Democracy Indices Created Using V-Dem Data Name	Lower-Level Democracy and Governance Index Name	Indicator Name	Tag	Uniqueness Score (Un-modeled Variance)*
		Barriers to parties	v2psbars	
		Opposition parties autonomy	v2psoppaut	
	Horizontal accountability index		v2x_horacc	
		High court independence	v2juhcind	
		Lower court independence	v2juncind	
		Compliance with high court	v2juhccomp	
		Compliance with judiciary	v2jucomp	
		Executive respects constitution	v2exrescon	
		Executive oversight	v2lgotovst	
		Legislature investigates in practice	v2lginvstp	
		Legislature bicameral	v2lgbicam	
	Diagonal accountability index		v2x_diagacc	
		Government censorship effort — Media	v2mecenefm	
		Internet censorship effort	v2mecenefi	
		Harassment of journalists	v2meharjrn	
		Print/broadcast media critical	v2mecrit	
		Media bias	v2mebias	
		Print/broadcast media perspectives	v2merange	
		Media self-censorship	v2meslfcen	
		CSO participatory environment	v2csprtcpt	
		CSO entry and exit	v2cseeorgs	
		CSO repression	v2csreprss	
		Freedom of discussion for men	v2cldiscm	
		Freedom of discussion for women	v2cldiscw	
		Freedom of academic and cultural expression	v2clacfree	
		Engaged society	v2dlengage	
Party institutionalization index			v2xps_party	
		Party organizations	v2psorgs	
		Party branches	v2psprbrch	
		Party linkages	v2psprlnks	
		Distinct party platforms	v2psplats	
		Legislative party cohesion	v2pscohesv	
Core civil society index			v2xcs_ccsi	
		CSO participatory environment	v2csprtcpt	0.2124
		CSO entry and exit	v2cseeorgs	0.3172
		CSO repression	v2csreprss	0.4638
Alternative sources of information index			v2xme_altinf	
		Media bias	v2mebias	0.2725
		Print/broadcast media critical	v2mecrit	0.2556
		Print/broadcast media perspectives	v2merange	0.245
Divided party control of legislature index			v2x_divparctrl	
		National party control	v2psnatpar	
		National party control ordinal version	v2psnatpar_ord	

Democracy Indices Created Using V-Dem Data Name	Lower-Level Democracy and Governance Index Name	Indicator Name	Tag	Uniqueness Score (Un-modeled Variance)*
Division of power index			v2x_feduni	
		Local government exists	v2ellocgov	
		Regional government exists	v2elreggov	
		Local government elected	v2ellocelc	
		Regional government elected	v2elsrgel	
		Local offices relative power	v2ellocpwr	
		Regional offices relative power	v2elrgpwr	
Rule of law index			v2x_rule	
		Compliance with high court	v2juhccomp	0.4889
		Compliance with judiciary	v2jucomp	0.4504
		High court independence	v2juhcind	0.5427
		Lower court independence	v2juncind	0.568
		Executive respects constitution	v2exrescon	0.448
		Rigorous and impartial public administration	v2clrspct	0.398
		Transparent laws with predictable enforcement	v2cltrnslw	0.4617
		Access to justice for men	v2clacjstm	0.488
		Access to justice for women	v2clacjstw	0.488
		Judicial accountability	v2juaccnt	0.6182
		Judicial corruption decision	v2jucorrdc	0.521
		Public sector corrupt exchanges	v2excrptps	0.4334
		Public sector theft	v2exthftps	0.4091
		Executive bribery and corrupt exchanges	v2exbribe	0.487
		Executive embezzlement and theft	v2exembez	0.3658

* Uniqueness is the variance that is 'unique' to the variable and not shared with other variables.
** Because the accountability indices do not use standard BFAs, we do not report uniqueness scores here. Details regarding model fit can be found in the methodological appendix of V-Dem Working Paper No. 58.