

# Democracy & Dictatorship

Political Science 225  
North Dakota State University

# States, Regimes, and Governments

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- 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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- Long history of criticism of democracy
  - Class division, lower class rule
  - Instability
- Concept has evolved over time

# Exercise: Rating Democracy

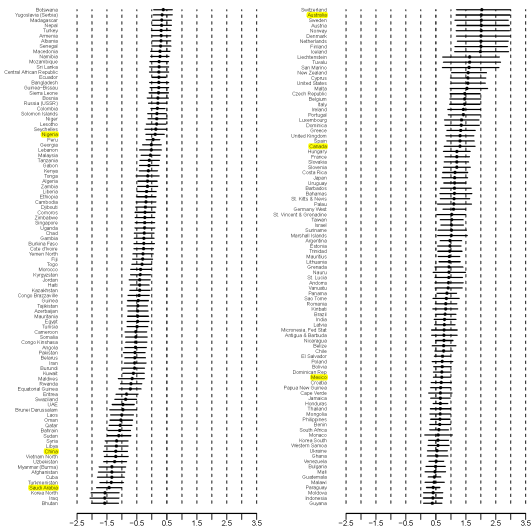
## Countries

- 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



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Procedural view

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## Procedural view

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

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- Minimal definition of democracy: polyarchy

# Measuring Democracy

Democracy measures are a dime a dozen—more than 10 significant ones. But three dominate the field.

- PACL/DD
- Polity
- Freedom House

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)

## Characteristics

- Minimalist
- Dichotomous
- 4 Questions—if yes to all, democracy
  - Elected Executive?
  - Elected Legislature?
  - More than one Party Competing
  - Alternation in Power?

## Characteristics

- Minimalist
- Continuous -10 through +10
- Scored by experts using 5 objective criteria categories
  - Competitiveness of executive recruitment
  - Openness of executive recruitment
  - Constraint on executive
  - Regulation of participation
  - Competitiveness of participation
- Scores combined with one another to produce a final score



# Freedom House

## Characteristics

- Mix of procedural and substantive
- Continuous 1-7
- Scored by experts on two dimensions
  - Political rights
  - Civil rights
- Scores combined

# Ratings Revisited

2002 used for comparability, scores may be different now

	Polity	PACL	FH
Saudi Arabia	-10	A	7
Australia	10	D	1
Mexico	8	D	2 (3 in 2011)
Canada	10	D	1
China	-7	A	6.5
Nigeria	4	D	4.5 (4 in 2011)

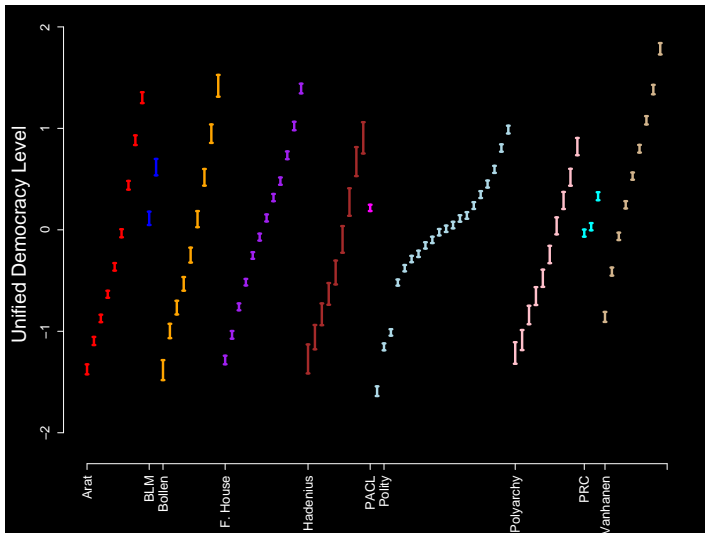
# Consistency?

- In general, widespread agreement (90+%)
- Occasional disagreement:

	Polity	PACL	FH
Venezuela	9 (-3 in 2011)	D	3 (5 in 2011)
Turkey	7	D	3.5 (3 in 2011)

- Disagreement perhaps coming from view of democracy

# Measures Compared?



# Issues in Democratic Measurement

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