

# POLS 227

# Africa in World Politics

Class 9:

Authoritarianism and the authoritarian resurgence

Kahoot!

# Bolsonaro Is a Threat to Brazil's Democracy

The far-right leader's flair for fascism recently included ordering a celebration of the coup that brought Brazil's military dictatorship to power.

By **Eugênio Bucci**, May 8, 2019.



Jair Bolsonaro (Photo: Shutterstock)

Global Politics

# US intelligence report: Philippines' Duterte a threat to democracy

Reuters

February 21, 2018 · 11:00 AM EST





# NATIONAL HERALD

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Home > POLITICS > India is becoming 'illiberal democracy' under Modi rule, says Chidambaram

## India is becoming 'illiberal democracy' under Modi rule, says Chidambaram



ASHUTOSH SHARMA

Published: Oct 27th 2018, 01.43 PM

490  
Engagements



What is democracy?

What is liberal democracy?

# What is democracy?

- δημοκρατία (*dēmokratía*) – ‘rule by people’

# What is democracy?

- Electoral vs. substantive democracy
- Larry Diamond:
  - A political system for choosing and replacing the government through free and fair elections
  - The active participation of the people, as citizens, in politics and civic life
  - Protection of the human rights of all citizens
  - A rule of law, in which the laws and procedures apply equally to all citizens
    - <http://web.stanford.edu/~ldiamond/iraq/WhaIsDemocracy012004.htm>



# What is illiberal democracy?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RiviibIc6JU>

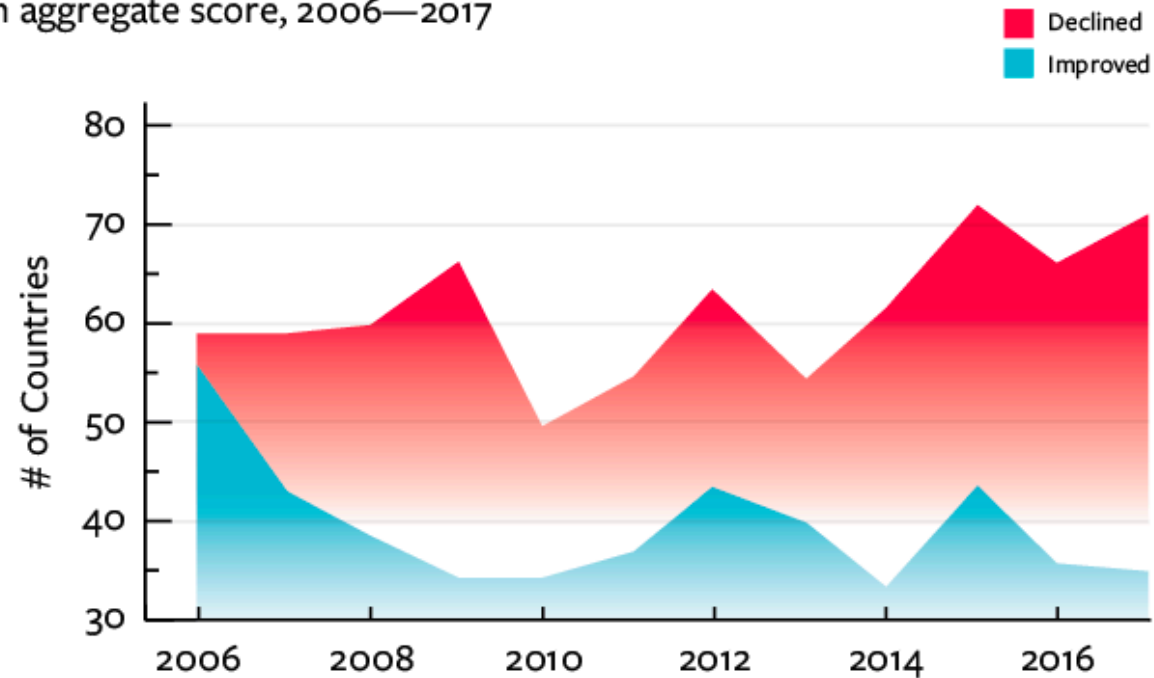


Is 'illiberal democracy'  
democracy?

# Democratic backsliding

## Twelve Years of Decline

Number of countries that declined and improved in aggregate score, 2006—2017



# Democratic backsliding

Daily chart

## Democracy continues its disturbing retreat

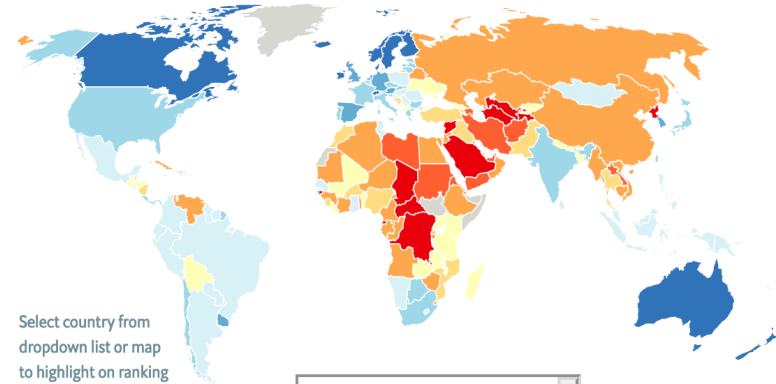
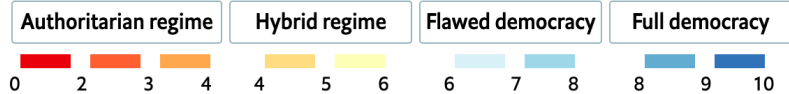
More than half the countries in the latest update of a democratic-health index saw their scores decline

Graphic detail >  
Jan 31st 2018 | by THE DATA TEAM



### The Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index

167 countries scored on a scale of 0 to 10 based on 60 indicators



Select country from dropdown list or map to highlight on ranking chart below

# Democratic backsliding



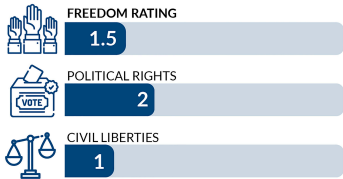
## US DEMOCRACY SCORECARD FREEDOM IN THE WORLD 2019

### UNITED STATES ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY

◆ FREEDOM STATUS = FREE ◆ NET FREEDOM = FREE



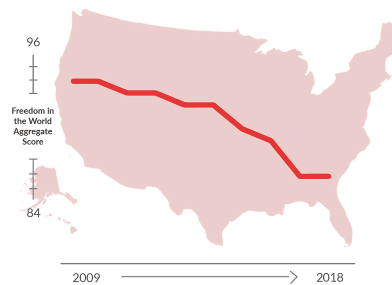
#### FREEDOM IN THE WORLD SCORES



1 = Most Free 7 = Least Free

### THE EROSION OF US DEMOCRACY

Freedom House has tracked a gradual decline in the total US score over the past eight years.



News > World > Americas

## America falls short of being a full democracy for second year running, report finds

Declining trust in public institutions fuels democratic decline

Harriet Agerholm | @HarrietAgerholm |

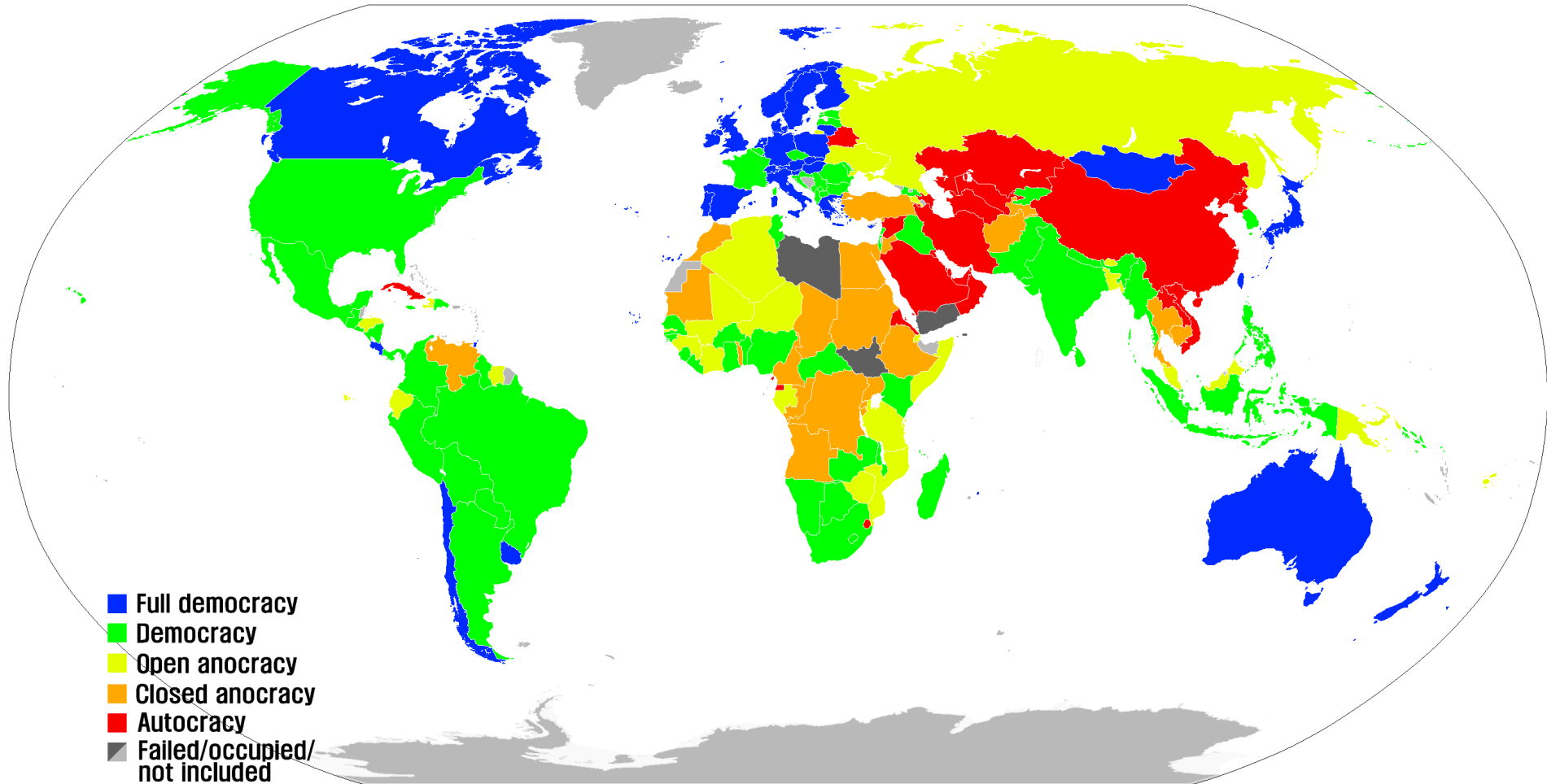
Monday 5 February 2018 14:30 | 70 comments



What are the alternatives to  
democracy?



# Geographic distribution of regime types

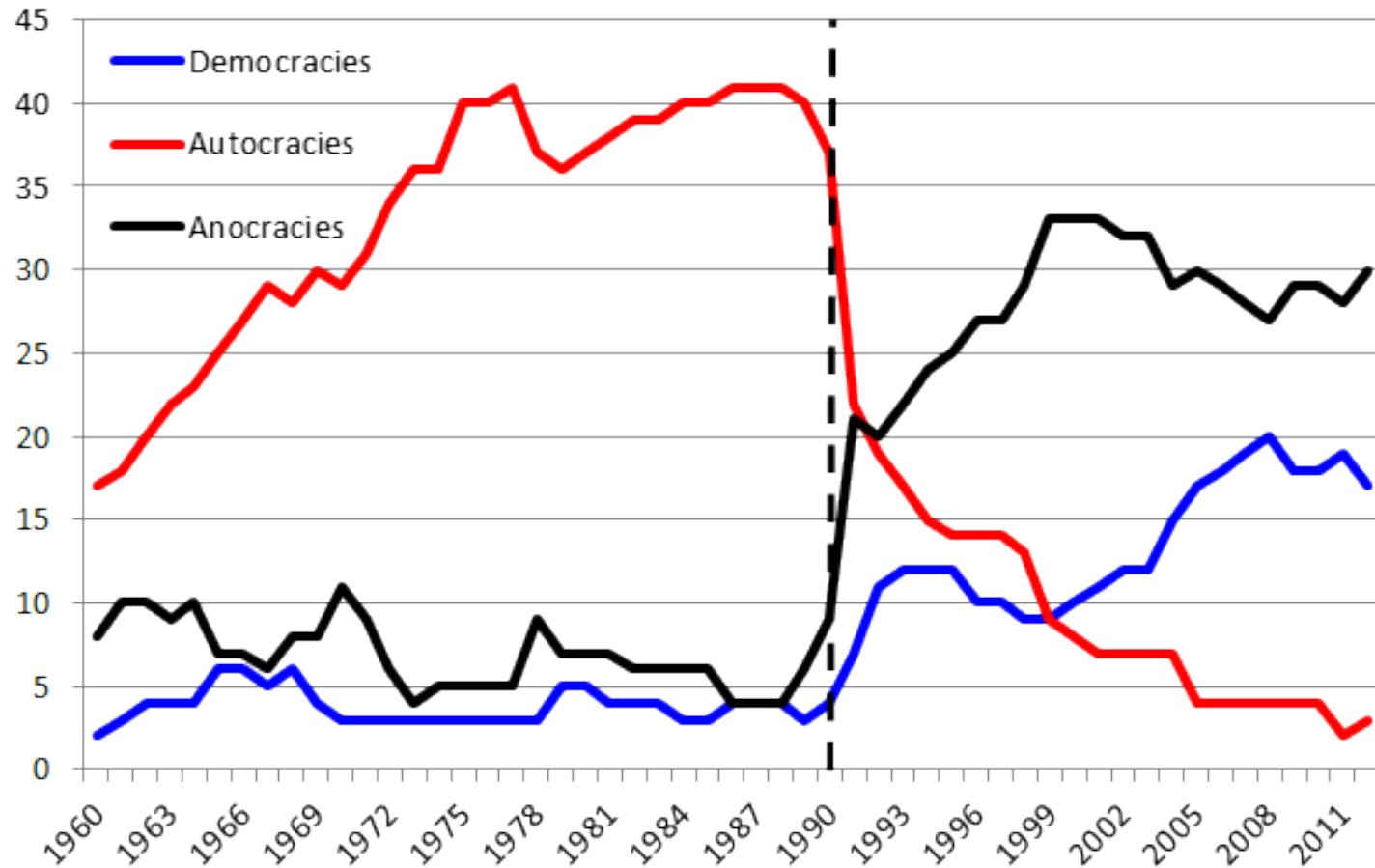


What are autocracies and  
anocracies?

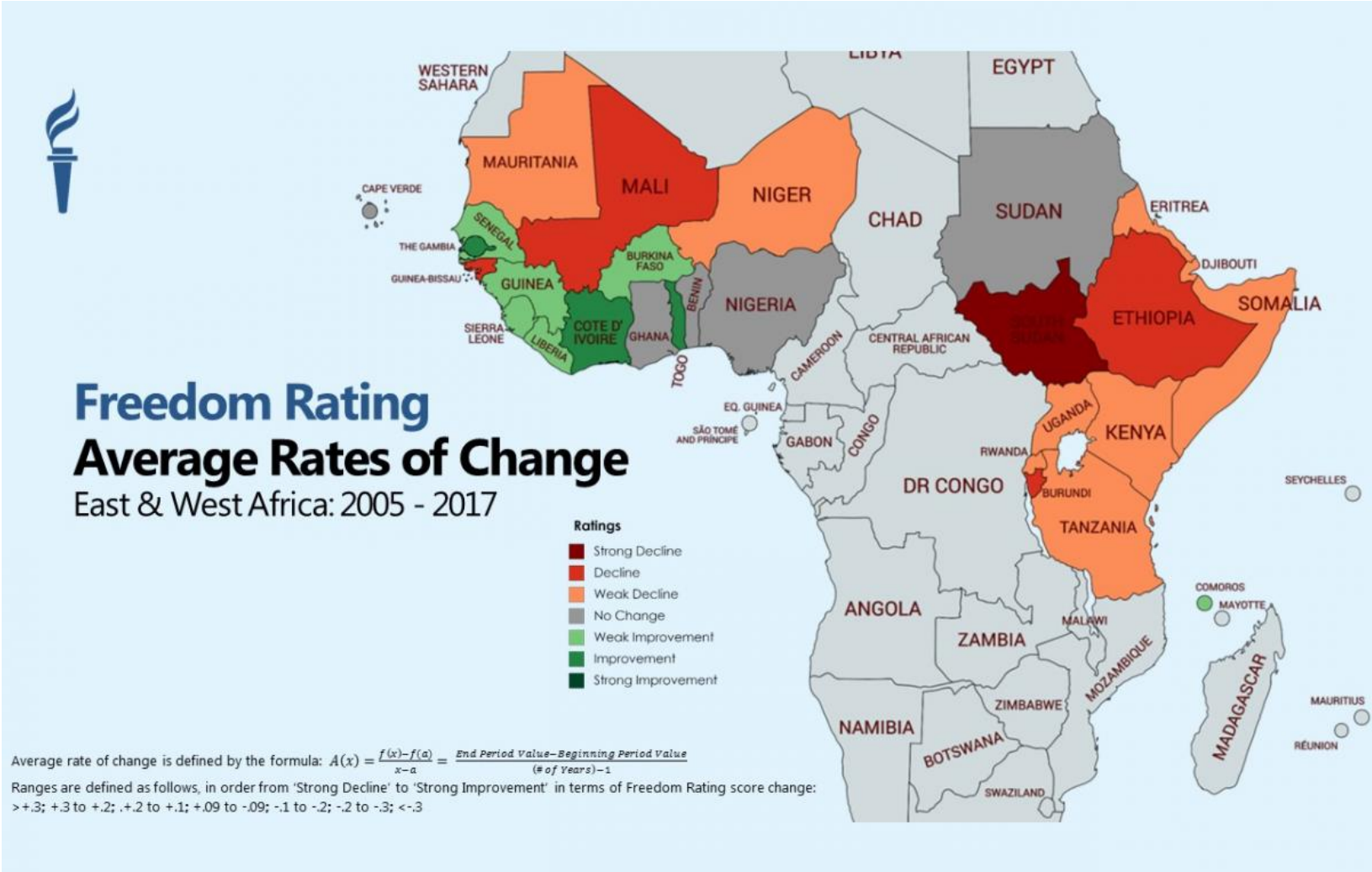
What is the condition of  
Africa's democracies  
according to Gyimah-Boadi?



# Democratic backsliding and authoritarian resurgence in Africa



# Geographic distribution of democratic backsliding in Africa

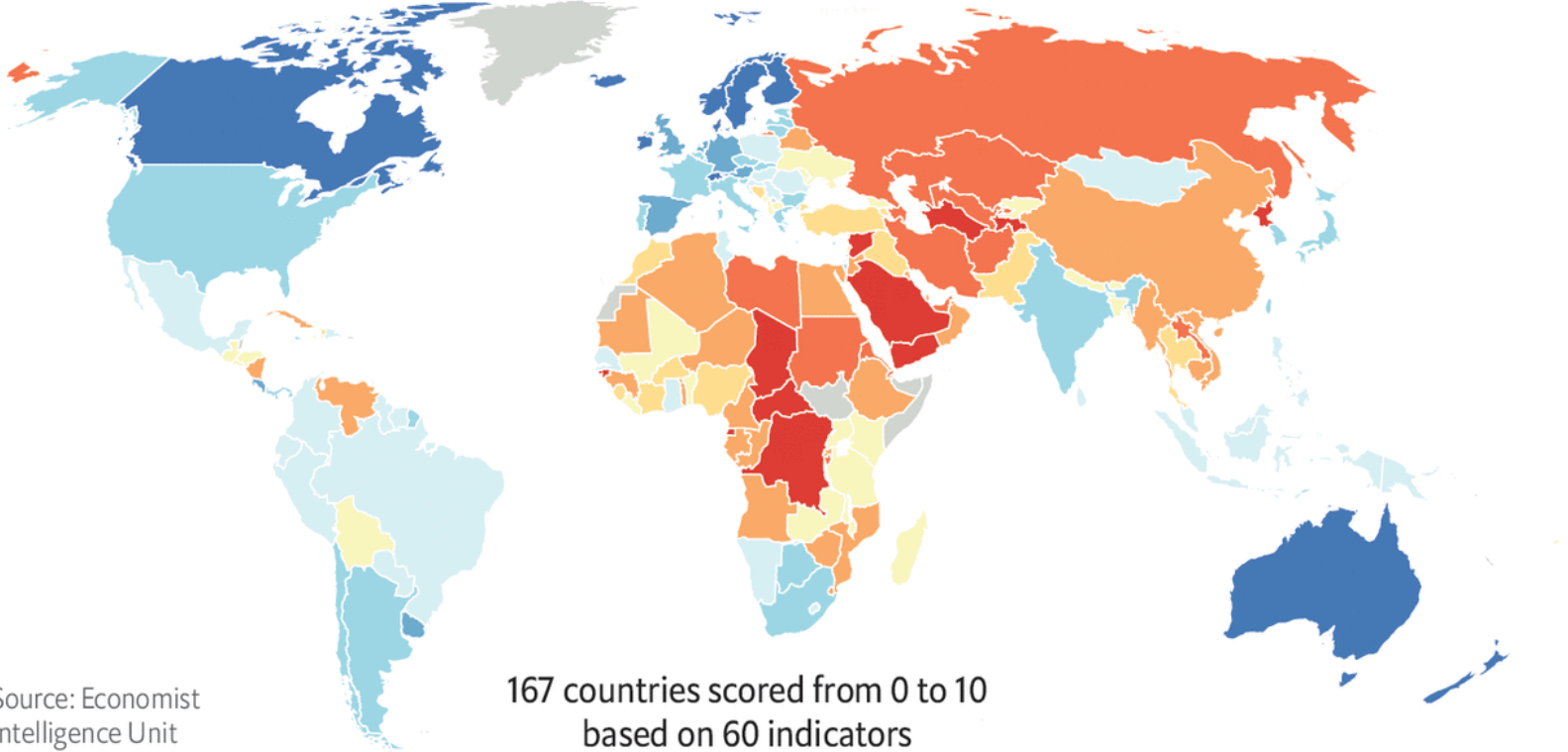




# Geographic distribution of democratic backsliding in Africa

## The Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index 2018

■ ■ ■ Authoritarian regime   ■ ■ ■ Hybrid regime   ■ ■ ■ Flawed democracy   ■ ■ ■ Full democracy



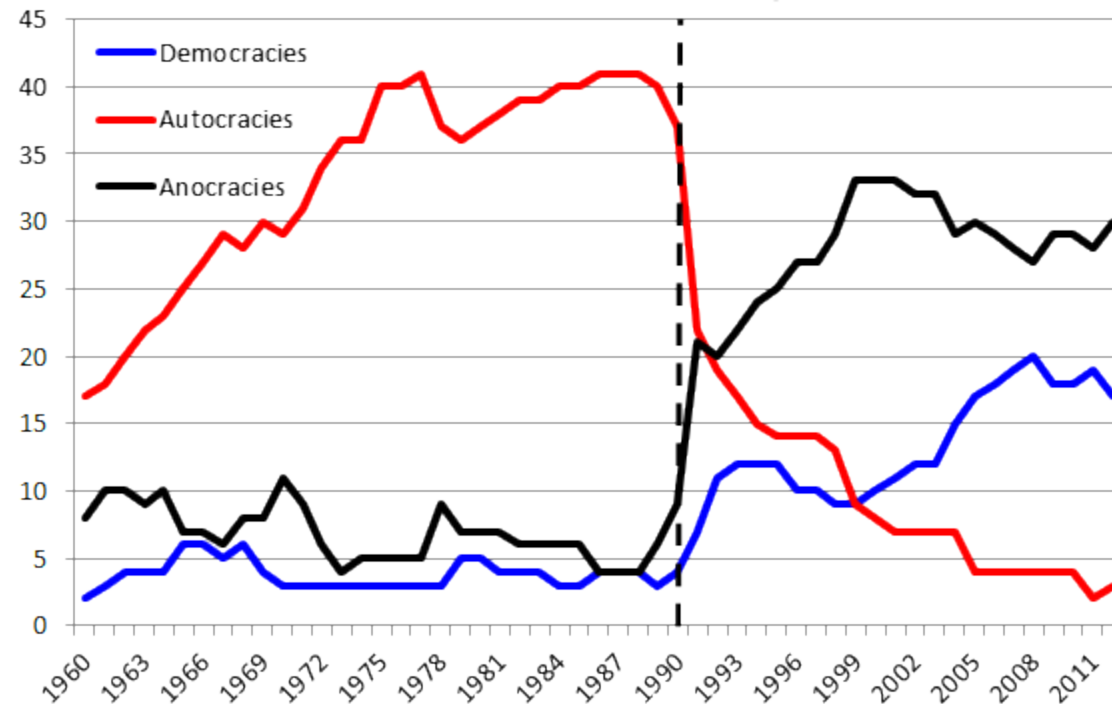
Source: Economist Intelligence Unit

167 countries scored from 0 to 10 based on 60 indicators

What are the advantages of studying democratic backsliding and authoritarian resurgence through an African lens?

# Advantage of the focus on Africa

- Variation in trends across otherwise relatively similar countries
- African rulers' expertise in authoritarian tactics



What is the relationship between democratic backsliding, the rise of inequality, and recent developmental trends?

# Democratic backsliding and development

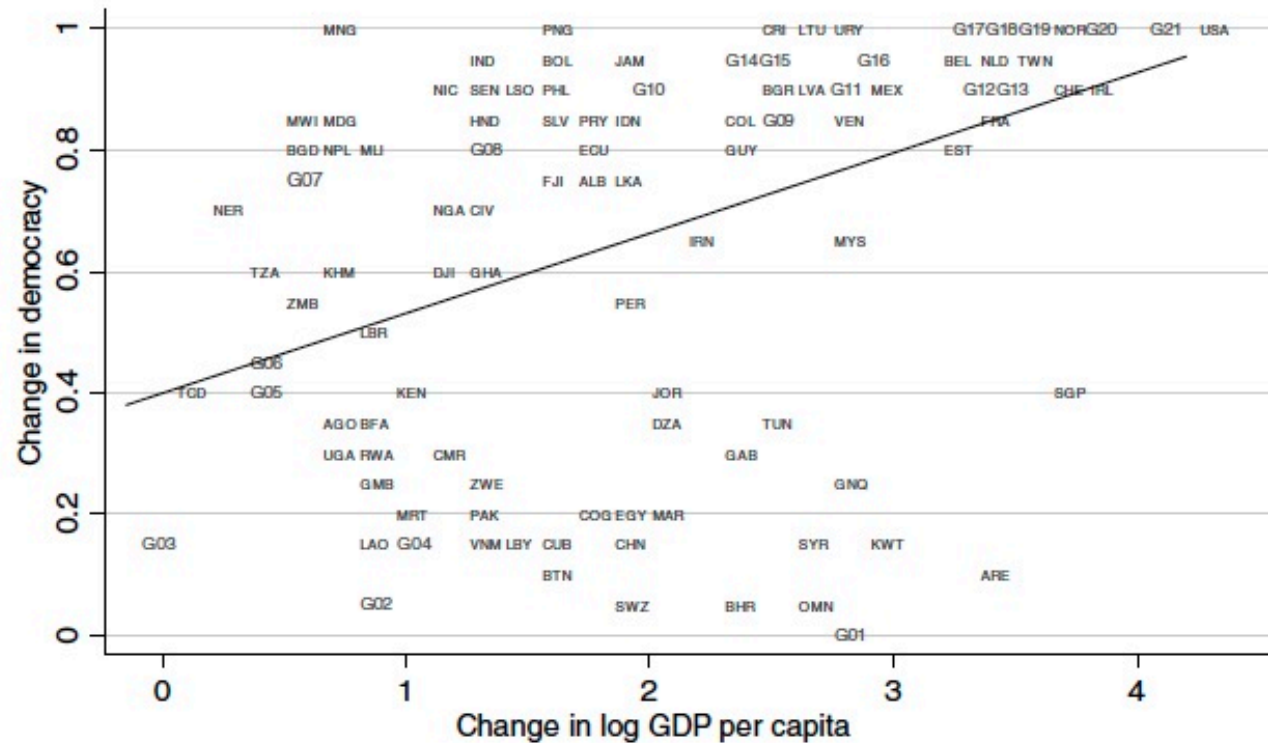


FIGURE 5. CHANGE IN DEMOCRACY AND CHANGE IN INCOME, 1500–2000



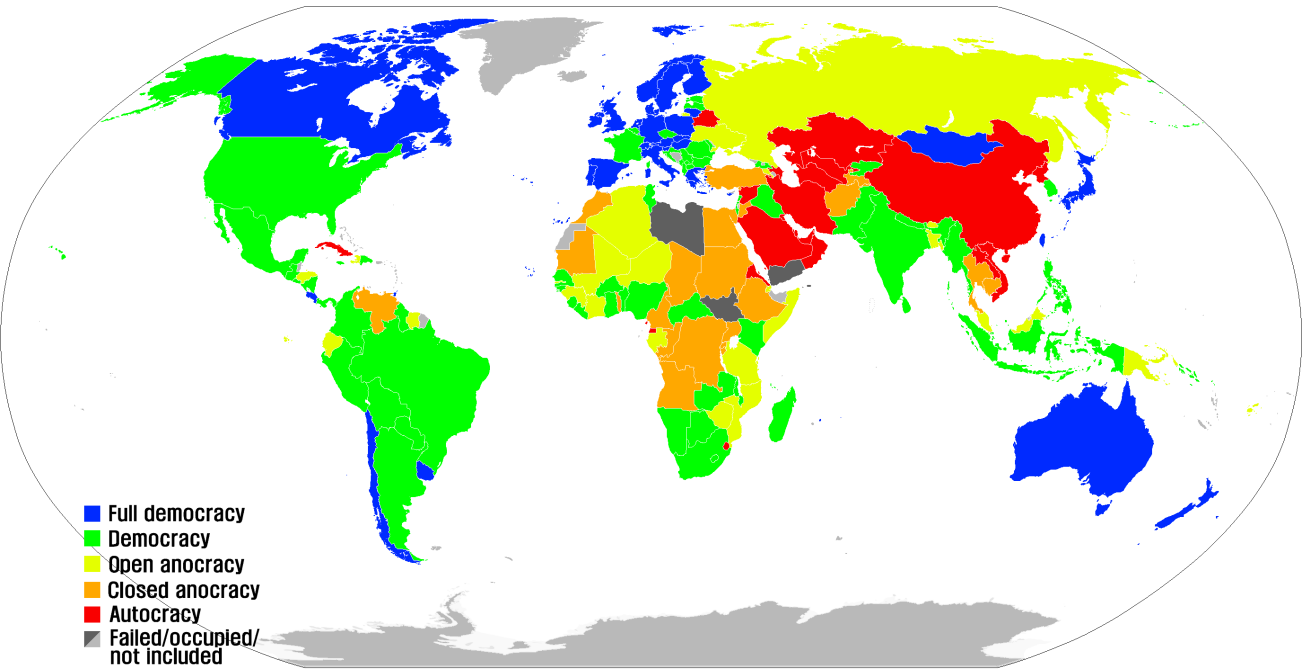
# Democratic backsliding and development

FIGURE 1: GDP PER CAPITA BEFORE AND AFTER A DEMOCRATIZATION.



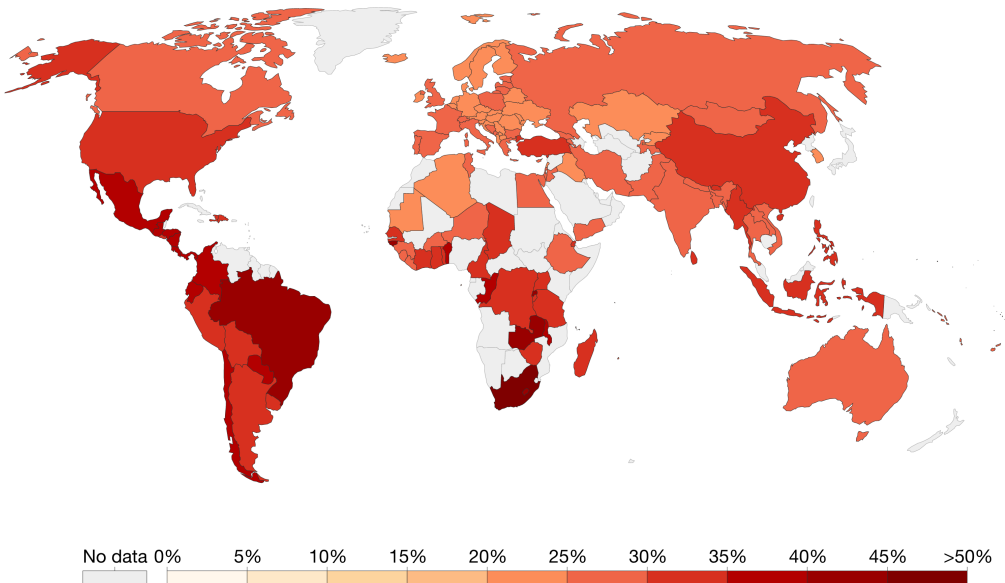
What mechanisms mediate the relationship between democratic backsliding and development

# Democratic backsliding and inequality



## Income share held by richest 10%, 2015

Percentage share of income or consumption accruing to the richest 10% of the population. In a country with 100 people, if you rank them by income the share of the top 10% corresponds to the sum of incomes of the top 10 people, as a proportion of total income in that country.



Source: World Bank

OurWorldInData.org/income-inequality/ • CC BY

# Democratic backsliding and inequality



Donald Trump (AP/Charles Krupa)

## Inequality leads to authoritarianism: Why Trump is acting like "a generalissimo with a giant brass eagle on his hat"

Inequality, bad trade deals, a system rigged for the rich: How's an autocratic billionaire positioned as a savior?



EDWARD MCCLELLAND

FEBRUARY 12, 2016 9:15PM (UTC)

### Trending Articles



Kavanaugh lied. Republicans don't care



EMTs under assault

How do governments get  
away with it?

Divide and rule

How do autocrats divide and  
rule according to  
Kendall-Taylor and Frantz?

# Divide and rule according to Kendall-Taylor and Frantz

- Autocrats' playbook:
  - Harnessing popular discontent to:
    - Undermine institutional constraints on authoritarian rule
    - Marginalize the opposition
    - Erode civil society
  - Installing loyalists in positions of power
  - Neutralizing media

## How Democracies Fall Apart

Why Populism Is a Pathway to Autocracy

By [Andrea Kendall-Taylor](#) and [Erica Frantz](#) December 5, 2016





# Divide and rule: alternative tactics

- Extraversion
- Patronage
- Identity mobilization
- Xenophobia
- Politics of sex
- State coercion