

Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem)

SND-ID: ext0121-1.

Associated documentation

comparisons_and_contrasts_v6.pdf (2.11 MB)

methodology_v6.pdf (2.36 MB)

VDem_Codebook.pdf (2.18 MB)

Download all files

ext0121-1-1.zip (~6.65 MB)

Creator/Principal investigator(s)

[Jan Teorell](#) - Lund University, Department of Political Science

[Staffan I. Lindberg](#) - University of Gothenburg, Department of Political Science

[John Gerring](#) - Boston University, Department of Political Science

[Michael Coppedge](#) - University of Notre Dame, Kellogg Institute for International Studies

[Svend-Erik Skaaning](#) - Aarhus University

Research principal

[University of Gothenburg](#) - Department of Political Science

Description

Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) is a new approach to conceptualizing and measuring democracy. It is a collaboration among more than 50 scholars worldwide which is co-hosted by the Department of Political Science at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden; and the Kellogg Institute at the University of Notre Dame, USA.

With four Principal Investigators, two Program managers, fifteen Project Managers, more than thirty Regional Managers, almost 200 Country Coordinators, and approximately 2,800 Country Experts, the V-Dem project is one of the largest social science data collection projects focusing on research.

V-Dem collects data for 350+ indicators across a wide range of democracy aspects. Electoral democracy is in the centre and linked to this concept we find six additional dimensions of democracy: liberal, majoritarian, deliberative, participatory, consensual and egalitarian. In addition to a number of main indices, data is broken down into a number of components that are available to the user along with all indicators. Through the unique character of the database, old and new questions about the nature, growth and survival of democracy can be tested in a way not possible before.

Data is available for 177 countries from 1900 to 2016. Altogether, the database consists of approximately 17 million data points. The database is updated annually and new datasets are launched every year in the spring.

The dataset is available for download here: <https://www.v-dem.net/en/data/data-version-7-1/>

The data can also be explored online via: <https://www.v-dem.net/en/analysis/>

Purpose:

The world's largest database on democracy. The database provides 350+ indicators for 177 countries 1900-2016.

Data contains personal data

No

Unit of analysis

[Geographic unit](#)

[Group](#)

[Event/Process/Activity](#)

Time Method

[Time series](#)

Sampling procedure

[Total universe/Complete enumeration](#)

Time period(s) investigated

1900 - Ongoing

Geographic spread

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

Geographic description: Worldwide

Responsible department/unit

Department of Political Science

Contributor(s)

University of Notre Dame, Kellogg Institute for International Studies

Research area

[Politics](#) (CESSDA Topic Classification)

[Conflict, security and peace](#) (CESSDA Topic Classification)

[Elections](#) (CESSDA Topic Classification)

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

[International politics and organisations](#) (CESSDA Topic Classification)

[Political behaviour and attitudes](#) (CESSDA Topic Classification)

[Political science](#) (Standard för svensk indelning av forskningsämnen 2011)

[Social conditions and indicators](#) (CESSDA Topic Classification)

Keywords

[Politics](#), [Political institutions](#), [Democracy](#), [Political change](#), [Democratization](#), [Political systems](#), [Political indicators](#), [Representative democracy](#), [Parliamentary systems](#), [Political issues](#), [Political, social and](#)

[economic issues](#)

Publications

Asante, R., Norman, M., Tzelgov, E., & Lindberg, S. I. (2012) "Media in West Africa: A Thematic Report Based on Data 1900-2012", V-Dem Thematic Report Series, No. 1, October 2013. Available online: <https://v-dem.net/DemoComp/en/images/TR001MediainWAfricav5.pdf>

Cornejo, R. C. & Coppedge, M. (2013) "El Salvador: A Country Report Based on Data 1900-2012", V-Dem Country Report Series, No. 5, November 2013. Available online: <https://v-dem.net/DemoComp/en/images/CR005ElSalvador.pdf>

Cornejo, R. C., Diop, A. S., & Coppedge, M. (2012) "Senegal: A Country Based Report Based on Data 1900-2012", V-Dem Country Report Series, No. 6, November 2013. Available online: <https://v-dem.net/DemoComp/en/images/CR006Senegal.pdf>

Hicken, A. (2012) "Myanmar/Burma: A Country Based Report Based on Pilot-Study Data", V-Dem Country Report Series, No. 001, February 2012. Available online: <https://v-dem.net/DemoComp/en/images/CR001Burmapilot2012.pdf>

Hliang, A. A., Teehankee, J., Wang, Y., Mechkova, V., Ciobanu, V., & Lindberg S. I. (2013) "Myanmar/Burma: A Country Report Based on Data 1900-2012", V-Dem Country Report Series, No. 4, November 2013. Available online: <https://v-dem.net/DemoComp/en/images/CR004Bur mav4.pdf>

Lindberg, S. I., & Boylan, J. C. (2013) "Ghana: A Country Report Based on Pilot-Study Data", V-Dem Country Report Series, No. 002, June 2012. Available online: <https://v-dem.net/DemoComp/en/images/CR002Ghanapilot2012.pdf>

Teehankee, J., Tiulegenov, M., Wang, Y., Ciobanu, V., & Lindberg, S. I. (2013) "Party System in South and Southeast Asia: A Thematic Report Based on Data 1900-2012", V-Dem Thematic Report Series, No. 2, October 2013. Available online: <https://v-dem.net/DemoComp/en/images/TR002PoliticalPartiesinSAv4.pdf>

Tiulegenov, M., Tzelgov, E., Mechkova, V., & Lindberg, S. I. (2013) "Georgia: A Country Based Report Based on Data 1900-2012", V-Dem Country Report Series, No. 3, October 2013. Available online: <https://v-dem.net/DemoComp/en/images/CR003Georgiav10.pdf>

If you have published anything based on these data, [please notify us](#) with a reference to your publication(s). If you are responsible for the catalogue entry, you can update the metadata/data description in DORIS.

Accessibility level

Access to data through an external actor
Data are freely accessible

Homepage

[V-Dem Version 6 \(March 2016\)](#)

[Varieties of Democracy](#)

Download metadata

[DataCite](#)

[DDI 2.5](#)

[DDI 3.3](#)

[DCAT-AP-SE 2.0](#)

[JSON-LD](#)

[PDF](#)

[Citation \(CLS\)](#)

[File overview \(CSV\)](#)