

Democracy Index 2010: **Democracy in Retreat**

An EIU webinar about the state
of democracy in the world

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What is being measured

- The overall Democracy Index is based on scores for 60 indicators in five different categories: electoral process and pluralism; civil liberties; the functioning of government; political participation; and political culture.
- Mix of objective indicators and expert assessment. Use of opinion surveys to gauge popular attitudes.
- Countries are placed within one of four types of regimes: “full democracies”, “flawed democracies”, “hybrid regimes” and “authoritarian regimes”.

Democracy Index – key findings 1

- Worldwide decline in democracy since 2008.
- Trend of backsliding in democracy has strengthened since the 2008-09 global economic crisis.
- The democracy score lower in 2010 than in 2008 in 91 countries out of the 167, although in most of these deterioration was modest. In 13 a change in regime type; 11 of these regressed.
- France, Italy, Greece and Slovenia dropped from “full democracies” to “flawed democracies”.
- Half of world’s population lives in a democracy, but only 12% reside in “full democracies”. More than one third lives under authoritarian rule.

Democracy Index – key findings 2

- Only 26 full democracies; 53 flawed democracies, 55 authoritarian and 33 hybrid regimes.
- Norway is now top-ranked, replacing Sweden.
- Decline in freedoms has accelerated since 2008. In 36 countries less media freedom in 2010 than 2008.
- The most pronounced decline in democracy after 2008 was in Eastern Europe.
- The US and the UK stay near the bottom of the full democracy category.
- The economic crisis has undermined further the credibility of efforts by West to promote its values.
- Confidence in political institutions has declined markedly in recent years in many countries.

Democracy in Asia

- Mixed performance. Asia's average democracy score lower in 2010 than in 2008, although more countries with a higher overall score in 2010 than in 2008 (13 countries)
- The region's breadth and diversity is evident—global rankings range from 5th to 167th.
- In only nine countries in the region do we rate elections as being both free and fair. Pressure on the independent media is widespread.
- More than half are “flawed democracies”.
- Democratic political cultures in Asia are often underdeveloped and shallow.
- The lowest-scoring category for most Asian countries is *Political participation*.

Asia: democracy scores and ranks

	Score	Global rank	Regime type
New Zealand	9.26	5	Full democracy
Australia	9.22	6	Full democracy
South Korea	8.11	20	Full democracy
Japan	8.08	22	Full democracy
Taiwan	7.52	36	Flawed democracy
India	7.28	40	Flawed democracy
Timor-Leste	7.22	42	Flawed democracy
Sri Lanka	6.64	55	Flawed democracy
Thailand	6.55	58	Flawed democracy
Papua New Guinea	6.54	59	Flawed democracy
Indonesia	6.53	60	Flawed democracy
Mongolia	6.36	64	Flawed democracy
Malaysia	6.19	71	Flawed democracy
Philippines	6.12	74	Flawed democracy

	Score	Global rank	Regime type
Hong Kong	5.92	80	Hybrid regime
Singapore	5.89	82	Hybrid regime
Bangladesh	5.87	83	Hybrid regime
Cambodia	4.87	100	Hybrid regime
Bhutan	4.68	102	Hybrid regime
Pakistan	4.55	104	Hybrid regime
Nepal	4.24	108	Hybrid regime
Fiji	3.62	119	Authoritarian
China	3.14	136	Authoritarian
Vietnam	2.94	140	Authoritarian
Afghanistan	2.48	150	Authoritarian
Laos	2.10	156	Authoritarian
Myanmar	1.77	163	Authoritarian
North Korea	1.08	167	Authoritarian

Democracy in Latin America

- Lower average score in line with global trend but still highest-scoring developing region.
- 17 out of 24 countries considered democratic (down from 20 in 2008) – but only Costa Rica and Uruguay are considered to be full democracies.
- Bolivia, Honduras and Nicaragua downgraded to hybrid regimes – no upgrades.
- Democracy being eroded by decline in media freedoms and weak institutional development.
- Key issue that is undermining democracy in parts of the region is an upsurge in violent crime.
- Latest trends in popular attitudes has been mixed.

LatAm: democracy scores and ranks

	Score	Global rank	Regime type		Score	Global rank	Regime type
Uruguay	8.10	21	Full democracy	Paraguay	6.40	62	Flawed democracy
Costa Rica	8.04	24	Full democracy	Peru	6.40	62	Flawed democracy
Chile	7.67	34	Flawed democracy	Dominican Rep.	6.20	70	Flawed democracy
Jamaica	7.21	43	Flawed democracy	Guatemala	6.05	75	Flawed democracy
Trinidad & Tobago	7.16	45	Flawed democracy	Guyana	6.05	75	Flawed democracy
Panama	7.15	46	Flawed democracy	Bolivia	5.92	80	Hybrid regime
Brazil	7.12	47	Flawed democracy	Ecuador	5.77	87	Hybrid regime
Mexico	6.93	50	Flawed democracy	Honduras	5.76	88	Hybrid regime
Argentina	6.84	51	Flawed democracy	Nicaragua	5.73	89	Hybrid regime
Suriname	6.65	54	Flawed democracy	Venezuela	5.18	96	Hybrid regime
Colombia	6.55	57	Flawed democracy	Haiti	4.00	111	Hybrid regime
El Salvador	6.47	61	Flawed democracy	Cuba	3.52	121	Authoritarian

Questions and Answers

Download the EIU's 2010 Democracy Index



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Thank you.

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