**Latana** 



## Democracy Perception Index 2022

The world's largest annual study on how

people perceive democracy

## State of Democracy

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## Threats to Democracy

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## Welcome

The Democracy Perception Index (DPI) is the world's largest annual study on how people perceive democracy, conducted by Latana in collaboration with the Alliance of Democracies. The 2022 edition offers an unprecedented comparison of global attitudes towards democracy since the beginning of the COVID crisis. Results are based on nationally representative interviews with over 52,785 respondents from 53 countries conducted between March 30th and May 10th, 2022.

The DPI was published ahead of the 2022 Copenhagen Democracy Summit to support the discussion on the global state of democracy.

- ► **52,785** respondents
- ► **53** countries
- Spring 2022
   March 30th May 10th, 2022
- ▶ 75%

of the global population represented

**Dr. Nico Jaspers** 

CEO at Latana

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### **Frederick DeVeaux**

Senior Researcher

### **Ekaterina Golovanova**

Graphic Design Lead

### **Angeley Mullins**

Chief Marketing Officer & Chief Growth Officer





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## Foreword

The Democracy Perception Index 2022 was published ahead of the 2022 Copenhagen Democracy Summit to support the discussion on the global state of democracy.



### "

The Democracy Perception Index 2022 shows that more people than ever want democracy. Putin's invasion of Ukraine has refocused people's minds and shows we can't take our freedom or liberties for granted. People around the world are demanding freedom of speech, fair elections, and equal rights.

### "

The war in Ukraine has also reinforced the bond across the Atlantic, with people in Europe recognising the continued value of US global leadership. People living in democracies want to see greater unity to push back against rising autocratic powers and demand that their governments do more to help Ukrainians in their fight for a democratic future.

### "

In these difficult times, the Democracy Perception Index is a vital tool to understand and strengthen democracy.

Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Chair of the Alliance of Democracies Foundation, former NATO Chief, and Danish Prime Minister



### "

Democracy is under threat. In many countries across the world, people feel that their governments are acting in the interest of a small elite, and economic inequality and corruption are among the biggest threats to democracy. If we want to ensure that democracy and freedom thrive in the 21st century, we have to fight for it - in Ukraine, in our own countries, and across the world. We have a lot of work ahead of us!

Dr. Nico Jaspers, CEO at Latana





## **Executive Summary**

The Democracy Perception Index (DPI) aims to understand how people around the world perceive the state of democracy in their country today and the major challenges that lie ahead. It is the largest annual study on people's perception of democracy, spanning 53 countries and representing over 75% of the world's population.

### State of Democracy

Over 90% of people say freedom of speech, fair elections, and equal rights are important People around the world have faith in democracy. A record number across the 53 countries say that democracy is important to have in their country (84%). When it comes to key components of democracy, the results are even more clear: over 90% say freedom of speech, fair elections, and equal rights are important to have in their country - a result that is similar in both democratic and non-democratic countries.

#### 41% of people feel their countries are not democratic enough

Governments, however, are not living up to the democratic expectations of their citizens: only a little more than half of the people that we polled are satisfied with the state of democracy in their country. Importantly, if people are dissatisfied it is because they want more democracy, not less: as many as 41% feel that there is not enough democracy in their country. The dissatisfaction is not limited to non-democratic countries but is also very prevalent in the United States, Europe, and other countries with a long democratic tradition.

Threats to Democracy

#### Economic inequality is the number one threat to democracy

Economic inequality is perceived to be the number one threat to democracy worldwide, followed by corruption and the influence of global corporations. Indeed, about half of the people around the world, in both democratic and non-democratic countries, feel that their government is acting only in the interest of a small group of people.

### When it comes to social media platforms and their impact on democracy, people are divided

On one hand, a large majority of people living in democracies outside of Europe and North America view social media as having a positive impact. On the other hand, attitudes in many western democracies, particularly in Europe and North America, are either mixed or negative and have declined significantly over the past two years since 2020. In the United States, more people now say that social media platforms have a negative impact than positive.

### Global Challenges

#### War is the number one global challenge

War and violent conflict is currently seen as the most important global challenge, followed by poverty and hunger, COVID, and climate change. At the national level, most people want their governments to focus more on poverty reduction, corruption, and economic growth - and the preferences are surprisingly similar in democratic and non-democratic countries. Despite 30% of the world saying that climate change is one of the world's top three biggest challenges, only 14% of people say fighting climate change should be among the top three priorities for their government.

#### 31 of 52 countries surveyed are in favor of cutting ties with Russia

When asked if they think their countries should cut economic ties with Russia over its invasion of Ukraine, people in 31 out of the 52 countries surveyed are more in favor of cutting ties than against cutting ties.

#### 46% say that the EU, US, and Nato are doing too little to help Ukraine

The vast majority of people around the world support assistance to Ukraine. Nearly half (46%) globally say that the European Union, United States, and NATO are doing too little to assist Ukraine during the Russian invasion, while 43% said that they are doing the right amount, and only 11% said that they are doing too much.



## **Executive Summary**

## Global Challenges

26 of 52 countries surveyed are in favor of cutting ties with China if it invades Taiwan When asked about cutting economic ties with China if it were to invade Taiwan, more people say their country should cut ties rather than keep ties in half of the countries surveyed (26 out of 52). These countries include many of China's top trading partners such as the United States, Japan, South Korea, and Germany, and collectively account for over 53% of China's total trade, or \$2.3 trillion.

Support for cutting economic ties with Russia and China, however, reveals a significant global divide between western democracies, on one hand, particularly the United States and in Europe, where support is quite high, and most of the rest of the world, where support is quite low.

## Perception of Global Powers

#### ▶ 51 of 53 countries surveyed have a positive view of the EU

People in almost all countries surveyed have generally positive perceptions of the European Union, the United Nations, and the United States, and generally negative perceptions of Russia. When it comes to perceptions of China, however, the world is divided: on one hand, western democracies, particularly the United States, European countries, Japan and South Korea, have negative views of China, while the rest of the world has more mixed or positive views.

Out of the 53 countries surveyed, 51 countries have a net positive perception of the EU, 50 have a net positive perception of the UN, 45 of the United States, 22 of China, and only 11 of Russia.

#### Most countries see the US as a driver of global democracy

The United States is seen as having a positive influence on global democracy by most countries around the world, particularly in Latin America, Asia, and several Eastern European countries such as Poland and Ukraine.

Perceptions of US influence by people in Western European countries, however, are either mixed or even negative. These perceptions have shifted in opposite directions over the past year: on one hand, the more critical attitudes in Western Europe have improved significantly, while the more positive attitudes in the rest of the world have decreased.

#### China and Russia have very favorable views of each other

Public attitudes between China and Russia are very favorable and reciprocal. People in both countries have positive views of each other's countries, and overwhelmingly prefer keeping economic ties over cutting ties. They also both share very negative attitudes towards the United States and are the only two countries surveyed to have generally negative perceptions of the European Union.

## Democracy under COVID

53% of respondents are still concerned about limited freedoms due to COVID, especially in the United States

A majority of people in most countries are now satisfied with how their governments are handling the Covid-19 pandemic. While satisfaction has increased significantly in Europe and the United States since the spring of 2021, it is still far lower than in most countries in Asia and Latin America.

Despite relatively high levels of satisfaction with governments' response to COVID, the concern that governments have limited freedoms too much during the pandemic is still high and widespread, with a little over half of the respondents globally expressing concern (53%), especially in the United States.



#### **CHAPTER I**

## State of Democracy

According to Freedom House, 2022 marks the 16th consecutive year that democracy is in decline globally. This first chapter examines how people worldwide think about the current state of democracy in their country.

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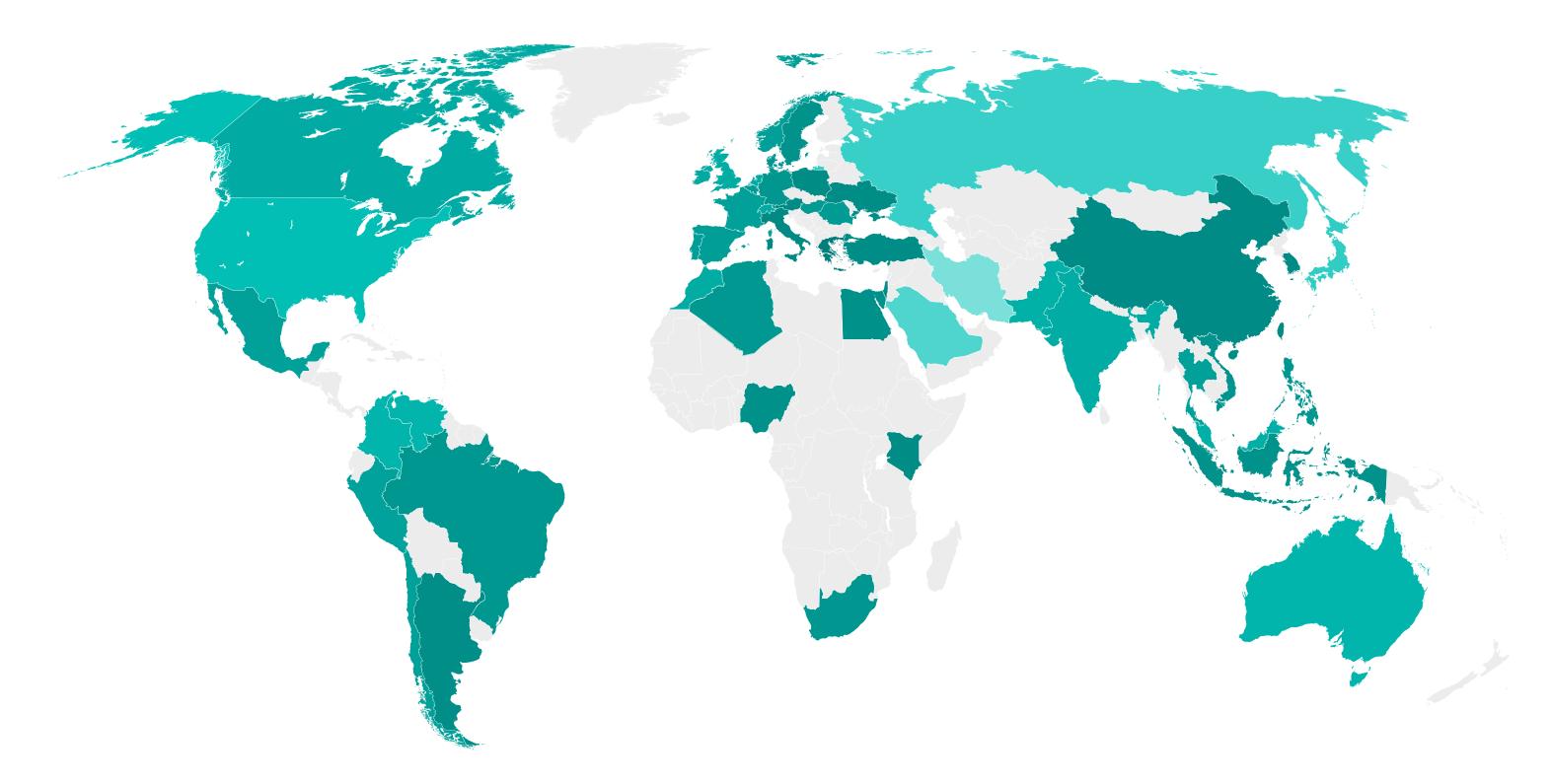
DEMOCRACY PERCEPTION INDEX 2022

## Importance of Democracy

Despite the 16th consecutive year of decline in global freedom according to Freedom House, the vast majority of people worldwide consistently say that democracy is important to have in their country (84%).

### Democracy is important for people around the world

% say that it is important to have democracy in their country



0%

### **KEY FINDINGS**

## **Democracy is important**

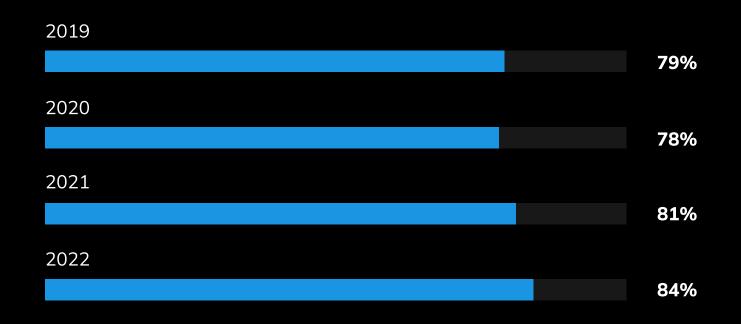
Across the 53 countries surveyed in the Democracy Perception Index (DPI) study, an average of 84% of people say that democracy is important to have in their country, ranging from 96% in the birthplace of democracy, Greece, to 61% in Iran. This is a majority opinion in all countries.



### TREND

## Global faith in democracy remains high

Over the past four years, global faith in democracy has remained consistently high globally.



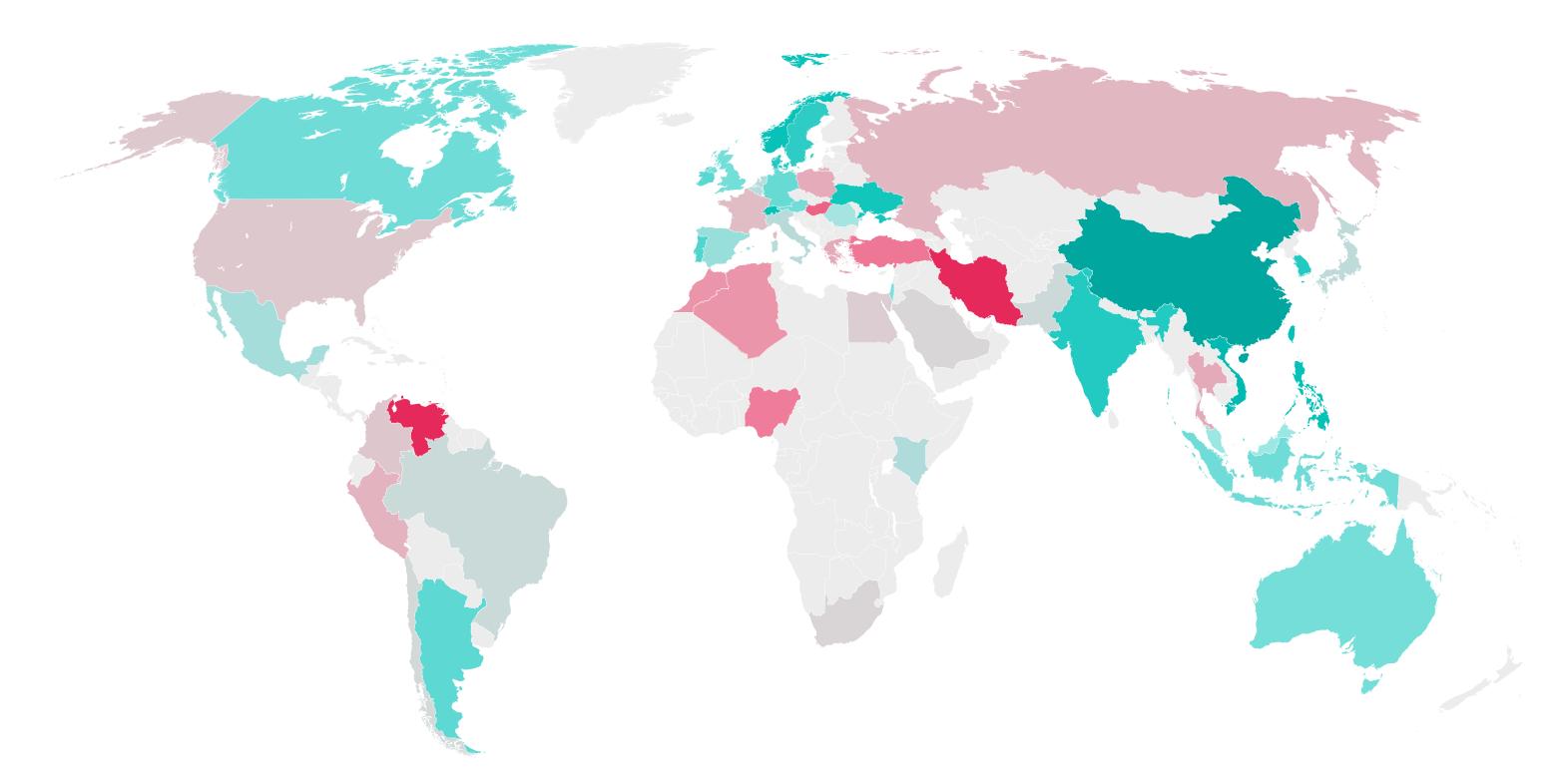
🜔 Latana

## **Democracy Today**

When asked how democratic people think their country currently is, only about half the world (56%) says that their country is actually democratic. This is true even in democracies labeled as "free" by Freedom House, where only 59% say that their country is democratic.

### People don't think their countries are very democratic - even in democracies

% say that their country is currently democratic



#### **KEY FINDINGS**

# Only about half the world (56%) says their country is democratic

The countries considered most democratic by their citizens are China\*, Vietnam, and Taiwan.

Out of all countries labeled as "free" democracies by Freedom House, Greece is considered the least democratic by its people (44%).

### METHODOLOGY

#### How the DPI categorizes democracies:

In order to compare public opinion results between more democratic countries and less democratic countries, the DPI uses the 2021 categories from Freedom House to create two groups:

"Free" - the most democratic countries, labeled as "Free" by Freedom House

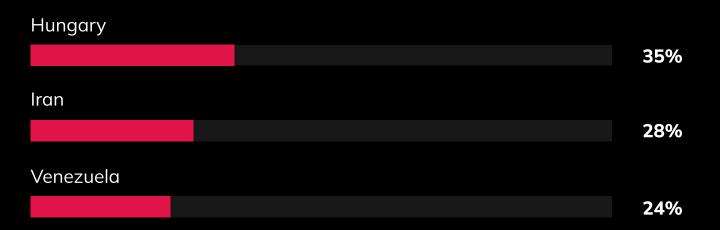
"Less Free" - less democratic countries and non-democratic countries, labeled as either "Partially Free" or "Not Free" by Freedom House

#### Most democratic

0%



#### Least democratic



\*In some countries surveyed the government plays an active role in shaping public opinion and/or has policies in place that restrict freedom of speech around certain topics. This can have a strong influence on the survey results

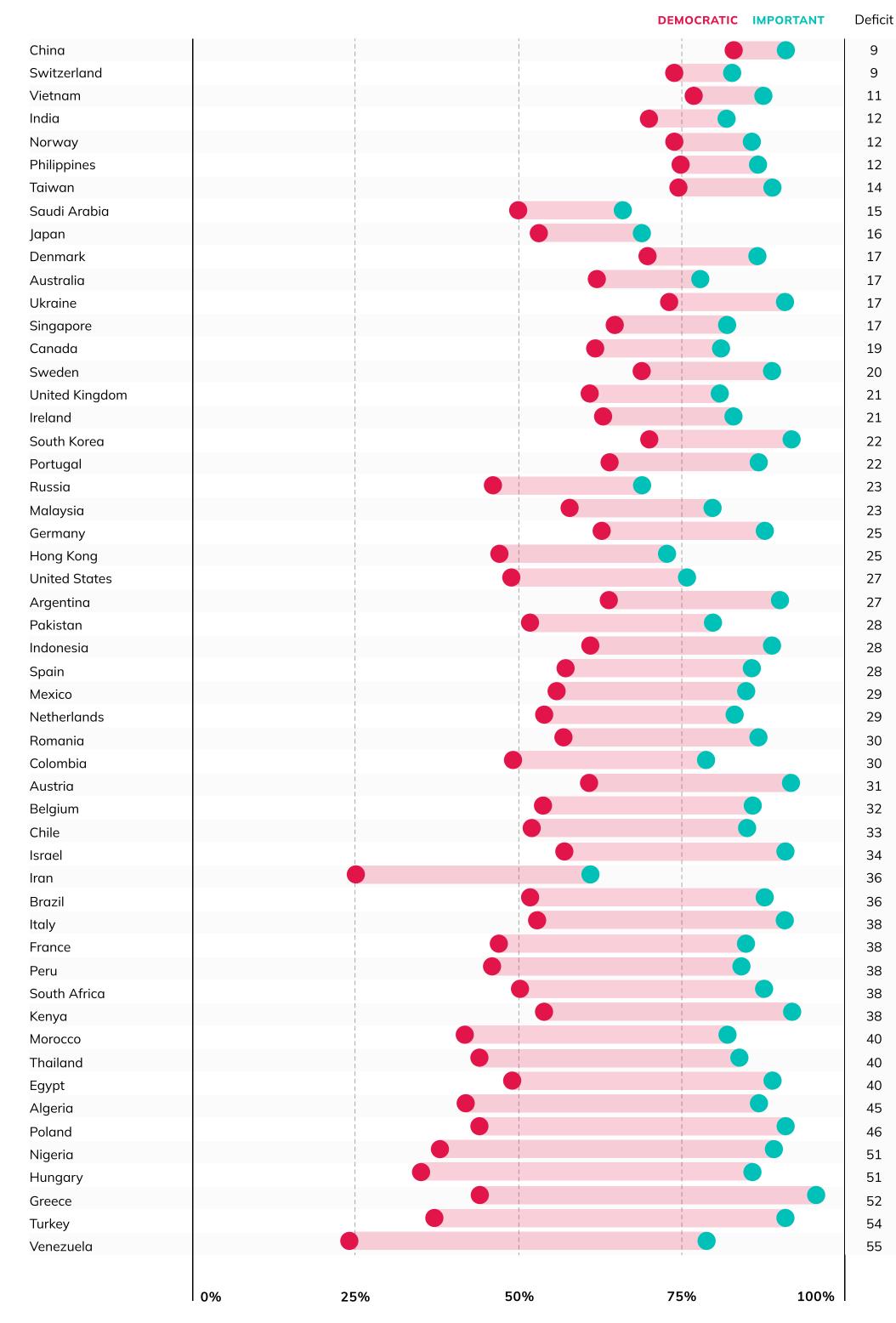


## **Perceived Democratic Deficit**

To capture public dissatisfaction with the state of democracy, the DPI measures the difference between how important people say democracy is and how democratic they think their country is. This difference is called the Perceived Democratic Deficit. The larger the deficit, the more governments are failing to live up to the democratic expectations of their citizens.

### Governments are not living up to the democratic expectations of their citizens

% say that democracy is important vs. % say that their country is democratic

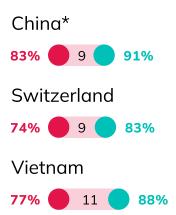


#### **Perceived Democratic Deficit**

No country is fully living up to the democratic expectations of its citizens in other words, no country has a Perceived Democratic Deficit of 0.

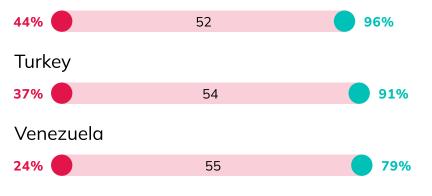
However, some countries are much closer to fulfilling their citizens' expectations than others.





Largest Deficit

Greece



#### TREND 2021 VS 2022

The Perceived Democratic Deficit has increased significantly in France (+11), Turkey (+10), and Greece (+8) since 2021.

\*In authoritarian countries, positive perceptions might result from different conceptions of democracy, high levels of government satisfaction, or fear of speaking out against the government.

In your opinion, how important is it for your country to be a democracy? 0 - not at all important; 10 - very important

Think about your country today. How democratic do you think it is?0 - not at all democratic; 10 - very democratic

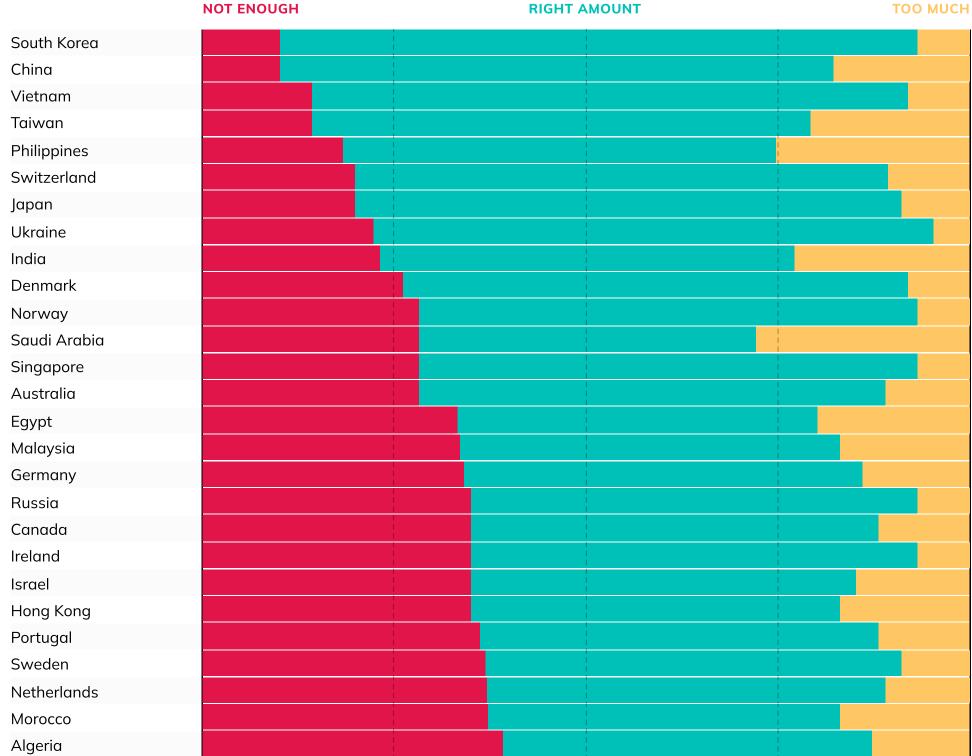


## **Desire for More Democracy**

Across the 53 countries surveyed, 41% of people say there is "not enough democracy" in their country, while 47% say there is the "right amount" and only 12% say there is "too much".

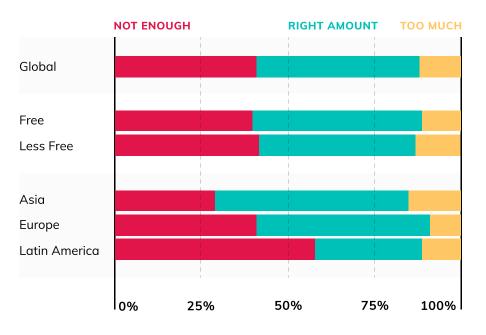
### 41% of people say there is "not enough democracy" in their country

% say there is not enough", the "right amount" or "too much" democracy in their country



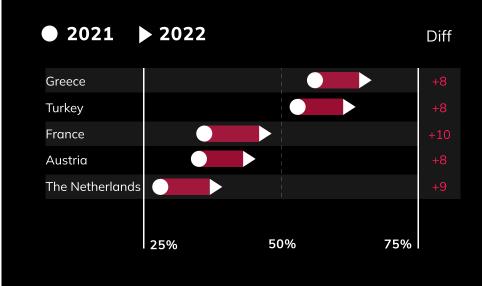
### Dissatisfaction with the level of democracy is highest in Latin America - and lowest in Asia

The feeling that there is "not enough democracy" is highest in Latin America (58%), then Europe (41%), and lowest in Asia (29%).



TREND 2021 VS 2022

The sentiment that there is "not enough democracy" has increased most in Greece, Turkey, France, Austria, and the Netherlands, since 2021



Algenu					
United Kingdom					
Pakistan					
Argentina					
Belgium					
Austria					
France					
Romania					
United States					
Spain					
Kenya					
Italy					
Chile					
South Africa					
Mexico					
Iran					
Brazil					
Thailand					
Colombia					
Poland					
Hungary					
Turkey					
Greece					
Peru					
Venezuela					
Indonesia					
Nigeria					
	0%	25%	50%	75%	100%

Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

I think there is not enough democracy in my country

I think there is the right amount of democracy in my country I think there is too much democracy in my country

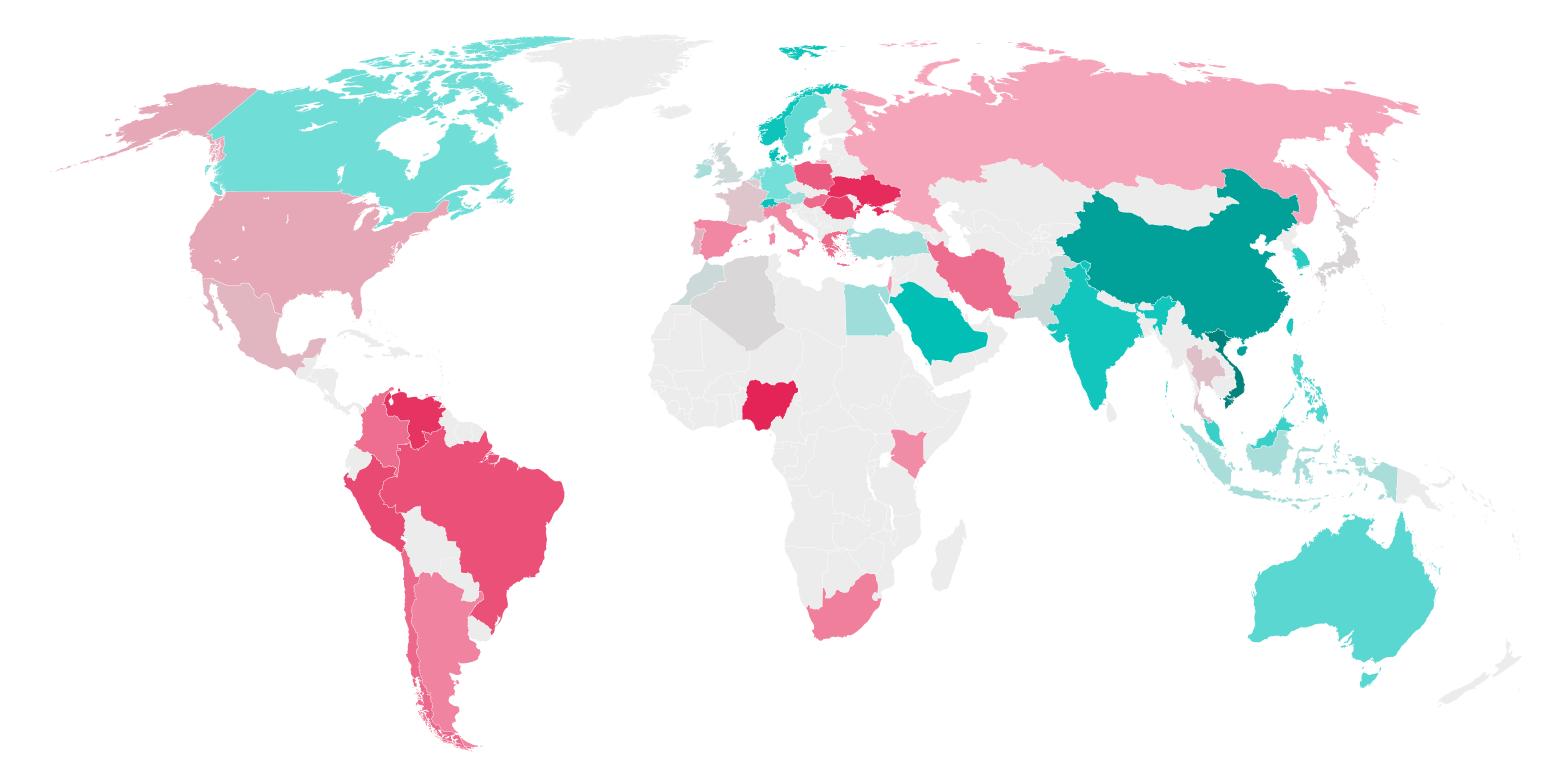


## **Government Accountability**

Across the 53 countries surveyed, an average of 49% of people say that their government mainly serves the interest of a minority even in democracies. This sentiment is most prevalent in the Latin American countries surveyed (66%) and the US (63%) and Europe (51%), and least prevalent in Asian countries (33%), particularly China (7%).

### Half of the world says their government only serves a minority

% say their government usually acts in the interest of a "small group of people"



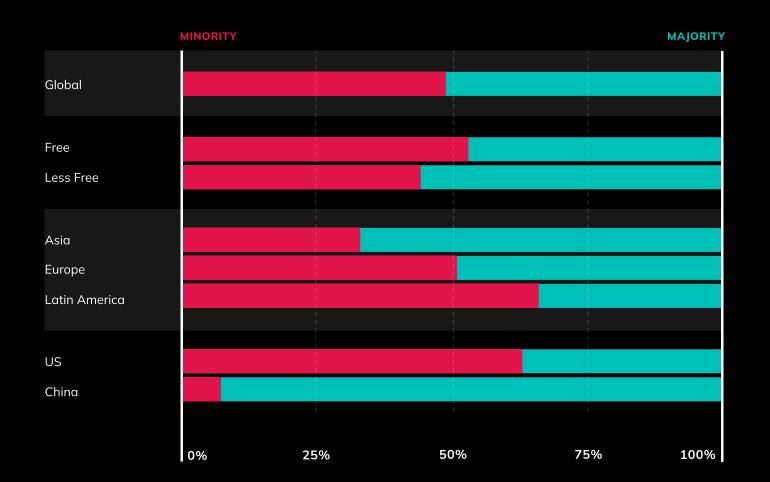
... most people in my country

100%

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

## People in Latin America are most likely to say that their government serves a minority

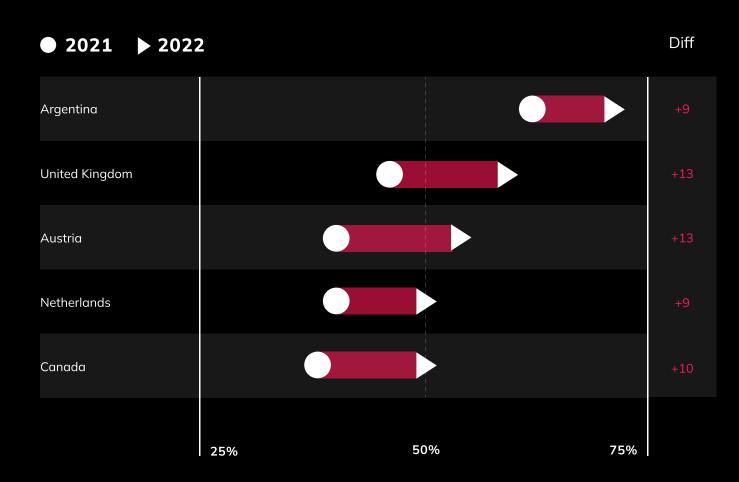
% say their government acts in the interest of...



#### TREND 2021 VS 2022

## Top 5 countries where the sentiment has grown most since last year

% say their government mainly acts in the interest of a small group of people





#### **DEEP DIVE**

## State of Democracy in America

The past two years (2020-2022) have put democracy to the test in America. While Americans have not lost faith in the importance of democracy, they increasingly feel that there is not enough democracy in their country and that the government mainly acts in the interest of a small group of people.

Out of all "free" democracies surveyed in 2022, Americans are the most likely to say that they do not have free speech (32%), the second most likely to say they don't have fair elections (31%), and the fourth most likely to say they don't have equal rights (42%).



#### **KEY FINDINGS**

### Americans still have faith in democracy

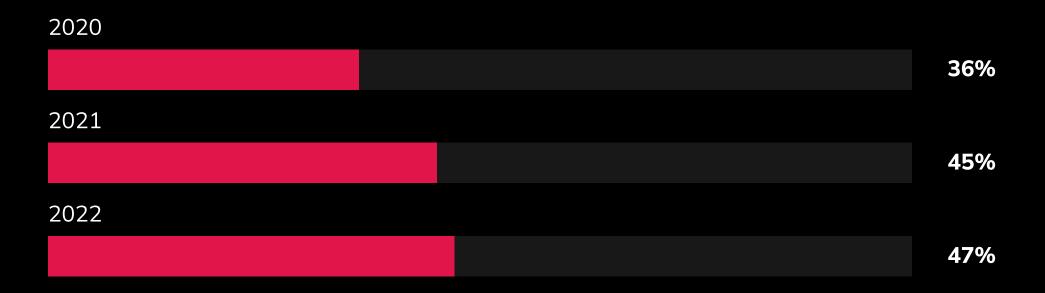
A vast majority of Americans consistently say that it is important to have democracy in their country.



However, more and more Americans say there is "not enough

### democracy"

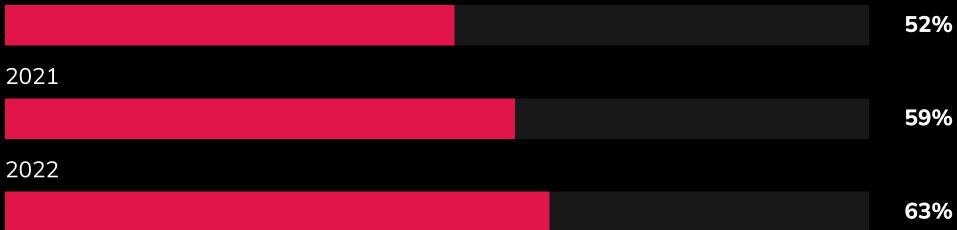
This has increased significantly from 36% in 2020 to 45% in 2021 to 47% in 2022.



## A growing number of Americans believe that their government mainly acts in the interest of a minority

Since 2020, the share of people in the US who say that their government mainly acts in the interest of a minority has grown from 52% to 63%.



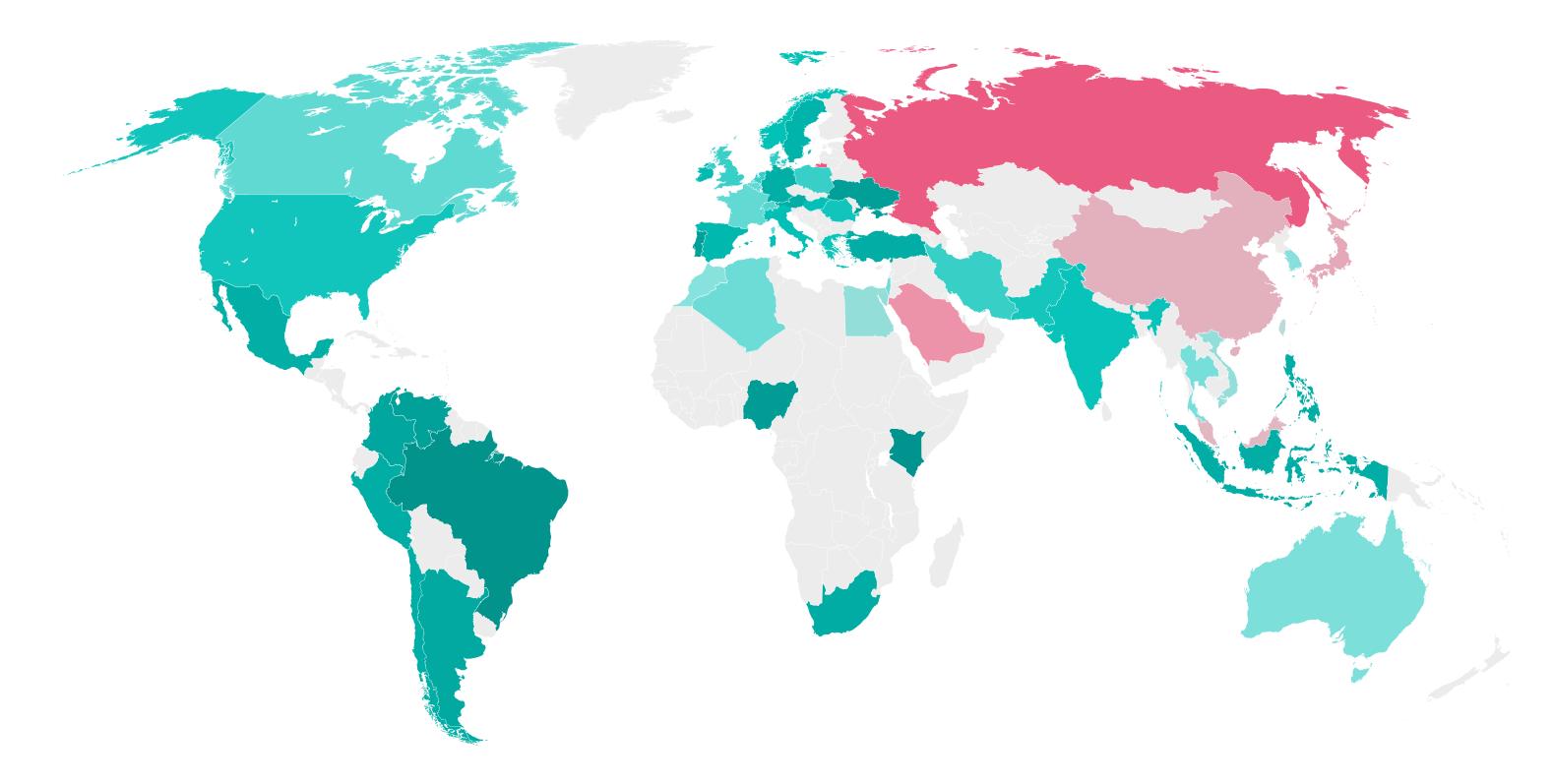


## Free Speech

Most of the world (69%) thinks that it is very important for everyone in their country to be able to freely express their opinions on social and political topics, ranging from Brazil (89%) to Russia (33%).

### Freedom of speech is important for most people around the world

% say it is very important that everyone can express their opinions freely



0%

100%

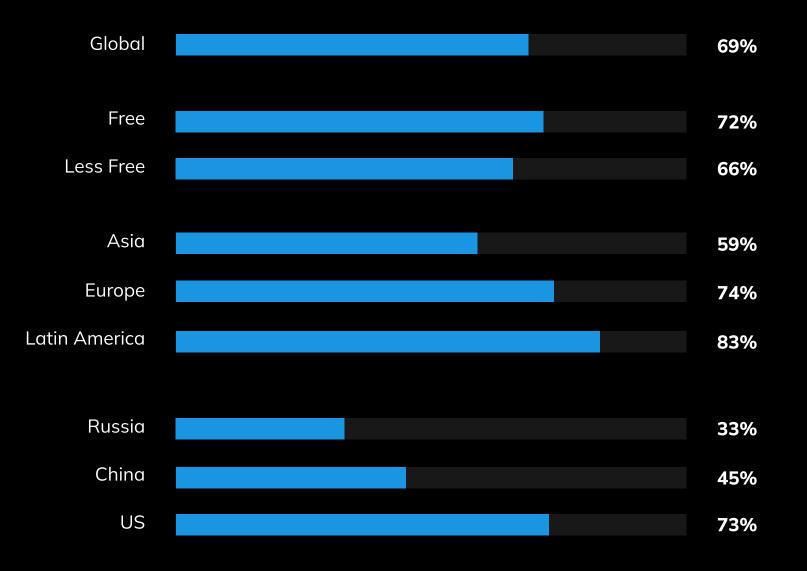
### **KEY FINDINGS**

## There are striking regional differences in how people value free speech

The differences range from 83% in Latin American countries to 59% in Asian countries, and as low as 33% in Russia.

There are only a few countries where less than half of the population says that free speech is very important. These countries are Russia, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Japan, China, and Malaysia.

Among "free" democracies, the countries where the smallest share of people say that free speech is very important are Japan (44%), Taiwan (54%), and South Korea (59%).

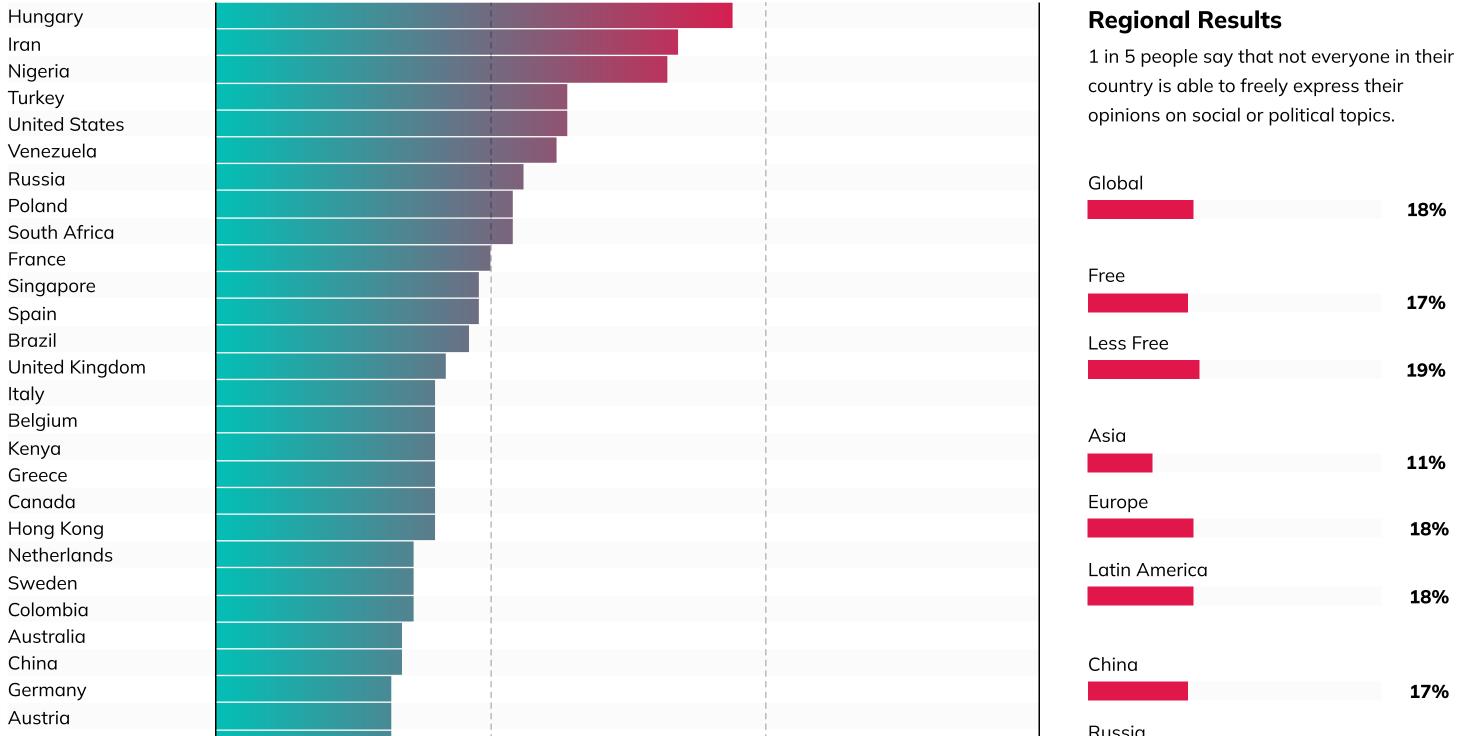


## Free Speech: Assessment

Around the world, nearly 1 in 5 people say that not everyone in their country is able to freely express their opinions on social or political topics. This sentiment is just as prevalent in "free" democracies (17%), most notably in the US (32%).

### 18% of people around the world say that they don't have free speech in their country

% disagree\* that everyone in their country is able to expres their opinions freely



Massia				
Mexico				
Japan				
Egypt				
Chile				
Ireland				
Saudi Arabia				
Pakistan				
Malaysia				
Romania				
Israel				
Argentina				
Portugal				
Peru				
Indonesia				
Denmark				
India				
Algeria				
Norway				
Switzerland				
South Korea				
Thailand				
Philippines				
Morocco				
Taiwan				
Vietnam				
Ukraine				
	0%	25%	50%	75%
	· U 70	2370	50 %	7 5 70

Think about your country today. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Everyone in my country can freely express their opinion on political and social topics"? Strongly agree / Somewhat agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Somewhat disagree / Strongly disagree

\*Disagree includes "Somewhat disagree" and "Strongly disagree"

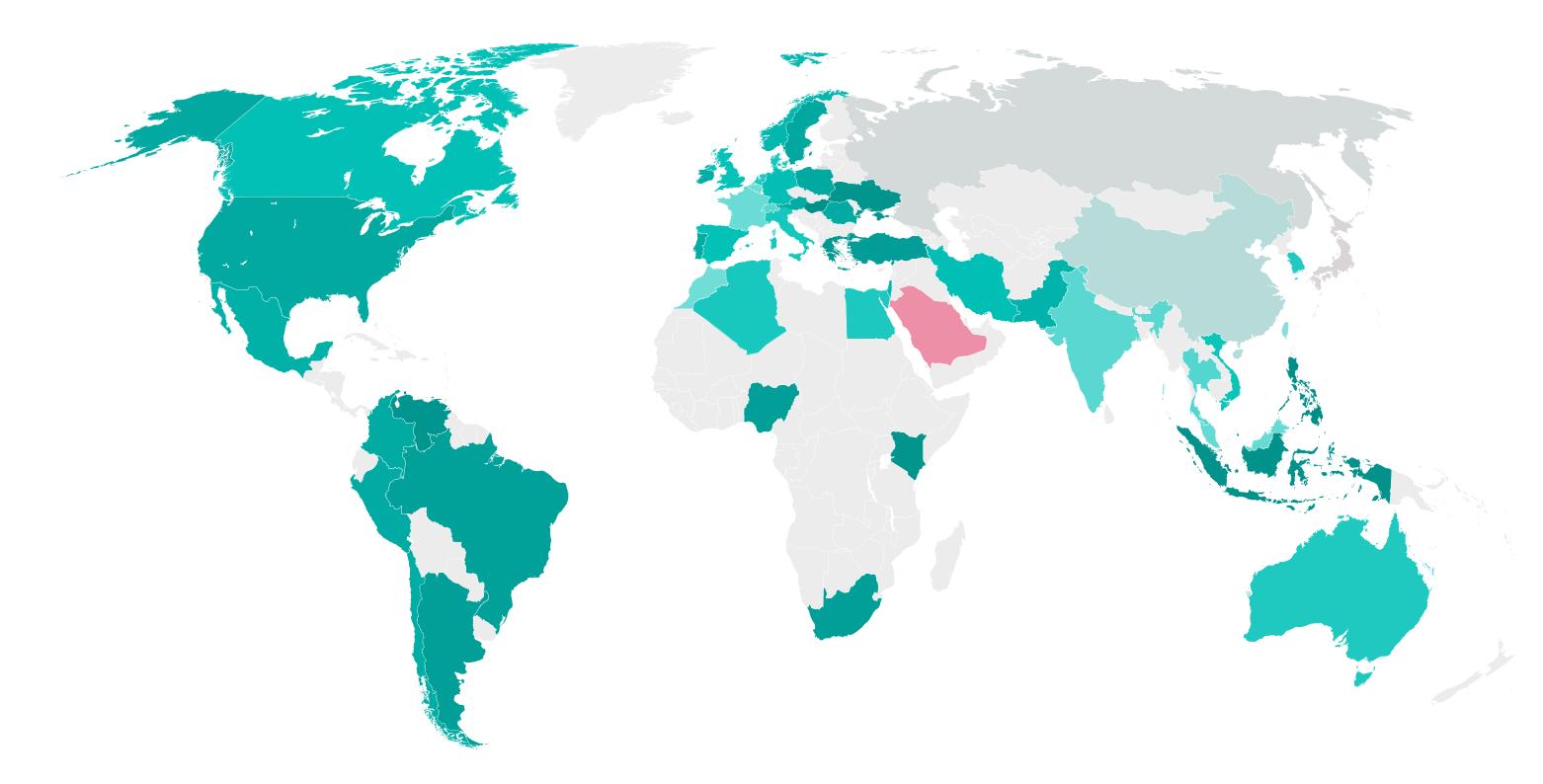


## **Fair Elections**

On average, 74% of people around the world say that it's very important to have free and fair elections in their country. It is a majority position in all countries except for Saudi Arabia, where only 41% agree.

### Vast majority say that free and fair elections are very important

% say that it is important to have free and fair elections



How important is it for you that political leaders in your country are elected in free and fair elections? Very important / Somewhat important / Somewhat unimportant / Very unimportant / Don't know

#### 100%

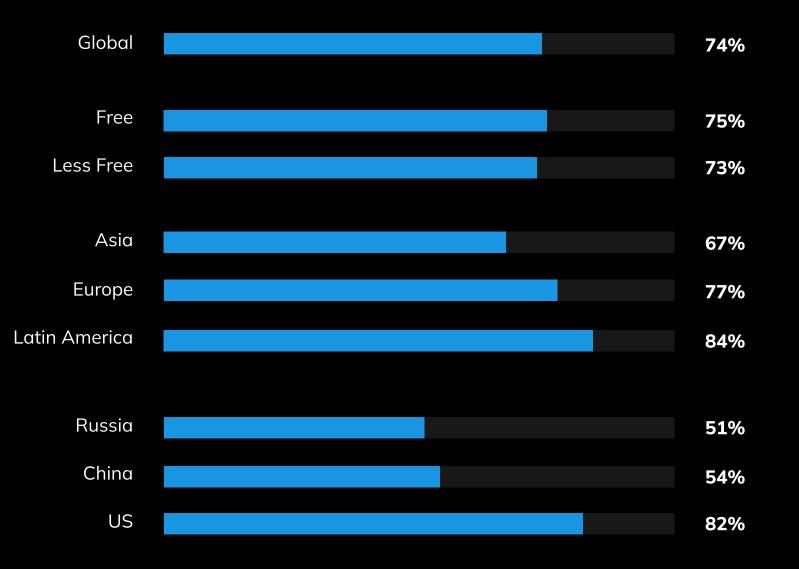
#### **KEY FINDINGS**

## There are regional differences in how people value fair elections

More people were likely to say that free and fair elections are very important in Latin America (84%) and Europe (80%) than in the Asian countries surveyed (67%).

The three countries where the smallest share of people say that free and fair elections are very important are Saudi Arabia (41%), Japan (50%), and Russia (51%).

Among "free" democracies, the countries where the smallest share of people say that fair elections are very important are Japan (50%), Taiwan (59%), and France (63%).

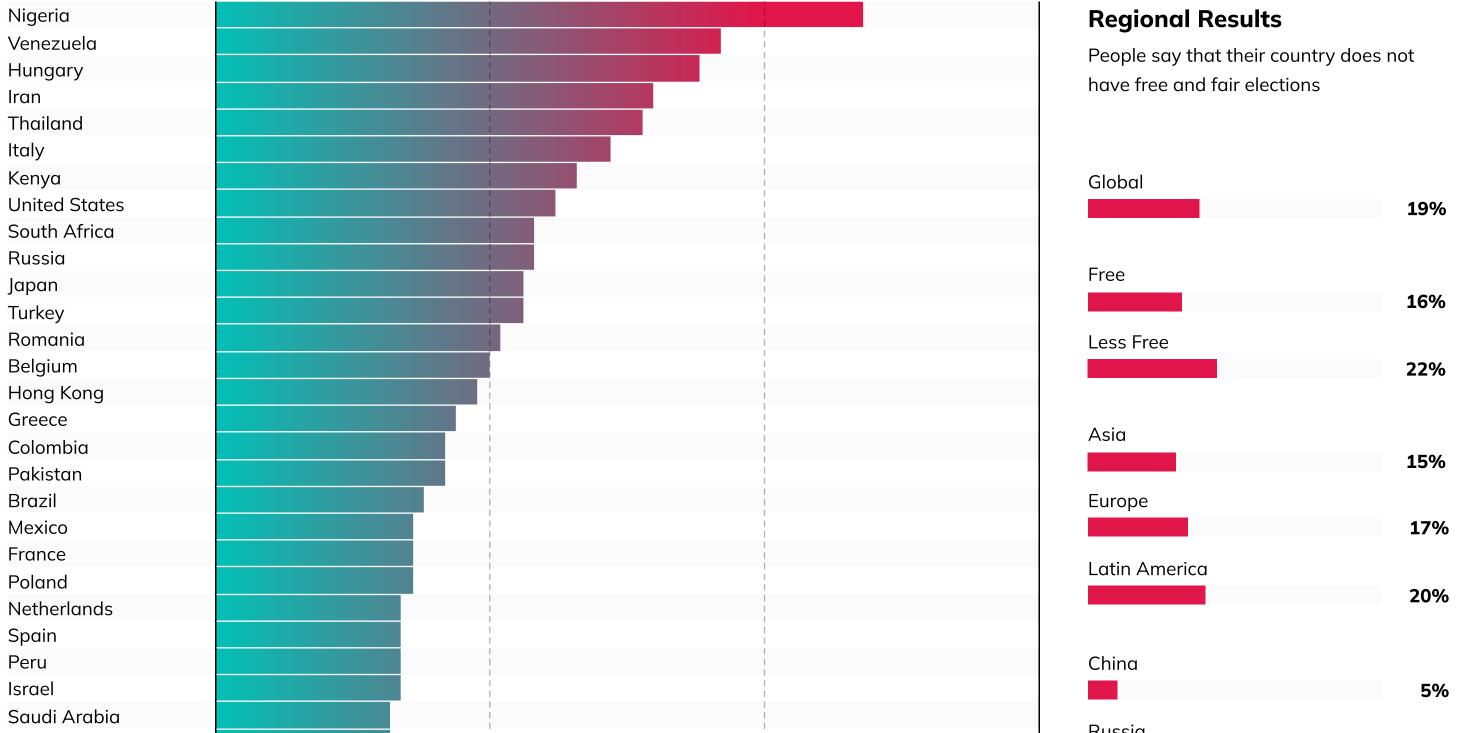


## Fair Elections: Assessment

As many as 19% of people globally say that political leaders in their country are not elected in free and fair elections, a sentiment shared even by people in "free" democracies (16%), led by Italy (36%) and the US (31%).

### **1** in **5** people say that they don't have free and fair elections

% disagree\* that politicians in their country are elected in free and fair elections



	0%	25%	50%	75%
Denmark				
'ietnam				
China				
Jkraine				
Switzerland				
Norway				
Chile				
Faiwan				
Sweden				
Germany				
Philippines				
South Korea				
ndonesia				
Argentina Portugal				
Australia				
Singapore				
Aorocco				
Austria				
ndia				
Egypt reland				
Jnited Kingdom				
Algeria				
Aalaysia Canada				

Think about your country today. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Political leaders in my country are elected in free and fair elections"? Strongly agree / Somewhat agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Somewhat disagree / Strongly disagree

\*Disagree includes "Somewhat disagree" and "Strongly disagree"



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29%

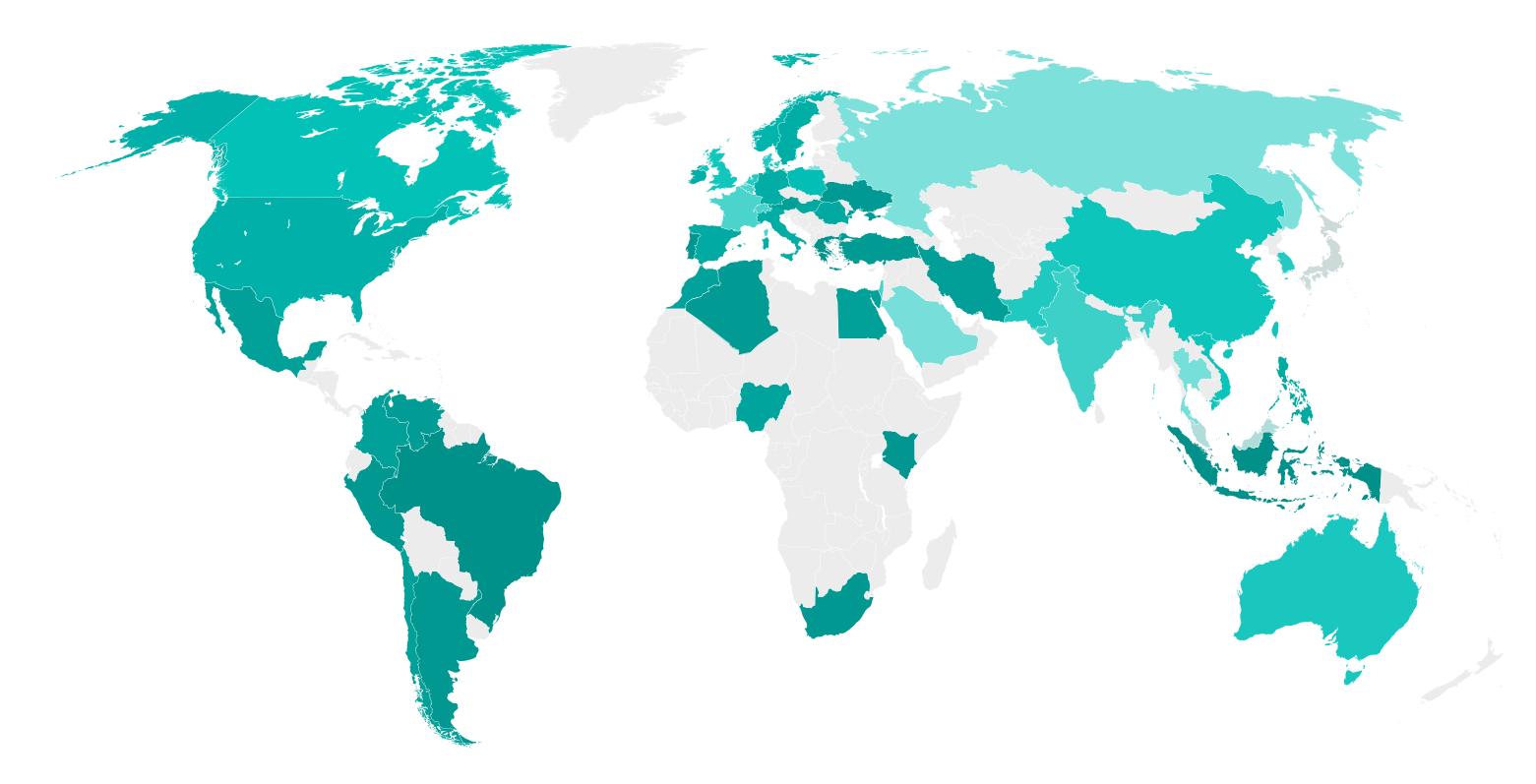
31%

## **Equal Rights**

Over three-quarters of people around the world say that it is very important for everyone to have equal rights in their country (77%). This is a majority position in every country surveyed, ranging from 89% in Brazil to 52% in Japan.

## Majorities in all countries say equal rights are very important

% say it is very important that everyone in their country is equal before the law and has the same basic rights



100%

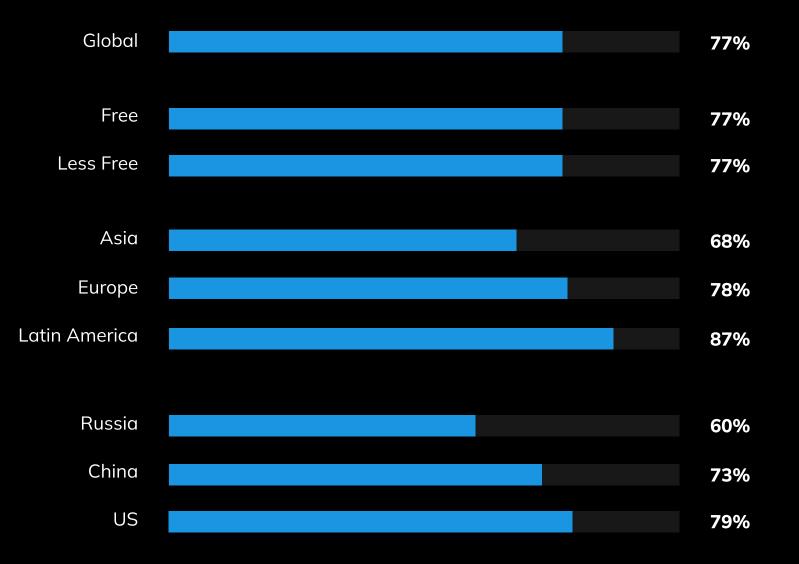
0%

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

# Regional differences in how people value equal rights

Similarly to free speech and fair elections, equal rights are most highly valued in the Latin American populations surveyed (87%), followed by Europe (78%) and Asia (68%).

Among "free" democracies, the countries where the smallest share of people say that equal rights are very important are Japan (52%), Switzerland (66%), and France (66%).



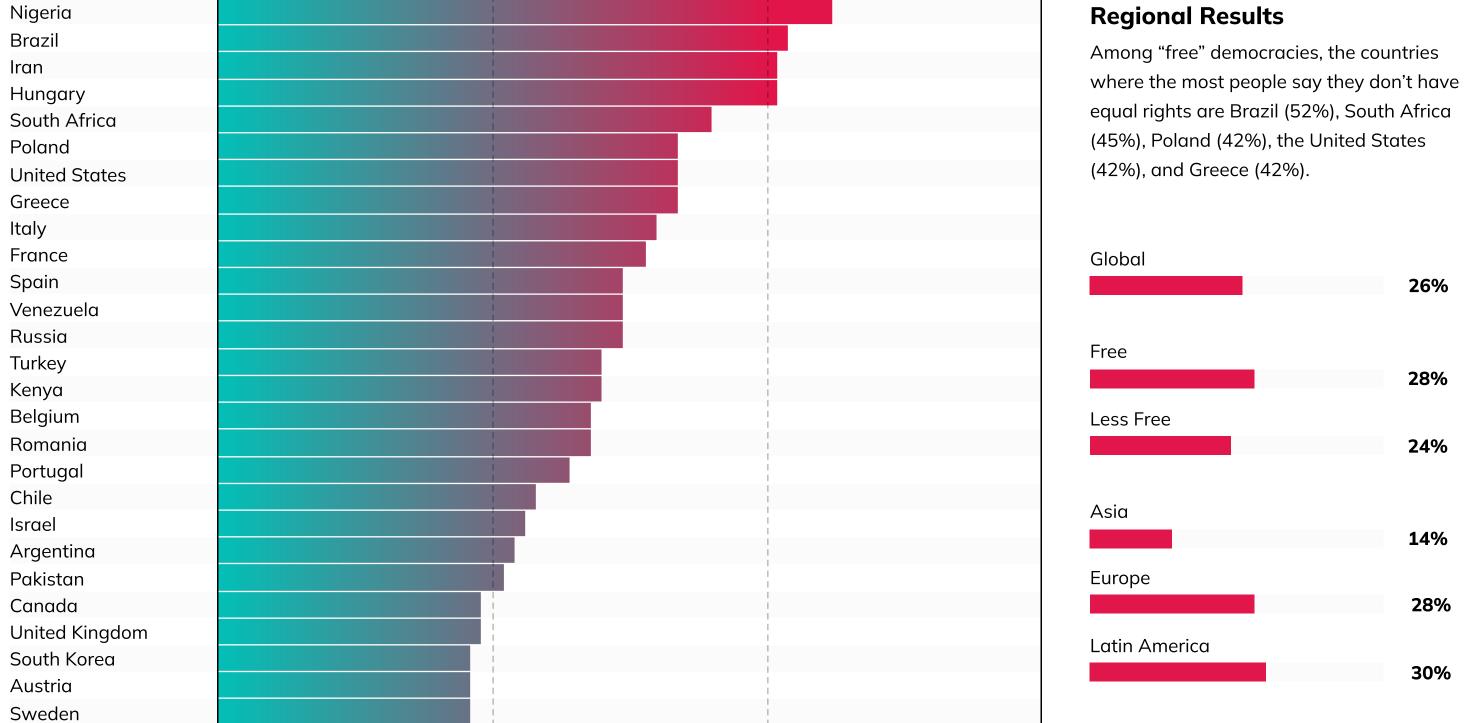


## Equal Rights: Assessment

Up to 26% of people say that not everyone in their country is equal before the law or has the same basic rights, ranging from as high as 56% in Nigeria to as low as 4% in Vietnam.

### 26% of people say that not everyone has equal rights in their country

% disagree\* that everyone is equal before the law and has the same basic rights in their country



	0%	25%	50%	75%
viction				
Vietnam				
China				
Taiwan				
Singapore Saudi Arabia				
India				
Norway				
ndonesia				
Switzerland				
)enmark				
hailand				
Philippines				
lorocco				
letherlands				
Ikraine				
geria				
ermany				
1alaysia				
long Kong				
Australia				
Egypt				
apan				
Peru				
reland				
<i>A</i> exico				
Colombia				
reuen				

Think about your country today. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Everyone in my country is equal before the law and has the same basic rights"? Strongly agree / Somewhat agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Somewhat disagree / Strongly disagree

\*Disagree includes "Somewhat disagree" and "Strongly disagree"



## Threats to Democracy

To better understand why democracy is in global decline, this chapter asks people from around the world what they see as the most important threats to democracy in their country. It covers the following topics:

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## **Threats to Democracy**

According to Freedom House, 2022 marked the 16th consecutive year that democracy is in decline globally. This chapter aims to shed a light on the reasons why democracy is under threat according to people from around the world.

The results show that out of all the threats listed in the DPI, economic inequality is viewed as the most significant threat among the 43 democracies\* surveyed: an average of 68% say that economic inequality threatens democracy in their country.

#### % agree\* that \_\_\_\_\_ is a threat to democracy in their country Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Economic Inequality 68 "Democracy in my country is threatened by ..." "... economic inequality" Corruption 66 "... the influence of Big Tech companies (Google, Amazon, Apple, Facebook)" "... limitations on free speech" Global Corporations 60 "... election interference from foreign powers" "... unfair elections and/or election fraud" "... corruption" "... the influence of global corporations" Free Speech Limits 56 Strongly agree / Somewhat agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Somewhat disagree / Strongly disagree Foreign Election Interference 56 \*Agree includes "Strongly agree" and **Big Tech** 48 "Somewhat agree" \*Democracies include countries rated as "Free" Unfair Elections / Election Fraud and "Partly Free" by Freedom house. Countries 48 THREAT rated as "Not Free" are excluded. 0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

### Economic Inequality is viewed as the biggest threat to democracy worldwide



DEMOCRACY PERCEPTION INDEX 2022

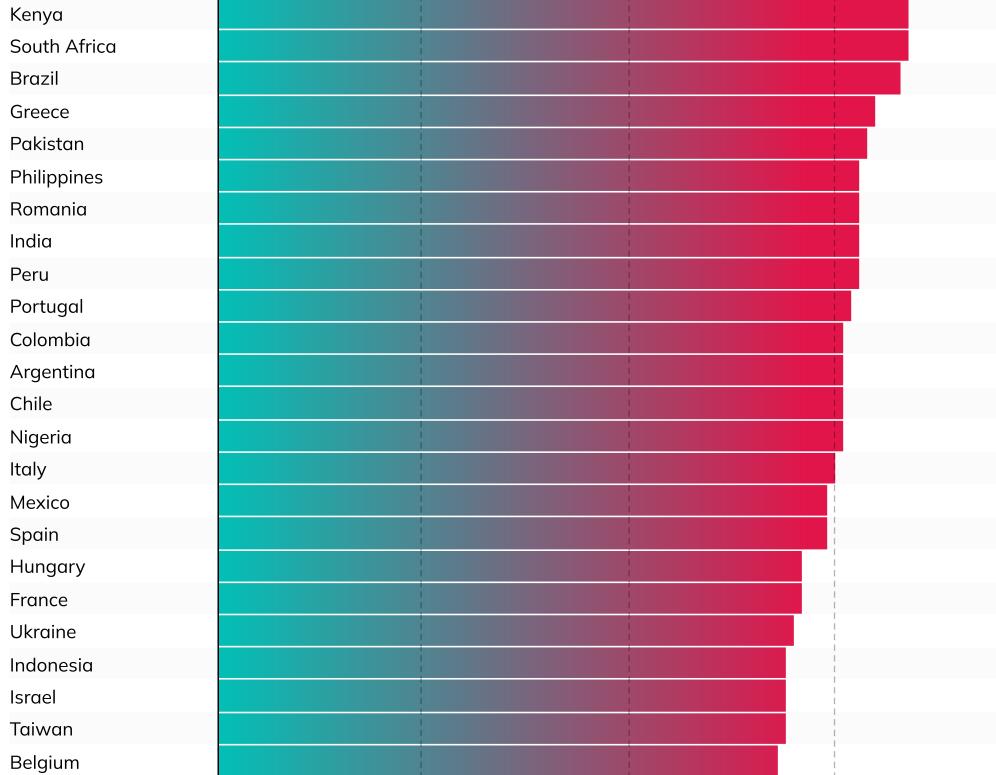
21

## **Economic Inequality**

The vast majority of people in almost all democracies (68%) say that economic inequality is a threat to democracy in their country.

### Majority of people in almost all countries say that economic inequality is a threat to democracy

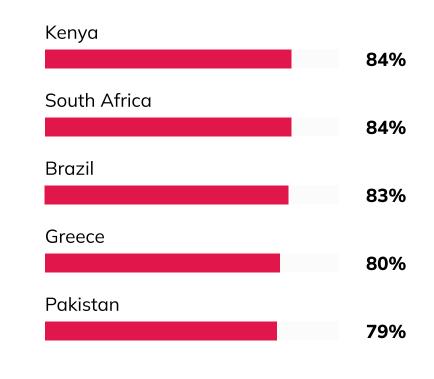
% agree\* that economic inequality is a threat to democracy in their country



#### **Regional Results**

The concern with economic inequality is highest in the two African democracies surveyed (84%), followed by the Latin American democracies (77%) and then Asia (68%), and Europe (65%).





**Lowest Threat** 

Switzerland

	0%	25%	50%	75%	100%		
Norway						Free" are excluded.	
Denmark						"Partly Free" by Freedom house. (	
Austria						*Democracies include countries re	ated as "Eree" and
Germany							
Switzerland							
Singapore							
Australia							
Sweden							
Morocco							
Canada							
South Korea							48%
Netherlands						Norway	
Japan							50%
United States						Denmark	
Ireland							51%
Hong Kong						Austria	
United Kingdom							51%
Malaysia						Germany	
Poland							51%
Belgium							E 4 0/

"Democracy in my country is threatened by economic inequality"

Strongly agree / Somewhat agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Somewhat disagree / Strongly disagree

\*Agree includes "Strongly agree" and "Somewhat agree"



#### TREND 2021 VS 2022

## **Economic Inequality**

Since 2021, the perception that economic inequality threatens democracy has increased in most of the democracies surveyed. The largest increases are in Hong Kong (+17), the United Kingdom (+9), and India (+9).

### Concern with inequality has increased in almost all democracies from 2021 to 2022

% agree\* that economic inequality is a threat to democracy in their country

#### • 2021 • 2022

					Diff
Nigeria					-6
Kenya					3
Brazil					2
Ukraine					-11
South Africa					6
Greece					2
Portugal					-1
Peru					2
Colombia					0
Pakistan					4
Romania					4
Hungary					-3
Argentina					3
Mexico					2
Philippines					7
Chile					6
Italy					5
India					9
Spain					6
Indonesia					1
France					4
Poland					-1
Israel					4
Taiwan					4
Belgium					4
Japan					0
United States					2
Malaysia					7
Canada					-1
United Kingdom					9
Ireland					7
Austria					-4
Netherlands					6
Sweden					3
Singapore					0
Australia					4
South Korea					8
Switzerland					0
Morocco					9
Germany					2
Hong Kong					17
Denmark					4
Norway					6
	0% 25	5%	50%	75%	100%

\*Democracies include countries rated as "Free" and "Partly Free" by Freedom House. Countries rated as "Not Free" are excluded.

"Democracy in my country is threatened by economic inequality"

Strongly agree / Somewhat agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Somewhat disagree / Strongly disagree

\*Agree includes "Strongly agree" and "Somewhat agree"



#### **DEMOCRACY PERCEPTION INDEX 2022**

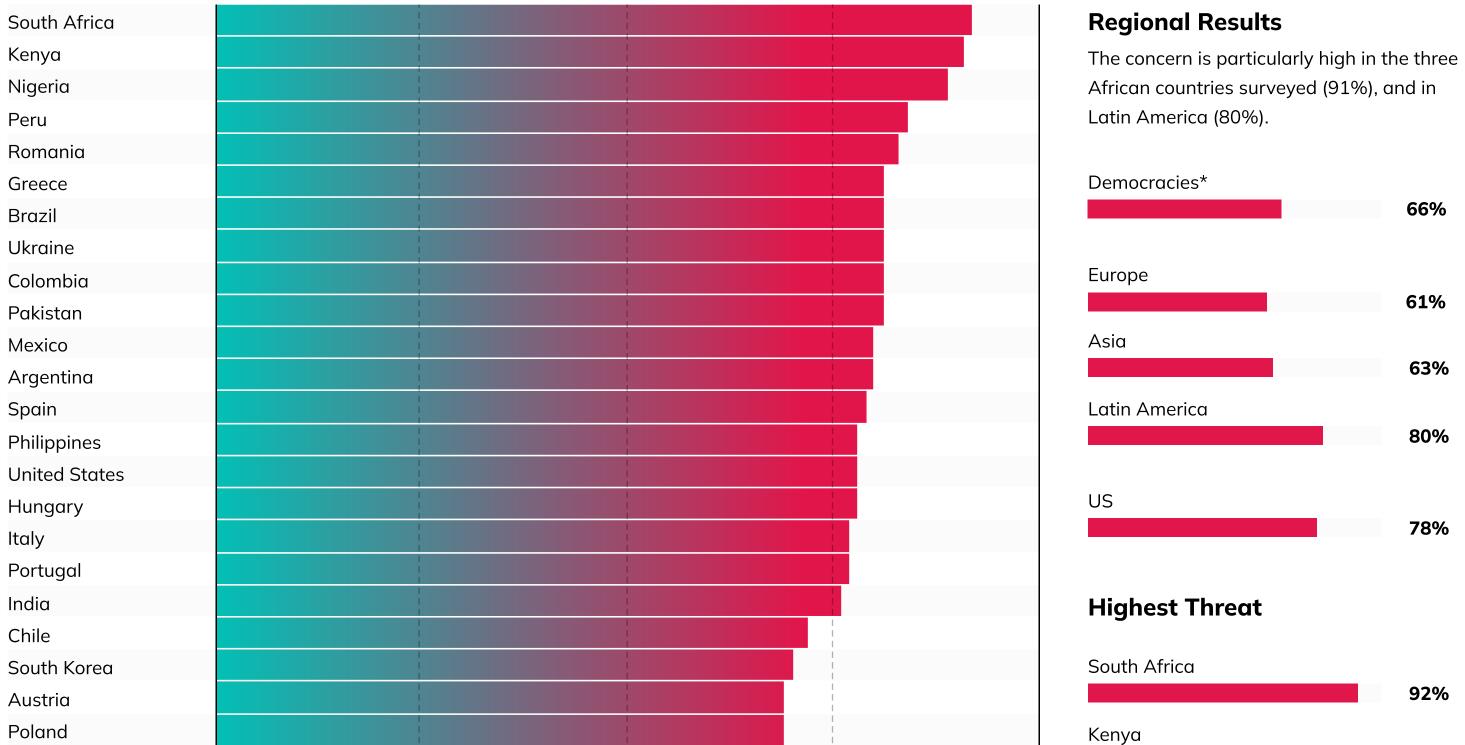
23

## Corruption

Behind economic inequality, corruption was the most cited threat to democracy. A large majority of people in almost all democracies say that (66%) say that corruption is a threat to democracy in their country.

### Most people view corruption as a threat to democracy in their country

% agree\* that corruption threatens democracy in their country



roluliu			I Contraction of the second			кепуа	
Israel							91%
Malaysia						Nigeria	
Indonesia							89%
United Kingdom							
Taiwan						Lowest Threat	
France						Lowest mieut	
Canada						Denmark	
Ireland							34%
Japan						Singaporo	
Australia						Singapore	33%
Belgium							
Netherlands						Switzerland	28%
Morocco							2070
Germany							
Hong Kong							
Sweden							
Norway							
Switzerland							
Singapore						*Democracies include countries rated as "Free" and	
Denmark						"Partly Free" by Freedom House. Countries rated as Free" are excluded.	s "Not
	0% 2	25% 5	0%	75%	100%		

"Democracy in my country is threatened by corruption"

Strongly agree / Somewhat agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Somewhat disagree / Strongly disagree

\*Agree includes "Strongly agree" and "Somewhat agree"

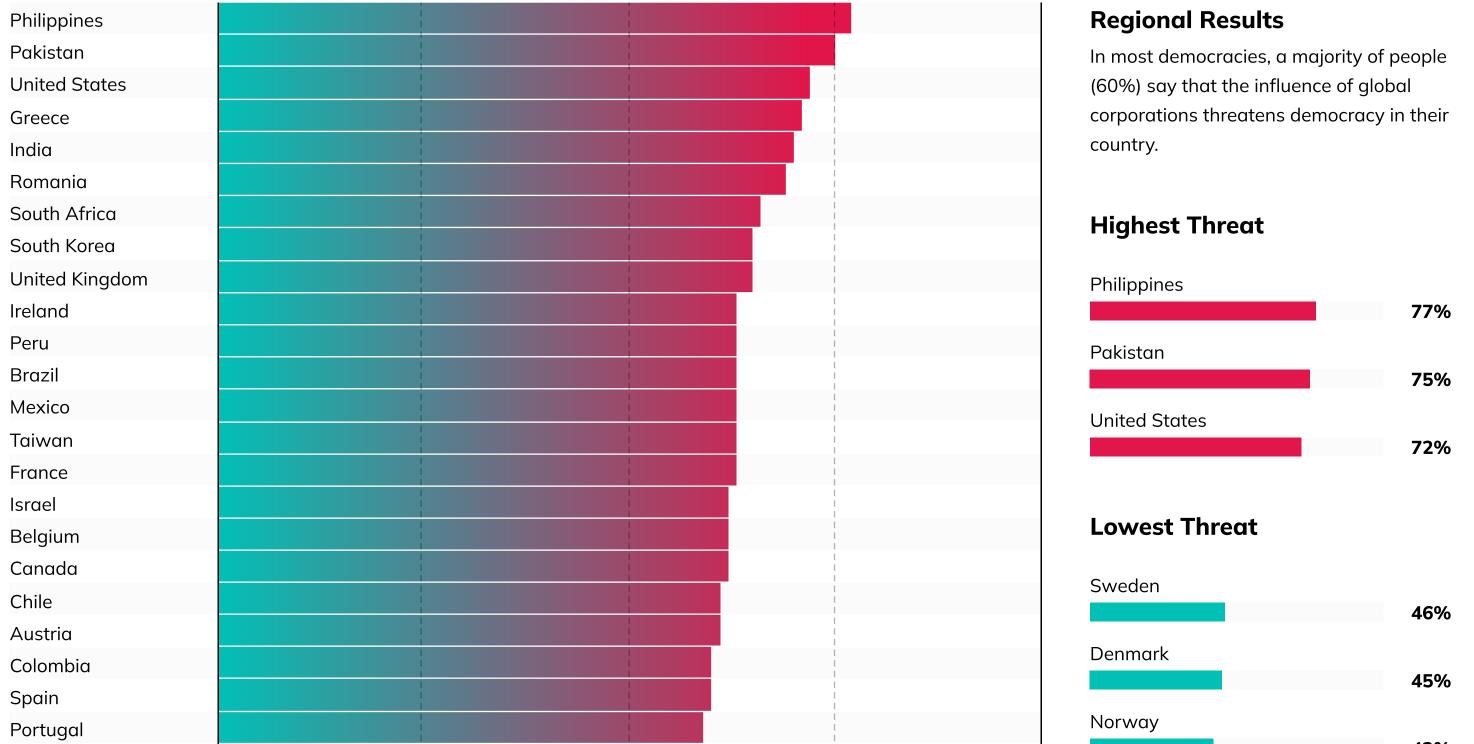


## **Global Corporations**

After economic inequality and corruption, global corporations are viewed as the third most significant threat to democracy by people around the world.

## Most people view global corporations as a threat to democracy in their country

% agree\* that the influence of global corporations threatens democracy in their country



Fortugui				l l	
Netherlands					
Italy					
Hong Kong					
Indonesia					
Australia					
Germany					
Malaysia					
Switzerland					
Morocco					
Kenya					
Ukraine					
Nigeria					
Argentina					
Hungary					
Poland					
Japan					
Singapore					
Sweden					
Denmark					
Norway					
				·	
	0%	25%	50%	75%	100%



#### **The United States**

stands out as the "free" democracy with the highest share of people who say that global corporations threaten their democracy (72%).

\*Democracies include countries rated as "Free" and "Partly Free" by Freedom House. Countries rated as "Not Free" are excluded.

"Democracy in my country is threatened by the influence of global corporations"

Strongly agree / Somewhat agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Somewhat disagree / Strongly disagree

\*Agree includes "Strongly agree" and "Somewhat agree"

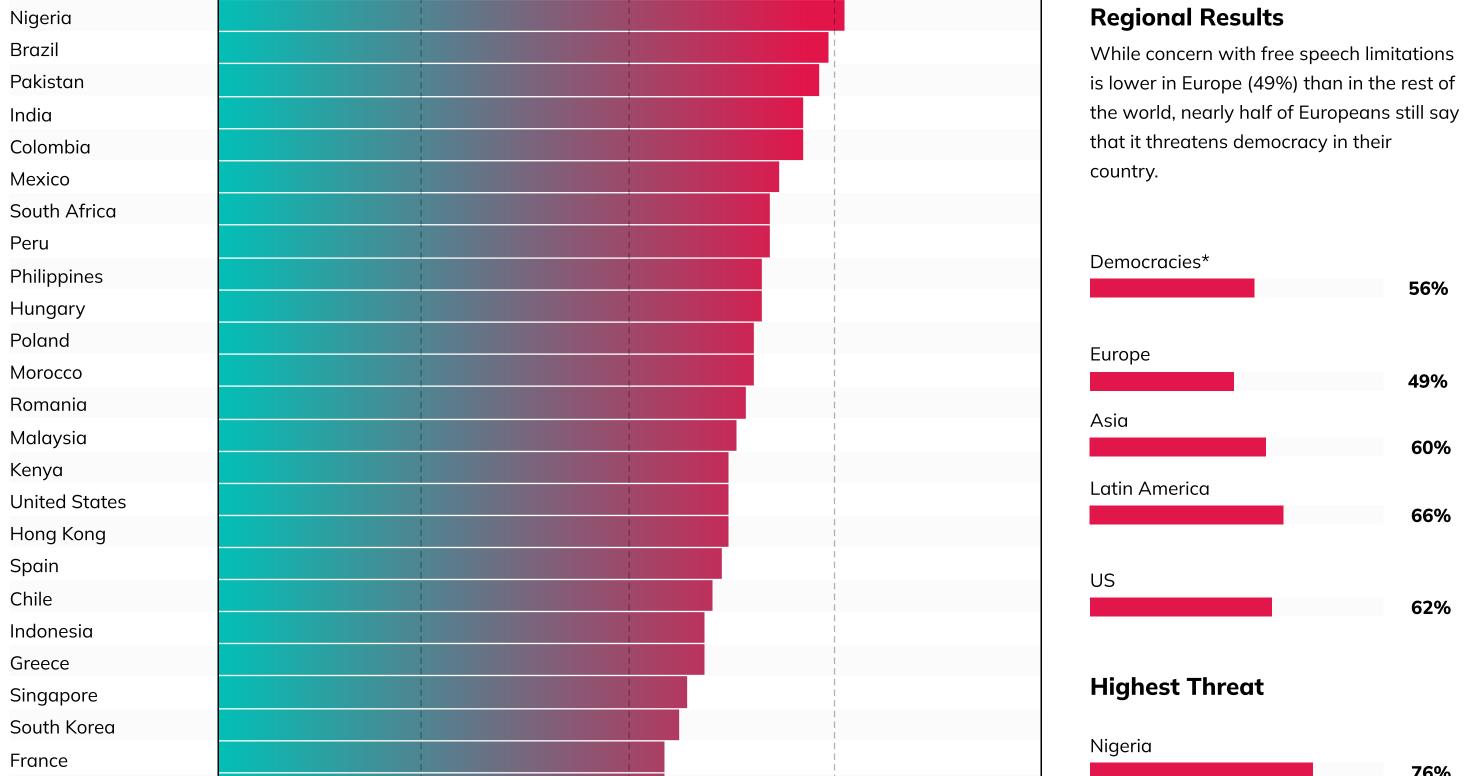


## **Free Speech Limitations**

Concern that free speech limitations are threatening democracy is also widespread across the world's democracies (56%).

### 56% of people living in democracies are concerned with limits on free speech

% agree\* that limits on free speech threatens democracy in their country



Trance							76%
Israel							
Argentina						Brazil	74%
Ukraine							/470
United Kingdom						Pakistan	
Canada							73%
Portugal							
Japan						Lowest Threat	
Australia							
Ireland						Switzerland	
Netherlands							36%
Italy						Norway	
Belgium							35%
Taiwan						Denmark	
Austria							33%
Sweden							
Germany							
Switzerland							
Norway						*Democracies include countries rated	
Denmark						"Partly Free" by Freedom House. Cour Free" are excluded.	tries rated as "Not
	0%	25%	50%	75%	100%		

"Democracy in my country is threatened by limitations on free speech"

Strongly agree / Somewhat agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Somewhat disagree / Strongly disagree

\*Agree includes "Strongly agree" and "Somewhat agree"



## **Free Speech Limitations**

From 2021 to 2022, the share of people who say that free speech limitations threaten democracy in their country has risen in almost all democracies surveyed, particularly in Asia, Latin America, and North America.

### Concern with free speech limitations has increased in almost all democracies since 2021

% agree\* that limits on free speech threatens democracy in their country

#### ● 2021 ▶ 2022

						Diff	
Nigeria						0	Regional Trend
Poland						-8	
Ukraine						-18	● 2021 ▶ 2022
Pakistan						5	
Hungary						0	Democracies*
India						6	
Colombia						6	Europe
Brazil							Asia
Philippines						3	Latin America
Kenya						0	US
Peru						6	
Mexico						8	
South Africa						7	25% 50% 75%
Greece						-1	
Romania						6	
Argentina						-2	
Chile						5	
Indonesia						4	
United States						8	
Spain						7	
Singapore						3	
France						0	
Malaysia						10	
Morocco						14	
Hong Kong							
South Korea						4	
Israel						3	
Belgium						-1	
Ireland							
United Kingdom						5	
Austria						-4	
Canada						5	
Australia						4	
Netherlands						3	
Portugal						7	
Germany						0	
Switzerland						-4	
Japan						9	
ltaly						7	
Sweden						3	
Taiwan						6	
Norway						2	*Democracies include countries rated as "Free" and "Partly Free" by Freedom House. Countries rated as "Not
Denmark						0	Free" are excluded.
	0%	25%	50%	75%	100%		

"Democracy in my country is threatened by limitations on free speech"

Strongly agree / Somewhat agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Somewhat disagree / Strongly disagree

\*Agree includes "Strongly agree" and "Somewhat agree"



#### **DEMOCRACY PERCEPTION INDEX 2022**

27

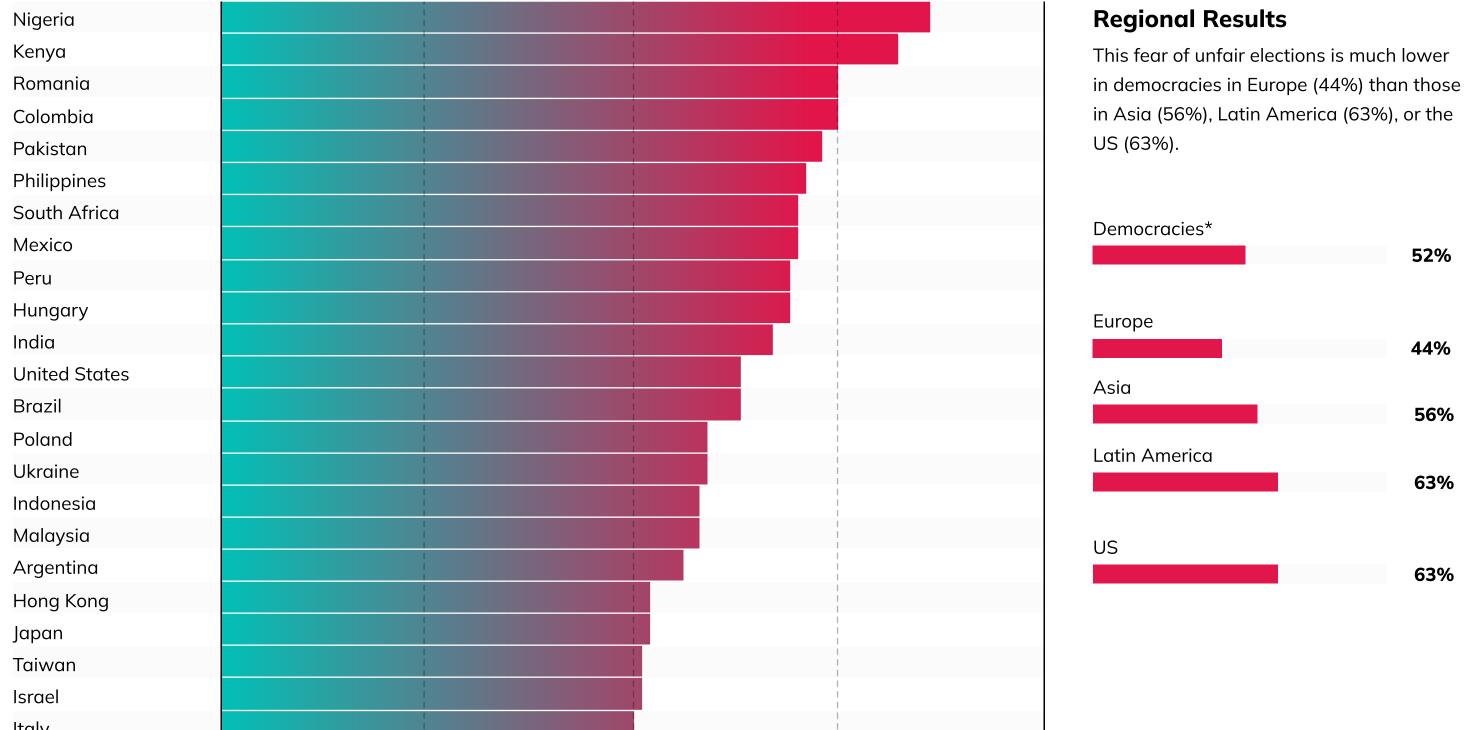
Diff

## **Unfair Elections**

Across the democracies surveyed, about half of the population (51%) says that unfair elections and / or election fraud threatens democracy in their country.

### Fear of unfair elections is widespread in most democracies outside of Europe

% agree\* that unfair elections and/or election fraud threaten democracy in their country



	0%	25%	50%	75%	100%
Denmark					Free" c
Norway					*Demo "Partly
Germany					
Sweden					
Switzerland					
Singapore					
Netherlands					
Austria					
Australia					
Ireland					
Canada					
Portugal					
Belgium					
France					
United Kingdom					
Morocco					
Chile					
Spain					
South Korea					
Greece					
Italy					

Democracies include countries rated as "Free" and Partly Free" by Freedom House. Countries rated as "Not Free" are excluded.

"Democracy in my country is threatened by unfair elections and/or election fraud"

Strongly agree / Somewhat agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Somewhat disagree / Strongly disagree

\*Agree includes "Strongly agree" and "Somewhat agree"



#### **TREND 2021 VS 2022**

## **Unfair Elections**

The share of people who say that unfair elections or election fraud are threatening democracy in their country has increased in many democracies since 2021, most dramatically in the US (+15), Morocco (+11), and the UK (+10).

### Fear of unfair elections increased in many democracies since 2021

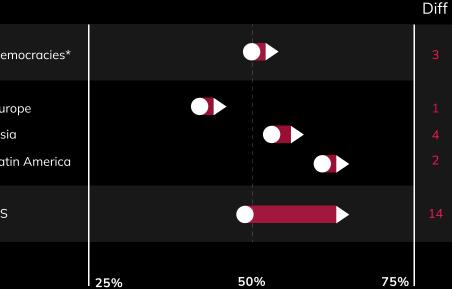
% agree\* that unfair elections and/or election fraud threatens democracy in their country

#### ● 2021 ▶ 2022

					Diff		
Nigeria					2	Regiona	l Trend
Kenya					-2		
Ukraine					-18	• 2021	▶ 2022
Romania					3		
Colombia					3	Democracies*	
Hungary					-3		
Pakistan					3	Europe	
Philippines					3	Asia	
Mexico					3	Latin America	
Poland					-8		
South Africa					4	US	
Peru					4		
India					7		25%
Brazil					3		
Indonesia					2		
Argentina					1	× + * *	*
Malaysia					6	***	×
United States					14	K K A	
Hong Kong					3		
Israel					2		
Greece					1		
Japan					6	In the U	nited Sto
Taiwan					5	the percept	
South Korea					1	fraud threa	
Chile					0	in the Unite	
Italy					6	democracy	
Spain					5	49% to a lo	
Ireland					0		. , ,
France					7		
Belgium					7		
Australia					0		
United Kingdom					8		
Morocco					10		
Canada					5		
Portugal					8		
Netherlands					3		
Singapore					0		
Switzerland					-4	*Democracies in	nclude countries
Austria					6	"Partly Free" by	
Sweden					1	Free" are excluc	ieo.
Germany					2		
Norway					1		
Denmark					2		
	0%	25%	50%	75%	100%		



Diff





#### the United States

perception that unfair elections or election ud threaten democracy has increased more the United States than in any other mocracy from 2021 to 2022, rising from % to a large majority (63%).

mocracies include countries rated as "Free" and rtly Free" by Freedom House. Countries rated as "Not ' are excluded.

#### "Democracy in my country is threatened by unfair elections and/or election fraud"

Strongly agree / Somewhat agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Somewhat disagree / Strongly disagree

\*Agree includes "Strongly agree" and "Somewhat agree"

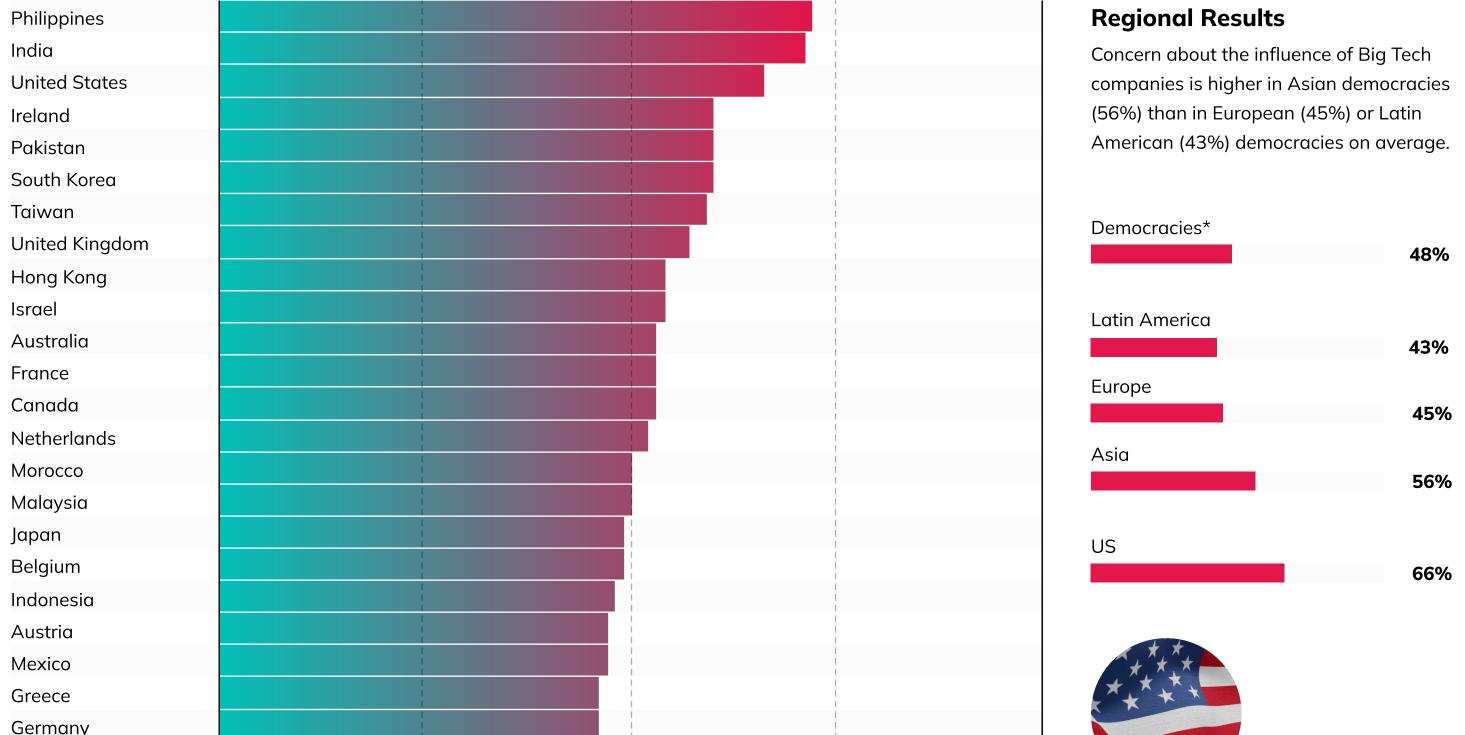


## **Big Tech**

The next most-cited threat to democracy is the power of Big Tech companies. Half of the people living in democracies (48%) say that the influence of Big Tech companies, such as Google, Amazon, Apple, and Facebook, threatens democracy in their country.

## Half of the world's democracies fear the influence of Big Tech companies

% agree\* that the power of big tech companies threatens democracy in their country



Switzerland					
Romania					
Portugal					
Spain					
Chile					
South Africa					
Sweden					
Colombia					
Italy					
Singapore					
Peru					
Poland					
Norway					
Denmark					
Hungary					
Argentina					
Nigeria					
Ukraine					
Kenya					
	0%	25%	50%	75%	100%

#### **The United States**

Out of all the democracies labeled as "free" by Freedom House, the US has the highest share of people who fear the influence of Big Tech companies (66%).

#### TREND 2021 VS 2022

Fear of Big Tech influence has not increased significantly in many countries since last year.

The only countries where it has increased are mainly in Asia, led by South Korea (+9), Taiwan (+8), Hong Kong (+6), India (+5), and joined by France (+5).

**"Democracy in my country is threatened by the influence of Big Tech companies (Google, Amazon, Apple, Facebook)"** Strongly agree / Somewhat agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Somewhat disagree / Strongly disagree

\*Agree includes "Strongly agree" and "Somewhat agree"

\*Democracies include countries rated as "Free" and "Partly Free" by Freedom House. Countries rated as "Not Free" are excluded.

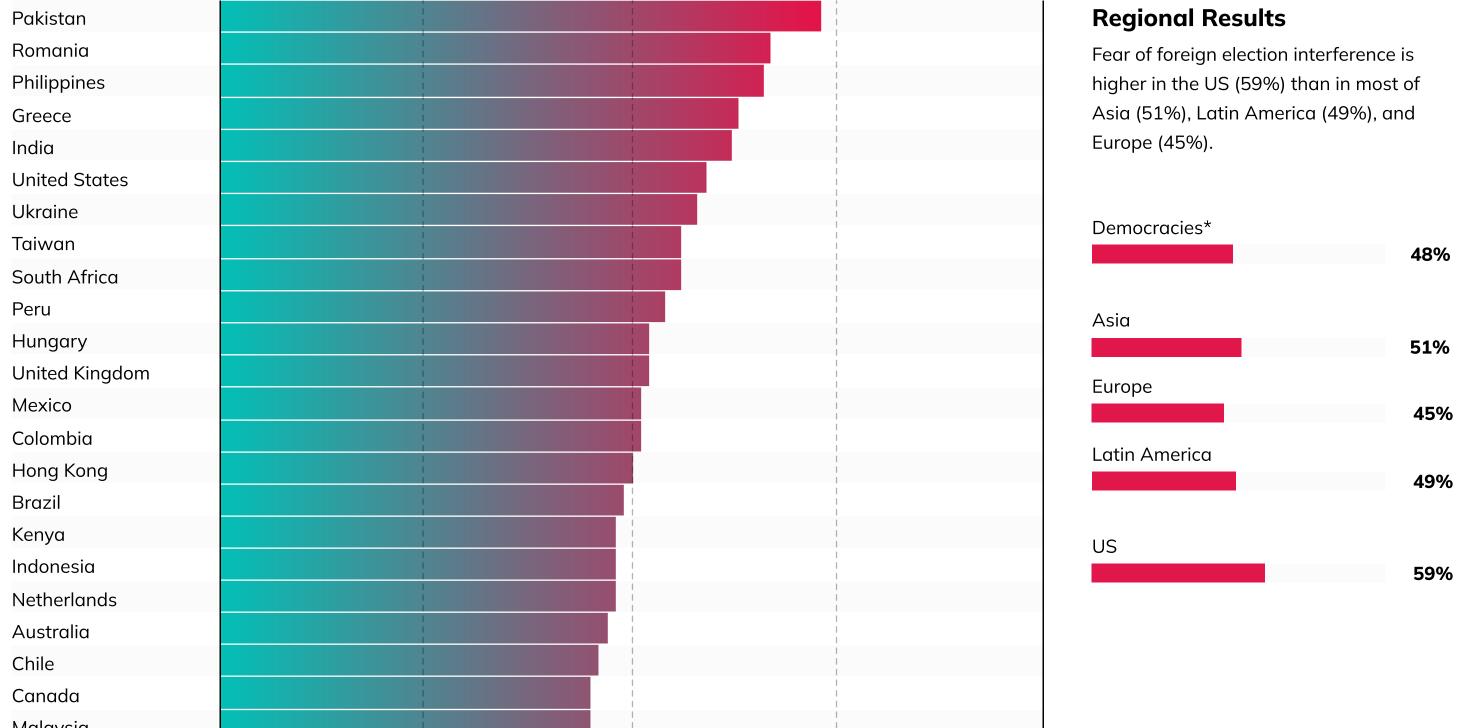


## **Foreign Election Interference**

The least cited threat to democracy is foreign election interference. This concern is evenly balanced across most regions, but there are some significant differences across countries ranging from Pakistan (73%) down to Belgium (38%).

### 48% of people living in democracies perceive the threat of foreign election interference

% agree\* that their democracy is threatened by election interference from foreign powers



	0%	25%	50%	75%	100%
Norway					
Singapore					
Austria					
Sweden					
Germany					
Belgium					
Japan					
Switzerland					
France					
South Korea					
Portugal					
Morocco					
Ireland					
Denmark					
Spain					
Argentina					
Nigeria					
Israel					
Italy					
Poland					
Malaysia		i			

Democracies include countries rated as "Free" and Partly Free" by Freedom House. Countries rated as "Not Free" are excluded.

"Democracy in my country is threatened by election interference from foreign powers"

Strongly agree / Somewhat agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Somewhat disagree / Strongly disagree

\*Agree includes "Strongly agree" and "Somewhat agree"



## **Foreign Election Interference**

The share of people who say that foreign election interference by foreign powers threatens democracy in their country has increased in almost all democracies from 2021 to 2022.

### Fear of foreign election interference grows around the world

% agree\* that their democracy is threatened by election interference from foreign powers

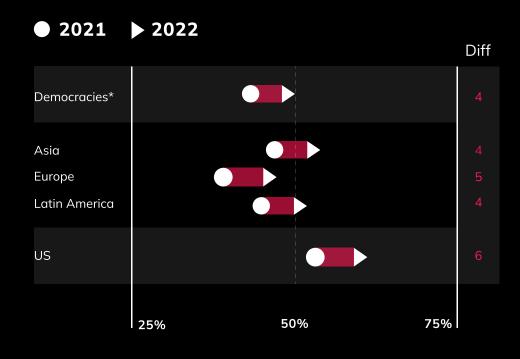
#### • 2021 • 2022

					Diff
Pakistan					7
Ukraine					-8
Philippines					3
Romania					11
India					6
Greece					8
Taiwan					1
South Africa					2
United States					6
Kenya					-3
Colombia					1
Brazil					1
Peru					7
Nigeria					-3
Hungary					6
Mexico					5
Indonesia					4
Australia					4
Poland					2
Hong Kong					9
Argentina					2
Chile					6
Israel					4
South Korea					0
United Kingdom					13
Canada					6
Italy					5
Morocco					2
Malaysia					7
Ireland					4
Switzerland					1
Netherlands					12
Portugal					5
Spain					9
Germany					3
Singapore					0
France					6
Sweden					3
Japan					7
Denmark					11
Austria					5
Norway					-1
Belgium					9
	0%	50/	50%	75%	100%
	0% 25	5%	50%	/ 3 %0	

#### **Regional Results**

The countries where fear of foreign election interference increased most dramatically since 2021 are all in Europe, led by the UK (+13).

#### **Regional Trend**



\*Democracies include countries rated as "Free" and "Partly Free" by Freedom House. Countries rated as "Not Free" are excluded.

"Democracy in my country is threatened by election interference from foreign powers" Strongly agree / Somewhat agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Somewhat disagree / Strongly disagree

\*Agree includes "Strongly agree" and "Somewhat agree"



#### **DEMOCRACY PERCEPTION INDEX 2022**

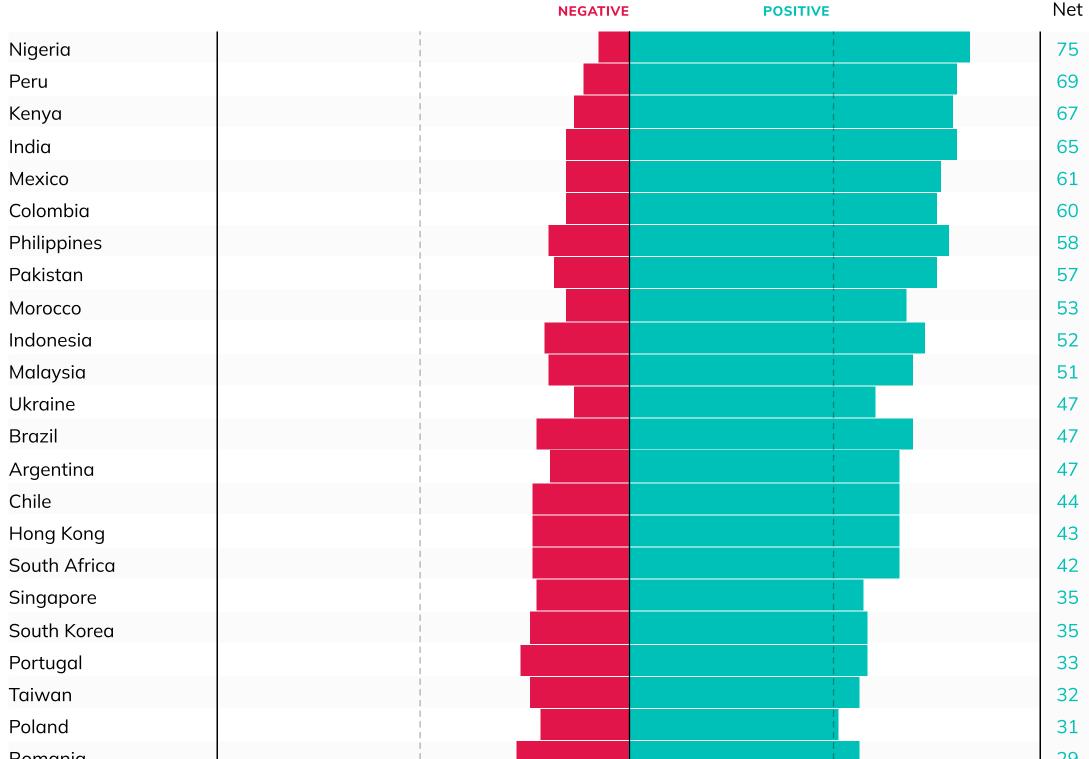
32

## **Social Media Influence**

Across the democracies surveyed, more people say that social media platforms have a positive effect on democracy (55%) than negative (29%).

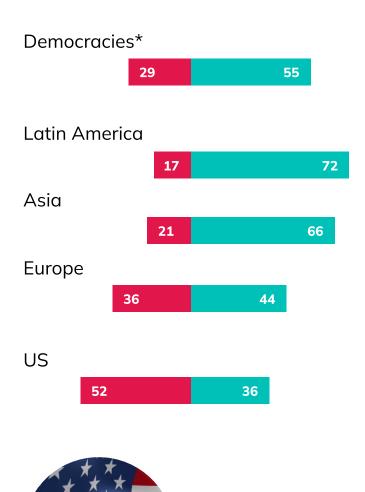
## Americans and Europeans are among the most critical of social media

% say social media platforms have a positive/negative impact on democracy in their country



### **Regional Results**

However, there are strong regional divides, and people in Europe and the United States are far more critical of social media's influence than in Asia or Latin America.



Romania					29	
Spain					24	
Japan					23	
Italy					16	
Norway					15	
Greece					12	
Sweden					7	
Israel					7	
Switzerland					6	
Ireland					4	
France					-2	
Belgium					-3	
Australia					-3	
United Kingdom					-6	
Hungary					-7	
Germany					-8	
Denmark					-11	-
Canada					-11	-
United States					-15	<b>)</b>
Austria					-17	,
Netherlands					-18	3
	100%	50%	0%	50%	100%	



#### **The United States**

More Americans say that social media platforms have a negative impact on democracy (52%) than positive (36%), marking Americans as one of the world's most critical populations towards social media.

\*Democracies include countries rated as "Free" and "Partly Free" by Freedom House. Countries rated as "Not Free" are excluded.

**Overall, do you think that social media platforms (i.e. Facebook, Twitter) have a positive or negative impact on democracy in your country?** Very positive / Somewhat positive / Somewhat negative / Very negative / No impact / Don't know

\*Positive includes "Very positive" and "Somewhat positive".



#### TREND 2021 VS 2022

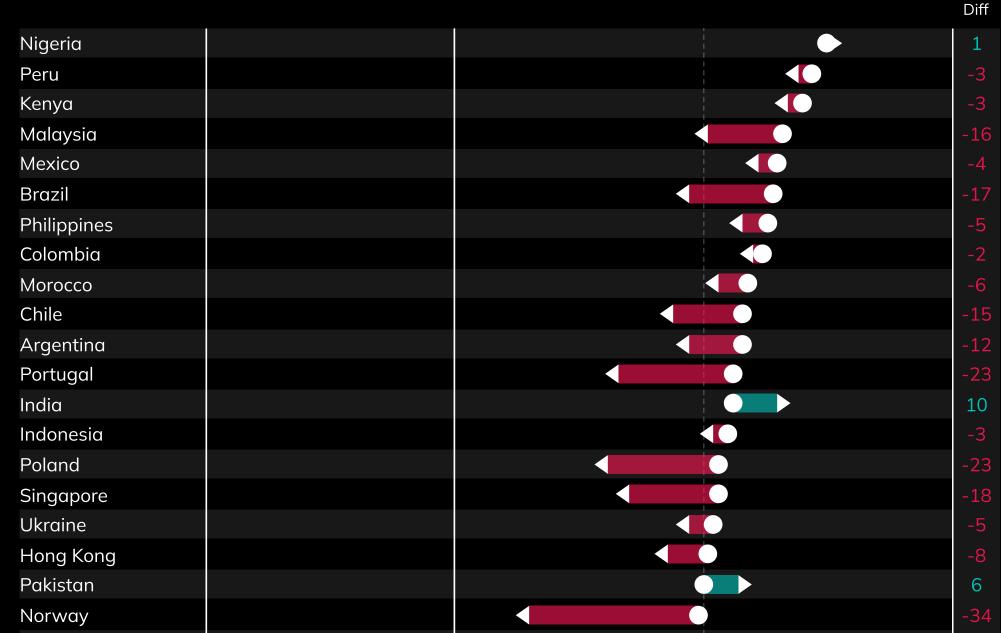
## **Social Media Influence**

As more and more people say social media platforms have a negative impact on democracy and fewer say it has a positive impact, the overall net perception of social media platforms continues its steep negative decline in most democratic countries over the past two years.

### **Opinion of social media's impact on democracy takes negative turn since 2020**

net opinion of social media platforms' impact on democracy in 2020 and 2022 (positive - negative)

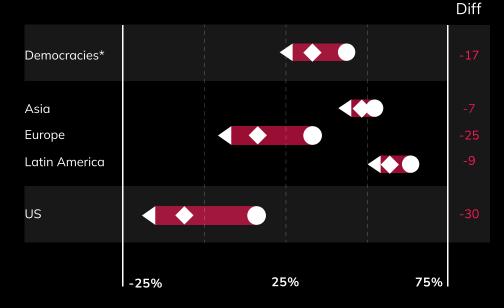
#### ● 2020 ▶ 2022



## **Regional Results**

For many European countries, as well as the US, this downward trend since 2020 has been so dramatic that it has led to a complete reversal of attitudes: In 2020, every single democracy surveyed had a net positive opinion of the social media's impact, meaning that more people said it has a positive impact than negative. Now two years later, nearly a quarter of democracies, mainly in Europe, have a net negative opinion of social media's impact, with more people saying social media's impact is negative than positive.

#### ● 2020 ◆ 2021 ▶ 2022



Taiwan				-16
South Africa				-6
Spain				-21
South Korea				-11
Romania				-16
Greece				-27
Italy				-23
Israel				-28
Ireland				-26
Switzerland				-23
Japan				-6
Australia				-29
Sweden				-18
Belgium				-28
Denmark				-35
France				-26
Netherlands				-40
Canada				-33
Austria				-35
United Kingdom				-24
Germany				-25
Hungary				-22
United States				-30
	-50%	0%	50% 100%	

\*Democracies include countries rated as "Free" and "Partly Free" by Freedom House. Countries rated as "Not Free" are excluded.

**Overall, do you think that social media platforms (i.e. Facebook, Twitter) have a positive or negative impact on democracy in your country?** Very positive / Somewhat positive / Somewhat negative / Very negative / No impact / Don't know

\*Net opinion of each year is calculated as % positive - % negative



#### DEEP DIVE

## Threats to Democracy in America

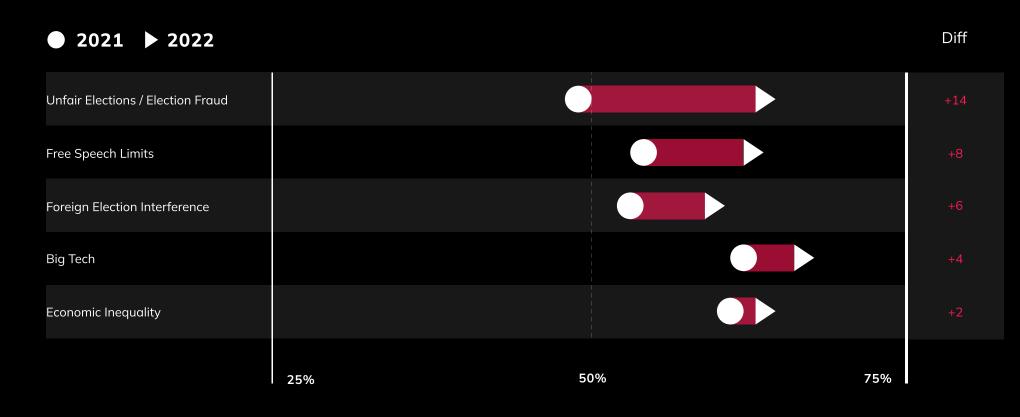
Americans are growing more and more concerned about threats to their democracy. Since 2021, fear of unfair elections has increased most dramatically in the US, followed by fear of limits on free speech and foreign election interference.



#### **KEY FINDINGS**

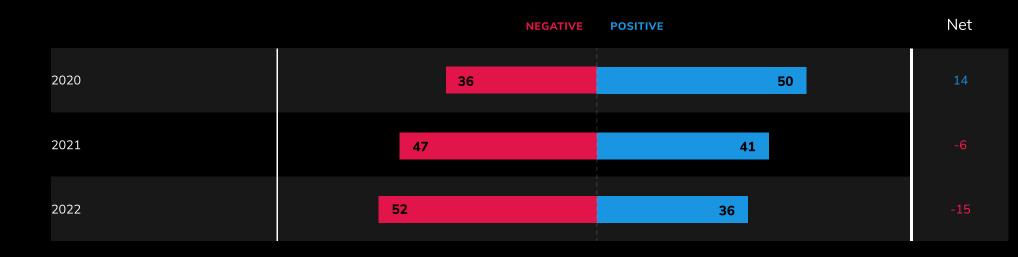
## Since 2021, fear of unfair elections has increased most dramatically in the US

% agree\* that \_\_\_\_\_ is a threat to democracy in their country



Americans have grown very critical of social media platforms' influence on democracy

% say social media platforms have a positive/negative impact on democracy in their country



## Desire for less social media content regulation is growing in the US

net opinion\* of social media regulation



## **Government Priorities**

In this year's edition of the Democracy Perception Index, respondents were asked to select up to three priorities that they want their government to focus more on. Across the world, the top priorities are: Reduce Poverty, Fight Corruption, and Promote Economic Growth. These policies are among the top three priorities picked in almost every region of the world.

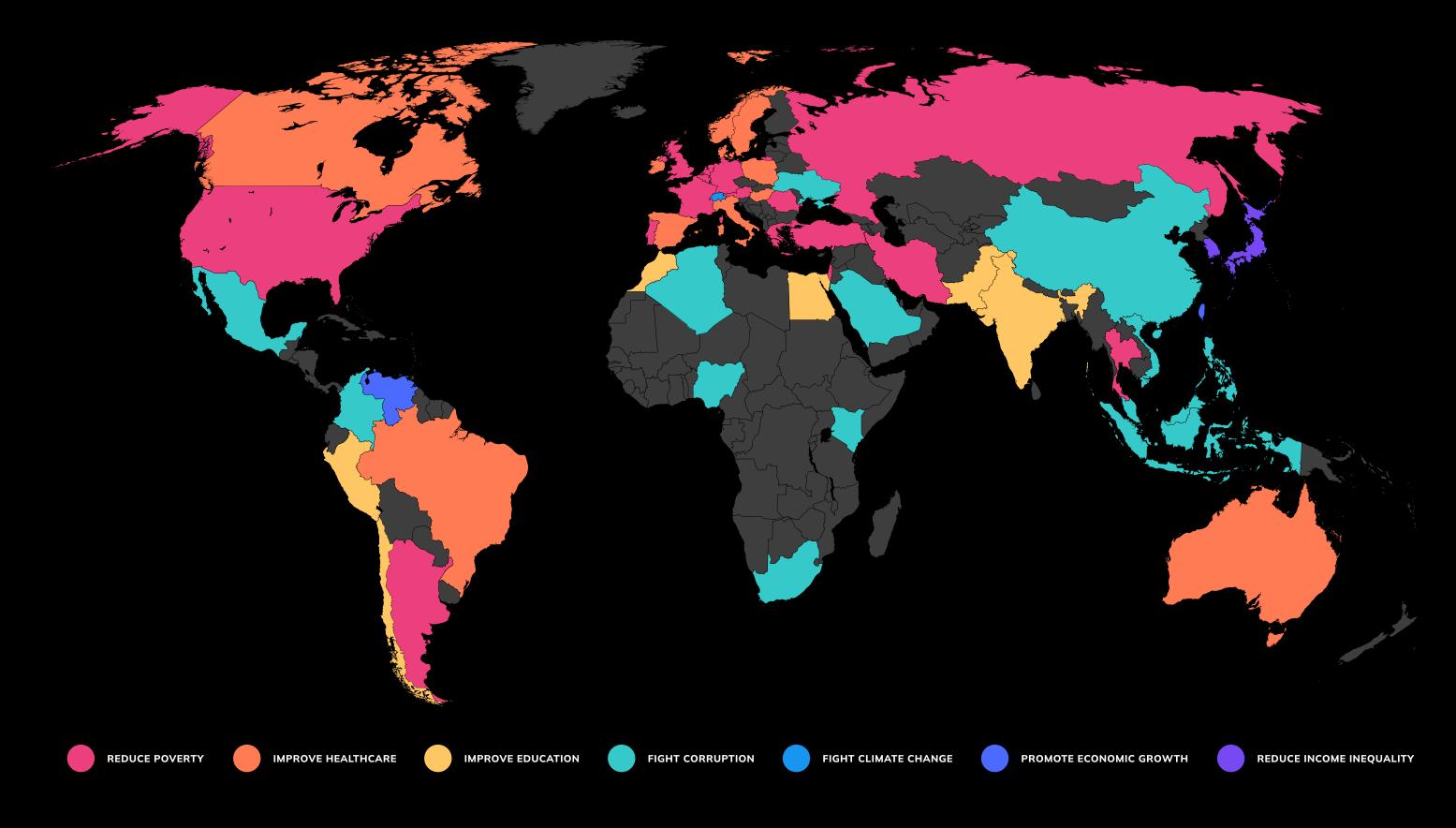
### People around the world want their governments to focus on poverty reduction

\_\_\_ as one of the top three areas that they want their government to focus more on % select.

Reduce poverty		40	Which of the following areas do you want your government to focus on more?
Fight corruption		36	Select up to three
Promote economic growth		33	Improve education Fight climate change
Improve health care		32	Promote gender equality Promote economic growth
Improve education		31	Reduce poverty Invest in security and defense
Reduce income inequality	24		Improve health care Fight corruption Reduce immigration
Invest in security and defense	16	1 1 1 1	Reduce income inequality Other / none of the above
Fight climate change	14		
Promote gender equality	10		
Reduce immigration	10		
Other / none of the above	3	PRIORITY	
	0% 25	5% 50%	

### Majorities in all countries say poverty reduction is priority number one

the top priority selected by country





# **Reduce poverty**

More people say that reducing poverty should be one of their government's top three priorities than any other policy listed. This choice is widespread in both "free" and less free countries, as well as all regions around the world.

% select \_\_\_\_\_ as one of their top three priorities for their government to focus more on

#### Argentina 54% Greece 52% France 52% Belgium 50% Indonesia 49% Russia 48% Iran 48% Netherlands 48% Romania 48% 47% United Kingdom

# **Global Average**

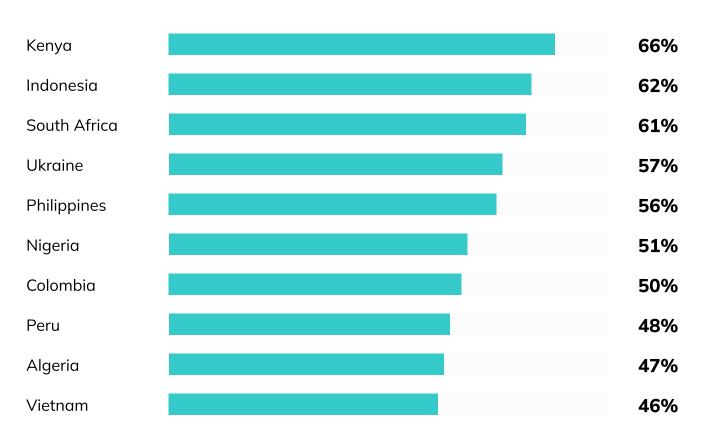
Global

**Top 10** 

# **Fight corruption**

Fighting corruption is the second most often cited priority globally. However, it is much more of a top priority for people living in the less democratic countries than for people living in Western Europe.

## **Top 10**

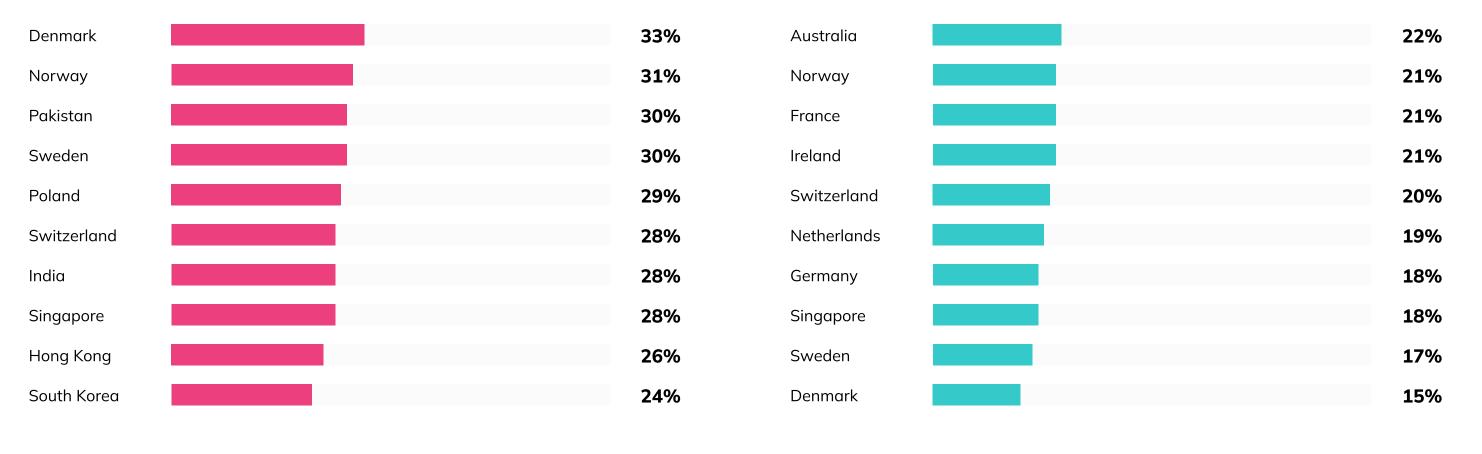


# **Global Average**



# Bottom 10

# Bottom 10



40%

#### **KEY FINDINGS**



### **Poverty reduction in India**

Despite being the home to over 270 million people living below the poverty line, India has one of the lowest shares of people who say that poverty reduction should be one of their government's top three priorities (28%). Improving education is far more popular in India (38%).



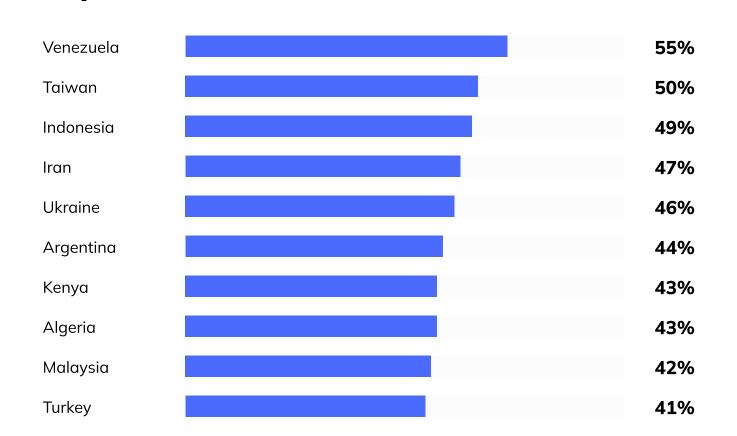
### **Corruption in China**

More people in China say that fighting corruption should be one of their government's top three priorities than any of the other policy areas listed, followed immediately by reducing poverty (40%).

# **Promote economic growth**

Similar to fighting corruption, promoting economic growth is much more of a top priority in less democratic countries than it is in "free" democracies, particularly in Western Europe.

% select \_\_\_\_\_ as one of their top three priorities for their government to focus more on



## **Global Average**

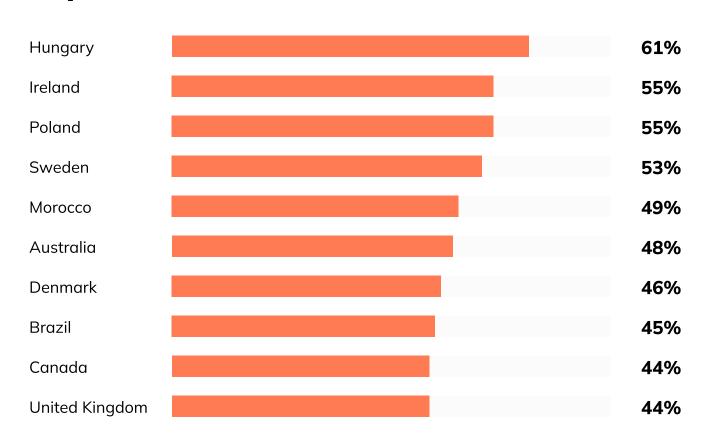
Global

**Top 10** 

# Improve health care

While improving health care is equally seen as a priority in "free" democracies and less democratic countries, it is far more of a priority for people in European countries (39%) than it is in Asia (26%) or Latin America (21%).

### **Top 10**



# **Global Average**



## Bottom 10

## Bottom 10

Morocco	24%	Peru	19%
India	23%	Argentina	17%
Netherlands	21%	Turkey	16%
France	21%	Indonesia	16%
Norway	19%	France	16%
Switzerland	18%	Thailand	15%
Austria	17%	Colombia	13%
Germany	16%	Mexico	12%
Brazil	16%	South Korea	10%
Sweden	15%	Iran	6%

33%

#### **KEY FINDINGS**



#### Iran

Promoting economic growth is one of the most popular top priorities for Iranians (47%), right after reducing poverty (48%). These general economic issue far outweigh gender equality (13%), security and defense (9%), climate change (6%), health care (6%) and reducing migration (4%).



# **Improve education**

One-third of people around the world (31%) say that improving education should be one of their government's top three priorities. Education is more of a priority in Latin America (41%) than it is in Asia (30%) or Europe (26%).

% select \_\_\_\_\_ as one of their top three priorities for their government to focus more on

#### Morocco 50% 50% Peru Chile 46% 45% Pakistan 44% Egypt 44% Colombia Philippines 41% 41% Brazil Argentina 40% Israel 39%

# **Global Average**

Global

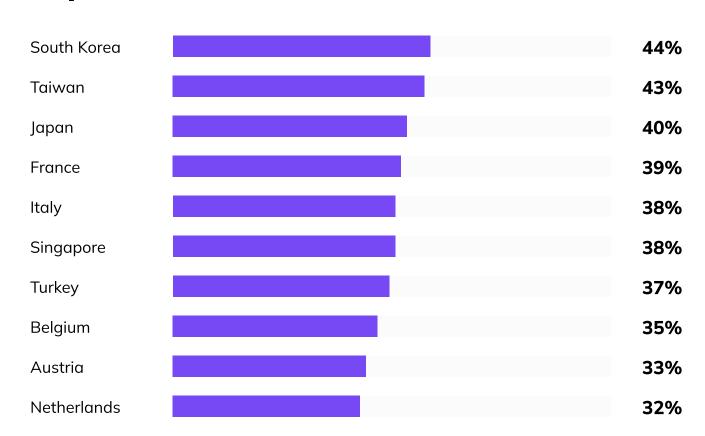
**Top 10** 

31%

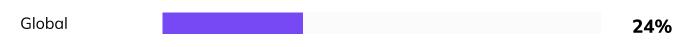
# **Reduce income inequality**

Much more of a priority in "free" democracies (28%) than in less democratic countries (20%), and more in Europe (29%) and Asia (26%) than in Latin America (19%).

### **Top 10**



# **Global Average**



# Bottom 10

## Bottom 10

Japan		22%	South Africa	15%
Italy		22%	Vietnam	15%
Canada		21%	Algeria	14%
South Korea		21%	Indonesia	12%
Taiwan		21%	Philippines	12%
Poland		21%	Pakistan	11%
Kenya		19%	Kenya	10%
Singapore		18%	Peru	10%
Denmark		18%	Morocco	9%
Ukraine		16%	Nigeria	6%

#### **KEY FINDINGS**



Despite having one of the world's highest levels of income inequality, only 15% of people in South Africa selected "reduce income inequality" as one of their top three priorities for their government to focus on. Instead, South Africans are far more likely to prioritize fighting corruption, reducing poverty, promoting economic growth, and improving education and health care.

Fight corruption	61%
Reduce poverty	46%
Promote economic growth	39%
mprove education	33%
mprove health care	28%
Reduce income inequality	15%
Promote gender equality	14%
Reduce immigration	12%
nvest in security and defense	8%
	7%



# Invest in security and defense

Only 16% of people around the world, on average, choose security and defense as one of their top three priorities for their government.

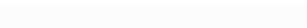
% select \_\_\_\_\_ as one of their top three priorities for their government to focus more on

#### Nigeria 37% 34% Ukraine 30% Mexico 29% Israel 29% Poland 27% Sweden 27% Peru 26% Russia 26% Argentina 24% Japan

## **Global Average**

Global

**Top 10** 

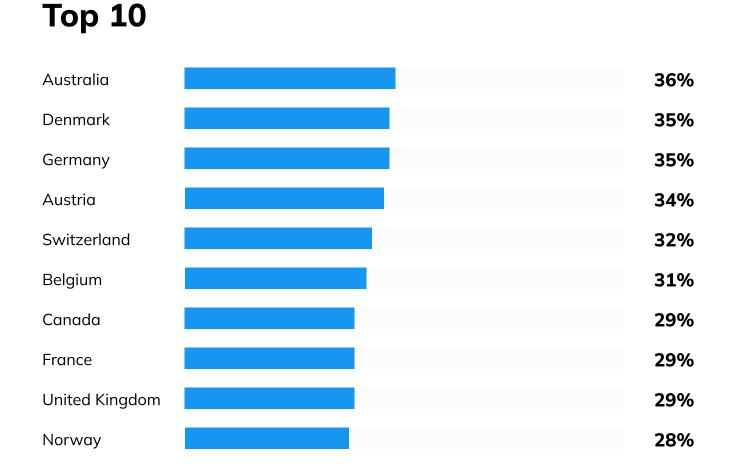


16%

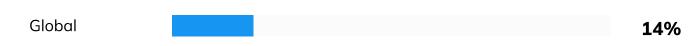
## Bottom 10

# Fight climate change

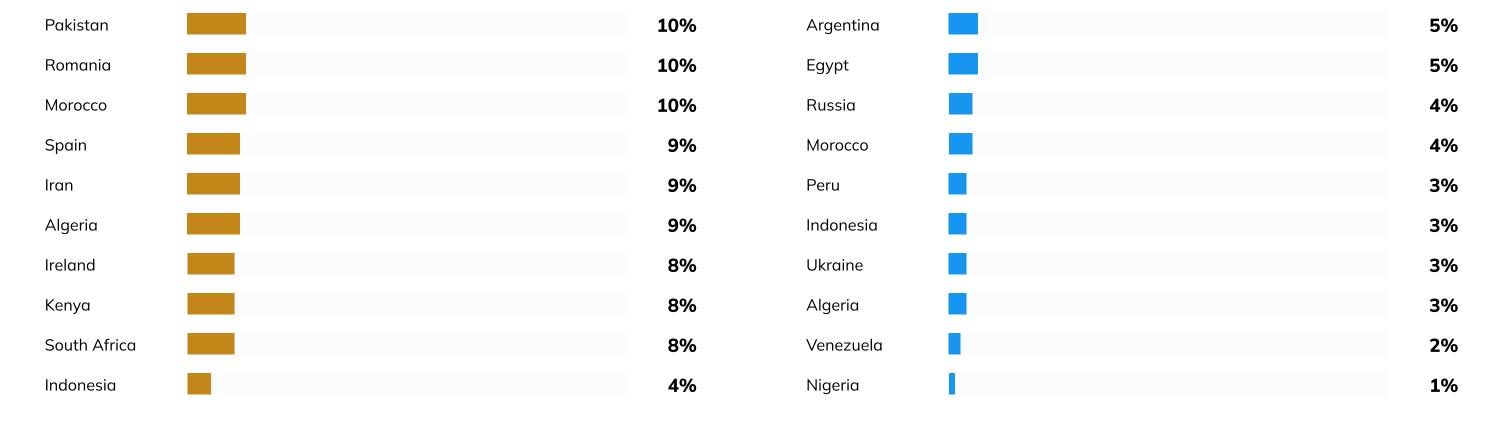
Only 14% of people globally selected "fight climate change" as one of their top three priorities for their government.



# **Global Average**



## Bottom 10



### **KEY FINDINGS**



### Nigeria

More people in Nigeria say that security and defense is a top priority for their government than any other country in the world. It is nearly as high of a priority for Nigerians as reducing poverty (43%), promoting economic growth (38%) and improving education (37%).



### Germany

35% of Germans say that fighting climate change should be one of the top three priorities for their government. This is the second highest priority in Germany, behind reducing poverty (43%).



# **Reduce immigration**

While only 10% of people globally selected "reduce migration" as one of their top three priorities for their government to focus on, it is far more of a top priority in Europe than in the rest of the world.

% select \_\_\_\_\_ as one of their top three priorities for their government to focus more on

#### France 28% 27% Sweden Germany 25% Austria 24% Chile 21% Belgium 21% Netherlands 20% Denmark 19% Singapore 19% 17% United Kingdom

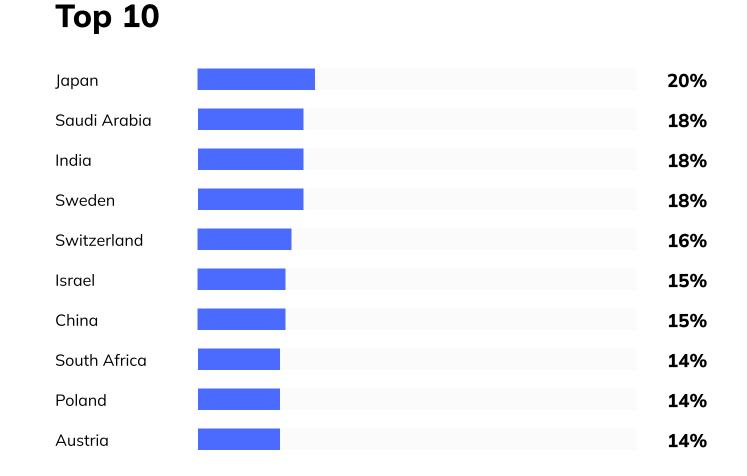
## **Global Average**

Bottom 10

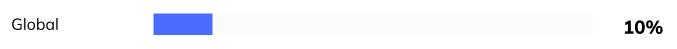
Global

# **Promote gender equality**

Only 10% of people globally select "promote gender equality" as one of their top three priorities for their government.



## **Global Average**



## Bottom 10

# Тор 10

Mexico	4%	Peru	6%
Thailand	3%	Netherlands	6%
Indonesia	3%	Colombia	6%
South Korea	3%	Nigeria	5%
Pakistan	3%	Romania	5%
Philippines	2%	Hungary	5%
Vietnam	2%	Ukraine	3%
Brazil	1%	Venezuela	2%
Nigeria	1%	Russia	2%
Kenya	0%	Indonesia	2%

Re

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Re

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10%

#### **KEY FINDINGS**



Over a quarter (28%) of people in France chose "reduce immigration" as one of their top three priorities, more than in any other country. Reducing migration is the fourth most selected priority in France, almost as popular as fighting climate change, and more popular than improving education, promoting economic growth, fighting corruption, investing in defense and security, improving healthcare, and promoting gender equality.

Reduce poverty				52%
Reduce income inequality				39%
ight climate change				29%
educe immigration				28%
mprove education				24%
Promote economic growth				21%
ight corruption				21%
nvest in security and defense				19%
nprove health care				16%
Promote gender equality				11%



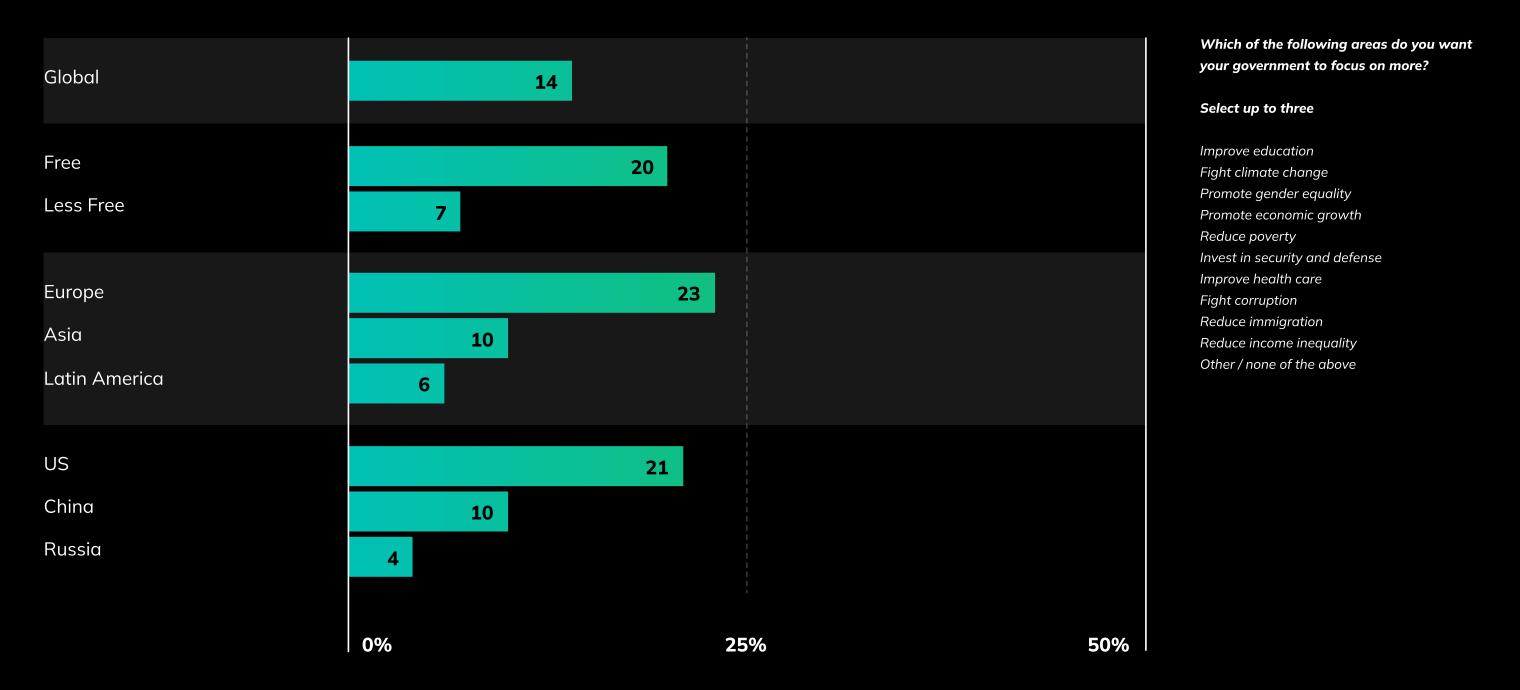
#### **DEEP DIVE**

# **Climate Change**

Across the 53 countries surveyed, only 14% of the people picked "Fight Climate Change" as one of their top three priorities for their government. There are huge regional differences: in European countries surveyed, 23% of people on average select "fight climate change" as one of their top three priorities, far more than in Asia (10%), or Latin America (6%).

### Fighting climate change is a higher priority for people living in "free" democracies

% select "Fight Climate Change" as one of their top three priorities

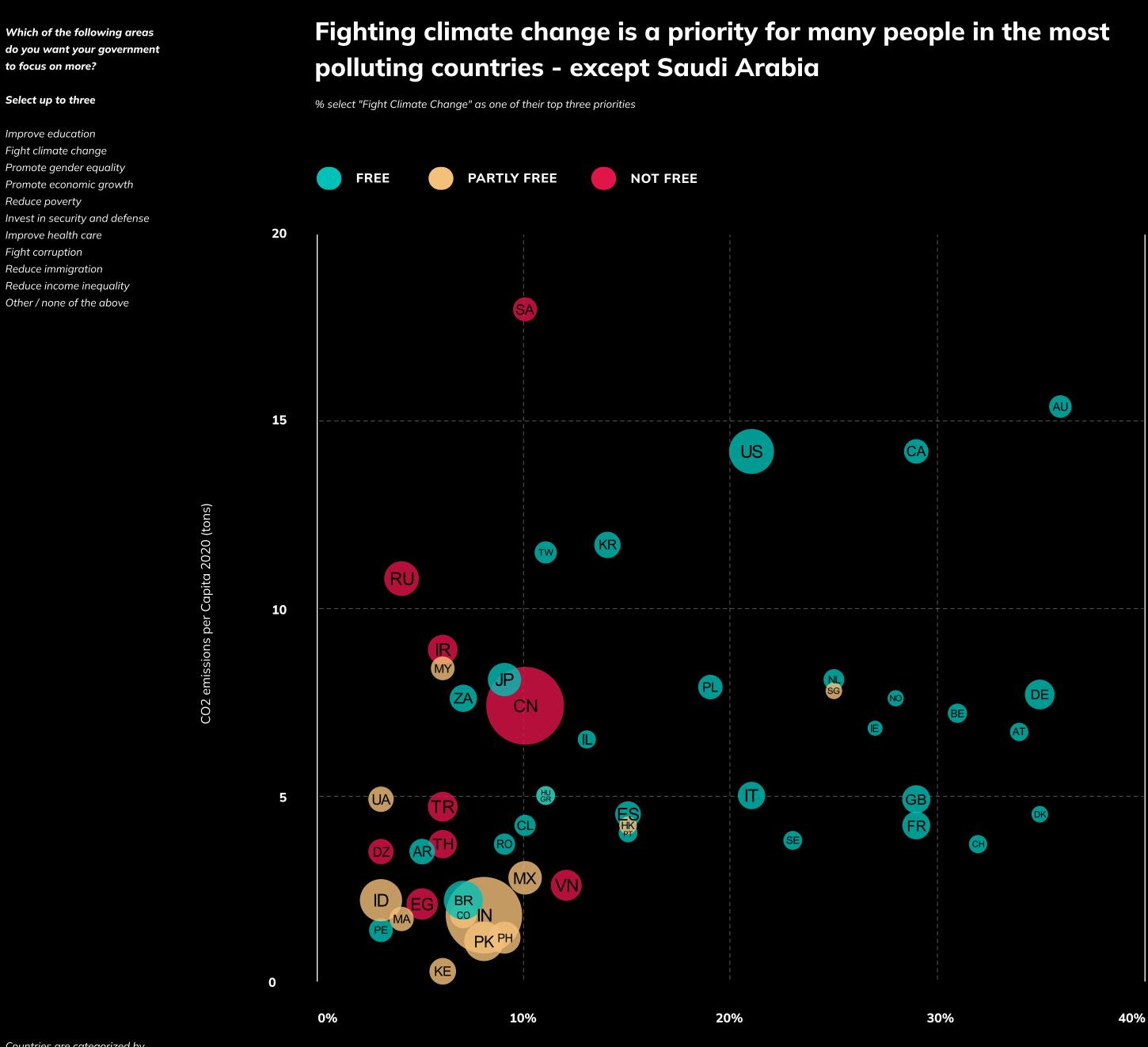


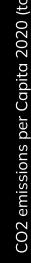


# **DEEP DIVE Climate Change**

In many countries in the Global South, such as Kenya, Nigeria, India, Pakistan, and the Philippines, the small share of people who picked "Fight Climate Change" as one of their top priorities for their government corresponds very closely with their country's relatively lower CO2 emissions per capita.

However, even in some of the most heavily polluting countries per capita, such as Saudi Arabia, Russia, Taiwan and South Korea, relatively few people select fighting climate change as one of their top three priorities for their government.





Countries are categorized by Freedom House as "Free", "Partly Free" and "Not free"

% select "Fight Climate Change" as one of their top three priorities



#### **DEMOCRACY PERCEPTION INDEX 2022**

43

# **Global Politics**

To better understand why democracy is in global decline, this chapter asks people from around the world what they see as the most important threats to democracy in their country. It covers the following topics:

Perception of Global Powers	45
US Impact on Democracy	51
Economic Ties with Russia	54
Economic Ties with China	56
Assistance to Ukraine	59
World Challenges	61



# **Perception of Global Powers**

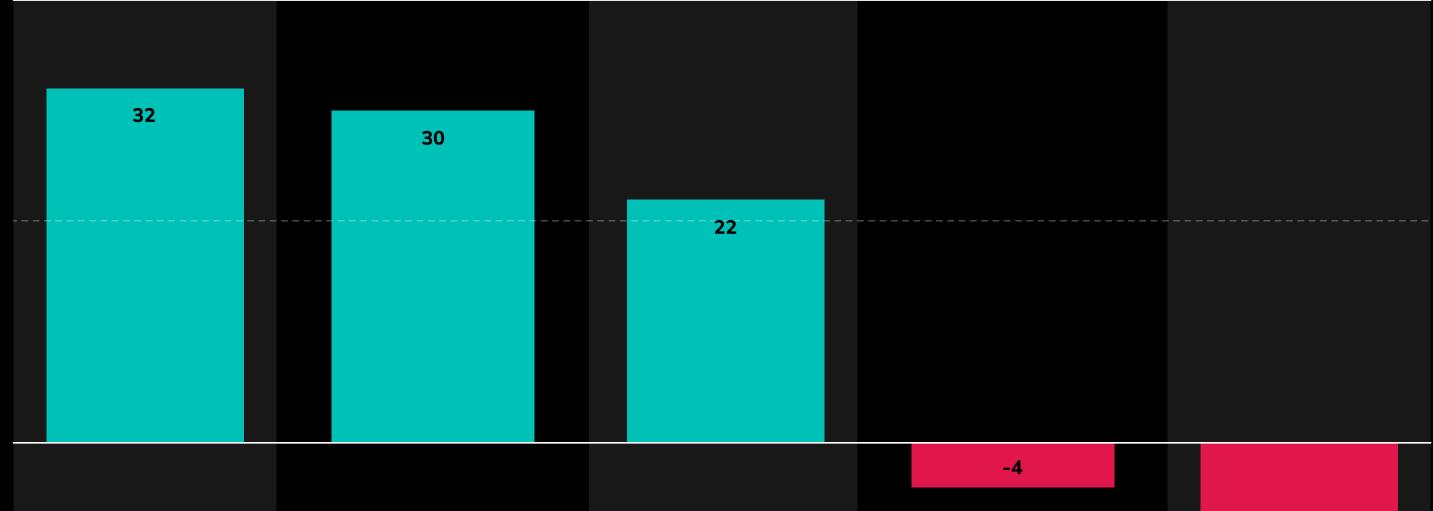
Most people around the world have a net positive perception of the European Union (+32), the United Nations (+30), and the United States (+22), meaning that more people say they have a positive perception than a negative.

When it comes to perceptions of China, however, the world is more evenly divided: slightly more people have a negative opinion than positive opinion across the 53 countries surveyed, resulting in a net perception of -4.

Lastly, perceptions of Russia are far more negative than positive in most countries, resulting in an average net perception of -32.

### Most people have positive perceptions of the EU, the UN, and the United States

net perception: % say they have a positive perception - % say they have a negative perception





What is your overall perception of the European Union / the United Nations / the United States / China / Russia?

Very positive / Somewhat positive / Neither positive nor negative / Somewhat negative / Very negative / Don't know

\*"Positive" includes "very positive" and "somewhat positive".



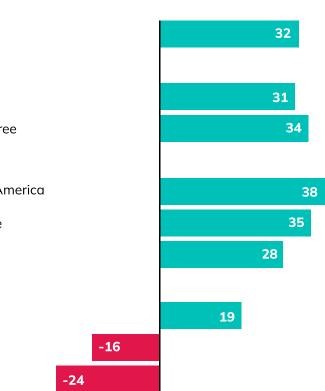
# **Perception of the European Union**

The European Union is viewed positively around the world (+32), with more people saying they have a positive perception of the EU than a negative perception in almost all countries: 51 out of the 53 countries surveyed.

## The EU is viewed positively by countries all around the world - except Russia and China

net perception of the EU: % positive - % negative

	NET	<b>NEGATIVE</b>	NET POSITIVE		
Ukraine					Ukrainians
Nigeria					have the most positive
Kenya					opinion of the EU
Portugal					
Poland					
lorocco					
Romania					
/ietnam					
ndia					K
reland					
Colombia					
Peru					
hilippines					7
pain razil					
razil					
akistan					
enezuela					
1exico					
hailand					
anada				Dogion	al Results
long Kong				Region	
lorway				Within th	e EU, Greece and Austria ha
gypt				the most	divided opinions.
weden					
outh Korea				Only two	countries have net negative
ermany				opinions	of the EU: Russia and China
outh Africa					
enmark					
rgentina					NET NEGATIVE NET POSITIVE
lungary				Global	
hile					
audi Arabia				Fire	
elgium				Free	
ustralia				Less Free	
Igeria					
Inited Kingdom				Latin Americ	a
aiwan				Europo	
1alaysia				Europe	
witzerland				Asia	28
etherlands					
rael				USA	19
rance				China	-16
				Russia	
aly				Russia	-24
ingapore urkov					
urkey					
an nite d. Ctarta a					
nited States					
ustria					
apan					
ndonesia					
reece					
hina					
ussia					



What is your overall perception of the European Union?

Very positive / Somewhat positive / Neither positive nor negative / Somewhat negative / Very negative / Don't know

\*"Positive" includes "very positive" and "somewhat positive".



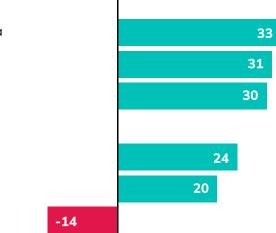
# **Perception of the United Nations**

Similarly to the European Union, the United Nations is viewed positively around the world (+30), with more people saying they have a positive perception of the UN than a negative perception in almost all countries: 50 out of the 53 countries surveyed.

## The UN is viewed positively by almost all countries around the world

net perception of the UN: % positive - % negative

•			
geria			
nya			
lippines			
dia			
ietnam			
oland			
orocco			
omania			
ortugal			
razil			
olombia			
kraine			
outh Africa			
eru			
akistan			
nailand			
enmark			
orway			
exico			
eland			
weden			
nited Kingdom			
alaysia outh Korea			
ermany			
elgium			
enezuela			
pain			
ong Kong			
anada			
gypt			
ungary			
etherlands			
nited States			
ustralia			
audi Arabia			1
Igeria			
donesia			
hina	i i		
witzerland			
rance			
ngapore			
rgentina			
aly			
hile			
ustria			
urkey			
an			
aiwan			
rael			
reece			
ipan			
ussia			



35

What is your overall perception of the United Nations?

Very positive / Somewhat positive / Neither positive nor negative / Somewhat negative / Very negative / Don't know

\*"Positive" includes "very positive" and "somewhat positive".



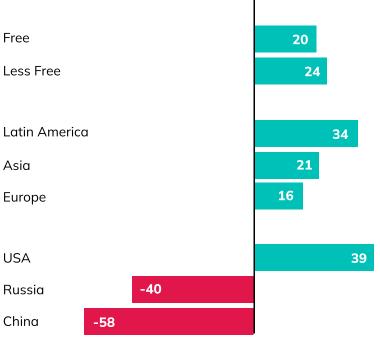
# **Perception of the United States**

The United States is generally viewed positively around the world (+22), with more people saying they have a positive perception of the US than a negative perception in most countries: 45 out of the 53 countries surveyed.

### The United States is viewed positively in most countries around the world

net perception of the US: % positive - % negative

Poland Nigeria Kenya Ukraine Morocco India Vietnam Colombia Philippines Romania Brazil				* * *
Kenya Ukraine Morocco India Vietnam Colombia Philippines Romania Brazil				* * * *
Ukraine Morocco India Vietnam Colombia Philippines Romania Brazil				* * * *
Morocco India Vietnam Colombia Philippines Romania Brazil				* * *
India Vietnam Colombia Philippines Romania Brazil				
Vietnam Colombia Philippines Romania Brazil				
Colombia Philippines Romania Brazil				
Philippines Romania Brazil				
Romania Brazil				
Brazil				
South Korea				
Israel				
Peru				
United States				De view vl. De sudte
Venezuela				Regional Results
South Africa				Europeans are far more divided about th
Thailand				opinion of the US than people in the rest
Pakistan				
Taiwan				the world.
Portugal				People in Turkey and Greece, both NATO
Hong Kong				members, have net negative opinions of
				the US.
Mexico				the 05.
Algeria				
Japan				NET NEGATIVE NET POSITIVE
Egypt				
Chile				Global 22
Argentina				
Saudi Arabia				Free 20
Sweden				
Spain				Less Free 24
Iran				
Australia				Latin America 34
France				Asia 21
Denmark				
Belgium				Europe 16
Germany				
United Kingdom				USA
Netherlands				Russia -40
Norway				
Malaysia				China -58
Ireland				
Singapore				
Canada				The countries with the most
				overwhelmingly negative perceptions of
Italy				
Hungary				the US are Russia and China.
Switzerland				
Turkey				
Austria				
Greece				
Indonesia				
Russia				
China				



What is your overall perception of the United States?

Very positive / Somewhat positive / Neither positive nor negative / Somewhat negative / Very negative / Don't know

\*"Positive" includes "very positive" and "somewhat positive".

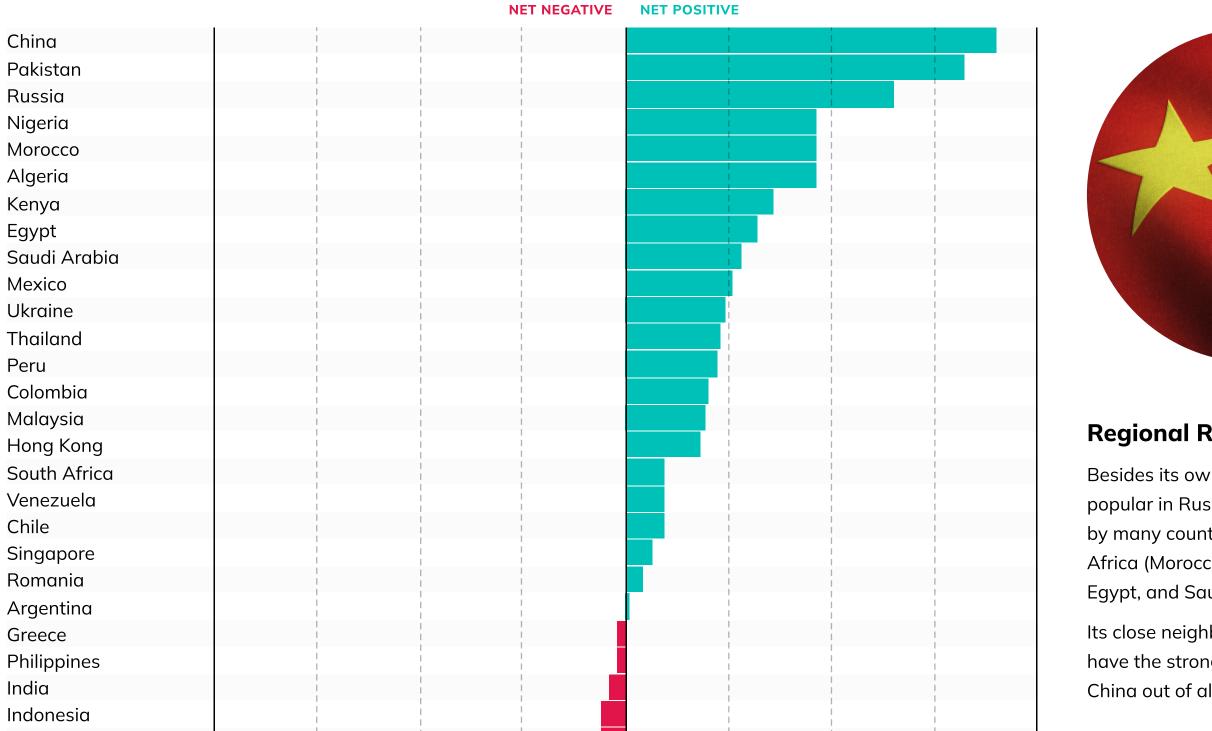


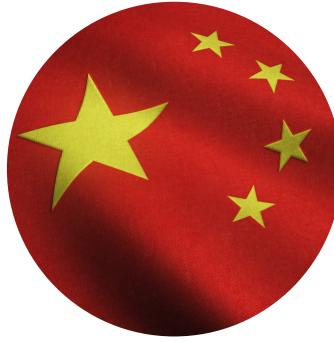
# **Perception of China**

People around the world are divided about their views towards China, with slightly more people saying they have a negative perception than a positive perception (-4). Attitudes are sharply divided between negative perceptions in Western democracies, particularly in Europe and the United States, and more mixed or positive perceptions in the rest of the world.

### The world is divided in its views toward China

net perception of the China: % positive - % negative



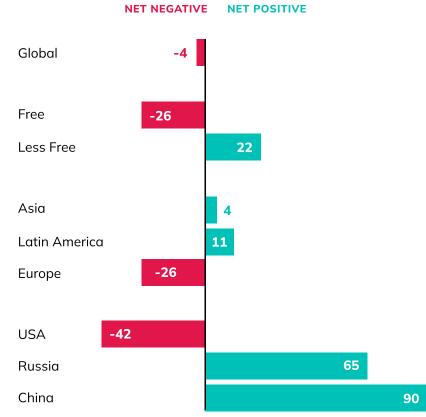


#### **Regional Results**

Besides its own population, China is most popular in Russia and in Pakistan, followed by many countries in the Middle East and Africa (Morocco, Nigeria, Algeria, Kenya, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia).

Its close neighbors, South Korea and Japan, have the strongest negative perceptions of China out of all the countries surveyed.

maonesia		I			
Israel					
Brazil					
Turkey					
Vietnam					
Poland					
Hungary					
Iran					
Spain					
Italy					
Switzerland					
France					
Belgium					
Portugal					
Netherlands					
Ireland					
Taiwan					
Norway					
Denmark					
United Kingdom					
Canada					
United States					
Australia					
Germany					
Austria					
Sweden					
Japan					
South Korea					
	-100%	-50%	0%	E004	100%
		-50%	0%	50%	100%



#### What is your overall perception of China?

Very positive / Somewhat positive / Neither positive nor negative / Somewhat negative / Very negative / Don't know

\*"Positive" includes "very positive" and "somewhat positive".

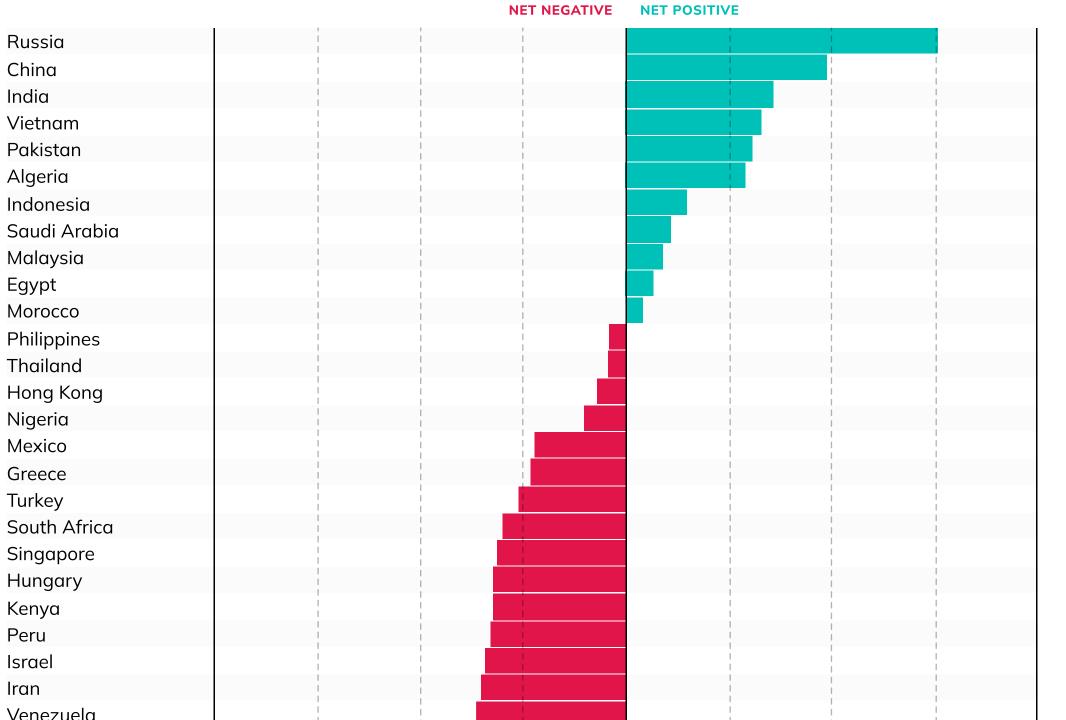


# **Perception of Russia**

Most countries have net negative views of Russia, meaning that more people have a negative perception of Russia than positive ones. In only 11 out of the 53 countries surveyed do people have net positive perceptions, led by China, India, and other populous countries in Asia and the Middle East. Collectively, however, these 11 countries represent nearly half of the world's total population.

### Most people have negative views of Russia

net perception of the Russia: % positive - % negative





#### **Regional Results**

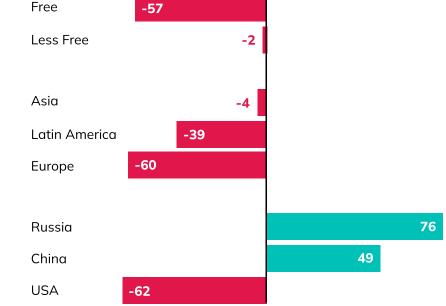
People in western democracies, particularly in Europe and America, have the most negative perceptions of Russia.

#### NET NEGATIVE NET POSITIVE

	-32

Global

Venezuela					]	 	1
Colombia							 
Argentina						   	 
Taiwan							 
Chile						   	 
Switzerland							1
France						   	
Romania							1
Australia						1 	
Italy							1
Belgium						• 	
Netherlands							1
Norway						1	
Brazil							
United States							
Germany					]	 	
South Korea						 	 
Austria							1
Canada							 
United Kingdom							1
Japan							1
Spain						   	
Sweden							   
Ireland						   	
Denmark							 
Ukraine						1 	
Portugal							 
Poland						,   	
	-100%	-50%	0	%	50	)%	100%



#### What is your overall perception of Russia?

Very positive / Somewhat positive / Neither positive nor negative / Somewhat negative / Very negative / Don't know

\*"Positive" includes "very positive" and "somewhat positive".

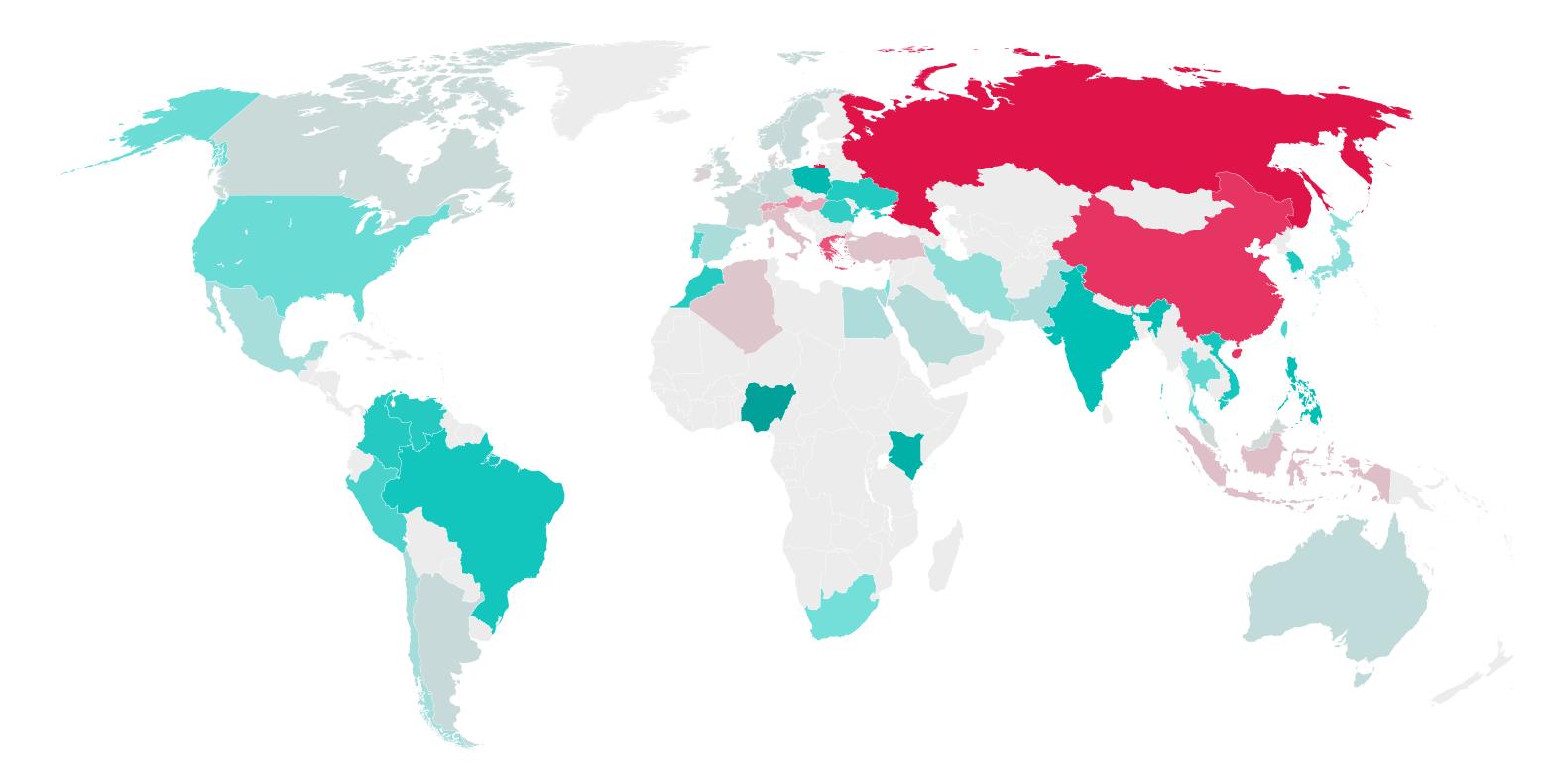


# **US Impact On Democracy**

Across the 53 countries surveyed, an average of 48% of people say that the United States has a positive impact on democracy around the world, while 34% say it's negative.

## World is split about the US's impact on democracy worldwide

net opinion\* of the US's influence on democracy worldwide



**Overall, do you think the United States has a positive or negative impact on democracy around the world?** Very positive / Somewhat positive / Somewhat negative / Very negative / No impact / Don't know



\*Net opinion is calculated as % positive - % negative.

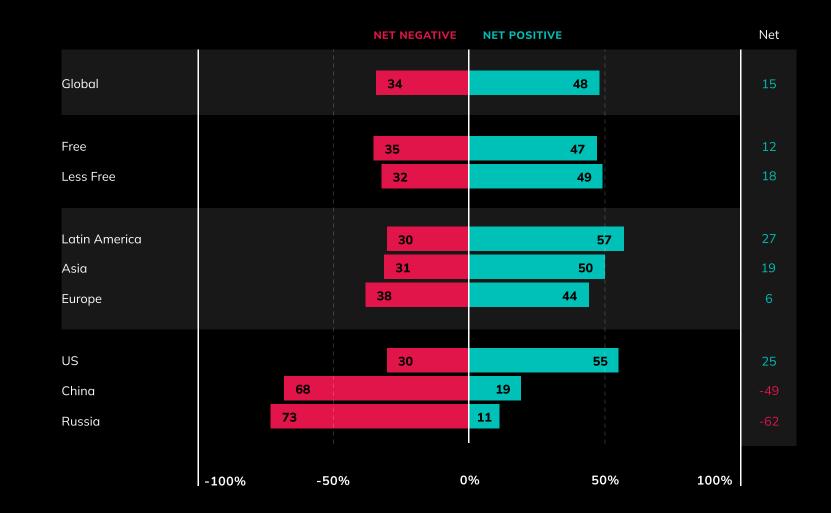
#### **KEY FINDINGS**

# There are strong regional divides in US perception

On one hand, many developing countries, particularly in Latin America and Eastern Europe, have overwhelmingly positive assessments of the US's impact.

On the other hand, Russia, China, and Greece have the most negative perceptions.

And lastly, in most Western European countries, as well as Canada and Australia, opinion is very evenly divided.



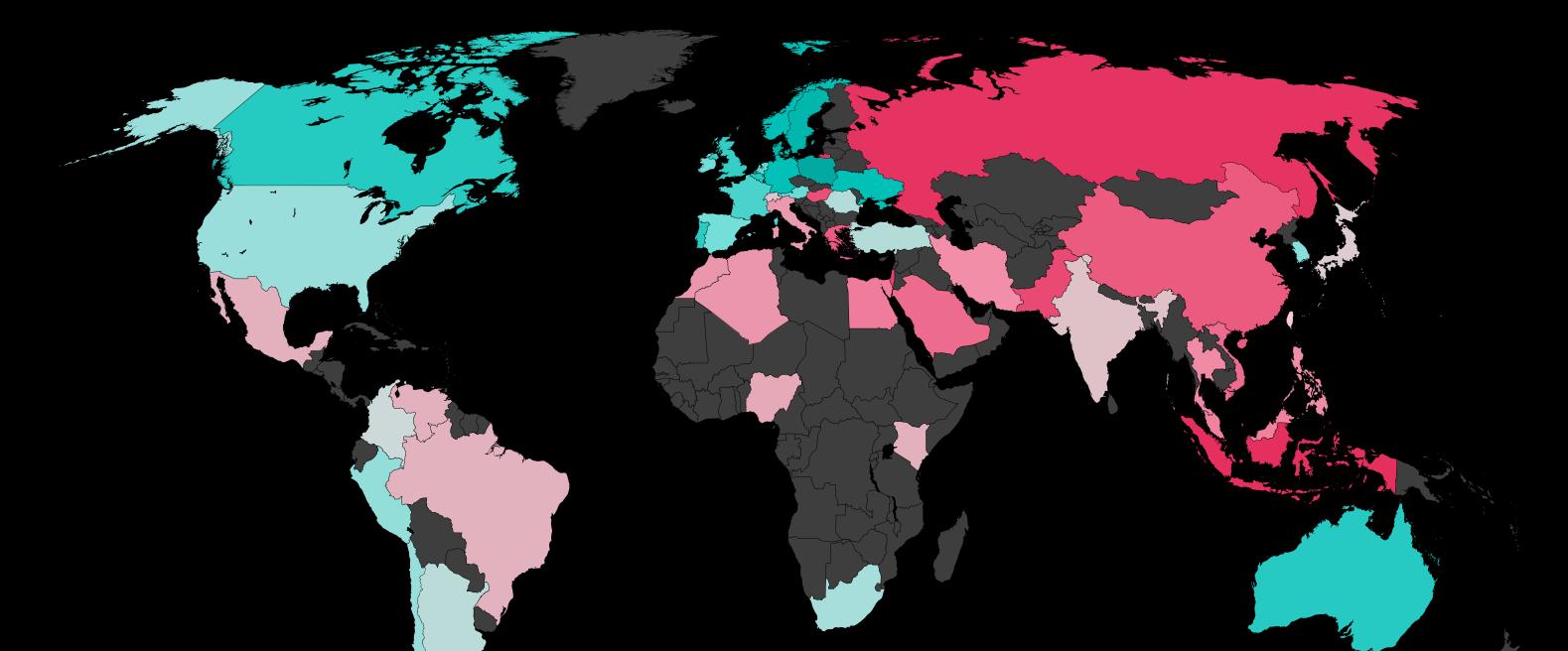
#### **TREND 2021 VS 2022**

# **US Impact On Democracy**

The perception of the US's global influence on democracy has improved significantly among Europeans (+10) and people living in "free" democracies (+10) from 2021 to 2022. Attitudes in the rest of the world, however, have taken the opposite turn, particularly in Asia (-10) and in less democratic countries (-9).

# Perceptions of the US's global impact on democracy improve in Europe and worsen elsewhere since 2021

Change in net opinion of the US's global influence on democracy, 2021-2022





#### **KEY FINDINGS**

# From the Biden Bump to the Biden Divide

During Biden's first year in office, perceptions of the US's influence on global democracy improved substantially in almost all countries, from the spring of 2020 to the spring of 2021. Since then, however, attitudes towards the US have begun to diverge: the critical attitudes in Europe have improved significantly, while the generally positive attitudes in the rest of the world have slightly declined.

# European Perception of the US

Attitudes towards the US's impact on global democracy have improved in almost all European countries since 2021. The only three European countries perceptions have significantly worsened are Hungary (-20), Greece (-18), and Italy (-8).

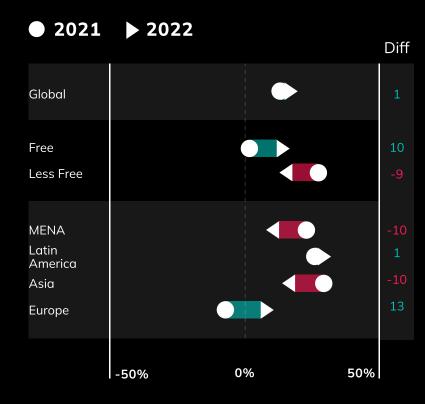


#### TREND 2021 VS 2022

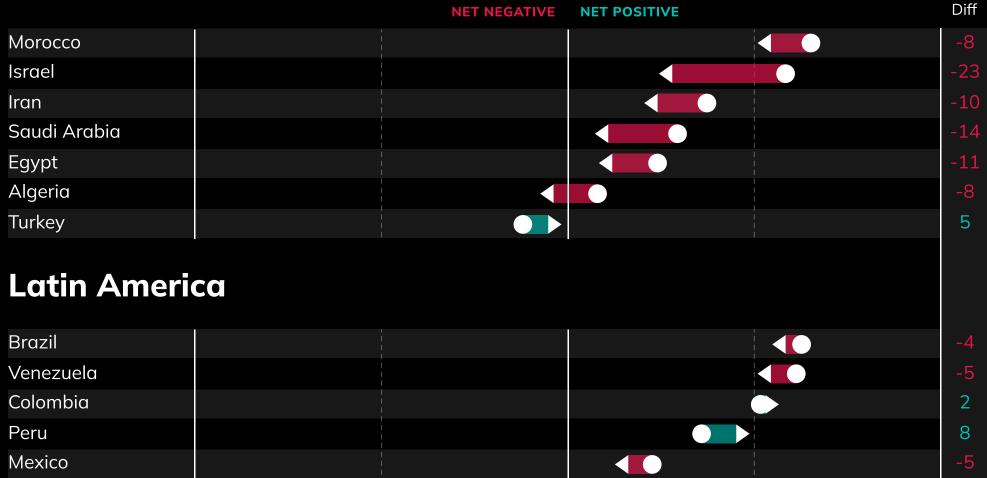
Attitudes toward the US's global impact on democracy diverge since 2021

Change in net opinion of the US's global influence on democracy, 2021-2022

#### **Regional Trend**



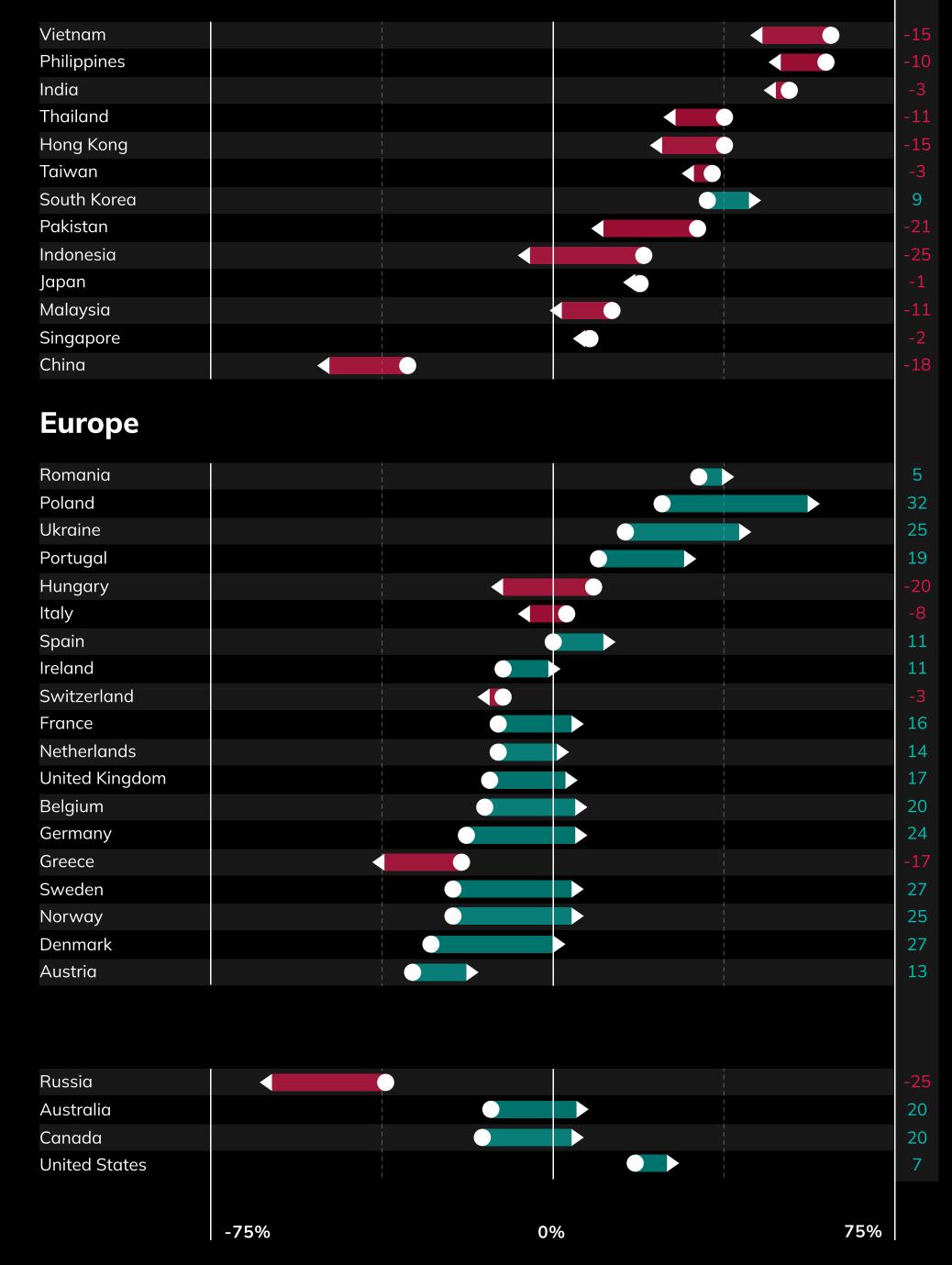
## Middle East & North Africa



### Asia

Chile

Argentina



Overall, do you think the United States has a positive or negative impact on democracy around the world? Very positive / Somewhat positive / Somewhat negative / Very negative / No impact / Don't know

\*Net opinion is calculated as % positive - % negative.

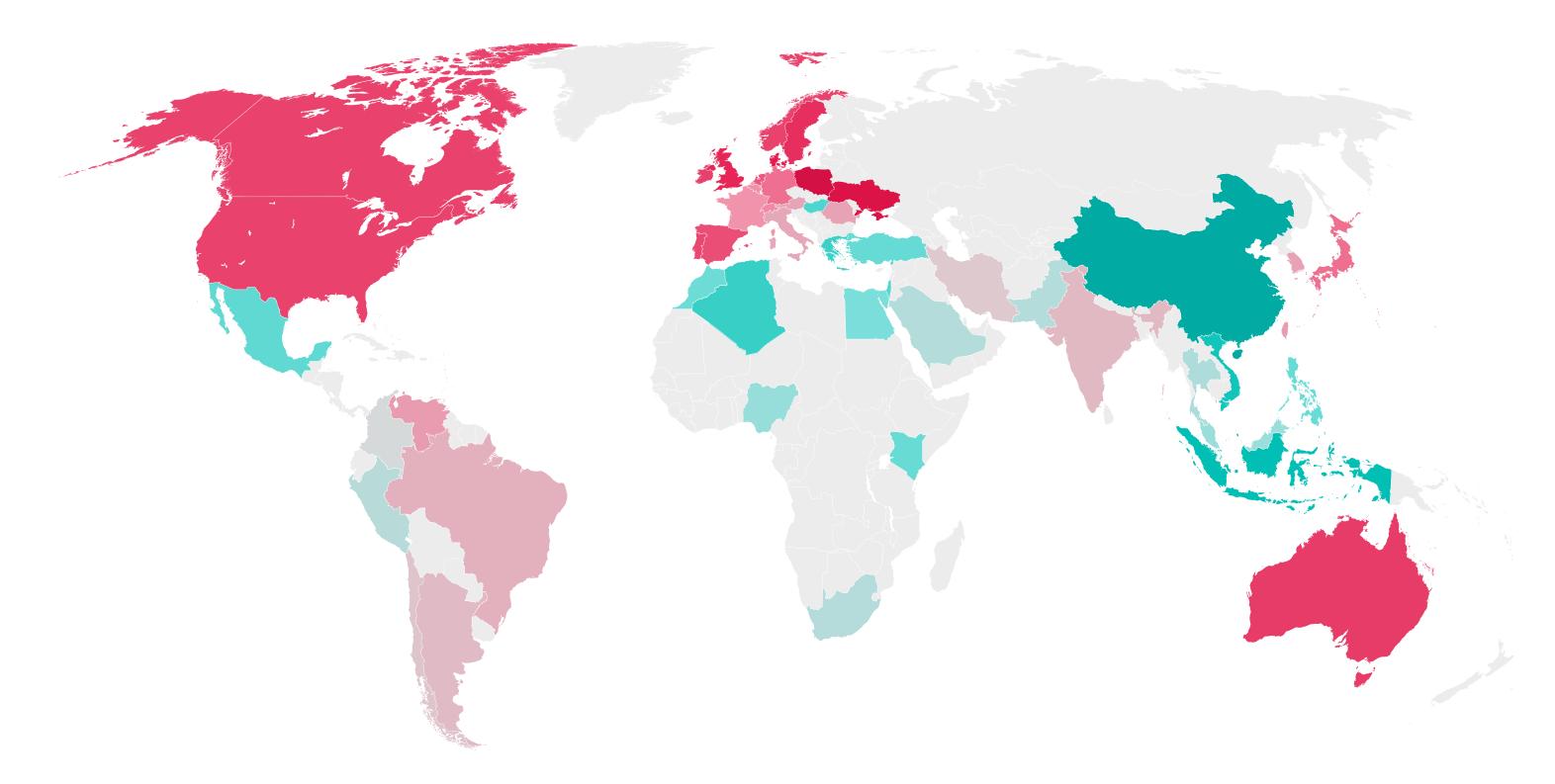


# **Economic Ties with Russia**

When asked if they think their countries should cut economic ties with Russia over its invasion of Ukraine, people in 31 out of the 52 countries surveyed are more in favour of cutting ties than keeping ties.

## Western democracies want to cut economic ties with Russia

net support for keeping economic ties with Russia: % keep ties - % cut ties



**Do you think your country should cut economic ties with Russia because of the war in Ukraine?** Yes / No / Don't know [Question excluded in Russian questionnaire] -100% CUT TIES KEEP TIES 100%

"Cut ties" = "Yes", "Keep ties = "No".

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

# Support for cutting ties with Russia divides the West from the rest

Western Democracies, particularly Europe and the US, have far more people willing to cut ties with Russia than keep ties with Russia. The rest of the world however has mixed opinions or would rather keep ties.



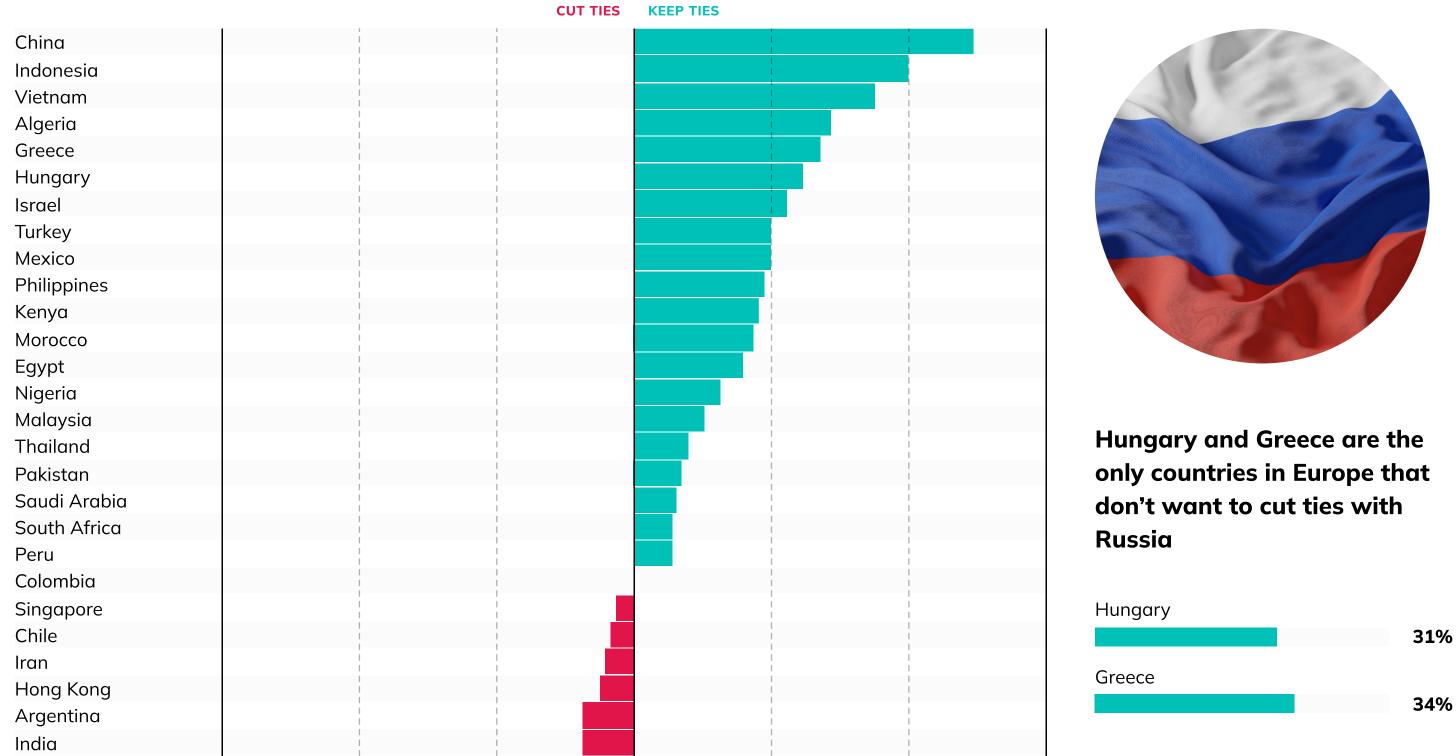


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## Western democracies want to cut economic ties with Russia

net support for keeping economic ties with Russia: % keep ties - % cut ties



mana		1					
Brazil							
Austria							
South Korea		i I				i I	
Romania							
Italy		i i				i i	
Venezuela							
Taiwan							
France							
Belgium							
Switzerland							
Germany							
Japan							
Netherlands							
Spain							
Portugal							
Canada					1		
Norway							
United States							
Ireland							
Australia							
Sweden							
United Kingdom							
Denmark							
Ukraine							
Poland							
					I	I	
	-75%	-50%	-25%	0%	25%	50%	75%

**Do you think your country should cut economic ties with Russia because of the war in Ukraine?** Yes / No / Don't know [Question excluded in Russian questionnaire]

"Cut ties" = "Yes", "Keep ties = "No".

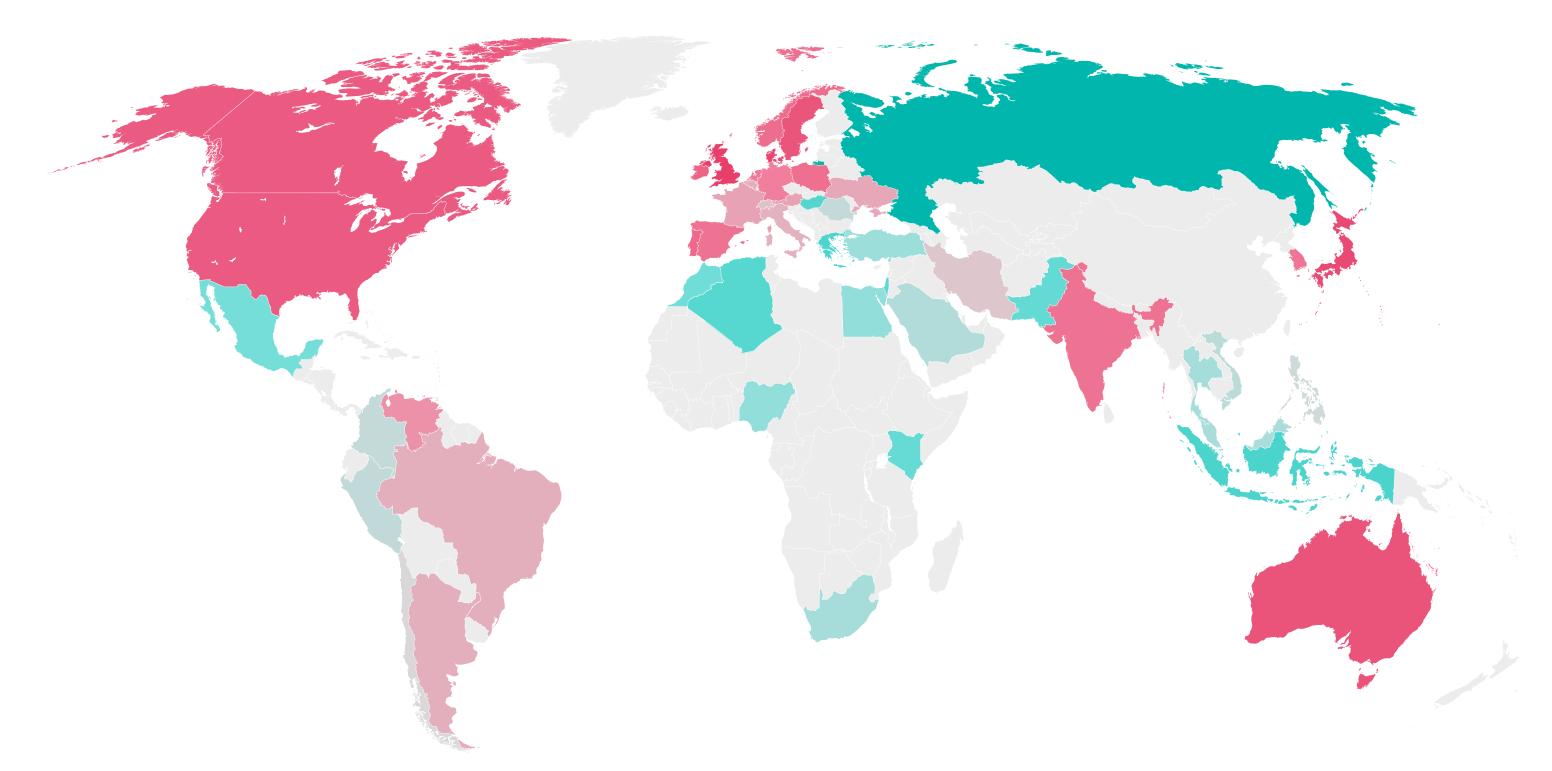


# **Economic Ties with China**

In 26 out of the 52 countries surveyed, more people say they would be in favour of their country cutting economic ties with China if it invaded Taiwan - than keeping ties. These countries include many of China's top trading partners such as the United States, Japan, South Korea, and Germany, and collectively account for over 53% of China's total trade, or \$2.3 trillion.

### If China invades Taiwan, half of the world would want to cut economic ties

net support for keeping economic ties with China if it invaded Taiwan: % keep ties - % cut ties



If China started a military invasion of Taiwan, do you think your country should cut economic ties with China? Yes / No / Don't know [Question excluded in China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong] -100% CUT TIES KEEP TIES 100%

"Cut ties" = "Yes", "Keep ties = "No".

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

# Support for cutting ties with China also divides the West from the rest

On one hand, Western Democracies, particularly Europe and the US, have far more people willing to cut ties with China than keep ties.

On the other hand, opinion in the rest of the world is much more mixed or in favor of keeping ties with China, particularly in most Asian countries, most non-democratic countries, and most of all, Russia.



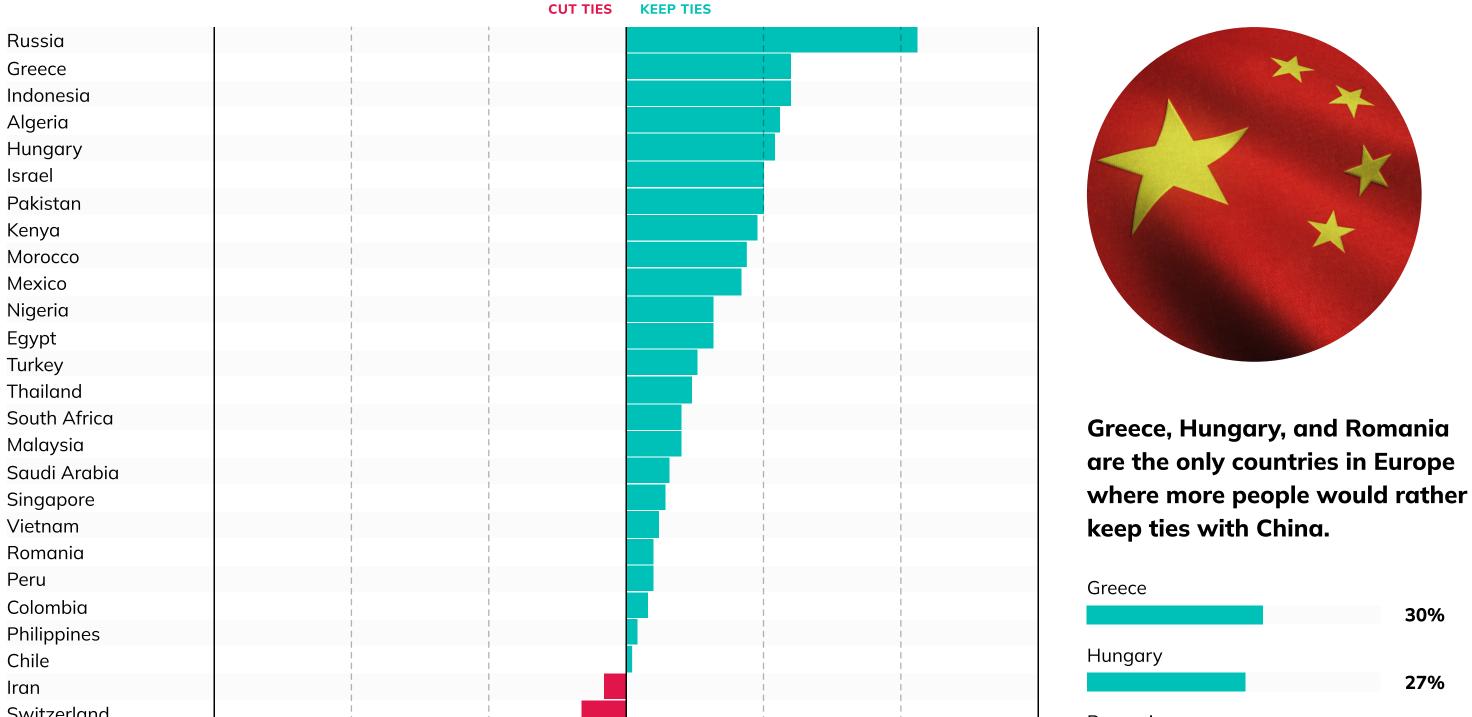


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## If China invades Taiwan, half of the world would want to cut economic ties

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Switzerland								Romania	
Argentina									5%
Brazil									
Belgium		i i	I						
Italy								Many of China's	araest trading
Ukraine								-	
Austria								partners are amo	-
France								countries where	nore people
Venezuela								would rather cut	ties than keep
Germany								ties.	-
Netherlands									
South Korea		i i							
India								Japan	420/
Norway		i i							-42%
Poland								Australia	
Spain									-39%
Portugal								Linite of Charters	
Ireland								United States	200/
Canada									-38%
United States								South Korea	
Australia									-26%
Sweden									
Japan								Germany	2.40/
Denmark									-24%
United Kingdom									
	-75%	-50%	-25%	0%	25%	50%	75%		

If China started a military invasion of Taiwan, do you think your country should cut economic ties with China?

Yes / No / Don't know [Question excluded in China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong]

"Cut ties" = "Yes", "Keep ties = "No".



**DEMOCRACY PERCEPTION INDEX 2022** 

30%

27%

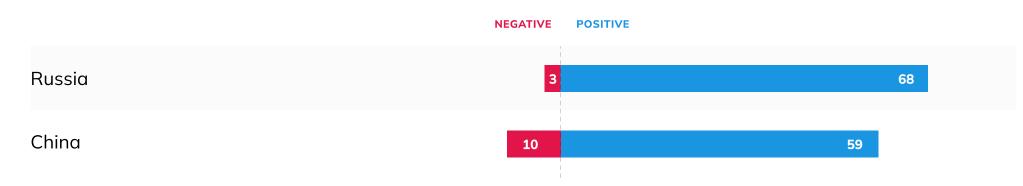
# **Russia-China Relations**

The results of this year's DPI reveal that Russia-China relations are strong not only between governments, but also between the general populations of both countries.



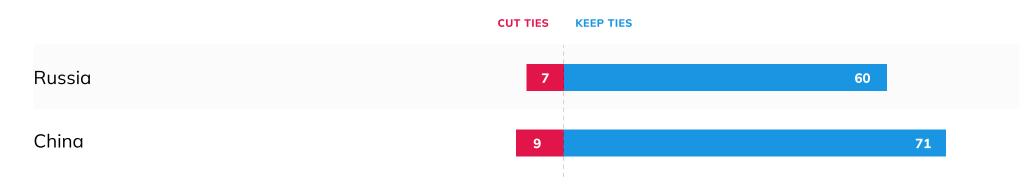
# Both the Russians and Chinese hold very favorable views of each other's countries

% say they have a positive/negative perception of China/Russia



# They both overwhelmingly support keeping economic ties with each other

% say they want to keep/cut economic ties with China if it invaded Taiwan/Russia because of the war in Ukraine

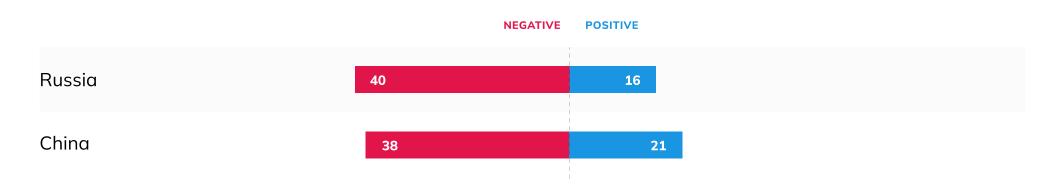


# They both hold the world's most negative perceptions of the United States

% say they have a positive/negative perception of the United States

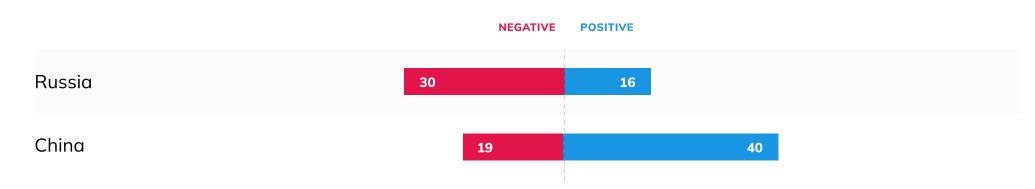
# They are the only two countries to have net negative perceptions of the European Union

% say they have a positive/negative perception of the European Union



# When it comes to the United Nations, however, they have different opinions

% say they have a positive/negative perception of the United Nations

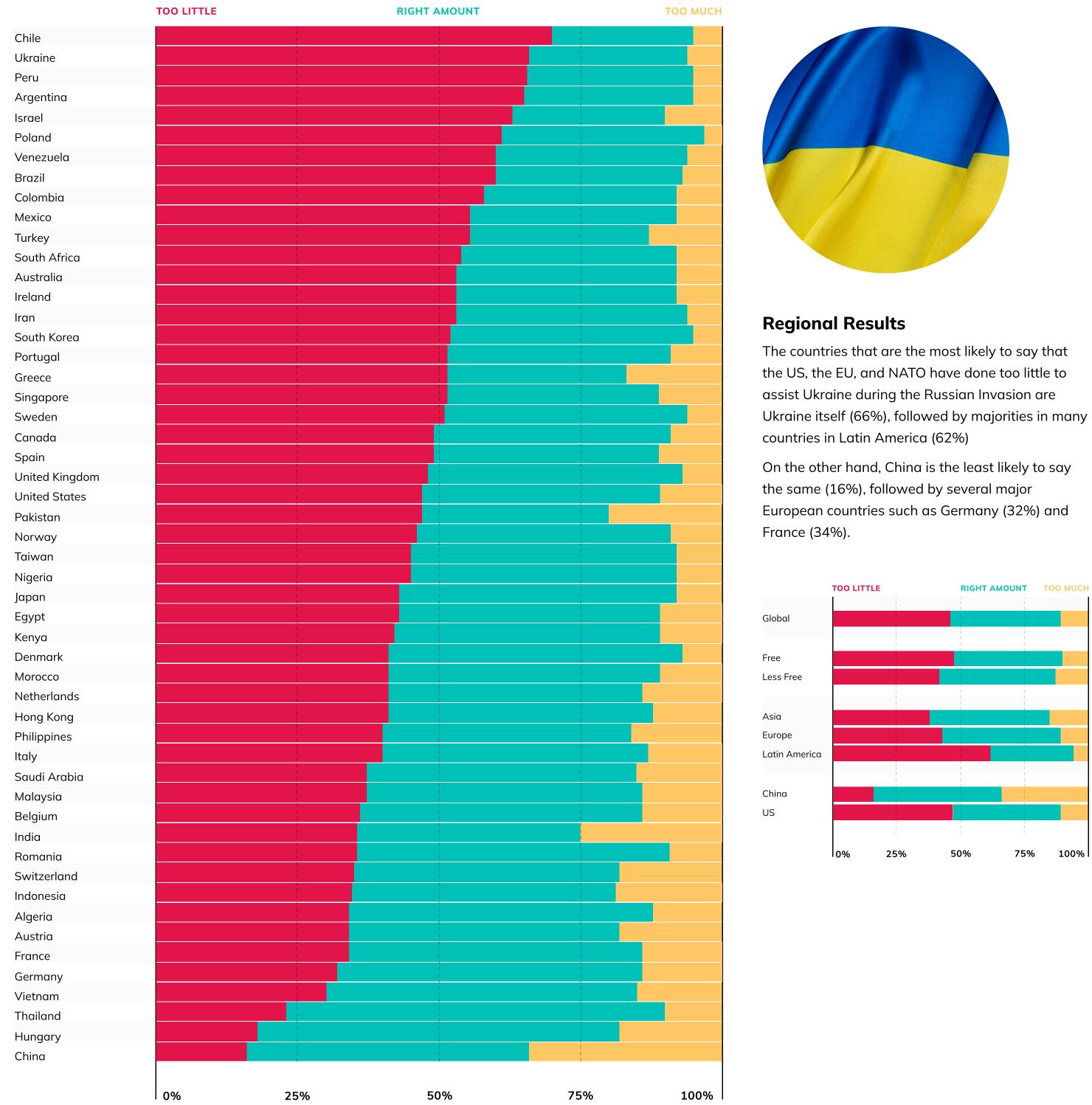


# **Assistance to Ukraine**

Across the 53 countries, around half (46%) of the respondents say that the US, EU, and NATO have done too little to assist Ukraine during the Russian invasion, while the remaining half say that they have done the right amount (43%). Only 11% say they've done too much.

## Half of the world says that the US, EU, and NATO have done too little to help Ukraine

% say the US, EU, and NATO have done too little, too much, or the right amount to assist Ukraine



Do you think the US, EU, and NATO have done too little, too much, or the right amount to assist Ukraine during the Russian invasion? Too much / The right amount / Too little [Question excluded in Russian questionnaire]



# Ukraine

### **Sanctions on Russia**

When asked if they think their countries should cut economic ties with Russia over its invasion of Ukraine, people in 31 out of the 52 countries surveyed are more in favour of cutting ties than keeping ties (-8). Countries most in favour of cutting ties are primarily western democracies, particularly Europe and the United States, along with Canada, Japan and South Korea and Japan. In the rest of the world, particularly in many other countries in Asia, North Africa and the Middle East, more people are in favour of keeping ties with Russia rather than cutting ties, most notably in China, Indonesia, and Vietnam, as well as US neighbour Mexico, US ally Israel, and NATO ally Turkey. The only two European countries where more people would rather keep ties than cut ties are Greece and Hungary.

% say they want their country to cut/keep economic ties with Russia



### **Assistance to Ukraine**

The vast majority of people around the world support assistance to Ukraine: nearly half (46%) globally say that the European Union, United States and NATO are doing too little to assist Ukraine during the Russian invasion, while 43% said that they are doing the right amount, and only 11% said that they are doing too much.

% say the US, EU, and NATO have done too little, too much, or the right amount to assist Ukraine



### **Perception of the EU**

Out of all the countries surveyed, Ukraine has the most positive perceptions of the European Union, with 76% holding positive views and only 6% holding negative views.

% say they have a positive/negative perception of the European Union

Global

NEGATIVE POSITIVE

Net



Among the BRICS countries, India (-9) and Brazil (-10) have slightly more people in favour of cutting than keeping ties, while South Africa (+7) has slightly more people in favour of keeping ties. People in China overwhelmingly support keeping ties over cutting ties (+62).



### **Perception of China**

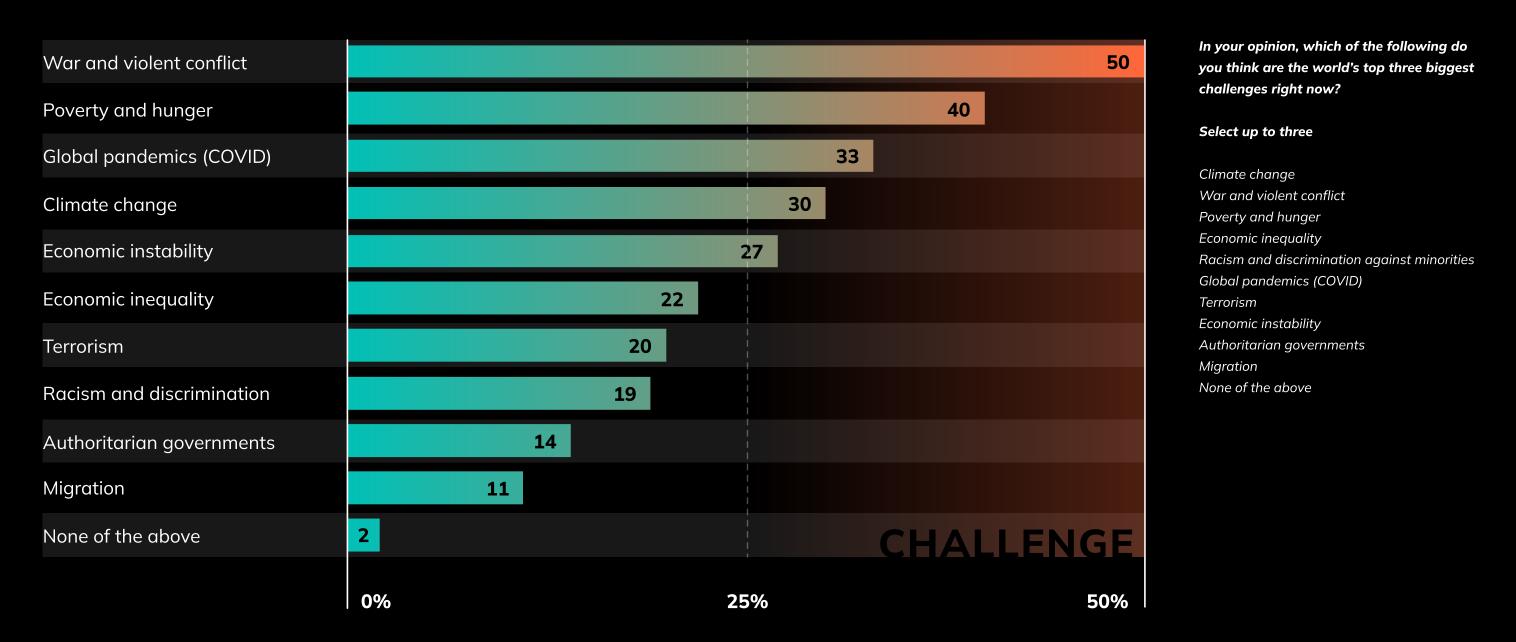
Ukraine is the only country on the European continent where China is viewed more favourably than unfavourably, with more people holding a positive view of China (36%) than negative view (12%), while the majority hold neutral views (52%).



In this year's edition of the Democracy Perception Index, respondents were asked to select up to three issues that they see as the world's biggest challenges right now. Across the 53 countries surveyed, more respondents selected "war and violent conflict" as one of the world's top three biggest challenges (50%) more than any other issue, followed by "poverty and hunger" (40%), and "global pandemics" (33%).

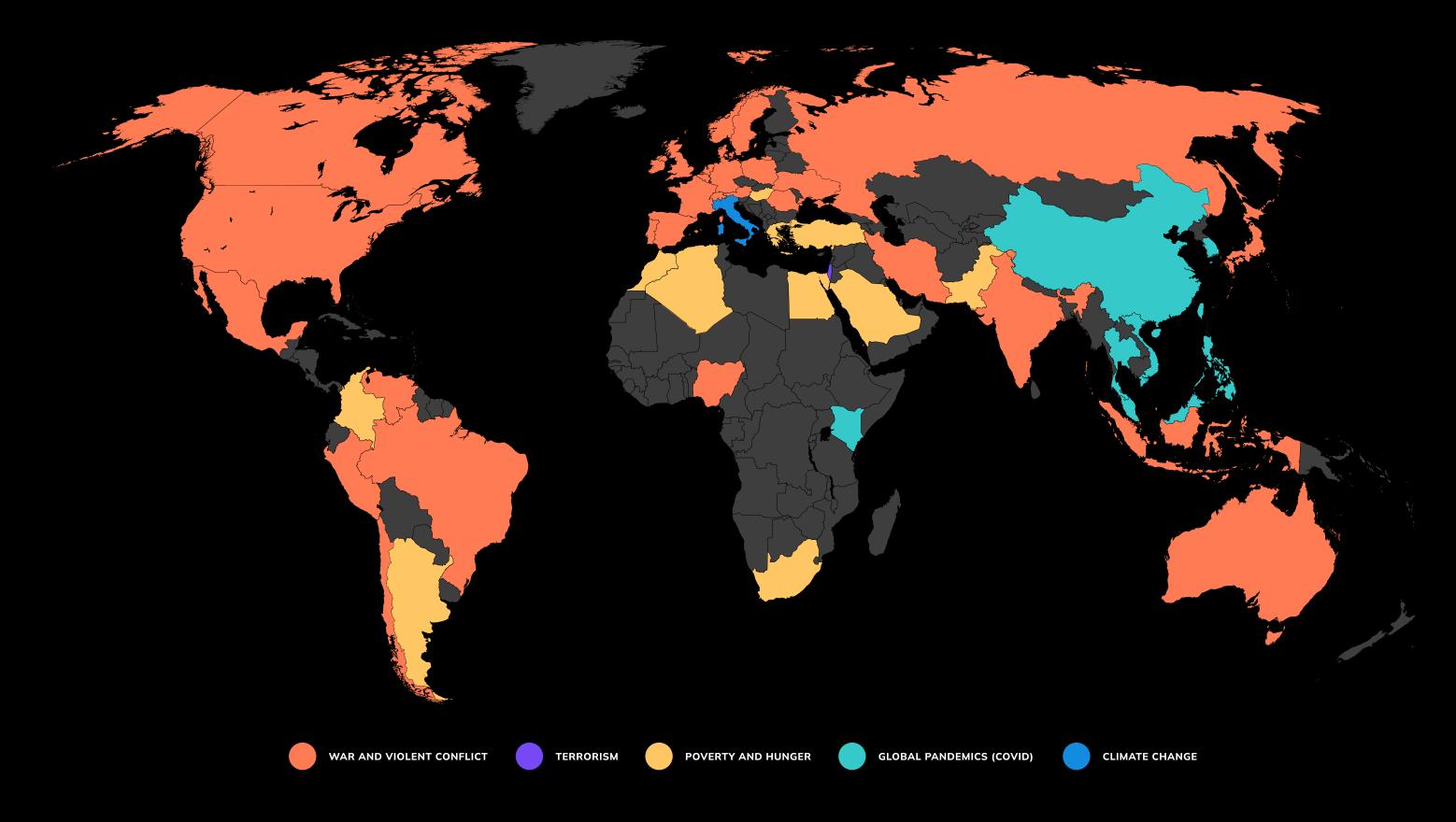
### War and violent conflict is viewed as the world's top challenge

% select \_\_\_\_\_ as one of the world's top three biggest challenges right now



### Concern about war and violent conflict is widespread

the top challenge selected by country



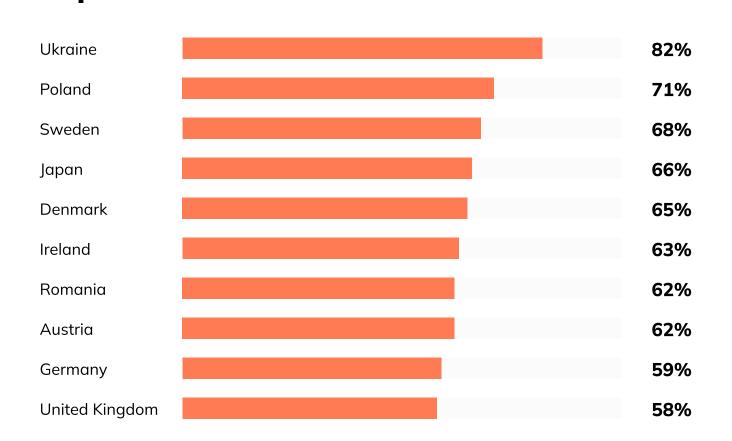


# War and violent conflict

Half of the people around the world (50%) say that war and violent conflict is one of the world's top three challenges right now. This concern is highest in Europe (58%) than in the rest of the world.

% say that \_\_\_\_\_ is one of the world's top three biggest challenges

# Тор 10



# **Global Average**

Global

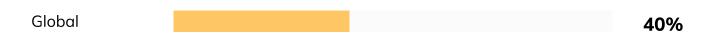
**Poverty and hunger** 

This is the second-highest priority for most people around the world (40%). Concern is significantly lower in Asia (30%) than in Latin America (49%).

### **Top 10**



# **Global Average**



## Bottom 10

## Bottom 10

Kenya	40%	Italy	31%
Algeria	38%	Malaysia	31%
Turkey	38%	Denmark	29%
Hong Kong	37%	Singapore	28%
Malaysia	37%	China	27%
Morocco	35%	Japan	25%
Egypt	33%	Hong Kong	24%
India	33%	Taiwan	22%
Pakistan	31%	Vietnam	21%
Saudi Arabia	29%	South Korea	19%

50%

#### **KEY FINDINGS**



### Saudi Arabia

Despite being currently engaged in a violent conflict in Yemen, people in Saudi Arabia are the least likely (29%) to say that war and violent conflict is one of the world's top three biggest challenges today.

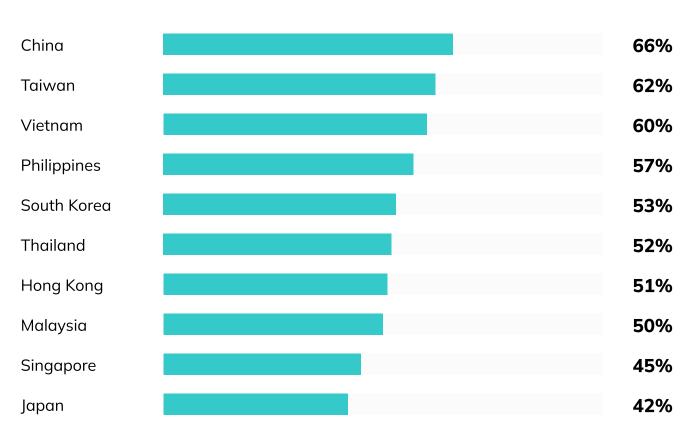


# **Global pandemics (COVID)**

Third most cited challenge facing the world today. Concern is significantly higher in Asia (49%) than in the rest of the world, particularly in Europe (24%), despite Asian countries having some of the lowest COVID deaths per capita rates in the world.

% say that \_\_\_\_\_ is one of the world's top three biggest challenges

### **Top 10**



## **Global Average**

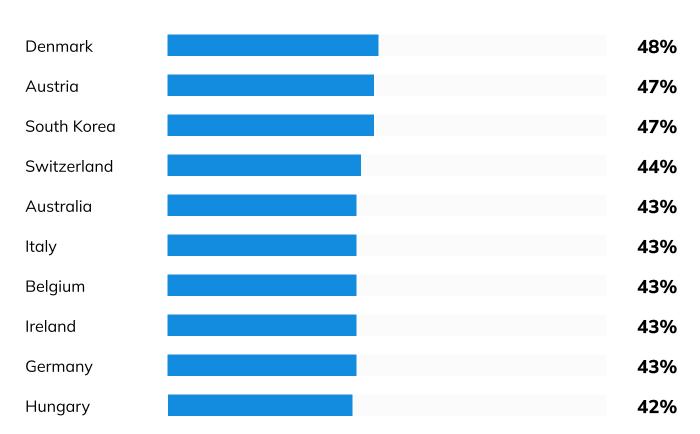
Global

33%

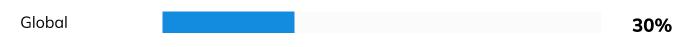
# **Climate change**

30% of people around the world say that climate change is one of the world's top challenges today. Concern about climate change is much higher in Europe (37%) than in the rest of the world, such as Asia (27%) and Latin America (25%).

### **Top 10**



## **Global Average**



## Bottom 10

## Bottom 10

Saudi Arabia	23%	Turkey	17%
Russia	23%	Saudi Arabia	17%
Belgium	22%	Malaysia	17%
Italy	21%	Indonesia	17%
Netherlands	20%	Venezuela	16%
Argentina	20%	Egypt	16%
Sweden	19%	Russia	15%
Switzerland	19%	Nigeria	13%
Denmark	16%	Algeria	12%
Norway	15%	Ukraine	12%

#### **KEY FINDINGS**



### China

More people in China are concerned with global pandemics than any other country surveyed (66% in China vs. 33% globally).



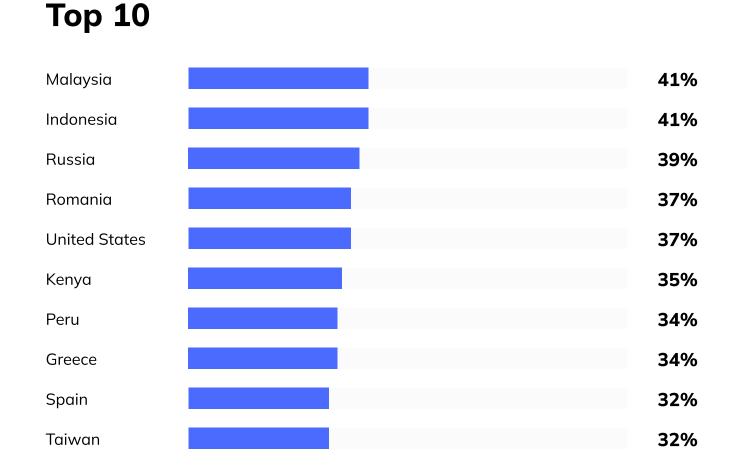
### **South Koreans**

are among the world's most concerned people with climate change, with nearly half saying that climate change is one of the world's top three challenges today. This stands in contrast to the much lower share of South Koreans who say that fighting climate change should be a top priority for their government (14%).

# **Economic instability**

Economic instability is the fifth most cited top global challenge.

% say that \_\_\_\_\_ is one of the world's top three biggest challenges



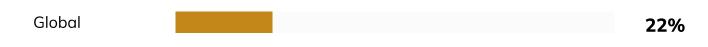
# **Economic inequality**

Around one-fifth (22%) of people say that economic inequality is one of the world's top three biggest challenges today. Concern is highest in Turkey (38%), Brazil (33%), and Argentina (32%).

### **Top 10**



## **Global Average**



### **Global Average**

Global

27%

## Bottom 10

# Bottom 10

Austria	21%	Malaysia	17%
Norway	21%	Poland	17%
India	21%	Israel	16%
Australia	21%	Philippines	16%
Saudi Arabia	20%	Sweden	16%
Sweden	19%	Algeria	14%
Switzerland	19%	Egypt	14%
Netherlands	18%	Nigeria	13%
Germany	18%	Saudi Arabia	11%
France	17%	Morocco	11%

#### **KEY FINDINGS**



### Russia & the US

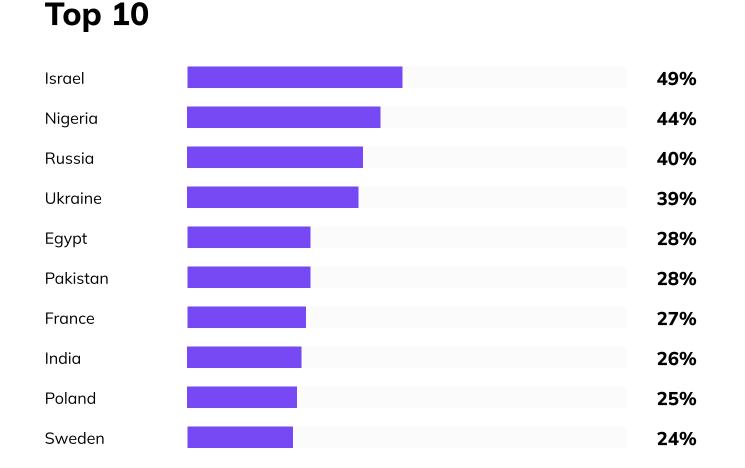
Russians and Americans are among the most concerned with global economic instability in the world (39% and 37%, respectively). Despite inflation reaching 20-year highs in France and Germany, these two countries are among the least likely to see global economic instability as a major world challenge.



# Terrorism

One-fifth of people say that terrorism is a top global challenge today. Concern is highest Israel (49%), Nigeria (44%), Russia (40%) in Ukraine (40%).

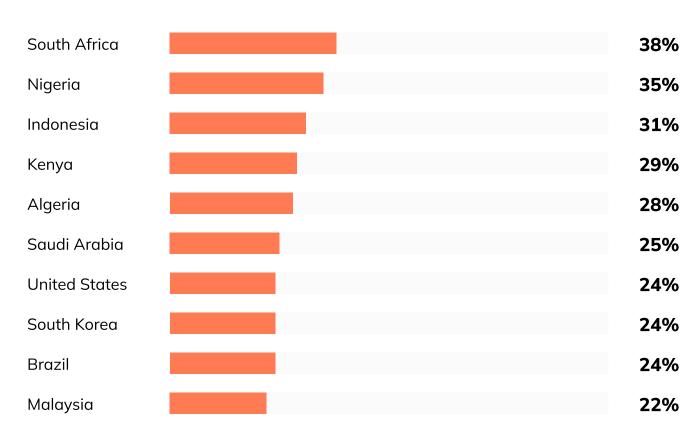
#### % say that \_\_\_\_\_ is one of the world's top three biggest challenges



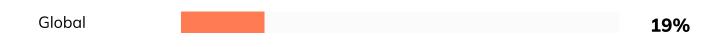
# Racism and discrimination against minorities

Mostly in the African continent, led by South Africa, where 38% say it's one of the world's top challenges.

### **Top 10**



### **Global Average**



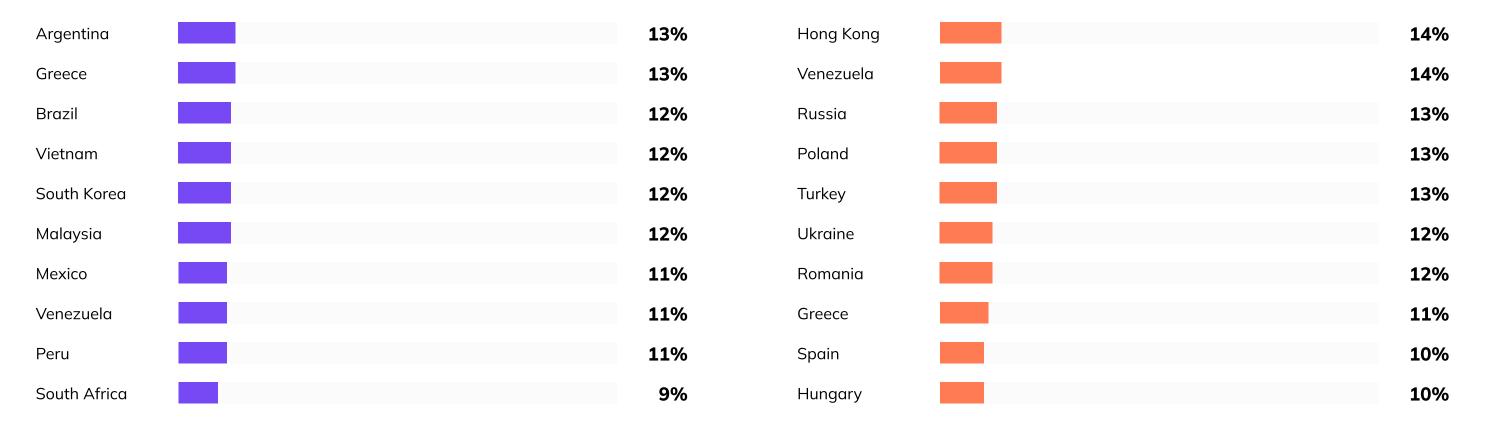
### **Global Average**

Global

20%

## Bottom 10

# Bottom 10



### **KEY FINDINGS**



## US

20 years after the US launched a global war on terror, only around 21% of Americans say that terrorism is one of the world's top three major challenges today, ranking behind most other perceived global challenges.



### US

Nearly one quarter (24%) of Americans say that racism and discrimination is one of the world's top three global challenges today, slightly above the global average (19%).

# **Authoritarian governments**

Only 14% of people around the world say that authoritarian governments are one of the world's top three biggest challenges today. This sentiment is no different between "free" democracies and less free countries.

% say that \_\_\_\_\_ is one of the world's top three biggest challenges

#### United States 23% Canada 22% Japan 22% Hungary 21% Venezuela 21% Iran 20% Ukraine 20% Poland 18% Australia 18% Greece 18%

## **Global Average**

Global

**Top 10** 

14%

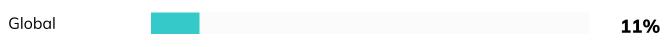
# Migration

Migration is less likely to be perceived as one of the world's top major challenges than any other issue listed in the survey, with only 11% of people around the world saying that migration is one of the globe's top three challenges today.

### **Top 10**



## **Global Average**



## Bottom 10

# Bottom 10

Morocco	10%	Thailand	5%
Vietnam	9%	Kenya	4%
South Africa	9%	Pakistan	4%
Philippines	9%	Iran	3%
South Korea	9%	Nigeria	3%
Nigeria	8%	China	3%
Romania	8%	Taiwan	2%
Italy	7%	Indonesia	2%
Pakistan	7%	Philippines	2%
Kenya	5%	South Korea	1%

### **KEY FINDINGS**



People living in the US, Canada, and Japan are more likely to be concerned with the global challenge posed by authoritarian governments than any other country surveyed. Even for these countries, however, this particular issue ranks relatively low on the list of top challenges.



### Europe

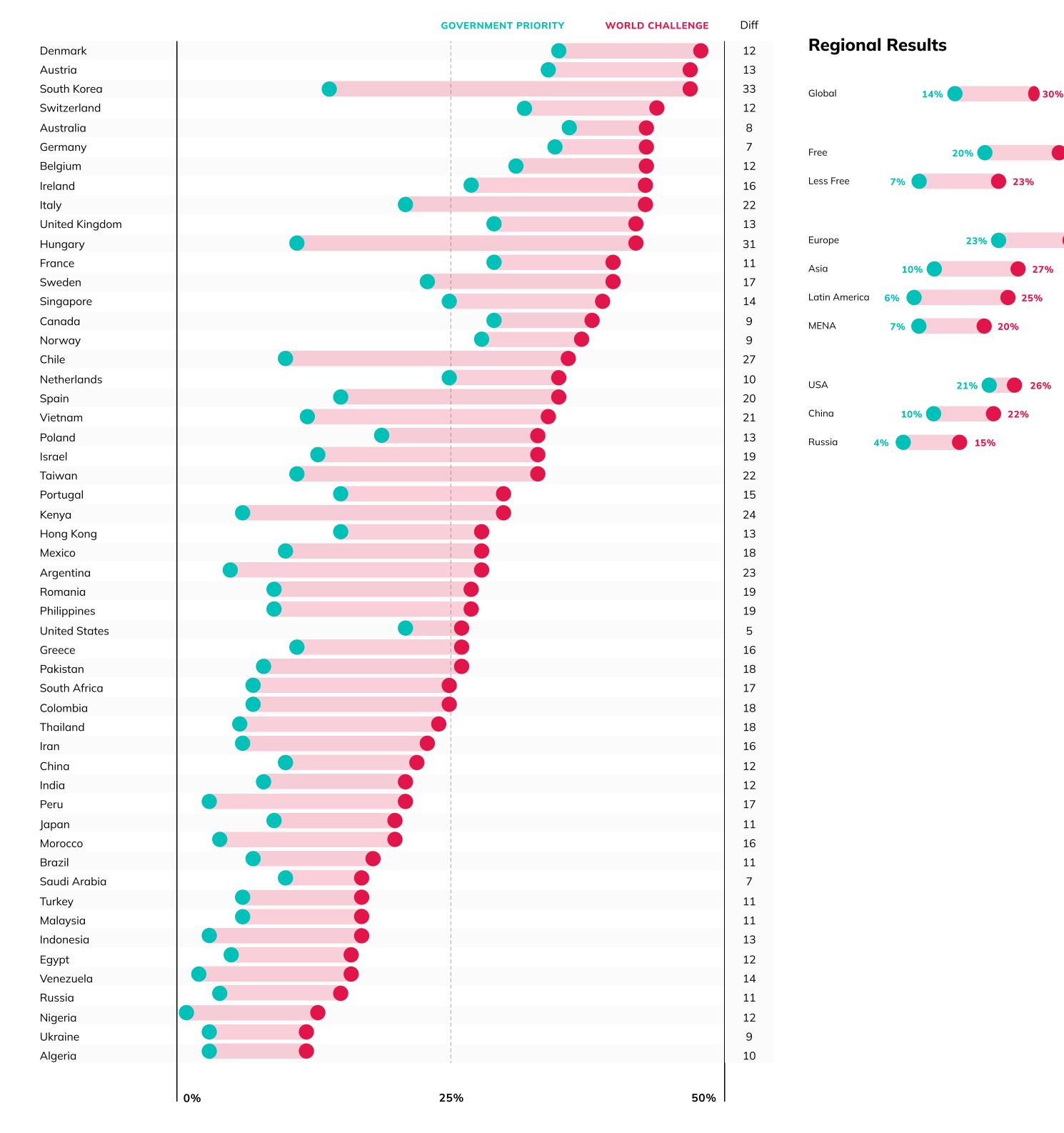
Concern is highest mainly in European countries and is particularly low in almost all Asian countries.

# **Prioritizing Climate Change**

While climate change is viewed as one of the world's top three biggest challenges by 30% of the world's population, only 14% say that it should be a top priority for their government. People in western democracies, particularly in Europe, are the most likely to both perceive climate change as a major global challenge and as a top priority for their government.

# Many people think climate change is one of the world's top challenges. But far fewer say it should be a top priority for their government.

% say climate change is one of the world's top three biggest challenges vs. % say fighting climate change should be one of their government's top three priorities



#### In your opinion, which of the following do you think are the world's top three biggest challenges right now? Climate change / War and violent conflict / Poverty and hunger etc

# Which of the following areas do you want your government to focus on more?

etc Fight climate change / Improve education / Promote gender equality etc



**DEMOCRACY PERCEPTION INDEX 2022** 

35%

37%

# Democracy under COVID

The results of this year's Democracy Perception Index (DPI) offer an unprecedented comparison of attitudes around the world during the COVID pandemic. If COVID is a test for democracies, then the findings in this chapter show that democracies are failing in the eyes of their citizens.

<b>Government Respons</b>	e	69
<b>COVID Restrictions</b>		71



#### DEMOCRACY PERCEPTION INDEX 2022

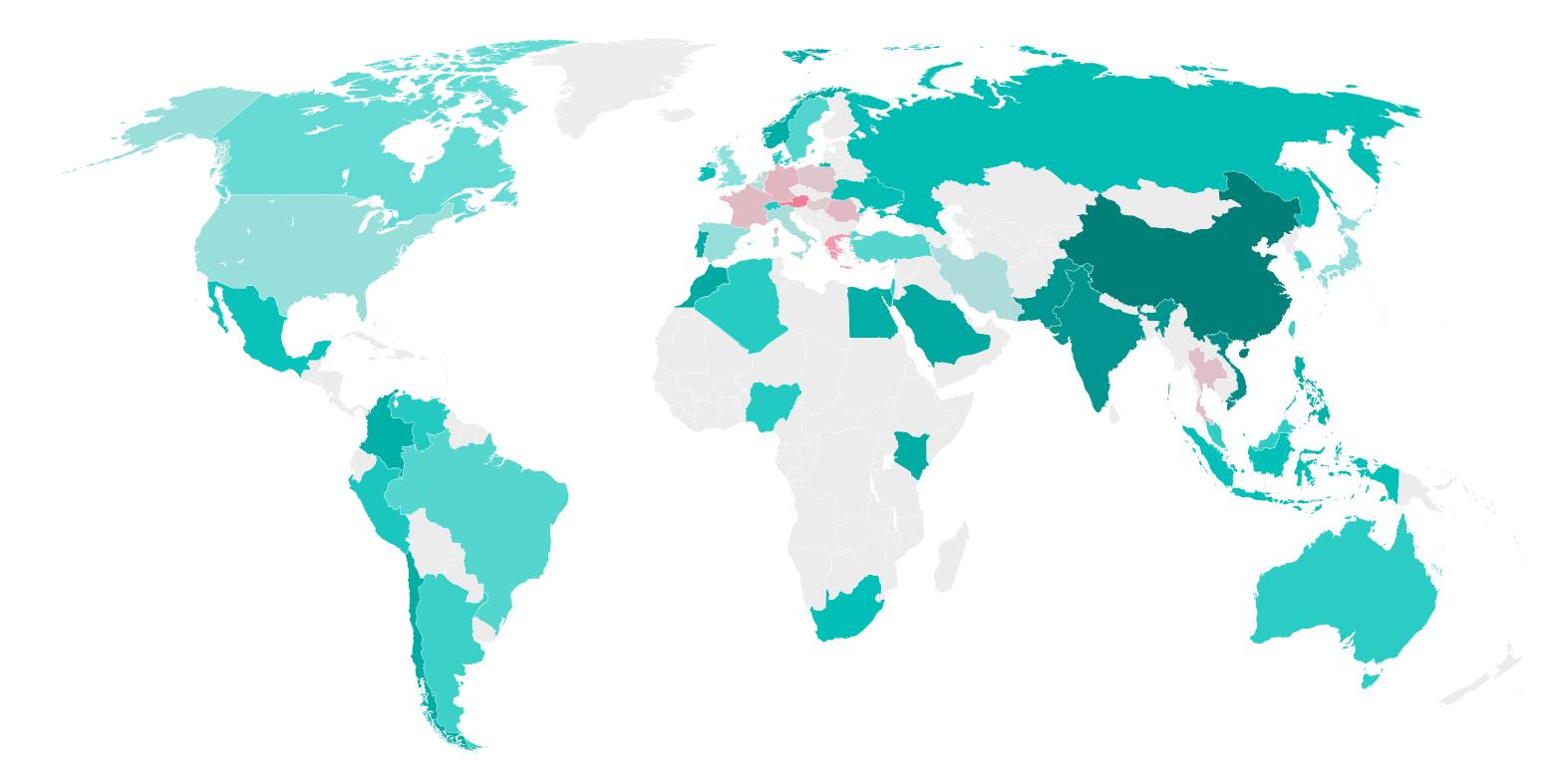
68

# **Government Response**

Across all 53 countries surveyed, an average of 68% say that their country is responding well, ranging from 94% in China to 38% in Austria. People in Europe are generally the least satisfied with their government's response (59%).

### Most people are satisfied with their government's response to Covid - except Europeans

% say that their country is responding well to the COVID 19 crisis



0%

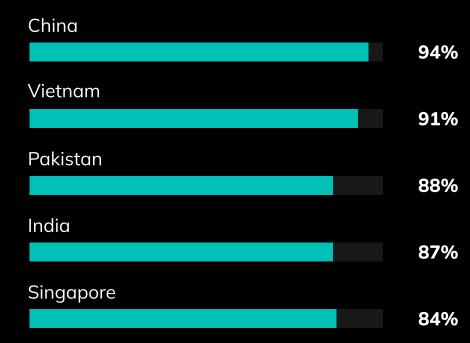
How well do you think your country is responding to the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis? Very well / Somewhat well / Somewhat poorly / Very poorly / Don't know

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

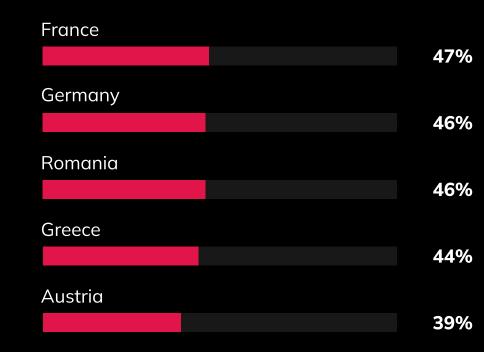
Average satisfaction is much higher in Asia (74%) and Latin America (73%) than Europe (59%),.

People living in "free" democracies are also generally less satisfied with their country's response, with only 63% saying their country is responding well.

#### **Most satisfied**



#### Least satisfied







#### **DEMOCRACY PERCEPTION INDEX 2022**

69

#### TREND 2021 VS 2022

# **Government Response**

Since 2021, people in almost all countries have grown much more satisfied with their government's response to COVID, rising from 58% in 2021 to 68% in 2022. Satisfaction increased most significantly in Latin America, where it increased from 45% to 73% in just one year, followed by Europe where it increased from 45% to 59%.

### People are increasingly satisfied with their country's response to COVID since 2021

% say their country is responding well to the COVID-19 crisis in 2021 and 2022

#### • 2021 • 2022

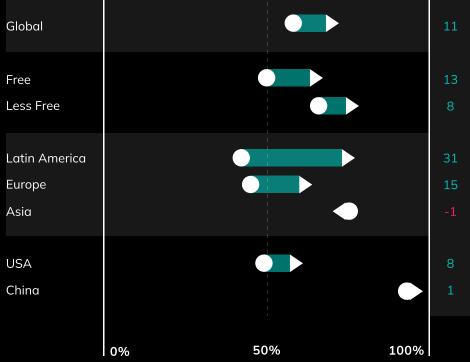
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### **Regional Trend**

Diff

Satisfaction increases around the world

● 2021 ▶ 2022 Global



Diff

### How well do you think your country is responding to the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis?

Very well / Somewhat well / Somewhat poorly / Very poorly / Don't know

\*Well includes "Very well" and "Somewhat well"

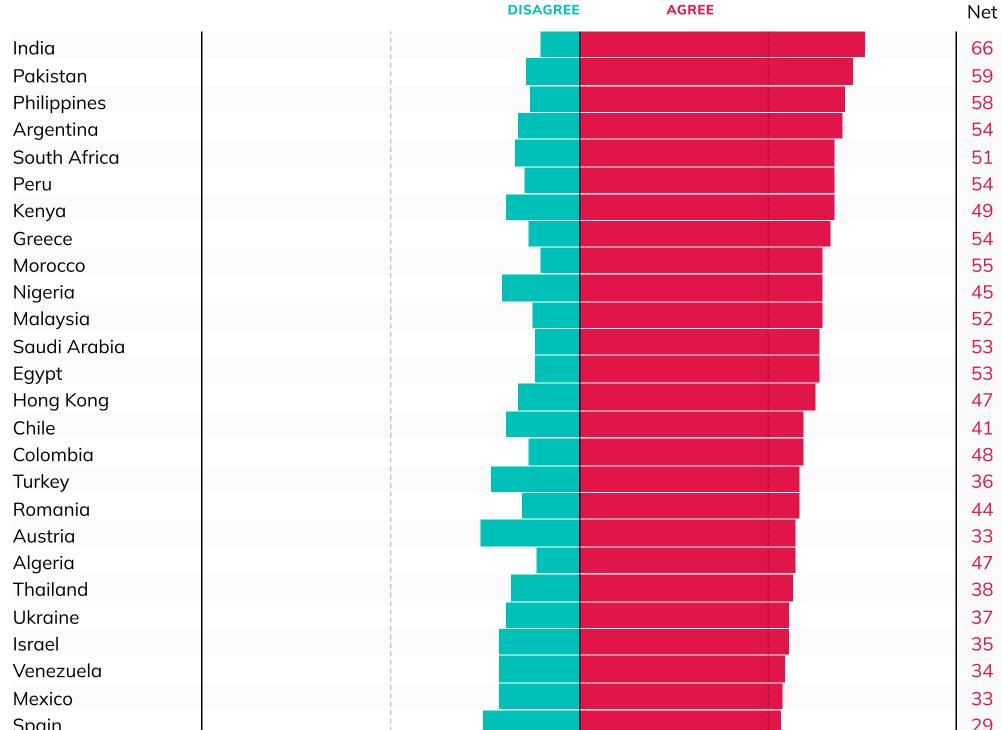


# **COVID** Restrictions

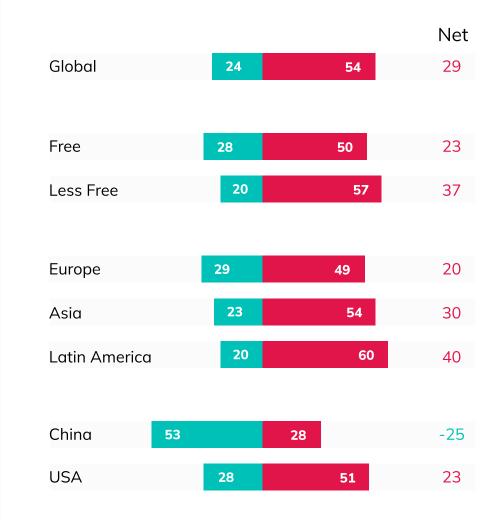
Slightly more than half of the people around the world (54%) say their government has done too much to limit basic freedoms during the COVID crisis. While this concern is higher in less democratic countries (57%), it is still as high as 50% in "free" democracies.

## Majority of people say their country has limited freedoms too much during COVID

% agree that their government has gone too far in limiting people's freedoms during COVID







Spain					29
Indonesia					33
Netherlands					29
South Korea					27
United States					23
Poland					20
Belgium					25
France					22
Germany					18
Brazil					14
Portugal					18
Hungary					10
Switzerland					19
Denmark					13
Russia					17
Singapore					17
Canada					9
Australia					11
Ireland					7
Norway					12
Iran					20
Vietnam					13
Italy					4
United Kingdom					2
Japan					14
Taiwan					-5
Sweden					-15
China					-25
	100%	50%	0%	50%	100%
	· -				

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "My government has done too much to limit people's freedoms during the coronavirus crisis" Strongly agree / Somewhat agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Somewhat disagree / Strongly disagree

\*Agree includes "Strongly agree" and "Somewhat agree"



#### **TREND 2021 VS 2022**

# **COVID Restrictions**

While the perception that governments have done too much to limit freedoms during COVID has decreased in many countries since 2021, it has increased most notably in a handful of democracies.

## Concern about limited freedoms during COVID grows in several countries since 2021

% agree that their government has gone too far in limiting people's freedoms during COVID in 2021 and 2022

#### Diff Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Turkey Spain South Korea **United States** Somewhat disagree / Strongly disagree Canada Norway Australia Brazil Japan Sweden 0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

#### "My government has done too much to limit people's freedoms during the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis" Strongly agree / Somewhat agree / Neither agree nor disagree /

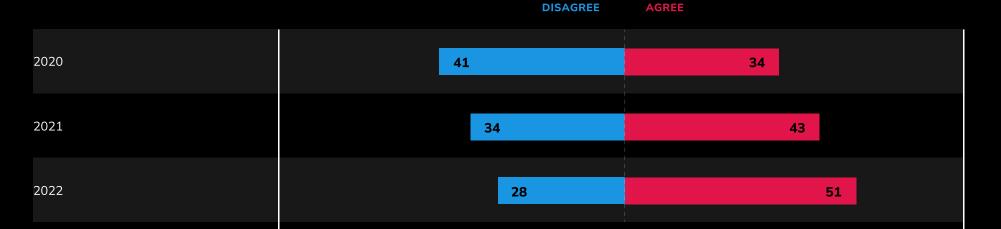
\*Agree includes "Strongly agree" and "Somewhat agree"

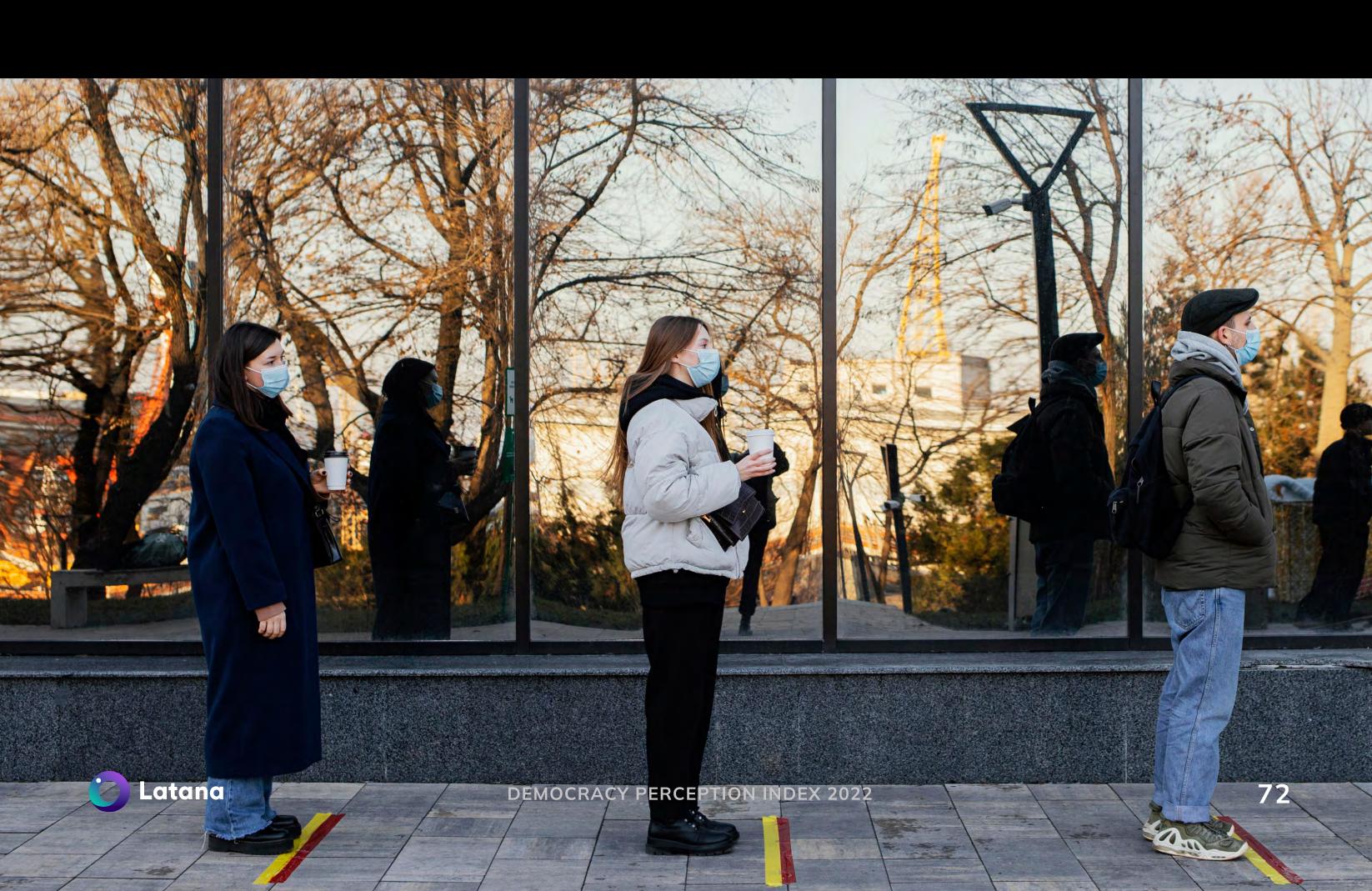
#### **KEY FINDINGS**

● 2021 ▶ 2022

# Americans have grown more and more concerned about limited freedoms during COVID

% garee that their government has gone too far in limiting





0%

# Methodology

#### Overview

This report presents an overview of a study conducted by Latana and the Alliance of Democracies in the spring of 2022, between March 30th and May 10th. The sample of n=52,785 online-connected respondents was drawn across 53 countries, with an average sample size of around 1,000 respondents per country. Nationally representative results were calculated based on the official distribution of age, gender, and education for each country's population, sourced from the most recent and available data from Barro Lee & UNStat, and census.gov. The average margin of error across all countries sampled is (+/-) 3.2 percentage points.

#### How the DPI Categorizes Democracies

In order to compare public opinion results between more democratic countries and less democratic countries, the DPI uses the 2022 categories from Freedom House to create two groups:

"Free" - the most democratic countries, labeled as "Free" by Freedom House.

"Less Free" - countries labeled as "Partly Free" or "Not Free" by Freedom House.

#### **Free Speech**

In some countries surveyed, the government plays an active role in shaping public opinion and/or has policies in place that restrict freedom of speech around certain topics. This can have a strong influence on the survey results.

#### **Summary Tables**

Here are the full summary tables of the results used in this report: (DPI 2022 - Topline Results)

#### **Data Collection**

Latana's surveys are conducted online through internet-connected devices, such as smartphones, tablets, and computers. Latana follows an open recruitment approach that leverages the reach of over 40,000 third-party apps and mobile websites. To ensure coverage across different demographic groups and geographical regions, Latana targets a highly diverse set of apps and websites – from news to shopping, to sports and games. As a result, Latana generates up to 21 million answers every month from respondents living in as many as 100 different countries.

#### **Data Privacy and Anonymity**

Once a user opts in to complete a survey, Latana informs the respondent about the nature of the questionnaire and explains that all answers – including the generic demographics that are part of the targeting and quality assurance process – are recorded anonymously. To ensure respondent privacy and high-quality response data, Latana does not collect any personally identifiable information (PII) on users. In contrast to surveys conducted face-to-face or by telephone, the anonymity offered by Latana's methodology may help reduce response bias, interviewer bias, and respondent self-censorship.

For more information, please contact:

#### Frederick DeVeaux

Senior Researcher at Latana frederick.deveaux@latana.com



# Latana

Our vision is to lead the development of a new generation of research technologies that enable us to better understand the needs, desires, and preferences of people around the world.

Latana is an AI-Powered brand tracking solution that leverages key insights to help companies track their brand and campaign performance. An international market leader in brand tracking services, Latana also uses its technology to understand the underlying forces behind the opinions of people worldwide.

We are proud to pioneer advanced machine learning technology that has access to billions of consumers around the globe. This enables us to quickly understand consumer perception, and thus predict consumer behavior - the cornerstone of brand value.

We have devised Brand Analytics, a new insights category nobody has built before. This innovative data solution can be utilized by all companies, large or small, to measure brand health and make better marketing decisions.



# **Contact Us**

For General Inquiries: hello@latana.com

For Sales: sales@latana.com

For PR/Partnerships: marketing@latana.com

<u>latana.com</u>

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# The Alliance of Democracies Foundation

Alliance of Democracies' vision is to become the world's leading "megaphone" for the cause of democracy.

**The Alliance of Democracies Foundation** 

The Alliance of Democracies Foundation is a non-profit organization founded in 2017 by Anders Fogh Rasmussen. The Foundation is dedicated to the advancement of democracy and free markets across the globe and runs three core programs: the Copenhagen Democracy Summit, the Expeditionary Economics Program, and the Campaign for Democracy.

#### The Copenhagen Democracy Summit

The Copenhagen Democracy Summit is an annual conference bringing together political and business leaders, including current and former heads of government, from the world's democracies. The goal of the Summit is to be the top international forum for analysis of the security and economic challenges facing the democratic world as well as a forum for analysis of the interplay

between technology and democratic norms.



# Alliance of Democracies



Copenhagen Democracy Summit

# **Contact Us**

General Inquiries: info@allianceofdemocracies.org Press Inquiries: media@allianceofdemocracies.org

www.allianceofdemocracies.org



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# Questionnaire

#### Q1

In your opinion, how important is it for your country to be a democracy?

Slider: 0 - not at all important; 10 - very important

#### Q2

Think about your country today. How democratic do you think it is?

Slider: 0 - not at all democratic; 10 - very democratic

#### Q3

# Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

I think there is not enough democracy in my country I think there is the right amount of democracy in my country I think there is too much democracy in my country

#### **Q4**

### How important is it for you that everyone in your country can freely express their opinion on political and social topics?

Very important Somewhat important Somewhat unimportant Very unimportant Don't know

#### Q7

Think about your country today. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Political leaders in my country are elected in free and fair elections"? Strongly agree Somewhat agree Neither agree nor disagree Somewhat disagree

#### **Q8**

#### How important is it for you that everyone in your country is equal before the law and has the same basic rights?

Very important Somewhat important Somewhat unimportant Very unimportant Don't know

#### Q9

Think about your country today. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Everyone in my country is equal before the law and has the same basic rights"

Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Q5

Think about your country today. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Everyone in my country can freely express their opinion on political and social topics"?

Strongly agree Somewhat agree Neither agree nor disagree Somewhat disagree Strongly disagree

#### **Q**6

# How important is it for you that political leaders in your country are elected in free and fair elections?

Very important

Somewhat important

Somewhat unimportant

Very unimportant

Don't know

Somewhat disagree Strongly disagree

#### Q10

# Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

"My government usually acts in the interest of..."

- ... most people in my country
- ... a small group of people in my country

#### Q11

# Which of the following areas do you want your government to focus on more?

Select up to three Improve education Fight climate change Promote gender equality Promote economic growth Reduce poverty Invest in security and defense Improve health care

Fight corruption

**Reduce immigration** 

Reduce income inequality

Other / none of the above



# Questionnaire

# Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?# "Democracy in my country is threatened by ..."

#### Q12

"... economic inequality"

Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

#### Q13

# "... the influence of Big Tech companies (Google, Amazon, Apple, Facebook)"

Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

[In the Chinese questionnaire company names are replaced with "Alibaba, Tencent, Baidu, Meituan"]

#### Q14

#### "... limitations on free speech"

Strongly agree Somewhat agree Neither agree nor disagree Somewhat disagree

#### Q18

## "... the influence of global corporations"

Strongly agree Somewhat agree Neither agree nor disagree Somewhat disagree Strongly disagree

#### Q19

### Overall, do you think that social media platforms (i.e. Facebook, Twitter) have a positive or negative impact on democracy in your country?

Very positive Somewhat positive Somewhat negative Very negative No impact Don't know [In the Chinese questionnaire "Facebook, Twitter" are replaced with "Qzone, WeChat"]

#### Q20

### In general, do you think there should be more or less regulation on content that people share on social media platforms?

More regulation Neither more nor less Less regulation

Strongly disagree

#### Q15

#### "... election interference from foreign powers"

Strongly agree Somewhat agree Neither agree nor disagree Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

#### Q16

#### "... unfair elections and/or election fraud" Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

#### Q17

#### "... corruption"

Strongly agree Somewhat agree Neither agree nor disagree Somewhat disagree Strongly disagree Don't know

#### Q21

# How well do you think your country is responding to the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis?

Very well Somewhat well Somewhat poorly Very poorly Don't know

#### Q22

### Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "My government has done too much to limit people's freedoms during the coronavirus crisis"

Strongly agree Somewhat agree Neither agree nor disagree Somewhat disagree Strongly disagree



# Questionnaire

#### Q23

#### What is your overall perception of the United States?

Very positive

Somewhat positive

Neither positive nor negative

Somewhat negative

Very negative

Don't know

#### Q24

### What is your overall perception of Russia?

Very positive Somewhat positive Neither positive nor negative Somewhat negative Very negative Don't know

#### Q25 What is your overall perception of China?

Very positive Somewhat positive Neither positive nor negative Somewhat negative Very negative Don't know

#### Q28

# Overall, do you think the United States has a positive or negative impact on democracy around the world?

Very positive Somewhat positive Somewhat negative

Very negative

No impact

Don't know

#### Q29

### In your opinion, which of the following do you think are the world's top three biggest challenges right now?

Select up to three Climate change War and violent conflict Poverty and hunger Economic inequality Racism and discrimination against minorities Global pandemics (Covid) Terrorism Economic instability Authoritarian governments Migration None of the above

#### Q26

#### What is your overall perception of the European Union?

Very positive

Somewhat positive

Neither positive nor negative

Somewhat negative

Very negative

Don't know

#### Q27

#### What is your overall perception of the United Nations?

Very positive

Somewhat positive

Neither positive nor negative

Somewhat negative

Very negative

Don't know

Do you think the US, EU, and NATO have done too little, too much or the right amount to assist Ukraine during the Russian invasion?

Too much

The right amount

Too little

[Question excluded in Russian questionnaire]

#### Q31

#### Do you think your country should cut economic ties with Russia because of the war in Ukraine?

Yes

No

Don't know

[Question excluded in Russian questionnaire]

#### Q32

# If China started a military invasion of Taiwan, do you think your country should cut economic ties with China?

Yes

No

Don't know

[Question excluded in China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong]

