

Democracy Perception Index 2022

The world's largest annual study on how
people perceive democracy



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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.

Dr. Nico Jaspers

CEO at Latana

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- ▶ **52,785**
respondents
- ▶ **53**
countries
- ▶ **Spring 2022**
March 30th - May 10th, 2022
- ▶ **75%**
of the global population
represented

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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.

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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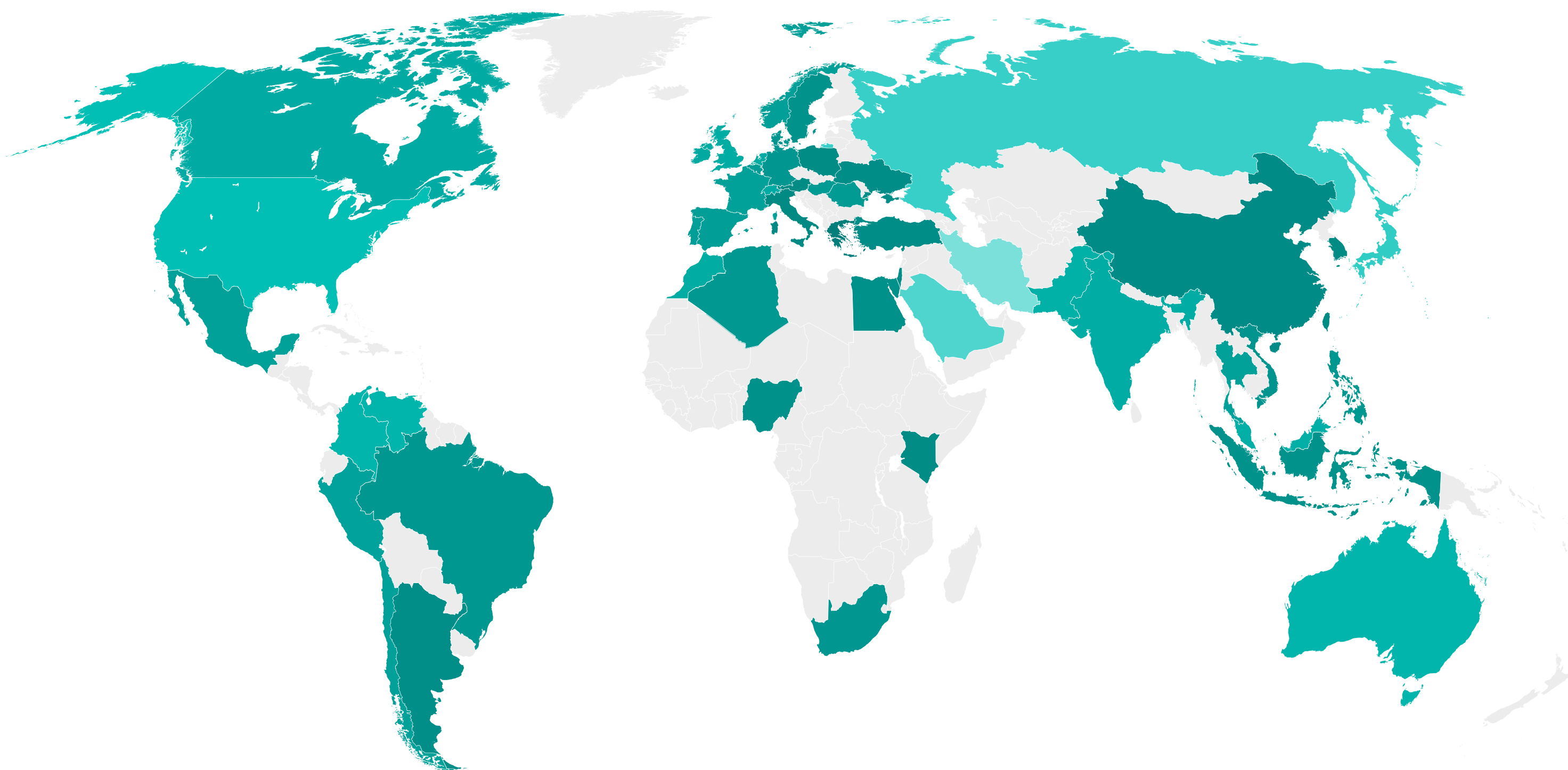


Importance of Democracy

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



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



KEY FINDINGS

Democracy is important

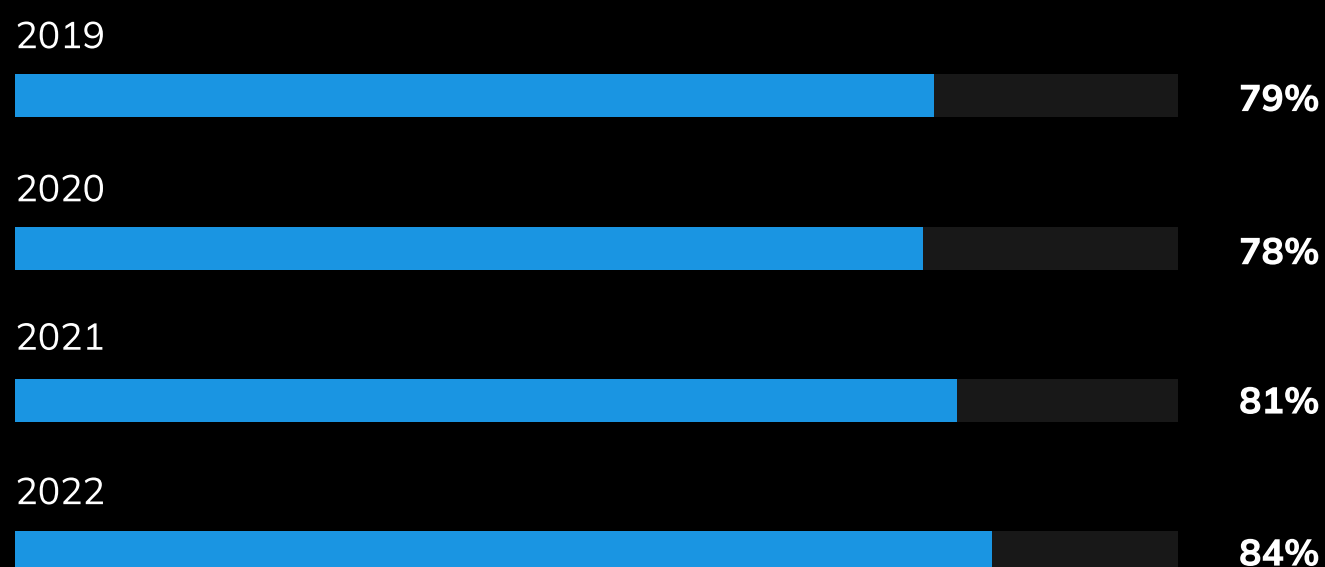
Across the 53 countries surveyed in the Democracy Perception Index (DPI) study, an average of 84% of people say that democracy is important to have in their country, ranging from 96% in the birthplace of democracy, Greece, to 61% in Iran. This is a majority opinion in all countries.



TREND

Global faith in democracy remains high

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

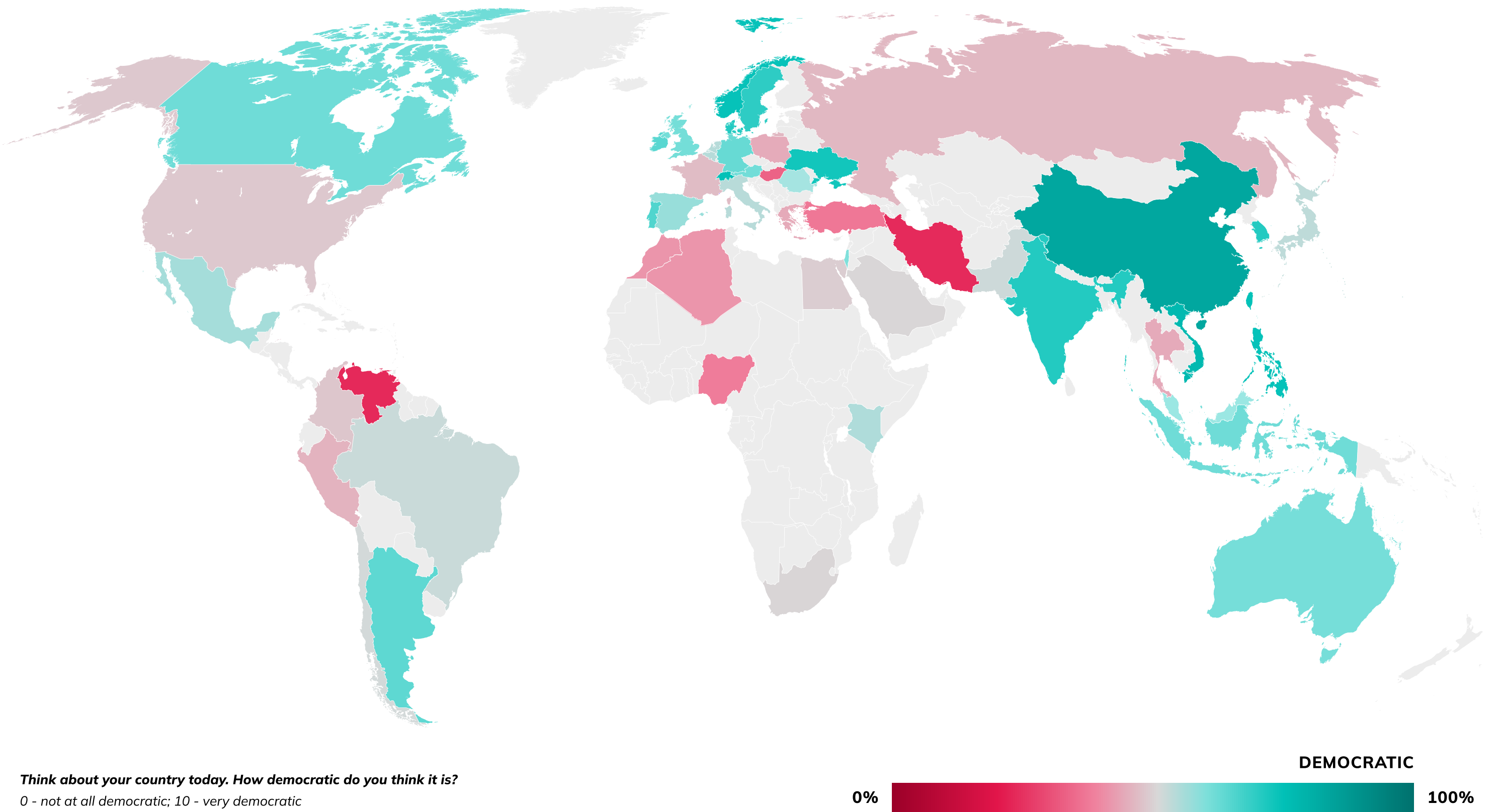


Democracy Today

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:

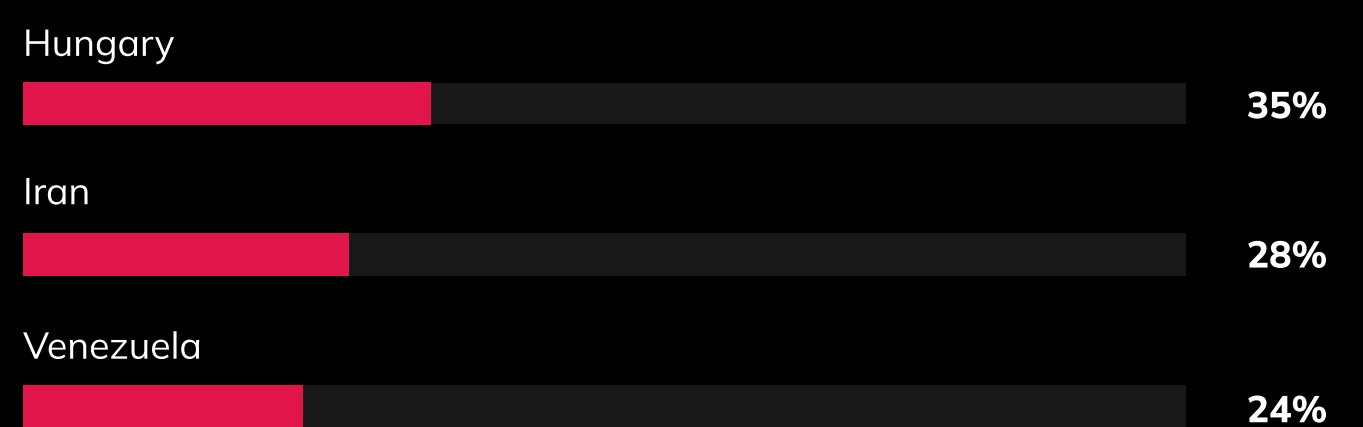
“Free” - the most democratic countries, labeled as “Free” by Freedom House

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

Most democratic



Least democratic



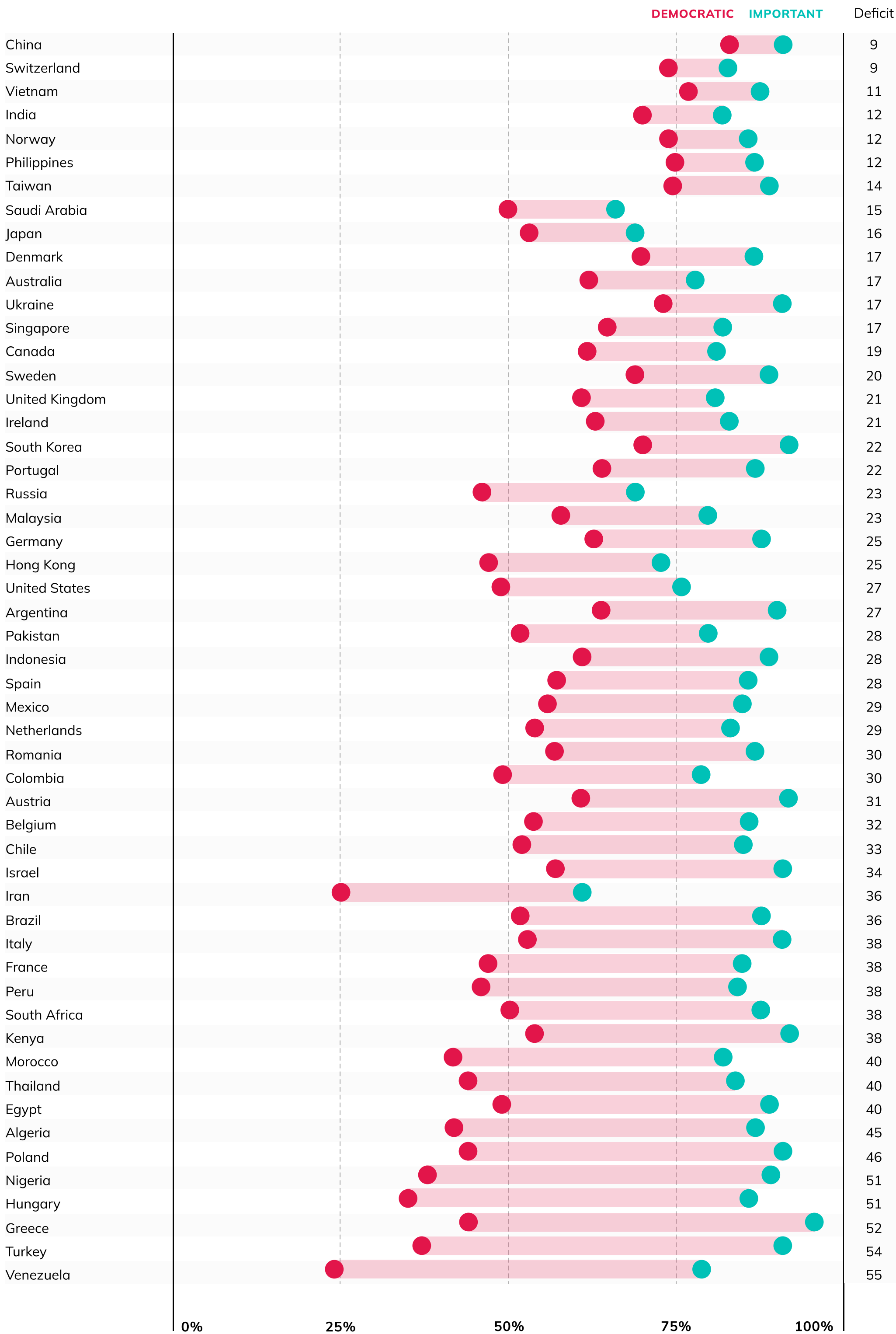
*In some countries surveyed the government plays an active role in shaping public opinion and/or has policies in place that restrict freedom of speech around certain topics. This can have a strong influence on the survey results

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

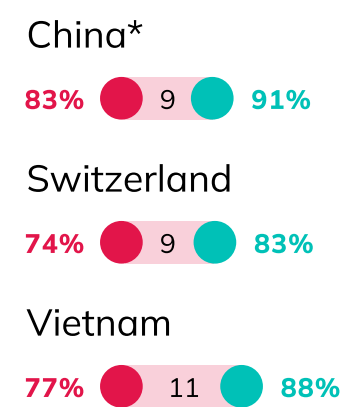


Perceived Democratic Deficit

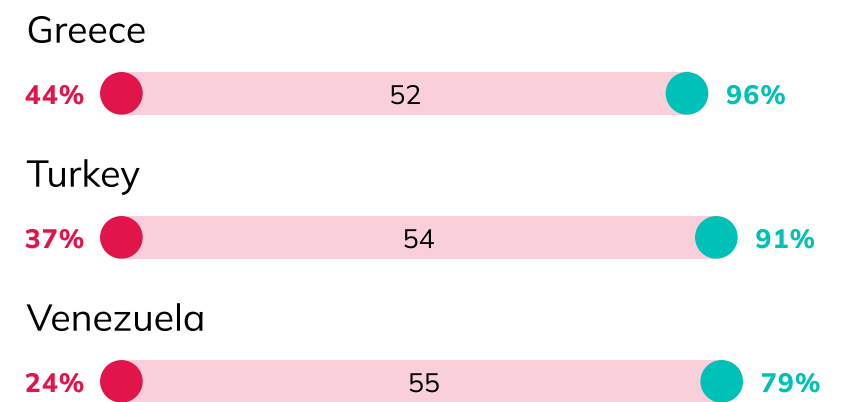
No country is fully living up to the democratic expectations of its citizens - in other words, no country has a Perceived Democratic Deficit of 0.

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

Smallest Deficit



Largest Deficit



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

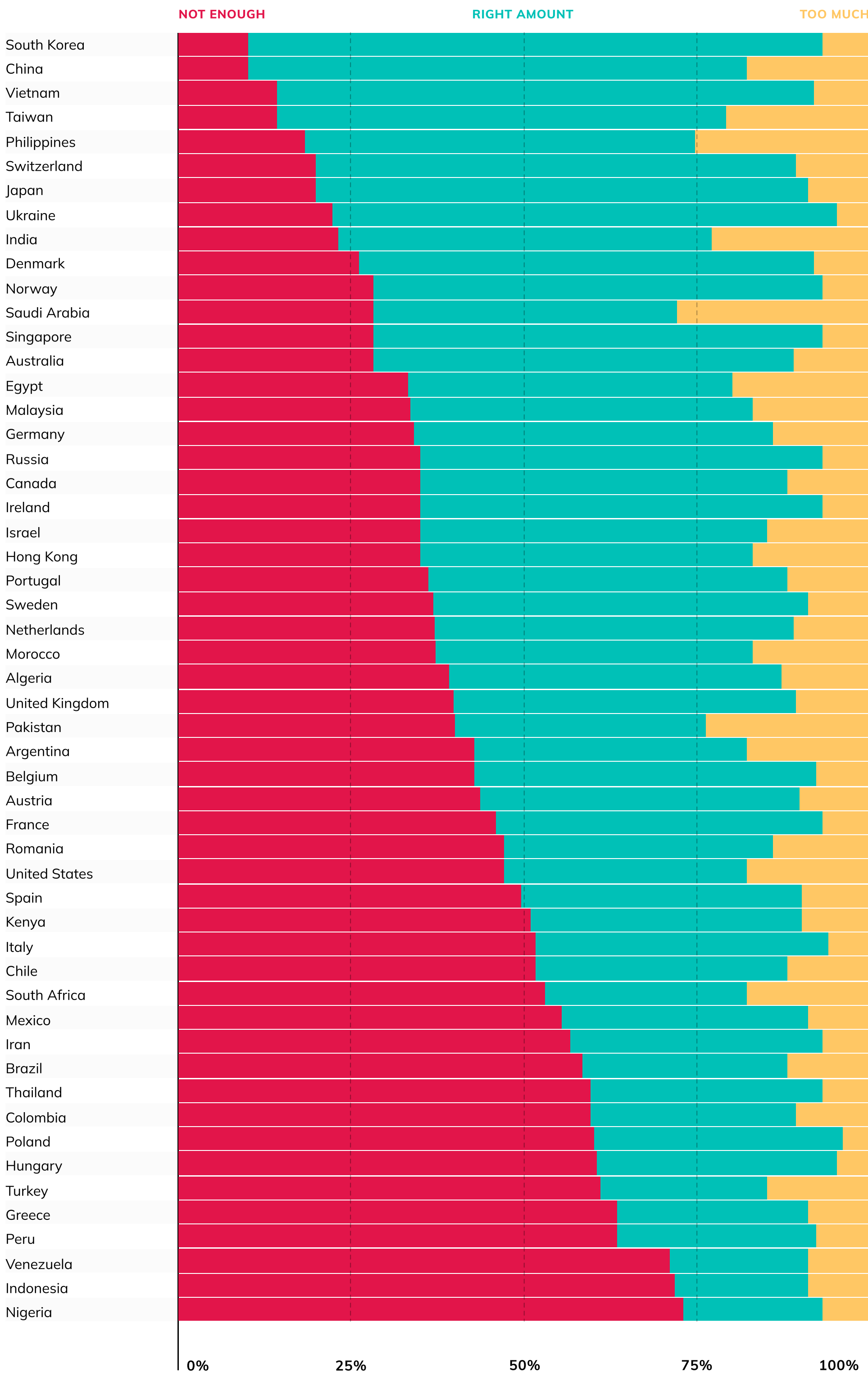
Think about your country today. How democratic do you think it is?
0 - not at all democratic; 10 - very democratic

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”.

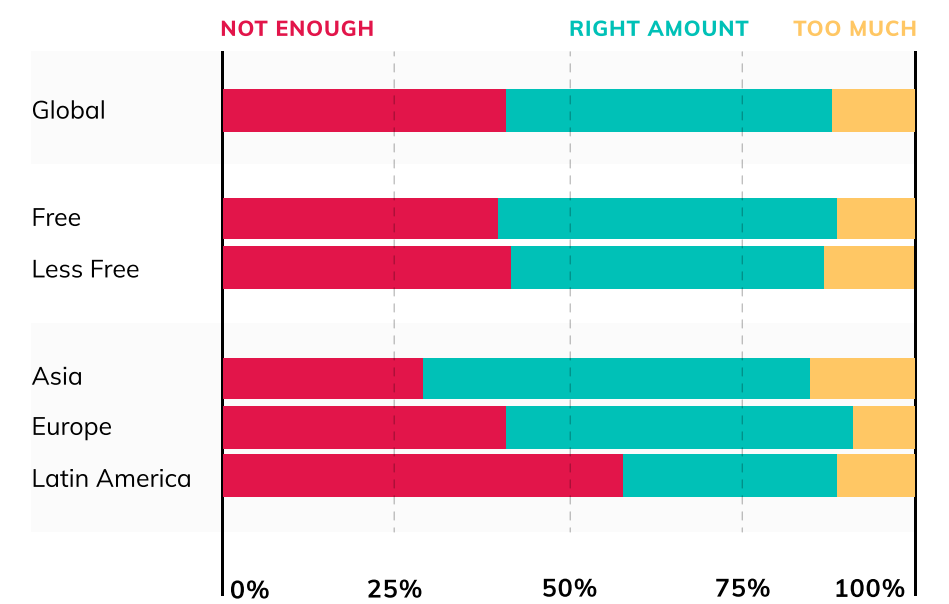
41% of people say there is "not enough democracy" in their country

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



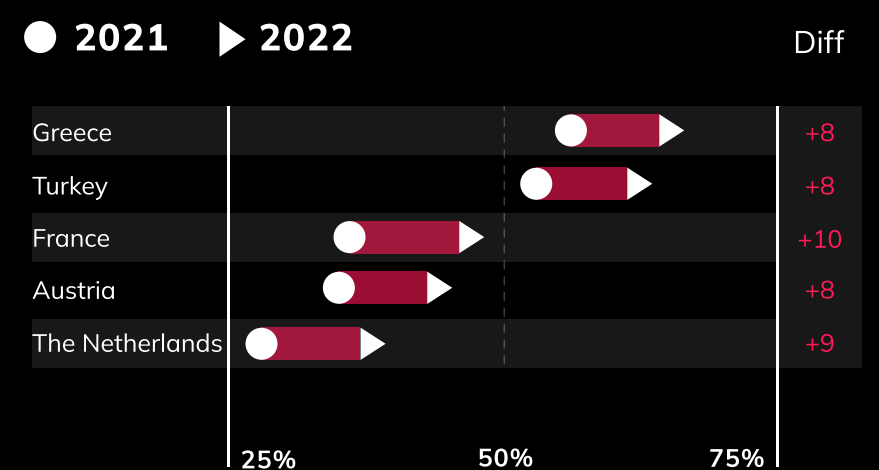
Dissatisfaction with the level of democracy is highest in Latin America - and lowest in Asia

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



Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

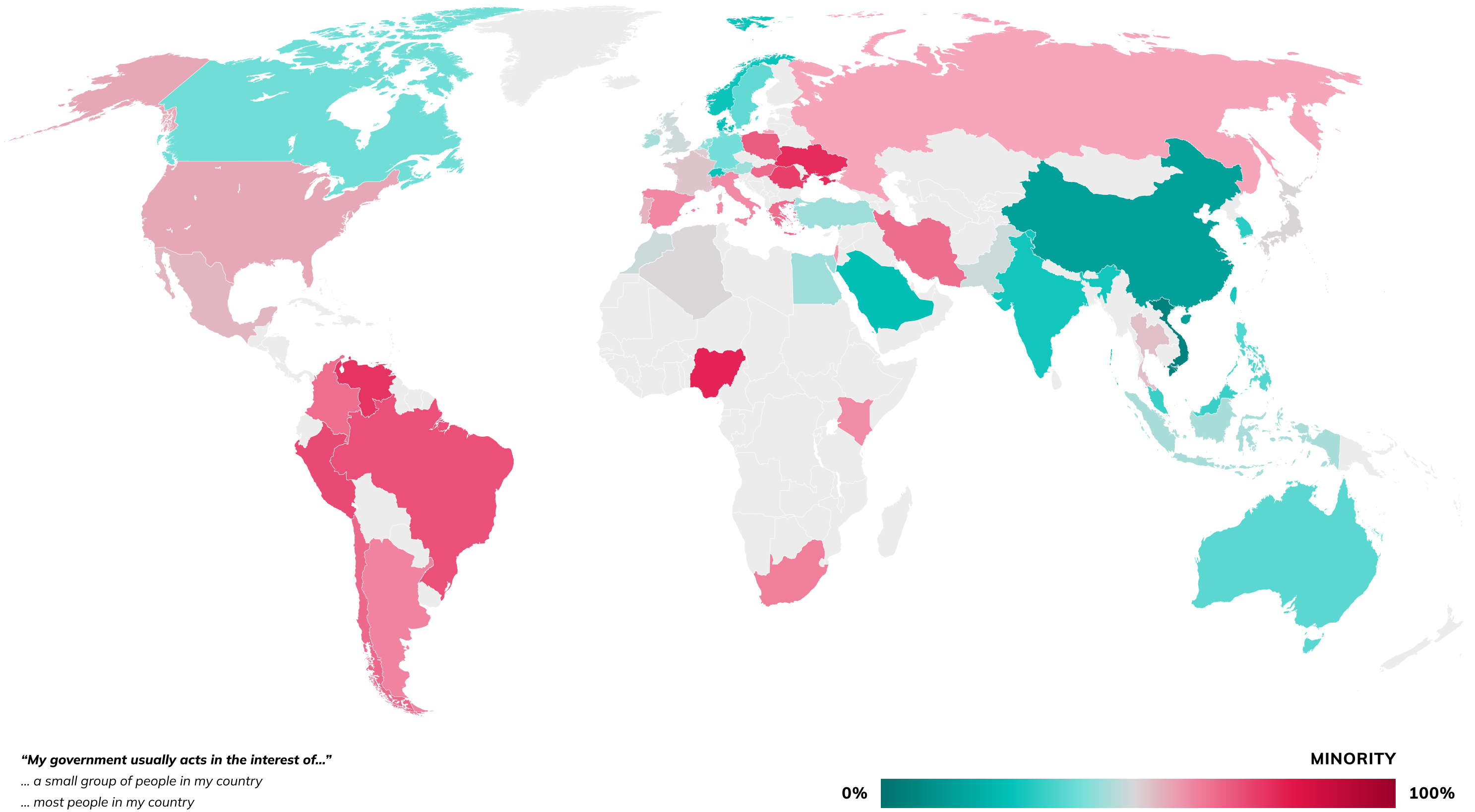
- I think there is not enough democracy in my country
- I think there is the right amount of democracy in my country
- I think there is too much democracy in my country

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

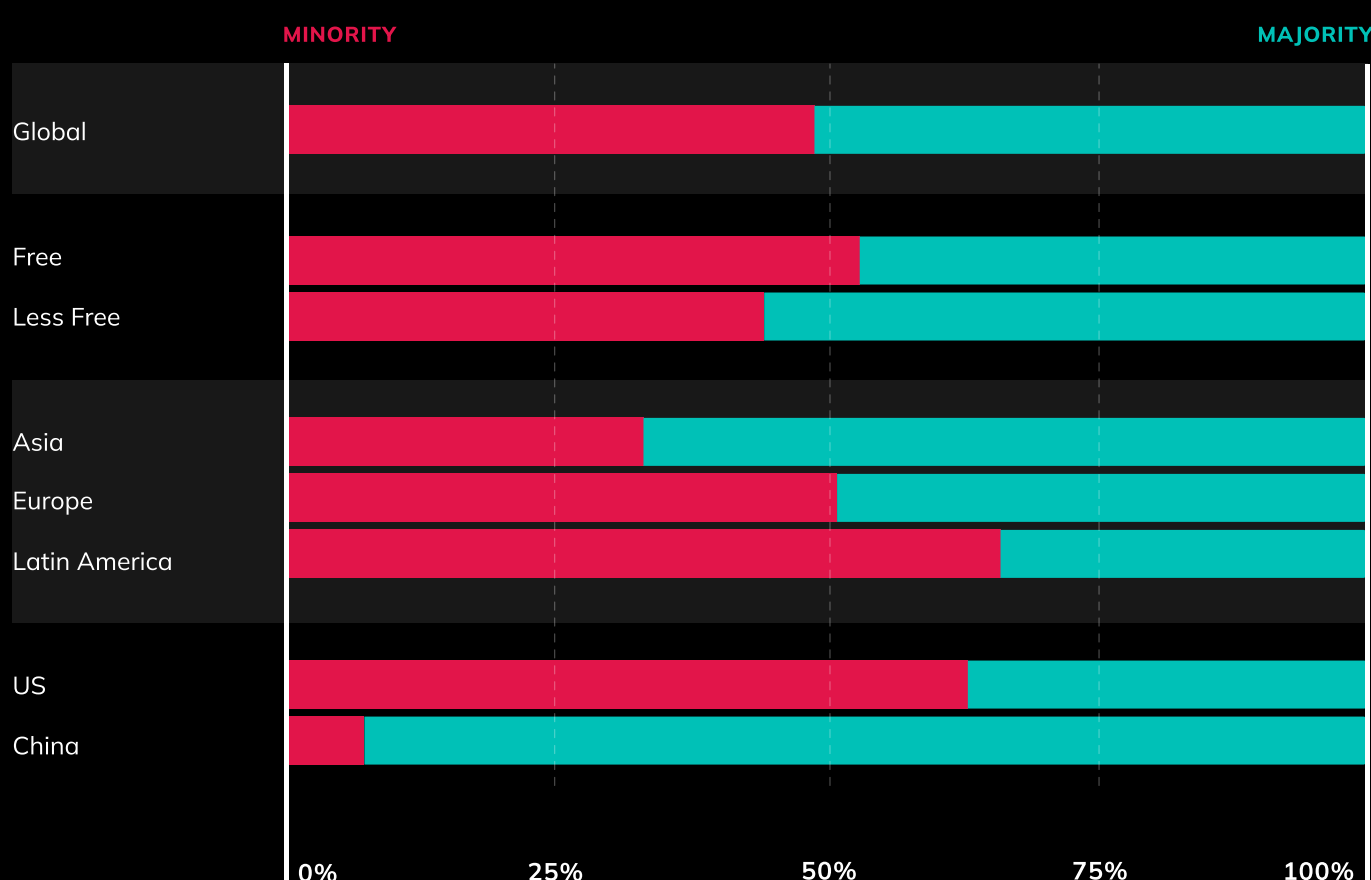
% say their government usually acts in the interest of a "small group of people"



KEY FINDINGS

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

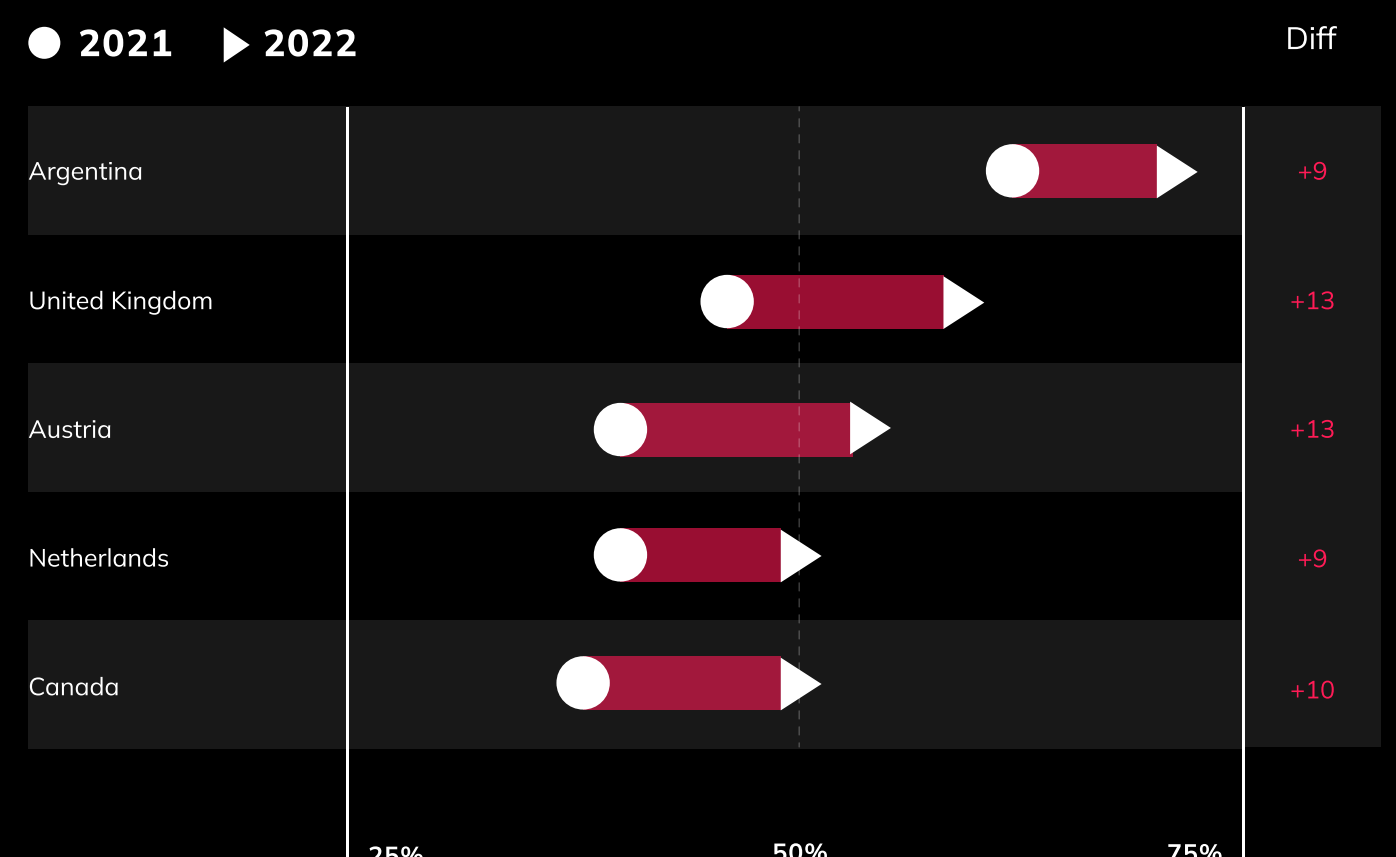
% say their government acts in the interest of...



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



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

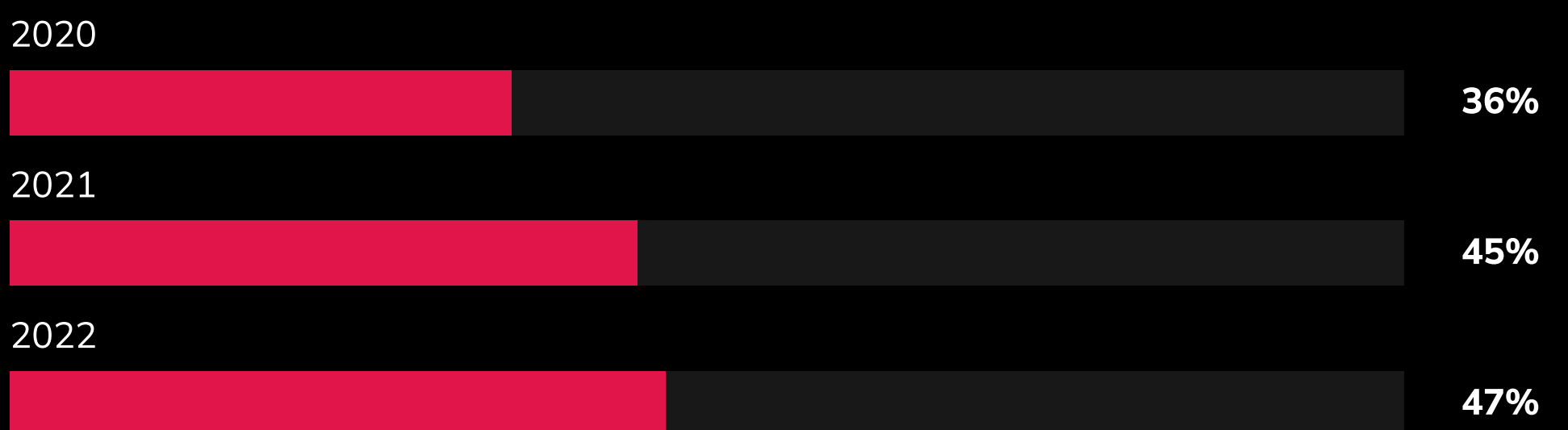
Americans still have faith in democracy

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



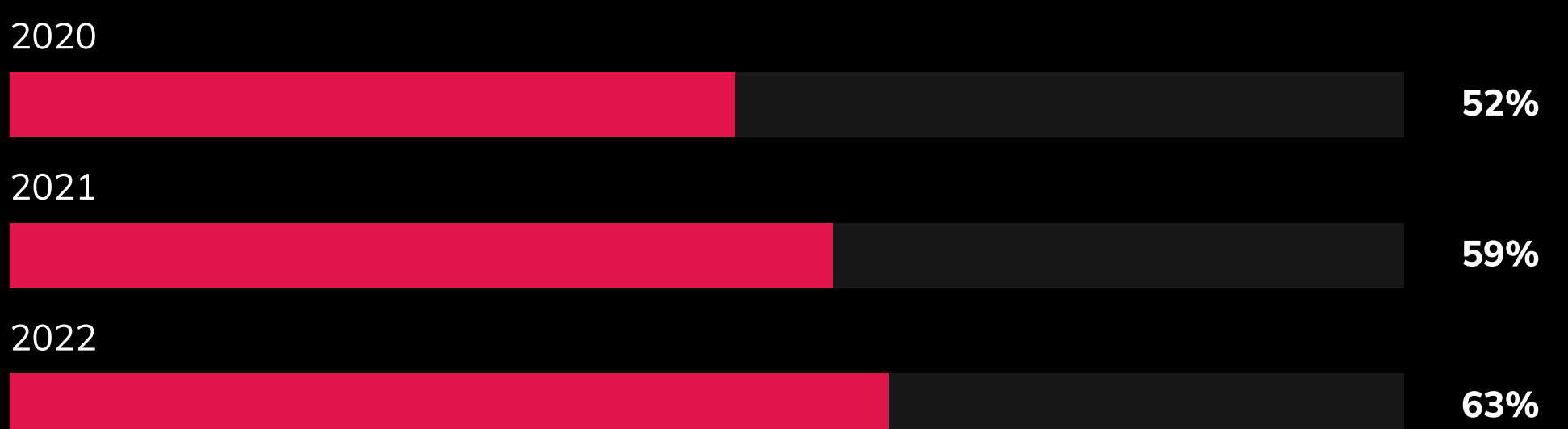
However, more and more Americans say there is "not enough democracy"

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%.

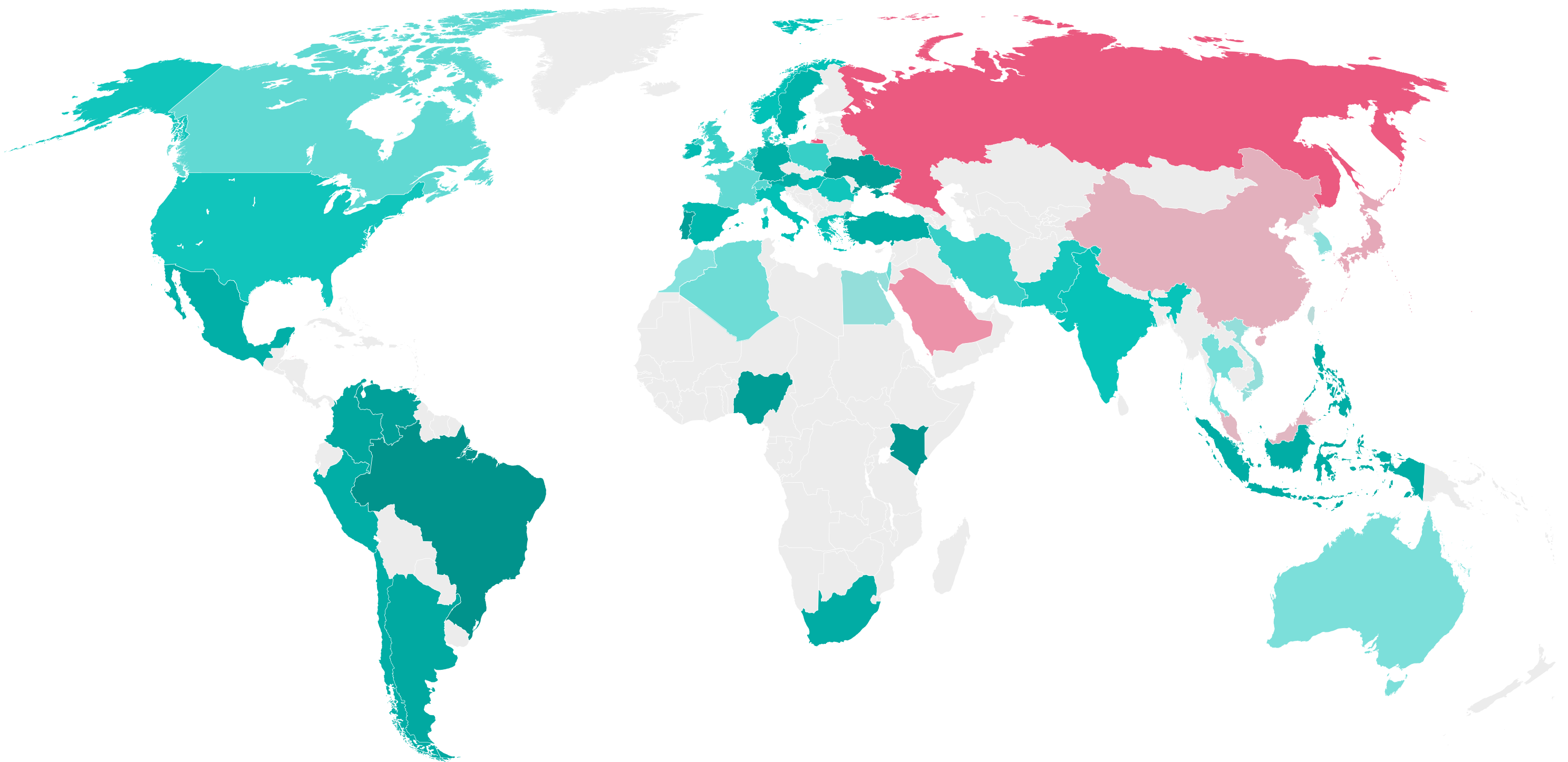


Free Speech

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



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



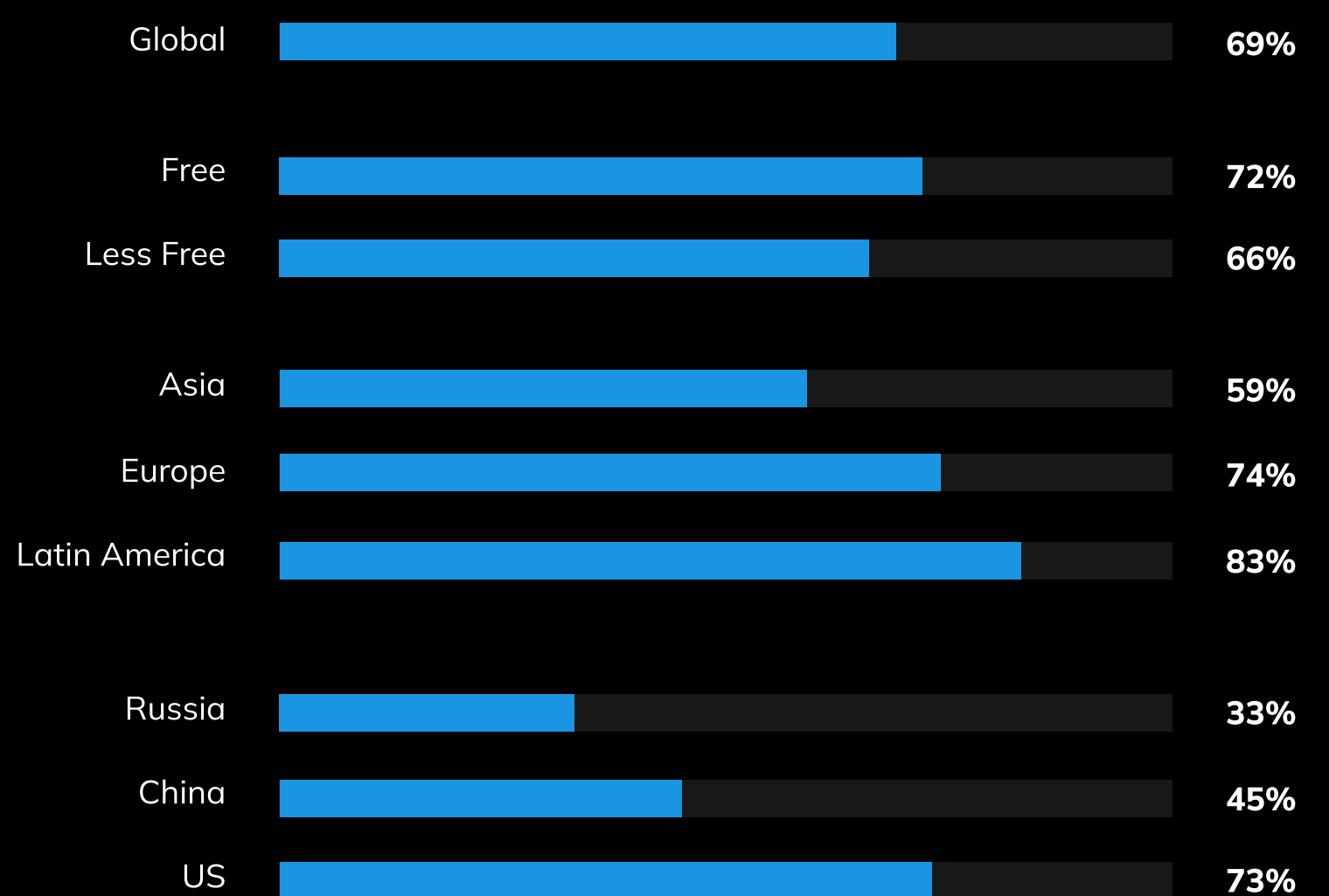
KEY FINDINGS

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%).

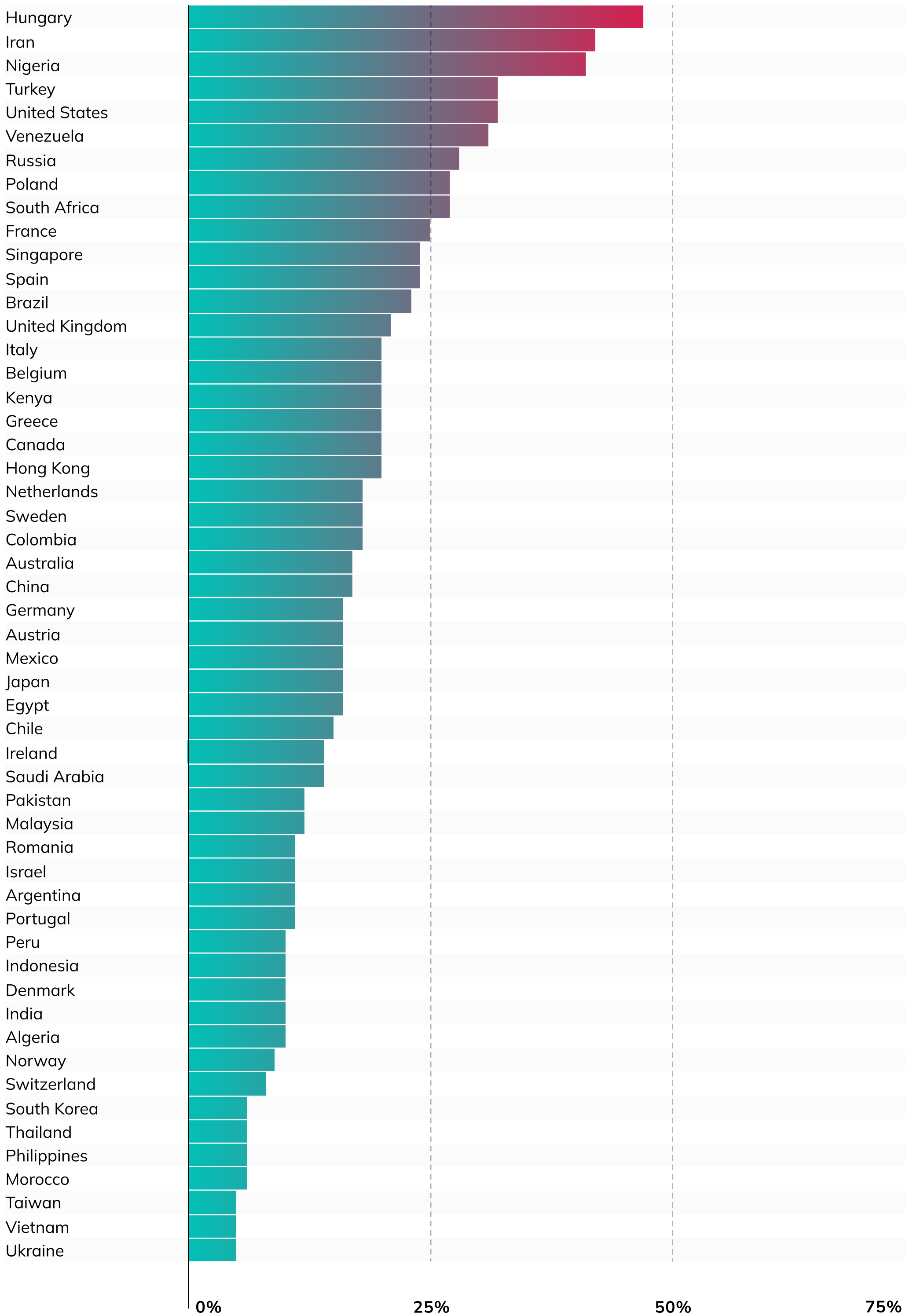


Free Speech: Assessment

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%).

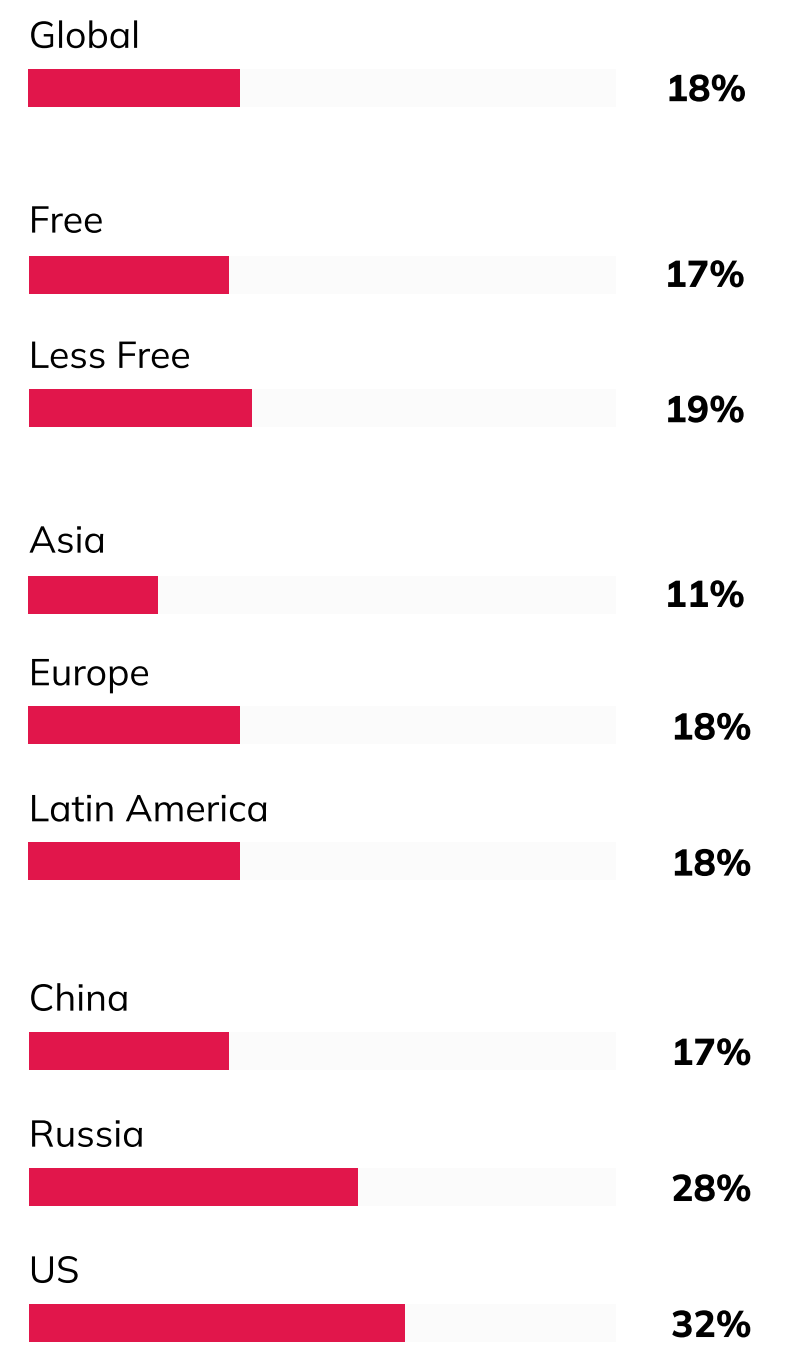
18% of people around the world say that they don't have free speech in their country

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



Regional Results

1 in 5 people say that not everyone in their country is able to freely express their opinions on social or political topics.



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

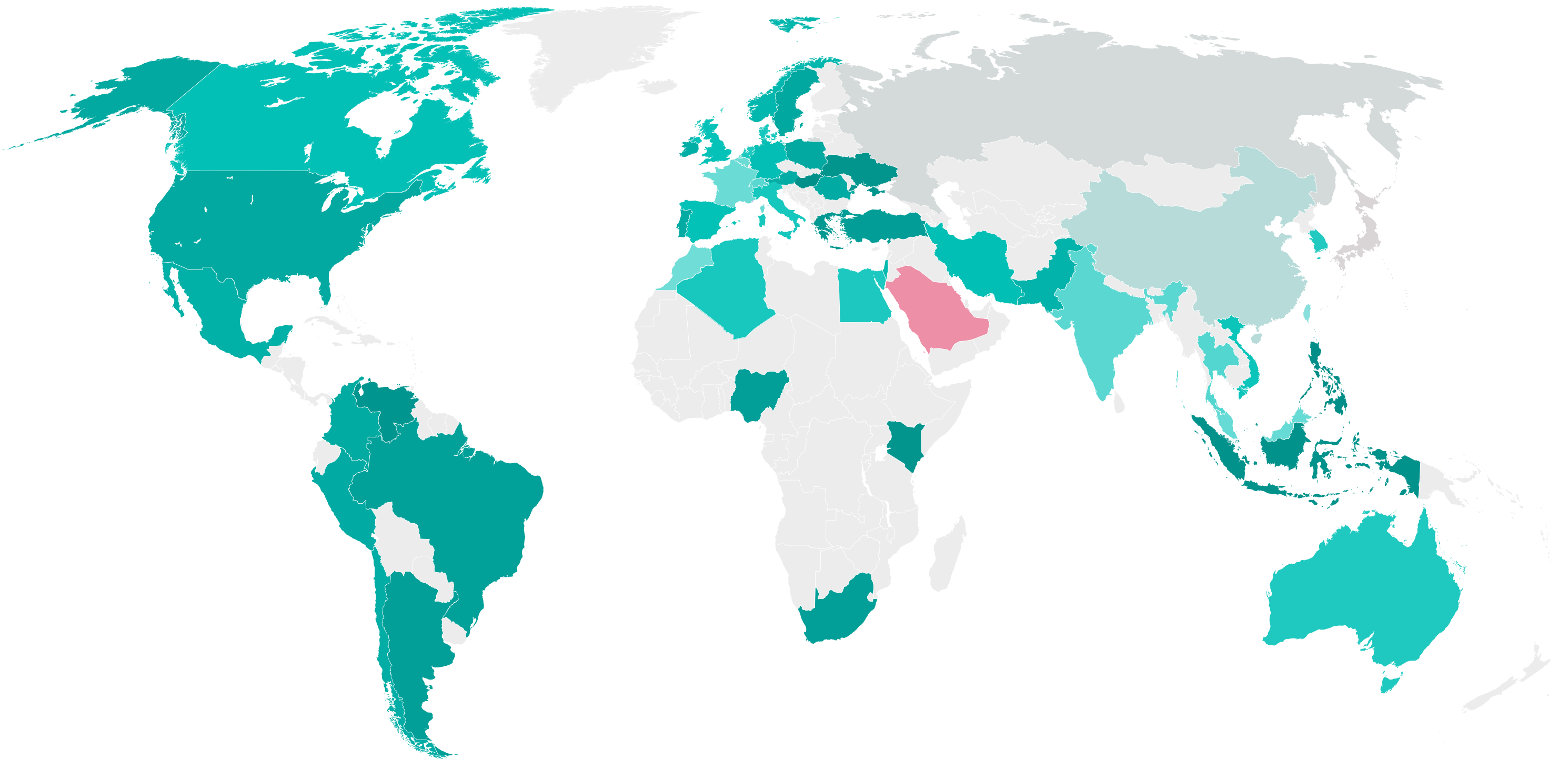
**Disagree includes “Somewhat disagree” and “Strongly disagree”*

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



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%).

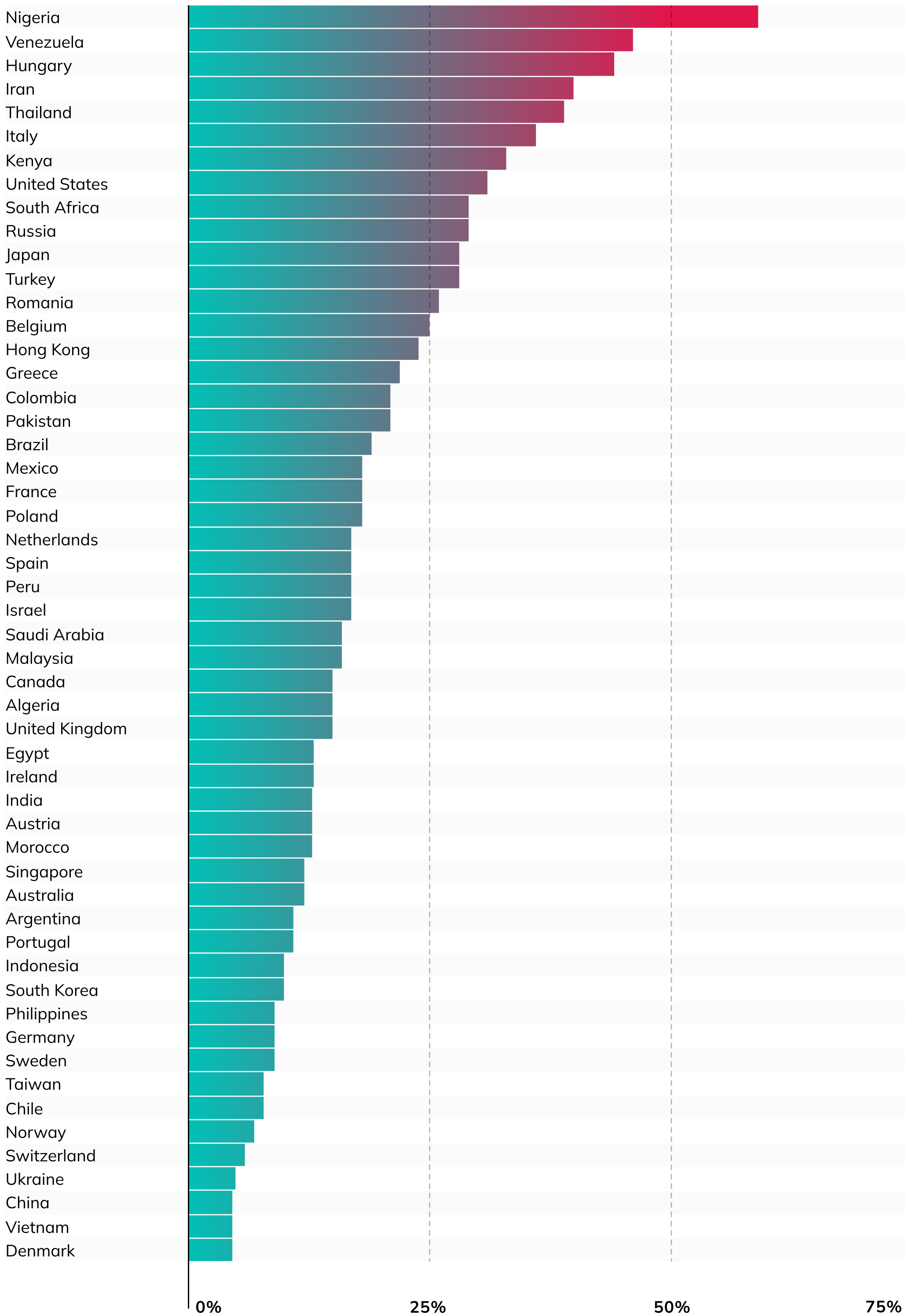


Fair Elections: Assessment

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%).

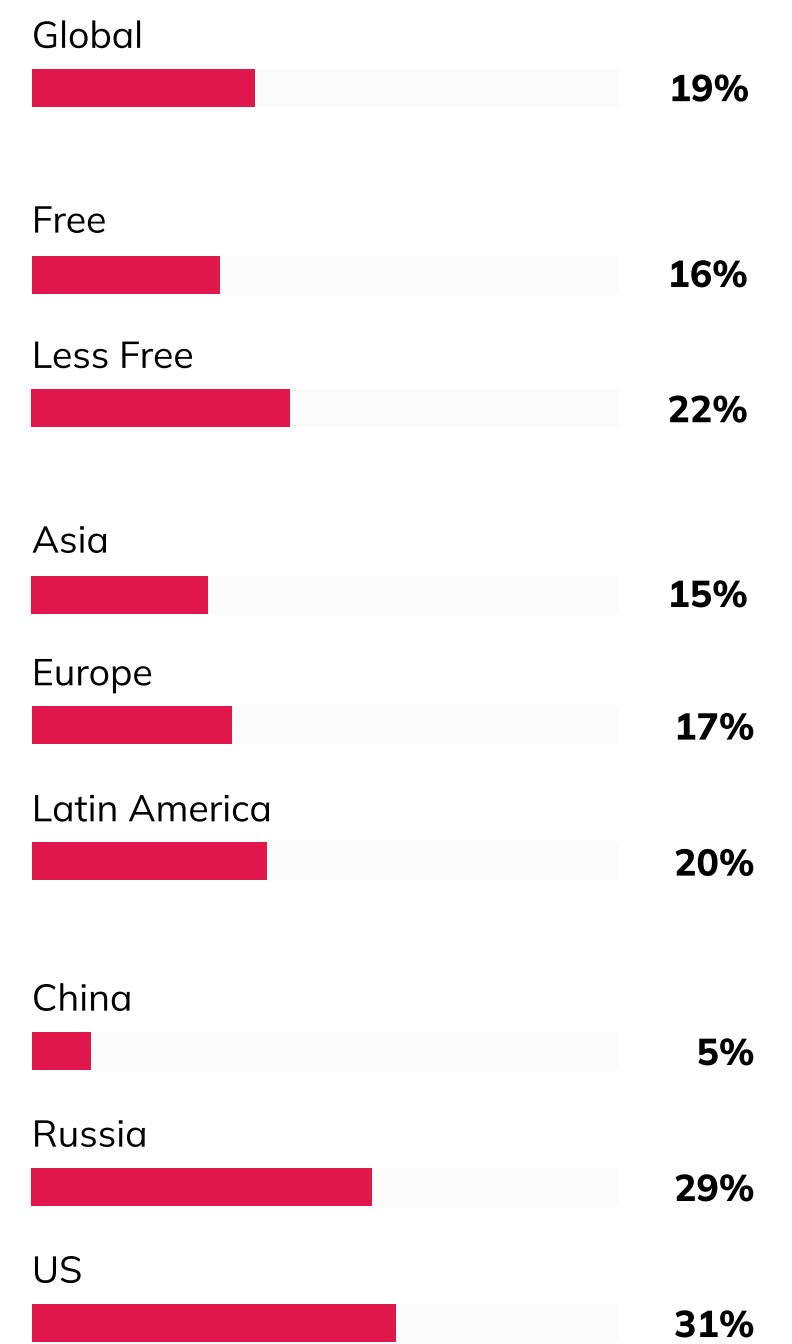
1 in 5 people say that they don't have free and fair elections

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



Regional Results

People say that their country does not have free and fair elections



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

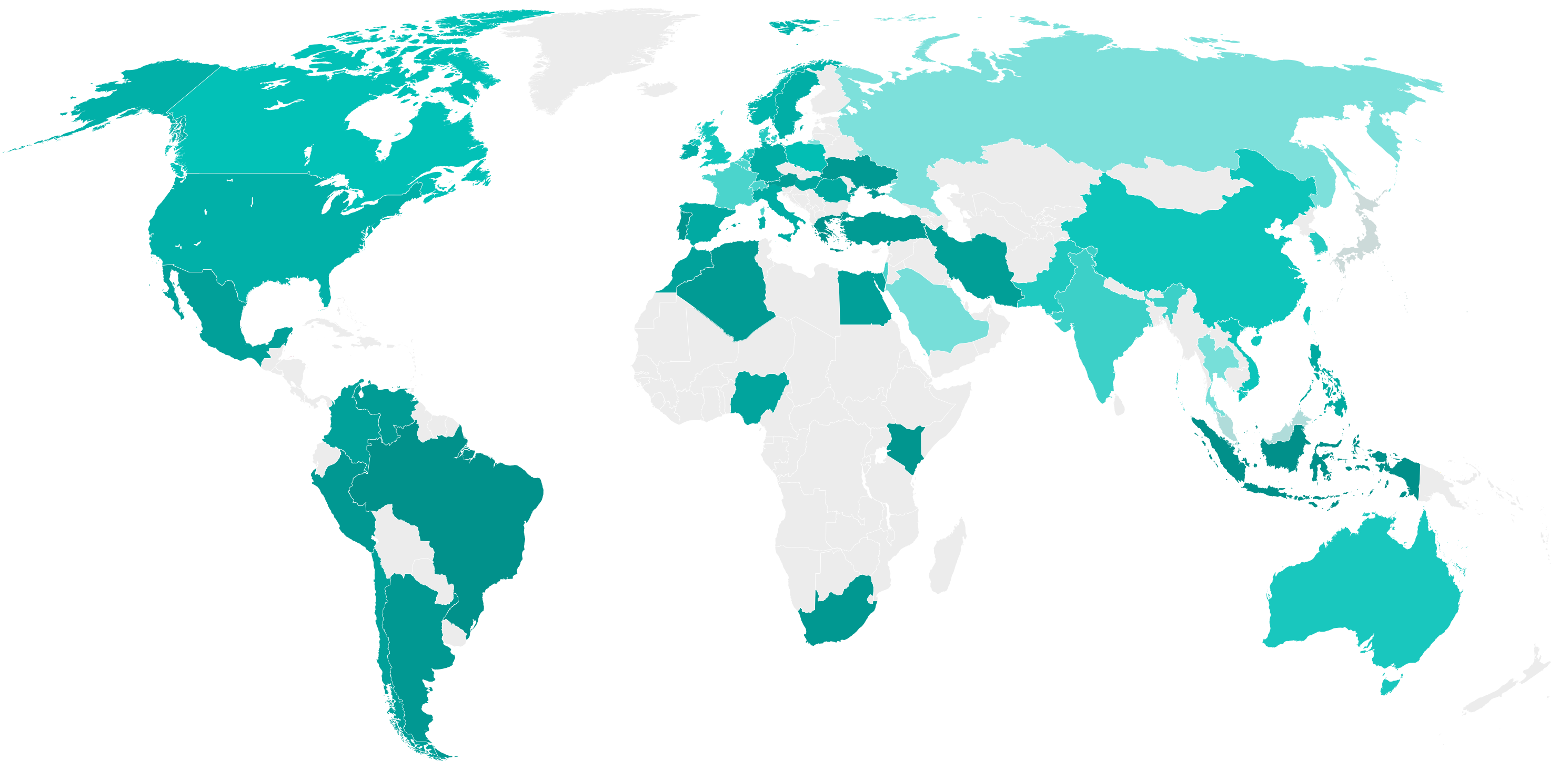
*Disagree includes “Somewhat disagree” and “Strongly disagree”

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



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

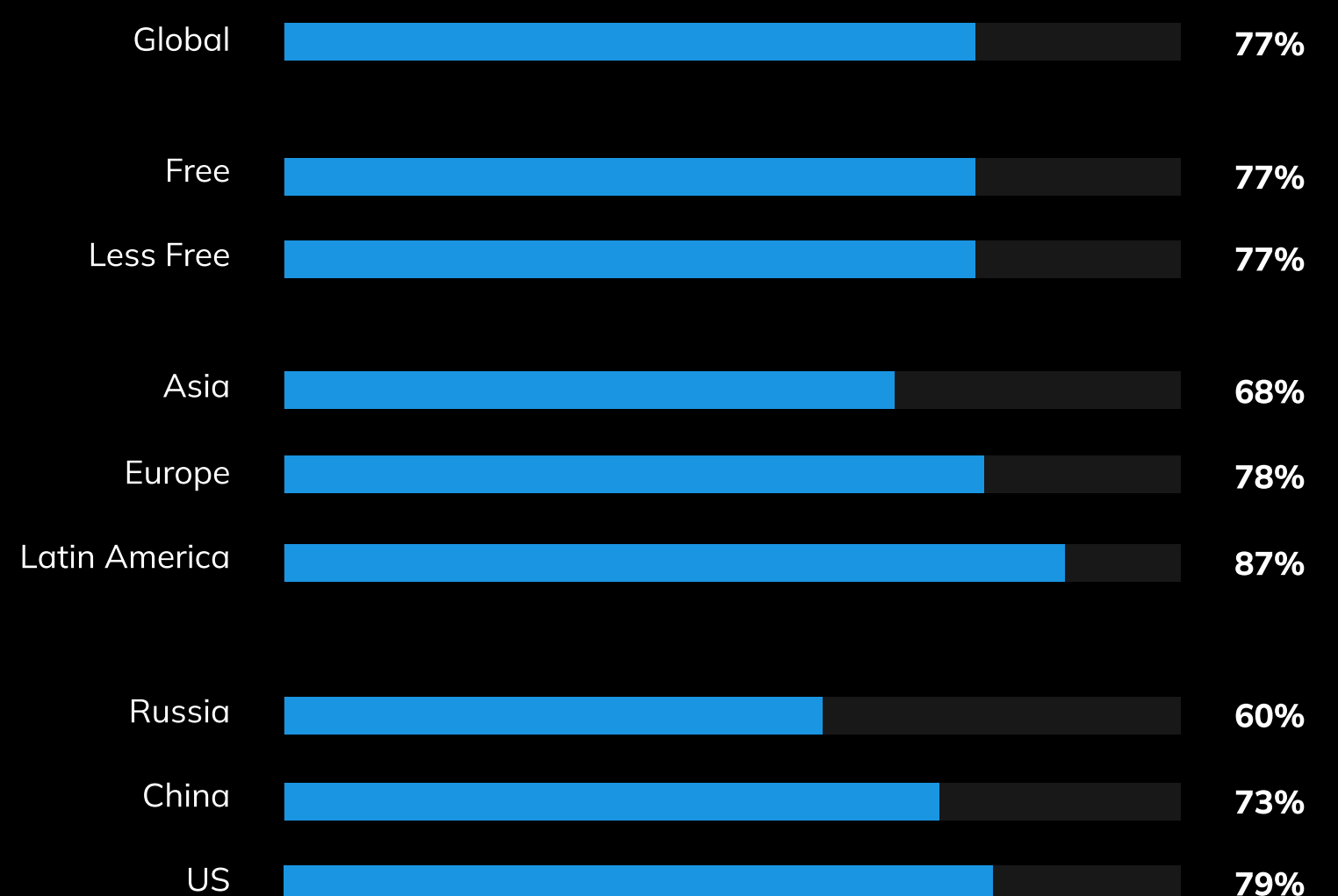


KEY FINDINGS

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%).

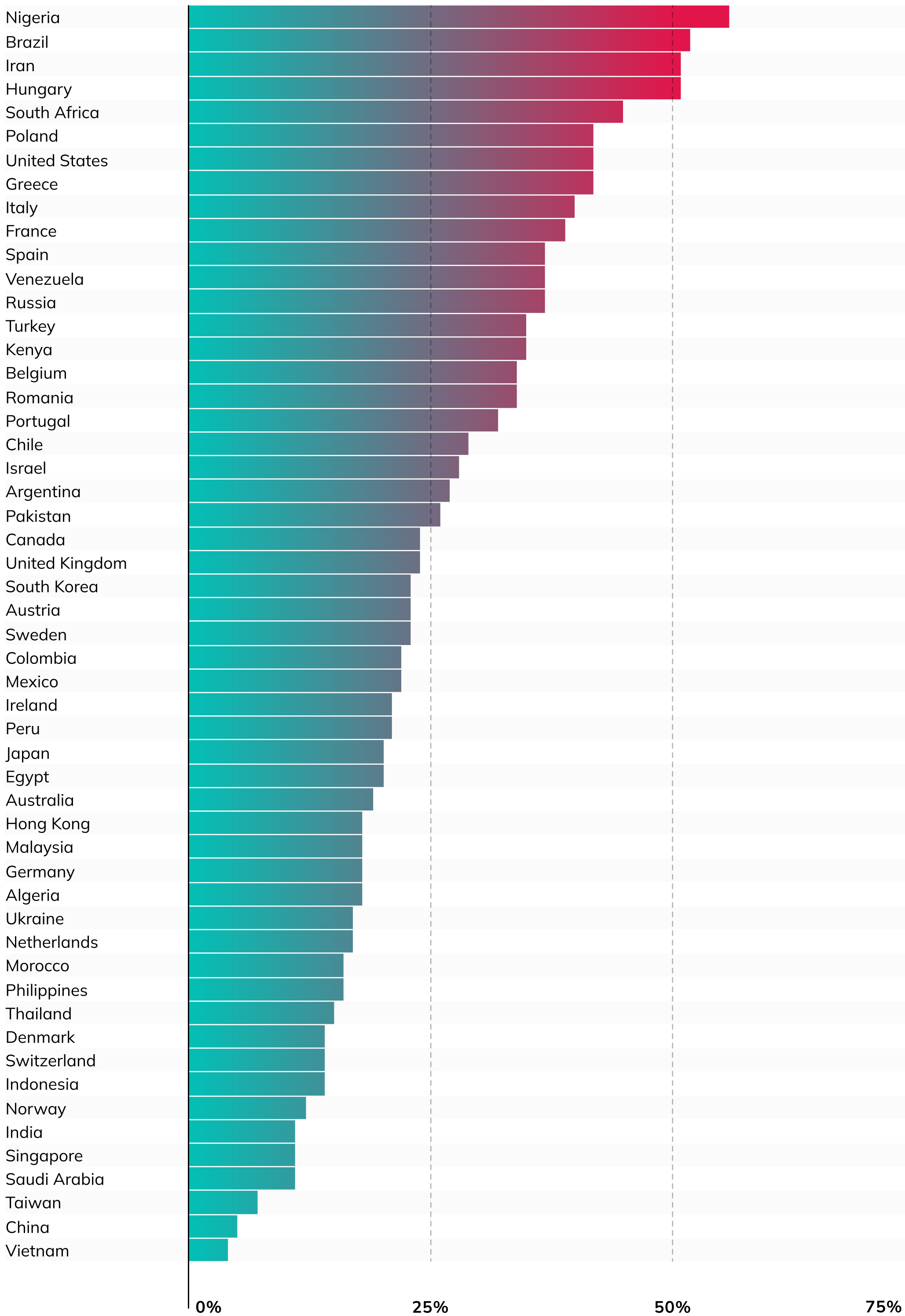


Equal Rights: Assessment

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.

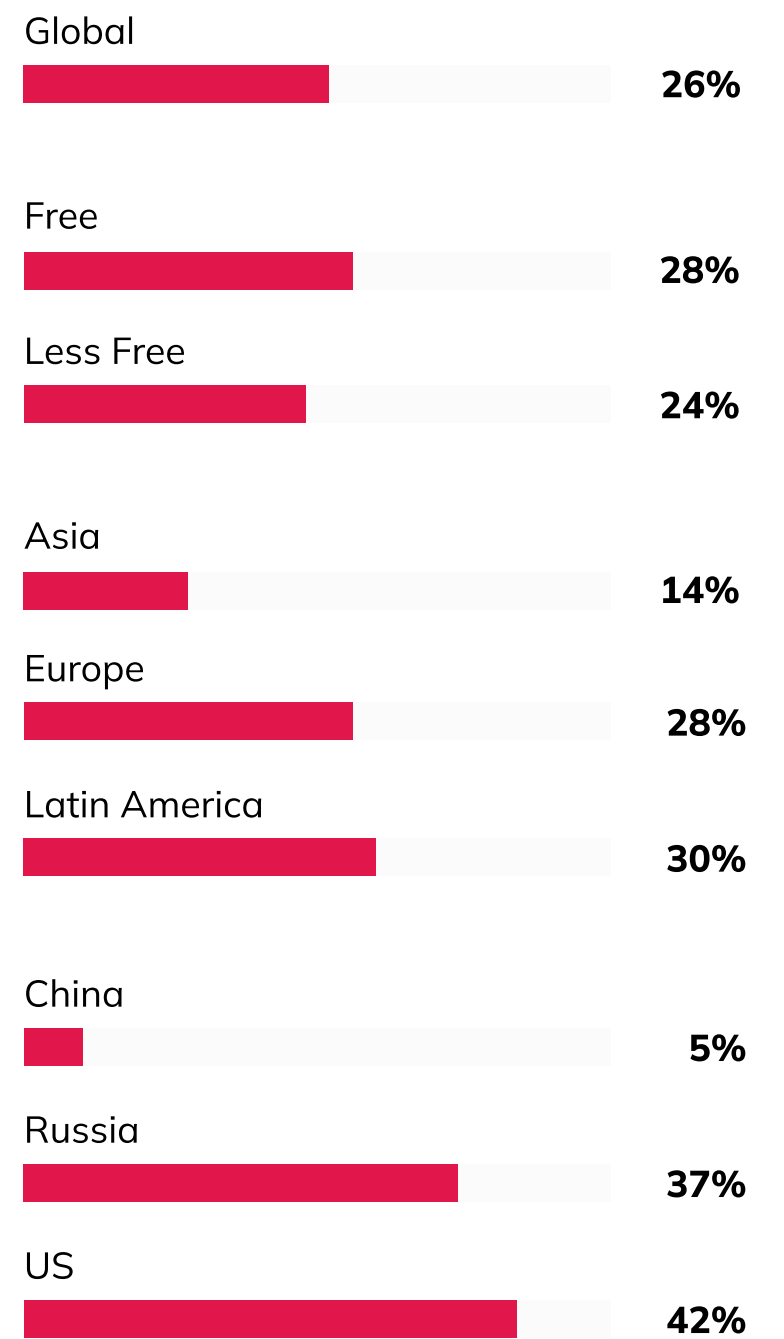
26% of people say that not everyone has equal rights in their country

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



Regional Results

Among “free” democracies, the countries where the most people say they don’t have equal rights are Brazil (52%), South Africa (45%), Poland (42%), the United States (42%), and Greece (42%).



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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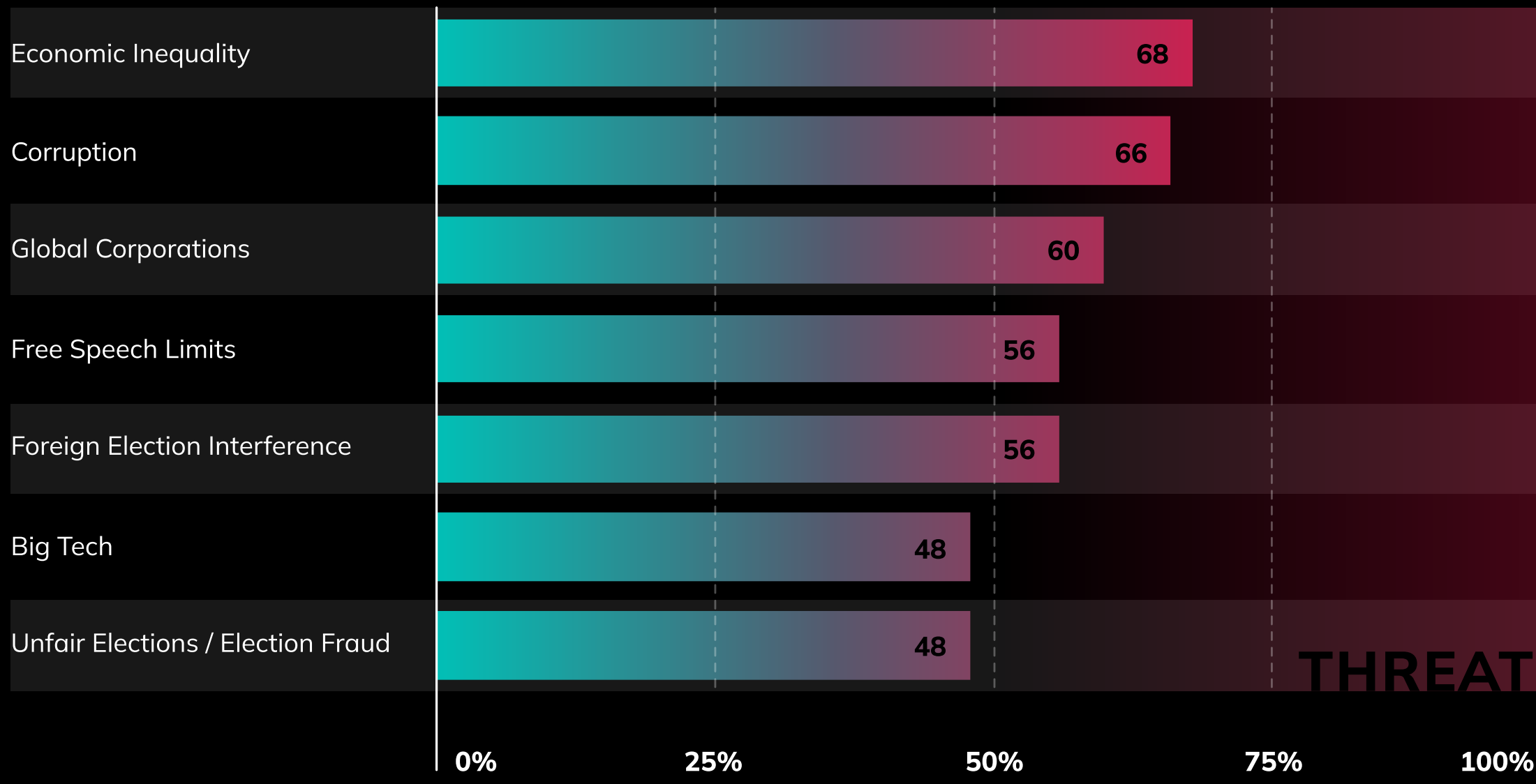
Threats to Democracy

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.

Economic Inequality is viewed as the biggest threat to democracy worldwide

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



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

- "... economic inequality"
 - "... the influence of Big Tech companies (Google, Amazon, Apple, Facebook)"
 - "... limitations on free speech"
 - "... election interference from foreign powers"
 - "... unfair elections and/or election fraud"
 - "... corruption"
 - "... the influence of global corporations"
- 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.

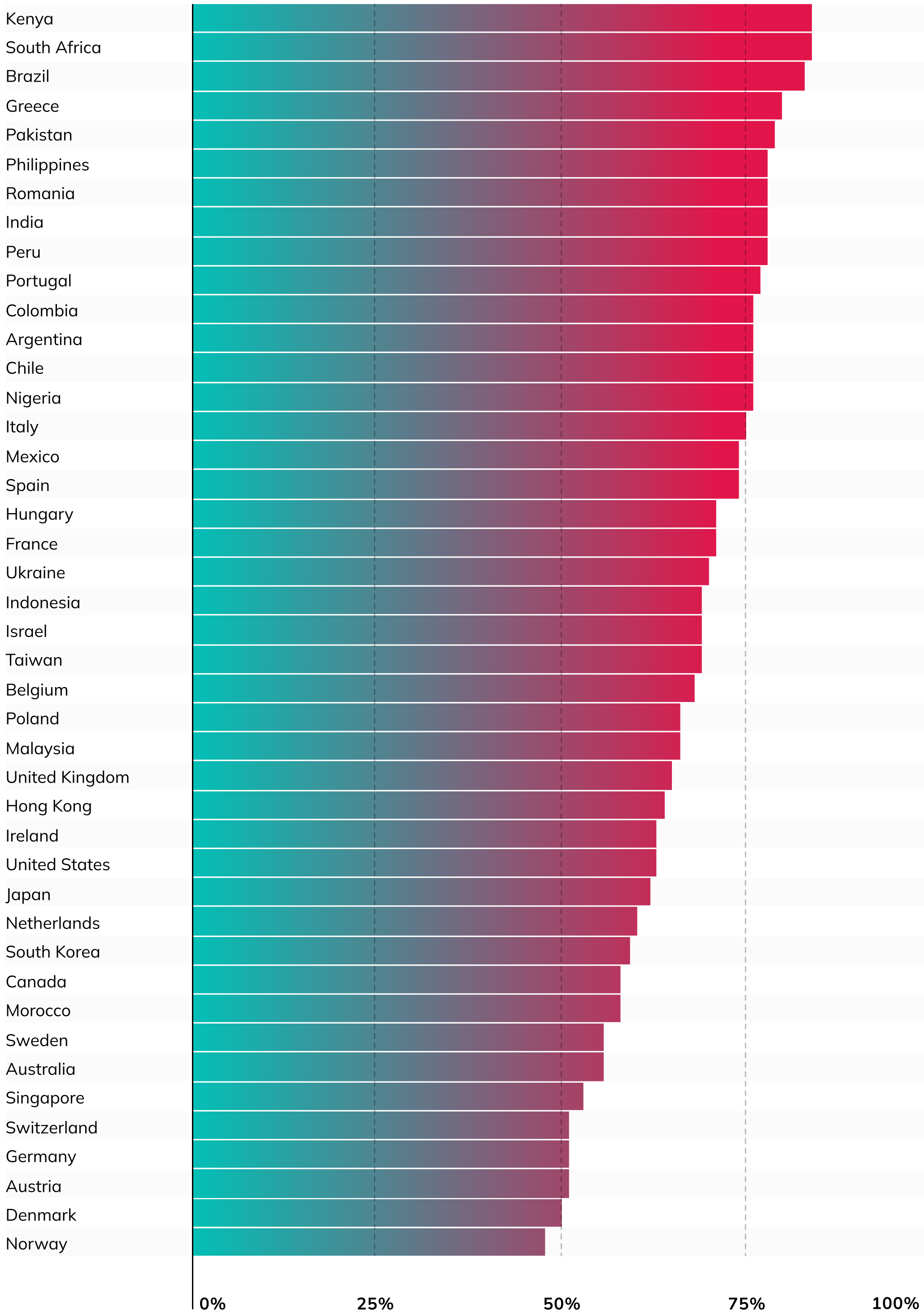


Economic Inequality

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

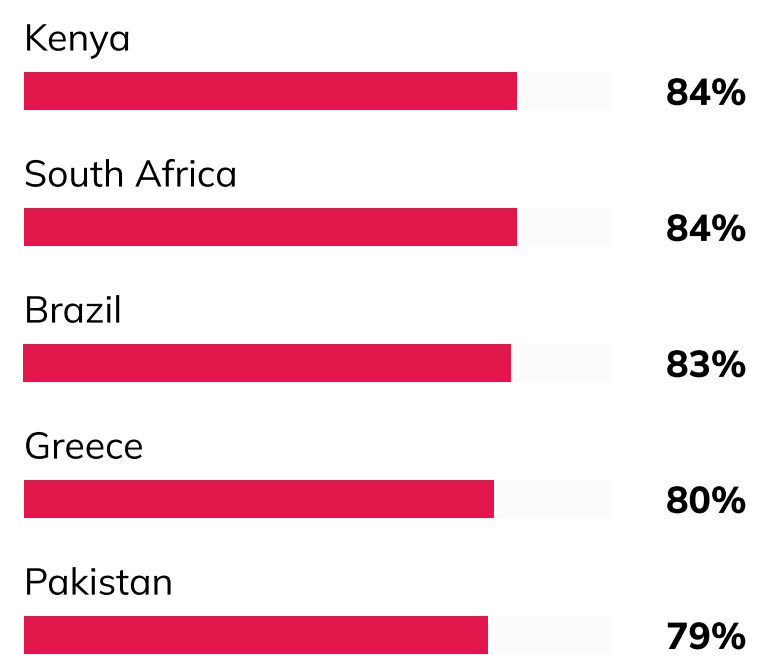
% agree* that economic inequality is a threat to democracy in their country



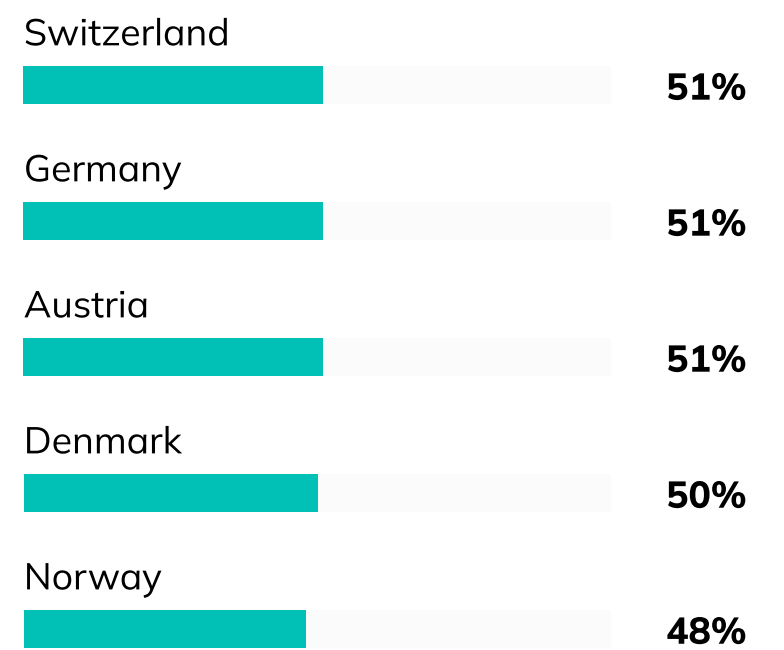
Regional Results

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%).

Highest Threat



Lowest Threat



*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"

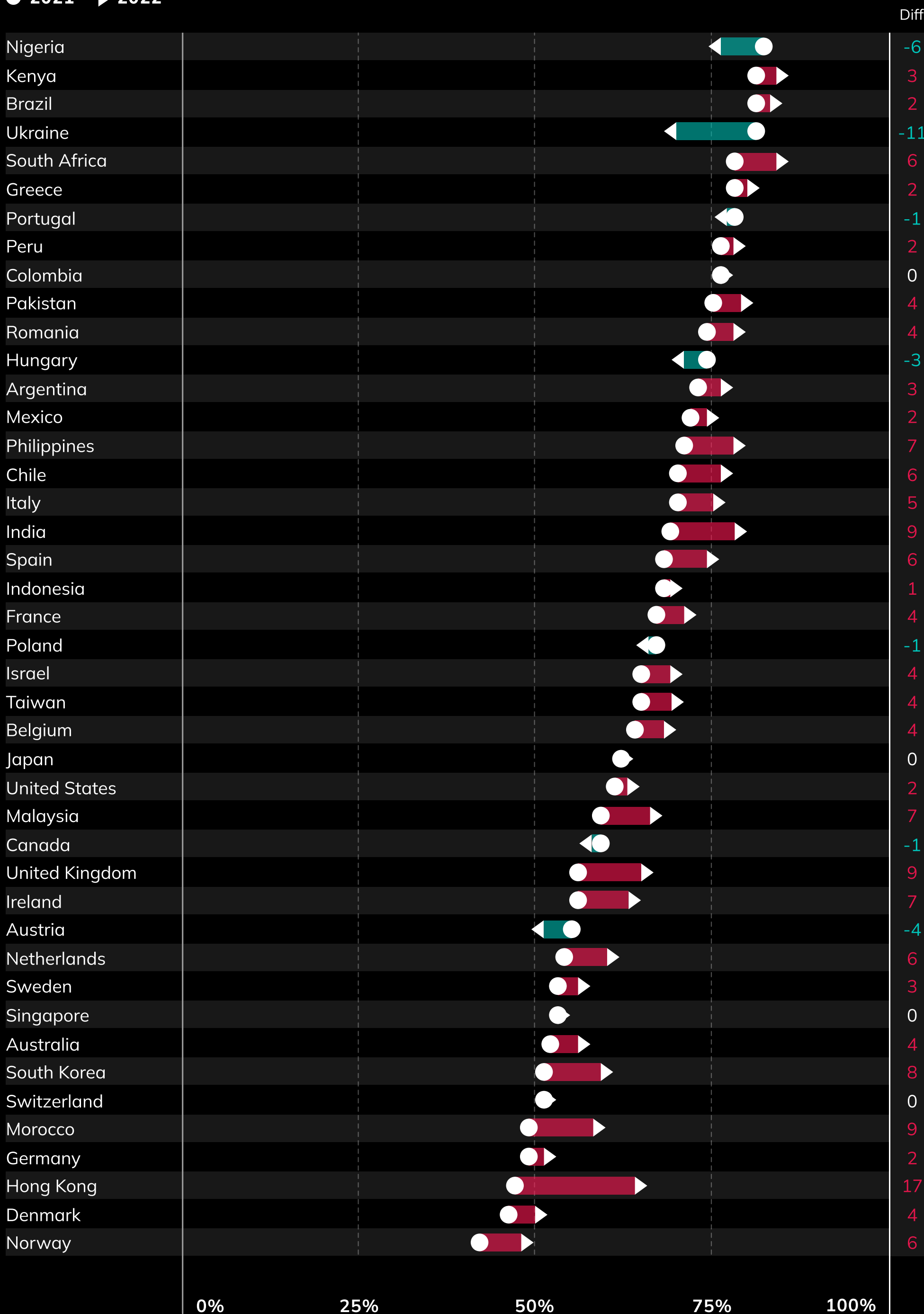
Economic Inequality

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



*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

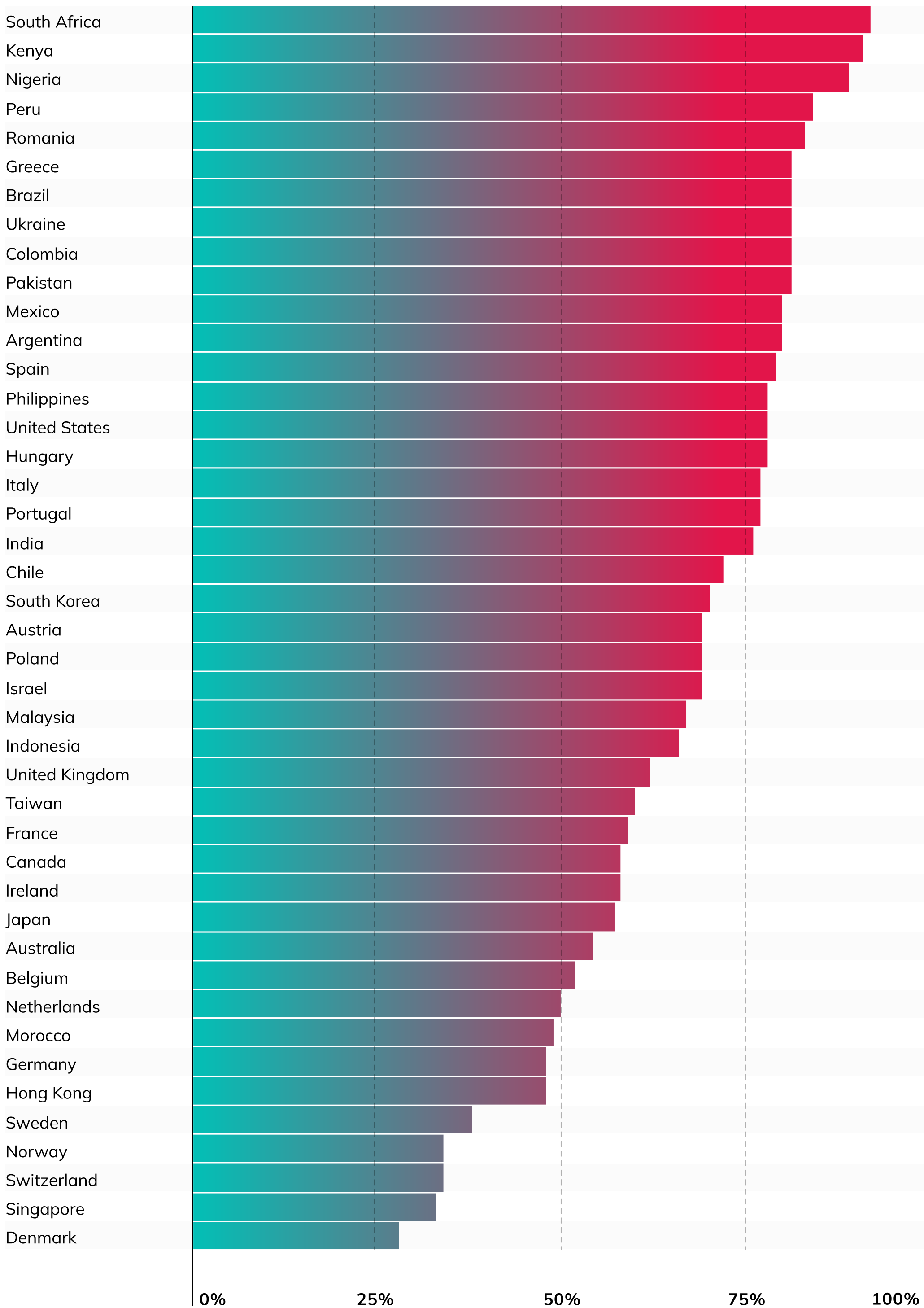
*Agree includes "Strongly agree" and "Somewhat agree"

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.

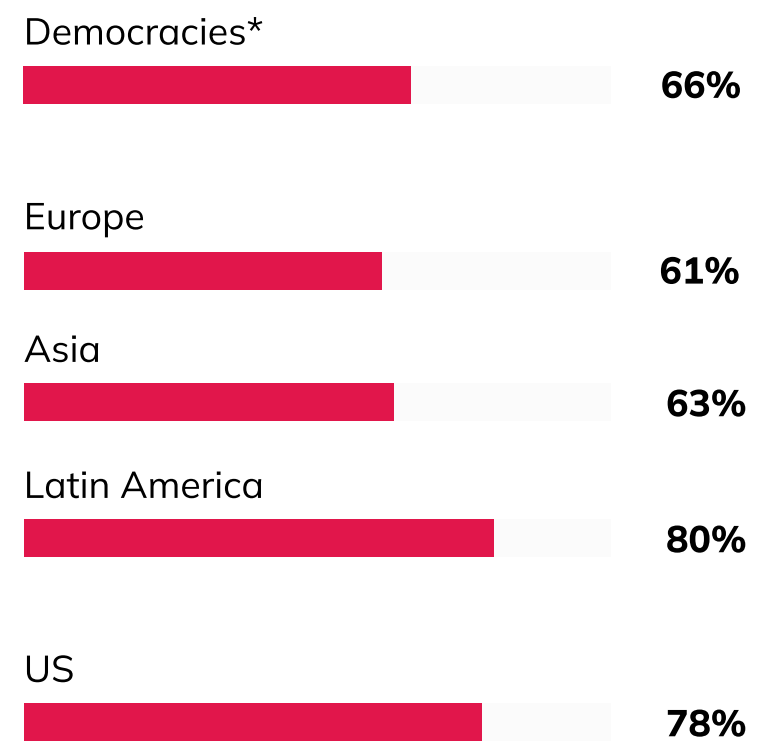
Most people view corruption as a threat to democracy in their country

% agree* that corruption threatens democracy in their country

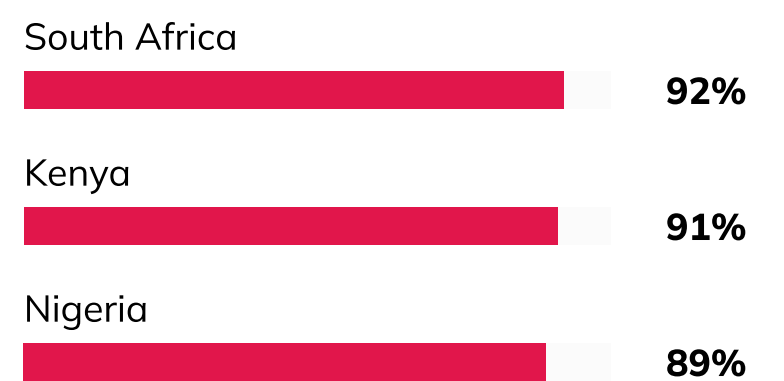


Regional Results

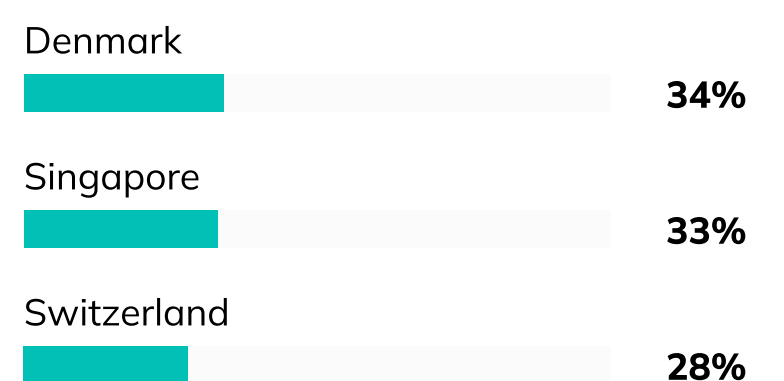
The concern is particularly high in the three African countries surveyed (91%), and in Latin America (80%).



Highest Threat



Lowest Threat



*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 corruption"

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

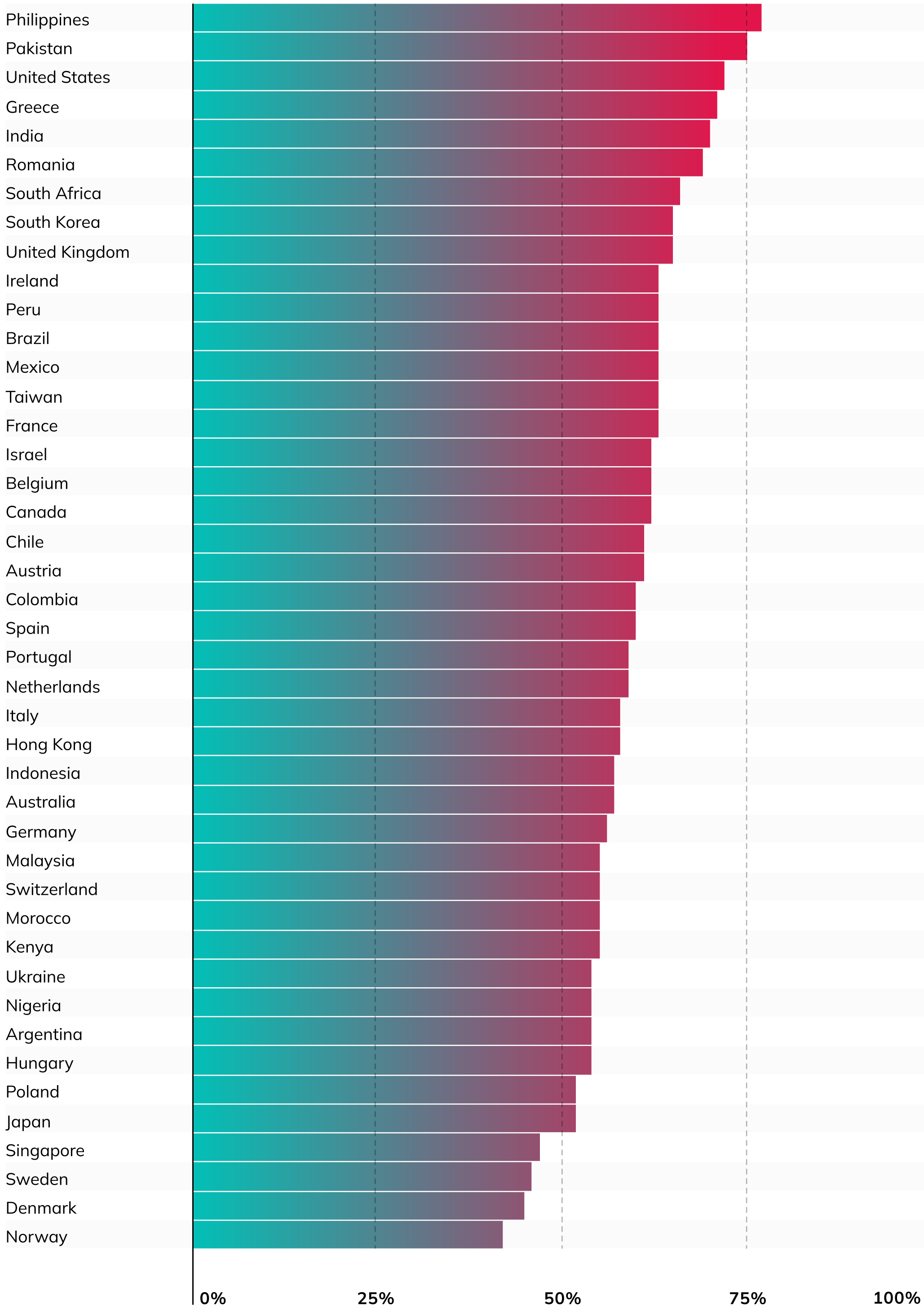
*Agree includes "Strongly agree" and "Somewhat agree"

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

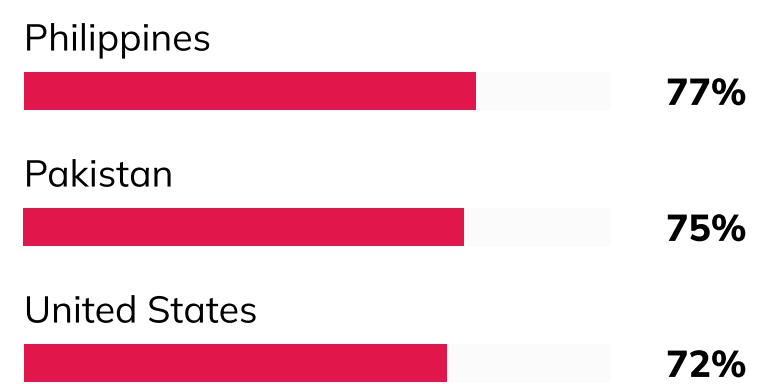
% agree* that the influence of global corporations threatens democracy in their country



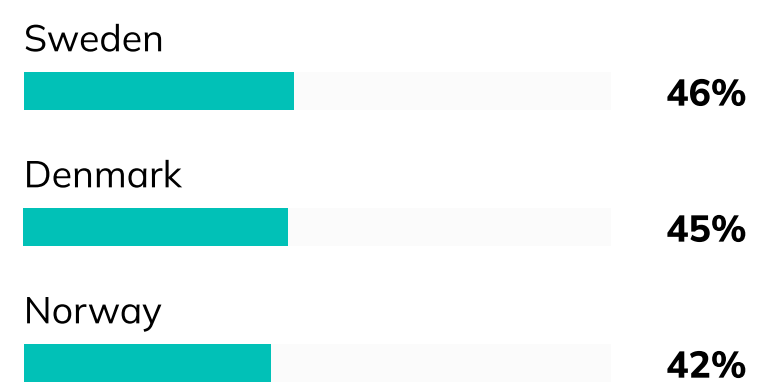
Regional Results

In most democracies, a majority of people (60%) say that the influence of global corporations threatens democracy in their country.

Highest Threat



Lowest Threat



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

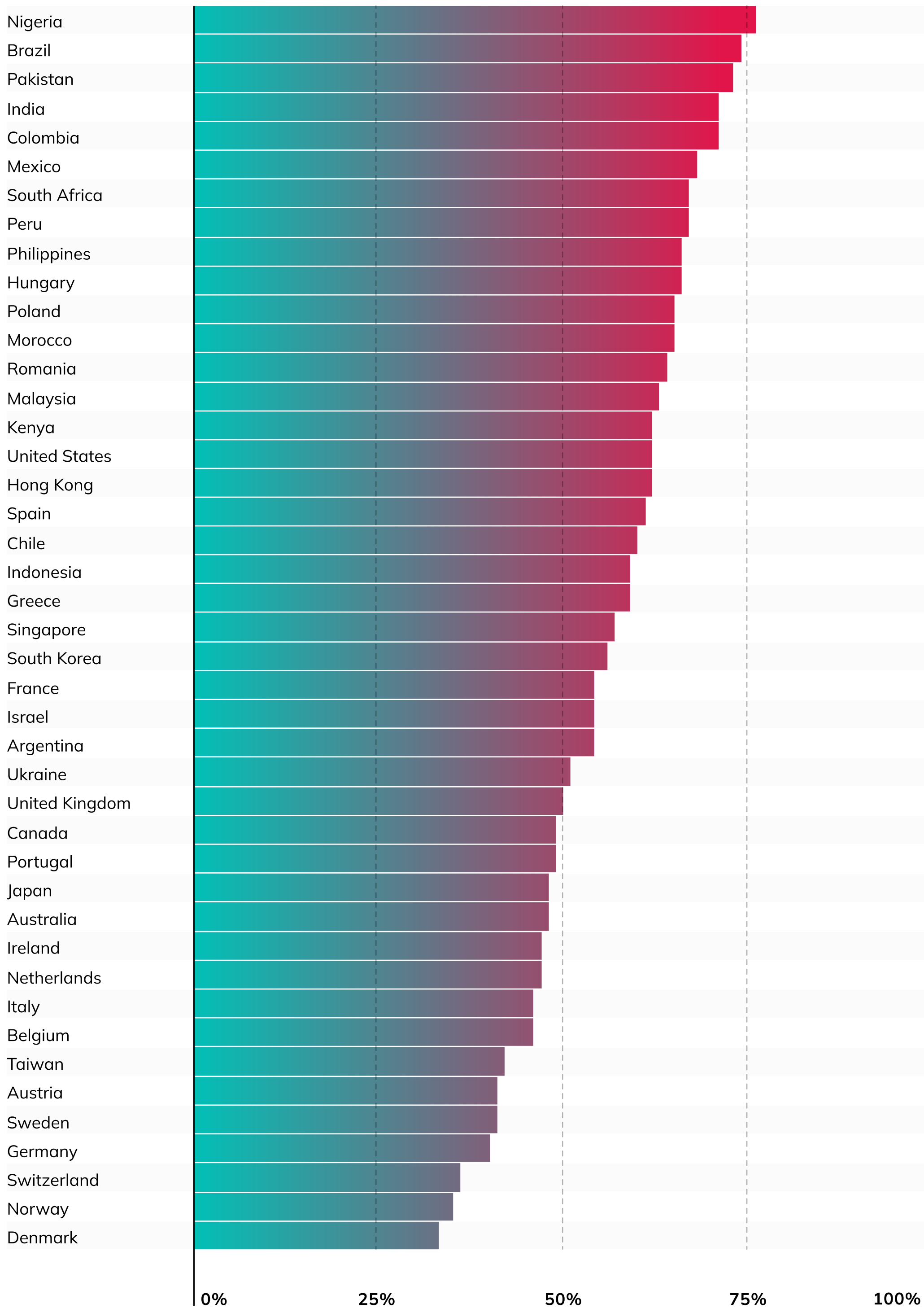
*Agree includes “Strongly agree” and “Somewhat agree”

Free Speech Limitations

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

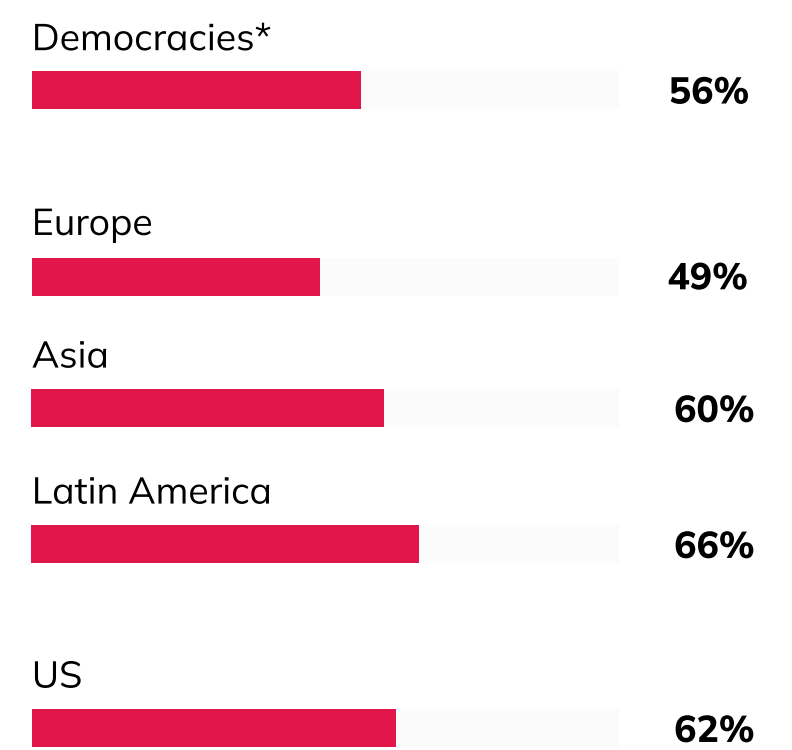
56% of people living in democracies are concerned with limits on free speech

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

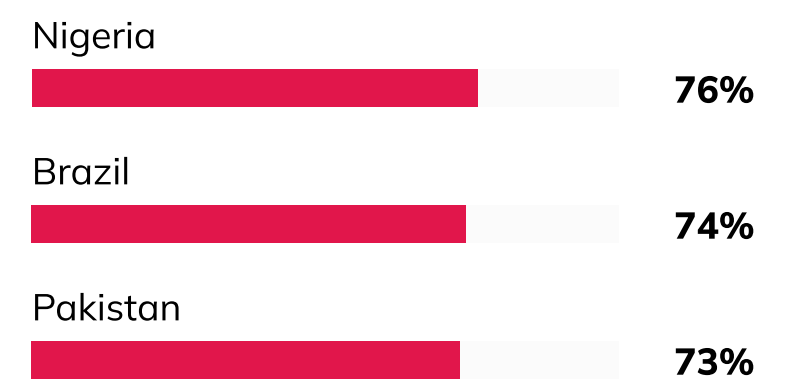


Regional Results

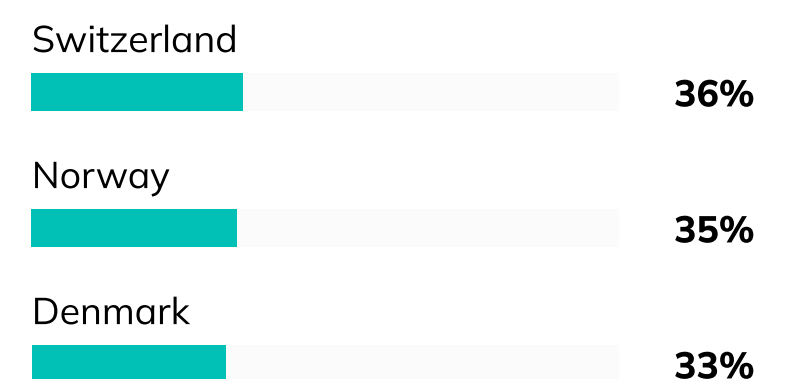
While concern with free speech limitations is lower in Europe (49%) than in the rest of the world, nearly half of Europeans still say that it threatens democracy in their country.



Highest Threat



Lowest Threat



*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 limitations on free speech"
Strongly agree / Somewhat agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Somewhat disagree / Strongly disagree

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

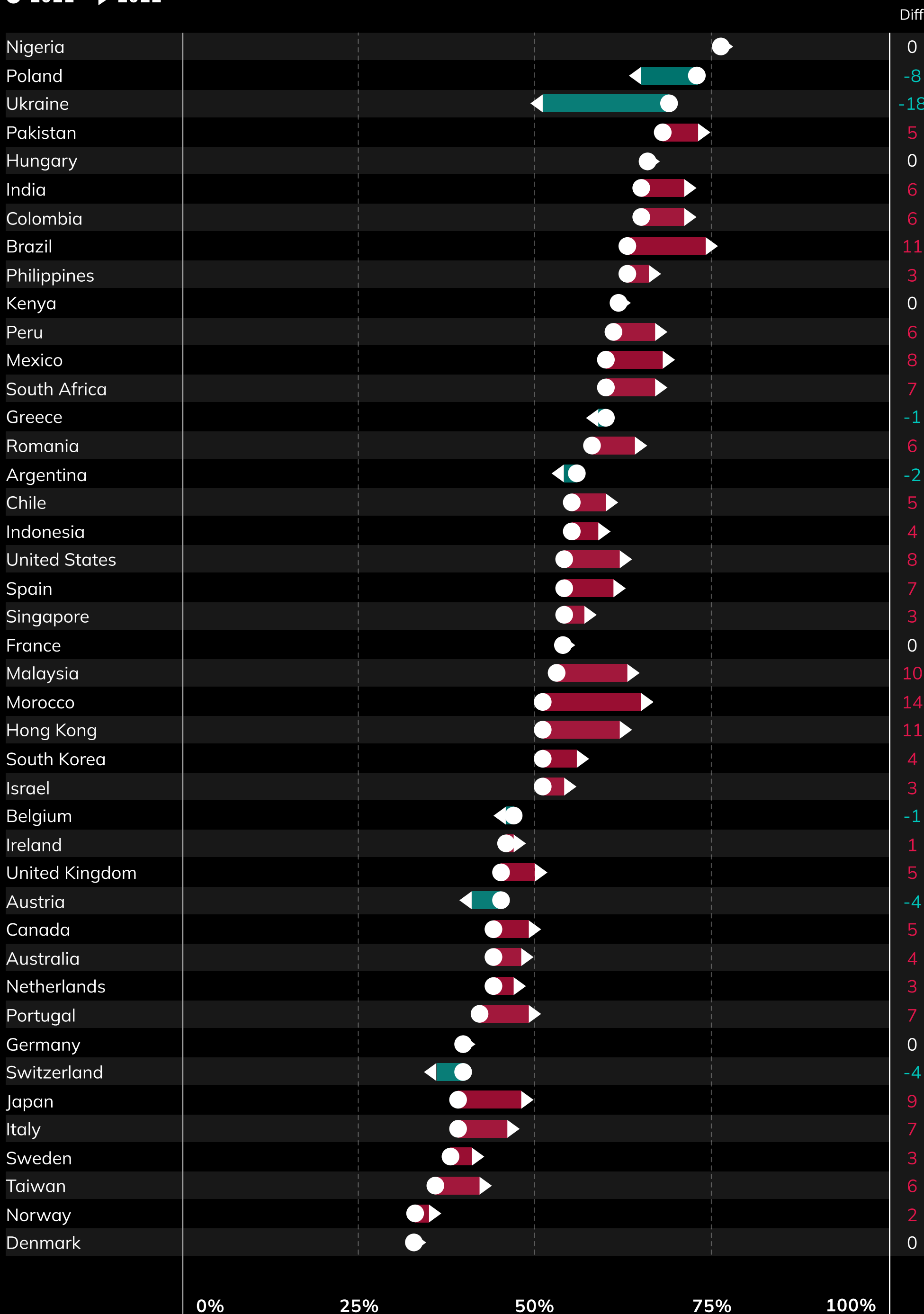
Free Speech Limitations

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

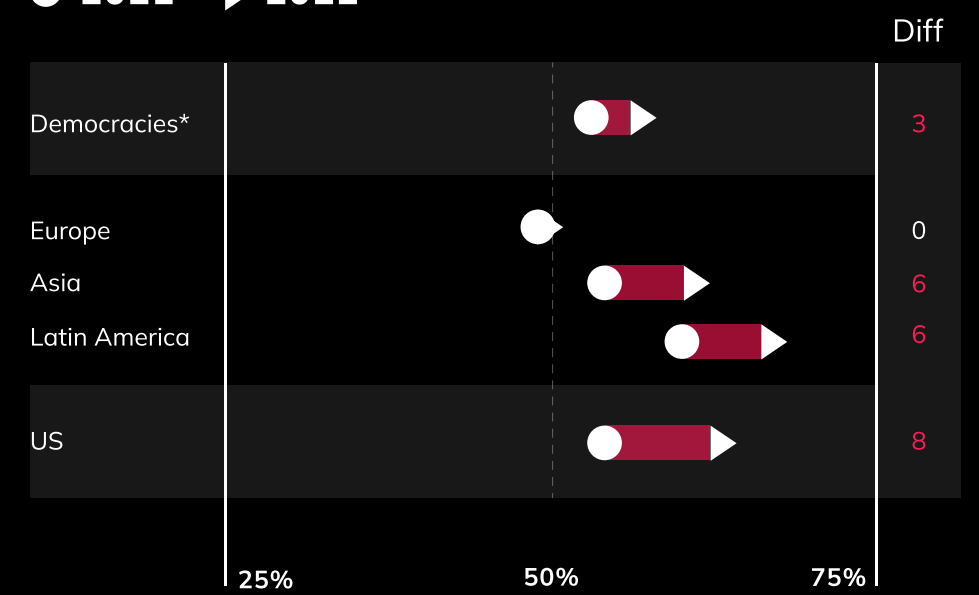
% agree* that limits on free speech threatens democracy in their country

● 2021 ► 2022



Regional Trend

● 2021 ► 2022



*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 limitations on free speech"

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

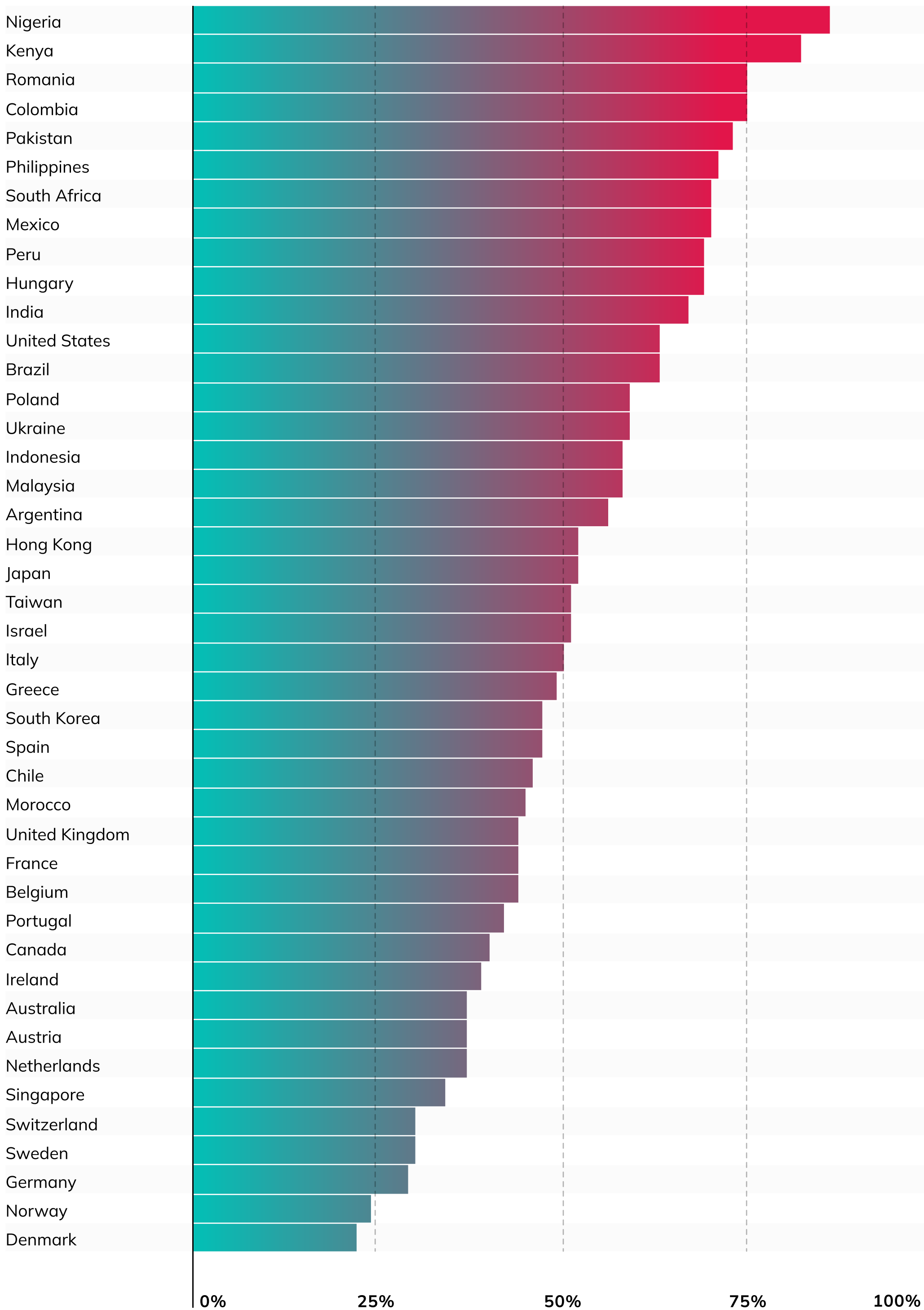
*Agree includes "Strongly agree" and "Somewhat agree"

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.

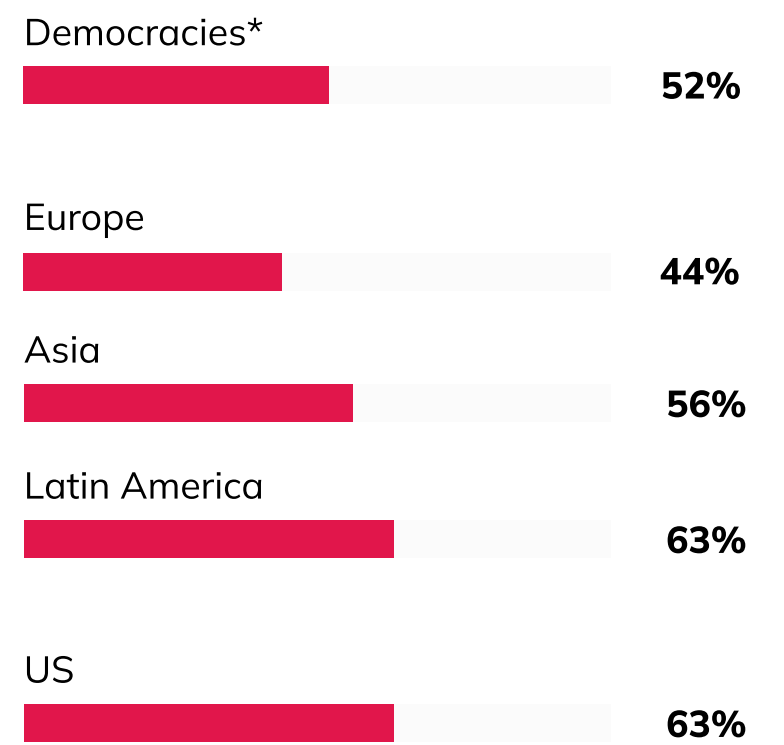
Fear of unfair elections is widespread in most democracies outside of Europe

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



Regional Results

This fear of unfair elections is much lower in democracies in Europe (44%) than those in Asia (56%), Latin America (63%), or the US (63%).



"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"

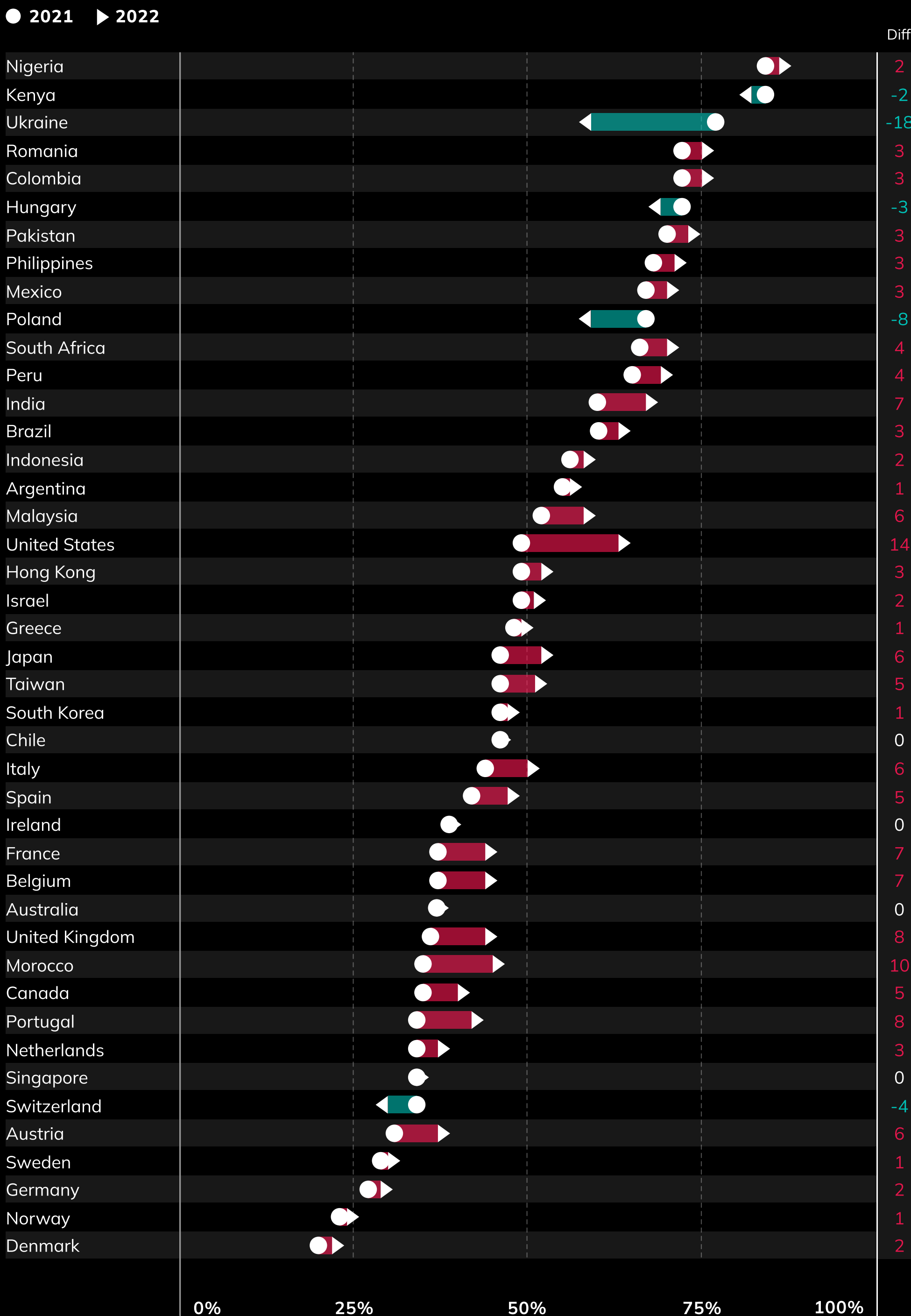
*Democracies include countries rated as "Free" and "Partly Free" by Freedom House. Countries rated as "Not Free" are excluded.

Unfair Elections

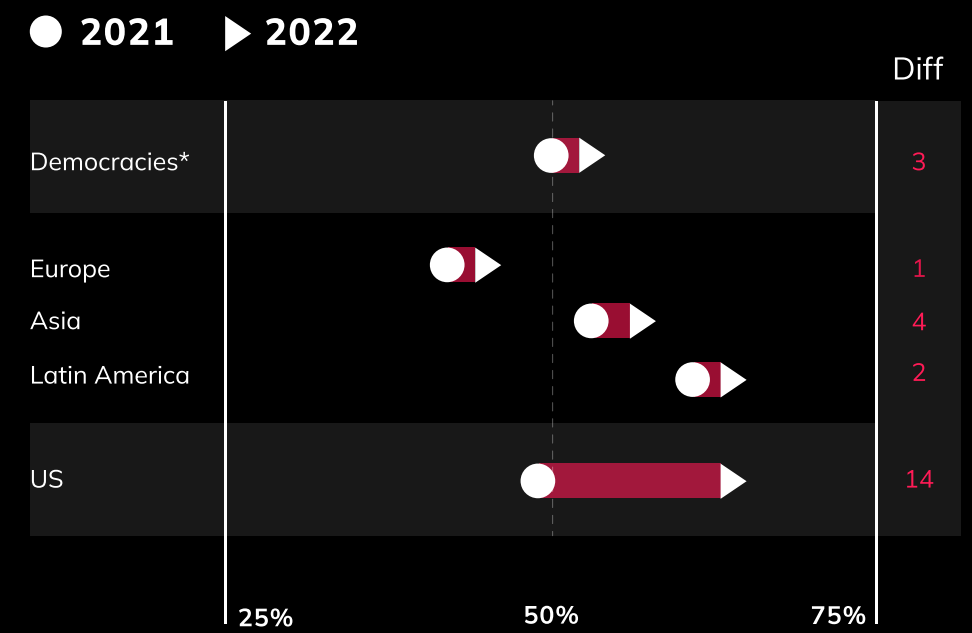
The share of people who say that unfair elections or election fraud are threatening democracy in their country has increased in many democracies since 2021, most dramatically in the US (+15), Morocco (+11), and the UK (+10).

Fear of unfair elections increased in many democracies since 2021

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



Regional Trend



In the United States

the perception that unfair elections or election fraud threaten democracy has increased more in the United States than in any other democracy from 2021 to 2022, rising from 49% to a large majority (63%).

*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

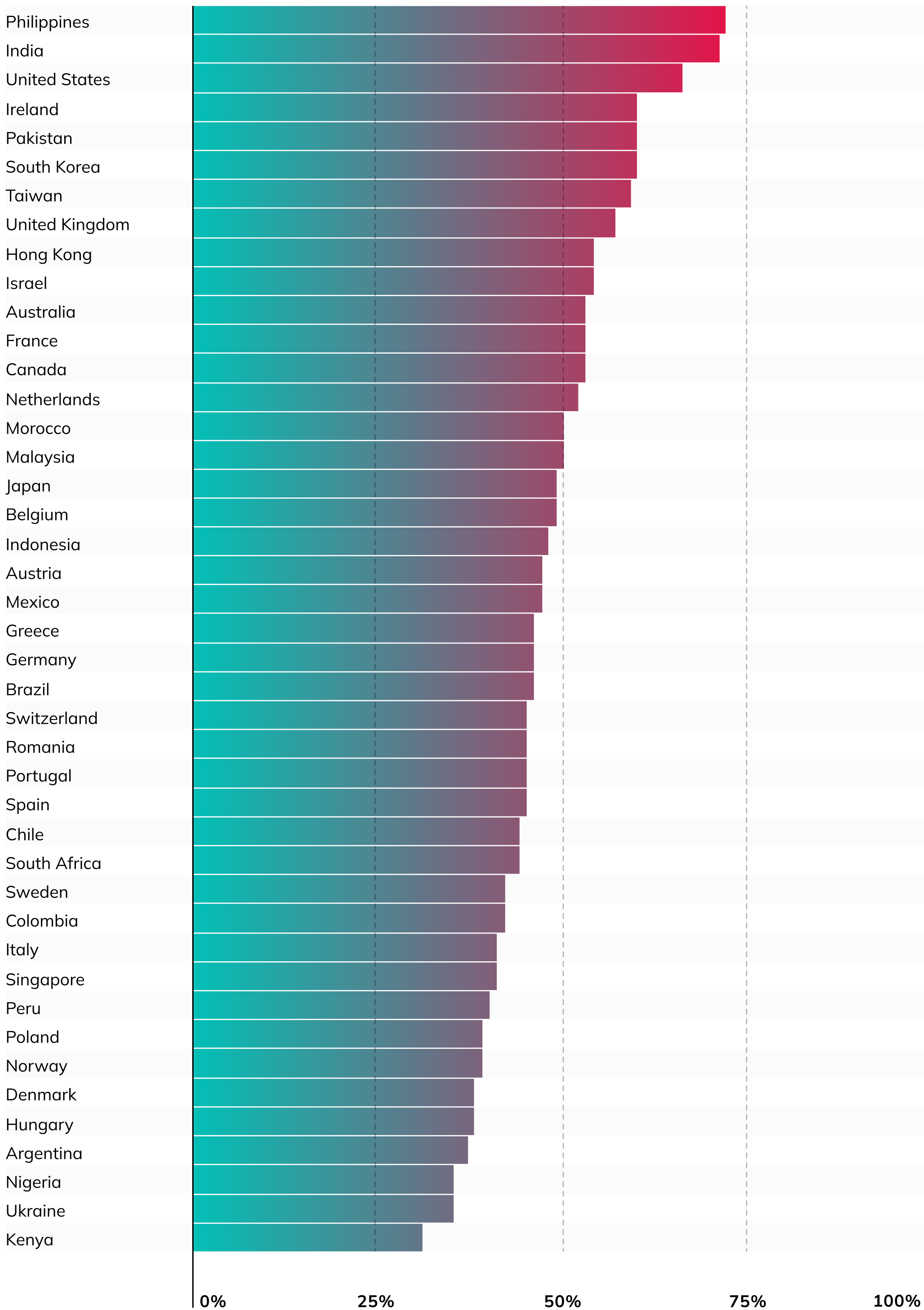
*Agree includes "Strongly agree" and "Somewhat agree"

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.

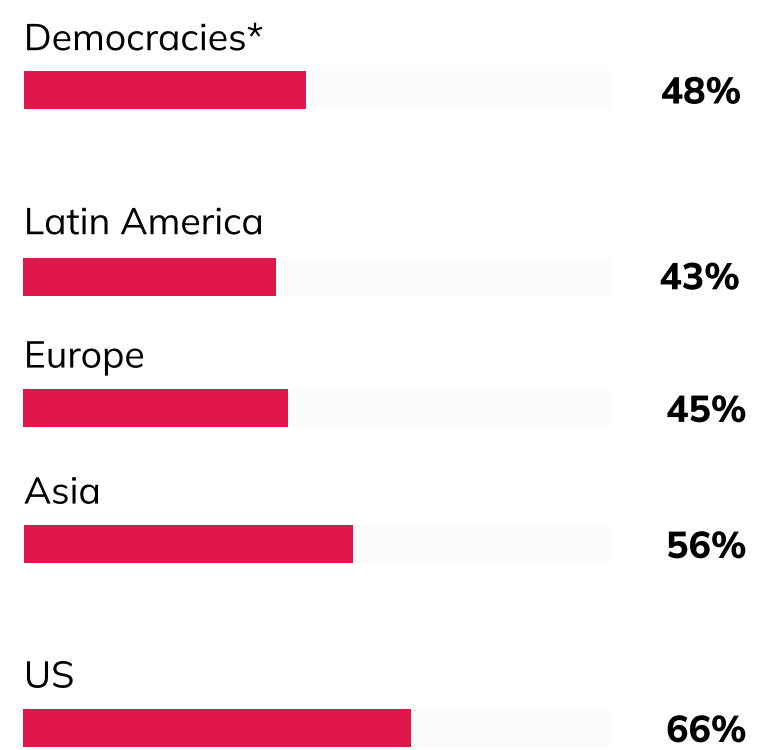
Half of the world's democracies fear the influence of Big Tech companies

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



Regional Results

Concern about the influence of Big Tech companies is higher in Asian democracies (56%) than in European (45%) or Latin American (43%) democracies on average.



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”

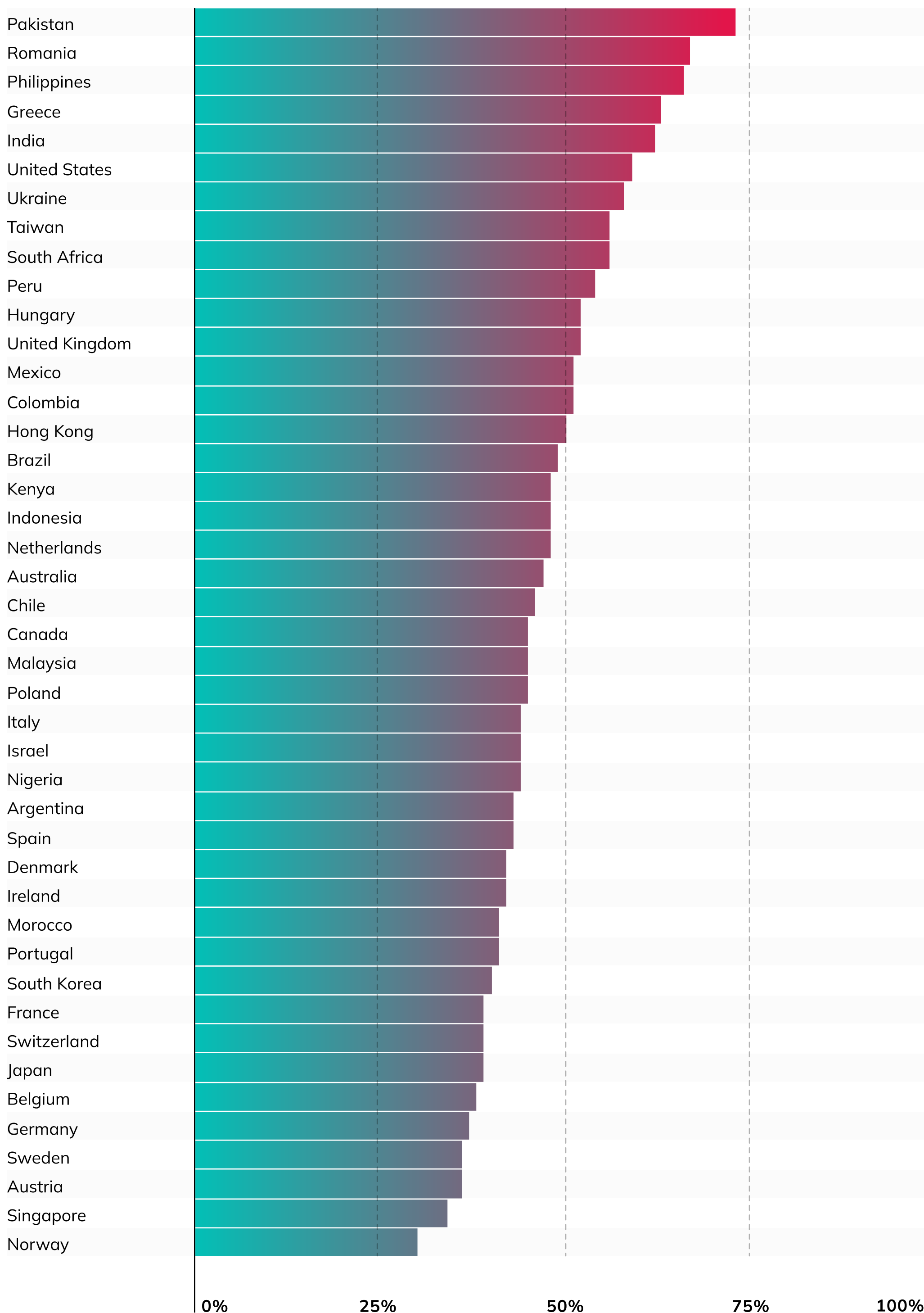
*Democracies include countries rated as “Free” and “Partly Free” by Freedom House. Countries rated as “Not Free” are excluded.

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%).

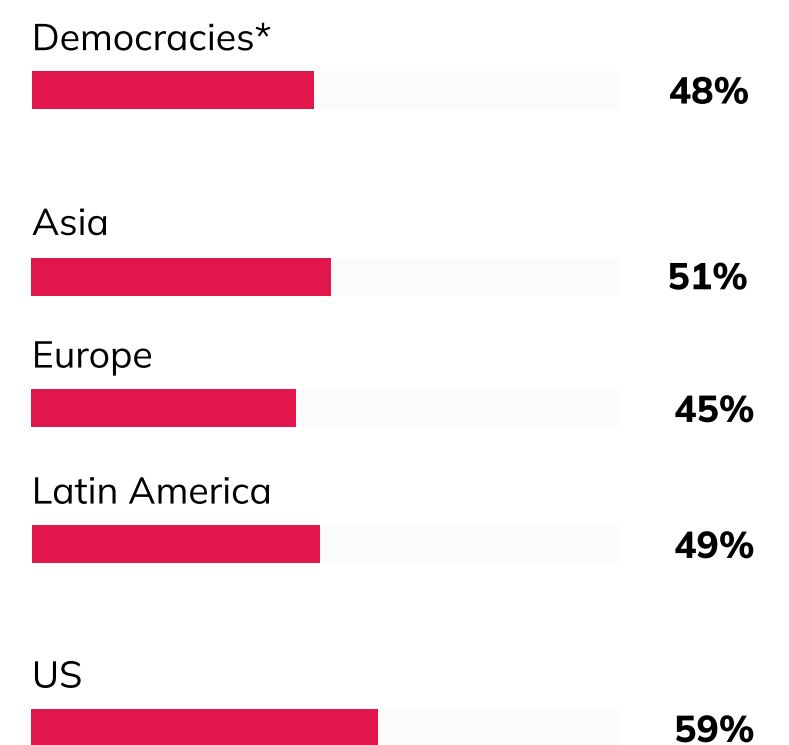
48% of people living in democracies perceive the threat of foreign election interference

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



Regional Results

Fear of foreign election interference is higher in the US (59%) than in most of Asia (51%), Latin America (49%), and Europe (45%).



"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"

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

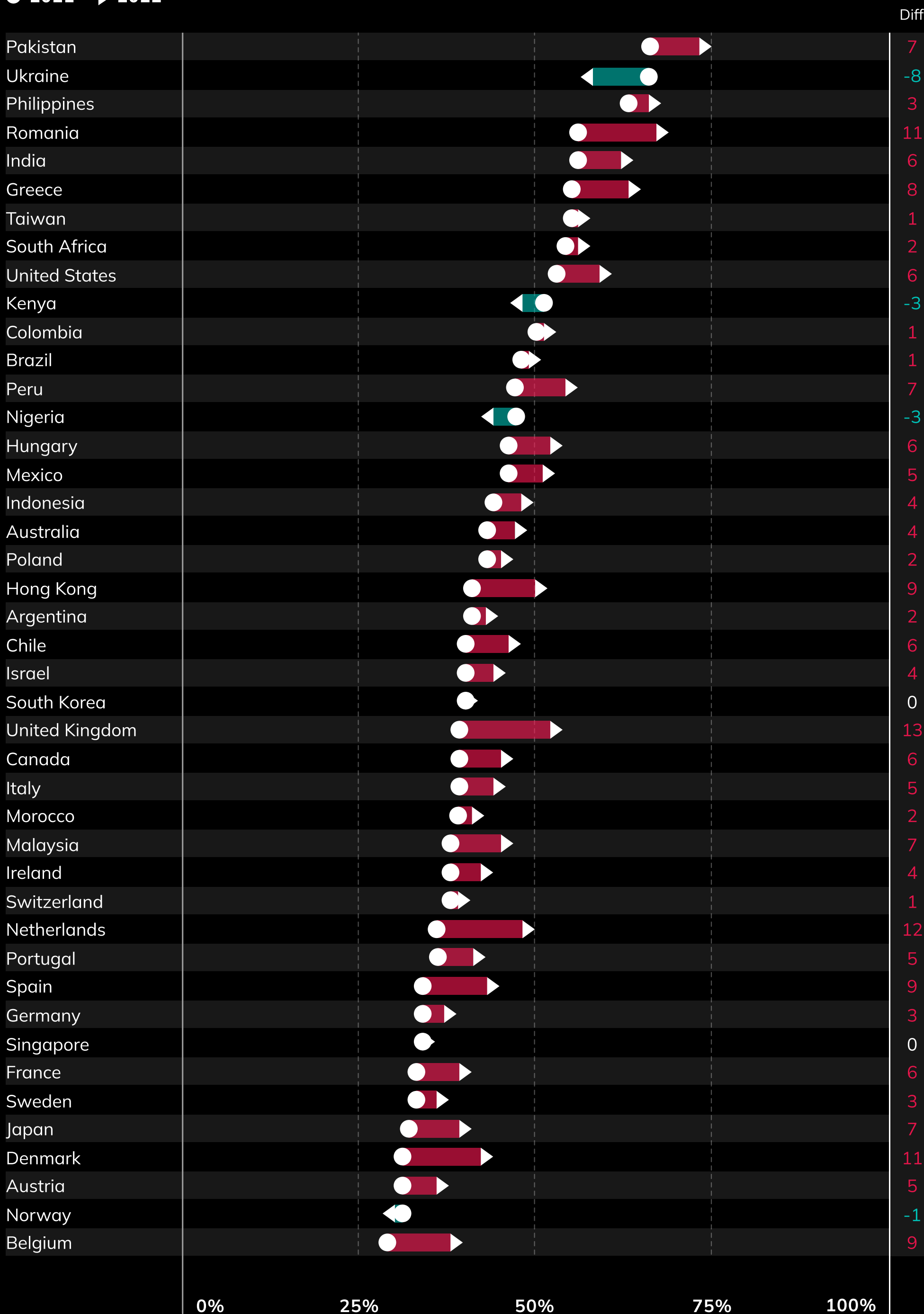
Foreign Election Interference

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

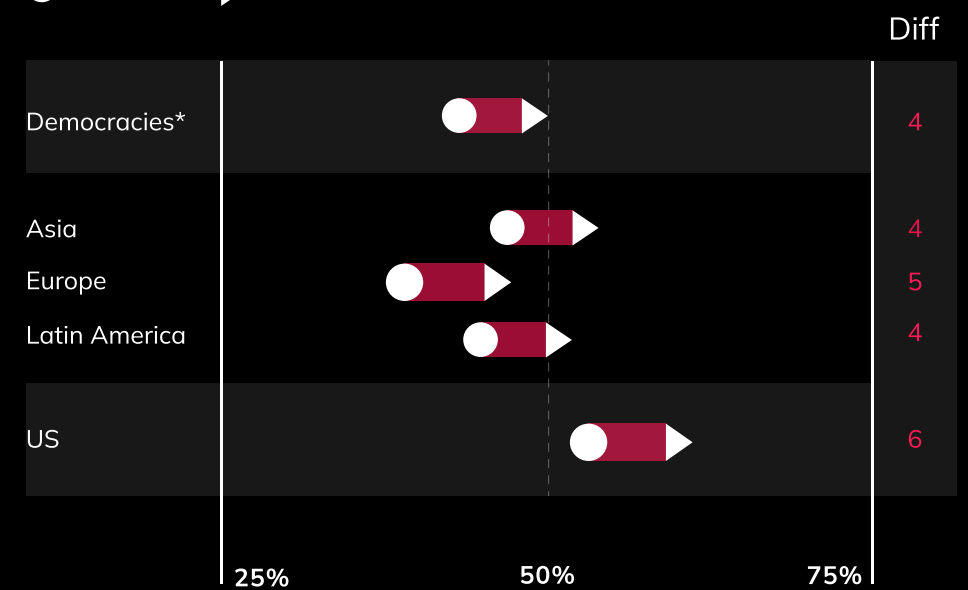


Regional Results

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

Regional Trend

● 2021 ► 2022



*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

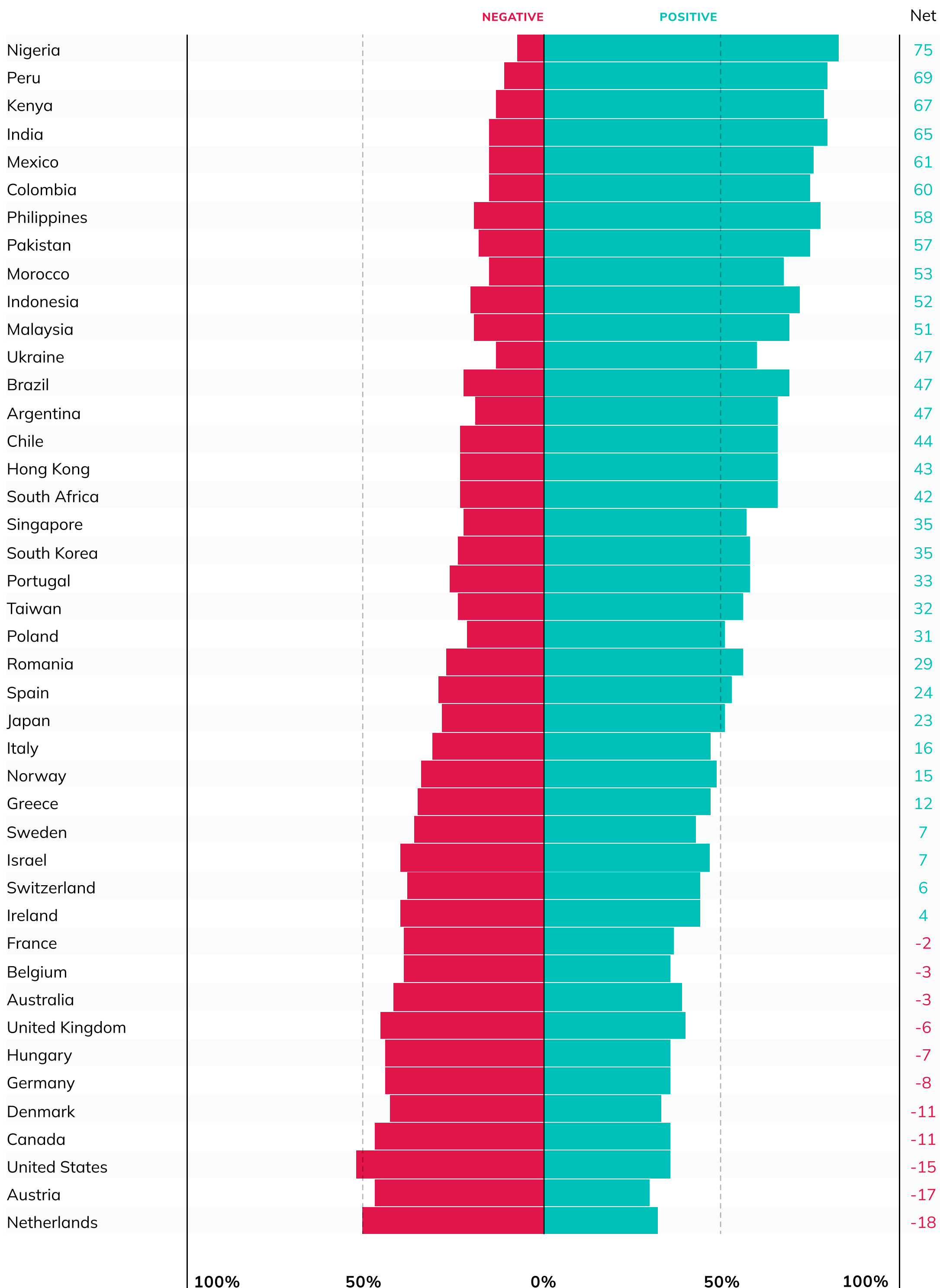
*Agree includes "Strongly agree" and "Somewhat agree"

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.

Democracies*



Latin America



Asia



Europe



US



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

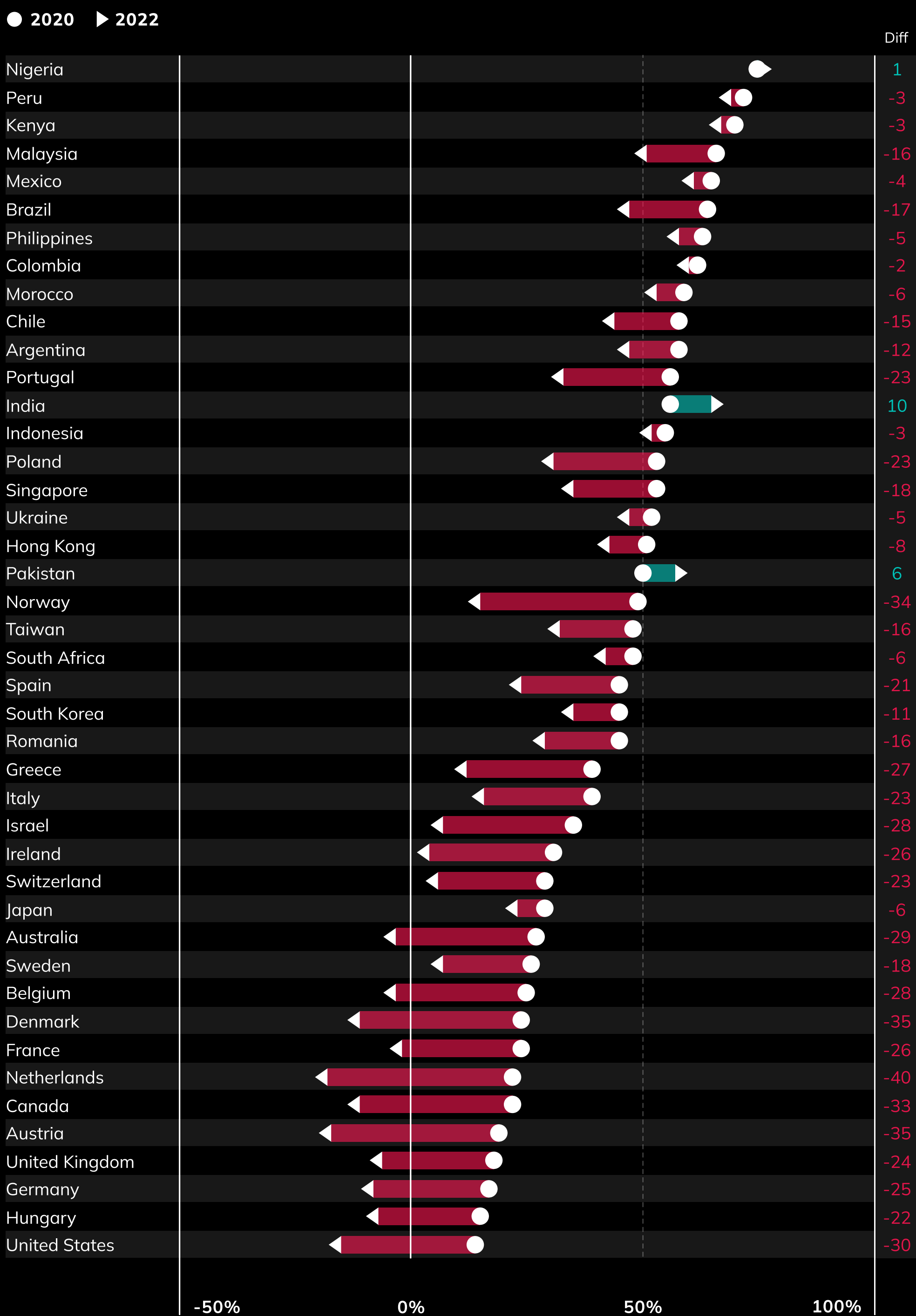
*Positive includes "Very positive" and "Somewhat positive".

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.

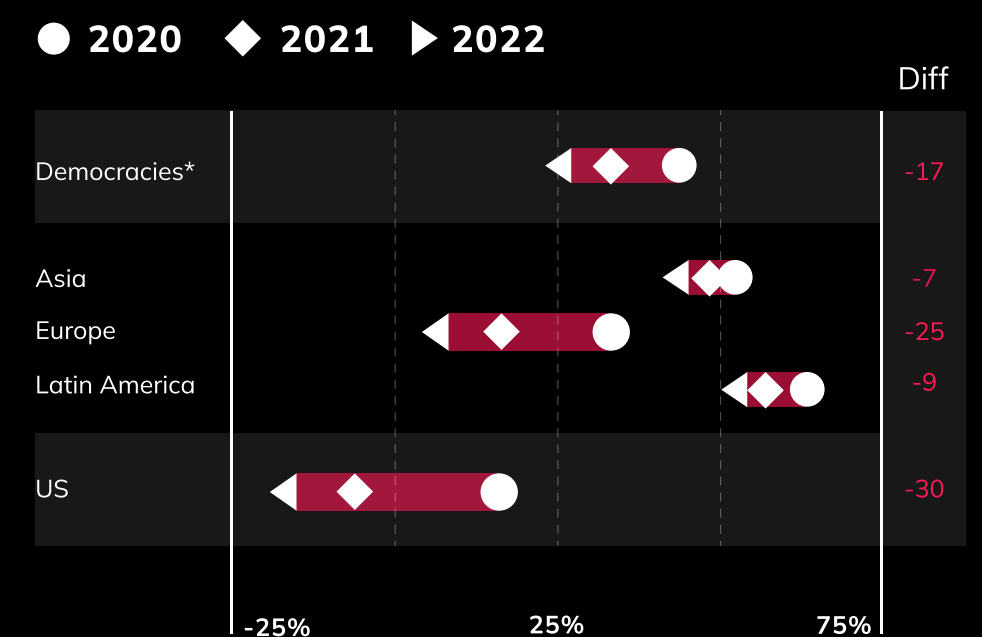
Opinion of social media's impact on democracy takes negative turn since 2020

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



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.



*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

Threats to Democracy in America

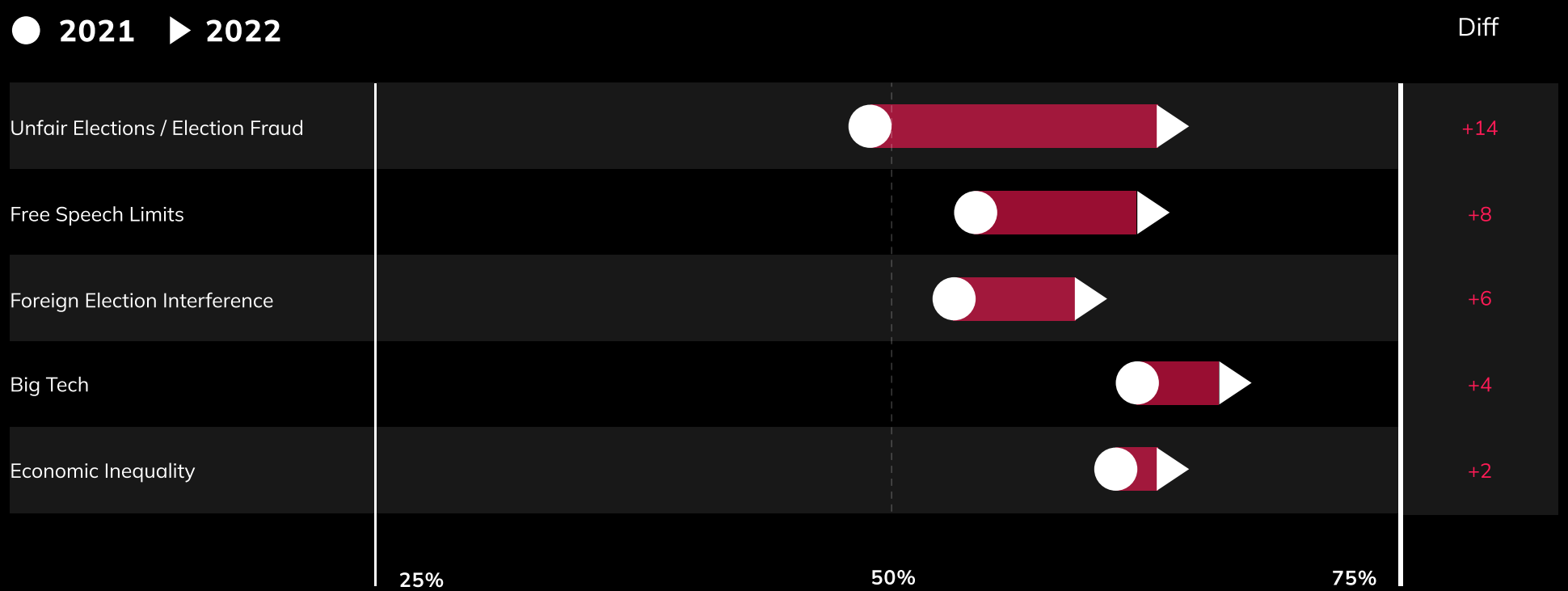
Americans are growing more and more concerned about threats to their democracy. Since 2021, fear of unfair elections has increased most dramatically in the US, followed by fear of limits on free speech and foreign election interference.



KEY FINDINGS

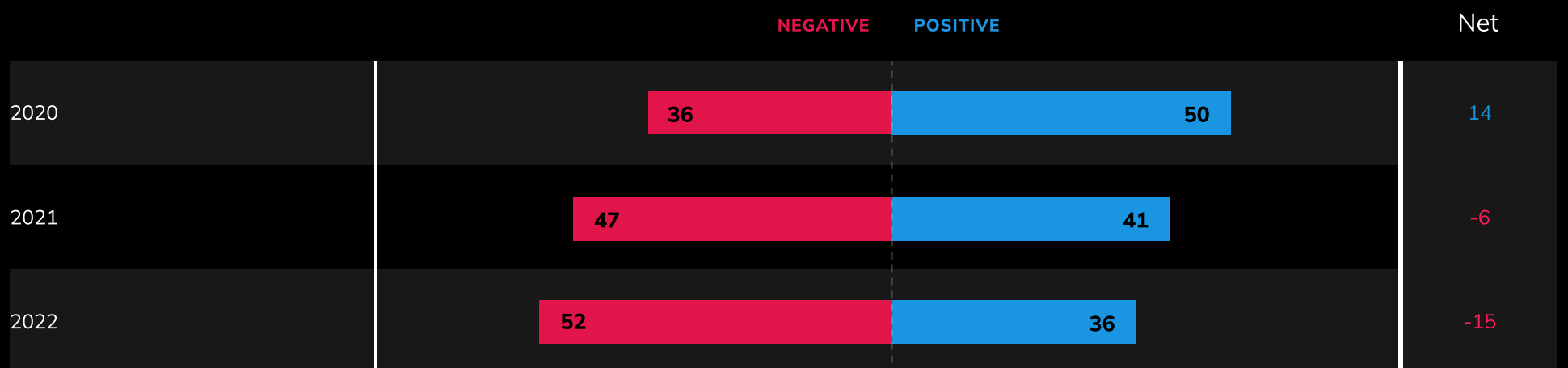
Since 2021, fear of unfair elections has increased most dramatically in the US

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



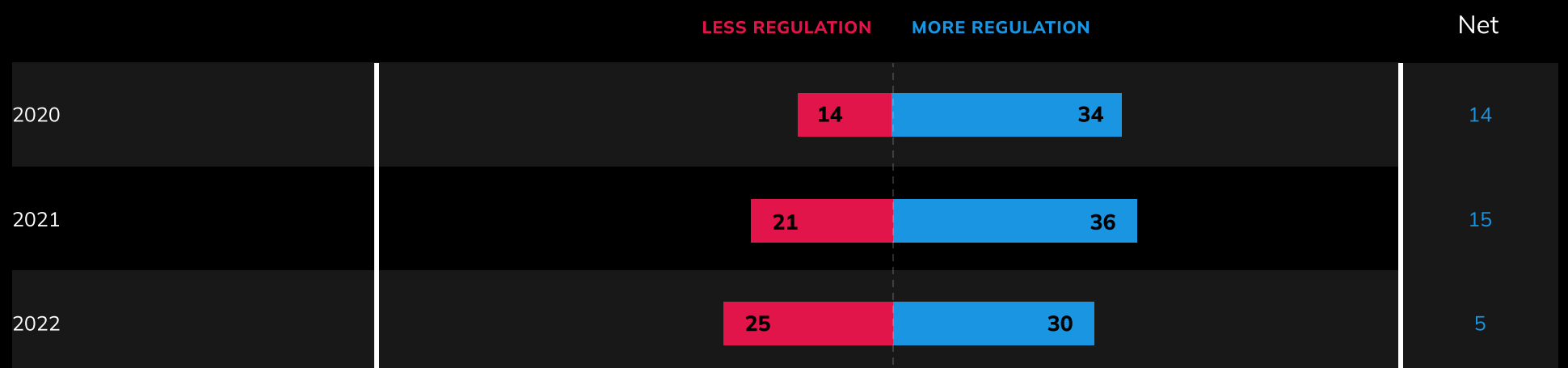
Americans have grown very critical of social media platforms' influence on democracy

% 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

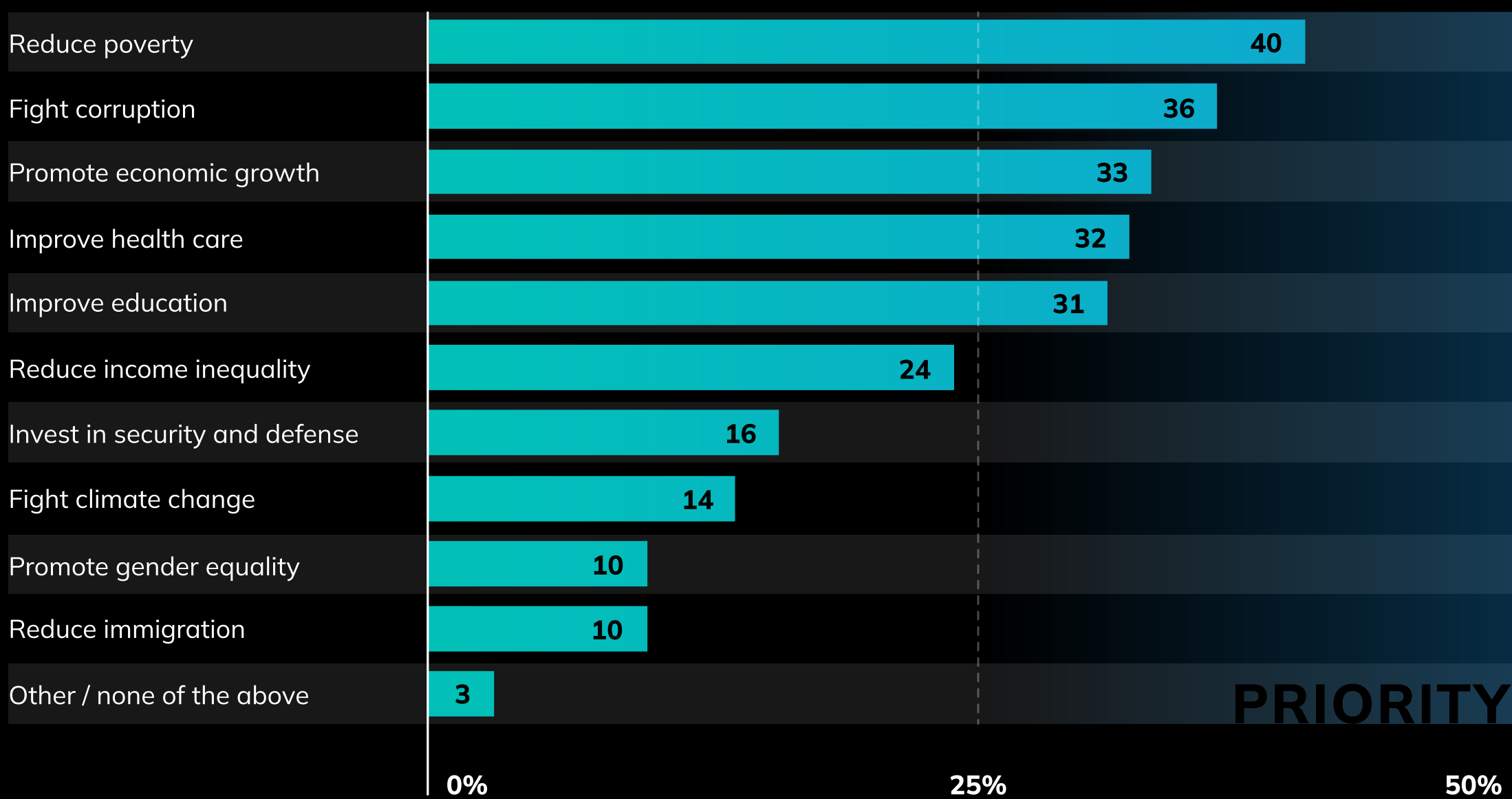


Government Priorities

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

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



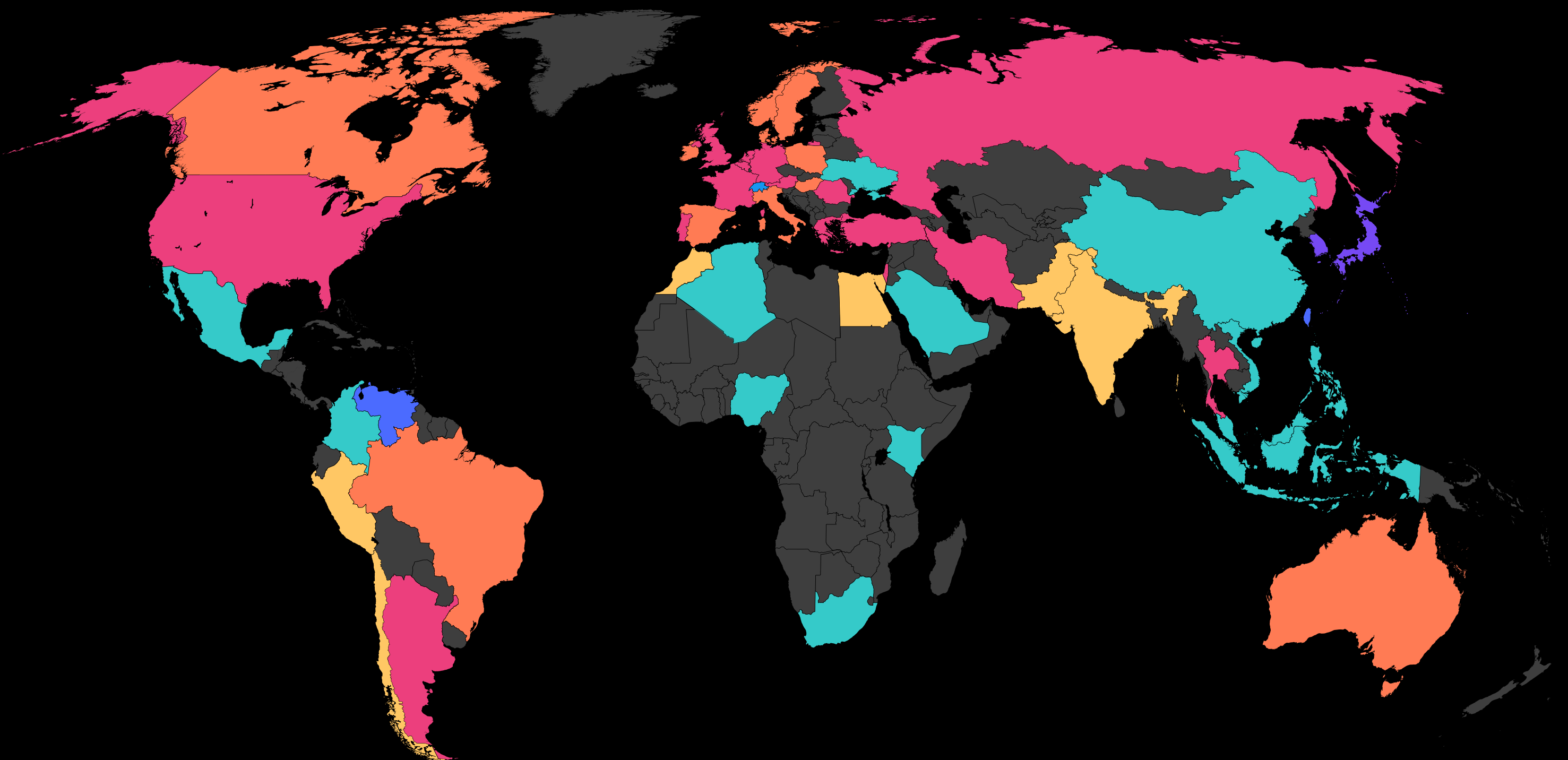
Which of the following areas do you want your government to focus on more?

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

Majorities in all countries say poverty reduction is priority number one

the top priority selected by country



- REDUCE POVERTY
- IMPROVE HEALTHCARE
- IMPROVE EDUCATION
- FIGHT CORRUPTION
- FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE
- PROMOTE ECONOMIC GROWTH
- REDUCE INCOME INEQUALITY

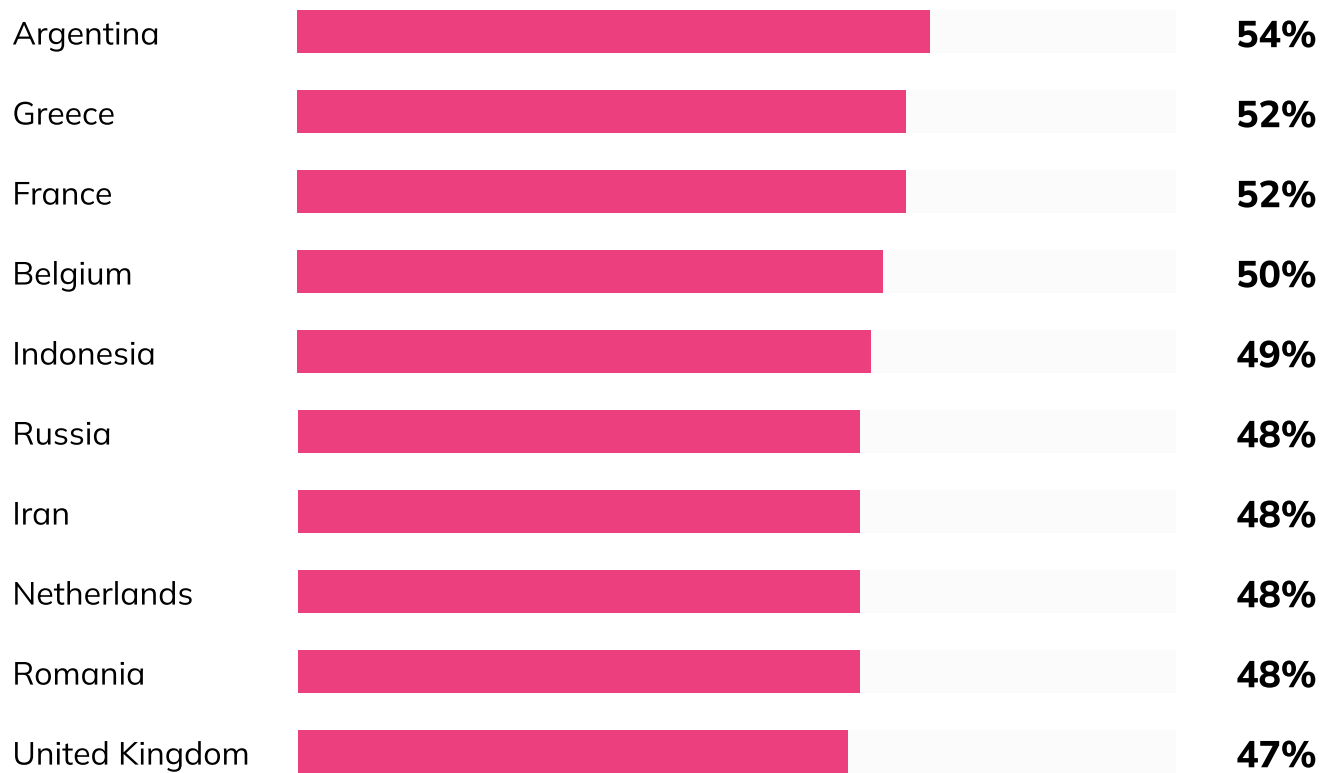
Government Priorities

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

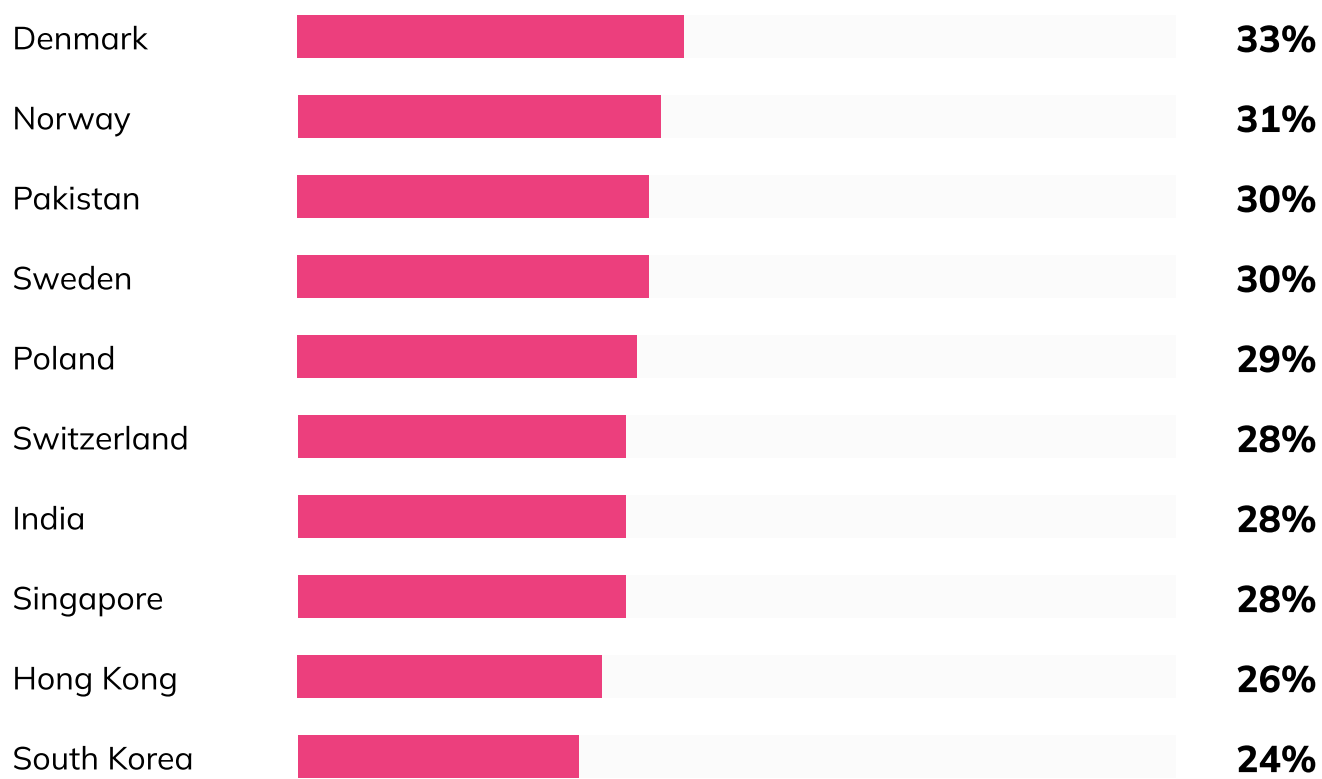
Top 10



Global Average



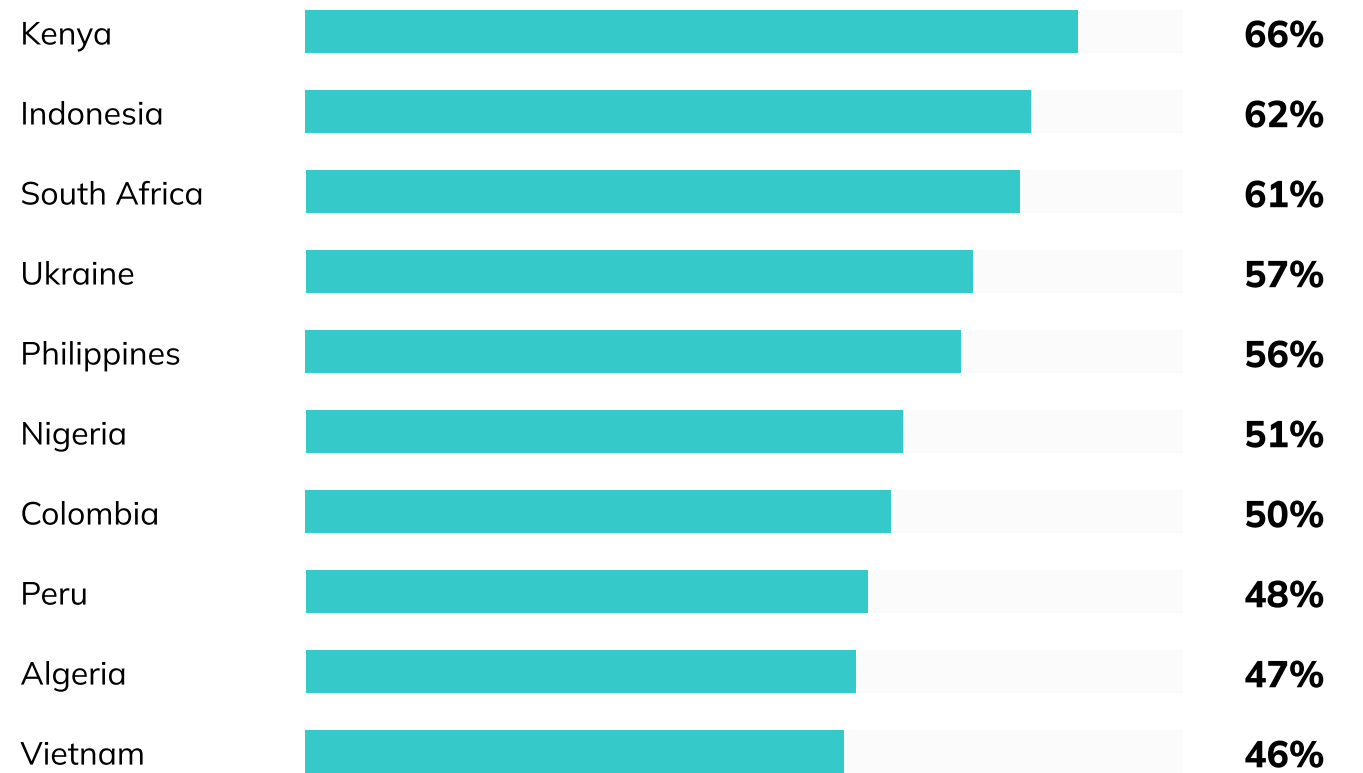
Bottom 10



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.

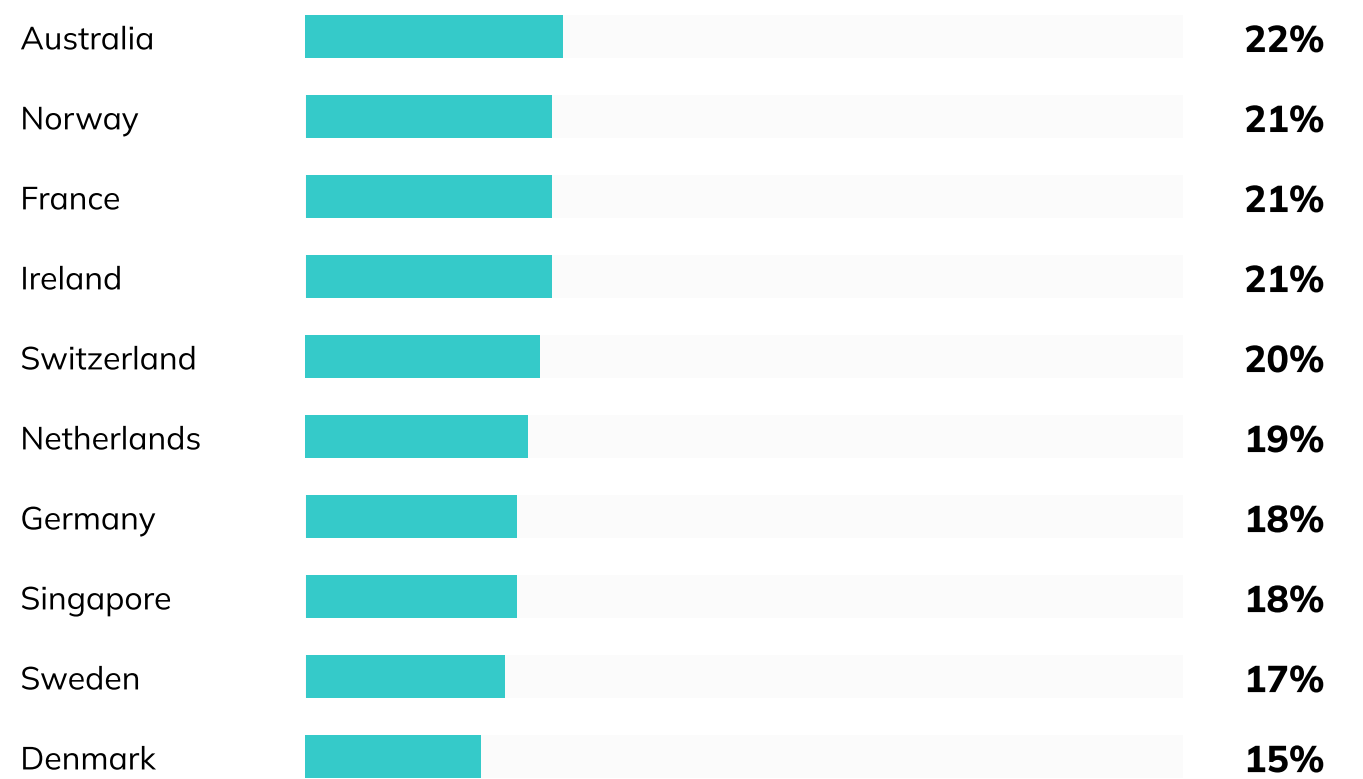
Top 10



Global Average



Bottom 10

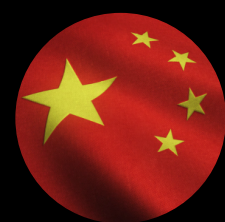


KEY FINDINGS



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%).

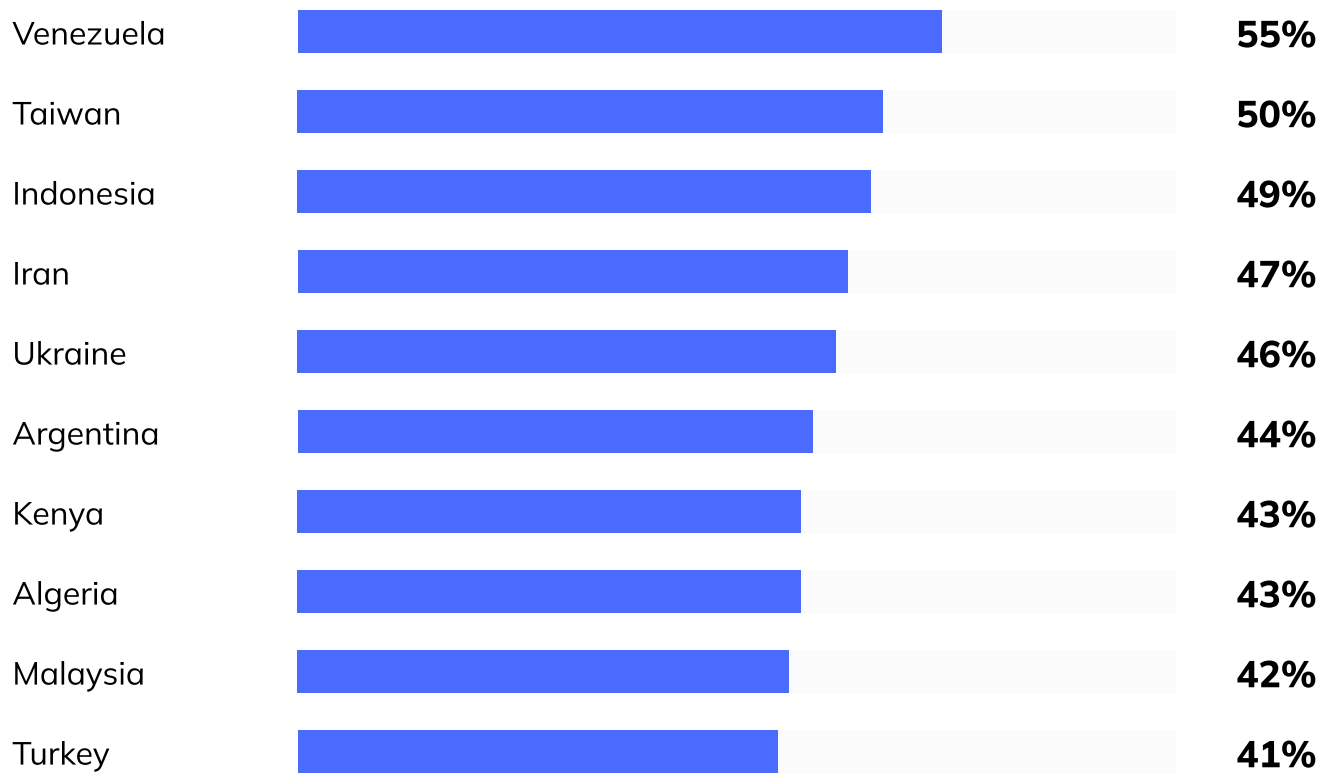
Government Priorities

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

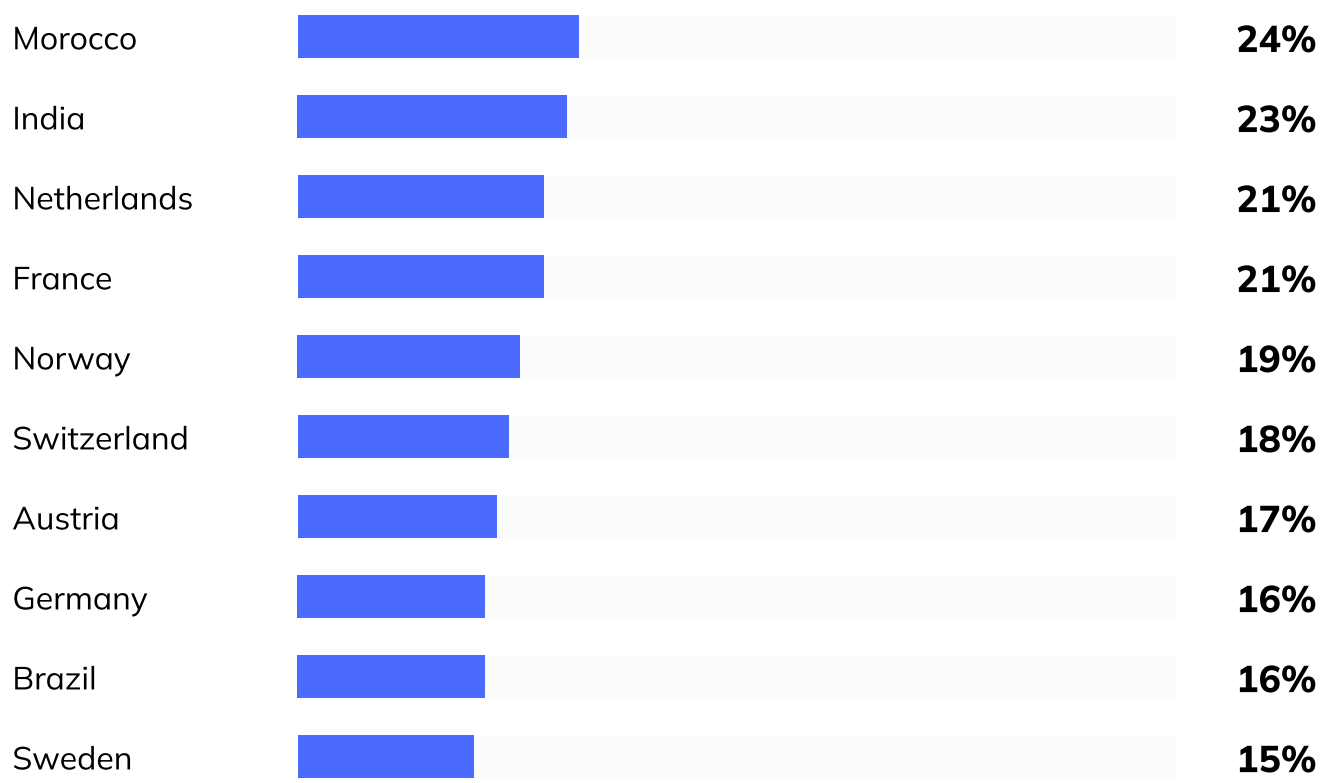
Top 10



Global Average



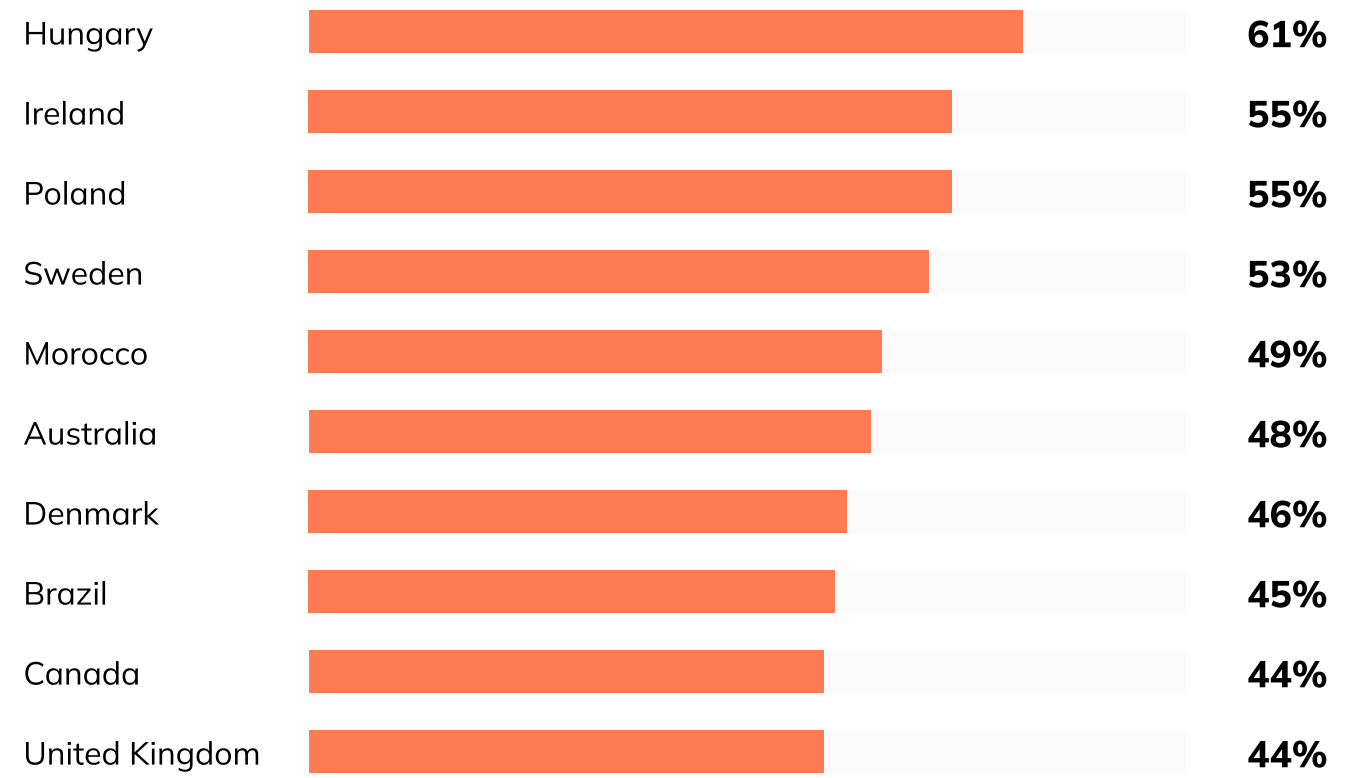
Bottom 10



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%).

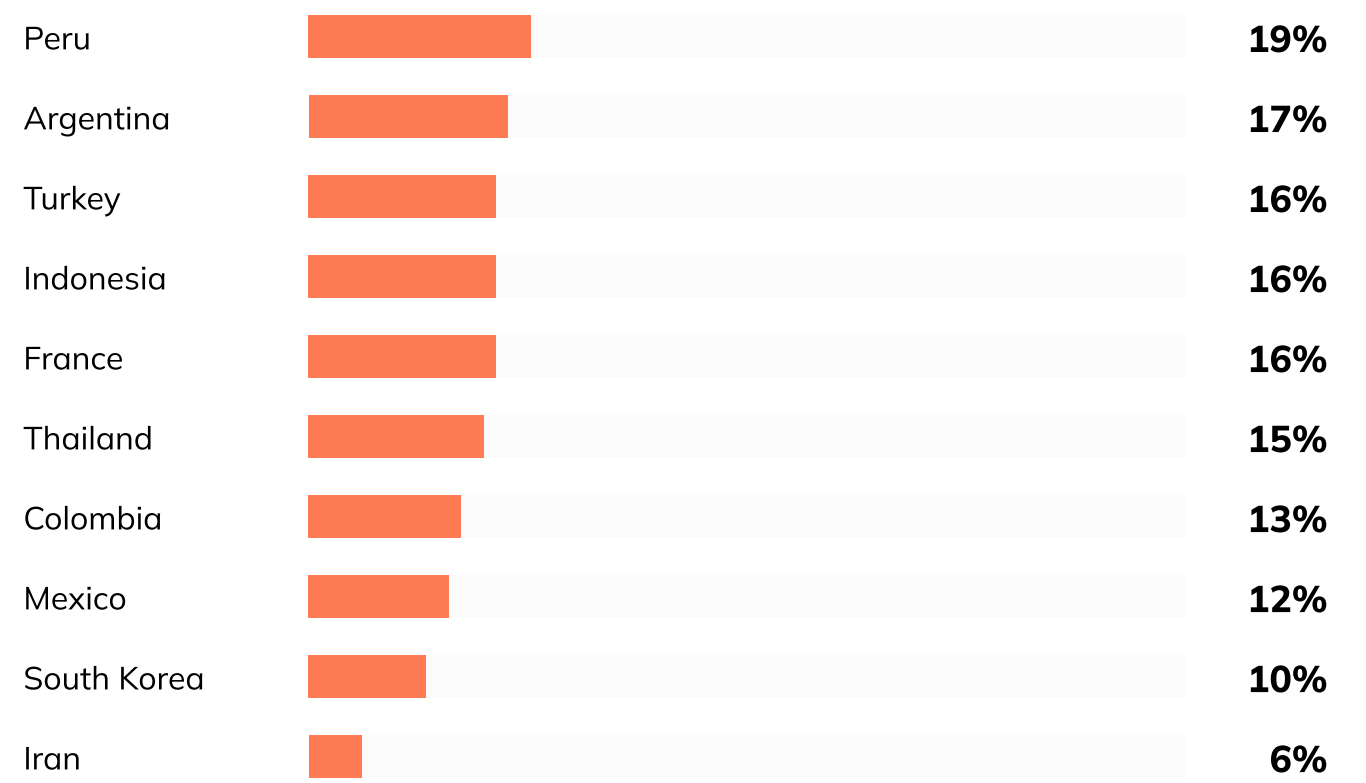
Top 10



Global Average



Bottom 10



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%).

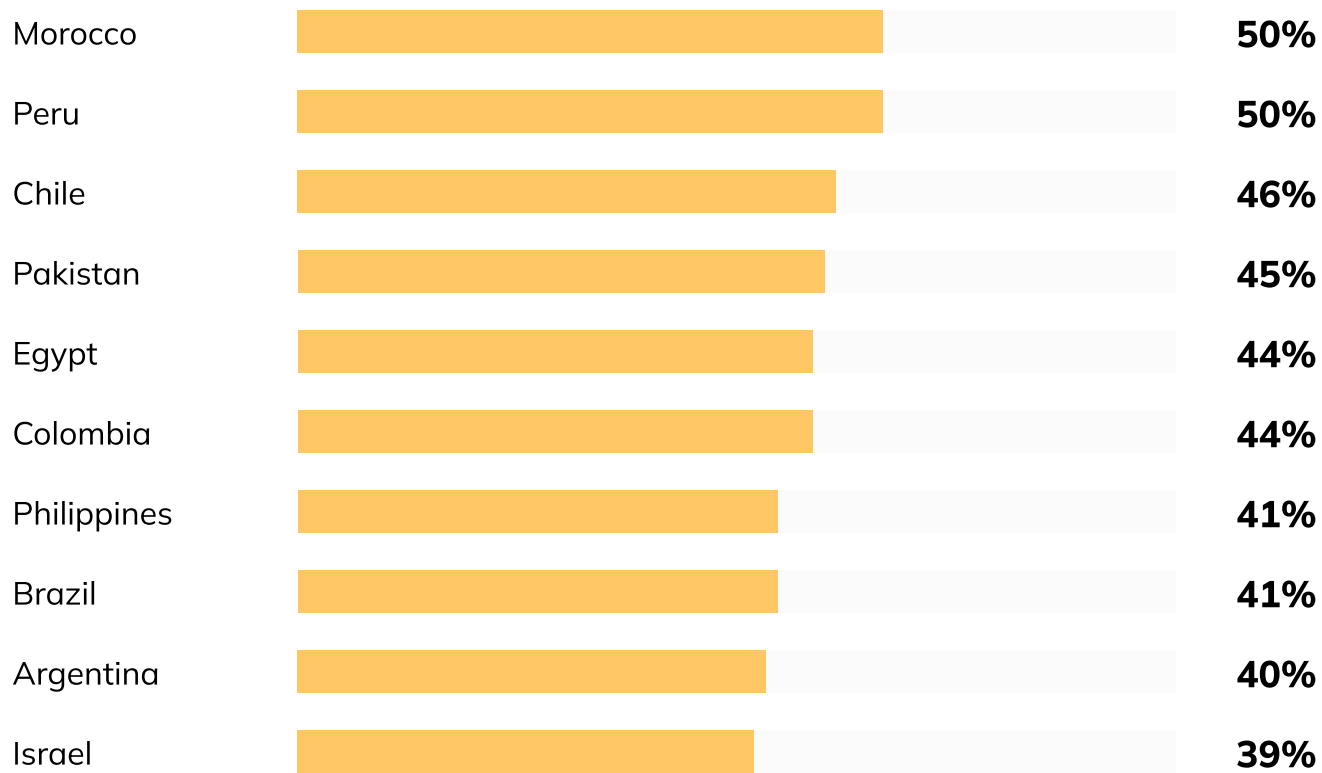
Government Priorities

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

Top 10



Global Average



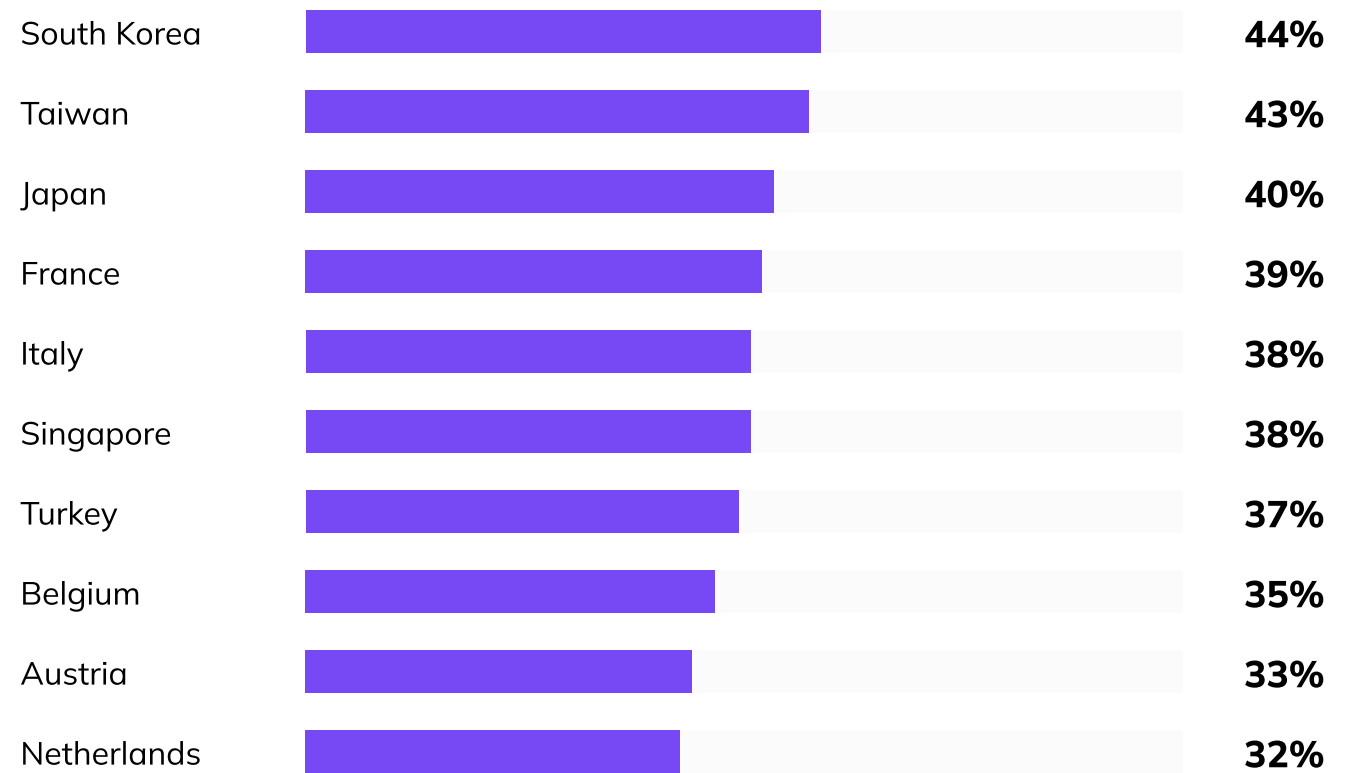
Bottom 10



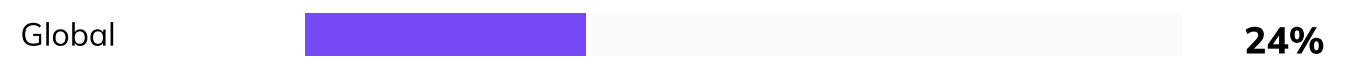
Reduce income inequality

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%).

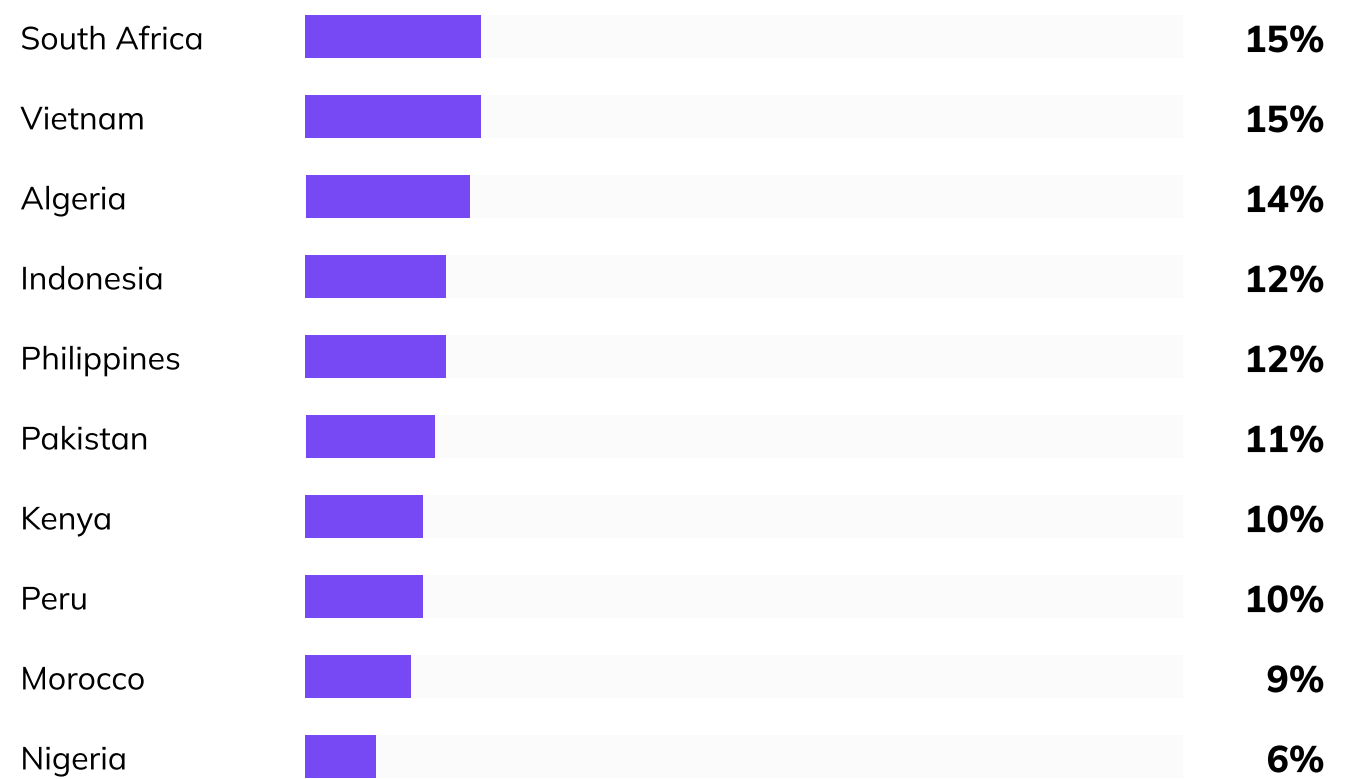
Top 10



Global Average



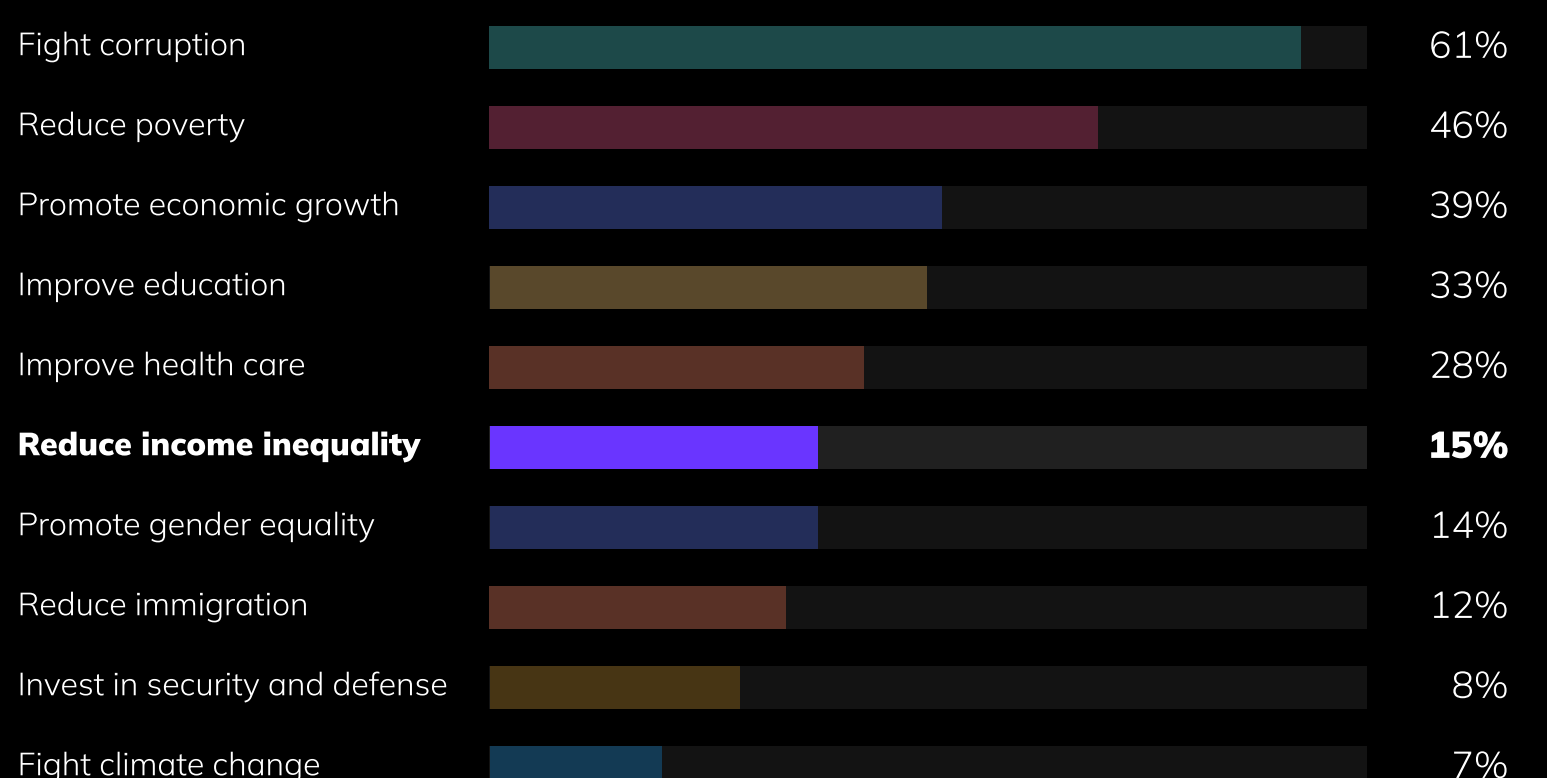
Bottom 10



KEY FINDINGS

South Africa

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.



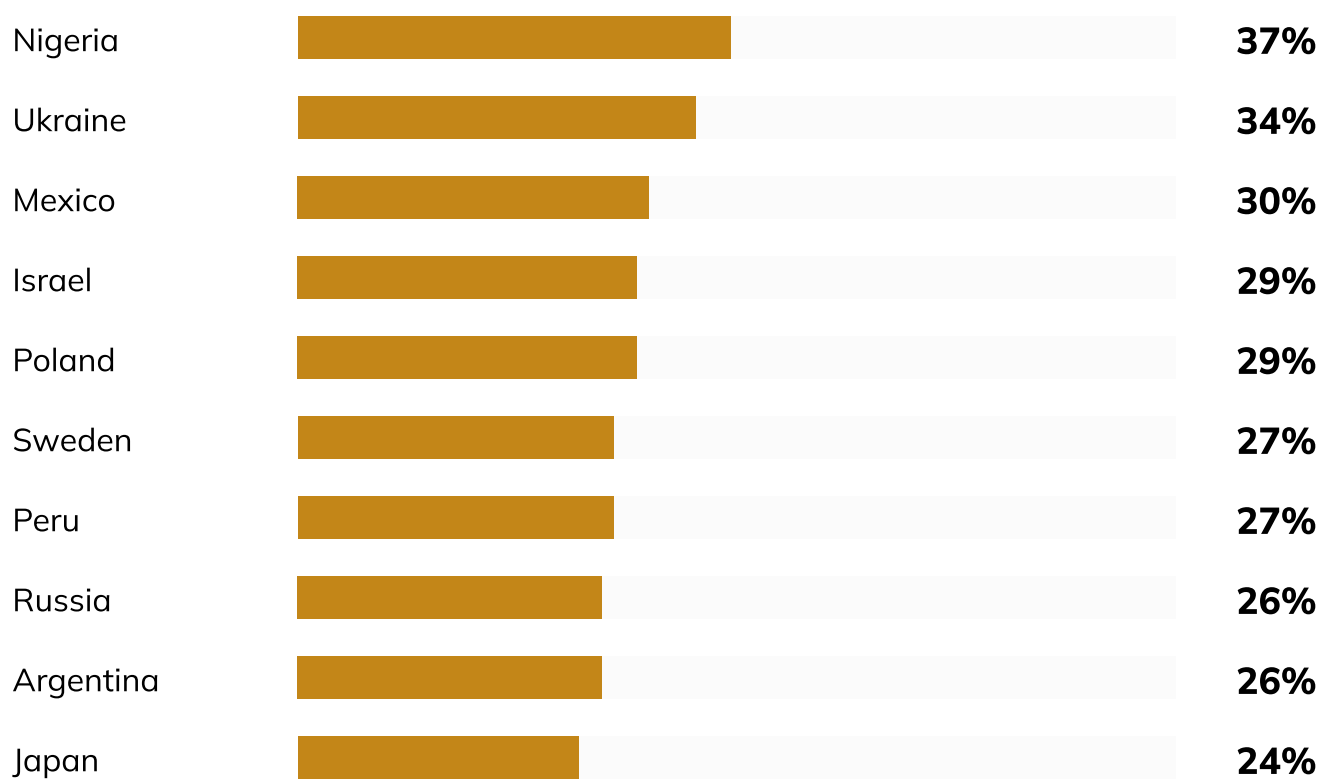
Government Priorities

Invest in security and defense

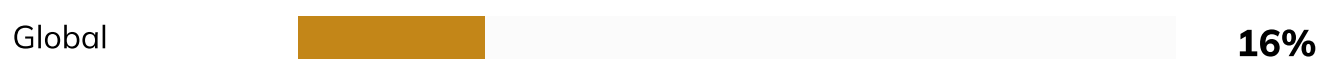
Only 16% of people around the world, on average, choose security and defense as one of their top three priorities for their government.

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

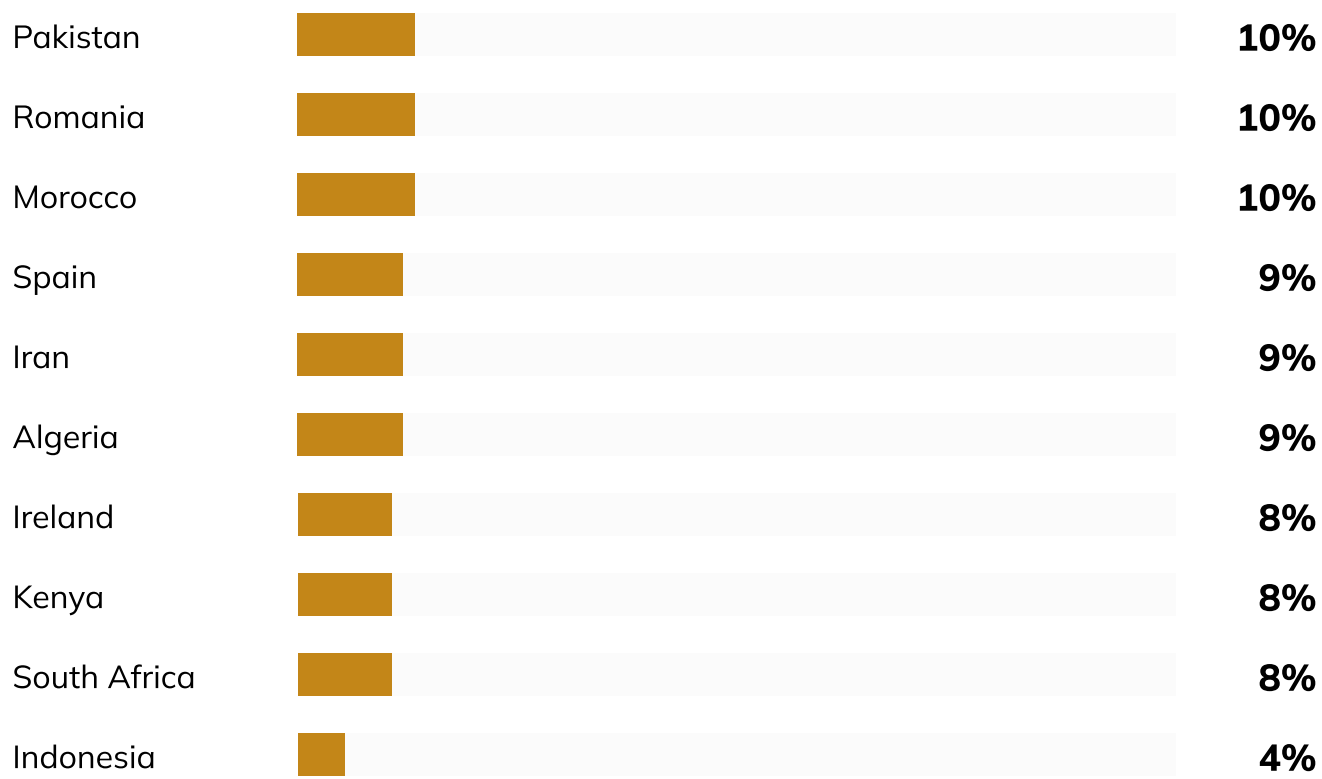
Top 10



Global Average



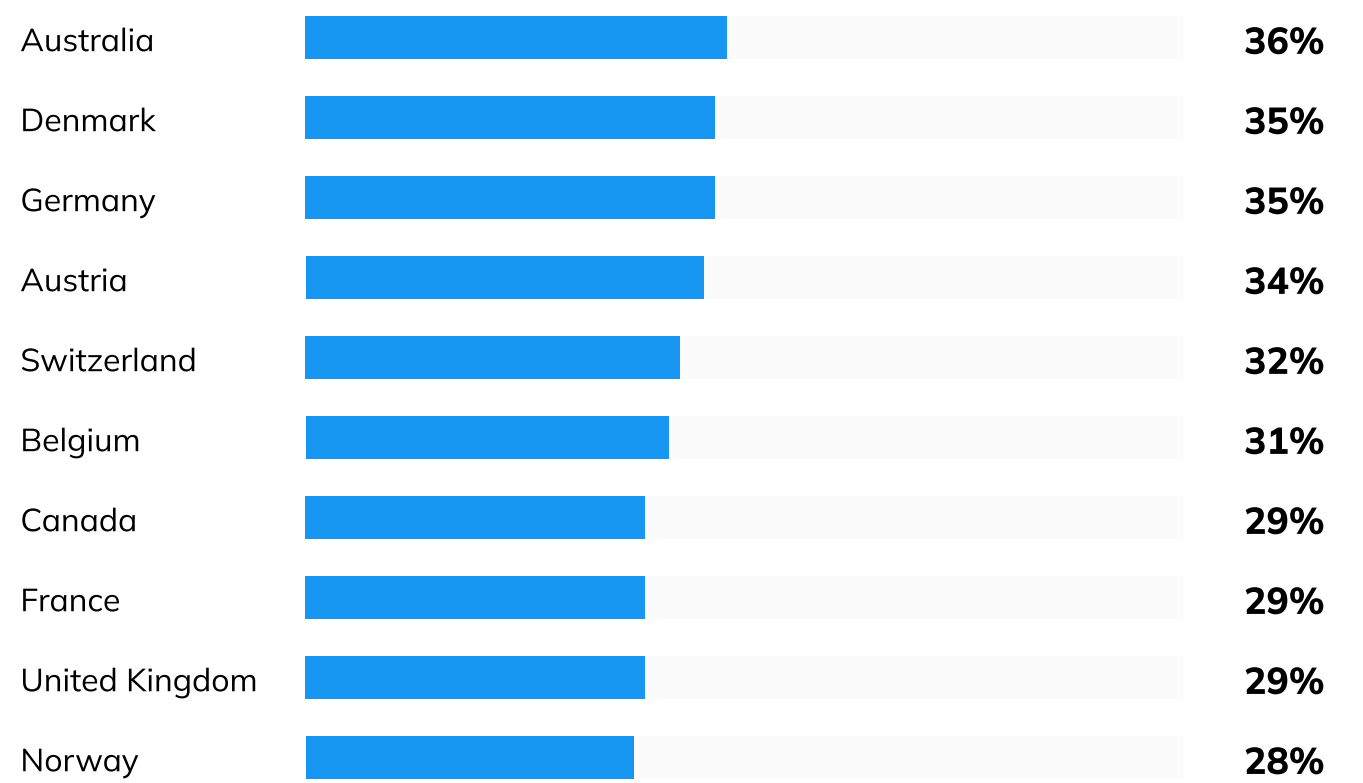
Bottom 10



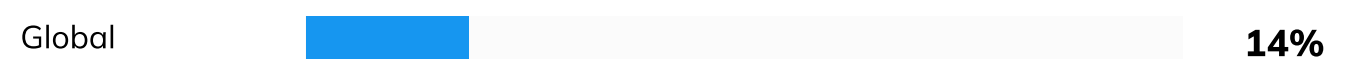
Fight climate change

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

Top 10



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%).

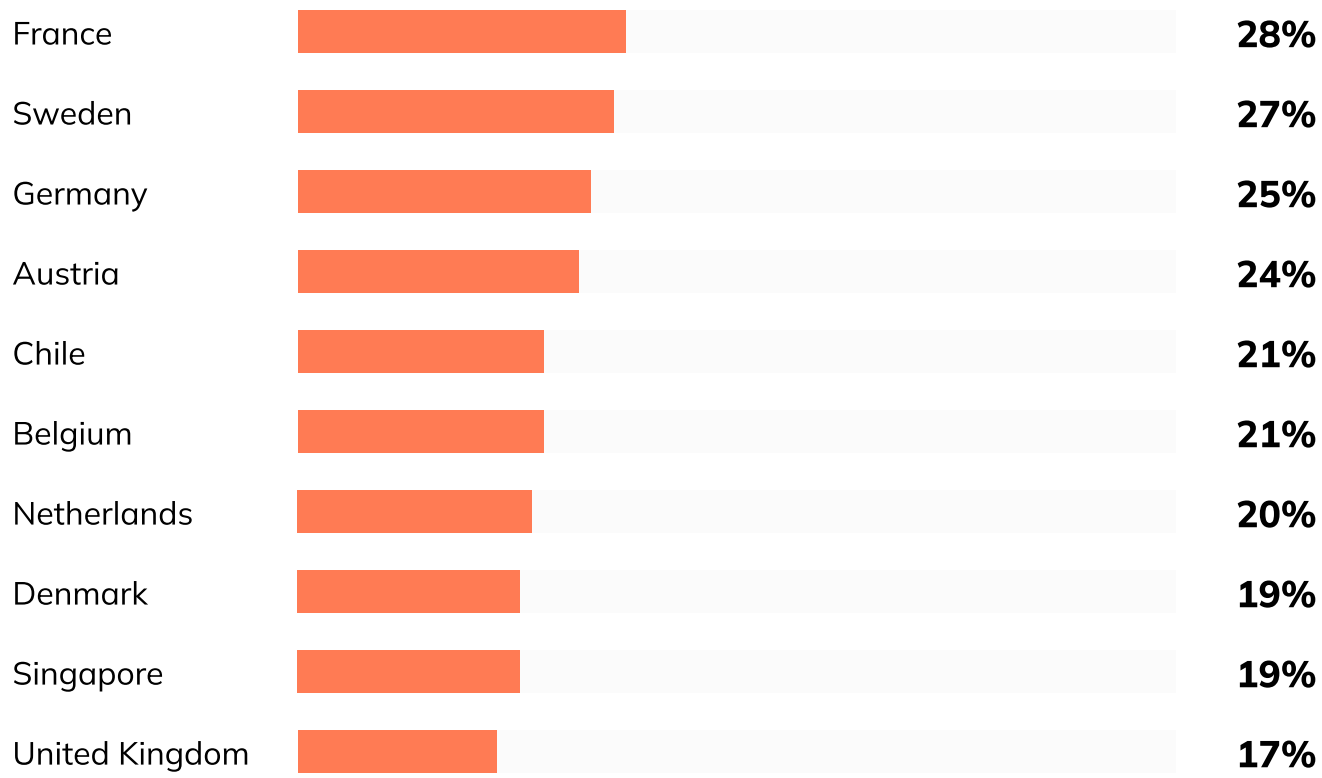
Government Priorities

Reduce immigration

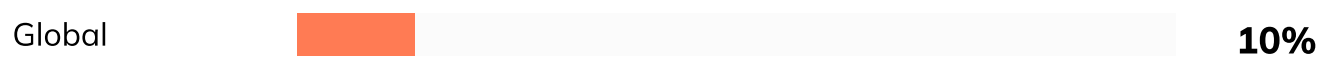
While only 10% of people globally selected “reduce migration” as one of their top three priorities for their government to focus on, it is far more of a top priority in Europe than in the rest of the world.

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

Top 10



Global Average



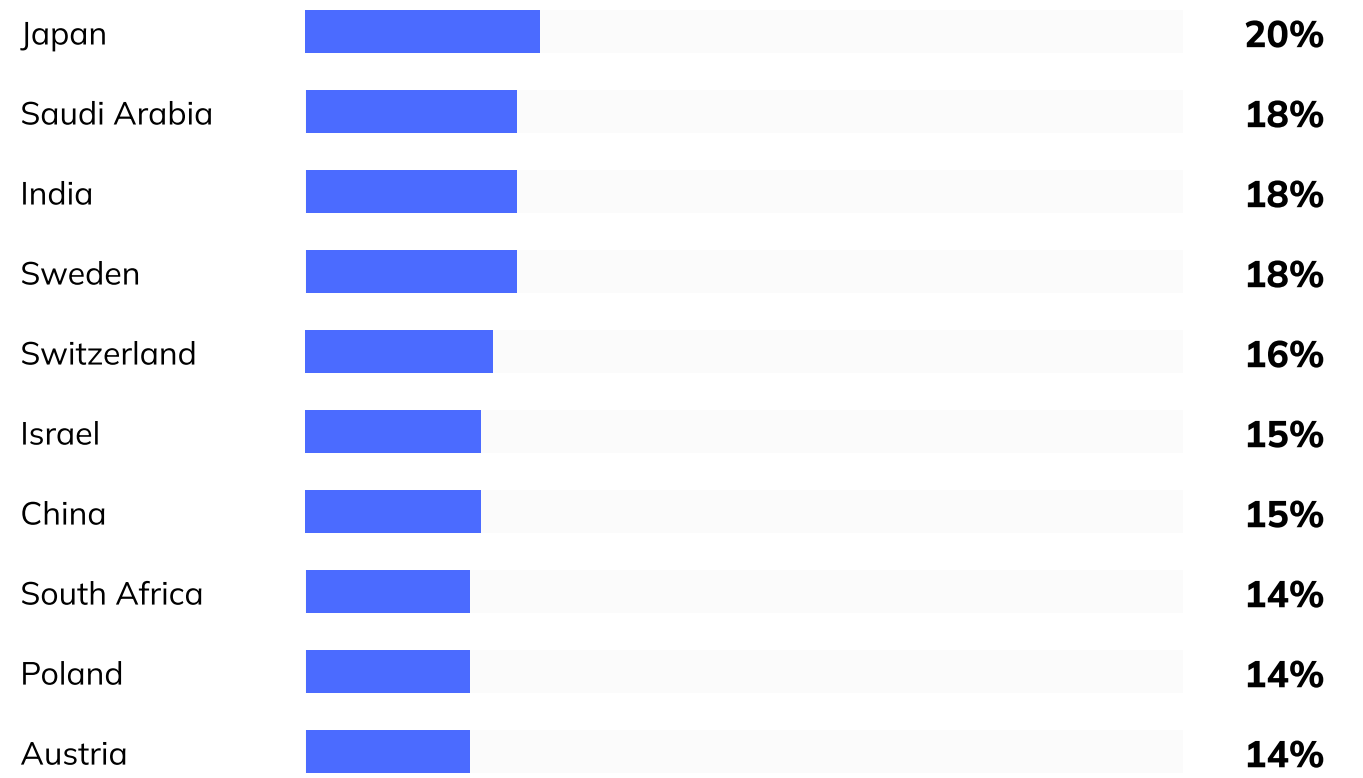
Bottom 10



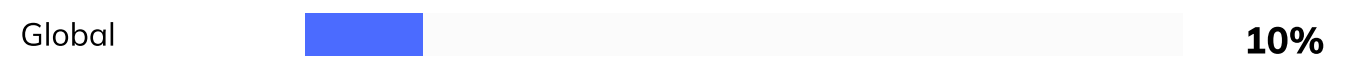
Promote gender equality

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

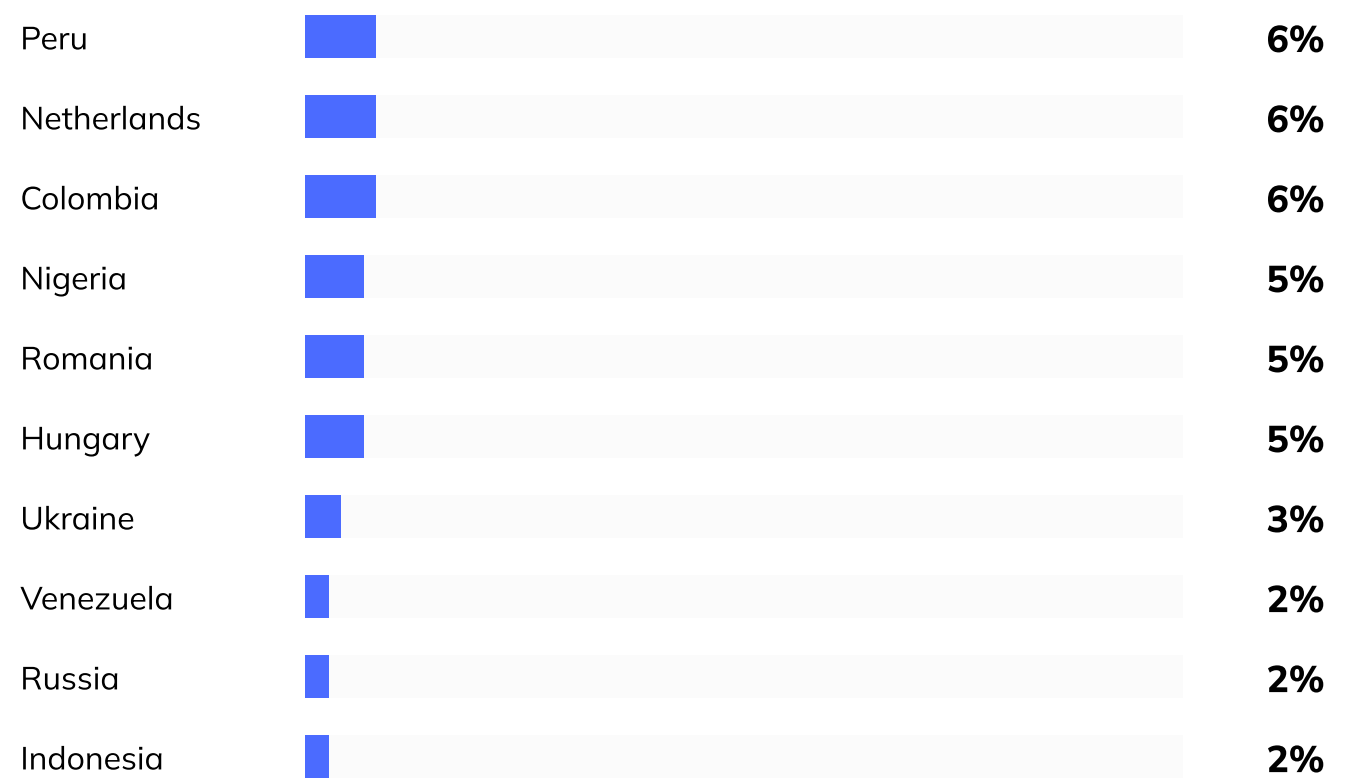
Top 10



Global Average



Bottom 10

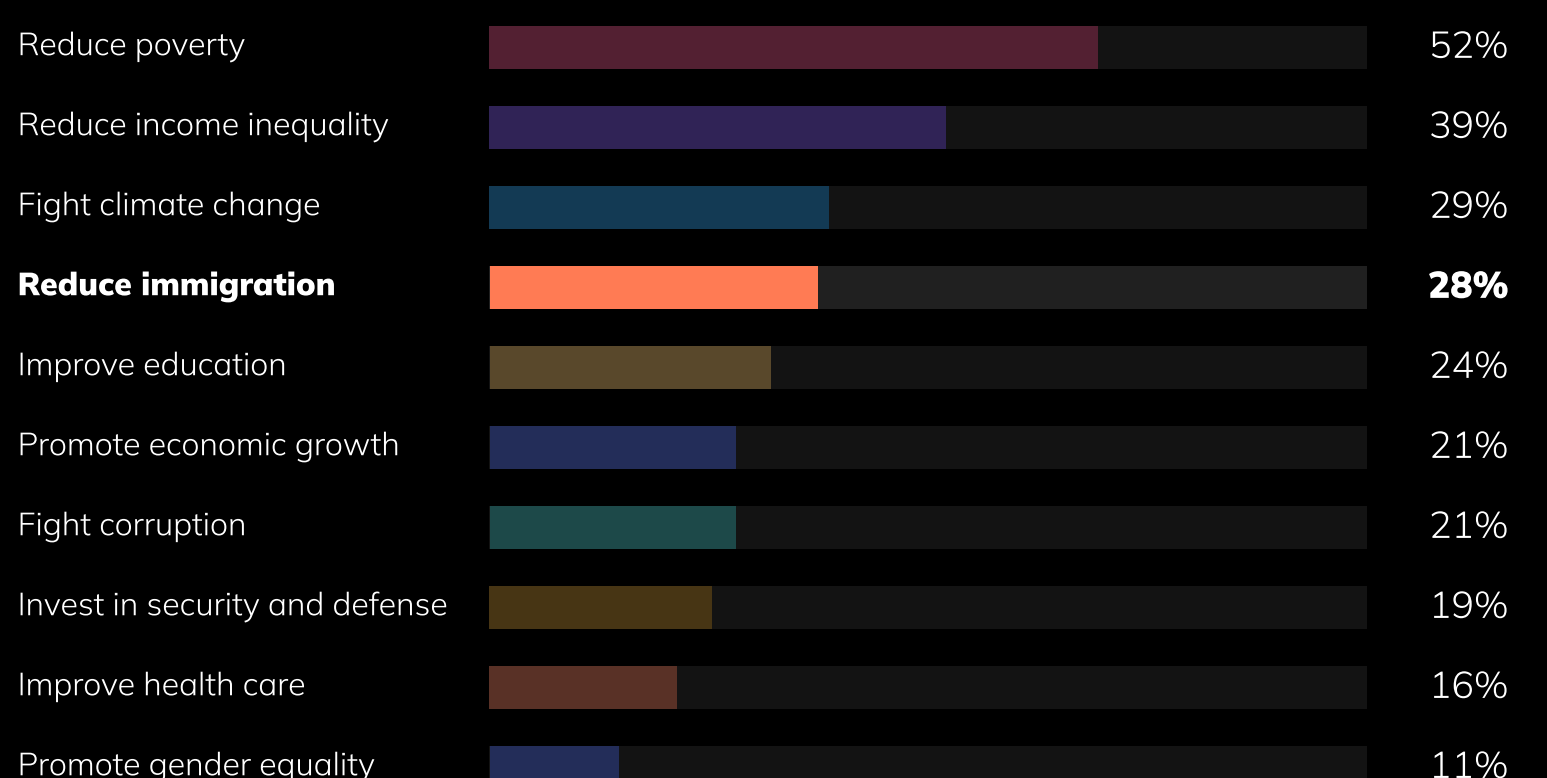


KEY FINDINGS



France

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.

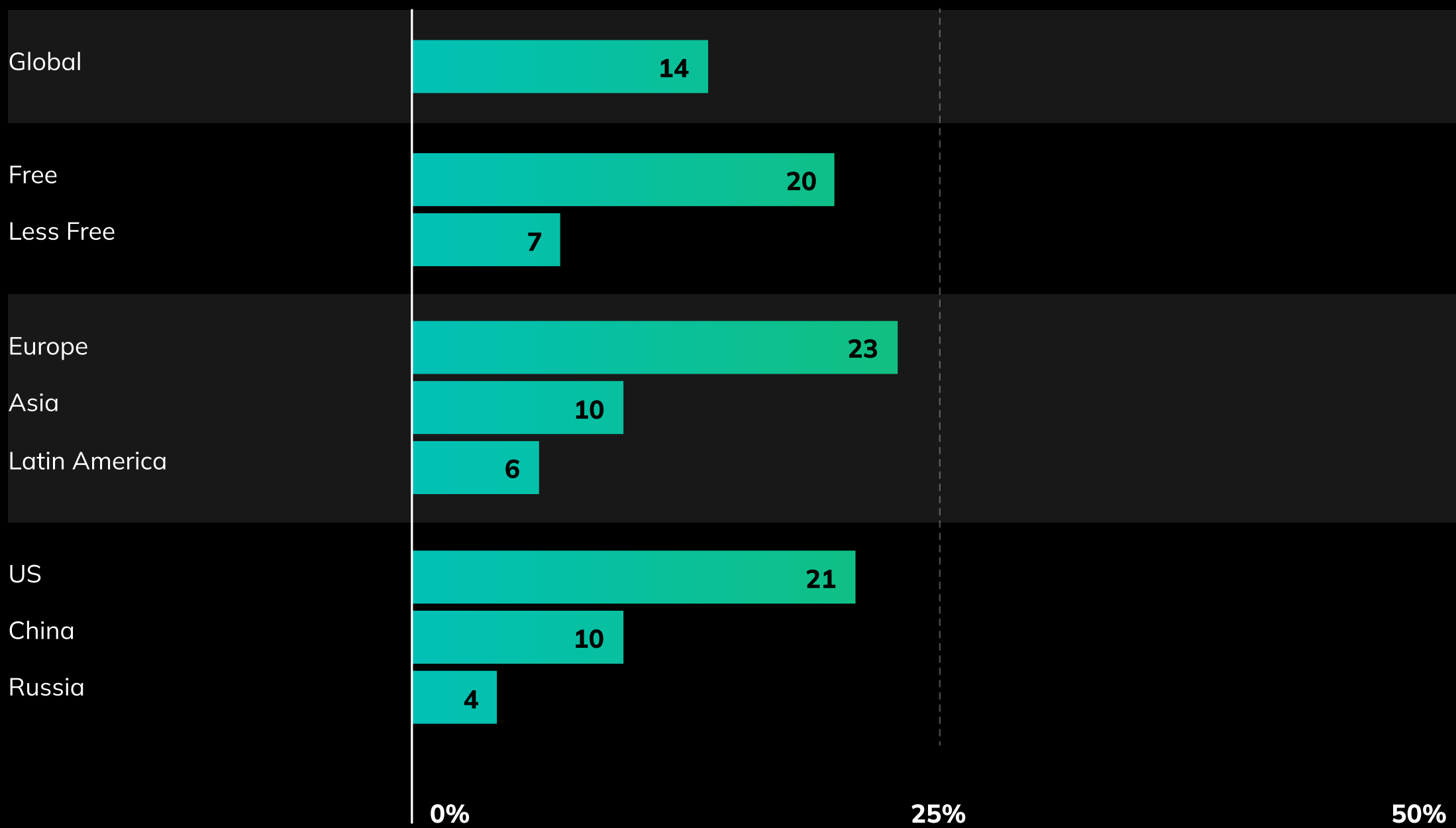


Climate Change

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



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



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.

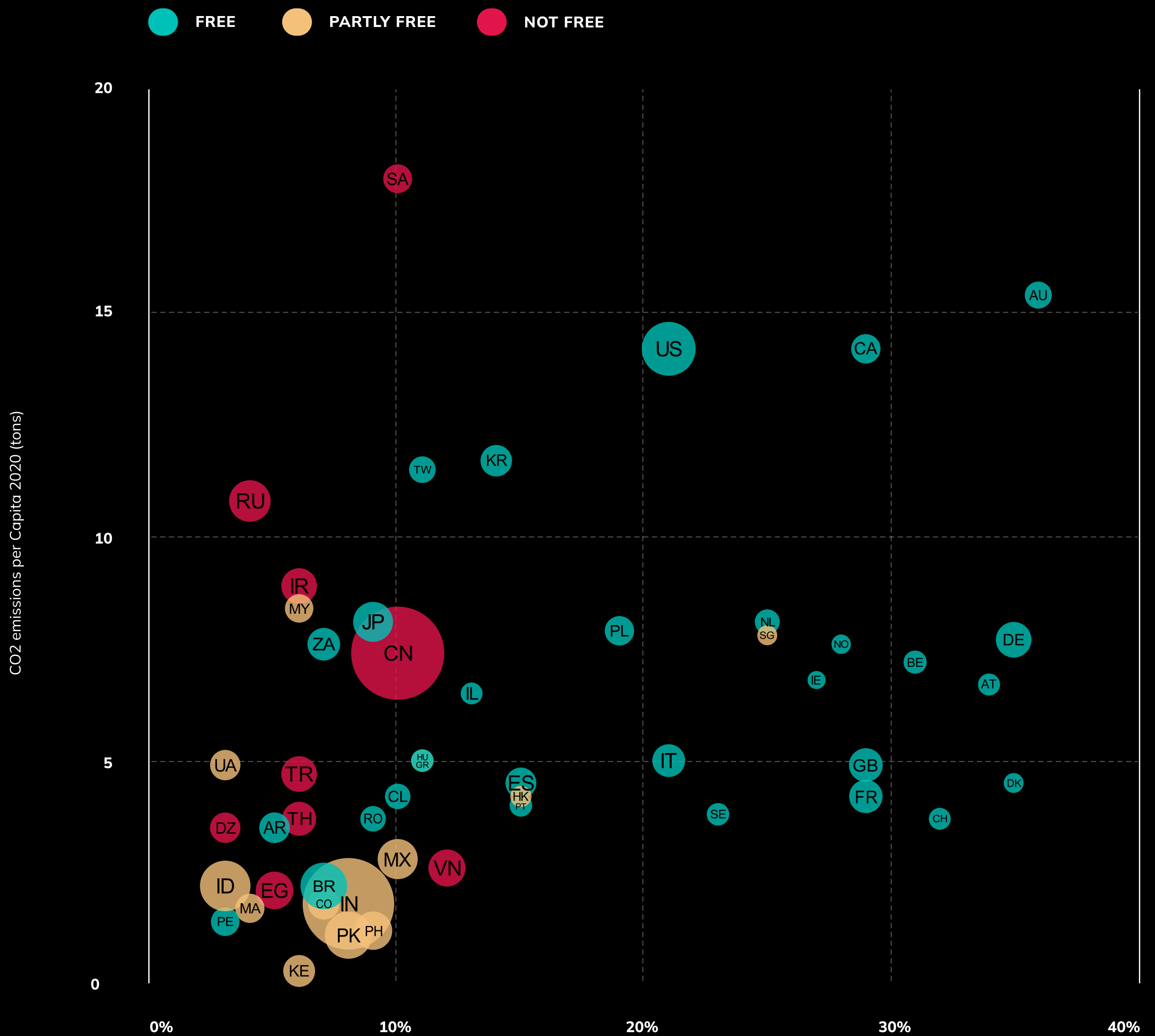
Which of the following areas do you want your government to focus on more?

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

Fighting climate change is a priority for many people in the most polluting countries - except Saudi Arabia

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



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

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

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

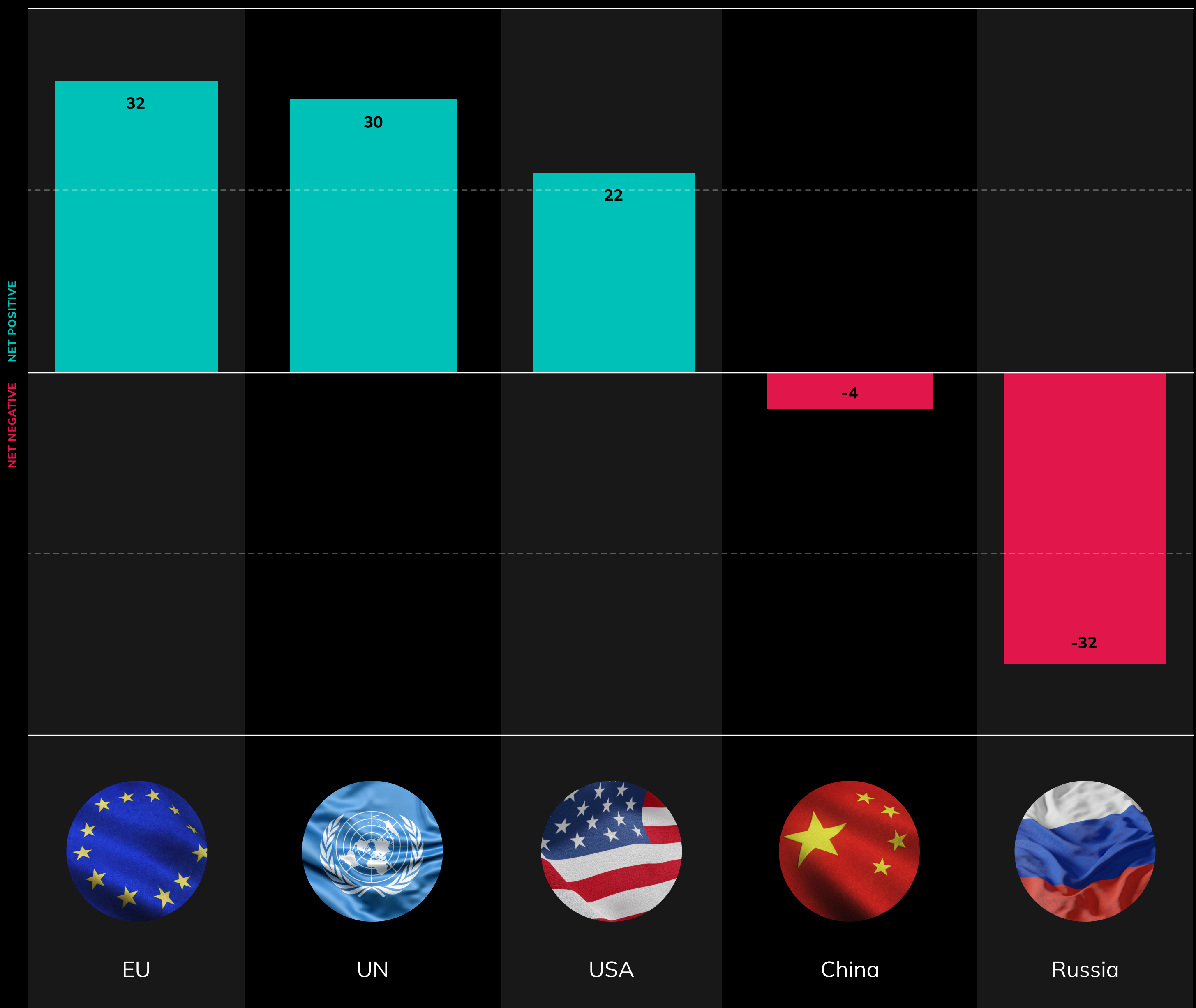
Most people around the world have a net positive perception of the European Union (+32), the United Nations (+30), and the United States (+22), meaning that more people say they have a positive perception than a negative.

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

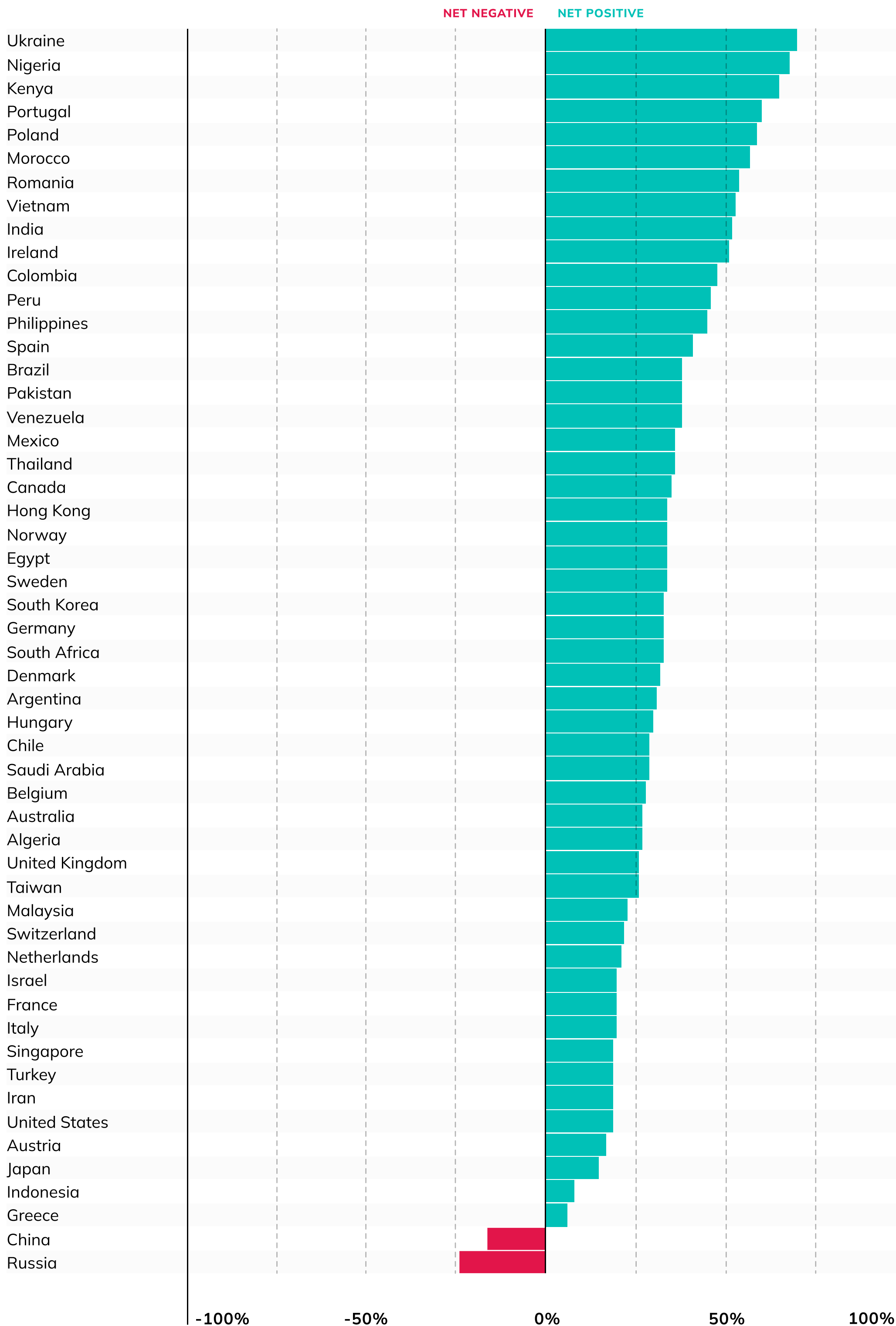
*"Positive" includes "very positive" and "somewhat positive".

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



Ukrainians

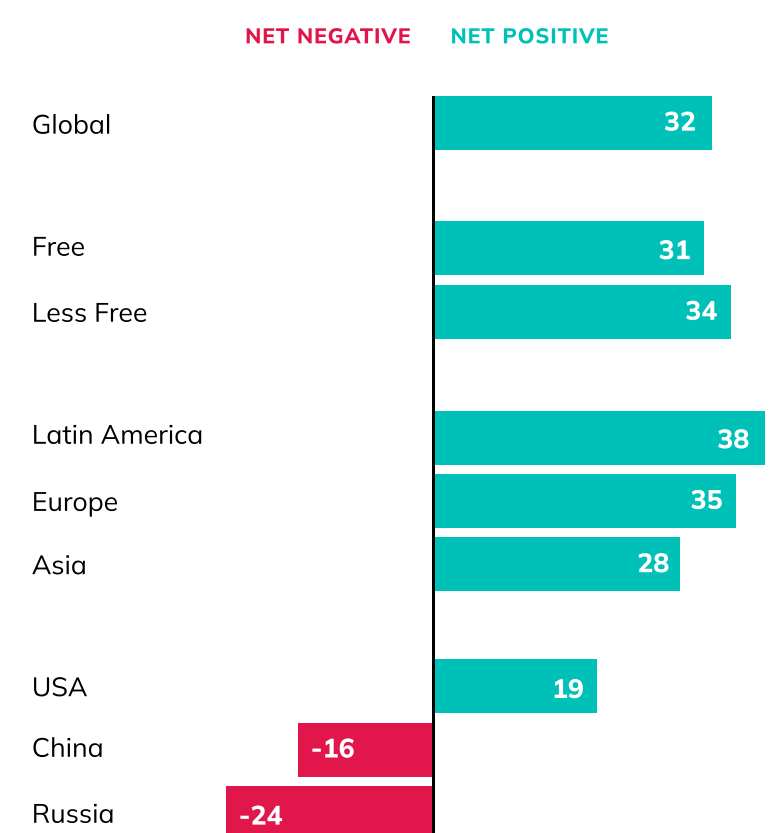
have the most positive opinion of the EU



Regional Results

Within the EU, Greece and Austria have the most divided opinions.

Only two countries have net negative opinions of the EU: Russia and China.



What is your overall perception of the European Union?

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

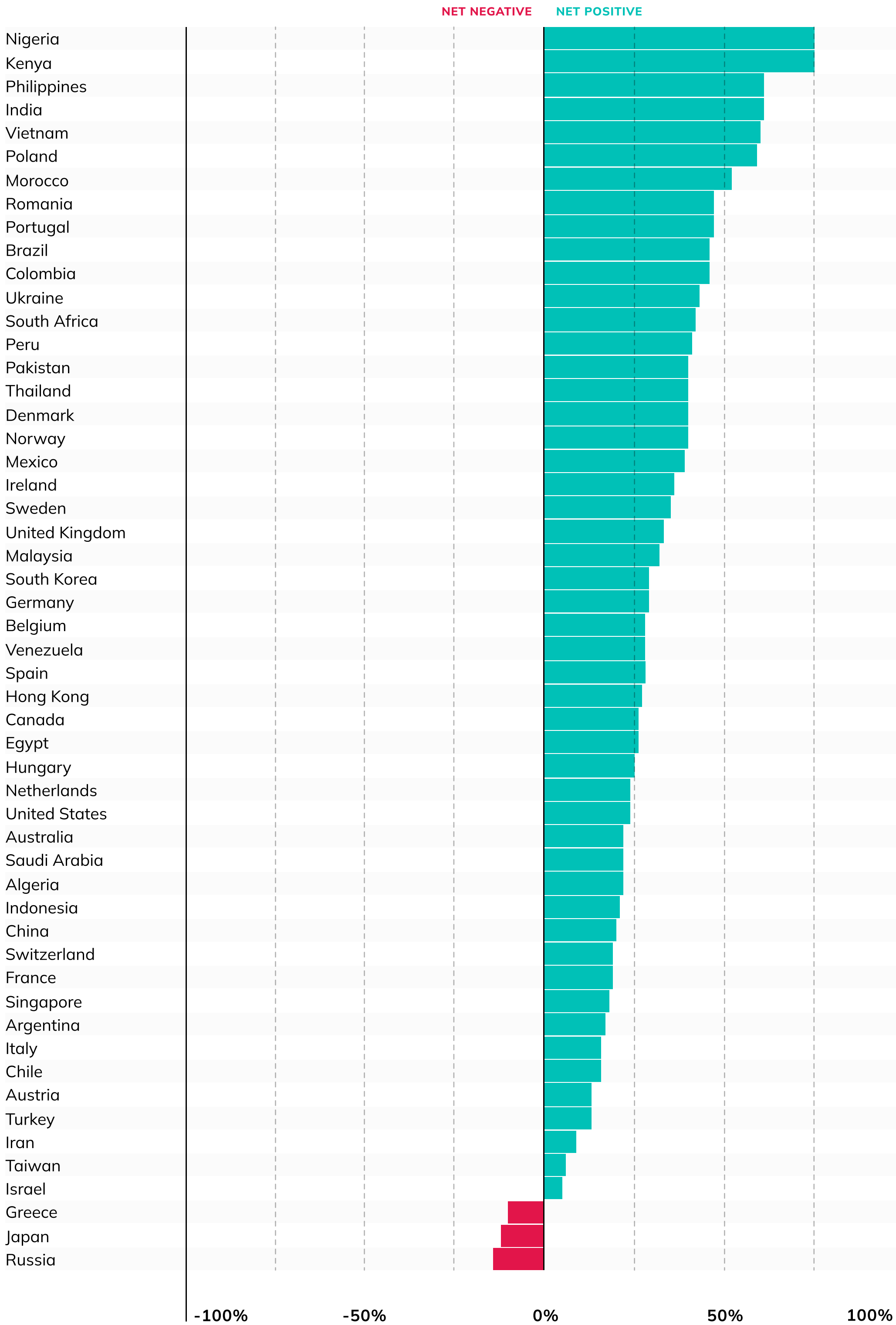
**Positive" includes "very positive" and "somewhat positive".

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.

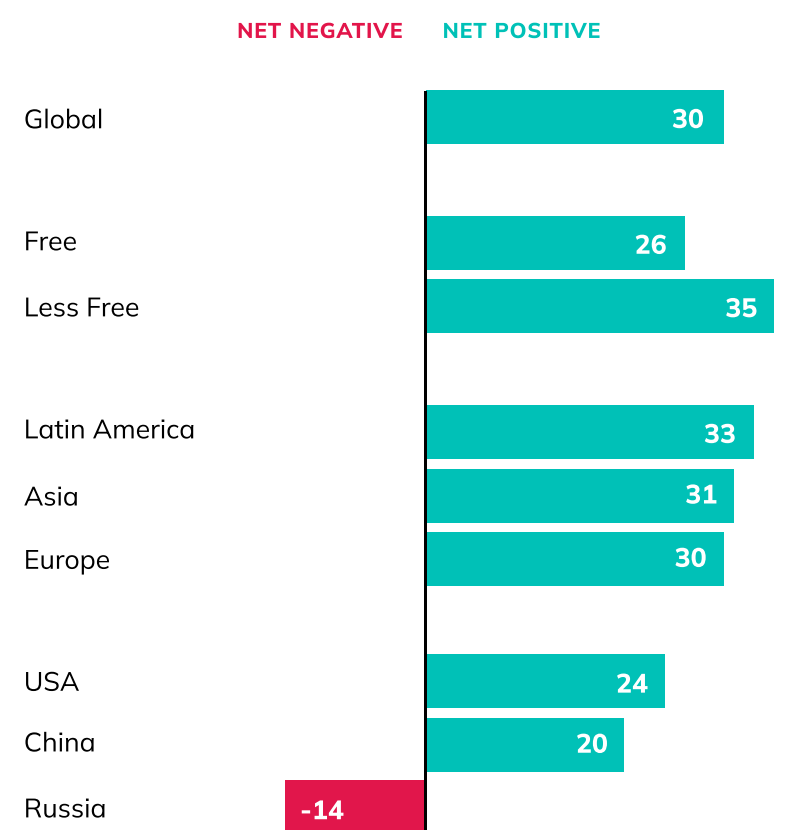
The UN is viewed positively by almost all countries around the world

net perception of the UN: % positive - % negative



Regional Results

Only three countries have net negative opinions of the UN: Greece, Japan, and Russia.



What is your overall perception of the United Nations?

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

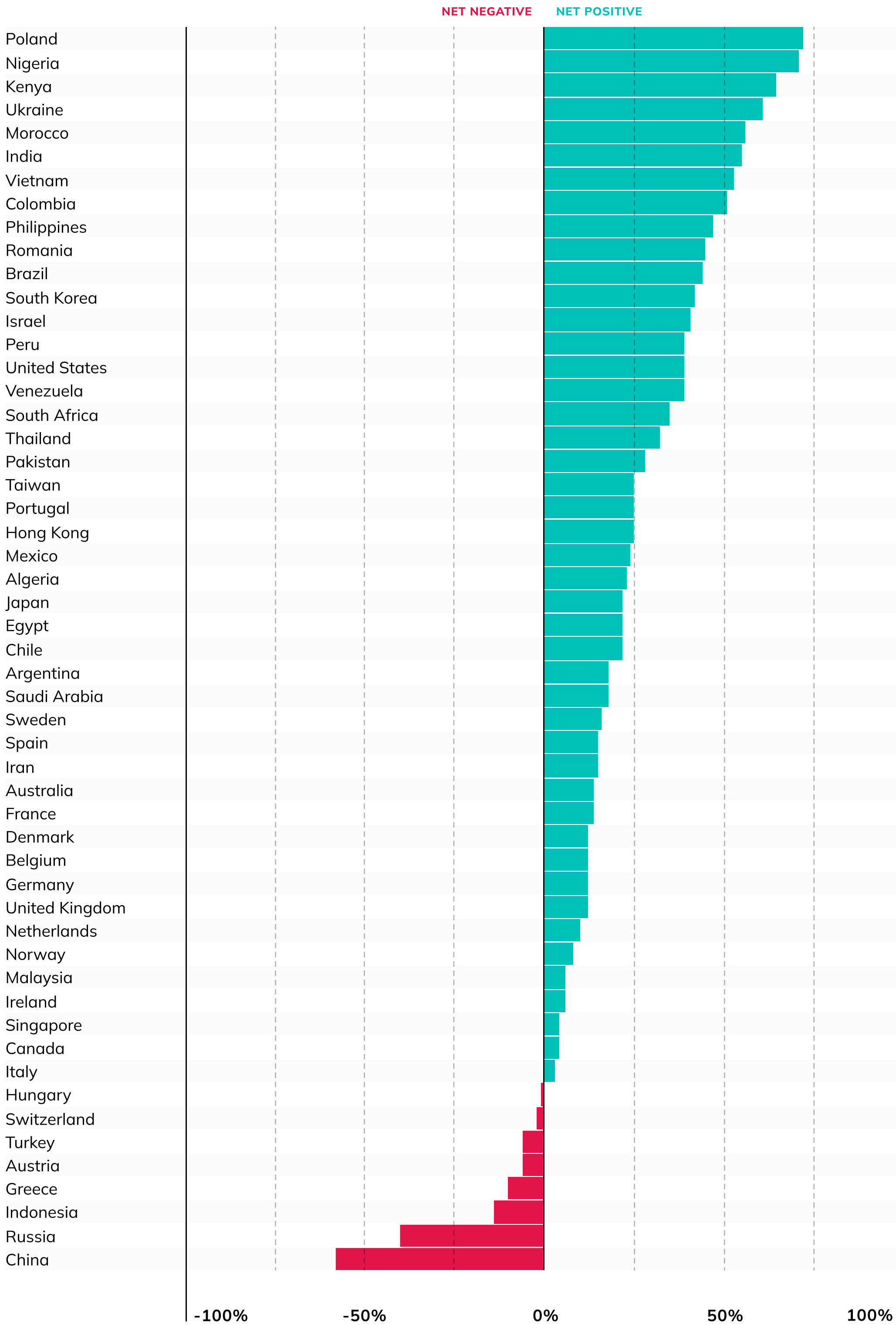
**Positive" includes "very positive" and "somewhat positive".

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

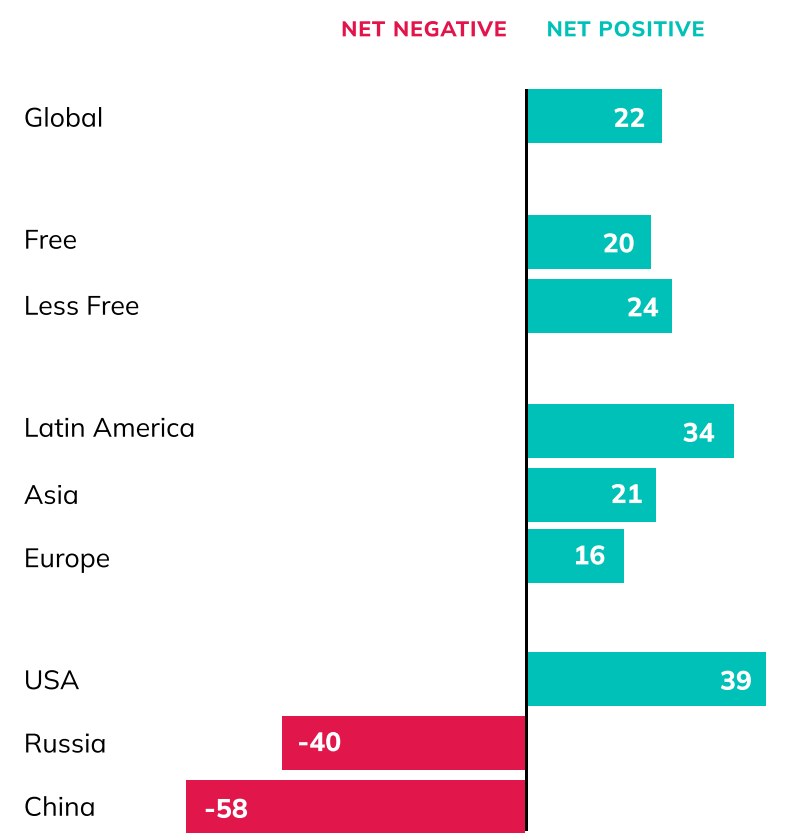
net perception of the US: % positive - % negative



Regional Results

Europeans are far more divided about their opinion of the US than people in the rest of the world.

People in Turkey and Greece, both NATO members, have net negative opinions of the US.



The countries with the most overwhelmingly negative perceptions of the US are Russia and 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

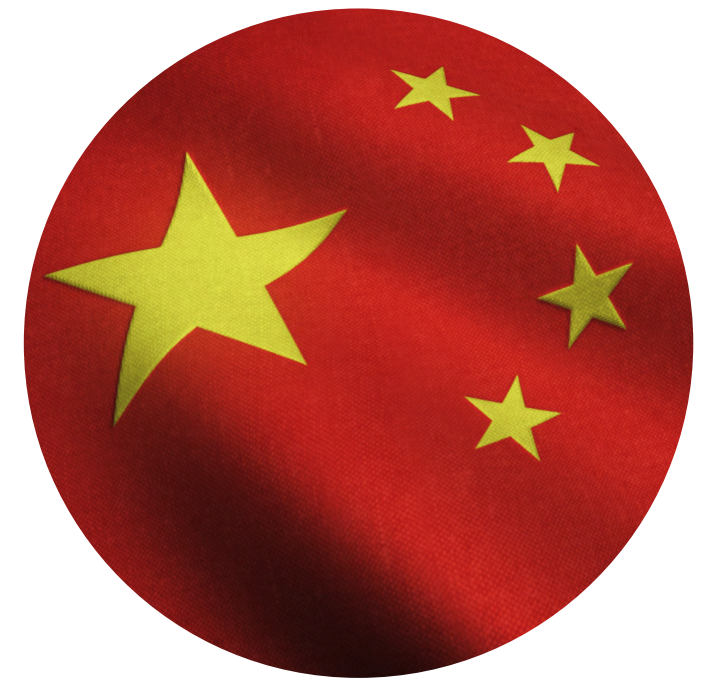
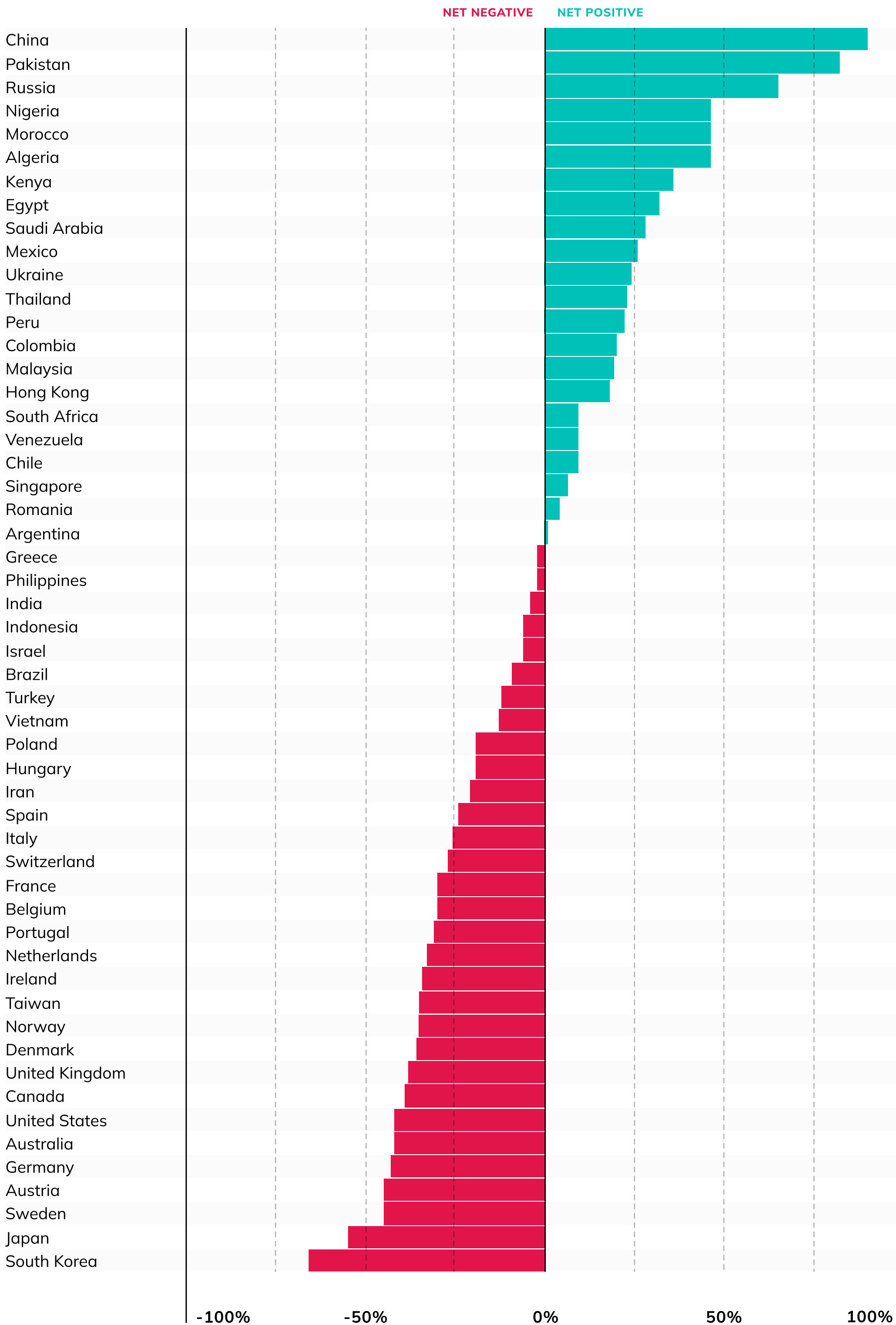
**Positive" includes "very positive" and "somewhat positive".

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

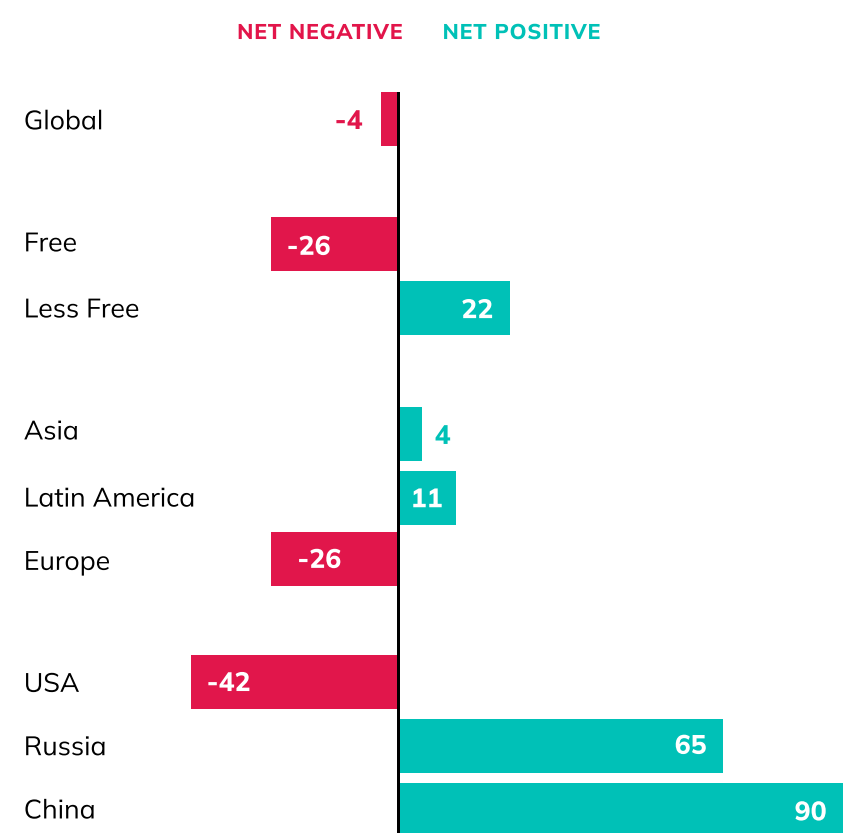
net perception of the China: % positive - % negative



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.



What is your overall perception of China?

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

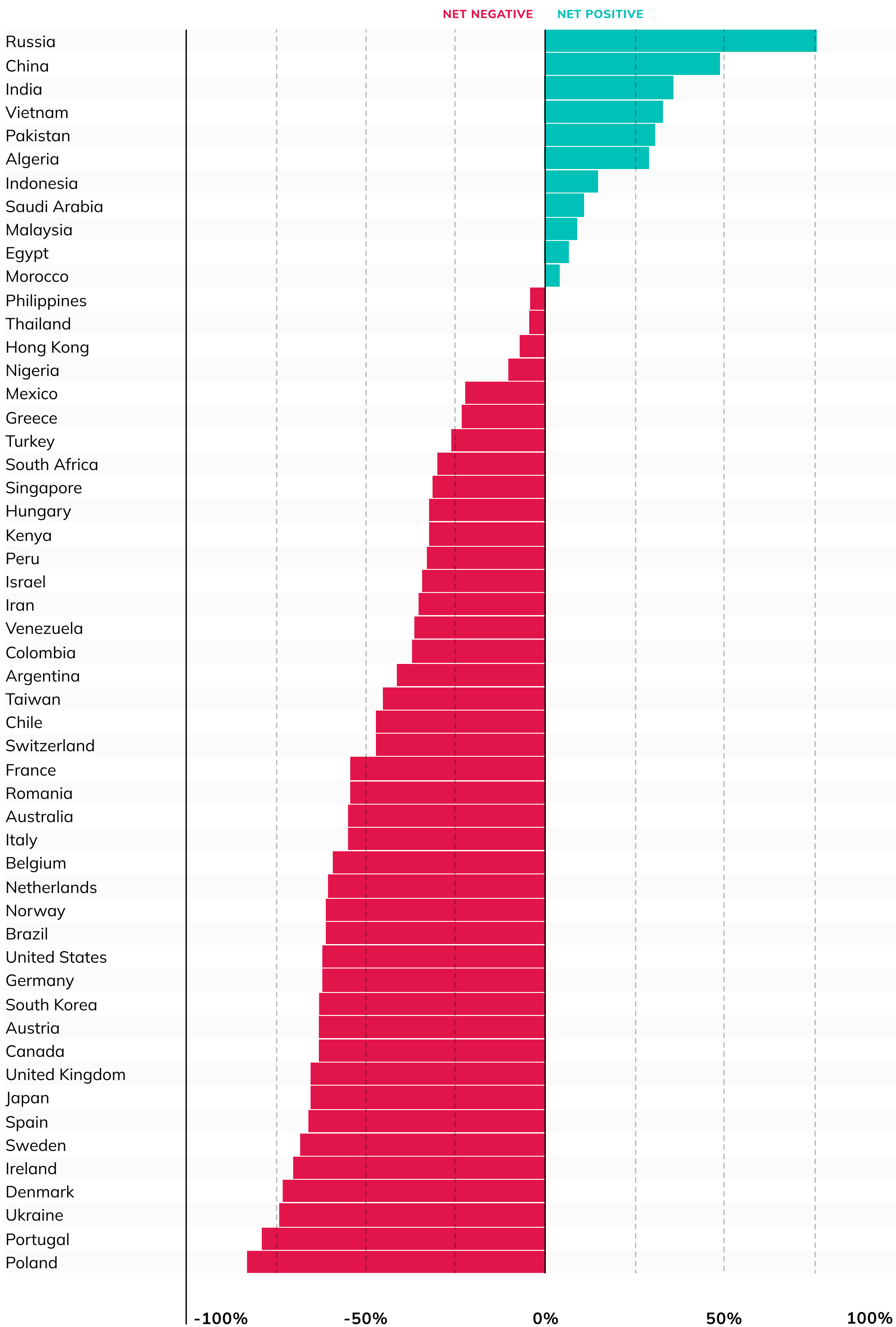
**Positive" includes "very positive" and "somewhat positive".

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.

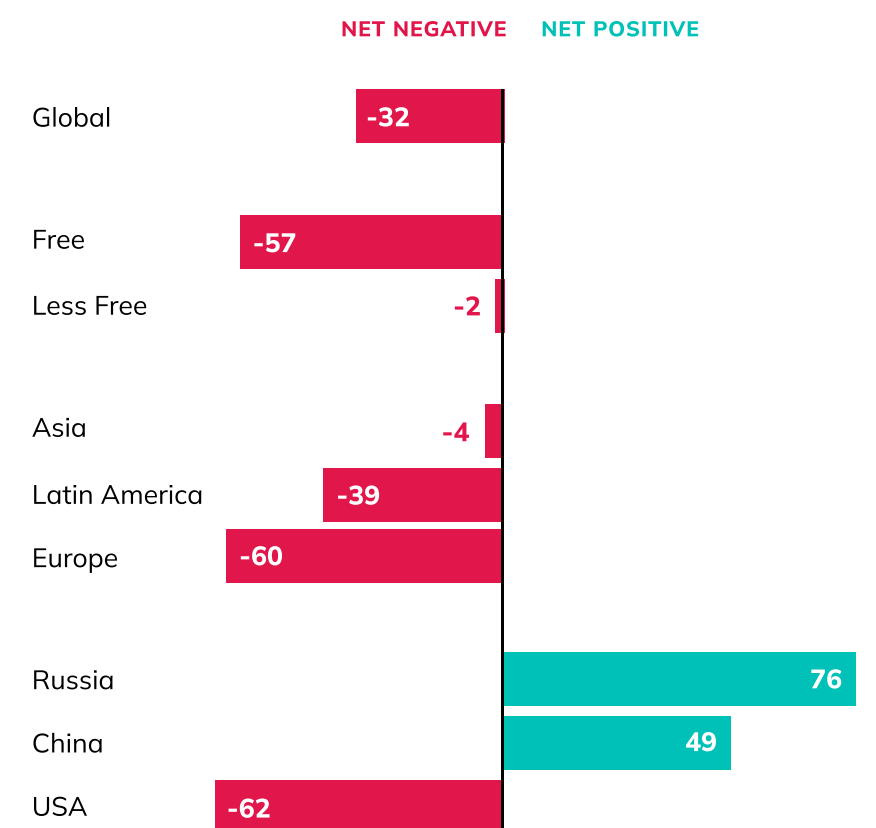
Most people have negative views of Russia

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.



What is your overall perception of Russia?

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

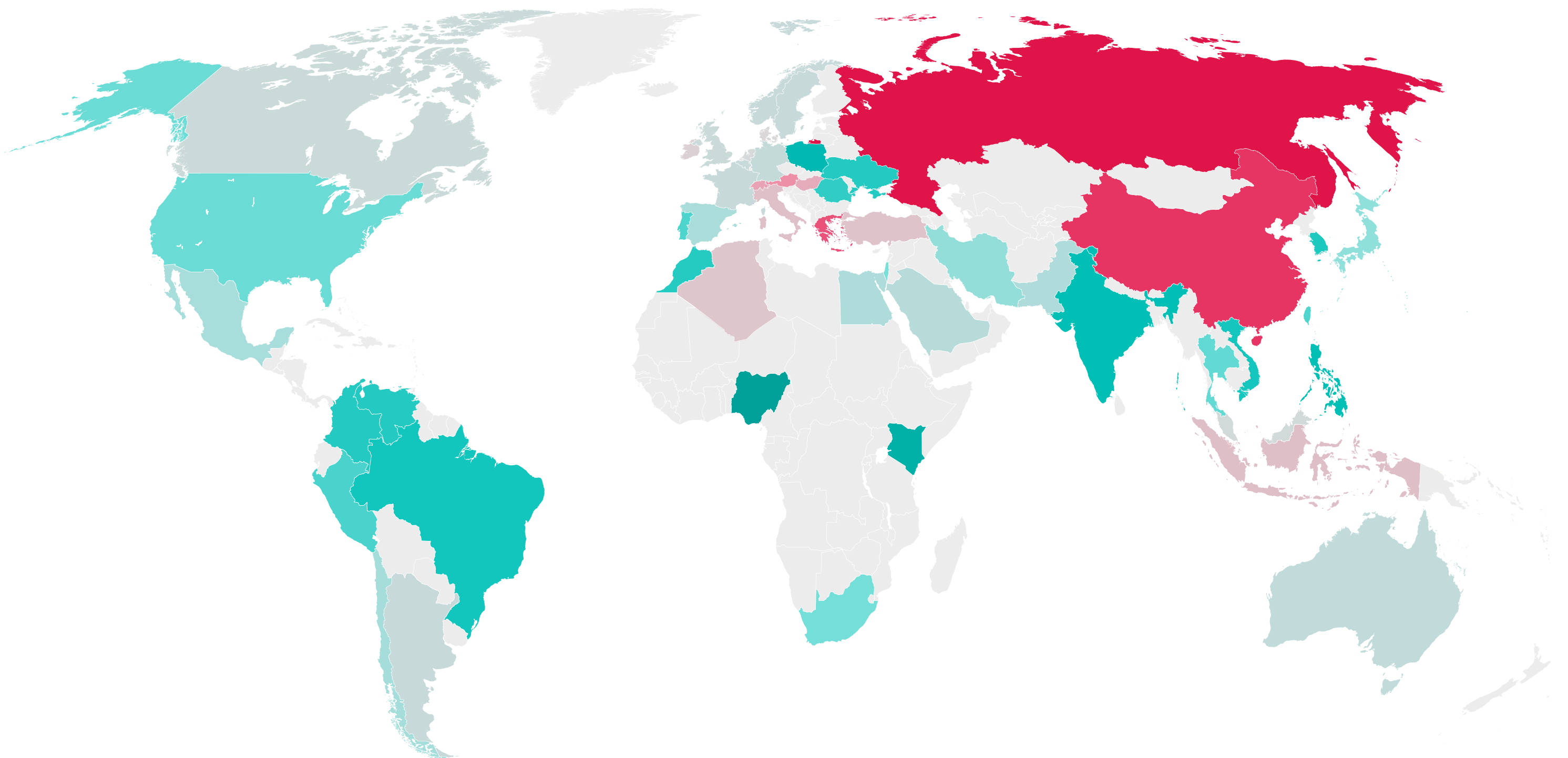
**"Positive" includes "very positive" and "somewhat positive".

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.

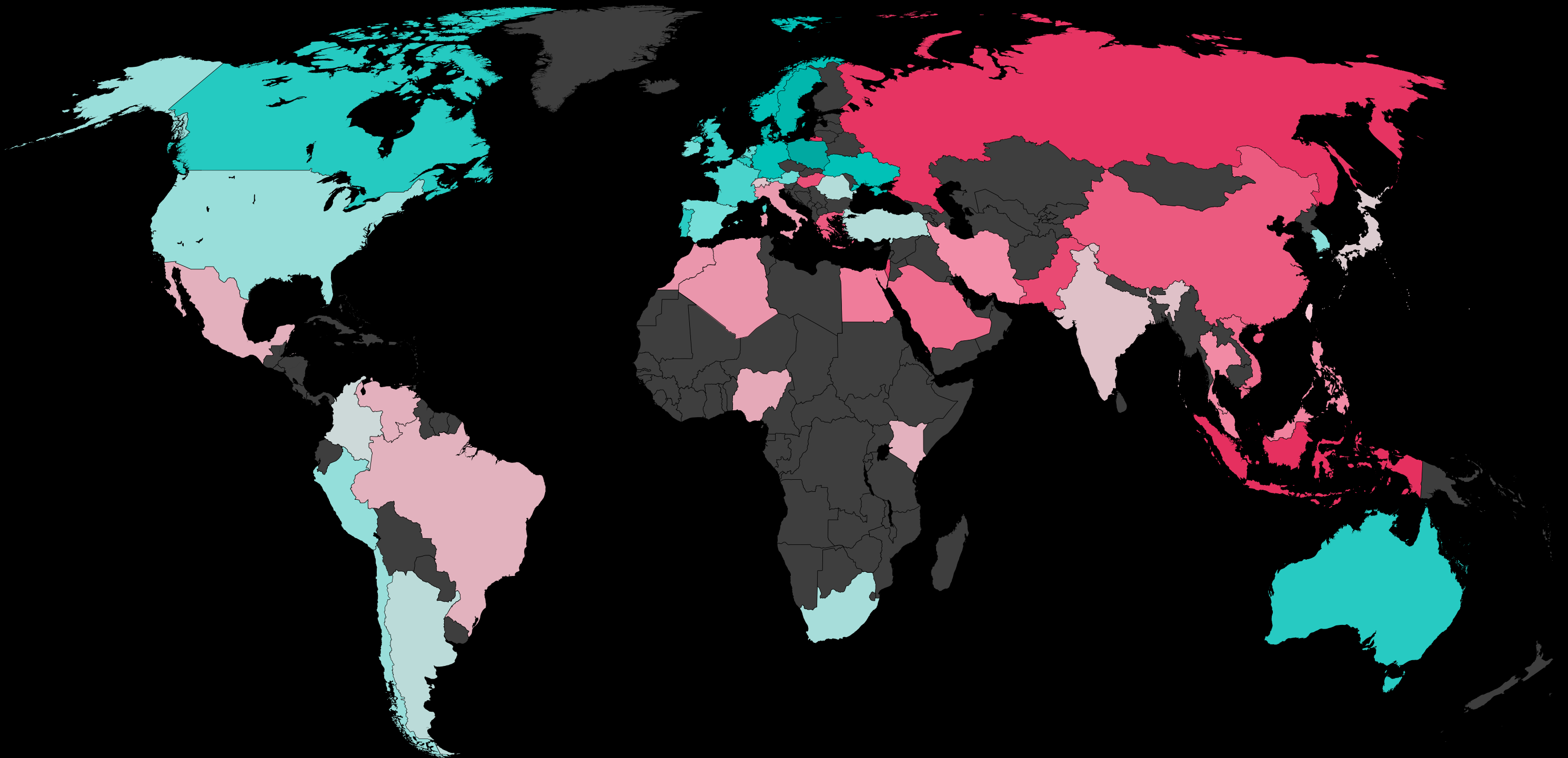


US Impact On Democracy

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



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

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.

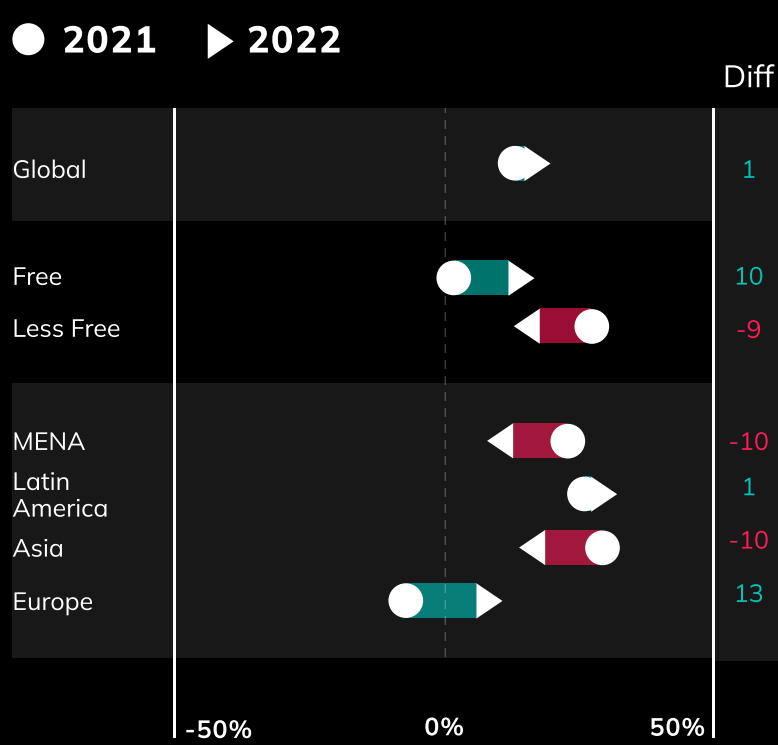
European Perception of the US

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).

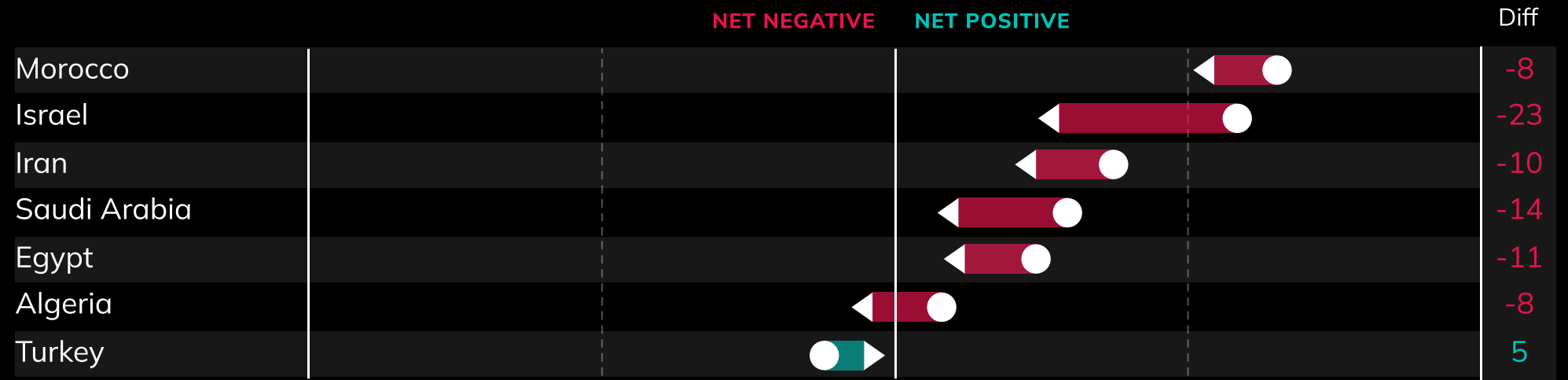
Attitudes toward the US's global impact on democracy diverge since 2021

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

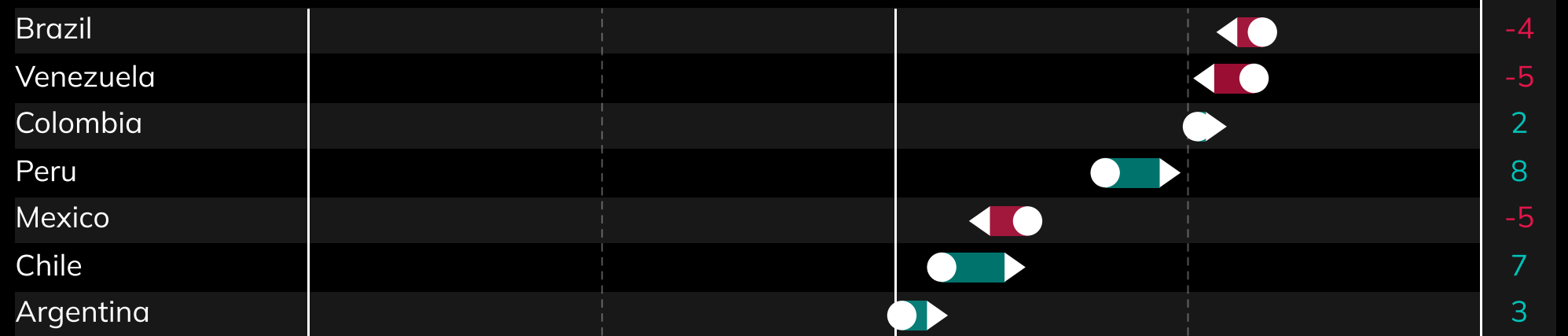
Regional Trend



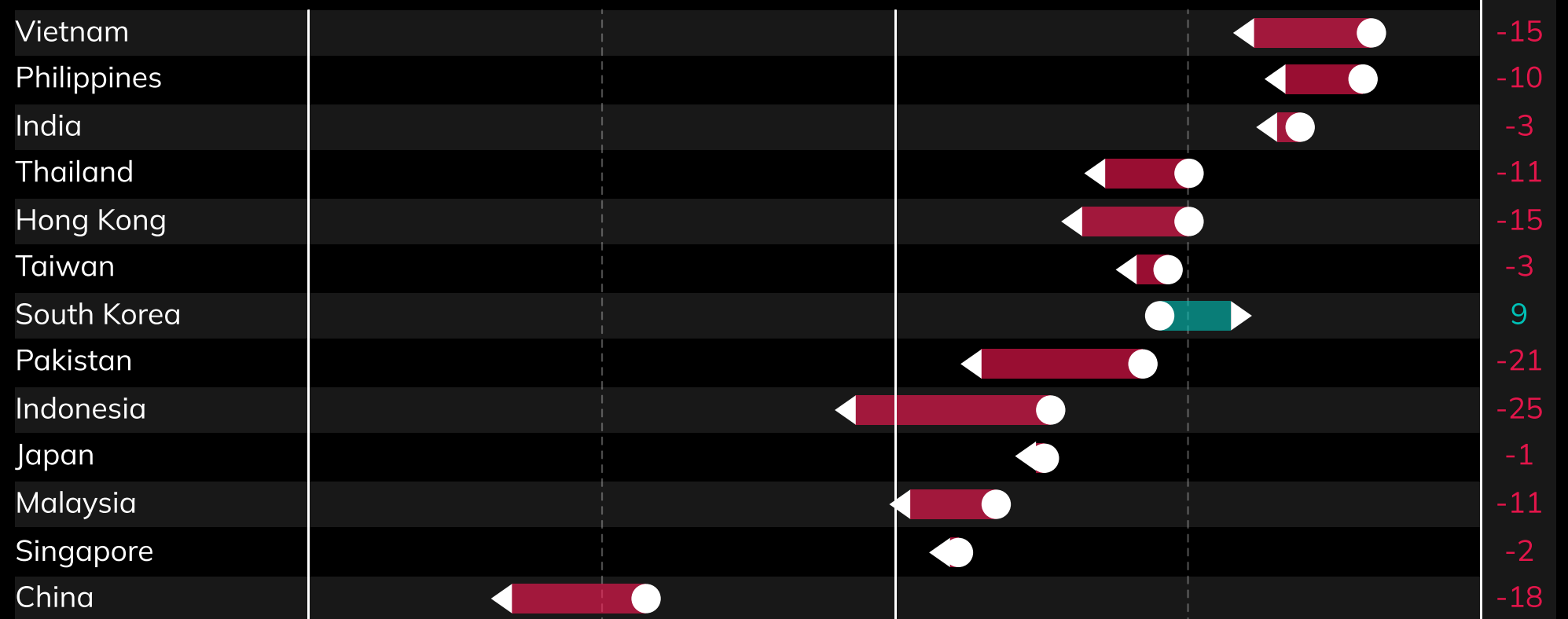
Middle East & North Africa



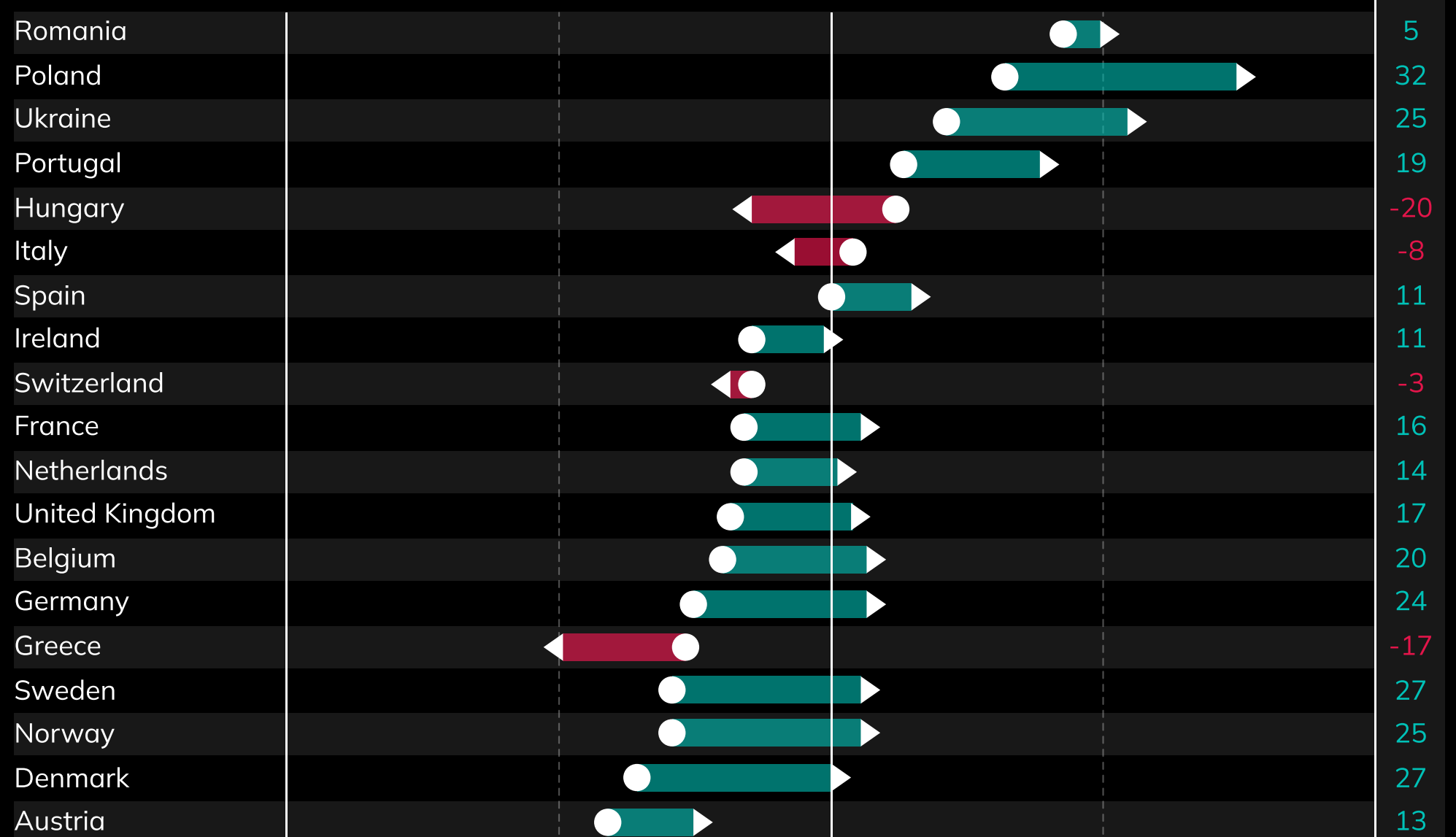
Latin America



Asia



Europe



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

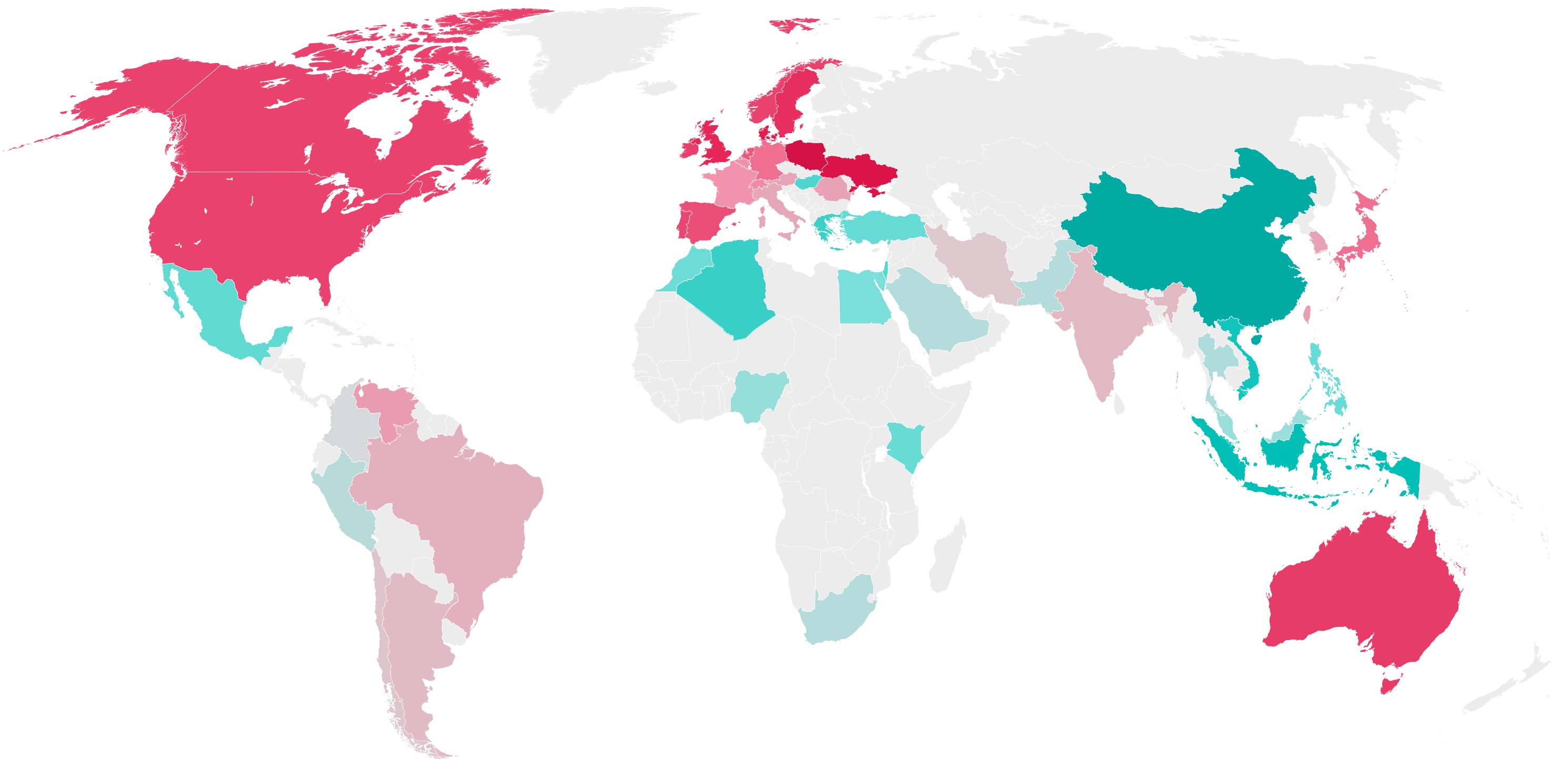
*Net opinion is calculated as % positive - % negative.

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]

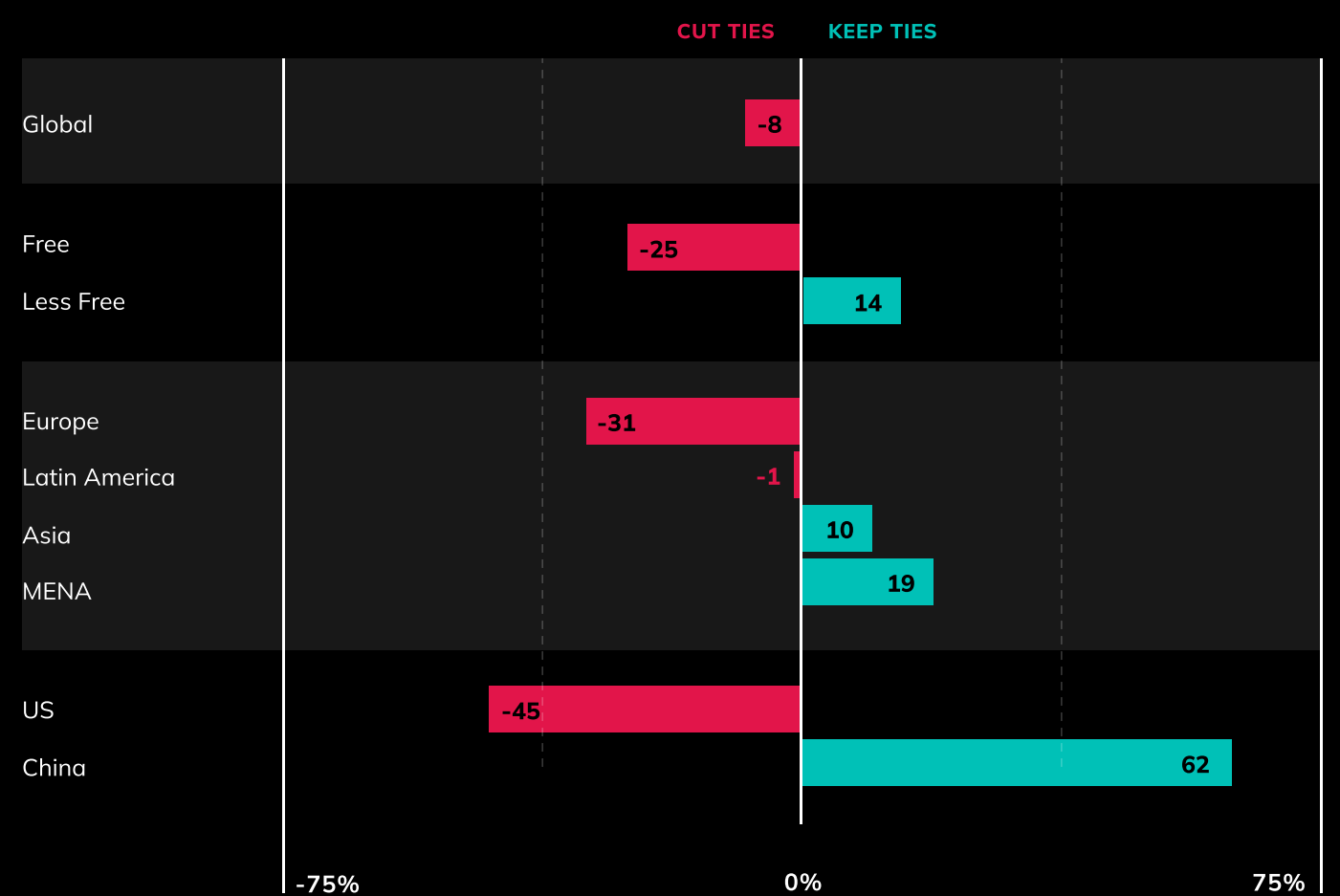
"Cut ties" = "Yes", "Keep ties" = "No".



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.

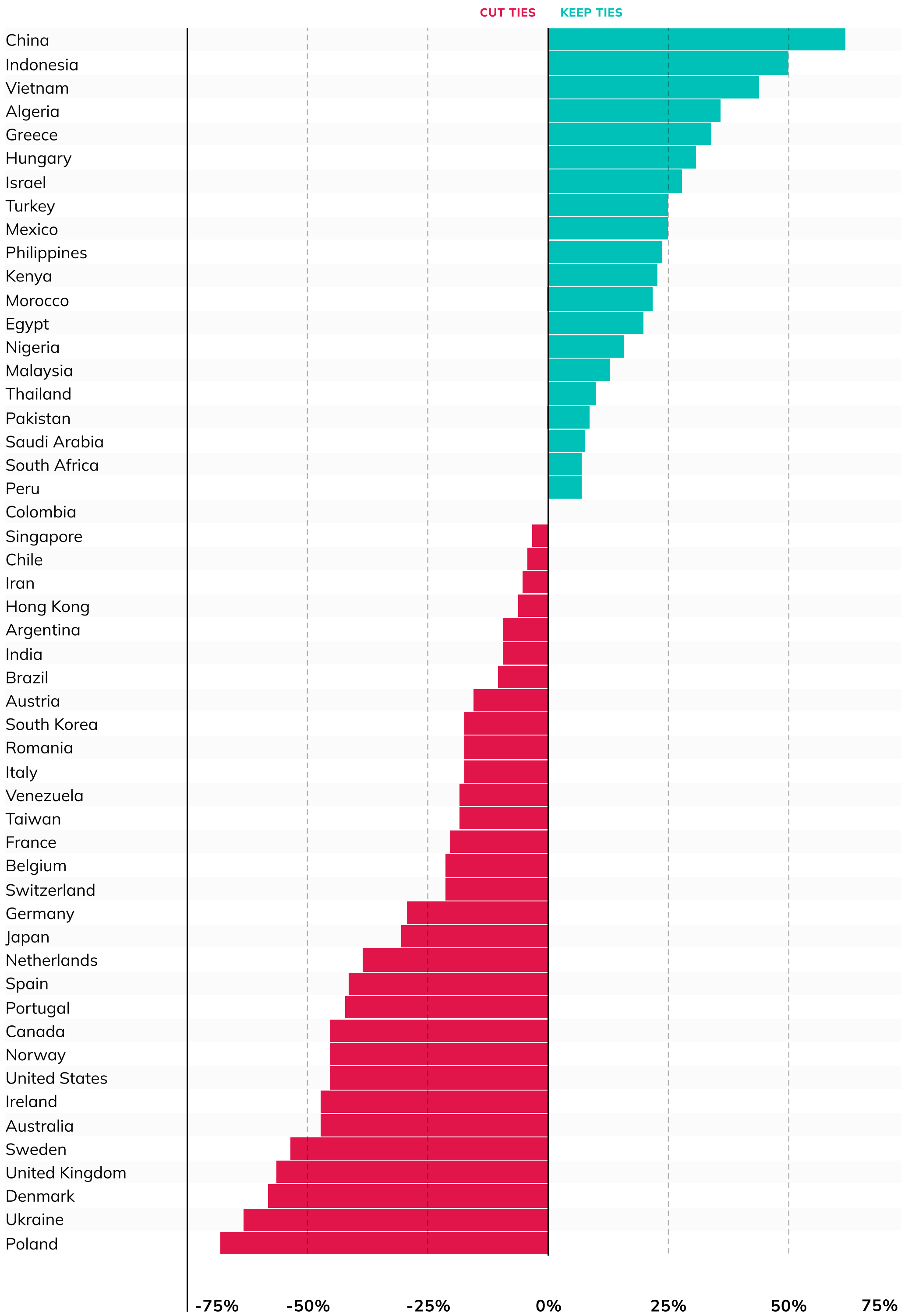


Economic Ties with Russia

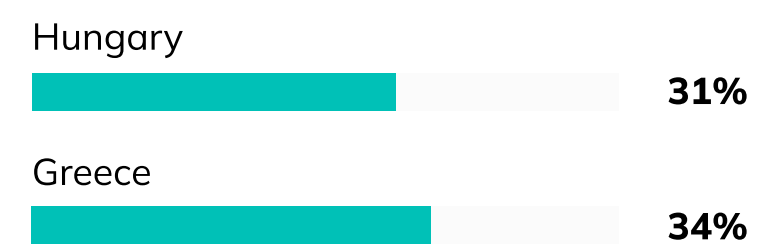
When asked if they think their countries should cut economic ties with Russia over its invasion of Ukraine, people in 31 out of the 52 countries surveyed are more in favour of cutting ties than keeping ties.

Western democracies want to cut economic ties with Russia

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



Hungary and Greece are the only countries in Europe that don't want to cut ties with Russia



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]

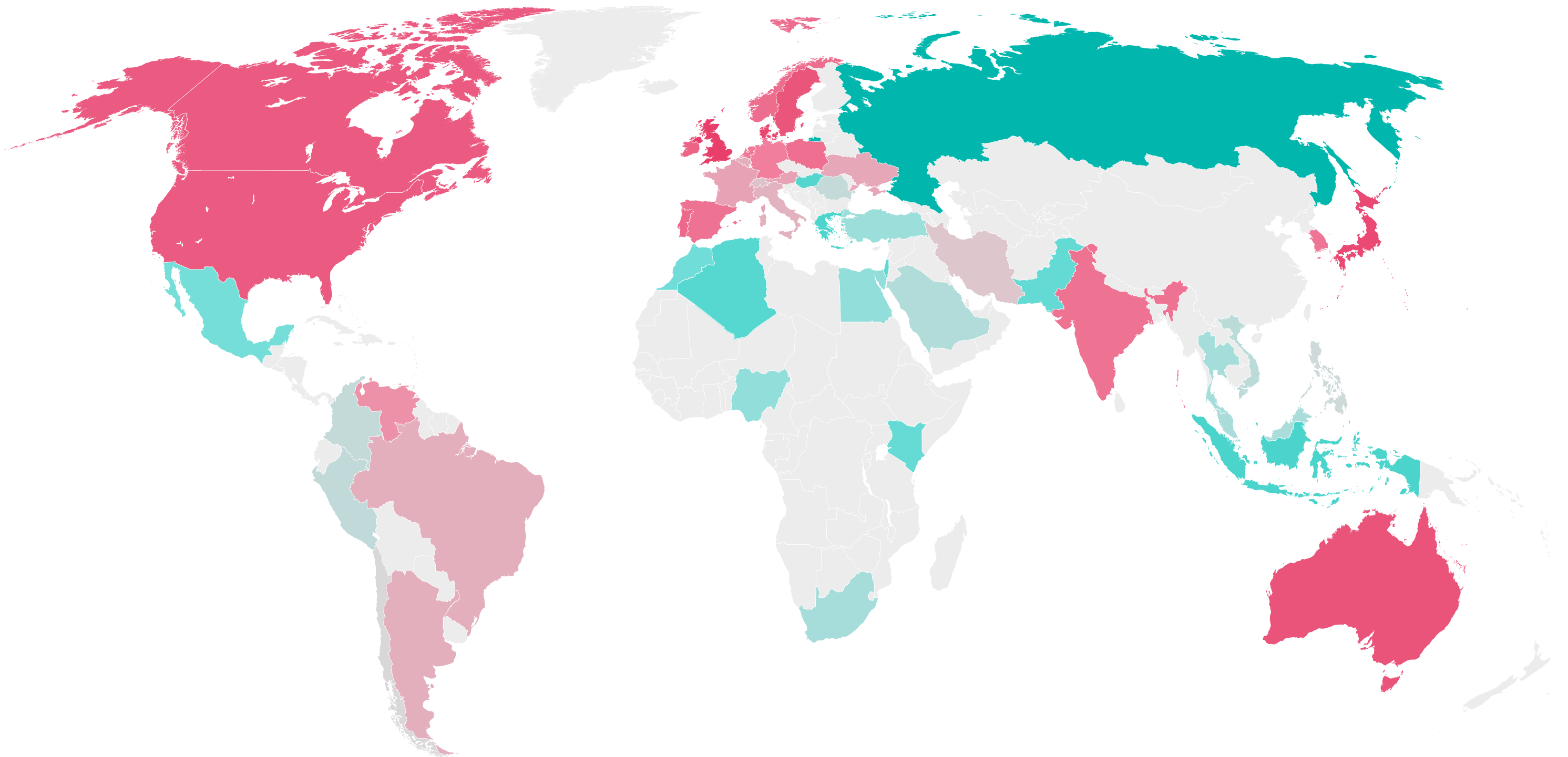
"Cut ties" = "Yes"; "Keep ties" = "No".

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]

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

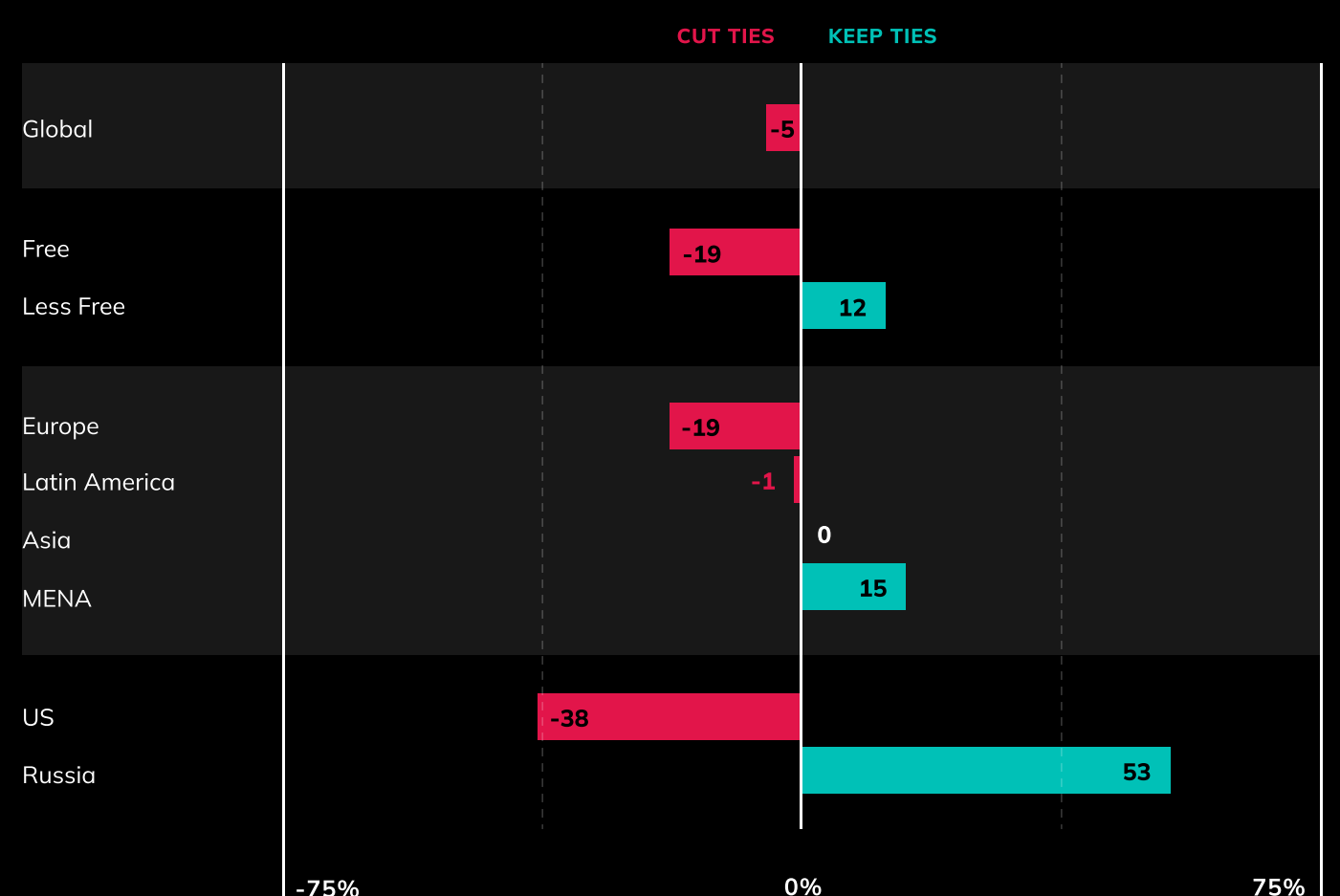


KEY FINDINGS

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.

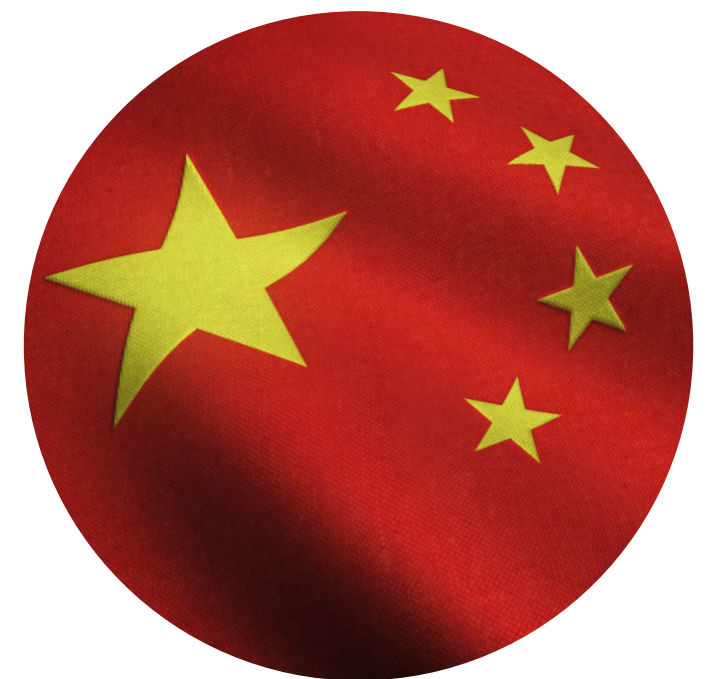
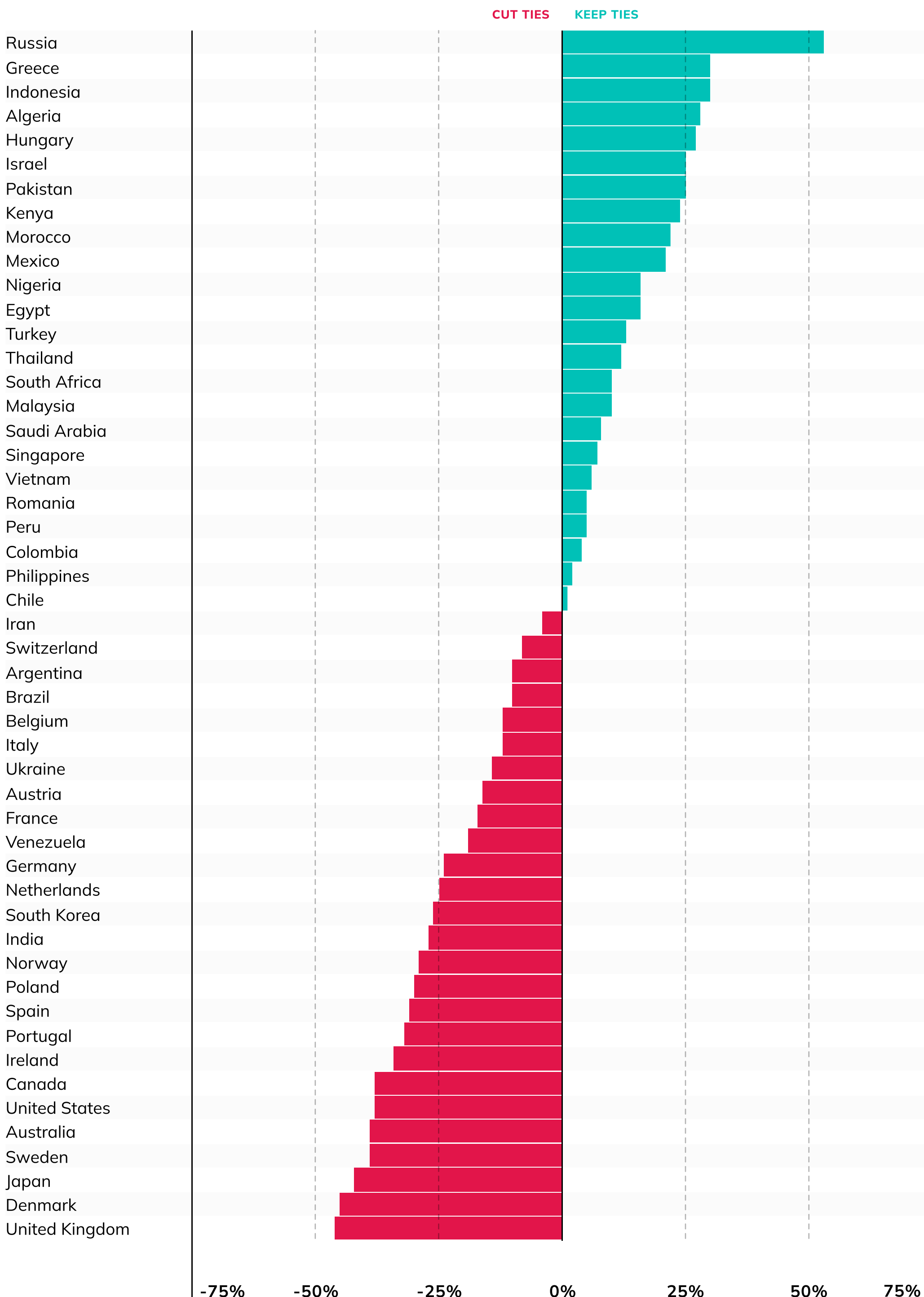


Economic Ties with China

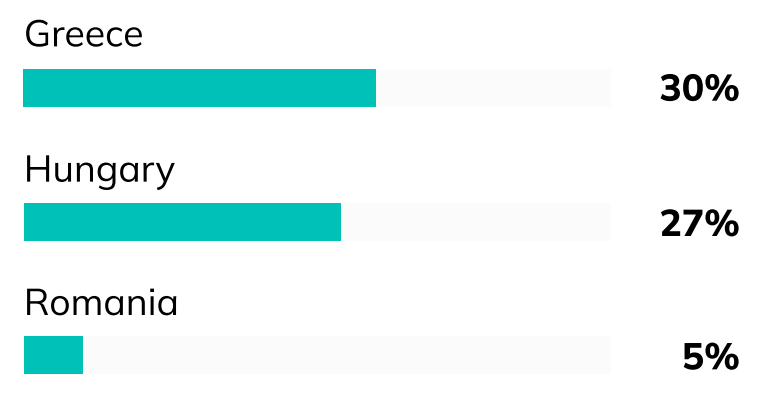
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If China invades Taiwan, half of the world would want to cut economic ties

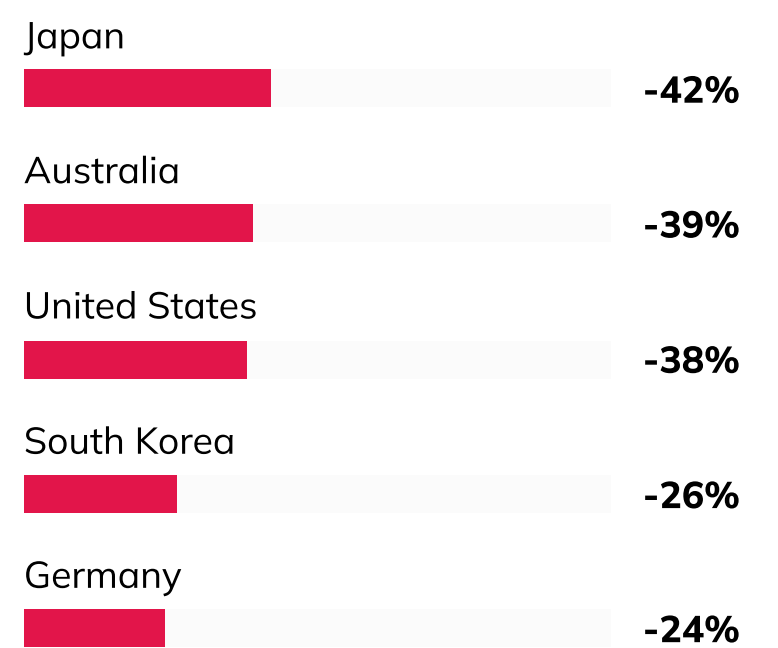
net support for keeping economic ties with China if it invaded Taiwan: % keep ties - % cut ties



Greece, Hungary, and Romania are the only countries in Europe where more people would rather keep ties with China.



Many of China's largest trading partners are among the countries where more people would rather cut ties than keep 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]

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

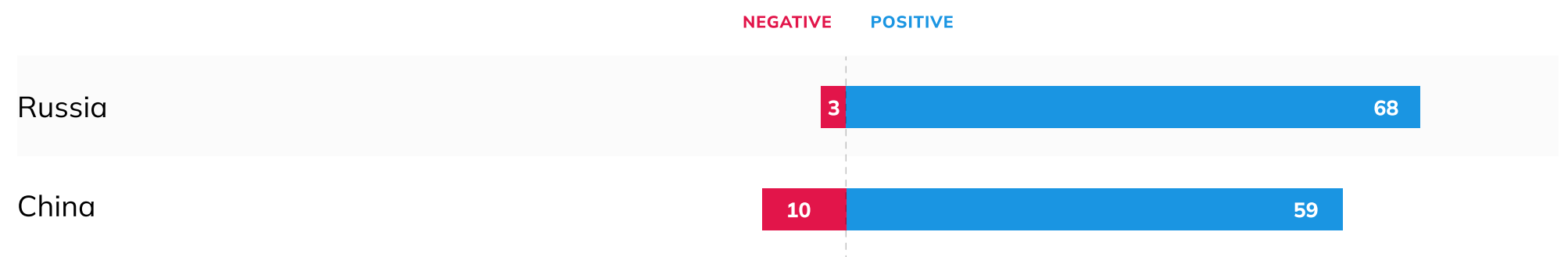
Russia-China Relations

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.



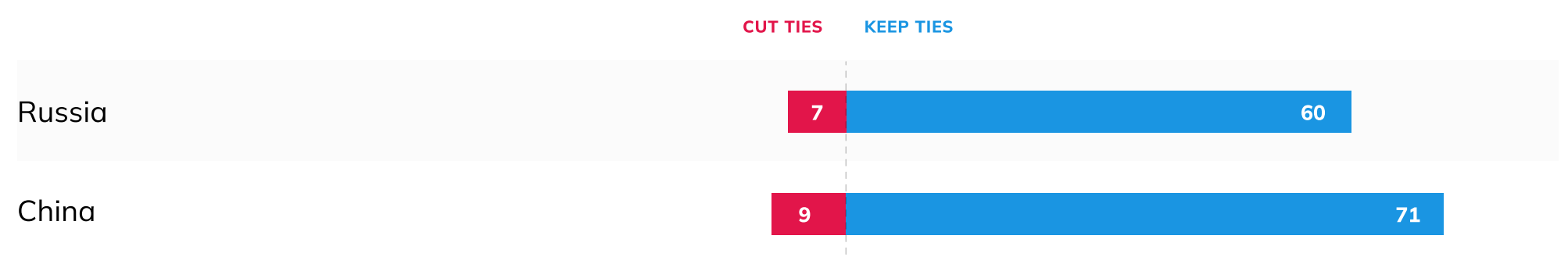
Both the Russians and Chinese hold very favorable views of each other's countries

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



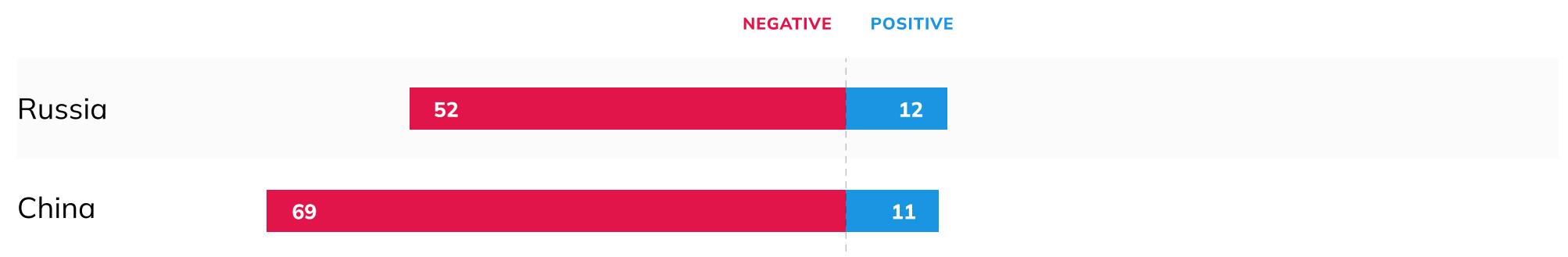
They both overwhelmingly support keeping economic ties with each other

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



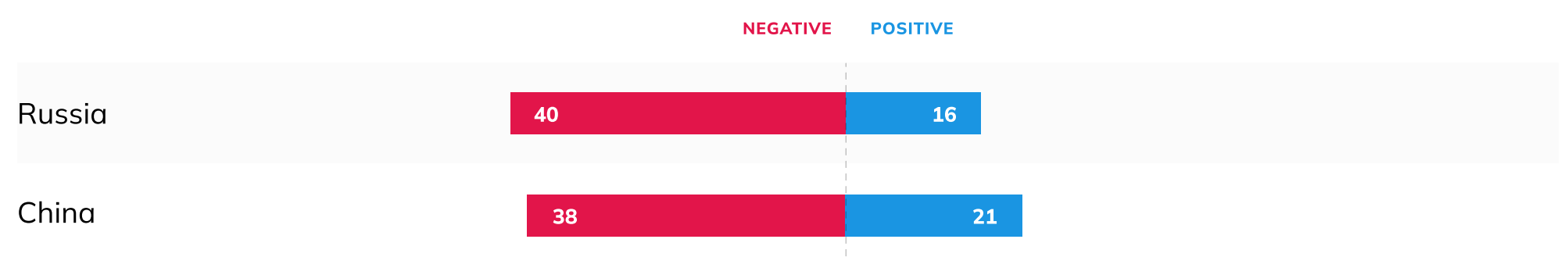
They both hold the world's most negative perceptions of the United States

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



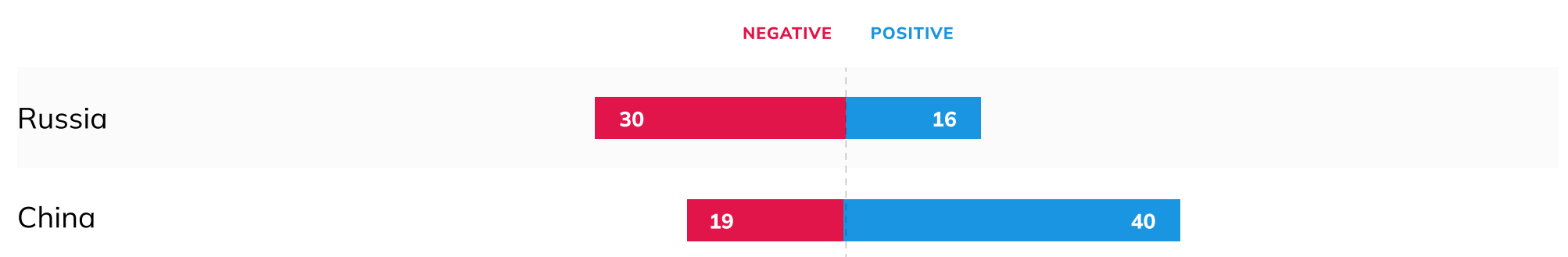
They are the only two countries to have net negative perceptions of the European Union

% 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

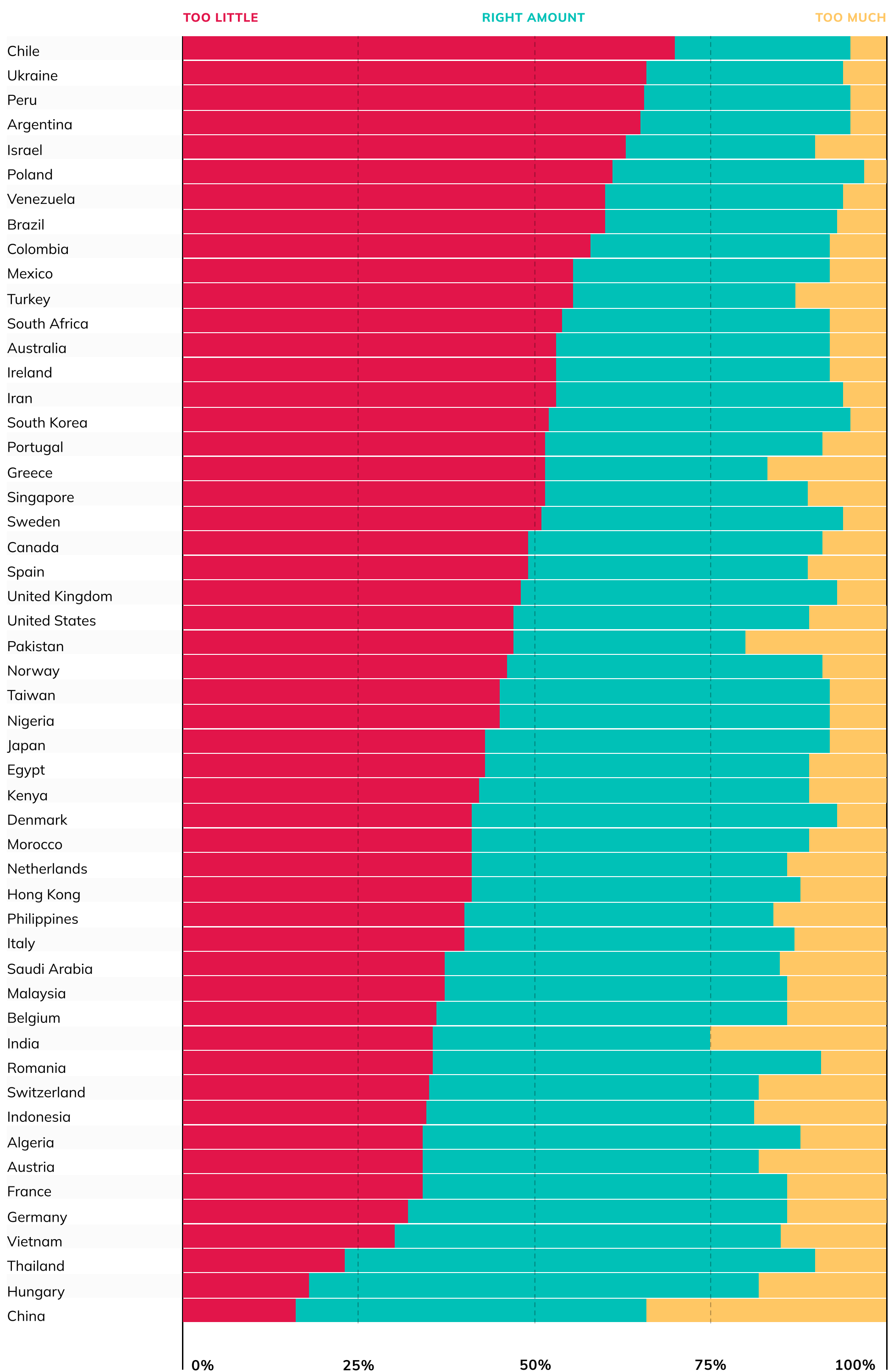


Assistance to Ukraine

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

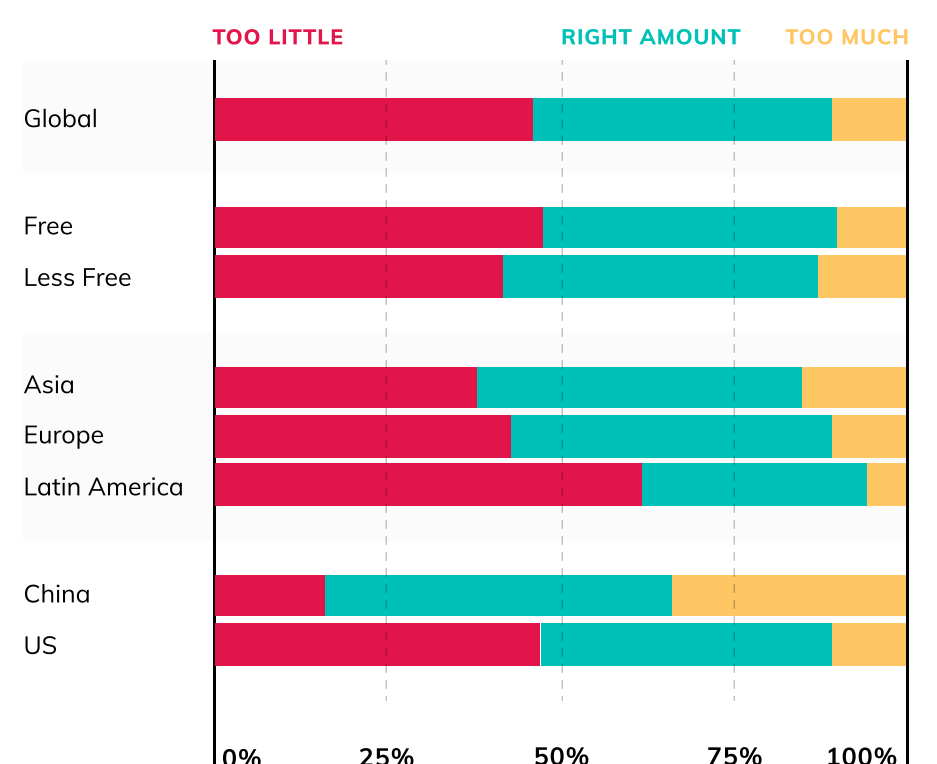
% say the US, EU, and NATO have done too little, too much, or the right amount to assist Ukraine



Regional Results

The countries that are the most likely to say that the US, the EU, and NATO have done too little to assist Ukraine during the Russian Invasion are Ukraine itself (66%), followed by majorities in many countries in Latin America (62%)

On the other hand, China is the least likely to say the same (16%), followed by several major European countries such as Germany (32%) and France (34%).



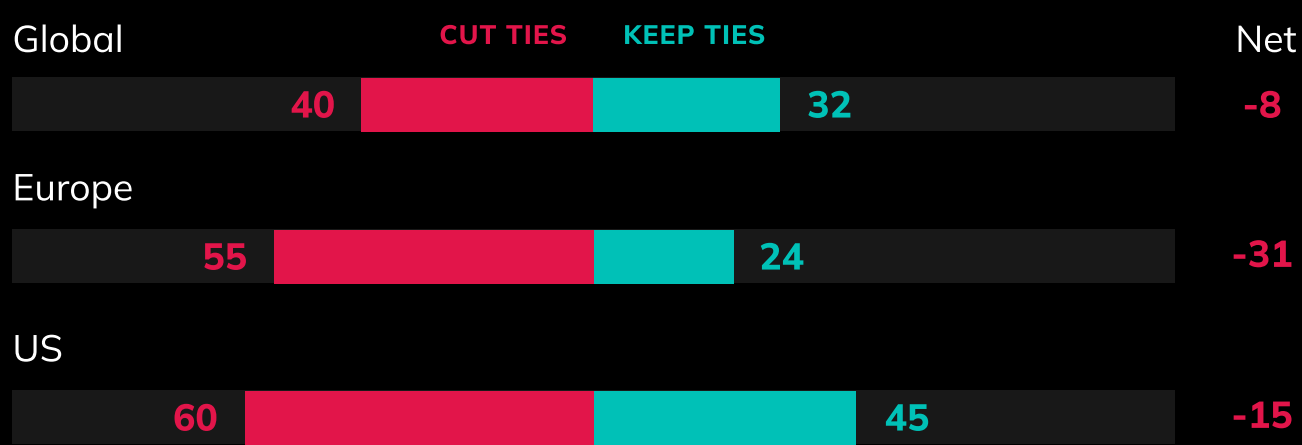
Do you think the US, EU, and NATO have done too little, too much, or the right amount to assist Ukraine during the Russian invasion?
 Too much / The right amount / Too little [Question excluded in Russian questionnaire]

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



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).

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.

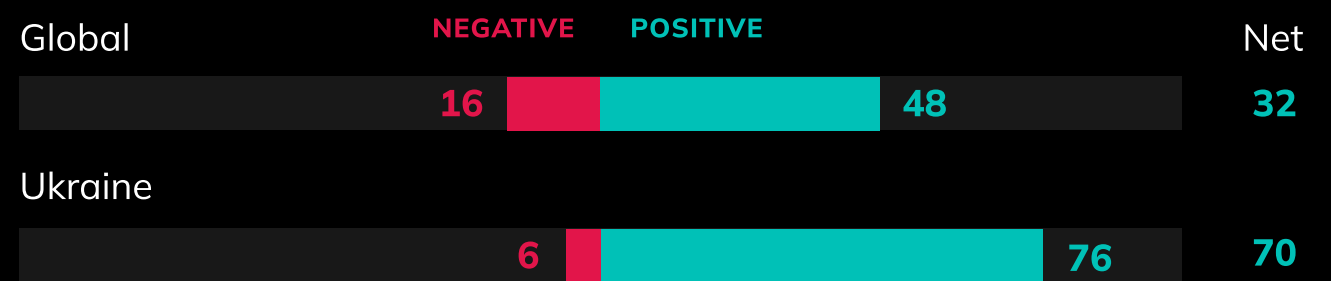
% say the US, EU, and NATO have done too little, too much, or the right amount to assist Ukraine



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



Perception of China

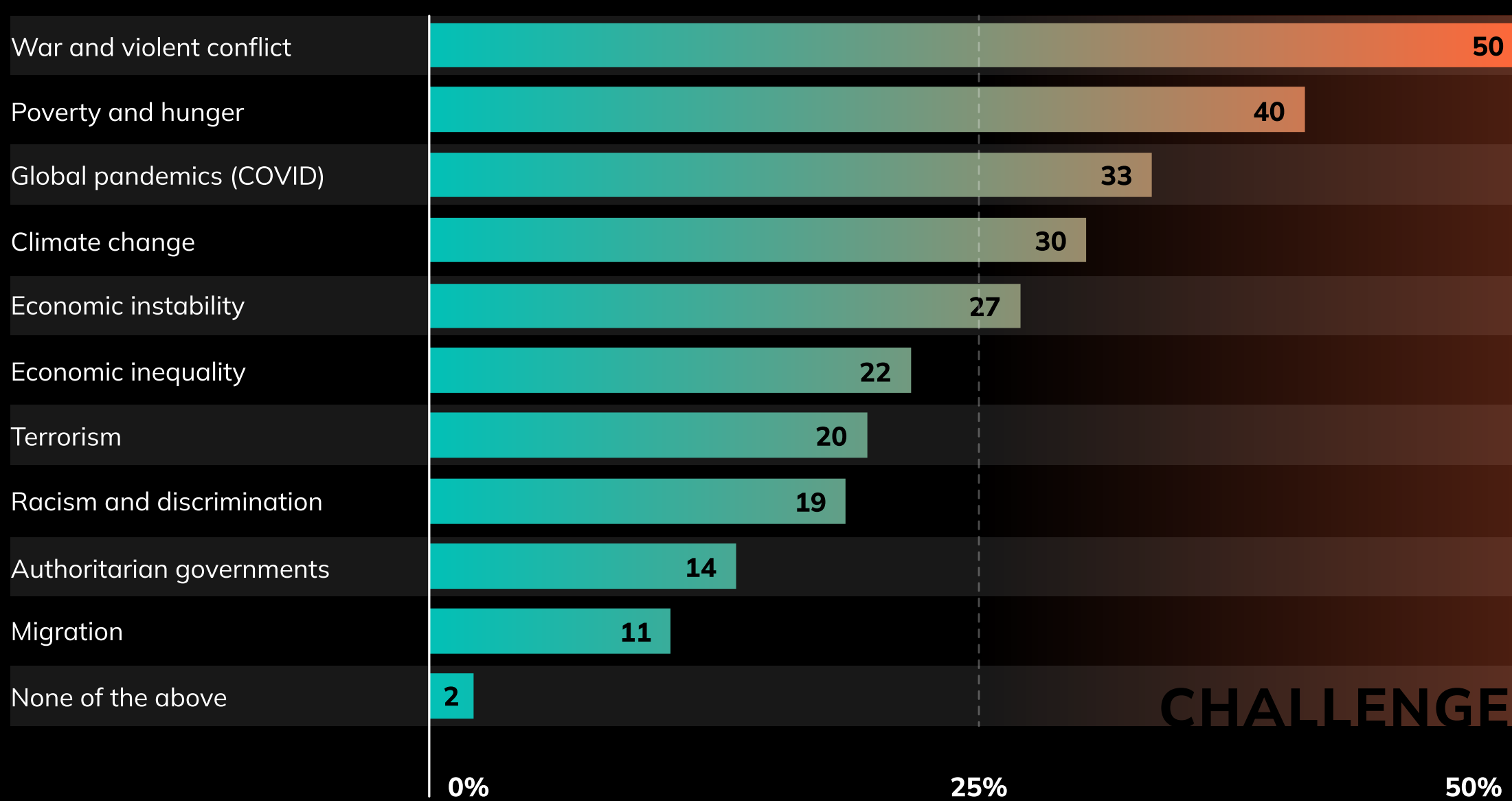
Ukraine is the only country on the European continent where China is viewed more favourably than unfavourably, with more people holding a positive view of China (36%) than negative view (12%), while the majority hold neutral views (52%).

World Challenges

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



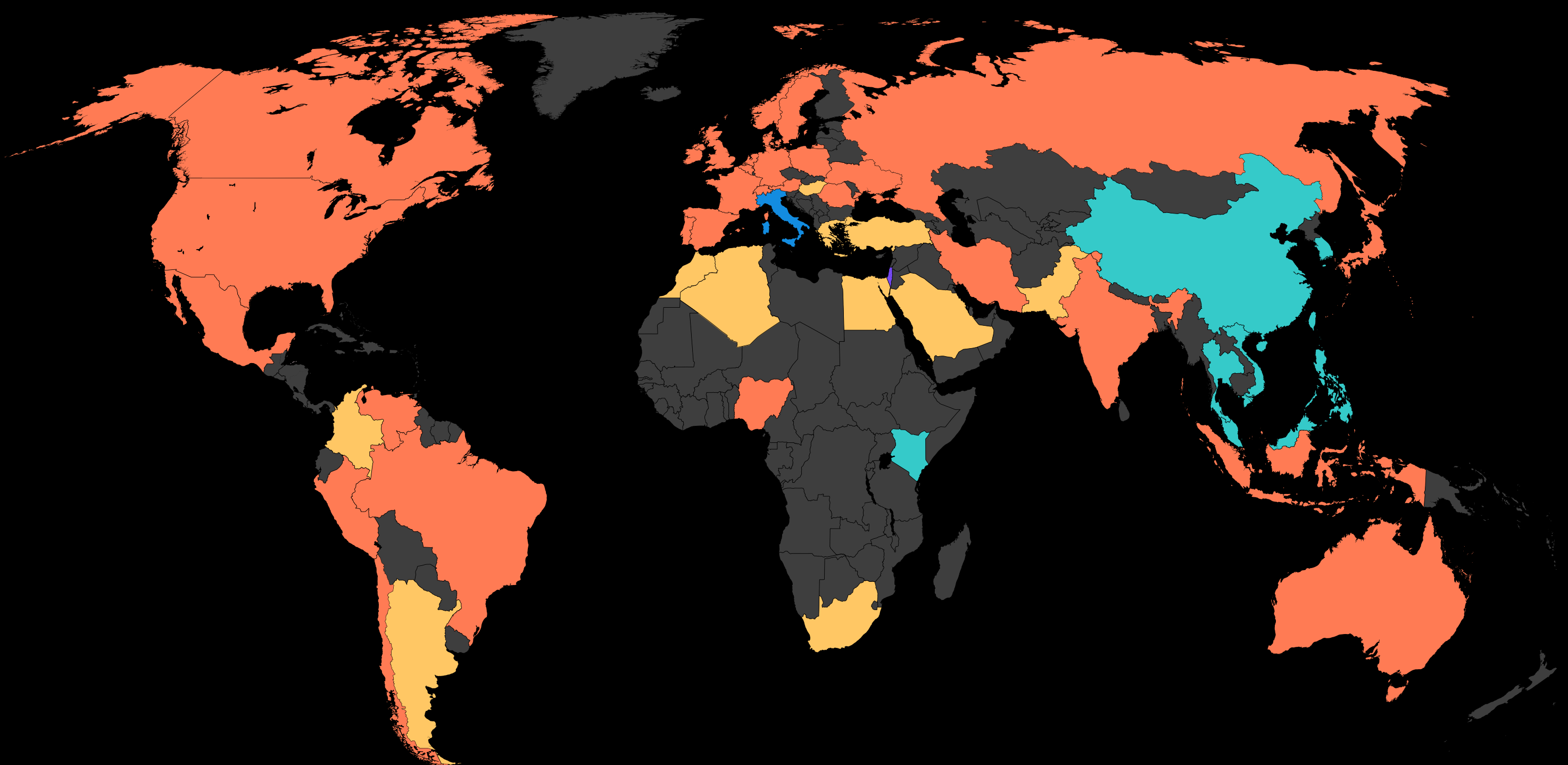
In your opinion, which of the following do you think are the world's top three biggest challenges right now?

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

Concern about war and violent conflict is widespread

the top challenge selected by country



- WAR AND VIOLENT CONFLICT
- TERRORISM
- POVERTY AND HUNGER
- GLOBAL PANDEMICS (COVID)
- CLIMATE CHANGE

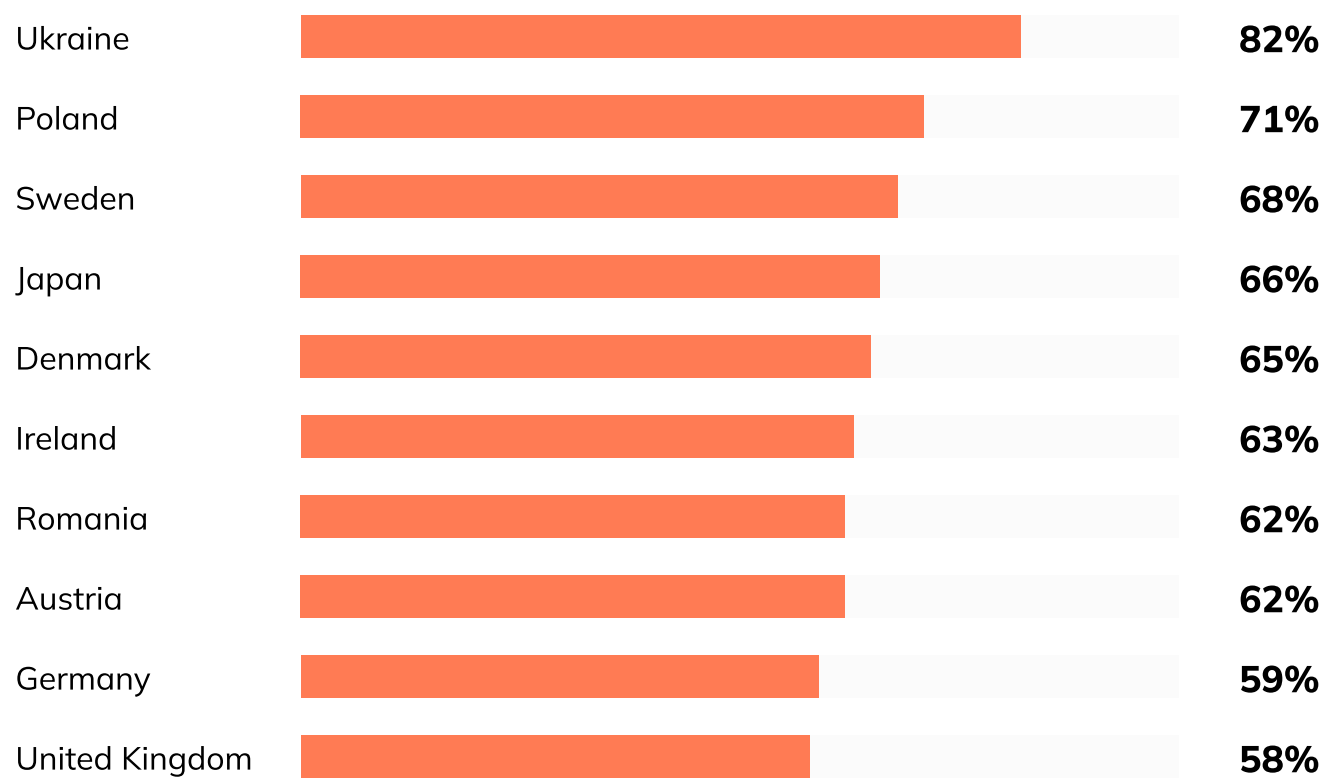
World Challenges

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

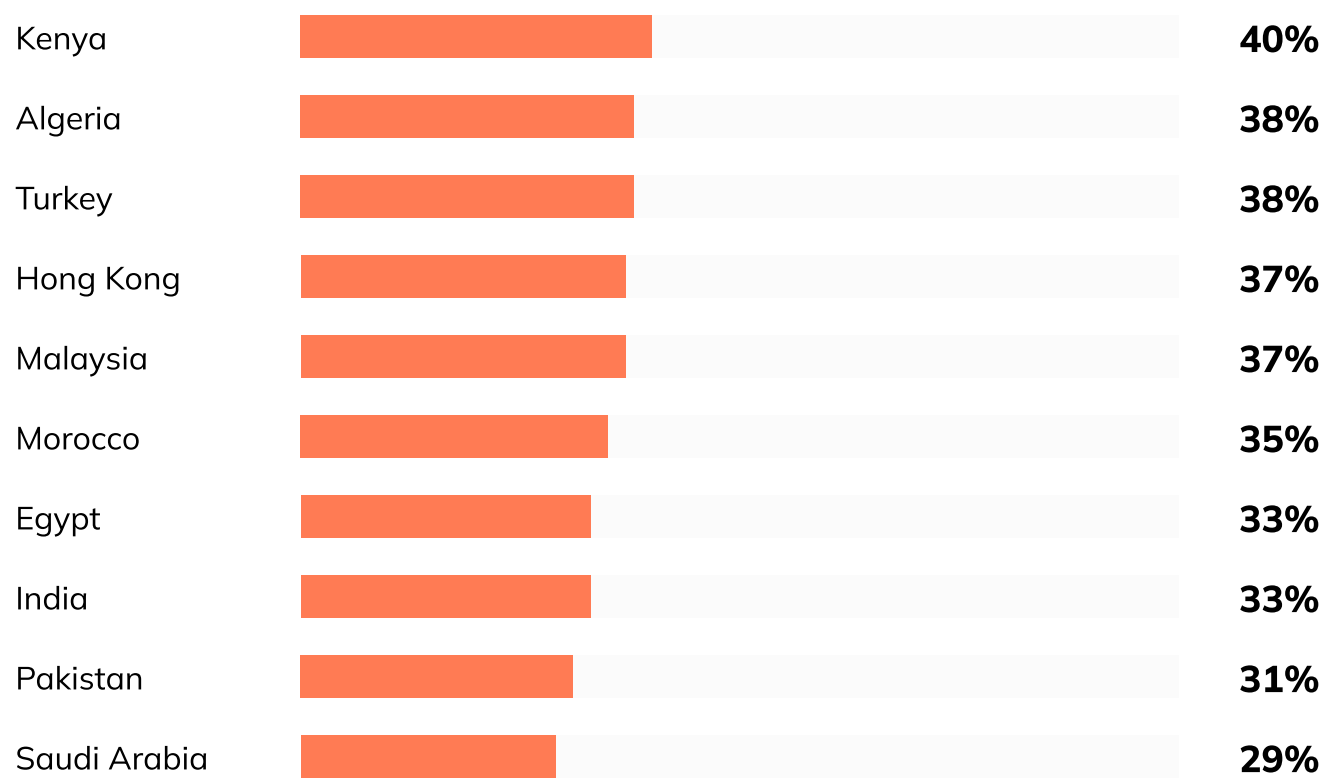
Top 10



Global Average



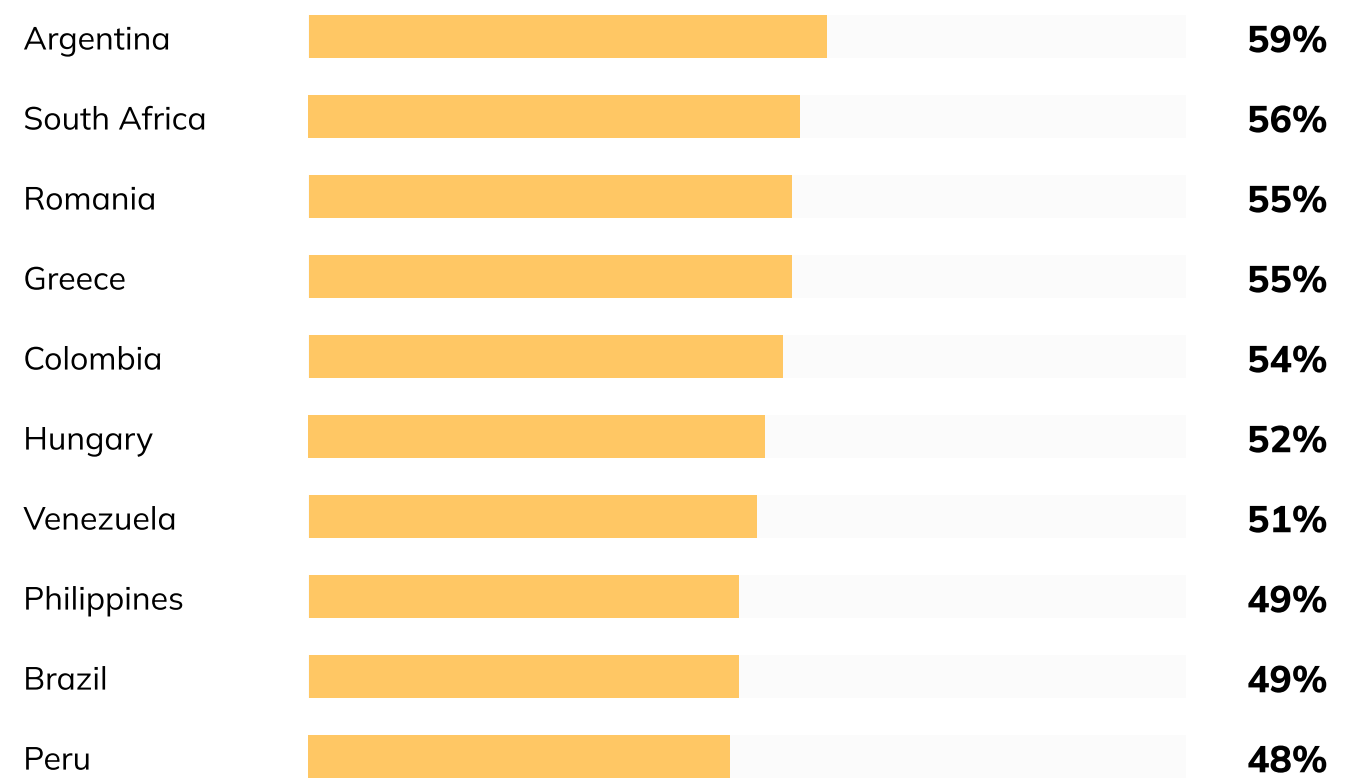
Bottom 10



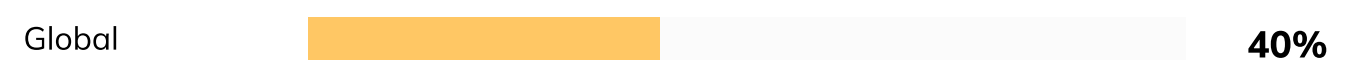
Poverty and hunger

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%).

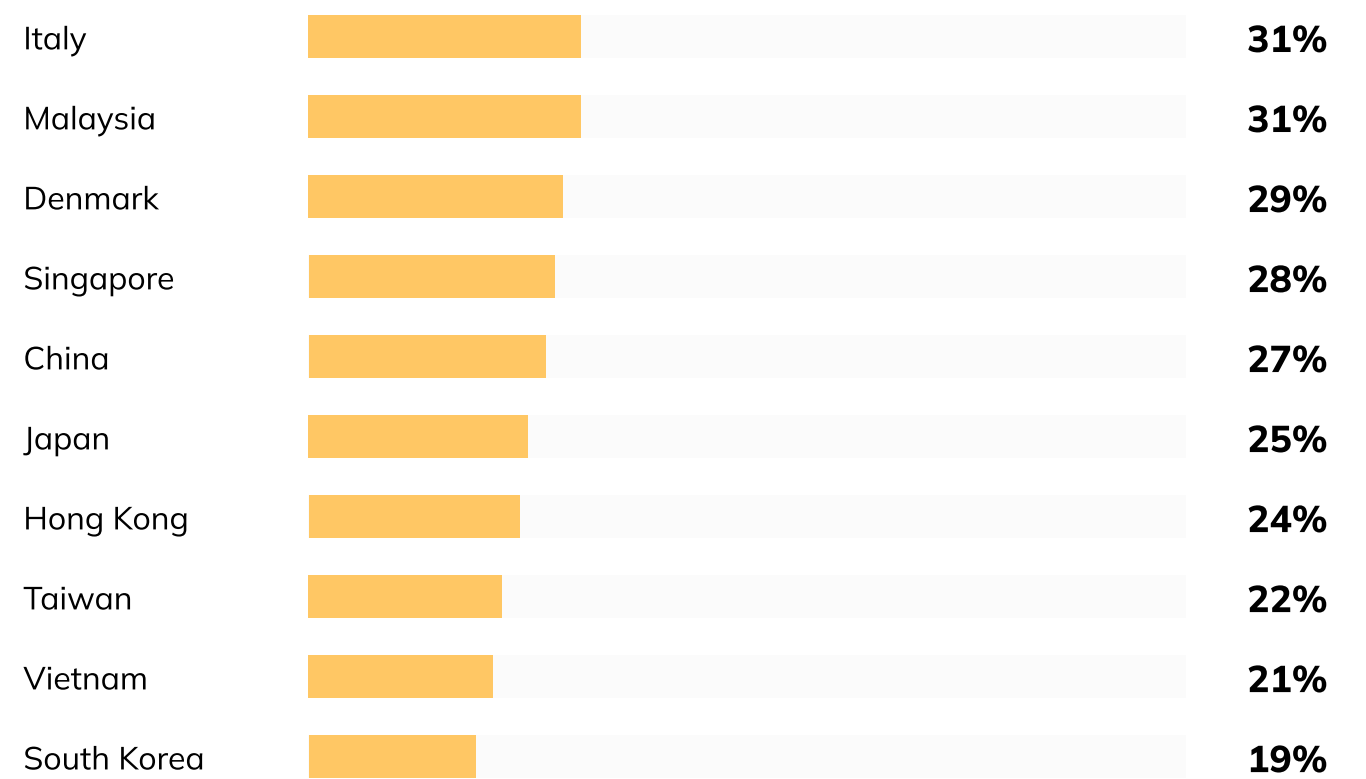
Top 10



Global Average



Bottom 10



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.

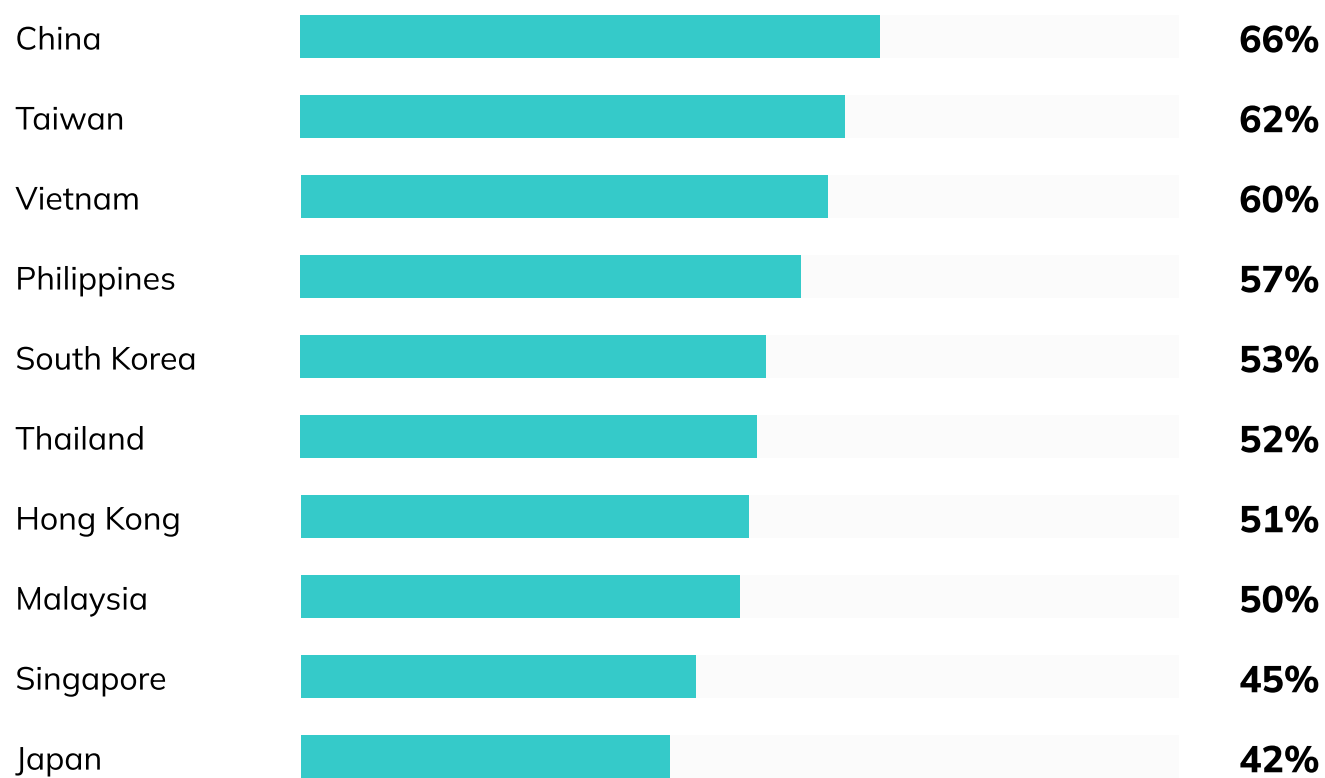
World Challenges

Global pandemics (COVID)

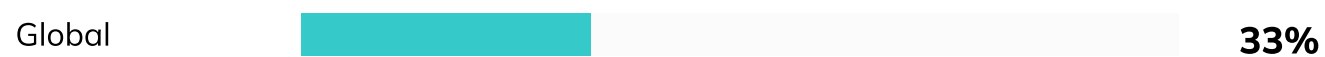
Third most cited challenge facing the world today. Concern is significantly higher in Asia (49%) than in the rest of the world, particularly in Europe (24%), despite Asian countries having some of the lowest COVID deaths per capita rates in the world.

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

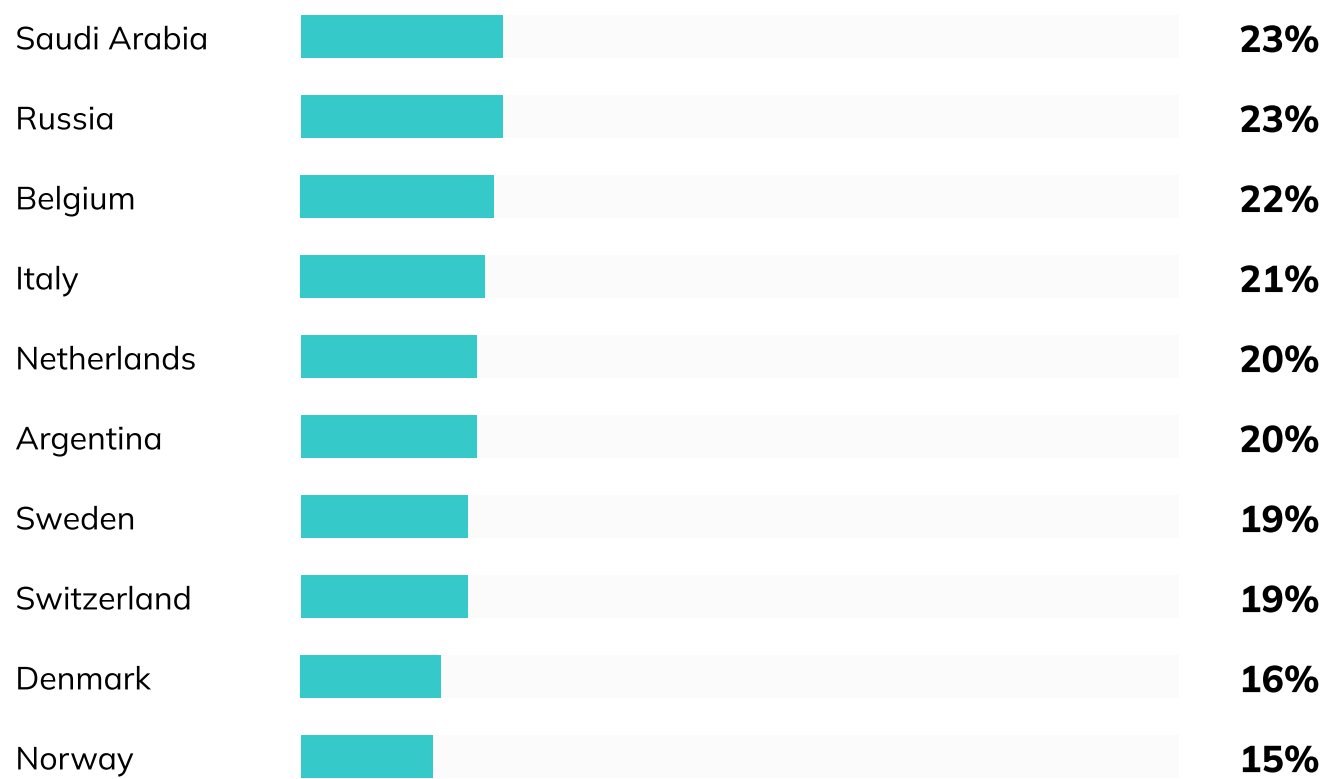
Top 10



Global Average



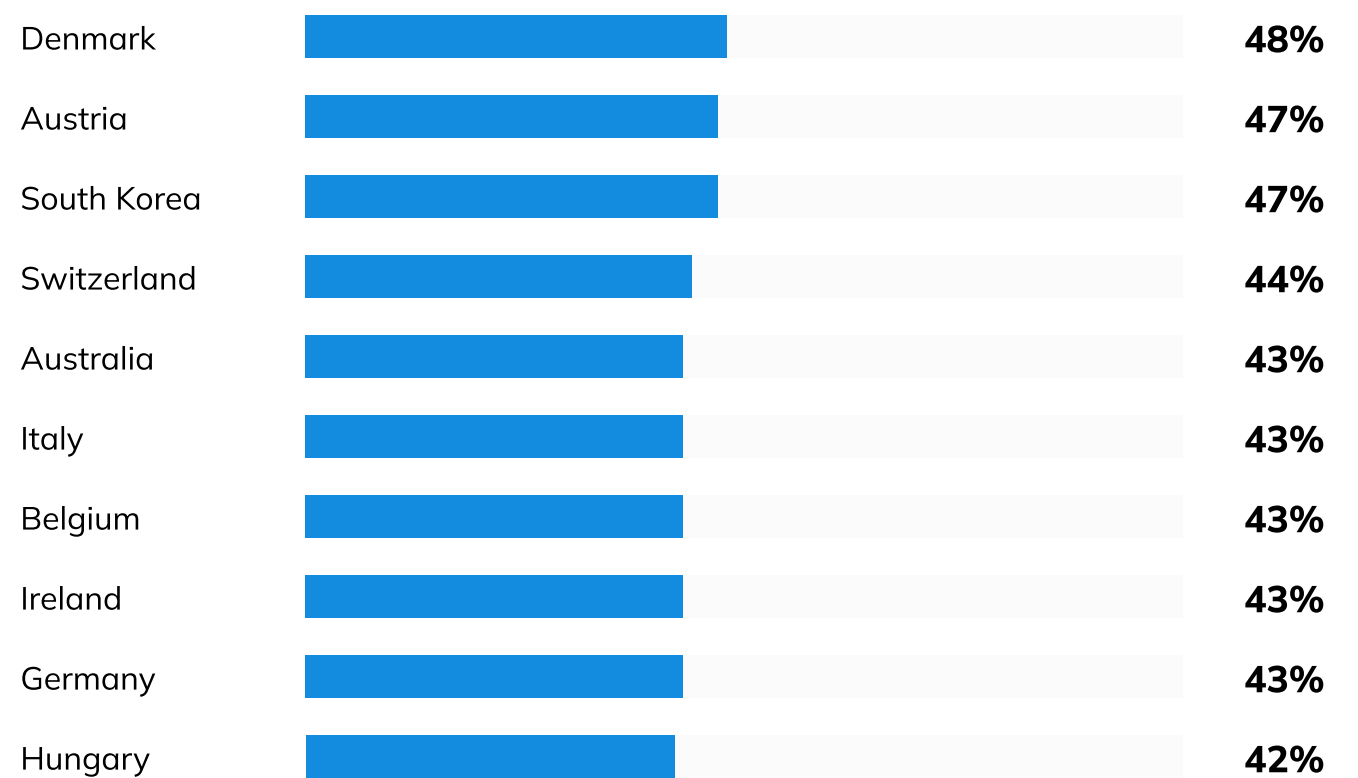
Bottom 10



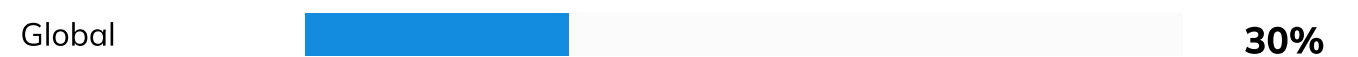
Climate change

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%).

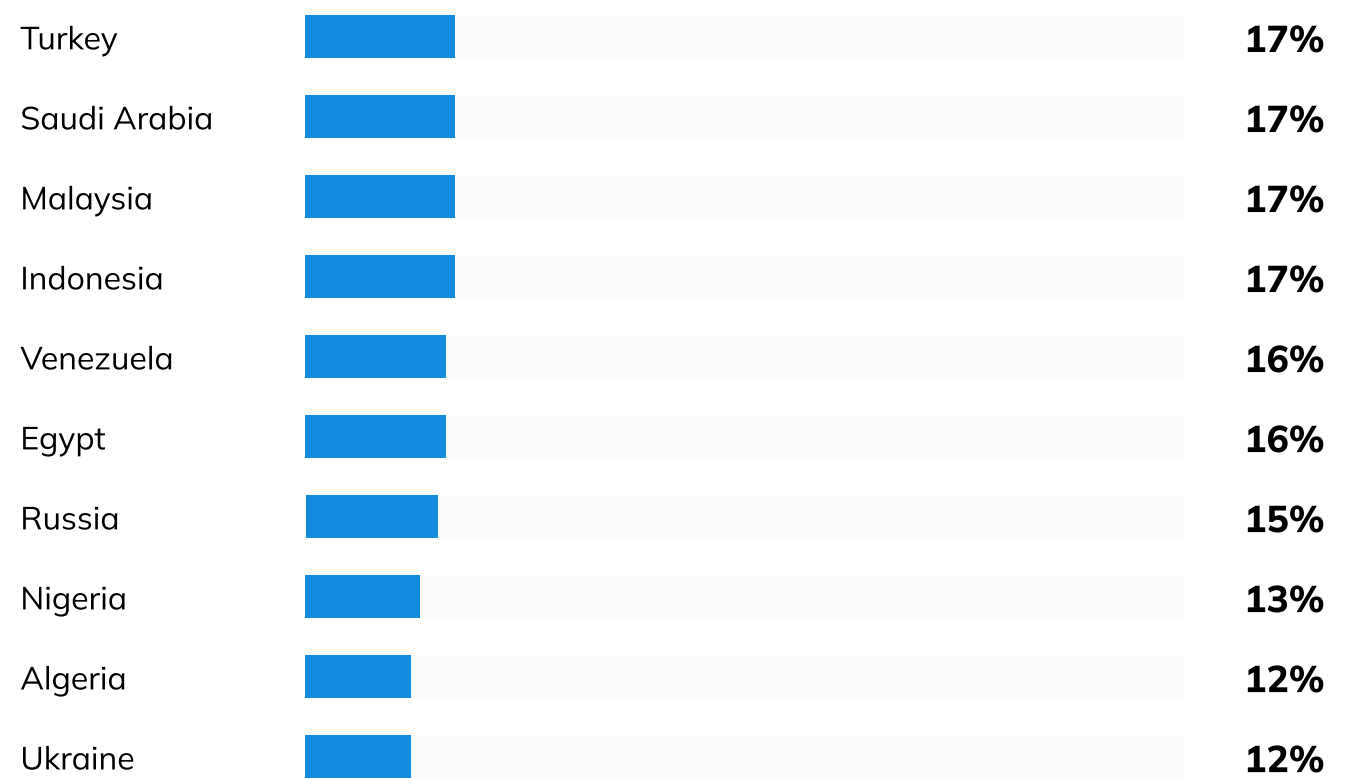
Top 10



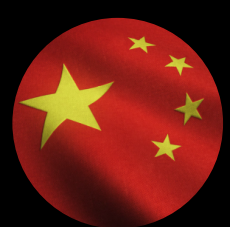
Global Average



Bottom 10



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%).

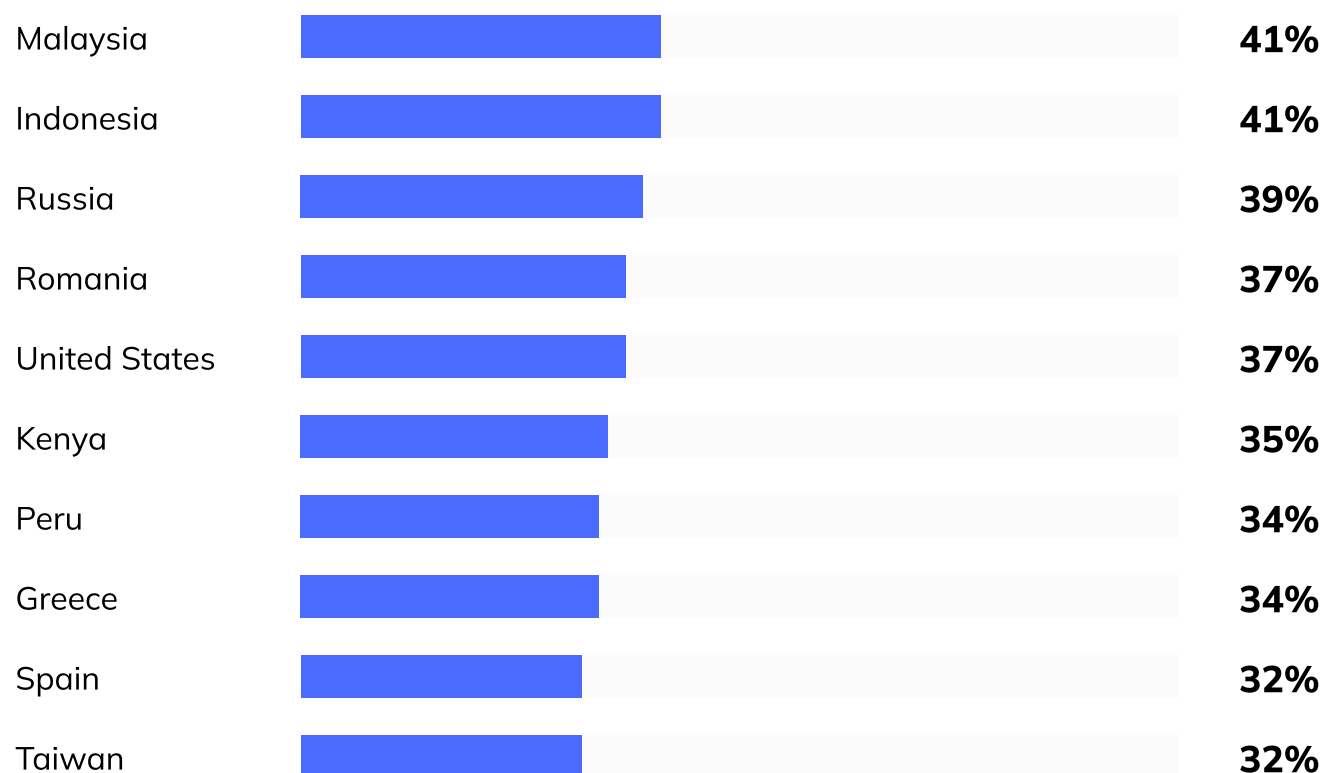
World Challenges

Economic instability

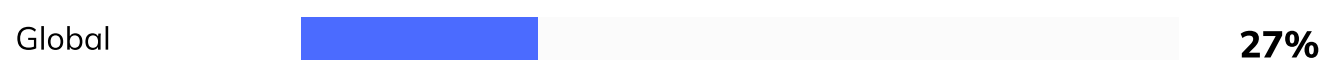
Economic instability is the fifth most cited top global challenge.

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

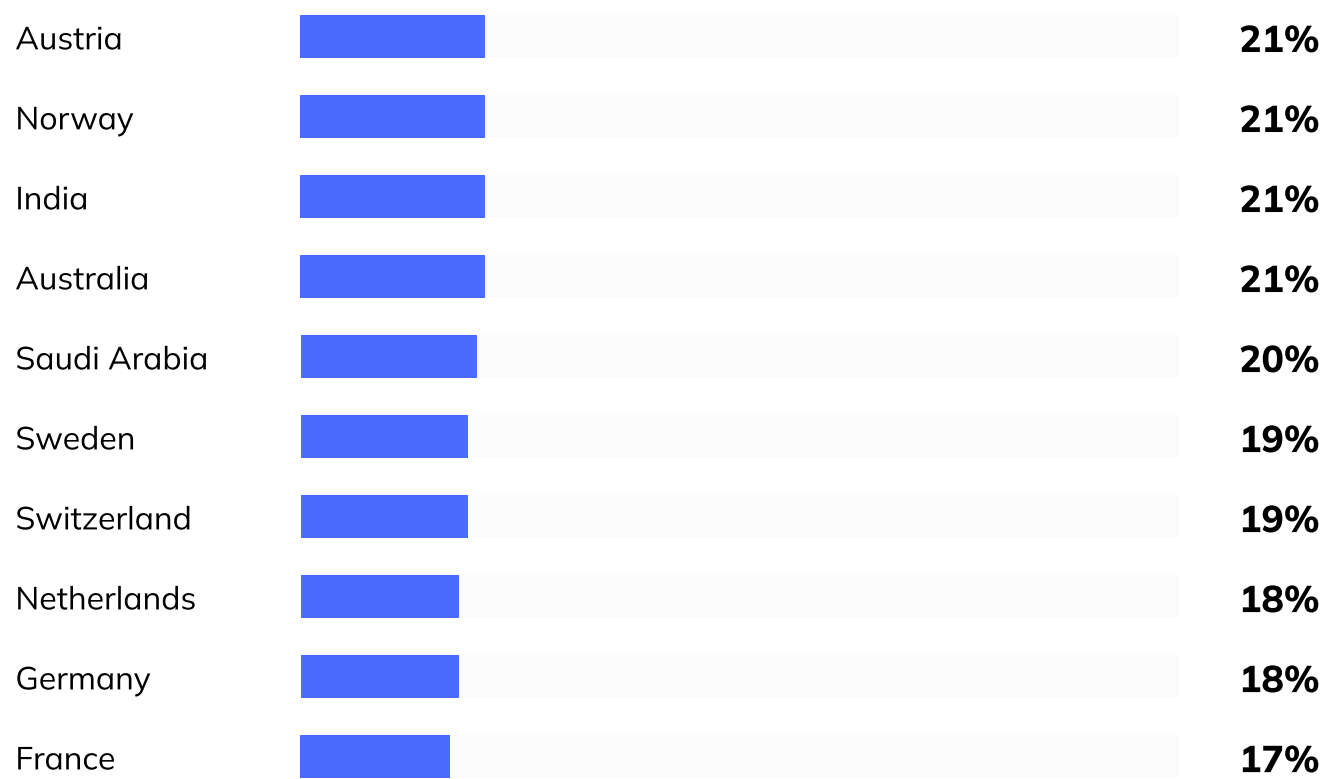
Top 10



Global Average



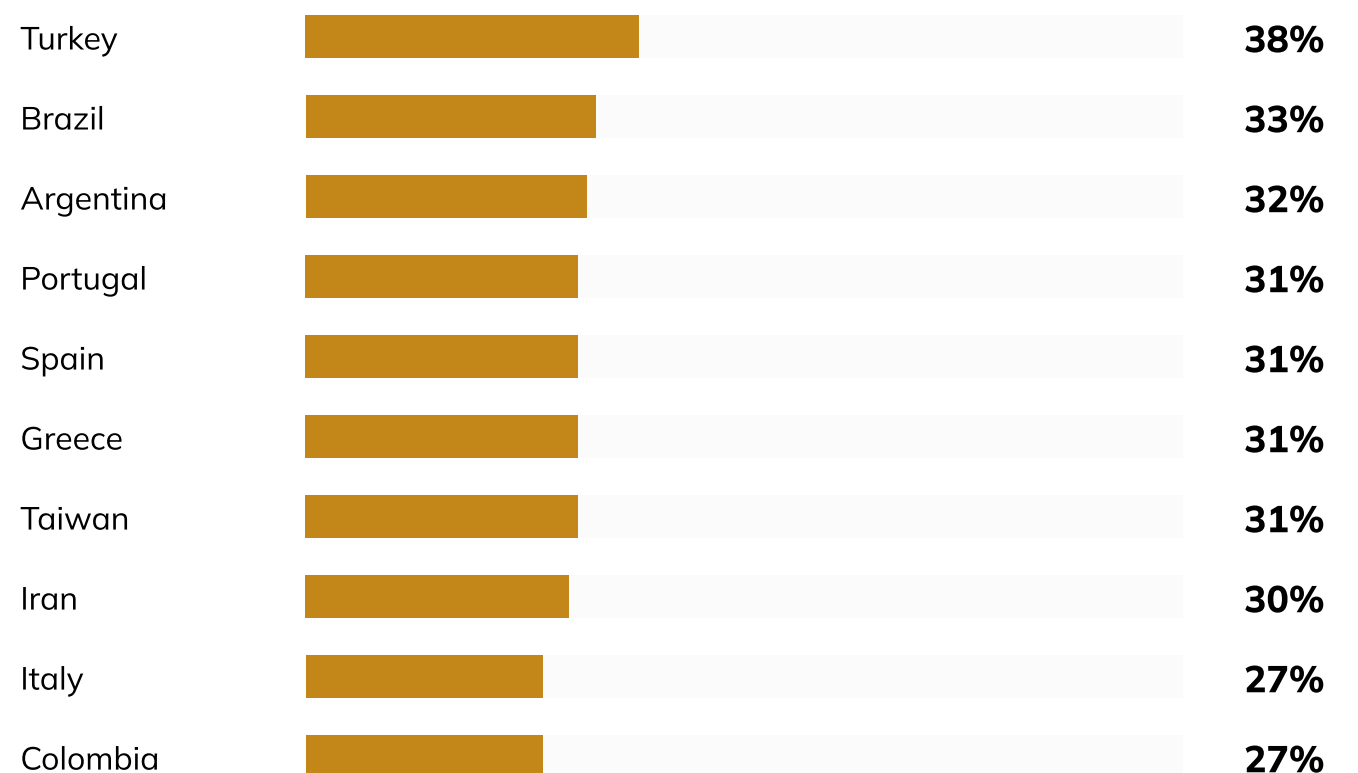
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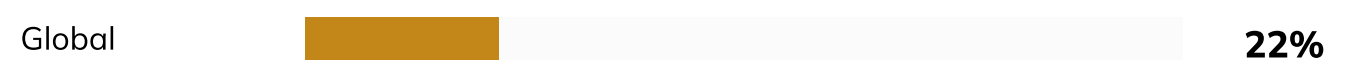
Economic inequality

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%).

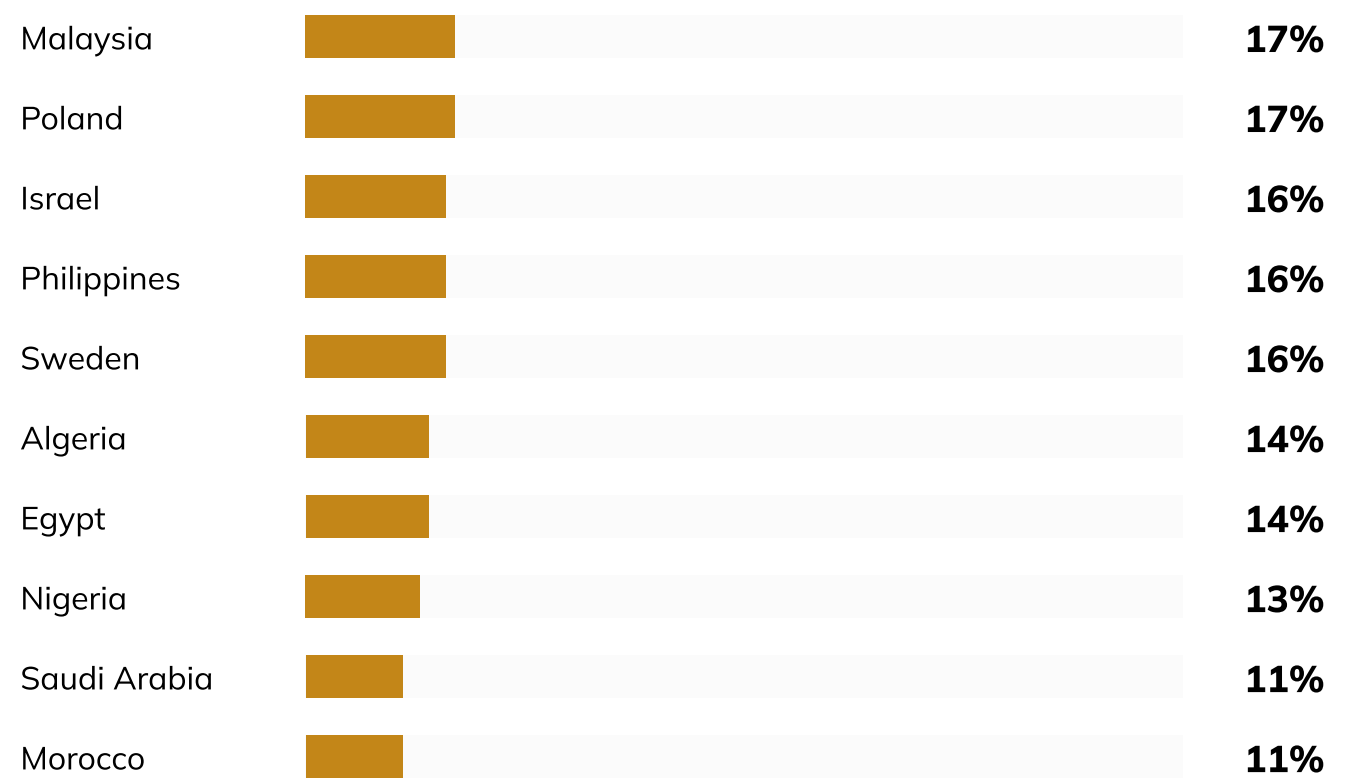
Top 10



Global Average



Bottom 10



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.

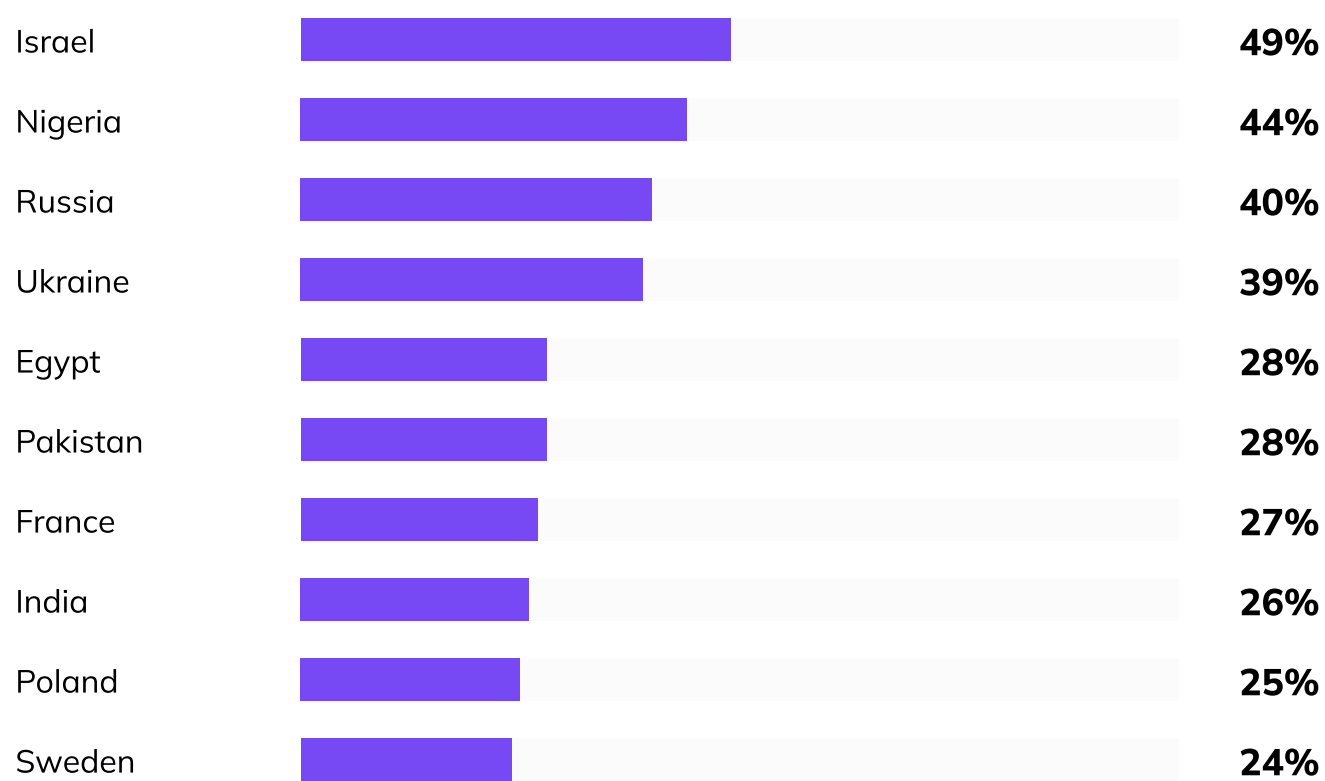
World Challenges

Terrorism

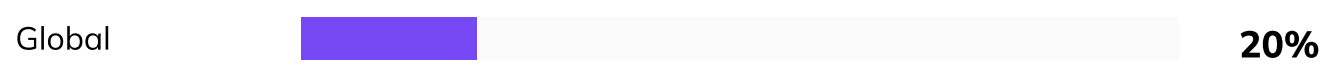
One-fifth of people say that terrorism is a top global challenge today. Concern is highest in Israel (49%), Nigeria (44%), Russia (40%) and Ukraine (40%).

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

Top 10



Global Average



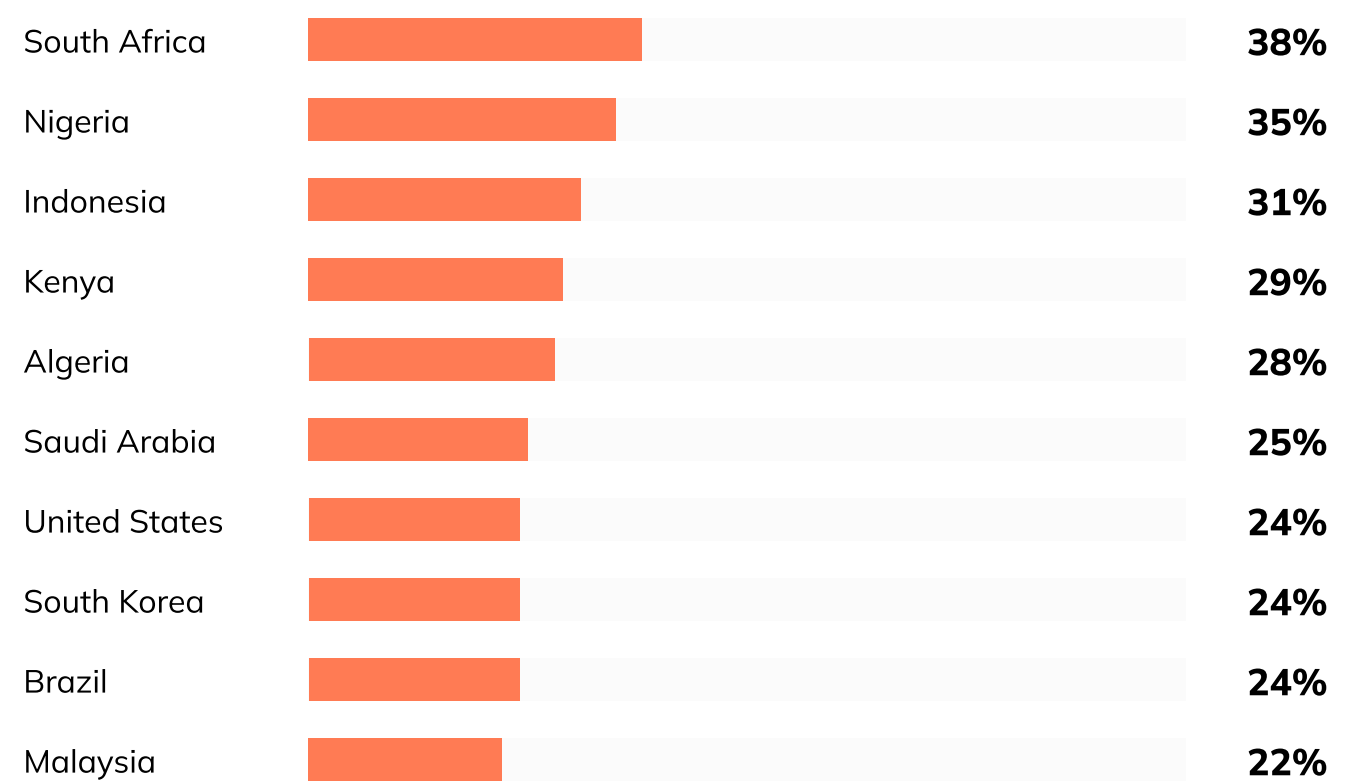
Bottom 10



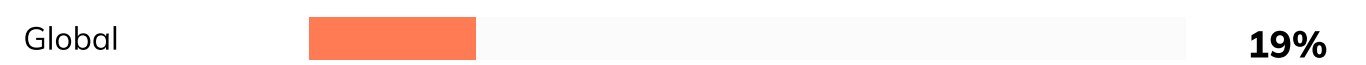
Racism and discrimination against minorities

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

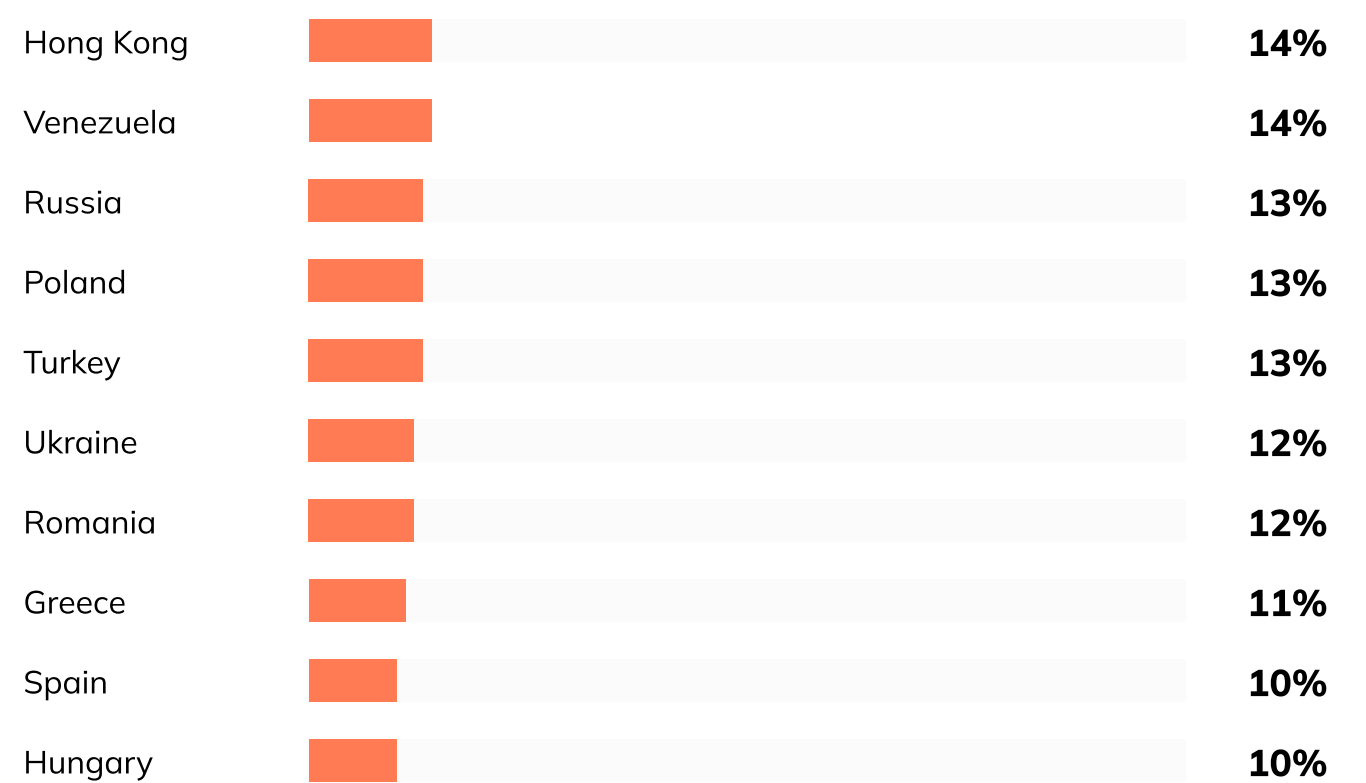
Top 10



Global Average



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%).

World Challenges

Authoritarian governments

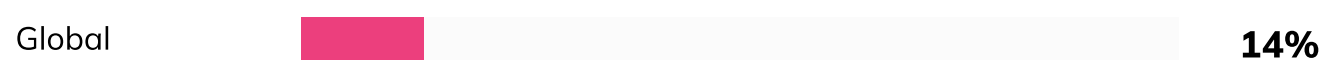
Only 14% of people around the world say that authoritarian governments are one of the world's top three biggest challenges today. This sentiment is no different between "free" democracies and less free countries.

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

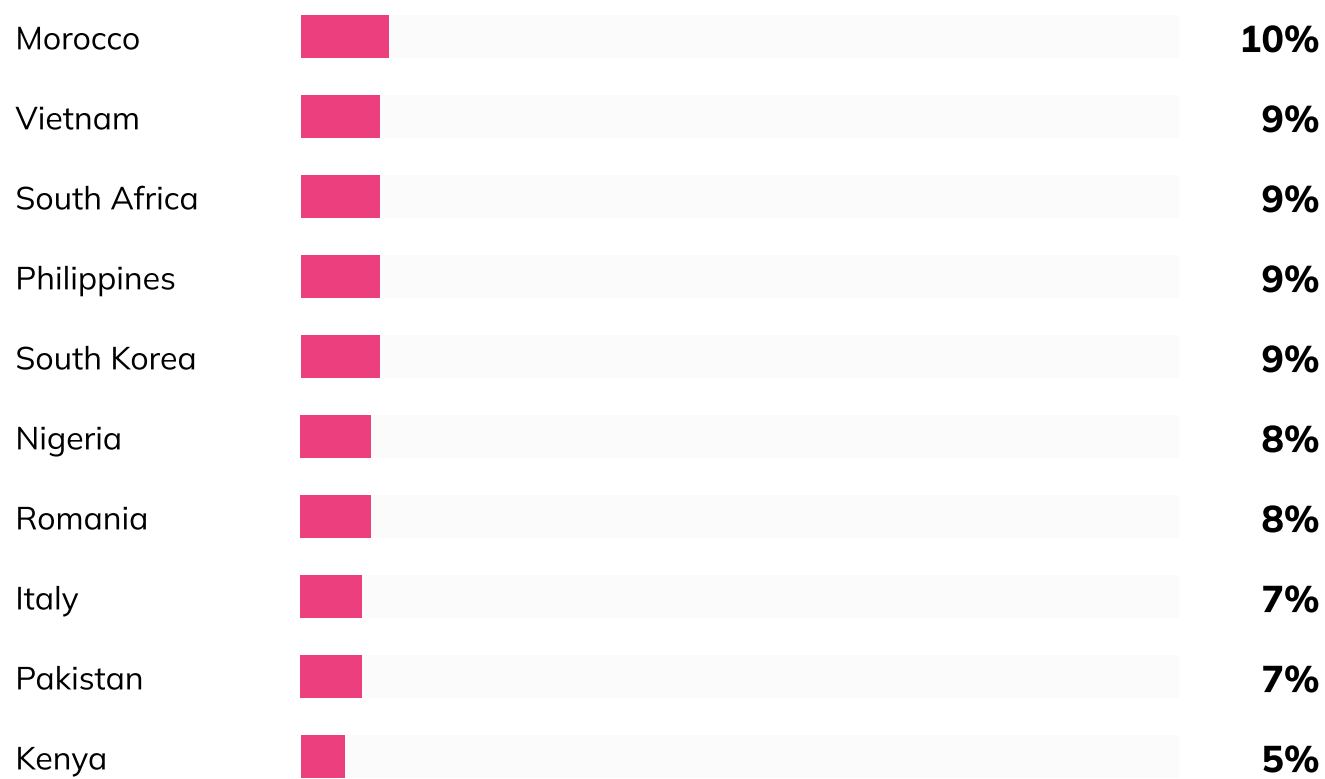
Top 10



Global Average



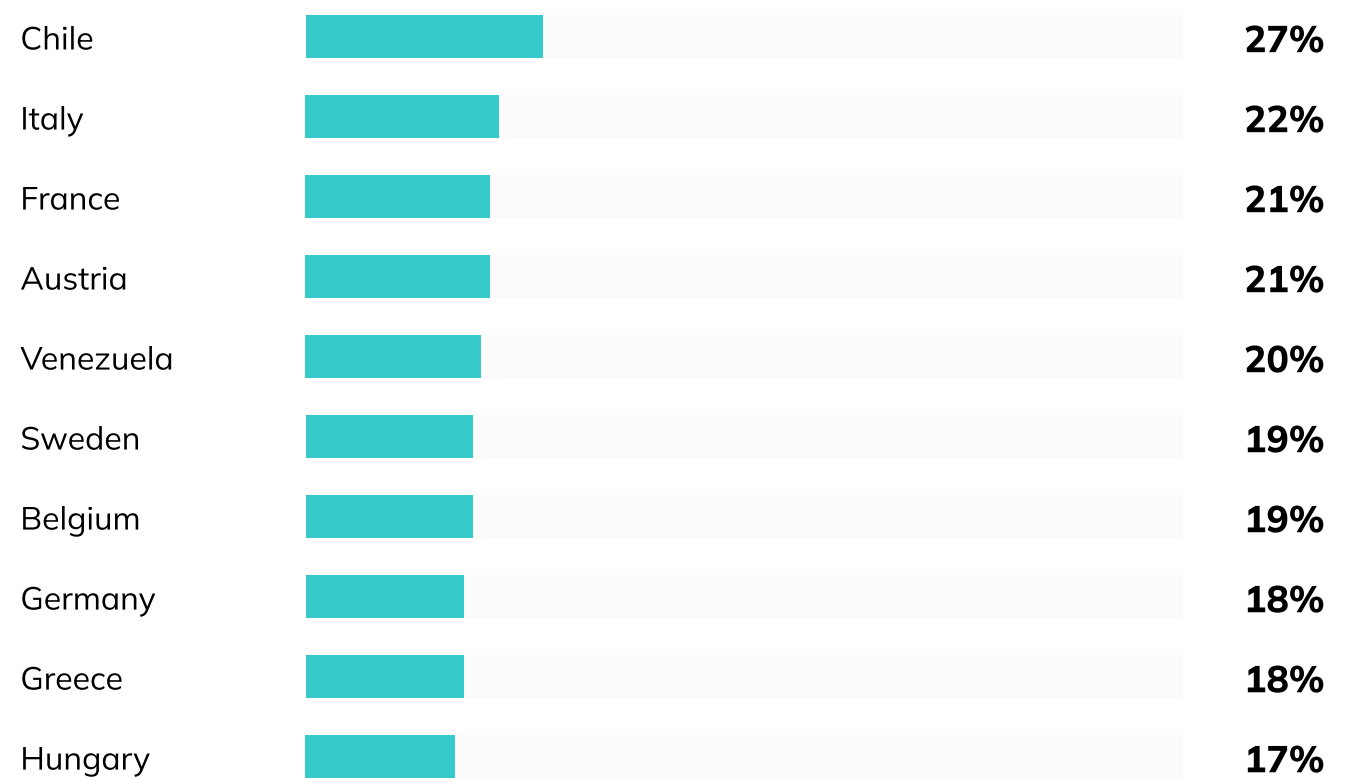
Bottom 10



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



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

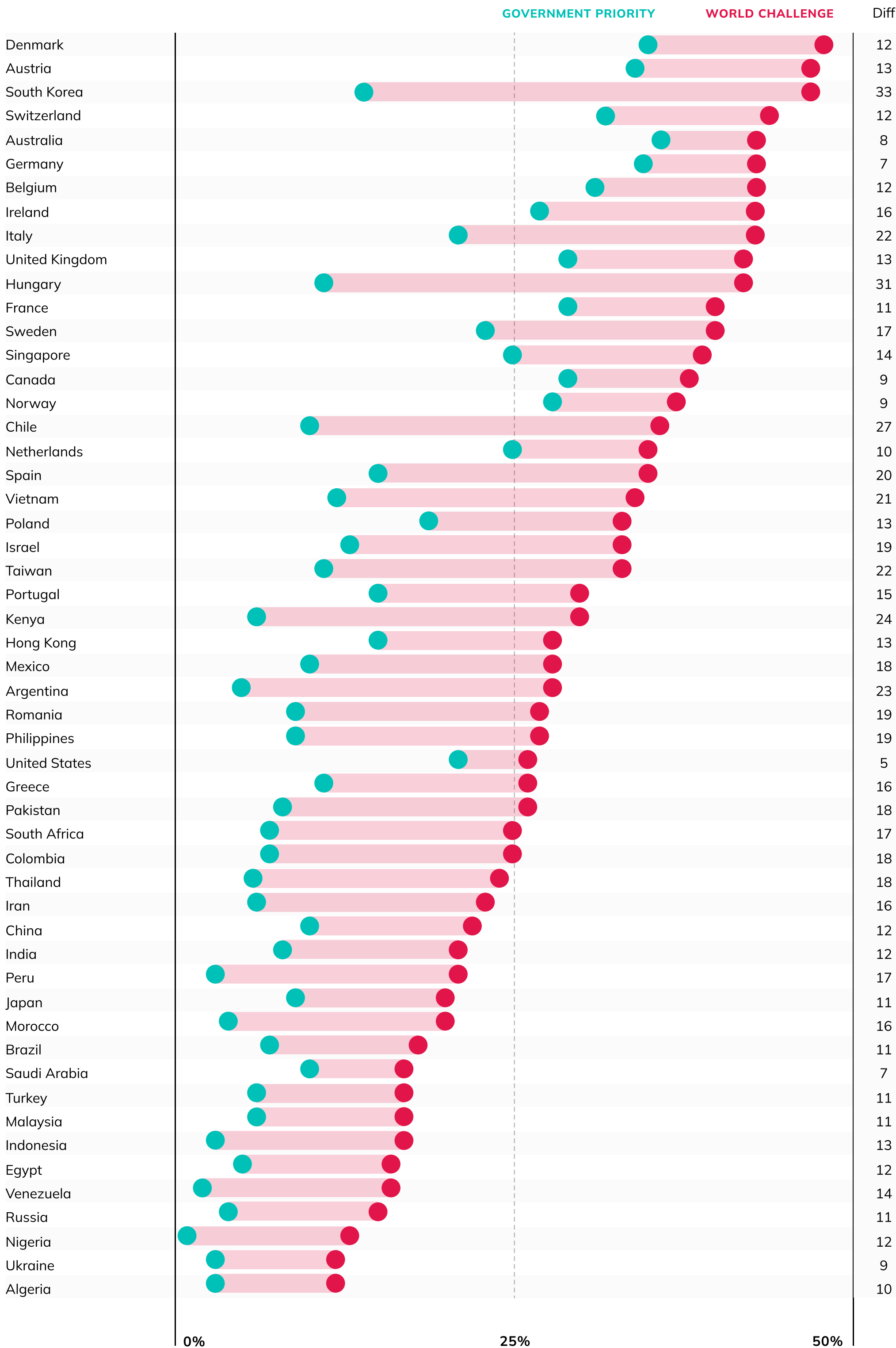
Concern is highest mainly in European countries and is particularly low in almost all Asian countries.

Prioritizing Climate Change

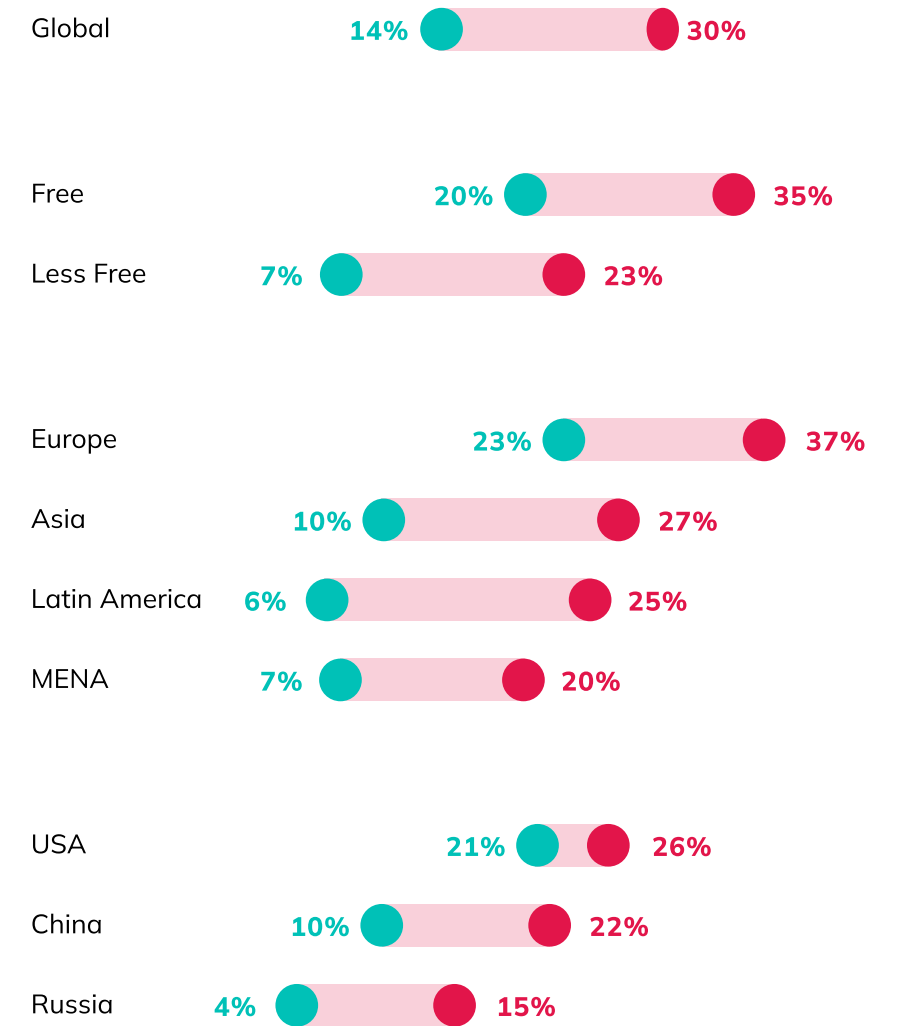
While climate change is viewed as one of the world's top three biggest challenges by 30% of the world's population, only 14% say that it should be a top priority for their government. People in western democracies, particularly in Europe, are the most likely to both perceive climate change as a major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



Regional Results



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

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.

Government Response 69

COVID Restrictions 71

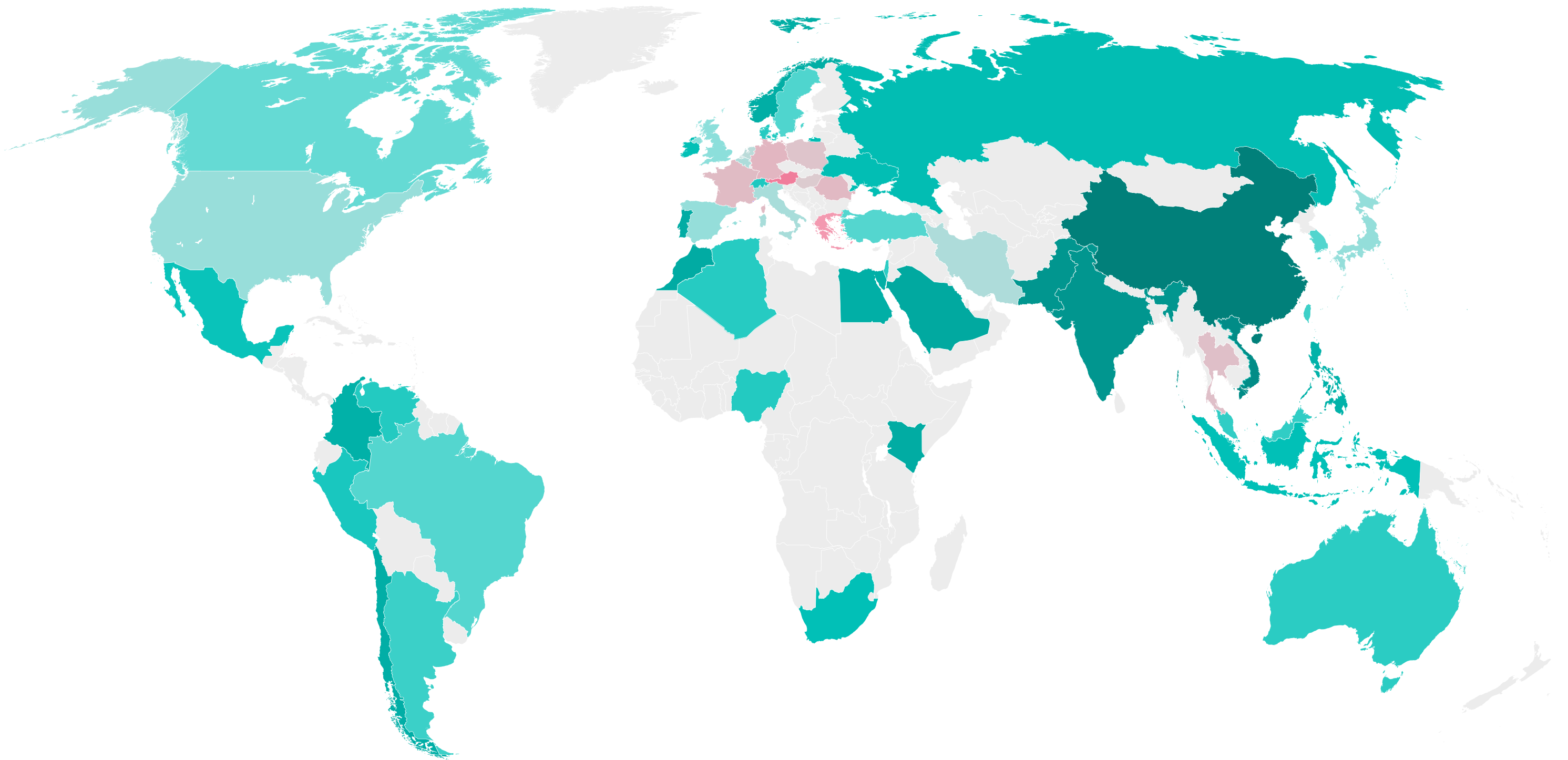


Government Response

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



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"

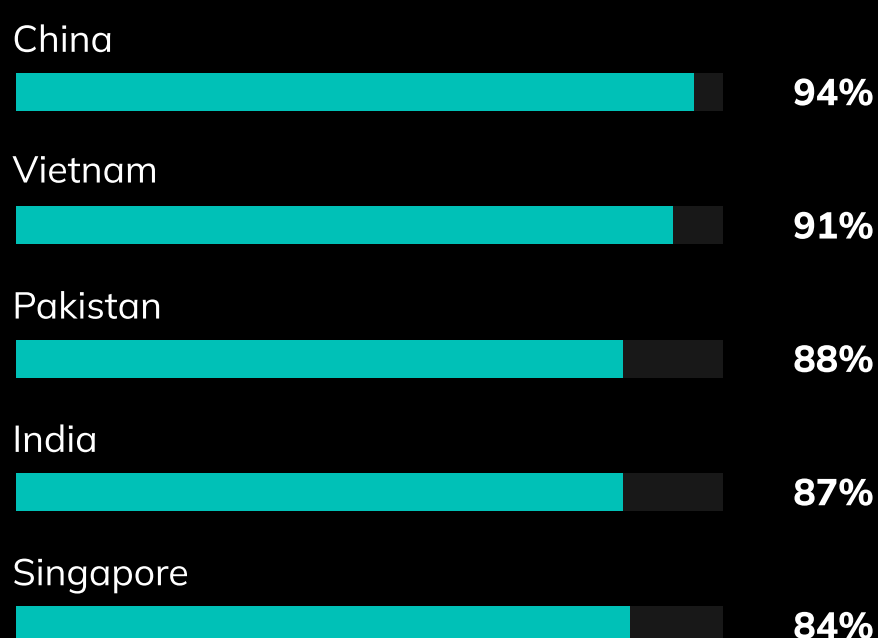


KEY FINDINGS

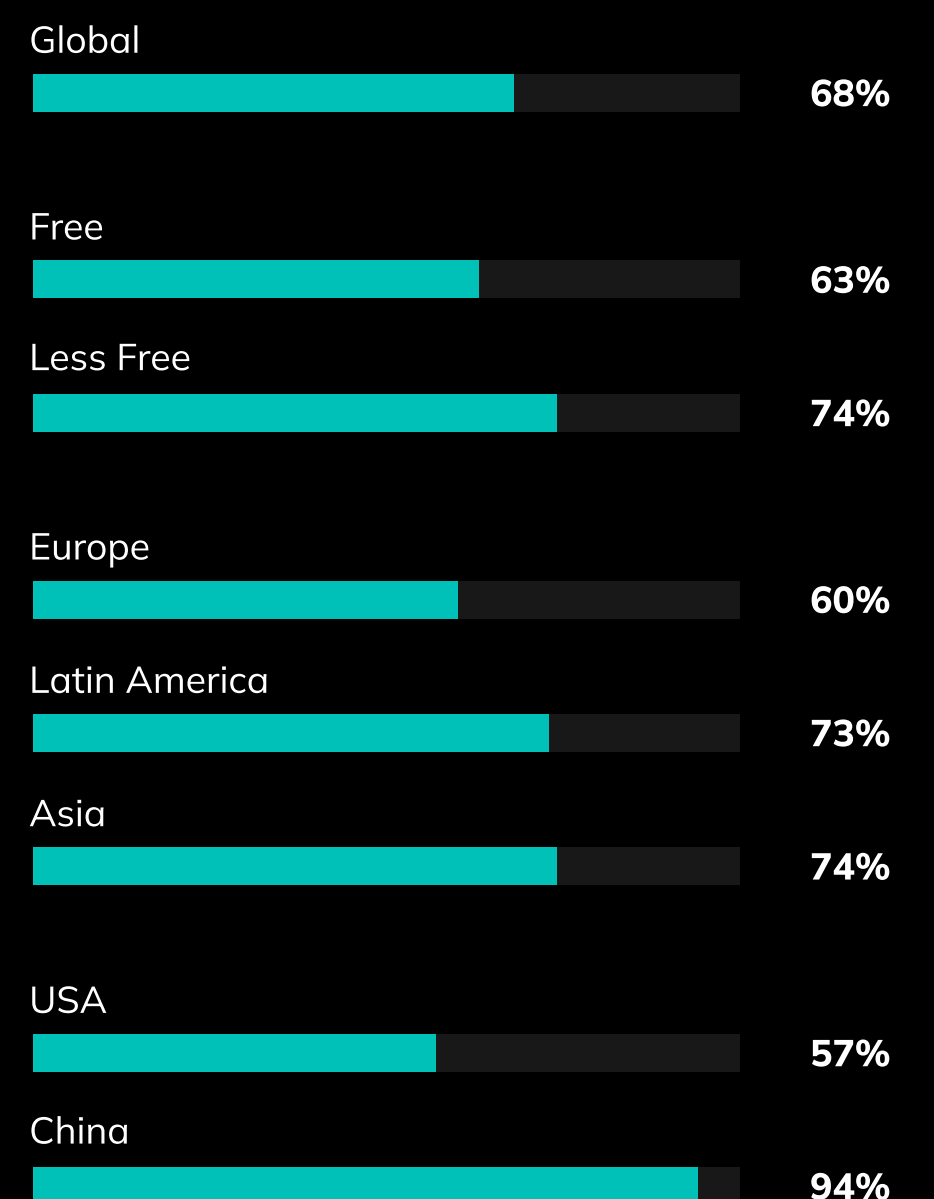
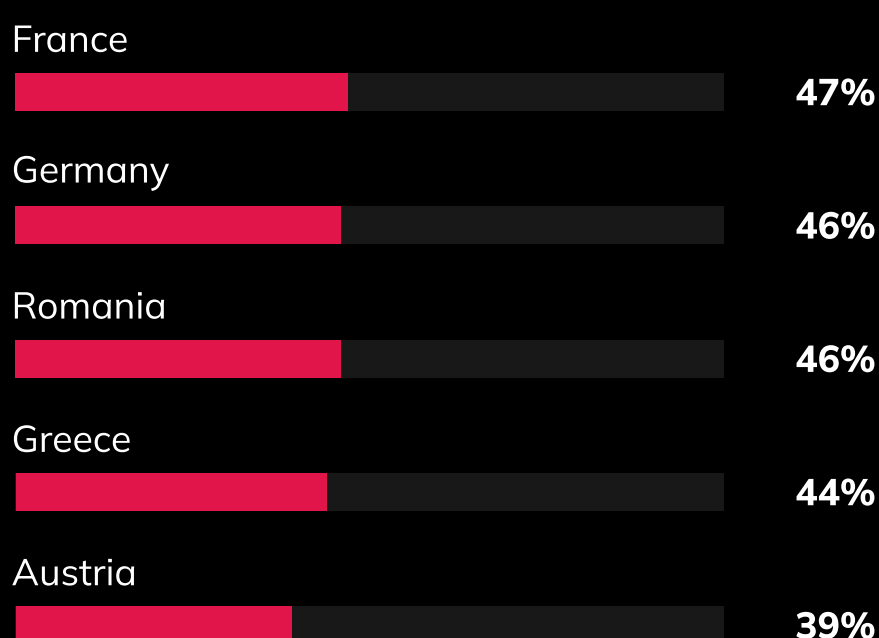
Average satisfaction is much higher in Asia (74%) and Latin America (73%) than Europe (59%).

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



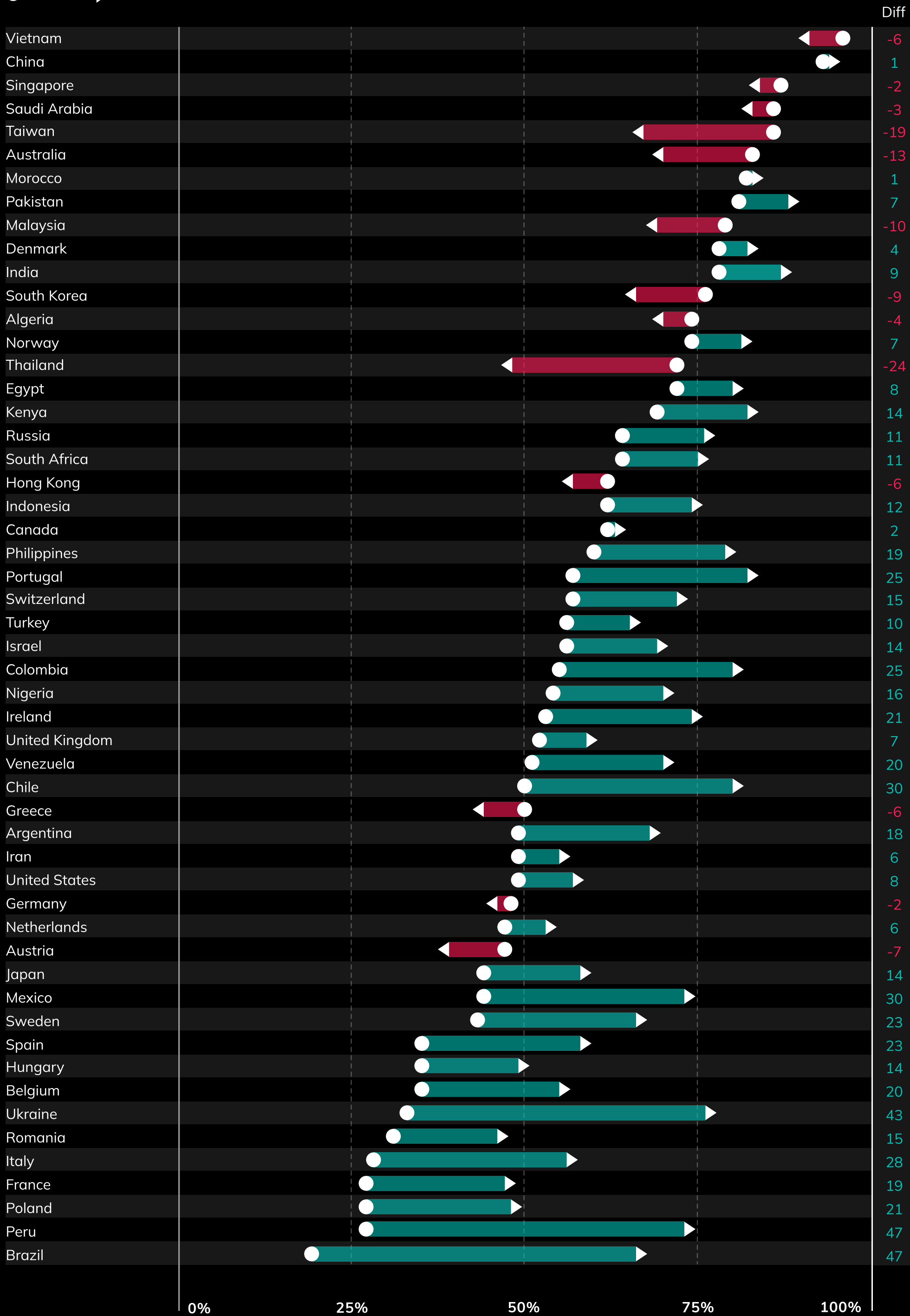
Government Response

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

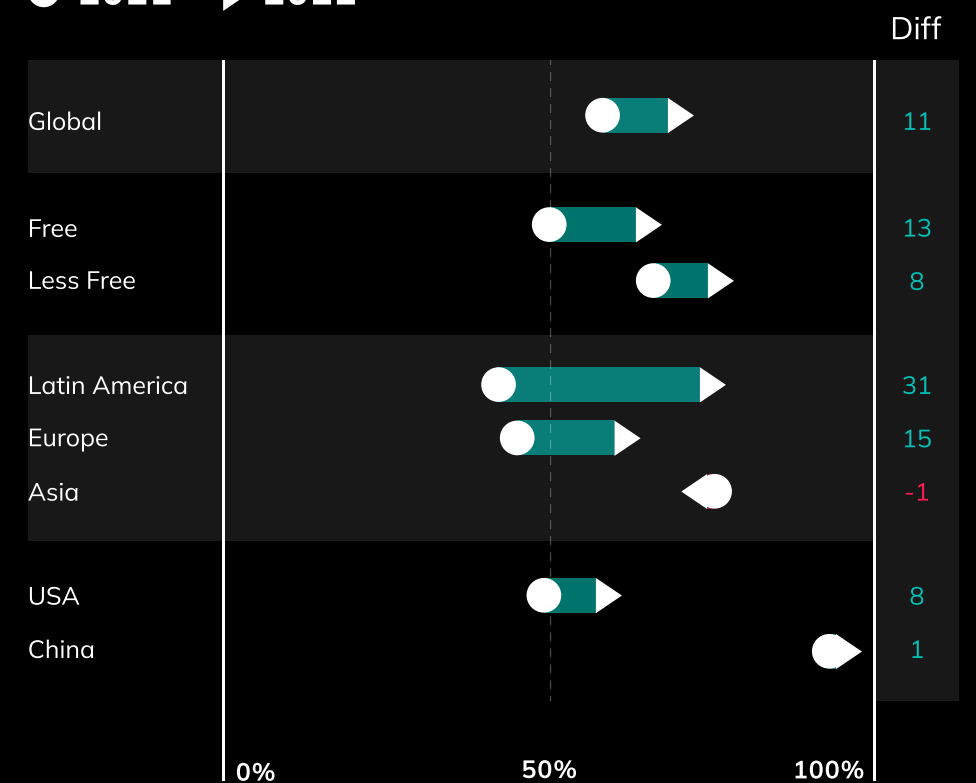
● 2021 ► 2022



Regional Trend

Satisfaction increases around the world

● 2021 ► 2022



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

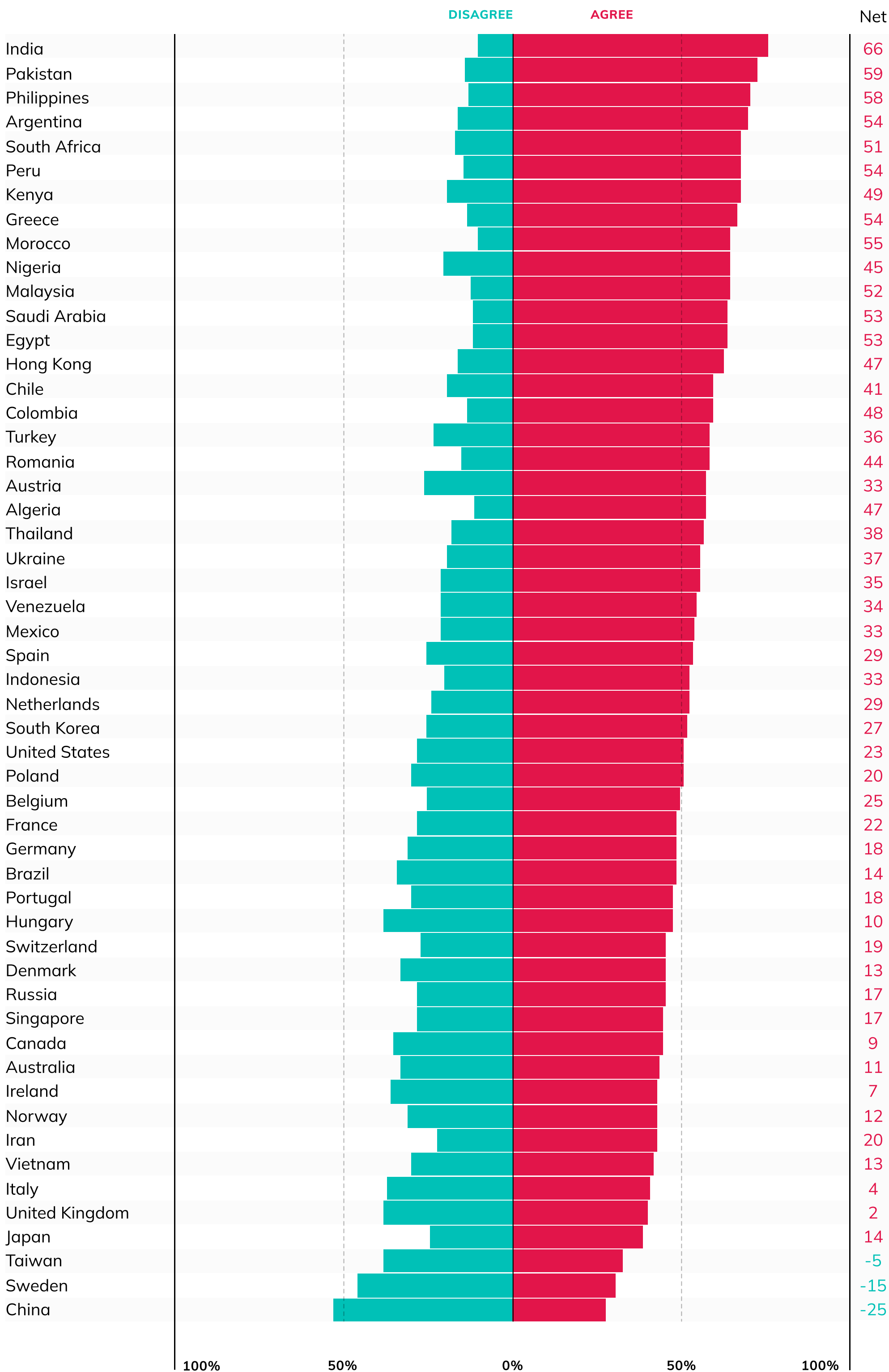
*Well includes "Very well" and "Somewhat well"

COVID Restrictions

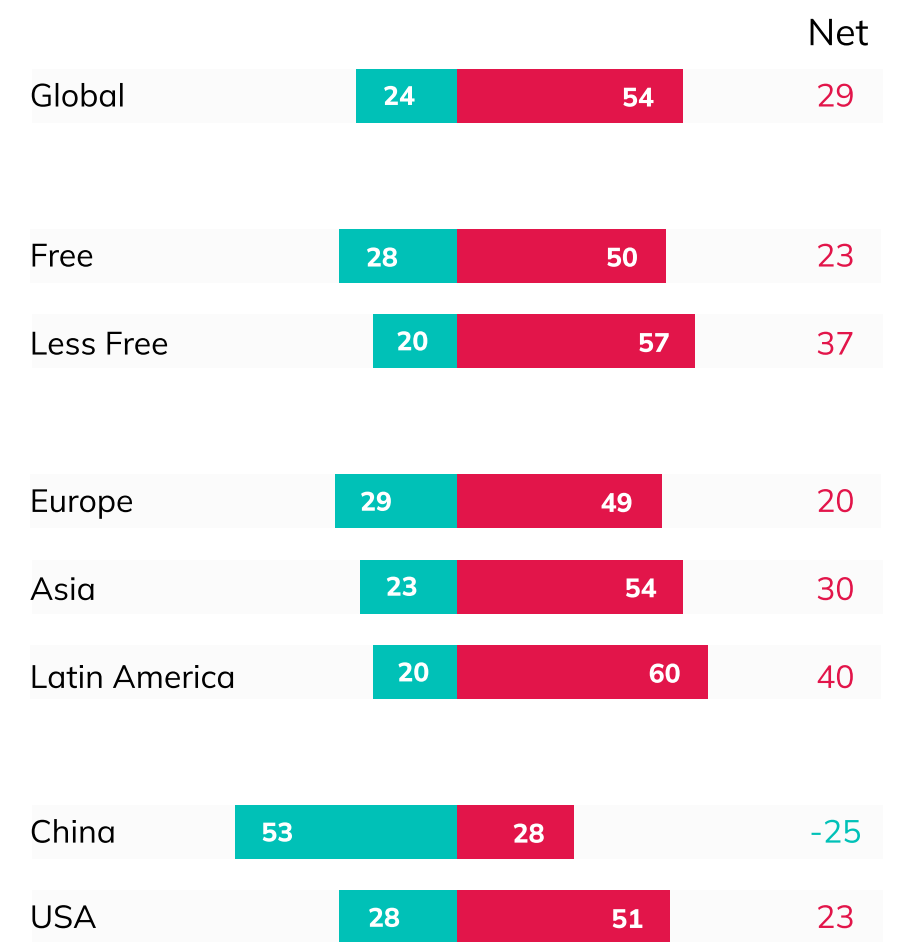
Slightly more than half of the people around the world (54%) say their government has done too much to limit basic freedoms during the COVID crisis. While this concern is higher in less democratic countries (57%), it is still as high as 50% in “free” democracies.

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



Perception of violated freedoms is most prevalent in less democratic countries



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"

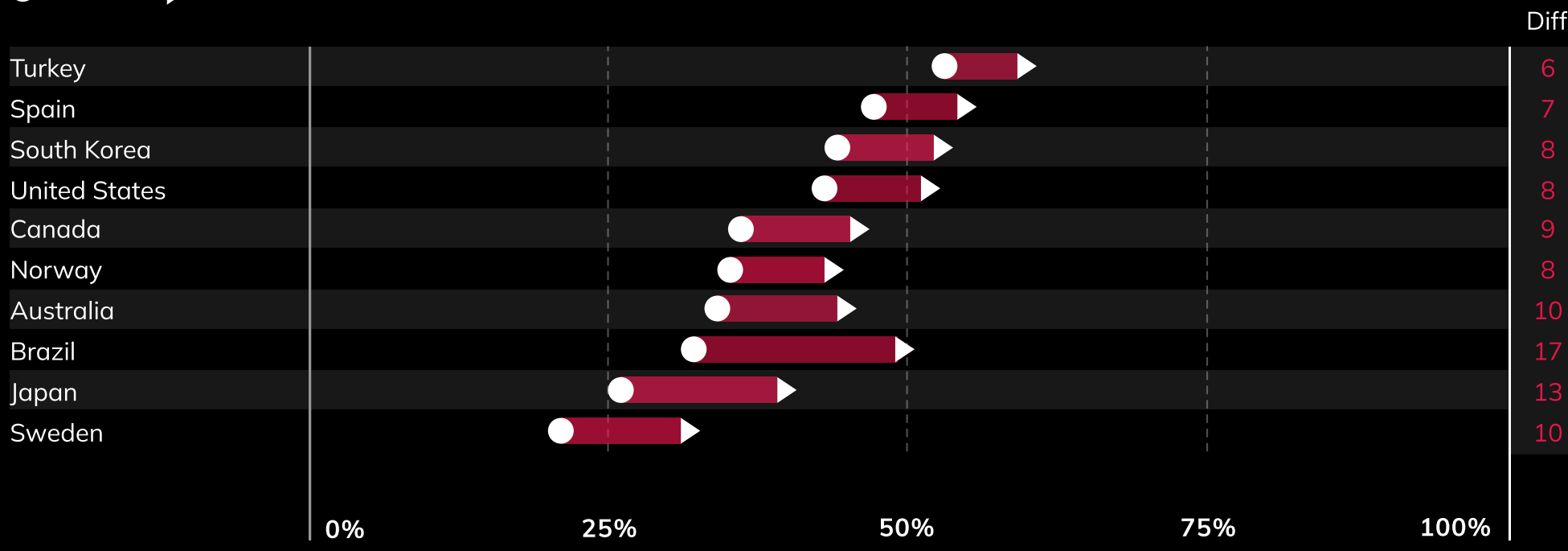
COVID Restrictions

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

● 2021 ► 2022



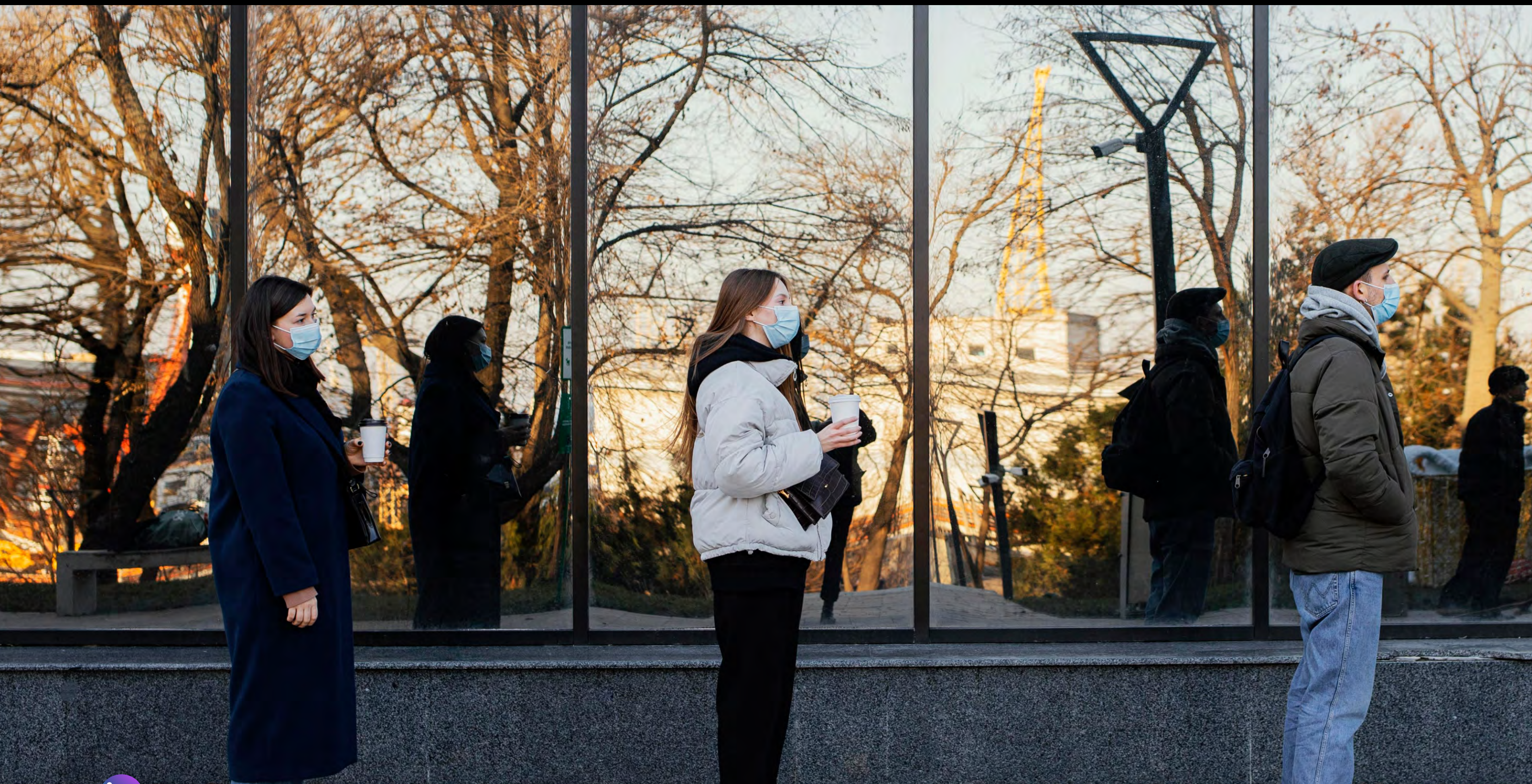
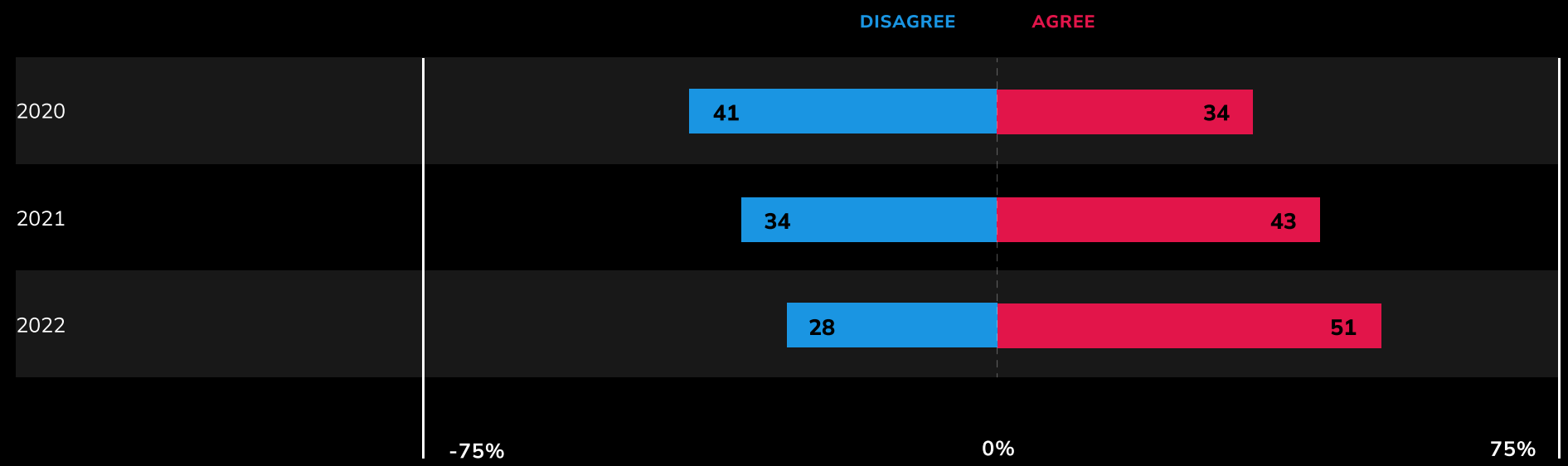
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
 "My government has done too much to limit people's freedoms during the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis"
 Strongly agree / Somewhat agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Somewhat disagree / Strongly disagree

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

KEY FINDINGS

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

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



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:

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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.



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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

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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

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

Q6

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

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

Strongly 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

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
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

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
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

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

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

Q30

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]