

Figure Axis Descriptions

Figure 1

This figure is based on democracies grouped by five-year periods. For each five-year period, all the democratic (+6 or higher on the Polity IV scale) countries are combined. The y-axis represents the number of attempted coups (which includes both successes and failures) or successful coups divided by the total number of democratic countries in that five-year period, multiplied by 100.

Figure 2

This figure is based on elections aggregated by five-year periods. The y-axis represents the percentage of western-monitored (*nelda46*) elections in each five-year period in which monitors made allegations of vote fraud (*nelda47*). Post-1975 democracies is a category that includes countries that are both democratic in a given country-year and democratized after 1975 (i.e., were not democratic at the end of 1974).

Figure 3

This figure is also based on elections aggregated by five-year periods. Only countries marked as Western-monitored by NELDA are included (*nelda46*). The y-axis represents the percentage of elections in each five-year period that were marked as being marred by either opposition harassment (*nelda15*) or the disqualification of the opposition leader (*nelda13*).

Figure 4

This figure depicts the fates of successor regimes that start in a given ten-year period. Successor regimes are nondemocratic regimes that replace democratic regimes (with democratic regimes being defined as those with a Polity IV *polity2* score of +6 or above).

The left axis represents the percentage of all successor regimes that remain nondemocratic for at least five years after their beginning. The reason the first five years are used instead of an average of autocratic duration is that the data are right-censored (we don't know the fates of regimes after 2014, potentially deflating the duration of regimes which have not yet collapsed).

The right axis represents the mean *polity2* score of successor regimes during their first five years. The axis is inverted so that lower *polity2* scores are at the top, making higher values represent more authoritarian regimes.

*Nancy Bermeo, “On Democratic Backsliding,” *Journal of Democracy* 27 (January 2016): 5–19.

Data Sources

Regime data are from Polity IV, supplemented with Polity IV data modified by Kristian Skrede Gleditsch. See Modified Polity P4 and P4D Data, Version 4.0, 2013, <http://privatewww.essex.ac.uk/~ksg/polity.html>. Additional election data are from Susan Hyde’s NELDA project (<http://hyde.research.yale.edu/nelda/>).

Coup data are from Jonathan Powell and Clayton Thyne’s “Coups d’état, 1950 to Present” dataset (www.uky.edu/~clthyn2/coup_data/home.htm).

Powell and Thyne and NELDA both use the country codes and universe of cases from Gleditsch and Ward, which differ slightly from those used in Polity IV. To get the country-years that Gleditsch and Ward include but Polity IV doesn’t and thereby maximize coverage, I add Gleditsch’s supplementary Polity IV data. Gleditsch only supplies coding of the *polity* variable, so I construct *polity2* codes according to the interpolation methods provided by Polity IV. Wherever Polity IV data is used in these figures, I use the supplemented version.

*Nancy Bermeo, “On Democratic Backsliding,” *Journal of Democracy* 27 (January 2016): 5–19.