



QS101: Introduction to Quantitative Methods in Social Science

Week 7: Conceptualisation, Operationalisation and
Measurement: Democracy

Florian Reiche

Teaching Fellow in Quantitative Methods
Course Director BA Politics and Sociology

Deputy Director of Student Experience and Progression

November 14, 2014

Presentations “The Intro Week Experience”

Conceptualisation, Operationalisation and Measurement: Democracy

Evaluation of Indexes

Democracy: Dichotomy with tertium non datur?

Next Week

Presentations “The Intro Week Experience”

Conceptualisation, Operationalisation and Measurement: Democracy



Conceptualisation, Operationalisation and Measurement: Democracy

Evaluation of Indexes



Group Work

- ▶ Group 1
 - ▶ Identify the attributes of the Polity IV scale. What are the strengths of its conceptualisation?
 - ▶ Identify the attributes of the Freedom House scale. What are the weaknesses of its conceptualisation?
- ▶ Group 2
 - ▶ Identify the attributes of the Polity IV scale. What are the weaknesses of its conceptualisation?
 - ▶ Identify the attributes of the index by Przeworski et al. What are the strengths of its conceptualisation?
- ▶ Group 3
 - ▶ Identify the attributes of the index by Przeworski et al. What are the weaknesses of its conceptualisation?
 - ▶ Identify the attributes of the Freedom House scale. What are the strengths of its conceptualisation?

Prepare a poster outlining your results





Conceptualisation, Operationalisation and Measurement: Democracy

Democracy: Dichotomy with *tertium non datur*?

Debate

- ▶ Group 1
 - ▶ Develop arguments for democracy to be measured as a graded approach.
- ▶ Group 2
 - ▶ Develop arguments for democracy to be measured as a dichotomous approach.



Democracy: Dichotomy with tertium non datur?

Example: The Distribution of Cases

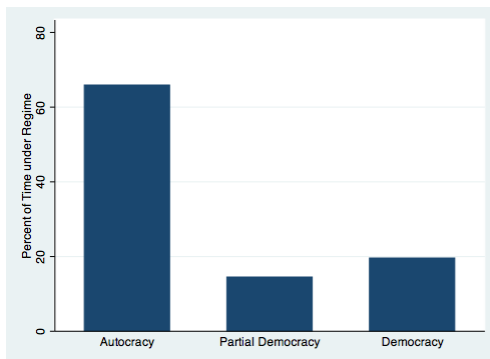


Figure: Regime Distribution in SSA, Trichotomous Measure of Democracy, N: 1742

Democracy: Dichotomy with tertium non datur?

Example: Regime Trajectories A

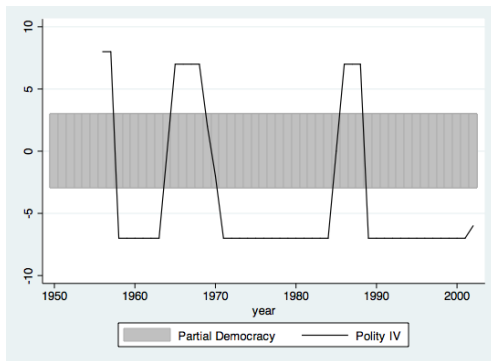


Figure: Regime Trajectory Sudan, Polity IV

Democracy: Dichotomy with tertium non datur?

Example: Regime Trajectories B

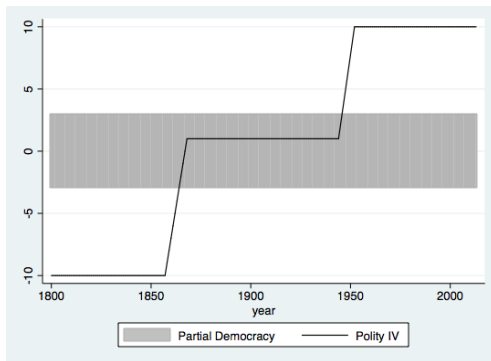


Figure: Regime Trajectory Japan, Polity IV

Next Week

Homework

- ▶ Find **at least** 3 journal articles / books which use the concept you have chosen for the assessment. Compare how the authors operationalise your concept and critically assess the selection of attributes / variables. There will be short presentations in the seminar.
- ▶ Read the required literature on the website. Prepare answers to the following questions: How is economic development conceptualised. How difficult is it to conceptualise it? What are the strengths weaknesses of different conceptualisations? Then choose two attributes (for example health and education) and list how these can be measured. Again, critically assess strengths and weaknesses of these variables. There will be group work and presentations in the seminar.