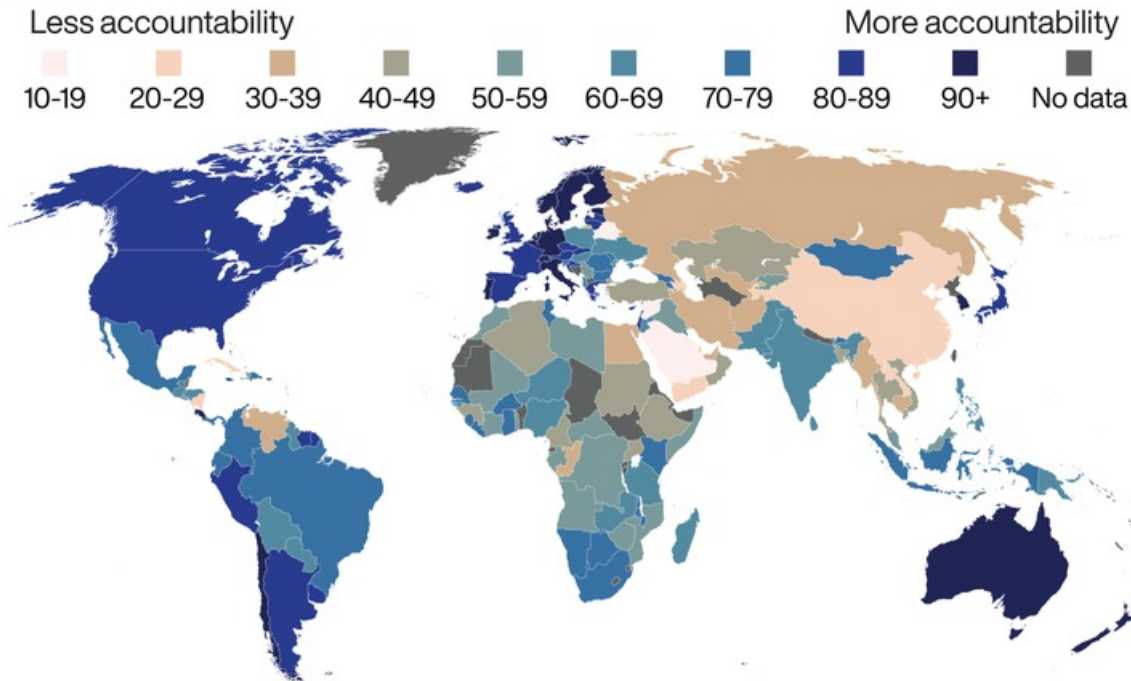


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Report: Most people live where democratic accountability is eroding

Democratic Accountability Index by country 2021



Most improved 2000-2021

- 1 Tunisia **up 48** (31 → 79)
- 2 Iraq **up 42** (17 → 59)
- 3 Libya **up 40** (16 → 56)
- 4 Gambia **up 34** (41 → 75)
- 5 Afghanistan **up 30** (6 → 36)

Biggest decline 2000-2021

- 1 Nicaragua **down 46** (69 → 23)
- 2 Hong Kong **down 39** (73 → 34)
- 3 Venezuela **down 27** (60 → 33)
- 4 Turkey **down 26** (68 → 42)
- 5= Hungary **down 25** (85 → 60)
- 5= Thailand **down 25** (70 → 45)

Los Angeles/DNA (ots) -

An overwhelming majority of the world's people live in countries that lost ground on measurable benchmarks of democratic accountability from 2010-2021, according to a global index released Wednesday by an international group of governance researchers.

Among the world's 12 most populous countries, with 4.77 billion people - nearly 59 percent of humanity - all lost ground in the Democratic Accountability Index, a component of the 2024 Berggruen Governance Index (BGI).

Among the 12 biggest countries, India, China, the United States, Indonesia, Brazil, Bangladesh, Russia and the Philippines all saw large declines of 8 to 18 points on the 100-point index. Pakistan, Nigeria, Mexico and Japan had relatively marginal declines of 2 to 4 points.

Across all 145 countries ranked in the democracy index, the average score declined from 67 out of 100 in 2010 to 65 points in 2021. The global average had risen from 64 to 67 points during 2000-2010.

Ethiopia, the 13th biggest country with 107 million people, rallied on the democracy index, albeit from a low starting point, from 36 to 49 points. It is alone among the world's 25 most populous countries to improve its democracy score from 2010-2021.

In a year that is likely to see record voter participation in elections worldwide, the 96-page report, titled "Democracy Challenged", was issued by the Luskin School of Public Affairs at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), which collaborated on the project with the Berggruen Institute, a think tank headquartered in Los Angeles, and the Berlin-based Hertie School.

The Democratic Accountability Index weighs the influence of citizens and institutions on governments, while the full report examines democratic accountability alongside two further indices on public goods and state capacity, with the goal to "better understand why some countries fare better than others at providing a high quality of life".

Amid stalled or deteriorating democratic accountability in many societies, most countries in recent decades have maintained or even improved delivery of public goods - employment, healthcare and education are examples - even in the face of headwinds such as the 2008 financial crisis and more recently the Covid-19 pandemic. Those gains have come in spite of overall stagnant scores for state capacity.

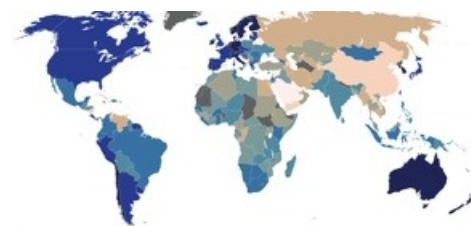
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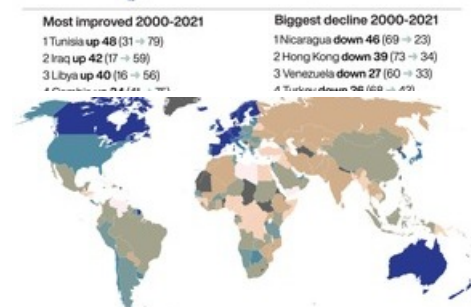
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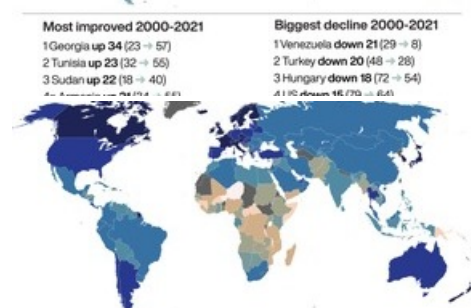
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The Democratic Accountability Index 2021 of the 2024 Berggruen Governance Index tracks the accountability of the institutions, the electoral accountability and the societal accountability of a wide range of countries. (Graphic by PA Media for DNA) / More information via ots and www.presseportal.de/en/nr/174021 / The use of this image for editorial purposes is permitted and free of charge provided that all conditions of use are complied with. Publication must include image credits.



Does a state have a steady income through taxes? Are those taxes well spent? And is there a problem with public sector theft? Those data - among other - is collected for the State Capacity Index of the 2024 Berggruen Governance Index. (Graphic by PA Media for DNA) / More information via ots and www.presseportal.de/en/nr/174021 / The use of this image for editorial purposes is permitted and free of charge provided that all conditions of use are complied with. Publication must include image credits.



The Public Goods Index of the 2024 Berggruen Governance Index shows access to goods like clean air, medical care, education or gender equality, but also the status of food security, productive knowledge or decent work conditions. (Graphic by PA Media for DNA) / More information via ots and www.presseportal.de/en/nr/174021 / The use of this image for editorial purposes is permitted and free of charge provided that all conditions of use are complied with. Publication must include image credits.



Most improved 2000-2021	Biggest decline 2000-2021
1 Bhutan up 35 (33 → 68)	1 Libya down 5 (67 → 62)
2 Ethiopia up 33 (11 → 44)	2 Syria down 2 (58 → 56)
3 Afghanistan up 31 (11 → 42)	2+ Uruguay down 2 (78 → 76)
4 Azerbaijan up 24 (14 → 38)	4 Iceland down 1 (69 → 68)



The question of democratic accountability is a major topic of discussion in the USA. According to the new Berggruen Governance Index (BGI), the USA has taken a step backwards in this respect in the years 2010-2021. The picture shows demonstrators outside of Manhattan Criminal Court as former US President Donald Trump attends the first day of his trial for allegedly covering up hush money payments linked to extramarital affairs, in New York City on April 15, 2024. (Photo by Adam Grey / AFP) / More information via ots and www.presseportal.de/en/nr/174021 / The use of this image for editorial purposes is permitted and free of charge provided that all conditions of use are complied with. Publication must include image credits.

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