

## Governance and Access to Information

Sources: Freedom House, Polity IV Project, International Parliamentary Union, Privacy International, Global Civil Society Yearbook, and the International Telecommunications Union.

	Level of Freedom (free, partly free, not free)		Level of Civil Liberties (1=most free, 7= least free)		Polity Index of Democracy/Autocracy (-10=fully autocratic, 10=fully democratic) 2000	Percent of Parliamentary Seats Held by Women 2002	Corruption Perceptions Index (10=least corrupt, 0=most corrupt) 2001	Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Per Million Population		Press Freedom (1-30=free, 31-60=partly free, 61-100=not free) 2001	Freedom of Information Legislation, Status in 2002	Radios Per 1,000 Population 1997	Internet Users Per 1,000 Population 2001
	1991-1992	2001-2002	1991-1992	2001-2002				1990	2000				
Iran, Islamic Rep	NF	NF	5	6	3	3	X	12	14	75	X	279	6
Iraq	NF	NF	7	7	-9	8	X	29	22	96	X	222	X
Israel	F	F	2	3	10	13	7.6	401	383 a	30	in effect	526	243
Jordan	PF	PF	4	5	-2	3	4.9	180	133	60	X	372	42
Kuwait	NF	PF	5	5	-7	0	X	253	369	49	X	650	101
Lebanon	PF	NF	4	5	interruption	2	X	182	291	74	X	687	X
Oman	NF	NF	6	5	-9	X	X	117	148	68	X	621	46
Saudi Arabia	NF	NF	6	7	-10	X	X	39	48	80	X	326	14
Syrian Arab Rep	NF	NF	7	7	-7	10	X	36	36	78	X	276	4
Turkey	PF	PF	4	5	7	4	3.6	22	33	58	X	181	37
United Arab Emirates	NF	NF	5	5	-8	0	X	191	295	74	X	318	339 b
Yemen	PF	NF	5	6	-2	1	X	25	18	65	X	65	1

An "X" indicates that data are not available. a. Data for Israel include the occupied territories. b. Internet Dial-up customers.



For more data and statistics, visit EarthTrends, the environmental information portal at <http://earthtrends.wri.org/>  
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## Sources and Technical Notes

### VARIABLE DEFINITIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

**Level of Freedom** is designated by Freedom House as Free (F), Partly Free (PF), or Not Free (NF). In Free countries, a broad range of political rights and civil liberties are respected. Partly Free countries have a mixed record or political rights and civil liberties, often accompanied by corruption, weak rule of law, and the inordinate political dominance of a ruling party. In Not Free countries, basic political rights and civil liberties are denied. A country's freedom rating reflects a measure of two general characteristics: political rights and civil liberties, each measured on a scale of 1 to 7. If a country's combined average political rights and civil liberties ranking is between 1 and 2.5, the country is "Free". Countries with averages between 3 and 5.5 are "Partly Free"; greater than 5.5, "Not Free". To determine each rating, researchers answer a series of survey questions through country visits and research involving an extensive network of sources, listed on-line at <http://www.freedomhouse.org/research/freeworld/2001/sources.htm>. The survey measures real world situations caused by state and nongovernmental factors instead of government intentions or legislation; in addition, the survey "does not maintain a culture-bound view of democracy." Free countries can have political systems based on competing family groups and personalities rather than European- or American-style political parties. For more information about the survey, please refer to the following web page maintained by Freedom House: <http://www.freedomhouse.org/research/freeworld/2001/methodology.htm>.

**Level of Civil Liberties** is rated on a scale of 1 to 7, with 1 representing the most free and 7 representing the least free. Countries with a rating of 1 generally have an established and equitable rule of law with free economic activity. A rating of 2 indicates some deficiencies, while a rating of 3, 4, or 5 indicates varying degrees of censorship, political terror, and prevention of free association. Countries with a rating of 6 experience severely restricted expression and association coupled with political terror (e.g. political prisoners). A rating of 7 indicates virtually no freedom. Freedom House notes that a poor rating for a country "is not necessarily a comment on the intentions of the government, but may indicate real restrictions on liberty caused by non-governmental terror." To determine each rating, researchers answer a series of survey questions about civil liberties through country visits and research involving an extensive network of sources, listed on-line at <http://www.freedomhouse.org/research/freeworld/2001/sources.htm>. Each survey question is answered with a number of raw points; the sum of these raw points is typically used to calculate a country's 1-7 rating. The survey team may make some small adjustments for factors such as extreme violence that can not be reflected in the survey questions. The fourteen Civil Liberties questions, available on-line at <http://www.freedomhouse.org/research/freeworld/2001/methodology3.htm>, are classified in four categories: Freedom of Expression and Belief, Association and Organizational Rights, Rule of Law and Human Rights, and Personal Autonomy and Economic Rights.

The **Polity Index of Democracy/Autocracy** is a scale from -10 to +10 measuring the degree to which a nation is either autocratic or democratic. A score of +10 indicates a strongly democratic state; a score of -10 a strongly autocratic state. A fully democratic government has three essential elements: fully competitive political participation, institutionalized constraints on executive power, and guarantee of civil liberties to all citizens in their daily lives and in political participation. A fully autocratic system sharply restricts or suppresses competitive political participation. The chief executives are chosen by an elite group and exercise power with few institutionalized constraints. Some countries are labeled "interregnum", indicating an interruption in government due to foreign occupation; "interregnum", marking an interregnum period after the complete collapse of a centralized political authority; or, "in transition", indicating a transitional or provisional government in control as new institutions are planned. The Polity index does not measure social activity, economic activity, or the impacts of traditional, separatist or revolutionary groups unless they affect the central governing structure. The Polity index is derived from sub-indices measuring competitiveness of political participation, the openness and competitiveness of executive recruitment, and the constraints on the chief executive. A complete explanation of the index calculation is available in the *Polity IV Project Dataset User's Manual*, available on-line at <http://www.bsos.umd.edu/cidcm/inscr/polity/polreg.htm>.

**Percent of Parliamentary Seats Held by Women** is calculated based on the total number of seats in parliament and the number of seats occupied by women. When there is both an Upper House (Senate) and a Lower House of parliament, the total number of women in both houses is divided by the total number of seats in both houses. Data are current as of March 1, 2002. The IPU compiles this data based on information provided to them by national parliaments.

The **Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)** measures the degree to which corruption is perceived to exist among public officials and politicians. Ratings range in value from 10 (least corrupt) to 0 (most corrupt). The survey measures public sector corruption, the abuse of public office for private gain. The CPI examines local and national governments, not domestic and foreign corporations doing business in these countries. A complement to the CPI is the Bribe Payer's Index (BPI), not shown in these tables, which measures the propensity of companies from 21 leading exporting countries to pay bribes to senior public officials in 15 emerging market countries. The BPI is available on-line at <http://www.transparency.org/cpi/2002/bpi2002.en.html>. In the CPI, data from fourteen surveys are combined to measure the perceptions of local residents, expatriates, business people, academics and risk analysts. Assessments from the past three years (1999-2001) are combined. A country is included in the CPI only if there are data available from 3 or more surveys. For further information, please consult: Lambsdorff, J.G. 2001. *Background Paper to the 2001 Corruption Perceptions Index*. Available on-line at <http://www.transparency.org/cpi/2001/dnld/methodology.pdf>.

**Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Per Million Population** is the number of NGOs with offices or members in a particular country divided by the population. NGOs are identified by the Union of International

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Associations based on seven organizational aspects: aims; membership; structure; officers; finance; relations with other organizations; and activities. The following types of organizations are included in this data set: federations of international organizations, universal membership organizations, intercontinental membership organizations, regionally defined membership organizations, organizations emanating from places, persons, or other bodies, and organizations having a special form, including foundations and funds.

**Press Freedom** is an index, defined by Freedom House as "the degree to which each country permits the free flow of information" on a scale of 1 to 100. Countries with a score between 1 and 30 are considered to have a "Free" media, 31 to 60, "Partly Free", and 61 to 100, "Not Free". Freedom House emphasizes that this survey does not measure press responsibility; rather, it measures the degree of freedom in the flow of information. Press freedom data are collected by Freedom House from overseas correspondents, staff travel, international visitors, the findings of human rights organizations, specialists in geographic and geopolitical areas, the reports of governments, and a variety of domestic and international news media. The final index measures three separate categories of influence on the media: national laws and administrative decisions; censorship and intimidation; and quotas, licensing biases, or government funding.

**Freedom of Information (FOI) Legislation** requires disclosure of government records to the public. Access to information about government activities increases transparency and allows citizens to more effectively combat corruption. There are now 48 countries with comprehensive general applicability FOI laws, plus a dozen or so countries with FOI-related constitutional provisions that can be used to access information. A country's guarantee of public access to information is classified in one of 3 categories:

*In Effect:* These countries legally guarantee public access to government records through constitutional provisions or FOI legislation.

*Pending:* Thirty additional countries are considering adopting freedom of information acts.

*No Data:* Marked by an "X", these are countries where no FOI legislation exists or no data is available concerning FOIA status.

Data are collected by Privacy International on a country-by-country basis and were last updated in July, 2002.

**Radios Per 1,000 Population** Radios per 1,000 people is the number of radio receivers used for broadcast to the general public, divided by a country's population in thousands. Private sets installed in public places are also included as well as communal receivers. The World Bank obtains their data on radio receivers from statistical surveys conducted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

**Internet Users Per 1,000 Population** measures the number of people per 1,000 of a country's population that have used the internet at any point in time during a specific year. Data are supplied by annual questionnaires sent to telecommunication authorities and operating companies. These results are supplemented by annual reports and statistical yearbooks of telecommunication ministries, regulators, operators and industry associations. In some cases, estimates are derived from ITU background documents or other references.

### FREQUENCY OF UPDATE BY DATA PROVIDERS:

All data sets are updated annually, with the exception of the parliamentary and internet data. These data sets are updated every 2-4 months. Data on radio receivers has not been collected on a global scale since 1999 (survey year 1997), when UNESCO discontinued their *Statistical Yearbook*.

### DATA RELIABILITY AND CAUTIONARY NOTES:

Many of the data in this table are index calculations and therefore contain an unavoidable amount of subjectivity. Users should bear in mind that this index is measuring ideas and behaviors and not a discrete physical quantity. While these data can illustrate rough comparisons and trends over time, rigid score comparisons and rankings are discouraged.

**Polity Index of Democracy/Autocracy.** The Polity IV data are subject to substantial cross-checking and inter-coder reliability checks. The least reliable calculations are typically the most recent, due to "the fluidity of real-time political dynamics and the effects this immediacy may have on the assignment of Polity codes in a semi-annual research cycle".

**Percent of Parliamentary Seats Held by Women.** Data change with each national election; for the most recent statistics, please consult the IPU web site at <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm>. Some governments and political parties have established formal or informal quotas for women in various legislative positions. For more information on gender quotas, please consult the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) on-line at <http://www.idea.int/gender/quotas.htm>.

**Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI).** CPI is based solely on perceptions instead of hard empirical data such as cross country comparisons of prosecutions or media coverage of corruption. Empirical data are not used because they may measure the extent of anti-corruption efforts instead of the extent of corruption. A spreadsheet with standard deviations, permutation test results, and a list of the surveys used for each country is available on-line at <http://www.gwdg.de/~uwww/2001.htm>.

**Number of Non-Governmental Organizations Per Million Population.** The compilation of such a massive data set inevitably leads to misreporting and underreporting of organizations. Many of the data are self-reported and not evaluated for accuracy by the UIA. Government-controlled NGOs, criticized for their ability to benefit government officials and subvert the original purpose of a non-governmental organization, may be included in some country totals. Regional totals may include double counting of NGOs present in more than one country. Comparisons between countries should be made with care, as actual estimates of the number of NGOs vary widely.

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**Freedom of Information Legislation.** While the FOI data have been thoroughly researched, there are unavoidable difficulties in assigning each country to one of three categories. Some countries have laws guaranteeing access, but the laws are not enforced. Still others guarantee access to government documents in specific sectors, excluding access in other sectors. For a complete description of the FOI status for each country, please refer to the Freedom of Information web site maintained by Privacy International <http://www.privacyinternational.org/issues/foia>.

**Radios Per 1,000 People.** In some countries definitions, classifications, and methods of enumeration do not entirely conform to UNESCO standards. In addition, many countries impose radio license fees to help pay for public broadcasting, discouraging radio owners from declaring ownership.

### SOURCES:

**Level of Freedom and Civil Liberties:** Freedom House. 2001. *Freedom in the World 2001-2002: The Democracy Gap*. New York: Freedom House. Data available on-line at <http://www.freedomhouse.org/research/survey2002.htm>. **Polity Index:** Polity IV Project. 2002. *Polity IV Project: Political Regime Characteristics and Transitions*. College Park: University of Maryland. Available on-line at <http://www.bsos.umd.edu/cidcm/inscr/polity/index.htm>. **Parliament Seats Held by Women:** Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). 2002. *Women in National Parliament*. Geneva: IPU. Available on-line at <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm>. **Corruption Perceptions Index:** Transparency International. 2001. *2001 Corruption Perceptions Index*. Berlin: Transparency International. Available on-line at <http://www.transparency.org/cpi/2001/cpi2001.html>. **NGOs Per Million Population:** Center for the Study of Global Governance. 2001. *Global Civil Society 2001*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Available on-line <http://www.lse.ac.uk/Depts/global/Yearbook/>. Data were collected from the Union of International Associations' *Yearbook of International Organizations* by the Center for the Study of Global Governance. **Press Freedom:** Freedom House. 2002. *The Annual Survey of Press Freedom 2002*. New York: Freedom House. Available on-line at <http://www.freedomhouse.org/pfs2002/pfs2002.pdf>. **Freedom of Information Legislation:** Banisar, David. 2002. *Freedom of Information and Access to Government Records Around the World*. Washington, DC: Privacy International. Available on-line at <http://www.privacyinternational.org/issues/foia/foia-survey.html>. **Radios Per 1,000 People:** Development Data Group, the World Bank. 2002. *World Development Indicators 2002 Online*. Washington, D.C.: The World Bank. Available at <http://www.worldbank.org/data/>. **Internet Users Per 1,000 People:** International Telecommunications Union (ITU). 2002. *World Telecommunications Indicators 2002*. Geneva: ITU. Available on-line at <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/publications/world/world.html>.