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# Globally, Broad Support for Representative and Direct Democracy

*But many also endorse  
nondemocratic alternatives*

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# Globally, Broad Support for Representative and Direct Democracy

*But many also endorse nondemocratic alternatives*

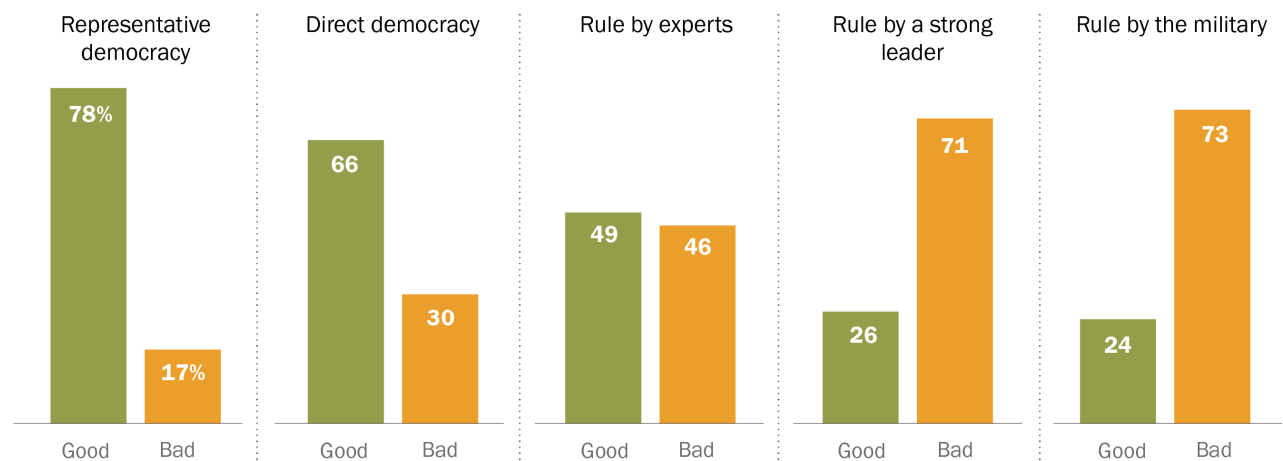
A deepening anxiety about the future of democracy around the world has spread over the past few years. Emboldened autocrats and rising populists have shaken assumptions about the future trajectory of liberal democracy, both in nations where it has yet to flourish and countries where it seemed strongly entrenched. Scholars have documented a global “[democratic recession](#),” and some now [warn](#) that even long-established “consolidated” democracies could lose their commitment to freedom and slip toward more authoritarian politics.

A 38-nation Pew Research Center survey finds there are reasons for calm as well as concern when it comes to democracy’s future. More than half in each of the nations polled consider representative democracy a very or somewhat good way to govern their country. Yet, in all countries, pro-democracy attitudes coexist, to varying degrees, with openness to nondemocratic

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## Widespread support for representative and direct democracy, but many are also open to nondemocratic alternatives

Would \_\_\_ be a good or bad way of governing our country?



Note: Percentages are global medians based on 38 countries. Full question wordings for political systems: Representative democracy, “A democratic system where representatives elected by citizens decide what becomes law”; Direct democracy, “A democratic system where citizens, not elected officials, vote directly on major national issues to decide what becomes law”; Rule by experts, “Experts, not elected officials, make decisions according to what they think is best for the country”; Rule by a strong leader, “A system in which a strong leader can make decisions without interference from parliament or the courts”; Rule by the military, “The military rules the country.”  
Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey. Q29a-e.

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forms of governance, including rule by experts, a strong leader or the military.

A number of factors affect the depth of the public's commitment to representative democracy over nondemocratic options. People in wealthier nations and in those that have more fully democratic systems tend to be more committed to representative democracy. And in many nations, people with less education, those who are on the ideological right and those who are dissatisfied with the way democracy is currently working in their country are more willing to consider nondemocratic alternatives.

At the same time, majorities in nearly all nations also embrace another form of democracy that places less emphasis on elected representatives. A global median of 66% say direct democracy – in which citizens, rather than elected officials, vote on major issues – would be a good way to govern. This idea is especially popular among Western European populists.

These are among the major findings of a Pew Research Center survey conducted among 41,953 respondents in 38 countries from Feb. 16 to May 8, 2017.

The survey reveals that large numbers in many nations would entertain political systems that are inconsistent with liberal democracy. For instance, when asked about a system in which experts, not elected representatives, make key decisions based on what they think is best for the country, a median of 49% across these 38 countries say this would be a good way to run their nation.

Unconstrained executive power also has its supporters. In 20 countries, a quarter or more of those polled think a system in which a strong leader can make decisions without interference from parliament or the courts is a good form of government. This type of regime is particularly popular in several nations where executives have extended or consolidated their power in recent years, such as the Philippines, Russia and Turkey.

While military rule is the least popular political system tested on the survey, even this finds some support across the globe. Notable minorities in many nations consider it a good way to govern, and half or more express this view in Vietnam, Indonesia, India and South Africa.

## Shallow commitment to representative democracy

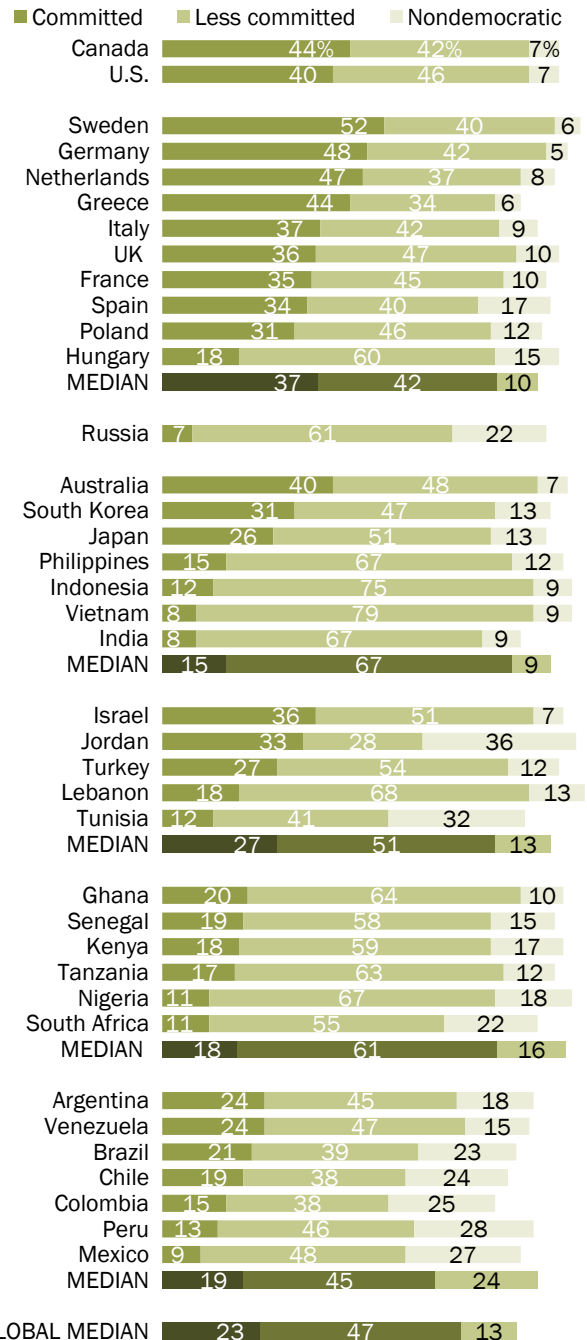
To examine the public's support of representative democracy over nondemocratic alternatives, we constructed a commitment to representative democracy index. (The index does not include the question about direct democracy.) Respondents are classified as "committed democrats" if they support a system in which elected representatives govern but do not support rule by experts, a strong leader or the military (i.e., nondemocratic governments). Respondents who say a representative democracy is good but also support at least one nondemocratic form of government are classified as "less-committed democrats." And those who do not support representative democracy and instead support at least one nondemocratic form of government are classified as "non-democrats."

Roughly a quarter of people (median of 23%) across the 38 countries surveyed are committed democrats. About twice as many (median of 47%) are less-committed democrats. Relatively few (13%) are nondemocratic. A small share (8%) does not endorse any of these forms of governance.

Commitment to representative democracy is strongest in North America and Europe. A median of 37% across the 10 European Union nations polled, as well as 40% in the United States and 44% in Canada, support democracy while rejecting nondemocratic forms of government. Australia is the only country outside of North America and Europe where at least four-in-ten are categorized as committed democrats.

## Substantial percentages willing to consider nondemocratic options

*Commitment to representative democracy index*



Note: Only respondents saying at least one political system included in the index would be a good way to govern their country are shown.

Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey, Q29b-e.

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Sweden (52%) shows the strongest level of commitment of all countries surveyed, with roughly half holding this view. By contrast, Russia (7%) has the lowest percentage of committed democrats.

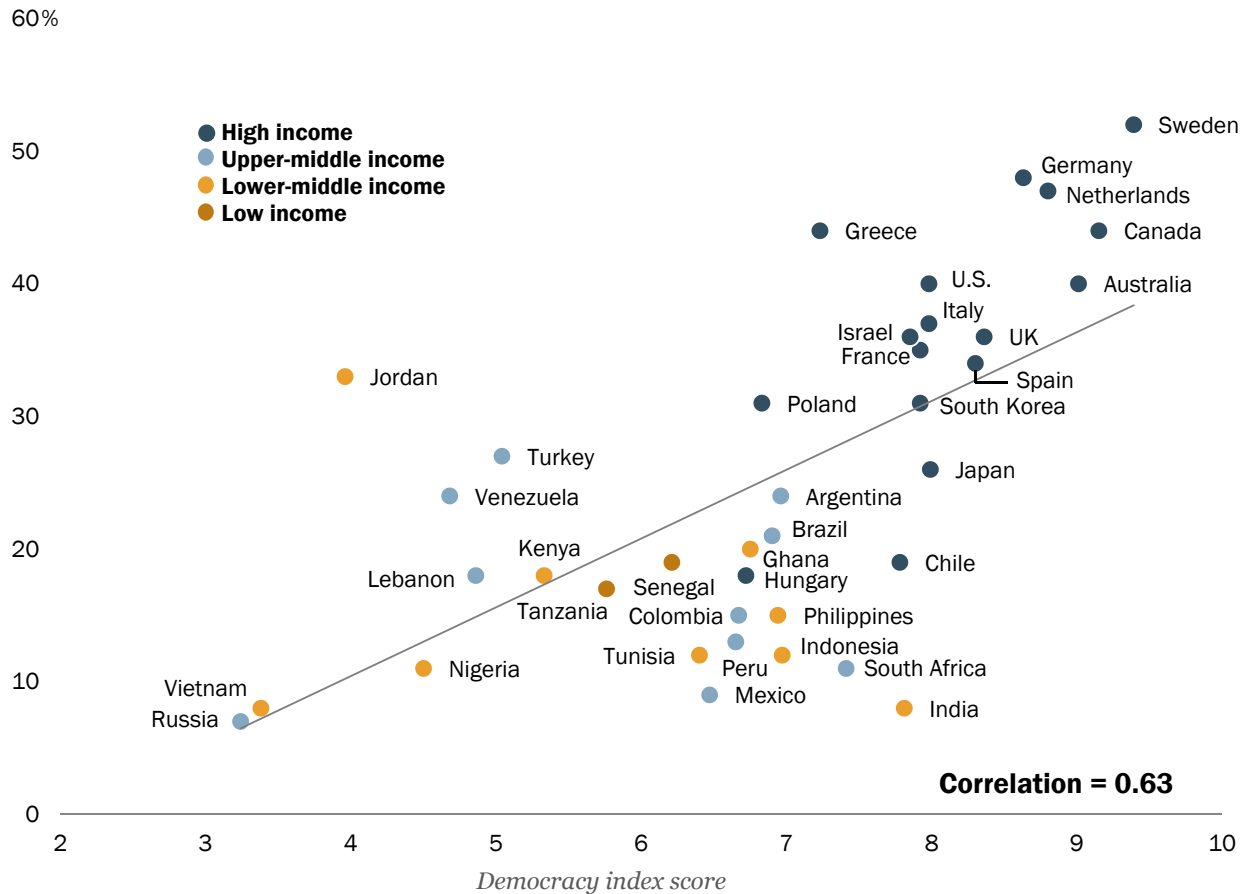
A median of 27% in the Middle East and North Africa are classified as committed to representative democracy. In this region, Israelis (36%) and Jordanians (33%) are most likely to prefer democracy to nondemocratic forms of government. But roughly one-in-five or fewer are committed to representative democracy in Latin America (median of 19%), sub-Saharan Africa (median of 18%) and the Asia-Pacific (median of 15%).

### **Those in more democratic, wealthier nations are more committed to representative democracy**

In general, public commitment to representative democracy is highest in countries that have a well-functioning democracy. The Economist Intelligence Unit's [Democracy Index](#) is one measure of how democratic a country is. The EIU index ranks countries from 0 to 10, where 0 indicates an authoritarian regime and 10 represents a full democracy. The ranking is based on 60 indicators of a country's performance across five categories: the electoral process and pluralism, civil liberties, functioning of government, political participation and political culture. The index is closely correlated with our classification of committed democrats. For example, the Netherlands is ranked higher on the EIU index with a score of 8.8, and 47% of the Dutch can be described as committed supporters of representative democracy. Meanwhile, Nigeria has a democracy index score of 4.5 and just 11% of Nigerians meet the committed democrat criteria.

## Countries with more democratic systems, greater wealth show more widespread commitment to representative democracy

% committed to representative democracy\*



\*Respondents are classified as “committed democrats” if they support a system in which elected representatives govern and do not support rule by experts, the military or a strong leader who can make decisions without interference from parliament or the courts.

Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey. Q29b-e. Democracy index data from The Economist Intelligence Unit’s Democracy Index 2016. Income categorization from the World Bank, based on GNI per capita, accessed Sept. 25, 2017.

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The above scatterplot also reveals another pattern: Countries that are classified as more fully democratic and that have a higher percentage of the public committed to representative democracy also tend to be wealthier. In the scatterplot, the countries are color-coded by their economic ranking from the World Bank, which classifies countries into four income categories based on their per-capita gross national income: high, upper-middle, lower-middle and low income. The group of countries in the upper-right-hand corner of the scatterplot – where the Democracy Index ranking and the percentage of committed democrats are highest – are all upper-income countries.



## Even in rich, well-established democracies, nondemocratic models find some support

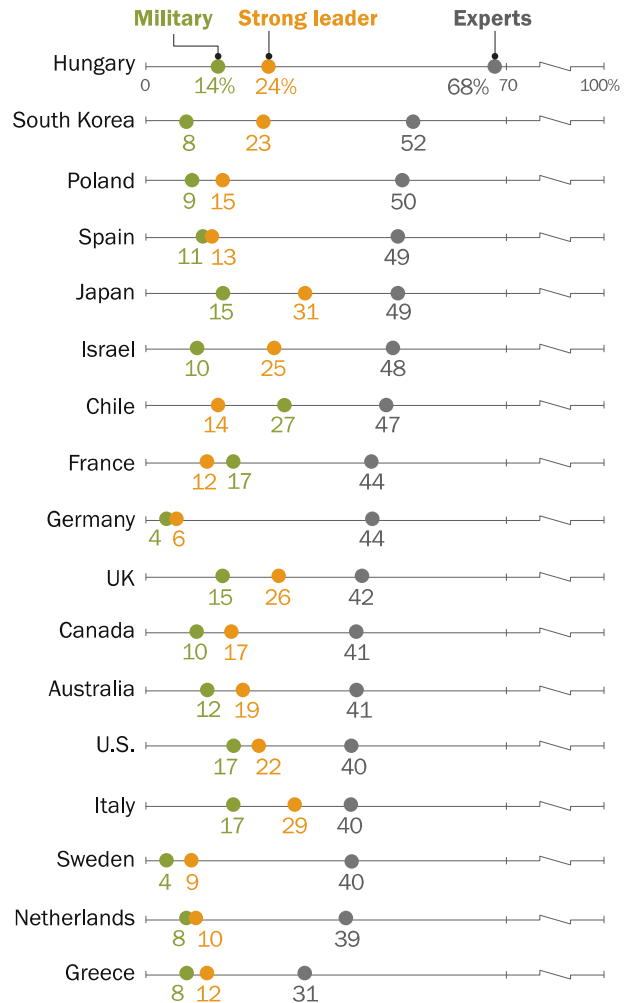
Although commitment to representative democracy is relatively high in wealthy, strong democracies, notable minorities in these types of countries are open to nondemocratic alternatives.

Rule by experts has considerable appeal in many of these nations, with roughly half or more in Hungary, South Korea, Poland, Spain, Japan, Israel and Chile suggesting this could be a good way of running their country.

There is less support for a strong leader who can make decisions without interference from a parliament or courts. Still, about a quarter or more back this idea in Japan, Italy, the United Kingdom, Israel, Hungary, South Korea and the U.S. And while military rule is relatively unpopular, 17% endorse this idea in the established democracies of the U.S., Italy and France.

### In high-income countries, many would consider nondemocratic alternatives

Rule by \_\_\_ would be a good way to govern our country



Note: Full question wordings for political systems: Rule by experts, "Experts, not elected officials, make decisions according to what they think is best for the country"; Rule by a strong leader, "A system in which a strong leader can make decisions without interference from parliament or the courts"; Rule by the military, "The military rules the country."

Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey. Q29c-e.

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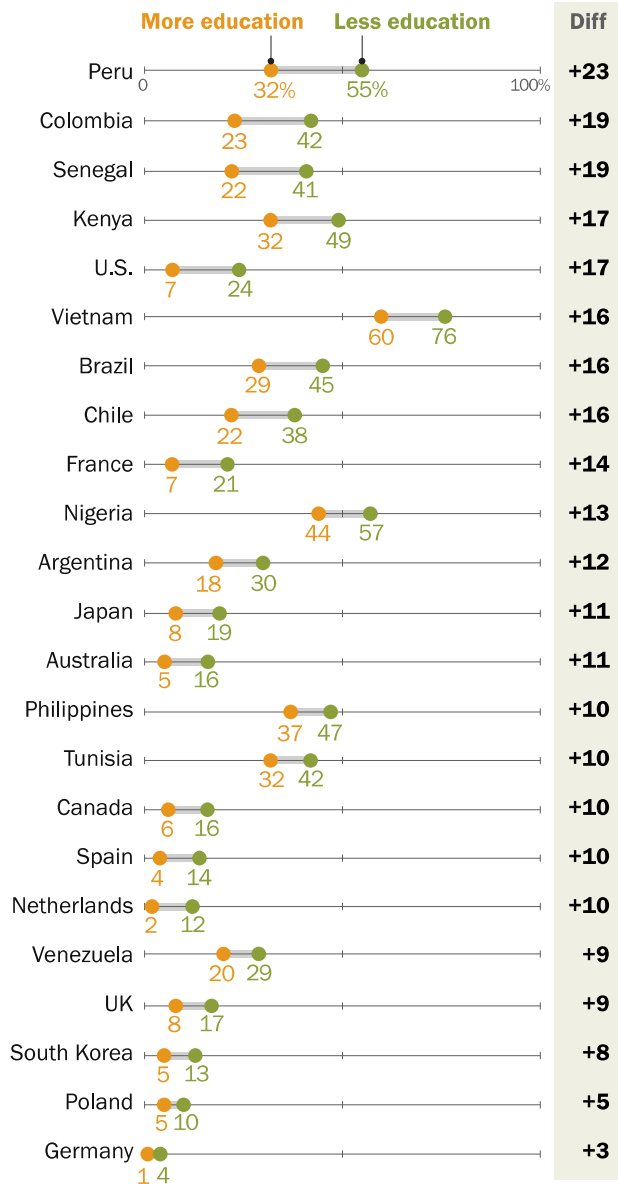
## Education, ideology key drivers of support for nondemocratic alternatives

At the individual level, education has a large impact on attitudes about governance. In 22 of the countries surveyed, people with higher levels of education are more likely than those with less education to be classified as committed to representative democracy.<sup>1</sup>

Among the three types of nondemocratic governments asked about, the education gap is largest on rule by the military. People with less education are more likely than those with more education to say a military government would be a good thing in 23 countries. In 18 of these countries, the gap is at least 10 percentage points. For example, in the U.S., 24% of people with a secondary education or less say rule by the military would be good for their country, compared with 7% of those with more than a secondary education.

## People with less education more likely to support military government

*Military rule would be a good way to govern our country*



Note: Only statistically significant differences shown.  
Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey. Q29e.

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<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of comparing education groups across countries, we standardize education levels based on the United Nations' International Standard Classification of Education. The lower education category is below secondary education and the higher category is secondary or above in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, Venezuela and Vietnam. The lower education category is secondary education or below and the higher category is postsecondary or above in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, UK and U.S.

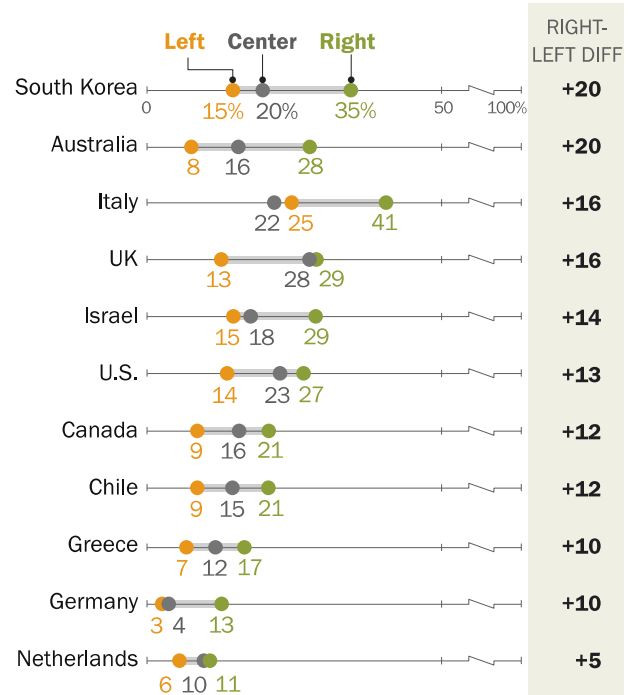
There are also significant ideological and partisan divides in many of these countries on the questions about nondemocratic alternatives. Support for a strong, unchecked leader, for example, is significantly more common on the ideological right in Australia, Italy, the UK, the U.S., Canada, Greece and Germany.

The strong leader model also finds backing in Italy among those favorable to Forza Italia, the political party of former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi – 43% of those with a favorable view of the party endorse this approach to governing. In Britain, it is more popular among those with a positive opinion of the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP).

And in the U.S., a third of Republicans say a strong leader who can govern without interference from other branches of government is a good thing, compared with 20% of independents and 17% of Democrats.

### Ideological right more supportive of strong leader ruling without constraints

*A system in which a strong leader can make decisions without interference from parliament or the courts would be a good way to govern our country*



Note: In U.S., ideology is defined as conservative (right), moderate (center) and liberal (left). Only statistically significant differences shown.

Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey. Q29c.

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## Satisfaction with democracy's performance is tied to partisanship, the economy

In 26 of the 38 countries surveyed, people who are satisfied with their democracy are more likely to support representative democracy as a form of government. In turn, satisfaction with democracy varies considerably across regions and countries, and even within countries. People's evaluations of democracy's functioning differ considerably based on their economic attitudes and partisan orientations.

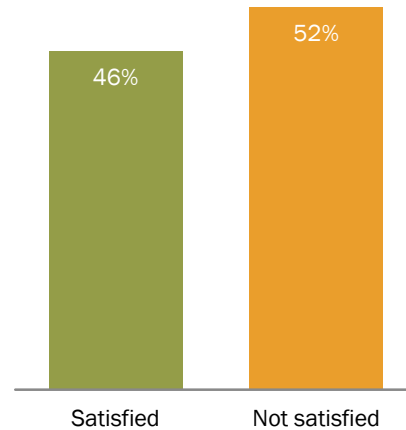
Overall, a global median of 46% say they are satisfied with the way democracy is working in their country, while 52% are not. Satisfaction is most common in Asia-Pacific and sub-Saharan Africa, and least common in Latin America. In Europe, opinions vary widely across nations. More than seven-in-ten are happy with their democracy in Sweden, the Netherlands and Germany. But two-thirds or more are unhappy in Italy, Spain and Greece – all southern European nations that have struggled economically over the past decade.

Views about the economy are strongly related to satisfaction with democracy. In nearly every country, people who say the national economy is currently doing well are more likely than those who say it is doing poorly to be satisfied with the political system. In 29 of 36 countries, the gap in democratic satisfaction between those who are happy with the economy and those who are unhappy is at least 20 percentage points.

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### Publics split on how well democracy is working

— with the way democracy is working in our country



Note: Percentages are global medians across 36 countries. Question not asked in Turkey or Vietnam.  
Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey. Q9.

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The gap is largest in Venezuela – a nation beset by economic difficulties – where 72% of those who think the economy is in good shape are satisfied with how democracy is working, compared with only 14% among Venezuelans who say the economic situation is bad.

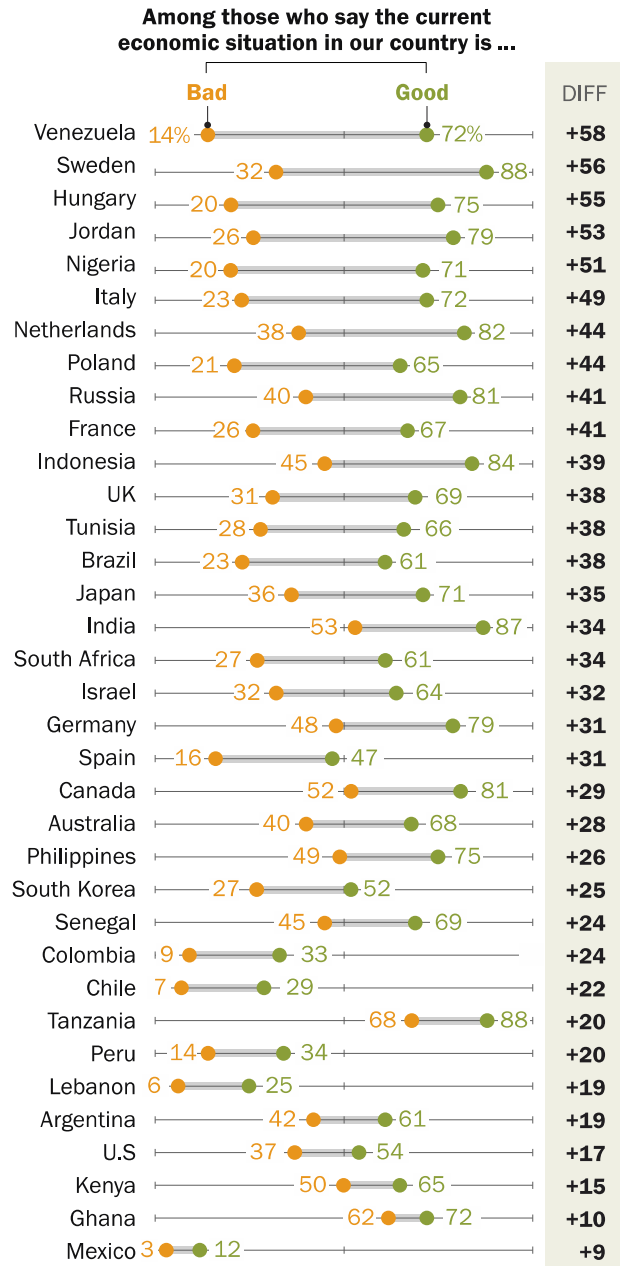
European countries also tend to have some of the largest differences on satisfaction with democracy between those who think the economy is doing well and those who do not, including gaps of more than 50 percentage points in Sweden and Hungary.

Satisfaction with the way democracy is working is also tied to how people see the past and the future. In 35 nations, satisfaction is lower among those who think life for people like themselves is worse today than it was 50 years ago. In 34 countries, satisfaction is lower among those who believe children growing up today will be financially worse off than their parents.

In addition, people who support the party in power are much more likely to say they are satisfied with the way democracy is working in their country. For example, overall, 46% in the U.S. are satisfied with how democracy is working. However, fully 68% of Republicans hold this view, compared with just 49% of independents and 31% of Democrats.

### Those upbeat on the economy more likely to be satisfied with democracy

*Satisfied with the way democracy is working in our country*



Note: Only statistically significant differences shown. Question not asked in Turkey or Vietnam.  
Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey. Q9.

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## 1. Many unhappy with current political system

Public attitudes about the political system broadly and the national government specifically vary considerably around the world, though many are critical. Opinions are closely related to the status of the economy and domestic politics. Publics who have experienced high economic growth and are happy with their country's economy are more confident in their national government. Similarly, people who support the governing party or parties in their country tend to give more positive evaluations of their democracy than those who support either the opposition or no political party at all.

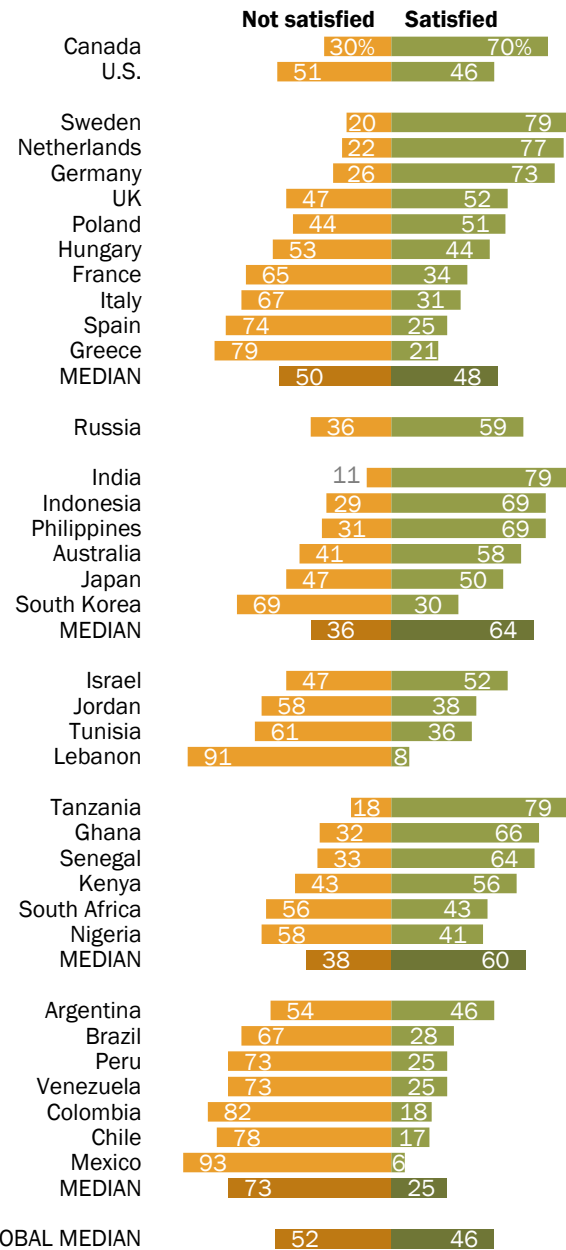
### Mixed reviews of the way democracy is working

Publics around the globe are generally unhappy with the functioning of their nations' political systems. Across the 36 countries asked the question, a global median of 46% say they are very or somewhat satisfied with the way their democracy is working, compared with 52% who are not too or not at all satisfied.

Levels of satisfaction vary considerably by region and within regions. Overall, people in the Asia-Pacific region are the most happy with their democracies. At least half in five of the six Asian nations where this question was asked express satisfaction. Only in South Korea is a majority unhappy (69%). The survey in South Korea was conducted in February and March of this year, amid the corruption scandal that led to the impeachment of then-President Park Geun-hye.

### Middle East, Latin America are least satisfied with way democracy working

*How satisfied are you with the way democracy is working in our country?*



Note: Question not asked in Turkey or Vietnam.

Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey. Q9.

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People in sub-Saharan Africa also tend to be more satisfied than others around the world with the performance of their political system. Majorities in Tanzania, Ghana, Senegal and Kenya say their democracy is working well. South Africans and Nigerians, however, are more dissatisfied.

Elsewhere, satisfaction with democracy is considerably lower. In North America, 70% of Canadians say they think their political system is working well, but Americans are divided. Just under half in the U.S. (46%) are happy with their democracy and 51% are unhappy.

While broad majorities in Sweden, the Netherlands and Germany say their political system is functioning well, roughly half of British and Poles say the same. Nearly two-thirds or more in southern Europe are unhappy with their democracies, including 79% in Greece.

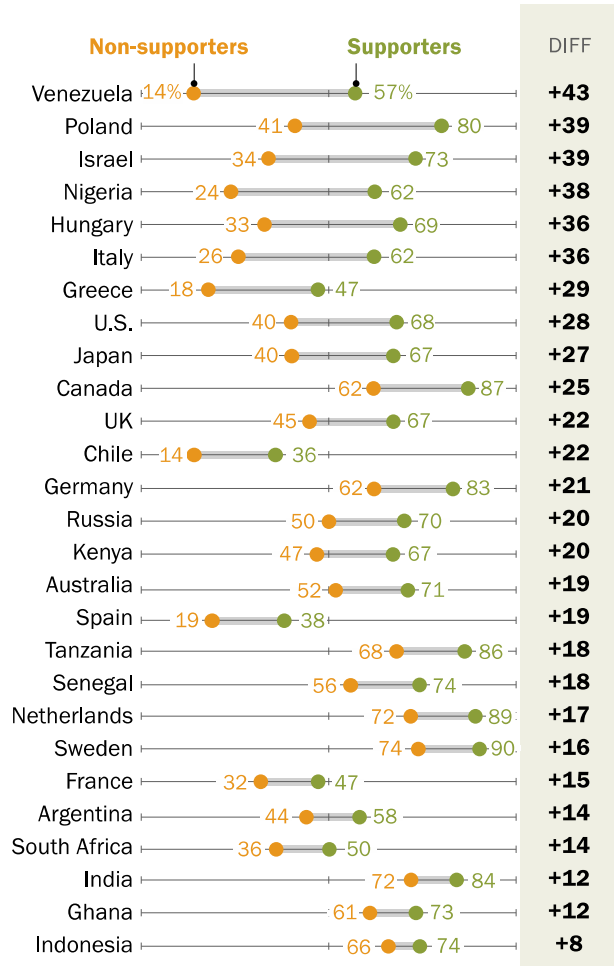
Similarly, majorities in most countries surveyed in the Middle East and Latin America express disappointment with how democracy is working in their nation. Mexicans and Lebanese are the most dissatisfied, with at least nine-in-ten in each country who say their current political system is not working well.

In many countries, partisanship has a significant impact on attitudes about the functioning of democracy. People who identify with the current governing party or parties are significantly more satisfied with their political system than those who either support the opposition or identify with no political party (see Appendix for how governing party supporters were coded). For example, in the U.S., 68% of people who identify with the Republican Party say they are satisfied with their democracy, while just 40% of Americans who do not identify with the Republican Party say the same.

The partisan divisions over the functioning of democracy are particularly large in Europe. Of the 10 countries surveyed in the region, six publics exhibit a gap of at least 20 percentage points in democratic satisfaction between those who identify with the governing party or parties and those who do not. Outside of Europe, the partisan divisions on this question are largest in Venezuela (43 points), Israel (39) and Nigeria (38).

## Supporters of the parties in power are more satisfied with the way democracy is working

Satisfied with the way democracy is working among \_\_\_ of the governing political party/parties



Note: Only statistically significant differences shown.  
Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey, Q9.

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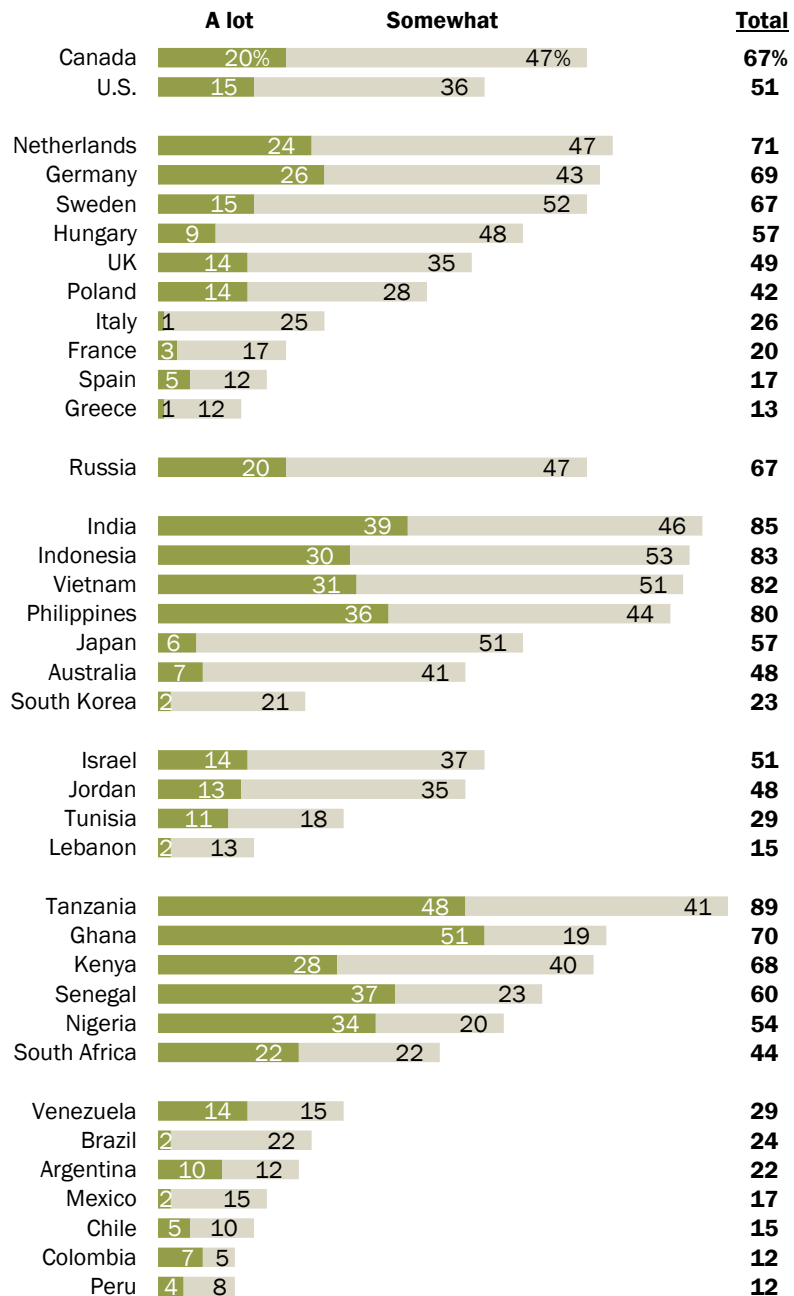
## Lack of trust in national government

Attitudes about the functioning of democracy are closely tied to publics' trust in their national government. People who are satisfied with how democracy works in their country also tend to say they trust the national government to do what is right for the country. Given that, the global distribution of trust in national governments is very similar to attitudes about the political system more broadly. People in the Asia-Pacific and sub-Saharan Africa regions are more positive about their national government than others around the world, while publics in the Middle East, Latin America and southern Europe are especially negative.

Still, some countries stand out for their lack of trust. A global median of 14% say they trust their national government *a lot* to do what is right for the country. While this percentage is quite low, 5% or less of the public expresses this level of confidence in their national government in 10 of 37

## Few worldwide have a lot of trust in their government

*How much do you trust the national government to do what is right for our country?*



Note: Question not asked in Turkey.

Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey, Q4.

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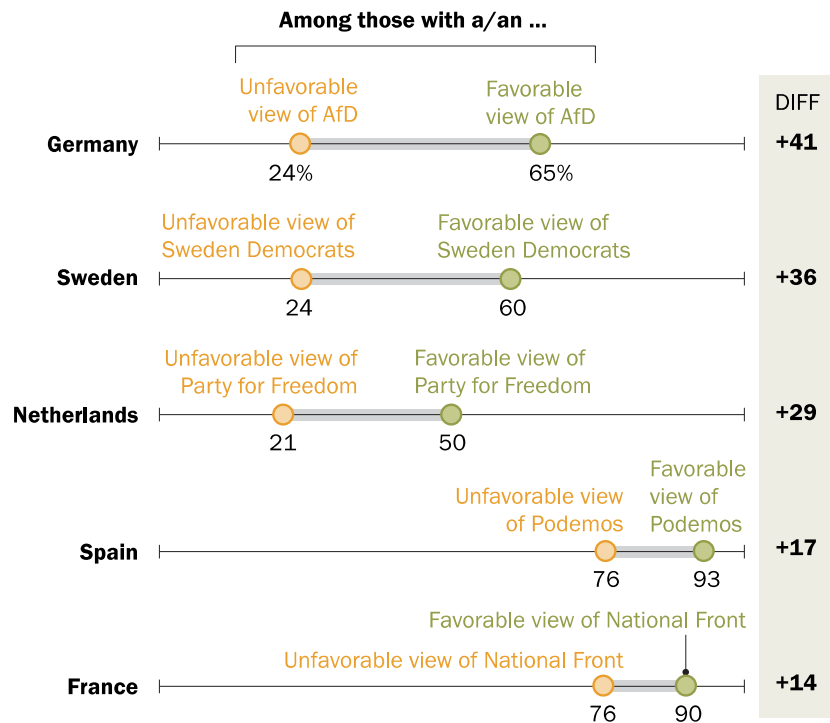
countries asked the question: Spain, Chile, Peru, France, South Korea, Brazil, Mexico, Lebanon, Italy and Greece.

As with democratic satisfaction, attitudes about the national government are deeply partisan. In 30 of the 37 countries, people who identify with the governing party express more trust in the government than those who do not identify with the leading party. In 13 countries, the partisan gap is 30 percentage points or more.

Another key political driver of attitudes about the national government in Europe is support for populist parties. In many European countries, where rising populist sentiment has upended traditional political dynamics, people who have favorable views of populist parties are considerably more skeptical of the national government than those who have an unfavorable attitude toward these parties. The difference is largest in Germany: 65% of those who have a positive view of the Alternative for Germany party (AfD) say they trust the national government not much or not at all, compared with just 24% of those who have a negative view of the party.

### Those who favor populist parties in Europe express deeper levels of distrust of government

*Do not trust the national government to do what is right for our country*



Note: Only statistically significant differences shown.  
Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey, Q4.

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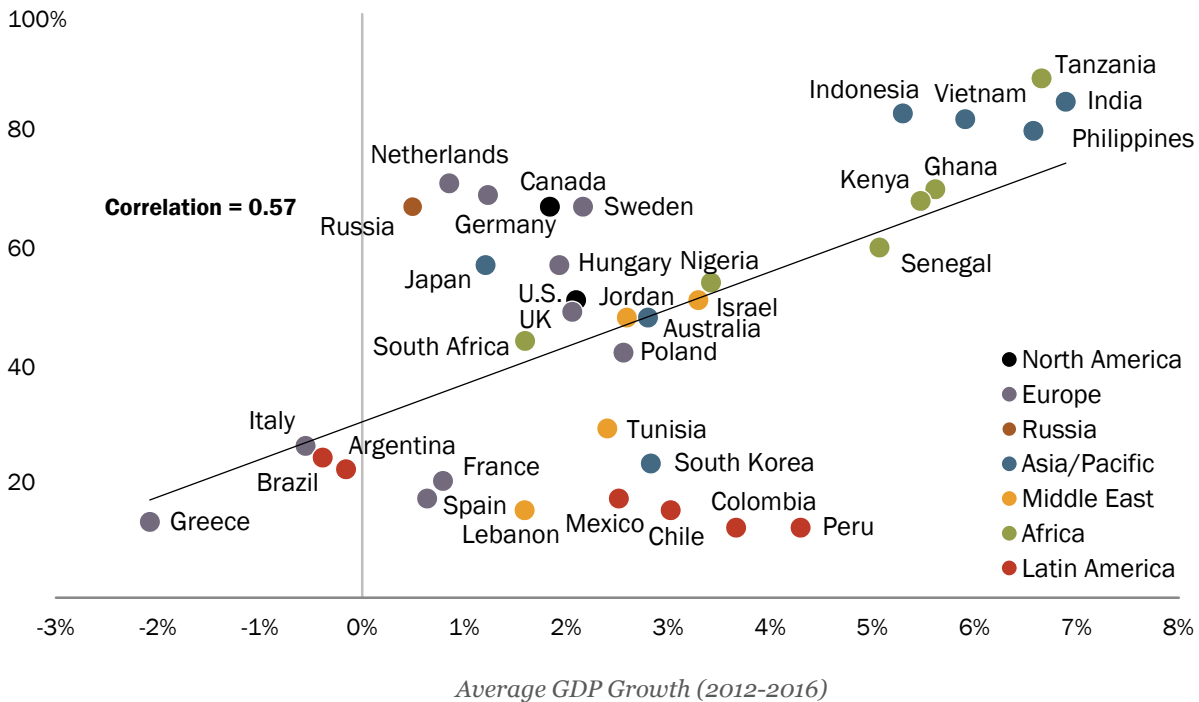
Moreover, most of the difference in trust between populist party supporters and their fellow countrymen comes in saying they trust the government “not at all.” In France, broad majorities of both those who like the National Front (FN) and those who do not say they lack trust in the government (90% and 76%, respectively). But among National Front supporters, 71% say they trust the government *not at all*, compared with 35% of people who have an unfavorable view of FN.

## People in more rapidly growing economies more trusting of government

In addition to politics, the status of the economy is strongly related to people’s trust in their government. Publics that have experienced a higher level of economic growth over the past five years tend to have more confidence in their national government to do the right thing for their country. For example, in India, where the economy has grown on average by 6.9% since 2012, 85% trust their national government. Meanwhile, just 26% of Italians have confidence in their government; their economy has contracted over the past five years (-0.5% average GDP growth).

### People in high-growth-rate countries more likely to trust their national government

*Trust the national government to do what is right for our country*

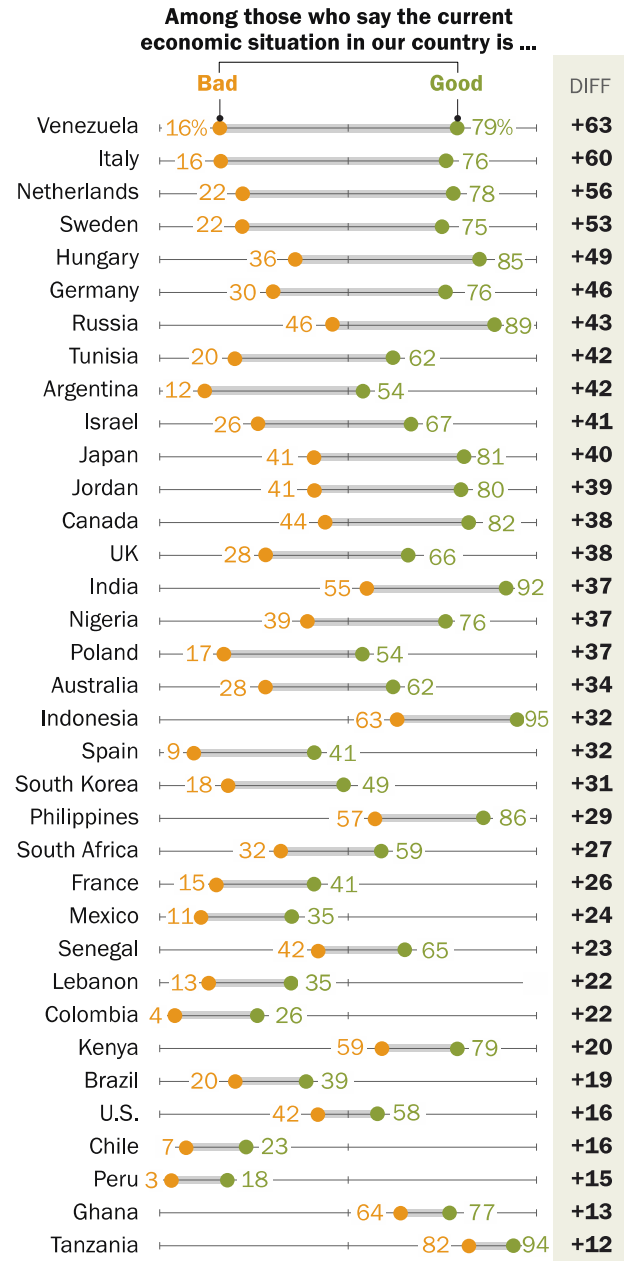


Note: Venezuela excluded due to lack of economic data.  
 Source: 2017 Spring Global Attitudes Survey. Q4. Average GDP growth calculated from World Bank data, accessed Sept. 8, 2017.

This pattern appears at the individual level as well. Within each country, people who say the economy is doing well are more likely to trust the national government than those who say the economy is bad. In 29 of the 37 countries asked the question, the trust gap between those who are happy with the economy and those who are unhappy is at least 20 percentage points. As with partisan divisions on this question, European countries tend to have some of the largest differences between those who think the economy is good and those who do not.

### Those upbeat about economy more likely to trust government

*How much do you trust the national government to do what is right for our country?*



Note: Only statistically significant differences shown.  
Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey, Q4.

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## 2. Democracy widely supported, little backing for rule by strong leader or military

Governance can take many forms: by elected representatives, through direct votes by citizens, by a strong leader, the military or those with particular expertise. Some form of democracy is the public’s preference.

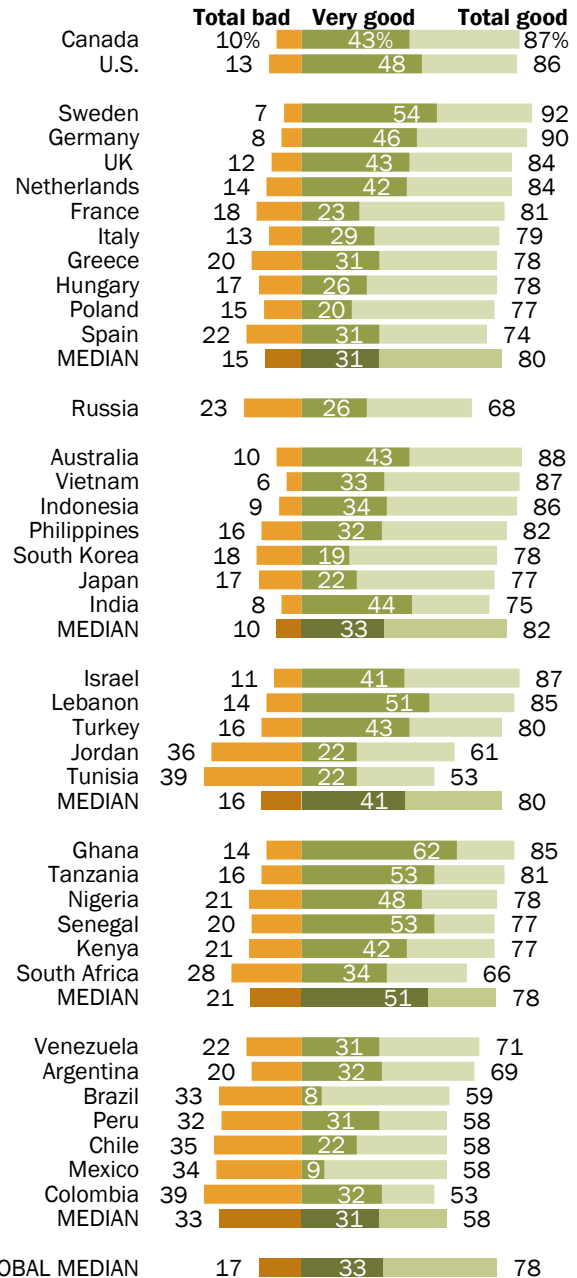
“The effect of [a representative democracy] is ... to refine and enlarge the public views, by passing them through the medium of a chosen body of citizens, whose wisdom may best discern the true interest of their country,” [wrote](#) James Madison in the Federalist Papers No. 10 in 1787 as Americans debated the nature of their new government. And a democratic system where representatives elected by citizens decide what becomes law is now the mode of governance in one form or another in most of the 38 countries included in the 2017 Pew Research Center survey.

A global median of 78% back government by elected representatives. But the intensity of this support varies significantly between nations. Roughly six-in-ten Ghanaians (62%), 54% of Swedes and 53% of Senegalese and Tanzanians hold the view that representative democracy is *very good*. Just 8% of Brazilians and 9% of Mexicans agree. The only countries where there is significantly strong opposition to representative democracy are Colombia (24% say it is *very bad*) and Tunisia (23% *very bad*).

In many countries, skepticism of representative democracy is tied to negative views about

### Publics around the world support representative democracy

Would a democratic system where representatives elected by citizens decide what becomes law be a good or bad way of governing this country?



Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey. Q29b.

economic conditions. In 19 countries, people who say their national economies are in bad shape are less likely to believe representative democracy is good for the country.

In 23 nations, the belief that representative democracy is good is less common among people who think life is worse today than it was 50 years ago. In Spain, for example, just 63% of those who believe life is worse than before consider representative democracy a good thing for their country, compared with 80% who support representative democracy among those who say life is better than it was a half century ago.

Similarly, pessimism about the next generation is related to negative views about representative democracy. In roughly half the nations surveyed those who think today's children will be worse off financially than their parents are less likely than others to say representative democracy is a good form of government. Among Mexicans who believe the next generation will be worse off, only 52% say representative democracy is good for the country. Backing for government by elected representatives is at 72% among those who say children will be better off than their parents.

Attitudes toward representative democracy are also associated with opinions about diversity. In more than a third of the nations surveyed those who think that having people of many different backgrounds – such as different ethnic groups, religions and races – makes their country a worse place to live are less likely than others to support government by elected representatives. In South Africa, a country with a troubled history of racial oppression and conflict, 73% of those who embrace diversity describe representative democracy as a good thing for their country; just 54% agree among those who say diversity makes South Africa a worse place to live.

## Many publics want a direct say

Direct democracy, a governing system where citizens, not elected officials, vote directly on major national issues, is supported by roughly two-thirds of the public around the world, with little difference in views between regions.

The strongest support for governing through referenda is found in Turkey (84%), where 53% of the public say it would be *very good* to have citizens vote on major national issues. Lebanon (83%) and Kenya (80%) also show broad support for direct democracy.

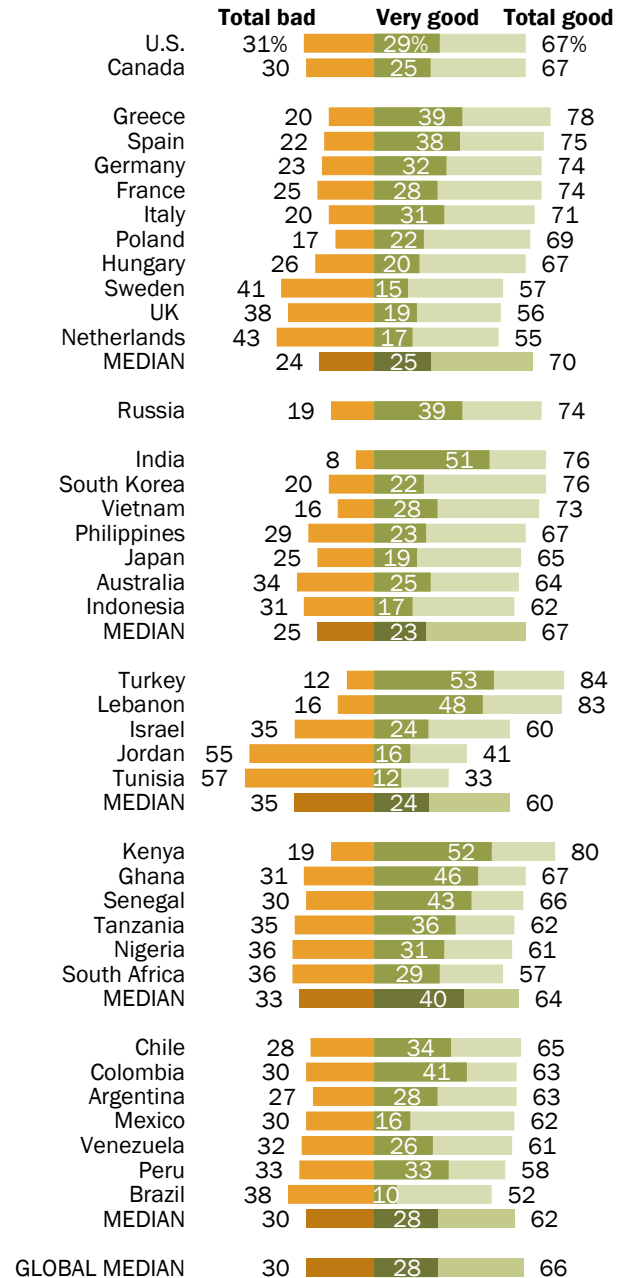
There is also strong backing for such governance in Japan (65%) even though the country has not had a referendum in the post-World War II era.

In the U.S., Germany and the Netherlands, people with a high school education or less are more likely than those with more than a high school education to support direct democracy. Such differences are small in the U.S. (6 percentage points) and Germany (8 points) but there is a 17-point differential in the Netherlands (62% of those with less educational attainment back direct democracy, but only 45% of those with more education agree).

In six of seven Latin American nations surveyed, those with a secondary school education or above are more supportive of direct democracy than those with less than a high school education. This educational divide is 16 points in Chile and 14 points in Argentina and Colombia. In each of these countries, those with less education are less likely to hold

## Widespread backing for citizens voting on major national issues

*Would a democratic system where citizens, not elected officials, vote directly on major national issues to decide what becomes law be a good or bad way of governing this country?*



Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey. Q29a.

an opinion of direct democracy.

In Latin America, there is also a generation gap in views of direct democracy. In Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Venezuela, those ages 18 to 29 are more supportive than those ages 50 and older of having citizens, not elected officials, vote directly on issues of major national importance.

Notably, in the U.S. it is people ages 30 to 49 who are most likely (73%) to back referenda.

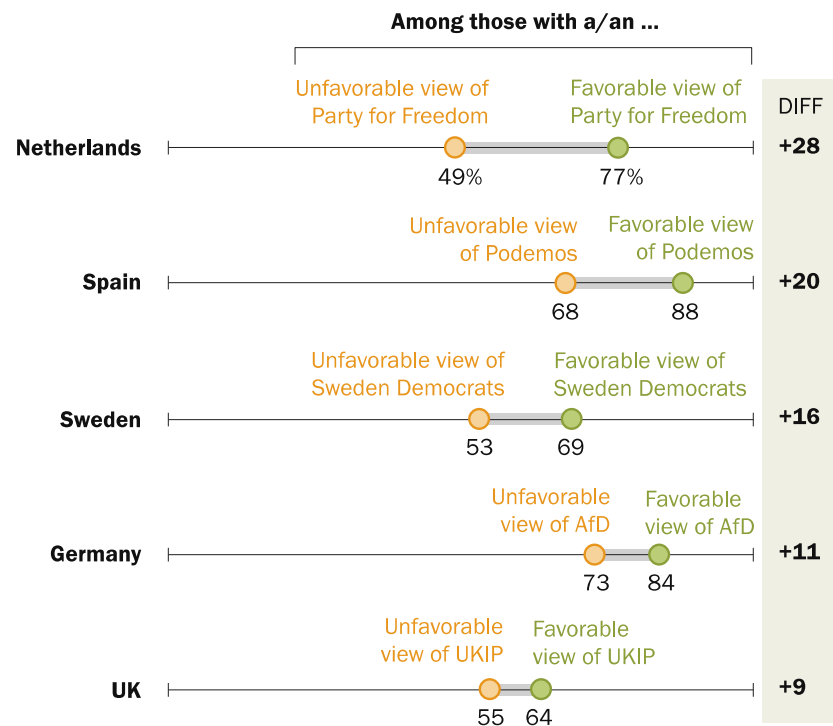
In other countries there are sharp divisions along religious or ethnic lines. In Israel it is Arabs (83%) more than Jews (54%) who favor direct democracy, and in Nigeria it is Muslims (70%) more than Christians (55%).

Supporters of some populist parties in Europe are particularly enthusiastic about direct democracy. In Spain, 88% of those who hold a favorable view of Podemos say citizens voting on national issues would be good for the country. In Germany, 84% of AfD backers agree, as do 77% of PVV supporters in the Netherlands.

Support for direct democracy can also be seen in other recent Pew Research Center findings in Europe. In the wake of the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union, a median of just 18% in nine continental EU member states say they want their country to exit the EU. But 53% support holding a national vote on their own country's EU membership.

### In some countries, those favorable toward populist parties are more supportive of direct democracy

*A democratic system where citizens, not elected officials, vote directly on major national issues to decide what becomes law would be a good way of governing this country*



Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey, Q29a.

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And such support is particularly strong among backers of Euroskeptic populist parties, many of whom have promised their supporters a referendum on EU membership. (For more on European's attitudes about staying in the EU, see [\*Post-Brexit, Europeans More Favorable Toward EU\*](#).)

And in six of the nine continental European nations surveyed, strong majorities of those who believe that direct democracy is a *very* good form of governance support their own EU membership referendum.

## Technocracy has its champions

The value of expert opinion [has been questioned](#) in the eyes of the public in recent years. But when asked whether a governing system in which experts, not elected officials, make decisions would be a good or bad approach, publics around the world are divided: 49% say that would be a good idea, 46% think it would be a bad thing.

Europeans (a median of 43%) and Americans (40%) are the least supportive. But among Europeans, roughly two-thirds of Hungarians (68%) say leaving decision-making to experts would be a good way to govern.

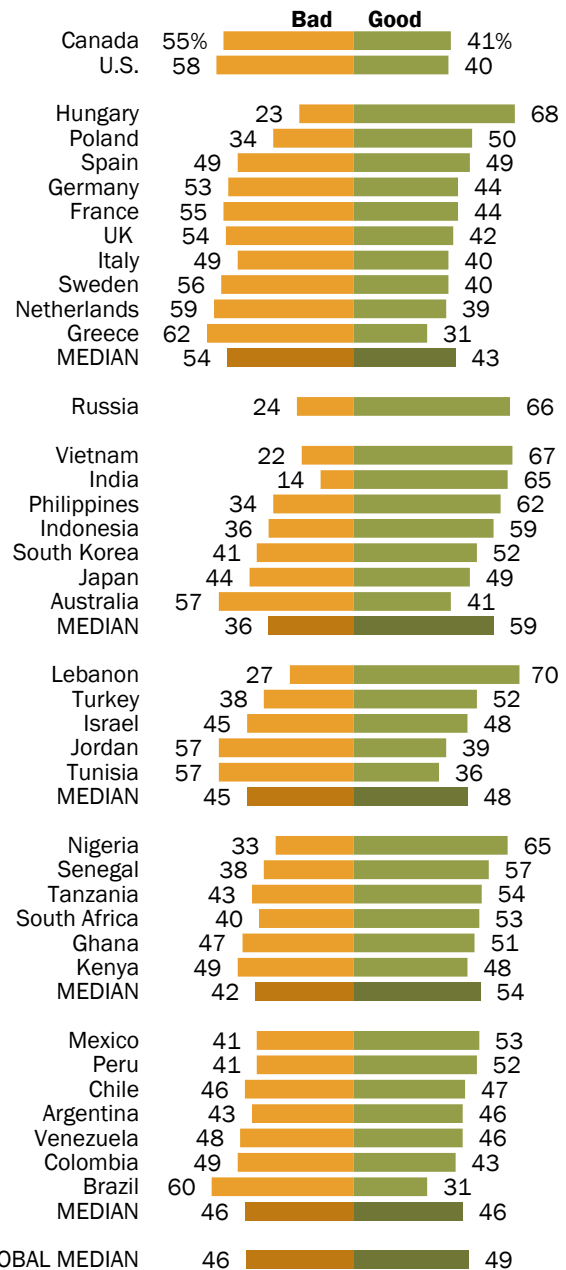
Asian-Pacific publics generally back rule by experts, particularly people in Vietnam (67%), India (65%) and the Philippines (62%). Only Australians are notably wary: 57% say it would be a bad way to govern, and only 41% support governance by experts.

More than half of Africans surveyed also say governing by experts would be a good thing for their country. Nigerians (65%) are especially supportive. And it is Nigerian Muslims more than Christians who say this.

Young people in a number of advanced economies are particularly attracted to technocracy. In the U.S. the age gap is 10 percentage points – 46% of those ages 18 to 29 but only 36% of those ages 50 and older say it would be good if experts, not elected officials, made decisions. The young-old differential is even greater in Australia (19 points), Japan (18 points), the UK (14 points), Sweden (13 points) and Canada (13 points).

## Publics generally divided on leaving governance to experts

*Would a system in which experts, not elected officials, make decisions according to what they think is best for the country be a good or bad way of governing this country?*



Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey, Q29d.

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## Some support for rule by strong leader

Rule by a strong leader is generally unpopular, though minorities of a substantial size back it. A global median of 26% say a system in which a strong leader can make decisions without interference from parliament or the courts would be a good way of governing. Roughly seven-in-ten (71%) say it would be a bad type of governance.

Opposition is particularly widespread in Europe (a median of 86% oppose rule by a strong leader), with strong opposition in Germany (93%), Sweden (90%) and the Netherlands (89%).

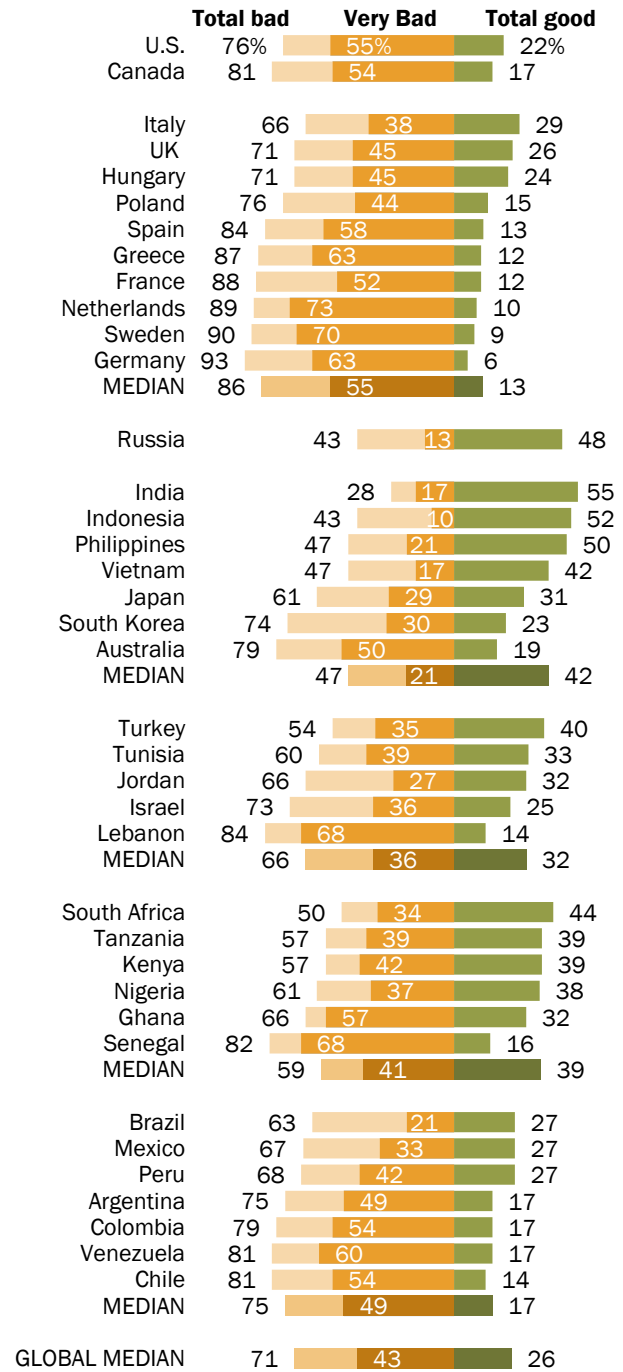
But autocracy is not universally opposed. Roughly four-in-ten Italians (43%) who have a favorable view of Forza Italia, the political party founded by former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, and a similar share of the British (42%) who favor UKIP say a strong leader making decisions would be good for their country. Nearly half of Russians (48%) back governance by a strong leader.

In Asia 55% of Indians, 52% of Indonesians and 50% of Filipinos favor autocracy. Such support is particularly intense in India, where 27% very strongly back a strong leader.

Public views of rule by a strong leader are relevant in countries that have experienced degrees of authoritarianism in recent years. Roughly eight-in-ten Venezuelans (81%) and 71% of Hungarians *oppose* a strong leader who makes decisions without interference of parliament or the courts.

## Support for autocracy generally low

*Would a system in which a strong leader can make decisions without interference from parliament or the courts be a good or bad way of governing this country?*



Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey. Q29c.

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Rule by a strong leader also appeals to older members of the public in some countries. More than a quarter of Hungarians (29%) and South Koreans (34%) ages 50 and older favor governance by a strong leader.

In advanced economies there is little overall backing for autocracy. But, where such support does exist, it is often people with a secondary education or below who are more likely than those with more education to favor autocratic rule. This educational divide is particularly wide in the UK (19 percentage points), the U.S. (15 points), Poland and South Korea (both 13 points).

In a number of nations there is a significant division of opinion about strong leaders based on ideology. Those who place themselves on the right of the ideological spectrum are more likely than those who place themselves on the left to say a strong leader making decisions would be a good way of governing. The ideological gap is 20 percentage points in South Korea and Australia and 16 points in Italy and the UK. Notably, in Venezuela, which has been ruled by populist, left-wing strongmen, those on the left are more supportive of autocratic rule than those on the right.

### In some countries those with less education more likely to favor autocracy

*A system in which a strong leader can make decisions without interference from parliament or the courts would be a good way of governing this country*

	More education	Less education	Diff
	%	%	
UK	13	32	+19
U.S.	13	28	+15
Poland	5	18	+13
South Korea	17	30	+13
Peru	23	35	+12
France	5	15	+10
Japan	25	35	+10

Note: Only statistically significant, double-digit differences shown.  
Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey. Q29c.

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### Those on the right more likely to favor autocracy

*A system in which a strong leader can make decisions without interference from parliament and the courts would be a good way of governing this country*

	Left	Center	Right	Right-left diff
	%	%	%	
South Korea	15	20	35	+20
Australia	8	16	28	+20
Italy	25	22	41	+16
UK	13	28	29	+16
Israel	15	18	29	+14
U.S.*	14	23	27	+13
Canada	9	16	21	+12
Chile	9	15	21	+12
Greece	7	12	17	+10
Germany	3	4	13	+10
Venezuela	40	10	9	-31

\*In U.S., ideology is defined as conservative (right), moderate (center) and liberal (left).

Note: Only statistically significant, double-digit differences shown.  
Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey. Q29c.

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## Significant minorities support military rule

There is minority support for a governing system in which the military rules the country: a median of 24% in the 38 nations surveyed. At least four-in-ten Africans (46%) and Asians (41%) see value in a government run by the generals and admirals.

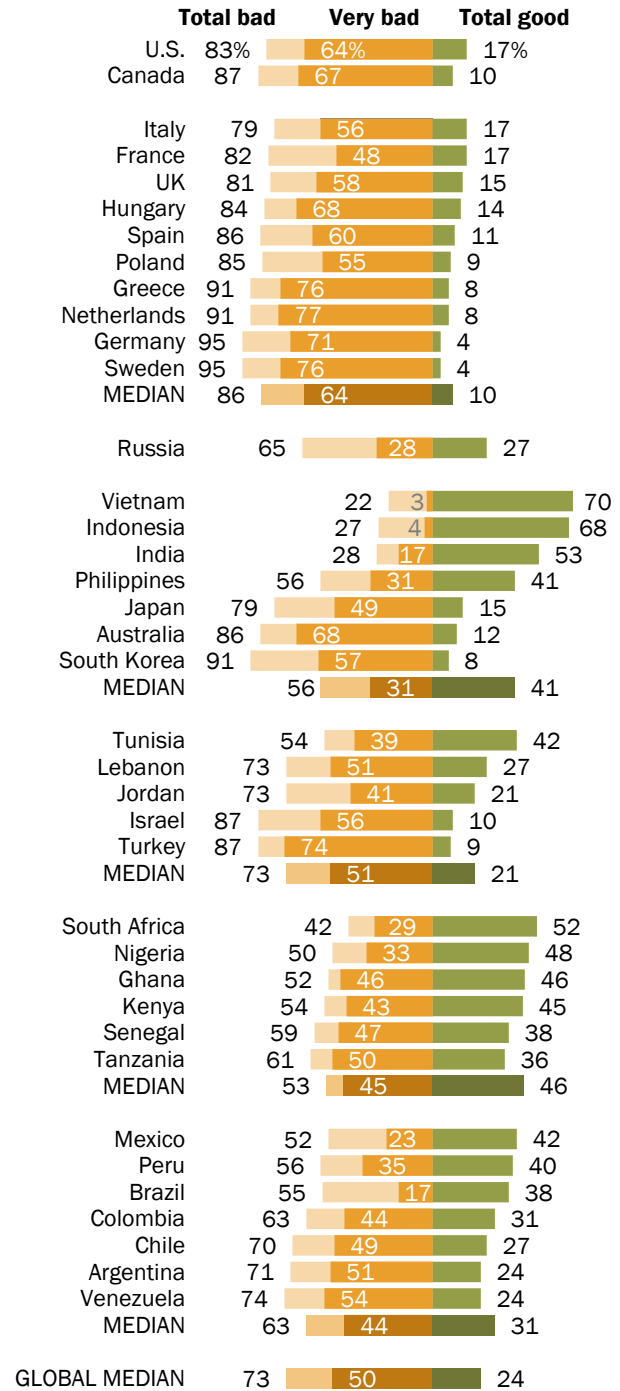
The strongest backing is in Vietnam (70%), where the army has long played a pivotal role in governance in close collaboration with the Communist Party, especially in the 1960s and 70s during the war with the United States. Some of this may be nostalgia for the past: By two-to-one (46% to 23%) Vietnamese ages 50 and older are more likely than those ages 18 to 29 to say military rule would be *very* good for their country.

Notably, roughly half of both Indians (53%) and South Africans (52%), who live in nations that often hold themselves up as democratic exemplars for their regions, say military rule would be a good thing for their countries. But in these societies, older people (those ages 50 and older) are the least supportive of the army running the country, and they are the ones who either personally experienced the struggle to establish democratic rule or are the immediate descendants of those democratic pioneers. In South Africa, blacks (55%) more than whites (38%) also favor the military making governance decisions.

Only one-in-ten Europeans back military rule. But some on the populist right of the political spectrum voice such support. Nearly a third of those who hold a favorable view of the National Front in France (31%) say a

## With few exceptions, majorities oppose military government

Would a system in which the military rules the country be a good or bad way of governing this country?



Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey. Q29e.

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governing system in which the military rules the country would be a good thing, as do nearly a quarter of those who favor UKIP in the United Kingdom (23%).

Support for a governing system in which the military rules the country enjoys backing among people with less education in at least half the countries surveyed, with some of the strongest support among those with less than a secondary education in Africa and Latin America.

More than half of Peruvians with less than a high school education (55%) prefer military rule. Only about a third (32%) of more educated Peruvians agree.

Particularly strong backing for military rule also exists among the less educated in Vietnam (76%), Nigeria (57%), Kenya (49%) and the Philippines (47%).

Notably, one-in-five of those ages 50 and older in the U.S. support military rule, as do roughly one-in-four Japanese (24%) ages 18 to 29.

## Those with less education more likely to support military government

*A system in which the military rules the country would be a good way of governing this country*

	More education %	Less education %	Diff
Peru	32	55	+23
Colombia	23	42	+19
Senegal	22	41	+19
Kenya	32	49	+17
U.S.	7	24	+17
Vietnam	60	76	+16
Brazil	29	45	+16
Chile	22	38	+16
France	7	21	+14
Nigeria	44	57	+13
Argentina	18	30	+12
Japan	8	19	+11
Australia	5	16	+11
Philippines	37	47	+10
Tunisia	32	42	+10
Canada	6	16	+10
Spain	4	14	+10
Netherlands	2	12	+10
Venezuela	20	29	+9
UK	8	17	+9
South Korea	5	13	+8
Poland	5	10	+5
Germany	1	4	+3

Note: Only statistically significant differences shown.  
Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey. Q29e.

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Ideology also plays a role in public views of military rule. But it can cut both ways. In some countries, people on the right of the political spectrum are significantly more supportive of military governance than those on the left, especially in Chile. In Hungary and Venezuela, on the other hand, it is more likely to be individuals on the left who see value in military rule.

### Those on the right more supportive of military government

*A system in which the military rules the country would be a good way of governing this country*

	Left	Center	Right	Right-left diff
	%	%	%	
Chile	20	17	41	+21
Spain	6	9	17	+11
Australia	4	13	13	+9
U.S.*	12	16	20	+8
Canada	4	11	12	+8
Greece	3	9	11	+8
Netherlands	2	7	10	+8
UK	7	16	14	+7
Israel	5	8	12	+7
Germany	0	3	7	+7
South Korea	5	7	11	+6
Hungary	28	11	11	-17
Venezuela	45	21	16	-31

\*In U.S., ideology is defined as conservative (right), moderate (center) and liberal (left).

Note: Only statistically significant differences shown.  
Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey. Q29e.

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## Methodology

### About the Pew Research Center's Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey

Results for the survey are based on telephone and face-to-face interviews conducted under the direction of D3 Systems, Inc., ORB International, Princeton Survey Research Associates International, Kantar Public UK and Voices! Research & Consultancy. The results are based on national samples, unless otherwise noted. More details about our international survey methodology and country-specific sample designs are [available here](#).

[Detailed information on survey methods for this report](#)

[General information on international survey research](#)

## Appendix: Political categorization

For this report, we grouped people into two political categories: those who support the governing political party (or parties) and those who do not. These categories were coded based upon the party or parties in power at the time the survey was fielded and respondents' answers to a question asking them which political party, if any, they identified with in their country.<sup>2</sup>

In countries where multiple political parties govern in coalition (as in many European countries), survey respondents who indicated support for any parties in the coalition were grouped together. In Germany, for example, where the center-right CDU/CSU governed with the center-left SPD at the time of the survey, supporters of all three parties were grouped together. In countries where different political parties occupy the executive and legislative branches of government, the party holding the executive branch was considered the governing party.

Survey respondents who did not indicate support for any political party, or who refused to identify with one, were considered to be *not* supporting the government in power. In the United States, for example, only those who supported the Republican Party were considered to be supporters of the governing party. Democrats, independents and those who don't know which party they feel closest to were considered non-supporters of the governing party.

In some countries, no respondents identified with one or more of the parties currently in a coalition government. For example, the National Democratic Alliance in India officially consists of dozens of political parties, but many of those were not identified by any respondent as the party they felt closest to. Countries where an insufficient number of people identified with any party in government have been excluded from the analysis. Below is a table that outlines the governing political parties in each country; only political parties mentioned by respondents are shown.

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<sup>2</sup> Governing parties were not updated to account for elections that occurred after the survey was fielded and resulted in a new party (or parties) serving in government, as in France. Language used to measure party identification varied country by country.

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## Appendix: Political categorization

<b>Countries</b>	<b>Governing political party(ies)</b>
Argentina	Cambiemos coalition: Republican Proposal, Radical Civic Union, Civic Coalition
Australia	Liberal Party, Liberal-National Party, Country-Liberal Party, National Party
Brazil	PMDB, PSDB, DEM, PP, PR, PRB, PSD, PTB, PSC, PROS
Canada	Liberal Party
Chile	New Majority coalition: Socialist Party, Christian Democratic Party, Party for Democracy, Communist Party, Social Democrat Radical Party, Citizen Left
Colombia	Social Party of National Unity, Radical Change, Liberal Party, Citizen Option
France	Socialist Party
Germany	CDU, CSU, SPD
Ghana	New Patriotic Party
Greece	SYRIZA, Independent Greeks
Hungary	Fidesz, Christian Democratic People's Party
India	National Democratic Alliance: BJP, Shiv Sena, Lok Janshakti, Telegu Desham, Shiromani Akali Dal
Indonesia	PDI-P, PPP, Golkar, PKB, People's Conscience Party, National Democratic Party (Nasdem), PAN
Israel	Likud, Yisrael Beiteinu, Jewish Home, Kulanu, United Torah Judaism, Shas
Italy	Democratic Party, Civic Choice, New Center-Right (now known as Popular Alternative)
Japan	Liberal Democratic Party, Komeito
Kenya	Jubilee Party
Mexico	Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), Ecologist Green Party (PVEM)
Netherlands	People's Party for Freedom and Democracy, Labour Party
Nigeria	All Progressives Congress
Poland	Law and Justice (PiS)
Russia	United Russia
Senegal	United in Hope Coalition: Alliance for the Republic
South Africa	African National Congress
Spain	People's Party, Citizens
Sweden	Social Democratic Party, Green Party
Tanzania	Party of the Revolution
Tunisia	Nidaa Tounes, Ennahda Movement, Free Patriotic Union, Afek Tounes
Turkey	Justice and Development Party
UK	Conservative Party
United States	Republican Party
Venezuela	United Socialist Party (PSUV)*

\* During fieldwork, the Venezuelan Supreme Court suspended the National Assembly. Those who identified with any party in the Great Patriotic Pole before this happened were coded as supporters of the governing party. Afterwards, only those who identified with the PSUV were classified as supporters of the governing party.

Note: Lebanon, South Korea, Jordan, Vietnam, Peru and the Philippines were excluded from this analysis.

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# Topline Questionnaire

**Pew Research Center**

**Spring 2017 Survey**

**October 16, 2017 Release**

Methodological notes:

- Survey results are based on national samples. For further details on sample designs, see Methodology section and our [international survey methods database](#).
- Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%. The topline “total” columns show 100%, because they are based on unrounded numbers.
- For some countries, trends for certain years are omitted due to differences in sample design or population coverage. Omitted trends often reflect less representative samples than more recent surveys in the same countries. Trends that are omitted include:
  - Vietnam prior to 2014
  - Senegal prior to 2013
  - Venezuela prior to 2013
  - Brazil prior to 2010
  - Nigeria prior to 2010
  - South Africa in 2007
- Not all questions included in the Spring 2017 survey are presented in this topline. Omitted questions have either been previously released or will be released in future reports.

		Q4. How much do you trust the national government to do what is right for (survey country) — a lot, somewhat, not much, or not at all?					
		A lot	Somewhat	Not much	Not at all	DK/Refused	Total
United States	Spring, 2017	15	36	24	23	2	100
Canada	Spring, 2017	20	47	18	14	1	100
France	Spring, 2017	3	17	36	42	1	100
Germany	Spring, 2017	26	43	19	10	1	100
Greece	Spring, 2017	1	12	26	60	1	100
Hungary	Spring, 2017	9	48	25	16	2	100
Italy	Spring, 2017	1	25	47	26	2	100
Netherlands	Spring, 2017	24	47	20	9	1	100
Poland	Spring, 2017	14	28	31	24	4	100
Spain	Spring, 2017	5	12	40	41	1	100
Sweden	Spring, 2017	15	52	23	10	0	100
United Kingdom	Spring, 2017	14	35	28	20	4	100
Russia	Spring, 2017	20	47	24	6	3	100
Australia	Spring, 2017	7	41	29	21	2	100
India	Spring, 2017	39	46	7	4	4	100
Indonesia	Spring, 2017	30	53	15	1	0	100
Japan	Spring, 2017	6	51	33	7	3	100
Philippines	Spring, 2017	36	44	16	4	0	100
South Korea	Spring, 2017	2	21	50	25	2	100
Vietnam	Spring, 2017	31	51	16	1	1	100
Israel	Spring, 2017	14	37	33	14	2	100
Jordan	Spring, 2017	13	35	30	18	3	100
Lebanon	Spring, 2017	2	13	42	43	1	100
Tunisia	Spring, 2017	11	18	14	56	2	100
Ghana	Spring, 2017	51	19	13	13	4	100
Kenya	Spring, 2017	28	40	20	12	1	100
Nigeria	Spring, 2017	34	20	21	24	1	100
Senegal	Spring, 2017	37	23	22	16	2	100
South Africa	Spring, 2017	22	22	28	24	3	100
Tanzania	Spring, 2017	48	41	5	4	1	100
Argentina	Spring, 2017	10	12	41	34	3	100
Brazil	Spring, 2017	2	22	18	56	3	100
Chile	Spring, 2017	5	10	51	32	2	100
Colombia	Spring, 2017	7	5	51	36	1	100
Mexico	Spring, 2017	2	15	39	43	1	100
Peru	Spring, 2017	4	8	55	31	2	100
Venezuela	Spring, 2017	14	15	24	45	2	100

In Canada and Mexico, asked 'federal government.'

		Q9. How satisfied are you with the way democracy is working in our country — very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, not too satisfied or not at all satisfied?					
		Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Not too satisfied	Not at all satisfied	DK/Refused	Total
United States	Spring, 2017	11	35	28	23	3	100
Canada	Spring, 2017	18	52	21	9	1	100
France	Spring, 2017	3	31	37	28	1	100
Germany	Spring, 2017	24	49	19	7	1	100
Greece	Spring, 2017	3	18	43	36	0	100
Hungary	Spring, 2017	3	41	36	17	3	100
	Fall, 2009	2	19	46	31	1	100
Italy	Spring, 2017	2	29	43	24	2	100
Netherlands	Spring, 2017	25	52	16	6	2	100
Poland	Spring, 2017	8	43	31	13	6	100
	Fall, 2009	6	47	32	7	7	100
Spain	Spring, 2017	7	18	44	30	0	100
Sweden	Spring, 2017	23	56	14	6	1	100
United Kingdom	Spring, 2017	12	40	31	16	2	100
Russia	Spring, 2017	18	41	25	11	5	100
Australia	Spring, 2017	13	45	25	16	1	100
India	Spring, 2017	33	46	8	3	9	100
Indonesia	Spring, 2017	14	55	26	3	2	100
Japan	Spring, 2017	5	45	38	9	3	100
Philippines	Spring, 2017	21	48	25	6	1	100
South Korea	Spring, 2017	3	27	55	14	1	100
Israel	Spring, 2017	11	41	34	13	1	100
Jordan	Spring, 2017	6	32	34	24	4	100
Lebanon	Spring, 2017	0	8	36	55	0	100
Tunisia	Spring, 2017	7	29	14	47	3	100
	Spring, 2013	3	21	30	42	4	100
Ghana	Spring, 2017	41	25	17	15	2	100
	Spring, 2013	30	39	22	8	2	100
	Spring, 2007	31	50	15	3	1	100
Kenya	Spring, 2017	17	39	24	19	1	100
	Spring, 2013	27	46	19	9	0	100
	Spring, 2007	15	57	23	5	1	100
Nigeria	Spring, 2017	20	21	27	31	0	100
	Spring, 2013	7	20	42	30	1	100
Senegal	Spring, 2017	31	33	13	20	3	100
	Spring, 2013	30	41	21	7	2	100
South Africa	Spring, 2017	15	28	29	27	2	100
	Spring, 2013	32	35	19	13	1	100
Tanzania	Spring, 2017	30	49	7	11	2	100
	Spring, 2007	38	45	10	5	2	100
Argentina	Spring, 2017	9	37	31	23	1	100
	Spring, 2013	15	42	29	14	1	100
Brazil	Spring, 2017	3	25	25	42	4	100
	Spring, 2013	10	56	25	7	2	100
Chile	Spring, 2017	4	13	42	36	5	100
	Spring, 2013	10	37	42	7	4	100
Colombia	Spring, 2017	2	16	48	34	1	100
Mexico	Spring, 2017	2	4	23	70	2	100
	Spring, 2013	10	43	31	14	2	100
Peru	Spring, 2017	3	22	46	27	2	100
Venezuela	Spring, 2017	9	16	27	46	1	100
	Spring, 2013	33	25	20	21	2	100

		Q29a. I'm going to describe various types of political systems and ask what you think about each as a way of governing our country. For each one, would it be a very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad or very bad way of governing this country? a. a democratic system where citizens, not elected officials, vote directly on major national issues to decide what becomes law					
		Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	DK/Refused	Total
United States	Spring, 2017	29	38	19	12	2	100
Canada	Spring, 2017	25	42	21	9	3	100
France	Spring, 2017	28	46	18	7	1	100
Germany	Spring, 2017	32	42	21	2	2	100
Greece	Spring, 2017	39	39	15	5	1	100
Hungary	Spring, 2017	20	47	21	5	7	100
Italy	Spring, 2017	31	40	16	4	9	100
Netherlands	Spring, 2017	17	38	27	16	2	100
Poland	Spring, 2017	22	47	15	2	14	100
Spain	Spring, 2017	38	37	13	9	4	100
Sweden	Spring, 2017	15	42	29	12	2	100
United Kingdom	Spring, 2017	19	37	26	12	5	100
Russia	Spring, 2017	39	35	15	4	8	100
Australia	Spring, 2017	25	39	24	10	2	100
India	Spring, 2017	51	25	5	3	16	100
Indonesia	Spring, 2017	17	45	25	6	7	100
Japan	Spring, 2017	19	46	21	4	9	100
Philippines	Spring, 2017	23	44	18	11	3	100
South Korea	Spring, 2017	22	54	18	2	4	100
Vietnam	Spring, 2017	28	45	12	4	11	100
Israel	Spring, 2017	24	36	28	7	5	100
Jordan	Spring, 2017	16	25	30	25	4	100
Lebanon	Spring, 2017	48	35	9	7	1	100
Tunisia	Spring, 2017	12	21	22	35	11	100
Turkey	Spring, 2017	53	31	8	4	4	100
Ghana	Spring, 2017	46	21	10	21	3	100
Kenya	Spring, 2017	52	28	8	11	1	100
Nigeria	Spring, 2017	31	30	19	17	2	100
Senegal	Spring, 2017	43	23	13	17	5	100
South Africa	Spring, 2017	29	28	15	21	6	100
Tanzania	Spring, 2017	36	26	15	20	3	100
Argentina	Spring, 2017	28	35	16	11	10	100
Brazil	Spring, 2017	10	42	31	7	10	100
Chile	Spring, 2017	34	31	14	14	7	100
Colombia	Spring, 2017	41	22	11	19	6	100
Mexico	Spring, 2017	16	46	19	11	7	100
Peru	Spring, 2017	33	25	12	21	10	100
Venezuela	Spring, 2017	26	35	14	18	7	100

		Q29b. I'm going to describe various types of political systems and ask what you think about each as a way of governing our country. For each one, would it be a very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad or very bad way of governing this country? b. a democratic system where representatives elected by citizens decide what becomes law					
		Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	DK/Refused	Total
United States	Spring, 2017	48	38	8	5	1	100
Canada	Spring, 2017	43	44	8	2	3	100
France	Spring, 2017	23	58	14	4	1	100
Germany	Spring, 2017	46	44	7	1	2	100
Greece	Spring, 2017	31	47	14	6	3	100
Hungary	Spring, 2017	26	52	15	2	5	100
Italy	Spring, 2017	29	50	9	4	7	100
Netherlands	Spring, 2017	42	42	10	4	2	100
Poland	Spring, 2017	20	57	12	3	9	100
Spain	Spring, 2017	31	43	15	7	4	100
Sweden	Spring, 2017	54	38	6	1	1	100
United Kingdom	Spring, 2017	43	41	9	3	4	100
Russia	Spring, 2017	26	42	18	5	9	100
Australia	Spring, 2017	43	45	7	3	2	100
India	Spring, 2017	44	31	6	2	17	100
Indonesia	Spring, 2017	34	52	8	1	5	100
Japan	Spring, 2017	22	55	15	2	5	100
Philippines	Spring, 2017	32	50	13	3	2	100
South Korea	Spring, 2017	19	59	16	2	4	100
Vietnam	Spring, 2017	33	54	4	2	7	100
Israel	Spring, 2017	41	46	8	3	2	100
Jordan	Spring, 2017	22	39	24	12	2	100
Lebanon	Spring, 2017	51	34	9	5	1	100
Tunisia	Spring, 2017	22	31	16	23	8	100
Turkey	Spring, 2017	43	37	9	7	4	100
Ghana	Spring, 2017	62	23	5	9	2	100
Kenya	Spring, 2017	42	35	9	12	3	100
Nigeria	Spring, 2017	48	30	11	10	1	100
Senegal	Spring, 2017	53	24	11	9	4	100
South Africa	Spring, 2017	34	32	12	16	6	100
Tanzania	Spring, 2017	53	28	8	8	3	100
Argentina	Spring, 2017	32	37	12	8	12	100
Brazil	Spring, 2017	8	51	26	7	9	100
Chile	Spring, 2017	22	36	19	16	7	100
Colombia	Spring, 2017	32	21	15	24	8	100
Mexico	Spring, 2017	9	49	23	11	8	100
Peru	Spring, 2017	31	27	14	18	10	100
Venezuela	Spring, 2017	31	40	12	10	7	100



		Q29c. I'm going to describe various types of political systems and ask what you think about each as a way of governing our country. For each one, would it be a very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad or very bad way of governing this country? c. a system in which a strong leader can make decisions without interference from parliament or the courts					
		Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	DK/Refused	Total
United States	Spring, 2017	5	17	21	55	2	100
Canada	Spring, 2017	3	14	27	54	2	100
France	Spring, 2017	2	10	36	52	0	100
Germany	Spring, 2017	1	5	30	63	1	100
Greece	Spring, 2017	5	7	24	63	1	100
Hungary	Spring, 2017	4	20	26	45	5	100
Italy	Spring, 2017	6	23	28	38	6	100
Netherlands	Spring, 2017	1	9	16	73	1	100
Poland	Spring, 2017	2	13	32	44	9	100
Spain	Spring, 2017	4	9	26	58	3	100
Sweden	Spring, 2017	1	8	20	70	1	100
United Kingdom	Spring, 2017	7	19	26	45	3	100
Russia	Spring, 2017	19	29	30	13	10	100
Australia	Spring, 2017	6	13	29	50	1	100
India	Spring, 2017	27	28	11	17	18	100
Indonesia	Spring, 2017	12	40	33	10	6	100
Japan	Spring, 2017	6	25	32	29	7	100
Philippines	Spring, 2017	16	34	26	21	3	100
South Korea	Spring, 2017	5	18	44	30	3	100
Vietnam	Spring, 2017	9	33	30	17	11	100
Israel	Spring, 2017	7	18	37	36	2	100
Jordan	Spring, 2017	10	22	39	27	2	100
Lebanon	Spring, 2017	6	8	16	68	3	100
Tunisia	Spring, 2017	17	16	21	39	7	100
Turkey	Spring, 2017	20	20	19	35	6	100
Ghana	Spring, 2017	19	13	9	57	2	100
Kenya	Spring, 2017	17	22	15	42	3	100
Nigeria	Spring, 2017	20	18	24	37	2	100
Senegal	Spring, 2017	8	8	14	68	3	100
South Africa	Spring, 2017	22	22	16	34	5	100
Tanzania	Spring, 2017	19	20	18	39	3	100
Argentina	Spring, 2017	6	11	26	49	7	100
Brazil	Spring, 2017	2	25	42	21	11	100
Chile	Spring, 2017	6	8	27	54	5	100
Colombia	Spring, 2017	10	7	25	54	4	100
Mexico	Spring, 2017	2	25	34	33	5	100
Peru	Spring, 2017	15	12	26	42	6	100
Venezuela	Spring, 2017	4	13	21	60	3	100

In place of "parliament" in Russia asked "government"; in Indonesia asked "House of People's Representatives"; in Philippines asked "Senate/Congress"; in South Korea and Vietnam asked "National Assembly"; in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela asked "Congress."

		Q29d. I'm going to describe various types of political systems and ask what you think about each as a way of governing our country. For each one, would it be a very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad or very bad way of governing this country? d. experts, not elected officials, make decisions according to what they think is best for the country					
		Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	DK/Refused	Total
United States	Spring, 2017	9	31	27	31	2	100
Canada	Spring, 2017	8	33	32	23	3	100
France	Spring, 2017	6	38	38	17	1	100
Germany	Spring, 2017	7	37	38	15	3	100
Greece	Spring, 2017	5	26	37	25	6	100
Hungary	Spring, 2017	20	48	17	6	9	100
Italy	Spring, 2017	7	33	31	18	10	100
Netherlands	Spring, 2017	5	34	34	25	2	100
Poland	Spring, 2017	9	41	25	9	16	100
Spain	Spring, 2017	17	32	29	20	2	100
Sweden	Spring, 2017	8	32	36	20	3	100
United Kingdom	Spring, 2017	8	34	30	24	4	100
Russia	Spring, 2017	26	40	19	5	10	100
Australia	Spring, 2017	6	35	33	24	2	100
India	Spring, 2017	33	32	9	5	21	100
Indonesia	Spring, 2017	13	46	28	8	5	100
Japan	Spring, 2017	8	41	33	11	7	100
Philippines	Spring, 2017	18	44	21	13	4	100
South Korea	Spring, 2017	6	46	34	7	7	100
Vietnam	Spring, 2017	17	50	17	5	10	100
Israel	Spring, 2017	13	35	30	15	6	100
Jordan	Spring, 2017	5	34	36	21	4	100
Lebanon	Spring, 2017	33	37	19	8	4	100
Tunisia	Spring, 2017	14	22	23	34	7	100
Turkey	Spring, 2017	21	31	20	18	10	100
Ghana	Spring, 2017	29	22	12	35	3	100
Kenya	Spring, 2017	20	28	17	32	3	100
Nigeria	Spring, 2017	33	32	16	17	2	100
Senegal	Spring, 2017	34	23	16	22	4	100
South Africa	Spring, 2017	23	30	17	23	7	100
Tanzania	Spring, 2017	23	31	16	27	3	100
Argentina	Spring, 2017	16	30	21	22	11	100
Brazil	Spring, 2017	3	28	42	18	9	100
Chile	Spring, 2017	18	29	20	26	7	100
Colombia	Spring, 2017	26	17	20	29	7	100
Mexico	Spring, 2017	9	44	25	16	6	100
Peru	Spring, 2017	28	24	17	24	7	100
Venezuela	Spring, 2017	14	32	21	27	6	100

		Q29e. I'm going to describe various types of political systems and ask what you think about each as a way of governing our country. For each one, would it be a very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad or very bad way of governing this country? e. the military rules the country					
		Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	DK/Refused	Total
United States	Spring, 2017	4	13	19	64	1	100
Canada	Spring, 2017	3	7	20	67	2	100
France	Spring, 2017	5	12	34	48	1	100
Germany	Spring, 2017	1	3	24	71	1	100
Greece	Spring, 2017	1	7	15	76	1	100
Hungary	Spring, 2017	2	12	16	68	3	100
Italy	Spring, 2017	2	15	23	56	5	100
Netherlands	Spring, 2017	1	7	14	77	1	100
Poland	Spring, 2017	1	8	30	55	6	100
Spain	Spring, 2017	5	6	26	60	3	100
Sweden	Spring, 2017	1	3	19	76	1	100
United Kingdom	Spring, 2017	5	10	23	58	4	100
Russia	Spring, 2017	8	19	37	28	7	100
Australia	Spring, 2017	3	9	18	68	1	100
India	Spring, 2017	30	23	11	17	19	100
Indonesia	Spring, 2017	21	47	23	4	5	100
Japan	Spring, 2017	2	13	30	49	6	100
Philippines	Spring, 2017	14	27	25	31	2	100
South Korea	Spring, 2017	1	7	34	57	1	100
Vietnam	Spring, 2017	29	41	19	3	8	100
Israel	Spring, 2017	2	8	31	56	3	100
Jordan	Spring, 2017	9	12	32	41	6	100
Lebanon	Spring, 2017	11	16	22	51	1	100
Tunisia	Spring, 2017	22	20	15	39	4	100
Turkey	Spring, 2017	2	7	13	74	4	100
Ghana	Spring, 2017	30	16	6	46	3	100
Kenya	Spring, 2017	25	20	11	43	2	100
Nigeria	Spring, 2017	28	20	17	33	2	100
Senegal	Spring, 2017	24	14	12	47	2	100
South Africa	Spring, 2017	29	23	13	29	6	100
Tanzania	Spring, 2017	21	15	11	50	2	100
Argentina	Spring, 2017	10	14	20	51	5	100
Brazil	Spring, 2017	7	31	38	17	7	100
Chile	Spring, 2017	12	15	21	49	4	100
Colombia	Spring, 2017	19	12	19	44	6	100
Mexico	Spring, 2017	8	34	29	23	6	100
Peru	Spring, 2017	22	18	21	35	5	100
Venezuela	Spring, 2017	7	17	20	54	2	100