

Democracy is resilient

IDEA

- Of 41 democracies in 1975, 38 (92.7%) are still democracies

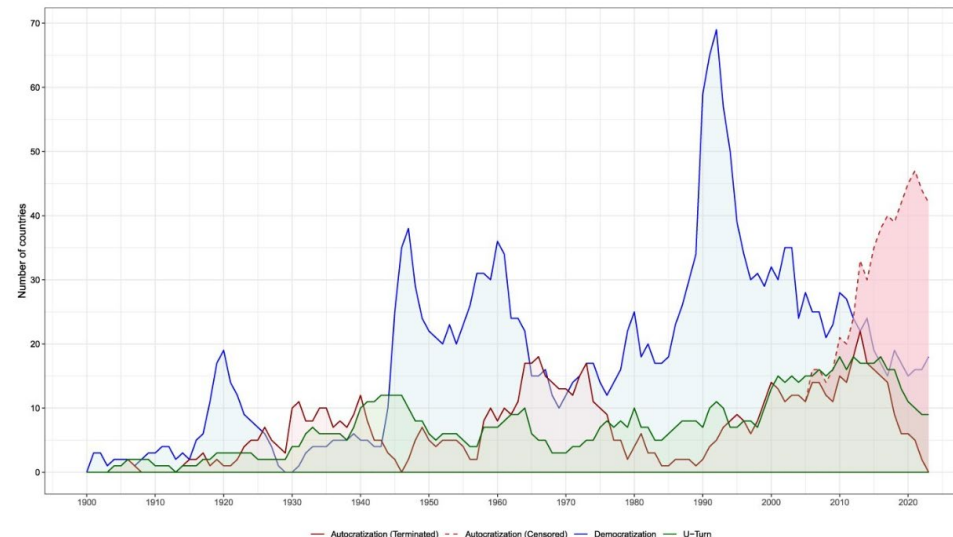
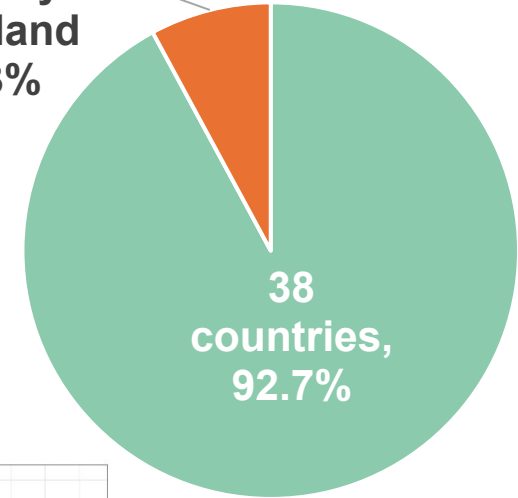
VDEM

- “U Turns” (recovery after autocratization)
- 54% autocratization episodes reversed
- 1993-2023

Bermeo, N.

- Backsliding episodes increasingly short
- % remaining non-democratic for 5 or more
- 100% in 1950-59, 60% in 2000-09

Venezuela
Turkey
Thailand
7.3%



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But some aspects are more resilient than others

And this is the key

‘Institutional’ checks and balances

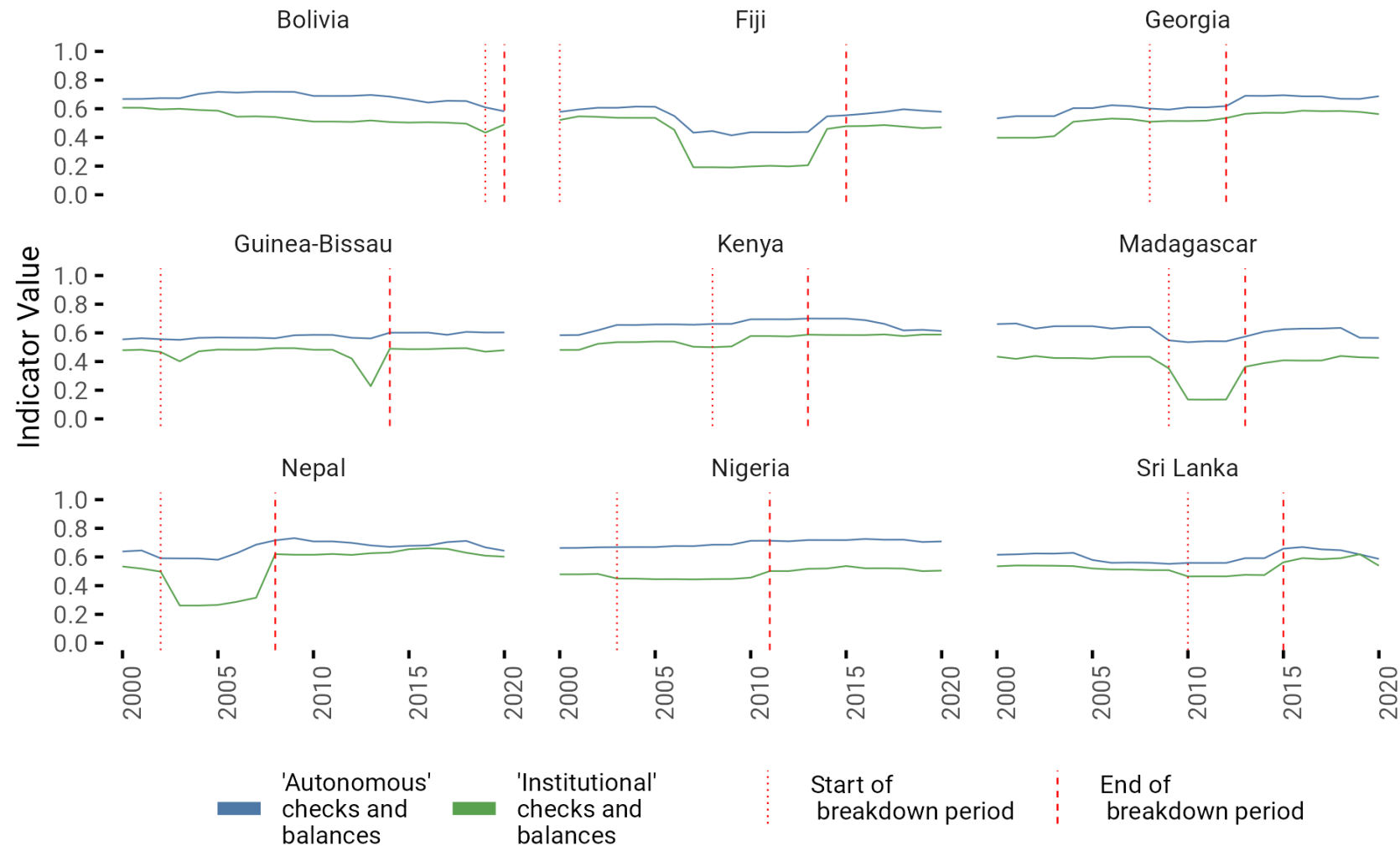
Vs

‘Autonomous’ checks and balances:

- Civil Society
- Media
- Political parties
- Academia

Democratic trends in countries that recovered from breakdowns

Average institutional and autonomous checks and balances



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Lessons from Latin America

- **Act fast** (V-DEM)
- **Raise the cost of enacting authoritarian policy** (Mexico: election reform)
- **United opposition** (Ecuador vs Correa, 2016)
- **Primary elections** (Venezuela: MCM, 2023)
- **Fight disinformation** (Brazil: TSE; Panama: TE)
- **Break the ‘legitimacy’ of the ruling party.** (Bolivia: vs Evo’s monopoly of representation)
- **Invest and support** democratic institutions and autonomous checks and balances



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Jefferson (attributed to)
“The price of liberty is eternal vigilance”

Thank you!



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