

# Cities: An Antidote to our Flawed Democracy?

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The Arizona We Want • The Education We Need

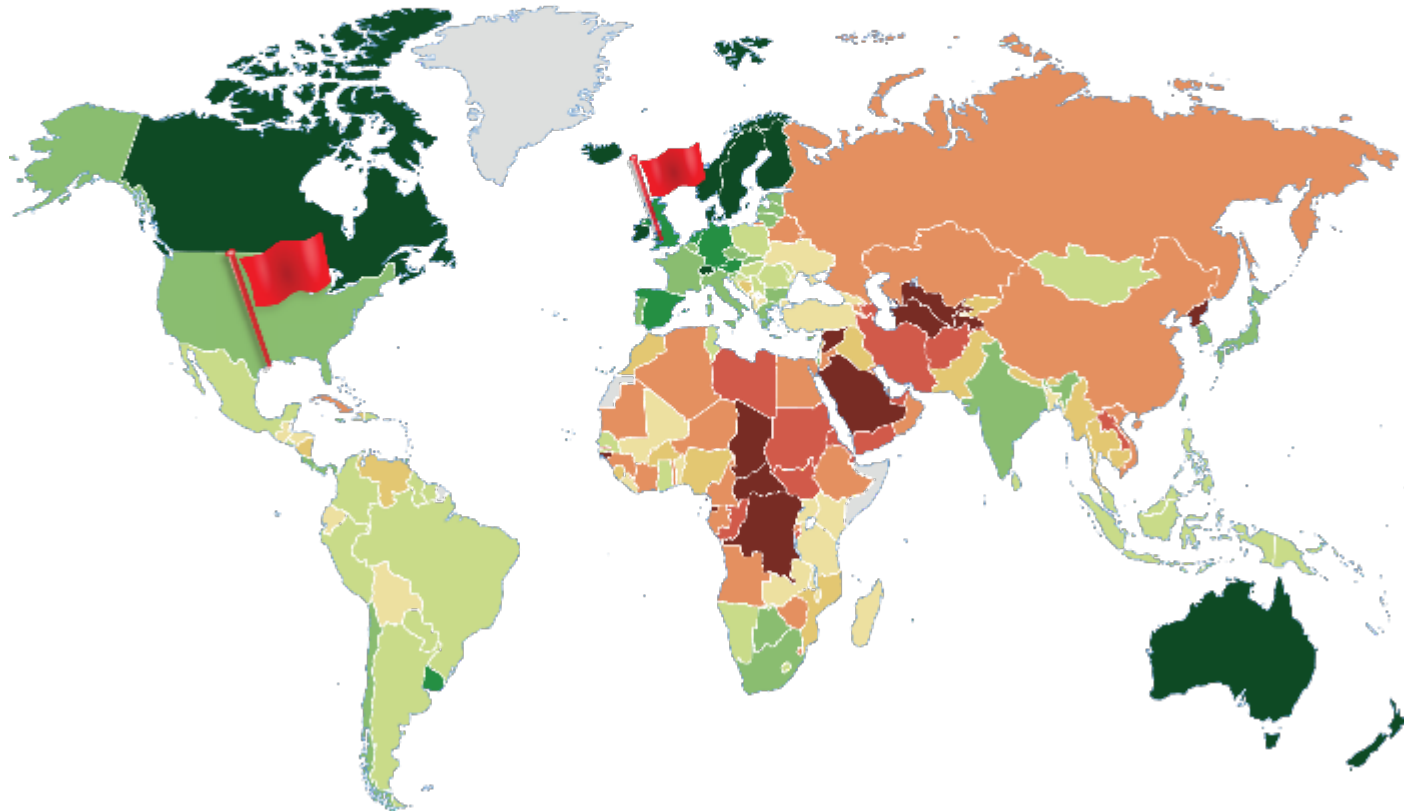


The  
Economist

Intelligence  
Unit

# Democracy Index 2016

A report by The Economist Intelligence Unit



# **Five Elements of the Democracy Index**

- **Electoral Process and Pluralism**
- **Functioning of Government**
- **Political Participation**
- **Political Culture**
- **Civil Liberties**

## Democracy Index 2016, by regime type

	No. of countries	% of countries	% of world population
Full democracies	19	11.4	4.5
Flawed democracies	57	34.1	44.8
Hybrid regimes	40	24.0	18.0
Authoritarian regimes	51	30.5	32.7

**Popular trust in government, elected representatives and political parties has fallen to extremely low levels in the US.**

...

**19% of Americans trust government to do the right thing;  
74% think most elected officials put their own  
interests ahead of the country's;  
57% are frustrated with government and 22% are angry;  
74% think most elected officials  
“don't care what people like me think”;  
59% say government needs “very major reform”.**



## Americans' trust in government 1958-2015

(% of total)



Footnote: Percentage of Americans who say they trust the government "just about always" or "most of the time".

Source: Pew Research Centre compilation of polling data from various sources.

Democracy Index 2016	Rank	Overall score	Electoral process and pluralism	Functioning of government	Political participation	Political culture	Civil liberties
Full democracies							
Norway	1	9.93	10.00	9.64	10.00	10.00	10.00
Iceland	2	9.50	10.00	8.93	8.89	10.00	9.71
Sweden	3	9.39	9.58	9.64	8.33	10.00	9.41
New Zealand	4	9.26	10.00	9.29	8.89	8.13	10.00
Denmark	5	9.20	9.58	9.29	8.33	9.38	9.41
Canada	=6	9.15	9.58	9.64	7.78	8.75	10.00
Ireland	=6	9.15	9.58	7.86	8.33	10.00	10.00
Switzerland	8	9.09	9.58	9.29	7.78	9.38	9.41
Finland	9	9.03	10.00	8.93	7.78	8.75	9.71
Australia	10	9.01	9.58	8.93	7.78	8.75	10.00
Luxembourg	11	8.81	10.00	8.93	6.67	8.75	9.71
Netherlands	12	8.80	9.58	8.57	8.33	8.13	9.41
Germany	13	8.63	9.58	8.57	7.78	7.50	9.71
Austria	14	8.41	9.58	7.86	8.33	6.88	9.41
Malta	15	8.39	9.17	8.21	6.11	8.75	9.71
United Kingdom	16	8.36	9.58	7.14	7.22	8.75	9.12
Spain	17	8.30	9.58	7.14	7.22	8.13	9.41
Mauritius	18	8.28	9.17	8.21	5.56	8.75	9.71
Uruguay	19	8.17	10.00	8.93	4.44	7.50	10.00
Flawed Democracies							
Japan	20	7.99	8.75	8.21	6.67	7.50	8.82
United States of America	=21	7.98	9.17	7.14	7.22	8.13	8.24
Italy	=21	7.98	9.58	6.43	7.22	8.13	8.53
France	=24	7.92	9.58	7.14	7.78	6.25	8.82
South Korea	=24	7.92	9.17	7.50	7.22	7.50	8.24

## North America 2016

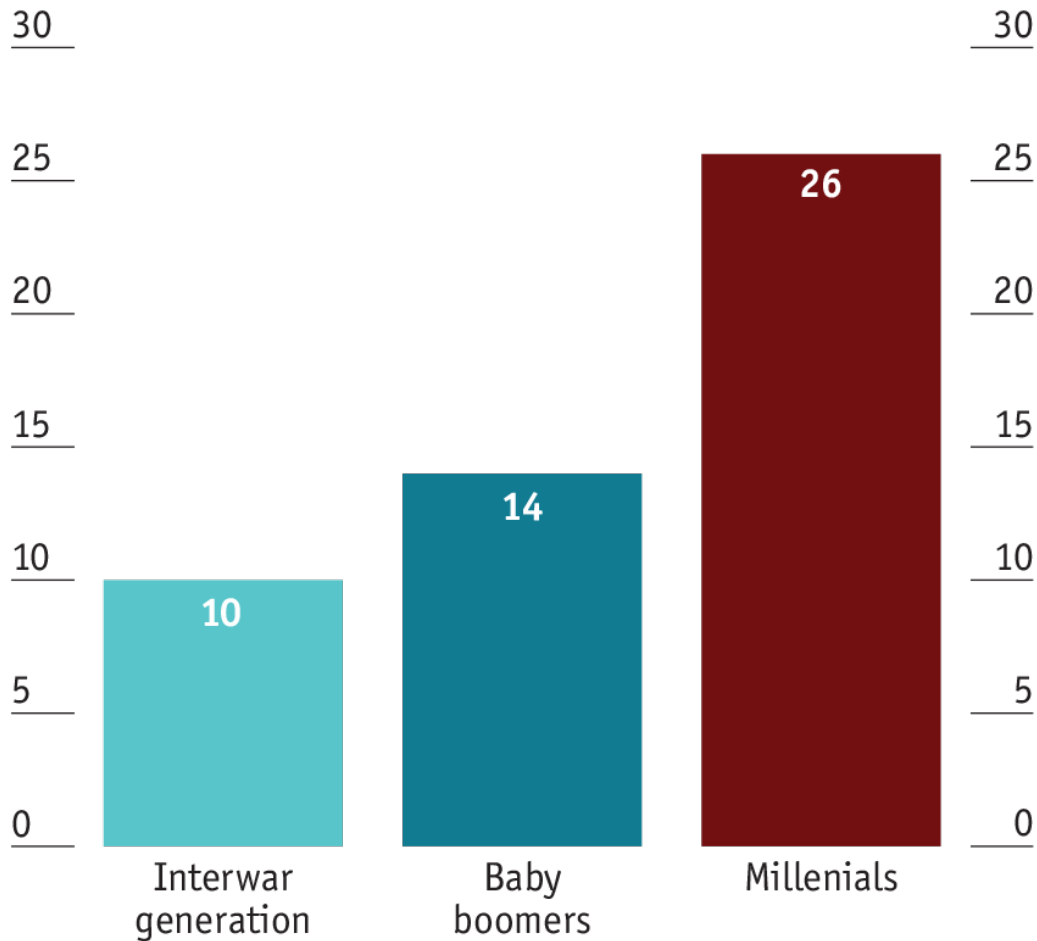
	Overall score	Overall rank	Regional rank	I. Electoral Process and Pluralism	II. Functioning of government	III. Political participation	IV. Political culture	V. Civil liberties	Regime type
Canada	9.15	=6	1	9.58	9.64	7.78	8.75	10.00	Full democracy
United States of America	7.98	=21	2	9.17	7.14	7.22	8.13	8.24	Flawed democracy





## Choosing leaders in an election is unimportant

(% of Americans agreeing)

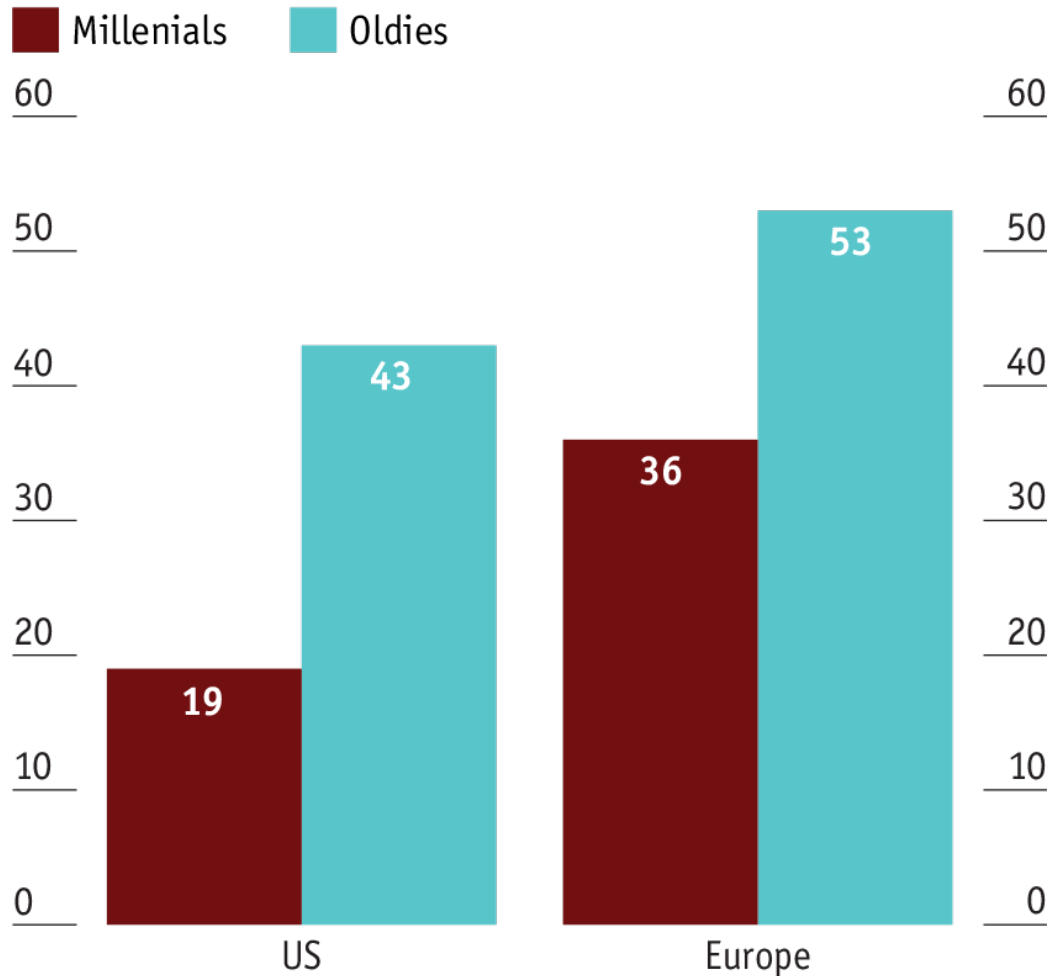


Source: Foa & Mounk, *Journal of Democracy*, July 2016.



## Military rule is illegitimate in a democracy

(% agreeing)



Source: Foa & Mounk, *Journal of Democracy*, July 2016.

**Where do we go from here?**



# Cities at the Center

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