



World Justice  
Project

# **“Corruption and the Rule of Law: *Insights from the 2019 WJP Rule of Law Index*”**

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 | 7<sup>th</sup> ICAC Symposium, Hong Kong

# Overview

- About Us: The World Justice Project (WJP)
- WJP Rule of Law Index
- Global Insights from 2019 WJP Rule of Law Index
- What the latest Index data is telling us about corruption in the world

# The World Justice Project



Our goal:  
A world made up of rule of law communities  
delivering justice, opportunity, and peace.

## **WJP Premise #1**

The rule of law is the foundation for communities of justice, opportunity, and peace.

## **WJP Premise #2**

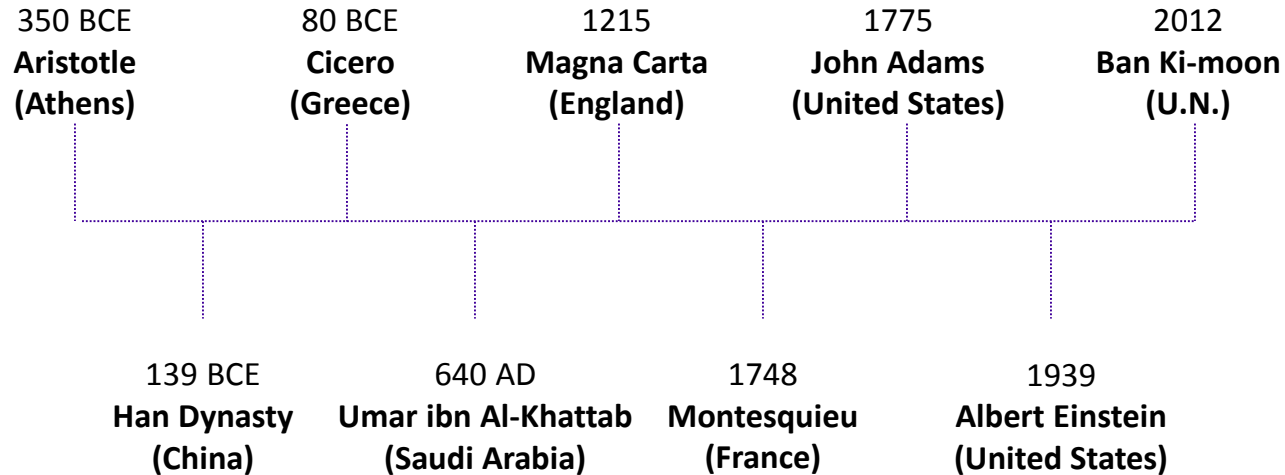
Multidisciplinary collaboration is the most effective way to advance the rule of law.

# The World Justice Project



Without a generally accepted definition of the “rule of law”, progress would be impossible

# Historical Roots of the Rule of Law



# Our Definition

The rule of law is a durable system of laws, institutions, and community commitment that delivers four universal principles:



## **Accountability**

The government as well as private actors are accountable under the law.



## **Just Laws**

The laws are clear, publicized, and stable; are applied evenly; and protect fundamental rights, including the security of persons, contract, property and human rights.



## **Open Government**

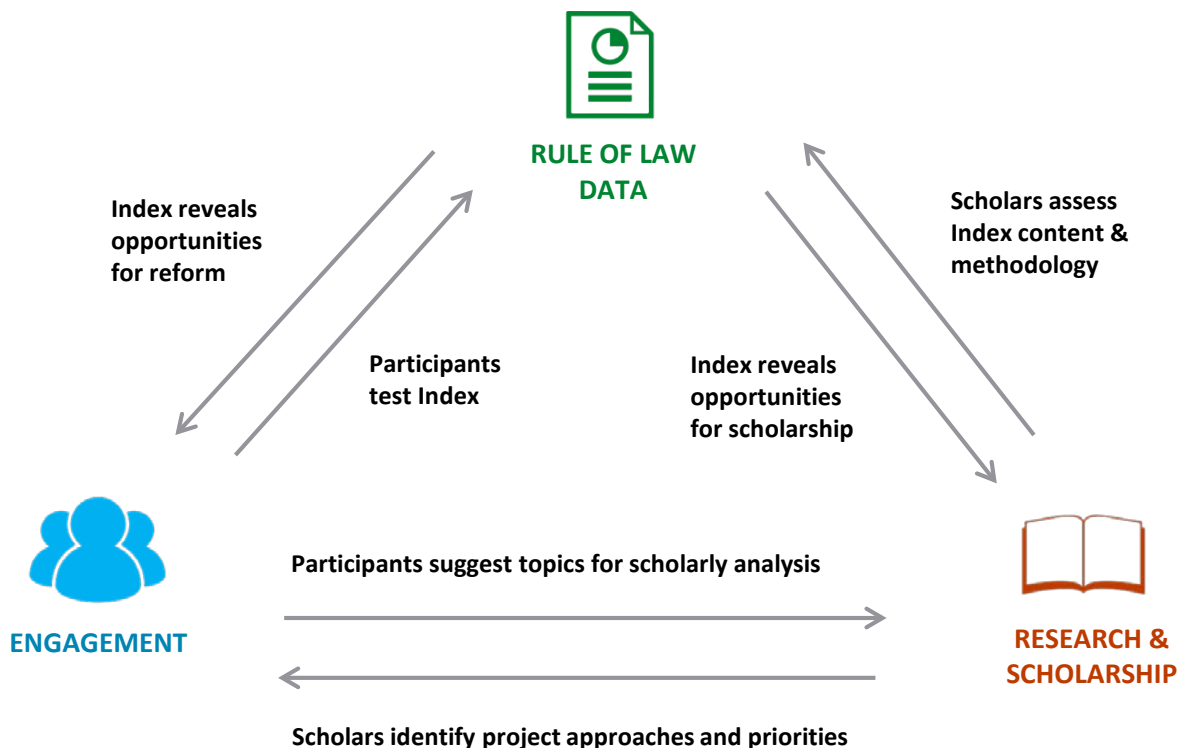
The processes by which the laws are enacted, administered, and enforced are accessible, fair, and efficient.



## **Accessible & Impartial Dispute Resolution**

Justice is delivered timely by competent, ethical, and independent representatives and neutrals who are accessible, have adequate resources, and reflect the makeup of the communities they serve.

# World Justice Project Approach



## Rule of Law Data

- *WJP Rule of Law Index*
- Country-specific Studies
- Access to Justice Assessments
- Open Government Report

## Research and Scholarship

- Rule of Law Research

## Engagement

- Country meetings
- Regional meetings
- World Justice Forum
- Resource Hub (online directory)
- Practical, locally-led programs

# Research and Scholarship



- Consortium of more than 60 leading scholars studying rule of law from multiple fields: law, economics, political science, sociology, and anthropology
- Three meetings: University of Chicago (2014); Stanford University (2016); Duke Law School (2018)
- If we can raise the visibility and prove the importance of the rule of law within the academy, it will inform students as well as the broader community



# Engagement

- Building and connecting an active **global network**
- Organising and leading **strategic convenings**
- Inspiring, incubating, and accelerating practical, locally led **programmes**

# Strategic Convenings



## Single Country Engagements

Convening a diverse group of rule of law advocates to share our country-specific data and encourage the design of pragmatic solutions to local rule of law challenges.



## Regional Conferences

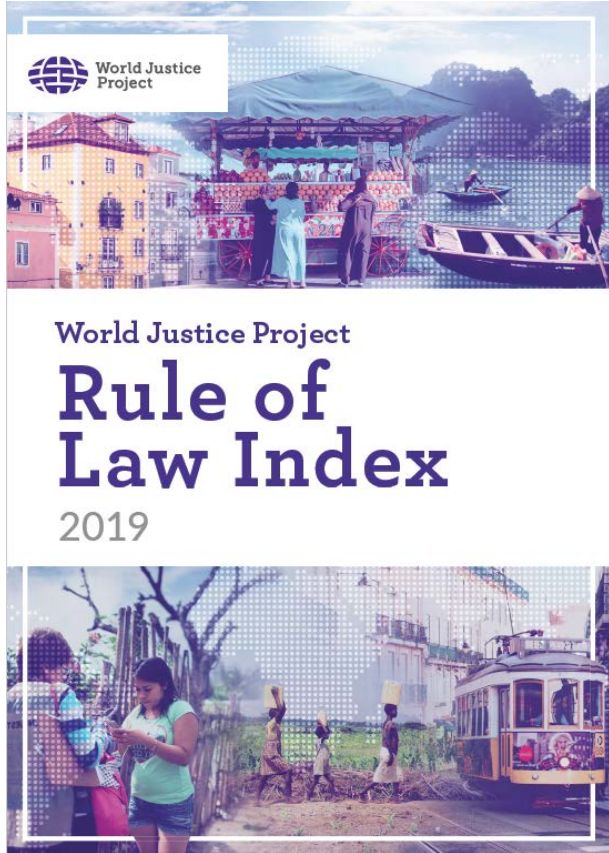
Staging meetings of 75-100 rule of law leaders from approximately 20 countries and 30 disciplines.



## World Justice Forum

Premier international event for the rule of law. Top organizations and individuals from our network share insights, explore strategies, and develop rule of law solutions.

# WJP Rule of Law Index



- Measures how the rule of law is experienced and perceived by people in 126 countries
- 1,000 surveys of randomly selected households in each country (in local languages)
- Surveys of in-country experts to develop scores of rule of law adherence
- Validate data against 3<sup>rd</sup> party sources
- Virtually all original data



500

Questions

126

Countries

120,000

Households Surveyed

3,800

Experts Interviewed

## Eight factors of the *WJP Rule of Law Index*, derived from the four universal principles



Constraints on  
Government Powers



Absence of  
Corruption



Open  
Government



Fundamental  
Rights



Order and  
Security



Regulatory  
Enforcement



Civil Justice



Criminal Justice

## 44 Sub-Factors, Derived from Eight Factors



Absence of  
Corruption

- 2.1 Government officials in the executive branch do not use public office for private gain
- 2.2 Government officials in the judicial branch do not use public office for private gain
- 2.3 Government officials in the police & the military do not use public office for private gain
- 2.4 Government officials in the legislative branch do not use public office for private gain

## Sample Questions



- *In the last 3 years, have you or someone in your household been subjected to physical abuse by the police or the military?*
- *Did you have to pay a bribe to receive medical attention at any public hospital or clinic?*
- *If you have a dispute with your neighbor or someone in your work, where would you go for resolution?*

# Administration of the household survey in Thailand



# Administration of the household survey in Myanmar



# Scores & Rankings

See pages 16–17 for global rule of law scores and rankings



Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Global Rank
Denmark	0.90	1
Norway	0.89	2
Finland	0.87	3
Sweden	0.85	4
Netherlands	0.84	5
Germany	0.84	6
Austria	0.82	7
New Zealand	0.82	8
Canada	0.81	9
Estonia	0.81	10
Australia	0.80	11
United Kingdom	0.80	12
Singapore	0.80	13
Belgium	0.79	14
Japan	0.78	15
Hong Kong SAR, China	0.77	16
France	0.73	17
Republic of Korea	0.73	18
Czech Republic	0.73	19
United States	0.71	20
Spain	0.71	21
Portugal	0.71	22
Uruguay	0.71	23
Costa Rica	0.69	24
Chile	0.68	25
Slovenia	0.67	26
Poland	0.66	27
Italy	0.65	28
Barbados	0.65	29
St. Kitts & Nevis	0.65	30
Romania	0.64	31
United Arab Emirates	0.64	32
Antigua & Barbuda	0.63	33
Namibia	0.62	34
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	0.62	35
Greece	0.62	36
Marshall Islands	0.61	37
St. Lucia	0.61	38
Bahamas	0.61	39
Rwanda	0.61	40
Georgia	0.61	41

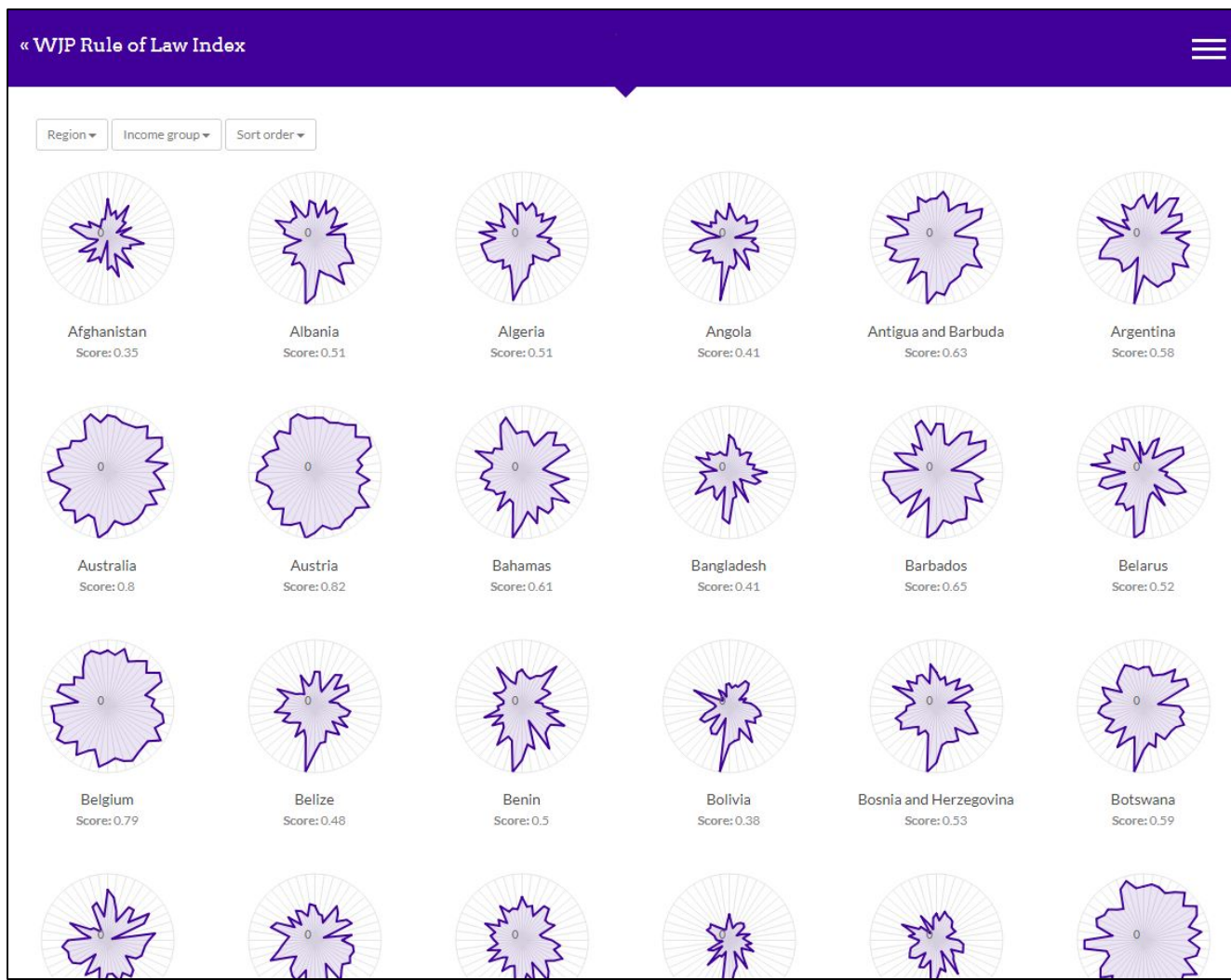
Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Global Rank
Croatia	0.61	42
Grenada	0.60	43
Botswana	0.59	44
Dominica	0.59	45
Argentina	0.58	46
South Africa	0.58	47
Ghana	0.58	48
Jordan	0.57	49
Jamaica	0.56	50
Malaysia	0.55	51
Senegal	0.55	52
Mongolia	0.55	53
Bulgaria	0.54	54
Trinidad & Tobago	0.54	55
Macedonia, FYR	0.54	56
Hungary	0.53	57
Brazil	0.53	58
Nepal	0.53	59
Bosnia & Herzegovina	0.53	60
Tunisia	0.53	61
Indonesia	0.52	62
Sri Lanka	0.52	63
Panama	0.52	64
Kazakhstan	0.52	65
Belarus	0.52	66
Malawi	0.51	67
India	0.51	68
Suriname	0.51	69

Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Global Rank
Peru	0.51	70
Albania	0.51	71
Algeria	0.51	72
Burkina Faso	0.50	73
Morocco	0.50	74
Guyana	0.50	75
Thailand	0.50	76
Ukraine	0.50	77
Serbia	0.50	78
Benin	0.50	79
Colombia	0.50	80
Vietnam	0.49	81
China	0.49	82
Moldova	0.49	83
El Salvador	0.48	84
Kyrgyzstan	0.48	85
Belize	0.48	86
Ecuador	0.48	87
Russia	0.47	88
Lebanon	0.47	89
Philippines	0.47	90
Tanzania	0.47	91
Zambia	0.47	92
Cote d'Ivoire	0.46	93
Uzbekistan	0.46	94
Dominican Republic	0.46	95
Guatemala	0.46	96
Liberia	0.46	97

Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Global Rank
Sierra Leone	0.45	98
Mexico	0.45	99
Togo	0.45	100
Kenya	0.45	101
Iran	0.45	102
Mali	0.45	103
Niger	0.44	104
Guinea	0.44	105
Nigeria	0.43	106
Madagascar	0.43	107
Mozambique	0.43	108
Turkey	0.42	109
Myanmar	0.42	110
Angola	0.41	111
Bangladesh	0.41	112
Uganda	0.40	113
Nicaragua	0.40	114
Honduras	0.40	115
Zimbabwe	0.40	116
Pakistan	0.39	117
Ethiopia	0.39	118
Bolivia	0.38	119
Cameroon	0.37	120
Egypt	0.36	121
Mauritania	0.35	122
Afghanistan	0.35	123
Congo, Dem. Rep.	0.33	124
Cambodia	0.32	125
Venezuela	0.28	126

# Compare Data

[data.worldjusticeproject.org](https://data.worldjusticeproject.org)



# Factor Scores & Rankings

See pages 22-29

## Constraints on Government Powers



Factor 1 measures the extent to which those who govern are bound by law. It comprises the means, both constitutional and institutional, by which the powers of the government and its officials are limited and held accountable under the law. It also includes non-governmental checks on the government's power, such as a free and independent press. For a further breakdown of Constraints on Government Powers by sub-factor, please refer to page 11.

Country/Jurisdiction	Factor Score*	Factor Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Factor Score*	Factor Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Factor Score*	Factor Rank
Denmark	0.95	1	Mauritius	0.60	44	Thailand	0.47	86
Norway	0.94	2	Rwanda	0.60	45	Macedonia, FYR	0.47	87
Finland	0.92	3	St. Lucia	0.60	46	Bolivia	0.46	88
Sweden	0.87	4	Grenada	0.59	47	Ecuador	0.46	89
Netherlands	0.86	5	St. Vincent & the Grenadines	0.58	48	Ukraine	0.46	90
Germany	0.85	6	Botswana	0.58	49	Bulgaria	0.46	91
New Zealand	0.85	7	Poland	0.58	50	Vietnam	0.45	92
Canada	0.85	8	Senegal	0.58	51	Dominican Republic	0.45	93
Austria	0.84	9	Croatia	0.58	52	Mozambique	0.45	94
Estonia	0.84	10	Georgia	0.57	53	Myanmar	0.45	95
United Kingdom	0.84	11	Trinidad & Tobago	0.57	54	Bosnia & Herzegovina	0.45	96
Australia	0.83	12	Ghana	0.57	55	Madagascar	0.44	97
Belgium	0.83	13	Brazil	0.56	56	Albania	0.43	98
Portugal	0.79	14	Malawi	0.56	57	Honduras	0.43	99
Costa Rica	0.78	15	Burkina Faso	0.55	58	Kazakhstan	0.43	100
Uruguay	0.75	16	United Arab Emirates	0.55	59	Bangladesh	0.42	101
France	0.74	17	St. Lucia	0.55	60	Niger	0.42	102
Czech Republic	0.73	18	Ghana	0.54	61	Hungary	0.41	103
United States	0.73	19	Mongolia	0.54	62	Cote d'Ivoire	0.41	104
Chile	0.72	20	Burkina Faso	0.54	63	Nigeria	0.41	105
Spain	0.72	21	Nigeria	0.54	64	Serbia	0.40	106
Republic of Korea	0.72	22	Malaysia	0.54	65	Ghana	0.39	107
Japan	0.71	23	Panama	0.53	66	Angola	0.39	108
Italy	0.71	24	Dominica	0.53	67	Tunisia	0.39	109
Greece	0.70	25	Mexico	0.53	68	Ghana	0.38	110
Sierra Leone	0.69	26	Liberia	0.53	69	Kenya	0.37	111
Senegal	0.68	27	Columbia	0.53	70	Honduras	0.37	112
Indonesia	0.68	28	Philippines	0.53	71	Bolivia	0.36	113
Barbados	0.65	29	Tanzania	0.52	72	Togo	0.35	114
Hong Kong SAR, China	0.65	30	Lesotho	0.52	73	Trinidad & Tobago	0.35	115
Bhutan	0.65	31	Falkland Islands	0.52	74	Zimbabwe	0.33	116
Sierra Leone	0.65	32	Sierra Leone	0.51	75	Madagascar	0.33	117
Argentina	0.62	33	Suriname	0.49	76	China	0.33	118
Jamaica	0.62	34	Jordan	0.49	77	Congo, Dem. Rep.	0.32	119
Romania	0.62	35	Kenya	0.49	78	Mauritania	0.30	120
South Africa	0.62	36	Albania	0.49	79	Lebanon	0.29	121
Peru	0.61	37	Zambia	0.48	80	Turkey	0.29	122
Antigua & Barbuda	0.61	38	Algeria	0.48	81	Cameroon	0.29	123
India	0.61	39	Kingdom of the Netherlands	0.48	82	Nicaragua	0.27	124
Bahamas	0.61	40	Maldives	0.47	83	Venezuela	0.18	125
Tanzania	0.60	41	Maldives	0.47	84			
Nepal	0.60	42	Maldives	0.47	85			



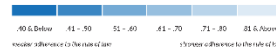
\* Scores are rounded to two decimal places.

## Fundamental Rights



Factor 4 recognizes that a system of positive law that fails to respect core human rights established under international law is at best "rule by law," and does not deserve to be called a rule of law system. Since there are many other indices that address human rights, and as it would be impossible for the Index to assess adherence to the full range of rights, this factor focuses on a relatively modest menu of rights that are firmly established under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and are most closely related to rule of law concerns. For a further breakdown of Fundamental Rights by sub-factor, please refer to page 12.

Country/Jurisdiction	Factor Score*	Factor Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Factor Score*	Factor Rank	Country/Jurisdiction	Factor Score*	Factor Rank
Finland	0.92	1	South Africa	0.64	43	Niger	0.49	85
Denmark	0.92	2	Grenada	0.63	44	Ecuador	0.49	86
Norway	0.90	3	Jamaica	0.63	45	Togo	0.49	87
Sweden	0.85	4	Peru	0.63	46	Belize	0.49	88
Austria	0.85	5	Panama	0.62	47	Thailand	0.48	89
Germany	0.85	6	Georgia	0.62	48	Malaysia	0.48	90
Belgium	0.84	7	Albania	0.61	49	Algeria	0.48	91
Netherlands	0.84	8	Ukraine	0.61	50	Madagascar	0.47	92
Canada	0.83	9	Bulgaria	0.60	51	Bolivia	0.47	93
Estonia	0.83	10	Senegal	0.60	52	Belarus	0.47	94
United Kingdom	0.82	11	Bosnia & Herzegovina	0.59	53	Kazakhstan	0.46	95
New Zealand	0.80	12	Trinidad & Tobago	0.59	54	Cote d'Ivoire	0.46	96
Australia	0.79	13	Malawi	0.59	55	Vietnam	0.46	97
Portugal	0.79	14	Hungary	0.58	56	United Arab Emirates	0.46	98
Czech Republic	0.78	15	Mongolia	0.58	57	Nigeria	0.46	99
Spain	0.78	16	Botswana	0.58	58	Morocco	0.46	100
Japan	0.78	17	Burkina Faso	0.57	59	Kenya	0.46	101
Costa Rica	0.78	18	Macedonia, FYR	0.57	60	Tanzania	0.45	102
Uruguay	0.75	19	Benin	0.56	61	Zambia	0.45	103
France	0.74	20	Dominican Republic	0.56	62	Russia	0.45	104
Barbados	0.74	21	Serbia	0.56	63	Philippines	0.42	105
Republic of Korea	0.74	22	Tunisia	0.56	64	Mozambique	0.42	106
Slovenia	0.73	23	Ghana	0.56	65	Honduras	0.42	107
Chile	0.73	24	Guatemala	0.55	66	Albania	0.40	108
Italy	0.73	25	Suriname	0.55	67	Uzbekistan	0.39	109
St. Kitts & Nevis	0.72	26	Brazil	0.55	68	Cameroon	0.39	110
United States	0.72	27	Nepal	0.54	69	Nicaragua	0.39	111
Argentina	0.70	28	St. Lucia	0.54	70	Mauritania	0.39	112
Romania	0.70	29	Moldova	0.54	71	Angola	0.38	113
Sierra Leone	0.69	30	Maldives	0.54	72	Pakistan	0.38	114
Antigua & Barbuda	0.69	31	Mexico	0.54	73	Uganda	0.38	115
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	0.68	32	Colombia	0.53	74	Congo, Dem. Rep.	0.37	116
Hong Kong SAR, China	0.65	33	India	0.53	75	Cambodia	0.35	117
Bahamas	0.65	34	El Salvador	0.52	76	Zimbabwe	0.35	118
Rwanda	0.65	35	Lebanon	0.52	77	Bangladesh	0.33	119
St. Lucia	0.65	36	Liberia	0.52	78	Venezuela	0.33	120
Greece	0.65	37	Sierra Leone	0.52	79	China	0.32	121
Norway	0.65	38	Guinea	0.52	80	Turkey	0.32	122
Poland	0.65	39	Lebanon	0.52	81	Myanmar	0.31	123
Croatia	0.65	40	Indonesia	0.52	82	Ethiopia	0.29	124
Mauritius	0.64	41	Jordan	0.49	83	Egypt	0.29	125
Dominica	0.64	42	Kyrgyzstan	0.49	84	Iran	0.25	126



\* Scores are rounded to two decimal places.

# Global Decline in Rule of Law

Percentage change in countries' rule of law score since last year.



31 countries' rule of law performance declined by 1% or more in the last year, with Nicaragua, Iran, Jordan, and Venezuela seeing the largest drop.

23 countries' rule of law performance improved by 1% or more in the last year, with Zimbabwe, Guatemala, Ethiopia, and Malaysia seeing the greatest improvement.



# Factors of the Rule of Law Over Time

Percentage of countries whose score has improved or declined for each of the eight factors of the *WJP Rule of Law Index*.

■ % of countries that have declined in the last year\*  
▨ % of countries that have declined in the last 4 years†  
■ % of countries that have improved in the last year\*  
▨ % of countries that have improved in the last 4 years†



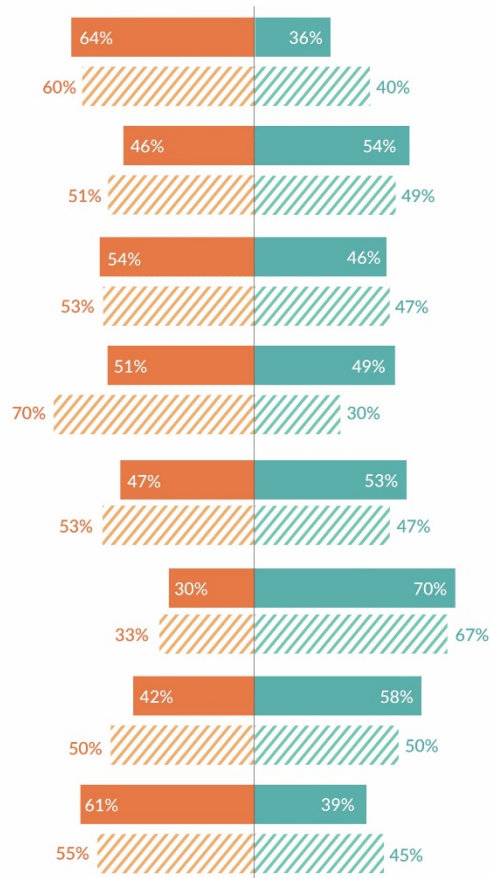
\* Out of 113

† Out of 102 countries

Biggest one-year decline



Biggest four-year decline



# A Sign of Rising Authoritarianism?

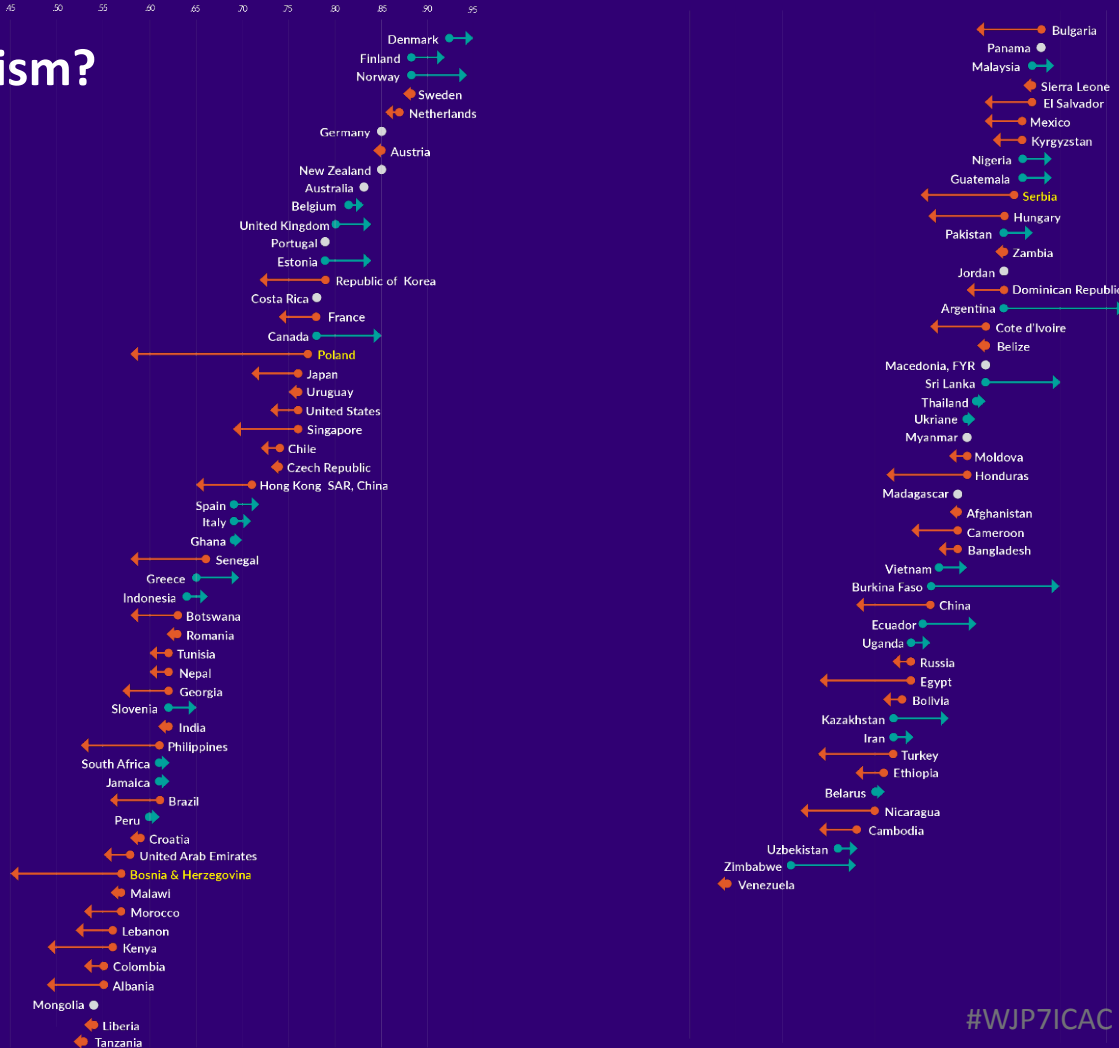
Changes in score for Factor 1,  
“Constraints on Government Powers,” since  
2015.

➡ More Constraints on Government Powers

➡ Less Constraints on Government Powers

Factor 1, “Constraints on  
Government Powers,” declined in  
more countries than any other factor  
worldwide in the last year.

60% of countries saw a decline in  
Factor 1 since 2015.



\*Countries that do not have four years of data are not shown.

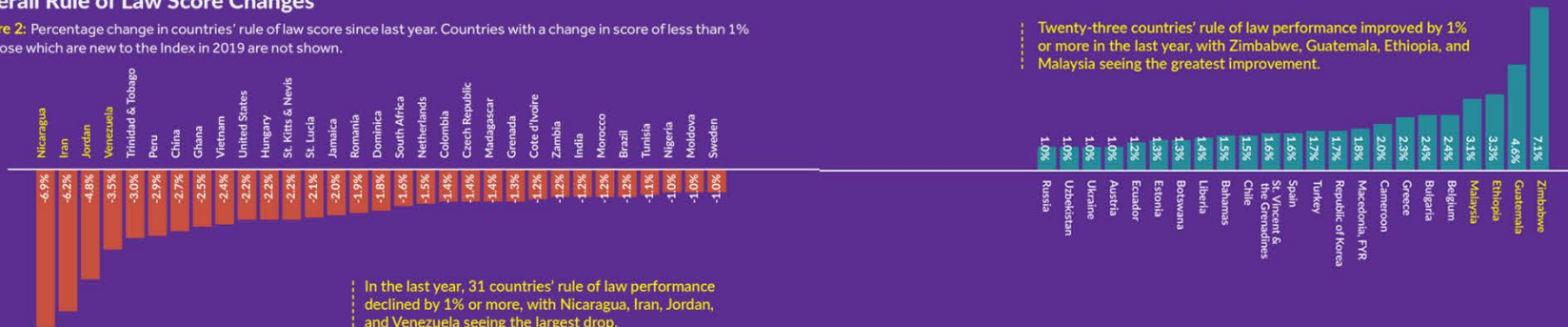
#WJP7ICAC

# Opportunities for progress

- National level - Opportunities for change should be seized quickly
- Regional level - Relatively positive trends in Africa
- Global level
  - More countries have improved in Factor 2 “Absence of Corruption” than declined for the second year in a row

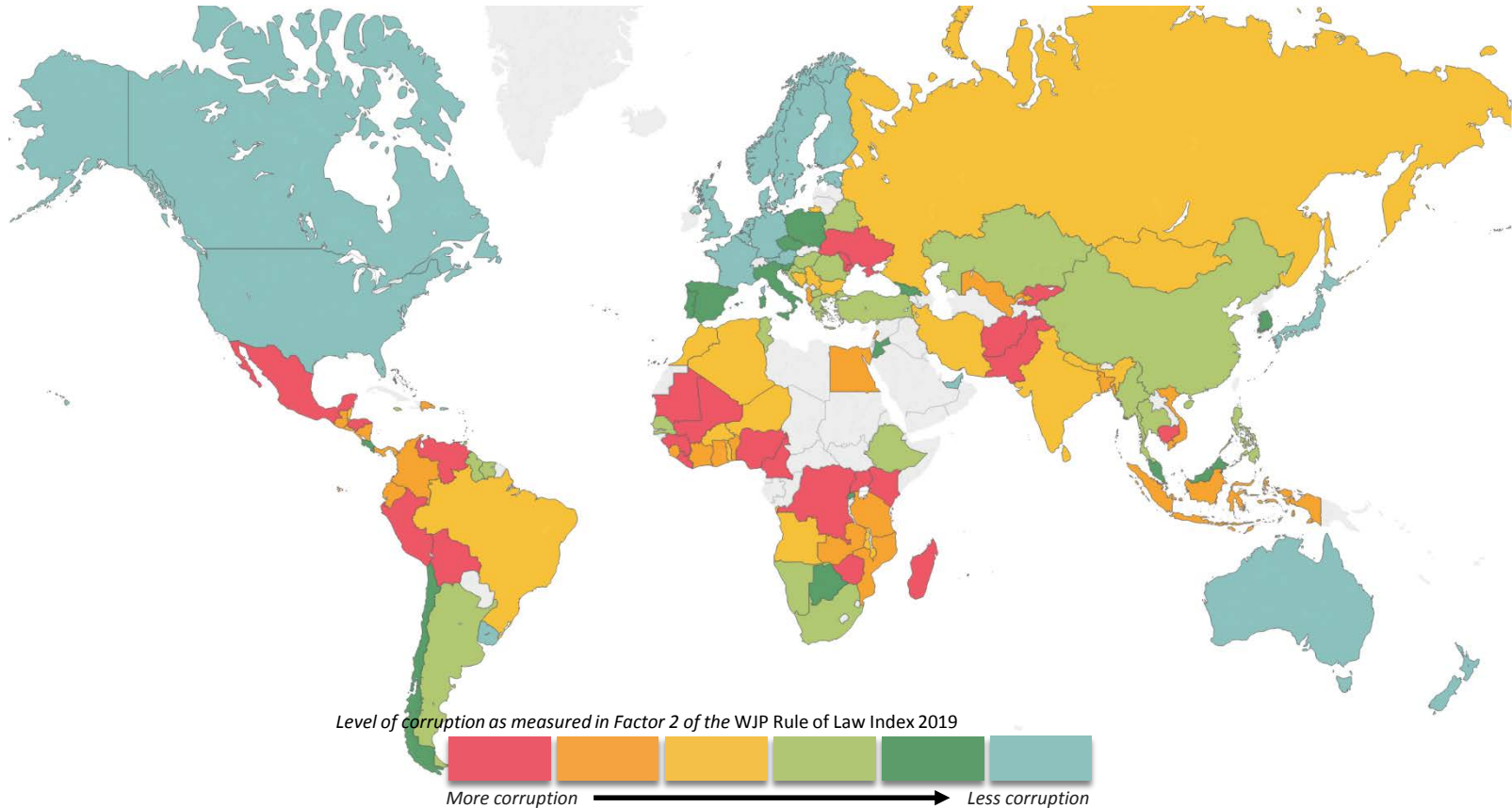
## Overall Rule of Law Score Changes

**Figure 2:** Percentage change in countries' rule of law score since last year. Countries with a change in score of less than 1% or those which are new to the Index in 2019 are not shown.



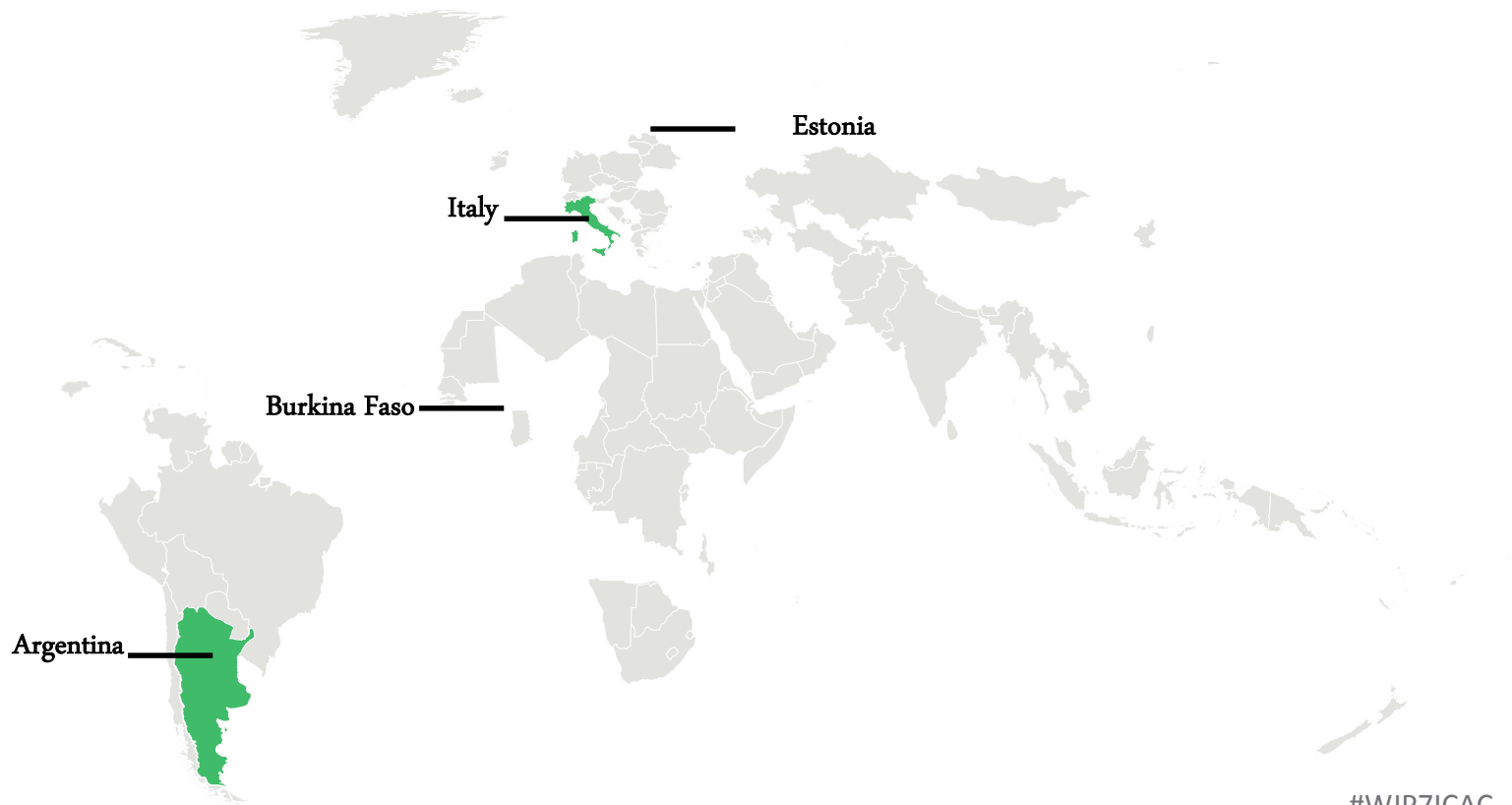
# Corruption in the World

*Corruption is still prevalent around the world, particularly in developing countries.*



## Significant Improvements in Corruption

*A few countries at different levels of development have shown significant improvements in scores for Absence of Corruption, including Argentina, Burkina Faso, and Italy.*



## The Path Forward: Suggestions for Sustained Progress

- Strengthening the global normative framework
- Increasing enforcement of anti-corruption norms
- Supporting civil society efforts to combat corruption
- Harnessing anti-corruption technology
- Strengthening all dimensions of rule of law



**World Justice  
Project**