

History repeats itself

XIX-XX centuries	XX-XXI centuries
Globalization without global governance 1880s-1914	Geopolitical conflict – Cold War
Geopolitical conflict – First World War	Globalization without global governance 1989-2008
Pandemic – Spanish flu 1919	Financial crash 2008
Financial crash 1929	Severe economic contraction – Great Recession
Severe economic contraction – Great Depression	Pandemic 2020 – covid 19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rise of authoritarianism & totalitarianism • Democracy recedes • Deglobalization & nationalism reinforced • Technological revolution: electronics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rise of authoritarianism & totalitarianism • Democracy recedes • Deglobalization & nationalism reinforced • Technological revolution: AI
Geopolitical megaconflict – Second World War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022 Ukraine invasion • 2023-25 Gaza genocide, Israel-Iran Twelve-Day War • Trump 2.0, tariffs, trade wars, geopolitical chaos • 2026 Iran war, Strait of Hormuz crisis, Lebanon war... <p style="text-align: right; color: red; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;">GUESS WHAT</p>

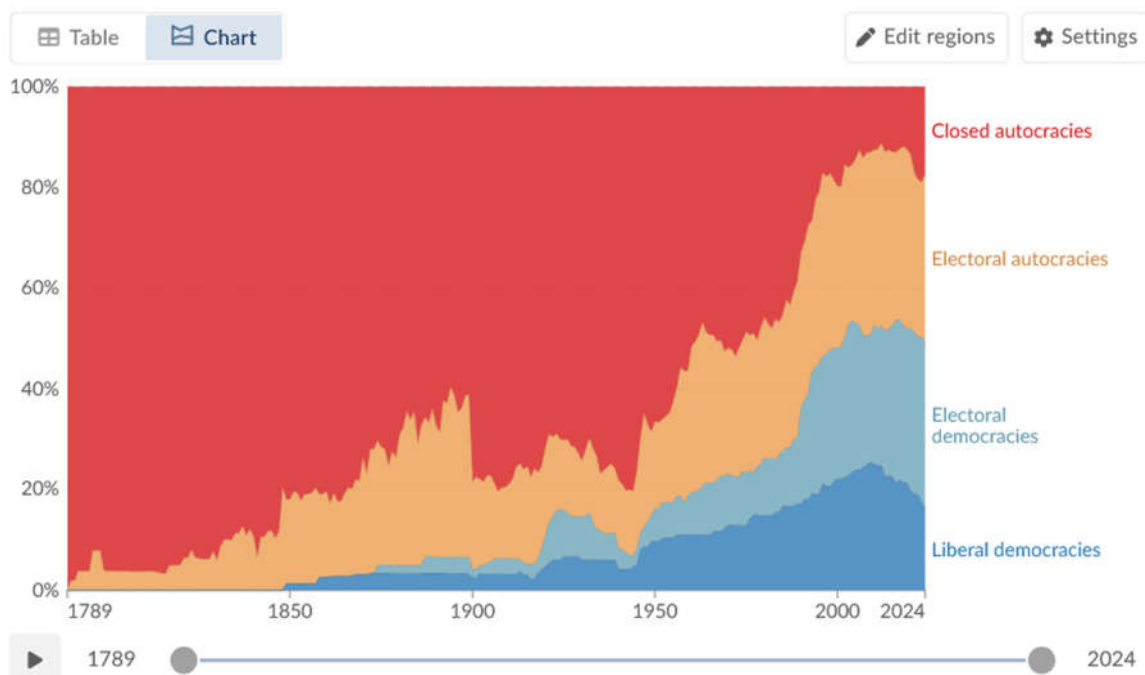
Autocracies outnumber democracies for the first time in 20 years

“One of the most striking findings of the 2025 report is that the number of autocracies has risen from 88 to 91 (56 electoral and 35 closed autocracies) and thus surpassed the number of democracies which in turn has fallen from 91 to 88 countries (29 liberal and 59 electoral democracies).”

<https://www.democracywithoutborders.org/36317/autocracies-outnumber-democracies-for-the-first-time-in-20-years-v-dem/>

Countries that are democracies and autocracies, World

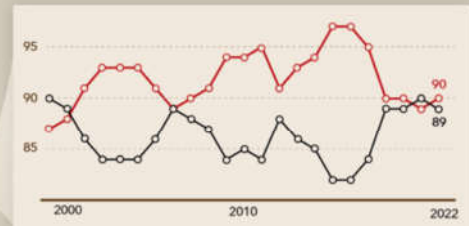
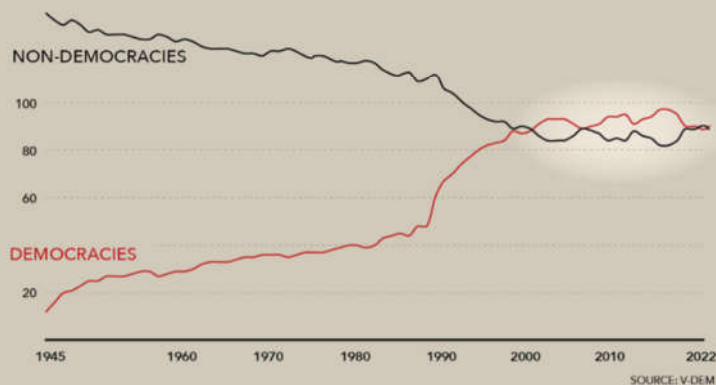
Classification by Lühmann et al. (2018) based on expert estimates by V-Dem.



<https://ourworldindata.org/democracy>

DEMOCRACY IN DECLINE

NUMBER OF DEMOCRACIES IN THE WORLD



THE END OF A MAJORITY OF DEMOCRACIES?

Since the end of World War II, the number of democratic countries climbed to overtake the number of non-democratic countries in 2001. But the trend has reversed. After two decades with a clear majority of democratic countries, the world is now evenly split between democracies and non-democracies.

The V-Dem project is a worldwide study that groups countries into four categories: Liberal Democracy, Electoral Democracy, Electoral Autocracy and Closed Autocracy.

<https://www.visualcapitalist.com/cp/number-democracies-globally/>

It is now 85 seconds to midnight

2026 Doomsday Clock Statement

Science and Security Board
Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists

Editor, John Mecklin

January 27, 2026



<https://thebulletin.org/doomsday-clock/2026-statement/>

“The Doomsday Clock is a design that warns the public about how close we are to destroying our world with dangerous technologies of our own making. It is a metaphor, a reminder of the perils we must address if we are to survive on the planet.”

“A year ago, we warned that the world was perilously close to global disaster and that any delay in reversing course increased the probability of catastrophe. Rather than heed this warning, Russia, China, the United States, and other major countries have instead become increasingly aggressive, adversarial, and nationalistic. Hard-won global understandings are collapsing, accelerating a winner-takes-all great power competition and undermining the international cooperation critical to reducing the risks of nuclear war, climate change, the misuse of biotechnology, the potential threat of artificial intelligence, and other apocalyptic dangers. Far too many leaders have grown complacent and indifferent, in many cases adopting rhetoric and policies that accelerate rather than mitigate these existential risks. Because of this failure of leadership, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists Science and Security Board today sets the Doomsday Clock at 85 seconds to midnight, the closest it has ever been to catastrophe.”

“What is deglobalization?”

Deglobalization is a movement towards a less connected world, characterized by powerful nation states, local solutions, and border controls rather than global institutions, treaties, and free movement.

Is the world in a period of deglobalization?

Some consider the world to have entered a period of deglobalization, citing recent events such as Brexit, Trumpism, the Ukraine war, problems with supply chains, the global energy crisis and the past decade’s decline in foreign direct investment (whereby residents of one country invest long-term in another country’s economy).”

“When was the last period of deglobalization?”

Some economists argue there has been a previous period of deglobalization.

The theory argues that a period of globalization followed the end of the Napoleonic wars in the 19th century, lasting to the beginning of World War One. This was then followed by a period of deglobalization which lasted until the early 1950s. This, in turn, was followed by the most recent, highly intensive period of globalization.

However, this implies deglobalization was the dominant force from 1910-1950 but the Great Depression, taking place in the 1930s, could not have happened without globalized financial flows.”

https://www.chathamhouse.org/2021/10/what-deglobalization#:~:text=Deglobalization%20is%20a%20movement%20towards%20a%20less,crisis%20*%20Decline%20in%20foreign%20direct%20investment

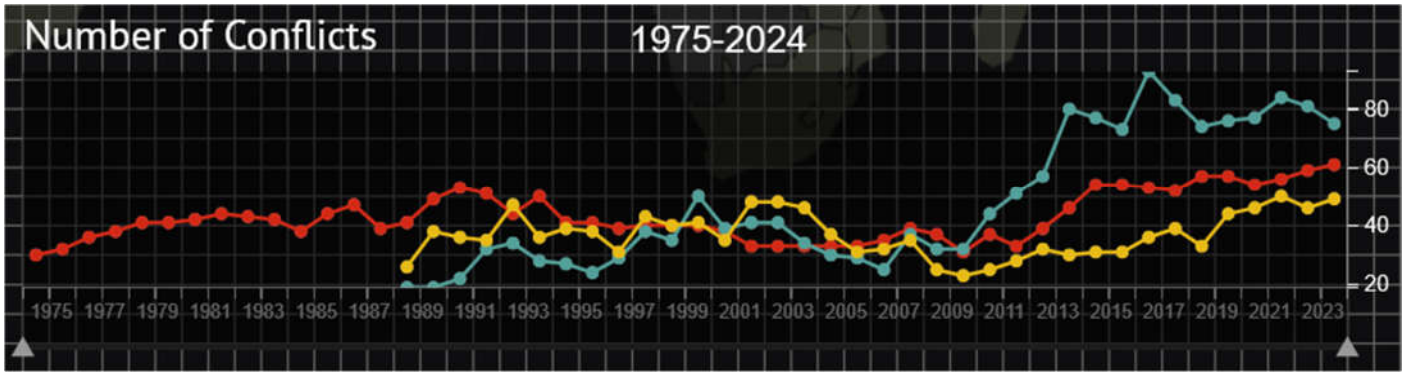
“Global trade has entered a new phase after decades of globalization. Despite narratives of ‘deglobalization’, global trade has continued to expand and has reached record levels in recent years, even as geopolitical tensions, pandemics and wars disrupted the global value chain. Indeed, China announced that its 2025 trade surplus reached a record of over \$1 trillion in just 11 months.

What seems to be changing is not the level of global integration, but its architecture. Recent US trade policy shifts have triggered a structural transformation in global supply chains and trade flows from pure cost optimization to strategic resilience – a transition better described as ‘reglobalization’ rather than deglobalization.”

<https://www.weforum.org/stories/2026/01/reglobalization-world-economy-growth/>

“As of early 2026, the global economy is transitioning from an era of hyper-globalization toward a more fragmented, ‘re-globalized’ model, characterized by regionalization, increased protectionism, and a focus on security over efficiency. While global trade reached a record in 2025 (over \$35 trillion), growth is projected to slow in 2026 due to heightened geopolitical tensions, supply chain reconfigurations, and rising trade restrictions.”

Google AI answer



Uppsala Conflict Data Program, <https://ucdp.uu.se/encyclopedia>