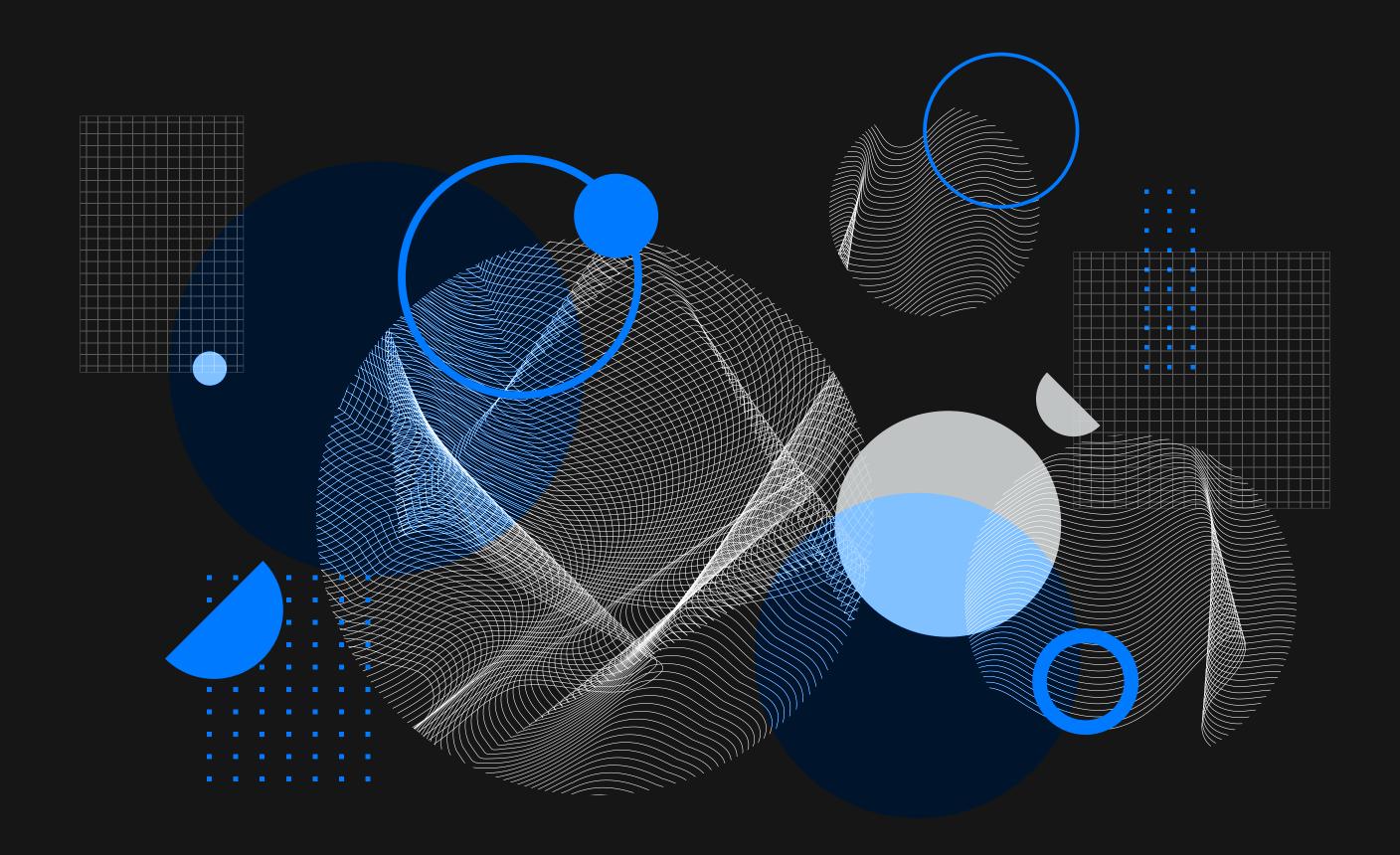




Democracy Perception Index 2023

The world's largest annual study on how people perceive democracy



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Welcome

The Democracy Perception Index (DPI) is the world's largest annual study on how people perceive democracy, conducted by Latana in collaboration with the Alliance of Democracies. The 2023 edition offers an unprecedented comparison of global attitudes towards democracy since the beginning of the COVID crisis. Results are based on nationally representative interviews with over 53,970 respondents from 53 countries conducted between February 7th and March 27th, 2023.

The DPI was published ahead of the 2023 Copenhagen Democracy Summit to support the discussion on the global state of democracy.

Dr. Nico Jaspers

CEO at Latana

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- 53,970 respondents
- **53** countries
- Spring 2023 Feb 7th - March 27th, 2023
- **75%** of the global population represented

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Foreword

The Democracy Perception Index 2023 was published ahead of the 2023 Copenhagen Democracy Summit to support the discussion on the global state of democracy.



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In every country people are calling for more democracy. Putin's brutal invasion of Ukraine shows that we can never take freedom and democracy for granted. We must do more to protect and promote the civic rights, individual liberty, and basic democratic principles. First and foremost, we must strengthen our support for all those around the world fighting for a democratic future. But leaders of certain democratic societies will also have to address the population's dissatisfaction with the lack of democracy in their countries.

Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Chair of the Alliance of Democracies Foundation, former NATO Chief, and Danish Prime Minister



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The world remains united about the importance of democracy and the need to support Ukraine. But there's a clear dividing line when it comes to bearing the economic cost of doing so. Most countries in the global south still see hunger and poverty as the world's biggest challenge, and economic inequality as the biggest threat to democracy. The West should not forget that global development and creating economic opportunities for everyone are also key ingredients to promoting democracy around the world.

Dr. Nico Jaspers, CEO at Latana





Executive Summary

The Democracy Perception Index (DPI) aims to understand how people around the world perceive the state of democracy in their country today and the major challenges that lie ahead. It is the largest annual study on people's perception of democracy, spanning 53 countries that represent over 75% of the world's population.

State of Democracy

Faith in democracy has remained high across the globe over the past five years, with 84% saying that it's important to have democracy in their country. When it comes to key components of democracy, the results are even more clear: over 90% say freedom of speech, fair elections and equal rights are important to have in their country - a result that is similar in most democratic and non-democratic countries.

Governments, however, are not seen to be living up to the democratic expectations of their citizens: only a little more than half of the people that we polled are satisfied with the state of democracy in their country (57%). The dissatisfaction is not limited to non-democratic countries, but is also very prevalent in the US, Europe and in other countries with a long democratic tradition.

Threats to Democracy

Economic inequality is still perceived to be the number one threat to democracy worldwide, (69%), followed by corruption (68%) and the influence of global corporations (60%). About half of the people around the world, in both democratic and non-democratic countries, feel that their government is acting only in the interest of a small group of people.

Americans are growing more and more concerned about threats to their democracy. Since 2021, fear of unfair elections has increased most dramatically in the US (from 49% to 61%), but economic inequality remains the top perceived threat (from 61% to 69%).

When it comes to social media platforms and their impact on democracy, people are divided: in Europe and North America, a large majority of people view social media platforms as having a negative or mixed impact on democracy. In most other countries, however, people have a more positive view.

Global Challenges

▶ Overall, war and violent conflicts are currently seen as the most important global challenges, followed by poverty and hunger, and climate change. But there are important differences across regions: in Europe and Asia, people are primarily concerned about war and conflict, while the rest of the world is concerned about poverty and hunger.

At the national level, most people want their governments to focus more on poverty reduction, corruption and economic growth. However there are strong regional differences in priorities: Europe and the United States are much more likely to want their government to prioritize improving healthcare, fighting climate change, and reducing immigration than countries in Asia and Latin America, where fighting corruption and promoting growth are more important.

Despite 32% of the world saying that climate change is one of the world's top three biggest challenges, only 15% of people say fighting climate change should be among the top-three priorities for their government.



Executive Summary

Geopolitics

Support for cutting economic ties with Russia over its invasion of Ukraine remains high in Europe and the United States even after several rounds of sanctions. But in the rest of the world most people prefer keeping economic ties with Russia.

When asked about cutting economic ties with China if it were to invade Taiwan, the world is also divided between the West and the rest. People in western democracies are generally in favor of cutting ties with China in the event of an invasion. This includes several of China's largest trading partners: the United States, Japan and Germany. Most other countries, however, have mixed attitudes or clearly prefer keeping ties.

Despite heavy NATO assistance to Ukraine over the past year, one third of the global population still says that "too little" has been done to assist Ukraine, and roughly half say that the assistance has been the "right amount" (48%). A much smaller share (17%) says that "too much" has been done to assist Ukraine.

Perception of Global Powers

People in almost all countries surveyed have positive perceptions of the European Union, the United Nations and the United States, and negative perceptions of Russia. While perceptions of Russia are still overwhelmingly negative in most western democracies, they are less so than they were in the early days of the war in the Spring of 2022.

When it comes to perceptions of China, the world is divided: western democracies, particularly the United States, European countries, Australia, Japan and South Korea, have negative views of China, while the rest of the world has more mixed or positive views.

The United States is seen as having a positive influence on global democracy by most countries around the world, particularly in Latin America, Asia and several Eastern European countries such as Poland and Ukraine. The US's impact on global democracy is seen more critically in Western European countries, however, where attitudes are mixed or even slightly negative.

Public attitudes between China and Russia are very positive and reciprocal: people in both countries have positive views of each other's country, and the vast majority of people prefer keeping economic ties. Both populations also share very negative attitudes towards the United States and are the only two countries surveyed to have generally negative perceptions of the European Union.

Democracy under COVID

▶ Despite relatively high levels of satisfaction with their governments' response to Covid, the concern that governments have limited freedoms too much during the pandemic is still high and widespread, with a little over half of respondents globally expressing concern (56%), both in democratic and less democratic countries.



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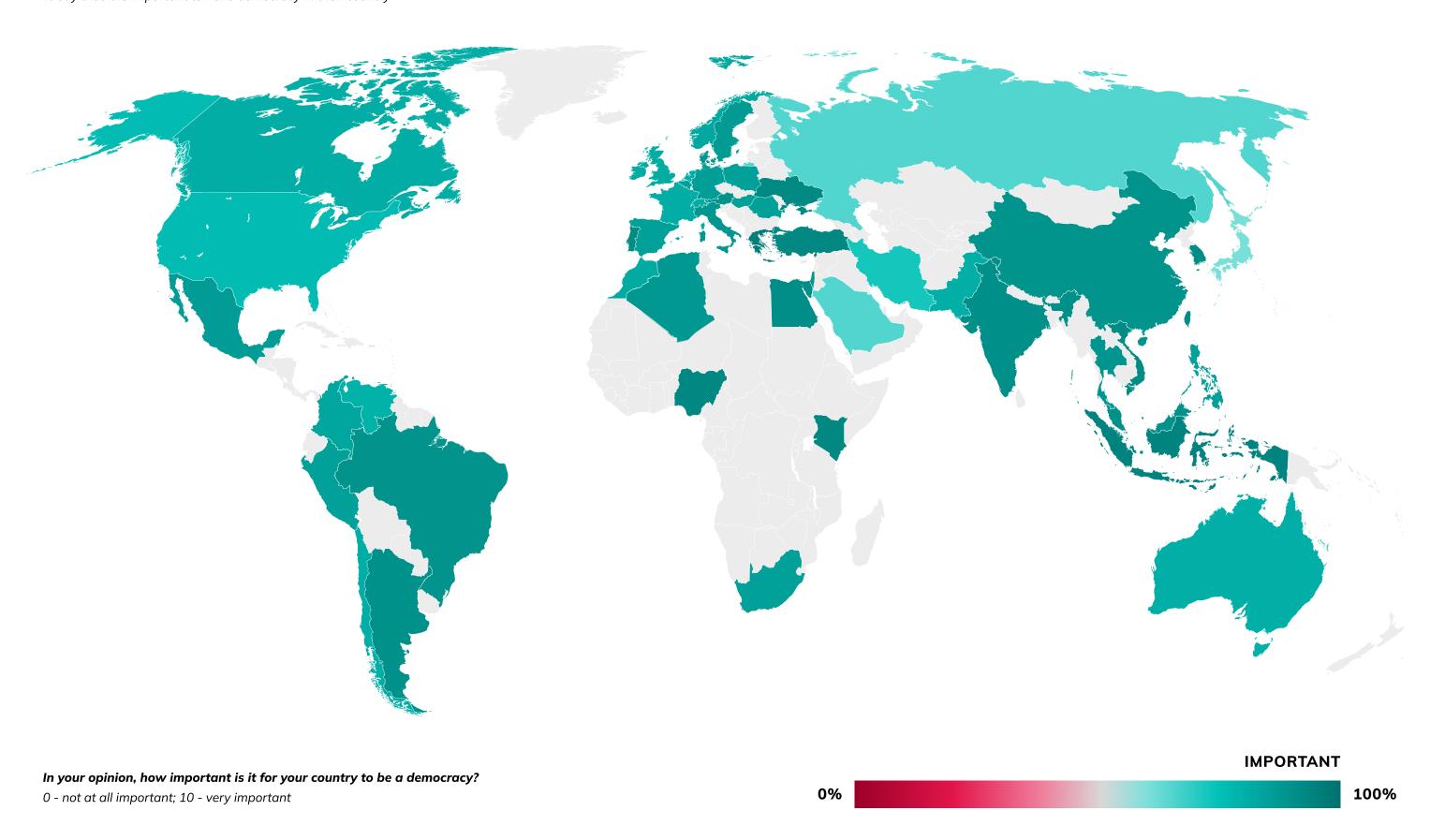


Importance of Democracy

Despite the 17th consecutive year of decline in global freedom according to Freedom House, the vast majority of people worldwide consistently say that democracy is important to have in their country (84%).

Democracy is important for people around the world

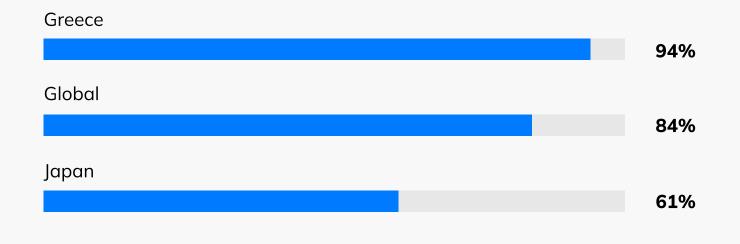
% say that it is important to have democracy in their country



KEY FINDINGS

Democracy is important

Across the 53 countries surveyed in the Democracy Perception Index (DPI) study, an average of 84% of people say that democracy is important to have in their country, ranging from 94% in the birthplace of democracy, Greece, to 61% in Japan. This is a majority opinion in all countries.

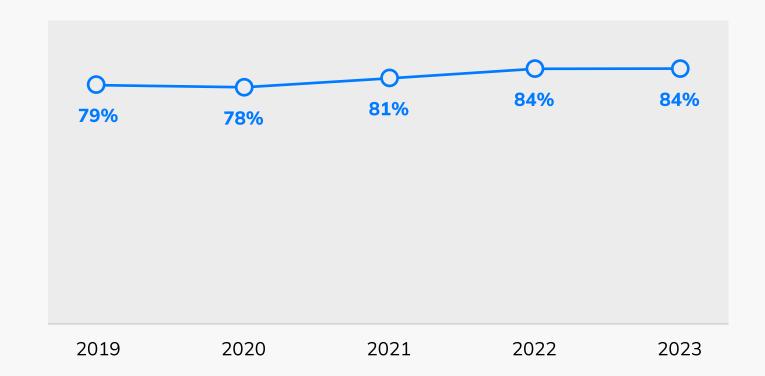


TREND

Global faith in democracy remains high

Over the last five years, global faith in democracy has remained consistently high.

% say that it is important to have democracy in their country



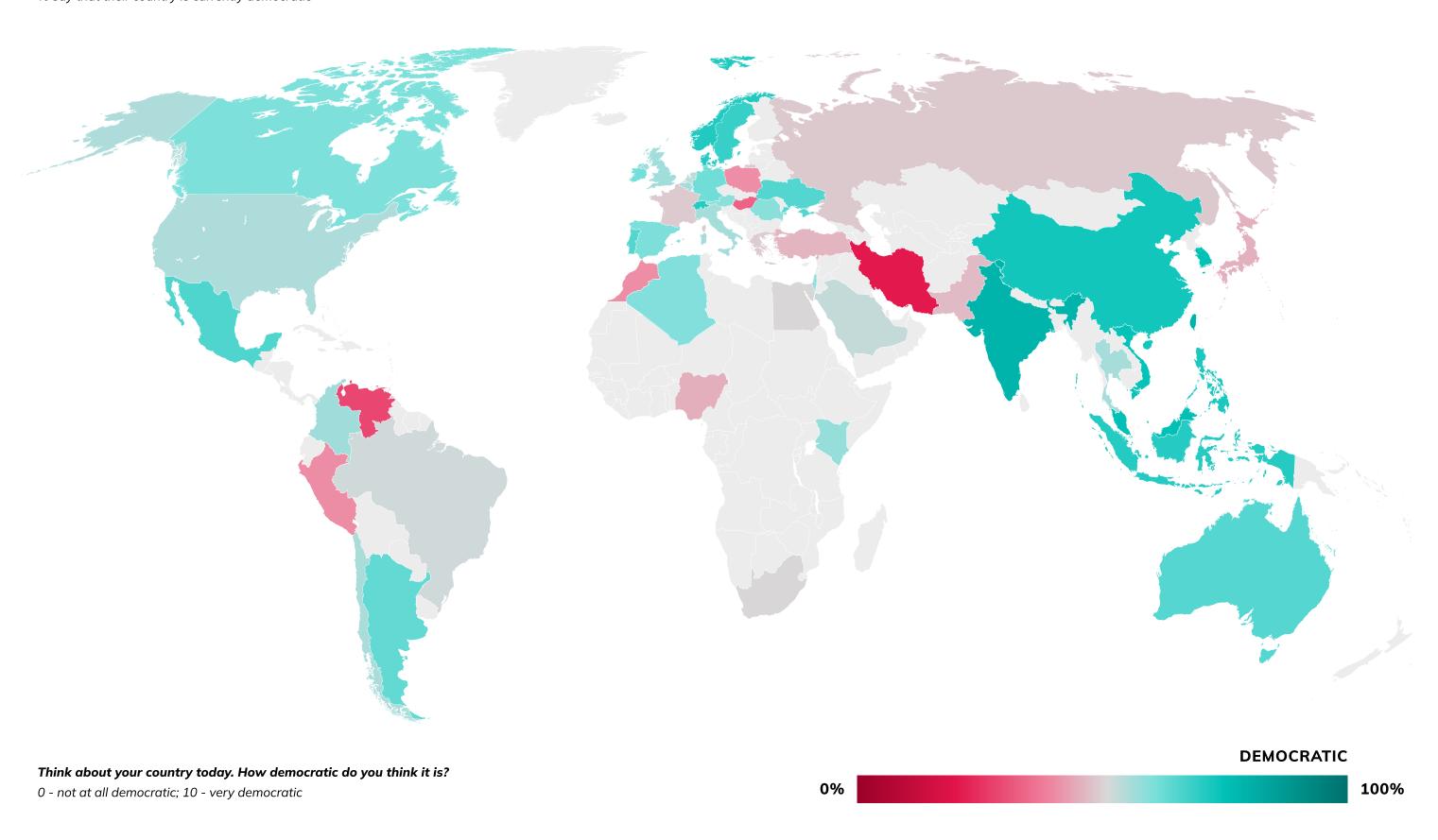


Democracy Today

When asked how democratic people think their country currently is, only about half the world (57%) says that their country is actually democratic. This is true even in democracies labeled as "free" by Freedom House, where only 58% say that their country is democratic.

People don't think their countries are very democratic - even in democracies

% say that their country is currently democratic



KEY FINDINGS

Only about half the world (57%) says their country is democratic

The countries considered most democratic by their citizens are India, Taiwan, and South Korea.

Out of all countries labeled as "free" democracies by Freedom House, Poland is considered the least democratic by its people (40%).

METHODOLOGY

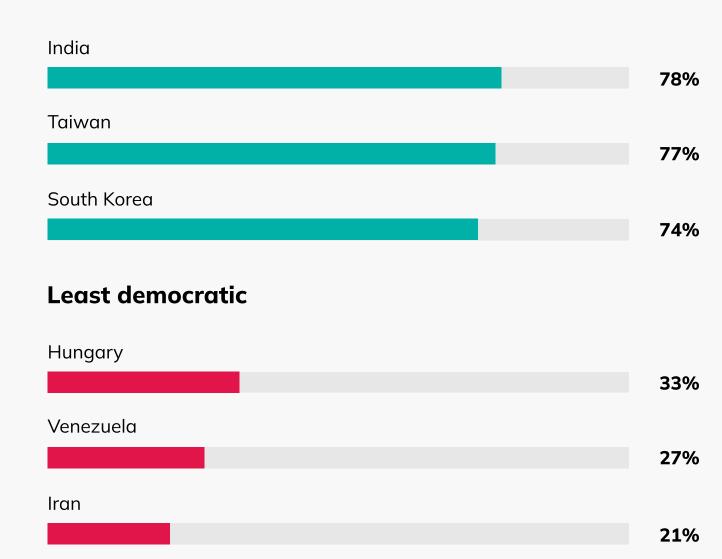
How the DPI categorizes democracies:

In order to compare public opinion results between more democratic countries and less democratic countries, the DPI uses the 2023 categories from Freedom House to create two groups:

 $\hbox{\it "Free"} \hbox{\it - the most democratic countries, labeled as "Free" by Freedom House}$

"Less Free" - less democratic countries and non-democratic countries, labeled as either "Partially Free" or "Not Free" by Freedom House

Most democratic



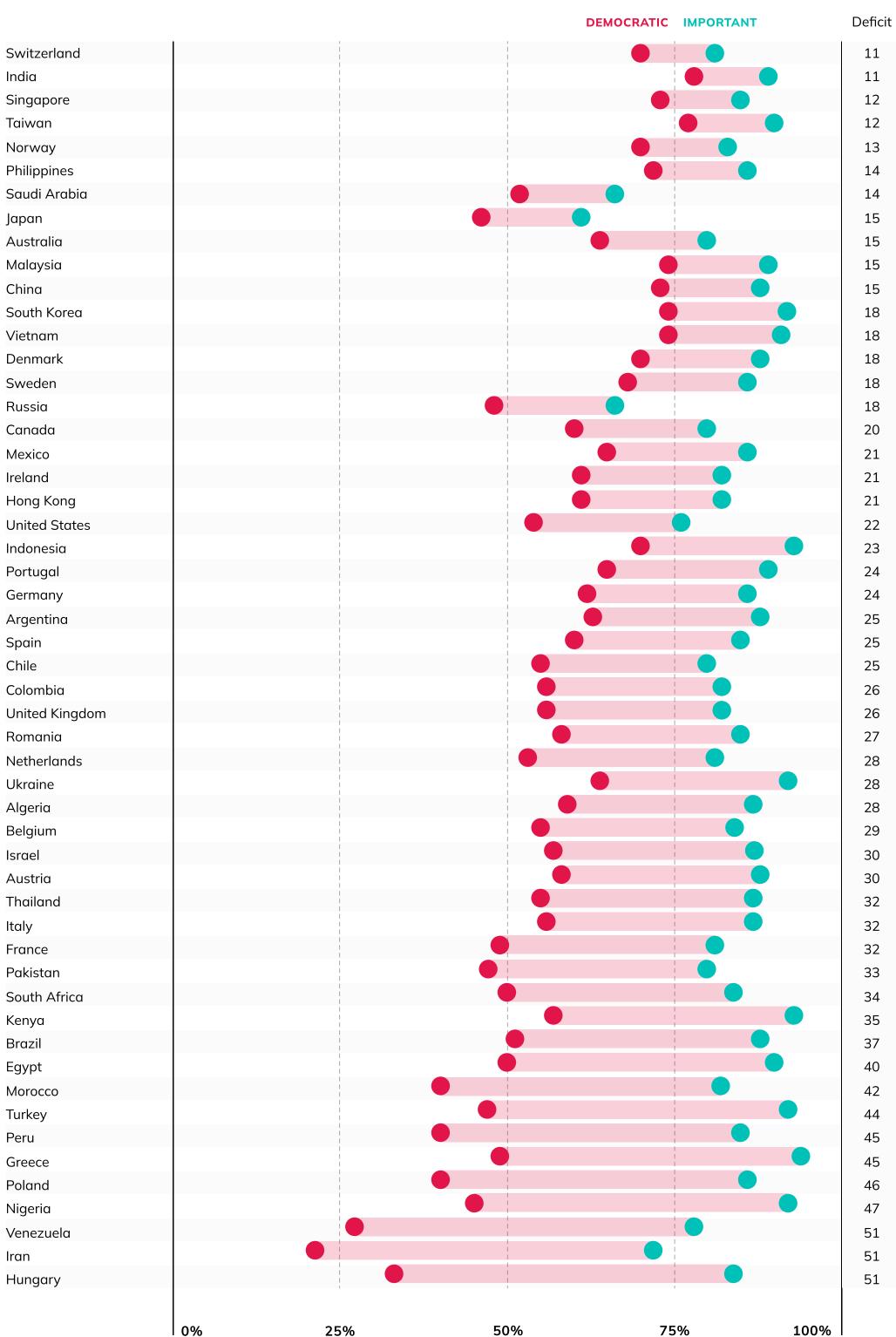


Perceived Democratic Deficit

To capture public dissatisfaction with the state of democracy, the DPI measures the difference between how important people say democracy is and how democratic they think their country is. This difference is called the Perceived Democratic Deficit. The larger the deficit, the more governments are failing to live up to the democratic expectations of their citizens.

Governments are not living up to the democratic expectations of their citizens

% say that democracy is important vs. % say that their country is democratic

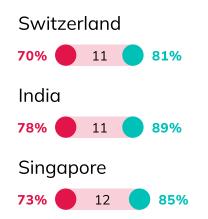


Perceived Democratic Deficit

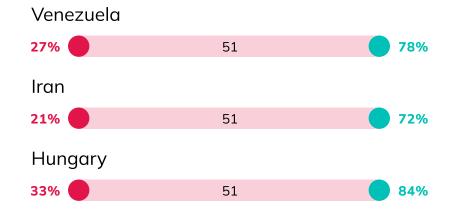
No country is fully living up to the democratic expectations of its citizens - in other words, no country has a Perceived Democratic Deficit of 0.

However, some countries are much closer to fulfilling their citizens' expectations than others.

Smallest Deficit



Largest Deficit



TREND 2022 VS 2023

The Perceived Democratic Deficit has increased significantly in Iran (+15) since 2022.

In your opinion, how important is it for your country to be a democracy?

0 - not at all important; 10 - very important

Think about your country today. How democratic do you think it is?

0 - not at all democratic; 10 - very democratic

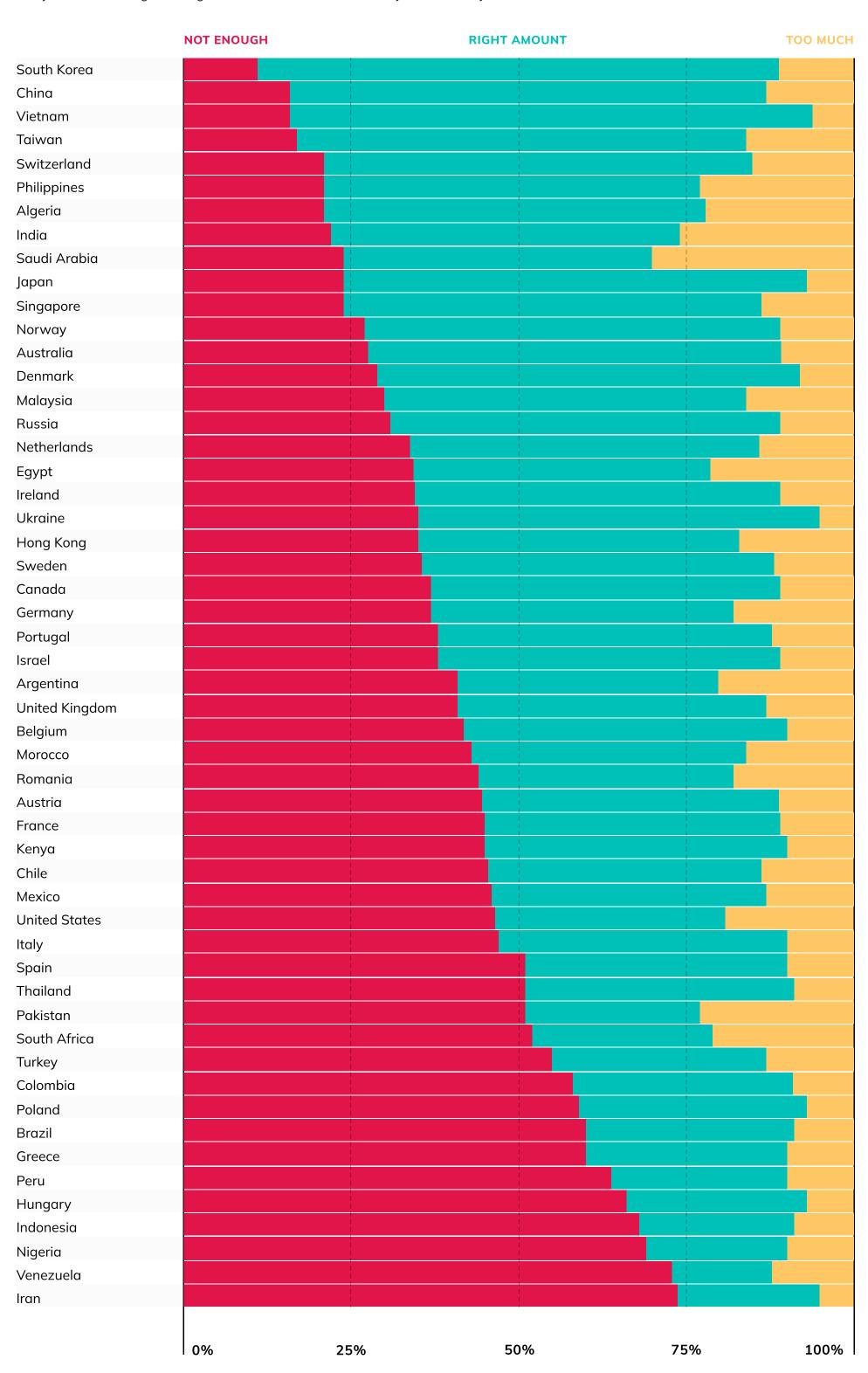


Desire for More Democracy

Across the 53 countries surveyed, 41% of people say there is "not enough democracy" in their country, while 46% say there is the "right amount" and only 13% say there is "too much".

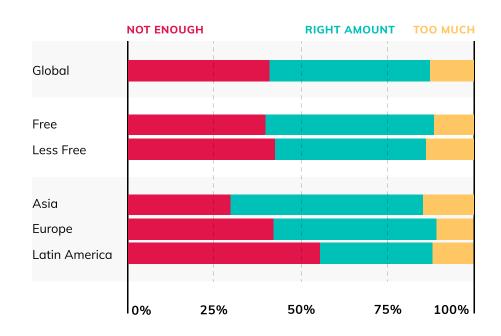
41% of people say there is "not enough democracy" in their country

% say there is not enough", the "right amount" or "too much" democracy in their country



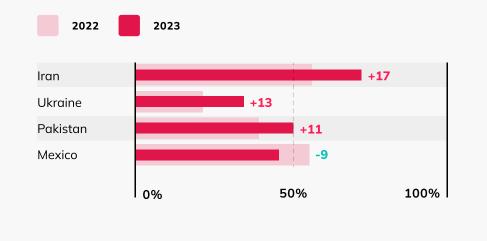
Dissatisfaction with the level of democracy is highest in Latin America - and lowest in Asia

The feeling that there is "not enough democracy" is highest in Latin America (55%), then Europe (42%), and lowest in Asia (30%).



TREND 2022 VS 2023

The feeling that there is "not enough democracy" has increased most in Iran (+17), Ukraine (+13) and Pakistan (+11) since 2022, and decreased significantly in Mexico (-9).



Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

I think there is not enough democracy in my country

I think there is the right amount of democracy in my country

I think there is too much democracy in my country

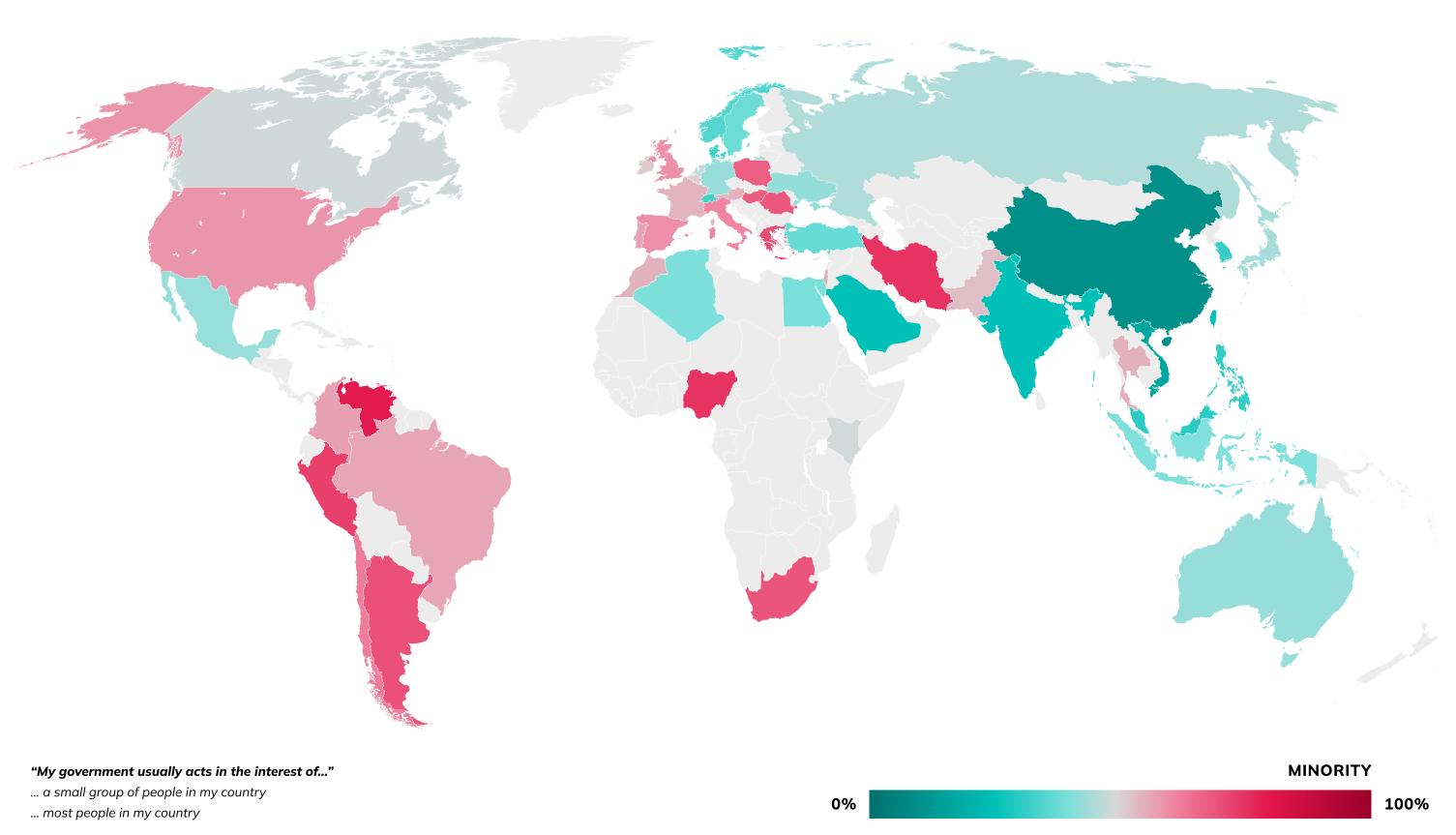


Government Accountability

Across the 53 countries surveyed, an average of 48% of people say that their government mainly serves the interest of a minority - even in democracies. This sentiment is most prevalent in the Latin American countries surveyed (63%), the US (58%) and Europe (52%), and least prevalent in Asian countries (32%), particularly China (10%).

Half of the world says their government only serves a minority

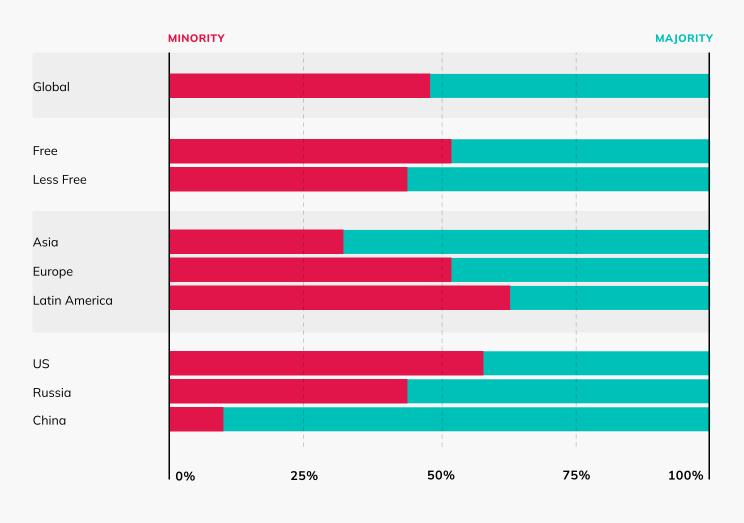
% say their government usually acts in the interest of a "small group of people" (minority)



KEY FINDINGS

People in Latin America are most likely to say that their government serves a minority

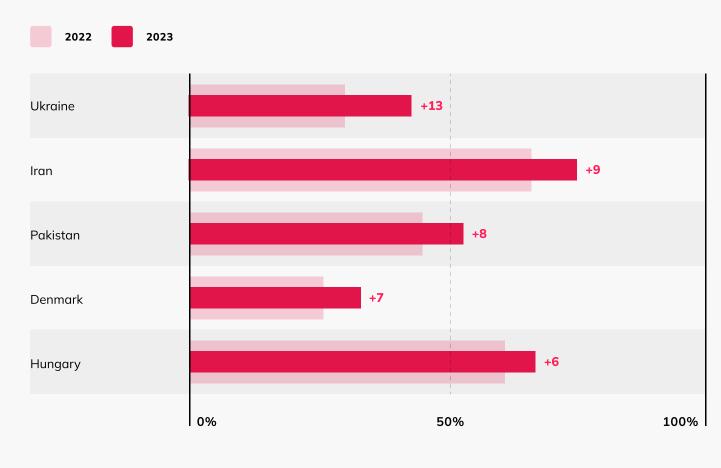
% say their government acts in the interest of...



TREND 2022 VS 2032

Top 5 countries where the sentiment has grown most since last year

% say their government mainly acts in the interest of a small group of people





Threats to Democracy

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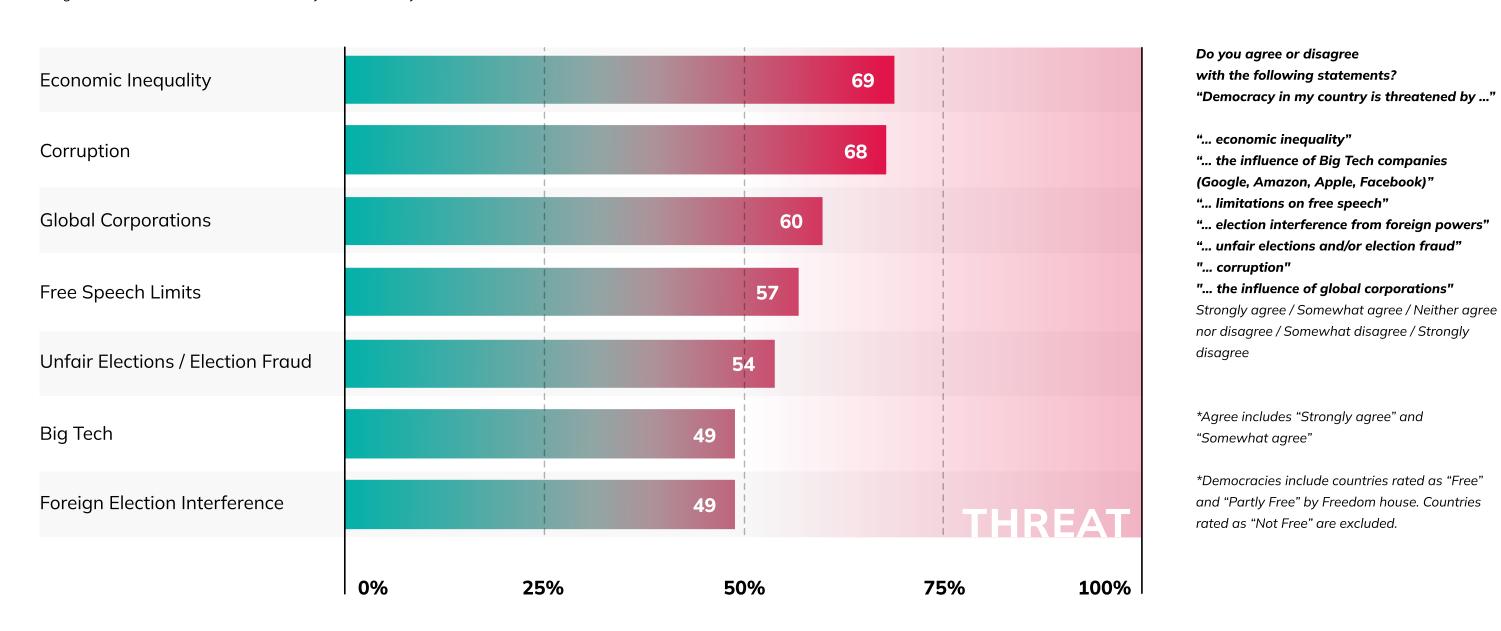
Threats to Democracy

This chapter provides an overviews of what people in democratic countries see as the biggest threats to democracy.

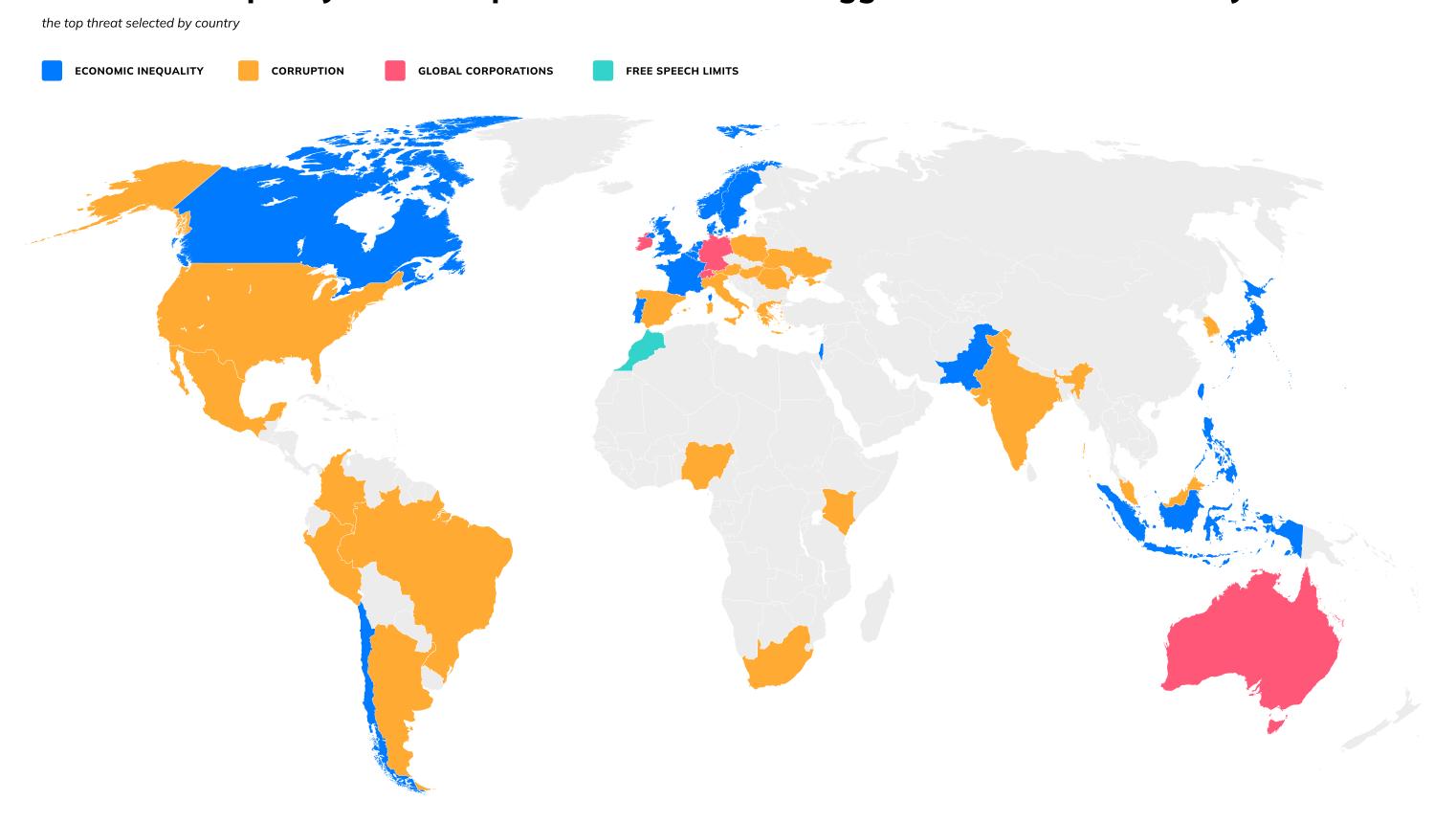
The results show that out of all the threats listed in the DPI, economic inequality is viewed as the most significant threat among the 43 democracies* surveyed: an average of 69% say that economic inequality threatens democracy in their country.

Economic inequality is viewed as the biggest threat to democracy worldwide

% agree* that _____ is a threat to democracy in their country



Economic inequality and corruption are seen as the biggest threats to democracy



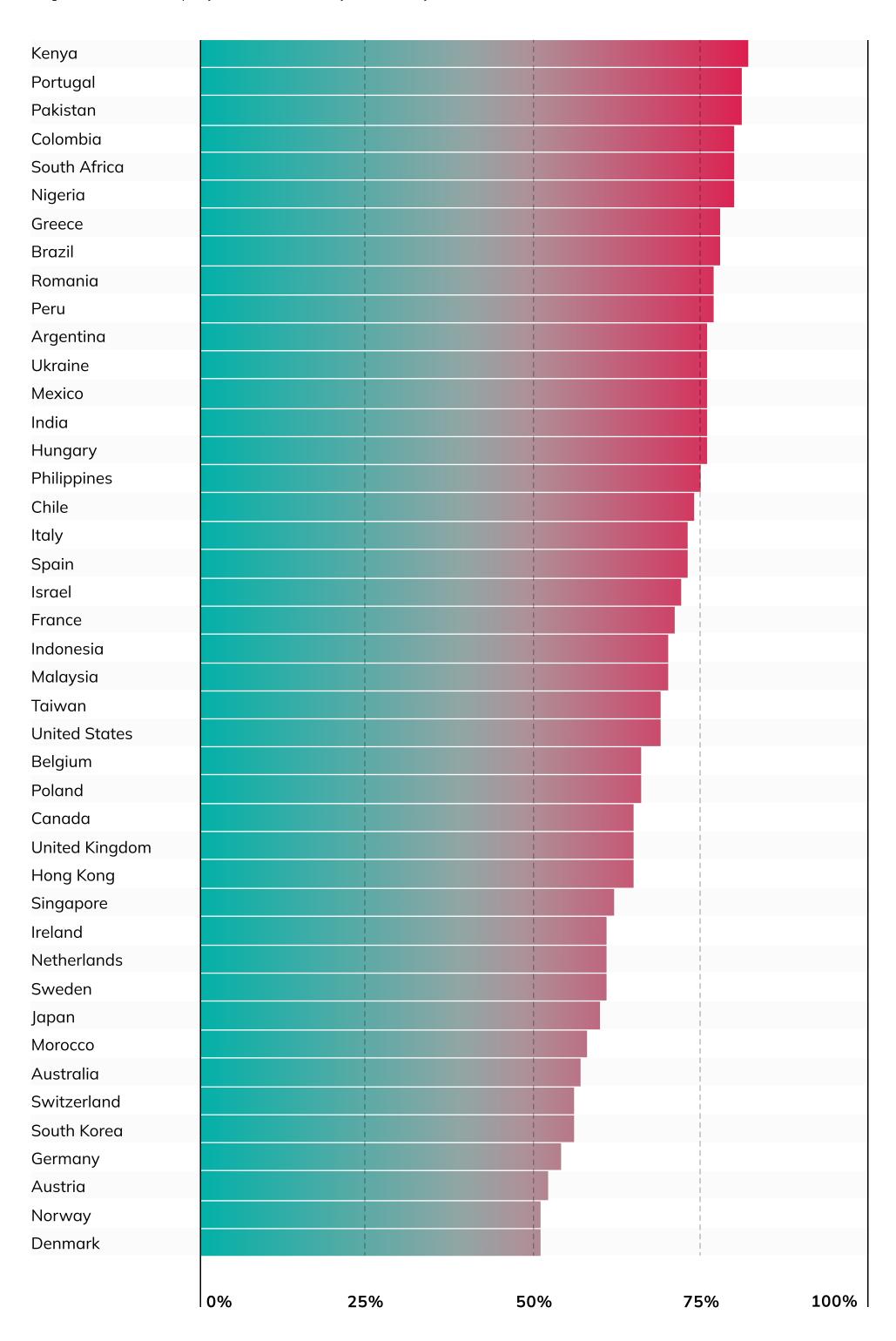


Economic Inequality

The vast majority of people in almost all democracies (69%) say that economic inequality is a threat to democracy in their country.

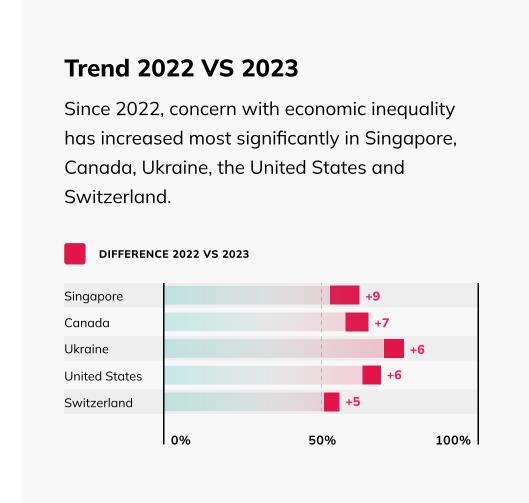
Majority of people in almost all countries say that economic inequality is a threat to democracy

% agree* that economic inequality is a threat to democracy in their country



Regional Results

The concern with economic inequality is highest in the three African democracies surveyed (81%), followed by the Latin American democracies (77%) and then Asia (68%), and Europe (66%).



*Democracies include countries rated as "Free" and "Partly Free" by Freedom house. Countries rated as "Not Free" are excluded.

"Democracy in my country is threatened by economic inequality"

 $Strongly\ agree\ /\ Somewhat\ agree\ /\ Neither\ agree\ nor\ disagree\ /\ Somewhat\ disagree\ /\ Strongly\ disagree\ disagree\ /\ Somewhat\ disagree\ disa$

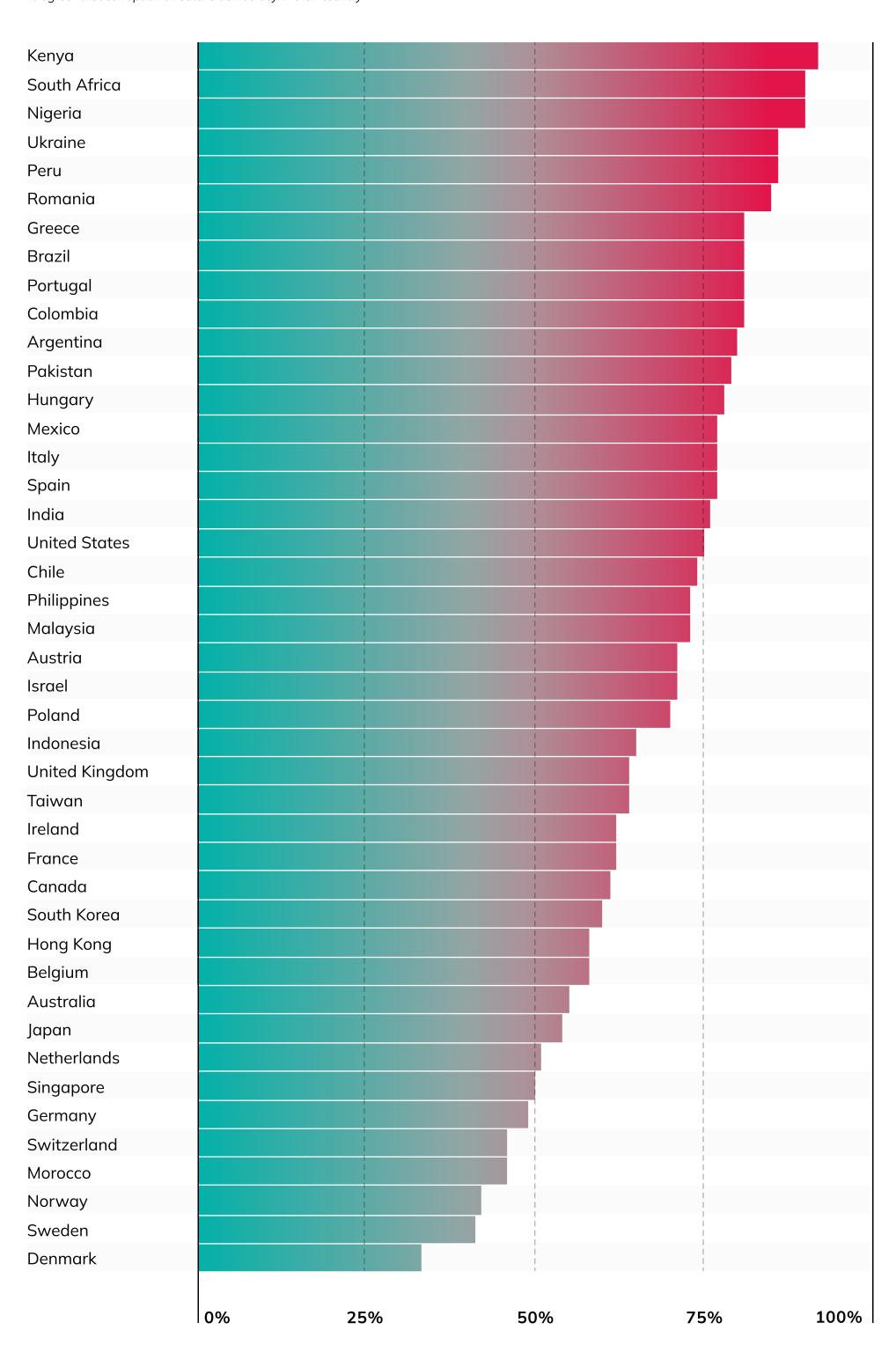


Corruption

Behind economic inequality, corruption was the most cited threat to democracy. A large majority of people in almost all democracies (68%) say that corruption is a threat to democracy in their country.

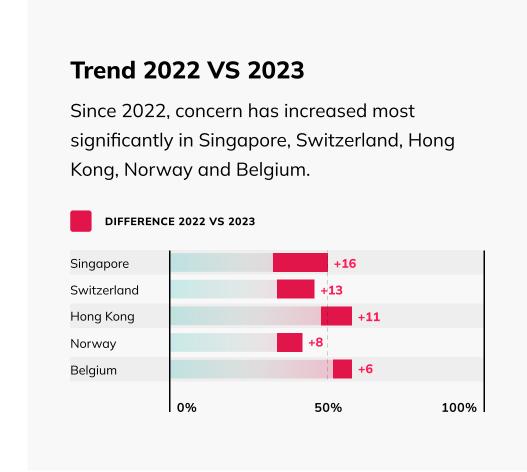
Most people view corruption as a threat to democracy in their country

% agree* that corruption threatens democracy in their country



Regional Results

The concern is particularly high in the three African countries surveyed (91%), and in Latin America (80%).



*Democracies include countries rated as "Free" and "Partly Free" by Freedom house. Countries rated as "Not Free" are excluded.

Strongly agree / Somewhat agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Somewhat disagree / Strongly disagree



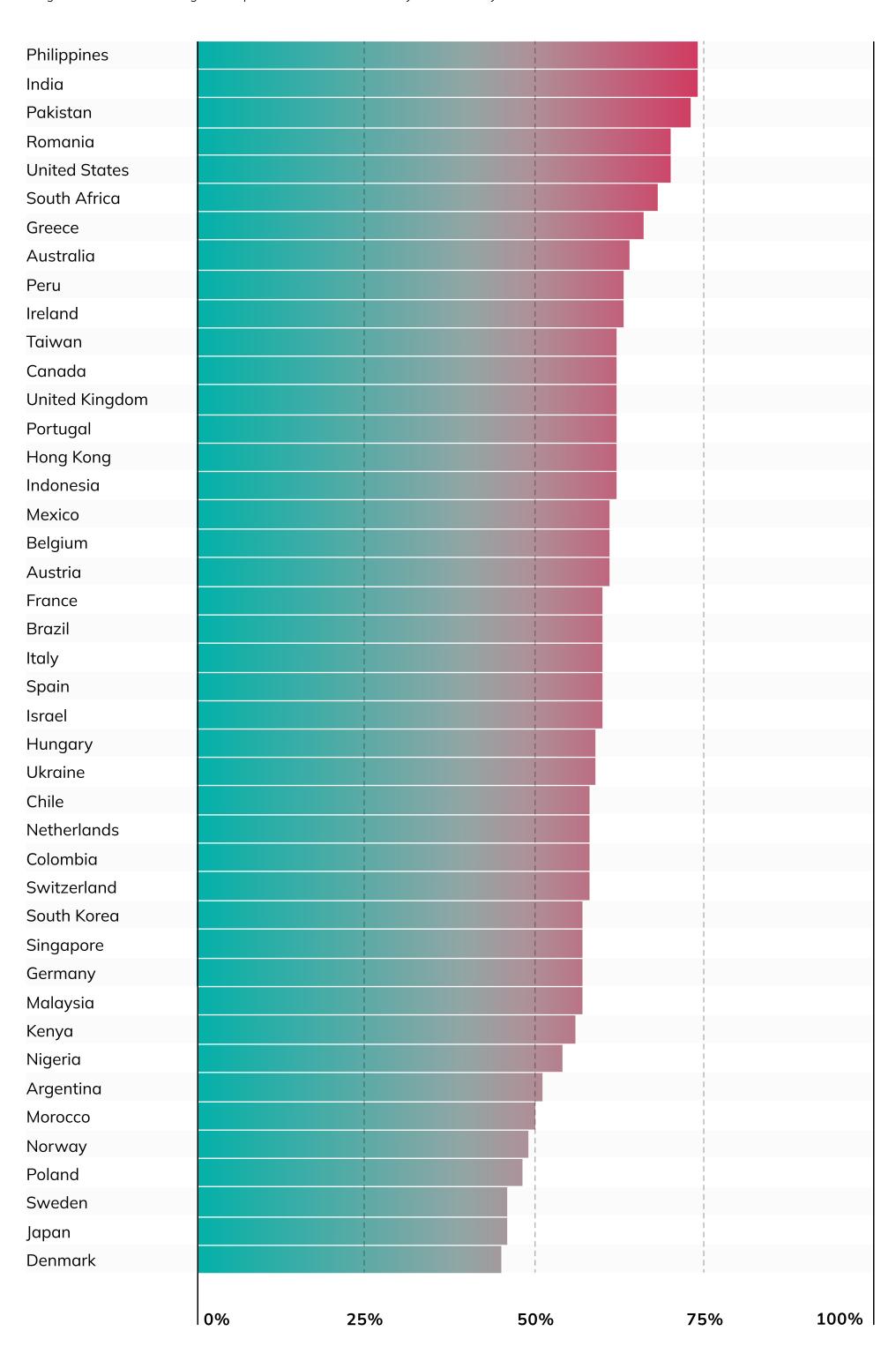
[&]quot;Democracy in my country is threatened by corruption"

Global Corporations

After economic inequality and corruption, global corporations are viewed as the third most significant threat to democracy by people around the world.

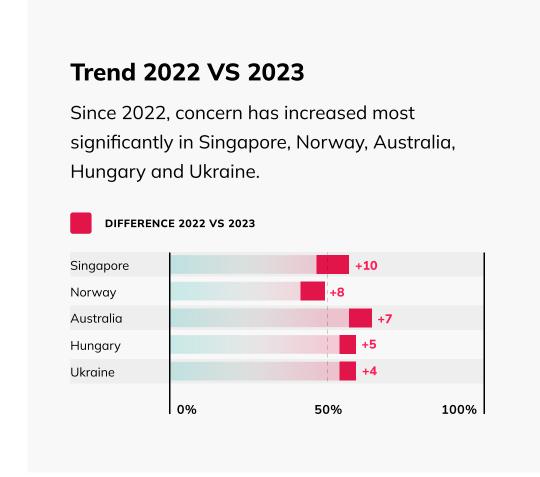
Most people view global corporations as a threat to democracy in their country

% agree* that the influence of global corporations threatens democracy in their country



Regional Results

In most democracies, a majority of people (60%) say that the influence of global corporations threatens democracy in their country.



*Democracies include countries rated as "Free" and "Partly Free" by Freedom house. Countries rated as "Not Free" are excluded.

Strongly agree / Somewhat agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Somewhat disagree / Strongly disagree



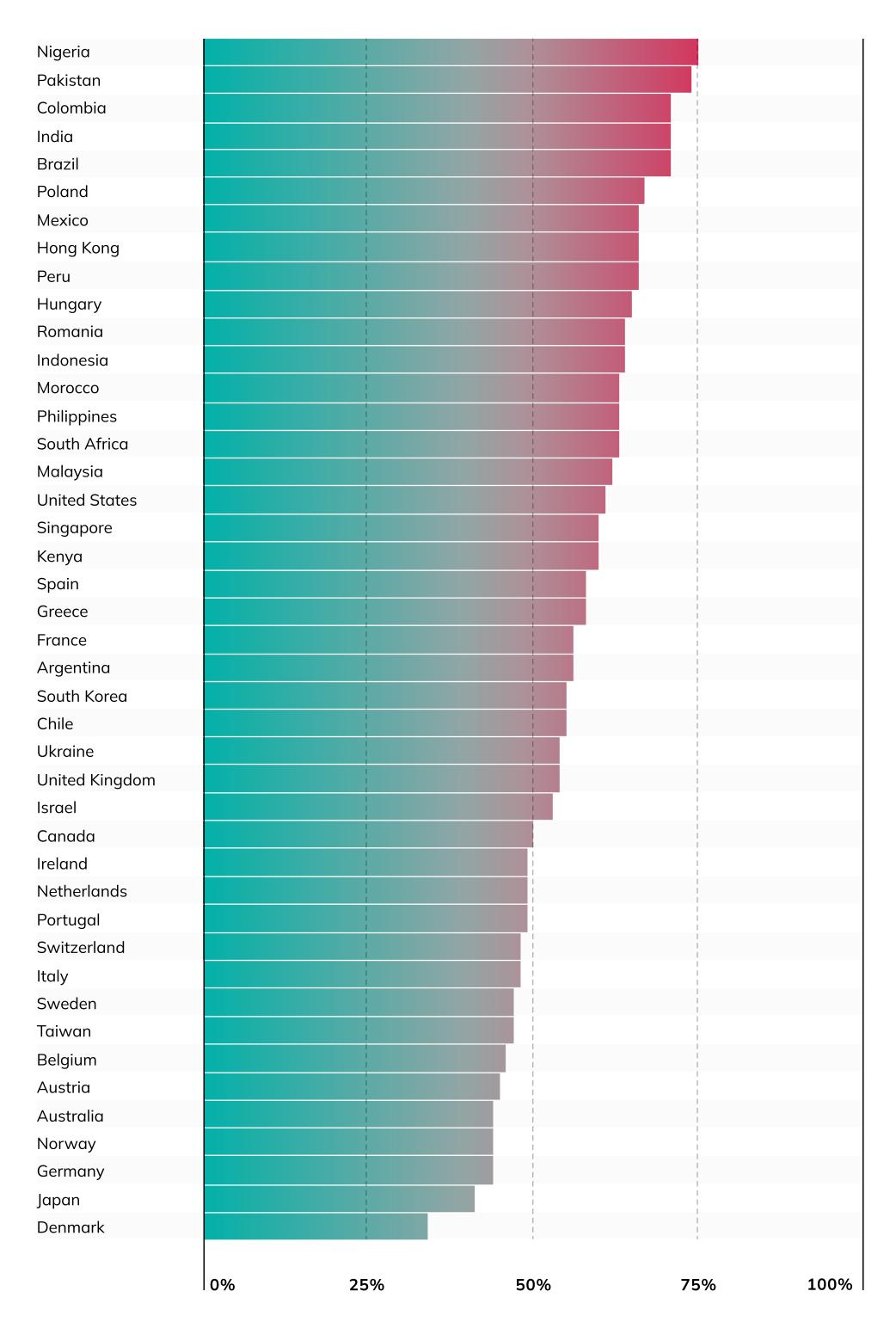
[&]quot;Democracy in my country is threatened by the influence of global corporations"

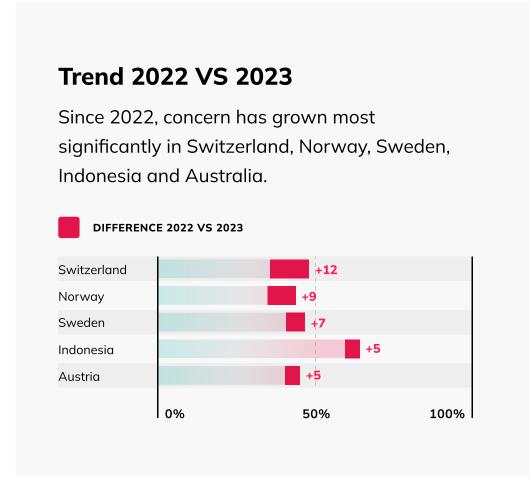
Free Speech Limitations

Concern that free speech limitations are threatening democracy is also widespread across the world's democracies (57%).

57% of people living in democracies are concerned with limits on free speech

% agree* that limits on free speech threatens democracy in their country





*Democracies include countries rated as "Free" and "Partly Free" by Freedom house. Countries rated as "Not Free" are excluded.

"Democracy in my country is threatened by limitations on free speech"

 $Strongly\ agree\ /\ Somewhat\ agree\ /\ Neither\ agree\ nor\ disagree\ /\ Somewhat\ disagree\ /\ Strongly\ disagree\ disagree\ /\ Somewhat\ disagree\ disa$

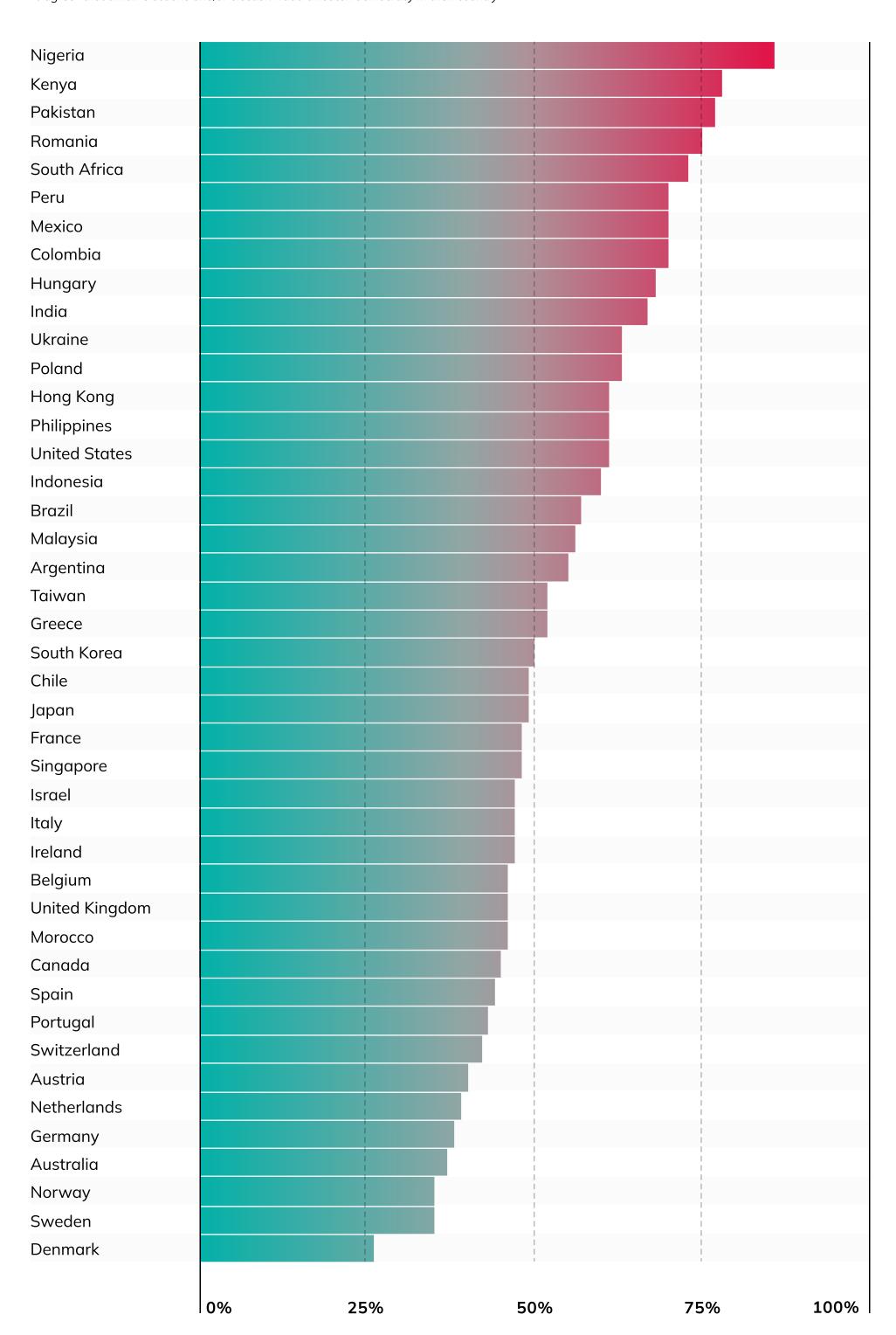


Unfair Elections

Across the democracies surveyed, about half of the population (54%) says that unfair elections and / or election fraud threatens democracy in their country.

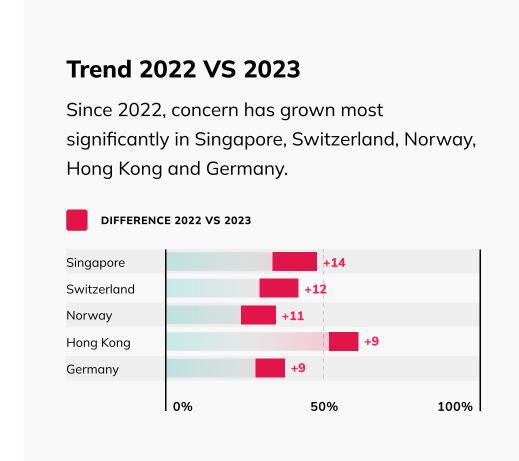
Fear of unfair elections is widespread in most democracies outside of Europe

% agree* that unfair elections and/or election fraud threaten democracy in their country



Regional Results

This fear of unfair elections is much lower in democracies in Europe (47%) than those in Asia (58%), Latin America (62%), or the US (61%).



*Democracies include countries rated as "Free" and "Partly Free" by Freedom house. Countries rated as "Not Free" are excluded.

Strongly agree / Somewhat agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Somewhat disagree / Strongly disagree



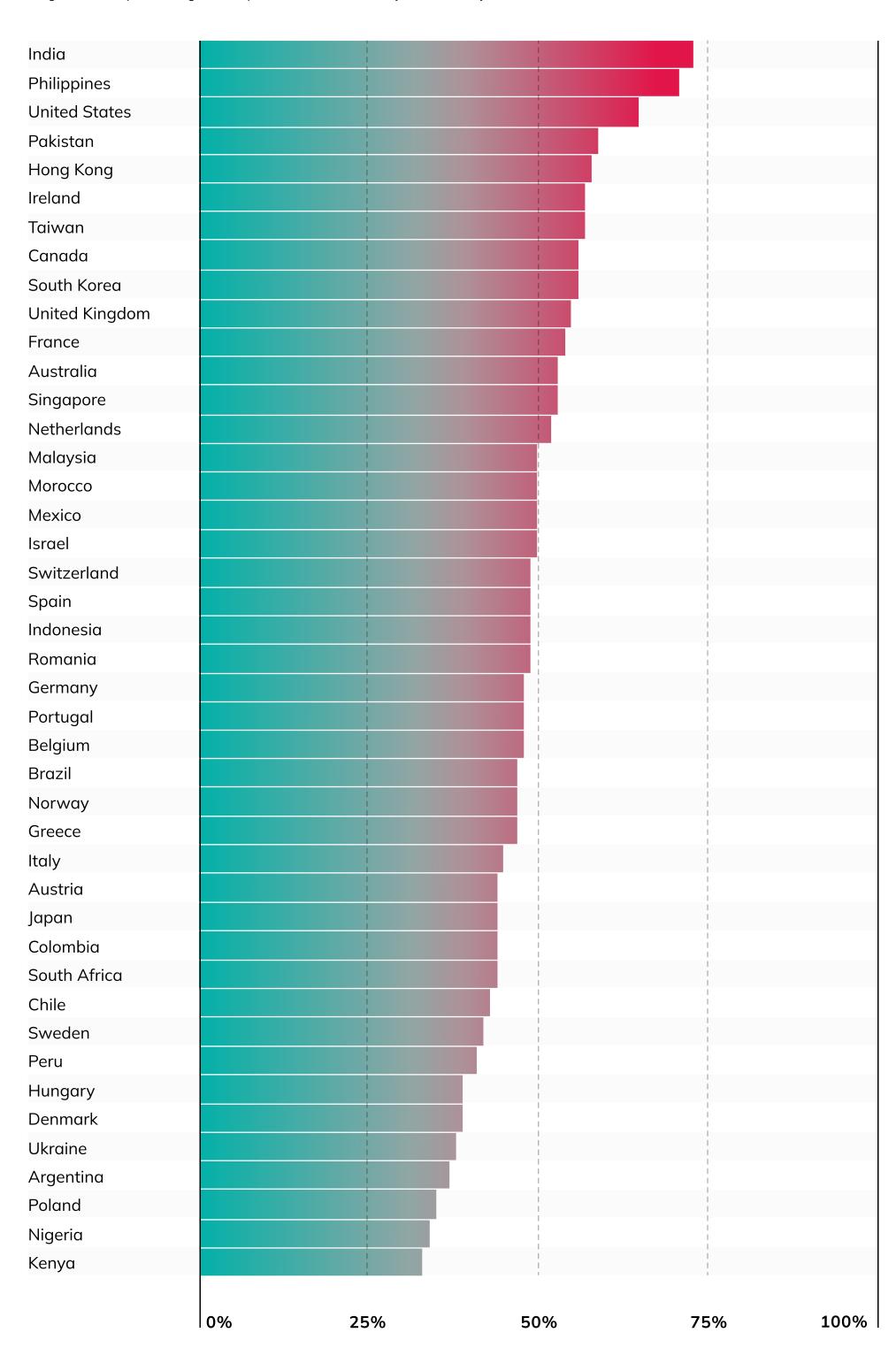
[&]quot;Democracy in my country is threatened by unfair elections and/or election fraud"

Big Tech

The next most-cited threat to democracy is the power of Big Tech companies. Half of the people living in democracies (49%) say that the influence of Big Tech companies, such as Google, Amazon, Apple, and Facebook, threatens democracy in their country.

Half of the world's democracies fear the influence of Big Tech companies

% agree* that the power of big tech companies threatens democracy in their country



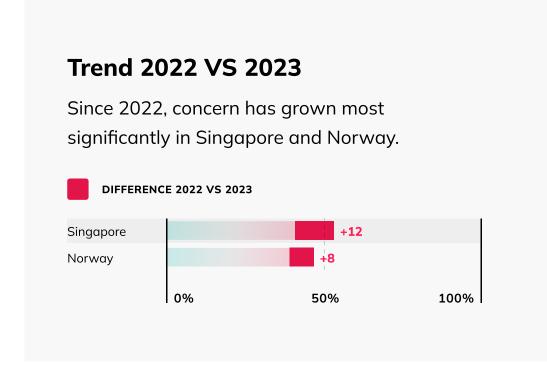
Regional Results

Concern about the influence of Big Tech companies is higher in Asian democracies (57%) than in European (47%) or Latin American (44%) democracies on average.



The United States

Out of all the democracies labelled as "free" by Freedom House, the US has the highest share of people who fear the influence of Big Tech companies (65%).



*Democracies include countries rated as "Free" and "Partly Free" by Freedom house. Countries rated as "Not Free" are excluded.

"Democracy in my country is threatened by the influence of Big Tech companies (Google, Amazon, Apple, Facebook)"
Strongly agree / Somewhat agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Somewhat disagree / Strongly disagree

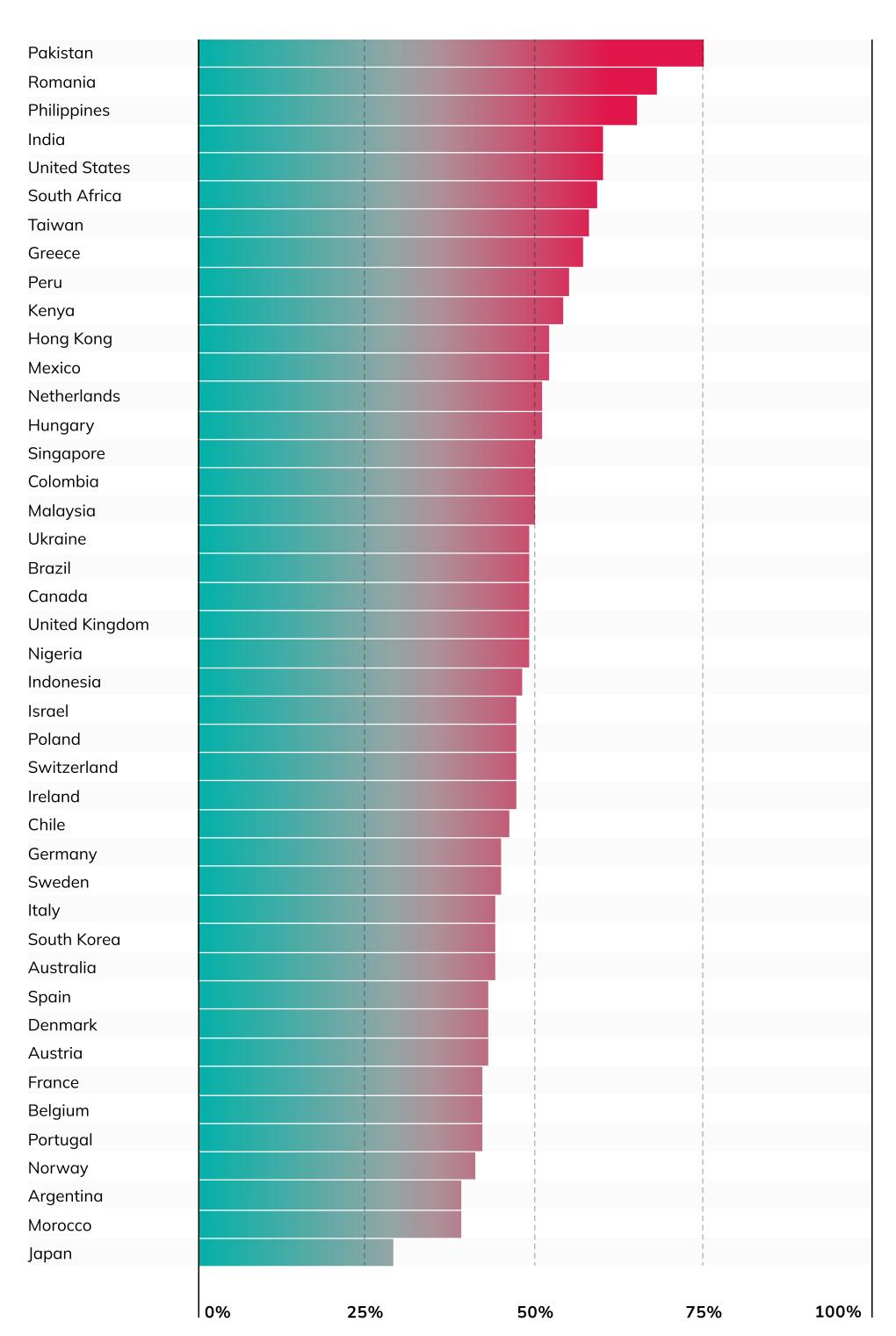


Foreign Election Interference

The least cited threat to democracy is foreign election interference - yet this still concerns nearly half of all people living in democracies.

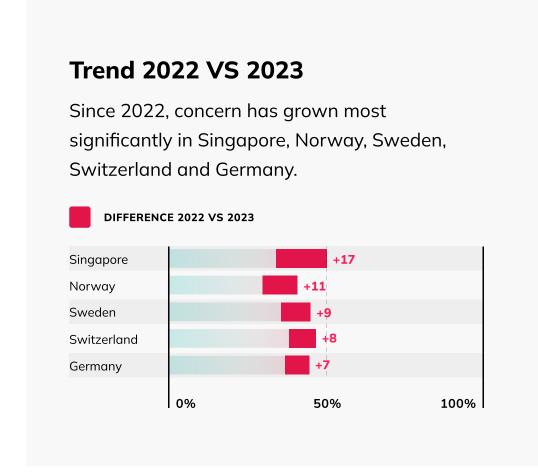
49% of people living in democracies perceive the threat of foreign election interference

% agree* that their democracy is threatened by election interference from foreign powers



Regional Results

This concern is evenly balanced across most regions, but there are some significant differences across countries ranging from Pakistan (75%) down to Japan (29%).



*Democracies include countries rated as "Free" and "Partly Free" by Freedom house. Countries rated as "Not Free" are excluded.

Strongly agree / Somewhat agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Somewhat disagree / Strongly disagree



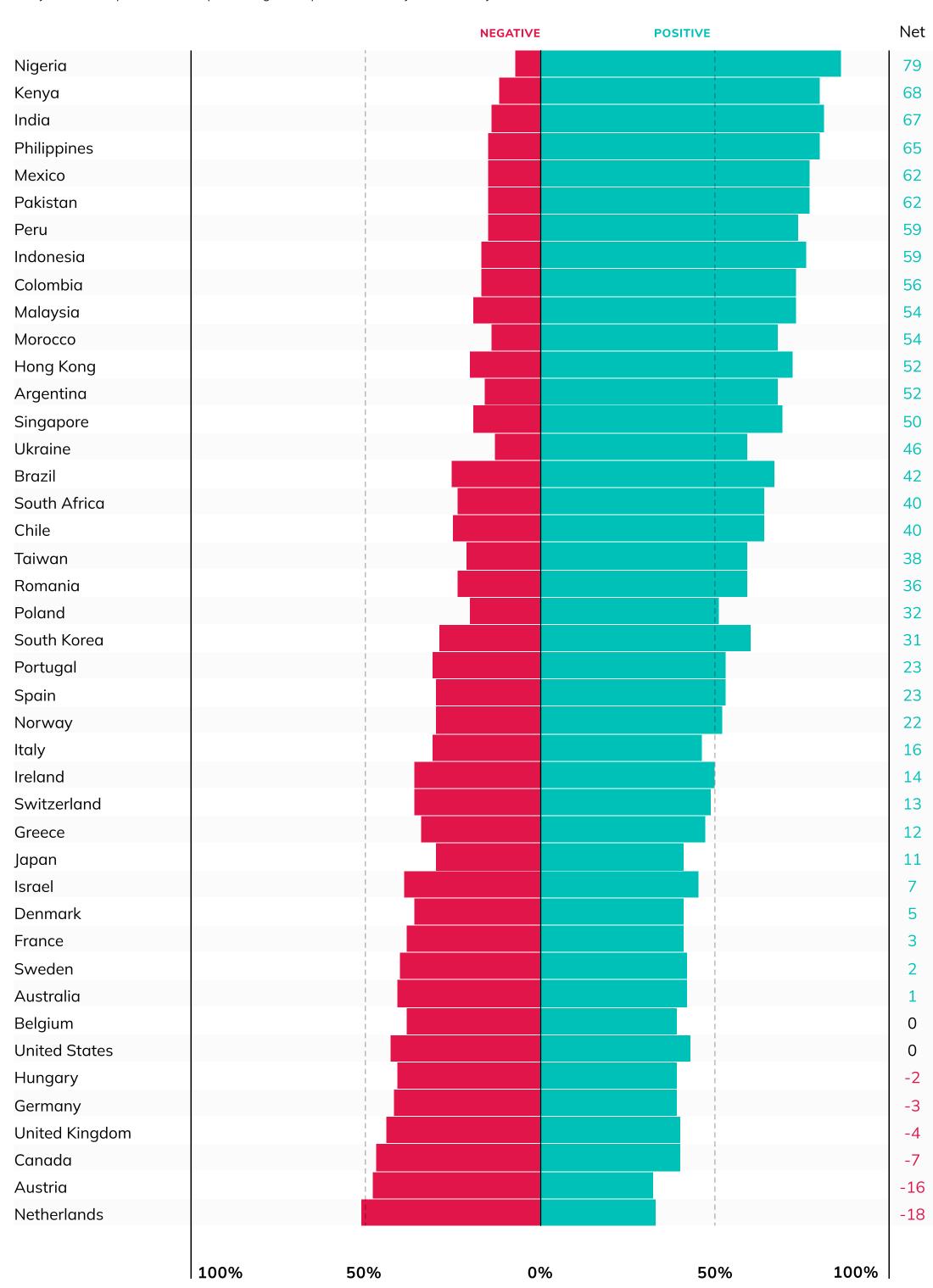
[&]quot;Democracy in my country is threatened by election interference from foreign powers"

Social Media Influence

Across the democracies surveyed, more people say that social media platforms have a positive effect on democracy (57%) than negative (28%).

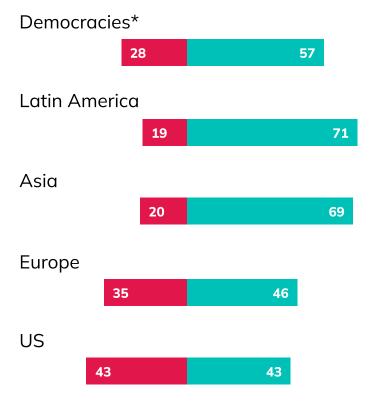
Americans and Europeans are among the most critical of social media

% say social media platforms have a positive/negative impact on democracy in their country



Regional Results

However, there are strong regional divides, and people in Europe and the United States are far more critical of social media's influence than in Asia or Latin America.





The United States

Americans are evenly divided on the issue, with 43% saying social media has a positive impact and 43% saying that social media has a negative impact.

*Democracies include countries rated as "Free" and "Partly Free" by Freedom House. Countries rated as "Not Free" are excluded.

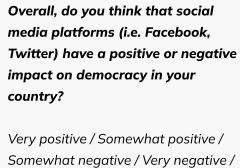
Overall, do you think that social media platforms (i.e. Facebook, Twitter) have a positive or negative impact on democracy in your country? Very positive / Somewhat positive / Somewhat negative / Very negative / No impact / Don't know

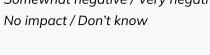
*Positive includes "Very positive" and "Somewhat positive".



Social Media Influence

Since 2020, attitudes towards social media have taken a steep negative decline in most democratic countries, particularly in Europe and the United States. However this decline seems to have ended in many countries in 2023.



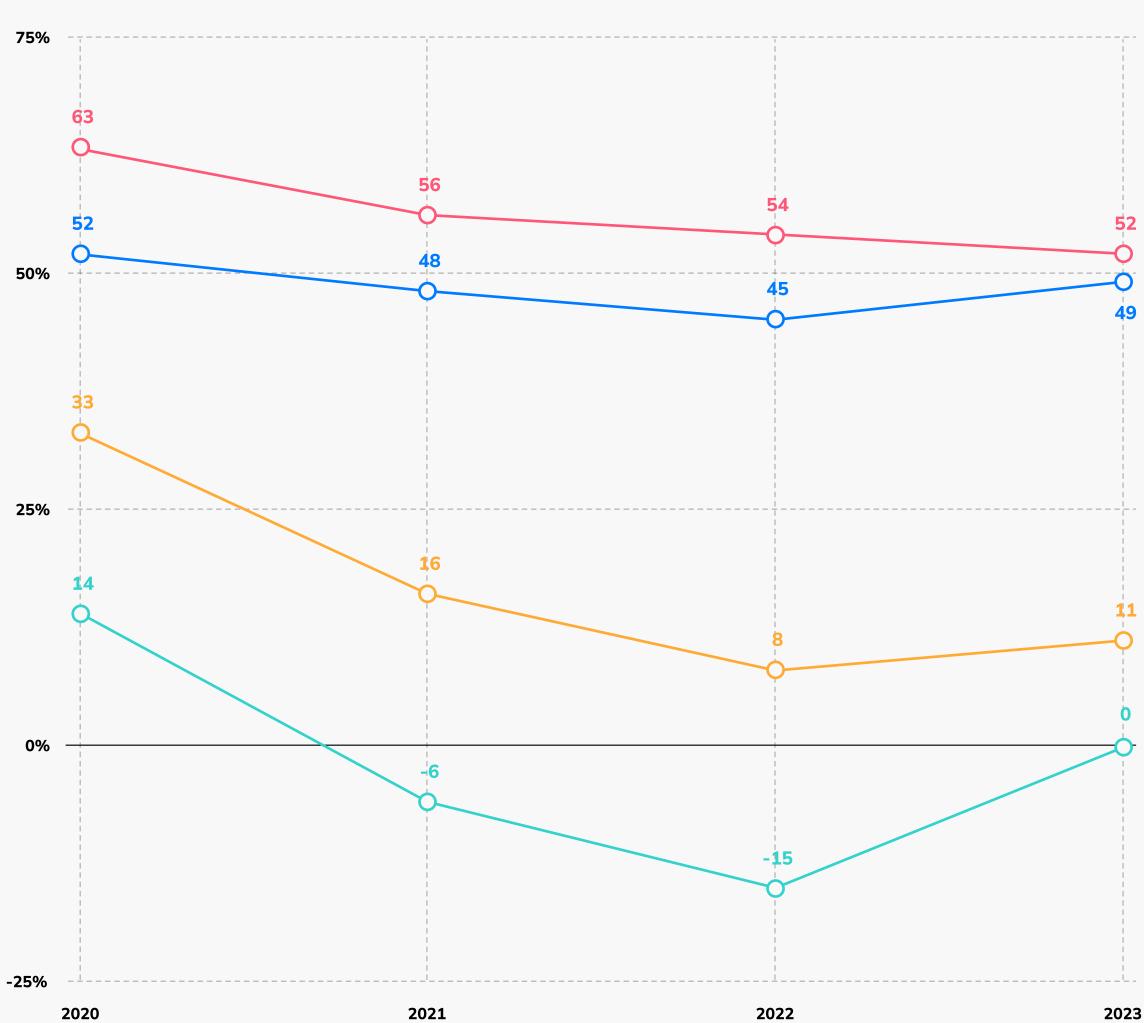








Opinion of social media's impact on democracy takes negative turn



*Democracies include countries rated as "Free" and "Partly Free" by Freedom House. Countries rated as "Not Free" are excluded.



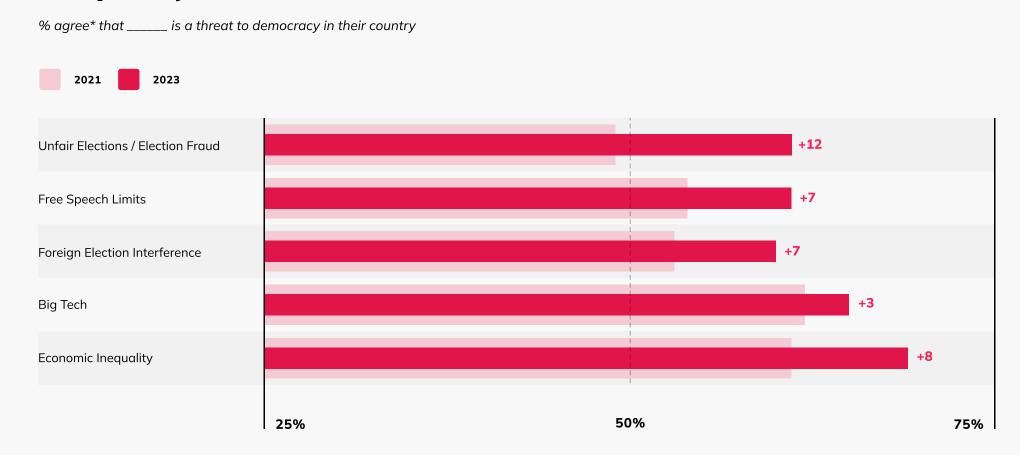
Threats to Democracy in America

Americans are growing more and more concerned about threats to their democracy. Since 2021, fear of unfair elections has increased most dramatically in the US (49% to 61%), but economic inequality remains the top perceived threat (69%).

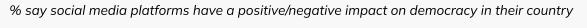


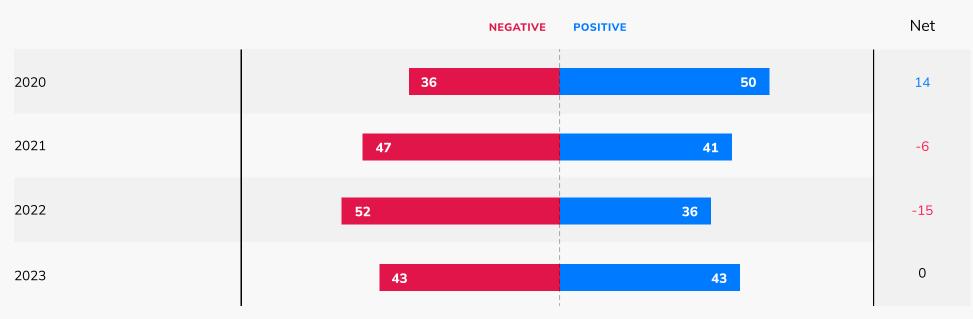
KEY FINDINGS

Since 2021, fear of unfair elections has increased most dramatically in the US, but still lags behind concern about inequality



Americans remain critical of social media platforms' influence on democracy





One third of Americans want more regulation on social media content

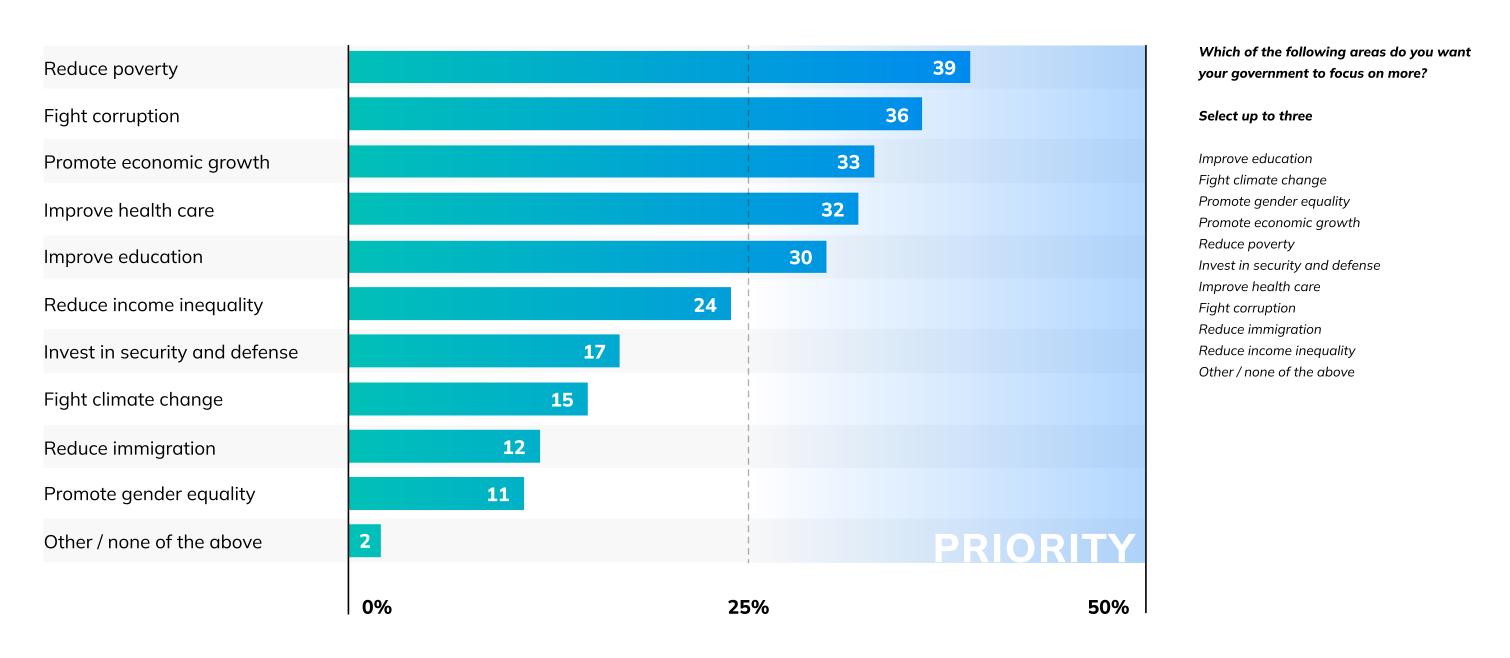
net opinion* of social media regulation



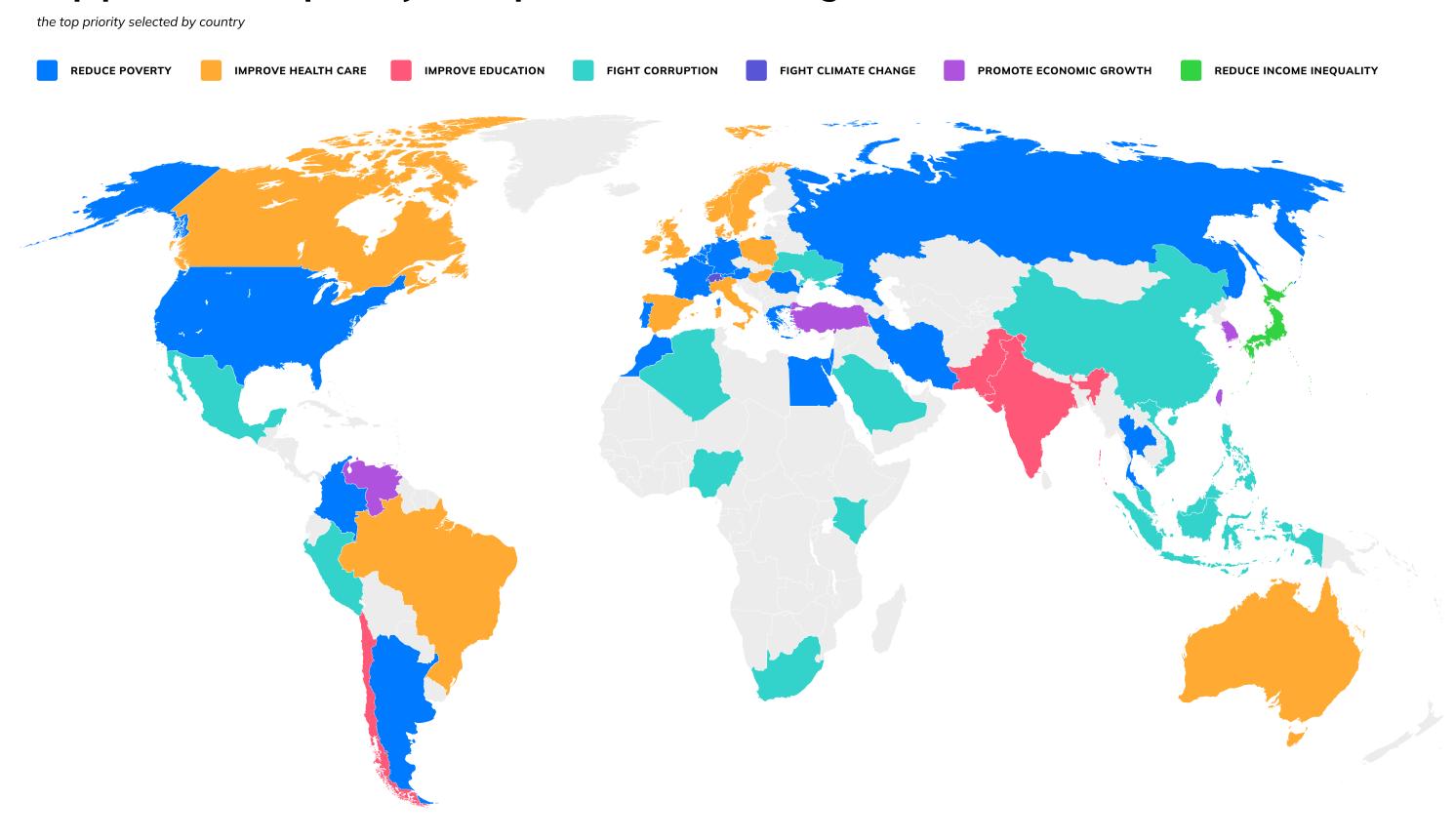
Across the world, people's top priorities for their government are: reduce poverty, fight corruption, and promote economic growth. These policies are among the top three priorities picked in almost every region of the world, and have not changed globally since 2022.

People around the world want their governments to focus on poverty reduction

% select _____ as one of the top three areas that they want their government to focus more on



Top priorities are poverty, corruption and economic growth.



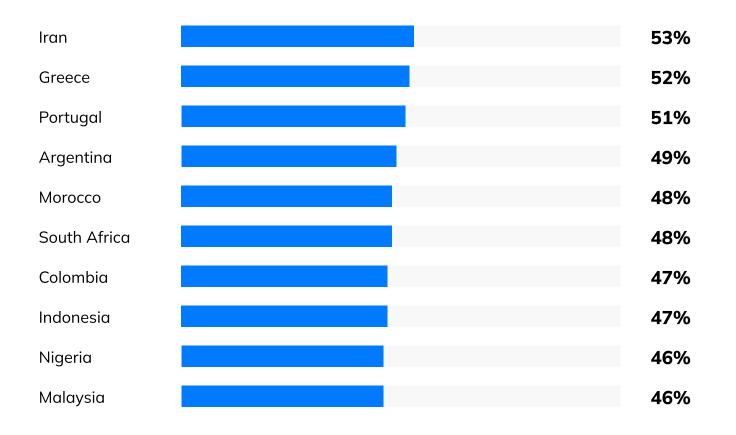


% select _____ as one of their top three priorities for their government to focus more on

Reduce poverty

More people say that reducing poverty should be one of their government's top three priorities than any other policy listed (39%). This choice is widespread in both "free" and less free countries, as well as all regions around the world.

Top 10



Global Average

Global 39%

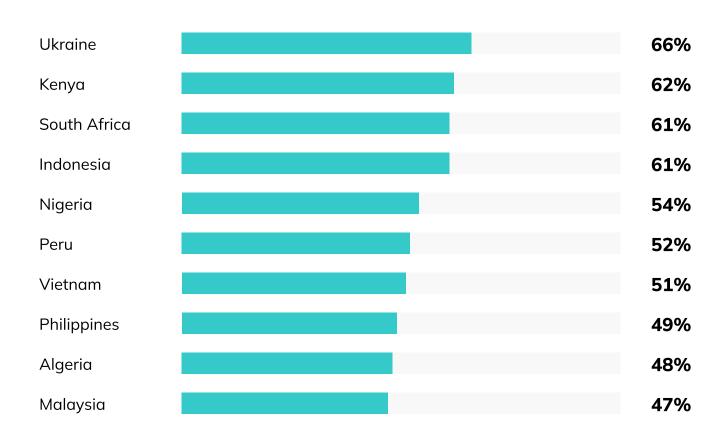
Bottom 10



Fight corruption

Fighting corruption is the second most often cited priority globally (36%). However, it is much more of a top priority for people living in the less democratic countries than for people living in Western Europe.

Top 10



Global Average

Global 36%

Bottom 10



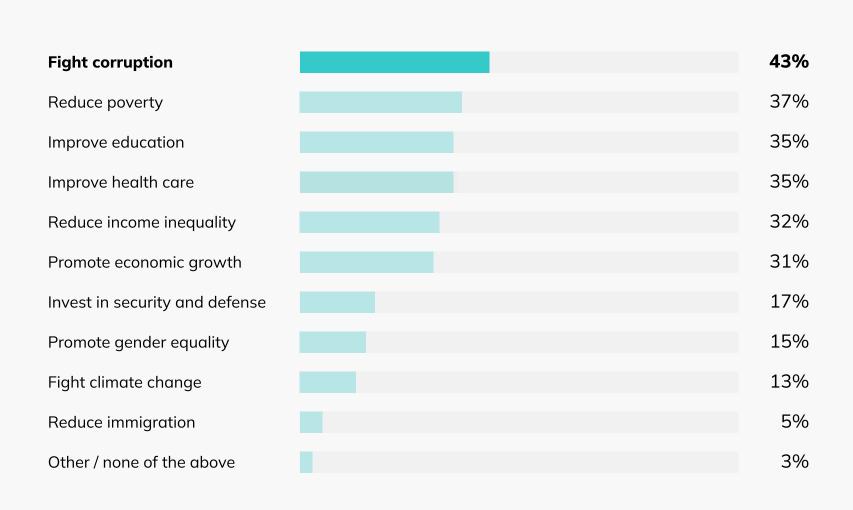
KEY FINDINGS



Fighting Corruption in China

More people in China say that fighting corruption should be one of their government's top three priorities than any of the other policy areas listed.





% select _____ as one of their top three priorities for their government to focus more on

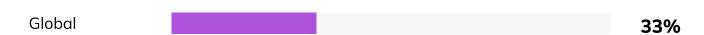
Promote economic growth

Similar to fighting corruption, promoting economic growth is much more of a top priority in Asia (39%) and Latin America (42%) than it is in Europe (29%).

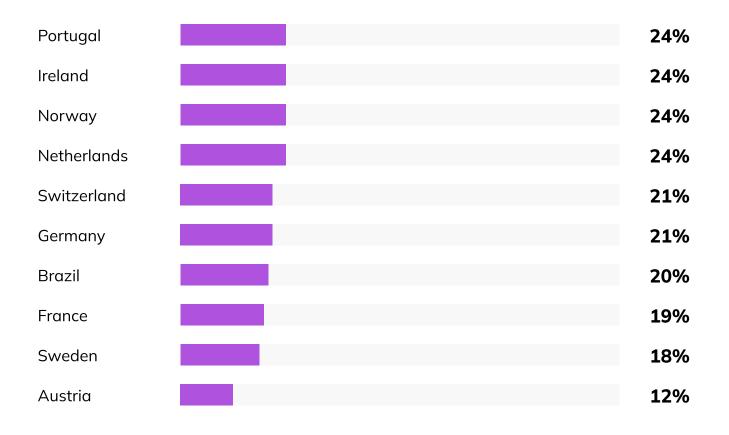
Top 10



Global Average



Bottom 10



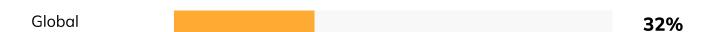
Improve health care

When it comes to health care, the pattern is reversed: Europe (41%) and the United states (35%) are far more concerned than countries in Asia (25%) and Latin America (21%).

Top 10



Global Average



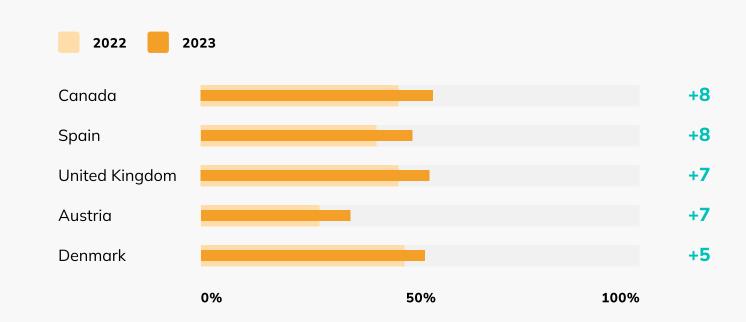
Bottom 10



KEY FINDINGS

Desire to improve healthcare

has increased most significantly in the following countries: Canada (+8), Spain (+8), United Kingdom (+7), Austria (+7) and Denmark (+5)



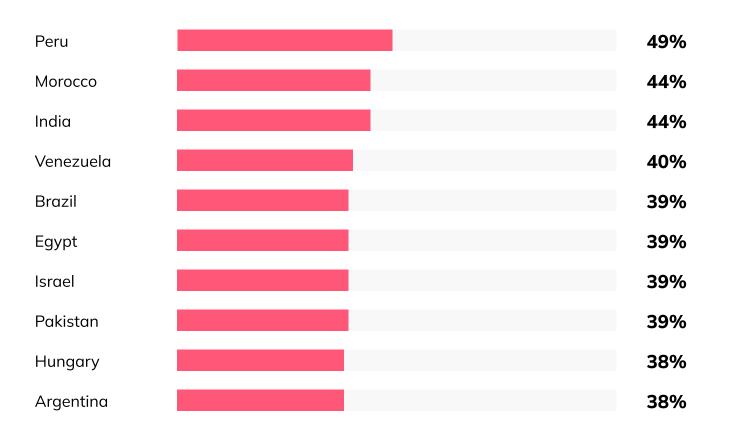


% select _____ as one of their top three priorities for their government to focus more on

Improve education

One-third of people around the world (30%) say that improving education should be one of their government's top three priorities. Education is more of a priority in Latin America (39%) than it is in Asia (30%) or Europe (26%).

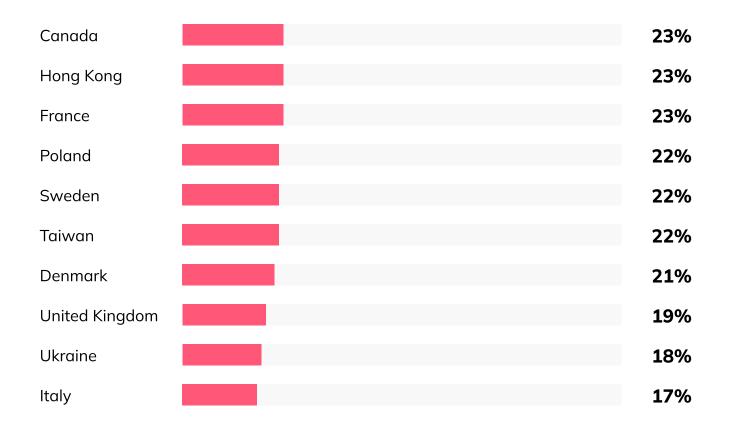
Top 10



Global Average

Global 30%

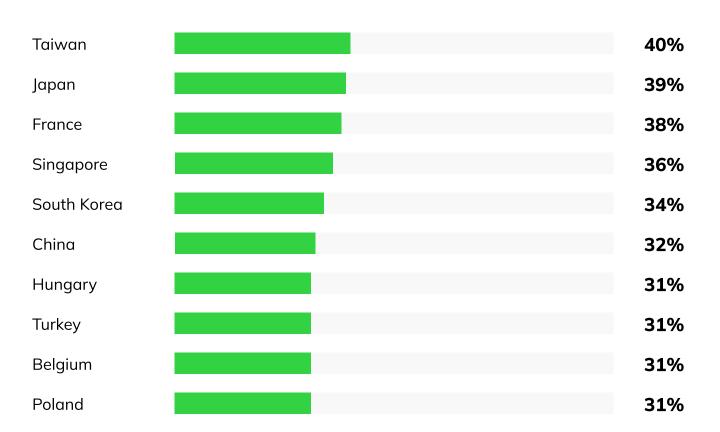
Bottom 10



Reduce income inequality

Reducing income inequality is much more of a priority in "free" democracies (27%) than in less democratic countries (20%), and more in Europe (27%) and Asia (25%) than in Latin America (18%).

Top 10



Global Average

Global 24%

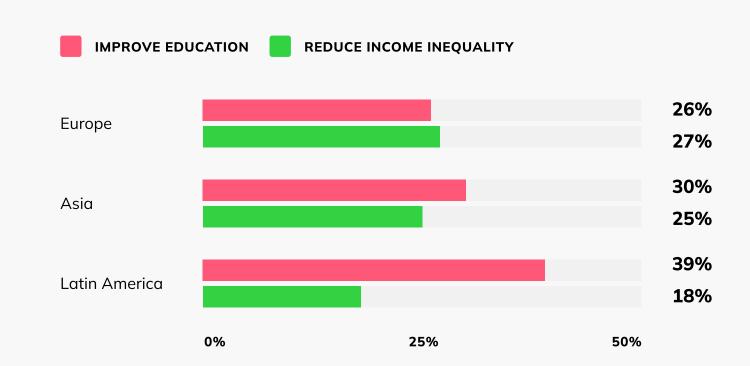
Bottom 10



KEY FINDINGS

In Latin America,

improving education is seen as a more important priority than reducing income inequality.



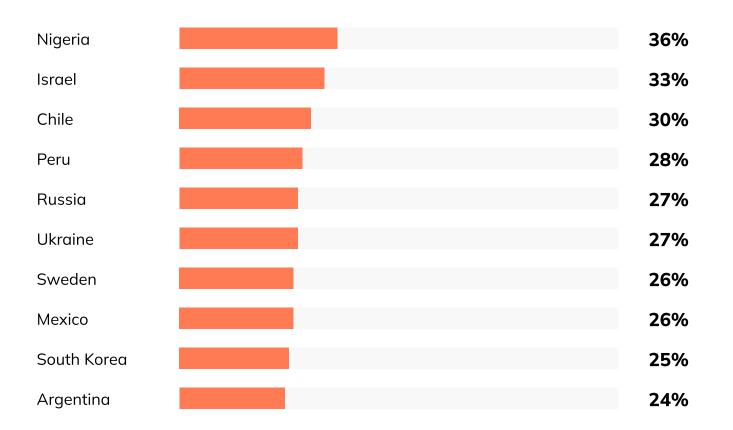


% select _____ as one of their top three priorities for their government to focus more on

Invest in security and defense

Only 17% of people around the world, on average, choose security and defense as one of their top three priorities for their government.

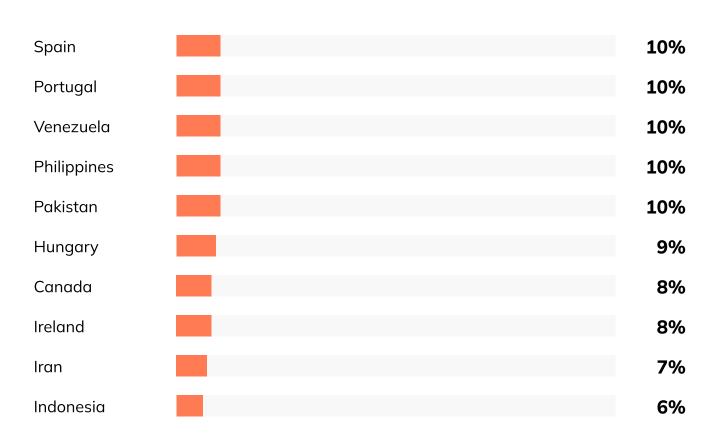
Top 10



Global Average

Global 17%

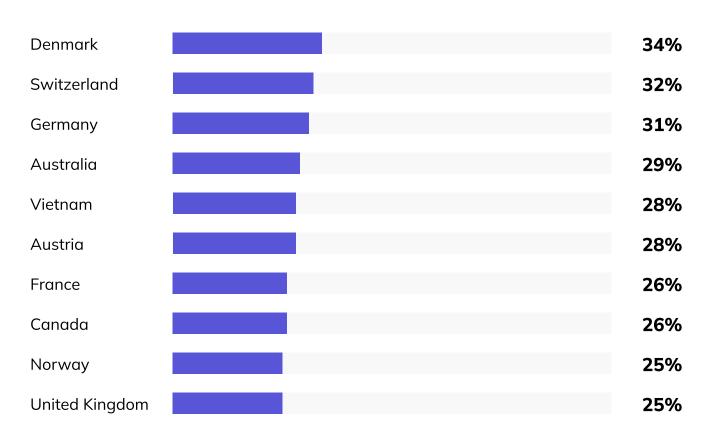
Bottom 10



Fight climate change

Only 15% of people globally selected "fight climate change" as one of their top three priorities for their government. This sentiment is much higher in Western Europe than the rest of the world.

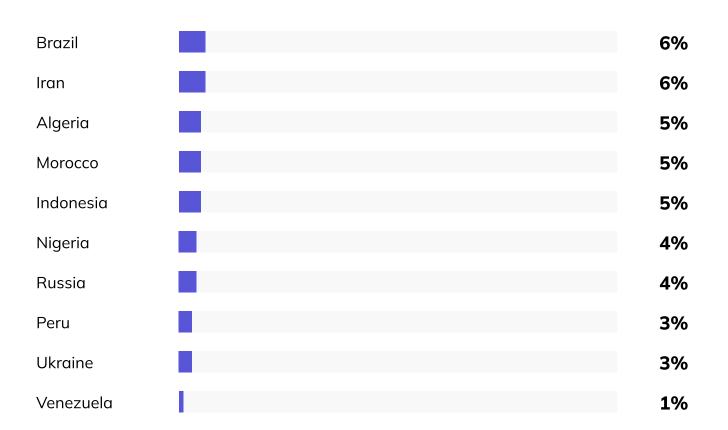
Top 10



Global Average

Global 15%

Bottom 10

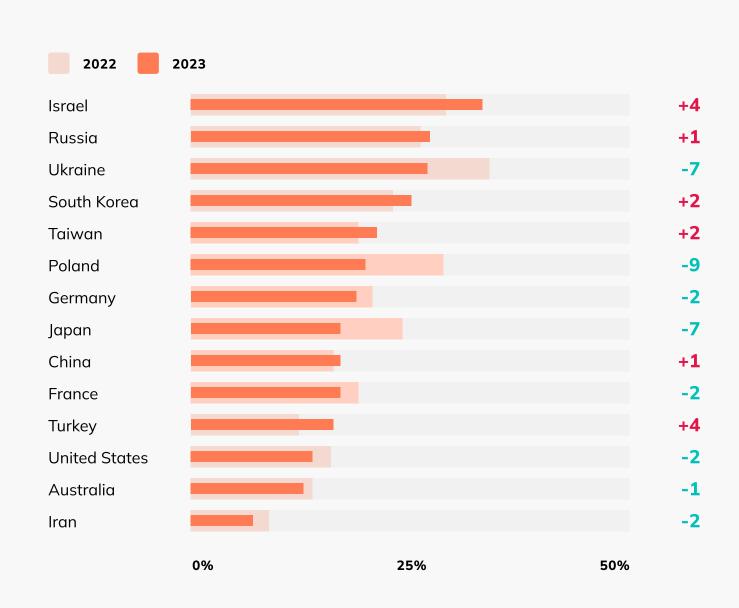


KEY FINDINGS

Security and defense

Despite increasing global tensions, public desire to invest more in security and defense does not appear to be increasing in many key countries around the world.



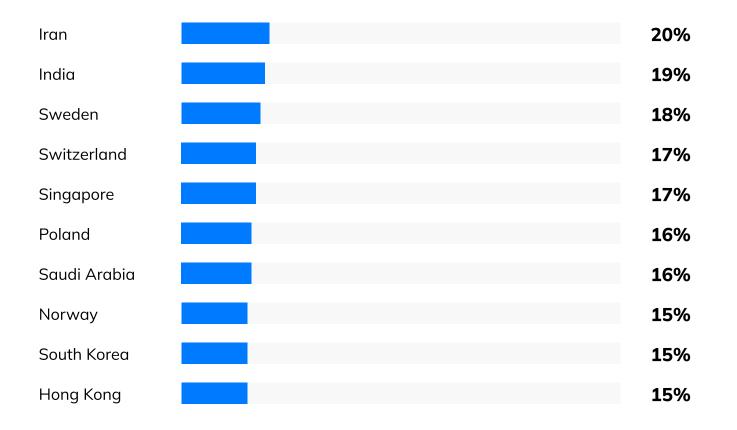


% select _____ as one of their top three priorities for their government to focus more on

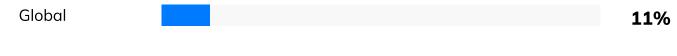
Promote gender equality

Only 11% of people globally select "promote gender equality" as one of their top three priorities for their government

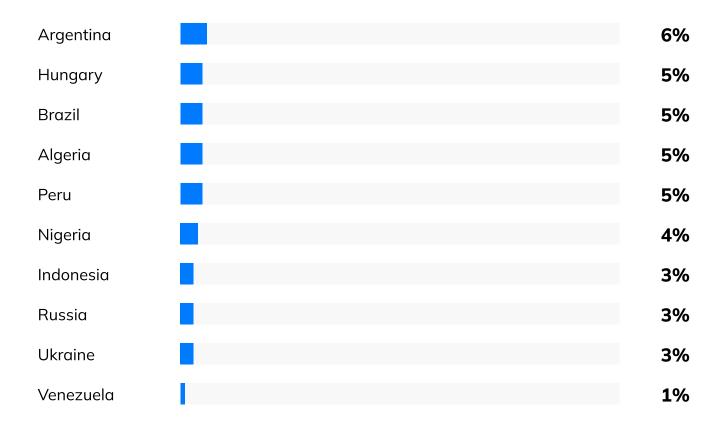
Top 10



Global Average



Bottom 10



Reduce immigration

While only 12% of people globally selected "reduce migration" as one of their top three priorities for their government to focus on, it is far more of a top priority in Europe than in the rest of the world.

Top 10

Austria			34%
Germany			31%
Netherlands			30%
France			28%
Sweden			27%
Chile			26%
Belgium			25%
Ireland			23%
United Kingdom			22%
Switzerland			20%

Global Average

Global		12%
Global		12%

Bottom 10

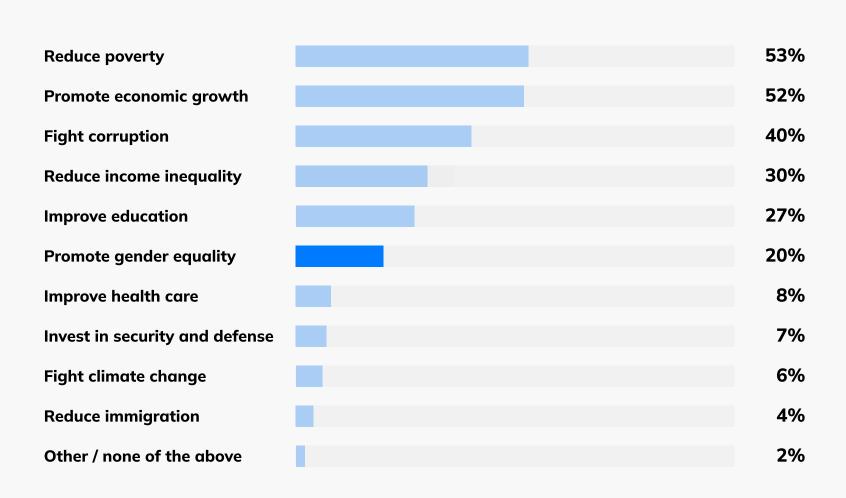
Russia	5%
Iran	4%
Thailand	4%
Pakistan	4%
Ukraine	4%
Philippines	3%
Indonesia	3%
Kenya	2%
Brazil	1%
Nigeria	1%

KEY FINDINGS



Gender Equality in Iran

The share of people who want their government to prioritize gender equality has increased significantly in Iran since 2022, nearly doubling from 13% to 20%. More Iranians now say this should be a priority for their government than any other country surveyed (though it still falls well behind other economic priorities).

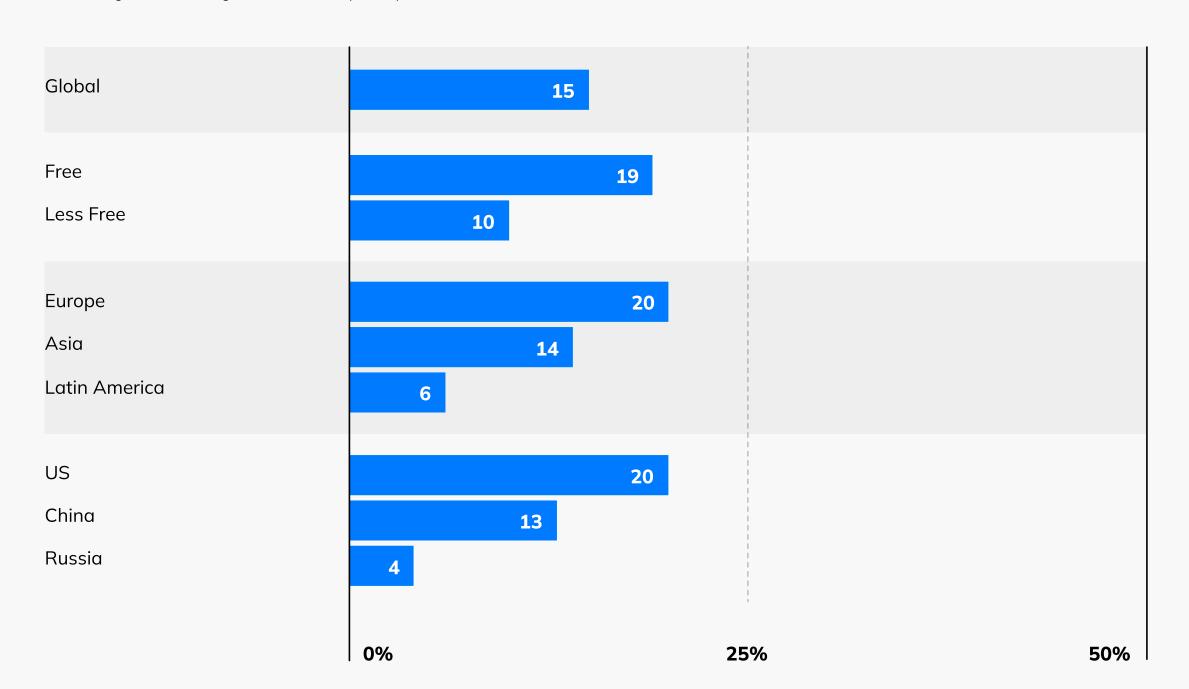


Climate Change

Across the 53 countries surveyed, only 15% of the people picked "Fight Climate Change" as one of their top three priorities for their government. There are huge regional differences: 20% in Europe, versus 14% in Asia and 6% in Latin America.

Fighting climate change is a higher priority for people living in "free" democracies

% select "Fight Climate Change" as one of their top three priorities



Which of the following areas do you want your government to focus on more?

Select up to three

Improve education
Fight climate change
Promote gender equality
Promote economic growth
Reduce poverty

Invest in security and defense
Improve health care
Fight corruption
Reduce immigration
Reduce income inequality
Other / none of the above



Global Politics

Perception of Global Powers	33
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World Challenges	54
Prioritizing Climate Change	55



Perception of Global Powers

Most people around the world have a positive perception of the European Union (+35), the United Nations (+34), and the United States (+27), and a negative perception of Russia (-19).

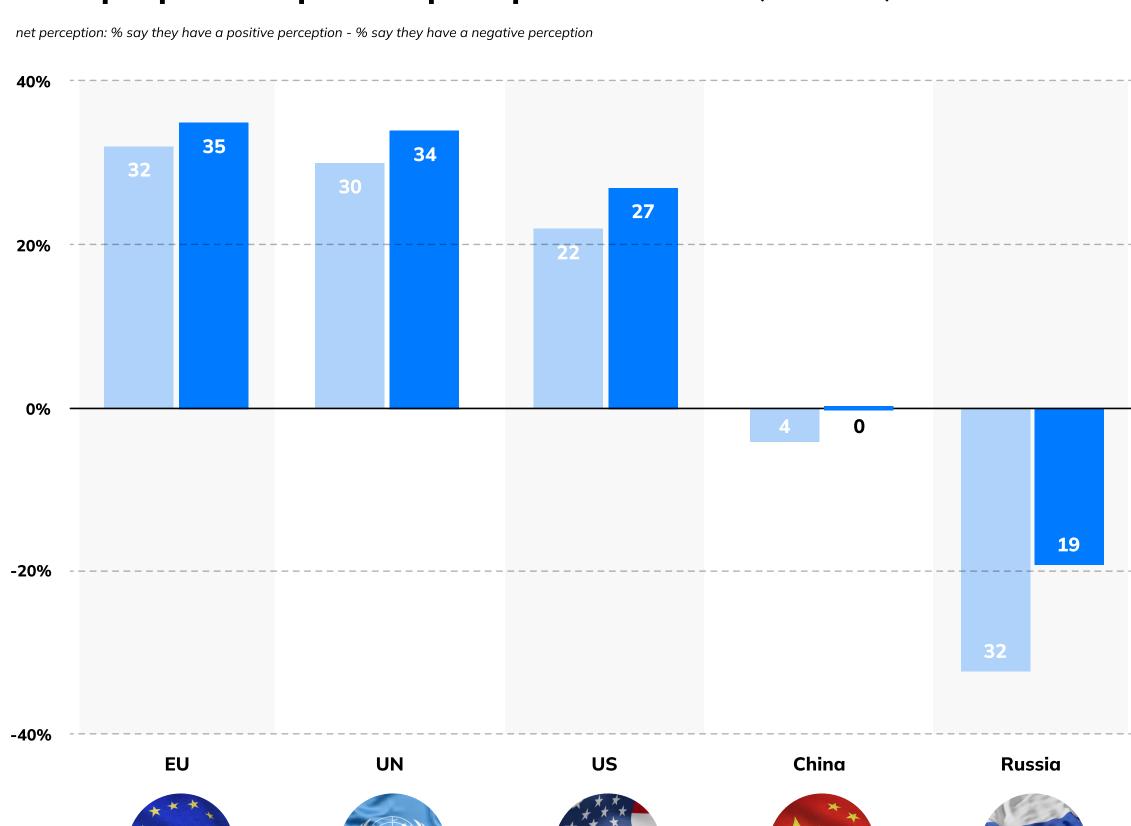
What is your overall perception of the European Union / the United Nations / the United States / China / Russia?

Very positive / Somewhat positive / Neither positive nor negative / Somewhat negative / Very negative / Don't know

*"Positive" includes "very positive" and "somewhat positive".

2022

Most people have positive perceptions of the EU, the UN, and the US



When it comes to perceptions of China, however, the world is more evenly divided: across all 53 countries, the average share of positive opinions is the same as the negative opinions, resulting in a net perception of 0.

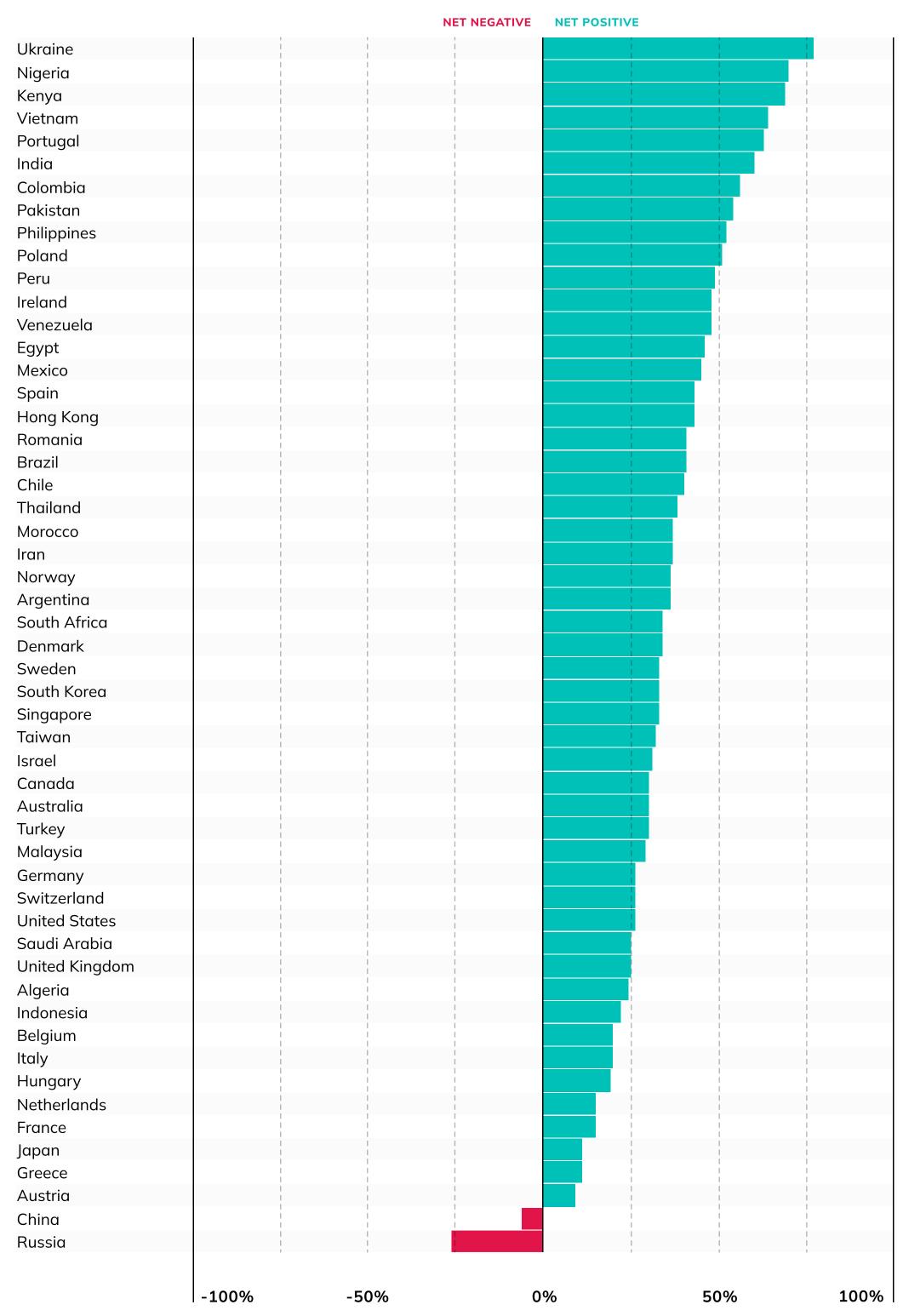


Perception of the European Union

The European Union is viewed positively around the world (+35), with more people saying they have a positive perception of the EU than a negative perception in almost all countries: 51 out of the 53 countries surveyed.

The EU is viewed positively by countries all around the world - except Russia and China

net perception of the EU: % positive - % negative



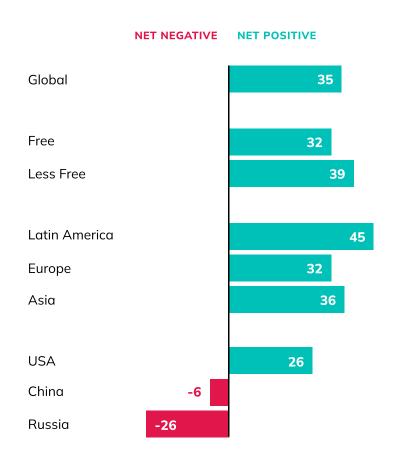




Regional Results

Within the EU, Greece and Austria have the most divided opinions.

Only two countries have net negative opinions of the EU: Russia and China.



What is your overall perception of the European Union?

Very positive / Somewhat positive / Neither positive nor negative / Somewhat negative / Very negative / Don't know

 $[\]hbox{\it *"Positive" includes "very positive" and "somewhat positive"}.$



Perception of the European Union

Attitudes towards the EU have improved in most parts of the world from 2022 to 2023 except for in Europe, where positive attitudes have decreased slightly in several countries.

What is your overall perception of the European Union? Very positive / Somewhat positive / Neither positive nor negative / Somewhat negative / Very negative / Don't know

*"Positive" includes "very positive" and "somewhat positive".

Russia	○ 2022 ▷ 2023			Diff
Russia		◆		-2
Oceania				
Australia	1			3
		!		3
North America				
Canada				-5 7
United States	1			/
Middle East &	North Africa			
Egypt				12
Morocco Iran		 		-20 18
Israel				11
Turkey				11
Saudi Arabia				-4
Algeria				-3
Latin America				
Colombia				8
Peru				3
Venezuela Mexico				9
Brazil				3
Chile				11
Argentina				5
Europe				
Ukraine				7
Portugal				3
Poland				
Ireland				-3
Spain Romania				-13
Norway		 	a	2
Denmark		 	O	2
Sweden				-1
Switzerland Germany				-7
United Kingdom			0	-1
Italy			0	0
Belgium 				-8
Hungary France		 		-11 -5
Netherlands		 		-6
Greece				5
Austria				-8
Asia				
Vietnam		 		11
India		 		8
Pakistan				16 7
Philippines Hong Kong				9
Thailand			a >	2
Singapore				14
South Korea		 	0	0
Taiwan Malaysia				6
Indonesia				14
Japan				-4
China				10
Africa				
Nigeria		 		2
Kenya				4
South Africa				1
	-100% NET	NEGATIVE 0	% NET POSITIN	100%

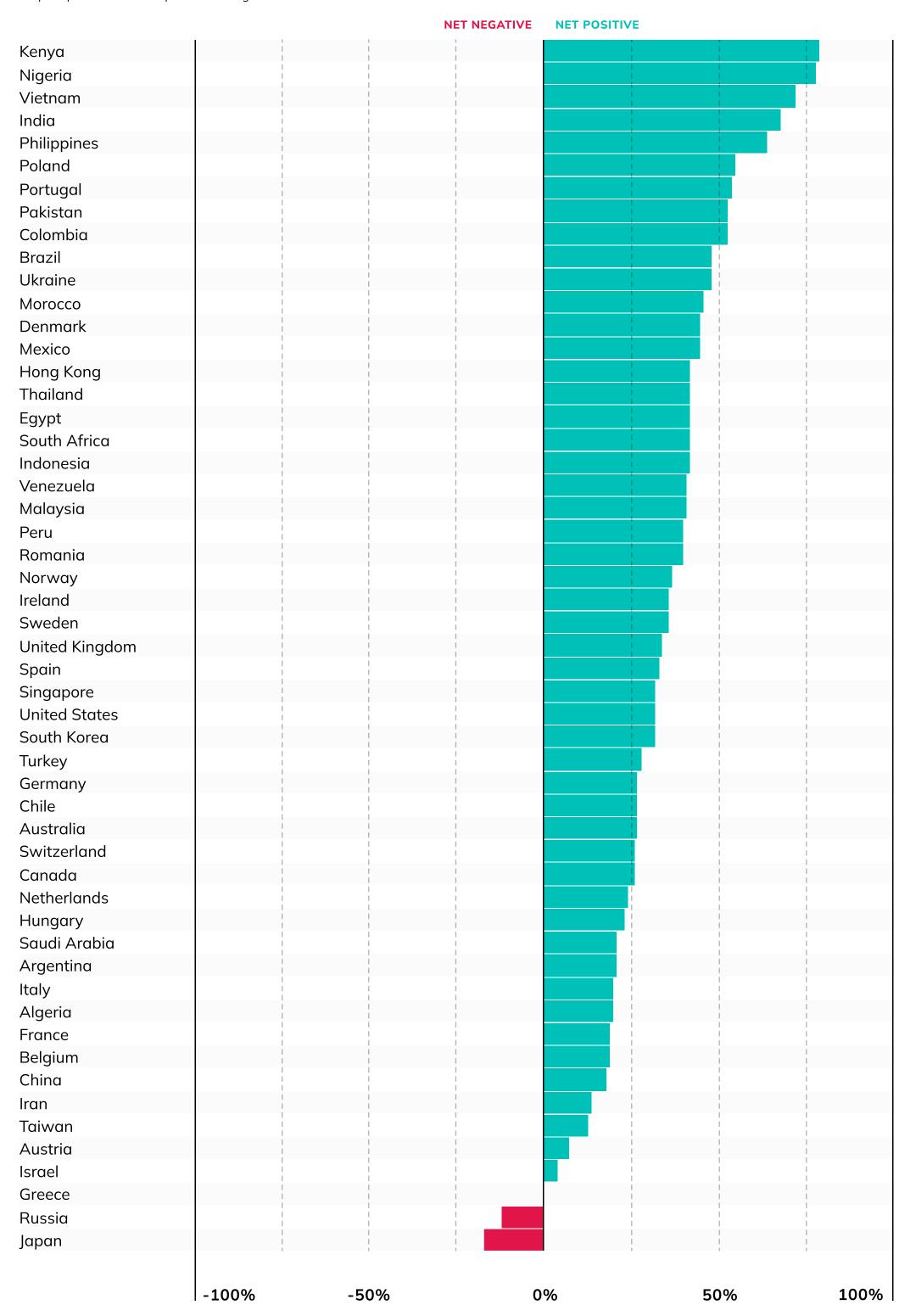


Perception of the United Nations

Similarly to the European Union, the United Nations is viewed positively around the world (+34), with more people saying they have a positive perception of the UN than a negative perception in almost all countries: 51 out of the 53 countries surveyed.

The UN is viewed positively by almost all countries around the world

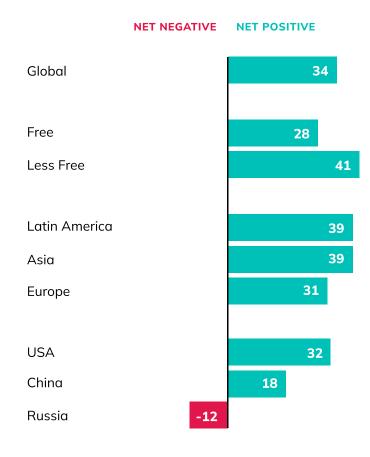
net perception of the UN: % positive - % negative





Regional Results

Only two countries have net negative opinions of the UN: Japan, and Russia.



Very positive / Somewhat positive / Neither positive nor negative / Somewhat negative / Very negative / Don't know

 $[\]hbox{\it *"Positive" includes "very positive" and "somewhat positive"}.$



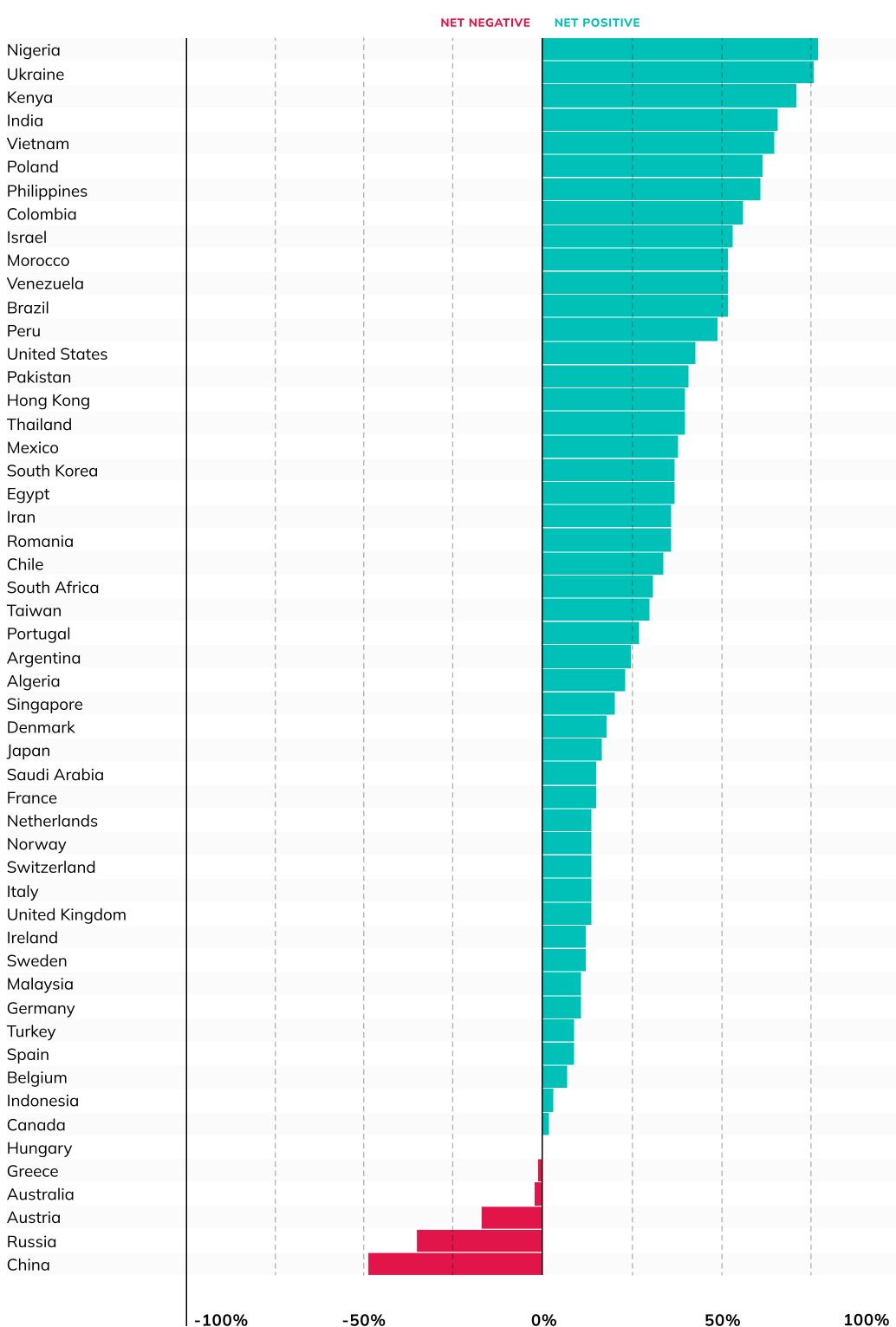
What is your overall perception of the United Nations?

Perception of the United States

The United States is also viewed positively around world (+27), with more people saying they have a positive perception of the US than a negative perception in most countries: 48 out of the 53 countries surveyed.

The United States is viewed positively in most countries around the world

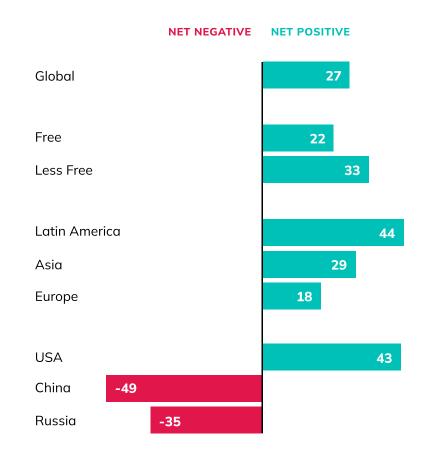
net perception of the US: % positive - % negative





Regional Results

Europeans are more divided about their opinion of the US than people in the rest of the world.



What is your overall perception of the United States?

Very positive / Somewhat positive / Neither positive nor negative / Somewhat negative / Very negative / Don't know

 $[\]hbox{\it *"Positive" includes "very positive" and "somewhat positive"}.$



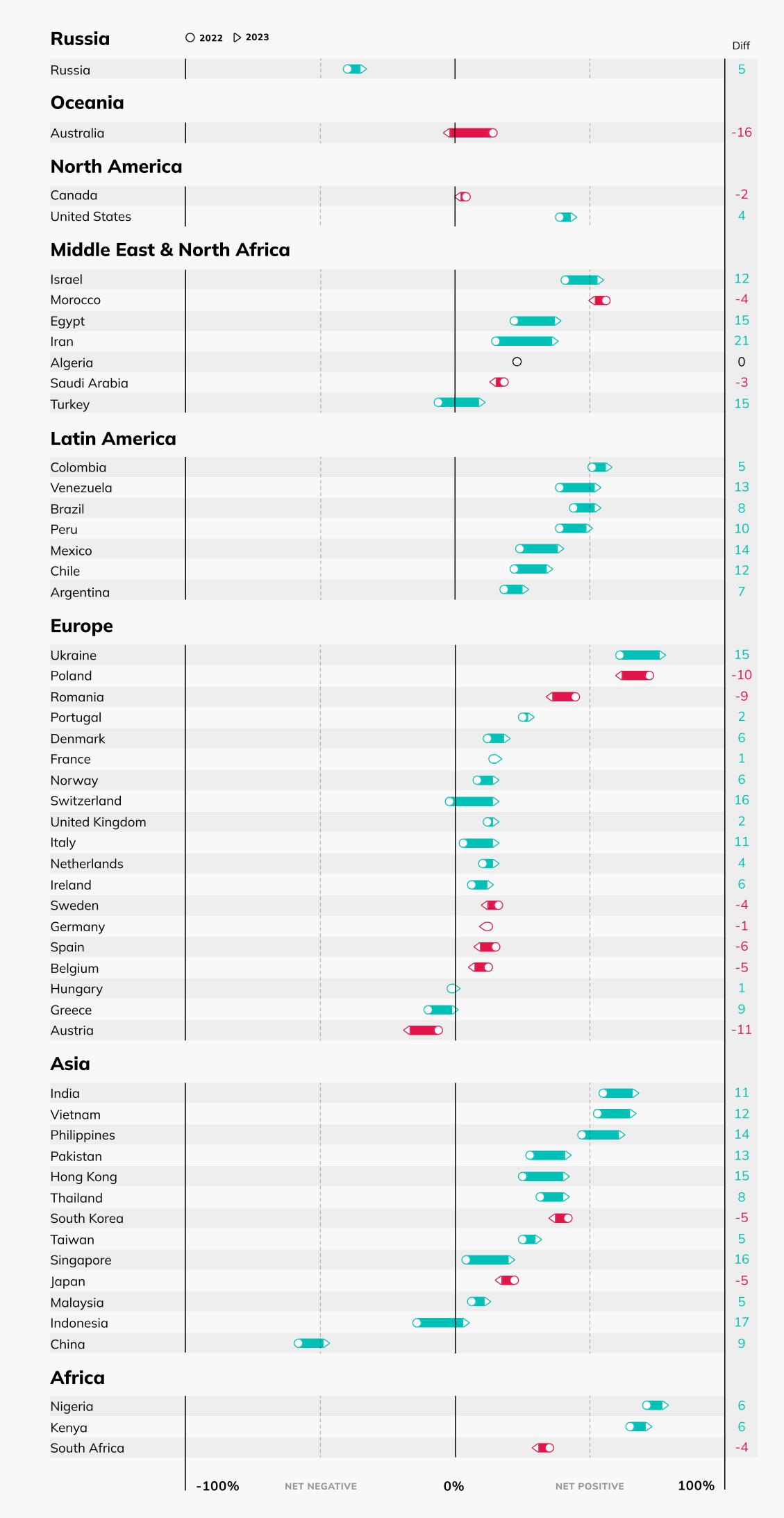
Perception of the United States

Positive attitudes towards the United States have increased in most parts of the world from 2022 to 2023, particularly in Asia, Latin America and "Lessfree" countries globally.

In several key US allies, however, attitudes towards the US have become less positive, including Poland, South Korea, Japan and Australia

What is your overall perception of the United States? Very positive / Somewhat positive / Neither positive nor negative / Somewhat negative / Very negative / Don't know

*"Positive" includes "very positive" and "somewhat positive".



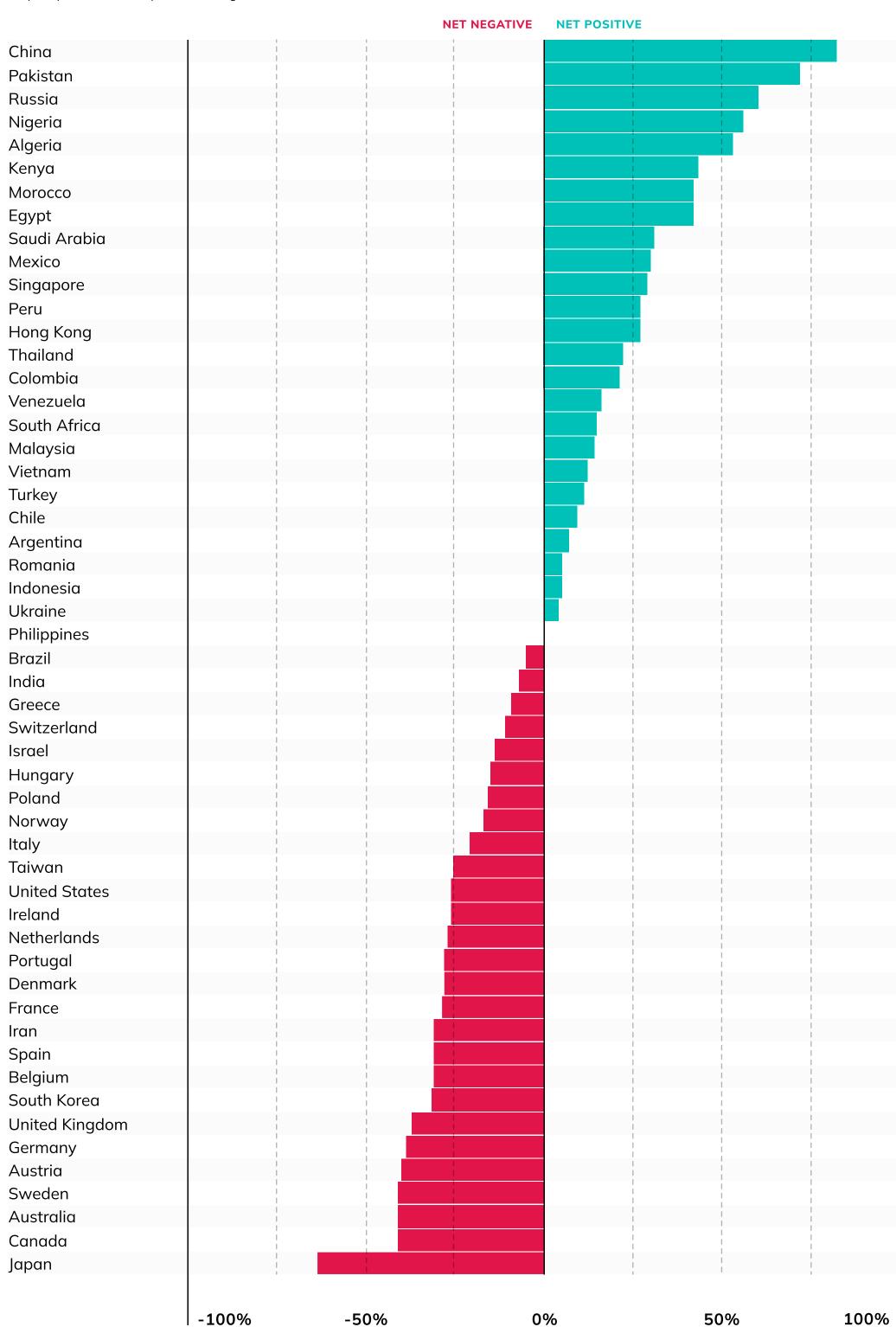


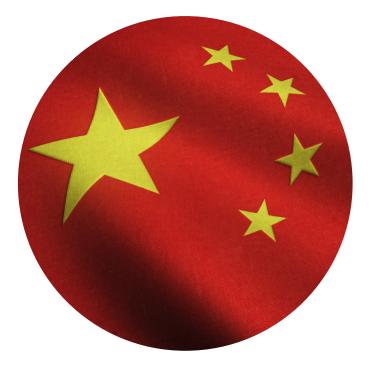
Perception of China

Views towards China divide the world: western democracies, particularly the United States, European countries, Australia, Japan and South Korea, have negative views of China, while the rest of the world has more mixed or positive views.

The world is divided in its views toward China

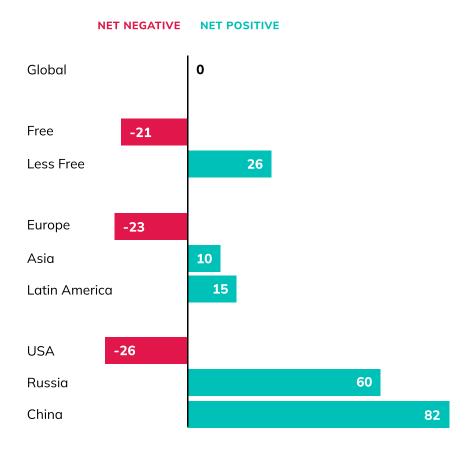
net perception of China: % positive - % negative





Regional Results

Attitudes towards China are much more positive in democratic countries labeled as "free" by Freedom House, than in less democratic countries labeled as "less free".



What is your overall perception of China?

Very positive / Somewhat positive / Neither positive nor negative / Somewhat negative / Very negative / Don't know

^{*&}quot;Positive" includes "very positive" and "somewhat positive".

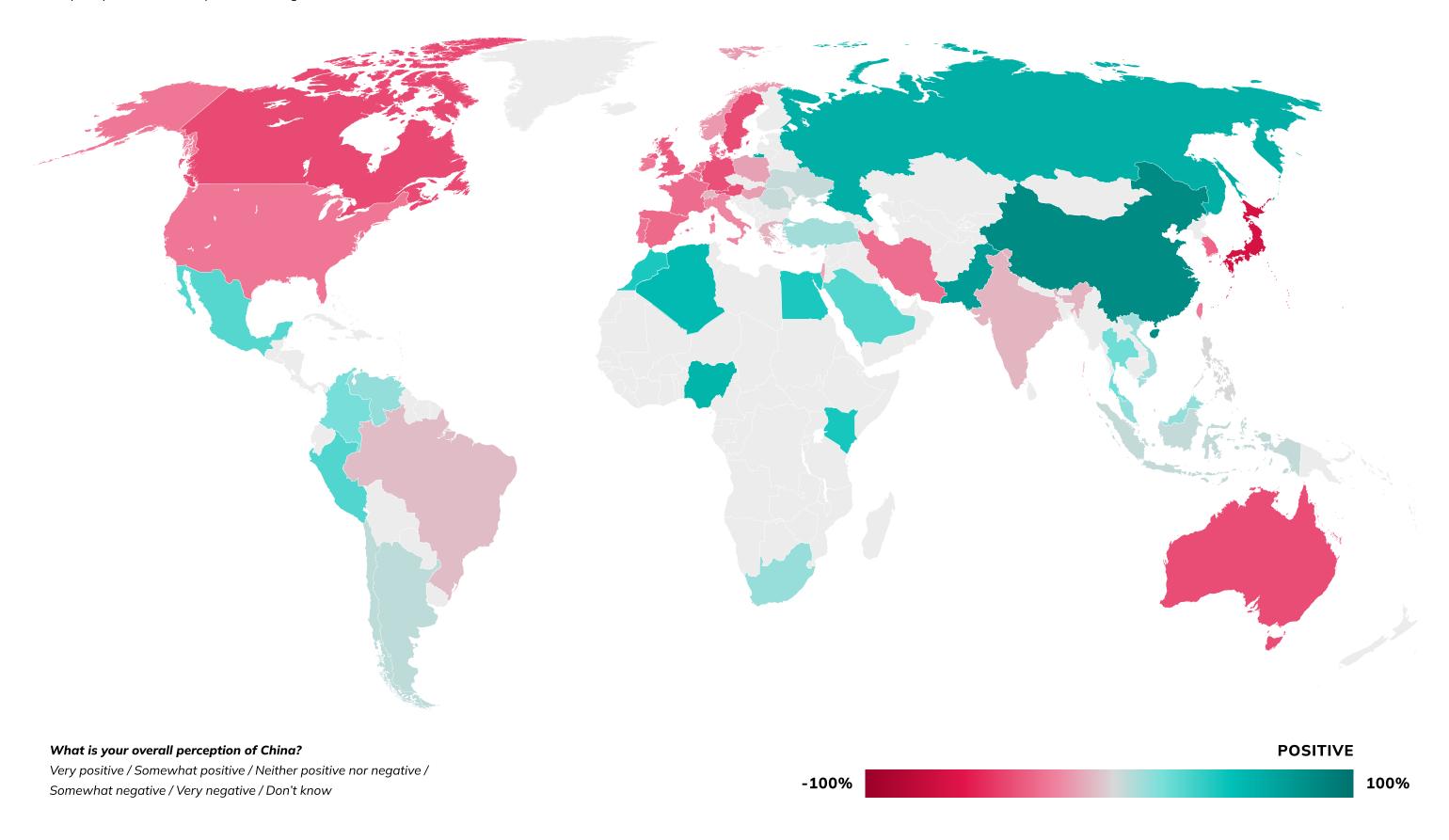


Perception of China

People around the world are divided about their views towards China, with an identical share of people saying they have a positive opinion as negative opinion. Perceptions of China are much more negative in Europe and the United States than in the rest of the world, where they are either mixed or positive.

The world is divided in its view towards China

net perception of China: % positive - % negative





Perception of China

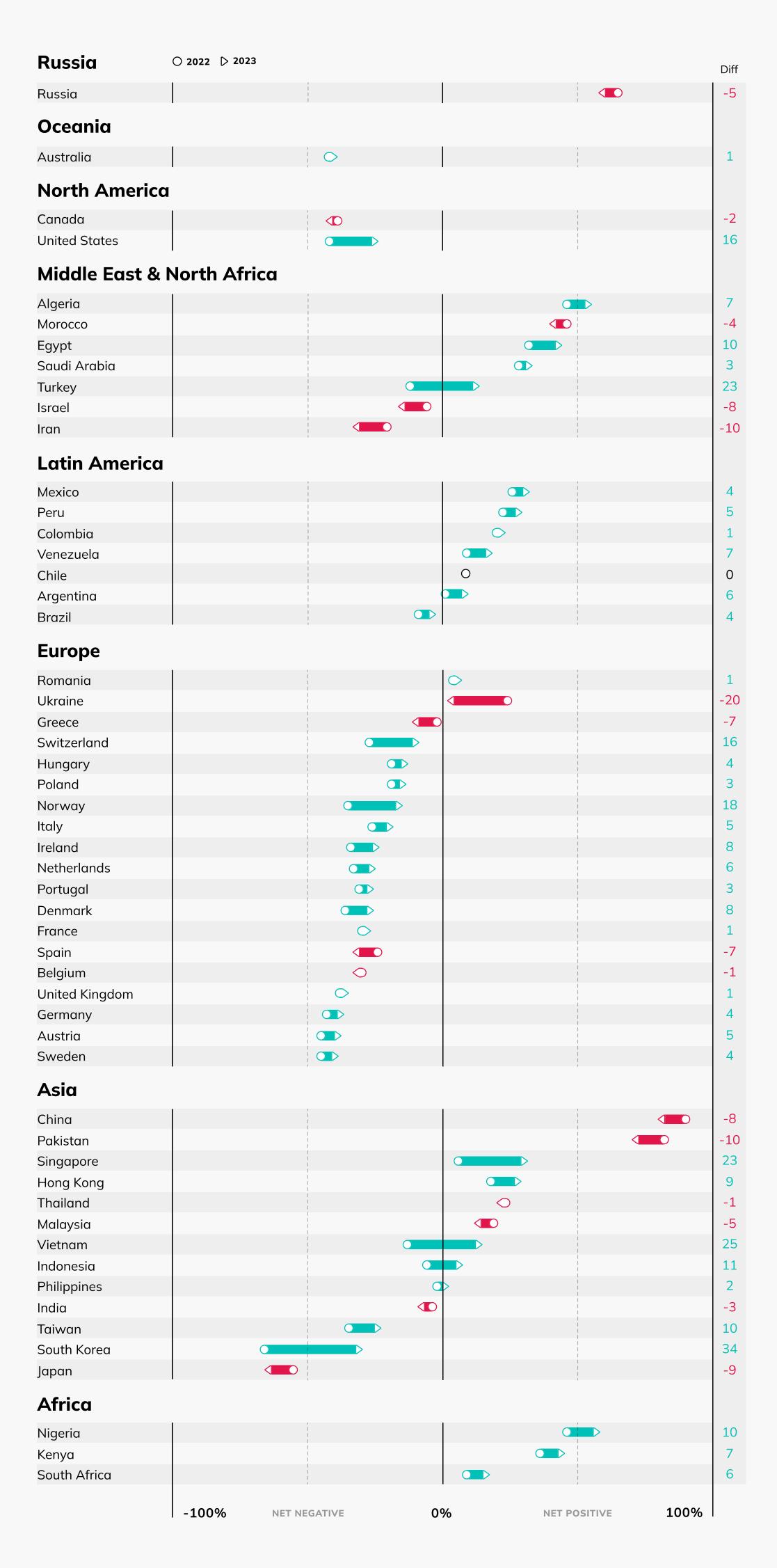
Perceptions of China have taken a slight positive turn from 2022 to 2023 around the world.

The countries with the most positive increases are South Korea (+34), Vietnam (+25), Singapore (+23) and Turkey (+23), while the countries with the most negative changes are Iran (-10) and Ukraine (-20).

What is your overall perception of China?

Very positive / Somewhat positive / Neither positive nor negative / Somewhat negative / Very negative / Don't know

*"Positive" includes "very positive" and "somewhat positive".



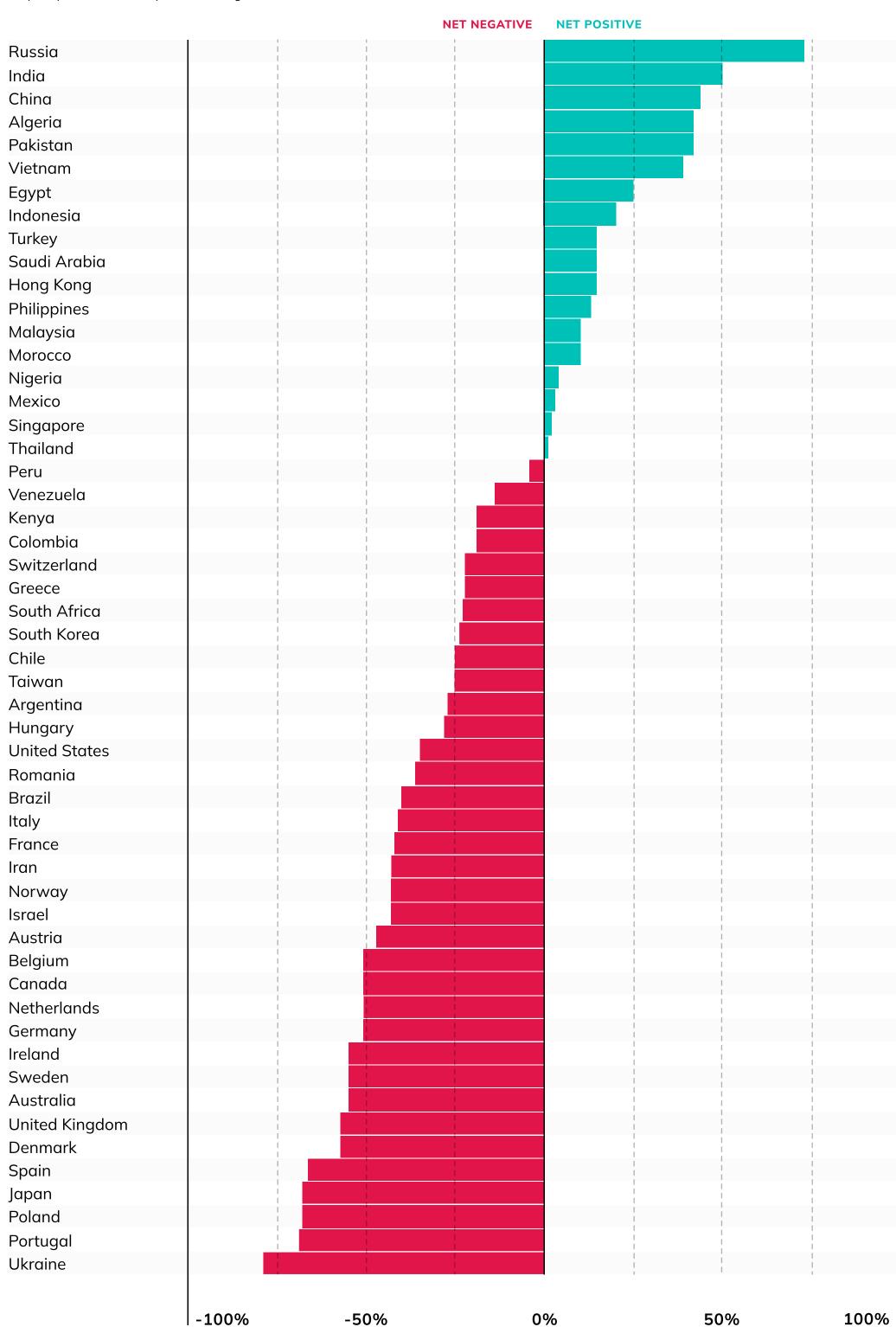


Perception of Russia

Most countries have negative views of Russia. The only countries with a positive perception of Russia are in Asia or the Middle East, led by Russia, India and China. Collectively, however, these countries represent a majority of the world's population.

Russia is viewed negatively in most countries

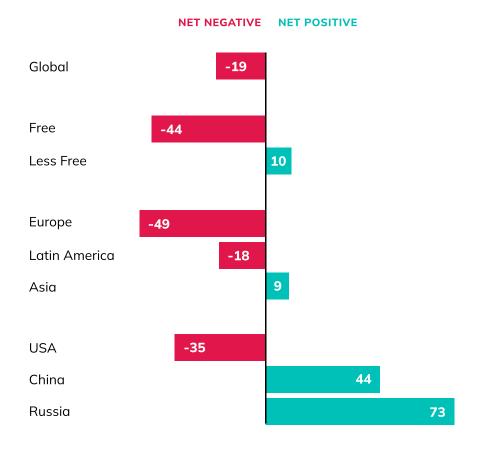
net perception of Russia: % positive - % negative





Regional Results

People in western democracies, particularly in Europe and America, have the most negative perceptions of Russia.



What is your overall perception of Russia?

Very positive / Somewhat positive / Neither positive nor negative / Somewhat negative / Very negative / Don't know

 $[\]hbox{\it *"Positive" includes "very positive" and "somewhat positive"}.$



Perception of Russia

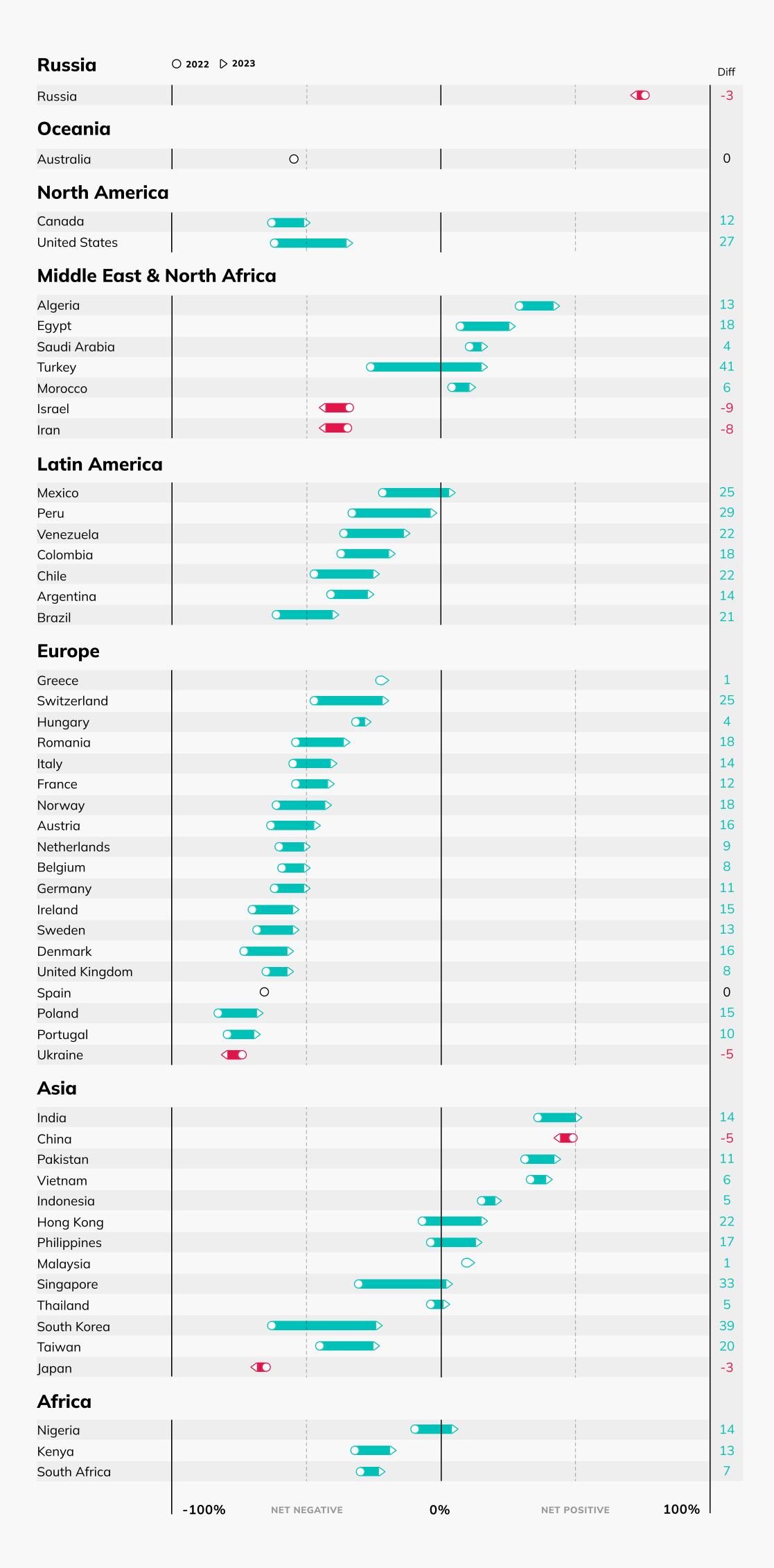
While most countries in 2023 still have a negative view of Russia, attitudes are far less negative than they were one year ago.

This decline in negative attitudes occurred in almost all countries, even in the western democracies that remain the most critical of Russia.

What is your overall perception of Russia?

Very positive / Somewhat positive / Neither positive nor negative / Somewhat negative / Very negative / Don't know

*"Positive" includes "very positive" and "somewhat positive".



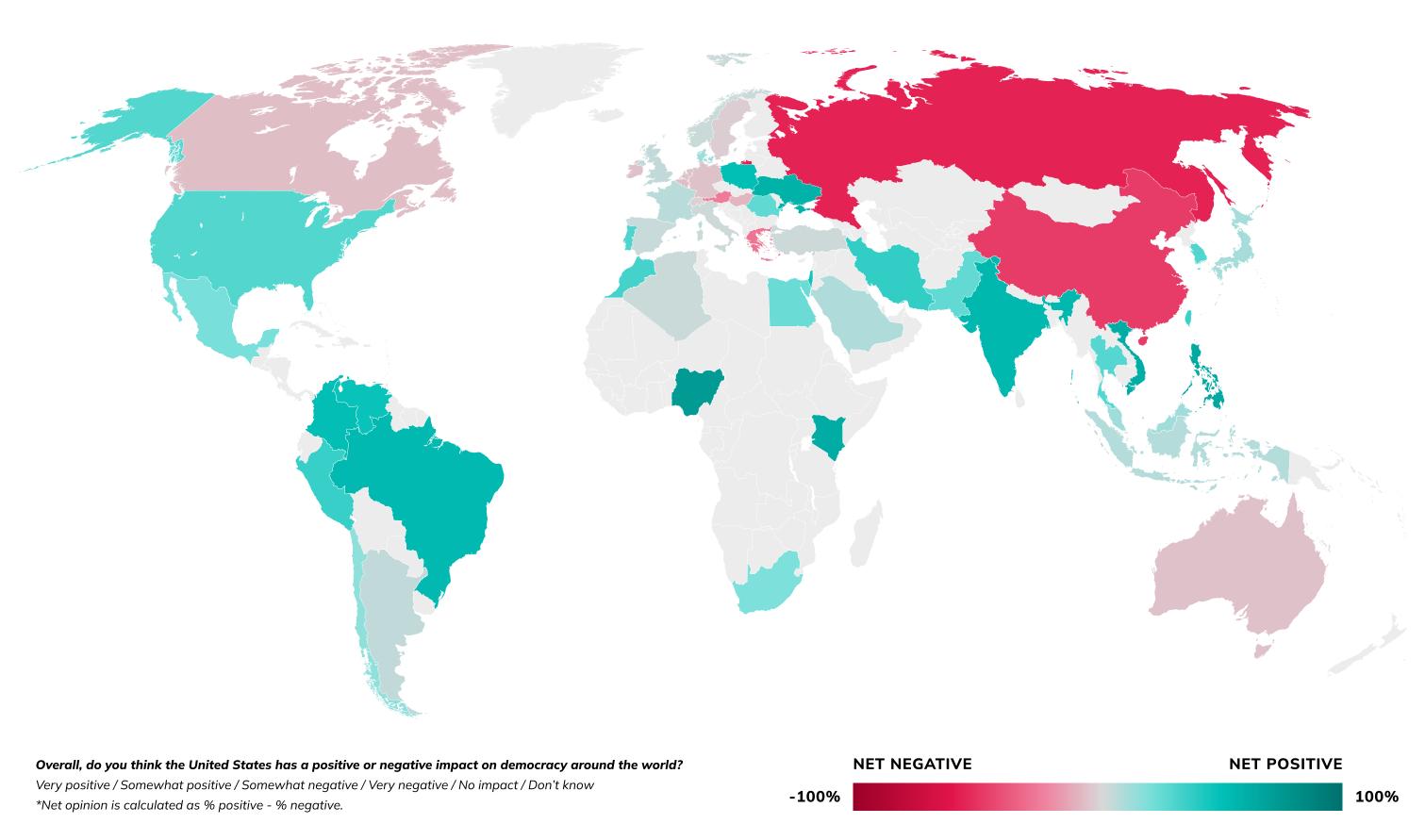


US Impact on Democracy

Across the 53 countries surveyed, an average of 51% of people say that the United States has a positive impact on democracy around the world, while 33% say it's negative.

World is split about the US's impact on democracy worldwide

net opinion* of the US's influence on democracy worldwide



KEY FINDINGS

There are strong regional divides in perceptions of the US

On one hand, many developing countries, particularly in Latin America and Eastern Europe, have overwhelmingly positive assessments of the US's impact.

On the other hand, Russia, China, and Greece have the most negative perceptions.

And lastly, in most Western European countries, as well as in Canada and Australia, opinion is very evenly divided.



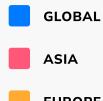


US Impact on Democracy

Over the past three years, from 2020 to 2023, perceptions of US's global influence have become slightly more positive around the world, especially across Europe.

Overall, do you think the United States has a positive or negative impact on democracy around the world?

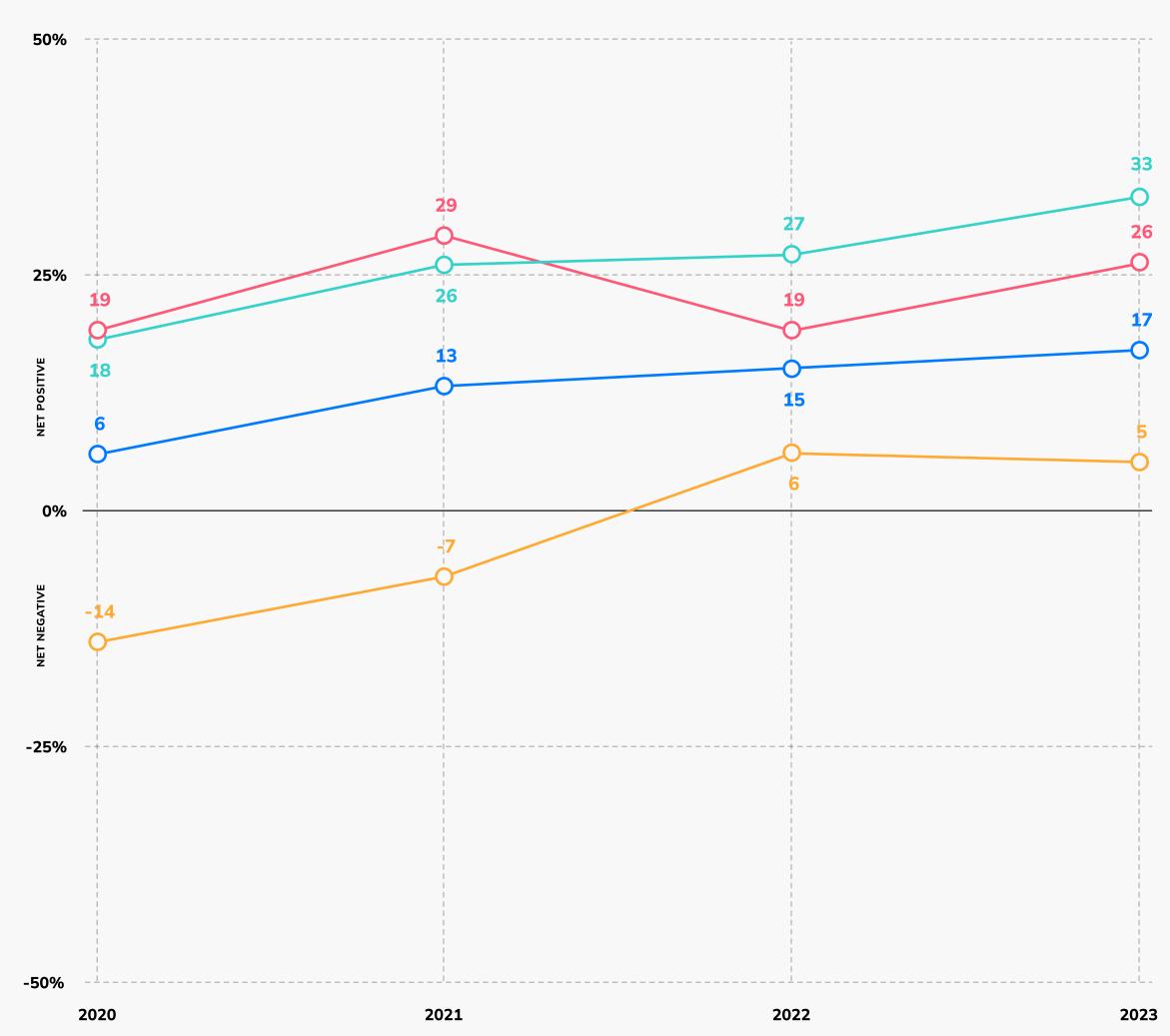
Very positive / Somewhat positive / Somewhat negative / Very negative / No impact / Don't know



LATIN AMERICA

Perception of US influence on global democracy becomes more positive since 2020

Net opinion of the US's impact on democracy in 2020-2023 (% positive - % negative)



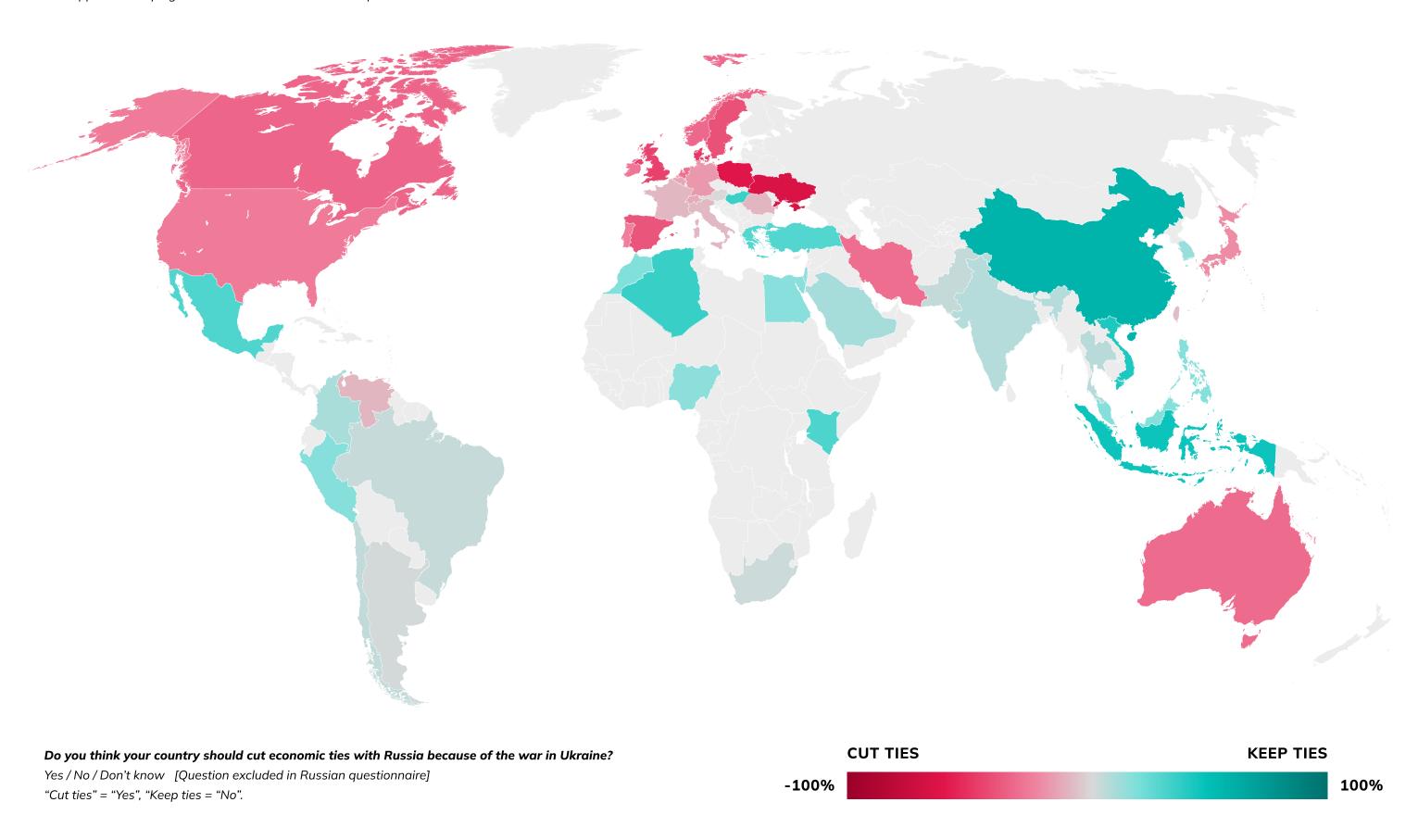


Economic Ties with Russia

When asked if they think their countries should cut economic ties with Russia over its invasion of Ukraine, western democracies are more in favor of cutting ties than keeping ties. The rest of the world however has mixed opinions or would rather keep ties.

Western democracies want to cut economic ties with Russia

net support for keeping economic ties with Russia: % keep ties - % cut ties



KEY FINDINGS

Support for cutting ties with Russia divides the West from the rest

Western democracies, particularly Europe and the US, have far more people willing to cut ties with Russia than keep ties with Russia. The rest of the world however has mixed opinions or would rather keep ties.



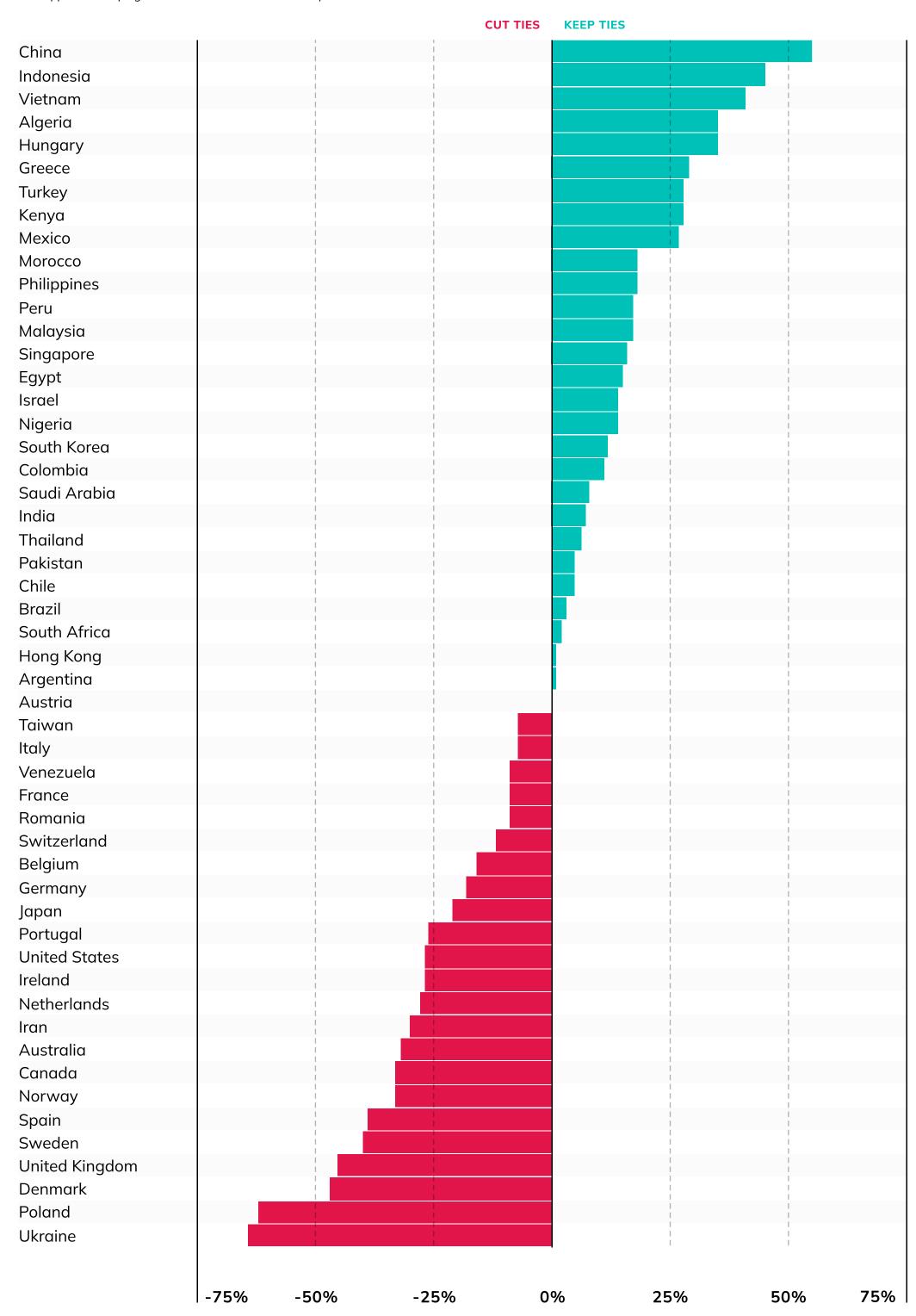


Economic Ties with Russia

When asked if they think their countries should cut economic ties with Russia over its invasion of Ukraine, people in 23 out of the 52 countries surveyed are more in favour of cutting ties than keeping ties.

Western democracies want to cut economic ties with Russia

net support for keeping economic ties with Russia: % keep ties - % cut ties





Hungary and Greece are the only countries in Europe where more people prefer to keep ties with Russia



Do you think your country should cut economic ties with Russia because of the war in Ukraine?

Yes / No / Don't know [Question excluded in Russian questionnaire]

"Cut ties" = "Yes", "Keep ties = "No".



Economic Ties with Russia

Support for cutting economic ties with Russia over its invasion of Ukraine remains high in Europe and the United States even after several rounds of sanctions. Yet this support is weaker now than it was one year ago, in the spring of 2022.

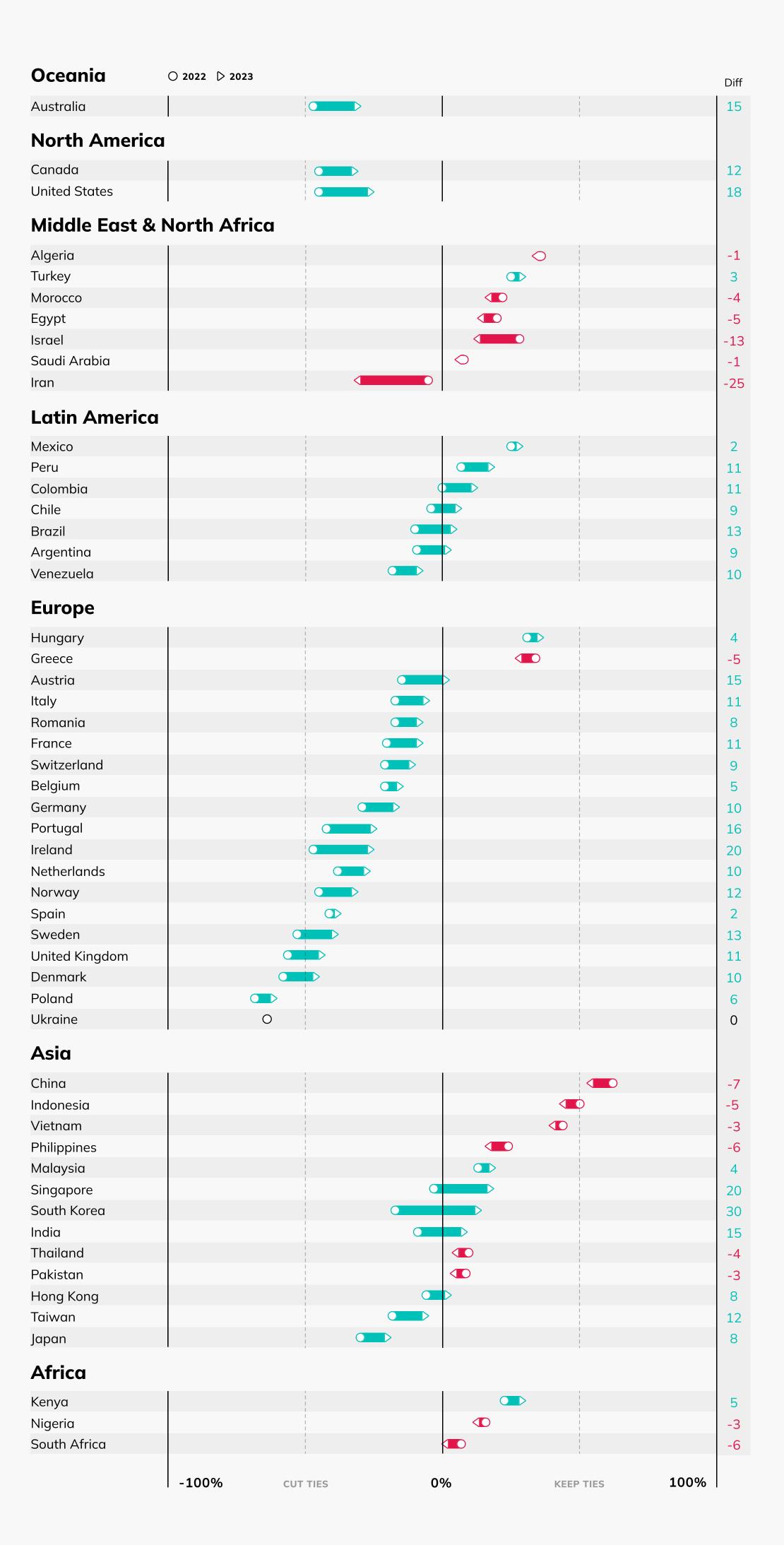
Several countries have shifted from preferring to cut ties to now preferring to keep ties.
These countries include: South Korea, Singapore, India, Brazil and Chile.

Almost all countries in Latin
America, Asia and the MENA
region prefer keeping ties with
Russia, while almost all
countries in Europe still prefer
cutting ties.

Do you think your country should cut economic ties with Russia because of the war in Ukraine?

Yes / No / Don't know [Question excluded in Russian questionnaire]

"Cut ties" = "Yes", "Keep ties = "No".



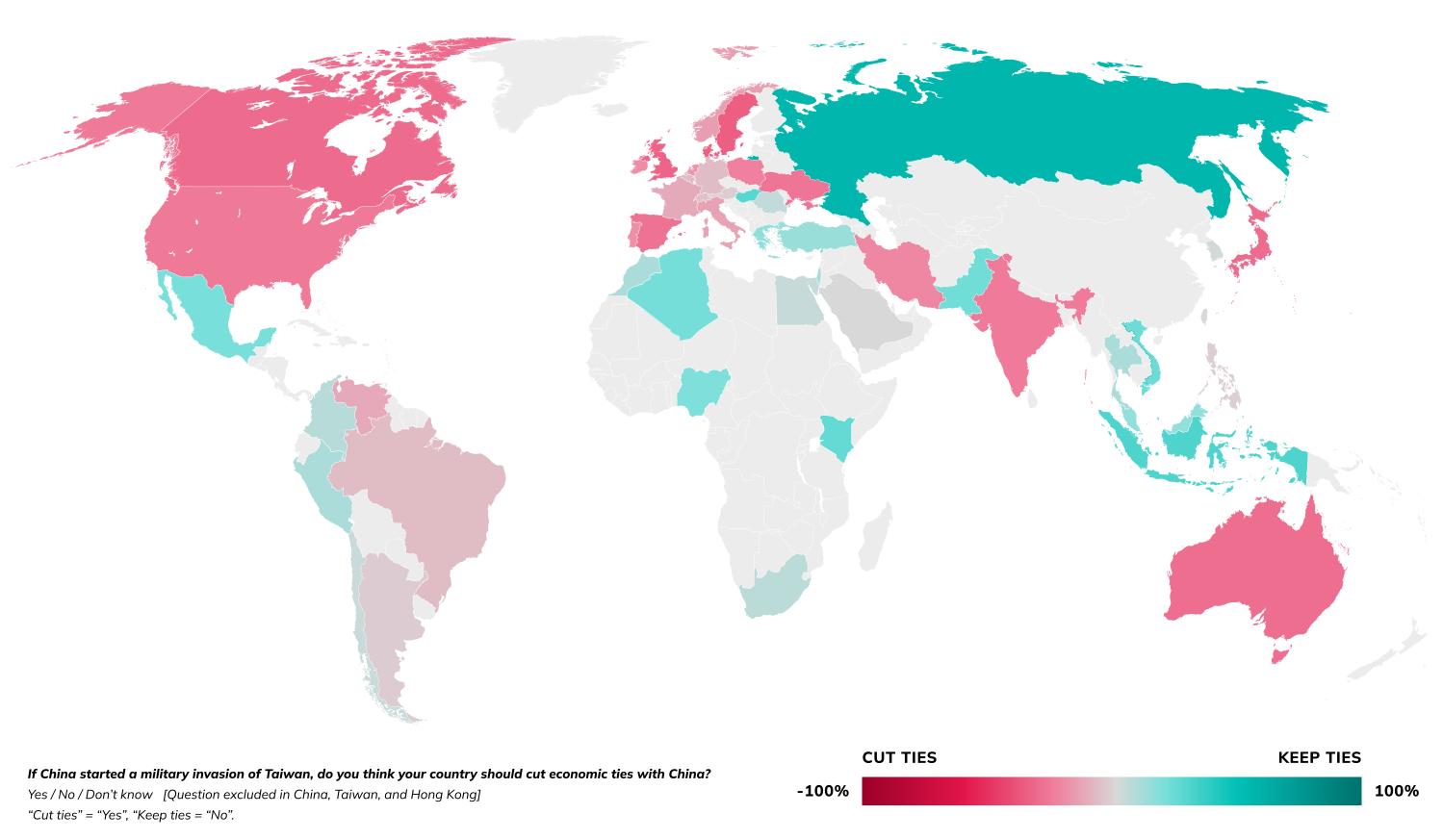


Economic Ties with China

In 26 out of the 52 countries surveyed, more people say they would be in favour of their country cutting economic ties with China - if it invaded Taiwan - than keeping ties. These countries include many of China's top trading partners such as the United States, Japan, and Germany.

If China invades Taiwan, half of the world would want to cut economic ties

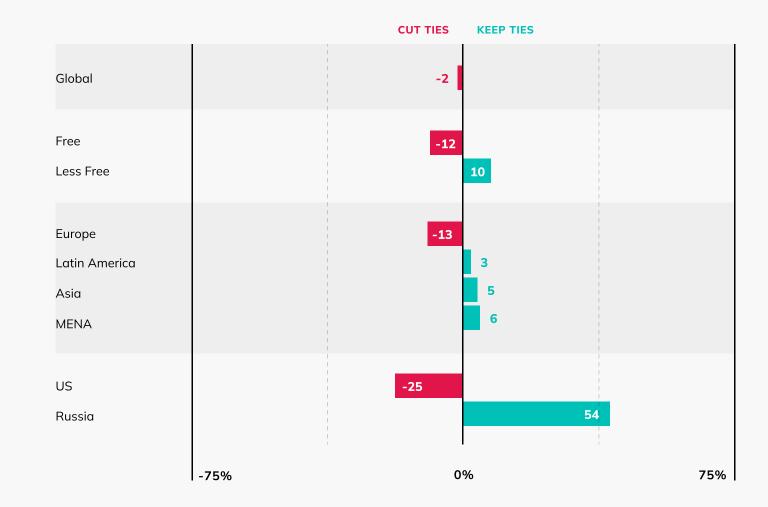
net support for keeping economic ties with China if it invaded Taiwan: % keep ties - % cut ties



KEY FINDINGS

Support for cutting ties with China divides the West from the rest

People in western democracies are generally in favor of cutting ties with China in the event of an invasion. Most other countries, however, have mixed attitudes or clearly prefer keeping ties.

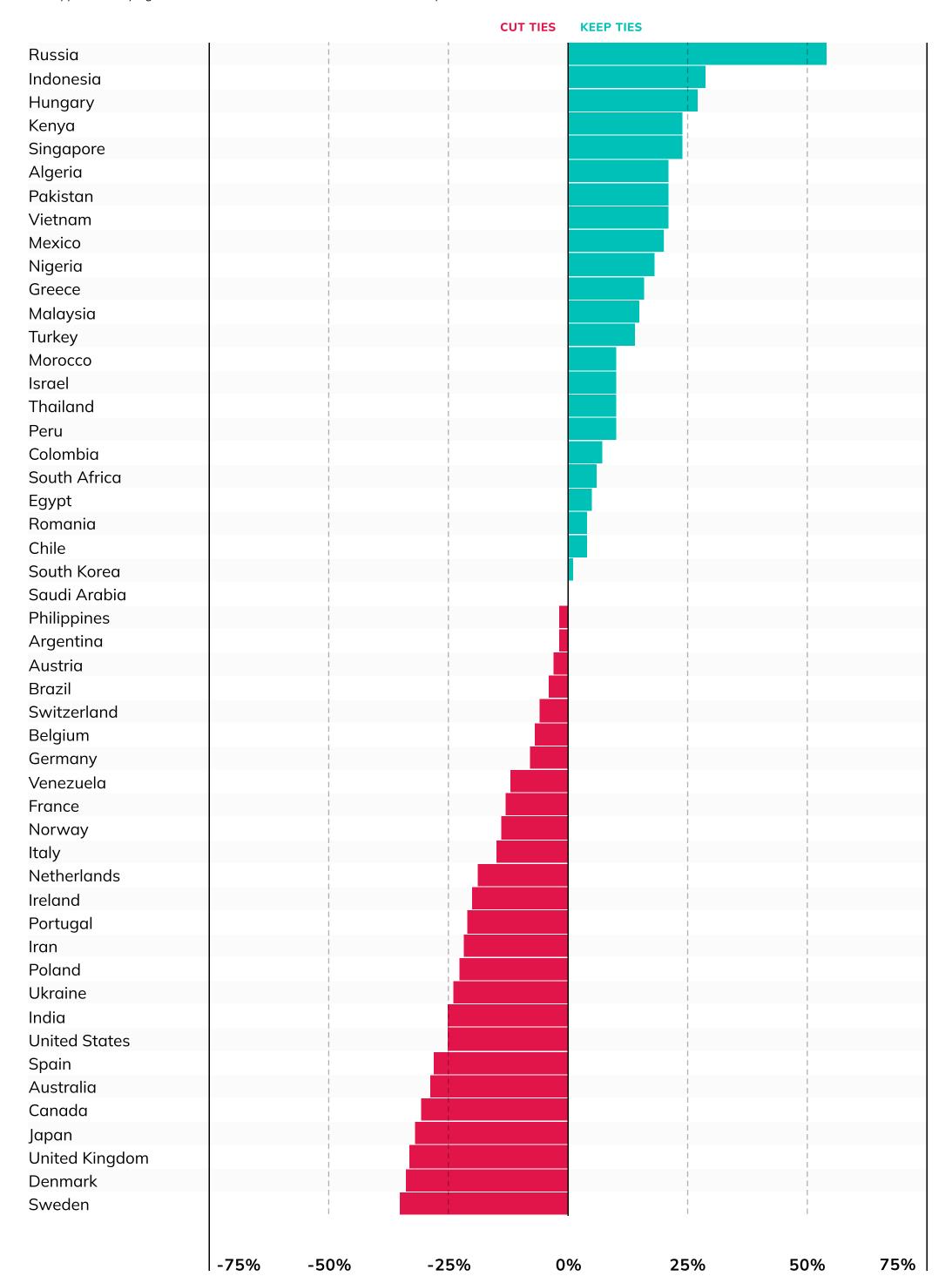


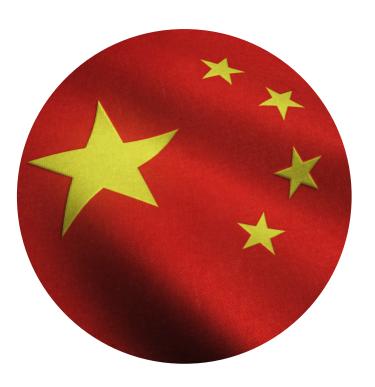


Economic Ties with China

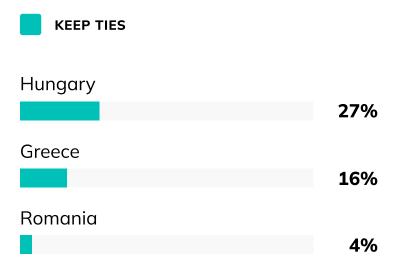
If China invades Taiwan, half of the world would want to cut economic ties

net support for keeping economic ties with China if it invaded Taiwan: % keep ties - % cut ties

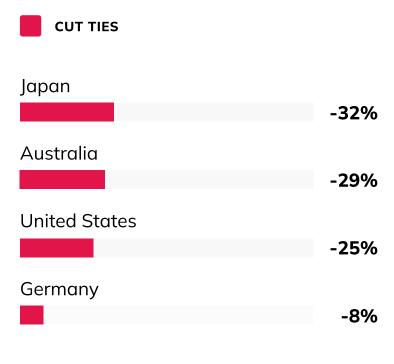




Hungary, Greece, and Romania are the only countries in Europe where more people would rather keep ties with China.



Many of China's largest trading partners are among the countries where more people would rather cut ties than keep ties.



If China started a military invasion of Taiwan, do you think your country should cut economic ties with China?

Yes / No / Don't know [Question excluded in China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong]

"Cut ties" = "Yes", "Keep ties = "No".



Economic Ties with China

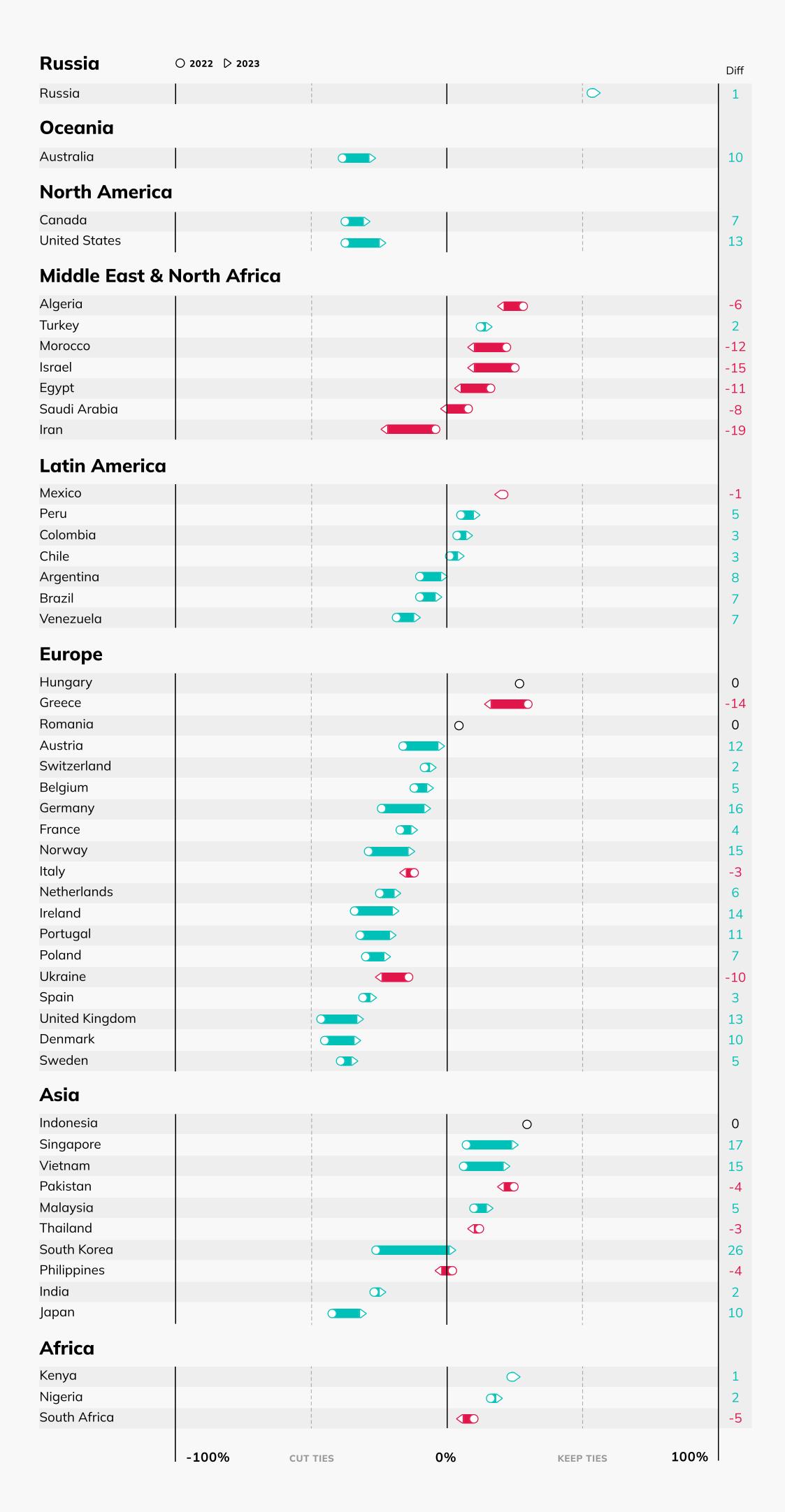
Since 2022, attitudes towards economic ties with China have stayed relatively stable across most of the globe. The countries where opinions have shifted in the direction of keeping ties are South Korea, Singapore and Vietnam.

Attitudes in a handful of European countries have also shifted in this direction, but remain still in favor of cutting ties: Germany, Norway, Ireland, the United States and the United Kingdom.

If China started a military invasion of Taiwan, do you think your country should cut economic ties with China?

Yes / No / Don't know [Question excluded in China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong]

"Cut ties" = "Yes", "Keep ties = "No".





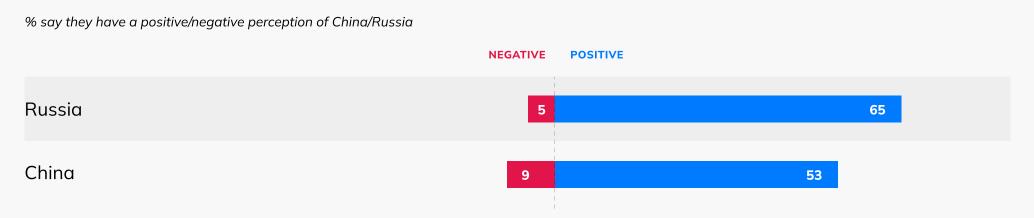
Russia-China Relations

Public attitudes in Russia and China about each other's countries are very positive and share much in common.



KEY FINDINGS

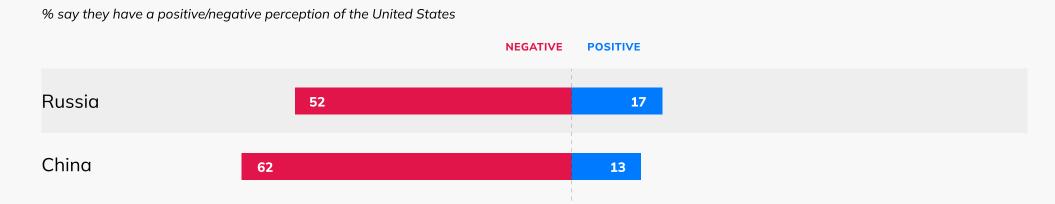
Both the Russians and Chinese hold very favorable views of each other's countries



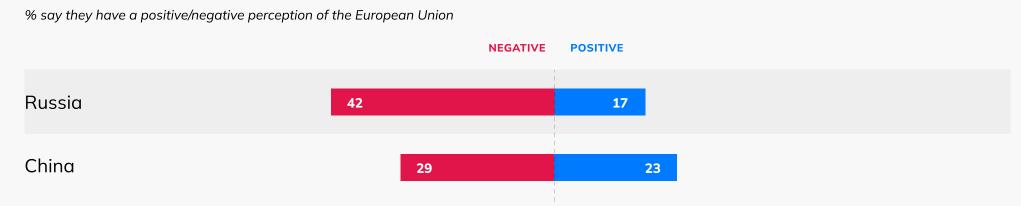
They both overwhelmingly support keeping economic ties with each other



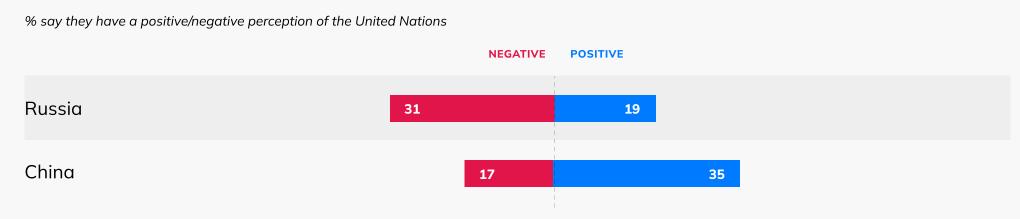
They both hold the world's most negative perceptions of the United States



They are the only two countries to have net negative perceptions of the European Union



When it comes to the United Nations, however, they have different opinions

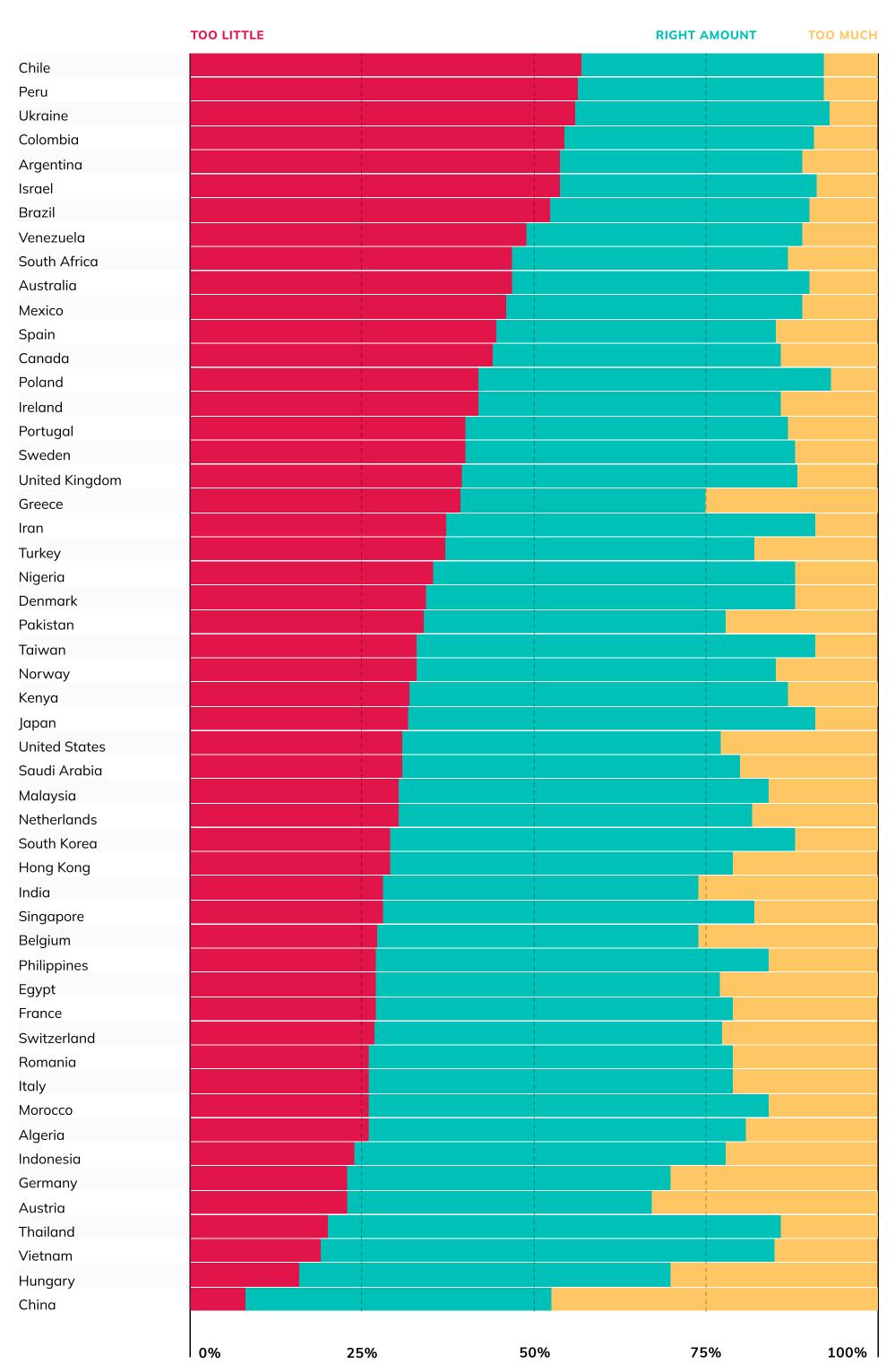


Assistance to Ukraine

Across the 52 countries, around one third (35%) of the respondents say that the US, EU, and NATO have done too little to assist Ukraine during the Russian invasion, while the remaining half say that they have done the right amount (48%) and 17% say they've done too much.

Half of the world says that the US, EU, and NATO have done the right amount to help Ukraine

% say the US, EU, and NATO have done too little, too much, or the right amount to assist Ukraine

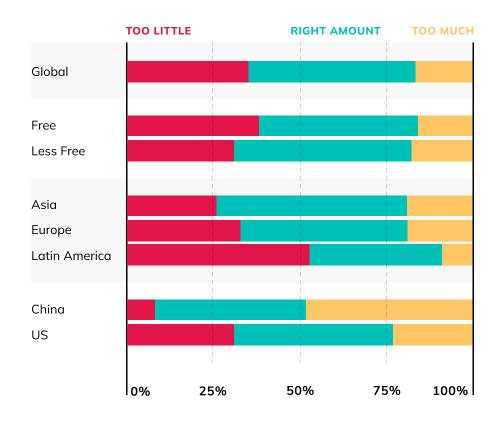




Regional Results

The countries that are the most likely to say that the US, the EU, and NATO have done too little to assist Ukraine during the Russian Invasion are mainly in countries in Latin America (53%).

China is the only country where more people say that the US, EU and NATO have done "too much" (47%) than the "right amount" (44%).



Do you think the US, EU, and NATO have done too little, too much, or the right amount to assist Ukraine during the Russian invasion?

Too much / The right amount / Too little [Question excluded in Russian questionnaire]

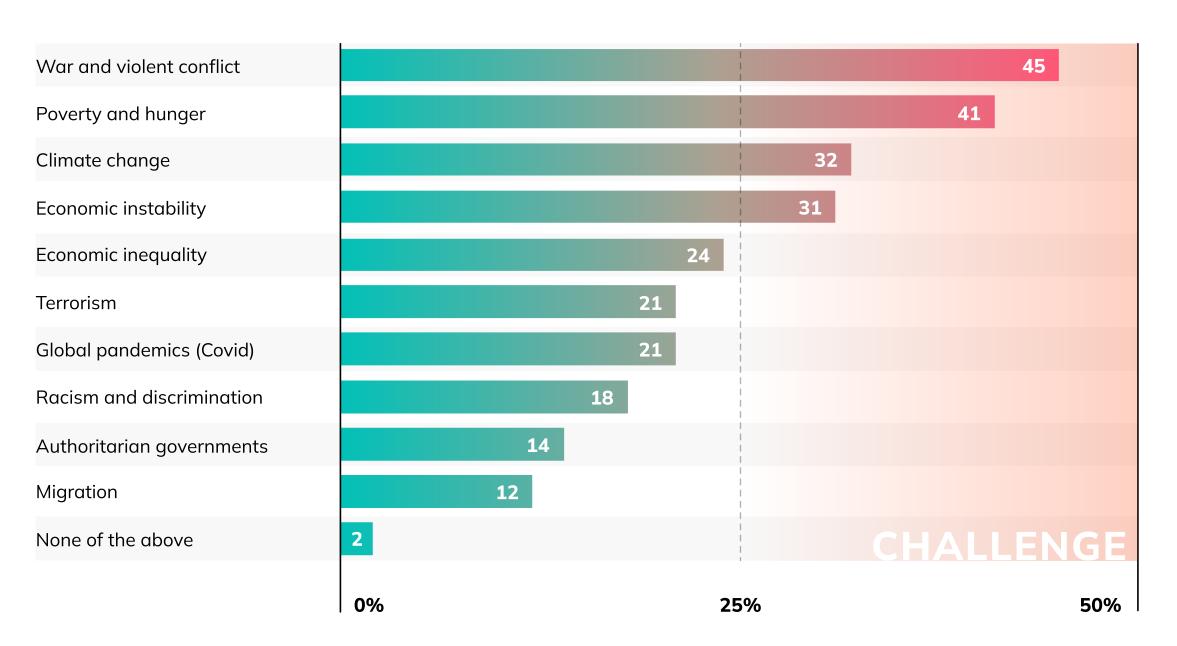


World Challenges

According to people around the globe, the world's top challenges are "war and violent conflict", followed by "poverty and hunger" and "climate change". These concerns differ across regions, with Europe and Asia more concerned about war, and the rest of the world more concerned about poverty and hunger.

War and poverty are seen as the world's top two challenges

% select _____ as one of the world's top three biggest challenges right now



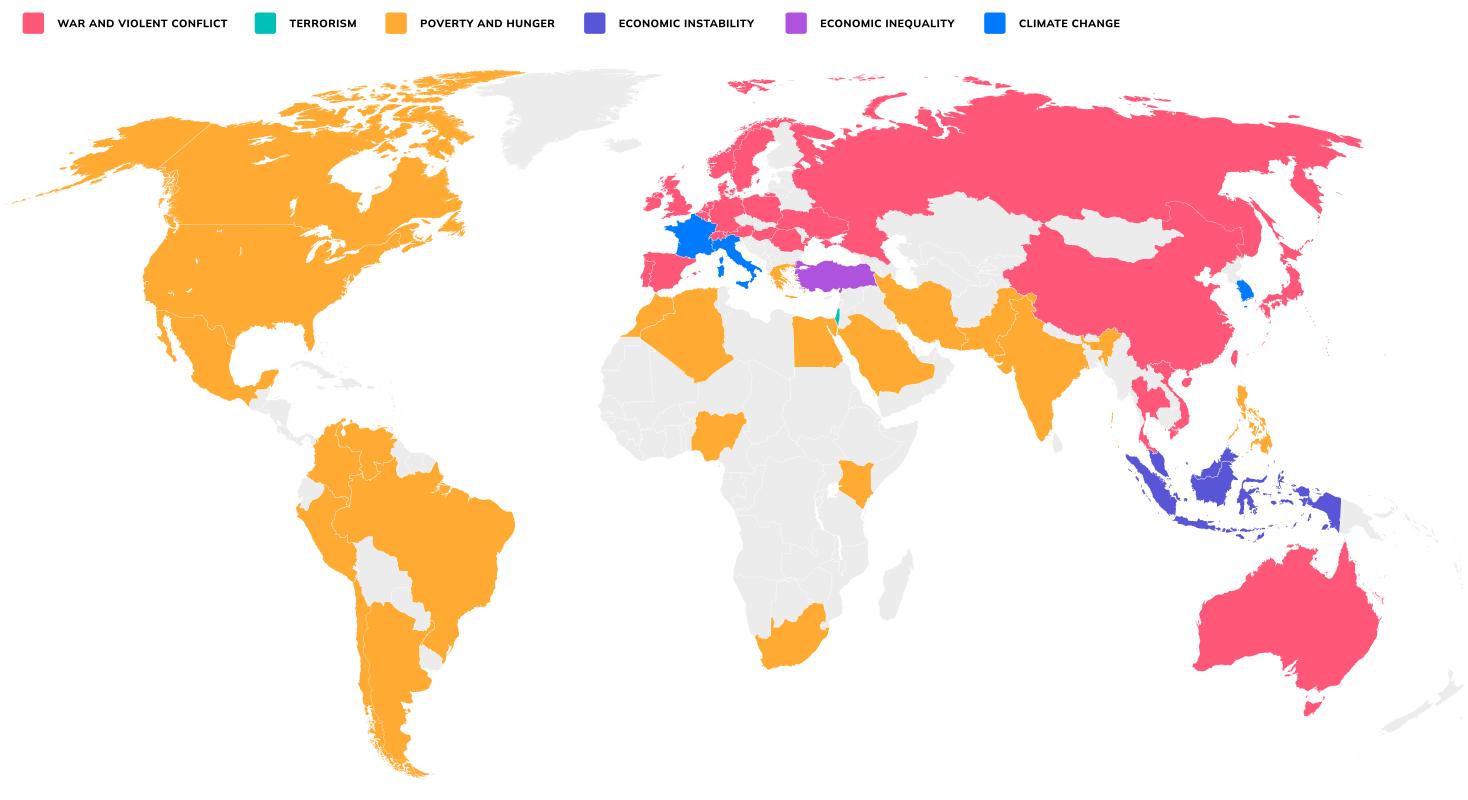
In your opinion, which of the following do you think are the world's top three biggest challenges right now?

Select up to three

Climate change
War and violent conflict
Poverty and hunger
Economic inequality
Racism and discrimination against minorities
Global pandemics (COVID)
Terrorism
Economic instability
Authoritarian governments
Migration
None of the above

Half of the world says war is the top global challenge - the other half says poverty

the top challenge selected by country



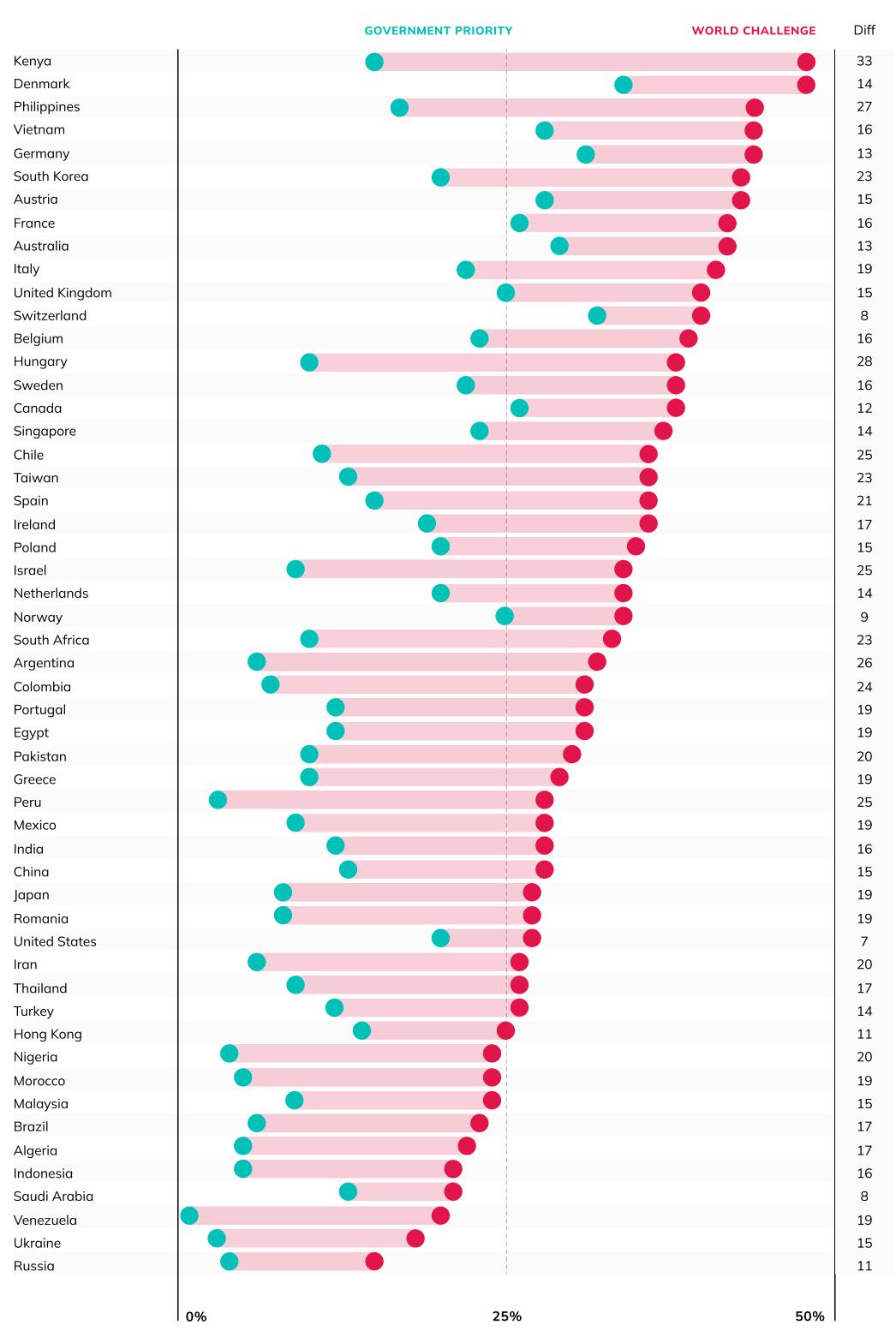


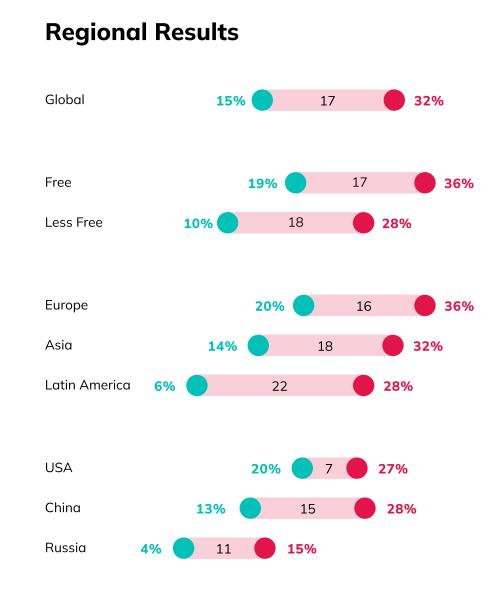
Prioritizing Climate Change

While climate change is viewed as one of the world's top three biggest challenges by 32% of the world's population, only 15% say that it should be a top priority for their government. People in western democracies, particularly in Europe, are the most likely to both perceive climate change as a major global challenge and as a top priority for their government.

Many people think climate change is one of the world's top challenges. But far fewer say it should be a top priority for their government.

% say climate change is one of the world's top three biggest challenges vs. % say fighting climate change should be one of their government's top three priorities





In your opinion, which of the following do you think are the world's top three biggest challenges right now? Climate change / War and violent conflict / Poverty and hunger etc

Which of the following areas do you want your government to focus on more?

Fight climate change / Improve education / Promote gender equality etc



Democracy under COVID

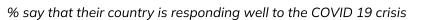
Government Respons	6e	57
COVID Restrictions		59

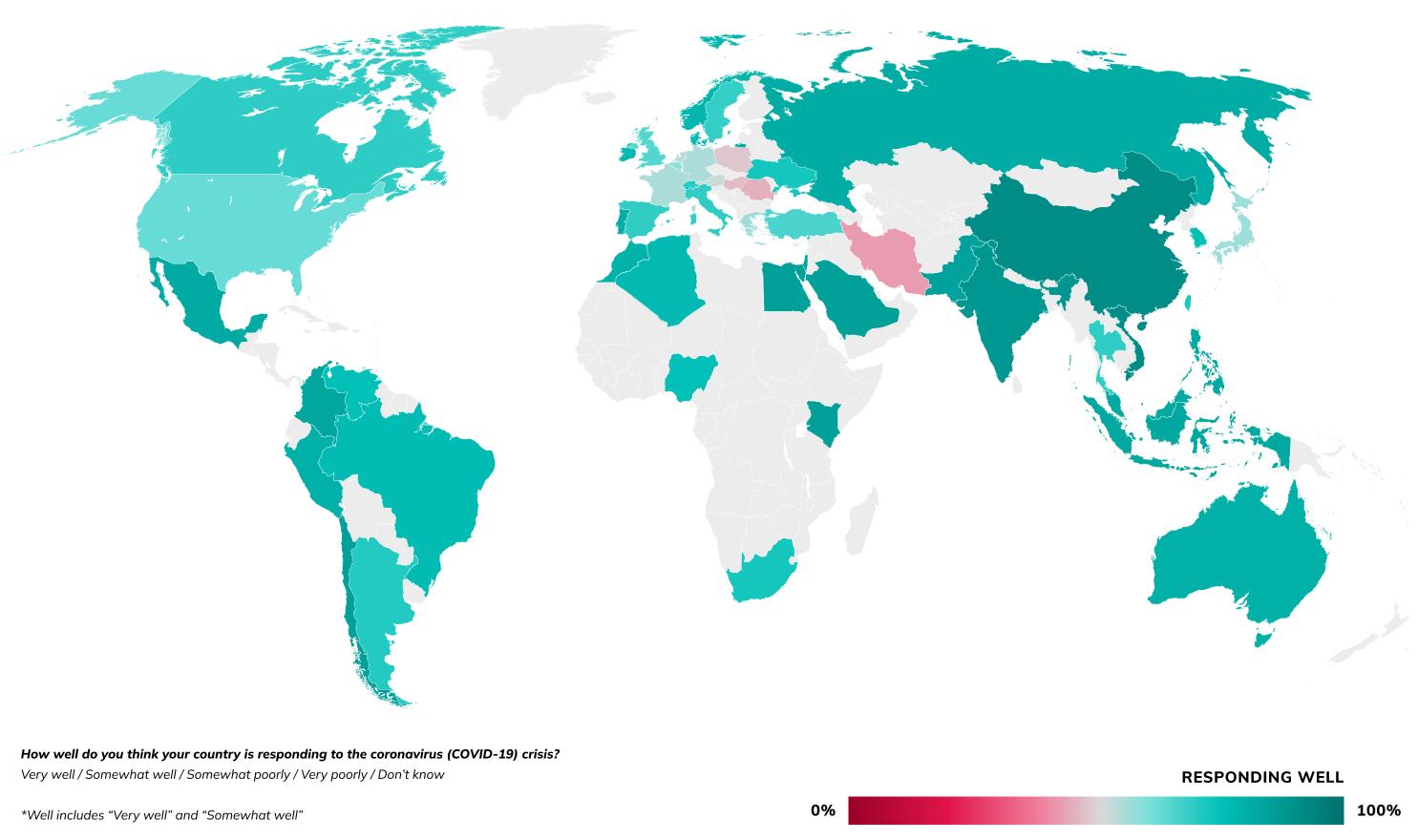


Government Response

Across all 53 countries surveyed, an average of 72% say that their country is responding well, ranging from 92% in Vietnam to 42% in Iran. While the majority of people are satisfied, Europe and the United States lag slightly behind the rest (63%).

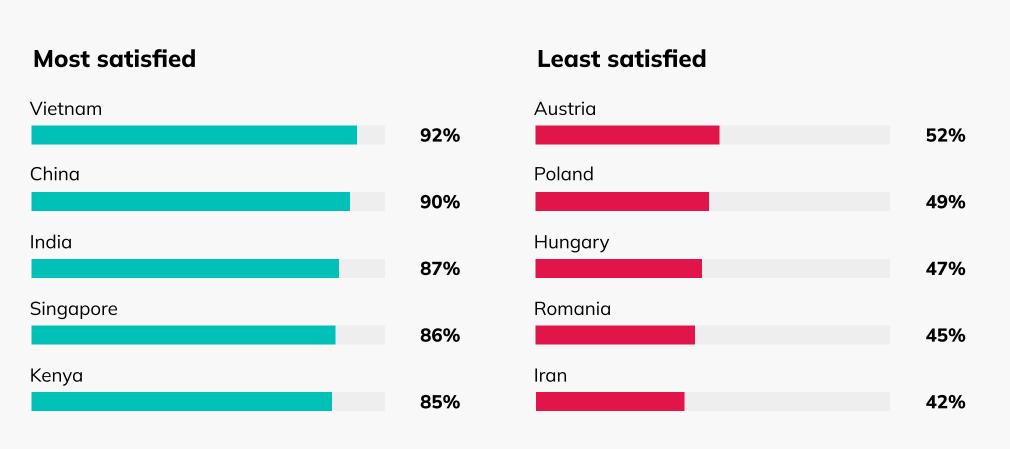
Majority of people around the world are satisfied with their government's response to COVID

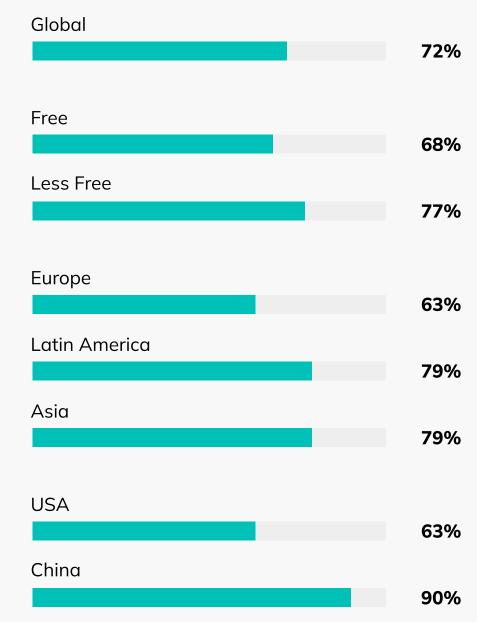




KEY FINDINGS

Three years since the start of the pandemic, people around the world are growing more and more satisfied with their government's handling of the COVID crisis. This represents a remarkable increase in public satisfaction from the lowest points in 2021, particularly in Europe and Latin America where attitudes were least positive in 2021 (under 50%) and have now rebounded up to 63% and 79% respectively.

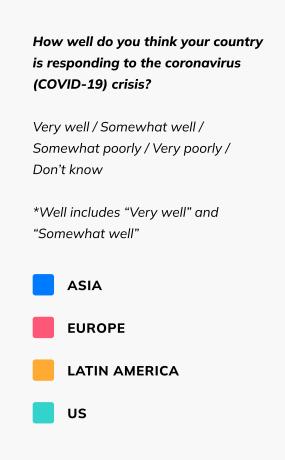




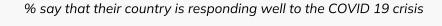


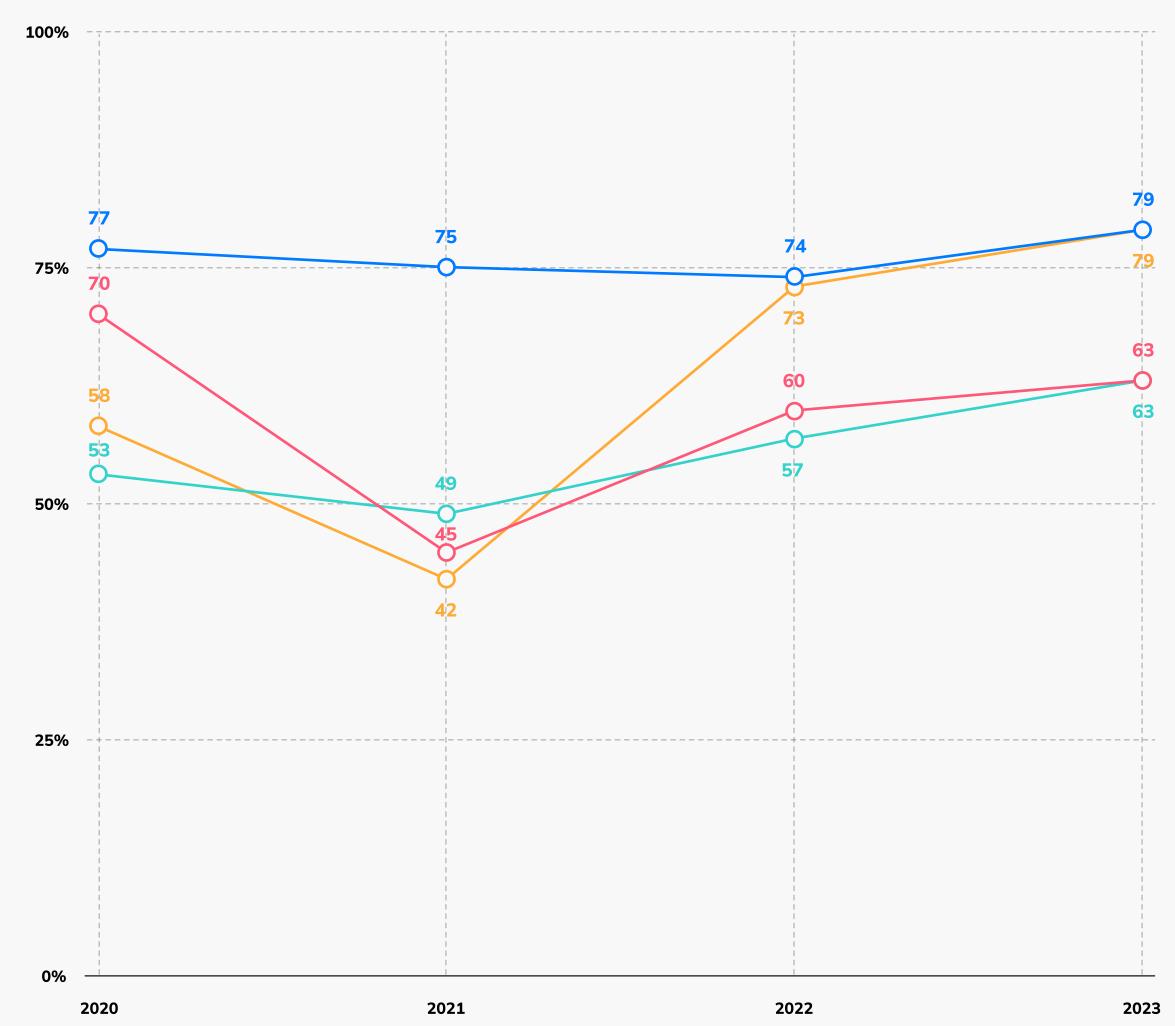
Government Response

In the first year of the pandemic, from the Spring of 2020 to the Spring of 2021, people grew less satisfied with their government's response to COVID. Yet over the next two years, satisfaction has rebounded. Today a majority of people in almost all countries around the world are satisfied with their government's response to COVID.



Satisfaction with COVID response has increased globally since 2021 downturn





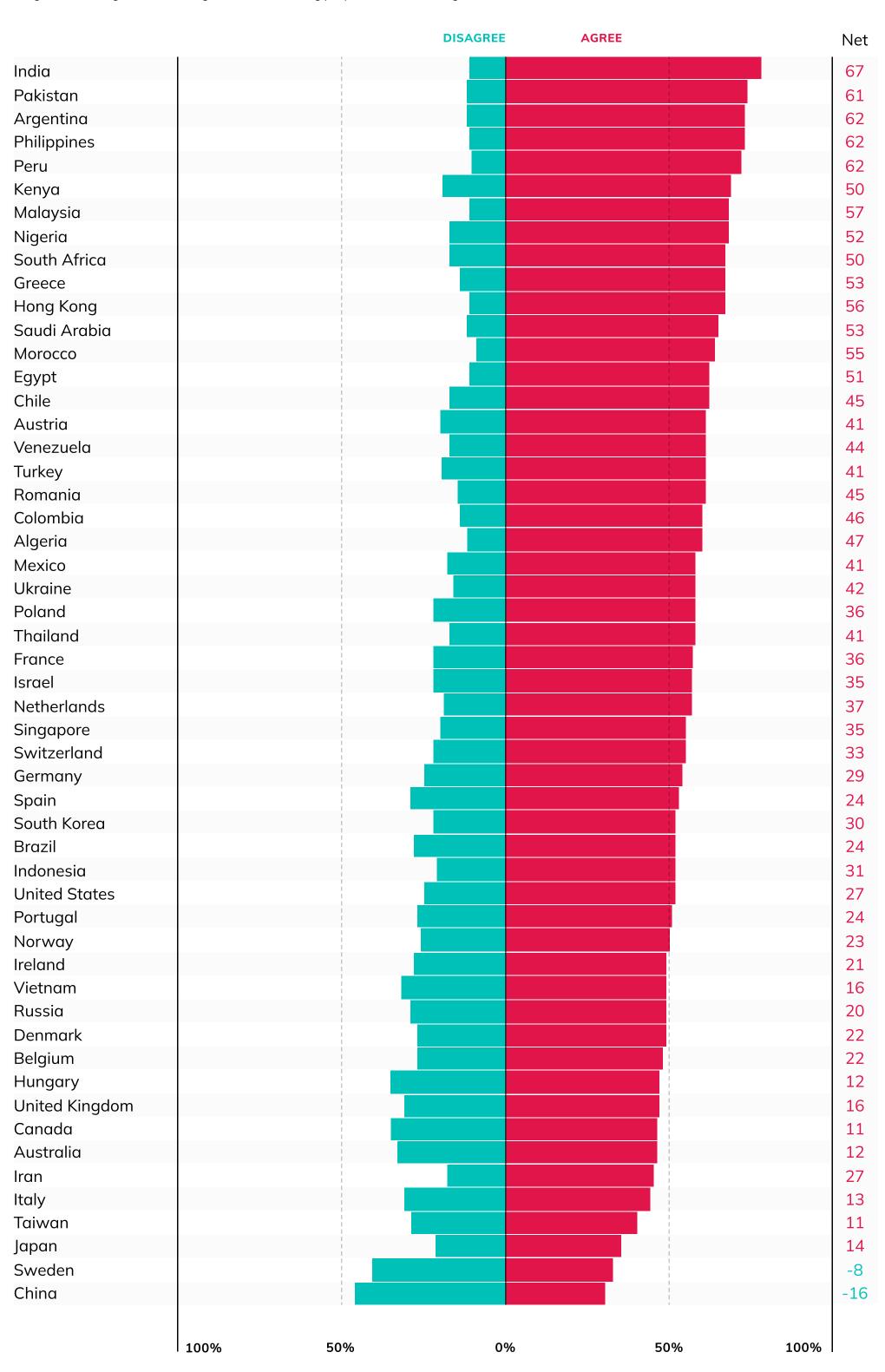


COVID Restrictions

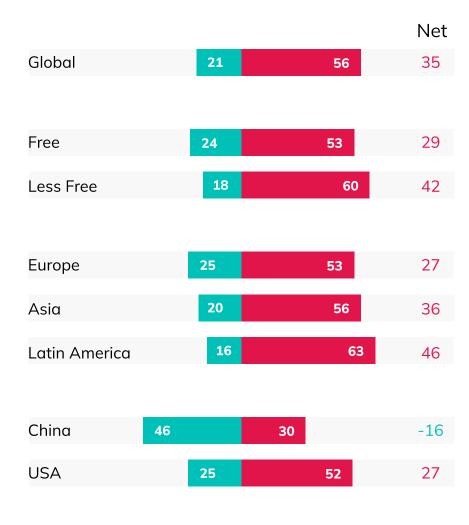
Despite increasing satisfaction with how governments are handling COVID, the majority of people around the world are still worried that their government has done too much to limit basic freedoms. While this concern is higher in less democratic countries (60%), it is still as high as 53% in "free" democracies.

Majority of people still say their country has limited freedoms too much during COVID

% agree that their government has gone too far in limiting people's freedoms during COVID



Perception of violated freedoms is most prevalent in less democratic countries



Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
"My government has done too much to limit people's
freedoms during the coronavirus crisis"

Strongly agree / Somewhat agree / Neither agree nor disagree /
Somewhat disagree / Strongly disagree

*Agree includes "Strongly agree" and "Somewhat agree"



Methodology

Overview

This report presents an overview of a study conducted by Latana and the Alliance of Democracies in the spring of 2023, between February 7th and March 27th. The sample of n=53,970 online-connected respondents was drawn across 53 countries, with an average sample size of around 1,000 respondents per country. Nationally representative results were calculated based on the official distribution of age, gender, and education for each country's population, sourced from the most recent and available data from Barro Lee & UNStat, and census.gov. The average margin of error across all countries sampled is (+/-) 3.1 percentage points.

How the DPI Categorizes Democracies

In order to compare public opinion results between more democratic countries and less democratic countries, the DPI uses the 2023 categories from Freedom House to create two groups:

"Free" - the most democratic countries, labeled as "Free" by Freedom House.

"Less Free" - countries labeled as "Partly Free" or "Not Free" by Freedom House.

Free Speech

In some countries surveyed, the government plays an active role in shaping public opinion and/or has policies in place that restrict freedom of speech around certain topics. This can have a strong influence on the survey results.

Summary Tables

Here are the full summary tables of the results used in this report: (DPI 2023 - Topline Results)

Data Collection

Latana's surveys are conducted online through internet-connected devices, such as smartphones, tablets, and computers. Latana follows an open recruitment approach that leverages the reach of over 40,000 third-party apps and mobile websites. To ensure coverage across different demographic groups and geographical regions, Latana targets a highly diverse set of apps and websites – from news to shopping, to sports and games. As a result, Latana generates up to 21 million answers every month from respondents living in as many as 100 different countries.

Data Privacy and Anonymity

Once a user opts in to complete a survey, Latana informs the respondent about the nature of the questionnaire and explains that all answers – including the generic demographics that are part of the targeting and quality assurance process – are recorded anonymously. To ensure respondent privacy and high-quality response data, Latana does not collect any personally identifiable information (PII) on users. In contrast to surveys conducted face-to-face or by telephone, the anonymity offered by Latana's methodology may help reduce response bias, interviewer bias, and respondent self-censorship.

For more information, please contact:

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Latana

Our vision is to lead the development of a new generation of research technologies that enable us to better understand the needs, desires and preferences of people around the world.

Latana is an AI-Powered brand tracking solution that leverages key insights to help companies track their brand and campaign performance. An international market leader in brand tracking services, Latana also uses its technology to understand the underlying forces behind the opinions of people worldwide.

We are proud to pioneer advanced machine learning technology that has access to billions of consumers around the globe. This enables us to quickly understand consumer perception, and thus predict consumer behavior - the cornerstone of brand value.



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The Alliance of Democracies Foundation

Alliance of Democracies' vision is to become the world's leading "megaphone" for the cause of democracy.

The Alliance of Democracies Foundation

The Alliance of Democracies Foundation is a non-profit organization founded in 2017 by Anders Fogh Rasmussen. The Foundation is dedicated to the advancement of democracy and free markets across the globe and runs three core programs: the Copenhagen Democracy Summit, the Expeditionary Economics Program, and the Campaign for Democracy.

The Copenhagen Democracy Summit

The Copenhagen Democracy Summit is an annual conference bringing together political and business leaders, including current and former heads of government, from the world's democracies. The goal of the Summit is to be the top international forum for analysis of the security and economic challenges facing the democratic world as well as a forum for analysis of the interplay between technology and democratic norms.





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www.allianceofdemocracies.org









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Questionnaire

Q1

In your opinion, how important is it for your country to be a democracy?

Slider: 0 - not at all important; 10 - very important

Q2

Think about your country today. How democratic do you think it is?

Slider: 0 - not at all democratic; 10 - very democratic

Q3

Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

I think there is not enough democracy in my country

I think there is the right amount of democracy in my country

I think there is too much democracy in my country

Q4

How important is it for you that everyone in your country can freely express their opinion on political and social topics?

Very important

Somewhat important

Somewhat unimportant

Very unimportant

Don't know

Q5

Think about your country today. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Everyone in my country can freely express their opinion on political and social topics"?

Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

Q6

How important is it for you that political leaders in your country are elected in free and fair elections?

Very important

Somewhat important

Somewhat unimportant

Very unimportant

Don't know

Q7

Think about your country today. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Political leaders in my country are elected in free and fair elections"?

Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

Q8

How important is it for you that everyone in your country is equal before the law and has the same basic rights?

Very important

Somewhat important

Somewhat unimportant

Very unimportant

Don't know

Q9

Think about your country today. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Everyone in my country is equal before the law and has the same basic rights"

Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

Q10

Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

"My government usually acts in the interest of..."

... most people in my country

... a small group of people in my country

Q11

Which of the following areas do you want your government to focus on more?

Select up to three

Improve education

Fight climate change

Promote gender equality

Promote economic growth

Reduce poverty

Invest in security and defense

Improve health care

Fight corruption

Reduce immigration

Reduce income inequality

Other / none of the above



Questionnaire

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? # "Democracy in my country is threatened by ..."

Q12

"... economic inequality"

Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

Q13

"... the influence of Big Tech companies (Google, Amazon, Apple, Facebook)"

Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

[In the Chinese questionnaire company names are replaced with "Alibaba, Tencent, Baidu, Meituan"]

Q14

"... limitations on free speech"

Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

Q15

"... election interference from foreign powers"

Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

Q16

"... unfair elections and/or election fraud"

Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

Q17

"... corruption"

Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

Q18

"... the influence of global corporations"

Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

Q19

Overall, do you think that social media platforms (i.e. Facebook, Twitter) have a positive or negative impact on democracy in your country?

Very positive

Somewhat positive

Somewhat negative

Very negative

No impact

Don't know

[In the Chinese questionnaire "Facebook, Twitter" are replaced with "Qzone, WeChat"]

Q20

In general, do you think there should be more or less regulation on content that people share on social media platforms?

More regulation

Neither more nor less

Less regulation

Don't know

Q21

How well do you think your country is responding to the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis?

Very well

Somewhat well

Somewhat poorly

Very poorly

Don't know

Q22

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "My government has done too much to limit people's freedoms during the coronavirus crisis"

Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree



Questionnaire

Q23

What is your overall perception of the United States?

Very positive

Somewhat positive

Neither positive nor negative

Somewhat negative

Very negative

Don't know

Q24

What is your overall perception of Russia?

Very positive

Somewhat positive

Neither positive nor negative

Somewhat negative

Very negative

Don't know

Q25

What is your overall perception of China?

Very positive

Somewhat positive

Neither positive nor negative

Somewhat negative

Very negative

Don't know

Q26

What is your overall perception of the European Union?

Very positive

Somewhat positive

Neither positive nor negative

Somewhat negative

Very negative

Don't know

Q27

What is your overall perception of the United Nations?

Very positive

Somewhat positive

Neither positive nor negative

Somewhat negative

Very negative

Don't know

Q28

Overall, do you think the United States has a positive or negative impact on democracy around the world?

Very positive

Somewhat positive

Somewhat negative

Very negative

No impact

Don't know

Q29

In your opinion, which of the following do you think are the world's top three biggest challenges right now?

Select up to three

Climate change

War and violent conflict

Poverty and hunger

Economic inequality

Racism and discrimination against minorities

Global pandemics (Covid)

Terrorism

Economic instability

Authoritarian governments

Migration

None of the above

Q30

Do you think the US, EU, and NATO have done too little, too much or the right amount to assist Ukraine during the Russian invasion?

Too much

The right amount

Too little

[Question excluded in Russian questionnaire]

Q31

Do you think your country should cut economic ties with Russia because of the war in Ukraine?

Yes

No

Don't know

[Question excluded in Russian questionnaire]

Q32

If China started a military invasion of Taiwan, do you think your country should cut economic ties with China?

Yes

No

Don't know

[Question excluded in China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong]

