

Independent Countries

Country	Freedom Status	PR	CL	Trend Arrow
Afghanistan	Not Free	6	6	
Albania*	Partly Free	3	3	
Algeria	Not Free	6	5	
Andorra*	Free	1	1	
Angola	Not Free	6	5	
Antigua and Barbuda*	Free	2 ▲	2	
Argentina*	Free	2	2	
Armenia	Partly Free	5 ▲	4	
Australia*	Free	1	1	
Austria*	Free	1	1	
Azerbaijan	Not Free	6	5	
Bahamas*	Free	1	1	
Bahrain	Not Free	6	6	
Bangladesh*	Partly Free	3	4	
Barbados*	Free	1	1	
Belarus	Not Free	7	6	
Belgium*	Free	1	1	
Belize*	Free	1	2	
Benin*	Free	2	2	
Bhutan*	Partly Free	4	5	↑
Bolivia*	Partly Free	3	3	
Bosnia and Herzegovina*	Partly Free	3 ▲	3	
Botswana*	Free	3	2	
Brazil*	Free	2	2	
Brunei	Not Free	6	5	
Bulgaria*	Free	2	2	
Burkina Faso	Partly Free	5	3	
Burma	Not Free	6 ▲	5 ▲	
Burundi	Partly Free	5	5	
Cambodia	Not Free	6	5	
Cameroon	Not Free	6	6	
Canada*	Free	1	1	
Cape Verde*	Free	1	1	
Central African Republic	Partly Free	5	5	↓
Chad	Not Free	7	6	
Chile*	Free	1	1	
China	Not Free	7	6	
Colombia*	Partly Free	3	4	
Comoros*	Partly Free	3	4	
Congo (Brazzaville)	Not Free	6	5	

FREEDOM IN THE WORLD 2013: DEMOCRATIC BREAKTHROUGHS IN THE BALANCE

Country	Freedom Status	PR	CL	Trend Arrow
Congo (Kinshasa)	Not Free	6	6	
Costa Rica*	Free	1	1	
Côte d'Ivoire	Partly Free ▲	5 ▲	5 ▲	
Croatia*	Free	1	2	
Cuba	Not Free	7	6	
Cyprus*	Free	1	1	
Czech Republic*	Free	1	1	
Denmark*	Free	1	1	
Djibouti	Not Free	6	5	
Dominica*	Free	1	1	
Dominican Republic*	Free	2	2	
East Timor*	Partly Free	3	4	
Ecuador*	Partly Free	3	3	↓
Egypt	Partly Free ▲	5 ▲	5	
El Salvador*	Free	2	3	
Equatorial Guinea	Not Free	7	7	
Eritrea	Not Free	7	7	
Estonia*	Free	1	1	
Ethiopia	Not Free	6	6	
Fiji	Partly Free	6	4	
Finland*	Free	1	1	
France*	Free	1	1	
Gabon	Not Free	6	5	
The Gambia	Not Free	6	6 ▼	
Georgia*	Partly Free	3 ▲	3	
Germany*	Free	1	1	
Ghana*	Free	1	2	
Greece*	Free	2	2	↓
Grenada*	Free	1	2	
Guatemala*	Partly Free	3	4	
Guinea	Partly Free	5	5	↑
Guinea-Bissau	Not Free ▼	6 ▼	5 ▼	
Guyana*	Free	2	3	
Haiti	Partly Free	4	5	
Honduras	Partly Free	4	4	
Hungary*	Free	1	2	
Iceland*	Free	1	1	
India*	Free	2	3	
Indonesia*	Free	2	3	
Iran	Not Free	6	6	
Iraq	Not Free	6 ▼	6	
Ireland*	Free	1	1	

FREEDOM IN THE WORLD 2013: DEMOCRATIC BREAKTHROUGHS IN THE BALANCE

Country	Freedom Status	PR	CL	Trend Arrow
Israel*	Free	1	2	
Italy*	Free	2 ▼	1	
Jamaica*	Free	2	3	
Japan*	Free	1	2	
Jordan	Not Free	6	5	↓
Kazakhstan	Not Free	6	5	↓
Kenya	Partly Free	4	4 ▼	
Kiribati*	Free	1	1	
Kosovo	Partly Free	5	4	
Kuwait	Partly Free	5 ▼	5	
Kyrgyzstan	Partly Free	5	5	
Laos	Not Free	7	6	
Latvia*	Free	2	2	
Lebanon	Partly Free	5	4	↓
Lesotho*	Free ▲	2 ▲	3	
Liberia*	Partly Free	3	4	
Libya*	Partly Free ▲	4 ▲	5 ▲	
Liechtenstein*	Free	1	1	
Lithuania*	Free	1	1	
Luxembourg*	Free	1	1	
Macedonia*	Partly Free	3	3	
Madagascar	Partly Free	6	4	↓
Malawi*	Partly Free	3	4	↑
Malaysia	Partly Free	4	4	
Maldives	Partly Free	5 ▼	4	
Mali	Not Free ▼	7 ▼	5 ▼	
Malta*	Free	1	1	
Marshall Islands*	Free	1	1	
Mauritania	Not Free	6	5	
Mauritius*	Free	1	2	
Mexico*	Partly Free	3	3	
Micronesia*	Free	1	1	
Moldova*	Partly Free	3	3	
Monaco*	Free	2	1	
Mongolia*	Free	1 ▲	2	
Montenegro*	Free	3	2	
Morocco	Partly Free	5	4	
Mozambique	Partly Free	4	3	
Namibia*	Free	2	2	
Nauru*	Free	1	1	
Nepal	Partly Free	4	4	
Netherlands*	Free	1	1	
New Zealand*	Free	1	1	

FREEDOM IN THE WORLD 2013: DEMOCRATIC BREAKTHROUGHS IN THE BALANCE

Country	Freedom Status	PR	CL	Trend Arrow
Nicaragua	Partly Free	5	4	
Niger*	Partly Free	3	4	
Nigeria	Partly Free	4	4	↓
North Korea	Not Free	7	7	
Norway*	Free	1	1	
Oman	Not Free	6	5	↓
Pakistan	Partly Free	4	5	
Palau*	Free	1	1	
Panama*	Free	1	2	
Papua New Guinea*	Partly Free	4	3	
Paraguay*	Partly Free	3	3	↓
Peru*	Free	2	3	
Philippines*	Partly Free	3	3	
Poland*	Free	1	1	
Portugal*	Free	1	1	
Qatar	Not Free	6	5	
Romania*	Free	2	2	
Russia	Not Free	6	5	↓
Rwanda	Not Free	6	6 ▼	
Saint Kitts and Nevis*	Free	1	1	
Saint Lucia*	Free	1	1	
Saint Vincent and Grenadines*	Free	1	1	
Samoa*	Free	2	2	
San Marino*	Free	1	1	
São Tomé and Príncipe*	Free	2	2	
Saudi Arabia	Not Free	7	7	
Senegal*	Free ▲	2 ▲	3	
Serbia*	Free	2	2	
Seychelles*	Partly Free	3	3	
Sierra Leone*	Free ▲	2 ▲	3	
Singapore	Partly Free	4	4	
Slovakia*	Free	1	1	
Slovenia*	Free	1	1	
Solomon Islands	Partly Free	4	3	
Somalia	Not Free	7	7	
South Africa*	Free	2	2	
South Korea*	Free	1	2	
South Sudan	Not Free	6	5	
Spain*	Free	1	1	
Sri Lanka	Partly Free	5	4	↓
Sudan	Not Free	7	7	
Suriname*	Free	2	2	↓

FREEDOM IN THE WORLD 2013: DEMOCRATIC BREAKTHROUGHS IN THE BALANCE

Country	Freedom Status	PR	CL	Trend Arrow
Swaziland	Not Free	7	5	
Sweden*	Free	1	1	
Switzerland*	Free	1	1	
Syria	Not Free	7	7	↓
Taiwan*	Free	1	2	
Tajikistan	Not Free	6	6 ▼	
Tanzania*	Partly Free	3	3	
Thailand*	Partly Free	4	4	
Togo	Partly Free	5	4	
Tonga*	Free ▲	3	2 ▲	
Trinidad and Tobago*	Free	2	2	
Tunisia*	Partly Free	3	4	
Turkey*	Partly Free	3	4 ▼	
Turkmenistan	Not Free	7	7	
Tuvalu*	Free	1	1	
Uganda	Partly Free	5	4	↓
Ukraine*	Partly Free	4	3	↓
United Arab Emirates	Not Free	6	6	↓
United Kingdom*	Free	1	1	
United States*	Free	1	1	
Uruguay*	Free	1	1	
Uzbekistan	Not Free	7	7	
Vanuatu*	Free	2	2	
Venezuela	Partly Free	5	5	
Vietnam	Not Free	7	5	
Yemen	Not Free	6	6	
Zambia*	Partly Free	3	4	
Zimbabwe	Not Free	6	6	

* indicates a country's status as an electoral democracy.

Related Territories

Territory	Freedom Status	PR	CL	Trend Arrow
Hong Kong	Partly Free	5	2	
Puerto Rico	Free	1	2	

Disputed Territories

Territory	Freedom Status	PR	CL	Trend Arrow
Abkhazia	Partly Free	4 ▲	5	
Gaza Strip	Not Free	6	6	
Indian Kashmir	Partly Free	4	4	↑
Nagorno-Karabakh	Partly Free ▲	5 ▲	5	
Northern Cyprus	Free	2	2	
Pakistani Kashmir	Not Free	6	5	
Somaliland	Partly Free	4	5	
South Ossetia	Not Free	7	6	
Tibet	Not Free	7	7	
Transnistria	Not Free	6	6	
West Bank	Not Free	6	5	
Western Sahara	Not Free	7	7	

PR and CL stand for political rights and civil liberties, respectively; 1 represents the most free and 7 the least free rating.

▲ ▼ up or down indicates an improvement or decline in ratings or status since the last survey.

↑ ↓ up or down indicates a trend of positive or negative changes that took place but were not sufficient to result in a change in political rights or civil liberties ratings.

* indicates a country's status as an electoral democracy.

NOTE: The ratings reflect global events from January 1, 2012, through December 31, 2012.

Status Changes	
<i>Improvements</i>	
Côte d'Ivoire	Côte d'Ivoire's political rights rating improved from 6 to 5, its civil liberties rating improved from 6 to 5, and its status improved from Not Free to Partly Free due to the peaceful inauguration of a new parliament; the adoption of several important laws on transparency and corruption; the reopening of opposition newspapers, public universities, and courts; renewed if halting attempts to curb abuses by the military; and a general improvement in the security situation.
Egypt	Egypt's political rights rating improved from 6 to 5, and its status improved from Not Free to Partly Free, due to a flawed but competitive presidential election that led to the removal from power of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces.
Lesotho	Lesotho's political rights rating improved from 3 to 2, and its status improved from Partly Free to Free, due to free and fair parliamentary elections and a peaceful rotation of power.
Libya	Libya's political rights rating improved from 7 to 4, its civil liberties rating improved from 6 to 5, and its status improved from Not Free to Partly Free due to successful elections for the General National Congress that included candidates from a range of political and regional backgrounds, increased transparency in drafting a constitution, and the proliferation and sustained activism of media outlets and civil society organizations.
Nagorno-Karabakh	Nagorno-Karabakh's political rights rating improved from 6 to 5, and its status improved from Not Free to Partly Free, due to the participation of a genuine opposition in the July presidential election.
Senegal	Senegal's political rights rating improved from 3 to 2, and its status improved from Partly Free to Free, due to free and fair presidential and parliamentary elections that resulted in a peaceful rotation of power, as well as nascent efforts by the new president to increase government accountability and transparency.
Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone's political rights rating improved from 3 to 2, and its status improved from Partly Free to Free, due to free and fair presidential and parliamentary elections during which reformed electoral institutions operated with transparency and demonstrated the ability to function without undue influence from the international community.
Tonga	Tonga's civil liberties rating improved from 3 to 2, and its status improved from Partly Free to Free, due to an improved media environment and civil society groups' increased ability to form and operate without interference from the ruling elites.
<i>Declines</i>	
Guinea-Bissau	Guinea-Bissau's political rights rating declined from 4 to 6, its civil liberties rating declined from 4 to 5, and its status declined from Partly Free to Not Free due to an April military coup that led to the removal of the interim president, the suspension of the national legislature, the halting of the electoral process, and increased repression of civil liberties, including harassment and arrests of regime opponents.
Mali	Mali's political rights rating declined from 2 to 7, its civil liberties rating declined from 3 to 5, and its status declined from Free to Not Free due to a military coup that deposed the democratically elected president; the ensuing repression of the media, political actors, and freedom of movement in the south; and the occupation of the north by militants who harshly suppressed fundamental rights in areas under their control.

Ratings Changes	
<i>Improvements</i>	
Abkhazia	Abkhazia's political rights rating improved from 5 to 4 due to genuinely competitive parliamentary elections that allowed a shift toward independent candidates and away from either government or opposition parties.
Antigua and Barbuda	Antigua and Barbuda's political rights rating improved from 3 to 2 due to a decline in corrupt foreign business influence over the government.
Armenia	Armenia's political rights rating improved due to the absence of postelection violence following parliamentary balloting in May and the entry of an authentic opposition party into the legislature.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina's political rights rating improved from 4 to 3 due to the formation of a central government and the declining role of international representatives in domestic affairs.
Burma	Burma's political rights rating improved from 7 to 6, and its civil liberties rating improved from 6 to 5, due to the successful participation of opposition parties in legislative by-elections and the continued easing of long-standing restrictions on the media, private discussion, public assembly, civil society, private enterprise, and other activities.
Georgia	Georgia's political rights rating improved from 4 to 3 due to the country's first peaceful handover of power to an opposition party after parliamentary elections that were judged free and fair by international observers and featured more pluralistic media coverage.
Mongolia	Mongolia's political rights rating improved from 2 to 1 due to significant progress in the conduct of parliamentary elections, which were regarded as free and fair.
<i>Declines</i>	
The Gambia	The Gambia's civil liberties rating declined from 5 to 6 due to the absence of due process for defendants, as exhibited by the execution of nine prisoners—two of whom were Senegalese nationals—without access to a lawyer or a fair trial and without notification of their families.
Iraq	Iraq's political rights rating declined from 5 to 6 due to the concentration of power by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and increasing pressure on the political opposition, as exemplified by the arrest and death sentence in absentia of Vice President Tariq al-Hashimi, the country's most senior Sunni Arab politician.
Italy	Italy's political rights rating declined from 1 to 2 due to continued, widespread grand and petty corruption, especially in the south.
Kenya	Kenya's civil liberties rating declined from 3 to 4 due to increased ethnic and religious tensions and incidents of violence throughout the country in advance of 2013 elections, driven in part by the heavy-handed counterterrorism efforts of the police and security services.
Kuwait	Kuwait's political rights rating declined from 4 to 5 due to a parliamentary crisis and the government's attempts to undermine the political opposition by revising the electoral law.
Maldives	The Maldives' political rights rating declined from 3 to 5 due to the forcible removal of democratically elected president Mohamed Nasheed, violence perpetrated against him and his party, the suspension of the parliament's summer session, and the role of the military in facilitating these events.

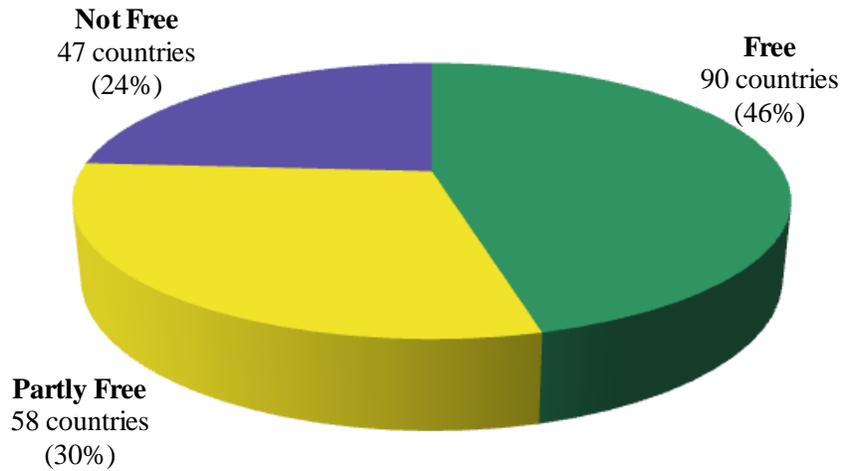
Rwanda	Rwanda's civil liberties rating declined from 5 to 6 due to numerous documented cases of unlawful detention, torture, and ill-treatment of civilians by military intelligence agents in secret locations.
Tajikistan	Tajikistan's civil liberties rating declined from 5 to 6 due to a ban on students attending international seminars and a military operation in Gorno-Badakhshan that resulted in scores of deaths, extrajudicial killings, and a media crackdown.
Turkey	Turkey's civil liberties rating declined from 3 to 4 due to the pretrial detention of thousands of individuals—including Kurdish activists, journalists, union leaders, students, and military officers—in campaigns that many believe to be politically motivated.
Trend Arrows	
<i>Up</i>	
Bhutan	Bhutan received an upward trend arrow due to parliamentary by-elections that were judged free and fair by international observers.
Guinea	Guinea received an upward trend arrow due to steady improvements in religious freedom, open and free private discussion, the activities of local and international nongovernmental organizations, and the climate for small businesses and private enterprise.
Indian Kashmir	Indian Kashmir received an upward trend arrow due to the partial easing of draconian detention laws.
Malawi	Malawi received an upward trend arrow due to the peaceful and constitutional transfer of power to new president Joyce Banda and improvements in civil liberties including academic freedom and freedom of assembly.
<i>Down</i>	
Central African Republic	The Central African Republic received a downward trend arrow due to the takeover of more than half of the country by rebel forces and curtailed freedoms of expression and assembly in rebel-held areas.
Ecuador	Ecuador received a downward trend arrow due to widespread irregularities in the constitutionally mandated reregistration process for political organizations and a change to the parliamentary seat-allocation formula that favors the ruling party.
Greece	Greece received a downward trend arrow due to a significant upsurge in right-wing violence, led by the Golden Dawn party, against immigrant groups, their supporters, and the political left, as well as a lack of effective police protection from this violence.
Jordan	Jordan received a downward trend arrow due to the repression of widespread protests against a new electoral law and the lack of meaningful political reform.
Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan received a downward trend arrow due to the banning of several media outlets following a violent crackdown on labor unrest.
Lebanon	Lebanon received a downward trend arrow due to a deterioration in the security environment and increasing attacks and restrictions on journalists, activists, and refugees.
Madagascar	Madagascar received a downward trend arrow due to increasing repression and physical and economic insecurity—including intimidation of journalists, violence in the south, and a rise in human trafficking—caused by ongoing political instability that began with a 2009 coup.

FREEDOM IN THE WORLD 2013: DEMOCRATIC BREAKTHROUGHS IN THE BALANCE

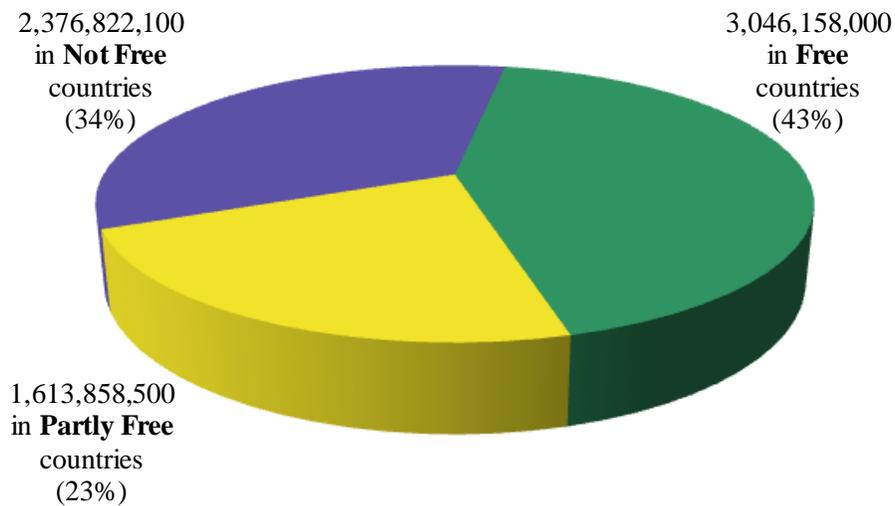
Nigeria	Nigeria received a downward trend arrow due to continued rampant corruption, the suppression of civil society during fuel-subsidy protests as well as restrictions on its activity in the north, and limitations on freedom of movement as a result of violence associated with the militant group Boko Haram.
Oman	Oman received a downward trend arrow due to arrests of human rights and political reform advocates and increased restrictions on free expression in online forums.
Paraguay	Paraguay received a downward trend arrow due to the swift parliamentary ouster of President Fernando Lugo without due process and a worsening press environment under the new administration.
Russia	Russia received a downward trend arrow due to the imposition of harsh penalties on protesters participating in unsanctioned rallies and new rules requiring civil society organizations with foreign funding to register as “foreign agents.”
Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka received a downward trend arrow due to evidence of increasing corruption and a politicized attempt to impeach the chief justice of the Supreme Court.
Suriname	Suriname received a downward trend arrow due to an amended amnesty law that granted immunity to President Desiré Bouterse and 24 other suspects on trial for the 1982 murder of 15 political opponents.
Syria	Syria received a downward trend arrow due to rising sectarian violence and displacement, including targeted attacks on Sunni Muslim populations that oppose the regime.
Uganda	Uganda received a downward trend arrow due to increased restriction and harassment of the opposition and a systematic campaign to obstruct and shut down civic groups that engage the government on sensitive issues such as gay rights, corruption, term limits, and land rights.
Ukraine	Ukraine received a downward trend arrow due to a decline in the quality of its legislative elections, greater government pressure on the opposition, and a new language law that favored Russian speakers while neglecting smaller minorities.
United Arab Emirates	The United Arab Emirates received a downward trend arrow due to increased arrests of activists, lawyers, and judges calling for political reform; the passage of a highly restrictive internet law that punishes online activism and free expression; and the dismissal and deportation of academics who were critical of the government or its policies.

Global Data

Country Breakdown by Status



Population Breakdown by Status

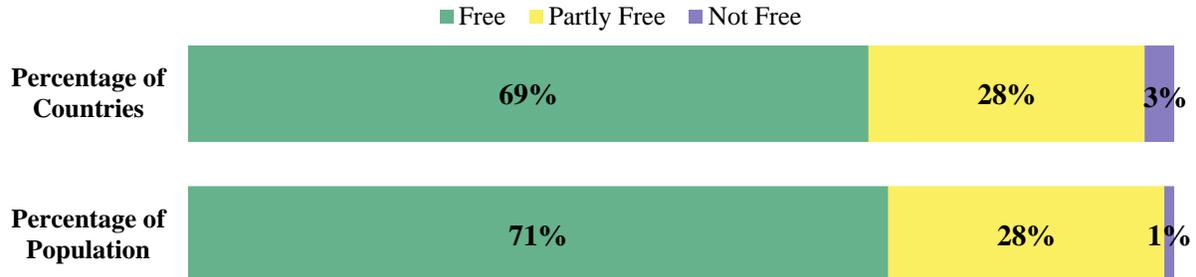


Global Trends in Freedom

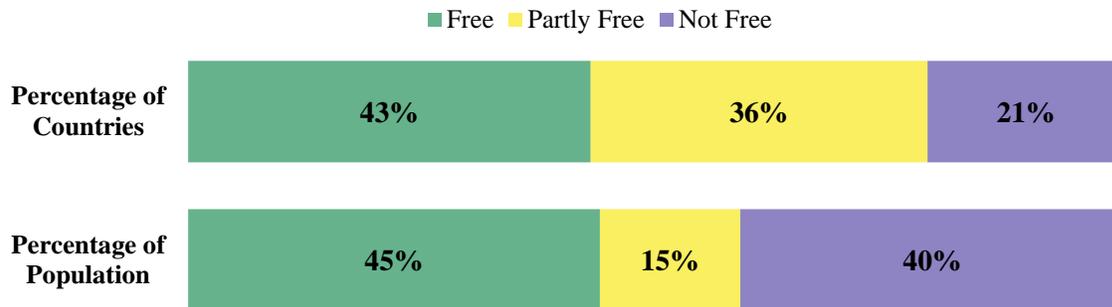
Year Under Review	Free Countries		Partly Free Countries		Not Free Countries	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
2012	90	46	58	30	47	24
2002	89	46	55	29	48	25
1992	75	40	73	39	38	21
1982	54	33	47	28	64	39
1972	44	29	38	25	69	46

Regional Data

Americas



Asia-Pacific



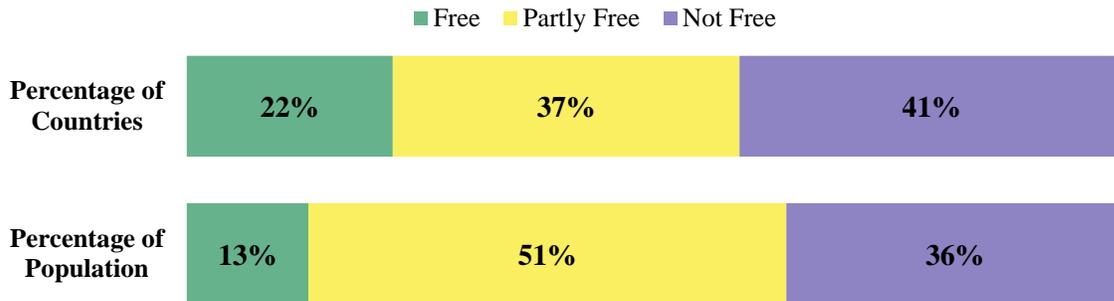
Central and Eastern Europe/Eurasia



Middle East and North Africa

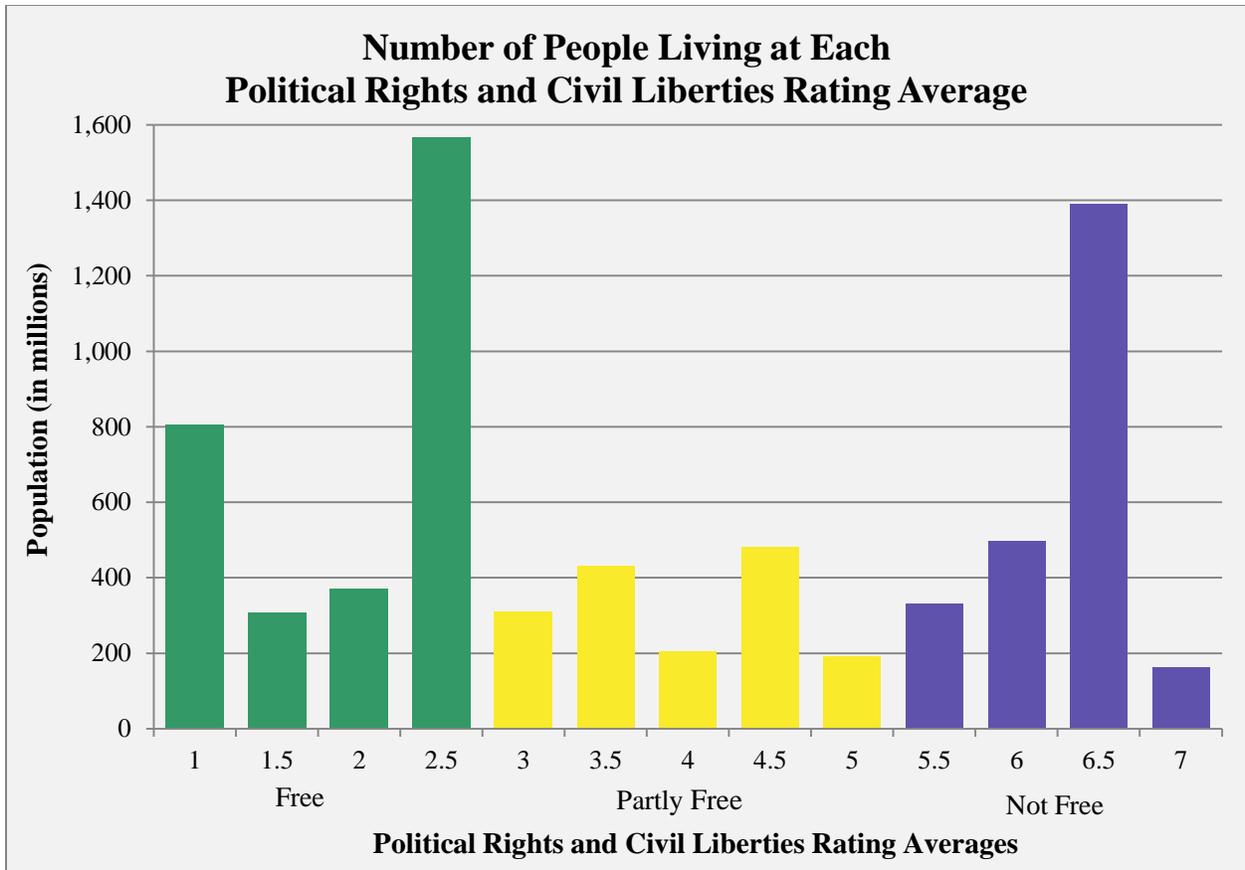


Sub-Saharan Africa



Western Europe





Key to Political Rights and Civil Liberties Ratings and Status

Political Rights (PR)	
Aggregate Score	PR Rating
36–40	1
30–35	2
24–29	3
18–23	4
12–17	5
6–11	6
0–5	7

Civil Liberties (CL)	
Aggregate Score	CL Rating
53–60	1
44–52	2
35–43	3
26–34	4
17–25	5
8–16	6
0–7	7

Freedom Rating	Country Status
1.0 to 2.5	Free
3.0 to 5.0	Partly Free
5.5 to 7.0	Not Free

* The Freedom Rating represents the average of a country’s political rights and civil liberties ratings.

For more information, please see methodology summary on page 32.

Freedom Status, 1972–2012

Year Under Review	Total Number of Countries	Free Countries		Partly Free Countries		Not Free Countries	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
2012	195	90	46	58	30	47	24
2011	195	87	45	60	31	48	24
2010	194	87	45	60	31	47	24
2009	194	89	46	58	30	47	24
2008	193	89	46	62	32	42	22
2007	193	90	47	60	31	43	22
2006	193	90	47	58	30	45	23
2005	192	89	46	58	30	45	24
2004	192	89	46	54	28	49	26
2003	192	88	46	55	29	49	25
2002	192	89	46	55	29	48	25
2001	192	85	44	59	31	48	25
2000	192	86	45	58	30	48	25
1999	192	85	44	60	31	47	25
1998	191	88	46	53	28	50	26
1997	191	81	42	57	30	53	28
1996	191	79	41	59	31	53	28
1995	191	76	40	62	32	53	28
1994	191	76	40	61	32	54	28
1993	190	72	38	63	33	55	29
1992	186	75	40	73	39	38	21
1991	183	76	42	65	35	42	23
1990	165	65	40	50	30	50	30
1989	167	61	37	44	26	62	37
1988	167	60	36	39	23	68	41
1987	167	58	35	58	35	51	30
1986	167	57	34	57	34	53	32
1985	167	56	34	56	34	55	33
1984	167	53	32	59	35	55	33
1982–1983*	166	52	31	56	34	58	35
1981–1982**	165	54	33	47	28	64	39
1980	162	51	31	51	31	60	37
1979	161	51	32	54	33	56	35
1978	158	47	30	56	35	55	35
1977	155	43	28	48	31	64	41
1976	159	42	26	49	31	68	43
1975	158	40	25	53	34	65	41
1974	152	41	27	48	32	63	41
1973	151	44	29	42	28	65	43
1972	151	44	29	38	25	69	46

* This survey covered events that occurred from 1981 through mid-1982.

** This survey covered events that occurred from mid-1982 through late 1983.

Electoral Democracies, 1989–2012

Year Under Review	Total Number of Countries	Number of Electoral Democracies	Percentage of Electoral Democracies*
2012	195	118	61
2011	195	117	60
2010	194	115	59
2009	194	116	60
2008	193	119	62
2007	193	121	63
2006	193	123	64
2005	192	123	64
2004	192	119	62
2003	192	117	61
2002	192	121	63
2001	192	121	63
2000	192	120	63
1999	192	120	63
1998	191	117	61
1997	191	117	61
1996	191	118	62
1995	191	115	60
1994	191	113	59
1993	190	108	57
1992	186	99	53
1991	183	89	49
1990	165	76	46
1989	167	69	41

* Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

The numerical benchmark for a country to be listed as an electoral democracy is a subtotal score of 7 or better (out of a possible 12) for the political rights checklist subcategory A (the three questions on Electoral Process), and an overall political rights score of 20 or better (out of a possible 40).

The presence of certain irregularities during the electoral process does not automatically disqualify a country from being designated an electoral democracy. A country cannot be an electoral democracy if significant authority for national decisions resides in the hands of an unelected power, whether a monarch or a foreign or international authority. A country is removed from the ranks of electoral democracies if its last national elections were not sufficiently free or fair, or if changes in law significantly eroded the public's opportunity for electoral choice.

Freedom House's term "electoral democracy" differs from "liberal democracy" in that the latter also implies the presence of a substantial array of civil liberties. In the survey, all Free countries qualify as both electoral and liberal democracies, while some Partly Free countries qualify as electoral, but not liberal, democracies.

For more information on *Freedom in the World* scoring and methodology, see page 32.

Gains and Declines in Aggregate Scores, 2002–2012

The following graph depicts gains and declines in aggregate scores between the 2003 and 2013 survey editions. Political rights and civil liberties ratings (1 to 7) are determined by the total number of points (up to 100) each country receives on 10 political rights questions and 15 civil liberties questions. This point total is referred to as the country’s aggregate score. Countries receive 0 to 4 points on each question, with 0 representing the smallest degree and 4 the greatest degree of freedom. Many changes in these scores are too small to trigger a change in the political rights or civil liberties ratings, but they can often illustrate long-term trends with greater subtlety.

For the full *Freedom in the World* methodology, please visit the Freedom House website (www.freedomhouse.org).

