

JUST FUTURE FOR ALL: RESISTING A DEMOCRACY RECESSION



Xavier Jeyaraj SJ
24th November 2020



THE CONTEXT

Is democracy in danger?

What can we do?



SITUATION OF DEMOCRACIES IN THE WORLD

► In Asia:

- China – Xi Jinping
- North Korea – Kim Jong-Un
- India – Narendra Modi
- Russia – Vladimir Putin
- Philippines – Rodrigo Duterte
- Myanmar – Elected but ruled by Military



► Latin America:

- Venezuela - Nicolás Maduro
- Cuba – Raul Castro
- Brazil – Jair Bolsonaro



► In Europe:

- Hungary – Viktor Orban
- UK – Brexit
- Italy – Matteo Salvini



Democracy: Is it becoming more an autocracy?



CHALLENGES OF DEMOCRACY, LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

Electoral process : Mixed feelings.....



ELECTION IS A CRITICAL ELEMENT IN DEMOCRACY

But are they real?





VIOLENCE

- ▶ **Electoral violence** accompanied elections in many countries.
- ▶ Rules of political competition seem not to be accepted by all
- ▶ **Use of Media & technology** for control
- ▶ Weak institutions
- ▶ **Corruptions and abuse of power**
- ▶ Nexus between Corporates and Politics

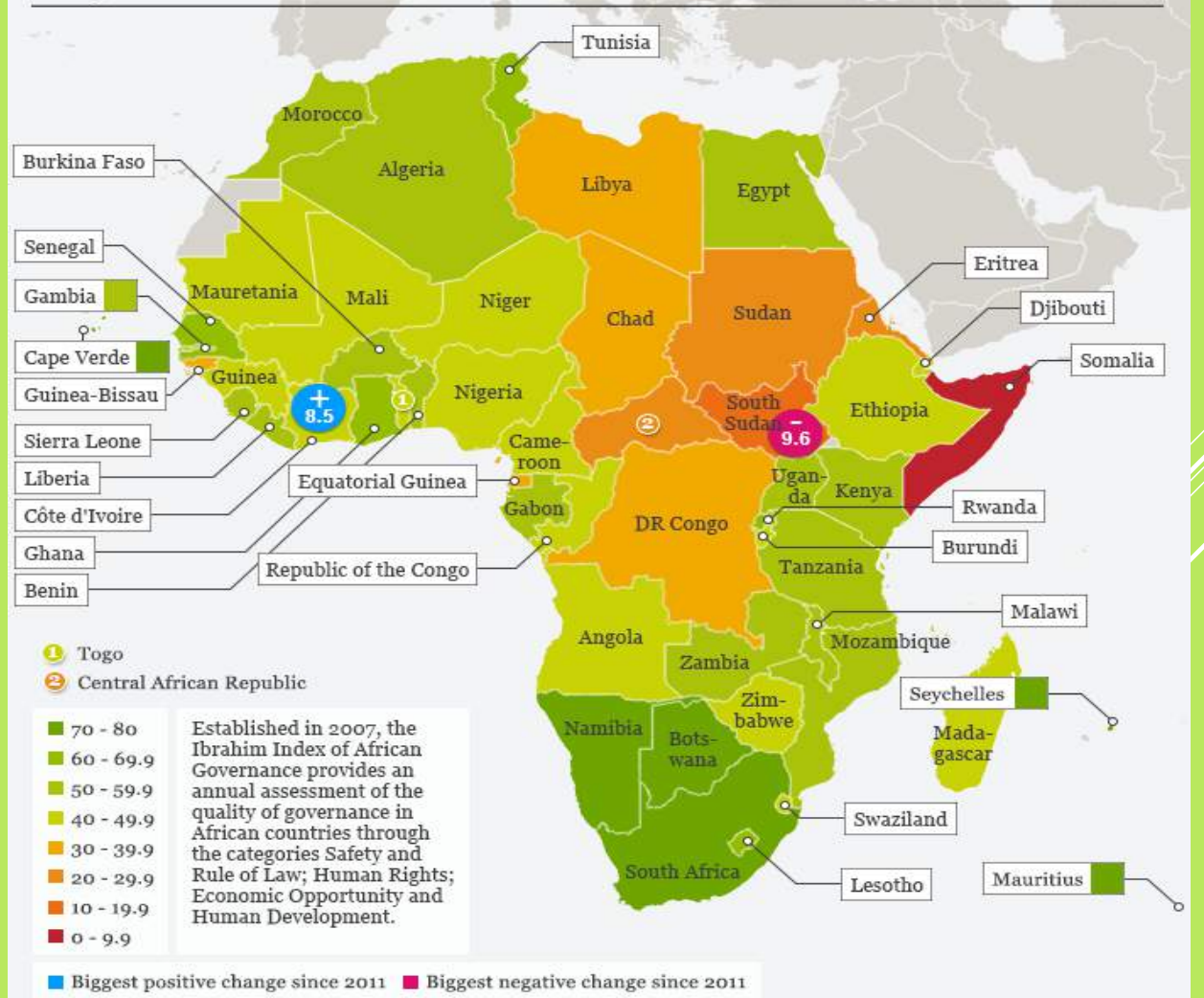




MAJOR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CHALLENGES IN AFRICA

- Between 1940s and 50s end of colonial rule, countries adopt western democratic systems
- But were they prepared?
- Elections were held but did not become a permanent feature
- In Africa any protest was suppressed brutally

2015 Ibrahim Index of African Governance



Source: Mo Ibrahim Foundation

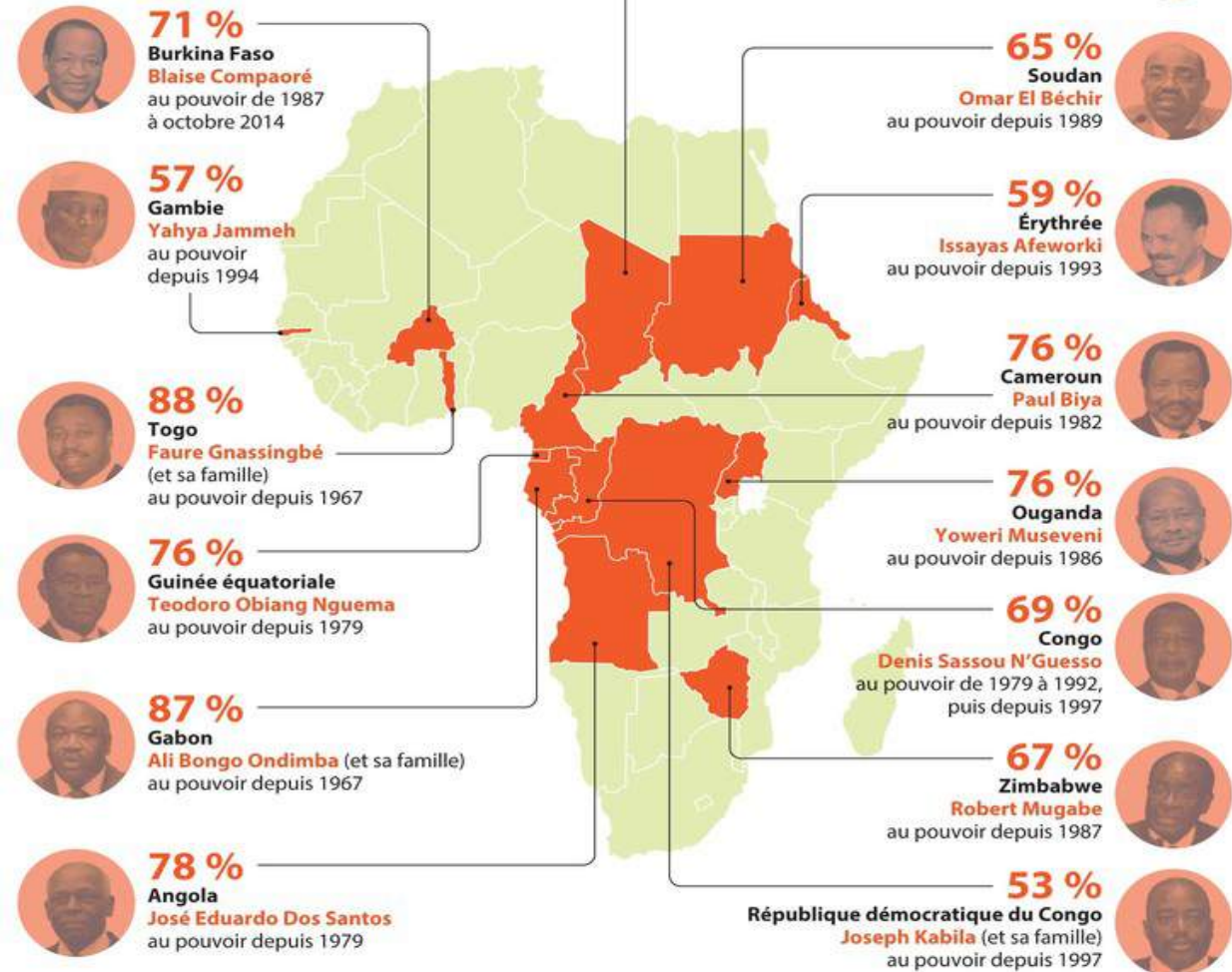
© DW



THE AFRICAN DYNASTIES

Les dynasties africaines

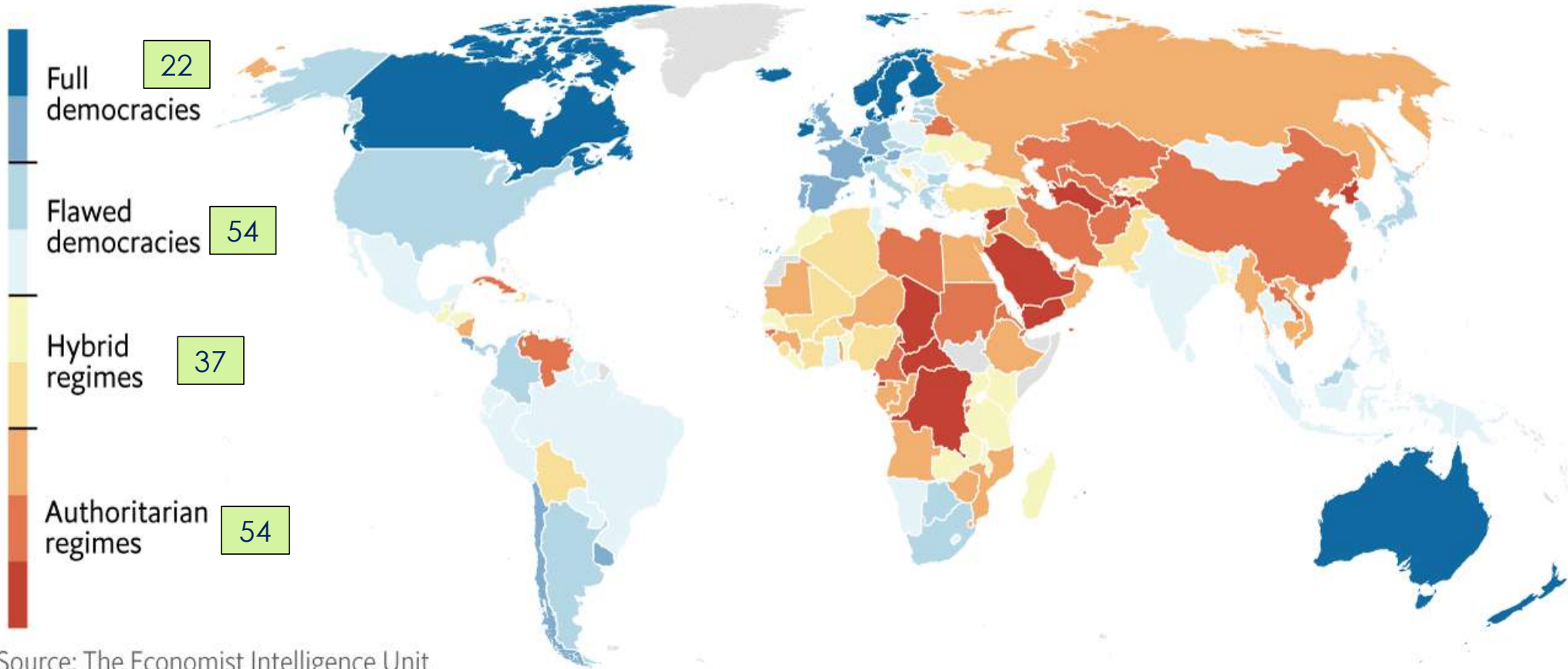
% de la population par pays n'ayant connu qu'une seule famille au pouvoir



Source : rapport «Tournons la page» / Photos : J.M. Ferré, C. Pak, E. Debebe, E. Schneider, M. Garten, L. Cironneau, M. Poire, J. Carrier, M. Garten

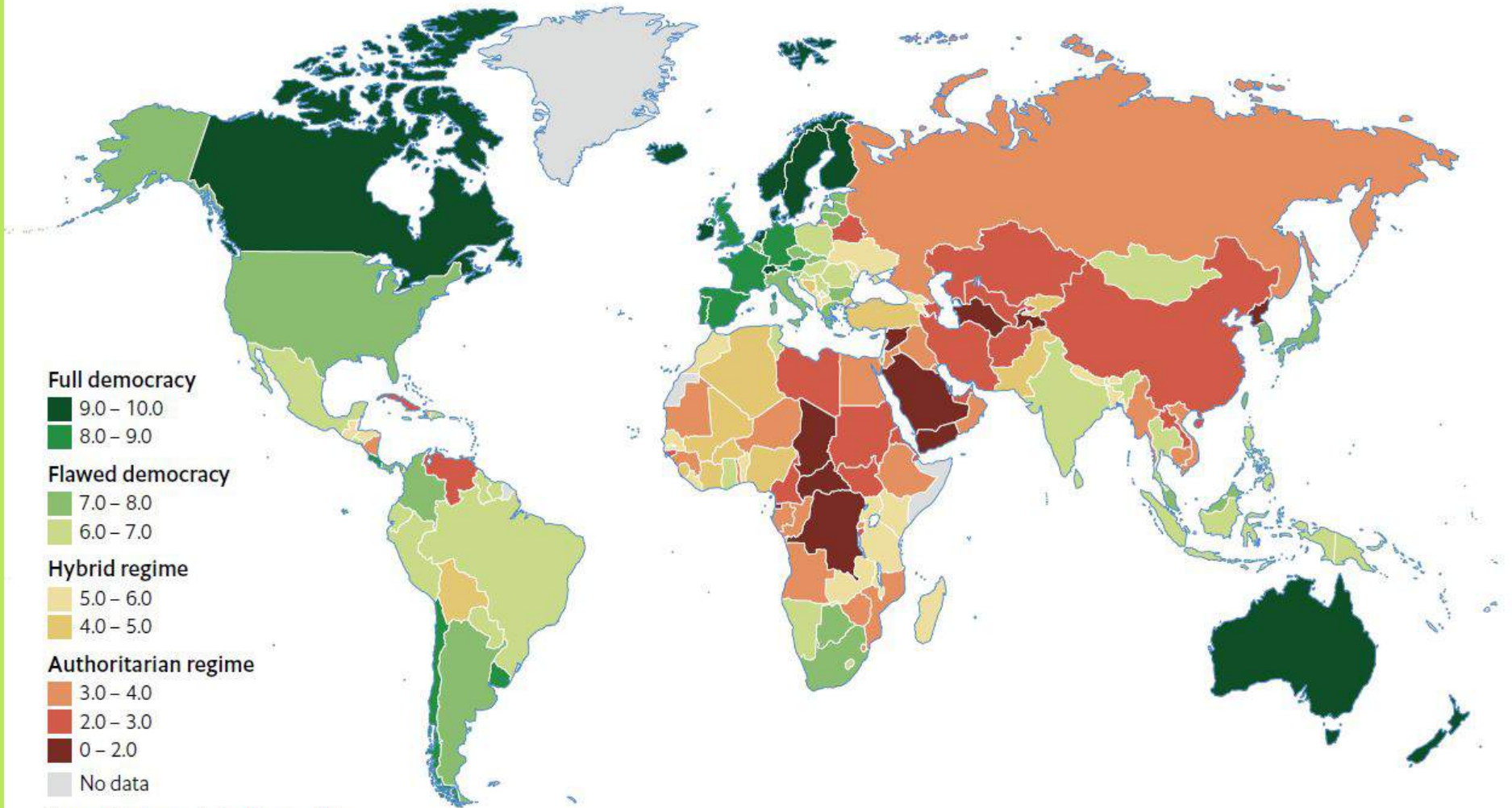
The Economist Intelligence Unit's 2019 Democracy Index

167 countries scored on a scale of 0 to 10 based on 60 indicators



Source: The Economist Intelligence Unit

Chart 1: Democracy Index 2019, global map by regime type



Source: The Economist Intelligence Unit.

OUR UNEQUAL WORLD



2X TIMES WEALTH OWNED BY **6.9 BN PEOPLE**



50% of the world's population survives on **\$5.50 a day or less**

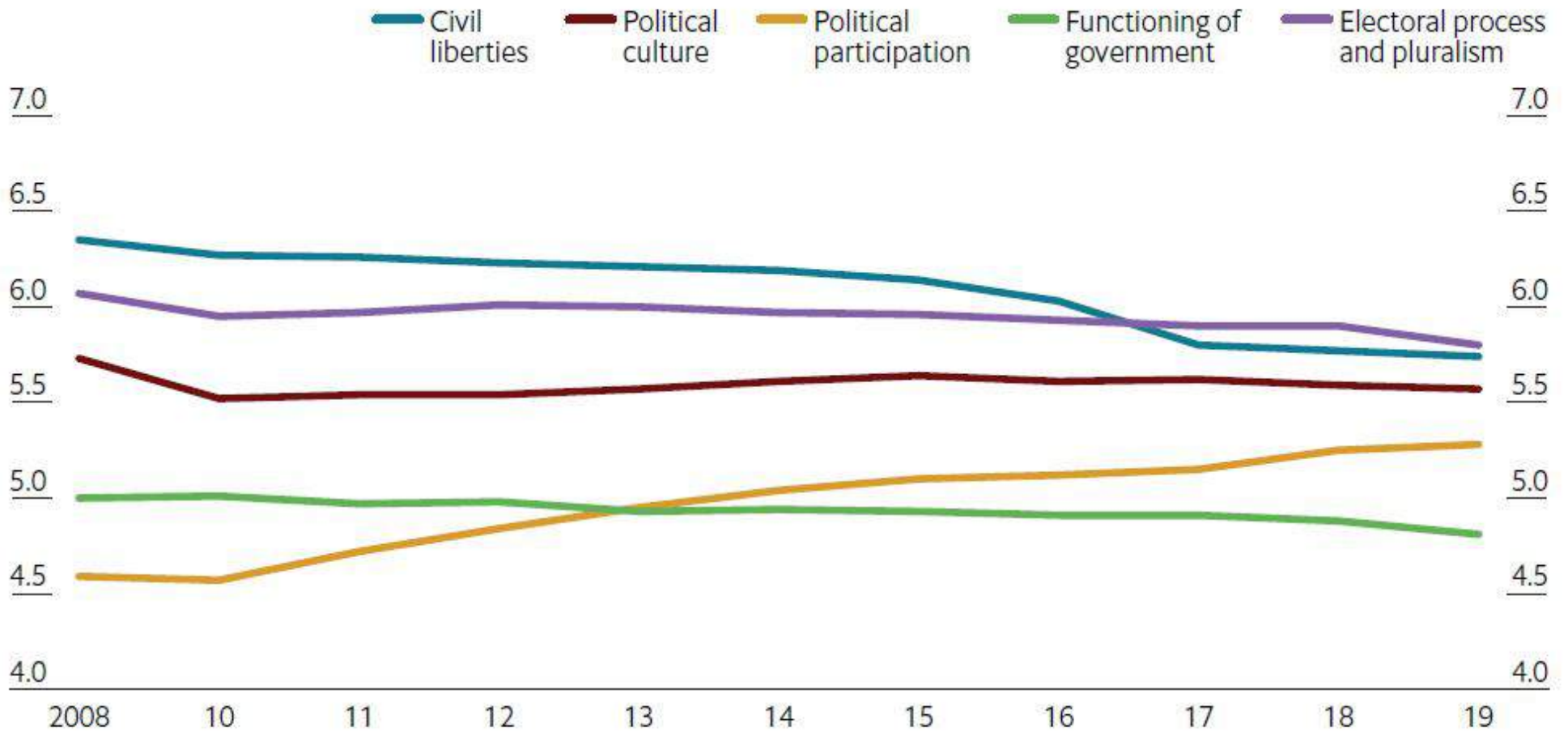
Source: Oxfam report 2020

NEWS creative



Chart 2: Evolution of democracy by category, 2008-19

(Index score out of 10, 10 being best)



Source: The Economist Intelligence Unit.

India falls 10 places to 51st position

India slipped 10 places to 51st position in the 2019 Democracy Index's global ranking, according to The Economist Intelligence Unit, which cited "erosion of civil liberties" in the country as the primary cause for the downtrend. India's overall score fell from 7.23 in 2018 to 6.90.

Top 5

Rank	Country	Score
1	Norway	9.8
2	Iceland	9.58
3	Sweden	9.39
4	New Zealand	9.26
5	Finland	9.25

Bottom 5

163	Chad	1.61
164	Syria	1.43
165	Central African Republic	1.32
166	Dem Republic of Congo	1.13
167	North Korea	1.08

Saarc nations

Rank	Country	Score
51	India	6.90
69	Sri Lanka	6.27
80	Bangladesh	5.88
91	Bhutan	5.30
92	Nepal	5.28
108	Pakistan	4.25
141	Afghanistan	2.85

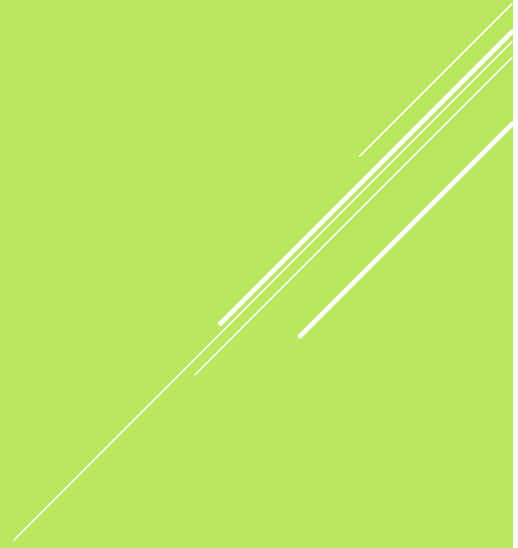
Source: The Economist Intelligence Unit Report



MAJOR TRENDS IN THE WORLD TODAY

- a) Populists were highly skilled at staying in power longer than the non-populist leaders
- b) Many of them rewrote or amended their country's constitutions and laws.
- c) Controlled or manipulated the media and independent institutions such as Judiciary, Electoral bodies, etc.
- d) Weakened civil, political and democratic rights of citizens

Brut.

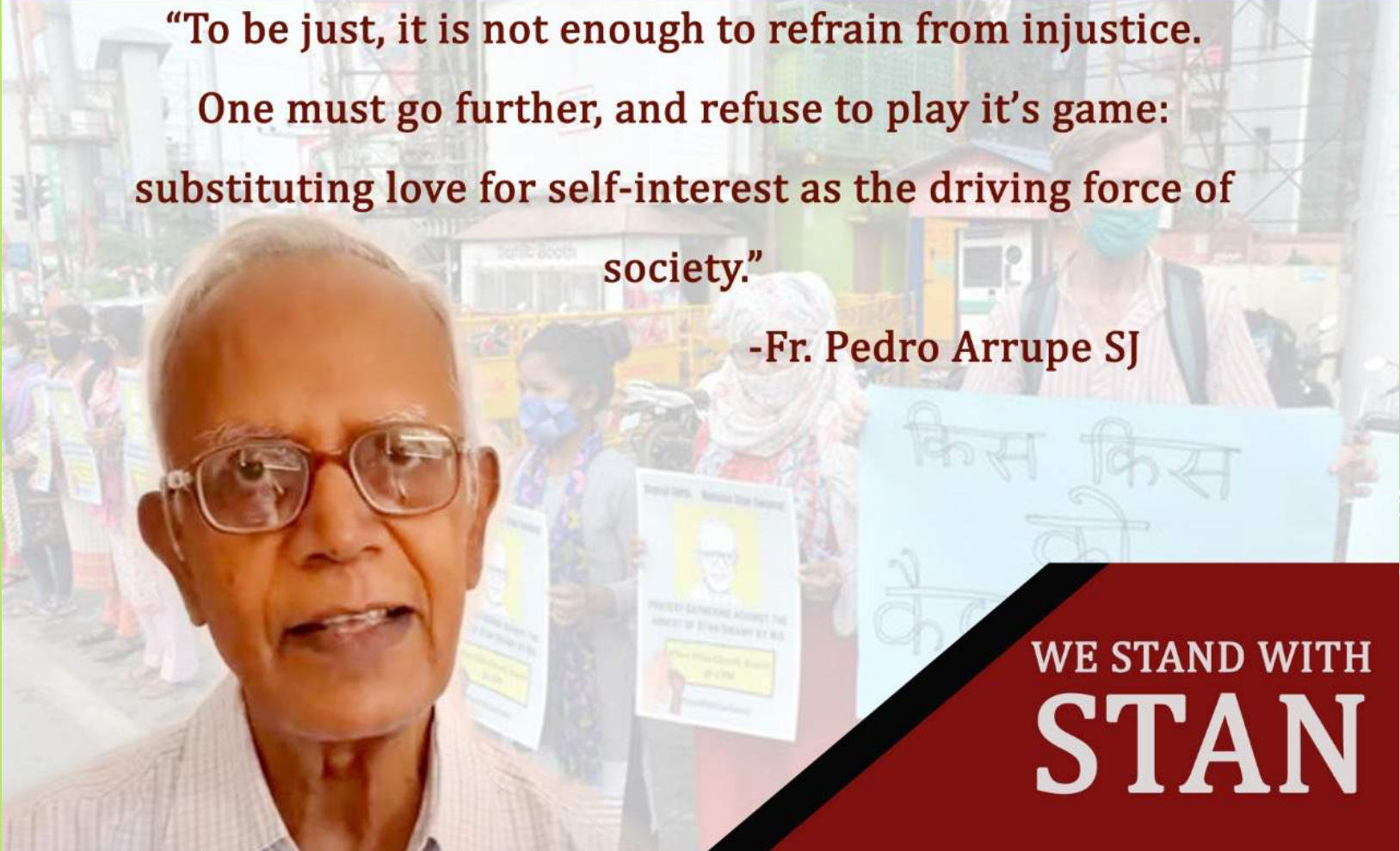


RELEASE FR STAN

“To be just, it is not enough to refrain from injustice.

One must go further, and refuse to play it's game:
substituting love for self-interest as the driving force of
society.”

-Fr. Pedro Arrupe SJ



WE STAND WITH
STAN

POPE FRANCIS: FLAWED GLOBAL ALTERNATIVES

(ENCYCLICAL LETTER FRATELLI TUTTI OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS ON FRATERNITY AND SOCIAL FRIENDSHIP FT)

Pope Francis: Flawed alternative systems are:

a) **Neo-liberal individualism**

- ▶ The marketplace, by itself, cannot resolve every problem, however... (FT 168)
- ▶ It is not merely economics but culture, not just left vs right but... (FT 30)

b) **Nationalist populism**

- ▶ Signs of regression: Instances of a myopic... (FT 11)
- ▶ Today, in many countries, hyperbole, extremism and... (FT 15)



HOW DO WE RESIST DEMOCRACY RECESSION?

- ▶ **Democracy involves much more than just elections**
- ▶ **It needs among all**
 - ▶ Rootedness in a Spirituality of Justice, Equality & Love
 - ▶ Robust civil society and people's movements
 - ▶ Education and empowerment of people to stand for Truth without fear
 - ▶ Training in critical consciousness and political formation
 - ▶ Independent media, Effective and independent legislatures & Impartial judiciaries
 - ▶ Creating alternative models of development
 - ▶ Legitimate and strong institutions...

A close-up photograph of a pair of weathered, brown hands gently cupping a small, vibrant green seedling with four leaves. The seedling is growing out of a mound of dark, rich soil. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green. The image is framed by a bright green border on the left and right sides. On the right side, there are several thin, white diagonal lines.

Thank YOU !