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Varieties of Democracy

Measuring Two Centuries of Political Change

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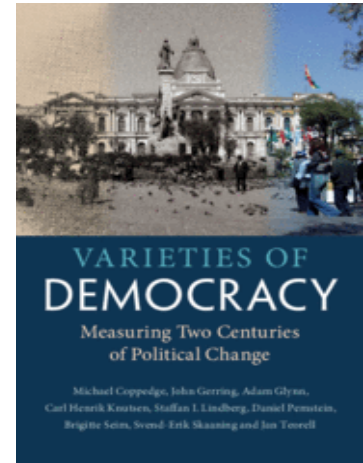
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Varieties of Democracy is the essential user's guide to The Varieties of Democracy project (V-Dem), one of the most ambitious data collection efforts in comparative politics. This global research collaboration sparked a dramatic change in how we study the nature, causes, and consequences of democracy. This book is ambitious in scope: more than a reference guide, it raises standards for causal inferences in democratization research and introduces new, measurable, concepts of democracy and many political institutions. Varieties of Democracy enables anyone interested in democracy - teachers, students, journalists, activists, researchers and others - to analyze V-Dem data in new and exciting ways. This book creates opportunities for V-Dem data to be used in education, research, news analysis, advocacy, policy work, and elsewhere. V-Dem is rapidly becoming the preferred source for democracy data.

1. Introduction: the story of Varieties of Democracy; 2. Conceptual scheme; 3. Data collection; 4. The measurement model and reliability; 5. Dimensions and components of democracy; 6. Data validation; 7. Explanatory analysis with Varieties of Democracy data.

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'V-Dem data, the fruit of a large international collaborative effort, is a big advance in the measurement of democracy, and has set a new baseline for discussions in this field. This book offers a careful, detailed, explanation about how this data was produced and validated. It is an indispensable source for users of V-Dem data. It also offers lessons for a broader discussion about measurement in the social sciences.'

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