

Introduction

Democratic resilience is a recent framework by which to evaluate the factors at play in a healthy and persistent democracy. Historically threats to democracies came more often from outside forces or affected newer and perhaps less economically privileged democratic states. However, there are increasing authoritarian tendencies on display in older, wealthier democracies undergoing institutional breakdowns.

Key Literature

- Boese, V. A., Edgell, A. B., Hellmeier, S., Maerz, S. F., & Lindberg, S. I. (2021). How democracies prevail: democratic resilience as a two-stage process. *Democratization*, 28(5), 885–907.
- van Lit, J., van Ham, C., & Meijers, M. J. (2024). Countering autocratization: a roadmap for democratic defence. *Democratization*, 31(4), 765–787.

Results and Implications

Using the ERT dataset, I compared the relationship of states' Liberal Democracy scores to three other factors: states' relative wealth, the distribution of wealth within states (wealth inequality), and literacy. Better LDI scores correspond to less wealth inequality and a higher rate of literacy, and to the total wealth available to a state's population. These paint a portrait of the historical status quo whereby standards of living and democratic success were linked.

Analyses

