



# Alliance of Democracies

## Democracy Perception Index 2020

The Democracy Perception Index (DPI) is the world's largest annual study on democracy, conducted by Latana in collaboration with the Alliance of Democracies, to monitor attitudes towards democracy from around the world. The 2020 edition offers a unique comparison of global public opinion during the COVID-19 crisis. Results are based on nationally representative interviews with 124,000 respondents from 53 countries conducted between April 20th and June 3rd 2020.

### Key insights

**78 %** of people around the world say that democracy is important to have in their country. Similarly to 2019, this is a majority opinion in each country surveyed, ranging from 92% in Greece to 50% in Iran.

**40 %** of all people living in democracies believe that their country is not actually democratic.

**43 %** of the global population say that their government only serves a small group of people in their country. This sentiment is as high in democracies as it is in non-democracies.

### Explore the data

To capture the dissatisfaction with the state of democracy in the eyes of the public, this study measured the difference between how important people think democracy is and how democratic they think their country is. This gap, named the Perceived Democratic Deficit, represents how much governments are living up to the expectations of their citizens. The larger the gap, the bigger the democratic deficit in the eyes of the public.

Similarly to the 2019 results, the 2020 study shows that all countries have such a gap, meaning there is no country surveyed where people think that the level of democracy they have is as high or higher than what they think is important. In other words, the study finds that no government is living up to the democratic expectations of their citizens.

The countries with the smallest gap are now Taiwan, Philippines, Switzerland, Denmark, and Saudi Arabia. The countries that have the largest perceived democratic deficit, meaning governments that are least living up to the democratic expectations of their citizens are Venezuela, Poland, Hungary, Ukraine and Nigeria.

Chile stands out as the country that suffered the greatest increase in the Perceived Democratic Deficit from 2019 to 2020, with an increase of 9 points.

When asked directly if they think they have the “right amount”, “too much” or “not enough” democracy in their country, the results paint a similar picture: In democracies, 31% say they do not have enough democracy in their country, nearly as high as the global average of 35%.

The world remains split about whether the US's global influence has a positive or negative influence on democracy around the world: 44% say it has a positive influence, 38% say negative.

European countries remain the strongest critics of the US's global influence, particularly in Germany, Austria, Denmark, Ireland and Belgium where the overall opinion is overwhelmingly negative.

Since 2019, the overall opinion of the US's influence has taken a dramatic downturn in China, where the share of people who think the US's influence is negative doubled from 38% to 64% within a year, making China the most critical country of the US in 2020 with a net opinion of -47% (compared to a net opinion of -5% in 2019).

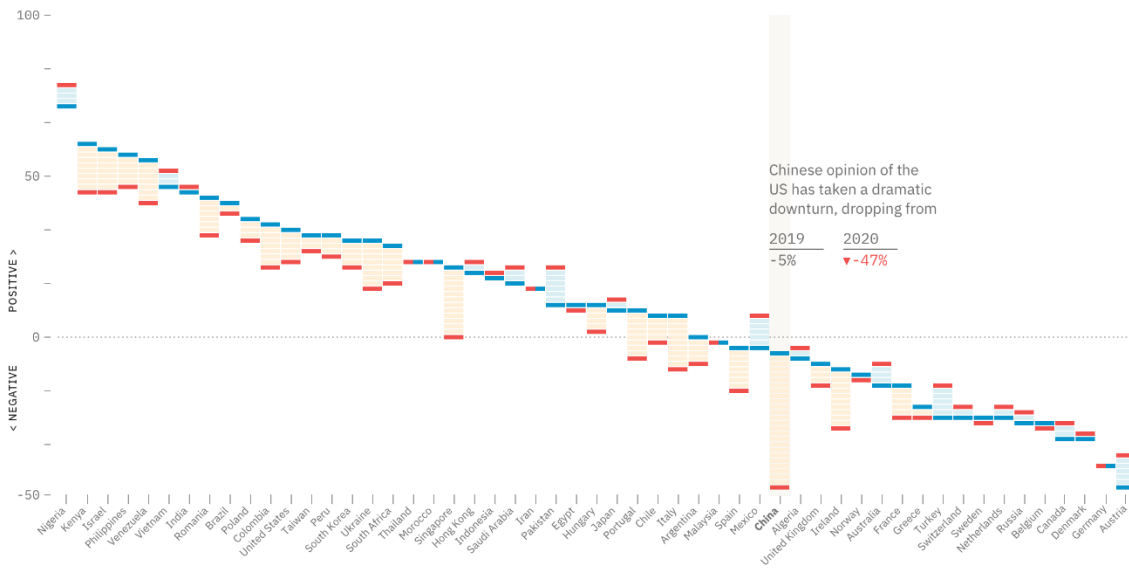
Overall opinion of the US's global influence has also declined in the US itself, dropping 11 percentage points from 33% 2019 to 22% 2020, though still remaining solidly on the positive side of the spectrum.

DEMOCRACY PERCEPTION INDEX 2020

## Perception of the US's global influence has declined since 2019 - especially in China

"Do you think the US's global influence has a positive or negative impact on democracy around the world?"

NET OPINION OF THE US ■ 2020 ■ 2019



Public opinion results based on a global survey of 124,000 respondents in 53 countries, completed by Dalia Research between April 20 and June 3, 2020. Results are nationally representative of the internet-connected population, based on age, gender and education.



A majority of the world (55%) thinks that it is “very likely” or “somewhat likely” that a foreign power will influence the results of their next election. This fear is highest in mainly densely populated Asian countries: Indonesia, Pakistan, India and the Philippines.

On the other hand, the two countries that worry the least are China and Russia, followed by mostly EU member countries. Despite regular focus on Russian interference in US elections, Americans fall squarely in the middle across the globe, with 55% thinking that interference in the upcoming elections is very or somewhat likely.

### Democracy During COVID-19

The vast majority of people around the world (70%) are generally satisfied with their government’s response to the COVID-19 virus, saying their government is handling the crisis well. The countries most critical of their government’s response are Brazil and Chile, where only 34% and 39% respectively think that their governments are responding well.

The countries most satisfied with their government’s response are China (95%), Vietnam (95%), Greece (89%), Malaysia (89%) and Ireland (87%). Satisfaction with government response is practically as high in democracies as non-democracies overall (70% vs. 74%, respectively).

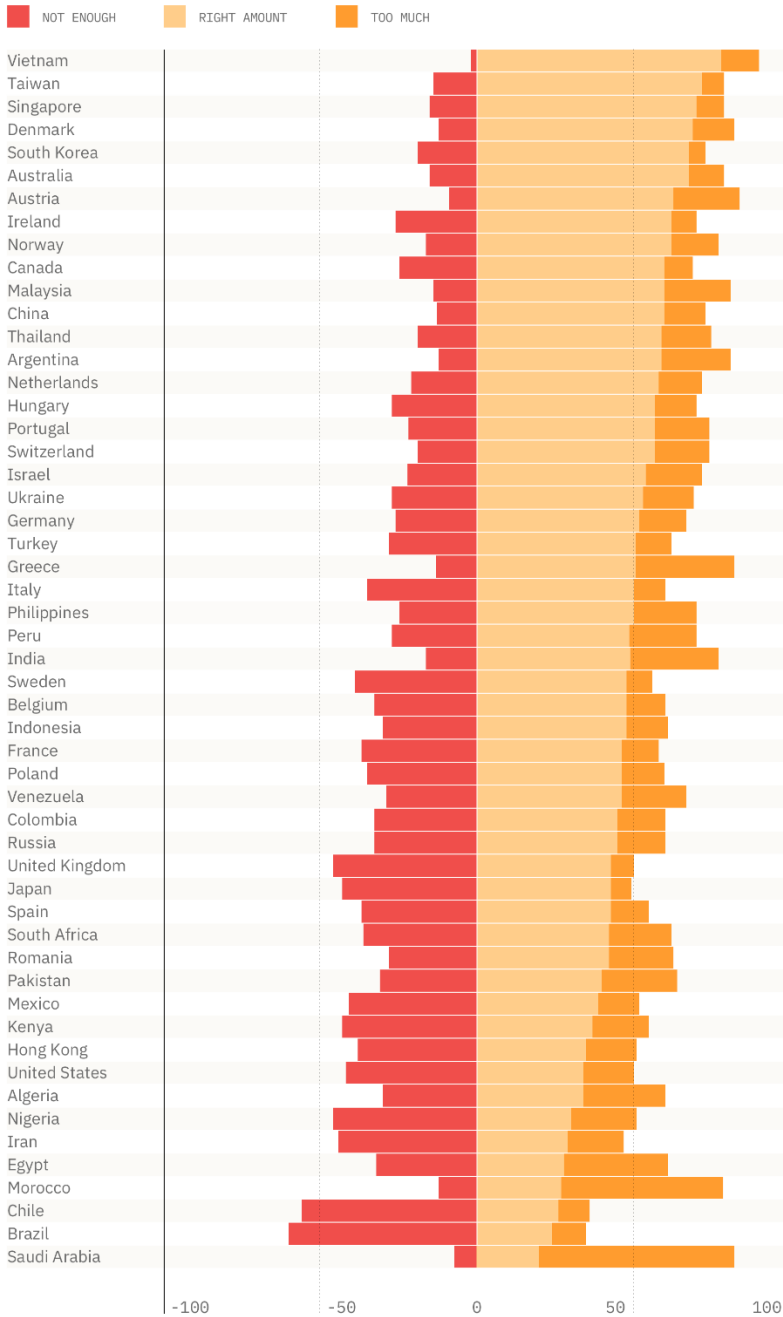
Across the 53 countries surveyed, about half of the population feels like their country applied the “right amount” of restrictions on people’s movement while 28% think their government has “not done enough”, and only 17% think their government has done “too much”.

People in Asian countries surveyed show the highest satisfaction, led by Vietnam, Taiwan and Singapore where over 70% say the restrictions have been the “right amount”.

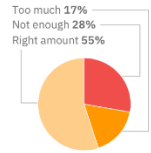
On the other hand, Latin American countries are among the most critical, particularly Brazil and Chile, where the largest share of people (over 60%) feel like their government has “not done enough” to limit people’s movement to stop the COVID-19. Conversely, people in MENA countries such as Saudi Arabia and Morocco and Egypt are most critical of their governments for having done “too much” to limit people’s movement.

# Most people don't think governments are overreacting to COVID-19

"Do you think your government is doing too much or not enough to restrict the movement of people in your country?"



### Global Perception

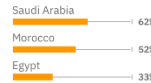


### Dissatisfaction

The most dissatisfied Latin American countries Brazil and Chile are the countries where most people feel like the response is **not enough**.



the MENA countries stand out as the countries where most people feel like the government has done **too much**.



### Respondents

124,000

### Countries

53

### Period

20 . Apr . 2020 - 03 . Jun . 2020

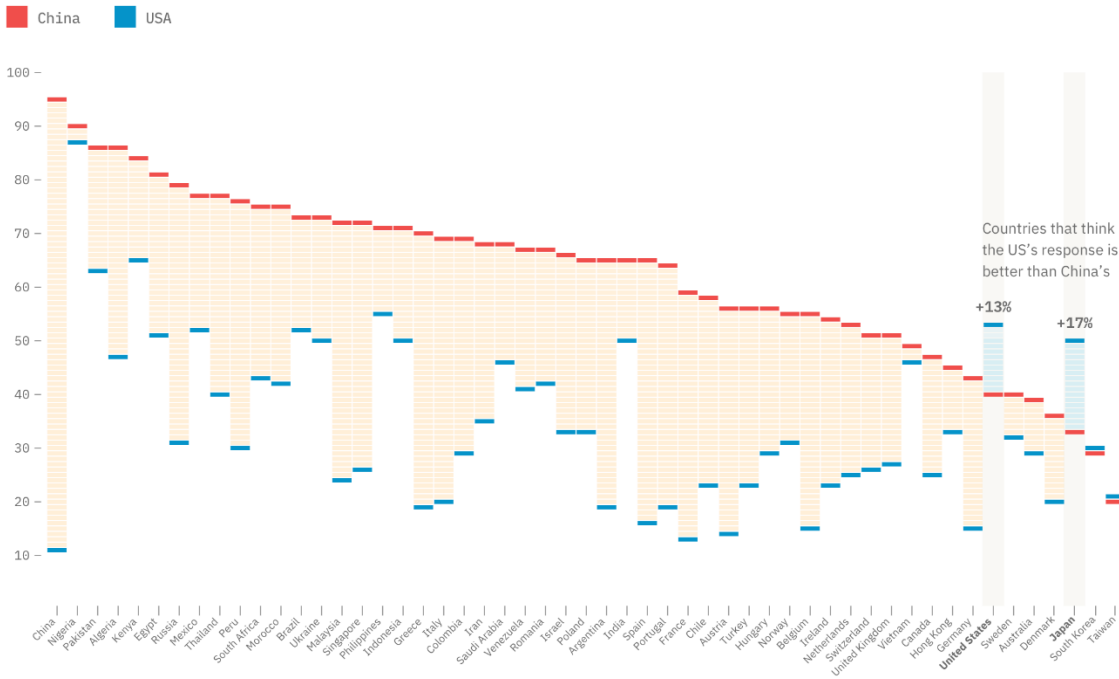
Public opinion results based on a global survey of 124,000 respondents in 53 countries, completed by Dalia Research between April 20 and June 3, 2020. Results are nationally representative of the internet-connected population, based on age, gender and education.



When asked to assess China's and the US's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, almost all countries rate China's response as much better. The only countries that think the US's response is better are Japan (+17% in favor of US) and the US itself (+13% in favor of the US).

# China's response to COVID-19 is viewed more positively around the globe than the United States'

% say that the USA and China are responding "well" to the COVID-19 crisis



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Across the 53 countries in the survey, about half of the population agrees that their government has gone too far in violating basic freedoms during the COVID-19 response. This is a more widespread opinion than the 33% who disagree.

The countries where most people agree with this sentiment overall are MENA countries: Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Algeria. In these countries, the number of people who agree that their freedoms have been violated out-numbers those who disagree nearly 7 to 1 (or 70% vs 10%)

Generally, democratic countries are split about this feeling, with equal shares agreeing and disagreeing (39% vs. 38%)

In non-democracies, however, the perception of violated freedoms feels much higher (nearly double): ~50% vs ~25%

**In collaboration with**

