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# **Beyond 2015: How can we put political governance and conflict indicators on the global development agenda?**

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- Governance and conflict are mentioned in 2 Chapters:
  - II. Peace, Security and Disarmament
  - V. Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance
  
- The MDGs refer to these chapters:
  - III. Development and Poverty Eradication
  - IV. Protecting our common environment

## The discrepancy: Millennium Declaration and MDGs



UN Millennium Declaration	Millennium Development Goals
II.8. "free our peoples from the scourge of <b>war</b> "	Not included
II.9. "to end illicit traffic in <b>small arms</b> "	Not included
II.9. "to fight <b>transnational crime</b> "	Not included
V.24. "We will spare no effort to promote <b>democracy</b> and strengthen the <b>rule of law</b> as well as respect for all internationally recognized <b>human rights</b> "	Not included

# Why bother? Governance matters



- Economic effects: institutional quality has been shown to be closely related to growth & broader measures of socio-economic development
- Normative component: individual rights and liberties
- Most affected: Africa (corruption) and Muslim World (political rights)

# Why bother? Security matters



- Costs of inter- and intra-state war are high
  - for warring countries (economic and psychological costs)
  - for neighbors (see Collier 1999, Geneva Decl. Sec. 2008)
  - and for donors/developed countries (e.g. pirates off Somalia)
  
- Widespread violence delays development
  
- Most affected: Africa (war) and Latin America (crime)

# Taking Stock: Where do we stand?



- Examples of cross-country indicators for measuring political governance issues mentioned in the Millennium Declaration:
  - Democracy & political rights (Polity IV, Freedom House)
  - Human rights (Political Terror Scale, Physical Integrity Index)
  - Rule of law & corruption (Transparency International)
  - Government effectiveness (Worldwide Governance Indicators)

# Taking Stock: Where do we stand?



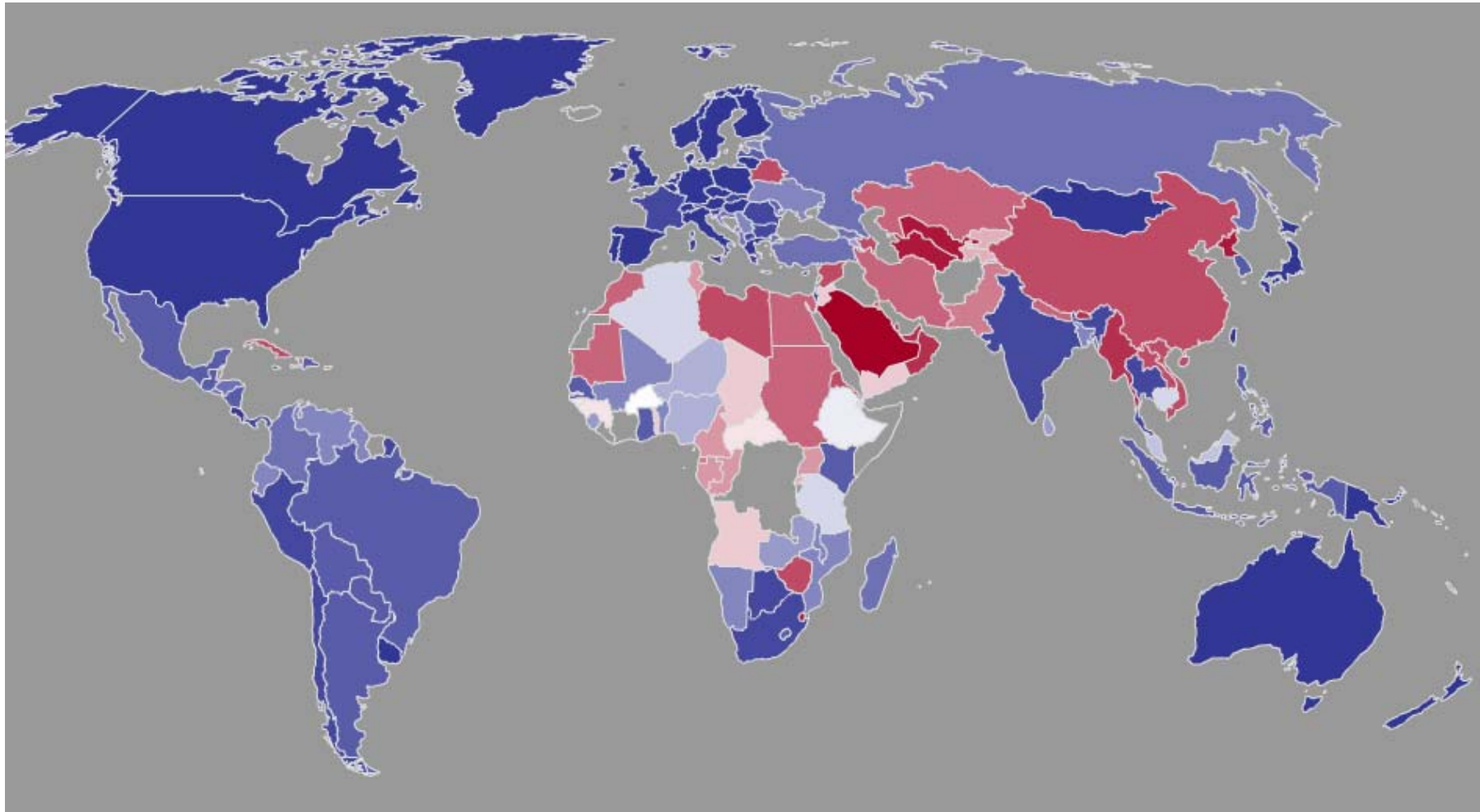
- Examples of cross-country indicators for measuring security issues mentioned in the Millennium Declaration:
  - Battle deaths (Uppsala Conflict Database)
  - Homicides (WHO, UN)
  - Small arms proliferation, arms trade (Small Arms Survey, SIPRI)
  - Organized crime, narcotrafficking (Economist Intelligence Unit)



- Technical feasibility
  - problems that are solvable at reasonable costs
  - problems that are not currently solvable
- Political feasibility
  - political resistance on recipient side
  - political reluctance on donor side



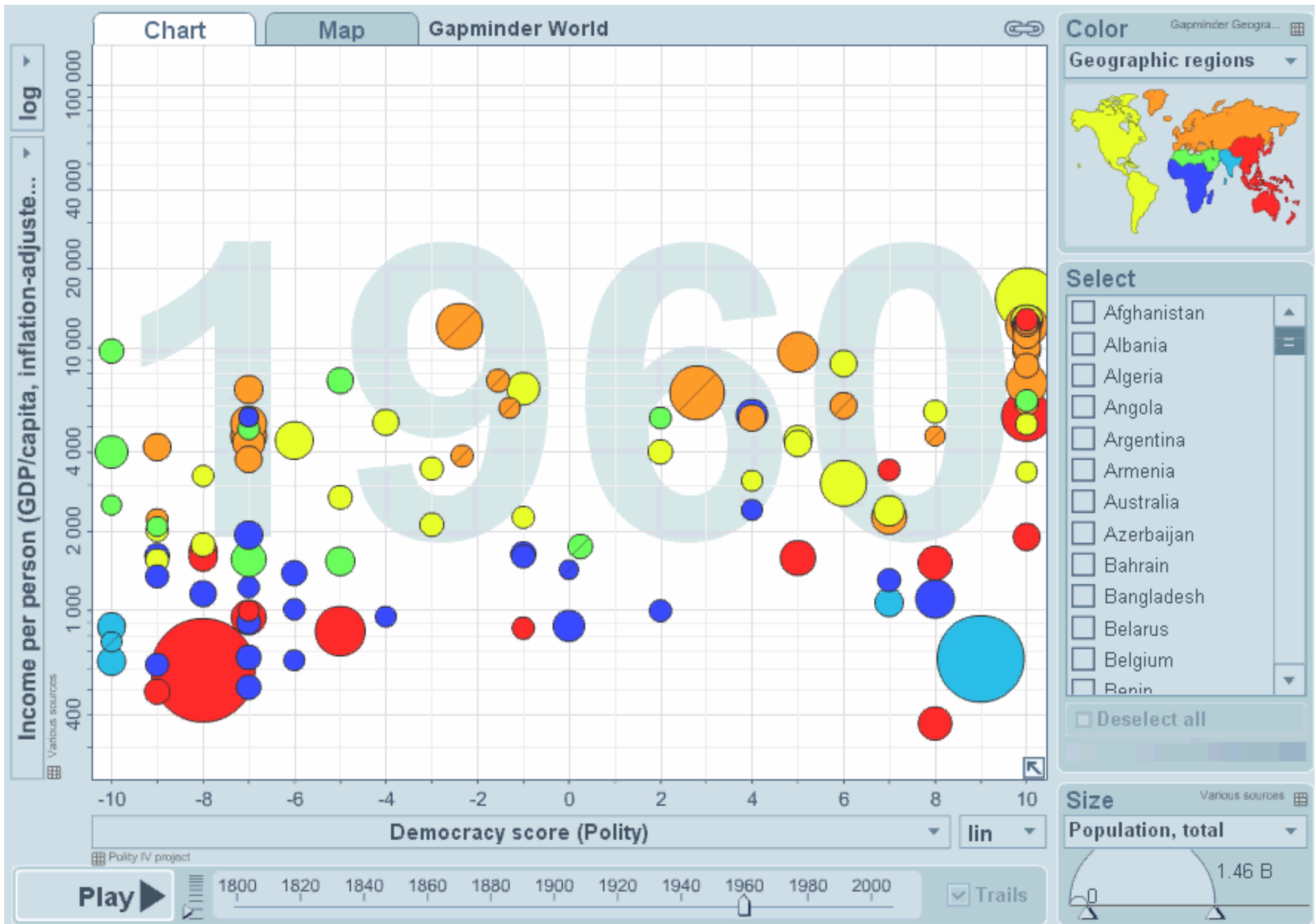
# Democracy: Polity IV scores 2004 (red = autocracy)



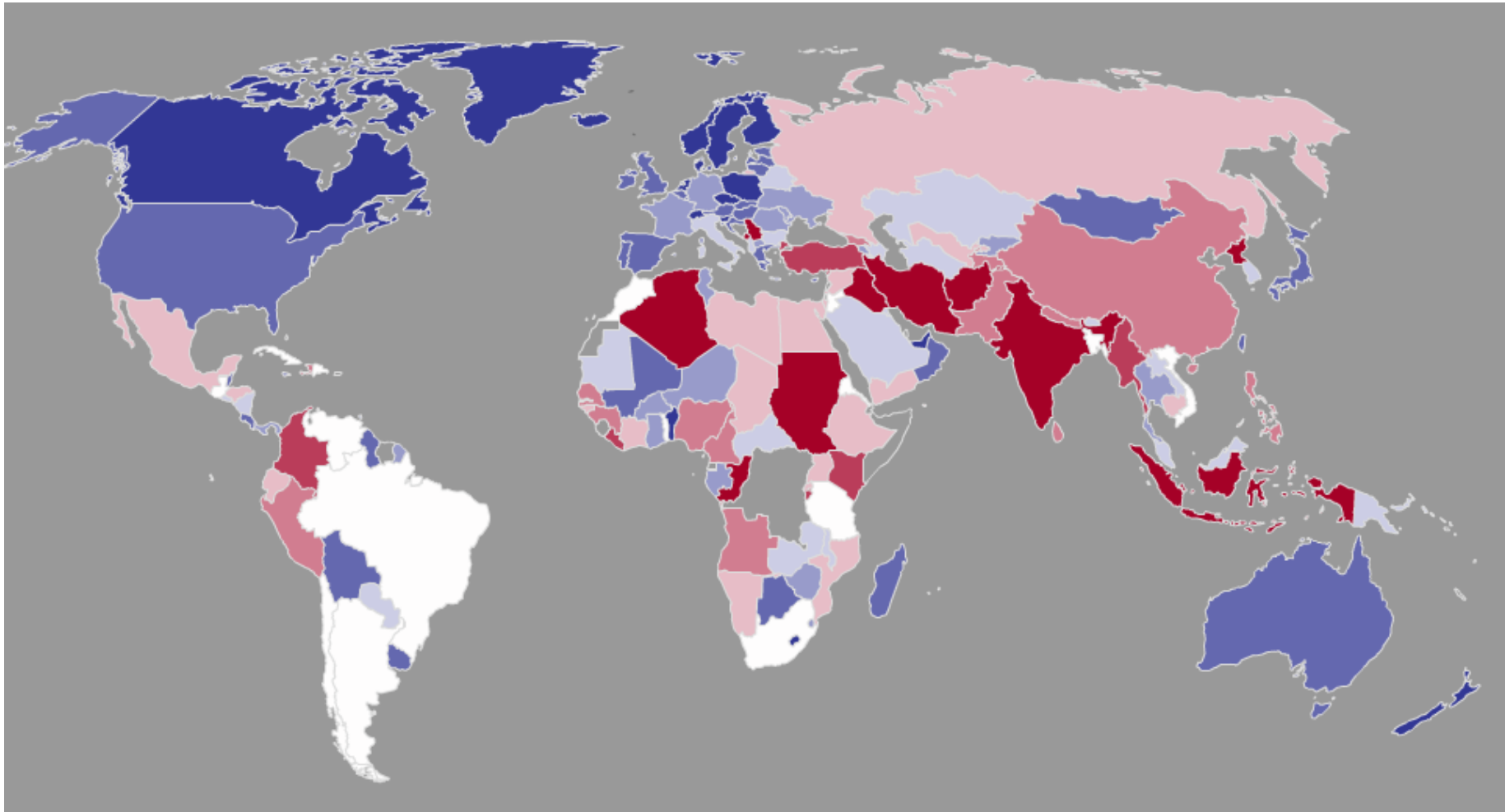
Democracy is widespread today, but the process of democratization has stagnated in the last decade

# Example: Democracy and income, 1960-2006



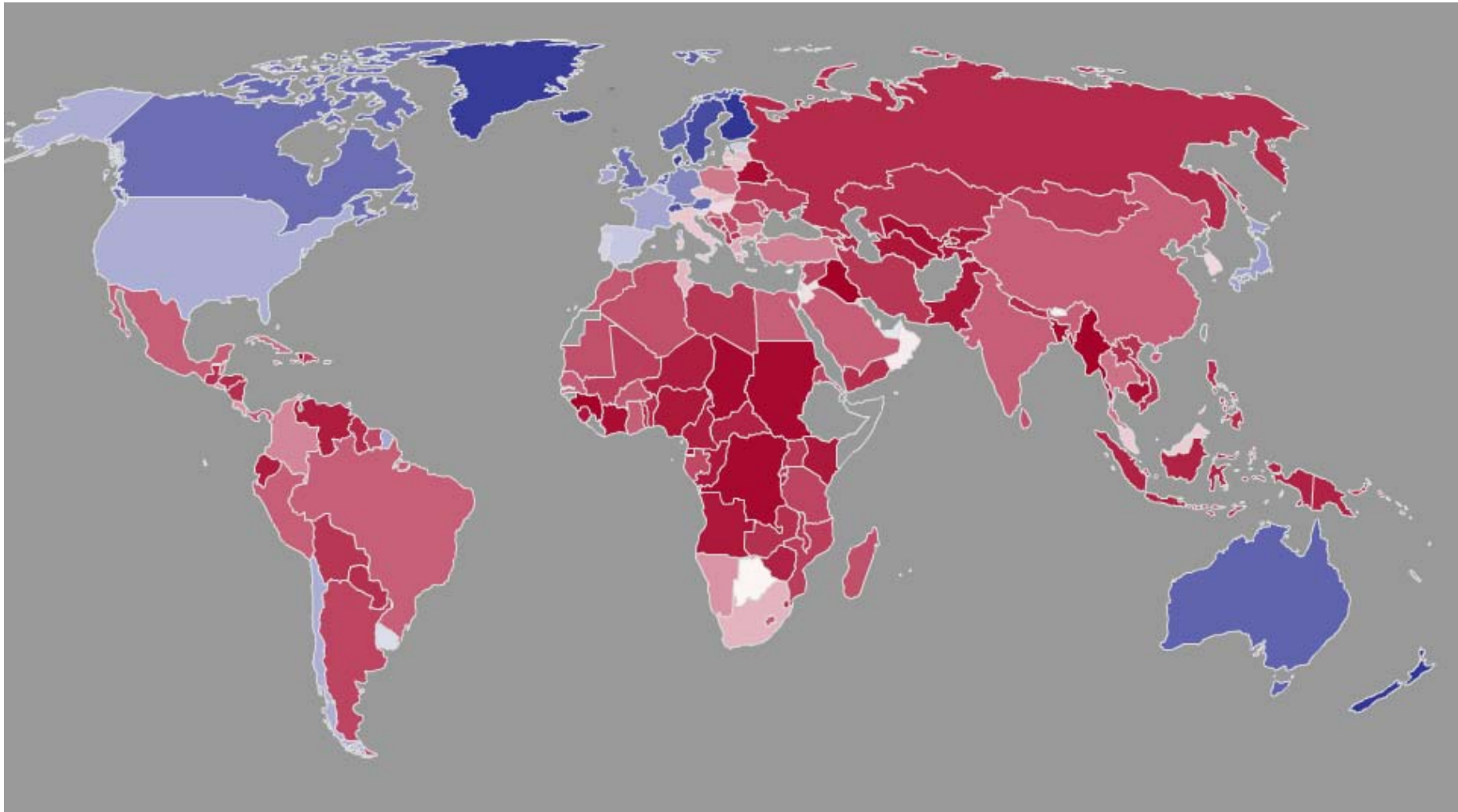


## Human Rights: Physical Integrity Rights 2004 (red = low)



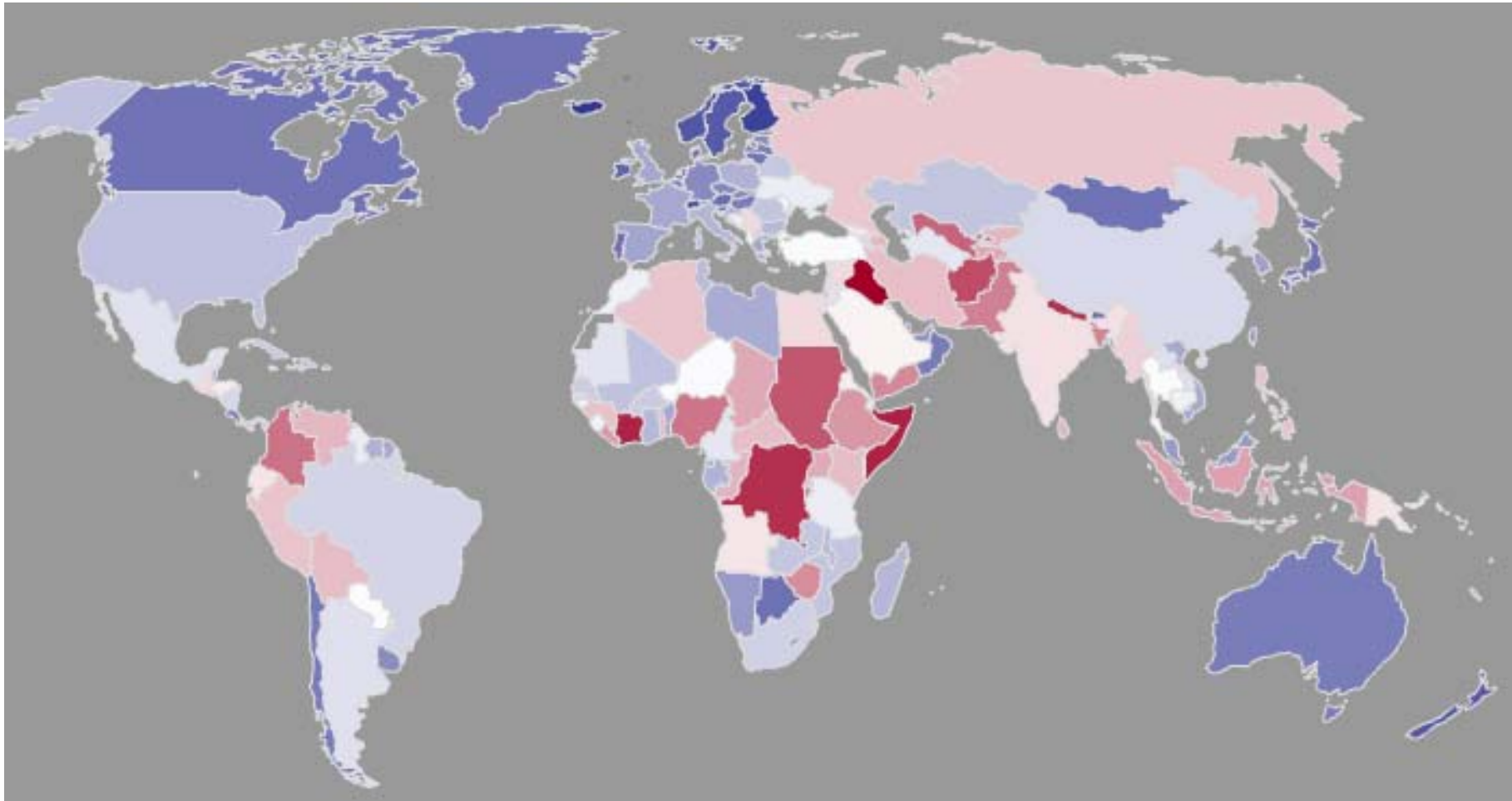
Young democracies often struggle with guaranteeing the human rights of their citizens

# Corruption Perceptions Index 2006 (red = low)



Most developing countries struggle with maintaining the rule of law due to large-scale corruption

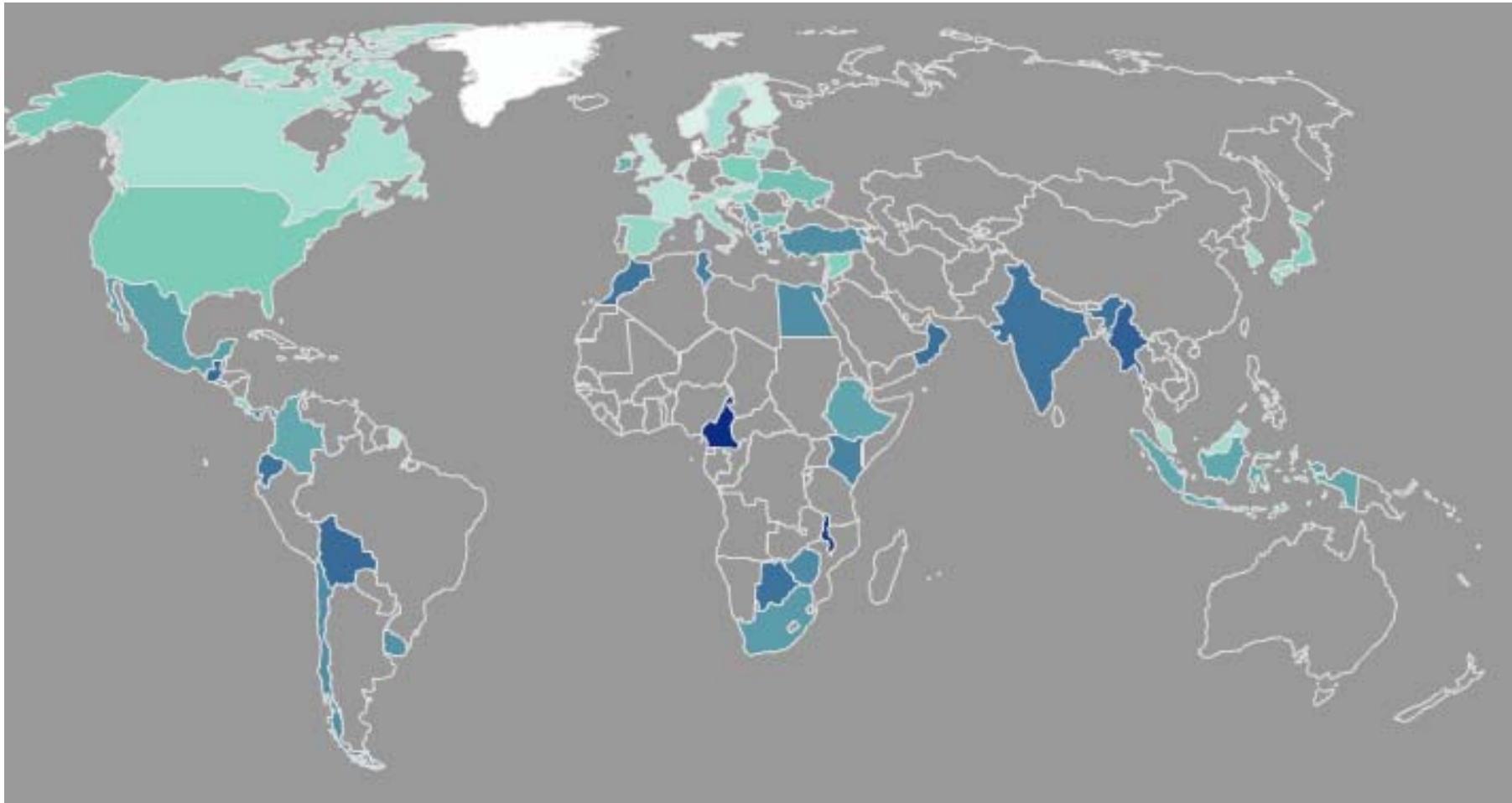
## Political Stability & Absence of Violence 2005 (red = low)



Violence creates insecurity and obstructs development in many regions of the world

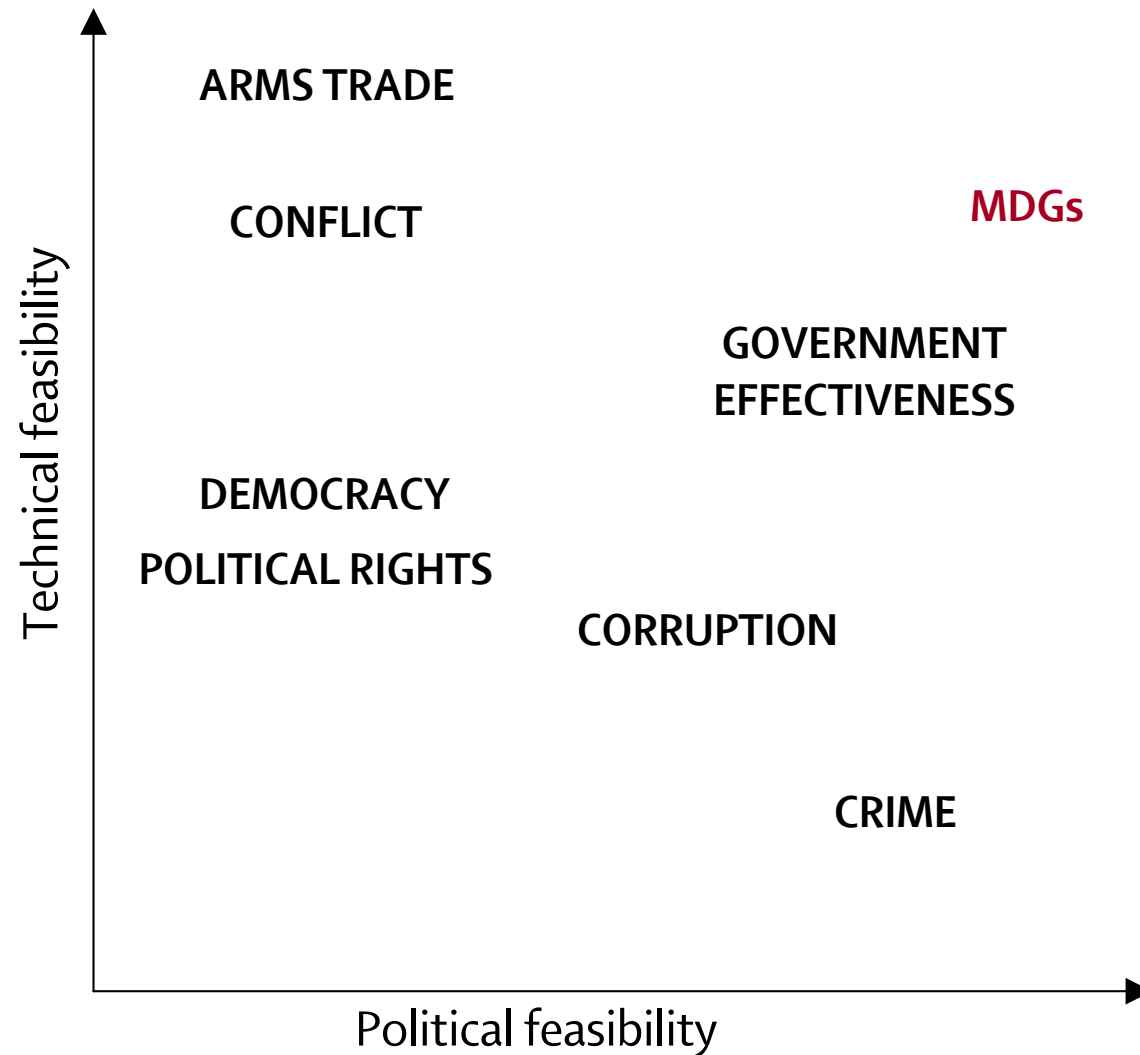


## Micro-data coverage: Household income 1998 (grey = missing)



On the micro-level, there is much less data coverage due to the high costs of household surveys

# The feasibility of putting political governance indicators on the global development agenda







- Strong political constraints to changing policies in most affected countries
- Even if leaders are willing, they might not be politically capable of changing governance performance significantly
- Probably no first best solution but maybe second-best solutions



- Insisting on the inclusion of governance/conflict indicators in a revised version of the MDGs might produce negative externalities on the whole process
- Use governance/conflict issues as a bargaining chip to increase the weight of equity and economic inclusiveness indicators because their realization tends to imply improved governance



Governance standards vary strongly across regions, which makes it difficult to establish global standards

Instead: regionally organized peer reviews could find a majority

In depth country-studies focused on political acceptable issues → identify critical constraints with regard to specific governance issues

(each country obliged to do a specific government assessment and to identify a strategy to improve situation on specific issues – peer review mechanism)

Focus upon process-oriented goals instead of outcome-oriented goals



## Advantages

- Acceptance/ownership due to similar regional norms & greater options
- Examples: NEPAD, DAC peer review
- Governments have manoeuvring space to choose certain issues out of a range of topics
- Soft pressure to improve governance avoiding defiance

## Disadvantages

- Low comparability
- More process-oriented, no universal objectives



- There is a additional strategy that could provide additional security indicators:
  - There is already not sufficient data for most of the current MDGs (<http://www.mdgmonitor.org/map.cfm>)
  - Both, included and new indicators (e.g. homicides as a measure of security) would profit from international efforts to build better data
- This is costly, but a prerequisite for seriously conducting evidence-based policy-making



Thank you for your attention



- Collier Paul (1999), On the Economic Costs of Civil War. Oxford University Press: Oxford Economic Papers 51 (1999) 168 – 183.
- Geneva Declaration Secretariat (2008), Global Burden of Armed Violence. Geneva: Geneva Declaration Secretariat.