INDEX OF EFFECTIVE DEMOCRACY
What measure: the concept of democracy

- Prospective of human development
  - the crucial element of democratization is that it empowers people

- From formal democracy to **effective democracy**
  - which reflect not only the extent to which the liberties are institutionalized but also measures the extent to which these liberties are actually *practiced*
An "emancipative" notion of democracy:
- the key purpose of democracy as the equal empowerment of people to govern lives based on their own
  - democrats's right: institutional property that defines democracy
  - the rule of law: conditioning qualities:
Measurement of democratic rights

- **Democratic rights index (DRI):** percentage scale from 0 to 100 (full presence)
- **Rule of law index (RLI):** measured in fractions of its maximal known strength, from 0.0 to 1.0 for the strongest observed rule of law

One then weights the defining property for deficiencies in its conditional quality using multiplication: the result an *effective democracy index (EDI)*
The effective democracy index

...is at minimum(0): either when democratic rights are absent or when these rights are present but minimal rule of law renders them ineffective

...is at maximum(100): both when democratic rights are fully present and when maximum rule of law renders them effective
For democracies rights: the freedom ratings by Freedom House that are provided in two indices
-“civil liberties”: indicating private freedoms
-”political rights” indicating public freedoms
The index is transformed into a 0-100 range, indicating the presence of guaranteed demo rights in percentage of the maximum
… For the rule of law is used an average of
- World Bank's rule of law Index: measure of how strictly government agents abide by the laws
- Control of corruption index

Transformed into a range from 0.0 to 1.0 (for the strictest rule of law)
Some criticisms

- **Reliability problems**: the Edi loads less strongly on the underlying democracy (the defining properties of democracy) factor than the other democracy indices.

**But** the EDI and the standard democracy indices are NOT intended to measure the same concept.
Validity problem: Edi biased in favour of rich countries because RLI is correlated with economic development then democratic rights
Rule of law when democracy is absent: whether a stronger rule of law in the case of autocracies really means lesser disempowerment of the people: if not the index would operate in the wrong direction when democracy is absent
My opinion

The Edi can reach the same grade whatever the country's lack in democracy (democratic rights or conditional qualities)

- possibility to integrate with some deeper description of the case?