

**MEASURING
DIGITAL
REPRESSION:
GLOBAL TRENDS &
PATTERNS**

STEVEN FELDSTEIN

CARNEGIE

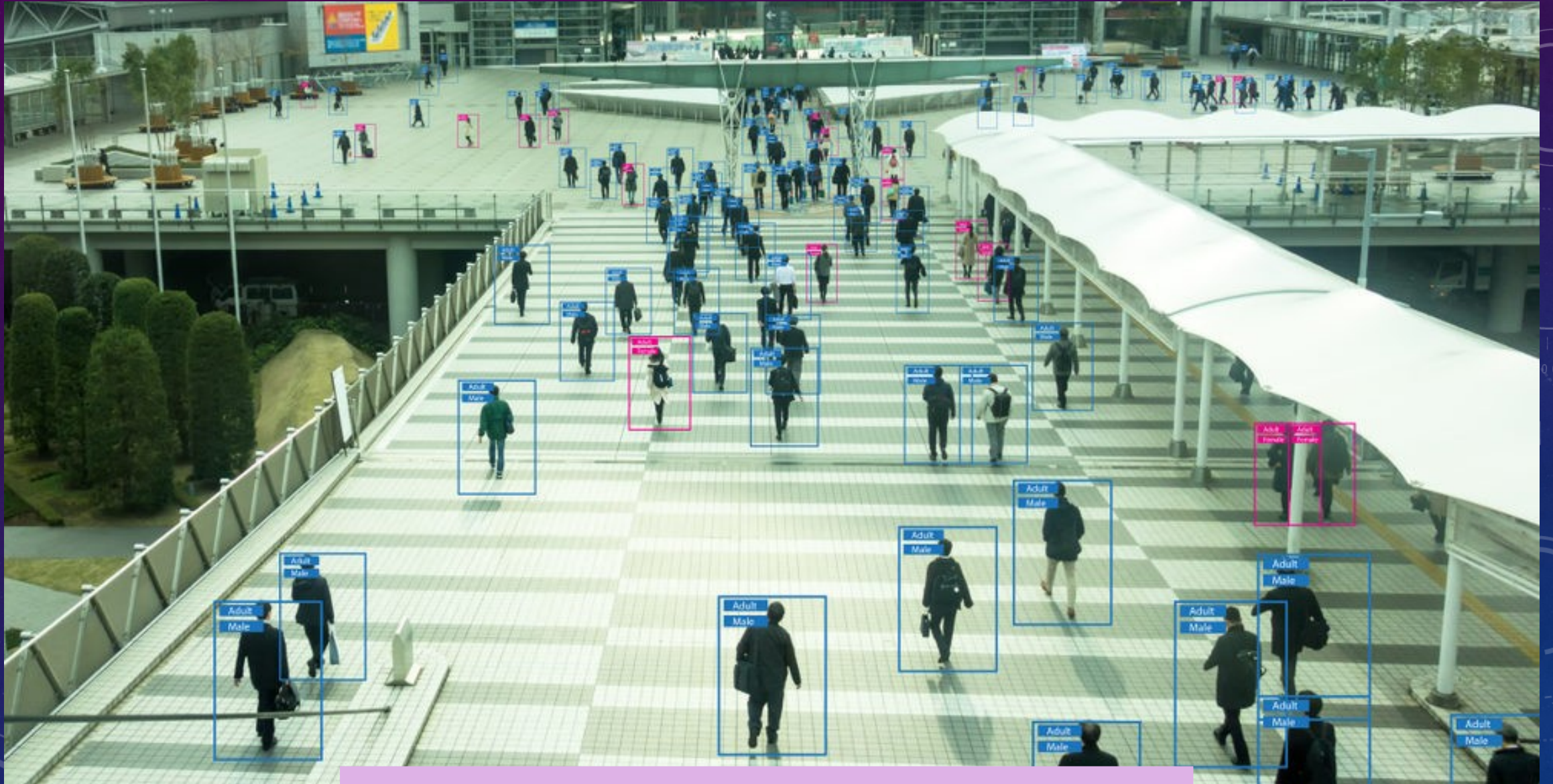
ENDOWMENT FOR

INTERNATIONAL PEACE

JULY 26, 2023



Arab Spring Protests, Tunisia, 2011



Facial Recognition Surveillance in China, 2019

▶ **Digital Repression:** Use of digital ICT to surveil, coerce, or manipulate individuals or groups in order to deter specific activities or beliefs that challenge the state



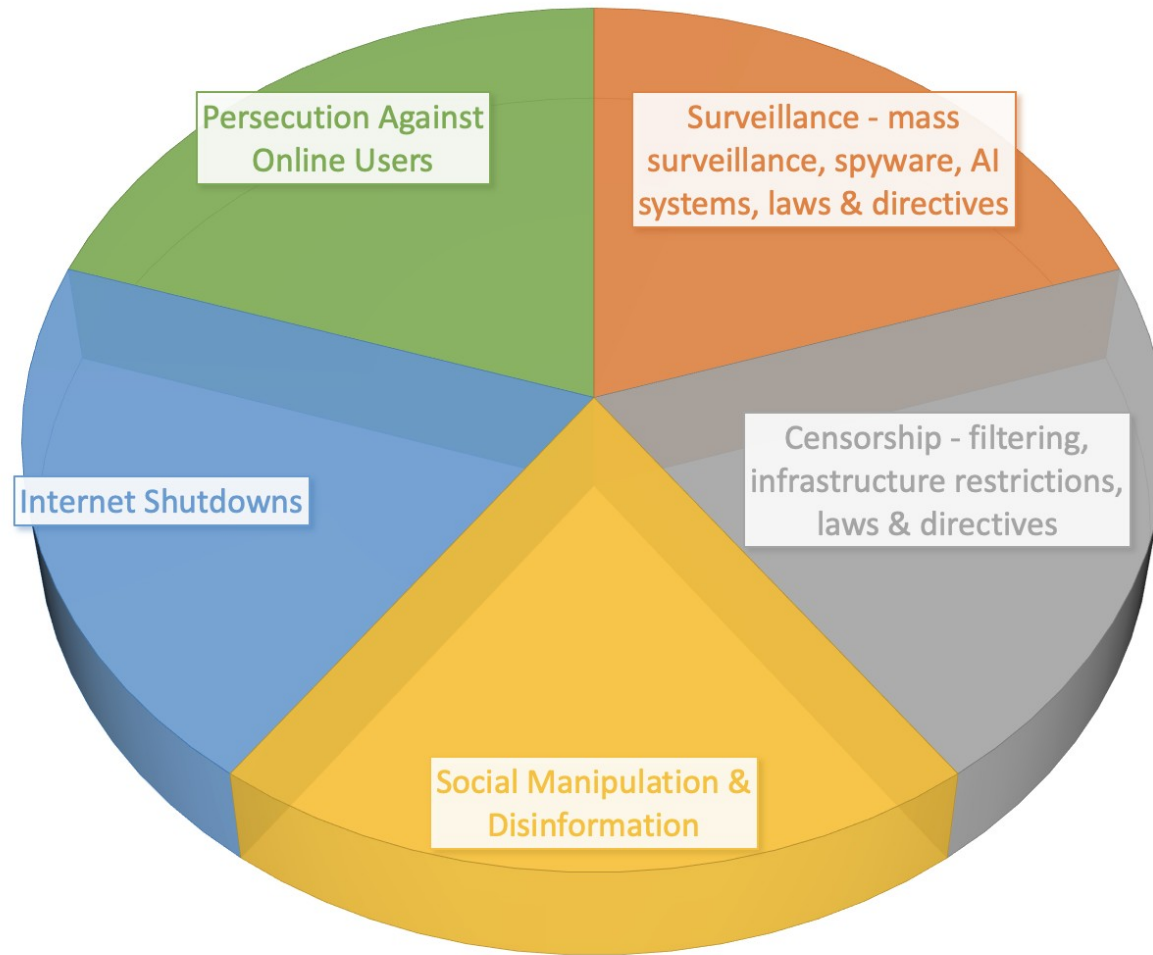
THE RISE
OF DIGITAL
REPRESSION

How Technology
is Reshaping
Power, Politics,
and Resistance

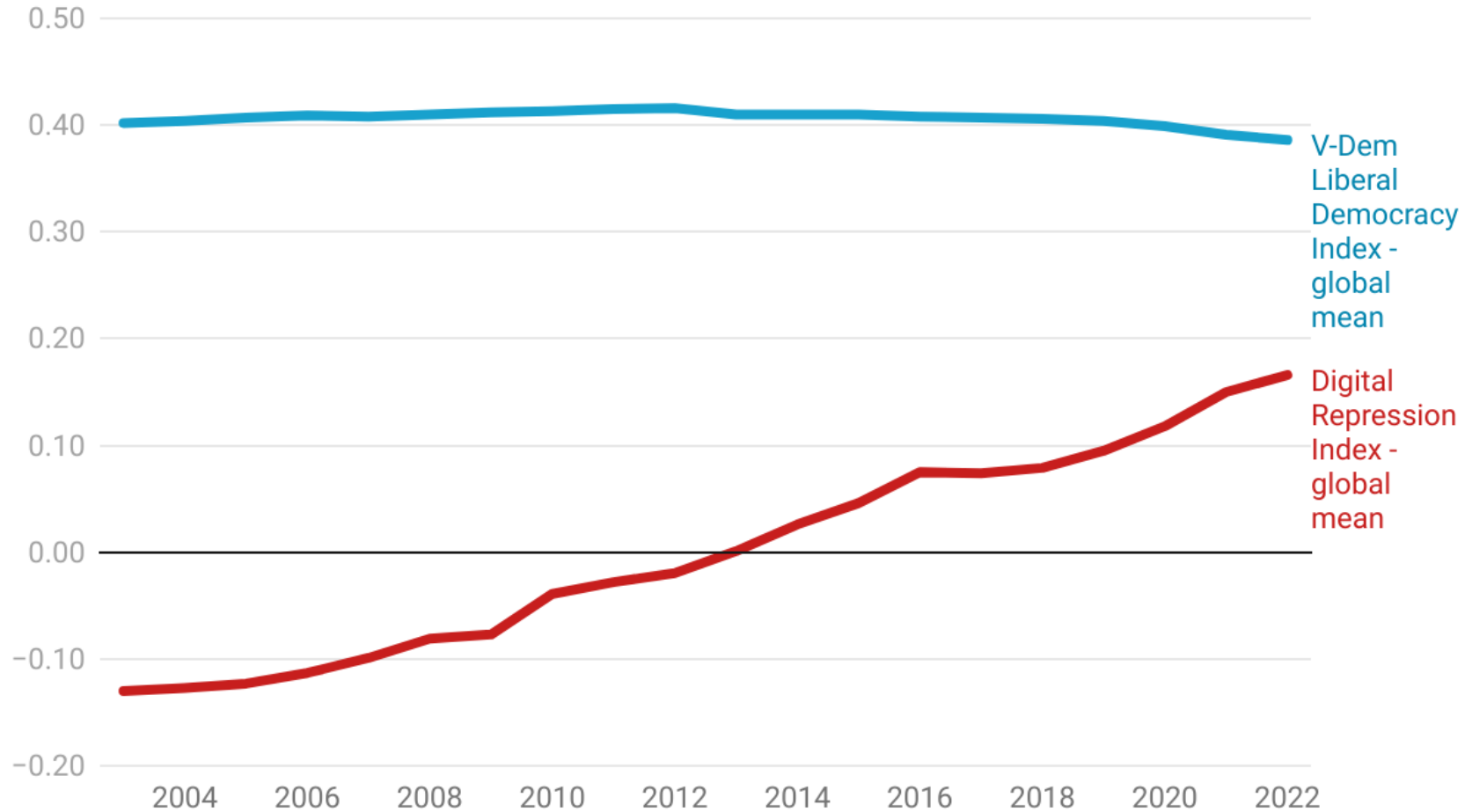
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TAXONOMY OF DIGITAL REPRESSION

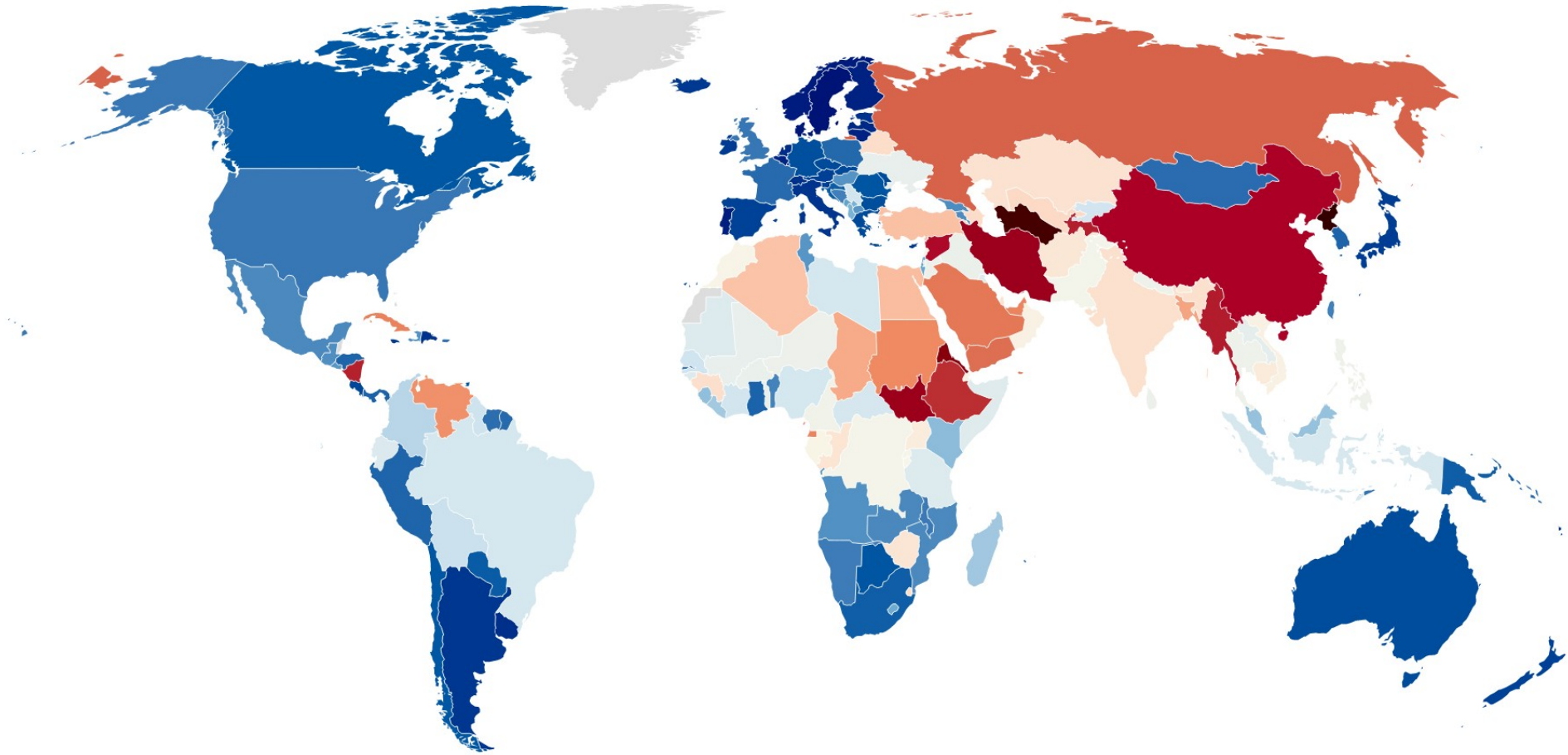


Democracy & Digital Repression Trends, 2003-22



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Global Distribution of Digital Repression, 2022



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DIGITAL REPRESSION INDEX: HIGH/LOW RANKINGS FOR 2022

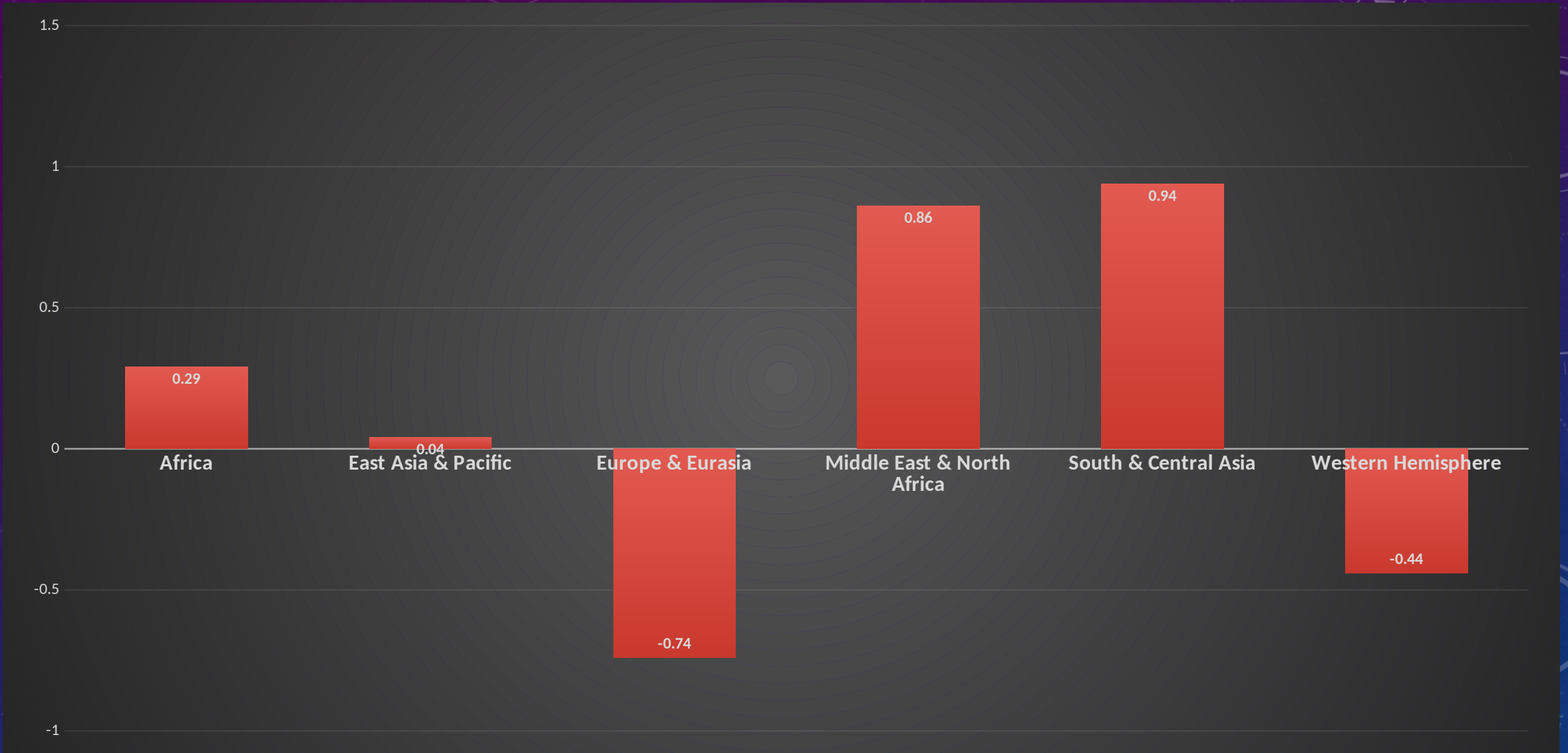
Most Digitally Repressive

- North Korea
- Turkmenistan
- Eritrea
- South Sudan
- Iran
- China

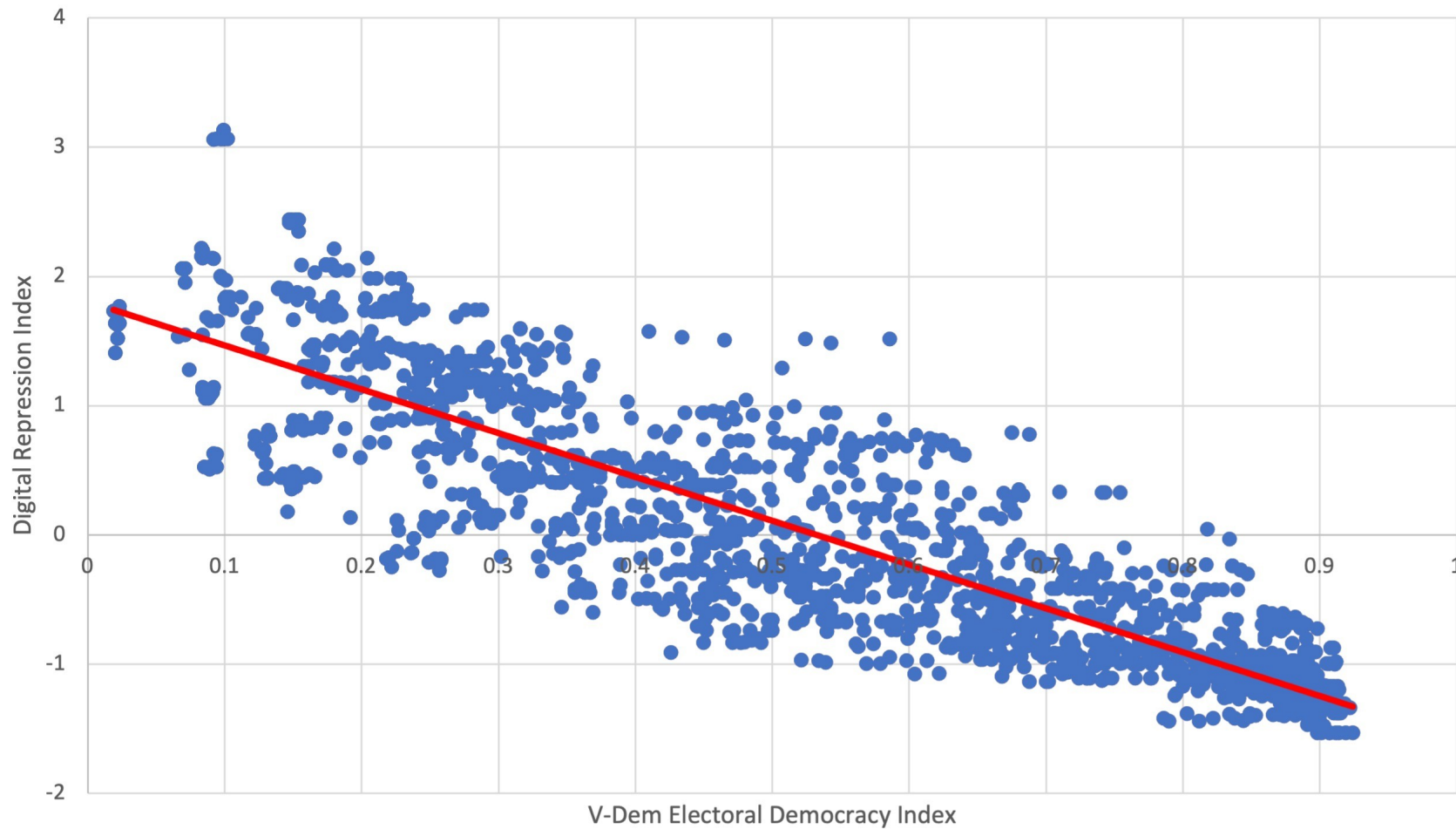
Least Digitally Repressive:

- Sweden
- Denmark
- Norway
- Portugal
- Lithuania
- Finland



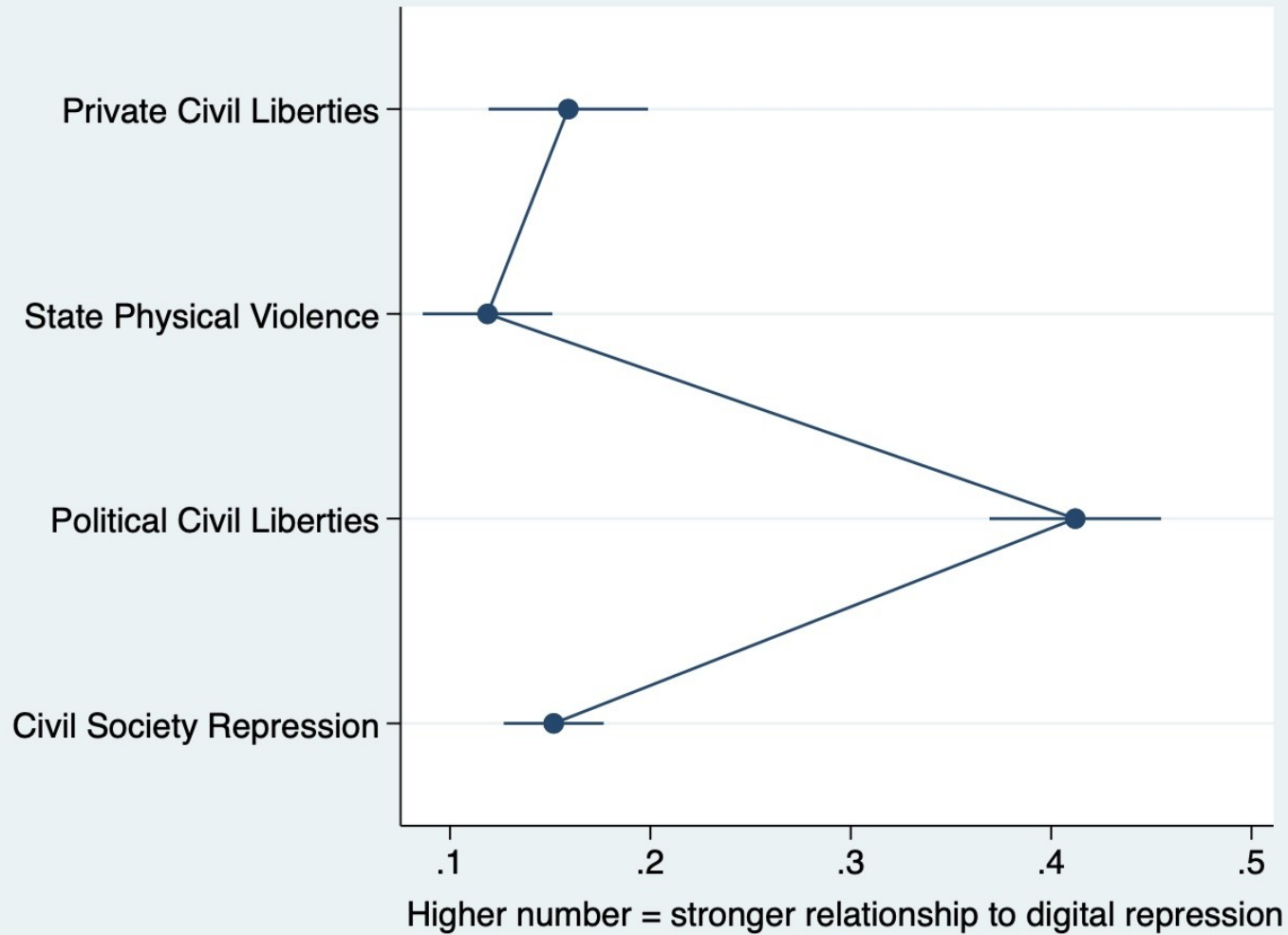


DIGITAL REPRESSION INDEX - REGIONAL COMPARISON



RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
DIGITAL
REPRESSION
& ELECTORAL
DEMOCRACY
(2010-19)

MOST INFLUENTIAL FACTORS LINKED TO DIGITAL REPRESSION





KEY FINDINGS

- ✓ Pre-existing political repression
- ✓ Democracies & autocracies digitally repress
- ✓ Countries employ unique strategies