

Research Note:

World Leaders on Twitter

Ranking Report

August 2011



World Leaders On Twitter

How heads of state are engaging their citizens on the World Wide Web

Today, enlightened governments and their leaders are taking up social media to connect with constituents at home and abroad. Governments are turning more and more to social media to put a “face” on government and to express political views and agendas. Who is helping to make sense of the new political domain? The Digital Policy Council (DPC) research continues to provide analyses on government leaders and institutions of government employing social media outlets to discover how they govern and connect with their citizenry.

This research note provides an update to the ranking of heads of state engaged on the social media website Twitter. The DPC has been tracking this activity since 2009, issuing its first report *Real Leaders Tweet* in Feb 2010 and its second *World Leaders on Twitter: Ranking Report* in October 2010. Both examined how heads of state around the world are using the World Wide Web to engage their citizens.

Updates to World Rankings

Joining the revolutionary wave

In 2010 the DPC recorded a strong movement towards open government, as leaders began aggressively pursuing social media channels as a new type of direct communication with their citizens and the global community.

Analyses as of August 2011 reveals that 42%, or two out of five heads of state, are at present on the social media site Twitter. A total of 69 world leaders out of 164 countries have accounts on Twitter set up in their personal name or through an official government office. In 2010 only 33 out of 163 countries were using Twitter. **The new figures represent over a 100% increase in the number of heads of state and national governments on Twitter from 2010.**

Last year the idea of governments to openly engage their citizens and the global community directly was brought to the forefront, with President Obama’s open government directive and the UK, Australia, and Japan following suit. However, in 2011, internet political activism ignited more rapidly than the open government movement. This trend has begun to cause some retrenchment of the movement towards open government. During the pro-democracy uprisings that swept the Middle East and North Africa, now known as the Arab Spring, demonstrators openly acknowledged the role of digital media as a fundamental infrastructure for their work.

For the period of the Arab Spring, statistics collected by Digital Daya's social intelligence command center revealed 6 million+ fans/followers flocking to dissident social media accounts versus any accounts that government authorities had set up. Whereas the intensification of online activism is often seen as a “threat” to governments, an encouraging outcome has been the increase in the number of heads of state that are using Twitter, showing a broader and growing adoption of this medium.

Since citizens are now flocking to social media for political activity, more aggressive efforts by government and more engaging channels can offset dissident sites and balance out the political power. For example, in the wake of the London riots, rather than threatening to shut down social media/BlackBerry services in London, Prime Minister Cameron could have been better off with a strong network of influencers and online channels to get his message out to citizens and to the youth participating in the riots that unnerved Britain.

Noteworthy Changes in the Top 10



The heads of state in the Top 10 list has changed dramatically since October 2010 seeing three new entrants from Brazil, Philippines and Argentina, along with the exit of some key proponents of social media due to political administration changeovers.

#1

President Obama holds on to the top spot with a vast 9 million followers having added 5 million followers a year later. Although the Twitter account continues to be managed by his 2012 presidential campaign staff, midway through 2011 it was announced that President Obama would begin tweeting from the @BarackObama account personally and his tweets will be signed with his initials.

During the debt-ceiling standoff in July 2011, Obama tweeted “The time for putting party first is over. If you want to see a bipartisan #compromise, let Congress know. Call. Email. Tweet. —BO.” He put his campaign aides to work, as staff posted more than 100 Twitter messages in one day urging followers to pressure their lawmakers to find a compromise.

#2

President Hugo Chávez of Venezuela, growing by over a million followers and grabbing the #2 spot, now calls the service “a weapon that also needs to be used by the revolution.” Political analysts view Twitter as a fundamental instrument for

Chávez with “tremendous propaganda value and is part of his charisma mechanism.” Just how valuable Twitter is to the effusive leader is to a certain extent quantified through his Klout score¹ (the representation of influence and ability to compel action by others online) as **Chávez currently maintains the highest score of any world leader matched only by President Obama**. It should be noted that those with Klout scores from 70-80 are “thought leaders that are not only referring content, but creating original content and ideas.” Eighty and above reflects that the personality is extremely well known. They are followed not only by those who care about their topics, but even in broader areas and usually by a more global audience.

Chávez’s Klout score reflects frequent communications with other world leaders. Through Twitter he expressed his condolences to Argentinean president Cristina Fernández after the death of her husband, he congratulated Brazil’s newly elected president, and he affirmed his solidarity with President Felipe Calderón of Mexico after a devastating mudslide. All four of these Latin American leaders have achieved a tremendous growth in followers in just one year. **In fact, Latin American leaders now make up 50% of the Top 10.**

Furthermore, Twitter’s popularity in Venezuela immediately grew with Chavez’s entrance to the social media sphere. An online polling firm noted in 2010 that nearly 90% of the two hundred most-followed Venezuelans on Twitter are actually opponents of Chavez. Some feel that Chavez joining Twitter may have unknowingly given more credibility to his opponents. In July 2011 when Chavez traveled to Cuba to undergo medical treatment, he used Twitter as a way to remain in the public’s eye while out of the country, communicate with his cabinet, and approve government programs, which prompted media headlines such as “Chavez governs homeland using Twitter.”

#3

The 10 Downing Street Twitter account slipped a notch as U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron, having brushed aside Twitter in 2009 for being too “instant,” still does not personally tweet and communications continue to refer to him in the third person. However, the account will continue to be buoyed by a newly hired Executive Director of Digital, responsible for the overall user experience across all digital channels, following a strategic plan launched by U.K. Digital Champion Martha Lane-Fox. The recently created job position was touted by the media as “a highly paid ‘Twitter Tsar’ to boost the Government’s online presence.”

#4

Mexico remained in the top ten in 2011, and became the first country in the world to have its president and his entire cabinet using Twitter. In the same week that Felipe Calderón’s government announced the cabinet’s entry into the realm of social media, the World Economic Forum issued its “Report on Global Information Technology.” Mexico showed no growth in the last year, as it still ranks 78 out of 133 in the use of information technology. The cabinet may all have a Twitter account assigned to their name but that doesn’t necessarily mean citizens of Mexico can access them.

#5

A fresh entry into the top ten in 2011 was newly elected president of Brazil, Dilma Rouseff. Her first tweet after her election win in Brazil was “It is an honour and a great feeling to be chosen to preside over my country. I promise each and every Brazilian my total dedication.” At the time she had already 330,000 followers and although her activity dwindled after election, her following has grown by over 100 percent since then.

¹ Klout is a company based out of San Francisco, USA providing social media analytics. The Klout Score measures influence on a scale of 1 to 100, with 100 being the most influential. Social influence measurement is an evolving field with standards yet to be agreed upon and the scores currently remain volatile.

#6 The president of the Philippines Benigno Aquino III is showing the strongest social media presence of any other Asian leader. When his predecessor Gloria Arroyo left office in 2010 she had 500,000 fewer followers than Aquino has currently! A question does arise though: is the president engaging with his constituents? Practically all the other leaders in the top 10 have Klout scores between 70 and 80. Aquino's score is 57.

#7 President Abdullah Gül of Turkey increased his following by over 500,000 people this year. In May, President Gül announced on his Twitter account, "In my opinion, there should be no restrictions on freedom. People should be able to surf the Internet freely." The Turkish Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, also uses Twitter with 286,000 followers.

#8 When Argentinean President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner appeared on Twitter in the second half of 2010, the country's traditional media channels spread her first tweets like wildfire, which encouraged the people of Argentina to join Twitter out of curiosity. In fact, the number of accounts increased by 2,500% in 2010, according to social media analysis Grupo EcuLink. In the months that followed, Twitter became one of the main political battlegrounds in Argentina between politicians and citizens. Through Twitter, the president and her cabinet have been met by the opposition with debate which has been more participative, transparent and horizontal than in the past. According to digital media experts in Argentina, **Twitter plays a crucial role in the government's communication strategy with the citizenship** and even though traditional media in that country is still important, there is said to be less need for a middleman now.

#9 Chilean president Sebastián Piñera built a very strong relationship with his followers early on in his presidency by providing crucial information about a devastating earthquake, the trapped miners, and his country's Bicentennial events. In Chile the entire government has now been put on Twitter and its 22 ministers are all mutually following each other. Overall, 2011 results show that it is in Latin America where the heads of state and government are the most active. This is not entirely due to the miraculous rescue of the "miners of Chile and the miners of God," to quote a tweet from the Argentinean president.

#10 In Dec. 2010 and into 2011, the Middle East experienced what is now known as The Arab Spring, a revolutionary wave of demonstrations and protests occurring in the Arab world. Queen Rania, the queen consort of the King of Jordan, although not appearing on our list, now has over 1.6 million followers. This year her presence on Twitter has been low key and her overall image altered, which some interpret as a response to the challenge thrown up by the wave of political unrest in the region and to public criticism she faced this spring through an open letter signed by Jordanian tribal leaders. The queen now appears more focused on charitable and educational projects. It seems that Jordan has effectively marginalized a very powerful media asset.

Overall, it appears that Middle Eastern leaders are not yet taking advantage of Twitter as a tool to engage with their people who are in point of fact "making frenetic use of social media to oust them one by one" according to commentators. The Middle East does not share the same increase in numbers that Latin American leaders experienced in 2011.

The notable exception is His Highness Sheikh Mohammed, Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, who has increased his social communications with amplified tweets from his Twitter account and a new iPhone app to allow the UAE citizenry and residents to have quick and easy access to news related to Sheikh Mohammed such as issued decrees, resolutions and directives. The app provides a news channel, his Facebook page, and Twitter page all in one application with a feature to switch between Arabic and English. His Highness is currently ranked 10th overall and remains a strong example of leadership for the Middle East in engaging his citizenry with open communication.

State Fragility Remains a Determining Factor

The DPC's analyses shows that 80% of the countries on the list are considered politically stable, reconfirming that leaders who are confident in their leadership role and assured of their political legitimacy are most comfortable with social media regardless of the form of government whether they serve in democracies, autocracies or monarchies. In fact, there are now 16 countries out of the total that tweet which are "non-democratic" up from seven countries in 2010.

The political leadership of most fragile nations, or those with a high degree of political instability, continue to view social media as a threat and adoption remains low. Exceptions to this include President Goodluck Jonathan of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (whose account grew by over 16,000 followers in one year) and President Michel Martelly of Haiti who currently has a Klout score around 65, meaning that at this point he has reached critical mass and people are interacting regularly with his content.

In the Age of Participation

Open communication from heads of state through social media channels such as Twitter is only a single dimension of a much broader transformation. The empowerment of public service officials with an eagerness for innovation and recognition of the value of citizen engagement -- asking for feedback and listening to constituents are part of this wave of change.

Russian president Dmitry Medvedev is one leader who chooses to tweet in his native language and in English, with separate accounts for each. In late 2010, a personal account in the president's name appeared in both languages and currently his Russian language @MedvedevRussia has the largest following. The 2012 presidential elections in Russia are perhaps the reason for the more personal account, taking cues from President Obama's success in 2008. Several other leaders have opened Twitter accounts in both their native language and English in order to reach a larger audience. These leaders are the new prime minister of Japan, the president of Azerbaijan and the prime minister of Kazakhstan.

In addition to a head of state using Twitter, some countries also have their national office represented with a Twitter account such as the White House, Mexico's federal government, "@KremlinRussia", and Malaysia's @mygovernment. Out of 70 tweeting "heads of state," 18 of these are national offices.

However, most countries with national offices are the main or even sole Twitter voice for that government, including new accounts such as the presidency of the Dominican Republic, prime ministry of the Netherlands, and "government" accounts for Germany, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Montenegro, and Vanuatu that have all recently come on the scene. Even government portals have established Twitter accounts, such as the portal of Hungary, Uzbekistan, and E-portal of Oman.

Some of these are PR broadcasts and others actually contain communications by the associated head of state. The Office of the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago has followed 10 Downing Street creating a @15StClairAve account which is a combination of broadcasts and actual quotes from the prime minister. The past year also showed an increase of interactions between heads of state. The German government and the French presidency recently tweeted about a video conference between leaders Merkel, Obama, Sarkozy and Cameron. The French president even posted a photo of the event on Twitpic to document the scene.

Conclusion

It is clear from the tumultuous uprisings in 2011 that political stability of nations along with political longevity of its leaders are inextricably tied to engagement of civil society. If civil society feels they have no means of participating in their own governance and feel their leaders unreceptive to hearing their grievances, they now have new means through social media and mobile communication platforms to organize very effective civil dissent.

This fact did not go unnoticed by the World Bank President, Robert Zoellick, who in April announced a principal new strategy to be carried forward by the Bank. Influenced by the political shifts engulfing the Middle East and North Africa, the president concluded that greater citizen participation and better governance are critical to economic development and as such signaled a major policy shift in the Bank.

Zoellick's latest initiative is to introduce "new capabilities and facilities" to help strengthen the ability of governments and civil society to work together "collaboratively" in improving the effectiveness of government services and economic opportunities for its citizens. The basic message of Zoellick's new policy is that "you can't have successful economic development without good governance and participation of citizens."

The Digital Policy Council reiterates its advisory view that governments that lack platforms or policy to engage their citizenry and the global community on the Net will find themselves vulnerable when conducting 21st century politics.



2011 ranking	Name	Country	Polity Score	Regime Type	Fragility	Tweeting Since	Followers (Aug 2011)	Handle	Link	Klout	2010 ranking
1	President Barack Obama	United States	10	DEM	2	3/5/2007	9,692,253	BarackObama	https://twitter.com/BarackObama	89	1
2	President Hugo Chavez	Venezuela	-3	ANO	9	4/28/2010	1,932,038	chavezcandanga	http://twitter.com/chavezcandanga	89	4
3	10 Downing Street (Prime Minister David Cameron)	United Kingdom	10	DEM	0	3/26/2008	1,831,143	number10gov	http://twitter.com/number10gov	74	2
4	President Felipe Calderón	Mexico	8	DEM	3	4/23/2009	873,736	FelipeCalderon	http://twitter.com/FelipeCalderon	81	8
5	President Dilma Rousseff	Brazil	8	DEM	5	4/10/2010	760,153	Dilmabr	http://twitter.com/Dilmabr	71	New
6	President Benigno Aquino III	Philippines	8	DEM	12	8/27/2009	591,624	noynoyaquino	http://twitter.com/noynoyaquino	57	27
7	President Abdullah Gul	Turkey	7	DEM	10	12/9/2009	566,594	cbabdullahgul	http://twitter.com/cbabdullahgul	72	10
8	President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner	Argentina	8	DEM	1	4/30/2010	560,340	CFKArgentina	http://twitter.com/CFKArgentina	80	New
9	President Sebastián Piñera	Chile	10	DEM	2	2/18/2008	509,283	sebastianpinera	http://twitter.com/sebastianpinera	77	7
10	His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum	United Arab Emirates	-8	AUT	3	6/3/2009	445,725	HHShkMohd	http://twitter.com/HHShkMohd	68	6
11	President Dmitry Medvedev	Russia	4	ANO	8	6/9/2010	434,161	MedvedevRussia	http://twitter.com/medvedevrussia	73	12
12	President Juan Manuel Santos	Colombia	7	DEM	11	8/11/2009	339,071	JuanManSantos	http://twitter.com/JuanManSantos	77	31
13	Prime Minister Naoto Kan	Japan	10	DEM	0	3/13/2011	334,929	Kantei_Saigai	http://twitter.com/kantei_saigai	70	5

Note: **Fragility Score** [0="Highly Stable" to 25="Extreme Fragility"]: State Fragility Index measuring the country's Political, Economic, Social, and Security stability ("Stable" are scores 0-11 => Little to Moderate Fragility, "Fragile" are scores 12-25 => Serious to Extreme Fragility)
Polity Score [-10 to -6 "Autocracy", -5 to +5 "Anocracy", +6 to +10 "Democracy"]: Measures degree of democracy on 21 point scale (-10 to +10) ranging from monarchy to fully institutionalized democracy

2011 ranking	Name	Country	Polity Score	Regime Type	Fragility	Tweeting Since	Followers (Aug 2011)	Handle	Link	Klout	2010 ranking
14	Prime Minister Najib Razak	Malaysia	6	DEM	6	9/21/2008	181,447	NajibRazak	http://twitter.com/NajibRazak	73	15
15	Prime Minister Stephen Harper	Canada	10	DEM	0	7/11/2007	161,683	pmharper	http://twitter.com/pmharper	68	13
16	Gabinete SEC (Ministerio de la Presidencia)	Spain	10	DEM	1	7/20/2009	148,981	desdelamoncloa	http://twitter.com/desdelamoncloa	68	11
17	Prime Minister Julia Gillard	Australia	10	DEM	2	7/4/2010	120,885	JuliaGillard	http://twitter.com/JuliaGillard	70	14
18	Prime Minister Essam Sharaf	Egypt	-3	AUT	13	4/19/2011	100,878	DrEssamSharaf	http://twitter.com/DrEssamSharaf	69	New
19	President Elect Ollanta Humala	Peru	9	DEM	7	6/2/2010	78,826	Ollanta_HumalaT	http://twitter.com/Ollanta_HumalaT	73	New
20	Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg	Norway	10	DEM	2	2/13/2009	76,358	JensStoltenberg	http://twitter.com/jensstoltenberg	75	16
21	President Ricardo Martinelli	Panama	9	DEM	5	2/10/2011	75,739	rmartinelli	http://twitter.com/rmartinelli	79	New
22	Office of the President of the Republic of Korea (HE Cheong Wa Dae)	South Korea	8	DEM	0	4/14/2010	62,263	BlueHouseKorea	http://twitter.com/BluehouseKorea	63	17
23	President Laura Chinchilla Miranda	Costa Rica	10	DEM	0	1/19/2009	56,015	Laura_Ch	http://twitter.com/Laura_Ch	61	21
24	Prime Minister of Netherlands, maintained by the Government Information Service	Netherlands	10	DEM	0	6/14/2010	50,443	minpres	https://twitter.com/minpres	62	New
25	President of Ecuador Rafael Correa	Ecuador	5	DEM	12	10/29/2010	49,820	MashiRafael	http://twitter.com/MashiRafael	78	New
26	President Jacob Zuma	South Africa	9	DEM	9	5/9/2011	47,269	SAPresident	http://twitter.com/SAPresident	64	New

Note: **Fragility Score** [0="Highly Stable" to 25="Extreme Fragility"]: State Fragility Index measuring the country's Political, Economic, Social, and Security stability ("Stable" are scores 0-11 => Little to Moderate Fragility, "Fragile" are scores 12-25 => Serious to Extreme Fragility)
Polity Score [-10 to -6 "Autocracy", -5 to +5 "Anocracy", +6 to +10 "Democracy"]: Measures degree of democracy on 21 point scale (-10 to +10) ranging from monarchy to fully institutionalized democracy

2011 ranking	Name	Country	Polity Score	Regime Type	Fragility	Tweeting Since	Followers (Aug 2011)	Handle	Link	Klout	2010 ranking
27	Presidency of France (Nicolas Sarkozy)	France	9	DEM	0	10/13/2008	41,223	Elysee	http://twitter.com/Elysee	61	25
28	Federal Government of Germany	Germany	10	DEM	0	1/5/2011	34,175	RegSprecher	http://twitter.com/RegSprecher	63	New
29	Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu	Israel	10	DEM	8	10/30/2008	27,628	netanyahu	http://twitter.com/netanyahu	55	23
30	Prime Minister John Key	New Zealand	10	DEM	1	11/14/2008	25,689	johnkeypm	https://twitter.com/johnkeypm	57	20
31	Outgoing Prime Minister Yves Leterme	Belgium	8	DEM	2	1/21/2010	23,474	YLeterme	http://twitter.com/YLeterme	50	22
32	President Paul Kagame	Rwanda	-4	ANO	20	5/4/2009	22,626	PaulKagame	http://twitter.com/PaulKagame	57	33
33	Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra	Thailand	4	ANO	7	5/20/2011	19,928	PouYingluck	http://twitter.com/PouYingluck	63	9
34	Presidency of Portugal	Portugal	10	DEM	0	10/11/2008	19,124	presidencia	http://twitter.com/presidencia	46	New
35	President Goodluck Jonathan	Nigeria	4	DEM	20	7/6/2010	18,556	JGoodlucktweets	http://twitter.com/JGoodlucktweets	46	28
36	President Michel Martelly	Haiti	-77	DEM	14	1/20/2010	17,135	presidentmicky	http://twitter.com/presidentmicky	64	New
37	President Tarja Halonen	Finland	10	DEM	0	4/30/2009	12,643	TarjaHalonen	http://twitter.com/TarjaHalonen	51	New
38	Prime Minister George Papandreou	Greece	10	DEM	1	1/12/2010	12,089	primeministergr	http://twitter.com/primeministergr	59	30
39	Prime Minister Karim Massimov	Kazakhstan	-6	AUT	10	2/16/2011	10,556	KarimMassimov	http://twitter.com/KarimMassimov	58	New

Note: **Fragility Score** [0="Highly Stable" to 25="Extreme Fragility"]: State Fragility Index measuring the country's Political, Economic, Social, and Security stability ("Stable" are scores 0-11 => Little to Moderate Fragility, "Fragile" are scores 12-25 => Serious to Extreme Fragility)
Polity Score [-10 to -6 "Autocracy", -5 to +5 "Anocracy", +6 to +10 "Democracy"]: Measures degree of democracy on 21 point scale (-10 to +10) ranging from monarchy to fully institutionalized democracy

2011 ranking	Name	Country	Polity Score	Regime Type	Fragility	Tweeting Since	Followers (Aug 2011)	Handle	Link	Klout	2010 ranking
40	Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen	Denmark	10	DEM	0	3/24/2009	9,144	larsloekke	https://twitter.com/larsloekke	40	24
41	Taoiseach Enda Kenny	Ireland	10	DEM	0	4/21/2010	8,751	EndaKennyTD	http://twitter.com/EndaKennyTD	44	New
42	Prime Minister Valdis Dombrovskis	Latvia	8	DEM	0	6/24/2009	7,579	VDombrovskis	http://twitter.com/vdombrovskis	52	26
43	Prime Minister Barham Salih	Kurdistan Region of Iraq	n/a	n/a	n/a	4/22/2009	7,380	barhamsalih	http://twitter.com/barhamsalih	44	New
44	President Ilham Aliyev	Azerbaijan	-7	AUT	14	7/27/2010	6,046	azpresident	http://twitter.com/azpresident	46	New
45	President Roza Otunbayeva	Kyrgyzstan	7	n/a	11	3/19/2010	4,750	Otunbayeva	http://twitter.com/otunbayeva	48	New
46	Presidency of Dominican Republic	Dominican Republic	8	DEM	6	4/13/2010	4,479	PresidenciaRD	http://twitter.com/PresidenciaRD	59	New
47	Prime Minister Raila Odinga	Kenya	8	DEM	14	5/18/2011	3,839	odinga_raila	http://twitter.com/odinga_raila	60	New
48	Prime Minister Batbold Sukhbaatar	Mongolia	10	DEM	8	12/3/2010	3,549	BatboldPM	http://twitter.com/BatboldPM	42	New
49	Prime Minister Donald Tusk	Poland	10	DEM	0	7/17/2009	3,288	PremierRP	http://twitter.com/PremierRP	45	29
50	Government of the Czech Republic	Czech Republic	8	DEM	1	7/8/2010	2,799	strakovka	http://twitter.com/strakovka	38	New
51	President Ivo Josipović	Croatia	9	DEM	3	7/13/2009	2,786	ivojosipovic	http://twitter.com/ivojosipovic	26	32
52	Government of Guatemala	Guatemala	8	DEM	10	9/2/2009	2,508	GobiernoGuate	http://twitter.com/GobiernoGuate	46	New
53	President Alassane Ouattara	Ivory Coast	-77	--	16	10/29/2009	1,588	adosolutions	http://twitter.com/adosolutions	39	New

Note: **Fragility Score** [0="Highly Stable" to 25="Extreme Fragility"]: State Fragility Index measuring the country's Political, Economic, Social, and Security stability ("Stable" are scores 0-11 => Little to Moderate Fragility, "Fragile" are scores 12-25 => Serious to Extreme Fragility)
Polity Score [-10 to -6 "Autocracy", -5 to +5 "Anocracy", +6 to +10 "Democracy"]: Measures degree of democracy on 21 point scale (-10 to +10) ranging from monarchy to fully institutionalized democracy

Appendix A: World Leader Rankings

2011 ranking	Name	Country	Polity Score	Regime Type	Fragility	Tweeting Since	Followers (Aug 2011)	Handle	Link	Klout	2010 ranking
54	Prime Minister Iveta Radičová	Slovakia	10	DEM	1	9/27/2010	1,321	Iveta_Radicova	http://twitter.com/iveta_Radico_va	30	New
55	President Yoweri Museveni	Uganda	-1	AUT	16	3/27/2010	1,117	KagutaMuseveni	http://twitter.com/KagutaMuseveni	46	New
56	Government of Lithuania	Lithuania	10	DEM	1	5/20/2009	695	Vyriausybe	http://twitter.com/vyriausybe	17	New
57	Prime Minister Salam Fayyad	Palestine	n/a	n/a	n/a	10/5/2009	616	SalamFayyad_pm	http://twitter.com/salamfayyad_pm	32	New
58	Acting President Marian Lupu	Moldova	8	DEM	9	7/2/2009	381	MarianLupuMd	http://twitter.com/MarianLupuMd	15	New
59	Prime Minister Nguyễn Tấn Dũng	Vietnam	-7	AUT	7	2/11/2011	379	nguyen_tandung	http://twitter.com/nguyen_tandung	30	New
60	Government portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan	Uzbekistan	-9	AUT	13	9/18/2009	366	GOVuz	http://twitter.com/GOVuz	36	New
61	President John Atta Mills	Ghana	8	DEM	14	12/17/2010	286	presidencyghana	http://twitter.com/presidencyghana	28	
62	President Yayi Boni	Bénin	7	DEM	14	12/30/2009	227	DrBoniYAYI	http://twitter.com/DrBoniYAYI	21	New
63	Government of Montenegro	Montenegro	9	DEM	3	6/1/2011	219	MeGovernment	https://twitter.com/MeGovernment	41	New
64	President's Office of Republic of Maldives	Maldives	n/a	DEM	n/a	1/8/2011	190	presidencymv	http://twitter.com/presidencymv	31	New
65	Government Portal of Hungary	Hungary	10	DEM	0	1/12/2011	143	kormany_hu	http://twitter.com/kormany_hu	14	New
66	President Ernest Bai Koroma	Sierra Leone	7	DEM	19	9/9/2010	104	presidentkoroma	http://twitter.com/presidentkoroma	15	New
67	E-government Portal of Oman	Oman	-8	AUT	5	8/30/2010	95	eomanportal	https://twitter.com/eomanportal	0	New
68	Office of the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago	10	DEM	4	7/11/2010	68	15StClairAve	http://twitter.com/15stclairave	14	New
69	Government of Vanuatu	Vanuatu	n/a	DEM	n/a	11/22/2010	34	govofvanuatu	http://twitter.com/govofvanuatu	0	New

Note: **Fragility Score** [0="Highly Stable" to 25="Extreme Fragility"]: State Fragility Index measuring the country's Political, Economic, Social, and Security stability ("Stable" are scores 0-11 => Little to Moderate Fragility, "Fragile" are scores 12-25 => Serious to Extreme Fragility)
Polity Score [-10 to -6 "Autocracy", -5 to +5 "Anocracy", +6 to +10 "Democracy"]: Measures degree of democracy on 21 point scale (-10 to +10) ranging from monarchy to fully institutionalized democracy

APPENDIX B: Guide to Political Scores

The Polity Spectrum of Governance

Government Types

The Polity IV Project, a well-respected research group, tracks the characteristics and transitions of regime characteristics to quantify and compare political schema over time, and on a global scale.

Begun in 1975, Polity is based on foundational research conducted by the collaborative work of Harry Eckstein in his seminal thesis, *Patterns of Authority: A Structural Basis for Political Inquiry*. Since its inception, Polity has tracked trends in governance on a worldwide scale, and has become the “most widely-used data resource for studying regime change and the effects of regime authority.”

The most recent rendition, the Polity IV Project, collates data through 2010 at the Center for Systemic Peace and George Mason University, with its main campus located in Fairfax, Virginia, U.S.

The Polity IV dataset covers all major, independent states in the global system (i.e., states with total population of 500,000 or more in the most recent year).

The Polity approach to analysis employs a unique methodology, examining “concomitant qualities of democratic and autocratic authority” in institutional governments, assigning a quantifiable score based on a 21-point scale that ranges from hereditary monarchies, which are scored at -10, to consolidated and stable democracies which are given a score of +10.

Polity Score:	
> -10 to -6	"Autocracy"
-5 to +5	"Anocracy"
+6 to +10	"Democracy"

The organization makes no value judgments in its scoring model. It is simply a means by which change can be measured, evaluated and assessed and data collated. It should be considered an index – a measurement used to compare the status quo over time. As governments evolve, as new regimes gain or lose power, their scores change, providing a measureable means of tracking change in the way countries govern their people.

Today, 93 of the 164 states recognized by the United Nations (57%) are considered to be fully democratic, or to put it another way, more than half the world’s population lives under a consolidated democracy as free citizens with a say in the role of their governments.

In 1940, the number of autocratic nations far outweighed the number of democratic governments. When compared with today’s data, there is a clear trend toward a more democratic world – a trend that continues to grow as social media expands its sphere of influence.

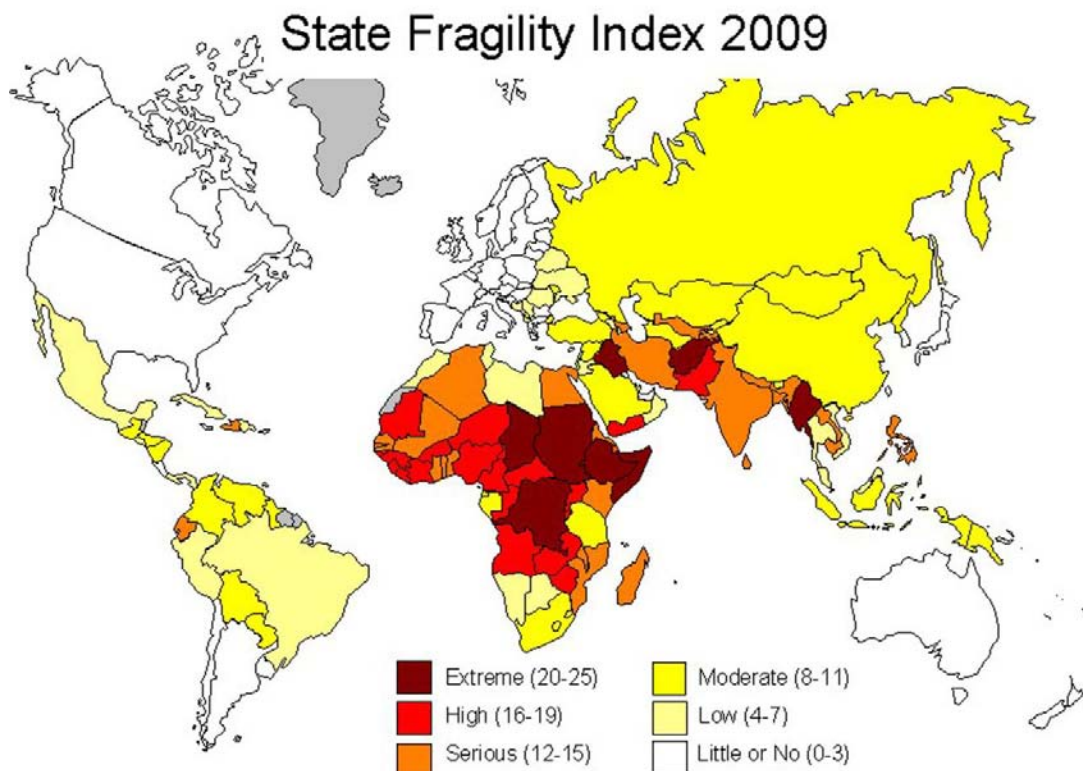
Stability of Government

The data set collated by the most recent publication of Polity covers 164 countries currently recognized by the United Nations and spans the time frame from 1800 through 2010.

In addition to the creation of a tracking index to measure change in how states are governed, Polity also develops what it calls its State Fragility Index. This index is a yardstick of how stable current regimes are – how entrenched the system of government is.

States with high fragility scores are more inclined to change than governments of countries with low fragility scores, indicating that governance around the world is in a constant state of flux.

The map below, developed by Polity, shows those countries that are most stable in terms of governance. The map indicates those countries that are most and least stable in 2009. Countries with high fragility scores are more susceptible to change, either peaceful change or revolutionary change, but change nonetheless.



Aspects of “fragility” include such elements as factionalism, important policy changes that affect broad segments of the population, autocratic “backsliding,” auto-coups and the collapse of the state government (state failure).

August 2011

A quick review of the map indicates that world governance is in a constant state of evolution. The State Fragility Index ranges from > 0 ="Highly Stable" to 25="Extreme Fragility" measuring the country's Political, Economic, Social, and Security stability.

The Center for Systemic Peace and Center for Global Policy's fragility index points us toward a more stable world. Measuring each country's political, economic, social and security stability, this organization's fragility index (see map above) indicates that about 36% of all countries have serious to extreme fragility.

Fragility Score:

0-11 Little to Moderate Fragility

12-25 Serious to Extreme Fragility

In other words, approximately two-thirds of the world's population lives under stable or somewhat stable government structures based on the criteria employed by this respected think tank. The trends toward democratization and social and economic stability are increasing.



digitaldaya

© The Digital Policy Council LLC
www.digitaldaya.com