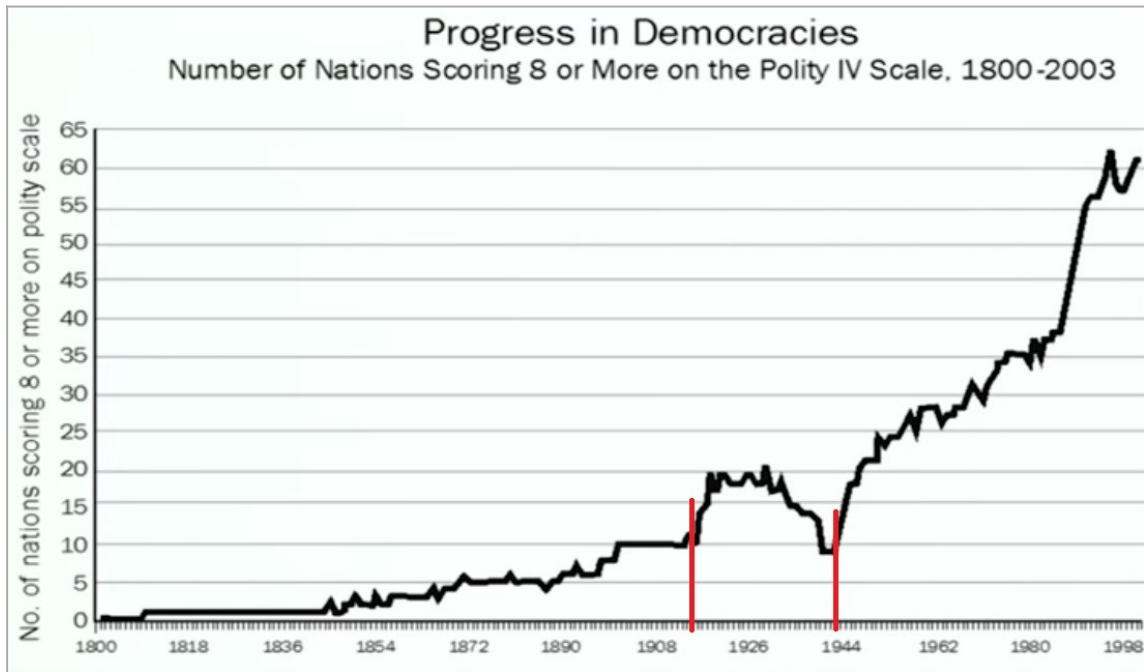


# Societies around the World – Changes with time

## 1) Democracy

Before the year 1800, democracy almost didn't exist, but as populations grew, democracy became an essential element in society, for reasons of law, order and fairness. Diagram 1 shows how the number of democratic countries has increased with time, since 1800. Note the rises after the two world wars.

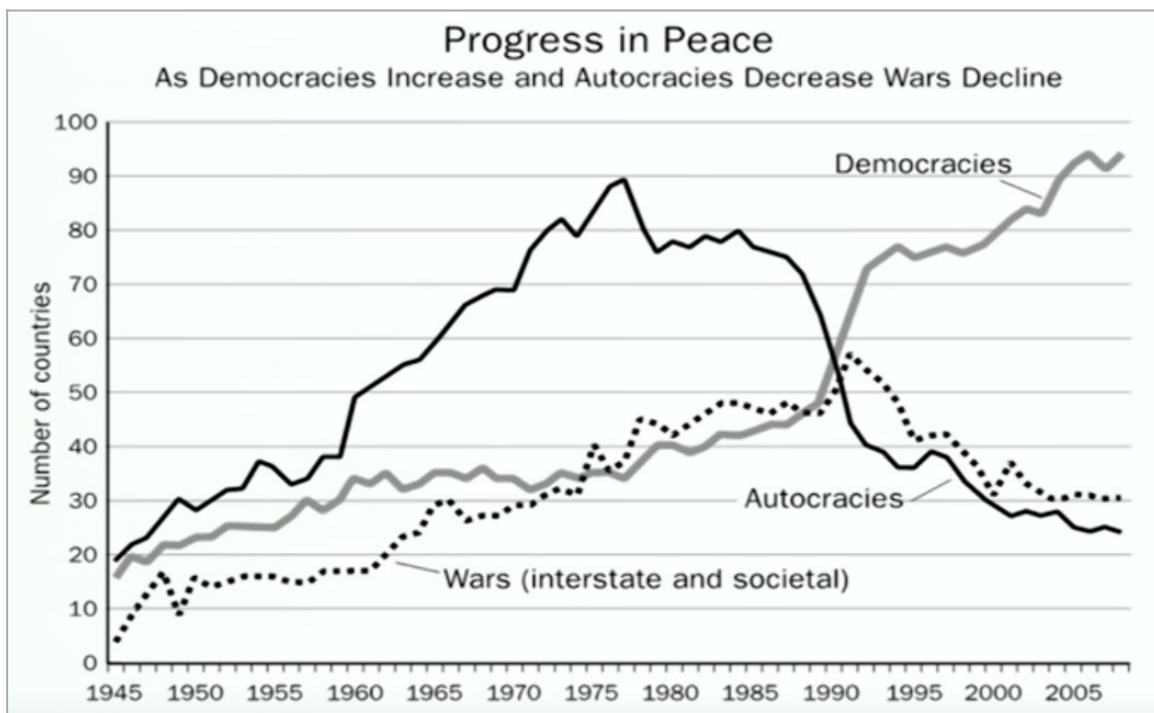


**Diagram 1. The rise in democracies with time.**

*In 2015, 118 of the world's countries (196 in total) had democratic governments.*

In the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the abolition of slavery, civil rights, women's rights, gay rights and animal rights all emerged and are aligned with democratic ideals.

**Democracy = peace?** As the number of democracies increases, and the number of autocracies decreases, wars around the world decline.



**Diagram 2. Does democracy spread peace?**

## 2) Freedom/Slavery

Related to civil rights, the abolition of slavery started to spread around the world in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

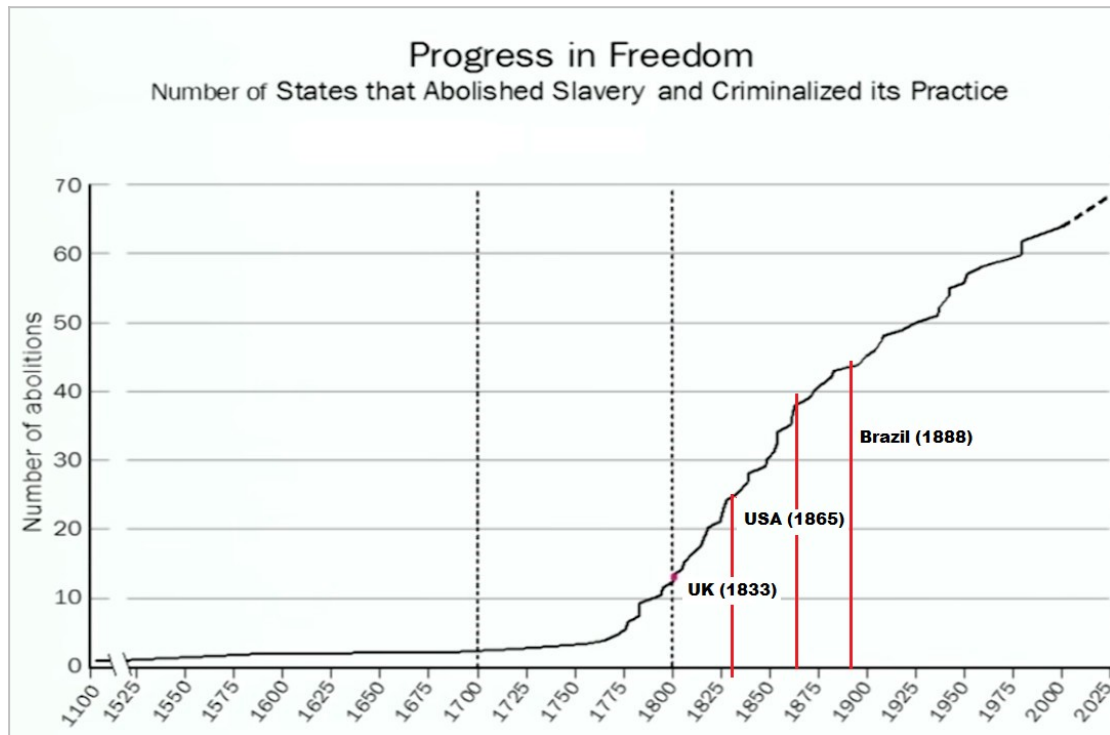


Diagram 3. Progress in Freedom (abolition of slavery).

Countries that still have slavery in 2022:

<https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-that-still-have-slavery>

## 3) Torture

Also related to civil rights, the number of countries where torture was legal started to fall in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. However, today, many countries still use torture for political reasons.

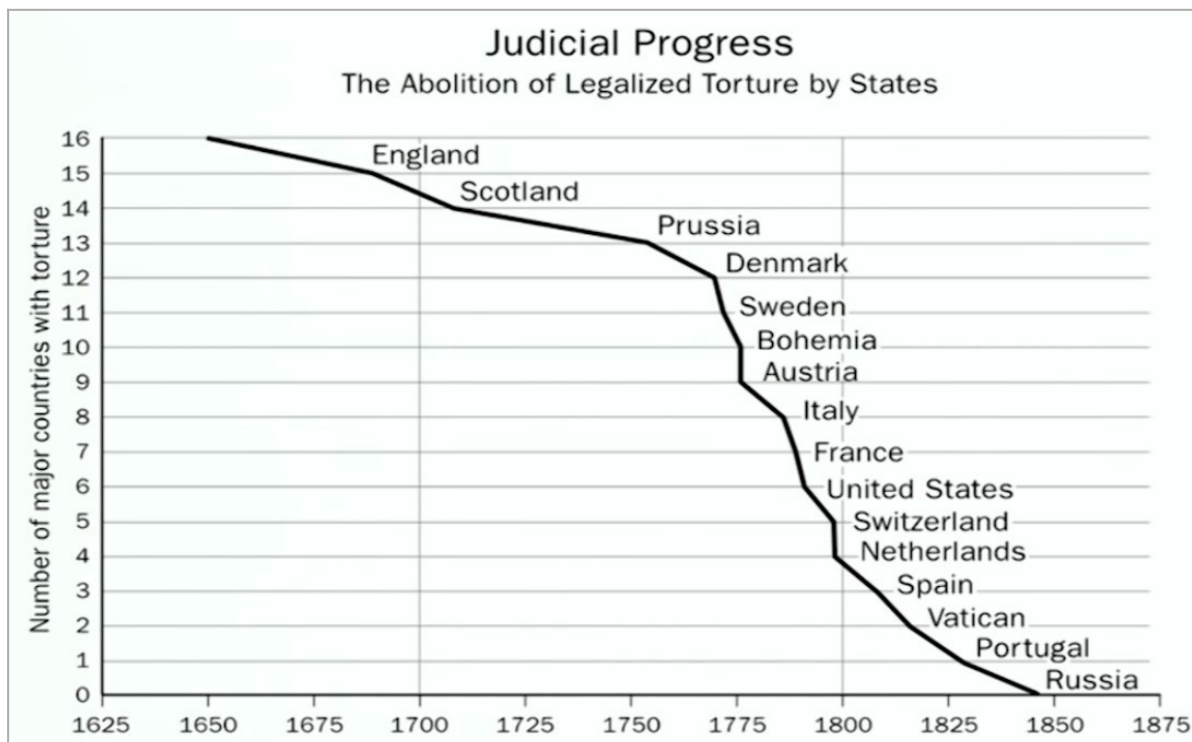


Diagram 4. Judicial Progress (abolition of torture).

#### 4) Capital Punishment

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there was a decline in the number of countries which carry out executions, particularly in the second half of the century.

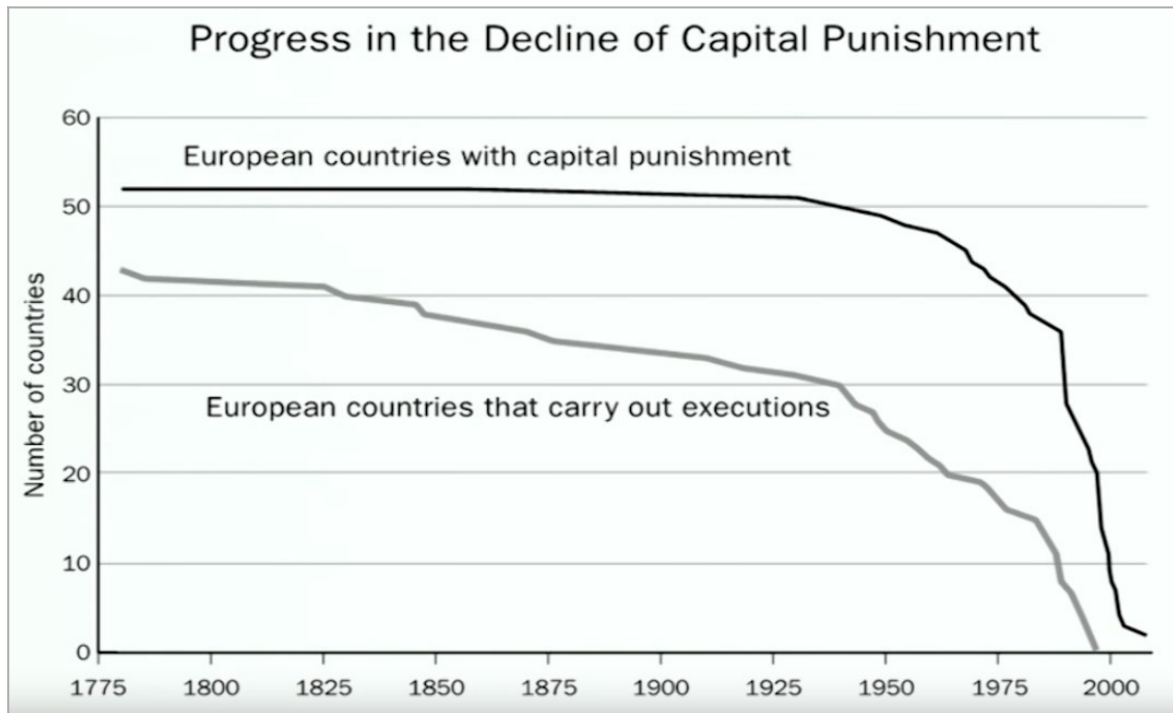


Diagram 5. Decline of Capital Punishment.

Although most countries have abolished capital punishment, over 60% of the world's population live in countries where the death penalty still exists. These countries include China, Iran, Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the USA, Somalia, Yemen, Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Ethiopia and most Islamic countries.

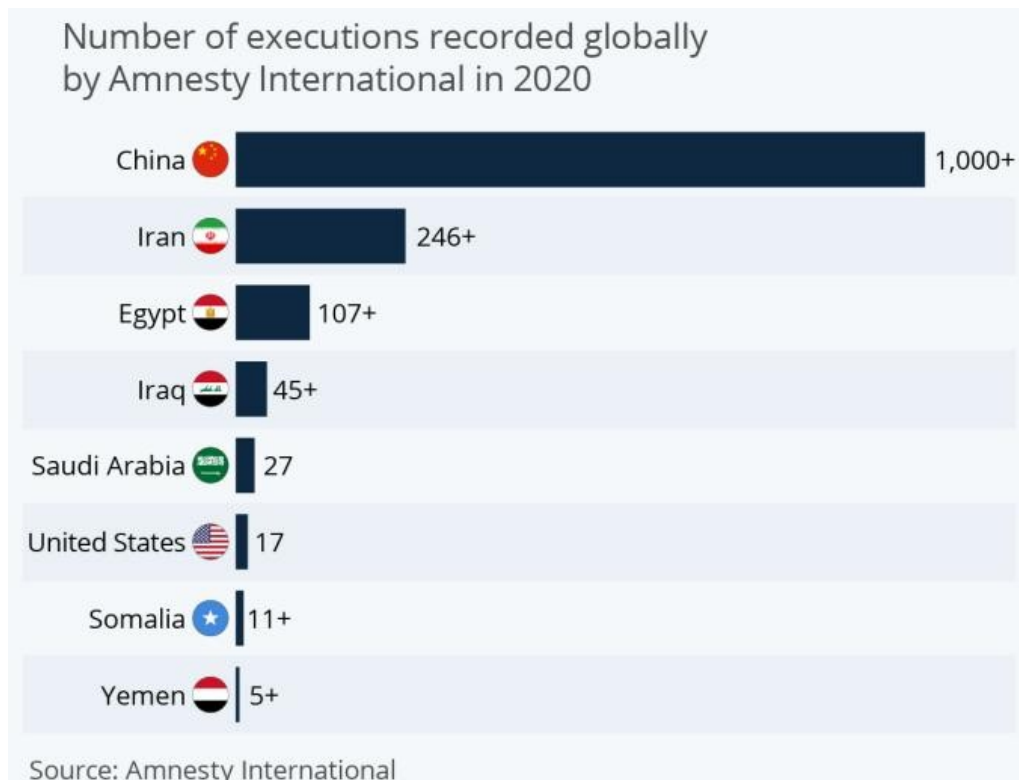


Diagram 6. Countries which carried out executions in 2020.

## 5) Women's right to vote

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there was a continuous increase in the number of countries which allow women to vote. In Diagram 7, note the rises after the two world wars.

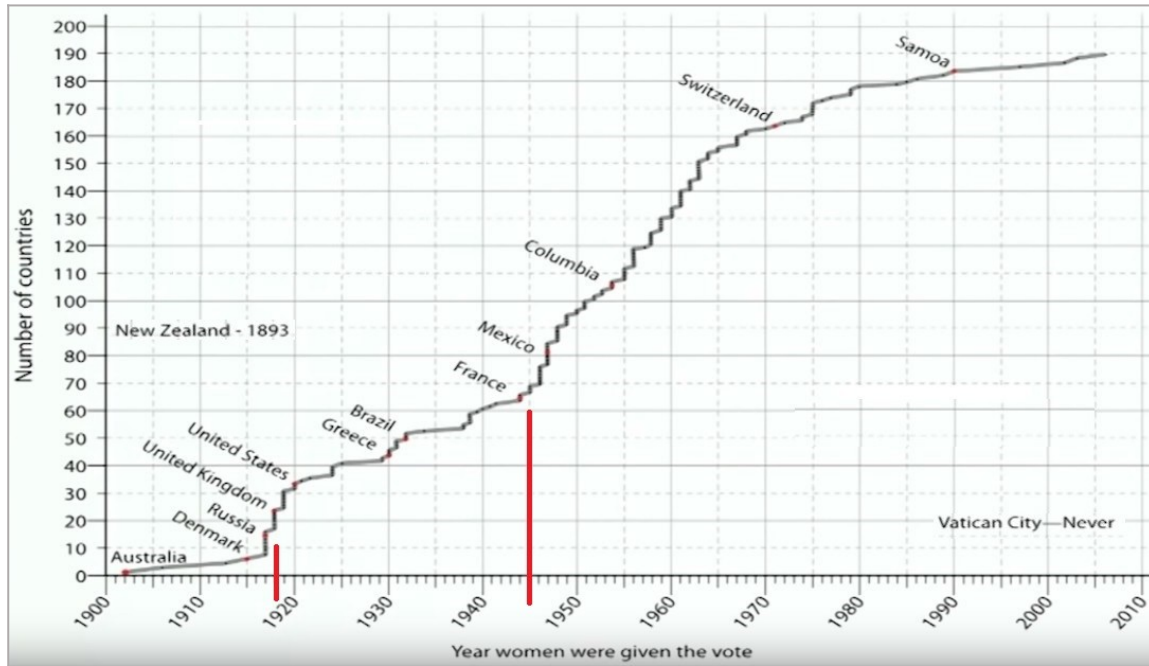


Diagram 7. Countries which allow women to vote.

Until recently, there were only two countries in the world where women couldn't vote. Saudi Arabia was the most recent country to allow women the right to vote, which happened in 2015. Vatican City, in Rome, is now the only country in the world where women cannot vote. When a new Pope is elected, only cardinals can vote, and only men can be cardinals.

## 6) Same-sex marriage

Attitudes to same-sex marriage has been changing recently. In the year 2011, we reached a "crossover" point, where the numbers of supporters and opponents were equal. The global trend is moving to "support".

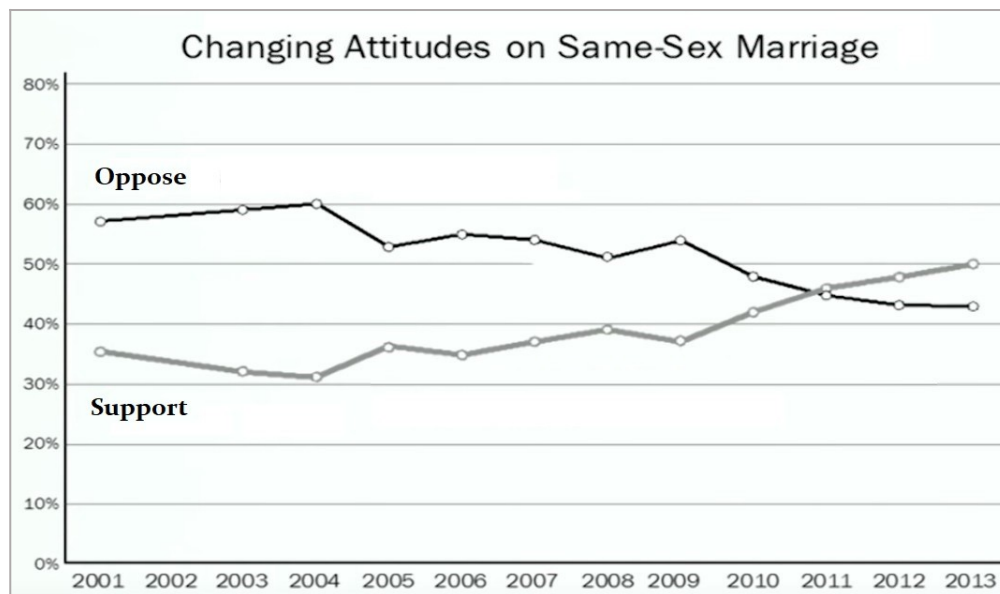


Diagram 8. Changing attitudes on same-sex marriage.

The majority of opponents are religious groups. It is expected that, in the year 2030, there will be little opposition to the idea. However, many people believe that Islamic countries will never be supportive. In fact, in March 2019, the sultan of Brunei made gay sex and adultery punishable by death (by stoning).