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# The Rule of Law for All

8-11 July 2013

The Hague, Netherlands

“(I was called) to bring about the rule of righteousness in the land . . . so that the strong should not harm the weak.”

- Prologue, *Hammurabi's Code*  
(1772 BCE)

**“It is more proper that law should govern than  
any one of the citizens.”**

**- Aristotle, *Politics*  
(350 BCE)**

**“If someone disobeys the law, even if he is (otherwise) worthy, he must be punished. If someone meets the standard, even if he is (otherwise) unworthy, he must be found innocent. Thus the Way of the public good will be opened up, and that of private interest will be blocked.”**

**- The *Huainanzi*  
139 BCE (Han Dynasty, China)**

**"We are all servants of the laws in order that we  
may be free."**

**- Cicero  
(106 BCE - 43 BCE)**

“Where-ever law ends, tyranny begins.”

- John Locke,  
*Two Treatises of Government*  
(1689)

**“We must learn the difficult lesson that an endurable future of humanity will be possible only if . . . decisions are based on law and justice and not on self-righteous power.”**

**- Albert Einstein  
(1939)**

**“We have to create a world where the rule of law, social justice, accountability and a culture of prevention will be the foundations of sustainable development and durable peace.”**

**- Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General  
(2012)**



**Once a survivor, then a champion, and now a  
beacon of the rule of law.**



# Premise #1

- The rule of law is the foundation for communities of opportunity and equity:
  - Sustainable economic development
  - Accountable government
  - Respect for fundamental rights

# A Shared Notion of the Rule of Law: Four Universal Principles

1. The government and its officials and agents as well as individuals and private entities are accountable under the law.
2. The laws are clear, publicized, stable, and just, are applied evenly, and protect fundamental rights, including the security of persons and property.

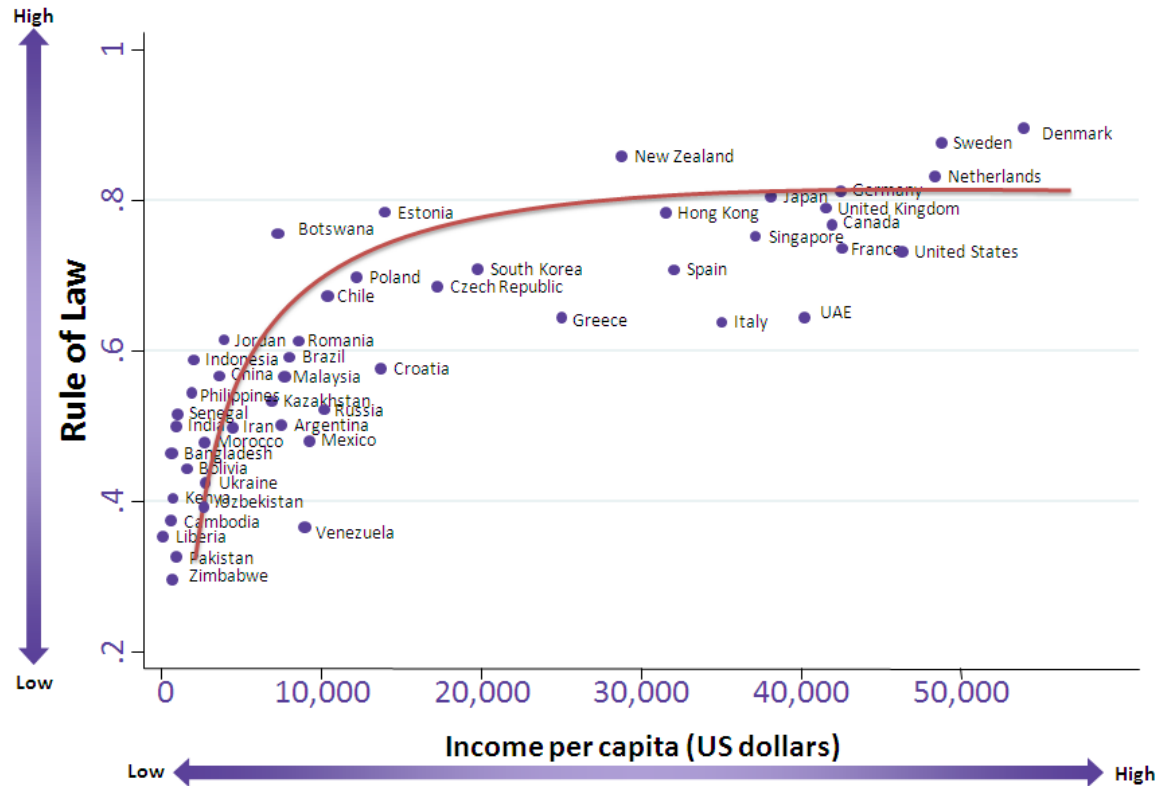
# A Shared Notion of the Rule of Law: Four Universal Principles

3. The process by which the laws are enacted, administered, and enforced is accessible, fair, and efficient.
4. Justice is delivered timely by competent, ethical, and independent representatives and neutrals who are of sufficient number, have adequate resources, and reflect the makeup of the communities they serve.

# Does the Rule of Law Matter?

- Economic development
- Political development
- Human development

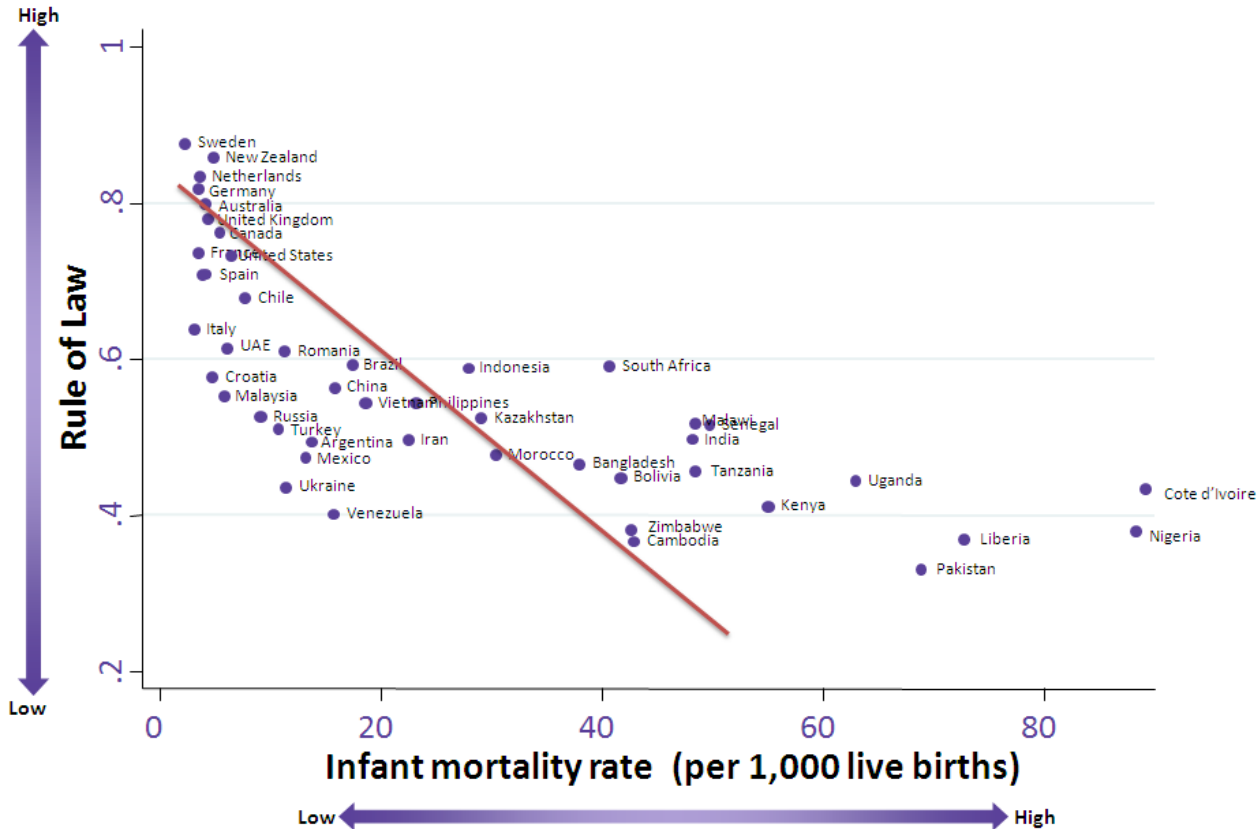
# Economic Development and the Rule of Law



# Political Development

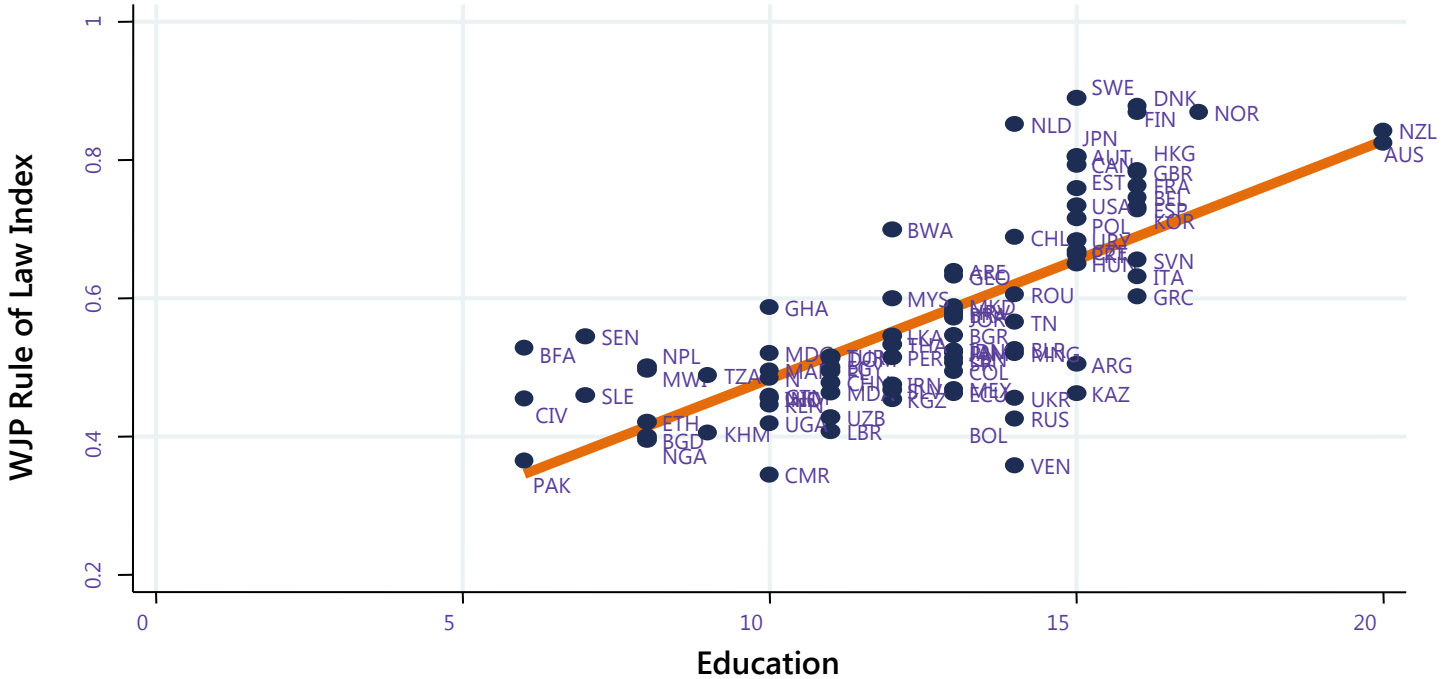
- Trend towards more open, accountable governments informed by a shared notion of the rule of law
  - Botswana
  - Chile
  - Myanmar
  - Estonia

# Public Health and the Rule of Law





# Education and the Rule of Law



N = 96; coef = 0.034, (robust) se = 0.003; P>|t| = 0.000; Adj. R2 = 0.510

*Education is measured as school life expectancy (years) from primary to tertiary (2011)*

Source: The World Justice Project and UNESCO

# Premise #2

- **Multidisciplinary collaboration is the most effective way to advance the rule of law:**
  - We are all stakeholders, not just the lawyers and judges

# The World Justice Project

**Mission: promote home-grown rule of law culture, through:**

- 1. Increased understanding** of the rule of law and its foundational importance.
- 2. Government reform**, direct or indirect.
- 3. Practical on-the-ground programs** that enhance and extend the rule of law.

# The World Justice Project: Three Initiatives

- Research & Scholarship
- Rule of Law Index
- Engagement

# WJP Reinforcing Initiatives

## ENGAGEMENT

Participants suggest topics for scholarly analysis

Scholars identify project approaches and priorities

Participants test Index

Index reveals opportunities for reform

Scholars assess Index content & methodology

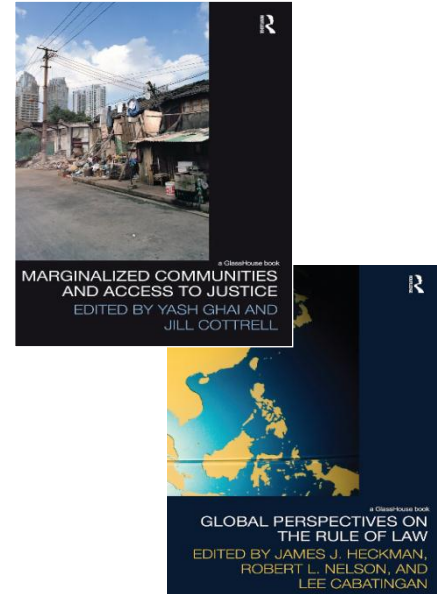
Index reveals opportunities for scholarship

## RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP

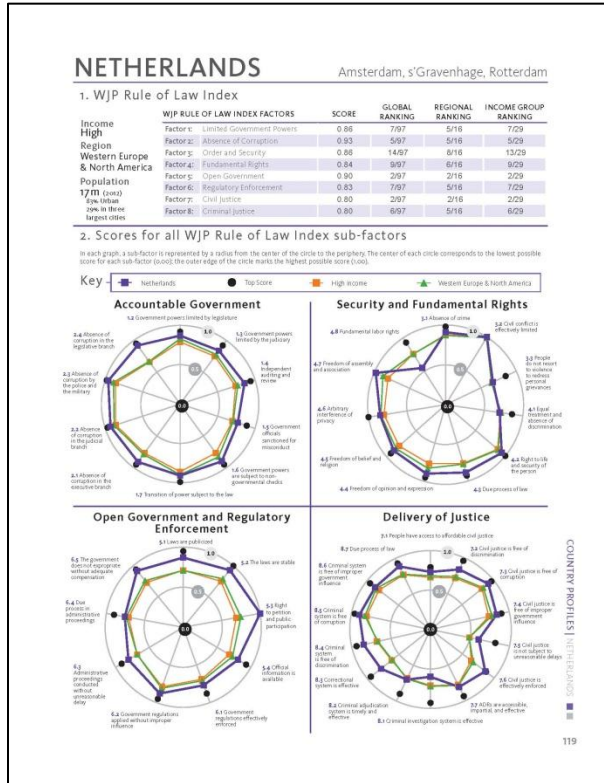
## RULE OF LAW INDEX

# Research & Scholarship

- First round: two books
  - *Global Perspectives on the Rule of Law*
  - *Marginalized Communities and Access to Justice*
- Second round: formation of rule of law scholars consortium



# Rule of Law Index



- Annual assessment tool to measure adherence to the rule of law
- New data
- Content and methodology have been vetted with independent experts
- 97 countries measured, more in pipeline

# Engagement

- **Building and nurturing a worldwide network for the rule of law**
- **Strategic meetings**
  - Global Forums
  - Regional meetings (9 regional meetings on 5 continents)
  - Single-country sorties (Malawi, Tunisia)
- **Program incubation**



# Incubation

## What:

- Collaboration to design and execute practical, on-the-ground programs that advance the rule of law

## How:

- At World Justice Project meetings
- Through the World Justice Project website

# Incubation: Program Examples

- **Anticorruption in Construction** / *World Federation of Engineering Organizations*
- **Justice for Women** / *50/50 Group of Sierra Leone*
- **Doing Business in Iraq Guide** / *International Negotiation Institute*
- **Environmental Law Performance Assessments** / *The Law of Nature*
- **Bribery Reporting in India** / *Bribe-Hackers*



**We have work to do.**  
**It's good work, and there's a lot of it.**



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