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# India's democracy has defied many predictions of failure

- “Pakistan” fate avoided
- Decrease in famines
- Literacy revolution
- Smaller families
- Ethnic peace in large parts of the country
- Democracy
- Economic development
- Regional power
- India gets its strength from its diversity (Brass)
- The State-Nation (Yadav, Linz and Stepan)
- Protection of minorities

# Challenges to India's democracy and thereby its minorities

- Poverty
- Corruption
- Congress party crises
- The Emergency
- The rise of the Hindutva movement
- The conflict in Punjab
- Political assassinations
- The conflict in Kashmir
- Conflicts with China and Pakistan
- Conflicts in the North-East
- Naxalite movement

# Hindu Nationalism

- **Sangh Parivar**
- RSS
- VHP
- BJP
- Shiv Sena
- Bajrang Dal et al

Hindu Rashtra = Ethnic State

The situation for minorities:

Threats/attacks

Institutions

Democracy

Comparative perspective

<b>State/society characteristics</b>	<b>Form of Government</b>	<b>Political competition in society</b>	<b>Minorities</b>
<i>India</i> Rivalrous	Mostly liberal.	Several actors. Mostly liberally oriented groups. Competitive.	Several have some protection, some almost none
<i>Pakistan</i> Assaultive	Military-dominated.  Some civil liberal actors.	Several actors. Liberal groups and extremist intolerant groups. Confrontational.	Few have any protection
<i>Uganda</i> Subjugative	Repressive. One-party oriented.	Few and weak in opposition. Some liberally oriented.	Protection is negotiated with the ruler. Some gets it, some don't

Figure 2.1 – Influences on political tolerance

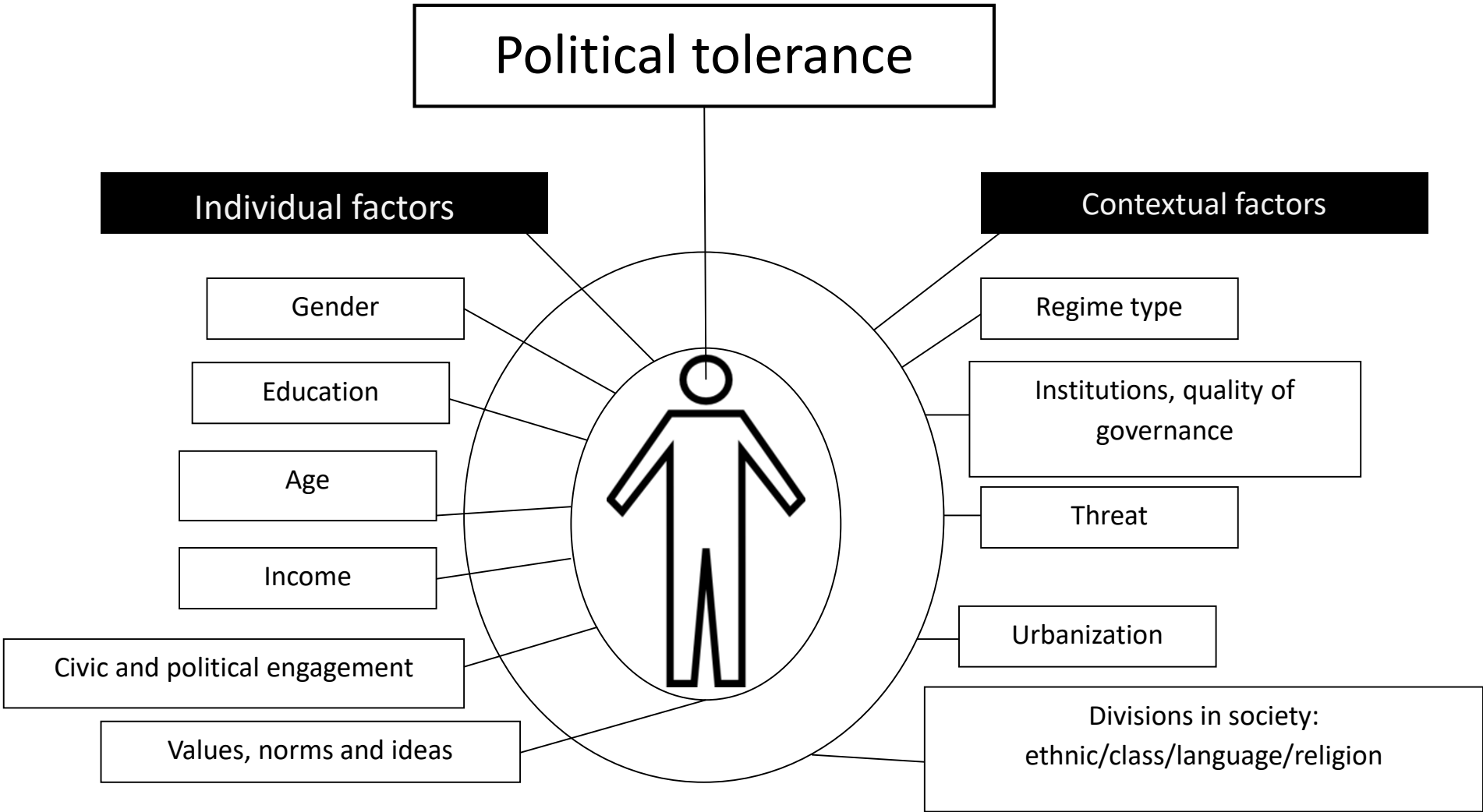
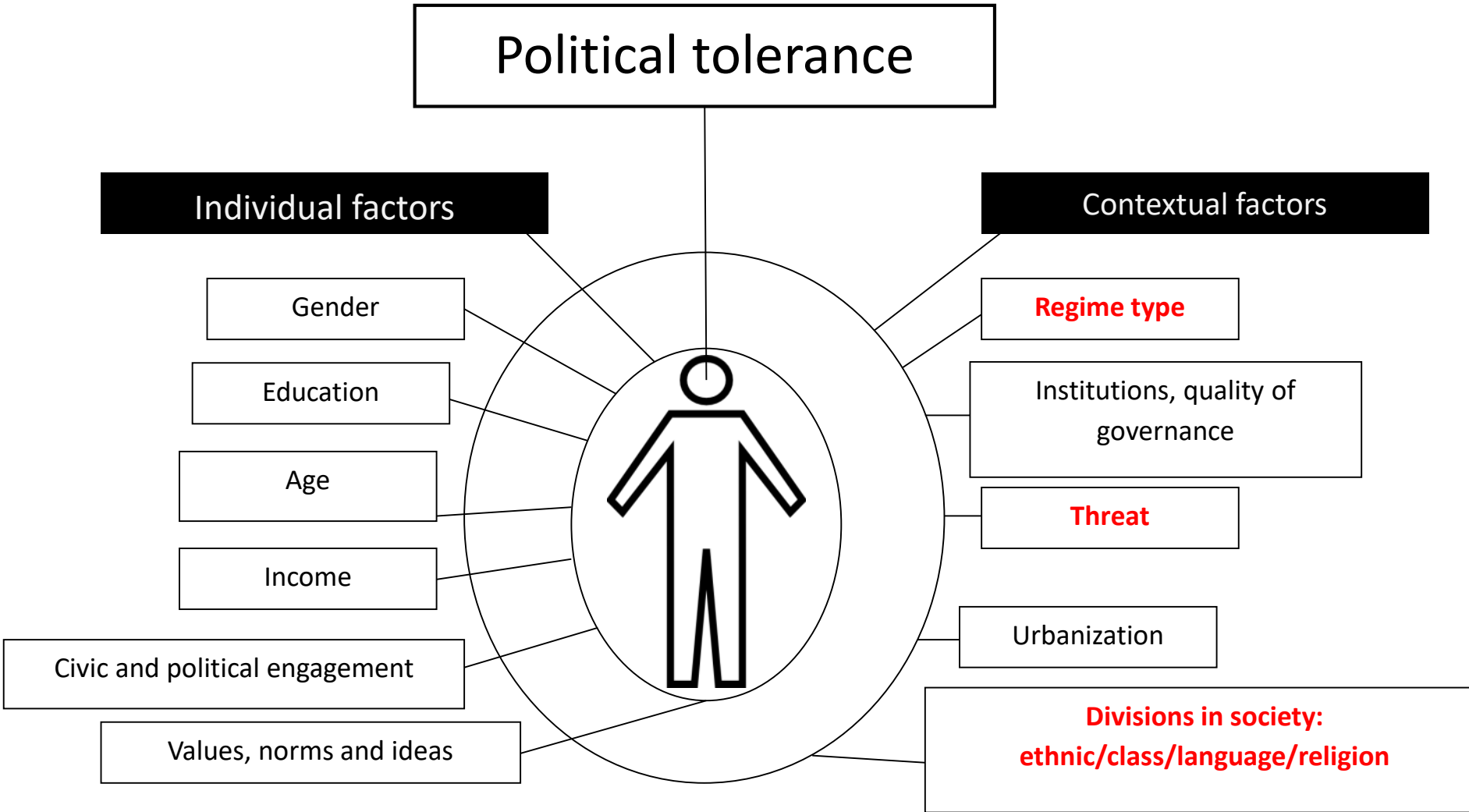


Figure 2.1 – Influences on political tolerance





India is in a better place than  
Pakistan and Uganda.

But this is changing.....

# Trajectories

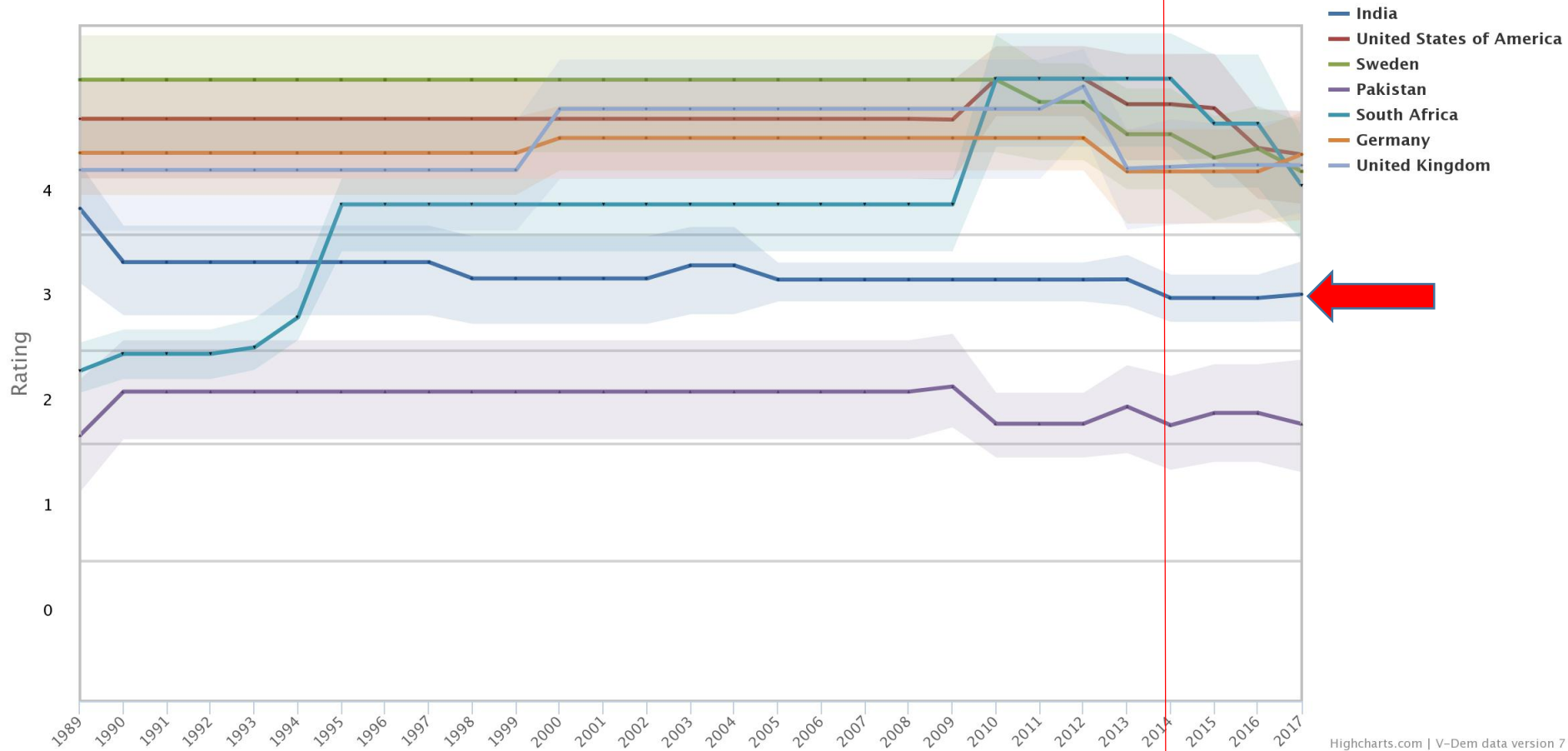
Amrita Basu

# “Violent Conjectures in Democratic India”

- Conditions more in favour of a “perfect storm”
- But is this different from before? 1984?

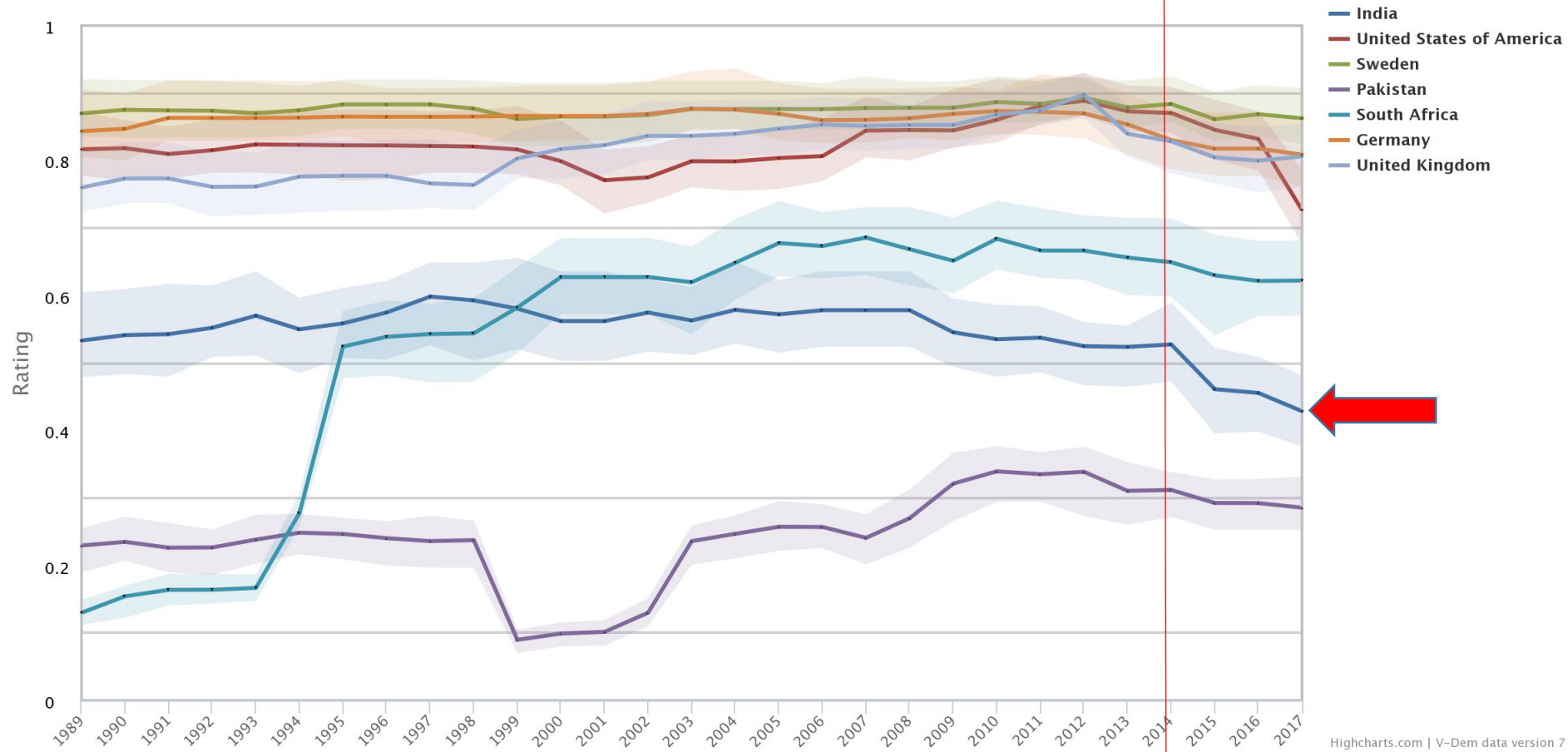
Trends

## Freedom of religion



Source: Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem): <https://www.v-dem.net/>

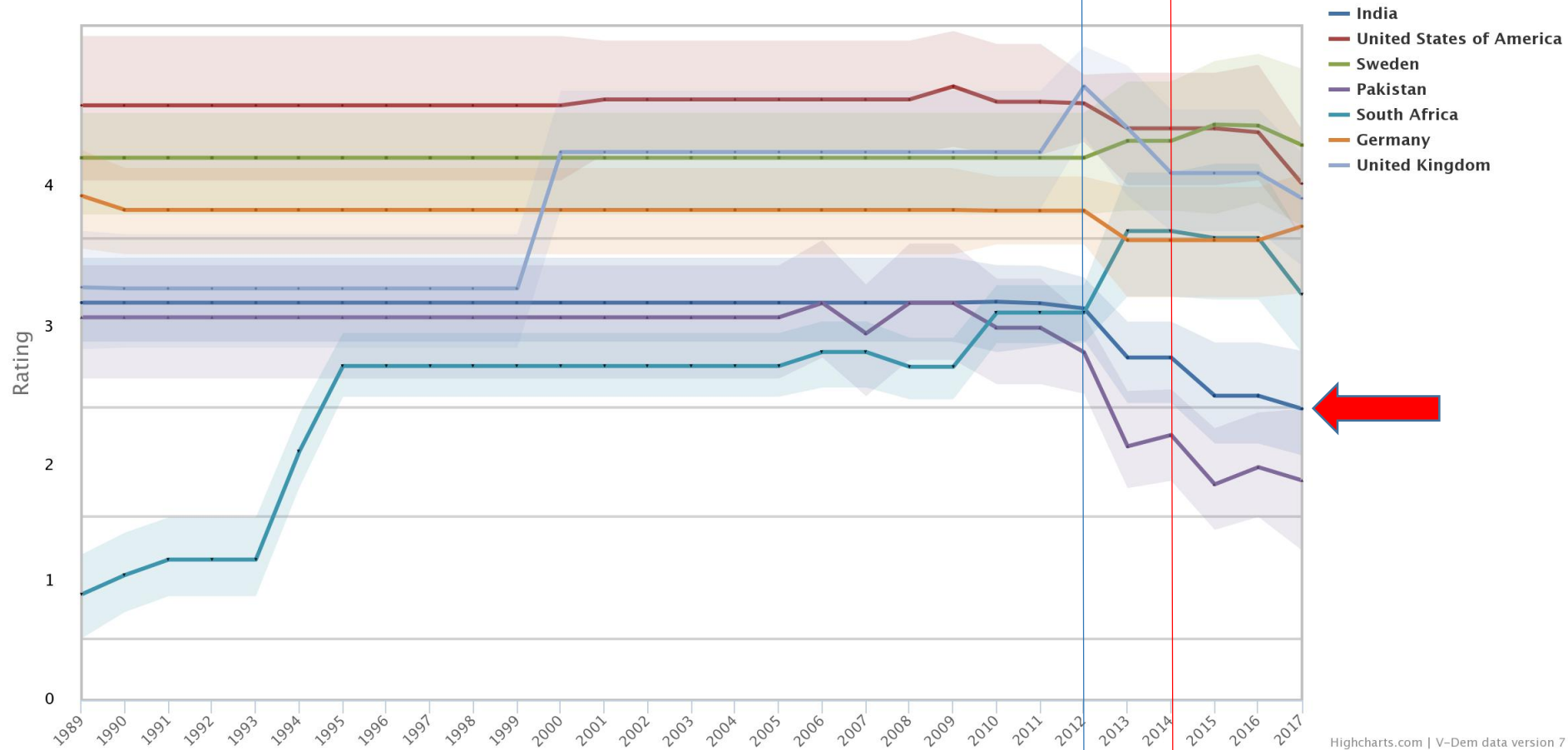
## Liberal Democracy Index



Source: Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem): <https://www.v-dem.net/>

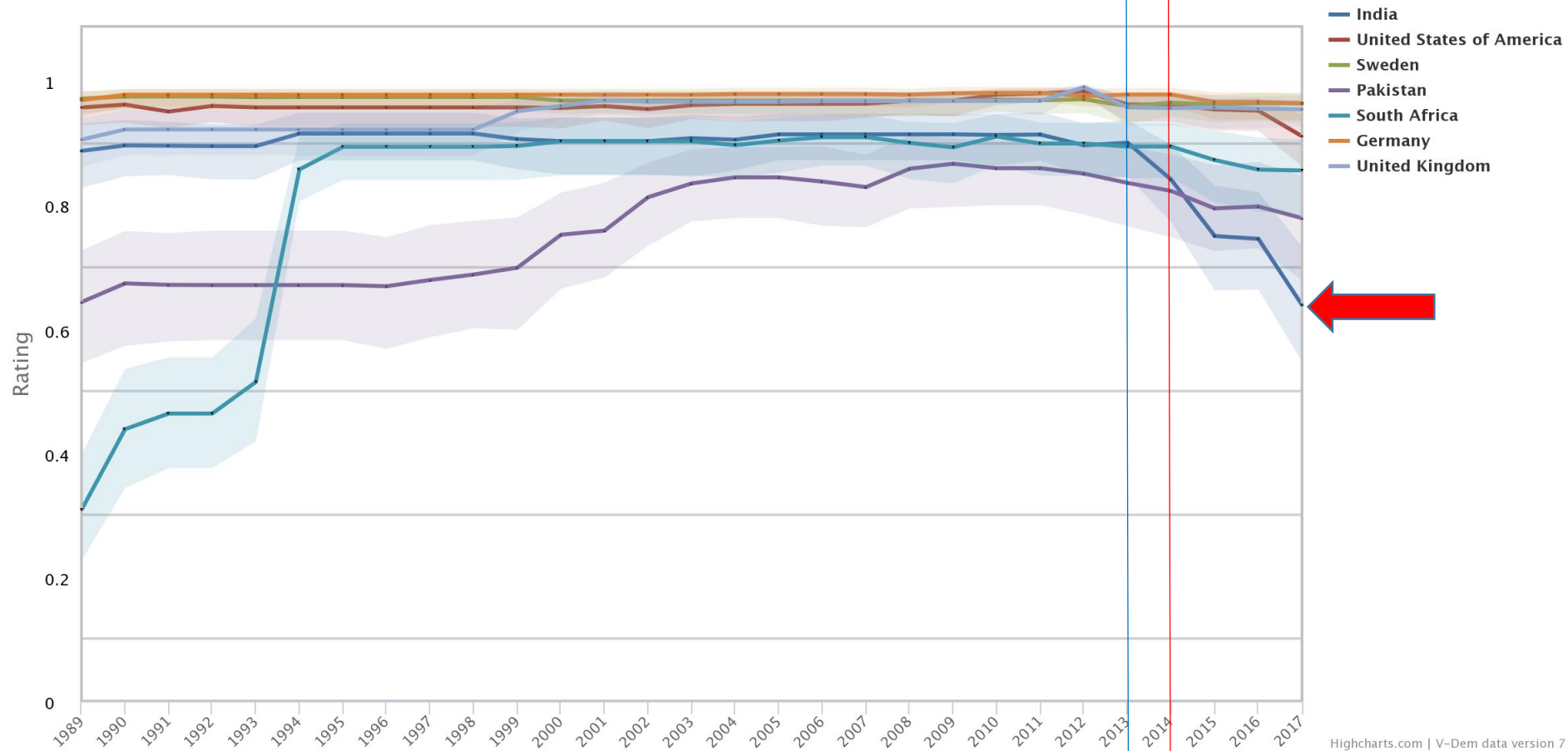
Highcharts.com | V-Dem data version 7

## Freedom of academic and cultural expression



Source: Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem): <https://www.v-dem.net/>

## Freedom of Expression and Alternative Sources of Information Index

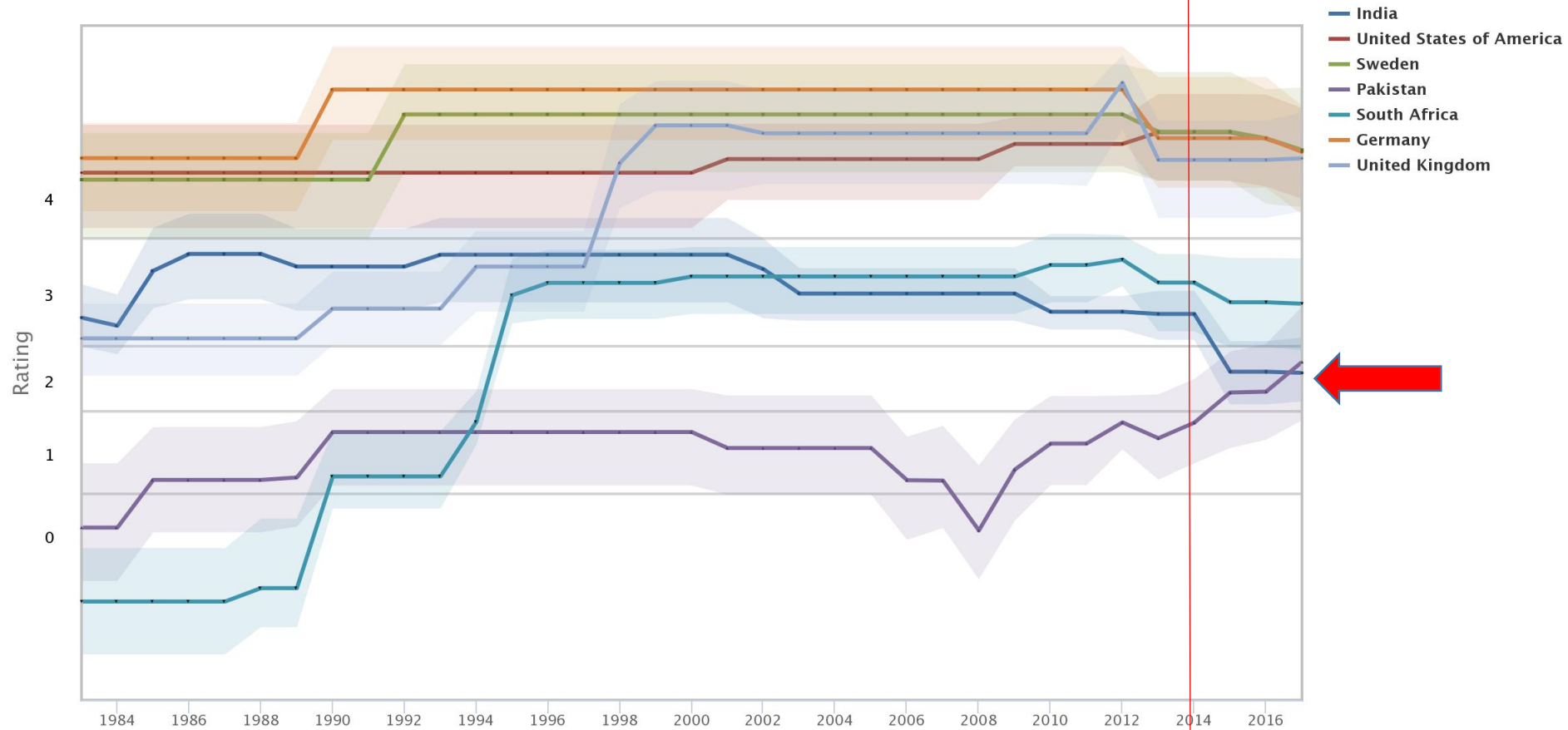


Source: Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem): <https://www.v-dem.net/>

Highcharts.com | V-Dem data version 7



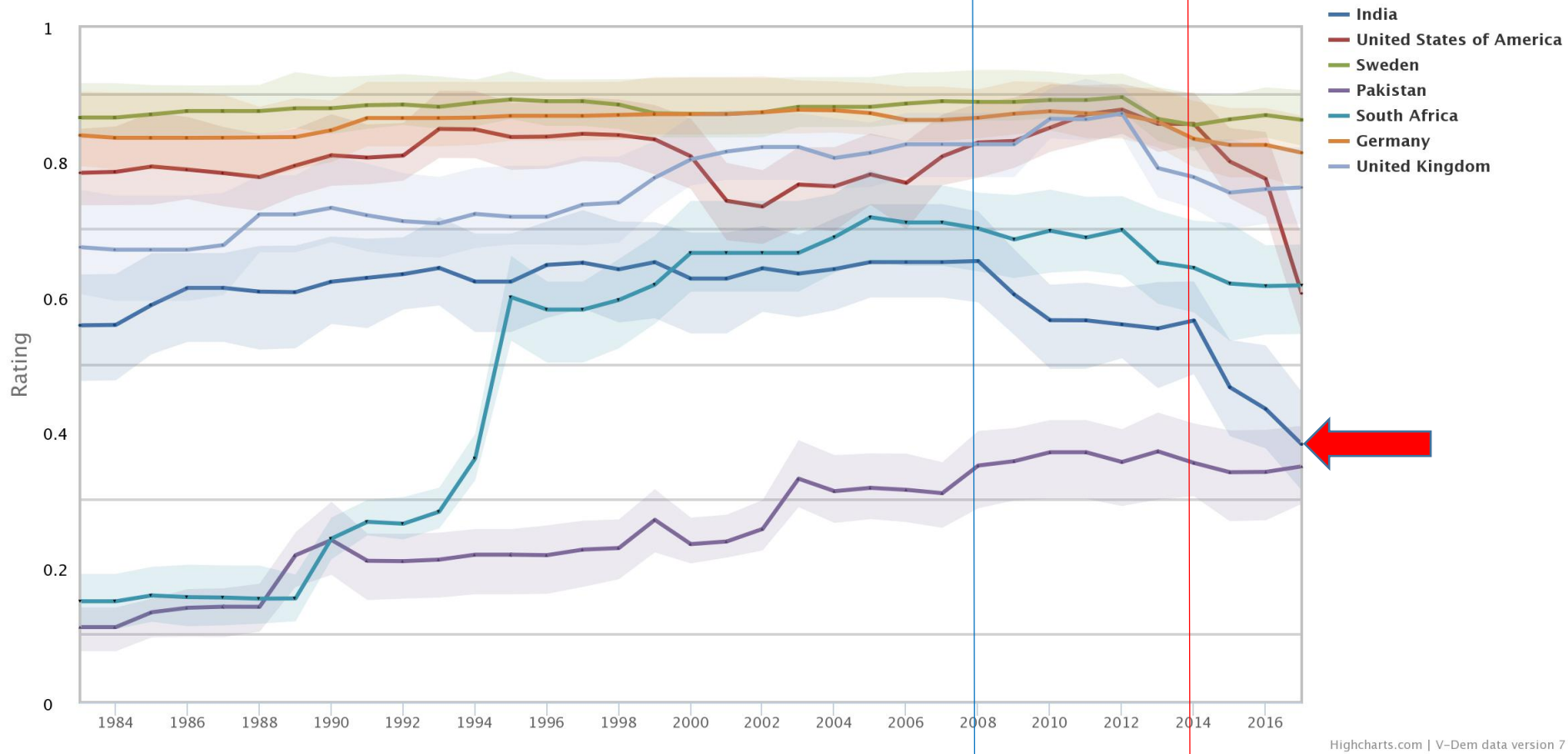
## Freedom from political killings



Highcharts.com | V-Dem data version 7

Source: Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem): <https://www.v-dem.net/>

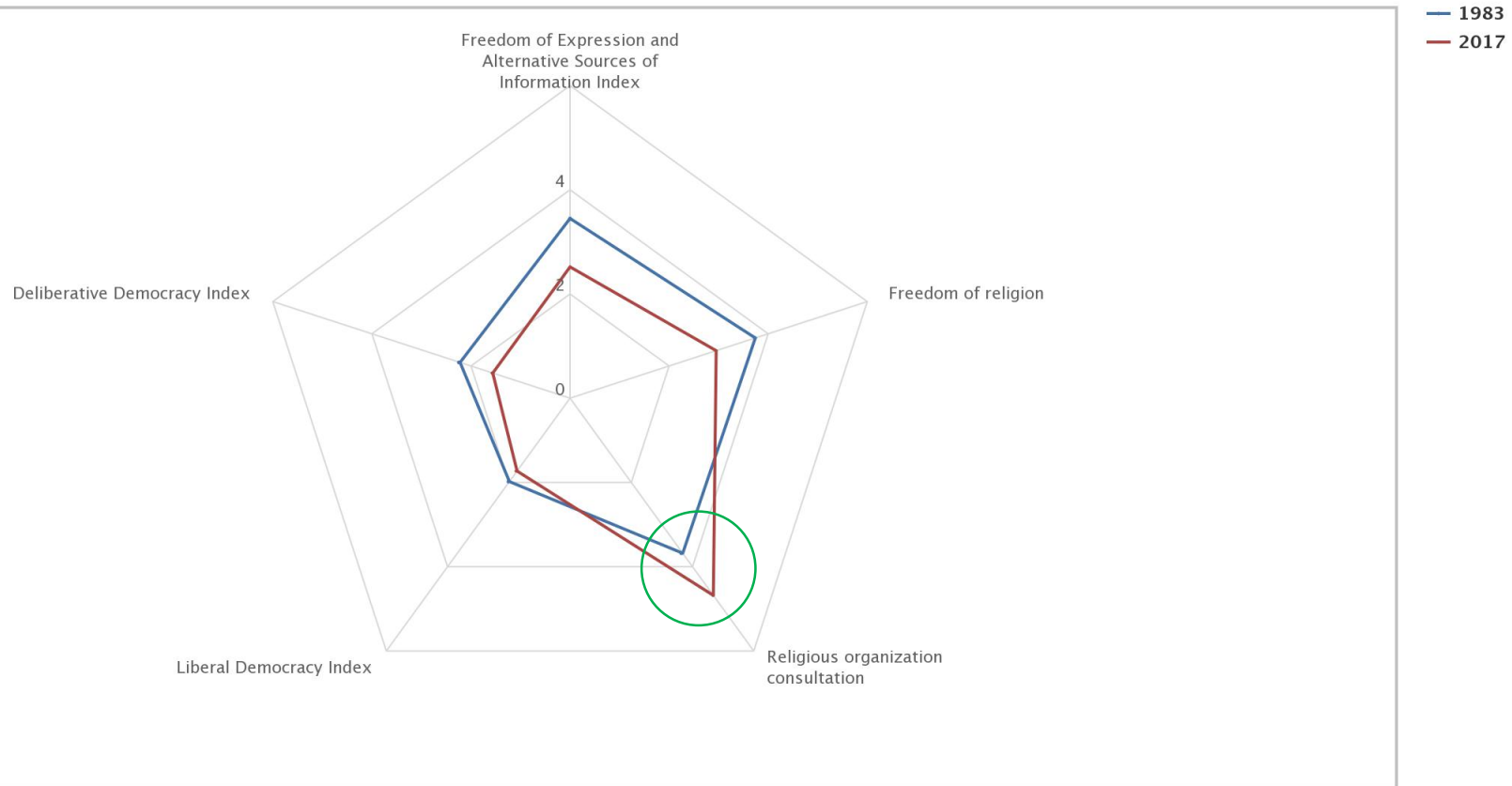
## Deliberative Democracy Index



Highcharts.com | V-Dem data version 7

Source: Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem): <https://www.v-dem.net/>

## India



Highcharts.com | V-Dem data version 7

Source: Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem): <https://www.v-dem.net/>

What else is different now?

# The Hindu Rashtra 2014-

- Attacks on Muslims
- Attacks on Christians
- Attacks on Dalits
- Attacks on “secularists”
- Attacks on journalists
- Attacks on social activists
- Forced conversions
- Civil society politicized – in a lopsided way
- Culture of fear spreading to new places
- Curriculum in schools