

Women's Suffrage and Institutional Changes

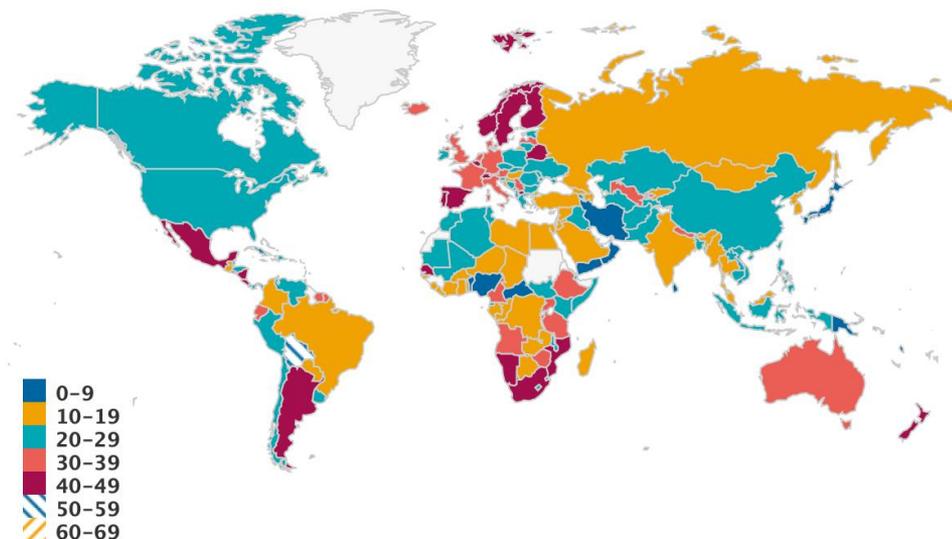
A comparative analysis of increased women's representation

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Introduction

- Women represent less than 30% of legislative bodies in 78% of countries globally
- Only 4 countries have $\geq 50\%$ representation of women

Percentage of Women in Legislative Bodies



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“IPU Comparative Data on Percentage of Women.” New Parline: the IPU’s Open Data Platform (beta). Inter-Parliamentary Union. https://data.ipu.org/compare?field=chamber::current_women_percent&structure=any__lower_chamber#map.

Theoretical Framework and Research Question

- Critical Mass Theory
 - Proposed 30% threshold needed for women's representation in legislative bodies
- Research Question:
 - What is the relationship between women's suffrage and the level of women's representation in legislative bodies of government?

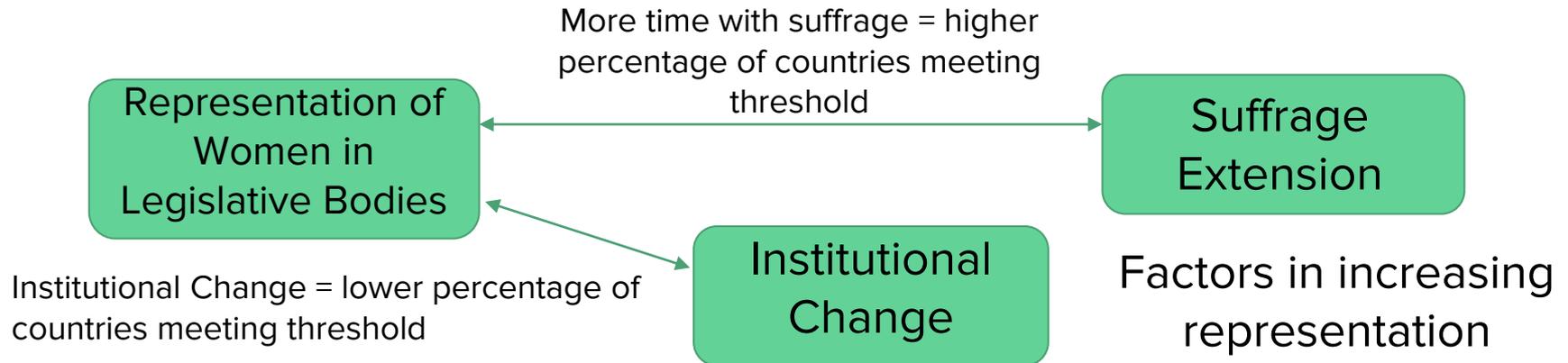
Methodology and Case Selection

- Compiled data on:
 - Percentage of women in legislative bodies
 - Date universal suffrage granted
 - Years of universal suffrage
 - Use of quota system
 - Electoral system
- Selected for countries that met the theorized 30% threshold for critical mass

What do we know about suffrage and representation?

- Suffrage extension
- Institutional changes
 - Quota systems
 - Proportional Electoral Systems
- Research conflicts on the relative importance of suffrage vs. institutional changes (quotas or electoral systems)

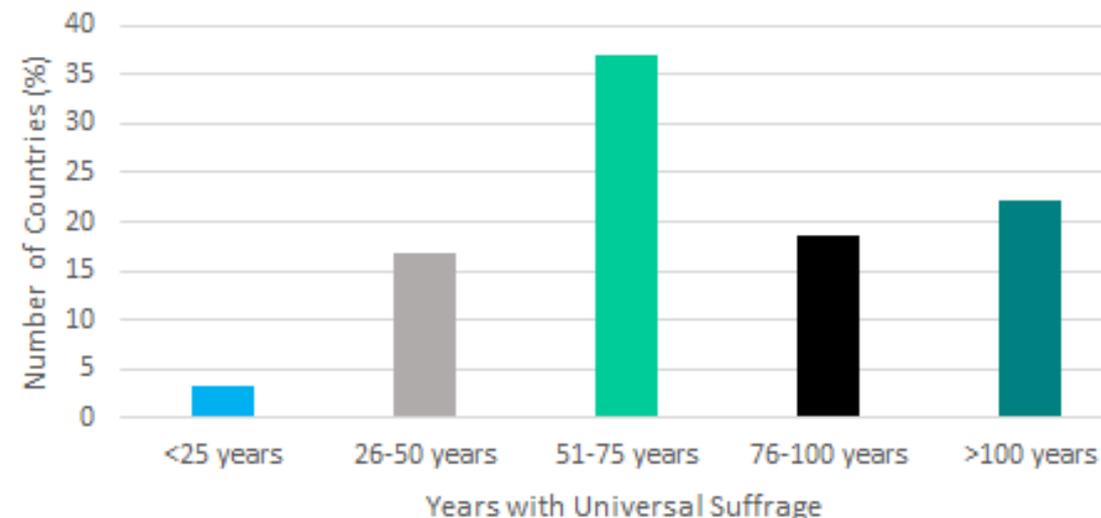
Hypothesis: Of the countries that meet the 30% threshold for adequate representation, there will be more countries with universal suffrage for over 75 years than those utilizing institutional changes such as quota systems or proportional electoral systems.



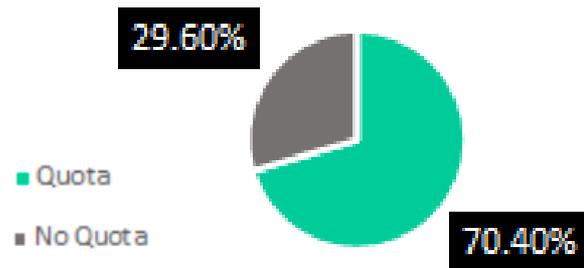
Country	Suffrage Aquisition Year	Years w/ Suffrage	Rank	Seats*	Women	% W	Elections	Seats*	Women	% W	Electoral Quota	Electoral System
Rwanda	1961	59	1	80	49	61.25	09.2019	26	10	38.46	Y	P
Cuba	1934	86	2	605	322	53.22	-				N	O
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	1952	68	3	130	69	53.08	10.2019	36	17	47.22	Y	M
United Arab Emirates	2006	14	4	40	20	50	-				Y	N/A
Mexico	1953	67	5	500	241	48.2	07.2018	128	63	49.22	Y	M
Nicaragua	1955	65	6	91	43	47.25	-				Y	P
Sweden	1920	100	7	349	164	46.99	-				Y	P
Grenada	1951	69	8	15	7	46.67	04.2018	13	4	30.77	N	PM
Andorra	1970	50	9	28	13	46.43	-				N	M
South Africa	1993	27	10	397	184	46.35	05.2019	54	21	38.89	Y	P
Finland	1906	114	11	200	92	46	-				N	P
Costa Rica	1949	71	12	57	26	45.61	-				Y	P
Spain	1931	89	13	350	154	44	11.2019	264	103	39.02	Y	P
Senegal	1945	75	14	165	71	43.03	-				Y	M
Namibia	1989	31	15	96	41	42.71	12.2015	42	8	19.05	Y	P
Switzerland	1971	49	16	200	83	41.5	11.2019	46	12	26.09	Y	P
Norway	1913	107	17	169	70	41.42	-				N	P
Mozambique	1975	45	18	250	103	41.2	-				Y	P
Argentina	1947	73	19	257	105	40.86	10.2019	72	29	40.28	Y	P
New Zealand	1893	127	20	120	49	40.83	-				N	P
Belgium	1948	72	21	150	61	40.67	07.2019	60	27	45	Y	P
Belarus	1919	101	22	110	44	40	11.2019	60	15	25	N	PM
Portugal	1976	44	24	230	92	40	-				Y	P
Denmark	1915	105	25	179	71	39.66	-				N	P
France	1944	76	26	577	228	39.51	09.2017	348	116	33.33	Y	PM
Ecuador	1929	91	27	137	54	39.42	-				Y	P
Austria	1919	101	28	183	72	39.34	-	61	23	37.7	Y	P
Ethiopia	1955	65	29	547	212	38.76	10.2015	153	49	32.03	Y	PM
China	1947	73	75	2975	742	24.94	-				Y	N/A
U.S.A	1920	100	82	431	101	23.43	11.2018	100	25	25	N	PM
Russia	1917	103	133	450	71	15.78	-	170	29	17.06	N	M

Results

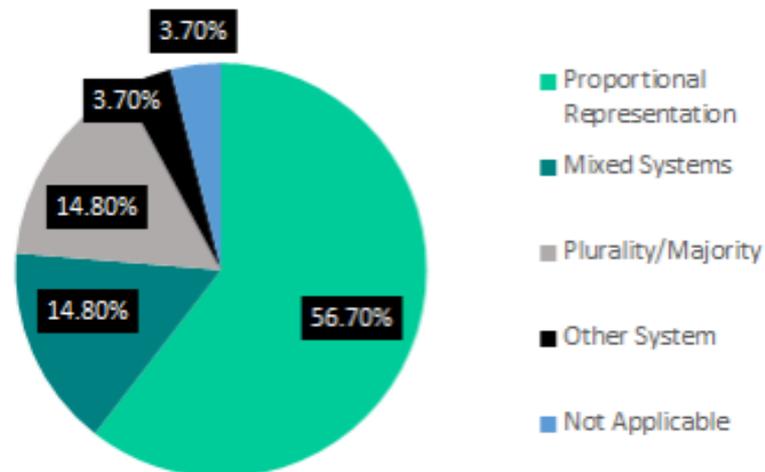
Suffrage Length of Countries with Critical Mass Representation



Use of Quota Systems



Electoral Systems of Countries with Critical Mass Representation



Analysis and Conclusion

- 67% of countries meeting the threshold use quota systems
- 56% of countries meeting the threshold use proportional electoral systems
- Amount of time with universal suffrage did not appear to have an influence

The three largest actors in international system (US, Russia, China) were included in this data set, although none have met the 30% threshold

- US and Russia have both had universal suffrage for 100 years but do not use quota systems or proportional electoral systems
- Only China uses quota system and has 24.9% representation

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