

# Right to Vote



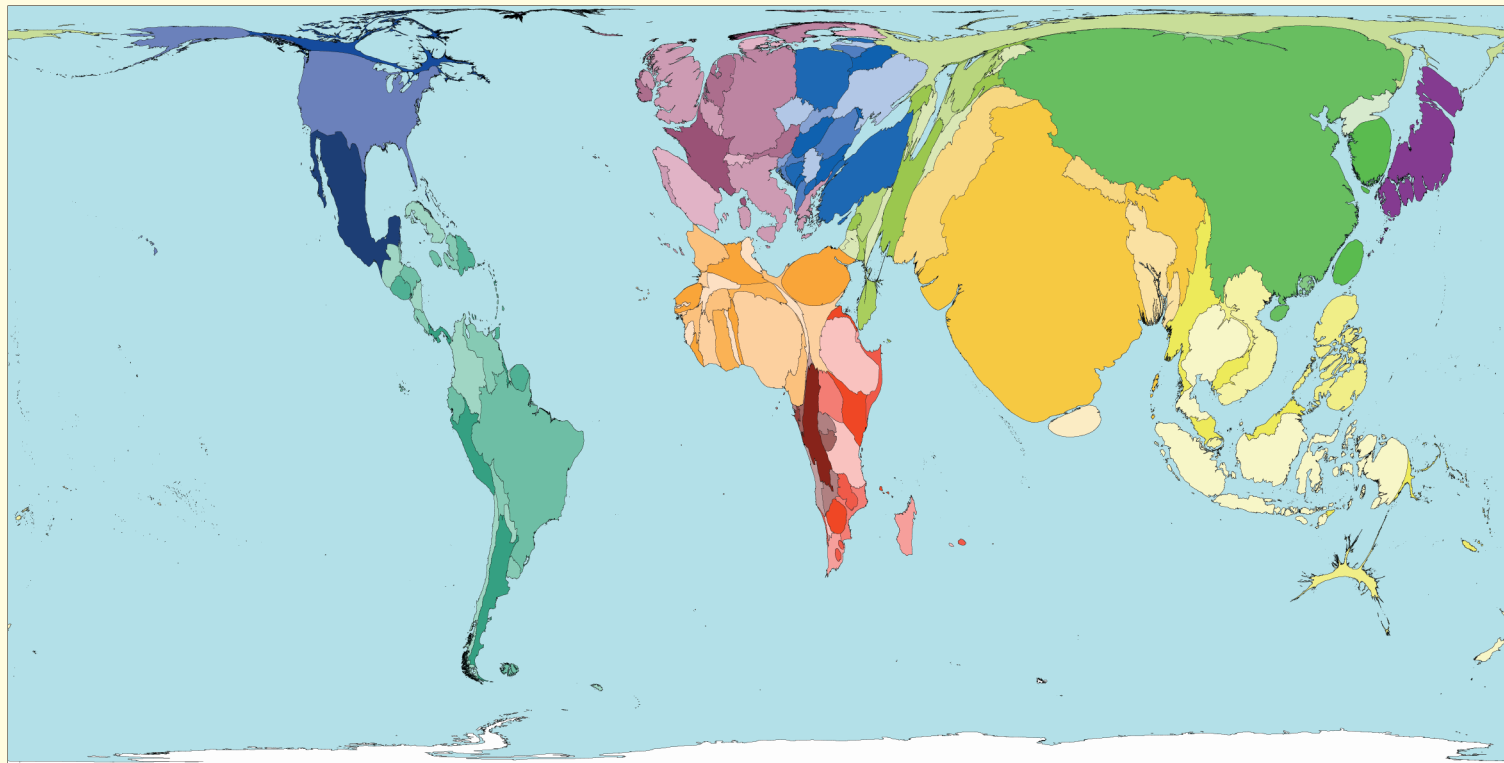
The University of Sheffield



The Leverhulme Trust



Produced by the SASI group (Sheffield) and Mark Newman (Michigan)

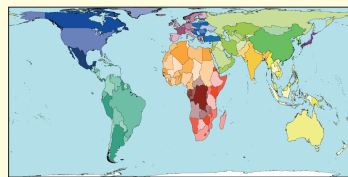


This map shows the number of years that all women and men in each territory have had an equal right to vote. This is often termed 'universal suffrage' however this generally does not include the vote for children.

The first territory where all adults had the right to vote was New Zealand in 1893; followed by the Scandinavian territories of Finland in 1906, Norway in 1913 and Denmark in 1915. By 1994, almost all adults in 190 of the 200 territories could vote.

Territories as political units are changeable entities, some of the more recent dates of suffrage reflect the formation, independence or emancipation of a political unit.

Territory size shows the the number of years of all adults in that territory having the right to vote. This is calculated by multiplying number of years of universal suffrage prior to 2004 by the total population.



Land area

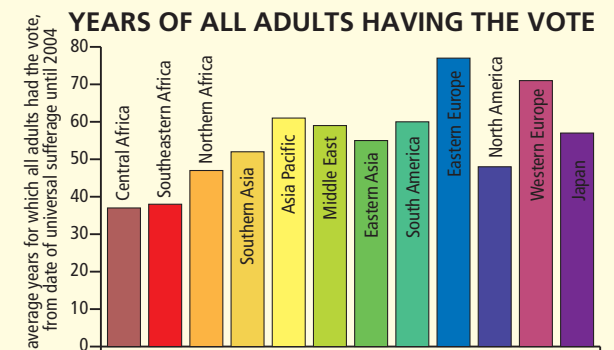
### Technical notes

- Data are from the United Nations Development Programme's 2004 Human Development Report.
- \*Kyrgyzstan, Cape Verde and Poland had universal suffrage in 1918 (so also ranked 189); Sao Tome & Principe and Angola had universal suffrage in 1975 (so ranked joint 19th with Mozambique).
- See website for further information.

### YEAR OF UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE

Rank	Territory	Year	Rank	Territory	Year
200	New Zealand	1893	19	Mozambique	1975
199	Finland	1906	18	Portugal	1976
198	Norway	1913	17	Guinea-Bissau	1977
197	Denmark	1915	16	Vanuatu	1980
189	Austria	1918	15	Central African Republic	1986
189	Estonia	1918	14	Namibia	1989
189	Germany	1918	13	Samoa	1990
189	Hungary	1918	11	Kazakhstan	1993
189	Russian Federation	1918	11	Republic of Moldova	1993
189	Latvia	1918	10	South Africa	1994

year of obtaining universal sufferage\*



*“There is ... room in politics for people who are open, willing to listen to others, those who understand and prove the forgotten truth that public administration is about the public. And this gives us new hope.” Václav Havel, 2003*