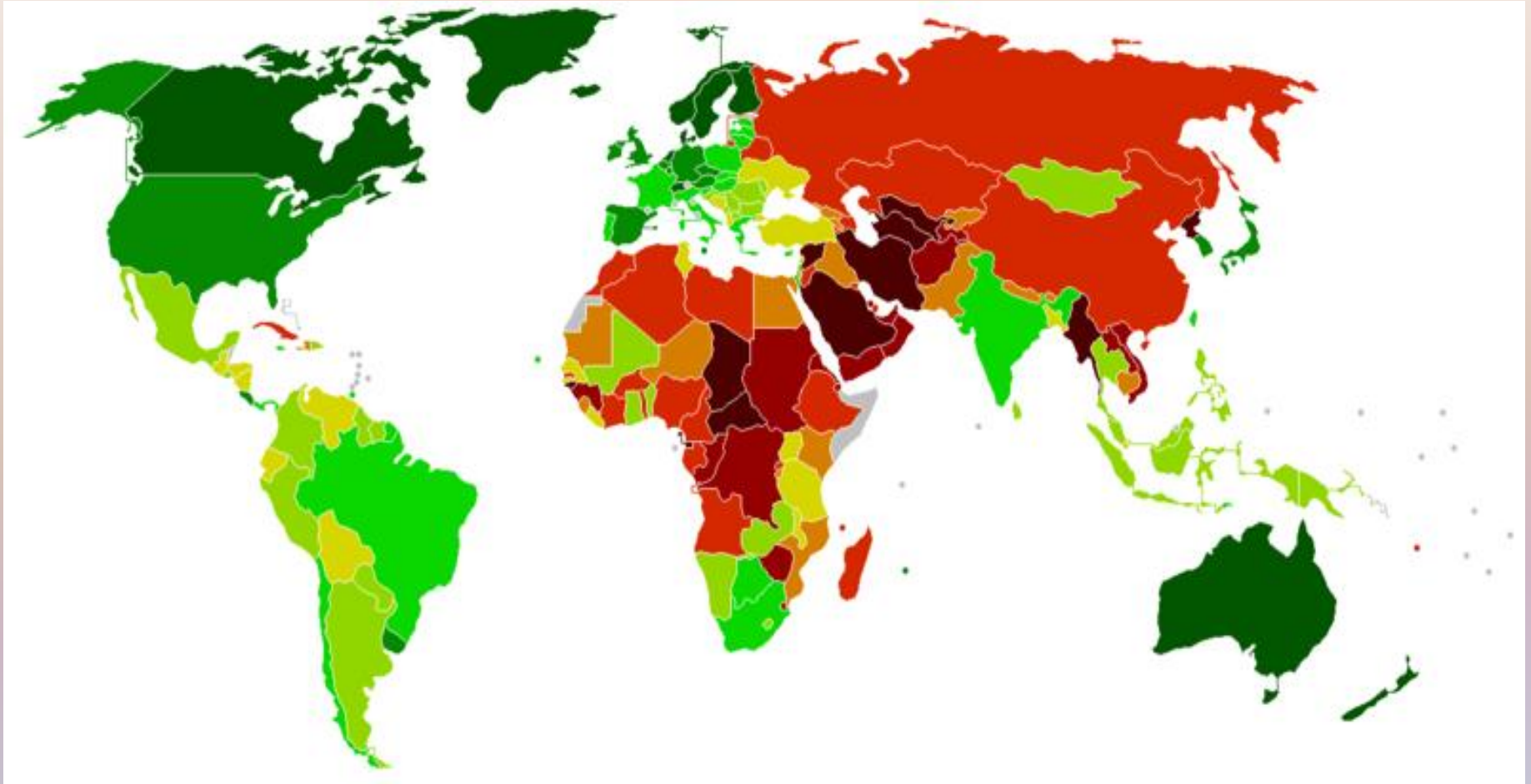


The Democratic Peace

- Democracies are just as likely to be involved in war and interstate violence as non-democracies.
- **Democratic peace:** a well-established observation that there are few, if any, clear cases of war *between* mature democratic states.
- The strength of the claim depends on how one defines democracy – and what events one considers war.

What Is Democracy?



From the Economist Intelligence Unit, 2011. Dark green is most democratic; dark red is most autocratic.

Discussion Question

Why are democracies so unlikely to fight one another?

War and the Fate of Political Leaders

TABLE A | WAR AND THE FATE OF LEADERS

Fate of Leader		
War Outcome	Stayed in Power	Lost Power
Victory	68%	32%
Small loss	47%	43%
Big loss	16%	84%

TABLE B | DEMOCRACY AND THE FATE OF WARTIME LEADERS

War Outcome	Democratic Leaders		Nondemocratic Leaders	
	Lost Power	Punished If Lost Power	Lost Power	Punished If Lost Power
Victory	31%	11%	19%	38%
Loss	88%	43%	48%	88%

What Shaped Our World? The Kargil War and the Limits of Democratic Peace

- In 1999, India mobilized its troops to repel a Pakistani military force from the disputed Kashmir region.
 - At least 1000 soldiers died
- India and Pakistan had already fought three wars since their independence in 1948.
 - But, at the time of war, both countries had democratically elected governments

Discussion Question

Using the concepts of interests, interactions, and institutions, under what conditions could you imagine two democracies fighting one another in the future?