Protecting people: How liberal democracies impact the number of dead and missing migrants

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By the end of 2018, 70.8 million people had been forcibly displaced worldwide, with 37,000 more displaced every day.

1/3 of the global refugee population is in the least developed countries in the world: Turkey, Pakistan, Uganda, Sudan.
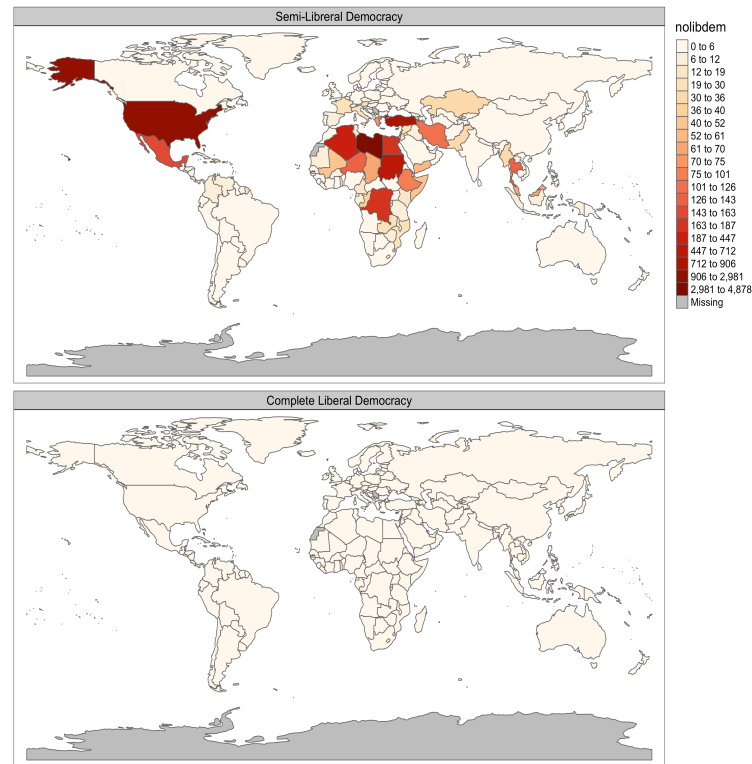
If every country in the world had no tenets of liberal democracy, **10s of thousands of migrants would die every year**.

Bottom line: The problem of refugee migration is not going anywhere.

Top three reasons for migrant deaths: drowning, illness and vehicle accidents.

Does the level of liberal democracy impact the number of dead and missing migrants in a country?

Semi-Liberal Democracy

nolibdem
- 0 to 6
- 6 to 12
- 12 to 19
- 19 to 30
- 30 to 36
- 36 to 40
- 40 to 52
- 52 to 61
- 61 to 70
- 70 to 75
- 75 to 101
- 101 to 126
- 126 to 143
- 143 to 163
- 163 to 187
- 187 to 447
- 447 to 712
- 712 to 906
- 906 to 2,981
- 2,981 to 4,878
- Missing

Complete Liberal Democracy

If every country were fully liberally democratic, **fewer than six migrants would die in any one country every year**.

Region	Number Dead	Minimum Estimated Number of Missing
Caribbean	39	35
Central America	287	3
East Asia	4	3
Europe	240	17
Horn of Africa	231	13
Mediterranean	813	331
Middle East	161	3
North Africa	1319	13
South America	23	4
South Asia	151	1
Southeast Asia	89	25
Sub-Saharan Africa	496	14
U.S.-Mexico Border	1277	21
Grand Total	**5132**	**483**

*some data omitted for space

Hypothesis 1: A country with a high level of liberal democracy will have a good human rights record, meaning low missing migrant and death statistics.

Hypothesis 2: A country that has signed the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees is likely to have lower death and missing migrants statistics.

Findings: As liberal democracies increase, the number of dead and missing migrants dips, then rises, then dips again.

As liberal democracies top off, the country moves to actively protecting everyone, regardless of citizenship status.

As a country hits the midpoint, the country turns inward and protects its people by increasing immigration laws.

A country becoming a liberal democracy wants to protect as many people as possible, or chooses to ignore migrants.