

TABLE 5.1 **Changes in Democracy Scores by Polity IV, 1975–2009**

Country	Polity IV Score 1975^a	Polity IV Score 2009^a	Net Point Change Toward (+) or Away From (–) Democracy 1975–2009
Costa Rica	10	10	0
El Salvador	–1	10	11
Chile	–7	10	17
Uruguay	–8	10	18
Panama	–7	9	16
Peru	–7	9	16
Nicaragua	–8	9	17
Argentina	5	8	3
Guatemala	–3	8	11
Dominican Republic	–3	8	11
Brazil	–4	8	12
Mexico	–6	8	14
Paraguay	–8	8	16
Mean all 18 countries	–2.4	7.8	10.2
Colombia	8	7	–1
Honduras	–1	7	8
Bolivia	–7	7	14
Ecuador	–5	5	10
Venezuela	8	0	–8

Source: Marshall, Monty G., and Ted R. Gurr. “Polity IV Project: Political Regime Characteristics and Transitions, 1946–2013.” Center for Systemic Peace and Colorado State University, <http://www.systemicpeace.org/polity/polity4.htm>.

Notes: Countries arrayed in order of highest Polity IV scores in 2009.

^aPolity IV scores range from negative 10 (highly authoritarian) to positive 10 (highly democratic).