

GLOBAL RESOLUTIONS: HOW REGIME TYPES

AFFECT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Taylor Schultz, Hashim Malallah

College of Social Sciences and Public Policy, Florida State University



Introduction

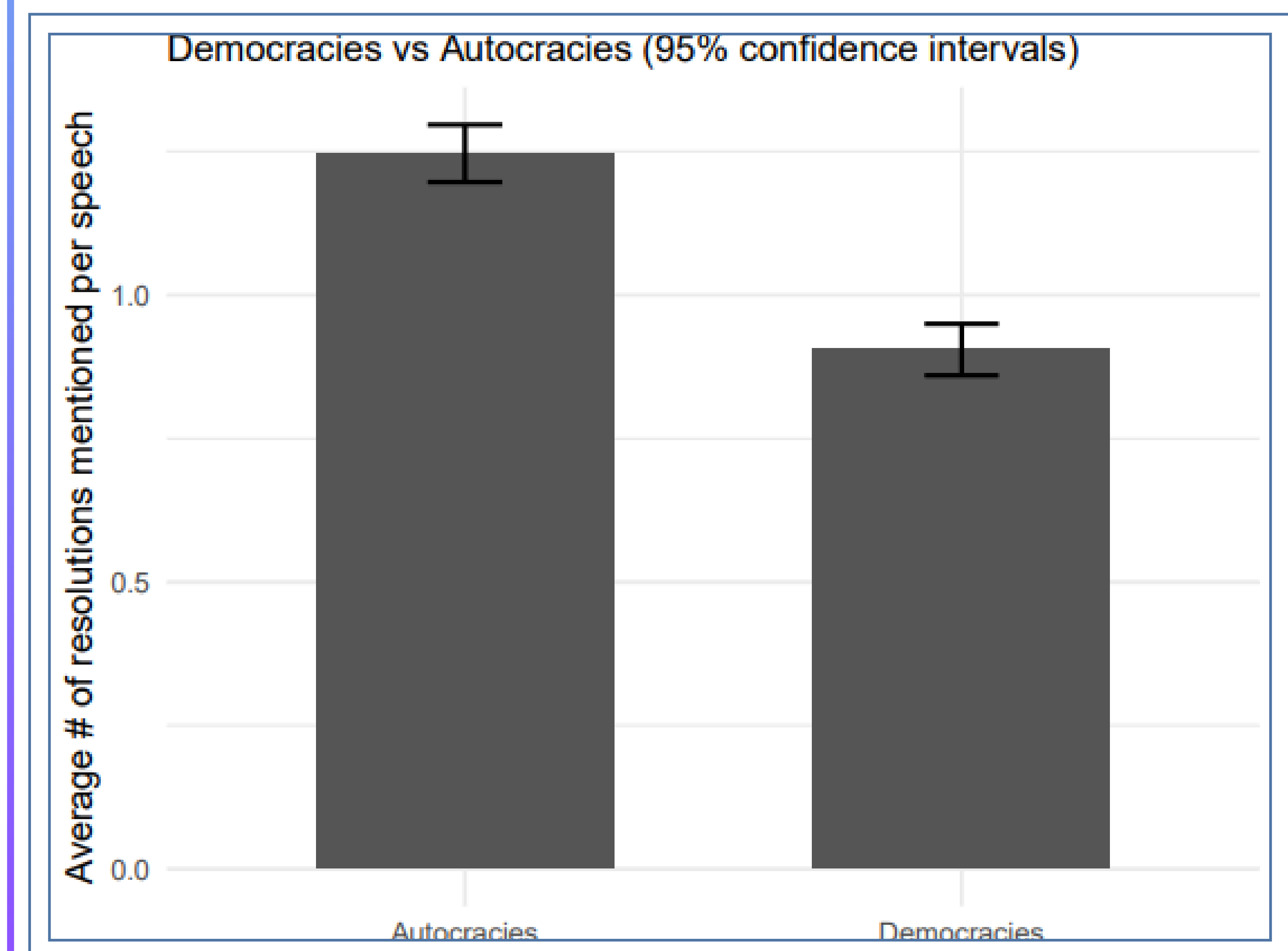
The United Nations, an international peacekeeping organization, has played a major role in shaping the current geopolitical environment. Leaders within the UN bring forth resolutions for the advancement of human rights and global security. As leaders propose resolutions, they often reference past General Assembly resolutions.

Current understandings of referencing demonstrate that leaders are likely to reference resolutions that are in alignment with their beliefs surrounding a particular issue or policy. However, very little research exists to explain why particular regime types reference differently than others. This project was created to better understand why certain leaders may reference at different rates and how particular regime types affect referencing. Based on current research, the projected result is that democratic leaders reference at a lower rate than autocratic leaders. Qualitative findings will aid in understanding why referencing rates vary across regime types.

Methodology

This research project was conducted using primarily two different methods:

1. The first of these was an extensive literature review of existing research related to this topic. The members of this project each found over ten sources and summarized each source's findings. These summarizations were primarily focused on the implications to this project, so referencing rates and types were investigated closely.
2. The second part of this project included hand-coding resolutions for categorization. Using machine-learning, these categorizations will form a model to demonstrate clear results. After the model is created, the data will be analyzed to either support or negate the hypothesis. As this research is still ongoing, further procedures may be carried out to find strongly supported results.

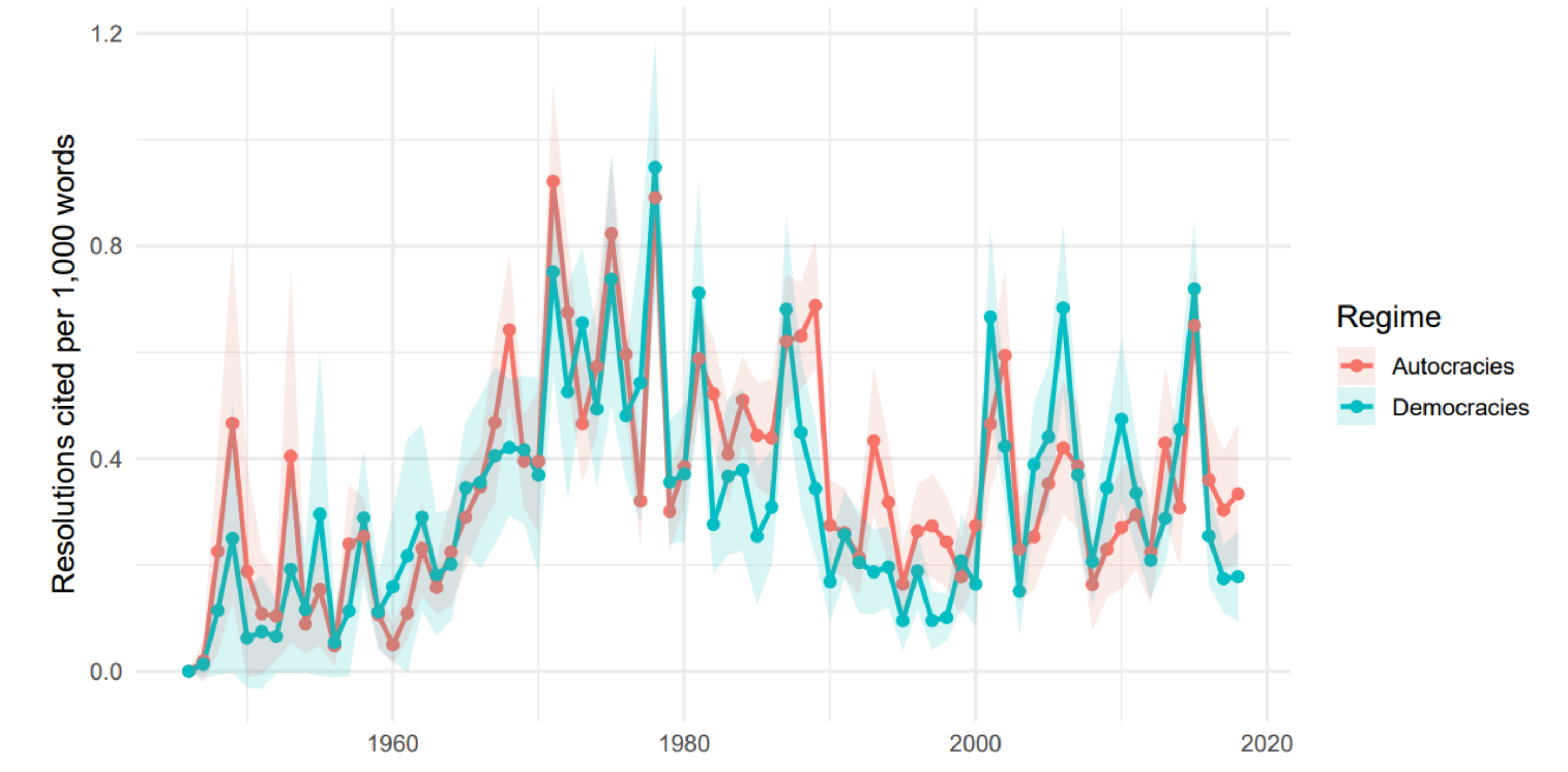


Analysis

Although this research is not yet complete, preliminary findings indicate that leaders at UN General Assembly meetings reference past resolutions for several reasons:

1. To signal solidarity with another member state or leader.
2. To express opposition toward a particular resolution or precedent.
3. To encourage action on an issue .
4. To emphasize support for a resolution.

Resolution-citation rate over time by regime type
Yearly mean rate per 1,000 words (95% confidence bands)



Discussion

- This research demonstrates that autocracies reference more frequently than democracies.
- Autocracies, based upon this data, may reference more frequently to signal compliance with international law and divert the international community's attention from human rights violations or other abuses of the law.
- The next step of this research will be utilizing panel matching with difference-in-differences design to estimate the effect of democratization on the likelihood of referencing past resolutions.

References

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