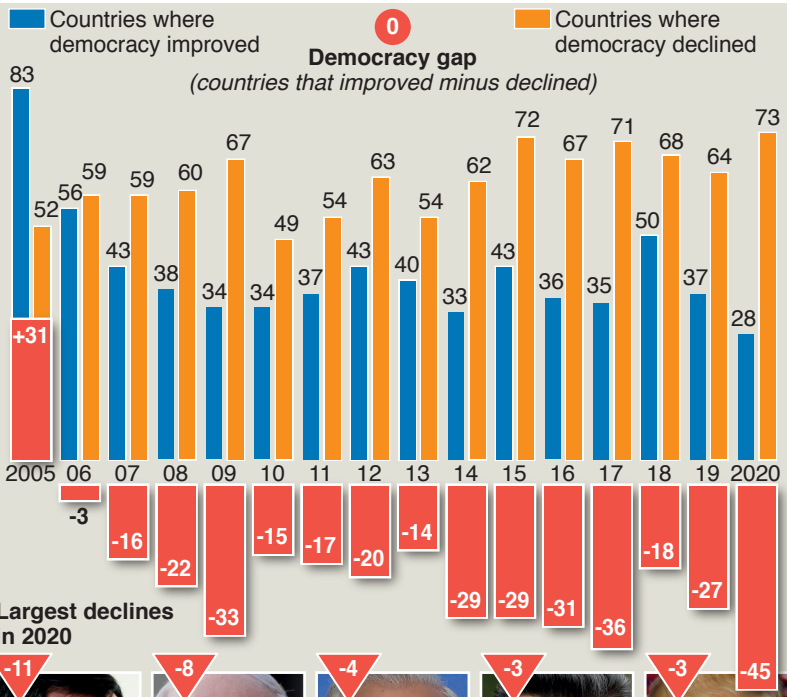


Democracy under siege

A lethal pandemic, economic and physical insecurity, and violent conflict ravaged the world in 2020, marking the 15th consecutive year of decline in global democracy, according to *Freedom in the World*



Kyrgyzstan:
Sadyr Japarov
seizes power as both prime minister and president in rigged election



Belarus:
Fraudulent election triggers mass protests against **Alexander Lukashenko**



India: Political rights and civil liberties have declined since **Narendra Modi** became prime minister in 2014



China: President **Xi Jinping** runs roughshod over Hong Kong's democratic institutions



US: Massive protests call for end to systemic racial injustice under presidency of **Donald Trump**