

DEMOCRATIC BACKSLIDING UNDER FEDERAL DYNAMICS: A Comparative Study of Latin American Cases

Research Field, Topic, Gap

Federalism and democracy

The **causal mechanism** that leads a **federal democracy** to a process of **democratic backsliding**

How do federal dynamics look in a process of **democratic backsliding**?

Key concept: Federal dynamics

The complex structure of power established between the **central government** and the **subnational units**

The argument

Federalism and democracy operate in a **“tense relationship”**: if not balanced, one of the dimensions may break down.

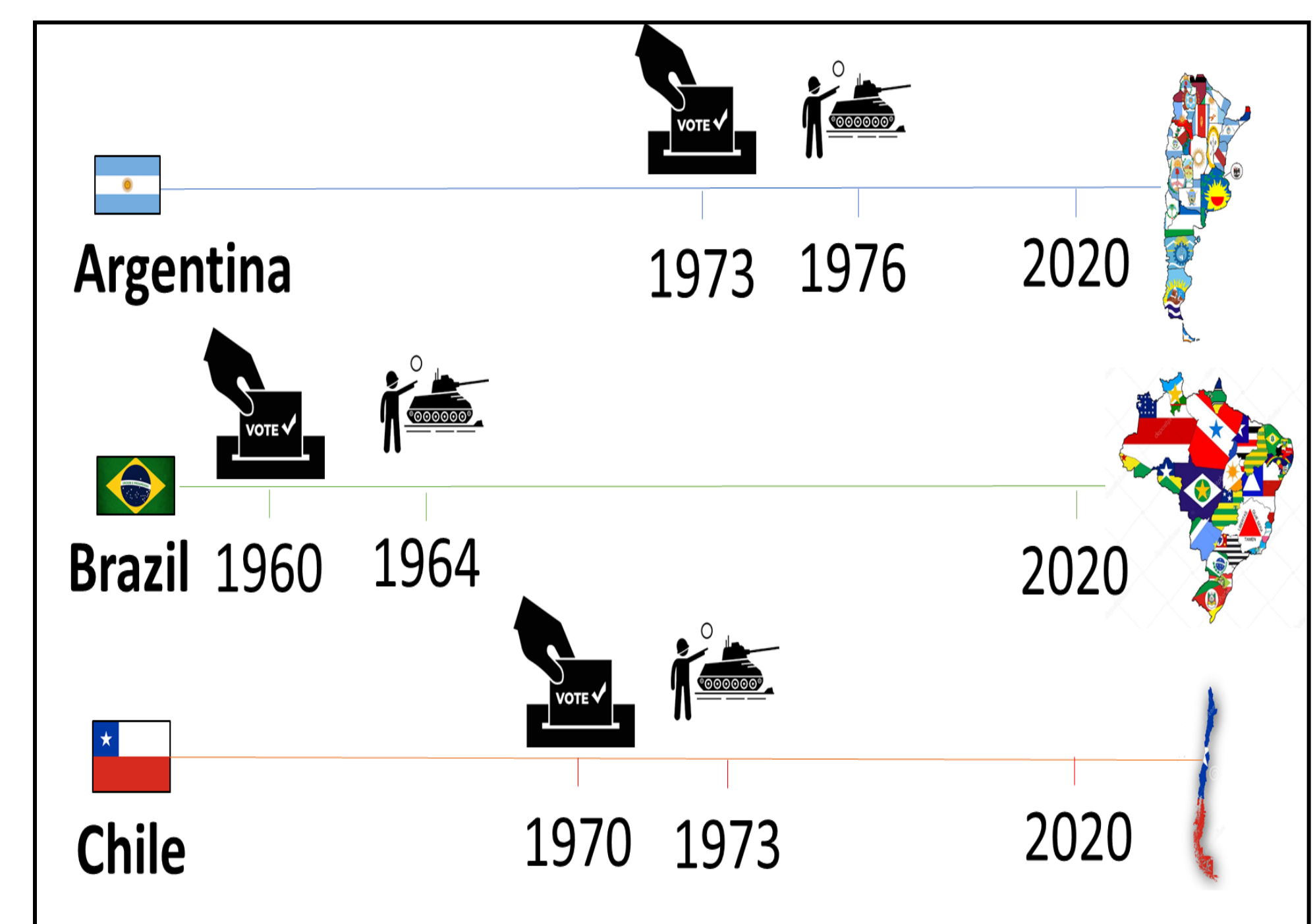
To keep the balance, several actors, as the Senate, the party system and the Constitutional Courts, play an institutional role to keep the country together and democratic. But, sometimes, they fail, and democracy declines

This is democratic backsliding

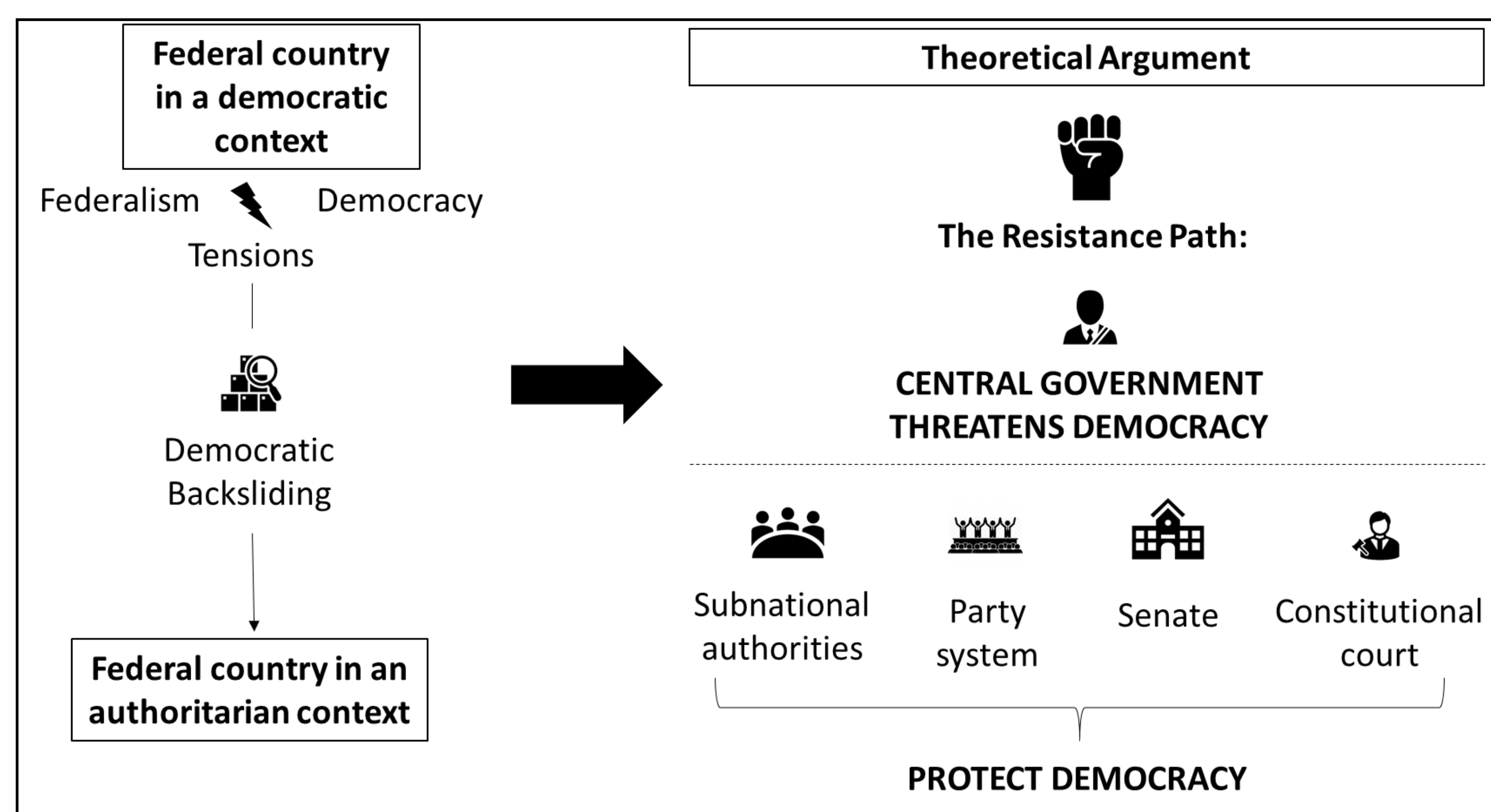
Methods

Comparative historical analysis, using **case studies** and **process tracing**

Focus: Latin America



Theoretical hypothesis



Preliminary results

