What's New in Version 8 compared to Version 7.1

- *Historical V-Dem*
  For this version of the dataset we are for the first time including Historical V-Dem. The integration of Historical V-Dem with V-Dem means that many countries have data coverage on numerous V-Dem indicators from 1789 to the present. Historical V-Dem also contains several extra, historical polities that have ceased to exist, such as Bavaria and the Two Sicilies. To find more details about which countries are coded for historical V-Dem please refer to the country table (p. 35 in the codebook) or the *Country Coding Units* document.

  Further, Historical V-Dem introduces several new indicators on various institutional features, some of which were particularly relevant for 19th century polities. To find more details on the Historical V-Dem variables please refer to the Historical V-Dem section of the codebook (p. 33).

  To read more about Historical V-Dem visit v-dem.net

- New indices and indicators
  - Neopatriamonialism index (e_v2x_neopat)
  - Clientelism index (e_v2xnp_client)
  - Presidentialism index (e_v2xnp_pres)
  - Regime Corruption (e_v2xnp_regcorr)
  - Rule of law index (v2x_rule)
  - State fiscal capacity (v2stfisccap)
  - Bureaucratic remuneration (v2strenadm)
  - Bureaucratic recruitment criteria (v2stcritrecadm)
  - Time-specific country name (histname), identifier variable
  - Judicial variables:
    - Codeable (v2jucodable)
    - Corresponding flowchart (v2juflow)
    - Language (v2julanguage)
    - Team translated (v2juteamtr)

- Modified indices and indicators
  - The aggregation formula for v2x_delibdem was changed to match the rest of the High-Level Democracy Indices. Previously, v2x_delib was erroneously being aggregated by a straight multiplication of v2x_polyarchy and v2x_delib.
  - The "Regimes in the World - the RIW measure" (e_v2x_regime) has been renamed to the "Regimes of the World index" (v2x_regime) and modified.
  - "Expanded freedom of expression index" (v2x_freexp_thick) has been renamed to "Freedom of Expression and Alternative Sources of Information index" (v2x_freexp_altinf).
  - The post-survey questionnaire has been updated.
  - "Chief executive appointment by upper chamber implicit approval" (v2exapupap) has been corrected.
  - Updated aggregation rules for A, C variables, and indices. See Section 1.5 Aggregation.
  - The "Elected officials index" (v2xelecoff) has been modfied.
  - The "Legislature directly elected index" (v2ex_elecleg) has been modified.
  - The following quota variables has been corrected and reintroduced, however we advice you to not use any earlier version of these variabels:
    - Lower chamber gender quota (v2lgqugen)
    - Lower chamber gender quota threshold (v2lgqugent)
    - Lower chamber gender quota placement mandate (v2lgqugens)

- Other new or modified information
  - Updated list of countries.
  - Updated list of variables.
  - Updated citations for V-Dem's reference materials.
  - Updated *Country Coding Units* document.

To find more details about changes to previous versions of the dataset, please visit Appendix E or the specific version of the codebook. All codebook versions are available at v-dem.net under "Reference."