



UNIVERSITY OF  
GOTHENBURG

# CORRELATES OF CORRUPTION

BO ROTHSTEIN  
SÖREN HOLMBERG

---

## WORKING PAPER SERIES 2014:17

**QOG THE QUALITY OF GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE**

Department of Political Science  
University of Gothenburg  
Box 711, SE 405 30 GÖTEBORG  
December 2014  
ISSN 1653-8919

© 2014 by Sören Holmberg and Bo Rothstein. All rights reserved.



# Content

## Control of Corruption

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Defining Control of Corruption | 5 |
|--------------------------------|---|

## Economy

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| GDP per Capita                 | 6  |
| Economic Equality (Gini Index) | 7  |
| Economic Freedom Index         | 8  |
| GDP / Capita Growth            | 9  |
| Country Credit Rating          | 10 |

## Welfare

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Human Development Index       | 11 |
| Government Revenue (% of GDP) | 12 |
| Tax Revenue (% of GDP)        | 13 |
| Average Schooling Years       | 14 |

## Health

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Life Expectancy            | 15 |
| Healthy Life years         | 16 |
| Infant Mortality Rate      | 17 |
| Maternal Mortality Rate    | 18 |
| Public Health Expenditure  | 19 |
| Private Health Expenditure | 20 |

## Environment

|                                      |    |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| CO <sub>2</sub> Emissions per Capita | 21 |
| Access to Drinking Water             | 22 |
| Access to Sanitation                 | 23 |

## Gender

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Gender Equality                | 24 |
| Secondary Education Enrollment | 25 |

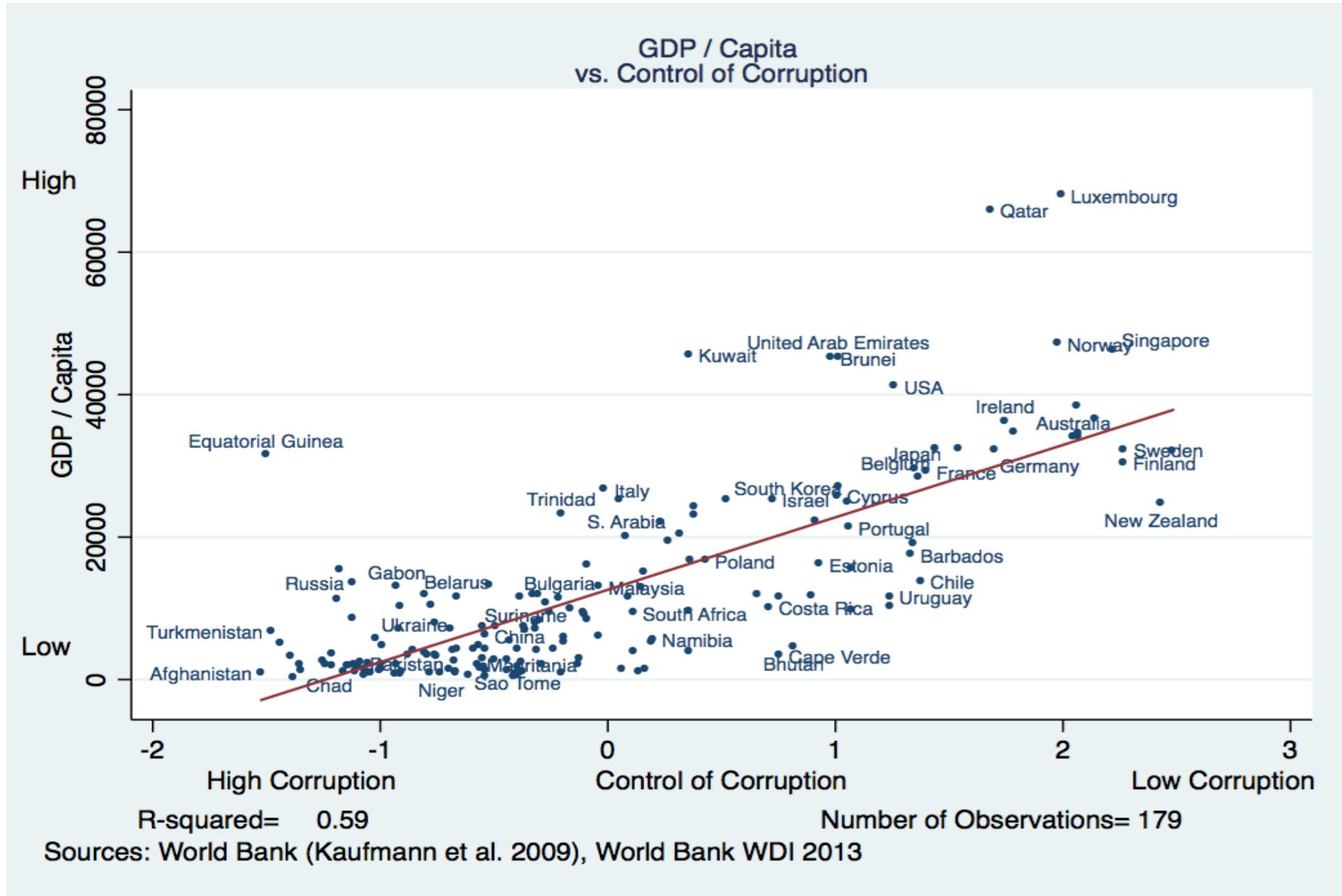
## Violence/Crime

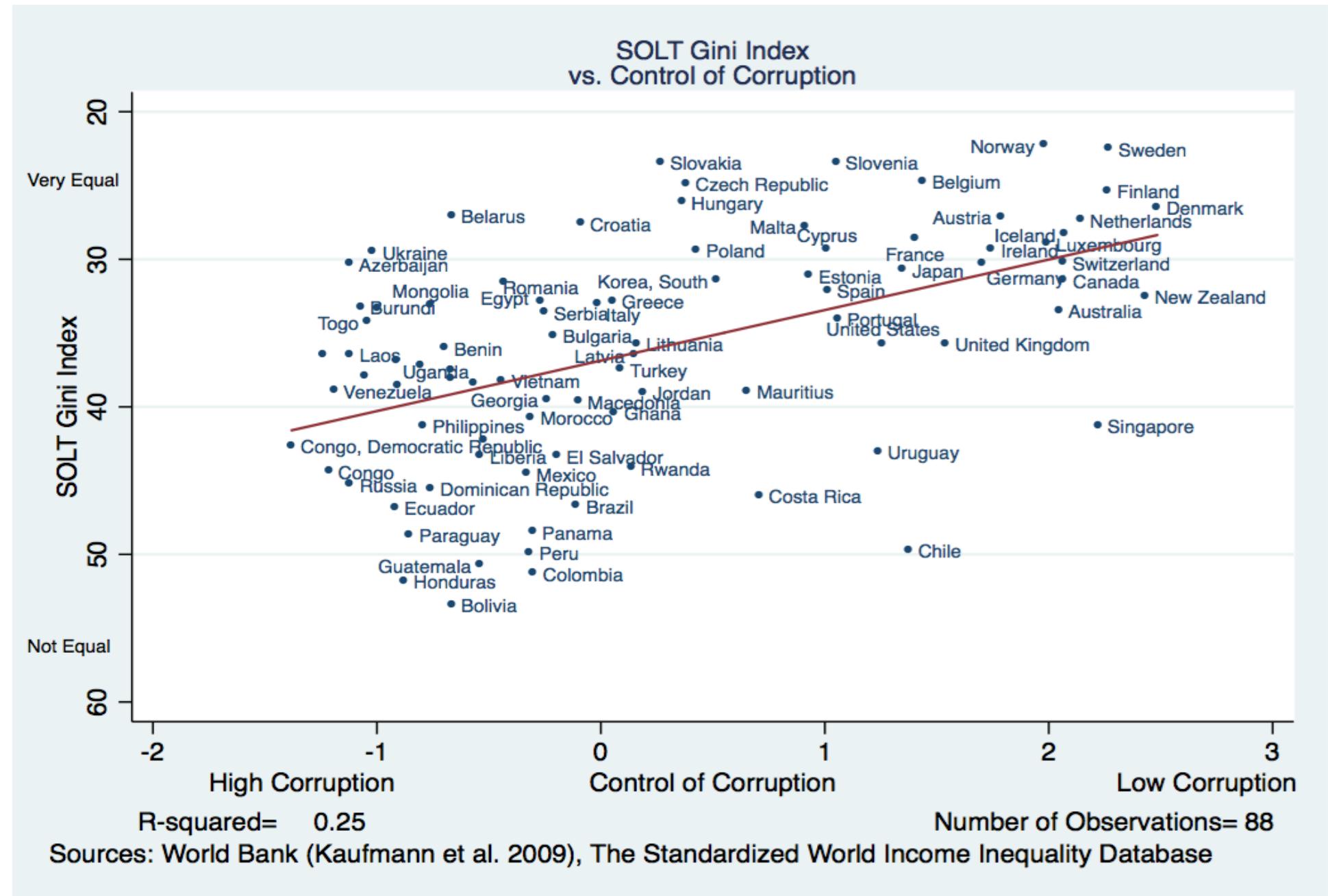
|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| Number of Police Officers | 26 |
| Homicide Rate             | 27 |

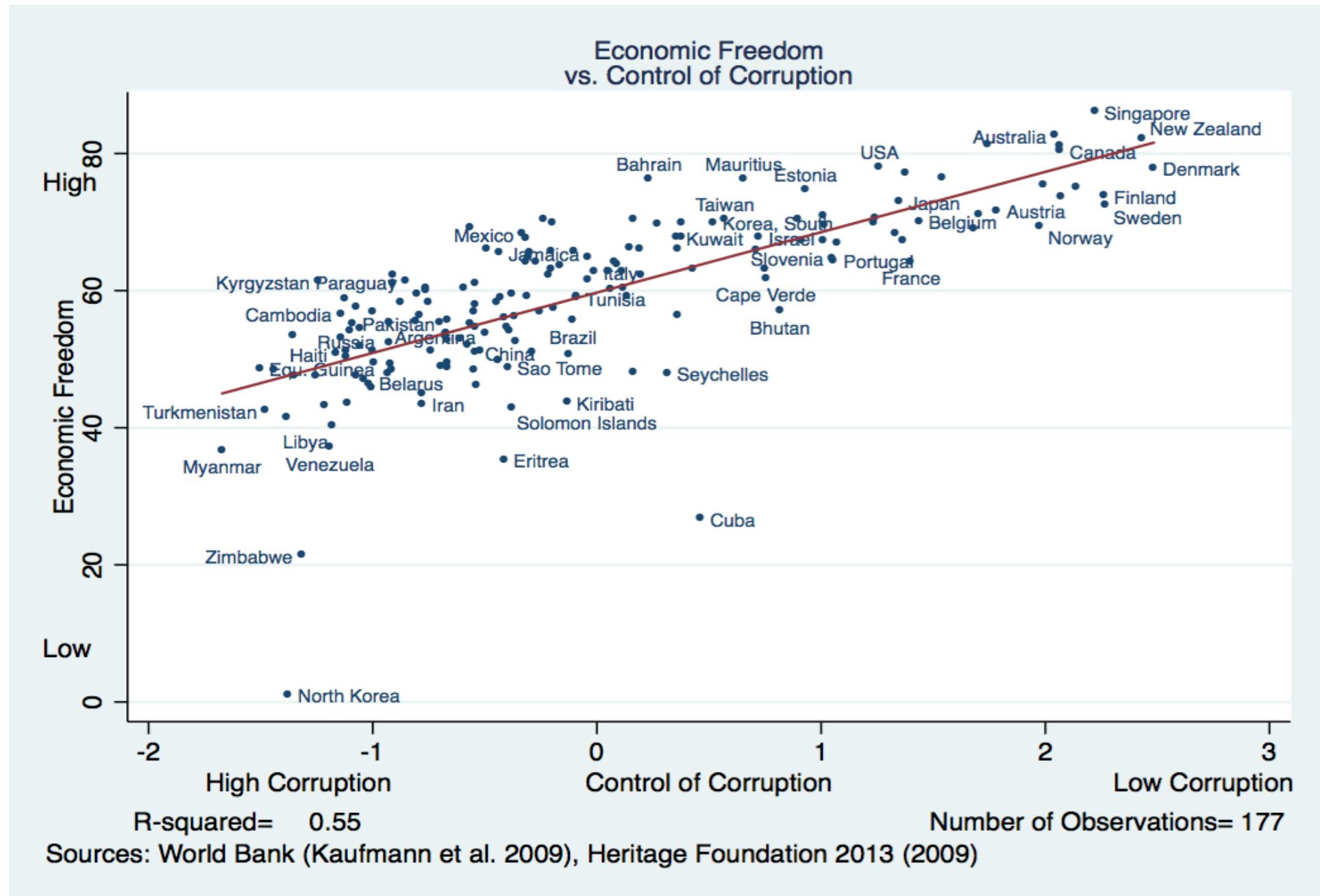
|   |    |
|---|----|
| <b>Trust</b>  |    |
| Interpersonal Trust                                       | 28 |
| Confidence in Parliament (Democracies only)               | 29 |
| <b>Happiness</b>  |    |
| Feeling Happiness   | 30 |
| Happiness   | 31 |
| Life Satisfaction   | 32 |
| <b>Democracy</b>  |    |
| Level of Democracy vs. Control of Corruption              | 33 |
| <b>Quality of Government</b>                              |    |
| Government Effectiveness                                  | 34 |
| Control of Corruption 2002 vs. Control of Corruption 2009 | 35 |
| <b>Description of Variables</b>                           | 37 |
| <b>References</b>   | 43 |

## **Control of Corruption- World Bank Governance Indicators**

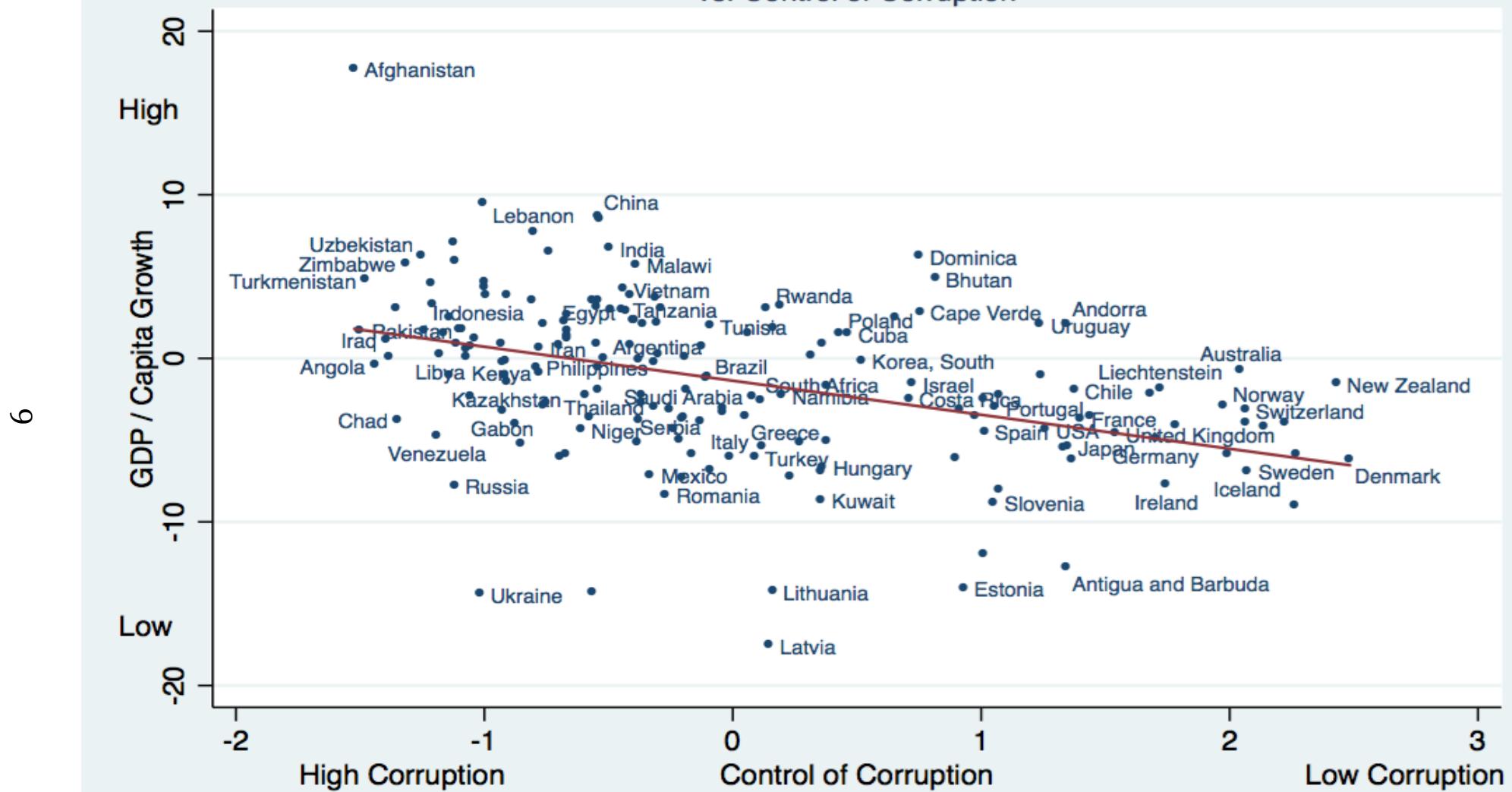
Part of the Worldwide Governance Indicators, “Control of Corruption” measures perceptions of corruption, conventionally defined as the exercise of public power for private gain. The particular aspect of corruption measured by the various sources differs somewhat, ranging from the frequency of “additional payments to get things done”, to the effects of corruption on the business environment, to measuring “grand corruption” in the political arena or in the tendency of elite forms to engage in “state capture”.







### GDP / Capita Growth vs. Control of Corruption

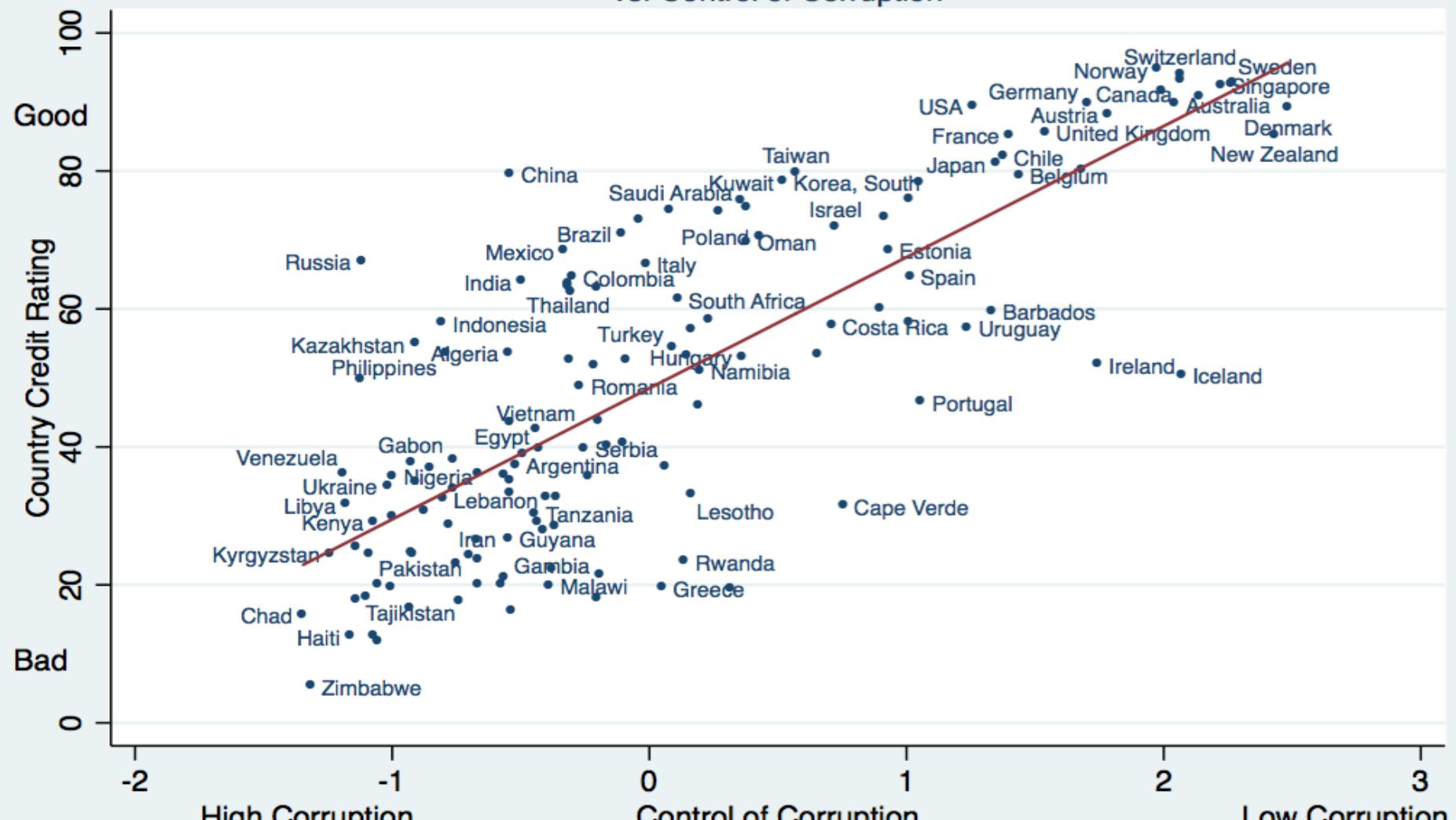


R-squared= 0.18

Number of Observations= 185

Sources: World Bank (Kaufmann et al. 2009), World Bank WDI 2013 (2008-2009)

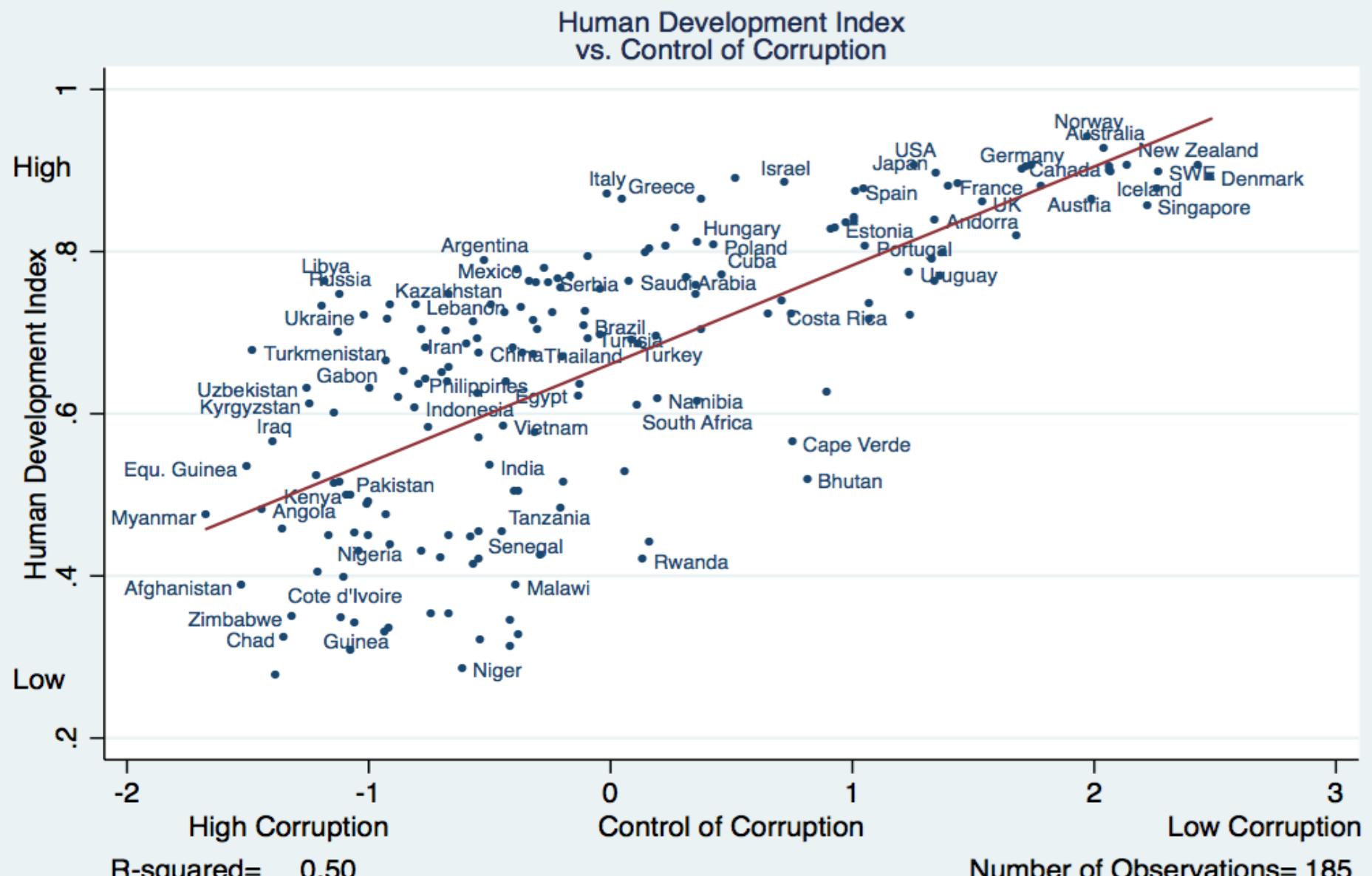
### Country Credit Rating vs. Control of Corruption



R-squared= 0.63

Number of Observations= 141

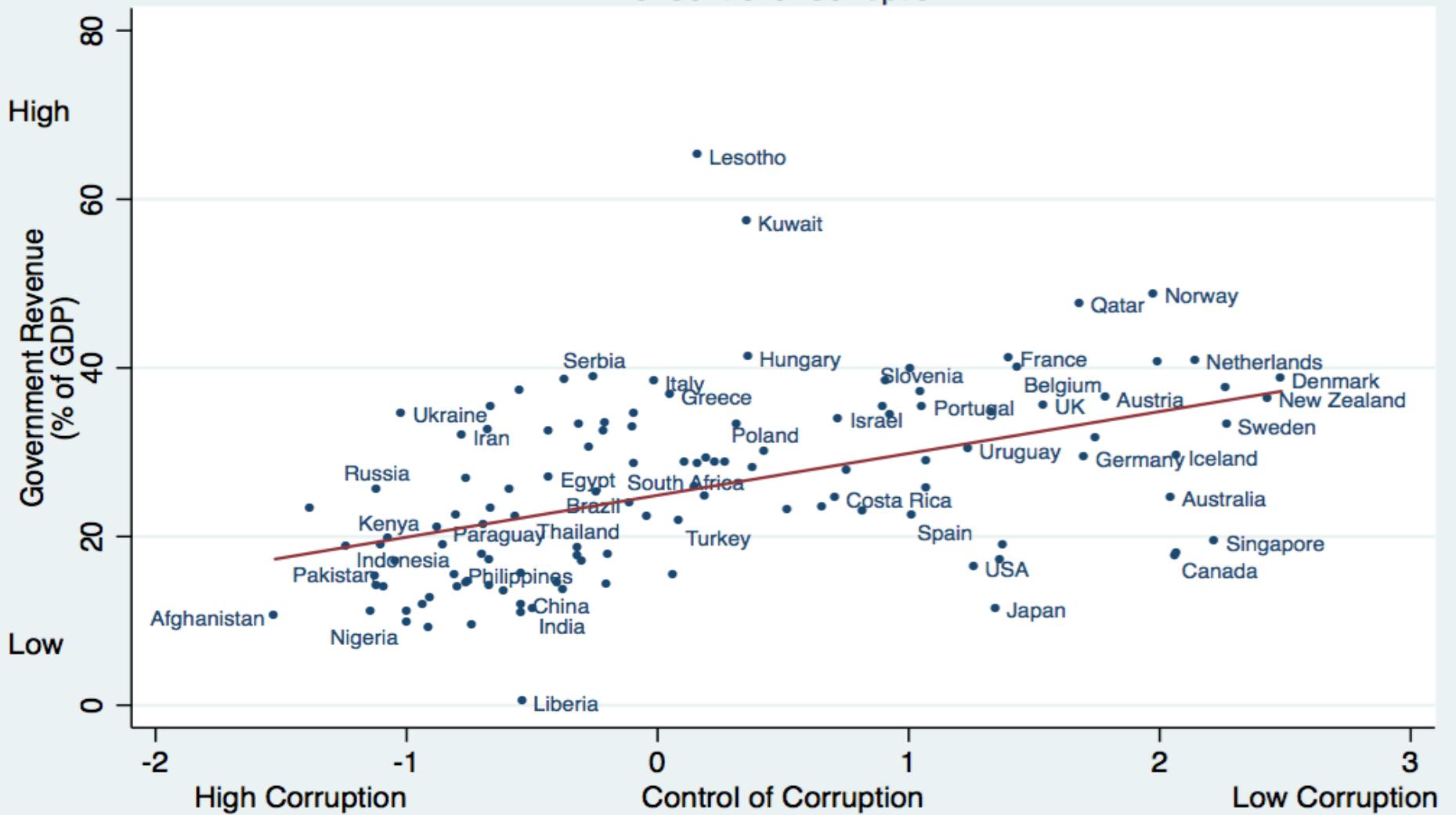
Sources: World Bank (Kaufmann et al. 2009), WEF (Schwab 2012)



Sources: World Bank (Kaufmann et al. 2009), UNDP 2013 (2009-2010)

### Government Revenue vs. Control of Corruption

12



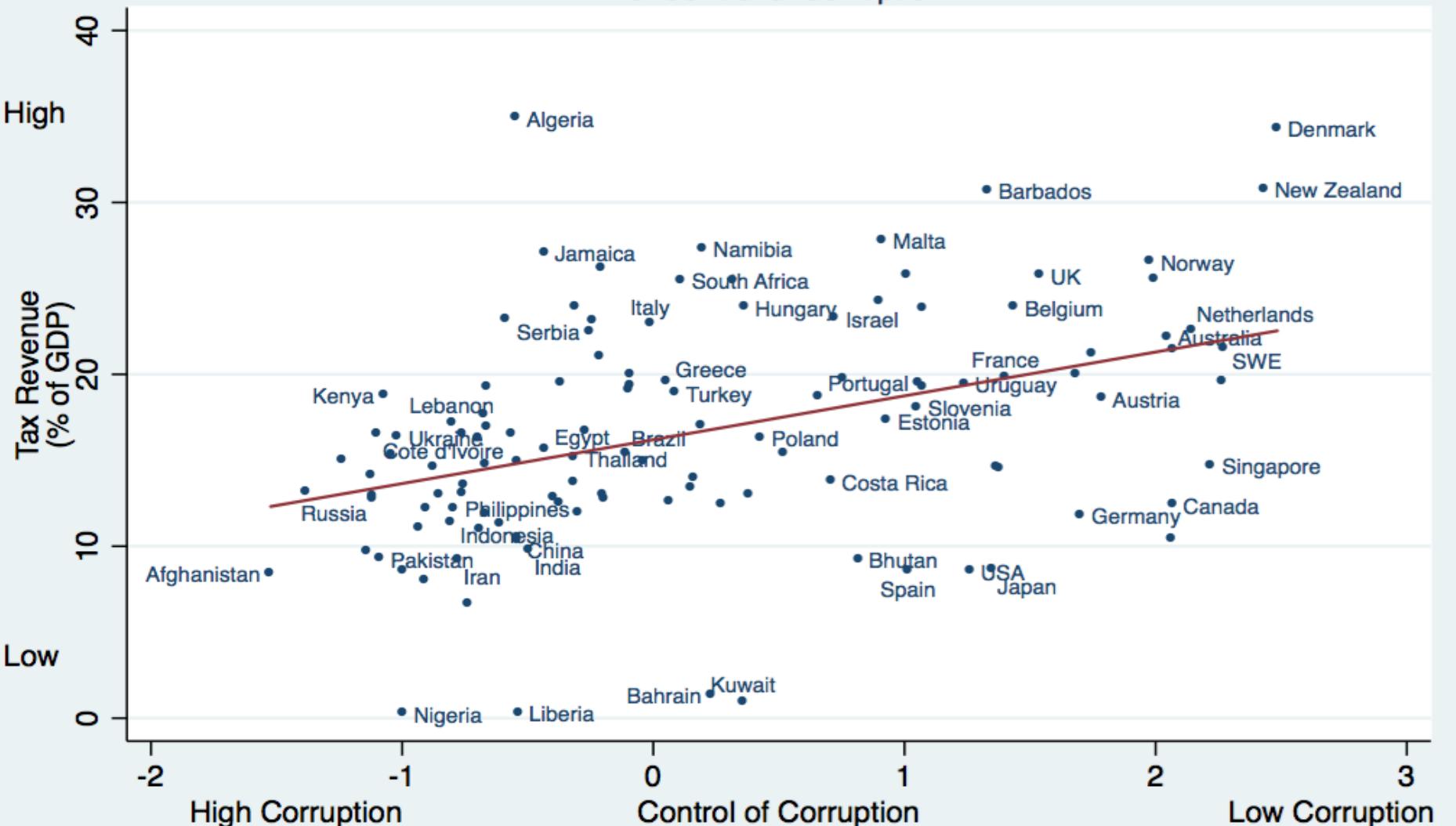
R-squared= 0.23

Number of Observations= 121

Sources: World Bank (Kaufmann et al. 2009), World Bank WDI 2013 (2006-2009)

### Tax Revenue vs. Control of Corruption

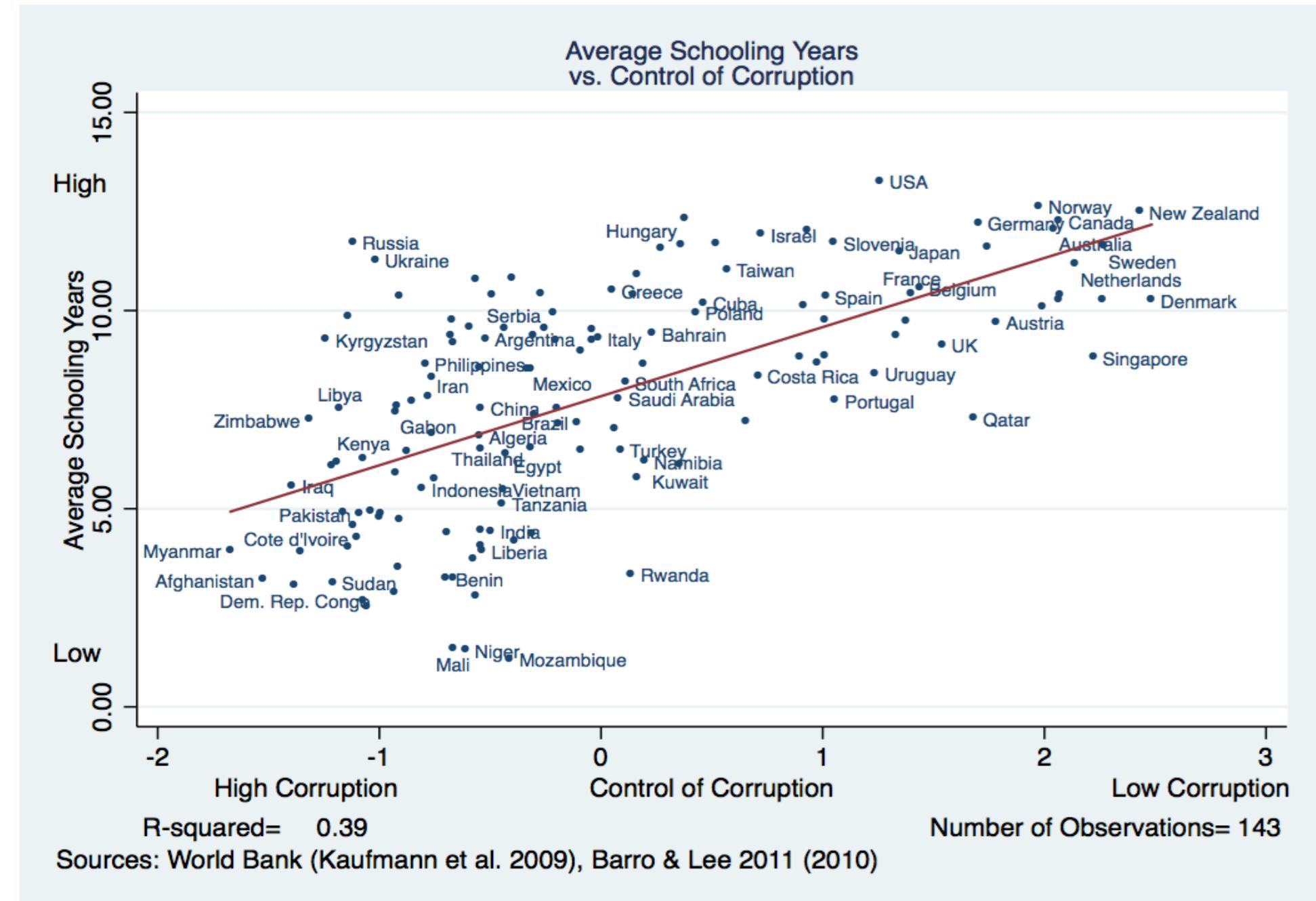
ET

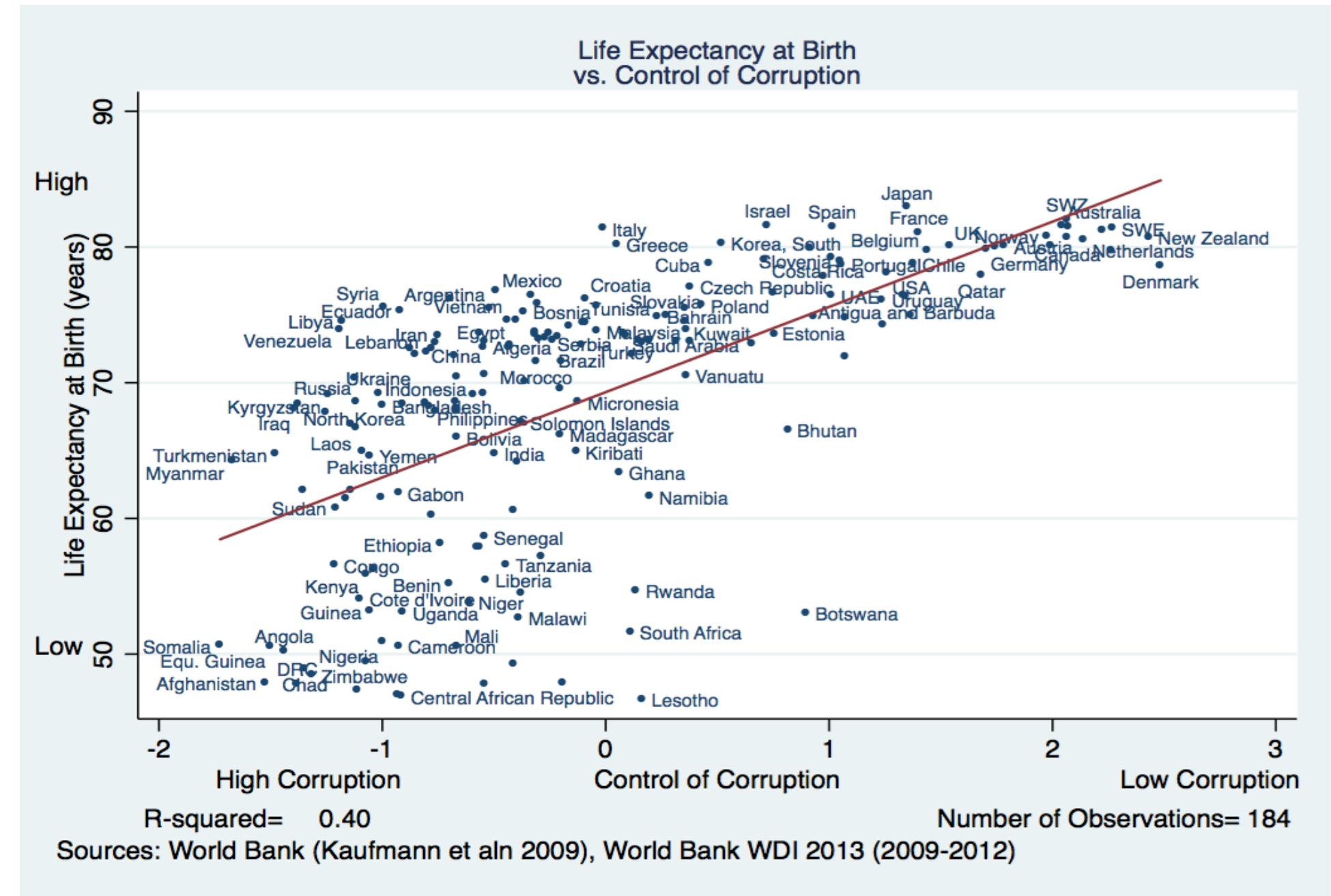


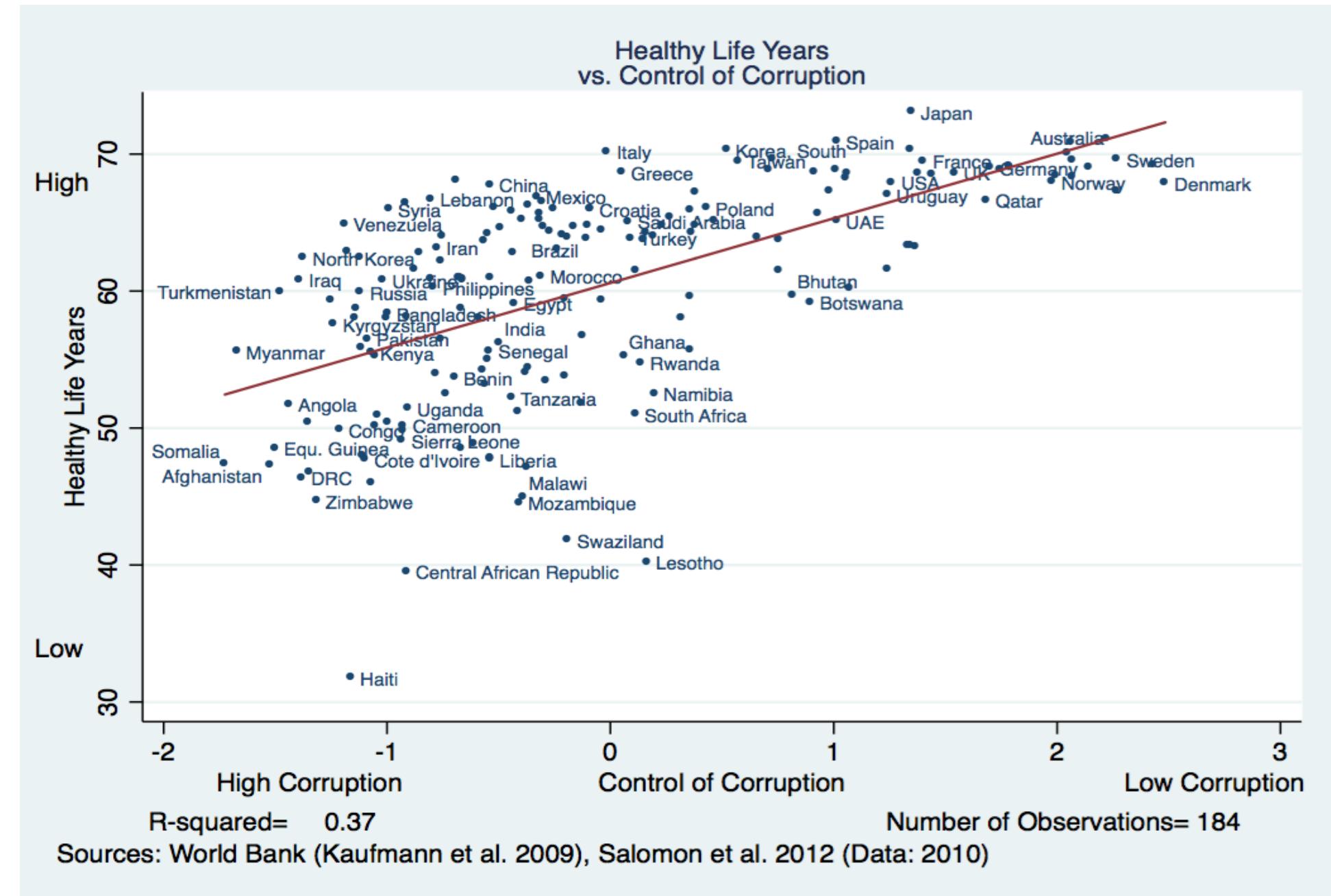
R-squared= 0.16

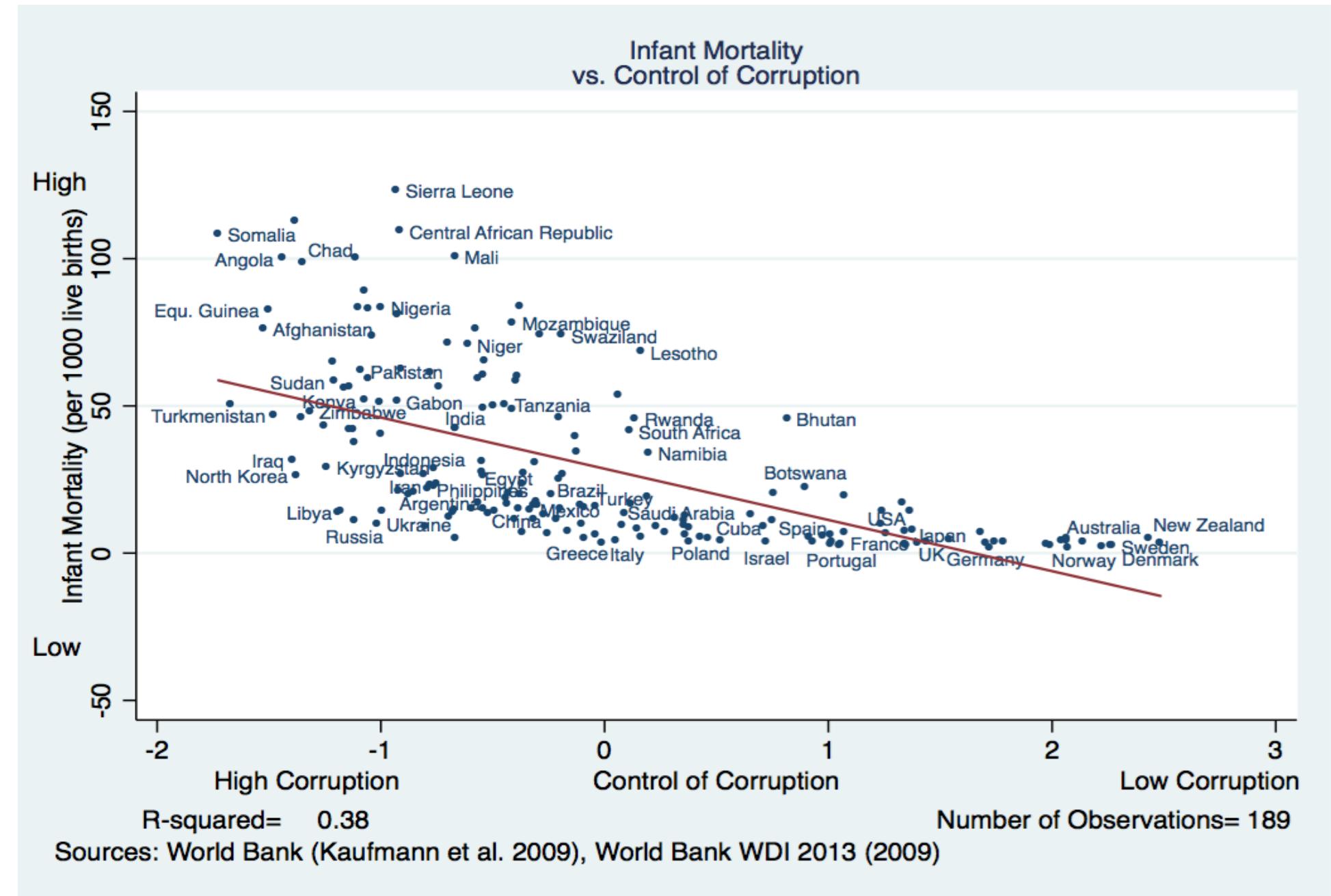
Number of Observations= 120

Sources: World Bank (Kaufmann et al. 2009), World Bank WDI 2013 (2006-2009)



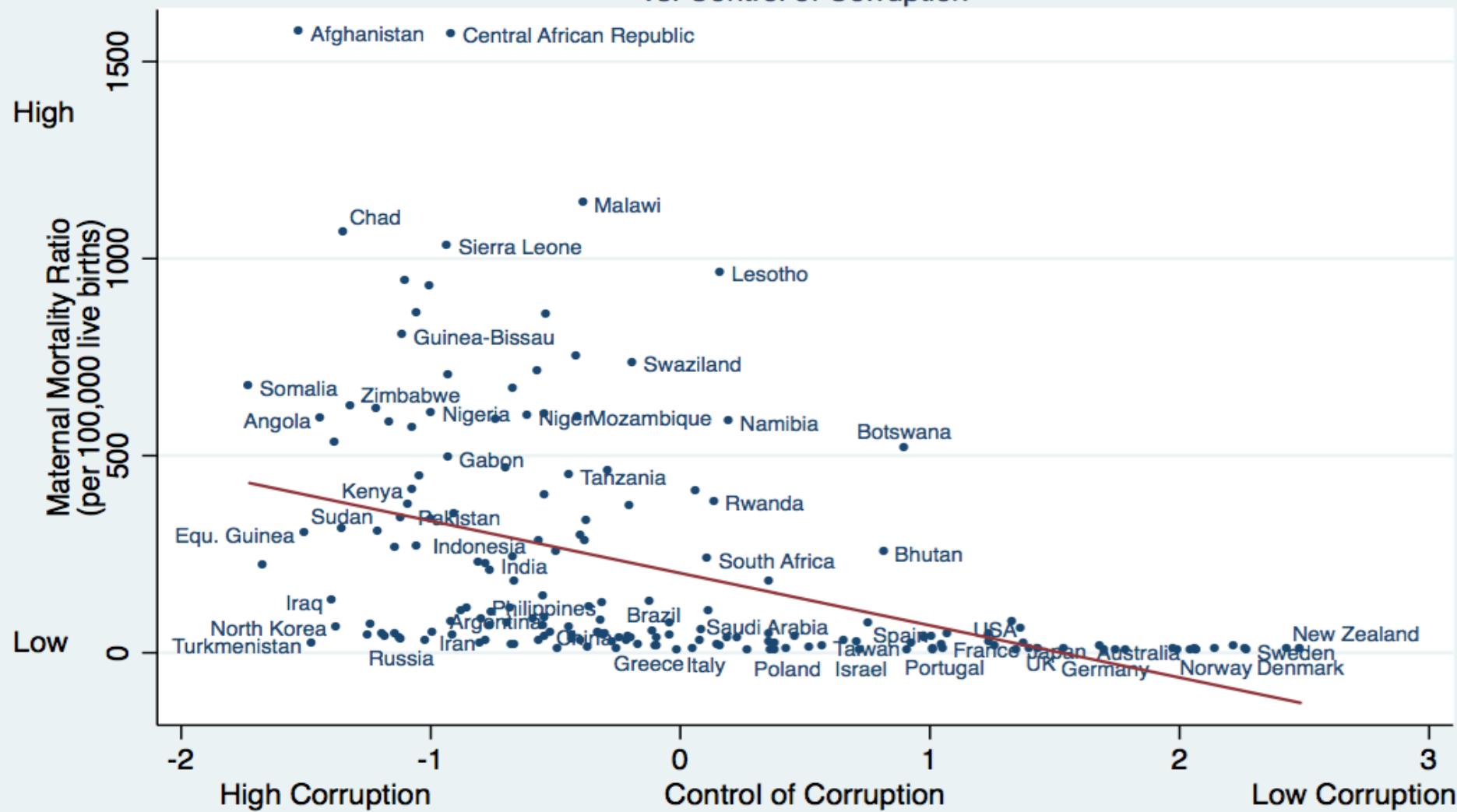






### Maternal Mortality Ratio vs. Control of Corruption

81



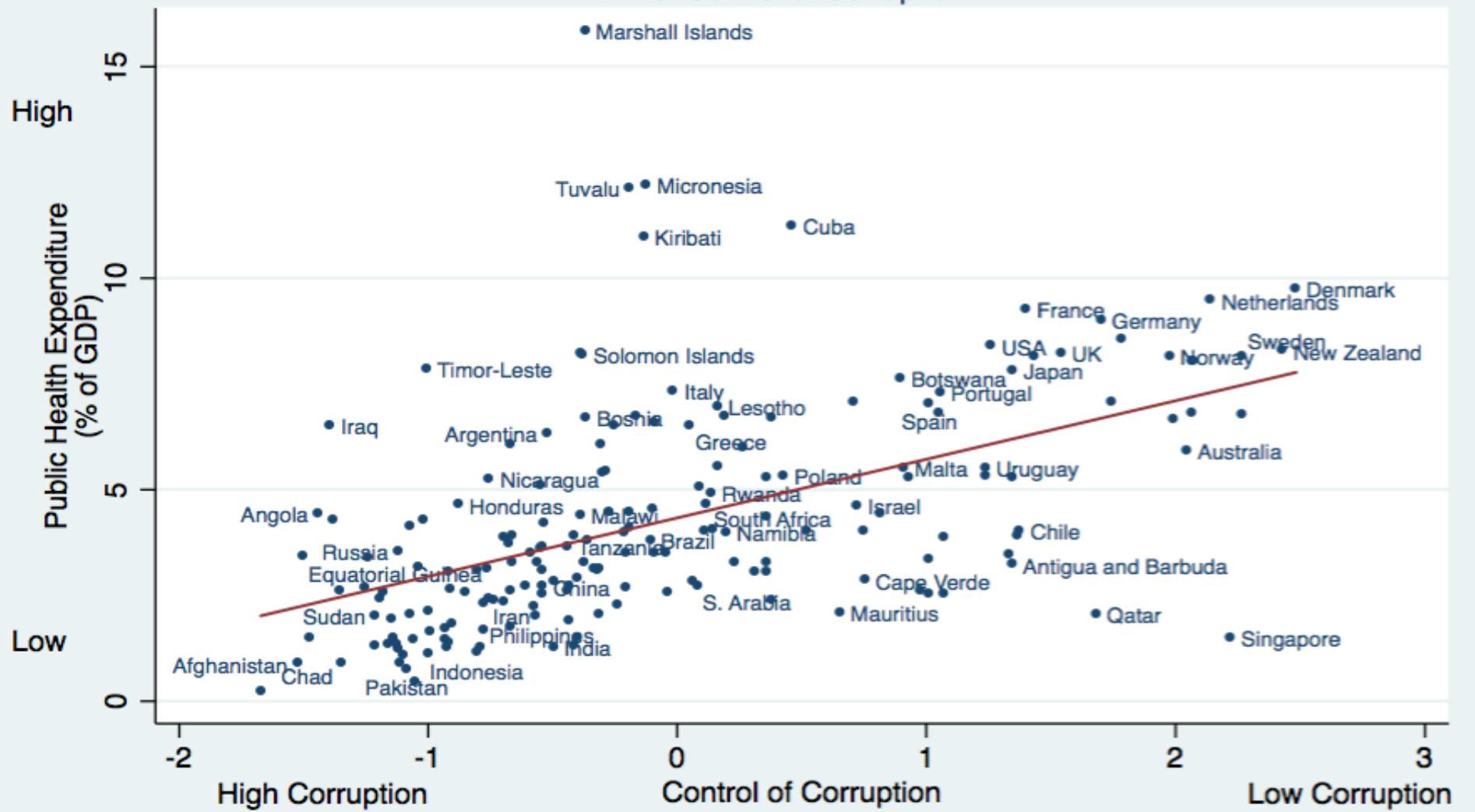
R-squared= 0.19

Number of Observations= 180

Sources: World Bank (Kaufmann et al. 2009), IHME (Rajaratnam et al. 2010; Hogan et al. 2010) (Data: 2008)

### Public Health Expenditure (% of GDP) vs. Control of Corruption

61



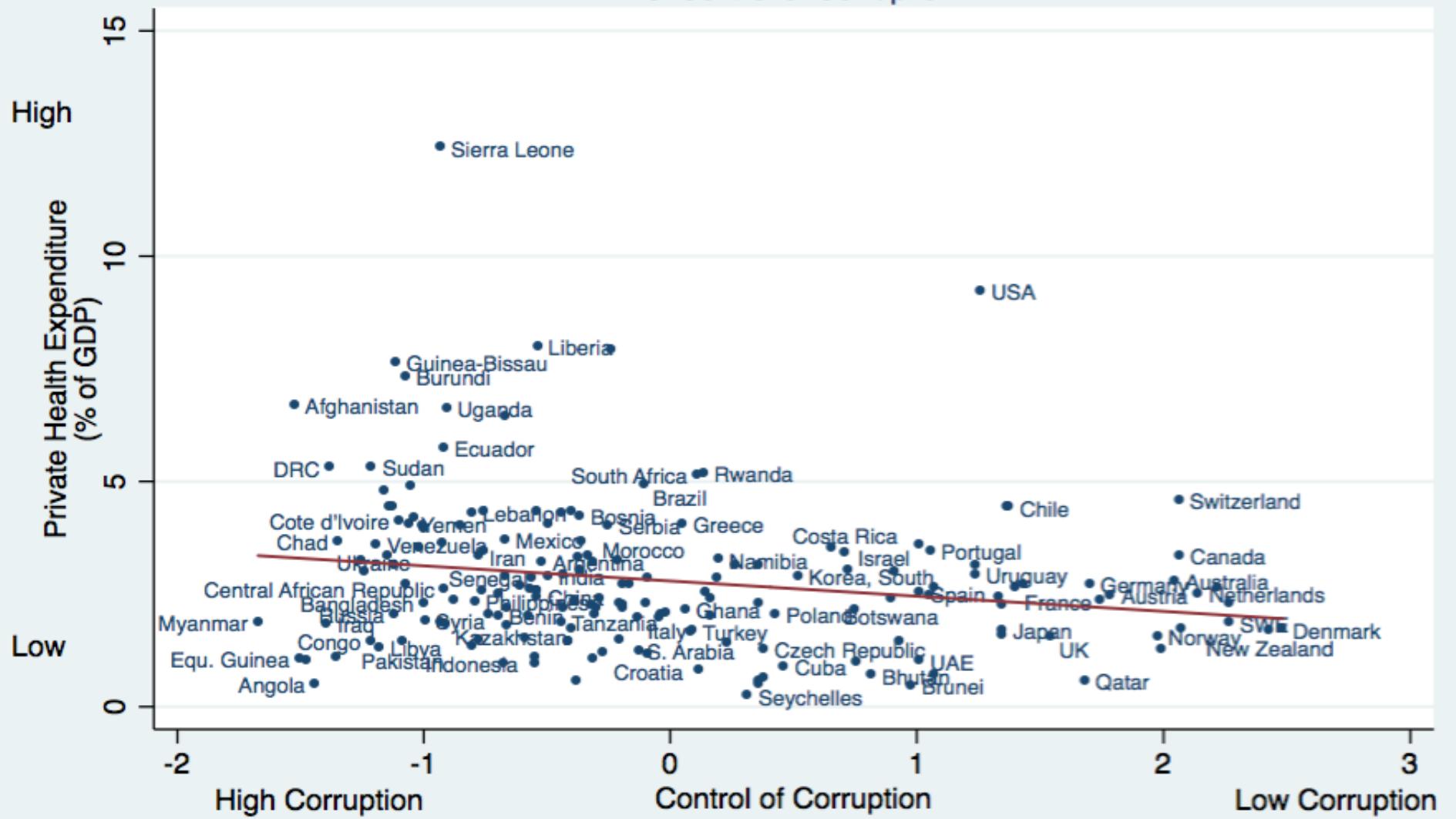
R-squared= 0.28

Number of Observations= 185

Sources: World Bank (Kauffman et al 2009), World Bank WDI 2013 (Data: 2009)

### Private Health Expenditure (% of GDP) vs. Control of Corruption

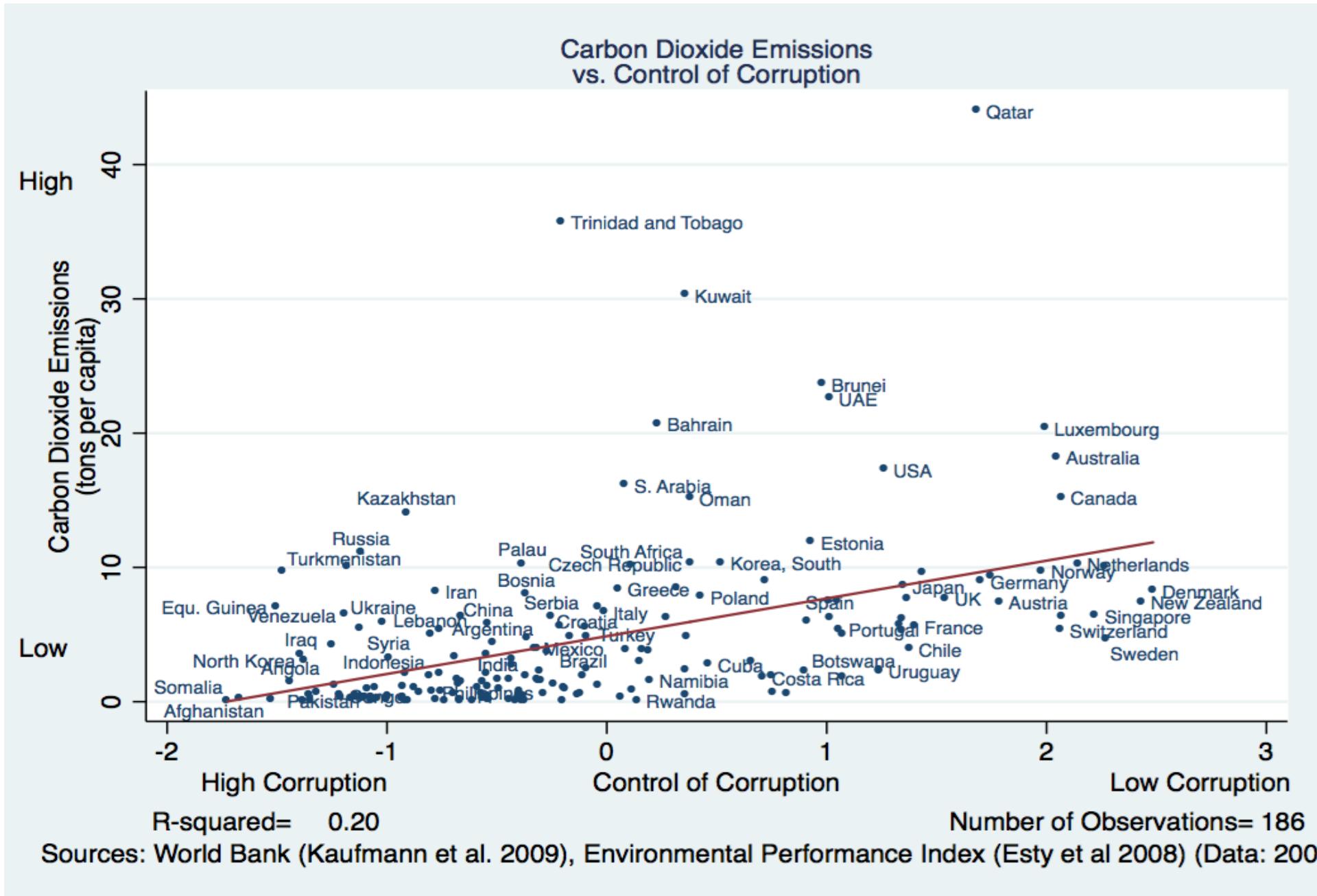
20

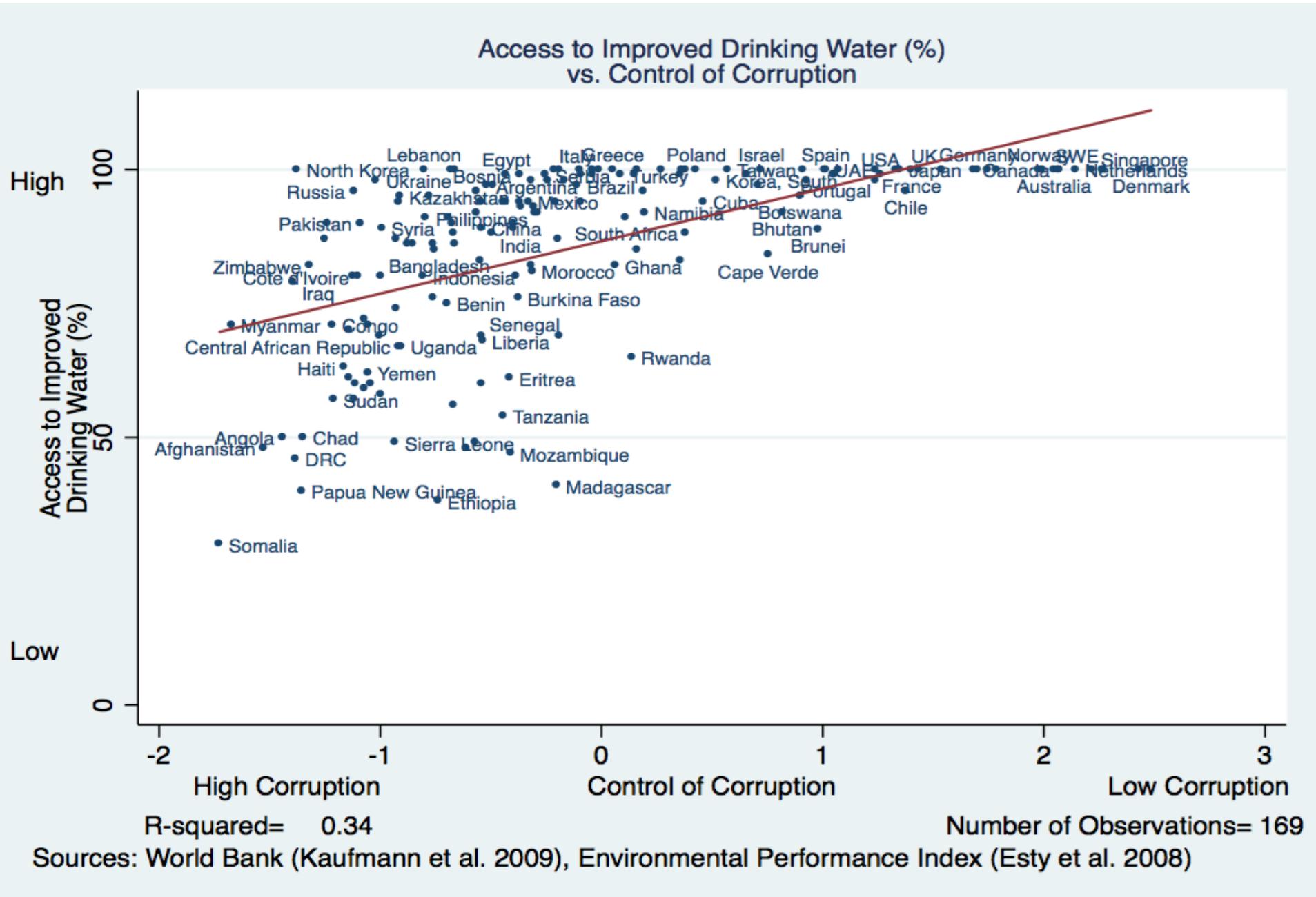


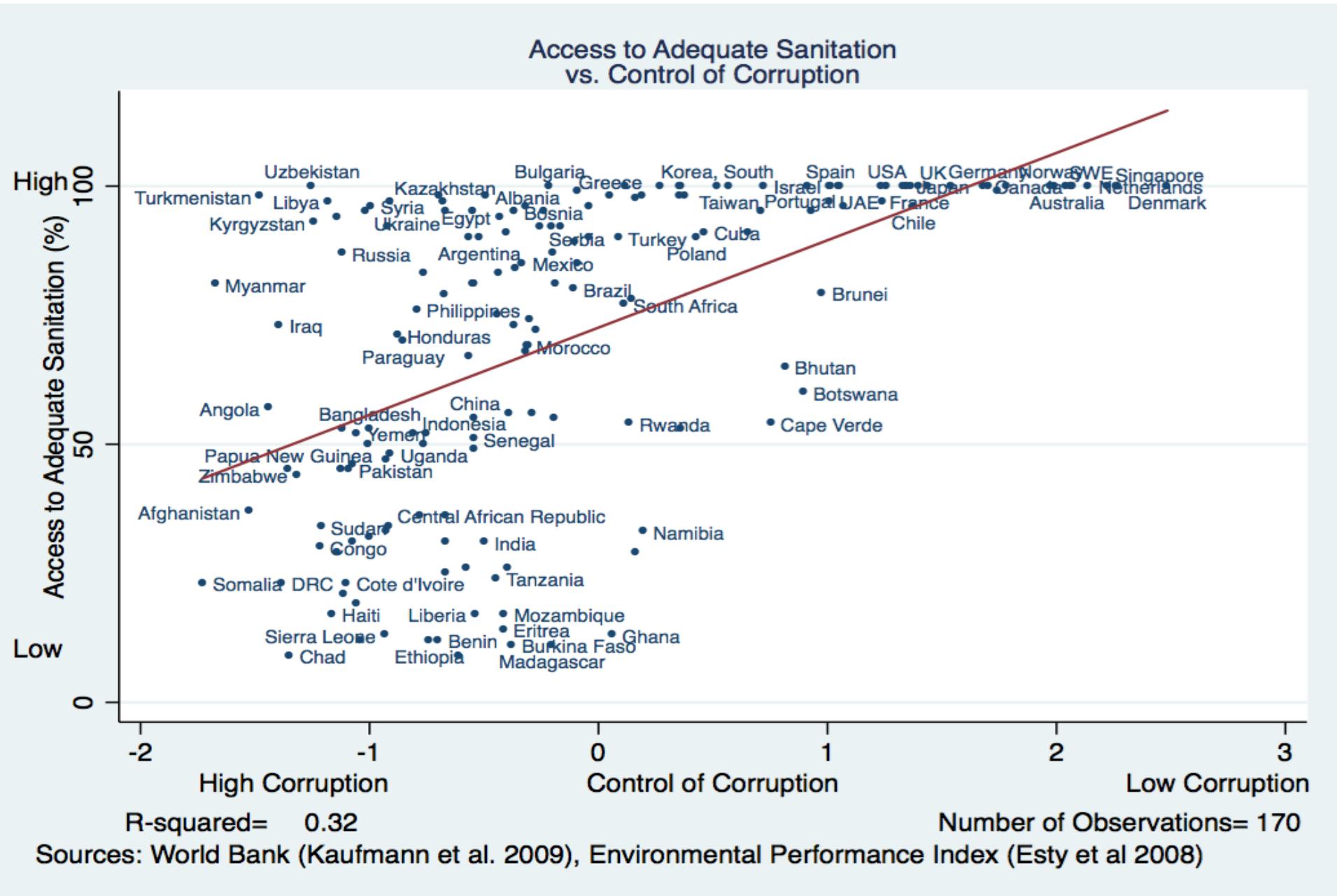
R-squared= 0.04

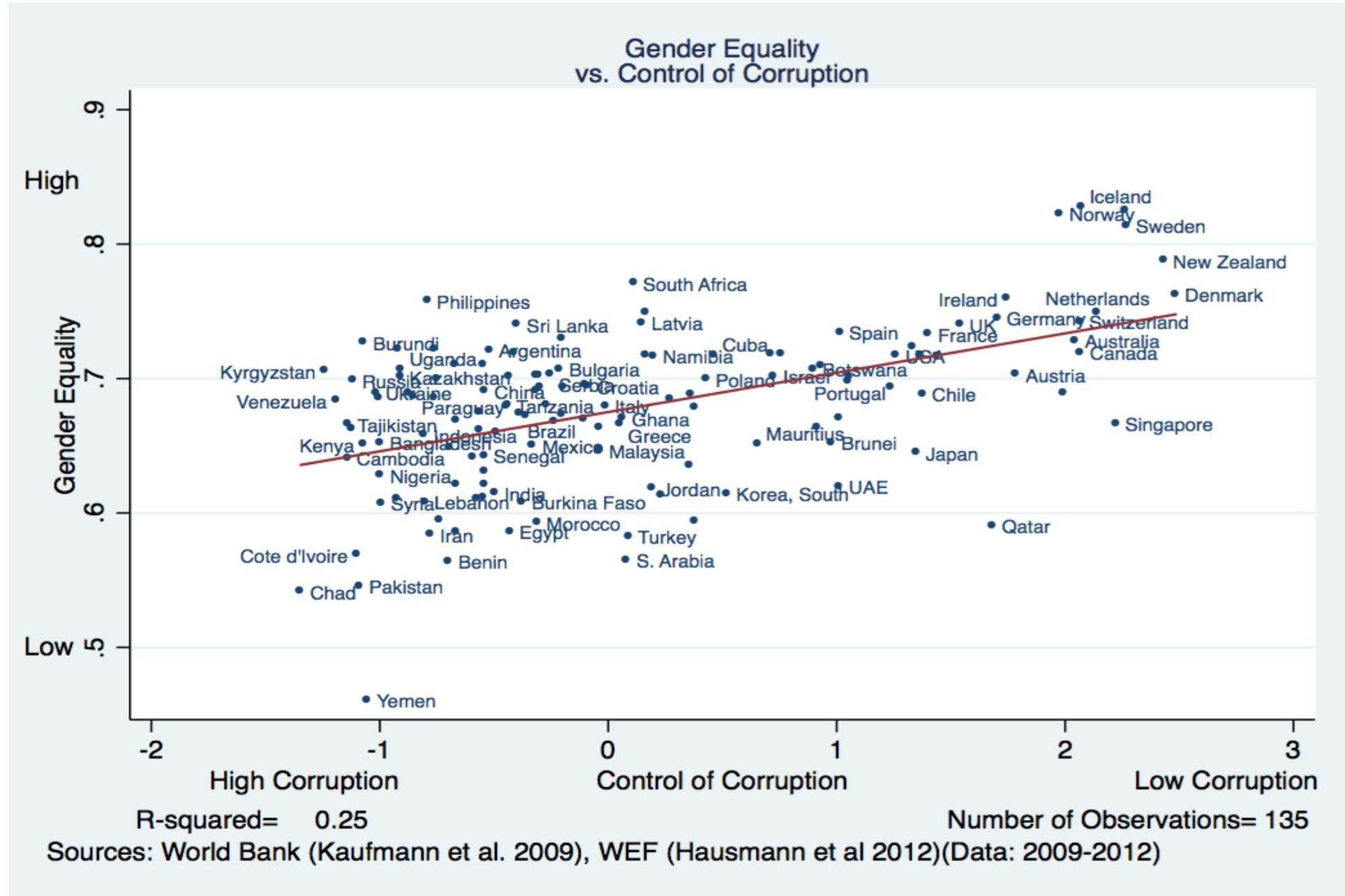
Number of Observations= 185

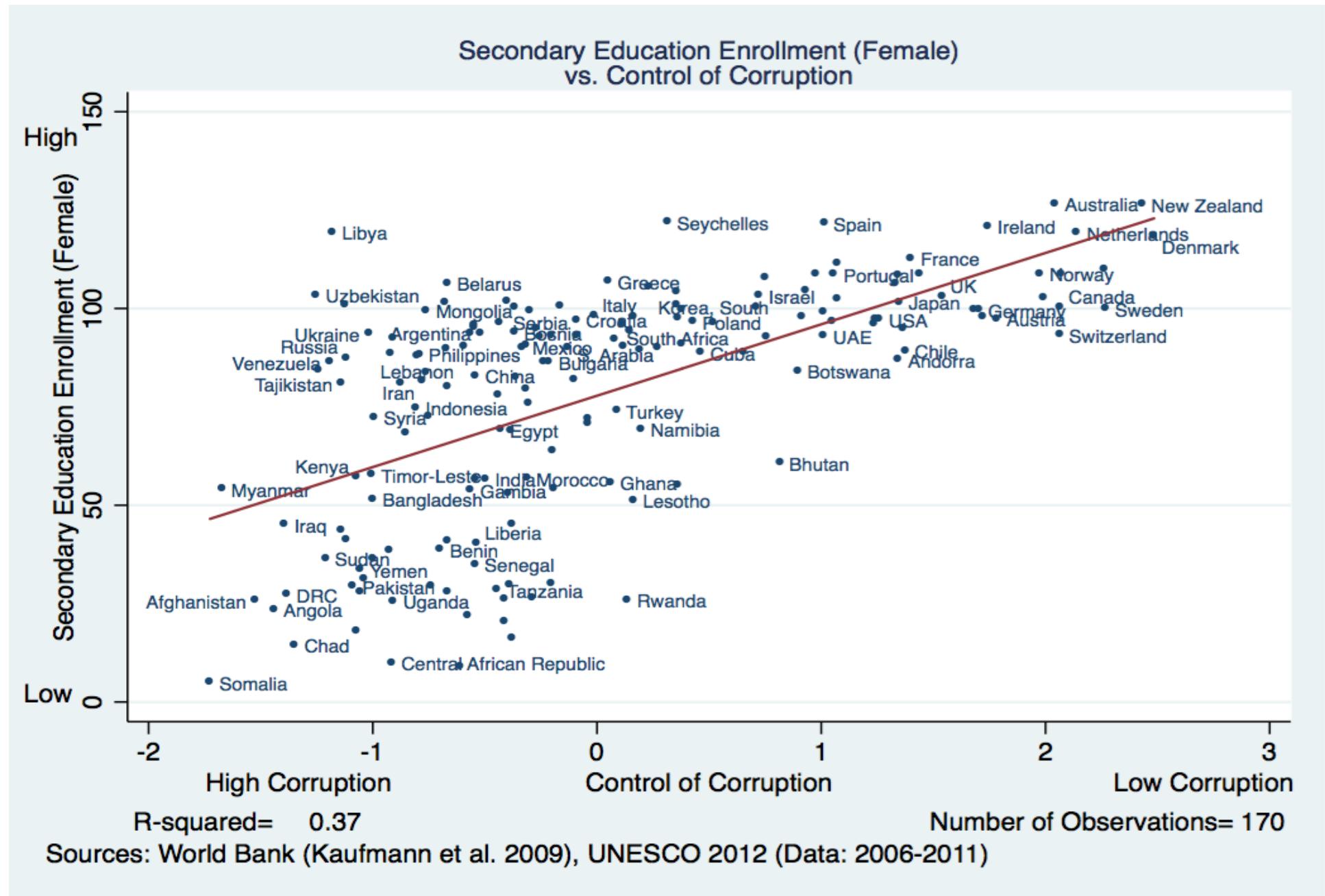
Sources: World Bank (Kauffman et al 2009), World Bank WDI 2013 (Data: 2009)





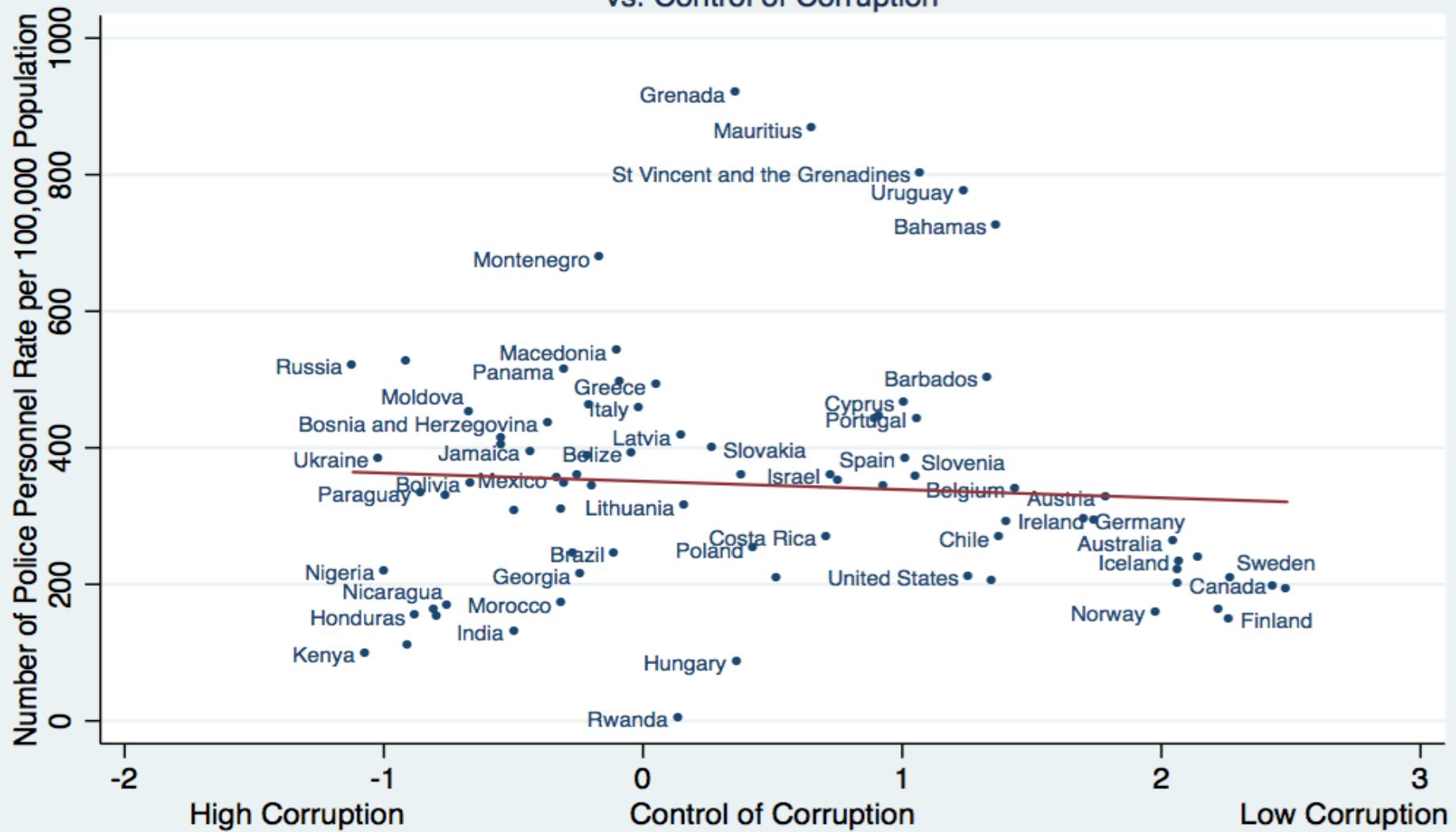






### Number of Police Personnel Rate Per 100,000 Population vs. Control of Corruption

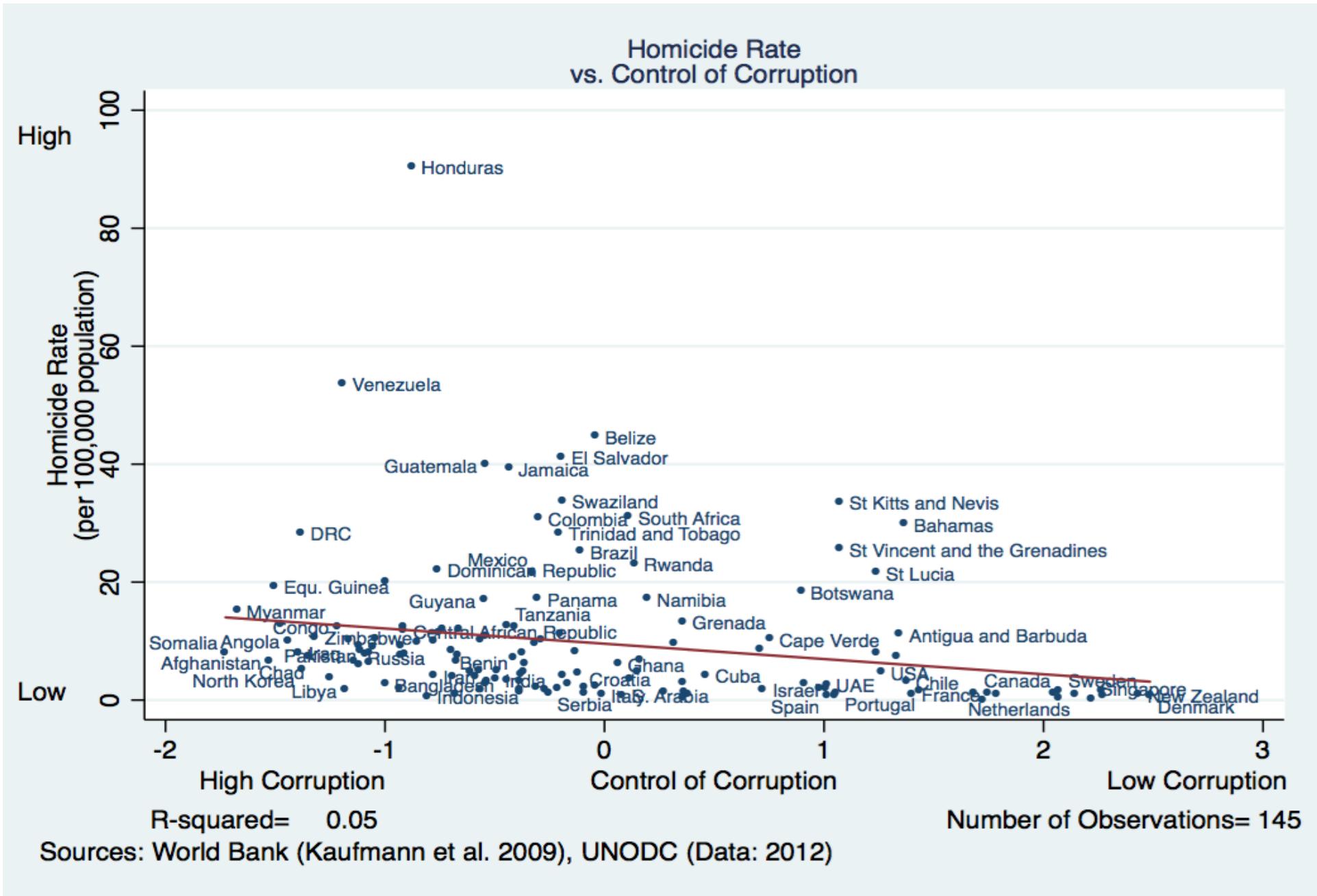
26



R-squared= 0.01

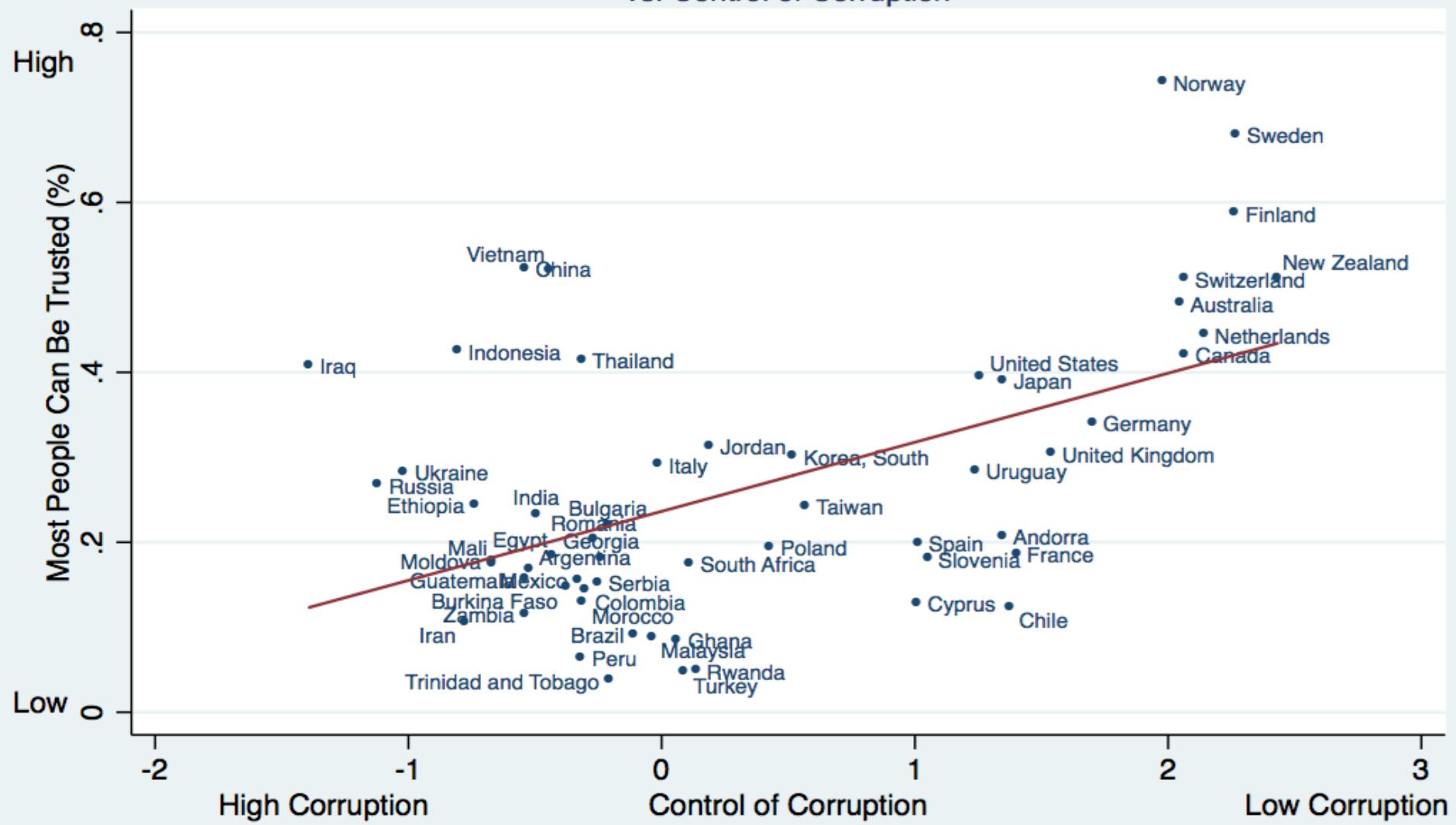
Number of Observations= 81

Sources: World Bank (Data: 2009); UNODC (Data: 2013)



### Interpersonal Trust vs. Control of Corruption

28



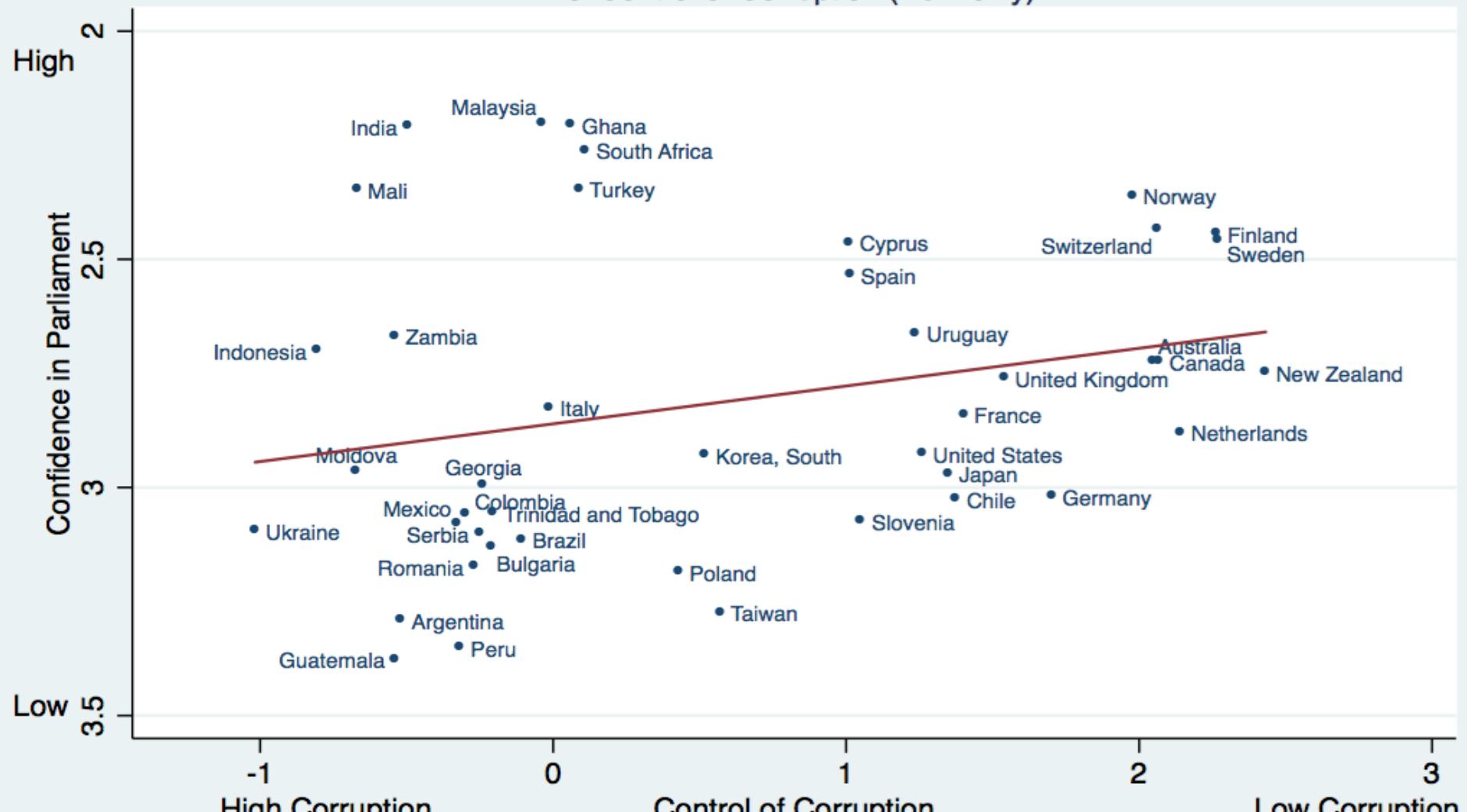
R-squared= 0.26

Number of Observations= 56

Sources: World Bank (Kaufmann et al. 2009), World Values Survey (Data: 2004-2008)

### Confidence in Parliament vs. Control of Corruption (Dem only)

29

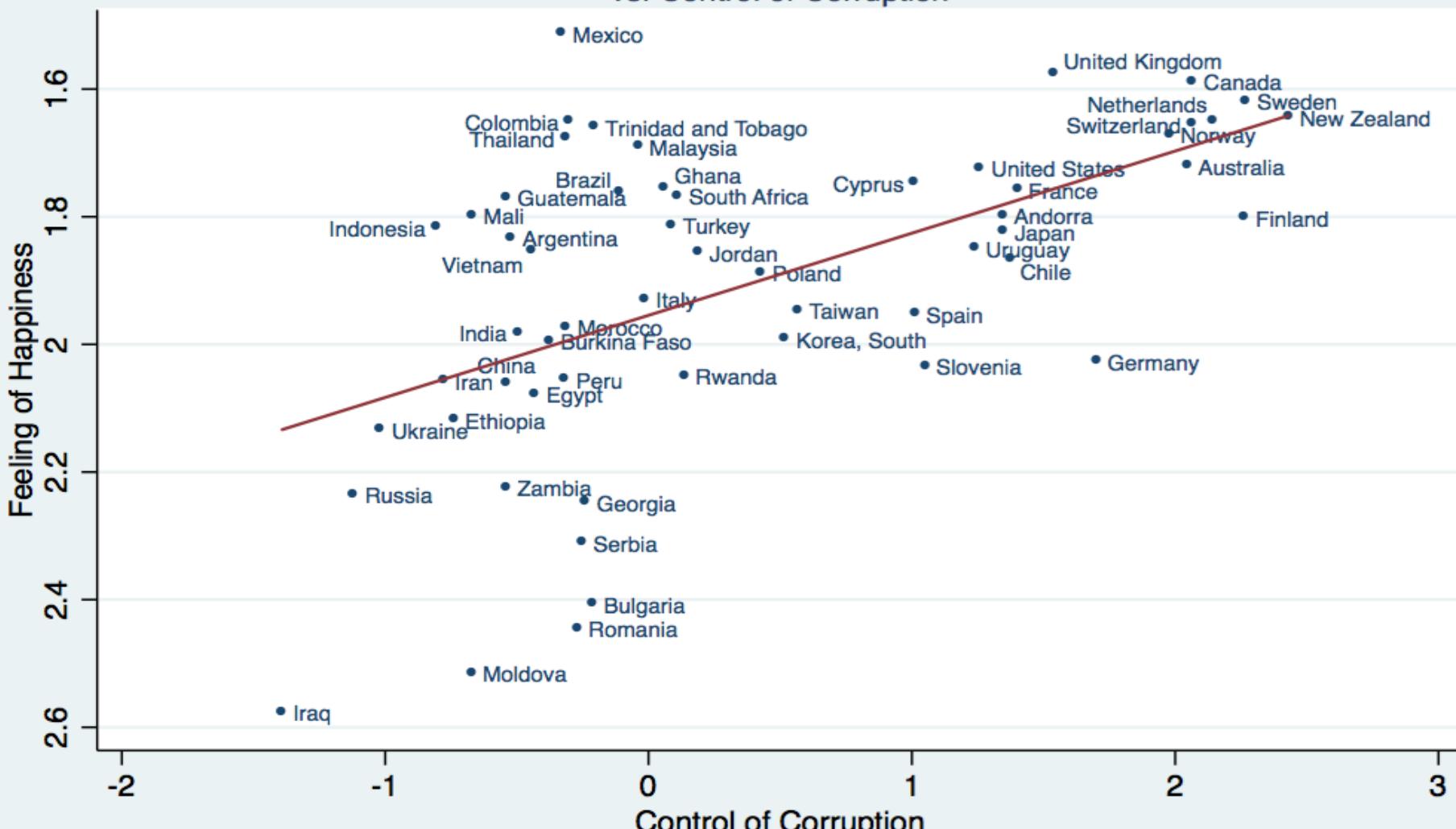


R-squared= 0.06

Number of Observations= 43

Sources: World Bank (Kaufmann et al. 2009), Freedom House / Polity, World Values Survey (Data: 2004-2008)

### Feeling of Happiness vs. Control of Corruption



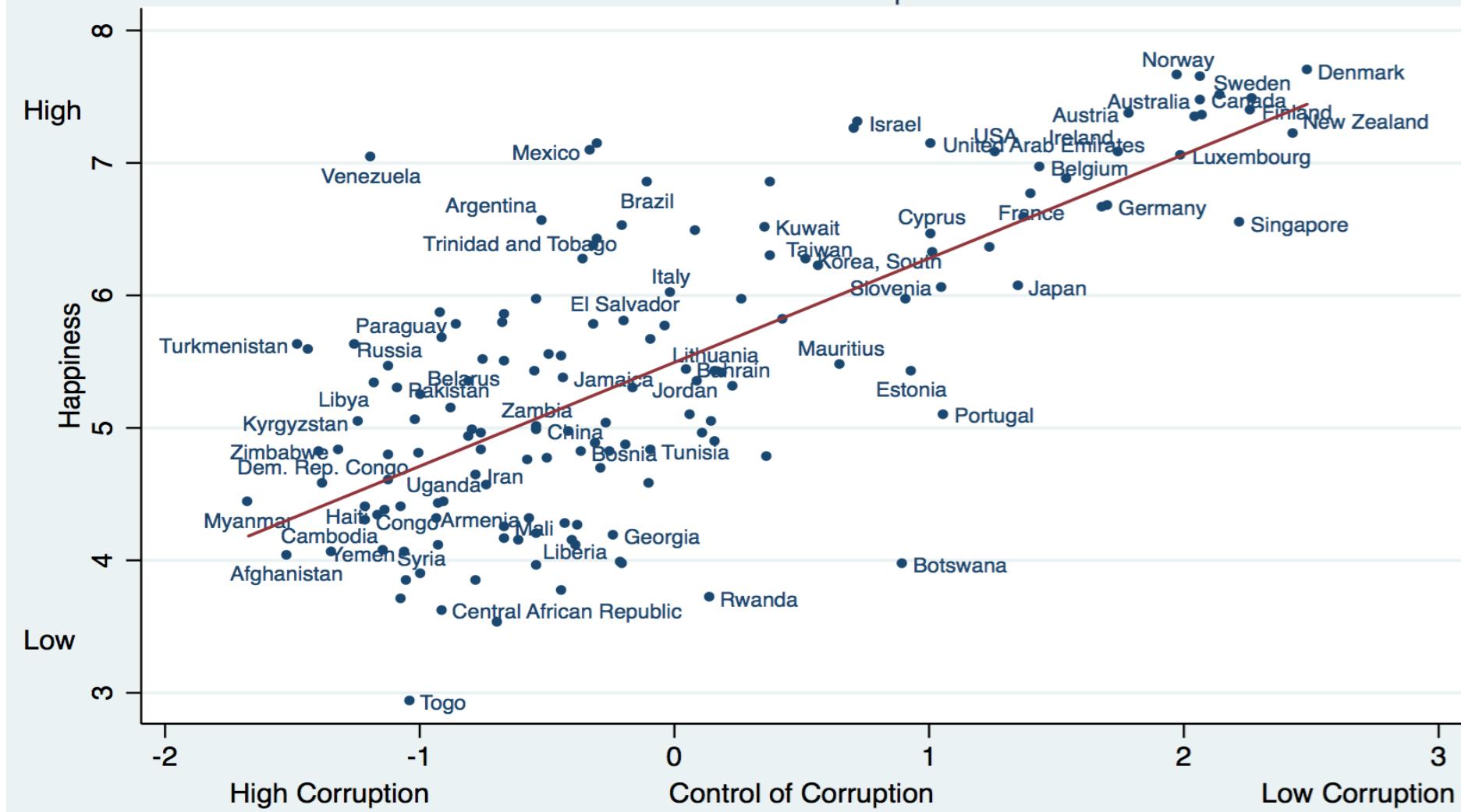
R-squared= 0.30

Number of Observations= 56

Sources: World Bank (Kaufmann et al. 2009), World Values Survey (Data: 2004-2008)

### Happiness vs. Control of Corruption

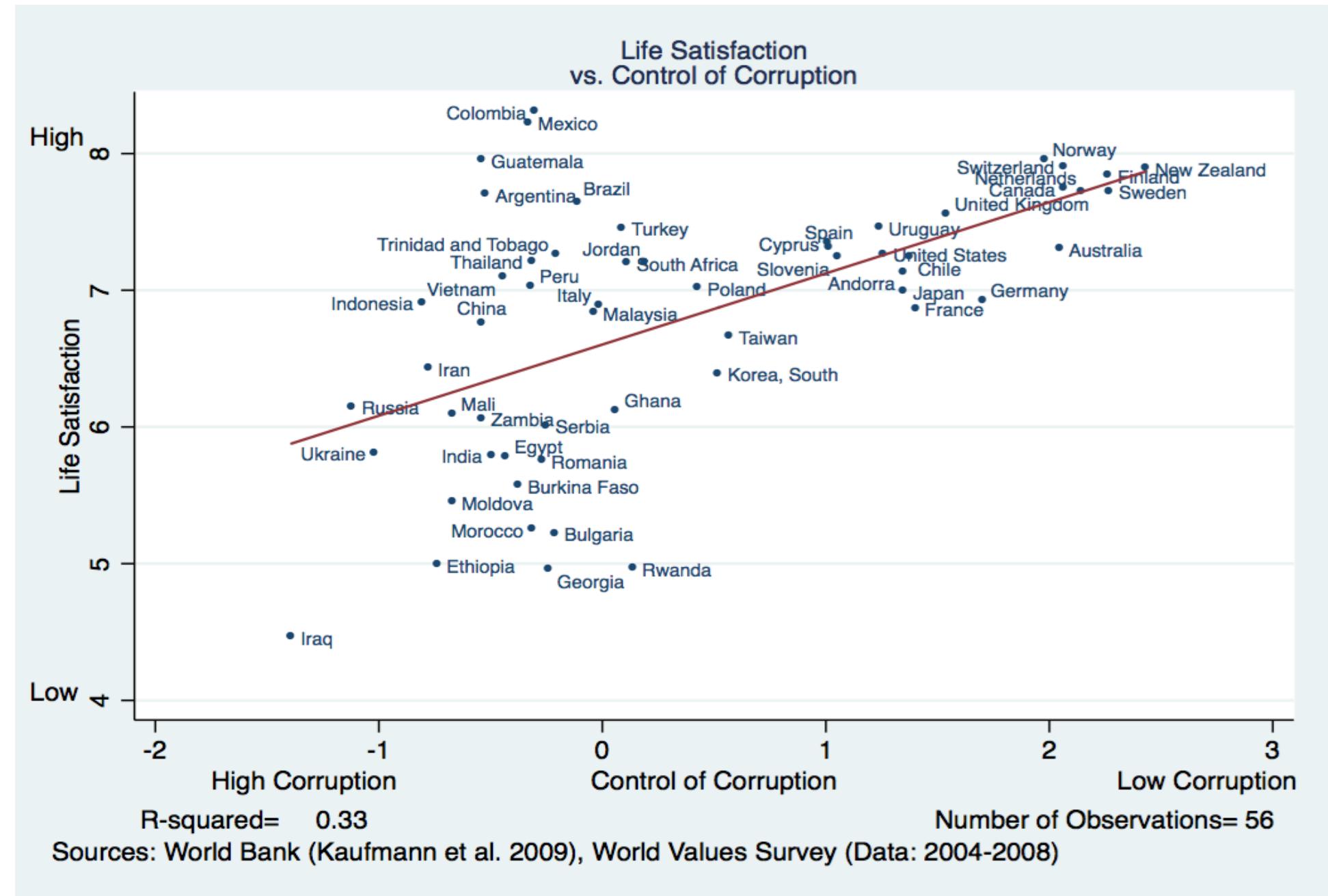
ES

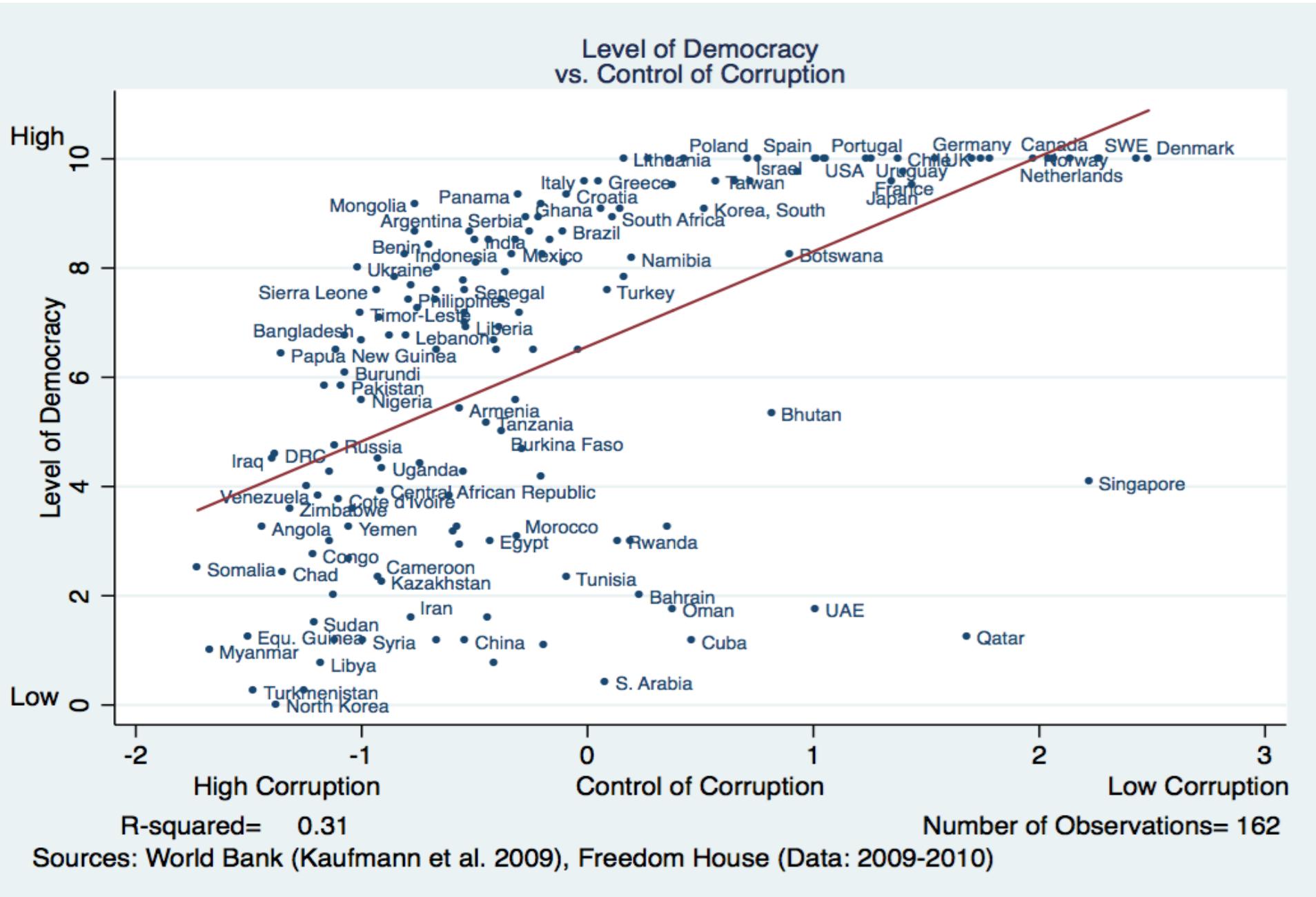


R-squared= 0.52

Number of Observations= 151

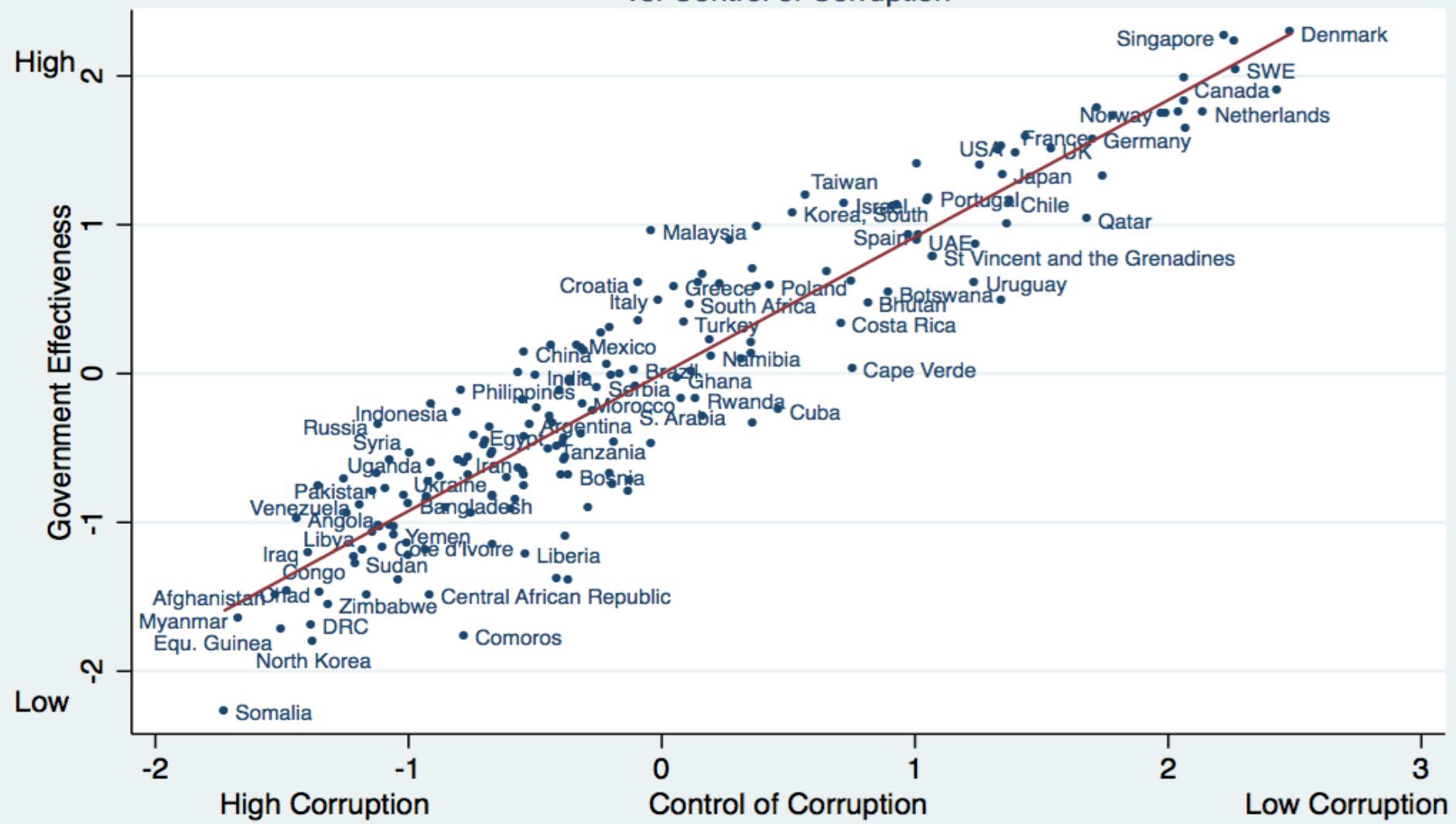
Sources: World Bank (Kauffman et al 2009), UN World Happiness Report 2013





## Government Effectiveness vs. Control of Corruption

Figure

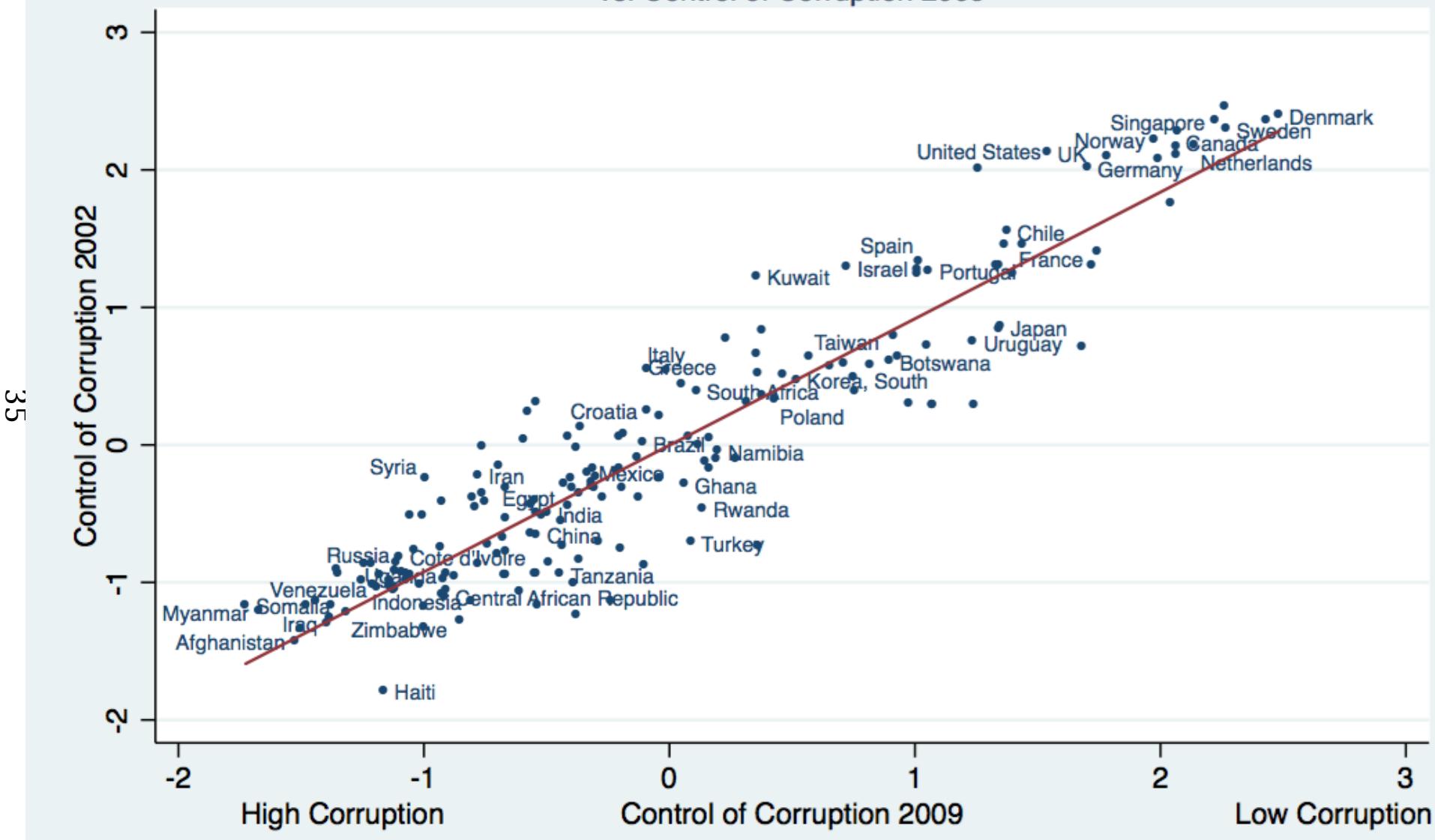


R-squared= 0.86

Number of Observations= 191

Sources: World Bank (Kaufmann et al. 2009)

### Control of Corruption 2002 vs. Control of Corruption 2009



Sources: World Bank (Kaufmann et al. 2009)



# Correlates of Corruption– Description of variables<sup>1</sup>

## GDP per Capita – Gleditsch Expanded Trade and GDP Data

In order to fill in gaps in the Penn World Table's mark 5.6 and 6.2 data (see below: Heston, Summers & Aten), Gleditsch has imputed missing data by using an alternative source of data (the CIA World Fact Book), and through extrapolation beyond available time-series. This is his estimate of GDP per Capita in US dollars at current year international prices

## Economic Equality (Gini index) SOLT

Estimate of Gini index of inequality in equivalized (square root scale) household disposable income, using Luxembourg Income Study data as the standard.

## Economic Freedom Heritage Foundation

The Economic Freedom index uses 10 specific freedoms, some as composites of even further detailed and quantifiable components:

- Business freedom (hf\_business)
- Trade freedom (hf\_trade)
- Fiscal freedom (hf\_fiscal)
- Freedom from government (hf\_govt)
- Monetary freedom (hf\_monetary)
- Investment freedom (hf\_invest)
- Financial freedom (hf\_financ)
- Property rights (hf\_prights)
- Freedom from corruption (hf\_corrupt)
- Labor freedom (hf\_labor)

Each of these freedoms is weighted equally and turned into an index ranging from 0 to 100, where 100 represents the maximum economic freedom. Although changes in methodology have been undertaken throughout the measurement period, continuous backtracking has been used to maximize comparability over time.

## GDP / Capita growth World Development Indicators

Annual percentage growth rate of GDP per capita based on constant local currency. Sources: World Bank and OECD.

---

<sup>1</sup> Some of the variables have been reversed in the scatterplots in order to make the interpretation more intuitive. Felix Hartmann provided research assistant.

### **Country Credit Rating – World Economic Forum**

Expert assessment of the probability of sovereign debt default on a 0–100 (lowest probability) scale.  
March 2012.

### **Human Development Index UNDP Human Development Report**

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite index that measures the average achievements in a country in three basic dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, as measured by life expectancy at birth;; knowledge, as measured by the adult literacy rate and the combined gross enrolment ratio for primary, secondary and tertiary schools;; and a decent standard of living, as measured by GDP per capita in purchasing power parity (PPP) US dollars.

### **Government Revenue (% of GDP) World Development Indicators**

Revenue is cash receipts from taxes, social contributions and other revenues. Grants are excluded here. Measured as a percentage of GDP. Source: International Monetary Fund. (World Bank and OECD for GDP estimates.)

### **Tax Revenue (% of GDP) World Development Indicators**

Tax revenue refers to compulsory transfers to the central government for public purposes. Certain compulsory transfers such as fines, penalties, and most social security contributions are excluded. Measured as a percentage of GDP. Source: International Monetary Fund. (World Bank and OECD for GDP estimates.)

### **Average Schooling Years Barro & Lee**

Average schooling years in the total population aged 25 and over.

### **Life Expectancy World Development Indicators**

Life expectancy at birth indicates the number of years a newborn infant would live if prevailing patterns of mortality at the time of its birth were to stay the same throughout its life. Sources: United Nations Population Division, national statistical offices, Eurostat, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, and U.S. Census Bureau.

### **Healthy life expectancy – Salomon et al. (IHME)**

HALE was calculated by extending the conventional life table that is used to translate a schedule of agespecific death rates into estimates of life expectancy at different ages. Information on the average level of health experienced over each age interval was incorporated into the life table.

Three sets of inputs from GBD 2010 were used, including age-specific information on mortality rates and prevalence of 1,160 conditions resulting from specific diseases, by sex, country, and year, and disability weights associated with the set of 220 distinct health states relating to those sequelae.

Estimates of average levels of overall health were computed for each age-sex group, adjusting for comorbidity using a Monte Carlo simulation approach to capture the many ways in which multiple prevalent morbidities may combine in a given individual. These estimates of average health were incorporated in the life table using the Sullivan method, yielding healthy life expectancy estimates for each population in the study.

Results were evaluated across country and over time, and changes were evaluated to estimate the relative contributions of changes in child mortality, adult mortality, and disability prevalence as drivers of overall change in population health between 1990 and 2010

### **Infant Mortality Rate World Development Indicators**

Infant mortality rate is the number of infants dying before reaching one year of age, per 1,000 live births in a given year. Source: Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UNICEF, WHO, World Bank, UNPD, universities and research institutions).

### **Maternal Mortality Rate Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation University of Washington**

Number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live Births.

### **Government Expenditure on Health (% of total health) WHO Statistical Information System**

Government expenditure on health care services and goods as a percentage of total expenditure on health. Expenditures on health include final consumption, subsidies to producers, and transfers to households (chiefly reimbursements for medical and pharmaceutical bills). Besides domestic funds it also includes external resources (mainly as grants passing through the government or loans channeled through the national budget).

### **Private Expenditure on Health (% of total health) WHO Statistical Information System**

Private expenditure on health-care services and goods as a percentage of total expenditure on health.

### **CO2 Emissions / Capita Environmental Performance Index**

Emissions of greenhouse gases per capita, measured in tons of carbon dioxide equivalents.

### **Access to Improved Drinking Water Environmental Performance Index**

The percentage of population with an access to an improved water source. Original source is WHO.

### **Access to Adequate Sanitation Environmental Performance Index**

The percentage of population with an access to an improved source of sanitation. Original source is WHO.

### **Gender Equality World Economic Forum**

All scores are reported on a scale of 0 to 1, with 1 representing maximum gender equality. The study measures the extent to which women have achieved full equality with men in five critical areas:

- Economic participation
- Economic opportunity
- Political empowerment
- Educational Attainment
- Health and well-being

### **Secondary Education Enrollment (female) UNESCO Institute for Statistics**

All values given are gross enrollment rate (GER). GER is defined as the number of pupils enrolled at a given level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the population in the theoretical age group for the same level of education. Gross enrollment rate can be over 100% due to the inclusion of over-aged and under-aged pupils/students because of early or late entrants, and grade repetition. In this case, a rigorous interpretation of GER needs additional information to assess the extent of repetition, late entrants, etc.

### **UNODC – Intentional homicide count and rate per 100,000 population, by country/territory (2000-2012)**

Intentional homicide is defined as unlawful death purposefully inflicted on a person by another person.

## **UNODC – Police Personnel**

"Police Personnel" means personnel in public agencies as at 31 December whose principal functions are the prevention, detection and investigation of crime and the apprehension of alleged offenders. Data concerning support staff (secretaries, clerks, etc.) should be excluded.

## **Interpersonal Trust World Values Survey**

Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you need to be very careful in dealing with people?

- (1) Most people can be trusted
- (2) Can't be too careful

## **Confidence in Parliament World Values Survey**

The respondents level of confidence in the parliament.

- 1. A great deal
- 2. Quite a lot
- 3. Not very much
- 4. Not at all

## **Feeling of Happiness World Values Survey**

Taking all things together, how happy would you say you are?

- 1. Very happy
- 2. Quite happy
- 3. Not very happy
- 4. Not at all happy

## **Ranking of Happiness: UN World Happiness Report (Gallup World Poll)**

In the Gallup World Poll respondents are asked (using fresh annual samples of 1,000 respondents aged 15 or over in each of more than 150 countries) to evaluate the quality of their lives on an 11-point ladder scale running from 0 to 10, with the bottom rung of the ladder (0) being the worst possible life for them and 10 being the best possible.

### **Life Satisfaction World Values Survey**

All things considered, how satisfied are you with your life as a whole these days?

- (1) Dissatisfied
- (2)
- (3)
- (4)
- (5)
- (6)
- (7)
- (8)
- (9)
- (10) Satisfied

### **Level of Democracy Freedom House / Polity**

Scale ranges from 0-10 where 0 is least democratic and 10 most democratic. Average of Freedom House (fh\_pr and fh\_cl) is transformed to a scale 0-10 and Polity (p\_polity2) is transformed to a scale 0-10. These variables are averaged into fh\_polity2. The imputed version has imputed values for countries where data on Polity is missing by regressing Polity on the average Freedom House measure. Hadenius & Teorell (2005) show that this average index performs better both in terms of validity and reliability than its constituent parts.

### **Government Effectiveness World Bank Governance Indicators**

“Government Effectiveness” combines into a single grouping responses on the quality of public service provision, the quality of the bureaucracy, the competence of civil servants, the independence of the civil service from political pressures, and the credibility of the government’s commitment to policies. The main focus of this index is on “inputs” required for the government to be able to produce and implement good policies and deliver public goods.

## References

Barro, Robert and Jong-Wha Lee, April 2010, "A New Data Set of Educational Attainment in the World, 1950–2010." NBER Working Paper No. 15902

Esty, D. C. et al. 2008. 2008 Environmental Performance Index. Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy, Center for International Earth Science Information Network (Columbia University), World Economic Forum, Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. <http://epi.yale.edu/Home>

Gakidou, E., Cowling, K., Lozano, R. and Murray, C.J.L. 2010. "Increased educational attainment and its effect on child mortality in 175 countries between 1970 and 2009: a systematic analysis". *Lancet*, 376: 959-974.

Hausmann, R., Tyson, L. D., Zahidi, S. 2012. The Global Gender Gap Report 2012, Published Online. World Economic Forum.

Helliwell, John. Layard, Richard and Sachs, Jeffrey. World Happiness Report 2013.

Heritage Foundation 2013. 2013 Index of Economic Freedom, published online. <http://www.heritage.org/> January 22, 2013.

Hogan, M. C. et al. 2010. "Maternal mortality for 181 countries, 1980–2008: a systematic analysis of progress towards Millennium Development Goal 5". *Lancet*, 375: 1609-1623.

Kaufmann, D., Kraay, A. and Mastruzzi, M. 2009. "Governance Matters VIII: Aggregate and Individual Governance Indicators for 1996–2008". World Bank Policy Research Paper No. 4978. <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1424591>

Kekic, L. 2007. "The Economist Intelligence Unit's index of democracy." *The Economist*. The World in 2007. London.

La Porta, R., López-de-Silanes, F., Shleifer, A. and Vishny, R. 1999. The Quality of Government. *Journal of Law, Economics and Organization*, 15(1): 222-279.

Marshall, M. G. and Jaggers, K. Gurr, T. R. 2011. 'Polity IV Project: Political Regime Characteristics and Transitions, 1800-2011. <http://www.systemicpeace.org/polity/polity4.htm>, January 29, 2013

Salomon JA, Wang H, Freeman MK, Vos T, Flaxman AD, Lopez AD, Murray CJL. Healthy life expectancy for 187 countries, 1990–2010: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden Disease Study 2010. *The Lancet*. 2012 Dec 13; 380: 2144–2162.

Schwab, Klaus, "The Global Competitiveness Report 2012-2013", World Economic Forum.

Teorell, Jan. Carl Dahlström & Stefan Dahlberg. 2011. The QoG Expert Survey Dataset. University of Gothenburg: The Quality of Government Institute. <http://www.qog.pol.gu.se>

Teorell, Jan, Nicholas Charron, Stefan Dahlberg, Sören Holmberg, Bo Rothstein, Petrus Sundin & Richard Svensson. 2013. The Quality of Government Dataset, version 20Dec13. University of Gothenburg: The Quality of Government Institute, <http://www.qog.pol.gu.se>

Transparency International. 2012. Corruption perception Index 2012, published online. <http://www.transparency.org/research/cpi/overview>. January 29, 2013.

UNDP 2013. Human Development Report 2013. "The Rise of the South: Human Progress in a Diverse World". Published online.

UNODC. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/>

World Bank 2013. World Development Indicators. Washington DC: The World Bank Group, Published Online, January 24, 2013.

World Values Survey Association 2009.

World Values Survey 1981-2008 Official Aggregate v.20090901. Aggregate File Producer: ASEP/JDS, Madrid. <http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/>