

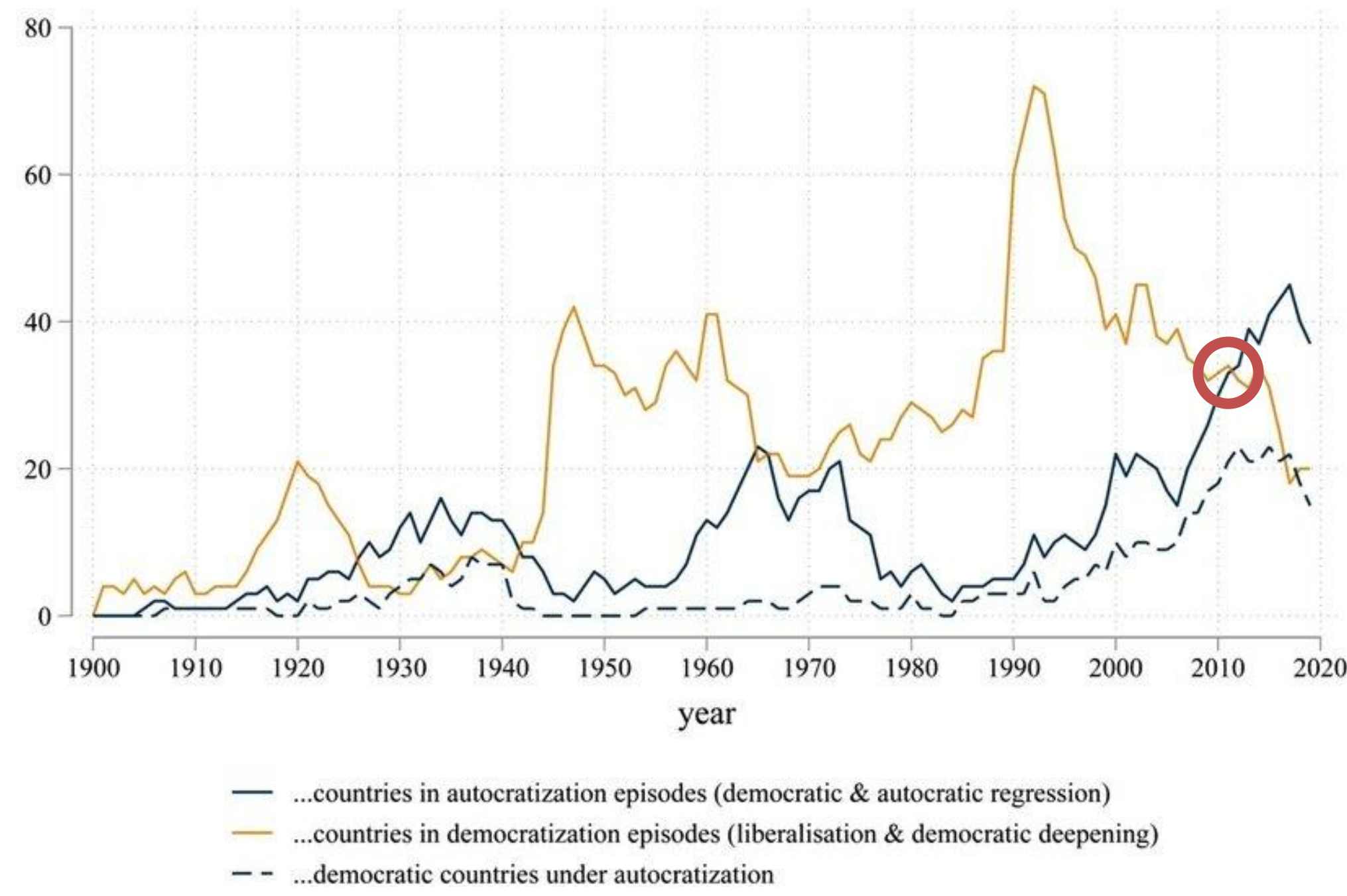
**Title:** The Foreboding Decline of the Judiciary in Hungary and Turkey.



PRESENTER:  
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**BACKGROUND:**

Autocracy is on the rise across the globe, eroding stable democracies through the process of **democratic backsliding**. Often one of the first casualties of democratic backsliding is the **judiciary system**.



**METHODS**

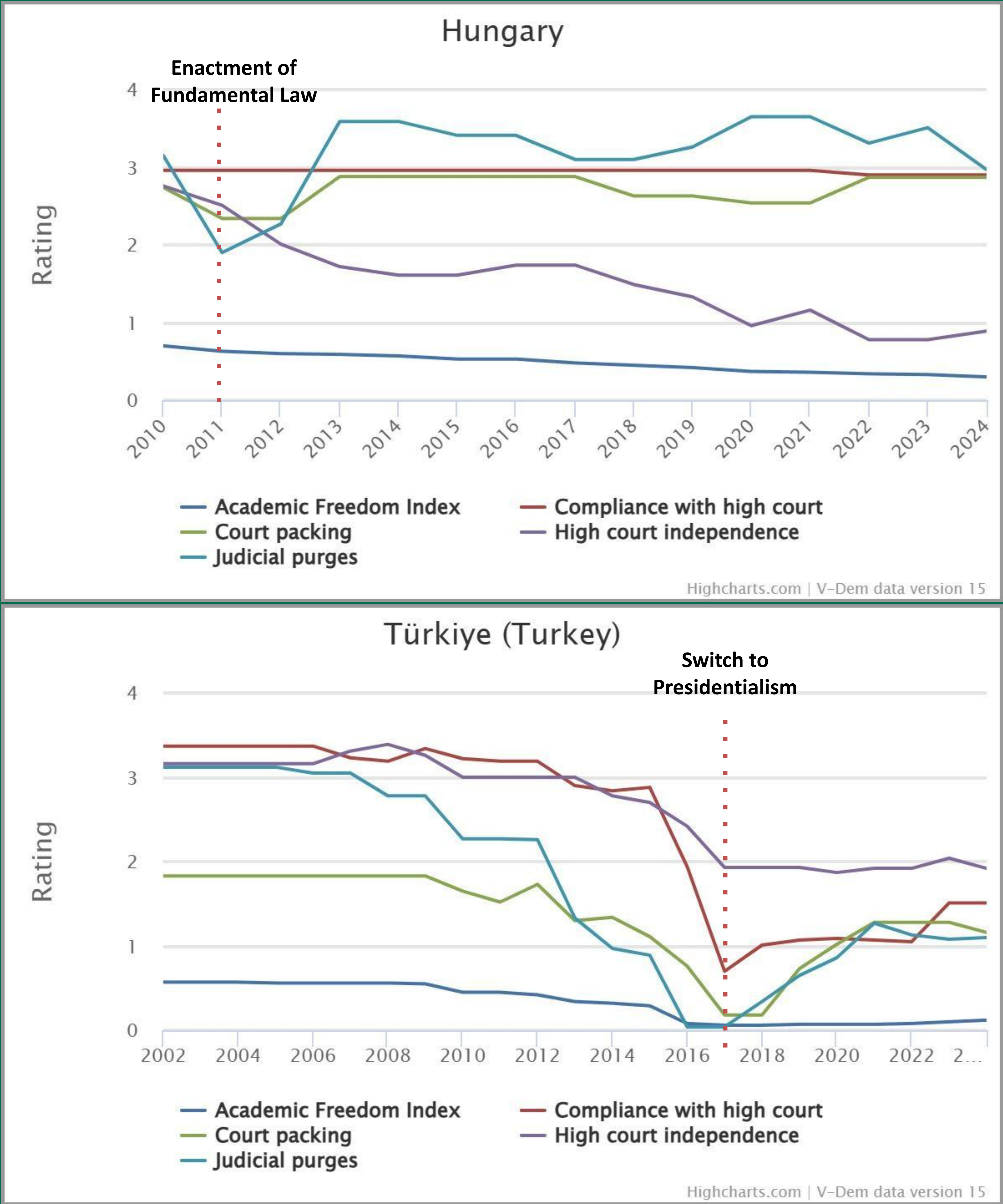
By closely following the **judicial decay** of Hungary and Turkey, I was able to determine how the **variations** in the **speed and method** of the decay resulted in different outcomes for the **Fidesz Party** and the **AKP**.

**RESULTS**

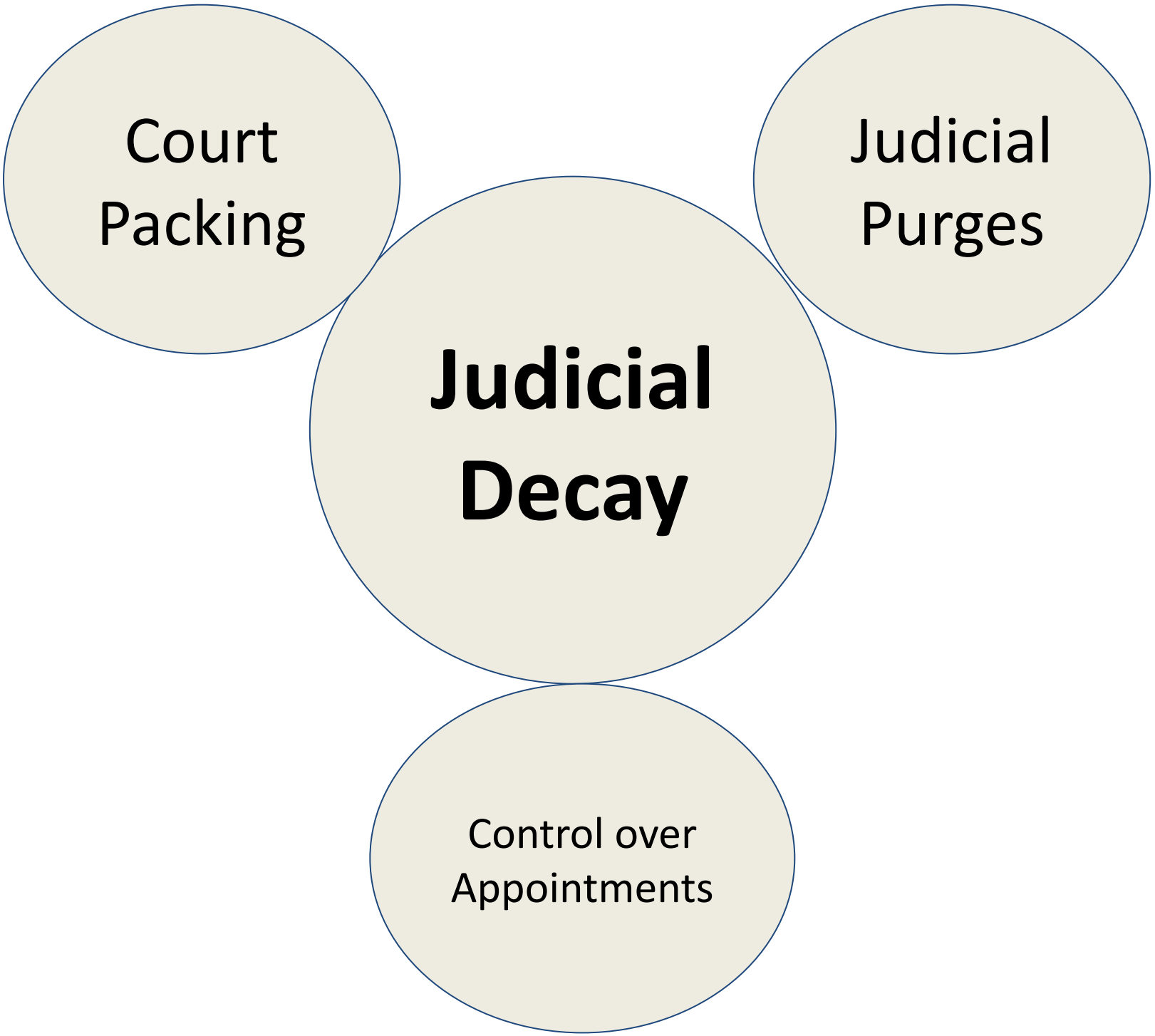
The research in this paper establishes that the **swift sidelining** of the judiciary is **more effective** for a rising autocratic regime than **slower paced dismantling**.



Initiating judicial decay **earlier** allows an autocratic regime circumvent checks on their power, and **use the judiciary as a tool** to enable future backsliding.



- **Democratic Backsliding:** The process by which a stable democracy is gradually eroded over the course of several election cycles.
- **Judicial Decay:** The specific erosion of judicial institutions through a series of specific strategies.
  - **Court Packing:** Intentionally expanding a court in order to fill it with regime ideology aligned judges.
  - **Court Purging:** Removing influential or impartial members of court system who would oppose the regime.
  - **Control over Applicants:** Establishing control over both the applicant pool and the selection process for judicial positions.



Autocracts utilize many strategies to help them purge, pack and establish control over the court system. These include:

- Altering the **retirement age** of judges
- Abusing **emergency powers**
- Constitutional Restructuring
- Criminal investigations into the judiciary
- Rebuilding the bureaucracy to reduce independence from the executive.



Take a picture to **download** the full paper

**REFERENCES:**  
V-DEM - [Graphing Tools – V-Dem](#)  
Left Chart - [Waves of autocratization](#)  
All Informational Sources can be found in the **citation section** of the paper.