

## Chapter 9 Leaders' Education, Democracy, and Use of Torture

### Abstract

Chapter 9 delves into the causes of a particular aspect of human rights abuse—torture. Why does the cessation of political torture differ so widely across countries? Under what conditions are countries willing to terminate their use of torture? To answer these questions, Chapter 9 puts forward and tests the hypothesis that leaders with higher levels of education are more effective in stopping the use of torture by their government than those with less education. The relationship between states' use of repressive acts like torture has important ramifications for the preservation and advancement of security for individuals and the conditioning of their relationship to the state as either conflictive or collaborative.