**Introduction**

“You can’t have peace when people are hungry” and “politics is expressed through people’s stomachs” are sayings often attributed to political instability as a result of high food prices. The classic image of a bread riot from the French Revolution comes to mind when people were unable to afford even bread. The question now is: “Do these sayings have truth within them?” Specifically, are food prices related to political stability? Using data from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and the World Bank, this study assesses the relationship between food prices and political stability throughout the world using data between 2012 and 2014.

**Hypothesis: As food prices increase, political stability decreases.**

**Research Question: Do food prices significantly affect political stability?**

**Results**

A correlation and regression test finds that there is a negative correlation between Food Prices and Political Stability (R = - .136) and a significance of .089; thus not a relatively strong relationship.

When looking at the correlation and regression tests for the new model (Food Prices-GDP per capita-Democracy Score-GINI Coefficient and Confidence in Institutions), we find the model has R = .867. However, find there are mixed significances with each variable put into the new model.

Additionally, Political Stability has a stronger correlation with GDP per Capita than Food Prices (R = .654), GINI Coefficient (R = -.280), and Democracy Score (R = .663).

As for these strong correlations, GDP per Capita and Democracy are significant (.070 and .000 respectively).

**Discussion**

Despite rejecting the hypothesis, the inquiry has still provided insight into political stability. While food prices are not the major factor in stability, we have found that high GDP and strong democracies tend to have more stability (or lack of political violence). This finding has allowed us to pursue different economic measures (ie tax income) or look at different types of governments to see if political stability is affected. There are also several other World Governance Indicators to study, such as Rule of Law and Government Effectiveness. Perhaps the biggest limitation on this study was the absence of particular data points. Countries like Afghanistan were not represented due to certain conditions making it unfeasible to properly collect data. In future research, accessing different databases may assist in closing those gaps in the dataset. Additionally, using new measures may produce a new outcome. For instance, CPI is a measure of change in price, not primarily a price an average person is paying. Thus, in a new study, we may also want to use change in GDP as a measure. What we may want to consider is creating case studies and study the effect of food prices in the short-term. Specifically, looking at the Arab Spring as way to predict political instability. Hopefully by continuing to study political stability, we can find policies that are more effective and easier to implement. On the other side of the spectrum, we are free to investigate other factors of food security to see whether or not food truly does play a role in political stability.