

How stable are democracies?

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“Even the best-trained scholars
[of political science] assume
that extreme events are not
going to happen.”

**Harvard scholar Yascha Mounk,
Journal of Democracy, 2016**

“DDR” or DDR ?

"I see no reason to regard the quotes as
obsolete."

**–Axel Springer, founder and owner of
the Axel Springer SE, one of Europe’s
largest publishing companies, 1979**

Bonn Publisher Lifts Quotes on DDR *Los Angeles Times*

August 02, 1989

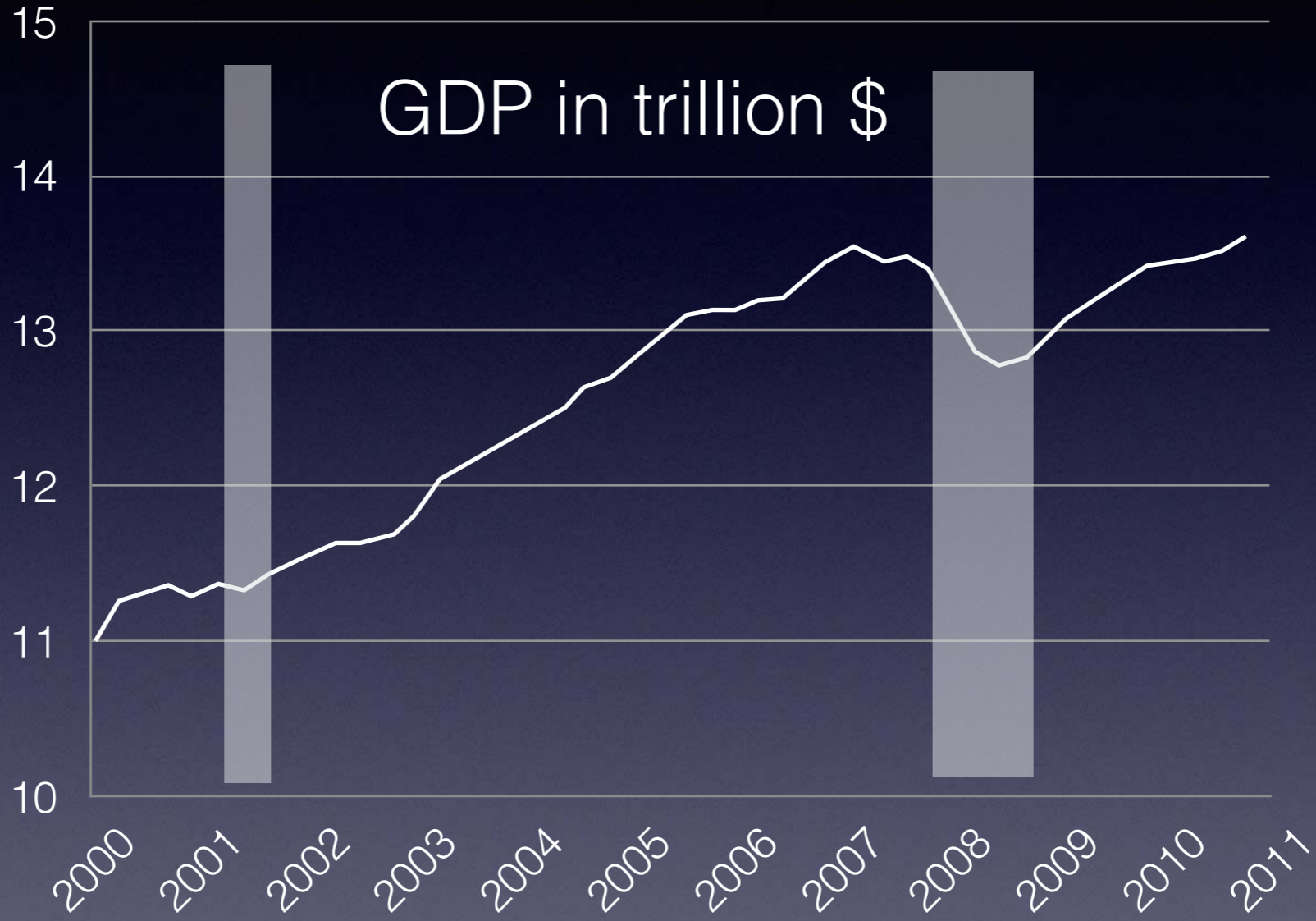
BONN — West Germany's largest publishing chain today ended a practice that has irked authorities in East Germany for 40 years--placing quotation marks around every reference to West Germany's socialist sibling state.



“The Federal Reserve is not currently forecasting a recession.”

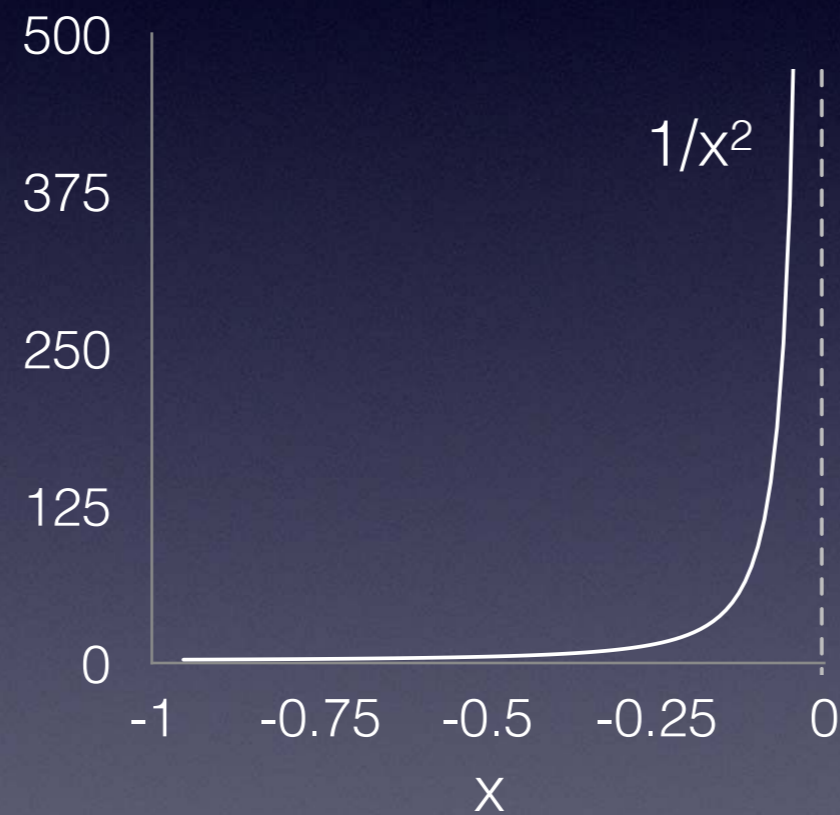
–Ben Bernanke, then head of the Federal Reserve of the United States of America, January 2008

U.S. Recessions 2001 and 2008

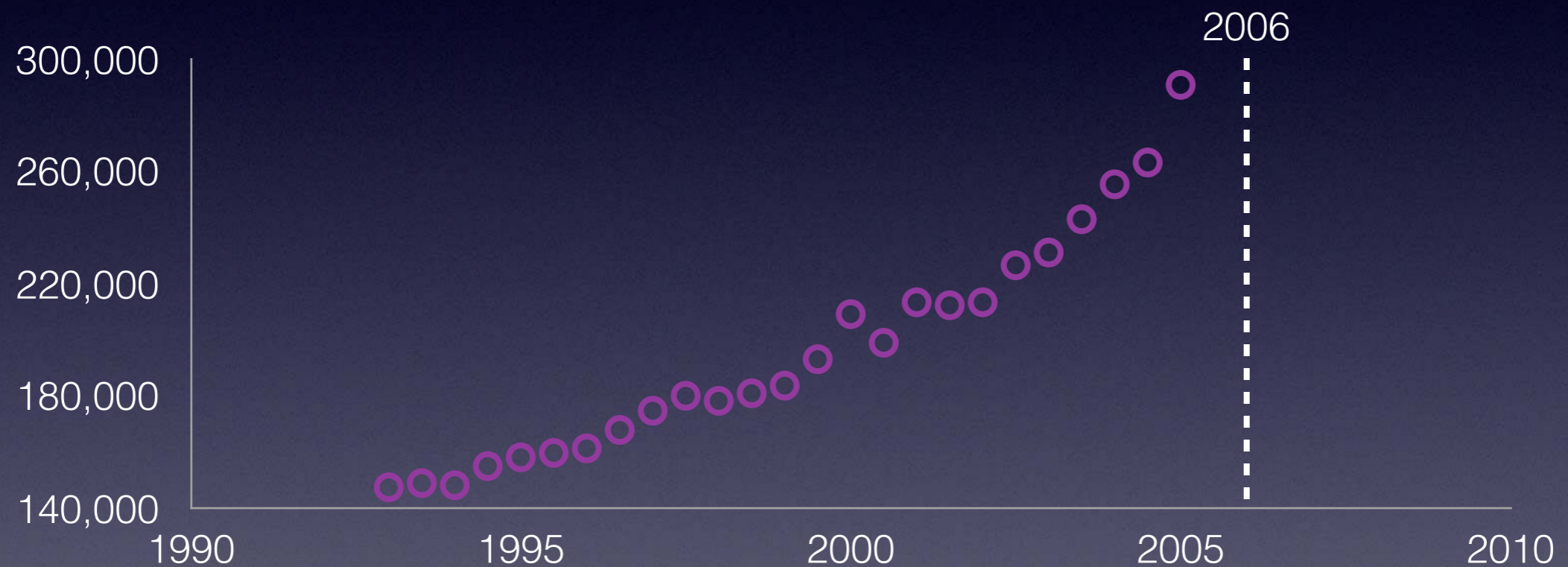


Data: U.S. Department of the Treasury

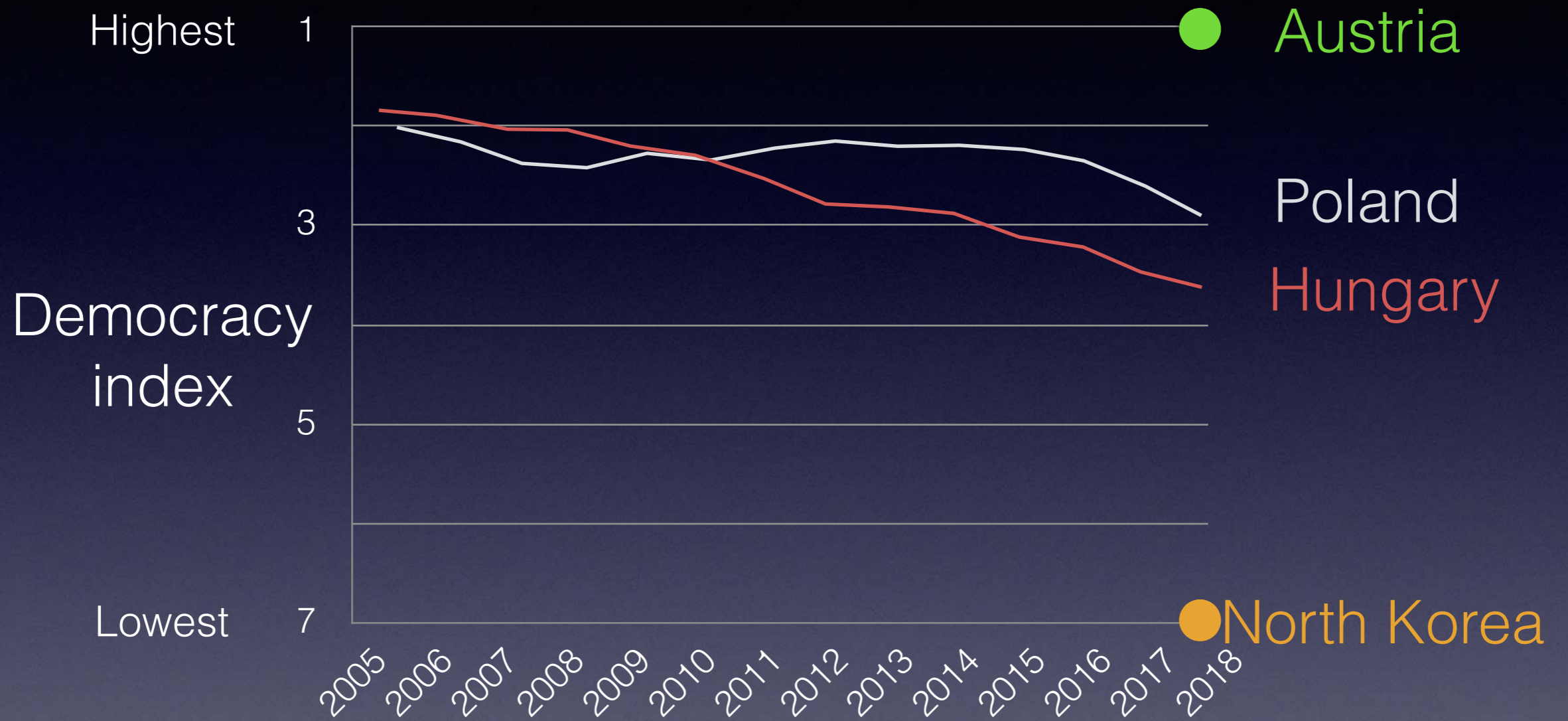
Extreme events



Average sale prices of new houses sold (all the states of the USA)



Data: Zhou and Sornette. "Is There a Real-Estate Bubble in the US?" Physica A (2006)



Data: Freedom House, Nations in transit, 2018

“there is a clear risk of a serious breach of the rule of law in Poland”

–European Commission, triggering Article 7 of the EU Treaty against Poland, beginning the process that could strip Warsaw of its voting rights, December 2017

Workshop in Bristol,
January 2018
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