

Presidential Powers and Economic Development in the Post-socialist Countries

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Our questions

- How powerful is the president of Russia?
- How do his powers compare to the powers of other (post-Socialist) presidents?
- Do presidential powers affect other political institutions?
- Is there a link between political power and economic prosperity?

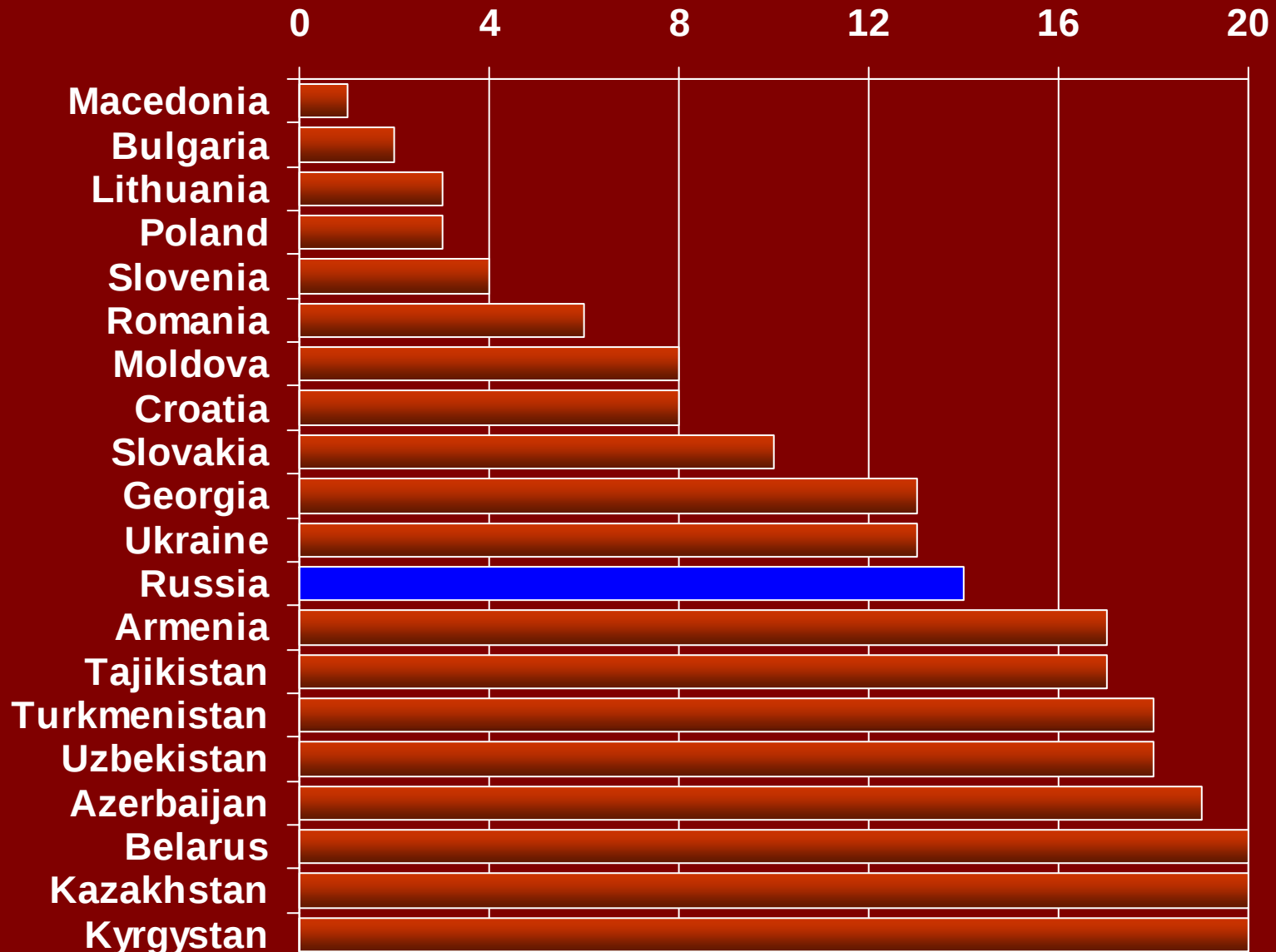
What presidential powers do we compare?

- Legislative powers:
 1. Package veto
 2. Partial veto
 3. Decrees
 4. Exclusive introduction of legislation
 5. Budgetary initiative
 6. Referendum control
- Executive powers:
 1. Appointment of the Cabinet
 2. Dismissal of the Cabinet
 3. Censure of the Cabinet by the Duma
 4. Dissolution of assembly/impeachment of president

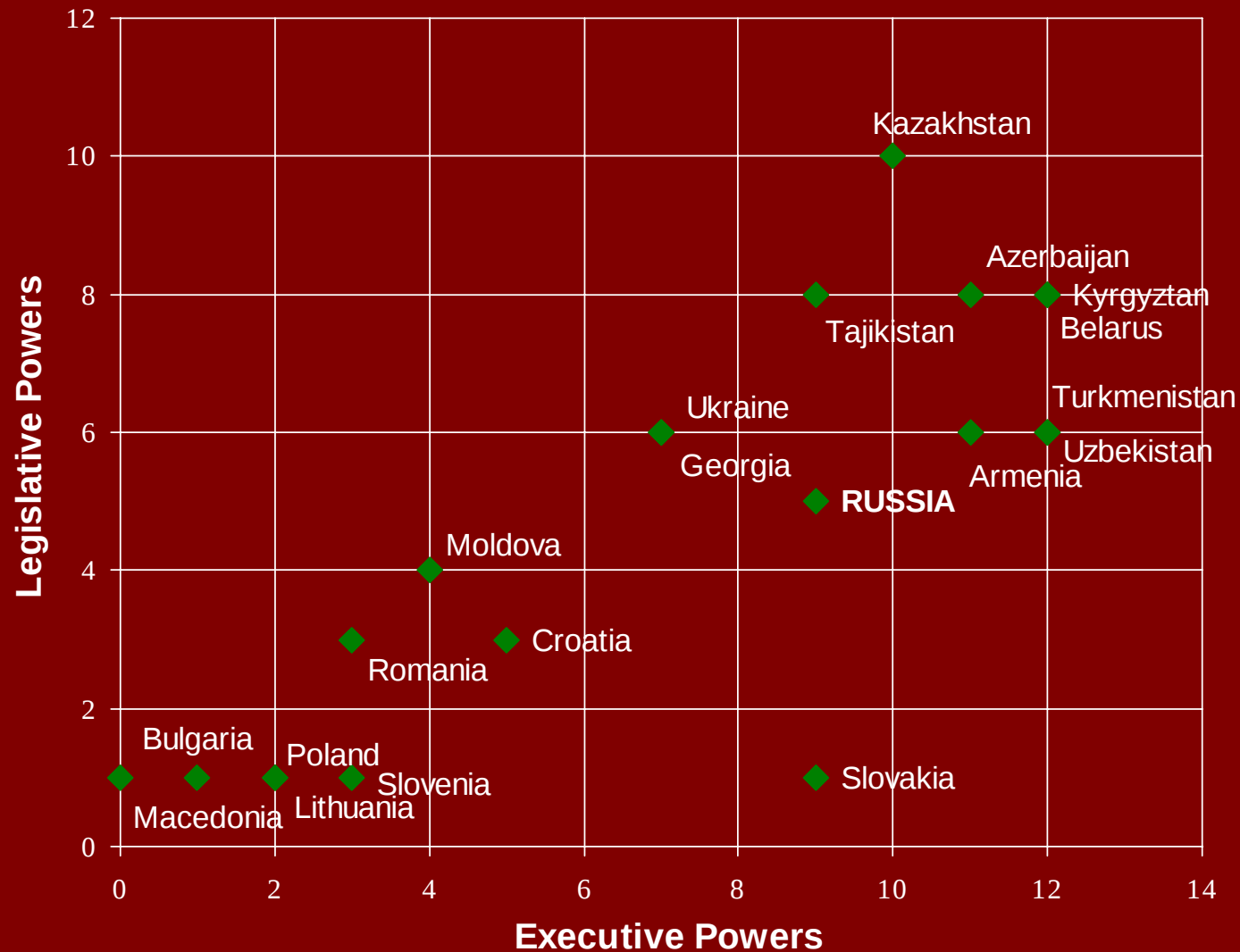
Power Matrix

	Armenia	Azerbaijan	Belarus	Bulgaria	Croatia	Georgia	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Lithuania	Macedonia	Moldova	Poland	Romania	Russia	Slovakia	Slovenia	Tajikistan	Turkmenistan	Ukraine	Uzbekistan
Legislative powers																				
Package veto	2	2	2	1	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	2	2	2
Partial veto	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Decrees	3	4	4	0	1	4	4	4	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	1	4	4	2	4
Exclusive introduction of Legislation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Budgetary initiative	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Referendum control	1	2	2	0	2	2	2	2	0	0	2	1	3	0	1	0	2	0	2	0
Executive powers																				
Appointment of the Cabinet	4	3	3	0	1	3	3	3	1	0	3	1	2	2	4	1	3	4	3	3
Dismissal of the Cabinet	4	4	4	0	1	4	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	2	4	4	2
Censure of the Cabinet by the Duma	0	4	4	0	2	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	1	4	4	0	4
Dissolution of assembly/impeachment of president	3	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	3

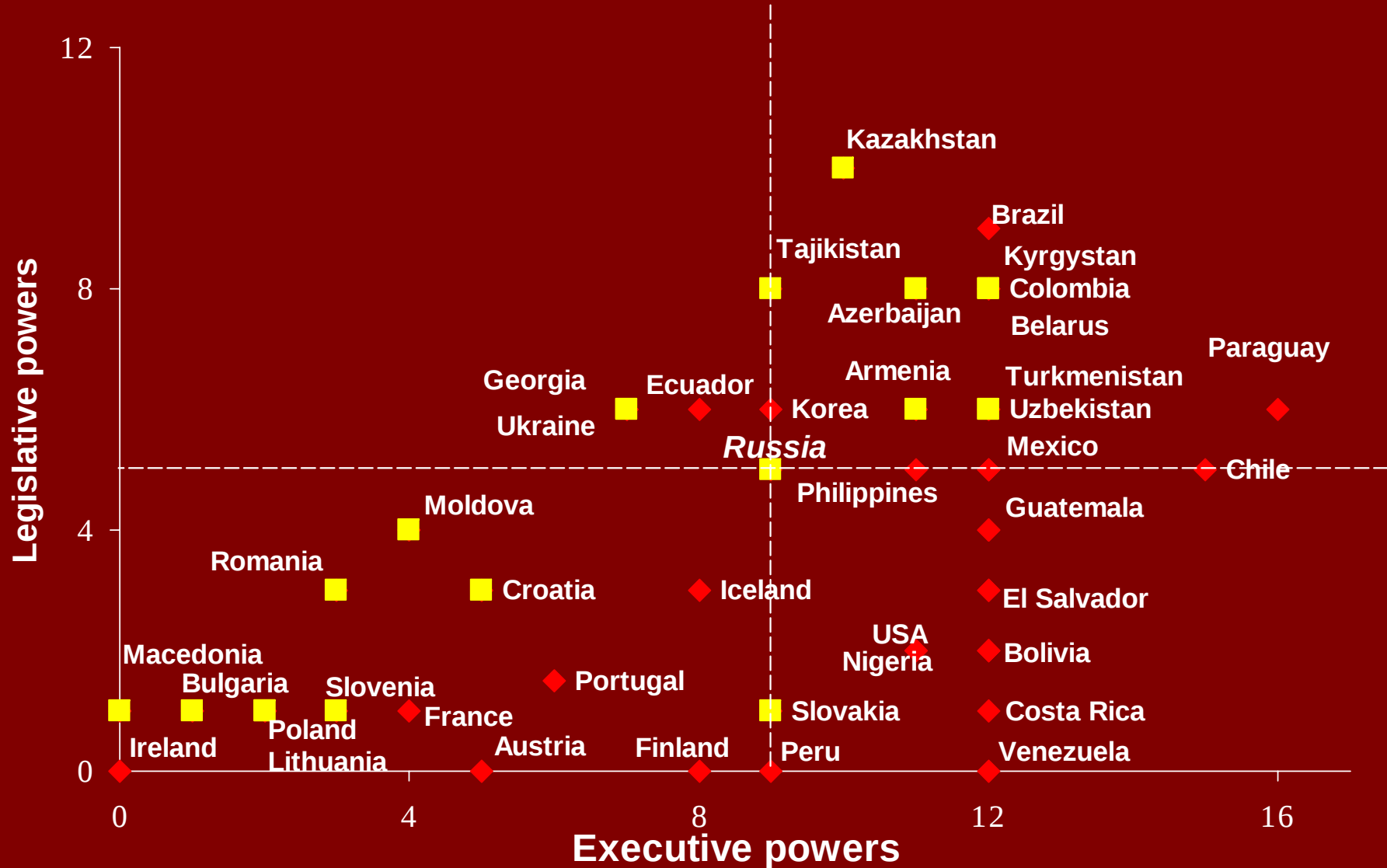
Total powers: Russia in the middle



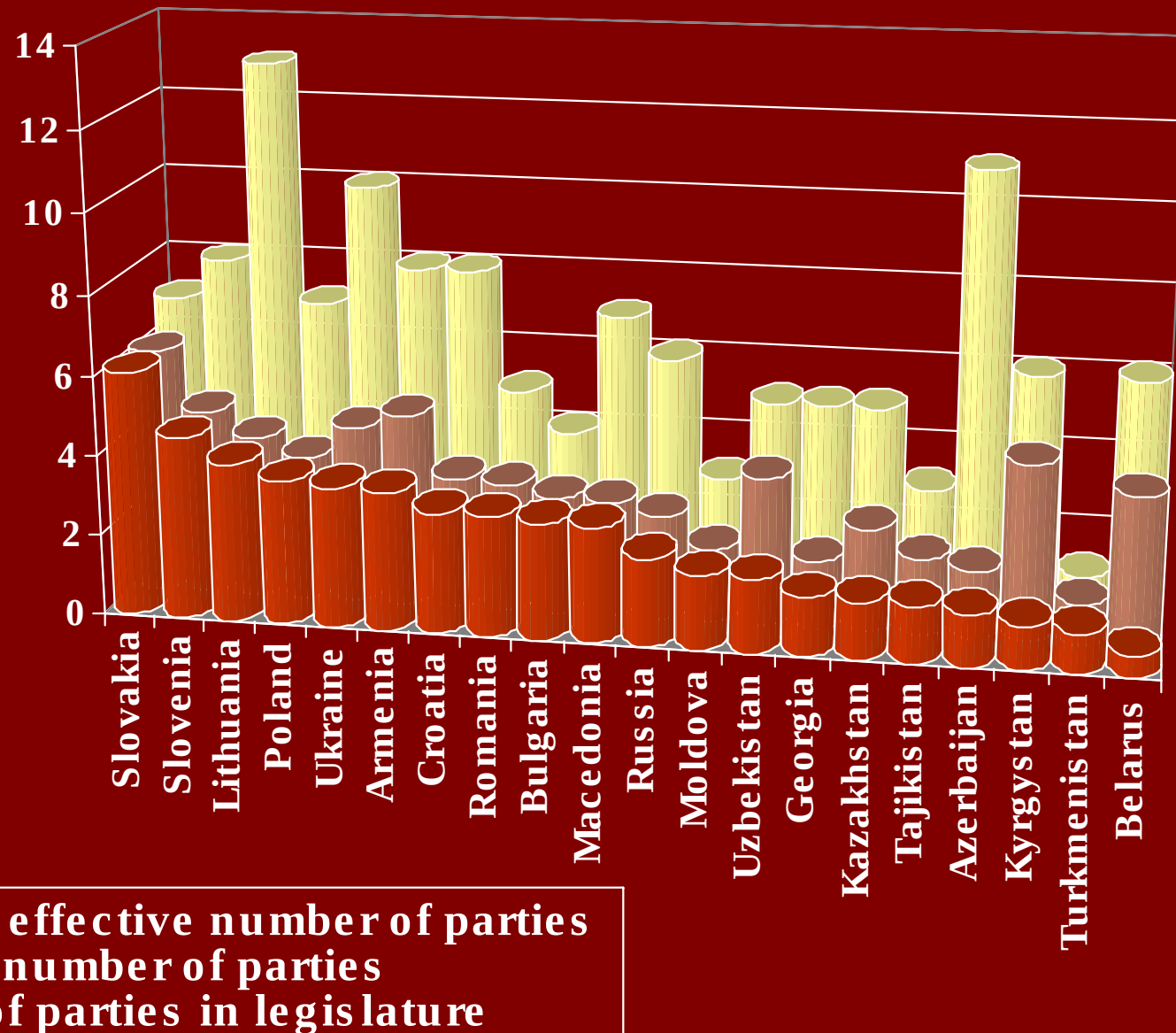
Executive and legislative powers are correlated



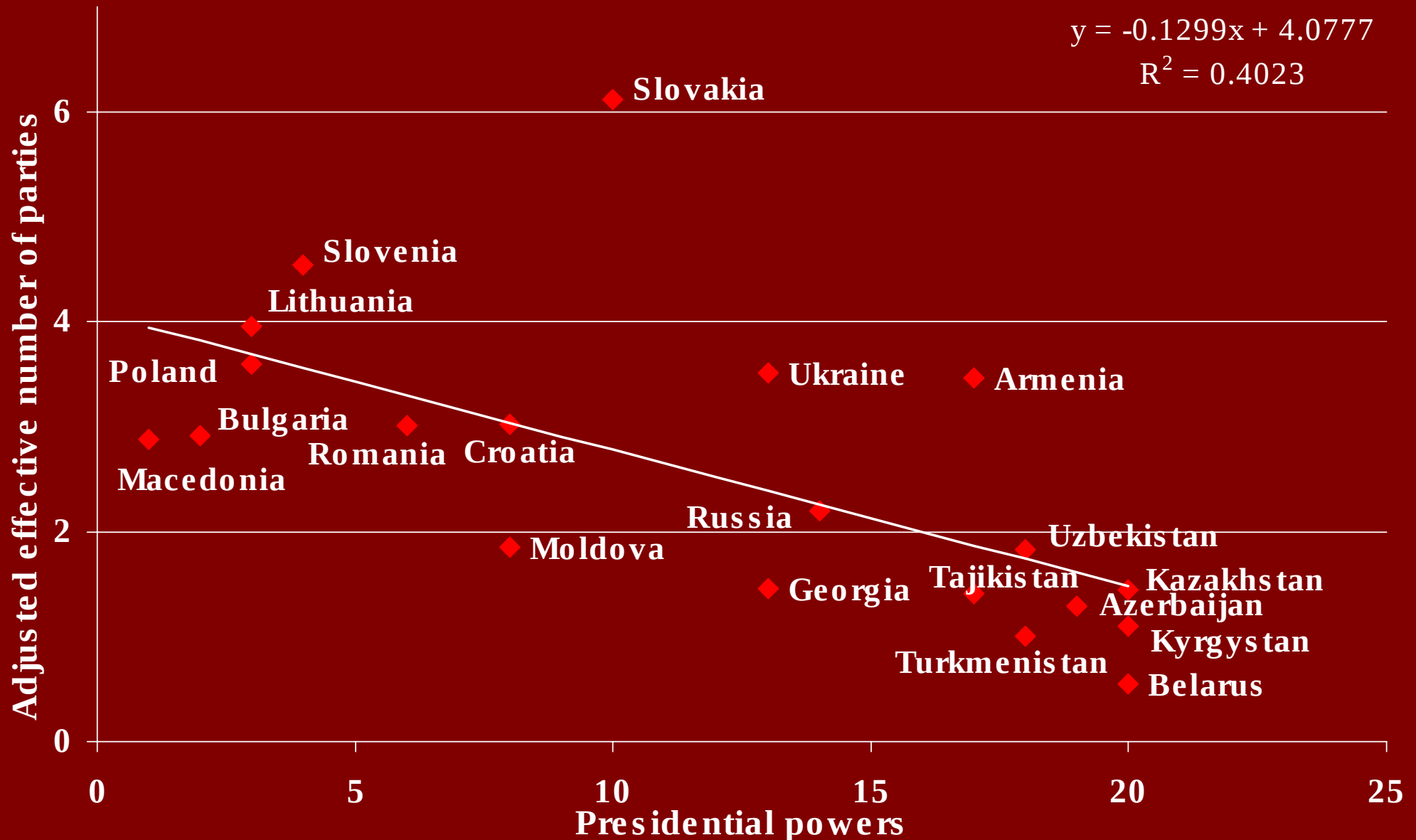
Comparative perspective



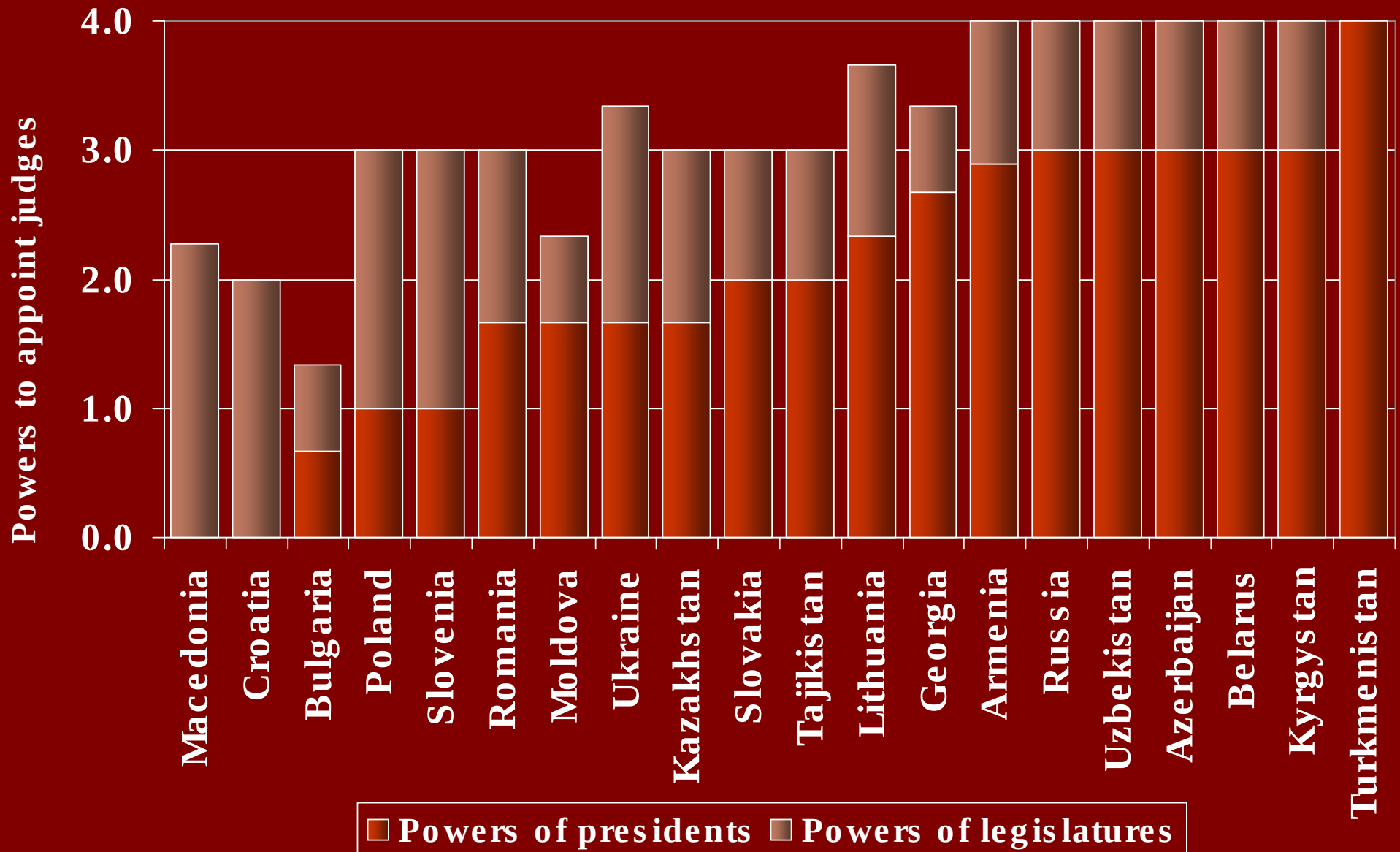
Stronger presidents make parties weaker...



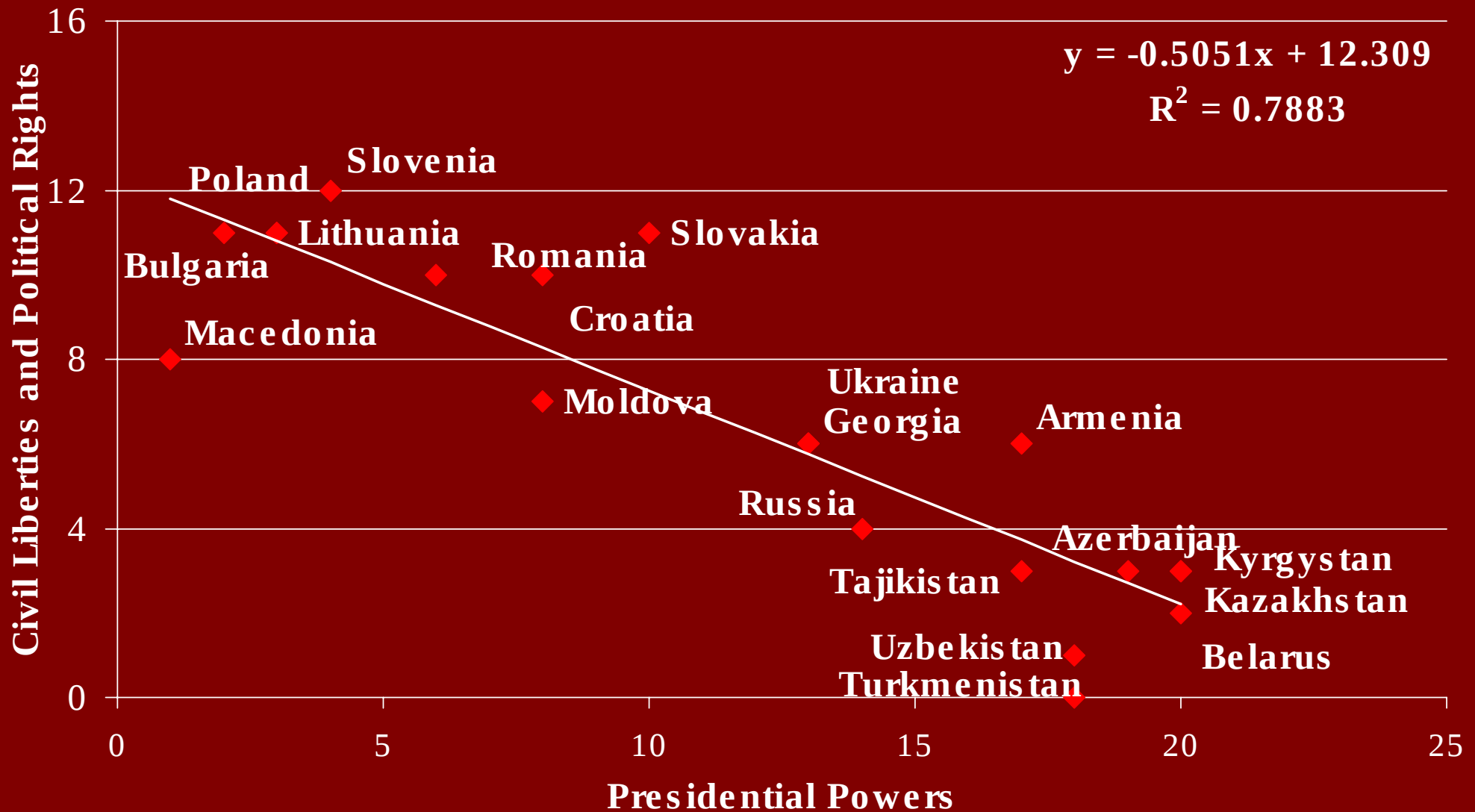
And this relationship is statistically significant



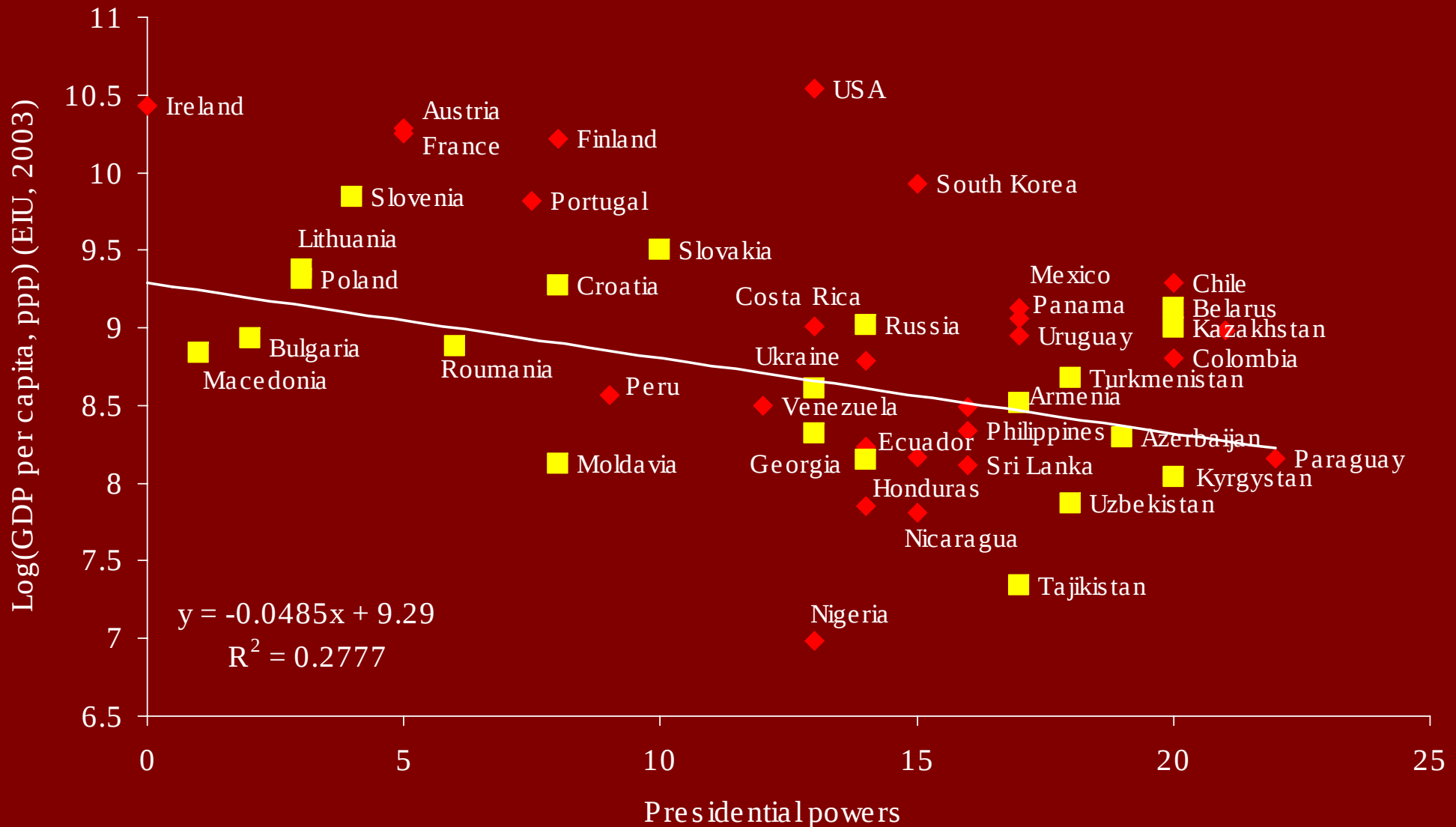
Stronger presidents reduce separation of power in judicial appointments



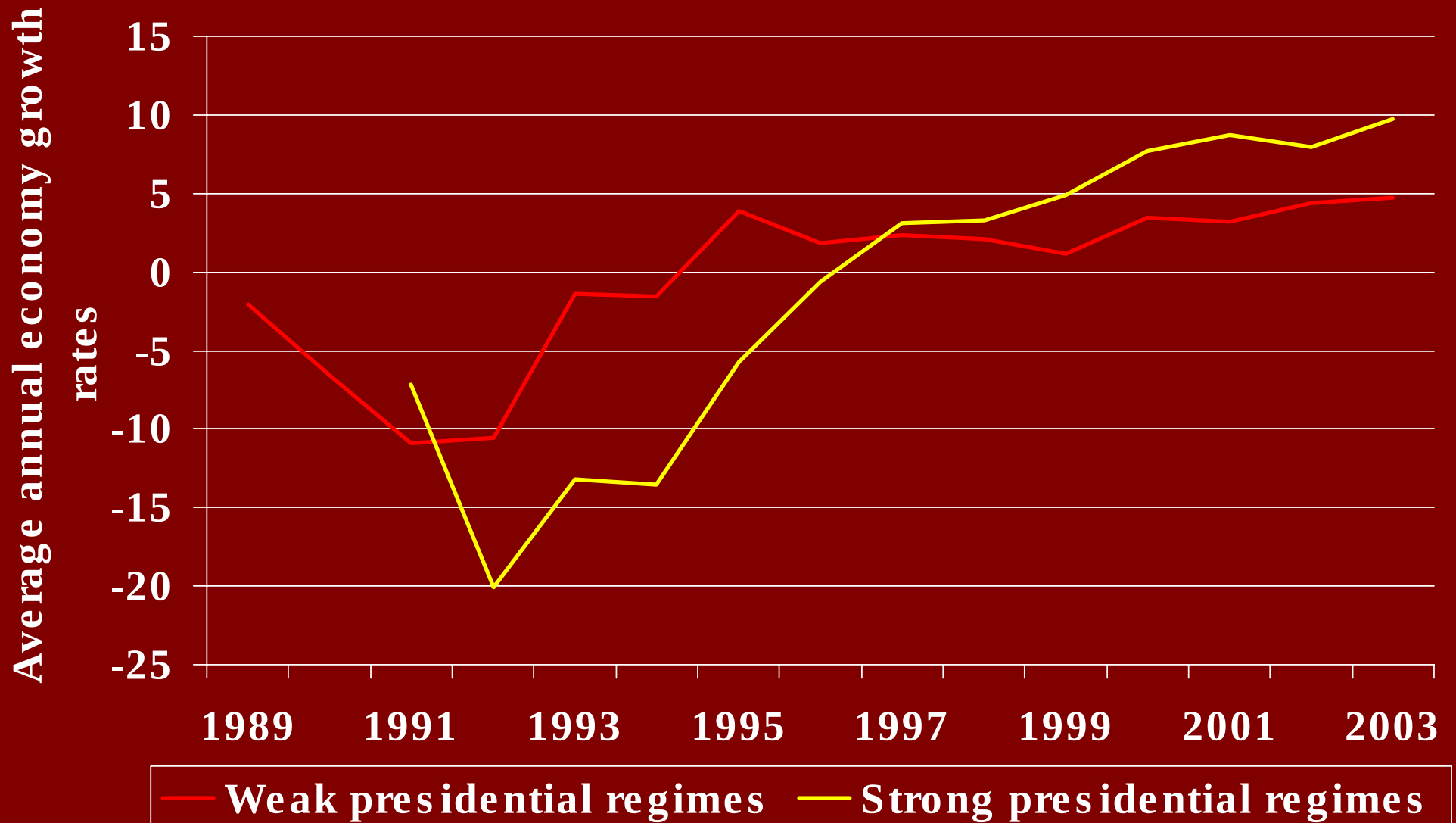
More powerful presidents have less respect for human rights



Richer countries tend to have weaker presidents



Economic growth is more volatile in countries with stronger presidents



Stronger presidents cannot credibly commit to their policies

