1. Plot of $J$ (y-axis) vs $K$ (x-axis):

![Plot of $J$ (y-axis) vs $K$ (x-axis) showing a downward trend starting around $k = 4$ or $k = 5$.]

2. By using the elbow method, we see that this curve really begins to flatten out starts at around $k = 4$ or $k = 5$. That said, it definitely does continue to decrease beyond this point, so the elbow method is not perfect in this case. Given the data, it is difficult to visually inspect it for any natural breaks due to the fact that it has 16 different dimensions. Beyond inspection of the graph above it might make sense to consider the different types of countries that fall into. For example, there might be a category that encompasses the modern western powers, a second for modern more conservative countries, another for rising nations, and a fourth for the poorer less developed countries.
3. List of countries in each group:


3. ['Australia', 'Austria', 'Belgium', 'Canada', 'Chile', 'Denmark', 'Finland', 'France', 'Germany', 'Iceland', 'Ireland', 'Italy', 'Liechtenstein', 'Luxembourg', 'Malta', 'Netherlands', 'New Zealand', 'Norway', 'Palau', 'Sweden', 'Switzerland', 'United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland', 'United States of America', 'Uruguay']


The countries in each cluster definitely seem to have some things in common. To start, the third cluster, which contains the US, also seems to contain more of the other modernized liberal democracies, most of which are EU countries or those like Australia and Canada. Some of the other clusters seem less geographically similar but are similar in other ways. Cluster 1 contains a lot of more conservative middle-income countries. Cluster 4 contains mostly countries in Africa, although includes a few exceptions like the Philippines. Cluster 2 is the largest with about 100 countries while cluster 3 is the smallest with less than 30.
4. Consider China, which is a part of cluster 1:

This cluster is perhaps the most geographically diverse. It includes countries from Africa, Asia, and Europe. Many of these countries are quickly growing. China, India, Cambodia, and Laos all are included here. It also includes many of the oil rich countries of the Middle East like Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Kuwait. This large growth is one unifying factor, as might be a certain reluctance to adopt democratic ideals. Many of these countries are still relatively conservative and not very politically progressive. The most surprising countries here are the few from Europe including Czech Republic, Ukraine, and the Bahamas in the Atlantic.