

Table 4.1 Some prominent authoritarian states

Some large and oil-rich countries which are important players in world politics continue to be ruled by non-democratic means

	Form of rule	Population (rank)	Gross domestic product (rank)	Oil reserves (rank)
Algeria	Presidential (strong military influence)	35	48	17
China	Communist party	1	3	14
Iran	Contested theocracy	18	18	4
North Korea	Military-backed presidential dictatorship	49	99	No known reserves
Saudi Arabia	Royal family	46	24	1
Vietnam	Communist party	14	43	45

Note: China is third, rather than second, in the CIA's ranking of countries by gross domestic product because the European Union (placed second behind the USA) is treated as a country.

Source: For rankings, CIA (2012).