**Absence of Freedom**

The following table lists common tactics employed by despotic leaders to maintain their tyrannical rule over the masses.  After reading the 2004 article, The World's 10 Worst Dictators by David Wallechinsky, complete the chart's first four columns by indicating the "tactics" you can identify within the excerpt that were used by each leader.  Briefly describe how the leader used each applicable tactic.

Then, do some research regarding the current status of the leader and country.  Is he still in power?  What changes, for better or worse, have taken place since 2004?  Include this information in the last two columns of the chart.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Rule by military force | Distort and control all forms of media and information | Eliminate educated, powerful, free-thinking opponents | No free elections - may "talk" about elections, but never deliver |  | Still in Power? | Changes for better or worse since 2004? |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Kim Jong Il, North Korea |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Than Shwe, Burma |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hu Jintao, China |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Crown Prince Abdullah, Saudi Arabia |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Teodoro Obiang Nguema, Equatorial Guinea |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Omar Al-Bashir, Sudan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Saparmurat Niyazov, Turkmenistan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fidel Castro, Cuba |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| King Mswati III, Swaziland |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Under your chart, answer the following question:

What has protected the United States from being overrun by an authoritarian regime?  Consider the Constitutional principles discussed in Unit Two.  A review of pages 64-70 in your text may also be helpful.