

| | Democracy | Authoritarian state | Fragile state |
|------------------------|--|---|--|
| Characteristics | <p>Political rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free and fair elections • Freedom to form and join political parties • Voting without intimidation and interference • State officials are held accountable • Strong and effective safeguards against governmental corruption • Open and transparent government <p>Civil liberties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free and independent media • Freedom of expression • Freedom to form and join associations and NGOs • Independent and impartial judiciary • Personal autonomy and individual rights | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government is not elected through free and fair elections • State authority cannot be challenged or held accountable • State leaders remain in power for as long as they wish, or until they are removed by means such as military coup, foreign intervention or popular uprising • Human rights abuses are widespread • Rule of law is not respected | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The defining feature is weak internal sovereignty • The government may be non-existent, illegitimate or too weak to have authority over its territory |
| Examples | Germany Finland United States of America | North Korea Russia China | Somalia Yemen Syria |