

freedom noun /'fri:.dəm/

the condition or right of being able or allowed to do, say, think, etc. whatever you want to, without being controlled or limited.

Freedom is inherently valuable and plays a role in human progress. It is worth measuring carefully.

The Human Freedom Index (HFI)

presents the state of human freedom in the world based on a broad measure that encompasses personal, civil, and economic freedom.

Data on east Asia in 2018
(retrieved Oct 2019)

EAST ASIA

Freedom Scores by Regional Ranking

		Personal Freedom	Economic Freedom	Freedom Rank
1. Hong Kong	8.78	8.58	8.97	3
2. Taiwan	8.47	9.04	7.89	10
3. Korea, Republic of	8.15	8.77	7.53	27
4. Japan	8.10	8.73	7.47	31
5. Mongolia	7.70	8.00	7.40	45
6. China	5.91	5.35	6.46	135

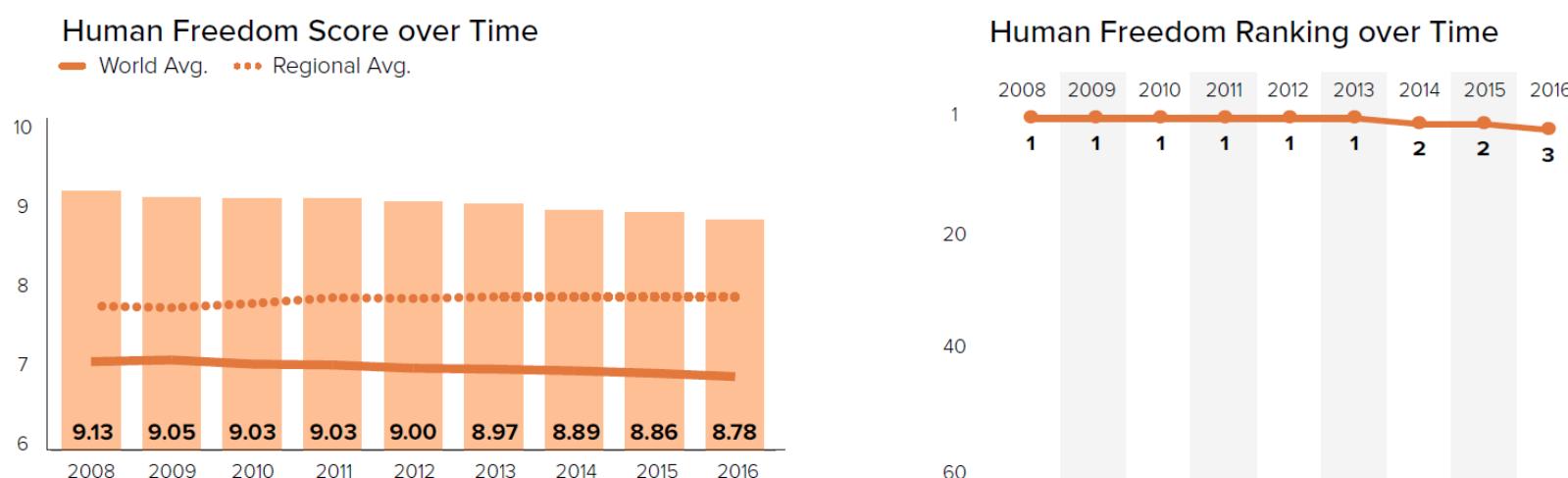
Hong Kong and China at a glance

	Hong Kong	China
Overall Human Freedom ranking	3	135
Personal Freedom Ranking	32	141
Economic Freedom Ranking	1	108

Freedom in the World

produces annual scores representing the levels of political rights and civil liberties in each state and territory, on a scale from 1 (most free) to 7 (least free). The nations are then classified as "Free", "Part(ial)ly Free", or "Not Free". These are widely reported in the media and used as sources by political researchers

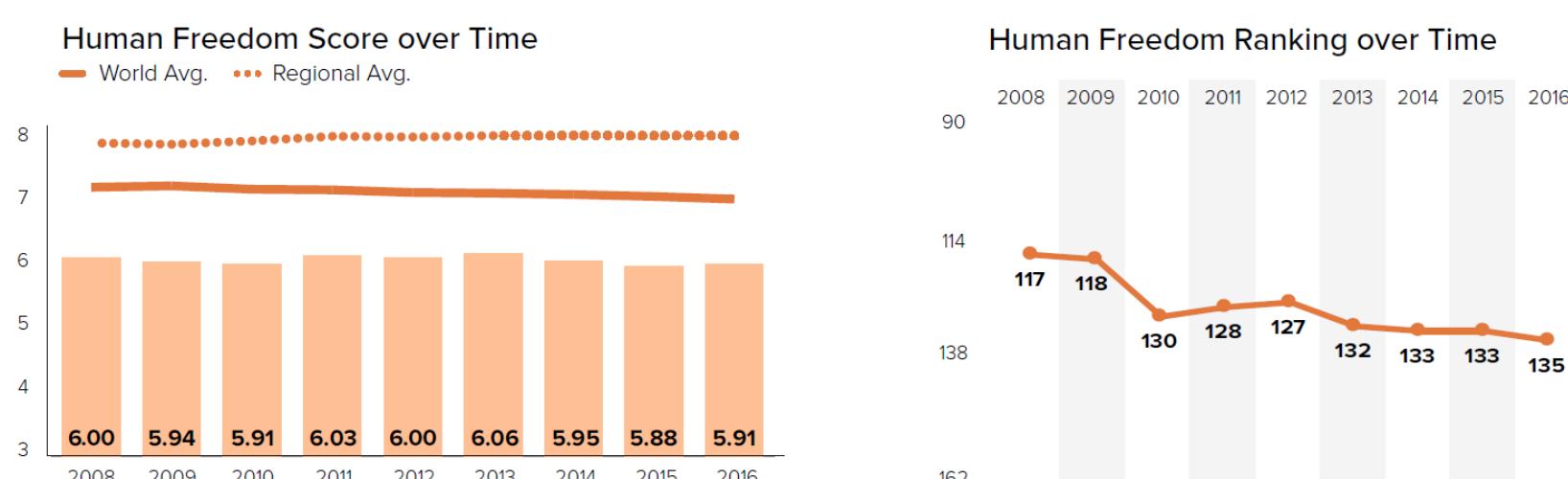
Hong Kong's HFI over time



Hong Kong have traditionally enjoyed substantial civil liberties and the rule of law under their local constitution, the Basic Law. However, the chief executive and half of the Legislative Council are chosen through indirect electoral systems that favor pro-Beijing interests, and the territory's freedoms and autonomy have come under threat in recent years due to growing political and economic pressure from the mainland.

Hong Kong has declined in its HFI ratings and ranking and, as the political future of Hong Kong plays out, we would not be surprised to see further declines.

China's HFI over time



China's authoritarian regime has become increasingly repressive in recent years. The ruling Chinese Communist Party is tightening its control over the state bureaucracy, the media, online speech, religious groups, universities, businesses, and civil society associations, and it has undermined its own modest rule-of-law reforms. The CCP leader and state president Xi Jinping has called for a "Chinese Dream" of national rejuvenation, which includes consolidating the party's grip on power and maintaining its status as the world's largest economy.

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A sharp democratic decline

is tracked in Hong Kong over the last decade, with increasing interference by the Chinese government in local affairs. A weak international response to the events in Hong Kong increases the likelihood of worsening unrest that could harm US interests and citizens in Asia, and would set a dangerous precedent for potential future CCP aggression.

Hong Kong and China at a glance

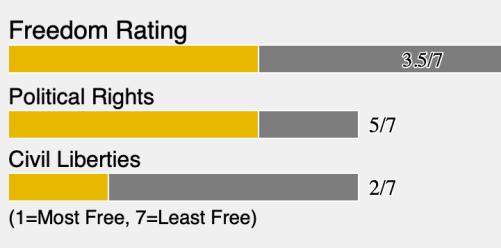
(retrieved Oct 2019)

Hong Kong* Profile

FREEDOM STATUS:
PARTLY FREE



Freedom in the World Scores



Aggregate Score: 59/100 (0=Least Free, 100=Most Free)

Quick Facts

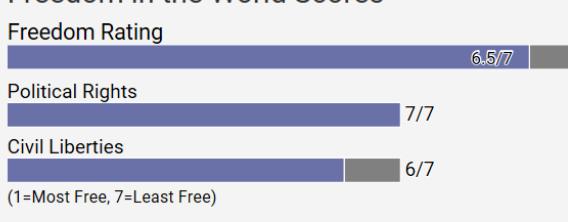
Population:	7,300,000
GDP/capita:	\$42,351
Press Freedom Status:	Partly Free

China Profile

FREEDOM STATUS:
NOT FREE



Freedom in the World Scores

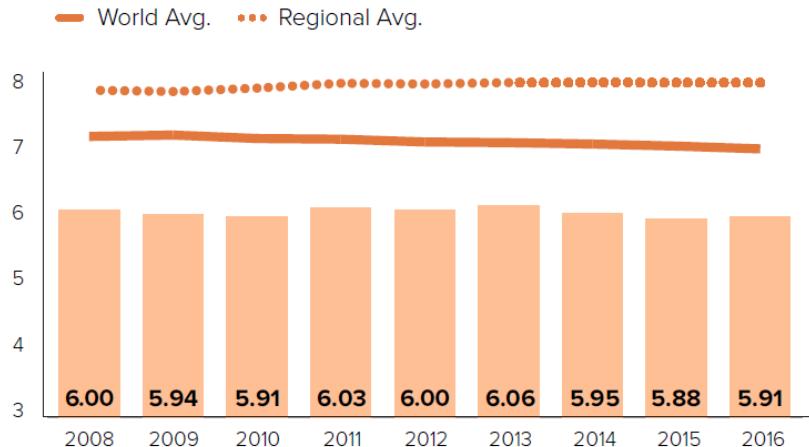


Aggregate Score: 14/100 (0=Least Free, 100=Most Free)

Quick Facts

Population:	1,378,000,000
Capital:	Beijing
GDP/capita:	\$8,069
Press Freedom Status:	Not Free
Net Freedom Status:	Not Free

Human Freedom Score over Time



Human Freedom Ranking over Time



China's authoritarian regime has become increasingly repressive in recent years. The ruling Chinese Communist Party is tightening its control over the state bureaucracy, the media, online speech, religious groups, universities, businesses, and civil society associations, and it has undermined its own modest rule-of-law reforms. The CCP leader and state president Xi Jinping has consolidated personal power to a degree not seen in China for decades, but his actions have also triggered rising discontent among elites within and outside the party. The country's budding human rights movements continue to seek avenues for protecting basic rights despite a multiyear crackdown.

