











Hong Kong vs China: The Differences

Perhaps the most significant difference between mainland China and Hong Kong is that the mainland is communist and controlled by a single party, while Hong Kong has a limited democracy. Both share the president of China as their chief of state. However, each has its own head of government: the premier is the head of mainland China, while the chief executive is the head of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.



	Hong Kong 	China 
Government type	Limited democracy	Communist party-led state
Legal system	Mixed legal system of common law based on the English model and Chinese customary law (in matters of family and land tenure)	Civil law influenced by Soviet and continental European civil law systems; legislature retains power to interpret
	Presumption of innocence	Suspects of crimes have to defend themselves
Political parties	Hong Kong has no legislation for political parties, there are three main political ideological blocs, which presents to pro-democracy camp, pro-Beijing camp and the localist groups	Chinese Communist Party China has 8 nominally independent small parties ultimately controlled by the CCP
Suffrage	For the legislature: limited to about 220,000 members of functional constituencies For the chief executive: a 1,200-member election committee drawn from broad sectoral groupings, central government bodies, municipal organizations, and elected Hong Kong officials	
Freedom of speech, of the press and of publication		
Freedom of association, of assembly, of procession and of demonstration		
Freedom of religious belief and to preach, conduct and participate in religious activities in public		
The right to confidential legal advice, access to the courts, choices of lawyers for timely protection of their legal rights interests or for representation in the courts, and to judicial remedies		
Uncensored Internet	