

## 1.5 Sources of Power and Authority

Sources of power and authority include constitutions, religions, military forces, political parties, legislatures, and popular support; over time, course country (China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, or the United Kingdom) regimes have been affected by such sources, represented by:

- a. The Communist Party's control over **China's military**, which provided power and authority to maintain regime stability
- b. The transition of power from dictatorial rule in **Iran** to a **theocracy** based on Islamic Sharia law after the 1979 Revolution
- c. The transition of power in **Nigeria** and **Mexico** to **multiparty republics** following military rule and single-party dominance, respectively
- d. The political elite's backing of a strong president in **Russia**, creating a **managed democracy** with election rules favoring one party
- e. Constitutional reforms in the **United Kingdom** that devolved power to **multiple parliaments**, allowing the regime to maintain stability

**Compare the course countries and rank them according to the most powerful. YOU MUST operationalize the term 'powerful' and you might even find that power is interchangeable with authority for your definitional purposes.**

1. Most powerful / most authority \_\_\_\_\_
2. Very powerful / great authority \_\_\_\_\_
3. Powerful / with authority \_\_\_\_\_
4. Somewhat powerful / some authority \_\_\_\_\_
5. Least powerful / little authority \_\_\_\_\_

Explain the implications of the similarities and differences between countries with similar political systems, principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors.  
i.e., **what is implied about the sources of power in states with similar systems?**

**Democratic 'systems'****Authoritarian 'systems'**