

Feature of Swiss Political System	What the feature is
Federalist Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Switzerland is a federation- a system of government in which power is shared between the central state and the regions. In Switzerland authority is shared between the Confederation (the central state), 26 cantons (federal states) and the 2929 municipalities/communes (town or village councils). Swiss cantons have a lot of devolved power. They are responsible for education, hospitals and policing. Switzerland is also a republic (meaning that it has no monarch). Instead the seven members of the Swiss Federal Council (those that put laws into effect) are in charge. There is a president who is elected and chairs the Federal Council for a year.
Structure of government + Proportional Representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The parliament elects the executive which is the Federal Council. It has seven members and the seven positions are divided between the biggest parties no one party has a majority. Proportional Representation affects the layout of the legislature. After the 2015 federal election there were eleven political parties with representatives in the National Council and no one party had a majority. Used to coalition governments.
Elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every four years citizens elect the 200 members of the National Council and the 46 members of the Council of States (representing each of the cantons) using proportional representation. All citizens over 18 can vote Some regions allow 16 year olds Need to live in the country for 12 years to become a citizen
Referendums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizens who disagree with an act of parliament can oppose it by launching a referendum as long as it gets 50,000 signatures in support Any member of the electorate can choose to amend the constitution as long as their petition gets 100,000 signatures, a double majority is needed for this to be accepted.

Chinese leaders fear chaos if opposition groups are allowed to speak against the Government and if the Communist Party loses control.

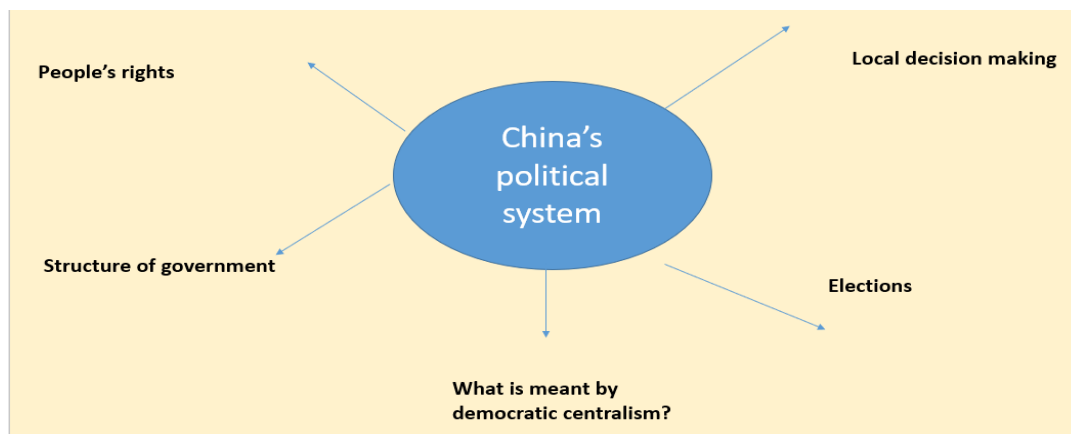
They monitor and control people to try and stop this from happening. This means that China has been criticised for not respecting human rights and for not giving people enough of a say in how the country is run.

Political parties, organisations and groups of ten electors can nominate candidates to stand in elections but, in practice, people opposed to the Communist Party's policies are unlikely to stand for election.

People's congresses make decisions in China's provinces and towns. These congresses interpret Communist Party policy to fit local circumstances.

Communist Party members elect the top party officials to govern China's provinces. Chinese local government is much more heavily influenced by national government than in either the UK or Switzerland.

China is led by the Central Committee (which is made up of around 370 people) and the Politburo (the main policy making committee of the communist party which is made up of 25 people)



All citizens over the age of 18 vote by secret ballot for the local People's Congresses. You have your voting rights removed if you are in custody, being investigated, charged or tried because of 'endangering national security or other serious criminal activities.'

Elections to the Central Committee of the Communist Party and the Politburo

If you are in the Communist Party you vote in elections to choose officials who sit on the Central Committee of the Communist Party. It is these officials who then choose who is on the Politburo (remember this is where policy is set out). It is largely made up of members of the Communist Party.

In order to become a member of the Communist Party you must have two existing members of the party as sponsors and must also pass a probation period

The National People's Congress is a unicameral parliament. It is mainly made up of people in the Communist Party but around 1/3 of the seats are taken by people from the eight smaller parties that are allied to the communist party

All members of the Communist Party are free to suggest ideas and discuss policy at party meetings but, once the decision of the party is made by majority vote, all members are expected to uphold and enforce that decision. This is known as the principle of 'democratic centralism'.