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This issue features a major study of news reporting worldwide. The authors examine the representation of public opinion in a key component of government communication – election campaigns – in an authoritarian space: the press coverage of China's authoritarian political system. Chinese media are widely acknowledged as being state-owned and state-controlled. The authors find that in spite of this, the press coverage of election campaigns in China is remarkably similar to that in democratic polities. They suggest that this is due to the fact that the Chinese government has a strong interest in the public's opinion and that the press is a key channel for this. The authors also find that the press coverage of election campaigns in China is more similar to that in democratic polities than it is to that in authoritarian polities. This is due to the fact that the Chinese government has a strong interest in the public's opinion and that the press is a key channel for this. The authors also find that the press coverage of election campaigns in China is more similar to that in democratic polities than it is to that in authoritarian polities. This is due to the fact that the Chinese government has a strong interest in the public's opinion and that the press is a key channel for this.