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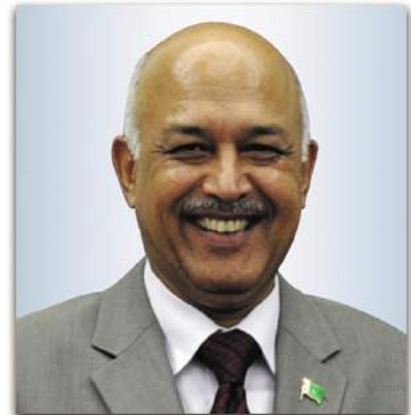
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EGYPT



MAP



History:

According to most scholars the history of modern Egypt dates from the start of Muhammad Ali's rule in 1805 and his launching of Egypt's modernization project that involved building a new army and suggesting a new map for the country, though the definition of Egypt's modern history has varied in accordance with different definitions of modernity. Some scholars date it as far back as 1516 with the Ottomans' defeat of the Mamlūks in 1516–17.

Muhammad Ali's dynasty became practically independent from Ottoman rule, following his military campaigns against the Empire and his ability to enlist large-scale armies, allowing him to control both Egypt and parts of North Africa and the Middle East. In 1882, the Khedivate of Egypt became part of the British sphere of influence in the region, a situation that conflicted with its position as an autonomous vassal state of the Ottoman Empire. The country became a British protectorate in 1915 and achieved full independence in 1922, becoming a kingdom under the rule of Muhammad Ali's dynasty, which lasted until 1952.

Gamal Abdel Nasser ended monarchical rule and established a republic in Egypt, known as the Republic of Egypt, following the 1952 Egyptian revolution. Egypt was ruled autocratically by three presidents over the following six decades: by Nasser from 1954 until his death in 1970, by Anwar Sadat from 1971 until his assassination in 1981, and by Hosni Mubarak from 1981 until his resignation in the face of the 2011 Egyptian revolution.

In 2012, after more than a year under the interim government of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, with Field Marshal Tantawi as its chairman, elections were held and the Islamist Mohamed Morsi became the first democratically elected head of state in the entire history of Egypt. In 2013, after millions of Egyptians in huge rallies and demonstrations demanding Morsi's resignation, the army announced the ousting of Morsi and preparations for a new election. Resulting in the election of Abdel Fattah El-Sisi.

Geography:

The geography of Egypt relates to two regions: North Africa and Southwest Asia. Egypt has coastlines on the Mediterranean Sea, the River Nile, and the Red Sea. Egypt borders Libya to the west, the Gaza Strip to the northeast, Israel to the east and Sudan to the south. Egypt has an area of 1,002,450 km² (387,050 sq mi) which makes it the 29th largest country in the world.

The longest straight-line distance in Egypt from north to south is 1,024 km (636 mi), while that from east to west measures 1,240 km (770 mi). Egypt has more than 2,900 km (1,800 mi) of coastline on the Mediterranean Sea, the Gulf of Suez, and the Gulf of Aqaba. It has an Exclusive Economic Zone of 263,451 km² (101,719 sq mi).

Egypt is predominantly desert. 35,000 km² - 3.5% - of the total land area is cultivated and permanently settled. Most of the country lies within the wide band of desert that stretches eastwards from Africa's Atlantic Coast across the continent and into south-west Asia.

Egypt's geological history has produced four major physical regions:

- 1- Nile Valley and Nile Delta
- 2- Western Desert (from the Nile west to the Libyan border)
- 3- Eastern Desert (extends from the Nile Valley all the way to the Red Sea coast)
- 4- Sinai Peninsula

Climate:

Egypt's climate is dry, hot, and dominated by desert. It has a mild winter season with rain falling along coastal areas, and a hot and dry summer season (May to September). Daytime temperatures vary by season and change with the prevailing winds. In the coastal regions, temperatures range between average winter minimums of 14°C (November to April) and average summer maximums of 30°C (May to October). Temperatures vary widely in the inland desert areas, especially during the summer, where they range from 7°C at night to 43°C during the day. During winter, temperatures in the desert fluctuate less dramatically, but can reach 0°C at night and as high as 18°C during the day. Egypt also experiences hot wind storms, known as "khamsin", which carry sand and dust and sweep across the northern coast of Africa. These khamsin storms typically occur between March and May and can increase the temperature by 20°C in two hours; and can last for several days.

Egypt is a highly arid country and receives very little annual precipitation. The majority of rain falls along the coast, with the highest amounts of rainfall received in the city of Alexandria; approximately 200 mm of precipitation per year. Alexandria has relatively high humidity, however sea breeze modulates moisture. Precipitation decreases southward and Cairo receives a little more than 10 mm of precipitation each year; although it experiences humidity during the summer months. Areas south of Cairo receive only traces of rainfall, yet can suddenly experience extreme precipitation events resulting in flash floods. Sinai receives somewhat more rainfall than other desert areas, and the region is dotted by numerous wells and oases, which support small population centers that were former focal points on trade routes. Water drains toward the Mediterranean Sea from the main plateau and supplies sufficient moisture to permit some agriculture in the coastal area, particularly near Al Arish. The combination of the country's high evaporation rate and the virtual absence of permanent surface water over large parts of the country result in water as a highly scarce resource. Primary challenges are centered around water resource availability, changing precipitation patterns and increasing population demands.

Rivers:

The Nile River:

The ancient Nile is a major river not just in Egypt but also in the world. The Nile River is the longest river in the world. With an estimated length of about 4,258 miles, the river's origin begins close to the equator, and it flows through eleven African countries. Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, DR Congo, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Eritrea, Republic of Sudan, And, of course, Egypt. The Nile River is characterized by a slow current. It flows northwards, which is one of its most unique attributes since most rivers flow from North to South. The Nile is particularly important for Sudan and Egypt because it is the primary water source for these dry countries.

☒ The 1923 constitution again came into force but was permanently abolished after the revolution in 1952. The Republic of Egypt was declared in 1953. The new ruling junta—led by a charismatic army officer, Gamal Abdel Nasser—abolished all political parties, which had operated with relative freedom under the monarchy, and a new constitution, in which women were granted the franchise, was introduced in 1956.

☒ In 1971 a new Egyptian constitution was adopted by referendum to replace the interim constitution of 1964. It was amended in 1980, 2005, and 2007. In 2005 Egypt held its first presidential election in which multiple candidates vied for the office and which was conducted by popular vote. Prior to that time, a single candidate had been chosen by the legislature and then confirmed by national plebiscite.

☒ The 1971 constitution was suspended in February 2011, following a popular uprising that forced the resignation of Pres. Hosni Mubarak. An interim constitutional declaration was issued on March 30, 2011, by the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (Egypt's interim military government). It incorporated provisions from the 1971 constitution as well as new measures, approved by referendum in March 2011, to make elections more open, impose presidential term limits, and restrict the use of emergency laws.

☒ In 2012 a 100-member Constituent Assembly was appointed by the newly elected legislature to write a draft constitution to be approved by a national referendum.

☒ The 2012 constitution was suspended in July 2013, when Pres. Mohamed Morsi was removed from power following several days of massive demonstrations against his rule.

☒ The new constitution, approved by Egyptian voters in January 2014, left out much of the conservative religious language featured in the 2012 document. A series of amendments were approved in a referendum in 2019.

Constitutional framework:

The Egyptian constitution proclaims the Arab Republic of Egypt to be a democratic state with Islam as its state religion and Arabic as its national language. It recognizes public and private ownership and guarantees the equality of all Egyptians before the law and their protection against arbitrary intervention by the state in the legal process. It also affirms the people's right to peaceful assembly and the right to organize into associations or unions and to vote. It forbids the formation of political parties based on religion.

Power of President:

The president of the republic is the head of state and, together with the cabinet, constitutes the executive authority. The president is required to be Egyptian, born of Egyptian parents, and at least 40 years old. The presidential term is for six years and may be extended for one additional term. The president appoints the prime minister (who is the head of government), ministers, and deputy ministers. The cabinet is obligated to present its platform to the legislative body, the House of Representatives. The president has the right to grant amnesty and reduce sentences and the power to appoint civil and military officials and to dismiss them in a manner prescribed by the law. The president is the supreme commander of the armed forces but can declare war only in consultation with the National Defense Council, a council comprising military officers and civilians, and with the approval of a two-thirds majority in the House of Representatives.

Upper House:

The Senate was inaugurated in October 2020 after constitutional amendments passed in 2019 reestablished an upper chamber (the previously bicameral legislature became unicameral under the 2014 constitution). Senators serve five-year terms, with one-third elected by the constituency, one-third elected by proportional representation, and another one-third appointed by the president.

Local Government:

Until 1960 all government administration was highly centralized, but in that year a system of local governance was established to decentralize administration and promote greater citizen participation at the local level. The 1960 Local Administration Law provides for three levels of subnational administration—muḥāfaẓāt (governorates; singular muḥāfaẓah), markaz (districts or counties), and qariyyah (villages). The structure combines features of both local administration and local self-government.

Justice:

The 2014 constitution emphasizes the independent nature of the judiciary. There is to be no external interference with the due processes of justice. Judges are subject to no authority other than the law; they cannot be dismissed and are disciplined in the manner prescribed by law. Judges are appointed by the state, with the prior approval of the Supreme Judicial Council. The council is also responsible for the affairs of all judicial bodies; its composition and special functions are specified by law.

Economy:

The Economy of Egypt used to be a highly centralized economy, focused on import substitution under president Gamal Abdel Nasser (1954–1970). During the rule of president Abdel Fattah el-Sisi (2014–present), the economy followed Egypt's 2030 Vision. The policy is aimed at diversifying Egypt's economy. The country's economy is the second largest in Africa after Nigeria regarding nominal GDP, and 35th in worldwide ranking as of 2022.

Since the 2000s, the pace of structural reforms (including fiscal and monetary policies, taxation, privatization and new business legislation) helped Egypt move towards a more market-oriented economy and prompted increased foreign investment. The reforms and policies have strengthened macroeconomic annual growth results. As Egypt's economy healed, other prominent issues like unemployment and poverty began to decline significantly. The country benefits from political stability; its proximity to Europe, and increased exports. It also enjoys a strong currency. From an investor perspective, Egypt is stable and well-supported by external stakeholders. Egypt's economy will grow fairly steadily over the coming three years, with inflation gradually declining from double digits and the pound weakening in the near-term. The government is aiming for the same rate of 5.5%, state news agency MENA reported earlier this year. The economy grew 6.2% in the 2021/22 fiscal year that ended in June.

- 1- Population: 102.3 million
- 2- GDP (PPP): \$1.3 trillion
- 3- 3.6% growth
- 4- 4.6% 5-year compound annual growth
- 5- \$12,790 per capita
- 6- Unemployment: 10.5%
- 7- Inflation (CPI): 5.7%
- 8- FDI Inflow: \$5.9 billion

Egypt's economic freedom score is 49.1, making its economy the 152nd freest in the 2022 Index. Egypt is ranked 11th among 14 countries in the Middle East and North Africa region, and its overall score is below the regional and world averages.

Over the past five years, Egypt's economic growth accelerated from 2017 through 2019 but slowed in 2020 and 2021. A five-year trend of incrementally improved economic freedom has suffered a significant reversal. Driven down by steep declines in scores for judicial effectiveness and labor freedom, Egypt has recorded a 3.5-point overall loss of economic freedom since 2017 and has fallen from the "Mostly Unfree" category to the "Repressed" category. Although the tax burden score is sound, fiscal health has weakened significantly.

Defense:

Egypt's annual military spending is anticipated to reach \$5.6bn by 2022, witnessing a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 6.58%, according to a report by Strategic Defence Intelligence (SDI). The allocation for capital expenditure was 16.3% of the total budget between 2013-17, while the nation received military aid of \$7.1bn from the US during the same period.

The capital expenditure allocation is expected to grow to an average of 17.1% during 2018-22, and revenue expenditure is estimated to be 82.9% during the forecast period. "The capital expenditure allocation is expected to grow to an average of 17.1% during 2018-22, and revenue expenditure is estimated to be 82.9%."

The conflict with Ethiopia over the construction of the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) is expected to drive military expenditure. Violent clashes and terror attacks after the deposition of President Hosni Mubarak prompted the military to play a more active role in state affairs. Efforts to enhance maritime surveillance to counter piracy security threats, terrorism and illegal immigration will also affect spending.

Egypt is a key player in the international energy markets as it is the biggest non-OPEC oil producer in Africa. The country is anticipated to apportion 1.2% of its GDP to defence over the forecast period. However, the economic downturn from political unrest and dwindling oil prices is expected to result in a change in expenditure. The nation is expected to acquire multirole aircraft, helicopters, submarines, radar and surveillance equipment, and cybersecurity systems.

For 2022, Egypt is ranked 12 of 142 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review.

Manpower:

Total Population: 106,437,241

Available Manpower: 43,639,269 (41.0%)

Fit-for-Service: 36,614,411 (34.4%)

Reaching Mil Age Annually: 1,596,559 (1.5%)

Tot Military Personnel (est.): 1,230,000 (1.2%)

Active Personnel: 450,000 (0.4%)

Reserve Personnel: 480,000 (0.5%)

Paramilitary: 300,000 (0.3%)

Air Power:

Total Aircraft Strength: 1,062

Fighters/Interceptors: 250 (23.5%)

Dedicated Attack: 93 (8.8%)

Transports: 59 (5.6%)

Trainers: 341 (32.1%)

Special-Mission: 11 (1.0%)

Tanker Fleet: 0 (0.0%)

Helicopters: 313 (29.5%)

Attack Helicopters: 91 (8.6%)

Land Power:

Tanks: 4,394

Armored Vehicles: 10,000

Self-Propelled Artillery: 1,165

Towed Artillery: 2,200

Rocket Projectors: 1,235

Naval:

Total Assets: 245
Aircraft Carriers: 0
Helicopter Carriers: 2
Destroyers: 0
Frigates: 13
Corvettes: 7
Submarines: 8
Patrol Vessels: 48
Mine Warfare: 23

Logistics:

Labor Force: 24,113,000
Merchant Marine Fleet: 421
Ports / Trade Terminals: 1
Roadway Coverage: 65,050
Railway Coverage: 5,085
Airports: 83

Egypt Bilateral Relations in the Region:

Since 2013, Egypt has reaped handsome rewards from Gulf Arab states' intensifying rivalry with Iran, securing tens of billions of dollars in Saudi and Emirati funding. The Saudis and the Emiratis have helped the Egyptian armed forces purchase advanced weaponry from France, Germany, and Russia. Riyadh has committed to investments in the restive Sinai Peninsula worth at least \$10 billion. This economic and military assistance has been vital for Egypt as it struggles to recover from the economic, security, and socio-political repercussions of the revolution it underwent on 25 January 2011, and the military intervention that followed on 3 July 2013.

In return, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi has repeatedly declared that the national security of the Gulf Arab states is a red line for Egypt. The allies have held joint military exercises, and Egypt has actively supported Gulf Arab predominantly Emirati efforts to battle Sunni Islamists in neighboring Libya. Cairo was also quick to join the Saudi-Emirati blockade on Qatar, which it accuses of supporting the now outlawed Muslim Brotherhood. Symbolically at least, Cairo also joined the Saudi-led Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition, which focuses on countering Iran.

Security Threats to Egypt:

Since the fall of President Mubarak, the Sinai has become an area of increasing lawlessness and instability. The region has turned into a base for drug smuggling, weapons smuggling, human trafficking, and a wide array of militant activity. The Sinai's border with Israel and its proximity to the Suez Canal make it an area of vital strategic importance and its deterioration has the potential to threaten regional stability, the Egyptian-Israeli peace accords, and Cairo's relations with the West.

The dynamics of the Sinai are complicated. The region's Bedouin are angry about a lack of public services and economic development and oppose the government in Cairo. Added to this is the presence of numerous groups that support Palestinian, jihadist, and al-Qaeda causes, as well as the Takfiri people who left Egyptian society to build a perfect Islamic society in the Sinai.

The area is home to approximately 1,600 Salafi-Jihadist militants. Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and other Palestinian factions have moved their safe houses, armouries, and explosives workshops into the peninsula.

Egypt membership of international Organizations:

Egypt belongs to a number of international organizations, including the United Nations (UN), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization, playing an active role in the UN and its specialized agencies, as well as in various other international institutions.

- 1- Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
- 2- African Economic Community (AEC)
- 3- African Free Trade Zone (AFTZ)
- 4- African Development Bank Group (AfDB)
- 5- African Union (AU)
- 6- Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD)
- 7- Arab Monetary Fund (AMF)
- 8- Black Sea Economic Cooperation Zone (BSEC) (observer)
- 9- African Union/United Nations Hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID)
- 10- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- 11- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- 12- Near East Foundation (NEF)
- 13- European Commission Relations
- 14- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- 15- World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)
- 16- International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- 17- Group of 24 (G24)
- 18- Group of 77 (G77)
- 19- Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
- 20- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- 21- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
- 22- International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol)
- 23- African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States (ACP)
- 24- International Development Association (IDA)
- 25- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



MAP



History:

The Portuguese were amongst the first Europeans to arrive on the Arabian Peninsula. After Vasco de Gamma's successful circumnavigation of the Cape of Good Hope, the Portuguese arrived in the Arabian Gulf in 1498.

By 1515, they fought their way into the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Oman and established themselves there by force of arms. By 1560, they reached the height of their maritime power and established a semi-monopoly of the pepper and spice trade. They took over the role of intermediary for trade between the ports of the Indian Ocean from the members of the indigenous mercantile strata.

The loss of Hormuz by the Portuguese in 1622 marked the entry of the Dutch and the English to the Middle Eastern markets.

In 1623, the Dutch concluded an agreement for the trade in silk with Shah Abbas I through which they earned an enormous profit. By the 17th century, the Dutch had become the dominant naval power in the Indian Ocean and Arabian Gulf.

However, by the 1750s, Dutch power weakened because of the three-way warfare between them, the English and the French and they lost their holdings in most of the Indian Ocean.

The Dutch strengthened their position on the island of Kharg by erecting a fortress and a factory and took over the various economic activities of the indigenous Arab population including pearl fishery.

These activities led to resistance by the local Arab population who revolted against the Dutch and freed the Kharg Island from them in 1766.

By 1720s, trade by the British in the gulf had grown. The British were primarily concerned with asserting their naval power to safeguard trade links to India and keeping any European competitors out.

Meanwhile, around the beginning of the 18th century, the Qawasim section of the Huwalah tribe had gained power mainly in Musandam and the northern and eastern areas of the Arabian Gulf. They had built a fleet of over 60 large vessels and a force of nearly 20,000. The British worried that the Qawasims might interfere with their desire to control the maritime trade routes between the Gulf and India. This led them to launch a series of attacks against the Qawasims. By 1820, the British defeated the Qawasims.

Soon after assuming power on 6 August 1966, as the Ruler of Abu Dhabi, H. H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan underscored the importance of a united country and remarked, "In harmony, in some sort of federation, we could follow the example of other developing countries."

In the beginning of 1968, the British announced their intention to withdraw from the Arabian Gulf. H. H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the then Ruler of the emirate of Abu Dhabi acted rapidly to establish closer ties with the emirates.

The UAE is a constitutional federation. On 2 December 1971, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was declared as an independent, sovereign and federal state. The UAE comprises seven emirates: Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, Ajman, Umm Al Quwain and Fujairah.

Geography:

The UAE is one of the smaller countries in the Middle East, located in the eastern region. It is a mostly desert stretch of land surrounded by the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea, and shares borders with Oman and Saudi Arabia.

It enjoys a unique strategic location. It borders the Gulf of Oman and overlooks the southern approach to the Strait of Hormuz, a vital transit point for world oil. The land borders of the UAE total 867 kilometers, 410 with Oman and 457 with Saudi Arabia. Its coastline is 1,318 kilometers long.

Its maritime claims include 12 nautical miles (nm) territorial sea; 24 nm contiguous zone; 200 nm exclusive economic zone; and a continental shelf that extends out 200 nm, or to the continental margin.

Border Disputes:

As in other countries of the Middle East, the UAE borders were not always clearly demarcated. Part of the border with Saudi Arabia caused a running dispute between the two countries. The Jeddah Treaty of 1974, the 'Agreement on the Delimitation of Boundaries,' has failed to bring an end to this problem. It gave Saudi Arabia a corridor to the Gulf and the UAE six villages (including al-Ain) and a desert area in the south.

- 1- Continent: Asia
- 2- Region: Middle East
- 3- Coordinates: 24°N 54°E
- 4- Area: Ranked 114th
 - Total 83,600 km² (32,300 sq mi)
 - Land 100%
 - Water 0%
- 5- Coastline: 1,318 km (819 mi)
- 6- Borders total: 867 km (539 mi)
- 7- Highest point: Jebel Al Mebrah, 1,727 m (5,666 ft)
- 8- Lowest point: Persian Gulf, 0 m
- 9- Longest river: None
- 10- Largest lake: Lake Zakher
- 11- Exclusive economic zone: 58,218 km² (22,478 sq mi)

Climate:

The UAE lies within the northern desert belt of the Arabian Peninsula, known for its scarce and unpredictable rainfall, high temperatures and humidities, and prolonged periods of sunshine (about eight hours per day in winter and 11 hours in summer). The UAE has a harsh desert climate, generally hot and humid in the summer but cooler in the mountainous regions, such as the Hajar al-Gharbi Mountains. July and August are the hottest months when average maximum temperatures exceed 48 °C on the coastal plain. During the late summer months, a humid south-east wind called sharqi ('easterly') makes the summers too humid for comfort, but there is usually a slight drop in temperature in the evening.

Rivers:

There are no permanent rivers in the United Arab Emirates, but there is a permanent dry riverbed, the Wadi, which is dry all the time. We have arranged these Wadis in the United Arab Emirates for drainage, based on the drainage basins here. The UAE has no natural rivers or streams or lakes. It is in this regard quite poor in surface water bodies. But there are seasonal rivers called wadis which are filled during really rainy months. There are many beautiful oases in the UAE and these are crucial in supporting the rural and traditional life of the native Emirati population. I have been to a couple of such oases like Al Dhaid in Sharjah Emirate and Al Ain (called the Green City) in Abu Dhabi Emirate.

Political System:

The UAE is a constitutional federation. The political system is based on the UAE's Constitution. The UAE has its own flag, coat of arms and national anthem. The UAE Government took several steps to reform the political system in the UAE.

The United Arab Emirates is made up of seven emirates: Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm al-Qaiwain, Ra's al- Khaimah and Fujairah. The United Arab Emirates gained its independence from the UK on December 2, 1971. Its constitution was established on independence, and was made permanent in 1996. The form of government can be referred to as a federal presidential elected monarchy, as the president is elected from among the absolute monarchs who rule each of the seven emirates.

Executive Branch:

The chief of state of the United Arab Emirates is President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed (since May 2022), who is the ruler of Abu Dhabi. The head of government is the Vice President and Prime Minister, Muhammad bin Rashid al-Maktum (ruler of Dubai), the Deputy Prime Ministers are Saif bin Zayid Al-Nuhayyan (since 2009) and Maktoum bin Mohammed Al-Maktoum (since Sep 2021).

The President appoints a Cabinet, or Council of Ministers. There is also a Federal Supreme Council (FSC) composed of the seven rulers of each of the seven emirates, which meets four times per year. The FSC is the highest constitutional body in the United Arab Emirates, and it establishes general policies and sanctions federal legislation. The FSC also elects the President (and Vice President) from amongst their number, meeting at five-year intervals to reaffirm the existing President or elect a new one. (There is no limit on terms.) However, the emirs of Abu Dhabi and Dubai have effective veto power in elections for the role of President. The last presidential election was held in 2009.

The Legislative Branch:

The Federal National Council (FNC) has 40 seats; the rulers of the seven Emirates appoint 20 members, and 20 are elected to four-year terms. The first elections were held in December 2006, and most recent ones in September 2011. In the most recent election, there were 129,274 eligible voters.

The elections are not based on a party system, but on individual candidates. (There are no political parties in the UAE, because political parties are forbidden.)

In the last election in October 2019, 13 men and seven women were elected.

The next elections will be held in October 2023.

Judicial Branch:

The legal system of the UAE is based on a dual system of Sharia and civil courts.

The judiciary's independence is guaranteed by the Constitution of the UAE, and it includes the Supreme Court and the Courts of First Instance. Judges are appointed by the president, ministers and deputy prime ministers are appointed by the president.

Economy:

The UAE has one of the most open economies in the world. This tradition of welcoming business and trade goes back to early Gulf history, when ships sailed to India and along the coast of East Africa as far south as Mozambique.

The UAE continues to be a strategic hub, with business-friendly free zones and a quickly growing economy. The UAE GDP for 2020 was \$359 billion. This reflects the rich natural resources in the UAE, which has 10 percent of the total world supply of oil reserves and the world's fifth largest natural gas reserves.

As a mainstay to the economy, oil exports now account for about 30 percent of total UAE gross domestic product. In addition to being an important supplier of energy, the UAE is now becoming an increasingly relevant consumer of energy. The UAE will continue its long tradition of responsible energy stewardship as it develops and diversifies its economy, accelerates the development of additional hydrocarbon reserves and contributes to the development and implementation of alternative energy sources.

In 2017, the UAE launched the Strategy for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) with the aim of strengthening the UAE's position as a global hub for 4IR technologies and innovation. Young people are at the heart of these forward-looking initiatives, taking on key leadership roles in business, government, science and more. In fact, Arab youth increasingly look to the UAE as the top country to live in, citing the country's wide array of job opportunities as its greatest draw.

The UAE economy is set to post its strongest annual expansion since 2011 after it grew by 8.2 per cent in the first three months of this year on higher oil prices and measures to mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

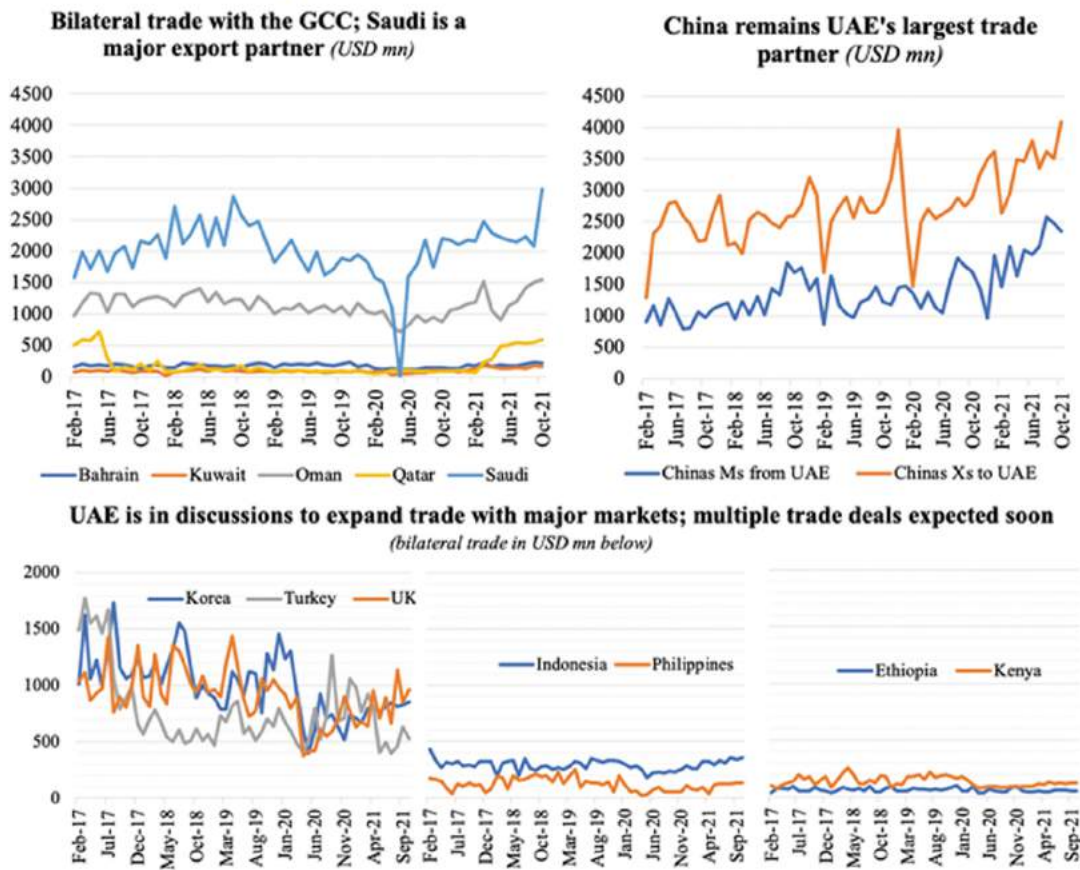
Growth in the first quarter was driven by a sharp increase in oil production, as well as a noticeable improvement in the real non-oil gross domestic product, the UAE Central Bank said in its latest Quarterly Economic Review 2022.

The Arab world's second-largest economy, which expanded 3.8 per cent in 2021, is expected to grow 5.4 per cent and 4.2 per cent in 2022 and 2023, respectively, according to the latest projections by the regulator.

The IMF projects that the UAE economy will grow 4.2 per cent this year while Emirates NBD forecasts growth of 5.7 percent and Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank (ADCB) expects a 6 per cent expansion, supported by a sharp rise in the oil sector.

- 1- Population: 9.9 million
- 2- GDP (PPP): \$650.8 billion
- 3- -5.9% growth
- 4- 0.5% 5-year compound annual growth
- 5- \$58,753 per capita
- 6- Unemployment: 5.0%
- 7- Inflation (CPI): -2.1%
- 8- FDI Inflow: \$19.9 billion

The United Arab Emirates' economic freedom score is 70.2, making its economy the 33rd freest in the 2022 Index. The United Arab Emirates is ranked 1st among 14 countries in the Middle East and North Africa region, and its overall score is above the regional and world averages.



Source: IMF DOTS, Refinitiv Datastream, data as of Oct 2021. Charts by Nasser Saidi & Associates

Defense:

The defense expenditure of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was valued at \$22.5 billion in 2022. The market is expected to grow at a CAGR of more than 4% during the forecast period, owing to the need to modernize the UAE Defense and Security Forces, with specific emphasis on counterinsurgency and anti-terrorism measures. The threat of Iran meddling in Middle Eastern affairs will compel the UAE to maintain its robust defense posture, thus ensuring defense spending.

There are many opportunities for U.S. exporters in the UAE defense sector. The UAE ranked #9 as a global defense importer from 2016–2020, and the United States was the largest supplier (64%), according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SPIRI).

The UAE ranks #8 overall in military expenditures, at 5.6% of GDP in 2020 (CIA Factbook). The UAE spent \$19.8 billion on defense in 2020, and between 2010 and 2019, the UAE spent between 15-16% of their annual defense budget on procurement with foreign suppliers.

Although the UAE wound up its military mission in Yemen in 2019, the country continues to maintain a strong influence and is expected to invest in counterinsurgency and anti-terrorism initiatives.

The UAE's emphasis on maintaining a strong independent defense posture is reflected in its defense modernization initiatives undertaken over the last decade. The country has consistently ranked as one of the top defense spenders in the region and has amassed a significant number of high-end defense equipment. The country's defense modernization efforts are mainly centered around C4ISR, anti-ballistic missile systems, fighter aircraft, and armored vehicles, among others.

For 2022, the United Arab Emirates is ranked 36 of 142 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review.

Manpower:

Total Population: 9,856,612

Available Manpower: 5,716,835 (58.0%)

Fit-for-Service: 4,859,310 (49.3%)

Reaching Mil Age Annually: 78,853 (0.8%)

Tot Military Personnel (est.): 77,000 (0.8%)

Active Personnel: 65,000 (0.7%)

Reserve Personnel: 0 (0.0%)

Paramilitary: 12,000 (0.1%)

Air Power:

Total Aircraft Strength: 554

Fighters/Interceptors: 100 (18.1%)

Dedicated Attack: 20 (3.6%)

Transports: 39 (7.0%)

Trainers: 146 (26.4%)

Special-Mission: 23 (4.2%)

Tanker Fleet: 3 (0.5%)

Helicopters: 223 (40.3%)

Attack Helicopters: 30 (5.4%)

Land Forces:

Tanks: 354
Armored Vehicles: 9,255
Self-Propelled Artillery: 183
Towed Artillery: 76
Rocket Projectors: 149

Naval:

Total Assets: 79
Patrol Vessels: 38
Mine Warfare: 2
Corvettes: 9

Logistics:

Labor Force: 5,344,000
Merchant Marine Fleet: 623
Ports / Trade Terminals: 8
Roadway Coverage: 4,080
Railway Coverage: 0
Airports: 43

Security Threats to UAE:

The United Arab Emirates' (UAE) wealthiest emirate, Abu Dhabi, has built up the UAE Armed Forces in recent decades by procuring some of the finest military hardware available. This has provided the UAE with a strong defense shield and has undoubtedly reduced the threat of foreign invasion. However, the UAE's hard security capabilities are either insufficient or inappropriate for countering remaining regional threats from Iran or, to a lesser extent, other Arab states. As such, the UAE has had little option but to remain under a Western military umbrella. Moreover, as an unfortunate but perhaps inescapable hidden cost of its emergence as the region's premier free port, for many years the UAE's second wealthiest emirate of Dubai has attracted the attention of both international criminal and terrorist organisations, many of which have exploited the emirate's laissez-faire attitudes and impressive physical infrastructure to set up various smuggling, gun-running, human-trafficking, and money-laundering operations. Despite Dubai's undoubted usefulness to such groups, the final section of this article will reveal that the UAE has been unable to remain completely in the eye of the storm and has suffered from a number of terrorist attacks on its own soil.

Bilateral Relation of UAE and their Significance in The Region:

The EU and the UAE have developed a diplomatic relationship centred on common political and regional interests. The EU opened a Delegation in Abu Dhabi in the second half of 2013 as a testimony to its commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation. The UAE also hosts the embassies of 26 EU countries. Relations with the EU previously existed under the 1988 EU-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Cooperation Agreement, a region to region relationship with the countries of the GCC.

The EU and the UAE have a joint interest in ensuring stability in the Middle Eastern region. The UAE has been increasingly active on the regional and global scene, proving to be a solid and reliable partner for the EU in several fields, notably within trade, but also in areas such as counterterrorism, energy, environment, climate change, non-proliferation and economic diversification.

EU-UAE cooperation on energy and climate change has intensified in the last years with an increased focus on renewables and a post-oil sustainable future. Cooperation, including areas such as nationally determined contributions, hydrogen and climate financing, is foreseen to be further consolidated if the UAE will host COP28. EU-UAE cooperation on counterterrorism has progressed considerably in recent years also in the context of the Cooperation Arrangement. The UAE also hosts the Heydayah Countering Violent Extremism Centre in Abu Dhabi. The EU is a board member.

Membership of UAE in international Organizations:

International organization participation: ABEDA, AfDB (non regional member), AFESD, AMF, BIS, CAEU, CICA, FAO, G-77, GCC, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (national committees), ICRM, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, IFRCs, IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, LAS, MIGA, NAM, OAPEC, OIC, OIF (observer), OPCW, OPEC, PCA, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNRWA, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO. The Ministry of Economy strives to build strategic partnerships with countries across the world, promoting its economic network and extending trade relations by joining many regional and international organizations and actively participating in their work. The UAE aims to create a favorable investment environment and support intra-industry trade to help businesses flourish. To achieve this vision, the country joined organizations including the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the Economic and Social Council of the Arab League, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC).

ISRAEL



MAP



History:

Modern Israel has its origins in the Zionism movement, established in the late 19th century by Jews in the Russian Empire who called for the establishment of a territorial Jewish state after enduring persecution. In 1896, Jewish-Austrian journalist Theodor Herzl published an influential political pamphlet called *The Jewish State*, which argued that the establishment of a Jewish state was the only way of protecting Jews from anti-Semitism. Herzl became the leader of Zionism, convening the first Zionist Congress in Switzerland in 1897.

Ottoman-controlled Palestine, the original home of the Jews, was chosen as the most desirable location for a Jewish state, and Herzl unsuccessfully petitioned the Ottoman government for a charter.

Eastern European and Russian Jews began to immigrate to Palestine, joining the few thousand Jews who had arrived earlier. The Jewish settlers insisted on the use of Hebrew as their spoken language. With the collapse of the Ottoman Empire during World War I, Britain took over Palestine. In 1917, Britain issued the "Balfour Declaration," which declared its intent to establish a Jewish homeland in Palestine. Although protested by the Arab states, the Balfour Declaration was included in the British mandate over Palestine, which was authorized by the League of Nations in 1922. Because of Arab opposition to the establishment of any Jewish state in Palestine, British rule continued throughout the 1920s and '30s.

Beginning in 1929, Arabs and Jews openly fought in Palestine, and Britain attempted to limit Jewish immigration as a means of appeasing the Arabs. As a result of the Holocaust in Europe, many Jews illegally entered Palestine during World War II. Jewish groups employed terrorism against British forces in Palestine, which they thought had betrayed the Zionist cause. At the end of World War II, in 1945, the United States took up the Zionist cause. Britain, unable to find a practical solution, referred the problem to the United Nations, which in November 1947 voted to partition Palestine.

The Jews were to possess more than half of Palestine, although they made up less than half of Palestine's population. The Palestinian Arabs, aided by volunteers from other countries, fought the Zionist forces, but by May 14, 1948, the Jews had secured full control of their U.N.-allocated share of Palestine and also some Arab territory. On May 14, Britain withdrew with the expiration of its mandate, and the State of Israel was proclaimed. The next day, forces from Egypt, Transjordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq invaded.

The Israelis, though less well equipped, managed to fight off the Arabs and then seize key territory, such as Galilee, the Palestinian coast, and a strip of territory connecting the coastal region to the western section of Jerusalem. In 1949, U.N.-brokered cease-fires left the State of Israel in permanent control of this conquered territory. The departure of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Arabs from Israel during the war left the country with a substantial Jewish majority.

During the third Arab-Israeli conflict, the Six-Day War of 1967. Israel again greatly increased its borders, capturing from Jordan, Egypt, and Syria the Old City of Jerusalem, the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and the Golan Heights. In 1979, Israel and Egypt signed a historic peace agreement in which Israel returned the Sinai in exchange for Egyptian recognition and peace. Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) signed a major peace accord in 1993, which envisioned the gradual implementation of Palestinian self-government in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

However, the coastal city of Elat, in the south, despite its proximity to the Red Sea, is closer to the climate of the Jordan and Arava valleys and the Negev, which are hotter and drier than the northern coast; there, daytime temperatures reach about 70 °F (21 °C) in January and may rise as high as 114 °F (46 °C) in August, when the average high is 104 °F (40 °C).

Rivers:

River Jordan:

River Jordan is the longest and most famous river in Israel. The river is considered to be one of the world's most sacred rivers by many people. The river is of high significance in Judaism and Christianity as this is the place where John the Baptist baptized Jesus. It measures 251 kilometers. The river originates from the southern slopes of Mount Hermon in the Anti-Lebanon mountains. The Dan and Banias, which flow from Mount Hermon, and the Hasbani and Lyyon which flow from Mount Lebanon, are the northern tributaries to River Jordan. The river flows through the Sea of Galilee and drains into the Dead Sea. River Jordan is the second largest water resource in Israel after the Mediterranean Sea.

Kishon River:

Kishon River flows through a distance of 70 kilometers. The river originates from the Gilboa Mountains and drains into Haifa Bay in the Mediterranean Sea. It has a drainage basin which includes Jezreel Valley and the Western Galilee, and some parts of Mount Carmel. Kishon River has been identified as the most polluted river in Israel by various government agencies. The water is contaminated with mercury and organic chemicals from nearby chemical plants.

Lakhish River:

Lakhish River, also known as Wadi Kabiba and Wadi Sukhrir in Arabic, is about 70km long and has a basin square of 1020 km. Lakhish drains into the Mediterranean Sea and arises from the West Bank. In 2017, there were thousands of dead fish in the river due to water contamination.

Ayalon River:

The 50 km Ayalon River is a perennial stream shared by Israel and Palestine. It originates in the Judean hills and empties its waters into the Yarkon River in Tel Aviv. Ayalon was polluted, but a project was started in 2004 to clean up the river. This project is considered one of the biggest environmental rehabilitation projects on the globe.

Political System:

- 1- Israel is a parliamentary democracy, consisting of legislative, executive and judicial branches. Its institutions are the Presidency, the Knesset (parliament), the Government (cabinet), the Judiciary and the State Comptroller.
- 2- The system is based on the principle of separation of powers, with checks and balances, in which the executive branch (the government) is subject to the confidence of the legislative branch (the Knesset) and the independence of the judiciary is guaranteed by law.
- 3- The President, nasi in Hebrew, bears the ancient title of the head of the sanhedrin, the supreme legislative and judicial body of the Jewish people in the Land of Israel in ancient times. He is the head of state and his office symbolizes the unity of the state, above and beyond party politics.
- 4- Presidential duties, which are mostly ceremonial and formal, are defined by law. Amongst his formal functions are the opening of the first session of a new Knesset; accepting the credentials of foreign envoys; signing treaties and laws adopted by the Knesset; appointing judges, the governor of the Bank of Israel and heads of Israel's diplomatic missions abroad, on the recommendation of the appropriate bodies; and pardoning prisoners and commuting sentences, on the advice of the minister of justice. In addition, the president performs public functions and informal tasks which include citizens' appeals, lending prestige to communal and social associations, and strengthening public actions such as the fight against road accidents.
- 5- The president is elected by a simple majority of the Knesset from among candidates nominated on the basis of their personal stature and contribution to the state. The president is elected for one term of seven years.
- 6- The Knesset is the parliament of the State of Israel; its main function is to legislate. It took its name and fixed its membership at 120 from the knesset hagedolah (great assembly), the representative Jewish body convened in Jerusalem by Ezra and Nehemiah in the 5th century BCE.
- 7- The Knesset is elected for a tenure of four years, but may dissolve itself or be dissolved by the prime minister before the end of its term. Until a new Knesset is formally constituted following elections, full authority remains with the outgoing one.
- 8- The Government (cabinet of ministers) is the executive authority of the state, charged with administering internal and foreign affairs, including security matters. Its policy-making powers are very wide and it is authorized to take action on any issue which is not delegated by law to another authority.

The Judiciary:

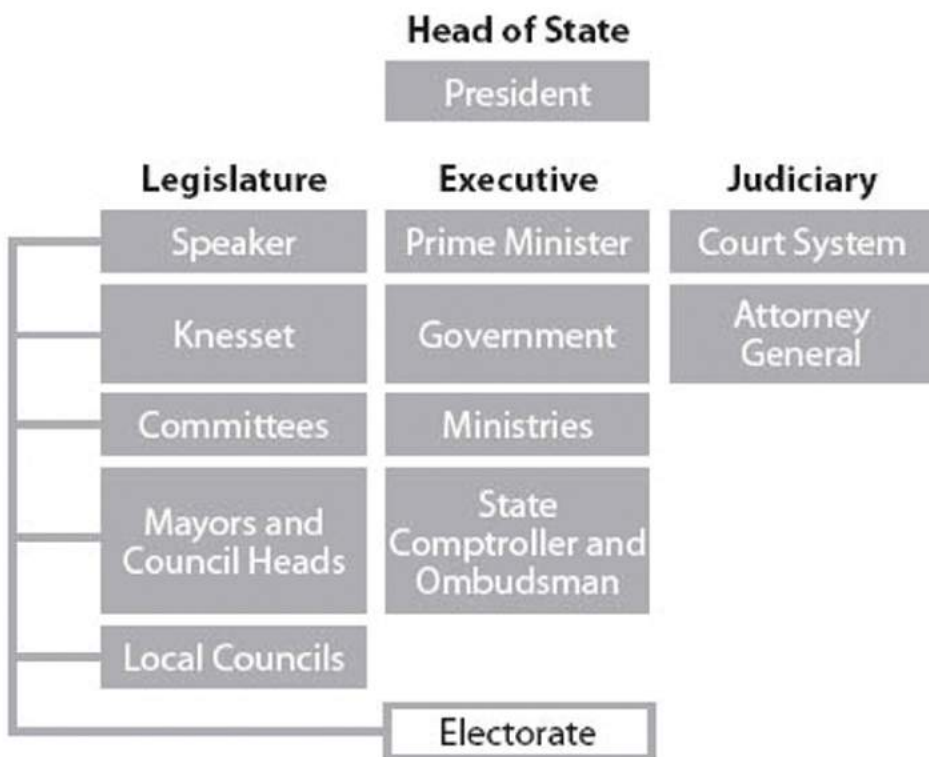
The absolute independence of the judiciary is guaranteed by law. Judges are appointed by the president, upon recommendation of a special nominations committee, composed of supreme court judges, members of the bar and public figures. Judges' appointments are for life, with a mandatory retirement age at 70. Magistrates' and district courts exercise jurisdiction in civil and criminal cases, while juvenile, traffic, military, labor and municipal appeal courts each deal with matters coming under their competence. There is no trial by jury in Israel.

Elections:

Knesset elections are general, national, direct, equal, secret and proportional, with the entire country constituting a single electoral constituency. On election day, voters cast one ballot for a political party to represent them in the Knesset.

A central elections committee, headed by a justice of the supreme court and including representatives of the parties holding seats in the Knesset, is responsible for conducting the elections. Regional election committees oversee the functioning of local polling committees, which include representatives of at least three parties in the outgoing Knesset.

Knesset elections are based on a vote for a party rather than for individuals, and the many political parties which compete for election to the Knesset reflect a wide range of outlooks and beliefs.



Economy:

Israel is one of the most resilient and technologically-advanced market economies in the world. Its skilled workforce and concentration of venture capital allow the country to lead in innovative industries such as high-tech, cleantech, and the life sciences. Israel consistently ranks high among the world's economies in terms of its technological readiness, venture capital availability, and the quality of its research organizations. The country ranks 1st in availability of scientists and engineers, number of start-ups per capita, and venture capital investments per capita.

Over the years, Israel has experienced a high average rate of growth. Given its small consumer market domestically, Israel has strategically turned beyond its borders to sell its products and offer its technologies. This year, Israel was unanimously voted to join the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, signifying its status as one of the world's 34 most developed economies.

Israel's economy shrank in the first quarter of 2022 after a robust 2021, but growth is expected to rebound during the year and help underpin central bank interest rate increases.

Led by declines in exports and consumer and government spending, gross domestic product shrank an annualized 1.6% in the January-March period from the prior three months, the Central Bureau of Statistics. This was similar to a 1.4% decline in the U.S. economy in the quarter.

Israel's economy grew at a 21-year high rate of 8.2% in 2021 and is expected to expand a further 5.5% in 2022, according to the Bank of Israel. In 2021, the economy also shrank in the first quarter before rebounding sharply.

- 1- Population: 9.2 million
- 2- GDP (PPP): \$373.7 billion
- 3- -2.4% growth
- 4- 2.4% 5-year compound annual growth
- 5- \$40,547 per capita
- 6- Unemployment: 4.6%
- 7- Inflation (CPI): -0.6%
- 8- FDI Inflow: \$24.8 billion

Israel's economic freedom score is 68.0, making its economy the 43rd freest in the 2022 Index. Israel is ranked 2nd among 14 countries in the Middle East and North Africa region, and its overall score is above the regional and world averages.

The Israeli economy slowed from 2017 through 2019, turned negative in 2020, and recovered in 2021. A multi-year expansion of economic freedom that peaked in 2020 skidded sharply this year to a low not seen since 2013.

Defense:

Israel's ministries of defense and finance reached an agreement together with Prime Minister Naftali Bennett on a new annual defense budget for 2022, worth ILS58 billion (USD17.95 billion) net, the bureau of Defence Minister Benny Gantz announced on 28 July.

The development comes after the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and the Ministry of Defense (MoD) relied on a continuation budget in 2020 and 2021.

The last time that Israel approved a new defense budget was in 2019, totalling ILS55.5 billion, and the Ministry of Finance has also conducted several ad hoc cash injections during the continuation budget years, to maintain the budget's real value relative to the 2019 budget. The budget will enable the IDF force build-up and procurement programmes to proceed, Bennett's office stated, "with an emphasis on purchases from defense companies in the [Israeli] periphery", as well as the allocation of ILS750 million for home front defense projects in 2022. This includes establishing a Home Front Command and an MoD project to build rocket-proof protection for 21 northern communities near the Lebanese border.

For 2022, Israel is ranked 18 of 142 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review.

Manpower:

Total Population: 8,787,045

Available Manpower: 3,690,559 (42.0%)

Fit-for-Service: 3,066,679 (34.9%)

Reaching Mil Age Annually: 123,019 (1.4%)

Tot Military Personnel (est.): 646,000 (7.4%)

Active Personnel: 173,000 (2.0%)

Reserve Personnel: 465,000 (5.3%)

Paramilitary: 8,000 (0.1%)

Air Power:

Total Aircraft Strength: 597

Fighters/Interceptors: 241 (40.4%)

Dedicated Attack: 27 (4.5%)

Transports: 15 (2.5%)

Trainers: 153 (25.6%)

Special-Mission: 23 (3.9%)

Tanker Fleet: 11 (1.8%)

Helicopters: 127 (21.3%)

Attack Helicopters: 48 (8.0%)

Land Power:

Tanks: 1,900

Armored Vehicles: 8,044

Self-Propelled Artillery: 650

Towed Artillery: 300

Rocket Projectors: 48

Naval forces:

Total Assets: 67
Corvettes:7
Submarines: 5
Patrol Vessels: 45

Logistics:

Labor Force: 3,893,000
Merchant Marine Fleet: 41
Ports / Trade Terminals: 5
Roadway Coverage: 19,555
Railway Coverage: 1,384
Airports: 42

Security Threat to Israel:

THE GAZA STRIP: REBUILDING TERROR

Both Hamas, the terror organization in control of the Gaza Strip, and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, a terrorist organization in Gaza, have made significant efforts in the past year to rebuild their military capabilities destroyed by the IDF during Operation Protective Edge. Despite the lack of resources in the Gaza Strip, Hamas invests its funds, manpower and equipment to restoring its weapons arsenal.

JUDEA AND SAMARIA: A RENEWAL OF PALESTINIAN VIOLENCE

Since Operation Brother's Keeper, and the kidnapping and murder of three Israeli teenagers, Hamas has tried to rebuild its terror network in the Judea and Samaria area. Security forces have arrested multiple terror cells for plotting attacks against Israeli civilians.

This summer, terrorists have perpetrated multiple attacks and a new cycle of violence has erupted.

THE SYRIAN BORDER: THE WAR NEXT DOOR:

The UN's peacekeeping force stationed in the Golan Heights on the Israeli-Syrian border that was taken hostage by the al-Nusra Front in September 2014. In recent year many of the nearness of the Syrian Civil War and terrorist organizations to Israeli territory.

The fighting around the town of al-Quneitra has caused the sporadic errant fire of rockets and explosives towards Israel. Sporadic fire in this area resulted in the injury of an IDF soldier.

THE LEBANESE BORDER: THE HEZBOLLAH THREAT:

Though Hezbollah is also present in the Syrian Golan Heights as a part of its military involvement meant to aid Bashar al-Assad's regime in the Syrian Civil war, Hezbollah's stronghold remains southern Lebanon. The terrorist organization has repeatedly used its infrastructure located in the area for lethal purposes.

Israel as an important Political Entity in the Region:

The recent visit of the Israeli President Naftali Bennet to the Kingdom of Bahrain has highlighted yet again, Israel's increasing role in Middle East politics.

This comes at the back of Israel's participation in the International Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMX 22), where 60 countries took part in the military exercises including nations like Saudi Arabia and Oman with which Israel has no official relations.

In many ways, these efforts to normalize ties were meant to be after the Abraham Accords of 2020 were hammered out with US' ex-president Trump presiding over the peace deal that brought together Israel, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Bahrain. This article, thus, examines some of the factors that changed Israel's role in the region. It specifically notes that due to the immense financial and political clout of the Gulf nations, their alliance with Israel is driving changes in the broader Middle East.

Israel membership of international Organizations:

1- The first international organization which the Israeli government joined was the International Wheat Council, established as part of the Point Four Program in early 1949. Israel has been a member of the United Nations since 11 May 1949.

2- Israel is a member of many UN agencies, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Israel also participates in other international organizations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Israel left the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in a coordinated move with the US in 2019.

3- Within UNESCO, Israel was a member in many international programs and organizations. In the area of science, Israel was an active member of the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the International Centre for Synchrotron-Light for Experimental Science Applications in the Middle East (SESAME), and the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP).

4- Other notable organizations Israel is an active member of include the Education For All movement, the European Centre for Higher Education (CEPES), the World Heritage Committee (WHC), the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). Relations were carried out through the Israeli National Commission for UNESCO.

5- Israel joined the European Union's Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development (FP) in 1994, and is a member of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN),^[20] the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL). It is also a member of the Bank for International Settlement (BIS) since 2003.

AZERBAIJAN



MAP



History:

After the Russo-Persian wars of 1804–1813 and 1826–1828, Qajar Iran was forced to cede its Caucasian territories to the Russian Empire; the treaties of Gulistan in 1813 and Turkmenchay in 1828 defined the border between Czarist Russia and Qajar Iran. The region north of the Aras was Iranian until it was occupied by Russia during the 19th century. According to the Treaty of Turkmenchay, Qajar Iran recognized Russian sovereignty over the Erivan, Nakhchivan and Talysh Khanates (the last parts of Azerbaijan still in Iranian hands).

After more than 80 years of being part of the Russian Empire in the Caucasus,

the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was established in 1918. The name "Azerbaijan", adopted by the ruling Musavat Party for political reasons, had been used to identify the adjacent region of northwestern Iran. Azerbaijan was invaded by Soviet forces in 1920, which led to the establishment of the Azerbaijan SSR. In the early Soviet period, the Azerbaijani national identity was finally forged. Azerbaijan remained under Soviet rule until the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union, after which the independent Republic of Azerbaijan was proclaimed. Hostile relations with the neighboring Republic of Armenia and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict have been focal points within Azerbaijani politics since independence.

Geography:

Azerbaijan is a country in the Caucasus region, situated at the juncture of Europe and Western Asia. Three physical features dominate Azerbaijan: the Caspian Sea, whose shoreline forms a natural boundary to the east; the Greater Caucasus mountain range to the north; and the extensive flatlands at the country's center.

Azerbaijan has a total land area of approximately 86,600 square kilometers, less than 1% of the land area of the former Soviet Union. Of the three Transcaucasian states, Azerbaijan has the greatest land area. Special administrative subdivisions are the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, which is separated from the rest of Azerbaijan by a strip of Armenian territory, and the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, entirely within Azerbaijan. The status of Nagorno-Karabakh is disputed by Armenia.

Located in the region of the southern Caucasus Mountains, Azerbaijan borders the Caspian Sea to the east, Georgia and Russia to the north, Iran to the south, and Armenia to the southwest and west. A small part of Nakhchivan also borders Turkey to the northwest. The capital of Azerbaijan is the ancient city of Baku, which has the largest and best harbor on the Caspian Sea and has long been the center of the republic's oil industry.

- 1- Continent: Europe/Asia
- 2- Region: Caucasus
- 3- Coordinates: 40°30'N 47°30' E
- 4- Area: Ranked 112th
 - Total 86,600 km² (33,400 sq mi)
 - Land 99.87%
 - Water 0.13%
- 5- Coastline: 713 km (443 mi)
- 6- Highest point: Bazarduzu Dagi, 4,466 m (14,652 ft)
- 7- Lowest point: Caspian Sea, -28 m (-92 ft)
- 8- Longest river: Kura River, 1,514 km (941 mi)
- 9- Largest lake: Mingachevir reservoir, 605 km² (234 sq mi)
- 10- Exclusive economic zone: None, the Caspian Sea is a lake

Climate:

The dry subtropical climate of central and eastern Azerbaijan is characterized by a mild winter and a long (four to five months) and very hot summer, with temperatures averaging about 81 °F (27 °C) and maximum temperatures reaching 109 °F (43 °C). Southeastern Azerbaijan is characterized by a humid subtropical climate with the highest precipitation in the country, some 47 to 55 inches (1,200 to 1,400 millimeters) a year, most of it falling in the cold months. A dry continental climate, with a cold winter and a dry, hot summer, prevails in Naxçıvan at altitudes of 2,300 to 3,300 feet. Moderately warm, dry, or humid types of climate are to be found in other parts of Azerbaijan. The mountain forest zone has a moderately cold climate, while an upland tundra climate characterizes elevations of 10,000 feet and above. Frosts and heavy snowfalls make the passes at such altitudes inaccessible for three or four months of the year.

Rivers:

Kura:

The Kura River is the longest river in Azerbaijan shared with Turkey and Georgia covering a total length of 941 miles. The source of river Kura is in northeastern Turkey then flows through Georgia and Azerbaijan where it drains in the Caspian Sea. Kura River's main tributary is the Aras which is the second longest river in Azerbaijan with a length of 666 miles draining the south side of the Lesser Caucasus Mountains and is shared with Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Iran. The Kura River meets its main tributary the Aras River in Azerbaijan before flowing into the Caspian Sea.

Alazani:

The Alazani is an Azerbaijan river that flows through the Caucasus and it is the main tributary of river Kura in eastern Georgia and is 218 miles in length. A part of the Alazani River forms the border between Azerbaijan and Georgia before it meets with the Kura River. The Alazani was a main gateway for the Persian intruders and is the center for the wine industry in Georgia. The Alazani dries up in winter but the snow melts in late spring causing major flooding. The river is used for irrigation and drinking water with numerous small hydroelectric power plants and is also a tourist attraction for rafting.

Tartar:

River Tartar is the left tributary of river Kura and the longest river to wholly pass through Azerbaijan with a length of 124 miles. Tartar River originates in the Qonqur area where mountain ranges meet on the Karabakh Plateau and Martkert Province of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and discharge into the Kura River. In 1976 the Sarsang reservoir was established for the purpose of irrigation and electricity.

Political System:

1- The structural formation of Azerbaijan's political system was completed by the adoption of the new Constitution on 12 November 1995. According to Article 23 of the Constitution, the state symbols of the Azerbaijan Republic are the flag, the coat of arms and the national anthem. The state power in Azerbaijan is limited only by law for internal issues, but for international affairs is additionally limited by the provisions of international agreements.

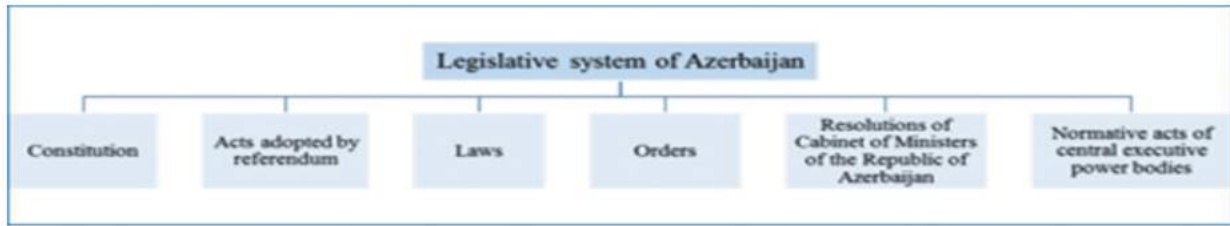
2- The government of Azerbaijan is based on the separation of powers among the legislative, executive and judicial branches. The legislative power is held by the unicameral National Assembly and the Supreme National Assembly in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. Parliamentary elections are held every five years, on the first Sunday of November. The Yeni Azerbaijan Party, and independents loyal to the ruling government, currently hold almost all of the Parliament's 125 seats. During the 2010 Parliamentary election, the opposition parties, Musavat and Azerbaijani Popular Front Party, failed to win a single seat. European observers found numerous irregularities in the run up to the election and on election day.

3- The executive power is held by the President, who is elected for a 5-year term by direct elections. The president is authorized to form the Cabinet, an inferior executive body, subordinated to him. The Cabinet of Azerbaijan consists primarily of the Prime Minister, his Deputies and Ministers. The president does not have the right to dissolve the National Assembly, but he has the right to veto its decisions. To override the presidential veto, the parliament must have a majority of 95 votes. The judicial power is vested in the Constitutional Court, Supreme Court and the Economic Court. The President nominates the judges in these courts.

4- The Security Council is the deliberative body under the president, and he organizes it according to the Constitution. It was established on 10 April 1997. The administrative department is not a part of the president's office but manages the financial, technical and pecuniary activities of both the president and his office.

5- Although Azerbaijan has held several elections since regaining its independence and it has many of the formal institutions of democracy, it remains classified as "not free" (on border with "partly free") in Freedom House's Freedom in the World 2009 survey.

6- The Constitution of Azerbaijan does not declare an official religion but the majority of people adhere to the Shia branch of Islam, although Muslim identity tends to be based more on culture and ethnicity rather than religion and Azerbaijan remains as one of the most liberal majority-Muslim nations. After gaining its independence, Azerbaijan has reached a high level of human development, economic development, standard of living, and literacy as well as a low rate of unemployment and intentional homicide compared to other Eastern European and CIS countries. On 1 January 2012, the country started a two-year term as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.



Economy:

The economy of Azerbaijan has completed its post-Soviet transition into a major oil-based economy (with the completion of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Pipeline), from one where the state played the major role. The transition to oil production led to remarkable growth figures as projects came online; reaching 26.4% in 2005 (second highest GDP growth in the world in 2005 only to Equatorial Guinea) and 34.6% in 2006 (world highest) before subsiding to 10.8% and 9.3% in 2008 and 2009 respectively. Large oil reserves are a major contributor to Azerbaijan's economy. The national currency, the Azerbaijani manat, was stable in 2000, depreciating 3.8% against the dollar.

Progress on economic reform has generally lagged behind macroeconomic stabilization. The government has undertaken regulatory reforms in some areas, including the substantial opening of trade policy, but inefficient public administration in which commercial and regulatory interests are co-mingled limit the impact of these reforms. The government has largely completed privatization of agricultural lands and small and medium-sized enterprises.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has increased tensions in Nagorny-Karabakh as the power vacuum left by Russia is emboldening Azerbaijan to resolve the question of Nagorny Karabakh on its own terms. Ceasefire violations along the line of contact and the Armenia-Azerbaijan border have increased since early March 2022. Geopolitical tensions will have a modest negative impact on economic activity in Azerbaijan in 2022 owing to Azerbaijan's high energy export revenues, however the lack of diversification of the economy away from oil and gas will weigh on growth in 2022-26.

- 1- Population: 10.1 million
- 2- GDP (PPP): \$145.8 billion
- 3- -4.3% growth
- 4- -0.7% 5-year compound annual growth
- 5- \$14,431 per capita
- 6- Unemployment: 6.3%
- 7- Inflation (CPI): 2.8%
- 8- FDI Inflow: \$507.0 million

Azerbaijan's economic freedom score is 61.6, making its economy the 75th freest in the 2022 Index. Azerbaijan is ranked 37th among 45 countries in the Europe region, and its overall score is below the regional average but above the world average.

Azerbaijan’s economic growth accelerated from 2017 through 2019, turned negative in 2020, and rebounded in 2021. A five-year trend of expanding economic freedom has been broken. Dragged down by decreases in its scores for judicial effectiveness, government integrity, and labor freedom, Azerbaijan has recorded a 2.0-point overall loss of economic freedom since 2017 and has fallen from the “Mostly Free” category to the “Moderately Free” category. Tax burden and fiscal health are strong, but rule of law and business freedom exhibit weaknesses.

Azerbaijan’s primary trading partners are Russia, Turkey, China, and Italy; the country also has trade links with Georgia, Belarus, Britain, Israel, and the Central Asian republics. Azerbaijan has no trade with Armenia because of the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh.

In N/A Azerbaijan was the number 89 economy in the world in terms of GDP (current US\$), the number 78 in total exports, the number 95 in total imports, the number 113 economy in terms of GDP per capita (current US\$) and the number 83 most complex economy according to the Economic Complexity Index (ECI).



AZERBAIJAN MAJOR IMPORTS

Defense:

The volume of Azerbaijan’s defense and national security expenditures increased by 73.9 percent year-on-year in January-June 2021, The volume of the defense and national security expenditures amounted to AZN 2.5 billion (\$1.5bn), which was AZN 1,076 million (\$633m) more compared to the same period of 2020.

The defense and national security expenditures exceeded the forecast of AZN 2.4 billion (\$1.4bn) by 102 percent or AZN 56 million (\$33m) and amounted to 55 percent of the annual forecast.

Azerbaijan increased its defense and security expenditures by 31.6 pct in 2020. Some 4.4 billion AZN (\$2.6bn) were allocated for defense and national security under the draft law on the implementation of Azerbaijan’s 2020 budget.

Moreover, Azerbaijan allocated AZN 10.2 million to eliminate the damages inflicted on civilians by Armenia's aggression in 2020 and spent AZN 2.9 million on demining operations in the lands liberated from the Armenian occupation in last year's war.

The revenues of Azerbaijan's 2020 state budget made up AZN 24.6 billion (\$12.7bn), while the expenditures were AZN 26.4 billion (\$15.5bn). Azerbaijan has been one of the world's biggest spenders on its military, building up its forces for a potential war with Armenia. Now that that war has taken place, with a resounding Azerbaijani victory in 2020, Azerbaijan's military spending keeps going up.

The country is spending \$2.6 billion on defense and national security in 2022, the same as in 2021 and up from \$2.2 billion in 2020. The 2021 figure represented 5.3 percent of the country's GDP, the fifth-highest figure in the world, according to a new report from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

For 2022, Azerbaijan is ranked 63 of 142 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review.

Men Power:

Total Population: 10,282,283

Available Manpower: 5,038,319 (49.0%)

Fit-for-Service: 3,773,598 (36.7%)

Reaching Mil Age Annually: 154,234 (1.5%)

Tot Military Personnel (est.): 380,000 (3.7%)

Active Personnel: 65,000 (0.6%)

Reserve Personnel: 300,000 (2.9%)

Paramilitary: 15,000 (0.1%)

Land Power:

Tanks: 510

Armored Vehicles: 1,762

Self-Propelled Artillery: 167

Towed Artillery: 319

Rocket Projectors: 291

Logistics:

Labor Force: 4,939,000

Merchant Marine Fleet: 305

Ports / Trade Terminals: 1

Roadway Coverage: 24,981

Railway Coverage: 2,944

Airports: 23

Air Power:

Aircraft Strength: 149

Fighters/Interceptors: 17 (11.4%)

Dedicated Attack: 11 (7.4%)

Transports: 2 (1.3%)

Trainers: 32 (21.5%)

Special-Mission: 0 (0.0%)

Tanker Fleet: 0 (0.0%)

Helicopters: 87 (58.4%)

Attack Helicopters: 17 (11.4%)

Naval:

Total Assets: 24

Aircraft Carriers: 0

Helicopter Carriers: 0

Destroyers: 0

Frigates: 1

Corvettes: 0

Submarines: 4

Patrol Vessels: 13

Mine Warfare: 7

Security Threat to Azerbaijan:

Terrorism:

After the murders of Iranian general Qasem Soleimani and nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh in January and November 2020 respectively, likelihood of terrorist attacks against Israeli and Western diplomatic missions and business interests by Iran's proxies is elevated. Although the Azeri public in general is secular, there are pro-Iranian hotbeds, including the town of Nardaran. Sunni Islamic radicalism has been rising, both in the traditionally Shi'a Azeri population, and Sunni ethnic minorities. The government's harsh measures to combat it, including criminalisation of non-state-sanctioned religious activities, contributes to radicalisation. Local militant groups lack capability to target state institutions, Western diplomatic assets or critical energy infrastructure.

War risks:

The Russian-backed trilateral ceasefire, which went into effect on 10 November 2020, ended 44-day hostilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone. With Turkey's likely military support, Azerbaijan's armed forces regained control over four out of seven districts that ring the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave and seized the strategically important city of Shusha. In accordance with the ceasefire agreement, Armenia ceded the three remaining districts (Kelbajar, Agdam and Lachin) to Azerbaijan. The deployment of Russian peacekeepers mitigates the likelihood of resumption of hostilities until 2025, which is when their initial five-year mandate expires subject to automatic extension for another five years unless Azerbaijan or Armenia objects.

Significance of Azerbaijan in the Region:

President Aliyev prioritises rapid economic rehabilitation of newly regained territories, and the government has been allocating significant resources to this purpose. USD1.3 billion is slated to be spent on infrastructure development in newly regained territories in 2022. Such outlays already resulted in the completed construction of a new airport at Fizuli in October 2021.

Azerbaijan has been considerably expanding its strategic relationship with Turkey, whose political and military support during the war in 2020 was critically important in achieving battlefield success. Initially focused on energy, its links with Turkey are increasingly extending to military cooperation.

With energy accounting for over 90% of Azeri total exports, the country's economic performance will be driven by market energy price movements. Net exports and private consumption will support near-term growth, which we forecast to average 3.0% during 2022–23, after a 5.6% rebound in 2021.

The energy sector has benefited from recent Russian investments. In 2021 Russia's Lukoil acquired a 25% stake in the SWAP exploration project from BP; increased its share in the Shah Deniz gas project as Malaysia's Petronas exited, after earlier divestments by ExxonMobil and Chevron from ACG field; and will invest in the Dostlug field development.

Capital investments, having fallen for eight consecutive years, are unlikely to rebound, despite government-led investment plans, especially relating to the conflict zone. The realisation of non-energy infrastructure projects will be hindered by the lack of a final international settlement of Nagorno-Karabakh's legal status through the Minsk peace process, currently advocated by the US, EU, and Armenia, but shunned by Azerbaijan.

Membership of international organizations:

As an independent state, the Republic of Azerbaijan is a member of a number of international organizations, including the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Commonwealth of Independent States and many others. Azerbaijan is also constantly developing cooperation with organizations such as NATO and the European Union, as well as its activities within the anti-terrorist coalition. The Republic of Azerbaijan is also one of the founders of the GUAM regional group. By participating in these organizations and regional initiatives, the Republic of Azerbaijan pursues its national interests. Today, the Republic of Azerbaijan is recognized as an active actor and regional power that contributes to the establishment of cooperation in the modern system of international relations as the implementer of transnational projects, global security issues, energy security in Europe. Also, Azerbaijan's role as a corridor between Western and Eastern civilizations, as well as North and South, demonstrates its reputation as an important country.

The Republic of Azerbaijan is a member of the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, NATO's Partnership for Peace, the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, the World Health Organization, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; the Council of Europe, CFE Treaty, the Community of Democracies; the International Monetary Fund; and the World Bank.

BANGLADESH



MAP



History:

From the 14th century onward, it was ruled by the Bengal Sultanate, founded by king Shamsuddin Ilyas Shah, beginning a period of the country's economic prosperity and military dominance over the regional empires, which was referred to by the Europeans as the richest country to trade with. Afterwards, the region came under the Mughal Empire, as its wealthiest province. Bengal Subah generated almost half of the empire's GDP and 12% of the world's GDP, larger than the entirety of western Europe, ushering in the period of proto-industrialization. The population of the capital city, Dhaka, exceeded a million people.

Following the decline of the Mughal Empire in the early 1700s, Bengal became a semi-independent state under the Nawabs of Bengal, ultimately led by Siraj ud-Daulah. It was later conquered by the British East India Company at the Battle of Plassey in 1757. Bengal directly contributed to the Industrial Revolution in Britain but led to its deindustrialization. The Bengal Presidency was later established.

The borders of modern Bangladesh were established with the separation of Bengal and India in August 1947, when the region became East Pakistan as a part of the newly formed State of Pakistan following the end of British rule in the region. Proclamation of Bangladeshi Independence in March 1971 led to the nine-month long Bangladesh Liberation War, which culminated with East Pakistan emerging as the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

After independence, the newly-founded state endured famine, natural disasters, and widespread poverty, as well as political turmoil and military coups.

Geography:

Bangladesh Geography Bangladesh covers an area of 147,570 sq km, a little more than the size of Greece. It extends from 20'34N to 26'38N latitude and from 88'01E to 92'41E longitude. Maximum extension is about 440 km in the E-W direction and 760 km in the NNW-SSE direction. The Indian States of west bengal, assam, Meghalaya and tripura border Bangladesh in the west, north and east respectively. Myanmar forms the southern part of the eastern frontier. The total length of the land border is about 4,246 km, of which 93.9% is shared with India and about 6.1% with Myanmar. The country is bounded in the south by the bay of bengal. Although Bangladesh is a small country, the length of the coastline is more than 580 km. The territorial waters of Bangladesh extend 12 nautical miles (22.22 km) and the area of the high seas extending to 200 nautical miles (370.40 km) measured from the base lines constitutes the economic zone of the country. The Bay of Bengal is well-known for its cyclones, which whip up its water, sending them crashing onto the coastal plains of the offshore islands, occasionally causing floods. Bangladesh is fringed on the southwest by the huge expanse of mangrove forest known as sundarbans, the abode of the famous Royal Bengal tiger.

Climate:

Bangladesh is located in the tropical monsoon region and its climate is characterized by high temperature, heavy rainfall, often excessive humidity, and fairly marked seasonal variations. The most striking feature of its climate is the reversal of the wind circulation between summer and winter, which is an integral part of the circulation system of the South Asian subcontinent. Bangladesh has a humid, warm climate influenced by pre-monsoon, monsoon and post-monsoon circulations and frequently experiences heavy precipitation and tropical cyclones.

Bangladesh's historical climate has experienced average temperatures around 26°C, but range between 15°C and 34°C throughout the year. The warmest months coincide with the rainy season (April-September), while the winter season (December-February) is colder and drier. Bangladesh is a very wet country, receiving on average about 2,200 millimeters (mm) of rainfall per year. Most regions receive at least 1,500 mm and others, such as in the northeastern border regions, receive as much as 5,000 mm of rainfall per year. Humidity remains high throughout the year, peaking during the monsoon season (June to October). Rainfall is driven by the Southwest monsoon, which originates over the Indian Ocean and carries warm, moist, and unstable air. Typically, a tropical cyclone (of strength classification Tropical Storm or above) will make landfall in Bangladesh once every two to three years bringing heavy rainfall, very high wind speeds, and storm surges.

Rivers:

Brahmaputra River:

The Brahmaputra River is one of the greatest in Asia and the longest to pass through Bangladesh, covering a length of 1,802 miles, and also cutting across India, Bhutan, and China. It starts from Kailash in northern Tibet and ends in the Bay of Bengal. The Assam people see this river as both a blessing and a curse citing the floods it causes on the adjacent land during the monsoon but leaves an immensely fertile ground after the floods.

Ganges River:

The River Ganges originates from the Himalaya Mountains and it is accompanied by three distinct courses of flow, namely its upper, middle, and lower courses. Famous for its large water basin, it stretches over a distance of 1,569 miles cutting through India and Bangladesh. Over the years, the surrounding area has always been liable to floods causing numerous effects to the inhabitants living nearby.

Surma River:

The Surma River, also known as the Barak River, originates from the Manipur Mountains in Northern India, and flows through Eastern Bangladesh, covering a distance of 559 miles. It ends in the Kishoreganj District, where it converges with River Kushiya to form River Meghna.

Atrai River:

The Atrai River hails from West Bengal, and flows through the Dinajpur District before fanning out in Chalaan Beel. It measures a length of 242 miles. Even though it is one of the leading causes of flooding in certain areas, it serves as a perennial fishing ground.

Political System:

1- While Bangladesh's constitution of 1972 specifies a parliamentary form of government under a prime minister and a president elected by a national assembly, its implementation has been interrupted by coups. In 1975 a military coup led to a regime of martial law, and, though the form of government that followed was a mixture of presidential and parliamentary systems, power effectively remained with the army. The country experienced additional upsets and periods of martial law in the 1980s, but in 1991 a parliamentary system was restored, with a president as head of state and a prime minister as head of government.

2- The parliament of Bangladesh, called the Jatiya Sangsad (House of the Nation), is a unicameral entity consisting of some 350 seats, most of which are filled through direct election. The remaining seats are reserved for women; these members are elected by the parliament itself. Legislators serve five-year terms. The parliament elects the president, who also serves a five-year term, with a two-term limit. The president then appoints the leader of the legislative majority party (or coalition) as prime minister.

Local government:

Between the early 1980s and the early 1990s, local government in Bangladesh underwent a large-scale administrative reorganization to decentralize power. The resulting structure consisted of several major divisions, each of which was subdivided into a number of districts, called zila. These districts were parceled further into smaller units, called upzila and thana. Bangladesh now consists of 8 divisions, more than 60 districts, and more than 500 upzila and thana. Villages, the smallest unit of government, numbered in the tens of thousands and were grouped into unions beneath the upzila and thana.

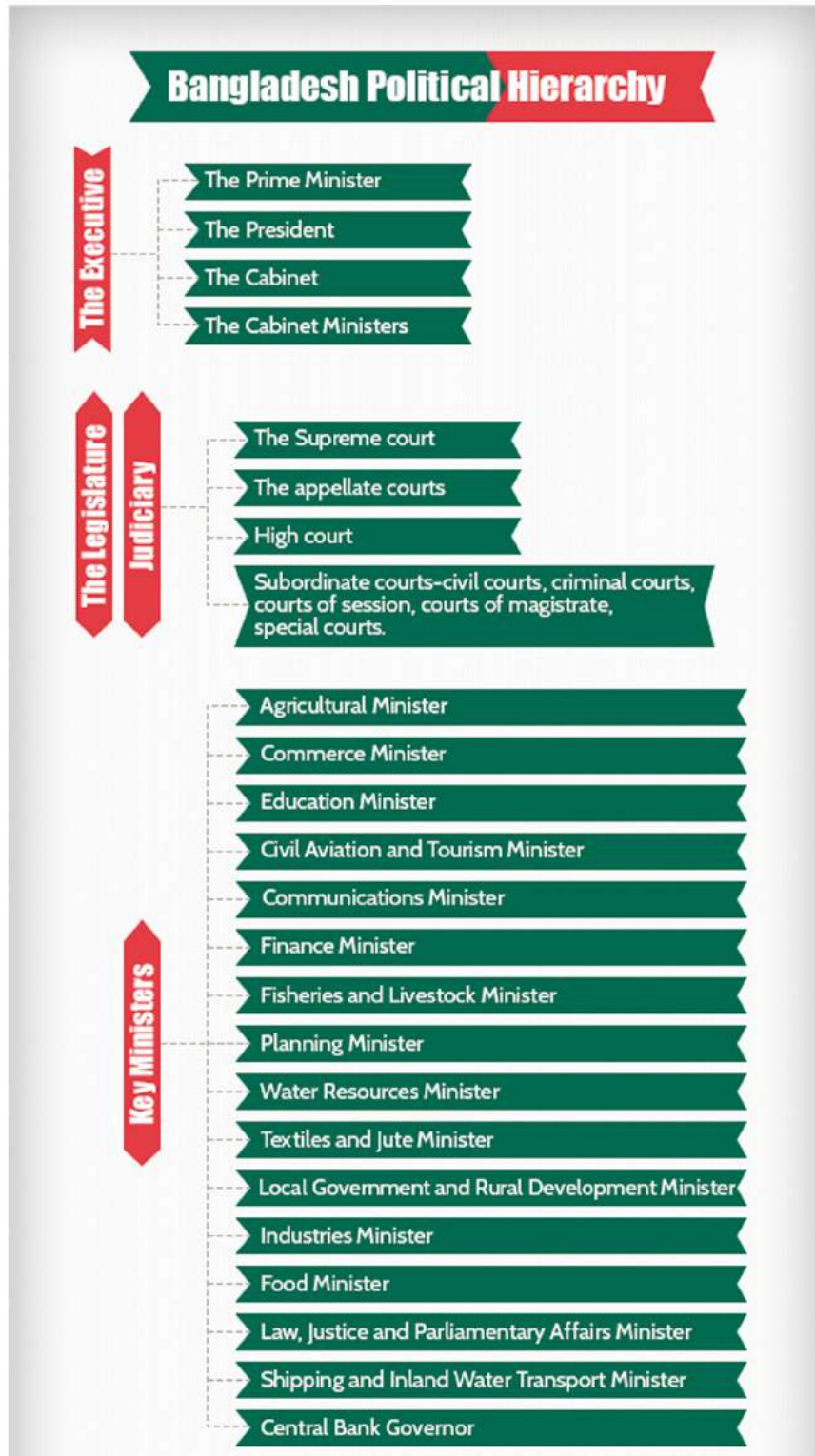
1- Local government in both rural and urban regions is primarily in the hands of popularly elected executives and councils. Each division is headed by a commissioner. Executives at the district and thana levels are assisted by various professionals appointed by the national government, as well as by their elected councils.

2- Amendments: proposed by the House of the Nation; approval requires at least a two-thirds majority vote by the House membership, assented to by the president of the republic, and approved in a referendum by a majority of voters; amended many times, last in 2014.

Justice:

Bangladesh has maintained essentially the same judicial system that was in operation when the territory was a province of Pakistan and that owes its origins to the system in operation under the British raj.

The 1972 constitution divided the Supreme Court of Bangladesh into Appellate and High Court divisions and mandated a complete separation of the judiciary and executive branches of government. During the subsequent authoritarian regime, however, the power of the Supreme Court was greatly reduced. In 1977 a Supreme Judicial Council was established to draw up a code of conduct for Supreme Court and High Court judges, who may be removed from office by the president upon the council's recommendation.



Economy:

Bangladesh now proudly stands as an emerging trade and investment destination. The steady growth in export business, hard-working labour force and committed entrepreneurs supported by the pro-business, pro-investment policies of the Government are leading Bangladesh towards the line of global business competency. The country's unequivocal position for peace and harmony, regional stability, cooperation, economic development through international and regional trade with its trade partners and an increasing flow of remittance by expatriate Bangladeshis living across the world have helped the country achieve and retain an impressive economic status.

The Economy of Bangladesh is characterized as a developing market economy. It is the 41st largest in the world in nominal terms or at current prices, and 30th largest by purchasing power parity; international dollars at current prices. It is classified among the Next Eleven emerging market middle income economies and a frontier market.

- 1- Population: 164.7 million
- 2- GDP (PPP): \$874.0 billion
- 3- 3.8% growth
- 4- 6.8% 5-year compound annual growth
- 5- \$5,307 per capita
- 6- Unemployment: 5.3%
- 7- Inflation (CPI): 5.6%
- 8- FDI Inflow: \$2.6 billion

Bangladesh's economic freedom score is 52.7, making its economy the 137th freest in the 2022 Index. Bangladesh is ranked 29th among 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, and its overall score is below the regional and world averages.

Over the past five years, Bangladesh's economy has continued to grow strongly. Growth accelerated from 2017 through 2019, decelerated in 2020, and accelerated again in 2021. However, a five-year trend of slowly expanding economic freedom has been broken. With significant score decreases in labor freedom and trade freedom, Bangladesh has recorded a 2.3-point overall loss of economic freedom since 2017 and has fallen into the lower half of the "Mostly Unfree" category. Scores for tax burden and government spending are excellent, but the country lags in rule of law and labor freedom.

- 1- Bangladesh's GDP growth is expected at 6.9% in 2022 and 7.1% in 2023.
- 2- Bangladesh's inflation rates are forecasted at 6.0% in 2022 and 5.9% in 2023.
- 3- Per capita GDP growth for Bangladesh is expected at 5.8% in 2022 and 6.0% in 2023.

Defense:

Bangladesh has announced a 2022–23 defense budget of BDT400 billion (USD4.2 billion), an increase of 7.7% over the revised expenditure BDT371.2 billion in 2021–22. The new allocation represents about 6% of total government expenditure in the year, although its growth is offset by rising inflation in the South Asian country.

Documents issued by the Ministry of Finance, shows that the defense budget allocates BDT361.5 billion to Ministry of Defense (MoD) operating expenses, which is thought to include military salaries and costs for maintenance and operations. This is an approximate 8% increase over the revised allocation last year.

The new defense budget also includes BDT18.8 billion for development expenses including military procurement, an increase of 6%. The total allocation also includes BDT19 billion for MoD “other services”, and BDT450 million for the Bangladesh Armed Forces Division, which oversees policies and force deployment.

The Bangladesh Army has been allocated about 43% of the total 2022–23 defense expenditure, with the navy and air force receiving about 18% and 14%, respectively. For 2022, Bangladesh is ranked 46 of 142 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review.

Manpower:

Total Population: 164,098,818

Available Manpower: 80,408,421 (49.0%)

Fit-for-Service: 64,326,737 (39.2%)

Reaching Mil Age Annually: 3,117,878 (1.9%)

Tot Military Personnel (est.): 6,965,000 (4.2%)

Active Personnel: 165,000 (0.1%)

Reserve Personnel: 0 (0.0%)

Paramilitary: 6,800,000 (4.1%)

Airpower:

Total Aircraft Strength: 190

Fighters/Interceptors: 44 (23.2%)

Dedicated Attack: 0 (0.0%)

Transports: 13 (6.8%)

Trainers: 63 (33.2%)

Special-Mission: 2 (1.1%)

Tanker Fleet: 0 (0.0%)

Helicopters: 66 (34.7%)

Attack Helicopters: 0 (0.0%)

Land forces:

Tanks: 320

Armored Vehicles: 837

Self-Propelled Artillery: 27

Towed Artillery: 371

Rocket Projectors: 69

Naval Forces:

Total Assets: 112
Aircraft Carriers: 0
Helicopter Carriers: 0
Destroyers: 0
Frigates: 7
Corvettes: 6
Submarines: 2
Patrol Vessels: 30
Mine Warfare: 5

Logistics:

Labor Force: 66,640,000
Merchant Marine Fleet: 468
Ports / Trade Terminals: 3
Roadway Coverage: 369,105
Railway Coverage: 2,460
Airports: 18

Security Threat to Bangladesh:

The recent deadly clashes between the two Rohingya groups at the camp in Cox's Bazar has posed a major security threat to Bangladesh. If this issue is not taken seriously, it has the potential of spreading to other camps and areas and could lead to instability in not only the camps but the country and region too. In such a scenario, it is necessary to relocate some Rohingya to Bhasan Char, a low-lying uninhabited island, whose name means 'floating island.' The Rohingyas will also be able to live safely here. This will also reduce the security concerns of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is frequently cited as one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change because of its disadvantageous geographic location; flat and low-lying topography; high population density; high levels of poverty; reliance of many livelihoods on climate sensitive sectors, particularly agriculture and fisheries; and inefficient institutional aspects. Many of the anticipated adverse effects of climate change, such as sea level rise, higher temperatures, enhanced monsoon precipitation, and an increase in cyclone intensity, will aggravate the existing stresses that already impede development in Bangladesh, particularly by reducing water and food security and damaging essential infrastructure. These impacts could be extremely detrimental to the economy, the environment, national development, and the people of Bangladesh.

Significance of Bangladesh in the Region:

The recent announcement that Bangladesh would provide US\$200 million in aid to Sri Lanka is an important turning point as that country moves from being an impoverished supplicant towards an increasingly influential regional state. It is an outcome of years of high economic growth and points to Dhaka's potential to become an important Indo Pacific middle player.

When it gained independence from Pakistan in 1971, Bangladesh was one of the poorest countries in the world with few apparent prospects – former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger apocryphally called it a "basket case".

Today it is a confident country of 160 million people with a booming, export oriented economy, which has grown at an annual average of about 6% for two decades. Economic growth slowed to 5.2% in 2020 due to Covid, and is forecast by the ADB to bounce back to 6.8% in 2021 and 7.2% in 2022. GDP per capita now stands at \$2,227, higher than India's (\$1,947) and much higher than its former masters, Pakistan (\$1,543).

Dhaka's recent aid to neighboring Sri Lanka was a first in Bangladesh extending financial assistance to any other country.

Just as importantly, Bangladesh scores well against India and other South Asian countries in many social indicators, including health, life expectancy, birth-rates and employment of women. The Hasina government has kept Bangladesh politically close to India, a pragmatic reflection of Bangladesh's geographic realities, despite some long-running resentments. Japan is a major investor in infrastructure and manufacturing, including as part of disinvestment from China. And the United States is focusing on building defence ties.

Bangladesh Membership of International Organizations:

Bangladesh is currently chairman of the Developing 8 Countries. The government has participated in numerous international conferences, especially those dealing with population, food, development, and women's issues. In 1982–83, Bangladesh played a constructive role as chairman of the "Group of 77", an informal association encompassing most of the world's developing nations. It has taken a leading role in the "Group of 48" developing countries. Bangladesh also participates in these international organizations:

ARF, AsDB, BIMSTEC, CP, FAO, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, ICCT (signatory), ICRM, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, IFRC, IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITU, ITUC, MIGA, MINURSO, MONUC, SACEP, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNMEE, UNMIL, UNMIS, UNOCI, UNOMIG, UNWTO, UPU, WCL, WCO, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, OPCW.

BELARUS



MAP



History:

In the 5th century A.D., Belarus (also known as White Russia) was colonized by east Slavic tribes. Kiev dominated it from the 9th to 12th century. After the destruction of Kiev by the Mongols in the 13th century, the territory was conquered by the dukes of Lithuania, although it retained a degree of autonomy. Belarus became part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, which merged with Poland in 1569. Following the partitions of Poland in 1772, 1793, and 1795, in which Poland was divided among Russia, Prussia, and Austria, Belarus became part of the Russian empire.

Following World War I, Belarus proclaimed itself a republic, only to find itself occupied by the Red Army soon after its March 1918 announcement. The Polish-Soviet War of 1918–1921 was fought to decide the fate of Belarus. West Belarus was ceded to Poland; the larger eastern part formed the Belorussian SSR, and was then joined to the USSR in 1922. In 1939, the Soviet Union took back West Belarus from Poland under the secret protocol of the Nazi-Soviet Nonaggression Pact and incorporated it into the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic. Occupied by the Nazis in World War II, Belarus was one of the war's most devastated battlefields.

When the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine exploded in 1986, 70% of its radioactive fallout fell on the Belorussian SSR.

Belarus declared its sovereignty in July 1990 and its independence in Aug. 1991. It became a cofounder of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in Dec. 1991. In Jan. 1994, the country's parliament ousted its reform-minded leader, Stanislav Shushkevich, in protest against his support for market economics. He was replaced by Alyaksandr Lukashenka, who, over the next two years, greatly expanded the powers of the presidency. Lukashenka sought to renew ties with Russia, and, with much fanfare, Belarus and Russia signed a treaty in April 1997 aimed at significantly increasing cooperation between the two states, stopping just short of union. The Russian financial crisis that began in fall 1998 severely affected Belarus's Soviet-style planned economy.

The EU and the U.S. have denounced the increasingly oppressive political atmosphere and human rights violations in Belarus under the Soviet-style authoritarianism of President Lukashenka.

Geography:

Belarus is a landlocked, generally flat country (the average elevation is 162 meters (531 ft) above sea level) without natural borders, and occupies an area of 207,600 square kilometers (80,200 sq mi). Its neighbors are Russia to the east and northeast, Latvia to the north, Lithuania to the northwest, Poland to the west, and Ukraine to the south. Its extension from north to south is 560 km (350 mi), from west to east is 650 km (400 mi). Northern Belarus has a hilly landscape with many lakes and gently sloping ridges created by glacial debris. In the south, about one-third of the republic's territory around the Pripiac River is taken up by the low-lying swampy plain of Palyessye, shared with Ukraine, Poland, and Russia.

Climate:

Because of the proximity of the Baltic Sea (257 kilometers or 160 miles at the closest point), the country has a temperate continental climate. Winters last between 105 and 145 days, and summers last up to 150 days.

The average temperature in January is -6°C (21°F), and the average temperature for July is about 18°C (64°F), with high humidity.[3] Average temperature for July ranges from 17.5°C (64°F) in the north, $18.5\text{--}19^{\circ}\text{C}$ (66°F) in the south. For January, it ranges from -4.5°C (24°F) in the southwest to -8°C (18°F) in the northeast. Average annual precipitation ranges from 550 to 700 millimeters (21.7 to 27.6 in) and is sometimes excessive.

The highest average yearly precipitation is recorded in Navahrudak (769 mm per year). The highest yearly precipitation ever recorded was in Vasilievičy (1,115 mm per year), the lowest – in Brahın (298 mm). 70% of precipitation falls from April to October. Heavy rains are common in summer. Sometimes one-day precipitation during summer rainfall exceeds average monthly precipitation.

Rivers:

Dnieper:

The Dnieper is the longest river in Belarus and the fourth longest in Europe with a length 1,333 miles with 430 miles flowing through Belarus. The Dnieper flows from the Valdai Hills of Russia through Belarus and Ukraine before discharging into the Black Sea. The Dnieper forms a 71-mile boundary between Belarus and Ukraine. The river served as a part of the trade route connecting the Greeks to the Varangians. The river is navigable for most of the parts but is interrupted by rapids along its course.

Daugava:

Daugava is the second longest river in Belarus with a length of 630 miles of which 210 miles flow through Belarus. Daugava has its source in the Russian hills of Valdai after which it flows through Belarus and Latvia before draining into the Gulf of Riga in Latvia. The river has been exploited for a long time for agriculture and transport with modern uses including the generation of hydroelectric power.

Neman:

Neman River is Belarus' third longest river with a length of 568 miles. The river has its source in Bel near Minsk in Belarus and flows through Lithuania and Russia and drains into the Curonian Lagoon and the Baltic Sea. The river is exploited for fish, hydroelectric power generation, for manufacturing industries, agriculture, tourism and recreation, and for transport.

Bug:

Bug is the fourth longest river in Belarus with a length of 480 miles which also flows through Poland and Ukraine. The river forms a boundary between Poland and Belarus covering a distance of 111 miles. Bug has its source in Ukraine's Lviv Oblast and flows along the borders of Ukraine and Poland, and Poland and Belarus then drains into the Narew River. The river is prone to constant flooding in its various sections.

Political System:

Government Type:

Republic under a Dictatorship

Constitution:

Adopted: 1994; Outlines the principles of the constitutional system; the individual, society, and the state; the electoral system; the president, parliament, government, and the courts; local government and self-government; the procurator's office and state supervisory committee; and the financial and credit system.

Government Branches:

Executive

The president is the chief of state overseeing all areas of the government and makes appointments to both legislative and judiciary branches. The prime minister is the head of the government and appoints cabinet members.

The president is elected by absolute majority vote through a two-round system. The prime minister is appointed by the president for 5 years

Judicial:

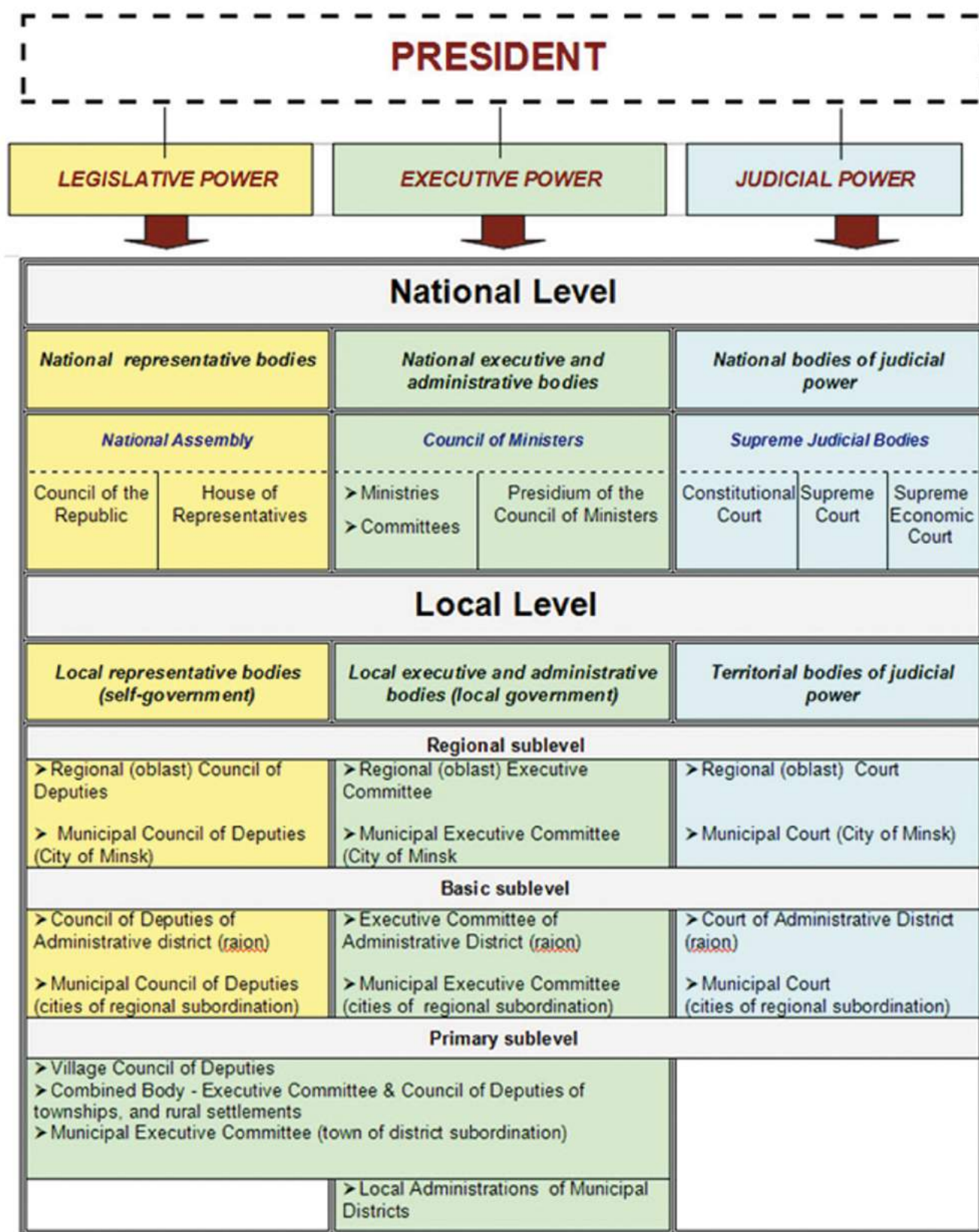
The judiciary upholds and interprets the constitution.

The supreme court is appointed by the president with consent of the council of the republic to serve for 5 years and evaluated for life appointment. 6 constitutional court judges are appointed by the president, and 6 are elected by the chamber of representatives and serve 11 year terms.

Legislative:

The legislative branch creates and passes legislation.

The council of the republic has 56 members who are elected by regional governing councils, and 8 members are appointed by the president. The chamber of representatives has 110 members who are elected by absolute majority vote in single-member constituencies.



Economy:

The Republic of Belarus is an export-oriented country with a well-developed manufacturing industry, services sector and agriculture. Belarus adheres to the concept of a socially-oriented market economy, which has proved its viability and efficiency.

Overall, in 2010-2020, the country's GDP expanded by 18.3% in comparable prices, with productivity growing by 28.2% over the period.

Gross domestic product per capita based on purchasing power parity increased from \$15,400 in 2010 to \$20,100 in 2019.

Improving the quality of life through economic competitiveness, investment and innovative development is the country's main goal enshrined in the five-year program for 2016-2020.

To achieve this goal, Belarus has outlined the priorities in the context of current global trends. The country has concentrated all internal and external resources and engaged the entire vertical of power in the effort to meet these priorities.

- 1- Population: 9.4 million
- 2- GDP (PPP): \$189.9 billion
- 3- -0.9% growth
- 4- 0.7% 5-year compound annual growth
- 5- \$20,187 per capita
- 6- Unemployment: 5.3%
- 7- Inflation (CPI): 5.5%
- 8- FDI Inflow: \$1.4 billion

Belarus's economic freedom score is 53.0, making its economy the 135th freest in the 2022 Index. Belarus is ranked 45th among 45 countries in the Europe region, and its overall score is below the regional and world averages.

Belarus has experienced erratic economic growth over the past five years, and its five-year compound annual growth rate is only 0.7 percent. Economic freedom has declined over the same five-year period. Dragged down by substantial score declines in rule of law, labor freedom, and business freedom. Belarus has recorded a 5.6-point overall loss of economic freedom since 2017 and has fallen from the "Moderately Free" category into the ranks of the "Mostly Unfree." Tax burden and fiscal health scores are excellent, but the rule of law, investment freedom, and financial freedom are constrained.

Defense:

Military Expenditure in Belarus increased to 785 USD Million in 2020 from 774 USD Million in 2019. Belarus has no plans to increase spending on its defense, Defense Minister Viktor Khrenin told the media following the meeting with the Belarusian president to discuss this year's state defense contracts. In his words, the state defense needs for 2022 were approved by the head of state.

close attention to it, looking at every prospect, every purchase we plan and how we equip the Armed Forces,” Viktor Khrenin said.

According to him, the main message of the head of state is that everything necessary for the army should be purchased domestically. “We can do a lot of things ourselves. A great part of the weapons produced by our military industrial complex (communications equipment, electronic warfare, many missile products) will be procured domestically, using budgetary funds,”

For 2022, Belarus is ranked 52 of 142 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review.

Manpower:

Total Population: 9,441,842

Available Manpower: 5,004,176 (53.0%)

Fit-for-Service: 3,701,202 (39.2%)

Mil Age Annually: 103,860 (1.1%)

Tot Military Personnel (est.): 445,000 (4.7%)

Active Personnel: 45,000 (0.5%)

Reserve Personnel: 290,000 (3.1%)

Paramilitary: 110,000 (1.2%)

Air Power:

Total Aircraft Strength: 201

Fighters/Interceptors: 38 (18.9%)

Dedicated Attack: 67 (33.3%)

Transports: 4 (2.0%)

Trainers: 30 (14.9%)

Special-Mission: 0 (0.0%)

Tanker Fleet: 0 (0.0%)

Helicopters: 62 (30.8%)

Attack Helicopters: 21 (10.4%)

Land Power:

Tanks: 601

Armored Vehicles: 1,510

Self-Propelled Artillery: 482

Towed Artillery: 228

Rocket Projectors: 238

Logistics:

Labor Force: 4,381,000

Merchant Marine Fleet: 4

Ports / Trade Terminals: 1

Roadway Coverage: 86,600

Railway Coverage: 5,528

Airports: 65

Security Threat to Belarus:

Belarus gives high priority to security issues in cyberspace, including in the context of countering terrorist threats. Source. In March 2019, the Doctrine of Information Security of Belarus was approved, which promoted information sovereignty, respect for the digital sovereignty of other countries and the pursuit of a peaceful foreign information policy. A wide range of issues related to potential threats to emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, was addressed at the joint high-level conference of Belarus and the UN “Countering terrorism through innovative approaches and the use of new and emerging technologies” held on September 3-4, 2019 in Minsk.

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Belarus supported the initiative of the Russian Federation to establish a new Open-Ended Working Group on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for 2021-2025 in accordance with the UN General Assembly Resolution 75/240. The Republic of Belarus intends to take an active part in the work of the Group. Belarus became a co-sponsor of the UN General Assembly resolution 75/282 “Countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes, adopted in May 2021 at the initiative of Russia. The resolution determines the procedure for the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the development, under the auspices of the UN, of a universal international convention against the use of ICT for criminal purposes.

Significance of Belarus in the Region:

No country better stands to transform the strategic military balance in the Baltic Sea Region than Belarus. Wedged between Russia and America’s NATO allies in northeastern Europe, Belarus until recently has not been considered in discussions about the North Atlantic Alliance’s Baltic flank. A variety of strategic issues explain why Belarus matters to NATO and more specifically to the United States. First and foremost, Belarus is an important neighbor of Ukraine due to its unique geography bordering Russia and several NATO member states in the Baltic. Furthermore, Belarus lies along a historical invasion corridor linking Central Europe with Moscow, in the heart of Russia, with a key chokepoint on this overland route the so-called Smolensk Gates located just east of modern-day Belarusian territory. Finally, Minsk’s relations with Moscow are currently experiencing serious tensions stemming from Belarus’s desire to secure its sovereignty and neutrality, while Russia seeks to more completely draw the country within its orbit and extract permanent military air basing rights from its neighbor. However, following nearly a decade of diplomatic neglect and disregard for hard security issues pertaining to Belarus, the country remains seriously misunderstood in the US and many Western policymaking circles.

Membership of International Organizations:

As a sovereign country, Belarus is a member of such international organizations as the European-Asian Economic Union and the United Nations Organization (the UNO). After declaration of its independence in 1991, in the result of the collapse of the USSR, Belarus developed its foreign policy course under difficult conditions. Despite objective difficulties, the independent Republic of Belarus managed to develop its international relations without sacrificing its national interests.

Today Belarus maintains diplomatic relations with 177 countries of the world and is represented by foreign offices in 58 states. As a co-founder of the United Nations, Belarus contacts various institutions and organizations of the United Nations, World Bank, World Health Organization, International Labor Organization, UNESCO. The Republic of Belarus is a member of such international organizations as the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environmental Programme, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the World Health Organisation, and many others.

UKRAINE



MAP



History:

During the 14th and 15th centuries, present-day Ukrainian territories came under the rule of four external powers: the Golden Horde, the Crimean Khanate, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the Crown of the Kingdom of Poland. The latter two would then merge into the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth following the Union of Krewo and Union of Lublin. Meanwhile, the Ottoman Empire would emerge as a major regional power in and around the black sea, through protectories like the Crimean Khanate, as well as directly administered territory.

In consequence, by the Treaty of Perpetual Peace, signed in 1686, the eastern portion of Ukraine (east of the Dnieper River) was to come under Russian rule. It is estimated 146,000 rubles were to be paid to Poland as compensation for the loss of the Right Bank of Ukraine and the parties agreed not to sign a separate treaty with the Ottoman Empire.

The Russian Empire and Habsburg Austria were in control of all the territories that constitute present day Ukraine for a hundred years. However, during this time, during the Age of Nationalism, the land of Ukraine would enter Western Age of Enlightenment minds, starting with Voltaire and Johann Gottfried Herder, and eventually, this would spark Ukrainian nationalism in the 19th century.

A chaotic period of warfare ensued after the Russian Revolutions of 1917, as well as a simultaneous war in the former Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria following the dissolution of the Habsburg monarchy after World War I. The partially-recognised Ukrainian People's Republic emerged from its own civil war of 1917–1921. The Soviet–Ukrainian War (1917–1921) followed, in which the Bolshevik Red Army established control in late 1919. The Ukrainian Bolsheviks, who had defeated the national government in Kyiv, established the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, which on 30 December 1922 became one of the founding republics of the Soviet Union.

After the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany invaded Poland in September 1939, the Ukrainian SSR's territory expanded westward. Axis armies occupied Ukraine from 1941 to 1944. During World War II the Ukrainian Insurgent Army fought for Ukrainian independence against both Germany and the Soviet Union. In 1953, Nikita Khrushchev, a Russian, succeeded as head of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union enabling a Ukrainian revival, and in 1954 the republic expanded to the south with the transfer of Crimea from Russia. Ukraine became independent again when the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991. This started a period of transition to a market economy, in which Ukraine suffered an eight-year recession.

A prolonged political crisis began on 21 November 2013, when president Viktor Yanukovich suspended preparations for the implementation of an association agreement with the European Union, instead choosing to seek closer ties with Russia.

Yanukovich was then impeached by the Ukrainian parliament in February 2014. On 20 February, the Russo-Ukrainian War began when Russian forces entered Crimea. Soon after, pro-Russian unrest enveloped the largely Russophone eastern and southern regions of Ukraine, from where Yanukovich had drawn most of his support. A referendum in the largely ethnic Russian Ukrainian autonomous region of Crimea was held and Crimea was de facto annexed by Russia on 18 March 2014. The War in Donbas began in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukraine involving pro-Ukrainian and pro-Russian Ukrainians and Russian mercenaries. The war stalled until 24 February 2022, when Russia launched a major invasion of much of the country.

Geography:

Ukraine is bordered by Belarus to the north, Russia to the east, the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea to the south, Moldova and Romania to the southwest, and Hungary, Slovakia, and Poland to the west. In the far southeast, Ukraine is separated from Russia by the Kerch Strait, which connects the Sea of Azov to the Black Sea. Ukraine occupies the southwestern portion of the Russian Plain (East European Plain). The country consists almost entirely of level plains at an average elevation of 574 feet (175 meters) above sea level. Mountainous areas such as the Ukrainian Carpathians and Crimean Mountains occur only on the country's borders and account for barely 5 percent of its area. The Ukrainian landscape nevertheless has some diversity: its plains are broken by highlands running in a continuous belt from northwest to southeast as well as by lowlands.

Climate:

Ukraine lies in a temperate climatic zone influenced by moderately warm, humid air from the Atlantic Ocean. Winters in the west are considerably milder than those in the east. In summer, on the other hand, the east often experiences higher temperatures than the west. Average annual temperatures range from about 42–45 °F (5.5–7 °C) in the north to about 52–55 °F (11–13 °C) in the south. The average temperature in January, the coldest month, is about 26 °F (–3 °C) in the southwest and about 18 °F (–8 °C) in the northeast. The average in July, the hottest month, is about 73 °F (23 °C) in the southeast and about 64 °F (18 °C) in the northwest. Western Ukraine, notably the Carpathian Mountains area, receives the highest annual precipitation more than 47 inches (1,200 mm). The lowlands along the Black Sea and in Crimea, by contrast, receive less than 16 inches (400 mm) annually. The remaining areas of Ukraine receive 16 to 24 inches (400 to 600 mm) of precipitation.

Rivers:

Ukraine is located in Eastern Europe and has a total area of 233,062 square miles. Within this area, the country has 1,729 miles of coastline along the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. The various regions within the country have diverse habitats and geographic characteristics ranging from highlands to lowlands and plains to plateaus. The entire country has several rivers running through it.

Danube:

The Danube River spans a length of 1,777 miles and is the second longest river in Europe. It is the longest river that passes through Ukraine, although it also runs through several other countries as well. Ukraine is the last country to see the Danube before it empties into the Black Sea. It creates the Danube Delta in both Ukraine and Romania. Around 272 square miles of its total 1,603 square miles are in Ukraine. In this delta, the Danube splits into 3 rivers, becoming the Chilia, the Sulina, and the Saint George.

Dniester:

The third longest river that runs through the country is the Dniester. It has a total length of 846 miles, 247 of which are in nearby Moldova. The 600 miles running through Ukraine create the Dniester Canyon, which is between 260 and 660 feet. The canyon area hosts arboreal and shrub-like trees as well as a number of other plant and animal species. This river is considered to have the cleanest waters in the country.

Dnieper:

The Dnieper River is the second longest river that passes through Ukraine. It has a total of 1,423 miles, shared among Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus. More of the Dnieper runs through Ukraine than the Danube, a total of 680 miles. It provides an important navigation route for trade and is an important part of the economy. Additionally, it is a source of hydroelectric power for the country and as such, has a number of hydroelectric states, dams, and reservoirs. Two of these hydroelectric stations are the Dnieper Hydroelectric Station and the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant.

Political System:

Ukrainian Political System - Overview:

- 1- Ukraine is a unitary, sovereign and independent, democratic, social and legal state, a parliamentary-presidential republic. The people are the bearer of sovereignty and the only source of power in Ukraine.
- 2- The people exercise power directly and through state authorities and local self-government bodies. The power in Ukraine is carried out according to the principle of its division into legislative, executive and judicial.
- 3- The executive power in the country belongs to the Cabinet of Ministers, and the legislative power - to the parliament (the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine). The supreme body of the judiciary in Ukraine is the Supreme Court of Ukraine.
- 4- The President of Ukraine can influence the work of all three branches of power. According to the Constitution of Ukraine, the President must stop any of their actions that violate the Constitution.

Constitution of Ukraine:

- 1- Shortly after the proclamation of Ukraine's independence, as a result of the 1991 referendum, a parliamentary commission was organized in Ukraine to draft a new constitution.
- 2- June 28, 1996, with the adoption of the new democratic constitution, a multi-party political system (pluralism) and the legally declared fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens of Ukraine, as well as the rights of national minorities of the country, were introduced.
- 3- Various ethnic groups of Ukraine are guaranteed the right to receive education in their native language, to develop cultural life, and to use national languages ??in everyday life.

According to the Constitution, the state language of the country is Ukrainian.

4- In the Crimea and some regions of Eastern Ukraine, in everyday life and in official treatment, the Russian language predominates. The Constitution also guarantees freedom of religion.

Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine:

5- The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine is the only legislative body of state power in Ukraine, which has a collegiate structure and consists of 450 people’s deputies of Ukraine elected for a period of 5 years on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

6- The Verkhovna Rada is the only legislative body authorized to pass laws in Ukraine. The powers of the Verkhovna Rada are realized by joint activity of people’s deputies of Ukraine at the sessions of the Verkhovna Rada. The Verkhovna Rada ratifies international agreements and approves the budget.

7- The powers of the people's deputies of Ukraine are determined by the Constitution and laws of Ukraine. People’s deputies of Ukraine can voluntarily unite in factions, provided that each of them includes at least 15 deputies.

8- As of January 18, 2017, there were 352 officially registered political parties in Ukraine. However, most of them are small and not very popular in the broad strata of society and are not able to win elections independently. Therefore, in order to obtain a larger number of votes in the parliamentary elections, small parties are often united into elective blocs.

Executive Power in Ukraine:

1- The President of Ukraine is elected by popular vote for a five-year term. On the proposal of the President, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine appoints the Prime Minister of Ukraine, other members of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

2- The President of Ukraine is the guarantor of state sovereignty, territorial integrity of Ukraine, observance of the Constitution of Ukraine, human and citizen rights and freedoms.

3- The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine is the supreme body of executive power of Ukraine. It is responsible to the President of Ukraine and the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, is under the control and accountable to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine within the limits provided by the Constitution of Ukraine.



Economy:

Ukraine's modern economy was developed as an integral part of the larger economy of the Soviet Union. The Ukrainian economy was under severe strain, and it contracted sharply early in the independence era. A period of extreme currency inflation in the early 1990s brought great hardship to most of the population. Despite early hopes that Ukrainian economic independence with the concomitant end to the transfer of funds and resources to other parts of the Soviet Union would alleviate the declining economy and standard of living, Ukraine entered a period of severe economic decline. At the turn of the 21st century the economy finally began to grow, at least partially as a result of increased ties with Russia. In the early 21st century many young Ukrainians, particularly residents of the country's rural west, sought employment opportunities abroad. Although such migration sometimes led to localized labour shortages within Ukraine, remittances from the Ukrainian diaspora amounted to some 4 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). The economy contracted sharply in 2014 as a result of the political crisis that toppled the government of pro-Russian Pres. Viktor Yanukovich. Russia responded to Yanukovich's ouster by illegally annexing Crimea and fomenting an insurgency in southeastern Ukraine. A cease-fire between the Ukrainian government and Russian-backed forces in February 2015 created a state of frozen conflict, and the ongoing violence shattered daily life in what had been Ukraine's most productive industrial region.

The war against Ukraine and sanctions on Russia are hitting economies around the globe, with emerging markets and developing countries in the Europe and Central Asia region expected to bear the brunt, says the World Bank's latest Economic Update for the region.

Ukraine's economy is expected to shrink by an estimated 45.1 percent this year, although the magnitude of the contraction will depend on the duration and intensity of the war. The magnitude of the humanitarian crisis unleashed by the war is staggering. The Russian invasion is delivering a massive blow to Ukraine's economy and it has inflicted enormous damage to infrastructure.

- 1- Population: 44.1 million
- 2- GDP (PPP): \$543.8 billion
- 3- -4.2% growth
- 4- 1.5% 5-year compound annual growth
- 5- \$13,110 per capita
- 6- Unemployment: 9.5%
- 7- Inflation (CPI): 2.7%
- 8- FDI Inflow: \$-868.0 million

Ukraine's economic freedom score is 54.1, making its economy the 130th freest in the 2022 Index. Ukraine is ranked 44th among 45 countries in the Europe region, and its overall score is below the regional and world averages.

Defense:

As it has strengthened its defenses against Russia, Ukraine's military spending has risen by 72 per cent since the annexation of Crimea in 2014. Spending fell in 2021, to \$5.9 billion, but still accounted for 3.2 per cent of the country's GDP.

President Volodymyr Zelensky signed into law the annual state budget for 2022.

A 4% spending increase coupled with a deficit cut necessitated by IMF conditions meant that the government had to find nearly \$8 billion of extra revenue, creating several new taxes and hiking up existing ones, as well as relying on an economic recovery following the Covid-19 pandemic. As the security threat from Russia grows, defense spending has been increased to record highs, while over \$5 billion will be spent on much-touted infrastructure improvements.

For 2022, Ukraine is ranked 22 of 142 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review.

ManPower:

Total Population: 43,745,640

Available Manpower: 22,310,276 (51.0%)

Fit-for-Service: 15,617,193 (35.7%)

Reaching Mil Age Annually: 481,202 (1.1%)

Tot Military Personnel (est.): 500,000 (1.1%)

Active Personnel: 200,000 (0.5%)

Reserve Personnel: 250,000 (0.6%)

Paramilitary: 50,000 (0.1%)

Air Power:

Total Aircraft Strength: 318

Fighters/Interceptors: 69 (21.7%)

Dedicated Attack: 29 (9.1%)

Transports: 32 (10.1%)

Trainers: 71 (22.3%)

Special-Mission: 5 (1.6%)

Tanker Fleet: 0 (0.0%)

Helicopters: 112 (35.2%)

Attack Helicopters: 34 (10.7%)

Land:

Tanks: 2,596

Armored Vehicles: 12,303

Self-Propelled Artillery: 1,067

Towed Artillery: 2,040

Rocket Projectors: 490

Logistics:

Labor Force: 17,990,000

Merchant Marine Fleet: 409

Ports / Trade Terminals: 6

Roadway Coverage: 169,694

Railway Coverage: 21,733

Airports: 187

Naval:

Total Assets: 38

Aircraft Carriers: 0

Helicopter Carriers: 0

Destroyers: 0

Frigates: 1

Corvettes: 1

Submarines: 0

Patrol Vessels: 13

Mine Warfare: 1

Security Threat to Ukraine:

As warnings of an imminent Russian attack on Ukraine proliferate, news networks and social media have featured clips of Russian armed forces training, exercising, and preparing to fight. Less visible are Russia's formidable cyber forces that would be preparing to unleash a new wave of cyber-attacks on Ukrainian and western energy, finance, and communications infrastructure. Whether an invasion occurs now or not, tensions will remain high, and the cyber threat will likely wax, not wane.

Destroyed lives, destroyed homes and destroyed infrastructure are the immediate consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The war also imperils the world's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic: inflation, food security, energy security and further supply-chain pressures are among the many challenges policy makers worldwide must tackle. As the global ramifications of the conflict begin to bite.

Significance of Ukraine in the Region:

Ukraine has long played an important, yet sometimes overlooked, role in the global security order. Today, the country is on the front lines of a renewed great-power rivalry that many analysts say will dominate international relations in the decades ahead.

Ukraine was a cornerstone of the Soviet Union, the archrival of the United States during the Cold War. Behind only Russia, it was the second-most-populous and -powerful of the fifteen Soviet republics, home to much of the union's agricultural production, defense industries, and military, including the Black Sea Fleet and some of the nuclear arsenal. Ukraine was so vital to the union that its decision to sever ties in 1991 proved to be a coup de grâce for the ailing superpower.

In its three decades of independence, Ukraine has sought to forge its own path as a sovereign state while looking to align more closely with Western institutions, including the EU and NATO.

Russia has deep cultural, economic, and political bonds with Ukraine, and in many ways Ukraine is central to Russia's identity and vision for itself in the world.

Russia has relied on Ukrainian pipelines to pump its gas to customers in Central and Eastern Europe for decades, and it pays billions of dollars per year in transit fees to Kyiv. The flow of Russian gas through Ukraine continued in early 2022 despite the outbreak of wider hostilities between the two countries. Russia had planned to transport more gas to Europe via its new Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which runs under the Baltic Sea to Germany, but Berlin froze regulatory approval of the project after Russia's invasion.

Ukraine membership of International Organizations:

FAO:

The Food and Agriculture Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Our goal is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.

IAEA:

The International Atomic Energy Agency is the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical co-operation in the nuclear field.

OHCHR:

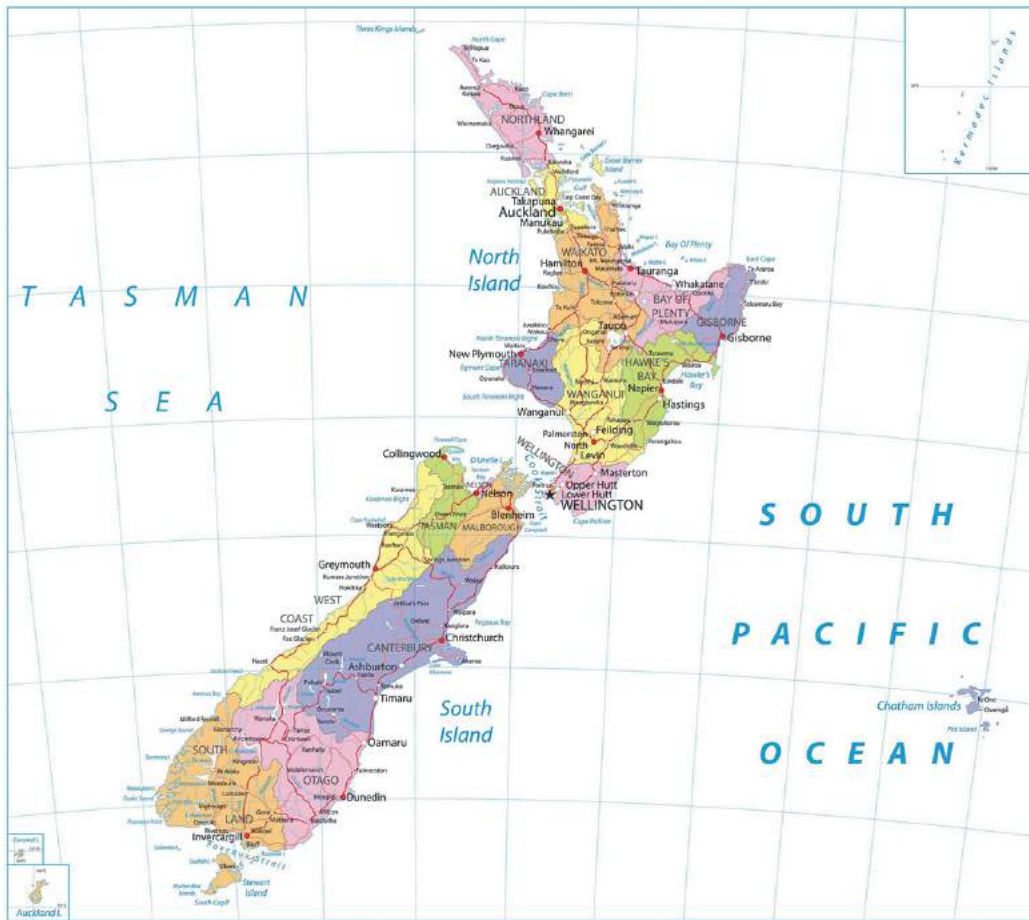
OHCHR's mission is to work for the protection of all human rights for all people; to help empower people to realize their rights; and to assist those responsible for upholding such rights in ensuring that they are implemented.

UNOPS:

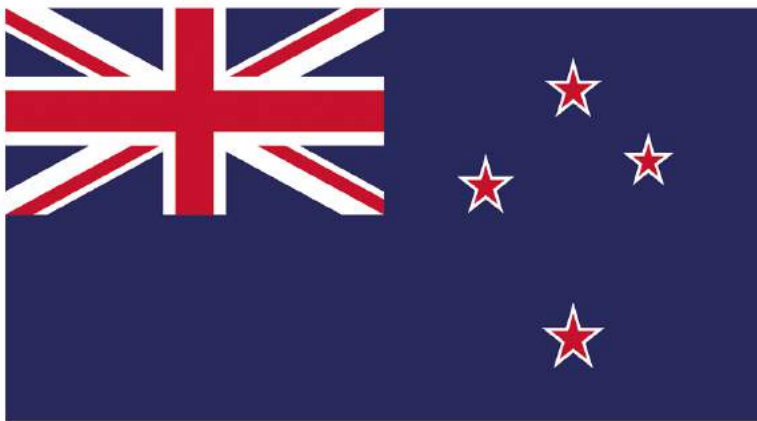
Our mission is to help people build better lives and countries achieve peace and sustainable development.

Council of Europe, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine. World Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, U.S. Agency for International Development, Canadian International Development Agency, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, International Renaissance Foundation, British Council, United Nations Development Program, United Nations, Swiss Cooperation Office, MATRA Program – the Royal Netherlands, German Technical Cooperation Office (GTZ)

NEW ZEALAND



MAP



History:

The first European explorer known to visit New Zealand was Dutch navigator Abel Tasman on 13 December 1642. In 1643 he charted the west coast of the North Island, his expedition then sailed back to Batavia without setting foot on New Zealand soil. British explorer James Cook, who reached New Zealand in October 1769 on the first of his three voyages, was the first European to circumnavigate and map New Zealand. From the late 18th century, the country was regularly visited by explorers and other sailors, missionaries, traders and adventurers.

In 1840 the Treaty of Waitangi was signed between representatives of the United Kingdom and various Māori chiefs, bringing New Zealand into the British Empire and giving Māori the same rights as British subjects. Disputes over the differing translations of the Treaty and settlers' desire to acquire land from Māori led to the New Zealand Wars from 1843.

The colony gained a responsible government in the 1850s. From the 1890s the New Zealand Parliament enacted a number of progressive initiatives, including women's suffrage and old age pensions. After becoming a self-governing Dominion with the British Empire in 1907, the country remained an enthusiastic member of the empire, and over 100,000 New Zealanders fought in World War I as part of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. After the war, New Zealand signed the Treaty of Versailles (1919), joined the League of Nations, and pursued an independent foreign policy, while its defense was still controlled by Britain. When World War II broke out in 1939, New Zealand contributed to the defense of Britain and the Pacific War; the country contributed some 120,000 troops. From the 1930s the economy was highly regulated and an extensive welfare state was developed. From the 1950s Māori began moving to the cities in large numbers, and Māori culture underwent a renaissance. This led to the development of a Māori protest movement which in turn led to greater recognition of the Treaty of Waitangi in the late 20th century.

In 1984, the Fourth Labor Government was elected amid a constitutional and economic crisis. The interventionist policies of the Third National Government were replaced by "Rogernomics", a commitment to a free market economy. Foreign policy after 1984 became more independent especially in pushing for a nuclear-free zone. Subsequent governments have generally maintained these policies, although tempering the free market ethos somewhat.

Geography:

New Zealand is an island country located in the south-western Pacific Ocean, near the center of the water hemisphere. It consists of a large number of islands, estimated around 700, mainly remnants of a larger landmass now beneath the sea. The land masses by size are the South Island (or Te Waipounamu) and the North Island (or Te Ika-a-Māui), separated by the Cook Strait. The third-largest is Stewart Island / Rakiura, located 30 kilometers (19 miles) off the tip of the South Island across Foveaux Strait. Other islands are significantly smaller in area. The three largest islands stretch 1,600 kilometers (990 miles) across latitudes 35° to 47° south. New Zealand is the sixth-largest island country in the world, with a land size of 268,710 km² (103,750 sq mi).

New Zealand's landscapes range from the fiord-like sounds of the southern-west to the sandy beaches of the subtropical Far North. The South Island is dominated by the Southern Alps while a volcanic plateau covers much of the central North Island.

The country is situated about 2,000 kilometers (1,200 miles) south-east of the Australian mainland across the Tasman Sea, the closest foreign neighbor to its main islands being Norfolk Island (Australia) about 750 kilometers (470 miles) to the north west. Other island groups to the north are New Caledonia, Tonga and Fiji. It is the southernmost nation in Oceania. The relative close proximity of New Zealand to Antarctica has made the South Island a major gateway for scientific expeditions to the continent.

Climate:

New Zealand has a largely temperate climate. While the far north has subtropical weather during summer, and inland alpine areas of the South Island can be as cold as – 10°C in winter, most of the country lies close to the coast, which means mild temperatures, moderate rainfall, and abundant sunshine.

Because New Zealand lies in the Southern Hemisphere, the average temperature decreases as you travel south. The far north of the country has an average temperature of about 15°C, while the deep south has a cooler 9°C average. January and February are the warmest months of the year, and July is the coldest.

New Zealand's average rainfall is high – between 640mm and 1500mm – and evenly spread throughout the year. As well as producing areas of stunning native forest, this high rainfall makes New Zealand an ideal place for farming and horticulture.

Rivers:

Waikato:

The Waikato River is the longest river in New Zealand, with a length of 425 kilometers. It begins at Lake Taupo, while its mouth is located at Port Waikato. The Waikato, which has a drainage basin of about 5,290 square miles, is spiritually significant to the local Māori population. The river contains 19 indigenous species of fish, plus 10 additional species that have been introduced, such as brown and rainbow trout.

Clutha:

The Clutha River is the country's second-longest river, with a length of 322 kilometers. Also named the Mata-Au, the river begins at Lake Wanaka and flows to its mouth at the Pacific Ocean. The Clutha River has a basin size of about 8,480 square miles and a mean flow of about 21,700 cubic feet per second. This mean flow ranks as the highest volume in the country. The Clutha is known for its beautiful scenery and swift waters.

Whanganui:

The Whanganui River is the third-longest river in New Zealand, with a length of 290 kilometers. Located on the North Island, the river begins at Mount Tongariro and eventually drains into the Tasman Sea. Like the Waikato River, the Whanganui has spiritual significance to the Māori people.

Taieri:

The Taieri River is the country's fourth longest river, with a length of 288 kilometers. Located in South Island's Otago region, the river rises in the Lammerlaw ranges and meanders its way to its mouth at the Pacific Ocean. Along its course, the river is used for the generation of hydroelectric power and the irrigation of floodplains. The last section of the river, about 20 kilometers, is navigable.

Political System:

The Government is formed after a democratic election held every 3 years.

The System of Government:

NZ is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system of government. This means that our head of state is a sovereign (currently Queen Elizabeth II). The Queen is represented in NZ by the Governor-General, Dame Patsy Reddy.

The Governor-General:

NZ uses a Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) voting system which makes it unlikely that any one political party (e.g. National, Labour, Greens) will win a majority of the seats in the House. The party with the most votes usually needs to form a coalition or agreement with another party or parties.

MMP Voting System:

NZ also uses the system of 'responsible government'. This means the government can only be made up of Ministers who are first elected members of the House of Representatives. The government can only stay in power while it has a majority of members in the House of Representatives. This is known as having the confidence of the House.

The system of government works by having 3 separate branches of government. This 'separation of powers' makes sure no one part of the government has too much power.

The different branches of government
New Zealand's 3 branches of government

The legislature (Parliament)

This is the House of Representatives (where all the MPs sit) and it includes select committees.

The House's role is to:

- 1- Supply the government (the political party or parties in power) with MPs
- 2- Make new laws and update old ones by carefully looking at and talking about bills -which become laws when they're passed.
- 3- represent New Zealanders by giving a voice to different ideas from people and organizations
- 4- Examine and approve the government's taxes and spending.
- 5- Check the actions of the Executive.

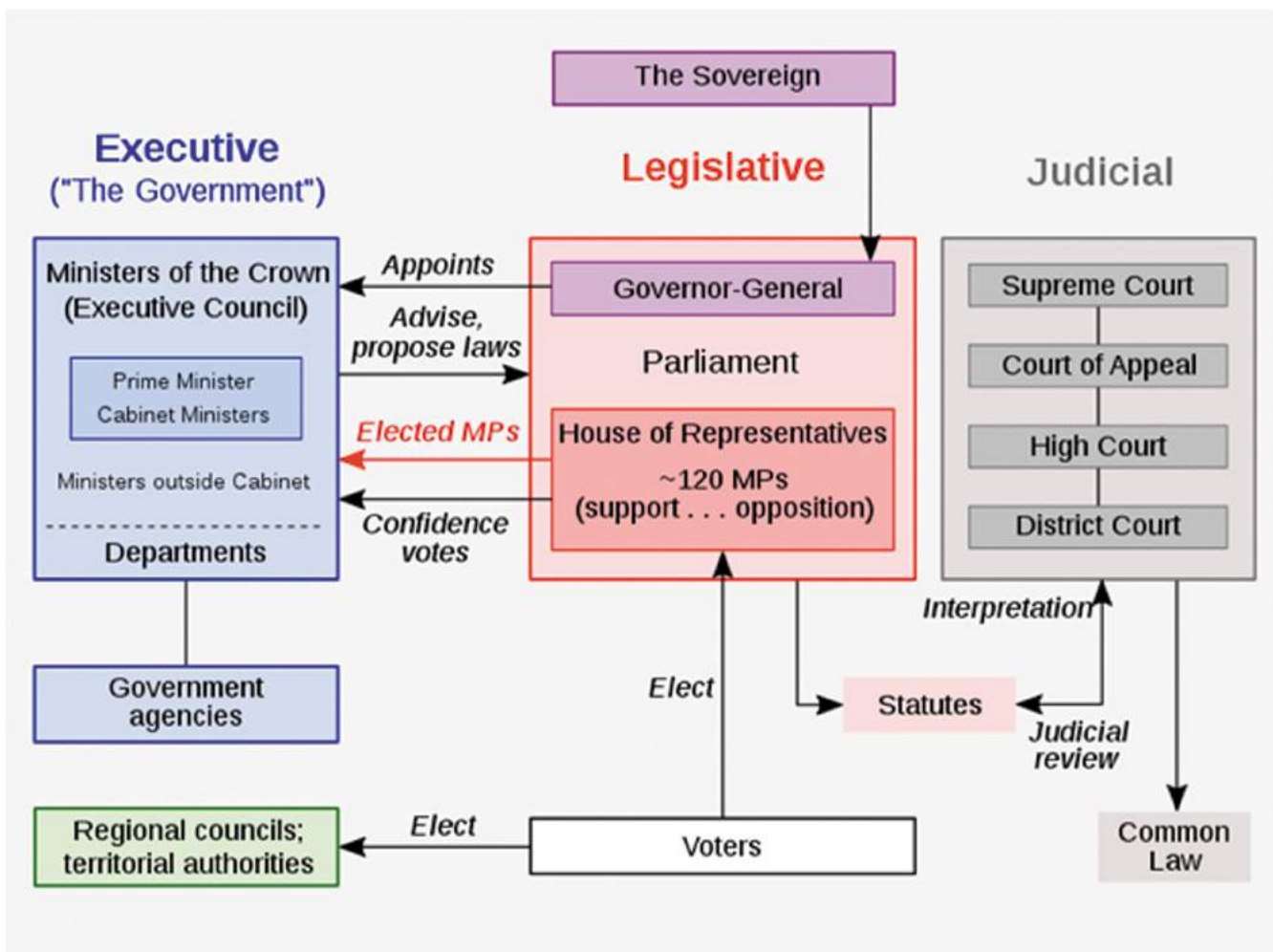
The Executive Branch:

This is the Government. It runs the country and makes day-to-day decisions on how and what NZ should spend its money on. It brings proposed laws to parliament, and decides policies which get put into practice by government departments.

It is made up of Ministers of the Crown supported by government agencies.

The judiciary:

The judiciary are judges and the courts. Judges interpret the law in cases that come before the courts by hearing and deciding cases, and they can review decisions of the government.



Economy:

New Zealand's economy is developed, but it is comparatively small in the global marketplace. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, New Zealand's standard of living, based on the export of agricultural products, was one of the highest in the world, but after the mid-20th century the rate of growth tended to be one of the slowest among the developed countries. Impediments to economic expansion have been the slow growth of the economy of the United Kingdom (which formerly was the main destination of New Zealand's exports) and its eventual membership in the European Community (later the European Union) and the high tariffs imposed by the major industrial nations against the country's agricultural products (e.g., butter and meat). New Zealand's economic history since the mid-20th century has consisted largely of attempts to grow and diversify its economy by finding new markets and new products (such as wine and paper products), expanding its manufacturing base, and entering into or supporting free-trade agreements.

- 1- Population: 5.1 million
- 2- GDP (PPP): \$213.9 billion
- 3- -3.0% growth
- 4- 2.1% 5-year compound annual growth
- 5- \$42,018 per capita
- 6- Unemployment: 4.6%
- 7- Inflation (CPI): 1.7%
- 8- FDI Inflow: \$4.2 billion

Over recent years it has become increasingly evident that the rate of growth possible in the New Zealand economy is dependent to a large degree on the level of foreign exchange that can be earned from their exports. The outlook for some of the major export products and the problems being encountered in traditional markets for agricultural exports underlines the importance of increasing the level of manufactured exports and improving the general efficiency of New Zealand industry. This report contains a lucid account of the fundamental problems facing New Zealand and proposes ways in which these problems might be overcome. The scope of the report is far reaching and warrants careful study and wide public discussion on its implications.

New Zealand's economic freedom score is 80.6, making its economy the 4th freest in the 2022 Index. New Zealand is ranked 2nd among 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, and its overall score is above the regional and world averages.

Defense:

New Zealand has announced a defense budget of NZD6 billion (USD3.8 billion) for 2022–23. New Zealand's defense budget contains two appropriations: 'Vote Defense Force', which covers salaries, training costs, capital expenditures,

and military preparedness, and 'Vote Defense', which is allocated for managing procurement and sustainment activity and policy advice.

The Vote Defense Force has been allocated NZD4.89 billion for 2022–23, a 6% increase over the estimated final budget of NZD4.63 billion from the previous year. The Vote Defense expenditure has been allocated NZD1.17 billion, a rise of 5% over the NZD1.11 billion final allocation from last year.

The Vote Defense Force allocation provides a total capital expenditure of NZD1.56 billion for the New Zealand Defense Force (NZDF), an increase of 16% compared with the final allocation of NZD1.34 billion in 2021–22.

For 2022, New Zealand is ranked 84 of 142 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review.

Man Power:

Total Population: 4,991,442
 Available Manpower: 2,146,320 (43.0%)
 Fit-for-Service: 1,717,056 (34.4%)
 Reaching Mil Age Annually: 59,897 (1.2%)
 Tot Military Personnel (est.): 12,100 (0.2%)
 Active Personnel: 9,600 (0.2%)
 Reserve Personnel: 2,500 (0.1%)

Air Power:

Total Aircraft Strength: 47
 Transports: 7 (14.9%)
 Trainers: 13 (27.7%)
 Helicopters: 22 (46.8%)

Land Power:

Tanks: 0
 Armored Vehicles: 500
 Self-Propelled Artillery: 0
 Towed Artillery: 24
 Rocket Projectors: 0

Logistics:

Labor Force: 2,709,000
 Merchant Marine Fleet: 115
 Ports / Trade Terminals: 6
 Roadway Coverage: 94,000
 Railway Coverage: 4,128
 Airports: 123

Naval:

Total Assets: 9
 Patrol Vessels: 4
 Frigates: 2

Security Threat to New Zealand:

Since the end of the Cold War, the international security landscape has changed dramatically. Relations between all the major powers are now comparatively stable and there has been less conflict between states. However, internal conflicts continue to plague many countries and these also weaken international security as whole. Failing and failed states contribute to regional instabilities, forcing the displacement of refugees and providing a safe haven for violent extremists. There has been an increase in the impact of non-state actors, particularly terrorist groups.



New Zealand actively participates in the international campaign against terrorism, they contribute to peacekeeping operations and vigorously encourage initiatives to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. New Zealand work with other governments and in regional and international forums such as the UN, the Pacific Islands Forum and the ASEAN Regional Forum to promote wider security cooperation and stability.

MFAT's International Security and Disarmament Division (ISED) has responsibility for international security and disarmament/non-proliferation policy.

Significance of New Zealand in the Region:

In recent years New Zealand's focus in its development policy has shifted to its own geographic area, with money and advice going increasingly to the Pacific area. This region is a legitimate source of concern for New Zealand. Failed states in the Pacific could have an immediate effect on the country.

The Pacific Ocean itself has rich cultural, social and ecological significance, and ocean areas are an important economic resource for many Pacific countries.

The region does have its challenges: in some areas the soil can't grow crops or feed farm animals, there are active volcanoes and extreme weather events, sea levels are rising, and there aren't always the workers needed to build, design, plan, teach, protect and care for the community. New Zealand works in partnership with Pacific countries to meet these challenges, and to support peace, prosperity, and environmental protection in the Pacific region. This can prevent local problems from becoming global ones. As history has shown, the world can pay a big price for failed states. They can export terrorism, piracy, communicable diseases, and destabilize nearby countries and possibly whole regions. Failed states can trigger mass migrations, as we have seen in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia, leading to instability in even the most advanced countries.

Membership of International Organizations:

New Zealand participates in the United Nations (UN); the World Trade Organization (WTO); World Bank; the International Monetary Fund (IMF); the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); the International Energy Agency; the Asian Development Bank; the Pacific Islands Forum; the Secretariat of the Pacific Community; the Colombo Plan; Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC); and the International Whaling Commission. New Zealand also actively participates as a member of the Commonwealth.

VIETNAM



MAP



History:

The history of Vietnam can be traced back to around 20,000 years ago, as the first modern humans arrived and settled on this land, known as the Hoabinhians, which can be traced to modern-day Negritos. Pre-historic Vietnam was home to some of the world's earliest civilizations and societies—making them one of the world's first people who had practiced agriculture. The Han conquest of Nanyue brought parts of Vietnam under Chinese rule in 111 BC. In 40 AD, the Trưng Sisters led the first uprising of indigenous tribes and peoples against Chinese domination.

The Ming Empire conquered the Red River valley for a while before native Vietnamese regained control and the French Empire reduced Vietnam to a French dependency for nearly a century, followed by an occupation by the Japanese Empire. During the French period, widespread malnutrition and brutality from the 1880s until Japan invaded in 1940 created deep resentment that fueled resistance to post-World War II military-political efforts by France and the US. Political upheaval and Communist insurrection put an end to the monarchy after World War II, and the country was proclaimed a republic. In September 1945, Hồ Chí Minh proclaimed the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

Full-scale war broke out between the Việt Minh and France in late 1946 and the First Indochina War officially began. Realizing that colonialism was coming to an end worldwide, France decided to bring former emperor Bảo Đại back to power, as a political alternative to Ho Chi Minh. A Provisional Central Government was formed in 1948, reuniting Annam and Tonkin, but the complete reunification of Vietnam was delayed for a year because of the problems posed by Cochinchina's legal status. In July 1949, the State of Vietnam was officially proclaimed, as a semi-independent country within the French Union. The 1954 Geneva Conference left Vietnam a divided nation, with Hồ Chí Minh's communist DRV government ruling the North from Hanoi and Ngô Đình Diệm's Republic of Vietnam, supported by the United States, ruling the South from Saigon.

As a result of the Vietnam (Second Indochina) War (1954–75), Viet Cong and regular People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) forces of the DRV unified the country under communist rule.[134] In this conflict, the North and the Viet Cong, with logistical support from the Soviet Union defeated the Army of the Republic of Vietnam, which sought to maintain South Vietnamese independence with the support of the U.S. military.

The North did not abide by the terms of the 1973 Paris Agreement, which officially settled the war by calling for free elections in the South and peaceful reunification. Two years after the withdrawal of the last U.S. forces in 1973, Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam, fell to the communists, and the South Vietnamese army surrendered in 1975. In 1976, the government of united Vietnam renamed Saigon as Hồ Chí Minh City in honor of Hồ, who died in 1969.

Geography:

Vietnam is located on the eastern margin of the Indochinese peninsula and occupies about 331,211.6 square kilometers, of which about 25% was under cultivation in 1987. It borders the Gulf of Tonkin, Gulf of Thailand, and Pacific Ocean, along with China, Laos, and Cambodia. The elongated roughly S shaped country has a north-to-south distance of 1,650 km (1,030 mi) and is about 50 km (31 mi) wide at the narrowest point.

With a coastline of 3,260 km (2,030 mi), excluding islands, Vietnam claims 12 nautical miles (22.2 km; 13.8 mi) as the limit of its territorial waters, an additional 12 nautical miles (22.2 km; 13.8 mi) as a contiguous customs and security zone. It has an exclusive economic zone of 417,663 km² (161,261 sq mi) with 200 nautical miles (370.4 km; 230.2 mi).

Vietnam is a country of tropical lowlands, hills, and densely forested highlands, with level land covering no more than 20% of the area.

The spectacular Bản Giốc Waterfall is 272 km north of Hanoi and few tourists are seen there.

Climate:

The northern part of Vietnam is on the edge of the tropical climatic zone. During January, the coldest month of the year, Hanoi has a mean temperature of 63 °F (17 °C), while the annual average temperature is 74 °F (23 °C). Farther south, the average annual temperature in Hue is 77 °F (25 °C) and in Ho Chi Minh City is 81 °F (27 °C); in the highland city of Da Lat, it drops to 70 °F (21 °C). The winter season in northern Vietnam lasts from November to April; from early February to the end of March there is a persistent drizzle, and March and April are sometimes considered to be a transitional period. The summer in northern Vietnam lasts from April or May to October and is characterized by heat, heavy rainfall, and occasional typhoons. In central and southern Vietnam the southwest monsoon winds between June and November bring rains and typhoons to the eastern slopes of the mountains and the lowland plains. The period between December and April is drier and is characterized by the winds of the northeast monsoon and, in the south, by high temperatures.

Rivers:

Mekong River:

The Mekong River, which is 2,703 miles long, derives its source waters from the Tibetan Plateau in China. It passes through China's Yunnan Province, down to the border between Myanmar and Laos, and on to the border between Laos and Thailand before crossing into Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam where it drains into the South China Sea. It is the longest river in South East Asia and 12th longest river in the world. The capital of Laos, Vientiane, and the capital of Cambodia, Phnom Penh are located on the banks of Mekong. The river has one of the most biodiverse ecosystems in the world, second only to the Amazon.

Red River:

The Red River, or Song Hong, has its source in the mountains of China's Yunnan Province. The river is 714 miles long. Its main tributaries are the Black River and Clear River and on the lower end it spreads out to tributaries that form the Red River Delta. The Red River carries heavy amounts of silt as it flows which gives it the red color.

The sediment is deposited on the Red River Delta, an area that is very fertile. North of Vietnam where the river passes is densely populated, and farming is a primary activity in the area.

Dong Nai River:

The Dong Nai River originates in the central highlands in the south of Vietnam. The river is 364 miles long and flows through 11 provinces in Vietnam. The river has a wealth of mineral resources such as gold, iron, tin, and zinc. The river basin also has tropical forests and a rich tropical ecosystem. Due to rapid development in the region, conservation measures have been established by the local authorities to ensure sustainable development.

Political System:

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is an authoritarian regime headed by the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV). While the ideological orthodoxy of Communism has become less important, the country is still influenced strongly by the CPV. The separation of powers between executive, legislative and judiciary is weak. The overlap between the CPV and the government is far-reaching. This overlapping extends to the lower levels of the political system. Vietnam consists of 59 provinces (tỉnh) and five cities (thành phố) — Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Hai Phong, Da Nang and Can Tho. On the provincial level there are four forms of administrative units: rural districts (huyện), provincial cities (thành phố), provincial towns (thị xã) and urban districts (quận).

Government:

The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam is a law-governed state. The political system was established upon the birth of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and comprises the following:

The Communist Party of Viet Nam is the vanguard of the Vietnamese working class, the working people, and the whole nation; a loyal representative of the interests of the working class, the working people, and the whole nation.

People in the political system: As the maker of history, the people constitute the decisive force in the process of social evolution and make up the current political system in Viet Nam. All powers belong to the people and their powers are exercised through the State. The State regulates the society by laws under the leadership of the Communist Party of VietNam.

The State of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam is the central organization and the pillar of the political system that realizes the will and power of the people, acts on behalf of the people and is accountable to the people for the management of all activities of the social life and in domestic and external affairs.

The **National Assembly** is the highest-level representative body of the people; the highest organ of state power of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; the National Assembly exercises three main functions: to legislate, to decide on important national issues, to exercise supreme supervision over all activities of the State.

The **State President is the Head of State**, elected by the National Assembly from among its deputies to represent the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in domestic and foreign affairs. The President has twelve powers as provided by the Constitution, of which the most important are to declare the promulgation of the Constitution, laws and ordinances, to head the all people's armed forces and assume the Chairmanship of the National Defense and Security Council, to recommend to the National Assembly the election, removal or dismissal of the Vice President, the Prime Minister, Chief Justice of the Supreme People's Court, and Head of the People's Procuracy.

People's Courts: The Supreme People's Court, local People's Courts, Military Tribunals and the other tribunals established by law are the judicial organs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. Under special circumstances, the National Assembly may decide to set up a Special Tribunal. During trials, the Jury is equal to and independent from judges and shall only obey the law. Trials are held publicly except in cases stipulated by laws. Judgments of the People's Courts are made collectively and decided by majority. The Supreme People's Court is the highest judicial organ of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. It supervises and directs the judicial work of local People's Courts, Military Tribunals, Special Tribunals and other tribunals, unless otherwise prescribed by the National Assembly at the establishment of such Tribunals.

People's Procuracies: The Supreme People's Procuracy oversees the enforcement of the law by Ministries, Ministerial-level organs, other Government agencies, local administration, economic entities, mass organizations, people's military organs and citizens. It exercises the right to prosecution, ensures serious and uniform implementation of the law. Local People's Procuracy and Military Procuracy oversee the execution of the law and exercise the right to prosecution as stipulated by the law.

Economy:

Vietnam has been a development success story. Economic reforms since the launch of *Đổi Mới* in 1986, coupled with beneficial global trends, have helped propel Vietnam from being one of the world's poorest nations to a middle-income economy in one generation. Between 2002 and 2021, GDP per capita increased 3.6 times, reaching almost US\$3,700. Poverty rates (US\$1.90/day) declined sharply from over 32 percent in 2011 to below 2 percent.

Thanks to its solid foundations, the economy has proven resilient through different crises, the latest being COVID-19.

Vietnam was one of only a few countries to post GDP growth in 2020 when the pandemic hit. GDP growth slowed down to 2.58 percent in 2021 due to the emergence of the Delta variant but is expected to rebound to 5.5 percent in 2022.

Health outcomes have improved along with rising living standards. Infant mortality rates fell from 32.6 per 1,000 live births in 1993 to 16.7 per 1,000 in 2020. Life expectancy rose from 70.5 to 75.4 years between 1990 and 2019, the highest in the region for countries at a similar income level. Vietnam's universal health coverage index is at 73, higher than regional and global averages, with 87 percent of the population covered.

Access to infrastructure services has increased dramatically. As of 2019, 99.4 percent of the population used electricity as their main source of lighting, up from just 14 percent in 1993. Access to clean water in rural areas has also improved, up from 17 percent in 1993 to 51 percent in 2020.

Vietnam has grown bolder in its development aspirations, aiming to become a high-income country by 2045. To do this, the economy would have to grow at an annual average rate of around five percent per capita for the next 25 years. Vietnam also aims to grow in a greener, more inclusive way, and has committed to carbon neutrality by 2050.

- 1- Population: 97.3 million
- 2- GDP (PPP): \$1.1 trillion
- 3- 2.9% growth
- 4- 6.1% 5-year compound annual growth
- 5- \$10,869 per capita
- 6- Unemployment: 2.3%
- 7- Inflation (CPI): 3.2%
- 8- FDI Inflow: \$15.8 billion

Vietnam's economic freedom score is 60.6, making its economy the 84th freest in the 2022 Index. Vietnam is ranked 18th among 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, and its overall score is above the regional and world averages.

Defense:

Military Expenditure in Vietnam is expected to reach 5500.00 USD Million by the end of 2021, according to Trading Economics global macro models and analysts expectations. In the long-term, the Vietnam Military Expenditure is projected to trend around 5600.00 USD Million in 2022, according to our econometric models.

The defense budget in Vietnam was valued at \$5.3 billion in 2021. The market is expected to grow at a CAGR of over 7% during the forecast period 2022-2027, Territorial claims in the South China Sea and the increasing strength and assertiveness of the Chinese armed forces have spurred the Vietnamese government to enhance its military capabilities. Vietnam is also planning to replace its obsolete equipment in order to combat the modern threat scenario.

The country's military modernization efforts are focused on preventing China from taking hold of disputed territory in the South China Sea. Over the forecast period, the country is expected to procure fighter and multirole aircraft, armored vehicles, naval vessels, patrol ships, maritime patrol aircraft, and surveillance equipment.

For 2022, Vietnam is ranked 28 of 142 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review.

Man Power:

Total Population: 102,789,598

Available Manpower: 53,450,591 (52.0%)

Fit-for-Service: 43,788,369 (42.6%)

Reaching Mil Age Annually: 1,747,423 (1.7%)

Tot Military Personnel (est.): 510,000 (0.5%)

Active Personnel: 470,000 (0.5%)

Reserve Personnel: 0 (0.0%)

Paramilitary: 40,000 (0.0%)

Land:

Tanks: 2,044

Armored Vehicles: 4,420

Self-Propelled Artillery: 50

Towed Artillery: 599

Rocket Projectors: 760

Logistics:

Labor Force: 54,659,000

Merchant Marine Fleet: 1,926

Ports / Trade Terminals: 8

Roadway Coverage: 195,468

Railway Coverage: 2,600

Airports: 45

Air Power:

Total Aircraft Strength: 218

Fighters/Interceptors: 75 (34.4%)

Transports: 9 (4.1%)

Trainers: 30 (13.8%)

Special-Mission: 4 (1.8%)

Helicopters: 99 (45.4%)

Naval:

Total Assets: 109

Frigates: 9

Corvettes: 14

Submarines: 6

Patrol Vessels: 54

Mine Warfare: 8

Security Threat to Vietnam:

Vietnam's security perceptions, security challenges, and responses to those challenges. Among the security challenges that Vietnam is currently facing, the most significant, serious one is territorial disputes in the South China Sea, particularly those with China. However, Vietnam's security challenges are not confined to the South China Sea issue. Its political leadership is fully aware of the significance of non-traditional challenges such as the economy, food, climate change, and environmental problems, and is attempting to address them.

The global strategic environment, is becoming more complex due to the intensifying strategic competition among major powers, including the United States and China,

while international institutions such as international law and multilateral frameworks are also facing difficulties. Vietnam's security perceptions as noted above stem from basic foreign and security policies formulated when the country initiated the Doi Moi policy (economic development through the introduction of a market economy and an opening-up) in the mid-1980s. In terms of foreign policy, Vietnam has been promoting omnidirectional diplomacy since Doi Moi, which aimed at ensuring an external environment conducive to economic development by establishing stable, cooperative relationships with all countries.

Significance of vietnam in the Region:

Japan has been strengthening its relations with Vietnam through increased defense cooperation in research, development of infrastructure, supply of vessels for boosting maritime security and so on. While strong ties between the two countries are not a recent development, having exchanged the Most Favored Nation (MFN) status with each other in 1991, the renewed emphasis is part of Hanoi's efforts towards ramping up its relations with countries that could in turn help balance against China.

As interests converge over safeguarding freedom of navigation and the salience of acknowledging international laws and codes of conduct, the significance of littoral countries of the South China Sea region have automatically risen. Among the littoral countries of the east of Indian Ocean, Vietnam is one of the most vocal countries regarding the maritime dispute in the region and has turned out to be one of most prominent countries to back the efforts that seek to contain or confront Chinese advances.

Vietnam participation in international Organization:

The relation between Vietnam and China was normalized in 1991. In July 1995, Vietnam gained a historical turning point in diplomatic relations: Vietnam-US diplomatic relation was fully normalized. In the same year, Vietnam became an official member of ASEAN, and it has signed a cooperation declaration with the European Union. Now, Vietnam has had diplomatic relations with over 160 countries and trade relations with 120 countries and territories.

Vietnam renewed the relationship with international financial institutions (IFI) and multi-credit organizations like World Bank (WB), International Monetary Fund (IMF), and Asian Development Bank (ADB). Vietnam has become a member of ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) since January, 1st 1996 and became a full member of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) from 1998. Vietnam has been admitted to the World Trade Organization (WTO) since 2007. At present, Vietnam holds membership of 63 International Organizations and maintains relations with over 650 Non-Governmental Organizations worldwide. Through its activities, Vietnam has been playing an increasingly important role within the UN as a member of the UN Security Council, ECOSOC, UNDP, UNFPA and UPU Executive Councils, as well as in, among others, the Non-Aligned Movement, Francophone and ASEAN.

About Pakistan House

Pakistan House, an Institute of International Affairs, is an independent policy institute based Islamabad.

Our mission is to help build a positive, secure and balanced world approach toward developing societies.

Founded in 2012

Pakistan House collaborates with universities, think tanks, governments, the private sector, civil society and diaspora. Each year, the institute organizes more than a dozen events – conferences, workshops, briefings, group discussions and roundtables – in Europe and Pakistan.

Think Tanks

Pakistan House carries out independent and critical analysis of regional and international security issues and country specific challenges and opportunities (e.g. Pakistan & Afghanistan). It consistently carries out scholarly discourse with global think tanks.

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The institute's newsletter, assessments reports, books, and other research outputs are a vital resource for policy-makers in and civil society. Pakistan's leading efforts in stabilizing South Asia and beyond coupled with an up-to-date commentary on security-related topics are some of the main themes. Our digital collections are archived and searchable on the website.

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Pakistan House carries out an independent and critical analysis of regional and international security issues and country-specific challenges and opportunities (e.g. Pakistan & Afghanistan). It consistently carries out scholarly discourse with global think tanks.

