

WORLD HISTORY

Chronology of World History

Note: In this section, the notation BCE (before the common era) is applied to years dating to the traditional BC (before Christ) era, and CE (common era) is applied to AD (anno domini) dates. This notation is now preferred in many scientific and academic publications. The traditional Gregorian calendar system and its dates and years are unaltered except by these labels.

Other abbreviations used in this chapter include the following: KYA = thousand years ago, MYA = million years ago, c. = circa, fl. = flourished, r. = ruled, b. = born, d. = died.

Prehistory: Our Ancestors Emerge

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Evidence of the origins of *Homo sapiens*, the genus and species to which all living humans belong, comes from an ever increasing number of fossils and DNA studies, and from the archaeological record. Put together, the latest evidence suggests that humans evolved from an ape-like ancestor that lived in eastern and central Africa 8 to 5 million years ago.

Current theories trace the first hominin¹ (primates more closely related to humans than to any other living primate) to Africa, where several distinct genera appear in the fossil record 6-4 MYA. Skeletally, hominins are defined by signs of bipedalism (walking on two legs). They lived in a variety of environments, including swampy forest margins, woodlands, and open savannas (usually near lakes or springs).

Claims of the earliest hominin are inherently controversial. The earliest currently proposed species are *Sahelanthropus tchadensis* (c. 7 MYA, Chad) and *Orrorin tugenensis* (c. 6 MYA, Kenya). The recently described species *Ardipithecus ramidus* (4.4 MYA, Ethiopia) had a chimp-sized brain and a fairly primitive body plan but was bipedal.

Although all humans living today are members of a single species, the fossil record confirms that our ancestors coexisted with a number of similar species throughout our evolutionary history. Starting around 4 MYA one of these earliest hominins gave rise to the australopithecines, a genus of early hominins referred to as “bipedal apes.” Scientists divided these into two groups, “gracile” and “robust,” each containing a number of species.

The robust australopithecines were characterized by larger molar and premolar teeth; they probably went extinct around 1 MYA. Members of this species adapted a new dietary niche of eating hard foods such as nuts and tubers and have been found in both E and S Africa.

The gracile lineage most likely led to modern humans. *Australopithecus sediba* (2 MYA, South Africa) shows a mosaic of both Australopithecus and early *Homo* traits, leading some to suggest that this is the predecessor to our genus; the morphology of its hand is very suggestive of tool-use. However, while originally believed to arise solely within the genus *Homo*, recent work at the sites of Dikika (3.3 MYA, Ethiopia) and Lomekwi (3.3 MYA, Kenya) suggest that earlier hominins were making stone tools.

Our genus, *Homo*, arose 3-2 MYA, with fossils showing early members of our genus being fully bipedal, having larger brains, and hands well-adapted to tool use. The Oldowan tools first appear 2.6 MYA and were used to cut and scrape meat. It is not known whether these early hominins had the ability to speak,

but they were social primates, had campsites, and subsisted by gathering plants and small animals and by scavenging other kills, as well as perhaps hunting.

Homo ergaster appeared in E Africa around 1.9 MYA and was the first to leave the continent, spreading throughout Eurasia by c. 1.8 MYA. *H. ergaster* is sometimes grouped with *H. erectus*, a species first identified on the Indonesian island of Java. It was capable of hunting large and medium-sized animals, such as antelopes and horses, learned to make and control fire, and produced bifacially-flaked tools (sharpened on both sides).

The ability to control fire enormously expanded the human food niche as well as creating new opportunities in the social world. Fire-making possibly began as early as 1 MYA in Africa and is clearly documented throughout Eurasia after c. 500 KYA. Hearths were found in northern Israel by c. 750 KYA, and by 465 KYA in southwestern France.

After about 800 KYA, Europe provides a particularly rich set of fossil evidence usually assigned to *H. erectus*, *H. antecessor*, or *H. heidelbergensis*. This population gave rise to the Neanderthals, who appeared c. 350 KYA. While originally portrayed as savage and unhuman-like, recent research suggests they could probably speak, were proficient hunters of large game, had sophisticated tools and weapons, had ornamentation and other forms of symbolic expression, and a well-developed social organization. On the island of Flores, Indonesia, remains of a species known as *Homo floresiensis*, a 1.1-m (3.5-ft) tall hominin, date from c. 100-60 KYA. Its small stature may be due to limited food and few predators on the small island.

The remains of *Homo naledi*, dating to c. 335-236 KYA, raised questions about a possible overlap in existence and behaviors with early humans. It has a human-like foot and lower limbs, but other aspects of the skeleton, such as the pelvis and shoulder, are more primitive looking. They seem to have been deliberately deposited into a cave system, suggesting an early form of burial.

Improved dating techniques call into question the age of modern humans. The oldest modern human fossils (*Homo sapiens*) were dated to c. 300 KYA and were found at the Jebel Irhoud site in Morocco. Until that 2017 analysis, the oldest, found in Omo Kibish, Ethiopia, were believed to date to c. 195 KYA. Fossils considered some of the oldest modern humans were also found at the Herto site in Ethiopia's Middle Awash Valley. The species spread out of Africa, reaching Israel by c. 100 KYA, and Romania by c. 35 KYA. Migration from Asia to Australia took place as early as 60 KYA. What happened when they met other hominins is a subject of intense research. Genetic evidence in the form of ancient DNA suggests that Neanderthals interbred with modern humans. Genetic data also tells us about the Denisovans, a population of early humans dated to c. 50 KYA. Some modern populations retain Denisovan DNA, suggesting a complex web of interactions between these populations.

First confirmation for the crossing from Asia to the Americas by the Bering land bridge dates to the end of the last Ice Age, at 14 KYA. Their arrival was rapidly followed by the extinction of the indigenous Pleistocene megafauna (e.g., mammoths, mastodons) due either to overexploitation by humans, climate change, or a combination of both.

Wooden throwing spears about 3 m (10 ft) long were fashioned by big-game hunters 300 KYA at Schöningen, Germany. Scraping tools, dated after 750 KYA in Europe, N Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia, suggest the preparation of hides for clothing. Some of the oldest evidence of personal adornment date to around 300 KYA in the form of ochre, while various sites around 100 KYA from South Africa, Morocco, and Israel show the use of perforated shell beads, suggestive of symbolic expression. Although they were probably invented much earlier, impressions in burnt clay from the Czech Republic document the ability to weave cloth baskets and nets by 28 KYA.

Some of the earliest well-dated cave paintings come from the island of Sulawesi, Indonesia, where they date to around the same time as the earliest cave paintings in Europe. The painted caves of Cosquer and Chauvet in southern France have (contested) radiocarbon dates of c. 32 KYA. Painting, engraving, and bodily decoration flourished in Europe 15 KYA, along with stone and ivory sculpture. More than 200 western European caves show remarkable examples of naturalistic wall painting. A few



Found in Kabwe, Zambia, in 1921, the first early human fossil ever discovered in Africa is usually assigned today to *H. heidelbergensis* and dates to about 300-125 KYA.

Imperialism's High Point: 1900-09

Alliances. While the peace of Europe (and its dependencies) continued to hold (1907 **Hague Conference** extended the rules of war and international arbitration procedures), imperial rivalries, protectionist trade practices (in Germany and France), and the escalating arms race (British *Dreadnought* battleship launched; Germany widens Kiel canal, 1906) exacerbated minor disputes (German-French Moroccan “crises,” 1905, 1911).

Security was sought through balance-of-power alliances: **Triple Alliance** (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy; renewed in 1902 and 1907); Anglo-Japanese Alliance (1902), Franco-Russian Alliance (1899), **Entente Cordiale** (Britain, France, 1904), Anglo-Russian Treaty (1907), German-Ottoman friendship. Global developments included the establishing of an international court in The Hague, the first transatlantic radio transmission (1901), and the creation of the first international association for European football (1904).

Ottomans decline. The Ottoman government was unable to resist further loss of territory, and earlier reform efforts gave way to greater authoritarianism. Nearly all European lands were lost in 1912 to Serbia, Greece, Montenegro, and Bulgaria. Italy took Libya and the Dodecanese islands the same year. Britain took Kuwait (1899) and the Sinai (1906). The **Young Turk** revolution in 1908 forced the sultan to restore a constitution, and it introduced some social reform and secularization.

British Empire. British trade and cultural influence remained dominant in the empire, but constitutional reforms presaged its eventual dissolution. The colonies of **Australia** were united in 1901 under a self-governing commonwealth. **New Zealand** acquired dominion status in 1907. The old Boer republics joined Cape Colony and Natal in the self-governing Union of **South Africa** in 1910.

The 1909 Indian Councils Act enhanced the role of elected province legislatures in **India**. The Muslim League (founded 1906) sought separate communal representation.

East Asia. Japan exploited its growing industrial power to expand its empire. Victory in the 1904-05 war against Russia (naval battle of Tsushima, 1905) assured Japan's domination of **Korea** (annexed 1910) and Manchuria (Port Arthur taken, 1905).

In China, central authority began to crumble (empress died, 1908). Reforms (Confucian exam system ended 1905, modernization of the army, building of railroads) were inadequate, and secret societies of reformers and nationalists, inspired by the Westernized **Sun Yat-sen** (1866-1925), fomented periodic uprisings in the S.

Siam, whose independence had been guaranteed by Britain and France in 1896, was split into spheres of influence by those countries in 1907.

Russia. The population of the Russian Empire approached 150 million in 1900. Reforms in education, in law, and in local institutions (*zemstvos*) and an industrial boom starting in the 1880s (oil, railroads) created the beginnings of a modern society, despite the autocratic tsarist regime. Liberals (1903 Union of Liberation), Socialists (Social Democrats founded 1898, Bolsheviks split off 1903), and populists (Social Revolutionaries

founded 1901) were periodically repressed, and national minorities were persecuted (anti-Jewish pogroms, 1903, 1905-06).

An industrial crisis after 1900 and harvest failures aggravated poverty among urban workers, and the 1904-05 defeat by Japan (which checked Russia's Asian expansion) sparked the **Revolution of 1905-06**. A **Duma** (parliament) was created under Tsar Nicholas II. Agricultural reform (under Stolypin, prime minister, 1906-11) created a large class of land-owning peasants (*kulaks*).

The world shrinks. Developments in transportation and communication and mass population movements helped create an awareness of an interdependent world. Early **automobiles** (Daimler, Benz, 1885) were experimental or were designed as luxuries. Assembly-line mass production (Ford Motor Co., 1903) made the invention practical, and by 1910 nearly 500,000 motor vehicles were registered in the U.S. alone. **Heavier-than-air flights** began in 1903 in the U.S. (Wright brothers' *Flyer*), preceded by glider, balloon, and model plane advances in several countries. Trade was advanced by improvements in **ship design** (gyrocompass, 1910), speed (*Lusitania* crossed Atlantic in five days, 1907), and reach (Panama Canal begun, 1904).

The first transatlantic **radio** telegraphic transmission occurred in 1901, six years after Marconi discovered radio. Radio transmission of human speech had been made in 1900. Telegraphic transmission of photos was achieved in 1904, lending immediacy to news reports. **Phonographs**, popularized by Caruso's recordings (starting 1902), made for quick international spread of musical styles (ragtime). **Motion pictures**, perfected in the 1890s (Dickson, Lumière brothers), became a popular and artistic medium after 1900; newsreels appeared in 1909.

Emigration from crowded European centers soared in the decade: 9 million migrated to the U.S., and millions more went to Siberia, Canada, Argentina, Australia, South Africa, and Algeria. Some 70 million Europeans emigrated in the century before 1914. Several million Chinese, Indians, and Japanese migrated to SE Asia, where their urban skills often enabled them to take a predominant economic role.

Social reform. The social and economic problems of the poor were kept in the public eye by realist fiction writers (Dreiser's *Sister Carrie*, 1900; Gorky's *Lower Depths*, 1902; Sinclair's *The Jungle*, 1906), journalists (U.S. **muckrakers**—Steffens, Tarbell), and artists (Ashcan school). Frequent labor strikes and occasional assassinations by anarchists or radicals (Empress Elizabeth of Austria, 1898; King Umberto I of Italy, 1900; U.S. Pres. McKinley, 1901; Russian Interior Min. Plehve, 1904; Portugal's King Carlos, 1908) added to social tension and fear of revolution. Feminist agitators for the vote surfaced in several countries.

But democratic reformism responded in part. In Germany, Bernstein's (1850-1932) **revisionist Marxism**, downgrading revolution, was accepted by the powerful Social Democrats and trade unions. The British Fabian Society (the Webbs, Shaw) and the Labour Party (founded 1906) worked for reforms such as social security and union rights (1906), while woman suffragists grew more militant. U.S. **progressives** fought big business (Pure Food and Drug Act, 1906). In France, the 10-hour workday (1904) and separation of church and state (1905) were reform victories, as was universal suffrage in Austria (1907).

Arts. An unprecedented period of experimentation, centered in France, produced several new **painting styles**: Fauvism exploited bold color areas (Matisse, *Woman With Hat*, 1905); expressionism reflected powerful inner emotions (Brücke group, 1905); Cubism combined several views of an object on one flat surface (Picasso, *Demaiselles*, 1906-07); futurism tried to depict speed and motion (Italian Futurist Manifesto, 1910). **Architects** explored new uses of steel structures, with facades either neoclassical (Adler and Sullivan in U.S.), curvilinear Art Nouveau (Gaudi's Casa Mila, 1905-10), or functionally streamlined (Wright's Robie House, 1909).

Music and dance shared the experimental spirit. Ruth St. Denis (1877-1968) and Isadora Duncan (1878-1927) pioneered modern dance, while Sergei Diaghilev in Paris revitalized classic ballet from 1909. Composers explored atonal music (Debussy, 1862-1918) and dissonance (Schoenberg, 1874-1951) or revolutionized classical forms (Stravinsky, 1882-1971), often showing jazz or folk music influences.



Emigration from densely populated European countries to the Americas soared in the early 20th century; many landed on Ellis Island, in New York Harbor, en route to U.S. cities.

WORLD EXPLORATION AND GEOGRAPHY

Early Explorers of the Western Hemisphere

Genetic evidence suggests that beginning around 14,000 years before the present (BP), humans crossed the Bering Land Bridge between Siberia and Alaska and spread through the Americas, reaching S America's southern tip by c. 10,700 BP. The Anzick child (c. 12,600 BP), Kennewick Man (9,600-9,200 BP), and Luzia (11,500 BP) were some of these early arrivals. Modern Native Americans appear to be descended from peoples indigenous to N and Central Asia who arrived in subsequent waves. Remains from a burial in Brazil (8,000-10,000 BP) seem to suggest that some of those who crossed the land bridge may have originated in Africa.

Long before Europeans arrived, the Americas were populated mostly by hunter-gatherers and small-scale horticulturalists. Complex chiefdoms and state-level societies appeared in a few areas (SE U.S., Mesoamerica, coastal Chile). The earliest known state in the Americas spanned 700 sq mi across river valleys in coastal Peru between 3,500 and 500 BP.

The Norse, led by Leif Ericson, are usually credited as being the first Europeans to reach America, with at least five voyages occurring about 1000 CE to areas they called Helluland, Markland, and Vinland—possibly present-day Baffin Island, Labrador, and either Newfoundland or somewhere in New

England. L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland, is the only documented settlement, with evidence of a small village dating to c. 1000 CE.

Sustained contact between the hemispheres began with Christopher Columbus (born Cristoforo Colombo, c. 1451, near Genoa, Italy), who made four voyages to the New World with funding from the Spanish monarchs and private investors. He left Spain, Aug. 3, 1492, with 88 men and a fleet of three vessels—the *Niña*, *Pinta*, and *Santa María*—and landed on the island of San Salvador in present-day Bahamas on Oct. 12, 1492. He also visited Cuba, Hispaniola, and many smaller Caribbean islands, then populated by the Taíno. A second expedition in 1493, with 17 ships and 1,200 men, reached the island of Dominica in the Lesser Antilles; a third, in 1498, took Columbus to Trinidad and the adjacent S American coast. A fourth voyage reached Mexico, Honduras, Panama, and what he christened Santiago (the present-day island of Jamaica) in 1502.

In 1497 and 1499, Amerigo Vespucci (for whom the Americas are named), an Italian sailing for Spain, passed along the N and E coasts of S America. He was the first to claim these lands were previously unknown and not part of Asia. Some early explorations are listed below.

Year	Explorer	Nationality (sponsor, if different)	Area reached or explored
1497	John Cabot	Italian (English)	Newfoundland, possibly Nova Scotia
1497-98	Vasco da Gama	Portuguese	Cape of Good Hope (Africa), India
1499	Alonso de Ojeda	Spanish	Northern S Amer. coast, Venezuela
1500	Vicente Yañez Pinzón	Spanish	S American coast, Amazon R.
1500	Pedro Álvarez Cabral	Portuguese	Brazil
1501	Rodrigo de Bastidas	Spanish	Central America
1513	Vasco Núñez de Balboa	Spanish	Panama, Pacific Ocean
1513	Juan Ponce de León	Spanish	Florida, Yucatán Peninsula
1515	Juan de Solís	Spanish	Río de la Plata
1519	Alonso de Pineda	Spanish	Mouth of Mississippi R.
1519	Hernán Cortés	Spanish	Mexico
1519-20	Ferdinand Magellan	Portuguese (Spanish)	Straits of Magellan, Tierra del Fuego
1524	Giovanni da Verrazano	Italian (French)	Atlantic coast, incl. New York Harbor
1528	Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca	Spanish	Texas coast and interior
1532	Francisco Pizarro	Spanish	Peru
1534	Jacques Cartier	French	Canada, Gulf of St. Lawrence
1536	Pedro de Mendoza	Spanish	Up Río de la Plata, Buenos Aires
1539	Francisco de Ulloa	Spanish	California coast
1539	Marcos de Niza	Italian (Spanish)	SW United States
1539-41	Hernando de Soto	Spanish	Mississippi R., near Memphis, TN
1540	Francisco de Coronado	Spanish	SW United States
1540	Hernando de Alarcón	Spanish	Colorado R.
1540	García López de Cárdenas	Spanish	Colorado, Grand Canyon
1541	Francisco de Orellana	Spanish	Amazon R.
1542	Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo	Portuguese (Spanish)	Western Mexico, San Diego Harbor
1565	Pedro Menéndez de Avilés	Spanish	St. Augustine, FL
1576	Sir Martin Frobisher	English	Frobisher Bay, Canada
1577-80	Sir Francis Drake	English	CA coast, on voyage around world
1582	Antonio de Espejo	Spanish	SW U.S. (New Mexico)
1584	Philip Amadas and Arthur Barlowe (for Raleigh)	English	Virginia, Roanoke Isl.
1585-87	Sir Walter Raleigh's men	English	Roanoke Isl., NC
1595	Sir Walter Raleigh	English	Orinoco R., Venezuela
1603-09	Samuel de Champlain	French	Canadian interior, Lake Champlain
1607	John Smith	English	Atlantic coast
1609-10	Henry Hudson	English (Dutch)	Hudson R., Hudson Bay
1634	Jean Nicolet	French	Lake Michigan, Wisconsin
1673	Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet	French	Mississippi R., south to Arkansas
1682	René-Robert Cavelier, sieur de La Salle	French	Mississippi R., south to Gulf of Mexico
1727-29	Vitus Bering	Danish (Russian)	Bering Strait, Alaska
1789	Sir Alexander Mackenzie	Canadian	NW Canada
1804-06	Meriwether Lewis and William Clark	American	Missouri R., Rocky Mts., Columbia R.

Arctic Exploration

1596-97: Willem Barents (Dutch) touched Spitsbergen, 79°49' N, and rounded Novaya Zemlya, where he and crew were forced to winter ashore, first W Europeans to successfully do so in the Arctic.

1610: Henry Hudson (Eng.) explored Hudson Strait, Hudson Bay on search for Northwest Passage. After winter ashore, crew mutinied, 1611, and set him, his son, and some others adrift on small boat.

1733-43: Great Northern Expedition (Russ.), led by Vitus Bering (Dan./Russ.), surveyed Siberian Arctic coast. Bering had sailed through what would become known as Bering Strait,

1728, but this second expedition proved that Asia and North America were separate.

1827: William Edward Parry (Eng.), attempting to reach North Pole, made it to 82°45' N via sledge, setting record for farthest north.

1831: James Clark Ross (Eng.) was first to north magnetic pole.

1878-79: Baron Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld (Swed.) was first to navigate Northeast Passage—ocean route connecting Europe's North Sea to Pacific O.

1881-84: Adolphus Greely led 25-person U.S. expedition to Ellesmere Isl. as part of first Intl. Polar Year (1882-83). Only

Notable Active Volcanoes

Source: Global Volcanism Program, Smithsonian Inst.; Volcano Hazards Program, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Dept. of the Interior

Active volcanoes display a wide range of activity, including the production of ash plumes and seismic swarms. An eruption may involve the explosive ejection of fragmental material and escape of liquid lava. Year of a volcano's last known or confirmed eruption, as of June 2017, is given. Volcanoes are listed by height, which does not reflect eruptive magnitude. Submarine volcanoes are not included.

Volcano (last eruption)	Location	Height (ft)	Volcano (last eruption)	Location	Height (ft)
Africa			Central America and West Indies		
Cameroon (2000)	Cameroon	13,435	Tacaná (1986)	Mexico-Guatemala	13,333
Nyiragongo (2016)	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	11,385	Acatenango (1972)	Guatemala	13,045
Nyamuragira (2017)	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	10,033	Santa María (2016)	Guatemala	12,375
Oi Dooinyo Lengai (2014)	Tanzania	9,718	Fuego (2016)	Guatemala	12,346
Fogo (2015)	Cape Verde Isls.	9,281	Irazú (1994)	Costa Rica	11,260
Piton de la Fournaise (2017)	Réunion Isl. (Fr.), Indian O.	8,635	Turrialba (2017)	Costa Rica	10,958
Karthala (2007)	Comoros	7,746	Poás (2017)	Costa Rica	8,885
Nabro (2012)	Eritrea	7,277	Pacaya (2017)	Guatemala	8,373
Antarctica			Santa Ana (2005)	El Salvador	7,812
Erebus (2017)	Ross Isl.	12,448	San Miguel (2017)	El Salvador	6,988
Melbourne (1892)	Victoria Land	8,963	Rincón de la Vieja (2017)	Costa Rica	6,286
Asia and Oceania			San Cristóbal (2016)	Nicaragua	5,725
Ararat (1840)	Turkey	16,946	Concepción (2011)	Nicaragua	5,577
Klyuchevskoy (2016)	Kamchatka, Russia	15,597	Arenal (2010)	Costa Rica	5,479
Kerinci (2016)	Sumatra, Indon.	12,467	Soufrière Guadeloupe (1977)	Guadeloupe (France)	4,813
Fuji (1708)	Honshu, Japan	12,388	Peléé (1932)	Martinique (France)	4,573
Rinjani (2016)	Lombok, Indon.	12,224	Momotombo (2016)	Nicaragua	4,255
Semeru (2016)	Java, Indon.	12,060	North America		
Toibachik (2013)	Kamchatka, Russia	11,847	Pico de Orizaba (1846)	Mexico	18,255
Koryaksky (2009)	Kamchatka, Russia	11,253	Popocatepetl (2016)	Mexico	17,802
Slamet (2014)	Java, Indon.	11,247	Rainier (1894)	Washington	14,409
Shiveluch (2016)	Kamchatka, Russia	10,771	Shasta (1786)	California	14,163
Raung (2015)	Java, Indon.	10,696	Wrangell (2002)	Alaska	14,035
Dempo (2009)	Sumatra, Indon.	10,410	Colima (2016)	Mexico	12,631
Ontake (2014)	Honshu, Japan	10,062	Hood (1866)	Oregon	11,240
Merapi (2014)	Java, Indon.	9,738	Spurr (1992)	Alaska	11,070
Zhupanovsky (2016)	Kamchatka, Russia	9,511	Lassen Peak (1917)	California	10,456
Marapi (2015)	Sumatra, Indon.	9,485	Redoubt (2009)	Alaska	10,197
Bezmyaniy (2013)	Kamchatka, Russia	9,455	Iliamna (1876)	Alaska	10,016
Ruapehu (2007)	North Isl., New Zealand	9,177	Shishaldin (2015)	Unimak Isl., Aleutians, AK	9,373
Heard (2016)	Heard Isl., Australia	9,006	St. Helens (2008)	Washington	8,363
Changbaishan (1903)	China-North Korea	9,003	Veniaminof (2013)	Alaska	8,225
Papandayan (2002)	Java, Indon.	8,743	Pavlof (2016)	Alaska	8,179
Talang (2007)	Sumatra, Indon.	8,520	Fourpeaked (2006)	Alaska	6,906
Asama (2015)	Honshu, Japan	8,425	Katmai (1912)	Alaska	6,716
Dieng Volcanic Complex (2009)	Java, Indon.	8,415	Makushin (1995)	Unalaska Isl., Aleutians, AK	5,906
Mayon (2014)	Luzon, Philippines	8,077	Great Sitkin (1974)	Great Sitkin Isl., Aleutians, AK	5,709
Sinabung (2016)	Sumatra, Indon.	8,071	Cleveland (2017)	Chuginadak Isl., Aleutians, AK	5,676
Kanlaon (2016)	Negros, Philippines	7,989	South America		
Niiigata-Yakeyama (1998)	Honshu, Japan	7,874	Llullaillaco (1877)	Chile-Argentina	22,110
Kizimen (2013)	Kamchatka, Russia	7,657	San Pedro-San Pablo (1960)	Chile	20,151
Ulawun (2016)	Papua New Guinea	7,657	Guallatiri (1960)	Chile	19,918
Tengger Caldera (2016)	Java, Indon.	7,641	San José (1960)	Chile-Argentina	19,915
Alaid (2016)	Kuril Isls., Russia	7,497	Sabancaya (2017)	Peru	19,554
Chokai (1974)	Honshu, Japan	7,336	Cotopaxi (2016)	Ecuador	19,393
Galunggung (1984)	Java, Indon.	7,113	El Misti (1985)	Peru	19,101
Kambalny (2017)	Kamchatka, Russia	6,942	Ubinas (2016)	Peru	18,609
Tangkubanparahu (2013)	Java, Indon.	6,837	Tupungatito (1987)	Chile-Argentina	18,570
Tongariro (2012)	North Isl., New Zealand	6,490	Láscar (2017)	Chile	18,346
Azuma (1977)	Honshu, Japan	6,394	Nevado del Huila (2012)	Colombia	17,598
Sangeang Api (2015)	Lesser Sunda Isls., Indon.	6,394	Sangay (2016)	Ecuador	17,343
Nasu (1963)	Honshu, Japan	6,283	Nevado del Ruiz (2016)	Colombia	17,320
Bagana (2017)	Papua New Guinea	6,086	Irruputuncu (1995)	Chile-Bolivia	16,939
Karkar (2014)	Papua New Guinea	6,033	Tungurahua (2016)	Ecuador	16,480
Chachadake (Tiatia) (1981)	Kunashir Isl., Japan-admin. by Russia	5,978	Guagua Pichincha (2002)	Ecuador	15,696
Bandai (1888)	Honshu, Japan	5,958	Puracé (1977)	Colombia	15,256
Manam (2016)	Papua New Guinea	5,928	Galeras (2014)	Colombia	14,029
Gorely (2010)	Kamchatka, Russia	5,902	Planchón-Peteroa (2011)	Chile	13,048
Kuju (1996)	Kyushu, Japan	5,876	Lautaro (1979)	Chile	11,834
Soputan (2016)	Sulawesi, Indon.	5,856	Reventador (2016)	Ecuador	11,686
Karanteng (Api Siau) (2016)	Siau Isl., Indon.	5,853	Nevados de Chillán (2017)	Chile	10,538
Chikurachki (2016)	Kuril Isls., Russia	5,843	Llaima (2009)	Chile	10,253
Kelut (2014)	Java, Indon.	5,679	Europe		
Adatara (1996)	Honshu, Japan	5,669	Etna (2017)	Italy	10,810
Batur (2000)	Bali, Indon.	5,633	Vesuvius (1944)	Italy	4,203
Gamalama (2016)	Ternate, Indon.	5,627	Stromboli (2017)	Italy	3,031
Lewotobi (2014)	Flores Isl., Indon.	5,587	Mid-Atlantic		
Kirishima (2011)	Kyushu, Japan	5,577	La Palma (1971)	Canary Isls. (Spain)	7,959
Egon (2008)	Flores, Indon.	5,449	Beerenberg (1985)	Jan Mayen (Norway)	6,841
Gamkonora (2007)	Halmahera, Indon.	5,364	Bardarbunga (2015)	Iceland	6,562
Aso (2016)	Kyushu, Japan	5,223	Grímsvötn (2011)	Iceland	5,640
Lokon-Empung (2015)	Sulawesi, Indon.	5,184	Eyjafjallajökull (2010)	Iceland	5,417
Bulusan (2017)	Luzon, Philippines	5,135	Hekla (2000)	Iceland	4,888
Karymsky (2016)	Kamchatka, Russia	4,964	Mid-Pacific		
Akan (2008)	Hokkaido, Japan	4,918	Mauna Loa (1984)	Hawaii, HI	13,681
Aoba (2011)	Vanuatu	4,908	Haleakala (1750)	Maui, HI	10,023
Sarychev Peak (2009)	Kuril Isls., Russia	4,908	Kilauea (2017)	Hawaii, HI	4,009
Pinatubo (1993)	Luzon, Philippines	4,875			
Hakoneyama (2015)	Honshu, Japan	4,718			
Lewotolo (2012)	Lembata, Indon.	4,669			
Lopevi (2017)	Vanuatu	4,636			

Mountains North America

Source: U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Dept. of the Interior; National Geodetic Survey, NOAA, U.S. Dept. of Commerce; Natural Resources Canada. Survey dates and elevation sources may differ.

Peak, state/prov., country	Height (ft)	Peak, state/prov., country	Height (ft)	Peak, state/prov., country	Height (ft)
Denali (fmr. McKinley), AK	20,310	La Malinche (Matlalcuéyetl), Mexico	14,636	Wilson, CO	14,246
Logan, Yukon, Canada	19,551	Hunter, AK	14,573	Cameron, CO	14,238
Pico de Orizaba, Mexico	18,619	Browne Tower, AK	14,530	Shavano, CO	14,231
St. Elias, AK-YT, U.S.-Can.	18,009	Whitney, CA	14,505	Princeton, CO	14,204
Popocatepetl, Mexico	17,802	Alverstone, AK-YT, U.S.-Can.	14,500	Belford, CO	14,203
Foraker, AK	17,400	University Peak, AK	14,470	Yale, CO	14,200
Iztaccíhuatl, Mexico	17,159	Elbert, CO	14,440	Crestone Needle, CO	14,197
Lucania, YT, Canada	17,146	Massive, CO	14,421	Bross, CO	14,172
King Peak, YT, Canada	16,972	Harvard, CO	14,421	Kit Carson, CO	14,165
Steele, YT, Canada	16,624	Rainier, WA	14,410	Point Success, WA	14,164
Bona, AK	16,500	Williamson, CA	14,376	Shasta, CA	14,163
Blackburn, AK	16,390	Blanca Peak, CO	14,345	Wrangell, AK	14,163
Sanford, AK	16,237	La Plata Peak, CO	14,336	Maroon Peak, CO	14,163
South Buttress, AK	15,885	Uncompahgre Peak, CO	14,321	Tabeguache, CO	14,162
Wood, YT, Canada	15,873	Crestone Peak, CO	14,294	Oxford, CO	14,160
Vancouver, AK-YT, U.S.-Can.	15,699	Lincoln, CO	14,293	El Diente Peak, CO	14,159
Churchill, AK	15,638	Castle Peak, CO	14,279	Sill, CA	14,159
Nevado de Toluca (Xinantécatl), Mexico	15,354	Grays Peak, CO	14,278	Democrat, CO	14,155
Fairweather, AK-BC, U.S.-Can.	15,299	Antero, CO	14,276	Sneffels, CO	14,150
Macaulay, YT, Canada	15,299	Torreys Peak, CO	14,275	Capitol Peak, CO	14,130
Slaggard, YT, Canada	15,299	Quandary Peak, CO	14,271	Liberty Cap, WA	14,118
Hubbard, AK-YT, U.S.-Can.	15,016	Evans, CO	14,265	Pikes Peak, CO	14,115
Bear, AK	14,831	Longs Peak, CO	14,259	Snowmass, CO	14,099
Walsh, YT, Canada	14,780	McArthur, YT, Canada	14,253	Russell, CA	14,094
East Buttress, AK	14,730	White Mountain Peak, CA	14,252	Eolus, CO	14,083
		North Palisade, CA	14,248	Windom, CO	14,082
				Challenger Point, CO	14,081

Note: The highest point in the West Indies is Pico Duarte (10,417 ft), in the Dominican Republic.

Other Notable U.S. Mountains

Peak, state	Height (ft)	Peak, state	Height (ft)	Peak, state	Height (ft)
Gannett, WY	13,810	Adams, WA	12,281	Mitchell, NC	6,683
Grand Teton, WY	13,775	San Geronio, CA	11,503	Clingmans Dome, NC-TN	6,644
Kings, UT	13,518	Hood, OR	11,247	Washington, NH	6,289
Cloud, WY	13,171	Cleveland, MT	10,466	Rogers, VA	5,729
Wheeler, NM	13,167	Lassen, CA	10,461	Marcy, NY	5,343
Boundary, NV	13,146	Granite, CA	10,325	Katahdin, ME	5,269
Granite, MT	12,807	Guadalupe, TX	8,751	Spruce Knob, WV	4,863
Borah, ID	12,668	Olympus, WA	7,973	Mansfield, VT	4,395
Humphreys, AZ	12,637	Harney, SD	7,244	Black Mountain, KY	4,139

South America

Peak, country	Height (ft)	Peak, country	Height (ft)	Peak, country	Height (ft)
Aconcagua, Argentina	22,831	Coropuna, Peru	21,083	Solo, Argentina	20,492
Ojos del Salado, Arg.-Chile	22,595	Laudo, Argentina	20,997	Polleras, Argentina	20,456
Bonete, Argentina	22,546	Ancohuma, Bolivia	20,958	Pular, Chile	20,423
Tupungato, Argentina-Chile	22,310	Ausangate, Peru	20,945	Chani, Argentina	20,341
Pissis, Argentina	22,241	Toro, Argentina-Chile	20,932	Aucanquilcha, Chile	20,295
Mercedario, Argentina	22,211	Illampu, Bolivia	20,873	Juncal, Argentina-Chile	20,276
Huascarán, Peru	22,205	Tres Cruces, Argentina-Chile	20,853	Negro, Argentina	20,184
Llullaillaco, Argentina-Chile	22,109	Huandoy, Peru	20,852	Quela, Argentina	20,128
El Libertador, Argentina	22,047	Parinacota, Bolivia-Chile	20,768	Condoriri, Bolivia	20,095
Cachi, Argentina	22,047	Tortolas, Argentina-Chile	20,745	Palermo, Argentina	20,079
Yerupajá, Peru	21,765	Ampato, Peru	20,702	Solimana, Peru	20,068
Incahuasi, Argentina-Chile	21,720	Chimborazo, Ecuador	20,702	San Juan, Argentina-Chile	20,049
Galan, Argentina	21,654	El Condor, Argentina	20,669	Sierra Nevada, Argentina-Chile	20,023
Nevado Sajama, Bolivia	21,463	Salcantay, Peru	20,574	Antofalla, Argentina	20,013
El Muerto, Argentina-Chile	21,457	Huancarhuas, Peru	20,531	Marmolejo, Argentina-Chile	20,013
Nacimiento, Argentina	21,302	Famatina, Argentina	20,505	Chachani, Peru	19,931
Illimani, Bolivia	21,201	Pumasillo, Peru	20,492		

Africa

Peak, country	Height (ft)	Peak, country	Height (ft)	Peak, country	Height (ft)
Kilimanjaro, Tanzania	19,341	Karisimbi, Congo-Rwanda	14,787	Guna, Ethiopia	13,881
Kenya, Kenya	17,057	Tullu Dimtu, Ethiopia	14,360	Gughe, Ethiopia	13,780
Margherita Pk., Uganda-Congo	16,763	Elgon, Kenya-Uganda	14,178	Toubkal, Morocco	13,661
Meru, Tanzania	14,977	Batu, Ethiopia	14,131	Cameroon, Cameroon	13,435
Ras Dashen, Ethiopia	14,872				

Australia, New Zealand, SE Asian Islands

Peak, country	Height (ft)	Peak, country	Height (ft)	Peak, country	Height (ft)
Jaya, New Guinea, Indon.	16,024	Wilhelm, Papua New Guinea	14,793	Aoraki/Cook, New Zealand	12,218
Trikora, New Guinea, Indon.	15,585	Kinabalu, Malaysia	13,436	Semeru, Java, Indonesia	12,060
Mandala, New Guinea, Indon.	15,420	Kerinci, Sumatra, Indon.	12,467	Kosciusko, Australia	7,310

Principal Languages of the World

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Languages shown in italics are macrolanguages, or language groups that are equivalent in some ways to individual languages. Each language group consists of a number of variants, which may be mutually unintelligible; these variants, when they have 2.5 mil speakers or more, will also appear in the larger table below, and occasionally have the same name as the macrolanguage. Numbers are estimates and count only speakers for whom the language is a first language, or mother tongue.

Languages Spoken by the Most People

Language	Speakers (mil)	Language	Speakers (mil)	Language	Speakers (mil)
<i>Chinese</i> ¹	1,283.9	Japanese	128.2	Turkish	71.1
Spanish	436.7	<i>Lahnda</i> ²	118.9	Urdu	69.1
English	372.0	Javanese	84.4	Vietnamese	68.1
<i>Arabic</i>	295.0	Korean	77.2	Tamil	68.0
Hindi	260.1	German, Standard	76.8	Italian	63.4
Bengali	242.3	French	76.1	<i>Persian</i>	61.9
Portuguese	218.8	Telugu	74.2	<i>Malay</i>	60.8
Russian	153.6	Marathi	71.8	Gujarati	46.9

(1) Mandarin (898 mil speakers), Wu (80 mil), and Yue (73 mil) are included here under Chinese; not listed separately. (2) Includes Punjabi (Western), which by itself has 93 mil speakers.

Languages With at Least 2.5 Million Speakers

Primary country is country of origin, not necessarily the country where the most speakers reside (e.g., Portugal is the primary country for Portuguese, but more Portuguese speakers live in Brazil). Number of speakers is worldwide total for each language.

Primary country	Language	Countries	Population (mil)	Primary country	Language	Countries	Population (mil)
Afghanistan	Pashto, Southern	4	10.7	Ethiopia	Amharic	2	21.8
	Dari	3	9.0		<i>Oromo</i>	3	17.5
	Uzbek, Southern	2	4.2		Oromo, West Central	1	8.9
Albania	<i>Albanian</i>	17	3.9		Tigrigna	3	7.7
Algeria	Arabic, Algerian Spoken	2	29.3		Oromo, Eastern	1	4.5
	Kabyle	1	5.6		Oromo, Borana-Arsi-Guji	3	3.9
Angola	Umbundu	1	6.0		Sidamo	1	3.0
Armenia	Armenian	15	5.2	Finland	Finnish	3	5.4
Austria	Bavarian	4	14.1	France	French	53	76.1
Azerbaijan	Azerbaijani, North	4	9.2	Georgia	Georgian	3	3.7
Bangladesh	Bengali	4	242.3	Germany	German, Standard	27	76.8
	Rangpuri	2	15.0	Ghana	Akan	1	8.2
	Chittagonian	1	13.0		Ghanaian Pidgin English	1	5.0
	Sylheti	2	10.3		Éwé	2	4.2
Belarus	Belarusian	4	2.6	Greece	Greek	9	13.1
Botswana	Tswana	4	5.8	Guinea	<i>Mandingo</i>	7	7.4
Brazil	Hunsrik	1	3.0		Maninkakan, Eastern	3	3.6
Bulgaria	Bulgarian	8	8.1		Pular	5	3.0
Burkina Faso	Mòoré	3	6.5	Haiti	Haitian Creole	2	7.7
Burundi	Rundi	1	10.7	Hungary	Hungarian	9	12.6
Cambodia	Khmer	2	16.4	India	Hindi	5	260.1
China	<i>Chinese</i>	37	1,283.9		Telugu	2	74.2
	Chinese, Mandarin	14	897.9		Marathi	1	71.8
	Chinese, Wu	1	80.1		Tamil	7	68.0
	Chinese, Yue	13	72.9		Gujarati	7	46.9
	Chinese, Min Nan	11	48.3		Bhojpuri	3	39.4
	Chinese, Hakka	13	47.8		Kannada	1	37.7
	Chinese, Jinyu	1	46.1		Malayalam	2	34.5
	Chinese, Xiang	1	36.6		Maithili	2	33.9
	Chinese, Gan	1	21.7		Punjabi, Eastern	3	29.3
	<i>Zhuang</i>	2	14.9		<i>Marwari</i>	3	19.7
	Chinese, Min Bei	2	10.9		Magahi	1	14.0
	Uyghur	4	10.4		Chhattisgarhi	1	13.3
	Chinese, Min Dong	6	9.1		<i>Rajasthani</i>	3	12.9
	<i>Hmong</i>	8	7.7		Assamese	1	12.8
	Chinese, Huizhou	1	4.6		Deccan	1	12.8
	Mongolian, Peripheral	2	3.4		Kanauji	1	9.5
	Chinese, Min Zhong	1	3.1		Indian Sign Language	2	8.5
	Bouyei	2	2.6		Haryanvi	1	8.0
	Chinese, Pu-Xian	3	2.6		Varhadi-Nagpuri	1	7.0
Congo, Dem. Rep.					Santhali	3	6.2
of the	Luba-Kasai	1	6.3		<i>Konkani</i>	4	6.1
	<i>Kongo</i>	3	5.7		Marwari	2	5.6
	Koongo	3	5.0		Malvi	1	5.6
	Kituba	1	4.2		Kashmiri	2	5.5
Côte d'Ivoire	Baoulé	1	3.0		Mewari	1	5.1
Croatia	Croatian	8	5.3		Lambadi	1	4.2
Czechia	Czech	6	10.7		<i>Dogri</i>	1	4.0
Denmark	Danish	6	5.5		Merwari	1	3.9
Egypt	Arabic, Egyptian Spoken	1	64.5		Mina	1	3.8
	Arabic, Sa'idi Spoken	1	22.4		Konkani, Goan	2	3.6

INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS

World Population Growth

The global population in ancient times can only be very roughly estimated, but there were perhaps 50 mil people in the world in 1000 BCE. The United Nations (UN) Population Division estimates a figure of 300 mil for 1 CE. This diagram shows estimated population growth since then.

Although different sources may provide varying estimates, they agree that the world's population began growing more rapidly in the 18th and 19th centuries and increased at an even greater rate in the 20th century. According to the UN, the total population reached 1 bil in 1804; rose to 2 bil 123 years later, in 1927; to 3 bil 33 years after that, in 1960; to 4 bil in 1974; to 5 bil in 1987; and to 6 bil in 1999.

The UN put the world population in mid-2017 at nearly 7.6 bil. It projects that the population will reach 8 bil by 2023. The UN expects that between 2017 and 2050, nine countries will account for half the increase in the world population: India, Nigeria, Dem. Rep. of the Congo, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Tanzania, U.S., Uganda, and Indonesia (in descending order).

1 CE
300 mil

1250
400 mil

1500
500 mil

1804
1 bil

1927
2 bil

1960
3 bil

1974
4 bil

1987
5 bil

1999
6 bil

2011
7 bil

Area and Population of the World by Continent/Region

Source: International Data Base, International Programs Center, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce; *The World Factbook*, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)

Continent/ region	Land area		% of Earth's land	Population (midyear)				% of world total, 2017	2025 ¹
	(sq mi)	(sq km)		1950	1975	2000	2017		
Asia	11,921,255	30,875,908	21.2	1,437,565,483	2,412,701,231	3,688,996,966	4,404,365,817	59.5	4,683,696,145
Africa	11,494,808	29,771,416	20.4	229,058,740	416,195,934	802,722,506	1,222,204,378	16.5	1,463,086,985
Europe ²	8,559,255	22,168,368	15.2	547,140,324	678,635,710	730,502,554	747,364,363	10.1	749,755,900
N. America	7,879,373	20,407,482	14.0	165,945,185	238,783,486	313,388,332	362,383,581	4.9	385,028,748
Latin America ³	7,723,205	20,003,009	13.7	165,442,794	320,616,913	518,453,670	630,990,292	8.5	675,147,686
Oceania	3,277,069	8,487,571	5.8	12,476,128	21,114,852	30,420,890	38,002,446	0.5	41,240,203
Antarctica ⁴	5,405,430	14,000,000	9.6	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
World	56,260,395	145,713,754	100.0	2,557,628,654	4,088,048,126	6,084,484,918	7,405,107,650	100.0	7,997,467,183

NA = Not applicable. **Note:** Composition of geographical (continental) regions are as defined by the United Nations. Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding. (1) Projected. (2) Includes all of Russia. (3) Includes the Caribbean. (4) Antarctica has no indigenous inhabitants, though people are present at permanent and seasonal research stations. Only an est. 108,109 sq mi are ice free.

Population of the World's Largest Urban Areas

Source: *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision*, Dept. of Economic and Social Affairs, UN Population Division

Population figures are midyear estimates for urban agglomerations, i.e., whole metropolitan areas comprising an urban center and surrounding settlements of lower density. The UN releases an update every two years. Population counts for 2017 and 2030 are projections. Data may differ from figures elsewhere in *The World Almanac*. MMA = Major Metropolitan Area.

(ranked by mid-2017 population)

Rank	Urban area, country	Population (thous.)				Rate of change (%)			Pop. of urban area as % of country's 2017 pop.
		1975	2000	2017	2030	1975-2000	2000-17	2017-30	
1.	Tokyo, Japan	26,615	34,450	38,241	37,190	29.4%	11.0%	-2.7%	30.3%
2.	Delhi, India	4,426	15,732	27,197	36,060	255.4	72.9	32.6	2.1
3.	Shanghai, China	5,627	13,959	25,202	30,751	148.1	80.5	22.0	1.8
4.	Beijing, China	4,828	10,162	22,063	27,706	110.5	117.1	25.6	1.6
5.	Mumbai (Bombay), India	7,082	16,367	21,690	27,797	131.1	32.5	28.2	1.7
6.	São Paulo, Brazil	9,614	17,014	21,519	23,444	77.0	26.5	8.9	10.4
7.	Mexico City, Mexico	10,734	18,457	21,321	23,865	71.9	15.5	11.9	16.7
8.	Kinki MMA (Osaka), Japan	16,298	18,660	20,415	19,976	14.5	9.4	-2.2	16.2
9.	Cairo, Egypt	6,450	13,626	19,486	24,502	111.3	43.0	25.7	22.3
10.	Dhaka, Bangladesh	2,221	10,285	18,898	27,374	363.1	83.7	44.9	11.5
11.	New York-Newark, NY-NJ, U.S.	15,880	17,813	18,627	19,885	12.2	4.6	6.8	5.6
12.	Karachi, Pakistan	3,989	10,032	17,636	24,838	151.5	75.8	40.8	9.1
13.	Buenos Aires, Argentina	8,745	12,407	15,482	16,956	41.9	24.8	9.5	36.1
14.	Kolkata (Calcutta), India	7,888	13,058	15,119	19,092	65.5	15.8	26.3	1.2
15.	Istanbul, Turkey	3,600	8,744	14,557	16,694	142.9	66.5	14.7	18.6
16.	Lagos, Nigeria	1,890	7,281	14,234	24,239	285.2	95.5	70.3	7.3
17.	Chongqing, China	2,545	7,863	14,144	17,380	209.0	79.9	22.9	1.0
18.	Guangzhou, Guangdong, China	1,698	7,330	13,659	17,574	331.7	86.3	28.7	1.0
19.	Manila, Philippines	4,999	9,962	13,322	16,756	99.3	33.7	25.8	12.7
20.	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	7,733	11,307	13,063	14,174	46.2	15.5	8.5	6.3
21.	Kinshasa, Dem. Rep. of Congo	1,482	6,140	12,566	19,996	314.3	104.7	59.1	16.7
22.	Moscow, Russia	7,623	10,005	12,340	12,200	31.2	23.3	-1.1	8.7
23.	Los Angeles-Long Beach- Santa Ana, CA, U.S.	8,926	11,798	12,334	13,257	32.2	4.5	7.5	3.7
24.	Tianjin, China	3,527	6,670	11,896	14,655	89.1	78.4	23.2	0.8
25.	Paris, France	8,558	9,737	11,011	11,803	13.8	13.1	7.2	16.8
26.	Shenzhen, China	36	6,550	10,919	12,673	18,094.4	66.7	16.1	0.8
27.	Bangalore, India	2,111	5,567	10,819	14,762	163.7	94.3	36.4	0.8
28.	Jakarta, Indonesia	4,813	8,390	10,660	13,812	74.3	27.1	29.6	4.1
29.	London, UK	7,546	8,613	10,549	11,467	14.1	22.5	8.7	16.3
30.	Chennai (Madras), India	3,609	6,353	10,435	13,921	76.0	64.3	33.4	0.8

National Rankings by Population, Area, Population Density, 2017

Source: International Data Base, International Programs Center, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce; *The World Factbook*, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)

Population figures are for midyear. In mid-2017, the world had an estimated population of 7.4 bil, of which China represented nearly one-fifth. Population density is calculated using land area, which does not include inland water.

Largest Populations			Smallest Populations		
Rank	Country	Population	Rank	Country	Population
1.	China ¹	1,379,302,771	1.	Vatican City	1,000
2.	India	1,281,935,911	2.	Nauru	9,642
3.	United States	326,625,791	3.	Tuvalu	11,052
4.	Indonesia	260,580,739	4.	Palau	21,431
5.	Brazil	207,353,391	5.	Monaco	30,645
6.	Pakistan	204,924,861	6.	San Marino	33,537
7.	Nigeria	190,632,261	7.	Liechtenstein	38,244
8.	Bangladesh	157,826,578	8.	Saint Kitts and Nevis	52,715
9.	Russia	142,257,519	9.	Dominica	73,897
10.	Japan	126,451,398	10.	Marshall Islands	74,539

Largest Land Areas			Smallest Land Areas		
Rank	Country	Area (sq mi)	Rank	Country	Area (sq mi)
1.	Russia	6,323,482	1.	Vatican City	0.17
2.	China	3,600,947	2.	Monaco	0.77
3.	United States	3,531,905	3.	Nauru	8
4.	Canada	3,511,023	4.	Tuvalu	10
5.	Brazil	3,266,199	5.	San Marino	24
6.	Australia	2,966,153	6.	Liechtenstein	62
7.	India	1,147,956	7.	Marshall Islands	70
8.	Argentina	1,056,642	8.	Saint Kitts and Nevis	101
9.	Kazakhstan	1,042,360	9.	Maldives	115
10.	Algeria	919,595	10.	Malta	122

Most Densely Populated			Least Densely Populated		
Rank	Country	Persons per sq mi	Rank	Country	Persons per sq mi
1.	Monaco	39,685.1	1.	Mongolia	5.1
2.	Singapore	22,201.2	2.	Namibia	7.8
3.	Vatican City	5,886.3	3.	Australia	7.8
4.	Bahrain	4,808.3	4.	Iceland	8.8
5.	Maldives	3,413.1	5.	Mauritania	9.4
6.	Malta	3,412.4	6.	Guyana	9.7
7.	Bangladesh	3,140.3	7.	Libya	9.8
8.	Taiwan	1,887.4	8.	Suriname	9.8
9.	Barbados	1,760.8	9.	Canada	10.1
10.	Mauritius	1,730.6	10.	Botswana	10.2

(1) Does not include mid-2017 population of Hong Kong (7,191,503) and Macao (601,969).

Current Population and Projections for Countries and Other Areas

Source: International Data Base, International Programs Center, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce; *The World Factbook*, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)

(midyear figures)

Country/area	2017	2025	2050	Country/area	2017	2025	2050
Afghanistan	34,124,811	41,117,073	63,795,418	Burundi	11,466,756	14,791,662	30,391,856
Albania	3,047,987	3,104,932	2,824,012	Cabo Verde	560,899	619,168	741,842
Algeria	40,969,443	45,841,317	55,444,735	Cambodia	16,204,486	18,037,946	22,338,891
American Samoa	51,504	45,973	29,167	Cameroon	24,994,885	30,508,842	51,912,309
Andorra	85,702	85,112	74,765	Canada	35,623,680	37,558,781	41,135,648
Angola	29,310,273	38,467,070	82,179,028	Cayman Islands	58,441	67,661	91,118
Anguilla	17,087	19,749	26,980	Central African Republic	5,625,118	6,637,613	10,338,863
Antigua and Barbuda	94,731	103,830	122,930	Chad	12,075,985	13,914,726	20,473,601
Argentina	44,293,293	47,333,842	54,115,246	Chile	17,789,267	18,764,737	19,688,474
Armenia	3,045,191	2,961,175	2,468,311	China	1,379,302,771	1,407,006,788	1,301,627,048
Aruba	115,120	126,130	150,730	Colombia	47,698,524	51,194,904	56,227,630
Australia	23,232,413	25,053,669	29,012,740	Comoros	808,080	905,545	1,169,893
Austria	8,754,413	8,987,330	9,107,912	Congo, Dem. Rep. of	83,301,151	99,162,003	144,805,434
Azerbaijan	9,961,396	10,533,598	11,209,644	Congo Republic	4,954,674	5,947,999	10,201,971
Bahamas, The	329,988	349,116	371,219	Cook Islands	9,290	7,621	5,460
Bahrain	1,410,942	1,579,899	1,847,072	Costa Rica	4,930,258	5,353,218	6,065,989
Bangladesh	157,826,578	170,280,989	193,092,763	Côte d'Ivoire	24,184,810	27,651,498	37,111,782
Barbados	292,336	297,015	282,041	Croatia	4,292,095	4,125,465	3,538,821
Belarus	9,549,747	9,325,020	8,339,664	Cuba	11,147,407	10,938,159	9,829,024
Belgium	11,491,346	12,037,746	12,772,233	Curaçao	149,648	153,501	150,128
Belize	360,346	411,007	543,690	Cyprus	1,221,549	1,329,908	1,392,078
Benin	11,038,805	13,564,964	22,118,545	Czech Republic	10,674,723	10,696,842	10,209,638
Bermuda	70,864	72,851	69,874	Denmark	5,605,948	5,697,913	5,575,147
Bhutan	758,288	820,143	951,873	Djibouti	865,267	1,016,919	1,395,810
Bolivia	11,138,234	12,463,434	16,003,638	Dominica	73,897	74,374	64,772
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3,856,181	3,787,402	3,216,039	Dominican Republic	10,734,247	11,702,846	13,690,264
Botswana	2,214,858	2,483,999	3,201,058	Ecuador	16,290,913	17,867,616	21,102,550
Brazil	207,353,391	218,259,140	232,304,177	Egypt	97,041,072	115,502,146	168,937,974
Brunei	443,593	498,756	638,157	El Salvador	6,172,011	6,288,430	6,181,181
Bulgaria	7,101,510	6,728,056	5,531,820	Equatorial Guinea	778,358	935,553	1,428,139
Burkina Faso	20,107,509	25,384,628	47,429,509	Eritrea	5,918,919	6,411,164	8,935,060

NATIONS OF THE WORLD

As of mid-2017, there were **196 nations** in the world. This number includes three nations that are not United Nations (UN) members—Kosovo, Taiwan, and Vatican City (Holy See). Certain regions and territories can be found under the entry for their governing nation. **Sources:** FAOSTAT and AQUASTAT, Food and Agric. Org. of the UN (FAO); Global Health Observatory, World Health Organization (WHO); Intl. Data Base, U.S. Census Bureau; International Energy Statistics, Energy Information Admin., U.S. Dept. of Energy; *International Financial Statistics*, Intl. Monetary Fund (IMF); Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); *Key Indicators of the Labour Market*, International Labour Organization; *The Military Balance*, Intl. Inst. for Strategic Studies; *Oil & Gas Journal*, PennWell Corp.; *Trends in International Migrant Stock and World Urbanization Prospects*, Population Div., UN Dept. of Economic and Social Affairs; UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Org. (UNESCO); *UNWTO World Tourism Barometer* © World Tourism Org.; U.S. Dept. of State; WardsAuto Group, a div. of Penton; The World Bank; *The World Factbook*, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA); World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database, Intl. Telecommunication Union.

Note: Because of rounding or incomplete enumeration, percentages may not add up to 100%. FY = Fiscal year. NA = Not available/applicable. Figures are for years noted below unless otherwise indicated within a country's profile. **Population, age distrib.**, and **pop. density** are mid-2017 ests. **Growth** gives the avg. annual percent change in the pop. resulting from **births** and **deaths** at midyear 2017 as well as the flow of migrants into and out of a country. International **migrants**, including foreign-born citizens and refugees, as a percent of the total pop. is for 2015. Percent of total pop. living in **urban** areas, as defined by each country, are projections for mid-2017. **Languages** are ranked with those most widely spoken listed first. **Arable land** is given as percentage of country's land area. Pop. of **capitals** and **cities** are projected ests. for urban agglomerations as of mid-2017. **Defense budget** is for 2016, **active troops** for 2017. Selected **industries** are ranked by descending value of annual output. Selected **chief agricultural products** are listed in descending order of importance. Total renewable **water** resources per inhabitant is for 2014. **Crude oil reserves** are as of Jan. 1, 2017; countries without this entry lack reserves. **Electricity prod.** indicates net, not gross, generated in 2014. **Labor force** percentages are latest available; **unemployment** (percentage of total labor force actively looking and available for work) are 2016 ests. **Monetary unit** exchange rate is as of Sept. 2017. **GDP** data, 2016 ests. made in Aug. 2017, are based on purchasing power parity exchange rates; **per capita GDP** is calculated using a country's est. pop. size as of July 1 of given year. **GDP growth** is year-over-year. Value of **imports** and **exports**, calculated on an exchange rate basis, are from 2016; 2015 trade partners are listed in descending order of importance by percentage of total dollar value. **Tourism** is latest available receipts from intl. visitors; data not available for all countries. **Budget** calculated on an exchange rate basis, not purchasing power parity terms, is 2016 expenditures. **Inflation** is measured by the percent change in the consumer price index (or avg. consumer cost for certain goods and services) between 2015 and 2016. Total length of a country's railway network is the latest available. **Motor vehicle** statistics, for cars and comm. vehicles in operation based on registrations, are for 2016. The number of **airports** with paved, usable runways are as of 2013. Number of fixed-**telephone** subscriptions; **mobile**-cellular telephone subscriptions offering voice communications; and percentage of pop. accessing the **Internet**, regardless of device used, are for 2016. Active mobile-**broadband** subscriptions are for 2015. Total health **expend.** (both government and private) is given as a percentage of GDP in 2014. **Life expect.** is in avg. number of years at birth for persons born in 2017. **Infant mortality** measures the probability of a child dying between birth and exact age 1 in 2017. **Undernourished**, or the prevalence of undernourishment, is the probability in 2014-16 that a randomly selected person from the pop. does not consume enough calories for an active, healthy life. **HIV** prevalence is the percentage of a country's pop. of 15- to 49-year-olds living with HIV in 2016. **Education** and **literacy** rate ests. are latest available. Literacy measures the percent of the pop. age 15 and older able to read and write simple statements; some countries define as literate those who have completed certain schooling. **Embassy** addresses are for Wash., DC, area code (202). Current events as of Oct. 1, 2017.

See pages 457-72 for full-color maps and flags of all nations.

Afghanistan

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

People: Population: 34,124,811 (39). **Age distrib.:** <15: 40.9%; 65+: 2.6%. **Growth:** 2.4%. **Migrants:** 1.2%. **Pop. density:** 135.5 per sq mi, 52.3 per sq km. **Urban:** 27.6%. **Ethnic groups:** Pashtun, Tajik, Hazara, Uzbek, smaller numbers of 11 other constitutionally recognized ethnic groups. **Languages:** Afghan Persian or Dari, Pashto (both official); Turkic langs. (Uzbek, Turkmen); 30 minor langs. (Balochi, Pashai). **Religions:** Sunni Muslim 84.7%-89.7%, Shia Muslim 10%-15%.

Geography: Total area: 251,827 sq mi, 652,230 sq km (40); **Land area:** 251,827 sq mi, 652,230 sq km. **Location:** SW Asia, NW of Indian subcontinent. Pakistan on E, S; Iran on W; Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan on N. NE tip touches China. **Topography:** Landlocked and mountainous, much of it over 4,000 ft above sea level. The Hindu Kush Mts. tower 16,000 ft above Kabul and reach a height of 25,000 ft to the E. Trade with Pakistan flows through the 35-mi-long Khyber Pass. Dry climate with extreme temperatures; large desert regions. **Arable land:** 11.9%. **Capital:** Kabul, 5,055,984.

Government: Type: Presidential Islamic republic. **Head of state and gov.:** Pres. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai; b. 1949; in office: Sept. 29, 2014; and Chief Exec. Abdullah Abdullah; b. 1960; in office: Sept. 29, 2014. **Local divisions:** 34 provinces. **Defense budget:** \$2.6 bil. **Active troops:** 171,200.

Economy: Industries: small-scale prod. of bricks, textiles, soap, furniture, shoes, fertilizer, apparel, food prods. **Chief agric.:** opium, wheat, fruits, nuts; wool, mutton. **Natural resources:** nat. gas, petroleum, coal, copper, chromite, talc, barites, sulfur, lead, zinc, iron ore, salt, prec./semiprec. stones. **Water:** 2,008 cu m per capita. **Electricity prod.:** 1 bil kWh. **Labor force:** agric. 78.6%, industry 5.7%, services 15.7%. **Unemployment:** 8.5%.

Finance: Monetary unit: Afghani (AFN) (68.44 = \$1 U.S.). **GDP** (2015): \$64.1 bil; **per capita GDP:** \$2,000; **GDP growth:** 2%. **Imports** (2014): \$7 bil; Pakistan 39.1%, India 9%, U.S. 8.4%, Turkmenistan 6.3%, China 6.1%, Kazakhstan 6%. **Exports** (2014): \$658 mil (not incl. illicit trade); India 43.6%, Pakistan 28.3%, Tajikistan 7.4%. **Tourism:** \$49 mil. **Budget:** \$6.6 bil. **Inflation:** 2.2%.

Transport: Motor vehicles: 57.2 per 1,000 pop. **Airports:** 25. **Communications: Telephone:** 0.3 per 100 pop. **Mobile:** 66 per 100 pop. **Broadband:** 6.0 per 100 pop. **Internet:** 10.6%.

Health: Expend.: 8.2%. **Life expect.:** 50.3 male; 53.2 female. **Births:** 37.9 per 1,000 pop. **Deaths:** 13.4 per 1,000 pop. **Infant mortality:** 110.6 per 1,000 live births. **Undernourished:** 23%. **HIV:** <0.1%.

Education: Compulsory: ages 7-15. **Literacy:** 38.2%.

Embassy: 2341 Wyoming Ave. NW 20008; 483-6410.

Website: www.president.gov.af/en

Afghanistan, occupying a favored invasion route since antiquity, has been variously known as Ariana or Bactria (in ancient times) and Khorasan (in the Middle Ages). Foreign empires alternated

rule with local emirs and kings until the 18th cent., when a unified kingdom was established. In 1973, a military coup ushered in a republic.

Pro-Soviet leftists took power in a bloody 1978 coup. In Dec. 1979 the USSR began a massive airlift into Kabul and backed a new coup, leading to the installation of a more pro-Soviet leader. Soviet forces fanned out over Afghanistan and waged a protracted guerrilla war with Muslim rebels, in which some 15,000 Soviet troops reportedly died.

A UN-mediated agreement was signed Apr. 14, 1988, providing for withdrawal of Soviet troops, a neutral Afghan state, and repatriation of refugees. Afghan rebels rejected the pact. The Soviets completed their troop withdrawal Feb. 15, 1989; fighting between Afghan rebels and government forces ensued. Communist Pres. Najibullah resigned Apr. 16, 1992, as competing guerrilla forces advanced on Kabul. The rebels achieved power Apr. 28, ending 14 years of Soviet-backed regimes. More than 2 mil Afghans had been killed, and 6 mil had left the country since 1979.

Clashes between moderates and Islamic fundamentalist forces followed the rebel victory. The Taliban, an insurgent radical-Islamist faction, captured Kabul in Sept. 1996 and empowered Islamic religious police to enforce strict Islamic codes of dress and behavior.

Victories in the northern cities of Mazar-e Sharif, Aug. 8, 1998, and Taloqan, Aug. 8-11, essentially gave the Taliban control over the entire country. On Aug. 20, U.S. cruise missiles struck SE of Kabul, hitting facilities the U.S. said were terrorist training camps run by Osama bin Laden. The UN imposed sanctions Nov. 14, 1999, when Afghanistan refused to turn over bin Laden to the U.S. for prosecution.

After the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, the U.S., blaming bin Laden, demanded that the Taliban surrender him and shut down his al-Qaeda terrorist network. When the Taliban refused, the U.S., with British assistance, began bombing Afghanistan Oct. 7, as part of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

Supported by the U.S., the opposition Northern Alliance recaptured Mazar-e Sharif Nov. 9 and took Kabul 4 days later; Taliban forces abandoned Kandahar, their last stronghold, to southern tribal fighters Dec. 7. A power-sharing agreement signed by four anti-Taliban factions, including the Northern Alliance, provided for an interim government headed by Hamid Karzai, a Pashtun tribal leader. The UN authorized a multinational security force Dec. 20, 2001.

Meeting June 13, 2002, in Kabul, a traditional council (*loya jirga*) chose Karzai to head a new transitional government. Although the U.S. announced the end of major combat operations in Afghanistan, May 1, 2003, resistance continued. NATO officially assumed control of peacekeeping forces—the Intl. Security Assistance Force (ISAF)—Aug. 11, 2003.

The most intense fighting in more than 4 years erupted Mar. 2006 with a new wave of attacks and other strikes by Taliban insurgents. Operating from sanctuaries in Pakistan, Islamist

suicide bombers and Taliban insurgents stepped up their activities, 2007-11. Violence escalated in the run-up to the presidential election Aug. 20, 2009. With Karzai in the lead, a UN-backed commission ordered a recount, citing evidence of fraud; a Nov. runoff election was canceled when Karzai's lone opponent dropped out. Karzai was sworn in for a second term Nov. 19. After a decade-long manhunt, U.S. commandos killed bin Laden shortly after midnight May 2, 2011, in Abbottabad, Pakistan. Insurgents retaliated Aug. 6 by shooting down a helicopter, killing 30 Americans and 8 Afghans. Other violence included attacks Sept. 13, 2011, on the U.S. embassy and NATO headquarters in Kabul.

Between Jan. 2009 and June 2011, the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan rose from about 36,000 to 101,000, while the number of allied foreign forces under ISAF increased from nearly 32,000 to more than 42,000. The U.S., June 22, 2011, outlined a timetable for drawing down troops and ending their combat role. Pres. Barack Obama announced, May 27, 2014, that by year's end most U.S. troops would be out of Afghanistan, with a residual force focusing on combating Islamic extremists and training and advising Afghan troops. OEF and ISAF officially ended Dec. 28, 2014; since Oct. 2001, 2,215 U.S. and 1,270 allied troops had been killed. The NATO-led Resolute Support Mission (RSM) to aid Afghan forces began Jan. 1, 2015. As of mid-2017, there were more than 13,500 RSM troops in Afghanistan, of which about 7,000 were from the U.S.; including other counterterrorism forces, total U.S. troop strength was about 11,000. Pres. Donald Trump announced, Aug. 21, that U.S. troop strength would increase; Def. Sec. James Mattis said, Sept. 18, that the buildup involved "over 3,000 additional troops."

The first round of elections for a new president was held Apr. 5, 2014. A June 14 runoff between the two top vote-getters—former Foreign Min. Abdullah Abdullah and former Finance Min. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai—was marred by allegations of electoral fraud. After an internationally supervised audit of all 8 mil runoff ballots, Ghani was declared the winner Sept. 21. Under a U.S.-brokered power-sharing agreement, he appointed Abdullah chief executive of the government. Fighting between government and Taliban forces continued in 2015-17, as did Taliban terrorist attacks in Kabul and other cities.

The government announced, July 29, 2015, that longtime Taliban leader Mohammad Omar had died in 2013. A U.S. drone strike in Pakistan, May 21, 2016, killed new Taliban leader Akhtar Muhammad Mansour; Haibatullah Akhundzada replaced Mansour. Beginning in 2014, an affiliate of the Sunni extremist group ISIS gained control of areas in eastern Afghanistan and staged suicide bombings and other attacks in Kabul and elsewhere. A report to Congress by the U.S. inspector general for Afghanistan reconstruction estimated that, in mid-2017, the government effectively controlled about 63% of the country; insurgent groups controlled about 16% and contested 21%. The U.S. increased air strikes against Taliban and ISIS targets in 2017, including use of a 21,600-lb bomb, Apr. 13, against an ISIS cave complex—the most powerful non-nuclear bomb ever used by the U.S. Combat and terrorist attacks caused high civilian casualties. The UN reported 3,701 conflict-related civilian deaths in 2014, 3,545 in 2015, 3,498 in 2016, and 1,662 Jan.-June 2017. A truck bombing in Kabul, May 31, 2017, killed more than 150. The conflict internally displaced an est. 590,000-650,000 people in 2016 and 159,000 Jan.-June 2017. About 2.5 mil refugees from decades of Afghanistan violence were in Pakistan as of 2016; hundreds of thousands returned in 2016-17, amid accusations that many were forced to return by Pakistan.

Albania

Republic of Albania

People: Population: 3,047,987 (134). **Age distrib.:** <15: 18%; 65+: 11.9%. **Growth:** 0.3%. **Migrants:** 2%. **Pop. density:** 288.1 per sq mi, 111.2 per sq km. **Urban:** 59.3%. **Ethnic groups:** Albanian 82.6%. **Languages:** Albanian (official), Greek. **Religions:** Muslim 56.7%, Roman Catholic 10%, Orthodox 6.8%, atheist 2.5%.

Geography: Total area: 11,100 sq mi, 28,748 sq km (141); **Land area:** 10,578 sq mi, 27,398 sq km. **Location:** SE Europe, on SE coast of Adriatic Sea. Greece on S; Montenegro, Kosovo on N; Macedonia on E. **Topography:** Narrow coastal plain; hills and mountains covered with scrub forest, cut by small E-W rivers. **Arable land:** 22.5%. **Capital:** Tirana, 472,645.

Government: Type: Parliamentary republic. **Head of state:** Pres. Ilir Meta; b. 1969; in office: July 24, 2017. **Head of gov.:** Prime Min. Edi Rama; b. 1964; in office: Sept. 15, 2013. **Local divisions:** 12 counties. **Defense budget:** \$115 mil. **Active troops:** 8,000.

Economy: Industries: food and tobacco prods., textiles and clothing, lumber. **Chief agric.:** wheat, corn, potatoes, vegetables, fruits, olives and olive oil, grapes; meat, dairy products. **Natural resources:** petroleum, nat. gas, coal, bauxite, chromite, copper, iron ore, nickel, salt, timber, hydropower. **Water:** 10,425 cu m per capita. **Crude oil reserves:** 168.3 mil bbls. **Electricity prod.:** 4.7 bil kWh. **Labor force:** agric. 41.8%, industry 11.4%, services 46.8%. **Unemployment:** 16.3%.

Finance: Monetary unit: Lek (ALL) (112.46 = \$1 U.S.). **GDP:** \$33.9 bil (unreported output may be as large as 50% of official GDP); **per capita GDP:** \$11,900; **GDP growth** (2017): 3.8%. **Imports:** \$4.7 bil; Italy 33.4%, China 10%, Greece 9%, Turkey 6.7%, Germany 5.2%. **Exports:** \$2 bil; Italy 43.3%, Kosovo 9.8%, U.S. 7.7%, China 6.2%, Greece 5.3%. **Tourism:** \$1.7 bil. **Budget:** \$3.5 bil. **Inflation:** 1.3%.

Transport: Railways: 421 mi. **Airports:** 4.

Communications: Telephone: 7.6 per 100 pop. **Mobile:** 105.1 per 100 pop. **Broadband:** 40.6 per 100 pop. **Internet:** 66.4%.

Health: Expend.: 5.9%. **Life expect.:** 75.8 male; 81.4 female. **Births:** 13.2 per 1,000 pop. **Deaths:** 6.8 per 1,000 pop. **Infant mortality:** 11.9 per 1,000 live births. **Undernourished:** 4.9%. **HIV:** 0.1. **Education: Compulsory:** ages 6-14. **Literacy:** 97.6%.

Embassy: 2100 S St. NW 20008; 223-4942.

Website: e-albania.al

Ancient Illyria was conquered by Romans, Slavs, and Turks (15th cent.); the Turks Islamized the population. Independent Albania was proclaimed in 1912; a republic was formed in 1920. King Zog I ruled 1925-39 until Italy invaded.

Communist partisans took over in 1944 and allied Albania with the USSR but broke with the USSR in 1960 over de-Stalinization. Billions of dollars in Chinese financial assistance was cut off in 1978 when Albania attacked China's policies. Large-scale purges of officials occurred during the 1970s.

Enver Hoxha, the nation's ruler for four decades, died Apr. 11, 1985. The new regime introduced some liberalization, including measures in 1990 providing for freedom to travel abroad.

Albania's former Communists were routed in elections Mar. 1992, amid economic collapse and social unrest. Sali Berisha was elected as the first non-Communist president since WWII. Berisha's party claimed a landslide victory in disputed parliamentary elections, May 26 and June 2, 1996. Public protests over the collapse of fraudulent investment schemes in Jan. 1997 led to armed rebellion. The UN Security Council, Mar. 28, authorized a 7,000-member force to restore order. Socialists and their allies won parliamentary elections, June 29 and July 6, and international peacekeepers pulled out by Aug. 11, 1997.

During NATO's air war against Yugoslavia, Mar.-June 1999, Albania hosted some 465,000 Kosovar refugees. A pro-Berisha coalition victory in July 3, 2005, elections ended eight years of Socialist rule. Albania became a full member of NATO Apr. 1, 2009. Socialists won June 23, 2013, parliamentary elections, and Edi Rama became the new prime min. The EU granted Albania official candidate status June 27, 2014. The Socialists won June 25, 2017, elections, after a campaign in which Rama pledged reforms to reduce organized crime and political corruption, key issues in EU-membership negotiations.

Algeria

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

People: Population: 40,969,443 (33). **Age distrib.:** <15: 29.3%; 65+: 5.7%. **Growth:** 1.7%. **Migrants:** 0.6%. **Pop. density:** 44.6 per sq mi, 17.2 per sq km. **Urban:** 71.9%. **Ethnic groups:** Arab-Berber 99%. **Languages:** Arabic (official), French (lingua franca), Berber or Tamazight (official), Berber dialects. **Religions:** Muslim (official; predom. Sunni) 99%.

Geography: Total area: 919,595 sq mi, 2,381,741 sq km (10); **Land area:** 919,595 sq mi, 2,381,741 sq km. **Location:** NW Africa, from Medit. Sea into Sahara. Morocco, Western Sahara on W; Mauritania, Mali, Niger on S; Libya, Tunisia on E. **Topography:** The Tell, on the coast, comprises fertile plains 50-100 mi wide with a moderate climate and adequate rain. Two major chains of Atlas Mts., running roughly E-W and reaching 7,000 ft, enclose a dry plateau region. Below lies the Sahara. **Arable land:** 3.1%. **Capital:** Algiers, 2,675,567. **Cities:** Oran, 880,082.

Government: Type: Presidential republic. **Head of state:** Pres. Abdelaziz Bouteflika; b. 1937; in office: Apr. 28, 1999. **Head of gov.:** Prime Min. Ahmed Ouyahia; b. 1952; in office: Aug. 16, 2017. **Local divisions:** 48 provinces. **Defense budget:** \$10.6 bil. **Active troops:** 130,000.

Economy: Industries: petroleum, nat. gas, light industries, mining, electrical, petrochemical, food proc. **Chief agric.:** wheat, barley, oats, grapes, olives, citrus, fruits; sheep, cattle. **Natural resources:** petroleum, nat. gas, iron ore, phosphates, uranium, lead, zinc. **Water:** 294 cu m per capita. **Crude oil reserves:** 12.2 bil bbls. **Electricity prod.:** 60.4 bil kWh. **Labor force:** agric. 10.8%, industry 30.9%, services 58.4%. **Unemployment:** 11.2%.

Finance: Monetary unit: Dinar (DZD) (111.58 = \$1 U.S.). **GDP:** \$609.4 bil; **per capita GDP:** \$15,000; **GDP growth:** 3.6%. **Imports:** \$44.6 bil; China 15%, France 10.3%, Italy 8.8%, Spain 7.2%, Germany 6.2%. **Exports:** \$27.5 bil; Spain 17.4%, Italy 13.7%, France 12.3%, UK 7.2%, U.S. 6.4%, Netherlands 6%, Turkey 5.2%. **Tourism:** \$308 mil. **Budget:** \$66.5 bil. **Inflation:** 6.4%.

Transport: Railways: 2,469 mi. **Motor vehicles:** 149.8 per 1,000 pop. **Airports:** 64.