

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

Reviewed by Marc Kissel, Ph.D., Univ. of Notre Dame, 2016; other updates per World Almanac research.

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 provide information about the Denisovans, a population of early humans dated to perhaps c. 200 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 musical instruments—bone flutes with precisely bored holes—have been found in sites dated after 40 KYA.

Skeletal data suggests that after 60–30 KYA the number of people who survived to become grandparents increased. With more adults available to provide child care, humans began to develop more complex, multigenerational social systems. In general, as human cognitive capacities slowly expanded over the Pleistocene, a variety of behavioral modes—in toolmaking,



Cave paintings in Lascaux, France, discovered in 1940, have been carbon-dated to 11,000 to 30,000 years before the present.

WORLD EXPLORATION AND GEOGRAPHY

Early Explorers of the Western Hemisphere

Genetic evidence suggests that beginning around 15,000 years before the present (BP), humans reached the Americas by sailing along the Pacific coast or by crossing the Bering Land Bridge between Siberia and Alaska. Extant remains known as Anzick-1 (c. 12,600 BP), a male infant of the Clovis people found buried in present-day Montana; Xach'itee'aanenh T'eede Gaay (Sunrise Girl-Child) (c. 11,500 BP) of the Ancient Beringians, in Alaska; Luzia Woman (11,500 BP) in Brazil; and Kennewick Man (8,500 BP), in Washington State, belonged to some of these early arrivals. Modern Native Americans appear to be descended from peoples indigenous to N and Central Asia who split into two Native American populations—Northern and Southern—as they dispersed across the continents.

The Americas were populated mostly by hunter-gatherers and small-scale horticulturalists, but 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 New England. L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland, is the only documented settlement, with evidence of a 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 Americas 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, 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 Cavalier, 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

Height of Mount Everest

Mt. Everest, the world's highest mountain, was considered 29,002 ft when Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay became the first to scale it, in 1953. In 1954, the Surveyor General of the Republic of India set the height at 29,028 ft, plus or minus 10 ft because of snow. In 1999, a team of climbers sponsored by Boston's Museum of Science and the National Geographic Society measured the height at the summit using satellite-based technology. The new measurement, of 29,035 ft, was accepted by other authorities, including the U.S. National Imagery and Mapping Agency, but not by Nepal. In May 2019, Nepal government surveyors successfully ascended Everest in order to determine a new official height.

Climbers typically ascend Everest on its north (Tibet) or south face (Nepal). By the end of the 2018 climbing season, which runs from April through May, a total of about 5,294 climbers had made successful ascents while around 295 climbers had died in the attempt, among them 16 Sherpas killed in 2014 when falling ice set off an avalanche. A 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit Nepal Apr. 25, 2015, triggering avalanches that swept through Everest Base Camp on the south side, killing 19. The 2015 season was subsequently canceled, making it the first year since 1974 that no one reached the top of Everest. The 2019 climbing season included at least 11 deaths, raising concerns about overcrowding and the number of permits issued to inexperienced climbers.

Europe

Peak, country	Height (ft)	Peak, country	Height (ft)	Peak, country	Height (ft)
Alps					
Mont Blanc, France-Italy	15,781	Dent D'Herens, Switzerland	13,686	Schalihorn, Switzerland	13,040
Dufourspitze (highest of Monte Rosa group), Switzerland	15,203	Breithorn, It.-Switzerland	13,665	Scerscen, Switzerland	13,028
Dom, Switzerland	14,911	Bishorn, Switzerland	13,645	Eiger, Switzerland	13,025
Liskamm, It.-Switzerland	14,852	Jungfrau, Switzerland	13,642	Jagerhorn, Switzerland	13,024
Weisshorn, Switzerland	14,780	Ecrins, France	13,461	Rottalhorn, Switzerland	13,022
Taschhorn, Switzerland	14,733	Monch, Switzerland	13,448	Pyrenees	
Matterhorn, It.-Switzerland	14,692	Pollux, Switzerland	13,422	Aneto, Spain	11,168
Dent Blanche, Switzerland	14,293	Schreckhorn, Switzerland	13,379	Posets, Spain	11,073
Nadelhorn, Switzerland	14,196	Ober Gabelhorn, Switzerland	13,330	Perdido, Spain	11,007
Grand Combin, Switzerland	14,154	Gran Paradiso, Italy	13,323	Vignemale, France-Spain	10,820
Lenzpitze, Switzerland	14,088	Bernina, It.-Switzerland	13,284	Long, Spain	10,479
Finsteraarhorn, Switzerland	14,022	Fiescherhorn, Switzerland	13,283	Estats, Spain	10,304
Castor, Switzerland	13,865	Grunhorn, Switzerland	13,266	Montcalm, Spain	10,105
Zinalrothorn, Switzerland	13,849	Lauteraarhorn, Switzerland	13,261	Caucasus (Europe-Asia)	
Hohberghorn, Switzerland	13,842	Durrenhorn, Switzerland	13,238	Elbrus, Russia	18,510
Alphubel, Switzerland	13,799	Allalinhorn, Switzerland	13,213	Shkhara, Georgia	17,064
Rimpfischhorn, Switzerland	13,776	Weissmies, Switzerland	13,199	Dykh Tau, Russia	17,054
Aletschhorn, Switzerland	13,763	Lagginhorn, Switzerland	13,156	Kashtan Tau, Russia	16,877
Strahlhorn, Switzerland	13,747	Zupo, Switzerland	13,120	Janqi, Georgia	16,565
		Fletschhorn, Switzerland	13,110	Kazbek, Georgia	16,558
		Adlerhorn, Switzerland	13,081		
		Gletscherhorn, Switzerland	13,068		

Asia (Mainland)

Peak, country/region	Height (ft)	Peak, country/region	Height (ft)	Peak, country/region	Height (ft)
Everest, Nepal-Tibet	29,035	Minya Konka, China	24,900	Nunkun, Kashmir	23,410
K2 (Godwin Austen), Kashmir	28,251	Annapurna III, Nepal	24,786	Lenin Peak, Tajikistan	23,406
Kanchenjunga, India-Nepal	28,169	Kula Gangri, Bhutan-Tibet	24,784	Pyramid, India-Nepal	23,400
Lhotse I (Everest), Nepal-Tibet	27,923	Changtse (Everest), Nepal-Tibet	24,780	Api, Nepal	23,399
Makalu I, Nepal-Tibet	27,824	Muztagh Ata, Xinjiang, China	24,757	Pauhunri, India-Tibet	23,385
Lhotse II (Everest), Nepal-Tibet	27,560	Skyang Kangri, Kashmir	24,750	Trisul, India	23,360
Dhaulagiri, Nepal	26,795	Annapurna IV, Nepal	24,688	Kangto, India-Tibet	23,260
Manaslu I, Nepal	26,781	Ismail Samani Peak, Tajikistan	24,590	Nyenchen Thanglha, Tibet	23,255
Cho Oyu, Nepal-Tibet	26,750	Noshaq, Afghanistan	24,580	Trisuli, India	23,210
Nanga Parbat, Kashmir	26,660	Jongsong Peak, India-Nepal-China	24,472	Pumori, Nepal-Tibet	23,190
Annapurna I, Nepal	26,545	Jengish Chokusu, Xinjiang, China-Kyrgyzstan	24,406	Dunagiri, India	23,184
Annapurna II, Nepal	26,545	Sia Kangri, Kashmir	24,350	Lombo Kangra, Tibet	23,165
Gasherbrum, Kashmir	26,470	Haramosh Peak, Pakistan	24,270	Saipal, Nepal	23,100
Broad, Kashmir	26,400	Istoro Nal, Pakistan	24,240	Macha Pucchare, Nepal	22,958
Gosainthan, Nepal-Tibet	26,287	Kirat Chuli, India-Nepal	24,165	Khan Tengri, Kazakhstan-Kyrgyzstan-Xinjiang, China	22,949
Gyachung Kang, Nepal-Tibet	25,910	Chomo Lhari, Bhutan-Tibet	24,040	Ulugh Muztagh, Xinjiang, China-Tibet	22,877
Disteghil Sar, Kashmir	25,868	Chamlang, Nepal	24,012	Numbar, Nepal	22,817
Himalchuli, Nepal	25,801	Kabru, India-Nepal	24,002	Kanjiroba, Nepal	22,580
Nuptse (Everest), Nepal-Tibet	25,726	Alung Gangri, Tibet	24,000	Ama Dablam, Nepal	22,350
Masherbrum, Kashmir	25,660	Baltoro Kangri, Kashmir	23,990	Cho Polu, Nepal	22,093
Nanda Devi, India	25,645	Mana, India	23,860	Lingtren, Nepal-Tibet	21,972
Rakaposhi, Kashmir	25,550	Baruntse, Nepal	23,688	Khumbutse, Nepal-Tibet	21,785
Kamet, India-Tibet	25,447	Nepal Peak, India-Nepal	23,500	Hiako Gangri, Tibet	21,266
Namcha Barwa, Tibet	25,445	Amne Machin, China	23,490	Grosvenor, China	21,190
Gurla Mandhata, Tibet	25,355	Gauri Sankar, Nepal-Tibet	23,440	Damavand, Iran	18,406
Kungur, Xinjiang, China	25,325	Badrinath, India	23,420	Ararat, Turkey	16,854
Tirich Mir, Pakistan	25,230				
Makalu II, Nepal-Tibet	25,120				

Antarctica

Peak	Height (ft)	Peak	Height (ft)	Peak	Height (ft)
Vinson Massif	16,066	Sidley	13,720	Donaldson	12,894
Tyree	15,919	Ostenso	13,710	Ray	12,808
Shinn	15,750	Minto	13,668	Sellery	12,779
Gardner	15,375	Miller	13,650	Waterman	12,730
Epperly	15,100	Long Gables	13,620	Anne	12,703
Kirkpatrick	14,855	Dickerson	13,517	Press	12,566
Elizabeth	14,698	Giovinetto	13,412	Falla	12,549
Markham	14,290	Wade	13,400	Rucker	12,520
Bell	14,117	Fisher	13,386	Goldthwait	12,510
Mackellar	14,098	Fridtjof Nansen	13,350	Morris	12,500
Anderson	13,957	Wexler	13,202	Erebus	12,448
Bentley	13,934	Lister	13,200	Campbell	12,434
Kaplan	13,878	Shear	13,100	Don Pedro Christophersen	12,355
Andrew Jackson	13,750	Odishaw	13,008	Lysaght	12,326

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, 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>	1,310.5	<i>Lahnda</i>	118.8	Tamil	75.0
Spanish	460.1	Marathi	83.1	Urdu	68.6
English	379.0	Telugu	82.0	Javanese	68.3
Hindi	341.2	<i>Malay</i>	80.3	Italian	64.8
<i>Arabic</i>	318.5	Turkish	79.4	<i>Persian</i>	61.8
Bengali	228.3	Korean	77.3	Gujarati	56.4
Portuguese	220.8	French	77.2	Bhojpuri	52.2
Russian	153.7	German, Standard	76.1	Hausa	43.9
Japanese	128.2	Vietnamese	76.0		

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	Speakers (mil)	Primary country	Language	Countries	Speakers (mil)
Afghanistan	Pashto, Southern	4	10.9	Ethiopia (cont.)	Oromo, West Central	1	8.9
	Dari	3	9.0		Tigrigna	3	7.5
	Uzbek, Southern	2	4.2		Oromo, Eastern	1	4.5
Albania	<i>Albanian</i>	20	5.9		Oromo, Borana-Arsi-Guji	3	3.9
Algeria	Arabic, Algerian Spoken	2	29.4		Sidamo	1	3.0
	Kabyle	1	5.6	Finland	Finnish	4	5.5
Angola	Umbundu	1	6.0	France	French	54	77.2
Armenia	Armenian	4	3.8	Georgia	Georgian	3	3.9
Austria	Bavarian	4	14.4	Germany	German, Standard	28	76.1
Azerbaijan	Azerbaijani, North	4	9.2	Ghana	Akan	1	8.2
Bangladesh	Bengali	4	228.3		Ghanaian Pidgin English	1	5.0
	Chittagonian	1	13.0		Éwé	2	4.2
	Rangpuri	2	10.5	Greece	Greek	9	13.1
	Sylheti	2	10.3	Guinea	<i>Mandingo</i>	7	7.4
Belarus	Belarusian	4	2.6		Pular	5	5.4
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnian	6	2.6	Haiti	Maninkakan, Eastern	3	3.6
Botswana	Setswana	4	5.8		Haitian Creole	2	7.6
Brazil	Hunsrik	1	3.0	Hungary	Hungarian	9	12.6
Bulgaria	Bulgarian	8	8.1	India	Hindi	4	341.2
Burkina Faso	Mòoré	3	7.8		Marathi	1	83.1
Burundi	Rundi	1	10.8		Telugu	2	82.0
Cambodia	Khmer	2	16.6		Tamil	7	75.0
China	<i>Chinese</i>	39	1,310.5		Gujarati	7	56.4
	Chinese, Mandarin	13	917.9		Bhojpuri	3	52.2
	Chinese, Wu	1	81.4		Kannada	1	43.6
	Chinese, Yue	13	73.1		Malayalam	2	37.1
	Chinese, Min Nan	10	50.1		<i>Oriya</i>	6	37.1
	Chinese, Hakka	13	48.2		Odia	1	34.5
	Chinese, Jinyu	1	46.9		Maithili	2	33.9
	Chinese, Xiang	1	37.3		Punjabi, Eastern	3	32.6
	Chinese, Gan	1	22.1		Magahi	2	20.7
	<i>Zhuang</i>	2	14.9		<i>Marwari</i>	3	20.6
	Chinese, Min Bei	2	11.0		Chhattisgarhi	1	16.3
	Uyghur	4	10.4		<i>Rajasthani</i>	3	16.1
	Chinese, Min Dong	6	10.3		Assamese	1	15.3
	Chinese, Huizhou	1	4.6		Deccan	1	12.8
	Chinese, Min Zhong	1	3.5		Haryanvi	1	9.8
	Mongolian, Peripheral	2	3.4		Kanauji	1	9.5
	Bouyei	3	2.7		Marwari	2	7.9
	Chinese, Pu-Xian	3	2.6		Santhali	3	7.6
Congo, Dem. Rep. of the	Luba-Kasai	2	6.4		Varhadi-Nagpuri	1	7.0
	<i>Kongo</i>	3	5.7		Kashmiri	2	6.9
	Koongo	3	5.0		<i>Konkani</i>	5	5.8
	Kituba	1	4.2		Bundeli	1	5.6
Côte d'Ivoire	Baoulé	1	4.7		Malvi	1	5.4
Croatia	Croatian	9	5.5		Sadri	2	5.1
Czechia	Czech	8	10.7		Lambadi	1	5.1
Denmark	Danish	5	5.6		Awadhi	2	4.4
Egypt	Arabic, Egyptian Spoken	1	64.6		Mewari	1	4.2
	Arabic, Sa'idi Spoken	1	22.4		Indian Sign Language	2	4.1
Ethiopia	Amharic	2	21.9		Merwari	1	3.9
	<i>Oromo</i>	3	17.5		<i>Dogri</i>	1	3.7
					Konkani, Goan	2	3.7
					Wagdi	1	3.4

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; to 6 bil in 1999; and to 7 bil in 2011.

The UN put the world population in mid-2019 at 7.7 bil. It projects that the population will reach 8 bil by 2023. The UN expects that between 2019 and 2050, nine countries will account for more than half the increase in the world population (in descending order): India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Dem. Rep. of the Congo, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Indonesia, Egypt, and the U.S.

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

2023
8 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, 2019		2025 ¹
	(sq mi)	(sq km)		1950	1975	2000	2019	2019	2025 ¹	
Asia	11,921,263	30,875,930	21.2	1,437,565,483	2,412,701,231	3,686,111,611	4,489,141,849	59.2	4,692,549,820	
Africa	11,494,808	29,771,416	20.4	229,058,740	417,121,767	807,188,123	1,294,619,812	17.1	1,487,078,163	
Europe ²	8,559,255	22,168,368	15.2	547,140,324	678,635,710	730,426,856	748,874,453	9.9	749,663,317	
N. America	7,879,783	20,408,544	14.0	165,945,185	238,783,486	313,388,332	368,154,903	4.9	385,028,748	
Latin America ³	7,723,205	20,003,009	13.7	165,442,794	320,616,913	518,613,703	642,473,110	8.5	674,582,932	
Oceania	3,277,072	8,487,577	5.8	12,476,128	21,114,852	30,420,838	38,842,818	0.5	41,240,203	
Antarctica ⁴	5,482,651	14,200,000	9.7	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
World	56,338,036	145,914,844	100.0	2,557,628,654	4,088,973,959	6,084,149,463	7,582,106,945	100.0	8,030,143,183	

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. 110,039 sq mi are ice free.

Population of the World's Largest Urban Areas

Source: *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision*, Dept. of Economic and Social Affairs, UN Population Division

Population figures are midyear estimates or projections for urban agglomerations, i.e., whole metropolitan areas comprising an urban center and surrounding settlements of lower density. In 2019, 55.7% of the world's population lived in an urban area. That proportion is expected to increase as the population grows. Data may differ from figures elsewhere in *The World Almanac*. MMA = Major Metropolitan Area.

(ranked by mid-2019 population)

Rank	Urban area, country	Population (thous.)				Rate of change (%)			Pop. of urban area as % of country's 2019 pop.
		1975	2000	2019	2035	1975-2000	2000-19	2019-35	
1.	Tokyo, Japan	26,615	34,450	37,435	36,014	29.4%	8.7%	-3.8%	29.5%
2.	Delhi, India	4,436	15,692	29,399	43,345	253.7	87.4	47.4	2.1
3.	Shanghai, China	5,658	14,247	26,317	34,341	151.8	84.7	30.5	1.9
4.	São Paulo, Brazil	9,614	17,014	21,847	24,490	77.0	28.4	12.1	10.3
5.	Mexico City, Mexico	10,734	18,457	21,672	25,415	72.0	17.4	17.3	16.4
6.	Cairo, Egypt	6,450	13,626	20,485	28,504	111.3	50.3	39.1	20.2
7.	Dhaka, Bangladesh	2,221	10,285	20,284	31,234	363.1	97.2	54.0	12.1
8.	Mumbai, India	7,685	16,147	20,185	27,343	110.1	25.0	35.5	1.5
9.	Beijing, China	4,828	10,285	20,035	25,366	113.0	94.8	26.6	1.4
10.	Kinki MMA (Osaka), Japan	16,298	18,660	19,223	18,346	14.5	3.0	-4.6	15.2
11.	New York, NY-Newark, NJ, U.S.	15,880	17,813	18,805	20,817	12.2	5.6	10.7	5.7
12.	Karachi, Pakistan	3,989	9,825	15,741	23,128	146.3	60.2	46.9	7.7
13.	Chongqing, China	2,545	7,863	15,354	20,531	209.0	95.3	33.7	1.1
14.	Buenos Aires, Argentina	9,143	12,504	15,057	17,128	36.8	20.4	13.8	33.4
15.	Istanbul, Turkey	3,600	8,744	14,968	17,986	142.9	71.2	20.2	18.0
16.	Kolkata (Calcutta), India	8,166	13,097	14,755	19,564	60.4	12.7	32.6	1.1
17.	Lagos, Nigeria	1,890	7,281	13,904	24,419	285.3	91.0	75.6	6.9
18.	Kinshasa, Dem. Rep. of Congo	1,482	6,140	13,743	26,682	314.4	123.8	94.1	15.8
19.	Manila, Philippines	4,999	9,958	13,699	18,649	99.2	37.6	36.1	12.7
20.	Tianjin, China	3,527	6,989	13,396	16,446	98.1	91.7	22.8	0.9
21.	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	7,733	11,307	13,374	14,810	46.2	18.3	10.7	6.3
22.	Guangzhou, Guangdong, China	1,698	7,812	12,968	16,741	360.0	66.0	29.1	0.9
23.	Moscow, Russia	7,623	10,005	12,476	12,823	31.2	24.7	2.8	8.7
24.	Los Angeles-Long Beach- Santa Ana, CA, U.S.	8,926	11,798	12,448	13,778	32.2	5.5	10.7	3.8
25.	Lahore, Pakistan	2,399	5,576	12,188	19,117	132.5	118.6	56.8	6.0
26.	Shenzhen, China	36	6,550	12,129	15,185	18,327.5	85.2	25.2	0.9
27.	Bangalore, India	2,111	5,581	11,883	18,066	164.4	112.9	52.0	0.9
28.	Paris, France	8,558	9,737	10,958	12,065	13.8	12.5	10.1	16.7
29.	Bogotá, Colombia	3,040	6,329	10,779	12,753	108.2	70.3	18.3	21.6
30.	Chennai (Madras), India	3,594	6,593	10,711	15,376	83.5	62.5	43.5	0.8

Foreign Development Aid Donors, 2016-18

Source: Development Assistance Committee (DAC), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Listed below is the amount of official development assistance (ODA)—in the form of grants or loans—each DAC member country disbursed in a given year to developing countries. The numbers are net flows, or amounts disbursed less repayments on earlier loans. Both bilateral ODA (made directly to an aid recipient) and multilateral ODA (made to an agency like the World Bank) are included.

(ranked by size of ODA as % of 2017 gross national income [GNI]; 2018 figures are prelim.)

Rank	Donor	ODA as % of GNI	ODA in mil of current U.S. dollars			Rank	Donor	ODA as % of GNI	ODA in mil of current U.S. dollars		
		2017	2016	2017	2018			2017	2016	2017	2018
1.	Sweden	1.02%	\$4,893.74	\$5,563.25	\$5,843.20	18.	New Zealand	0.23%	\$446.85	\$449.75	\$556.04
2.	Luxembourg	1.00	391.04	424.18	473.04	19.	Japan	0.23	10,416.80	11,462.65	10,063.58
3.	Norway	0.99	4,380.08	4,124.98	4,257.22	20.	Spain	0.19	4,223.67	2,560.30	2,580.84
4.	Denmark	0.74	2,369.19	2,448.02	2,568.43	21.	Portugal	0.18	343.07	380.74	341.37
5.	UK	0.70	18,052.80	18,103.40	19,454.78	22.	United States	0.18	34,420.98	34,731.98	33,740.94
6.	Germany	0.67	24,735.69	25,005.06	25,886.46	23.	Slovenia	0.16	81.30	75.79	83.30
7.	Netherlands	0.60	4,966.26	4,958.45	5,616.35	24.	Greece	0.16	368.53	313.58	282.26
8.	Switzerland	0.46	3,582.49	3,138.06	3,090.50	25.	Czechia	0.15	260.24	304.12	322.57
9.	Belgium	0.45	2,300.16	2,196.17	2,361.02	26.	South Korea	0.14	2,246.16	2,201.35	2,417.14
10.	France	0.43	9,621.67	11,330.86	12,504.25	27.	Poland	0.13	662.95	679.46	753.69
11.	Finland	0.42	1,059.61	1,083.79	982.76	28.	Slovakia	0.13	106.01	119.20	133.32
12.	Ireland	0.32	802.59	838.03	928.22	29.	Hungary	0.11	199.12	148.68	190.49
13.	Italy	0.30	5,087.39	5,858.03	4,900.10		Total DAC countries	0.31	144,920.55	147,160.27	149,322.84
14.	Austria	0.30	1,635.48	1,251.27	1,175.18		G7 countries¹	0.30	106,265.77	110,796.87	111,166.51
15.	Iceland	0.28	58.72	68.27	80.81		EU institutions	NA	17,106.40	16,440.35	17,131.32
16.	Canada	0.26	3,930.44	4,304.89	4,616.40		Total non-DAC countries²	NA	15,393.25	15,769.68	13,677.53
17.	Australia	0.23	3,277.52	3,035.96	3,118.58						

NA = Not applicable/available. (1) Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, and the U.S. (2) Countries not shown here.

Recipients of U.S. Official Development Assistance, 2016-17

Source: Development Assistance Committee (DAC), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

(net flows of official development assistance, or amounts disbursed less repayments on earlier loans, in mil of current U.S. dollars; ranked by 2017 numbers)

Rank	Country/territory	2016	2017	Rank	Country/territory	2016	2017
1.	Afghanistan	\$1,375.76	\$1,215.11	12.	Zambia	\$367.97	\$495.15
2.	Ethiopia	874.89	1,026.68	13.	Pakistan	605.31	492.24
3.	Jordan	873.98	894.96	14.	Malawi	370.22	446.90
4.	South Sudan	543.54	886.04	15.	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	337.18	442.08
5.	Kenya	805.72	855.41	16.	Yemen	299.44	439.42
6.	Nigeria	529.58	726.78	17.	Haiti	424.70	416.79
7.	Uganda	538.71	639.98	18.	Iraq	415.11	412.06
8.	Syria	637.28	627.38	19.	Indonesia	216.57	356.51
9.	Tanzania	500.01	597.02	20.	West Bank and Gaza Strip	650.37	332.64
10.	South Africa	489.87	596.05		Total developing countries	28,544.15	30,006.21
11.	Mozambique	389.41	503.53				

Nuclear Powers of the World

As of Sept. 2019, eight countries were acknowledged nuclear weapons states: the **U.S., UK, France, China, India, Pakistan, Russia, and North Korea. Israel** was presumed to have an arsenal.

All of the more than 40 nations with the knowledge or technology to produce nuclear weapons have signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) with the exception of Israel, India, and Pakistan. After expelling Intl. Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors in Dec. 2002, North Korea announced on Jan. 10, 2003, its withdrawal from the NPT effective the following day.

Iran had argued for the right to pursue the peaceful application of nuclear technology as an NPT signatory, but the IAEA maintained the country had violated the NPT by withholding information. In July 2015, the so-called P5+1 (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany) signed a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with Iran, which agreed to curb its ability to enrich uranium as well as reduce its current stockpile of the material. Nuclear-related sanctions on

Iran were lifted on Jan. 16, 2016 (“Implementation Day”) after the IAEA certified the country had implemented key measures from the JCPOA. The U.S., under Pres. Donald Trump, pulled out of the JCPOA on May 8, 2018, and reimposed sanctions Nov. 5. The other JCPOA states maintained their commitment to the deal. In early July 2019, Iran resumed enriching uranium, increasing its stockpile beyond what the deal allowed and exceeding the agreed-upon enrichment level.

North Korea conducted six nuclear tests between 2006 and Sept. 2017. In July 2017, it held two intercontinental ballistic missile tests, which appeared to indicate North Korean missiles were capable of reaching the U.S. In response, the UN Security Council unanimously approved new sanctions on North Korea. The country resumed missile testing in May 2019, conducting 10 test events by Sept. 11, 2019. Although Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un met in June 2018 and in Feb. and June of 2019, no formal agreement on denuclearization was reached. There also were three inter-Korean summits in 2018.

Estimated Numbers of Nuclear Weapons by Country, 1945-2019

Source: *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*; Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; Federation of American Scientists (FAS); Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC); Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI); Stockholm Intl. Peace Research Inst. (SIPRI)

Year	United States	USSR/Russia	United Kingdom	France	China	Israel ¹	India	Pakistan	Total ²
1945	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
1950	369	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	374
1960	20,434	1,605	30	—	—	—	—	—	22,069
1970	26,662	11,643	280	36	75	8	—	—	38,696
1980	24,304	30,062	350	250	280	31	—	—	55,246
1990	21,004	37,000	300	505	430	53	—	—	59,239
2000	10,577	21,000	185	470	400	72	—	—	32,632
2010	9,400	12,300	225	300	240	60-80	60-80	70-90	22,400
2019 ³	6,185	6,500	215	300	290	80	130-140	140-150	13,890

(1) Israel is widely presumed to have a nuclear stockpile although it has never confirmed nor denied its nuclear status. (2) Numbers may not add up to totals due to rounding and include deployed warheads, those in reserve or in a military stockpile, and retired warheads awaiting dismantlement. (3) As of July. North Korea was estimated to have 10-20 assembled warheads, although operational status was difficult to assess.

NATIONS OF THE WORLD

As of mid-2019, 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; Wards Intelligence, a div. of Informa; The World Bank; *The World Factbook*, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA); Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., *World Religion Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, July 2019) and Todd M. Johnson and Gina A. Zurlo, eds., *World Christian Database* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, Aug. 2019); 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-2019 ests. **Growth** gives the avg. annual percent change in the pop. resulting from **births** and **deaths** at midyear 2019 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 mid-2017. Percent of total pop. living in **urban** areas, as defined by each country, are projections for mid-2019. **Ethnic groups** are given in descending order of size; data are most recent available. **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-2018 or mid-2019. **Defense budget** is for 2018, **active troops** for 2019. Selected **industries** are ranked by descending value of annual output. Selected **chief agric.** products are listed in descending order of importance. Total renewable **water** resources per inhabitant is for 2017. **Crude oil reserves** are as of Jan. 1, 2019; countries without this entry lack reserves. **Electricity prod.** indicates net, not gross, generated in 2016. **Labor force** percentages are latest available; **unemployment** (percentage of total labor force age 15 and older currently available for and seeking work) are 2018 ests. **Monetary unit** exchange rate is as of Sept. 2019. **GDP** and **per capita GDP**, 2018 ests., are based on purchasing power parity exchange rates; **GDP growth** is annual. Value of **imports** and **exports**, calculated on an exchange rate basis, are from 2017; trade partners are listed in descending order of importance by percentage of total dollar value. **Tourism** is 2017 or 2018 provisional receipts from intl. visitors; data not available for all countries. **Budget** calculated on an exchange rate basis, not purchasing power parity terms, is 2017 expenditures. **Inflation** is measured by the percent change in the consumer price index (or avg. consumer cost for certain goods and services) between 2017 and 2018. 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 2018. The number of **airports** with paved, usable runways are latest available. Number of fixed-**telephone** subscriptions and **mobile**-cellular telephone subscriptions offering voice communications are for 2018. Percentage of pop. accessing the **internet**, regardless of device used, and active **mobile-broadband** subscriptions are for 2017. Current health **expend.** (both government and private) is given as a percentage of GDP in 2016. **Life expect.** is in avg. number of years at birth for persons born in 2019. **Infant mortality** measures the probability of a child dying between birth and exact age 1 in 2019. **Undernourished**, or the prevalence of undernourishment, is the estimated proportion of the population in 2016-18 that lacks enough dietary energy for a healthy, active life. **HIV** prevalence is the percentage of a country's pop. of 15- to 49-year-olds living with HIV in 2018. **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, 2019.

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

Afghanistan

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

People: **Population:** 35,780,458 (39). **Age distrib.:** <15: 40.8%; 65+: 2.6%. **Growth:** 2.4%. **Migrants:** 0.4%. **Pop. density:** 142.1 per sq mi, 54.9 per sq km. **Urban:** 25.8%. **Ethnic groups:** Pashtun, Tajik, Hazara, Uzbek, smaller numbers of 10 other constitutionally recognized ethnic groups; Kyrgyz. **Languages:** Afghan Persian or Dari, Pashto (both official); Uzbek, English, Turkmen, Urdu. **Religions:** Muslim 99.9% (Sunni [official] 89%, Shia 11%).

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. Dry climate with extreme temperatures; large desert regions. **Arable land:** 11.8%. **Capital:** Kabul, 4,114,030.

Government: **Type:** Presidential Islamic republic. **Head of state and govt.:** 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:** \$2.1 bil. **Active troops:** 174,300.

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:** 1,839 cu m per capita. **Electricity prod.:** 1.2 bil kWh. **Labor force:** agric. 38.6%, industry 17.6%, services 43.8%. **Unemployment:** 1.5%.

Finance: **Monetary unit:** Afghani (AFN) (77.97 = \$1 U.S.). **GDP:** \$72.5 bil; **per capita GDP:** \$1,952; **GDP growth:** 1%. **Imports:** \$7.6 bil; China 21%, Iran 20.5%, Pakistan 11.8%, Kazakhstan 11%, Uzbekistan 6.8%, Malaysia 5.3%. **Exports:** \$784 mil (not incl. illicit trade); India 56.5%, Pakistan 29.6%. **Tourism:** \$2 mil. **Budget:** \$5.3 bil. **Inflation** (2016-17): 5%.

Transport: **Motor vehicles:** 46.6 per 1,000 pop. **Airports:** 25. **Communications:** **Telephone:** 0.3 per 100 pop. **Mobile:** 59.1 per 100 pop. **Broadband:** 16 per 100 pop. **Internet:** 13.5%.

Health: **Expend.:** 10.2%. **Life expect.:** 51.0 male; 54.0 female. **Births:** 37.1 per 1,000 pop. **Deaths:** 12.9 per 1,000 pop. **Infant mortality:** 106.3 per 1,000 live births. **Undernourished:** 29.8%. **HIV:** <0.1%.

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

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

Website: 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. A new constitution, approved in Jan. 2004, included protections for women's rights denied under Taliban rule. Karzai won the Oct. 9, 2004, presidential election.

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 first-round presidential election Aug. 20, 2009. After a Nov. runoff election was canceled when Karzai's lone opponent dropped out, Karzai was sworn in for a second term Nov. 19.

Ending a decade-long manhunt, U.S. commandos killed bin Laden shortly after midnight May 2, 2011, in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

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, 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-2019, there were more than 17,000 RSM troops in Afghanistan, of which almost 8,500 were from the U.S.; including other counterterrorism forces, total U.S. troop strength was about 14,000.

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 2015-19, 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 Omar's successor, 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. The U.S. used a 21,600-lb bomb, Apr. 13, 2017, against an ISIS cave complex—the most powerful non-nuclear bomb ever used by the U.S. The U.S. special inspector general for Afghanistan reconstruction estimated that, in late 2018, the government effectively controlled about 54% of the country's districts; insurgent groups controlled about 12% and contested 34%.

Combat, including airstrikes, and terrorist attacks caused high civilian casualties. The UN reported 17,986 conflict-related civilian deaths, 2014-18, and a further 1,366, Jan.-June 2019. Conflict in 2019 had internally displaced about 283,000 people by late Sept. About 2.5 mil refugees from decades of Afghanistan violence were in Pakistan as of 2016. Hundreds of thousands subsequently returned, amid accusations that Pakistan forced many of them; about 1.4 mil remained in Pakistan as of mid-Sept. 2019.

U.S. and Taliban officials held several rounds of direct talks in Qatar in 2019; issues reportedly included a U.S. troop drawdown and a Taliban anti-terrorism pledge. U.S. Pres. Donald Trump said, Sept. 7, 2019, that talks were suspended. Amid escalating violence, Afghanistan held a presidential election, Sept. 28. Ghani and Abdullah both claimed victory, Sept. 30, 2019, but official vote-counting was expected to continue for weeks.

Albania Republic of Albania

People: Population: 3,066,126 (134). **Age distrib.:** <15: 17.7%; 65+: 12.6%. **Growth:** 0.3%. **Migrants:** 1.8%. **Pop. density:** 289.8 per sq mi, 111.9 per sq km. **Urban:** 61.2%. **Ethnic groups:** Albanian 82.6%. **Languages:** Albanian (official). **Religions:** Muslim 60.2% (Sunni 56%, Shia 4%), Christian 36.8% (Orthodox 17.9%, Catholic 17.4%).

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:** 22.6%. **Capital:** Tirana, 484,624.

Government: Type: Parliamentary republic. **Head of state:** Pres. Ilir Meta; b. 1969; in office: July 24, 2017. **Head of govt.:** Prime Min. Edi Rama; b. 1964; in office: Sept. 15, 2013. **Local divisions:** 12 counties. **Defense budget:** \$131 mil. **Active troops:** 8,000.

Economy: Industries: food, footwear, apparel, clothing, lumber. **Chief agric.:** wheat, corn, potatoes, vegetables, fruits, olives and olive oil, grapes; meat, dairy prods. **Natural resources:** petroleum, nat. gas, coal, bauxite, chromite, copper, iron ore, nickel, salt, timber, hydropower. **Water:** 10,307 cu m per capita. **Crude oil reserves:** 168.3 mil bbls. **Electricity prod.:** 7.1 bil kWh. **Labor force:** agric. 38%, industry 19.3%, services 42.7%. **Unemployment:** 13.9%.

Finance: Monetary unit: Lek (ALL) (111.11 = \$1 U.S.). **GDP** (2017): \$37.2 bil (unreported output may be as large as 50% of official GDP); **per capita GDP** (2017): \$12,930; **GDP growth:** 4%. **Imports:** \$4.1 bil; Italy 28.5%, Turkey 8.1%, Germany 8%, Greece 8%, China 7.9%. **Exports:** \$960.9 mil; Italy 53.4%, Kosovo 7.7%, Spain 5.6%. **Tourism:** \$2.2 bil. **Budget:** \$3.8 bil. **Inflation:** 2%.

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

Communications: Telephone: 8.6 per 100 pop. **Mobile:** 94.2 per 100 pop. **Broadband:** 69.3 per 100 pop. **Internet:** 71.8%.

Health: Expend.: 6.7%. **Life expect.:** 76.1 male; 81.7 female. **Births:** 13.1 per 1,000 pop. **Deaths:** 7 per 1,000 pop. **Infant mortality:** 11.2 per 1,000 live births. **Undernourished:** 6.2%. **HIV:** NA.

Education: Compulsory; ages 6-14. **Literacy:** 97.6%.

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

Website: www.kryeministria.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 for EU-membership negotiations.

Algeria

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

People: Population: 42,325,923 (34). **Age distrib.:** <15: 29.6%; 65+: 6%. **Growth:** 1.6%. **Migrants:** 0.6%. **Pop. density:** 46 per sq mi, 17.8 per sq km. **Urban:** 73.2%. **Ethnic groups:** Arab-Berber 99%. **Languages:** Arabic (official), French (lingua franca), Berber or Tamazight (official), Berber dialects. **Religions:** Muslim 98.2% (Sunni [official] 98%).

Geography: Total area: 919,595 sq mi, 2,381,740 sq km (10); **Land area:** 919,595 sq mi, 2,381,740 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. The Sahara lies below. **Arable land:** 3.1%. **Capital:** Algiers, 2,729,325. **Cities:** Oran, 889,644.

Government: Type: Presidential republic. **Head of state:** Interim Pres. Abdelkader Bensalah; b. 1959; in office: Apr. 9, 2019. **Head of govt.:** Prime Min. Noureddine Bedoui; b. 1959; in office: Mar. 11, 2019. **Local divisions:** 48 provinces. **Defense budget:** \$9.9 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:** 282 cu m per capita. **Crude oil reserves:** 12.2 bil bbls. **Electricity prod.:** 66.9 bil kWh. **Labor force:** agric. 9.3%, industry 30.7%, services 60%. **Unemployment:** 12.2%.

Finance: Monetary unit: Dinar (DZD) (120.83 = \$1 U.S.). **GDP:** \$659.7 bil; **per capita GDP:** \$15,622; **GDP growth:** 2.1%. **Imports:** \$50 bil; China 18.2%, France 9.1%, Italy 8%, Germany 7%, Spain 6.9%. **Exports:** \$33.2 bil; Italy 17.4%, Spain 13%, France 11.9%, U.S. 9.4%, Brazil 6.2%, Netherlands 5.5%. **Tourism:** \$141 mil. **Budget:** \$70.7 bil. **Inflation:** 4.3%.

Transport: Railways: 2,469 mi. **Motor vehicles:** 139.4 per 1,000 pop. **Airports:** 64.

Communications: Telephone: 9.8 per 100 pop. **Mobile:** 121.9 per 100 pop. **Broadband:** 78.4 per 100 pop. **Internet** (2018): 59.6%.

Health: Expend.: 6.6%. **Life expect.:** 75.9 male; 78.9 female. **Births:** 20.7 per 1,000 pop. **Deaths:** 4.3 per 1,000 pop. **Infant**