



Albania

Albania is a relatively small country, slightly smaller than the size of Maryland. It is a hilly and mountainous country that is made up of 43% agricultural land. It has a mild climate with wet, cold winters and hot, dry summers. There is a population of about three million people. The majority of the population is focused in the west towards the coast. A small amount more of the population is women than men. The population has slowly grown since 1970, and is expected to keep growing at a steady rate. There is very little immigration, and it is not a huge factor for population growth.

In 1990 Albania ended 46 years of communist rule and established a multi-party democracy. They have since transferred their government to a parliamentary republic, all the time struggling with unemployment, high crime rates, high powered crime networks, and corruption.

Albania has a relatively weak open market economy that is declining. The agricultural sector is what keeps the economy up for the most part. Albania lacks certain modern equipment utilized by most modern countries. Their main priority is improving roads and railroads. Their main import is machinery in attempt to modernize their technology.

The majority of the population in Albania is of the Muslim religion. The Albanian people can be geographically divided into two groups by North and South based on dialect and culture. Northern Albanians are known as Ghegs or Gegs and Southern Albanians, Tosks. The North and South are divided by the Shkumbin River.