

Bulgaria



Key Events:

- 1971: Zhikov is president
- 1984: End of Communist era
- 1989: Changes in the Soviet Union inspired demands for democratisation
- 1990: Crisis w/Economics. Communist party reinvents and wins free Parliamentary elections. Peter Mladenov resigns
- 1991: New Constitution--Bulgaria is a parliamentary republic, freedom
- 2004: Admitted to Nato in March
- 2007: Romania and Bulgaria join the European Union
- 2013: EU freedom of movement
- 2014: Banking crisis
- 2015: they say they will extend a fence alongside Turkey by 80 km, to stop illegal immigrants
- 2016: Socialist Rumen Radev is elected and triggers the resignation of Prime Minister Boyko Borisov

Economics:

- Bulgaria is a former communist country whose economy was controlled by the government
- They had a 6% annual growth from 2004 to 2008
- Bank lending, consumption, and foreign direct investment contributed to their success
- But since World War II they went through the change of being communist regime to a parliamentary republic (1991)
- This had a lasting effect on the society of Bulgaria

Advantages:

- Because of the regime their finance improved
- From beginning a program, to have private ownership, also freeing prices to become more affordable, and restructuring credit and banking
- Many other factors including the debt of the people is the lowest in the region
- Because of the government size, a person's income and corporate tax rates are 10%

Disadvantages:

- Property rights are not protected very well
- The Judicial System needs to gain the public's trust because they are not very happy with the judicial system
- There still needs to be improvement in the government so there can be long term development for the economy that the people will like
- Also the Government and the business community do not get along very well
- They rely on trade for the majority of their money, yet they import more goods than they export
- Economic growth and outside investments have been hindered because of weak judiciary and presence of organized crime.

Financial Status:

- As of 2016 Bulgaria's financial status is \$400 million

Cultural and Social:

- Religions: 82.6% belong to the Bulgarian (Eastern) Orthodox Church
- Many different ethnicities live in Bulgaria including; Roman Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Uniate Catholic, and Gregorian- Armenians
- Folklore and stories are a major part of life where traditions and legends are passed down through generations



- It is also captured in rituals, music, dances, costumes, poetic songs and jewelry
- Bread is one of the important staples of food.
- Dairy products are also important, they have home cooked meal which include: soups, grilled meats, stews, salads, etc
- Formed during the Middle Ages; they had a couple problems with some neighboring states like Macedonia because they see it as a Bulgarian territory
- Opreticus and Spartacus were born in Bulgaria

Physical Structure:

- Bulgaria is 110,879 sq km
- It is slightly larger than Tennessee
- Land: 108,489 sq km and that is mostly made up of mountains and lowlands in the north and southeast
- Water: 2,390 sq km
- Population: 7,144,653 people
- The population in 1970 was 8,514,883 people; since then the population has decreased 1,370,230 people.
- This is significant because that is a large amount of people to lose. It affects the country, the work rate, population growth, and the economy growth could be affected.
- This could be a number of things: birth decline, the death rate being high, or immigration decreasing
- Current birth rate: 8.8 out of 1,000 (212 in comparison to the world)
- Current death rate: 14.5 out of 1,000 (2 in comparison to the world)
- Current immigration rate: -0.3 out of 1,000 (120 in comparison to the world)



Political Structure:

- Bulgaria's current leader is Rumen Radev, former air force commander, who won 59.6% of the vote in the second round.
- Rumen Radev came to power while he was running in support of the opposition Bulgarian Socialist Party, and during that time the majority voted for him to become president during second round elections on November 13.
- Bulgaria's current government is a parliamentary republic, which is when the people vote on the representatives and then the representatives vote on the cabinet and the prime minister.
- The president occupies the executive position, constitution was ratified in 1991
- They have an executive, legislative, and judicial branch like the U.S
- They got independence in 1878 from the Ottoman Empire but complete independence in 1908
- Bulgaria was part of the communist party till 1989 when Zhivkov resigned



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