

Economics

- Sweden's economy consists of a strong capitalistic approach while also utilizing extensive welfare benefits
- They are a member of the European union but have denied the acceptance of the euro as they believe it will take away from their ability to regulate their own economy and sovereignty
- The country has experienced minimal economic growth as of 2013 and currently suffer from threats of deflation
- A GDP of \$473.4 billion combined with a 4.1% growth rate demonstrates a strong economy alongside a roughly 60,000 USD per person



Key events

- Used to be a military powerhouse in the 1700's but has demilitarized over the years and has not only enforced neutrality in both world wars but has not participated in a war in 200 years
- The Swedish parliament just recently in 2010 abolished compulsory military service and solely rely on volunteers but will draft when diar
- In 1971 the parliament breaks away from old forms of government and converts to unicameral
- In 1995 Sweden accepts membership into the European Union increasing its role in the globalization of its land but still denies the Euro to this day
- In 1999 the Church of Sweden is separated from the state and becomes an independent organization
- In 2009 the right of same sex marriage is granted to its citizens



Political structure

- The government type consists of a parliamentary constitutional monarchy. This means government leaders are elected into their positions and control the country but loyalty is still sworn to the royal family
- **Executive** :The chief of state similar to a king is King Carl XVI who has ruled since 1973 while the head of government is Prime Minister Stefan LOFVEN
- **Legislative** : Consists of a unicameral parliament known as the Riksdag (349 seats) and the council is made up of proportional representation based on population of each county
- **Judicial** : Highest court system is referred to as the Supreme Court of Sweden which is made of 16 seats who are selected by 9 member nominating body



Cultural and social aspects


- Most of Sweden's population is Lutheran, 87% to be exact, and other religions consist of Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Baptist, Muslim, Jewish, and Buddhist.
- Swede's are egalitarian in nature, humble and find boasting completely unacceptable.
- Swede's speak softly and calmly and rare to see them show anger, they rarely take hospitality or kindness for granted and failing to thank for generosity is perceived negatively.
- Many years ago Swede's preserved their food with salt for the long winter. Through modern-day technology Swede's eliminated the need to preserve using those methods, however they continue to salt and dehydrate their foods especially fish and other meats.



Physical structure

- Sweden is approximately 450,295 sq km about 410,000 sq km being land and around 40,000 sq km being water.
- The country is mostly flat or gently rolling lowlands, mountains in the west.
- There are p,880,604 people in Sweden as of 2016 and most live in the south where it is more mild.
- The population has increased over the years with rising birth rates.
- Sweden is located in Northern Europe bordering the Baltic Sea, Gulf of Bothnia, and Skagerrak, in between Finland and Norway.





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