



FRANCE

French Republic

Type of Government

Republic

Government Structure

Executive -

The Chief of State is the President, and the Head of Government is the Prime Minister. The President is elected by popular vote for a five-year term. The President appoints the Prime Minister.

Legislative -

The bicameral Parliament consists of the Senate (348 seats, elected by an electoral college) and the National Assembly (577 seats, elected by popular vote).

Judicial -

The highest court is the Supreme Court of Appeals. Its judges are appointed by the President, with nominations by the Supreme Council of the Judiciary.

Constitution

September 28, 1958. Has been amended many times.

The Flag

The flag has three vertical blue, white, and red bands. It is known as the French Tricolor. The origin of the flag dates from 1790 and the French Revolution, when the "ancient French color" of white was combined with the blue and red colors of the Parisian militia.



Coat of Arms

Capital: Paris

Independence: No official date of independence.

Population: 66,553,766(rank = 22)

GDP per capita: \$41,200 (rank = 39)

Ethnicity: Celtic/Latin/Frankish, and many others

Religion: Christian (mainly Roman Catholic) 65%, Muslim 8%, Others

Literacy: Male 99%, Female 99%





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Civil Rights/Freedoms

The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen was approved by the National Assembly of France on August 26, 1789. It protects French citizens' fundamental human rights, such as "liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression." The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union of which France is a charter member also protects citizens' rights.

Suffrage (voting)

18 years; universal.

Political Parties

Union for a Popular Movement (UMP), The Socialist Party, New Center, Democratic Movement, The Communist Party

Current Issues

CIA World Factbook: <http://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

Fact Monster, Countries of the World: <http://www.factmonster.com/countries.html>

Human Rights Watch: <http://www.hrw.org/>



CIA World
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