

ITALY

Italian Republic

Type of Government

Republic

Constitution

January 1, 1948

Government Structure

Executive -

The Chief of State is the President. The Head of Government is the Prime Minister. An electoral college elects the President for a seven-year term (no term limits). The Prime Minister is appointed by the President and confirmed by Parliament.

Legislative -

A bicameral Parliament consists of the Senate (315 members elected for five-year terms by popular vote) and the Chamber of Deputies (630 members elected by popular vote for five-year terms).

Judicial -

The Constitutional Court is made up of fifteen judges appointed in different ways. The Supreme Court of Cassation is another high court.

The Flag

The flag has three equal bands of green, white, and red. The colors are of Milan (red and white) and the Milanese Civil Guard (green).



Coat of Arms

Capital: Rome

Independence: March 17, 1861, Kingdom of Italy proclaimed

Population: 61,855,120 (rank = 24)

GDP per capita: \$35,700 (rank=52)

Ethnicity: Italian (includes small clusters of others)

Religion: Christian 80% (Roman Catholic, with small groups of Jehovah Witnesses and Protestants), Muslims/Atheists/ Agnostics 20%

Literacy: Male 99%, Female 99%





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Civil Rights/Freedoms

Citizens of Italy have basic fundamental human rights and liberties. Italy is a member of the European Union, and the European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights protects citizens' rights.

Suffrage (voting)

All citizens, 18 years of age and older can vote except in elections for the Senate where a minimum age of 25 is needed to vote.

Political Parties

People of Freedom, Democratic Party, and Future and Freedom for Italy, Italy of Values, Northern League, Union of the Center Movement for Autonomy.

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/home>



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