**Scotland**[[e]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland#cite_note-14) is a [country](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Countries_of_the_United_Kingdom) that is part of the [United Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom). It contains nearly one-third of the United Kingdom's land area, consisting of the northern part of the island of [Great Britain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Britain) and more than 790 adjacent [islands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islands_of_Scotland), principally in the archipelagos of the [Hebrides](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrides) and the [Northern Isles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Isles). To the south-east, Scotland has its [only land border](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglo-Scottish_border), which is 96 miles (154 km) long and shared with [England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/England); the country is surrounded by the [Atlantic Ocean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlantic_Ocean) to the north and west, the [North Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Sea) to the north-east and east, and the [Irish Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_Sea) to the south. The population in 2022 was 5,439,842.[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland#cite_note-ONS_Geography_Guide-15) [Edinburgh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edinburgh) is the capital and [Glasgow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glasgow) is the most populous of the [cities of Scotland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cities_of_Scotland).

The [Kingdom of Scotland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Scotland) emerged as an independent [sovereign state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sovereign_state) in the 9th century. In 1603, [James VI](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_VI) succeeded to the thrones of [England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_England) and [Ireland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Ireland), forming a [personal union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personal_union) of the [three kingdoms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_of_the_Crowns). On 1 May 1707, Scotland and England combined to create the new [Kingdom of Great Britain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Great_Britain),[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland#cite_note-Keay-16)[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland#cite_note-Mackie-17) with the [Parliament of Scotland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_Scotland) subsumed into the [Parliament of Great Britain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_Great_Britain). In 1999, a [Scottish Parliament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_Parliament) was re-established, and has [devolved](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devolution) authority over many areas of [domestic policy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domestic_policy).[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland#cite_note-18) The [Scottish Government](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_Government) is the [executive arm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_(government)) of the devolved government, headed by the [first minister](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Minister_of_Scotland) who chairs the [cabinet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_Cabinet) and responsible for government policy and [international engagement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_relations_of_Scotland).[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland#cite_note-19)[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland#cite_note-20) Further powers are devolved to [local government](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Local_government_in_Scotland) from the Scottish Government to the country's 32 [subdivisions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subdivisions_of_Scotland) (known as "council areas").[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland#cite_note-21)[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland#cite_note-22)

was "federative" and not "incorporating", in which Scotland would retain a separate parliament.[[61]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland#cite_note-:5-66) The issue of union split the parliament in 1648.[[61]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland#cite_note-:5-66)

After the execution of the Scottish king at [Whitehall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whitehall) in 1649, amid the [Wars of the Three Kingdoms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wars_of_the_Three_Kingdoms) and [its events in Scotland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland_in_the_Wars_of_the_Three_Kingdoms), [Oliver Cromwell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oliver_Cromwell), the victorious [Lord Protector](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lord_Protector), imposed the British Isles' first written constitution – the [Instrument of Government](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Instrument_of_Government) – on Scotland in 1652 as part of the republican [Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commonwealth_of_England,_Scotland,_and_Ireland).[[61]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland#cite_note-:5-66) The Protectorate Parliament was the first Westminster parliament to include representatives nominally from Scotland. The monarchy of the [House of Stuart](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Stuart) was resumed with the [Restoration in Scotland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Restoration_in_Scotland) in 1660. The Parliament of Scotland sought a commercial union with England in 1664; the proposal was rejected in 1668.[[61]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland#cite_note-:5-66) In 1670 the Parliament of England rejected a proposed political union with Scotland.[[61]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland#cite_note-:5-66) English proposals along the same lines were abandoned in 1674 and in 1685.[[61]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland#cite_note-:5-66) The Scots Parliament rejected proposals for a political union with England in 1689.[[61]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland#cite_note-:5-66) [Jacobitism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacobitism), the political support for the exiled Catholic Stuart dynasty, remained a threat to the security of the British state under the Protestant [House of Orange](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Orange) and the succeeding [House of Hanover](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Hanover) until the defeat of the [Jacobite rising of 1745](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacobite_rising_of_1745).[[61]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland#cite_note-:5-66) In 1698, the [Company of Scotland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Company_of_Scotland) attempted a project to secure a trading colony on the [Isthmus of Panama](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isthmus_of_Panama). Almost every Scottish landowner who had money to spare is said to have invested in the [Darien scheme](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darien_scheme).[[62]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland#cite_note-:6-67)[[63]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland#cite_note-:7-68)

**Treaty of Union**

*Main article:*[*Treaty of Union*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Union)

*Further information:*[*Kingdom of Great Britain*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Great_Britain)

Scottish Exemplification (official copy) of the Treaty of Union of 1707

After another proposal from the English House of Lords was rejected in 1695, and a further Lords motion was voted down in the House of Commons in 1700, the Parliament of Scotland again rejected union in 1702.[[61]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland#cite_note-:5-66) The failure of the Darien Scheme bankrupted the landowners who had invested, though not the burghs. Nevertheless, the nobles' bankruptcy, along with the threat of an English invasion, played a leading role in convincing the Scots elite to back a union with England.[[62]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland#cite_note-:6-67)[[63]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland#cite_note-:7-68) On 22 July 1706, the [Treaty of Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Union) was agreed between representatives of the [Scots Parliament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_Scotland) and the [Parliament of England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_England). The following year, twin [Acts of Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acts_of_Union_1707) were passed by both parliaments to create the united [Kingdom of Great Britain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Great_Britain) with effect from 1 May 1707[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland#cite_note-69) with popular opposition and anti-union riots in [Edinburgh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edinburgh), [Glasgow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glasgow), and elsewhere.[[65]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland#cite_note-1707_protests-70)[[66]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland#cite_note-71) The union also created the [Parliament of Great Britain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_Great_Britain), which succeeded both the [Parliament of Scotland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_Scotland) and the [Parliament of England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_England), which rejected proposals from the [Parliament of Ireland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_Ireland) that the third kingdom be incorporated in the union.[[61]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland#cite_note-:5-66)

with less than 0.1% of the world's population, and higher education institutions account for 9% of Scotland's service sector exports.[[216]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland#cite_note-221)[[217]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland#cite_note-222) Scotland's University Courts are the only bodies in Scotland authorised to award degrees.