



## Federal Democratic Republic

On May 28, 2008, the newly-elected Constituent Assembly declared Nepal the Federal Democratic Republic, abolishing the 240-year-old monarchy. The motion for the abolition of the monarchy was carried by a huge majority: out of 564 members present in the assembly, 560 voted for the motion while 4 members voted against it.[22] On June 11, 2008, ex-King Gyanendra left the palace. Ram Baran Yadav of the Nepali Congress became the first President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal on July 23, 2008. Similarly, the Constituent Assembly elected Pushpa Kamal Dahal (popularly known as Prachanda) of the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) as the first Republican Prime Minister on August 15, 2008, favoring him over Sher Bahadur Deuba of the Nepali Congress Party.

After failing to draft a constitution before the deadline, the existing Constituent Assembly was dissolved (28 May 2012) and a new interim government (2013–2014) formed under the Prime-Ministership of the Chief Justice of Nepal, Supreme Court judge Khil Raj Regmi. In the Constituent Assembly election of November 2013 the Nepali Congress won the largest share of the votes but failed to get a majority. The Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) (CPN (UML)) and the Nepali Congress negotiated to form a consensus government, and Sushil Koirala of the Nepali Congress was elected as Prime Minister (February 2014) with support from the CPN (UML).



## Protests over the Constitution of 2015

Minority ethnic groups like Madhesi and Tharu have protested vigorously against the constitution which came into effect on September 20, 2015. They point out that their concerns have not been addressed and there are few explicit protections for their ethnic groups in the document. At least 56 civilians and 11 police died in clashes over the draft constitution. In response to the Madhesi protests, India suspended vital supplies to landlocked Nepal, citing insecurity and violence in border areas. It has been alleged that India's denial of petroleum and medicine to Nepal constituted a violation of human rights. Then Prime Minister of Nepal, Oli, publicly accused India for the Blockade calling the act more inhuman than war. India has denied enacting the blockade.



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