[Template:For](/wiki/Template:For" \o "Template:For) [Template:Pp-semi-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-semi-indef) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country) **Honduras** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en); [Template:IPA-es](/wiki/Template:IPA-es)), officially the **Republic of Honduras** ([Template:Lang-es](/wiki/Template:Lang-es)), is a [republic](/wiki/Republic) in [Central America](/wiki/Central_America). It was at times referred to as **Spanish Honduras** to differentiate it from [*British Honduras*](/wiki/British_Honduras), which became the modern-day state of [Belize](/wiki/Belize).[[1]](#cite_note-1) Honduras is bordered to the west by [Guatemala](/wiki/Guatemala), to the southwest by [El Salvador](/wiki/El_Salvador), to the southeast by [Nicaragua](/wiki/Nicaragua), to the south by the Pacific Ocean at the [Gulf of Fonseca](/wiki/Gulf_of_Fonseca), and to the north by the [Gulf of Honduras](/wiki/Gulf_of_Honduras), a large inlet of the [Caribbean Sea](/wiki/Caribbean_Sea).

Honduras was home to several important [Mesoamerican](/wiki/Mesoamerican) cultures, most notably the [Maya](/wiki/Maya_civilization), prior to being [conquered by Spain](/wiki/Spanish_colonization_of_the_Americas) in the sixteenth century. The Spanish introduced Roman Catholicism and the now predominant [Spanish language](/wiki/Spanish_language), along with numerous customs that have blended with the indigenous culture. Honduras became independent in 1821 and has since been a republic, although it has consistently endured much social strife and political instability, remaining one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere. Honduras has the world's highest [murder rate](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_intentional_homicide_rate).<ref name=Insight>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

Honduras spans an area of about 112,492 km2 and has a population exceeding 8 million. Its northern portions are part of the [Western Caribbean Zone](/wiki/Western_Caribbean_Zone), as reflected in the area's demographics and culture. Honduras is known for its rich natural resources, including various [minerals](/wiki/Minerals), [coffee](/wiki/Coffee), [tropical fruit](/wiki/Tropical_fruit), and [sugar cane](/wiki/Sugar_cane), as well as for its growing [textiles](/wiki/Textiles) industry, which serves the international market.

## Contents

* 1 Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]
* 2 History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]
  + 2.1 Pre-colonial period[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]
  + 2.2 Spanish conquest (1524)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]
  + 2.3 Spanish Honduras (1524–1821)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]
  + 2.4 Independence (1821)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]
  + 2.5 20th century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]
  + 2.6 21st century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]
* 3 Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]
  + 3.1 Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]
  + 3.2 Ecology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]
  + 3.3 Environmental issues[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]
* 4 Government and politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]
  + 4.1 Political culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]
  + 4.2 Panama Papers[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]
  + 4.3 Foreign relations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]
  + 4.4 Military[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]
  + 4.5 Administrative divisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]
* 5 Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]
  + 5.1 Energy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]
  + 5.2 Transport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]
  + 5.3 Water supply and sanitation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]
* 6 Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]
  + 6.1 Ethnic groups[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]
  + 6.2 Languages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]
  + 6.3 Urban areas[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]
  + 6.4 Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]
  + 6.5 Health[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]
  + 6.6 Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]
  + 6.7 Crime[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]
* 7 Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]
  + 7.1 Art[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]
  + 7.2 Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]
  + 7.3 Media[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]
  + 7.4 Music[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]
  + 7.5 Celebrations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]
  + 7.6 National symbols[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]
  + 7.7 Folklore[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]
  + 7.8 Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]
* 8 See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=40)]
* 9 References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=41)]
* 10 External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=42)]

## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

Honduras literally means "depths" in Spanish. The name could either refer to the bay of Trujillo as an anchorage, *fondura* in the [Leonese dialect](/wiki/Leonese_dialect) of Spanish, or to [Columbus's](/wiki/Christopher_Columbus) alleged quote that *"Gracias a Dios que hemos salido de esas Honduras"* ("Thank God we have departed from those depths").<ref name=timeline>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>[[2]](#cite_note-2)[[3]](#cite_note-3) It was not until the end of the 16th century that *Honduras* was used for the whole province and prior to 1580, *Honduras* only referred to the eastern part of the province, and *Higueras* referred to the western part.<ref name=Davidson2006/> Another early name is [Guaymuras](/wiki/Guaimura), revived as the name for the [political dialogue in 2009](/wiki/Guaymuras_dialogue) that took place in Honduras as opposed to Costa Rica. [[4]](#cite_note-4)

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

[thumb|A](/wiki/File:CPN_ST_B_01.jpg) [Maya stela](/wiki/Maya_stelae), an emblematic symbol of the Honduran Mayan civilization at Copan.

### Pre-colonial period[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) In pre-Columbian times, modern Honduras was part of the Mesoamerican cultural area. In the west, the Maya civilization flourished for hundreds of years. The dominant state within Honduras's borders was that based in [Copán](/wiki/Copán). Copán fell with the other Lowland centres during the conflagrations of the [Terminal Classic](/wiki/Classic_Maya_collapse) during the 9th century. The Maya of this civilization survive in western Honduras as the Ch'orti', isolated from their Choltian linguistic peers to the west.

Remains of other Pre-Columbian cultures are found throughout the country. Archaeologists have studied sites such as Naco and La Sierra in the Naco Valley, Los Naranjos on Lake Yojoa, Yarumela in the Comayagua Valley, La Ceiba and Salitron Viejo (both now under the Cajon Dam [reservoir](/wiki/Reservoir)), Selin Farm and Cuyamel in the Aguan valley, Cerro Palenque, Travesia, Curruste, Ticamaya, Despoloncal in the lower Ulua river valley, and many others.

### Spanish conquest (1524)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[thumb|upright|199px|Gil González Dávila](/wiki/File:Gil_Gonzalez_Davila1.JPG) [thumb|upright|199px|Hernán Cortés, one of the conquerors of Honduras.](/wiki/File:Cortes-Hernan-LOC.jpg) On his fourth and the final voyage to the [New World](/wiki/New_World) in 1502, [Christopher Columbus](/wiki/Christopher_Columbus) landed near the modern town of [Trujillo](/wiki/Trujillo,_Colón), in the vicinity of the Guaimoreto Lagoon and became the first European to visit the [Bay Islands](/wiki/Bay_Islands_Department) on the coast of Honduras.[[5]](#cite_note-5) On 30 July 1502 Columbus sent his brother [Bartholomew](/wiki/Bartholomew_Columbus) to explore the islands and Bartholomew encountered a Mayan trading vessel from Yucatán, carrying well-dressed Maya and a rich cargo.[Template:Sfnm](/wiki/Template:Sfnm) Bartholomew's men stole whatever cargo they wanted and kidnapped the ship's elderly captain to serve as an interpreter[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) in what was the first recorded encounter between the Spanish and the Maya.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

In March 1524, [Gil González Dávila](/wiki/Gil_González_Dávila) became the first Spaniard to enter Honduras as a conquistador.[[6]](#cite_note-6)<ref name=Guide>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> followed by [Hernán Cortés](/wiki/Hernán_Cortés), bringing forces down from Mexico. Much of the conquest was done in the following two decades, first by groups loyal to [Cristóbal de Olid](/wiki/Cristóbal_de_Olid), and then by those loyal of [Francisco Montejo](/wiki/Francisco_Montejo) but most particularly by those following Alvarado. In addition to Spanish resources, the conquerors relied heavily on armed forces from Mexico—[Tlaxcalans](/wiki/Tlaxcalans) and [Mexica](/wiki/Aztec) armies of thousands who lived on in the region as garrisons.

Resistance to conquest was led in particular by [Lempira](/wiki/Lempira_(Lenca_ruler)), and many regions in the north never fell to the Spanish, notably the [Miskito Kingdom](/wiki/Mosquito_Coast). After the Spanish conquest, Honduras became part of Spain's vast empire in the New World within the [Kingdom of Guatemala](/wiki/Captaincy_General_of_Guatemala). Trujillo and [Gracias](/wiki/Gracias_a_Dios_Department) were the first city-capitals. The Spanish ruled the region for approximately three centuries.

### Spanish Honduras (1524–1821)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

Honduras was organized as a province of the [Kingdom of Guatemala](/wiki/Captaincy_General_of_Guatemala) and the capital was fixed, first at [Trujillo](/wiki/Trujillo,_Colón) on the Atlantic coast, and later at [Comayagua](/wiki/Comayagua), and finally at [Tegucigalpa](/wiki/Tegucigalpa) in the central part of the country.

[Silver mining](/wiki/Silver_mining) was a key factor in the Spanish conquest and settlement of Honduras.<ref name=Newson1>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref> Initially the mines were worked by local people through the [encomienda](/wiki/Encomienda) system, but as disease and resistance made this option less available, slaves from other parts of Central America were brought in. When local slave trading stopped at the end of the sixteenth century, African slaves, mostly from [Angola](/wiki/Angola), were obtained.<ref name=Cost>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> After about 1650, very few slaves or other outside workers arrived in Honduras.

Although the Spanish conquered the southern or Pacific portion of Honduras fairly quickly they were less successful in the northern or Atlantic side. They managed to found a few towns along the coast, at [Puerto Caballos](/wiki/Puerto_Cortés) and Trujillo in particular, but failed to conquer the eastern portion of the region and many pockets of independent indigenous people as well. The [Miskito Kingdom](/wiki/Mosquito_Coast) located in the northeast was particularly effective in resisting conquest. The Miskito Kingdom in turn found support from northern European privateers, pirates and especially the British (formerly English) colony of [Jamaica](/wiki/Jamaica), which placed much of it under their protection after 1740.

[thumb|300px|The](/wiki/File:Exterior_Fuerte_de_Omoa_Honduras.jpg) [Fortaleza de San Fernando de Omoa](/wiki/Battle_of_San_Fernando_de_Omoa) was built by the Spanish to protect the coast of Honduras from English pirates.

### Independence (1821)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

Honduras became independent from Spain in 1821 and was for a time part of the [First Mexican Empire](/wiki/First_Mexican_Empire) until 1823 when it became part of the [United Provinces of Central America](/wiki/United_Provinces_of_Central_America) federation. Since 1838, it has been an independent republic and held regular elections. In the decades of 1840 and 1850 Honduras participated in several failed attempts to restore Central American unity, such as the Confederation of Central America (1842–1845), the covenant of Guatemala (1842), the Diet of Sonsonate (1846), the Diet of Nacaome (1847) and National Representation in Central America (1849–1852). Although Honduras eventually adopted the name Republic of Honduras, the unionist ideal never waned, and Honduras was one of the Central American countries that pushed hardest for the policy of regional unity.

Neoliberal policies favoring international trade and investment began in the 1870s, and soon foreign interests became involved first in shipping, especially tropical fruit (most notably bananas) from the north coast, and then in railway building. In 1888, a projected railroad line from the Caribbean coast to the capital, Tegucigalpa, ran out of money when it reached [San Pedro Sula](/wiki/San_Pedro_Sula). As a result, San Pedro in its growth into the nation's main industrial center and second largest city. [Comayagua](/wiki/Comayagua) was the capital of Honduras until 1880, when it moved to [Tegucigalpa](/wiki/Tegucigalpa).

Since independence, nearly 300 small internal rebellions and civil wars have occurred in the country, including some changes of government.

### 20th century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

In the late nineteenth century, Honduras granted land and substantial exemptions to US-based fruit and infrastructure companies[Template:Which](/wiki/Template:Which) in return for developing the country's northern regions. Thousands of workers came to the north coast, as a result, to work in [banana plantations](/wiki/Banana_production_in_Honduras) and other businesses that grew up around the export industry. Banana-exporting companies, dominated until 1930 [Cuyamel Fruit Company](/wiki/Cuyamel_Fruit_Company), as well as the [United Fruit Company](/wiki/United_Fruit_Company), and [Standard Fruit Company](/wiki/Standard_Fruit_Company), built an [enclave economy](/wiki/Enclave_economy) in northern Honduras, controlling infrastructure and creating self-sufficient, tax-exempt sectors that contributed relatively little to economic growth. American troops landed in Honduras in 1903, 1907, 1911, 1912, 1919, 1924 and 1925.<ref name=Becker> [Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> In 1904 the writer [O. Henry](/wiki/O._Henry) coined the term "[Banana republic](/wiki/Banana_republic)" to describe Honduras.[[7]](#cite_note-7) In addition to drawing Central American workers north, the fruit companies also encouraged immigration of workers from the [English-speaking Caribbean](/wiki/English-speaking_Caribbean), notably [Jamaica](/wiki/Jamaica) and [Belize](/wiki/Belize), which introduced an African-descended, English-speaking and largely Protestant population into the country, although many of these workers left after immigration law changes in 1939.<ref name=Chambers> [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> Honduras joined the [Allied Nations](/wiki/Allies_of_World_War_II) after [Pearl Harbor](/wiki/Attack_on_Pearl_Harbor), on 8 December 1941, and signed the [Declaration by United Nations](/wiki/Declaration_by_United_Nations) on 1 January 1942 along with twenty-five other governments.

Constitutional crises in the 1940s led to reforms in the 1950s. One reform gave workers permission to organize, and a 1954 [general strike](/wiki/General_strike_of_1954_(Honduras)) paralyzed the northern part of the country for more than two months, but led to reforms. In 1963 a military coup unseated democratically-elected President [Ramón Villeda Morales](/wiki/Ramón_Villeda_Morales).

In 1969 Honduras and [El Salvador](/wiki/El_Salvador) fought what became known as the [Football War](/wiki/Football_War). Border tensions led to acrimony between the two countries after [Oswaldo López Arellano](/wiki/Oswaldo_López_Arellano), a president of Honduras, blamed the deteriorating Honduran economy on immigrants from El Salvador. The relationship reached a low when El Salvador met Honduras for a three-round football elimination match preliminary to the [World Cup](/wiki/FIFA_World_Cup).[[8]](#cite_note-8)[Template:What](/wiki/Template:What)

Tensions escalated and on 14 July 1969, the Salvadoran army launched an attack on the Honduran army[Template:Where](/wiki/Template:Where). The [Organization of American States](/wiki/Organization_of_American_States) negotiated a cease-fire which took effect on 20 July and brought about a withdrawal of Salvadoran troops in early August.[[8]](#cite_note-8) Contributing factors to the conflict were a boundary dispute and the presence of thousands of Salvadorans living in Honduras illegally. After the week-long war as many as 130,000 Salvadoran immigrants were expelled.<ref name=LOC> [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>

[Hurricane Fifi](/wiki/Hurricane_Fifi) caused severe damage when it skimmed the northern coast of Honduras on 18 and 19 September 1974. Melgar Castro (1975–78) and Paz Garcia (1978–82) largely built the current physical infrastructure and telecommunications system of Honduras.[[9]](#cite_note-9) [thumb|300px|Part of the massive damage caused by](/wiki/File:Mitch-Tegucigalpa_Damage.JPG) [Hurricane Mitch](/wiki/Hurricane_Mitch) in Tegucigalpa, 1998. In 1979, the country returned to civilian rule . A constituent assembly was popularly elected in April 1980 to write a new constitution, and general elections were held in November 1981. The constitution was approved in 1982 and the [PLH](/wiki/Liberal_Party_of_Honduras) government of [Roberto Suazo](/wiki/Roberto_Suazo_Córdova) won the election with a promise to carry out an ambitious program of economic and social development to tackle the recession Honduras was in. He launched ambitious social and economic development projects sponsored by American development aid. Honduras became host to the largest [Peace Corps](/wiki/Peace_Corps) mission in the world, and nongovernmental and international voluntary agencies proliferated. The Peace Corps withdrew its volunteers in 2012, citing safety concerns.<ref name=CSM> [Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

During the early 1980s the United States established a continuing military presence in Honduras to support El Salvador, the [Contra](/wiki/Contra_(guerrillas)) guerrillas fighting the [Nicaraguan](/wiki/Nicaragua) government, and also develop an air strip and modern port in Honduras. Though spared the bloody civil wars wracking its neighbors, the Honduran army quietly waged campaigns against [Marxist-Leninist](/wiki/Marxist-Leninist) militias such as the [Cinchoneros](/wiki/People's_Liberation_Movement-Chinchoneros) Popular Liberation Movement, notorious for kidnappings and bombings,[[10]](#cite_note-10) and against many non-militants as well. The operation included a CIA-backed campaign of extrajudicial killings by government-backed units, most notably [Battalion 316](/wiki/Battalion_3-16_(Honduras)).[[11]](#cite_note-11) In 1998, [Hurricane Mitch](/wiki/Hurricane_Mitch) caused massive and widespread destruction. Honduran President [Carlos Roberto Flores](/wiki/Carlos_Roberto_Flores) said that fifty years of progress in the country had been reversed. Mitch destroyed about 70% of the crops and an estimated 70–80% of the transportation infrastructure, including nearly all bridges and secondary roads. Across Honduras 33,000 houses were destroyed, and an additional 50,000 damaged. Some 5,000 people killed, and 12,000 more injured. Total losses were estimated at $3 billion USD.[[12]](#cite_note-12)

### 21st century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[thumb|right|upright|199px|Ricardo Maduro](/wiki/File:Honduras.RicardoMaduro.01.jpg) [thumb|right|199px|Manuel Zelaya](/wiki/File:Manuel_Zelaya_detail,_ABR_August_07,_2007_cortado.jpg) [thumb|199px|right|Porifirio Lobo](/wiki/File:Porfirio_Lobo_Sosa_cortada.jpg) The 2008 Honduran floods were severe and damaged or destroyed around half of the roads as a result.[[13]](#cite_note-13) In 2009, a [constitutional crisis](/wiki/2009_Honduran_political_crisis) resulted when power transferred in a coup from the president to the head of Congress. The [Organization of American States](/wiki/Organization_of_American_States) (OAS) suspended Honduras because it did not feel its government was legitimate.<ref name=OAS> [Template:Cite press release](/wiki/Template:Cite_press_release) </ref>[[14]](#cite_note-14) Countries around the world, the OAS, and the United Nations<ref name=UN> [Template:Cite press release](/wiki/Template:Cite_press_release)</ref> formally and unanimously condemned the action as a [coup d'état](/wiki/Coup_d'état) and refused to recognize the *de facto* government, even though the lawyers consulted by the [Library of Congress](/wiki/Library_of_Congress) submitted to the United States Congress an opinion that declared the coup was legal.<ref name=UN/>[[15]](#cite_note-15)[[16]](#cite_note-16) The [Honduran Supreme Court](/wiki/Honduran_Supreme_Court) also ruled that the proceedings had been legal. The government that followed the *de facto government* established a truth and reconciliation commission, *Comisión de la Verdad y Reconciliación*, which after more than a year of research and debate concluded that the ousting had been a [coup d'état](/wiki/Coup_d'état), and illegal in the commission's opinion.[[17]](#cite_note-17)[[18]](#cite_note-18)[[19]](#cite_note-19) Despite the solemn pledge of then Secretary of State Colin Powell on September 11, 2001[Template:Cn](/wiki/Template:Cn) -- that the United States would refrain from supporting any future military coups in the region -- senior officials at [United States Southern Command](/wiki/United_States_Southern_Command) in fact actively supported the military coup through the [William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies](/wiki/William_J._Perry_Center_for_Hemispheric_Defense_Studies) (WJPC) at [National Defense University](/wiki/National_Defense_University).

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|650px|A map of Honduras.](/wiki/File:Un-honduras.png)

The north coast of Honduras borders the [Caribbean Sea](/wiki/Caribbean_Sea) and the Pacific Ocean lies south through the [Gulf of Fonseca](/wiki/Gulf_of_Fonseca). Honduras consists mainly of mountains, with narrow plains along the coasts. A large undeveloped lowland jungle, [*La Mosquitia*](/wiki/La_Mosquitia) lies in the northeast, and the heavily populated lowland Sula valley in the northwest. In La Mosquitia lies the [UNESCO](/wiki/UNESCO) world-heritage site [Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve](/wiki/Río_Plátano_Biosphere_Reserve), with the [Coco River](/wiki/Coco_River) which divides Honduras from [Nicaragua](/wiki/Nicaragua).

The [Islas de la Bahía](/wiki/Islas_de_la_Bahía) and the Swan Islands are off the north coast. [Misteriosa Bank](/wiki/Misteriosa_Bank) and [Rosario Bank](/wiki/Rosario_Bank), 130 to 150 km (80–93 miles) north of the Swan Islands, fall within the [Exclusive Economic Zone](/wiki/Exclusive_Economic_Zone) (EEZ) of Honduras. [thumb|300px|Honduran rainforest.](/wiki/File:MontanasdelaSierradeAgalta_Honduras.jpg) Natural resources include timber, gold, silver, copper, lead, [zinc](/wiki/Zinc), iron ore, [antimony](/wiki/Antimony), coal, fish, shrimp, and [hydropower](/wiki/Hydropower).

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[thumb|300px|Honduras map of Köppen climate classification.](/wiki/File:Honduras_map_of_Köppen_climate_classification.svg) The climate varies from tropical in the [lowlands](/wiki/Lowland) to [temperate](/wiki/Temperate) in the mountains. The central and southern regions are relatively hotter and less humid than the northern coast.

### Ecology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) The region is considered a [biodiversity hotspot](/wiki/Biodiversity_hotspot) because of the numerous plant and animal species found there and like other countries in the region, contains vast biological resources. Honduras hosts more than 6,000 species of [vascular plants](/wiki/Vascular_plants), of which 630 (described so far) are [orchids](/wiki/Orchid); around 250 reptiles and amphibians, more than 700 bird species, and 110 mammal species, of which half are bats.[[20]](#cite_note-20) In the northeastern region of [La Mosquitia](/wiki/La_Mosquitia) lies the [Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve](/wiki/Río_Plátano_Biosphere_Reserve), a lowland rainforest which is home to a great diversity of life. The reserve was added to the [UNESCO World Heritage](/wiki/UNESCO_World_Heritage) Sites List in 1982.

Honduras has rain forests, [cloud forests](/wiki/Cloud_forests) (which can rise up to nearly three thousand meters above sea level), [mangroves](/wiki/Mangroves), [savannas](/wiki/Savannas) and mountain ranges with pine and oak trees, and the [Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System](/wiki/Mesoamerican_Barrier_Reef_System). In the [Bay Islands](/wiki/Bay_Islands_(department)) there are [bottlenose dolphins](/wiki/Bottlenose_dolphins), [manta rays](/wiki/Manta_rays), [parrot fish](/wiki/Parrot_fish), schools of [blue tang](/wiki/Acanthurus_coeruleus) and [whale shark](/wiki/Whale_shark).

### Environmental issues[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Deforestation](/wiki/Deforestation) resulting from [logging](/wiki/Logging) is rampant in [Olancho Department](/wiki/Olancho_Department). The clearing of land for agriculture is prevalent in the largely undeveloped [La Mosquitia](/wiki/La_Mosquitia) region, causing land degradation and soil erosion.

[Lake Yojoa](/wiki/Lake_Yojoa), which is Honduras' largest source of fresh water, is polluted by [heavy metals](/wiki/Heavy_metals) produced from [mining](/wiki/Mining) activities.[[21]](#cite_note-21) Some rivers and streams are also polluted by mining.[[22]](#cite_note-22)

## Government and politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

Honduras is governed within a framework of a [presidential](/wiki/Presidential_system) [representative democratic](/wiki/Representative_democracy) [republic](/wiki/Republic). The [President of Honduras](/wiki/President_of_Honduras) is both [head of state](/wiki/Head_of_state) and [head of government](/wiki/Head_of_government). [Executive power](/wiki/Executive_power) is exercised by the [Honduran government](/wiki/Government_of_Honduras). [Legislative power](/wiki/Legislative_power) is vested in the [National Congress of Honduras](/wiki/National_Congress_of_Honduras). The [Judiciary](/wiki/Judiciary) is independent of the executive and the legislature.

The [National Congress of Honduras](/wiki/National_Congress_of_Honduras) (*Congreso Nacional*) has 128 members (*diputados*), elected for a four-year term by [proportional representation](/wiki/Proportional_representation). Congressional seats are assigned the parties' candidates on a [departmental basis](/wiki/Departments_of_Honduras) in proportion to the number of votes each party receives.<ref name=cia>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

### Political culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[thumb|120px|](/wiki/File:Porfirio_Lobo_Sosa.jpg)[Porfirio Lobo](/wiki/Porfirio_Lobo), former President of Honduras. In 1963, a military coup removed the democratically elected president, [Ramón Villeda Morales](/wiki/Ramón_Villeda_Morales). A string of authoritarian [military governments](/wiki/Military_junta) held power almost[Template:What](/wiki/Template:What) uninterrupted until 1981, when [Roberto Suazo Córdova](/wiki/Roberto_Suazo_Córdova) was elected president.

Today, the party system is dominated by the conservative [National Party of Honduras](/wiki/National_Party_of_Honduras) (Partido Nacional de Honduras: PNH) and the liberal [Liberal Party of Honduras](/wiki/Liberal_Party_of_Honduras) (Partido Liberal de Honduras: PLH). Since 1981 Honduras has had six Liberal Party presidents: [Roberto Suazo Córdova](/wiki/Roberto_Suazo_Córdova), [José Azcona del Hoyo](/wiki/José_Azcona_del_Hoyo), [Carlos Roberto Reina](/wiki/Carlos_Roberto_Reina), [Carlos Roberto Flores](/wiki/Carlos_Roberto_Flores), [Manuel Zelaya](/wiki/Manuel_Zelaya) and [Roberto Micheletti](/wiki/Roberto_Micheletti), and four National Party Presidents: [Rafael Leonardo Callejas Romero](/wiki/Rafael_Leonardo_Callejas_Romero), [Ricardo Maduro](/wiki/Ricardo_Maduro), [Porfirio Lobo Sosa](/wiki/Porfirio_Lobo_Sosa) and [Juan Orlando Hernández](/wiki/Juan_Orlando_Hernández).

Another coup in 2009 removed Zelaya from office and putting Micheletti in his place.

The current Honduran president is [Juan Orlando Hernández](/wiki/Juan_Orlando_Hernández), who took office on 27 January 2014.

### Panama Papers[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

Two Honduran names that surfaced in the Panama Papers disclosures belong to highly successful businessmen from some of Honduras' most elite families. Jaime Rosenthal and Gilberto Goldstein are among the elite of Honduras, both successful businessmen and politicians. Rosenthal was a [vice-president](/wiki/Vice_President_of_Honduras) in the 1980s administration of [José Azcona del Hoyo](/wiki/José_Azcona_del_Hoyo). His son César Rosenthal was, according to the Panama Papers, the sole stockholder of Renton Management S.A., a Panamanian entity created to purchase airplanes.

### Foreign relations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

Honduras and [Nicaragua](/wiki/Nicaragua) had tense relations throughout 2000 and early 2001 due to a boundary dispute off the Atlantic coast. Nicaragua imposed a 35% tariff against Honduran goods due to the dispute.

In June 2009 a [coup d'état](/wiki/Coup_d'état) ousted President [Manuel Zelaya](/wiki/Manuel_Zelaya), who was taken to neighboring [Costa Rica](/wiki/Costa_Rica). Several [Latin American](/wiki/Latin_America) nations including Mexico temporarily severed diplomatic relations with Honduras. In July 2010, full diplomatic relations were once again re-established with Mexico.[[23]](#cite_note-23) The United States sent out mixed messages after the coup; Obama called the ouster a coup and expressed support for Zelaya's return to power. Hillary Clinton, at the time US Secretary of State, advised by [John Negroponte](/wiki/John_Negroponte), the Reagan administration ambassador to Honduras implicated in the [Iran-Contra](/wiki/Iran-Contra) affair refrained from doing so.[[24]](#cite_note-24) She has since explained that the US would have had to cut aid if it called Zelaya's ouster a military coup, although the US has a record of ignoring these events when it chooses.[[25]](#cite_note-25) Zelaya had expressed an interest in joining Hugo Chávez' [Bolivarian Alliance for Proples of our America](/wiki/ALBA), actually joining in 2008. Honduras withdrew its membership after the 2009 coup. This may have increased the alarm of establishment politicians when Zelaya began calling for a "fourth ballot box" to determine whether Hondurans wished to convoke a special assembly to modify the constitution. Politicians of all stripes expressed opposition and the Attorney-General accused Zelaya of violating the constitition. The Honduran Supreme Court agreed, saying that the constitution had put the Supreeme Electoral Tribunal in charge of elections and referenda, not the National Statistics Institute as Zelaya was proposing.<ref name=crs> [Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web) </ref>

The United States maintains a small military presence at a Honduran base. The two countries conduct joint peacekeeping, counter-narcotics, humanitarian, disaster relief, and civic action exercises. U.S. troops conduct and provide logistics support for a variety of bilateral and multilateral exercises—medical, engineering, peacekeeping, counter-narcotics, and disaster relief. The United States is Honduras' chief trading partner.[[9]](#cite_note-9)

### Military[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

Honduras has a modest military with Western equipment.

### Administrative divisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|350px|The departmental divisions of Honduras.](/wiki/File:HondurasDivisions.png)

Honduras is divided into 18 [departments](/wiki/Departments_of_Honduras). The capital city is Tegucigalpa in the Central District within the department of [Francisco Morazán](/wiki/Francisco_Morazán).

1. [Atlántida](/wiki/Atlántida_(department))
2. [Choluteca](/wiki/Choluteca_(department))
3. [Colón](/wiki/Colón_(department))
4. [Comayagua](/wiki/Comayagua_(department))
5. [Copán](/wiki/Copán_(department))
6. [Cortés](/wiki/Cortés_(department))
7. [El Paraíso](/wiki/El_Paraíso_(department))
8. [Francisco Morazán](/wiki/Francisco_Morazán_(department))
9. [Gracias a Dios](/wiki/Gracias_a_Dios_(department))
10. [Intibucá](/wiki/Intibucá_(department))
11. [Islas de la Bahía](/wiki/Islas_de_la_Bahía)
12. [La Paz](/wiki/La_Paz_(Honduran_department))
13. [Lempira](/wiki/Lempira_(department))
14. [Ocotepeque](/wiki/Ocotepeque_(department))
15. [Olancho](/wiki/Olancho)
16. [Santa Bárbara](/wiki/Santa_Bárbara_Department,_Honduras)
17. [Valle](/wiki/Valle_(department))
18. [Yoro](/wiki/Yoro_(department))

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|40%|A proportional representation of Honduran exports.](/wiki/File:Honduras_Export_Treemap.jpg) [thumb|300px|Downtown](/wiki/File:SanPedroSula.jpg) [San Pedro Sula](/wiki/San_Pedro_Sula).

The currency is the [Honduran lempira](/wiki/Honduran_lempira).

Economic growth in the last few years has averaged 7% a year, one of the highest rates in Latin America (2010). In 2010 50% of the population were below the poverty line however.[[26]](#cite_note-26) Estimates put [unemployment](/wiki/Unemployment) at more than 1.2 million people, or 27.9%. According to the [Human Development Index](/wiki/Human_Development_Index), Honduras is the sixth-poorest/least-developed country in Latin America, behind Haiti, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Guyana, and Bolivia. Honduras was declared a [heavily indebted poor countries](/wiki/Heavily_indebted_poor_countries) by the [World Bank](/wiki/World_Bank) and the [International Monetary Fund](/wiki/International_Monetary_Fund)[Template:When](/wiki/Template:When). It became eligible for [debt relief](/wiki/Debt_relief) in 2005.

The government operates both the electrical grid, [Empresa Nacional de Energía Eléctrica](/wiki/Empresa_Nacional_de_Energía_Eléctrica) (ENEE) and the land-line telephone service, [Hondutel](/wiki/Hondutel). ENEE receives heavy [subsidies](/wiki/Subsidies) to counter its chronic financial problems, but Hondutel is no longer a [monopoly](/wiki/Monopoly). The telecommunication sector was opened to private investment on 25 December 2005, as required under [CAFTA](/wiki/CAFTA). The price of petroleum is regulated, and the [Congress](/wiki/National_Congress_of_Honduras) often ratifies temporary [price](/wiki/Price) regulation for basic [commodities](/wiki/Commodities).

Gold, silver, lead and zinc are mined.[[27]](#cite_note-27) [thumb|left](/wiki/File:Cafta_countries.png) In 2005 Honduras signed [CAFTA](/wiki/CAFTA), a [free trade agreement](/wiki/Free_trade_agreement) with the United States. In December 2005, [Puerto Cortes](/wiki/Puerto_Cortes), the primary seaport of Honduras, was included in the U.S. [Container Security Initiative](/wiki/Container_Security_Initiative).[[28]](#cite_note-28) In 2006 the [U.S. Department of Homeland Security](/wiki/U.S._Department_of_Homeland_Security) and the [Department of Energy](/wiki/United_States_Department_of_Energy) announced the first phase of the [Secure Freight Initiative](/wiki/Secure_Freight_Initiative) (SFI), which built upon existing port security measures. SFI gave the U.S. government enhanced authority, allowing it to scan containers from overseas[Template:What](/wiki/Template:What) for nuclear and radiological materials in order to improve the risk assessment of individual US-bound containers. The initial phase of Secure Freight involved deploying of nuclear detection and other devices to six foreign ports:

* [Port Qasim](/wiki/Port_Qasim) in Pakistan;
* [Puerto Cortes](/wiki/Puerto_Cortes) in Honduras;
* [Southampton](/wiki/Southampton) in the United Kingdom;
* Port Salalah in [Oman](/wiki/Oman);
* [Port of Singapore](/wiki/Port_of_Singapore);
* Gamman Terminal at Port Busan, Korea.

Containers in these ports have been scanned since 2007 for radiation and other risk factors before they are allowed to depart for the United States.[[29]](#cite_note-29) For economic development a 2012 memorandum of understanding with a group of international investors obtained Honduran government approval to build a zone (city) with its own laws, tax system, judiciary and police, but opponents brought a suit against it in the Supreme Court, calling it a "state within a state".[[30]](#cite_note-30)

### Energy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

About half of the electricity sector in Honduras is privately owned. The remaining [generation](/wiki/Electricity_generation) capacity is run by [ENEE](/wiki/ENEE) (*Empresa Nacional de Energía Eléctrica*). Key challenges in the sector are:

* How to finance investments in generation and transmission in the absence of either a financially healthy utility or of concessionary funds by external donors for this type of investment
* How to re-balance tariffs, cut arrears and reduce losses, including electricity theft, without social unrest
* How to reconcile environmental concerns with the government objectives -- two large new dams and associated hydropower plants.
* How to improve access to electricity in rural areas.

### Transport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[thumb|300px|A highway in Honduras.](/wiki/File:Carretera37.jpg) Infrastructure for [transportation in Honduras](/wiki/Transportation_in_Honduras) consists of: 699 km [of railways](/wiki/Rail_transport_in_Honduras); 13,603 km of roadways;[[31]](#cite_note-31) seven ports and harbors;[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) and 112 airports altogether (12 Paved, 100 unpaved).<ref name=cia/> The Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Housing (SOPRTRAVI in Spanish acronym) is responsible for transport sector policy.

### Water supply and sanitation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

[Water supply and sanitation in Honduras](/wiki/Water_supply_and_sanitation_in_Honduras) differ greatly from urban centers to rural villages. Larger population centers generally have modernized water treatment and distribution systems, however water quality is often poor because of lack of proper maintenance and treatment. Rural areas generally have basic drinking water systems with limited capacity for water treatment. Many urban areas have sewer systems in place for the collection of wastewater, but proper treatment of wastewater is scarce. In rural areas sanitary facilities are generally limited to latrines and basic septic pits.

Water and sanitation services were historically provided by the [Template:ILL](/wiki/Template:ILL) (SANAA). In 2003, the government enacted a new "water law" which called for the [decentralization](/wiki/Decentralization) of water services. Under the 2003 law, local communities have both the right and the responsibility to own, operate, and control their own drinking water and wastewater systems. Since this law passed, many communities have joined together to address water and sanitation issues on a regional basis.

Many national and international non-government organizations have a history of working on water and sanitation projects in Honduras. International groups include the [Red Cross](/wiki/International_Red_Cross_and_Red_Crescent_Movement), [Water 1st](/wiki/Water_1st_International), [Rotary Club](/wiki/Rotary_International), [Catholic Relief Services](/wiki/Catholic_Relief_Services), Water for People, [EcoLogic Development Fund](/wiki/EcoLogic_Development_Fund), [CARE](/wiki/CARE_(relief)), the [Canadian Executive Service Organization](/wiki/Canadian_Executive_Service_Organization) (CESO-SACO), [Engineers Without Borders – USA](/wiki/Engineers_Without_Borders_–_USA), Flood The Nations, [Students Helping Honduras](/wiki/Students_Helping_Honduras) (SHH), [Global Brigades](/wiki/Global_Brigades), and Agua para el Pueblo[[32]](#cite_note-32) in partnership with [AguaClara](/wiki/AguaClara) at [Cornell University](/wiki/Cornell_University).

In addition, many government organizations work on projects in Honduras, including the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union), the [USAID](/wiki/United_States_Agency_for_International_Development), the [Army Corps of Engineers](/wiki/United_States_Army_Corps_of_Engineers), Cooperacion Andalucia, the [government of Japan](/wiki/Government_of_Japan), and others.

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

Honduras had a population of 8,143,564 in 2011.<ref name=cia/> The proportion of the population aged below 15 in 2010 was 36.8%, 58.9% were aged between 15 and 65 years of age, and 4.3% were aged 65 years or older.[[33]](#cite_note-33) Since 1975, emigration from Honduras has accelerated as economic migrants and political refugees sought a better life elsewhere. A majority of [expatriate Hondurans](/wiki/Honduran_diaspora) live in the United States. A 2012 US State Department estimate suggested that between 800,000 and 1 million Hondurans lived in the United States, nearly 15% of the Honduran domestic population.[[9]](#cite_note-9) The large uncertainty is due to the substantial number of Hondurans living illegally in the United States. The 2010 U.S. Census counted 617,392 Hondurans in the United States, up from 217,569 in 2000.[[34]](#cite_note-34)

### Ethnic groups[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

The population is 90% [Mestizo](/wiki/Mestizo) (mixed Amerindian and European), 7% Amerindian, 2% Black, 1% White.<ref name=cia/>

### Languages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

Spanish, [Honduran Sign Language](/wiki/Honduran_Sign_Language), [Garifuna](/wiki/Garifuna_language), [Bay Islands Creole English](/wiki/Bay_Islands_Creole_English), [Mískito](/wiki/Mískito_language), [Sumu](/wiki/Sumu_language), [Pech](/wiki/Pech_language), [Jicaque](/wiki/Jicaque_language), [Ch’orti’](/wiki/Ch’orti’_language), [Lenca](/wiki/Lenca_language) (extinct).

### Urban areas[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

[thumb|300px|Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras.](/wiki/File:Tegucigalpa.JPG) These are the top 10 most populated cities in Honduras as per the 2010 estimates.[[35]](#cite_note-35)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Rank** | **City/Town** | **Population** | **Department** |
| 1 | [Tegucigalpa](/wiki/Tegucigalpa) | 1,126,534 | [Francisco Morazán](/wiki/Francisco_Morazán_Department) |
| 2 | [San Pedro Sula](/wiki/San_Pedro_Sula) | 638,259 | [Cortés](/wiki/Cortés_Department) |
| 3 | [Choloma](/wiki/Choloma) | 222,828 | [Cortés](/wiki/Cortés_Department) |
| 4 | [La Ceiba](/wiki/La_Ceiba) | 174,006 | [Atlántida](/wiki/Atlántida_Department) |
| 5 | [El Progreso](/wiki/El_Progreso) | 131,125 | [Yoro](/wiki/Yoro_Department) |
| 6 | [Choluteca](/wiki/Choluteca,_Choluteca) | 93,598 | [Choluteca](/wiki/Choluteca_Department) |
| 7 | [Comayagua](/wiki/Comayagua) | 75,281 | [Comayagua](/wiki/Comayagua_Department) |
| 8 | [Puerto Cortés](/wiki/Puerto_Cortés) | 60,751 | [Cortés](/wiki/Cortés_Department) |
| 9 | [La Lima](/wiki/La_Lima) | 59,030 | [Cortés](/wiki/Cortés_Department) |
| 10 | [Danlí](/wiki/Danlí,_El_Paraíso) | 56,968 | [El Paraíso](/wiki/El_Paraíso_Department) |
|  |  |  |  |

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|upright|Cardinal](/wiki/File:OscarKardinalRodriguez.jpg) [Oscar Andres Rodriguez](/wiki/Oscar_Andres_Rodriguez) is [Archbishop of Tegucigalpa](/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Archdiocese_of_Tegucigalpa) and a figure of national and international note. Although most Hondurans are nominally [Roman Catholic](/wiki/Roman_Catholic) (which would be considered the main religion), membership in the [Roman Catholic Church](/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Church) is declining while membership in Protestant churches is increasing. The International Religious Freedom Report, 2008, notes that a CID Gallup poll reported that 51.4% of the population identified themselves as [Catholic](/wiki/Catholic), 36.2% as [evangelical](/wiki/Evangelical) [Protestant](/wiki/Protestant), 1.3% claiming to be from other religions, including [Muslims](/wiki/Muslims), [Buddhists](/wiki/Buddhists), [Jews](/wiki/Jews), [Rastafarians](/wiki/Rastafarians), etc. and 11.1% do not belong to any religion or unresponsive. Customary Catholic church tallies and membership estimates 81% Catholic where the priest (in more than 185 parishes) is required to fill out a pastoral account of the parish each year.[[36]](#cite_note-36)[[37]](#cite_note-37) The CIA Factbook lists Honduras as 97% Catholic and 3% Protestant.<ref name=cia/> Commenting on statistical variations everywhere, John Green of Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life notes that: "It isn't that ... numbers are more right than [someone else's] numbers ... but how one conceptualizes the group."<ref name=Dart>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref> Often people attend one church without giving up their "home" church. Many who attend evangelical megachurches in the US, for example, attend more than one church.[[38]](#cite_note-38) This shifting and fluidity is common in Brazil where two-fifths of those who were raised evangelical are no longer evangelical and Catholics seem to shift in and out of various churches, often while still remaining Catholic.[[39]](#cite_note-39) Most pollsters suggest an annual poll taken over a number of years would provide the best method of knowing religious demographics and variations in any single country. Still, in Honduras are thriving [Anglican](/wiki/Anglican), [Presbyterian](/wiki/Presbyterian), [Methodist](/wiki/Methodist), [Seventh-day Adventist](/wiki/Seventh-day_Adventist_Church), [Lutheran](/wiki/Lutheran), [Latter-day Saint](/wiki/The_Church_of_Jesus_Christ_of_Latter-day_Saints) ([Mormon](/wiki/Mormonism)) and [Pentecostal](/wiki/Pentecostal) churches. There are Protestant seminaries. The Catholic Church, still the only "church" that is recognized, is also thriving in the number of schools, hospitals, and pastoral institutions (including its own medical school) that it operates. Its [archbishop](/wiki/Archbishop), [Oscar Andres Rodriguez Maradiaga](/wiki/Oscar_Andres_Rodriguez_Maradiaga), is also very popular, both with the government, other churches, and in his own church. Practitioners of the [Buddhist](/wiki/Buddhism), Jewish, Islamic, [Bahá'í](/wiki/Bahá'í_Faith), [Rastafari](/wiki/Rastafari_movement) and indigenous denominations and religions exist.[[40]](#cite_note-40)

### Health[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

The [fertility rate](/wiki/Total_fertility_rate) is approximately 3.7 per woman.[[41]](#cite_note-41) The under-five mortality rate is at 40 per 1,000 live births.[[41]](#cite_note-41) The health expenditure was US$ (PPP) 197 per person in 2004.[[41]](#cite_note-41) There are about 57 physicians per 100,000 people.[[41]](#cite_note-41)

### Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

About 83.6% of the population are [literate](/wiki/Literacy) and the net primary enrollment rate was 94% in 2004.[[41]](#cite_note-41) However, in 2007 the primary school *completion* rate was reported to be 40%.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Honduras has bilingual (Spanish and English) and even trilingual (Spanish with English, Arabic, and/or German) [schools](/wiki/List_of_schools_in_Honduras) and [numerous universities](/wiki/List_of_universities_in_Honduras).[[42]](#cite_note-42) The university is ruled by [National Autonomous University of Honduras](/wiki/National_Autonomous_University_of_Honduras) which have centers in the most important cities in Honduras.

### Crime[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

In 2012, Honduras had a [murder rate](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_intentional_homicide_rate) of 90.4 per 100,000 population. There were a total of 7,172 murders in Honduras in 2012. This is the highest murder rate in the world, followed by Venezuela (with 53.7 murders per 100,000 people).<ref name=UNODC>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

### Art[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|300px|The Cathedral of](/wiki/File:CatedraldeComayagua.jpg) [Comayagua](/wiki/Comayagua). The most renowned Honduran painter is Jose Antonio Velásquez. Other important painters include Carlos Garay, and Roque Zelaya. Some of Honduras' most notable writers are [Lucila Gamero de Medina](/wiki/Lucila_Gamero_de_Medina), [Froylan Turcios](/wiki/Froylan_Turcios), [Ramón Amaya Amador](/wiki/Ramón_Amaya_Amador) and [Juan Pablo Suazo Euceda](/wiki/Juan_Pablo_Suazo_Euceda), [Marco Antonio Rosa](/wiki/Marco_Antonio_Rosa), [Roberto Sosa](/wiki/Roberto_Sosa_(poet)), [Eduardo Bähr](/wiki/Eduardo_Bähr), [Amanda Castro](/wiki/Amanda_Castro), [Javier Abril Espinoza](/wiki/Javier_Abril_Espinoza), [Teófilo Trejo](/wiki/Teófilo_Trejo), and [Roberto Quesada](/wiki/Roberto_Quesada).

Hondurans are often referred to as [*Catracho*](/wiki/Catracho) or *Catracha* (fem) in Spanish. The word was coined by [Nicaraguans](/wiki/Nicaraguans) and derives from the last name of the Spanish Honduran General [Florencio Xatruch](/wiki/Florencio_Xatruch), who, in 1857, led Honduran armed forces against an attempted invasion by North American adventurer [William Walker](/wiki/William_Walker_(filibuster)). The nickname is considered complimentary, not derogatory.

The José Francisco Saybe theater in [San Pedro Sula](/wiki/San_Pedro_Sula) is home to the Círculo Teatral Sampedrano (Theatrical Circle of San Pedro Sula)

### Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

[thumb|250px|"Olla" Soup, made with beef broth, squash, yucca and common Central American vegetables.](/wiki/File:SopadeOlla.jpg) Honduran cuisine is a fusion of indigenous [Lenca](/wiki/Lenca) cuisine, [Spanish cuisine](/wiki/Cuisine_of_Spain), [Caribbean cuisine](/wiki/Caribbean_cuisine) and [African cuisine](/wiki/African_cuisine). There are also dishes from the [Garifuna people](/wiki/Garifuna_people). [Coconut](/wiki/Coconut) and coconut milk are featured in both sweet and savory dishes. Regional specialties include fried [fish](/wiki/Fish_(food)), [tamales](/wiki/Tamale), [carne asada](/wiki/Carne_asada) and [baleadas](/wiki/Baleada).

Other popular dishes include: meat roasted with [chismol](/wiki/Chismol) and [carne asada](/wiki/Carne_asada), chicken with rice and corn, and fried fish with pickled onions and jalapeños. In the coastal areas and in the [Bay Islands](/wiki/Bay_Islands_Department), seafood and some meats are prepared in many ways, some of which involve [coconut](/wiki/Coconut) milk.

Among the soups the Hondurans enjoy are [bean](/wiki/Bean) soup, mondongo soup (tripe soup), [seafood](/wiki/Seafood) soups and [beef](/wiki/Beef) soups. Generally all of these soups are mixed with [plantains](/wiki/Plantain_(cooking)), [yuca](/wiki/Cassava), and cabbage, and served with [corn](/wiki/Maize) [tortillas](/wiki/Tortilla).

Other typical dishes are the montucas or corn [tamale](/wiki/Tamale), stuffed tortillas, and tamales wrapped in [plantain](/wiki/Plantain_(cooking)) leaves. Also part of Honduran typical dishes is an abundant selection of tropical fruits such as [papaya](/wiki/Papaya), [pineapple](/wiki/Pineapple), [plum](/wiki/Plum), [sapote](/wiki/Sapote), [passion fruit](/wiki/Passion_fruit) and bananas which are prepared in many ways while they are still green.

### Media[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) At least half of the Honduran households have at least one television. Public television has a far smaller role than in most other countries. Honduras' main newspapers are [La Prensa](/wiki/La_Prensa_(Honduras)), [El Heraldo](/wiki/El_Heraldo_(Tegucigalpa)), [La Tribuna](/wiki/La_Tribuna) and Diario Tiempo. The official newspaper is [Template:ILL](/wiki/Template:ILL).

### Music[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

[Punta](/wiki/Punta) is the main music of Honduras, with other sounds such as Caribbean salsa, [merengue](/wiki/Merengue_music), reggae, and [reggaeton](/wiki/Reggaeton) all widely heard, especially in the north, and Mexican [rancheras](/wiki/Ranchera) heard in the rural interior of the country.

### Celebrations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

[thumb|180px|](/wiki/File:Saw_dust_carpet_Comayagua_Honduras_(1).jpg)[Sawdust carpets](/wiki/Sawdust_carpet) of [Comayagua](/wiki/Comayagua) During the Easter Celebrations. Some of Honduras' national holidays include Honduras Independence Day on 15 September and Children's Day or Día del Niño, which is celebrated in homes, schools and churches on 10 September; on this day, children receive presents and have parties similar to Christmas or birthday celebrations. Some neighborhoods have piñatas on the street. Other holidays are Easter, [Maundy Thursday](/wiki/Maundy_Thursday), [Good Friday](/wiki/Good_Friday), Day of the Soldier (3 October to celebrate the birth of [Francisco Morazán](/wiki/Francisco_Morazán)), Christmas, El Dia de [Lempira](/wiki/Lempira_(Lenca_ruler)) on 20 July,[[43]](#cite_note-43) and New Year's Eve.

Honduras Independence Day festivities start early in the morning with marching bands. Each band wears different colors and features cheerleaders. Fiesta Catracha takes place this same day: typical Honduran foods such as [beans](/wiki/Bean), [tamales](/wiki/Tamale), baleadas, [cassava](/wiki/Cassava) with [chicharron](/wiki/Chicharron), and [tortillas](/wiki/Tortilla) are offered.

On Christmas Eve people reunite with their families and close friends to have dinner, then give out presents at midnight. In some cities fireworks are seen and heard at midnight. On New Year's Eve there is food and "cohetes", fireworks and festivities. Birthdays are also great events, and include piñatas filled with candies and surprises for the children.

[La Feria Isidra](/wiki/La_Ceiba_Carnival) is celebrated in [La Ceiba](/wiki/La_Ceiba), a city located in the north coast, in the second half of May to celebrate the day of the city's patron saint [Saint Isidore](/wiki/Saint_Isidore). People from all over the world come for one week of festivities. Every night there is a little carnaval (carnavalito) in a neighborhood. On Saturday there is a big parade with floats and displays with people from many countries. This celebration is also accompanied by the Milk Fair, where many Hondurans come to show off their farm products and animals.

### National symbols[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]

[thumb|200px|The national bird,](/wiki/File:Ara_macao_-_two_at_Lowry_Park_Zoo.jpg) [*Ara macao*](/wiki/Ara_macao). The [flag of Honduras](/wiki/Flag_of_Honduras) is composed of three equal horizontal stripes, with the upper and lower ones being blue and representing the Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea. The central stripe is white. It contains five blue stars representing the five states of the [Central American Union](/wiki/Federal_Republic_of_Central_America). The middle star represents Honduras, located in the center of the Central American Union.

The coat of arms was established in 1945. It is an equilateral triangle, at the base is a volcano between three castles, over which is a rainbow and the sun shining. The triangle is placed on an area that symbolizes being bathed by both seas. Around all of this an oval containing in golden lettering: "Republic of Honduras, Free, Sovereign and Independent".

The "[National Anthem of Honduras](/wiki/National_Anthem_of_Honduras)" is a result of a contest carried out in 1914 during the presidency of [Manuel Bonilla](/wiki/Manuel_Bonilla). In the end, it was the poet [Augusto Coello](/wiki/Augusto_Coello) that ended up writing the anthem, with German-born Honduran composer [Carlos Hartling](/wiki/Carlos_Hartling) writing the music. The anthem was officially adopted on 15 November 1915, during the presidency of [Template:ILL](/wiki/Template:ILL). The anthem is composed of a choir and seven stroonduran[Template:What](/wiki/Template:What).

The national flower is the famous orchid, [*Rhyncholaelia*](/wiki/Rhyncholaelia) *digbyana* (formerly known as *Brassavola digbyana*), which replaced the rose in 1969. The change of the national flower was carried out during the administration of general [Oswaldo López Arellano](/wiki/Oswaldo_López_Arellano), thinking that *Brassavola digbiana* "is an indigenous plant of Honduras; having this flower exceptional characteristics of beauty, vigor and distinction", as the decree dictates it.

The national tree of Honduras was declared in 1928 to be simply "the Pine that appears symbolically in our [Coat of Arms](/wiki/Coat_of_Arms)" (*el Pino que figura simbólicamente en nuestro Escudo*),[[44]](#cite_note-44) even though [pines](/wiki/Pine) comprise a [genus](/wiki/Genus) and not a [species](/wiki/Species), and even though legally there's no specification as for what kind of pine should appear in the coat of arms *either*. Because of its commonality in the country, the [*Pinus oocarpa*](/wiki/Pinus_oocarpa) species has become since then the species most strongly associated as the national tree, but legally it is not so. Another species associated as the national tree is the [*Pinus caribaea*](/wiki/Pinus_caribaea).

The national mammal is the [white-tailed deer](/wiki/White-tailed_deer) (*Odocoileus virginianus*), which was adopted as a measure to avoid excessive depredation[Template:What](/wiki/Template:What). It is one of two species of deer that live in Honduras. The national bird of Honduras is the [scarlet macaw](/wiki/Scarlet_macaw) (*Ara macao*). This bird was much valued by the pre-Columbian civilizations of Honduras.

### Folklore[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]

Legends and fairy tales are paramount within Honduran culture. [Lluvia de Peces](/wiki/Lluvia_de_Peces) (Rain of Fish) is an example of this. The legends of El [Cadejo](/wiki/Cadejo), [La Llorona](/wiki/La_Llorona) and [La Ciguanaba (La Sucia)](/wiki/La_Sucia) are also popular.

### Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]

[Football](/wiki/Association_Football) is the most popular Sport in Honduras. Information on all other Honduran sports related articles are below:

* [Football in Honduras](/wiki/Football_in_Honduras)
* [Honduran Football Federation](/wiki/Federación_Nacional_Autónoma_de_Fútbol_de_Honduras)
* [Honduras national baseball team](/wiki/Honduras_national_baseball_team)
* [Honduras national football team](/wiki/Honduras_national_football_team)
* [Honduras national under-20 football team](/wiki/Honduras_national_under-20_football_team)
* [Honduras U-17 national football team](/wiki/Honduras_U-17_national_football_team)

[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=40)]

[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal)

* [Outline of Honduras](/wiki/Outline_of_Honduras)
* [Index of Honduras-related articles](/wiki/Index_of_Honduras-related_articles)
* [Military of Honduras](/wiki/Military_of_Honduras)

[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=41)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=42)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

* [Government of Honduras](http://www.gob.hn/) [Template:Es icon](/wiki/Template:Es_icon)
* [Official Site of the Tourism Institute of Honduras (English)](http://www.letsgohonduras.com/)
* [Chief of State and Cabinet Members](https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/world-leaders-1/world-leaders-h/honduras.html)
* [Template:CIA World Factbook link](/wiki/Template:CIA_World_Factbook_link)
* [Honduras](http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/govpubs/for/honduras.htm) at *University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries GovPubs*
* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)
* [Honduras profile](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/country_profiles/1225416.stm) from the [BBC News](/wiki/BBC_News)
* [Template:Wikiatlas](/wiki/Template:Wikiatlas)
* [Honduran Biodiversity Database](http://www.hondurassilvestre.com/) [Template:Es icon](/wiki/Template:Es_icon)
* [Honduras Tips Travel Info (English)](http://www.hondurastips.honduras.com/)
* [Honduras Weekly](http://hondurasweekly.com/)
* [Travel and Tourism Info on Honduras (English)](http://www.honduras.com/)
* [Humanitarian Aid in Honduras](http://www.missionlazarus.org/)
* [Answers.com](http://www.answers.com/topic/honduras)
* [Project Honduras](http://www.projecthonduras.org/)
* [Interactive Maps Honduras](http://www.infohn.com/)
* [Key Development Forecasts for Honduras](http://www.ifs.du.edu/ifs/frm_CountryProfile.aspx?Country=HN) from [International Futures](/wiki/International_Futures)

[Template:Geographic location](/wiki/Template:Geographic_location)

[Template:Honduras topics](/wiki/Template:Honduras_topics) [Template:Central America topic](/wiki/Template:Central_America_topic) [Template:North America topic](/wiki/Template:North_America_topic)

[Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates)

[Template:Authority control](/wiki/Template:Authority_control)

[Category:Honduras](/wiki/Category:Honduras) [Category:Countries in the Caribbean](/wiki/Category:Countries_in_the_Caribbean) [Category:Countries in Central America](/wiki/Category:Countries_in_Central_America) [Category:Former Spanish colonies](/wiki/Category:Former_Spanish_colonies) [Category:Member states of the United Nations](/wiki/Category:Member_states_of_the_United_Nations) [Category:Republics](/wiki/Category:Republics) [Category:Spanish-speaking countries and territories](/wiki/Category:Spanish-speaking_countries_and_territories) [Category:States and territories established in 1821](/wiki/Category:States_and_territories_established_in_1821) [Category:1821 establishments in North America](/wiki/Category:1821_establishments_in_North_America)