[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Pp-vandalism](/wiki/Template:Pp-vandalism) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country) **Nepal** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en);[[1]](#cite_note-1) [Template:Lang-ne](/wiki/Template:Lang-ne) [Template:IPA-ne](/wiki/Template:IPA-ne)), officially the **Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal**,[[2]](#cite_note-2) is a [federal republic](/wiki/Federal_republic) and [landlocked country](/wiki/Landlocked_country) of over 26.4 million people in [South Asia](/wiki/South_Asia).<ref name=pre-cen/> It is bordered by [China](/wiki/China) to the north and [India](/wiki/India) to the south, east and west. It is separated from [Bangladesh](/wiki/Bangladesh) by a narrow Indian corridor and from [Bhutan](/wiki/Bhutan) by the Indian state of [Sikkim](/wiki/Sikkim). Nepal is located in the [Himalayas](/wiki/Himalayas) and is home to eight of the world's [tallest mountains](/wiki/List_of_highest_mountains#List), including [Mount Everest](/wiki/Mount_Everest), the highest point on Earth. Its southern [Madhesh](/wiki/Madhesh) region is fertile and humid.[[3]](#cite_note-3) The country has an area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), making it the world's [93rd largest](/wiki/List_of_countries_and_outlying_territories_by_total_area) country by area.[[4]](#cite_note-4) It is also the [41st most populous](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_population) country. [Kathmandu](/wiki/Kathmandu) is the nation's capital and largest city.

The first recorded mention of Nepal is found in [Vedic Age](/wiki/Vedic_Age) texts. The era laid the foundations of [Hinduism](/wiki/Hinduism), which is the predominant religion of the [Nepalese people](/wiki/Nepalese_people). Nepal is also home to [Lumbini](/wiki/Lumbini), the birthplace of [Siddharta Gautama](/wiki/Siddharta_Gautama), the founder of [Buddhism](/wiki/Buddhism)- the country's second largest religion. The country also has minorities of [Muslims](/wiki/Muslims), [Kiratans](/wiki/Kirant_Mundhum) and [Christians](/wiki/Christians). It is a [multiethnic](/wiki/Demographics_of_Nepal) nation with [Nepali](/wiki/Nepali_language) as the official langugage. A [monarchy](/wiki/Monarchy) throughout its history, the early modern [Kingdom of Nepal](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Nepal) led by the [Shah dynasty](/wiki/Shah_dynasty) was established in the 18th century, after [Prithvi Narayan Shah](/wiki/Prithvi_Narayan_Shah) unified many small kingdoms in the region. The aristocratic [Rana dynasty](/wiki/Rana_dynasty) administered Nepal's government as hereditary [Prime Ministers](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Nepal) until 1951. A multiparty democracy evolved until 1960, when [King Mahendra](/wiki/King_Mahendra) enacted the [*panchayat*](/wiki/Panchayat_(Nepal)) system. In 1990, a [parliamentary government](/wiki/Parliamentary_government) was permitted by [King Birendra](/wiki/King_Birendra). Nepal faced a decade-long [Communist Maoist insurgency](/wiki/Nepalese_Civil_War) and mass protests against the authoritarian [King Gyanendra](/wiki/King_Gyanendra) in 2005, which led to the [abolition of the monarchy](/wiki/1st_Nepalese_Constituent_Assembly) in 2008. Its [2nd constituent assembly](/wiki/2nd_Nepalese_Constituent_Assembly) promulgated a [new constitution](/wiki/Constitution_of_Nepal) in 2015.

The Nepalese government works in the framework of a [representative democracy](/wiki/Representative_democracy) with [seven federal provinces](/wiki/Nepalese_Federal_States). Nepal is a [developing nation](/wiki/Developing_nation), ranking [145th](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_Human_Development_Index) on the [Human Development Index](/wiki/Human_Development_Index) (HDI) in 2014. The country continues to struggle with a difficult political transition to a republic and high levels of hunger and poverty. Despite these challenges, Nepal has been making steady progress, with the government making a commitment to graduate the nation from [least developed country](/wiki/Least_developed_country) status by 2022.[[5]](#cite_note-5)[[6]](#cite_note-6) Nepal has friendship treaties with India and the [United Kingdom](/wiki/United_Kingdom).[[7]](#cite_note-7)On 27 May 2012, the country's Constituent Assembly failed to meet the deadline for writing a new constitution for the country. Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai announced that new elections will be held on 22 November 2012. "We have no other option but to go back to the people and elect a new assembly to write the constitution," he said in a nationally televised speech. One of the main obstacles has been disagreement over whether the states which will be created will be based on ethnicity.[[65]](#cite_note-65) Nepal is one of the few countries in Asia to abolish the [death penalty](/wiki/Death_penalty)[[66]](#cite_note-66) and the first country in Asia to rule in favor of [same-sex marriage](/wiki/Same-sex_marriage). The decision was based on a seven-person government committee study, and enacted through [Supreme Court's](/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_Nepal) ruling November 2008. The ruling granted full rights for [LGBT](/wiki/LGBT) individuals, including the right to marry[[67]](#cite_note-67) and now can get [citizenship](/wiki/Citizenship) as a [third gender](/wiki/Third_gender) rather than [male](/wiki/Male) or [female](/wiki/Female) as authorized by Nepal's Supreme Court in 2007.[[68]](#cite_note-68)

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

Nepal is governed according to the [Constitution of Nepal](/wiki/Constitution_of_Nepal), which came into effect on September 20, 2015, replacing the Interim Constitution of 2007. The Constitution was drafted by the Second Constituent Assembly following the failure of the First Constituent Assembly to produce a constitution in its mandated period. The constitution is the fundamental law of Nepal. It defines Nepal as having multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multi-religious, multi-cultural characteristics with common aspirations of people living in diverse geographical regions, and being committed to and united by a bond of allegiance to national independence, territorial integrity, national interest and prosperity of Nepal, all the Nepali people collectively constitute the nation.

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

[thumb|300px|Entrance to](/wiki/File:Simha_Durbar_Gate.jpg) [Singha Durbar](/wiki/Singha_Durbar), the seat of the Nepalese government in Kathmandu The Constitution of Nepal has defined three organs of the government.[[69]](#cite_note-69)