[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) **Portugal** ([Portuguese](/wiki/Portuguese_language): [Template:IPA-pt](/wiki/Template:IPA-pt)), officially the **Portuguese Republic** ([Template:Lang-pt](/wiki/Template:Lang-pt)), is a country on the [Iberian Peninsula](/wiki/Iberian_Peninsula), in [Southwestern Europe](/wiki/Western_Europe). It is the westernmost country of [mainland Europe](/wiki/Mainland_Europe), being bordered by the [Atlantic Ocean](/wiki/Atlantic_Ocean) to the west and south and by [Spain](/wiki/Spain) to the north and east. The [Portugal–Spain border](/wiki/Portugal–Spain_border) is 1,214 km (754 mi) long and considered the longest uninterrupted border within the European Union. The republic also includes the Atlantic [archipelagos](/wiki/Archipelago) of the [Azores](/wiki/Azores) and [Madeira](/wiki/Madeira), both [autonomous regions](/wiki/Autonomous_regions_of_Portugal) with their own [regional governments](/wiki/Regional_government).

The territory of modern Portugal has been continuously settled, invaded and fought over since [prehistoric times](/wiki/Prehistoric_Iberia). The [Iberians](/wiki/Iberians), [Celts](/wiki/Celts), [Phoenicians](/wiki/Phoenicia), [Carthaginians](/wiki/Ancient_Carthage) and the [Romans](/wiki/Roman_Republic) were followed by the invasions of the [Visigothic](/wiki/Visigoths) and the [Suebi](/wiki/Suebi) [Germanic peoples](/wiki/Germanic_peoples), who were themselves later invaded by the [Moors](/wiki/Moors). These Muslim peoples were eventually expelled during the Christian [*Reconquista*](/wiki/Reconquista). Portuguese nationality can be traced back to the creation of the First [County of Portugal](/wiki/County_of_Portugal), in 868. In 1139, [Afonso Henriques](/wiki/Afonso_Henriques) was proclaimed [King of Portugal](/wiki/King_of_Portugal), thus firmly establishing Portuguese independence, under the [Portuguese House of Burgundy](/wiki/Portuguese_House_of_Burgundy).[[1]](#cite_note-1) In the 15th and 16th centuries, under the [House of Aviz](/wiki/House_of_Aviz), which took power following the [1383-85 Crisis](/wiki/1383-85_Crisis), Portugal expanded [Western](/wiki/Western_Civilization) influence and established the [first global empire](/wiki/Portuguese_Empire), becoming one of the world's major economic, political and military [powers](/wiki/Education_superpower).[[2]](#cite_note-2)[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[4]](#cite_note-4) During this time, Portuguese explorers pioneered maritime exploration in the Age of Discovery, notably under royal patronage of Prince [Henry the Navigator](/wiki/Henry_the_Navigator) and King [João II](/wiki/John_II_of_Portugal), with such notable discoveries as [Vasco da Gama's](/wiki/Vasco_da_Gama) sea [route to India](/wiki/Portuguese_India_Armadas) (1497–98), [Pedro Álvares Cabral's](/wiki/Pedro_Álvares_Cabral) discovery of [Brazil](/wiki/Brazil) (1500), and [Bartolomeu Dias's](/wiki/Bartolomeu_Dias) reaching of the [Cape of Good Hope](/wiki/Cape_of_Good_Hope). Portugal monopolized the [spice trade](/wiki/Spice_trade) during this time, under royal command of the [Casa da Índia](/wiki/Casa_da_Índia), and the Portuguese Empire expanded with military campaigns led in Asia, notably under [Afonso de Albuquerque](/wiki/Afonso_de_Albuquerque), who was known as the *"Caesar of the East"*.

The destruction of [Lisbon](/wiki/Lisbon) in a [1755 earthquake](/wiki/Lisbon_Earthquake), the country's occupation during the [Napoleonic Wars](/wiki/Napoleonic_Wars), the [independence of Brazil](/wiki/Independence_of_Brazil) (1822), and the [Liberal Wars](/wiki/Liberal_Wars) (1828-1834), all left Portugal crippled from war and diminished in its world power.[[5]](#cite_note-5) After the [1910 revolution](/wiki/5_October_1910_revolution) deposed the monarchy, the democratic but unstable [Portuguese First Republic](/wiki/First_Portuguese_Republic) was established, later being superseded by the ["Estado Novo" right-wing authoritarian regime](/wiki/Estado_Novo_(Portugal)). Democracy was restored after the [Portuguese Colonial War](/wiki/Portuguese_Colonial_War) and the [Carnation Revolution](/wiki/Carnation_Revolution) in 1974. Shortly after, independence was granted to [all its colonies](/wiki/Portuguese-speaking_African_countries), with the exception of [Macau](/wiki/Macau), which was handed over to [China](/wiki/People's_Republic_of_China) in 1999.[[6]](#cite_note-6) This marked the end of the [longest-lived European colonial empire](/wiki/Portuguese_Empire), leaving a profound cultural and architectural influence [across the globe](/wiki/Evolution_of_the_Portuguese_Empire) and a legacy of over 250 million [Portuguese speakers today](/wiki/Lusophone).

Portugal is a [developed country](/wiki/Developed_country) with a high-income [advanced economy](/wiki/Developed_country#IMF_advanced_economies) and high [living standard](/wiki/Living_standard)s.[[7]](#cite_note-7)[[8]](#cite_note-8)[[9]](#cite_note-9) It is the 5th most peaceful country in the world, maintaining a [unitary](/wiki/Unitary_state) [semi-presidential](/wiki/Semi-presidential_system) [republican](/wiki/Republic) form of government.[[10]](#cite_note-10)[[11]](#cite_note-11)[[12]](#cite_note-12)[[13]](#cite_note-13)[[14]](#cite_note-14)[[15]](#cite_note-15) It has the 18th highest [Social Progress](/wiki/Social_Progress_Index) in the world, putting it ahead of other Western European countries like [France](/wiki/France), [Spain](/wiki/Spain) and [Italy](/wiki/Italy).[[16]](#cite_note-16) It is a member of numerous international organizations, including the [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations), the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union), the [eurozone](/wiki/Eurozone), [OECD](/wiki/OECD), [NATO](/wiki/NATO) and the [Community of Portuguese Language Countries](/wiki/Community_of_Portuguese_Language_Countries). Portugal is also known for having decriminalized the usage of all common drugs in 2001, the first country in the world to do so. However, the sale and distribution of these drugs is still illegal in Portugal.[[17]](#cite_note-17)

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### Early history: Pre-Celts and Celts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|300px|](/wiki/File:23.4.14_Briteiros_086_(14012393034).jpg)[Citânia de Briteiros](/wiki/Citânia_de_Briteiros), in the [Minho Province](/wiki/Minho_Province), is the best preserved [Iron Age](/wiki/Iron_Age) and [Castro culture](/wiki/Castro_culture) site in Portugal. The early history of Portugal is shared with the rest of the [Iberian Peninsula](/wiki/Iberian_Peninsula) located in South Western Europe. [The name of Portugal](/wiki/The_name_of_Portugal) derives from the joined Romano-Celtic name [Portus Cale](/wiki/Portus_Cale). The region was [settled](/wiki/Pre-Roman_peoples_of_the_Iberian_Peninsula) by Pre-[Celts](/wiki/Celts) and Celts, giving origin to peoples like the [Gallaeci](/wiki/Gallaeci), [Lusitanians](/wiki/Lusitanians), [Celtici](/wiki/Celtici) and [Cynetes](/wiki/Cynetes), visited by [Phoenicians](/wiki/Phoenicians) and [Carthaginians](/wiki/Carthaginians), incorporated in the [Roman Republic](/wiki/Roman_Republic) dominions as [Lusitania](/wiki/Lusitania) and part of [Gallaecia](/wiki/Gallaecia), after 45 BC until 298 AD, settled again by [Suebi](/wiki/Suebi), [Buri](/wiki/Buri_(Germanic_tribe)), and [Visigoths](/wiki/Visigoths), and conquered by [Moors](/wiki/Moors). Other influences include some 5th-century vestiges of [Alan](/wiki/Alans) settlements, which were found in [Alenquer (old Germanic *Alankerk*, from Alan+kerk; meaning *temple of the Alans*)](/wiki/Alenquer_Municipality,_Portugal), [Coimbra](/wiki/Coimbra) and [Lisbon](/wiki/Lisbon).[[18]](#cite_note-18) The region of present-day Portugal was inhabited by [Neanderthals](/wiki/Neanderthal) and then by [Homo sapiens](/wiki/Homo_sapiens), who roamed the border-less region of the northern Iberian peninsula.[[19]](#cite_note-19) These were subsistence societies that, although they did not establish prosperous settlements, did establish organized societies. Neolithic Portugal experimented with domestication of herding animals, the raising of some cereal crops and fluvial or marine fishing.<ref name=Birmp1/>

It is believed by some scholars that early in the first millennium BC, several waves of [Celts](/wiki/Celts) invaded Portugal from [Central Europe](/wiki/Central_Europe) and inter-married with the local populations, forming [different ethnic groups](/wiki/Pre-Roman_peoples_of_the_Iberian_Peninsula), with many tribes.

Chief among these tribes were the [Calaicians or Gallaeci of Northern Portugal](/wiki/Gallaecia), the [Lusitanians of central Portugal](/wiki/Lusitanians), the [Celtici of Alentejo](/wiki/Celtici), and the [Cynetes or Conii of the Algarve](/wiki/Cynetes). Among the lesser tribes or sub-divisions were the [Bracari](/wiki/Bracari), [Coelerni](/wiki/Coelerni), [Equaesi](/wiki/Equaesi), [Grovii](/wiki/Grovii), [Interamici](/wiki/Interamici), [Leuni](/wiki/Leuni), [Luanqui](/wiki/Luanqui), [Limici](/wiki/Limici), [Narbasi](/wiki/Narbasi), [Nemetati](/wiki/Nemetati), [Paesuri](/wiki/Paesuri), [Quaquerni](/wiki/Quaquerni), [Seurbi](/wiki/Seurbi), [Tamagani](/wiki/Tamagani), [Tapoli](/wiki/Tapoli), [Turduli](/wiki/Turduli), [Turduli Veteres](/wiki/Turduli_Veteres), [Turdulorum Oppida](/wiki/Turdulorum_Oppida), [Turodi](/wiki/Turodi), and [Zoelae](/wiki/Zoelae). A few small, semi-permanent, commercial coastal settlements (such as [Tavira](/wiki/Tavira_Municipality)) were also founded in the [Algarve](/wiki/Algarve) region by [Phoenicians](/wiki/Phoenicians)-[Carthaginians](/wiki/Carthaginians).

### Roman Lusitania and Gallaecia[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|300px|The](/wiki/File:Evora-RomanTemple_edit.jpg) [Roman Temple of Évora](/wiki/Roman_Temple_of_Évora), in the [Alentejo](/wiki/Alentejo), is a symbol of [Lusitania](/wiki/Lusitania), Roman rule in Portugal. Romans first invaded the Iberian Peninsula in 219 BC. During the last days of [Julius Caesar](/wiki/Julius_Caesar), almost the entire peninsula had been annexed to the [Roman Republic](/wiki/Roman_Republic). The Carthaginians, Rome's adversary in the [Punic Wars](/wiki/Punic_Wars), were expelled from their coastal colonies.

The Roman conquest of what is now part of modern-day Portugal took almost two hundred years and took many lives of young soldiers and the lives of those who were sentenced to a certain death in the slavery mines when not sold as slaves to other parts of the empire. It suffered a severe setback in 150 BC, when a rebellion began in the north. The Lusitanians and other native tribes, under the leadership of [Viriathus](/wiki/Viriathus), wrested control of all of western Iberia.

Rome sent numerous legions and its best generals to Lusitania to quell the rebellion, but to no avail—the Lusitanians kept conquering territory. The Roman leaders decided to change their strategy. They bribed Viriathus's allies to kill him. In 139 BC, Viriathus was assassinated, and Tautalus became leader.

Rome installed a colonial regime. The complete Romanization of Lusitania only took place in the Visigothic era.

In 27 BC, Lusitania gained the status of [Roman province](/wiki/Roman_province). Later, a northern province of Lusitania was formed, known as [Gallaecia](/wiki/Gallaecia), with capital in Bracara Augusta, today's [Braga](/wiki/Braga). There are still many ruins of castros ([hill forts](/wiki/Hill_forts)) all over modern Portugal and remains of [Castro culture](/wiki/Castro_culture). Numerous Roman sites are scattered around present-day Portugal, some urban remains are quite large, like [Conímbriga](/wiki/Conímbriga) and [Mirobriga](/wiki/Miróbriga). The former, beyond being one of the largest [Roman](/wiki/Roman_Empire) settlements in Portugal, is also classified as a [National Monument](/wiki/Monuments_of_Portugal). Conímbriga lies 16 km from [Coimbra](/wiki/Coimbra) which by its turn was the ancient [*Aeminium*](/wiki/Aeminium)). The site also has a museum that displays objects found by archaeologists during their excavations.

Several works of engineering, such as baths, temples, bridges, roads, circus, theatres and layman's homes are preserved throughout the country. Coins, some of which coined in Lusitanian land, as well as numerous pieces of ceramics were also found. Contemporary historians include [Paulus Orosius](/wiki/Paulus_Orosius) (c. 375–418)[[20]](#cite_note-20) and [Hydatius](/wiki/Hydatius) (c. 400–469), bishop of [Aquae Flaviae](/wiki/Aquae_Flaviae), who reported on the final years of the Roman rule and arrival of the [Germanic tribes](/wiki/Germanic_peoples).

### Germanic kingdoms: Suebi and Visigoths[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[thumb|300px|Visigothic Hispania and its divisions in 700, prior to the Muslim conquest.](/wiki/File:Hispania_700_AD.PNG) In the early 5th century, [Germanic tribes](/wiki/Germanic_tribes), namely the [Suebi](/wiki/Suebi) and the [Vandals](/wiki/Vandals) ([Silingi](/wiki/Silingi) and [Hasdingi](/wiki/Hasdingi)) together with their allies, the [Sarmatians](/wiki/Sarmatian) and [Alans](/wiki/Alans) invaded the [Iberian Peninsula](/wiki/Iberian_Peninsula) where they would form their kingdom. The [Kingdom of the Suebi](/wiki/Kingdom_of_the_Suebi) was the [Germanic](/wiki/Germanic_peoples) post-Roman kingdom, established in the former Roman provinces of [Gallaecia](/wiki/Gallaecia)-[Lusitania](/wiki/Lusitania).

About 410 and during the 6th century it became a formally declared kingdom, where king [Hermeric](/wiki/Hermeric) made a peace treaty with the Gallaecians before passing his domains to [Rechila](/wiki/Rechila), his son. In 448 Réchila died, leaving the state in expansion to [Rechiar](/wiki/Rechiar).

In the year 500, the [Visigothic Kingdom](/wiki/Visigothic_Kingdom) was installed in [Iberia](/wiki/Iberia), centred on [Toledo](/wiki/Toledo,_Spain). The Visigoths eventually conquered the [Suebi](/wiki/Suebi) and its capital city [Bracara](/wiki/Bracara) (modern day Portugal's [Braga](/wiki/Braga)) in 584–585. It maintained its independence until 585, when it was annexed by the [Visigoths](/wiki/Visigoths) following the consecutive defeats of the two last [Suebi](/wiki/Suebi) kings [Audeca](/wiki/Audeca) and [Malaric](/wiki/Malaric), and turned into the sixth province of the Visigothic Kingdom of Hispania.

For the next 300 years and by the year 700, the entire Iberian Peninsula was ruled by [Visigoths](/wiki/Visigoths), having survived until 711, when King [Roderic](/wiki/Roderic) (Rodrigo) was killed while opposing a Moorish invasion from the south. From the various [Germanic](/wiki/Germanic_peoples) groups who settled in Western Iberia, the [Suebi](/wiki/Suebi) left the strongest lasting cultural legacy in what is today Portugal, Galicia and Asturias.[[21]](#cite_note-21)[[22]](#cite_note-22)[[23]](#cite_note-23)

### Middle Ages and the Reconquista[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) Today's modern day continental Portugal, along with most of modern [Spain](/wiki/Spain), was part of the [Umayyad Caliphate](/wiki/Umayyad_Caliphate). This occupation lasted one century in the North (effectively for some decades and later only as a mainly military and administrative claimed region) to approximately four and five centuries in most of the Center and in the South, respectively (711 AD - 1249 AD), following the [Umayyad Caliphate](/wiki/Umayyad_Caliphate) conquest of the [Iberian Peninsula](/wiki/Iberian_Peninsula) in 711 AD.

After defeating the [Visigoths](/wiki/Visigoths) in only a few months, the Umayyad Caliphate started expanding rapidly in the peninsula. Beginning in 711, the land that is now Portugal became part of the vast Umayyad Caliphate's empire of [Damascus](/wiki/Damascus), which stretched from the [Indus](/wiki/Indus) river in the Indian sub-continent (now [Pakistan](/wiki/Pakistan)) up to the South of France, until its collapse in 750. That year the west of the empire gained its independence under [Abd-ar-Rahman I](/wiki/Abd-ar-Rahman_I) with the establishment of the [Emirate of Córdoba](/wiki/Emirate_of_Córdoba). After almost two centuries, the Emirate became the [Caliphate of Córdoba](/wiki/Caliphate_of_Córdoba) in 929, until its dissolution a century later in 1031 into no less than 23 small kingdoms, called [Taifa](/wiki/Taifa) kingdoms.

The governors of the taifas each proclaimed themselves [Emir](/wiki/Emir) of their provinces and established diplomatic relations with the Christian kingdoms of the north. Most of Portugal fell into the hands of the [Taifa of Badajoz](/wiki/Taifa_of_Badajoz) of the [Aftasid Dynasty](/wiki/Aftasid_Dynasty), and after a short spell of an ephemeral [Taifa of Lisbon](/wiki/Taifa_of_Lisbon) in 1022, fell under the dominion of the [Taifa of Seville](/wiki/Taifa_of_Seville) of the [Abbadids](/wiki/Abbadids) poets. The Taifa period ended with the conquest of the [Almoravids](/wiki/Almoravids) who came from [Morocco](/wiki/Morocco) in 1086 winning a decisive victory at the [Battle of Sagrajas](/wiki/Battle_of_Sagrajas), followed a century later in 1147, after the second period of Taifa, by the [Almohads](/wiki/Almohads), also from [Marrakesh](/wiki/Marrakesh).[[24]](#cite_note-24) Al-Andalus was divided into different districts called *Kura*. Gharb Al-Andalus at its largest was constituted of ten kuras,[[25]](#cite_note-25) each with a distinct capital and governor. The main cities of the period in Portugal were [Beja](/wiki/Beja_(Portugal)), [Silves](/wiki/Silves_Municipality,_Portugal), [Alcácer do Sal](/wiki/Alcácer_do_Sal), [Santarém](/wiki/Santarém,_Portugal) and [Lisbon](/wiki/Lisbon).

The Muslim population of the region consisted mainly of native Iberian converts to [Islam](/wiki/Islam) (the so-called [*Muwallad*](/wiki/Muwallad) or *Muladi*) and to a lesser extent Berbers and Arabs. The Arabs were principally noblemen from [Oman](/wiki/Oman); and though few in numbers, they constituted the elite of the population. The Berbers were originally from the [Atlas mountains](/wiki/Atlas_mountains) and [Rif](/wiki/Rif) mountains of North Africa and were essentially nomads. In Portugal, the Muslim population (or "[Moors](/wiki/Moors)"), relatively small in numbers,[[26]](#cite_note-26) stayed in the [Algarve](/wiki/Algarve) region, and south of the [Tagus](/wiki/Tagus).[[26]](#cite_note-26) Today, there are approximately 800 words in the Portuguese language of Arabic origin. The Muslims were expelled from Portugal 300 years earlier than in neighbouring [Spain](/wiki/Spain), and this is reflected in both Portuguese culture and language, which is mostly [Celtiberian](/wiki/Celtiberian_language) and [Vulgar Latin](/wiki/Vulgar_Latin).

### From County to Country[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|175px|A monument in](/wiki/File:Estatua_de_Vimara_Peres,_Oporto,_Portugal,_2012-05-09,_DD_02.JPG) [Porto](/wiki/Porto) to [Vimara Peres](/wiki/Vimara_Peres), the first ruler of the County of Portugal. An Asturian Visigothic noble named [Pelagius of Asturias](/wiki/Pelagius_of_Asturias) in 718 AD was elected leader by many of the ousted [Visigoth](/wiki/Visigoth) nobles. Pelagius called for the remnant of the Christian Visigothic armies to rebel against the Moors and regroup in the unconquered northern Asturian highlands, better known today as the [Cantabrian Mountains](/wiki/Cantabrian_Mountains), in what is today the small mountain region in North-western [Spain](/wiki/Spain), adjacent to the [Bay of Biscay](/wiki/Bay_of_Biscay).[[27]](#cite_note-27) Pelagius' plan was to use the Cantabrian mountains as a place of refuge and protection from the invading Moors. He then aimed to regroup the Iberian Peninsula's Christian armies and use the Cantabrian mountains as a springboard from which to regain their lands from the Moors. In the process, after defeating the Moors in the [Battle of Covadonga](/wiki/Battle_of_Covadonga) in 722 AD, Pelagius was proclaimed king, thus founding the Christian [Kingdom of Asturias](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Asturias) and starting the war of Christian reconquest known in [Portuguese](/wiki/Portuguese_language) as the [*Reconquista Cristã*](/wiki/Reconquista).[[27]](#cite_note-27) At the end of the 9th century, the region of Portugal, between the rivers Minho and Douro, was freed or reconquered from the Moors by [Vimara Peres](/wiki/Vimara_Peres) on the orders of King [Alfonso III of Asturias](/wiki/Alfonso_III_of_Asturias). Finding that the region had previously had two major cities—[Portus Cale](/wiki/Portus_Cale) in the coast and [Braga](/wiki/Braga) in the interior, with many towns that were now deserted—he decided to repopulate and rebuild them with Portuguese and Galician refugees and other Christians.[[28]](#cite_note-28) Vimara Peres organized the region and elevated it to the status of [County](/wiki/County). Vimara Peres named the region he freed from the Moors, the [County of Portugal](/wiki/County_of_Portugal) after the region's major port city—*Portus Cale* ***or modern*** [***Porto***](/wiki/Porto)***. One of the first cities Vimara Peres founded at this time is Vimaranes, known today as*** [***Guimarães***](/wiki/Guimarães) ***- the "birthplace of the Portuguese nation" or the "cradle city" (Cidade Berço in Portuguese).***[***[28]***](#cite_note-28)[***thumb|300px|The historical retreat and expansion of***](/wiki/File:Linguistic_map_Southwestern_Europe.gif) [***Galician-Portuguese***](/wiki/Galician-Portuguese) ***in the Iberian Peninsula.*** After annexing the County of Portugal into one of the several counties that made up the [Kingdom of Asturias](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Asturias), King [Alfonso III of Asturias](/wiki/Alfonso_III_of_Asturias) knighted Vimara Peres, in 868 AD, as the First Count of Portus Cale (Portugal). The region became known as *Portucale*, *Portugale*, and simultaneously *Portugália* — the [County of Portugal](/wiki/County_of_Portugal).[[28]](#cite_note-28) Later the Kingdom of Asturias was divided into a number of Christian Kingdoms in Northern Spain due to dynastic divisions of inheritance among the king's offspring. With the forced abdication of [Alfonso III "the Great" of Asturias](/wiki/Alfonso_III_of_Asturias) by his sons in 910, the Kingdom of Asturias split into three separate kingdoms of [León](/wiki/Kingdom_of_León), [Galicia](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Galicia) and Asturias. The three kingdoms were eventually reunited in 924 (León and Galicia in 914, Asturias later) under the crown of [León](/wiki/Kingdom_of_León).

During the century of internecine struggles for dominance among the Northern Christians kingdoms, the County of Portugal, formed the southern portion of the Kingdom of Galicia. At times the Kingdom of Galicia existed independently for short periods, but usually formed an important part of the [Kingdom of Leon](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Leon). Throughout this period, the people of County of Portugal as Galicians found themselves struggling to maintain the autonomy of Galicia with its distinct language and culture ([Galician-Portuguese](/wiki/Galician-Portuguese)) from the Leonese culture, whenever the status of the Kingdom of Galicia changed in relation to the Kingdom of Leon. As a result of political division, Galician-Portuguese lost its unity when the [County of Portugal](/wiki/County_of_Portugal) separated from the Kingdom of Galicia (a dependent kingdom of Leon) to establish the [Kingdom of Portugal](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Portugal).

[thumb|300px|The](/wiki/File:BatalhaOurique.jpg) [Battle of Ourique](/wiki/Battle_of_Ourique) was a major stepping stone in the [Reconquista](/wiki/Reconquista). In 1093, [Alfonso VI of León and Castile](/wiki/Alfonso_VI_of_León_and_Castile) bestowed the county to [Henry of Burgundy](/wiki/Henry,_Count_of_Portugal) and married him to his daughter, [Teresa of León](/wiki/Theresa,_Countess_of_Portugal), for his role in reconquering the land from Moors. Henry based his newly formed county in Bracara Augusta (modern [Braga](/wiki/Braga)), capital city of the ancient Roman province, and also previous capital of several kingdoms over the first millennia.

On 24 June 1128, the [Battle of São Mamede](/wiki/Battle_of_São_Mamede) occurred near [Guimarães](/wiki/Guimarães). [Afonso Henriques](/wiki/Afonso_I_of_Portugal), Count of Portugal, defeated his mother [Countess Teresa](/wiki/Teresa,_Countess_of_Portugal) and her lover [Fernão Peres de Trava](/wiki/Fernão_Peres_de_Trava), thereby establishing himself as sole leader. Afonso then turned his arms against the Moors in the south. His campaigns were successful and, on 25 July 1139, he obtained an overwhelming victory in the [Battle of Ourique](/wiki/Battle_of_Ourique), and straight after was unanimously proclaimed [King of Portugal](/wiki/King_of_Portugal) by his soldiers.

During the [Reconquista](/wiki/Reconquista) period, Christians reconquered the Iberian Peninsula from [Moorish](/wiki/Moors) domination. The Portuguese victory over the Almoravids at the [Battle of Ourique](/wiki/Battle_of_Ourique) in 1139 is traditionally taken as the occasion when the County of Portugal as a fief of the [Kingdom of León](/wiki/Kingdom_of_León) was transformed into the independent [Kingdom of Portugal](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Portugal).

Afonso then established the first of the [Portuguese Cortes](/wiki/Portuguese_Cortes) at [Lamego](/wiki/Lamego), where he was crowned by the Archbishop of Braga, though the validity of the Cortes of Lamego has been disputed and called a myth created during the [Portuguese Restoration War](/wiki/Portuguese_Restoration_War). Afonso was recognized in 1143 by King [Alfonso VII of León and Castile](/wiki/Alfonso_VII_of_León_and_Castile), and in 1179 by [Pope Alexander III](/wiki/Pope_Alexander_III).

[thumb|300px|The](/wiki/File:Mosteiro_da_Batalha_-_Fachada_principal_ao_anoitecer_(2).jpg) [Gothic](/wiki/Gothic_Architecture) [Batalha Monastery](/wiki/Batalha_Monastery). Construction started in 1385 to commemorate the [Battle of Aljubarrota](/wiki/Battle_of_Aljubarrota). It was classified as a [World Heritage Site](/wiki/World_Heritage_Site) in 1983. [Afonso Henriques](/wiki/Afonso_I_of_Portugal) and his successors, aided by military [monastic orders](/wiki/Christian_monasticism), pushed southward to drive out the Moors. At this time Portugal covered about half of its present area. In 1249, the Reconquista ended with the capture of the [Algarve](/wiki/Algarve) and complete expulsion of the last Moorish settlements on the southern coast, giving Portugal its present-day borders, with minor exceptions.

The reigns of [Dinis I](/wiki/Denis_I_of_Portugal), [Afonso IV](/wiki/Afonso_IV_of_Portugal), and [Pedro I](/wiki/Peter_I_of_Portugal) for the most part saw peace with the Christian kingdoms of Iberia.

In 1348 and 1349 Portugal, like the rest of Europe, was devastated by the [Black Death](/wiki/Black_Death).[[29]](#cite_note-29) In 1373, Portugal made an [alliance with England](/wiki/Anglo-Portuguese_Alliance), which is the longest-standing alliance in the world. This alliance served both nations' interests throughout history and is regarded by many as the predecessor to [NATO](/wiki/NATO). Over time this went way beyond geo-political and military cooperation (protecting both nations' interests in Africa, the Americas and Asia against French, Spanish and Dutch rivals) and maintained strong trade and cultural ties between the two old European allies. Particularly in the Oporto region, there is visible [English](/wiki/England) influence to this day.

In 1383, [John I of Castile](/wiki/John_I_of_Castile), husband of [Beatrice of Portugal](/wiki/Beatrice_of_Portugal) and son-in-law of [Ferdinand I of Portugal](/wiki/Ferdinand_I_of_Portugal), claimed the throne of Portugal. A faction of petty noblemen and commoners, led by [John of Aviz](/wiki/John_I_of_Portugal) (later King John I of Portugal) and commanded by General [Nuno Álvares Pereira](/wiki/Nuno_Álvares_Pereira) defeated the Castilians in the [Battle of Aljubarrota](/wiki/Battle_of_Aljubarrota). With this battle, the [House of Aviz](/wiki/House_of_Aviz) became the ruling house of Portugal.

### Joanine era[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|right|upright|](/wiki/File:Lisboa-Museu_Nacional_de_Arte_Antiga-Retrato_dito_de_Vasco_da_Gama-20140917.jpg)[Vasco da Gama](/wiki/Vasco_da_Gama) opened the sea route to India in 1498. Portugal spearheaded European exploration of the world and the [Age of Discovery](/wiki/Age_of_Discovery). Prince [Henry the Navigator](/wiki/Henry_the_Navigator), son of [King João I](/wiki/John_I_of_Portugal), became the main sponsor and patron of this endeavour. During this period, Portugal explored the [Atlantic Ocean](/wiki/Atlantic_Ocean), discovering several Atlantic archipelagos like the [Azores](/wiki/Azores), [Madeira](/wiki/Madeira), and [Cape Verde](/wiki/Portuguese_Cape_Verde), explored the African coast, colonized selected areas of [Africa](/wiki/Africa), discovered an eastern [route to India](/wiki/Portuguese_India_Armadas) via the [Cape of Good Hope](/wiki/Cape_of_Good_Hope), [discovered Brazil](/wiki/Colonial_Brazil#Discovery_and_early_exploitation), explored the [Indian Ocean](/wiki/Indian_Ocean), established trading routes throughout most of [southern Asia](/wiki/Southern_Asia), and sent the first direct European maritime trade and diplomatic missions to [China](/wiki/Fernão_Pires_de_Andrade) and [Japan](/wiki/Nanban_trade).

In 1415, Portugal acquired the first of its overseas colonies by conquering [Ceuta](/wiki/Ceuta), the first prosperous Islamic trade centre in [North Africa](/wiki/North_Africa). There followed the first discoveries in the [Atlantic](/wiki/Atlantic): [Madeira](/wiki/Madeira) and the [Azores](/wiki/Azores), which led to the first [colonization](/wiki/Colonialism) movements.

Throughout the 15th century, [Portuguese explorers](/wiki/European_exploration_of_Africa#Portuguese) sailed the coast of Africa, establishing trading posts for [several common types of tradable commodities at the time](/wiki/Economic_history_of_Portugal#Expansion_of_the_Portuguese_empire_(15th_and_16th_centuries)), ranging from [gold](/wiki/Gold) to [slaves](/wiki/Slavery), as they looked for a route to India and its [spices](/wiki/Spice), which were coveted in Europe.

The [Treaty of Tordesillas](/wiki/Treaty_of_Tordesillas), intended to resolve the dispute that had been created following the return of [Christopher Columbus](/wiki/Christopher_Columbus), which was made by [Pope Alexander VI](/wiki/Pope_Alexander_VI), the mediator between Portugal and Spain. It was signed on 7 June 1494, and divided the newly discovered lands outside Europe between the two countries along a meridian 370 leagues west of the [Cape Verde](/wiki/Cape_Verde) islands (off the west coast of Africa).

In 1498, [Vasco da Gama](/wiki/Vasco_da_Gama) reached [India](/wiki/India) and brought [economic prosperity to Portugal](/wiki/Economic_history_of_Portugal) and its population of 1.7 million residents, helping to start the [Portuguese Renaissance](/wiki/Portuguese_Renaissance). In 1500, the Portuguese explorer [Gaspar Corte-Real](/wiki/Gaspar_Corte-Real) reached what is now [Canada](/wiki/Canada) and founded the town of [Portugal Cove-St. Philip's](/wiki/Portugal_Cove-St._Philip's), [Newfoundland and Labrador](/wiki/Newfoundland_and_Labrador), long before the French and English in the 17th century, and being just one of many [Portuguese Colonizations of the Americas](/wiki/Portuguese_colonization_of_the_Americas).[[30]](#cite_note-30)[[31]](#cite_note-31)[[32]](#cite_note-32) [thumb|The *Panel of the Archbishop*, from the](/wiki/File:Painéis_de_São_Vicente4.jpg) [Saint Vincent Panels](/wiki/Saint_Vincent_Panels), a magnum opus of the [Portuguese Renaissance](/wiki/Portuguese_Renaissance). In 1500, [Pedro Álvares Cabral](/wiki/Pedro_Álvares_Cabral) discovered [Brazil](/wiki/Brazil) and claimed it for Portugal.[[33]](#cite_note-33) Ten years later, [Afonso de Albuquerque](/wiki/Afonso_de_Albuquerque) conquered [Goa](/wiki/Goa) in [India](/wiki/India), [Muscat](/wiki/Muscat,_Oman) and [Ormuz](/wiki/Ormuz) in the [Persian Strait](/wiki/Persian_Strait), and [Malacca](/wiki/Malacca), now a [state](/wiki/States_of_Malaysia) in [Malaysia](/wiki/Malaysia). Thus, the Portuguese empire held dominion over commerce in the [Indian Ocean](/wiki/Indian_Ocean) and South Atlantic. Portuguese sailors set out to reach Eastern Asia by sailing eastward from Europe, landing in such places as [Taiwan](/wiki/Taiwan), [Japan](/wiki/Japan), the island of [Timor](/wiki/Timor), and in the [Moluccas](/wiki/Moluccas).

Although for a long period it was believed the [Dutch](/wiki/Netherlands) were the first [Europeans](/wiki/Europeans) to arrive in Australia, evidence points to the [Portuguese discovery of Australia](/wiki/Theory_of_the_Portuguese_discovery_of_Australia) in 1521.[[34]](#cite_note-34)[[35]](#cite_note-35)[[36]](#cite_note-36) The [Treaty of Zaragoza](/wiki/Treaty_of_Zaragoza), signed on 22 April 1529 between Portugal and Spain, specified the anti-meridian to the line of demarcation specified in the Treaty of Tordesillas.

All these factors made Portugal one of the world's major economic, military, and political powers from the 15th century until the late 16th century.

### Iberian Union and Restoration[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Portugal's sovereignty was interrupted between 1580 and 1640. This occurred because the last two kings of the [House of Aviz](/wiki/House_of_Aviz) – King [Sebastian](/wiki/Sebastian_of_Portugal), who died in the [battle of Alcácer Quibir](/wiki/Battle_of_Alcácer_Quibir) in [Morocco](/wiki/Morocco), and his great-uncle and successor, King [Henry of Portugal](/wiki/Henry_I_of_Portugal) – both died without heirs, resulting in the [Portuguese succession crisis of 1580](/wiki/Portuguese_succession_crisis_of_1580).

Subsequently, [Philip II of Spain](/wiki/Philip_II_of_Spain) claimed the throne and so became Philip I of Portugal. Although Portugal did not lose its formal independence, it was governed by the same monarch who governed the [Spanish Empire](/wiki/Spanish_Empire),[[37]](#cite_note-37) briefly forming a [union](/wiki/Iberian_Union) of kingdoms. At this time Spain was a [geographic territory](/wiki/Geographic_region).[[38]](#cite_note-38) The joining of the two crowns deprived Portugal of an independent foreign policy and led to its involvement in the [Eighty Years' War](/wiki/Eighty_Years'_War) between [Spain](/wiki/Spain) and the [Netherlands](/wiki/Netherlands). [thumb|](/wiki/File:Acclamation_of_King_John_IV_of_Portugal.jpg)[John II, Duke of Braganza](/wiki/John_IV_of_Portugal) waged the [Portuguese Restoration War](/wiki/Portuguese_Restoration_War) and was acclaimed King John IV. War led to a deterioration of the relations with [Portugal's oldest ally, England](/wiki/Anglo-Portuguese_Alliance), and the loss of [Hormuz](/wiki/Ormus), a strategic trading post located between [Iran](/wiki/Iran) and [Oman](/wiki/Oman). From 1595 to 1663 the [Dutch-Portuguese War](/wiki/Dutch-Portuguese_War) primarily involved the Dutch companies invading many Portuguese [colonies](/wiki/Colonies) and commercial interests in Brazil, Africa, India and the Far East, resulting in the loss of the Portuguese Indian sea trade monopoly.

In 1640, [John IV](/wiki/John_IV_of_Portugal) spearheaded an uprising backed by disgruntled nobles and was proclaimed king. The [Portuguese Restoration War](/wiki/Portuguese_Restoration_War) between Portugal and the Spanish Empire, in the aftermath of the 1640 revolt, ended the sixty-year period of the [Iberian Union](/wiki/Iberian_Union) under the [House of Habsburg](/wiki/House_of_Habsburg). This was the beginning of the [House of Braganza](/wiki/House_of_Braganza), which reigned in Portugal until 1910.

Official estimates – and most estimates made so far – place the number of Portuguese migrants to [Colonial Brazil](/wiki/Colonial_Brazil) during the gold rush of the 18th century at 600,000.[[39]](#cite_note-39) This represented one of the largest movements of European populations to their colonies in the Americas during colonial times.

### Early Brigantine and Pombaline era[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|](/wiki/File:O_marques_de_pombal,_conde_de_Oeiras.jpg)[Sebastião José, Marquis of Pombal](/wiki/Sebastião_José_de_Carvalho_e_Melo,_1st_Marquis_of_Pombal), ruled Portugal during the reign of King [Joseph I](/wiki/Joseph_I_of_Portugal), as an enlightened despot. In 1738, [Sebastião José de Carvalho e Melo, 1st Marquis of Pombal](/wiki/Sebastião_José_de_Carvalho_e_Melo,_1st_Marquis_of_Pombal), began a diplomatic career as the Portuguese [Ambassador](/wiki/Ambassador) in [London](/wiki/London) and later in [Vienna](/wiki/Vienna). The [Queen consort](/wiki/Queen_consort) of Portugal, [Archduchess Maria Anne Josefa of Austria](/wiki/Mary_Anne_of_Austria), was fond of Melo; and after his first wife died, she arranged the widowed de Melo's second marriage to the daughter of the Austrian Field Marshal [Leopold Josef, Count von Daun](/wiki/Leopold_Josef,_Count_von_Daun). King [John V of Portugal](/wiki/John_V_of_Portugal), however, was not pleased and recalled Melo to Portugal in 1749. John V died the following year and his son, Joseph I of Portugal, was crowned. In contrast to his father, Joseph I was fond of de Melo, and with the [Queen Mother's](/wiki/Queen_Mother) approval, he appointed Melo as [Minister](/wiki/Political_minister) of Foreign Affairs.

As the King's confidence in de Melo increased, the King entrusted him with more control of the state. By 1755, Sebastião de Melo was made Prime Minister. Impressed by British economic success that he had witnessed from the Ambassador, he successfully implemented similar [economic](/wiki/Economic_system) policies in Portugal. He abolished slavery in Portugal and in the Portuguese colonies in India; reorganized the army and the navy; restructured the [University of Coimbra](/wiki/University_of_Coimbra), and ended discrimination against different [Christian](/wiki/Christian) sects in Portugal.

But Sebastião de Melo's greatest reforms were economic and financial, with the creation of several companies and guilds to regulate every commercial activity. He demarcated the region for production of [Port](/wiki/Port_wine) to ensure the wine's quality, and this was the first attempt to control wine quality and production in Europe. He ruled with a strong hand by imposing strict law upon all classes of Portuguese society from the high nobility to the poorest working class, along with a widespread review of the country's tax system. These reforms gained him enemies in the upper classes, especially among the high nobility, who despised him as a social upstart.

Disaster fell upon Portugal in the morning of 1 November 1755, when [Lisbon](/wiki/Lisbon) was struck by [a violent earthquake](/wiki/1755_Lisbon_earthquake) with an estimated [Richter scale](/wiki/Richter_magnitude_scale) magnitude of 9. The city was razed to the ground by the earthquake and the subsequent tsunami and ensuing fires.[[40]](#cite_note-40) Sebastião de Melo survived by a stroke of luck and then immediately embarked on rebuilding the city, with his famous quote: "What now? We bury the dead and take care of the living."

[thumb|300px|The](/wiki/File:Alegoria_ao_Terramoto_de_1755,_João_Glama_Strobërle.png) [Great Lisbon earthquake](/wiki/1755_Lisbon_earthquake) of 1755 devastated the city and much of central and southern Portugal. Despite the calamity and huge [death toll](/wiki/Death_toll), Lisbon suffered no epidemics and within less than one year was already being rebuilt. The new city centre of Lisbon was designed to resist subsequent earthquakes. Architectural models were built for tests, and the effects of an earthquake were simulated by marching troops around the models. The buildings and big squares of the Pombaline City Centre still remain as one of Lisbon's tourist attractions. Sebastião de Melo also made an important contribution to the study of [seismology](/wiki/Seismology) by designing an inquiry that was sent to every parish in the country.

Following the earthquake, [Joseph I](/wiki/Joseph_I_of_Portugal) gave his Prime Minister even more power, and Sebastião de Melo became a powerful, progressive dictator. As his power grew, his enemies increased in number, and bitter disputes with the high nobility became frequent. In 1758 Joseph I was wounded in an attempted assassination. The [Távora family](/wiki/Távora_affair) and the [Duke of Aveiro](/wiki/Dukes_of_Aveiro) were implicated and executed after a quick trial. The [Jesuits](/wiki/Society_of_Jesus) were expelled from the country and their assets confiscated by the crown. Sebastião de Melo prosecuted every person involved, even women and children. This was the final stroke that broke the power of the aristocracy. Joseph I made his loyal minister Count of [Oeiras](/wiki/Oeiras_Municipality,_Portugal) in 1759.

In 1762, [Spain invaded Portuguese territory](/wiki/Spanish–Portuguese_War,_1761–1763) as part of the [Seven Years' War](/wiki/Seven_Years'_War), but by 1763 the *status quo* between Spain and Portugal before the war had been restored.

Following the Távora affair, the new Count of Oeiras knew no opposition. Made "Marquis of Pombal" in 1770, he effectively ruled Portugal until Joseph I's death in 1779. However, historians also argue that Pombal’s "enlightenment," while far-reaching, was primarily a mechanism for enhancing autocracy at the expense of individual liberty and especially an apparatus for crushing opposition, suppressing criticism, and furthering colonial economic exploitation as well as intensifying book censorship and consolidating personal control and profit.[[41]](#cite_note-41)

### National and Imperial change[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Joao_VI_Portugal.jpg)[John VI's](/wiki/John_VI_of_Portugal) reign was the first time that Portugal was a [pluricontinental](/wiki/Pluricontinentalism) country. The new ruler, Queen [Maria I of Portugal](/wiki/Maria_I_of_Portugal), disliked the Marquis because of the power he amassed, and never forgave him for the ruthlessness with which he dispatched the Távora family, and upon her accession to the throne, she withdrew all his political offices. Pombal died on his estate at [Pombal](/wiki/Pombal,_Portugal) in 1782.

In the autumn of 1807, [Napoleon](/wiki/Napoleon) moved French troops through Spain to invade Portugal. From 1807 to 1811, British-Portuguese forces would successfully fight against the [French invasion of Portugal](/wiki/Peninsular_War), while the royal family and the Portuguese [nobility](/wiki/Nobility), including Maria I, relocated to the [Portuguese territory of Brazil](/wiki/Colonial_Brazil), at that time a colony of the [Portuguese Empire](/wiki/Portuguese_Empire), in South America. This episode is known as the [Transfer of the Portuguese Court to Brazil](/wiki/Transfer_of_the_Portuguese_Court_to_Brazil).

With the occupation by Napoleon, Portugal began a slow but inexorable decline that lasted until the 20th century. This decline was hastened by the independence in 1822 of the country's largest colonial possession, Brazil. In 1807, as Napoleon's army closed in on Lisbon, the [Prince Regent](/wiki/Prince_Regent) [João VI of Portugal](/wiki/João_VI_of_Portugal) [transferred his court](/wiki/Transfer_of_the_Portuguese_Court_to_Brazil) to Brazil and established [Rio de Janeiro](/wiki/Rio_de_Janeiro) as the capital of the Portuguese Empire. In 1815, Brazil was declared a Kingdom and the Kingdom of Portugal was united with it, forming a pluricontinental State, the [United Kingdom of Portugal, Brazil and the Algarves](/wiki/United_Kingdom_of_Portugal,_Brazil_and_the_Algarves).

As a result of the change in its status and the arrival of the Portuguese royal family, Brazilian administrative, civic, [economical](/wiki/Economic_history_of_Brazil#The_economy_at_independence,_1822), military, [educational](/wiki/Education_in_Brazil#History), and [scientific](/wiki/Brazilian_science_and_technology#History) apparatus were expanded and highly modernized. Portuguese and their allied British troops fought against the [French Invasion of Portugal](/wiki/French_Invasion_of_Portugal) and by 1815 the situation in Europe had cooled down sufficiently that João VI would have been able to return safely to Lisbon. However, the King of Portugal remained in Brazil until the [Liberal Revolution of 1820](/wiki/Liberal_Revolution_of_1820), which started in [Porto](/wiki/Porto), demanded his return to Lisbon in 1821.

Thus he returned to Portugal but left his son [Pedro](/wiki/Pedro_I_of_Brazil) in charge of Brazil. When the Portuguese Government attempted the following year to return the Kingdom of Brazil to subordinate status, his son Pedro, with the overwhelming support of the Brazilian elites, declared [Brazil's independence](/wiki/War_of_Independence_of_Brazil) from Portugal. [Cisplatina](/wiki/Cisplatina) (today's sovereign state of Uruguay), in the south, was one of the last additions to the territory of Brazil under Portuguese rule.

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

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Mouzinho_a.jpg)[Mouzinho de Albuquerque](/wiki/Joaquim_Augusto_Mouzinho_de_Albuquerque) was central to Portuguese colonization in Africa. At the height of European colonialism in the 19th century, Portugal had already lost its territory in South America and all but a few bases in Asia. [Luanda](/wiki/Luanda), [Benguela](/wiki/Benguela), [Bissau](/wiki/Bissau), [Lourenço Marques](/wiki/Maputo), [Porto Amboim](/wiki/Porto_Amboim) and the [Island of Mozambique](/wiki/Island_of_Mozambique) were among the oldest Portuguese-founded port cities in its African territories. During this phase, Portuguese colonialism focused on expanding its outposts in Africa into nation-sized territories to compete with other European powers there.

With the [Conference of Berlin](/wiki/Berlin_Conference_(1884)) of 1884, Portuguese Africa territories had their borders formally established on request of Portugal in order to protect the centuries-long Portuguese interests in the continent from rivalries enticed by the [Scramble for Africa](/wiki/Scramble_for_Africa). Portuguese Africa's cities and towns like [Nova Lisboa](/wiki/Nova_Lisboa), [Sá da Bandeira](/wiki/Lubango), [Silva Porto](/wiki/Kuito), [Malanje](/wiki/Malanje), [Tete](/wiki/Tete), [Vila Junqueiro](/wiki/Vila_Junqueiro), [Vila Pery](/wiki/Vila_Pery) and [Vila Cabral](/wiki/Vila_Cabral) were founded or redeveloped inland during this period and beyond. New coastal towns like [Beira](/wiki/Beira,_Mozambique), [Moçâmedes](/wiki/Namibe), [Lobito](/wiki/Lobito), [João Belo](/wiki/João_Belo), [Nacala](/wiki/Nacala) and [Porto Amélia](/wiki/Porto_Amélia) were also founded. Even before the turn of the 20th century, railway tracks as the [Benguela railway](/wiki/Benguela_railway) in Angola, and the [Beira railway](/wiki/Beira_railway) in Mozambique, started to be built to link coastal areas and selected inland regions.

Other episodes during this period of the Portuguese presence in Africa include the [1890 British Ultimatum](/wiki/1890_British_Ultimatum). This forced the Portuguese military to retreat from the land between the Portuguese colonies of [Mozambique](/wiki/Portuguese_Mozambique) and [Angola](/wiki/Portuguese_Angola) (most of present-day [Zimbabwe](/wiki/Zimbabwe) and [Zambia](/wiki/Zambia)), which had been claimed by Portugal and included in its "[Pink Map](/wiki/Pink_Map)", which clashed with British aspirations to create a [Cape to Cairo Railway](/wiki/Cape_to_Cairo_Railway).

The Portuguese territories in Africa were [Cape Verde](/wiki/Portuguese_Cape_Verde), [São Tomé and Príncipe](/wiki/Portuguese_São_Tomé_and_Príncipe), [Portuguese Guinea](/wiki/Portuguese_Guinea), [Angola](/wiki/Angola_(Portugal)), and [Mozambique](/wiki/Mozambique_(Portugal)). The tiny fortress of [São João Baptista de Ajudá](/wiki/São_João_Baptista_de_Ajudá) on the coast of [Dahomey](/wiki/Dahomey), was also under Portuguese rule. In addition, Portugal still ruled the Asian territories of [Portuguese India](/wiki/Portuguese_India), [Portuguese Timor](/wiki/Portuguese_Timor) and [Macau](/wiki/Macau).

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

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Proclamação_República_Portuguesa.jpg) [5 October 1910 Republican Revolution](/wiki/5_October_1910_revolution) was initially unsupported and assumed to become nothing but a failure. On 1 February 1908, the king Dom [Carlos I of Portugal](/wiki/Carlos_I_of_Portugal) and his [heir apparent](/wiki/Heir_apparent), [Prince Royal Dom Luís Filipe](/wiki/Luis_Filipe,_Prince_Royal_of_Portugal), [Duke of Braganza](/wiki/Duke_of_Braganza), [were murdered in Lisbon](/wiki/Lisbon_Regicide). Under his rule, Portugal had twice been declared [bankrupt](/wiki/Bankrupt) – on 14 June 1892, and again on 10 May 1902 – causing social turmoil, economic disturbances, protests, revolts and criticism of the monarchy. [Manuel II of Portugal](/wiki/Manuel_II_of_Portugal) became the new king, but was eventually overthrown by the [5 October 1910 revolution](/wiki/5_October_1910_revolution), which abolished the regime and instated [republicanism](/wiki/Republicanism) in Portugal. Political instability and economic weaknesses were fertile ground for chaos and unrest during the [Portuguese First Republic](/wiki/Portuguese_First_Republic). These conditions would lead to the failed [Monarchy of the North](/wiki/Monarchy_of_the_North), [28 May 1926 coup d'état](/wiki/28_May_1926_coup_d'état), and the creation of the National Dictatorship ([*Ditadura Nacional*](/wiki/Ditadura_Nacional)).

This in turn led to the establishment of the right-wing dictatorship of the [Estado Novo](/wiki/Estado_Novo_(Portugal)) under [António de Oliveira Salazar](/wiki/António_de_Oliveira_Salazar) in 1933. Portugal was one of only five European countries to remain neutral in [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II). From the 1940s to the 1960s, Portugal was a founding member of [NATO](/wiki/NATO), [OECD](/wiki/OECD) and the [European Free Trade Association](/wiki/European_Free_Trade_Association) (EFTA). Gradually, new economic development projects and relocation of mainland Portuguese citizens into the overseas provinces in Africa were initiated, with [Angola](/wiki/Angola_(Portugal)) and [Mozambique](/wiki/Mozambique_(Portugal)), as the largest and richest overseas territories, being the main targets of those initiatives. These actions were used to affirm Portugal's status as a [transcontinental](/wiki/List_of_transcontinental_countries) nation and not as a colonial empire.

[thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Antonio_Salazar-1.jpg)[António de Oliveira Salazar](/wiki/António_de_Oliveira_Salazar) ruled Portugal from 1932 to 1968, within the [Estado Novo](/wiki/Estado_Novo_(Portugal)) regime. After India attained independence in 1947, pro-Indian residents of [Dadra and Nagar Haveli](/wiki/Dadra_and_Nagar_Haveli), with the support of the Indian government and the help of pro-independence organisations, separated the territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli from Portuguese rule in 1954.<ref name =lele>P S Lele, Dadra and Nagar Haveli: past and present, Published by Usha P. Lele, 1987,</ref> In 1961, [São João Baptista de Ajudá's](/wiki/São_João_Baptista_de_Ajudá) annexation by the [Republic of Dahomey](/wiki/Republic_of_Dahomey) was the start of a process that led to the final dissolution of the centuries-old Portuguese Empire.

According to the census of 1921 São João Baptista de Ajudá had 5 inhabitants and, at the moment of the ultimatum by the Dahomey Government, it had only 2 inhabitants representing Portuguese Sovereignty. Another forcible retreat from overseas territories occurred in December 1961 when Portugal refused to relinquish the territories of [Goa](/wiki/Goa), [Daman and Diu](/wiki/Daman_and_Diu). As a result, the Portuguese army and navy were involved in armed conflict in its colony of [Portuguese India](/wiki/Portuguese_India) against the [Indian Armed Forces](/wiki/Indian_Armed_Forces).

The [operations resulted in the defeat](/wiki/Operation_Vijay_(1961)) and surrender of the limited Portuguese defensive garrison, which was forced to surrender to a much larger military force. The outcome was the loss of the remaining Portuguese territories in the [Indian subcontinent](/wiki/Indian_subcontinent). The Portuguese regime refused to recognize Indian sovereignty over the annexed territories, which continued to be represented in Portugal's National Assembly until the military coup of 1974.

Also in the early 1960s, independence movements in the Portuguese overseas provinces of [Angola](/wiki/Portuguese_Angola), [Mozambique](/wiki/Portuguese_Mozambique) and [Guinea](/wiki/Portuguese_Guinea) in Africa, resulted in the [Portuguese Colonial War](/wiki/Portuguese_Colonial_War) (1961–1974).

### Revolution and imperial end[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Throughout the colonial war period Portugal had to deal with increasing dissent, arms embargoes and other punitive sanctions imposed by most of the international community. However, the authoritarian and conservative [Estado Novo](/wiki/Estado_Novo_(Portugal)) regime, first installed and governed by [António de Oliveira Salazar](/wiki/António_de_Oliveira_Salazar) and from 1968 onwards led by [Marcelo Caetano](/wiki/Marcelo_Caetano), tried to preserve a vast centuries-long intercontinental empire with a total area of 2,168,071 km2.[[42]](#cite_note-42) [thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Portuguese_colonial_war_map1.PNG)[Portuguese Africa](/wiki/Portuguese_Africa_(disambiguation)), before independence in 1975. The Portuguese government and army successfully resisted the [decolonization](/wiki/Decolonization) of its overseas territories until April 1974, when a bloodless left-wing military [coup](/wiki/Coup) in [Lisbon](/wiki/Lisbon), known as the [Carnation Revolution](/wiki/Carnation_Revolution), led the way for the independence of the overseas territories in Africa and Asia, as well as for the restoration of democracy after two years of a transitional period known as PREC ([*Processo Revolucionário Em Curso*](/wiki/Processo_Revolucionário_Em_Curso)). This period was characterized by social turmoil and power disputes between left- and right-wing political forces. The retreat from the overseas territories and the acceptance of its independence terms by Portuguese head representatives for overseas negotiations, which would create independent states in 1975, prompted a mass exodus of Portuguese citizens from Portugal's African territories (mostly from Portuguese [Angola](/wiki/Overseas_Province_of_Angola) and [Mozambique](/wiki/Overseas_Province_of_Mozambique)).[[43]](#cite_note-43)[[44]](#cite_note-44) Over one million [Portuguese refugees](/wiki/White_African#Portuguese_in_Africa) fled the former Portuguese provinces as white settlers were usually not considered part of the new identities of the former Portuguese colonies in Africa and Asia. [Mário Soares](/wiki/Mário_Soares) and [António de Almeida Santos](/wiki/António_de_Almeida_Santos) were charged with organising the independence of Portugal's overseas territories. By 1975, all the Portuguese African territories were independent and Portugal held [its first democratic elections](/wiki/Portuguese_Constituent_Assembly_election,_1975) in 50 years.

[thumb|The](/wiki/File:25_Abril_1983_Porto_by_Henrique_Matos_01.jpg) [Carnation Revolution](/wiki/Carnation_Revolution) ended the Estado Novo and started the [*Processo Revolucionário Em Curso*](/wiki/Processo_Revolucionário_Em_Curso). Portugal continued to be governed by a [Junta de Salvação Nacional](/wiki/Junta_de_Salvação_Nacional) until the [Portuguese legislative election of 1976](/wiki/Portuguese_legislative_election,_1976). It was won by the [Portuguese Socialist Party](/wiki/Socialist_Party_(Portugal)) (PS) and Mário Soares, its leader, became Prime Minister of the 1st Constitutional Government on 23 July. Mário Soares would be Prime Minister from 1976 to 1978 and again from 1983 to 1985. In this capacity Soares tried to resume the economic growth and development record that had been achieved before the Carnation Revolution, during the last decade of the previous regime. He initiated the process of accession to the [European Economic Community](/wiki/European_Economic_Community) (EEC) by starting accession negotiations as early as 1977.

Portugal bounced between [socialism](/wiki/Socialism) and adherence to the [neoliberal](/wiki/Neoliberal) model. [Land reform](/wiki/Land_reform) and [nationalizations](/wiki/Nationalization) were enforced; the [Portuguese Constitution](/wiki/Portuguese_Constitution) (approved in 1976) was rewritten in order to accommodate socialist and communist principles. Until the constitutional revisions of 1982 and 1989, the constitution was a highly charged ideological document with numerous references to socialism, the rights of workers, and the desirability of a [socialist economy](/wiki/Socialist_economy). Portugal's economic situation after its transition to democracy, obliged the government to pursue [International Monetary Fund](/wiki/International_Monetary_Fund) (IMF)-monitored stabilization programs in 1977–78 and 1983–85.

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

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|When the](/wiki/File:Tratado_de_Lisboa_13_12_2007_(081).jpg) [Lisbon Treaty](/wiki/Treaty_of_Lisbon) was signed, Portugal held the presidency for the [European Council](/wiki/European_Council). In 1986, Portugal joined the [European Economic Community](/wiki/European_Economic_Community) (EEC) that later became the European Union (EU). In the following years Portugal's economy progressed considerably as a result of EEC/EU [structural and cohesion funds](/wiki/Structural_and_cohesion_funds) and Portuguese companies' easier access to foreign markets.

Portugal's last overseas territory, [Macau](/wiki/Macau), was peacefully handed over to the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1999, under the 1987 joint declaration that set the terms for Macau's handover from Portugal to the PRC. In 2002, the independence of [East Timor](/wiki/East_Timor) (Asia) was formally recognized by Portugal, after an incomplete decolonization process that was started in 1975 because of the Carnation Revolution.

On 26 March 1995, Portugal started to implement [Schengen Area](/wiki/Schengen_Area) rules, eliminating border controls with other Schengen members while simultaneously strengthening border controls with non-member states. In 1996 the country was a co-founder of the [Community of Portuguese Language Countries](/wiki/Community_of_Portuguese_Language_Countries) (CPLP) headquartered in Lisbon. [Expo '98](/wiki/Expo_'98) took place in Portugal and in 1999 it was one of the founding countries of the [euro](/wiki/Euro) and the [eurozone](/wiki/Eurozone).

On 5 July 2004, [José Manuel Barroso](/wiki/José_Manuel_Barroso), then [Prime Minister of Portugal](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Portugal), was nominated [President of the European Commission](/wiki/President_of_the_European_Commission), the most powerful office in the European Union. On 1 December 2009, the [Treaty of Lisbon](/wiki/Treaty_of_Lisbon) entered into force, after it had been signed by the European Union member states on 13 December 2007 in the [Jerónimos Monastery](/wiki/Jerónimos_Monastery), in Lisbon, enhancing the efficiency and democratic legitimacy of the Union and improving the coherence of its action.

Economic disruption and an unsustainable growth in [borrowing costs](/wiki/Government_debt) in the wake of the [late-2000s financial crisis](/wiki/Late-2000s_financial_crisis) led the country to negotiate in 2011 with the IMF and the European Union, through the [European Financial Stability Mechanism](/wiki/European_Financial_Stability_Mechanism) (EFSM) and the [European Financial Stability Facility](/wiki/European_Financial_Stability_Facility) (EFSF), a loan to help the country stabilise its finances.

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

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) The territory of Portugal includes an area in the [Iberian Peninsula](/wiki/Iberian_Peninsula) (referred to as *the continent* by most Portuguese) and two archipelagos in the Atlantic Ocean: the archipelagos of Madeira and the Azores. It lies between latitudes [32°](/wiki/32nd_parallel_north) and [43° N](/wiki/43rd_parallel_north), and longitudes [32°](/wiki/32nd_meridian_west) and [6° W](/wiki/6th_meridian_west).

[Mainland Portugal](/wiki/Continental_Portugal) is split by its main river, the [Tagus](/wiki/Tagus) that flows from Spain and disgorges in Tagus Estuary, in Lisbon, before escaping into the Atlantic. The northern landscape is mountainous towards the interior with several plateaus indented by river valleys, whereas the south, that includes the [Algarve](/wiki/Algarve) and the [Alentejo](/wiki/Alentejo) regions, is characterized by rolling plains.

Portugal's highest peak is the similarly named [Mount Pico](/wiki/Mount_Pico) on the island of [Pico](/wiki/Pico_Island) in the Azores. This ancient volcano, which measures [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) is an iconic symbol of the Azores, while the [Serra da Estrela](/wiki/Serra_da_Estrela) on the mainland (the summit being [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) above sea level) is an important seasonal attraction for skiers and winter sports enthusiasts.

The archipelagos of Madeira and the Azores are scattered within the Atlantic Ocean: the Azores straddling the [Mid-Atlantic Ridge](/wiki/Mid-Atlantic_Ridge) on a tectonic triple junction, and Madeira along a range formed by [in-plate](/wiki/Plate_tectonics) [hotspot](/wiki/Hotspot_(geology)) geology. Geologically, these islands were formed by volcanic and seismic events. The last terrestrial volcanic eruption occurred in 1957–58 ([Capelinhos](/wiki/Capelinhos)) and minor earthquakes occur sporadically, usually of low intensity.

[Portugal's Exclusive Economic Zone](/wiki/Portugal's_Exclusive_Economic_Zone), a sea zone over which the Portuguese have special rights over the exploration and use of marine resources, has 1,727,408 km2. This is the 3rd largest [Exclusive Economic Zone](/wiki/Exclusive_Economic_Zone) of the European Union and the 11th largest in the world.

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

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Portugal is defined as a [Mediterranean climate](/wiki/Mediterranean_climate) (*Csa* in the South, interior, and Douro region; *Csb* in the North, Central Portugal and coastal Alentejo; mixed [oceanic climate](/wiki/Oceanic_climate) along the northern half of the coastline[[45]](#cite_note-45) and also [Semi-arid climate](/wiki/Semi-arid_climate) or [Steppe climate](/wiki/Steppe_climate) ([*BSk*](/wiki/Cold_semi-arid_climate) in certain parts of Beja district far South) according to the [Köppen-Geiger Climate Classification](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification)), and is one of the warmest European countries: the annual average temperature in [mainland Portugal](/wiki/Mainland_Portugal) varies from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in the mountainous interior north to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in the south and on the [Guadiana](/wiki/Guadiana) [river basin](/wiki/River_basin). The [Algarve](/wiki/Algarve), separated from the [Alentejo](/wiki/Alentejo) region by mountains reaching up to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in Alto de Fóia, has a climate similar to that of the southern coastal areas of Spain or Southwest Australia.

Annual average rainfall in the mainland varies from just over [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in the northern mountains to less than [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in the area of the Massueime River, near Côa, along the [Douro](/wiki/Douro) river. [Mount Pico](/wiki/Mount_Pico) is recognized as receiving the largest annual rainfall (over [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) per year) in Portugal, according to [*Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera*](/wiki/Instituto_Português_do_Mar_e_da_Atmosfera)([Template:Lang-en](/wiki/Template:Lang-en)).

In some areas, such as the Guadiana basin, annual average temperatures can be as high as [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), and summer highest temperatures may be over [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). The record high of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) was recorded in [Amareleja](/wiki/Amareleja), although this might not be the hottest spot in summer, according to satellite readings.[[46]](#cite_note-46)[[47]](#cite_note-47) Snowfalls occur regularly in the winter in the interior North and Centre of the country in districts such as [Vila Real](/wiki/Vila_Real_District), [Bragança](/wiki/Bragança_District), [Viseu](/wiki/Viseu) and [Guarda](/wiki/Guarda_District). In winter temperatures may drop below [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in particular in [Serra da Estrela](/wiki/Serra_da_Estrela), [Serra do Gerês](/wiki/Serra_do_Gerês), [Serra do Marão](/wiki/Serra_do_Marão) and [Serra de Montesinho](/wiki/Montesinho_Natural_Park), and have even been recorded below [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). In these places snow can fall any time from October to May. In the South of the country snowfalls are rare but still occur in the highest elevations.

Portugal has around 2500 to 3200 hours of sunshine a year, an average of 4–6 h in winter and 10–12 h in the summer, with higher values in the south-east and lower in the north-west.

The [sea surface temperature](/wiki/Sea_surface_temperature) on the west coast of mainland Portugal varies from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in winter to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in the summer while on the south coast it ranges from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in winter and rises in the summer to about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) occasionally reaching [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).

Both the archipelagos of the Azores and Madeira have a subtropical climate, although variations between islands exist, making weather predictions very difficult (owing to rough topography). The Madeira and Azorean archipelagos have a narrower temperature range, with annual average temperatures exceeding [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) along the coast (according to the Portuguese Meteorological Institute). Some islands in Azores do have drier months in the summer. Consequently, the island of the Azores have been identified as having a [Mediterranean](/wiki/Mediterranean) climate (both *Csa* and *Csb* types), while some islands (such as [Flores](/wiki/Flores_Island_(Azores)) or [Corvo](/wiki/Corvo_Island)) are classified as Maritime Temperate (*Cfb*) and Humid subtropical (*Cfa*), respectively, according to Köppen-Geiger classification.

[Porto Santo](/wiki/Porto_Santo) island in Madeira has a semi-arid steppe climate (*BSh*). The [Savage Islands](/wiki/Savage_Islands), which are part of the regional territory of Madeira and a nature reserve are unique in being classified as a desert climate (*BWh*) with an annual average rainfall of approximately [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). The sea surface temperature in the archipelagos varies from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in winter to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in the summer occasionally reaching [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).

<gallery mode=packed-hover perrow="5">

File: Região de Leiria [Leiria](/wiki/Pinhal_de_Leiria) File:Benagil Cave, Algarve.jpg|Benagil coastal cave, on the [Algarve](/wiki/Algarve). File:Lagoa\_das\_Sete\_Cidades3.jpg|[Sete Cidades](/wiki/Lagoa_das_Sete_Cidades) volcanic lagoons, on the island of [São Miguel](/wiki/São_Miguel_Island). File:Serra da Estrela 1.jpg|The [Serra da Estrela](/wiki/Serra_da_Estrela), the highest mountain range on [continental Portugal](/wiki/Continental_Portugal). File:Sezelhe-Alto Cávado Reservoir 3.jpg|Snowy winter landscape, near [Montalegre](/wiki/Montalegre). File:Furnas Beach, VN de Milfontes, Portugal.jpg|Beach in [Vila Nova de Milfontes](/wiki/Vila_Nova_de_Milfontes), on the [Alentejo](/wiki/Alentejo) region. </gallery> <gallery mode=packed-hover perrow="5">

File:Alto Douro.jpg|The cultivated hillsides of the [Douro](/wiki/Douro) river valley of [Northern Portugal](/wiki/Norte_Region,_Portugal). File:Monsaraz and the Alqueva Reservoir.jpg|[Monsaraz](/wiki/Monsaraz) and the Alqueva Reservoir on the background, on the [Alentejo](/wiki/Alentejo). File:Açores 2010-07-19 (5051954996).jpg|[Mount Pico](/wiki/Mount_Pico) in the distance, the highest peak in all of Portugal, on the volcanic [Pico Island](/wiki/Pico_Island). File:Cabo da Roca from the air.jpg|[Cabo da Roca](/wiki/Cabo_da_Roca), the westernmost point of mainland Europe. File:Madeira Island Mountains.jpg|View of the mountains in [Madeira](/wiki/Madeira) island. </gallery>

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

[right|thumb|](/wiki/File:Geres1.jpg)[Peneda-Gerês National Park](/wiki/Peneda-Gerês_National_Park) is the only national park in Portugal. Despite the fact that humans have occupied the territory of Portugal for thousands of years, something still remains of the original vegetation. In Gerês both mature deciduous and coniferous forests can be found, an extremely rare worldwide mature Mediterranean forest remain in some parts of the Arrábida mountain and a subtropical laurissilva forest, dating back to the Tertiary period, covers its largest continuous area in the world in the Madeira main island. Due to the human population decrease and rural exodus, Pyrenean oak and other local native trees are colonizing many abandoned areas.

Boar, Iberian red deer, roe deer, and the Iberian wild goat, are reported to have expanded greatly during recent decades. Boars were found recently roaming at night inside large urban areas, like in Setubal. [Protected areas of Portugal](/wiki/Protected_areas_of_Portugal) include one national park ([Template:Lang-pt](/wiki/Template:Lang-pt)), 12 natural parks ([Template:Lang-pt](/wiki/Template:Lang-pt)), nine natural reserves ([Template:Lang-pt](/wiki/Template:Lang-pt)), five natural monuments ([Template:Lang-pt](/wiki/Template:Lang-pt)), and seven protected landscapes ([Template:Lang-pt](/wiki/Template:Lang-pt)), which include the [Parque Nacional da Peneda-Gerês](/wiki/Parque_Nacional_da_Peneda-Gerês), the [Parque Natural da Serra da Estrela](/wiki/Parque_Natural_da_Serra_da_Estrela) and the [Paul d'Arzila](/wiki/Paul_de_Arzila).

These natural environments are shaped by diverse flora, and include widespread species of pine (especially the [*Pinus pinaster*](/wiki/Pinus_pinaster) and [*Pinus pinea*](/wiki/Pinus_pinea) species), the English oak ([*Quercus robur*](/wiki/Quercus_robur)), the Pyrenean oak ([*Quercus pyrenaica*](/wiki/Quercus_pyrenaica)) the chestnut ([*Castanea sativa*](/wiki/Castanea_sativa)), the cork-oak ([*Quercus suber*](/wiki/Quercus_suber)), the holm oak ([*Quercus ilex*](/wiki/Quercus_ilex)) or the Portuguese oak ([*Quercus faginea*](/wiki/Quercus_faginea)). Due to their economic value, some species of the *Eucalyptus* genus were introduced and are now common, despite their environmental impact.

[Laurisilva](/wiki/Laurisilva) is a unique type of subtropical rainforest found in few areas of Europe and the world: in the Azores, and in particular on the island of Madeira, there are large forests of endemic *Laurisilva* forests (the latter protected as a natural heritage preserve). There are several species of diverse [mammalian](/wiki/Mammal) fauna, including the [fox](/wiki/Fox), [badger](/wiki/Badger), [iberian lynx](/wiki/Iberian_lynx), [iberian wolf](/wiki/Iberian_wolf), [wild goat](/wiki/Wild_goat) ([*Capra pyrenaica*](/wiki/Capra_pyrenaica)), wild cat ([*Felis silvestris*](/wiki/Felis_silvestris)), [hare](/wiki/Hare), [weasel](/wiki/Weasel), [polecat](/wiki/European_polecat), [chameleon](/wiki/Chameleon), [mongoose](/wiki/Mongoose), [civet](/wiki/Civet), [brown bear](/wiki/Brown_bear)[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) (spotted near Rio Minho, close to Peneda-Gerês) and many others. Portugal is an important stopover for migratory birds, in places such as [Cape St. Vincent](/wiki/Cape_St._Vincent) or the [Monchique](/wiki/Serra_de_Monchique) mountains, where thousands of birds cross from Europe to Africa during the autumn or in the spring (return migration). [thumb|](/wiki/File:Green_Chameleo.jpg)[Chameleon](/wiki/Chameleon) in the [Algarve](/wiki/Algarve) region

Most of the avian species congregate along the [Iberian Peninsula](/wiki/Iberian_Peninsula) since it is the closest stopover between Northern Europe and Africa. Six hundred bird species occur in Portugal (either for nesting or during the course of migration), and annually there are new registries of nesting species. The archipelagos of the Azores and Madeira are transient stopover for American, European, and African birds, while continental Portugal mostly encounters European and African bird species.

There are more than 100 freshwater fish species, varying from the giant European catfish (in the Tagus International Natural Park) to some small and endemic species that live only in small lakes (along the western portion of country, for example). Some of these rare and specific species are highly endangered because of habitat loss, pollution and drought. Up-welling along the west coast of Portugal makes the sea extremely rich in nutrients and diverse species of marine fish; the Portuguese marine waters are one of the richest in the world. [Marine fish](/wiki/Marine_fish) species are more common, and include thousands of species, such as the [sardine](/wiki/Sardine) (*Sardina pilchardus*), [tuna](/wiki/Tuna) and [Atlantic mackerel](/wiki/Atlantic_mackerel). Bioluminescent species are also well represented (including species in different colour spectrum and forms), like the glowing plankton that are possible to observe in some beaches.

There are many endemic insect species, most only found in certain parts of Portugal, while other species are more widespread like the [stag beetle](/wiki/Stag_beetle) (*Lucanus cervus*) and the [cicada](/wiki/Cicada). The [Macaronesian](/wiki/Macaronesia) islands (Azores and Madeira) have many endemic species (like birds, reptiles, bats, insects, snails and slugs) that evolved independently from other regions of Portugal. In Madeira, for example, it is possible to observe more than 250 species of land [gastropods](/wiki/Gastropods).

## Government and administration[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) Portugal has been a [semi-presidential](/wiki/Semi-presidential_system) [representative democratic](/wiki/Representative_democracy) [republic](/wiki/Republic) since the ratification of the [Constitution of 1976](/wiki/Portuguese_Constitution_of_1976), with [Lisbon](/wiki/Lisbon), the nation's largest city, as its capital. The Constitution grants the division or separation of powers among four bodies referred as "organs of Sovereignty": the [President of the Republic](/wiki/President_of_Portugal), the [Government](/wiki/Government_of_Portugal), the [Assembly of the Republic](/wiki/Portuguese_parliament) and the [Courts](/wiki/Judiciary_of_Portugal).[[10]](#cite_note-10) The President, who is elected to a five-year term, has an executive role: the current President is [Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa](/wiki/Marcelo_Rebelo_de_Sousa). The Assembly of the Republic is a single chamber parliament composed of 230 deputies elected for a four-year term. The Government is headed by the [Prime Minister](/wiki/List_of_Prime_Ministers_of_Portugal) (currently [António Costa](/wiki/António_Costa)) and includes Ministers and Secretaries of State. The [Courts](/wiki/Courts) are organized into several levels, among the judicial, administrative and fiscal branches. The [Supreme Courts](/wiki/Portuguese_Supreme_Court) are institutions of last resort/appeal. A thirteen-member [Constitutional Court](/wiki/Portuguese_Constitutional_Court) oversees the constitutionality of the laws.

Portugal operates a multi-party system of competitive legislatures/local administrative governments at the national, regional and local levels. The Assembly of the Republic, Regional Assemblies and local municipalities and parishes, are dominated by two political parties, the [Socialist Party](/wiki/Socialist_Party_(Portugal)) and the [Social Democratic Party](/wiki/Social_Democratic_Party_(Portugal)), in addition to the [Unitary Democratic Coalition](/wiki/Unitary_Democratic_Coalition) ([Portuguese Communist Party](/wiki/Portuguese_Communist_Party) and [Ecologist Party "The Greens"](/wiki/Ecologist_Party_%22The_Greens%22)), the [Left Bloc](/wiki/Left_Bloc) and the [Democratic and Social Centre – People's Party](/wiki/Democratic_and_Social_Centre –_People's_Party), which garner between 5 and 15% of the vote regularly.

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

[thumb|300px|](/wiki/File:Palácio_da_Presidência.jpg)[Belém Palace](/wiki/Belém_Palace) serves as the official residence and workplace of the [President of the Republic](/wiki/President_of_Portugal). The Head of State of Portugal is the [President of the Republic](/wiki/Presidents_of_Portugal), elected to a five-year term by direct, [universal suffrage](/wiki/Universal_suffrage). He or she has also supervision and [reserve powers](/wiki/Reserve_power). Presidential powers include the appointment of the Prime Minister and the other members of the Government (where the President takes into account the results of legislative elections); dismissing the Prime Minister; dissolving the Assembly of the Republic (to call early elections); [vetoing](/wiki/Veto) legislation (which may be overridden by the Assembly with a [supermajority](/wiki/Supermajority)); and declaring a state of war or siege. The President is also the [*ex officio*](/wiki/Ex_officio) Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

The President is advised on issues of importance by the [Council of State](/wiki/Portuguese_Council_of_State), which is composed of six senior civilian officers, any former Presidents elected under the 1976 Constitution, five-members chosen by the Assembly, and five selected by the president.

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

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) The Government is headed by the presidentially appointed [Prime Minister](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Portugal), also including (may have one or more Deputy Prime Ministers), Ministers, Secretaries of State and Under-Secretaries of State.

The Government is both the organ of sovereignty that conducts the general politics of the country and the superior body of the public administration.

It has essentially Executive powers, but has also limited Legislative powers. The Government can legislate about its own organization, about areas covered by legislative authorizations conceded by the Assembly of the Republic and about the specific regulation of generalist laws issued by the Assembly.

The [Council of Ministers](/wiki/Council_of_Ministers_(Portugal)) – under the presidency of the Prime Minister (or the President of Portugal at the latter's request) and the Ministers (may also include one or more Deputy Prime Ministers) – acts as the [cabinet](/wiki/Cabinet_(government)). Each government is required to define the broad outline of its policies in a programme, and present it to the Assembly for a mandatory period of debate. The failure of the Assembly to reject the government programme by an absolute majority of deputies confirms the cabinet in office.

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

[thumb|300px|](/wiki/File:Palácio_de_São_Bento_(Assemblée_nationale)_(9307363528).jpg)[São Bento Palace](/wiki/São_Bento_Palace) in [Lisbon](/wiki/Lisbon) is the seat of the [Portuguese Legislature](/wiki/Assembly_of_the_Republic_(Portugal)). The [Assembly of the Republic](/wiki/Assembly_of_the_Republic_(Portugal)) is the national [parliament](/wiki/Parliament) of Portugal. It is the main Legislative body, although the Government also has limited legislative powers.

The Assembly of the Republic is a unicameral body composed of up to 230 deputies. Elected by universal suffrage according to a system of proportional representation, deputies serve four-year terms of office, unless the President dissolves the Assembly and calls for new elections.

### Law and criminal justice[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

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

[thumb|300px|The *Campus da Justiça* in Lisbon hosts various courts and justice offices.](/wiki/File:Direccção_Geral_da_Administração_da_Justiça.JPG) The Portuguese legal system is part of the civil law legal system, also called the continental family legal system. The main laws include the Constitution (1976, as amended), the [Portuguese Civil Code](/wiki/Portuguese_Civil_Code) (1966, as amended) and the [Penal Code of Portugal](/wiki/Penal_Code_of_Portugal) (1982, as amended). Other relevant laws are the *Commercial Code* (1888, as amended) and the *Civil Procedure Code* (1961, as amended).

The supreme national courts are the [Supreme Court of Justice](/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_Justice_(Portugal)) and the [Constitutional Court](/wiki/Constitutional_Court_of_Portugal). The [Public Ministry](/wiki/Public_Ministry_(Portugal)), headed by the Attorney General of the Republic, constitutes the independent body of public prosecutors.

Portuguese law applied in the former [colonies and territories](/wiki/Portuguese_colonies) and continues to be the major influence for those countries. Portugal's main police organizations are the [*Guarda Nacional Republicana*](/wiki/Guarda_Nacional_Republicana)*– GNR* ([National Republican Guard](/wiki/National_Republican_Guard_(Portugal))), a [gendarmerie](/wiki/Gendarmerie); the [*Polícia de Segurança Pública*](/wiki/Polícia_de_Segurança_Pública)*– PSP* (Public Security Police), a civilian police force who work in urban areas; and the [*Polícia Judiciária*](/wiki/Polícia_Judiciária)*– PJ* (Judicial Police), a highly specialized criminal investigation police that is overseen by the [Public Ministry](/wiki/Public_Ministry_(Portugal)).

Portugal was one of the first countries in the world to abolish the death penalty. Maximum jail sentences are limited to 25 years.

Portugal has arguably the most liberal laws concerning possession of illicit drugs in the [Western world](/wiki/Western_world). In 2001, Portugal decriminalized possession of effectively all drugs that are still illegal in other developed nations including, but not limited to, [cannabis](/wiki/Cannabis), [cocaine](/wiki/Cocaine), [heroin](/wiki/Heroin), and [LSD](/wiki/LSD). While possession is legal, trafficking and possession of more than "10 days worth of personal use" are still punishable by jail time and fines. People caught with small amounts of any drug are given the choice to go to a rehab facility, and may refuse treatment without consequences. Despite criticism from other European nations, who stated Portugal's drug consumption would tremendously increase, overall drug use has declined along with the number of [HIV](/wiki/HIV) infection cases, which had dropped 50 percent by 2009. Drug use among 16- to 18-year-olds also declined, however the use of marijuana rose only slightly among that age group.[[48]](#cite_note-48)[[49]](#cite_note-49)[[50]](#cite_note-50) On 31 May 2010, Portugal became the sixth country in Europe and the eighth country in the world to legally recognize [same-sex marriage](/wiki/Same-sex_marriage_in_Portugal) on the national level. The law came into force on 5 June 2010.<ref name=autogenerated2>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

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

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Administratively, Portugal is divided into 308 [municipalities](/wiki/Municipalities_of_Portugal) ([Template:Lang-pt](/wiki/Template:Lang-pt)), which after a reform in [2013](/wiki/Portuguese_local_election,_2013) are subdivided into 3,092 civil parishes ([Template:Lang-pt](/wiki/Template:Lang-pt)). Operationally, the municipality and civil parish, along with the national government, are the only legally identifiable [local administrative units](/wiki/Local_administrative_unit) identified by the government of Portugal (for example, cities, towns or villages have no standing in law, although may be used as catchment for the defining services). For statistical purposes the Portuguese government also identifies [NUTS](/wiki/Nomenclature_of_Territorial_Units_for_Statistics), inter-municipal communities and informally, the district system, used until European integration (and being phased-out by the national government).[Template:OR](/wiki/Template:OR) Continental Portugal is agglomerated into 18 districts, while the archipelagos of the Azores and Madeira are governed as [autonomous regions](/wiki/Autonomous_area); the largest units, established since 1976, are either [mainland Portugal](/wiki/Mainland_Portugal) ([Template:Lang-pt](/wiki/Template:Lang-pt)) and the [autonomous regions of Portugal](/wiki/Autonomous_regions_of_Portugal) ([Azores](/wiki/Azores) and [Madeira](/wiki/Madeira)).

The 18 districts of mainland Portugal are: [Aveiro](/wiki/Aveiro_District), [Beja](/wiki/Beja_District), [Braga](/wiki/Braga_District), [Bragança](/wiki/Bragança_District), [Castelo Branco](/wiki/Castelo_Branco_District), [Coimbra](/wiki/Coimbra_District), [Évora](/wiki/Évora_District), [Faro](/wiki/Faro_District), [Guarda](/wiki/Guarda_District), [Leiria](/wiki/Leiria_District), [Lisbon](/wiki/Lisbon_District), [Portalegre](/wiki/Portalegre_District), [Porto](/wiki/Porto_District), [Santarém](/wiki/Santarém_District), [Setúbal](/wiki/Setúbal_District), [Viana do Castelo](/wiki/Viana_do_Castelo_District), [Vila Real](/wiki/Vila_Real_District) and [Viseu](/wiki/Viseu_District) – each district takes the name of the district capital.

Within the European Union NUTS ([Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics](/wiki/Nomenclature_of_Territorial_Units_for_Statistics)) system, Portugal is divided into seven regions: the [Azores](/wiki/Azores), [Alentejo](/wiki/Alentejo), [Algarve](/wiki/Algarve), [Centro](/wiki/Centro,_Portugal), [Lisboa](/wiki/Lisboa_Region), [Madeira](/wiki/Madeira) and [Norte](/wiki/Norte,_Portugal), and with the exception of the Azores and Madeira, these NUTS areas are subdivided into 28 subregions.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Districts**[**[51]**](#cite_note-51) | | | | | | | | |
|  | **District** | **Area** | **Population** | [110px](/wiki/File:PortugalNumbered.png) |  | **District** | **Area** | **Population** |
| 1 | [Lisbon](/wiki/Lisbon_District) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | 2,250,533 | 10 | [Guarda](/wiki/Guarda_District) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | 160,939 |
| 2 | [Leiria](/wiki/Leiria_District) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | 470,930 | 11 | [Coimbra](/wiki/Coimbra_District) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | 430,104 |
| 3 | [Santarém](/wiki/Santarém_District) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | 453,638 | 12 | [Aveiro](/wiki/Aveiro_District) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | 714,200 |
| 4 | [Setúbal](/wiki/Setúbal_District) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | 851,258 | 13 | [Viseu](/wiki/Viseu_District) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | 377,653 |
| 5 | [Beja](/wiki/Beja_District) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | 152,758 | 14 | [Bragança](/wiki/Bragança_District) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | 136,252 |
| 6 | [Faro](/wiki/Faro_District) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | 451,006 | 15 | [Vila Real](/wiki/Vila_Real_District) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | 206,661 |
| 7 | [Évora](/wiki/Évora_District) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | 166,706 | 16 | [Porto](/wiki/Porto_District) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | 1,817,117 |
| 8 | [Portalegre](/wiki/Portalegre_District) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | 118,506 | 17 | [Braga](/wiki/Braga_District) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | 848,185 |
| 9 | [Castelo Branco](/wiki/Castelo_Branco_District) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | 196,264 | 18 | [Viana do Castelo](/wiki/Viana_do_Castelo_District) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | 244,836 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Autonomous Regions** | | | |
| **Autonomous Region** | **Area** | **Population** | **Demonym** |
| [Azores](/wiki/Azores) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | 246,772 | *Azorean* |
| [Madeira](/wiki/Madeira) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | 267,785 | *Madeiran* |

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

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

[thumb|300px|The](/wiki/File:Palácio_das_Necessidades_1997.JPG) [Necessidades Palace](/wiki/Palace_of_Necessidades) in [Lisbon](/wiki/Lisbon) houses the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](/wiki/Ministry_of_Foreign_Affairs_(Portugal)). A member state of the [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations) since 1955, Portugal is also a founding member of [NATO](/wiki/NATO) (1949), [OECD](/wiki/OECD) (1961) and [EFTA](/wiki/European_Free_Trade_Association) (1960); it left the latter in 1986 to join the [European Economic Community](/wiki/European_Economic_Community), which became the European Union in 1993. In 1996 it co-founded the [Community of Portuguese Language Countries](/wiki/Community_of_Portuguese_Language_Countries) (CPLP), which seeks to foster closer economic and cultural ties between the world's [Lusophone](/wiki/Lusophone) nations.

In addition, Portugal is a full member of the [Latin Union](/wiki/Latin_Union) (1983) and the [Organization of Ibero-American States](/wiki/Organization_of_Ibero-American_States) (1949). It has a friendship alliance and [dual citizenship](/wiki/Multiple_citizenship) treaty with its former colony, Brazil. Portugal and England (subsequently, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) share the world's oldest active military accord through their [Anglo-Portuguese Alliance](/wiki/Anglo-Portuguese_Alliance) ([Treaty of Windsor](/wiki/Treaty_of_Windsor_(1386))), which was signed in 1373.

There are two international territorial disputes, both with Spain:

* [Olivenza](/wiki/Olivenza). Under Portuguese sovereignty since 1297, the municipality of Olivenza was ceded to Spain under the [Treaty of Badajoz](/wiki/Treaty_of_Badajoz_(1801)) in 1801, after the [War of the Oranges](/wiki/War_of_the_Oranges). Portugal claimed it back in 1815 under the [Treaty of Vienna](/wiki/Congress_of_Vienna). However, since the 19th century, it has been continuously ruled by Spain which considers the territory theirs not only *de facto* but also *de jure*.
* The Ilhas Selvagens ([Savage Islands](/wiki/Savage_Islands)). The archipelago is under Portuguese domination but is geographically closer to the [Canary Islands](/wiki/Canary_Islands) (165 km) than to [Madeira](/wiki/Madeira) (280 km). Found in 1364 by Italian navigators, the islands belonged to private owners until 1971, when the Portuguese government bought them and established a natural reserve area covering the whole archipelago. The islands have been claimed by Spain since 1911 and the dispute has caused some periods of political tension between the two countries. The main problem is not so much their intrinsic value but the fact that they expand considerably to the south the [Exclusive Economic Zone](/wiki/Exclusive_Economic_Zone) of Portugal.

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

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Branches of the Portuguese Armed Forces** | | |
| [border|x100px](/wiki/File:PoA_Chaimite_V-200_convoy_DF-SD-04-08002.JPEG) [Portuguese Army](/wiki/Portuguese_Army) [Chaimite V-200](/wiki/Bravia_Chaimite) | [border|x100px](/wiki/File:POS_Corte_Real_(F_332).jpg) [Portuguese Navy](/wiki/Portuguese_Navy) [MEKO-200 PN](/wiki/MEKO_200) | [border|x100px](/wiki/File:Lockheed_F-16A_Fighting_Falcon,_Portugal_-_Air_Force_AN1088466.jpg) [Portuguese Air Force](/wiki/Portuguese_Air_Force) [F-16 Fighting Falcon](/wiki/General_Dynamics_F-16_Fighting_Falcon) |

The armed forces have three branches: [Navy](/wiki/Portuguese_Navy), [Army](/wiki/Portuguese_Army) and [Air Force](/wiki/Portuguese_Air_Force). They serve primarily as a self-defense force whose mission is to protect the territorial integrity of the country and provide humanitarian assistance and security at home and abroad. [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), the three branches numbered 39,200 active personnel including 7,500 women. [Portuguese military expenditure](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_military_expenditures) in 2009 was $5.2 billion, representing 2.1 percent of GDP. Military conscription was abolished in 2004. The minimum age for voluntary recruitment is 18 years.

The Army (21,000 personnel) comprises three brigades and other small units. An [infantry brigade](/wiki/Portuguese_Intervention_Brigade) (mainly equipped with [Pandur II](/wiki/Pandur_II) [APC](/wiki/Armoured_personnel_carrier)), a [mechanized brigade](/wiki/Portuguese_Mechanized_Brigade) (mainly equipped with [Leopard 2 A6](/wiki/Leopard_2) tanks and [M113](/wiki/M113) APC) and a [Rapid Reaction Brigade](/wiki/Portuguese_Rapid_Reaction_Brigade) (consisting of paratroopers, [commandos](/wiki/Portuguese_Army_Commandos) and rangers). The Navy (10,700 personnel, of which 1,580 are [marines](/wiki/Portuguese_Marines)) has five frigates, seven corvettes, two submarines, and 28 patrol and auxiliary vessels. The Air Force (7,500 personnel) has the [Lockheed F-16 Fighting Falcon](/wiki/Lockheed_F-16_Fighting_Falcon) and the [Dassault/Dornier Alpha Jet](/wiki/Dassault/Dornier_Alpha_Jet) as the main combat aircraft.

In addition to the three branches of the armed forces, there is the [National Republican Guard](/wiki/National_Republican_Guard_(Portugal)), a security force subject to military law and organization ([gendarmerie](/wiki/Gendarmerie)) comprising 25,000 personnel. This force is under the authority of both the Defense and the Interior Ministry. It has provided detachments for participation in international operations in Iraq and East Timor.

The United States maintains a military presence with 770 troops in the [Lajes Air Base](/wiki/Lajes_Air_Base) at [Terceira Island](/wiki/Terceira_Island), in the Azores. The [Allied Joint Force Command Lisbon](/wiki/Allied_Joint_Force_Command_Lisbon) (JFC Lisbon) – one of the three main subdivisions of [NATO's](/wiki/NATO) [Allied Command Operations](/wiki/Allied_Command_Operations) – it is based in [Oeiras](/wiki/Oeiras_Municipality,_Portugal), near Lisbon.

In the 20th century, Portugal engaged in two major conflicts: [World War I](/wiki/Portugal_in_the_Great_War) and the [Portuguese Colonial War](/wiki/Portuguese_Colonial_War) (1961–1974). After the end of the [Portuguese Empire](/wiki/Portuguese_Empire) in 1975, the Portuguese Armed Forces have participated in peacekeeping missions in East Timor, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Somalia, Iraq ([Nasiriyah](/wiki/Nasiriyah)) and Lebanon. Portugal also conducted several independent unilateral military operations abroad, as were the cases of the interventions of the Portuguese Armed Forces in Angola in 1992 and in Guinea-Bissau in 1998 with the main objectives of protecting and withdrawing of Portuguese and foreign citizens threatened by local civil conflicts.

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

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|300px|alt=Portuguese debt compared to Eurozone average|Government debt as a % of the national economy, compared to eurozone average.](/wiki/File:Portuguese_debt_and_EU_average.png)

The Portuguese government is heavily indebted, and received a 78 billion euro bailout from the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union) and the [International Monetary Fund](/wiki/International_Monetary_Fund) in May 2011.[[52]](#cite_note-52) The ratio of Portugal’s debt to its overall economy, was 107 percent when it received the bailout.[[52]](#cite_note-52) As part of the deal, the country agreed to cut its budget deficit from 9.8 percent of GDP in 2010 to 5.9 percent in 2011, 4.5 percent in 2012 and 3 percent in 2013.[[53]](#cite_note-53) After the bailout was announced, the Portuguese government headed by [Pedro Passos Coelho](/wiki/Pedro_Passos_Coelho) managed to implement measures with the intention of improving the state's financial situation, including tax hikes, a freeze of civil service-related lower-wages and cuts of higher-wages by 14.3%, on top of the government's spending cuts. The Portuguese government also agreed to eliminate its [golden share](/wiki/Golden_share) in [Portugal Telecom](/wiki/Portugal_Telecom) which gave it veto power over vital decisions.[[54]](#cite_note-54)[[55]](#cite_note-55) In 2012, all public servants had already seen an average wage cut of 20% relative to their 2010 baseline, with cuts reaching 25% for those earning more than 1,500 euro per month.[[56]](#cite_note-56) The IMF, the [European Commission](/wiki/European_Commission) (EC) and the [European Central Bank](/wiki/European_Central_Bank) (ECB) said in September 2012 that Portugal’s debt would peak at 124 percent of gross domestic product in 2014.[[57]](#cite_note-57) The IMF previously said in July 2012 that Portugal’s debt would peak at about 118.5 percent of GDP in 2013.[[57]](#cite_note-57) In September 2013, the Portuguese Government reviewed again the public debt of Portugal for 2013 to 127.8 percent, after a peak of 130.9 percent in that month.[[58]](#cite_note-58) A report released in January 2011 by the [Diário de Notícias](/wiki/Diário_de_Notícias)[[59]](#cite_note-59) and published in Portugal by [Gradiva](/wiki/Gradiva), had demonstrated that in the period between the [Carnation Revolution](/wiki/Carnation_Revolution) in 1974 and 2010, the democratic [Portuguese Republic governments](/wiki/Government_of_Portugal) encouraged over-expenditure and investment bubbles through unclear [Public–private partnerships](/wiki/Public–private_partnership) and funding of numerous ineffective and unnecessary external consultancy and advisory of committees and firms. This allowed considerable [slippage](/wiki/Slippage_(finance)) in state-managed [public works](/wiki/Public_works) and inflated top management and head officer bonuses and wages. Persistent and lasting recruitment policies boosted the number of redundant public servants. Risky [credit](/wiki/Credit_(finance)), [public debt](/wiki/Public_debt) creation, and European [structural and cohesion funds](/wiki/Structural_and_cohesion_funds) were mismanaged across almost four decades.[[60]](#cite_note-60) After the [financial crisis of 2007–08](/wiki/Financial_crisis_of_2007–08), it was known in 2008–2009 that two Portuguese banks ([Banco Português de Negócios](/wiki/Banco_Português_de_Negócios) (BPN) and [Banco Privado Português](/wiki/Banco_Privado_Português) (BPP)) had been accumulating losses for years due to bad investments, embezzlement and accounting fraud. The case of BPN was particularly serious because of its size, market share, and the political implications - Portugal's then current President, Cavaco Silva, and some of his political allies, maintained personal and business relationships with the bank and its CEO, who was eventually charged and arrested for fraud and other crimes.[[61]](#cite_note-61)[[62]](#cite_note-62)[[63]](#cite_note-63) In the grounds of avoiding a potentially serious financial crisis in the Portuguese economy, the Portuguese government decided to give them a bailout, eventually at a future loss to taxpayers and to the Portuguese people in general.

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

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[thumb|350px|A proportional representation of Portugal's exports.](/wiki/File:Portugal_Export_Treemap.png) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Douro_(do_Museu_do_Côa)_2_(4928227584)_(3).jpg) [vineyards](/wiki/Vineyards) that produce [port wine](/wiki/Port_wine) are common along the hillsides that flank the valley of the River [Douro](/wiki/Douro) in northern Portugal. [thumb|right|Thermal Power Plants in](/wiki/File:No_Carregado_Edifer2.jpg) [Carregado](/wiki/Carregado). [right|thumb|](/wiki/File:LGPK.jpg)[Oeiras](/wiki/Oeiras,_Portugal), in [Lisbon Metropolitan Area](/wiki/Lisbon_Metropolitan_Area), houses many multinational companies operating in Portugal. The Portuguese currency is the [euro](/wiki/Euro) (€), which replaced the [Portuguese Escudo](/wiki/Portuguese_Escudo), and the country was one of the original member states of the [eurozone](/wiki/Eurozone). Portugal's central bank is the [*Banco de Portugal*](/wiki/Banco_de_Portugal), an integral part of the [European System of Central Banks](/wiki/European_System_of_Central_Banks). Most industries, businesses and financial institutions are concentrated in the [Lisbon](/wiki/Lisbon_Metropolitan_Area) and [Porto](/wiki/Greater_Metropolitan_Area_of_Porto) metropolitan areas—the [Setúbal](/wiki/Setúbal_District), [Aveiro](/wiki/Aveiro_District), [Braga](/wiki/Braga_District), [Coimbra](/wiki/Coimbra_District) and [Leiria](/wiki/Leiria_District) districts are the biggest economic centres outside these two main areas. According to World Travel Awards, Portugal is the Europe's Leading Golf Destination 2012 and 2013.[[64]](#cite_note-64)[[65]](#cite_note-65) Since the [Carnation Revolution](/wiki/Carnation_Revolution) of 1974, which culminated in the end of one of Portugal's most notable [phases of economic expansion](/wiki/Economic_history_of_Portugal) (that started in the 1960s),[[66]](#cite_note-66) a significant change has occurred in the nation's annual economic growth.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) After the turmoil of the 1974 revolution and the [PREC](/wiki/PREC) period, Portugal tried to adapt to a changing [modern global economy](/wiki/Globalization), a process that continues in 2013. Since the 1990s, Portugal's [public consumption](/wiki/Consumption_(economics))-based [economic development](/wiki/Economic_development) model has been slowly changing to a system that is focused on exports, [private investment](/wiki/Investment) and the development of the [high-tech](/wiki/High-tech) sector. Consequently, business services have overtaken more traditional industries such as textiles, clothing, footwear and [cork](/wiki/Cork_(material)) (Portugal is the world's leading cork producer),[[67]](#cite_note-67) wood products and beverages.[[68]](#cite_note-68) In the second decade of the 21st century the Portuguese economy suffered its most severe recession since the 1970s resulting in the country having to be bailed out by the European Commission, European Central Bank and International Monetary Fund. The bailout, agreed to in 2011, required Portugal to enter into a range of austerity measures in exchange for funding support of €78 billion. In May 2014 the country exited the bailout but reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining its reformist momentum. At the time of exiting the bailout the economy had contracted by 0.7% in the first quarter of 2014, however unemployment, while still high had fallen to 15.3 percent.[[69]](#cite_note-69)

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

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

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[Agriculture in Portugal](/wiki/Agriculture_in_Portugal) is based on small to medium-sized family-owned dispersed units. However, the sector also includes larger scale [intensive farming](/wiki/Intensive_farming) export-oriented [agrobusinesses](/wiki/Agrobusiness) backed by companies (like [Grupo RAR's](/wiki/Grupo_RAR) [Vitacress](/wiki/Vitacress), [Sovena](/wiki/Sovena), [Lactogal](/wiki/Lactogal), [Vale da Rosa](/wiki/Vale_da_Rosa), [Companhia das Lezírias](/wiki/Companhia_das_Lezírias) and [Valouro](/wiki/Valouro)). The country produces a wide variety of crops and livestock products, including [tomatoes](/wiki/Tomato), [citrus](/wiki/Citrus), [green vegetables](/wiki/Green_vegetables), [rice](/wiki/Rice), [corn](/wiki/Corn), [barley](/wiki/Barley), [olives](/wiki/Olive), [oilseeds](/wiki/Oilseed), [nuts](/wiki/Nut_(fruit)), [cherries](/wiki/Cherry), [bilberry](/wiki/Bilberry), [table grapes](/wiki/Table_grapes), [edible mushrooms](/wiki/Edible_mushroom), [dairy products](/wiki/Dairy_products), [poultry](/wiki/Poultry) and [beef](/wiki/Beef).

[Forestry](/wiki/Forestry) has also played an important economic role among the rural communities and industry (namely [paper industry](/wiki/Paper_industry) that includes [Portucel Soporcel Group](/wiki/Portucel_Soporcel_Group), [engineered wood](/wiki/Engineered_wood) that includes [Sonae Indústria](/wiki/Sonae_Indústria), and [furniture](/wiki/Furniture) that includes several manufacturing plants in and around [Paços de Ferreira](/wiki/Paços_de_Ferreira), the core of Portugal's major industrial operations of [IKEA](/wiki/IKEA)). In 2001, the gross agricultural product accounted for 4 per cent of the national GDP.

Traditionally a sea-power, Portugal has had a strong tradition in [the Portuguese fishing sector](/wiki/Fishing_in_Portugal) and is one of the countries with the highest fish consumption per capita.[[70]](#cite_note-70) The main landing sites in Portugal (including Azores and Madeira), according to total landings in weight by year, are the harbours of [Matosinhos](/wiki/Matosinhos), [Peniche](/wiki/Peniche,_Portugal), [Olhão](/wiki/Olhão), [Sesimbra](/wiki/Sesimbra), [Figueira da Foz](/wiki/Figueira_da_Foz), [Sines](/wiki/Sines,_Portugal), [Portimão](/wiki/Portimão) and [Madeira](/wiki/Madeira). Portuguese processed fish products are exported through several companies, under a number of different brands and registered trademarks, such as [Ramirez](/wiki/Conservas_Ramirez) (the world’s oldest active canned fish producer), Bom Petisco, Nero, Combate, Comur, General, Líder, [Manná](/wiki/Manná), Murtosa, Pescador, Pitéu, Tenório, Torreira and Vasco da Gama.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Portugal is a significant European [minerals](/wiki/Minerals) producer and is ranked among Europe's leading [copper](/wiki/Copper) producers. The nation is also a notable producer of [tin](/wiki/Tin), [tungsten](/wiki/Tungsten) and [uranium](/wiki/Uranium). However, the country lacks the potential to conduct [hydrocarbon exploration](/wiki/Hydrocarbon_exploration) and [aluminium](/wiki/Aluminium), a limitation that has hindered the development of Portugal's [mining](/wiki/Mining_in_Portugal) and [metallurgy](/wiki/Metallurgy) sectors. Although the country has vast iron and coal reserves—mainly in the north—after the 1974 revolution and the consequent economic globalization, low competitiveness forced a decrease in the extraction activity for these minerals. The [Panasqueira](/wiki/Panasqueira) and [Neves-Corvo mines](/wiki/Neves-Corvo_mine) are among the most recognised Portuguese mines that are still in operation.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

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

Industry is diversified, ranging from [automotive](/wiki/Automotive_industry) ([Volkswagen Autoeuropa](/wiki/Volkswagen_Autoeuropa) and [Peugeot Citroen](/wiki/Peugeot_Citroen)), [aerospace](/wiki/Aerospace_industry) ([Embraer](/wiki/Embraer) and [OGMA](/wiki/OGMA)), [electronics](/wiki/Electronics_industry) and [textiles](/wiki/Textile_industry), to [food](/wiki/Food_industry), [chemicals](/wiki/Chemical_industry), [cement](/wiki/Cement) and [wood pulp](/wiki/Wood_pulp). Volkswagen Group's [AutoEuropa](/wiki/AutoEuropa) motor vehicle assembly plant in [Palmela](/wiki/Palmela) is among the largest [foreign direct investment](/wiki/Foreign_direct_investment) projects in Portugal. Modern non-traditional technology-based industries, such as [aerospace](/wiki/Aerospace), [biotechnology](/wiki/Biotechnology) and [information technology](/wiki/Information_technology), have been developed in several locations across the country. [Alverca](/wiki/Alverca), [Covilhã](/wiki/Covilhã),[[71]](#cite_note-71) [Évora](/wiki/Évora),[[72]](#cite_note-72) and [Ponte de Sor](/wiki/Ponte_de_Sor) are the main centres of the Portuguese aerospace industry, which is led by Brazil-based company Embraer and the Portuguese company OGMA. Following the turn of the 21st century, many major biotechnology and information technology industries have been founded, and are concentrated in the metropolitan areas of [Lisbon](/wiki/Lisbon_Metropolitan_Area), [Porto](/wiki/Porto_Metropolitan_Area), [Braga](/wiki/Braga), [Coimbra](/wiki/Coimbra) and [Aveiro](/wiki/Aveiro,_Portugal).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

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

Travel and [tourism](/wiki/Tourism_in_Portugal) continue to be extremely important for Portugal, with visitor numbers forecast to increase significantly in the future.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) However, the increasing competition from Eastern European destinations continues to develop, with the presence of similar attractions that are often cheaper in countries such as Croatia. Consequently, it has been necessary for the country to focus upon its niche attractions, such as health, nature and rural tourism, to stay ahead of its competitors.[[73]](#cite_note-73) The banking and insurance sectors performed well until the [late-2000s financial crisis](/wiki/Financial_crisis_of_2007–08), and this partly reflected a rapid deepening of the market in Portugal. While sensitive to various types of market and underwriting [risks](/wiki/Risk), it has been estimated that overall both the life and non-life sectors will be able to withstand a number of severe shocks, even though the impact on individual insurers varies widely.[[74]](#cite_note-74)

### State-owned companies[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

Major [State-owned companies](/wiki/Government-owned_corporation) include [Águas de Portugal](/wiki/Águas_de_Portugal) (water), [Caixa Geral de Depósitos](/wiki/Caixa_Geral_de_Depósitos) (banking), [Comboios de Portugal](/wiki/Comboios_de_Portugal) (railways), [Companhia das Lezírias](/wiki/Companhia_das_Lezírias) (agriculture) and [RTP](/wiki/Rádio_e_Televisão_de_Portugal) (media). Some former state-owned entities are managed by state-run [holding company](/wiki/Holding_company) [Parpública](/wiki/Parpública), which is a [shareholder](/wiki/Shareholder) of several public and private companies.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Among former State owned companies recently privatized are [CTT](/wiki/CTT_Correios_de_Portugal,_S.A.) (postal service), [TAP Portugal](/wiki/TAP_Portugal) (airline) and [ANA](/wiki/ANA_Aeroportos_de_Portugal) (airports).

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

Companies listed on [Euronext Lisbon](/wiki/Euronext_Lisbon) [stock exchange](/wiki/Stock_exchange) like [EDP](/wiki/Energias_de_Portugal), [Galp](/wiki/Galp_Energia), [Jerónimo Martins](/wiki/Jerónimo_Martins), [Mota-Engil](/wiki/Mota-Engil), [Novabase](/wiki/Novabase), [Semapa](/wiki/Semapa), [Portucel Soporcel](/wiki/Portucel_Soporcel), [Portugal Telecom](/wiki/Portugal_Telecom) and [Sonae](/wiki/Sonae), are among the largest corporations of Portugal by number of employees, [net income](/wiki/Net_income) or international [market share](/wiki/Market_share). The Euronext Lisbon is the major stock exchange of Portugal and is part of the [NYSE Euronext](/wiki/NYSE_Euronext), the first global stock exchange. The [PSI-20](/wiki/PSI-20) is Portugal's most selective and widely known [stock index](/wiki/Stock_index).

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

[thumb|right|230px|Portugal has the 13th highest](/wiki/File:Gold_Reserves.png) [gold reserves](/wiki/Gold_reserves) in the world The [Global Competitiveness Report](/wiki/Global_Competitiveness_Report) for 2014-2015, published by the [World Economic Forum](/wiki/World_Economic_Forum), placed Portugal on the 36th position on the economic index. This represents a sharp increase from the 51st position where Portugal appeared in 2013-2014.

The [Economist Intelligence Unit's](/wiki/Economist_Intelligence_Unit) quality of life index placed Portugal as the country with the 19th-best quality of life in the world for 2005, ahead of other economically and technologically advanced countries like France, Germany, the United Kingdom and South Korea, but 9 places behind its only neighbour, Spain.[[75]](#cite_note-75)