[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Pp-semi-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-semi-indef) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Use British English](/wiki/Template:Use_British_English) [Template:Infobox country UK](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country_UK) **Scotland** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en); [Scots](/wiki/Scots_language): [Template:IPA-sco](/wiki/Template:IPA-sco); [Template:Lang-gd](/wiki/Template:Lang-gd) [Template:IPA-gd](/wiki/Template:IPA-gd)) is a [country](/wiki/Country) that is [part](/wiki/Countries_of_the_United_Kingdom) of the [United Kingdom](/wiki/United_Kingdom) and covers the northern third of the island of [Great Britain](/wiki/Great_Britain).[[1]](#cite_note-1)[[2]](#cite_note-2)[[3]](#cite_note-3) It shares a border with [England](/wiki/England) to the south, and is otherwise surrounded by the [Atlantic Ocean](/wiki/Atlantic_Ocean), with the [North Sea](/wiki/North_Sea) to the east and the [North Channel](/wiki/North_Channel_(British_Isles)) and [Irish Sea](/wiki/Irish_Sea) to the south-west. In addition to the mainland, the country is made up of more than 790 islands,[[4]](#cite_note-4) including the [Northern Isles](/wiki/Northern_Isles) and the [Hebrides](/wiki/Hebrides).

[Edinburgh](/wiki/Edinburgh), the country's capital and second-largest city, was the hub of the [Scottish Enlightenment](/wiki/Scottish_Enlightenment) of the 18th century, which transformed Scotland into one of the commercial, intellectual, and industrial powerhouses of [Europe](/wiki/Europe). [Glasgow](/wiki/Glasgow), Scotland's largest city,[[5]](#cite_note-5) was once one of the world's leading industrial cities and now lies at the centre of the [Greater Glasgow](/wiki/Greater_Glasgow) conurbation. Scottish waters consist of a large sector of the North Atlantic and the North Sea,[[6]](#cite_note-6) containing the largest [oil reserves](/wiki/North_Sea_oil) in the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union). This has given [Aberdeen](/wiki/Aberdeen), the third-largest city in Scotland, the title of Europe's oil capital.[[7]](#cite_note-7) The [Kingdom of Scotland](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Scotland) emerged as an independent sovereign state in the [Early Middle Ages](/wiki/Early_Middle_Ages) and continued to exist until 1707. By inheritance in 1603, [James VI](/wiki/James_VI_and_I), [King of Scots](/wiki/List_of_Scottish_monarchs), became [King of England](/wiki/List_of_English_monarchs#House_of_Stuart) and [King of Ireland](/wiki/Monarchy_of_Ireland#Monarchs_of_Ireland), thus forming a [personal union of the three kingdoms](/wiki/Union_of_the_Crowns). Scotland subsequently entered into a [political union](/wiki/Political_union) with the [Kingdom of England](/wiki/Kingdom_of_England) on 1 May 1707 to create the new [Kingdom of Great Britain](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Great_Britain).<ref name=Keay/><ref name=Mackie/> The union also created a new [Parliament of Great Britain](/wiki/Parliament_of_Great_Britain), which succeeded both the [Parliament of Scotland](/wiki/Parliament_of_Scotland) and the [Parliament of England](/wiki/Parliament_of_England). The [Treaty of Union](/wiki/Treaty_of_Union) was agreed in 1706 and enacted by the twin [Acts of Union 1707](/wiki/Acts_of_Union_1707) passed by the Parliaments of both countries, despite popular opposition and anti-union riots in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and elsewhere.[[8]](#cite_note-8)[[9]](#cite_note-9) In 1801, Great Britain itself entered into a political union with the [Kingdom of Ireland](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Ireland) to create the [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland](/wiki/United_Kingdom_of_Great_Britain_and_Ireland); the [Parliament of Ireland](/wiki/Parliament_of_Ireland) merging with that of Great Britain to form the [Parliament of the United Kingdom](/wiki/Parliament_of_the_United_Kingdom). (Since 1922, the United Kingdom has comprised Great Britain and [Northern Ireland](/wiki/Northern_Ireland)).

Scotland's legal system has remained separate from those of [England and Wales](/wiki/English_law) and [Northern Ireland](/wiki/Northern_Ireland_law), and Scotland constitutes a distinct jurisdiction in public and private law.[[10]](#cite_note-10) The continued existence of [legal](/wiki/Scots_law), [educational](/wiki/Education_in_Scotland) and [religious](/wiki/Religion_in_Scotland) institutions distinct from those in the remainder of the UK have all contributed to the continuation of Scottish culture and national identity since the 1707 union.[[11]](#cite_note-11) Following a [referendum](/wiki/Scottish_devolution_referendum,_1997) in 1997, a [Scottish Parliament](/wiki/Scottish_Parliament) was re-established, this time as a [devolved legislature](/wiki/Devolution_in_the_United_Kingdom) with authority over many areas of [domestic policy](/wiki/Domestic_policy). The [Scottish National Party](/wiki/Scottish_National_Party), (SNP), which supports [Scottish independence](/wiki/Scottish_independence), won an overall majority in the [2011 Scottish Parliament general election](/wiki/Scottish_Parliament_general_election,_2011)[[12]](#cite_note-12) and legislated for an [independence referendum](/wiki/Scottish_independence_referendum,_2014) to be held on 18 September 2014; a majority of 55% to 45% rejected independence on an 85% [voter turnout](/wiki/Voter_turnout).<ref name=bbc-result>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>[[13]](#cite_note-13) Scotland is a member nation of the [British–Irish Council](/wiki/British–Irish_Council),[[14]](#cite_note-14) and the [British–Irish Parliamentary Assembly](/wiki/British–Irish_Parliamentary_Assembly). Scotland is currently represented in the European Union and the [European Parliament](/wiki/European_Parliament) by six [MEPs](/wiki/Members_of_the_European_Parliament).<ref name=ScotMEPs>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The [UK Conservative Party](/wiki/Conservative_Party_(UK)) won an overall majority in the [2015 UK general election](/wiki/United_Kingdom_general_election,_2015) and legislated for a [referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union](/wiki/United_Kingdom_European_Union_membership_referendum,_2016) to be held on 23 June 2016; within Scotland, a majority of 62% to 38% rejected [withdrawal from the EU](/wiki/United_Kingdom_withdrawal_from_the_European_Union) on a 67% voter turnout.<ref name=bbc-EU-result>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> Following the overall UK vote to withdraw from the EU, Scotland's [First Minister](/wiki/First_Minister_of_Scotland), [The Rt Hon. Nicola Sturgeon](/wiki/Nicola_Sturgeon), [MSP](/wiki/Member_of_the_Scottish_Parliament), announced that the SNP [minority](/wiki/Minority_government) [Scottish Government](/wiki/Scottish_Government) intended to prepare legislation to enable the Scottish Parliament to undertake a [new independence referendum](/wiki/Second_Scottish_independence_referendum).[[15]](#cite_note-15)[[16]](#cite_note-16)

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

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

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"Scotland" comes from [*Scoti*](/wiki/Scoti), the Latin name for the [Gaels](/wiki/Gaels). The [Late Latin](/wiki/Late_Latin) word [*Scotia*](/wiki/Scotia) ("land of the Gaels") was initially used to refer to Ireland.[[17]](#cite_note-17) By the 11th century at the latest, *Scotia* was being used to refer to (Gaelic-speaking) Scotland north of the [river Forth](/wiki/River_Forth), alongside *Albania* or *Albany*, both derived from the Gaelic [*Alba*](/wiki/Alba).[[18]](#cite_note-18) The use of the words *Scots* and *Scotland* to encompass all of what is now Scotland became common in the [Late Middle Ages](/wiki/Scotland_in_the_Late_Middle_Ages).<ref name=Keay/>

### Early history[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) Repeated glaciations, which covered the entire land mass of modern Scotland, destroyed any traces of human habitation that may have existed before the [Mesolithic period](/wiki/Mesolithic_period). It is believed the first post-glacial groups of [hunter-gatherers](/wiki/Hunter-gatherer) arrived in Scotland around 12,800 years ago, as the ice sheet retreated after the [last glaciation](/wiki/Last_glacial_period).[[19]](#cite_note-19)[[20]](#cite_note-20) Groups of settlers began building the first known permanent houses on Scottish soil around 9,500 years ago, and the first villages around 6,000 years ago. The well-preserved village of [Skara Brae](/wiki/Skara_Brae) on the mainland of [Orkney](/wiki/Orkney) dates from this period. [Neolithic](/wiki/Neolithic) habitation, burial and ritual sites are particularly common and well preserved in the [Northern Isles](/wiki/Northern_Isles) and [Western Isles](/wiki/Western_Isles), where a lack of trees led to most structures being built of local stone.[[21]](#cite_note-21) The 2009 discovery in Scotland of a 4000-year-old tomb with burial treasures at [Forteviot](/wiki/Forteviot), near [Perth](/wiki/Perth,_Scotland), the capital of a [Pictish](/wiki/Picts) Kingdom in the 8th and 9th centuries AD, is unrivalled anywhere in Britain. It contains the remains of an [early Bronze Age](/wiki/Prehistoric_Scotland) ruler laid out on white [quartz](/wiki/Quartz) pebbles and birch bark. It was also discovered for the first time that early Bronze Age people placed flowers in their graves.[[22]](#cite_note-22)<ref name=TFDB>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref>

Scotland may have been part of a Late Bronze Age maritime trading culture called the [Atlantic Bronze Age](/wiki/Atlantic_Bronze_Age), which included other [Celtic nations](/wiki/Celtic_nations), and the areas that became England, France, Spain, and Portugal.<ref name=Koch>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=Koch2009>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>[[23]](#cite_note-23)[[24]](#cite_note-24) In the winter of 1850, a severe storm hit Scotland, causing widespread damage and over 200 deaths.<ref name=bryson2010>[Template:Harvnb](/wiki/Template:Harvnb)</ref> In the Bay of Skaill, the storm stripped the earth from a large irregular knoll, known as "Skerrabra". When the storm cleared, local villagers found the outline of a village, consisting of a number of small houses without roofs.<ref name=bryson2010/><ref name=OSB>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> William Watt of Skaill, the local [laird](/wiki/Laird), began an amateur excavation of the site, but after uncovering four houses, the work was abandoned in 1868.<ref name=OSB/> The site remained undisturbed until 1913, when during a single weekend the site was plundered by a party with shovels who took away an unknown quantity of artefacts.<ref name=bryson2010/> In 1924, another storm swept away part of one of the houses and it was determined the site should be made secure and more seriously investigated.<ref name=bryson2010/> The job was given to [University of Edinburgh's](/wiki/University_of_Edinburgh) Professor [Vere Gordon Childe](/wiki/Vere_Gordon_Childe) who travelled to Skara Brae for the first time in mid-1927.<ref name=bryson2010/>

### Roman influence[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) The written [protohistory](/wiki/Protohistory) of Scotland began with the arrival of the [Roman Empire](/wiki/Roman_Empire) in southern and central Great Britain, when the Romans occupied what is now England and Wales, administering it as a province called [*Britannia*](/wiki/Roman_Britain). Roman invasions and occupations of southern Scotland were a series of brief interludes.

[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Edinburgh_Castle_from_the_south_east.JPG)[Edinburgh Castle](/wiki/Edinburgh_Castle). Human habitation of the site is dated back as far as the 9th century BC, although the nature of this early settlement is unclear. According to the Roman historian [Tacitus](/wiki/Tacitus), the [Caledonians](/wiki/Caledonians) "turned to armed resistance on a large scale", attacking Roman forts and skirmishing with their [legions](/wiki/Roman_Legion). In a surprise night-attack, the Caledonians very nearly wiped out the whole [9th Legion](/wiki/9th_Legion) until it was saved by Agricola's cavalry.[[25]](#cite_note-25) In AD 83–84, the General [Gnaeus Julius Agricola](/wiki/Gnaeus_Julius_Agricola) defeated the Caledonians at the [Battle of Mons Graupius](/wiki/Battle_of_Mons_Graupius). Tacitus wrote that, before the battle, the Caledonian leader, [Calgacus](/wiki/Calgacus), gave a rousing speech in which he called his people the "last of the free" and accused the Romans of "making the world a desert and calling it peace" (freely translated).[[25]](#cite_note-25) After the Roman victory, Roman forts were briefly set along the [Gask Ridge](/wiki/Gask_Ridge) close to the [Highland line](/wiki/Highland_Boundary_Fault) (only [Cawdor](/wiki/Cawdor_(Roman_Fort)) near [Inverness](/wiki/Inverness) is known to have been constructed beyond that line). Three years after the battle, the Roman armies had withdrawn to the [Southern Uplands](/wiki/Southern_Uplands).[[26]](#cite_note-26) The Romans erected [Hadrian's Wall](/wiki/Hadrian's_Wall) to control tribes on both sides of the wall<ref name=snyder>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> so the [*Limes Britannicus*](/wiki/Limes_Britannicus) became the northern border of the Roman Empire; although the army held the [Antonine Wall](/wiki/Antonine_Wall) in the [Central Lowlands](/wiki/Central_Lowlands) for two short periods – the last of these during the time of Emperor [Septimius Severus](/wiki/Septimius_Severus) from 208 until 210.[[27]](#cite_note-27) The Roman military occupation of a significant part of what is now northern Scotland lasted only about 40 years; although their influence on the southern section of the country, occupied by [Brythonic](/wiki/Brython) tribes such as the [Votadini](/wiki/Votadini) and [Damnonii](/wiki/Damnonii), would still have been considerable between the first and fifth centuries. The Welsh term [Hen Ogledd](/wiki/Hen_Ogledd) ("Old North") is used by scholars to describe what is now the North of England and the South of Scotland during its habitation by [Brittonic](/wiki/Common_Brittonic)-speaking people around AD 500 to 800.<ref name=snyder/> According to writings from the 9th and 10th centuries, the [Gaelic](/wiki/Gaels) kingdom of [Dál Riata](/wiki/Dál_Riata) was founded in the 6th century in western Scotland.[[28]](#cite_note-28)[[29]](#cite_note-29) The 'traditional' view is that settlers from Ireland founded the kingdom, bringing Gaelic language and culture with them. However, recently some archaeologists have argued against this view, saying there is no archaeological or placename evidence for a migration or a takeover by a small group of elites.<ref name=ewancampbell>Campbell, Ewan. (2001). "[Were the Scots Irish?](http://www.electricscotland.com/history/articles/scotsirish.htm)" in *Antiquity* No. 75.</ref>

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

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|right|upright|The class I](/wiki/File:Serpent_stone.JPG) [Pictish stone](/wiki/Pictish_stones) at [Aberlemno](/wiki/Aberlemno_Sculptured_Stones#Aberlemno_1) known as Aberlemno 1 or the Serpent Stone. The [Kingdom of the Picts](/wiki/Kingdom_of_the_Picts) (based in [Fortriu](/wiki/Fortriu) by the 6th century) was the state that eventually became known as "Alba" or "Scotland". The development of "Pictland", according to the historical model developed by [Peter Heather](/wiki/Peter_Heather), was a natural response to Roman imperialism.[[30]](#cite_note-30) Another view places emphasis on the [Battle of Dun Nechtain](/wiki/Battle_of_Dun_Nechtain), and the reign of [Bridei m. Beli](/wiki/Bridei_III_of_the_Picts) (671–693), with another period of consolidation in the reign of [Óengus mac Fergusa](/wiki/Óengus_I_of_the_Picts) (732–761).[[31]](#cite_note-31) The Kingdom of the Picts as it was in the early 8th century, when [Bede](/wiki/Bede) was writing, was largely the same as the kingdom of the Scots in the reign of [Alexander I](/wiki/Alexander_I_of_Scotland) (1107–1124). However, by the tenth century, the Pictish kingdom was dominated by what we can recognise as Gaelic culture, and had developed a traditional story of an Irish conquest around the ancestor of the contemporary royal dynasty, [Cináed mac Ailpín](/wiki/Kenneth_I_of_Scotland) (Kenneth MacAlpin).<ref name=Lynch\_359>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>[[32]](#cite_note-32)[[33]](#cite_note-33) From a base of territory in eastern Scotland north of the [River Forth](/wiki/River_Forth) and south of the [River Oykel](/wiki/River_Oykel), the kingdom acquired control of the lands lying to the north and south. By the 12th century, the kings of Alba had added to their territories the [English](/wiki/Old_English)-speaking land in the south-east and attained overlordship of [Gaelic](/wiki/Scottish_Gaelic)-speaking [Galloway](/wiki/Galloway) and [Norse](/wiki/Old_Norse)-speaking [Caithness](/wiki/Caithness); by the end of the 13th century, the kingdom had assumed approximately its modern borders. However, processes of cultural and economic change beginning in the 12th century ensured Scotland looked very different in the later Middle Ages.

The push for this change was the reign of [David I](/wiki/David_I_of_Scotland) and the [Davidian Revolution](/wiki/Davidian_Revolution). Feudalism, government reorganisation and the first legally recognised towns (called [burghs](/wiki/Burgh)) began in this period. These institutions and the immigration of French and Anglo-French knights and churchmen facilitated cultural osmosis, whereby the culture and language of the low-lying and coastal parts of the kingdom's original territory in the east became, like the newly acquired south-east, English-speaking, while the rest of the country retained the Gaelic language, apart from the Northern Isles of Orkney and Shetland, which remained under Norse rule until 1468.[[34]](#cite_note-34)<ref name=Barrow/>[[35]](#cite_note-35) The Scottish state entered a largely successful and stable period between the 12th and 14th centuries, there was relative peace with England, trade and educational links were well developed with the Continent and at the height of this cultural flowering [John Duns Scotus](/wiki/John_Duns_Scotus) was one of Europe's most important and influential philosophers.

[thumb|upright|left|The](/wiki/File:Wfm_wallace_monument_cropped.jpg) [Wallace Monument](/wiki/Wallace_Monument) commemorates [William Wallace](/wiki/William_Wallace), the 13th-century Scottish hero. The death of [Alexander III](/wiki/Alexander_III_of_Scotland) in March 1286, followed by that of his granddaughter [Margaret, Maid of Norway](/wiki/Margaret,_Maid_of_Norway), broke the centuries-old succession line of Scotland's kings and shattered the 200-year golden age that began with David I. [Edward I of England](/wiki/Edward_I_of_England) was asked to arbitrate between claimants for the Scottish crown, and he organised a process known as the [Great Cause](/wiki/Competitors_for_the_Crown_of_Scotland) to identify the most legitimate claimant. [John Balliol](/wiki/John_Balliol) was pronounced king in the Great Hall of [Berwick Castle](/wiki/Berwick_Castle) on 17 November 1292 and inaugurated at [Scone](/wiki/Scone,_Perth_and_Kinross) on 30 November, [St. Andrew's Day](/wiki/St._Andrew's_Day). Edward I, who had coerced recognition as [Lord Paramount of Scotland](/wiki/Lord_Paramount_of_Scotland), the feudal superior of the realm, steadily undermined John's authority.[[36]](#cite_note-36) In 1294, Balliol and other Scottish lords refused Edward's demands to serve in his army against the French. Instead the Scottish parliament sent envoys to France to negotiate an alliance. Scotland and France sealed a treaty on 23 October 1295, known as the [Auld Alliance](/wiki/Auld_Alliance) (1295–1560). War ensued and King John was deposed by Edward who took personal control of Scotland. [Andrew Moray](/wiki/Andrew_Moray) and [William Wallace](/wiki/William_Wallace) initially emerged as the principal leaders of the resistance to English rule in what became known as the [Wars of Scottish Independence](/wiki/Wars_of_Scottish_Independence) (1296–1328).[[37]](#cite_note-37) The nature of the struggle changed significantly when [Robert the Bruce, Earl of Carrick](/wiki/Robert_the_Bruce), killed his rival [John Comyn](/wiki/John_III_Comyn,_Lord_of_Badenoch) on 10 February 1306 at [Greyfriars Kirk](/wiki/Greyfriars_Kirk) in [Dumfries](/wiki/Dumfries).[[38]](#cite_note-38) He was crowned king (as Robert I) less than seven weeks later. Robert I battled to restore Scottish Independence as King for over 20 years, beginning by winning Scotland back from the Norman English invaders piece by piece. Victory at the [Battle of Bannockburn](/wiki/Battle_of_Bannockburn) in 1314 proved the Scots had regained control of their kingdom. In 1315, [Edward Bruce](/wiki/Edward_Bruce), brother of the King, was briefly appointed [High King of Ireland](/wiki/High_King_of_Ireland) during an ultimately unsuccessful Scottish invasion of Ireland aimed at strengthening Scotland's position in its wars against England. In 1320 the world's first documented declaration of independence, the [Declaration of Arbroath](/wiki/Declaration_of_Arbroath), won the support of [Pope John XXII](/wiki/Pope_John_XXII), leading to the legal recognition of Scottish sovereignty by the English Crown.

However, war with England continued for several decades after the death of Bruce. A civil war between the Bruce dynasty and their long-term Comyn-Balliol rivals lasted until the middle of the 14th century. Although the Bruce dynasty was successful, [David II's](/wiki/David_II_of_Scotland) lack of an heir allowed his half-nephew [Robert II](/wiki/Robert_II_of_Scotland) to come to the throne and establish the [Stewart Dynasty](/wiki/Stewart_Dynasty).<ref name=Barrow>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref><ref name=Grant>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> The Stewarts ruled Scotland for the remainder of the [Middle Ages](/wiki/Middle_Ages). The country they ruled experienced greater prosperity from the end of the 14th century through the Scottish Renaissance to the [Reformation](/wiki/Scottish_Reformation). This was despite continual warfare with England, the increasing division between [Highlands](/wiki/Scottish_Highlands) and [Lowlands](/wiki/Scottish_Lowlands), and a large number of royal minorities.<ref name=Grant/>[[39]](#cite_note-39) This period was the height of the Franco-Scottish alliance. The Scots Guard – la [Garde Écossaise](/wiki/Garde_Écossaise) – was founded in 1418 by [Charles VII of France](/wiki/Charles_VII_of_France). The Scots soldiers of the Garde Écossaise fought alongside [Joan of Arc](/wiki/Joan_of_Arc) against England during the [Hundred Years War](/wiki/Hundred_Years_War).[[40]](#cite_note-40) In March 1421, a Franco-Scots force under [John Stewart, 2nd Earl of Buchan](/wiki/John_Stewart,_2nd_Earl_of_Buchan), and Gilbert de Lafayette, defeated a larger English army at the [Battle of Baugé](/wiki/Battle_of_Baugé). Three years later, at the [Battle of Verneuil](/wiki/Battle_of_Verneuil), the French and Scots lost around 7000 men.[[41]](#cite_note-41) The Scottish intervention contributed to France's victory in the war.

### Early modern era[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|right|upright|](/wiki/File:Portrait_of_King_James_I_&_VI_(1618-1620).jpg)[James VI](/wiki/James_VI_and_I) succeeded to the throne of England and Ireland (as James I) in 1603. In 1502, [James IV of Scotland](/wiki/James_IV_of_Scotland) signed the [Treaty of Perpetual Peace](/wiki/Treaty_of_Perpetual_Peace) with [Henry VII of England](/wiki/Henry_VII_of_England). He also married Henry's daughter, [Margaret Tudor](/wiki/Margaret_Tudor), setting the stage for the [Union of the Crowns](/wiki/Union_of_the_Crowns). For Henry, the marriage into one of Europe's most established monarchies gave legitimacy to the new Tudor royal line.[[42]](#cite_note-42) A decade later, James made the fateful decision to invade England in support of France under the terms of the [Auld Alliance](/wiki/Auld_Alliance). He was the last British monarch to die in battle, at the [Battle of Flodden](/wiki/Battle_of_Flodden).[[43]](#cite_note-43) Within a generation the Auld Alliance was ended by the [Treaty of Edinburgh](/wiki/Treaty_of_Edinburgh). France agreed to withdraw all land and naval forces. In the same year, 1560, [John Knox](/wiki/John_Knox) realised his goal of seeing Scotland become a Protestant nation and the Scottish parliament revoke papal authority in Scotland.[[44]](#cite_note-44) [Mary, Queen of Scots](/wiki/Mary,_Queen_of_Scots), a Catholic and former queen of France, was forced to abdicate in 1567.[[45]](#cite_note-45) In 1603, [James VI, King of Scots](/wiki/James_VI_and_I) inherited the thrones of the [Kingdom of England](/wiki/Kingdom_of_England) and the [Kingdom of Ireland](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Ireland), and became King James I of England and Ireland, and left [Edinburgh](/wiki/Edinburgh) for London.[[46]](#cite_note-46) With the exception of a short period under [the Protectorate](/wiki/The_Protectorate), Scotland remained a separate state, but there was considerable conflict between the crown and the [Covenanters](/wiki/Covenanters) over the form of [church government](/wiki/Presbyterian_church_governance). The [Glorious Revolution](/wiki/Glorious_Revolution) of 1688–89 saw the overthrow of the [King James VII of Scotland and II of England](/wiki/King_James_II_of_England) by the English Parliament in favour of [William and Mary](/wiki/William_and_Mary). As late as the 1690s, Scotland experienced famine, which reduced the population of parts of the country by at least 20 per cent.[[47]](#cite_note-47) In 1698, the Scots attempted an ambitious project to secure a trading colony on the [Isthmus of Panama](/wiki/Isthmus_of_Panama). Almost every Scottish landowner who had money to spare is said to have invested in the [Darien scheme](/wiki/Darien_scheme). Its failure bankrupted these landowners, but not the burghs. Nevertheless, the nobles' bankruptcy, along with the threat of an English invasion, played a leading role in convincing the Scots elite to back a union with England.[[48]](#cite_note-48)[[49]](#cite_note-49) On 22 July 1706, the [Treaty of Union](/wiki/Treaty_of_Union) was agreed between representatives of the [Scots Parliament](/wiki/Parliament_of_Scotland) and the [Parliament of England](/wiki/Parliament_of_England) and the following year twin [Acts of Union](/wiki/Acts_of_Union_1707) were passed by both parliaments to create the united [Kingdom of Great Britain](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Great_Britain) with effect from 1 May 1707.<ref name=Mackie/>

### 18th century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

With trade tariffs with England now abolished, trade blossomed, especially with [Colonial America](/wiki/Colonial_America). The clippers belonging to the [Glasgow](/wiki/Glasgow) [Tobacco Lords](/wiki/Tobacco_Lords) were the fastest ships on the route to Virginia. Until the [American War of Independence](/wiki/American_War_of_Independence) in 1776, Glasgow was the world's premier tobacco port, dominating world trade.[[50]](#cite_note-50) The disparity between the wealth of the merchant classes of the [Scottish Lowlands](/wiki/Scottish_Lowlands) and the ancient clans of the [Scottish Highlands](/wiki/Scottish_Highlands) grew, amplifying centuries of division.

[thumb|left|David Morier's depiction of the](/wiki/File:The_Battle_of_Culloden.jpg) [Battle of Culloden](/wiki/Battle_of_Culloden). The deposed [Jacobite Stuart](/wiki/Jacobitism) claimants had remained popular in the Highlands and north-east, particularly amongst non-[Presbyterians](/wiki/Presbyterian), including Roman Catholics and [Episcopalian Protestants](/wiki/Episcopalian_Protestants). However, two major [Jacobite Risings](/wiki/Jacobite_Rising) launched in 1715 and 1745 failed to remove the [House of Hanover](/wiki/House_of_Hanover) from the British throne. The threat of the Jacobite movement to the United Kingdom and its monarchs effectively ended at the [Battle of Culloden](/wiki/Battle_of_Culloden), Great Britain's last [pitched battle](/wiki/Pitched_battle). This defeat paved the way for large-scale removals of the indigenous populations of the Highlands and Islands, known as the [Highland Clearances](/wiki/Highland_Clearances).

The [Scottish Enlightenment](/wiki/Scottish_Enlightenment) and the [Industrial Revolution](/wiki/Industrial_Revolution) made Scotland into an intellectual, commercial and industrial powerhouse[[51]](#cite_note-51)–so much so [Voltaire](/wiki/Voltaire) said "We look to Scotland for all our ideas of civilisation."[[52]](#cite_note-52) With the demise of Jacobitism and the advent of the Union, thousands of Scots, mainly Lowlanders, took up numerous positions of power in politics, civil service, the army and navy, trade, economics, colonial enterprises and other areas across the nascent [British Empire](/wiki/British_Empire). Historian Neil Davidson notes "after 1746 there was an entirely new level of participation by Scots in political life, particularly outside Scotland." Davidson also states "far from being 'peripheral' to the British economy, Scotland – or more precisely, the Lowlands – lay at its core."[[53]](#cite_note-53)

### 19th century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|right|*Shipping on the Clyde*, by](/wiki/File:John_Atkinson_Grimshaw_-_Shipping_on_the_Clyde_(1881).jpg) [John Atkinson Grimshaw](/wiki/John_Atkinson_Grimshaw), 1881 The [Scottish Reform Act 1832](/wiki/Scottish_Reform_Act_1832) increased the number of Scottish MPs and widened the franchise to include more of the middle classes.<ref name=Devine&Finlay1996pp64-5>T. M. Devine and R. J. Finlay, *Scotland in the Twentieth Century* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1996), pp. 64–5.</ref> From the mid-century there were increasing calls for Home Rule for Scotland and the post of [Secretary of State for Scotland](/wiki/Secretary_of_State_for_Scotland) was revived.[[54]](#cite_note-54) Towards the end of the century Prime Ministers of Scottish descent included [William E. Gladstone](/wiki/William_E._Gladstone),<ref name=Quinault2007>R. Quinault, "Scots on Top? Tartan Power at Westminster 1707–2007", *History Today*, 2007 57(7): 30–36. [Template:ISSN](/wiki/Template:ISSN) Fulltext: [Ebsco](/wiki/Ebsco).</ref> and [the Earl of Rosebery](/wiki/Archibald_Primrose,_5th_Earl_of_Rosebery).[[55]](#cite_note-55) In the later 19th century the growing importance of the working classes was marked by [Keir Hardie's](/wiki/Keir_Hardie) success in the [Mid Lanarkshire by-election, 1888](/wiki/Mid_Lanarkshire_by-election,_1888), leading to the foundation of the [Scottish Labour Party](/wiki/Scottish_Labour_Party_(1888)), which was absorbed into the [Independent Labour Party](/wiki/Independent_Labour_Party) in 1895, with Hardie as its first leader.[[56]](#cite_note-56) Glasgow became one of the largest cities in the world, and known as "the Second City of the Empire" after London.[[57]](#cite_note-57) After 1860 the Clydeside shipyards specialised in steamships made of iron (after 1870, made of steel), which rapidly replaced the wooden sailing vessels of both the merchant fleets and the battle fleets of the world. It became the world's pre-eminent shipbuilding centre.<ref name=Shields1949>J. Shields, *Clyde Built: a History of Ship-Building on the River Clyde* (1949).</ref> The industrial developments, while they brought work and wealth, were so rapid that housing, town-planning, and provision for public health did not keep pace with them, and for a time living conditions in some of the towns and cities were notoriously bad, with overcrowding, high infant mortality, and growing rates of tuberculosis.[[58]](#cite_note-58) [thumb|left|upright|](/wiki/File:Sir_Henry_Raeburn_-_Portrait_of_Sir_Walter_Scott.jpg)[Walter Scott](/wiki/Walter_Scott), whose [Waverley Novels](/wiki/Waverley_Novels) helped define Scottish identity in the 19th century. While the Scottish Enlightenment is traditionally considered to have concluded toward the end of the 18th century,[[59]](#cite_note-59) disproportionately large Scottish contributions to British science and letters continued for another 50 years or more, thanks to such figures as the physicists [James Clerk Maxwell](/wiki/James_Clerk_Maxwell) and [Lord Kelvin](/wiki/William_Thomson,_1st_Baron_Kelvin), and the engineers and inventors [James Watt](/wiki/James_Watt) and [William Murdoch](/wiki/William_Murdoch), whose work was critical to the technological developments of the Industrial Revolution throughout Britain.[[60]](#cite_note-60) In literature the most successful figure of the mid-19th century was [Walter Scott](/wiki/Walter_Scott). His first prose work, [Waverley](/wiki/Waverley_(novel)) in 1814, is often called the first historical novel.[[61]](#cite_note-61) It launched a highly successful career that probably more than any other helped define and popularise Scottish cultural identity.[[62]](#cite_note-62) In the late 19th century, a number of Scottish-born authors achieved international reputations, such as [Robert Louis Stevenson](/wiki/Robert_Louis_Stevenson), [Arthur Conan Doyle](/wiki/Arthur_Conan_Doyle), [J. M. Barrie](/wiki/J._M._Barrie) and [George MacDonald](/wiki/George_MacDonald).[[63]](#cite_note-63) Scotland also played a major part in the development of art and architecture. The [Glasgow School](/wiki/Glasgow_School), which developed in the late 19th century, and flourished in the early 20th century, produced a distinctive blend of influences including the [Celtic Revival](/wiki/Celtic_Revival) the [Arts and Crafts Movement](/wiki/Arts_and_Crafts_Movement), and [Japonisme](/wiki/Japonisme), which found favour throughout the [modern art](/wiki/Modern_art) world of continental Europe and helped define the [Art Nouveau](/wiki/Art_Nouveau) style. Proponents included architect and artist [Charles Rennie Mackintosh](/wiki/Charles_Rennie_Mackintosh).[[64]](#cite_note-64) This period saw a process of rehabilitation for Highland culture. In the 1820s, as part of the [Romantic revival](/wiki/Romanticism), tartan and the kilt were adopted by members of the social elite, not just in Scotland, but across Europe,[[65]](#cite_note-65)<ref name=Sievers2007>M. Sievers, [*The Highland Myth as an Invented Tradition of 18th and 19th century and Its Significance for the Image of Scotland*](https://books.google.com/books?id=_U-5sq5MDBQC&pg=PA23&dq=tartan+highland+romantic&hl=En&ei=JqATTq_bD5Gy8QOpk7H8Bw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=book-thumbnail&resnum=5&sqi=2&ved=0CEIQ6wEwBA#v=onepage&q=tartan%20highland%20romantic&f=false) (GRIN Verlag, 2007), pp. 22–5.</ref> prompted by the popularity of Macpherson's [Ossian](/wiki/Ossian) cycle[[66]](#cite_note-66)[[67]](#cite_note-67) and then Walter Scott's Waverley novels.[[68]](#cite_note-68) However, the Highlands remained very poor and traditional.[[69]](#cite_note-69) The desire to improve agriculture and profits led to the [Highland Clearances](/wiki/Highland_Clearances), in which much of the population of the Highlands suffered forced displacement as lands were enclosed, principally so that they could be used for sheep farming. The clearances followed patterns of agricultural change throughout Britain, but were particularly notorious as a result of the late timing, the lack of legal protection for year-by-year tenants under [Scots law](/wiki/Scots_law), the abruptness of the change from the traditional clan system, and the brutality of many evictions.[[70]](#cite_note-70) One result was a continuous exodus from the land—to the cities, or further afield to England, Canada, America or Australia.[[71]](#cite_note-71) The population of Scotland grew steadily in the 19th century, from 1,608,000 in the census of 1801 to 2,889,000 in 1851 and 4,472,000 in 1901.[[72]](#cite_note-72) Even with the development of industry there were not enough good jobs. As a result, during the period 1841–1931, about 2 million Scots migrated to North America and Australia, and another 750,000 Scots relocated to England.<ref name=Huston&Knox2001pxxxii>R. A. Houston and W. W. Knox, eds, *The New Penguin History of Scotland* (Penguin, 2001), p. xxxii.</ref>

[thumb|right|350px|The Disruption Assembly was painted by](/wiki/File:Disruption_forming_Free_Kirk.jpg) [David Octavius Hill](/wiki/David_Octavius_Hill). After prolonged years of struggle in the Kirk, in 1834 the Evangelicals gained control of the [General Assembly](/wiki/General_Assembly_of_the_Church_of_Scotland) and passed the Veto Act, which allowed congregations to reject unwanted "intrusive" presentations to livings by patrons. The following "Ten Years' Conflict" of legal and political wrangling ended in defeat for the non-intrusionists in the civil courts. The result was a schism from the church by some of the non-intrusionists led by Dr [Thomas Chalmers](/wiki/Thomas_Chalmers), known as the Great [Disruption of 1843](/wiki/Disruption_of_1843). Roughly a third of the clergy, mainly from the North and Highlands, formed the separate [Free Church of Scotland](/wiki/Free_Church_of_Scotland_(1843–1900)).<ref name=Robb1990>G. Robb, "Popular Religion and the Christianization of the Scottish Highlands in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries", *Journal of Religious History*, 1990, 16(1): 18–34.</ref> In the late 19th century growing divisions between fundamentalist Calvinists and theological liberals resulted in a further split in the Free Church as the rigid Calvinists broke away to form the [Free Presbyterian Church](/wiki/Free_Presbyterian_Church_of_Scotland) in 1893.<ref name=Koch2006p416-7>J. T. Koch, *Celtic Culture: a Historical Encyclopedia, Volumes 1–5* (ABC-CLIO, 2006), pp. 416–7.</ref> [Catholic Emancipation](/wiki/Catholic_Emancipation) in 1829 and the influx of large numbers of Irish immigrants, particularly after the famine years of the late 1840s, mainly to the growing lowland centres like Glasgow, led to a transformation in the fortunes of Catholicism. In 1878, despite opposition, a Roman Catholic ecclesiastical hierarchy was restored to the country, and Catholicism became a significant denomination within Scotland.<ref name=Koch2006p416-7/>

Industrialisation, urbanisation and the Disruption of 1843 all undermined the tradition of parish schools. From 1830 the state began to fund buildings with grants; then from 1846 it was funding schools by direct sponsorship; and in 1872 Scotland moved to a system like that in England of state-sponsored largely free schools, run by local school boards.<ref name=Devine2001p91-100>T. M. Devine, *The Scottish Nation*, pp. 91–100.</ref> The historic [University of Glasgow](/wiki/University_of_Glasgow) became a leader in British higher education by providing the educational needs of youth from the urban and commercial classes, as opposed to the upper class.[[73]](#cite_note-73) [The University of St Andrews](/wiki/The_University_of_St_Andrews) pioneered the admission of women to Scottish universities. From 1892 Scottish universities could admit and graduate women and the numbers of women at Scottish universities steadily increased until the early 20th century.<ref name=Rayner-Canham2008>M. F. Rayner-Canham and G. Rayner-Canham, *Chemistry was Their Life: Pioneering British Women Chemists, 1880–1949*, (Imperial College Press, 2008), p. 264.</ref>

### Early 20th century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Royal_Scots_with_flag_01-1945.jpg)[Royal Scots](/wiki/Royal_Scots) with captured [Japanese](/wiki/Empire_of_Japan) flag, [Burma](/wiki/Burma), January 1945. Scotland played a major role in the British effort in the [First World War](/wiki/First_World_War). It especially provided manpower, ships, machinery, fish and money.[[74]](#cite_note-74) With a population of 4.8 million in 1911, Scotland sent over half a million men to the war, of whom over a quarter died in combat or from disease, and 150,000 were seriously wounded.[[75]](#cite_note-75) [Field Marshal](/wiki/Field_Marshal_(United_Kingdom)) [Sir Douglas Haig](/wiki/Douglas_Haig) was Britain's commander on the Western Front.

The war saw the emergence of a radical movement called "[Red Clydeside](/wiki/Red_Clydeside)" led by militant trades unionists. Formerly a [Liberal](/wiki/Liberal_Party_(UK)) stronghold, the industrial districts switched to [Labour](/wiki/Labour_Party_(UK)) by 1922, with a base among the [Irish Catholic](/wiki/Irish_Catholic) working class districts. Women were especially active in building neighbourhood solidarity on housing issues. However, the "Reds" operated within the Labour Party and had little influence in Parliament and the mood changed to passive despair by the late 1920s.[[76]](#cite_note-76) The shipbuilding industry expanded by a third and expected renewed prosperity, but instead a serious depression hit the economy by 1922 and it did not fully recover until 1939. The interwar years were marked by economic stagnation in rural and urban areas, and high unemployment.[[77]](#cite_note-77) Indeed, the war brought with it deep social, cultural, economic, and political dislocations. Thoughtful Scots pondered their declension, as the main social indicators such as poor health, bad housing, and long-term mass unemployment, pointed to terminal social and economic stagnation at best, or even a downward spiral. Service abroad on behalf of the Empire lost its allure to ambitious young people, who left Scotland permanently. The heavy dependence on obsolescent heavy industry and mining was a central problem, and no one offered workable solutions. The despair reflected what Finlay (1994) describes as a widespread sense of hopelessness that prepared local business and political leaders to accept a new orthodoxy of centralised government economic planning when it arrived during the [Second World War](/wiki/Second_World_War).[[78]](#cite_note-78) The [Second World War](/wiki/Second_World_War) brought renewed prosperity, despite extensive bombing of cities by the Luftwaffe. It saw the invention of radar by [Robert Watson-Watt](/wiki/Robert_Watson-Watt), which was invaluable in the [Battle of Britain](/wiki/Battle_of_Britain) as was the leadership at [RAF Fighter Command](/wiki/RAF_Fighter_Command) of [Air Chief Marshal](/wiki/Air_Chief_Marshal_(UK)) [Sir Hugh Dowding](/wiki/Hugh_Dowding).[[79]](#cite_note-79)

### Since 1945[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

After 1945, Scotland's economic situation became progressively worse due to overseas competition, inefficient industry, and industrial disputes.[[80]](#cite_note-80) Only in recent decades has the country enjoyed something of a cultural and economic renaissance. Economic factors contributing to this recovery include a resurgent financial services industry, [electronics manufacturing](/wiki/Electronics_manufacturing), (see [Silicon Glen](/wiki/Silicon_Glen)),[[81]](#cite_note-81) and the [North Sea oil](/wiki/North_Sea_oil) and gas industry.[[82]](#cite_note-82) The introduction in 1989 by Margaret Thatcher's government of the [Community Charge](/wiki/Community_Charge) (widely known as the Poll Tax) one year before the rest of the United Kingdom, contributed to a growing movement for a return to direct Scottish control over domestic affairs.[[83]](#cite_note-83) Following a [referendum on devolution proposals in 1997](/wiki/Scottish_devolution_referendum,_1997), the [Scotland Act 1998](/wiki/Scotland_Act_1998)[[84]](#cite_note-84) was passed by the United Kingdom Parliament to establish a devolved [Scottish Parliament](/wiki/Scottish_Parliament) and [Scottish Government](/wiki/Scottish_Government) with responsibility for most laws specific to Scotland.[[85]](#cite_note-85)

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

The Scottish education system has always remained distinct from the rest of the United Kingdom, with a characteristic emphasis on a [broad education](/wiki/Liberal_education).[[86]](#cite_note-86) In the 15th century, the Humanist emphasis on education cumulated with the passing of the [Education Act 1496](/wiki/Education_Act_1496), which decreed that all sons of barons and freeholders of substance should attend grammar schools to learn "perfyct Latyne", resulting in an increase in literacy among a male and wealthy elite.<ref name=Bawcutt&Williams2006pp29-30>P. J. Bawcutt and J. H. Williams, *A Companion to Medieval Scottish Poetry* (Woodbridge: Brewer, 2006), ISBN 1-84384-096-0, pp. 29–30.</ref> In the Reformation the 1560 [*First Book of Discipline*](/wiki/First_Book_of_Discipline) set out a plan for a school in every parish, but this proved financially impossible.[[87]](#cite_note-87) In 1616 an [act in Privy council](/wiki/School_Establishment_Act_1616) commanded every parish to establish a school.[[88]](#cite_note-88) By the late seventeenth century there was a largely complete network of parish schools in the lowlands, but in the Highlands basic education was still lacking in many areas.<ref name=Anderson2003>R. Anderson, "The history of Scottish Education pre-1980", in T. G. K. Bryce and W. M. Humes, eds, *Scottish Education: Post-Devolution* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2nd edn., 2003), ISBN 0-7486-1625-X, pp. 219–28.</ref> Education remained a matter for the church rather than the state until the [Education Act (1872)](/wiki/Elementary_Education_Act_1870).[[89]](#cite_note-89)

## Geography and natural history[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image)

The mainland of Scotland comprises the northern third of the land mass of the island of Great Britain, which lies off the north-west coast of [Continental Europe](/wiki/Continental_Europe). The total area is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert),<ref name=Whitaker>*Whitaker's Almanack* (1991) London. J. Whitaker and Sons.</ref> comparable to the size of the Czech Republic. Scotland's only land border is with England, and runs for [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) between the basin of the [River Tweed](/wiki/River_Tweed) on the east coast and the [Solway Firth](/wiki/Solway_Firth) in the west. The Atlantic Ocean borders the west coast and the [North Sea](/wiki/North_Sea) is to the east. The island of Ireland lies only [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) from the south-western peninsula of [Kintyre](/wiki/Kintyre);[[90]](#cite_note-90) Norway is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) to the east and the [Faroes](/wiki/Faroes), [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) to the north.

The territorial extent of Scotland is generally that established by the 1237 [Treaty of York](/wiki/Treaty_of_York) between Scotland and the Kingdom of England[[91]](#cite_note-91) and the 1266 [Treaty of Perth](/wiki/Treaty_of_Perth) between Scotland and Norway.<ref name=Mackie>Mackie, J.D. (1969) *A History of Scotland*. London. Penguin.</ref> Important exceptions include the [Isle of Man](/wiki/Isle_of_Man), which having been lost to England in the 14th century is now a [crown dependency](/wiki/Crown_dependency) outside of the United Kingdom; the island groups [Orkney](/wiki/Orkney) and [Shetland](/wiki/Shetland), which were acquired from Norway in 1472;<ref name=Whitaker/> and [Berwick-upon-Tweed](/wiki/Berwick-upon-Tweed), lost to England in 1482.

The geographical centre of Scotland lies a few miles from the village of [Newtonmore](/wiki/Newtonmore) in [Badenoch](/wiki/Badenoch).[[92]](#cite_note-92) Rising to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) above sea level, Scotland's highest point is the summit of [Ben Nevis](/wiki/Ben_Nevis), in [Lochaber](/wiki/Lochaber), while Scotland's longest river, the [River Tay](/wiki/River_Tay), flows for a distance of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[93]](#cite_note-93)[[94]](#cite_note-94)

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

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [float|left|thumb|upright|Relief map of Scotland](/wiki/File:Scotland_(Location)_Named_(HR).png) The whole of Scotland was covered by ice sheets during the [Pleistocene](/wiki/Pleistocene) [ice ages](/wiki/Ice_ages) and the landscape is much affected by glaciation. From a geological perspective, the country has three main sub-divisions.

The [Highlands and Islands](/wiki/Highlands_and_Islands) lie to the north and west of the [Highland Boundary Fault](/wiki/Highland_Boundary_Fault), which runs from [Arran](/wiki/Isle_of_Arran) to [Stonehaven](/wiki/Stonehaven). This part of Scotland largely comprises ancient rocks from the [Cambrian](/wiki/Cambrian) and [Precambrian](/wiki/Precambrian), which were uplifted during the later [Caledonian Orogeny](/wiki/Caledonian_Orogeny). It is interspersed with [igneous](/wiki/Igneous) intrusions of a more recent age, remnants of which formed mountain massifs such as the [Cairngorms](/wiki/Cairngorms) and [Skye](/wiki/Skye) [Cuillins](/wiki/Cuillins).

A significant exception to the above are the fossil-bearing beds of [Old Red Sandstones](/wiki/Old_Red_Sandstone) found principally along the [Moray Firth](/wiki/Moray_Firth) coast. The [Highlands](/wiki/Scottish_Highlands) are generally mountainous and the highest elevations in the British Isles are found here. Scotland has over 790 islands divided into four main groups: Shetland, Orkney, and the [Inner Hebrides](/wiki/Inner_Hebrides) and [Outer Hebrides](/wiki/Outer_Hebrides). There are numerous bodies of freshwater including [Loch Lomond](/wiki/Loch_Lomond) and [Loch Ness](/wiki/Loch_Ness). Some parts of the coastline consist of [machair](/wiki/Machair_(geography)), a low lying dune pasture land.

The [Central Lowlands](/wiki/Central_Lowlands) is a [rift valley](/wiki/Rift_valley) mainly comprising [Paleozoic](/wiki/Paleozoic) formations. Many of these sediments have economic significance for it is here that the coal and iron bearing rocks that fuelled Scotland's [industrial revolution](/wiki/Industrial_revolution) are found. This area has also experienced intense volcanism, [Arthur's Seat](/wiki/Arthur's_Seat) in Edinburgh being the remnant of a once much larger volcano. This area is relatively low-lying, although even here hills such as the [Ochils](/wiki/Ochil_Hills) and [Campsie Fells](/wiki/Campsie_Fells) are rarely far from view.

The [Southern Uplands](/wiki/Southern_Uplands) are a range of hills almost [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) long, interspersed with broad valleys. They lie south of a second [fault line](/wiki/Fault_(geology)) (the Southern Uplands fault) that runs from [Girvan](/wiki/Girvan) to [Dunbar](/wiki/Dunbar).[[95]](#cite_note-95)[[96]](#cite_note-96)[[97]](#cite_note-97) The geological foundations largely comprise [Silurian](/wiki/Silurian) deposits laid down some 4–500 million years ago. The high point of the Southern Uplands is [Merrick](/wiki/Merrick,_Galloway) with an elevation of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).<ref name=Keay>Keay, J. & Keay, J. (1994) *Collins Encyclopaedia of Scotland*. London. HarperCollins.</ref>[[98]](#cite_note-98)[[99]](#cite_note-99)[[100]](#cite_note-100) The Southern Uplands is home to the UK's highest village, [Wanlockhead](/wiki/Wanlockhead) ([Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) above sea level).[[97]](#cite_note-97)

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

[thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Tiree,_Balephuil_Bay.jpg)[Tiree](/wiki/Tiree), one of the sunniest locations in Scotland [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) The climate of Scotland is [temperate](/wiki/Temperate) and [oceanic](/wiki/Oceanic_climate), and tends to be very changeable. As it is warmed by the [Gulf Stream](/wiki/Gulf_Stream) from the [Atlantic](/wiki/Atlantic_Ocean), it has much milder winters (but cooler, wetter summers) than areas on similar latitudes, such as [Labrador](/wiki/Labrador), southern [Scandinavia](/wiki/Scandinavia), the Moscow region in Russia, and the [Kamchatka Peninsula](/wiki/Kamchatka_Peninsula) on the opposite side of [Eurasia](/wiki/Eurasia). However, temperatures are generally lower than in the rest of the UK, with the coldest ever UK temperature of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) recorded at [Braemar](/wiki/Braemar) in the [Grampian Mountains](/wiki/Grampian_Mountains_(Scotland)), on 11 February 1895.[[101]](#cite_note-101) Winter maxima average [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in the Lowlands, with summer maxima averaging [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). The highest temperature recorded was [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) at [Greycrook](/wiki/Greycrook), [Scottish Borders](/wiki/Scottish_Borders) on 9 August 2003.<ref name=Metext>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The west of Scotland is usually warmer than the east, owing to the influence of Atlantic [ocean currents](/wiki/Ocean_currents) and the colder surface temperatures of the [North Sea](/wiki/North_Sea). [Tiree](/wiki/Tiree), in the Inner Hebrides, is one of the sunniest places in the country: it had more than 300 hours of sunshine in May 1975.<ref name=Metext/> Rainfall varies widely across Scotland. The western highlands of Scotland are the wettest, with annual rainfall in a few places exceeding [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[102]](#cite_note-102) In comparison, much of lowland Scotland receives less than [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) annually.<ref name=Meteast>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Heavy snowfall is not common in the lowlands, but becomes more common with altitude. Braemar has an average of 59 snow days per year,[[103]](#cite_note-103) while many coastal areas average fewer than 10 days of lying snow per year.<ref name=Meteast/>

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

[left|thumb|A](/wiki/File:Lepus_timidus_01-cropped.jpg) [mountain hare](/wiki/Mountain_hare) [Template:Smaller](/wiki/Template:Smaller) photographed in Findhorn Valley, May 2004 [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Scotland's wildlife is typical of the north west of Europe, although several of the larger mammals such as the lynx, brown bear, wolf, elk and walrus were hunted to extinction in historic times. There are important populations of seals and internationally significant nesting grounds for a variety of seabirds such as [gannets](/wiki/Northern_gannet).[[104]](#cite_note-104) The [golden eagle](/wiki/Golden_eagle) is something of a national icon.[[105]](#cite_note-105) On the high mountain tops species including [ptarmigan](/wiki/Rock_ptarmigan), [mountain hare](/wiki/Mountain_hare) and [stoat](/wiki/Stoat) can be seen in their white colour phase during winter months.[[106]](#cite_note-106) Remnants of the native [Scots pine](/wiki/Scots_pine) forest exist[[107]](#cite_note-107) and within these areas the [Scottish crossbill](/wiki/Scottish_crossbill), the UK's only [endemic](/wiki/Endemism) bird species and [vertebrate](/wiki/Vertebrate), can be found alongside [capercaillie](/wiki/Capercaillie), [wildcat](/wiki/Wildcat), [red squirrel](/wiki/Red_squirrel) and [pine marten](/wiki/Pine_marten).[[108]](#cite_note-108)[[109]](#cite_note-109)[[110]](#cite_note-110) In recent years various animals have been re-introduced, including the [white-tailed sea eagle](/wiki/White-tailed_eagle) in 1975, the [red kite](/wiki/Red_kite) in the 1980s,[[111]](#cite_note-111)[[112]](#cite_note-112) and more recently there have been experimental projects involving the [beaver](/wiki/European_beaver) and [wild boar](/wiki/Wild_boar). Today, much of the remaining native [Caledonian Forest](/wiki/Caledonian_Forest) lies within the [Cairngorms National Park](/wiki/Cairngorms_National_Park) and remnants of the forest remain at 84 locations across Scotland. On the west coast, remnants of ancient Celtic Rainforest still remain, particularly on the Taynish peninsula in [Argyll](/wiki/Argyll), these forests are particularly rare due to high rates of deforestation throughout Scottish history.[[113]](#cite_note-113)[[114]](#cite_note-114) The flora of the country is varied incorporating both [deciduous](/wiki/Deciduous) and [coniferous](/wiki/Coniferous) woodland and [moorland](/wiki/Moorland) and [tundra](/wiki/Tundra) species. However, large scale commercial tree planting and the management of upland moorland habitat for the grazing of sheep and commercial field sport activities impacts upon the distribution of [indigenous](/wiki/Indigenous_(ecology)) plants and animals.[[115]](#cite_note-115) The UK's tallest tree is a [grand fir](/wiki/Abies_grandis) planted beside [Loch Fyne](/wiki/Loch_Fyne), Argyll in the 1870s, and the [Fortingall Yew](/wiki/Fortingall_Yew) may be 5,000 years old and is probably the oldest living thing in Europe.[[116]](#cite_note-116)[[117]](#cite_note-117)[[118]](#cite_note-118) Although the number of native [vascular plants](/wiki/Vascular_plant) is low by world standards, Scotland's substantial [bryophyte](/wiki/Bryophyte) flora is of global importance.[[119]](#cite_note-119)<ref name=RBGE>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

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

[Template:Ethnic groups in Scotland](/wiki/Template:Ethnic_groups_in_Scotland) [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

The population of Scotland at the 2001 Census was 5,062,011. This rose to 5,295,400, the highest ever, at the 2011 Census.[[120]](#cite_note-120) In the 2011 Census, 62% of Scotland's population stated their [national identity](/wiki/National_identity) as '[Scottish](/wiki/Scottish_people) only', 18% as 'Scottish and British', 8% as 'British only', and 4% chose other national identities.[[121]](#cite_note-121) Although Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland, the largest city is Glasgow, which has just over 584,000 inhabitants. The [Greater Glasgow](/wiki/Greater_Glasgow) conurbation, with a population of almost 1.2 million, is home to nearly a quarter of Scotland's population.[[122]](#cite_note-122) The [Central Belt](/wiki/Central_Belt) is where most of the main towns and cities are located, including Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and Perth. Scotland's only major city outside the Central Belt is Aberdeen.

In general, only the more accessible and larger islands retain inhabited. Currently, fewer than 90 remain inhabited. The Southern Uplands are essentially rural in nature and dominated by agriculture and forestry.[[123]](#cite_note-123)[[124]](#cite_note-124) Because of housing problems in Glasgow and Edinburgh, five [new towns](/wiki/New_town#United_Kingdom) were created between 1947 and 1966. They are [East Kilbride](/wiki/East_Kilbride), [Glenrothes](/wiki/Glenrothes), [Livingston](/wiki/Livingston,_West_Lothian), [Cumbernauld](/wiki/Cumbernauld), and [Irvine](/wiki/Irvine,_North_Ayrshire).[[125]](#cite_note-125) Immigration since World War II has given Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee small South Asian communities.[[126]](#cite_note-126) In 2011, there were an estimated 49,000 ethnically Pakistani people living in Scotland, making them the largest non-White ethnic group.[[127]](#cite_note-127) Since the [Enlargement of the European Union](/wiki/Enlargement_of_the_European_Union) more people from [Central](/wiki/Central_Europe) and Eastern Europe have moved to Scotland, and the 2011 census indicated that 61,000 [Poles](/wiki/Poles) live there.[[127]](#cite_note-127)[[128]](#cite_note-128) [thumb|left|Scotland population](/wiki/File:Scotland_population_cartogram.png) [cartogram](/wiki/Cartogram). The size of councils is in proportion to their population; the darker the colour, the bigger the actual area served by a council. Scotland has three officially recognised languages: English, [Scots](/wiki/Scots_language), and [Scottish Gaelic](/wiki/Scottish_Gaelic).[[129]](#cite_note-129)[[130]](#cite_note-130) Scottish Standard English, a variety of English as spoken in Scotland, is at one end of a bipolar [linguistic continuum](/wiki/Linguistic_continuum), with broad [Scots](/wiki/Scots_language) at the other.[[131]](#cite_note-131) Scottish Standard English may have been influenced to varying degrees by Scots.[[132]](#cite_note-132)[[133]](#cite_note-133) The 2011 census indicated that 63% of the population had "no skills in Scots".[[134]](#cite_note-134) Others speak [Highland English](/wiki/Highland_English). Gaelic is mostly spoken in the [Western Isles](/wiki/Western_Isles), where a large proportion of people still speak it; however, nationally its use is confined to just 1% of the population.[[135]](#cite_note-135) The number of Gaelic speakers in Scotland dropped from 250,000 in 1881 to 60,000 in 2008.[[136]](#cite_note-136) There are many more people with Scottish ancestry living abroad than the total population of Scotland. In the 2000 Census, 9.2 million Americans self-reported some degree of [Scottish](/wiki/Scottish_American) descent.[[137]](#cite_note-137) [Ulster's](/wiki/Ulster) Protestant population is mainly of lowland Scottish descent,[[138]](#cite_note-138) and it is estimated that there are more than 27 million descendants of the [Scots-Irish](/wiki/Ulster_Scots_people) migration now living in the US.[[139]](#cite_note-139)[[140]](#cite_note-140) In Canada, the [Scottish-Canadian](/wiki/Scottish-Canadian) community accounts for 4.7 million people.[[141]](#cite_note-141) About 20% of the original European settler population of New Zealand came from Scotland.[[142]](#cite_note-142) In August 2012, the Scottish population reached an all-time high of 5.25 million people.[[143]](#cite_note-143) The reasons given were that, in Scotland, births were outnumbering the number of deaths, and immigrants were moving to Scotland from overseas. In 2011, 43,700 people moved from Wales, Northern Ireland or England to live in Scotland.[[143]](#cite_note-143) The [total fertility rate](/wiki/Total_fertility_rate) (TFR) in Scotland is below the replacement rate of 2.1 (the TFR was 1.73 in 2011[[144]](#cite_note-144)). The majority of births today are to unmarried women (51.3% of births were outside of marriage in 2012[[145]](#cite_note-145)). [Template:Largest cities of Scotland](/wiki/Template:Largest_cities_of_Scotland)

Life expectancy for those born in Scotland between 2010 and 2012 is 76.5 years for males and 80.7 years for females.[[146]](#cite_note-146) This is the lowest of any of the four countries of the UK.[[146]](#cite_note-146)

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

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Iona_Abbey.jpg)[Iona Abbey](/wiki/Iona_Abbey), an early centre of Christianity in Scotland Just over half (54%) of the Scottish population reported being a Christian while nearly 37% reported not having a religion in a 2011 census.[[147]](#cite_note-147)Since the [Scottish Reformation](/wiki/Scottish_Reformation) of 1560, the [national church](/wiki/National_church) (the [Church of Scotland](/wiki/Church_of_Scotland), also known as [The Kirk](/wiki/Kirk)) has been [Protestant](/wiki/Protestant) in classification and [Reformed](/wiki/Reformed_theology) in theology. Since 1689 it has had a [Presbyterian](/wiki/Presbyterian) system of church government, and enjoys independence from the state.<ref name=Keay/> Its membership is 398,389,[[148]](#cite_note-148) about 7.5% of the total population, though according to the 2011 census, 32.4% identified Church of Scotland as their religion. The Church operates a territorial parish structure, with every community in Scotland having a local congregation.

Scotland also has a significant [Roman Catholic](/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Church_in_Scotland) population, 19% claiming that faith, particularly in the west.[[149]](#cite_note-149) After the Reformation, Roman Catholicism in Scotland continued in the Highlands and some western islands like [Uist](/wiki/Uist) and [Barra](/wiki/Barra), and it was strengthened during the 19th century by immigration from Ireland. Other Christian denominations in Scotland include the [Free Church of Scotland](/wiki/Free_Church_of_Scotland_(post_1900)), various other Presbyterian offshoots, and the [Scottish Episcopal Church](/wiki/Scottish_Episcopal_Church).

Islam is the largest non-Christian religion (estimated at around 75,000, which is about 1.4% of the population),[[147]](#cite_note-147)[[150]](#cite_note-150) and there are also significant [Jewish](/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_in_Scotland), [Hindu](/wiki/Hinduism_in_Scotland) and [Sikh](/wiki/Sikh) communities, especially in Glasgow.[[150]](#cite_note-150) The [Samyé Ling](/wiki/Samyé_Ling) monastery near [Eskdalemuir](/wiki/Eskdalemuir), which celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2007, is the first [Buddhist](/wiki/Buddhism) monastery in western Europe.[[151]](#cite_note-151)

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

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|right|270px|The debating chamber of the](/wiki/File:Scottish_Parliament_Debating_Chamber_2.jpg) [Scottish Parliament](/wiki/Scottish_Parliament)

Scotland's head of state is the monarch of the United Kingdom, currently [Queen Elizabeth II](/wiki/Elizabeth_II) (since 1952). The [regnal numbering](/wiki/Regnal_number) "Elizabeth II" caused [controversy](/wiki/List_of_titles_and_honours_of_Queen_Elizabeth_II#Scottish_controversy) around the time of the Queen's coronation because there had never been an Elizabeth I in Scotland. A legal action, [MacCormick v. Lord Advocate](/wiki/MacCormick_v._Lord_Advocate) (1953 SC 396), was brought to contest the right of the Queen to entitle herself *Elizabeth II* within Scotland, arguing that this was a breach of Article 1 of the Treaty of Union. [The Crown](/wiki/The_Crown) won the case. It was decided that future British monarchs would be numbered according to either their English or their Scottish predecessors, whichever number is higher.[[152]](#cite_note-152) For instance any future King James would be styled James VIII[Template:Mdashsince](/wiki/Template:Mdash) the last Scottish King James was [James VII](/wiki/James_VII_of_Scotland) (also James II of England, etc.)[Template:Mdashwhile](/wiki/Template:Mdash) the next King Henry would be King Henry IX throughout the UK even though there have been no Scottish kings of that name.

Scotland has limited [self-government](/wiki/Self-government) within the United Kingdom, as well as representation in the UK Parliament. Executive and legislative powers respectively have been devolved to the Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament at [Holyrood](/wiki/Holyrood,_Edinburgh) in Edinburgh since 1999. The UK Parliament retains control over [reserved matters](/wiki/Reserved_matters) specified in the [Scotland Act 1998](/wiki/Scotland_Act_1998), including UK taxes, social security, defence, international relations and broadcasting.<ref name=Gate>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The Scottish Parliament has legislative authority for all other areas relating to Scotland, as well as a limited power to [vary income tax](/wiki/Tartan_Tax).[[153]](#cite_note-153) The Scottish Parliament can give legislative consent over devolved matters back to the UK Parliament by passing a [Legislative Consent Motion](/wiki/Legislative_Consent_Motion) if United Kingdom-wide legislation is considered more appropriate for a certain issue. The programmes of legislation enacted by the Scottish Parliament have seen a divergence in the provision of public services compared to the rest of the UK. For instance, university education and care services for the elderly are free at point of use in Scotland, while fees are paid in the rest of the UK. Scotland was the first country in the UK to ban smoking in enclosed public places.[[154]](#cite_note-154) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Deputy_Secretary_Blinken_Meets_With_Scottish_First_Minister_Sturgeon_-_18490445358.jpg)[Nicola Sturgeon](/wiki/Nicola_Sturgeon), current [First Minister of Scotland](/wiki/First_Minister_of_Scotland) meets with Deputy United States Secretary of State [Tony Blinken](/wiki/Tony_Blinken) The Scottish Parliament is a [unicameral](/wiki/Unicameral) legislature with 129 members (MSPs): 73 of them represent individual constituencies and are elected on a [first past the post](/wiki/First_past_the_post) system; the other 56 are elected in eight different electoral regions by the [additional member system](/wiki/Additional_member_system_(Scottish_Parliament)). MSPs serve for a four-year period (exceptionally five years from 2011–16). The Parliament nominates one of its Members, who is then appointed by the Monarch to serve as [First Minister](/wiki/First_Minister_of_Scotland). Other ministers are appointed by the First Minister and serve at his/her discretion. Together they make up the Scottish Government, the executive arm of the devolved government.[[155]](#cite_note-155) In the [2016 election](/wiki/Scottish_Parliament_election,_2016), the [Scottish National Party](/wiki/Scottish_National_Party) (SNP) won 63 of the 129 seats available. [Nicola Sturgeon](/wiki/Nicola_Sturgeon), the leader of the SNP, has been the First Minister since November 2014. The [Conservative Party](/wiki/Scottish_Conservative_Party) became the largest opposition party in the 2016 elections, with the [Labour Party](/wiki/Scottish_Labour_Party), [Liberal Democrats](/wiki/Scottish_Liberal_Democrats) and the [Green Party](/wiki/Scottish_Green_Party) also represented in the Parliament. The [next Scottish Parliament election](/wiki/Next_Scottish_Parliament_election) is due to be held on 6 May 2021.

Scotland is represented in the British House of Commons by 59 MPs elected from territory-based Scottish constituencies. In the most recent [general election](/wiki/United_Kingdom_general_election,_2015), held on 7 May 2015, the Scottish National Party won 56 of the 59 seats and saw elected the youngest current member of the House of Commons, [Mhairi Black](/wiki/Mhairi_Black).[[156]](#cite_note-156) The [next United Kingdom general election](/wiki/Next_United_Kingdom_general_election) is due to be held in May 2020. The [Scotland Office](/wiki/Scotland_Office) represents the UK government in Scotland on reserved matters and represents Scottish interests within the UK government.[[157]](#cite_note-157) The Scotland Office is led by the [Secretary of State for Scotland](/wiki/Secretary_of_State_for_Scotland), who sits in the [Cabinet of the United Kingdom](/wiki/Cabinet_of_the_United_Kingdom); the current incumbent is [David Mundell](/wiki/David_Mundell).

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

A policy of [devolution](/wiki/Devolution) had been advocated by the three main UK parties with varying enthusiasm during recent history. The late Labour leader [John Smith](/wiki/John_Smith_(Labour_Party_leader)) described the revival of a Scottish parliament as the "settled will of the Scottish people".[[158]](#cite_note-158) The devolved Scottish Parliament was created after a [referendum in 1997](/wiki/Scottish_devolution_referendum,_1997) found majority support for both creating the Parliament and granting it limited powers to [vary income tax](/wiki/Scottish_variable_rate). The constitutional status of Scotland is nonetheless subject to ongoing debate.

The Scottish National Party (SNP), which supports [Scottish independence](/wiki/Scottish_independence), was first elected to form the Scottish Government in [2007](/wiki/Scottish_Parliament_general_election,_2007). The new government established a "[National Conversation](/wiki/National_Conversation)" on constitutional issues, proposing a number of options such as increasing the powers of the Scottish Parliament, [federalism](/wiki/Federation), or a referendum on Scottish independence from the United Kingdom. In rejecting the last option, the three main opposition parties in the Scottish Parliament created a [commission](/wiki/Calman_Commission) to investigate the distribution of powers between devolved Scottish and UK-wide bodies.[[159]](#cite_note-159) The [Scotland Act 2012](/wiki/Scotland_Act_2012), based on proposals by the commission, is currently in the process of devolving additional powers to the Scottish Parliament.[[160]](#cite_note-160) In August 2009 the SNP proposed a bill to hold a referendum on independence in November 2010. Opposition from all other major parties led to an expected defeat.<ref name=ReferendumBill2010>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=Times3Sep09>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>[[161]](#cite_note-161) After the [2011 elections](/wiki/Scottish_Parliament_election,_2011) gave the SNP an overall majority in the Scottish Parliament, a [referendum on independence for Scotland](/wiki/Scottish_independence_referendum,_2014) was held on 18 September 2014.[[162]](#cite_note-162) The referendum rejected independence by a majority of 55% to 45%.[[163]](#cite_note-163)[[164]](#cite_note-164) During the campaign, the three main parties in the UK Parliament pledged to extend the powers of the Scottish Parliament.[[165]](#cite_note-165)[[166]](#cite_note-166) An all-party [commission](/wiki/Smith_Commission) chaired by [Lord Smith of Kelvin](/wiki/Lord_Smith_of_Kelvin) was formed,[[166]](#cite_note-166) which led to a further devolution of powers through the [Scotland Act 2016](/wiki/Scotland_Act_2016).

Following the [23 June 2016 United Kingdom vote on membership of the European Union](/wiki/United_Kingdom_European_Union_membership_referendum,_2016), which resulted in an overall vote to leave but a Scottish vote to remain, First Minister [Nicola Sturgeon](/wiki/Nicola_Sturgeon) held a press conference in which she announced that since the prospect of Scotland being taken out of the European Union against its will was "democratically unacceptable" and constituted a "significant and material change" in Scotland's circumstances, a second independence referendum was now both "on the table" and "highly likely".[[167]](#cite_note-167) but the accession of James VI to the English throne removed a major centre of literary patronage and Scots was sidelined as a literary language.[[223]](#cite_note-223) Interest in Scots literature was revived in the 18th century by figures including [James Macpherson](/wiki/James_Macpherson), whose [Ossian Cycle](/wiki/Ossian) made him the first Scottish poet to gain an international reputation and was a major influence on the European Enlightenment.[[224]](#cite_note-224) It was also a major influence on [Robert Burns](/wiki/Robert_Burns), whom many consider the national poet,[[225]](#cite_note-225) and [Walter Scott](/wiki/Walter_Scott), whose [Waverley Novels](/wiki/Waverley_Novels) did much to define Scottish identity in the 19th century.[[226]](#cite_note-226) Towards the end of the Victorian era a number of Scottish-born authors achieved international reputations as writers in English, including [Robert Louis Stevenson](/wiki/Robert_Louis_Stevenson), [Arthur Conan Doyle](/wiki/Arthur_Conan_Doyle), [J. M. Barrie](/wiki/J._M._Barrie) and [George MacDonald](/wiki/George_MacDonald).[[227]](#cite_note-227) In the 20th century the [Scottish Renaissance](/wiki/Scottish_Renaissance) saw a surge of literary activity and attempts to reclaim the Scots language as a medium for serious literature.<ref name=VisitingArtsScotland>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref> Members of the movement were followed by a new generation of post-war poets including [Edwin Morgan](/wiki/Edwin_Morgan_(poet)), who would be appointed the first [Scots Makar](/wiki/Scots_Makar) by the inaugural Scottish government in 2004.[[228]](#cite_note-228) From the 1980s Scottish literature enjoyed another major revival, particularly associated with a group of writers including [Irvine Welsh](/wiki/Irvine_Welsh).<ref name=VisitingArtsScotland/> Scottish poets who emerged in the same period included [Carol Ann Duffy](/wiki/Carol_Ann_Duffy), who, in May 2009, was the first Scot named UK [Poet Laureate](/wiki/Poet_Laureate).[[229]](#cite_note-229) As one of the [Celtic nations](/wiki/Celtic_nations), Scotland and Scottish culture is represented at interceltic events at home and over the world. Scotland hosts several music festivals including [Celtic Connections](/wiki/Celtic_Connections) (Glasgow), and the [Hebridean Celtic Festival](/wiki/Hebridean_Celtic_Festival) (Stornoway). Festivals celebrating Celtic culture, such as [Festival Interceltique de Lorient](/wiki/Festival_Interceltique_de_Lorient) ([Brittany](/wiki/Brittany)), the [Pan Celtic Festival](/wiki/Pan_Celtic_Festival) (Ireland), and the National Celtic Festival ([Portarlington](/wiki/Portarlington,_Victoria), Australia), feature elements of Scottish culture such as language, music and dance.[[230]](#cite_note-230)[[231]](#cite_note-231)[[232]](#cite_note-232)[[233]](#cite_note-233)[[234]](#cite_note-234)[[235]](#cite_note-235)[[236]](#cite_note-236) [thumb|upright|left|Saint Andrew depicted on a 16th-century coat of arms of the burgh of](/wiki/File:Carving_of_Saint_Andrew.JPG) [St. Andrews](/wiki/St._Andrews) The image of [St. Andrew](/wiki/Saint_Andrew), martyred while bound to an X-shaped cross, first appeared in the [Kingdom of Scotland](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Scotland) during the reign of [William I](/wiki/William_I_of_Scotland).[[237]](#cite_note-237) Following the death of [King Alexander III](/wiki/Alexander_III_of_Scotland) in 1286 an image of Andrew was used on the [seal](/wiki/Seal_(emblem)) of the [Guardians of Scotland](/wiki/Guardians_of_Scotland) who assumed control of the kingdom during the subsequent [interregnum](/wiki/Interregnum).<ref name=autogenerated2>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Use of a simplified symbol associated with Saint Andrew, the [saltire](/wiki/Saltire), has its origins in the late 14th century; the [Parliament of Scotland](/wiki/Parliament_of_Scotland) decreeing in 1385 that Scottish soldiers should wear a white Saint Andrew's Cross on the front and back of their tunics.[[238]](#cite_note-238) Use of a blue background for the Saint Andrew's Cross is said to date from at least the 15th century.[[239]](#cite_note-239) Since 1606 the saltire has also formed part of the design of the [Union Flag](/wiki/Union_Flag). There are numerous other symbols and symbolic artefacts, both official and unofficial, including the [thistle](/wiki/Thistle), the nation's [floral emblem](/wiki/National_emblem) (celebrated in the song, [The Thistle o' Scotland](/wiki/The_Thistle_o'_Scotland_(song))), the [Declaration of Arbroath](/wiki/Declaration_of_Arbroath), incorporating a statement of political independence made on 6 April 1320, the textile pattern [tartan](/wiki/Tartan) that often signifies a particular [Scottish clan](/wiki/Scottish_clan) and the royal [Lion Rampant](/wiki/Royal_Standard_of_Scotland) flag.[[240]](#cite_note-240)[[241]](#cite_note-241)[[242]](#cite_note-242) Highlanders can thank [James Graham, 3rd Duke of Montrose](/wiki/James_Graham,_3rd_Duke_of_Montrose), for the repeal in 1782 of the Act of 1747 prohibiting the wearing of tartans.<ref name=Works>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>

Although there is no official [national anthem of Scotland](/wiki/National_anthem_of_Scotland),[[243]](#cite_note-243) [*Flower of Scotland*](/wiki/Flower_of_Scotland) is played on special occasions and sporting events such as football and rugby matches involving the Scotland national teams and since 2010 is also played at the Commonwealth Games after it was voted the overwhelming favourite by participating Scottish athletes.[[244]](#cite_note-244) Other currently less popular candidates for the National Anthem of Scotland include [*Scotland the Brave*](/wiki/Scotland_the_Brave), [*Highland Cathedral*](/wiki/Highland_Cathedral), [*Scots Wha Hae*](/wiki/Scots_Wha_Hae) and [*A Man's A Man for A' That*](/wiki/A_Man's_A_Man_for_A'_That).

[St Andrew's Day](/wiki/St_Andrew's_Day), 30 November, is the [national day](/wiki/National_day), although [Burns' Night](/wiki/Burns'_Night) tends to be more widely observed, particularly outside Scotland. In 2006, the Scottish Parliament passed the [St. Andrew's Day Bank Holiday (Scotland) Act 2007](/wiki/St._Andrew's_Day_Bank_Holiday_(Scotland)_Act_2007), designating the day an official [bank holiday](/wiki/Bank_holiday).[[245]](#cite_note-245)[Tartan Day](/wiki/Tartan_Day) is a recent innovation from Canada.

The national animal of Scotland is the [unicorn](/wiki/Unicorn), which has been a Scottish heraldic symbol since the 12th century.[[246]](#cite_note-246)

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

[thumb|right|upright|Scottish inventor](/wiki/File:John_Logie_Baird_in_1917.jpg) [John Logie Baird](/wiki/John_Logie_Baird) demonstrated the first working television system on 26 January 1926.[[247]](#cite_note-247) National newspapers such as the [*Daily Record*](/wiki/Daily_Record_(Scotland)), [*The Herald*](/wiki/The_Herald_(Glasgow)), and [*The Scotsman*](/wiki/The_Scotsman) are all produced in Scotland.[[248]](#cite_note-248) Important regional dailies include the [Evening News](/wiki/Edinburgh_Evening_News) in Edinburgh [*The Courier*](/wiki/The_Courier_and_Advertiser) in Dundee in the east, and [*The Press and Journal*](/wiki/Press_and_Journal_(Scotland)) serving Aberdeen and the north.[[248]](#cite_note-248) Scotland is represented at the [Celtic Media Festival](/wiki/Celtic_Media_Festival), which showcases film and television from the Celtic countries. Scottish entrants have won many awards since the festival began in 1980.[[249]](#cite_note-249) Television in Scotland is largely the same as UK-wide broadcasts, however the national broadcaster is [BBC Scotland](/wiki/BBC_Scotland), a constituent part of the [British Broadcasting Corporation](/wiki/British_Broadcasting_Corporation), the publicly funded broadcaster of the United Kingdom. It runs three national [television stations](/wiki/Scottish_television_stations), and the national radio stations, [*BBC Radio Scotland*](/wiki/BBC_Radio_Scotland) and [*BBC Radio nan Gaidheal*](/wiki/BBC_Radio_nan_Gaidheal), amongst others. Scotland also has some programming in the Gaelic language. [BBC Alba](/wiki/BBC_Alba) is the national Gaelic-language channel. The main Scottish commercial television station is [STV](/wiki/STV_(TV_network)).

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

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|left|The](/wiki/File:18th_Green_and_Clubhouse.jpg) [Old Course at St Andrews](/wiki/Old_Course_at_St_Andrews) Scotland hosts its own national sporting competitions and has independent representation at several international sporting events, including the [FIFA World Cup](/wiki/FIFA_World_Cup), the [Rugby Union World Cup](/wiki/Rugby_Union_World_Cup), the [Rugby League World Cup](/wiki/Rugby_League_World_Cup), the [Cricket World Cup](/wiki/Cricket_World_Cup) and the [Commonwealth Games](/wiki/Commonwealth_Games). Scotland has its own national governing bodies, such as the [Scottish Football Association](/wiki/Scottish_Football_Association) (the second oldest national football association in the world)[[250]](#cite_note-250) and the [Scottish Rugby Union](/wiki/Scottish_Rugby_Union). Variations of football have been played in Scotland for centuries, with the earliest reference dating back to 1424.<ref name=FIFA>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Association football is the most popular sport and the [Scottish Cup](/wiki/Scottish_Cup) is the world's oldest national trophy.[[251]](#cite_note-251) Scotland contested the first ever international [football](/wiki/Association_football) game in 1872 against England.[[252]](#cite_note-252) The match took place at [Hamilton Crescent](/wiki/Hamilton_Crescent), Glasgow, home of the [West of Scotland Cricket Club](/wiki/West_of_Scotland_Cricket_Club). Scottish clubs have been successful in European competitions with [Celtic](/wiki/Celtic_F.C.) winning the [European Cup](/wiki/European_Champion_Clubs'_Cup) in 1967, [Rangers](/wiki/Rangers_F.C.) and [Aberdeen](/wiki/Aberdeen_F.C.) winning the [UEFA Cup Winners' Cup](/wiki/UEFA_Cup_Winners'_Cup) in 1972 and 1983 respectively, and Aberdeen also winning the [UEFA Super Cup](/wiki/UEFA_Super_Cup) in 1983. [Dundee United](/wiki/Dundee_United_F.C.) have also made it to a European final, reaching the [UEFA Cup Final](/wiki/UEFA_Cup_Final) in 1987, but losing 2–1 on aggregate to [IFK Göteborg](/wiki/IFK_Göteborg).

With the modern game of [golf](/wiki/Golf) originating in 15th century Scotland, the country is promoted as the [home of golf](/wiki/Golf_in_Scotland).[[253]](#cite_note-253)[[254]](#cite_note-254)[[255]](#cite_note-255) To many golfers the [Old Course](/wiki/Old_Course_at_St_Andrews) in the Fife town of [St. Andrews](/wiki/St._Andrews), an ancient [links](/wiki/Links_(golf)) course dating to before 1574, is considered a site of pilgrimage.[[256]](#cite_note-256) In 1764, the standard 18-hole golf course was created at St Andrews when members modified the course from 22 to 18 holes.[[257]](#cite_note-257) The world's oldest golf tournament, and golf's first major, is [The Open Championship](/wiki/The_Open_Championship), which was first played on 17 October 1860 at Prestwick Golf Club, in Ayrshire, Scotland, with [Scottish golfers winning the earliest majors](/wiki/Men's_major_golf_championships#Major_championship_winners).[[258]](#cite_note-258) There are many other famous [golf courses in Scotland](/wiki/Golf_in_Scotland), including [Carnoustie](/wiki/Carnoustie_Golf_Links), [Gleneagles](/wiki/Gleneagles,_Scotland), [Muirfield](/wiki/Muirfield_(Scotland)), and [Royal Troon](/wiki/Royal_Troon). Other distinctive features of the national sporting culture include the [Highland games](/wiki/Highland_games), [curling](/wiki/Curling) and [shinty](/wiki/Shinty). In boxing, Scotland has had 13 world champions, including [Ken Buchanan](/wiki/Ken_Buchanan), [Benny Lynch](/wiki/Benny_Lynch) and [Jim Watt](/wiki/Jim_Watt_(boxer)).

Scotland has competed at every Commonwealth Games since 1930 and has won 356 medals in total—91 Gold, 104 Silver and 161 Bronze.[[259]](#cite_note-259) Edinburgh played host to the Commonwealth Games in [1970](/wiki/1970_British_Commonwealth_Games) and [1986](/wiki/1986_Commonwealth_Games), and most recently [Glasgow](/wiki/Glasgow) in [2014](/wiki/2014_Commonwealth_Games).[[260]](#cite_note-260)

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

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

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Edinburgh_Airport_1.jpg)[Edinburgh Airport](/wiki/Edinburgh_Airport) is Scotland's busiest airport, handling over nine million passengers each year Scotland has five main international airports ([Glasgow](/wiki/Glasgow_International_Airport), [Edinburgh](/wiki/Edinburgh_Airport), [Aberdeen](/wiki/Aberdeen_Airport), [Prestwick](/wiki/Glasgow_Prestwick_Airport) and [Inverness](/wiki/Inverness_Airport)), which together serve 150 international destinations with a wide variety of scheduled and [chartered flights](/wiki/Chartered_flights).[[261]](#cite_note-261) [GIP](/wiki/Global_Infrastructure_Partners) operates Edinburgh airport and [BAA](/wiki/British_Airports_Authority) operates (Aberdeen and Glasgow International), while [Highland and Islands Airports](/wiki/Highlands_and_Islands_Airports_Limited) operates 11 regional airports, including Inverness, which serve the more remote locations.[[262]](#cite_note-262) [Infratil](/wiki/Infratil) operates Prestwick.

The Scottish motorways and major [trunk roads](/wiki/Trunk_roads) are managed by [Transport Scotland](/wiki/Transport_Scotland). The remainder of the road network is managed by the [Scottish local authorities](/wiki/Scottish_local_authorities) in each of their areas.

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

Regular ferry services operate between the Scottish mainland and many islands. These ferries are mostly run by [Caledonian MacBrayne](/wiki/Caledonian_MacBrayne), but some are operated by local councils. Other ferry routes, served by multiple companies, connect to [Northern Ireland](/wiki/Northern_Ireland), Belgium, Norway, the Faroe Islands and also Iceland.

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

[thumb|left|A](/wiki/File:Isle_of_Mull_at_Greenock_-_geograph.org.uk_-_621136.jpg) [Caledonian McBrayne](/wiki/Caledonian_McBrayne) vessel docked at Greenock [Network Rail Infrastructure Limited](/wiki/Network_Rail) owns and operates the fixed infrastructure assets of the railway system in Scotland, while the Scottish Government retains overall responsibility for rail strategy and funding in Scotland.[[263]](#cite_note-263) Scotland's rail network has around 340 railway stations and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of track. Over 62 million passenger journeys are made each year.[[264]](#cite_note-264) The [East Coast](/wiki/East_Coast_Main_Line) and [West Coast](/wiki/West_Coast_Main_Line) main railway lines connect the major cities and towns of Scotland with each other and with the rail network in England. Domestic rail services within Scotland are operated by [ScotRail](/wiki/Abellio_ScotRail). During the time of [British Rail](/wiki/British_Rail) the West Coast Main Line from [London Euston](/wiki/London_Euston) to [Glasgow Central](/wiki/Glasgow_Central_railway_station) was electrified in the early 1970s, followed by the East Coast Main Line in the late 1980s. British Rail created the [ScotRail brand](/wiki/ScotRail_(brand)). When British Rail existed, many railway lines in Strathclyde were electrified. Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive was at the forefront with the acclaimed "largest electrified rail network outside London". Some parts of the network are electrified, but there are no electrified lines in the Highlands, Angus, Aberdeenshire, the cities of Dundee or Aberdeen, or Perth & Kinross, and none of the islands has a rail link (although the railheads at [Kyle of Lochalsh](/wiki/Kyle_of_Lochalsh) and [Mallaig](/wiki/Mallaig) principally serve the islands).

The East Coast Main Line crosses the [Firth of Forth](/wiki/Firth_of_Forth) by the [Forth Bridge](/wiki/Forth_Bridge). Completed in 1890, this [cantilever bridge](/wiki/Cantilever_bridge) has been described as "the one internationally recognised Scottish landmark".[[265]](#cite_note-265) Scotland's rail network is managed by Transport Scotland.[[266]](#cite_note-266) [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

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

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

* [Celtic languages](/wiki/Celtic_languages)
* [Celts](/wiki/Celts)
* [Constituent country](/wiki/Constituent_country)
* [Ethnic groups in Europe](/wiki/Ethnic_groups_in_Europe)
* [Outline of Scotland](/wiki/Outline_of_Scotland)
* [Scottish independence referendum, 2014](/wiki/Scottish_independence_referendum,_2014)

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

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

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

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

* [Visit Scotland](http://www.visitscotland.com/), official site of Scotland's national tourist board.
* [Maps](http://maps.nls.uk/) and [digital collections](http://www.nls.uk/digitallibrary/index.html) at the [National Library of Scotland](/wiki/National_Library_of_Scotland).
* [National Archives of Scotland](http://www.nas.gov.uk/), official site of the [National Archives of Scotland](/wiki/National_Archives_of_Scotland).
* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)
* [Scottish Census Results On Line](http://www.scrol.gov.uk/), official government site for Scotland's census results.
* [Scottish economic statistics](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Economy/Statistics) from the Scottish Government.
* [Scottish Government](http://www.gov.scot/), official site of the [Scottish Government](/wiki/Scottish_Government).
* [Scotland.org](http://www.scotland.org/), the official online gateway to Scotland managed by the Scottish Government.
* [Scottish Parliament](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/), official site of the [Scottish Parliament](/wiki/Scottish_Parliament).
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* [Streets of Scotland](http://www.streetsofscotland.co.uk/), photos from Scotland's streets.
* [Template:Osmrelation](/wiki/Template:Osmrelation)

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

[Template:Good article](/wiki/Template:Good_article)

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

[Category:Scotland](/wiki/Category:Scotland) [Category:Autonomous regions](/wiki/Category:Autonomous_regions) [Category:Celtic nations](/wiki/Category:Celtic_nations) [Category:English-speaking countries and territories](/wiki/Category:English-speaking_countries_and_territories) [Category:Great Britain](/wiki/Category:Great_Britain) [Category:Island countries](/wiki/Category:Island_countries) [Category:NUTS 1 statistical regions of the United Kingdom](/wiki/Category:NUTS_1_statistical_regions_of_the_United_Kingdom) [Category:United Kingdom](/wiki/Category:United_Kingdom)