[Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef" \o "Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Redirects](/wiki/Template:Redirects) [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country)

**Tajikistan** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en), [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en), or [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en); [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang) [Template:IPA-fa](/wiki/Template:IPA-fa)), officially the **Republic of Tajikistan** ([Template:Lang-tg](/wiki/Template:Lang-tg), *Çumhuriji Toçikiston/جُمهورئ تاجیکستان*), is a mountainous, [landlocked](/wiki/Landlocked) country in [Central Asia](/wiki/Central_Asia) with an estimated 8 million people in 2013, and an area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). It is bordered by [Afghanistan](/wiki/Afghanistan) to the south, [Uzbekistan](/wiki/Uzbekistan) to the west, [Kyrgyzstan](/wiki/Kyrgyzstan) to the north, and [China](/wiki/China) to the east. [Pakistan](/wiki/Pakistan) lies to the south, separated by the narrow [Wakhan Corridor](/wiki/Wakhan_Corridor). Traditional homelands of Tajik people included present-day Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan.

The territory that now constitutes Tajikistan was previously home to several ancient cultures, including the city of [Sarazm](/wiki/Sarazm)[[1]](#cite_note-1) of the [Neolithic](/wiki/Neolithic) and the [Bronze Age](/wiki/Bronze_Age), and was later home to kingdoms ruled by people of different faiths and cultures, including the [Oxus civilization](/wiki/Bactria–Margiana_Archaeological_Complex), [Andronovo culture](/wiki/Andronovo_culture), [Buddhism](/wiki/Buddhism), [Nestorian Christianity](/wiki/Nestorian_Christianity), [Zoroastrianism](/wiki/Zoroastrianism), and [Manichaeism](/wiki/Manichaeism). The area has been ruled by numerous empires and dynasties, including the [Achaemenid Empire](/wiki/Achaemenid_Empire), [Sassanian Empire](/wiki/Sassanian_Empire), [Hephthalite Empire](/wiki/Hephthalite_Empire), [Samanid Empire](/wiki/Samanid_Empire), [Mongol Empire](/wiki/Mongol_Empire), [Timurid dynasty](/wiki/Timurid_dynasty), and the [Russian Empire](/wiki/Russian_Empire). As a result of the breakup of the [Soviet Union](/wiki/Soviet_Union), Tajikistan became an independent nation in 1991. A [civil war](/wiki/Civil_war_in_Tajikistan) was fought almost immediately after independence, lasting from 1992 to 1997. Since the end of the war, newly established political stability and foreign aid have allowed the country's economy to grow.

Tajikistan is a [presidential republic](/wiki/Presidential_republic) consisting of four provinces. Most of Tajikistan's 8 million people belong to the [Tajik](/wiki/Tajik_people) ethnic group, who speak [Tajik](/wiki/Tajik_Language) (a dialect of [Persian](/wiki/Persian_language)). Many Tajiks also speak [Russian](/wiki/Russian_language) as their second language. Mountains cover more than 90% of the country. It has a [transition economy](/wiki/Transition_economy) that is highly dependent on [remittances](/wiki/Remittances), [aluminium](/wiki/Aluminium) and [cotton](/wiki/Cotton) production.

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

[Template:Anchor](/wiki/Template:Anchor) [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) *Tajikistan* means the "Land of the Tajiks". The [suffix](/wiki/Suffix) "[-stan](/wiki/-stan)" ([Template:Lang-fa](/wiki/Template:Lang-fa) *-stān*) is [Persian](/wiki/Persian_language) for "place of"[[2]](#cite_note-2) or "country"[[3]](#cite_note-3) and Tajik is, most likely, the name of a pre-Islamic (before the seventh century A.D.) tribe.[[4]](#cite_note-4) According to the [Library of Congress's](/wiki/Library_of_Congress) 1997 Country Study of Tajikistan, it is difficult to definitively state the origins of the word "Tajik" because the term is "embroiled in twentieth-century political disputes about whether Turkic or Iranian peoples were the original inhabitants of Central Asia."[[4]](#cite_note-4)

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

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

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) Cultures in the region have been dated back to at least the 4th millennium BCE, including the [Bronze Age](/wiki/Bronze_Age) [Bactria–Margiana Archaeological Complex](/wiki/Bactria–Margiana_Archaeological_Complex), the [Andronovo](/wiki/Andronovo_culture) cultures and the [pro-urban site of Sarazm](/wiki/Sarazm), a UNESCO [World Heritage site](/wiki/World_Heritage_site).[[5]](#cite_note-5) The earliest recorded history of the region dates back to about 500 BCE when much, if not all, of modern Tajikistan was part of the [Achaemenid Empire](/wiki/Achaemenid_Empire).[[4]](#cite_note-4) Some authors have also suggested that in the 7th and 6th century BCE parts of modern Tajikistan, including territories in the Zeravshan valley, formed part of [Kambojas](/wiki/Kambojas) before it became part of the [Achaemenid Empire](/wiki/Achaemenid_Empire).[[6]](#cite_note-6)After the region's conquest by [Alexander the Great](/wiki/Alexander_the_Great) it became part of the [Greco-Bactrian Kingdom](/wiki/Greco-Bactrian_Kingdom), a successor state of Alexander's empire. Northern Tajikistan (the cities of [Khujand](/wiki/Khujand) and [Panjakent](/wiki/Panjakent)) was part of [Sogdia](/wiki/Sogdia), a collection of city-states which was overrun by [Scythians](/wiki/Scythians) and [Yuezhi](/wiki/Yuezhi) nomadic tribes around 150 BCE. The [Silk Road](/wiki/Silk_Road) passed through the region and following the expedition of Chinese explorer [Zhang Qian](/wiki/Zhang_Qian) during the reign of [Wudi](/wiki/Emperor_Wu_of_Han) (141–87 BCE) commercial relations between [Han China](/wiki/Han_Dynasty) and Sogdiana flourished.[[7]](#cite_note-7)[[8]](#cite_note-8) Sogdians played a major role in facilitating trade and also worked in other capacities, as farmers, carpetweavers, glassmakers, and woodcarvers.[[9]](#cite_note-9) The [Kushan Empire](/wiki/Kushan_Empire), a collection of [Yuezhi](/wiki/Yuezhi) tribes, took control of the region in the first century CE and ruled until the 4th century CE during which time [Buddhism](/wiki/Buddhism), [Nestorian Christianity](/wiki/Nestorian_Christianity), [Zoroastrianism](/wiki/Zoroastrianism), and [Manichaeism](/wiki/Manichaeism) were all practiced in the region.[[10]](#cite_note-10) Later the [Hephthalite Empire](/wiki/Hephthalite_Empire), a collection of nomadic tribes, moved into the region and [Arabs](/wiki/Arab) brought [Islam](/wiki/Islam) in the early eighth century.[[10]](#cite_note-10) Central Asia continued in its role as a commercial crossroads, linking China, the steppes to the north, and the Islamic heartland.

[thumb|The](/wiki/File:MansurISamanidPaintingHistoryofIran.jpg) [Samanid](/wiki/Samanid) ruler [Mansur I](/wiki/Mansur_I) (961–976).

[thumb|left|19th-century painting of lake](/wiki/File:Thomas_Edward_Gordon_Lake_Victoria,_Great_Pamir,_May_2nd,_1874.png) [Zorkul](/wiki/Zorkul) and a local [Tajik](/wiki/Tajik_people) inhabitant.

It was temporarily under the control of the [Tibetan empire](/wiki/Tibetan_empire) and Chinese from 650–680 and then under the control of the Umayyads in 710. The [Samanid Empire](/wiki/Samanids), 819 to 999, restored [Persian](/wiki/Persian_people) control of the region and enlarged the cities of [Samarkand](/wiki/Samarkand) and [Bukhara](/wiki/Bukhara) (both cities are today part of [Uzbekistan](/wiki/Uzbekistan)) which became the cultural centers of [Iran](/wiki/Iran) and the region was known as Khorasan. The [Kara-Khanid Khanate](/wiki/Kara-Khanid_Khanate) conquered [Transoxania](/wiki/Transoxania) (which corresponds approximately with modern-day Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, southern Kyrgyzstan and southwest Kazakhstan) and ruled between 999–1211.<ref name=encyclo>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>[[11]](#cite_note-11) Their arrival in Transoxania signaled a definitive shift from Iranian to Turkic predominance in Central Asia,[[12]](#cite_note-12) but gradually the Kara-khanids became assimilated into the Perso-Arab Muslim culture of the region.[[13]](#cite_note-13) During [Genghis Khan's](/wiki/Genghis_Khan) [invasion of Khwarezmia](/wiki/Mongol_invasion_of_Khwarezmia_and_Eastern_Iran) in the early 13th century the [Mongol Empire](/wiki/Mongol_Empire) took control over nearly all of Central Asia. In less than a century the [Mongol Empire](/wiki/Mongol_Empire) broke up and modern Tajikistan came under the rule of the [Chagatai Khanate](/wiki/Chagatai_Khanate). [Tamerlane](/wiki/Tamerlane) created the [Timurid dynasty](/wiki/Timurid_dynasty) and took control of the region in the 14th century.

Modern Tajikistan fell under the rule of the [Khanate of Bukhara](/wiki/Khanate_of_Bukhara) during the 16th century and with the empire's collapse in the 18th century it came under the rule of both the [Emirate of Bukhara](/wiki/Emirate_of_Bukhara) and [Khanate of Kokand](/wiki/Khanate_of_Kokand). The [Emirate of Bukhara](/wiki/Emirate_of_Bukhara) remained intact until the 20th century but during the 19th century, for the second time in world history, a European power (the [Russian Empire](/wiki/Russian_Empire)) began to conquer parts of the region.

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

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

Russian [Imperialism](/wiki/Imperialism) led to the [Russian Empire's](/wiki/Russian_Empire) conquest of [Central Asia](/wiki/Central_Asia) during the late 19th century's [Imperial Era](/wiki/Great_Game). Between 1864 and 1885 Russia gradually took control of the entire territory of [Russian Turkestan](/wiki/Russian_Turkestan), the Tajikistan portion of which had been controlled by the [Emirate of Bukhara](/wiki/Emirate_of_Bukhara) and [Khanate of Kokand](/wiki/Khanate_of_Kokand). Russia was interested in gaining access to a supply of [cotton](/wiki/Cotton) and in the 1870s attempted to switch cultivation in the region from grain to cotton (a strategy later copied and expanded by the Soviets).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) By 1885 Tajikistan's territory was either ruled by the Russian Empire or its [vassal state](/wiki/Vassal_state), the Emirate of Bukhara, nevertheless Tajiks felt little Russian influence.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

During the late 19th Century the [Jadidists](/wiki/Jadid) established themselves as an Islamic social movement throughout the region. Although the Jadidists were pro-modernization and not necessarily anti-Russian the Russians viewed the movement as a threat.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Russian troops were required to restore order during uprisings against the Khanate of Kokand between 1910 and 1913. Further violence occurred in July 1916 when demonstrators attacked Russian soldiers in [Khujand](/wiki/Khujand) over the threat of forced [conscription](/wiki/Conscription) during [World War I](/wiki/World_War_I). Despite Russian troops quickly bringing Khujand back under control, clashes continued throughout the year in various locations in Tajikistan.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

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

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|left|Soviet negotiations with](/wiki/File:Negotiations_with_basmachs_Fergana_,_1921.jpeg) [*basmachi*](/wiki/Basmachi_movement), 1921

After the [Russian Revolution](/wiki/Russian_Revolution) of 1917 guerrillas throughout Central Asia, known as [*basmachi*](/wiki/Basmachi), waged [a war](/wiki/Basmachi_movement#The_Kokand_autonomy_and_the_start_of_hostilities) against [Bolshevik](/wiki/Bolshevik) armies in a futile attempt to maintain independence. The Bolsheviks prevailed after a four-year war, in which [mosques](/wiki/Mosque) and villages were burned down and the population heavily suppressed. Soviet authorities started a campaign of secularization, practicing [Islam](/wiki/Islam), [Judaism](/wiki/Judaism), and [Christianity](/wiki/Christianity) was discouraged and repressed, and many mosques, [churches](/wiki/Church_(building)), and [synagogues](/wiki/Synagogue) were closed.[[14]](#cite_note-14) As a consequence of the conflict and Soviet agriculture policies, [Central Asia](/wiki/Central_Asia), Tajikistan included, suffered a famine that claimed many lives.[[15]](#cite_note-15) In 1924, the [Tajik Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic](/wiki/Tajik_Autonomous_Soviet_Socialist_Republic) was created as a part of [Uzbekistan](/wiki/Uzbekistan), but in 1929 the Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic (Tajik SSR) was made a separate constituent republic, however the predominantly ethnic Tajik cities of [Samarkand](/wiki/Samarkand) and [Bukhara](/wiki/Bukhara) remained in the [Uzbek SSR](/wiki/Uzbek_Soviet_Socialist_Republic). Between 1927 and 1934, [collectivization](/wiki/Collectivization) of agriculture and a rapid expansion of cotton production took place, especially in the southern region.[[16]](#cite_note-16) Soviet collectivization policy brought violence against peasants and forced resettlement occurred throughout Tajikistan. Consequently, some peasants fought collectivization and revived the [Basmachi movement](/wiki/Basmachi_movement). Some small scale industrial development also occurred during this time along with the expansion of irrigation infrastructure.[[16]](#cite_note-16) Two rounds of Soviet purges directed by Moscow (1927–1934 and 1937–1938) resulted in the expulsion of nearly 10,000 people, from all levels of the [Communist Party of Tajikistan](/wiki/Communist_Party_of_Tajikistan).[[17]](#cite_note-17) Ethnic Russians were sent in to replace those expelled and subsequently Russians dominated party positions at all levels, including the top position of first secretary.[[17]](#cite_note-17) Between 1926 and 1959 the proportion of [Russians](/wiki/Russians) among Tajikistan's population grew from less than 1% to 13%.[[18]](#cite_note-18) [Bobojon Ghafurov](/wiki/Bobojon_Ghafurov), Tajikistan's [First Secretary of the Communist Party of Tajikistan](/wiki/First_Secretary_of_the_Communist_Party_of_Tajikistan) from 1946–1956 was the only Tajikistani politician of significance outside of the country during the Soviet Era.[[19]](#cite_note-19) He was followed in office by [Tursun Uljabayev](/wiki/Tursun_Uljabayev) (1956–61), [Jabbor Rasulov](/wiki/Jabbor_Rasulov) (1961–1982), and [Rahmon Nabiyev](/wiki/Rahmon_Nabiyev) (1982–1985, 1991–1992).

Tajiks began to be conscripted into the Soviet Army in 1939 and during [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II) around 260,000 Tajik citizens fought against Germany, Finland and Japan. Between 60,000(4%)[[20]](#cite_note-20) and 120,000(8%)[[21]](#cite_note-21) of Tajikistan's 1,530,000 citizens were killed during [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II).[[22]](#cite_note-22) Following the war and Stalin's reign attempts were made to further expand the agriculture and industry of Tajikistan.[[19]](#cite_note-19) During 1957–58 [Nikita Khrushchev's](/wiki/Nikita_Khrushchev) [Virgin Lands Campaign](/wiki/Virgin_Lands_Campaign) focused attention on Tajikistan, where living conditions, education and industry lagged behind the other [Soviet Republics](/wiki/Republics_of_the_Soviet_Union).[[19]](#cite_note-19) In the 1980s, Tajikistan had the lowest household saving rate in the USSR,[[23]](#cite_note-23) the lowest percentage of households in the two top per capita income groups,[[24]](#cite_note-24) and the lowest rate of university graduates per 1000 people.[[25]](#cite_note-25) By the late 1980s Tajik nationalists were calling for increased rights. Real disturbances did not occur within the republic until 1990. The following year, the [Soviet Union](/wiki/Soviet_Union) collapsed, and Tajikistan declared its independence.

[thumb|Tajik men and women rally on Ozodi square in Dushanbe shortly after independence, 1992.](/wiki/File:RIAN_archive_466493_Rally_on_Ozodi_square.jpg)

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

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Spetsnaz_troopers_during_the_1992_Tajik_war.jpg)[Spetsnaz](/wiki/Spetsnaz) soldiers during the [civil war](/wiki/Tajikistani_Civil_War), 1992. The nation almost immediately fell into [civil war](/wiki/Tajikistani_Civil_War) that involved various factions fighting one another; these factions were often distinguished by clan loyalties.[[26]](#cite_note-26) More than 500,000 residents fled during this time because of persecution, increased poverty and better economic opportunities in the West or in other former Soviet republics.[[27]](#cite_note-27) [Emomali Rahmon](/wiki/Emomali_Rahmon) came to power in 1992, defeating former prime minister [Abdumalik Abdullajanov](/wiki/Abdumalik_Abdullajanov) in a November presidential election with 58% of the vote.[[28]](#cite_note-28) The elections took place shortly after the end of the war, and Tajikistan was in a state of complete devastation. The estimated dead numbered over 100,000. Around 1.2 million people were [refugees](/wiki/Refugee) inside and outside of the country.[[26]](#cite_note-26) In 1997, a [ceasefire](/wiki/Ceasefire) was reached between Rahmon and opposition parties under the guidance of Gerd D. Merrem, Special Representative to the Secretary General, a result widely praised as a successful United Nations peace keeping initiative. The ceasefire guaranteed 30% of ministerial positions would go to the [opposition](/wiki/United_Tajik_Opposition).[[29]](#cite_note-29) [Elections](/wiki/Tajikistani_presidential_election,_1999) were held in 1999, though they were criticized by opposition parties and foreign observers as unfair and Rahmon was re-elected with 98% of the vote. [Elections in 2006](/wiki/Tajik_presidential_election,_2006) were again won by Rahmon (with 79% of the vote) and he began his third term in office. Several opposition parties boycotted the 2006 election and the [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe](/wiki/Organization_for_Security_and_Cooperation_in_Europe) (OSCE) criticized it, although observers from the [Commonwealth of Independent States](/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Independent_States) claimed the elections were legal and transparent.[[30]](#cite_note-30)[[31]](#cite_note-31) Rahmon's administration came under further criticism from the OSCE in October 2010 for its censorship and repression of the media. The OSCE claimed that the Tajik Government censored Tajik and foreign websites and instituted tax inspections on independent printing houses that led to the cessation of printing activities for a number of independent newspapers.[[32]](#cite_note-32) [Russian](/wiki/Russia) border troops were stationed along the Tajik–Afghan border until summer 2005. Since the [September 11, 2001 attacks](/wiki/September_11,_2001_attacks), [French](/wiki/France) troops have been stationed at the [Dushanbe Airport](/wiki/Dushanbe_Airport) in support of air operations of [NATO's](/wiki/NATO) [International Security Assistance Force](/wiki/International_Security_Assistance_Force) in [Afghanistan](/wiki/Afghanistan). [United States Army](/wiki/United_States_Army) and [Marine Corps](/wiki/United_States_Marine_Corps) personnel periodically visit Tajikistan to conduct joint training missions of up to several weeks duration. The [Government of India](/wiki/Government_of_India) rebuilt the [Ayni Air Base](/wiki/Ayni_Air_Base), a military airport located 15 km southwest of Dushanbe, at a cost of $70 million, completing the repairs in September 2010.[[33]](#cite_note-33) It is now the main base of the Tajikistan air force. There have been talks with [Russia](/wiki/Russia) concerning use of the Ayni facility,[[34]](#cite_note-34) and Russia continues to maintain a large base on the outskirts of Dushanbe.[[35]](#cite_note-35) In 2010, there were concerns among Tajik officials that Islamic militarism in the east of the country was on the rise following the escape of 25 militants from a Tajik prison in August, an ambush that killed 28 Tajik soldiers in the [Rasht Valley](/wiki/Rasht_Valley) in September,[[36]](#cite_note-36) and another ambush in the valley in October that killed 30 soldiers,[[37]](#cite_note-37) followed by fighting outside [Gharm](/wiki/Gharm) that left 3 militants dead. To date the country's Interior Ministry asserts that the central government maintains full control over the country's east, and the military operation in the Rasht Valley was concluded in November 2010.[[38]](#cite_note-38) However, [fighting erupted again](/wiki/2012_Gorno-Badakhshan_clashes) in July 2012.[[39]](#cite_note-39)In 2015, Russia sent more troops to Tajikistan.[[40]](#cite_note-40) In May 2015, Tajikistan's national security suffered a serious setback when Colonel [Gulmurod Khalimov](/wiki/Gulmurod_Khalimov), commander of the special-purpose police unit (OMON) of the Interior Ministry, defected to the [Islamic State](/wiki/Islamic_State_of_Iraq_and_the_Levant).[[41]](#cite_note-41)

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

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|The Palace of Nations in Dushanbe.](/wiki/File:Dushanbe_Presidential_Palace_01.jpg) Almost immediately after independence, Tajikistan was plunged into a civil war that saw various factions, allegedly backed by [Russia](/wiki/Russia) and [Iran](/wiki/Iran)[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed), fighting one another. All but 25,000 of the more than 400,000 ethnic Russians, who were mostly employed in industry, fled to Russia. By 1997, the war had cooled down, and a central government began to take form, with peaceful elections in 1999. [thumb|left|upright|](/wiki/File:Emomali_Rahmonov_2001Nov03.jpg)[President of Tajikistan](/wiki/President_of_Tajikistan), [Emomali Rahmon](/wiki/Emomali_Rahmon), has ruled the country since 1994. "Longtime observers of Tajikistan often characterize the country as profoundly averse to risk and skeptical of promises of reform, a political passivity they trace to the country’s ruinous civil war," Ilan Greenberg wrote in a news article in [*The New York Times*](/wiki/The_New_York_Times) just before the country's November 2006 presidential election.<ref name=greenberg>Greenberg, Ilan, "Media Muzzled and Opponents Jailed, Tajikistan Readies for Vote", [*The New York Times*](/wiki/The_New_York_Times), 4 November 2006 (article dateline 3 November 2006), page A7, New York edition</ref>

Tajikistan is officially a republic, and holds [elections](/wiki/Elections_in_Tajikistan) for the [presidency](/wiki/List_of_Presidents_of_Tajikistan) and [parliament](/wiki/Parliament), operating under a [presidential system](/wiki/Presidential_system). It is, however, a [dominant-party system](/wiki/Dominant-party_system), where the [People's Democratic Party of Tajikistan](/wiki/People's_Democratic_Party_of_Tajikistan) routinely has a vast majority in [Parliament](/wiki/Parliament). [Emomalii Rahmon](/wiki/Emomalii_Rahmon) has held the office of [President of Tajikistan](/wiki/President_of_Tajikistan) continually since November 1994. The Prime Minister is [Kokhir Rasulzoda](/wiki/Kokhir_Rasulzoda), the First Deputy Prime Minister is Matlubkhon Davlatov and the two Deputy Prime Ministers are Murodali Alimardon and Ruqiya Qurbanova.

The parliamentary elections of 2005 aroused many accusations from opposition parties and international observers that President [Emomalii Rahmon](/wiki/Emomalii_Rahmon) corruptly manipulates the election process and unemployment. The most recent elections, in February 2010, saw the ruling PDPT lose four seats in Parliament, yet still maintain a comfortable majority. The [Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe](/wiki/Organization_for_Security_and_Co-operation_in_Europe) election observers said the 2010 polling "failed to meet many key OSCE commitments" and that "these elections failed on many basic democratic standards."[[42]](#cite_note-42)[[43]](#cite_note-43) The government insisted that only minor violations had occurred, which would not affect the will of the Tajik people.[[42]](#cite_note-42)[[43]](#cite_note-43) The presidential election held on November 6, 2006 was boycotted by "mainline" opposition parties, including the 23,000-member [Islamic Renaissance Party](/wiki/Islamic_Renaissance_Party). Four remaining opponents "all but endorsed the incumbent", Rahmon.<ref name=greenberg/> Tajikistan gave Iran its support in Iran's membership bid to join the [Shanghai Cooperation Organisation](/wiki/Shanghai_Cooperation_Organisation), after a meeting between the Tajik President and the Iranian foreign minister.[[44]](#cite_note-44) Freedom of the press is ostensibly officially guaranteed by the government, but independent press outlets remain restricted, as does a substantial amount of web content. According to the Institute for War & Peace Reporting, access is blocked to local and foreign websites including avesta.tj, Tjknews.com, ferghana.ru, centrasia.ru and journalists are often obstructed from reporting on controversial events. In practice, no public criticism of the regime is tolerated and all direct protest is severely suppressed and does not receive coverage in the local media.[[45]](#cite_note-45)

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

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|Satellite photograph of Tajikistan](/wiki/File:Tajikistan_satellite_photo.jpg) [thumb|Tajikistan map of Köppen climate classification.](/wiki/File:Tajikistan_map_of_Köppen_climate_classification.svg) Tajikistan is [landlocked](/wiki/Landlocked_country), and is the smallest nation in Central Asia by area. It lies mostly between latitudes [36°](/wiki/36th_parallel_north) and [41° N](/wiki/41st_parallel_north) (a small area is north of 41°), and longitudes [67°](/wiki/67th_meridian_east) and [75° E](/wiki/75th_meridian_east) (a small area is east of 75°). It is covered by mountains of the [Pamir](/wiki/Pamir_Mountains) range, and more than fifty percent of the country is over [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) above [sea level](/wiki/Sea_level). The only major areas of lower land are in the north (part of the [Fergana Valley](/wiki/Fergana_Valley)), and in the southern [Kofarnihon](/wiki/Kofarnihon_River) and [Vakhsh](/wiki/Vakhsh_River) river valleys, which form the Amu Darya. [Dushanbe](/wiki/Dushanbe) is located on the southern slopes above the Kofarnihon valley.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Mountain | Height | | Location | |
| [Ismoil Somoni Peak](/wiki/Ismoil_Somoni_Peak) (highest) | 7,495 m | 24,590 ft | [Template:NbspNorth](/wiki/Template:Nbsp)-western edge of [Gorno-Badakhshan](/wiki/Gorno-Badakhshan) ([GBAO](/wiki/GBAO)), south of the [Kyrgyz](/wiki/Kyrgyzstan) border |  |
| [Ibn Sina Peak](/wiki/Ibn_Sina_Peak) ([Lenin Peak](/wiki/Lenin_Peak)) | 7,134 m | 23,537 ft | [Template:NbspNorthern](/wiki/Template:Nbsp) border in the [Trans-Alay Range](/wiki/Trans-Alay_Range), north-east of [Ismoil Somoni Peak](/wiki/Ismoil_Somoni_Peak) |  |
| [Peak Korzhenevskaya](/wiki/Peak_Korzhenevskaya) | 7,105 m | 23,310 ft | [Template:NbspNorth](/wiki/Template:Nbsp) of [Ismoil Somoni Peak](/wiki/Ismoil_Somoni_Peak), on the south bank of [Muksu River](/wiki/Muksu_River) |  |
| [Independence Peak](/wiki/Independence_Peak) ([Revolution Peak](/wiki/Revolution_Peak)) | 6,974 m | 22,881 ft | [Template:NbspCentral](/wiki/Template:Nbsp) [Gorno-Badakhshan](/wiki/Gorno-Badakhshan), south-east of [Ismoil Somoni Peak](/wiki/Ismoil_Somoni_Peak) |  |
| [Akademiya Nauk Range](/wiki/Akademiya_Nauk_Range) | 6,785 m | 22,260 ft | [Template:NbspNorth](/wiki/Template:Nbsp)-western [Gorno-Badakhshan](/wiki/Gorno-Badakhshan), stretches in the north-south direction |  |
| [Karl Marx Peak](/wiki/Karl_Marx_Peak) | 6,726 m | 22,067 ft | [Template:Nbsp](/wiki/Template:Nbsp)[GBAO](/wiki/GBAO), near the border to [Afghanistan](/wiki/Afghanistan) in the northern ridge of the [Karakoram Range](/wiki/Karakoram_Range) |  |
| [Garmo Peak](/wiki/Garmo_Peak) | 6,595 m | 21,637 ft | [Template:NbspNorthwestern](/wiki/Template:Nbsp) Gorno-Badakhshan. |  |
| [Mayakovskiy Peak](/wiki/Mayakovskiy_Peak) | 6,096 m | 20,000 ft | [Template:NbspExtreme](/wiki/Template:Nbsp) south-west of [GBAO](/wiki/GBAO), near the border to Afghanistan. |  |
| [Concord Peak](/wiki/Concord_Peak) | 5,469 m | 17,943 ft | [Template:NbspSouthern](/wiki/Template:Nbsp) border in the northern ridge of the [Karakoram Range](/wiki/Karakoram_Range) |  |
| [Kyzylart Pass](/wiki/Kyzylart_Pass) | 4,280 m | 14,042 ft | [Template:NbspNorthern](/wiki/Template:Nbsp) border in the [Trans-Alay Range](/wiki/Trans-Alay_Range) |  |

The [Amu Darya](/wiki/Amu_Darya) and [Panj](/wiki/Panj_River) rivers mark the border with Afghanistan, and the glaciers in Tajikistan's mountains are the major source of [runoff](/wiki/Runoff_(water)) for the [Aral Sea](/wiki/Aral_Sea). There are over 900 rivers in Tajikistan longer than 10 kilometres.

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

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Stack](/wiki/Template:Stack) [thumb|Mountains of Tajikistan](/wiki/File:Tajik_mountains_edit.jpg) Tajikistan consists of 4 administrative divisions. These are the provinces ([viloyat](/wiki/Viloyat)) of [Sughd](/wiki/Sughd) and [Khatlon](/wiki/Khatlon), the autonomous province of [Gorno-Badakhshan](/wiki/Gorno-Badakhshan_Autonomous_Province) (abbreviated as GBAO), and the [Region of Republican Subordination](/wiki/Region_of_Republican_Subordination) (RRP – Raiony Respublikanskogo Podchineniya in [transliteration](/wiki/Romanization_of_Russian) from Russian or NTJ – Ноҳияҳои тобеи ҷумҳурӣ in [Tajik](/wiki/Tajik_language); formerly known as [Karotegin Province](/wiki/Karotegin_Province)). Each region is divided into several districts, ([Template:Lang-tg](/wiki/Template:Lang-tg), *nohiya* or *raion*), which in turn are subdivided into *jamoats* (village-level self-governing units) and then villages (*qyshloqs*). [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), there were 58 districts and 367 jamoats in Tajikistan.<ref name=pop2008/>

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Division** | [**ISO 3166-2**](/wiki/ISO_3166-2) | **Map No** | **Capital** | **Area (km²)<ref name=pop2008>*Population of the Republic of Tajikistan as of 1 January 2008*, State Statistical Committee, Dushanbe, 2008** [**Template:Ru icon**](/wiki/Template:Ru_icon)**</ref>** | **Pop (2010) Census** |
| [**Sughd**](/wiki/Sughd) | TJ-SU | 1 | [Khujand](/wiki/Khujand) | 25,400 | 2,233,500 |
| [**Region of Republican Subordination**](/wiki/Region_of_Republican_Subordination) | TJ-RR | 2 | [Dushanbe](/wiki/Dushanbe) | 28,600 | 1,722,900 |
| [**Khatlon**](/wiki/Khatlon) | TJ-KT | 3 | [Qurghonteppa](/wiki/Qurghonteppa) | 24,800 | 2,677,300 |
| [**Gorno-Badakhshan**](/wiki/Gorno-Badakhshan_Autonomous_Province) | TJ-BG | 4 | [Khorugh](/wiki/Khorugh) | 64,200 | 206,000 |
| [**Dushanbe**](/wiki/Dushanbe) |  |  | [Dushanbe](/wiki/Dushanbe) | 10 | 724,800 |

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

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Gutman_Karakul_lake.jpg)[Karakul lake](/wiki/Karakul_(Tajikistan)) About 2% of the country's area is covered by lakes, the best known of which are the following:

* [Kayrakum (Qairoqqum) Reservoir](/wiki/Kayrakkum_Reservoir) ([Sughd](/wiki/Sughd))
* [Iskanderkul](/wiki/Iskanderkul) ([Fann Mountains](/wiki/Fann_Mountains))
* [Kulikalon](/wiki/Kulikalon_Lakes) (Kul-i Kalon) ([Fann Mountains](/wiki/Fann_Mountains))
* [Nurek Reservoir](/wiki/Nurek_Dam) ([Khatlon](/wiki/Khatlon))
* [Karakul](/wiki/Karakul_(Tajikistan)) ([Template:Lang-tg](/wiki/Template:Lang-tg); eastern [Pamir](/wiki/Pamir_Mountains))
* [Sarez](/wiki/Sarez_Lake) ([Pamir](/wiki/Pamir_Mountains))
* [Shadau Lake](/wiki/Shadau_Lake) ([Pamir](/wiki/Pamir_Mountains))
* [Zorkul](/wiki/Zorkul) ([Pamir](/wiki/Pamir_Mountains))

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

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|A Tajik dry fruit seller](/wiki/File:Young_Tajikistani_dry_fruit_seller.jpg) Nearly 47% of Tajikistan's GDP comes from [immigrant](/wiki/Immigrant) [remittances](/wiki/Remittances) (mostly from Tajiks working in [Russia](/wiki/Russia)).[[46]](#cite_note-46)[[47]](#cite_note-47) The current economic situation remains fragile, largely owing to [corruption](/wiki/Corruption), uneven economic reforms, and economic mismanagement. With foreign revenue precariously dependent upon remittances from migrant workers overseas and exports of aluminium and cotton, the economy is highly vulnerable to external shocks. In FY 2000, international assistance remained an essential source of support for rehabilitation programs that reintegrated former civil war combatants into the civilian economy, which helped keep the peace. International assistance also was necessary to address the second year of severe [drought](/wiki/Drought) that resulted in a continued shortfall of food production. On August 21, 2001, the [Red Cross](/wiki/Red_Cross) announced that a [famine](/wiki/Famine) was striking Tajikistan, and called for international aid for Tajikistan and [Uzbekistan](/wiki/Uzbekistan), however access to food remains a problem today. In January 2012, 680,152 of the people living in Tajikistan were living with [food insecurity](/wiki/Food_insecurity). Out of those, 676,852 were at risk of Phase 3 (Acute Food and Livelihoods Crisis) food insecurity and 3,300 were at risk of Phase 4 (Humanitarian Emergency). Those with the highest risk of food insecurity were living in the remote [Murghob District](/wiki/Murghob_District) of [GBAO](/wiki/Gorno-Badakhshan_Autonomous_Province).[[48]](#cite_note-48) [thumb| The](/wiki/File:Talco.jpg) [TadAZ](/wiki/TadAZ) aluminium smelting plant, in Tursunzoda, is the largest aluminium manufacturing plant in [Central Asia](/wiki/Central_Asia), and Tajikistan's chief industrial asset. Tajikistan's economy grew substantially after the war. The GDP of Tajikistan expanded at an average rate of 9.6% over the period of 2000–2007 according to the World Bank data. This improved Tajikistan's position among other Central Asian countries (namely [Turkmenistan](/wiki/Turkmenistan) and Uzbekistan), which seem to have degraded economically ever since.[[49]](#cite_note-49) The primary sources of income in Tajikistan are [aluminium](/wiki/Aluminium) production, cotton growing and remittances from migrant workers.[[50]](#cite_note-50) Cotton accounts for 60% of agricultural output, supporting 75% of the rural population, and using 45% of irrigated arable land.[[51]](#cite_note-51) The aluminium industry is represented by the state-owned [Tajik Aluminum Company](/wiki/Tajik_Aluminum_Company) – the biggest aluminium plant in Central Asia and one of the biggest in the world.[[52]](#cite_note-52) Tajikistan's rivers, such as the [Vakhsh](/wiki/Vakhsh_River) and the [Panj](/wiki/Panj_River), have great hydropower potential, and the government has focused on attracting investment for projects for internal use and electricity exports. Tajikistan is home to the [Nurek Dam](/wiki/Nurek_Dam), the highest dam in the world.[[53]](#cite_note-53) Lately, Russia's [RAO UES](/wiki/RAO_UES) energy giant has been working on the Sangtuda-1 hydroelectric power station (670 MW capacity) commenced operations on 18 January 2008.[[54]](#cite_note-54)[[55]](#cite_note-55) Other projects at the development stage include Sangtuda-2 by Iran, Zerafshan by the Chinese company [SinoHydro](/wiki/SinoHydro), and the [Rogun power plant](/wiki/Rogun_Dam) that, at a projected height of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), would supersede the Nurek Dam as highest in the world if it is brought to completion.[[56]](#cite_note-56)[[57]](#cite_note-57) A planned project, [CASA-1000](/wiki/CASA-1000), will transmit 1000 MW of surplus electricity from Tajikistan to Pakistan with power transit through Afghanistan. The total length of transmission line is 750 km while the project is planned to be on Public-Private Partnership basis with the support of WB, IFC, ADB and IDB. The project cost is estimated to be around US$865 million.[[58]](#cite_note-58) Other energy resources include sizable coal deposits and smaller reserves of natural gas and petroleum.

[thumb|left|Graphical depiction of Tajikistan's product exports in 28 color-coded categories.](/wiki/File:Tajikistan_Export_Treemap.png) In 2014 Tajikistan was the world's most [remittance](/wiki/Remittance) dependent economy with remittances accounting for 49% of GDP and expected to fall by 40% in 2015 due to the economic crisis in Russia.[[59]](#cite_note-59) Tajik migrant workers abroad, mainly in Russia, have become by far the main source of income for millions of Tajikistan's people[[60]](#cite_note-60) and with the 2014–2015 downturn in the Russian economy the World Bank has predicted large numbers of young Tajik men will return home and face few economic prospects.[[59]](#cite_note-59) According to some estimates about 20% of the population lives on less than US$1.25 per day.[[61]](#cite_note-61) Migration from Tajikistan and the consequent remittances have been unprecedented in their magnitude and economic impact. In 2010, remittances from Tajik labour migrants totaled an estimated $2.1 billion US dollars, an increase from 2009. Tajikistan has achieved transition from a planned to a market economy without substantial and protracted recourse to aid (of which it by now receives only negligible amounts), and by purely market-based means, simply by exporting its main commodity of comparative advantage — cheap labor.[[62]](#cite_note-62) The World Bank Tajikistan Policy Note 2006 concludes that remittances have played an important role as one of the drivers of Tajikistan's robust economic growth during the past several years, have increased incomes, and as a result helped significantly reduce poverty.[[63]](#cite_note-63) Drug trafficking is the major illegal source of income in Tajikistan[[64]](#cite_note-64) as it is an important transit country for Afghan [narcotics](/wiki/Narcotics) bound for Russian and, to a lesser extent, Western European markets; some [opium poppy](/wiki/Opium_poppy) is also raised locally for the domestic market.[[65]](#cite_note-65) However, with the increasing assistance from international organizations, such as UNODC, and cooperation with the US, Russian, EU and Afghan authorities a level of progress on the fight against illegal drug-trafficking is being achieved.[[66]](#cite_note-66) Tajikistan holds third place in the world for [heroin](/wiki/Heroin) and raw [opium](/wiki/Opium) confiscations (1216.3 kg of heroin and 267.8 kg of raw opium in the first half of 2006).[[67]](#cite_note-67)[[68]](#cite_note-68) Drug money corrupts the country's government; according to some experts the well-known personalities that fought on both sides of the [civil war](/wiki/Civil_war_in_Tajikistan) and have held the positions in the government after the armistice was signed are now involved in the drug trade.[[65]](#cite_note-65) [UNODC](/wiki/UNODC) is working with Tajikistan to strengthen border crossings, provide training, and set up joint interdiction teams. It also helped to establish Tajikistani Drug Control Agency.[[69]](#cite_note-69) Tajikistan is an active member of the [Economic Cooperation Organization](/wiki/Economic_Cooperation_Organization) (ECO).

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

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Duschanbe_Bahnhof.jpg)[Dushanbe railway station](/wiki/Dushanbe_railway_station)

In 2013 Tajikistan, like many of the other Central Asian countries, was experiencing major development in its transportation sector.

As a landlocked country Tajikistan has no ports and the majority of transportation is via roads, air, and rail. In recent years Tajikistan has pursued agreements with [Iran](/wiki/Iran) and [Pakistan](/wiki/Pakistan) to gain port access in those countries via [Afghanistan](/wiki/Afghanistan). In 2009, an agreement was made between Tajikistan, Pakistan, and Afghanistan to improve and build a 1,300 km (810 mi) highway and rail system connecting the three countries to Pakistan's ports. The proposed route would go through the [Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Province](/wiki/Gorno-Badakhshan_Autonomous_Province) in the eastern part of the country.[[70]](#cite_note-70) And in 2012, the presidents of Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Iran signed an agreement to construct roads and railways as well as oil, gas, and water pipelines to connect the three countries.[[71]](#cite_note-71)

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

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) The [railroad](/wiki/Railroad) system totals only [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of track,[[72]](#cite_note-72) all of it [Template:RailGauge](/wiki/Template:RailGauge) [broad gauge](/wiki/Russian_gauge). The principal segments are in the southern region and connect the capital with the industrial areas of the [Hisor](/wiki/Hisor) and [Vakhsh](/wiki/Vakhsh,_Tajikistan) valleys and with [Uzbekistan](/wiki/Uzbekistan), [Turkmenistan](/wiki/Turkmenistan), [Kazakhstan](/wiki/Kazakhstan) and [Russia](/wiki/Russia).[[73]](#cite_note-73) Most international freight traffic is carried by train.[[74]](#cite_note-74) The recently constructed [Qurghonteppa](/wiki/Qurghonteppa)–[Kulob](/wiki/Kulob) railway connected the [Kulob District](/wiki/Kulob_District) with the central area of the country.[[74]](#cite_note-74)

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

[thumb|The old terminal building at](/wiki/File:Dushanbe_Airport_(DYU).jpg) [Dushanbe International Airport](/wiki/Dushanbe_International_Airport) In 2009 Tajikistan had 26 airports,[[72]](#cite_note-72) 18 of which had paved runways, of which two had runways longer than 3,000 meters.<ref name=CIA>CIA World Factbook. [Tajikistan](https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ti.html)</ref> The country's main airport is [Dushanbe International Airport](/wiki/Dushanbe_International_Airport) which as of April 2015, had regularly scheduled flights to major cities in Russia, Central Asia, as well as Delhi, Dubai, Frankfurt, Istanbul, Kabul, Tehran, and Ürümqi amongst others. There are also international flights, mainly to Russia, from [Khujand Airport](/wiki/Khujand_Airport) in the northern part of the country as well as limited international services from [Kulob Airport](/wiki/Kulob_Airport), and [Qurghonteppa International Airport](/wiki/Qurghonteppa_International_Airport). [Khorog Airport](/wiki/Khorog_Airport) is a domestic airport and also the only airport in the sparsely populated eastern half of the country.

Tajikistan has two major airlines ([Somon Air](/wiki/Somon_Air) and [Tajik Air](/wiki/Tajik_Air)) and is also serviced by over a dozen foreign airlines.

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

The total length of roads in the country is 27,800 kilometers. Automobiles account for more than 90% of the total volume of passenger transportation and more than 80% of domestic freight transportation.[[74]](#cite_note-74) In 2004 a [bridge](/wiki/Tajik–Afghan_Friendship_Bridge) between Afghanistan and Tajikistan was built, improving the country's access to [South Asia](/wiki/South_Asia). The bridge was built by the [United States](/wiki/United_States).<ref name=usace>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

[Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of) many highway and tunnel construction projects are underway or have recently been completed. Major projects include rehabilitation of the Dushanbe – Chanak (Uzbek border), Dushanbe – Kulma (Chinese border), Kurgan-Tube – Nizhny Pyanj (Afghan border) highways and construction of tunnels under the mountain passes of [Anzob](/wiki/Anzob_Tunnel), [Shakhristan](/wiki/Shakhristan), [Shar-Shar](/wiki/Shar-Shar)[[75]](#cite_note-75) and [Chormazak](/wiki/Chormazak).[[76]](#cite_note-76)