



# Mongolia



**Background** The peoples of Mongolia have a long history under a number of nomadic empires dating back to the Xiongnu in the 4th century B.C., and the name Mongol goes back to at least the 11th century A.D. The most famous Mongol, TEMÜJIN (aka Genghis Khan), emerged as the ruler of all Mongols in the early 1200s. By the time of his death in 1227, he had created through conquest a Mongol Empire that extended across much of Eurasia. His descendants, including ÖGÖDEI and KHUBILAI (aka Kublai Khan), continued to conquer Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and the rest of China, where KHUBILAI established the Yuan Dynasty in the 1270s. The Mongols attempted to invade Japan and Java before their empire broke apart in the 14th century. In the 17th century, Mongolia fell under the rule of the Manchus of the Chinese Qing Dynasty. After Manchu rule collapsed in 1911, Mongolia declared independence, finally winning it in 1921 with help from the Soviet Union. Mongolia became a socialist state (the Mongolian People's Republic) in 1924. Until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989, Mongolia was a Soviet satellite state and relied heavily on economic, military, and political assistance from Moscow. The period was also marked by purges, political repression, economic stagnation, and tensions with China.

Mongolia peacefully transitioned to an independent democracy in 1990. In 1992, it adopted a new constitution and established a free-market economy. Since the country's transition, it has conducted a series of successful presidential and legislative elections. Throughout the period, the ex-communist Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party -- which took the name Mongolian People's Party (MPP) in 2010 -- has competed for political power with the Democratic Party and several other smaller parties. For most of its democratic history, Mongolia has had a divided government, with the presidency and the parliamentary majority held by different parties but that changed in 2021, when the MPP won the presidency after having secured a supermajority in parliament in 2020. Mongolia's June 2021 presidential election delivered a decisive victory for MPP candidate Ukhnaagiin KHURELSUKH.

Mongolia maintains close cultural, political, and military ties with Russia, while China is its largest economic partner. Mongolia's foreign relations are focused on preserving its autonomy by balancing relations with China and Russia, as well as its other major partners, Japan, South Korea, and the US.

**Capital** name: Ulaanbaatar

**Government type** semi-presidential republic

**Area**  
total : 1,564,116 sq km  
land: 1,553,556 sq km  
water: 10,560 sq km

**Climate** desert; continental (large daily and seasonal temperature ranges)

**Natural resources** oil, coal, copper, molybdenum, tungsten, phosphates, tin, nickel, zinc, fluorspar, gold, silver, iron

**Population** total: 3,281,676 (2024 est.)

**Population growth rate** 0.78% (2024 est.)

<b>Ethnic groups</b>	Khalkh 83.8%, Kazak 3.8%, Durvud 2.6%, Bayad 2%, Buriad 1.4%, Zakhchin 1.2%, Dariganga 1.1%, other 4.1% (2020 est.)
<b>Religions</b>	Buddhist 51.7%, Muslim 3.2%, Shamanist 2.5%, Christian 1.3%, other 0.7%, none 40.6% (2020 est.)
<b>Languages</b>	Mongolian 90% (official, Khalkha dialect is predominant), Turkic, Russian (1999)
<b>Executive branch</b>	chief of state: President Ukhnaagiin KHURELSUKH (since 25 June 2021) head of government: Prime Minister Gombojavyn ZANDANSHATAR (since 13 June 2025)
<b>Legislative branch</b>	legislature name: State Great Hural (Ulsiin Ih Hural)
<b>Diplomatic representation in the US</b>	chief of mission: Ambassador BATBAYAR Ulziidelger (since 1 December 2021)
<b>Diplomatic representation from the US</b>	chief of mission: Ambassador Richard L. BUANGAN (since November 2022)
<b>Economic overview</b>	lower middle-income East Asian economy; large human capital improvements over last 3 decades; agricultural and natural resource rich; export and consumption-led growth; high inflation due to supply bottlenecks and increased food and energy prices; currency depreciation
<b>Real GDP (purchasing power parity)</b>	\$59.221 billion (2024 est.) \$56.474 billion (2023 est.) \$52.572 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Real GDP per capita</b>	\$16,800 (2024 est.) \$16,200 (2023 est.) \$15,300 (2022 est.)
<b>Exports</b>	\$15.501 billion (2023 est.) \$10.989 billion (2022 est.) \$8.95 billion (2021 est.)
<b>Exports - partners</b>	China 92%, Switzerland 6%, Italy 1%, Thailand 0%, Japan 0% (2023)
<b>Exports - commodities</b>	coal, copper ore, gold, iron ore, crude petroleum (2023)
<b>Imports</b>	\$13.545 billion (2023 est.) \$12.112 billion (2022 est.) \$9.256 billion (2021 est.)
<b>Imports - partners</b>	China 57%, Japan 13%, Germany 3%, Singapore 3%, USA 3% (2023)
<b>Imports - commodities</b>	cars, trucks, trailers, tractors, construction vehicles (2023)

Population Pyramid

