

FRANCE

Continent: Europe

[Population](#): 67.5 million

[Life Expectancy \(at Birth\)](#): 83.1

[Governance System](#): Semi-presidential Republic

Capital: Paris

[Area](#): 547,557 km²

Major Languages: French

[GDP \(2021\)](#): 2,937,473 US\$ Millions

Select Global Rankings

[Human Development Index](#): 28

[Fragile States Index - Inverted](#): 18

[Soft Power 30 rank](#): 1

[Human Freedom Index](#): 34

[World Happiness Ranking](#): 20

[Good Country Index](#): 9

Elite Sport System Rankings

[Global Cup Ranking](#): 4

[Per Capita Cup Ranking](#): 24

[Olympic Medals – Summer '20](#): 10th

[Olympic Medals – Winter '22](#): 12th

Football/World Cup Profile

[FIFA Region](#): UEFA

[FIFA Ranking](#): 4

World Cup Appearances: 15

Best World Cup Performance(s): Champions (1998, 2018)

Qualification: UEFA Group D winner

[World Cup Group](#): D

Last World Cup Appearance: 2018

FRANCE in INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (By Mehnaz Hossain)

France has a long and well-documented [history](#) of being at the midst of some of the greatest conflicts in the history of the world. It has played an important role in the integration of Europe after the Second World War as well as in changing the social fabric of regions in Africa that became French colonies. Politically France had been ruled by a monarchy since the 9th century. Yet at the end of the 18th century- suffering economically and financially- from its involvement in the American Revolution and the extravagant spending of the royalty left French citizens disillusioned with the monarchy. A desire for change led to the start of the [French Revolution](#) which culminated in the creation of the First Republic. Over the course of the French Revolution power struggles led to the [Reign of Terror](#)- an execution spree that saw over 17,000 people being officially tried and executed. In 1799, Napoleon Bonaparte took power as France's first consul and subsequently the emperor of the First French Empire during which he conquered and controlled most of continental Europe.

During [World War I](#), trench warfare in the North-east of France saw the death of 1.3 million Frenchmen. The war was won by an Anglo-French offensive against Germany and in 1919 the [Peace Treaty of Versailles](#) was signed. Yet, with the onset of the Second

World War- Germany occupied most of France resulting in a staunch French resistance. In 1944 France was liberated following the Battle of Normandy. The later half of the 1900s saw France losing colonial control of Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria as well as being defeated in Vietnam. Going into the early 2000s France established its conservative political tone as elections as elections and changes of leadership circulates and power often ends up in the hands of their centrist-right party. Protests and strikes are seen as commonplace in France from public sector unions and youths. Problematic security measures and their consequences contribute to the protests such as the [forced deportation of Roma](#) to Romania and Bulgaria. This rhetoric of problematic measures is continued as France [bans the face veil](#) in 2011 and the [dismantling of migrant camps](#) in 2016. These events are accompanied by an increase in popularity for the far-right National Front party- seen in in the tight [election race](#) between La Pen and the now-President Emmanuel Macron.

On the international stage France once more exerted influence as it entered into a new military and [nuclear](#) agreement with the U.K.- agreeing to cooperate in testing nuclear warheads. France also contributed to measures such as enforcing a no-fly zone over Libya and announcing a withdrawal from Afghanistan. France also seemingly started a crackdown on Islamists through intervening in areas like Somali and Mali and launching air strikes in Syria. France continues to struggle with [violations of human rights](#) issues especially towards minority groups, migrants and asylum seekers and racism.

France is a member of various international forums such as the United Nations- also holding a role as one of the five permanent members of the Security Council. France is also a founding member of the European Union and a significant member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). France is a member of the Asian Development Bank, Council of Europe, OAS (as a permanent observer), OECD, various community commissions and groups, and other intergovernmental organizations. In all, France belongs to more international governmental and nongovernmental organizations than any other country in the world. France is also a signatory of the Law of the Sea and a member of the WTO, the G20, G7 and G5.