

Bhutan

Land of the Thunder Dragon



NATIONAL FLAG



NATIONAL EMBLEM

H.M. JIGME KHESAR NAMGYEL WANGCHUCK
KingH.E. JIGMI Y. THINLEY
Prime Minister

In 1865, Britain and Bhutan signed the Treaty of Sinchulu, under which Bhutan would receive an annual subsidy in exchange for ceding some border land to British India. Under British influence, a monarchy was set up in 1907; three years later, a treaty was signed whereby the British agreed not to interfere in Bhutanese internal affairs and Bhutan allowed Britain to direct its foreign affairs. This role was assumed by independent India after 1947. Two years later, a formal Indo-Bhutanese accord returned the areas of Bhutan annexed by the British, formalized the annual subsidies the country received, and defined India's responsibilities in defense and foreign relations. In March 2005, King Jigme Singye WANGCHUCK unveiled the government's draft constitution - which would introduce major democratic reforms - and pledged to hold a national referendum for its approval. In December 2006, the King abdicated the throne to his son, Jigme Khesar Namgyel WANGCHUCK, in order to give him experience as Head of State before the democratic transition. In early 2007, India and Bhutan renegotiated their treaty to allow Bhutan greater autonomy in conducting its foreign policy. Democratic Elections for seats to the country's first parliament were completed in March 2008. The King ratified the country's first constitution in July 2008.

Geography

- LOCATION:** Southern Asia, between China and India; Landlocked
- GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES:** 27 30 N, 90 30 E.
- AREA:** 38,394 sq km; Country comparison to the world: 136
- LAND BOUNDARIES:** Total: 1,075 km;
Border countries: China 470 km, India 605 km
- CLIMATE:** Varies; tropical in southern plains; cool winters and hot summers in central valleys; severe winters and cool summers in Himalayas
- ELEVATION EXTREMES:** Lowest point: Drangme Chhu 97 m
Highest point: Kula Kangri 7,553 m
- NATURAL RESOURCES:** Timber, hydropower, gypsum, calcium carbonate
- NATURAL HAZARDS:** Violent storms from the Himalayas are the source of the country's name, which translates as Land of the Thunder Dragon; frequent landslides during the rainy season
- ENVIRONMENT - CURRENT ISSUES:** Soil erosion; limited access to potable water
- ENVIRONMENT - INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS:** Party to: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Ozone Layer Protection
Signed, but not ratified: Law of the Sea
- STANDARD TIME:** GMT +6 hours



People

NATIONALITY: Bhutanese

POPULATION: 699,847; Country comparison to the world: 164

Note: The Factbook population estimate is consistent with the first modern census of Bhutan, conducted in 2005; previous Factbook population estimates for this country, which were on the order of three times the total population reported here, were based on Bhutanese government publications that did not include the census (July 2010 est.)

POPULATION GROWTH RATE: 1.236% (2010 est.); Country comparison to the world: 102

LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH: 66.71 years; Country comparison to the world: 158

HIV/AIDS - ADULT PREVALENCE RATE: Less than 0.1% (2007 est.); Country comparison to the world: 113

HIV/AIDS - PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS: Fewer than 100 (2007 est.); Country comparison to the world: 162

HIV/AIDS - DEATHS: NA

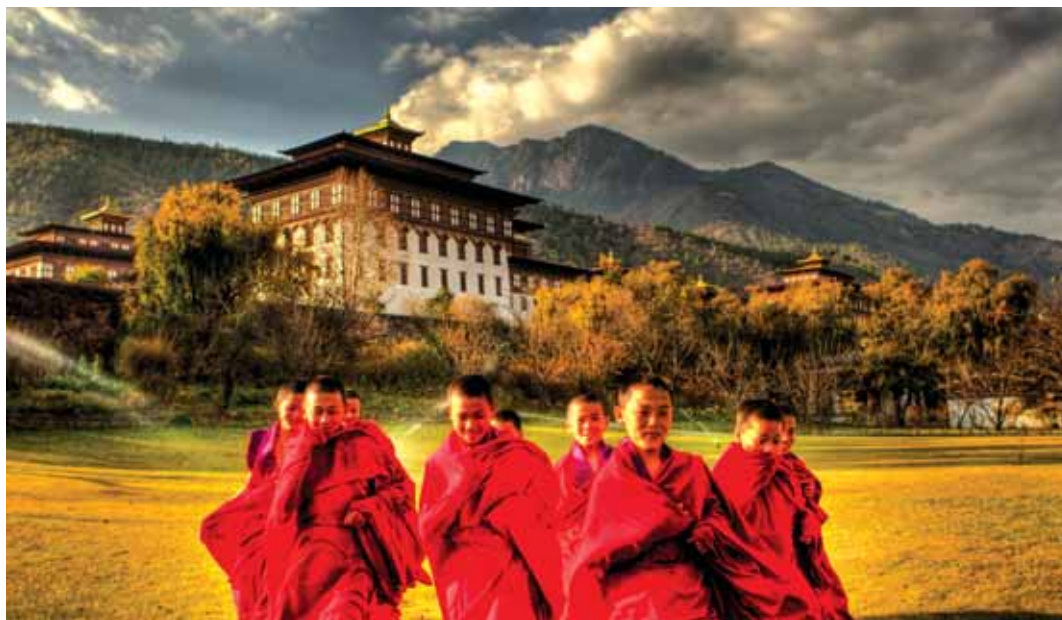
MAJOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES: Degree of risk: Intermediate
 Food or waterborne diseases: Bacterial and Protozoal Diarrhea, Hepatitis A, and Typhoid fever
 Vectorborne diseases: Dengue fever and Malaria
 Water contact disease: Leptospirosis (2009)

ETHNIC GROUPS: Bhote 50%, ethnic Nepalese 35% indigenous or migrant tribes 15%

RELIGIONS: Lamaistic Buddhist 75%, Indian and Nepalese influenced Hinduism 25%

LANGUAGES: Dzongkha (official), Bhotes speak various Tibetan dialects, Nepalese speak various Nepalese dialects

LITERACY: 47%



Government

COUNTRY NAME:	Bhutan; Official Name - Kingdom of Bhutan
GOVERNMENT TYPE:	Constitutional Monarchy
CAPITAL:	Thimphu
HEAD OF THE STATE:	His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT:	H.E. Jigmi Y. Thinley, Prime Minister
INDEPENDENCE:	1907 (became a unified kingdom under its first hereditary king)
CONSTITUTION:	Ratified 18 July 2008
LEGAL SYSTEM:	Based on Indian law and English common law; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction
SUFFRAGE:	18 years of age; Universal

Economy

ECONOMY - OVERVIEW: The economy, one of the world's smallest and least developed, is based on agriculture and forestry, which provide the main livelihood for more than 60% of the population. Agriculture consists largely of subsistence farming and animal husbandry. Rugged mountains dominate the terrain and make the building of roads and other infrastructure difficult and expensive. The economy is closely aligned with India's through strong trade and monetary links and dependence on India's financial assistance. The industrial sector is technologically backward, with most production of the cottage industry type. Most development projects, such as road construction, rely on Indian migrant labor. Model education, social, and environment programs are underway with support from multilateral development organizations. Each economic program takes into account the government's desire to protect the country's environment and cultural traditions. For example, the government, in its cautious expansion of the tourist sector, encourages visits by upscale, environmentally conscientious tourists. Detailed controls and uncertain policies in areas such as industrial licensing, trade, labor, and finance continue to hamper foreign investment. Hydropower exports to India have boosted Bhutan's overall growth. New hydropower projects will be the driving force behind Bhutan's ability to create employment and sustain growth in the coming years.

GDP (OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE):	\$1.493 billion (2009 est.)
GDP - REAL GROWTH RATE:	5% (2009 est.); Country comparison to the world: 23
GDP - PER CAPITA (PPP):	\$5,400 (2009 est.); Country comparison to the world: 137
POPULATION BELOW POVERTY LINE:	23.2% (2008)
INFLATION RATE (CONSUMER PRICES):	8% (2008 est.); Country comparison to the world: 181

AGRICULTURE - PRODUCTS:	Rice, corn, root crops, citrus, foodgrains, dairy products, eggs
INDUSTRIES:	Cement, wood products, processed fruits, alcoholic beverages, calcium carbide, tourism
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION GROWTH RATE:	NA%
ELECTRICITY - PRODUCTION:	1.48 billion kWh (2009 est.); Country comparison to the world: 140
ELECTRICITY - CONSUMPTION:	184 million kWh (2009 est.); Country comparison to the world: 179
ELECTRICITY - EXPORTS:	1.296 billion kWh (2009 est.)
ELECTRICITY - IMPORTS:	0 kWh (2009 est.)
OIL - PRODUCTION:	0 bbl/day (2008 est.); Country comparison to the world: 116
OIL - CONSUMPTION:	1,250 bbl/day (2008 est.); Country comparison to the world: 189
OIL - EXPORTS:	0 bbl/day (2008 est.); Country comparison to the world: 142
OIL - IMPORTS:	1,250 bbl/day (2008 est.); Country comparison to the world: 184
OIL - PROVED RESERVES:	0 bbl (1 January 2009 est.); Country comparison to the world: 200
NATURAL GAS - PRODUCTION:	0 cu m (2008 est.); Country comparison to the world: 205
NATURAL GAS - CONSUMPTION:	0 cu m (2008 est.); Country comparison to the world: 205
NATURAL GAS - EXPORTS:	0 cu m (2008 est.); Country comparison to the world: 52
NATURAL GAS - IMPORTS:	0 cu m (2008 est.); Country comparison to the world: 80
NATURAL GAS - PROVED RESERVES:	0 cu m (1 January 2009 est.); Country comparison to the world: 106
EXPORTS:	\$513 million (2008); Country comparison to the world: 166
EXPORTS - COMMODITIES:	Electricity (to India), ferrosilicon, cement, calcium carbide, copper wire, manganese, vegetable oil
EXPORTS - PARTNERS:	India 86.3%, Bangladesh 8.1%, Italy 1.5% (2008)
IMPORTS:	\$533 million (2008); Country comparison to the world: 187
IMPORTS - COMMODITIES:	Fuel and lubricants, passenger cars, machinery and parts, fabrics, rice (2008)
IMPORTS - PARTNERS:	India 63%, Japan 12.3%, China 5.1% (2008)
EXCHANGE RATES:	Ngultrum (BTN) per US dollar - 46.6 (2009), 41.487 (2007), 45.279 (2006), 44.101 (2005), 45.317 (2004)

Note: The Ngultrum is pegged to the Indian rupee





Communication

TELEPHONES - MAIN LINES IN USE:	27,500 (2008); Country comparison to the world: 181
TELEPHONES - MOBILE CELLULAR:	251,000 (2008); Country comparison to the world: 170
BROADCAST AND TELECAST STATIONS:	Radios: AM 0, FM 9, Shortwave(SW) 1 (2007) Television: 1 (2007)
INTERNET TLD:	.bt
INTERNET HOSTS:	9,096 (2009); Country comparison to the world: 119
INTERNET USERS:	40,000 (2008); Country comparison to the world: 174
INTERNATIONAL DIALING CODE:	+975

Transportation

AIRPORTS:	2 (2009); Country comparison to the world: 197
ROADWAYS:	Total: 8,050 km; Country comparison to the world: 141 Paved: 4,991 km Unpaved: 3,059 km (2003)

Issues

Bhutan cooperates with India to expel Indian Nagaland separatists; lacking any treaty describing the boundary, Bhutan and China continue negotiations to establish a common boundary alignment to resolve territorial disputes arising from substantial cartographic discrepancies, the largest of which lie in Bhutan's northwest and along the Chumbi salient.

Source: wikipedia and various other sources