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## Countries in the world list

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Image: The average person's geography skills are notoriously poor, especially when looking beyond one's own region. Test your knowledge of countries on four major continents with our quiz! TRIVIA HARD Can You Guess Which of the Five Nordic Countries These Places Belong To? 6 Minute Quiz 6 Min TRIVIA Can You Answer These Avengers Trivia Questions While Being Distracted by Captain America? 7 Minute Quiz 7 Min PERSONALITY What Region of Canada Matches Your Personality? 6 Minute Quiz 6 Min TRIVIA Do You Know the Correct Ways to Spell These Countries? 6 Minute Quiz 6 Min TRIVIA If You Know Where 17/24 of These Obscure Countries Are, You're a Geography Whiz 6 Minute Quiz 6 Min TRIVIA Do You Know Which Religion Is Most Commonly Practiced in These Countries? 7 Minute Quiz 7 Min TRIVIA If You Can Name 25/25 of These Countries From Just Three Cities, You're a Geography Genius 6 Minute Quiz 6 Min TRIVIA HARD Can You Identify the State Abbreviation From a State's Outline? 7 Minute Quiz 7 Min TRIVIA Can You Pass This Football Slang Term Quiz? 7 Minute Quiz 7 Min TRIVIA Can You Name the Country From Its National Dish? 7 Minute Quiz 7 Min How much do you know about dinosaurs? What is an octane rating? And how do you use a proper noun? Lucky for you, HowStuffWorks Play is here to help. Our award-winning website offers reliable, easy-to-understand explanations about how the world works. From fun quizzes that bring joy to your day, to compelling photography and fascinating lists, HowStuffWorks Play offers something for everyone. Sometimes we explain how stuff works, other times, we ask you, but we're always exploring in the name of fun! Because learning is fun, so stick with us! Playing quizzes is free! We send trivia questions and personality tests every week to your inbox. By clicking "Sign Up" you are agreeing to our privacy policy and confirming that you are 13 years old or over. Copyright © 2021 InfoSpace Holdings, LLC, a System1 Company ThoughtCo / Melissa Ling During the time of the Soviet Union (1922–1991), communist countries could be found in Eastern Europe, Asia, and Africa. Some of these nations, like the People's Republic of China, were (and still are) global players in their own right. Other communist countries, such as East Germany, were essentially satellites of the U.S.S.R. that played a significant role during the Cold War but no longer exist. Communism is both a political system and an economic one. In politics, communist parties have absolute power over governance, and elections are single-party affairs. In economics, the party controls the country's economic system, and private ownership is illegal, although this facet of communist rule has changed in some countries like China. By contrast, socialist nations are generally democratic with multi-party political systems. A socialist party does not have to be in power for socialist principles—such as a strong social safety net and government ownership of key industries and infrastructure—to be part of a nation's domestic agenda. Unlike communism, private ownership is encouraged in most socialist nations. The basic principles of communism were articulated in the mid-1800s by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, two German economic and political philosophers. But it wasn't until the Russian Revolution of 1917 that a communist nation—the Soviet Union—was born. By the middle of the 20th century, it appeared that communism could supersede democracy as the dominant political and economic ideology. Yet today, only five communist countries remain in the world. Grant Faint / Photodisc / Getty Images Mao Zedong took control over China in 1949 and proclaimed the nation as the People's Republic of China, a communist country. China has remained consistently communist since then, and the country has been called "Red China" due to the Communist Party's control. China does have political parties other than the Communist Party of China (CPC), and open elections are held locally throughout the country. That said, however, the CPC has control over all political appointments, and little opposition typically exists for the ruling Communist Party. As China has opened up to the rest of the world in recent decades, the resulting disparities of wealth have eroded some of the principles of communism. In 2004, the country's constitution was changed to recognize private property. Sven Creutzmann / Mambo photo / Getty Images A revolution in 1953 led to the takeover of the Cuban government by Fidel Castro and his associates. By 1965, Cuba became a fully communist country and developed close ties to the Soviet Union. At the same time, the United States imposed a ban on all trade with Cuba. Because of this, when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, Cuba was forced to find new sources for trade and financial subsidies. It did so in countries including China, Bolivia, and Venezuela. In 2008, Fidel Castro stepped down and his brother, Raul Castro, became president; Fidel died in 2016. During U.S. President Barack Obama's second term, relations between the two nations were relaxed and travel restrictions loosened. In June 2017, however, President Donald Trump rolled this back and tightened travel restrictions on Cuba. Iwan Gabovitch / Flickr / CC BY 2.0 Laos—officially the Lao People's Democratic Republic—became a communist country in 1975 following a revolution supported by Vietnam and the Soviet Union. The country had previously been a monarchy. Laos' government is largely run by military generals who support a one-party system grounded in Marxist ideals. In 1988 though, the country began allowing some forms of private ownership, and it joined the World Trade Organization in 2013. Alain Noguees / Corbis via Getty Images Korea was occupied by Japan during World War II, and after the war, it was divided into a Russian-dominated north and an American-occupied south. At the time, no one thought the partition would be permanent, but the division has lasted. North Korea did not become a communist country until 1945 when South Korea declared its independence from the North, which quickly declared its own sovereignty in return. Backed by Russia, Korean communist leader Kim Il-Sung was installed as leader of the new nation. The North Korean government doesn't consider itself communist, even if most world governments do. Instead, the Kim family has promoted its own brand of communism based on the concept of *juche* (self-reliance). First introduced in the mid-1950s, *juche* promotes Korean nationalism as embodied in the leadership of (and cult-like devotion to) the Kims. *Juche* became official state policy in the 1970s and was continued under the rule of Kim Jong-il, who succeeded his father in 1994, and Kim Jong-un, who rose to power in 2011. In 2009, the country's constitution was changed to remove all mention of the Marxist and Leninist ideas that are the foundation of communism, and the very word "communism" was also removed. Rob Ball / Getty Images Vietnam was partitioned at a 1954 conference that followed the First Indochina War. While the partition was supposed to be temporary, North Vietnam became communist and was supported by the Soviet Union while South Vietnam became democratic and was supported by the United States. Following two decades of war, the two parts of Vietnam were unified, and in 1976, Vietnam as a unified country became communist. Like other communist countries, Vietnam has, in recent decades, moved toward a market economy that has seen some of its socialist ideals supplanted by capitalism. The U.S. normalized relations with Vietnam in 1995 under then-president Bill Clinton. Paula Bronstein / Getty Images Several countries with multiple political parties have had leaders who are affiliated with their nation's communist party. However, these states are not considered truly communist because of the presence of other political parties, and because the Communist Party is not specifically empowered by the constitution. Nepal, Guyana, and Moldova have all had ruling communist parties in recent years. David Stanley / Flickr / CC BY 2.0 While the world has just five truly communist countries, socialist countries (countries whose constitutions include statements about the protection and rule of the working class) are relatively common Examples include Portugal, Sri Lanka, India, Guinea-Bissau, and Tanzania. Many of these nations, such as India, have multi-party political systems, and several are liberalizing their economies, like Portugal. countries in the world list by continent. countries in the world list excel. countries in the world list pdf. countries in the world list 2020. countries in the world list and their capitals. countries in the world list by population. countries in the world list wiki. how many countries in the world list

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