

# ENGLAND

Continent: Europe (Western)

[Population](#): 55.9 million

[Life Expectancy \(at Birth\)](#): 81.8\*

[Governance System](#): Constitutional Monarchy

Capital: London

[Area](#): 130,278 km<sup>2</sup>

Major Languages: English

[GDP \(2021\)](#): \$3,186,860 US\$ Millions

## ***Select Global Rankings (\*as United Kingdom)***

[Human Development Index](#): 18\*

[Fragile States Index \(Inverted\)](#): 30\*

[Soft Power 30 rank](#): 2\*

[Human Freedom Index](#): 14\*

[World Happiness Ranking](#): 17\*

[Good Country Index](#): 14\*

## ***Elite Sport System Rankings***

[Global Cup Ranking](#): 7\*

[Per Capita Cup Ranking](#): 26\*

[Olympic Medals – Summer '20](#): 64\* (4<sup>th</sup>)

[Olympic Medals – Winter '22](#): 2\* (20<sup>th</sup>)

## ***Football/World Cup Profile***

[FIFA Region](#): UEFA

[FIFA Ranking](#): 5

World Cup Appearances:

*Best World Cup Performance(s): Champion (1966)*

Qualification: UEFA Group I Winner

[World Cup Group](#): B

Last World Cup Appearance:

## **ENGLAND in INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (by Mallory Haggith)**

England is a part of the United Kingdom (UK) which comprises England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. England is the [largest country in the UK](#). The UK is a [constitutional monarchy](#)—while the King or Queen is the Head of State, the ability to make and pass legislation resides with the Parliament. The current Head of State is King Charles III, who ascended the throne in September 2022 after the death of Queen Elizabeth II—the longest-reigning British monarch. The current Prime Minister (PM) is Rishi Sunak, who was appointed in October 2022. [PM Sunak is the first British Asian Prime Minister](#).

Before the UK was established, England was a part of Great Britain. Beginning in the sixteenth century and lasting until the twentieth century, [Great Britain colonized or established rule over countries in the Americas, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Australasia](#). The British Empire—the term used to describe the dominions and colonies—was the largest empire by land area. The saying [“the sun never sets on the British Empire”](#) has been used to convey the vastness—it was always daytime somewhere in the empire. Great Britain notably fought in the two world wars, and [the mobilization of the empire](#) was crucial to the British victory. Following the Second World

War (1939–45), the UK gradually [granted independence to the remaining colonies](#). Almost all the former colonies became Commonwealth members.

Although the end of the British Empire signalled a decline in power, the UK today has continued to exert considerable international influence. Regionally, the UK is a member of the [Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe](#) (OSCE). The UK was also a member of the [European Union \(EU\)](#). The EU amplified the UK's power on the world stage. However, in June 2016, a referendum resulted in a majority vote to leave the EU. [Following prolonged negotiations, the UK left the EU in January 2020](#). Brexit is the name given to the UK's withdrawal from the EU. By leaving the EU, other international actors believe that the UK abandoned a [position of strength in the world's largest economic bloc](#).

Despite the decision to leave the EU, the UK has continued to embrace internationalism. The UK is a [founding member of the United Nations \(UN\)](#) and is a permanent member of the UN Security Council—[which means the UK has a special voting power](#). At the UN, [the UK has worked to make the UN more effective and efficient](#) at delivering peace, sustainable development, human rights, justice, and humanitarian assistance. The [UK is also a member of](#) the Commonwealth, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Group of Seven major industrialized nations (G7) and the Group of 20 major industrialized and important emerging market nations (G20).

Additionally, the UK has strong international alliances. According to PM Sunak, [the United States \(US\) is the UK's closest ally](#). Other international alliances include the [CANZUK countries—Canada, Australia, and New Zealand](#)—France, and Germany. Thus, the UK has strong international memberships and alliances making it a relevant international actor.

<https://www-europaworld-com.proxy.lib.uwaterloo.ca/country/The-United-Kingdom?id=gb>