

FRANCE

Region: Western Europe (Global North)

Population (2022): 67.94 million (21st)

Life Expectancy at Birth (Women): 85.1 years (6th)

Governance System: Semi-presidential republic

Capital: Paris

Land Area (km²): 547,557 (47th)

Major Languages: French

Select Global Rankings

GDP (2022): 7th (3,070,668 US\$ Millions)

Human Development Index: 28th (Very High)

Fragile States Index - Inverted: 18th (Cat. 2)

Good Country Index: 9th

Human Freedom Index: 34th

World Happiness Ranking: 21st

Select Global Rankings (Gender-Focus)

Gross National Income Per Capita (Women): 19th

Gender Social Norms Index: 14th

Women's Power Index: 20th

Social Institutions and Gender Index (World Cup rank): 8th

Gender Inequality Index: 22nd

Global Gender Gap Index: 40th

Women Peace & Security Index: 15th

Elite Sport System Rankings

2020 Summer Olympic Women's Medals (% of Total): 16 (48% of 33)

2022 Winter Olympic Women's Medals (% of Total): 5 (36% of 14)

Global Cup Ranking (Women): 7th

Football/World Cup Profile

FIFA Region: UEFA

FIFA Ranking: 5

World Cup Appearance: 5th

Best World Cup Performance(s): 4th place (2011)

Qualification: Winner Qualifying Group I

World Cup Group: F

Last World Cup Appearance: 2019 (Host)

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.

Gender Equity (by Alanna Harman)

In the 2019 Gender Equality [Index](#) France ranked third in the EU. “France’s scores are the highest in the domains of health and money. Gender inequalities are most pronounced in the domains of knowledge and time. The greatest improvement is in the domain of [power](#)”. Some of this improvement may have stemmed from gender equality “was hailed as President Emmanuel Macron’s ‘great national cause’ in his first term in [office](#)”. “While strict gender parity technically applies, with 21 women and 21 men, ‘the distribution of ministries is rooted in gender bias and sex stereotype.’ For example, four of five “executive” ministries (those with most executive powers) are occupied by men, while women head seven of nine social affairs [ministries](#)”. France was also

reported to have made “moderate progress in the domain of [money](#)”, even though their wage gap continued to increase during this time period. “In 2018, the gender wage gap in France stood at 15.2%, slightly below the European average of 16.2% in the same year. Essentially, this statistic means that men in France earned 15.2% more than women for work of the same nature. In 2019, the European average wage gap saw improvement, dropping to 14.1% while France saw a rise in the gender wage gap, climbing to 16.5%, the 10th highest in the European [Union](#)”. Internationally, the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs “deliver on this commitment through its feminist foreign [policy](#)”. This includes advocating for gender equality at international forums and recognizing the intersection of gender with a variety of social issues. “By 2025, France is committed to ensuring that 75% of projects funded by France’s official development assistance helps to improve gender [equality](#)”.

Working conditions for France’s Women’s Team remain a concern for the athletes. “Just three days after playing in the French side which won the Tournoi De France, three of their leading players have withdrawn their services from the national team citing working conditions within their federation which fail to meet the necessary [requirements](#)”. These actions by the athletes led to the replacement of the Head Coach. The newly instated head coach Herve Renard made it a priority to have Wendi Renard return to the team. In the months leading up the World Cup Wendi Renard has returned and the team works to “create a united [group](#)”. In the days leading up the Women’s World Cup, France’s women’s national team released an advert to highlight the excitement and skill level of their team and female soccer players that has garnered much attention [online](#).