

**Spain**

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# History of Contemporary Spain

- Contemporary Spain began with the death of Francisco Franco on November 20, 1975
- A new constitution was constructed after Franco's death by the new appointed king Juan Carlos I.
- The constitution of 1978 granted the right for historical communities to form autonomous regions in Spain and reestablished the Constitutional Monarchy.
- The majority of Spain is Catholic
- Spanish is the second most spoken language in Spain, Castellano being the first
- The current King of Spain is Felipe VI of Spain as of 2014



# The King

- The Spanish Monarchy is actually independent of the Government
- Constitutionally the king accredits Spanish ambassadors to international states and governments
- The King of Spain serves as the president of the 24 Ibero-American States Organization
- Juan Carlos helped transition from a dictatorship to a democracy
- was voted most popular leader in 2008 in all of Ibero-American community
- The King is Commander-in-Chief of armed forces
- The King was the considered the top ten most popular figures in Spain



# Annual Budget for “The Royals”

- Constitutionally the monarch is entitled to compensation from the annual state budget for the maintenance of his family and household administration, and freely distributes these funds in accordance with the laws.
- The annual budget is used for major and minor staff, general office expenses, groceries, etc.
- The budget approved in 2010 by Cortes was just under 7.4 million euros.
- In 2011 only 9.8% of the 8.4 million budget was paid to the royal families as salaries and representative duties



# Military in Spain

- Fuerzas Armadas Espanolas- Spanish Armed forces
- The King is the Commander-in-Chief
- The Napoleonic Wars caused the war of Spanish Independence
- This gave rise to the use of Guerrilla Troops as the result of the war's devastation of Spain's economy
- The Spanish defence budget is \$5.71 billion euros (\$7.2 billion USD) a 1% increase in 2015
- The increase comes due to security concerns





# Tourism

- Tourism in Spain contributes 6.4% to their GDP
- Madrid and Barcelona are the two leading cities to visit in Europe
- Most popular festivals include Seville Fair, Romeria del Rocio, Running of the Bulls in Pamplona, and Carnival
- Other tourists sites: Alhambra, Museo Nacional de Prada, Mosque of Cordoba, Sagrada Familia, and the Royal Palace of Madrid



Sagrada Familia



Museo Nacional de Prada



Alhambra



Running of the Bulls, Pamplona

# Fun Facts about Spain

- Madrid is in the physical center of the country and the plaza *Puerta del Sol*, in Madrid, is the exact center of the country.
- Spain has a very low birthrate. Most attribute this to high unemployment, low wages and steep housing costs.
- Spain is home to the world's largest tomato fight: *La Tomatina*, celebrated every year in a village of Valencia.
- Spain is the number one producer of olive oil in the world with 44% of the world's olive oil production. That is more than twice that of Italy and four times that of Greece.
- The Spanish Empire was once one of the world's most powerful

# Economic Facts

- GDP- \$ 1.6 trillion
  - 1.4% growth
  - -0.5% 5-year compounded annual growth
  - \$33,711 per capita
- Unemployment- 24.7%
  - A new labor law intended to enhance flexibility in areas such as compensation and working hours has been implemented.
- Inflation- -0.2%
- FDI Inflow- \$22.9 billion
- Fallout from the global financial and eurozone crises has hurt the Spanish economy, but a number of structural adjustments have enhanced prospects for recovery.