

**Globalized Election  
Weekly Report  
June 17, 2010 to June 22, 2010**

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**Week # 124**

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A **parliamentary election** took place on 23 May 2010 in **Ethiopia**. As of 25 May 2010, preliminary election results indicated that the ruling EPRDF party had won 499 of the 536 seats in parliament. The provisional results indicated the EPRDF had won a landslide victory in 9 of the 11 regions and cities. 90% of eligible voters participated the election.

A **legislative election** in the **Czech Republic** took place on 28–29 May 2010. The election saw a loss of support for the Social Democratic Party (ČSSD), although they still received the highest number of votes. The conservative Civic Democratic Party (ODS) and TOP 09 followed in second and third, while the Communist Party finished fourth. Social Democrat leader Jiří Paroubek resigned after the election, conceding that a conservative coalition government appeared likely, with the rise of two new right-wing parties—TOP 09 and Public Affairs.

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# Ethiopia

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# Ethiopia

<b>Capital</b> (and largest city)	Addis Ababa 9°1.8'N 38°44.4'E
<b>Official language(s)</b>	Amharic
Recognised regional languages	Other languages official amongst the different ethnicities and their respective regions. Oromo 34.49%, Amhara 26.89%, Somali 6.20%, Tigray 6.07%; Sidama 4.01%, Gurage 2.53%, Welayta 2.31% and around eighty other small ethnic groups.
<b>Ethnic groups</b>	
<b>Demonym</b>	Ethiopian
<b>Government</b>	Federal Parliamentary republic
- President	Girma Wolde-Giorgis
- Prime Minister	Meles Zenawi
<b>Establishment</b>	
- Traditional date	980 BECAUSE
- Current constitution	1991
<b>Area</b>	
- Total	1,104,300 km <sup>2</sup> (27th)

- 426,371 sq mi
- Water (%) 0.7

### Population

- 2008 estimate 79,221,000 (15th<sup>2</sup>)
- 2007 census 73,918,505
- Density 79/km<sup>2</sup> (123rd)  
194/sq M i

### GDP (PPP) 2009 estimate

- Total \$79.035 billion
- Per capita \$954

### GDP (nominal) 2009 estimate

- Total \$32.319 billion
- Per capita \$390

## 1.INTRODUCTION

**Ethiopia** is a landlocked country located in the Horn of Africa. The name "Ethiopia" originates from the Greek word "Aethiopia" which means "Land of the Burnt Face". The name "Ethiopia" was originally meant for any person with a dark complexion from the viewpoint of the Ancient Greeks in their mythologies and historical accounts Ethiopia (mythology). Officially known as the **Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**, it is the second-most populous nation in Africa with over 79.2 million people and the tenth-largest by area with its 1,100,000 km<sup>2</sup>. The capital is Addis Ababa. Ethiopia is bordered by Eritrea to the north, Sudan to the west, Djibouti and Somalia to the east, and Kenya to the south.

Though most African nations are, in their modern form, less than a century old, Ethiopia has been an independent nation since ancient times, being one of the oldest countries in the world. A monarchy for most of its history, the Ethiopian

dynasty traces its roots to the 10th century BC. Besides being an ancient country, Ethiopia is one of the oldest sites of human existence known to scientists today, having yielded some of humanity's oldest traces, it might be the place where *Homo sapiens* first set out for the Middle East and points beyond. When Africa was divided up by European powers at the Berlin Conference, Ethiopia was one of only two countries that retained its independence. It was one of only four African members of the League of Nations. After a brief period of Italian occupation, Ethiopia became a charter member of the United Nations. When other African nations received their independence following World War II, many of them adopted the colors of Ethiopia's flag, and Addis Ababa became the location of several international organizations focused on Africa.

Modern Ethiopian, and its current borders, are a result of significant territorial reduction in the north and expansion in the south, toward its present borders, owing to several migrations and commercial integration as well as conquests, particularly by Emperor Menelik II and Ras Gobena. In 1974, the dynasty led by Haile Selassie was overthrown as civil wars intensified. Since then, Ethiopia has seen a variety of governmental systems. Ethiopia is one of the founding members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), G-77 and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). Today, Addis Ababa is still the headquarter of the African Union, the Nile Basin Commission and UNECA. The country has one of the most powerful militaries in Africa. Ethiopia is one of a few African countries to have its own alphabet. Ethiopia also has its own time system and unique calendar, seven to eight years behind the Gregorian Calendar. It has the largest number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Africa.

The country is a land of natural contrasts, with spectacular waterfalls and volcanic hot springs. Ethiopia has some of Africa's highest mountains as well as some of the world's lowest points below sea level. The largest cave in Africa is located in Ethiopia at Sof Omar, and the country's northernmost area at Dallol is one of the hottest places year-round anywhere on Earth. There are altogether around 80 different ethnic groups in Ethiopia today, with the two largest being the

Oromo and the Amhara, both of which speak Afro-Asiatic languages. The country is also famous for its Olympic gold medalists, rock-hewn churches and as the place where the coffee bean originated. Currently, Ethiopia is the top coffee and honey-producing country in Africa, and home to the largest livestock population in Africa.

Ethiopia has close historical ties to all three of the world's major Abrahamic religions. It was one of the first Christian countries in the world, having officially adopted Christianity as the state religion in the 4th century. It still has a Christian majority, but a third of the population is Muslim. Ethiopia is the site of the first hijra in Islamic history and the oldest Muslim settlement in Africa at Negash. Until the 1980s, a substantial population of Ethiopian Jews resided in Ethiopia. The country is also the spiritual homeland of the Rastafari religious movement, which is influenced by Pan-Africanism. Ethiopia is the source of over 85% of the total Nile water flow and contains rich soils, but it nevertheless underwent a series of famines in the 1980s, exacerbated by adverse geopolitics and civil wars, resulting in perhaps a million deaths. Slowly, however, the country has begun to recover, and today Ethiopia has the biggest economy in East Africa (GDP)<sup>[15]</sup> as the Ethiopian economy is also one of the fastest growing in the world and it is a regional powerhouse in the Horn and east Africa.<sup>[16][17][18][19]</sup> The country remains politically fragile, with the opposition struggling for democracy and with reports of human rights abuses.

## History

### Rock-Hewn Churches, Lalibela\*

#### UNESCO World Heritage Site

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<b>State Party</b>	<b>Ethiopia</b>
<b>Type</b>	Cultural

**Criteria** i, ii, iii

**Reference** 18

**Region\*\*** Africa

### Inscription history

**Inscription** 1978 (2nd Session)

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\* Name as inscribed on World Heritage List.

\*\* Region as classified by UNESCO.

## Communism

The ensuing regime suffered several coups, uprisings, wide-scale drought, and a huge refugee problem. In 1977, there was the Ogaden War, when Somalia captured the part of the Ogaden region, but Ethiopia was able to recapture the Ogaden after receiving military aid from the USSR, Cuba, South Yemen, East Germany and North Korea, including around 15,000 Cuban combat troops.

Hundreds of thousands were killed as a result of the red terror, forced deportations, or from the use of hunger as a weapon under Mengistu's rule.<sup>[63]</sup> The Red Terror was carried out in response to what the government termed "White Terror", supposedly a chain of violent events, assassinations and killings carried by the opposition. In 2006, after a long trial, Mengistu was found guilty of genocide.

In the beginning of 1980s, a series of famines hit Ethiopia that affected around 8 million people, leaving 1 million dead. Insurrections against Communist rule sprang up particularly in the northern regions of Tigray and Eritrea. In 1989, the Tigrayan Peoples' Liberation Front (TPLF) merged with other ethnically based opposition movements to form the Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF). Concurrently the Soviet Union began to retreat from building World Communism under Mikhail Gorbachev's glasnost and perestroika policies, marking a dramatic reduction in aid to Ethiopia from Socialist bloc countries. This

resulted in even more economic hardship and the collapse of the military in the face of determined onslaughts by guerrilla forces in the north. The Collapse of Communism in general, and in Eastern Europe during the Revolutions of 1989, coincided with the Soviet Union stopping aid to Ethiopia altogether in 1990. The strategic outlook for Mengistu quickly deteriorated.

In May 1991, EPRDF forces advanced on Addis Ababa and the Soviet Union did not intervene to save the government side. Mengistu fled the country to asylum in Zimbabwe, where he still resides. The Transitional Government of Ethiopia, composed of an 87-member Council of Representatives and guided by a national charter that functioned as a transitional constitution, was set up. In June 1992, the Oromo Liberation Front withdrew from the government; in March 1993, members of the Southern Ethiopia Peoples' Democratic Coalition also left the government. In 1994, a new constitution was written that formed a bicameral legislature and a judicial system. The first free and democratic election took place in May 1995 in which Meles Zenawi was elected the Prime Minister and Negasso Gidada was elected President.

## **Recent**

In 1993 a referendum was held and supervised by the UN mission UNOVER, with universal suffrage and conducted both in and outside Eritrea (among Eritrean communities in the diaspora), on whether Eritreans wanted independence or unity with Ethiopia. Over 99% of the Eritrean people voted for independence which was declared on May 24, 1993.

In 1994, a constitution was adopted that led to Ethiopia's first multi-party elections in the following year. In May 1998, a border dispute with Eritrea led to the Eritrean-Ethiopian War that lasted until June 2000. This has hurt the nation's economy, but strengthened the ruling coalition. On 15 May 2005, Ethiopia held another multiparty election, which was a highly disputed one with some opposition groups claiming fraud. Though the Carter Center approved the



preelection conditions, it has expressed its dissatisfaction with postelection matters. The 2005 EU election observers continued to accuse the ruling party of vote rigging. Many from the international community are divided about the issue with Irish officials accusing the 2005 EU election observers of corruption for the "inaccurate leaks from the 2005 EU election monitoring body which led the opposition to wrongly believe they had been cheated of victory."<sup>[66]</sup> In general, the opposition parties gained more than 200 parliamentary seats compared to the just 12 in the 2000 elections. Despite most opposition representatives joining the parliament, some leaders of the CUD party were wrongly imprisoned following the post-election violence. Amnesty International considered them "prisoners of conscience" and they were subsequently released.

The coalition of opposition parties and some individuals that was established in 2009 to oust at the general election in 2010 the regime of the TPLF, Meles Zenawi's party that has been in power since 1991, published its 65-page manifesto in Addis Ababa on October 10, 2009.

Some of the eight member parties of this Ethiopian Forum for Democratic Dialogue (FDD or Medrek in Amharic) include the Oromo Federalist Congress (organized by the Oromo Federalist Democratic Movement and the Oromo People's Congress), the Arena Tigray (organized by former members of the ruling party TPLF), the Unity for Democracy and Justice (UDJ, whose leader is imprisoned), and the Coalition of Somali Democratic Forces.

## **Politics**

The politics of Ethiopia takes place in a framework of a federal parliamentary republic, whereby the Prime Minister is the head of government. Executive power is exercised by the government. Federal legislative power is vested in both the government and the two chambers of parliament.

On the basis of Article 78 of the 1994 Ethiopian Constitution, the Judiciary is completely independent of the executive and the legislature. The current realities of this provision are questioned in a report prepared by Freedom House.

According to *The Economist* in its Democracy Index, Ethiopia is a "hybrid regime" situated between a "flawed democracy" and an "authoritarian regime". It ranks 105 out of 167 countries (with the larger number being less democratic). Georgia ranks as more democratic at 104, and Burundi as less democratic at 106, than Ethiopia.

## **Governance**

The election of Ethiopia's 547-member constituent assembly was held in June 1994. This assembly adopted the constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in December 1994. The elections for Ethiopia's first popularly chosen national parliament and regional legislatures were held in May and June 1995. Most opposition parties chose to boycott these elections. There was a landslide victory for the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF). International and non-governmental observers concluded that opposition parties would have been able to participate had they chosen to do so.

The current government of Ethiopia was installed in August 1995. The first President was Negasso Gidada. The EPRDF-led government of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi promoted a policy of ethnic federalism, devolving significant powers to regional, ethnically based authorities. Ethiopia today has nine semi-autonomous administrative regions that have the power to raise and spend their own revenues. Under the present government, some fundamental freedoms, including freedom of the press, are circumscribed. Citizens have little access to media other than the state-owned networks, and most private newspapers struggle to remain open and suffer periodic harassment from the government. At least 18 journalists who had written articles critical of the government were arrested following the 2005 elections on genocide and treason charges. The

government uses press laws governing libel to intimidate journalists who are critical of its policies.

Zenawi's government was elected in 2000 in Ethiopia's first ever multiparty elections; however, the results were heavily criticized by international observers and denounced by the opposition as fraudulent. The EPRDF also won the 2005 election returning Zenawi to power. Although the opposition vote increased in the election, both the opposition and observers from the European Union and elsewhere stated that the vote did not meet international standards for fair and free elections. Ethiopian police are said to have massacred 193 protesters, mostly in the capital Addis Ababa, in the violence following the May 2005 elections in the Ethiopian police massacre.

The government initiated a crackdown in the provinces as well; in Oromia state the authorities used concerns over insurgency and terrorism to use torture, imprisonment, and other repressive methods to silence critics following the election, particularly people sympathetic to the registered opposition party Oromo National Congress (ONC). The government has been engaged in a conflict with rebels in the Ogaden region since 2007. The biggest opposition party in 2005 was the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD). After various internal divisions, most of the CUD party leaders have established the new Unity for Democracy and Justice party led by Judge Birtukan Mideksa. A member of the country's Oromo ethnic group, Ms. Birtukan Mideksa is the first woman to lead a political party in Ethiopia.

As of 2008, the top four opposition parties are the Unity for Democracy and Justice led by Judge Birtukan Mideksa, United Ethiopian Democratic Forces led by Dr. Beyene Petros, Oromo Federalist Democratic Movement led by Dr. Bulcha Demeksa, Oromo People's Congress led by Dr. Merera Gudina, and United Ethiopian Democratic Party-Medhin Party led by Lidetu Ayalew.

### **Regions, zones, and districts**

This section **does not cite any references or sources**. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. *(February 2009)*

Before 1996, Ethiopia was divided into 13 provinces, many derived from historical regions. Ethiopia now has a tiered government system consisting of a federal government overseeing ethnically based regional countries, zones, districts (*woredas*), and neighborhoods (*kebele*).

Ethiopia is divided into nine ethnically based administrative countries (*kililoch*, sing. *kilil*) and subdivided into sixty-eight zones and two chartered cities (*astedader akababiwoch*, sing. *astedader akababi*): Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa (subdivisions 1 and 5 in the map, respectively). It is further subdivided into 550 *woredas* and several *special woredas*.

The constitution assigns extensive power to regional states that can establish their own government and democracy according to the federal government's constitution. Each region has its apex regional council where members are directly elected to represent the districts and the council has legislative and executive power to direct internal affairs of the regions. Article 39 of the Ethiopian Constitution further gives every regional state the right to secede from Ethiopia. There is debate, however, as to how much of the power guaranteed in the constitution is actually given to the states. The councils implement their mandate through an executive committee and regional sectoral bureaus. Such elaborate structure of council, executive, and sectoral public institutions is replicated to the next level (*woreda*).

The regions and chartered cities of Ethiopia, numbered alphabetically

The nine regions and two chartered cities are:

1. *Addis Ababa*
2. Afar
3. Amhara
4. Benishangul-Gumuz
5. *Dire Dawa*
6. Gambela
7. Harari
8. Oromia
9. Somali
10. Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's Region
11. Tigray

## **Elections in Ethiopia**

At the federal level, Ethiopia elects a legislature. The Federal Parliamentary Assembly has two chambers: the Council of People's Representatives (*Yehizbtewekayoch Mekir Bet*) with not more than 550 members as per the constitution but actually nearly 547 members, elected for five-year terms in single-seat constituencies; and the Council of the Federation (*Yefedereshn Mekir Bet*) with 117 members, one each from the 22 minority nationalities, and one from each professional sector of its remaining nationalities, designated by the regional councils, which may elect them themselves or through popular elections.

Ethiopia is a one party dominant state in that a coalition, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), dominates politics. Opposition parties are allowed, but are widely considered to have no real chance of gaining power.

Elections were first held in Ethiopia under the provisions of the current constitution in June 1994 to elect the membership of local governments; general elections have since been held in 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2010.

### **2005 General election**

Parliamentary elections took place on May 15, 2005, with a reported 90% turnout. Human Rights Watch has accused the Ethiopian government of stifling political dissent and criticism in Oromia, Ethiopia's most populous region. The

government has denied these allegations, and cited the occurrence of an opposition rally attended by 250,000 people on May 8 as an example of political freedom in the country.

Provisional results were scheduled to be announced on May 21, and official results June 8; however, due to hundreds of claims of election irregularities from all political parties involved, the provisional results were delayed until June 8 to allow the complaints to be fully investigated. On August 9, official results were released, acknowledging that the ruling EPRDF had won 296 of the total 524 seats - about 56 percent - enabling it to form a government. However, Berhanu Nega, vice-chairman of the Coalition for Unity and Democracy, had criticized the process, claiming that "The investigation process was a complete failure. Our representatives and witnesses have been harassed, threatened, barred and killed upon their return from the hearings."<sup>[8]</sup> Repeat elections were scheduled for August 21 in 31 areas where either irregularities were reported or results were challenged. Additionally, general elections in the Somali Region were held on August 21.

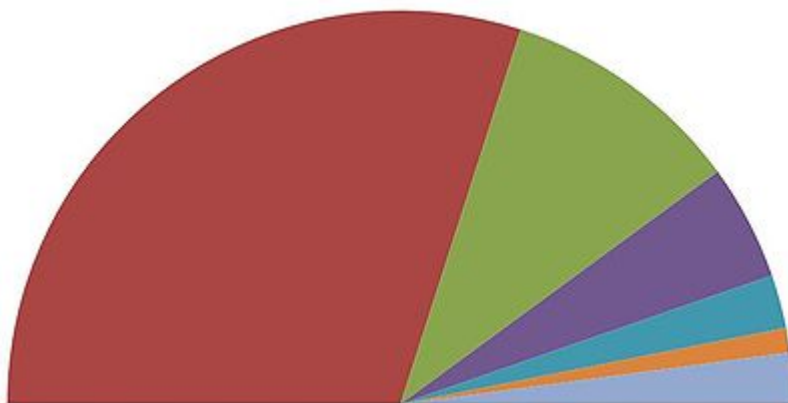
On September 5, the National Election Board of Ethiopia released its final results, in which the EPRDF retained its control of the government with 327 seats, or 59 percent of the vote. Opposition parties won 174 seats, or 32 percent of the vote. The CUD alone won 20 percent of the vote.

### **Summary of the 15 May 2005 Ethiopian House of People's Representatives election results**

<b>Coalitions and parties</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Seats</b>
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Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tigrayan People's Liberation Front</li> <li>• Oromo Peoples' Democratic Organization</li> <li>• Amhara National Democratic Movement</li> <li>• Southern Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement</li> </ul>		59.8%	327
Coalition for Unity and Democracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ethiopian Democratic League</li> <li>• All Ethiopian Unity Party</li> <li>• United Ethiopian Democratic Party-Medhin Party</li> <li>• Rainbow Ethiopia: Movement for Democracy and Social Justice</li> </ul>		19.9%	109
United Ethiopian Democratic Forces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oromo National Congress</li> <li>• Ethiopian Social Democratic Federal Party</li> <li>• Southern Ethiopia People's Democratic Coalition</li> <li>• All-Amhara People's Organization</li> <li>• Ethiopian Democratic Unity Party</li> </ul>		9.5%	52
Somali People's Democratic Party		4.3%	24
Oromo Federalist Democratic Movement		2.0%	11
Benishangul-Gumuz People's Democratic Unity Front		1.4%	8
Afar National Democratic Party		1.4%	8

Gambela People's Democratic Movement		<i>negligible</i>	3
Sheko and Mezenger People's Democratic Unity Organization		<i>negligible</i>	1
Hareri National League		<i>negligible</i>	1
Argoba Nationality Democratic Organization		<i>negligible</i>	1
Independent		<i>negligible</i>	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>	<b>546</b>



Ethiopian general election 2005. Only parties with more than 10 seats shown.

Red: EPRDF  
Green: CUD  
Purple: UEDF  
Dark blue: SPDP  
Orange: OFDM  
Light blue: Others

### Ethiopian general election, 2010

#### 2010 General election



A parliamentary election took place on 23 May 2010. Final results are due on 21 June.

As of 25 May 2010, preliminary election results indicated that the ruling EPRDF party had won 499 of the 536 seats in parliament. The provisional results indicated the EPRDF had won a landslide victory in 9 of the 11 regions and cities. 90% of eligible voters participated in the election. Chief European Union (EU) observer Thijs Berman reported that the elections were "peaceful and well organised", but noted an "uneven playing field" and criticized the use of state resources in the EPRDF campaign. The EU received numerous reports of intimidation and harassment, but indicated that this did not necessarily affect the outcome of the elections.

The eight-party Medrek coalition won only a single seat in the capital Addis Ababa. Medrek had expected better results in the Oromia Region. Medrek leader Merera Gudina rejected the election results as being "completely fraudulent" and indicated that the coalition is considering what action to take. Human Rights Watch had condemned the election as "multi-party theatre staged by a single party state". Election and government officials have denied such charges. Opposition leaders have claimed that their supporters have been subject to harassment and beatings. In March 2010, an opposition politician was stabbed to death, but the government blamed the killing on a personal dispute. A *Wall Street Journal* article suggests that Medrek had spent much of its energy on coalition-building. International reporters have given the election wide media coverage.

African Union (AU) election observers reported that the election was completely "free and fair" and met all AU election standards. In spite of the opposition's objections, the AU stated that the election "reflected voters' will." The AU observers also reported that opposition party observers were present in most of the polling stations that the AU observed, and found no evidence to support the opposition's charges of pre-election intimidation. At the same time, chief AU observer and former President of Botswana Ketumile Masire noted that "the AU

were unable to observe the pre-election period. The participating parties expressed dissatisfaction with the pre-election period. They did not have freedom to campaign. We had no way of verifying the allegations." Masire said that the National Election Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) handled the election in a professional manner and did not interfere with the electoral materials.

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi attributed the election results to the EPRDF's past performance, in particular citing the country's economic growth. According to the International Monetary Fund, Ethiopia's economy grew 9.9% in 2009 and was expected to grow 7% in 2010. Some analysts suggest that the result is a combination of the EPRDF's performance along with state-sponsored intimidation of the opposition.

**A parliamentary election** was held in Ethiopia on May 23, 2010.

The National Election Board of Ethiopia reported that a total of 29,170,867 people were registered to vote in this election. There was a total of 4525 candidates running for the open positions—which included 546 seats in the House of Peoples' Representatives—1349 of whom were members of the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), 374 members of parties loosely aligned with the EPRDF, 2798 members of opposition parties, and 4 independent candidates.

### **Run-up to the election**

The incumbent party EPRDF and opposition parties have signed Election Code of Conduct. They have agreed on time allocation of public media, though the opposition leaders are complaining the time allocated to them saying that it is unfair for the ruling party to take the highest share of the time. Very recently they have started campaign debate that was transmitted on the public television, ETV. One opposition party, the All Ethiopian Unity Party, expressed its serious concern and ran out of the debate requesting the debate to be transmitted live and with the presence and in front of the public.

Based on the violence associated with the previous general election, on 13 April 2010 the U.S. State Department issued a travel alert "before and after national parliamentary elections scheduled for May 23, 2010, and recommends against all but essential travel to Ethiopia during this period." The travel alert pointed out that "U.S. citizens [should] ... maintain a high level of security awareness at all times and avoid political rallies, demonstrations, and crowds of any kind. U.S. citizens should avoid polling places on election day, and be aware that authorities will strictly enforce specific prohibitions such as photography at polling stations."

Activists of opposition parties have expressed their concern that the election will lead to violence and that their supporters will be arrested and imprisoned. Opposition leader Merera Gudina has stated that because the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) now controls all local administrations, this election will be a struggle to prevent Ethiopia from becoming a one-party state.

### **Oromia tension**

Tension rose in Ethiopia's Oromia region ahead of the elections, with six people killed in just four weeks as of May 18. The eight-party opposition coalition, Medrek, said two of the six dead were theirs, while the ruling party says it has lost one candidate and a policeman was killed. Another two died when a grenade was thrown into a meeting of the Oromo People's Democratic Organisation (OPDO), part of the ruling EPRDF coalition.

Following the election, two opposition party members were reported shot dead by police in Oromia. "One was shot Sunday and one was shot yesterday," Merera Gudina, leader of the opposition Oromo People's Congress told the Reuters news service. "The government is trying to prevent protests by massively repressing the people." However the Government head of information Bereket

Simon disagreed, telling Reuters, "It is unfortunate that the men were killed. But these are isolated incidents. It is nothing to do with any instruction from above."

## **Results**

According to early results released by the election board, the EPRDF was on course for victory, leading the vote count in all of Ethiopia's regions. The chairman of the election board, Merga Bekana, announced that the EPRDF had "definitely" won the election following its lead in 9 of 11 regions that had reported results, including the former opposition-dominated region of Oromia. Human Rights Watch claimed the results were affected by government intimidation of voters over a period of months. European Union observers stated the election was "peaceful and calm" but noted there were claims of irregularities. 90% of eligible voters turned out for the election.

With 11 constituencies not yet having reported results, the standings are as follows:

- EPRDF: 499 seats
- allied parties: 35 seats
- opposition parties: 2 seats

Opposition groups have rejected the election results, with both the Medrek coalition and the separate All Ethiopians Unity Party issuing calls for a re-run of the election. Both groups say their observers were blocked from entering polling stations during the election on Sunday, and in some cases the individuals beaten. The United States and the European Union have both criticized the election as falling short of international standards.

# Czech Republic

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# Czech Republic



Location of **Czech Republic** (green)

– on the European continent (light green & grey)

– in the European Union (light green) —

[Legend]

**Capital** Prague (*Praha*)  
(and largest city)  $50^{\circ}05'N$   $14^{\circ}28'E$  /  
 $50.083^{\circ}N$   
 $14.467^{\circ}E$   $50.083$ ;  $14.467$

**Official language(s)** Czech, Slovak

**Demonym** Czech

**Government** Parliamentary republic

– President Václav Klaus

– Prime Minister Jan Fischer

## Formation

- Principality of Bohemia c. 870
- Czechoslovakia 28 October 1918
- Czech Republic 1 January 1993

**EU accession** 1 May 2004

## Area

- Total 78,866 km<sup>2</sup> (116th)  
30,450 sq mi
- Water (%) 2

## Population

- 2009<sup>1</sup> estimate ▲ 10,506,813 (78th)
- 2001 census 10,230,060
- Density 132/km<sup>2</sup> (77th)  
341/sq Mi

**GDP (PPP)** 2009 estimate

- Total \$252.951 billion
- Per capita \$24,093

**GDP (nominal)** 2009 estimate

- Total \$194.828 billion

- Per capita            \$18,557

## 1. NTRODUCTION

The **Czech Republic** is a country in Central Europe. The country borders Poland to the northeast, Germany to the west and northwest, Austria to the south and Slovakia to the east. The Czech Republic has been a member of NATO since 1999 and of the European Union since 2004. The Czech Republic is also a member of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). As an OSCE participating State, the Czech Republic's international commitments are subject to monitoring under the mandate of the U.S. Helsinki Commission. From 1 January 2009 to 1 July 2009, the Czech Republic held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The Czech state or **Bohemia** (Lands of the Bohemian Crown) as it was known until 1918 was formed in the late 9th century. The country reached its greatest territorial extent during the 13th and 14th century under the rule of the Přemyslid and Luxembourg dynasties. Following the Battle of Mohács in 1526, the Kingdom of Bohemia was integrated into the Habsburg monarchy as one of its three principal parts alongside Austria and Hungary. The independent Republic of Czechoslovakia was formed in 1918, following the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian empire after World War I. After the Munich Agreement, Polish and German occupation of Czechoslovakia and the consequent disillusion with the Western response and gratitude for the liberation of the major portion of Czechoslovakia by the Red Army, the Communist party won plurality (38%)<sup>[6]</sup> in the 1946 elections.

In a 1948 coup d'état, Czechoslovakia became a communist-ruled state. In 1968, the increasing dissatisfaction culminated in attempts to reform the communist



regime. The events, known as the Prague Spring of 1968, ended with an invasion by the armies of the Warsaw Pact countries (with the exception of Romania); the troops remained in the country until the 1989 Velvet Revolution, when the communist regime collapsed. On 1 January 1993, Czechoslovakia peacefully dissolved into its constituent states, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

The Czech Republic is a pluralist multi-party parliamentary representative democracy. President Václav Klaus is the current head of state. The Prime Minister is the head of government (currently Jan Fischer). The Parliament has two chambers: the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. It is also a member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Council of Europe and the Visegrád Group.

The Czech Republic made economic reforms such as fast privatizations. Annual gross domestic product growth has been around 6% until the outbreak of the recent global economic crisis. The country is the first former member of the Comecon to achieve the status of a developed country according to the World Bank (2006) and the Human Development Index (2009), which ranks it as a "Very High Human Development" nation.

The current Czech Republic comprises three historical lands: Bohemia (Čechy) in the West, Moravia (Morava) in the South-East, and Czech Silesia (Slezsko; the smaller, south-eastern part of historical Silesia, most of which is located within modern Poland) in the North-East. Jointly, these 3 parts can be described as "Czech lands", with Czech language being spoken in all three. When the Czech nation regained its independence in 1918, the new state of *Czechoslovakia* was constituted to reflect the union of the Czech and Slovak territories that were merged together after the WWI (in addition, a small part of Western Ukraine was included as well).

The word *Czech* itself came into English later via Polish.<sup>[9]</sup> The current English spelling is the same as an antiquated Czech spelling, however it is unlike the

modern *Čechy* and *Česko*. This discrepancy arises from a 15th century reform of Czech orthography.

Following the dissolution of Czechoslovakia in the end of 1992, the Czech part of the former nation found itself without a common single-word name in English. In 1993, the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs suggested the name **Czechia** as an official alternative in all situations other than formal official documents and the full names of government institutions; however, this has not become widespread in English, even though most other languages have single-word names for the country (usually their own variants of "Czechia").

## **History**

Archaeologists have found evidence of prehistoric human settlements in the area, dating back to the Neolithic era. In the classical era, from the 3rd century BC Celtic migrations, the Boii (see Bohemia) and later in the 1st century, Germanic tribes of Marcomanni and Quadi settled there. During the Migration Period around the 5th century, many Germanic tribes moved westwards and southwards out of Central Europe.

Slavic peoples from the Black Sea and Carpathian regions settled in the area (a movement that was also stimulated by the onslaught of peoples from Siberia and Eastern Europe: Huns, Avars, Bulgars and Magyars). Following in the Germans' wake, they moved southwards into Bohemia, Moravia and some of present day Austria. During the 7th century, the Frankish merchant, Samo, supporting the Slavs fighting their Avar rulers, became the ruler of the first known Slav state in Central Europe. The Moravian principality arose in the 8th century (see Great Moravia).

The Bohemian or Czech state emerged in the late 9th century, when it was unified by the Přemyslid dynasty. The kingdom of Bohemia was a significant regional power during the Middle Ages. It was part of the Holy Roman Empire during the entire existence of that confederation.

In 1212, King Přemysl Otakar I (1198–1230), bearing the title “king“ already since 1198, extracted a Golden Bull of Sicily (a formal edict) from the emperor, confirming the royal title for Otakar and his descendants. The 13th century was also a period of large-scale German immigration. The Germans populated towns and mining districts on the Bohemian periphery and, in some cases, formed German colonies in the interior of the Czech lands. In 1235, the mighty Mongol army launched an invasion of Europe and after the Battle of Legnica, the Mongols carried their devastating raid into Moravia.

King Přemysl Otakar II (1253–1278) earned the nickname of "the King of Gold and Iron" due to his military power and wealth. He acquired Austria, Styria and Carinthia thus spreading the Bohemian territory to the Adriatic sea. He met his death at the Battle on the Marchfeld in 1278, in a war with his rival, the Roman king Rudolph I of Germany. Ottokar's son Wenceslaus II acquired the Polish crown in 1300 for himself and the Hungarian crown for his son. In 1306, however, the Přemyslid line died out and, after a series of dynastic wars, the House of Luxembourg gained the Bohemian crown.

The 14th century, particularly the reign of Charles IV (1342–1378), is considered the Golden Age of Czech history. Of particular significance was the founding of Charles University in Prague in 1348. The Black Death, which had raged in Europe from 1347 to 1352, decimated the Kingdom of Bohemia in 1380, killing about 10% of the population.

In the 15th century the religious and social reformer Jan Hus formed a movement, later named after him. Although Hus was named a heretic and burnt in Constanz in 1415, his followers seceded from the Catholic Church and in the Hussite Wars (1419–1434) defeated five crusades organized against them by the Holy Roman Emperor Sigismund. Petr Chelčický continued with Czech Hussite Reformation movement.

During the next two centuries, 90% of the inhabitants converted to the Hussite form of Protestantism. After 1526 Bohemia came increasingly under Habsburg control as the Habsburgs became first the elected and then the hereditary rulers of Bohemia. The Defenestration of Prague and subsequent revolt against the Habsburgs in 1618 marked the start of the Thirty Years' War, which quickly spread throughout Germany. In 1620, the rebellion in Bohemia was crushed at the Battle of White Mountain and the country became a province of the Austrian monarchy. The war had a devastating effect on the local population; the people were given the choice either to convert to Catholicism or leave the country.

Czechs call the following period, from 1620 to the late 18th century, the "Dark Age". The population of the Czech lands declined by a third due to war, disease, famine and the expulsion of the Protestant Czechs. The Habsburgs banned all religions other than Catholicism. Ottoman Turks and Tatars invaded Moravia in 1663,<sup>[17]</sup> taking 12,000 slaves. In 1679–1680 the Czech lands faced a devastating plague and an uprising of serfs.

The reigns of Maria Theresa of Austria (1740–80) and her son Joseph II (1780–90), Holy Roman Emperor and co-regent from 1765, were characterized by enlightened absolutism. In 1742, most of Silesia, then the possession of the Bohemian crown, was seized by King Frederick II of Prussia in the War of the Austrian Succession. The Great Famine, which lasted from 1770 until 1771, killed about one tenth of the Czech population, or 250,000 inhabitants, and radicalized countrysides leading to peasant uprisings.

After the fall of the Holy Roman Empire, Bohemia became part of the Austrian Empire and later of Austria–Hungary. Serfdom was not completely abolished until 1848. After the Revolutions of 1848, Emperor Franz Josef I of Austria attempted to rule as an absolute monarch, keeping all the nationalities in check.

## **Czechoslovakia**

An estimated 150,000 Czech soldiers died in World War I. More than 100,000 Czech volunteers formed the Czechoslovak Legions in Russia, where they fought against the Central Powers and later against Bolshevik troops. Following the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire after World War I, the independent republic of Czechoslovakia was created in 1918. This new country incorporated regions of Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia, Slovakia and the Carpathian Ruthenia (known as the Subcarpathian Rus at the time) with significant German, Hungarian, Polish and Ruthenian speaking minorities.

Although Czechoslovakia was a unitary state, it provided what were at the time rather extensive rights to its minorities. However, it did not grant its minorities any territorial political autonomy. The failure to do so resulted in discontent and strong support among some of the minorities for a break from Czechoslovakia. Adolf Hitler took advantage of this opportunity and, supported by Konrad Henlein's Sudeten German Party, gained the largely German speaking Sudetenland (and its substantial Maginot Line like border fortifications), through the 1938 Munich Agreement. Poland annexed the Zaolzie area around Český Těšín. Hungary gained parts of Slovakia and the Subcarpathian Rus as a result of the First Vienna Award in November 1938.

The remainders of Slovakia and the Subcarpathian Rus gained greater autonomy, with the state renamed to "Czecho-Slovakia" (The Second Republic; see German occupation of Czechoslovakia). After Nazi Germany threatened to annex part of Slovakia, allowing the remaining regions to be partitioned by Hungary and Poland, Slovakia chose to maintain its national and territorial integrity, seceding from Czecho-Slovakia in March 1939 and allying itself, as demanded by Germany, with Hitler's coalition.

The remaining Czech territory was occupied by Germany, which transformed it into the so-called Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. The Protectorate was proclaimed part of the Third Reich and the President and Prime Minister were subordinate to the Nazi *Reichsprotektor* ("imperial protector"). Subcarpathian

Rus declared independence as the Republic of Carpatho-Ukraine on 15 March 1939, but was invaded by Hungary the same day and formally annexed the next day. Approximately 345,000 Czechoslovak citizens, including 277,000 Jews, were killed or executed, while hundreds of thousands of others were sent to prisons and concentration camps or used as forced labour. A Nazi concentration camp existed at Terezín, to the north of Prague. There was Czech resistance to Nazi occupation, both at home and abroad, most notably with the assassination of Nazi leader Reinhard Heydrich in a Prague suburb on 27 May 1942. The Czechoslovak government-in-exile and its army fighting against the Germans were acknowledged by the Allies; Czechoslovak troops fought in the United Kingdom, North Africa, the Middle East and the Soviet Union. The German occupation ended on 9 May 1945, with the arrival of the Soviet and American armies and the Prague uprising. As many as 144,000 Soviet soldiers died in the fighting for the liberation of Czechoslovakia.

In 1945–1946, almost the entire German minority in Czechoslovakia, about 2.7 million people, were expelled to Germany and Austria. During this time, thousands of Germans were held in prisons and detention camps, or used as forced labour. In the summer of 1945, there were several massacres. The only Germans not expelled were some 250,000, who had been active in the resistance against the Nazis or were considered economically important, though many of these emigrated later. Following a Soviet-organised referendum, the Subcarpathian Rus never returned under Czechoslovak rule, but became part of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, as the Zakarpattia Oblast in 1946.

Czechoslovakia uneasily tried to play the role of a "bridge" between the West and East. However, the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia rapidly increased in popularity, with a general disillusionment with the West, due to the pre-war Munich Agreement, and a favourable popular attitude towards the Soviet Union, due to the Soviets' role in liberating Czechoslovakia from German rule. In the 1946 elections, the Communists gained 38% of the votes and became the largest party in the Czechoslovak parliament. They formed a coalition government with

other parties of the National Front and moved quickly to consolidate power. The decisive step took place in February 1948, during a series of events characterized by Communists as a "revolution" and by anti-Communists as a "takeover", the Communist People's Militias secured control of key locations in Prague, and a new, all-Communist government was formed.

For the next 41 years, Czechoslovakia was a Communist state within the Eastern Bloc (see History of Czechoslovakia (1948–1989)). This period was marked by a variety of social developments. The Communist government completely nationalized the means of production and established a command economy. The economy grew rapidly during the 1950s and 1960s, but slowed down in the 1970s, with increasing problems during the 1980s. The political climate was highly repressive during the 1950s, including numerous show trials, but became more open and tolerant in the 1960s, culminating in Alexander Dubček's leadership in the 1968 Prague Spring, which tried to create "socialism with a human face" and perhaps even introduce political pluralism. This was forcibly ended by the 21 August 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion.

The invasion was followed by a harsh program of "Normalization" in the late 1960s and the 1970s. Until 1989, the political establishment relied on censorship of the opposition, though using more "carrot" than "whip" to secure the populace's passivity. Dissidents published Charter 77 in 1977 and the first of a new wave of protests were seen in 1988. Between 1948 and 1989 more than 250,000 Czechs and Slovaks were sent to prison for "anti-state activities", and over 400,000 emigrated.

### **Velvet revolution and the Czech Republic**

In November 1989, Czechoslovakia returned to a liberal democracy through the peaceful "Velvet Revolution". However, Slovak national aspirations strengthened and on January 1, 1993, the country peacefully split into the independent Czech Republic and Slovakia. Both countries went through economic reforms and

privatisations, with the intention of creating a capitalist economy. This process was largely successful, as in 2006, the Czech Republic was recognised by the World Bank as a "developed country" and in 2009 the Human Development Index ranked it as a nation of "Very High Human Development".

From 1991, the Czech Republic, originally as part of Czechoslovakia and now in its own right, has been a member of the Visegrád Group and from 1995, the OECD. The Czech Republic joined NATO on 12 March 1999 and the European Union on 1 May 2004. It held the Presidency of the European Union for the first half of 2009.

## Population

Population of the Czech lands

<b>Year Total</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Year Total</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>1857</b> 7,016,531	—	<b>1930</b> 10,674,386	+6.6%
<b>1869</b> 7,617,230	+8.6%	<b>1950</b> 8,896,133	-16.7%
<b>1880</b> 8,222,013	+7.9%	<b>1961</b> 9,571,531	+7.6%
<b>1890</b> 8,665,421	+5.4%	<b>1970</b> 9,807,697	+2.5%
<b>1900</b> 9,372,214	+8.2%	<b>1980</b> 10,291,927	+4.9%
<b>1910</b> 10,078,637	+7.5%	<b>1991</b> 10,302,215	+0.1%
<b>1921</b> 10,009,587	-0.7%	<b>2001</b> 10,230,060	-0.7%

According to the 2001 census, the vast majority of the inhabitants of the Czech Republic are Czech (94.24%). The most numerous national minorities are: Slovaks (1.89%); Poles (0.51%); Germans (0.38%); Ukrainians (0.22%); Vietnamese (0.17%); Hungarians (0.14%); Russians (0.12%); Romani (0.11%); Bulgarians (0.04%); and Greeks (0.03%).<sup>[27]</sup> According to some estimates, there are actually at least 250,000 Romani people in the Czech Republic.



There were 436,116 foreigners residing in the country in October 2009, according to the Czech Interior Ministry, with the largest groups being Ukrainian (132,481), Slovak (75,210), Vietnamese (61,102), Russian (29,976), Polish (19,790), German (14,156), Moldovan (10,315), Bulgarian (6,346), Mongolian (5,924), American (5,803), Chinese (5,314), British (4,461), Belarusian (4,441), Serbian (4,098), Romanian (4,021), Kazakh (3,896), Austrian (3,114), Italian (2,580), Dutch (2,553), French (2,356), Croatian (2,351), Bosnian (2,240), Armenian (2,021), Uzbek (1,969), Macedonian (1,787) and Japanese (1,581).

The Jewish population of Bohemia and Moravia, 118,000 according to the 1930 census, was virtually annihilated by the Nazis during the Holocaust. There were approximately 4,000 Jews in the Czech Republic in 2005. The Czech prime minister, Jan Fischer, is of Jewish origin and faith.

The fertility rate is a low 1.50 children per woman. Immigration increased the population by almost 1% in 2007. About 77,000 new foreigners settle down in the Czech Republic every year. Vietnamese immigrants began settling in the Czech Republic during the Communist period, when they were invited as guest workers by the Czechoslovak government. Today, there are an estimated 70,000 Vietnamese in the Czech Republic. In contrast to Ukrainians, Vietnamese come to the Czech Republic to live permanently.

At the turn of the 20th century, Chicago was the city with the third largest Czech population, after Prague and Vienna. According to the 2006 US census, there are 1,637,218 Americans of full or partial Czech descent.

## Cities

city	population	region	city	population	region		
1	Prague	1 285 995	Prague,	11	Havířov	83 180	Moravian-

			the Capital City			Silesian	Brno
<b>2</b>	Brno	405 337	South Moravian	<b>12</b>	Zlín	77 288	Zlín
<b>3</b>	Ostrava	314 666	Moravian- Silesian	<b>13</b>	Kladno	71 654	Central Bohemian
<b>4</b>	Plzeň	173 932	Plzeň	<b>14</b>	Most	67 216	Ústí nad Labem
<b>5</b>	Liberec	105 240	Liberec	<b>15</b>	Karviná	63 193	Moravian- Silesian
<b>6</b>	Olomouc	102 112	Olomouc	<b>16</b>	Frýdek- Místek	59 821	Moravian- Silesian
<b>7</b>	Ústí nad Labem	98 862	Ústí nad Labem	<b>17</b>	Opava	59 793	Moravian- Silesian
<b>8</b>	Hradec Králové	95 890	Hradec Králové	<b>18</b>	Karlovy Vary	53 691	Karlovy Vary
<b>9</b>	České Budějovice	95 709	South Bohemian	<b>19</b>	Teplice	53 193	Ústí nad Labem
<b>10</b>	Pardubice	90 765	Pardubice	<b>20</b>	Děčín	52 589	Ústí nad Labem

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## Political system

The Czech Republic is a pluralist multi-party parliamentary representative democracy, with the Prime Minister as head of government. The Parliament (*Parlament České republiky*) is bicameral, with the Chamber of Deputies (Czech: *Poslanecká sněmovna*) (200 members) and the Senate (*Senát*) (81 members).

The President of the Czech Republic is selected by a joint session of the parliament for a five-year term, with no more than two consecutive terms. The president is a formal head of state with limited specific powers, most importantly to return bills to the parliament, nominate Constitutional court judges for the Senate's approval and dissolve the parliament under certain special and unusual circumstances. He also appoints the prime minister, as well the other members of the cabinet on a proposal by the prime minister.

The Prime Minister is the head of government and wields considerable powers, including the right to set the agenda for most foreign and domestic policy, mobilize the parliamentary majority and choose government ministers.

The members of the Chamber of Deputies are elected for a four year term by proportional representation, with a 5% election threshold. There are 14 voting districts, identical to the country's administrative regions. The Chamber of Deputies, the successor to the Czech National Council, has the powers and responsibilities of the now defunct federal parliament of the former Czechoslovakia.

The members of the Senate are elected in single-seat constituencies by two-round runoff voting for a six-year term, with one-third elected every even year in the autumn. The first election was in 1996, for differing terms. This arrangement is modeled on the U.S. Senate, but each constituency is roughly the same size and the voting system used is a two-round runoff. The Senate is unpopular among the public and suffers from low election turnout, overall roughly 30% in the first round and 20% in the second.

### **Elections in the Czech Republic**

The Czech Republic elects on national level a legislature. The **Parliament** (*Parlament České republiky*) has two chambers. The **Chamber of Deputies** (*Poslanecká sněmovna*) has 200 members, elected for a four year term by proportional representation with a 5 % election threshold. The **Senate** (*Senát*)

has 81 members, in single-seat constituencies elected by two-round runoff voting for a six-year term, with one third renewed every even year in the autumn.

There are municipal elections every four years since 1990 and regional elections every four years starting in 2000; in the autumn.

The Czech Republic has a multi-party system, with two or three strong parties and another party or coalition that is electorally successful.

<b>Summary of the 2-3 June, 2006 Czech Chamber of Deputies election results</b>						
<b>Parties and coalitions</b>	<b>Ideology</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Seats</b>	<b>Change</b>	
Civic Democratic Party	Liberal conservatism	1,892,475	35.38	81	+23	
Czech Social Democratic Party	Social democracy	1,728,827	32.32	74	+4	
Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia	Communism	685,328	12.81	26	-15	
Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party	Christian democracy	386,706	7.23	13	-9	
Green Party	Green	336,487	6.29	6	+6	

	liberalism				
SNK European Democrats	Liberal conservatism	111,724	2.09	0	–
Others		207,429	3.88	0	-9 <sup>1</sup>
Total (turnout 64.47%)		5,348,976	100.00	<b>200</b>	–
<sup>1</sup> Due to the Freedom Union–Democratic Union losing its nine seats.					
Source: Czech Statistical Office	This box: view • talk • edit				

### Latest Senate election

#### Senate of the Czech Republic composition after the 2008 election and 2007 by-election in 2 constituencies

Party	Seats
Civic Democratic Party	35
Czech Social Democratic Party	29

Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party includes 1 elected in 2002 as an independent candidate	7
<b>Caucus SNK (Senátorský klub SNK) comprises 6 senators elected for</b>	
SNK European Democrats	1
Independents Movement ( <i>Hnutí NEZÁVISLÍ</i> )	1*
Independent Mayors for Region ( <i>Nezávislí starostové pro kraj</i> )	1*
<b>Caucus of Open Democracy (Klub otevřené demokracie) comprises 7 senators elected for</b>	
Freedom Union–Democratic Union	1*
Green Party	1*
Party for the Open Society in 2006	1*
United Democrats - Union of Independents ( <i>Spojení demokraté - Sdružení nezávislých</i> )	1*
<b>Non aligned</b>	

Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia in 2002, 2004 and 2007	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>
<p>Source: Czech Statistical Office, Senate</p> <p>The electoral party (the party on whose label the senator ran) can be volatile, especially with senators elected for tiny parties, so caucuses are more relevant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For senators from tiny electoral parties who are not their formal members</li> </ul>	

**[Czech legislative election, 2010**

**From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia**

**Czech legislative election, 2010**

**200 seats in the Chamber of Deputies**

**28–29 May 2010**

**First party**

**Second party**

**Third party**



**Leader**

**Jiří Paroubek** Petr Nečas

Karel  
Schwarzenberg

<b>Party</b>	ČSSD	ODS	TOP 09
<b>Last election</b>	74 seats	81 seats	Did not stand
<b>Seats won</b>	56	53	41
<b>Seat change</b>	-18	-28	+41
<b>Popular vote</b>	1,155,267	1,057,792	873,833
<b>Percentage</b>	22.08%	20.22%	16.70%

**Fourth party**

**Fifth party**



<b>Leader</b>	Vojtěch Filip	Radek John	
<b>Party</b>	Communist	[[Public Affairs (political party) Template:Public Affairs (political party)/meta/shortname]]	
<b>Last election</b>	26 seats	Did not stand	
<b>Seats won</b>	26	24	
<b>Seat change</b>	0	+24	
<b>Popular vote</b>	589,765	569,127	
<b>Percentage</b>	11.27%	10.88%	
<b>Previous</b>		<b>Prime</b>	<b>Minister</b>
Jan			Fischer

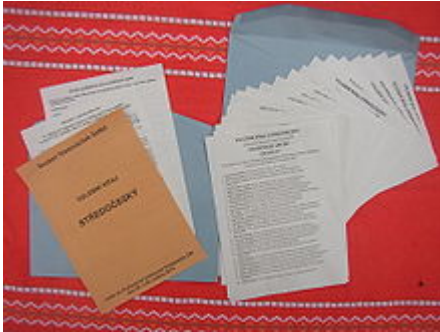


Independent

**Prime**

TBD

**Minister-elect**



Set of ballots with instructions (version for electoral district of Central Bohemia) as delivered to voters at least three days prior to elections

A **legislative election** in the Czech Republic took place on 28–29 May 2010. The election had been expected to take place some time before the end of 2009 (originally set for 9–10 October 2009, see below) to elect the members of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic. Before the election, the country had been governed by a caretaker administration.

The election saw a loss of support for the Social Democratic Party (ČSSD), although they still received the highest number of votes. The conservative Civic Democratic Party (ODS) and TOP 09 followed in second and third, while the Communist Party finished fourth. Social Democrat leader Jiří Paroubek resigned after the election, conceding that a conservative coalition government appeared likely, with the rise of two new right-wing parties—TOP 09 and Public Affairs.

## **Background**

Incumbent PM Mirek Topolánek had lost a no-confidence vote on 24 March 2009. After four failed earlier attempts, the opposition Social Democrats succeeded in leading the lower house of the Czech parliament to a no

confidence vote in Topolánek's government. The measure passed with 101 votes to 96, largely due to several members of Topolánek's own party voting with the opposition.

On 28 March 2009, Jiří Paroubek (the Social Democrat leader) and Topolánek agreed to hold early polls in October 2009. They later agreed to form an interim government of experts (before the end of the Czech EU presidency), with half nominated by the Social Democrats and half by two parties of the current government (Civic Democratic Party (ODS) and Greens; the third party KDU–ČSL did not participate), and that early elections would be held on 16–17 October 2009. On 5 April 2009, Paroubek and Topolánek agreed on Jan Fischer, the head of the national statistical office, as interim PM who would take over on 8 May 2009, and stated that elections would be held by 15 October 2009, most likely on 9–10 October 2009.

The newly founded party Tradition Responsibility Prosperity 09, which split off from the KDU–ČSL, also contested the election. In some polls, it was already in fourth place, closely behind the KSČM.

The election date was originally officially set on 1 July 2009.

Due to a complaint filed by independent ex-Social Democrat MP Miloš Melčák (he filed because he claimed he has the right to sit in parliament for a full term), the election was postponed as the Constitutional Court examined the legality of the law setting the election date. A hearing was set for 10 September 2009; if the court had ruled at that date against the complaint, elections would have been held as planned. In either case, politicians were in agreement that they would have changed the constitution to simplify the procedure of calling early elections, and using the new provisions, the election would have been held at most with a month's delay regardless of the court's decision (likely on 6–7 November).

As the Court ruled the election date invalid, the laws (a constitutional amendment and a law shortening election deadlines) were passed on 11 September as

planned. President Klaus signed the laws on 12 September, and parliament planned to dissolve itself on 15 September. Melčák stated, however, that he would likely file another complaint if this plan had gone ahead.

In a surprise move, the Social Democrats announced on 15 September that it would not vote in favour of dissolution, as the new law was likely to be challenged by Melčák again and this would again call the legality of the election into question; they were now in favour of elections in mid-2010, on the initially scheduled date. The Social Democrats had 71 seats and needed ten more MPs supporting their position to delay the election, but it was considered likely that they would succeed in blocking the election. The Christian and Democratic Union (KDU-ČSL) also withdrew their support for early elections, meaning the election will be held in May 2010.

Following controversial comments about the Catholic Church, Jews and gays, the Civic Democrat chairman Topolánek withdrew from the election and resigned as party leader on 26 March 2010. He was replaced by Petr Nečas.

## Results

### Latest Chamber of Deputies election

#### Summary of the preliminary 28-29 May 2010 Czech Chamber of Deputies election results

Party	Ideology	Votes	%	Seats	Change
Czech Social Democratic Party	Social democracy	1,155,267	22.08	56	-18

Civic Democratic Party	Liberal conservatism	1,057,792	20.22	53	-28
TOP 09	Conservatism	873,833	16.70	41	*
Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia	Communism	589,765	11.27	26	±0
Public Affairs	Conservative liberalism	569,127	10.88	24	*
Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party	Christian democracy	229,717	4.39	0	-13
Party of Civic Rights – Zemanovci	Social democracy	226,527	4.33	0	*
Sovereignty – Jana Bobošíková Bloc	National conservatism	192,145	3.67	0	*
Green Party	Green liberalism	127 831	2.44	0	-6
Others		208,885	3.91	0	—

<b>Total</b> (turnout 62.60%)	5,230,859	100.00	<b>200</b>	–
* Did not stand in previous election				
Source: Czech Statistical Office				

With 99% of votes counted, the centre-left Social Democrats won the most votes, with 22.1%. The conservative Civic Democratic Party and TOP 09 followed with 20.2% and 16.7% respectively. The Communist Party came fourth with 11.3%, slightly ahead of the centre-right Public Affairs which received 10.9%. It was the first time that the Communists had failed to finish third in a Czech election. For TOP 09 and Public Affairs, it was the first election in which they had won seats in Parliament. The Christian Democrats (4.4%), the Party of Civic Rights (4.3%) and the Green Party (2.4%), along with Sovereignty (3.7%), failed to gain the 5% necessary to enter parliament. 62.6% of voters turned out. The turnout was highest in Prague-West District (71.69%) and lowest in Sokolov District (50.89%). The results were a setback for the Czech Republic's largest parties, the Social Democrats and the Civic Democrats. President Václav Klaus argued the results would cause a "fundamental weakening" of the two parties.

### **Preliminary 28-29 May 2010 Czech Chamber of Deputies election results**

<b>Parties and coalitions</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Seats</b>	<b>Change</b>
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Czech Social Democratic Party	1,155,267	22.08	56	-18
Civic Democratic Party	1,057,792	20.22	53	-28
TOP 09	873,833	16.70	41	*
Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia	589,765	11.27	26	±0
Public Affairs	569,127	10.88	24	*
Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party	229,717	4.39	0	-13
Party of Civic Rights – Zemanovci	226,527	4.33	0	*
Sovereignty – Jana Bobošíková Bloc	192,145	3.67	0	*
Green Party	127,831	2.44	0	-6
Workers' Party of Social Justice	59,888	1.14	0	*
Czech Pirate Party	42,323	0.80	0	*
Party of Free Citizens	38,897	0.74	0	*

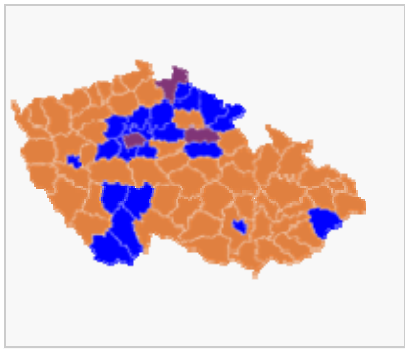
Right Bloc	24,750	0.47	0	±0
Citizens.cz ( <i>OBCANE.CZ</i> )	13,397	0.25	0	*
Moravians	11,914	0.22	0	±0
Conservative Party ( <i>Konzervativni strana</i> )	4,232	0.08	0	*
Bohemian Crown	4,024	0.07	0	±0
STOP	3,155	0.06	0	*
Coalition for Republic - Republican Party of Czechoslovakia	1,993	0.03	0	±0
Czech National Socialist Party ( <i>Česká strana národně socialistická</i> )	1,371	0.02	0	±0
Key Movement ( <i>Klíčové hnutí</i> )	1,099	0.02	0	*
Humanist Party ( <i>Humanistická strana</i> )	552	0.01	0	±0
European Centre ( <i>EVROPSKÝ STŘED</i> )	522	0.00	0	*

Czech National Social Party	295	0.00	0	*
Liberálové.CZ	260	0.00	0	±0
National Prosperity ( <i>Národní prosperita</i> )	186	0.00	0	*
<b>Total</b> (turnout 62.60%)	5,230,859	100.00	<b>200</b>	–
* Did not stand in previous election				
Source: Czech Statistical Office				

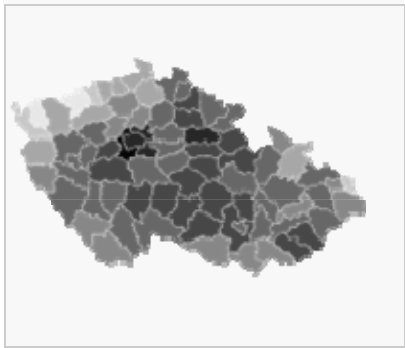
**[edit] Maps**







Winning parties by district



Voter turnout by district

## Aftermath

After the election results became known, Jiří Paroubek resigned as the Social Democrat leader citing disappointment with the outcome, saying of the result *"It seems that people have chosen the direction the republic should go in and it is a different direction than the one the Social Democrats were offering"*. The Social Democrats had led comfortably in polling before the election, and its 22% share of the vote was a significant drop from the party's 32% in the 2006 election. Paroubek conceded that a conservative coalition government was possible. The Civic Democrats, TOP 09 and Public Affairs had each committed to government spending cuts, raising the prospect of the formation of a fiscally conservative Cabinet. The leaders of the three parties held coalition talks shortly after the results were released. Petr Nečas, the head of the Civic Democrats, claimed the three parties had a "common will" to join in government, stating that their financial plans would work together to help the country avoid going into a similar crisis to the one Greece suffered at the same time.

Parties are currently agreeing on terms of a coalition, and also on who will become prime minister, a process expected to last several weeks.