

**Globalized Elections
Weekly Report
July 01, 2010 to July 06, 2010**

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Presentation on July 07, 2010**

Week # 126

The popular **election of the President of Poland** was held on June, 20 2010. As no candidate received majority votes in the first round, a second round will be held on July, 4 2010.

A **parliamentary election** took place in **Slovakia** on June 12, 2010.^[1] The elections were contested by eighteen parties, six of which passed the 5% threshold for sitting in parliament.

POLAND

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Republic of Poland

Capital
(and largest city) Warsaw
52°13'N 21°02'E /
52.217°N 21.033°E

Official language(s) Polish

Demonym Pole/Polish

Government Parliamentary
republic

- Acting President Bronisław
Komorowski
- Prime Minister Donald Tusk

Formation

- Christianisation⁴ 966
- First Republic July 1, 1569
- Second Republic November 11,
1918
- People's Republic December 31,
1944
- Third Republic January 30, 1990

EU accession 1 May 2004

Area

- Total 312,685 km² (69th³)
120,696.41 sq mi
- Water (%) 3.07

Population

-	Jan 2010 estimate	37,810,793 (34th)
-	December 2007 census	38,116,000 (34th)
-	Density	120/km ² (83rd) 319.9/sq mi
GDP (PPP)		2009 estimate
-	Total	\$688.761 billion
-	Per capita	\$18,072
GDP (nominal)		2009 estimate
-	Total	\$430.197 billion
-	Per capita	\$11,288

Poland officially the **Republic of Poland** (*Rzeczpospolita Polska*), is a country in Central Europe bordered by Germany to the west; the Czech Republic and Slovakia to the south; Ukraine, Belarus and Lithuania to the east; and the Baltic Sea and Kaliningrad Oblast, a Russian exclave, to the north. The total area of Poland is 312,679 square kilometres (120,726 sq mi), making it the 69th largest country in the world and the 9th largest in Europe. Poland has a population of over 38 million people, which makes it the 34th most populous country in the world and the sixth most populous member of the European Union.

The establishment of a Polish state is often identified with the adoption of Christianity by its ruler Mieszko I in 966, when the state covered territory similar to that of present-day Poland. The Kingdom of Poland was formed in 1025, and in 1569 it cemented a long association with the Grand Duchy of Lithuania by signing the Union of Lublin, forming the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth collapsed in 1795, and Poland's territory was partitioned among the Kingdom of Prussia, the Russian Empire, and Austria. Poland regained its independence as the Second Polish Republic in 1918, after World

War I, but two decades later it was occupied by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union at the outbreak of World War II in September 1939. Poland lost over six million citizens in the war and emerged several years later as the People's Republic of Poland under Soviet influence.

During the Revolutions of 1989, communist rule was overthrown, and soon after Poland became what is constitutionally known as the "Third Polish Republic". Poland is a unitary state, made up of sixteen Voivodeships (Polish: *Województwo*), Poland is a member of the European Union, NATO, the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

History

Reconstitution of Poland

During World War I, all the Allies agreed on the reconstitution of Poland that United States President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed in Point 13 of his Fourteen Points. Shortly after the armistice with Germany in November 1918, Poland regained its independence as the Second Polish Republic (*II Rzeczpospolita Polska*). It reaffirmed its independence after a series of military conflicts, the most notable being the Polish–Soviet War (1919–1921) when Poland inflicted a crushing defeat on the Red Army.

The 1926 May Coup of Józef Piłsudski turned rule of the Second Polish Republic over to the Sanacja movement.

World War II

The Sanacja movement controlled Poland until the start of World War II in 1939, when Nazi Germany invaded on 1 September and the Soviet invasion of Poland followed by breaking the Soviet–Polish Non-Aggression Pact on 17 September. Warsaw capitulated on 28 September 1939. As agreed in the Molotov–

Ribbentrop Pact, Poland was split into two zones, one occupied by Germany while the eastern provinces fell under the control of the Soviet Union.

Of all the countries involved in the war, Poland lost the highest percentage of its citizens: over six million perished, half of them Polish Jews. Poland made the fourth-largest troop contribution to the Allied war effort, after the Soviets, the British and the Americans. The Polish expeditionary corps played an important role in the Italian Campaign, particularly at the Battle of Monte Cassino.

At the war's conclusion, Poland's borders were shifted westwards, pushing the eastern border to the Curzon Line. Meanwhile, the western border was moved to the Oder-Neisse line. The new Poland emerged 20% smaller by 77,500 square kilometres (29,900 sq mi). The shift forced the migration of millions of people, most of whom were Poles, Germans, Ukrainians, and Jews.

Postwar communist Poland

The Soviet Union instituted a new communist government in Poland, analogous to much of the rest of the Eastern Bloc. Military alignment within the Warsaw Pact throughout the Cold War was also part of this change. The People's Republic of Poland (*Polska Rzeczpospolita Ludowa*) was officially proclaimed in 1952.

In 1956, the régime of Władysław Gomułka became temporarily more liberal, freeing many people from prison and expanding some personal freedoms. A similar situation repeated itself in the 1970s under Edward Gierek, but most of the time persecution of anti-communist opposition persisted.

Labour turmoil in 1980 led to the formation of the independent trade union "Solidarity" ("*Solidarność*"), which over time became a political force. Despite persecution and imposition of martial law in 1981, it eroded the dominance of the Communist Party and by 1989 had triumphed in parliamentary elections. Lech Wałęsa, a Solidarity candidate, eventually won the presidency in 1990. The

Solidarity movement heralded the collapse of communism across Eastern Europe.

Present day Poland

A shock therapy programme of Leszek Balcerowicz during the early 1990s enabled the country to transform its economy into a market economy. As with all other post-communist countries, Poland suffered temporary slumps in social and economic standards, but it became the first post-communist country to reach its pre-1989 GDP levels, which it achieved by 1995 because of its booming economy.

Most visibly, there were numerous improvements in human rights, such as the freedom of speech. In 1991, Poland became a member of the Visegrád Group and joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) alliance in 1999 along with the Czech Republic and Hungary. Poles then voted to join the European Union in a referendum in June 2003, with Poland becoming a full member on 1 May 2004.

On April 10, 2010, the President of the Republic of Poland, Lech Kaczyński, along with 89 other high-ranking Polish officials died in a plane crash near Smolensk, Russia.

Government

Poland is a democracy, with a president as a head of state, whose current constitution dates from 1997. The government structure centers on the Council of Ministers, led by a prime minister. The president appoints the cabinet according to the proposals of the prime minister, typically from the majority coalition in the Sejm. The president is elected by popular vote every five years. The current acting president is Bronisław Komorowski. Komorowski replaced President Lech Kaczyński following an April 10, 2010 air crash which claimed the life of President Kaczyński, his wife, and 94 other people, during a visit to western

Russia for events marking the 70th anniversary of the Katyn massacre. The current prime minister is Donald Tusk.

Polish voters elect a bicameral parliament consisting of a 460-member lower house (Sejm) and a 100-member Senate (Senat). The Sejm is elected under proportional representation according to the d'Hondt method, a method similar to that used in many parliamentary political systems. The Senat, on the other hand, is elected under a rare plurality bloc voting method where several candidates with the highest support are elected from each constituency.

With the exception of ethnic minority parties, only candidates of political parties receiving at least 5% of the total national vote can enter the Sejm. When sitting in joint session, members of the Sejm and Senat form the National Assembly (the *Zgromadzenie Narodowe*). The National Assembly is formed on three occasions: when a new President takes the oath of office; when an indictment against the President of the Republic is brought to the State Tribunal (*Trybunał Stanu*); and when a president's permanent incapacity to exercise his duties because of the state of his health is declared. To date only the first instance has occurred.

The judicial branch plays an important role in decision-making. Its major institutions include the Supreme Court of the Republic of Poland (*Sąd Najwyższy*); the Supreme Administrative Court of the Republic of Poland (*Naczelny Sąd Administracyjny*); the Constitutional Tribunal of the Republic of Poland (*Trybunał Konstytucyjny*); and the State Tribunal of the Republic of Poland (*Trybunał Stanu*). On the approval of the Senat, the Sejm also appoints the ombudsman or the Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection (*Rzecznik Praw Obywatelskich*) for a five-year term. The ombudsman has the duty of guarding the observance and implementation of the rights and liberties of Polish citizens and residents, of the law and of principles of community life and social justice.

Administrative divisions

Poland's current voivodeships (provinces) are largely based on the country's historic regions, whereas those of the past two decades (to 1998) had been centred on and named for individual cities. The new units range in area from less than 10,000 square kilometres (3,900 sq mi) for Opole Voivodeship to more than 35,000 square kilometres (14,000 sq mi) for Masovian Voivodeship. Administrative authority at voivodeship level is shared between a government-appointed voivode (governor), an elected regional assembly (*sejmik*) and an executive elected by that assembly.

The voivodeships are subdivided into *powiats* (often referred to in English as counties), and these are further divided into *gminas* (also known as communes or municipalities). Major cities normally have the status of both *gmina* and *powiat*. Poland currently has 16 voivodeships, 379 *powiats* (including 65 cities with *powiat* status), and 2,478 *gminas*.



Voivodeship	
<i>in English</i>	<i>in Polish</i>
Greater Poland	<i>Wielkopolskie</i>
Kuyavian-Pomeranian	<i>Kujawsko-Pomorskie</i>
Lesser Poland	<i>Małopolskie</i>
Łódź	<i>Łódzkie</i>
Lower Silesian	<i>Dolnośląskie</i>
Lublin	<i>Lubelskie</i>
Lubusz	<i>Lubuskie</i>
Masovian	<i>Mazowieckie</i>
Opole	<i>Opolskie</i>

West Pomeranian
Pomeranian
Warmian-Masurian
Podlaskie
Lubusz
Greater Poland
Kuyavian-Pomeranian
Lower Silesian
Opole
Silesian
Świętokrzyskie
Łódź
Masovian
Lublin
Lesser Poland
Subcarpathian

Podlaskie *Podlaskie*
Pomeranian *Pomorskie*
Silesian *Śląskie*
Subcarpathian *Podkarpackie*
Świętokrzyskie
(Holy Cross) *Świętokrzyskie*
Warmian-
Masurian *Warmińsko-
Mazurskie*
West
Pomeranian *Zachodniopomor*

Elections in Poland

Elections in Poland

Poland has a multi-party political system. Poland elects on national level a head of state - the president - and a legislature. There are also various local elections, referenda and elections to the European Parliament.

Poland has a long history of elections dating several centuries, including the elections to Sejm from 1182 and the elective monarchy from 1569 to 1795. There were also elections in the Second Polish Republic (1918-1939), and the People's Republic of Poland, although most of the latter are considered to have been rigged.

Modern Poland

Poland has a multi-party political system, with numerous parties in which no one party often has a chance of gaining power alone, and parties must work with each other to form coalition governments.

Poland elects on national level a head of state - the president - and a legislature. The president is elected for a five year term by the people. The National Assembly has two chambers. The parliament (*Sejm*) has 460 members, elected for a four year term by party lists in multi-seat constituencies with a 5% threshold for single parties and 8% threshold for coalitions, (requirement waived for national minorities). The *Senate (Senat)* has 100 members elected for a four year term in 40 multi-seat constituencies. Since 1991 elections are supervised by National Electoral Commission (*Państwowa Komisja Wyborcza*), whose administrative division is called the National Electoral Office (*Krajowe Biuro Wyborcze*).

History

Poland has a long history of elections dating many centuries from the first Sejm in 1182. From the Sejm of 1493 Polish kings had to call regular Sejms and sejmiks (regional elections) every two years. From 1573 the system of free election required the election of kings during the Sejm.

The first modern and free elections were held in 1919, two months after Poland regained its independence in 1918. After the May Coup there were questions how free are the Polish elections, specially the elections of 1930 are often called non-free. After the Second World War, Poland became controlled by the communists, who rigged the elections of 1947 to ensure they controlled the entire Polish government. Although there were regular elections in Poland from that time, no elections until the groundbreaking elections of 1989, marking the fall of communism, were free. The elections of 1989, which guaranteed the Polish communist party and its allies a majority of lower house seats, but allowed

opposition parties to gain representation, is considered to be a semi-free election. All subsequent elections, beginning with the 1991 election are considered fair and free.

Past Elections

Poland (1989-present)

Since 1991, Polish elections operate according to a typical parliamentary system.

People's Republic of Poland (1945-1989)

Only the 1947 and 1989 elections can be considered as partially free. All others were controlled. There were no presidential elections during the rest of this period, with President Bolesław Bierut's nomination by the Sejm and the abolition of the office by the 1952 constitution.

Second Polish Republic (1918-1939)

It is disputed how free were elections held after 1926 were; in particular, the 1930 elections are often considered to have been non-free pl:Wybory brzeskie. Polish presidents were elected by the Sejm and Senate (Zgromadzenie Narodowe), not in a popular vote. Before 1922, the Polish Chief of State was called *Naczelnik Państwa*.

Kingdom of Poland and Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (until 1795)

Sejm

The first Sejm was called in 1182. Since the Sejm of 1493, called by king John I Olbracht in 1493, Sejms were to be held every 2 years. There were also special Sejms when needed, for example the coronation sejms.

Famous Sejms included:

- Sejm Niemy - the Silent Sejm of 1717 which marked the beginning of Russian control of Polish internal affairs;
- Replin Sejm - the Sejm of 1767/1768, whose terms were dictated by Russian ambassador Replin
- Great Sejm - or the Four-Years Sejm of 1798–1792, which voted for the May Constitution of Poland;
- Grodno Sejm - last Sejm of the First Republic

Elective monarchy and officials

Since the death of Sigismund II Augustus, last of the Jagiellonian dynasty, and following a brief period of interregnum, the entire nobility (szlachta) of the Commonwealth (10% of the population) could take part in the elections of the monarchs. Last elected king was Stanisław August Poniatowski in 1764. He abdicated in 1795 after the partitions of Poland ended the existence of sovereign state of Poland for 123 years.

Polish presidential election, 2010

Polish presidential election, 2010

20 June and 4 July 2010



Nominee	Bronisław Komorowski	Jarosław Kaczyński	
Party	Civic Platform	Law	and

Justice

Incumbent

Bronisław
Civic Platform

Komorowski

President

(acting)

President-elect

TBD

The popular **election of the President of Poland** were held on June, 20 2010. As no candidate received majority votes in the first round, a second round will be held on July, 4 2010.

Background

After President Lech Kaczyński's death in a plane crash on April 10, 2010, the Constitution required the Marshal of the Sejm to declare the date within two weeks, with the election to take place on a weekend within the following 60 days, i.e. 20 June at the latest. On April 21, the Marshal, Bronisław Komorowski, announced the election date as June 20 2010. Candidates were required to register by 26 April 2010 (with 1,000 signatures of voters in support) and submit 100,000 signatures by May 6, 2010.

Originally, Kaczyński was up for re-election in autumn (between September 19 and October 3; the exact date would have been announced between May 23 and June 23), before the end of his first five-year term of office.

Two candidates for the election died in the crash. Incumbent Lech Kaczyński was nominated as the Law and Justice party candidate (he had yet to accept the nomination, but it was widely believed that he would do so), and Jerzy Szmajdziński was to have run for the Democratic Left Alliance.

Senate by-elections to fill the three seats whose senators died in the crash – Krystyna Bochenek (PO), Janina Fetlińska (PiS) and Stanisław Zając (PiS,

himself elected in a by-election on 22 June 2008 to replace Andrzej Mazurkiewicz) – will be held on the same date.

Candidates

In total, 23 candidates (all of whom were men) registered with the Polish National Electoral Commission on, or just following, the April 26 deadline. 17 of the 23 candidacies were accepted by the commission, whilst the remaining 6 were rejected (had not gathered the required 1000 signatures).

Only ten candidates collected the required 100,000 signatures and are, therefore, eligible to run for president.



Former Marshal of the Sejm **Marek Jurek** (Right of the Republic), 49



Former Prime Minister **Jarosław Kaczyński** (Law and Justice), 60



Marshal of the Sejm and Acting President **Bronisław Komorowski** (Civic Platform), 58



Former Sejm Member **Janusz Korwin-Mikke** (Liberty and Rule of Law), 67



Former Prime Minister of **Grzegorz Napieralski**



Deputy Founder and leader of **Grzegorz Napieralski**



Party Chairman and Sejm Member **Grzegorz Napieralski**



Former Minister of Foreign Affairs **Grzegorz Napieralski**

Andrzej Lepper (Solidarity (Self-Defense of the Republic of Poland), 56)



Andrzej Olechowski (Left (Independent), 62)

Former Prime Minister and Deputy Minister
Waldemar Pawlak (Polish People's Party), 50
Former Prime Minister and Deputy Minister
Bogusław Ziętek (Polish Labour Party), 45

Rejected candidates

- Zdzisław Jankowski
- Gabriel Janowski - national-conservative, former Minister of Agriculture
- Dariusz Kosiur
- Bartłomiej Kurzeja - artist, self-described as "the National Sculptor"
- Krzysztof Mazurski - scientist, geographer
- Paweł Pietrzyk
- Roman Sklepowicz
- Paweł Soroka - political scientist
- Bogdan Szpryngiel - a former Libertas candidate to the European Parliament
- Ludwik Wasiak
- Józef Wójcik
- Waldemar Urbanowski

Withdrawn

- Zdzisław Podkański - former member of the European Parliament (Polish People's Party), leader of the national-conservative party Piast.^[8]

Opinion polls

First round

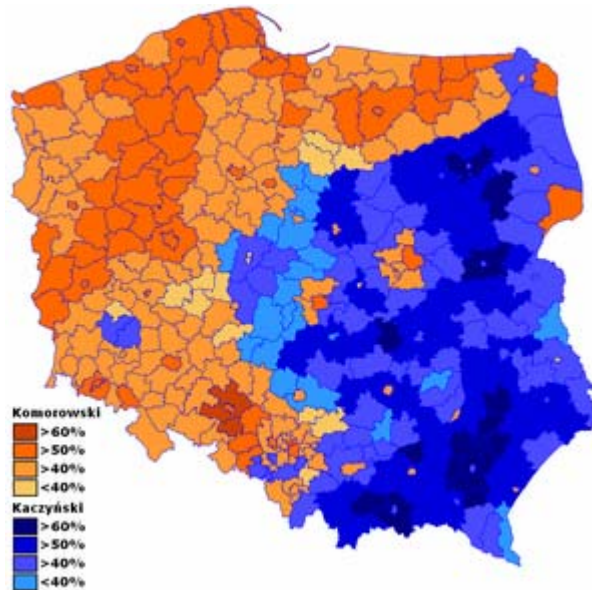
Date	Institute	Candidate								
		Bronisław Komorowski	Jarosław Kaczyński	Grzegorz Napieralski	Waldemar Pawlak	Andrzej Olechowski	Andrzej Lepper	Janusz Korwin-Mikke	Marek Jurek	Kornel Morawiecki
May 7, 2010	TNS OBOP	50%	36%	4%	3%	2%	2%	1%	1%	0%
May 10, 2010	SMG/KRC Millward Brown	45%	34%	5%	4%	3%	1%	2%	1%	0%
May 12, 2010	GfK Polonia	41%	28%	4%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%
May 14, 2010	TNS OBOP	51%	38%	4%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%
May 15, 2010	GfK Polonia	48%	30%	5%	2%	4%	2%	2%	1%	0%
May 15, 2010	Homo Homini	42,2%	35,9%	4,7%	5,7	2,3%	0,6%	0,7%	1,9%	0%
May 17, 2010	SMG/KRC Millward Brown	49%	29%	3%	2%	3%	3%	1%	1%	0%
May 22, 2010	GfK Polonia	53%	28%	4%	3%	4%	4%	3%	1%	0%
May 29, 2010	Homo Homini	47,6%	32,5%	6,1%	4,2%	1,6%	0,7%	0,6%	0,7%	0,1%
May 31, 2010	SMG/KRC Millward Brown	46%	30%	9%	1%	1%	1%	3%	0%	0%
June 2, 2010	PBS DGA	48%	33%	8%	3%	2%	2%	2%	0%	0%
June	SMG/KRC	42%	31%	6%	1%	1%	1%	3%	0%	0%

4, Millward 2010 Brown										
June										
5, Homo Homini 2010	46,5%	32,4%	6,1%	4,4%	2,2%	0,6%	0,4%	0,4%	0,1%	
June SMG/KRC										
7, Millward 2010 Brown	43%	32%	8%	3%	2%	1%	2%	1%	0%	
June SMG/KRC										
9, Millward 2010 Brown	45%	31%	7%	2%	2%	1%	2%	0%	0%	
June										
12, GfK Polonia 2010	42%	29%	11%	4%	1%	1%	2%	1%	0%	
June										
16, GfK Polonia 2010	48%	34%	9%	2%	2%	2%	3%	1%	1%	
June SMG/KRC										
16, Millward 2010 Brown	41%	29%	12%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	0%	
June										
17, TNS OBOP 2010	42%	35%	13%	2%	2%	1%	3%	1%	0%	
June										
18, MillwardBrown 2010 SMG/KRC	44%	29%	13%	2%	2%	1%	3%	1%	0%	

Second Round

Date	Institute	Candidate			Source
		Bronisław Komorowski	Jarosław Kaczyński	Undecided	
May 7, 2010	TNS OBOP	61%	39%	-	[9]
May 10, 2010	SMG/KRC	54%	41%	5%	[10]
May 12, 2010	GfK Polonia	53%	34%	13%	[11]
May 14, 2010	TNS OBOP	55%	39%	6%	[29]
May 17, 2010	SMG/KRC Millward Brown	58%	33%	9%	[30]
June 2, 2010	PBS DGA	64%	36%	-	[31]
June 4, 2010	SMG/KRC Millward Brown	56%	35%	9%	[32]
June 9, 2010	SMG/KRC Millward Brown	54%	36%	7%	[23]
June 16, 2010	SMG/KRC Millward Brown	60%	40%	-	[25]
June 18, 2010	MillwardBrown SMG/KRC	56%	33%	11%	[28]
June 30-July 1, 2010	TNS OBOP	45%	37%	18%	[33]
July 1, 2010	GfK Polonia	47%	49%	4%	[34]
July 2, 2010	Millward Brown SMG/KRC	51%	44%	2%	[35]
July 2, 2010	Homo Homini	47,6%	45,2%	7,2%	[33]

Results



Results of the first round

Summary of the 20 June 2010 and 4 July 2010 Polish presidential election results

Candidates – Parties	First round		Second round	
	Votes	%	Votes	%
Bronisław Komorowski – Civic Platform (Platforma Obywatelska)	6,981,319	41.54		
Jarosław Kaczyński – Law and Justice (Prawo i Sprawiedliwość)	6,128,255	36.46		

Grzegorz Napieralski - Democratic Left Alliance (<i>Sojusz Lewicy Demokratycznej</i>)	2,299,870	13.68	
Janusz Korwin-Mikke – Liberty and Rule of Law (<i>Wolność i Praworządność</i>)	416,898	2.48	
Waldemar Pawlak – Polish People's Party (<i>Polskie Stronnictwo Ludowe</i>)	294,273	1.75	
Andrzej Olechowski – independent	242,439	1.44	
Andrzej Lepper – Self-Defense of the Republic of Poland (<i>Samoobrona Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej</i>)	214,657	1.28	
Marek Jurek – Right of the Republic (<i>Prawica Rzeczypospolitej</i>)	177,315	1.06	
Bogusław Ziętek – Free Trade Union "August 80" (<i>Wolny Związek Zawodowy "Sierpień 80"</i>)	29,548	0.18	
Kornel Morawiecki – on behalf of Fighting Solidarity (<i>Solidarność Walcząca</i>)	21,596	0.13	
Total votes for candidates	16,806,170	100.00	

Total valid votes	16,806,170
Total invalid votes	117,662
Total votes cast	16,923,832
Turnout	54.94%
Source: <i>National Electoral Commission</i>	

The first round of a presidential ballot in Poland was held on Sunday, June 20. This election, originally scheduled for October, was moved up to June following the death of President Lech Kaczyński in a plane crash on April 10. Kaczyński, a founding member of the national-conservative Law and Justice (PiS) had been elected President of Poland in 2005. His brother, Jarosław, served as Prime Minister between 2006 and 2007, but PiS was defeated in the 2007 legislative election. Kaczyński led a markedly eurosceptic policy, resisting pressure to sign the Lisbon Treaty, as well as a socially conservative policy. Indeed, PiS represents a socially conservative but more economically statist-populist current which is strong in rural Poland.

Political lines have moved extremely rapidly in Poland since 1989, with parties disappearing and parties suffering volatile swings back and forth. The post-communist left (the Democratic Left Alliance, SLD), led by President Aleksander Kwaśniewski, ruled Poland between 2001 and 2005 with control over both levels of government. Corruption claimed the life of the Polish left, which now struggles to break 15%, and led to the polarization of the political system, more so after the collapse of the far-right in 2007, between PiS and the Civic Platform, which

represents a more liberal (economically) and more urban-bourgeois current. The left won 13.2% of the vote in 2007, an election which saw the collapse of the left-wing populist Samoobrona and socially conservative LPR. Seemingly, only the opportunistic agrarian Polish People's Party (PSL), which supports the party of power, has weathered the storms.

Following Lech Kaczyński's death in a plane crash in April, a crash which claimed the lives of numerous Polish parliamentarians and high-ranking politicians as well, the cards for the presidential ballot scheduled for October were shuffled dramatically. Lech Kaczyński was widely expected to run for a second term, but also widely expected to face defeat at the hands of Donald Tusk, Prime Minister, leader of the ruling liberal Civic Platform (PO) and the man defeated by Kaczyński in the 2005 presidential ballot. First, Kaczyński's tragic death left PiS without a clear candidate, and later Tusk backed out, claiming that he wished to continue as Prime Minister – a position, which, although less high-profile, controls most of the country's day-to-day politics and policies. Bronisław Komorowski, Marshal of the Sejm and by consequence Acting President, became the PO's front-runner and easily defeated Radosław Sikorski, Foreign Minister, in Poland's first presidential primary. It didn't come as much of a surprise when Jarosław Kaczyński, Lech's brother, announced his candidacy, potentially hoping to benefit from the wave of grief following his brother's death. The SLD's pre-candidate, Jerzy Szmajdziński, was in the plane carrying Lech Kaczyński on April 10, and the SLD scrambled to find a new candidate. Names included former Prime Minister Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz and Kraków mayor Jacek Majchrowski, but Grzegorz Napieralski, the party's leader, was nominated. Napieralski was a rather stale and uncharismatic figure, but a smart campaign helped him rise from 3% to 13% in polls. Other candidates included perennial candidate Janusz Korwin-Mikke of the libertarian conservative "Liberty and Rule of Law", former PSL Prime Minister and incumbent Deputy PM Waldemar Pawlak, former Foreign Minister Andrzej Olechowski running as a centrist independent, perennial Samoobrona candidate Andrzej Lepper, former PiS

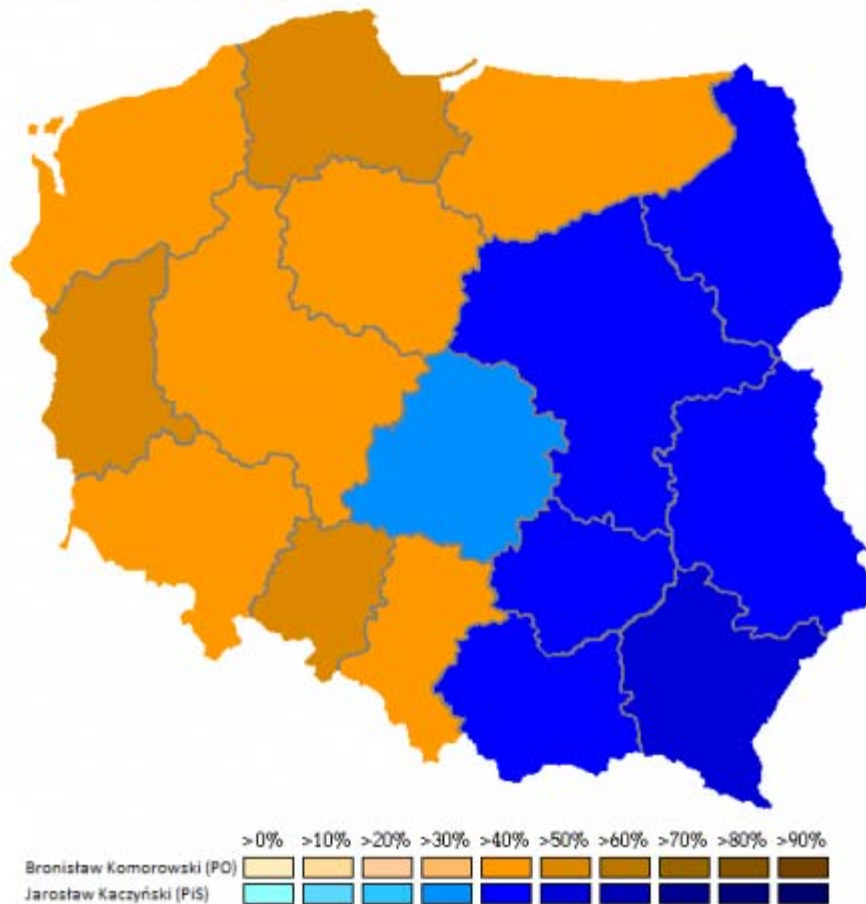
member Marek Jurek for the far-right 'Right of the Republic', Bogusław Ziętek for the far-left Labor Party and Kornel Morawiecki.

Here are the results:

Bronisław	Komorowski	(PO)	41.54%
Jarosław	Kaczyński	(PiS)	36.46%
Grzegorz	Napieralski	(SLD)	13.68%
Janusz	Korwin-Mikke	(WiP)	2.48%
Waldemar	Pawlak	(PSL)	1.75%
Andrzej	Olechowski	(Ind)	1.44%
Andrzej	Lepper	(Samoobrona)	1.28%
Marek	Jurek	(PR)	1.06%
Bogusław	Ziętek (PPP)		0.18%
Kornel Morawiecki (Ind) 0.13%			

turnout 54.94% (+5.2%)

Poland 2010



Komorowski could have performed a slight bit better. His 41.54% showing is only 0.03% better than the PO's 41.51% showing in 2007. The tremendous popularity of Tusk and PO in 2008 seems to have eroded a bit with increasing scandals in government and the recession. But the runoff is still his race to lose. The Polish left having lost its appeal to the working-class, an electorate which largely shifted to PiS, its base is younger and more educated than the traditional European left-wing electorate. Napieralski's voters will likely hold their noses and vote for Komorowski, whose pro-European and moderate line is the lesser evil to Kaczyński's aggressive and hard-line conservative line. On the topic of Napieralski, his showing is a relief for the left which has performed respectably well – better than in 2007 and 2009 – despite having, at the outset, a sub-standard candidate. His campaign seems to have paid dividends to his showing,

although increased name recognition likely helped. Jarosław Kaczyński's showing is better than what his party had polled in 2007 -when he was the incumbent Prime Minister – showing either the increased polarization or the transfer of the vast majority of the PSL's 9% (in 2007) to PiS, which is not surprising given the nature of both parties' electorates. Perhaps Pawlak's pathetic showing – 1.8% – will sign the death warrant of the PSL, but such has been predicted in the past and the PSL has stuck around. A presidential ballot is also a bad election for a party whose *raison-d'être* is more alliance with power than winning power. Lastly, Olechowski, despite being relatively high-profile, suffered from having no machine or media coverage.

Turnout was up around 5 points since 2005, and higher in cities though turnout in rural Galicia was high. Low turnout often helps PiS, whose voters, more elderly and rural, are more likely to turn out than PO's urban electorate. The PO will hope that turnout will remain high on July 4, the day of the runoff, and that voters won't suffer from summer fatigue with politics.

% vote for Komorowski by town

The electoral map still eerily resembles a certain historical map of Poland in 1914. Komorowski performed best in PO's strongholds in formerly German territory in Poland, a victory owing more to the region's general urbanization and economic modernization than to any historical patterns. He also won Warsaw

with over 50% of the vote, though he lost the voivodeship containing it. Kaczyński performed best in the PiS's strongholds in formerly Russian and Austro-Hungarian territory in Poland, including Galicia, areas which are far more rural and poorer than the west. PO won Gdansk and the Silesian coalfields by a large margin, but it is foolish to look for sense in Polish voting patterns given how many voters vote tactically in a polarized electoral system. The general pattern is more urban vs. rural than German vs. Russian, though of course the similarities are amusing. The Polish Electoral Commission, one of the best in the world, has an interactive results interface in English [here](#) and maps by town for each of the candidates are available. A map of Komorowski's showing is presented on the left [here](#).

Ahead of July 4, polls still show Komorowski as the run-away favourite and he should get the lion's share of Napieralski's voters. Kaczyński will be hoping for low turnout (his brother won the 2005 runoff with only 46% turnout) to deliver him a fluke victory. However, some think Kaczyński is using the presidential election to stage him up for a return to parliamentary politics in 2011, as party leader, and in an attempt to become Prime Minister once again. After a likely win by Komorowski, the PO, like the SLD between 2001 and 2005, will control both levers of power. Tusk will overpower Komorowski and could face a simpler route to pass reforms including constitutional reforms strengthening parliament at the expense of the presidency. However, the last time such a 'full control' happened, with the SLD between 2001 and 2005, the results were quite bad for the SLD. The PO should beware of history.

Slovakia



Capital (and largest city)	Bratislava 48°09'N 17°07'E / 48.15°N 17.117°E
Official language(s)	Slovak 85.8% Slovak,
Ethnic groups	9.5% Hungarian, 1.9% Roma, 2.8% other minority groups
Demonym	Slovak
Government	Parliamentary republic
- President	Ivan Gašparovič
- Prime Minister	Robert Fico

- President of National Council Pavol Paška

Independence

- from Austria– Hungary October 28, 1918

- from Czechoslovakia January 1, 1993

EU accession May 1, 2004

Area

- Total 49,035 km² (123)
18,932 sq mi

- Water (%) Negligible

Population

- 2001 census 5,379,455 (109th)

- Density 111/km² (88th)
287/sq Military Intelligence

GDP (PPP) 2009 estimate

- Total \$115.098 billion

- Per capita \$21,245

GDP (nominal) 2009 estimate

- Total \$88.208 billion

- Per capita \$16,281

The **Slovak Republic** is a state in Central Europe^{[3][4]}. It has a population of over five million and an area of about 49,000 square kilometres (19,000 sq mi). Slovakia is a landlocked country bordered by the Czech Republic and Austria to the west, Poland to the north, Ukraine to the east and Hungary to the south. The largest city is its capital, Bratislava. The second largest city is Košice. Slovakia is a member state of the European Union, NATO, United Nations, OECD and WTO among others.

The Slavs arrived in the territory of present day Slovakia in the fifth and sixth centuries during the migration period. In the course of history, various parts of today's Slovakia belonged to Samo's Empire (the first known political unit of Slavs), Principality of Nitra (as independent polity, as part of Great Moravia and as part of Hungarian Kingdom), Great Moravia, Kingdom of Hungary, the Austro-Hungarian Empire or Habsburg Empire, and Czechoslovakia. A separate Slovak state briefly existed during World War II, during which Slovakia was a dependency of Nazi Germany between 1939–1944. From 1945 Slovakia once again became a part of Czechoslovakia. The present-day Slovakia became an independent state on January 1, 1993 after the peaceful dissolution of Czechoslovakia.

Slovakia is a high-income advanced economy with one of the fastest growth rates in the EU and OECD.^[8] The country joined the European Union in 2004 and the Eurozone on January 1, 2009. Slovakia together with Slovenia are the only former Communist nations to be part of the European Union, Eurozone, Schengen Area and NATO simultaneously.

History

Before the fifth century

Radiocarbon dating puts the oldest surviving archaeological artifacts from Slovakia – found near Nové Mesto nad Váhom – at 270,000 BC, in the Early Paleolithic era. These ancient tools, made by the Clactonian technique, bear witness to the ancient habitation of Slovakia.

Other stone tools from the Middle Paleolithic era (200,000 – 80,000 BC) come from the Prévôt cave near Bojnice and from other nearby sites. The most important discovery from that era is a Neanderthal cranium (c. 200,000 BC), discovered near Gánovce, a village in northern Slovakia.

Archaeologists have found prehistoric *Homo sapiens* skeletons in the region, as well as numerous objects and vestiges of the Gravettian culture, principally in the river valleys of Nitra, Hron, Ipeľ, Váh and as far as the city of Žilina, and near the foot of the Vihorlat, Inovec, and Tribeč mountains, as well as in the Myjava Mountains. The most well-known finds include the oldest female statue made of mammoth-bone (22 800 BC), the famous Venus of Moravany. The statue was found in the 1940s in Moravany nad Váhom near Piešťany. Numerous necklaces made of shells from *Cypraca thermophile* gastropods of the Tertiary period have come from the sites of Zákovská, Podkovice, Hubina, and Radošínare. These findings provide the most ancient evidence of commercial exchanges carried out between the Mediterranean and Central Europe.

From around 500 BC, the territory of modern-day Slovakia was settled by Celts, who built powerful oppida on the sites of modern-day Bratislava and Havránok. Biatecs, silver coins with the names of Celtic Kings, represent the first known use of writing in Slovakia. From 2 AD, the expanding Roman Empire established and maintained a series of outposts around and just north of the Danube, the largest of which were known as Carnuntum (whose remains are on the main road halfway between Vienna and Bratislava) and Brigetio (present-day Szöny at the Slovak-Hungarian border).

Near the northernmost line of the Roman hinterlands, the Limes Romanus, there existed the winter camp of Laugaricio(modern-day Trenčín) where the Auxiliary of Legion II fought and prevailed in a decisive battle over the Germanic Quadi tribe in 179 AD during the Marcomannic Wars. The Kingdom of Vannius, a barbarian kingdom founded by the Germanic Suebian tribes of Quadi and Marcomanni, as well as several small Germanic and Celtic tribes, including the Osi and Cotini, existed in Western and Central Slovakia from 8–6 BC to 179 AD.

The Bronze Age in Slovakia went through three stages of development, stretching from 2000 to 800 BC. Major cultural, economic, and political development can be attributed to the significant growth in production of copper, especially in central Slovakia (for example in Špania Dolina) and north-west Slovakia. Copper became a stable source of prosperity for the local population.

After the disappearance of the Čakany and Velatice cultures, the Lusatian people expanded building of strong and complex fortifications, with the large permanent buildings and administrative centers. Excavations of Lusatian hill-forts document the substantial development of trade and agriculture at that period. The richness and the diversity of tombs increased considerably. The inhabitants of the area manufactured arms, shields, jewelry, dishes, and statues.

The arrival of tribes from Thrace disrupted the people of the Calenderberg culture, who lived in the hamlets located on the plain (Sereď), and also in the hill forts located on the summits (Smolenice, Molpí). The local power of the "Princes" of the Hallstatt culture disappeared in Slovakia during the last period of the Iron Age after strife between the Scytho-Thracian people and the Celtic tribes, who advanced from the south towards the north, following the Slovak rivers.

The great invasions of the 4–7th centuries

In the second and third centuries AD the Huns began to leave the Central Asian steppes. They crossed the Danube in 377 AD and occupied Pannonia, which they used for 75 years as their base for launching looting-raids into Western

Europe. However, Attila's death in 453 brought about the disappearance of the Hun tribe. In 568 a proto-Mongol tribe, the Avars, conducted their own invasion into the Middle Danube region. The Avars occupied the lowlands of the Pannonian Plain, established an empire dominating the Carpathian Basin. In 623, the Slavic population living in the western parts of Pannonia seceded from their empire after a revolution led by Samo, a Frankish merchant.^[9] After 626 the Avar power started to gradually decline^[10] but their reign was lasted to 804.

Slavic states

The Slavic tribes settled in the territory of present-day Slovakia in the 5th century. Nowadays western Slovakia was the centre of Samo's empire in the 7th century. A Slavic state known as the Principality of Nitra arose in the 8th century and its ruler Pribina had the first known Christian church of Slovakia consecrated by 828. Together with neighboring Moravia, the principality formed the core of the Great Moravian Empire from 833. The high point of this Slavonic empire came with the arrival of Saints Cyril and Methodius in 863, during the reign of Prince Rastislav, and the territorial expansion under King Svätopluk I.

The era of Great Moravia (830–896)

Central Europe in the 9th century. Eastern Francia in blue, Bulgaria in orange, Great Moravia under Rastislav (870) in green. The green line marks the borders of Great Moravia under Svatopluk I (894). *Please note that some of the borders of Great Moravia are under debate*

Great Moravia arose around 830 when Moimír I unified the Slavic tribes settled north of the Danube and extended the Moravian supremacy over them.^[11] When Mojmír I endeavoured to secede from the supremacy of the king of East Francia in 846, King Louis the German deposed him and assisted Moimír's nephew, Rastislav (846–870) in acquiring the throne. The new monarch pursued an independent policy: after stopping a Frankish attack in 855, he also sought to weaken influence of Frankish priests preaching in his realm. Rastislav asked the

Byzantine Emperor Michael III to send teachers who would interpret Christianity in the Slavic vernacular.

Upon Rastislav's request, two brothers, Byzantine officials and missionaries Saints Cyril and Methodius came in 863. Cyril developed the first Slavic alphabet and translated the Gospel into the Old Church Slavonic language. Rastislav was also preoccupied with the security and administration of his state. Numerous fortified castles built throughout the country are dated to his reign and some of them (*e.g.*, *Dowina*, sometimes identified with Devín Castle) are also mentioned in connection with Rastislav by Frankish chronicles.

During Rastislav's reign, the Principality of Nitra was given to his nephew Svatopluk as an appanage. The rebellious prince allied himself with the Franks and overthrew his uncle in 870. Similarly to his predecessor, Svatopluk I (871–894) assumed the title of the king (*rex*). During his reign, the Great Moravian Empire reached its greatest territorial extent, when not only present-day Moravia and Slovakia but also present-day northern and central Hungary, Lower Austria, Bohemia, Silesia, Lusatia, southern Poland and northern Serbia belonged to the empire, but the exact borders of his domains are still disputed by modern authors.^[11] ^[17] Svatopluk also withstood attacks of the seminomad Magyar tribes and the Bulgarian Empire, although sometimes it was he who hired the Magyars when waging war against East Francia.

In 880, Pope John VIII set up an independent ecclesiastical province in Great Moravia with Archbishop Methodius as its head. He also named the German cleric Wiching the Bishop of Nitra.

After the death of King Svatopluk in 894, his sons Mojmir II (894–906?) and Svatopluk II succeeded him as the King of Great Moravia and the Prince of Nitra respectively.^[14] However, they started to quarrel for domination of the whole empire. Weakened by an internal conflict as well as by constant warfare with Eastern Francia, Great Moravia lost most of its peripheral territories.

In the meantime, the seminomad Magyar tribes, possibly having suffered defeat from the similarly nomadic Pechenegs, left their territories east of the Carpathian Mountains, invaded the Carpathian Basin and started to occupy the territory gradually around 896. Their armies' advance may have been promoted by continuous wars among the countries of the region whose rulers still hired them occasionally to intervene in their struggles.

Both Mojmir II and Svatopluk II probably died in battles with the Magyars between 904 and 907 because their names are not mentioned in written sources after 906. In three battles (July 4–5 and August 9, 907) near Bratislava, the Magyars routed Bavarian armies. Historians traditionally put this year as the date of the breakup of the Great Moravian Empire.

Great Moravia left behind a lasting legacy in Central and Eastern Europe. The Glagolitic script and its successor Cyrillic were disseminated to other Slavic countries, charting a new path in their cultural development. The administrative system of Great Moravia may have influenced the development of the administration of the Kingdom of Hungary.

Kingdom of Hungary (1000–1919)

Following the disintegration of the Great Moravian Empire at the turn of the 10th century, the Hungarians annexed the territory comprising modern Slovakia. At the beginning of the 10th century, the whole area of the present-day Slovakia became part of the rising Principality of Hungary, which was founded 896, and became the part of the Kingdom of Hungary a century later. Thereafter the region became an integral part of the Hungarian state until the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1918. The ethnic composition became more diverse with the arrival of the Carpathian Germans in the 13th century, and in the 14th century the Jews.

A significant decline in the population resulted from the invasion of the Mongols in 1241 and the subsequent famine. However, in medieval times the area of the

present-day Slovakia was characterized rather by burgeoning towns, construction of numerous stone castles, and the cultivation of the arts. In 1465, King Matthias Corvinus founded the Hungarian Kingdom's third university, in Pozsony (Bratislava), but it was closed in 1490 after his death.

Before the Ottoman Empire's expansion into Hungary and the occupation of Buda in 1541, the capital of the Kingdom of Hungary (under the name of Royal Hungary) altered to Pozsony (in Slovak: Prespork at that time, currently Bratislava) which became the capital city of Royal Hungary in 1536. But the Ottoman wars and frequent insurrections against the Habsburg Monarchy also inflicted a great deal of destruction, especially in rural areas. As the Turks withdrew from Hungary in the late 17th century, the importance of the territory comprising modern Slovakia decreased, although Bratislava retained its status as the capital of Hungary until 1848, when it was transferred to Buda.

During the revolution of 1848–49 the Slovaks supported the Austrian Emperor, hoping for independence from the Hungarian part of the Dual Monarchy, but they failed to achieve their aim.^[*citation needed*] Thereafter relations between the nationalities deteriorated (see Magyarization), culminating in the secession of Slovakia from Hungary after World War I.

Interwar Czechoslovakia

In 1918, Slovakia and the regions of Bohemia and Moravia formed a common state, Czechoslovakia, with the borders confirmed by the Treaty of Saint Germain and Treaty of Trianon. In 1919, during the chaos following the breakup of Austria-Hungary, Czechoslovakia was formed with numerous Germans and Hungarians within the newly set borders. A Slovak patriot Milan Rastislav Štefánik (1880–1919), who helped organize Czechoslovak regiments against Austria-Hungary during the First World War, died in a plane crash during the fighting. In the peace following the World War, Czechoslovakia emerged as a sovereign European nation.

During the Interwar period, democratic Czechoslovakia was allied with France, and also with Romania and Yugoslavia (Little Entente); however, the Locarno Treaties of 1925 left East European security open. Both Czechs and Slovaks enjoyed a period of relative prosperity. Not only was there progress in the development of the country's economy, but in culture and in educational opportunities as well. The minority Germans came to accept their role in the new country and relations with Austria were good. Yet the Great Depression caused a sharp economic downturn, followed by political disruption and insecurity in Europe.

Thereafter Czechoslovakia came under continuous pressure from the revisionist governments of Germany and Hungary. Eventually this led to the Munich Agreement of September 1938, which allowed Nazi Germany to partially dismember the country by occupying what was called the Sudetenland, a region with a German-speaking majority and bordering Germany and Austria. The remainder of "rump" Czechoslovakia was renamed Czecho-Slovakia and included a greater degree of Slovak political autonomy. Southern and eastern Slovakia, however, was claimed back by Hungary at the First Vienna Award of November 1938.

World War II

After the Munich Agreement and its Vienna Award, Nazi Germany threatened to annex part of Slovakia and allow the remaining regions to be partitioned by Hungary or Poland unless independence was declared. Thus, Slovakia seceded from Czecho-Slovakia in March 1939 and allying itself, as demanded by Germany, with Hitler's coalition.^[26] The government of the First Slovak Republic, led by Jozef Tiso and Vojtech Tuka, was strongly influenced by Germany and gradually became a puppet regime in many respects.

Most Jews were deported from the country and taken to German labour camps. Thousands of Jews, however, remained to labor in Slovak work camps in Sered,

Vyhne, and Nováky. Tiso, through the granting of presidential exceptions, has been credited with saving as many as 40,000 Jews during the war, although other estimates place the figure closer to 4,000 or even 1,000.^[28] Nevertheless, under Tiso's government, 83% of Slovakia's Jewish population, a total of 75,000 individuals, were murdered.^[29] Tiso became the only European leader to actually pay Nazi authorities to deport his country's Jews.

After it became clear that the Soviet Red Army was going to push the Nazis out of the eastern and central Europe, an anti-Nazi resistance movement launched a fierce armed insurrection, known as the Slovak National Uprising, near the end of summer 1944. A bloody German occupation and a guerilla war followed. Territory of Slovakia was liberated by Soviet and Romanian forces by the end of April 1945.

Rule of the Communist party

After World War II, Czechoslovakia was reconstituted and Jozef Tiso was hanged in 1947 for collaboration with the Nazis. More than 80,000 Hungarians^[32] and 32,000 Germans^[33] were forced to leave Slovakia, in a series of population transfers initiated by the Allies at the Potsdam Conference.^[34] This expulsion is still a source of tension between Slovakia and Hungary.^[35] Out of about 130,000 Carpathian Germans in Slovakia in 1938, by 1947 only some 20,000 remained.

Czechoslovakia came under the influence of the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact after a coup in 1948. The country was occupied by the Warsaw Pact forces (with the exception of Romania) in 1968, ending a period of liberalization under the leadership of Alexander Dubček. In 1969, Czechoslovakia became a federation of the Czech Socialist Republic and the Slovak Socialist Republic.

Establishment of the Slovak Republic

The end of Communist rule in Czechoslovakia in 1989, during the peaceful Velvet Revolution, was followed once again by the country's dissolution, this time

into two successor states. In July 1992 Slovakia, led by Prime Minister Vladimír Mečiar, declared itself a sovereign state, meaning that its laws took precedence over those of the federal government. Throughout the Autumn of 1992, Mečiar and Czech Prime Minister Václav Klaus negotiated the details for disbanding the federation. In November the federal parliament voted to dissolve the country officially on December 31, 1992.

The Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic went their separate ways after January 1, 1993, an event sometimes called the Velvet Divorce.^[citation needed] Slovakia has remained a close partner with the Czech Republic, both countries cooperate with Hungary and Poland in the Visegrád Group. Slovakia became a member of NATO on March 29, 2004 and of the European Union on May 1, 2004. On January 1, 2009, Slovakia adopted the Euro as its national currency.

Politics

Slovakia is a parliamentary democratic republic with a multi-party system. The last parliamentary elections were held on June 17, 2006 and two rounds of presidential elections took place on April 3, 2004 and April 17, 2004.

The Slovak head of state is the president (currently Ivan Gašparovič), elected by direct popular vote for a five-year term. Most executive power lies with the head of government, the prime minister (currently Robert Fico), who is usually the leader of the winning party, but he/she needs to form a majority coalition in the parliament. The prime minister is appointed by the president. The remainder of the cabinet is appointed by the president on the recommendation of the prime minister.

Slovakia's highest legislative body is the 150-seat unicameral National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada Slovenskej republiky*). Delegates are elected for a four-year term on the basis of proportional representation. Slovakia's highest judicial body is the Constitutional Court of Slovakia (*Ústavný súd*), which

rules on constitutional issues. The 13 members of this court are appointed by the president from a slate of candidates nominated by parliament.

Slovakia has been a member state of the European Union and NATO since 2004. As a member of the United Nations (since 1993), Slovakia was, on October 10, 2005, elected to a two-year term on the UN Security Council from 2006 to 2007. Slovakia is also a member of WTO, OECD, OSCE, and other international organizations.

The Constitution of the Slovak Republic was ratified 1 September 1992, and became effective 1 January 1993). It was amended in September 1998 to allow direct election of the president and again in February 2001 due to EU admission requirements. The civil law system is based on Austro-Hungarian codes. The legal code was modified to comply with the obligations of Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and to expunge the Marxist-Leninist legal theory. Slovakia accepts the compulsory International Court of Justice jurisdiction with reservations.

The president is the head of state and the formal head of the executive, though with very limited powers. The president is elected by direct, popular vote, under the two round system, for a five-year term.

Following National Council elections, the leader of the majority party or the leader of the majority coalition is usually appointed prime minister by the president. Cabinet appointed by the president on the recommendation of the prime minister has to receive the majority in the parliament. The government coalition as of July 2006 consists of Smer, SNS and HZDS.

Main office holders

Office	Name	Party	Since	
President	Ivan Gašparovič	Movement for Democracy	15	June 2004

Prime Minister	Iveta Radičová	SDKU-DS	2010
Deputy prime ministers	Dušan Čaplovič	Direction of Democracy HZDS	- Social 4 July 2006 4 July 2006

See also: List of rulers of Slovakia, List of Prime Ministers of Slovakia, and List of Presidents of Slovakia

Regions and districts

As for administrative division, Slovakia is subdivided into 8 *krajov* (singular – *kraj*, usually translated as "region", but actual meaning is "county"), each of which is named after its principal city. Regions have enjoyed a certain degree of autonomy since 2002. Their self-governing bodies are referred to as Self-governing (or autonomous) Regions (sg. *samosprávny kraj*, pl. *samosprávne kraje*) or Upper-Tier Territorial Units (sg. *vyšší územný celok*, pl. *vyššie územné celky*, abbr. VÚC).



Slovak regions

1. Bratislava Region (*Bratislavský kraj*) (capital Bratislava)
2. Trnava Region (*Trnavský kraj*) (capital Trnava)
3. Trenčín Region (*Trenčiansky kraj*) (capital Trenčín)
4. Nitra Region (*Nitriansky kraj*) (capital Nitra)
5. Žilina Region (*Žilinský kraj*) (capital Žilina)
6. Banská Bystrica Region (*Banskobystrický kraj*) (capital Banská Bystrica)
7. Prešov Region (*Prešovský kraj*) (capital Prešov)
8. Košice Region (*Košický kraj*) (capital Košice)

(the word *kraj* can be replaced by *samosprávny kraj* or by *VÚC* in each case)

The "kraje" are subdivided into many *okresy* (sg. *okres*, usually translated as districts). Slovakia currently has 79 districts.

In terms of economics and unemployment rate, the western regions are richer than eastern regions; however the relative difference is no bigger than in most EU countries having regional differences.

Elections in Slovakia

Slovakia elects on national level a head of state - the president - and a legislature. The president is elected for a five year term by the people. The **National Council** (*Narodná rada Slovenskej republiky*) has 150 members, elected for a four year term by proportional representation. Slovakia has a multi-party system, with numerous parties in which no one party often has a chance of gaining power alone, and parties must work with each other to form coalition governments.

2010 Parliamentary election

Ideology	Votes	%	Seats	±		
Direction – Social Democracy		Social democracy	880,111	34.79	62	+12
Slovak Democratic and Christian Union – Democratic Party		Conservatism	390,042	15.42	28	-3
Freedom and Solidarity		Classical	307,287	12.14	22	*

			liberalism				
Christian Democratic Movement			Christian democracy	215,755	8.52	15	+1
Most–Híd ¹			Inter-ethnic cooperation	205,538	8.12	14	*
Slovak National Party			Nationalism	128,490	5.07	9	-11
Party of the Hungarian Coalition			Hungarian minority interest	109,638	4.33	0	-20
People's Party – Movement for a Democratic Slovakia			National conservatism	109,480	4.32	0	-15
Party of the Democratic Left			Social democracy	61,137	2.41	0	*
People's Party – Our Slovakia			Nationalism	33,724	1.33	0	*
Others				88,183	3.49	0	±0
2,529,385		150	—				

2009 Presidential election

Summary of the 21 March and 4 April 2009 Slovak presidential election results

Candidates and nominating parties	1 st round		2 nd round	
	Votes	%	Votes	%
Ivan Gašparovič (Smer, SNS, HZD)	876,061	46.71	1,234,787	55.53
Iveta Radičová (SDKÚ–DS, SMK, KDH, OKS)	713,735	38.05	988,808	44.47
František Mikloško (KDS)	101,573	5.42	—	—
Zuzana Martináková (SF)	96,035	5.12	—	—
Milan Melník (HZDS)	45,985	2.45	—	—
Dagmara Bollová	21,378	1.14	—	—
Milan Sidor (KSS)	20,862	1.11	—	—
Total (turnout 43.63% / 51.67%)	1,875,629	100.00	2,223,595	100.00

Sources: statistics.sk, volbysr.sk

Slovak parliamentary election, 2010

Slovak parliamentary election, 2010

All 150 seats to the Národná rada

12 June 2010

First party



Leader Robert Fico

Party Smer-SD

Last election 50

Seats won 62

Seat change +12

Percentage 34.79%

Second party Third party



Leader Iveta Radičová

Party SDKÚ-DS

Last election 31

Seats won 28

Seat change -3

Percentage 15.42%

Leader Richard Sulík

Party SaS

Last election 0

Seats won 22

Seat change +22

Percentage 12.14%

Fourth party



Leader Ján Figel'

Fifth party



Leader Béla Bugár

Sixth party



Leader Ján Slota

Party	KDH	Most-Híd	SNS
Seats won	15	14	9
Seat change	+1	+14	−11
Percentage	8.52%	8.12%	5.07%

Slovakia

A **parliamentary election** took place in Slovakia on June 12, 2010.^[1] The elections were contested by eighteen parties, six of which passed the 5% threshold for sitting in parliament.^[2]

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Background

A total of 2,401 candidates applied to contest the 150 seats.

Polls in February 2010 had indicated that the current governing party Smer-SD (Direction – Social Democracy) would win a plurality with a margin of 25%. However the five opposition right-wing parties – the Slovak Democratic and Christian Union (SDKÚ-DS), the Christian Democratic Movement (KDH), the Party of the Hungarian Coalition (SMK-MKP), Most–Híd, and Freedom and Solidarity (SaS) – could together gain a majority. There were conflicting reports during the campaign as to whether some of these parties would consider joining

with Fico. Rumours were reported that prime minister Robert Fico might have secretly agreed not to enter a coalition with the Slovak nationalists again, unless he had no other choice. A later poll by of the Czech News Agency suggested that the governing coalition would lose its majority, and that one of Fico's allies (the ultra-nationalist HZDS) would struggle with the 5% barrier.

List of parties

Below is the list of parties participating in 2010 Slovak parliamentary election

1. European Democratic Party
2. Union – Party for Slovakia
3. Party of the Roma Coalition
4. Paliho Kapurková, Cheerful Political Party
5. Freedom and Solidarity
6. Party of the Democratic Left
7. Party of the Hungarian Coalition
8. People's Party – Movement for a Democratic Slovakia
9. Communist Party of Slovakia
10. Slovak National Party
11. New Democracy
12. Union of the Workers of Slovakia
13. Christian Democratic Movement
14. People's Party – Our Slovakia
15. Slovak Democratic and Christian Union – Democratic Party
16. AZEN – Alliance for Europe of the Nations
17. Direction – Social Democracy
18. Most–Híd

Polls

According to research agency Focus, in May 2010, eight parties would cross the 5% border needed for participation in parliament.

Party	January 2010	February 2010	March 2010	April 2010	May 2010	June 2010
Direction – Social Democracy	41.4%	38.6%	38.4%	36.8%	35.3%	29.5%
Slovak National Party	6.2%	6.2%	6.3%	8.6%	6.1%	7.7%
People's Party – Movement for a Democratic Slovakia	6.5%	5.8%	5.4%	5.4%	5.1%	5%
Slovak Democratic and Christian Union – Democratic Party	15.2%	11.3%	14.3%	13.6%	14%	12.1%
Freedom and Solidarity	5.1%	9.6%	8.6%	11.5%	13.3%	12.4%
Christian Democratic Movement	9.0%	9.6%	9.7%	8.6%	8.3%	9.2%
Most–Híd	5.2%	5.6%	6.9%	5.1%	5.6%	6.5%
Party of the Hungarian Coalition	5.6%	5.1%	5.2%	5.1%	5.9%	5.2%

According to a poll of the Institute of public affairs (IVO) the voter participation will be about 50 to 60%.

Results

Ideology	Votes	%	Seats	±		
Direction – Social Democracy		Social democracy	880,111	34.79	62	+12

Slovak Democratic and Christian Union – Democratic Party	Conservatism	390,042	15.42	28	-3
Freedom and Solidarity	Classical liberalism	307,287	12.14	22	*
Christian Democratic Movement	Christian democracy	215,755	8.52	15	+1
Most–Híd	Inter-ethnic cooperation	205,538	8.12	14	*
Slovak National Party	Nationalism	128,490	5.07	9	-11
Party of the Hungarian Coalition	Hungarian minority interest	109,638	4.33	0	-20
People's Party – Movement for a Democratic Slovakia	National conservatism	109,480	4.32	0	-15
Party of the Democratic Left	Democratic socialism	61,137	2.41	0	±0
People's Party – Our Slovakia	Nationalism	33,724	1.33	0	*

Communist Party of Slovakia				Communism	21,104	0.83	0	±0
Union – Party for Slovakia				Conservatism	17,741	0.70	0	*
Paliho Kapurková, Cheerful Political Party				Frivolous political party	14,576	0.57	0	*
European Democratic Party				Pro-Europeanism	10,332	0.40	0	*
New Democracy				National conservatism	7,962	0.31	0	*
Party of the Roma Coalition				Roma minority interest	6,947	0.27	0	*
Union of the Workers of Slovakia				Communism	6,196	0.24	0	±0
AZEN – Alliance for Europe of the Nations				National conservatism	3,325	0.13	0	*
2,529,385	—	150	—					

Incumbent Prime Minister Robert Fico's Direction – Social Democracy (Smer) party increased its seat share by 12 to 62. However, Fico is unlikely to remain

prime minister as his coalition partners in the People's Party – Movement for a Democratic Slovakia lost all 15 of their seats and the Slovak National Party barely passed the 5% vote threshold required for parliamentary representation while losing 11 of their 20 seats. Despite the setback, Fico said that he wanted to try to form a cabinet even though his leftist coalition could only command 71 of the 150 parliament seats and would thus force the need for at least one of the opposing centre-right parties. This has been described as an unlikely, but possible, occurrence, because opposition parties stated during the election that they would not enter government with Fico. One analyst said that he "strictly rule[d] out that any of the centre-right parties could team up with Smer."

The Slovakian President, Ivan Gasparovic, asked Fico to attempt to form a government stating that "I believe that the party that won such support from the people deserves the chance."

The second placed Slovak Democratic and Christian Union – Democratic Party had coalition talks with the Christian Democratic Movement, Freedom and Solidarity and Most–Híd. On 16 June it was reported that the four opposition parties which had won seats in the parliament had agreed to form a government under the leadership of Radičová. Agreement on the distribution of ministries was reached on 28 June 2010.

ELECTIONS ANALAYSIS

Slovakia's 150-seat *Národná rada* or National Council was up for election on June 12. Following the last election in 2006, Smer led by Robert Fico formed a majority coalition government with the right and far-right.

Slovakia became independent on January 1, 1993 after the peaceful divorce with the Czech Republic. Nationalist feelings have always run high in Slovakia, despite their cultural affinities with Moravia. During the Czechoslovakian years, Slovaks felt that they were second-class citizens in a "Prago-centric" government dominated by Bohemia. Furthermore, an Hungarian minority (12%) living along

the Hungarian border has often contributed to nationalist feelings, because Slovaks are wary about Hungary's territorial or political pretensions in Slovakia (Hungary already annexed these ethnic Hungarian areas in 1938). When Slovakia became independent, it became politically dominated by a nationalist and conservative movement led by Vladimír Mečiar and his party, the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS). Mečiar's party won the 1992 and 1994 elections and fell only two seats short of a majority in 1992. Under Mečiar, Slovakia became something of an international pariah and Mečiar was lauded by the west and Washington for his statist economic policies, his authoritarianism and growing corruption in his government. He also entered into open warfare with the President, Michal Kováč, to the point that the opposition alleged that Mečiar had organized for the kidnapping of Kováč's son. Mečiar lost the 1998 elections despite the HZDS coming out in front of the opposition Slovak Democratic Coalition led by Mikuláš Dzurinda. Dzurinda formed a government with the Party of the Hungarian Coalition (MKP) and the Party of the Democratic Left (SDL). From that point on, Mečiar's influence slowly diminished – he lost the 1999 presidential election 57-43. Dzurinda's liberal economic policies as well as his efforts towards Slovakian integration into the OECD (in 2000), the EU and NATO won him much praise from the west and Washington who regarded Slovakia's late liberalization with a positive eye. However, at home, Dzurinda's government suffered allegations of corruption as well as attacks from the left that his policies were hurting poorer Slovaks. Dzurinda's new party, the Slovak Democratic and Christian Union (SDKÚ) and its coalition partners won the 2002 election, though the HZDS remained the largest party while the SDL collapsed to 1.4% to the benefit of Robert Fico's Smer, which quickly gained popularity as the SDL's popularity dwindled through its association with the government, unpopular on the left. Despite the apparent success of Dzurinda's policies, Slovaks felt that the neoliberal reforms were hurting poorer people. Fico's Smer won the 2006 election, winning 29% of the vote and 50 seats against 18.4% and 31 seats for Dzurinda's SDKÚ-DS. The far-right Slovak National Party (SNS), founded in 1990 and led by the loudmouthed controversial

Ján Slota returned to Parliament with an historic 11.7% and 20 seats. Slota's SNS is best known for its extremely inflammatory anti-Hungarian ("the cancer on the Slovakian nation") and anti-Roma ("the best strategy with them is a long whip in a small yard") rhetoric. Fico formed a very controversial government with the SNS and Mečiar's ĽS-HZDS (which won 8.8% and 15 seats). Some have argued that Fico's coalition with the SNS is only an opportunistic move which does not reflect any fascistic desires on Fico's part, but the Smer government thus far has proven that Fico has a penchant for saber-rattling nationalism. Fico's economic policies have been described as populist, and, according to the right, unsustainable. He was also lauded for legislation aimed at curtailing press freedom as well as his nationalist policies which have stirred tensions with Hungary and significantly worsened inter-ethnic relations in Slovakia. The results have also been negative: in terms of corruption rankings, Slovakia fell from rank 49 to rank 56. While his economic policies were at first successful, boosting growth, his insistence on raising social spending during a bad economic crisis has led to a -4.7% growth rate in 2009 and the deficit now represents 6.8% of the GDP. Slovakia's budget deficit may swell to 7.4% of its GDP this year.

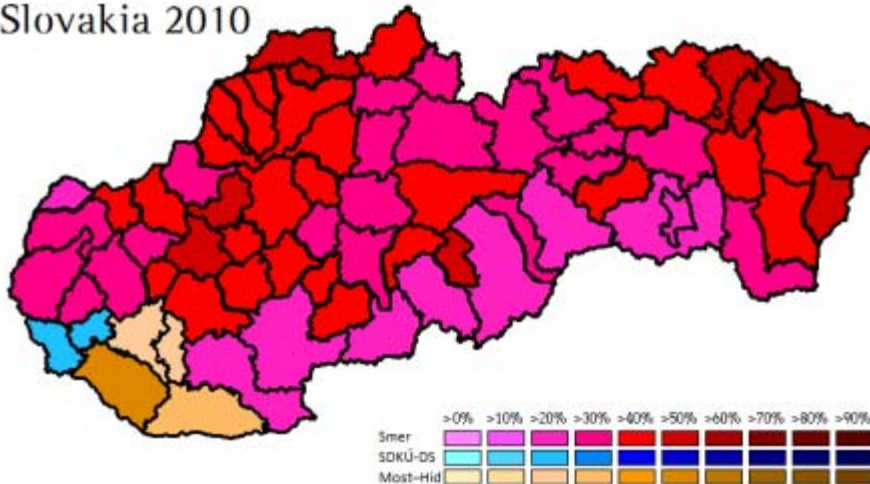
The opposition has had a very hard time throughout Fico's term as his government and party maintained high poll ratings. Dzurinda's leadership was criticized within the SDKÚ-DS, and the party suffered from division as well as Fico's government being more than happy to launch probes into corruption in Dzurinda's government between 1998 and 2006. The MKP has also suffered recently from the creation of a new party, Most-Híd (the Slovakian and Hungarian words for 'bridge') which has criticized the MKP as a narrow-minded and single-issue party while it wishes to appeal to Slovakian voters and build strong inter-ethnic relations. On the positive side, Mečiar's party continued its route down the drain and is now in terminal state. Ján Slota's aggressive rhetoric as well as the general incompetence of SNS ministers has also hurt the SNS, though the SNS managed to win its first MEP in 2009 though on only 5.6% of the vote. Dzurinda recently resigned the leadership of the SDKÚ-DS and was

succeeded by Iveta Radičová, the party's 2009 presidential candidate but a low-key public speaker and authoritarian party figure. Out of this situation, a new and somewhat unusual party has emerged, led by Richard Sulík and named Freedom and Solidarity (SaS). SaS is a neoliberal/libertarian eurosceptic party which is also liberal on social issues – supporting marijuana legalization and same-sex marriage. It has accused Fico of lying on the state of the country's finances. SaS has significantly helped the opposition as it represents the type of “change” which voters want – that is, something that's new and less corrupt than either Smer or SDKÚ-DS. Through an innovative internet and Facebook-based campaign, it has managed to lure young voters as well as Smer voters. Smer has had a harder time in this campaign than originally expected partly as a result of SaS, but also increased public blame laid on Fico for the pitiful state of finances.

Here are the results:

Smer	34.79%	(+5.65%)	winning	62	seats	(+12)
SDKÚ-DS	15.42%	(-2.93%)	winning	28	seats	(-3)
SaS	12.14%	(+12.14%)	winning	22	seats	(+22)
KDH	8.52%	(+0.21%)	winning	15	seats	(+1)
Most–Híd	8.12%	(+8.12%)	winning	14	seats	(+14)
SNS	5.07%	(-6.66%)	winning	9	seats	(-11)
MKP-SMK	4.33%	(-7.35%)	winning	0	seats	(-20)
ĽS-HZDS	4.32%	(-4.47%)	winning	0	seats	(-15)
SDL	2.41%		winning	0	seats	(±0)
<i>turnout 58.53% (+3.86%)</i>						

Slovakia 2010



On a geographical basis, Smer dominates in almost all of Slovakia and most particularly in ethnically Slovakian rural or small town land. Smer's nationalist and populist rhetoric likely does very well in these parts, and has always been the base of either Smer or the L'S-HZDS in the past. Smer is much weaker (20% wins) along the Hungarian border, which has large concentrations of Hungarians. Unsurprisingly, SDKÚ-DS did best in Bratislava and its suburbs, wealthier and more liberal. Bratislava was also the SaS's best result, with around 18%. While the old MKP-SMK polled only 1% or so in Bratislava, Most-Híd did poll around 12% or so in Bratislava, maybe an encouraging sign for inter-ethnic relations and an inter-ethnic party in Slovakia. Outside of Bratislava and the Hungarian areas, Most-Híd did predictably poorly.

The incumbent Smer-SNS government (L'S-HZDS is out) has only 71 seats out of 76 required for government. A 'right-wing' government comprised of SDKÚ-DS, SaS, KDH and Most-Híd has 79 seats, and given SaS leader Richard Sulik's statement that his party would consider any option to unseat Fico, it seems likely that a centre-right government, likely led by Iveta Radičová will emerge from this election. The SDKÚ-DS campaigned on a platform to cut spending and to reduce to debt against Fico's plan to increase social spending while not increasing taxes (while still promising to cut the budgetary deficit...).

Some people who like pointing out international electoral trends often know less than they actually know, but it is interesting to note (while not necessarily attempting to infer trends) that the last three European ballots (or four, if you include the UK) – Czech Republic, Netherlands and now Slovakia have been won by coalitions of or individual centre-right parties which aim to cut spending in order to cut the budgetary deficit. That being said, the PS' likely big win in Wallonia on a platform of being “the best shield against the crisis” (aka, we won't cut social spending) could contradict that.