

Country Background Notes

INDONESIA:



FLAG OF INDONESIA: Two equal horizontal bands of red (top) and white; similar to the flag of Monaco, which is shorter; also similar to the flag of Poland, which is white (top) and red.

BACKGROUND: The Dutch began to colonize Indonesia in the early 17th century; the islands were occupied by Japan from 1942 to 1945. Indonesia declared its independence after Japan's surrender, but it required four years of intermittent negotiations, recurring hostilities, and UN mediation before the Netherlands agreed to relinquish its colony. Indonesia is the world's largest archipelagic state. Current issues include: alleviating widespread poverty, preventing terrorism, continuing the transition to popularly-elected governments after four decades of authoritarianism, implementing reforms of the banking sector, addressing charges of cronyism and corruption, holding the military and police accountable for human rights violations, and resolving armed separatist movements in Aceh and Papua.

GEOGRAPHY: Area: 1,919,440 sq km

Capital: Jakarta

Terrain: Mostly coastal lowlands; larger islands have interior mountains.

Climate: Tropical; hot, humid; more moderate in highlands.

PEOPLE: Nationality: *noun*: Indonesian(s), *adjective*: Indonesian

Population: 238,452,952 (July 2004 est.)

Religions: Muslim 88%, Protestant 5%, Roman Catholic 3%, Hindu 2%, Buddhist 1%, other 1% (1998).

Language: Bahasa Indonesia (official, modified form of Malay), English, Dutch, local dialects, the most widely spoken of which is Javanese
Literacy: 87.9%.

Health: Infant mortality rate: 36.82 deaths/1,000 live births. Life expectancy: 69.26 years.

Work force: Agriculture 45%, industry 16%, services 39% (1999 est.).

Ethnic groups: Javanese 45%, Sundanese 14%, Madurese 7.5%, coastal Malays 7.5%, other 26%.

GOVERNMENT: Type: Republic

Independence: 17 August 1945 (independence proclaimed); 27 December 1949 (Netherlands recognizes Indonesian independence).

Constitution: August 1945, abrogated by Federal Constitution of 1949 and Provisional Constitution of 1950, restored 5 July 1959.

ECONOMY: Currency: Indonesian rupiah (IDR).

Per capita income: \$3,200 (2003 est.).

Trade: Oil and gas, electrical appliances, plywood, textiles, rubber.

AGRICULTURE: Rice, cassava (tapioca), peanuts, rubber, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, copra, poultry, beef, pork, eggs.