



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

Belgium, officially titled the Kingdom of Belgium, is a federal monarchy in Western Europe. Balancing the cultural boundary between Germanic and Latin Europe, Belgium is home to several linguistic groups, with most of its citizens speaking Dutch, French, and German. Covering an area of about 30,538 square kilometers, the Kingdom of Belgium has a population of approximately 11 million people. Belgium is surrounded by the Netherlands, France, Luxembourg, and Germany, and ultimately declared their independence from the Netherlands in 1830 with the Belgian Revolution. Occupied by Germany during World Wars I and II, Belgium has experienced a significant economic boom during the past 50 years to become a model for Western European liberal democracy. However, there is a growing divide between the Dutch-speaking north and the French-speaking south.

Physical Geography

Official name: Kingdom of Belgium

Region: Europe

Size in Square Kilometer: 9,833,517 sq km

Bordering Countries: France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands

Physical Features: Belgium is shared between the Atlantic European and Central European provinces of the Circumboreal Region within the Boreal Kingdom. According to the World Wide Fund for Nature, the territory of Belgium belongs to the ecoregion of Atlantic mixed forests.

Climate: maritime temperate, with significant precipitation in all seasons

Cultural Geography

Population : 11,323,973 (July 2015 est.)

Ethnic groups: Flemish (speaking Dutch) 58%, Walloon (French, German) 31%, mixed or other 11%

Official language: Dutch, French and German

Capital: Brussels

Other Major cities: **Antwerp, Ghent, Charleroi**

Average Quality of Life : **Very high**

Political Geography

Founded: **4 October 1830**

Type of government : **federal parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy**

Country's leaders:

Prime minister: **Charles Michel**

King: **Philippe**

Country's military: **30,174 Active Personnel**

Allies: **European Union and NATO members**

Enemies: **ISIS countries**

Economic Geography

Gross domestic product (GDP): **\$494.1 billion (2015 est.)**

Natural resources: **limestone, cement, silica sand and dolomite, zinc, copper and minor metals, cobalt, tin, cadmium, tellurium, selenium and germanium.**

Currency: **Euro**

Major Imports and Exports:

Exports: **machinery and equipment, chemicals, finished diamonds, metals and metal products, foodstuffs**

Imports: **raw materials, machinery and equipment, chemicals, raw diamonds, pharmaceuticals, foodstuffs, transport equipment, oil products**

Biggest Trading Partners:

Export: **Germany 19.1%, France 16.2%, Netherlands 13.3%, United Kingdom 7.2%, United States 5.2%, Italy 4.8%**

Imports: **Netherlands 21.8%, Germany 13.9%, France 10.4%, United Kingdom 6.2%, China 5.6%, Ireland 4.8% (2013 est.)**

