

URUGUAY



Description: nine horizontal white and blue stripes with white square in the upper left corner and a yellow sun with a human-type face, which is known as the Sun of May with 16 rays that are triangular and curvy.

NAME: La República Oriental del Uruguay (Eastern Republic of the Uruguay)

POPULATION: 3,500,000 (2008); 3,300,000 (2014)

CAPITAL: Montevideo (1,500,000)

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Spanish

GOVERNMENT: Democratic constitutional republic

ETHNIC GROUPS: white 88%, mestizo 8%, black 4%, Amerindian (none)

LIFE EXPECTANCY: men, 72; women, 79

LITERACY: 98%

MONEY: Uruguayan Peso (UYU) (24.0 = 1 \$USD)

INDUSTRIES: Cattle, rice, leather, wool, fish, dairy products

INTERNET CODE: .uy

HISTORY:

1000-1500	Charrúas Indians
1516	First Spanish explorers arrive in Charrúa (present-day Uruguayan) territory
1527	Sebastián Gaboto constructed first Spanish fortification on the eastern bank of the Río de la Plata near the Paraná River.
1574	Juan Ortiz de Zárate founded the first Spanish town near present-day Dolores.
1624	Jesuit missionaries founded a mission reservation on the Río Negro near the Río Uruguay. It was called Santo Domingo Soriano. Uruguay was called the Banda Oriental (eastern shore)
1726	Montevideo was founded (etymology uncertain)

1749	Spain sends first governor to Uruguay.
1806 – 1807	England invades Montevideo (and Buenos Aires), but England was repulsed.
1811	By the Grito de Asencio the war for independence from Spain began. José Gervasio Artigas is the hero of Uruguayan independence.
1821	The Provincia Oriental del Río de la Plata, or Banda Oriental, was annexed by Brazil.
1825	Independent Argentinians invade Brazil's new province, expel the Brazilians, and Uruguay joins Argentina as the Provincias Unidas del Río de la Plata (nowadays, Argentina).
1830	First Uruguayan constitution, even though Brazil still occupies mucho of the country.
1830 – 1852	Conflicts between Argentinian and Brazilian factions and incursions in Uruguayan territory.
1876	Uruguay begins to modernize
1877	Modern education law promulgated
1931 – 1937	Dictatorial president rules: Gabriel Terra
1973 – 1985	Guerra sucia by military dictatorship against leftist rebels including the Tupamaros.
1985	Uruguay returns to civilian democracy under president Julio María Sanguinetti
1985 – 2007	Free democratic elections
2004	Tabaré Vázquez elected president for the left-leaning political party: Encuentro Progresista-Frente Amplio-Nueva Mayoría (first time in 174 years that the Partido Colorado—origins in Argentina—does not dominate Uruguayan politics).
2010	José (Pepe) Mujica Cordano elected president of the Frente Amplio (Broad Front) political party (coalition of a number of parties)

MAJOR INTELLECTUALS:

- Poetry: Julio Herrera y Reissig (1875 – 1910): second Modernist generation of poets
- Prose fiction and essay: Teresa Porzecanski (b. 1945). She is a Jewish (Ashkenazi and Sephardic) Uruguayan writer and anthropologist whose works focus on Jewish themes about life in Uruguay—especially Montevideo—but with roots in Middle Eastern Jewish myths, legends, and customs. Her writing is especially lucid regarding women's eroticism, food and food preparation. Her works have been translated into a number of languages. Highly recommended is her novel *Perfumes de Cartago* (1994). She is a professor at the Catholic University of Uruguay.
- Essay: José Enrique Rodó (1872 – 1917): Modernist essayist, *Ariel* (1900).