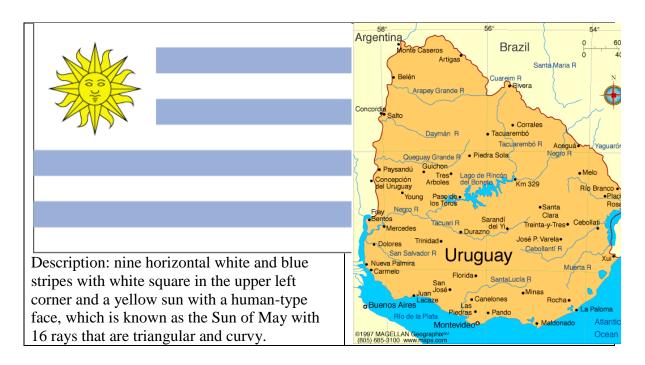
URUGUAY



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 f 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).