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	TITLE : 38		
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WRITTEN BY		August 10, 2024	

<b>REVISION HISTORY</b>
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NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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# Chapter 1

## 38

### 1.1 38.guide

Texified version of data for Bulgaria.

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Bulgaria

### 1.2 38.guide/Bulgaria

Bulgaria  
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Geography (Bulgaria)  
 People (Bulgaria)  
 Government (Bulgaria)  
 Government (Bulgaria 2. usage)  
 Economy (Bulgaria)  
 Economy (Bulgaria 2. usage)  
 Communications (Bulgaria)  
 Defense Forces (Bulgaria)

### 1.3 38.guide/Geography (Bulgaria)

Geography (Bulgaria)

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Location:

Southeastern Europe, bordering the Black Sea, between Romania and Turkey

Map references:

Africa, Arctic Region, Ethnic Groups in Eastern Europe, Europe, Middle East ←

,

Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

110,910 km<sup>2</sup>

land area:

110,550 km<sup>2</sup>

comparative area:

slightly larger than Tennessee

Land boundaries:

total 1,808 km, Greece 494 km, Macedonia 148 km, Romania 608 km, Serbia and Montenegro 318 km (all with Serbia), Turkey 240 km

Coastline:

354 km

Maritime claims:

contiguous zone:

24 nm

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

Macedonia question with Greece and Macedonia

Climate:

temperate; cold, damp winters; hot, dry summers

Terrain:

mostly mountains with lowlands in north and south

Natural resources:

bauxite, copper, lead, zinc, coal, timber, arable land

Land use:

arable land:

34%

permanent crops:

3%  
 meadows and pastures:  
 18%  
 forest and woodland:  
 35%  
 other:  
 10%  
 Irrigated land:  
 10 km2 (1989 est.)  
 Environment:  
 subject to earthquakes, landslides; deforestation; air pollution  
 Note:  
 strategic location near Turkish Straits; controls key land routes from  
 Europe to Middle East and Asia

## 1.4 38.guide/People (Bulgaria)

People (Bulgaria)

=====

Population:  
 8,831,168 (July 1993 est.)  
 Population growth rate:  
 -0.39% (1993 est.)  
 Birth rate:  
 11.69 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Death rate:  
 11.54 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Net migration rate:  
 -4.05 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Infant mortality rate:  
 12.6 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)  
 Life expectancy at birth:  
 total population:  
 72.82 years  
 male:  
 69.55 years  
 female:  
 76.26 years (1993 est.)  
 Total fertility rate:  
 1.71 children born/woman (1993 est.)  
 Nationality:  
 noun:  
 Bulgarian(s)  
 adjective:  
 Bulgarian  
 Ethnic divisions:  
 Bulgarian 85.3%, Turk 8.5%, Gypsy 2.6%, Macedonian 2.5%, Armenian 0.3%,  
 Russian 0.2%, other 0.6%  
 Religions:  
 Bulgarian Orthodox 85%, Muslim 13%, Jewish 0.8%, Roman Catholic 0.5%, ↵  
 Uniate  
 Catholic 0.2%, Protestant, Gregorian-Armenian, and other 0.5%

**Languages:**

Bulgarian; secondary languages closely correspond to ethnic breakdown

**Literacy:**

age 15 and over can read and write (1970)

total population:

93%

male:

NA%

female:

NA%

**Labor force:**

4.3 million by occupation:

industry 33%, agriculture 20%, other 47% (1987)

## 1.5 38.guide/Government (Bulgaria)

### Government (Bulgaria)

=====

**Names:**

conventional long form:

Republic of Bulgaria

conventional short form:

Bulgaria

**Digraph:**

BU

**Type:**

emerging democracy

**Capital:**

Sofia

**Administrative divisions:**

9 provinces (oblasti, singular - oblast); Burgas, Grad Sofiya, Khaskovo, Lovech, Mikhaylovgrad, Plovdiv, Razgrad, Sofiya, Varna

**Independence:**

22 September 1908 (from Ottoman Empire)

**Constitution:**

adopted 12 July 1991

**Legal system:**

based on civil law system, with Soviet law influence; has accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

**National holiday:**

3 March (1878)

**Political parties and leaders:**

Union of Democratic Forces (UDF), Filip DIMITROV, chairman, an alliance of approximately 20 pro-Democratic parties including United Democratic Center, Democratic Party, Radical Democratic Party, Christian Democratic Union, Alternative Social Liberal Party, Republican Party, Civic Initiative Movement, Union of the Repressed, and about a dozen other groups; Movement for Rights and Freedoms (ethnic Turkish party) (MRF), Ahmed DOGAN, chairman ↵  
;

Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP), Zhan VIDENOV, chairman

**Other political or pressure groups:**

Ecoglasnost; Podkrepa (Support) Labor Confederation; Fatherland Union;

Bulgarian Democratic Youth (formerly Communist Youth Union); Confederation of Independent Trade Unions of Bulgaria (KNSB); Nationwide Committee for Defense of National Interests; Peasant Youth League; Bulgarian Agrarian National Union – United (BZNS); Bulgarian Democratic Center; "Nikola Petkov ←  
"

Bulgarian Agrarian National Union; Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization – Union of Macedonian Societies (IMRO-UMS); numerous regional, ethnic, and national interest groups with various agendas

Suffrage:  
18 years of age; universal and compulsory

Elections:  
President:  
last held January 1992; results – Zhelyu ZHELEV was elected by popular vote

National Assembly:  
last held 13 October 1991; results – UDF 34%, BSP 33%, MRF 7.5%; seats – (240 total) UDF 110, BSP 106, Movement for Rights and Freedoms 24

Executive branch: president, chairman of the Council of Ministers (prime ←  
minister), three  
deputy chairmen of the Council of Ministers, Council of Ministers

Legislative branch:  
unicameral National Assembly (Narodno Sobranie)

Judicial branch:  
Supreme Court, Constitutional Court

Leaders:  
Chief of State:  
President Zhelyu Mitev ZHELEV (since 1 August 1990); Vice President Blaga Nikolova DIMITROVA (since NA)

## 1.6 38.guide/Government (Bulgaria 2. usage)

Government (Bulgaria 2. usage)

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Head of Government:  
Chairman of the Council of Ministers (Prime Minister) Lyuben Borisov BEROV (since 30 December 1992); Deputy Chairmen of the Council of Ministers (Deputy Prime Ministers) Valentin KARABASHEV, Neycho NEEV, and Evgeniy MATINCHEV (since 30 December 1992)

Member of:  
BIS, BSEC, CCC, CE, CSCE, EBRD, ECE, FAO, G-9, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU, IFC ←  
,  
ILO, IMF, IMO, INMARSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, IOM (observer), ISO, ITU, LORCS, NACC, NAM (guest), NSG, PCA, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNTAC, UPU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, ZC

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Flag:

three equal horizontal bands of white (top), green, and red; the national emblem formerly on the hoist side of the white stripe has been removed - it contained a rampant lion within a wreath of wheat ears below a red five-pointed star and above a ribbon bearing the dates 681 (first Bulgarian state established) and 1944 (liberation from Nazi control)

## 1.7 38.guide/Economy (Bulgaria)

Economy (Bulgaria)

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Overview:

Growth in the lackluster Bulgarian economy fell to the 2% annual level in the 1980s. By 1990, Sofia's foreign debt had skyrocketed to over \$10 billion

- giving a debt-service ratio of more than 40% of hard currency earnings and

leading the regime to declare a moratorium on its hard currency payments.

The post-Communist government faces major problems of renovating an aging industrial plant; keeping abreast of rapidly unfolding technological developments; investing in additional energy capacity (the portion of electric power from nuclear energy reached over one-third in 1990); and motivating workers, in part by giving them a share in the earnings of their enterprises. Political bickering in Sofia and the collapse of the DIMITROV government in October 1992 have slowed the economic reform process. New Prime Minister BEROV, however, has pledged to continue the reforms initiated

by the previous government. He has promised to continue cooperation with the

World Bank and IMF, advance negotiations on rescheduling commercial debt, and push ahead with privatization. BEROV's government - whose main parliamentary supporters are the former Communist Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP) - nonetheless appears likely to pursue more interventionist tactics in

overcoming the country's economic problems.

National product:

GDP - purchasing power equivalent - \$34.1 billion (1992)

National product real growth rate:

-7.7% (1992)

National product per capita:

\$3,800 (1992)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

80% (1992)

Unemployment rate:

15% (1992)

Budget:

revenues \$8 billion; expenditures \$5 billion, including capital expenditures of \$NA (1991 est.) ←

Exports:

\$3.5 billion (f.o.b., 1991)

commodities:

machinery and equipment 30.6%; agricultural products 24%; manufactured consumer goods 22.2%; fuels, minerals, raw materials, and metals 10.5%; other 12.7% (1991)

partners:

former CEMA countries 57.7% (USSR 48.6%, Poland 2.1%, Czechoslovakia 0.9%); developed countries 26.3% (Germany 4.8%, Greece 2.2%); less developed countries 15.9% (Libya 2.1%, Iran 0.7%) (1991)

Imports:

\$2.8 billion (f.o.b., 1991)

commodities:

fuels, minerals, and raw materials 58.7%; machinery and equipment 15.8%; manufactured consumer goods 4.4%; agricultural products 15.2%; other 5.9%

partners:

former CEMA countries 51.0% (former USSR 43.2%, Poland 3.7%); developed countries 32.8% (Germany 7.0%, Austria 4.7%); less developed countries 16.2% (Iran 2.8%, Libya 2.5%) ←

External debt:

\$12 billion (1991)

Industrial production:

growth rate -21% (1992 est.); accounts for about 37% of GDP (1990)

Electricity: 11,500,000 kW capacity; 45,000 million kWh produced, 5,070 kWh per capita (1992) ←

## 1.8 38.guide/Economy (Bulgaria 2. usage)

Economy (Bulgaria 2. usage)

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Industries:

machine building and metal working, food processing, chemicals, textiles, building materials, ferrous and nonferrous metals

Agriculture:

accounts for 22% of GDP (1990); climate and soil conditions support livestock raising and the growing of various grain crops, oilseeds, vegetables, fruits, and tobacco; more than one-third of the arable land devoted to grain; world's fourth-largest tobacco exporter; surplus food producer

Illicit drugs:

transshipment point for southwest Asian heroin transiting the Balkan route

Economic aid:

donor - \$1.6 billion in bilateral aid to non-Communist less developed countries (1956-89)

Currency:  
1 lev (Lv) = 100 stotinki

Exchange rates:  
leva (Lv) per US\$1 - 24.56 (January 1993), 17.18 (January 1992), 16.13 ( ←  
March  
1991), 0.7446 (November 1990), 0.84 (1989), 0.82 (1988), 0.90 (1987); note ←  
-  
floating exchange rate since February 1991

Fiscal year:  
calendar year

## 1.9 38.guide/Communications (Bulgaria)

### Communications (Bulgaria)

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Railroads:  
4,300 km total, all government owned (1987); 4,055 km 1.435-meter standard gauge, 245 km narrow gauge; 917 km double track; 2,640 km electrified

Highways:  
36,908 km total; 33,535 km hard surface (including 242 km superhighways); 3,373 km earth roads (1987)

Inland waterways:  
470 km (1987)

Pipelines:  
crude oil 193 km; petroleum products 525 km; natural gas 1,400 km (1992)

Ports:  
coastal - Burgas, Varna, Varna West; inland - Ruse, Vidin, and Lom on the Danube

Merchant marine:  
112 ships (1,000 GRT and over) totaling 1,262,320 GRT/1,887,729 DWT; includes 2 short-sea passenger, 30 cargo, 2 container, 1 passenger-cargo training, 6 roll-on/roll-off, 15 oil tanker, 4 chemical carrier, 2 railcar carrier, 50 bulk; Bulgaria owns 1 ship (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 8,717 DWT operating under Liberian registry

Airports:  
total:  
380 usable:  
380  
with permanent-surface runways:  
120  
with runways over 3659 m:  
0  
with runways 2,440-3,659 m:  
20  
with runways 1,220-2,439 m:  
20

Telecommunications:  
extensive but antiquated transmission system of coaxial cable and microwave radio relay; 2.6 million telephones; direct dialing to 36 countries; phone density is 29 phones per 100 persons (1992); almost two-thirds of the lines

are residential; 67% of Sofia households have phones (November 1988); telephone service is available in most villages; broadcast stations - 20 AM ↔  
,  
15 FM, and 29 TV, with 1 Soviet TV repeater in Sofia; 2.1 million TV sets (1990); 92% of country receives No. 1 television program (May 1990); 1 satellite ground station using Intersputnik; INTELSAT is used through a Greek earth station

## 1.10 38.guide/Defense Forces (Bulgaria)

Defense Forces (Bulgaria)

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Branches:

Army, Navy, Air and Air Defense Forces, Frontier Troops, Internal Troops

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 2,178,136; fit for military service 1,819,901; reach military age (19) annually 69,495 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

5.77 billion leva, NA% of GDP (1993 est.); note - conversion of defense expenditures into US dollars using the current exchange rate could produce misleading results