

International Bulldawg Newsletter

July 2007

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Happy Independence Day from the Center!



United States of America

The United States of America is a country of the Western Hemisphere, comprising fifty states and several territories. Forty-eight contiguous states lie in central North America between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, bounded on land by Canada to the north and Mexico to the south; Alaska is in the northwest of the continent with Canada to its east, and Hawaii is in the mid-Pacific. The United States is a federal constitutional republic with Washington DC its federal capital. At over 3.7 million square miles and with over 300 million people, the United States is the third or fourth largest country by total area and third largest by population. With a gross domestic product (GDP) of over \$13 trillion, the U.S. has the largest national economy in the world. GDP per capita ranks the U.S. first among large economies. American society is the product of large-scale immigration and is home to a complex social structure as well as a wide array of household arrangements. The U.S. is one of the world's most ethnically and socially diverse nations. The nation was founded by thirteen colonies declaring their independence from Great Britain on July 4, 1776 as the new nation, the "United States of America." It adopted the current constitution (which has been amended several times subsequently) on September 17, 1787. The country greatly expanded in territory throughout the 19th century, acquiring further territory from Great Britain, as well as lands from France, Mexico, Spain, and Russia. With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, it became the world's sole remaining superpower, and is a declared nuclear weapons state. The United States continues to exert dominant economic, political, cultural and military influence around the globe. (Wikipedia)



Belgium

The Kingdom of Belgium is a country in northwest Europe bordered by the Netherlands, Germany, Luxembourg and France and is one of the founding and core members of the European Union. Belgium has a population of over ten million people, in an area of around 30,000 square kilometres (11,700 square miles). Straddling the cultural boundary between Germanic and Romance Europe, Belgium is linguistically divided. Belgium derives its name from the Latin name of the northernmost part of Gaul, Gallia Belgica, named after a group of mostly Celtic tribes, Belgae. Historically, Belgium has been a part of the Low Countries, which also include the Netherlands and Luxembourg and used to cover a somewhat larger region than the current Benelux group of states. From the end of the Middle Ages until the seventeenth century, it was a prosperous center of commerce and culture. From the sixteenth century until the Belgian revolution in 1830, the area at that time called the Southern Netherlands, was the site of many battles between the European powers, and has been dubbed "the battlefield of Europe" or "the cockpit of Europe". More recently, Belgium was a founding member of the European Union, hosting its headquarters, as well as those of many other major international organizations, such as NATO. (Wikipedia)



Canada

Canada Day marks the creation of Canada as a dominion through the British North America Act on July 1, 1867, uniting three British colonies—the provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Canada. The three colonies united to form one country divided into four provinces. (More details in August Newsletter this is an amendment)



Maldives

Maldives is an island nation consisting of a group of atolls in the Indian Ocean. The name "Maldives" derives from Maale Dhivehi Raajje ("The Island Kingdom [under the authority of] Male"). A few scholars like to believe that the name "Maldives" derives from the Sanskrit maladvipa, meaning "garland of islands", or from mahila dvipa, meaning "island of women", but these names are not found in ancient Sanskrit literature. Instead, classical Sanskrit texts mention the "Hundred Thousand Islands" (Lakshadweep); a generic name which would include not only the Maldives, but also the Laccadives and the Chagos island groups. Some medieval Arab travelers such as Ibn Batuta called the islands "Mahal Dibiyat" from the Arabic word Mahal ("palace"). This is the name presently inscribed in the scroll of the Maldivian state emblem. Following the introduction of Islam in 1153, the islands later became a Portuguese (1558), Dutch (1654), and British (1887) colonial possession. In 1965, Maldives obtained independence from Britain and in 1968 the Sultanate was replaced by a

Special Days for the Month

July 2007						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- July 1 Burundi Independence Day
- July 1 Canadian Independence Day (Canada Day)
- July 1 Rwanda Independence Day
- July 3 Belarus Independence Day
- July 4 United States Independence Day
- July 5 Algeria Independence Day
- July 5 Cape Verde Islands Independence Day
- July 5 Venezuela Independence Day
- July 6 Malawi Independence Day
- July 9 Argentina Independence Day
- July 10 Bahamas Independence Day
- July 12 São Tomé and Príncipe Independence Day
- July 17 Slovakia Independence Day
- July 21 Belgium Independence Day
- July 21 Fulbright Scholars arrival on campus
- July 26 Liberia Independence Day
- July 26 Maldives Independence Day



Liberia

Liberia, officially the Republic of Liberia, is a country on the West Coast of Africa, bordered by Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Côte d'Ivoire. Liberia, which means "Land of the Free," was founded as an independent nation by the American Colonization Society, with support of the American government, for free-born and formerly enslaved African Americans. Recently it has witnessed two civil wars, the First Liberian Civil War (1989–1996), and the Second Liberian Civil War (1999–2003), that have displaced hundreds of thousands and destroyed its economy. (Wikipedia)

Republic. However, in thirty-eight years, the Maldives has seen only two Presidents. It is also the smallest predominantly Muslim nation in the world. (Wikipedia)



Burundi

Burundi is a small country in the Great Lakes region of Africa. It is bordered by Rwanda on the north, Tanzania on the south and east, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the west. Although the country is landlocked, much of its western border is adjacent to Lake Tanganyika. The country's modern name is derived from its Bantu language, Kirundi. French though is also an official language. Geographically isolated, facing population pressures and having sparse resources, Burundi is one of the poorest and most conflict-ridden countries in Africa and in the world. Its small size belies the magnitude of the problems it faces in reconciling the claims of the Tutsi minority with the Hutu majority. (Wikipedia)



Rwanda

Rwanda is a small landlocked country in the Great Lakes region of east central Africa, with a population of approximately 9 million. It is bordered by Uganda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Tanzania. Its fertile and hilly terrain, which gives it the title "Land of a Thousand Hills," supports the densest populations in continental Africa. The country is well known to the outside world for the infamous 1994 Rwandan genocide that resulted in the deaths of up to 800,000 people. Dependence on subsistence agriculture, high (and increasing) population density, decreasing soil fertility and uncertain climate make Rwanda a country where chronic malnutrition is widespread and poverty endemic. (Wikipedia)



Belarus

Belarus is a landlocked country in Eastern Europe, bordering Russia to the east, Ukraine to the south, Poland to the west, and Lithuania and Latvia to the north. Its capital is Minsk and other major cities include Brest, Grodno, Gomel, Mogilev and Vitebsk. One third of the country is forested, and industries such as agriculture and manufacturing are staples of the Belarusian economy. Belarus is one of the countries that was affected by nuclear radiation from the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident from the neighboring Ukraine. At different points in its history, parts of Belarus have been under the control of several countries, including the Duchy of Polatsk, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, and the Russian Empire. Belarus became a Soviet republic in 1922. The republic declared its sovereignty on 27 July 1990. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Belarus officially declared independence on 25 August 1991. Since 1994, Alexander Lukashenko has been the country's president. During his rule, Lukashenko used Soviet-era policies, despite objections from Western powers. Belarus is currently in negotiations with Russia to unify into a single state: the Union of Russia and Belarus. (Wikipedia)



Venezuela

Venezuela, known since 1999 as the Bolivian Republic of Venezuela, is a petroleum-rich country on the northern coast of South America. Beginning in the 1970s, the oil wealth's penetration throughout society grew increasingly limited. Falling within the tropics, Venezuela sits close to the Equator, in the Northern Hemisphere. A former Spanish colony, Venezuela is a federal republic. Historically, Venezuela has had territorial disputes with Guyana, largely concerning the Essequibo area, and with Colombia concerning the Gulf of Venezuela. Today, Venezuela is known widely for its petroleum industry, the environmental diversity of its territory, and its natural features. Venezuela is among the most urbanized countries in Latin America; the vast majority of Venezuelans live in the cities of the north, especially in the largest metropolis, Caracas. Other major cities include Maracaibo, Barquisimeto, Valencia, Maracay, and Ciudad Guayana. Although living standards are generally rising, Venezuela continues to battle high levels of poverty and environmental degradation. A pluralistic, multi-lingual, and multi-ethnic nation, Venezuela is also home to a diversity of wildlife in a variety of protected habitats. (Wikipedia)



Bahamas

The Commonwealth of the Bahamas is an English-speaking nation consisting of seven hundred islands that form an archipelago. It is located in the Atlantic Ocean, east of Florida and the United States, north of Cuba and the Caribbean and northwest of the British dependency of the Turks and Caicos Islands. (Wikipedia)

Events and Announcements

July 21 – August 11: Fulbright Scholars Preacademic training



Algeria

Algeria is the second largest country on the African continent. It is bordered by Tunisia in the northeast, Libya in the east, Niger in the southeast, Mali and Mauritania in the southwest, and Morocco as well as a few kilometers of the Western Sahara, in the west. Constitutionally, Algeria is defined as an Islamic, Arab, and Amazigh (Berber) country. Algeria is a member of the African Union; it is also a member of OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries). (Wikipedia)



Malawi

The Republic of Malawi is a democratic, densely populated country located in southeastern Africa. It has Zambia to the northwest, Tanzania to the north, and Mozambique surrounding it on the east, south, and west. The origin of the name Malawi remains unclear; it is held to be either derived from that of southern tribes, or noting the "glitter of the sun rising across the lake" (as seen in its flag). (Wikipedia)



Argentina

Argentina, officially the Argentine Republic is a South American country, second in size in the continent to Brazil and eighth in the world. Argentina occupies a continental surface area of 2,766,890 km² (1,078,000 sq mi) between the Andes mountain range in the west and the southern Atlantic Ocean in the east and south. It is bordered by Paraguay and Bolivia in the north, Brazil and Uruguay in the northeast, and Chile in the west and south. The country claims the British controlled territories of the Falkland Islands and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. Under the name of Argentine Antarctica, it claims 969,464 km² (374,312 sq mi) of Antarctica, overlapping other claims made by Chile and the United Kingdom. (Wikipedia)



São Tomé and Príncipe

São Tomé and Príncipe is an island nation in the Gulf of Guinea, off the western equatorial coast of Africa. It consists of two islands: São Tomé and Príncipe, located about 140 km apart and about 250 and 225 km respectively, off of the northwestern coast of Gabon. Both islands are part of an extinct volcanic mountain range. São Tomé, the sizable southern island, is situated just north of the equator. It is named after Saint Thomas by Portuguese explorers who discovered the island on his feast day. São Tomé and Príncipe is the second smallest (in terms of population) African country (larger only than Seychelles). It is the smallest country in the world that is not a former US trusteeship, a former UK dependency, or a European microstate. It is also the smallest Portuguese-speaking country in the world. (Wikipedia)



Slovakia

Slovakia is a landlocked country in Central Europe with a population of over five million. The Slovak Republic borders the Czech Republic and Austria to the west, Poland to the north, Ukraine to the east and Hungary to the south. The largest city is its capital, Bratislava. Slovakia is a member state of the European Union. (Wikipedia)

Editors: Aretha Jones – Cook and Shaz Akram

Format: Jeong Eun Park & Haniel Waithaka

For suggestions, comments or contributing to the monthly newsletter email Sakram@iso.msstate.edu

