INTRODUCTION
The Bulgars, a Central Asian Turkic tribe, merged with the local Slavic inhabitants in the late 7th century to form the first Bulgarian state. Northern Bulgaria attained autonomy in 1878 and all of Bulgaria became independent from the Ottoman Empire in 1908. Bulgaria fell within the Soviet sphere of influence and became a People's Republic in 1946. Communist domination ended in 1990, when Bulgaria held its first multiparty election since World War II.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President Rumen RADEV

Head of Government
Interim Prime Minister Stefan YANEV

Government Type
parliamentary republic

Capital
Sofia

Legislature
unicameral National Assembly or Narodno Sabranie (240 seats)

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
upper-middle-income EU economy; improving living standards and very robust economic growth; coal-based infrastructure; legacy structural vulnerabilities and widespread corruption; increasing Russian economic relations, particularly through energy trade

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $155.1 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $22,400 (2020 est.)

Industries - electricity, gas, water, food, beverages, tobacco, machinery and equipment, automotive parts, base metals, chemical products, coke, refined petroleum, nuclear fuel

Agricultural products - wheat, maize, sunflower seed, milk, barley, rapeseed, potatoes, grapes, tomatoes, watermelons

Exports $39.27 billion (2020 est.)
refined petroleum, packaged medicines, copper, wheat, electricity (2019)
partners: Germany 16%, Romania 8%, Italy 7%, Turkey 7%, Greece 6% (2019)

Imports $38.07 billion (2020 est.)
crude petroleum, copper, cars, packaged medicines, refined petroleum (2019)
partners: Germany 11%, Russia 9%, Italy 7%, Romania 7%, Turkey 7% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
6.9 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth
-0.67% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity
Bulgarian 76.9%,
Turkish 8%, Romani 4.4%,
other 10.7% (2011 est.)

Language
Bulgarian (official) 76.8%, Turkish 8.2%, Romani 3.8%, other 0.7%, unspecified 10.5% (2011 est.)

Religion
Eastern Orthodox 59.4%, Muslim 7.8%, other (including Catholic, Protestant, Armenian Apostolic Orthodox, and Jewish) 1.7%, none 3.7%, unspecified 27.4% (2011 est.)

as of October 2021