INTRODUCTION
Ancient Peru was the seat of several prominent Andean civilizations, most notably that of the Incas whose empire was captured by Spanish conquistadors in 1533. Peru declared its independence from Spain in 1821 and remaining Spanish forces were defeated in 1824. After a dozen years of military rule, Peru returned to democratic leadership in 1980.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President Pedro CASTILLO
Head of Government
President Pedro CASTILLO
Government Type
presidential republic
Capital
Lima
Legislature
 unicameral Congress of the Republic of Peru or Congreso de la Republica del Peru (130 seats)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 1,285,216 sq km
Land: 1,279,996 sq km
Water: 5,220 sq km
Climate
varies from tropical in east to dry desert in west; temperate to frigid in Andes
Natural Resources
 copper, silver, gold, petroleum, timber, fish, iron ore, coal, phosphate, potash, hydropower, natural gas

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
upper middle-income South American economy; hit hard by political instability and COVID-19 but rebounding quickly; second-largest cocaine producer; current account balance improving; persistent income inequality; diversified exporter
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $371.3 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $11,300 (2020 est.)
Industries - mining, mineral refining, steel, metal fabrication, petroleum extraction/refining, natural gas/natural gas liquefaction, fishing/fish processing, cement, glass, textiles, clothing
Agricultural products - sugarcane, potatoes, rice, plantains, milk, poultry, maize, cassava, oil palm fruit, grapes
Exports $55.58 billion (2019 est.)
copper, gold, refined petroleum, zinc, fishmeal, tropical fruits, lead, iron, molybdenum (2019)
partners: China 29%, US 12%, Canada 5%, South Korea 5%, Switzerland 5% (2019)
Imports $48.21 billion (2019 est.)
refined petroleum, crude petroleum, cars, broadcasting equipment, delivery trucks (2019)
partners: China 24%, US 22%, Brazil 6% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
32.2 million (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
0.88% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Mestizo (mixed Amerindian and White) 60.2%, Amerindian 25.8%, White 5.9%, African descent 3.6%, other 1.2%, unspecified 3.3% (2017 est.)
Language
Spanish (official) 82.9%, Quechua (official) 13.6%, Aymara (official) 1.6%, Ashaninka 0.3%, other native languages 0.8%, other 0.2%, none 0.1%, unspecified 0.7% (2017 est.)
Religion
Roman Catholic 60%, Christian 14.6%, other 0.3%, none 4%, unspecified 21.1% (2017 est.)
as of October 2021