INTRODUCTION
Following Britain’s victory in the 1865 Duar War, Britain and Bhutan signed the Treaty of Sinchulu, under which Bhutan would receive an annual subsidy in exchange for ceding land to British India. In 1907, Bhutan became a unified kingdom under its first hereditary king. In 1949, the Treaty of Friendship with India established Bhutanese independence.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
King Jigme Khesar Namgyel WANGCHUCK
Head of Government
Prime Minister Lotay TSHERING
Government Type
constitutional monarchy
Capital
Thimphu
Legislature
bicameral Parliament consists of the National Council or Gyelyong Tshogde (25 seats) and the National Assembly or Tshogdu (47 seats)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 38,394 sq km
Land: 38,394 sq km
Water: 0 sq km
Climate
varies; tropical in southern plains; cool winters and hot summers in central valleys; severe winters and cool summers in Himalayas
Natural Resources
timber, hydropower, gypsum, calcium carbonate

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
hydropower investments spurring economic development; Gross National Happiness economy; sharp poverty declines; low inflation; strong monetary and fiscal policies; stable currency; fairly resilient response to COVID-19; key economic and strategic relations with India; climate vulnerabilities
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $8.42 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $10,900 (2020 est.)
Industries - cement, wood products, processed fruits, alcoholic beverages, calcium carbide, tourism
Agricultural products - milk, rice, maize, potatoes, roots/tubers, oranges, areca nuts, chilies/peppers, spices, ginger
Exports $790 million (2020 est.)
iron alloys, dolomite, refined iron, cement, silicon carbides (2019)
partners: India 94% (2019)
Imports $1.19 billion (2020 est.)
refined petroleum, iron products, delivery trucks, cars, wood charcoal (2019)
partners: India 85%, Thailand 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
857,420 (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
0.99% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Ngalop (also known as Bhoti) 50%, ethnic Nepali 35% (predominantly Lhotshampas), indigenous or migrant tribes 15%
Language
Sharchhopka 28%, Dzongkha (official) 24%, Lhotshamkhha 22%, other 26% (includes foreign languages)
Religion
Lamaistic Buddhist 75.3%, Indian- and Nepali-influenced Hinduism 22.1%, other 2.6% (2005 est.)
Urbanization
urban population 43% of total population (2021)
rate of urbanization: 2.52% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)
as of October 2021