JAPAN

INTRODUCTION
Japan opened its ports in 1854 and began to intensively modernize and industrialize. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Japan became a regional power. After its defeat in World War II, Japan recovered to become an economic power and an ally of the US. While the emperor retains his throne as a symbol of national unity, elected politicians hold actual decision-making power.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
Emperor NARUHITO
Head of Government
Prime Minister Fumio KISHIDA
Government Type
parliamentary constitutional monarchy
Capital
Tokyo
Legislature
bicameral Diet or Kokkai consists of House of Councillors or Sangi-in (242 seats) and House of Representatives or Shugi-in (465 seats)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 377,915 sq km
Land: 364,485 sq km
Water: 13,430 sq km
Climate
varies from tropical in south to cool temperate
in north
Natural Resources
negligible mineral resources, fish; note, with virtually no natural energy resources, Japan is the world's largest importer of coal and liquefied natural gas, as well as the second largest importer of oil

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
third-largest, trade-oriented, and diversified economy; most indebted country; recent infrastructure spending, significant currency devaluations, consumption tax hikes; declining labor force; recent government stimulus largely offset COVID-19 downturn
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $5.231 trillion (2019 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $41,430 (2019 est.)
Industries - motor vehicles, electronic equipment, machine tools, steel and nonferrous metals, ships, chemicals, textiles, processed foods
Agricultural products - rice, milk, sugar beets, vegetables, eggs, poultry, potatoes, cabbages, onions, pork
Exports $793.3 billion (2020 est.)
cars/vehicle parts, integrated circuits, personal appliances, ships (2019)
partners: US 19%, China 18%, South Korea 6%, Taiwan 6%
Imports $799.5 billion (2020 est.)
crude petroleum, natural gas, coal, integrated circuits, broadcasting equipment (2019)
partners: China 23%, US 11%, Australia 6%, (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
124.7 million (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
-0.37% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Japanese 97.9%, Chinese 0.6%, Korean 0.4%, other 1.1% (includes Vietnamese, Filipino, and Brazilian) (2017 est.)
Language
Japanese
Religion
Shintoism 69%, Buddhism 66.7%, Christianity 1.5%, other 6.2% (2018 est.)

as of October 2021