

under review



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Public Administration

Country Profile

Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM)
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
United Nations

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LAO PDR

[Click here](#) for detailed map



Source: The World Factbook - Lao PDR

Government type

People's Republic

Independence

19 July 1949 (from France)

Constitution

Promulgated 14 August 1991

Legal system

Based on traditional customs, French legal norms and procedures, and socialist practice

Administrative divisions

16 provinces ('khoueng'), 1 municipality (Vientiane), and 1 special zone (Saysomboune)

Source: The World Factbook - Lao PDR

During the first Indochina war between France and the communist movement in Vietnam, the Pathet Lao (Land of Lao) resistance organization was formed, committed to the communist struggle against colonialism. Laos was not granted full sovereignty until the French defeat by the Vietnamese and the subsequent Geneva peace conference in 1954.

A year later, elections were held in Laos. The resulting Government of National Union collapsed in 1958 and was replaced by a right-wing government. A second Geneva conference, held in 1961-62, provided for the independence and neutrality of Laos. Meanwhile, a growing American and North Vietnamese military presence in the country increasingly drew Laos into the second Indochina war (1954-75).

On December 2, 1975, the king abdicated his throne, and the communist Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR) was established. With the abrogation of the 1947 constitution, Lao PDR was governed by Part Resolutions between 1975 and 1991. In 1991, the Supreme People's Council voted in favour of a new Constitution, which provides the official framework for governance in Lao PDR.

The following year, elections were held for a new 85-seat National Assembly. The most recent elections took place in February 2002, when the National Assembly was expanded to 109 members.

Source: [UN Capital Development Fund \(Lao PDR\) - Lao PDR - Fact Finding Mission Report \(March 2002\) \(edited\)](#)
[U.S. Department of State \(Background Notes\) - Lao PDR \(edited\)](#)

