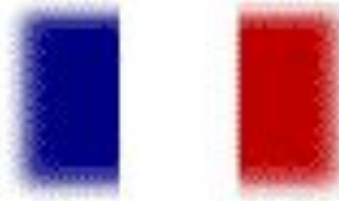


France



- Year of entry: Founding Member, 1952/1957
- Political system: Republic secular republican tradition
- Capital city: Paris
- Total area: 550 000 km²
second largest country in Europe
- Population: 60.4 million
moderately populated with 111 persons living per sq km in 2004. Almost half of the population lives in Paris, Lyon, Marseille/ Aix-en-Provence, and Lille. 76% of people live in urban areas and
- Currency: Euro
- Most popular tourist destination, 80 million visitors each year







Images of France...





France

Overview:

- 1. Geography
- 2. History
- 3. Culture – film, music, sport, architecture
- 4. Socio-economic status
- 5. Politics
- 6. Religion – secular and non-secular
- 7. Relations with the wider world
- 8. Relations with the European Union
- 9. Current Issues
- 10. Doing business in



Geography

- Flat plains, gently rolling hills in the North and West, Alps in the East and the Pyrenees in the South
 - Regions of France – unique character, e.g. Alsace-Lorraine, Germanic influences are strong, Normandy, rich heritage of cathedrals, castles, battlefields; Brittany known for its Celtic links; Loire valley, soft fertile land and chateaux; Burgundy, Bordeaux wine and food; Provence, roman ruins, picturesque villages, vineyards, lavender fields
-

History

- ‘you can unite the French only through fear. You cannot simply bring together a country that has over 265 kinds of cheese’ *Charles de Gaulle*
 - Gauls – Obelisk and Asterisk?
 - Absolutism, despotism: Charlemagne, henri IV, Louis XIV and Napoleon Bonaparte
 - Republics since 1870 – the Fifth Republic, 1958 -
-

History

- Kaplan, Alice. "France on German time"
Modernism/modernity - Volume 5, Number 3,
September 1998, pp. 99-105



Politics

- The legacy of two World Wars
 - The Algerian crisis
 - The de Gaulle years
 - A semi-Presidential system
 - The Mitterand years (1981 – 1995)
 - President Chirac
 - Extreme Right – Le Pen
-

Socio-economic status

- According to data obtained from World Bank Indicators, national growth rate in France during 1997-2003 was 0.4% slightly less than that of high-income countries' group as a whole.
 - France: the sixth largest economy in the world
 - France is ranked 16th in 177 countries of the world in terms of human development index
-



French Culture

- French culture is a byword for excitement and flair in everything from classical literature, through avant-garde theatre and film to bande dessinée and nouvelle cuisine
 - <http://frenchculture.org/>
-

Culture

- *la banlieue*, the subject of much anxiety in France and the place in which questions about French national identity, about race, about *l'exclusion sociale* etc. are being asked
 - Rioting spread from deprived suburbs of Paris ...to cause destruction in cities across the country led to the introduction of emergency powers in autumn 2005.
 - Mr Chirac acknowledged that the unrest indicated a "deep malaise" within society. Condemning racism, he promised measures to promote greater equality of opportunity.
-

France has over 400 types
of Cheeses
<http://www.frencheese.co.uk/cheeses>.



French Cuisine

- Region **Burgundy** Prep time / Cooking time **30 minutes / 3 hours**
Ingredients:
 - 4 lbs beef shoulder (stewing beef)
 - 6 oz bacon
 - 4 carrots, peeled and sliced
 - 1 onion, chopped
 - 1 lb mushrooms, sliced
 - 2 stalks celery, chopped
 - 1 bottle red burgundy wine (young wine)
 - 2 cups of beef bouillon (beef stock)
 - 1 ounce flour
 - 4 tb olive oil
 - 1 ounce butter
 - 1 small bunch parsley
 - 1 sprig thyme
 - 1 clove garlic, mashed
 - 18 small white onions
 - Salt and black pepper
-

Religion

- Catholic
 - Muslims
 - Jews
 - Secular society
-

Relations with the EU

- Founder member;
 - Franco –German axis – the motor of European integration
 - No vote in the referendum – rejected by 55% of French voters (70% turnout)
 - Nationalist, protectionist thread running through French politics since the last enlargement
-

Relations with the wider world

- France – ‘Old Europe’
 - France – troops to the Lebanon
 - France – in the UN
-

Current Issues

- Presidential election 2007: Mr Sarkozy or Segolene Royal of the Parti socialiste,
 - Extreme Right – Le Pen
 - Les Banlieues
 - Immigration
 - Unemployment
-

Doing business in France

- http://www.bakertillyinternational.com/PDF/DoingBusinessinFrance2004_05.pdf
- **After being invited for a private dinner in Paris, a foreign entrepreneur decided to reciprocate the gesture by offering two bouquets of chrysanthemums (used primarily as funeral flowers in France) and bringing a best-of-breed wine from his own country (as if suggesting that the hosts weren't considerate enough to pick up a good wine). By the way, the meal didn't last long. C'est la vie, n'est-ce pas?**

