

Basic Facts: *Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan*

KYRGYZSTAN

Geography and Population

Area: 124,244 square miles; slightly smaller than the area of South Dakota.

Population: 5.55 million.

Government

Type: Republic

Chief of State: President Almazbek Atambayev.

Head of Government: Prime Minister Zhantoro Satybaldiyev (appointed by president).

Elections: Popular vote every six years.

Legislative Branch: Unicameral Supreme Council (Jogorku Kengesh) (120 seats, five year terms).

Judicial Highest Courts: Supreme Court, Constitutional Court.

Judges: recommended by the president, appointed by the Supreme Council.

Economy

Centers mostly around the agricultural sector and gold exports.

GDP: \$13.5 billion.

Unemployment Rate: 8.6 percent.

Population Below Poverty Line: 33.7 percent.

Inflation Rate: 2.7 percent.

Agricultural Products: cotton, potatoes, vegetables, grapes, fruits; sheep, goats, cattle, wool

Industries: small machinery, textiles, food processing, cement, gold, rare earth metals.

Society

Religion: 75 percent Muslim, 20 percent Russian Orthodox, 5 percent other.

Life Expectancy: 69.75 years.

Literacy Rate: 99.2 percent.

Major Contemporary Issues

Drugs: Kyrgyzstan is a transit country for Southwest Asian drugs heading for Russian and Europe. Significant portions of the population consume opiates.

Other issues include the continuation of democratization, endemic corruption, and terrorism.

Sources:

Hanks, Reuel R. *Central Asia: A Global Studies Handbook* (Santa Monica: ABC-CLIO, 2005).

“The World Factbook: Kazakhstan,” *CIA.gov*, last modified September 10, 2013,

<http://tinyurl.com/5ejoq>.



President Almazbek Atambayev
Source: Creative Commons, <http://tiny.cc/0pme8w>.

TAJIKISTAN

Geography and Population

Area: 88,856 square miles; slightly smaller than the area of Wisconsin.

Population: 8 million people.

Government

Type: Republic.

Chief of State: President Emomalii Rahmon.

Head of Government: Prime Minister Oqil Oqilov (appointed by president).

Elections: Popular-vote elections for president every seven years.

Legislative Branch: Bicameral Supreme Assembly, two chambers (both five year terms).

Upper chamber: National Assembly (34 seats).

Lower chamber: Assembly of Representatives (63 seats).

Judicial Highest Courts: Supreme Court, Constitutional Court, High Economic Court.

Judges: Nominated by president, approved by National Assembly.

Economy

The civil war in the 1990s damaged an already fragile economy that has yet to fully recover.

GDP: \$18.04 billion.

Unemployment Rate: 2.5 percent (official rate; actual rate much higher).

Population Below Poverty Line: 39.6 percent.

Inflation Rate: 5.8 percent.

Agricultural Products: cotton, grain, fruits, vegetables; cattle, sheep, goats, vegetable oil.

Society

Religion: 85 percent Sunni Muslim, 5 percent Shia Muslim, 10 percent other.

Life Expectancy: 66.72 years.

Literacy Rate: 99.7 percent.

Major Contemporary Issues

Clean Water: While 92 percent of the urban population has access to clean water, only 54 percent of the rural population does.

Drugs: Almost all Afghan narcotics bound for Russia pass through Tajikistan. Tajikistan seizes 80 percent of all drugs captured in Central Asia. Significant portions of the population consume opiates.

Sources:

Hanks, Reuel R. *Central Asia: A Global Studies Handbook* (Santa Monica: ABC-CLIO, 2005).

“The World Factbook: Kazakhstan,” *CIA.gov*, last modified September 10, 2013,

<http://tinyurl.com/5ejoq>.



President Emomalii Rahmon

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