

## Mission Atlas Project

### France (*La Republique Francaise*)

#### Basic Facts

##### **Name:**

Conventional long form: French Republic; local long form: *La Republique Francaise*;  
conventional and local long form: France

##### **Population:**

The published population is 59,551,227. The population is expected to rise to 61,661, 804 by 2025

Breakdown of population is as follows:

0-14 years = 18.68% (male-5,698,604; female-5,426,838)

15-64 years = 65.19% (male-19,424,018; female-19,399,588)

65 years and older = 16.13% (male-3,900,579; female-5,701,600) (2001 est.)

France's population growth rate is at 0.37% (2001 est.), and life expectancy is 78.9 years.

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html>

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/>

##### **Location:**

France is located in Western Europe bordering the Bay of Biscay and English Channel, between Belgium and Spain southeast of the United Kingdom. France also borders the Mediterranean Sea between Italy and Spain.

##### **Land Boundaries:**

All boundaries total 2,889 km, and there are 8 countries that border France. These countries are: Andorra 56.6 km, Belgium 620 km, Germany 45 km, Italy 488 km, Luxemburg 73 km, Monaco 4.4 km, Spain 623 km, and Switzerland 573 km. France's coastline totals 3,427 km.

##### **Terrain:**

Most of France is flat plains or gently rolling hills in North and West. The Pyrenees is in the south and the Alps are in the east.

**Climate:**

There are generally cool winters and mild summers throughout central France and the north. Snow and colder conditions exist in the Alps. Along the Mediterranean coast there are very mild winters and very hot summers.

<http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/europe/frtime.htm>

**Economy:**

France is transitioning from an extensive government ownership economy to relying more on market mechanisms. Power, public transport, and defense are still controlled heavily by the government, but they have relaxed their control since the 1980s. The government has sold off holdings in France Telecom, Air France, Thales, Thomson Multimedia, and the European Aerospace and Defense Company (EADS). Competition is slowly being let into the telecommunications sector. The leaders of France are very committed to maintain social equity by means of laws, tax policies, and social spending reducing disparity in income and the free market impact on public health and welfare. Little effort has been made to reduce generous unemployment and retirement benefits, which create a heavy tax burden and discourage hiring. There have been no measures taken to increase the use of stock options and retirement investment plans. This type of action would boost the stock market and IT firms, but would grossly benefit the rich. The 35-hour workweek has also received criticism for lowering the competitiveness of French companies.

GDP-real growth rate – 3.1% (2000 est.)

GDP-per capita – purchasing power parity \$24,400 (2000 est.)

GDP-composition by sector – agriculture, 3.3%; industry, 26.1%; services, 70.6% (1999)

Inflation rate (consumer prices) – 1.7% (2000 est.)

Labor force-by occupation – services, 71%; industry, 25%; agriculture, 4% (1997)

Unemployment – 9.7% (2000 est.)

<http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/europe/frcia.htm>

**Government:**

France is a republic with a chief of state (president), head of government (prime minister), and a cabinet (council of ministers). President Jacques Chirac has served since May 17, 1995. The president is elected by popular vote to a seven-year term. Chirac won re-election in May 2002. Prime Minister Lionel Jospin was nominated by the National Assembly majority and appointed by the president. Parliament consisting of the Senate (321 seats) and the National Assembly (577 seats) make up the legislative branch of the government. The Supreme Court of Appeals, Constitutional Council, and the Council of State handle judicial matters.

France is divided into 22 regions and is subdivided into 96 departments. The universal legal voting age is 18. There is a civil law system with indigenous concepts, including only review of administrative acts. Legislative acts do not come under review.

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html>

### **Society:**

The French have undergone great transformations since World War II. Today, only 1 in 16 work in farming versus 1 in 3 many years ago. Religious practice has declined at almost the same rate. There is a wider acceptance of unmarried couples living together. In 1990, there were 1.5 million unmarried couples living together, today, that number has increased to 2.4 million. The legalization of abortion is another aspect of this new age of changing social habits. Conditions for women have greatly improved since the students took to the streets in May 1968. Other social structures have also become less constricting for everyone.

Everyday life in France consists of formalities such as obligatory handshaking or cheek kissing. There is also concern for using titles when speaking about superiors or strangers and the need to dress well. Relations between men and women are very flirtatious in public and in the professional life. Both men and women frequently use lovers. Since nudity is not seen as a sin you will generally see topless women on the beaches, and during prime time TV it is common to see partially or totally undressed men or women. Most transactions follow written texts or laws, however there is great pleasure in finding clever ways to bypass these restrictions or instructions.

Since the 1950's, French people have enjoyed the benefits of being the fourth economic power. Mass culture and consumerism as well as the standard of living are very similar to those in the United States. Living in a city such as Paris is like living in any other large city of the world. There is still uniqueness and variety in regional and rural life. Many citizens have maintained a place in the country, for vacation or retirement, thanks to the 5 weeks of annual paid vacations. France is known as the country with most second homes. France has also remained one of the most high-tech countries in the world thanks to government-sponsored programs. The government has recently enacted laws restricting broadcast of English speaking movies or songs and use of English vocabulary in general, in order to protect France's cultural identity.

<http://www.france.com/culture/today4.html>

### **Literacy:**

The percent of the population over the age of 15 that can read and write is 99%.

### **Languages:**

French is the official language of the country.

On Corsica, the majority of the people speak a dialect similar to Italian. A group in the Pyrenees Mountains speaks Basque. In Brittany, many people speak Breton. In the Alsace region, many speak German and along the border with Belgium, many speak the Flemish dialect of Dutch. French is taught in the schools and number of people who speak these local languages has decreased over the years. Corsica, Brittany, and the Pyrenees all have groups that promote the use of the local language.

### **Religion:**

Roman Catholicism is the largest religious group in France. They claim 67.71% of the population with a total of 40,000,000 people. From 1801 to 1905, the government recognized Roman Catholicism as the religion of the majority of the people. Bishops and priests were considered to be state officials and were paid by the government. Napoleon and Pope Pius VII established this church-state connection, but French law broke this agreement in 1905. Roman Catholic church attendance continues to decline. Catholic baptisms have declined from 75% of all children in 1970 to 20% in 1999.

France has attempted to control religion by adopting a new law in 2000 that limits the activities of any religious groups that it has labeled as a "sect." This law specifies 5-year jail terms and \$75,000 in fines for those who use manipulation to obtain conversions. So far, few groups have had issues with the new law being enforced, but it does show the French government's tendency to legislate religion.

[http://news.crosswalk.com/partner/Article\\_Display\\_Page/0,,PTID74088|CHID194343|CID1126858,00.html](http://news.crosswalk.com/partner/Article_Display_Page/0,,PTID74088|CHID194343|CID1126858,00.html)

There are an extremely high percentage (19.76%) of people listed as non-religious. This equates to 11,674,150 people that identify themselves as non-religious. The Roman Catholic Church has lost its influence in France and many are abandoning this church and identifying themselves as non-religious.

Other religious groups living in France include Muslims, Jews, and Buddhists. The Muslims account for 10% of the population (5,907,971) and arrived in France through immigration. Jews total 1.18% of the population (697,141). Buddhists total 1.02% of the population (602,613) and are mainly immigrants from China.

## **Historical Aspects**

### *Early History*

*Julius Caesar*, leading the Romans, conquered the area known as Gaul between 58 and 51 B.C. The Gauls living in the area adapted to Roman ways of life and accepted Latin as the language. Germanic invaders at the start of the 3rd century A.D overran the developing Gallo-Roman civilization. *Clovis*, king of the Franks, defeated the Roman governor of Gaul in 486 at Soissons. He founded the *Merovingian* dynasty and adopted orthodox Christianity.

### *Early Middle Ages*

France developed into a feudalistic state during the Middle Ages and large manors covered most of France. In 732, *Charles Martel* defeated an invading Arab army in a battle that began in Tours and ended near Poitiers. Charles Martel's son, *Pepin the Short* would later overthrow the last Merovingian ruler and become the king of the Franks in 751. He founded the *Carolingian Dynasty* and expanded the kingdom of the Franks. He is also responsible for enlarging the pope's political power by granting *Pope Stephen II* a large area of land north of Rome.

Pepin's son, *Charlemagne*, was one of the greatest conquerors of all time. He was involved in more than 50 military campaigns and expanded the Frank's kingdom well beyond today's borders of France. He also expanded the pope's lands and in 800, *Pope Leo III* crowned Charlemagne the Emperor of the Romans. After Charlemagne's death the kingdom was fought over by his three grandsons and the *Treaty of Verdun* divided the Kingdom into three portions. *Charles the Bald* received what is today France.

### *The Capetian Dynasty*

The nobles ended the Carolingian line of kings when they chose *Hugh Capet* as king. He started the *Capetian Dynasty*. Most historians mark the beginning of the French nation from Hugh Capet's coronation. During this time, Normandy became a powerful feudal state and in 1066, *William the Conqueror* invaded England and became king.

During the time of the Capetian dynasty, the French people participated in the Crusades and during this time Paris was established as the capital. *Philip IV* rebelled against the pope's authority and began taxing church officials. He arrested a bishop and even arrested *Pope Boniface VIII*. In 1305, a French archbishop was elected pope and became *Pope Clement V*. Pope Clement V moved the pope's court from Rome to Avignon, where it would remain until 1377. The Capetian dynasty ended in 1328, when Charles V died without a male heir.

### *A Time of Wars*

England and France became involved in the *Hundred Years War (1337-1453)*, which evicted the English from French soil after their victory at Orleans under *Joan of Arc*. France would later invade Italy and take the city of Milan in 1515. France also seized the port of Calais, which was England's last land holding in France.

*The Protestant Reformation* affected France when many people began following the teachings of *John Calvin*. They were called *Huguenots* and were persecuted severely by French Roman Catholics. In the late 1500's, the French Catholics and the Huguenots fought a series of civil wars that lasted 30 years. In 1572, thousands of Huguenots were killed during the *St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre*. In 1598, *Henry IV* signed the *Edict of Nantes* that gave limited freedom of worship to the Huguenots.

### *Age of Absolutism*

*Louis XIV* revoked the Edict of Nantes and the Huguenots began to be persecuted again. Over 200,000 Huguenots fled France to avoid the persecution. Their leaving along with Louis' building of the Palace of Versailles greatly affected the economy. Louis tried to expand the French Empire throughout Europe, but was stopped by military alliance that includes England, Spain, the Holy Roman Empire, and other nations.

### *French Revolution*

France hovered on the verge of bankruptcy, under *Louis XV*. France's empire in India and North America were lost during the Seven Years War (1756-63), and the treasury was drained. The result of the disastrous support of the American Revolution was the French Revolution from 1789 to 1815.

*King Louis XVI* called a meeting of the *Estates-General* to win support of new taxes. The Estates-General was comprised of three groups – the clergy, nobility, and the commoners. In June 1789, the members of the third estate, the commoners, declared themselves the National Assembly, with power to write a new constitution for France. On July 14, 1789, a Parisian crowd captured the royal fortress called the Bastille. Louis XVI was forced to give in and in 1791, France had a new constitution that established a constitutional monarchy. In 1792, France went to war with Austria and Prussia because these nations desired to restore the king to power. As the invading armies marched on Paris in 1792, King Louis XVI was imprisoned and the monarchy was overthrown. A National Convention was elected and on September 21, 1792, France was declared a republic.

Radical leaders like *Maximilien Robespierre* gained power and urged that extreme and violent measures were needed to preserve liberty. The Reign of Terror began and thousands of "enemies of the republic" were executed. The radicals eventually began to struggle for power among them and Robespierre was condemned and executed. After the Reign of Terror, a five-man board, called the Directory, governed France from 1795 to 1799.

### *Napoleon*

The Directory was terminated by *Napoleon Bonaparte's* coup d'état. Napoleon had risen through the ranks of the army and was named a general in 1793. Napoleon seized control of the French government in 1799. His administration was very efficient and he created a strong central government and re-organized French law. By 1812, his military conquests included most of Central and Western Europe. Napoleon led his armies as far as Moscow before his final defeat in the Waterloo Campaign.

## *Revolutions of 1830 and 1848*

*Charles X* became king and tried to re-establish the total power of the French kings. The July Revolution of 1830 later overthrew him. The bourgeoisie dominated France's bureaucratic state. In 1830 *Louis Philippe* became king but later was overthrown by the February Revolution of 1848. This began the *Second Republic* and all Frenchmen were allowed to vote.

*Louis Napoleon Bonaparte*, a nephew of Napoleon, was elected as president for a four-year term in 1848. Louis Napoleon declared himself emperor as Napoleon III, establishing the *Second Empire*. His downfall and the establishment of the Third Republic came after defeat in the Franco-Prussian War (1870-1871). As a part of the Franco-Prussian War, France lost the Alsace region and part of the Lorraine region to Germany.

## *The Third Republic*

The French people revolted against Napoleon III and established the *Third Republic*. In 1871, a National Assembly was elected and wrote a new constitution in 1875. France's strength would grow up until World War I. France would join the *Triple Entente* with Russia and the United Kingdom.

## *World War I*

During World War I the brunt of the fighting was absorbed in the west. The Germans invaded France soon after the war began. For 3 ½ years the two sides fought against each other from trenches that stretched across northeastern France and Belgium. The most concentrated fighting was around the city of Verdun in 1916. There hundreds of thousands of French and German soldiers were killed. The Battle of Verdun would become a symbol of the French nation's will to resist. The war would bring severe casualties to France.

## *Between the World Wars*

*The Treaty of Versailles*, signed in 1919, gave France the Alsace and Lorraine areas back. France and other Allied nations were also granted reparation payments from Germany. Germany fell behind on these payments and French and Belgian troops occupied the Ruhr valley of Germany in 1923. These troops were later withdrawn when Germany agreed to keep making the payments in 1925.

*The Rhineland Security Pact of 1925* was signed between the Allied nations and Germany to secure the security of the French-German border. France decreased Germany's reparation payments and *Aristide Briand*, the French foreign minister, signed the *Kellogg-Briand Peace Pact of 1928*. France would, however, begin construction on the *Maginot Line* in 1929 as a fortified defense against Germany.

In 1936, a government known as the *Popular Front* came to power in France. During the 1930's, an economic depression struck the world and fascism became a serious threat. The Popular Front government, following a policy of appeasement, signed the Munich Agreement that forced Czechoslovakia to give territory to Germany.

### *World War II*

France declared war on Germany on September 3, 1939, just two days after Germany invaded Poland. The Germans would later invade France through Belgium on May 12<sup>th</sup>, bypassing the Maginot Line. The German army entered Paris on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June and occupied France throughout the war. After France fell, *General Charles de Gaulle* fled for London. He urged French patriots to join a movement called *Free France* and encouraged them to continue to fight the Germans. On June 6, 1944, the Allied troops landed in Normandy. They would later land in southern France on August 15<sup>th</sup> and entered Paris on August 25<sup>th</sup>. De Gaulle returned and formed a provisional government and became the president. France would become a charter member of the United Nations at the close of the war.

### *The Fourth Republic*

In October 1945, the French people voted for the National Assembly to write a new constitution. This election was the first time that women were allowed to vote. De Gaulle would resign as president because he disagreed with the constitution not providing strong central powers. The United States provided aid to help France rebuild from the war, but political struggles and wars overseas slowed the economic recovery.

France had a large Communist population after the end of the war, which created problems when they workers went on strike in 1947 and 1948. The economic recovery was again slowed as production was greatly effected. Despite the number of communists in the country, France joined the anti-Communist *North Atlantic Treaty Organization* (NATO). War for independence in Algeria and the defeat of troops in Indochina weakened the Fourth Republic.

### *The Fifth Republic*

In May 1958, the French army leaders and French Algerian settlers rebelled and threatened to overthrow the French government unless they continued fighting in Algeria. As a compromise, de Gaulle was called back as prime minister with special emergency powers for six months. De Gaulle's government prepared a constitution and the voters approved it on Sept. 28, 1958. This constitution established the *Fifth Republic* and de Gaulle would serve as the first president of this republic. The war in Algeria was ended in 1962 and the French voters approved Algerian independence in April of that year. De Gaulle's presidency was marked by a strong central government.

De Gaulle sought to keep France free of U.S. or Soviet influence. De Gaulle developed an independent French nuclear-weapons program outside of NATO. In 1966, he



removed all French troops from NATO and ordered that all NATO military bases and troops be removed from France by April 1967. During this time, France also helped establish the European Community, the forerunner of the European Union. The French people eventually became dissatisfied with de Gaulle's government and he resigned in April 1969.

### *France after de Gaulle*

*Georges Pompidou* was elected president in 1969. He established closer cooperation with the United States and improved relations with the United Kingdom. In 1971, Pompidou agreed with the British Prime Minister Edward Heath to allow the United Kingdom to enter the European Community. Pompidou's government was affected by the oil crisis of 1973 because France imported most of its petroleum. The nation's industrial growth slowed, unemployment increased, and inflation rose to high levels. Pompidou died in 1974 and *Valery Giscard d'Estaing* was elected president.

In 1981, *Socialist François Mitterrand* was elected president and embarked in a program including administrative decentralization and nationalization of banks and industries. In 1986 Mitterrand was forced to appoint *Jacques Chirac*, a Gaullist, as premier. Mitterrand won the 1988 presidential election, regaining control of the national assembly. In 1993 socialists saw defeat with *Édouard Balladur* becoming premier and conservatives captured nearly 85% of the seats in the national assembly. This took place after rising unemployment and other economic difficulties, as well as several corruption scandals under socialist rule. In 1995, Jacques Chirac was elected president and won re-election in 2002.

## People/People Groups

### People Groups with 1million and above

Name	Number	Language	Religion	Notes
French	41,183,032	French	16% non-religious, 5% atheist, 0.6% Muslim, Roman Catholic, Eglise Reformee de France, Assemblies of God, Seventh Day Adventist, United Methodist Church, Mormon, and Jehovah's Witness	
Arab	2,530,286	Arabic, Tunisian spoken	99% Sunni Muslim	Immigrants from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Lebanon
Languedocian	2,363,000	Languedocien, but also French (85% use French as first language)	Roman Catholic	Found in Southern France
Picard	1,863,300	Picard (French dialect)	Same as the French people group	
Alsatian	1,536,000	90% bilingual in French and standard German	Roman Catholic Church, New Apostolic Church	Alsace-Lorraine area of France
German Swiss	1,500,000	Alemannisch	Roman Catholic Church, New Apostolic Church, Swiss Pentecostal Mission, and Eglise Suisse-Allemande	Swiss expatriates
Auvergnat	1,314,700	Auvergnat	Same as the French people group	Found in Haute-Loire
Vaudois	1,162,894	Vaudois	Same as the French people group	Located near Italian border and Canton de Vaud, Switzerland

Italian	1,000,000	Italian, but bilingual in French	Roman Catholic Church and Eglises Vaudoises d'Italie en France	Expatriates from Italy
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**People Groups between 100,000-999,999**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Language</b>	<b>Religion</b>	<b>Notes</b>
France, Portuguese Speaking	750,000	Portuguese	Roman Catholic Church, Eglise Evangelique Baptiste, and the Protestant Church in Paris	Labor immigrants from Portugal
Limousin	717,600	10% to 20% of the population speaks Limousin, others speak French as a first or second language	Same as the French people group	Limousin region of France
Spaniard	697,736	Spanish	Strong Catholics, Eglise Espagnole	Expatriates and migrant workers from Spain
Franco-Provençal	571,000	Franco-Provençal	Roman Catholic Church	Live near the Italian border
Kabyle	596,000	Kabyle	Islam, Animism	North African Berber people that moved to France during Algerian War
Breton	500,000	Many now speak French as a first language, but some continue to speak Breiz	Roman Catholic Church, Celtic Apostolic Orthodox Church in Brittany	Found in the Brittany region
Corsican	281,000	Corsican, many bilingual in French, but not fluent	Roman Catholic	Found on the island of Corsica and in the cities of Paris and Marseilles
Catalonian	260,000	Catalan-	Roman Catholic	Workers and

		Valencian-Balear		professionals from Catalonia (Spain), Sardinia (Italy), and Andorra.
Alpine Provençal	250,000	French Provençal	Roman Catholic Church	Lives in the Alpine region of France
Gascon	250,000	51% of them speak Gascon	Roman Catholic Church	Found along the Pyrenees Mountain area
Jewish	229,000	Yiddish	90% of them are traditional religious Jews and 10% are secularized Jews	
Turk	214,000	Turkish	Islam	Migrant laborers from Turkey, found in industrial cities and work in factories or construction
Polish	208,600	Polish	Mariavite Catholic Church, Roman Catholic Church	Refugees from Communist Poland since 1945
Basque	166,200	French	Roman Catholic Church	Found mainly in the south of France
Lesser Antillean Creole	150,000	Lesser Antillean Creole French	Roman Catholic Church, Evangelical Church of Guadeloupe	From Guadeloupe, Martinique, St. Lucia, and Dominica
Hmong Lao	128,000	Hmong Njua	Majority of them belong to the Roman Catholic Church and other Christian Churches. 35% are animists.	Refugees from the Vietnam War
Riffian	117,000	Tarifit	100% Muslims	Migrant workers from Morocco
German	116,289	German	Roman Catholic	Expatriates

			Church, Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland, New Apostolic Church, United Methodist Church	from Germany involved in commerce and professions
Berber, Middle Atlas	114,000	Tamazight	Islamic	Originally from Algeria and Morocco
Russian	114,000	Russian	30% nonreligious, Orthodox Church, Russian Orthodox Church, and the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia	Refugees from Russia mainly between 1917 and 1990
Shawiya	114,000	Chaouia	100% Muslims	Berber migrant workers from Algeria and Morocco
Soninke, Sarakole	100,000	Soninke	95% Muslim	Immigrants from western Mali and Niger 5,000 living in Marseilles
Vietnamese	100,000	Vietnamese	53% Buddhist, 11% Daists, and Roman Catholic Church	Refugees from Vietnam after 1953 to the present day

### **People Groups Under 100,000**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Language</b>	<b>Religion</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Comorian, Mauri	90,000	Comorian	Islamic	Originally from the island of Mayotte located in the Indian Ocean. Originally a mixture of Iranian traders, Africans, Arabs, and Malagasy.

Kurmanji, Northern Kurd	74,000	Kurmanji	Islam	Laborers from Turkey. Work as factory and construction workers
Armenian	70,000	Majority speaks French, 32% speak Armenian	Armenian Apostolic Church, Roman Catholic Church	Refugees from Turkey and the USSR
British	64,100	English	Church of England, Church of Scotland, Jehovah's Witness	Expatriates from United Kingdom
Persian, Irani	62,000	Farsi	90% Muslim, 7% Baha'i, some are Zoroastrian	Refugees from Iran's persecutions
Malinke	59,000	Maninkakan	83% Muslim, 10% Animist, and Roman Catholic	Immigrants from several West African countries
Mossi	59,000	Moore	30% Muslim, 10% Animist, Roman Catholic, and Assemblies of God	Labor immigrants from Burkina Faso
Eurafrican	58,145	French	20% nonreligious, Roman Catholic Church.	Mixed-race persons from former French Africa colonies
Eurasian	58,145	French	Roman Catholic	Mixed-race European and Asian, mainly Franco-Vietnamese children from Indochina and former French colonies
Greek, Caegese	58,145	Caegese, but bilingual in French	Greek Orthodox Church in France	From Greece and Cyprus, mainly found on the island of Corsica
USA White	58,145	English	Mormon Church, Jehovah's Witness, Seventh Day Adventist, Church of Christ Scientist,	Expatriates from the USA working in commerce, education, and

			Christian Church of North America	professions
Walloon	58,145	Walloon, French speaking Belgians	Roman Catholic Church	
Malagasy	57,000	Malagasy	Eglise Protestante Malgache de France	Black migrant workers from Madagascar
Khmer, Central	53,000	Khmer	88% Buddhists, 3% Animists, 2% Muslims, Roman Catholic	Refugees from Cambodia
Lao	49,600	Lao	57% Buddhist, 33% Animist, 4% nonreligious, Roman Catholic	Refugees from Laos
Bambara	41,000	Bamanankan	90% Muslim, 7% Animists, Roman Catholic	Muslim immigrants from Mali
Afghani	35,000	Pashto	99% Muslim	Refugees from Afghanistan wars
Wolof	34,500	Wolof	98% Muslim, few are Roman Catholic	Migrant workers from Senegal and Mauritania
Ligurian, Genoan	34,000	Ligurian	Roman Catholic	Originally from Liguria in Italy
Bengali	30,000	Bengali	60% Muslim, rest Hindu or Hinduized Animists	Originally from Bangladesh and West Bengal, a state in India
Ceylon Tamil	29,500	Tamil	Roman Catholic, charismatic, 55% Hindu, 10% Muslim	Migrant workers from Sri Lanka and southern India
Fulani	29,500	Fulfulde	98% Muslim	Immigrants from 10 West African countries
Franco-Swiss	29,072	French	Roman Catholic, Swiss Reformed Church	Immigrants from French speaking part of Switzerland

Tuareg	24,000	Tmajaq	99% Muslim	From the Sahara regions of Mali and Niger
Serb	23,000	Serbo-Croatian	Serbian Orthodox Church, 12% Muslim	Migrant workers from Yugoslavia
Mandyak, Manjaco	22,000	Mandjak	60% Animist, 10% Muslim	Black migrant workers from Guinea Bissau, Senegal, Gambia, and Cape Verde
Ukrainian	20,000	Ukrainian	Ukrainian Orthodox Church	Refugees from the USSR since 1917
Fon	18,000	Fonn-gbe	20% Animist, 5% Muslim, Roman Catholic	Immigrants from Benin
Moor	18,000	Hassaniyya	99% Muslim	Black and white immigrants from Morocco and Mauritania
Romanian	14,300	Romanian	20% nonreligious, Orthodox Church	Refugees from Romania since 1945
Czech	12,700	Czech	Roman Catholic, 20% nonreligious	Refugees from Czech.
Japanese	11,600	Japanese	Buddhism, New-Religionists, nonreligious	Expatriates from Japan on business, commerce, and finance
Reunionese	11,000	Reunion Creole French	Roman Catholic, Pentecostal Churches	Migrant workers from Reunion
Balkan Gypsy	10,500	Romani	Nomadic caravan churches, Gypsy Evangelical Church, Assemblies of God, Roman Catholic, Jehovah's Witness	Found in 25 different countries
Korean	10,100	Korean	Buddhists, Roman Catholic,	Expatriates from Korea



			Presbyterian	
Black Gypsy, Gitano	10,000	Calo	Nomadic caravan churches, Gypsy Evangelical Movement, Assemblies of God, Roman Catholic, Jehovah's Witness	Mainly from Brazil
Fleming	10,000	Vlaams	Roman Catholic Church, Netherlands Reformed Church	Belgian immigrants and expatriates involved in commerce and professions
Romanes	10,000	Romani	Nomadic caravan churches, Gypsy Evangelical Church, Assemblies of God, Roman Catholic, Jehovah's Witness	
Sinti Gypsy, Sasitka	10,000	Romani	Gypsy Evangelical Movement, Roman Catholic	
Luxemburger	6,300	Luxembourgeois	Roman Catholic Church	Luxembourg expatriates involved in commerce, professions, and business
Swedish	6,200	Swedish	Eglise Suedoise Lutherienne Church	Expatriates from Sweden involved in commerce and professions
Senoufo	5,900	Senoufo	40% Muslim, 30% Animist, Roman Catholic Church	Immigrants from the Ivory Coast
Danish	4,600	Danish	National Church of Denmark	Expatriates and immigrants from Denmark
Assyrian	3,500	Assyrian Neo-Aramaic	Roman Catholic Church, Ancient Church of the East (Nestorian)	Refugees from the Middle East
Georgian	2,300	Georgian	Georgian Orthodox	Refugees from

			Church	Georgia since 1917
Tho	2,300	Tay	80% Polytheists, 15% Buddhists, Roman Catholic	Refugees from Vietnam
Iu Mien	2,000	Iu Mien	Buddhism, but also mixture of animistic beliefs	From southern China, primarily Guangxi, Guangdong, and Hunan provinces
Yao	2,000	Jumjum, Kim Mun	Ancestor worship, Animistic	From Jinping area of southeastern Yunnan Province of China
Black Tai	1,700	Tai Dam	60% Animist, 30% nonreligious, Roman Catholic	Refugees and labor immigrants from Vietnam
Gujarati	1,000	Gujarati	Hindu, some Muslims	From Gujarat, a state in India
Pulaar	1,000	Pulaar	Islam	Originally from West Africa
Taiwanese	1,000	Mandarin Chinese		Originally from the island of Taiwan
Tjam	1,000	Cham	Form of Shiite Muslim	Immigrants from Cambodia who left during the Khmer Rouge's reign
Khmu	500	Khmu	Animism	Originally from northern Laos
Nhang	100	Nhang	Animism, Ancestor worship	Originally from China and Vietnam
Brao	5	Lave	Animism, Ancestor worship	Originally from Laos
Kru	1	Chru		Originally from Vietnam

## Christianity in France

A strong Christian community had been established in Lyons by AD 150. The first general council of the West was held at Arles in France in 314. A major development in Christianity was the mass baptism under *Clovis*. Missionary activity of *Columban* and *Boniface*, the studies of *Thomas Aquinas*, the Crusades, monastic reform of *Benedict of Cluny* and *Bernard of Clairvaux*, and rival popes at Avignon and Rome characterized the Middle Ages. The Reformation also affected France. *Martin Luther* and *Huldreich Zwingli*'s influence was strongest in Alsace, however *Calvinism* gained many followers in other parts of the country.

The Huguenots established over 2,000 churches prior to holding their first National synod of Reformed Churches in 1559. Religious conflict and persecution of Protestants resulted from the *Counter-Reformation*. The *Edict of Nantes in 1598* restored some religious freedom. In 1685 *Louis XIV* revoked the edict causing more persecution and driving many into exile. Protestants remained a persecuted minority until the French Revolution of 1794. In 1801, Napoleon recognized Catholicism as the religion of the majority, and the Lutheran and Reformed churches were officially recognized in the following year.

Many of the new Protestant bodies entered France during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and have continued during the present century. Protestant Christianity, accepted during the beginnings of the Reformation, has lost influence in subsequent centuries. Persecution in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries followed by the increasing influence of humanism and nominalism in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries have significantly reduced Protestants to only around 1.6 % of the population with an annual growth rate of around + 2.1%.

Protestantism holds a place of respect as a moral force but is compromised by the intrusion of Liberal Theology, universalism, and tolerance. Further, Protestantism suffers from the French tendency to view Protestantism (especially Evangelical Protestantism) as an alien ideology and to equate Protestants with extremist sectarian groups. Evangelicals were labeled “sects” by a government commission in 1999. Evangelicals are sometimes called “extreme emanations from the Reformed Church.” This French viewpoint makes evangelization more difficult.

### Protestant Churches

Since World War II Protestants have centered their attention on rebuilding churches, liturgical renewal, exploring the possibilities of a more complete regional community life, and evangelization of industrial areas.

The Church of the Augsburg Confession of Alsace and Lorraine (*Eglise de la Confession Augsburg d'Alsace et de Lorraine*) with 331 congregations and 210,000 affiliates, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of France (*Eglises Evangéliques Lutériennes de France*) with 41 congregations and 40,000 affiliates are the 2 principal Lutheran groups.

A strong following has been built up by the Assemblies of God since their arrival in 1929. The Assemblies of God and *Eglises Tziganes*, a church of Gypsies, make up the largest Protestant denomination in France. In the 1990s other Pentecostal and Charismatic groups have reported growth also. The Assemblies of God (*Assemblées de Dieu*) claim 620 congregations and 160,000 affiliates. The *Mission Evangélique des Tziganes* has 62 congregations and 100,000 affiliates.

The Federation of Evangelical Baptist Churches, Darbyites, and Seventh-day Adventists are some of the smaller churches started in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The *Alliance Baptiste Evangélique de Paris Est et Nord* has 18 congregations and 2,000 affiliates. The Darbyites (*Assemblées des Frères*) has 111 congregations and 23,000 affiliates. The Seventh-day Adventists (*Eglise Adventiste du Septième Jour*) has 115 congregations and 14,000 affiliates. The strength of the Protestant churches varies from one area to another.

The Reformed Church, *Eglise Réformée d'Alsace et Lorraine*, have 65 congregations and 33,000 affiliates. The *Eglise Reformée de France* has 350 congregations and 300,000 affiliates.

Relatively large numbers of Protestants are reported in these 8 departments: Bas-Rhin, Gard, Doubs, Ardeche, Haut-Rhin, Drome, Lozere, and Deux-Sevres.

## **Marginal Groups**

### Catholic Church

Catholic Churches (*Eglise Catholique*) claim 34,000 congregations with 40,000,000 affiliates. This number can be misleading, as church attendance is listed at 3,500,000 people.

Since World War II the French Church has been characterized by structural and pastoral changes. The lay organization Catholic Action has developed and reorganized since the changes adopted by the French Episcopal Conference in 1973. Its most marked characteristic has been the orientation of the Church towards the working classes. The worker-priest movement that began in 1943-45 was over by 1959, because of confrontations and arrests involving priests. In 1966, the movement was given sanction to begin again. As more difficulties appeared, the administrative council of the Mission de France was dismissed in 1969.

Baptism in the Catholic Church was listed at 91.5% of the population in 1958, however only 88.7% was shown to be baptized in the Church in 1971. The numbers indicated that 27% of the population of Paris was not baptized, and 21% of Marseilles. The figures did show that 80% of marriages and the majority of funerals are religious. It is estimated that 13% of the total population attends Sunday mass once a month, with rural practice by no means higher than urban. Town practice is not primarily affected by the percentage of working-class population, but rather, the general level practice in any given socio-cultural

region. In some regions, reports show that church attendance is immediately abandoned by 50% of all young persons following their first communion.

The number of ordinations to the priesthood has decreased from 779 in 1948 to less than one hundred in 1990. Departures from the priesthood increased to 150 in 1969.

Catholic Action programs have developed over the past 50 years to serve the 3 major categories of French society: workers, independents and rural inhabitants. In 2000 the Holy See is represented to government and the Catholic hierarchy by a nuncio living in Paris.

### Orthodox Churches

The Greek Orthodox Church (*Eglise Orthodoxe Grècque*) has 27 congregations and 59,850 affiliates.

The Russian Orthodox Church (*Eglises Othodoxes Russe*) has 65 congregations and 48,000 affiliates.

The Romanian Orthodox Church (*Eglise Orthodoxe Roumaine*) has 5 congregations and 7,000 affiliates.

Primarily Greeks, Armenians, and Russians form orthodoxy in France. The Russians are divided into 3 divisions: the Russian Orthodox Church, the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, and the Orthodox Church, Archdiocese of France and Western Europe. There is the Armenian Apostolic Church, with Paris being an important center for diaspora Armenians. In the Greek tradition is the Greek Orthodox Church of France. France is also home to smaller Romanian, Serbian, Ukrainian, and Georgian Orthodox groups.

### Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormon Churches

The Jehovah's Witnesses (*Témoins de Jéhovah*) claim 1,626 congregations and 200,000 affiliates. The Mormon Church (*Eglise des Saintes de JC*) claim 175 churches and 38,000 affiliates.

## **Other Religious Groups in France**

### **Islam:**

Islam is the second largest religious group in France, behind the Catholic Church. Muslims have 5,907,971 affiliates, which is 10% of the French population. France has more Muslims than any other Western European country. Most of the Muslim population is because of immigration, primarily from North Africa. The major countries that Muslims have immigrated from include Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey, Senegal,

Mali, and Mauritania. These people have both legally and illegally immigrated to France. Muslim immigrants are dispersed throughout France, but are found mainly in the southeast (Provence; Cote d'Azur) and in the regions of Paris and Lyons.

The Grand Mosque of Paris was built in 1992 and serves as the center of Muslim life in France. This mosque is the home of the Muslim Institute of Paris and the International Muslim Union. In 1990, the French Interior Ministry set up a Committee on Reflection on Islam.

### **Judaism**

Judaism in France is the largest in Europe and the fourth largest in the world, behind the United States, Russia, and Israel. There are 697,141 Jewish people in France and half of these were originally from North Africa. Jewish immigration increased after World War II from Western European countries, Poland, Romania, Hungary, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria.

### **Buddhism**

Buddhism exists among the immigrants from Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and some native French citizens. Buddhists claim for 602,613 affiliates, 1.02% of the population. The Vietnamese are the largest group that subscribes to Buddhism and have built a temple at Frejus. Buddhist monasteries are found at Gretz, Fort-les-Bancs, and Mougins.

### **Other Religions**

Vietnamese New-religionists, Confucianism, and Baha'i have small communities.

### **Non-religious**

The number of people in France that are listed as non-religious is 11,674,150, or 19.76% of the population. Those who register as non-religious make up 19.76 percent of the population or 11,674,150 persons. This group shows an increase running + 0.7 % per year. The rise of the non-religious has been seen alongside the massive secularization of the society.

### **Future Trends**

France has gradually become more secularized since 1900 and into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. By 2025 church membership could be at 66.4% as a result of the rise of nonreligious to 17%. France's population could be less than 60% Christian by 2050. With the continuation of immigration, by 2050 10% of the population may be Muslim.

## Missiological Implications

1. Evangelicals should consider France an unevangelized area and move to introduce New Testament Christianity into this historic nation. Nearly 50 million people in France have no vital or real link with a Christian Church. *This fact makes France one of the most needy nations in the world from the standpoint of unsaved and unchurched people.*
2. Evangelicals should strive to minister to and deliver the many French people who are involved with occult practices. The 50,000 full-time practitioners of these black arts outnumber the 35,000 known Christian workers. The impact of the occult is felt at every level of French Society.
3. Evangelical churches should reach out to the French Catholics; most of them are no longer committed to the Catholic Church. Many Catholics reject papal infallibility and rigid rules on contraception. There is tension between conservative traditionalists, liberals, modernists, radicals and charismatics.
4. Other Evangelicals in general should note the widespread impact of Charismatics and learn from them some ways of making available the truth of the need for personal faith.
5. Evangelicals should move to evangelize the unreached minorities in France. Among these are:

The large Portuguese, Spanish, and Italian Communities are more receptive in France than in their native lands. Only seven Portuguese or Spanish congregations seek to evangelize these people in their own languages.

The Jewish Community is the fourth largest Jewish population in the world and the largest in Europe. Over 320,000 live in Paris and more than 100,000 in Marseille. Only some 600 believers are known and three known congregations of Messianic Jews. Is this not within itself a major mission field?

The Large Indo-Chinese populations consist mainly of refugees from the Indo-China area who have come to France in the 1970s and 1980s. A small minority has become Christian. Some groups are working among these peoples but only 11 Hmong-Lao churches, seven Chinese congregations, three Cambodian groups and two Vietnamese churches exist. Only a limited number of pastors and missionaries attempt to carry on this important work

The Berbers, a majority of them North Africans in France, stem mainly from Algeria. Kabyle believers are attempting to reach their people in Algeria and France. The Jesus Film has been productive in attempting to reach this people.

The Muslim North Africans compose a population most of whom have never heard the gospel. The racism of the French, including the Christians, have both antagonized this group and rendered them more resistant to the gospel. On the other hand, some 2000 known Muslim-background believers serve in France

The Black Africans who have entered France for study, as refugees, and to seek work, remain unevangelized. Like the group above, these people are largely Muslim with little evangelistic work among them.

Growing Turkish, Iranian, and Afghan populations need to be reached with the gospel but little is now being done among these peoples.

6. Evangelicals should support a tremendous increase in youth ministry. Many young people are bored, frustrated and confused. There are 68 universities and over 2 million students in tertiary education. Evangelization of these students has worldwide implications.
7. Evangelicals should cooperate to provide leadership training for Christian workers in France. Some 12 residential Evangelical Bible Schools and Seminaries with some 250 students now serve in France. Evangelicals should give assistance in training both those in the residential schools and other leaders in the churches.