

MISSIONARY ATLAS PROJECT

EUROPE

Gibraltar

Snapshot Section

Country Name:

Gibraltar but also known as as *Jabal Tariq* since AD 711

Country Founded in:

In 1713, Gibraltar became a dependency of Great Britain.

Population:

27,967 (July 2007 est.)

Government Type:

Parliamentary representative democratic dependency.

Geography/location in the world:

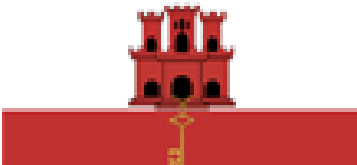
39 11 N, 5 22 W

A part of Europe, Gibraltar is located at the southernmost tip of the Iberian Peninsula. It overlooks the Strait of Gibraltar.

Number of people groups:

Gibraltar has eleven people groups of which the Gibraltarian and British are the largest.

Picture of flag:

**Religion Snapshot**

Major Religion and % of population:

Roman Catholicism 78.1%

Other Non-Christian:

Judaism	2.1%
Islam	4%
Hinduism	1.8%

Christian Cults and Sects:

Jehovah's Witnesses	313 people
Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints	

Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches:

Roman Catholic Church	78.1%
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Protestants, Evangelicals, and Pentecostals:

Church of England	7%
Church of Scotland	
Methodist Church	
Independent, Evangelical churches	5 churches total

Government interaction with religion:

There is complete religious liberty in Gibraltar (Article 9 of the Constitution 2006). The government allows each religious group to provide religious education in public schools for its adherents (Article 9).

Sources consulted:

Patrick Johnstone and Jason Mandryk, *Operation World*, 21st Century Edition (Harrisonburgh: R. R. Donnelley & Sons, 2001)

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/print/gi.html>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gibraltar>

http://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/constitution/new_constitution/NewGibraltarConstitution.pdf

MISSION ATLAS PROJECT

Gibraltar

Western Europe

Basic Facts

Country Name:

Gibraltar but also known as as *Jabal Tariq* since AD 711

Demographics:

27,967 people live in Gibraltar (2007 est.).

The population's age structure is as follows:

0-14 years: 17.2% (male 2,460/female 2,534)
15-64 years: 66.3% (male 9,470/female 9,070)
65 years and over: 16.5% (male 2,090/female 2,534)

The median age is 40.1 years (male 39.6 years/female 40.4 years). At birth, the life expectancy is 79.93 years (male 77.05 years/female 82.96 years).

With a birth rate of 10.69 births/1,000 population, a death rate of 9.4 deaths/1,000 population, and a net migration rate of 0 migrants/1,000 population, Gibraltar's population growth rate for 2007 is estimated at 0.129%. The infant mortality rate is 4.98 deaths/1,000 live births (male: 5.54 deaths/1,000 live births; female: 4.39 deaths/1,000 live births). The fertility rate is 1.65 children born/woman. The population's sex ratio is 1.005 males/female and is divided as follows:

At birth: 1.06 males/female
Under 15 years: 1.05 males/female
15-64 years: 1.044 males/female
65 years and over: 0.825 males/female

Between 2000 and 2005, the urbanization level was 100%.

There were around 7,000 households with an average of 4.00 people each (The population is concentrated in the western part of the country with a minority living in Sandy Bay and Catalan Bay on the eastern coast. T

The population density is c. 11,154 people per sq mi (4,290 per sq km). The people live in seven residential areas: East Side, North District, Reclamation Areas, Sandpits Area, South District, Town Area, and Upper Town. Housing shortage is a serious problem facing the people in Gibraltar.

<http://ww2.unhabitat.org/habrdd/conditions/southeurope/gibraltar.htm>). (<http://www.andalucia.com/gibraltar/geography.htm>)

Language:

As a dependency of Great Britain, Gibraltar uses English as official language. English is an Indo-European, West-Germanic language.

Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese are three other languages spoken in Gibraltar. Spanish is an Indo-European, Romance, and Gallo-Iberian language. Italian and Portuguese, too, are Indo-European, Romance languages.

The majority of Gibraltarians also speak Llatino, a dialect of Andalusian Spanish and influenced by English.

The Moroccan Arabs speak Arabic.

The Indo-Pakistani people speak Hindi.

The Maltese to some extent still speak the Maltese language.

Society/Culture:

The culture of Gibraltar is as diverse as the population's diverse origins: mainly, Andalusian Spaniards, Maltese, Genoese, Portuguese, and British.

The majority of the population professes the Roman Catholic faith.

The Church of England is the second largest church.

Jews, Hindus, and Muslims also contribute to the culture and society of Gibraltar.

During WW II, Gibraltar's population was evacuated so the British military could better protect the territory and launch attacks from it. After the war, repatriation took place, enhancing the people's Gibraltar identity, not just British. For some cultural experiences, however, the Gibraltarian people look to Spain and the UK.

Soccer and nightlife are just two examples. In general, most Gibraltarians do not identify with the Spanish state. Spain has one museum in Gibraltar that waves the Spanish flag. Some of Gibraltar's literature is written in Spanish. Hector Licudi's novel *Barbarita* (1929) is one example.

Gibraltar's holidays are the following: New Year's Day (January 1), Commonwealth Day (March 12), Good Friday, Easter Monday, May Day (first Monday in May), Spring Bank Holiday, Queen's Birthday (June 11), Summer Bank Holiday, National Day (September 10), Christmas Day (December 25), and Boxing Day (December 26). National Day is the commemoration of the 1967 referendum which had acceptance or rejection of Spain's annexation of Gibraltar as its topic. An overwhelming majority of Gibraltar's population voted against annexation.

Gibraltar has 14 schools and 1 College of Further Education. All of the schools' teachers are trained in the UK. There are five nursery and pre-school facilities, one special education school with a Child Development Centre attached to it. Education is compulsory for residents ages 4-16. The primary and secondary education systems are based on those of the UK. Gibraltar does not have any facilities for full-time higher education. Most students attend colleges and universities in Britain with scholarships from the Gibraltar government. (http://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/gov_depts/education/education_index.htm#school_system; <http://www.qppstudio.net/bankholidays2007/gibraltar.htm>)

Soccer, cricket, and rugby are three popular sports in Gibraltar. The Gibraltar Football Association is one of the oldest football associations in the world. The Gibraltar Football League, formed in 1905, has three divisions today. Cricket was introduced to the territory by British servicemen in the late 18th century. Gibraltar plays all of its rugby games in Spain.

Cars are the main modes of transportation in Gibraltar. Since Gibraltar shares a land border with Spain, traffic drives on the right side of the road, not on the left as in the UK. Motorbikes are popular, too, as is the modern bus service.

Due to transportation restrictions imposed by the Spanish dictator Franco, the border between Spain and Gibraltar remained closed from 1969 through 1982. Air and ferry connections were prohibited as well. The airline restrictions were removed in late 2006: today British Airways maintains daily flight connections to London and Manchester, GB Airways flies to London and other cities, and Iberia flies daily from Gibraltar to Madrid. Gibraltar Airport intersects the city's main north-south street; the street has to be blocked whenever an airplane departs or lands.

First published in 1801, *The Gibraltar Chronicle* is the second-oldest daily newspaper in the world. Other newspapers are *Panorama*, *Vox*, *7 Days*, *The New People*, and *Gibsport*. Internet is widely available. The Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation operates a TV and radio station.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Gibraltar

Government:

Since 2006, Gibraltar has had full internal self-government as an overseas territory of the UK. The preamble in the 2006 amended Constitution relating to this fact reads: "Her Majesty's Government will never enter into arrangements under which the people of Gibraltar would pass under the sovereignty of another state against their freely and democratically expressed wishes: ... the people of Gibraltar have in a referendum held on 30th November 2006 freely approved and accepted the Constitution annexed to this Order which gives the people of Gibraltar that degree of self-government which is compatible with British sovereignty of Gibraltar and with the fact that the United Kingdom remains fully responsible for Gibraltar's external relations" (http://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/constitution/new_constitution/NewGibraltarConstitution.pdf).

The executive branch consists of Queen Elizabeth II; Governor Sir Robert Fulton, who represents the British monarch in Gibraltar and is appointed by her; and the Chief Minister, currently Peter R. Caruana, who is the head of the Gibraltar cabinet and the leader of the majority party. The cabinet is a Council of Ministers chosen from among the fifteen elected members of the House of Assembly.

The unicameral government or the Gibraltar Parliament forms the legislative branch and has eighteen seats, of which fifteen are elected by popular vote; one is appointed for the Speaker; and two are for ex officio members. The Gibraltar Parliament members serve four-year terms. The next election will be held in or before February 2008. The current Gibraltar Parliament is comprised of representatives of three political parties: Gibraltar Social Democrats (GSD), Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party (GSLP), and Gibraltar Liberal Party (GLP). GSD is the majority party; GSLP and GLP form the opposition. Suffrage is universal at age 18. British citizens who have been residents in Gibraltar for six or more

months are also eligible to vote. “In the next election the number of seats in the Parliament will be increased” (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Gibraltar).

The judicial branch consists of the Magistrates’ Court, the Supreme Court, and the Court of Appeal. Gibraltar’s legal system is based on English law: criminal jurisdiction is similar to that of the English Crown Court; civil jurisdiction is the same as that of the English High Court. Gibraltar enjoys a tax system different from that of the UK. The Royal Gibraltar Police Force and Gibraltar Customs are responsible for law enforcement. Both are heavily involved “in the international battle against drug trafficking” (http://www.gibraltar.gi/judiciary/judiciary_index.htm).

Although Spain would like to share sovereignty with the UK over Gibraltar, Gibraltar’s political parties oppose any of Spain’s ideas. The Spanish government would like for the British monarch and Spanish monarch to be joint heads of state, similar to the French and Spanish co-princes of Andorra (see profile on Andorra). It is unlikely that the UK will relinquish any of its powers over Gibraltar to Spain: The Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 gave Great Britain permanent rights over Gibraltar. Moreover, the preamble to the Constitution reads that the UK will not act in any way regarding Gibraltar’s status without the express permission of the people in Gibraltar. In 2002, a referendum was held in which a majority of Gibraltar’s population voted against Spanish interference.

Gibraltar is a member of the European Union under the British Treaty of Accession. Since its electorate is too small to have a single seat in the European Parliament, Gibraltar is part of the South West England region.

<http://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Gibraltar

Economy:

A self-sufficient territory, Gibraltar is prosperous due to an extensive shipping trade, its position as an international conference center, offshore banking, and tourism (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/print/gi.html>). In 2000, Gibraltar’s GDP was an estimated \$769 million or \$27,900 per capita. Tourism, the financial sector, and the shipping sector each contribute 25-30% of the GDP. Telecommunication contributes 10%. Whereas the British military contributed up to 60% of Gibraltar’s GDP in 1984, it now only contributes a mere 6-7%.

Gibraltar is situated at one of the busiest shipping lanes and receives more than 7,000 ship calls annually. Many specialist shipping companies offer support services. Many cruise ships dock in Gibraltar, bringing in many tourists. Tourists also arrive by plane or car. Spain has allowed airlines other than British to fly into Gibraltar, to add more phone lines into Gibraltar, and to speed up customs procedures. In 2005, an estimated 6 million tourists visited Gibraltar.

In 2001, the labor force was 12,690: almost none in agriculture, 40% in industry, and 60% in services. In that same year, the unemployment rate was 2%. In October 2005,

16,874 people worked in Gibraltar of whom 9,836 worked full time. This number includes the so-called frontier workers, i.e. “an employee who is normally resident in Spain and is employed in Gibraltar” (http://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/gov_depts/Statistics/Employment_Survey_2005.pdf).

Gibraltar’s budget consists of \$307 million in revenues and \$248 million in expenditures. In 2004, Gibraltar exported goods, mainly petroleum (51%) and manufactured goods (41%), worth \$271 million. In 2005, its main export partners are the UK (30.8%), Spain (22.7%), Germany (13.7%), Turkmenistan (10.4%), Switzerland (8.3%), and Italy (6.7%). In 2004, Gibraltar imported goods, mainly fuels, manufactured goods, and foodstuffs, worth \$2.967 billion. In 2005, Gibraltar’s main import partners were Spain (23.4%), Russia (12.3%), Italy (12%), the UK (9%), France (8.9%), the Netherlands (6.8%), and the USA (4.7%).

Gibraltar is a member of the EU under the British Treaty of Accession. Like the UK, Gibraltar does not use the Euro as its currency. Instead, it uses the Gibraltar pound which is at par with the British pound.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/print/gi.html>

Literacy:

The literacy rate for the Gibraltar population is above 80%.

Land/Geography:





39 11 N, 5 22 W

A part of Europe, Gibraltar is located at the southernmost tip of the Iberian Peninsula. It overlooks the Strait of Gibraltar. The Strait of Gibraltar connects the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. Africa lies 20 miles south of Gibraltar across the Strait. Gibraltar's area is made up of land only – 6.543 sq km (2.53 sq mi). Its only land border is with Spain – 1.2 km (0.75 mi). The country's coastline measures 12 km (7.5 mi) and its maritime claims extend 3 nm.

Gibraltar's lowest point is 0 m (Mediterranean Sea) and its highest point is 426 m (1,396 ft., the Rock of Gibraltar). The country has neither natural resources nor any arable land. Its terrain consists of narrow coastal lowland bordering the Rock of Gibraltar. The Rock is made of limestone and has quite lengthy tunneled roads. The military operates most of these roads. A nature reserve occupies most of the Rock's upper area. Around 230 Barbary Macaques, Europe's only wild monkeys, call the reserve their home.

Gibraltar enjoys a Mediterranean climate: warm summers and mild winters. The easterly Levante wind comes from the Sahara in Africa, bringing in humid weather and warmer sea. The westerly Poniente wind brings colder sea and fresher air. Gibraltar has an annual average of 300 days of sunshine.

Gibraltar has limited freshwater resources. Rainwater is collected in natural rock or large concrete water catchments but is no longer used for drinking water.

<http://www.andalucia.com/gibraltar/geography.htm>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gibraltar>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/print/gi.html>

History

Gibraltar's history is marked by multiple sieges. The first official siege began in 1309. Until that year, different tribes and empires had lived in and occupied the territory. The

first inhabitation dates back to prehistoric times: two skulls were discovered and found to be skulls of Neanderthals. Around 950 BC, the Phoenicians visited the Rock, naming it Calpe, and founded the city Carteia at the Bay of Gibraltar. Carteia became a place of worship for sailors: sailors prayed there to the gods before entering the Atlantic Ocean. Later, the Carthaginians also visited the Rock. The Greek philosopher Plato refers to the Rock as one of the two Pillars of Hercules, the other pillar being Jebel Musa or Monte Hacho on the opposite side of the Strait of Gibraltar.

The Romans passed through Gibraltar, followed by the Vandals and the Goths (Visigoths). The latter's stay lasted from 414 to 711. For a short period during the second half of the sixth century, Gibraltar was part of the Byzantine Empire.

After the death of the prophet of Islam, Mohammed, in AD 632 a wave of Islamic influence and conquest extended into North Africa. This was to be the beginning of Islamic control of Gibraltar as well which lasted until 1462 except for a brief period of Spanish control (1309-1333).

In 711, the Berber chief, general, and Governor of Tangier, Tarik-ibn-Ziyad, successfully led the attack on the Rock. Gibraltar receives its name from this general (Jebel Tarik – Mountain of Tarik). During the first four hundred years of Islamic or Moorish rule, little was built in Gibraltar. In 1160, the Almohad Sultan Abd al-Mu'min had a permanent settlement built, Medinah al-Fath (City of the Victory). The tower of the Moorish castle still stands today.

Ibn Hud, the Taifa emir of Murcia, took Gibraltar after the Marinids (a southeast Moroccan tribe) ended the Almohad Empire in 1231. Six years later, Gibraltar fell into the hands of the founder of the Nasrid kingdom of Granada, Muhammed ibn Nasr. His successor gave Gibraltar to the Marinids in return for their fight against the Christian kingdoms. By 1252, only two Islamic kingdoms remained in Spain, namely in Murcia and Granada. The Castilian king and queen recovered Granada in 1492.

In 1309, the First Siege of Gibraltar took place under the leadership of Alonso Pérez de Guzmán (aka Guzmán el Bueno). After one month, the Marinid garrison surrendered to the Castilians. Gibraltar's 1,500 or so inhabitants were allowed to leave for Morocco. On January 31, 1310, King Ferdinand IV of Castile granted Gibraltar its first charter. Since Gibraltar was considered a high-risk town due to its strategic position, the charter contained incentives for people willing to settle there.

In 1316, Gibraltar once again proved to be a high-risk town: the Second Siege took place led by the Nasrid Yahya. The Castilian garrison, however, held out and defeated the Nasrid army. In June of 1333, a Marinids army laid a five-month siege – the Third Siege of Gibraltar – and was successful.

King Alfonso XI of Castile's response was the Fourth Siege of Gibraltar. While the King was laying siege, a Nasrid army from Granada attacked him. The Fourth Siege, then, ended in a truce which allowed the Marinids to remain control of Gibraltar. In 1349, King

Alfonso XI again unsuccessfully besieged the Rock. The following year, he resumed the siege (Fifth Siege) but once again was unsuccessful: The Black Death killed many of the besiegers and their King. The Sixth Siege of Gibraltar in 1374 resulted in the Nasrid kingdom of Granada gaining control of Gibraltar. The people lived in relative peace until 1436 when the Nasrid garrison repelled a Castilian attack (Seventh Siege).

On August 20, 1462 (Eighth Siege of Gibraltar), Castilian forces were victorious. Two Castilian families argued over the possession of the town. Juan Alonso de Guzmán took the town as personal property, but then King Henry IV of Castile decided Gibraltar was Crown property and not personal property. The 1310 charter to Gibraltar was restored.

The Pope granted the status of collegiate church to the Santa Mária Church. St. Bernard of Clairvaux, celebrated on August 20, became Gibraltar's patron saint. The Ninth Siege, which took place five years later, resulted in the forces of the Duke of Medina taking Gibraltar and King Henry IV being granted the Lordship of Gibraltar. A couple of years later, the Duke of Medina and his family sided with the King and were given Gibraltar as part of their domains.

The Spanish Catholic monarchs conquered Granada and expelled all the Jews from Spain in 1492. Many of them passed through Gibraltar. Nine years later, the King and Queen asked for the return of Gibraltar as Crown property and the Duke obliged. Queen Isabella of Castile granted Gibraltar its coat of arms in July 1502; the Castle and the Key are still Gibraltar's Arms today.

In 1506, the Duke of Medina unsuccessfully besieged the city (Tenth Siege of Gibraltar). Twelve years after the 1540 raid of Gibraltar by corsairs or pirates under their leader Barbarossa, King Charles I (Emperor Charles V) sent an Italian engineer to build a defense wall in Gibraltar. A ditch by the wall and a drawbridge were built as well. The wall is known today as the Charles V Wall.

In 1606, the Spanish King expelled all Moriscos (descendants of the Muslims in Spain) from Spain; many of them came through Gibraltar on their way to North Africa. The following year saw the Battle of Gibraltar as a Dutch fleet attacked a Spanish fleet at the Bay of Gibraltar. This took place during the Eighty Years' War between the United Provinces (today's Belgium and the Netherlands) and Spain. The remainder of the seventeenth century was rather uneventful for Gibraltar. This proved to be silence before the storm: the War of the Spanish Succession broke out in May 1702.

When King Charles II of Spain died on November 1, 1700, he did not have any descendants. Prior to his death, Charles II had bequeathed all of Spain and its possessions to Prince Philip of Bourbon, who was backed by France. Austria, Holland, England, and the Holy Roman Empire, however, supported the other pretender to the throne, Archduke Charles of the Austrian Hapsburg family.

The Treaty of the Hague (1701), signed by the Netherlands, England, and Austria, accepted Philippe of Anjou as King of Spain while allotting the Spanish territories in

Italy and the Spanish Netherlands to Austria. The Netherlands and England kept their commercial rights in Spain. In May 1702, the War of the Spanish Succession began. In February 1703, the Archduke Charles, taking on the name of Charles III, was made King of Castile and Aragon.

The Eleventh Siege of Gibraltar in August 1704 left the control of Gibraltar to the British. In 2004, Gibraltar celebrated its tercentenary of British relations. On August 1, 1704, Sir George Rooke directed his Anglo-Dutch fleet to besiege Gibraltar. The Spanish Governor of Gibraltar refused to surrender unconditionally and swear an oath of loyalty to Archduke Charles/Charles III. Representing the Archduke, Prince George of Hesse-Darmstadt, then, also besieged Gibraltar with his brigade of British and Dutch Marines. On August 4, after a night of heavy enemy shelling targeting the castle and the town, the Governor surrendered Gibraltar to Prince George. The Eleventh Siege was now over.

The three sieges in September 1704 (The Twelfth Siege), February-June 1727 (The Thirteenth Siege), and July 1779-September 1782 (The Great Siege) were all attempts on the side of the Spanish King to regain control of Gibraltar. The British garrison, however, survived all attacks. In 1707, the British Queen Anne directly appointed the first British Governor, Roger Elliott, to Gibraltar.

The Treaties of Utrecht (1713) ratified the Spanish ceding of Gibraltar to Britain in perpetuity. The Great Siege was actually a joint effort by Spanish and French troops to recapture Gibraltar for Spain. Despite fierce opposition, attacks, and a blockade of supplies, the British garrison remained in control of its territory. After the Great Siege, the British began working on the Great Siege Tunnels: underground fortifications of which some are accessible to the public nowadays.

Gibraltar suffered a great loss when a typhus epidemic killed over one third of the population (5,946 people). The territory endured another loss when Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean Admiral Nelson, who had arrived in Gibraltar in 1803, died in the Battle of Trafalgar (October 21, 1805). In 1810, Britain and Spain became allies as they joined forces against Napoleon. Apart from the Napoleonic Wars, the British in Gibraltar enjoyed a rather peaceful eighteenth century.

In 1830, Gibraltar gained the status of British Crown Colony. The Gibraltar Police Force was established that same year. Traffic through the Strait of Gibraltar increased with the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 so that the construction of the dockyards in Gibraltar was started. Since then, many ships have been repaired in those dockyards. On August 5, 1908 the British Government told Spain that it would build a fence between Spain and Gibraltar to bring down the percentages of smuggling and sentry duty. Until today, Spain claims the fence was built on Spanish soil; Britain states it was built 1 meter inside British territory. The border is open 24 hours per day as required by the EU.

Gibraltar assisted Great Britain during World War I and was rewarded the status of City Council. Subsequently, Gibraltar held its first elections. The territory's civilians were evacuated during World War II. Gibraltar was completely turned into a fortress and

formed a major supply line for the allied forces. The Nazi forces never occupied Gibraltar: their operation to occupy the territory failed because Spain did not allow the Nazis on its soil. By 1946, most of the civilians were repatriated. Others, however, had to wait up to four more years before seeing their home territory again.

The UK announced Gibraltar to be a Non-Self-Governing Territory in 1946. Four years later, Gibraltar opened its first Legislative Council. In 1954, at the 250th anniversary of Britain's capture of Gibraltar, Queen Elizabeth's visited the territory, angering Spanish General Franco who renewed Spain's claim to sovereignty over Gibraltar. In a 1967 referendum, the Gibraltarians voted overwhelmingly in favor of close ties with Britain. Franco's disapproval of British rule caused Spain to close its border with Gibraltar in 1969. The border remained closed until December 15, 1982, when it was opened for pedestrians only.

In 1985, the border was fully opened. As a result of the closed border, many Spanish, commuting workers lost their jobs and Gibraltarians with families in Spain had to sail to Tangiers in Morocco and from there to the Spanish port of Algeciras in order to visit their families in Spain. In 2002, the British foreign secretary proposed Britain and Spain share sovereignty over Gibraltar. However, 98.97% of the Gibraltarian voter turnout rejected the proposal. In 2006, a new 'non-colonial' Constitution replaced the 1969 Constitution. In the preface, it reads: "Her Majesty's Government will never enter into arrangements under which the people of Gibraltar would pass under the sovereignty of another state against their freely and democratically expressed wishes" (http://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/constitution/new_constitution/NewGibraltarConstitution.pdf). In 2007, Spain lifted all remaining restrictions regarding telecommunications infrastructure.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Gibraltar

http://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/about_gib/history/history_index.htm

Christian History

For about seven centuries, the people who inhabited Gibraltar were mainly Muslims as control of the territory was in the hands of Muslim generals. The year 1462 was a turning point when Gibraltar went over into Castilian hands. King Henry IV of Castile, then, solicited the status of collegiate church for Gibraltar from Pope Pius II. The Pope granted the King's request and the Santa Maria Church, which was the old Moorish mosque, became the collegiate church. At that time, St. Bernard of Clairvaux became the patron saint of Gibraltar: his feast day is on the same day as King Henry's capture of Gibraltar, August 20.

Starting in the early 1700s, the British impeded missionary work. Until 1806 (another source mentions the year 1817), the Catholic Church of Gibraltar belonged to the See of Cadiz. In 1806 (or 1817), the Church of Gibraltar became a Catholic Apostolic Vicariate. Since 1840, the vicar has always been a titular bishop. The Catholic Church of Gibraltar became its own diocese in 1910. Nowadays, most of the Catholic believers (around 23,000) are Italian or Spanish immigrants, making up around 78% of the population (http://www.ewtn.com/new_evangelization/europe/history/countries2.htm).

The Cathedral of St. Mary the Crowned is the main Roman Catholic Church in Gibraltar. Other Catholic sites are Sacred Heart Parish Church, St. Joseph's Parish Church, St. Bernard's Church, St. Paul's Parish Church, St. Theresa's Parish Church, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, and Shrine of Our Lady of Europe.

The Shrine of Our Lady of Europe was a small mosque when the Castilians found it after capturing Gibraltar in 1462. The Castilians converted the mosque into a Christian shrine, "with devout intention of consecrating to God, through Mary, the whole continent, from a place of prayer and worship at its southernmost point." The church itself is the Santa Maria Church (nowadays the Cathedral of St. Mary the Crowned), but the area within the walls of the complex became the Shrine of Our Lady of Europe.

A statue of Mary and the Christ child, both crowned, was placed in the shrine. For the next two centuries, the shrine's fame increased: sailors passing through the Strait of Gibraltar would salute Our Lady and would often come ashore to bring gifts to the shrine. A constant supply of oil donated by the mariners kept a light burning in front of the image and in the tower. People who invoked Our Lady's name were granted graces and special favors. During times of siege, the shrine was used as a place of refuge. When the British conquered Gibraltar in 1704, they stripped the shrine of all its valuables. The statue floated out to sea since it was made out of wood. The pieces were found and taken to Algeciras for safekeeping. The shrine ceased as a place of worship until after the Great Siege (1779-82) when a replica of the statue was placed in the chapel. Devotees of Our Lady formed a guild which encouraged devotion to Our Lady, took care of the poor, and organized pilgrimages. Today, the shrine is still a place where pilgrims gather. For more information, see <http://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/>.

Although the British had ruled Gibraltar since 1704/1713 and the Anglican Church had been present in Gibraltar since then, the Anglican Church formed the Anglican Diocese of Gibraltar only on August 21, 1822 by Letters Patent. The Diocese is in charge of "the pastoral care of the chaplaincies and congregations from Portugal to the Caspian Sea" (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Gibraltar). The Anglican Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity in Gibraltar is both a parish church and the mother church of the Diocese of Europe. The Church was built in 1825 and consecrated in 1838.

In 1769, Henry Ince, a British soldier, organized a Methodist Meeting in his home. This was the beginning of the Gibraltar Methodist Church. The church forms a part of the South East District of The Methodist Church, UK. The Gibraltar Methodist Church runs a bookstore and cafeteria.

St. Andrew's Church (Presbyterian) was opened in 1854 as the result of a fundraising initiated by expatriate Scots. Before 1854, Scottish regiments formed a part of the British garrison but were prevented from worshiping according to their own traditions. Along with twelve other congregations on mainland Europe, St. Andrews is a part of the Presbytery of Europe.

In more recent years, five evangelical, independent churches have opened their doors to the population and visitors of Gibraltar. These five independent churches are: Evangelical Church Gospel Hall, Prince of Peace Worship Meetings for Bible Believers, New Life Church, Iglesia Evangelia Filadelfia, and Bethel Christian Fellowship.

Many of the Christian churches in Gibraltar are part of the Gibraltar Interfaith Group made up of Christians, Jews, Muslims, and people adhering to other religions. Whereas the aim of the group is positive – “to enable members of different faiths to learn about each other’s beliefs, practices and traditions in order to create greater friendship, harmony and understanding” – one may ask whether it is appropriate to read from the Qur’an during a Christmas service in one of the Christian churches (<http://www.gibraltarnewsonline.com/2007/02/22/alwani-trust-supports-interfaith-group-with-generous-donation/>).

Religion

The Gibraltar Interfaith Group was formed in 2004. Its membership consists of Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, and people of other faiths. “The aim of the group is to enable members of different faiths to learn about each other’s beliefs, practices and traditions in order to create greater friendship, harmony and understanding” (<http://www.gibraltarnewsonline.com/2007/02/22/alwani-trust-supports-interfaith-group-with-generous-donation/>).

Non-Christian:

Judaism

The Jewish community numbers around 500-600 members or 2.1%. Since 1721, Jews have lived freely in Gibraltar. Their first synagogue was built in 1749. Today there are five synagogues. The majority of the Jews in Gibraltar are Sephardic Jews. The Jewish Holy Book consists of the Torah (the law), the Nebiim (the prophets), and the Chetoebim (the writings). Christians refer to this collection as the Old Testament. Jews believe in one God, the Creator of heaven and earth.

Islam (4%):

Throughout history, Gibraltar has been in the hands of Muslims on several occasions. Today, most of the Moroccan Arabs in Gibraltar are Muslims. There is one mosque in Gibraltar. Islam’s holy book is the Qur’an. Some of the basic tenets of faith are belief in Allah and his unity, belief in the prophets (especially Muhammad; Jesus was only one of the prophets and fully man), belief in paradise and hell, and belief in judgment day.

Hinduism (1.8%)

The basic belief of Hinduism is that human and animal spirits reincarnate. The caste system, finding morality, merging with Brahman or ultimate reality, and reaching Nirvana (at which stage a spirit will no longer reincarnate) are other key concepts of this major world religion. No specific information found on Hindus in Gibraltar. Most likely,

most Hindus in Gibraltar are Indo-Pakistanis. Hindus worship in the Hindu temple Mandir.

Jehovah's Witnesses (313 people)

In 1869, Charles Russell formed a Bible study group in Allegheny, PA, which led to the movement of the Jehovah's Witnesses. Jehovah's Witnesses differ from evangelical Christians on different points of doctrine. For example, Jesus is only human, not divine; there is no Trinity; and only 144,000 people will enter heaven. In Gibraltar, two congregations share the same Kingdom Hall. One congregation holds services in English, the other in Spanish.

Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints (number unknown)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, of which the members are known as Mormons, was founded by Joseph Smith in 1820. The Church claims 11 million members worldwide. In addition to the Bible, the Latter-day Saints consider The Pearl of Great Price, The Doctrine and Covenants, and The Book of Mormon (1830) as sacred.

Although in 1890, the practice of polygamy was officially rejected, polygamy is still present in the state of Utah (USA). The Mormons are known for their extensive research in genealogy. Their views on the main Christian doctrines differ from those held by evangelical Christians. There is a Mormon mission in Gibraltar.

Roman Catholic Church (78.1%)

The Roman Catholic Church in Gibraltar forms its own Diocese and as such is directly responsible to the Pope at the Vatican. The Cathedral of St. Mary the Crowned is the main Roman Catholic Church in Gibraltar. Other Catholic sites are Sacred Heart Parish Church, St. Joseph's Parish Church, St. Bernard's Church, St. Paul's Parish Church, St. Theresa's Parish Church, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, and Shrine of Our Lady of Europe. Gibraltar has an estimated 23,000 baptized Catholics. The basic Roman Catholic beliefs are similar to those of other mainstream Christian groups: God the Creator entered the world through the incarnation of Christ Jesus, God the Son. The sacraments in the Roman Catholic Church are the following: Baptism, Eucharist, confirmation, marriage, confession, holy orders, and the anointing of the sick (last rites).

Orthodox Church: None found.

Evangelical, Protestant, and Pentecostal Churches:

Church of England/Anglican Church (7%)

The Church of England came into being when Henry VIII approved the Act of Supremacy in 1531. The Church broke with the Roman Catholic Church and the Pope in Rome because the Pope refused to annul Henry's marriage. Henry VIII now became the

head of the Church of England. Some of its practices and traditions have remained Roman Catholic in character; other aspects have undergone some reform. The Anglican Diocese of Gibraltar was formed on August 21, 1822 by Letters Patent. The Anglican Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity in Gibraltar is both a parish church and the mother church of the Diocese of Europe. The church provides prayer services and communion on a daily basis. The eucharist service is sung every Sunday morning. For more information, see <http://www.acny.org.uk/venue.php?V=5530>.

Methodist Church (percentage unknown)

In 1769, Henry Ince, a British soldier, organized a Methodist Meeting in his home. This was the beginning of the Gibraltar Methodist Church. The church forms a part of the South East District of The Methodist Church, UK. The Gibraltar Methodist Church runs a bookstore and cafeteria. John Wesley was the founder of the Methodist denomination in the USA in the early 1740s. The idea of “Christian perfection,” or holiness of heart and life, is important in Methodist thought. For more information on the Gibraltar Methodist Church, visit <http://www.methodist.org.gi/>.

Church of Scotland (percentage unknown)

St. Andrew’s Church dates back to 1854 and is part of the Presbytery of Europe (13 churches total across mainland Europe). The church is mainly composed of expatriates. The Church of Scotland is Scotland’s national church and Presbyterian in nature, since it has been shaped heavily by the Scottish Reformation. The Bible is viewed as the Word of God. The two recognized sacraments are (infant and adult) baptism and the Lord’s Supper. For more information on St. Andrew’s Church of Gibraltar, see <http://www.scotskirkgibraltar.com/>.

Independent/Non-denominational (percentage unknown)

There are five independent churches in Gibraltar: Evangelical Church Gospel Hall, Prince of Peace Worship Meetings for Bible Believers, New Life Church, Iglesia Evangelia Filadelfia, and Bethel Christian Fellowship. In general, non-denominational churches hold to the infallibility of Scripture, belief in the Trinity, and salvation by grace through faith in Christ Jesus. Bethel Christian Fellowship is a charismatic church. For more information on this church, visit <http://www.bethelgib.com/>.

People Groups

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Arab, Moroccan (2,900)

The Moroccan Arabs are from Morocco in north-west Africa. Their ancestors are Arabs from the Arabian Desert. There are two main groups of Moroccan Arabs: Those living in the cities and descended from the Moors and those living in rural areas. The latter are called Arabized Berbers because of their intermingling with rural Berbers.

The Moroccan Arabs count for 40% of Morocco's population. Their language is Maghribi. Most of the Moroccan Arabs are Muslims.) Many of the Moroccan Arabs are guest laborers in Gibraltar. According to some human rights groups in the UK, the living and working conditions of these Moroccan Arabs are degrading.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopetry.php?rop3=106804&rog3=MO>

279

British (3,300)

The British are originally from Great Britain. The British consist of English, Scots, Welsh, and Irish people. These people groups share a similar culture with many individual/national elements. The majority belongs to the Christian faith. The British in Gibraltar are distinct from the Gibraltarian British. The former is called "other British" and looked down upon by the Gibraltarian British. The other British are largely expatriates. Many of them work in the offshore finance sector and are considered High Net Worth Individuals, "Who receive tax concessions in return for buying property and residing locally for at least part of the year" (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture_of_Gibraltar).

280

Gibraltarian (18,800)

Gibraltarian, also known as Llanito/Yanito, are a distinct European people with a variety of backgrounds: British, Spanish, Portuguese, Maltese, and Genoese. The ethnic divisions have become almost invisible due to intermarriages and a distinct Gibraltar identity. The Gibraltarian speak English or the vernacular Llanito/Yanito. The majority adheres to the Roman Catholic faith. (James B. Minahan, *One Europe, Many Nations* (Westport: Greenwood Press, 2000), 295ff.)

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Deaf (number unknown)

The number of deaf in Gibraltar is unknown. The territory is apparently too small to have its own sign language (<http://deafness.about.com/cs/signfeats2/a/spanishsign.htm>). The deaf mostly use the English/UK sign language.

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Indo-Pakistani (300)

The Indo-Pakistanis are originally from India. Many of them live in other countries around the world. The majority of them are Hindus (adhering to a polytheistic belief), speaking Hindi as their main language. In the Arab peninsula, the majority of Indo-Pakistanis are Muslim. Most of the Indo-Pakistani in Gibraltar own businesses.

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Jew (500-600)

In 1721, Morocco and Great Britain signed a treaty, allowing Jews to freely live in Gibraltar and British in Morocco. In 1749, the first rabbi, Isaac Nieto, came from London and built the first synagogue in Gibraltar (<http://www.manfredlehmann.com/sieg287.html>). Nowadays, the Jews, mostly Sephardic, in Gibraltar form an influential minority as they are active in politics and business. There are five synagogues in Gibraltar.

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Spaniard (2,600)

The Spaniards, an Iberian people, are descendants of early Iberians, Celts, and Romans. Semitic, Teutonic, and Mediterranean elements influenced the Spanish culture. Other important influences on the Spanish music, food, and culture are the Rom population and the Latin-American populations. Around 97% of the Spaniards profess Roman Catholicism. The Spanish language is descended from the Vulgar Latin and has 7 major dialects.

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Portuguese (number unknown)

A Latin people, the Portuguese display Iberian, Roman, Visigoth, and Moorish ethnic elements. Having 4 distinct dialects, the Portuguese language is a Western language of the Romance language group. Around 97% of the Portuguese consider themselves Roman Catholic.

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Italian (number unknown)

The Italians are a Latin people with a mixture of Germanic and Mediterranean people groups. Known for their long and glorious history, the Italians are predominantly Roman Catholic (84%). However, church attendance is only about 25%. Standard Italian is the official language but different dialects are spoken all throughout the country.

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Maltese (number unknown)

A Mediterranean people, the Maltese reflect the characterizations of their many colonizers and conquerors. The Maltese's mixed background includes Carthaginian, Greek, Roman, Norman, Arab, Italian, and British. The Maltese language has 7 dialects. Many Maltese are bilingual or multilingual. 98% of the Maltese adhere to the Roman Catholic faith. (Most info taken from James B. Minahan, *One Europe, Many Nations: A Historical Dictionary of European National Groups* (Westport: Greenwood Press, 2000))

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German (number unknown)

The Germans form an ancient ethnic group, dating back as far as the 4th century B.C. The official language is German (Deutsch or Hochdeutsch). There are many local dialects in addition to the official language. The northern Germans are mostly Protestant (Lutheran) and the southern Germans mostly Roman Catholic.

Missiological Implications

1. Evangelical Christians and Churches should develop and share with believers in Gibraltar a method for evangelizing Roman Catholics. This plan might be taught to local Christians so they could witness to their Roman Catholic neighbors
2. Evangelical Christians and Churches should seek to evangelize the minority peoples of Gibraltar such as Jews and Muslims
3. Evangelical Christians and Churches might aid the believers in Gibraltar in methods relating to house churches and other small group means.
4. Evangelical Christians and Churches should share with the Christians of Gibraltar methods starting churches.

Links:

<http://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/>

http://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/constitution/new_constitution/NewGibraltarConstitution.pdf

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/print/gi.html>