

# MISSIONARY ATLAS PROJECT

## EUROPE

### Liechtenstein

#### Snapshot Section

**Country Name:** (Fürstentum) Liechtenstein (Principality of) Liechtenstein

**Country Founded in:** January 23, 1719 (Principality of Liechtenstein established); July 12, 1806 (independence from the Holy Roman Empire).

**Population:** 32,247 (July 2007 est.)

**Government Type:** Constitutional monarchy.

**Geography/location in the world:** Central-Western Europe, doubly landlocked between Switzerland and Austria, 47 16 N, 9 32 E.

**Number of people groups:** Ten people groups with Liechtensteiners (25,000) forming the majority.

#### Picture of flag:



Religion Snapshot:

#### Non-Christian:

Roman Catholic – 79.16% 25,730 adherents

Judaism – 18 adherents

Islam – 3.43%, 1,384 adherents

Buddhism – 72 adherents

Baha'i – 14 adherents

Jehovah's Witnesses – 31 adherents

New Apostolics – 9 adherents

Eastern Orthodox – 0.68%, 258 adherents

**Protestant, Evangelical, and Pentecostal Churches:**

Protestant (including Reformed and Evangelical Lutheran) – 8.57%, 2,354 adherents

Anglican – 13 adherents

Independent – 0.14%

Other religions – 8 adherents

No affiliation – 329 people

Unknown – 3.643 people

The numbers of adherents are based on information provided by the Liechtenstein government in 2002. This was the last year the government collected religious affiliation. It discontinued the statistics gathering due to privacy and data protection. (<http://www.state.gov/drl/rls/irf/2005/51564.htm>)

**Government interaction with religion:** The Liechtenstein Constitution provides for freedom of religion. The government strives to protect this right on all levels in full. The Roman Catholic Church is the National Church. However, the government and other groups are discussing the abolition of the Catholic Church's special status in Liechtenstein. (<http://www.state.gov/drl/rls/irf/2005/51564.htm>)

Sources consulted:

[http://www.liechtenstein.li/en/liechtenstein\\_main\\_sites/portal\\_fuerstentum\\_liechtenstein/home.htm](http://www.liechtenstein.li/en/liechtenstein_main_sites/portal_fuerstentum_liechtenstein/home.htm)

<http://www.state.gov/drl/rls/irf/2005/51564.htm>

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/countries.php?rog3=LS>

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

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

## MISSION ATLAS PROJECT

### Country Profile

### Western Europe

### Liechtenstein

### Basic Facts

#### Name:

(Fürstentum) Liechtenstein (Principality of) Liechtenstein

#### Demographics:

Liechtenstein's population numbers 34,247 (July 2007 est.). The age structure is as follows:

0-14 years: 17.1% (male 2,902/female 2,963)

15-64 years: 70% (male 11,887/female 12,101)

65 years and over: 12.8% (male 1,862/female 2,532)

The median age is 40.1 years; 39.5 years for males and 40.5 years for females. At birth, the life expectancy for the total population is 79.81 years; male – 76.24 years and female – 83.4 years.

The sex ratio is as follows:

At birth: 1.01 males/female

Under 15 years: 0.979 males/female

15-64 years: 0.982 males/female

65 years and over: 0.735 males/female

Total population: 0.946 males/female

With a net migration rate of 4.73 migrants/1,000 population, a birth rate of 10.02 births/1,000 population, and a death rate of 7.3 deaths/1,000 population, the population growth rate is 0.745%. The total fertility rate is 1.51 children born/woman. (All statistics are 2007 estimates). Of the 215 deaths in 2005, 92 were due to heart, circulation, and blood malfunctions (38 men, 54 women); 50 due to malignant cancer (35 men, 15 women), and 22 due to respiratory failures (10 men, 12 women).

Liechtenstein is divided into Upland, comprised of six municipalities, and Lowland, comprised of five municipalities. The total population of Upland is 22,845; that of Lowland 12,060 (statistics of 2006; [http://www.llv.li/pdf-llv-avw-statistik-fliz-2006-complete\\_brochure](http://www.llv.li/pdf-llv-avw-statistik-fliz-2006-complete_brochure)). The Upland municipalities are Vaduz (5,047 inhabitants), Triesen (4,643), Balzers (4,436), Triesenberg (2,542), Schaan (5,811), and Planken (366). The Lowland municipalities are Eschen (4,076 inhabitants), Mauren (3,649), Gamprin (1,436), Ruggell (1,925), and Schellenberg (974). The country's urbanization rate is 14.6% (5,000 people). Around 29,000 people live rurally (85.4%) (<http://esa.un.org/unup/index.asp?panel=1>). The population density is 214 people per sq km (554 people

per sq mi). The Rhine Valley with the municipalities of Vaduz and Schaan is the most densely populated area of Liechtenstein.

In 2005, 7,925 men and 7,245 women were single; 8,099 men and 7,910 women were married; and 1,180 men and 2,546 women were separated, divorced, or widowed. In 2000, the population lived in 13,325 households of which 13,282 were private and 43 collective households. There were 8,961 multiple-person households and 4,321 single-person households. 4,656 households consisted of two parents with children and 926 households of single parents with children.

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

[http://www.llv.li/pdf-llv-avw-statistik-fliz-2006-complete\\_brochure](http://www.llv.li/pdf-llv-avw-statistik-fliz-2006-complete_brochure)

<http://esa.un.org/unup/index.asp?panel=1>

### **Language:**

Standard German is the official language of Liechtenstein.

Alemannisch or Schwytzertuetsch is used unofficially as well by 29,000 people.

The Walser population also speaks the Walser dialect.

Standard German is an Indo-European, Germanic language, spoken by 95,392,978 people worldwide. Some of the German dialects are “Bavarian, Schwäbisch, Allemannisch, Mainfränkisch, Hessisch, Palatinian, Rheinfränkisch, Westfälisch, Saxonian, Thuringian, Brandenburgisch, and Low Saxon” ([http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_language.asp?code=deu](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=deu)).

Alemannisch, too, is an Indo-European, Germanic language. Places where dialects or Alemannisch, the daily-used language of the German Swiss in Switzerland, are spoken are “Bern (Bärndütsch), Zurich, Lucerne, Basel, Obwald, Appenzell, St. Gallen, Graubünden-Grisons (Valserisch), and Wallis” ([http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_language.asp?code=gsu](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=gsu)).

Walser is another Indo-European, Germanic language. Like Alemannisch, it is an Alemannic language or dialect. Walser is a language of Switzerland that is also spoken in Austria, Italy, and Liechtenstein. (See [http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_language.asp?code=wae](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=wae))

### **Society/Culture:**

Liechtenstein has been influenced by Swiss, Austrian, and to some extent south-German traditions, customs, and festivals, yet has managed to retain some of its own practices for carrying out traditions and festivals. Many of its almost 290 traditions are rooted in ancient, pagan traditions as well as in the religious (i.e., Roman Catholic) life of the people throughout the principality’s existence. Some of the religious festivals, like Carnival (Fasnacht) and the burning of winter in effigy on the first Sunday of Lent (Funken Sonntag), are coupled with pagan traditions.

Liechtenstein’s holidays are: New Year’s Day (January 1), Epiphany (January 6), Candlemas (February 2), St. Joseph’s Day (March 19), Good Friday, Easter Monday, Labor Day (May 1),

Ascension Day, Whitmonday, Corpus Christi, Assumption of Mary Day (15 August), Nativity of Our Lady (September 8), All Saints' Day (November 1), Immaculate Conception (December 8), Christmas (December 25), and St. Stephen's Day (December 26). Liechtenstein's national holiday is Assumption of Mary Day (August 15).

Since Liechtenstein is a country built on Catholic principles and beliefs, many of the rites of passage take place in the Roman Catholic Church: baptism, first communion, confirmation, marriage, burial. "Many interesting and beautiful traditions have formed around weddings, so that the bride and groom and the guests remember the celebration vividly. Through "Kranzna" (crowning with a garland), the bride and groom are wished luck and blessings. A garland of pine brushwood is fastened to the front door of the bride's home, decorated with white or colored paper flowers. After the marriage ceremony, usually during the wedding meal, a fake kidnapping of the bride is staged, in which the man who gives away the bride must find her and ransom her by footing the bill of the inn" ([http://www.liechtenstein.li/en/liechtenstein\\_main\\_sites/portal\\_fuerstentum\\_liechtenstein/fl-lil-leben\\_in\\_liechtenstein/fl-lil-brauchtum.htm](http://www.liechtenstein.li/en/liechtenstein_main_sites/portal_fuerstentum_liechtenstein/fl-lil-leben_in_liechtenstein/fl-lil-brauchtum.htm)).

Many families celebrate the children's graduations throughout their educational careers with graduation parties. The typical family in Liechtenstein consists of two parents and an average of two children. Many people marry in their late twenties after finishing their education and starting a career. Living together before or without getting married is quite common in Liechtenstein.

The population enjoys a very high standard of living. Most of the people live in single-family homes similar to those in Switzerland and Austria. Apartment living has become popular among young families. Liechtensteiners use shaking hands as greeting. The verbal greeting expressions are Gruezi and Grüss Gott. Hoi is a popular greeting between friends. The people wear modern, Western-style clothes and usually dress modestly in public. Only during certain festivals and occasions do Liechtensteiners wear their traditional costumes (Trachten). During those times, men wear kneelength breeches, a woolen (loden) jacket, and a flat black hat; women wear a costume with a gathered waist, a full skirt, and an apron.

Liechtensteiners usually eat three meals a day. Their breakfast, called Zmorga, usually consists of coffee and bread with jelly. Lunch, called Zmittag, is eaten around noon and consists of soup, a main dish, salad, and dessert. At dinnertime, a lighter meal (Znacht) is eaten, including sandwiches with different kinds of sandwich meat and cheese. Käsknöfle is a popular Liechtensteiner dish: "Noodles made by squeezing a mixture of flour, water, and eggs through a perforated board. The noodles are then bakes with grated cheese and a layer of fried onions and often served with applesauce or a salad" (*Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations*, vol. 5: *Europe*, 10<sup>th</sup> ed. (Detroit: Gale Group, 2001), 230).

School attendance (primary and secondary education) in Liechtenstein is mandatory for all children ages 7-16. The government runs public schools and the Roman Catholic Church sponsors some private schools. After finishing secondary education, students may receive vocational training or prepare for the Matura (university entrance examination). Liechtenstein does not have any universities. Students, therefore, attend universities in Austria, Switzerland, and Germany. Those wanting to become teachers usually study in Switzerland. Courses in architecture and engineering are offered in an evening technical college. The country also has a music school and various options for adult education.

Liechtenstein is known for the art collection of its prince which is housed in Vaduz. This collection was begun in the early seventeenth century. Only the private collection of the royal family of Great Britain surpasses the Prince of Liechtenstein's private collection. Paintings, sculptures, silver, porcelain, and tapestries make up this art collection. Vocal ensembles, brass bands, and highly regarded operetta companies represent the musical aspect of Liechtenstein's culture. Modern crafts of sculpture, woodwork, and pottery have replaced the old crafts of coopering, clog carving, basket weaving, and the fashioning of elaborate rakes. Philatelists from around the world admire Liechtenstein stamps for their beauty based on paintings in the Prince's private collection. Liechtenstein houses the Liechtenstein National Museum, the Liechtenstein National Library, the Liechtenstein Museum of Fine Art, the Philately Postal Museum as well as some smaller, local museums.

Liechtensteiners enjoy hiking and other outdoor activities. Many of them belong to the National Sports Union. Skiing and cross country are immensely popular during the winter. Bicycling and soccer are popular summer sports. Liechtensteiners receive all their TV broadcasting from other countries, but have had their own radio broadcasting since 1994.

Timothy L. Gall, ed. *Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life*, vol. 4: *Europe* (Detroit: Gale Group, 1998)

*Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations*, vol. 5: *Europe*, 10<sup>th</sup> ed. (Detroit: Gale Group, 2001)

[http://www.liechtenstein.li/en/liechtenstein\\_main\\_sites/portal\\_fuerstentum\\_liechtenstein/fl-kuk-kultur\\_kunst.htm](http://www.liechtenstein.li/en/liechtenstein_main_sites/portal_fuerstentum_liechtenstein/fl-kuk-kultur_kunst.htm)

## **Government:**

As Article 2 of the Constitution describes, the Principality of Liechtenstein is “a constitutional, hereditary monarchy on a democratic and parliamentary basis ...; the power of the State is inherent in and issues from the Prince Regnant and the People and shall be exercised by both in accordance with the provisions of the present Constitution” (<http://www.liechtenstein.li/en/pdf-fl-staat-verfassung-sept2003.pdf>). In September 2003, the 1921 Constitution was amended once again; it had already been amended in 1972. The 1921 Constitution itself was a revision of the September 26, 1862 Constitution.

Seated in the capital Vaduz, the government ensures the general welfare of the people by maintaining the law and protecting the religious, economic, and moral interests of the people. The government places special emphasis on education and schooling. (Articles 14-15 of the Constitution) The government is also responsible for health care and poor relief.

The Prince Regnant and Chief of State is Prince Hans Adam II. In 2004, Hans Adam II transferred his princely duties to his son and heir apparent, Prince Alois. Since 2001, Otmar Hasler has been the Head of Government and Klaus Tschuetscher Deputy Head of Government. Along with the cabinet, which is elected by the Parliament, and the four government councilors or ministers, the Chief of State and the (Deputy) Head of Government form the executive branch of Liechtenstein's government.

The legislative branch consists of the unicameral Parliament, Diet, or Landtag. The Landtag has 25 seats and its members are elected by popular vote and under proportional representation. The

Upper Country (Oberland) elects fifteen candidates and the Lower Country (Unterland) ten candidates. Elections are held every four years. Suffrage is 18 years of age and supposedly universal: in 1971 and 1973, referendums defeated the parliament-approved proposal granting women the right to vote. Then in 1984, women gained suffrage on national, but not local, level. Apparently, women still do not have voting rights in some of Liechtenstein's municipalities (<http://www.columbiagazetteer.org/public/Liechtenstein.html>). In addition to the Landtag, Liechtenstein has a National Committee or Landesausschuss, made up of members of Parliament. The Committee performs parliamentary oversight functions and may propose bills for new laws. Each bill has to be voted on and, if passed, signed into law by the Prince Regnant.

In 1918, the first political party to be formed was the Christian-Social People's Party (Christlich-Soziale Volkspartei). Later that same year, the Progressive Citizens' Party (Fortschrittliche Bürgerpartei, FBP) was formed. In 1936, the Christian-Social People's Party merged with the Home Service into the Patriotic Union (Vaterländische Union, VU). In 1985, the Free List (Freie Liste, FL) was founded. The FBP and VU are the two parliamentary parties nowadays. (From [http://www.liechtenstein.li/en/liechtenstein\\_main\\_sites/portal\\_fuerstentum\\_liechtenstein/fl-staat-staat/fl-staat-parteien.htm](http://www.liechtenstein.li/en/liechtenstein_main_sites/portal_fuerstentum_liechtenstein/fl-staat-staat/fl-staat-parteien.htm))

Judicial power is carried out by the Supreme Court (Oberster Gerichtshof), the Court of Appeal (Obergericht). Jurisdiction on ordinary civil and criminal matters is in first instance exercised by the Princely Court (Landgericht). The Administrative Court and the Constitutional Court are courts of public law. All courts are located in the capital, Vaduz. (From [http://www.liechtenstein.li/en/liechtenstein\\_main\\_sites/portal\\_fuerstentum\\_liechtenstein/fl-staat-staat/fl-staat-justiz/fl-staat-justiz-gerichte.htm](http://www.liechtenstein.li/en/liechtenstein_main_sites/portal_fuerstentum_liechtenstein/fl-staat-staat/fl-staat-justiz/fl-staat-justiz-gerichte.htm))

In 1921, Liechtenstein adopted Swiss currency (the Swiss franc). Three years later, it formed a customs union with Switzerland. Liechtenstein is not a full member of the EU. In 1990, Liechtenstein joined the UN.

[http://www.liechtenstein.li/en/liechtenstein\\_main\\_sites/portal\\_fuerstentum\\_liechtenstein/fl-staat-staat.htm](http://www.liechtenstein.li/en/liechtenstein_main_sites/portal_fuerstentum_liechtenstein/fl-staat-staat.htm)

### **Economy:**

Since the end of World War II, Liechtenstein has developed into a "prosperous, highly industrialized, free-enterprise economy" with a strong financial sector and living standards comparable to those of its neighboring countries (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/print/ls.html>). The favorable business tax rate of a maximum of 20% attracts many companies: currently, more (nominal) businesses than citizens are registered in the Principality. The government prosecutes international money-laundering taking place within the country's borders and emphasizes Liechtenstein as a legitimate financing center. Liechtenstein's maintains close ties with Switzerland because of the customs union between the two countries and the use of the Swiss franc (CHF) in Liechtenstein. Since May 1995, Liechtenstein has been a member of the European Economic Area, which serves as a bridge between the EFTA (European Free Trade Association) and the EU. Liechtenstein also joined the WTO in 1995. Due to a lack of natural resources, Liechtenstein imports more than 90% of its energy.

In 2001, Liechtenstein's estimated GDP (purchasing power parity) was \$1.786 billion and its GDP (official exchange rate) \$2.487 billion. The GDP real growth rate for 1999 was 11% and the GDP per capita stood at \$25,000. Agriculture contributed 6% of the GDP; industry 39%; and services 55%. The labor force numbers 29,500 people, including 13,900 daily commuters from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland (about 45% of the total workforce). 2% of the labor force is occupied in agriculture; 47% in industry; and 51% in services. In September 2002, the unemployment rate was 1.3%. In 2001, the inflation rate (consumer prices) was 1%.

Liechtenstein's budget consists of \$424.2 million in revenues and \$414.1 million in expenditures. Its agricultural products are wheat, barley, potatoes, corn, livestock, and dairy products. The following items are part of the industries branch: optical instruments, precision instruments, tourism, food products, metal manufacturing, ceramics, dental products, and pharmaceuticals. The financial sector forms a large part of the services branch.

In 1996, Liechtenstein exported for \$2.47 billion in connectors for audio and video, parts for motor vehicles, small specialty machinery, dental products, prepared foodstuffs, hardware, optical products, and electronic equipment. Its major export partners in 2004 were Germany 24.3%, Austria 9.5%, France 8.9%, Italy 6.6%, UK 4.6%, US 18.9%, and Switzerland 15.7%. Liechtenstein imported goods worth \$917.3 million in 1996: energy products, raw materials, agricultural products, machinery, textiles, metal goods, foodstuffs, and motor vehicles. The EU and Switzerland were the two largest import partners in 2004 (percentages unknown).

[http://www.liechtenstein.li/en/liechtenstein\\_main\\_sites/portal\\_fuerstentum\\_liechtenstein/fl-wuf-wirtschaft\\_finanzen/fl-wuf-wirtschaftszahlen/fl-wuf-wirtschaftszahlen-wertschoepfung.htm](http://www.liechtenstein.li/en/liechtenstein_main_sites/portal_fuerstentum_liechtenstein/fl-wuf-wirtschaft_finanzen/fl-wuf-wirtschaftszahlen/fl-wuf-wirtschaftszahlen-wertschoepfung.htm)  
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/print/ls.html>

### **Literacy:**

Literacy is defined as people age 10 and over can read and write. The literacy rate for the Liechtenstein population is 100%.

### Land/Geography:





47 16 N, 9 32 E

Located in Central-Western Europe and doubly landlocked between Switzerland and Austria, Liechtenstein is Europe's fourth smallest country. Only the Vatican City, Monaco, and San Marino are smaller than the Principality of Liechtenstein. The Rhine border forms a natural border with Switzerland in the west. Located in the western part of the country, Vaduz is the capital and home of the princely family.

Liechtenstein's total area is 160 sq km (61.78 sq mi) of which all is land. It extends 24.5 km (15.2 mi) north to south and 9.4 km (5.8 mi) east to west. 25% of the land is arable. Liechtenstein does not have any permanent crops. Other usage of the land is 75%, including 38% forestry. Liechtenstein's land boundaries are 76 km (47.22 mi) long: Austria 34.9 km (21.69 mi) and Switzerland 41.1 km (25.54 mi). The country's terrain is mostly mountainous (Alps); the Rhine Valley is located in the western part. The Ruggeller Riet is the lowest point (430 m; 1411 ft) and the Vorder-Grauspitz the highest point (2,599 m; 8527 ft).

Due to a warm south wind, the Föhn, Liechtenstein's climate is less severe than in neighboring Switzerland and Austria. In January, the average temperature is -4.5 degrees Celsius (24 degrees Fahrenheit) in the lowland. In July, the average temperature is 19.9 degrees Celsius (68 degrees Fahrenheit). The average annual rainfall is 105 cm (41 in).

Because of the differences in altitude the flora and fauna as well as the agriculture of Liechtenstein are quite varied. Some orchid species grow due to the warm south wind. Alpine plants like edelweiss, gentian, and alpine rose grow in the higher areas. Red beech, maple, alder, larch, sycamore, and conifers are common trees in the country. The deer, badger, fox, and chamois are indigenous to Liechtenstein. Around 120 bird species, including eagles and ravens, can be spotted in the principality. In the Rhine Valley, corn, potatoes, corn, and garden produce are grown. On mountain slopes, various grapes and orchard fruits are grown.

Currently, Liechtenstein does not have any environmental issues. It is, however, party to many environmental parties like Air Pollution, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Hazardous Wastes, Ozone Layer Protection, and Wetlands.

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

*Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations*, vol. 5: *Europe*, 10<sup>th</sup> ed. (Detroit: Gale Group, 2001), 285.

## History

“From rags to riches” is how the development of the Principality of Liechtenstein may be described. The country did not begin to fully prosper until after WW II. Today, Liechtenstein is recognized internationally for its financial services, banking, and tourism.

Since 5000 BC, the territory of current Liechtenstein has been settled. At first, people lived only in the higher plains because the Rhine River often flooded the lower plains. The original inhabitants were the Raetians or Vennons. There were some Celtic influences, too. The Raetians had numerous places of worship, most notably in Gutenberg and Eschnerberg where archaeologists have found bronze worship figures.

In 15 BC, the Roman Empire annexed the Raetian territory. The next century, the Romans had a military road built from Italy towards Bregenz, passing through Raetia. Roman estates emerged along the road. The Latin language mixed with the local languages into the Raetian language. The movement of Christianization in the fourth century aided this process.

The Roman Empire soon began to decay: The Western part of the Empire fell in AD 476 while the Eastern part continued until 1453. Starting in the fifth century, Allemanic immigration became prominent and continued for several centuries. The Frankish Empire incorporated Raetia in the eighth century. In 806, Charlemagne introduced the Frankish county constitution in Raetia. People and places from the area now known as Liechtenstein were mentioned for the first time in records dating back to around 846.

From the tenth century onwards, Raetia belonged to different counts. The first were the counts of Bregenz. When the family line of the counts died out in 1152, “Raetia was split up more and more by divisions of inheritances” ([http://www.liechtenstein.li/en/pdf-fl-lik-geschichte-03\\_geschichte.pdf](http://www.liechtenstein.li/en/pdf-fl-lik-geschichte-03_geschichte.pdf)). The counts of Montfort, who were made up of the lines of Montfort and Werdenberg, received Lower Raetia. The counts of Werdenberg, in their turn, consisted of multiple lines. In 1342, the County of Vaduz (today’s capital) came into being after one of the inheritance divisions. The counts of Vaduz had their Imperial immediacy immediate by King Wenzel in 1396. Now, territorial lordship could be established. The Emperor reaffirmed the Imperial immediacy of the lords of Vaduz over and over again during the following centuries. In 1416, the Vaduz line of the counts of Werdenberg died out. The barons of Brandis (from the Bernese Oberland) became the lords of the territory and, in 1434, added on the northern part of the Lordship of Schellenberg. The borders of the country have remained unchanged until today.

Three wars plagued Liechtenstein during the fifteenth century: The Appenzell War (1405), the Old Zurich War (1444-1446), and the Swabian War (1499-1500). Plundering, destruction, and pillaging took place on a large scale. During the Swabian War, the Rhine was established as the

border between the Swiss Confederation and the Old German Empire. Liechtenstein's position, thus, became difficult. In 1510, the counts of Sulz bought the dominions of Schellenberg and Vaduz from the last baron of Brandis. Staunch Catholics, the counts were successful in the land remaining Roman Catholic during this century of the Reformation. Rights in the two dominions improved: each got its own court district (Zeitgericht or temporal court), could appoint its chief judge and twelve judges. The counts of Sulz are considered as having brought freedom and happiness to the country. Their lordship lasted until 1613.

In 1613, the counts had to sell the dominions; the counts of Hohenems were the buyers. The new counts wanted to form the territory into a buffer state between Switzerland and Austria to guarantee their own power. The plague broke out repeatedly during the seventeenth century and claimed many lives.

During the Thirty Years War (1608-1648), on the other hand, only a small number of people died in the country. The witch persecutions killed over 100 people, mainly women. The counts ran up their debts and were forced to sell part of the territory. The Lordship of Schellenberg was sold in 1699 and the County of Vaduz in 1712. Prince Johann Adam Andreas of Liechtenstein was the purchaser.

The Liechtenstein family reached the rank of princes in 1608, but was not admitted to the Council of Princes (the Reichstag or Imperial Diet) because the family did not hold any Imperial immediacy land. The family lived in a Castle named Liechtenstein in Lower Austria from 1140 until sometime during the thirteenth century and then again from 1807 onward. In his search for appropriate land holdings, the third Prince of Liechtenstein, Prince Johann Adam Andreas, he found Schellenberg and Vaduz with their surrounding territories and bought them from the counts of Hohenems.

In 1719, Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI gave the dominions the status of Imperial Principality of Liechtenstein with the Prince of Liechtenstein as its ruler. Liechtenstein became a sovereign member state of the Holy Roman Empire. The Principality took on the name of the Princely family, which is a peculiarity. The rulers, however, continued their residency in Vienna, Austria; governors ruled the Principality on their behalf. Problems arose when the governors acted as absolute rulers over people that were used to their own courts and other rights. In 1733, a compromise between the authorities and subjects was reached which limited the rights of the districts but allowed the courts and districts to retain their forms.

In 1806, Napoleon and his French troops invaded the Holy Roman Empire. The Holy Roman Emperor Francis II stepped down from the throne and dissolved the Empire. Liechtenstein's Prince now was suzerain. That same year, Napoleon formed the Confederation of the Rhine into which Liechtenstein was accepted as a sovereign state. After Napoleon's Waterloo, the Congress of Vienna (1815) set up a new political order for Europe. Thirty-nine European states joined in the German Confederation, which lasted until 1866 and was presided over by the Austrian Emperor.

Liechtenstein's economic isolation continued and turned the Principality into an underdeveloped rural state. Feudal taxes and non-productivity burdened rural agriculture. Despite mandatory

school attendance, which had been introduced in 1805, the level of education as well as attendance remained low. Prince Johann Josef I granted a limited Constitution in 1818 and Prince Alois II visited the Principality. In 1848, revolutions took place in many of the member states of the German Confederation as well as in other European countries. In Liechtenstein, the people revolted without riots, demanding a new Constitution, free elections, and abolition of the feudal taxes. Prince Alois II, however, wanted to await further developments in Austria and Germany; the absolutist system in Liechtenstein continued.

Economic liberation for Liechtenstein finally came with the 1852 Customs Treaty with Austria-Hungary. The textile industry, too, could now develop. The first ceramic factory, opened in 1836, began to do better as international trade became the norm for the Principality. The first bank opened its doors in 1861 and the first national newspaper went into circulation the following year. These events took place during a time of reform under the leadership of Prince Johann II. In 1866, the Austro-Prussian war broke out. Austria suffered defeat and, along with Liechtenstein, withdrew from the German Confederation. Liechtenstein dissolved its army. During the remainder of the century, women mainly worked in the textile industry and men in agriculture. Many people crossed the borders and found work as seasonal workers. Finances remained tough despite tourism picking up toward the end of the century. Many Liechtensteiners left the country: some settled in neighboring countries and the majority in the United States of America.

Despite being neutral, Liechtenstein suffered during WW I as its citizens went hungry, its textile industry came to a standstill, and post-war inflation rendered people's savings almost worthless. After the war, the first political parties were formed: Christian-Social People's Party and the Progressive Citizens' Party. In 1921, a new Constitution was accepted allowing for referendum and popular initiative as well as preventing foreign dominance. These post-war events constituted a fundamental reorientation of Liechtenstein and its people. The partnership with Switzerland, of which the 1923 Customs Treaty forms a part, was another aspect of the reorientation. The relationship, including the treaty, is still maintained today.

The late 1920s inaugurated a time of economic depression. The Rhine dam collapsed and flooded more than half of Liechtenstein's plains. The financial scandal (Sparkassa scandal) of 1928 bankrupted the savings banks and most of the country. In the 1930s, the Liechtenstein Government made emergency work projects available. The main project was the Inland Channel. Today, it still runs through the whole country and drains the valleys. After an argument, the two political parties formed a coalition in 1938 in order to stand stronger in case of a German invasion. This was the same year the Prince of Liechtenstein, Franz Joseph II, first resided in the country – in Vaduz Castle. Although Liechtenstein remained neutral during WW II and did not have an official Nazi party, some of its people sympathized with the national socialist movement. The Liechtenstein family had their family treasures within the warzone brought to Liechtenstein and London. After the war, Poland and Czechoslovakia expropriated the family's territories in Moravia, Bohemia, and Silesia – areas covering over 1,600 sq km (600 sq mi). Liechtenstein granted asylum to around 500 Russian soldiers who had collaborated with the Nazis. Argentina later on permanently resettled these Russians.

After WW II, Liechtenstein developed into a modern society with a diversified economy. Contributing facts to the economic boom were the continued Customs Union with Switzerland, the use of the Swiss franc, stable social and political conditions, and moderate taxation. Today, Liechtenstein's population enjoys one of the world's highest standards of living.

[http://www.liechtenstein.li/en/pdf-fl-lik-geschichte-03\\_geschichte.pdf](http://www.liechtenstein.li/en/pdf-fl-lik-geschichte-03_geschichte.pdf)

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

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German\\_Confederation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_Confederation)

## Christian History

Not much is known with regard to the Christian history of the Principality of Liechtenstein. The country's Christian history began with the process of Christianization in the fourth century. At that time, the area was under Roman control and known as Raetia, one of the Roman provinces. The Romans had built a road that ran through Raetia. This Roman road and the trade that took place along it may account for the spread of Christianity in Raetia. A couple of centuries after the decay of the Roman Empire, the territory of present-day Liechtenstein was incorporated into the Frankish Empire. The Frankish Emperors were all Roman Catholics and, sometimes by use of the sword, persuaded their subjects to become Catholics as well.

Throughout the centuries, Liechtenstein has remained largely Roman Catholic. It appears that even the Reformation during the sixteenth century largely bypassed Liechtenstein: there are no records of a substantial Reformed presence in the country. Furthermore, the counts of Sulz, who reigned over Liechtenstein during the Reformation period, were staunch Catholics and made every effort to keep the country Catholic. Nowadays, around 10% of the population confesses the Protestant expression of the Christian faith (see Religions section for more information).

The Constitution provides for freedom of belief and conscience. The Roman Catholic Church is the State Church and enjoys full protection of the State (Article 37). Discussions, however, are held over the close relationship between the Government and the Roman Catholic Church. The ties may not remain as strong as they were once.

[http://www.liechtenstein.li/en/pdf-fl-lik-geschichte-03\\_geschichte.pdf](http://www.liechtenstein.li/en/pdf-fl-lik-geschichte-03_geschichte.pdf)

<http://www.liechtenstein.li/en/pdf-fl-staat-verfassung-sept2003.pdf>

## Religions

The numbers of adherents of each religion are based on information provided by the Liechtenstein government in 2002. This was the last year the government collected religious affiliation. It discontinued the statistics gathering due to privacy and data protection. (<http://www.state.gov/drl/rls/irf/2005/51564.htm>)

### Non-Christian:

*Judaism* (18 adherents): Liechtenstein has always had a rather small Jewish community. Out of the 50 Jews in the Principality, only 18 practice the Jewish faith. 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* (3.43%, 1,384 adherents): Most of the Muslims in Liechtenstein are Turks. The majority of the Turks are Sunni Muslims. The Muslim community has one permanent imam and one additional imam during Ramadan. The Government grants visas to imams in return for their efforts to prevent religious diatribes and the spread of religious extremism (<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2005/51564.htm>). The Holy Book of this religion 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.

*Buddhism* (72 adherents): Buddhism is a religion and practical philosophy based on the teachings of Siddharta/Buddha Gautama (6<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> centuries BC). Buddhism is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest religion in the world. A Buddha "is generally considered to be a person who discovers the true nature of reality through years of spiritual cultivation, investigation of the various religious practices of his time, and meditation. This transformational discovery is called bodhi - literally, "Awakening" (more commonly called "Enlightenment") (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhism>). To reach this state of enlightenment or nirvana, a person must follow the Noble Eightfold Path, which is one of the Four Noble Truths. There appears to be no Buddhist center in Liechtenstein. There are centers in Austria and Switzerland.

*Baha'i* (14 adherents): The Baha'i religion began in Persia in 1844 under the leader and founder Bahá'u'lláh, whose name means "Glory of God." According to Baha'i the world is but one country and all people are its citizens. Baha'i emphasizes the unity of humanity, the equality of male and female, elimination of extreme riches and poverty, religious tolerance, and access for all to education and culture. According to Baha'i, all religions are diverse expressions of the one universal religion. There is one Baha'i center in Liechtenstein (<http://www.bahai.li>).

*Jehovah's Witnesses* (31 adherents): Jehovah's Witnesses believe they are the restoration of first-century Christianity. The *Watchtower and Awake!* are two of their magazines. The group's headquarters are in Brooklyn, New York. Jehovah's Witnesses trace their origin to the Bible Students (late 1870s). A schism occurred in 1917 and in 1931 the believers, who remained supportive of the Watch Tower Society, took on the name Jehovah's Witnesses under the leadership of Joseph F. Rutherford. Jehovah's Witnesses consider their translation of the Bible as the inerrant Word of God. Rejecting the concepts of Trinity and hell, they instead believe in Unitarianism. Using God's name, Jehovah, is a requirement for true worship. Jehovah's Witnesses are known for their rejection of blood transfusions. There is one Jehovah's Witnesses congregation in Liechtenstein.

*New Apostolic Church* (9 adherents): Developed from the Catholic Apostolic Church in 1863, the New Apostolic Church is an international church based on the Bible and led by apostles. Some of the Church's beliefs, however, are quite different from those of mainstream Christianity. The New Apostolic Church, therefore, could be considered a Christian cult or sect. The Church recognizes and practices three sacraments: Holy Baptism, Holy Sealing, and Holy Communion. There are around 11 million members of the Church worldwide. For more information on the Church, its history, and its teachings, see <http://www.nak.org/en/about-the-nac/>. The

New Apostolic Church in Liechtenstein forms a part of the Church in Switzerland (<http://www.nak.ch/gebietskirchen/FL.html>).

*Roman Catholic* (79.16%, 25,730 adherents): The Roman Catholic Church in Liechtenstein enjoys a special relationship with the Government as it is the State Church. Discussions, however, are being held regarding the abolishing of the Catholic Church's special status. The Church falls under the authority of the Pope in the Vatican. The Church plays a large role in public life, especially with regard to the different rites of passage. The Church celebrates the Assumption of the Virgin Mary on August 15; it is a national holiday.

*Eastern Orthodox* (0.68%, 258 adherents): Eastern Orthodoxy is the second- largest Christian denomination in the world. In 1054, the Great Schism took place between Rome and Constantinople. The result was the separation of the church of the west, the Roman Catholic Church, and the church of the east, the Eastern Orthodox Church. No information found on the Orthodox Christians in Liechtenstein.

### **Protestant, Evangelical, and Pentecostal Churches:**

*Evangelical Church* (8%, 2,500 adherents): The Evangelische Kirche im Fürstentum Liechtenstein is under the patronage of the Reformed Church of the Canton St. Gallen, Switzerland. The Evangelical Church in Liechtenstein is made up mostly of immigrants, not Liechtenstein citizens. The religious background of the members varies from Lutheran to Reformed (<http://www.kirche.li/>; [http://www.kirche.li/Index\\_Abc.html](http://www.kirche.li/Index_Abc.html)). The church practices infant baptism as it is Reformed in doctrine and practice.

*Evangelical-Lutheran Church* (number of adherents unknown): This church takes the Lutheran expression of the Christian faith for its doctrine and practice. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Liechtenstein is located in Vaduz and is called Johanneskirche ([http://www.kirche.li/Index\\_Abc.html](http://www.kirche.li/Index_Abc.html)). No other information found.

*Anglican Church* (13 adherents): 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. No information found on the small group of Anglicans in Liechtenstein.

*Independent* (0.14%): No information found.

### **Other:**

*Other religions* (8 adherents)

*No affiliation* (329 people)

*Unknown* (3.643 people)

## **People Groups**

Austrian (2,045; 2005 est.)

The Austrian people group's ancestry is a mix of Germanic, Hungarian, Slavic, and Latin people groups. Their language is German. Austrians are known for music, art, architecture, and literature. The majority of Austrians are Roman Catholic. Protestant denominations only make up for about 5%.

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British (50)

The Anglophones are English-speaking people from Great Britain. They 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 speak English. The fifty or so British people in Liechtenstein are expatriates. Several of them are members of the Anglican Church.

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Deaf (1,818)

The deaf in Liechtenstein, a country without an officially recognized disability policy, form a minority. The rights of deaf people are protected by special laws. Sign language used by the deaf does not have an officially recognized status, is not used "as the first language in education of deaf people, and is not recognized as the main means of communication between deaf persons and others" ([http://www.independentliving.org/standardrules/UN\\_Answers/Liecht.html](http://www.independentliving.org/standardrules/UN_Answers/Liecht.html)). Since the majority of the Liechtenstein population is Roman Catholic, it is safe to assume a majority of the deaf are Roman Catholic, too. Organized in 1993, the Gehörlosen Kulturverein Liechtenstein organizes activities for deaf people in Liechtenstein, Switzerland, and Austria. (See <http://www.deaf.li/>)

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German (1,187; 2005 est.)

The Germans form an ancient ethnic group, dating back as far as the fourth 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.

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German Swiss (3,617; 2005 est.)

The Swiss are made up of the Swiss-Germans, Swiss-Italians, Romansh, and Savoyards. The Swiss-Germans form the largest group (92%) and are an Alemannic German people with a distinct Alpine culture. The Swiss-Germans are almost evenly divided between Roman Catholics and Protestants. The language, Schwyzerdütsch, is a group of 20-70 related dialects belonging to the Alemannic group of German languages.

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Italian (1,208; 2005 est.)

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 in Italy is only about 25%. Standard Italian is the official language but different dialects are spoken all throughout the country.

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Jew, German (50)

Jews in Liechtenstein form a minority. During World War II, around 800 Jews fled to Liechtenstein of whom 400 were turned away and 400 found a refuge (144 of whom became citizens). In 2005, no reports of physical or verbal acts against Jews in Liechtenstein were filed. The Jewish population does not have an organizational structure of its own due to its size. The majority of the Jews in Liechtenstein are Ashkenazim as their ancestry is linked to the larger Germanic area of Europe. Many Jews have a monotheistic faith in the God of the Abrahamic covenant. (<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=104240&rog3=LS>)

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Liechtensteiner (25,000)

Related to the Swiss Germans, the Alsatians, the Vorarlbergers, and the Swabians, the Liechtensteiner are an Alemannic German people. The majority of the Liechtensteiner professes the Roman Catholic faith. Although Standard German is the official language of the country, the Liechtensteiner mostly speak Alemannisch or Schwytzertuetsch in daily life. Most of the Liechtensteiner find occupations in industry.

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Turks (unknown)

The resident-alien Turks in Liechtenstein are originally from Turkey. An Altaic people, the Turks are mostly Sunni Muslims. Many of the Turks in Europe are “secular and pro-European in their outlook” (James B. Minahan, *One Europe, Many Nations* (Westport: Greenwood Press, 2000), 692). Turks speak Turkish or Anatolian Turkish, an Altaic, Oghuz language. The Liechtenstein government encourages mutual understanding between Muslims and Christians.

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Walser (1,500)

Speaking the Walser dialect, the Walser in Liechtenstein live mainly in the Triesenberg area, including Saminatal and Malbun. They first settled there toward the end of the thirteenth century. The first official mention of the Walser in Triesenberg dates back to 1355. Triesenberg houses the Walser Heritage Museum. The majority of the Walser work in industry and service industry. (<http://www.walser-alps.eu/walser-regionen/liechtenstein/besiedelung-durch-die-walser-in-liechtenstein>)

### **Missiological Implications**

\*National and international believers should combine their evangelistic efforts to reach the Muslim population in Liechtenstein.

\*The majority of the population adheres to the Roman Catholic expression of the Christian faith. Perhaps a survey could be done regarding the number of true Christians and the number of nominal Christians, what are the needs of the nominal Christians and how could those needs be met?

\*A high standard of living possibly has made the Liechtenstein population materialistic. Christian should find ways to relate to the people on a deeper, personal level.

Links:

[http://eudocs.lib.byu.edu/index.php/History\\_of\\_Liechtenstein:\\_Primary\\_Documents](http://eudocs.lib.byu.edu/index.php/History_of_Liechtenstein:_Primary_Documents)

[http://www.llv.li/pdf-llv-avw-statistik-fliz-2006-complete\\_brochure](http://www.llv.li/pdf-llv-avw-statistik-fliz-2006-complete_brochure)

[http://www.discover.ac.uk/sciences/worldguide/html/942\\_links.html](http://www.discover.ac.uk/sciences/worldguide/html/942_links.html)

<http://www.llv.li/>