

Background Country Profile: Some Guiding Research Questions

- **History.** What country colonized it? Year of independence? Individuals and/or organizations that came to power after independence? Length of rule? Major wars or other conflicts? Social Developments? Cold War issues?
- **Culture.** Consider the basic elements of culture: Languages; Religions; Art, Music, & Literature; Customs & Traditions; Recreation; Clothing, Food & Ways of Life.
- **Physical Geography & Natural Resources.** Discuss major physical features; climate; natural resources; wildlife & environmental conditions.
- **Economic System.** Major Industries; Natural Resources; Manufactured Products; Exports/Imports; Trading Partners; Standard of Living; GDP World Ranking.
- **Political System & Current Government.** Form of government. Current rulers. Political unrest? Coup d'états? Dictatorships? Political controversies?
- **International Connections.** Allies, trade partners, and membership in international organizations.

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