

# [The in any matter regarding the constitution. subordinate](https://assignbuster.com/the-in-any-matter-regarding-the-constitution-subordinate/)

The political structure of the Kingdom of Bhutan is a ConstitutionalMonarchy consisting of three branches; Executive, Legislative and Judicial. Thechief of state is King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. The title of King (Druk Gyalpo)is hereditary and was most recently passed down when King Jigme Singye Wangchuckabdicated the throne in 2006. The Prime Minister is nominated by the leading partyin the National Assembly (Tshogdu). The current Prime Minister is Tshering Tobgay.

The Prime Minister oversees the Council of Ministers (Lhengye Zhungtshog) whosemembers are nominated by the King and approved by the National Assembly. The Legislative Branch is a bicameral Parliament (Chi Tshog). It has two houses the National Assembly and the National Council (Gyelyong Tshogde). Members of both houses are elected to serve 5-year terms.

The National Councilmembers run independent of a party system, while the National Assembly hasseveral parties. The Judicial Branch has a Supreme Court with five justices. The Supreme Court members (Drangpons) serve 10-year terms or until age 65, whicheveroccurs first. The Chief Justice of Bhutan serves a shorter 5-year term or untilage 65. The Supreme Court has the final say in any matter regarding theconstitution. Subordinate to the Supreme Court is the High Court, followed byDistrict and Sub-District Courts. The political parties of Bhutan and their leaders includethe Bhutan Kuen-Nyam Party (BKP), led by Dasho Neten Zangmo.

The Bhutan Peaceand Prosperity Party (DPT), led by Pema Gyamtsho. The Druk Chirwang Tshogpa(DCT), led by Lily Wangchuk. The Druk Nymarup Tshogpa (DNT) led by TandinDorji. The People’s Democratic Party (PDP) led by Tshering Tobgay. While notall of these parties are represented at the national level, some have representationin district level government. Political opposition groups include Druk National Congress(DNC), led by Gedun Choepheli in exile.

United Front for Democracy (UFD)exiled.  United Front for DemocracyAgainst Dictatorship (UDD), led by Jatuporn Prompan. Adversarial and allied nationsBhutan borders China and India and its major relations liewith these two countries. Bhutan experiences ongoing border disputes with China. These disputes are primarily in Bhutan’s west along China’s Chumbi salient. (ciaworldfactbook) Geographically Bhutan is cradled in the Northeast of India and hasthe effect of being a small buffer between China and India. It is important toboth China and India to wield influence over Bhutan.

A peaceful relationshipexists between India and Bhutan, with Bhutan receiving economic aid, infrastructureand military training from India. India benefits from this relationship byimporting electricity from the hydropower stations they are investing in.  US BHUTAN RELATIONSThe US and Bhutan have no formal diplomatic relations, although frequent informal contact is maintained via the US embassy in New Delhi(India) and Bhutan’s Permanent Mission to the UN.                       The Military of Bhutan is known as the Royal Bhutan Army.

It includes two groups, the Royal Bodyguard and the Royal Bhutan Police. Whilemilitary service is voluntary, militia training is compulsory for males aged20-25 covering a 3-year period. RBA has a strength of 8, 000. Equipment includes81mm mortars, AK-101 AK-104, FN-FAL, INSAS and G-3 assault rifles and BrowningHi-Power pistols.

The Aviation wing includes 7 MI-8 HIP transports and 1Dornier Do 228 Transport aircraft The military of Bhutan is small with only 8, 000 personnel. This number includes the Royal Bodyguard and the Royal Bhutan Police. Bhutan receivesmilitary training and assistance from India in a strategic partnership. Armament is limited to small arms rifles and pistols such as the AK-101 andAK-104 and 81mm mortar and the M-46 mountain cannon. The Aviation wing includes7 MI-8 HIP transports and 1 Dornier Do 228 Transport aircraft. Bhutan has no armamentmanufacturing capacity of its own, and relies on foreign purchases. The military’smission is to defend border and the sovereignty of the nation.

In partnershipwith India, Bhutan has engaged Indian separatist groups that had set up campsin the south. Operation: All Clear was the most recent major operation forBhutan’s armed forces 6000 personnel engaged an estimated 3000 militants spreadacross 30 camps. Within 2 weeks all 30 camps were captured.

485 militants werekilled while only 11 Royal Bhutan army members were KIA.  Bhutan is a landlocked nation in southern Asia that bordersIndia and China. It is a small nation in size and population. It is larger thanMaryland and about half the size of Indiana. The landscape varies greatly fromthe Himalayan mountains of the north, to the jungles, savanna and river valleysin the south. It’s Capital city is Thimphu with a population of 152, 000 is itslargest urban center.

Bhutan’s populationof 758, 288 consists of 50% Ngalop and 35% ethnic Nepalese with the remaining15% being indigenous or migrant tribes. There has been conflict between ethnicNepalese and the government throughout history, however steps were taken duringthe 1970s and 1980s to effectively strip citizenship away from them. During a nationwidecensus in 1985, proof of land ownership prior to 1958 was required to receivecitizenship. Those who could provide no proof were allowed to reapply for citizenshiplater on, however many failed to meet the new requirements and were madeillegal immigrants. As a result of these changes to law there is no citizenshipjust by being born within the border. Citizenship is granted by descent throughthe paternal lineage. There can be no dual citizenship and you must be aresident for 10 years to be able to apply for citizenship. In the 1990s amajority of Nepali-speakers were forced into exile.

Many of those were placedin refugee camps within Nepal, 41, 462 were eventually resettled into foreigncountries, with the United States resettling 35, 279 of them.   Over 75% of the population are followers of Buddhism and22% follow Indian or Nepalese Hinduism. Due to the Buddhist majority, civil lawis based on Buddhist religious law. The government policy is to promote harmonybetween Buddhism and Hinduism. Despite being the State religion for centuriesno effort has been made to convert Hindus to Buddhism.

However, there are someexamples of provisions to prevent outside influence of other religions, “ TheLaw bars non-Bhutanese individuals who are married to citizens from promoting areligion other than Buddhism. The 1980 Marriage Act also states that aBhutanese married to a non-Bhutanese shall not be entitled to facilitiesenjoyed by other citizens, including the distribution of land, cash loans, andeducation or training abroad.” The previous King also began publiclyparticipating in Hindu holidays and celebrations as a show of the compatibilityof the two religions. Government funds were also made available to renovate Hindutemples in the poorer southern regions to boost the morale of Hindus there.