

Albania

Ethnicity in Albania

Group selection

The group sizes are from the 1989 (Communist) census because the 2001 census did not collect data on ethnicity. The next census will be in 2011. The size for the Greek minority is disputed: estimates of the Greek population range from 1% (official Albanian statistics) to 12% (from a Greek organization) ⁽¹⁰⁾.

¹⁰ [CIA, 2010]

Power relations

1946–1989; Communist era: The first time period covers the Communist era. Under Communist rule, religious and ethnic identities did not play a role ⁽¹¹⁾, 233). Religion was even forbidden. Albanians held a monopoly over political power and all other ethnic groups were politically irrelevant.

¹¹ [Barjarba, 2004]

1990–2009; After Communism: Albanians continue to hold a monopoly over political power. Although other ethnic groups are now officially recognized, the Albanians do not include them in the government ⁽¹²⁾. Since the regime change after the end of Communism, the law permits official minority status for national groups and separately for ethno-linguistic groups. The government defined Greeks and Macedonians as national groups. Aromanians (Vlachs) and Roma are ethno-linguistic minority groups ⁽¹³⁾, but they remain politically irrelevant. The Greek minority is represented by the Party Omonia, that won 5 parliament seats in 1992. As a response to this success the Albanian Parliament passed an act forbidding the establishment of ethnically based parties. Therefore the Omonia party was renamed the Human Rights Union Party (Partia Bashkimi për të Drejtat e Njeriut) representing all minorities. It still has seats in the parliament but the Greek minority is not exclusively voting for this party anymore but supports the Socialist Party as well ⁽¹⁴⁾, 235; ¹⁵, 1018). The Macedonians are politically represented by the BPAMA (Bratska Political Association of Macedonians in Albania) and other organizations ⁽¹⁶⁾.

¹² [Schmidt-Neke, 2010]

¹³ [U.S. State Department, 2009]

¹⁴ [Barjarba, 2004]

¹⁵ [Schmidt-Neke, 2010]

¹⁶ [Macedonian, Alliance 2010]

Update; 2010–2013: No changes in the power states of the ethnic groups in Albania. The Albanians continue to hold monopoly over political power. The Roma minorities continue to experience discrimination. In 2013 Amnesty International reported that Roma families were continually forcibly evicted from their homes in Tirana ⁽¹⁷⁾. Greeks are still politically marginalized ⁽¹⁸⁾. The main issues of concern to the Greek minority are education in the mother tongue; the option to use the Greek language in public life; the absence of Greek members in public services, despite their consistent parliamentary representation; and respect for their property rights ⁽¹⁹⁾. The parliamentary elections of 2013 resulted in the victory of the Socialist Party ‘the Alliance for a European Albania’ ⁽²⁰⁾.

In 2011, the Albanian government conducted a census to clarify the ethnic composition of the population. The census of 2001 did not collect information about ethnic groups and nationalities in the population. At the 2011 census however, 14% of the population did not declare their nationality, while another 1.6% considered the nationality as ‘not relevant’ ⁽²¹⁾.

¹⁷ [Amnesty International, 2013]

¹⁸ [Minority Rights Group International, 2013]

¹⁹ [Hellenic Republic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2013]

²⁰ [Reuters, 2013]

²¹ [Albanian Institute of Statistics, 2012]

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Political status of ethnic groups in Albania

From 1946 until 1989

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Albanians	0.95	IRRELEVANT
Greeks	0.03	IRRELEVANT
Macedonians	0.01	IRRELEVANT

From 1990 until 2013

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Albanians	0.82	MONOPOLY
Greeks	0.08	POWERLESS
Macedonians	0.02	POWERLESS



Figure 13: Political status of ethnic groups in Albania during 1946-1989.



Figure 14: Political status of ethnic groups in Albania during 1990-2013.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Albania

From 1946 until 1989

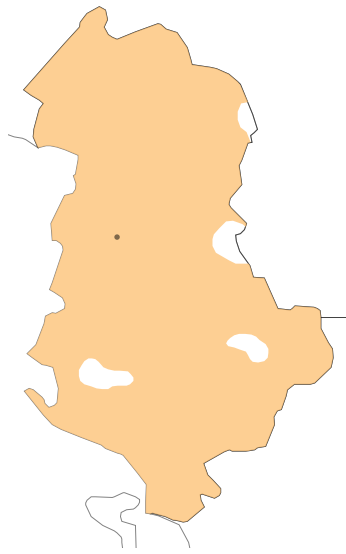


Figure 15: Map of ethnic groups in Albania during 1990-2013.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■ Albanians	27 624	Statewide

Table 7: List of ethnic groups in Albania during 1946-1989.

From 1990 until 2013

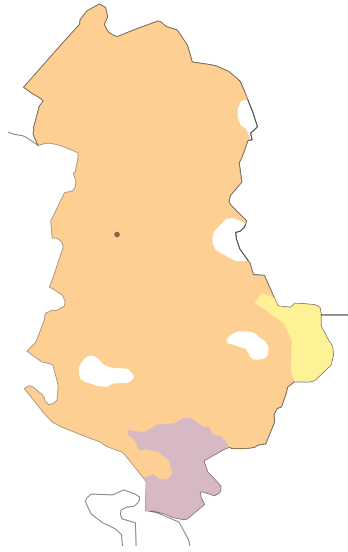


Figure 16: Map of ethnic groups in Albania during 1990-2013.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
Albanians	27 624	Statewide
Greeks	1825	Regionally based
Macedonians	1012	Regionally based

Table 8: List of ethnic groups in Albania during 1990-2013.

Conflicts in Albania

Starting on 1946-10-22

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Albania	Government of United Kingdom		1946-10-22			