

# Paraguay

## *Ethnicity in Paraguay*

### *Group selection*

According to the 2008 survey of indigenous households (<sup>3603</sup>), 2% (around 100'000) of the population is indigenous, belonging to 17 different ethnic groups with the majority, about 90%, speaking Guarani. We identify **Tupi-Guarani and other indigenous peoples** and **Whites/Mestizos** as politically relevant ethnic groups.

<sup>3603</sup> [Department for Statistics, Surveys and Census, 2008]

### *Power relations*

#### *1946-1992*

Indigenous people were discriminated until the military coup in 1989 which toppled the regime of general Stroessner and initiated democratization. During the military regime, the indigenous peoples were not only constantly threatened by displacements but also almost systematically annihilated (<sup>3604</sup>, 464). Thus, they are coded as “discriminated” and Whites/Mestizos as “dominant”.

<sup>3604</sup> [Barié, 2003]

#### *1993-2017*

In 1992, the new constitution recognized Paraguay as a “pluricultural and bilingual” country (<sup>3605</sup>) and stipulated the official status of indigenous peoples, their right to own land communally and to preserve their own ethnic identity. Thus, the 1992 constitution marked a significant change for the country’s indigenous peoples (<sup>3606</sup>, 464). Even though first indigenous organizations were created in the 1970s, their influence remained rather weak until the 1990s when there was a clear shift (<sup>3607</sup>) with the foundation of CAPI (Coordinadora por la Autodeterminacion de los Pueblos Indigenas), which comprises about 14 indigenous organizations. Still, they are poorly organized and, as their property rights being not yet fully recognized, they continue to suffer displacement from their ancestral lands.

<sup>3605</sup> [Minority Rights Group International, 2014]

<sup>3606</sup> [Barié, 2003]

<sup>3607</sup> [Minority Rights Group International, 2014]

In 2008, the first indigenous person was appointed as a minister, signaling the change in indigenous peoples’ position and political possibilities since the enactment of the new constitution. However, after her dismissal only some months later in the same year the process of increasing integration of minority groups in governmental positions was discontinued (<sup>3608</sup>: 11). Disputes over land rights and various other problems that have accumulated in the context of

<sup>3608</sup> [USDS, 2008]

large-scale cattle ranching is still affecting indigenous communities, mainly in the Chaco region (<sup>3609</sup>; <sup>3610</sup>). In reality, the indigenous peoples in Paraguay still have very little access to legal and social services or control over their resources and land, although a solid legal framework to ensure those rights exists on paper (<sup>3611</sup>: 4; <sup>3612</sup>: 23-24). There are signs of improvement: In 2014, after a 20-year struggle, President Horacio Cartes signed a law that returned more than 55 square miles of land to the minority group of the Sawhoyamaza people. Although some parties fielded indigenous candidates for the national elections of 2013, none of them managed to get a position in the executive government of either the national or sub-national level (<sup>3613</sup>: 20; <sup>3614</sup>: 15).

<sup>3609</sup> [USDS, 2013]

<sup>3610</sup> [USDS, 2016]

<sup>3611</sup> [Freedom House, 2016]

<sup>3612</sup> [USDS, 2016]

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## *Political status of ethnic groups in Paraguay*

*From 1946 until 1992*

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Whites/mestizos	0.945	MONOPOLY
Tupi-Guaraní and other indigenous groups	0.02	DISCRIMINATED

*From 1993 until 2017*

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Whites/mestizos	0.945	MONOPOLY
Tupi-Guaraní and other indigenous groups	0.02	POWERLESS



Figure 706: Political status of ethnic groups in Paraguay during 1946-1992.

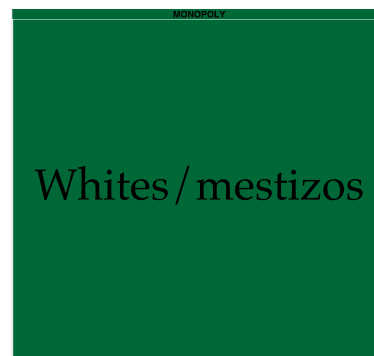


Figure 707: Political status of ethnic groups in Paraguay during 1993-2017.

## *Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Paraguay*

*From 1946 until 2017*

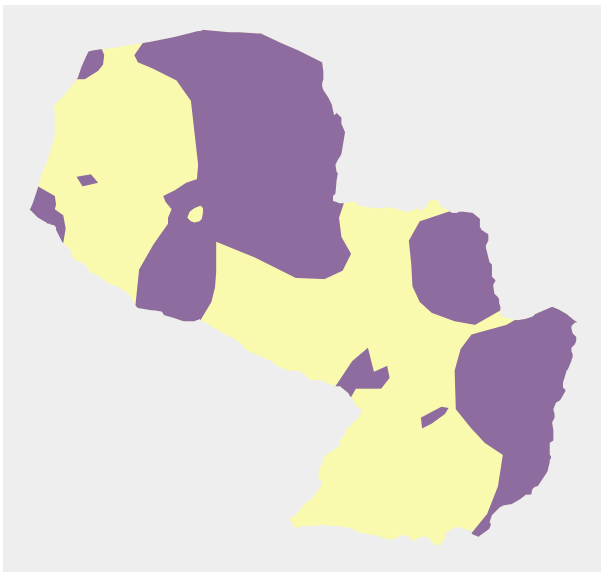


Figure 708: Map of ethnic groups in Paraguay during 1946-2017.

Group name	Area in km <sup>2</sup>	Type
Whites/mestizos	399 756	Statewide
Tupi-Guaraní and other indigenous groups	189 056	Regionally based

Table 242: List of ethnic groups in Paraguay during 1946-2017.

## *Conflicts in Paraguay*

*Starting on 1947-03-06*

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Paraguay	Opposition coalition (Febreristas, Liberals and Communists)	Whites/mestizos	1947-03-06	No	Yes, from EGIP	No
Government of Paraguay	Military faction (forces of Alfredo Stroessner)	Whites/mestizos	1954-05-04	No	Yes, from EGIP	No
Government of Paraguay	Military faction (forces of Andres Rodriguez)	Whites/mestizos	1989-02-02	No	Yes, from EGIP	No