

Paraguay

Ethnicity in Paraguay

Power relations

According to the 2008 survey of indigenous households ⁽²⁸¹⁹⁾, 2% (around 100'000) of the population is indigenous, belonging to 17 different ethnic groups with the majority, about 90%, speaking Guaraní. Indigenous people were discriminated until the military coup in 1989 which toppled the regime of general Stroessner and initiated the democratization of the country. During the military regime, the indigenous peoples were not only constantly threatened by displacements but also almost systematically annihilated ^(2820, 464).

In 1992, the new constitution recognized Paraguay as a "pluri-cultural and bilingual" country ⁽²⁸²¹⁾ 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 ^(2822, 464). Even though first indigenous organizations have been created in the 1970s, their influence remained rather weak until the 1990s when a slight shift was produced ⁽²⁸²³⁾ through the foundation of CAPI (Coordinadora por la Autodeterminación de los Pueblos Indígenas), which comprises about 14 indigenous organizations. Still, they are poorly organized and - their property rights being not yet fully recognized - they continue to suffer displacements from ancestral lands. 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.

²⁸¹⁹ [Department for Statistics, Surveys and Census, 2008]

²⁸²⁰ [Barié, 2003]

²⁸²¹ [Minority Rights Group International, 2014]

²⁸²² [Barié, 2003]

²⁸²³ [Minority Rights Group International, 2014]

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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 2013

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



Figure 592: Political status of ethnic groups in Paraguay during 1946-1992.



Figure 593: Political status of ethnic groups in Paraguay during 1993-2013.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Paraguay

From 1946 until 2009

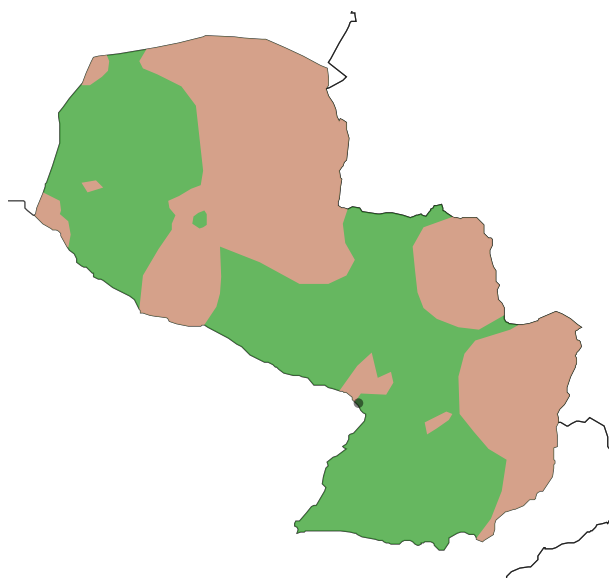


Figure 594: Map of ethnic groups in Paraguay during 1993-2013.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
Whites/mestizos	399 757	Statewide
Tupi-Guaraní and other indigenous groups	189 056	Regionally based

Table 173: List of ethnic groups in Paraguay during 1946-2009.

Conflicts in Paraguay

Starting on 1947-03-07

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Paraguay	Opposition coalition (Febreristas, Liberals and Communists)	Whites/mestizos	1947-03-07	No	Yes, from EGIP	No
Government of Paraguay	Military faction (forces of Alfredo Stroessner)	Whites/mestizos	1954-05-05	No	Yes, from EGIP	No
Government of Paraguay	Military faction (forces of Andres Rodriguez)	Whites/mestizos	1989-02-03	No	Yes, from EGIP	No