Peru

Ethnicity in Peru

Group selection

It is difficult to get exact numbers of the country's ethnic groups, due to the fact that the last census containing information on ethnicity was done in 1940. Indigenous peoples are estimated to make up between 30% and 47% of the Peruvian population, the Quechua being the biggest group. In the national census in 2007 only indigenous peoples of the Amazon were taken into account, which make up about 1.5% of the population. The figures used here are based on absolute numbers provided by the World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples ([2824]). It is important to note that there exists a long-lasting division between Andean and Amazonian indigenous peoples which is the result of both unequal legal ([2825], 14) and political treatment (Andean "peasants" versus Amazonian "natives") ([2826], 347). For a long time, the representation structure of indigenous peoples was fragmented along this geographical and ideological division. Two of the most important organizations are the Andean Confederación Campesina de Perú (Peasant Confederation of Peru) created in 1947 ([2827], 145) and the Amazonian Asociación Interétnica de Desarrollo de la Selva Peruana (Inter-Ethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Rain Forest), founded in 1980 ([2828], 340 ff). A nation wide umbrella organization, unifying both Andean and Amazonian federations, was created as recently as 1998 (Conferencia Permanente de los Pueblos Indígenas del Perú – Permament Conference of the Indigenous Peoples of Peru) ([2829], 145).

[2824] [?]

[2825] [Luna Pineda, 2007]

[2826] [Greene, 2006]

[2827] [Van Cott, 2004]

[2828] [Greene, 2006]

Power relations

In the beginning of the 1960ies the first major indigenous movement began to formulate and realize agrarian reforms in the Cusco-La Convención region which were to be legally recognized by the government later on ([2830], 100).

[2830] [Valer-Bellota, 2008]

Due to the establishment of elected municipal governments from 1963 on (interrupted from 1968-1980) some indigenous leaders were able to participate in Peru's political processes as mayors (on the local as well as the regional level) ([2831], 300). Also the military government (1968-1980) further enabled the expansion of the indigenous movement in order to reach social integration and prevent conflicts what led to more political participation on the local level ([2832], 208).

[2831] [Montoya Rojas, 1997]

[2832] [Paschel Sawyer, 2008]

Still, until 1979, the majority of indigenous peoples was excluded from suffrage for being illiterate. That year, a new constitution was ratified, enabling alphabets to fully take part in Peruvian political life ([2833], 29).

[2833] [Del Águila, 2012]

Both terrorist groups, Sendero Luminoso and Movimiento Revolucionario Túpac Amaru, started their activities in 1980. Especially in the Andes a lot of indigenous leaders were killed and political activity of indigenous peoples almost ceased ([2834], 208).

[2834] [Paschel Sawyer, 2008]

In 1997, the government promulgated a new law concerning municipal elections, guaranteeing quotas to underprivileged groups. For indigenous peoples it stipulates a representation of 15% in candidate's lists for regional and local elections ([2835], 57).

[2835] [Villanueva Montalvo, 2012]

All in all, indigenous peoples gained political power. This is especially true for the indigenous peoples of the Amazon region, where indigenous provincial mayors have been elected consecutively since 1986 ([2836]). In the Andean region indigenous political influence is mostly concentrated on the local level. Even though a rise of indigenous mayors on the regional level (including departments and provinces) could be observed since 2002, the indigenous movement of the Andes is not as established as its counterpart in the Amazon region (in the 2010 elections there was no indigenous representative elected regional president or provincial mayor ([2837], 36)) ([2838], 109). On the national level, mestizos are still dominant. From 1968 to 2013 there have only been seven ([2839], 287) indigenous ministers in the government and these did not have much influence on national politics.

[2836] [Espinosa de Rivera, 2011]

[2837] [Santillana, 2011]

[2838] [Yashar, 2005]

[2839] [Salmón, 2011]

Even though Afro-Peruvians make up about 5% of the population, Afro-Peruvian organizations "have not been successful in constituting a visible force within national politics" ([2840], 208). The first political actions of Afro-Peruavians started in the 1950ies but it was not until the beginning of the 1980ies that the first Afro-Peruvian organization "Movimiento Negro Francisco Congo (MNFC)" was founded. In contrast to indigenous peoples, Afro-Peruvians are not recognized as a minority group in the constitution ([2841], 17).

[2840] [Paschel Sawyer, 2008]

[2841] [Quesada Palma Lazarte, 2011]

A note of caution: "Peruvians" is used here in line with the common EPR practice including the mestizo and white population.

A second note of caution: The administrative entities on the subnational level are divided into three categories: departments ("departamentos"), provinces ("provincias") and districts ("distritos"). Departments as well as provinces are defined as regional entities for the "regional autonomy" codification because both dispose of relevant executive organs (regional presidents in the departments and provincial mayors in the provinces) that execute core competencies of the state (such as full disposal over financial means).

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Political status of ethnic groups in Peru

From 1946 until 1967

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Whites/mestizos	0.52	MONOPOLY
Indigenous peoples of the Andes	0.361	DISCRIMINATED
Afroperuvians	0.05	DISCRIMINATED
Indigenous peoples of the Amazon	0.012	DISCRIMINATED

Figure 595: Political status of ethnic groups in Peru during 1946-1967.

From 1968 until 1979

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Whites/mestizos	0.52	DOMINANT
Indigenous peoples of the Andes	0.361	POWERLESS
Afroperuvians	0.05	IRRELEVANT
Indigenous peoples of the Amazon	0.012	POWERLESS

Figure 596: Political status of ethnic groups in Peru during 1968-1979.

From 1980 until 2002

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Whites/mestizos	0.52	DOMINANT
Indigenous peoples of the Andes	0.361	POWERLESS
Afroperuvians	0.05	POWERLESS
Indigenous peoples of the Amazon	0.012	POWERLESS

Figure 597: Political status of ethnic groups in Peru during 1980-2002.

From 2003 until 2010

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Whites/mestizos	0.52	DOMINANT
Indigenous peoples of the Andes	0.361	POWERLESS
Afroperuvians	0.05	POWERLESS
Indigenous peoples of the Amazon	0.012	POWERLESS

From 2011 until 2013

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Whites/mestizos	0.52	DOMINANT
Indigenous peoples of the Andes	0.361	POWERLESS
Afroperuvians	0.05	POWERLESS
Indigenous peoples of the Amazon	0.012	POWERLESS

Figure 599: Political status of ethnic groups in Peru during 2011-2013.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Peru

From 1946 until 2013

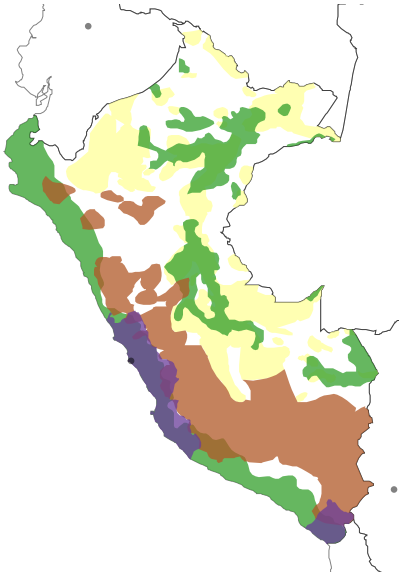

Figure 600: Map of ethnic groups in Peru during 2011-2013.

	Group name	Area in km^2	Type
	Indigenous peoples of the Amazon	354 830	Regionally based
	Whites/mestizos	351 383	Regional & urban
	Indigenous peoples of the Andes	333 723	Regionally based
	Afroperuvians	74 240	Regional & urban

Table 174: List of ethnic groups in Peru during 1946-2013.

Conflicts in Peru

Starting on 1963-05-15

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Peru	ELN	Whites/mestizos	1963-05-15	No	Yes, from EGIP	No
Government of Peru	MIR	Whites/mestizos	1965-06-15	No	Yes, from EGIP	No
Government of Peru	Sendero Luminoso	Whites/mestizos	1981-08-15	No	Yes, from EGIP	No
Government of Peru	Sendero Luminoso	Indigenous peoples of the Andes	1981-08-15	No	Yes	No
Government of Peru	MRTA	Whites/mestizos	1987-12-01	No	Yes, from EGIP	No
Government of Peru	MRTA	Indigenous peoples of the Andes	1987-12-01	No	Yes	No

Starting on 1995-01-26

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Ecuador	Government of Peru		1995-01-26			