

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, who constitute approximately 1.5% of the population, whereas **Indigenous peoples of the Andes** were ignored. The figures used here are based on absolute numbers provided by the World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples.

There exists a long-lasting division between Andean and Amazonian indigenous peoples which is the result of both unequal legal ^(3615, 14) and political treatment (Andean "peasants" versus Amazonian "natives") ^(3616, 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 Confederacion Campesina de Peru (Peasant Confederation of Peru) created in 1947 ^(3617, 145) and the Amazonian Asociacion Interetnica de Desarrollo de la Selva Peruana (Inter-Ethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Rain Forest), founded in 1980 ^(3618, 340 ff). A nation wide umbrella organization, unifying both Andean and Amazonian federations, was created as recently as 1998 (Conferencia Permanente de los Pueblos Indigenas del Peru - Permanent Conference of the Indigenous Peoples of Peru) ^(3619, 145).

Apart from these two indigenous groups, we also identify **Afro-Peruvians** and **Whites/Mestizos** as politically relevant ethnic groups.

³⁶¹⁵ [Luna Pineda, 2007]

³⁶¹⁶ [Greene, 2006]

³⁶¹⁷ [Van Cott, 2004]

³⁶¹⁸ [Greene, 2006]

³⁶¹⁹ [Van Cott, 2004]

*Power relations**1946-1967*

In the beginning of the 1960s, the first major indigenous movement began to formulate and realize agrarian reforms in the Cusco-La Convencion region, which would eventually be realized by the government (³⁶²⁰, 100). Due to the establishment of elected municipal governments starting in 1963 (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) (³⁶²¹, 300).

³⁶²⁰ [Valer-Bellota, 2008]

³⁶²¹ [Montoya Rojas, 1997]

During this early period, Whites/Mestizos had a monopoly on power, while all other groups were discriminated.

1968-1979

The military government (1968-1980) enabled the expansion of the indigenous movement in order to reach social integration and prevent conflict; this led to more political participation on the local level (³⁶²², 208). Still, until 1979, the majority of indigenous peoples was excluded from suffrage for being illiterate. That year, a new constitution was ratified, enabling more people to fully take part in Peruvian political life (³⁶²³, 29).

³⁶²² [Paschel Sawyer, 2008]

³⁶²³ [Del Aguila, 2012]

During the period of military rule, we consider Whites/Mestizos as politically dominant and all other groups as powerless, though not outright discriminated.

1980-2002

Two rebel groups, Sendero Luminoso and Movimiento Revolucionario Tupac Amaru, became active in 1980. Especially in the Andes, many indigenous leaders were killed and political activity of indigenous peoples almost ceased (³⁶²⁴, 208). Apart from this, the situation of indigenous peoples improved somewhat during this period and they gained some political power. This is especially true for the indigenous peoples of the Amazon region, where indigenous provincial mayors have been elected consecutively since 1986 (³⁶²⁵). In the Andean region indigenous political influence is mostly concentrated on the local level.

³⁶²⁴ [Paschel Sawyer, 2008]

³⁶²⁵ [Espinosa de Rivera, 2011]

In 1997, the government passed 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 (³⁶²⁶, 57). Even though a rise of indigenous mayors at 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 (³⁶²⁷, 36)) (³⁶²⁸, 109). On the national level, mestizos are still dominant. From 1968 to 2013 there were seven (³⁶²⁹, 287) indigenous ministers in the government and these did not have much influence on national politics.

³⁶²⁶ [Villanueva Montalvo, 2012]

³⁶²⁷ [Santillana, 2011]

³⁶²⁸ [Yashar, 2005]

³⁶²⁹ [Salmon, 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" (3630, 208). The first political actions of Afro-Peruvians started in the 1950ies but it was not until the beginning of the 1980s 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 (3631, 17). Afro-Peruvians are still considered as politically powerless.

3630 [Paschel Sawyer, 2008]

A note about state structure: 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).

3631 [Quesada Palma Lazarte, 2011]

2003-2010

During this coding period, Whites/Mestizos are dominant and all other ethnic groups powerless. Yet, the Indigenous peoples of the Andes and the Amazon have regional autonomy.

2011-2014

More and more indigenous people have been elected for subnational legislative mandates in the last decade, due to the help of a quota that secures them a minimum number of candidatures on electoral lists (3632: 9; 3633: 15). However, the quota does not address the difficulties for ethnic minorities to gain access to decision-making positions of regional politics (3634: 28).

3632 [Espinosa, 2016]

3633 [JNE, 2015]

3634 [Zambrano and Uchuypoma, 2015]

Nevertheless, in 2014 some members of both ethnic groups - Indigenous peoples of the Amazon and Indigenous peoples of the Andes - got elected as provincial mayors or regional president (3635; 3636). It is important to note that information about indigenous origin of political candidates in Peru is extremely scarce, especially on the subnational level, and sometimes it can only be retrieved by analyzing photographs. Espinosa (2016: 12) observes that improvement of indigenous participation in regional governments has been very modest recently and might be at risk due to renewed centralistic tendencies in the country. Overall, ethnic minorities in Peru still face inequalities and suffer from underrepresentation in the political, social and economic sphere (3637).

3635 [Profonanpe, 2016]

3636 [Los Andes, 2014]

Therefore, for this period, both indigenous politically relevant ethnic groups are considered as "powerless", although only the Amazon indigenous peoples possessed regional autonomy status during this period.

3637 [USDS, 2017]

2015-2017

After the regional elections in 2014, “regional autonomy” is added for the Indigenous peoples of the Andes, based on the elected regional president and provincial mayors.

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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

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

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

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



Figure 709: Political status of ethnic groups in Peru during 1946-1967.

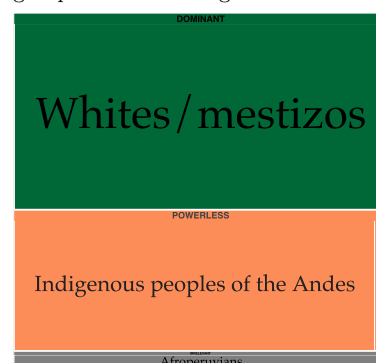


Figure 710: Political status of ethnic groups in Peru during 1968-1979.



Figure 711: Political status of ethnic groups in Peru during 1980-2002.



From 2011 until 2014

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 2015 until 2017

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 713: Political status of ethnic groups in Peru during 2011-2014.



Figure 714: Political status of ethnic groups in Peru during 2015-2017.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Peru

From 1946 until 2017

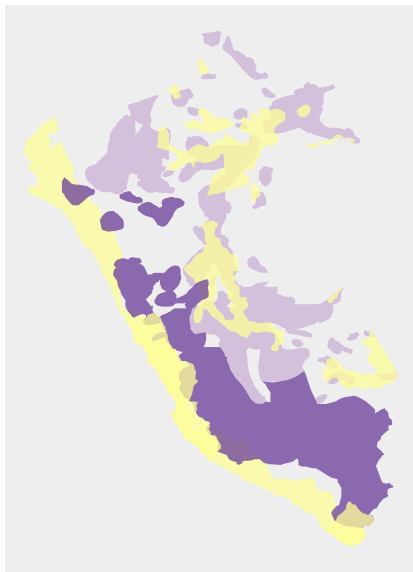


Figure 715: Map of ethnic groups in Peru during 1946-2017.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
Indigenous peoples of the Amazon	354 784	Regionally based
Whites/mestizos	351 376	Regionally based
Indigenous peoples of the Andes	333 723	Regionally based
Afroperuvians	73 702	Regionally based

Table 243: List of ethnic groups in Peru during 1946-2017.

Conflicts in Peru

Starting on 1963-05-14

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Peru	ELN	Whites/mestizos	1963-05-14	No	Yes, from EGIP	No
Government of Peru	MIR	Whites/mestizos	1965-06-14	No	Yes, from EGIP	No
Government of Peru	Sendero Luminoso	Indigenous peoples of the Andes	1981-08-14	No	Yes	No
Government of Peru	Sendero Luminoso	Whites/mestizos	1981-08-14	No	Yes, from EGIP	No
Government of Peru	MRTA	Indigenous peoples of the Andes	1987-11-30	No	Yes	No
Government of Peru	MRTA	Whites/mestizos	1987-11-30	No	Yes, from EGIP	No

Starting on 1995-01-25

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Ecuador	Government of Peru		1995-01-25			