

Peru

# *Ethnicity in Peru*

## *Group selection*

It is difficult to receive exact numbers of the country's ethnic groups, because the last census containing information on ethnicity was conducted 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 <sup>(4286, 14)</sup> and political treatment (Andean "peasants" versus Amazonian "natives") <sup>(4287, 347)</sup>. 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 <sup>(4288, 145)</sup> 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 <sup>(4289, 340 ff)</sup>. 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) <sup>(4290, 145)</sup>.

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

## *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 <sup>(4291, 100)</sup>. 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

<sup>4286</sup> [Luna Pineda, 2007]

<sup>4287</sup> [Greene, 2006]

<sup>4288</sup> [Van Cott, 2004]

<sup>4289</sup> [Greene, 2006]

<sup>4290</sup> [Van Cott, 2004]

<sup>4291</sup> [Valer-Bellota, 2008]

as mayors (on the local as well as the regional level) (<sup>4292</sup>, 300).

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 (<sup>4293</sup>, 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 (<sup>4294</sup>, 29).

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 (<sup>4295</sup>, 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 (<sup>4296</sup>). In the Andean region indigenous political influence is mostly concentrated on the local level.

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 (<sup>4297</sup>, 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 (<sup>4298</sup>, 36)) (<sup>4299</sup>, 109). On the national level, mestizos are still dominant. From 1968 to 2013 there were seven (<sup>4300</sup>, 287) indigenous ministers in the government and these did not have much influence on national politics.

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" (<sup>4301</sup>, 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 (<sup>4302</sup>, 17). Afro-Peruvians are still considered as politically powerless.

<sup>4292</sup> [Montoya Rojas, 1997]

<sup>4293</sup> [Pascherl & Sawyer, 2008]

<sup>4294</sup> [Del Aguila, 2012]

<sup>4295</sup> [Pascherl & Sawyer, 2008]

<sup>4296</sup> [Espinosa de Rivera, 2011]

<sup>4297</sup> [Villanueva Montalvo, 2012]

<sup>4298</sup> [Santillana, 2011]

<sup>4299</sup> [Yashar, 2005]

<sup>4300</sup> [Salmon, 2011]

<sup>4301</sup> [Pascherl & Sawyer, 2008]

<sup>4302</sup> [Quesada & Palma Lazarte, 2011]

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).

### *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 (<sup>4303</sup>: 9; <sup>4304</sup>: 15, <sup>4305</sup>). However, the quota does not address the difficulties for ethnic minorities to gain access to decision-making positions of regional politics (<sup>4306</sup>: 28).

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 (<sup>4307</sup>; <sup>4308</sup>). 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 (<sup>4309</sup>).

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.

### *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.

### *2018-2021*

The 2017 national census was the first census in Peruvian republican history which included the Afro-Peruvian category as racial identification (<sup>4310</sup>). Based on these results, we adapt the group

<sup>4303</sup> [Espinosa, 2016]

<sup>4304</sup> [JNE, 2015]

<sup>4305</sup> [Paredes & Dosek, 2020]

<sup>4306</sup> [Zambrano and Uchuypoma, 2015]

<sup>4307</sup> [Profonnanpe, 2016]

<sup>4308</sup> [Los Andes, 2014]

<sup>4309</sup> [USDS, 2017]

<sup>4310</sup> [Noles Cotito, 2020]

sizes to: 66.1% for the White/Mestizo population (sum of “Mestizo” and “White” categories), 3.6% for the Afro-Peruvians, 24.7% for the Indigenous peoples of the Andes (sum of “Quechua” and “Aymara” categories) and 0.8% for the Indigenous peoples of the Amazon (sum of “Amazon Native”, “Ashaninka”, “Awajun” and “Shipibo-Konibo” categories) (<sup>4311</sup>). Some of the remaining categories include the Nikkei (Japanese descendants, 0.1%) and Tusan (Chinese descendants, 0.1%) (<sup>4312</sup>), which are not considered politically relevant.

<sup>4311</sup> [INEI, 2017]

<sup>4312</sup> [INEI, 2017]

From the 2014 elections to the latest elections in 2018, there has been an increase in the number of provinces in which the quota of indigenous peoples is applied (from 95 in 2014 to 131 in 2018, out of a total of 195) (<sup>4313</sup>). While there is variation in both the Andes and the Amazon regarding the sub-national representation of indigenous peoples, there are cases in both regions in which indigenous peoples have been elected at the provincial level (<sup>4314</sup>). Hence, we continue to code both these groups as having “regional autonomy”. No such improvement in sub-national representation has been observed with the Afro-Peruvian population (<sup>4315</sup>), who are again coded as “powerless” but with no regional autonomy. Otherwise, Indigenous peoples of both the Amazon and the Andes remain “powerless”, although they are disproportionately affected by the actions of illegal groups (<sup>4316</sup>).

<sup>4313</sup> [Paredes & Dosek, 2020]

<sup>4314</sup> [Paredes & Dosek, 2020]

<sup>4315</sup> [OHCHR, 2018]

<sup>4316</sup> [USDS, 2019]

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## Political status of ethnic groups in P

*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

*From 2011 until 2014*



Figure 821: Political status of ethnic groups in Peru during 1946-1967.

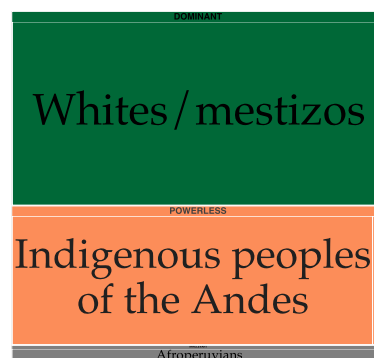


Figure 822: Political status of ethnic groups in Peru during 1968-1979.



Figure 823: Political status of ethnic groups in Peru during 1980-2002.



Figure 824: Political status of ethnic groups in Peru during 2003-2010.

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 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

*From 2018 until 2021*

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Whites/mestizos	0.661	DOMINANT
Indigenous peoples of the Andes	0.247	POWERLESS
Afroperuvians	0.036	POWERLESS
Indigenous peoples of the Amazon	0.008	POWERLESS



Figure 826: Political status of ethnic groups in Peru during 2015-2017.

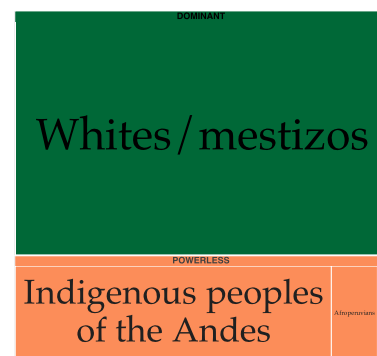


Figure 827: Political status of ethnic groups in Peru during 2018-2021.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Peru

From 1946 until 1967

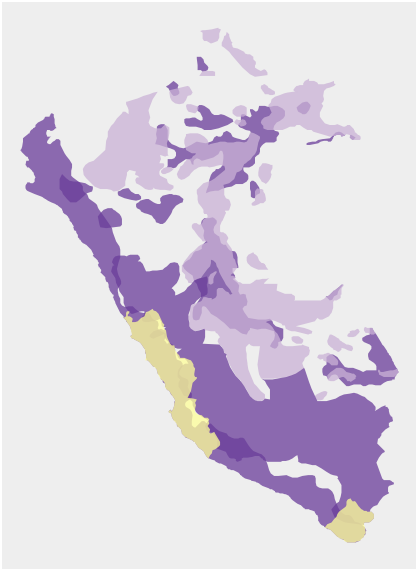


Figure 828: Map of ethnic groups in Peru during 1946-1967.

Group name		Area in km <sup>2</sup>	Type
■	Whites/mestizos	356 621	Regionally based
■	Indigenous peoples of the Amazon	354 542	Regionally based
■	Indigenous peoples of the Andes	338 187	Regionally based
■	Afroperuvians	73 429	Regionally based

Table 304: List of ethnic groups in Peru during 1946-1967.

From 1968 until 1979

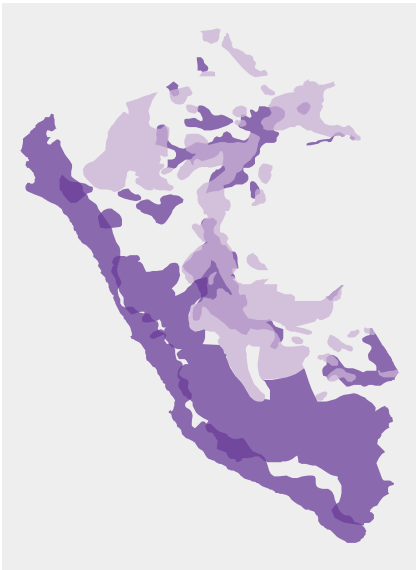


Figure 829: Map of ethnic groups in Peru during 1968-1979.

Group name	Area in km <sup>2</sup>	Type
Whites/mestizos	356 621	Regionally based
Indigenous peoples of the Amazon	354 542	Regionally based
Indigenous peoples of the Andes	338 187	Regionally based

Table 305: List of ethnic groups in Peru during 1968-1979.

*From 1980 until 2021*

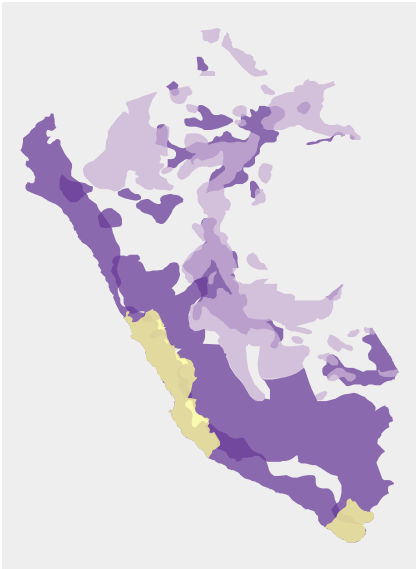


Figure 830: Map of ethnic groups in Peru during 1980-2021.

	Group name	Area in km <sup>2</sup>	Type
■	Whites/mestizos	356 621	Regionally based
■	Indigenous peoples of the Amazon	354 542	Regionally based
■	Indigenous peoples of the Andes	338 187	Regionally based
■	Afroperuvians	73 429	Regionally based

Table 306: List of ethnic groups in Peru during 1980-2021.

## *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	Whites/mestizos	1981-08-14	No	Yes, from EGIP	No
Government of Peru	Sendero Luminoso	Indigenous peoples of the Andes	1981-08-14	No	Yes	No
Government of Peru	MRTA	Whites/mestizos	1987-11-30	No	Yes, from EGIP	No
Government of Peru	MRTA	Indigenous peoples of the Andes	1987-11-30	No	Yes	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			