

# History and constitution



## History

- 1342 Creation of the earldom of Vaduz
- 1396 The earldom of Vaduz becomes directly subject to the Holy Roman Emperor
- 1434-37 Unification of upland (earldom of Vaduz) and lowland (domain of Schellenberg)
- 1699 Prince Johann Adam Andreas purchases the domain of Schellenberg; purchase of the earldom of Vaduz in 1712
- 1719 Vaduz and Schellenberg become the Imperial Principality of Liechtenstein
- 1806 Inclusion in the Confederation of the Rhine: Liechtenstein becomes a sovereign state
- 1815 Accession to the German Confederation
- 1852 Customs treaty with Austria
- 1862 A new constitution comes into force which provides for a parliament to represent the people
- 1868 Abolition of the Liechtenstein army
- 1919 Cancellation of the customs treaty with Austria
- 1921 Amendment of the constitution; democratic rights are strengthened
- 1924 Customs treaty with Switzerland, introduction of the Swiss franc as the official currency
- 1950 Membership of the International Court of Justice at The Hague
- 1960 Supplementary protocol on participation in EFTA
- 1972 Supplementary agreement on inclusion in Switzerland's EC and ECSC agreements
- 1978 Member of the Council of Europe
- 1980 Currency treaty with Switzerland
- 1990 Liechtenstein becomes the 160th member of the UN
- 1991 Member of EFTA
- 1995 Liechtenstein joins the EEA and the WTO
- 1997 Foundation of Archbishopric of Vaduz
- 2003 Amendment of the constitution

## Constitution

State, constitution	The principality of Liechtenstein is a hereditary constitutional monarchy, based on a democratic and parliamentary system. Power lies with the Prince and the people and is exercised by both in accordance with the provisions of the constitution (Article 2 of the constitution).
Head of State	HSH Prince Hans-Adam II. von und zu Liechtenstein succeeded Prince Franz Josef II. on 13 November 1989. On 15 August 2004, Prince Hans-Adam II. has entrusted Hereditary Prince Alois to exercise his sovereign powers as his representative.
Government	Five-member government nominated by parliament and appointed by the Prince for four years. Head of Government Otmar Hasler (FBP) Deputy Head of Government Klaus Tschütscher (VU) Other members: Rita Kieber-Beck (FBP) Martin Meyer (FBP) Hugo Quaderer (VU)
Parliament	25 members elected by the people for four years in universal, direct and secret elections. Distribution of seats 2005 – 2009 12 seats Progressive Citizens' Party (FBP) 10 seats Patriotic Union (VU) 3 seats Free List (FL)
Courts	Civil and criminal cases are heard initially by the Landgericht, at appeal by the Obergericht and at supreme court level by the Oberster Gerichtshof. Public law cases are dealt with by the Administrative Court and the Staatsgerichtshof. The courts are all in Vaduz.