

Institutional Chronology of Nation Building

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

The Republic of Moldova declared its independence from the Soviet Union on 27 August 1991. From the end of World War Two until 1991 the country has been a Socialist Soviet Republic (MSSR), occupying the same territory as today's republic. The first Moldovan Socialist Soviet Republic had been established in August 1940, after the occupation of Romanian Bessarabia by the Soviet Union (re-occupied by Romania in the summer of 1941 after the Third Reich's attack on the Soviet Union). Between 1924 and 1940, the Moldovan Autonomous Socialist Soviet Republic within the Ukrainian SSR had existed, which in 1940, after the Soviet occupation of Bessarabia, was upgraded to a fully fledged union republic and territorially extended. Bessarabia had been a part of the Russian Empire between 1812 and 1918, when it was joined to Romania. Until 1812, this region was part of the Moldovan Principality, which was an autonomous entity within the Ottoman Empire.

In the early 1990s, the Republic of Moldova was faced with a secessionist violent conflict, which resulted in the establishment of the *Pridnestrovskaja Moldavskaia Respublika* (PMR), commonly known as Transnistria, which is not recognized internationally. Transnistria (capital: Tiraspol') occupies the whole territory of the Moldova left of the river Dniester as well as the right-bank town of Bender.

1. Census-related Issues (after 1945)

Institution (or Office) in charge for statistical data and censuses: name, when it was founded	Years of census	Used ethnonym	Changes in name	Percentage for name-giving nation
Central Statistical Directorate of the USSR at the Council of Ministries / formed in 1948	1959	Moldovan(s)	no	65,4
Central Statistical Directorate of the USSR at the Council of Ministries	1970	Moldovan(s)	no	64,6
Central Statistical Directorate of the USSR at the Council of Ministries ⁸	1979	Moldovan(s)	no	63,9
State Committee of Statistics of the USSR, formed in 1987	1989	Moldovan(s)	no	64,4
National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova, 1991	2004	Moldovan(s)	no	75,8**

** The number includes statistical data on the Eastern districts and the municipality Bender, i.e. the break-away region of Transnistria.

According to the authorities of Transnistria, who conducted their own census in 2004, Moldovans compose 31.9 % of the total population, followed by Russians 30.4 %, and Ukrainians 28.8 %.

2. Official History: Institutionalization, Production and Representation

2.1 Institutes for National History

– Institute of History, State and Law at the Academy of Science of Moldova

The Institute of History, Language and Literature as a part of the Moldovan branch of the Academy of Science of the USSR was founded in 1946. In 1958 this institute was divided into the Institute of History and Institute of Language and Literature and, after the Academy of Science of Moldova (ASM) had been established in 1961, the Institute of History became a part of it. In 2006 it was transformed into the Institute of History, State and Law.

Since 1990, the Institute publishes "*Revista de istorie a Moldovei*" ("Journal of the History of Moldova").

2.2 Museums for National History

– National Museum of Archaeology and History of Moldova:

In 1983, the State Museum of History of the Moldovan Soviet Socialist Republic was founded, on the base of the Republican Museum of Military Glory. On 22 October 1991, upon the Ministry of Culture decree nr. 231 "On the improvement of the activity of the republican museums", the State Museum of the History of the MSSR was transformed into the National Museum of the History of Moldova.

1992 till 1995 the Museum published the "*Anuarul Muzeului Național de Istorie a Moldovei*" ("Yearbook of the National Museum of the History of Moldova"), which in 1996 was re-entitled „Tyragetia“

Internet: <<http://www.nationalmuseum.md/>>

2.3 Authoritative Historical Publications

- *История Молдавии*, Том I (с древнейших времен до Великой октябрьской социалистической революции) [History of Moldova, vol. 1: From the Oldest Times to the Socialist October Revolution]. Chishinev 1951.
- Грекул, А.В.: *Формирование и развитие молдавской социалистической нации* [The Formation and Development of the Moldovan Socialist Nation]. Chishinev 1955.
- *История Молдавской ССР*, 2 т. [History of the Moldovan SSR, 2 vols.] Chishinev 1965-1968.

- Лазарев, А.: *Молдавская советская государственность и бессарабский вопрос* [The Moldovan Soviet Statehood and the Bessarabian Question]. Chishinev 1974.
- Мохов, А.К.: *Очерки истории формирования молдавского народа* [Studies on the History of the Formation of the Moldovan People]. Chishinev 1978.
- *Формирование молдавской буржуазной нации* [The Formation of the Moldovan Bourgeois Nation], ред. А. М. Лазарев. Chishinev 1978.
- Зеленчук, В.: *Население Бессарабии и Поднепровья в XIX в.* [The Population of Bessarabia and Podnestrovia in the 19th century]. Chishinev 1979.
- *История Молдавской ССР. С древнейших времен до наших дней.* [The History of the Moldovan SSR. From the Oldest Times until Today]. Под ред. В.И. Царанова. Chishinev 1982.
- *Istoria R.S.S. Moldovenești din cele mai vechi timpuri pînă în prezent.* [The History of the Moldovan SSR. From the Oldast Time to the Present]. Chișinău 1984.
- Moldovan, Petre P.: *Moldovenii în istorie* [The Moldovans in the Past]. Chișinău 1993.
- Stati, Vasile: *Istoria Moldovei* [The History of the Moldovans]. Chișinau 2002.
- Stepaniuc, Victor: *Statalitatea poporului moldovenesc. Aspecte istorice, politico-juridice* [Popular Statehood of the Moldovans. Historical and Political-Legal Aspects]. Chișinău 2005.

3. Folk (or Popular) Culture

3.1 Institutes for Folk Culture

- **The Section Ethnography and Art Studies at the Academy of Science of Moldova** was established in 1961 and reformed in 1991, forming the Institute of Ethnography and Folklore at the Academy of Science of Moldova. It employed 37 researchers. In 1998, the Institute was dissolved, and its researchers joined other Academy institutes: Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, Institute of History and Institute of Linguistics and Folklore.
Within the frame of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, the following sections exist: "Material Culture with the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography", "General Problems of Ethnography", "Studies of Popular Artistic Trades (Handicraft)"
- In 2006, the Academy of Sciences formed the **Institute of Cultural Heritage**, which includes: Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography; Institute of Inter-ethnic Studies; Institute of Arts Studies.

From 1991 to 1998 the Institute of Ethnography and Folklore published "*Revista de Etnologie*" ("Journal of Ethnology"). Since 2005 the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography publishes "*Revista Etnografică*" ("Ethnographic Review").

3.2 Museums for "Folk Culture"

– National Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography

The first historical and ethnographical exhibition was organized in 1958 in the frame of the Academy of Sciences as a part of its Section of Ethnography and Arts Studies, (later the Institute of Archaeology and Old History and the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography). In June 1986 it was relocated into a new building. Since 2006 it is a part of the Institute of Cultural Heritage.

- #### – Museum of Ethnography and Natural History
- founded in October 1889 by Baron A. Stuard, is the oldest museum in the Republic of Moldova, which has been a research laboratory for many famous scientists during the 20th century. The museum was built in the oriental style in 1905, being the only of its kind in Moldova. The Museum is known for its rich geological, ethnographical, paleontological, zoological, entomological, archaeological and numismatic collections. The museum, through history, has kept its two specific directions: Nature and Cultural Studies of Moldova, which was reflected by its different names throughout its existence: National Museum of Natural History, Regional Museum of Bessarabia and National Museum of Studies of the Republic. Since 2006 it is a part of the Academy's Institute of Cultural Heritage.

3.3 Non-state Organizations for "Folk Culture"

The association **Buciumul** was founded in 1992 as a studio of folklore films and comedy, which since then has diversified its activities.

3.4 Authoritative Publications on Folklore

- Зеленчук, В.: *Очерки молдавской народной обрядности* [Studies on Moldovan popular Customs]. Chishinev 1959.
- Попович, Ю.: *Молдавские новогодние праздники* [Moldovan New-Year Feasts] Chishinev 1974.
- Hâncu, Andrei: *Probleme de geneză a creației poetice populare moldonești* [Problems of the Emergence of Moldovan Folk Poetry]. Chișinău 1975-1983.
- *Creația populară moldovenească* [Moldovan Folk Art], 16 vols. Chișinău 1975-1983.
- *Молдаване* [The Moldovans]. Chishinev 1977.

4. National Language and its Formalization

4.1 Status and Recognition

"Moldovan language" or "Moldovan-Romanian" is the official name for the official language of the Republic of Moldova, being the mother tongue of 2.5 million inhabitants of Moldova. Its essence as an independent language is disputed, because linguistically it is Romanian. Most linguists and specialists in Romanian language assert that the Moldovan language is simply another name for the Romanian language, accepted for political motives and promoted during the Soviet period as a way to separate the Romanian-speaking population of Moldova

from Romania. However, there are also linguists who support the idea of the separateness of the Moldovan language.

Until 1989 "Moldovan" was written with Cyrillic letters, since then with the Latin alphabet.

The Law regarding the use of languages on the territory of Moldovan SSR, which was adopted in 1989 and is still valid according to the Moldovan Constitution, mentions the existence of the "Moldo-Romanian" identity. The present Constitution of the Republic of Moldova calls the official language "state language", and languages issues – such as the name of the language – still arise heated debates. In the break-away republic of Transnistria, "Moldovan" is one of the three official languages, the other two being Ukrainian and Russian. In the Gagauz Autonomous Region in the southern part of the Republic of Moldova, the Gagauz and Russian languages also serve as official languages.

4.3 Major Textbooks

- *Литература ши арта Молдовей*, Енциклопедие, в. 1 [Literature and Arts of the Moldovans. An Encyclopedia, part 1], ред. А. Тимуш. Chişinău 1985.
- *Енциклопедия Советикэ Молдовеняскэ* [Soviet-Moldovan Encyclopedia]. Chişinău 1970–1978.
- Eremia, Anatol: *Contribuții la studiul formării cuvintelor în limba moldovenească* [Contributions to the Study of the Formation of the Moldovan Language Formation] Chişinău 1979.
- Dîrul, Alexandru: *Limba moldovenească literară contemporană. Morfologia* [The Contemporary Moldovan Literary Language]. Chişinău 1983.
- *Limba română vorbită în Moldova istorică* [The Romanian Language in the history of Moldova], 2 vols. Eds. Klaus Bochmann and Vasile Dumbrava. Leipzig 2002, 2002.
- Stati, Vasile: *Dicționar moldovenesc-românesc* [Moldovan-Romanian Dictionary]. Chişinău 2003.

5. Arts and Nation-building

5.1 National associations of artists:

- **Uniunea scriitorilor din Republica Moldova** (Writers' Association of the Republic of Moldova), pro-Romanian in its cultural orientation
- **Uniunea scriitorilor "Nistru-Dnestr"** (Writers' Association "Nistru-Dnestr"), founded in November 2003 and, as a promoter of Moldovanism, in opposition to the Writers' Association of Republic of Moldova
- **Uniunea cineastilor din Republica Moldova** (Film makers' Association of the Republic of Moldova)
- **Unuinea artiștilor plastici din Republica Moldova** (Plastic Artists' Association of the Republic of Moldova), internet: <<http://www.arta.md/>>
- **Uniunea muzicienilor din Republica Moldova** (Musicians' Association of the Republic of Moldova).

5.2 Folkloristic Events and Festivals:

- International Festival of Music "*Martisor*", 1–10 March;
- International Folklore Festival "*Nufarul Alb*", Cahul, June–July;
- Festival-contest of patriotic songs "*Azi Moldova-i ziua ta*", Chişinău, August 2007;
- Wine Festival, Chişinău, October.

6. Official (State-sponsored) Religion

There are two competing Orthodox Churches in Moldova. The bigger one is the **Metropolitan Church of Chişinău and Whole Moldova** (better known as the **Orthodox Church of Moldova**), which belongs to the jurisdiction of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Internet: <<http://www.mitropolia.md/>>

The second Orthodox metropolitan church in the Republic of Moldova is the **Metropolitan Church of Bessarabia**, an autonomous local Orthodox church under the jurisdiction of the Romanian Patriarchate. The Metropolitan Church of Bessarabia is the spiritual, canonical and historical successor of the Metropolitan Church of Bessarabia which had existed until 1944 and was reactivated on 14 September 1992.

Internet: <<http://www.mitropoliabasarabiei.ro/>>

According to the census from 2004, the population of Moldova has the following religious composition:

Religion	Adherents	% of total
<i>Eastern Orthodox Christians:</i>		
- adherents of the Metropolitan Church of Moldova (subordinated to the Patriarchate of Moscow) 60 %	3,158,015	95.5%
- adherent of the Metropolitan Church of Basarabia (subordinated to the Romanian Patriarchate) 23 %		
<i>New Protestant faiths</i>		1.83%
- Baptists	32,754	0.99%
- Seventh-day Adventists	13,503	0.41%
- Pentecostal	9,179	0.28%
- Brethren Assemblies	5,075	0.15%
		0.19%

<i>Traditional Protestants</i>	1,429	0.04%
- Confessional Evangelicals	1,190	0.04%
- Reformed	3,596	0.11%
- Evangelical Synod-Presbyterians		
Old-Rite Christians	5,094	0.15%
Roman Catholics	4,645	0.14%
Muslims	1,667	0.05%
Other religions	25,527	0.77%
Agnostics	33,207	1%
Atheists	12,724	0.38%

7. National Holidays and Symbols

7.1. National Holidays

- 27 August, Independence Day
- 31 August, Day of Our Language ("*Limba Noastra*")

7.2. National Symbols

The law on the **state flag** was passed by parliament (decision nr. 17-XII) in 12 May 1990), and the **coat of arms** of the Republic of Moldova is regulated by Law nr.337-XII, 3 November 1990.



Left:
State Flag



Right:
Coat of Arms

8. Finalized (Achieved) or Pending Membership to Main International Organizations

- **Community of Independent States (CIS)** – member since 1991
- **Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)** – member since 30 January 1992
- **United Nations Organization (UNO)** – member since 2 March 1992
- **Council of Europe** – member since 1995
- **GUUAM** (Georgia, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Moldova) – member since 1996
- **World Trade Organization** – member since 2001
- **The Bologna Education Treaty** – ratification of the Treaty in 2005

The *Partnership and Cooperation Agreement* between Moldova and the **European Union** came into force in 1998 (for an initial period of ten years). Moldova is also a beneficiary of the *European Neighborhood Policy* of the EU.

Relations with **NATO**: The president of the Republic of Moldova signed the *NATO Partnership for Peace* framework document in 1994.

9. Main NGOs

- **NGO "Contact"**, founded in 1995 <http://www.contact.md/_secundare.php?pag=2>
- **ProDidactica Educational Center**, founded in 1998 <<http://www.prodidactica.md/index.php3>>
- **IDIS "Viitorul"**, founded in 1993 <<http://www.iatp.md/viitorul/indexe.htm>>
- **Association for Participatory Democracy ADEPT**, founded in 2000 <<http://www.e-democracy.md/presentation/>>
- **Public Policy Institute**, founded in 2000 <<http://www.ipp.md>>