

Terrorism: A Study in Scarlet

Examination Question: Florin
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Florin is a small, autocratic monarchy in Southern Asia. As with most Asian states, it has suffered a history of political (and economic) instability. Since it gained independence from Britain in 1946, there have been no fewer than five coup attempts, the last one in 1983. Prior to each attempt, Florin experienced an extended bout of nationalist-separatist terrorism. In no case did the terrorism create a new home for the battling ethnicity (it was the Chinese the first two times and the Indians the last three). In fact, in no case did the prince actually lose his throne. In each case, the coup attempt ended the terrorism.

Throughout the Cold War, Florin tried to maintain strategic neutrality among the three poles. It often switched sides between China and the Soviet Union, attempting to gain the greatest economic benefit. Its princes have tended to be varying degrees of center-left in terms of economy, and varying degrees of brutal in terms of politics. This was easy for the prince, as he traditionally ruled by *fiat*.

Florin is ethnically diverse. The dominant ethnicity, the Florid, constitute 60% of the population. The prince and his closest advisors are all Florid. The national assembly, which only has advisory powers, contains all Florin ethnicities in proportion to their population in the state. The remaining ethnicities in Florin are the Sinhalese 15%, the Tamil 10%, the Moros 5%, the Chinese 5%, and the Indians 5%.

The official religion of the state is Sunni Islam, with 65% of the population practicing it. The remaining 35% is Buddhist (Sinhalese and Chinese) and Hindu (Tamil and Indian). The constitution officially forbids discrimination based on religion. It also bans discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, language, gender, and wealth. If the prince (or his vizier) finds a person guilty of discrimination, that person is immediately executed.



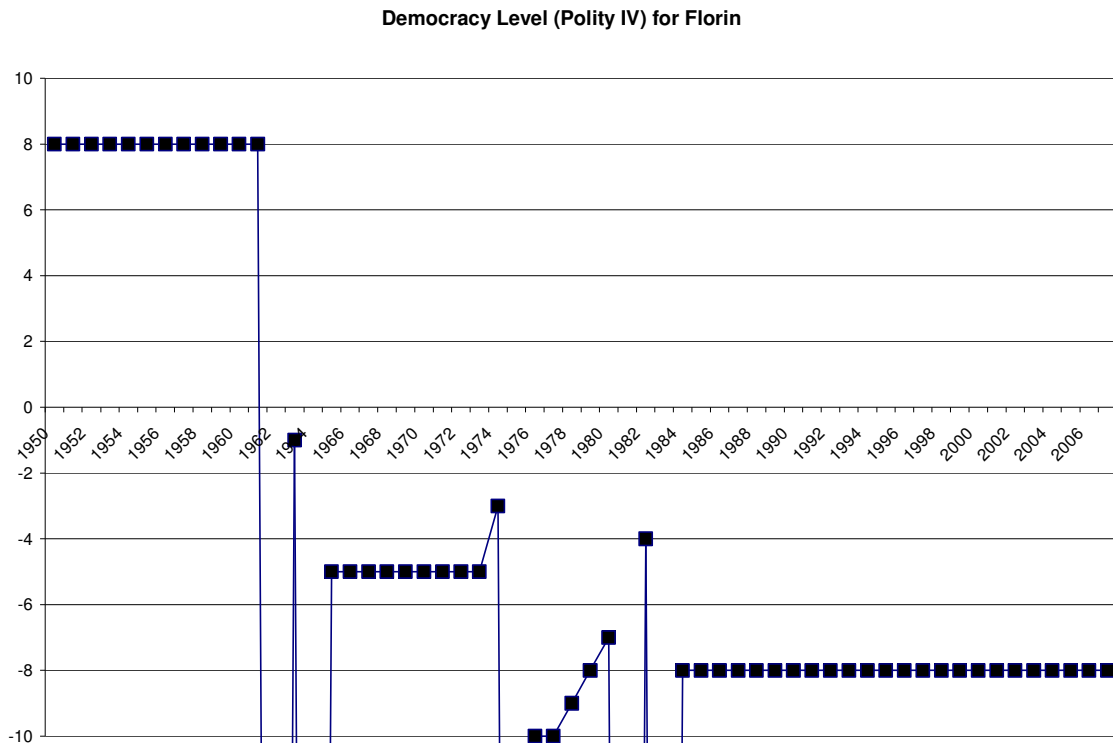
Official Language:	Florid
Spoken by:	100% of population
Population:	851,784
Density:	154 per mi ²
Government:	Principality
Prince:	Humperdinck
Vizier:	Count Rugen
Currency:	Florin Guilder (FLG) 1.00 FLG \equiv 1.00 RUB (Fixed exchange rate since the 1983 coup.)
Calling Code:	+86
GDP:	\$4.395 billion (2007) est.
GDP per capita:	\$2,477 (2007) est. \$5,683 (2005)
Primary Economy:	Rice, Tea, Textiles
Failed State Index:	71.2 (2007)

The Florin economy has suffered under the recent world-wide economic slowdown. The average GDP growth rate since 1990 has been 5.4%. However, the last two years saw GDP growth rates of 1.5% and 0.4%. The inflation rate has held steady at 9% since 2000.

The following pages provide some historical data on Florin: Democracy Level, Freedom Level, and Human Development Index.

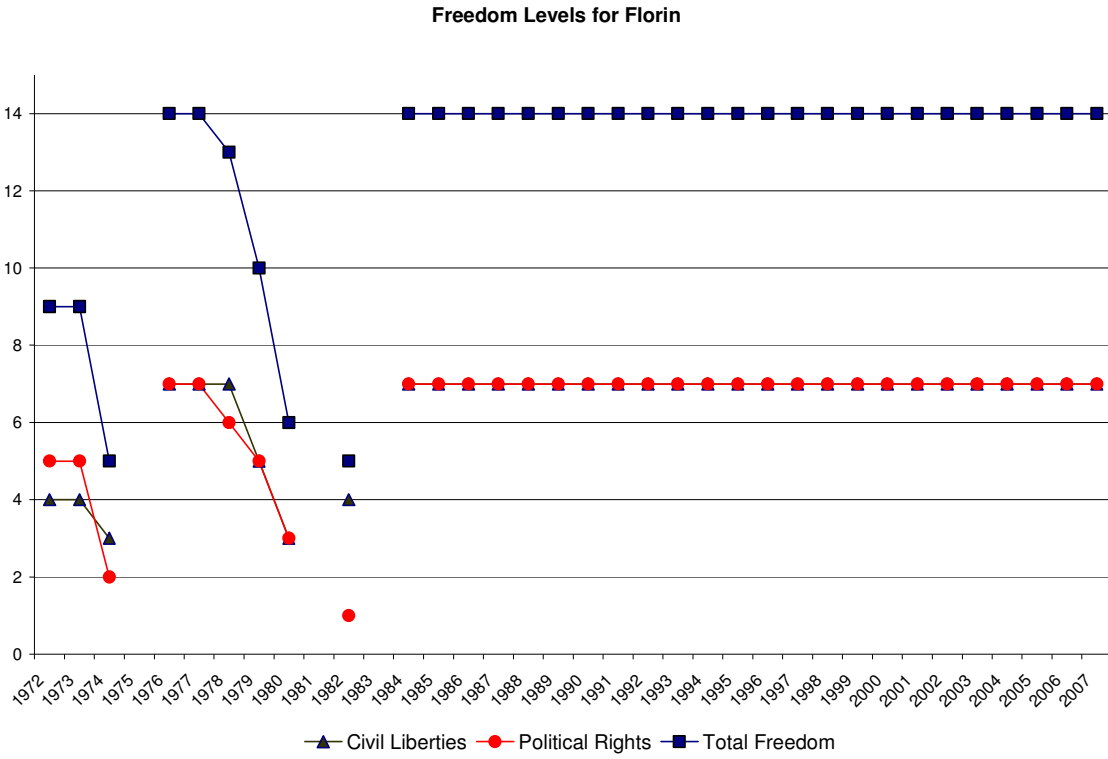
Democracy

Here is a graph of the democracy level for Florin, as reported in the Polity IV dataset. The vertical lines indicate either the start of a coup attempt or the end of a coup attempt. During the extended *coup d'état* attempts, it is difficult to measure democracy/autocracy levels, as a government has not fully taken control of the state.



Freedom

Here is a graph of the Freedom House scores for Florin from 1972 through the present.



Human Development Index

The United Nations compiles a Human Development Index annually for its member states, when such data is available. Here is a graph of the HDI for Florin starting in 1950.

