



TIMELINE



An overview of Fiji's Modern History

1970

Independence

Fiji becomes independent with Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara of the Alliance Party as Prime Minister – the date of independence to be 10 October 1970



1975

CSRC leaves Fiji



1982

Fiji hosts first Commonwealth Heads of Government Regional Meeting.



1987

General Election

Indian-dominated coalition led by Bavadra wins general election, ending 17 years of rule by the AP and Prime Minister Mara:

- Taukei Movement became more outspoken and aggressive



1972

First election held under the 1970 Constitution, won by the Alliance party with 33 seats out of 52; Fiji Sugar Corporation Limited formed, which took over Colonial Sugar Refining Company (CSRC) operations in 1973.



1981

The South Pacific Regional Trade and Economics Agreement (SPARTECA) gave island countries duty-free and unrestricted access to Australia and New Zealand; visit by the Prime Minister of India Mrs Indira Gandhi.



1987

- First bloodless military coup d'état on 14 May, led by Lieutenant-Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka, the third down in the military hierarchy of the Fiji Military Forces, with the aim of making indigenous Fijians politically dominant;
- Rabuka stages a second coup on 28 September and appoints Governor-General Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau president; Ganilau in turn appoints Ratu Mara prime minister;



1987 - 1992

Interim government appointed December led by Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara



1990

New constitution enshrining political dominance for indigenous Fijians introduced.



1999

Mahendra Chaudhry, an ethnic Indian, becomes Prime Minister after the Fiji



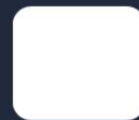
2006

Fourth coup d'état on Tuesday December 5, 2006 by Navy Commodore Josaia Voreqe (Frank) Bainimarama deposed Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase.



2008

The People's Charter for Change, Peace and Progress recommended a change in the name of Fiji's citizens. All citizens of Fiji, whatever their ethnicity, would be called "Fijians". The proposal would change the English name of indigenous Fijians from "Fijians" to iTaukei, the Fijian language endonym for indigenous Fijians.



- Rabuka declares Fiji a Republic 7 October;
- Fiji excluded from Commonwealth;
- Britain, the United States, Australia and New Zealand suspend aid.

1989

60,000 ethnic Indians flee Fiji as aggressions rise



1994

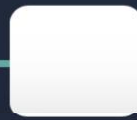
Fiji re-admitted to the Commonwealth after it introduces a non-discriminatory constitution.



2005

Third military coup led by former businessman George Speight and retired Major Ilisoni Ligairi on Friday, 19 May. They storm parliament, aiming to make indigenous Fijians the dominant political force; Deposed Prime Minister and Labour Party leader, Mahendra Pal Chaudhry, and his cabinet are held hostage for 56 days.

- June - Commonwealth suspends Fiji;
- July - Chaudhry and other hostages released;
- Speight and 360 of his supporters are arrested



2013

Fiji's fourth constitution was signed into law by President Ratu Epeli Nailatikau on September 19, 2013.

2014

Josaia Voreqe Frank Bainimarama of FijiFirst forms government and is sworn in as Prime Minister on September 22, 2014. FijiFirst hold 32 seats in the new Parliament, SODELP 15 and NFP 3

2018

Prime Minister Bainimarama was re-elected in 2018 with his FijiFirst party receiving 50.02% of the total vote, and the Social Democratic Liberal party, led by former prime minister Sitiveni Rabuka, second on 39.85%. The National Federation party received 7.38%.

2014

2014 – General Election held on 17 September 2014. Fiji First Party (FFP: 59.2%), Social Democratic Liberal Party (SODELPA: 28.1%), National Federation Party (NFP: 5.5%), People's Democratic Party (PDP: 3.2%), Fiji Labour Party (FLP: 2.4%), One Fiji Party (OFP: 1.2%), Fiji Untied Freedom Party (FUFPP: 0.2%), Independents (0.2%)

2014

Fiji is reinstated as a full member of the Commonwealth on September 27, 2014 after a 5 years suspension in 2009.

Follow this link for a deeper look at the politics over the previous 20 years - <https://thecommonwealth.org/our-member-countries/fiji/constitution-politics>

