

# French Guiana

A brief introduction

# Geographic location



# French Guiana





# Political situation

- It is part of the **French Republic** (like Paris or Lyon)
- It is an **overseas region**
- The same laws apply in French Guiana and in mainland France (France = a centralized state).

Example: The school curriculum is exactly the same in Paris and in French Guiana

≠ In Deutschland ist Bildung Ländersache (the same is true in the US)

# Presidential and legislative elections in France and in French Guiana

- Macron won against Marine Le Pen in France BUT he lost in French Guiana!
- Legislative elections: Macron's party has lost his parliamentary majority.



>>> Difficult and uncertain second term for  
Macron

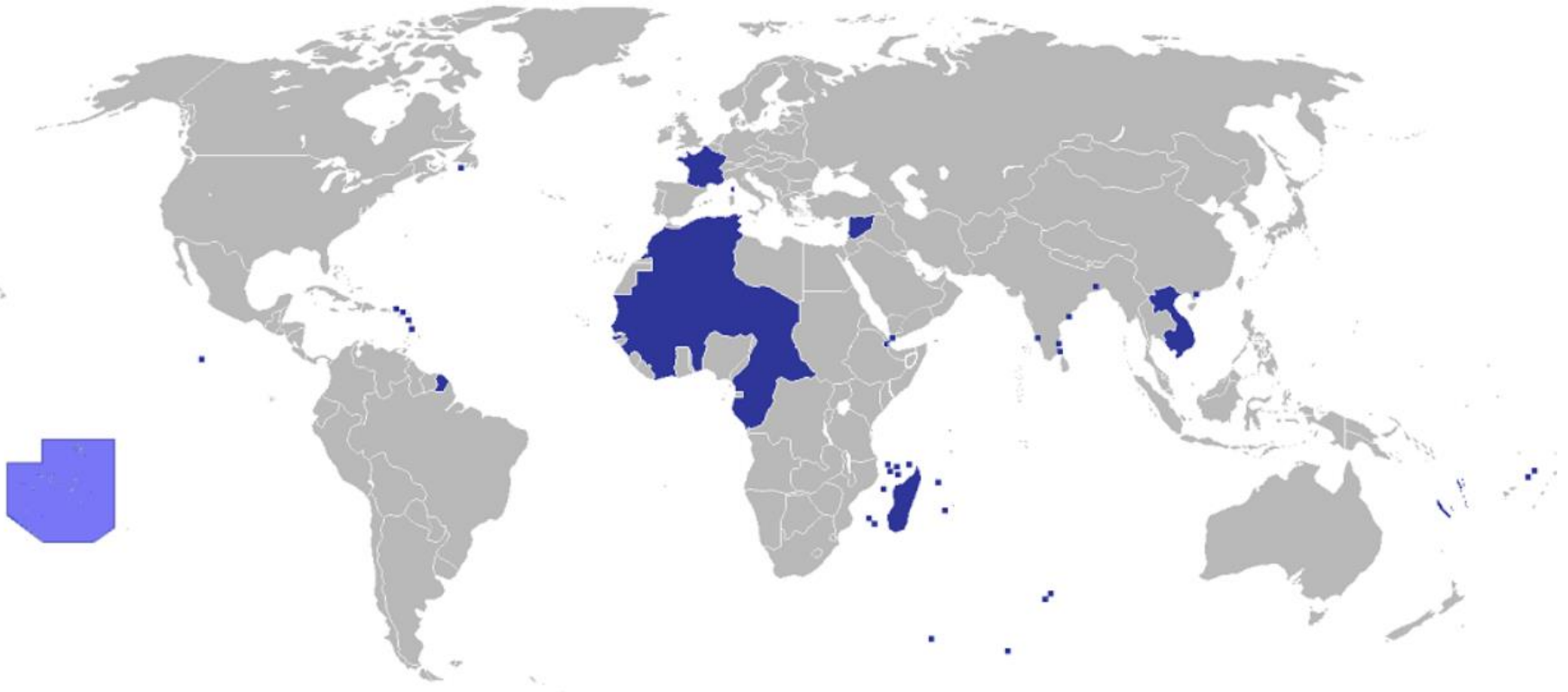
**NATO, the EU, the ECB and Germany  
will be impacted**



# Historical background

France had an extensive empire until 1939.

French Empire  
(extent from 1919 to 1939)



# A former penal colony

**Devil's Island (*Île du Diable*)** was a French penal colony (Strafkolonie) that operated for more than 100 years, from 1852 to 1953.





# A former penal colony

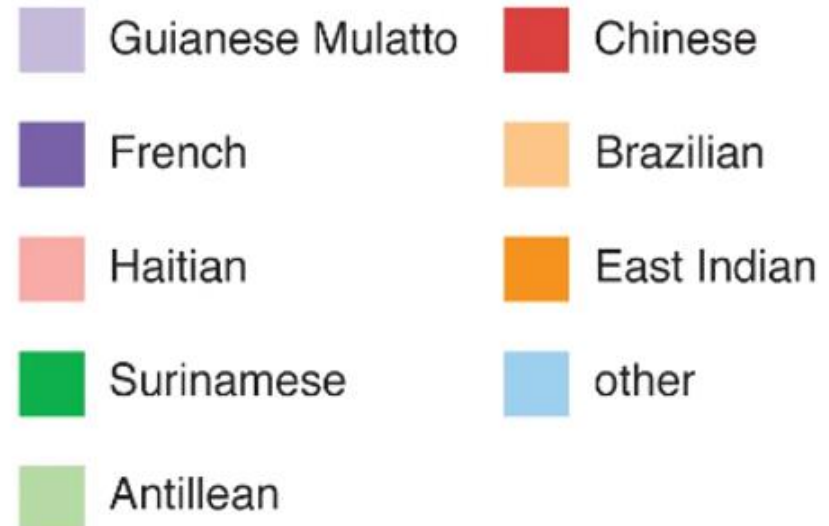
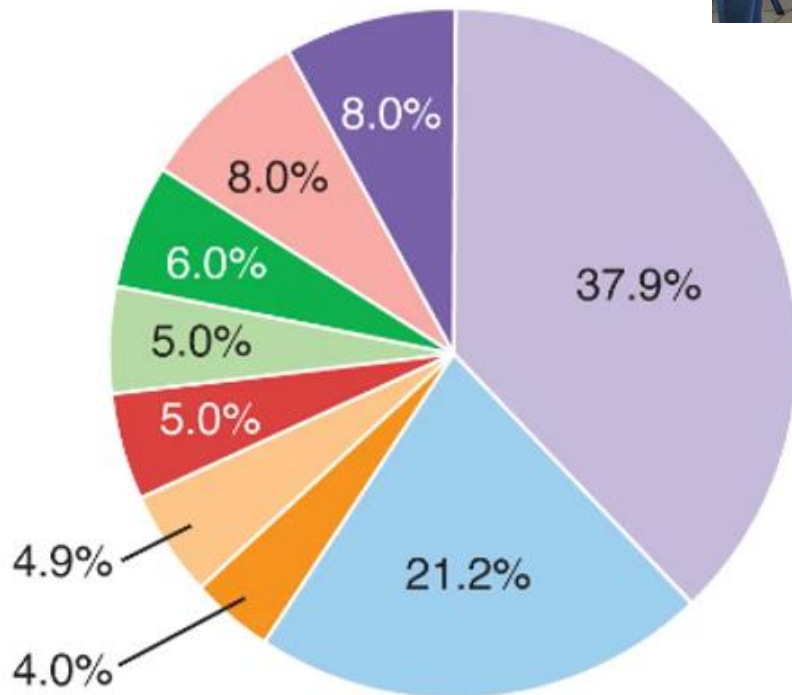
In 2021 a far-right MP said a “democratic penal colony” should be reinstated to lock up islamist terrorists.



A French  
Guantanamo?

# Population

**300 000 inhabitants  
(18 millions in NRW)**



# Bushinenges



# Traditional dance



# Javanese people



# Hmongs (refugees from Laos)



# A wave of migration in the 1970s



The Hmong people fled the war in Laos

# Migration and refugees



**Syrian migrants**

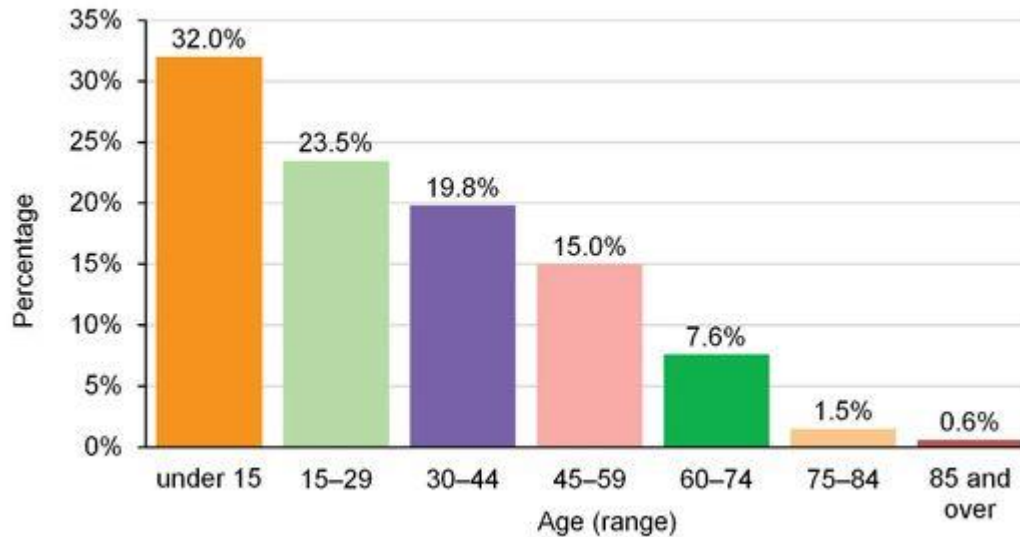


**Haitian migrants**



# A very young population

French Guiana age breakdown (2020\*)\*\*



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\*January 1, \*\*Provisional.

Fertility rate: 3.5 (1.6 in Germany, 6.9 in Niger, 0.8 in South Korea)

# Kourou: Europe's Spaceport



In July 2021, Ariane 5 delivered 2 telecom satellites into their orbits.



# Impact of the war in Ukraine

Russia has suspended its launches from French Guiana



Russian engineers have left French Guiana.



# The French guianese economy

- **Structural weaknesses**

- \*High unemployment

- \*Very high inactivity rate (people outside the labour force)

- \*Lack of competitiveness (imports >>>> exports)

- \*Specific constraints (logistics, small market far away from Europe, cultural features)

- **Economic outlook:** from bad to worse

# TOTAL SHUTDOWN

Discontent over living standards in French Guiana led to a large-scale blockade in 2017



Demonstrators, led by a masked group known as the 500 Brothers, wanted \$2.5bn in aid from the government.

The rice fields in Mana are no longer exploited



**Climate change**

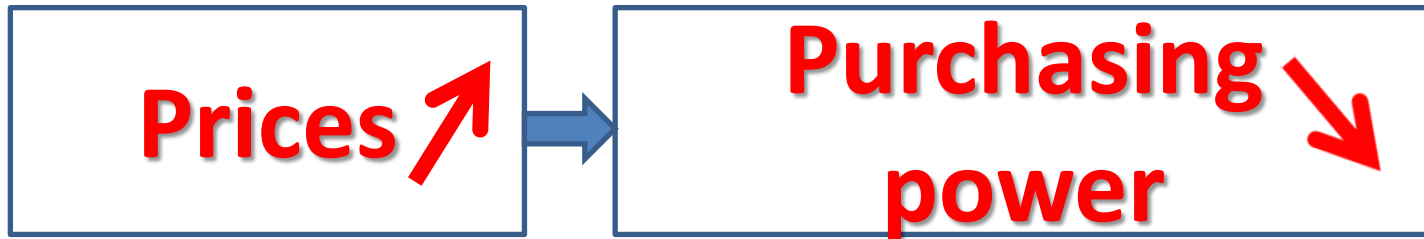
**Legal environment**

# Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic





# Impact of the war in Ukraine



# Impact of the war in Ukraine

In Saint-Laurent du Maroni, the **Saint-Maurice rum factory** is running out of glass bottles. It used to get its supplies from Ukraine, but the factories that made them were bombed.



# The longest carnival in the world









# And what about the food?



# Discussion about intercultural communication

**Is there a national culture?**

- Differences between French Guianese culture and mainstream French culture
- cultural differences in Germany (NRW vs Bavaria)
- Existence of subcultures

**Identifying factors that influence our own culture and its evolution (history, colonial past, geography, climate,...)**

**Identifying cultural variables (individualism vs collectivism, masculinity vs femininity, power distance, uncertainty acceptance, perception of change, indulgence, low-context culture vs high-context culture, implicit vs explicit communication, particularism vs universalism, ...).**

**Identifying challenges that arise from cross-cultural differences in intercultural interactions (both personal and business interactions)**

**How to communicate with people who exhibit a different worldview, value system, and communicative style?**