

Romania Fact File

Capital City:	Bucharest
Population:	22.3 million
Size:	92,043 sq miles
Ethnic Groups:	Romanian 89% Hungarian 7% Roma Other 1%
Official Language:	Romanian
Currency:	Romanian Lei £1 = 510 Lei



In 1947 after World War II Romania was declared a Communist Country and remained under the direct control of the USSR until 1958. During this period, up to two million people were imprisoned for political, economical or religious reasons. At least 200,000 people lost their lives as a result of communist influences in Romania between 1948 and 1964, many of them Christians.

In 1965 Nicolae Ceaușescu came to power and for a number of years the country experienced some positive political and economic developments. However in 1972 following a visit to North Korea and China, Ceausescu began a cruel programme of forced reconstruction in Romania. Thousands of people were forced from their homes, many churches and historic buildings were completely destroyed and Romania became a very dark gloomy place to live. The Securitate - the Romanian Secret Police was the largest and probably most violent police force in the Eastern Bloc. They spent a lot of time persecuting Christians. People were not allowed to attend Church or any other Christian events and many Christians were imprisoned for their faith. In 1989 the Romanian Revolution took place as the Iron Curtain began to fall. Romania came out of the shadows for the first time since the 1940's and the world began to realise the full horror of what had happened during the Communist period.

Today Romania is looking forward to becoming a member of the European Union in 2007 and the country is slowly developing. However there are still many problems in the country and much still needs to be done. The Aksza Mission in Cluj works with some of the poorest children in Romania, providing them with a safe place to live and a demonstration of God's love with them in many practical ways.