

BOLIVIA



Background: Bolivia, named after independence fighter Simon Bolivar, broke away from Spanish rule in 1825; much of its subsequent history has consisted of a series of nearly 200 coups and countercoups. Comparatively democratic civilian rule was established in 1982, but leaders have faced difficult problems of deep-seated poverty, social unrest, and illegal drug production. In December 2005, Bolivians elected Movement Toward Socialism leader Evo Morales president - by the widest margin of any leader since the restoration of civilian rule in 1982 - after he ran on a promise to change the country's traditional political class and empower the nation's poor majority.

Geography Bolivia. Location: Central South America, southwest of Brazil. Area: total: 1,098,580 sq km. Area - comparative: slightly less than three times the size of Montana. Land boundaries: total: 6,743 km. Border countries: Argentina 832 km, Brazil 3,400 km, Chile 861 km, Paraguay 750 km, Peru 900 km. Coastline: 0 km (landlocked). Climate: varies with altitude;

humid and tropical to cold and semiarid. Terrain: rugged Andes Mountains with a highland plateau (Altiplano), hills, lowland plains of the Amazon Basin. Natural resources: tin, natural gas, petroleum, zinc, tungsten, antimony, silver, iron, lead, gold, timber, hydropower. Natural hazards: flooding in the northeast (March-April). Environment - current issues: the clearing of land for agricultural purposes and the international demand for tropical timber are contributing to deforestation; soil erosion from overgrazing and poor cultivation methods (including slash-and-burn agriculture); desertification; loss of bio-diversity; industrial pollution of water supplies used for drinking and irrigation. Geography - note: landlocked; shares control of Lago Titicaca, world's highest navigable lake (elevation 3,805 m), with Peru. (Info CIA Fact Book 2006).

1961 Car, Armd, 4x4, Commando V100.

Bolivia received 10 cars as part of US Military Aid; by 1990 a total of 15 Commandos were thought to be in service. (See US for vehicle details).

1990 Car, Armd, 6x6. EE-9 Cascavel III.

As of 1990, 24 EE-9s were in service (see Brazil for vehicle details).

1985 Carr, Pers, Armd, 6x6. Engesa EE-11 Urutu.

24 carriers were in service as of 1990. (see Brazil for vehicle details).

1987 Veh, Util. Truck, Utility, ¼-ton, M151.

As of 1987 Bolivia was operating an unknown

quantity of M151 vehicles (see US for vehicle details).

1990 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x4. MOWAG Roland I.

As of 1990, 24 Roland armored cars were reported to be in service; circa 2000 20 cars were still listed as in service. (See Switzerland for vehicle details).