SWEDEN (Sverige)

The Kingdom of Sweden is a country in Northern Europe, bordering Norway, Denmark, Finland, and the Baltic Sea. Its name derives from the North Germanic Svear tribe, which inhabited central Sweden and is first mentioned in the first centuries A.D. It gained its independence on June 6, 1523, marking June 6 National Day, the Swedish national holiday. Sweden has been a member of the European Union since 1995 and is considered part of Scandinavia. While it constituted a military power in the 17th century, it has not participated in any war for more than two centuries, including both world wars. Operating under a democratic constitutional monarchy, the current Swedish government has been led by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven of the Swedish Social Democratic Party since October 2014.

RELIGION
Sweden is a primarily Christian country, with 87% identify as Evangelical Lutherans. The remaining 13% are split across Roman Catholics, Orthodox, Baptists, Muslims, Jews, and Buddhists, as well as non-affiliated people. The Church of Sweden (Lutheran) has been separated from the state since 2000, making it the only Nordic country without a state church. Although a lot of Swedes identify as Evangelical Lutherans, Sweden is a pretty secular country. Religion plays a big cultural role in traditional rituals and ceremonies, but only 29% of Swedes actually claim to be religious, according to the 2012 Global Index of Religion and Atheism, making it one of the least religious countries in the world. In 2014, Antje Jackelén became the first woman to hold the post of Archbishop of Uppsala, the chief representative of the Church of Sweden.

ETHNICITY & DEMOGRAPHICS
The Swedish indigenous population is mainly made up of Swedes, with Finnish and Sami minorities. Furthermore, foreign-born or first-generation immigrants living in Sweden include Finns, Danes, Norwegians, Yugoslavs, Greeks, and Turks.

Sweden’s birth rate outscores its death rate, and further the country has a positive net migration rate. This leads Sweden to have a population growth rate of 0.81% (2016). However, like many other European countries, Sweden faces the growing issue of its population aging, which could eventually jeopardize the Swedish welfare model.
CONTEMPORARY SWEDEN & RELATIONSHIP TO EUROPE

Sweden has achieved an enviable standard of living with its combination of free-market capitalism and extensive welfare benefits. Its economy is heavily oriented toward foreign trade, with timber, hydropower, and iron ore constituting the resource base of this arrangement. Due to continued economic weakness in Sweden’s European trading partners, Sweden’s economic growth slowed in 2013, but experienced modest growth in 2014-2015. Yet, Sweden continues to struggle with deflationary pressure.

As of January 1995, Sweden is a member state of the European Union. Likewise, it is part of the border-free Schengen area. Sweden has 20 seats in the European Parliament and has held the Presidency of the Council of the EU twice, once in 2001 and again in 2009. It is, however, not part of the eurozone as it remains concerned that joining the European Economic and Monetary Union would diminish the country’s sovereignty over its welfare system. The Swedish currency is the krona. Moreover, Sweden is not a member of NATO, instead opting for a non-alignment in peace and neutrality in war policy.

SWEDISH WORDS
Hi ........................................... Hej!
Bye ........................................... Adjö!
Good morning ........................... God morgon!
Yes ............................................. Ja
No ............................................. Nej
Please ...................................... Snälla!
Thank you .................................. Tack!
How are you? ............................. Hur mar du?
I do not understand .................... Jag förstar inte
I understand ............................. Jag förstar
What is your name?............... ..Vad heter du?
My name is .............................. Jag heter ...
Where are you from? ... Varifrån kommer ni?
Do you speak English?...Pratar du engelska?

SWEDIES IN THE USA
The United States experienced a major immigration wave from Sweden in the second half of the 19th century. In fact, Chicago in 1900 was considered the second-largest Swedish city in the world with a population of 150,000 Swedes and Swedish Americans at the time. As of 2009, more than 4,000,000 people in the United States claim some form of Swedish heritage. Most Swedish Americans live in Minnesota, California, and Illinois.

The flag is blue with a golden yellow cross extending to the edges of the flag. The colors reflect those of the Swedish coat of arms—three gold crowns on a blue field.

USEFUL LINKS
https://sweden.se/