



Otázka: The Commonwealth of Nations

Jazyk: Angličtina

Přidal(a): patka130

I would like to speak about The Commonwealth of Nations. At first I would like to tell you something about Basic facts of The Commonwealth of Nations. The second part will be about more specific information. The third part about New Zealand one of the member the Commonwealth of Nations.

The Commonwealth is a name for countries which were part of the British Empire before they became independent. This group of states works together on many important matters, like business, health and the fight against poverty. Now there are 53 member countries of the Commonwealth of Nations. Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom is the official head of the Commonwealth. She is also head of state of a lot of the countries of the Commonwealth; A Governor General takes care of the day-to-day matters of the Commonwealth of Nations. But, the United Kingdom or the Governor General does not have any direct or indirect control over these countries. In fact, all the 53 members are independent countries with their own governments.

These countries have come together to form an association with some common aims:

- To increase economic cooperation among the member countries.
- To encourage democracy in the member countries.



- To ensure that member countries follow human rights

More information

The total population of all the 53 countries of the Commonwealth is 1.975 billion. This is about 31 % of the population of the whole world. The four largest Commonwealth nations by population are the Republic of India at 1.1 billion, Pakistan at 160 million, Bangladesh at 140 million and Nigeria at 137 million. Tuvalu is the smallest member, with only 11,000 people. These 53 countries cover an area of 12.1 million square miles. This is about 21 % of the total land area of the world. The three largest Commonwealth nations by area are Canada at 3.8 million square miles, Australia at 3.0 million square miles, and India at 714 thousand square miles.

New Zealand

Geography

New Zealand is located in south-west Pacific Ocean, south-east of Australia and consists of two large islands - North Island and South Island - and many small islands. It covers an area of 268 675 sq km. The capital city is Wellington (326 900). New Zealand is divided into 93 counties, 9 districts and 3 town districts. New Zealand is larger than Great Britain. This country is rolling, hilly and mountainous, there is very little flatland and lowland areas only around the coast. All the larger cities - Auckland (910 200), Christchurch, Hamilton and Manukau lie on North Island. The South Island has the highest mountains, the Southern Alps (Mount Cook, 3 764 m). On North Island lies the biggest lake - Taupo. There are many glaciers and fjords. New Zealand is one of the first countries to see the Sun at the beginning of each new day. This country is also located in an earthquake zone.

People

The population is 3 407 277 inhabitants and the main ethnic groups are: Europeans (mostly British 87 %), Maoris (12 %), and other Polynesians. The density of population is quite low. Almost 80 per cent of the population lives on the North Island. The Maori language is the official language on New Zealand. New Zealanders are known as KIWIS.



Climate

This country has a very pleasant and healthy climate with plenty of sunshine with warm summers and mild winters.

Political system

It is a constitutional monarchy. As well as Australia New Zealand follows the British pattern. This country is the member of Commonwealth with the Queen Elizabeth II as the head represented by the Governor-General. The executive power has the Prime Minister and his Cabinet and the legislature is made of two chambers Parliament.

History

The first settlers of New Zealand were Polynesian tribes – the Maoris – who migrated from the south Asian mainland and settled these islands during the 14th century. The first European to see New Zealand was the Dutch navigator Abel Tasman, who discovered its western coast in 1642. Between 1769-77 this country was explored by James Cook. Colonization begun in 19th century. The Maori people were guaranteed protection of their lands. In 1852 Britain granted there self-government but there was a strong Maori resistance against it. Many conflicts between the British settlers and the Maoris led to war between 1860-70 and in 1867 Maori got four seats in NZ Parliament. There are no differences in basic legal, education and politic rights between the Europeans and Maori in this time.

Economy

New Zealand is a rich agricultural country. The green farmlands are very good for growing vegetables and fruits. So this country is specialized in a sheep breeding. There are five sheeps to one person. The industry is closely connected with agriculture. They are producing wool, food-stuff industry produced meat, butter and cheese. The main natural resources are natural



gas and coal. The living standard is one of the highest in the world.

Interesting places and curiosities

New Zealand is world known for its **wildlife**.

There are many **hot springs and geysers** and also a lot of **volcanic activity** at **Rotorua district**.

Kiwi – a bird and it is New Zealand's national symbol.

Possum – a small marsupial animal with a long tail