

# EAST TIMORE



# East Timor



## Facts and Figures

**Population:** approximately 850,000  
**Religion:** predominantly Roman Catholic  
**Per capita income:** less than 1 US dollar per day (2000 World Bank estimate)  
**Demographics:** 15 percent of population under 5 years of age  
**Major exports:** coffee, sandalwood  
**Armed forces (projected):** 1,500 active, 1,500 reserves  
**Area:** 15,007 square kilometers  
**Boundary with Indonesia:** 228 kilometers  
**Coastline:** 706 kilometers

0 25 50 75 Kilometers  
0 25 50 75 Miles



**President  
Taur Matan Ruak**



**Prime Minister  
Rui Maria Araugo**

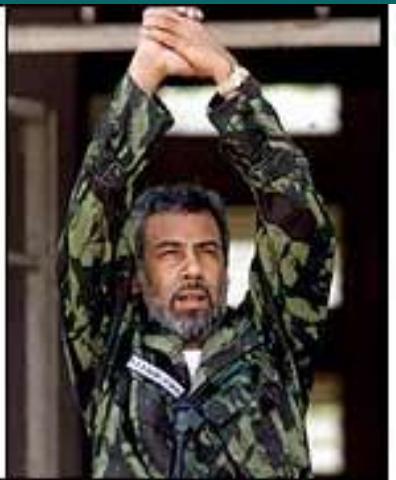
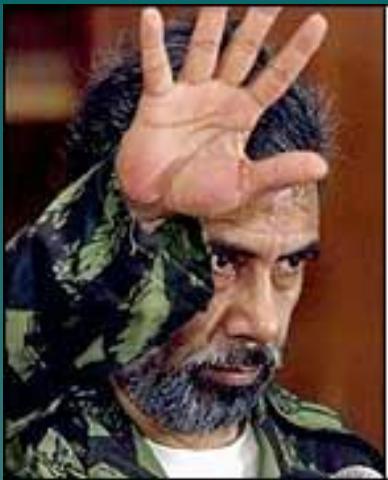
# Five key stages

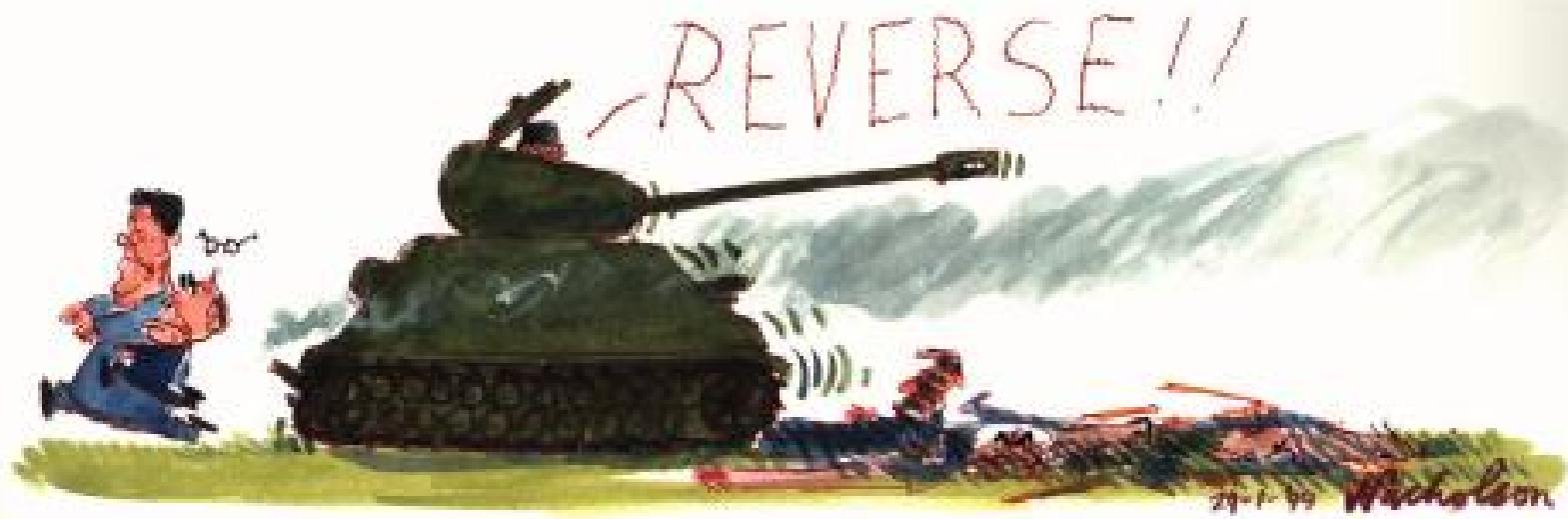
- ◆ 1600's A Portuguese colony.
- ◆ 1975 The Indonesian invasion.
- ◆ 1975-1999 Indonesian occupation
- ◆ 1999 The gaining of independence
- ◆ 2006 Political difficulties.

# How did East Timor succeed in becoming an independent state?

## 3 FACTORS:

- The armed resistance
- The civil resistance
- The international diplomatic front





# Country profile: East Timor

**East Timor's road to independence - achieved on 20 May 2002 - was long and traumatic.**

The people of the first new nation of the century suffered some of the worst atrocities of modern times.

An independent report has said at least 100,000 Timorese died as a result of Indonesia's 25-year occupation, which ended in 1999.



# Timeline: East Timor

A chronology of key events:



**1600s** - Portuguese invaded Timor, set up trading post and use island as source of sandalwood.

**1942** - Japanese invaded, fighting battles with Australian troops. Up to 60,000 East Timorese are killed. Japan in control until 1945.

**1974** - Anti-Fascist revolution in Portugal leads to promise to free colonies, encouraging parties to prepare for new future.

**1975** December - Indonesia invaded, using its fight against communism as a pretext. It annexes territory as its 27th province, a move not recognised by the UN. Strong resistance to Indonesian rule followed by repression and famine in which 200,000 people are thought to have died.

## RESOURCES ON THE NET

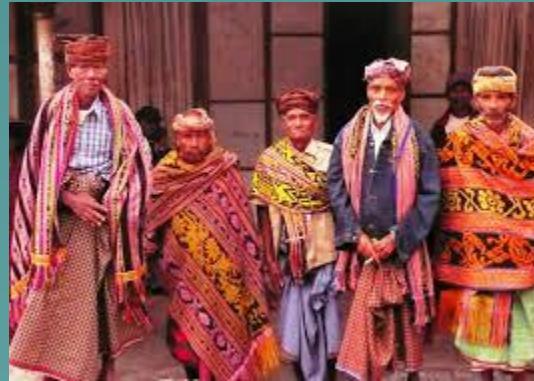
Inside Indonesia – [www.insideindonesia.org](http://www.insideindonesia.org)

A special issue on East Timor No. 71 July-Sept 2002.

Some of the articles include:

- Timor's women: After the brutal occupation, gender violence remains a reality
- Born in the wrong era: Amidst globalisation, can East Timor still be a people's alternative?
- The forgotten of West Timor: Poverty, refugees, militias, and too many soldiers

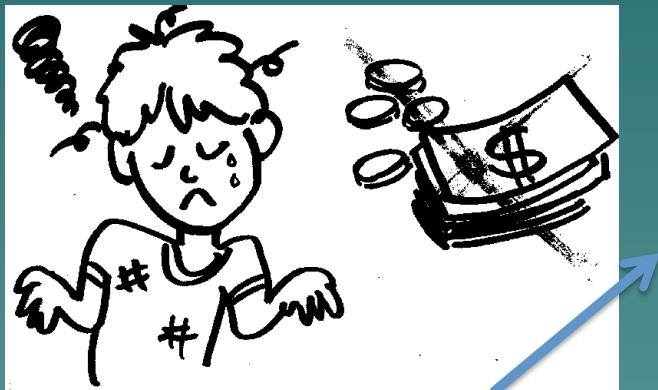
The culture of East Timor reflects numerous cultural influences, including Portuguese, Roman Catholic and Malay, on the indigenous Austronesian cultures of Timor. Legend tells that a giant crocodile was transformed into the island of Timor, or Crocodile Island, as it is often called. Like Indonesia, the culture of East Timor has been heavily influenced by Austronesian legends, although the Catholic influence is stronger, the population being mainly Roman Catholic.





# ECONOMY

1 Of the poorest countries in the world



GDP	
GDP nominal	\$590
GDP nominal PPP	\$2,741
GDP nominal / capita	\$542
GDP nominal PPP / capita	\$2,521

Rank	Country	GDP (millions of USD)
173	Grenada	627
174	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	583
175	East Timor	558
176	Comoros	549
177	Saint Kitts and Nevis	545
178	Samoa	496
179	Dominica	378
180	Tonga	311
181	Federated States of Micronesia	257
182	São Tomé and Príncipe	193
183	Palau	191
184	Marshall Islands	153
185	Kiribati	130



# Economy

## Timor Gap: Sea bounderies issues for Petroleum *Petroleum = 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of East Timor GDP*

