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## Information Database Country: France

### BASIC INFORMATION

§ Country Established: 987

§ Native Language: French

§ Current Population: 66.9 million

§ Gross Domestic Product: 2.465 Trillion US Dollars

### WHAT IS THE MILITARY AGE? IS SERVICE MANDATORY OR OPTIONAL?

France is again reinstating mandatory service but it's not called a military conscription. It is called the universal national service where every 16-year old girl or boy is obliged to enter and learn in the program. They will learn defense and citizenship and would do civic service to France. The aim of the program is to be able to "encourage the participation and commitment of every young person in the life of a nation, to value citizenship and the feeling of belonging to a community gathered around its values, to strengthen social cohesion and boost the Republican melting pot," – Elysee Palace.

### DRUG LAWS (which drugs are legal? Which are illegal?)

ü Illegal Drugs: Cocaine, MDMA, Amphetamine, Cannabis, Heroin

ü Legal Drugs: Prescription Drugs and vitamins

### GUN LAWS (what are the parameters for gun ownership?)

Most gun laws would permit you to have a gun if you're an active member of a hunting or shooting club. You are these so-called specific citizens who will be granted with a right to own one by the Ministère de l'Intérieur along with some other important citizens of the country. Otherwise, you can't carry a gun unless you're an officer of the law, a customs officer, or a surveillance officer.

### PROSTITUTION (Is it legal? What are the laws around it?)

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The prostitution law in France is quite complicated. In a sense, yes, it is legal under the new 2016 law but paying for it is a criminal offense. This is to track down those illegal operating bordellos or brothel, child prostitution, and pimping.

VICES (do they consume more drugs than alcohol? Vice versa? Something else?)

French loves their share of alcohol. But sadly, they love it too much that they're consecutively in the highest heavy drinkers list. In France, each person (in legal age) consumes about 12 liters or more. Also, if you love drinking, it might be possible that you are part of the 20 percent of the population where you consume 50 percent of all the alcohol. What is alarming is that young people also tend to drink a lot leaving France in shambles as they try to educate their people about the overindulgence of this vice.

### MOST DEVASTATING WAR/CONFLICT IN ITS HISTORY

The most memorable battle in France were the Napoleonic Wars. It saw the best victories and defeats in the military. Basically, Napoleon Bonaparte seized power in France in 1799 via coup d'état. He became the emperor of France and they engaged in different battles against nations. The aim is to be able to broaden their empire across all of Europe. France suffered but also reigned in the most important battles.

### NATIONAL SPORT OBSESSION

There's no doubt about France's national sports obsession right now. It is football. Did I mention they bagged the most coveted World Cup championship this 2018? Because they did. They beat Croatia 4-2 in the finals. After 20 years since their first World Cup, they did it right this time. Everyone tuned in to that game – the unity and team spirit are very evident to French people. Football made them one.

### BIGGEST INDUSTRY

The key factor that mostly takes up France's GDP is its chemical industry. Paris is also one of the most recognizable cities not only in the United Kingdom but in the whole world. That being said, France's tourism is a major component as well. France is always on the list of the most visited country.

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