VATICAN CITY by Andreas M. Wüst 1. Introduction 1.1 Historical Overview Covering an area of just 44 hectares and with less than 1,000 citizens, the Vatican City is not only the smallest sovereign state in Europe, but in the world. The enclave, which lies primarily within Italy's capital Rome, eventually became sovereign by the Lateran Treaties arranged between the state of Italy and The Holy See in 1929. The Vatican City's head of state is the head of the Roman Catholic Church and Bishop of Rome, the Pope. Referring to the Vatican usually means The Holy See and not the Holy City, and the micro-state is unfounded without the Roman Catholic Church and its head. Yet, the pope is the only citizen in the Vatican City who is elected, even if not by the small citizenry, but by an even smaller number of eligible cardinals. Becoming head of the Roman Catholic Church automatically makes him a life-long monarch of the Vatican City bearing supreme legislative, executive and judiciary power. Among other officials, the pope appoints the cardinal secretary of state who acts on his behalf and who can be considered the prime minister of the Vatican City. There is a long history of areas ruled by the Bishop of Rome in his secular role. The Roman Emperor Constantine I legalized Christianity in the early fourth century, enabling the Church to own land. While the Donation of Constantine, granting the popes power over the city of Rome and over the whole Occident, is a forgery of the eighth century, it helped the Roman Church defend its interests and establish the rule over territories in the midst of it (Latium) in the Middle Ages. In 754, the papacy and the evolving Carolingian dynasty began to co-operate: the Donation of Pippin (756), a codification by Charlemagne (781), and later the Diploma Ottonianum (962) by the German King Otto I confirmed the pope as sovereign ruler of territories that became the heartland of what was called the Papal States in early modern times. Vatican City2036 The geographical extension of the Papal States grew significantly in the late Middle Ages and especially during the Renaissance. In the late 18th century, most parts of central Italy had been controlled by the Roman Catholic Church. Yet, the French Revolution had a direct effect on The Papal States, since Pius VI called the beheaded French king Louis XVI a martyr. French troops occupied The Papal States, pope Pius VI fled, and was captured and died in exile (1799). The Papal States were only restored in 1800 and, after another French occupation (1808), again in 1814. However, the restoration of the Papal States along with reactionary papal policies to 1846, did not last. From 1848 on, the nation-building process in Italy gradually brought an end to the Papal States. In 1870, papal influence was reduced to the Vatican by Italy's new government, and in 1871, Rome became Italy's capital. For about fifty years, the Vatican hoped for restoration, but entered negotiations with Italy in 1926 which resulted in the Lateran Treaties of 1929 creating a sovereign micro-state, the Vatican City. Even though it is The Holy See and not the Vatican City that holds diplomatic relations with other countries and organizations, a recognized national territory has been and undoubtedly remains helpful to be recognized as a sovereign entity. Without a territory (1870–1929), The Holy See was only recognized as a sovereign entity by some countries. While nation-building, democratization, and secularization reduced the terrestrial power of the Vatican to insignificance, several popes of the 20th century have contributed to establish The Holy See as a respected super-national moral authority, especially in foreign relations. Benedict XVI repeatedly criticized World War I, and made several attempts to end the war. And John Paul II not only fought an end of communist suppression in Europe (and in his home country Poland), but also encouraged the Roman Catholic Church to be a protector of the poor and suppressed around the world. While the moral authority of the Vatican in foreign relations and with regard to humanitarian issues is widely accepted, the positions of The Holy See on a myriad of social issues are not. It is the continuing exclusion of women from almost all offices in the Roman Catholic Church and the infallibility of the elective monarch which make the Vatican a highly ambiguous institution in the democratic age. Vatican City2037 1.2 Evolution of Electoral Provisions Since many popes have set and revised electoral provisions, only the most important ones are documented here. In Roman times, the Bishop of Rome was chosen by the local clergy and by the citizens of Rome. In 769, deacons and priests of the Roman Catholic Church were chosen as the exclusive electors of the pontiff by Stephen V. And in 1059, the electorate was limited to cardinal bishops, initially to the ones in Rome's immediate neighborhood. In 1586, an upper limit of 70 for the number of cardinals was introduced by Sixtus V. This limit was raised to 75 by Pope John XXIII only four hundred years later (1958), and to 144 by his successor, Paul VI (1973). This increase reflects the geographical spread of appointed cardinals outside Europe in the 20th century. It was Paul VI who also started to differentiate between cardinals with voting rights (cardinal electors) and those with no right to vote (cardinal electors). This increase reflected the aging of cardinals aged 80 and over and the day on a conclave for the election of a new pope starts. The ineligible cardinals were not only excluded from the election, but also from the conclave. In 1975, Paul VI introduced a limit of 120 cardinal electors, while also stating no cardinal elector shall be deprived of his voting rights. John Paul II approved these changes, but carefully revised some details. The qualified majority of at least two thirds of the votes was first introduced by Alexander III in 1179 (Third Lateran Council). In 1209, a new pope was elected in time. According to the Roman tradition, there are nine rules to be followed when electing a new pope. Voting among eligible cardinals is equal, direct, secret (per scrutinum), and compulsory. Eligible national institutions: The pope. Nomination of candidates: There is no official nomination. In principle, all single, catholic men are eligible. De facto, since 1378 all popes elected have been cardinals. If a pope-elect was not a bishop before the election, he would be consecrated right after the election in the conclave. Electoral System: Qualified majority system. A majority of two thirds of all electors attending the conclave is required. Up to four ballots are Vatican City2039 held each day, two in the morning and two in the afternoon. UDG requires non-voting days after four of the conclave, and again after seven...
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Cardinal Peter Turkson, the Prefect of the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, released a message on the occasion of the 66th anniversary of Vatican News. Vatican News is an information service provided by the Vatican Dicastery for Communication. In the message, Cardinal Turkson expressed his gratitude to all those who support Vatican News and its work. He also highlighted the importance of communication in the modern world and emphasized the role of Vatican News in providing accurate and reliable information to the public.

The Vatican City has been a sovereign state since 1929, and it is home to the Holy See, the administrative office of the Roman Catholic Church. The city is located within the Vatican Gardens, an area that is surrounded by the wall of St. Peter's Basilica. The Vatican City is divided into two main sections: the ancient walled city, known as the City state, and the Vatican City State, which is the internationally recognized capital of the Holy See.

The Vatican City is governed by a cardinal dean, who is elected by the College of Cardinals. The current dean is Cardinal Pietro Parolin. The dean is responsible for overseeing the government of the Vatican City and for representing the Holy See in matters of international diplomacy.

Cardinal Turkson concluded his message by inviting everyone to support Vatican News and its mission to provide truthful and reliable information to the public.
An electoral system is a set of institutional formulas producing a collective choice through voting. The main elements of an electoral system are: assembly size or total number of seats; district magnitude or number of seats to be elected in a district; the electoral rule to allocate seats from votes; and the ballot permitting the voter different choices. Different rules and procedures have combined these elements in many ways to produce a variety of electoral systems in the real world. In late medieval and early modern assembly elections in local communities with homogeneous electorates, rela