

# 2023 IHO Study Guide: San Marino

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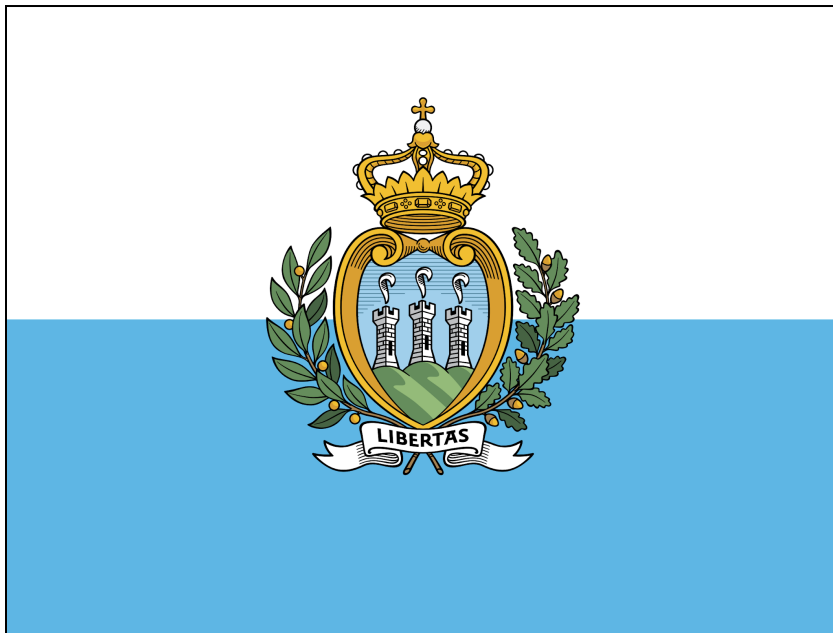
## Overview

The Republic of San Marino, or Most Serene Republic of San Marino, is the smallest independent state in Europe, after Vatican City and Monaco. This landlocked republic is entirely surrounded by Italy and serves as the only surviving medieval commune on the Italian peninsula.

Population: 33,745 (2021)

Highest point: Monte Titano (755 m)

Lowest point: Torrente Ausa (55 m)



The flag of the San Marino (pictured left) consists of two horizontal bands of white on the top and light blue on the bottom. At the center of the flag is the country's coat of arms, which depicts the Three Towers. Situated on the three peaks of Mount Titano, the Three Towers include the Guaita tower, the tower Chesta, and tower Montale. Underneath the coat of arms is the motto "LIBERTAS," which may have been the last words of the founder, Marinus:

*"Relinquo vos liberos ab utroque homine."* (Translation: "I leave you free from both men," referring to the Emperor and the Pope.)

## A Short History

San Marino was founded in 301 CE by a stonecutter, Marinus ("San Marino") (275-366), after fleeing from Dalmatia to avoid Christian religious persecution by Roman Emperor Diocletian. It is believed Marinus found refuge on Mount Titano, the modern republic's highest point.

Between 1395 to 1500, the House of Malatesta ruled over Rimini and extended their domains to San Marino. One notable figure in this dynasty was Sigismondo Pandolfo Malatesta, who fought the papacy over territorial claims. The house's name derives from the nickname of its founder, Rodolfo Verucchio, who was known as "bad head." The hunchbacked Giovanni of this house murdered his wife Francesca da Polenta and her lover Paolo, his brother. This event is memorialized in Dante's *Inferno*, in which Francesca is encountered in the Second Circle of Hell. In 1463, Pope Pius II awarded the cities of Montegiardino, Serravalle, and Fiorentino to San Marino following an alliance against Sigismondo Pandolfo Malatesta, Lord of Rimini. Faetano was included in the republic later in the year.

In 1503, the republic was conquered and occupied by Cesare Borgia (1475-1507) for six months. Borgia, who was the illegitimate son of Pope Alexander VI, received support from Pope Pius III, who reconfirmed Borgia as Gonfaloniere. While conquering San Marino, Borgia moved its capital to Serravalle. Later, Pope Julius II forced Borgia to relinquish his control of San Marino.

One important figure in Sammarinese history is Bartolomeo Borghesi (1781-1860), who is considered the "founding father of the modern science of numismatics." Borghesi, who was born in Savignano, was an Italian expatriate who fled to San Marino and resided there for over 40 years. Borghesi worked under Pope Pius VII when arranging a collection of coins in the Vatican. He briefly trained the German classical scholar, Theodor Mommsen, who led the publication of the *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*, a comprehensive collection of Latin inscriptions.

During the Italian campaign of the French Revolutionary Wars, an offer was made by Gaspard Monge, an envoy of Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821), to expand the nation's borders. This offer was rejected by Antonio Onofri (1759-1825), who served as Captain Regent at the time. Onofri, however, accepted 15,000 quintals of wheat and the promise of four pieces of artillery. Onofri's reason for rejecting the offer was justified by his quote, "Wars end, but neighbors remain." This humble reasoning is what supposedly garnered the state respect and admiration from Napoleon.

During World War I, San Marino was strictly neutral for the duration of the war, despite Italy being a member of the Allies. Italy did not react kindly to Sammarinese neutrality, trying to send in Carabinieri police forces to attempt to enforce Italian laws regarding the war, and then, when refused permission to allow their entrance, Italian forces cut the republic's telephone lines. Proving that its neutrality served as an equal opportunity annoyance to both sides, Central Power Austria-Hungary cut off diplomatic relations with the Most Serene Republic after San Marino provided volunteers to a Red Cross hospital. Some Sammarinese private citizens fought alongside

the Italians and Allies on the Italian front, especially at the Battles of the Isonzo, but San Marino as a polity maintained strict neutrality until the end of the war in 1918.

During World War II, San Marino remained neutral until 1943, when Allied forces advanced up the Italian Peninsula. The republic was the site of a namesake 1944 battle (September 17-20) following German occupation. Prior to this engagement, in what is called Operation Olive, Allied forces attempted to break Germany's defensive Gothic Line, which ran across the Italian peninsula near San Marino's southern border. In response to Allied movements, Germany began sending in troops to San Marino. This battle, also known as the Battle of Monte Pulito, began when the 4th Indian Division and the 9th Gurkha Rifles crossed the Murano River. A 22-year-old Nepalese soldier named Sher Bahadur Thapa was awarded the Victoria Cross after he was killed while silencing machine-guns and attempting to rescue wounded soldiers. The battle resulted in an Allied victory, and the republic was occupied by Allied forces following the surrender of Germany.

## Recent History

The first case of COVID-19 in San Marino was confirmed on February 27, 2020. Although the republic declared itself "Covid-free" on June 26, 2020, another case was confirmed on July 9 of that year. In early 2021, San Marino authorized a one-shot vaccine, Sputnik V, against COVID. In May 2021, Health Minister Roberto Ciavatta announced that anyone booking at least three nights in San Marino was allowed to receive the Sputnik V for €50.

The legalization of abortion was brought forth by the RETE Movement and the Women's Union of San Marino, in which both groups collected the signatures of at least three percent of registered voters. The last attempt to legalize abortion in San Marino was in 1974, and was rejected. A landmark referendum was held on September 26, 2021, which resulted in the 77.30% vote in favor of its legalization. The results of the referendum means a majority of votes agree with the notion of legalizing abortion up to the 12th week gestation, or if the pregnancy poses a risk to the woman's life, or if there are "abnormalities and malformations of the fetus that pose a serious risk to the physical or psychological health of the woman." Nearly a year later, on September 1, 2022, the San Marino parliament voted to legalize abortion, ending a 150-year-old law.

## Religion

Over 90% of the Sammarinese are Roman Catholic.

Quirinus (? - 309) was an early bishop of Sescia who is considered the "national protector of San Marino." During his feast day on June 4, 1543, a dense fog was attributed to the bishop and was thus credited with preventing Fabiano di Monte San Savino, the nephew of Pope Julius III, from conquering San Marino. A church named after Quirinus, the Franciscan Capuchin Church of San Quirino, or La Chiesa dei Cappuccini, was built in the capital nearly a decade later. The posterior of the church was where Guiseppe Garibaldi (1807-1882) dissolved his army after escaping from Austrian troops during an abortive attempt to support Venetian rebels.



The patron saint of San Marino is Saint Agatha (231-251). Although she was a native of, and spent most of her life in, Sicily, she is the patron saint of San Marino because Pope Clement XII restored the independence of San Marino on February 5, 1740, which is Saint Agatha's feast day. San Marino's second-highest decorative order (*pictured left*), is named for her and depicts her in the center of a white cross and green wreath. Because she was tortured during her martyrdom by having her breasts torn off with hot pincers, she is also the patron saint of breast cancer survivors and wet

nurses, among other groups.

Pope Clement XII appointed the Italian cardinal, Giulio Alberoni (1664-1752), as Papal Legate. In 1739, Alberoni's forces occupied San Marino. His harsh treatment of San Marino led to his dismissal to retire to Piacenza. He was later appointed by Clement XII as an administrator for a foundation of lepers in a hospital in San Lazzaro. The independence of San Marino was restored after the Pope restored the republic's independence.

## Geography

San Marino is the only medieval commune that has survived to the present day. Other such entities, such as Forli in Italy and Laon in France, were powerful local estates from the 9th to 11th centuries, but their influence slowly waned as nation-states gained more and more powers throughout the Renaissance and Early Modern periods.

San Marino can be divided into nine municipalities:

- **City of San Marino**
- **Acquaviva** was supposedly where the Titan stopped in San Marino, atop the rock of Baldasserona. The fissure of the rock is believed to be where the country's founder took refuge. The commune gets its name from when the Saint baptized the first Christians at the foot of Mount Cerreto.
- **Borgo Maggiore** is considered a suburb of the city of San Marino. Once called *Mercatale*, this commune serves as an important shopping hub.
- **Chiesanuova** is the site of the medieval castle Busignano.
- **Domagnano** is a northeastern municipality. It was previously known as "Monetelupo," which translates to "mountain of wolves." Its five parishes include Cà Giannino, Fiorina,

Piandevello, Spaccio Giannoni, and Torraccia. This commune was notably where a treasure trove was left by the Ostrogothic people, dating back to the late fifth to early 6th centuries CE.

- **Faetano**, which is home to the Church of San Paolo Apostolo.
- **Fiorentino** includes three parishes: Capanne, Crociale, and Pianacci.
- **Montegiardino**, which is where the country's only university, University of the Republic of San Marino, is located.
- **Serravalle** is San Marino's most densely populated municipality. Serravalle contains the republic's largest settlement, Dogana. Serravalle was annexed to San Marino in 1463. In medieval times, Serravalle was called "Castrum Olnani" and "Olnano" in reference to its association with elm trees. Serravalle contains eight parishes: Cà Ragni, Cinque Vie, Dogana (most populated settlement in San Marino), Falciano, Lesignano, Ponte Mellini, Rovereta, and Valgiurata. The village of Rovereta was where a provisional government was established following the 1957 constitutional crisis.

Cities close in proximity to San Marino include the city of Rimini within Emilia-Romagna in northern Italy. This "gateway to San Marino" is easily accessible via bus. Rimini is also the homebase of the Malatesta family.

The highest point of San Marino is Mount Titano of the Apennines. Located on the three peaks of Mount Titano are the Three Towers of San Marino. The first tower, Guaita, was constructed during the 11th century and briefly served as a prison. The Second Tower is the Cesta, found on the highest of Titano's summits. In 1959, a museum dedicated to Saint Marinus was constructed in Cesta and showcases over 1,500 military weapons. The third tower is the Montale, located on the smallest of Titano's summits. Constructed in the 14th century, Montale is the only tower not open to the public.

## Government and Politics

The official government building of San Marino is the *Palazzo Pubblico*, located in the capital city. The *Palazzo Pubblico* is the seat of the Captains Regent, the Grand and General Council, the Council of the Twelve, and the Congress of State. It was designed by Francesco Azzuri from 1884 to 1894. Prior to its construction, the area of the *Palazzo Pubblico* was the site of a building that was the seat of the Arengo called the *Domus Magna Communis*. That building was demolished in 1884, the same year the *Palazzo Pubblico* began construction.

San Marino's head of government originally consisted of an assembly called the Arengo, which was composed of the heads of each family. The current system of government involves a single chamber of legislature with 60 seats called Great and General Council, who are elected every five years. The council elects two of its members as the heads of state, or the Captains Regent, twice a year, in a tradition that dates back to the 13th century. The first two Captains Regent were Filippo da Sterpeto and Oddone Scarito, both serving between October 1, 1243 to April 1, 1244.

The first modern democratic elections held in San Marino occurred following the 1906 citizenry meeting of the Arengo, which was officially summoned on March 25. In that meeting, 805 heads of family were present, each receiving a ballot asking whether a Princely and Sovereign Council should head the government and whether the number of members of the Council should be proportional between the city and rural populations.

After World War I, San Marino was predominantly still an agrarian society. In June 1921, the nation's political environment was shaken following the murder of Carlo Bosi by local leftists in Serravalle. The assassination led to threats by the Italian *squadristi*. The Sammarinese Fascist Party (PFS) was founded in August 1922 and ruled San Marino between 1923 to 1943. The party was founded by Giuliano Gozi (1894-1955), who had previously served in the Royal Italian Army during World War I. One of Gozi's political rivals was Ezio Balducci, who tried to counter the party's newspaper, *Il Popoli d'Italia*, with his own publication, *La Voce del Titano*. On April 23, Gozi was appointed as the first Fascist Captain Regent. After 1926, San Marino essentially became a one-party state in 1926 once opposing political parties were banned. The PFS eventually dissolved in November 1944. The fall of Fascism and Gozi's rule is celebrated as a public holiday every year on July 28, the date in 1943 when a new election was called after the Socialists held a political demonstration against Fascism.

The Sammarinese Socialist Party (PSS) was the oldest political party of the republic at the time of its formation in 1892. The party's publication, *Nuovo Titano*, was shut down after Gozi and the Sammarinese Fascist Party took over. The PSS collapsed in 2005 as a result of a merger between them and the post-communist Party of Democrats, forming the Party of Socialists and Democrats. Members of the PSS who did not agree with the merger established the New Socialist Party (NPS) that same year.

In 1957, the provisional government of San Marino was established following the *fatti di Rovereta* (translation: the Rovereta affair). That event culminated when the party chiefs of the Sammarinese Communist and Socialist Parties sent in 35 resignations, along with the six who resigned from their parties, preventing the Grand General Council from electing the Captains Regent.



(Logo pictured left) The Sammarinese Democratic Progressive Party (PPDS) was founded in 1990 when the Sammarinese Communist Party dissolved following the fall of the Soviet Union. Members of the party who were still Communist-sympathizers formed the Sammarinese Communist Refoundation (RCS). The PPDS was short-lived, however, as it merged with the groups Ideas in Motion and Socialists for Reform to form the Party of Democrats (PD) in 2001.

The Popular Alliance (AP) is a liberal-centrist party founded in 1993. During the 2016 Sammarinese general election, the AP joined with the Union for the Republic. Those two parties dissolved in 2017 and eventually merged to become the Future Republic. Notable politicians who were members of the Popular Alliance include Valeria Ciavatta (1959 - Present), who was the Co-Captain Regent in



2014. Prior to her membership with the Popular Alliance, Ciavatta was affiliated with the Christian Democratic Party, which is also the party of her co-Captain Regent, Luca Beccari.

Marino Riccardi (1958 - Present) has been elected as Captain Regent of San Marino on three separate occasions in 1991, 2004 and 2016, becoming the most recent person to serve in that office three times (Captains Regent serve six-month terms, and may not be elected to another term until three years have passed since the end of their last captaincy.) In his first captaincy, his co-regent was Edda Ceccoli, one of the few women to have served in the position, A noted pacifist, Riccardi issued a letter supporting Pope Francis's initiatives for the Roman Catholic World Day of Peace, in which he rejected the philosophical notion of just war.

In 2021, Giacomo Simoncini (1994 - Present) became the world's youngest head of state when he was elected as co-Captain Regent between October 2021 until April 2022. Before he was elected in that position, Simoncini became a member of the executive board of the Sammarinese Socialist Party when he was 19 years old. He also serves as the president of the Rotaract Club of San Marino.

In 2022, Paolo Rondelli (1963 - Present) became the first openly LGBTQ+ head of state in world history (others, such as Xavier Bettel of Luxembourg, have been heads of government, but Captains Regent in San Marino hold largely ceremonial positions and are therefore classified as heads of state), serving a six-month term as Captain Regent in 2022, along with Oscar Mina. This is particularly impressive given that homosexuality was a crime punishable by imprisonment in San Marino until 2004. A former Sammarinese UN ambassador who was also San Marino's first ambassador to the United States from 2007 to 2014, Rondelli also holds three masters degrees in the disparate fields of chemical engineering, environmental science, and journalism.

## Military

The Crossbow Corps was once described as "the oldest military formation in the Republic, nominated in the statutes of 1295." Although the corps is now defunct in terms of its military use, the Crossbowmen's Quarry has been training members since 1965 and now perform in ceremonial tasks. The Quarry hosts an annual festival and tournament called the Palio de Balestrieri on September 3rd. The festival involves donning historical costumes and uniforms of nine teams, each with the color representing the nine castles of the republic.

Since 1740, the Guard of the Council, or the Guard of Nobles, served to defend the Captains Regent and the Great and General Council. This unit, originally called the "Guardia Nobile," is composed of nearly all volunteers, although all members still have to undergo full military training. The uniform of members in the Guard of the Council consists of dark blue trousers, double-breasted tailed jackets, white gloves, and a cocked hat adorned with blue and white feathers.

The Guard of the Rock is San Marino's front-line military force. This unit, also known as the Fortress Guards, have historically defended and patrolled its country's borders. Presently, the Guards of the Rock defend the seat of the national government, the *Palazzo Pubblico*. The guards also serve as

“Criminal Police Officers,” as they assist police officers in investigating crimes. The ceremonial uniforms guards are notably red and green.

San Marino’s domestic police force is known as the Corps of Gendarmerie. Founded in 1842 and headed by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, it is nonetheless a domestic peacekeeping and police force and works in concert with the Fortress Guard and Civil Police force. Unlike American police forces, they are allowed after the passage of a 2008 law to call upon the assistance of the Sammarinese military organizations in particularly difficult or dangerous cases.

## Cuisine

San Marino’s primary agricultural products include cheese, wine, and livestock. At the Exposition Universelle of 1889 in Paris, the republic participated by hosting exhibits of oils and cheese. Local dishes include *pasta e ceci*, a chickpea and noodle soup made with garlic and rosemary; *nidi di rondine*, a baked dish smoked ham, beef, and tomato sauce; and *erbazzone*, a spinach dish made with cheese and onions.

A savory dish called *fagioli con le cotiche*, a soup that consists of bean and bacon, is served during Christmas. Bustrengo is another traditional Christmas dish that is a dense, citrusy cake made with dried figs, apples, and honey and is typically prepared over a fireplace in a copper pot. This festive dish is especially popular in the Forlì-Cesena and Rimini provinces, as well as the Italian regions of Emilia Romagna and Marche. Similar dishes to the Bustrengo include the German Stollen and the Italian Panettone. The Bustrengo is different, however, as breadcrumbs and polenta are mixed with its other ingredients. The Torta Tre Monti is a traditional cake made from thin, round layers of waffled wafers and filled with chocolate and hazelnut cream. It was first produced in 1942 by the bakery, La Serenissima. Its name translates to “three mountain cake,” referencing the three towers surrounding the republic.



## Art

*Statua della Libertà* (translation: Statue of Liberty) is a statue (pictured right) found between the Parva Dormus and the *Palazzo Pubblico*. The white marble statue was created by Stefano Galletti. The sculpture was donated to San Marino by Countess Otilia Heyroth Wagener in 1876, after she became the Countess of Acquaviva. The statue is also depicted on the Sammarinese 2 cent euro coin.



Marina Busignani Reffi (1930-2006) was a notable painter and sculptor who was the first artist to represent San Marino at the Venice Biennale cultural exhibition. Reffi was also a trailblazer politician, as she was the first woman to join the Sammarinese Socialist Party and, along with Clara Boscaglia and Fausta Morganti, was one of three women to be elected to the Grand and General Council in 1974, although she gave up her position to her husband, Giordano Bruno Reffi. As an artist, Reffi's works are exhibited in San Marino, as such with her monument to Marino Capicchioni, which is displayed in the Open Air Museum. Other notable works by Reffi include the *History of Science* and *Testimony 1* and *Testimony 2*.

## Sports

San Marino has been competing in the Olympics since the 1960 Summer Olympics. During Tokyo 2020, the country won its only three medals, making it the smallest country to win an Olympic medal. Two of those medals were won by Alessandra Perilli, who won bronze in the Women's Trap event and, with Gian Mraco Berti, won silver in the Mixed Trap Team final. The country's third medal was won by bronze medalist Myles Amine in the 86 kilograms freestyle wrestling event. Although born in the United States, Amine was able to represent San Marino through his citizenship from his maternal great-grandparents.

The San Marino national football team represents the republic in men's international soccer competitions. The first official FIFA-sanctioned competition was against Switzerland on November 14, 1990 in the qualifiers for the 1992 European Championships, which ended in a 4-0 loss. They have won only one competitive international match in their history, a 1-0 victory over Liechtenstein in 2004. Notable players currently in the team include Matteo Vitaioli (captain/forward), Elia Benedettini (goalkeeper), and Nicola Nanni (forward). Nanni (2000 - Present) scored the team's first home goal in eight years after he scored during a World Cup qualification against Poland in 2022. San Marino's greatest footballer ever is generally considered to be defensive midfielder Massimo Bonni, who was a starter for various teams in Serie A, the highest league in Italian football. The team is currently ranked as the worst men's national football team in the FIFA Men's World Rankings.

The San Marino Grand Prix was a Formula One championship race that was held at the Autodomo Internazionale Enzo e Dino Ferrari in the Italian town of Imola. Although it is held in Italy, it was named for San Marino as there already was an Italian Grand Prix held in the town of Monza. Despite its namesake, however, no riders from San Marino have ever competed in the Grand Prix. The race was unfortunately probably best known for being the site of the death of Brazilian F1 champion Ayrton Senna in 1994 during the Grand Prix.

Motorcycle racing, including such formats of the sport as Grand Prix, Speedway and SuperBikes, is a popular sport in San Marino. Notable road Sammarinese motorbike riders include Alex de Angelis and Manuel Poggiali. A former footballer for Pennarossa in the amateur San Marino national league, Poggiali (1983 - Present) is the only Sammarinese athlete to have ever won a recognized world championship in any sport, winning the world titles in 125cc Grand Prix in 2001 and in 250cc in 2003.

Perhaps more surprisingly, San Marino's national baseball team has finished in very high positions in the European Championships, with its highest finishes at the Euros being a 5th place finish in 1971 and 6th place in 1985, highly impressive given the country's tiny population and a lack of places to play and train in the mountainous republic.

## Music

Since 2008, San Marino has participated 13 times in the Eurovision Song Contest. Singer Valentina Monetta (1975 - Present) represented the nation consecutively from 2012 to 2014, the first artist to compete for their country three times in a row since Udo Jürgens, who represented Austria from 1964 to 1966. Other notable songs of Monetta include "Maybe," "The Social Network Song," and the "Spirit of the Night," the latter of which was co-performed with American singer Jimmie Wilson in the 2017 Eurovision Song Contest.

Another Sammarinese entertainer is the actor and singer Antonio Ciacci (1941-2013), better known as "Little Tony." Along with his brothers, Alberto and Enrico, Ciacci formed the group, Little Tony & His Brothers, in which he was the lead singer. At the 1961 Sanremo Music Festival, Ciacci and Adriano Celentano finished in second place for their performance for the song "24.000 baci," which is significant in that the song is considered the first rock and roll song to enter the festival. Another song Ciacci performed at Sanremo Music Festival was "Cuore matto," in which he performed alongside Mario Zelinotti. The song's success garnered a gold disc in May 1967. Ciacci participated in the festival for the tenth time in 2008 with "Non finisce qui." His eminence in music has garnered him the nickname, "Italian Elvis."

## Potpourri

The United States was the first country outside of Europe to have diplomatic relations with San Marino. The United States recognized the microstate's independence in 1861 when then-president Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) accepted San Marino's offer of honorary citizenship in a letter, to which he responded, "Although your dominion is small, your state is nevertheless one of the most honored, in all history." It wasn't until 2006 when the U.S. finally accredited an Ambassador to San Marino. The first Ambassador to San Marino was Ronald Spogli, who was also serving as the U.S. Ambassador to Italy.