



# Kingdom of Portugal

**Status:** Minor nation.

**Monarch:** Her Majesty Queen Maria I.

**Regent:** His Royal Highness Prince John (son of Maria I) (left).

**Delegate:** Dom Pedro de Sousa Holstein, Count of Palmella (right).

## Background

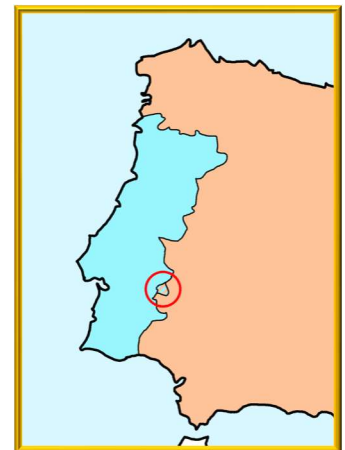
In 1814, Portugal was still in its absolute monarchy phase, ruled by its first female monarch, Queen Maria. Maria was deemed clinically insane in 1792 (possibly due to inbreeding) and in 1799 her son Prince John officially took the title of Regent.

As a **traditional British ally**, Portugal was one of the first countries to join the coalitions against France. In 1801, Spain briefly invaded Portugal with French support, annexing the border town of **Olivenza**. When Spain and France invaded again in 1807, hoping to partition Portugal, the **royal court fled** to the Portuguese colony of Brazil. The tides turned in 1808 when Napoleon attempted to install his brother on the Spanish throne: Spain rebelled, and British forces arrived to support Portugal and the Spanish rebels. By 1814, the allied forces had successfully driven France out of the Iberian Peninsula, coinciding with the fall of Paris.

Despite France's defeat, the **royal court remained in Brazil**, because the monarchy was more popular there.

## Objectives

Portugal's main objective was the **return of Olivenza**, which Spain had annexed in 1801<sup>1</sup>. Additionally, Portugal was keen to maintain its relationship with Britain as a traditional ally and trading partner.



*Disputed territory between Portugal and Spain*

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<sup>1</sup> As an interesting sidenote, the territory remains in dispute to this day: the Congress awarded it to Portugal, but Spain refused to sign and continues to insist the treaty was non-binding.