

Gambia

General statistics

Population: 1,705,000 (2009)
Area: 10,380 km²
Independence: 18 February 1965 (UK)
Capital: Banjul
Government: Republic
Administrative language: English
Currency: Dalasi (GMD)
GDP: 2.406 billionUSD
GDP per capita: 1,438USD
Calling code: + 220
Motto: Progress, Peace, Prosperity
Anthem: For The Gambia Our Homeland



Minerals: Quartz Sand, Heavy Mineral Beach Sand Deposits,

The Gambia is the smallest country on mainland Africa, bordered to the north, east, and south by Senegal, with a short coastline on the Atlantic Ocean in the west.

History

On 18 February 1965, The Gambia was granted independence from the United Kingdom and joined The Commonwealth. Banjul is The Gambia's capital, but the largest conurbation is Serekunda.

The Gambia shares historical roots with many other west African nations in the slave trade, which was the key factor in the placing and keeping of a colony on the Gambia River, first by the Portuguese and later by the British. Since gaining independence in 1965, Gambia has enjoyed relative political stability, with the exception of a brief period of military rule in 1994.[citation needed]

An agriculturally fertile country, its economy is dominated by farming, fishing, and tourism. About a third of the population live below the international poverty line of US\$1.25 a day.[3]

Climate

The Gambia's climate is a sub-tropical climate with two variations of distinct dry and rainy seasons. The dry season generally starts in October and ends around mid-June each year.

Guinea



General statistics

Population: 10,057,975 (2009)
Area: 245,857 km²
Independence: 2 October 1958 (France)
Capital: Conakry
Government: Presidential republic
Administrative language: French
Currency: Guinean franc (GNF)
GDP: 10.516 billion
GDP per capita: 991 USD
Calling code: + 224
Motto: Travail, Justice, Solidarité (Work, Justice, Solidarity)
Anthem: For Liberté (freedom)



Minerals: iron, bauxite, gold, diamonds, limestone, chromites, rare earths, uranium, copper, silver, talc, manganese, beryllium, platinum, feldspar, nickel, graphite and kaolin.

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History

The land that is now Guinea belonged to a series of empires until France colonized it in the 1890s, and made it part of French West Africa.[4] Guinea declared its independence from France on 2 October 1958.[4] Since its independence, Guinea has had autocratic rulers in which one person possesses unlimited power, who have made Guinea one of the poorest countries in the world.

Ahmed Sékou Touré became President upon Guinea's independence. By violent oppression, he ruled until 26 March 1984, when he died unexpectedly.[8][9] By a quick coup d'état, Lansana Conté became the President after Touré. By despotic means, Conté clung to power until his death in 2008. Despite extraordinary aluminium rich resources, he was unable to improve the desperate economic plight into which Touré had plunged the country.[10]

On 23 December 2008, Moussa Dadis Camara seized control of Guinea as the head of a junta.[11] On 28 September 2009, the junta ordered its soldiers to attack people who had gathered to protest any attempt by Camara to become President.[12] The soldiers went on a rampage of rape, mutilation, and murder.[13]

On 3 December 2009, an aide shot Camara during a dispute about the rampage of September 2009. Camara went to Morocco for medical care.[13][14] Vice-President (and defense minister) Sékouba Konaté flew back from Lebanon to run the country in Camara's absence.[15]