

Liberia



General statistics

Population: 3,955,000 (2009)
Area: 111,369 km²
Independence: 26 July 1847
Capital: Monrovia
Government: Presidential republic
Administrative language: English
Currency: Liberian dollar
GDP: 1.709 billion USD
GDP per capita: 396 USD
Calling code: + 231
Motto: The love of liberty brought us here
Anthem: All Hail, Liberia, Hail



Minerals: iron ore, diamond, gold, barite, kysnite, phosphate, clays, heavy mineral beach sands, bauxite and manganese

Liberia is a country on the west coast of Africa, bordered by Sierra Leone on the West, Guinea on the north, Côte d'Ivoire on the east, and the Atlantic Ocean on the south.

History:

The history of Liberia is unique among African nations because of its relationship with the United States. It is one of only two countries in sub-Saharan Africa, along with Ethiopia, without roots in the European Scramble for Africa. It was founded and colonized by freed American slaves with the help of a private organization called the American Colonization Society in 1821-1822, on the premise that former American slaves would have greater freedom and equality there.[5]

Slaves freed from slave ships were also sent there instead of being repatriated to their countries of origin.[6] These colonists formed an elite group in Liberian society, and, in 1847, they founded the Republic of Liberia, establishing a government modeled on that of the United States, naming Monrovia, their capital city, after James Monroe, the fifth president of the United States and a prominent supporter of the colonization.

A military-led coup in 1980 overthrew then-president William R. Tolbert, which marked the beginning of a period of instability that eventually led to two civil wars that left hundreds of thousands of people dead and devastated the country's economy. Today, Liberia is recovering from the lingering effects of the civil war and related economic dislocation. Statistics indicate that about 85% of the population live on less than \$1.25 a day.

Cap verde



General statistics

Population: 567,000 (2010)
Area: 4,033 km²
Independence: July 5, 1975 (Portugal)
Capital: Praia
Government: Parliamentary republic
Administrative language: Portuguese
Currency: Cape Verdean escudo (CVE)
GDP: 1.841 billion USD
GDP per capita: 3,587 USD
Calling code: + 238
Anthem: Cântico da Liberdade (song of freedom)



Minerals: Salt, limestone, pozzolana, gypsum

Cap Verde is an island country, spanning an archipelago of 10 islands located in the central Atlantic Ocean, 570 kilometres off the coast of Western Africa.

History

The previously uninhabited islands were discovered and colonized by the Portuguese in the 15th Century, and became an important location in the Atlantic slave trade due to their geographically advantageous position. The islands' prosperity often attracted pirates including Sir Francis Drake, who twice sacked the (then) capital Ribeira Grande, in the 1580s. The islands were also visited by Charles Darwin's expedition in 1832. The decline in the slave trade in the 19th century resulted in an economic crisis. With few natural resources and without strong sustainable investment from the Portuguese, the people grew increasingly discontent with the colonial masters, who nevertheless refused to provide the local authorities with more autonomy. This discontent festered and culminated in 1975, when a movement led by Amílcar Cabral achieved independence for the archipelago.

The country has an estimated population (most of it of creole ethnicity) of about 500,000, with its capital city Praia accounting for a quarter of its citizens. Nearly 38% of the population lives in rural areas according to the 2010 Cape Verdean census; about 20% lives below the poverty threshold,[6] and the literacy rate is around 85%. Politically, the country is a very stable democracy, with notable economic growth and improvements of living conditions despite its lack of natural resources, and has garnered international recognition by other countries and international organizations, which often provide development aid. Since 2007, Cape Verde has been classified as a developing nation.

Tough economic times during the last decades of its colonization and the first years of Cape Verde's independence led many to migrate to Europe, the Americas and other African countries. This migration was so significant that the number of Cape Verdeans and their descendants living abroad currently exceeds the population of Cape Verde itself. Historically, the influx of remittances from these immigrant