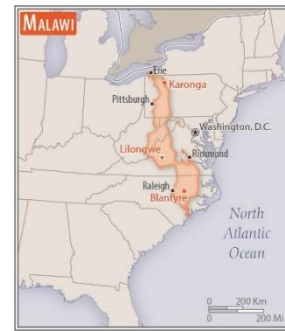




MALAWI



INTRODUCTION

From the late 15th to the 18th centuries, a prosperous Kingdom of Maravi - from which the name Malawi derives - extended its reach into what are now areas of Zambia and Mozambique. In 1889, a British Central African Protectorate was established, which was renamed Nyasaland in 1907, and which became the independent nation of Malawi in 1964.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Lazarus CHAKWERA

Head of Government

President Lazarus CHAKWERA

Government Type

presidential republic

Capital

Lilongwe

Legislature

unicameral National Assembly (193 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 118,484 sq km

Land: 94,080 sq km

Water: 24,404 sq km

Climate

sub-tropical; rainy season (November to May); dry season (May to November)

Natural Resources

limestone, arable land, hydropower, unexploited deposits of uranium, coal, and bauxite

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

low-income East African economy; primarily agrarian; investing in human capital; urban poverty increasing due to COVID-19; high public debt; endemic corruption and poor property rights; poor hydroelectric grid; localized pharmaceutical industry

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$28.44 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$1,500 (2020 est.)

Industries - tobacco, tea, sugar, sawmill products, cement, consumer goods

Agricultural products - sweet potatoes, cassava, sugarcane, maize, mangoes/guavas, potatoes, tomatoes, pigeon peas

Exports \$10.72 billion (2019 est.)

tobacco, tea, raw sugar, beans, soybean products, clothing/apparel (2019)

partners: Belgium 16%, US 8%, Egypt 7%, South Africa 6%, Germany 6%, Kenya 5%, UAE 5% (2019)

Imports \$12.82 billion (2019 est.)

postage stamps, refined petroleum, packaged medicines, fertilizers, office machinery/parts (2019)

partners: South Africa 17%, China 16%, UAE 9%, India 9%, UK 8% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

20.3 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

2.39% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Chewa 34.3%, Lomwe 18.8%, Yao 13.2%, Ngoni 10.4%, Tumbuka 9.2%, Sena 3.8%, Mang'anja 3.2%, Tonga 1.8%, Nyanja 1.8%, Nkhonde 1%, other 2.2%, foreign 0.3% (2018 est.)

Language

English (official), Chewa (common), Lambya, Lomwe, Ngoni, Nkhonde, Nyakyusa, Nyanja, Sena, Tonga, Tumbuka, Yao

Religion

Protestant 33.5%, Roman Catholic 17.2%, other Christian 26.6%, Muslim 13.8%, traditionalist 1.1%, other 5.6%, none 2.1% (2018 est.)

