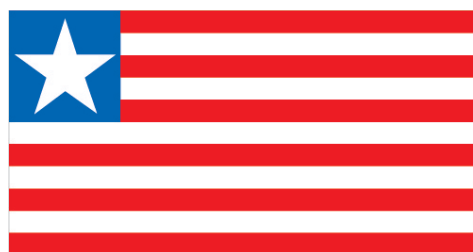




LIBERIA



INTRODUCTION

Freed slaves from the US began being settled in what is today Liberia in 1822. By 1847, the Americo-Liberians were able to establish a republic. A military coup in 1980 ushered in a decade of authoritarian rule followed by a civil war. A 2003 peace agreement ended the war and elections were held in 2005.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Joseph BOAKAI

Head of Government

President Joseph BOAKAI

Government Type

presidential republic

Capital

Monrovia

Legislature

bicameral National Assembly consists of the Liberian Senate (30 seats) and the House of Representatives (73 seats)

Ambassador to US

Ambassador Jeff Gongoer DOWANA, Sr. US

Ambassador

Charge d'Affaires Catherine RODRIGUEZ

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 111,369 sq km

Land: 96,320 sq km

Water: 15,049 sq km

Climate

tropical; hot, humid; dry winters with hot days and cool to cold nights; wet, cloudy summers with frequent heavy showers

Natural Resources

iron ore, timber, diamonds, gold, hydropower

as of February 2024

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

low-income West African economy; food scarcity, especially in rural areas; high poverty and inflation; bad recession prior to COVID-19 due to Ebola crisis; growing government debt; longest continuously operated rubber plantation; large informal economy

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$7.391 billion (2021 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$1,400 (2021 est.)

Industries - mining (iron ore and gold), rubber processing, palm oil processing, diamonds

Agricultural products - cassava, sugarcane, oil palm fruit, rice, bananas, vegetables, plantains, rubber, taro, maize

Exports \$554.0 million (2019 est.)

gold, ships, iron, rubber, cocoa beans, palm oil (2021)

partners: Guyana 32%, Poland 10%, Switzerland 8%, Japan 7%, China 5% (2019)

Imports \$1.244 billion (2019 est.)

ships, refined petroleum, iron structures, boat propellers, centrifuges (2019)

partners: China 41%, Japan 21%, South Korea 18% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

5.5 million (2023 est.)

Population Growth

2.37% (2023 est.)

Ethnicity

Kpelle 20.2%, Bassa 13.6%, Grebo 9.9%, Gio 7.9%, Mano 7.2%, Kru 5.5%, Lorma 4.8%, Krahn 4.5%, Kissi, 4.3%, Mandingo 4.2%, Vai 3.8%, Gola 3.8%, Gbandi 2.9%, Mende 1.7%, Sapo 1%, Belle 0.7%, Dey 0.3%, other Liberian ethnic group 0.4%, other African 3%, non-African 0.2% (2008 est.)

Language

English 20% (official) and 27 indigenous languages, including Liberian English (encompassing several varieties of English spoken by Liberians)

Religion

Christian 84.9%, Muslim 12%, Traditional 0.5%, other 0.1%, none 2.6% (2022 est.)