INTRODUCTION
The Kingdom of Yemen (colloquially known as North Yemen) became independent from the Ottoman Empire in 1918 and in 1962 became the Yemen Arab Republic. The British, withdrew in 1967 from what became the People’s Republic of Southern Yemen (colloquially known as South Yemen). The two countries were formally unified as the Republic of Yemen in 1990.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President Abd Rabuh Mansur HADI
Head of Government
Prime Minister Maeen Abd al-Malik SAEED
Government Type
in transition
Capital
Sanaa
Legislature
bicameral Parliament or Majlis consists of the Shura Council or Majlis Alshoora (111 seats) and the House of Representatives or Majlis al Nuwaab (301 seats)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 527,968 sq km
Land: 527,968 sq km
Water: 0 sq km
Climate
mostly desert; hot and humid along west coast; temperate in western mountains affected by seasonal monsoon; extraordinarily hot, dry, harsh desert in east
Natural Resources
petroleum, fish, rock salt, marble, small deposits of coal, gold, lead, nickel, and copper, fertile soil in west

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
low-income Middle Eastern economy; infrastructure, trade, and economic institutions devastated by civil war; oil/gas-dependent but decreasing reserves; massive poverty, food insecurity, and unemployment; high inflation
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $73.63 billion (2017 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $2,500 (2017 est.)
Industries - crude oil production, petroleum refining, cotton textiles, leather goods, food processing, handicrafts, aluminum products, cement, commercial ship repair, natural gas production
Agricultural products - mangoes/guavas, potatoes, sorghum, onions, milk, poultry, watermelons, grapes, oranges, bananas
Exports $384.5 million (2017 est.)
crude petroleum, gold, fish, industrial chemical liquids, scrap iron (2019)
partners: China 53%, Saudi Arabia 10%, UAE 7%, Australia 5% (2019)
Imports $4.079 billion (2017 est.)
wheat, refined petroleum, iron, rice, cars (2019)
partners: China 25%, Turkey 10%, UAE 9%, Saudi Arabia 8%, India 7% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
30.4 million (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
1.93% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
predominantly Arab;
also Afro-Arab, South Asian, European
Language
Arabic (official); note: a distinct Socotri language is widely used on Socotra Island and Archipelago; Mahri is still fairly widely spoken in eastern Yemen
Religion
Muslim 99.1% (official; virtually all are citizens, an estimated 65% are Sunni and 35% are Shia), other 0.9% (many are refugees or temporary foreign residents) (2020 est.)

as of October 2021