INTRODUCTION
Tunisia has been the nexus of many different colonizations including those of the Phoenicians (as early as the 12 century B.C.), the Carthaginians, Romans, Vandals, Byzantines, various Arab and Berber kingdoms, and the Ottomans. In 1818, France established a protectorate. The French recognized Tunisia as an independent state in 1956.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President Kais SAIED
Head of Government
Prime Minister Najla Bouden ROMDHANE
Government Type
parliamentary republic
Capital
Tunis
Legislature
unicameral Assembly of the Representatives of the People or Majlis Nuwwab ash-Sha'b (Assemblee des representants du peuple) (217 seats)

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
lower middle-income North African economy; drafting reforms for foreign lenders; high unemployment, especially for youth and women; hit hard by COVID-19; high public sector wages; high public debt; protectionist austerity measures; key EU trade partner
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $115 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $9,700 (2020 est.)
Industries - petroleum, mining (particularly phosphate, iron ore), tourism, textiles, footwear, agribusiness, beverages
Agricultural products - wheat, milk, tomatoes, barley, olives, watermelons, green chillies/peppers, potatoes, dates, green onions/shallots
Exports $13.82 billion (2017 est.)
insulated wiring, clothing, apparel, crude petroleum, olive oil, vehicle parts (2019)
partners: France 29%, Italy 17%, Germany 13% (2019)
Imports $19.09 billion (2017 est.)
refined petroleum, natural gas, low-voltage protection equipment, cars, insulated wiring (2019)
partners: France 17%, Italy 16%, Germany 8%, China 8%, Algeria 7% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
11.8 million (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
0.75% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Arab 98%, European 1%, Jewish and other 1%
Language
Arabic (official, one of the languages of commerce), French (commerce), Berber (Tamazight)
Religion
Muslim (official; Sunni) 99%, other (includes Christian, Jewish, Shia Muslim, and Bahai') <1%
Urbanization
urban population: 69.9% of total population (2021)
rate of urbanization: 1.34% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

as of October 2021