INTRODUCTION
Mali is named for the Mali Empire that at its peak in the 14th century covered an area about twice the size of modern-day France. In the late 19th century, France seized control of Mali. The Sudanese Republic and Senegal became independent of France in 1960 as the Mali Federation. When Senegal withdrew after only a few months, what formerly made up the Sudanese Republic was renamed Mali.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
Transitional President Assimi GOITA
Head of Government
Transitional Prime Minister Choguel MAIGA
Government Type
semi-presidential republic
Capital
Bamako
Legislature
unicameral National Assembly or Assemblee Nationale (147 seats)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 1,240,192 sq km
Land: 1,220,190 sq km
Water: 20,002 sq km
Climate
subtropical to arid; hot and dry (February to June); rainy, humid, and mild (June to November); cool and dry (November to February)
Natural Resources
gold, phosphates, kaolin, salt, limestone, uranium, gypsum, granite, hydropower, note, bauxite, iron ore, manganese, tin, and copper deposits are known but not exploited

as of October 2021

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
low-income Saharan economy; recession due to COVID-19 and political instability; extreme poverty; environmentally fragile; high public debt; agricultural and gold exporter; terrorism and warfare are common
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $44.89 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $2,200 (2000 est.)
Industries - food processing, construction, phosphate and gold mining
Agricultural products - maize, rice, millet, sorghum, mangoes/guavas, cotton, watermelons, green onions/shallots, okra, sugarcane
Exports $3.06 billion (2017 est.)
gold, cotton, sesame seeds, lumber, vegetable oils/residues (2019)
partners: UAE 66%, Switzerland 26% (2019)
Imports $3.644 billion (2017 est.)
refined petroleum, clothing/apparel, packaged medicines, cement, broadcasting equipment (2019)
partners: Senegal 23%, Cote d'Ivoire 15%, China 11%, France 9% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
20.1 million (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
2.97% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Bambara 33.3%, Fulani (Peuhl) 13.3%, Sarakole/Soninke/Marka 9.8%, Senufo/Manianka 9.6%, Malinke 8.8%, Dogon 8.7%, Sonrai 5.9%, other 10.5% (2018 est.)
Language
French (official), Bambara 46.3%, Peuhl/Foulfoulie 9.4%, Dogon 7.2%, Maraka/Soninke 6.4%, Malinke 5.6%, Sonnai/Djerma 5.6%, other 18.8%, unspecified 0.7 % (2009 est.)
Religion
Muslim 93.9%, Christian 2.8%, Animist 0.7%, none 2.5% (2018 est.)