INTRODUCTION
Settlement of freed slaves from the US in what is today Liberia began 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 George WEAH
Head of Government
President George WEAH
Government Type
presidential republic
Capital
Monrovia
Legislature
bicameral National Assembly consists of: The Liberian Senate (30 seats); House of Representatives (73 seats)

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

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) $6.85 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $1,400 (2020 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 $330 million (2019 est.)
ships, iron, gold, rubber, crude petroleum (2019)
partners: Guyana 32%, Poland 10%, Switzerland 8%, Japan 7%, China 5% (2019)
Imports $1.82 billion (2019 est.)
ships, refined petroleum, iron structures, boat propellers, centrifuges (2019)
partners: China 41%, Japan 21%, South Korea 18% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
5.2 million (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
2.74% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Kpelle 20.3%, Bassa 13.4%, Grebo 10%, Gio 8%, Mano 7.9%, Kru 6%, Lorma 5.1%, other 29.3% (2008 est.)
Language
English 20% (official), some 20 ethnic group languages few of which can be written or used in correspondence
Religion
Christian 85.6%, Muslim 12.2%, Traditional 0.6%, other 0.2%, none 1.5% (2008 est.)
Urbanization
urban population: 52.6% of total population (2021)
rate of urbanization: 3.41% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)
as of October 2021