



SOUTH SUDAN



INTRODUCTION

British explorers established the colony of Equatoria in 1870, which composed most of what is now South Sudan. When Sudan gained its independence in 1956, it was declared that the southerners would be able to participate fully in the political system. A referendum, held in January 2011, was in favor of secession and South Sudan gained independence on 9 July 2011.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Salva Kiir Mayardit

Head of Government

President Salva Kiir Mayardit

Government Type

presidential republic

Capital

Juba

Legislature

bicameral National Legislature consisting of a Council of States (50 seats) and Transitional National Legislative Assembly (400 seats; will be expanded to 550 members after the transitional government forms)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 644,329 sq km

Land: 644,329 sq km

Water: 0 sq km

Climate

hot with seasonal rainfall, heaviest in upland areas of the south and diminishes to the north

Natural Resources

hydropower, fertile agricultural land, gold, diamonds, petroleum, hardwoods, limestone, iron ore, copper, chromium ore, zinc, tungsten, mica, silver

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

low-income, oil-based Sahelian economy; extreme poverty and food insecurity; COVID-19 and ongoing violence threaten socioeconomic potential; environmentally fragile; ongoing land and property rights issues; natural resource rich but lacks infrastructure

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$20.01 billion (2017 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$1,600 (2017 est.)

Industries - N/A

Agricultural products - milk, sorghum, vegetables, cassava, goat milk, fruit, beef, sesame seed, sheep milk, mutton

Exports \$1.13 billion (2016 est.)

crude petroleum, gold, forage crops, lumber, insect resins (2019)

partners: China 88%, UAE 5% (2019)

Imports \$ 3.795 (2016 est.)

cars, delivery trucks, packaged medicines, foodstuffs, clothing, apparel (2019)

partners: UAE 37%, Kenya 18%, China 18% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

11 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

5.05% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Dinka (Jieng) 35.8%,

Nuer (Naath) 15.6%,

Shilluk (Chollo), Azande, Bari, Kakwa, Kuku, Murle, Mandari, Didinga, Ndogo, Bviri, Lndi, Anuak, Bongo, Lango, Dungotona, Acholi, Baka, Fertit (2011 est.)

Language

English (official), Arabic (includes Juba and Sudanese variants), ethnic languages include Dinka, Nuer, Bari, Zande, Shilluk

Religion

Christian 60.5%, folk religion 32.9%, Muslim 6.2%, other <1%, unaffiliated <1% (2020 est.)

Urbanization

urban population: 20.5% of total population (2021)

rate of urbanization: 4.12% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

