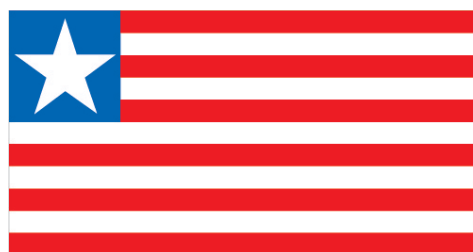




LIBERIA



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.)

