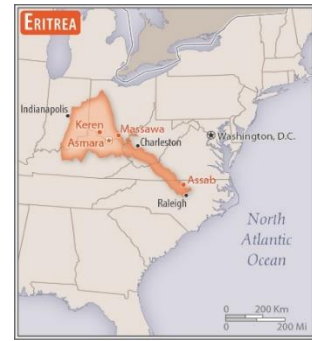




ERITREA



INTRODUCTION

After independence from Italian control and then UK oversight, the UN established Eritrea as an autonomous region within the Ethiopian federation in 1952. Ethiopian annexation sparked a 30-year struggle for independence that ended in 1991. Eritreans overwhelmingly approved independence in a 1993 referendum.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President ISAIAS Afwerki

Head of Government

President ISAIAS Afwerki

Government Type

presidential republic

Capital

Asmara

Legislature

unicameral National Assembly (Hagerawi Baito) (150 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 117,600 sq km
Land: 101,000 sq km
Water: 16,600 sq km

Climate

hot, dry desert strip along Red Sea coast; cooler and wetter in the central highlands (up to 61 cm of rainfall annually, heaviest June to September); semiarid in western hills and lowlands

Natural Resources

gold, potash, zinc, copper, salt, possibly oil and natural gas, fish

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

largely agrarian economy with a significant mining sector; substantial fiscal surplus due to tight controls; high and vulnerable debts; increased Ethiopian trade and shared port usage decreasing prices; financial and economic data integrity challenges

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$9.702 billion (2017 est.)

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

Industries - food processing, beverages, clothing and textiles, light manufacturing, salt, cement

Agricultural products - sorghum, milk, vegetables, barley, cereals, pulses nes, roots/tubers nes, wheat, millet, beef

Exports \$624.3 million (2017 est.)

gold and other minerals, livestock, sorghum, textiles, food, small industry manufactures

partners: China 62%, South Korea 28% (2017)

Imports \$1.127 billion (2017 est.)

machinery, petroleum products, food, manufactured goods

partners: UAE 15%, China 13%, Saudi Arabia 13%, Italy 13%, Turkey 6%, South Africa 5% (2017)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

6.1 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

0.98% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Tigrinya 55%, Tigre 30%, Saho 4%, Kunama 2%, Rashaida 2%, Bilen 2%, other (Afar, Beni Amir, Nera) 5% (2010 est.)

Language

Tigrinya (official), Arabic (official), English (official), Tigre, Kunama, Afar, other Cushitic languages

Religion

Eritrean Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Evangelical Lutheran, Sunni Muslim

Urbanization

urban population: 42% of total population (2021)

rate of urbanization: 3.67% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

