

Africa

Africa

Country	Area (sq mi)	Urban Pop. %	Capital	Languages	Political System & Head of Government	Date of Origin	Literacy Rate (%)	Per Capita GDP	Country	Area (sq mi)	Urban Pop. %	Capital	Languages	Political System & Head of Government	Date of Origin	Literacy Rate (%)	Per Capita GDP
	Population	Pop. Rise %/Year				% of Pop. Under 15	Life Expectancy	HDI		Population	Pop. Rise %/Year				% of Pop. Under 15	Life Expectancy	HDI
Algeria	919,591	63	Algiers	Arabic, French, Berber dialects	Dominant party; President Abdelaziz Bouteflika	1962	80/60	\$7,100	Guinea	94,927	28	Conakry	French, various African languages	Military (transitional after coup); Acting President Sékouba Konaté ⁸	1958	43/18	\$1,000
	36,000,000	1.8				28	71/74	0.754		10,800,000	3.0				43	55/58	0.435
Angola	481,351	57	Luanda	Portuguese, Bantu, others	Presidential-parliamentary (transitional); President José Eduardo dos Santos	1975	83/54	\$8,400	Guinea-Bissau	13,946	30	Bissau	Portuguese, Criolo, others	Presidential-legislative (transitional); President Malam Bacai Sanhá	1973	58/27	\$1,100
	19,000,000	2.5				45	45/49	0.564		1,600,000	2.4				43	45/48	0.396
Benin	43,483	41	Porto-Novo	French, Fon, Yoruba, others	Presidential-legislative democracy; President Yayi Boni	1960	48/23	\$1,500	Kenya	224,081	18	Nairobi	English, Swahili, many others	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President Mwai Kibaki	1963	91/80	\$1,600
	9,800,000	3.0				45	57/60	0.492		40,000,000	2.7				42	56/57	0.541
Botswana	224,606	60	Gaborone	English, Setswana	Parliamentary democracy and traditional chiefs; President Ian Khama	1966	80/82	\$12,800	Lesotho	11,718	23	Maseru	Sesotho, English, Zulu, Xhosa	Parliamentary and traditional chiefs (transitional); Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili	1966	75/95	\$1,600
	1,800,000	1.9				33	55/55	0.694		1,900,000	0.9				34	40/43	0.514
Burkina Faso	105,792	23	Ouagadougou	French, Sudanic languages	Presidential-parliamentary democracy (transitional); President Blaise Compaoré	1960	29/15	\$1,200	Liberia	43,000	58	Monrovia	English, Niger-Congo languages	Presidential-parliamentary democracy (transitional); President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf	1847	73/42	\$400
	16,200,000	3.4				46	51/54	0.389		4,100,000	3.3				44	54/57	0.442
Burundi	10,745	10	Bujumbura	Kirundi, French, Swahili	Presidential-legislative democracy (transitional); President Pierre Nkurunziza	1962	67/52	\$300	Libya	679,359	77	Tripoli	Arabic, Italian, English	Dictatorship; Colonel Muammar al-Qaddafi	1951	92/72	\$13,400
	8,500,000	2.1				41	49/52	0.394		6,500,000	1.9				30	72/77	0.847
Cameroon	183,568	53	Yaoundé	English, French, African languages	Dominant party; President Paul Biya	1960	77/60	\$2,300	Madagascar	226,656	31	Antananarivo	French, Malagasy	Presidential-parliamentary democracy (transitional); President Andry Rajoelina	1960	76/63	\$1,000
	20,000,000	2.3				41	50/52	0.523		20,100,000	2.7				43	59/62	0.543
Cape Verde	1,556	61	Praia	Portuguese, Crioulo	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister José Maria Neves	1975	86/69	\$3,600	Malawi	45,745	14	Lilongwe	English, Chichewa, others	Presidential-legislative democracy; President Bingu wa Mutharika	1964	76/50	\$800
	500,000	2.0				35	69/76	0.708		15,400,000	2.9				46	48/50	0.493
Central African Republic	240,533	38	Bangui	French, Sangho, Arabic, Hunsu, Swahili	Presidential-parliamentary democracy (transitional); President François Bozizé	1960	65/34	\$700	Mali	478,838	33	Bamako	French, Bambara, many others	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President Amadou Toumani Touré	1960	54/40	\$1,200
	4,800,000	2.2				41	47/50	0.369		15,200,000	3.1				48	50/53	0.371
Chad	495,753	27	N'Djamena	French, Arabic, Sara, others	Dominant party; President Idriss Déby	1960	41/13	\$1,900	Mauritania	395,954	40	Nouakchott	Hasaniya Arabic, Pulaar, Soninke, Wolof, French	Presidential-legislative (transitional); President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz	1960	60/43	\$2,000
	11,500,000	2.9				46	47/50	0.392		3,400,000	2.3				40	55/59	0.520
Comoros	861	28	Moroni	Arabic, French, Comoran	Presidential-parliamentary; Acting President Ahmed Abdallah Sambi ⁶	1975	64/49	\$1,000	Mauritius	788	42	Port Louis	English, Creole, French, Hindi, Urdu, Hakka, Bojpoori	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam	1968	88/81	\$13,000
	700,000	2.6				38	62/66	0.576		1,300,000	0.5				22	69/76	0.804
Congo, Democratic Rep.	905,351	33	Kinshasa	French, Lingala, Kingwana, Kikongo, Tshiluba	In transition from military to presidential-parliamentary; President Joseph Kabila	1960	81/54	\$300	Morocco	172,413	57	Rabat	Arabic, Berber dialects, French	Constitutional monarchy; King Muhammad VI	1956	66/40	\$4,700
	67,800,000	2.9				48	46/49	0.389		31,900,000	1.5				29	69/73	0.654
Congo, Republic	132,046	60	Brazzaville	French, Lingala, Monokutuba, Kikongo, others	Military (transitional); President Denis Sassou-Nguesso	1960	90/78	\$3,900	Mozambique	309,494	31	Maputo	Portuguese, African languages	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President Armando Guebuza	1975	64/33	\$900
	3,900,000	2.5				42	52/54	0.601		23,400,000	2.3				44	47/49	0.402
Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	124,502	50	Yamoussoukro	French, Dioula, others	Presidential-parliamentary (transitional); President Laurent Gbagbo	1960	61/39	\$1,700	Namibia	318,259	35	Windhoek	Afrikaans, German, English, local African languages	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President Hifikepunye Pohamba	1990	87/84	\$6,600
	22,000,000	2.4				40	51/54	0.484		2,200,000	1.9				38	60/62	0.686
Djibouti	8,958	76	Djibouti	French, Arabic, Somali, Afar	Dominant party; President Ismail Omar Guelleh	1977	78/58	\$2,700	Niger	489,189	20	Niamey	French, Hausa, Djerma	Military (transitional); Chairman Salou Djibo	1960	43/15	\$700
	900,000	1.8				37	54/57	0.520		15,900,000	3.5				49	48/49	0.340
Egypt ⁷	386,660	43	Cairo	Arabic, English, French	Dominant party; President Hosni Mubarak	1922	83/59	\$6,000	Nigeria	356,668	47	Abuja	English, Hausa, Yoruba, Ibo, Fulani	Presidential-legislative democracy; President Goodluck Jonathan	1960	76/61	\$2,300
	80,400,000	2.1				33	69/75	0.703		158,300,000	2.4				43	47/48	0.511
Equatorial Guinea	10,830	39	Malabo	Spanish, French, pidgin English, Fang, Bubi, Ibo	Presidential dictatorship; President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo	1968	93/81	\$37,500	Rwanda	10,170	17	Kigali	Kinyarwanda, French, English, Kiswahili	Dominant party; President Paul Kagame	1962	76/65	\$1,000
	700,000	2.3				42	48/51	0.719		10,400,000	2.9				42	50/53	0.460
Eritrea	45,405	21	Asmara	Amharic, Arabic, Afar, Tigrinya, Tigre, many others	One-party dictatorship; President Isaias Afewerki	1993	70/48	\$700	São Tomé and Príncipe	371	58	São Tomé	Portuguese	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President Fradique de Menezes	1975	92/78	\$1,700
	5,200,000	2.9				42	57/62	0.472		200,000	2.9				44	64/69	0.651
Ethiopia	426,371	16	Addis Ababa	Amharic, Tigrinya, Arabic, Orominga, English, others	Dominant party; Prime Minister Meles Zenawi	1000 b.c.	50/35	\$900	Senegal	75,954	41	Dakar	French, Wolof, Pulaar, Diola, Mandingo	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President Abdoulaye Wade	1960	51/29	\$1,600
	85,000,000	2.7				44	54/57	0.414		12,500,000	2.8				44	54/57	0.464
Gabon	103,347	84	Libreville	French, Fang, Myene, Bateke, others	Dominant party; President Ali Ouidimba Bongo	1965	48/33	\$14,000	Seychelles	174	53	Victoria	English, French, Creole	Presidential-legislative democracy; President James Michel	1976	91/92	\$20,800
	1,500,000	1.9				43	54/57	0.456		100,000	1.0				22	68/78	0.845
Gambia	4,363	54	Banjul	English, Mandinka, Wolof, Fula, others	Dominant party; President Yahya Jammeh	1965	48/33	\$1,400	Sierra Leone	27,699	36	Freetown	English, Mende, Temne, Krio	Presidential-legislative democracy; President Ernest Bai Koroma	1961	47/24	\$900
	1,800,000	2.7				43	54/57	0.456		5,800,000	2.4				43	46/49	0.365
Ghana	92,100	48	Accra	English, Akan, others	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President John Atta Mills	1957	66/50	\$1,500	Somalia	246,201	34	Mogadishu	Somali, Arabic, Italian, English	Limited government disputed by factions	1960	50/26	\$600
	24,000,000	2.2				39	58/61	0.526		9,400,000	3.0				45	48/51	NA

⁸PENDING ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER. ⁷EGYPT IS ALSO INCLUDED IN THE MIDDLE EAST TABLE.

⁹PENDING RUNOFF ELECTION SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER. RESULTS UNAVAILABLE AT PRESS TIME.

COUNTRY	AREA (SQ MI)	URBAN POP. %	CAPITAL	LANGUAGES	POLITICAL SYSTEM & HEAD OF GOVERNMENT	DATE OF ORIGIN	LITERACY RATE (%)	PER CAPITA GDP	COUNTRY	AREA (SQ MI)	URBAN POP. %	CAPITAL	LANGUAGES	POLITICAL SYSTEM & HEAD OF GOVERNMENT	DATE OF ORIGIN	LITERACY RATE (%)	PER CAPITA GDP
	POPULATION	POP. RISE %/YEAR				% OF POP. UNDER 15	LIFE EXPECTANCY	HDI		POPULATION	POP. RISE %/YEAR				% OF POP. UNDER 15	LIFE EXPECTANCY	HDI
South Africa	471,444	52	Cape Town, Pretoria, and Bloemfontein	English, Afrikaans, Zulu, Xhosa, Swazi, Sotho, others	Parliamentary democracy; President Jacob Zuma	1910	87/86	\$10,300	Bahrain	266	100	Manama	Arabic, English, Farsi, Urdu	Monarchy; King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifah	1971	89/84	\$38,800
	49,900,000	0.9				31	54/57	0.683		1,300,000	1.3				20	73/77	0.895
Sudan	967,494	38	Khartoum	Arabic, Nubian, Ta Bedawie, English, others	Presidential-legislative (military-dominated); President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir	1956	72/51	\$2,300	Cyprus ⁹	3,571	62	Nicosia	Greek, Turkish, English	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President Dimitris Christofias	1960	99/96	\$21,000
	43,200,000	2.2				41	57/60	0.531		1,100,000	0.6				18	77/80	0.914
Swaziland	6,703	22	Mbabane and Lobamba	English, Siswati	Monarchy; King Mswati III	1968	83/81	\$4,400	Egypt ¹⁰	386,660	43	Cairo	Arabic, English, French	Dominant party; President Hosni Mubarak	1922	83/59	\$6,000
	1,200,000	1.5				40	46/45	0.572		80,400,000	2.1				33	69/75	0.703
Tanzania	364,900	25	Dar es Salaam	Kiswahili, English, Arabic, many others	Dominant party; President Jakaya Kikwete (pending October elections)	1964	78/62	\$1,400	Iran	630,575	69	Tehran	Farsi, Turkic, Kurdish, Luri, others	Presidential-parliamentary under religious control; President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad	1502	84/70	\$12,500
	45,000,000	3.0				45	55/56	0.530		75,100,000	1.3				28	70/73	0.782
Togo	21,927	40	Lomé	French, Ewe, Mina, Dagomba, Kabye	Dominant party; President Faure Gnassingbé	1960	75/47	\$900	Iraq	169,236	67	Baghdad	Arabic, Kurdish, Assyrian, Armenian	Transitional to parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki	1932	84/64	\$3,800
	6,800,000	2.5				41	60/63	0.499		31,500,000	2.6				41	64/72	NA
Tunisia	63,170	66	Tunis	Arabic, French	Dominant party; President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali	1956	83/65	\$8,200	Israel ¹¹	8,131	92	Jerusalem	Hebrew, Arabic, English	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu	1948	99/96	\$28,400
	10,500,000	1.2				24	72/76	0.769		7,600,000	1.6				28	79/83	0.935
Uganda	93,066	13	Kampala	English, Luganda, Swahili, others	Dominant party; President Yoweri Museveni	1962	77/58	\$1,200	Jordan	34,444	83	Amman	Arabic, English	Constitutional monarchy; King Abdullah II	1946	95/85	\$5,200
	33,800,000	3.4				49	52/53	0.514		6,500,000	2.6				37	72/74	0.770
Zambia	290,583	37	Lusaka	English, Bemba, Tonga, others	Presidential-legislative democracy (transitional); President Rupiah Banda	1964	87/75	\$1,600	Kuwait	6,880	98	Kuwait	Arabic, English	Monarchy; Emir Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah	1961	94/91	\$52,800
	13,300,000	2.5				46	41/42	0.481		3,100,000	2.0				23	76/80	0.916
Zimbabwe	150,873	37	Harare	English, Shona, Sindebele, others	Dominant party; President Robert Mugabe	1980	94/87	\$100	Lebanon	4,015	87	Beirut	Arabic, French, Armenian, English	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President Michel Suleiman	1943	93/82	\$13,200
	12,600,000	1.3				42	41/44	NA		4,300,000	1.5				25	70/74	0.803
Oman	82,031	72	Muscat	Arabic, English, Baluchi, Urdu, others	Monarchy; Sultan Qaboos bin Said al-Said	1650	87/74	\$25,000	Qatar	3,100,000	1.8	Doha	Arabic, English	Monarchy; Emir Hamid bin Khalifa al-Thani	1971	89/89	\$119,500
	3,100,000	1.8				29	70/74	0.846		4,247	100				15	75/77	0.910
Saudi Arabia	829,996	81	Riyadh	Arabic	Monarchy; King Abdallah bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud	1932	85/71	\$20,600	Syria	1,700,000	0.8	Damascus	Arabic, Kurdish, Armenian, French, others	Dominant party; President Bashar al-Assad	1946	86/74	\$4,600
	29,200,000	2.6				38	74/78	0.843		71,498	54				36	72/76	0.742
Turkey ¹²	299,158	76	Ankara	Turkish, Kurdish, Arabic	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan	1923	95/80	\$11,400	United Arab Emirates	22,500,000	2.5	Abu Dhabi	Arabic, Farsi, English, Hindi, Urdu	Federation of traditional monarchies; President Khalifa bin Zayid al-Nuhayyan	1971	76/82	\$38,900
	73,600,000	1.2				26	69/74	0.806		32,278	83				19	77/79	0.903
Yemen	203,849	29	Sanaa	Arabic	Dominant party; President Ali Abdullah Saleh	1990	71/30	\$2,500	Yemen	5,400,000	1.4	Sanaa	Arabic	Dominant party; President Ali Abdullah Saleh	45	62/64	0.575
	23,600,000	3.0				45	62/64	0.575									

Political Systems Around the World

Communist one-party state: Land and businesses are government-owned, and individual and political freedom is severely limited. (*Example: Cuba*) The definition has become muddled, since China and Vietnam are allowing an increasing amount of private enterprise.

Constitutional monarchy: A king or queen is head of state but has limited power. An elected Parliament (legislature) chooses the Prime Minister, who leads the government. (*United Kingdom*)

Dominant party: A system in which one political party rules. Other parties may exist but have relatively little power. (*Egypt*)

Military rule: The leader of a country's armed forces controls the government. (*Myanmar*)

Monarchy: A king, queen, or prince rules the government, usually for life and by hereditary right. (*Saudi Arabia*)

One-party dictatorship: A single party and its leader hold power. (*Eritrea*)

Parliamentary democracy: Voters elect the Parliament. A Prime Minister, usually leader of the party with the most seats in Parliament, heads the government. (*Canada*)

Presidential dictatorship: The President has almost complete power. (*Libya*)

Presidential-legislative democracy: An elected President leads the government, sharing power with a legislature and with the courts. (*Brazil*)

Presidential-parliamentary democracy: An elected President is chief executive. A Prime Minister leads the government. (*South Korea*)

Traditional chiefs: A body of tribal leaders plays a role in governing. (*Marshall Islands*)

Notes on Country Data

Head of government: The person most responsible for running the government. Many countries have both a head of government and a head of state. For example, Queen Elizabeth II is the head of state in the United Kingdom (U.K.), but Prime Minister David Cameron runs the government.

Literacy rate: Experts question some of the estimates provided. A single number means a gender breakdown is not available.

Per capita gross domestic product: This figure is given in U.S. dollars. The numbers are adjusted to account for differences in the cost of living from country to country.

NA: Figures not available.

The Middle East is a region, not a continent. It's mostly in Asia, but also includes a part of Africa (Egypt) and a corner of Europe (the small European section of Turkey). Egypt and Turkey are also included on the maps and tables for Africa and Europe, respectively. The vast majority of people in the Middle East are Muslim, although

Christians, Jews, and people of other faiths also live there. Mecca, in Saudi Arabia, is the spiritual center of Islam. Separated from eastern and South Asia by the mountains of Afghanistan, the Middle East is home to most of the world's oil production, which makes it a critical region strategically. It is also an area of great tension.

In recent years, the United States has fought two wars in Iraq. The U.S. and the United Nations are also struggling with Iran over its suspected nuclear weapons program. With U.S. help, negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians resumed in September, but a resolution to their long-running dispute remains elusive.

⁹DOES NOT INCLUDE SEPARATE TURKISH CYPRIOT-CONTROLLED AREA IN THE NORTH. ¹⁰EGYPT IS ALSO INCLUDED IN THE AFRICA TABLE.

¹¹FIGURES DO NOT INCLUDE ISRAELI-OCCUPIED PARTS OF THE WEST BANK. ¹²TURKEY IS ALSO INCLUDED IN THE EUROPE TABLE.