

The Republic of Sudan: Country profile

Facts and Figures

Geography

- Area total: 1,861,484 sq km
- Coastline: 853 km
- Boundaries /border countries (7): Central African Republic 174 km, Chad 1,403 km, Egypt 1,276 km, Eritrea 682 km, Ethiopia 744 km, Libya 382 km, South Sudan 2,158 km

The Nile is Sudan's primary water source; its major tributaries, the White Nile and the Blue Nile, meet at Khartoum to form the River Nile which flows northward through Egypt to the Mediterranean Sea

The Nation

- Population: Approximately 40 million
- Major Languages: Arabic (official), English (official), Nubian, Ta Bedawie, Fur
- Religion: Sunni Muslim, small Christian minority
- Etymology: the name Sudan derives from the Arabic "*bilad-as-sudan*" meaning "Land of the Black [peoples]"
- Administrative divisions:
- 18 states (wilayat, singular - wilayah); Blue Nile, Central Darfur, East Darfur, Gedaref, Gezira, Kassala, Khartoum, North Darfur, North Kordofan, Northern, Red Sea, River Nile, Sennar, South Darfur, South Kordofan, West Darfur, West Kordofan, White Nile
- Independence: 1 January 1956 from from Anglo-Egyptian co-rule

Economic Overview

- The world's largest exporter of gum arabic, Sudan produces 75-80 per cent of the world's total output.
- Agriculture: cotton, groundnuts (peanuts), hibiscus, sorghum, millet, wheat, gum arabic, sugarcane, grapefruit, mangoes, bananas, sweet potatoes, sesame seeds; animal feed, sheep and other livestock
- Industries: oil, cotton ginning, textiles, food production, edible oils, soap distilling, petroleum refining, pharmaceuticals, armaments, automobile/light truck assembly, milling
- Exports: gold; oil and petroleum products; cotton, sesame, livestock, peanuts, gum arabic, hibiscus

Source: *The CIA World Factbook*

The raising of the Sudanese flag at the Independence Ceremony in 1956



The Khalifa's House: The original cupula of the Mahdi's tomb with the new tomb in the background



Satellite image of Khatoum and the meeting of the two Niles



Source: NASA