

CENTRAL AFRICA REPUBLIC

HISTORY:

The history of the Central African Republic is roughly composed of four distinct periods. The earliest period of settlement began around 10,000 years ago when nomadic people first began to settle, farm and fish in the region. The next period began around 1,000 to 3,000 years ago when several non-indigenous groups began to migrate into the region from other parts of the continent. The third period involved the colonial conquest and rule of the country by France and Germany which spanned from the late 1800s until 1960 when the Central African Republic became an independent state. The final period has been the era during which the Central African Republic has been an independent state. Upon gaining its independence from France on August 13, 1960, the former French colony known as Ubangi-Shari became the Central African Republic. The Central African Republic covers approximately 240,535 square miles (622,984 kilometers) and borders Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo, and Sudan in the central part of Africa. Its capital is Bangui. Although French is the official language of the Central African Republic, Arabic and Swahili are also spoken. Its national literacy rate is 60 percent. During the 16th and 17th centuries Muslim slave traders began to raid the region and their captives were shipped to the Mediterranean coast, Europe, Arabia, the Western Hemisphere, or to the slave ports and factories along the West African coast. The Bobangi people became major slave traders and sold their captives to the Americas using the Ubangi river to reach the coast. During the 18th century Bandia-Nzakara peoples established the Bangassou Kingdom along the Ubangi river. Population migration in the 18th and 19th centuries brought new migrants into the area.

DEFENSE:

The Military ranks of Central African Republic are the military insignia used by the Central African Armed Forces. Being a former colony of France, Central African Republic shares a rank structure similar to that of France. Being a Landlocked country, the Central African Republic does not have a navy. Today they are among the world's weakest armed forces, dependent on international support to provide security in the country. In recent years the government has struggled to form a unified national army. It consists of the Ground Force (which includes the air service), the gendarmerie, and the National Police. Its disloyalty to the president came to the fore during the mutinies in 1996–1997, and since then has faced internal problems. It has been strongly criticised by human rights organisations due to terrorism, including killings, torture and sexual violence. In 2013 when militants of the Séléka rebel coalition seized power and overthrew President Bozizé they executed many FACA troops.

CULTURE:

There are more than 80 ethnic groups in the Central African Republic (CAR), each with its own language. About 50% are Baya-Mandjia, 40% Banda (largely located in the northern and central parts of the country), and 7% are M'Baka (southwestern corner of the CAR). Sangho, the language of a small group along the Oubangui River, is the national language spoken by the majority of Central Africans. Only a small part of the population has more than an elemental knowledge of French, the official language. More than 55% of the population of the CAR lives in rural areas. The chief agricultural areas are around the Bossangoa and Bambari. Bangui, Berberati,

Bangassou, and Bossangoa are the most densely populated urban centers, In Central Africa Republic 25% of the population is Protestant,25% is Roman Catholic, Islam makes the minority of 15 and 35% of the population have indigenous beliefs.

POLITICAL RESOURCES:

The politics of the Central African Republic formally take place in a framework of a semi-presidential republic. In this system, the President is the head of state, with a Prime Minister as head of government. Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and parliament. The Constitution of the Central African Republic was approved by referendum on December 15, 2015 and formally adopted on March 27, 2016. Since its independence in 1960, the Central African Republic has used many constitutions, showing a great political instability with coups. The constitutions used by the Central African Republic are: Constitution of November 26, 1964 (First Republic) ,Constitutional Act of January 8, 1966 ,Imperial Constitution of December 4, 1976 (Central African Empire),Constitutional Act of September 21, 1979 (Republic restored),Constitution of February 5, 1981 (Second Republic),Constitutional Act of September 1, 1981 ,Constitutional Act of 1985 ,Constitution of November 28, 1986 (Third Republic) ,Constitution of January 14, 1995 (Fourth Republic) ,Constitutional Act of March 15, 2003 Constitution of December 27, 2004 (Fifth Republic) ,Constitutional Charter of January 18, 2013 (transition) .

Economic freedom in the Central African Republic has declined over time. Considered moderately free in 2003, the country has been ranked more typically as mostly unfree or repressed in the years since then. GDP growth in the past five years, however, has been solid, helped by expanded exports of diamonds. The Central African Republic is one of the world's poorest countries. If political stability could be achieved, the government could prioritize improvements in business freedom and the rule of law.

NATURAL RESOURCES:

Agriculture employs four-fifths of the CAR's labor force and accounts for more than half of the total GDP (53 percent in 1999). The country's largest agricultural export, timber, is harvested by several foreign companies. Farmers also produce cotton, coffee, and tobacco for export. Subsistence farmers grow cassava, millet, corn, and bananas for their own consumption and for sale on domestic markets. Individual small-scale farmers using traditional agricultural methods produce these crops. Small amounts of palm oil and sugar are produced for the domestic market. CAR mainly trades with fellow CEMAC member states; most notably Cameroon. 60% of intra-Africa exports and 59% of intra-Africa imports are to and from other CEMAC countries (58% of exports are to Cameroon and 46% of imports are sourced from Cameroon). Accordingly, in terms of total trade (exports + imports) 48% of CAR's total intra-Africa trade is with Cameroon

ECONOMY:

The economy of the Central African Republic is one of the world's least developed,[13] with an estimated annual per capita income of just \$799 as measured by purchasing power parity in 2020, The currency of CAR is called Central Africa CFA franc (XAF),The country is Sparsely populated and landlocked, the nation is overwhelmingly agrarian. The vast bulk of the population engages in subsistence farming and 55% of the country's GDP arises from agriculture. Subsistence

agriculture, together with forestry, remains the backbone of the economy of the Central African Republic (CAR), with more than 70% of the population living in outlying areas. Principal food crops include cassava, peanuts, sorghum, millet, maize, sesame, and plantains. Principal cash crops for export include cotton, coffee, and tobacco. Timber has accounted for about 16% of export earnings and the diamond industry for nearly 54%. Violence has increased throughout the Central African Republic, particularly between Seleka factions in the central regions and between rebels and anti-balaka militias in the northwest. Civilians are caught in the middle, and sometimes targeted, despite UN peacekeepers' presence. The government struggles to maintain control of the capital, relying on peacekeepers for support. An estimated 461,000 people, mostly Muslims, are refugees in neighboring countries; 421,700 more are internally displaced. The new Special Criminal Court, a tribunal comprised of national and international staff and designed to promote accountability and stem the violence, requires financial and political support from the government and its international partners.

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