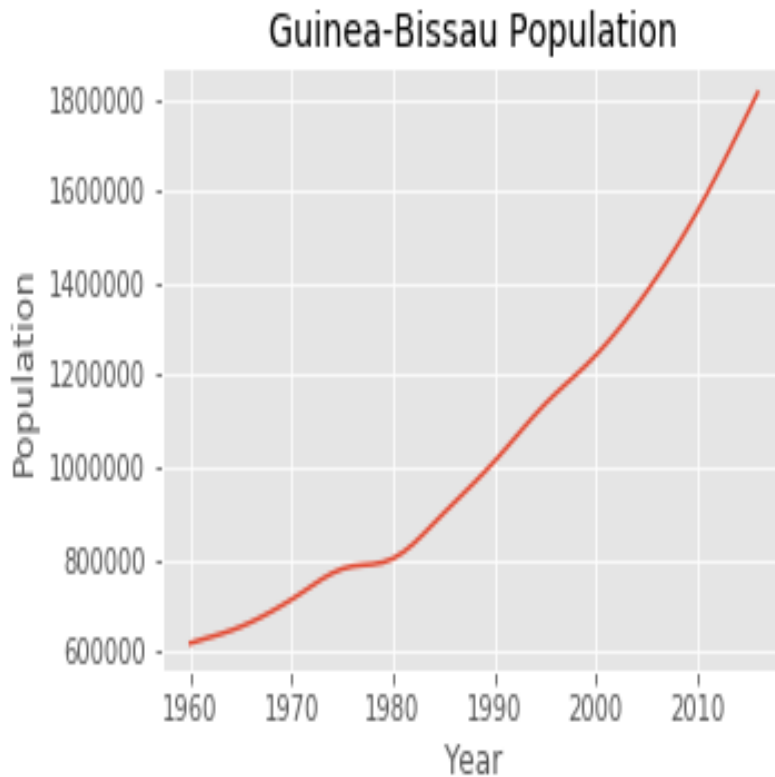


Guinea-Bissau



– in Africa (light blue & dark grey) – in the African Union (light blue) Guinea-Bissau (/ˌni bɪˈsɑː/ (listen)), officially the Republic of Guinea-Bissau (Portuguese: República da Guiné-Bissau [ʁɛˈpublikɐ dɐ ˈniˈnɐ biˈsaw]), is a country in West Africa. It covers 36,125 square kilometres (13,948 sq mi) with an estimated population of 1,815,698. Guinea-Bissau was once part of the kingdom of Gabu, as well as part of the Mali Empire. Parts of this kingdom persisted until the 18th century, while a few others were under some rule by the Portuguese Empire since the 16th century. In the 15th century, it was colonized as Portuguese Guinea. Upon independence, declared in 1973 and recognised in 1974, the name of its capital, Bissau, was added to the country's name to prevent confusion with Guinea (formerly French Guinea). Guinea-Bissau has a history of political instability since independence, and no elected president has successfully served a full five-year term.