

Federal Republic of Nigeria

"Giant of Africa"
(due to its large economy and population)

General Information

- location
 - in West Africa
 - borders Niger, Chad, Cameroon, and Benin
 - Gulf of Guinea (southern coast)
- organization
 - 36 states & the Federal Capital Territory
 - multiethnic state
 - 250 ethnic groups, the largest are
 - Hausa-Fulani (north)
 - Yoruba (west)
 - Igbo (east)
- cities
 - Lagos (largest city)
 - Abuja (capital)
- population
 - the most populous country in Africa
 - estimated population of 206 million
 - the seventh-most populous country in the world

Economy

- the largest in Africa
- the 26th largest in the world by nominal GDP
- considered to be an emerging market
- abundant supply of natural resources
 - wide array of underexploited mineral resources including natural gas, coal, gold, tin, iron ore, limestone, lead and zinc
- well-developed financial, legal, communications, transport sectors
 - stock exchange (the Nigerian Stock Exchange)
- as of 2010, about 30% of Nigerians are employed in agriculture
- the 12th largest producer of petroleum in the world and the 8th largest exporter
 - 159 oil fields and 1,481 wells in operation

Culture

- wide variety of cultures due to the country's history
- religiously diverse society
 - Islam (53.5%) and Christianity (45.9%) being the most widely professed religions
 - the largest Muslim population in sub-Saharan Africa
 - traditional African religions (0.6%)
- literature
 - many influential works of post-colonial literature
 - well-known authors
 - Wole Soyinka
 - Chinua Achebe
 - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- huge role in the development of various genres of African music, including West African highlife, Afrobeat and palm-wine music
- Nigerian film industry is known as Nollywood
 - now the 2nd largest producer of movies in the world after India's Bollywood
- many festivals in Nigeria

Challenges

- remains one of the most corrupt nations in the world
- poverty
 - as of May 4, 2020, 40% of Nigerians live in poverty
- crime
 - organised crime and in political violence
 - some major piracy in Nigeria
 - home to a substantial network of organised crime, active, especially in drug trafficking
- civil unrest, conflict and terrorism
 - since the end of the civil war in 1970, some ethnic violence has persisted
 - since 2002: sectarian violence by Boko Haram
 - 2011 - 2018: Boko Haram was responsible for more than 37,000 deaths in the region
 - movement seeking to abolish the secular system of government and establish Sharia law
 - the group's targets include both civilians and Nigerian security forces
 - the 2014 Chibok kidnapping of 276 schoolgirls
 - in the 2010 Jos riots, more than 500 people were killed by religious violence

Women's Rights

- forced marriages are common
- child marriages remain common, esp. in the north
- 39% of girls are married before age 15, although the *Marriage Rights Act* bans marriage of girls below 18 years of age
- polygamy
- submission of the wife to her husband and domestic violence are common
- female genital mutilation is common, even though there was a federal ban in 2015

History

- early history (before 1500), indigenous tribes
- pre-colonial era (1500 - 1800)
- first encounters with Europeans
 - trading of goods
 - beginnings of the Atlantic slave trade
- British colonization (19th / 20th century)
- Independence (1960)
- First to Fourth Republic
- Civil War (Biafra War)

Sports

- soccer
 - considered Nigeria's national sport
 - the country has its own Premier League of football
 - Nigeria's national football team, known as the "Super Eagles", has made the World Cup on six occasions

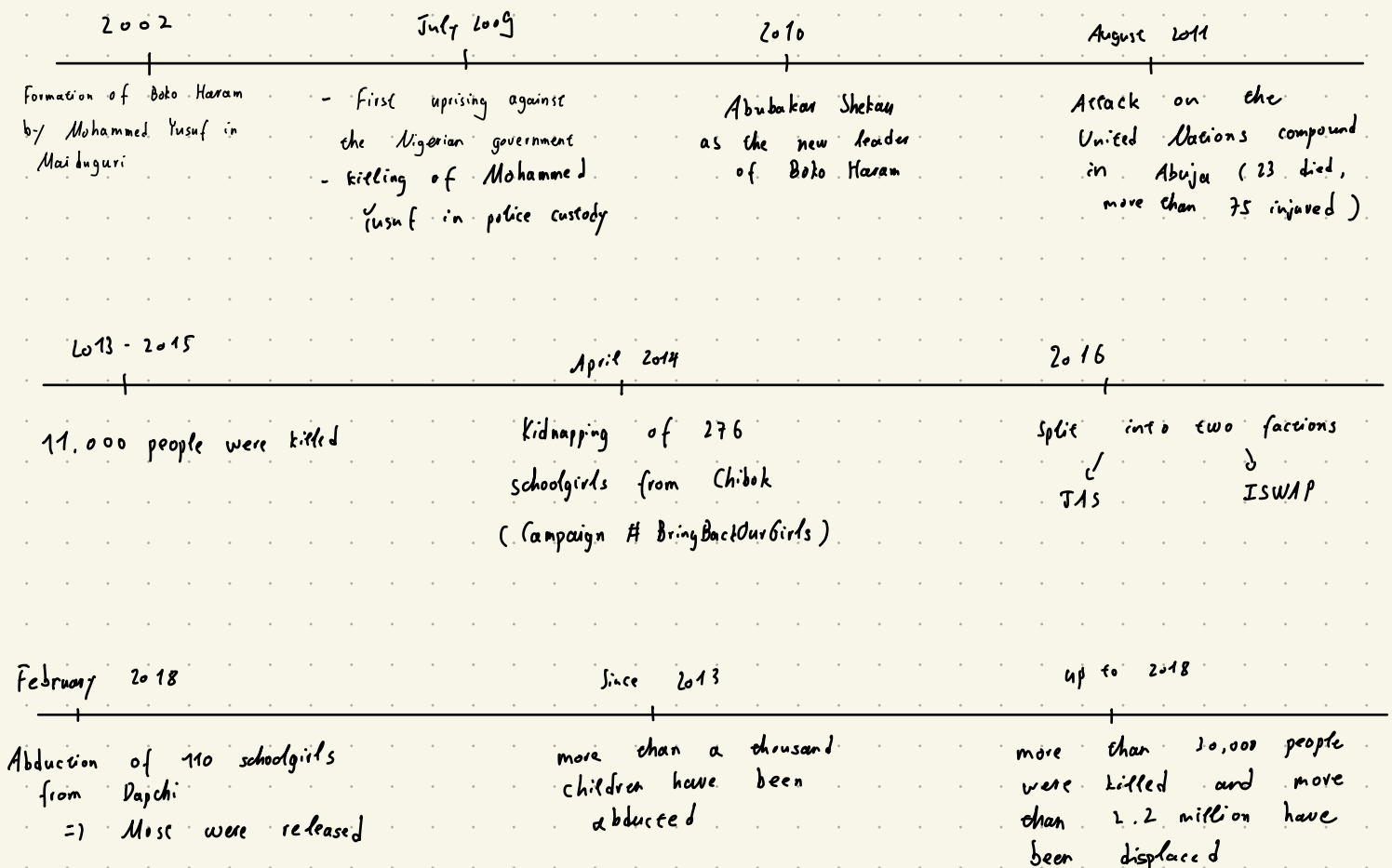
Boko Haram

- a terrorist group
- means "Western education is forbidden"

Mindset and Followers

- Boko Haram's hatred towards the West and the Nigerian government and subsequent attacks
- The desire to establish a theocratic Islamic state
- provision of social services → gain followers
→ appeal of the group's ideology
- use of ideology to recruit followers from different social classes, even the educated → brainwashing and manipulation
- use of kidnapping → forcing girls to marry fighters or become suicide bombers

Timeline:



The impact of Boko Haram on the Nigerian society

- Number of casualties and displaced individuals, resulting destabilization of Nigeria's North East region
- radicalization of people who fall for the ideology of Boko Haram
- unimaginable emotional personal suffering of those who affected by the attacks and the deprivation of livelihood (breadwinner is killed)
- Impact on education → targeting of schoolgirls
 - ↳ resulting fear among students and parents (perpetual cycle)
- exploitation of the precarious situation of the poor population through social welfare and their low educational standards
 - ↳ purpose of manipulating

Nigeria education

- 13,2 million out of school children
 - ↳ most of them in the northern state of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa
 - Factors :
 1. Boko Haram : wage a campaign against the western education
 - ↳ kidnapped 110 schoolgirls and returned them 1 month later and warned their parents to never send their children to school
 2. cultural beliefs and practices
 3. not enough spending on the education by the government
 - ↳ only 1% of 24 billion \$ budget is planed for education
- affects the economic growth

Examples of individuals

1. Falmata (13 years old)

- was abducted by Boko Haram
- had the choice to marry a fighter or go on the suicide mission (at least 454 suicide bombers, killed more than 1225 people)
 - ↳ strapped with bombs and sent into crowded places (mosques or markets)
- got brainwashed
 - ↳ you are doing this for Allah
- The people in the region are not willing to help the girls
 - ↳ they are afraid
 - everyone has already had experience with Boko Haram

2. Aisha

- one of the few women in the Nigerian army, who fight against Boko Haram on a daily basis
 - ↳ under a very hard condition (hot, around 35 to 40 °C)
- Her job:
 - free captives in the Sambisa forest in northeast Nigeria
 - liberate her community from the extremism
- plays a vital role in fighting against Boko Haram
 - ↳ bravery and determination turn her into a symbol of resistance against extremism
- Huge impact on her community
 - ↳ celebrates her as a courageous hero after a mission
 - ↳ becomes a part of the folklore in Northern Nigeria
- Her story stands as a testament to the resilience and determination of women
 - ↳ highlights the power of individuals to bring change and inspire hope

Police brutality

- The Lekki Toll Gate massacre (October 20, 2020)
 - ↳ a demonstration against police brutality
 - ↳ Nigerian military and police forces opened fires on the protestors
 - ↳ multiple casualties and injuries

Impact of SARS and police brutality on Nigerian society

- devastating impact on the lives of Nigerians, particularly young people, who are disproportionately affected by the violence
- significant challenges for members of the LGBTQ+ community (discrimination, harassment and violence → punished with death)

Strategies employed by Nigerian youths in the #EndSARS movement

- organizing massive protests, e.g. at the Lekki Toll Gate in Lagos, against the corrupt government and police brutality
- utilizing social media as a platform to raise awareness and attract global attention to their cause
- documenting evidence of police brutality and sharing them on social media to expose the atrocities
- mobilizing celebrities, e.g. Rema (artists)
Matthew Blaise
influential people
- fighting for rights for members of the LGBTQ+ community by organizing events and creating safe spaces for the community to gather and support each other

Effectiveness of the strategies

- effective in drawing global attention to the issue of police brutality in Nigeria and the need for police reform (# EndSARS)
- succeeded in putting pressure on the Nigerian government to disband the SARS police unit and initiate police reform
- life for members of the LGBTQ+ community has become safer