[Template:Other uses](/wiki/Template:Other_uses" \o "Template:Other uses) [Template:Distinguish](/wiki/Template:Distinguish) [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country) **Mali** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en); [Template:IPA-fr](/wiki/Template:IPA-fr)), officially the **Republic of Mali** ([Template:Lang-fr](/wiki/Template:Lang-fr)), is a [landlocked country](/wiki/Landlocked_country) in [West Africa](/wiki/West_African_Craton). Mali is the eighth-largest country in [Africa](/wiki/Africa), with an area of just over [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). The population of Mali is 14.5 million. Its capital is [Bamako](/wiki/Bamako). Mali consists of eight regions and its borders on the north reach deep into the middle of the [Sahara Desert](/wiki/Sahara_Desert), while the country's southern part, where the majority of inhabitants live, features the [Niger](/wiki/Niger_River) and [Senegal](/wiki/Senegal_River) rivers. The country's economy centers on agriculture and fishing. Some of Mali's prominent natural resources include gold, being the third largest producer of gold in the African continent,[[1]](#cite_note-1) and salt. About half the population lives below the [international poverty line](/wiki/International_poverty_line) of $1.25 (U.S.) a day.[[2]](#cite_note-2) A majority of the population (55%) are [non-denominational Muslims](/wiki/Non-denominational_Muslim).[[3]](#cite_note-3) Present-day Mali was once part of three West African empires that controlled [trans-Saharan trade](/wiki/Trans-Saharan_trade): the [Ghana Empire](/wiki/Ghana_Empire), the [Mali Empire](/wiki/Mali_Empire) (for which Mali is named), and the [Songhai Empire](/wiki/Songhai_Empire). During its golden age, there was a flourishing of mathematics, [astronomy](/wiki/Astronomy), literature, and art.[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[5]](#cite_note-5) At its peak in 1300, the Mali Empire covered an area about twice the size of modern-day France and stretched to the west coast of Africa.[[6]](#cite_note-6) In the late 19th century, during the [Scramble for Africa](/wiki/Scramble_for_Africa), France seized control of Mali, making it a part of [French Sudan](/wiki/French_Sudan). French Sudan (then known as the Sudanese Republic) joined with [Senegal](/wiki/Senegal) in 1959, achieving independence in 1960 as the [Mali Federation](/wiki/Mali_Federation). Shortly thereafter, following Senegal's withdrawal from the federation, the Sudanese Republic declared itself the independent Republic of Mali. After a long period of one-party rule, a coup in 1991 led to the writing of a new constitution and the establishment of Mali as a democratic, multi-party state.

In January 2012, an [armed conflict broke out in northern Mali](/wiki/Northern_Mali_conflict_(2012–present)), which [Tuareg rebels](/wiki/National_Movement_for_the_Liberation_of_Azawad) took control of by April and declared the [secession](/wiki/Secession) of a new state, [Azawad](/wiki/Azawad).[[7]](#cite_note-7) The conflict was complicated by a [military coup](/wiki/2012_Malian_coup_d'état) that took place in March[[8]](#cite_note-8) and later fighting between Tuareg and Islamist rebels. In response to Islamist territorial gains, the French military launched [Opération Serval](/wiki/Opération_Serval) in January 2013.[[9]](#cite_note-9) A month later, Malian and French forces recaptured most of the north. [Presidential elections](/wiki/Malian_presidential_election,_2013) were held on 28 July 2013, with a second round run-off held on 11 August, and [legislative elections](/wiki/Malian_parliamentary_election,_2013) were held on 24 November and 15 December 2013.

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## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[The extent of the](/wiki/File:MALI_empire_map.PNG) [Mali Empire's](/wiki/Mali_Empire) peak|thumb|left [The pages above are from](/wiki/File:Timbuktu-manuscripts-astronomy-mathematics.jpg) [Timbuktu Manuscripts](/wiki/Timbuktu_Manuscripts) written in Sudani script (a form of [Arabic](/wiki/Arabic)) from the [Mali Empire](/wiki/Mali_Empire) showing established knowledge of astronomy and mathematics. Today there are close to a million of these manuscripts found in [Timbuktu](/wiki/Timbuktu) alone.|thumb|left [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:GriotsSambala.jpg)[Griots](/wiki/Griot) of [Sambala](/wiki/Sambala), king of Médina ([Fula people](/wiki/Fula_people), Mali), 1890.

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Mali was once part of three famed West African empires which controlled [trans-Saharan trade](/wiki/Trans-Saharan_trade) in gold, salt, [slaves](/wiki/Slaves), and other precious commodities.<ref name=p1>[Mali country profile](/wiki/#Prof), p. 1.</ref> These [Sahelian kingdoms](/wiki/Sahelian_kingdom) had neither rigid geopolitical boundaries nor rigid ethnic identities.<ref name=p1/> The earliest of these empires was the [Ghana Empire](/wiki/Ghana_Empire), which was dominated by the [Soninke](/wiki/Soninke_people), a [Mande](/wiki/Mande_languages)-speaking people.<ref name=p1/> The empire expanded throughout West Africa from the 8th century until 1078, when it was conquered by the [Almoravids](/wiki/Almoravids).<ref name=p2>[Mali country profile](/wiki/#Prof). Mali was later responsible for the collapse of Islamic Slave Army from the North. The defeat of Tukuror Slave Army, was repeated by Mali against the France and Spanish Expeditionary Army in the 1800s ("Blanc et memoires"). . p. 2.</ref>

The [Mali Empire](/wiki/Mali_Empire) later formed on the upper [Niger River](/wiki/Niger_River), and reached the height of power in the 14th century.<ref name=p2/> Under the Mali Empire, the ancient cities of [Djenné](/wiki/Djenné) and [Timbuktu](/wiki/Timbuktu) were centers of both trade and Islamic learning.<ref name=p2/> The empire later declined as a result of internal intrigue, ultimately being supplanted by the [Songhai Empire](/wiki/Songhai_Empire).<ref name=p2/> The Songhai people originated in current northwestern [Nigeria](/wiki/Nigeria). The Songhai had long been a major power in West Africa subject to the Mali Empire's rule.<ref name=p2/>

In the late 14th century, the Songhai gradually gained independence from the Mali Empire and expanded, ultimately subsuming the entire eastern portion of the Mali Empire.<ref name=p2/> The Songhai Empire's eventual collapse was largely the result of a [Moroccan](/wiki/Saadi_dynasty) invasion in 1591, under the command of [Judar Pasha](/wiki/Judar_Pasha).<ref name=p2/> The fall of the Songhai Empire marked the end of the region's role as a trading crossroads.<ref name=p2/> Following the [establishment of sea routes by the European powers](/wiki/European_exploration_of_Africa), the trans-Saharan trade routes lost significance.<ref name=p2/>

One of the worst [famines](/wiki/Famine) in the region's recorded history occurred in the 18th century. According to [John Iliffe](/wiki/John_Iliffe_(historian)), "The worst crises were in the 1680s, when famine extended from the Senegambian coast to the Upper Nile and 'many sold themselves for slaves, only to get a sustenance', and especially in 1738–56, when West Africa's greatest recorded subsistence crisis, due to drought and locusts, reportedly killed half the population of [Timbuktu](/wiki/Timbuktu)."[[10]](#cite_note-10)

### French colonial rule[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[thumb|Cotton being processed in](/wiki/File:Africa._French_West_Africa._Currently_the_most_important_efforts_of_the_Office_du_Niger_are_directed_toward_the..._-_NARA_-_541637.tif) [Niono](/wiki/Niono) into [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) bales for export to other parts of Africa and to France, [Template:Circa](/wiki/Template:Circa). Mali fell under the control of France during the late 19th century.<ref name=p2/> By 1905, most of the area was under firm French control as a part of [French Sudan](/wiki/French_Sudan).<ref name=p2/> In early 1959, French Sudan (which changed its name to the Sudanese Republic) and [Senegal](/wiki/Senegal) united to become the [Mali Federation](/wiki/Mali_Federation). The Mali Federation gained independence from France on 20 June 1960.<ref name=p2/>

Senegal withdrew from the federation in August 1960, which allowed the Sudanese Republic to become the independent Republic of Mali on 22 September 1960. [Modibo Keïta](/wiki/Modibo_Keïta) was elected the first president.<ref name=p2/> Keïta quickly established a one-party state, adopted an independent African and socialist orientation with close ties to the East, and implemented extensive nationalization of economic resources.<ref name=p2/> In 1960, the population of Mali was reported to be about 4.1 million.[[11]](#cite_note-11)

### Moussa Traoré[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

On 19 November 1968, following progressive economic decline, the Keïta regime was overthrown in a bloodless military coup led by [Moussa Traoré](/wiki/Moussa_Traoré),<ref name=p3>[Mali country profile](/wiki/#Prof), p. 3.</ref> a day which is now commemorated as [Liberation Day](/wiki/Liberation_Day). The subsequent military-led regime, with Traoré as president, attempted to reform the economy. His efforts were frustrated by political turmoil and a devastating [drought](/wiki/Sahel_drought) between 1968 and 1974,<ref name=p3/> in which famine killed thousands of people.[[12]](#cite_note-12) The Traoré regime faced student unrest beginning in the late 1970s and three coup attempts. The Traoré regime repressed all dissenters until the late 1980s.<ref name=p3/>

The government continued to attempt economic reforms, and the populace became increasingly dissatisfied.<ref name=p3/> In response to growing demands for multi-party democracy, the Traoré regime allowed some limited political liberalization. They refused to usher in a full-fledged democratic system.<ref name=p3/> In 1990, cohesive opposition movements began to emerge, and was complicated by the turbulent rise of ethnic violence in the north following the return of many [Tuaregs](/wiki/Tuareg_people) to Mali.<ref name=p3/> [thumb|WWI Commemorative Monument to the "Armée Noire"](/wiki/File:Place_de_la_liberté_-_Bamako.jpg)

Anti-government protests in 1991 led to a coup, a transitional government, and a [new constitution](/wiki/Constitution_of_Mali).<ref name=p3/> Opposition to the corrupt and dictatorial regime of General Moussa Traoré grew during the 1980s. During this time strict programs, imposed to satisfy demands of the International Monetary Fund, brought increased hardship upon the country's population, while elites close to the government supposedly lived in growing wealth. Peaceful student protests in January 1991 were brutally suppressed, with mass arrests and torture of leaders and participants.[[13]](#cite_note-13) Scattered acts of rioting and vandalism of public buildings followed, but most actions by the dissidents remained nonviolent.[[13]](#cite_note-13)

#### March Revolution[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

From 22 March through 26 March 1991, mass pro-democracy rallies and a nationwide strike was held in both urban and rural communities, which became known as les evenements ("the events") or the March Revolution. In Bamako, in response to mass demonstrations organized by university students and later joined by trade unionists and others, soldiers opened fire indiscriminately on the nonviolent demonstrators. Riots broke out briefly following the shootings. Barricades as well as roadblocks were erected and Traoré declared a state of emergency and imposed a nightly curfew. Despite an estimated loss of 300 lives over the course of four days, nonviolent protesters continued to return to Bamako each day demanding the resignation of the dictatorial president and the implementation of democratic policies.[[14]](#cite_note-14) 26 March 1991 is the day that marks the clash between military soldiers and peaceful demonstrating students which climaxed in the massacre of dozens under the orders of then President Moussa Traoré. He and three associates were later tried and convicted and received the death sentence for their part in the decision-making of that day. Nowadays, the day is a national holiday in order to remember the tragic events and the people that were killed.[[15]](#cite_note-15)[Template:Unreliable source?](/wiki/Template:Unreliable_source?) The coup is remembered as Mali's March Revolution of 1991.

By 26 March, the growing refusal of soldiers to fire into the largely nonviolent protesting crowds turned into a full-scale tumult, and resulted in thousands of soldiers putting down their arms and joining the pro-democracy movement. That afternoon, Lieutenant Colonel [Amadou Toumani Touré](/wiki/Amadou_Toumani_Touré) announced on the radio that he had arrested the dictatorial president, Moussa Traoré. As a consequence, opposition parties were legalized and a national congress of civil and political groups met to draft a new democratic constitution to be approved by a national referendum.[[14]](#cite_note-14)

### Amadou Toumani Touré presidency[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

In 1992, [Alpha Oumar Konaré](/wiki/Alpha_Oumar_Konaré) won Mali's first democratic, multi-party presidential election, before being re-elected for a second term in 1997, which was the last allowed under the constitution. In 2002 [Amadou Toumani Touré](/wiki/Amadou_Toumani_Touré), a retired general who had been the leader of the military aspect of the 1991 democratic uprising, was elected.<ref name=p4>[Mali country profile](/wiki/#Prof), p. 4.</ref> During this democratic period Mali was regarded as one of the most politically and socially stable countries in Africa.[[16]](#cite_note-16) [Slavery](/wiki/Slavery_in_modern_Africa) persists in Mali today with as many as 200,000 people held in direct servitude to a master.<ref name=slaves/> In the [Tuareg Rebellion of 2012](/wiki/Tuareg_Rebellion_(2012)), ex-slaves were a vulnerable population with reports of some slaves being recaptured by their former masters.[[17]](#cite_note-17)

### Northern Mali conflict[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) In January 2012 [a Tuareg rebellion](/wiki/Tuareg_rebellion_(2012)) began in Northern Mali, led by the [National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad](/wiki/National_Movement_for_the_Liberation_of_Azawad).[[18]](#cite_note-18) In March, military officer [Amadou Sanogo](/wiki/Amadou_Sanogo) seized power in [a coup d'état](/wiki/2012_Malian_coup_d'état), citing Touré's failures in quelling the rebellion, and leading to sanctions and an embargo by the [Economic Community of West African States](/wiki/Economic_Community_of_West_African_States).[[19]](#cite_note-19) The MNLA quickly took control of the north, declaring independence as [Azawad](/wiki/Azawad).[[20]](#cite_note-20) However, Islamist groups including [Ansar Dine](/wiki/Ansar_Dine) and [Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM)](/wiki/Al-Qaeda_in_the_Islamic_Maghreb), who had helped the MNLA defeat the government, turned on the Tuareg and took control of the North[[21]](#cite_note-21) with the goal of implementing [sharia](/wiki/Sharia) in Mali.[[22]](#cite_note-22) On 11 January 2013, the [French Armed Forces](/wiki/French_Armed_Forces) [intervened](/wiki/Operation_Serval) at the request of the interim government. On 30 January, the coordinated advance of the French and Malian troops claimed to have retaken the last remaining Islamist stronghold of Kidal, which was also the last of three northern provincial capitals.[[23]](#cite_note-23) On 2 February, the French President, [François Hollande](/wiki/François_Hollande), joined Mali's interim President, [Dioncounda Traoré](/wiki/Dioncounda_Traoré), in a public appearance in recently recaptured Timbuktu.[[24]](#cite_note-24)

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Satellite image of Mali|thumb](/wiki/File:Mali_sat.png) [thumb|Mali map of Köppen climate classification.](/wiki/File:Mali_map_of_Köppen_climate_classification.svg) [left|Landscape in](/wiki/File:Hand_der_Fatima.jpg) [Hombori](/wiki/Hombori)|thumb [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Mali is a landlocked country in West Africa, located southwest of [Algeria](/wiki/Algeria). It lies between latitudes [10°](/wiki/10th_parallel_north) and [25°N](/wiki/25th_parallel_north), and longitudes [13°W](/wiki/13th_meridian_west) and [5°E](/wiki/5th_meridian_east). Mali is bordered by [Algeria](/wiki/Algeria) to the north, [Niger](/wiki/Niger) to the east, [Burkina Faso](/wiki/Burkina_Faso) and Côte d'Ivoire to the south, [Guinea](/wiki/Guinea) to the south-west, and [Senegal](/wiki/Senegal) and [Mauritania](/wiki/Mauritania) to the west.

At [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), including the disputed region of [Azawad](/wiki/Azawad), Mali is the world's [24th-largest country](/wiki/List_of_countries_and_outlying_territories_by_total_area) and is comparable in size to South Africa or [Angola](/wiki/Angola). Most of the country lies in the southern [Sahara Desert](/wiki/Sahara_Desert), which produces an extremely hot, dust-laden [Sudanian savanna](/wiki/Sudan_(region)) zone.<ref name=geography>[Mali country profile](/wiki/#Prof), p. 5.</ref> Mali is mostly flat, rising to rolling northern plains covered by [sand](/wiki/Sand). The [Adrar des Ifoghas](/wiki/Adrar_des_Ifoghas) massif lies in the northeast.

Mali lies in the [torrid zone](/wiki/Geographical_zone#Torrid_Zone) and is among the hottest countries in the world. The [thermal equator](/wiki/Thermal_equator), which matches the hottest spots year-round on the planet based on the mean daily annual temperature, crosses the country.<ref name=geography/> Most of Mali receives negligible rainfall and droughts are very frequent.<ref name=geography/> Late June to early December is the rainy season in the southernmost area. During this time, flooding of the Niger River is common, creating the [Inner Niger Delta](/wiki/Inner_Niger_Delta).<ref name=geography/> The vast northern desert part of Mali has a [hot desert climate](/wiki/Hot_desert_climate) ([Köppen climate classification](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification) (*BWh*) with long, extremely hot summers and scarce rainfall which decreases northwards. The central area has a [hot semi-arid climate](/wiki/Hot_semi-arid_climate) ([Köppen climate classification](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification) (*BSh*) with very high temperatures year-round, a long, intense dry season and a brief, irregular rainy season. The little southern band possesses a [tropical wet and dry climate](/wiki/Tropical_wet_and_dry_climate) ([Köppen climate classification](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification) (*Aw*) very high temperatures year-round with a dry season and a rainy season.

Mali has considerable natural resources, with gold, uranium, [phosphates](/wiki/Phosphates), [kaolinite](/wiki/Kaolinite), salt and [limestone](/wiki/Limestone) being most widely exploited. Mali is estimated to have in excess of 17,400 tonnes of uranium (measured + indicated + inferred).[[25]](#cite_note-25)[[26]](#cite_note-26) In 2012, a further uranium mineralized north zone was identified.[[27]](#cite_note-27) Mali faces numerous environmental challenges, including [desertification](/wiki/Desertification), [deforestation](/wiki/Deforestation), [soil erosion](/wiki/Soil_erosion), and inadequate [supplies](/wiki/Water_supply) of [potable water](/wiki/Potable_water).<ref name=geography/> [Template:Clear right](/wiki/Template:Clear_right)

### Regions and cercles[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Regions of Mali Image Map](/wiki/Template:Regions_of_Mali_Image_Map) Mali is divided into eight regions (*régions*) and one district.[[28]](#cite_note-28) Each region has a governor.<ref name=pictures>[DiPiazza](/wiki/#DiPiazza), p. 37.</ref> Since Mali's regions are very large, the country is subdivided into 49 [*cercle*s](/wiki/Cercle_(Mali)) and 703 [*communes*](/wiki/Communes_of_Mali).[[29]](#cite_note-29) The [*régions*](/wiki/Regions_of_Mali) and Capital District are:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **| Area (km2)** |  | Population Census 2009 |
| [Kayes](/wiki/Kayes_Region) | 119,743 | 1,374,316 | 1,996,812 |
| [Koulikoro](/wiki/Koulikoro_Region) | 95,848 | 1,570,507 | 2,418,305 |
| [Bamako Capital District](/wiki/Bamako_Capital_District) | 252 | 1,016,296 | 1,809,106 |
| [Sikasso](/wiki/Sikasso_Region) | 70,280 | 1,782,157 | 2,625,919 |
| [Ségou](/wiki/Ségou_Region) | 64,821 | 1,675,357 | 2,336,255 |
| [Mopti](/wiki/Mopti_Region) | 79,017 | 1,484,601 | 2,037,330 |
| [Tombouctou (Timbuktu)](/wiki/Tombouctou_Region) | 496,611 | 442,619 | 681,691 |
| [Gao](/wiki/Gao_Region) | 170,572 | 341,542 | 544,120 |
| [Kidal](/wiki/Kidal_Region) | 151,430 | 38,774 | 67,638 |

### Extent of central government control[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

In March 2012, the Malian government lost control over Tombouctou, Gao and Kidal Regions and the north-eastern portion of Mopti Region. On 6 April 2012, the [National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad](/wiki/National_Movement_for_the_Liberation_of_Azawad) unilaterally declared their secession from Mali as [Azawad](/wiki/Azawad), an act that neither Mali nor the international community [recognised](/wiki/Diplomatic_recognition).[[30]](#cite_note-30) The government later regained control over these areas.

## Politics and government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|Ex Malian Transition President](/wiki/File:Dioncounda_Traore_photo_officielle_de_campagne_3_Mali_2012.jpg) [Dioncounda Traoré](/wiki/Dioncounda_Traoré)

Until the military coup of 22 March 2012[[8]](#cite_note-8)[[31]](#cite_note-31) and a second military coup in December 2012,[[32]](#cite_note-32) Mali was a [constitutional democracy](/wiki/Constitutional_democracy) governed by the Constitution of 12 January 1992, which was amended in 1999.<ref name=p14/> The constitution provides for a separation of powers among the executive, [legislative](/wiki/Legislative), and [judicial](/wiki/Judicial) branches of government.<ref name=p14>[Mali country profile](/wiki/#Prof), p. 14.</ref> The system of government can be described as "semi-presidential".<ref name=p14/> Executive power is vested in a president, who is elected to a five-year term by [universal suffrage](/wiki/Universal_suffrage) and is limited to two terms.<ref name=p14/>[[33]](#cite_note-33) The president serves as a [chief of state](/wiki/Chief_of_state) and [commander in chief](/wiki/Commander_in_chief) of the armed forces.<ref name=p14/>[[34]](#cite_note-34) A prime minister appointed by the president serves as head of government and in turn appoints the Council of Ministers.<ref name=p14/>[[35]](#cite_note-35) The unicameral National Assembly is Mali's sole legislative body, consisting of deputies elected to five-year terms.<ref name=p15>[Mali country profile](/wiki/#Prof), p. 15.</ref>[[36]](#cite_note-36) Following the 2007 elections, the [Alliance for Democracy and Progress](/wiki/Alliance_for_Democracy_and_Progress_(Mali)) held 113 of 160 seats in the assembly.[[37]](#cite_note-37) The assembly holds two regular sessions each year, during which it debates and votes on legislation that has been submitted by a member or by the government.<ref name=p15/>[[38]](#cite_note-38) Mali's constitution provides for an independent judiciary,<ref name=p15/>[[39]](#cite_note-39) but the executive continues to exercise influence over the judiciary by virtue of power to appoint judges and oversee both judicial functions and law enforcement.<ref name=p15/> Mali's highest courts are the Supreme Court, which has both judicial and administrative powers, and a separate Constitutional Court that provides judicial review of legislative acts and serves as an election arbiter.<ref name=p15/>[[40]](#cite_note-40) Various lower courts exist, though village chiefs and elders resolve most local disputes in rural areas.<ref name=p15/>

### Foreign relations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Former President of Mali](/wiki/File:Rutte_and_Touré.jpg) [Amadou Toumani Touré](/wiki/Amadou_Toumani_Touré) and Minister-president of the Netherlands [Mark Rutte](/wiki/Mark_Rutte)|thumb Mali's foreign policy orientation has become increasingly pragmatic and pro-Western over time.<ref name=p17>[Mali country profile](/wiki/#Prof), p. 17.</ref> Since the institution of a democratic form of government in 2002, Mali's relations with the West in general and [with the United States](/wiki/Mali-United_States_relations) in particular have improved significantly.<ref name=p17/> Mali has a longstanding yet ambivalent relationship with France, a [former colonial ruler](/wiki/French_Sudan).<ref name=p17/> Mali was active in regional organizations such as the [African Union](/wiki/African_Union) until its suspension over the [2012 Malian coup d'état](/wiki/2012_Malian_coup_d'état).<ref name=p17/>[[41]](#cite_note-41) Working to control and resolve regional conflicts, such as in [Ivory Coast](/wiki/Ivory_Coast), [Liberia](/wiki/Liberia), and [Sierra Leone](/wiki/Sierra_Leone), is one of Mali's major foreign policy goals.<ref name=p17/> Mali feels threatened by the potential for the spillover of conflicts in neighboring states, and relations with those neighbors are often uneasy.<ref name=p17/> General insecurity along borders in the north, including cross-border [banditry](/wiki/Banditry) and terrorism, remain troubling issues in regional relations.<ref name=p17/>

### Military[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

[Mali's military forces](/wiki/Military_of_Mali) consist of an army, which includes land forces and air force,<ref name=factbook/> as well as the paramilitary Gendarmerie and Republican Guard, all of which are under the control of Mali's Ministry of Defense and Veterans, [headed by a civilian](/wiki/Civilian_control_of_the_military).<ref name=ns>[Mali country profile](/wiki/#Prof), p. 18.</ref> The military is underpaid, poorly equipped, and in need of rationalization.<ref name=ns/>

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|A market scene in](/wiki/File:Djenne_market.jpg) [Djenné](/wiki/Djenné). [thumb|](/wiki/File:Kalabougou_potters_(6392346).jpg)[Kalabougou](/wiki/Kalabougou) potters. [thumb|Cotton processing at CMDT.](/wiki/File:Usine_de_coton_CMDT.png)

The [Central Bank of West African States](/wiki/Central_Bank_of_West_African_States) handles the financial affairs of Mali and additional members of the [Economic Community of West African States](/wiki/Economic_Community_of_West_African_States). Mali is one of the poorest countries in the world.<ref name=factbook>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The average worker's annual salary is approximately US$1,500.<ref name=state/>

Mali underwent economic reform, beginning in 1988 by signing agreements with the [World Bank](/wiki/World_Bank) and the [International Monetary Fund](/wiki/International_Monetary_Fund).[[42]](#cite_note-42) During 1988 to 1996, Mali's government largely reformed public enterprises. Since the agreement, sixteen enterprises were privatized, 12 partially privatized, and 20 liquidated.[[42]](#cite_note-42) In 2005, the Malian government conceded a railroad company to the Savage Corporation.[[42]](#cite_note-42) Two major companies, Societé de Telecommunications du Mali ([SOTELMA](/wiki/SOTELMA)) and the Cotton Ginning Company ([CMDT](/wiki/Compagnie_malienne_pour_le_développement_du_textile)), were expected to be privatized in 2008.[[42]](#cite_note-42) Between 1992 and 1995, Mali implemented an economic adjustment programme that resulted in economic growth and a reduction in financial imbalances. The programme increased social and economic conditions, and led to Mali joining the [World Trade Organization](/wiki/World_Trade_Organization) on 31 May 1995.[[43]](#cite_note-43) Mali is also a member of the [Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa](/wiki/Organization_for_the_Harmonization_of_Business_Law_in_Africa) ([OHADA](/wiki/OHADA)).[[44]](#cite_note-44) The gross domestic product (GDP) has risen since. In 2002, the GDP amounted to US$3.4 billion,<ref name=p9>[Mali country profile](/wiki/#Prof), p. 9.</ref> and increased to US$5.8 billion in 2005,[[42]](#cite_note-42) which amounts to an approximately 17.6 percent annual growth rate.

Mali is a part of "French Zone" (*Zone Franc*), which means that it uses [CFA franc](/wiki/CFA_franc). Mali is connected with the French government by agreement since 1962 (creation of [BCEAO](/wiki/BCEAO)). Today all seven countries of BCEAO (including Mali) are connected to French Central Bank.[[45]](#cite_note-45)

### Agriculture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

Mali's key industry is agriculture. Cotton is the country's largest crop export and is exported west throughout Senegal and Ivory Coast.<ref name=Goldenhope>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref><ref name=marshall>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> During 2002, 620,000 tons of cotton were produced in Mali but cotton prices declined significantly in 2003.<ref name=Goldenhope/><ref name=marshall/> In addition to cotton, Mali produces rice, [millet](/wiki/Millet), [corn](/wiki/Maize), vegetables, tobacco, and tree crops. Gold, livestock and agriculture amount to 80% of Mali's exports.[[42]](#cite_note-42) Eighty percent of Malian workers are employed in agriculture. 15 percent of Malian workers are employed in the service sector.<ref name=marshall/> Seasonal variations lead to regular [temporary unemployment](/wiki/Temporary_employment) of agricultural workers.[[46]](#cite_note-46)

### Mining[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

In 1991, with the assistance of the [International Development Association](/wiki/International_Development_Association), Mali relaxed the enforcement of mining codes which led to renewed foreign interest and investment in the mining industry.[[47]](#cite_note-47) Gold is mined in the southern region and Mali has the third highest gold production in Africa (after South Africa and [Ghana](/wiki/Ghana)).<ref name=Goldenhope/>

The emergence of gold as Mali's leading export product since 1999 has helped mitigate some of the negative impact of the cotton and Ivory Coast crises.[[48]](#cite_note-48) Other natural resources include [kaolin](/wiki/Kaolin), salt, [phosphate](/wiki/Phosphate), and [limestone](/wiki/Limestone).[[42]](#cite_note-42)

### Energy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) Electricity and water are maintained by the Energie du Mali, or EDM, and textiles are generated by Industry Textile du Mali, or ITEMA.[[42]](#cite_note-42) Mali has made efficient use of [hydroelectricity](/wiki/Hydroelectricity), consisting of over half of Mali's electrical power. In 2002, 700 [GWh](/wiki/KWh#Multiples) of hydroelectric power were produced in Mali.<ref name=marshall/>

Energie du Mali is an electric company that provides electricity to Mali citizens. Only 55% of the population in cities have access to EDM.[[49]](#cite_note-49)

### Transport infrastructure[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) In Mali, there is a railway that connects to bordering countries. There are also approximately 29 airports of which 8 have paved runways. Urban areas are known for their large quantity of green and white [taxicabs](/wiki/Taxicab). A significant sum of the population is dependent on [public transportation](/wiki/Public_transportation).

## Society[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

### Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[thumb|upright|A](/wiki/File:Mali_-_Bozo_girl_in_Bamako.jpg) [Bozo](/wiki/Bozo_people) girl in Bamako [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

In July 2009, Mali's population was an estimated 14.5 million. The population is predominantly rural (68 percent in 2002), and 5–10 percent of Malians are [nomadic](/wiki/Nomadic).<ref name=p6>[Mali country profile](/wiki/#Prof), p. 6.</ref> More than 90 percent of the population lives in the southern part of the country, especially in [Bamako](/wiki/Bamako), which has over 1 million residents.<ref name=p6/>

In 2007, about 48 percent of Malians were younger than 12 years old, 49 percent were 15–64 years old, and 3 percent were 65 and older.<ref name=factbook/> The median age was 15.9 years.<ref name=factbook/> The [birth rate](/wiki/Birth_rate) in 2014 is 45.53 births per 1,000, and the [total fertility rate](/wiki/Total_fertility_rate) (in 2012) was 6.4 children per woman.<ref name=factbook/>[[50]](#cite_note-50) The [death rate](/wiki/Death_rate) in 2007 was 16.5 deaths per 1,000.<ref name=factbook/> [Life expectancy](/wiki/Life_expectancy) at birth was 53.06 years total (51.43 for males and 54.73 for females).<ref name=factbook/> Mali has one of the [world's highest rates](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_infant_mortality_rate) of [infant mortality](/wiki/Infant_mortality),<ref name=p6/> with 106 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2007.<ref name=factbook/>

[Template:Largest cities of Mali](/wiki/Template:Largest_cities_of_Mali)

### Ethnicity[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[thumb|left|The](/wiki/File:Mali1974-151_hg.jpg) [Tuareg](/wiki/Tuareg) are historic, nomadic inhabitants of northern Mali.

Mali's population encompasses a number of [sub-Saharan](/wiki/Sub-Saharan) ethnic groups. The [Bambara](/wiki/Bambara_people) ([Template:Lang-bm](/wiki/Template:Lang-bm)) are by far the largest single ethnic group, making up 36.5 percent of the population.<ref name=p6/>

Collectively, the Bambara, [Soninké](/wiki/Soninke_people), [Khassonké](/wiki/Khassonké), and [Malinké](/wiki/Mandinka_people) (also called [Mandinka](/wiki/Mandinka_language)), all part of the broader [Mandé](/wiki/Mandé) group, constitute 50 percent of Mali's population.<ref name=factbook/> Other significant groups are the [Fula](/wiki/Fula_people) ([Template:Lang-fr](/wiki/Template:Lang-fr); [Template:Lang-ff](/wiki/Template:Lang-ff)) (17 percent), [Voltaic](/wiki/Gur_languages) (12 percent), [Songhai](/wiki/Songhai_people) (6 percent), and [Tuareg](/wiki/Tuareg_people) and [Moor](/wiki/Moors) (10 percent).<ref name=factbook/>

In the far north, there is a division between [Berber](/wiki/Berber_people)-descendent [Tuareg](/wiki/Tuareg) nomad populations and the darker-skinned Bella or [Tamasheq](/wiki/Tamasheq) people, due to the historical spread of [slavery](/wiki/Slavery_in_Mali) in the region. An estimated 800,000 people in Mali are descended from [slaves](/wiki/Slavery).<ref name=slaves>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> Slavery in Mali has persisted for centuries.[[51]](#cite_note-51)The Arabic population kept slaves well into the 20th century, until slavery was suppressed by [French authorities](/wiki/French_Sudan) around the mid-20th century. There still persist certain hereditary servitude relationships,[[52]](#cite_note-52)[[53]](#cite_note-53) and according to some estimates, even today approximately 200,000 Malians are still enslaved.[[54]](#cite_note-54) Although Mali has enjoyed a reasonably good inter-ethnic relationships based on the long history of coexistence, some hereditary servitude and bondage relationship exist, as well as ethnic tension between settled [Songhai](/wiki/Songhai_people) and nomadic Tuaregs of the north.<ref name=p6/> Due to a backlash against the northern population after independence, Mali is now in a situation where both groups complain about discrimination on the part of the other group.[[55]](#cite_note-55) This conflict also plays a role in the continuing [Northern Mali conflict](/wiki/Northern_Mali_conflict_(2012–present)) where there is a tension between both Tuaregs and the Malian government, and the Tuaregs and radical [Islamists](/wiki/Islamist) who are trying to establish [sharia law](/wiki/Sharia_law).[[56]](#cite_note-56)

### Languages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Mali's official language is [French](/wiki/French_language) and over 40 [African languages](/wiki/African_languages) also are spoken by the various ethnic groups.<ref name=p6/> About 80 percent of Mali's population can communicate in [Bambara](/wiki/Bambara_language), which serves as an important [lingua franca](/wiki/Lingua_franca).<ref name=p6/>

Mali has 12 [national languages](/wiki/National_language) beside [French](/wiki/French_language) and [Bambara](/wiki/Bambara_language), namely [Bomu](/wiki/Bomu_language), [Tieyaxo Bozo](/wiki/Bozo_language), [Toro So Dogon](/wiki/Escarpment_Dogon), [Maasina Fulfulde](/wiki/Maasina_Fulfulde), [Hassaniya Arabic](/wiki/Hassaniya_Arabic), [Mamara Senoufo](/wiki/Minyanka_language), [Kita Maninkakan](/wiki/Kita_Maninka_language), [Soninke](/wiki/Soninke_language), [Koyraboro Senni](/wiki/Koyraboro_Senni), [Syenara Senoufo](/wiki/Senara_language), [Tamasheq](/wiki/Tamasheq_language) and [Xaasongaxango](/wiki/Kassonke_language). Each is spoken as a first language primarily by the ethnic group with which it is associated.

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Bar box](/wiki/Template:Bar_box)

[thumb|A mosque entrance](/wiki/File:Mosque_entrance_(6862566).jpg) Islam was introduced to West Africa in the 11th century and remains the predominant religion in much of the region. An estimated 90 percent of Malians are [Muslim](/wiki/Islam_in_Mali) (mostly [Sunni](/wiki/Sunni) and [Ahmadiyya](/wiki/Ahmadiyya)[[57]](#cite_note-57)), approximately 5 percent are Christian (about two-thirds [Roman Catholic](/wiki/Roman_Catholicism_in_Mali) and one-third Protestant) and the remaining 5 percent adhere to [indigenous or traditional animist beliefs](/wiki/African_traditional_religion).<ref name = IRFR>[International Religious Freedom Report 2008: Mali](http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/irf/2008/108379.htm). State.gov (19 September 2008). Retrieved 4 May 2012.</ref> [Atheism](/wiki/Atheism) and agnosticism are believed to be rare among Malians, most of whom practice their religion on a daily basis.<ref name=p7/>

The constitution establishes a [secular state](/wiki/Secular_state) and provides for [freedom of religion](/wiki/Freedom_of_religion), and the government largely respects this right.<ref name=p7/>

Islam as historically practiced in Mali has been moderate, tolerant, and adapted to local conditions; relations between Muslims and practitioners of minority religious faiths have generally been amicable.<ref name=p7/> After the 2012 imposition of [sharia](/wiki/Sharia) rule in northern parts of the country, however, Mali came to be listed high (number 7) in the Christian persecution index published by [Open Doors](/wiki/Open_Doors), which described the persecution in the north as severe.<ref name = DeutscheWelle>[Report points to 100 million persecuted Christians.](http://www.dw.de/report-points-to-100-million-persecuted-christians/a-16507067). Retrieved 10 January 2013.</ref><ref name = OpenDoor>[OPEN DOORS World Watch list 2012](http://www.worldwatchlist.us/). Worldwatchlist.us. Retrieved 24 March 2013.</ref>

### Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|left|High school students in](/wiki/File:Lycéens_kati.jpg) [Kati](/wiki/Kati)

Public education in Mali is in principle provided free of charge and is compulsory for nine years between the ages of seven and sixteen.<ref name=p7/> The system encompasses six years of primary education beginning at age 7, followed by six years of secondary education.<ref name=p7/> Mali's actual primary school enrollment rate is low, in large part because families are unable to cover the cost of uniforms, books, supplies, and other fees required to attend.<ref name=p7/>

In the 2000–01 school year, the primary school enrollment rate was 61 percent (71 percent of males and 51 percent of females). In the late 1990s, the secondary school enrollment rate was 15 percent (20 percent of males and 10 percent of females).<ref name=p7/> The education system is plagued by a lack of schools in rural areas, as well as shortages of teachers and materials.<ref name=p7/>

Estimates of literacy rates in Mali range from 27–30 to 46.4 percent, with literacy rates significantly lower among women than men.<ref name=p7/> The [University of Bamako](/wiki/University_of_Bamako), which includes four constituent universities, is the largest university in the country and enrolls approximately 60,000 undergraduate and graduate students.[[58]](#cite_note-58)

### Health[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Mali faces numerous health challenges related to poverty, [malnutrition](/wiki/Malnutrition), and inadequate [hygiene](/wiki/Hygiene) and [sanitation](/wiki/Sanitation).<ref name=p7>[Mali country profile](/wiki/#Prof), p. 7.</ref> Mali's health and development indicators rank among the worst in the world.<ref name=p7/> Life expectancy at birth is estimated to be 53.06 years in 2012.[[59]](#cite_note-59) In 2000, 62–65 percent of the population was estimated to have access to safe drinking water and only 69 percent to sanitation services of some kind.<ref name=p7/> In 2001, the general government expenditures on health totalled about US$4 per capita at an average exchange rate.<ref name=p8>[Mali country profile](/wiki/#Prof), p. 8.</ref>

Efforts have been made to improve nutrition, and reduce associated health problems, by encouraging women to make nutritious versions of local recipes. For example, the [International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics](/wiki/International_Crops_Research_Institute_for_the_Semi-Arid_Tropics) ([ICRISAT](/wiki/ICRISAT)) and the [Aga Khan Foundation](/wiki/Aga_Khan_Foundation), trained women's groups to make *equinut*, a healthy and nutritional version of the traditional recipe *di-dèguè* (comprising peanut paste, honey and millet or rice flour). The aim was to boost nutrition and livelihoods by producing a product that women could make and sell, and which would be accepted by the local community because of its local heritage.[[60]](#cite_note-60) Medical facilities in Mali are very limited, and medicines are in short supply.<ref name=p8/> [Malaria](/wiki/Malaria) and other [arthropod](/wiki/Arthropod)-borne diseases are prevalent in Mali, as are a number of [infectious diseases](/wiki/Infectious_disease) such as [cholera](/wiki/Cholera) and [tuberculosis](/wiki/Tuberculosis).<ref name=p8/> Mali's population also suffers from a high rate of child malnutrition and a low rate of [immunization](/wiki/Immunization).<ref name=p8/> An estimated 1.9 percent of the adult and children population was afflicted with HIV/AIDS that year, among the lowest rates in [Sub-Saharan Africa](/wiki/Sub-Saharan_Africa).<ref name=p8/> An estimated 85–91 percent of Mali's girls and women have had [female genital mutilation](/wiki/Female_genital_mutilation) (2006 and 2001 data).[[61]](#cite_note-61)[[62]](#cite_note-62)

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Konoguel_Mosque_tower_(6439210).jpg)[Konoguel Mosque](/wiki/Konoguel_Mosque) tower

The varied everyday culture of Malians reflects the country's ethnic and geographic diversity.<ref name=p13>Pye-Smith, Charlie & Rhéal Drisdelle. *Mali: A Prospect of Peace?* Oxfam (1997). ISBN 0-85598-334-5, p. 13.</ref> Most Malians wear flowing, colorful robes called [boubous](/wiki/Boubou_(clothing)) that are typical of West Africa. Malians frequently participate in traditional festivals, dances, and ceremonies.<ref name=p13/>

### Music[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[Malian musical traditions](/wiki/Music_of_Mali) are derived from the [griots](/wiki/Griot), who are known as "Keepers of Memories".[[63]](#cite_note-63) Malian music is diverse and has several different genres. Some famous Malian influences in music are [kora](/wiki/Kora_(instrument)) virtuoso musician [Toumani Diabaté](/wiki/Toumani_Diabaté), the late roots and blues guitarist [Ali Farka Touré](/wiki/Ali_Farka_Touré), the [Tuareg](/wiki/Tuareg_people) band [Tinariwen](/wiki/Tinariwen), and several [Afro-pop](/wiki/Afro_pop_music) artists such as [Salif Keita](/wiki/Salif_Keita), the duo [Amadou et Mariam](/wiki/Amadou_et_Mariam), [Oumou Sangare](/wiki/Oumou_Sangare), [Rokia Traore](/wiki/Rokia_Traore), and [Habib Koité](/wiki/Habib_Koité). Dance also plays a large role in Malian culture.<ref name=embassy>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Dance parties are common events among friends, and traditional mask dances are performed at ceremonial events.<ref name=embassy/>

### Literature[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

Though Mali's literature is less famous than its music,<ref name=p29>[Velton](/wiki/#Velton), p. 29.</ref> Mali has always been one of Africa's liveliest intellectual centers.<ref name=p128/> Mali's literary tradition is passed mainly by word of mouth, with *jalis* reciting or singing histories and stories known by heart.<ref name=p128>[Milet](/wiki/#Milet), p. 128.</ref><ref name=p28>[Velton](/wiki/#Velton), p. 28.</ref> [Amadou Hampâté Bâ](/wiki/Amadou_Hampâté_Bâ), Mali's best-known historian, spent much of his life writing these oral traditions down for the world to remember.<ref name=p28/>

The best-known novel by a Malian writer is [Yambo Ouologuem's](/wiki/Yambo_Ouologuem) *Le devoir de violence*, which won the 1968 [Prix Renaudot](/wiki/Prix_Renaudot) but whose legacy was marred by accusations of plagiarism.<ref name=p128/><ref name=p28/> Other well-known Malian writers include Baba Traoré, Modibo Sounkalo Keita, [Massa Makan Diabaté](/wiki/Massa_Makan_Diabaté), [Moussa Konaté](/wiki/Moussa_Konaté), and [Fily Dabo Sissoko](/wiki/Fily_Dabo_Sissoko).<ref name=p128/><ref name=p28/>

### Sport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[thumb|Malian children playing football in a](/wiki/File:Mali_football.jpg) [Dogon](/wiki/Dogon_people) village

The [most popular sport in Mali](/wiki/Football_in_Mali) is [football](/wiki/Association_football) (soccer),<ref name=p151>[Milet](/wiki/#Milet), p. 151.</ref><ref name=p55>[DiPiazza](/wiki/#DiPiazza), p. 55.</ref> which became more prominent after Mali hosted the [2002 African Cup of Nations](/wiki/2002_African_Cup_of_Nations).<ref name=p151/><ref name=p320>Hudgens, Jim, Richard Trillo, and Nathalie Calonnec. *The Rough Guide to West Africa*. [Rough Guides](/wiki/Rough_Guides) (2003). ISBN 1-84353-118-6, p. 320.</ref> Most towns and cities have regular games;<ref name=p320/> the most popular teams nationally are [Djoliba AC](/wiki/Djoliba_AC), [Stade Malien](/wiki/Stade_Malien), and [Real Bamako](/wiki/Real_Bamako), all based in the capital.<ref name=p55/> Informal games are often played by youths using a bundle of rags as a ball.<ref name=p55/>

Basketball is another major sport;[[64]](#cite_note-64)[[65]](#cite_note-65) the [Mali women's national basketball team](/wiki/Mali_women's_national_basketball_team), led by [Hamchetou Maiga](/wiki/Hamchetou_Maiga), competed at the 2008 [Beijing Olympics](/wiki/2008_Summer_Olympics).[[66]](#cite_note-66) [Traditional wrestling](/wiki/Lutte_Traditionnelle) (*la lutte*) is also somewhat common, though popularity has declined in recent years.[[67]](#cite_note-67) The game [wari](/wiki/Oware), a [mancala](/wiki/Mancala) variant, is a common pastime.[[64]](#cite_note-64)

### Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|Malian tea](/wiki/File:Malian_Tea2.JPG)

Rice and [millet](/wiki/Millet) are the staples of [Malian cuisine](/wiki/Malian_cuisine), which is heavily based on cereal grains.<ref name=p30>[Velton](/wiki/#Velton), p. 30.</ref><ref name=p146/> Grains are generally prepared with sauces made from edible leaves, such as [spinach](/wiki/Spinach) or [baobab](/wiki/Adansonia_digitata), with tomato peanut sauce, and may be accompanied by pieces of grilled meat (typically chicken, [mutton](/wiki/Mutton), beef, or goat).<ref name=p30/><ref name=p146>[Milet](/wiki/#Milet), p. 146.</ref> Malian cuisine varies regionally.<ref name=p30/><ref name=p146/> Other popular dishes include [fufu](/wiki/Fufu), [jollof rice](/wiki/Jollof_rice), and [maafe](/wiki/Maafe).

### Media[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

In Mali, there are several newspapers such as *Les Echos*, *L'Essor*, *Info Matin*, *Nouvel Horizon*, and *Le Républicain*.[[68]](#cite_note-68) The [Telecommunications in Mali](/wiki/Telecommunications_in_Mali) include 869,600 mobile phones, 45,000 televisions and 414,985 internet users.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal)

* [Ebola virus disease in Mali](/wiki/Ebola_virus_disease_in_Mali)
* [Index of Mali-related articles](/wiki/Index_of_Mali-related_articles)
* [Mali conflict](/wiki/Northern_Mali_conflict_(2012–present))
* [Outline of Mali](/wiki/Outline_of_Mali)

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## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## Bibliography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

* [Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web) A student-translated [English version](http://confinder.richmond.edu/admin/docs/Mali.pdf) is also available.
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* [Template:Official website](/wiki/Template:Official_website)
* [Template:CIA World Factbook link](/wiki/Template:CIA_World_Factbook_link)
* [The European Union mission in Mali – Hungary's involvement in the mission](http://www.slovenskavojska.si/fileadmin/slovenska_vojska/pdf/vojaski_izzivi/svi_15_3.pdf)
* [War at the background of Europe: The crisis of Mali](http://uni-nke.hu/uploads/media_items/aarms-vol-12_-issue-2_-2013.original.pdf)
* [Mali](http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/govpubs/for/mali.htm) from *UCB Libraries GovPubs*
* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)
* [Mali profile](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-13881370) from the [BBC News](/wiki/BBC_News)

Trade

* [Mali 2012 Trade Summary Statistics](http://wits.worldbank.org/CountryProfile/Country/MLI/Year/2012/Summary)

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