



# Sudan



**Background** Long referred to as Nubia, modern-day Sudan was the site of the Kingdom of Kerma (ca. 2500-1500 B.C.) until it was absorbed into the New Kingdom of Egypt. By the 11th century B.C., the Kingdom of Kush gained independence from Egypt; it lasted in various forms until the middle of the 4th century A.D. After the fall of Kush, the Nubians formed three Christian kingdoms of Nobatia, Makuria, and Alodia, with the latter two enduring until around 1500. Between the 14th and 15th centuries, Arab nomads settled much of Sudan, leading to extensive Islamization between the 16th and 19th centuries. Following Egyptian occupation early in the 19th century, an agreement in 1899 set up a joint British-Egyptian government in Sudan, but it was effectively a British colony.

Military regimes favoring Islamic-oriented governments have dominated national politics since Sudan gained independence from Anglo-Egyptian co-rule in 1956. During most of the second half of the 20th century, Sudan was embroiled in two prolonged civil wars rooted in northern domination of the largely non-Muslim, non-Arab southern portion of the country. The first civil war ended in 1972, but another broke out in 1983. Peace talks gained momentum in 2002-04, and the final North/South Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005 granted the southern rebels autonomy for six years, followed by a referendum on independence for Southern Sudan. South Sudan became independent in 2011, but Sudan and South Sudan have yet to fully implement security and economic agreements to normalize relations between the two countries. Sudan has also faced conflict in Darfur, Southern Kordofan, and Blue Nile starting in 2003.

In 2019, after months of nationwide protests, the 30-year reign of President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-BASHIR ended when the military forced him out. Economist and former international civil servant Abdalla HAMDOK al-Kinani was selected to serve as the prime minister of a transitional government as the country prepared for elections in 2022. In late 2021, however, the Sudanese military ousted HAMDOK and his government and replaced civilian members of the Sovereign Council (Sudan's collective Head of State) with individuals selected by the military. HAMDOK was briefly reinstated but resigned in January 2022. General Abd-al-Fatah al-BURHAN Abd-al-Rahman, the Chair of Sudan's Sovereign Council and Commander-in-Chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces, currently serves as de facto head of state and government. He presides over a Sovereign Council consisting of military leaders, former armed opposition group representatives, and military-appointed civilians. A cabinet of acting ministers handles day-to-day administration.

<b>Capital</b>	name: Khartoum
<b>Government type</b>	presidential republic
<b>Area</b>	total : 1,861,484 sq km land: 1,731,671 sq km water: 129,813 sq km
<b>Climate</b>	hot and dry; arid desert; rainy season varies by region (April to November)
<b>Natural resources</b>	petroleum; small reserves of iron ore, copper, chromium ore, zinc, tungsten, mica, silver, gold; hydropower
<b>Population</b>	total: 50,467,278 (2024 est.)
<b>Population growth rate</b>	2.55% (2024 est.)
<b>Ethnic groups</b>	Sudanese Arab (approximately 70%), Fur, Beja, Nuba, Ingessana, Uduk, Fallata, Masalit, Dajo, Gimir, Tunjur, Berti; there are over 500 ethnic groups
<b>Religions</b>	Sunni Muslim, small Christian minority
<b>Languages</b>	Arabic (official), English (official), Nubian, Ta Bedawie, Fur
<b>Executive branch</b>	chief of state: Sovereign Council Chair and Commander-in-Chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces General Abd-al-Fattah al-BURHAN Abd-al-Rahman (since 11 November 2021) head of government: Sovereign Council Chair and Commander-in-Chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces General Abd-al-Fattah al-BURHAN Abd-al-Rahman (since 11 November 2021)
<b>Legislative branch</b>	note: the Parliament of Sudan was dissolved after a coup in April 2019; the August 2019 Constitutional Declaration established Sudan's transitional government; a Transitional Legislative Council (TLC) was to have served as the national legislature during the transitional period until elections could be held, but the TLC has not been created
<b>Diplomatic representation in the US</b>	chief of mission: Ambassador Mohamed Abdalla IDRIS (since 16 September 2022)
<b>Diplomatic representation from the US</b>	chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Chargé d'Affaires Colleen Crenwelge (since May 2024)
<b>Economic overview</b>	low-income Sahel economy devastated by ongoing civil war; major impacts on rural income, basic commodity prices, industrial production, agricultural supply chain, communications and commerce; hyperinflation and currency depreciation worsening food access and humanitarian conditions
<b>Real GDP (purchasing power parity)</b>	\$94.42 billion (2024 est.) \$109.147 billion (2023 est.) \$154.672 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Real GDP per capita</b>	\$1,900 (2024 est.) \$2,200 (2023 est.) \$3,100 (2022 est.)
<b>Exports</b>	\$5.908 billion (2022 est.) \$6.664 billion (2021 est.) \$5.065 billion (2020 est.)

Exports - partners	UAE 21%, China 17%, Saudi Arabia 16%, Malaysia 9%, Egypt 8% (2023)
Exports - commodities	crude petroleum, gold, oil seeds, sheep and goats, ground nuts (2023)
Imports	\$11.575 billion (2022 est.) \$10.271 billion (2021 est.) \$10.52 billion (2020 est.)
Imports - partners	China 21%, India 19%, Egypt 16%, UAE 14%, Saudi Arabia 7% (2023)
Imports - commodities	raw sugar, wheat flours, refined petroleum, garments, packaged medicine (2023)

Population Pyramid

