

Mozambique



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Key Events

- At independence in 1975, Mozambique was one of the world's poorest countries.
- A brutal civil war broke out from 1977 to 1992 which resulted in the movement of 1.7 million Mozambicans to neighboring countries to escape the war and to find jobs.
- Up until the mid 1990s, large-scale emigration, economic dependence on South Africa, severe drought, and civil war hurt the country's development.
- From 1993 to present day Mozambique has propelled the economy upwards and grown dramatically in population.

Economics

- Mozambique is characterized as one of the poorest countries in the world because of socialist policies, economic mismanagement, and brutal civil war.
- Mozambique's government passed macroeconomic reforms to help stabilize the economy.
- These reforms tied in with donor assistance because of the multi party elections pulled the country's GDP from 4 billion in 1993 to 34 billion in 2015.
- Although these were positive changes in the economy half of Mozambique's population is still below the poverty line.
- Subsistence agriculture employs most of the population. Subsistence farming technique only grows enough food for the farmer to feed themselves and their family. This doesn't give the farmer the chance to sell their food for profit.
- When prices on electricity, fuel, water and bread went up a civil war broke out. The government responded by lowering taxes and tariffs.
- Mozambique's economy is working on having more exports than imports by expanding the Cahora Bassa Dam which will mean more electricity exports.

Political Structure

- Mozambique's current leader is Filipe Nyusi.
- Filipe Nyusi rose to power in 2014 when he won the presidential race.
- Mozambique's government is a republic and a multiparty democracy.
- Mozambique had adopted a republican party in 1975 and in 1990 a revised constitution with a multi party system of government was created.
- The current government has an executive president as head of state and government, that is elected for a five year term.
- The advantages are there are diverse political, ethical, and social groups.
- The disadvantages are the multi parties can lead to division in the country.



Culture and Social Aspects

- Mozambique's culture came from the culture of local groups that have been passed down for many generations.
- Nearly half the population practices spiritual beliefs.
- The majority of the population is Roman Catholic and 1/3 are Christian.
- People in Mozambique eat mainly chicken, rice, fish, beans, and other vegetables.
- The culture of Mozambique is diverse in ethnic and linguistic groups.



Physical Structure

- Mozambique is a relatively large country at 799,380 sq km in area. To make a comparison it is slightly less than twice the size of California.
- Mozambique's terrain is mostly coastal lowlands but there are some mountains in the west.
- The current population of Mozambique is 25,930,150.
- In 1970 Mozambique's population was 9.4 million and has gone up since then.
- The population used to be lower because of civil war, diseases like HIV and AIDS, and natural disasters.
- As time went on, civil war stop and there were changes in government to help people get above the poverty line.
- Mozambique has one of the world's highest birth rates. It averages around more than 5 children per woman. This contributes to population growth.

