In general, information available as of 1 January, 2004 was used in the preparation of The World Factbook 2004.

This page was last updated on 11 May, 2004.
Background: Military regimes favoring Islamic-oriented governments have dominated national politics since independence from the UK in 1956. Sudan has been embroiled in a civil war for all but 10 years of this period (1972-82). The wars are rooted in northern economic, political, and social domination of non-Muslim, non-Arab southern Sudanese. Since 1983, the war and war- and famine-related effects have led to more than 2 million deaths and over 4 million people displaced. The ruling regime is a mixture of military elite and an Islamist party that came to power in a 1989 coup. Some northern opposition parties have made common cause with the southern rebels and entered the war as a part of an anti-government alliance. Peace talks gained momentum in 2002-03 with the signing of several accords, including a cease-fire agreement.

Geography

Location: Northern Africa, bordering the Red Sea, between Egypt and Eritrea

Geographic coordinates: 15 00 N, 30 00 E

Map references: Africa

Area: total: 2,505,810 sq km water: 129,810 sq km land: 2,376 million sq km

Area - comparative: slightly more than one-quarter the size of the US

Land boundaries: total: 7,687 km border countries: Central African Republic 1,165 km, Chad 1,360 km, Democratic Republic of the Congo 628 km, Egypt 1,273 km, Eritrea 605 km, Ethiopia 1,606 km, Kenya 232 km, Libya 383 km, Uganda 435 km

Coastline: 853 km

Maritime claims - as described in UNCLOS 1982 (see Notes and Definitions):

territorial sea: 12 NM contiguous zone: 18 NM continental shelf: 200-m depth or to the depth of exploitation

Climate: tropical in south; arid desert in north; rainy season varies by region (April to November)

Terrain: generally flat, featureless plain; mountains in far south, northeast and west; desert dominates the north

Elevation extremes: lowest point: Red Sea 0 m highest point: Kinyeti 3,187 m

Natural resources: petroleum; small reserves of iron ore, copper, chromium ore, zinc, tungsten, mica, silver, gold, hydropower
Land use:

- arable land: 7.03%
- permanent crops: 0.08%
- other: 92.89% (1998 est.)

Irrigated land:

19,500 sq km (1998 est.)

Natural hazards:

dust storms and periodic persistent droughts

Environment - current issues:

- inadequate supplies of potable water
- wildlife populations threatened by excessive hunting
- soil erosion
- desertification
- periodic drought

Environment - international agreements:

- party to: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Desertification, Endangered Species, Law of the Sea, Ozone Layer Protection
- signed, but not ratified: none of the selected agreements

Geography - note:

largest country in Africa; dominated by the Nile and its tributaries

People

Population:

39,148,162 (July 2004 est.)

Age structure:

- 0-14 years: 43.7% (male 8,730,609; female 8,358,569)
- 15-64 years: 54.1% (male 10,588,634; female 10,571,199)
- 65 years and over: 2.3% (male 490,869; female 408,282) (2004 est.)

Median age:

- total: 17.9 years
- male: 17.7 years
- female: 18.1 years (2004 est.)

Population growth rate:

2.64% (2004 est.)

Birth rate:

35.79 births/1,000 population (2004 est.)

Death rate:

9.37 deaths/1,000 population (2004 est.)

Net migration rate:

-0.02 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2004 est.)

Sex ratio:

- at birth: 1.05 male(s)/female
- under 15 years: 1.05 male(s)/female
- 15-64 years: 1 male(s)/female
- 65 years and over: 1.2 male(s)/female
- total population: 1.02 male(s)/female (2004 est.)

Infant mortality rate:

- total: 64.05 deaths/1,000 live births
- female: 63.26 deaths/1,000 live births (2004 est.)
- male: 64.8 deaths/1,000 live births

Life expectancy at birth:

- total population: 58.13 years
- male: 56.96 years
- female: 59.36 years (2004 est.)

Total fertility rate: 4.97 children born/woman (2004 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate: 2.6% (2001 est.)

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS: 450,000 (2001 est.)

HIV/AIDS - deaths: 23,000 (2001 est.)

Nationality:
- noun: Sudanese (singular and plural)
- adjective: Sudanese

Ethnic groups:
black 52%, Arab 39%, Beja 6%, foreigners 2%, other 1%

Religions:
- Sunni Muslim 70% (in north), indigenous beliefs 25%, Christian 5% (mostly in south and Khartoum)

Languages:
- Arabic (official), Nubian, Ta Bedawie, diverse dialects of Nilotic, Nilo-Hamitic, Sudanic languages, English
- note: program of "Arabization" in process

Literacy:
- definition: age 15 and over can read and write
- total population: 61.1%
- male: 71.8%
- female: 50.5% (2003 est.)

Government:

- Sudan

Country name:
- conventional long form: Republic of the Sudan
- conventional short form: Sudan
- local short form: As-Sudan
- former: Anglo-Egyptian Sudan
- local long form: Jumhuriyat as-Sudan

Government type:
- authoritarian regime - ruling military junta took power in 1989; government is run by an alliance of the military and the National Congress Party (NCP), formerly the National Islamic Front (NIF), which espouses an Islamist platform

Capital:
- Khartoum

Administrative divisions:
Independence: 1 January 1956 (from Egypt and UK)

National holiday: Independence Day, 1 January (1956)

Constitution: 12 April 1973, suspended following coup of 6 April 1985; interim constitution of 10 October 1985 suspended following coup of 30 June 1989; new constitution implemented on 30 June 1998 partially suspended 12 December 1999 by President BASHIR

Legal system: based on English common law and Islamic law; as of 20 January 1991, the now defunct Revolutionary Command Council imposed Islamic law in the northern states; Islamic law applies to all residents of the northern states regardless of their religion; some separate religious courts; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction, with reservations

Suffrage: 17 years of age; universal, but noncompulsory

Executive branch:

- chief of state: President Lt. Gen. Umar Hassan Ahmad al-BASHIR (since 16 October 1993); First Vice President Ali Uthman Muhammad TAHA (since 17 February 1998), Second Vice President Moses MACHAR (since 12 February 2001); note - the president is both the chief of state and head of government
- head of government: President Lt. Gen. Umar Hassan Ahmad al-BASHIR (since 16 October 1993); First Vice President Ali Uthman Muhammad TAHA (since 17 February 1998), Second Vice President Moses MACHAR (since 12 February 2001); note - the president is both the chief of state and head of government
- cabinet: Council of Ministers appointed by the president; note - the National Congress Party or NCP (formerly the National Islamic Front or NIF) dominates al-BASHIR's cabinet
- elections: president elected by popular vote for a five-year term; election last held 13-23 December 2000 (next to be held NA)
- notes: Lt. Gen. al-BASHIR assumed supreme executive power in 1989 and retained it through several transitional governments in the early and mid-1990s before being popularly elected for the first time in March 1996
- election results: Lt. Gen. Umar Hassan Ahmad al-BASHIR reelected president; percent of vote - Umar Hassan Ahmad al-BASHIR 86.5%, Ja'afar Muhammed NUMAYRI 9.6%, three other candidates received a combined vote of 3.9%; election widely viewed as rigged; all popular opposition parties boycotted elections because of a lack of guarantees for a free and fair election

Legislative branch:

- unicameral National Assembly (360 seats; 270 popularly elected, 90 elected by supra assembly of interest groups known as National Congress; members serve four-year terms)
- elections: last held 13-22 December 2000 (next to be held NA December 2004)

Judicial branch:

- Supreme Court; Special Revolutionary Courts

Political parties and leaders:

- the government allows political "associations" under a 1998 law revised in 2000; to obtain government approval parties must accept the constitution and refrain from advocating or using violence against the regime; approved parties include the National Congress Party or NCP [Ibrahim Ahmed UMAR], Popular National Congress or PNC [Hassan al-TURABI], and over 20 minor, pro-government parties

Political pressure groups and leaders:

- Democratic Unionist Party [Muhammed Uthman AL-MIRGHANI]; National Congress Party [Ibrahim Ahmed UMAR]; National Democratic Alliance [Muhammed Uthman AL-MIRGHANI, chairman]; Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army [Dr. John GARANG]; Umma Party [Sadiq al-MAHDI]

International organization participation:

- ABEDA, ACP, AIDB, AFESD, AME, AU, CAEU, FAO, G-77, IAEE, IBA, ICAO, ICCT (signatory), ICRM, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, IFRCs, IGAD, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, ISO (correspondent), ITU, LAS, NAM, OIC, OPCW, PCA, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UPU, WCO, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WToO, WTrO (observer)

Diplomatic representation in the US:

Chief of Mission: Ambassador (vacant); Charge d'Affaires, Ad Interim Khidir Haroun AHMED (since April 2001)
Chancery: 2210 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008
Fax: [1] (202) 667-2406
Telephone: [1] (202) 338-8565

Diplomatic representation from the US:

Chief of Mission: Ambassador (vacant); Charge d'Affaires Gerard M. GALLUCCI
Embassy: Sharija Abdul Latif Avenue, Khartoum
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 699, Khartoum; APO AE 09829
Telephone: [249] (11) 774611 or 774700
Fax: [249] (11) 774137

Flag Description:
Three equal horizontal bands of red (top), white, and black with a green isosceles triangle based on the hoist side.

Economy Overview:
Sudan has turned around a struggling economy with sound economic policies and infrastructure investments, but it still faces formidable economic problems, starting from its low level of per capita output. From 1997 to date, Sudan has been implementing IMF macroeconomic reforms. In 1999, Sudan began exporting crude oil and in the last quarter of 1999 recorded its first trade surplus, which, along with monetary policy, has stabilized the exchange rate. Increased oil production, revived light industry, and expanded export processing zones helped sustain GDP growth at 6.1% in 2003. Agriculture production remains Sudan's most important sector, employing 80% of the work force and contributing 39% of GDP, but most farms remain rain-fed and susceptible to drought. Chronic instability - including the long-standing civil war between the Muslim north and the Christian/pagan south, adverse weather, and weak world agricultural prices - ensure that much of the population will remain at or below the poverty line for years.

GDP:
Purchasing power parity - $70.75 billion (2003 est.)

GDP - Real Growth Rate:
6.1% (2003 est.)

GDP - Per Capita:
Purchasing power parity - $1,900 (2003 est.)

GDP - Composition by Sector:
Agriculture: 39%
Industry: 18%
Services: 43% (2002 est.)

Population Below Poverty Line:
NA% (1990-91)

Household Income or Consumption by Percentage Share:
Lowest 10%: NA%
Highest 10%: NA%

Inflation Rate (Consumer Prices):
8.8% (2003 est.)

Labor Force:
11 million (1996 est.)

Labor Force - by Occupation:
Agriculture 80%, industry and commerce 7%, government 13% (1998 est.)

Unemployment rate: 18.7% (2002 est.)

Budget:
- revenues: $1.4 billion
- expenditures: $1.6 billion, including capital expenditures of $304 million (2001 est.)

Industries:
- oil, cotton ginning, textiles, cement, edible oils, sugar, soap distilling, shoes, petroleum refining, pharmaceuticals, armaments, automobile/light truck assembly

Industrial production growth rate: 8.5% (1999 est.)

Electricity - production: 2.389 billion kWh (2001)

Electricity - production by source:
- fossil fuel: 52.1%
- hydro: 47.9%
- other: 0% (2001)
- nuclear: 0%

Electricity - consumption: 2.222 billion kWh (2001)

Oil - production: 209,100 bbl/day (2001 est.)

Oil - consumption: 50,000 bbl/day (2001 est.)

Oil - exports: NA

Oil - imports: NA

Oil - proved reserves: 631.5 million bbl (1 January 2002)

Natural gas - proved reserves: 99.11 billion cu m (1 January 2002)

Agriculture - products: cotton, groundnuts (peanuts), sorghum, millet, wheat, gum arabic, sugarcane, cassava (tapioca), mangos, papaya, bananas, sweet potatoes, sesame; sheep, livestock

Exports: $2.45 billion f.o.b. (2003 est.)

Exports - commodities: oil and petroleum products; cotton, sesame, livestock, groundnuts, gum arabic, sugar
Exports - partners: China 53.3%, Japan 13.4%, South Africa 4.9%, Saudi Arabia 4.7% (2002)

Imports:
$2.383 billion f.o.b. (2003 est.)

Imports - commodities:
foodstuffs, manufactured goods, refinery and transport equipment, medicines and chemicals, textiles, wheat

Imports - partners:
China 20.1%, Saudi Arabia 7.5%, India 5.6%, UK 5.4%, Germany 5.4%, Indonesia 4.7%, Australia 4% (2002)

Debt - external: $20.9 billion (year-end 2003 est.)

Economic aid - recipient: $172 million (2001)

Currency: Sudanese dinar (SDD)

Currency code: SDD

Exchange rates:

Fiscal year: calendar year

Communications Sudan
Telephones - main lines in use: 671,800 (2002)

Telephones - mobile cellular: 190,800 (2002)

Telephone system:
- general assessment: large, well-equipped system by regional standards and being upgraded; cellular communications started in 1996 and have expanded substantially
- domestic: consists of microwave radio relay, cable, radiotelephone communications, tropospheric scatter, and a domestic satellite system with 14 earth stations
- international: country code - 249; satellite earth stations - 1 Intelsat (Atlantic Ocean) and 1 Arabsat (2000)

Radio broadcast stations: AM 12, FM 1, shortwave 1 (1998)

Television broadcast stations: 3 (1997)

Internet country code: .sd

Internet hosts: NA

Internet users: 84,000 (2002)

Transportation

Sudan
Railways:
- total: 5,978 km
  - narrow gauge: 4,578 km 1.067-m gauge; 1,400 km 0.600-m gauge plantation line (2002)

Highways:
- total: 11,900 km
  - paved: 4,320 km
  - unpaved: 7,580 km (1999 est.)

Waterways:
- 5,310 km

Pipelines:
- gas 156 km; oil 2,297 km; refined products 810 km (2003)

Ports and harbors:
- Juba, Khartoum, Kusti, Malakal, Nimule, Port Sudan, Sawakin

Merchant marine:
- total: 3 ships (1,000 GRT or over) 20,466 GRT/26,973 DWT
  - by type: livestock carrier 1, roll on/roll off 2
  - registered in other countries: 4 (2003 est.)

Airports:
- 63 (2003 est.)

Airports - with paved runways:
- total: 12
  - over 3,047 m: 1
  - 2,438 to 3,047 m: 8
  - 1,524 to 2,437 m: 3 (2003 est.)

Airports - with unpaved runways:
- total: 51
  - 914 to 1,523 m: 23
  - under 914 m: 10 (2003 est.)
  - 1,524 to 2,437 m: 16
  - over 3,047 m: 1
  - 2,438 to 3,047 m: 1

Heliports:
- 2 (2003 est.)

Military:
- Sudan
Military branches: Sudanese People's Armed Forces (SPAF), Navy, Air Force, Popular Defense Forces

Military manpower - military age: 18 years of age (2004 est.)

Military manpower - availability: males age 15-49: 9,339,775 (2004 est.)

Military manpower - fit for military service: males age 15-49: 5,743,783 (2004 est.)

Military manpower - reaching military age annually: males: 442,242 (2004 est.)

Military expenditures - dollar figure: $581 million (2001 est.)

Military expenditures - percent of GDP: 2.5% (1999)

Transnational Issues - Sudan

Disputes - international: the north-south civil war has affected Sudan's neighbors by drawing them into the fighting and by forcing them to provide shelter to refugees, to contend with infiltration by rebel groups, and to serve as mediators; Sudan has provided shelter to Ugandan refugees and cover to Lord's Resistance Army soldiers; Sudan accuses Eritrea of supporting Sudanese rebel groups; efforts to demarcate the porous boundary with Ethiopia have been delayed by fighting in Sudan; Kenya's administrative boundary still extends into the Sudan, creating the "Ilemi triangle"; Egypt and Sudan retain claims to administer the triangular areas that extend north and south of the 1899 Treaty boundary along the 22nd Parallel, but have withdrawn their military presence; Egypt is economically developing and currently effectively administers the "Hala'ib triangle" north of the Treaty Line; Sudan has pledged to work with the Central African Republic to stem violent skirmishes over water and grazing among related pastoral populations along the border

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