**Nigeria** [Listen](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/72/En-us-Nigeria.ogg)[**i**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:En-us-Nigeria.ogg)[/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA_for_English)[naɪˈdʒɪəriə](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA_for_English#Key)[/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA_for_English), officially the **Federal Republic of Nigeria**, is a [federal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federation) [constitutional republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutional_republic" \o "Constitutional republic) comprising [36 states](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/States_of_Nigeria) and its [Federal Capital Territory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Capital_Territory,_Nigeria), [Abuja](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abuja). The country is located in West Africa and shares land borders with the Republic of [Benin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benin) in the west, [Chad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chad) and [Cameroon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cameroon) in the east, and [Niger](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niger) in the north. Its coast in the south lies on the [Gulf of Guinea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gulf_of_Guinea) on the Atlantic Ocean. There are over 500 ethnic groups in Nigeria, of which the three largest are the [Hausa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hausa_people), [Igbo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Igbo_people) and [Yoruba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yoruba_people).

The British colonised Nigeria in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, setting up administrative structures and law while recognising traditional chiefs. Nigeria became independent in 1960. Several years later, it had [civil war](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian_Civil_War) as [Biafra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biafra) tried to establish independence. Military governments in times of crisis have alternated with democratically elected governments.

Nigeria is roughly divided in half between [Christians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity), who mostly live in the South and central parts of the country, and [Muslims](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam), concentrated mostly in the north. A minority of the population practice traditional and local religions, including the [Igbo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odinani) and [Yoruba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yoruba_religion" \o "Yoruba religion)religions.

Nigeria, known as "the Giant of Africa", is the most populous country in Africa and the[seventh most populous country in the world](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_population).[[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-Profile-10) Its oil reserves have brought great revenues to the country. Nigeria is considered to be an [Emerging market](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emerging_markets) nation by the[World Bank](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Bank).[[11]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-11) Nigeria's economy is the second largest in Africa, and the 37th largest in the world as of currently.[[12]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-12) Nigeria has been identified as a [regional power](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regional_power), it also has [regional hegemony](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regional_hegemony), and major influence within its region.[[13]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-NigeriaTradesmark-13)[[14]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-14)[[15]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-15) It is listed among the "[Next Eleven](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Next_Eleven)" economies. Nigeria is expected to become the largest economy in Africa overtaking [South Africa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Africa) in the near future and become one of the world's Top 20 economies by 2050.[[13]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-NigeriaTradesmark-13)

Nigeria is a member of both the [Commonwealth of Nations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Nations), and the [African Union](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_Union).

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Etymology

The name [*Nigeria*](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Nigeria) was taken from the [Niger River](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niger_River) running through the country. This name was coined by [Flora Shaw](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flora_Shaw),[*[citation needed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed" \o "Wikipedia:Citation needed)*] who later married [Baron Lugard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_Lugard), a[British colonial](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Empire) administrator, in the late 19th century.

History

*Main article:*[*History of Nigeria*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Nigeria)

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Edo_ivory_mask_18472.jpg)

[http://bits.wikimedia.org/static-1.23wmf18/skins/common/images/magnify-clip.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Edo_ivory_mask_18472.jpg)

The royal [Bini](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benin_Empire" \o "Benin Empire) mask of ivory, one of Nigeria's most recognised artefacts

**Prehistory**

The [Nok people](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nok_culture" \o "Nok culture) of central Nigeria produced the earliest [terracotta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terracotta) sculptures found in the country.[[16]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-archaeology-16) In the northern part of the country, [Kano](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kano) and [Katsina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katsina" \o "Katsina) have a recorded history dating back to around 999 AD. [Hausa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hausa_people) kingdoms and the [Kanem-Bornu Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kanem_Empire" \o "Kanem Empire) prospered as trade posts between North and West Africa.

Also in the North west, at the beginning of the 19th century under [Usman dan Fodio](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Usman_dan_Fodio" \o "Usman dan Fodio), the [Fulani](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fula_people) led the centralised [Fulani Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fulani_Empire), which continued until 1903 when the Fulani population and land were divided into various European colonies.

The [Yoruba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yoruba_people) kingdoms of [Ife](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ife) and [Oyo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oyo_Empire) in southwestern Nigeria became prominent in the 12th[[17]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-Falola1-17)[[18]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-18) and 14th[[19]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-19) century respectively. [Yoruba mythology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yoruba_mythology) states that Ile-Ife is the source of the human race and that it pre-dates any other civilisation. The oldest signs of human settlement dates back to the 9th century.[[17]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-Falola1-17) Ifẹ produced terracotta and [bronze](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bronze) figures, and Ọyọ once extended from western Nigeria to [Togo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Togo). The [Kingdom of Benin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Benin) is located in southwestern Nigeria. Benin's power lasted between the 15th and 19th century. Their dominance reached as far as the city of Eko (an [Edo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edo_language) name later changed to [Lagos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lagos) by the [Portuguese](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_Empire)) and further.[[20]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-20)

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Intricate_bronze_ceremonial_pot,_9th_century,_Igbo-Ukwu,_Nigeria.jpg)

[http://bits.wikimedia.org/static-1.23wmf18/skins/common/images/magnify-clip.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Intricate_bronze_ceremonial_pot,_9th_century,_Igbo-Ukwu,_Nigeria.jpg)

Intricate bronze ceremonial pot cast by[lost wax](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lost-wax_casting), with glass and carnelian beads, made in 9th century Nigeria excavated at[Igbo-Ukwu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archaeology_of_Igbo-Ukwu).

The [Kingdom of Nri](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nri_Kingdom) of the [Igbo people](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Igbo_people) started in the 10th century and continued until it lost its sovereignty to the British in 1911. It is one of the oldest kingdoms in Nigeria.[[21]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-Juang-21)[[22]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-22) Nri was ruled by the [Eze Nri](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eze_Nri" \o "Eze Nri), and the city of Nri is considered to be the foundation of Igbo culture. Nri and Aguleri, where the Igbo creation myth originates, are in the territory of the Umeuri clan; they trace their lineages back to the patriarchal king-figure [Eri](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eri_(divine_king)" \o "Eri (divine king)).[[23]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-23) The oldest pieces of bronzes made out of the lost-wax process in West Africa were from [Igbo Ukwu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Igbo_Ukwu), a city under Nri influence.[[21]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-Juang-21)

The people traded overland with traders from North Africa for centuries. In the 16th century, Spanish and Portuguese explorers were the first Europeans to begin trade in Nigeria, in the port they named [Lagos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lagos) and in [Calabar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calabar" \o "Calabar). The Europeans traded goods with the peoples of the coast. Soon they also negotiated for a portion of the existing [African slave trade](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlantic_slave_trade).

Traditionally, peoples captured in war were made slaves by the conquerors. Usually they were taken back to the conquerors' territory, put to work and sometimes acculturated and eventually absorbed into the other culture. When the Europeans entered the trade, they transported slaves mostly to the Americas to work as labourers. There, slavery became a racial caste to which people of African descent were confined, particularly in what became the United States.[*[citation needed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed" \o "Wikipedia:Citation needed)*] The demands of the slave trade produced a greater market in slaves than had existed before. Nigerian ethnic groups were transported to the Americas and the Caribbean as part of the African diaspora of slavery.

According to the *Encyclopedia of African History*, "It is estimated that by the 1890s the largest [slave population](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slavery_in_Africa) of the world, about 2 million people, was concentrated in the territories of the [Sokoto Caliphate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sokoto_Caliphate" \o "Sokoto Caliphate). The use of slave labor was extensive, especially in agriculture."[[24]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-24)

**Colonization**

*Main article:*[*Colonial Nigeria*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_Nigeria)

The slave trade was joined by Great Britain and France. The colonial era is considered to date from 1800, when, with rising anti-slavery sentiment at home, Great Britain abolished its international slave trade in 1807 together with the United States. Following the[Napoleonic Wars](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Napoleonic_Wars), Great Britain established the [West Africa Squadron](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Africa_Squadron) in an attempt to halt the international traffic in slaves.[[25]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-25) It stopped ships of other nations that were leaving the African coast with slaves; sometimes it would take the freed slaves to [Sierra Leone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sierra_Leone), its colony in West Africa, rather than return the people to the risk of renewed slavery in other coastal states.

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Ancient_Benin_city.JPG)

[http://bits.wikimedia.org/static-1.23wmf18/skins/common/images/magnify-clip.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Ancient_Benin_city.JPG)

[Benin city](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benin_city) in the 17th century with the[Oba of Benin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oba_of_Benin) in procession. This image appeared in a European book, *Description of Africa*, published in Amsterdam in 1668.[[26]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-26)

In 1885, British claims to a West African [sphere of influence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sphere_of_influence) received recognition from other European nations. The following year, it chartered the [Royal Niger Company](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Niger_Company) under the leadership of Sir [George Taubman Goldie](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Taubman_Goldie). In 1900 the company's territory came under the control of the British government, which moved to consolidate its hold over the area of modern Nigeria. On 1 January 1901, Nigeria became a British [protectorate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protectorate), part of the [British Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Empire), the foremost world power at the time. The independent kingdoms of what later became Nigeria fought many wars against the British Empire in the late 19th and early 20th centuries trying to regain independence. By war, the British conquered [Benin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benin_Empire) in 1897, and in the [Anglo-Aro War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglo-Aro_War) from 1901—1902 defeated other opponents. The restraint or complete destruction of these states opened up the Niger area to British rule.

In 1914, the British formally united the Niger area as the *Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria*. Administratively, Nigeria remained divided into the [northern](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Nigeria) and [southern](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Nigeria) provinces and[Lagos Colony](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lagos_Colony). The people of the South, with more interaction with the British and other Europeans due to the coastal economy, adopted Western education and developed a modern economy more rapidly than in the north. Many of its elite's sons went to Great Britain for education. The regional differences continue to be expressed in Nigeria's political life as well. For instance, northern Nigeria did not outlaw [slavery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_slave_trade) until 1936.[[27]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-27)

Following World War II, in response to the growth of Nigerian nationalism and demands for independence, successive constitutions legislated by the British government moved Nigeria toward [self-government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Self-government) on a representative and increasingly federal basis. By the middle of the 20th century, the great wave for independence was sweeping across Africa. Nigeria became independent in 1960.

**Independence (1960)**

On 1 October 1960, Nigeria gained its independence from the United Kingdom. Nigeria's government was a coalition of conservative parties: the [Nigerian People's Congress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Party_of_Nigeria) (NPC), a party dominated by Northerners and those of the Islamic faith; and the Igbo and Christian-dominated [National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Council_of_Nigeria_and_the_Cameroons) (NCNC) led by [Nnamdi Azikiwe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nnamdi_Azikiwe" \o "Nnamdi Azikiwe), who became Nigeria's maiden[Governor-General](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Governor-General) in 1960. Forming the opposition was the comparatively liberal [Action Group](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Action_Group_(Nigeria)) (AG), which was largely dominated by the Yoruba and led by [Obafemi Awolowo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obafemi_Awolowo" \o "Obafemi Awolowo).[[28]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-JBS-28) The cultural and political differences among Nigeria's dominant ethnic groups: the Hausa ('Northerners'), Igbo ('Easterners') and Yoruba ('Westerners'), were sharp.

An imbalance was created in the polity by the result of the 1961 plebiscite. [Southern Cameroon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Cameroons) opted to join the Republic of Cameroon while northern Cameroon chose to remain in Nigeria. The northern part of the country was now far larger than the southern part. The nation parted with its British legacy in 1963 by declaring itself a [Federal Republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Republic), with Azikiwe as its first [president](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_Nigeria). When elections were held in 1965, the [Nigerian National Democratic Party](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian_National_Democratic_Party) came to power in Nigeria's Western Region.

**Civil war (1967-1970)**

*Main article:*[*Nigerian Civil War*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian_Civil_War)

The disequilibrium and perceived corruption of the electoral and political process led in 1966 to several back-to-back [military coups](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_coup). The first was in January and led by a collection of young leftists under Major Emmanuel Ifeajuna and Chukwuma Kaduna Nzeogwu. It was partially successful; the coup plotters murdered [Prime Minister Abubakar Tafawa Balewa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abubakar_Tafawa_Balewa), [Premier Ahmadu Bello](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmadu_Bello) of the Northern Region and Premier Ladoke Akintola of the Western Region. Despite this, they could not set up a central government. President Nwafor Orizu was then pressured to hand over government to the Nigeria Army, under the command of General JTU Aguyi-Ironsi.

The coup was counter-acted by another successful plot, supported primarily by Northern military officers and Northerners who favoured the NPC, it was engineered by Northern officers, which allowed Lt Colonel [Yakubu Gowon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yakubu_Gowon" \o "Yakubu Gowon) to become head of state. This sequence of events led to an increase in ethnic tension and violence. The Northern coup, motivated by ethnic and religious reasons, resulted in the deaths of many military officers and civilians, especially those of Igbo descent.[*[citation needed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed" \o "Wikipedia:Citation needed)*]

The violence against the Igbo increased their desire for autonomy. By May 1967, the Eastern Region voted to declare independence as a state called the [Republic of Biafra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_Biafra), under the leadership of Lt Colonel [Emeka Ojukwu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emeka_Ojukwu" \o "Emeka Ojukwu).[[29]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-29) The [Nigerian Civil War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian_Civil_War) began as the Nigerian (Western and Northern) side attacked Biafra (South-eastern) on 6 July 1967 at Garkem. The 30 month war, with a long siege of Biafra and its isolation from trade and supplies, ended in January 1970.[[30]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-DDRS-30) Estimates of the [number of dead](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_wars_by_death_toll) in the former Eastern Region are between 1 and 3 million people, from warfare, disease, and [starvation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Starvation), during the 30-month civil war .[[31]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria" \l "cite_note-31)

France, Egypt, Soviet Union, Britain and others were deeply involved in the civil war behind the scenes. Britain and the Soviet Union were the main military backers of the Nigerian government while France and others helped the Biafrans. Nigeria also used Egyptian pilots for their air force.[[32]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-32)[[33]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-33)

**Military juntas**

*Main article:*[*Nigerian military juntas of 1966–1979 and 1983–1998*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian_military_juntas_of_1966%E2%80%931979_and_1983%E2%80%931998)

During the [oil boom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oil_boom) of the 1970s, Nigeria joined [OPEC](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OPEC), and the huge revenue generated made the economy richer, although the military administration did nothing to improve the standard of living of the population, or to help the small and medium businesses, or even invest in the infrastructure. As oil revenues fuelled the rise of federal subventions to states, the federal government became the centre of political struggle and the threshold of power in the country. As oil production and revenue rose, the Nigerian government created a dangerous situation as it became increasingly dependent on oil revenues and the international commodity markets for budgetary and economic concerns; it did not build economic stability. That spelled doom to [federalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federalism) in Nigeria.[[34]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-34)

Beginning in 1979, Nigerians participated in a brief return to democracy when [Olusegun Obasanjo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olusegun_Obasanjo" \o "Olusegun Obasanjo) transferred power to the civilian regime of [Shehu Shagari](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shehu_Shagari" \o "Shehu Shagari). The Shagari government became viewed as corrupt and incompetent by virtually all sectors of Nigerian society. The military coup of [Muhammadu Buhari](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammadu_Buhari" \o "Muhammadu Buhari) shortly after the regime's fraudulent re-election in 1984 was generally viewed as a positive development by most of the population.[[35]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-35) Buhari promised major reforms, but his government fared little better than its predecessor. His regime was overthrown by another military coup in 1985.[[36]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-Globe-36)

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Nigerian_troops_with_US_C130.jpg)

[http://bits.wikimedia.org/static-1.23wmf18/skins/common/images/magnify-clip.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Nigerian_troops_with_US_C130.jpg)

Nigerian soldiers in October 2004, part of the [United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_African_Union_Mission_in_Darfur), prepare to embark on a [US Air Force](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/US_Air_Force)[C-130](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C-130) cargo plane.

The new head of state, [Ibrahim Babangida](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibrahim_Babangida), declared himself president and commander in chief of the armed forces and the ruling Supreme Military Council. He set 1990 as the official deadline for a return to democratic governance. Babangida's tenure was marked by a flurry of political activity: he instituted the [International Monetary Fund](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Monetary_Fund)'s Structural Adjustment Program (SAP) to aid in the repayment of the country's crushing international debt, which most federal revenue was dedicated to servicing. He enrolled Nigeria in the [Organisation of the Islamic Conference](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organisation_of_Islamic_Cooperation" \o "Organisation of Islamic Cooperation), which aggravated religious tensions in the country.[[37]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-AP-37)

After Babangida survived an abortive coup, he pushed back the promised return to democracy to 1992. Free and fair elections were finally held on 12 June 1993, showing a presidential victory for [Moshood Kashimawo Olawale Abiola](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moshood_Kashimawo_Olawale_Abiola" \o "Moshood Kashimawo Olawale Abiola). Babangida chose to annul the elections, leading to mass civilian violent protests which effectively shut down the country for weeks. This forced Babangida to keep his promise to relinquish office to a civilian-run government, but not before appointing [Ernest Shonekan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernest_Shonekan) as head of the interim government.[[38]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-38) Babangida's regime has been considered the most corrupt, and responsible for creating a culture of corruption in Nigeria.[[39]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-39)

Shonekan's caretaker regime was overwhelmed in late 1993 by the military coup of General [Sani Abacha](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sani_Abacha" \o "Sani Abacha). Abacha oversaw brutal rule using violence on a wide scale to suppress the continuing civilian unrest. He shifted money to offshore accounts in various western European banks and voided coup plots by bribing army generals. Several hundred million dollars in accounts traced to him were discovered in 1999.[[40]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-40) The regime came to an end in 1998 when the dictator was found dead amid questionable circumstances. His successor, General [Abdulsalami Abubakar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdulsalami_Abubakar" \o "Abdulsalami Abubakar), adopted a new constitution on 5 May 1999, which provided for multiparty elections. On 29 May 1999 Abubakar transferred power to the winner of the elections, Obasanjo, who had since retired from the military.[[41]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-41)

**Democratization (1999-)**

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Durbar_5.jpg)

[http://bits.wikimedia.org/static-1.23wmf18/skins/common/images/magnify-clip.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Durbar_5.jpg)

[Bida Emirate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bida_Emirate) durbar festival, 2001

Nigeria regained democracy in 1999 when it elected [Olusegun Obasanjo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olusegun_Obasanjo" \o "Olusegun Obasanjo), the former military head of state, as the new [President of Nigeria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_Nigeria) ending almost 33 years of military rule (from 1966 until 1999) excluding the short-lived [second republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shehu_Shagari) (between 1979 and 1983) by military dictators who seized power in [coups d'état](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coup_d%27%C3%A9tat) and counter-coups during the [Nigerian military juntas of 1966–1979 and 1983–1998](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian_military_juntas_of_1966%E2%80%931979_and_1983%E2%80%931998). Although the elections which brought Obasanjo to power in 1999 and again in 2003 were condemned as unfree and unfair, Nigeria has shown marked improvements in attempts to tackle government corruption and to hasten development.

[Ethnic violence over the oil producing Niger Delta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conflict_in_the_Niger_Delta) region and inadequate infrastructures are some of the issues in the country. [Umaru Yar'Adua](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umaru_Yar%27Adua" \o "Umaru Yar'Adua) of the [People's Democratic Party (PDP)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Democratic_Party_(Nigeria))came into power in the [general election of 2007](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian_general_election,_2007) – an election that was witnessed and condemned by the international community as being severely flawed.[[42]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-42)

Yar'Adua died on 5 May 2010. Dr. [Goodluck Jonathan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goodluck_Jonathan" \o "Goodluck Jonathan) was sworn in as Yar'Adua's replacement on 6 May 2010,[[43]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-43) becoming Nigeria's 14th Head of State, while his vice, a former [Kaduna State](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaduna_State) governor, [Namadi Sambo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Namadi_Sambo" \o "Namadi Sambo), an architect, was chosen on 18 May 2010, by the National Assembly following President Goodluck Jonathan's nomination for Sambo to be his Vice-President.[[44]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-44)[[45]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-45)

Goodluck Jonathan served as Nigeria's president till 16 April 2011, when a new [presidential election in Nigeria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian_presidential_election,_2011) was conducted. Goodluck Jonathan of the PDP was declared the winner on 19 April 2011, having won the election by a total of 22,495,187 of the 39,469,484 votes cast to stand ahead of [Muhammadu Buhari](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammadu_Buhari" \o "Muhammadu Buhari) from the main opposition party, the [Congress for Progressive Change (CPC)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congress_for_Progressive_Change), which won 12,214,853 of the total votes cast.[[46]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-cnn-46) The international media reported the elections as having run smoothly with relatively little violence or voter fraud in contrast to previous elections.[[47]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-New_York-47)

Government and politics

*Main article:*[*Politics of Nigeria*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Nigeria)

*See also:*[*Federal Ministries of Nigeria*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Ministries_of_Nigeria)

Nigeria is a Federal Republic modelled [after the United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_the_United_States),[[48]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-48) with [executive power](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_power) exercised by the president and with overtones of the [Westminster System](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Westminster_System) model[[*citation needed*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)] in the composition and management of the upper and lower houses of the bicameral legislature. The president of Nigeria is [Goodluck Jonathan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goodluck_Jonathan" \o "Goodluck Jonathan), who succeeded [Umaru Musa Yar'Adua](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umaru_Musa_Yar%27Adua" \o "Umaru Musa Yar'Adua) to the office in 2010. The president presides as both [Head of State](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Head_of_State) and head of the national executive and is elected by [popular vote](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Popular_vote) to a maximum of two four-year terms.[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-factbook-6)

The president's power is checked by a [Senate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian_Senate) and a [House of Representatives](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Representatives_of_Nigeria), which are combined in a [bicameral](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bicameral) body called the[National Assembly](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Assembly_of_Nigeria). The Senate is a 109-seat body with three members from each state and one from the capital region of Abuja; members are elected by popular vote to four-year terms. The House contains 360 seats and the number of seats per state is determined by population.[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-factbook-6)

Ethnocentrism, tribalism, religious persecution, and [prebendalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prebendalism" \o "Prebendalism) have played a visible role in Nigerian politics both prior and subsequent to independence in 1960. Kin-selective altruism has made its way into Nigerian politics and has spurned (spurred?) various attempts by tribalists to concentrate Federal power to a particular region of their interests.[[49]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-49) Nationalism has also led to active secessionist movements such as [MASSOB](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MASSOB), Nationalist movements such as [Oodua Peoples Congress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oodua_Peoples_Congress" \o "Oodua Peoples Congress), [Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Movement_for_the_Emancipation_of_the_Niger_Delta) and a [civil war](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian_civil_war). Nigeria's three largest ethnic groups (Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba) have maintained historical preeminence in Nigerian politics; competition amongst these three groups has fuelled corruption and graft.[[50]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-rashid-50)

Because of the above issues, Nigeria's political parties are [pan-national](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pan-nationalism) and irreligious in character (though this does not preclude the continuing preeminence of the dominant ethnicities).[[50]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-rashid-50)[[51]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-51) The major political parties at present include the ruling [People's Democratic Party of Nigeria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Democratic_Party_(Nigeria)) which maintains 223 seats in the House and 76 in the Senate (61.9% and 69.7% respectively); the opposition [All Nigeria People's Party](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_Nigeria_People%27s_Party) has 96 House seats and 27 in the Senate (26.6% and 24.7%). There are also about twenty other minor opposition parties registered. The immediate past president, [Olusegun Obasanjo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olusegun_Obasanjo" \o "Olusegun Obasanjo), acknowledged fraud and other electoral "lapses" but said the result reflected opinion polls. In a national television address he added that if Nigerians did not like the victory of his handpicked successor they would have an opportunity to vote again in four years.[[52]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-52)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **[Nigeria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria) National symbols of Nigeria** | |
| **Flag** | [Bicolour](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Nigeria) |
| **Emblem** | [Coat of arms of Nigeria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coat_of_arms_of_Nigeria) |
| **Anthem** | "[Arise, O Compatriots](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arise,_O_Compatriots)" |
| **Animal** | [Eagle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eagle) |
| **Bird** | [Black Crowned Crane](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Crowned_Crane) |
| **Flower** | [*Costus spectabilis*](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Costus_spectabilis&action=edit&redlink=1) |
| **Sport** | [Football](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Association_football) |

Like in many other African societies, prebendalism and extremely excessive corruption continue to constitute major challenges to Nigeria, as vote rigging and other means of coercion are practised by all major parties to remain competitive. In 1983, it was adjudged by the policy institute at Kuru that only the 1959 and 1979 elections witnessed minimal rigging.[[53]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-53)

**Law**

*Main article:*[*Law of Nigeria*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law_of_Nigeria)

There are three distinct systems of law in Nigeria:

* [Common law](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_law), derived from its colonial past and a development of its own after independence;
* [Customary law](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Customary_law) which is derived from indigenous traditional norms and practice, including the dispute resolution meetings of pre-colonial Yorubaland secret societies and the [Ẹ̀kpẹ̀](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egbo" \o "Egbo) and Ọ̀kọ́ńkọ̀ of [Igboland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Igboland" \o "Igboland) and [Ibibioland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibibio_people" \o "Ibibio people);
* [Sharia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sharia) law, used only in the predominantly Muslim north of the country. It is an Islamic legal system which had been used long before the colonial administration in Nigeria but recently politicised and spearheaded in [Zamfara](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zamfara_State" \o "Zamfara State) in late 1999 and eleven other states followed suit. These states are [Kano](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kano_State), [Katsina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katsina_State), [Niger](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niger_State), [Bauchi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bauchi_State), [Borno](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borno_State), [Kaduna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaduna_State), [Gombe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gombe_State), [Sokoto](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sokoto_State), [Jigawa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jigawa_State), [Yobe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yobe_State), and [Kebbi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kebbi_State" \o "Kebbi State).[[54]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-54)

The country has a [judicial branch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judicial_branch), the highest court of which is the [Supreme Court of Nigeria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_Nigeria).[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-factbook-6)

**Foreign relations**

*Main article:*[*Foreign relations of Nigeria*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foreign_relations_of_Nigeria)

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Obasanjo_with_Bush.jpg)

[http://bits.wikimedia.org/static-1.23wmf18/skins/common/images/magnify-clip.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Obasanjo_with_Bush.jpg)

President [Olusegun Obasanjo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olusegun_Obasanjo" \o "Olusegun Obasanjo) talks with[George W. Bush](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_W._Bush), June 2003

Upon gaining independence in 1960, Nigeria made African unity the centrepiece of its foreign policy and played a leading role in the fight against the [apartheid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apartheid) government in South Africa.[[55]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-55) One notable exception to the African focus of Nigeria's foreign policy was the close relationship the country enjoyed with [Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel) throughout the 1960s, with the latter country sponsoring and overseeing the construction of Nigeria's parliament buildings.[[56]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-56)

Nigeria's foreign policy was soon tested in the 1970s after the country emerged united from its own civil war and quickly committed itself to the movements against white minority governments in the Southern Africa sub-region. Nigeria backed the [African National Congress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_National_Congress) (ANC) by taking a committed tough line with regard to the South African government and their military actions in southern Africa. Nigeria was also a founding member of the [Organisation for African Unity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organisation_for_African_Unity" \o "Organisation for African Unity) (now the [African Union](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_Union)), and has tremendous influence in West Africa and Africa on the whole. Nigeria has additionally founded regional cooperative efforts in West Africa, functioning as standard-bearer for the [Economic Community of West African States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic_Community_of_West_African_States)(ECOWAS) and [ECOMOG](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ECOMOG), economic and military organisations respectively.

With this African-centred stance, Nigeria readily sent troops to the [Congo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congo_Crisis) at the behest of the United Nations shortly after independence (and has maintained membership since that time); Nigeria also supported several Pan African and pro-self government causes in the 1970s, including garnering support for [Angola](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angola)'s [MPLA](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Popular_Movement_for_the_Liberation_of_Angola), [SWAPO](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SWAPO) in Namibia, and aiding opposition the governments of [Portuguese Mozambique](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mozambican_War_of_Independence), and [Rhodesia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhodesian_Bush_War).

Nigeria retains membership in the [Non-Aligned Movement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-Aligned_Movement), and in late November 2006 organised an Africa-South America Summit in Abuja to promote what some attendees termed "South-South" linkages on a variety of fronts.[[57]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-57) Nigeria is also a member of the[International Criminal Court](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Criminal_Court), and the [Commonwealth of Nations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Nations), from which it was temporarily expelled in 1995 under the [Abacha regime](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sani_Abacha" \o "Sani Abacha).

Nigeria has remained a key player in the [international oil industry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petroleum_industry) since the 1970s, and maintains membership in [Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organization_of_the_Petroleum_Exporting_Countries) (OPEC) which it joined in July 1971. Its [status as a major petroleum producer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petroleum_in_Nigeria) figures prominently in its sometimes vicissitudinous international relations with both [developed countries](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Developed_countries), notably the United States and more recently China and developing countries, notably [Ghana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghana), Jamaica and [Kenya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenya).[[58]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-58)

Millions of Nigerians have emigrated at times of economic hardship to Europe, North America and Australia among others. It is estimated that over a million Nigerians have emigrated to the United States and constitute the [Nigerian American](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian_American) populace. Of such Diasporic communities include the "Egbe Omo Yoruba" society.[[59]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-59)

**Military**

*See also:*[*Military of Nigeria*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_of_Nigeria)

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Shiphouse_Abuja.jpg)

[http://bits.wikimedia.org/static-1.23wmf18/skins/common/images/magnify-clip.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Shiphouse_Abuja.jpg)

Ship House, Defense Headquarters

The Nigerian Military are charged with protecting The Federal Republic of Nigeria, promoting Nigeria's global security interests, and supporting peacekeeping efforts especially in West Africa.

The Nigerian Military consist of an army, a navy and an air force.[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-factbook-6) The military in Nigeria have played a major role in the country's history since independence. Various juntas have seized control of the country and ruled it through most of its history. Its last period of rule ended in 1999 following the sudden death of former dictator [Sani Abacha](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sani_Abacha" \o "Sani Abacha) in 1998, with his successor, Abdulsalam Abubakar, handing over power to the democratically elected government of Olusegun Obasanjo in 1999.

Taking advantage of its role as Africa's most populated country, Nigeria has repositioned its military as an African peacekeeping force. Since 1995, the Nigerian military through [ECOMOG](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ECOMOG) mandates have been deployed as peacekeepers in [Liberia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberia) (1997), [Ivory Coast](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ivory_Coast) (1997–1999), [Sierra Leone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sierra_Leone) 1997–1999,[[60]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-Press-60) and presently in [Sudan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudan)'s [Darfur](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darfur_conflict) region under an African Union mandate.

Geography

*Main article:*[*Geography of Nigeria*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Nigeria)

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Un-nigeria.png)

[http://bits.wikimedia.org/static-1.23wmf18/skins/common/images/magnify-clip.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Un-nigeria.png)

A map of Nigeria.

Nigeria is located in western Africa on the Gulf of Guinea and has a total area of 923,768 km2(356,669 sq mi),[[61]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-61) making it the world's 32nd-largest country (after[Tanzania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tanzania)). It is comparable in size to [Venezuela](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Venezuela), and is about twice the size of California. It shares a 4,047 kilometres (2,515 mi) border with Benin (773 km), Niger (1497 km), Chad (87 km), Cameroon (1690 km), and has a coastline of at least 853 km.[[62]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-62)Nigeria lies between latitudes [4°](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/4th_parallel_north)and [14°N](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/14th_parallel_north), and longitudes [2°](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2nd_meridian_east) and[15°E](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/15th_meridian_east).

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Zuma_rock.jpg)

[http://bits.wikimedia.org/static-1.23wmf18/skins/common/images/magnify-clip.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Zuma_rock.jpg)

The [Zuma Rock](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zuma_Rock" \o "Zuma Rock) near Suleja

The highest point in Nigeria is[Chappal Waddi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chappal_Waddi) at 2,419 m (7,936 ft). The main rivers are the[Niger](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niger_River) and the [Benue River](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benue_River) which converge and empty into the [Niger Delta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niger_Delta), one of the world's largest river deltas and the location of a large area of Central African Mangroves.

Nigeria has a varied landscape. The far south is defined by its [tropical rainforest climate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tropical_rainforest_climate), where annual rainfall is 60 to 80 inches (1,524 to 2,032 mm) a year.[[63]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-gai5-63) In the southeast stands the [Obudu Plateau](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obudu_Plateau" \o "Obudu Plateau). [Coastal plains](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coastal_plain) are found in both the southwest and the southeast.[[64]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-encarta-64) This forest zone's most southerly portion is defined as salt water swamp, also known as a mangrove swamp because of the large amount of [mangroves](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mangrove" \o "Mangrove)in the area. North of this is fresh water swamp, containing different vegetation from the salt water swamp, and north of that is rain forest.[[65][65]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-gai4-65)

Nigeria's most expansive topographical region is that of the valleys of the Niger and Benue River valleys (which merge into each other and form a "y" shape).[[64]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-encarta-64) To the southwest of the Niger there is "rugged" [highland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Highland_(geography)), and to the southeast of the Benue are hills and mountains which forms the [Mambilla Plateau](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mambilla_Plateau" \o "Mambilla Plateau), the highest Plateau in Nigeria.This plateau extends to the border with[Cameroon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cameroon), this [montane](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montane" \o "Montane) land is part of the [Bamenda Highlands](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bamenda_Highlands" \o "Bamenda Highlands) in Cameroon.

The area near the border with Cameroon close to the coast is rich rainforest and part of the [Cross-Sanaga-Bioko coastal forests](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross-Sanaga-Bioko_coastal_forests)ecoregion, an important centre for [biodiversity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biodiversity) including the [drill monkey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drill_(mammal)) which is only found in the wild in this area and across the border in Cameroon. It is widely believed that the areas surrounding [Calabar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calabar" \o "Calabar), Cross River State, also in this forest, contain the world's largest diversity of [butterflies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Butterflies). The area of southern Nigeria between the [Niger](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_Niger) and the [Cross Rivers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross_River_(Nigeria)) has seen its forest more or less disappear to be replaced by grassland (*see*[*Cross-Niger transition forests*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross-Niger_transition_forests)).

Everything in between the far south and the far north, is [savannah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Savannah) (insignificant tree cover, with grasses and flowers located between trees), and rainfall is between 20 and 60 inches (508 and 1,524 mm) per year.[[63]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-gai5-63) The savannah zone's three categories are [Guinean forest-savanna mosaic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guinean_forest-savanna_mosaic), plains of tall grass which are interrupted by trees and the most common across the country: Sudan savannah, similar but with "shorter grasses and shorter trees; and [Sahel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sahel) savannah, comprised patches of grass and sand, found in the northeast.[[65]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-gai4-65) In the Sahel region, rain is less than 20 inches (508 mm) per year and the [Sahara Desert](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sahara_Desert) is encroaching.[[63]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-gai5-63) In the dry north-east corner of the country lies [Lake Chad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Chad), which Nigeria shares with [Niger](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niger), Chad and Cameroon.

**Environmental issues**

*Main articles:*[*Environmental issues in the Niger Delta*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_issues_in_the_Niger_Delta)*and*[*Deforestation in Nigeria*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deforestation_in_Nigeria)

Nigeria's Delta region, home of the large [oil industry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petroleum_in_Nigeria), experiences serious [oil spills](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oil_spills) and other environmental problems, which has caused[conflict](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conflict_in_the_Niger_Delta).

[Waste management](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management) including [sewage treatment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sewage_treatment), the linked processes of [deforestation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deforestation) and [soil degradation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soil_degradation), and [climate change](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change) or[global warming](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_warming) are the major environmental problems in Nigeria. Waste management presents problems in a [mega city](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mega_city) like Lagos and other major Nigerian cities which are linked with economic development, population growth and the inability of municipal councils to manage the resulting rise in industrial and domestic waste. This huge waste management problem is also attributable to unsustainable environmental management lifestyles of Kubwa Community in the Federal Capital Territory, where there are habits of indiscriminate disposal of waste, dumping of waste along or into the canals, sewerage systems that are channels for water flows, etc.[[66]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-66)

Haphazard industrial planning, increased urbanisation, poverty and lack of competence of the municipal government are seen as the major reasons for high levels of waste pollution in major Nigerian cities. Some of the 'solutions' have been disastrous to the environment, resulting in untreated waste being dumped in places where it can pollute waterways and groundwater.[[67]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-67)

As of 2005, Nigeria has the highest rate of [deforestation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deforestation) in the world according to the [Food and Agriculture Organization](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_and_Agriculture_Organization) of the [United Nations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations) (FAO).[[68]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-68) In 2005 12.2%, the equivalent of 11,089,000 hectares had been forested in Nigeria. Between 1990 and 2000, Nigeria lost an average of 409,700 hectares of forest every year equal to an average annual deforestation rate of 2.38%. Between 1990 and 2005, in total Nigeria lost 35.7% of its forest cover, or around 6,145,000 hectares.[[69]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria" \l "cite_note-69)

**Subdivisions**

*Main article:*[*Subdivisions of Nigeria*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subdivisions_of_Nigeria)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Major cities** | |
| **City** | **Population** |
| [Lagos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lagos) | 7,937,932 |
| [Kano](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kano) | 3,848,885 |
| [Ibadan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibadan) | 3,078,400 |
| [Kaduna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaduna) | 1,652,844 |
| [Port Harcourt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_Harcourt) | 1,320,214 |
| [Benin City](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benin_City) | 1,051,600 |
| [Maiduguri](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maiduguri) | 1,044,497 |
| [Zaria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zaria) | 1,018,827 |

Nigeria is divided into [thirty-six states](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/States_of_Nigeria) and one [Federal Capital Territory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Capital_Territory,_Nigeria), which are further sub-divided into 774 [Local Government Areas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Local_Government_Areas_in_Nigeria) (LGAs). The plethora of states, of which there were only three at independence, reflect the country's tumultuous history and the difficulties of managing such a heterogeneous national entity at all levels of government. In some contexts, the states are aggregated into six geopolitical zones: North West, North East, North Central, South East, South South, and South West.[[70]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-70)[[71]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-71)

Nigeria has six cities with a population of over 1 million people (from largest to smallest: [Lagos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lagos), [Kano](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kano" \o "Kano),[Ibadan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibadan), [Kaduna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaduna), [Port Harcourt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_Harcourt), and [Benin City](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benin_City)). Lagos is the [largest city in sub-Saharan Africa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_most_populous_cities_in_Africa), with a population of over [8 million](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_metropolitan_areas_by_population) in its urban area alone. However, these figures are regularly disputed in Nigeria.[[72]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-felix-72)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A clickable map of Nigeria exhibiting its 36 states and the federal capital territory.  A clickable map of Nigeria exhibiting its 36 states and the federal capital territory.  [About this image](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Nigeria_political.png)   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **States** | | | | 1. [Anambra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anambra_State) 2. [Enugu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enugu_State) 3. [Akwa Ibom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Akwa_Ibom_State) 4. [Adamawa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adamawa_State) 5. [Abia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abia_State) 6. [Bauchi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bauchi_State) 7. [Bayelsa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bayelsa_State) 8. [Benue](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benue_State) 9. [Borno](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borno_State) 10. [Cross River](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross_River_State) 11. [Delta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delta_State) 12. [Ebonyi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ebonyi_State) | 1. [Edo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edo_State) 2. [Ekiti](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ekiti_State) 3. [Gombe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gombe_State) 4. [Imo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imo_State) 5. [Jigawa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jigawa_State) 6. [Kaduna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaduna_State) 7. [Kano](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kano_State) 8. [Katsina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katsina_State) 9. [Kebbi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kebbi_State) 10. [Kogi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kogi_State) 11. [Kwara](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kwara_State) 12. [Lagos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lagos_State) | 1. [Nasarawa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nasarawa_State) 2. [Niger](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niger_State) 3. [Ogun](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ogun_State) 4. [Ondo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ondo_State) 5. [Osun](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Osun_State) 6. [Oyo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oyo_State) 7. [Plateau](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plateau_State) 8. [Rivers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rivers_State) 9. [Sokoto](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sokoto_State) 10. [Taraba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taraba_State) 11. [Yobe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yobe_State) 12. [Zamfara](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zamfara_State) | | **Federal Capital Territory** | | | | [Abuja](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Capital_Territory_(Nigeria)) | | | |

Economy

*Main article:*[*Economy of Nigeria*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_Nigeria)

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Lagos_Island.jpg)

[http://bits.wikimedia.org/static-1.23wmf18/skins/common/images/magnify-clip.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Lagos_Island.jpg)

[Lagos Island](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lagos_Island) as seen from the harbour near [Victoria Island](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victoria_Island_(Nigeria)).

Nigeria is classified as a [mixed economy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mixed_economy) [emerging market](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emerging_markets), and has already reached lower middle income status according to the [World Bank](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Bank_Group),[[73]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-73) with its abundant supply of natural resources, well-developed financial, legal, communications, transport sectors and stock exchange (the [Nigerian Stock Exchange](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian_Stock_Exchange)), which is the second largest in Africa. Nigeria is ranked 30th in the world in terms of [GDP (PPP)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(PPP)) as of 2012. Nigeria is the United States' largest trading partner in sub-Saharan Africa and supplies a fifth of its oil (11% of oil imports). It has the seventh-largest trade surplus with the US of any country worldwide. Nigeria is the 50th-largest export market for US goods and the 14th-largest exporter of goods to the US The United States is the country's largest foreign investor.[[74]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-74) The [International Monetary Fund](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Monetary_Fund) (IMF) projected economic growth of 9% in 2008 and 8.3% in 2009.[[75]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-75)[[76]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-76)[[77]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-77) The IMF further projects a 8% growth in the Nigerian economy in 2011.[[78]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-78)

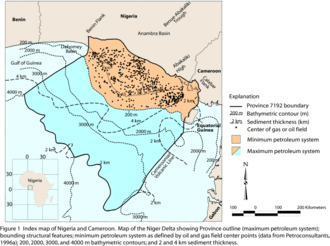
February 2011: According to [Citigroup](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citigroup), Nigeria will get the highest average GDP growth in the world between 2010–2050. Nigeria is one of two countries from Africa among 11 [Global Growth Generators](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3G_(countries)) countries.[[79]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-79)

Previously, economic development had been hindered by years of [military rule](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_dictatorship), corruption, and mismanagement. The restoration of democracy and subsequent economic reforms have successfully put Nigeria back on track towards achieving its full economic potential. It is now the second largest economy in Africa (following South Africa), and the largest economy in the West Africa Region.[[80]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-80)

During the [oil boom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OPEC) of the 1970s, Nigeria accumulated a significant foreign debt to finance major infrastructural investments. With the fall of oil prices during the [1980s oil glut](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1980s_oil_glut) Nigeria struggled to keep up with its loan payments and eventually defaulted on its principal debt repayments, limiting repayment to the interest portion of the loans. Arrears and penalty interest accumulated on the unpaid principal which increased the size of the debt.

However, after negotiations by the Nigeria authorities, in October 2005 Nigeria and its [Paris Club](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris_Club) creditors reached an agreement in which Nigeria repurchased its debt at a discount of approximately 60%. Nigeria used part of its oil profits to pay the residual 40%, freeing up at least $1.15 billion annually for poverty reduction programmes. Nigeria made history in April 2006 by becoming the first African Country to completely pay off its debt (estimated $30 billion) owed to the Paris Club.

**Key sectors**

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Nigerdeltapetroleumsys.gif)

[http://bits.wikimedia.org/static-1.23wmf18/skins/common/images/magnify-clip.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Nigerdeltapetroleumsys.gif)

Nigeria's vast Petroleum and Natural gas production system.

Nigeria is the 12th largest producer of petroleum in the world and the 8th largest exporter, and has the 10th largest proven reserves. (The country joined [OPEC](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OPEC) in 1971). [Petroleum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petroleum_in_Nigeria) plays a large role in the Nigerian economy, accounting for 40% of GDP and 80% of Government earnings. However, agitation for better resource control in the [Niger Delta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niger_Delta), its main oil producing region, has led to disruptions in oil production and prevents the country from exporting at 100% capacity.[[81]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-81) The Niger Delta Nembe Creek [Oil field](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oil_field) was discovered in 1973 and produces from middle [Miocene](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miocene" \o "Miocene)[deltaic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_delta) [sandstone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandstone)-[shale](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shale) in an [anticline](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anticline) [structural trap](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Structural_trap) at a depth of 2–4 km.[[82]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-82)

Nigeria has one of the fastest growing telecommunications markets in the world, major emerging market operators (like MTN, Etisalat, Zain and Globacom) basing their largest and most profitable centres in the country.[[83]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-83) The government has recently begun expanding this infrastructure to [space based communications](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Space_Research_and_Development_Agency). Nigeria has a space satellite which is monitored at the Nigerian National Space Research and Development Agency Headquarters in Abuja.

The country has a highly developed financial services sector, with a mix of local and international banks, asset management companies, brokerage houses, insurance companies and brokers, private equity funds and investment banks.[[84]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-84)

Nigeria also has a wide array of underexploited mineral resources which include natural gas, coal, [bauxite](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bauxite), [tantalite](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tantalite), gold, [tin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tin), iron ore,[limestone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Limestone), [niobium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niobium), lead and [zinc](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zinc).[[85]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-Gov-85) Despite huge deposits of these natural resources, the mining industry in Nigeria is still in its infancy.

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:OAU_Palm_farm.jpg)

[http://bits.wikimedia.org/static-1.23wmf18/skins/common/images/magnify-clip.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:OAU_Palm_farm.jpg)

[Obafemi Awolowo University](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obafemi_Awolowo_University)Palm farm, [Ile-Ife](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ile-Ife), Nigeria.

Agriculture used to be the principal foreign exchange earner of Nigeria.[[86]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-86) At one time, Nigeria was the world's largest exporter of [groundnuts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peanut), [cocoa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cocoa_bean), and [palm oil](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palm_oil) and a significant producer of [coconuts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coconut" \o "Coconut),[citrus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citrus) fruits, maize, [pearl millet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pearl_millet), [cassava](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cassava), [yams](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yam_(vegetable)) and [sugar cane](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sugar_cane). About 60% of Nigerians work in the agricultural sector, and Nigeria has vast areas of underutilised arable land.[[87]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-87)

It also has a manufacturing industry which includes leather and textiles (centred Kano, Abeokuta, Onitsha, and Lagos), car manufacturing (for the French car manufacturer [Peugeot](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peugeot) as well as for the English truck manufacturer [Bedford](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bedford_Vehicles), now a subsidiary of [General Motors](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Motors)), [t-shirts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T-shirts), plastics and[processed food](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Processed_food).

**Science and technology**

Four [satellites](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satellites) have been launched by the Nigerian government into [outer space](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outer_space). The Nigeriasat-1 was the first satellite to be built under the Nigerian government sponsorship. The satellite was launched from Russia on 27 September 2003. Nigeriasat-1 was part of the world-wide Disaster Monitoring Constellation System.[[88]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-nairaland.com-88) The primary objectives of the Nigeriasat-1 were: to give early warning signals of environmental disaster; to help detect and control [desertification](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desertification) in the northern part of Nigeria; to assist in [demographic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographic) planning; to establish the relationship between [malaria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malaria" \o "Malaria)vectors and the environment that breeds malaria and to give early warning signals on future outbreaks of [meningitis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meningitis) using remote sensing technology; to provide the technology needed to bring education to all parts of the country through distant learning; and to aid in conflict resolution and border disputes by mapping out state and International borders.

NigeriaSat-2, Nigeria's second satellite, was built as a high-resolution earth satellite by Surrey Space Technology Limited, a United Kingdom-based satellite technology company. It has 2.5-metre resolution panchromatic (very high resolution), 5-metre multispectral (high resolution, NIR red, green and red bands), and 32-metre multispectral (medium resolution, NIR red, green and red bands) antennas, with a ground receiving station in Abuja. The NigeriaSat-2 spacecraft alone was built at a cost of over £35 million.[*[citation needed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed" \o "Wikipedia:Citation needed)*] This satellite was launched into [orbit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orbit) from a military base in China.[[88]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-nairaland.com-88)

[NigComSat-1](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NigComSat-1), a Nigerian satellite built in 2004, was Nigeria's third satellite and Africa's first communication satellite. It was launched on 13 May 2007, aboard a Chinese [Long March 3B](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long_March_3B) [carrier rocket](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carrier_rocket), from the [Xichang Satellite Launch Centre](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xichang_Satellite_Launch_Centre" \o "Xichang Satellite Launch Centre) in China. The spacecraft was operated by [NigComSat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NigComSat" \o "NigComSat) and the Nigerian Space Agency, [NASRDA](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NASRDA). On 11 November 2008, NigComSat-1 failed in orbit after running out of power due to an anomaly in its solar array. It was based on the Chinese [DFH-4](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DFH-4) [satellite bus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satellite_bus), and carries a variety of [transponders](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transponder): 4[C-band](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C-band); 14 [Ku-band](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ku-band); 8 [Ka-band](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ka-band); and 2 [L-band](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/L-band). It was designed to provide coverage to many parts of Africa, and the Ka-band transponders would also cover Italy.

On 10 November 2008 (0900 GMT), the satellite was reportedly switched off for analysis and to avoid a possible collision with other satellites. According to Nigerian Communications Satellite Limited, it was put into "emergency mode operation in order to effect mitigation and repairs".[[89]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-89) The satellite eventually failed after losing power on 11 November 2008.

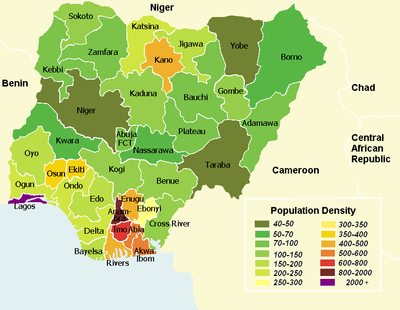
On 24 March 2009, the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, NigComSat Ltd. and CGWIC signed a further contract for the in-orbit delivery of the NigComSat-1R satellite. NigComSat-1R was also a DFH-4 satellite, and is expected to be delivered in the fourth quarter of 2011 as a replacement for the failed NigComSat-1.[[90]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-90)

On 19 December 2011,a new Nigerian communications satellite was lunched into orbit by China in Xichang.The satellite according to Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan which was paid for by the insurance policy on NigComSat-1 which de-orbited in 2009, would have a positive impact on national development in various sectors such as communications, internet services, health, agriculture, environmental protection and national security.[[91]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-91)

Nigeria in recent years has been embracing industrialization, It currently has an indigenous vehicle manufacturing company, *Innoson Motors (IVM)* which manufactures [Rapid Transit Buses](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bus_rapid_transit), [Trucks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Truck) and [SUVs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SUV) with an upcoming introduction of [Cars](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Car).[[92]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-AbujaInquirer-92) Their various brands of vehicle are currently available in Nigeria, Ghana and other West African Nations.[[92]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-AbujaInquirer-92)[[93]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-93) Nigeria also has few Electronic manufacturers like Zinox, the first Branded Nigerian Computer and Electronic gadgets (like tablet PCs) manufacturers.[[94]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-94) In 2013, Nigeria introduced a policy regarding import duty on vehicles to encourage local manufacturing companies in the country.[[95]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-95)[[96]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-96) In this regard, some foreign vehicle manufacturing companies like *Nissan* have made known their plans to have manufacturing plants in Nigeria.[[97]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-97) Apart from Electronics and vehicles, most consumer, pharmaceutical and cosmetic products, building materials (Nigeria is the largest manufacturer of cement in Africa), textiles, home tools, plastics and so on are also manufactured in the country.[[98]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-98) [Ogun](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ogun_State" \o "Ogun State) is considered to be the current Nigeria's industrial hub (as most factories are located in Ogun and even more companies are moving there), followed by [Lagos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lagos).[[99]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-99)[[100]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-100)[[101]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-101)

Demographics

*Main article:*[*Demographics of Nigeria*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Nigeria)

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Population_density_map_of_Nigerian_states_-_English.png)

[http://bits.wikimedia.org/static-1.23wmf18/skins/common/images/magnify-clip.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Population_density_map_of_Nigerian_states_-_English.png)

Population density in Nigeria

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Population in Nigeria**[[102]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-IEApop2011-102) | | | |
| **Year** | **Million** |  |  |
| 1971 | 55.1 |  |  |
| 1980 | 71.1 |  |  |
| 1990 | 94.5 |  |  |
| 2000 | 124.8 |  |  |
| 2004 | 138.0 |  |  |
| 2008 | 151.3 |  |  |

Population in Nigeria increased from 1990 to 2008 by 57 million a 60% growth rate.[[102]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-IEApop2011-102)Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and accounts for about 18% of the continent's total population, however, exactly how populous is a subject of speculation.[[103]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-103)

The United Nations estimates that the population in 2009 was at 154,729,000, distributed as 51.7% rural and 48.3% urban, and with a population density of 167.5 people per square kilometre. National census results in the past few decades have been disputed. The results of the most recent census were released in December 2006 and gave a population of 140,003,542. The only breakdown available was by gender: males numbered 71,709,859, females numbered 68,293,08. On June 2012, President Goodluck Jonathan said that Nigerians should limit their number of children.[[104]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-104)

According to the United Nations, Nigeria has been undergoing explosive population growth and one of the highest growth and fertility rates in the world. By their projections, Nigeria is one of eight countries expected to account collectively for half of the world's total population increase from 2005–2050.[[105]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-105) By 2100 the UN estimates that the Nigerian population will be between 505 million and 1.03 billion people (middle estimate: 730 million).[[106]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-106) In 1950, Nigeria had only 33 million people.[[107]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-107)

One out of every four Africans is Nigerian.[[108]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-108) Presently, [Nigeria is the seventh most populous country in the world](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_population). 2006 estimates claim 42.3% of the population is between 0–14 years of age, while 54.6% is between 15–65; the [birth rate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birth_rate) is significantly higher than the[death rate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_rate), at 40.4 and 16.9 per 1000 people respectively.[[109]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-CP2006-109)

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:A_woman_attends_a_health_education_session_in_northern_Nigeria_(8406369172).jpg)

[http://bits.wikimedia.org/static-1.23wmf18/skins/common/images/magnify-clip.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:A_woman_attends_a_health_education_session_in_northern_Nigeria_(8406369172).jpg)

Women in north Nigeria

Health, health care, and general living conditions in Nigeria are poor. [Life expectancy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Life_expectancy) is 52 years (average male/female) and just over half the population has access to potable water and appropriate [sanitation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanitation); the percentage of children under five has gone up rather than down between 1990 and 2003 and infant mortality is 97.1 deaths per 1000 [live births](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Live_birth_(human)).[[109]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-CP2006-109)HIV/AIDS rate in Nigeria is much lower compared to the other African nations such as [Kenya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenya" \o "Kenya)or South Africa whose prevalence (percentage) rates are in the double digits. In 2003, the HIV prevalence rate among 20 to 29-year-olds was 5.6%.[[110]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-110)

Nigeria suffers from periodic outbreaks of [cholera](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cholera), [malaria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malaria), and [sleeping sickness](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_trypanosomiasis). It is the only country in Africa to have never eradicated [polio](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polio), which it periodically exports to other African countries. A 2004 vaccination drive, spearheaded by the [W.H.O.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Health_Organization) to combat polio and malaria, met with some opposition in the north,[[111]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-111) but polio was cut 98% between 2009 and 2010.

Education is in a state of neglect. After the 1970s oil boom, tertiary education was improved so that it would reach every subregion of Nigeria. Education is provided free by the government, but the attendance rate for secondary education is only 29% (32% for males, 27% for females). The education system has been described as "dysfunctional" largely because of decaying institutional infrastructure. 68% of the population is literate, and the rate for men (75.7%) is higher than that for women (60.6%).[[109]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-CP2006-109)

Nigeria's largest city is [Lagos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lagos). Lagos has grown from about 300,000 in 1950[[112]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-112) to an estimated 15 million today, and the Nigerian government estimates that city will have expanded to 25 million residents by 2015.[[113]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-113)

**Ethno-linguistic groups**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [Hausa harpist.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Hausa_harpist.jpg) | [Igbo hat and Isiagu.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Igbo_hat_and_Isiagu.jpg) | [Kwarastatedrummers.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Kwarastatedrummers.jpg) |
| A [Hausa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hausa_people) harpist | [Igbo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Igbo_people) men | [Yoruba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yoruba_people) drummers |

Nigeria has more than 250 ethnic groups, with varying languages and customs, creating a country of rich ethnic diversity. The largest ethnic groups are the [Hausa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hausa_people), [Yoruba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yoruba_people), [Igbo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Igbo_people) and [Fulani](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fula_people), accounting for more than 70% of the population,[[*citation needed*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)] while the [Edo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edo_(ethnic_group)), [Ijaw](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ijaw_people" \o "Ijaw people), [Kanuri](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kanuri_people), [Ibibio](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibibio_people), Ebira, [Nupe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nupe_people), [Gwari](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gwari), [Itsekiri](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Itsekiri), [Jukun](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jukun_people_(West_Africa)), [Urhobo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urhobo_people), [Igala](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Igala), [Idoma](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idoma_people) and [Tiv](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiv_people) comprise between 25 and 30%; other minorities make up the remaining 5%.[[114]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-NGeo-114)

The middle belt of Nigeria is known for its diversity of ethnic groups, including the Pyem, Goemai, and [Kofyar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kofyar" \o "Kofyar). The official population count of each of Nigeria's ethnicities has always remained controversial and disputed as members of different ethnic groups believe the census is rigged to give a particular group (usually believed to be northern groups) numerical superiority.[[72]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-felix-72)[[115]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-115)[[116]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-116)

There are small minorities of British, American, [East Indian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_diaspora), [Chinese](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_people_in_Nigeria) (est. 50,000),[[117]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-117) white [Zimbabwean](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whites_in_Zimbabwe),[[118]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-118) Japanese, Greek, Syrian and Lebanese immigrants in Nigeria. Immigrants also include those from other West African or East African nations. These minorities mostly reside in major cities such as [Lagos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lagos) and [Abuja](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abuja), or in the [Niger Delta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niger_Delta) as employees for the major oil companies. A number of Cubans settled in Nigeria as political refugees following the [Cuban Revolution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuban_Revolution).

In the middle of the 19th century, a number of ex-slaves of [Afro-Cuban](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afro-Cuban) and [Afro-Brazilian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afro-Brazilian) descent[[119]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria" \l "cite_note-119) and emigrants from [Sierra Leone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sierra_Leone)established communities in Lagos and other regions of Nigeria. Many ex-slaves came to Nigeria following the emancipation of slaves in the Americas. Many of the immigrants, sometimes called Saros (immigrants from Sierra Leone) and Amaro (ex-slaves from Brazil)[[120]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria" \l "cite_note-120)later became prominent merchants and [missionaries](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Missionaries) in these cities.

**Language**

*Main article:*[*Languages of Nigeria*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Languages_of_Nigeria)

The number of languages estimated and catalogued in Nigeria is 521.[*[citation needed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed" \o "Wikipedia:Citation needed)*] This number includes 510 living languages, two second languages without native speakers and nine extinct languages. In some areas of Nigeria, ethnic groups speak more than one language. The official language of Nigeria, English, was chosen to facilitate the cultural and linguistic unity of the country. The choice of English as the official language was partially related to the fact that a part of the Nigerian population spoke English as a result of [British colonisation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_Nigeria) that ended in 1960.

Many French speakers from the surrounding countries are influencing English speakers in Nigeria and a number of Nigerian citizens have become fluent enough to work in the surrounding countries. The French spoken in Nigeria may be mixed with some native languages but is most of the time spoken like the French spoken in Benin. French may also be mixed with English like it is done in Cameroon. Most of the population speak English and their native language.

The major languages spoken in Nigeria represent three major families of African languages: the majority are [Niger–Congo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niger%E2%80%93Congo) languages, such as [Igbo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Igbo_language), [Yoruba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yoruba_language) and [Fulfulde](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fulfulde); [Hausa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hausa_language) is [Afro-Asiatic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afro-Asiatic); and [Kanuri](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kanuri_language), spoken in the northeast, primarily in [Borno](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borno_State" \o "Borno State) and [Yobe State](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yobe_State" \o "Yobe State), is part of the [Nilo-Saharan family](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nilo-Saharan).

Even though most ethnic groups prefer to communicate in their own languages, English as the official language is widely used for education, business transactions and for official purposes. English as a first language is used only by a small minority of the country's urban elite, and it is not spoken at all in some rural areas. Hausa is the most widely spoken of the three main languages spoken in Nigeria itself (Igbo, Hausa and Yoruba) but unlike the Yorubas and Igbos, the Hausas tend not to travel far outside Nigeria itself.

With the majority of Nigeria's populace in the rural areas, the major languages of communication in the country remain indigenous languages. Some of the largest of these, notably Yoruba and Igbo, have derived standardised languages from a number of different dialects and are widely spoken by those ethnic groups. [Nigerian Pidgin English](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian_Pidgin_English), often known simply as '[Pidgin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pidgin)' or 'Broken' (Broken English), is also a popular [lingua franca](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lingua_franca), though with varying regional influences on dialect and slang. The pidgin English or Nigerian English is widely spoken within the [Niger Delta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niger_Delta) Regions, predominately in [Warri](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warri" \o "Warri), [Sapele](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sapele" \o "Sapele), [Port Harcourt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_Harcourt), [Agenebode](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agenebode" \o "Agenebode), [Ewu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ewu" \o "Ewu), and [Benin City](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benin_City).[[121]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-121)

**Religion**

*Main article:*[*Religion in Nigeria*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_Nigeria)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Religions in Nigeria (CIA)**[[122]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-state.gov-122)[[123]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-cia-rel-123) | | | | | |
| **Religions** |  | |  | **Percent** |  |
| [Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam) | | |  | 50.0% | |
| Christianity | | |  | 40.0% | |
| Traditional beliefs | | |  | 10.0% | |
| **Religions in Nigeria (2012 estimate)**[[124]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-Pew_Forum_on_Religion-124)[[125]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-Regional_Distribution_of_Christians-125)[[126]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-Distribution_of_Muslims-126) | | | | | |
| **Religions** |  |  | **Percent** |  | |
| Christianity | |  | 49.3% | | |
| [Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam) | |  | 48.8% | | |
| Others | |  | 1.9% | | |

Nigeria is home to a variety of religions which tend to vary regionally. This situation accentuates regional and ethnic distinctions and has often been seen as a source of[sectarian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sectarian) conflict amongst the population.[[127]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-127) Even though, Nigeria is apparently divided equally between Islam and Christianity between north and south, it is evident that across Nigeria there is widespread belief, albeit suppressed for political reasons, in traditional religious practices.

A December 2012 report on religion and public life by the [Pew Research Center](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pew_Research_Center) stated that in 2012, 49.3% of Nigeria's population was Christian, a decrease from 50.8% from 2011 report,[[125]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-Regional_Distribution_of_Christians-125) 48.8% was Muslim which was same compared to the previous report,[[126]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-Distribution_of_Muslims-126) and 1.9% were followers of indigenous and other religions, or unaffiliated experiencing a slight increase.[[124]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-Pew_Forum_on_Religion-124) But it also predicted by 2030, Nigeria is expected to have a slight Muslim majority (51.5%).[[128]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-128)

The 2010s data of [Association of Religion Data Archives](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Association_of_Religion_Data_Archives) has also reported that 46.5% of the total population is Christian, slightly bigger than the Muslim population with 45.5%,while 7.7% are members of other religious groups.[[129]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-129) However, according to the 2001's data[[122]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-state.gov-122) of [The World Factbook](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_World_Factbook) of [CIA](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CIA), about 50% of Nigeria's population is [Muslim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim), 40% are Christians and 10% adhere to local religions[[123]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-cia-rel-123) Among Christians, 24.8% are[Catholic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholicism), 74.1% are [Protestant](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protestant), 0.9% belong to other Christian denominations and a few of them are Orthodox Christians.[[130]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-features.pewforum.org-130)

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Catedral_Nacional_em_Abuja,_Nig%C3%A9ria.jpg)

[http://bits.wikimedia.org/static-1.23wmf18/skins/common/images/magnify-clip.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Catedral_Nacional_em_Abuja,_Nig%C3%A9ria.jpg)

[National Church of Nigeria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Church_of_Nigeria), [Abuja](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abuja)

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:AbujaNationalMosque.jpg)

[http://bits.wikimedia.org/static-1.23wmf18/skins/common/images/magnify-clip.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:AbujaNationalMosque.jpg)

The [Abuja National Mosque](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abuja_National_Mosque)

From the 1990s to the 2000s, there has been significant growth in Protestant Churches including the [Redeemed Christian Church of God](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Redeemed_Christian_Church_of_God), [Winners' Chapel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winners%27_Chapel), [Christ Apostolic Church](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christ_Apostolic_Church)(the first Aladura Movement in Nigeria), [Deeper Christian Life Ministry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deeper_Christian_Life_Ministry), [Evangelical Church of West Africa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evangelical_Church_of_West_Africa), the [Presbyterian Church of Nigeria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presbyterian_Church_of_Nigeria), the [Mountain of Fire and Miracles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mountain_of_Fire_and_Miracles), Christ Embassy, The Synagogue Church of All Nations, [The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Church_of_Jesus_Christ_of_Latter-day_Saints), the [Aladura Church](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aladura_Church" \o "Aladura Church), indigenous Christian churches especially strong in the Yoruba and Igbo areas, and of [evangelical](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protestantism) churches in general. The Churches have spilled over into adjacent and southern areas of the middle belt. Denominations like the [Seventh-day Adventist Church in Nigeria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seventh-day_Adventist_Church_in_Nigeria) and the Mormons have also flourished.[[131]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-131)[[132]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-132)

Other leading Protestant churches in the country are [Church of Nigeria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_Nigeria), of the [Anglican](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglican" \o "Anglican)communion, Assemblies of God Church, Nigeria, the [Nigerian Baptist Convention](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian_Baptist_Convention) and [The Synagogue, Church of All Nations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T.B._Joshua). The Yoruba area contains a large Anglican population, while [Igboland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Igboland" \o "Igboland) is predominantly Catholic and the [Edo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edo) area is predominantly [Assemblies of God](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assemblies_of_God) which was introduced into Nigeria by Augustus Ehurie Wogu and his associates at Old Umuahia.

There are many types of Muslims, but the majority of Nigerian Muslims are [Sunni](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunni), most of whom are [Maliki](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maliki" \o "Maliki), [Shafi'i](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shafi%27i" \o "Shafi'i) or [Salafi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salafi" \o "Salafi). But a significant [Shia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shia" \o "Shia) and [Sufi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sufi) minority exists (*see [Shia in Nigeria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shia_in_Nigeria" \o "Shia in Nigeria)*). Most Sufis follow the [Qadiriyya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qadiriyya" \o "Qadiriyya), [Tijaniyyah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tijaniyyah" \o "Tijaniyyah) and/or the [Mouride](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mouride" \o "Mouride) movement. Some Muslims have incorporated radical and [takfiri](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Takfiri" \o "Takfiri) ideals, in particular the [Vanguard for the Protection of Muslims in Black Lands](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vanguard_for_the_Protection_of_Muslims_in_Black_Lands). Some northern states have incorporated [Sharia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sharia" \o "Sharia) law into their previously secular legal systems, which has brought about some controversy.[[133]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-tiptoe-133)[Kano State](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kano_State) has sought to incorporate Sharia law into its constitution.[[134]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-134) The majority of[Quranists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quranist) follow the [Kalo Kato](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kalo_Kato" \o "Kalo Kato) or Quraniyyun movement. There are also [Ahmadiyya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmadiyya" \o "Ahmadiyya) and Mahdiyya minorities.[[135]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-135) There are also many [non-denominational Muslims](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-denominational_Muslims) in Nigeria.[[136]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-136)

The core north is largely Muslim, there are large numbers of both Muslims and Christians in the Middle Belt, including the Federal Capital Territory. In the west of the country, especially in the Yorubaland, the population is said to be 60% Christian, 30% Muslim and 10% adherents of other African religions, while the southeastern regions are predominantly Christians with widespread traditional beliefs, Catholics, [Anglicans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglicans), and [Methodists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Methodists) are the majority with few traditional beliefs, while the Niger Delta region is mainly Christian.[[137]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-statereport-137)

Across [Yorubaland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yorubaland" \o "Yorubaland) in the west, many people are adherents to Yorubo/Irunmole spirituality with its philosophy of divine destiny that all can become [Orisha](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orisha" \o "Orisha) (*ori*, spiritual head; *sha*, is chosen: to be one with Olodumare (*oni odu*, the God source of all energy; *ma re*, enlighthens / triumphs).

Other minority religious and spiritual groups in Nigeria include [Hinduism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinduism_in_Nigeria),[[138]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-138) [Judaism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Igbo_Jews), The [Bahá'í Faith](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bah%C3%A1%27%C3%AD_Faith" \o "Bahá'í Faith), and [Chrislam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chrislam" \o "Chrislam) (a [syncretic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syncretic" \o "Syncretic) faith melding elements of Christianity and Islam).[[139]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-139) Further, Nigeria has become an African hub for the [Grail Movement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grail_Movement)[[*citation needed*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)] and the [Hare Krishnas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Society_for_Krishna_Consciousness),[[140]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-140) and the largest temple of the [Eckankar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eckankar" \o "Eckankar) religion is in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, with a total capacity of 10,000.

Culture

*Main article:*[*Culture of Nigeria*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture_of_Nigeria)

**Literature**

*Main article:*[*Nigerian literature*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian_literature)

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Things_Fall_Apart_books_02.jpg)

[http://bits.wikimedia.org/static-1.23wmf18/skins/common/images/magnify-clip.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Things_Fall_Apart_books_02.jpg)

[*Things Fall Apart*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Things_Fall_Apart) by [Chinua Achebe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinua_Achebe) is Africa's most popular and best selling literary piece ever, translated into over 40 languages across Africa and the World[[141]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria" \l "cite_note-141)

Nigerian citizens have authored many influential works of [post-colonial](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post-colonial_theory) literature in the English language. Nigeria's best-known writers are [Wole Soyinka](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wole_Soyinka" \o "Wole Soyinka), the first African [Nobel Laureate in Literature](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobel_Laureate_in_Literature), and [Chinua Achebe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinua_Achebe), best known for the novel, [*Things Fall Apart*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Things_Fall_Apart) and his controversial critique of [Joseph Conrad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Conrad).

Other Nigerian [writers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Nigerian_writers) and [poets](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Nigerian_poets) who are well known internationally include [John Pepper Clark](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Pepper_Clark), [Ben Okri](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ben_Okri), [Cyprian Ekwensi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyprian_Ekwensi), [Buchi Emecheta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buchi_Emecheta" \o "Buchi Emecheta), [Helon Habila](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helon_Habila" \o "Helon Habila), [T. M. Aluko](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T._M._Aluko),[Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chimamanda_Ngozi_Adichie), [Daniel O. Fagunwa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_O._Fagunwa), [Femi Osofisan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Femi_Osofisan) and [Ken Saro Wiwa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ken_Saro_Wiwa), who was executed in 1995 by the military regime. Nigeria has the second largest [newspaper](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian_newspapers" \o "Nigerian newspapers)market in Africa (after [Egypt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt)) with an estimated circulation of several million copies daily in 2003.

Critically acclaimed writers of a younger generation include [Chris Abani](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chris_Abani), [Sefi Atta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sefi_Atta" \o "Sefi Atta), [Helon Habila](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helon_Habila" \o "Helon Habila), [Helen Oyeyemi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helen_Oyeyemi), [Nnedi Okorafor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nnedi_Okorafor" \o "Nnedi Okorafor), [Kachi A. Ozumba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kachi_A._Ozumba" \o "Kachi A. Ozumba), [Sarah Ladipo Manyika](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarah_Ladipo_Manyika), and[Chika Unigwe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chika_Unigwe).

**Music and film**

*Main articles:*[*Music of Nigeria*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music_of_Nigeria)*,*[*Cinema of Nigeria*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cinema_of_Nigeria)*, and*[*Festivals in Nigeria*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Festivals_in_Nigeria)

Nigeria has had a huge role in the development of various genres of music including [African Music](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_Music), West African [Highlife](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Highlife), [Afrobeat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afrobeat" \o "Afrobeat), and[Palm Wine music](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palm-wine_music), which fuses native rhythms with techniques that have been linked to the [Congo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Republic_of_the_Congo), [Brazil](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil), [Cuba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuba), [Jamaica](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamaica) and worldwide.

Many late 20th century musicians such as [Fela Kuti](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fela_Kuti" \o "Fela Kuti) have famously fused cultural elements of various [indigenous music](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indigenous_music) with American[Jazz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jazz) and [Soul](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soul_music) to form [Afrobeat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afrobeat" \o "Afrobeat) which has in turn influenced [Hip hop music](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hip_hop_music).[[142]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-142) [JuJu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C3%B9j%C3%BA_music" \o "Jùjú music) music which is percussion music fused with traditional music from the [Yoruba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yoruba_people) nation and made famous by [King Sunny Adé](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_Sunny_Ad%C3%A9), is also from Nigeria. There is also [fuji music](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fuji_music" \o "Fuji music), a [Yoruba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yoruba_Culture" \o "Yoruba Culture)percussion style, created and popularised by Mr. Fuji, Alhaji Sikiru Ayinde Barrister.

The is also the Afan Music invented and popularised by the [Ewuborn](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ewu" \o "Ewu) poet and musician Umuobuarie Igberaese. There is a budding [hip hop](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian_hip_hop) movement in Nigeria. [Kennis Music](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kennis_Music" \o "Kennis Music), the self-proclaimed number-one record label in Africa, and one of Nigeria's biggest record labels, has a roster almost entirely dominated by hip hop artists.

Some famous musicians that come from Nigeria are [Sade Adu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sade_Adu), [King Sunny Adé](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_Sunny_Ad%C3%A9), [Onyeka Onwenu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Onyeka_Onwenu" \o "Onyeka Onwenu), [Dele Sosimi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dele_Sosimi), [Adewale Ayuba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adewale_Ayuba" \o "Adewale Ayuba),[Ezebuiro Obinna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ezebuiro_Obinna), Alhaji Sikiru Ayinde Barrister, Bennie King, [Ebenezer Obey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ebenezer_Obey), Umobuarie Igberaese, [Femi Kuti](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Femi_Kuti), [Lagbaja](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lagbaja" \o "Lagbaja), [Dr. Alban](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dr._Alban), Wasiu Alabi, Bola Abimbola, Zaki Adze, [Tuface Idibia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tuface" \o "Tuface), [Aṣa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A%E1%B9%A3a" \o "Aṣa), [Nneka](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nneka_(singer)" \o "Nneka (singer)), [Wale](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wale_(rapper)), [P Square](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/P_Square) and [D'Banj](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/D%27Banj" \o "D'Banj).[[*citation needed*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)]

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Eyo_Iga_Jump.jpg)

[http://bits.wikimedia.org/static-1.23wmf18/skins/common/images/magnify-clip.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Eyo_Iga_Jump.jpg)

An [Eyo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eyo_festival" \o "Eyo festival) Iga Olowe Salaye masquerade jumping

In November 2008, Nigeria's music scene (and that of Africa) received international attention when MTV hosted the continent's first African music awards show in [Abuja](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abuja).[[143]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-143)

The Nigerian video-film industry is known as [Nollywood](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nollywood" \o "Nollywood), which is now the second-largest producer of movies in the world .[[*citation needed*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)] Many of the [film studios](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Film_studio) are based in [Lagos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lagos" \o "Lagos)and [Enugu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enugu), and the industry is now a very lucrative income for these cities. Nigerian cinema is Africa's largest movie industry in terms of both value and the number of movies produced per year. Although Nigerian films have been produced since the 1960s, the rise of affordable[digital filming and editing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_cinema) technologies has stimulated the country's video film industry. The name **Nollywood**, was derived as a play on Hollywood in the same manner as[Bollywood](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bollywood).[[144]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-144)

[T.B. Joshua](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T.B._Joshua)'s [Emmanuel TV](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmanuel_TV), originating from Nigeria, is also one of the most viewed television stations across Africa.[[145]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-145)

**Cuisine**

*Main article:*[*Cuisine of Nigeria*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuisine_of_Nigeria)

Nigerian cuisine, like West African cuisine in general, is known for its richness and variety. Many different spices, herbs and flavourings are used in conjunction with [palm oil](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palm_oil) or [groundnut](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peanut) oil to create deeply flavoured sauces and soups often made very hot with [chili peppers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chili_pepper). Nigerian feasts are colourful and lavish, while aromatic market and roadside snacks cooked on barbecues or fried in oil are plentiful and varied.[[146]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-146)

**Sport**

Football is largely considered one of Nigeria's national sports and the country has its own [Premier League](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian_Premier_League) of football. Nigeria's [national football team](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian_national_football_team), known as the "Super Eagles", has made the [World Cup](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIFA_World_Cup) on four occasions [1994](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1994_FIFA_World_Cup), [1998](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1998_FIFA_World_Cup), [2002](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002_FIFA_World_Cup), and most recently in [2010](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_FIFA_World_Cup). In April 1994, the Super Eagles ranked 5th in the [FIFA World Rankings](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIFA_World_Rankings), the highest ranking achieved by an African football team. They won the African Cup of Nations in [1980](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1980_African_Cup_of_Nations), [1994](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1994_African_Cup_of_Nations), and [2013](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2013_African_Cup_of_Nations), and have also hosted the Junior World Cup. They won the gold medal for football in the [1996 Summer Olympics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1996_Summer_Olympics) (in which they beat Argentina) becoming the first African football team to win gold in Olympic Football.

The nation's [cadet team](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria_national_under-17_football_team) from [Japan '93](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1993_FIFA_U-17_World_Championship) produced some international players notably [Nwankwo Kanu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nwankwo_Kanu" \o "Nwankwo Kanu), a two-time African Footballer of the year who won the European [Champions League](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UEFA_Champions_League) with Ajax Amsterdam and later played with [Inter Milan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/F.C._Internazionale_Milano), [Arsenal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arsenal_F.C.), [West Bromwich Albion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Bromwich_Albion_F.C.) and [Portsmouth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portsmouth_F.C.). Other players that graduated from the junior teams are [Celestine Babayaro](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celestine_Babayaro), [Wilson Oruma](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilson_Oruma) and [Taye Taiwo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taye_Taiwo" \o "Taye Taiwo). Some other famous Nigerian footballers include [Mikel John Obi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikel_John_Obi" \o "Mikel John Obi), [Obafemi Martins](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obafemi_Martins" \o "Obafemi Martins), [Vincent Enyeama](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vincent_Enyeama), [Yakubu Aiyegbeni](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yakubu_Aiyegbeni" \o "Yakubu Aiyegbeni), [Rashidi Yekini](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rashidi_Yekini" \o "Rashidi Yekini),[Peter Odemwingie](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Odemwingie) and [Jay-Jay Okocha](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jay-Jay_Okocha).

According to the official May 2010 [FIFA World Rankings](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIFA_World_Rankings), Nigeria was the second top-ranked football nation in Africa and the 21st highest in the world. Nigeria is also involved in other sports such as basketball, [cricket](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cricket_(sport)) and track and field.[[147]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-147) Boxing is also an important sport in Nigeria; [Dick Tiger](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dick_Tiger) and [Samuel Peter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_Peter) are both former World Champions.

[Nigeria's national basketball team](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria%27s_national_basketball_team) made the headlines internationally when it qualified for the [2012 Summer Olympics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basketball_at_the_2012_Summer_Olympics) as it beat heavily favoured world elite teams such as [Greece](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greece_national_basketball_team) and [Lithuania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lithuania_national_basketball_team).[[148]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-148) Nigeria has been home to numerous internationally recognised basketball players in the world's top leagues in [America](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Americas), Europe and Asia. These players include [NBA Hall of Famer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NBA_Hall_of_Fame) [Hakeem Olajuwon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hakeem_Olajuwon) or[Solomon Alabi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solomon_Alabi), [Yinka Dare](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yinka_Dare" \o "Yinka Dare), [Obinna Ekezie](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obinna_Ekezie" \o "Obinna Ekezie), [Festus Ezeli](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Festus_Ezeli) and [Olumide Oyedeji](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olumide_Oyedeji" \o "Olumide Oyedeji).

Societal issues

Despite its vast government revenue from the mining of petroleum, Nigeria is faced by a number of societal issues due primarily to a history of inefficiency in its governance.

**Human rights**

*Main article:*[*Human rights in Nigeria*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Nigeria)

Nigeria's human rights record remains poor and government officials at all levels continue to commit serious abuses.[[149]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-StateDeptHumanRights-149)

According to the US Department of State,[[149]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-StateDeptHumanRights-149) the most significant human rights problems are: extrajudicial killings and use of excessive force by security forces; impunity for abuses by security forces; arbitrary arrests; prolonged pretrial detention; judicial corruption and executive influence on the judiciary; rape, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of prisoners, detainees and suspects; harsh and life‑threatening prison and detention center conditions; human trafficking for the purpose of prostitution and forced labour; societal violence and vigilante killings; child labour, child abuse and child sexual exploitation; [female genital mutilation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Female_genital_cutting)(FGM); domestic violence; discrimination based on sex, ethnicity, region and religion; restrictions on [freedom of assembly](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_assembly), movement, press, speech and religion; infringement of privacy rights; and the abridgement of the right of citizens to change the government.

[Child marriage](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Child_marriage) remains common in Nigeria.[[150]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-150) There are an estimated 700,000 [slaves in Nigeria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slavery_in_contemporary_Africa).[[151]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-151)

Under the [Shari'a](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sharia_in_Nigeria" \o "Sharia in Nigeria) penal code that applies to Muslims in twelve northern states, offences such as alcohol consumption, [homosexuality](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights_in_Nigeria), infidelity and theft carry harsh sentences, including amputation, lashing, stoning and long prison terms.[[152]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-UKtravel-152)

Under a law signed early 2014,[[153]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-153) [same-sex couples](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Same-sex_couples) who marry face up to 14 years each in prison. Witnesses or anyone who helps gay couples marry will be sentenced to 10 years behind bars. The bill also punishes the "public show of same-sex amorous relationships directly or indirectly" with ten years in prison. Another portion of the bill levels 10 years in prison for those found guilty of organising, operating or supporting gay clubs, organisations and meetings.

**Strife and sectarian violence**

*See also:*[*Conflict in the Niger Delta*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conflict_in_the_Niger_Delta)*and*[*Islamist insurgency in Nigeria*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamist_insurgency_in_Nigeria)

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:NG-Sharia.png)

[http://bits.wikimedia.org/static-1.23wmf18/skins/common/images/magnify-clip.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:NG-Sharia.png)

Nigerian states that implement some form of sharia law (in green)

Because of its multitude of diverse, sometimes competing ethno-linguistic groups, Nigeria prior to independence has been faced with sectarian tensions and violence. This is particularly a major issue in the oil-producing Niger Delta region, where both state and civilian forces employ varying methods of coercion in attempts gain control over regional petroleum resources. Some of the ethnic groups like the [Ogoni](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ogoni_people" \o "Ogoni people), have experienced severe environmental degradation due to petroleum extraction.

Since the end of the civil war in 1970, some ethnic violence has persisted. There has subsequently been a period of relative harmony since the Federal Government introduced tough new measures against religious violence in all affected parts of the country.

The 2002 [Miss World](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miss_World) pageant was moved from [Abuja](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abuja) to London in the wake of violent protests in the Northern part of the country that left more than 100 people dead and over 500 injured.[[154]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-154) The rioting erupted after Muslims in the country reacted in anger to comments made by a newspaper reporter. Rioters in [Kaduna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaduna) killed an estimated 105 men, women, and children with a further 521 injured taken to hospital.

Since 2002, the country has seen sectarian violence by [Boko Haram](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boko_Haram" \o "Boko Haram), an Islamist movement that seeks to abolish the secular system of government and establish [Sharia law](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sharia_law" \o "Sharia law) in the country.[[155]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-AJAN-155)[[156]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-156)

In 2010, more than 500 people were killed by [religious violence in Jos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_Jos_riots).[[157]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-157)

**Health issues**

*Further information:*[*Health care in Nigeria*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Health_care_in_Nigeria)

Nigeria has been reorganising its health system since the [Bamako Initiative](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bamako_Initiative) of 1987 formally promoted community-based methods of increasing accessibility of drugs and health care services to the population, in part by implementing user fees.[[158]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-158) The new strategy dramatically increased accessibility through community-based healthcare reform, resulting in more efficient and equitable provision of services. A comprehensive approach strategy was extended to all areas of health care, with subsequent improvement in the health care indicators and improvement in health care efficiency and cost.[[159]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-159)

The Nigerian health care system is continuously faced with a shortage of doctors known as '[brain drain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brain_drain)' due to the fact that many highly skilled Nigerian doctors emigrate to North America and Europe.[[*citation needed*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)] In 1995, it was estimated that 21,000 Nigerian doctors were practising in the United States alone, which is about the same as the number of doctors working in the Nigerian public service. Retaining these expensively trained professionals has been identified as one of the goals of the government.[[160]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-160)

According to 2009 estimates, HIV [prevalence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prevalence) in Nigeria is about 3.6% of the adult population.[[161]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-161) Despite the low prevalence rate however, the 2011 UNAIDS Report indicates that Nigeria has the second highest number of new HIV infections in the world and lacks the necessary HIV-related investments to combat the disease.[[162]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-162)

**Education**

*Main article:*[*Education in Nigeria*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Nigeria)

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Nigeria_students.jpg)

[http://bits.wikimedia.org/static-1.23wmf18/skins/common/images/magnify-clip.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Nigeria_students.jpg)

Children at school in [Ile-Ife](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ile-Ife), Nigeria

Nigeria provides free, government-supported education, but attendance is not compulsory at any level, and certain groups, such as nomads and the handicapped, are under-served. The education system consists of six years of primary school, three years of junior secondary school, three years of senior secondary school, and four years of university education leading to a bachelor's degree. The rate of secondary school attendance is 32% for males and 27% for females. In 2004, the Nigerian National Planning Commission described the country's education system as "dysfunctional." Reasons for this characterisation included decaying institutions and ill-prepared graduates.[[163]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-cp-163)

**Crime**

*Further information:*[*Corruption in Nigeria*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corruption_in_Nigeria)*,*[*Confraternities in Nigeria*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confraternities_in_Nigeria)*,*[*Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piracy_in_the_Gulf_of_Guinea)*, and*[*419 Scams*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/419_Scams)

Nigeria is home to a substantial network of [organised crime](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian_organized_crime" \o "Nigerian organized crime), active especially in drug trafficking. Nigerian criminal groups are heavily involved in drug trafficking, shipping heroin from Asian countries to Europe and America; and [cocaine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cocaine) from South America to Europe and South Africa. .[[164]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-164) The various Nigerian [Confraternities](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confraternities_in_Nigeria) or "campus cults" are active in both organised crime and in political violence as well as providing a network of corruption within Nigeria. As confraternities have extensive connections with political and military figures, they offer excellent alumni networking opportunities. The Supreme Vikings Confraternity, for example, boasts that twelve members of the [Rivers State House of Assembly](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rivers_State_House_of_Assembly) are cult members.[[165]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-cults-165) On lower levels of society, there are the "[area boys](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Area_boys)", organised gangs mostly active in [Lagos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lagos) who specialise in mugging and small-scale drug dealing. According to official statistics, gang violence in Lagos resulted in 273 civilians and 84 policemen killed in the period of August 2000 to May 2001.[[166]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-166)

Internationally, Nigeria is infamous for a crime dubbed *419*, a type of [advance fee fraud](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advance_fee_fraud) (named after Section 419 of the Nigerian Penal Code) along with the "[Nigerian scam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian_scam)", a form of [confidence trick](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confidence_trick) practised by individuals and criminal syndicates.[[167]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-167) In 2003, the Nigerian [Economic and Financial Crimes Commission](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic_and_Financial_Crimes_Commission) (or EFCC) was created to combat this and other forms of organised financial crime.[[168]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-168)

There is also some [piracy in Nigeria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piracy_in_Nigeria), with attacks mainly directed at smaller ships shuttling employees and materials belonging to the[oil companies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petroleum_industry) with any involvement in [oil exploration](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petroleum_exploration) in the [Niger Delta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niger_Delta). From 1 January 2007 to 29 October 2007, twenty-six pirate attacks were recorded.[[169]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-ap-169)

Nigeria is also pervaded by [political corruption](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_corruption). It is ranked 143 out of 182 countries in [Transparency International](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transparency_International)'s 2011 [Corruption Perceptions Index](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corruption_Perceptions_Index). More than $400 billion was stolen from the treasury by Nigeria's leaders between 1960 and 1999.[[170]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-170)

**Media representation**

* [*Drilling and Killing: Chevron and Nigeria's Oil Dictatorship*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drilling_and_Killing:_Chevron_and_Nigeria%27s_Oil_Dictatorship), an audio documentary produced by [Amy Goodman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amy_Goodman) first aired in 1998 on[Democracy Now!](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy_Now!).
* [*Sweet Crude*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sweet_Crude), a documentary film produced and directed by [Sandy Cioffi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandy_Cioffi) about Nigeria's oil-rich [Niger Delta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niger_Delta).
* *Poison Fire*, a documentary exposing oil and gas abuses in Nigeria, featuring [Friends of the Earth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friends_of_the_Earth) Nigeria volunteers, which premiered at the [International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Documentary_Film_Festival_Amsterdam).[[171]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_note-171)
* [*Nollywood Babylon*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nollywood_Babylon), a 2008 documentary by [Montrealers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montreal" \o "Montreal) [Ben Addelman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ben_Addelman) and [Samir Mallal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samir_Mallal" \o "Samir Mallal) about the Nigerian film industry,[Nollywood](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cinema_of_Nigeria" \o "Cinema of Nigeria). It premiered at the Festival de nouveau cinéma de Montréal 2008.

See also

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [Portal icon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Flag_of_Nigeria.svg) | [***Nigeria portal***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal:Nigeria) |

* [Index of Nigeria-related articles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Index_of_Nigeria-related_articles)
* [Outline of Nigeria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outline_of_Nigeria)

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  4. [**Jump up^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria#cite_ref-4) [A Glance at Africa - Njoki N. Wane - Google Books](http://books.google.ca/books?id=BSyMf6m6E9wC&pg=PA66&dq=Yoruba++21%25;+Ibo+18%25;+Fulani+12%25;+Ijaw+10%25;&hl=en&sa=X&ei=9EfBUuDyCuSqyAHo84HoCw&ved=0CDAQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=Yoruba%20%2021%25%3B%20Ibo%2018%25%3B%20Fulani%2012%25%3B%20Ijaw%2010%25%3B&f=false)
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* [Key Development Forecasts for Nigeria](http://www.ifs.du.edu/ifs/frm_CountryProfile.aspx?Country=NG) from [International Futures](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Futures)

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| |  | | --- | | [[show](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria)]   * [v](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template:Nigeria_topics) * [t](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template_talk:Nigeria_topics) * [e](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Nigeria_topics&action=edit)   **Nigeria**[**topics**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Nigeria-related_topics) | |

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| |  | | --- | | [[show](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria)]   * [v](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template:Countries_of_Africa) * [t](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template_talk:Countries_of_Africa) * [e](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Countries_of_Africa&action=edit)   [**Countries and territories**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_sovereign_states_and_dependent_territories_in_Africa)**of**[**Africa**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Africa) | |

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| |  | | --- | | [[show](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria)]  **International membership** | |

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| |  | | --- | | [[show](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria)]  **Languages** | |

[Coordinates](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system): http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[8°N 10°E](http://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Nigeria&params=8_N_10_E_region:NI_type:country_source:dewiki)

[Categories](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Category):

* [Nigeria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Nigeria)
* [Commonwealth republics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Commonwealth_republics)
* [Countries in Africa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Countries_in_Africa)
* [Developing 8 Countries member states](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Developing_8_Countries_member_states)
* [Economic Community of West African States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Economic_Community_of_West_African_States)
* [English-speaking countries and territories](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:English-speaking_countries_and_territories)
* [Federal republics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Federal_republics)
* [Former British colonies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Former_British_colonies)
* [G15 nations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:G15_nations)
* [Member states of OPEC](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Member_states_of_OPEC)
* [Member states of the African Union](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Member_states_of_the_African_Union)
* [Member states of the Commonwealth of Nations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Member_states_of_the_Commonwealth_of_Nations)
* [Member states of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Member_states_of_the_Organisation_of_Islamic_Cooperation)
* [Member states of the United Nations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Member_states_of_the_United_Nations)
* [Republics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Republics)
* [States and territories established in 1960](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:States_and_territories_established_in_1960)
* [West African countries](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:West_African_countries)