

## Introduction

This volume lists 27 countries. Though all may not technically classify as being a part of the Middle East, all are "players" in the region.

Unit 13 is in four sections:

**Section 1. North Africa**--Mauritania, Western Sahara, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti and Somalia

**Section 2. Levant and Jordan**--Syria, Lebanon, Israel (these three countries comprise the Levant or lands bordering the eastern Mediterranean) and Jordan

**Section 3. Persian Gulf States, Iraq and Iran**--Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Yemen, Iraq, and Iran

**Section 4. Area Influences**--Turkey and Afghanistan.

Each country begins with a statistical listing. Though not culture/religion specific, these charts assist understanding of underlying issues.



**Unit 13--Section 1: Country Area Studies--North Africa**

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For purposes of familiarity and comparison, and to offer a context, the following chart lists data for countries with which many military personnel may be familiar.

<b>Country</b>	<b>United States</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>Somalia</b>	<b>S. Korea</b>	<b>Thailand</b>
<u>Popula</u>	264 mil	81 mil	7,347,554	46 mil	60 mil
<u>% &lt; 15</u>	22%	16%	45%	24%	31%
<u>Commo</u>					
TV	1:1	1:3	N/A	1:5	1:17
Radio	2:1	1:2	1:16	1:1	1:6
Phone	1:1	1:2	N/A	1:2	1:36
News	250:1000	402:1000	N/A	N/A	72:1000
<u>Health</u>					
Life Ex	73/80	73/80	55/56	68/74	65/72
Hosp	1:218	1:126	1:1053	1:379	1:604
Doctors	1:391	1:313	1:19,071	1:902	1:4,327
IMR	8:1000	6:1000	120:1000	21:1000	36:1000
<u>Income</u>	\$24,700	\$16,500	\$500	\$9,500	\$5,500
<u>Literacy</u>	96%	100%	24%	96%	89%

**Population** and % under 15 (% < 15) indicates the percentage of youth yet to attain prime military/employment age. A high % < 15 could predict possibilities for societal unrest in the near future.

**Communication** points out how quickly and readily information is transmitted to the whole populace. Along with the literacy rate, it suggests the abilities of a country to foster open thought and dialogue.

**Health Concerns**--life expectancy, hospital beds per population and doctors per 1,000 members of the country--are most readily apparent in the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR). This statistic relates the number of deaths in the first year per 1,000 live births.

## Unit 13--Section 1: Country Area Studies-- North Africa

### Objectives

At the end of this section, you will

### Be aware of the following

- Influence of marabouts in the area
- Western Sahara's nebulous status as a nation state
- High concentration of Berbers in Morocco
- Folk religious influence in the area
- Terrorist issues within Algeria
- Libya's distinct Sharia expression
- Egypt's critical geopolitical role in the Middle East
- Characteristics of the Muslim Brotherhood
- Sudan's increasing role in sponsoring terrorism
- Hassan al-Turabi's leadership within the Sudan
- Eritrea's religious/ethnic freedom and tolerance
- Sensitive treatment of terms relating to African traditional religions
  - Current lack of organized government in Somalia

### Identify

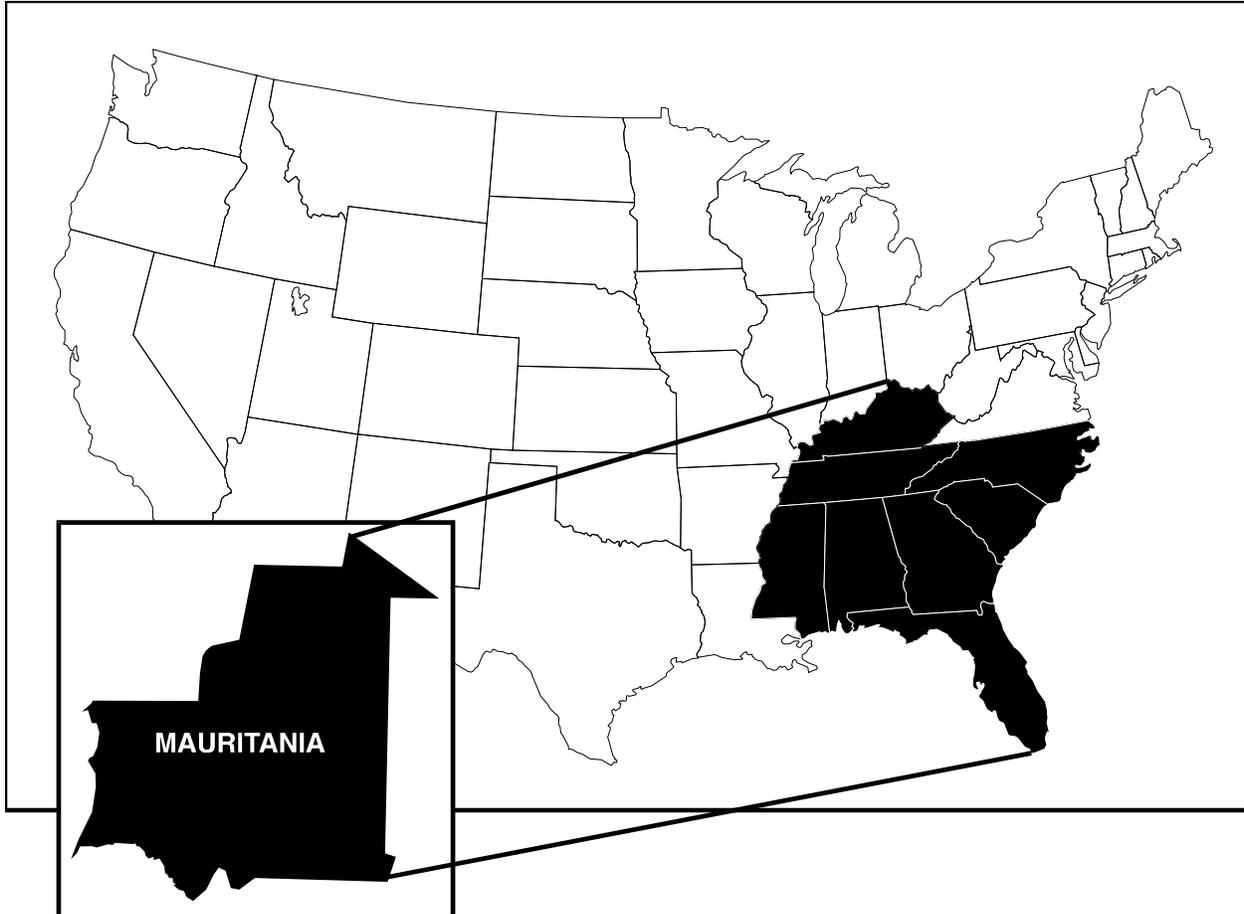
- Marabouts
- Maures
- Shar'ia
- Popular Islam, folk beliefs and customs
- King Hassan II
- Maghrib
- Jinn
- Evil Eye
- Islamic Salvation Front (FIS)
- Muslim Brotherhoods
- Amulets
- Code of Personal Status

- Baraka
- Green Book
- Hassan al-Turabi
- Place of Assembly
- Abyssinia
  - Islamism

## Realize

- Impact of Maure customs in Mauritania
- Traditional marriage practice in Mauritanian society
- El Hor movement's monitoring of slavery practices
- Aspects of popular Islamic practice in North Africa
- Berber absorption into North African urban society
- Variety of gender issues in the region
- Aspects of Ramadan practice in Morocco
- Drug trafficking in North Africa region
- Tunisia's Code of Personal Status for women
- Spiritual power recognized in some Muslim communities of the area
- Qadhafi's unique interpretations of Sharia
- Egypt's role as leader in journalism and filmmaking
- Impact of female circumcision practices in area
- Sudan's Sunni trend of thought and fanatical Islamism
  - Appeal of rising Islamism within Somalia

## Mauritania (mor-ah TAY knee-ah)



<u>Population</u>	2,263,202
% under 15 years.	48%
<u>Commo</u>	
TV	1:7
Radio	N/A
Phone	1:20
Newspapers	N/A
<u>Health</u>	
Life Expectancy	46/52
Hospital	1:1217
Doctors	1:14259
IMR	84:1000
<u>Income</u>	\$1,050
<u>Literacy Rate</u>	35%

## 1. Religious Groups

- Muslim 100%
- Marabouts (MAHR-eh-boots)

*"In West Africa, a marabout is Muslim prayer leader, teacher, and sometimes a healer who is venerated locally and believed to be touched by divine grace, which sometimes confers the right to rule as well. Frequently called upon to arbitrate disputes.*

*Translation of al murabitun (those who have made a religious retreat). In some locales, the title became the monopoly of certain families, who thus formed maraboutic castes." (Country Study, p. 202.)*

## 2. Ethnic/Racial Groups

- Mixed Maur-Black 40%
- Maur 30%
- Black 30 %
- "Maures (MOHR-ees) trace their ancestry to Arab-Berber origins...

*Maure society's complex social relationships are based on rigid hierarchical social and ethnic divisions...Broadly speaking, Maures distinguish between free and servile status on the one hand and between nobles, tributaries, artisans, and slaves on the other hand...*

*Two strata, the warriors and the religious leaders, dominate Maure society. The latter are also known as marabouts..." (Country Study, p. 52.)*

## 3. Gender Issues

- Universal suffrage at 18+

- *"Factors that conditioned the role of women in Mauritanian society in the late 1980s included the impact of Islam and sharia (Islamic law); West African influences that allowed women substantial independence in some social and economic areas; economic modernization, which challenged customary behavior patterns in some areas; and Mauritania's rapid pace of urbanization, which subjected traditional nomadic customs to new scrutiny...[A] father's most important responsibility toward his daughters was to prepare them for marriage, primarily by ensuring their physical attractiveness. A widespread practice was forced feeding...Forced feeding usually involved psychological pressure, rather than physical force, but it often required a family to reserve substantial quantities of food--in most cases, milk--for consumption by its pre-teenage daughters, whose beauty was a measure of a father's commitment to the marriage alliances they would form. Many young women were betrothed or married by the age of eight or ten. Unmarried teenage girls were subjected to severe social criticism."* (Country Study, pp. 68-69.)
- In the mid-1980s two women were appointed cabinet level posts.

## 4. Conflicts

- FLAM (Forces Liberation Africaine de Mauritanie) founded in 1983 and outlawed in 1984. Based in Senegal, this groups fights against segregation in government policies.
- Since independence, conflicts involve Western Sahara, racial disputes, and Senegal/Libyan interference.

## 5. Unique Holidays/Observances

- 28 Nov 1960 Independence Day from France

## 6. Customs

- Slavery was abolished in 1960 and again in 1980. El Hor (freedom) movement does much to agitate for the continued abolishment of slavery.
- Gambling and alcohol forbidden

- Islamic law only: based on Shar'ia

## Western Sahara

<u>Population</u>	217,211
% under 15 years	
<u>Commo</u>	
TV	
Radio	
Phone	1:108
Newspaper	
<u>Health</u>	
Life Expectancy	45/48
Hospitals	
Doctors	
IMR	149:1000
<u>Income</u>	
<u>Literacy Rate</u>	

### 1. Religious Groups

- Muslim

### 2. Ethnic/Racial Groups

- Arab
- Berber

### 3. Gender Issues

### 4. Conflicts

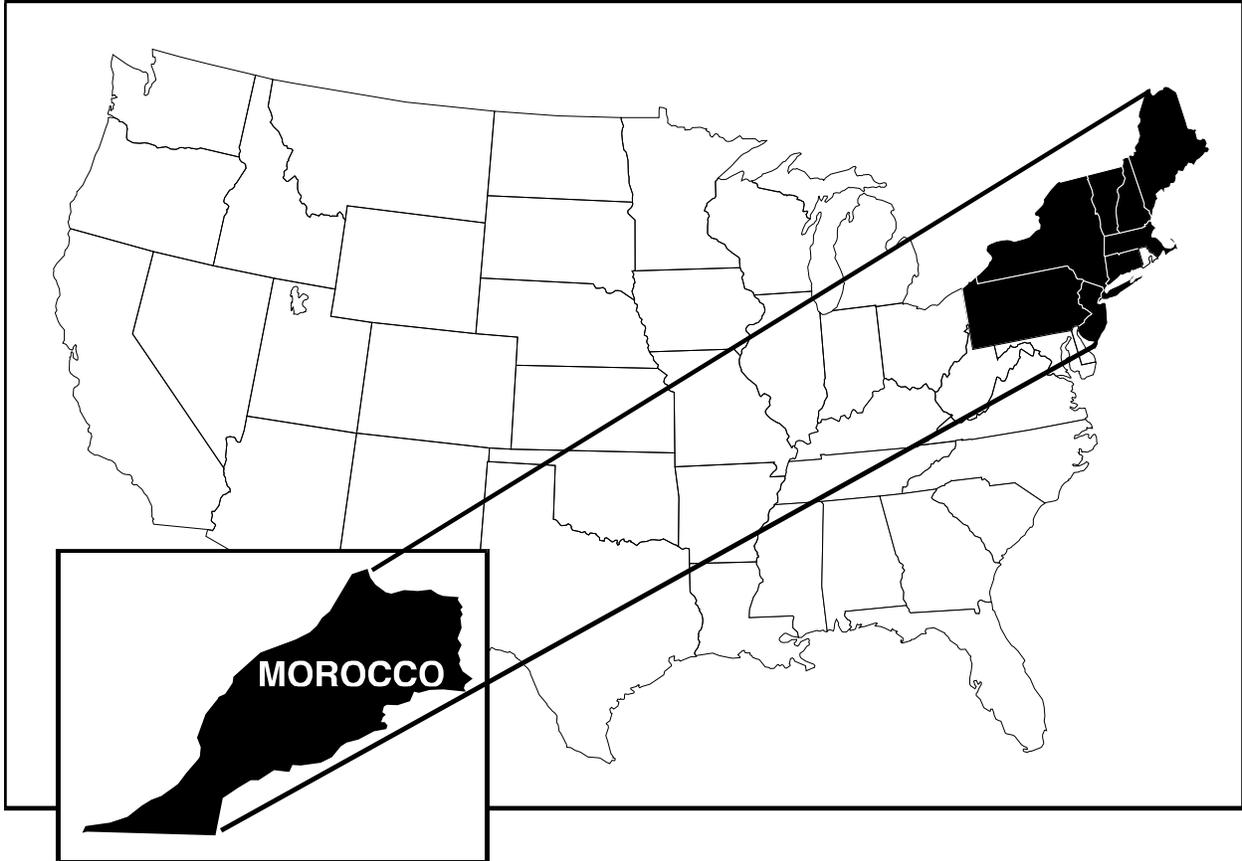
- UN administered cease-fire in effect since Sep 91

- Claimed and administered by Morocco. Sovereignty unresolved

### 5. Customs

- Islamic law only: based on Shar'ia. Gambling and alcohol forbidden

# Morocco (mah-ROK-oh)



<u>Population</u>	28,789,652
% under 15 years	38%
<u>Commo</u>	
TV	1:22
Radio	1:6
Phone	1:10 (1:36 Almanac
Newspaper	13:1000
<u>Health</u>	
Life Expectancy	67/71
Hospitals	1:937
Doctors	1:4,148
IMR	46:1000
<u>Income</u>	\$3,060
<u>Literacy Rate</u>	50%

## 1. Religious Groups

- Muslim 98.7% (Sunni)
- Christian 1.1% (mostly Catholic)
- Jewish (.2%)

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• *"Popular Islam is...an overlay of Qur'anic ritual and ethical principles on a background of belief in spirits, the evil eye, rights to assure good fortune, and the veneration of local saints. The educated of the cities and towns...have been the primary adherents and guardians of austere orthodox Islam."* (CS, p. 138).

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- Religious brotherhoods center in a combined lodge/shrine called a zawiya.

## 2. Ethnic/Racial Groups

- Arab-Berber 99.1% Especially in towns, Berbers are absorbed into the dominant Arab society. Similarities between the two groups are much more apparent today.

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Morocco has the highest concentration of Berbers (34%) of any North African country.

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- Other .7% Harratines, the black Muslim population, consist of manual laborers and farmworkers who possess a strong mystical bent bordering on the occult.
- Jewish .2%

## 3. Gender Issues

- Universal suffrage 21+
- King Hassan II encourages political activity by women, yet he practices the traditional Muslim prohibition against allowing a man's wife to be seen in public. Some younger women are taking progressive steps to integrate into the political/broader societal system.
- Where the Berber influence is strong, rural women take a more active political role than their urban counterparts.

- Rural and urban poor women often hold jobs in farming, household work, and factories. Urban upper-class women are usually confined to the home and feminine sphere in a cloistered, secluded existence.

*"The failure of a wife to produce sons can be grounds for divorce or for taking a second wife; barren women visit the shrine of a marabout to pray desperately for a male child. They are less likely to visit a mosque; although such visits are not denied them, they are discouraged by widely held beliefs that women either do not know how to pray or that their presence distracts men from worship." (CS, p. 133.)*

- By the mid 1980s, 40% of the total school enrollment was female.

## 4. Conflicts

- Morocco claims and administers Western Sahara, but the issue is unresolved.
- Spain controls five places of sovereignty on and off the coast of Morocco.

## 5. Unique Holidays/Observances

- Traditional Islamic Observances. *"During the month of Ramadan, national wine consumption drops 30 percent...*

*Observation is generally heartfelt; workers, even those doing hard labor, abstain from food and drink; smokers curb their habit; many omit swimming for fear of swallowing water...*

*Each year hundreds of restaurant customers are arrested and fined under a provision of the 1962 Penal Code that forbids the public consumption of food or drink by Muslims during the fast period." (CS, p. 142.)*

- 1 Jan--Traditional Islamic New Year
- 3 Mar 1961--Throne Day, anniversary of King Hassan II's accession to the throne

- 9 Jul--Youth Day
- 6 Nov--Green March Day
- 18 Nov--Independence Day

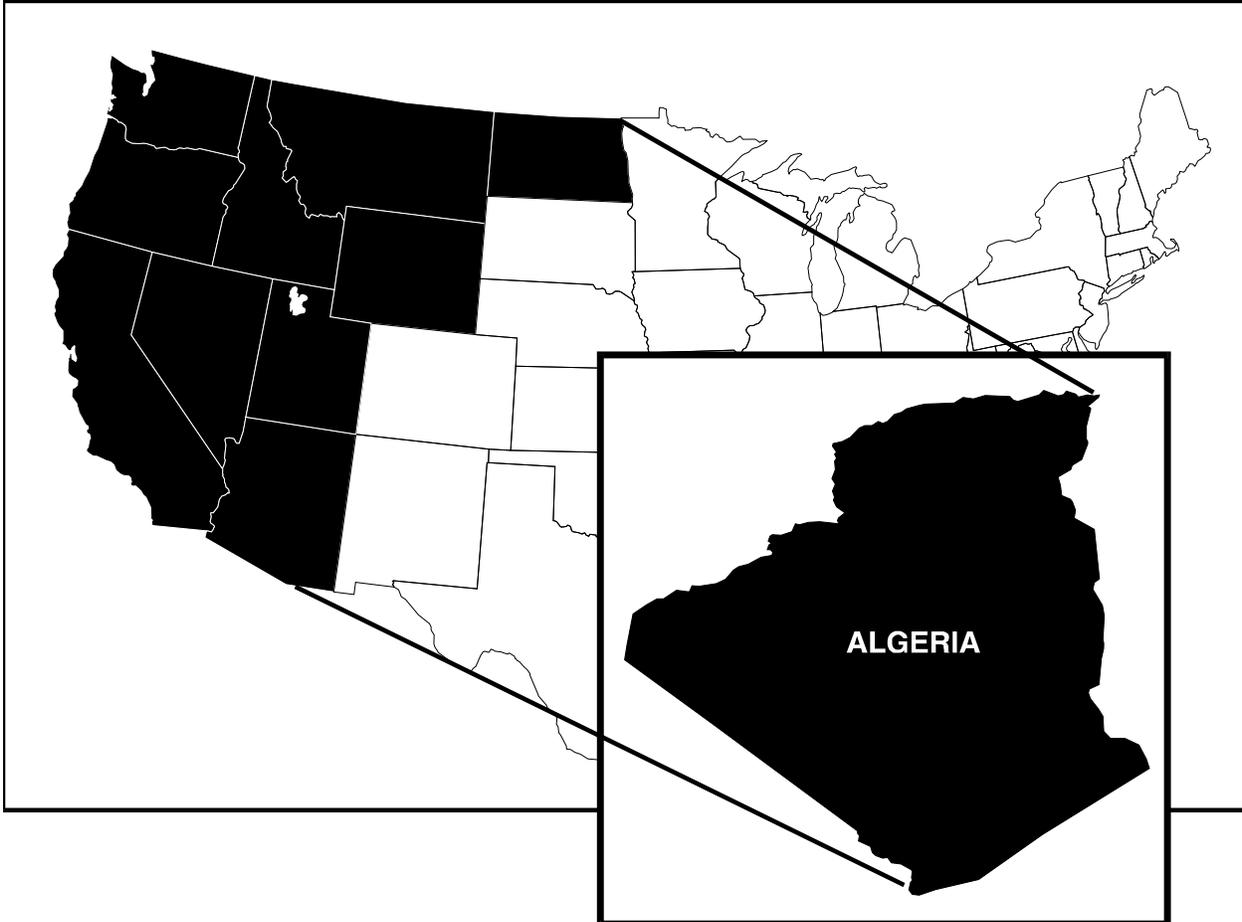
## 6. Customs:

- **Language:** Arabic is the official language, with French being the language of business, government, and diplomacy.
- **Sahr'ia:** The legal system is based on Islamic law and French/Spanish civil law systems.
- **Drugs:** Morocco is an illicit producer of hashish. Trafficking of illegal drugs is on the increase.
- **Maghrib (MUH-grib):** The western Islamic world (the time or place of the sunset--the west) which traditionally includes Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Tripolitania [populous portions of Libya]. Mauritania is sometimes also treated as a part of the region.
- **Jinn:** *"Moroccans generally believe in the existence of a special group of spiritual beings called jinn, whose supernatural powers can be used either [for good or ill]. Many people fear them and protect themselves by magical incantations, petitions, offerings, animal sacrifices, and the use of such objects as salt, iron, steel, and gunpowder..."*
- **Evil Eye:** *"Belief in the evil eye is widespread; the glance or look of certain individuals causes an evil or deadly spell, and danger is particularly great when accompanied by an 'evil mouth,' that is, by loose talk, praise, joking or cursing. Protection is most commonly sought in incantations, symbolic forms of the number five or of the hands, and the use of magical colors, such as black, yellow, blue, and red."* (CS, p. 138.)

## 7. Sources for Further Study

Zwingle, Erla, "Morocco, North Africa's Timeless Mosaic,"  
(National Geographic, Oct 96), pp. 99-125.

# Algeria (al-JEER-ee-uh)



<u>Population</u>	28,539,321
<u>Commo</u>	
TV	1:14
Radio	1:8
Phone	1:21
Newspaper	54:1000
<u>Health</u>	
Life Expectancy	67/69
Hospitals	1:455
Doctor	1:1041
IMR	50:1000
<u>Income</u>	\$3,300 per cap
<u>Literacy Rate</u>	57%

## 1. Religious Groups

- Sunni Muslim 99% (28,253,927. Includes assorted Islamic militant groups)
- Christian/Jewish 1%

## 2. Ethnic/Racial Groups

- Arab/Berber 99% (CIA). Berber 20% (Country Study) inhabiting Kabylia mountain region

## 3. Gender Issues

- *"More women wear the veil in Algeria than any other North African country." (Nydell)*

- Majority of rural women work outside the home full time. Upwards of 7% work outside the home in urban areas (Country Study)

## 4. Conflicts

- Extremist Militant Fundamentalists

The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), outlawed in April 1992, (many of its leaders currently under arrest or living in exile), is an umbrella organization for many extremist groups.

*"The government canceled Jan 1992 elections. Islamic fundamentalists were expected to win and [the government] banned all nonreligious activities at Algeria's 10,000 mosques. President Muhammed Boudiaf was assassinated 29 Jun 1992. There were repeated attacks on high-ranking officials, security forces, foreigners, and others by militant Muslim fundamentalists over the next three years; pro-government death squads also were active. The overall estimated death toll was 40,000." (World Almanac, p. 738.)*

*"Algeria's Islamic revivalists are currently waging a virtual guerrilla war against the establishment...The country's future is uncertain and it is not entirely clear how much support the terrorists have among the general population, nor is it clear if these calls for Islamic reform are genuine." (Kibble, Military Review, p. 44.)*

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- Berber separatism

The Berber minority possesses a strong ethnic consciousness. They are determined to preserve their distinct cultural identity. While remaining Muslims, they object strongly to the forced use of the Arabic language.

## 5. Unique Holidays/Observances :

- 1 May--Labor Day
- 19 Jun--Revolution Day (from France)
- 5 Jul--Independence Day (from France)
- 1 Nov--Anniversary of the Revolution Day (1954 from France)
- Eid al-Fitr (three day feast at the end of Ramadan)
- Eid al-Adha (Feast of Sacrifice)
  - Muhammad's birthday

## 6. Customs

- Schools teach both French and Arabic
- Alcohol and gambling forbidden

## 7. Sources for Further Study

Cohen, Roger, "Before Blast, French Report Told of Raids," New York Times, 12 Dec 1996, p. A10.

Cohen, Roger, "In Algeria, Oil and Islam Make a volatile Mixture," New York Times, 27 Dec 1996, p. A1.

Editorial, New York Times, 4 Dec 96, "Time of Troubles in Algeria." Excellent, succinct overview of the current state of affairs in Algeria.

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Pelletreau, Robert H., "American Objectives in the Middle East,"  
Remarks before the CENTCOM Annual Southwest Asia Symposium,  
Tampa, Florida, 14 May 1996.

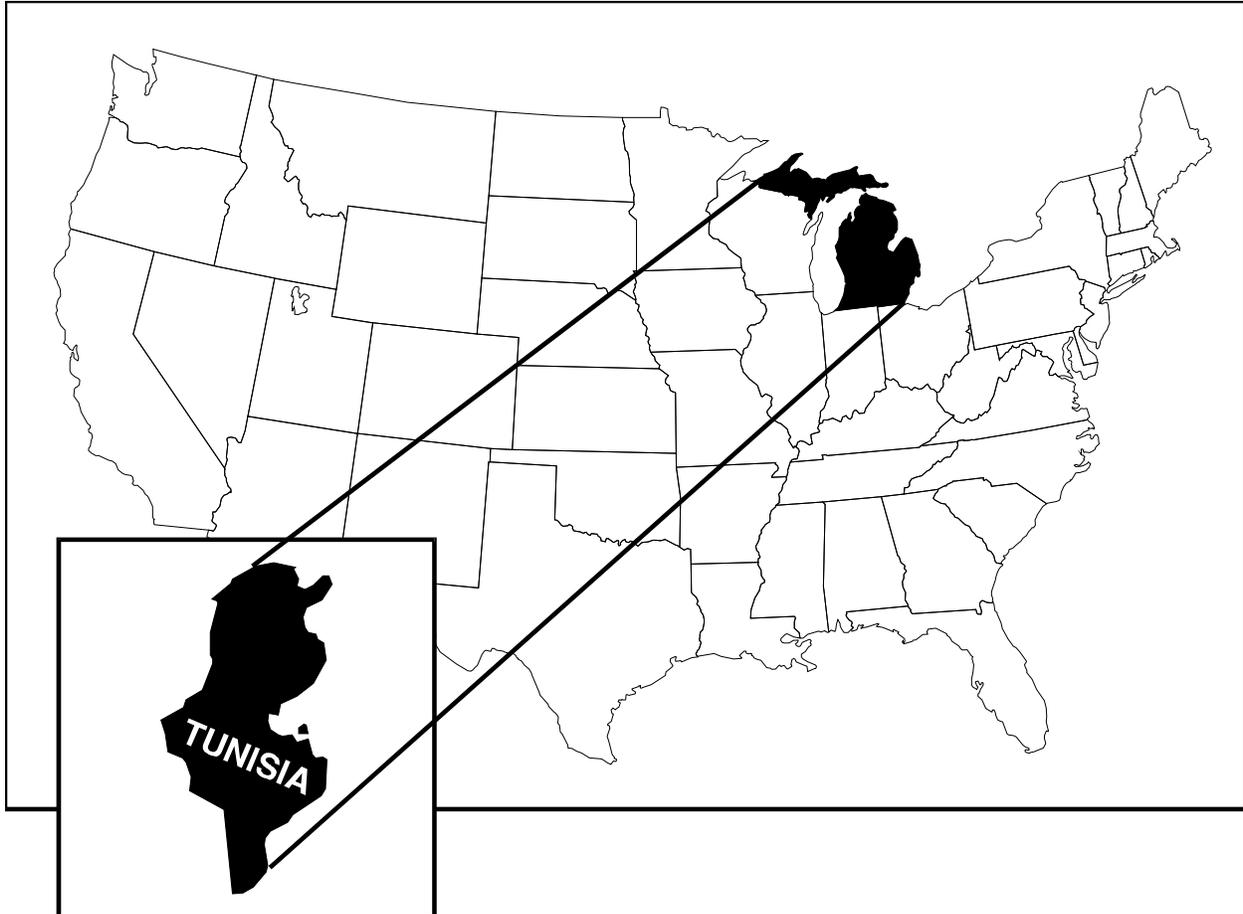
Pelletreau, Robert H., "Dealing with the Muslim Politics of the  
Middle East: Algeria, Hamas, Iran," U.S. Department of  
State, Bureau of Near East Affairs, 8 May 1996.

U.S. Department of State, Office of the Coordinator for  
Counterterrorism, "Patterns of Global Terrorism, 1995,"  
Apr 1996.

Whitney, Craig, "Islamic Group Warns France to Halt Its Aid to  
Algeria," New York Times, 25 Dec 1996, p. A7.

# Tunisia

(too-NEE-zhah)



<u>Population</u>	8,879,845
% under 15 years	35%
<u>Commo</u>	
TV	1:13
Radio	1:5
Phone	1:18
Newspapers	37:1000
<u>Health</u>	
Life Expectancy	71/75
Hospitals	1:521
Doctors	1:1,799
IMR	32:1000
<u>Income</u>	\$4,250
<u>Literacy Rate</u>	57%

## 1. Religious Groups

- Muslim (Sunni) 98%. (8,702,248). 40,000 Berber-speaking Ibadi peoples living on Jerba Island still kept to austere Kharidjite beliefs in the mid-1980s
- Christian 1%, made up mostly of French/Italian Roman Catholic expatriates
- Jewish (perhaps 5,000 in the early 1980s)
- Popular Islam: The emphasis is on oral tradition combined with a belief in magic and spirits. Particular individuals possess charismatic spiritual power, known as baraka.

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- Marabouts are holy individuals who could substantiate their unique spiritual status through miracle performance, spiritual insight, or genealogical connection with persons who earlier possessed baraka. Zawayiate are marabout centers built as schools, quarters and burial grounds for holy men.
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- Brotherhoods follow a common spiritual discipline. Often a marabout founded such a fraternity. Tariqah (discipline, path) practiced by the brotherhood, enabled them to pursue closeness to God.
- Folk beliefs and customs--belief in evil spirits (jinns), amulets made of Qur'anic verses to ward off these spirits, the "evil eye" and stones carrying magic qualities--are formally denounced by government leaders as "unworthy of the Islamic monotheistic religion."

## 2. Ethnic/Racial Groups

- Arab/Berber 98%. The arabization of the Berber population has long been virtually complete.

## 3. Gender Issues

- Universal suffrage 20+
- Women accounted for 20% of the Tunisian labor force in the mid-1980s.
- The founding of the National Union of Tunisian Women (1956) promoted women's participation in social/political

- life. It continues to sensitize Tunisian society to women's issues.

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• *"The status of women...has always been somewhat higher in Tunisia than in most other Muslim countries...with the enactment of the Code of Personal Status [1956] their civil status became almost equal to that of men with respect to...inheritance, ownership of property, custody of children, and divorce." (CS, p. 108.)*

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- Marriage requires consent of both man and woman. Only civil courts may grant divorces, with wives exercising equal rights with husbands in these proceedings.
- 40% of the 40,000 students enrolled in Tunisian higher education are women (early 1980s).
- Islamic activists advocate a return to more traditional Muslim roles for women.

## 4. Conflicts

- Border dispute with Algeria settled in 1993. With Libya, arguments exist over maritime boundaries.
- Pro-Western, modernist tendencies of the government in the past have involved the country in disputes with Algeria and Libya, two states known for their oil wealth and revolutionary patterns.

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• *"Political parties of a religious or linguistic nature are illegal" (Culturgram)*

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## 5. Unique Holidays/Observances

- 1 Jan--New Years Day
- 20 Mar 1956--Independence Day (from France)
- 9 Apr--Martyr's Day
- 1 May--Labor Day
- 25 Jul--Republic Day
- 13 Aug--Women's Day
- 15 Oct 1963--Evacuation Day (when the last French troops returned to France)

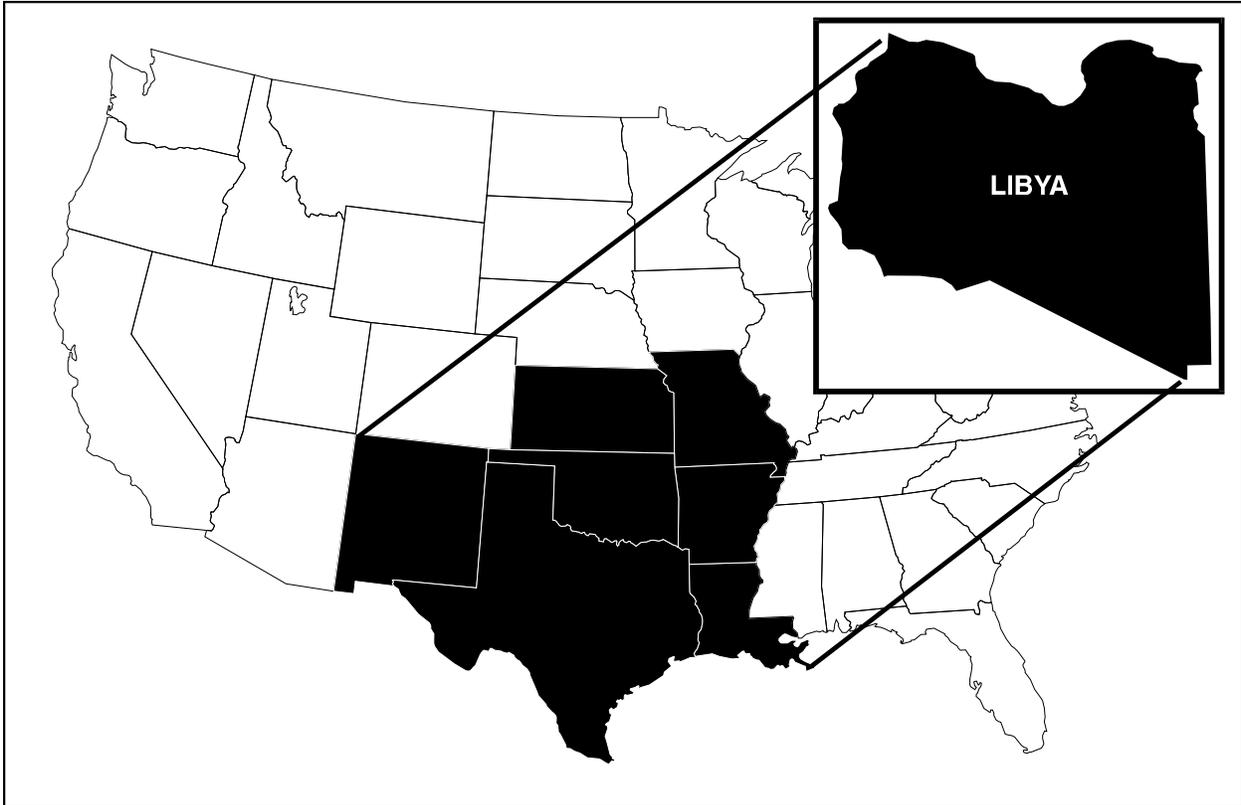
## 6. Customs

- French, spoken as a second language by one-half of the population, remains the primary language of business.
- The Islamic fundamentalist party, An Nahda (Rebirth), is outlawed. Rashid Al-Ghannushi, the leader of Tunisian Islamists, lives outside the country.
- Islamic law and secular law exist side by side.

## 7. Sources for Further Study

Bohen, Celestine, "Pope Spends a Day in Tunisia, and Offers Words of Tolerance," New York Times, 14 Apr 1996.

# Libya (LIB-ee-ah)



<u>Population</u>	5,248,401
% under 15 years	48%
<u>Commo</u>	
TV	1:10
Radio	1:5
Phone	1:14
Newspaper	8:1000
<u>Health</u>	
Life Expectancy	62/67
Hospitals	?
Doctors	1:956
IMR	61:1000
<u>Income</u>	\$6,600
<u>Literacy Rate</u>	60%

## 1. Religious Groups

- Sunni Muslim 97% (5,248,401) with strong Sufi presence.
- Baraka (BAHR-uh-kah): *"Islam as practiced in North Africa is interlaced with indigenous Berber beliefs..."*

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• *An important element of North African Islam for centuries has been a belief in the coalescence of special spiritual power in particular living human beings. The power is known as baraka, a transferable quality of personal blessedness and spiritual force said to lodge in certain individuals. Those whose claim to possess baraka can be substantiated...are viewed as saints. These persons are known in the West as marabouts...The cult of saints became widespread in rural areas..." (Country Study)*

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## 2. Ethnic/Racial Groups

- Berber/Arab 97%
- Assorted Europeans, Middle Easterners, Indian/Pakistanis
  - Berbers (135,000 native Berber speakers) live in remote mountains or deserts. They identify not with a single nation but with families, clans and tribes. Most follow the Kharigi Islamic sect.

## 3. Gender Issues

- Women in the Armed Forces

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*"Qadhafi has persistently sought to usher in a policy of direct participation by women in national defense. His efforts...derived from his argument that women of the Arab world live in a subjugated state and must be liberated from oppression and feudalism. Qadhafi viewed practices governing a woman's role in society and her legal rights as disrespectful, reactionary, and contrary to the Qur'an." (Country Study.) This stance offends many conservative Islamic authorities.*

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- Since the 1969 Revolution, the status of women underwent a transformation. Equal pay for equal work is the

- standard. 50% of women in rural areas work outside the home; 20% in urban centers.
- Rumored "Republican Guard" of women who serve as Qadhafi's personal bodyguard.

## 4. Conflicts

- In 1987, Chad drove Libya out of their northern border area. Due to rich uranium deposits, the area is still unstable.
- Terrorists. On 15 April 92, the United Nations placed limited sanctions on Libya for her part in failing to extradite suspects in the 1988 Pan Am bombing over Scotland.

*"Since Qadhafi's rise to power, Libya has chronically employed terrorism and revolutionary groups as primary instruments for fulfilling its international ambitions." (Country Study.) Strong financing ties exist between Libya and the Abu Nidal Palestinian terrorist organization.*

- Listed by U.S. Department of State as one of seven state supporters of terrorism

## 5. Unique Holidays/Observances

- 24 Dec 51--Independence Day (from Italy)
- Traditional Muslim observances

## 6. Customs

- The "erratic but durable...Qadhafi is a highly devout Muslim who has repeatedly expressed a desire to exalt Islam and restore it to its proper--i.e., central--place in the life of the people." (Country Study.)

Qadhafi's Green Book spells out his vision for the country's future.

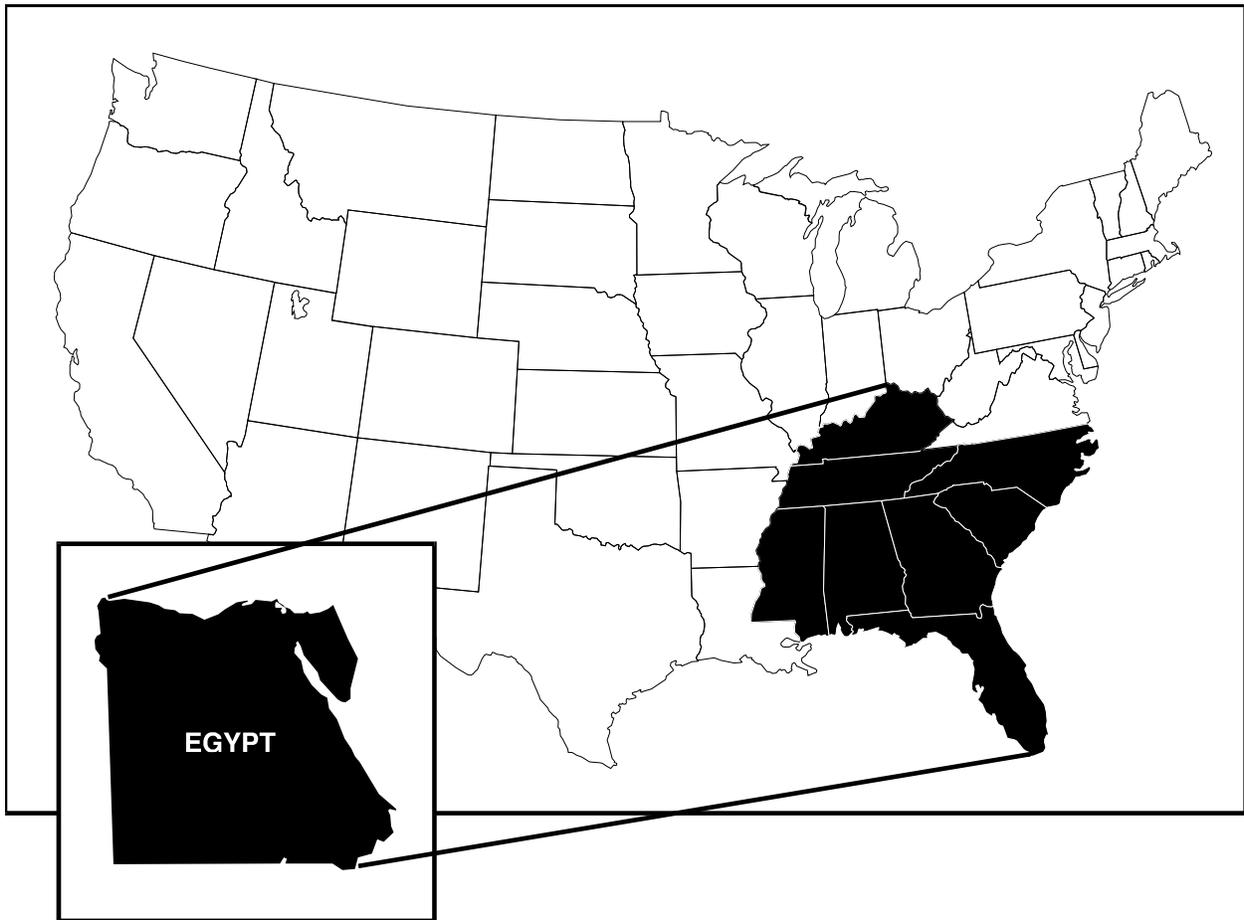
- Islamic law only, based upon Sharia unique to Libyan socialism. Gambling and alcohol forbidden

## 7. Sources for Further Study

Kinzer, Stephen, "Tirade by Qadhafi Stuns Turkey's Premier," New York Times, 9 Oct 1996, p. A9.

See sources listed under Algeria, preceding section

# Egypt



<u>Population</u>	62,359,623
% under 15 years	37%
<u>Commo</u>	
TV	1:11
Radio	1:4
Phone	1:11
Newspaper	62:1000
<u>Health</u>	
Life Expectancy	59/63
Hospitals	1:504
Doctors	1:1,698
IMR	74:1000
<u>Income</u>	\$2,400 per cap
<u>Literacy Rate</u>	48%



## 1. Religious Groups

- Sunni Muslim 94% (58,618,45)
- Coptic Orthodox 6% (3,741,577--CIA Factsheet; 3 - 7 million--Country Study)

## 2. Ethnic/Racial Groups

- Egyptian, Bedouin, Berber 99%
- Greek, Nubian, Armenian 1%

## 3. Gender Issues

- 14% of all wage earners are women. Considerable personal freedom for women is present.
- Divorce rate is 20%. 95% of divorced are illiterate.
- Though increasing, 46% of 12-18 year old girls were in school in 1985-86.
- 1979 women's rights laws established by presidential decree, improved the legal status and options available to women. A 1985 reversal ruled the amendments of 1979 were unconstitutional.

## 4. Conflicts

- Government bans all religious political parties. In recent years, it faces an energetic and violent Islamic challenge.
- Muslim Brotherhood

*"The world's largest and most influential militant organization."* While tolerated by President Mubarak during his first two terms, the government now moves more aggressively to block its influence. The Brotherhood claims to be non-violent.

- Neo-Brotherhood Movements

Due to President Mubarak's policies and poverty within the country, many neo-Brotherhood movements express their dissatisfaction with the current Egyptian political establishment.

- Anti-Coptic sentiment

1981 Cairo Muslim/Coptic riots left 17 dead, 100 injured. The government banished the Coptic Church's Pope Shenudah III (elected in 1971) to internal exile in 1981. He was released in 1985.

## 5. Unique Holidays/Observances

- Lunar New Year
- Sham el-Nassum (beginning of Spring)
- 1 May--Labor Day
- 23 Jul--Anniversary of the Revolution
- 6 Oct--Armed Forces Day
  - Eid al-Fitr; Eid al-Adha; Muhammad's birthday

## 6. Customs

- Egyptians speak Cairene (the standard Egyptian dialect) as an integral part of their daily life. Used for jokes, clichés and riddles, the dialect is cause for great pride and rich expression.

*"Egypt is vibrant with cultural energy, and it is the leader of Arab nations in such fields as filmmaking and journalism." (Nydell)*

- "...'mother of the world'...the historical center of Arab political and cultural life..." (Miller, p. 14.)
- "[Egypt] controls Sinai Peninsula, only land bridge between Africa and remainder of Eastern Hemisphere; controls Suez Canal, shortest sea link between Indian Ocean and Mediterranean Sea; size, and juxtaposition to Israel, establish its major role in Middle East geopolitics." (CIA Factsheet.)

- Recent terrorist activity against tourists suggests visitors take great caution when traveling in Egypt. (See Kiss, Bow or Shake Hands, p. 95.)
- Spacial distance for many Egyptians may be much closer than that of many Westerners. (See Kiss, Bow or Shake Hands, p. 101.)

## 7. Sources for Further Study

Axt, Luanne, "Eternal Egypt," New York Times, 28 Jan 1996, Section BB, p. 1.

Gore, Rick, "Ramses the Great...Egypt's Most Celebrated Pharoah," (National Geographic, Apr 91), pp. 2-31.

Jehl, Douglas, "Islamic Militants' War on Egypt: Going International," New York Times, 19 Nov 1996.

Jehl, Douglas, "Nile-in-Minature Tests Its Parent's Bounty," New York Times, 9 Jan 1996, p. A5.

Miller, Judith, "New Tack for Egypt's Islamic Militants: Imposing Divorce," New York Times, 28 Dec 1996, p. 19.

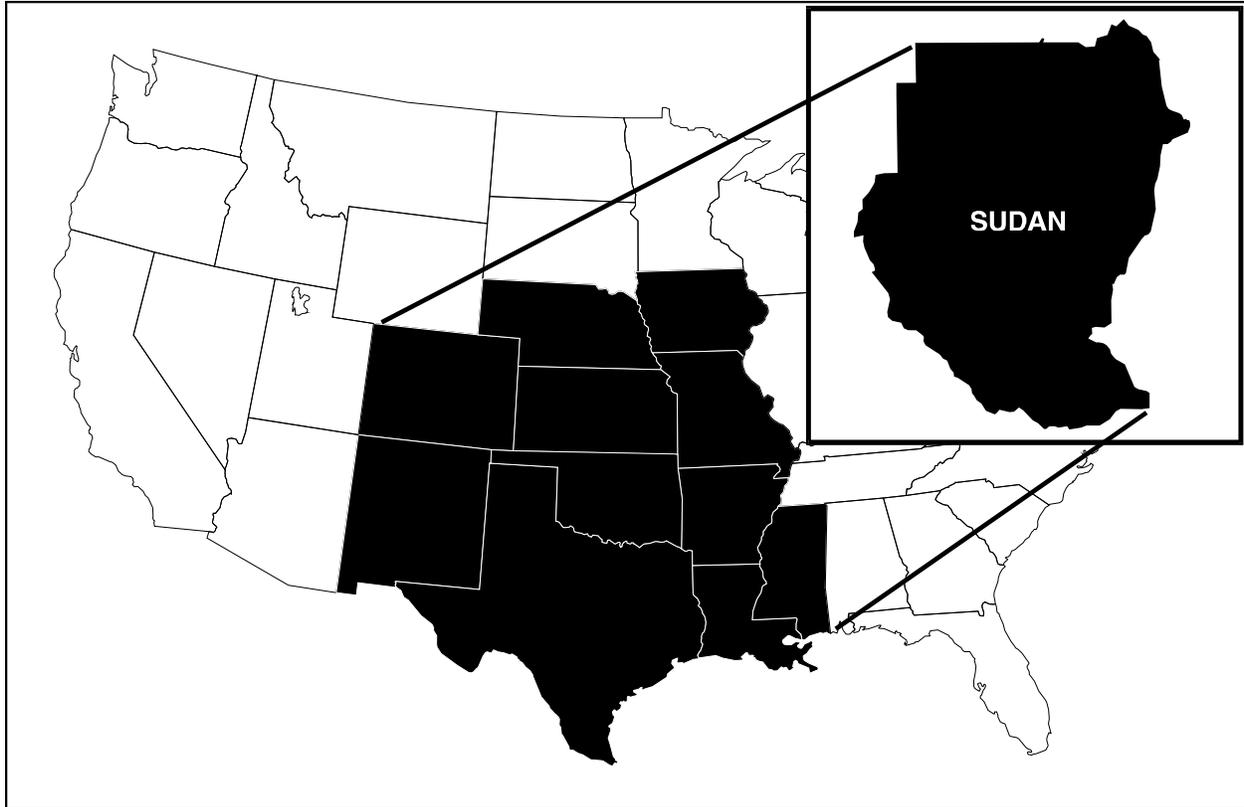
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Theroux, Peter, "Cairo--Clamorous Heart of Egypt," (National Geographic, Apr 93), pp. 38-69.

Theroux, Peter, "Imperiled Nile Delta," (National Geographic, Jan 97), pp. 2-35.

See also listings under Algeria country study

## Sudan (soo-DAN)



<u>Population</u>	30,120,420
% under 15 years	46%
<u>Commo</u>	
TV	1:100
Radio	1:3
Phone	1:269
Newspaper	24:1000
<u>Health</u>	
Life Expectancy	54/56
Hospitals	1:1,222
Doctors	1:9,439
IMR	78:1000
<u>Income</u>	\$750 per cap
<u>Literacy Rate</u>	32%



## 1. Religious Groups

- Sunni Muslim 70% (21,084,294) located mainly in the north
- Indigenous religions 25%
  - Christian 5% (1,506,021) located mainly in the south and Khartoum

## 2. Ethnic/Racial Groups

- Black 52%. The Nubian minority (8% of the population) lives near the Nile in northern Sudan. The Dinka, Funj, Nuer, Shilluk, and other Black African peoples of southern Sudan constitute half of the total population (Culturgrams).
- Arab 39%
- Beja 6%
  - Foreigners 2%

## 3. Gender Issues

- Female circumcision (infibulation) on twelve-year-old girls, despite "*international conferences, legislation, and efforts to eradicate these practices...in the early 1990s they appear to be on the increase, not only in the Sudan but in Africa generally.*" (Country Study)
- In rural areas, large numbers of women and girls engage in traditional productive occupations. In the south, there is greater freedom of movement for women.
  - Except for a few educated elite, women remain within the household (in urban areas), segregated, eating after men. Men dominate social norms. Women dominate households just as their men command public life. (Country Study)

## 4. Conflicts

- History of conflict. (See "The Longest War in the World" [Sudan has been fighting for 30 of the last 40 years, 13 of the past 17 decades. Strife is the country's business, and warlords are its tycoons] by Bill Berkeley, The New York Times Magazine, 3 Mar 96, pp.

58-62). Minor border disputes continue with Egypt and Kenya.

- Drought/famine in the south led to 1991 UN relief efforts.

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Aid suspended in 1992 due to fighting. In 1993, Amnesty International accused the government of ethnic cleansing of Nubians in the south.

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- Terrorism. Egypt publicly blamed Sudan for the assassination attempt on President Mubarak while he was in Ethiopia on 26 Jun 95.

American government views on Sudanese terrorism see "*the Sudan [as] moving rapidly to the top of a list of rogue nations harboring international terrorists.*" (New York Times, 1 Feb 96.)

- Muslim Brotherhood cleric Hassan al-Turabi is seen by many as the de facto leader of the country.

## 5. Unique Holidays/Observances

- Traditional Muslim holy days
- 1 Jan--Independence Day
- 3 Mar--Unity Day
  - 1 May--Labor Day

## 6. Customs

- Islamic State. Gambling and alcohol forbidden

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The only Sunni Arab state in which militant Muslims now rule.

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- The largest country in Africa (square miles), being one-third the size of the continental United States.

## 7. Sources for Further Study

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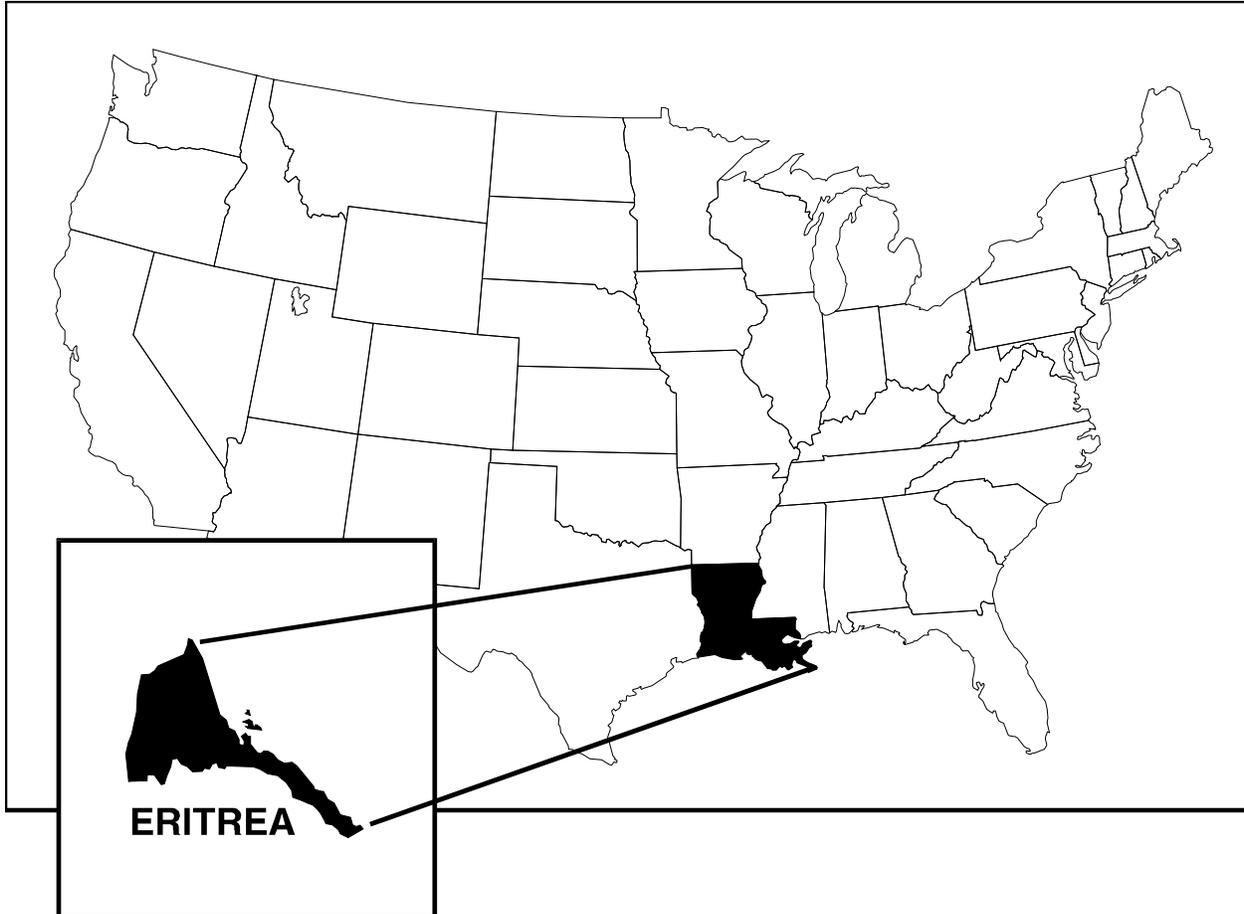
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See sources listed in Algeria country study also.

## Eritrea (UHR ah TREE ah)



<u>Population</u>	3.5 million
% under 15 years	
<u>Commo</u>	
TV	1:275
Radio	
Phone	
Newspaper	
<u>Health</u>	
Life Expectancy	46
Hospitals	
Doctors	
IMR	135:1000
<u>Income</u>	\$500
<u>Literacy Rate</u>	20%

## 1. Religious Groups

- Christian (mostly Coptic Orthodox) 50%
- Muslim 48%
- Traditional religions 2%
- Generally, most Christians live in the highlands, while Muslims and adherents of traditional beliefs live in the lowlands.
- Muslims *"include many Tigreans and Kunamans, as well as nearly all Saho, Nara, and Rashaida people. These Sunni Muslims were integrated in the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) and are well represented in government.*

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*During the war, fighters...of different religions often married. Indeed, the war helped unite religious leaders in a common cause, which is a factor in the country's religious freedom and tolerance. By law, neither religion nor ethnicity can be the basis of a political party." (Culturgram, p. 66.)*

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## 2. Ethnic/Racial Groups

- Tigrinya 50%
- Tigre 31%
- Saho 5%
- Afar 5%
- Begia 2.5 %
- Bilen 2 %
- Kunama 2%
- Nara and Rashaida 2%

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*"Eritrea's population comprises 9 ethnic groups, most of which speak Semitic or Cushitic languages. The Tigrinya and Tigre make up four-fifths of the population and speak different, but unrelated and somewhat mutually intelligible, Semitic languages." (Dept. of State Background Notes, 1995.)*

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### 3. Gender Issues

- Universal suffrage 18+
- Women fighters made up some 30% of the 110,000 Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) fighters during the height of the war for independence from Ethiopia.

### 4. Conflicts

- *"Sudan's aggressiveness toward its neighbors, its goal of spreading Islamic fundamentalism throughout the region, and its unwillingness to play a constructive role in regional development have raised security concerns along Eritrea's border with Sudan. Khartoum [Sudan] gives support and safehaven to a small, relatively ineffectual Eritrean insurgent group, the Eritrean Islamic Jihad (EIJ). Eritrea, in turn, supports the Sudanese opposition, which has coalesced in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). The NDA has the stated objective of overturning the current National Islamic Front (NIF)-dominated government in Khartoum."* (State Background Notes.)

- Eritrea broke off diplomatic relations with Sudan in Dec 1994.

- Eritrea's *"present is freshly written in the blood of its war of independence from Ethiopia, which began in 1961 and ended in May of 1991. On the Eritrean side alone, some 100,000 died. Today, the memory of this awful sacrifice is driving a full-throttle nation-building process in which all in public service--from President Isaias Afwerki down to Asmara's street sweepers--accept pay at military rates."* (Aramco World, Nov/Dec 96, p. 16.)

### 5. Unique Holidays/Observances

- 8 Mar--International Women's Day
- 24 May 1993--Liberation Day
- 20 Jun--Martyr's Day
- 1 Sep--Anniversary of the Start of the Armed Struggle

- Traditional Christian observances--Christmas (7 Jan), baptism of Jesus, Easter and Meskel (finding of the true cross of St. Helena) observed in late Sep
- Traditional Muslim observances

## 6. Customs

- *"Tigrinya and Arabic are the most frequently used languages for commercial and official transactions, but English is widely spoken and is the language used for secondary and university education."* (Background Notes)

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In Massawa is the traditional Place of Assembly where Muhammad's followers first prayed during the so-called first Hijra in 615. *"They had fled here from the hostility of the Quraysh tribe in Makkah, responding to the Prophet's advice..."*

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*as recorded by his ninth-century biographer Ibn Hisham: 'If you go to Abyssinia you will find a king under whom none are persecuted. It is a land of righteousness where God will give you relief from what you are suffering.'*" (Aramco World, pp. 22, 25)

- In discussing traditional religions, use of the following terms demonstrates sensitivity and grace.
  - "Spirits" or "the living dead" rather than ancestors or ancestor spirits.
  - "Acts of family remembrance" rather than worship of ancestors.
  - African "peoples" or "ethnic groups" rather than tribes. Such identification often removes some of the negative connotations often associated with "tribe."

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- "Primal religions" seems to be the current, useful term to describe the thought and practice of many African peoples.

- **Avoid** the following terms: "animism," "primitive, savage, lacking imagination and emotion, of elemental evolution" descriptions of primal religions, "magic, paganism, barbarism and ignorant beliefs."

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## 7. Sources for Further Study

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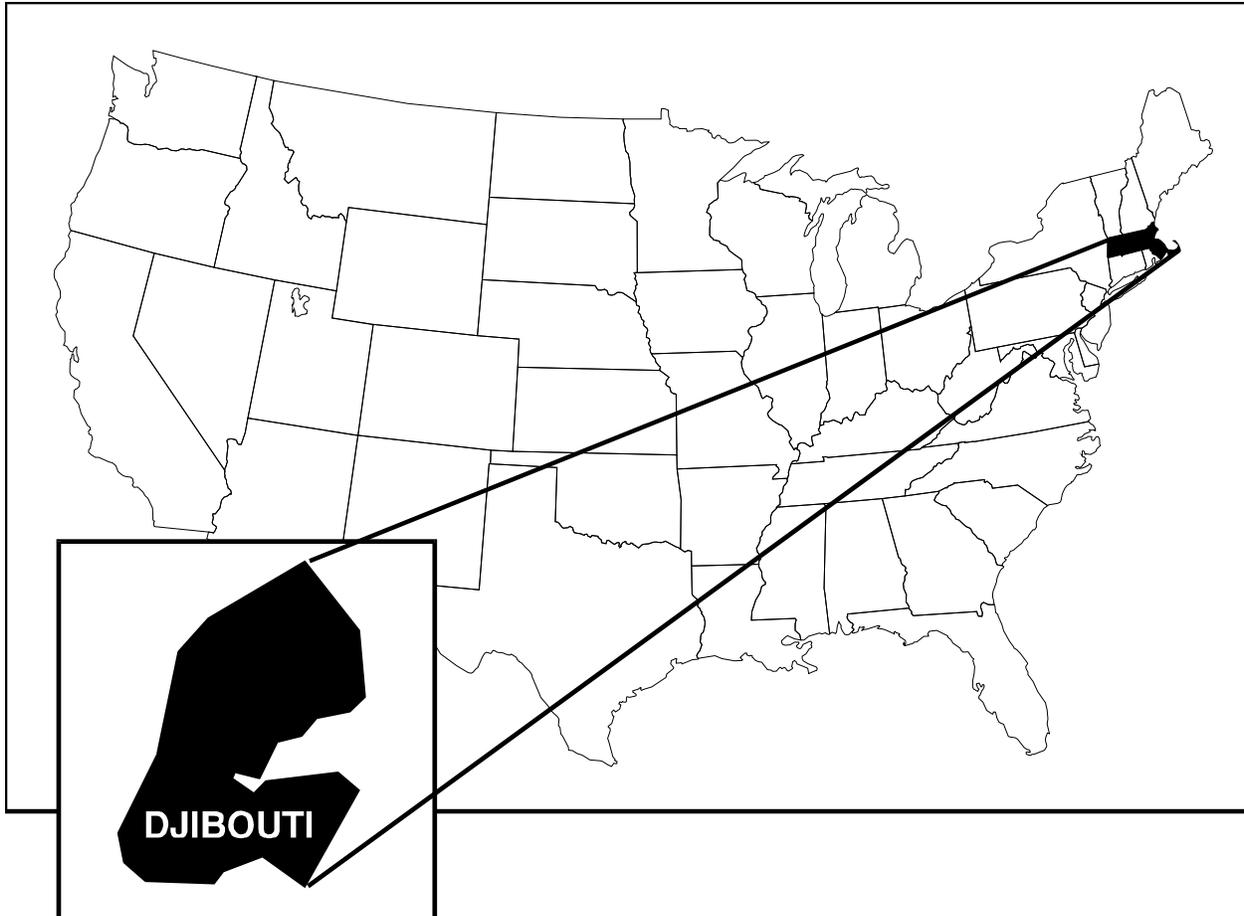
Cobb, Charles, "Eritrea Wins the Peace," National Geographic, Jun 96, pp. 82-105.

McKinley, Jame Jr., "In Peace, Warrior Women Rank Low," New York Times, 2 May 1996, p. A4.

Werner, Louis, "Forging Plowshares in Eritrea," Aramco World, Nov/Dec 1996, pp. 14-27.

# Djibouti

(jeh BOOT ee)



<u>Population</u>	421,320
% under 15 years	43%
<u>Commo</u>	
TV	1:33
Radio	1:19
Phone	1:40
Newspaper	N/A
<u>Health</u>	
Life Expectancy	50/48
Hospitals	N/A
Doctors	N/A
IMR	109:1000
<u>Income</u>	\$1,200
<u>Literacy Rate</u>	48%



## 1. Religious Groups

- Muslim 94%
- Christian 6%

## 2. Ethnic/Racial Groups

- Somali 60%
- Afar 35%
- French, Arab, Ethiopian, Italian 5%

## 3. Gender Issues

- Universal adult suffrage

## 4. Unique Holidays/Observances

- 27 Jun 1977--Independence from France

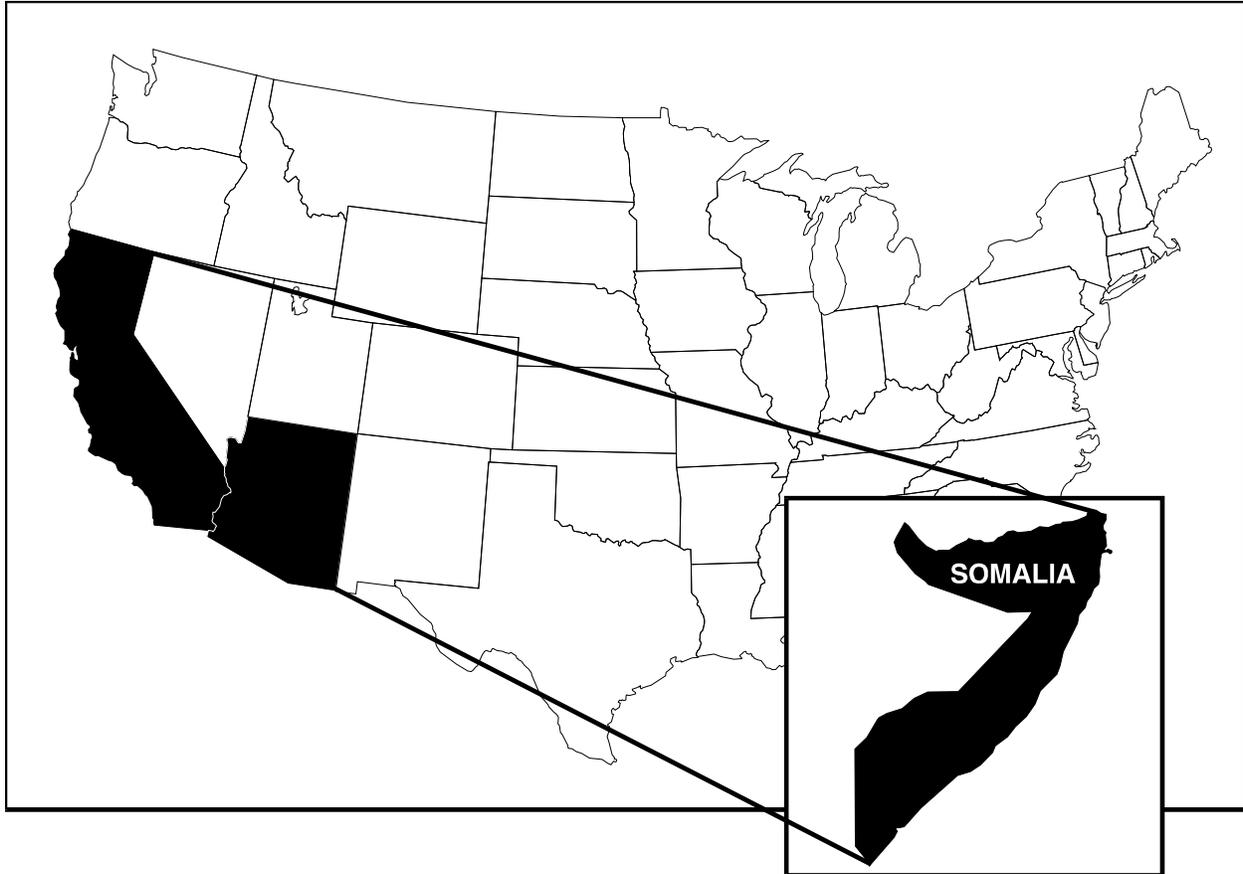
## 5. Customs

- *"French aid is the mainstay of the economy, as well as assistance from Arab countries. A peace accord in Dec 94 ended a 3-year-long uprising by Afar rebels."*  
(Almanac)
- Gambling and alcohol forbidden
- Islamic law only: based on the Shar'ia.

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- *"...strategic location near the world's busiest shipping lanes and close to Arabian oil fields; terminus of rail traffic into Ethiopia; a vast wasteland." (CIA 95 Fact Sheet.)*
-

# Somalia

(soh-MAH-lee-uh)



<u>Population</u>	7,347,554
% under 15 years	45%
<u>Commo</u>	
TV	N/A
Radio	1:16
Phone	N/A
Newspaper	N/A
<u>Health</u>	
Life Expectancy	55/56
Hospitals	1:1053
Doctors	1:19071
IMR	120:1000
<u>Income</u>	\$500

**Unit 13--Section 1: Country Area Studies--North Africa**

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Literacy Rate

24%

## 1. Religious Groups

- Sunni Muslim 99%
- Christian (less than 1%)
  - Rising Islamism: *"Somali Islam rendered the world intelligible to Somalis and made their lives more bearable in a harsh land. Amidst the interclan violence that characterized life in the early 1990s, Somalis naturally sought comfort in their faith to make sense of their national disaster. The traditional response of practicing Muslims to social trauma is to explain it in terms of a perceived sin that has caused society to stray from the 'straight path of truth' and consequently to receive God's punishment. The way to regain God's favor is to repent collectively and rededicate society in accordance with Allah's divine precepts...a Somali version of militant Islamism (sometimes seen as fundamentalism) sprang up to fill the vacuum created by the collapse of the state. In the disintegrated Somali world of early 1992, Islamism appeared to be largely confined to Bender Cassim, a coastal town in Majeerteen country."* (Country Studies, p. 104.)

## 2. Ethnic/Racial Groups

- Somali 85%
- Bantu, Arabs 30,000

## 3. Gender Issues

- Universal suffrage at 18+
- Prior to collapse of the government in 1991, women were playing an increased public role in the state, secondary schools and universities.
- Recent equality laws have women possessing equal rights to inheritance with men.

## 4. Conflicts

- Internal disorder with rival clan fighting
  - Territorial dispute with Ethiopia over the Ogaden (southwestern Ethiopia/Somolia border region)

## 5. Unique Holidays/Observances

- Prior to current crisis, independence from Britain celebrated in the north on 26 Jun; from Italy in south on 1 Jul
- Ancient Persian New Year (Starting Fire) celebrated in many parts (Culturgram)

## 6. Customs

• Somalia has no functioning government. *"The present political situation is one of anarchy, marked by inter-clan fighting and random banditry."* (CIA 95 Factsheet.)

- Combination of Islamic and secular law

- **GREETINGS:**

**DO:**

- \* Shake hands whenever you meet or bid farewell to a Somali. Always offer your right hand; the left hand symbolizes uncleanness and is used for personal hygiene..
- \* Rise to show respect whenever an important person enters the room.
- \* Be aware that it is customary for Somali men to greet each other with a hug and a kiss on the cheek. This is a sign of friendship.

**DO NOT:**

- \* Use Somali greetings (spoken or gestured) unless you are sure how to use them correctly.

- **CONVERSATION:**

**DO:**

- \* Open conversations with small talk.
- \* Maintain eye contact.
- \* Place your feet flat on the floor if you are sitting on a chair, or fold them under you if you are sitting on the floor.

a poem  
your

- \* Demonstrate verbal skill. Verbal facility is highly valued in Somali society. If you can recite or a tongue-twister, you will win esteem for skill.
- \* Avoid arguments.
- \* Avoid political discussions.
- \* Bring photographs of your family to show during conversations.

**DO NOT:**

- \* Show impatience or undue haste.
- \* Ask direct or personal questions, especially about female family members.
- \* Criticize a Somali directly. This will cause him to lose face and respect for you.
- \* Patronize or talk down to a Somali, even if he does not speak English very well.
- \* Do not move away from a Somali who stands "close" to you during conversation. It is customary for a Somali to stand about one foot away.

• **HOSPITALITY:**

**DO:**

- \* If given a gift, give a gift in return (at a later date) of slightly lesser value.
- \* Thank your host profusely for his hospitality and good conversation. Plan to return the hospitality.
- \* Accompany your guest outside the door or gate when he leaves.

**DO NOT:**

- \* Feel obligated to bring a gift. If you do bring a gift, make it a gift for the children.
- \* Praise too much any possession of your host; he may give it to you. If he does, you are expected to give something in return.
- \* Appear anxious to end a visit.

