

TOGO



Facts

- **Official name:** République Togolaise (Togolese Republic)
- **Form of government:** multiparty republic with one legislative house
- **Head of state and government:** President: Faure Gnassingbé,
- **Capital:** Lome
- **Official language:** French
- **Official religion:** none
- **Monetary unit:** CFA franc (CFAF)
- **Population:** 7,607,000
- **Total area:** (sq mi) 21,853
- **Urban-rural population**
Urban: (2014) 39.5%
Rural: (2014) 60.5%
- **Life expectancy**
Male: (2015) 61.9 years
Female: (2015) 67.2 years
- **Literacy:**
Male: (2015) 78.3%
Female: (2015) 55.3%
- **GNI per capita (U.S.\$):**540

Land and Climate

- Togo is a narrow, oblong-shaped country that lies along the Gulf of Guinea for only 32 miles (51 kilometers) but extends inland for 320 miles
- Togo is about the size of Tennessee
- At its widest point Togo is only 75 miles wide.
- Togo has a tropical climate, with generally warm to hot temperatures.
- The coastal zone is the driest region, with only about 35 inches of rain a year. The wettest region in the inland receives about 70 inches of rain each year.
- During the rest of the year, the northern climate is dominated by the harmattan, a hot, dusty trade wind that originates in the southern Sahara

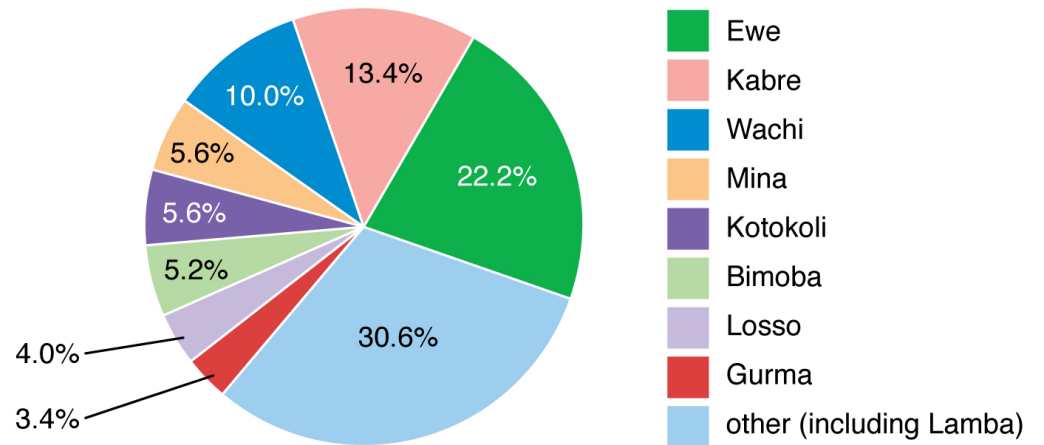
Plants and Animals



- Landscape is mostly Savannas.
- In the southern plateaus large trees, including the baobab, grow.
- The southwestern highland regions are covered with tropical forests
- Monkeys, snakes, and lizards are numerous in many areas, and crocodiles and hippopotamuses abound in the rivers.
- In the Keran Forest Reserve in the north, there are wild herds of buffalo, asses, warthogs, antelope, and deer.

People

Ethnic composition (2000)



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- The population of Togo is made up of about 30 ethnic groups, many of whom are immigrants from other parts of western Africa.
- Togo's many indigenous tribes include the Mina, and Ouatchi in the south and the Kabre and Gourousi in the north.
- The Ewe, who emigrated from Nigeria between the 14th and 16th century, form the major ethnic group
- Most of the country's non-Africans—the majority of whom are French—live in Lomé. Brazilians, or Portuguese of Brazilian birth, constituted the original trading settlement in Togo.

Language, Religion

- French is the national language but not widely spoken.
- Widely spoken indigenous languages include Ewe in the south and Kabiye in the north.
- Almost half of the population is Christian, many of whom are Roman Catholic.
- About one-third of Togo's population adheres to various ancestral forms of belief, including sects associated with Voodoo

Economy



Togo has well-diversified agriculture, unlike most African countries.

- Corn, yams, cassavas, pineapples, bananas, and peanuts are grown for home consumption.
- Coffee, cacao, and cotton are produced mainly for export.

Cattle are the principal wealth of the pastoral uplands. Togo has rich deposits of phosphate, chromite, iron, and bauxite.

The chief forest products are dyewoods, or wood from which coloring matter is extracted, and palm kernels, from which palm oil is obtained.

Early History

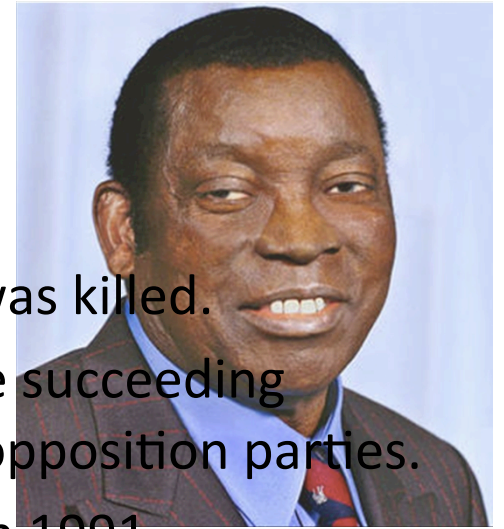
- Between the 11th and 16th centuries, Togo was populated by various tribes, who migrated here from nearby areas. Little is known about the history of the country before this time.
- Many European nations used Togo as part of their bases to gain slaves, earning this area of West Africa the nickname the 'Slave Coast'.
- Until 1884 Togoland was an indeterminate buffer zone between the warring states of Asante and Dahomey.



Togoland History

- Togo was originally part of the Togo protectorate that Germany acquired in 1884, so Germany could check in on expansion of Great Britain and France along the Guinea coast.
- After the Germany's loss in World War I, it was divided between Britain (to the west) and France (to the east)
- In 1956, a referendum showed that the Togolese wanted self-government, so France made French Togoland a self-governing republic within the French Union.
- Togo won independence and joined the United Nations in 1960. Sylvanus Olympio became president in 1961

Modern History



- 1963 Olympio's government was overthrown, and he was killed.
- 1967 An army coup led by General Eyadéma ousted the succeeding government. Eyadéma became president and banned opposition parties.
- 1991: Political parties were legalized for the first time in 1991
- 1992: A new constitution was adopted allowing for multiparty elections.
- 1993: Eyadéma was reelected (and again in 1998) amid widespread controversy over fraud accusations and human rights abuses.
- 2001: After a yearlong investigation, a joint United Nations panel concluded in that hundreds of Togolese had been tortured or executed during the 1998 election period.
- 2005: Eyadéma (who was re-elected in 2002) died and his son Faure Gnassingbé, was appointed by the military to succeed him, but violent demonstrations and international pressure forced Gnassingbé to resign and agree to hold elections.
- April 24, 2005, Gnassingbé was elected president with 60% of the vote.

Fun Facts

- Togo means “House of Sea” in the Ewe language
- The Koutammakou landscape in north eastern Togo, which extends into neighboring Benin, is home to the Batammariba, whose remarkable mud tower houses have come to be seen as a symbol of Togo.
- In most rural areas, as a cultural rule, a woman's legs must be covered at all times. However, it is acceptable for her breasts to be exposed.
- The official Togolese drink is called sodabi, which is a liquor created from the distillation of palm wine.

