



## REPUBLIC OF KENYA

The area of modern day Kenya was originally settled around 2000 B.C. Due to its geographical location near the Arabian Peninsula, Arabic and Persian traders frequented Kenya, setting up small colonies along the way. A mix of the Bantu and Arabic languages, Swahili became the main language of the people of the Kenyan region. The land was ruled or influenced at times by both the Portuguese and Omani empires until the British Empire declared sovereignty over Kenya in 1895. In 1920 Kenya was officially declared a colony of the British Empire. While Kenya would remain a colony for the next 43 years, growing resistance to colonialism started in 1942 when members of various local tribes took an oath to unite and fight for freedom from British rule. This movement, known as the Mau Mau Movement, would lead to the independence of Kenya in 1963. The leader of the movement, Jomo Kenyatta, who was arrested and jailed for 7 years during the fight for independence, became Kenya's first president. After independence Kenya struggled with implementing democracy. From 1968 to 1992 Kenyan leaders jailed political dissidents and created a one-party political system. Since 1992 Kenya has held multi-party elections however it has been plagued by corruption. In recent years Kenya has settled down in terms of political instability. In 2016 Kenya announced it would close the Dadaab Refugee Complex, the world's largest refugee camp due to suspected terrorist activity within the complex.

### Physical Geography

Official name: **Republic of Kenya**

Region: **East Africa**

Size in Square Miles: **580,367 sq km**

Bordering Countries: **Somalia, Tanzania, South Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia**

Physical Features: **low plains rise to central highlands bisected by Great Rift Valley; fertile plateau in west**

Climate: **Climate varies from tropical along coast to arid in interior**

### Cultural Geography

Population: **45,925,301 (July 2015 est.)**

**Ethnic Groups:** Kikuyu 22%, Luhya 14%, Luo 13%, Kalenjin 12%, Kamba 11%, Kisii 6%, Meru 6%, other African 15%, non-African (Asian, European, and Arab) 1%

**Official language:** English (official), Kiswahili (official)

**Other Languages Spoken:** Numerous indigenous languages

**Capital:** Nairobi

**Other Major Cities:** Mombasa

**Average Quality of Life:** Average

### Political Geography

**Founded?** 12 December 1963 (from the UK)

**Type of Government:** Presidential Republic with Bicameral Parliament which consists of Senate and National Assembly

**Country's Leaders:**

**President:** Uhuru Kenyatta

**Most Powerful Senator:** Ekwe Ethuro (Speaker)

**Business:** Awadh "Swaleh Nguru" Sherman

**Business:** Bhimji Debar Shah

**Actor/Actress:** Lupita Nyong'o

**Country's Military?** 29, 150 with 1.96% of GDP spent on military (2012)

**Allies:** Tanzania, Uganda, Somalia, Sudan, and other African Nations, China, Russia, India, United States, United Kingdom

**Enemies:** None.

**Note:** Kenya's foreign policy is largely neutral

### Economic Geography

**Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** \$141.6 billion (2015 est.)

**Natural Resources:** limestone, soda ash, salt, gemstones, fluorspar, zinc, diatomite, gypsum, wildlife, hydropower

**Currency:** Kenyan Shilling

**Major exports and imports:**

**Exports:** tea, horticultural products, coffee, petroleum products, fish, cement

**Imports: machinery and transportation equipment, petroleum products, motor vehicles, iron and steel, resins and plastics**

**Biggest Trading Partners:**

**Exports: Uganda 11.3%, US 8.3%, Tanzania 8.1%, Netherlands 7.4%, UK 6%, Pakistan 4.2% (2015)**

**Imports: China 30.1%, India 15.5%, UAE 5.7%, US 4.8%, Japan 4.7% (2015)**