



Angola

Type of Government: Unitary presidential republic

Head of Government: President Jose Eduardo dos Santos (since 2012)

Capital City: Luanda

Ideology: Kleptocracy, authoritarian.

Region: Southwest Africa

Neighbours: DR Congo, Zambia, Namibia, Congo



DEMOGRAPHICS

- **Population:** 24.4 million
- **Religion:** Due to missionaries from the colonial period, the vast majority of the Angola is Christian. However there is a Muslim minority.
- **Age:** The
- **Ethnicities:** 36% Ovimbundu, 25% Ambundu, 13% Bakongo, 22% Other African, 2% Mestico, 1% Chinese, 1% European
- **Languages:** Official language is Portugese but Kikongo, Chokwe, Umbundu, Kimbundu, Ganguela, and Kwanyama are also spoken.

ECONOMY

- Angola's financial system is maintained by the National Bank of Angola.
- Angola has a rich subsoil heritage, from diamonds, oil, gold, copper, and a rich wildlife, forest, and fossils. Since independence, oil and diamonds have been the most important economic resource.
- Overall, Angola's economy has undergone a period of transformation in recent years, moving from the disarray caused by a quarter century of civil war to being the fastest growing economy in Africa and one of the fastest in the world, with an average GDP growth of 20 percent between 2005 and 2007.
- Despite extensive oil and gas resources, diamonds, hydroelectric potential, and rich agricultural land, Angola remains poor, and a third of the population relies on subsistence agriculture.

Exports

- **Major export partners:** China 46.3%, US 13.9%, India 10.1%, South Africa 4.2%
- Main exports: crude oil, diamonds, refined petroleum products, coffee, sisal, fish and fish products, timber, cotton.

Imports

- **Major import partners:** China 20.9%, Portugal 19.5%, US 7.7%, South Africa 7.1%, Brazil 5.9%
- Includes: machinery and electrical equipment, vehicles and spare parts; medicines, food, textiles, military goods.

MILITARY

Size: The Angolan Armed Forces (AAF) is headed by a Chief of Staff who reports to the Minister of Defense. There are three divisions—the Army, Navy, and National Air Force. Total manpower is about 110,000 with conscription legalised.

POLITICS

Domestic Politics

- Angola is still rebuilding its country since the end of a 27-year civil war in 2002. Fighting between the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), led by Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), led by Jonas Savimbi, followed independence from Portugal in 1975. Up to 1.5 million lives may have been lost - and 4 million people displaced - during the more than a quarter century of fighting. Savimbi's death in 2002 ended UNITA's insurgency and cemented the MPLA's hold on power. President Dos Santos pushed through a new constitution in 2010; elections held in 2012 saw him installed as president.
- After the end of the Civil War the regime came under pressure from within as well as from the international environment, to become more democratic and less authoritarian. Its reaction was to operate a number of changes without substantially changing its character.
- The new constitution, adopted in 2010, further sharpened the authoritarian character of the regime. In the future, there will be no presidential elections: the president and the vice-president of the political party which comes out strongest in the parliamentary elections become automatically president and vice-president of Angola.
- Through a variety of mechanisms, the state president controls all the other organs of the state, so that the principle of the division of power is not maintained. As a consequence, Angola has no longer a presidential system, in the sense of the systems existing e.g. in the USA or in France. In terms of the classifications used in constitutional law, its regime is considered one of several authoritarian regimes in Africa.



Foreign Policy Concerns

- The foreign relations of Angola are based on Angola's strong support of U.S. foreign policy as the Angolan economy is dependent on U.S. foreign aid.
- Since 1998, Angola has successfully worked with the United Nations Security Council to impose and carry out sanctions on UNITA. More recently, it has extended those efforts to controls on conflict diamonds, the primary source of revenue for UNITA. At the same time, Angola has promoted the revival of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP) as a forum for cultural exchange and expanding ties with Portugal (its former ruler) and Brazil (which shares many cultural affinities with Angola) in particular.

More Information

Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angola>

CIA: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ao.html>

BBC: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13036732>

Latest news from the New York Times <http://www.nytimes.com/pages/world/africa/index.html>

The Economist <http://www.economist.com/news/world-week/21643226-politics-week>

Guardian <http://www.theguardian.com/world/africa>

Al Jazeera <http://www.aljazeera.com/topics/regions/africa.html>

All Africa <http://allafrica.com/middleeastandafrika/>