

of Kinshasa. The provinces are presided over by commissioners. Cities are divided into zones and zones into quartiers, headed, respectively, by commissaires sous-régionaux, or mayors, commissaires des zones, and chefs de quartiers. The mayor of Kinshasa is called commissaire urbain.

The judicial system is headed by the Supreme Court, which is located in Kinshasa. There are nine Courts of Appeal, and a tribunal of first instance is located in most subregional capitals.

The customary judicial system in the villages is not completely abolished, and villagers may settle some cases according to traditional procedures. Congo does not apply the jury system; the judges, after deliberation, have the right to settle cases.

How you can help:

The mission of International Children's Care is to bring hope and the gift of a new life to the orphaned and abandoned children of Congo. Through sponsorships, donations and volunteer service, you can give these children the chance in life that they so richly deserve. If you would like to know more about how you can make a difference, please contact ICC in one of the following ways:

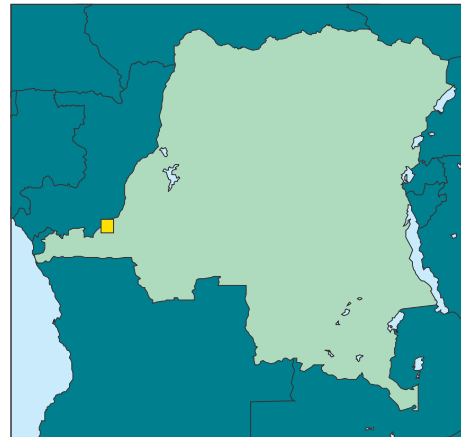
**P. O. Box 820610
Vancouver, WA. 98682-0013**

**(800) 422-7729
ForHisKids.org**



“Democratic Republic of the Congo” — Encyclopedia Britannica · Britannica.com
CIA World Factbook 2018 · CIA.gov

FAST FACTS D.R. Congo



Population: 83,301,151

Official Language: French

Capital City: Kinshasa

Officially known as The Democratic Republic of the Congo. Over 200 African ethnic groups live here.

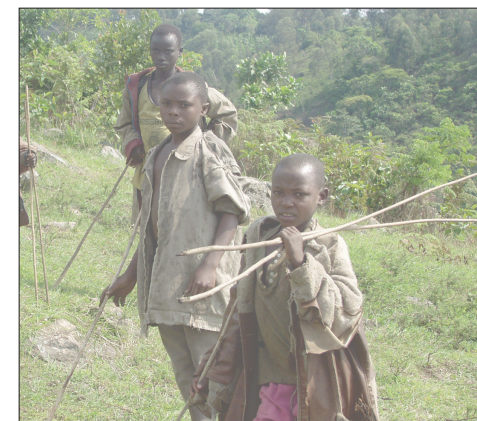
The DRC encompasses 905,354 square miles. It is the third largest country in Africa yet has a coastline only 25 miles long.

People:

The Bantu peoples constitute a large majority of the country's population and occupy more than two-thirds of the national territory. They entered the region of modern Congo during the 10th to the 14th century from the west and north and established kingdoms that were flourishing at the time of European exploration after the 16th century. The Pygmies are considered the earliest inhabitants of the Congo basin.

Culture and Life Styles:

Congo's many ethnic groups and regions have developed a mosaic of traditional arts, including painting, sculpture, music, and dance. The cities, especially Kinshasa, have become the greatest creators, propagators, and promoters of national cultural life and arts. Surviving national folk traditions are evident in pot-





tery and the weaving of raffia, in ceremonial dress or costumes, in dancing styles, and in songs.

The traditional religious beliefs in a supreme being, the power of the ancestors, spirits of nature, and the efficacy of magic were torn apart or greatly disturbed with the introduction of Christianity.

There is a sizable Christian population, including the local sect of

the Church of Jesus Christ on Earth by the Prophet Simon Kimbangu (Kimbanguism).

In 1960 Congo inherited a difficult medical situation. The colonial administration had trained some highly qualified medical technicians and nurses while confining medical practice to European doctors and missionaries. By the late 1970s, however, most of the doctors were Congolese. For the country's first decade, experienced medical assistants, technicians, and nurses filled the vacuum left by the shortage of doctors. By 1990 there was a meager one doctor for every 15,500 persons.

The country, despite great efforts in the 1970s and '80s, suffered from ever-declining health care standards in the 1990s because of the protracted civil war. By the end of the century, diseases such as AIDS, sleeping sickness, and various types of hemorrhagic fever went largely unchecked, often at epidemic levels.

Education:

Since independence public authorities have recognized the value of education and have given it greater attention. The budget for the Ministry of Education has always been ahead of that of the other sectors of national life. Primary education is compulsory, although it is difficult for a developing nation to meet this pledge because of the lack of facilities and an inadequate number of teachers.

Housing:

In general, individuals build their own houses according to their needs and means.

Economy:

The country's main economic resource is its mineral deposits. Minerals include copper, cobalt, zinc, cassiterite, manganese, coal, silver, cadmium, germanium, gold, palladium, and platinum, iron ore and offshore deposits of petroleum.

The limestone deposits that occur are considered to be among the richest in Africa. Rich deposits of both industrial and gem-quality diamonds occur in the Congo. The Congo is a leading producer of industrial diamonds. Mining produces more than half of the national budget and more than 80 percent of total exports.

Domestic agriculture is the main source of food supply and cash income for the majority of the population. The deterioration of the transportation network and agricultural services since independence have led to a regrowth of subsistence agriculture and a collapse of market production. Coffee is the chief agricultural export.

The organization of the transportation network is of the most crucial importance to Congo. The country's generally poor transportation infrastructure is a major factor in the underdevelopment and stagnation of the economy.

Government:

The constitution of 1978 was the Congo's (then Zaire) fifth since independence in 1960; trends apparent in these successive documents included the institution of an increasingly centralized presidential form of government and the exclusion of political activity not sanctioned by the then-ruling Popular Movement of the Revolution (Mouvement Populaire de la Révolution; MPR).

The MPR long was the sole legal political party. It was presided over by the president, who was assisted by the Political Bureau, composed only of individuals appointed by the president.

The country is divided into 10 provinces, including the ville (equivalent to a federal district)

