CHAD in Perspective
An Orientation Guide

Technology Integration Division
February 2013
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## CHAPTER 1: GEOGRAPHY

- Introduction ..................................................................................................................... 4
- Geographic Divisions and Topographic Features ............................................................ 4
  - Saharan Region ............................................................................................................. 4
  - Sahelian Region .......................................................................................................... 5
  - Soudanian Region ....................................................................................................... 5
- Climate .................................................................................................................................. 6
- Bodies of Water ................................................................................................................... 7
- Major Cities .......................................................................................................................... 8
  - N’Djamena ................................................................................................................... 8
  - Moundou ....................................................................................................................... 9
  - Sarh ................................................................................................................................. 9
  - Abeche ............................................................................................................................ 10
- Environmental Concerns ................................................................................................. 10
- Natural Hazards ............................................................................................................... 11
- Chapter 1 Assessment ...................................................................................................... 13

## CHAPTER 2: HISTORY

- Introduction ...................................................................................................................... 14
- Era of the Kingdoms ....................................................................................................... 15
  - Kanem and Sayfawa Empires ...................................................................................... 15
  - Kanem-Bornu Empire ................................................................................................. 15
  - Bagirmi and Wadai Empires ....................................................................................... 16
- Independence ................................................................................................................... 17
- First Civil War (1965-1979) ......................................................................................... 18
- Second Civil War (1979-1982) ..................................................................................... 20
- Twenty-First Century ..................................................................................................... 22
- Recent Events .................................................................................................................. 23
- Chapter 2 Assessment .................................................................................................... 24

## CHAPTER 3: ECONOMY

- Introduction ...................................................................................................................... 25
- Agriculture ....................................................................................................................... 25
- Industry .............................................................................................................................. 26
  - Minerals ......................................................................................................................... 26
  - Oil .................................................................................................................................. 27
  - Manufacturing .............................................................................................................. 27
- Foreign Trade ................................................................................................................... 28
# Chapter 4: Society

## Introduction

## Ethnic Groups and Languages
- **Sara** ................................................................. 34
- **Arabs** ............................................................... 34
- **Toubou and Daza** ............................................. 35

## Religion
- **Islam** ............................................................... 36
- **Christianity** ................................................... 36
- **Animism** .......................................................... 37

## Gender Issues ................................................................. 38

## Traditional Dress ................................................................. 38

## Cuisine .......................................................................... 39

## Arts and Recreation ............................................................. 40

Chapter 4 Assessment ................................................................. 41

# Chapter 5: Security

## Introduction ........................................................................ 42

## U.S. – Chad Relations ............................................................. 42

## Relations with Neighboring Countries ........................................... 43
- **Cameroon** ........................................................... 43
- **Central African Republic** ......................................... 44
- **Libya** ................................................................... 45
- **Niger** .................................................................... 46
- **Nigeria** ................................................................. 46
- **Sudan** ................................................................... 47

## Police Force ...................................................................... 48

## Armed Forces .................................................................... 48

## Issues Affecting Stability ......................................................... 49
- **Armed Rebels** ...................................................... 49
- **Humanitarian Risks** .............................................. 50

## Outlook ........................................................................... 50

Chapter 5 Assessment ................................................................. 52

# Final Assessment .................................................................. 53

# Further Readings .................................................................. 55
Chapter 1: Geography

Introduction
About three times the size of California, Chad is a landlocked country at the crossroads between the Sahara desert and Central Africa. Chad is bordered by Niger in the west. Nigeria and Cameroon lie to its southwest and south-southwest, respectively. The Central African Republic lies along its southern border. Sudan is its neighbor to the east. Finally, Libya borders Chad to the north. Chad stretches over 1,800 km (1,118 mi) from north to south and 800 km (497 mi) from east to west. Chad's largest city is N'Djamena, its capital.

Chad’s considerable biodiversity boasts savannahs, mountains, tropical forests, swampy river valleys, and deserts. Elephants, lions, and ostriches roam the landscape, while rhinos and hippos swim in the nation’s waters. Climatic changes, pressures by human settlements, and mineral exploration threaten plant and animal species in the area.

Geographic Divisions and Topographic Features
Chad is divided into three geographical regions from north to south: the Saharan Region (arid), the Sahelian Region (semi-arid), and the Soudanian Region (semi-tropical).

Saharan Region

7 Christine Zuchora-Walske, Chad in Pictures (Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications, 2009), 4.
The Saharan Region covers the northern third of Chad. It is largely comprised of desert receiving less than 20 cm (8 in) of annual rainfall. This barren and arid region is home to a few sparsely populated settlements of mostly nomadic people. Chad’s highest elevation point Emi Koussi, at 3,415 m (11,205 ft), and lowest point Djourab Depression, at 163 m (535 ft), are located in this region. Surface water can be found in permanent pools known as *gueltas*. During the rainy season (February–May), there are some seasonal streams.\(^\text{13, 14}\)

The Chadian city of Faya, one of the largest oasis towns in the world, is in the Saharan Region. Faya has been known to go without significant rainfall for as long as 10 years, but underground water is sufficient to support the cultivation of wheat, dates, and figs.\(^\text{15, 16}\)

### Sahelian Region

The semi-arid Sahelian Region occupies the central third of Chad and includes the capital city N’Djamena and Lake Chad. Part of the semi-arid lands of the Sahel, this region is a transitional area between the northern deserts and the southern tropical regions. In the rainy season (June–September), an average of 20 to 90 cm (8 to 35 in) of rain falls. Grasslands in the northern regions merge into savannah in the south.\(^\text{17, 18}\) Dates, cereal grains, and garden crops are grown around the oases settlements of the north. Nomadic pastoralists tend their flocks during the rainy season but move southward during the dry season. Rainfall in the south is sufficient to permit some agriculture. Around Lake Chad, where the rainfall is heavier, agriculture provides a livelihood for many Chadians.\(^\text{19}\) The area wildlife include gazelles, sand foxes, rabbits, hedgehogs, wildcats called caracal, and desert antelope known as addax.\(^\text{20, 21}\)

### Soudanian Region

The Soudanian Region lies south of the Sahelian Region and can be divided into two subregions: the northern and southern parts. The northern part is dry and hot during the five-month dry season (November–March). During the rainy season (April–October), rainfall averages between

---


\(^\text{14}\) *Conservapedia*, “Chad: Geography,” 14 July 2012, [http://www.conservapedia.com/Chad](http://www.conservapedia.com/Chad)


\(^\text{18}\) Christine Zuchora-Walske, *Chad in Pictures* (Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications, 2009), 14.


\(^\text{21}\) Christine Zuchora-Walske, *Chad in Pictures* (Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications, 2009), 14.
Most of the region’s vegetation consists of forests that provide shelter for many of Chad’s large animals, including elephants, giraffes, and buffalo.  

The southern part of the Soudanian Region lies in a humid tropical region that receives between 60 and 125 cm (24 and 49 in) of annual rainfall during the rainy season (April–October). Temperatures are high throughout the year. This humid region is covered in savannah with bushes and trees. It is home to many wild animals, including elephants, giraffes, lions, wildebeest, and antelopes. Chad’s game park, Parc National de Zakouma, is located in the Soudanian Region.

Climate
The climate of Chad varies from hot arid in the north to humid tropical in the south, matching the country’s wide range in latitudes. Rainfall in the arid northern region is less than 2.5 cm (1 in) annually, with snow common in the higher mountain elevations. In the Saharan Region, rain occurs only in higher elevations. Temperatures in the northern region range from 5° to 37°C (41° to 99°F) but can be extreme. Desert temperatures can reach 50°C (122°F) or drop to -10°C (14°F). Differences between day and nighttime temperatures can be as much as 38°C (68°F).

Seasonal monsoons from June to September bring more rainfall to the southern two-thirds of the country, although the Lake Chad basin tends to be dry. Rainfall in the central region

---

25 Christine Zuchora-Walske, Chad in Pictures (Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications, 2009), 15.  
26 Christine Zuchora-Walske, Chad in Pictures (Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications, 2009), 14.  
32 Christine Zuchora-Walske, Chad in Pictures (Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications, 2009), 14.  
34 Christine Zuchora-Walske, Chad in Pictures (Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications, 2009), 14.  
averages 30 to 80 cm (12 to 32 in) annually. Temperatures in the Sahelian Region frequently rise above 40°C (104°F) during the hot season (April–May). The most rainfall occurs in the southern region where rainfall of 75 to 125 cm (30 to 49 in) is common from April to October. Temperatures in this humid region remain high throughout the year, ranging from about 27°C (81°F) during the cool season in January to about 40°C (104°F) during the hot season (March–May). Nighttime temperatures often fall into the mid-teens Celsius (upper 50s Fahrenheit).

**Bodies of Water**

There are no permanent streams in the northern or central regions of Chad. Depressions (wadis) may fill during the rainy seasons but usually run dry within a few days. The seasonal Batha River, the most important of these wadis, carries water west from the Ouaddaï Highlands and the Guéra Massif to Lake Fitri.

The Chari and the Logone, which form part of Chad’s border with Cameroon, are the two major rivers in Chad. Both rivers begin in the highlands of the Central African Republic and Cameroon and flow southeastward, navigable only during the rainy season. The Chari flows 1,200 km (746 mi) and is met at its lower course by the 960-km- (597-mi-) long Logone River near N’Djamena where the combined rivers flow 30 km (18 mi) before emptying into Lake Chad.

Lake Chad, the seventh-largest lake in the world and the largest fresh water lake in the Sahel, lies just south of the Sahara Desert. Once the size of Lake Erie, Lake Chad is now only 5% of its

---

Approximately 95% of its water comes from the Chari River. The size of Lake Chad expands and shrinks depending on rainfall and evaporation due to high temperatures. During the dry season, Lake Chad is about 9,800 sq km (3,784 sq mi) but expands to nearly 28,000 sq km (11,120 sq mi) by the end of the rainy season. The shallow lake has an average depth of less than 7 m (23 ft).

Lake Fitri, in the center of Chad, is located about 300 km (186 mi) east of N’Djamena. Fed mainly by the seasonal Batha River, Lake Fitri can completely dry up during periods of severe drought. Lake Fitri is about 500 sq km (193 sq mi) but can double or triple in size in particularly wet seasons.

Lake Iro, a circular lake in a marshy section of southeastern Chad, occasionally dries up completely during the dry season.

### Major Cities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N’Djamena</td>
<td>993,492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moundou</td>
<td>132,411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarh</td>
<td>99,099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abeche</td>
<td>77,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**N’Djamena**

N’Djamena, Chad’s capital, is located on the Chari River near the country’s southwestern border with Cameroon. Founded in 1900, the city was originally called Fort-Lamy in honor of the French general who led his troops to a major military victory in the region. Fort-Lamy was a small settlement until Chad gained its independence in 1960. In 1973, the city changed its name to N’Djamena.

The capital’s modern history has been a turbulent one. The city was virtually destroyed during Chad’s civil war (1979-1980), occupied by Libyan forces between 1980 and 1981, and attacked...
by rebel forces in 2006 and 2008. Rapid migration from Chad’s rural areas is dramatically increasing the population of N’Djamena, which is projected to reach two million by 2020.

Although N’Djamena has a population of about one million, it continues to feel more like a village than a major population center. Many houses are still made of mud and the local economy is based on agricultural markets, especially cattle, salt, dates, and cotton. The University of Chad and the National School of Administration are in N’Djamena.

Moundou
Moundou is Chad’s second-largest city and has a population of about 109,000. It is located about 483 km (300 mi) south of N’Djamena in southwestern Chad on the Logone River. The center of Chad’s cotton-growing industry, Moundou is home to an important cotton-research institute. It is also home to a brewery, one of Chad’s largest commercial enterprises. Two airports and several other Chadian cities and towns are located nearby. Moundou is the homeland of the Ngambay people.

Sarh
The southern city of Sarh is located on the Chari River 563 km (350 mi) south of N’Djamena. Named for the Sara people, the major ethnic group in the area, Sarh was founded by the French for returning workers who had been forced to construct the Congo-Ocean Railway during the 1920s and 1930s. Sarh is an important textile production center, and is recognized as the cotton and sugarcane capital of Chad. Sarh’s location on the Chari River and along the main road between N’Djamena and Bangui (the capital of the Central African Republic) makes it a commercial fishing center and a major marketplace. Sarh has a domestic airport, and the Chari River is navigable during the rainy season.

Abeche
The city of Abeche is located in eastern Chad about 750 km (466 mi) from N’Djamena, in an isolated area of the country. In spite of the relatively short distance, it can take up to two days to reach the capital because of the poorly maintained unpaved roads. Abeche boosts an international airport, important archaeological sites, and mosques. It is the historical capital of the Wadai Sultanate that ruled most of the area before being defeated by the French in 1912. Besides cattle-raising, industry remains largely undeveloped because of Abeche’s distance from major market centers.

Environmental Concerns
Chad is challenged by serious environmental issues including inadequate supplies of potable water, improper waste disposal in rural areas contributing to soil and water pollution, and desertification. Lake Chad was once the size of Lake Erie, and was the largest lake in Africa. Today, it is only 5% of its original size and is still shrinking as a result of climate change and demand. As it continues to shrink, access to potable water becomes an increasing problem, particularly in rural communities where 72% of the population lives. Only 30% of rural Chadians have access to safe drinking water and a mere 1% to basic sanitation.

At least 60% of Chad is threatened with desertification caused mainly by deforestation. Only 3% of Chadians have access to electricity while most depend on wood and charcoal for fuel, which requires trees to be cut. The government banned charcoal use in 2009, creating serious energy issues for the people.

Natural Hazards
The top three natural hazards in Chad are harmattan winds, periodic droughts, and locust plagues.78 Harmattan winds are strong hot and dry winds that blow south from the Sahara Desert. They cover the land in a haze of dust that is carried into the Atlantic Ocean, interfering with aircrafts and covering ships in a layer of fine particles. Harmattan winds, which are strongest from November to mid-March, are the biggest source of dust in the atmosphere.79 In the summer months, when the harmattan winds meet with the cool winds of the monsoon, they can swell up to 1,800 m (6,000 ft) causing tornadoes.80 These winds cause health complications, especially for those with asthma or bronchial problems. They also can trigger a crisis in individuals with sickle cell disease. Additionally, doctors have noticed a rise in meningitis following the wind storms.81, 82

The two other environmental factors, locust plagues and periodic droughts, adversely affect food production in Chad. Plagues of locusts periodically sweep across the country destroying crops. As many as 80 million locusts per square km (0.4 sq mi) filled the sky in the 2004 plague. A small part of these hordes can eat as much food in a day as 2,500 people.83, 84, 85 The other environmental hazard, drought, creates food shortages and contributes to desertification.86 In 2012, the lack of any significant rainfall created famine conditions for many regions of Chad and threatened to become a serious humanitarian crisis.87, 88

---

Chapter 1 Assessment

1. Chad is about the size of California.
   False
   Chad is about three times the size of California.

2. Chad is mostly desert.
   False
   Chad has three bioclimatic regions: the Saharan Region in the north is mostly desert, the Sahelian Region in the center and basin of Lake Chad is a hot and semi-arid region marked with savannas, and the Soudanian Region in the south is humid and characterized as tropical forest.

3. Chad has two permanent rivers.
   True
   The Chari and the Logone rivers are the two major rivers in Chad. They form part of Chad’s border with Cameroon and flow southeastward. They are navigable only during the rainy season.

4. The hot dusty harmattan winds are the number one natural hazard in Chad.
   True
   Harmattan winds are strong hot winds that blow south from the Sahara Desert covering the land in a haze of dust. They can cause tornadoes when they meet the monsoon winds.

5. Lake Chad has shrunk to about 20% of its original size.
   False
   Lake Chad was once the size of Lake Erie, and was the largest lake in Africa. Today, it is only 5% of its original size and is still shrinking as a result of climate change and demand.
Chapter 2: History

Introduction
The nation of Chad is relatively young. It first became a political unit around 1900 and an independent nation in 1960. But Chad has a long and rich history. Seven-million-year-old fossil remains found in the area cause some scientists to speculate that the desert areas of northern Chad could be the birthplace of the human race. Rock paintings from around 7,000 B.C.E. lend more support to the idea that Chad and the surrounding area may be the cradle of humanity.

Around 1,500 B.C.E., nomadic herders settled Chad’s southern basin. Five hundred years later, towns began developing along the shores of Lake Chad. By 500 C.E., the townspeople had formed the earliest known developed civilization in Chad, the Sao, who flourished into the ninth century. Arab nomads began to settle in the region and, as they merged with the Sao, formed a new culture and eventually new kingdoms that ruled the area.

When the French arrived in 1887, they were welcomed by the southern tribes who hoped the French would end a long history of regional slave trading. By 1900, the area had been secured and under French colonial rule. The southern part of Chad benefitted most from development efforts. The northern part maintained Muslim traditions and culture far more than the southern part, where many converted to Christianity. This divide, created by colonial forces, continues to haunt Chad today and has been the cause of factional fighting and civil wars.

Since gaining independence from France in 1960, Chad has suffered civil unrest and war, economic turmoil, famine, and dictatorial rule. The Chadian sense of national identity is fragile, and historical rivalries and tensions among Chad’s many ethnic groups often erupt.

---

92 Christine Zuchora-Walske, Chad in Pictures (Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications, 2009), 21–22.
Era of the Kingdoms

Around 900 C.E., states formed in what is now the Sahelian region of central Chad. These states were built mainly by indigenous Africans although Arab settlers influenced the culture and development. Relations between the kingdoms and states significantly influenced Chad’s political history through French colonization in 1900. Economic survival of the kingdoms was based on their control of the trans-Saharan trading routes but, to survive politically, they often had to fight.

Kanem and Sayfawa Empires

The Kanem Empire was the first great kingdom to emerge around Lake Chad early in the ninth century. In the 10th century, Arabs from the north and east introduced Islam. Around 1080, a Muslim Kanem nobleman overthrew the king and began a Muslim empire known as the Sayfawa. At its height in the mid-1200s, the Sayfawa kingdom included parts of Libya and Nigeria. Internal feuds and civil war eventually weakened the Sayfawa dynasty. By the end of the 14th century, the people were forced to move to the western side of Lake Chad. They intermarried with the Bornu people, creating a new ethnic group and language, as well as a new kingdom known as the Kanem-Bornu.

Kanem-Bornu Empire

The Kanem-Bornu Empire saw a series of kings in its early years, but by 1497 had subdued its major rivals. In the 16th century, the Kanem-Bornu Empire gained strength and influence during the reign of King Idris Aluma. Under Aluma’s rule, the empire’s laws were changed to reflect his Muslim beliefs. Wealth gained from trade was used to improve agriculture, transportation infrastructure, and military security. Following Aluma’s death, the empire maintained its power for several decades. In the 17th and 18th centuries, the empire was weakened by famine and invaded by nomadic groups, including the Tuareg and Fulani. Gradually, the Kanem-Bornu Empire lost power and eventually, the kingdom was captured by the French near the end of the 19th century.

---

100 Christine Zuchora-Walske, Chad in Pictures (Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications, 2009), 24.
103 Christine Zuchora-Walske, Chad in Pictures (Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications, 2009), 24.
**Bagirmi and Wadai Empires**

The Bagirmi Kingdom, southeast of the Kanem-Bornu, emerged around 1522. It became a tributary state of the Kanem-Bornu after being conquered by Aluma. In the early 1600s, it freed itself from Kanem-Bornu rule but by the mid-1700s was once again a tributary state. The Bagirmi adopted Islam under the rule of Abdullah IV (1568–1598). The slave trade made it wealthy, but the empire’s location, between the eastern Kanem-Bornu and the western Wadai, placed it in a vulnerable position. Early in the 19th century, Bagirmi was a tributary state to both the Wadai and the Kanem-Bornu. By 1894, the empire was under the control of the Sudanese rebel, Rabih az-Zubayr. Bagirmi became part of France’s territories early in the 20th century.  

The Wadai kingdom emerged as an offshoot of the state of Darfur (present-day Sudan) in the 16th century. Around 1630, the Wadai became an Islamic state. Sitting at the junction of two main trading routes, the east-west route and the northward trans-Saharan route, the kingdom prospered. Around 1800, it expanded its territorial control eventually conquering the Bagirmi and regions along the Chari River. By 1893, the three kingdoms of Wadai, Bagirmi, Kanem-Bornu were defeated by Rabih al-Zubayr. Al-Zubayr was killed at the battle of Kousséri in 1900 and his army was defeated by the French, cementing their control of the region.

**French Colonization**

The French, who first arrived in Chad around 1887, were largely disinterested in Chad except as a source of cotton and labor for their southern colonies in Africa. In 1905, Chad was merged with France’s three southern colonies—Ubangi-Chari (present-day Central African Republic), Moyen-Congo (present-day Congo), and Gabon. Together the four colonies were administered as French Equatorial Africa (AEF). Chad did not gain its status as a separate colony within the AEF until 1920. 

---


The French laissez-faire style of governance was haphazard and ineffective in all but the southern part of Chad. The French were satisfied with the situation so long as the trading routes operated and law and order existed. Pockets of resistance to colonial rule, particularly in central Chad, were largely ignored by the colonial authorities. The Sara people of the south ran a system of direct civilian administration that resulted in some economic development.\footnote{John L. Collier, “Historical Setting: Arrival of the French and Colonial Administration,” in Chad: A Country Study, ed. Thomas Collelo (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office for the Library of Congress, 1990), \url{http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field%28DOCID+td0017%29}}

In 1935, France negotiated a Chad-Libya border agreement with Italy, who controlled Libya at the time. The agreement relocated the Chad-Libya border about 100 km (60 mi) further south across an area known as the Aozou Strip. Although the French did not ratify the agreement, Libya used the accords as the basis to claim and occupy northern Chad in the 1970s and 1980s.\footnote{John L. Collier, “Historical Setting: Arrival of the French and Colonial Administration,” in Chad: A Country Study, ed. Thomas Collelo (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office for the Library of Congress, 1990), \url{http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field%28DOCID+td0017%29}}


**Independence**

N’Garta (François) Tombalbaye, former trade union leader, became Chad’s first president in 1960. The autocratic president banned all political parties except his own, the Chad Progressive Party (PPT). Riots in 1963 prompted Tombalbaye to declare a state of emergency and dissolve the National Assembly. Fearing the opposition, he established a special criminal court and put most of the opposition leaders in prison. In 1964, the new National Assembly granted Tombalbaye complete authority to make political appointments. He gained full control of Chad by imprisoning, exiling, or co-opting the opposition.\footnote{BBC, “Chad Profile: A Chronology of Key Events,” 1 May 2012, \url{http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-13164690}}
Tombalbaye wanted the French out of Chad. To increase his power, he began to Africanize the civil service. By 1962, Chad’s entire administrative structure was in Chadian hands. French military forces in the BET Prefecture and the city of Abeche were completely replaced by Chadian forces in January 1965. As part of his Africanization plans, Tombalbaye renamed several cities including the capital city of Fort-Lamy, which became N’Djamena. But Tombalbaye’s Africanization efforts created a deep resentment among many in the northern and central regions. They saw Africanization as a southernization of Chad, an attempt by the south to seize power, given that most of the educated Chadians came from the south and that the government was dominated by southerners.  

Taxes imposed by the federal government and some regional administrators increased discontent and violence. After three Muslim leaders were arrested in 1963, Muslims in N’Djamena rioted. Tombalbaye responded to the riots with equal violence and further repression. Over the next few years, confrontations continued, often along ethnic lines. Chad’s position was uncertain and the country faced the possibility of an imminent armed conflict.

First Civil War (1965-1979)
In November 1965, frustration with the ineffective and corrupt government led to a rebellion concentrated mostly in the north. Unrest continued through 1968, when the government lost control of most of northern Chad. Libya and Sudan aided the rebellion, which engulfed north and central Chad.


© DLIFLC | 18
The military’s inability to defeat the opposition forced Tombalbaye to call in the French for help. The French retrained Chad’s military, re-organized the civil service, and reformed unpopular policies. The major reform was the restoration of judicial authority to sultans. After his 1971 reelection, President Tombalbaye tried to implement a national reconciliation campaign, temporarily calming dissent. The French, under considerable domestic pressure, began to withdraw. By June 1971, active resistance was confined to a few small areas in the north. The rebel forces in the north split into two factions that began fighting each other for power and influence. Goukouni Oueddei led the northern Second Army (called the Force Armees du Nord (FAN)) and Abba Siddick commanded the opposing First Army. In 1972, Hissein Habré took control of FAN, which became known as the Conseil de Commande des Forces Armees du Nord (CCFAN).

Under pressure from continued civil unrest and violence, President Tombalbaye abandoned his efforts at national reconciliation in 1972. He jailed more than 1,000 alleged enemies of the state. To gain support from his Arab neighbors, Tombalbaye broke ties with Israel. Libya began restricting supplies to the northern rebels, who eventually lost control of their territories. As ethnic tensions and resistance to Tombalbaye’s policies worsened, the army became increasingly disloyal. Finally, on 13 April 1975, Tombalbaye was assassinated by General Felix Malloum.

Malloum then assumed control. Although southerners continued their dominance in the government and national affairs, President Malloum included more Muslims from the northern prefectures. Despite his efforts, Malloum’s government came under increasing pressure and in 1977 a grenade attack was launched against the new president. The coup was unsuccessful but the government continued its path of failure. Libya took possession of the northern Chadian Aouzou strip, and again began supplying northern rebels who expanded their territorial control. Anxious to end the civil war, Malloum met with CCFAN rebel leader Habré to negotiate a cease-fire. Meanwhile, rival rebel leader Goukouni united all rebel armies under his authority and swore to overthrow Malloum’s government.

---

Second Civil War (1979-1982)

From 1979 to 1982, Chad’s civil conflicts escalated. The southern-dominated government finally collapsed. Rebel leader Habré made aggressive demands, including making media broadcasts in Arabic rather than French and hiring more northerners in government offices. In March 1979, President Malloum resigned and fled the country. A Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT) was installed with Lol Mahamat Choua as President and Habré and Goukouni as government ministers.

In the south, violence erupted among the Muslim and non-Muslim populations and within a month more than 10,000 had been killed. Rebel leader Kamougué set up his own government to rule in the south. The GUNT could not displace Kamougué and in August reorganized itself with Goukouni as its new president. Factional politics continued to paralyze and divide the nation. Chad’s Arab neighbors took advantage of the chaos to advance their own agendas. Goukouni’s government soon failed due largely to mistrust among the major parties. In January 1980, the army attacked in Ouaddaï Prefecture in the west. Peacekeeping forces from France and the Organization of African Unity stayed out of the conflict as battles raged throughout the summer.

By 1980, the French troops had withdrawn and President Goukouni signed a military cooperation agreement with Libya asking for military assistance. By December 1980, Libyan forces were in control of Chad’s capital and most of the cities in the north and central prefectures. Defense Minister Habré, Goukouni’s chief rival, fled south.

---

Libyan forces withdrew in October 1981 allowing Habré’s forces to retake key territory. In December 1981, Habré’s troops were stalled by Inter-African Forces (IAF) troops from Nigeria, Senegal, and Zaire. In February 1982, a cease-fire was negotiated but within six months, after President Goukouni rejected the accord, Habré and his forces were again on the march. On 7 June 1982, Habré seized control of the capital and Goukouni and his cabinet fled to Cameroon. Chad’s second civil war ended with Habré consolidating his power and seeking international recognition.149, 150, 151

By October 1982, Habré was inaugurated as president and a new government was installed but peace eluded the nation. Deposed President Goukouni’s troops had gained control of most of the north supported by Libya. By 1983, Goukouni and his rebel troops controlled and occupied the northern BET prefecture. France reluctantly sent troops to stop Goukouni’s advance to the capital N’Djamena.152

In 1986, fighting between rebel forces, Libyan forces, and French troops broke out continuing until March 1988. In March 1990, rebel forces led by Idriss Déby launched an invasion into eastern Chad but quickly retreated. The rebels again invaded but this time the French ignored Habré’s appeals for military intervention. On 30 November 1990, Déby and his forces entered the capital, assumed power and formed a new government. The United States did not formally recognize Déby’s government because of his close ties with Libya but both Libya and Sudan gave strong support to Déby.153

President Déby began a series of political reforms that included multiple political parties. But, civil unrest continued. In September 1991, opposition forces attacked military garrisons in Tibesti in the north. In October 1991, the airport in N’Djamena was under attack. By early 1992, the rebels controlled several towns around Lake Chad and were advancing on N’Djamena. After a failed coup attempt, suspected...
opposition members were executed or imprisoned. Tensions over economic policies and trade unions led to the resignation of the majority of government officials. By the end of 1992, rebels were again on the offensive clashing with government troops. Déby carried on with his reforms while the insurgency continued throughout the country.154

Twentieth Century

By 2001, the northern insurgency around Tibesti had escalated, fueled by allegations of government fraud and mismanagement. Despite the charges, Déby was reelected in May 2001. After his election, opposition candidates were briefly imprisoned. Protests and civil unrest followed. Meetings between the government and rebel leaders in 2002 resulted in a peace agreement including an immediate cease-fire.155

Ethnic relations within Chad continued to deteriorate. Relations with Sudan worsened as a result of the 2004 crisis in Darfur. Serious rebel threats once again emerged and Chadian rebels sought refuge in and support from Sudan. Rebel groups attacked the Chadian government hoping to overthrow it. President Déby’s political position weakened as more than 300,000 refugees from Darfur poured into Chad and 200,000 refugees from eastern Chad were displaced. With Chadian rebels supported by Sudan and Sudanese rebels supported by Chad, the two countries became involved in a proxy war, leading to the severing of relations between the two in 2006.156, 157

In 2005, a constitutional amendment ended presidential term limits, allowing President Déby to be elected a third time in 2006.158 As the conflict with Sudan continued, Sudanese rebels nearly overran N’Djamena in 2006. When rebels attacked again in 2008, they were successfully repelled by the military with the support of France.159, 160

In 2010, Chad and Sudan signed a peace accord formally ending their conflict and agreeing to stop support of rebel forces.161, 162 In 2012, in an effort to solidify relations between the two countries, President Déby married the daughter of the Janjaweed rebel forces in Sudan.163, 164

---


© DLIFLC | 22
Recent Events
Presidential elections in 2011 returned Déby to a fourth term. Opposition parties boycotted the elections and campaigned for electoral reforms but without success. Although President Déby has been in power for more than 20 years, his support is declining and ethnic tensions continue.

The United Nations maintains refugee camps in eastern and southern Chad for more than 170,000 Chadian nationals displaced by civil war, for Sudanese refugees displaced by the ongoing crisis in Darfur, and for refugees from the Central African Republic. The refugee camps further stress Chad’s limited national resources and are wracked with violence and criminal activity.

Chad remains one of the poorest nations in the world. In addition to political instability, it faces malnutrition and hunger. Severe malnutrition reached emergency proportions. The northern region of Chad has been particularly hard hit by drought, causing a national food crisis and health problems, including a meningitis outbreak. International emergency relief teams have been dispatched to deal with the humanitarian crisis.

In March 2012, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) opened a case against former Chadian President Hissene Habré, who has been sentenced to death in absentia for committing crimes against humanity while in office from 1982–1990.

---

Chapter 2 Assessment

1. Chad came under French control in the mid-19th century.  
   **False**  
   The French first arrived in Chad around 1887. Chad did not come under French colonial rule until 1900.

2. Chad gained its independence from France in 1960.  
   **True**  
   Chad became an independent nation in 1960.

3. The first great kingdoms that formed in Chad were predominantly Muslim.  
   **False**  
   Around 900 C.E., states formed in what is now the Sahelian region of central Chad. These states were built mainly by indigenous Africans although Arab settlers influenced the culture and development.

4. Libya occupied the disputed Aouzou strip in northern Chad during the 1970s and 1980s.  
   **True**  
   Libya claimed and occupied the Aouzou strip in northern Chad during the 1970s and 1980s. The land claim stemmed from an un-ratified 1935 Chad-Libya border agreement between France and Italy that would have relocated the Chad-Libya border about 100 km (60 mi) south.

5. President Tombalbaye’s “Africanization” program created a sense of national identity and unity within Chad.  
   **False**  
   The “Africanization” efforts created a deep resentment among many northern and central Chadians. Because most of the educated Chadians came from the south, many saw “Africanization” as a southernization of Chad, an attempt by the south to seize power.
Chapter 3: Economy

Introduction
Chad is one of the poorest countries in the world. Its harsh climate, meager natural resources, and landlocked position have created a narrow economy dominated by agriculture. In 2011, Chad ranked 183rd out of 187 countries on the human development index. A long history of political instability has further debilitated the economy leaving it with little infrastructure.

Although Chad’s economy is primarily based on agriculture, oil is now the country’s most important export product. Other natural resources, including gold, uranium, and bauxite, have the potential for development. Chad depends heavily on foreign aid which has accounted for 25% of GDP. Contributors are from the European Union and France. The small formal economic sector is supplemented by a large and flourishing informal sector. Prospects for growth in the formal economic sector are good although several stumbling blocks (e.g., unpredictable water supplies, political instability, and poor transport infrastructure) could limit growth potential.

Agriculture
Agriculture is the primary driver of the Chadian economy. Although only 3% of Chad’s land is arable, agriculture accounts for 53% of GDP. At least 80% of the population is employed in agriculture, namely subsistence farming and livestock raising.

Most Chadian farmers use primitive techniques relying on slash-and-burn strategies coupled with crop rotation. In the Sudanian

---

area, most farmers cultivate their fields for three years and then leave the fields uncultivated for another three years, sometimes as long as 15 years.\textsuperscript{180}

Agricultural productivity is limited by unreliable water supplies, locusts, a lack of technology, inadequate farming equipment, and desertification.\textsuperscript{181} The main agricultural products include cotton, groundnuts, millet, sorghum, yams, and cereals.\textsuperscript{182} After livestock, cotton is the most important commercial product. It accounts for about one-half of Chad’s exports and is the main income source for farmers.\textsuperscript{183, 184}

Nearly 75\% of all cultivated land is in the Sudanian region, the southern third of Chad.\textsuperscript{185} The northern third is comprised of the Sahara desert, where dates and legumes are grown. The harsh Saharan climate is generally unsuitable for cattle or horses, but camel herds are common.\textsuperscript{186, 187} In the central third of Chad, the Sahelian region, hardy varieties of millet, beans, and peanuts are favorite crops.\textsuperscript{188} Most of Chad’s livestock herds are raised on the pasture lands of the Sahel. Livestock contributes about 15\% to national GDP, but the lack of refrigerated slaughterhouses limits Chad’s ability to sell more livestock to wider international markets.\textsuperscript{189}

**Industry**

The industrial sector is underdeveloped, accounting for a mere 7\% of GDP. Only 20\% of the workforce is employed in industry and services. The leading component of the sector is oil exploitation although mineral mining has a potential for expansion.\textsuperscript{190}

**Minerals**

The mining of minerals, which include gold, bauxite, uranium, silver, and diamonds, is underexploited and has a potential to grow.\textsuperscript{191} Aside from a Canadian company mining gold, however, most foreign investors appear disinterested in this sector.\textsuperscript{192}


\textsuperscript{183} The World Bank, “Chad Poverty Assessment: Constraints to Rural Development,” 2011, http://go.worldbank.org/1DFT7VDPK0


Oil
Although crude oil exports did not begin until 2004, oil exploitation dominates the industrial sector. Oil production generates about 65% of Chad’s revenues and nearly 90% of export earnings. Proven oil reserves, located in the basin of Lake Chad and Doba in the south, are sufficient to last about 34 years. A consortium of U.S. and French oil companies (namely ExxonMobil, Shell, and Elf) have invested nearly USD 4 billion in Chad’s oil development. China contributed to the building of a refinery and to the Chad-Cameroon pipeline used to transport petroleum from Doba Basin to Cameroon’s port of Kribi. Chad has the potential to become a significant energy producer if it can continue to access the Chad-Cameroon pipeline to get its products to market. There are no known natural gas reserves in Chad.

Manufacturing
Manufacturing, centered around the cities of N’djamena and Moundou, accounted for only 11% of GDP in 2000. The main manufacturing activities are cotton ginning and textile production. Food processing, including sugar refining, is a small sector.

Chad’s poor infrastructure hinders the development of its industrial sectors. Decades of ethnic and political instability have discouraged most foreign investment. The main investors in Chad are China and India. China has built a cement factory and an industrial park, including hotels and factories. Funds

from India have been used to build a tractor-assembly plant, a cotton mill, a fruit-juice factory, and a bicycle plant. The European Union (EU) and Taiwan have invested in the development of Chad’s transport infrastructure and roads.

**Foreign Trade**

In 2011, Chad’s exports reached an estimated USD 4.11 billion, a 23% increase from 2010. Oil is the most prominent export product since its introduction in 2004. After oil, the major export products are cattle, cotton, and gum Arabic. The United States is the largest export partner, accounting for 83% of Chad’s exports. The other two main export partners are China (7%) and France (6%).

Imports were estimated at USD 3.51 billion in 2011, up 16% from 2010. Chad’s import products include machinery and transportation equipment, industrial goods, foodstuffs, and textiles. The main import partners are Cameroon (17%), France (16%), China (11%), Finland (7%), and Sweden (6%).

Trade opportunities are constrained by a poor transport infrastructure. The roads are mostly unsurfaced, causing vehicles to wear out quickly and halting traffic during the rainy season. Other constraints include a poor business climate due largely to poor governance, high levels of corruption, and poor cooperation across economic sectors. Furthermore, this climate of inefficiencies permits cross-border smuggling, which affects prices, further hurting economic development efforts.

**Tourism**

There is virtually no tourism in Chad. Because of ethnic and political turmoil, tourism in Chad declined by about 50% between 2000 and 2008. In 2009, Chad had only 31,000 international travelers, slightly up from 25,000 in 2007. Although the overall low number of international travelers has prompted some tourist companies in Chad to stop operations, the

---


211 Global Trade, “International Trade in Chad,” 2012, [http://www.globaltrade.net/m/e/Chad.html](http://www.globaltrade.net/m/e/Chad.html)


capital city of N’Djamena remains serviced by international airlines. Domestic airline travel is available on regularly scheduled and chartered flights.\textsuperscript{216}

According to a 2011 study, Chad ranked last in the world in terms of tourism competitiveness. The study found that travelers’ greatest concerns were fears about safety and security, health and hygiene, lack of domestic transportation infrastructure, and lack of cultural sites and natural resources.\textsuperscript{217}

**Banking and Finance**

As with the other economic sectors, the financial sector is underdeveloped and held back by Chad’s ineffective and unstable government. Chad is a member of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (Communauté Économique et Monétaire de l’Afrique Centrale–CEMAC). CEMAC’s regional regulatory body, the Bank of Central African States (Banque des Etats de l’Afrique Centrale–BEAC), controls monetary policies and bank regulations in Chad and other member states. Chad’s banking activity is supervised by the regional Banking Commission (Commission Bancaire de l’Afrique Centrale–COBAC).\textsuperscript{218}

The currency of Chad is the Central African CFA Franc, which is pegged to the Euro. CEMAC guarantees the convertibility of the CFA Franc into French francs although the exchange rate is variable.\textsuperscript{219} As of September 2012, the exchange rate with the Euro stands at CFA 656 : EUR 1, and with the U.S. dollar at CFA 508 : USD 1.\textsuperscript{220}

Chad’s small banking sector is sound but limited.\textsuperscript{221} About 13 in every 1,000 Chadians have bank accounts, leaving the government as the major customer for the sector’s few banks.\textsuperscript{222} The banking sector comprises eight commercial banks and approximately 200 microfinance institutions. The commercial banks offer a narrow range of products and the microfinance institutions provide limited financial assistance to the rural poor. Most banking capital is held by foreign investors. Loans are generally restricted to the government or to the largest companies, which are mostly government contractors.\textsuperscript{223}

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{enumerate}
\item glObserver, “Chad Tourism Profile 2012,” 2012, \url{http://www.globserver.com/en/chad/tourism}
\item Jennifer Akpapuna and Chioma Duru, “Chad” (paper, Wharton School of Economics, University of Pennsylvania, n.d.), 3, 5, \url{http://fic.wharton.upenn.edu/fic/africa/Chad%20Final.pdf}
\end{enumerate}
\end{footnotesize}
Standard of Living
Chad is the fifth poorest country in the world, with about 80% of the population living below the poverty line. The life expectancy of most Chadians is about 49 years (48 for men and 50 for women). Only 35% of adults age 15 and over are literate (45% of males and 24% of females). Few Chadians have access to adequate healthcare, transportation, sanitation, or safe drinking water. Maternal mortality rates are high, with 191 women dying for every 1,000 live births. Approximately three in every four women deliver babies without benefit of medical assistance. Infant mortality rates are high, with nearly 94 infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

Malnutrition is widespread in Chad. A third of the population is undernourished leading to a host of health complications, particularly among women and young children. About 40% of children are chronically malnourished. The number is even higher in the western regions of the Sahel where approximately 60% of households suffer from food and water shortage.

Outlook
Chad’s political situation is expected to remain stable in 2012, and its economy to improve slightly. Although some investors remain wary and stay on the sidelines, foreign direct investment (FDI) continues to fuel the Chadian economy, especially in oil extraction and infrastructure development. The oil industry and infrastructure

233 Johanna Plenk et al., CESifo World Economic Survey 11, no. 1 (February 2012), 18, http://www.cesifo-group.de/portal/pls/portal/docs/1/1213813.PDF
projects will continue to contribute to GDP growth, which is expected to increase by 7% in 2012.\textsuperscript{235, 236}

However, Chad’s economy is vulnerable to natural hazards, especially water shortage, and external economic relations with neighboring countries and foreign investors.\textsuperscript{237, 238} Additionally, low literacy rates and poor governance may limit economic growth in the near term.\textsuperscript{239} Nearly 50\% of the population is unemployed.\textsuperscript{240} Opportunities for employment growth are possible as the oil industry grows, but significant improvement will be some time in coming.\textsuperscript{241}

\textsuperscript{237} Trading Economics, “Chad GDP Based on Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) per Capita GDP,” 2012, \url{http://www.tradingeconomics.com/chad/gdp-based-on-purchasing-power-parity-ppp-per-capita-gdp-imf-data.html}
\textsuperscript{240} Johanna Plenk et al., \textit{CESifo World Economic Survey} 11, no. 1 (February 2012), 18, \url{http://www.cesifo-group.de/portal/pls/portal/docs/1/1213813.PDF}
\textsuperscript{241} Economy Watch, “Chad Economic Forecast,” 10 June 2010, \url{http://www.economywatch.com/world_economy/chad/economic-forecast.html}
Chapter 3 Assessment

1. Chad is one of the poorest countries in the world.
   **True**
   In 2011, Chad ranked fifth poorest country in the world on the United Nations’ Human Development Index.

2. Chad’s most important export product is cotton.
   **False**
   Although cotton is the dominant agricultural product, oil is Chad’s major export product.

3. About 80% of Chadians rely on agriculture for their livelihoods.
   **True**
   About 80% of Chadians rely on subsistence farming and livestock raising.

4. Most of Chad’s agricultural and fertile land is in the Sahel region.
   **False**
   Nearly 75% of cultivated land is in the Sudanian region in the south. The Sahel region is where most of Chad’s livestock is raised.

5. Chad depends on direct foreign investment to run its economy.
   **True**
   Chad depends heavily on direct foreign investment and foreign aid to develop its infrastructure and industry.
Chapter 4: Society

Introduction
Chad’s nearly 11 million people are an ethnically and linguistically diverse group whose history began almost with the birth of the human race. The country lacks a sense of national identity but has strong cultures based on region, religion, and ethnicity. In the Sahara desert of the north live the nomads, in the semi-arid central region are the semi-nomadic herders, and the lush areas of the south are home of the farmers. Islam and Christianity are the dominant religions.

Languages spoken in Chad belong to three of the four major African language families. The linguistic diversity helped to maintain distinct ethnic identities and cultures of Chad’s peoples but present obstacles to building a national identity.

Refugees from Chad’s neighbors, including Sudan’s Darfur region, have further complicated the question of Chadian society.

Ethnic Groups and Languages
French and Arabic are the official languages in Chad. Sara is also widely spoken, particularly in the south. Additionally, more than 120 languages and dialects are spoken throughout the country by more than 200 ethnic groups. The languages fall into three of the four major African language families: Nilo-Saharan, Afro-Asiatic, and Congo-Kordofanian. Although the

---

government does not officially recognize ethnicity, ethnic identity is an important aspect of Chadian life.250

Major ethnic groups include the Sara (28%), Arabs (12%), the Mayo-Kebbi (12%), the Kanem-Bornu (9%), and the Ouaddi (9%). Other smaller groups include the Hadjarai (7%), Tandjile (7%), Gorane (6%), and Fitri-Batha (5%).251

Sara
The largest of Chad’s ethnic groups is the Sara, a group of about 12 major clans clustered in the Sarh region south of Lake Chad.252 The Sara are patrilineal—unified by lineage as descendents of a common male ancestor. They practice a blend of Christianity and Animism. They are mostly settled agriculturalists who raise root vegetables, as well as cattle and livestock. They tend to live in autonomous villages overseen by a headman and a council of elders. They are a polygynist people well-known for their initiation rituals which occur about every seven years and involve scarification for young males.253, 254

The French exploited the Sara and used them as forced labor. At the same time, because of their presence in the more developed south, the Sara had access to greater educational opportunities. For many years, the Sara people have dominated government positions.255

Arabs
Chadian Arabs are a semi-nomadic Muslim people living mainly in the north. They are divided into three main tribal groups: the Juhayna, the Hassuna, and the Awlad Sulayman. Each group tracks its lineage to a common ancestor. These patrilineal peoples are predominantly cattle and camel herders. They are more settled during the dry season but spread out during the rainy season as they herd their cattle on the Sahelian plains of central Chad. The main social unit, the kashimbet, comprises several generations of men and their families. The kashimbet leader is a male elder who sometimes joins with other neighboring leaders to decide matters of mutual concern to the groups in a specific area. Members of these groups generally exhibit extreme loyalty to other group members.256


**Toubou and Daza**

A nomadic group of black Arabs known as the Toubou live mostly in the Tibesti region in northern Chad.\(^{257}\) They live among the oases, growing dates and cereal grains, but depend on livestock for a living.\(^{258}\) Historically famed for their ability to fight, most soldiers in the National Front for the Liberation of Chad (FROLINAT) were Toubou.\(^{259}\)

The main social unit of the Toubou is the nuclear family, which can sometimes include other relatives. Social relations are based on reciprocity and mutual assistance. Clans are a second important aspect of Toubou social organization because clans have collective rights to land ownership. The right to cultivate lands is granted to families within the clan.\(^{260}\)

The Muslim Daza people are a subdivision of the Toubou tribe. They live in northern Chad mostly between the Tibesti Mountains and Lake Chad.\(^{261}\) These nomadic people are patrilineal and, although allowed, few Daza men have more than one wife. Some of the Daza are relatively sedentary farmers who grow dates, peanuts, and root vegetables near oases settlements.\(^{262}\)

**Religion**

Chad’s constitution protects religious freedom, which is generally honored. About 53% of Chadians are Muslims and 34% are Christians. Among the Christians, 20% are Catholic and 14% are Protestants. About 7% of the population are animists. The Muslim population is concentrated in the northern and eastern regions of Chad while the Christians are in the southern regions. Elements of traditional African religions, such as ancestor worship or a belief in spirits, often mix with the more traditional Islamic and Christian practices.\(^{263}, 264, 265\)


Islam

Islam arrived in Chad sometime before the 14th century and spread mainly throughout the northern regions. The religion adapted to the traditional animistic beliefs and practices of the area. 266 Most Chadian Muslims are Sunni and belong to the Sufi Tijaniyah tradition, often associated with the Muslim Brotherhood but a minority of Muslims (5–10%) have more fundamentalist beliefs often associated with the Salafi school or Wahhabism. 267, 268, 269

Tijaniyah Islam places less emphasis on ritual and more on good acts or on intentions. 270 Several features of Chadian Islam are unique to Chadian culture combining traditional animism with Islamic practices including a belief in spirits. 271, 272

Chadian Muslims observe the five pillars of faith, including fasting during the holy month of Ramadan. But other practices differ from more traditional Islamic rituals. For example, prayers often do not take place in a mosque and Chadians make the pilgrimage to Mecca less often than other Muslims. Islam in Chad is diverse and has never been particularly militant. It is generally tolerant of other religions. Even during the civil wars, religious differences played almost no role in the divisions between the people. 273, 274

Christianity

Christianity arrived in Chad in the 20th century. The French colonial powers discouraged the spread of their Catholic faith until sometime around the end of World War I. Although the colonial government accepted missionaries and permitted their activities in Chad, missionaries received no government sponsorship. Along with the faith, Catholicism spread the French
language. Through Christian educational efforts, most Chadians who rose to positions of power in the government were Christians with a western orientation.275

Protestantism arrived in Chad after Catholicism. American Baptists were the first Protestants to arrive in 1920 but soon were followed by other denominations. Protestant missionaries were the most successful in the southern part of Chad and avoided settling and working in the northern Muslim areas. The fundamentalist teachings of the Protestants forbid dancing, alcohol, and many other Chadian traditions. As a result, many converts found that they had to leave their villages to live near the missions. But in spite of this sacrifice, many were drawn to the new faith because of the schools and clinics operated by the missionaries.276

Animism
Animists believe that all things have a life force, or spirit. Life represents a complex interplay among the living and the dead, including animals, plants, and the supernatural. Each ethnic group has its own specific practices, but they all believe in a supreme being who created the world but does not actively intervene between people and their ancestor spirits. In Chad, ancestors are seen as particularly important to the maintenance of universal harmony. Ancestors connect the supernatural and natural worlds and are believed to interfere in the affairs of their living relatives. When problems arise, practitioners perform particular rituals designed to restore the balance between the living and the dead. Animists believe that diviners and sorcerers possess the power to communicate with the spirits but that diviners communicate for good while sorcerers conjure evil.277, 278, 279

Spirits play a significant role in African animism and must be appeased in order to avoid angering them. Farmers often perform specific rituals to appease the spirits at the beginning and end of the harvest cycle. For the southern Sara peoples, the first new moon after harvest signifies the new year. During this time, people go hunting and offer their catch to ancestors as well as the first meal from the newly harvested crops.280

Gender Issues
Although the constitution guarantees equal rights for men and women, patriarchal traditions often work to keep women in subordinate positions, particularly in rural areas and among the more conservative Muslim populations.281, 282 Women face discrimination and lack equal access to education, employment, and inheritance. Rural women play a significant role in agriculture but are prohibited from owning land on the basis of custom rather than legal property laws. Because women are often discouraged from attending schools, female literacy rates lag far behind those of males (13% vs. 41%).283, 284, 285

Domestic violence against women is common. Men are often viewed as the main authority figures, and women are expected to obey. There is little legal help for women whose husbands abuse them. Polygamy is permitted in Chad, but a wife whose husband takes a second wife may request to dissolve her marriage, provided she can repay her bride-price.286

Between 45% and 60% of women in Chad undergo female genital mutilation (FGM). FGM is more common in the eastern and southern regions of Chad. It is practiced among all religious groups and across all regions, but is prevalent among the poor and uneducated women.287, 288

Traditional Dress
Chadian women normally wear a pagne, an ankle-length wrap-around skirt that tucks in at the side. If a woman is married, she wears a second pagne as an apron. Short-sleeved shirts, often with wide patterned necklines, and a matching head wrap are also worn. In the south, many women wear their hair in elaborate braids. Muslim women wear a long gown and a veil. In the north, some women decorate their chins and lips with dye injected with a thorn.289, 290

Men in the south often wear complets, an outfit that consists of long-sleeved tunics over baggy tapered pants. Muslim men wear a boubou, an ankle-length long-sleeved robe over baggy pants.

The extent of embroidery on the boubou indicates the individual’s wealth. Muslim men frequently wear a dagger tucked into their sleeve and a turban known as a tagiya.291, 292

Most Chadians wear foam or plastic sandals. Southerners often have many ritual scars based on the traditional rites of passage for specific ethnic groups.293

Cuisine
The cuisine of Chad varies by ethnic group and geographic region. A dish common throughout the nation is boule, a heavy porridge shaped into a ball and dipped in a sauce. Northerners generally prefer corn boule while southerners use millet. The dish can also be made with sorghum, cassava, and ground peanuts. Bouillie, millet and peanut porridge spiced with lemon and sometimes sugar, is another staple of the Chadian diet.294, 295

Chadians often use sauces in their cooking. In the north, the sauces are spicier and contain more meat than southern sauces. Nashif is chopped beef served with a spicy tomato sauce. Traditionally eaten with kisser, a light sourdough crepe, Nashif is a favorite choice. Most sauces are made from a bouillon base and include okra and garlic spiced with a powdery red pepper called piment and dried tomato flour.296 Meals often include squash, beans, and cucumbers.297

The major sources of protein are peanuts, peanut paste, and dried fish although fish is not generally eaten in the south.298 Goat meat is commonly eaten. Guavas and mangoes are the most common fruits eaten in the south, while dates and limes are more typical in the north.299, 300 Rice and pasta are reserved mainly for the wealthy or special occasions. Arabs eat a boiled millet flour called esh with a sauce called moulah. The nomadic peoples of the north eat a substantial amount of dairy products. A common dish is warmed milk with sugar and cardamom.301, 302

Drinks often include green or red tea. Millet is used to make a fermented drink known as bili-bili. The sour earthy flavored drink is commonly drunk from calabash gourds.303

Arts and Recreation
Chad’s music tradition is diverse and varies among each of the ethnic groups. People enjoy singing and playing a variety of musical instruments, including a long tin horn called a kakaki, a stringed instrument called a hu hu, and a bow harp known as the kinde. In the northern regions near Tibesti, favorite instruments include the lute and the fiddle. In the Teda region, music is performed with a stringed instrument known as a keleli played by men accompanying women’s vocals. Drums (tam-tams) occupy a central role in traditional Chadian music and are often joined by maracas and a large xylophone with wooden bard called a balafon.304, 305

With less than half of the population of the country literate, there is little demand for literature among ordinary Chadians. Nevertheless, each of the national ethnic groups has an oral tradition by which narratives, epics, and dramas are passed down.306, 307

Chadian art includes pottery and woven baskets, mats, and fans made from straw. Art and craft works are decorated with natural dies made from available plants. The most popular colors are purple and green.308 Other traditional crafts include masks, jewelry, and bronze figurines.309

The realities of Chadian life, as well as the frequent conflicts and violence, have left little time to devote to sports. Soccer is popular, and in some cities there are organized soccer clubs. Chadians take great pride in their national team; some of the most famous soccer players have played on professional teams in France. In the Sahelian region, horse racing is a popular past-time. During the dry season, races are held every Sunday. Other popular sports include basketball, handball, the high-jump, and wrestling.310, 311
Chapter 4 Assessment

1. Chadians developed a strong sense of national identity following independence.  
   **False**  
   Chad lacks a shared national identity, but its peoples have distinct identities and cultures based on their region, religion, and ethnicity.

2. French and Arabic are the two official languages of Chad.  
   **True**  
   The dominant and official languages in Chad are French and Arabic. Sara also is widely spoken.

3. The majority of Chadians are Christian.  
   **False**  
   About 53% of Chadians are Muslims and 34% are Christians. Among the Christians, 20% are Catholic and 14% are Protestant. About 7% of the population are Animists.

4. Inequalities in education for women are widespread in Chad.  
   **True**  
   Women lack equal access to education, employment, and inheritance. Because women are often discouraged from attending schools, only 13% of women are literate.

5. The Toubou are a Christian group from southern Chad.  
   **False**  
   The Toubou are a nomadic people who live in northern Chad in the Tibesti region. Toubou are famous for their ability to fight; most soldiers in the National Front for the Liberation of Chad (FROLINAT) were Toubou.
Chapter 5: Security

Introduction
Chad has six immediate neighboring countries but its involvement in international affairs is limited. Chad is not a member of the Arab League although Arabic is its national language. Chad was a founding member of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963. The OAU has a security presence in eastern Chad near the Sudanese border. Chad is a member of several other international organizations, including the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), the Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC), and the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBD).

Chad’s foreign relations have traditionally been dominated by France and Libya. France’s interest in the region has declined since 1998 although small French troops are still stationed in Chad. Libya exercised considerable economic and political influence until the fall of Muammar Qaddafi in 2011. More recent external relations tend to center around Chad’s border security problems, particularly the Chad-Sudan border region affected by the crisis in Darfur.312

The security and humanitarian situation in the eastern region of Chad remains “highly volatile,” in part because of the thousands of Sudanese refugees who remain in Chad. Other security concerns facing Chad include rival tribes battling for “control of lucrative arms-smuggling and human-trafficking routes” along the Chad-Sudan border. The Chadian army is currently deployed near its borders with Sudan and the Central African Republic, where the border has been described as “highly porous.”313, 314

U.S. – Chad Relations
Current relations between the United States and Chad are good. The two nations are working together to combat terrorism in the region and have conducted joint military activities to strengthen Chad’s borders.315

Chad is a member of the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership (TSCTP), a U.S. Department of State program expressly created to tackle existing and potential expansion of terrorist and extremist operations in West and North Africa. Under the auspices of Operation Enduring Freedom Trans-Sahara (OEF-TS), the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) trains,

Chad in Perspective

equips, assists and advises partner nations, including Chad, through intelligence sharing, systems interpolation, training exercises, and logistics services in support of TSCTP.\footnote{U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), “The Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership,” n.d., http://www.africom.mil/tsctp.asp} In addition to providing military funding to help Chad secure military equipment and weapons, the United States has provided financial aid to support humanitarian efforts in Chad, particularly for food security and assistance to displaced Chadians and Sudanese refugees.\footnote{Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, “Fact Sheet: Chad,” 23 July 2012, http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/37992.htm#relations} Most of Chad’s oil sector is run by American companies under a consortium led by Exxon Mobil and Chevron. The United States remains the largest buyer of Chadian oil, purchasing nearly 90% of all oil exports.\footnote{Ketil Fred Hansen, “Chad’s Relations with Libya, Sudan, France and the US” (Norwegian Peacebuilding Centre report, April 2011), 8–9, http://www.peacebuilding.no/var/ezflow_site/storage/original/application/de54b515c2bd251e4edace3a6b6cd1.pdf} The United States also is one of Chad’s overall biggest trading partners, importing about 72% of Chad’s total exports, more than China (17%) and the Netherlands (5%).\footnote{Central Intelligence Agency, “Chad: Economy,” in The World Factbook, 20 June 2012, https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/cd.html} The United States also is one of Chad’s overall biggest trading partners, importing about 72% of Chad’s total exports, more than China (17%) and the Netherlands (5%).

**Relations with Neighboring Countries**

**Cameroon**

Relations between Chad and Cameroon have been tense mainly because of border incidents. Thousands of Chadian refugees have fled into Cameroon to escape ethnic and religious fighting. The fighting ended in 2008, and many Chadians returned home.\footnote{Ketil Fred Hansen, “Chad’s Relations with Libya, Sudan, France and the US,” (Norwegian Peacebuilding Centre report, April 2011), 8–9, http://www.peacebuilding.no/var/ezflow_site/storage/original/application/de54b515c2bd251e4edace3a6b6cd1.pdf} But the border between the two countries remains unstable. A major cross-border problem is human trafficking. Children from Chad are trafficked across the border into Cameroon to be used as forced labor in cattle herding.\footnote{U.S. Department of Labor, “Chad: 2010 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor” (report filed by the U.S. Department of Labor, 3 October 2011), 159, http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/4e8c39770.pdf}

Tensions between the two countries have eased with the joint development of the Chad-Cameroon oil pipeline. Chad depends on the pipeline for its crude oil exports. The pipeline transports oil from Chad’s oil fields in Doba to the port of Kribi in Cameroon. Chad pays Cameroon significant fees for using the pipeline.\footnote{New Straits Times Press, “Oil Firms Prosper While the Pygmies Lose Out,” 19 March 2012, http://www.nst.com.my/opinion/columnist/oil-firms-prosper-while-the-pygmys-lose-out-1.62613}
At the 22nd session of the Cameroon-Chad Mixed Cooperation Commission, the two countries agreed to promote new economic and trade agreements, strengthen cultural ties, and reinforce cross-border security.  

**Central African Republic**

Relations with the Central African Republic (CAR) are tense and have worsened since Chad’s civil war. Chad’s border with CAR is difficult to control despite bilateral security efforts. In 2011, Chad and CAR signed a border-security agreement to protect their mutual border and to increase economic ties. However, these efforts have been largely unsuccessful. Illegal transport and movement of people across the Chad-CAR border continue. Rebel groups still easily cross the border. Residents of CAR often cross illegally into Chad to access medical services and schools. Chadian children are trafficked into CAR to work as forced laborers herding cattle. Complicating the security situation, about 69,000 refugees from CAR have been living in camps in southwest Chad since 2003.

In January 2012, Chad and CAR launched a joint military offensive across the border in north-central CAR against the rebel group known as the Front Populaire Pour le Redressement (FPR). The aim of the mission, which displaced an estimated 16,000 people, was to capture FPR leader “General” Abdel Kader, alias Baba Laddee. Although an undetermined number of rebels were reported killed in the operation that completely destroyed some villages, Laddee remains free.

During Chad’s civil war (1965–1982), the southern rebels in Chad had a friendly relations with CAR. In 2001, conflict in CAR worsened relations between Chad and CAR when Chad agreed to provide a haven for CAR dissident army commander General Bozizé. Border clashes between supporters of the two factions continued through 2002.
The United Nations Mission in Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) was deployed to eastern Chad and north-central CAR in 2007. Its mandate was completed at the end of 2010 despite objections from humanitarian aid agencies.335

Libya
Libya has a long history of involvement in Chadian civil affairs. Libya annexed the portion of northern Chad known as the Aouzou strip in 1975 after two years of occupation. Armed conflict between Chad and Libya over territorial claims continued through 1988.336 Libya withdrew from northern Chad in 1994 after the International Court of Justice upheld Chad’s territorial claims.337, 338

As Chad’s relations with France weakened in the late 1990s, ties with Libya became stronger. Recently, Chad has relied on Libya to mediate its disputes with Sudan. In 2001, Libya played a key role in strengthening ties between the Sudanese and Chadian leaders.339, 340

Approximately 300,000 Chadians have migrated to Libya to find work. The money they sent back to Chad was an important source of revenue and helped the Chadian economy rebound. Following the fall of Qaddafi, nearly 90,000 Chadians were forced to return. The absence of their remittances has created a significant problem both for the government and for the family members who depend on them.341

When the Libyan uprising began in 2011, Chad defended the Qaddafi government. Even as Libyan rebels gained international support, Chad was reluctant to back them. This created a situation of tension and mistrust with the new Libyan government which has yet to be resolved.342, 343 These ongoing tensions have the potential to destabilize northern Chad. Nevertheless, some progress in foreign relations is apparent. Libya and Chad, along with Sudan,

338 Ketil Fred Hansen, “Chad’s Relations with Libya, Sudan, France and the US” (Norwegian Peacebuilding Centre report, April 2011), 3–4, http://www.peacebuilding.no/var/ezflow_site/storage/original/application/dc54b515c2bd251e4ec6dace3a6b6cd1.pdf
340 Ketil Fred Hansen, “Chad’s Relations with Libya, Sudan, France and the US” (Norwegian Peacebuilding Centre report, April 2011), 3–4, http://www.peacebuilding.no/var/ezflow_site/storage/original/application/dc54b515c2bd251e4ec6dace3a6b6cd1.pdf
formed a joint force to monitor and project their shared borders. The tripartite force hopes to end weapon and drug smuggling, and the movement of rebel forces across the borders.  

_Niger_

Niger’s alleged support of anti-government rebels committed to the overthrow of Chad’s government has led to poor relations between the two countries. Further deteriorating the relations, Niger believes that Chad has supported anti-Niger rebels. In 1997, Niger accused Chad’s deposed president of supporting an insurgency led by Tuareg and Toubou nomads. In 1998, the Chadian government brokered a cease-fire between the nomads and the Niger government. Both governments have been supporting counter-insurgency efforts of the Chadian-Toubou rebels in the Lake Chad region.

Criminal activity along the border between Chad and Niger remains an issue despite bilateral and international efforts. Since 2002, the U.S. military has provided a multi-million-dollar training to both countries as part of the Pan Sahel Initiative, the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership, and Operation Enduring Freedom Trans Sahara. The goal of these projects has been to increase border protection, and end the illegal transport and movement of arms, drugs, and people. However, neither country effectively controls the border area creating a threat to border security.

Niger and Chad recently signed an agreement to allow Niger to ship its crude oil through the Chad-Cameroon oil pipeline. Although no specific date has been set for the shipments to begin, the two nations are working on the technical issues related to the pipeline.

_Nigeria_

Nigeria and Chad share a short common border in the Lake Chad area near Chad’s capital of N’djamena. The two countries have been involved in a border dispute in part caused by the continuing shrinkage of Lake Chad where Chad, Niger, and Nigeria meet. The maritime border is a colonial construct that has never been formally demarcated. The issue has assumed an elevated importance since the discovery of oil in the region.

---

In 1983, Chadian military launched an assault on a Nigerian military outpost located on an island in Lake Chad, presumably motivated by an interest in controlling the mineral-rich area.353

Relations warmed considerably when Chad and Nigeria committed to joint military operations designed to curb rebel activities along their shared border.354 However, following a string of terrorist attacks by the Islamist group Boko Haram throughout Nigeria in August–December 2011, Nigeria closed its borders in the troubled areas, including the border with Chad. The closure halted trade exchanges between the two countries.355, 356

Sudan
Chad’s border with Sudan has been a security challenge for both countries. In 2010, Chad and Sudan formed a joint force to stop the movement of rebel groups into each other’s territories.357, 358 The border-security force consists of 3,000 troops—1,500 from each country.359 According to the United Nations, the cooperative efforts between Chad and Sudan have led to “a dramatic improvement in security” for the region.360

Although the Zaghawa, the clan of Chadian President Déby, has strong historical links with Sudan, Chad’s foreign policy differs from Sudan’s.361 Sudan has favored an alliance with Egypt and Saudi Arabia while Chad has connected more closely with Southern and Central Africa. These divergent views on political dominance in the region have soured relations between Chad and Sudan.362, 363 Chad is wary of Arab dominance and suspicious of increasing Arab militancy

---

in Sudan. Fights against the Arab tribesmen of the Western Darfur regions forced nearly 50,000 Mesalit Africans to seek refuge in Chad in 1999. Chadian troops crossed into Sudan in 2004 to curb the violence by the Janjaweed militia. In 2006, Chad cut off all ties with Sudan following a rebel assault on its capital from Darfur. 364, 365

In 2010, Chad and Sudan signed a formal peace agreement ending years of hostilities. The agreement included economic cooperation agreements aimed at promoting regional cooperation and stability. One of the joint projects is the building of a transportation link between Chad’s capital N’djamena and Port Sudan—primarily for exporting oil and other resources extracted from the region. 366 To further solidify relations with Sudan, Chadian President Déby married the daughter of the Janjaweed rebel forces in Sudan in 2012. 367

### Police Force

Chad’s 6,000-member civilian police force (Sûrété) handles criminal behavior in urban areas. The force has several elite units including the Police Rapid Action Company (CARP). Police activities in rural areas are handled by the 4,500-member paramilitary National Gendarmerie. Although a military unit, it has taken over important internal security functions. A specially trained group of approximately 850 personnel work in the eastern section of the country. The National and Nomadic Guard of Chad (Garde Nationale et Nomade du Tchad–GNNT) operates on horseback and camels in rural regions of the north and east. In accordance with a 1998 peace agreement, the police force no longer operates in the south. 368

### Armed Forces

The mission of the Chadian armed forces is to defend the internal security of the nation and guard against attacks by armed rebel groups. 369 Chad’s military equipment consists of highly mobile light vehicles. In recent years, however, oil revenues have allowed the government to buy several fighter aircrafts and attack helicopters. 370, 371
Chad’s military is dominated by the Chadian National Army (ANT) with an estimated troop strength between 20,000 and 80,000. Most troops are deployed in the south and east. The majority of the army commanders are members of the northeastern Zaghawa clan, the same clan to which President Déby belongs.\(^{372, 373, 374, 375}\)

The presidential security force, the Principle Security Service for State Institutions (DGSSIE), consists of 1,640 troops. The Air Force has an estimated 350 personnel.\(^{376, 377}\) Another 1,200 French troops are stationed in Chad. Their main mission is to protect territorial integrity and to help secure stability, particularly along the Sudanese border. Because of its landlocked position, Chad does not have a navy.\(^{378}\)

Coup plots and desertions have prompted military reforms. Officers believed to have planned coup attempts have been removed.\(^{379, 380, 381}\)

**Issues Affecting Stability**

*Armed Rebels*

Since its independence in 1960, Chad has been plagued by political instability including civil war. Threats to national security persist. The most serious and sustained threats come from Zaghawa rebel forces in northeastern Chad. Their actions started an insurgency along the already fragile border with Darfur. The withdrawal of United Nations peacekeeping troops in 2010 increased regional insecurity. A new rebel group, the National Alliance for Democratic Change (ANCD), is alleged to be operating near the border with Chad and Sudan, although it appears not to have the backing of the Sudanese government.\(^{382, 383}\)

---


\(^{374}\) Ketil Fred Hansen, “Chad’s Relations with Libya, Sudan, France and the US” (Norwegian Peacebuilding Centre report, April 2011), 9, http://www.peacebuilding.no/var/ezflow_site/storage/original/application/dc54b515c2bd251e4ec6dace3a6b6cd1.pdf


\(^{380}\) Ketil Fred Hansen, “Chad’s Relations with Libya, Sudan, France and the US” (Norwegian Peacebuilding Centre report, April 2011), 9, http://www.peacebuilding.no/var/ezflow_site/storage/original/application/dc54b515c2bd251e4ec6dace3a6b6cd1.pdf


In the north, the Toubou activities pose a stability risk. In the south, there are risks of armed rebellion by southerners who resent the perceived domination of the north. Unless the south receives some of the tangible benefits generated by the oil wealth, spikes in rebel activity are more likely. The recent arrest of a major southern rebel leader seems to have calmed things for the moment. But if the current president is replaced by northeastern factions, some observers believe that the southern groups may attempt to seize control.384

Rival interethnic tensions and the instability in Libya have the potential to further destabilize the situation in Chad. Weapons flow easily in and out of the country along the border with Libya, and there are concerns that the Libyan ethnic violence will spill over the border.385

**Humanitarian Risks**

The presence of hundreds of thousands of refugees and internally displaced persons who fled the conflict in Darfur continue to create a serious humanitarian problem in Chad, straining the country’s meager resources and raising the risk of political upheaval.386, 387 Camps are the site of criminal activity and violence, including the kidnapping of international aid workers. Increased incidences of banditry and the proliferation of weapons among the population threaten both the refugees and Chad’s political security.388, 389

Many in Chad have suffered from acute malnutrition following a drought and poor harvest season in 2011. The western and central regions of the country, particularly the Sahel region, are the most severely affected by the food crisis. Recent figures suggest that many refugees and citizens in the general population lack adequate food. Nearly 25% of the population live in a state of acute malnutrition.390 Health conditions in the country are on the decline as Chad faces epidemics of cholera, polio, measles, and Guinea worm.391

**Outlook**

Although Chad is in a period of relative stability and is expected to remain so in the near term, several obstacles continue to threaten national security. Most significant among these threats are

---

the political instability and rebel activity in Libya and Sudan that could cross over into Chad and destabilize the nation and the region.\textsuperscript{392}

Chadian relations with the new Libyan government remain undefined and tense. As a result, Chad is cut off from its biggest source of economic and military support.\textsuperscript{393}

Wage disputes with Chad’s relatively powerful labor unions have the potential to escalate into civil unrest. Revenues from the oil industry are expected to increase, but GDP is expected to rise at a slower pace through 2013, which could pose risks to the economy.\textsuperscript{394}

Despite these concerns, the country held its first municipal elections in January 2012, potentially signaling a greater commitment to democracy.\textsuperscript{395}


\textsuperscript{394} Economist Intelligence Unit, “Chad,” 2012, http://country.eiu.com/Chad

Chapter 5 Assessment

1. Chad’s military is mainly charged with maintaining internal security and guarding against rebel threats.
   True
   The military’s main charge is to defend the internal security of the nation and guard against attacks by numerous armed rebel groups.

2. Chad and the United States are active partners in anti-terrorism efforts in the region.
   True
   As a member of the US-led Trans-Sahara Counter-Terrorism Partnership, Chad receives military assistance from the United States to combat terrorism in the region. The United States and Chad have conducted joint military activities to strengthen Chad’s borders.

3. Chad’s border with Cameroon is unstable.
   True
   The border between Chad and Cameroon is unstable. Thousands of Chadian refugees have fled into Cameroon to escape fighting. When the fighting ended in 2008, many returned to Chad.

4. The relations between Chad and the current Libyan government are good.
   False
   When the Libyan uprising began, Chad defended the Qaddafi government, which in the past supported Chad militarily. Chad’s support of Qaddafi has strained relations with the new Libyan government.

5. Chad’s civilian police force (Sûrêté) handles criminal matters in rural areas.
   False
   Chad’s 6,000-member civilian police force (Sûrêté) handles criminal matters in urban areas. Criminal activities and internal security in rural areas are handled by the 4,500-member paramilitary National Gendarmerie and the National and Nomadic Guard of Chad (GNNT).
Final Assessment

1. The Saharan Region, comprised mostly of desert, covers the northern third of Chad.  
   True / False

2. There are no permanent streams in northern or central Chad.  
   True / False

3. The city of Faya depends on rain to support the cultivation of wheat, dates, and figs.  
   True / False

4. Chad’s humid tropical region borders Libya.  
   True / False

5. Temperatures in the Saharan Region are relatively constant.  
   True / False

6. Current President Idriss Déby has been in power since 1990.  
   True / False

7. Most of Chad’s Muslim population lives in the south.  
   True / False

8. Most of Chad benefitted from French development efforts during the colonial period.  
   True / False

9. Chad and Sudan have signed a formal peace agreement.  
   True / False

10. Ancient archeological findings pinpoint Chad as the birthplace of the human race.  
    True / False

11. Oil accounts for over half of government revenues.  
    True / False

12. About 80% of Chadians live below the poverty line.  
    True / False

13. There is no agriculture in the Saharan region of Chad.  
    True / False
14. Chad’s currency, the CFA Franc, is pegged to the Euro.
   True / False

15. Chad’s major export products include oil and cotton.
   True / False

16. The Sara are the largest ethnic group in Chad.
   True / False

17. There are more than 200 ethnic groups in Chad.
   True / False

18. Islam in Chad has generally been tolerant of other religions.
   True / False

19. Ancestor worship is an important part of life in Chad.
   True / False

20. Rice is a staple in the daily Chadian diet.
   True / False

21. The refugee problem created by the conflict in Darfur is no longer a serious threat to Chad’s internal security.
   True / False

22. Toubou rebels are based in the south of Chad.
   True / False

23. Chad’s relations with Sudan have improved since 2010.
   True / False

24. Tensions between Chad and Cameroon have eased with the development of the Chad-Cameroon oil pipeline.
   True / False

25. Chad has agreed to allow Niger to connect to its shared oil pipeline with Cameroon.
   True / False
Further Readings


