
COMPANION TO THE EIGHT-VOLUME REFERENCE

AFRICA

APPENDIX A

Country Profiles — North Africa

Algeria · Egypt · Libya · Mauritania · Morocco · Sudan · Tunisia

With a contextual note on Western Sahara

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About These Profiles

AFRICA: AN ENCYCLOPEDIC REFERENCE — 2026 EDITION

This is the first of five regional installments of the **Country Profiles**, the companion series to the eight-volume main reference compiled and edited by Marie-Soleil Seshat Landry and published by Landry Industries Inc. under the Marie Landry's Spy Shop imprint, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada.

The eight-volume reference (Volumes I-VIII) is complete. This companion series profiles all 54 African states, grouped by the African Union's regional framework into five appendices — **A: North Africa, B: West Africa, C: Central Africa, D: East Africa, and E: Southern Africa**. Each profile gives a country's essential data at a glance — capital, population, area, languages, currency, head of state or government, independence, GDP, and key economic sectors — followed by a short narrative placing it in context. This appendix covers the seven states of North Africa.

A NOTE ON DATA, CURRENCY, AND CITATION INTEGRITY

Country data is a snapshot taken in **June 2026**. Two categories of fact are treated differently. *Volatile figures* — current heads of state, latest population, and latest GDP — were individually verified against identifiable public sources (national statistics, the World Bank, the IMF, the UN, and reputable news and reference works) and are keyed to the numbered *References*; these will drift over time and should be re-checked. *Stable facts* — capitals, areas, independence dates, currencies, and official languages — are drawn from established reference knowledge.

Population and GDP figures are the most recent available estimates and may carry a one-to-two-year lag; GDP is nominal and in US dollars unless stated. For states in conflict — here, **Libya** and **Sudan** — governance and economic figures are inherently contested and are presented as such. Nothing is reproduced verbatim from any source.

Companion series:

A — NORTH AFRICA (THIS INSTALLMENT)

Algeria · Egypt · Libya · Mauritania · Morocco · Sudan · Tunisia

B — WEST AFRICA · C — CENTRAL AFRICA · D — EAST AFRICA · E — SOUTHERN AFRICA (TO FOLLOW)

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APPENDIX A

North Africa

The Mediterranean and Saharan rim of the continent — ancient civilisations and oil-and-gas economies, the Maghreb and the Nile, stability and fracture side by side. Seven states stretching from the Atlantic coast of Mauritania to the Red Sea shores of Sudan.

1. Algeria
2. Egypt
3. Libya
4. Mauritania
5. Morocco
6. Sudan
7. Tunisia

North Africa: The Seven States

North Africa is the continent's Arab-Berber and Saharan band, bound to the Mediterranean and the Middle East as much as to sub-Saharan Africa. Its economies lean heavily on hydrocarbons (Algeria, Libya) and minerals (Morocco's phosphates, Mauritania's iron ore), with Egypt's vast population and the Suez Canal at its eastern anchor. It is also the region of the 2011 uprisings, whose legacies range from Tunisia's contested democratic experiment to Libya's fracture and Egypt's restored strongman rule. The seven profiles below follow in alphabetical order; a note on the disputed territory of Western Sahara closes the appendix.

NORTH AFRICA · PROFILE 1 OF 7

Algeria

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

CAPITAL & LARGEST CITY	Algiers
POPULATION	~ 47 million (2025–26 est.) ^[6]
AREA	2,381,741 km ² — the largest country in Africa
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES	Arabic, Tamazight (Amazigh); French widely used
CURRENCY	Algerian dinar (DZD)
HEAD OF STATE	President Abdelmadjid Tebboune (since 2019; re-elected 2024) ^[5]
GOVERNMENT	Semi-presidential republic
INDEPENDENCE	5 July 1962 (from France)
GDP (NOMINAL)	~ US\$260 billion (2024); per-capita ~US\$5,700 ^[6]
KEY SECTORS	Hydrocarbons (oil & gas, ~95% of exports); OPEC member; major gas supplier to Europe

Africa's largest country by area, Algeria won independence in 1962 after a brutal eight-year war against France that remains central to its national identity. Its economy is heavily dependent on oil and natural gas, and its political life has long been shaped by the National Liberation Front (FLN) and a powerful military establishment. Since Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, Algeria's importance as a gas supplier to southern Europe has grown sharply, even as its rivalry with neighbouring Morocco — over Western Sahara and regional leadership — keeps the Maghreb divided.

NORTH AFRICA · PROFILE 2 OF 7

Egypt

Arab Republic of Egypt

CAPITAL	Cairo (a New Administrative Capital, inaugurated 2024, lies ~40 km east) ^[2]
LARGEST CITY	Cairo (Greater Cairo metro ~22 million — Africa's largest)
POPULATION	~ 120 million (2026) — the most populous Arab nation ^[2]
AREA	~1,001,450 km ²
OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	Arabic
CURRENCY	Egyptian pound (EGP)
HEAD OF STATE	President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi (since 2014; third term 2024) ^[2]
INDEPENDENCE	1922 (from the UK); republic declared 1953
GDP (NOMINAL)	~ US\$380 billion — Africa's second-largest economy; per-capita ~US\$3,000 ^[2]
KEY SECTORS	Suez Canal, tourism, remittances, natural gas, agriculture, construction megaprojects

Home to one of the world's oldest civilisations and the life-giving Nile, Egypt anchors the eastern edge of North Africa and straddles Africa and Asia at the Suez Canal — one of global trade's critical chokepoints. It is the most populous Arab country and the Arab world's political heavyweight. Under President el-Sisi, who took power in 2014, the state and military play a dominant economic role, channelling resources into vast infrastructure projects including an entirely new administrative capital, even as heavy external debt, currency devaluation, and widespread poverty strain the economy.

NORTH AFRICA · PROFILE 3 OF 7

Libya

State of Libya

CAPITAL	Tripoli (seat of the internationally recognised government)
POPULATION	~7 million
AREA	~1,759,540 km ² — the fourth-largest in Africa
OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	Arabic
CURRENCY	Libyan dinar (LYD)
GOVERNMENT	Divided. UN-recognised Government of National Unity (GNU) in Tripoli under PM Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, with a Presidential Council chaired by Mohamed al-Menfi; a rival eastern Government of National Stability under PM Osama Hammad, backed by the House of Representatives and Khalifa Haftar's Libyan National Army ^[1]
INDEPENDENCE	24 December 1951 (from Italian rule / UN trusteeship)
GDP (NOMINAL)	Oil-dependent and volatile (~US\$40-50 billion); holds Africa's largest proven oil reserves
KEY SECTORS	Oil and natural gas (the overwhelming majority of revenue)

Ruled by Muammar Gaddafi from 1969 until his overthrow in a 2011 NATO-backed uprising, Libya has since fractured into rival administrations and has had no unified government since planned national elections were postponed in December 2021.^[1] The country is effectively split between a western government in Tripoli and an eastern one in Benghazi backed by Field Marshal Haftar's forces, which control much of the east, south, and the key oil infrastructure. Despite Africa's largest oil reserves, Libya's wealth is hostage to political division and foreign intervention, with Turkey backing the west and Russia active in the east.

NORTH AFRICA · PROFILE 4 OF 7

Mauritania

Islamic Republic of Mauritania

CAPITAL & LARGEST CITY	Nouakchott
POPULATION	~ 5.3 million (2026) — among the world’s least densely populated states ^[7]
AREA	~1,030,700 km ²
LANGUAGES	Arabic (official); Pulaar, Soninke, and Wolof (national)
CURRENCY	Ouguiya (MRU)
HEAD OF STATE	President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani (since 2019; re-elected 2024); PM Mokhtar Ould Djay ^[7]
GOVERNMENT	Semi-presidential Islamic republic
INDEPENDENCE	28 November 1960 (from France)
GDP (NOMINAL)	~ US\$11 billion ; per-capita ~US\$2,500 ^[7]
KEY SECTORS	Iron ore (over half of exports), gold, copper, fisheries, and emerging natural gas (the GTA field, shared with Senegal)

A vast desert nation bridging the Arab Maghreb and sub-Saharan Africa, Mauritania pairs an enormous territory with a small, heavily urbanising population. Its economy rests on iron-ore mining and Atlantic fisheries, and is being reshaped by the offshore Greater Tortue Ahmeyim gas project developed jointly with Senegal. Re-elected in 2024 for a final term, President Ghazouani has given the country relative stability in a turbulent Sahel, though deep ethnic and caste divisions persist in a society that was among the last in the world to formally abolish slavery, in 1981.

NORTH AFRICA · PROFILE 5 OF 7

Morocco

Kingdom of Morocco

CAPITAL	Rabat
LARGEST CITY	Casablanca
POPULATION	~ 37–38 million (2026) ^[5]
AREA	~446,550 km ² (excluding Western Sahara)
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES	Arabic, Tamazight (Amazigh); French widely used
CURRENCY	Moroccan dirham (MAD)
HEAD OF STATE	King Mohammed VI (since 1999); PM Aziz Akhannouch (since 2021) ^[5]
GOVERNMENT	Constitutional monarchy
INDEPENDENCE	1956 (from France and Spain)
GDP (NOMINAL)	~ US\$155 billion (2024) — Africa's fifth-largest economy; per-capita ~US\$3,800 ^[5]
KEY SECTORS	Automotive manufacturing (a leading export), phosphates (the world's largest reserves), tourism, aerospace, agriculture, renewable energy

A constitutional monarchy under King Mohammed VI, Morocco is one of North Africa's most politically stable and economically diversified states, having built a leading automotive- and aerospace-export industry alongside its dominance of global phosphate reserves. Its foreign policy is anchored in its claim to Western Sahara, which it largely administers; in October 2025 a UN Security Council resolution centred Morocco's autonomy plan as the basis for resolving the dispute, a significant diplomatic gain for Rabat.^[5] Morocco is also investing heavily in renewable energy and will co-host the 2030 football World Cup.

NORTH AFRICA · PROFILE 6 OF 7

Sudan

Republic of the Sudan

CAPITAL	Khartoum (heavily damaged in the war; Port Sudan served as the wartime seat of government) ^[4]
POPULATION	~48 million ^[4]
AREA	~1,886,068 km ² — the third-largest in Africa
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES	Arabic, English
CURRENCY	Sudanese pound (SDG)
GOVERNMENT	At civil war since April 2023. Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan chairs the Transitional Sovereignty Council (de facto head of state), with a transitional prime minister, Kamil Idris; the army (SAF) is at war with the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) under Mohamed Hamdan “Hemedti” Dagalo ^{[3][4]}
INDEPENDENCE	1 January 1956 (from joint British-Egyptian rule)
GDP (NOMINAL)	Devastated by war (pre-war ~US\$35 billion); the economy has collapsed ^[3]
KEY SECTORS	Agriculture (the world’s leading producer of gum arabic), gold, livestock; oil revenue largely lost with South Sudan’s 2011 secession

Once Africa’s largest country before South Sudan seceded in 2011, Sudan has been consumed since April 2023 by a catastrophic civil war between the army and the Rapid Support Forces — the world’s largest displacement crisis, with roughly 14 million people forced from their homes and tens of thousands killed.^{[3][4]} The army holds the centre and east, including a recaptured Khartoum, while the RSF controls much of the western Darfur region. The war erupted from a power struggle between two generals who had jointly seized power in 2021, two years after the fall of long-time ruler Omar al-Bashir.

NORTH AFRICA · PROFILE 7 OF 7

Tunisia

Republic of Tunisia

CAPITAL & LARGEST CITY	Tunis
POPULATION	~12 million
AREA	~163,610 km ² — the smallest North African state
OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	Arabic; French widely used
CURRENCY	Tunisian dinar (TND)
HEAD OF STATE	President Kais Saied (since 2019; re-elected 2024) ^[5]
GOVERNMENT	Presidential republic (presidential powers greatly expanded since 2021)
INDEPENDENCE	20 March 1956 (from France)
GDP (NOMINAL)	~US\$50 billion ; per-capita ~US\$3,900
KEY SECTORS	Tourism, manufacturing (textiles, automotive components), phosphates, agriculture (olive oil)

Tunisia was the birthplace of the 2011 Arab Spring, whose wave of uprisings began when a street vendor's self-immolation toppled a decades-old dictatorship, and for a decade it was held up as the revolution's only surviving democracy. That trajectory shifted after President Kais Saied suspended parliament and consolidated power from 2021, governing under a new constitution that concentrates authority in the presidency. The economy — built on tourism, light manufacturing for European markets, and agriculture — remains under strain, leaving the country dependent on external financing and, increasingly, on closer alignment with Algeria.

A NOTE ON WESTERN SAHARA

Western Sahara is a disputed territory on the Atlantic coast, not counted among the 54 sovereign states profiled in this series. Most of it — the area west of a long defensive sand wall — is administered by Morocco, which claims sovereignty; the Polisario Front proclaims it the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), which is a member of the African Union but not of the United Nations. In October 2025, UN Security Council Resolution 2797 endorsed Morocco's autonomy plan as the leading basis for a settlement, though a final political resolution remains unsettled.^[5]

References — Appendix A

All sources accessed June 2026. Listed in order of first citation. Volatile figures (leaders, latest population, latest GDP) are verified to these sources and are June 2026 snapshots; stable facts (capitals, areas, independence dates, currencies, languages) are from established reference knowledge.

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END OF APPENDIX A — NORTH AFRICA

Appendix B — *Country Profiles: West Africa* (15 states, from Benin to Togo) — follows in the next installment.