

# Encyclopedia of the Third World

Fourth Edition

Volume II  
(Guinea to Pakistan)

Edited by George Thomas Kurian



# **Encyclopedia of the Third World**

**Fourth Edition**

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(Guinea to Pakistan)**

## **Encyclopedia of the Third World, Fourth Edition**

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# GUINEA

## BASIC FACT SHEET

**OFFICIAL NAME:** Republic of Guinea (République de Guinée)

**ABBREVIATION:** GV

**CAPITAL:** Conakry

**HEAD OF STATE:** President Gen. Lansana Conté (from 1984)

**NATURE OF GOVERNMENT:** Military dictatorship

**POPULATION:** 7,269,240

**AREA:** 245,857 sq. km. (94,926 sq. mi.)

**ETHNIC MAJORITY:** Fulani (Peul), Malinké and Soussou

**LANGUAGES:** French (official) and eight national languages

**RELIGIONS:** Islam, Christianity and animism

**UNIT OF CURRENCY:** Guinea franc (G.F.)

**NATIONAL FLAG:** Tricolor of red, green and yellow vertical stripes

**NATIONAL EMBLEM:** The principal elements of the national emblem are a dove with an olive branch; the elephant (the national animal); and *Travail, Justice, Solidarité* in French on a scroll under a heraldic shield

**NATIONAL ANTHEM:** "Liberty"

**NATIONAL HOLIDAYS:** October 2 (Independence Day, National Day); January 1 (New Year's Day); May 1 (Labor Day); September 28 (Referendum Day); November 1 (Army Day); various Christian festivals, such as Assumption, All Saints' Day, Christmas and Easter Monday, as well as variable Islamic festivals

**NATIONAL CALENDAR:** Gregorian

**PHYSICAL QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX:** 25

**DATE OF INDEPENDENCE:** October 2, 1958

**DATE OF CONSTITUTION:** None

**WEIGHTS & MEASURES:** Metric

## GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES

Guinea is located in southwestern West Africa, in an arc curving over Sierra Leone and Liberia. Guinea's total land area of 245,857 sq. km. (94,925 sq. mi.) extends 831 km. (516 mi.) southeast to northwest and 493 km. (306 mi.) northeast to southwest. Its Atlantic coastline stretches for 352 km. (219 mi.).

Guinea's total international land boundary of 3,468 km. (2,155 mi.) is shared with six countries: Guinea-Bissau (386 km.; 240 mi.); Senegal (330 km.; 205 mi.); Mali (932 km.; 579 mi.); Ivory Coast (605 km.; 376 mi.); Liberia (563 km.; 350 mi.); and Sierra Leone (652 km.; 405 mi.). The border with Guinea-Bissau is based on the 1886 convention between France and Portugal and was demarcated in 1905; the border with Liberia is based on the 1892 convention between France and Liberia and was demarcated in 1911; the border with Sierra Leone is based on Anglo-French agreements of the 1890s. The borders with the three remaining countries—Mali, Senegal and Ivory Coast—were administrative boundaries of former French West Africa. Physical borders have little meaning to the inhabitants of these countries, and herders and smugglers cross borders freely. There are no current border disputes.

The capital is Conakry, with a 1983 population of 656,000. The other major urban centers are Kankan (278,000), N'Zérékoré (290,743), Siguiri (253,758) and Labé (273,000).

Guinea's varied terrain is divided topographically into four regions: Lower, or Maritime Guinea; Middle Guinea, including the Fouta Djallon Highlands; Upper

Guinea savannas; and the Forest Region of southeastern Guinea.

Lower Guinea stretches from the coastal swamps across an alluvial plain 50 to 90 km. (30 to 55 mi.) broad crossed by winding tidal rivers. About 50 km. (30 mi.) inland of Kakoulima Massif rises to 1,124 m. (3,688 ft.). Lower Guinea also comprises the Kaloum Peninsula: the island of Tombo, on which Conakry stands; and the Los islands. Middle Guinea, formed by the Fouta Djallon Massif, consists of a stepped plateau with an average elevation of 900 m. (3,000 ft.), deeply cut in many places by narrow valleys. Upper Guinea, in the northeast, is a region of grassy plains and savannas. The Forest Region, in the southeast, reaches its highest elevation in Mt. Nimba (1,850 m.; 6,069 ft.). The Forest Region's major feature is the Guinea Highlands, although areas around Beyla and N'Zérékoré consist of rolling plains once covered by rain forest.

Over one-third of the country is drained by the Niger River, which rises in the Guinea Highlands. Lower Guinea is crisscrossed by numerous short rivers, the most important of which are Rio Nuñez, Fataala, Melikhouré, Konkouré, Cogon and Rio Kapatchez. Only the first three are used for navigation. Guinea also is the source of the principal rivers of West Africa, including the Gambia, the Senegal and the Bafing rivers.

## CLIMATE & WEATHER

Guinea has a tropical climate with two distinct seasons. Although there are seasonal variations, the wet season generally lasts from April-May to October-No-

vember, with the heaviest rainfall during July and August. The dry season lasts from November to April. April is the hottest month.

Lower Guinea has an average rainfall of 2,400 mm. (95 in.) annually, although in some places, such as Conakry, the rainfall may exceed 4,300 mm. (169 in.) in most years. Toward the interior the rainfall diminishes in volume but is more evenly distributed. The mean average varies from 2,540 mm. (100 in.) in southern Fouta Djallon to 1,830 mm. (72 in.) in the savannas of Upper Guinea.

Temperatures and humidity are high. Conakry has an annual average maximum of 29°C (85°F) and an annual average minimum of 23°C (74°F). In Upper Guinea the temperature range is 18°C to 40°C (64°F to 104°F). Temperatures are lower in the Fouta Djallon region, with daily mean temperatures between 12.2°C (54°F) and 34.4°C (94°F) in the dry period and 18.3°C (65°F) to 26.7°C (80°F) in the wet period.

The prevailing wind systems are the southwestern monsoons and the northeastern harmattan, the latter a dry, scorching wind from the Sahara. Tornadoes and thunderstorms are common in coastal areas.

## POPULATION

The population of Guinea was estimated in 1990 at 7,269,240.

The most densely populated regions are Labe and Pita in Fouta Djallon; Gueckedou and N'Zérékoré in the Forest Region; and Dubreka and Fria in Lower Guinea. Upper Guinea, encompassing two-fifths of the

### DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS

Population (millions): 7.269 (1990)		
Year of last census: 1983		
Sex distribution (% at last census): males, 48.6; females: 51.4		
Population estimates and projections (millions)		
1950: 3.245	1980: 5.407	2010: 11.451
1960: 3.660	1990: 7.269	
1970: 4.388	2000: 8.879	
Age profile (% at last census)		
0-14: 43.1	30-44: 16.3	60-74: 4.2
15-29: 26.2	45-59: 9.6	75 and over: 0.7
Median age (yrs.): 18.4 (1985)		
Youth population (% age 15-24): 18.9 (1985); 18.8 (2000)		
Total dependency ratio: 85.2 (1985)		
Annual growth rate (%)		
1950-55: 1.03	1975-1980: 2.17	2000-2005: 2.58
1955-60: 1.38	1980-1985: 2.33	2005-2010: 2.57
1960-65: 1.68	1985-1990: 2.45	2010-2015: 2.37
1965-70: 1.95	1990-1995: 2.54	2015-2020: 2.15
1970-75: 2.01	1995-2000: 2.57	2020-2025: 1.81
Hypothetical size of stationary population (millions): 34		
Assumed year of reaching net reproduction rate of 1: 2050		
Urban population (millions): 1.348 (1985)		
Urban population (%): 24 (1988); 12 (1965)		
Annual urban population growth rate (%; 1985-90): 5.36		
Annual rural population growth rate (%; 1985-90): 1.57		
Percentage of urban population in largest city: 80 (1980)		
Percentage of urban population in		
cities of population over 500,000: 80 (1980)		
Number of cities of population over 500,000: 1 (1980)		
Population density per sq. km. (per sq. mi.): 28.0 (72.4) (latest)		

### VITAL STATISTICS

Crude birth rate (/1,000): 48 (1988); 46 (1965)
Crude death rate (/1,000): 22 (1988); 29 (1965)
Infant mortality rate (/1,000 live births): 147 (1990)
Life expectancy (yrs.) at birth: males, 40; females, 44 (1990)
Gross reproduction rate (/woman) (1980-85): 3.05
Total fertility rate (/woman): 6.1 (1990)
Rate of natural increase (/1,000) (1985-90): 24.7
Average household size: 4.7

land area, has the lowest density of population, with 10 persons per sq. km. (26 persons per sq. mi.).

The urban population in towns of over 5,000 constituted 22.19% of the total population in 1984, up from 9.6% in 1960. All towns have shared in this increase, particularly Conakry, which grew from 78,000 in 1959 to 656,000 in 1984 and now accounts for 80% of the urban population. However, urbanization has not become a matter for official concern, and the rate of urban growth has remained steady at about 5.4% since 1985.

Migration is a major phenomenon, but most of it is seasonal and restricted to farmers and cattle herders, who move across borders at will. Large-scale politically motivated emigration took place during the 1960s and early 1970s as émigrés from the Touré regime took refuge in neighboring countries. Immigration is restricted by a 1965 decree requiring all aliens to obtain special residence permits.

Immediately on taking over the government in 1984, the ruling CMRN invited refugees and those who had left for economic reasons to return to Guinea. Of an estimated 1.5 million Guineans living in other countries, some 200,000 have returned since Sekou Touré's death, adding a heavy burden on the economy. The government estimates that at least 250,000 in all will eventually return and, to meet the emergency, was granted \$1 million in supplies and medicines by the U.N. high commissioner for refugees for the remainder of 1984.

Women in Guinea have enjoyed a special status as a result of the important political role they played prior to independence. Guinean women are represented in all professions, from civil engineering to the national police and armed forces. An Office of Women's Affairs has been established in the Ministry of Social Affairs. The majority of students enrolled in the National Medical College have been women. The government's health-care policies have stressed prevention and child and mother care, but the quality of care has been low, owing to inadequate facilities and med-

### STATUS OF WOMEN INDICATORS

Number of women (millions): 2.895 (1985)
Women of childbearing age (15-49) (% of pop.): 46 (1987)
Women's literacy rate (%): 17 (1985)
Women in labor force (%): 59 (1985)
Total fertility rate (/woman): 6.1 (1990)

ical supplies. Improvement of the national health sector also is one of the CMRN's priorities.

Guinea has no official birth control programs or policies.

### ETHNIC COMPOSITION

Guinea's ethnic composition conforms to the general African pattern of numerous tribal groups with no single group in the majority, although four groups together are numerically dominant. Guinea's ethnic groups number nearly 24. Of these, three groups constitute 75% of the total, each with its own geographical niche. The Malinké and the Peul (also known as the Fulani, Fulbé or Foulah) each account for about 30% of the population and the Soussou for 16.1%. The Soussou are most numerous in Lower Guinea, the Peul in Middle Guinea and the Malinké in Upper Guinea. The earliest settlers in Guinea are believed to have been the Baga. Later came the Soussou, a group related to the Malinké, who drove the Baga to the coast. Last of all came the Fulani, who established a kingdom in Fouta Djallon in the 16th century. The forest groups together make up 18% of the population. Ethnic affiliations, however, are fluid, and the smaller groups tend to be subject to a constant process of assimilation within the larger ones. Though ethnic loyalties tend to be pervasive and persistent, ethnic differences are less crucial in Guinea than in most other African countries.

Besides the Soussou, the major ethnic groups in Lower Guinea are the Baga, who live scattered along the coast; the Baga Foré, who live in the coastal swamps around Monchon; the Nalou, who live on the lower Rio Nuñez and the Kogan River and on the Tristão Islands; the Landouma, who live along the Guinea-Bissau border between the Rio Nuñez and the Fatala River; and the Mmani, who live between the Kolenté and the Forecariah rivers. Besides the Peul, the major ethnic groups in Middle Guinea are the Dialonké, native to southern and central Fouta Djallon; the Diakhanké, concentrated in Gaoul; and the Tenda, who live in the northern part of Middle Guinea. Besides the Malinké, the only major group in Upper Guinea is the Ouassoulouké, who are related to the Peul and live near the Mali border. The three major forest groups are the Kissi, the Toma and the Guerzé.

Since independence the government has sought to break down ethnic barriers and to deethnicize politics. The process of national integration has been accelerated by the fact that the tribal groups no longer have access to the traditional machinery of keeping alive historic cultural and emotional ties among their members. The government also has encouraged mixed marriages to build up a new community without clear-cut ethnic affiliations. People are encouraged to identify themselves as Guineans rather than as members of a tribe.

Among the foreign community, Russians, Cubans, Czechs, Yugoslavs and Chinese are most numerous. The Lebanese and the Syrians constitute a special category because many of them have adopted Guinean citizenship. The number of Frenchmen does not ex-

ceed 100. Over 107 Americans were reported in the country in 1976, of whom 80 were private citizens.

Under the leadership of Sekou Touré, Guineans turned their backs on the West and were isolated periodically from Western contacts. Thus Guinean attitudes toward foreigners are colored by official indoctrination, which categorizes all Western influences as forms of neocolonialism and suspects all Western activities as directed to the subversion and overthrow of the Republic of Guinea.

### LANGUAGES

Guinea has one official language, French, and eight national languages, the country's eight major vernaculars: Poular, Malinke, Soussou, Kissi, Guerzé, Toma, Coniagui and Bassari. Because these vernaculars do not have their own script, they are transcribed into a modified Latin alphabet. Among Guinea's vernaculars Baga, Landouma, Mmani, Nalou, Poular, Badyaranké, Kissi, Coniagui and Bassari belong to the West Atlantic family of languages, Soussou, Mikhifore, Dialonké, Diakhanké, Malinké, Ouassoulouké, Guerzé, Toma, Mano, Kono, Konianké, Kouranko and Toma-Manian belong to the Mande family of languages. Of these, Soussou and Malinké serve as *lingua francas* over large areas. Poular, using Arabic script, has an extensive literature.

French is understood by about 20% of the literate population.

### RELIGIONS

Guinea is a secular state, but Islam is the religion of the majority of the people, cutting across ethnic lines. Slightly more than one-third adhere to traditional African beliefs, and less than 2% are Christian. But even within the framework of Islam or Christianity, traditional beliefs and practices have survived, if in a modified form. Islam is believed to be growing at the expense of other faiths. At the same time, in the process of being adopted by the majority of Guineans, Islam has assumed a specifically local quality.

The Christian community is overwhelmingly Catholic and is concentrated in Lower Guinea. The Roman Catholic Church in Guinea is presided over by the archbishop of Conakry, and two bishops, at Kankan and N'Zérékoré. Church-state relations have deteriorated since 1967, when President Touré ordered that only Guinean nationals be allowed to serve in the Roman Catholic priesthood. Four years later the archbishop of Conakry was sentenced to life imprisonment at hard labor for allegedly plotting against the state. All Catholic mission schools were nationalized in 1961. However, there is no overt persecution of Christians.

As before the April 1984 coup, all religions have the right to establish places of worship and maintain contacts with coreligionists in other countries. The former cabinet included a Ministry of Islamic Affairs, even though Islam is not the official religion of the state. The present government has restructured that ministry, naming it the Ministry of Religious Affairs, and created

the Christian Affairs Department. The minister is a Muslim leader. The government also has invited Christian organizations in Guinea to reestablish the private schools that had been forced to close by the previous regime.

The Marxist-oriented government began a campaign against religious superstitions in the 1960s. The campaign was directed particularly against fetishes, initiation rites and sacrifices in traditional religions, but the government also has criticized what it sees as retrogressive trends in Islam.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Effective French colonial rule in Guinea began in 1898, with the capture of Malinke adventurer Samory Touré, who had overrun Upper Guinea by late 1870s. Guinea was part of French West Africa until 1958, when it became the first and only state in Francophone Africa to vote against the French Community concept proposed by President Charles de Gaulle.

French rule revolved around the central concept of assimilation as the instrument of a civilizing mission to extend France's language, institutions, laws and customs to Africa. Under the influence of this concept, all existing political and legal institutions were dismantled and replaced by French ones with little or no modification. However, the process of Frenchification became counterproductive by the end of World War II, as it created a class of labor leaders and teachers deeply influenced by Marxism of the French school and hostile to all forms of colonialism.

On independence the break with France was complete and decisive. France showed its displeasure at Guinea's opting out of the French Community by suspending aid, withdrawing administrative personnel and rescinding the favored-nation status of Guinean exports to France. Guinea retaliated by de-Westernizing education and administration. Relations between the two countries were suspended from 1965 to 1975. Anti-French feelings were very strong in the Touré administration. French, however, is retained, for pragmatic reasons, as the official language. The legal system also continues to operate within a French framework.

At independence on October 2, 1958, Ahmed Sekou Touré, leader of the dominant Parti Démocratique de Guinée (PDG), became president. The following month, he established the PDG as the sole party, eliminated all opposition and instituted a program of economic and political centralization. In principle, Touré's policies were directed toward building "scientific socialism," but in practice they were a reflection of party corruption and the president's desire to maintain power.

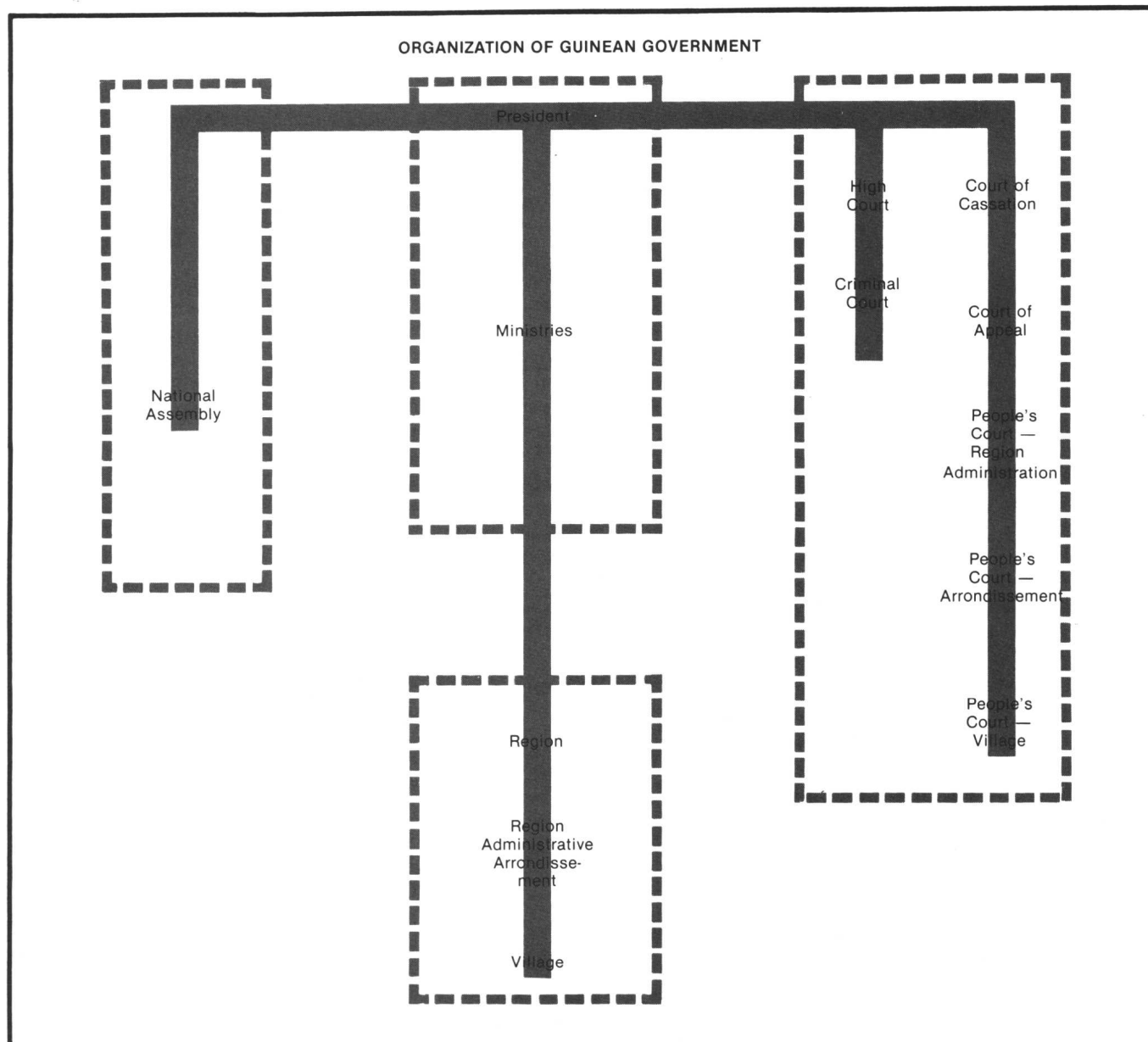
Touré's administration was dominated by political unrest and attempted coups, with Touré developing a siege mentality that resulted in imprisonment, torture and execution of those thought to oppose him. There is evidence that the French planned to overthrow him in 1960 and allegations that the Soviet Union, the United States, Germany and Portugal were at one time or another involved in coup attempts. In 1970 Portuguese troops and dissident Guineans attempted an

invasion. The coup failed, but in response Touré unleashed a reign of terror against any suspected enemies. In 1976 Touré's minister of justice, Diallo Telli, was arrested on charges of conspiracy against the government and executed while awaiting trial.

Touré died in March 1984 while undergoing heart surgery, and Prime Minister Lansana Beavogui assumed office as acting president. Several days later, the military staged a successful coup, forming a Comité Militaire de Redressement National (CMRN). The committee installed Col. Lansana Conté as president and Col. Diarra Traoré as prime minister. The CMRN immediately acted to reduce political repression. It released more than 1,000 political prisoners, lifted censorship and restored freedom of speech and internal

### GOVERNMENT LIST (July/August 1991)

President .....	Conté, Lansana, <i>Gen.</i>
Minister Secretary General at the Presidency of the Republic .....	Gomez, Alseny Rene
Minister at the Presidency of the Republic for Economic & Financial Control .....	Foulah, Henry, <i>Maj.</i>
Minister at the Presidency of the Republic for Information, Culture & Tourism .....	Bargoura, Herve Vincent
Minister at the Presidency of the Republic for National Defense & Security .....	Diallo, Abdourahmane, <i>Maj.</i>
Minister Resident for Forest Region .....	Diallo, Ibrahima Sory, <i>Maj.</i>
Minister Resident for Guinea Maritime .....	Tofani, Henri, <i>Lt. Col.</i>
Minister Resident for Middle Guinea .....	Camara, Abou, <i>Lt. Col.</i>
Minister Resident for Upper Guinea .....	Camara, Kissi, <i>Maj.</i>
Minister of Administration Reform & Public Service .....	Bangoura, Mamouna
Minister of Agriculture & Animal Resources .....	Kourouma, Aboubacar Koly
Minister of Economy & Finance .....	Benjamin, Edouard
Minister of Foreign Affairs .....	Traoré, Jean, <i>Maj.</i>
Minister of Industry, Commerce & Crafts .....	Sylla, Ousmane
Minister of Interior & Decentralization .....	Conde, Alhassane
Minister of Justice & Keeper of the Seals .....	Touré, Faciné, <i>Maj.</i>
Minister of National Education in Charge of Higher Education & Scientific Research .....	Diawara, Mamadi
Minister of Natural Resources & Environment .....	Traore, Mohamed Lamine
Minister of Planning & International Cooperation .....	Sylla, Ibrahima
Minister of Post & Telecommunications .....	Kourouma, Fassou Jean-Claude, <i>Capt.</i>
Minister of Public Health & Population .....	Fofana, Madigbe, <i>M.D.</i>
Minister of Social Affairs & Employment .....	Barry, Basirou
Minister of Town Planning & Housing .....	Sidibé, Bahane
Minister of Transport & Public Works .....	Diallo, Ibrahima, <i>Maj.</i>
Minister of Youth, Sports & Art .....	Zoumanigui, Joseph Gbagbo, <i>Capt.</i>
Secretary of State at the Ministry of Agriculture & Animal Resources in Charge of Fisheries .....	Barry, Mamadou Boye
Secretary of State at the Ministry of Information, Culture & Tourism in Charge of Tourism & Hostellery .....	Camara, Nantenin
Secretary of State at the Ministry of Interior & Decentralization in Charge of Decentralization .....	Sow, Ibrahima Sory
Secretary of State at the Minister of National Education in Charge of Pre-University Education .....	Bah, Diallo Aicha
Secretary of State at the Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment in Charge of Energy .....	Sacko, Toumani Dakoum
Governor, Central Bank .....	Yansane, Kerfala



travel. It also promised to liberalize the economy and to return property confiscated in Touré's drive toward centralization. As a result some of the two million Guineans who had fled Touré returned.

In the following months, Conté consolidated his power by abolishing the office of prime minister and demoting Traoré to education minister. Traoré in 1985 led an unsuccessful coup that was crushed by troops loyal to Conté. Traoré was arrested and executed without trial.

Following the coup, Conté continued to press for economic reform and the implementation of austerity programs demanded by the World Bank and the IMF before foreign aid was granted. These measures, together with serious inflation, prompted civil unrest in 1988. The following year Conté promised a return to a two-party system and a transitional government, composed of military and civilians, that would oversee the transition to democracy.

## CONSTITUTION & GOVERNMENT

Guinea is ruled by a 20-person Military Committee for National Redressment (CMRN). On seizing power April 3, 1984, the CMRN abolished Sékou Touré's Democratic Party of Guinea (Parti Démocratique de Guinée, PDG) and the Constitution and named a president (Lansana Conté), as head of state; a prime minister (Diarra Traoré); and a cabinet of 33 military personnel and eight civilians. (In a reorganization on December 18, 1984, the office of the prime minister was abolished and the cabinet and the CMRN were reduced in numbers.) Members of the various armed forces were named to principal offices at the regional and sub-regional levels. Citizens subsequently have been invited to organize representative councils at the local level.

The country's original name was restored in 1984, replacing the Popular and Revolutionary Republic of Guinea adopted in 1978.

**RULERS OF GUINEA (from 1958)****Presidents**

October 1958–April 1984: Sékou Touré  
 April 1984– : Lansana Conté

In 1989 President Conté promised a return to a two-party system as well as the democratic election of the president and assembly after a transitional period supervised by a National Recovery Council composed of military personnel and civilians.

**FREEDOM & HUMAN RIGHTS**

In terms of political and civil rights, Guinea is classified as a partly free country.

The previous regime had imprisoned without trial and executed many Guineans over a period of years, including up to the time of the coup. Torture of prisoners was commonplace, and thousands simply disappeared. Toward the end, Touré had begun to relax controls on several aspects of Guinea's political and social life, beginning in the late 1970s. A general amnesty of all Guinean exiles had been declared in July 1977, and thousands of emigrants returned to Guinea. However, immediately after the coup, the military government released 250 political prisoners, mainly from Camp Boiro, the principal political detention center, and permitted reporters to describe the heinous conditions and practices, including standard tiny concrete cells and the "black diet" (total deprivation of food and water). The new military government invited Amnesty International to interview former political detainees in the early fall, and signed an instrument of adherence by the Republic of Guinea to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949 (plus additional protocols), on Civil and Political Rights. It also announced its intent to adhere to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

However, following Traoré's unsuccessful coup in 1985, the military began a purge of suspected followers. Traoré was executed immediately, and 60 other officers were sentenced to death following a secret trial.

**CIVIL SERVICE**

No information is available on the codes, structure or size of the Guinean civil service.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

For administrative purposes Guinea is divided into four tiers. At the apex are the four regions corresponding to the four geographic regions: Lower Guinea, Middle Guinea, Upper Guinea and the Forest Region, each headed by a minister delegate or super governor. At the next level are 33 administrative regions (*régions administratives*), under the authority of a governor appointed by the president. Each administrative region has a popularly elected 40-member general council. The third tier is the district (*arrondissement admin-*

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS**

Region	Capital
Beyla	Beyla
Boffa	Boffa
Boké	Boké
Conakry	Conakry
Coyah	Coyah
Dabola	Dabola
Dalaba	Dalaba
Dinguiraye	Dinguiraye
Faranah	Faranah
Forécariah	Forécariah
Fria	Fria
Gaoual	Gaoual
Guéckédou	Guéckédou
Kankan	Kankan
Kerouané	Kerouané
Kindia	Kindia
Kissidougou	Kissidougou
Koubia	Koubia
Koundara	Koundara
Kourassa	Kourassa
Labé	Labé
Lelouma	Lelouma
Lola	Lola
Macenta	Macenta
Mali	Mali
Mamou	Mamou
Mandiana	Mandiana
N'Zérékoré	N'Zérékoré
Pita	Pita
Siguiri	Siguiri
Telimélé	Telimélé
Tongué	Tongué
Yomou	Yomou

*istrative*), of which there are 175. The commandant, or the executive head of a district is responsible to the governor of the administrative region. The basic village-level unit of government is the local revolutionary authority (*pouvoir révolutionnaire local*, PRL), numbering 7,800 and combining local administrative organs.

No separate municipal forms of administration exist, although Conakry is classified as an administrative region by itself.

**FOREIGN POLICY**

Guinea's foreign policy has fluctuated since independence between an outward-looking pan-Africanism and a defensive isolationism, between ideological fervor and pragmatism, and between calls for cooperation and paranoid suspicion. Guinea once was hailed as a model of political and economic development, but its influence in African affairs has declined over the years because of Sékou Touré's frequent policy reversals, virulent attacks on leaders of other countries and false charges regarding alleged plots against Guinea.

Despite its heavy ideological content, Touré's foreign policy was rife with obvious inconsistencies and contradictions. Although verbally supporting African unity, he dissociated Guinea from regional and continental organizations working for African unity. He fostered trade with "neocolonialist" countries even while con-

demning them. Although personally involved in formulation of foreign policy at all levels, Touré showed a marked reluctance, for security reasons, to travel abroad to promote his policies.

Among neighboring states, Guinea's relations are closest with Sierra Leone, Gambia and Guinea-Bissau. Ties with Sierra Leone were strengthened by a mutual defense treaty signed in 1971. Guinea's long-standing support for Partido Africano da Independencia da Guiné e Cabo Verde (PAIGC) paid off when Guinea-Bissau became independent in 1974, with the PAIGC taking power.

On the other hand, relations with Senegal, Ivory Coast, Mali and Ghana have been plagued by ideological and economic issues. Both Senegal and Ivory Coast have served as havens for Guinean refugees fleeing the Touré regime and as bases of operations for Guinean exile groups. The frequent temperamental clashes between Touré and the heads of state of these countries led on a number of occasions to the closing of their respective embassies. Relations with Ghana were on a war footing from the fall of Nkrumah to his death in 1972. As a member of the Economic Community of West African States, Guinea was involved in the effort to end Liberia's civil war. In August 1990 it agreed to become part of a multinational peacekeeping force whose stated goals were to enforce a truce and establish an interim administration that would organize free elections. The establishment of the 3,000-strong military force marked the first time that African nations had organized a cooperative military intervention into the affairs of another African state.

Guinea's departure from the French Community in 1958 was accompanied by a wave of anti-French sentiment, which was carried over into the early years of independence. Bitterness against the French was manifested in constant denunciations by all sections of the population. In 1965 France was accused of being involved in an anti-Touré plot, and diplomatic relations between the two countries were suspended. Since then a number of Frenchmen have been jailed in Guinea and French businesses have been expropriated. Diplomatic ties were resumed in 1975 through the mediation of U.N. secretary general Kurt Waldheim.

Diplomatic relations with the United Kingdom were suspended over the Rhodesian question but were restored in 1968. Diplomatic relations with West Germany were broken in 1971, and were resumed in 1975. Relations with the United States have been maintained on a low level, with occasional irritants, such as the expulsion of the Peace Corps in 1966. U.S. private investments have provided the main connection between the two countries.

Relations with the communist bloc have remained the most successful area of Guinean foreign policy. Initially the Soviet Union stepped in to fill the void caused by the French departure, in the belief that Guinea could become a showcase of socialist development in Africa. However, as events in Guinea belied these expectations, Soviet influence and aid began to decline, reaching a nadir under Khrushchev, when the Soviet ambassador was forced to leave Guinea. Soviet

aid resumed, though at a lower level, after the fall of Khrushchev. The Chinese communists began to compete with the Soviet Union for influence in Conakry, and Chinese-aided projects multiplied in number, particularly after 1970. Although it is difficult to measure the actual influence of the Soviet Union and China on Guinean foreign affairs, both of them had greater influence than the Western nations in the country under Touré.

During 1978 and 1979 Touré made a number of efforts to break out of the isolation to which his policies had led Guinea. In 1978 he came to an understanding with his old enemies Presidents Houphouët-Boigny of Ivory Coast and Léopold Senghor of Senegal, at a "summit of reconciliation" in Monrovia. In the same year President Giscard d'Estaing of France made the first visit of a French president to independent Guinea and received a warm welcome. In 1979 the Guinea president made one of his rare visits overseas, to Washington D.C., to meet President Carter. All these events pointed to a new direction in Guinean foreign policy based on Guinea's practical needs rather than on Marxist rhetoric.

The 1984 coup restored Guinea to the community of pro-Western nations in Africa after a long interregnum. Immediate response to the coup was positive from almost all Western capitals.

The United States and Guinea are parties to 14 treaties and agreements covering agricultural commodities, cultural relations, defense, economic and technical cooperation, information media guarantees, investment guarantees, the Peace Corps and telecommunications.

Guinea joined the United Nations in 1958. Guinea is a member of 11 U.N. organizations and 12 other international organizations.

## PARLIAMENT

The National Assembly was dissolved by the CMRN in April 1984. The former legislature was elected for five-year terms by universal suffrage from a single slate of candidates selected by the PDG. Under the constitutional changes of 1974, the National Assembly became the "nation's third legislative body," after the PDG and the National Council for the Revolution. Deputies did not represent constituencies but were drawn from the country at large. Ninety of the members were selected by PDG regional organs; 48 by the National Political Bureau; and four each by the party's women's, labor and youth organizations.

Under the Constitution the National Assembly had extensive powers of investigative and fiscal control. The National Assembly had the sole right to legislate, and the president was responsible to it for the policies of his cabinet. A body known as the Permanent Commission functioned when the National Assembly was not in session. However, with the growth of the revolutionary character of the regime, the powers of the National Assembly had been whittled down. Its rights to question the executive and challenge its acts had fallen into disuse. The National Assembly had become

a rubber stamp, ratifying the acts and decisions of the president and the PDG. Nearly one-fifth of its membership consisted of technocrats or officials or directors of state enterprises.

## POLITICAL PARTIES

The Democratic Party of Guinea (Parti Démocratique de Guinée, PDG), the republic's founding party, was dissolved by the CMRN in 1984. Founded in 1947 as a section of the Rassemblement Démocratique Africain (RDA), the PDG owed much of its initial strength to Communist-backed labor union movements.

In his dual role as secretary general of the PDG and president of the republic, Touré had impressed his own philosophies on the ideology and goals of the party. Touré had described the rule of the PDG as a popular dictatorship based on the will of the whole people, as opposed to the class struggles of the orthodox Marxist states. However, the PDG borrowed its organization, discipline and intolerance of opposition from Soviet and East European models. But the PDG was Marxist more in form than in philosophy. Labeled "African socialism" or "democratic centralism," PDG ideology shared with Marxism its hostility toward capitalism and insistence on total independence from foreign control. But it differed from Marxism in its rejection of the concept of class struggle and its concern for national unity to bind together the country's ethnically diverse peoples. Membership in the party was open to anyone willing to purchase a membership card, although party posts were restricted to the militants. In a curious mixture of democracy and dictatorship, party members could express opinions on any issue within the party, but once a decision was made by the party's central leadership, all disagreements were supposed to cease and the central directives were to be unquestioningly obeyed by the party members and the general population. Such obedience was enforced through state agencies. Neither civil rights nor individualism were relevant to PDG ideology, which, in the African tradition, placed collective good above that of the individual good. All Guineans, particularly students and civil servants, were constantly indoctrinated in PDG ideology through the media and the Ministry of Ideology, created in 1972.

The exile group Organisation Unifiée pour la Libération de la Guinée is based on the Ivory Coast.

## ECONOMY

Guinea is a nation rich in natural resources with considerable potential for agricultural development. It is the world's second largest producer of bauxite and has valuable deposits of iron ore, gold, diamonds, uranium and oil. Despite its resources, Guinea is one of the low-income countries of the world and one of the least developed. Its per capita GNP was \$430 in 1989. The economy's poor performance reflects a policy of rigid socialism that prevailed until the end of the 1970s.

In 1979, the country's rigidly socialist approach was modified through major reforms in the liberalization of private commerce and the opening of investment opportunities in small and medium-size enterprises. The minerals sector continued to dominate the economy, but growth in foreign exchange receipts slowed as bauxite mines produced at near-capacity levels. Despite good potential, agriculture still was hampered by an unrealistic state farm policy and by inadequate incentives; production continued to stagnate. Prospects for near-term growth are complicated by a serious foreign-debt problem, by lack of effective planning mechanisms and by the country's limited absorptive capacity.

Guinea has had a centrally planned economy using two basic forms of business organization; wholly government-owned, semiautonomous state enterprises; and mixed enterprises—foreign investment in joint ventures with the government of Guinea. In addition, the government granted permission for some private Guineans to set up joint ventures with foreign firms. The government-owned enterprises generally had a monopoly in their respective fields and ranged from manufacturing firms (e.g., cigarettes and cloth) to trading firms (e.g., food distribution). The agricultural sector also was controlled by the government, which fixes producer prices, import prices and consumer prices.

Following the CMRN takeover, Conté announced a policy of economic liberalization and privatization. In 1986 the government implemented a series of reforms

### PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Gross National Product (U.S. \$ billions): 2.372 (1989)  
GNP per capita (U.S. \$): 430 (1989)  
GNP per capita average annual growth rate (% , 1987–89): -0.3

### GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

GDP nominal (G.F. billions): 857.4 (1986)  
GDP per capita (U.S. \$): 350 (1988)  
Average annual growth rate of GDP (% , 1985–88): 4.2  
GDP by type of expenditure (%) 1986  
Consumption  
Private: 75  
Government: 8  
Gross domestic investment: 13  
Gross domestic saving: 19  
Foreign trade  
Exports: 32  
Imports: -28  
Sectoral origin of GDP (%) 1986  
Primary  
Agriculture: 45  
Mining: 23  
Secondary  
Manufacturing: 1  
Construction: 3  
Public utilities: 1  
Tertiary  
Transportation & communications: 2  
Trade: 19  
Finance: 3  
Other services & government: 7

necessary to receive IMF aid. These included devaluation of the currency, privatization or closure of state corporations, reduction of the civil service and reform of financial practices.

Guinea's extraordinary mineral and agricultural resources give the country a much brighter long-term outlook, especially if the government accelerates development of policies aimed at economic liberalization.

## PUBLIC FINANCE

The Guinean fiscal year runs from October 1 through September 30. No consolidated budget is published for the public sector, and separate budgets are prepared for the central government, the 33 administrative regions, the 220 *arrondissements* and the more than 70 public enterprises. The central budget is divided into an ordinary budget and a capital budget.

### CENTRAL GOVERNMENT REVENUES, 1983

% of total current revenues
Taxes on income, profit & capital gain: 22.2
Social security contributions: 0.0
Domestic taxes on goods & services: 1.4
Taxes on international trade & transactions: 37.6
Other taxes: 0.0
Current nontax revenue: 34.5
Total current revenue as % of GNP:
General government consumption as % of GDP: 10 (1988)

Guinea's first development plan was drawn up with the assistance of a French team of Marxist professors. It was characterized by inadequate statistical planning and inadequate administrative coordination. It placed primary emphasis on industry and showcase projects. Succeeding plans shifted the emphasis to mining, infrastructure and agriculture. Throughout its history, Guinea has received substantial amounts of foreign capital and aid from Western and communist governments.

### FOREIGN AID

Total foreign aid (U.S. \$ millions): 468.4
Bilateral: 269.9
Multilateral: 198.5

The best estimates on foreign aid to Guinea place it at \$1.2 billion through 1974, including \$300 million to \$400 million in foreign exchange or equipment received for the bauxite mining projects. It is not known how much of this aid was in the form of grants and how much in the form of soft or hard loans. The largest amounts were received from the Communist bloc. From 1954 through 1976, Guinea received \$201 million from the USSR, making it the second-largest recipient of Soviet aid in Africa after Algeria. Aid from East European countries amounted to \$77 million and aid from China to \$105 million in the same period. By the

mid-1970s Guinea had become less exclusively reliant on Communist aid and more receptive to private direct investment from the West. In 1974 Guinea also became eligible to receive aid from the U.N. Emergency Operation for countries hardest hit by the rise in oil prices. Under the U.N. Development Program Guinea was allocated \$23.4 million through 1978. Wealthy Arab nations entered the ranks of foreign aid donors in 1975.

## CURRENCY & BANKING

The Guinean unit of currency is the Guinea franc (G.F.) reintroduced in 1986. The Guinea franc had been replaced by the syli in 1972. Notes are issued in denominations of 25, 50, 100, 500, 1,000 and 5,000 Guinea francs. The June 1991 exchange rate was \$1 = GF715.0.

Guinea withdrew from the franc zone in 1960 and established the Central Bank of the Republic of Guinea (Banque Centrale de la République de Guinée) as the central bank and bank of issue. By 1961 all private banks were nationalized and taken over by the central bank, but the banking system was decentralized the next year through the establishment of four state-owned banks: the National Credit Bank for Commerce, Industry and Housing; the Guinean Foreign Trade Bank;

### FINANCIAL INDICATORS, 1989

Money supply 1986
Stock (nat. currency billions): 22.5
M1 per capita: 3,660
External debt 1988
Total (U.S. \$ billions): 2.563
of which public (U.S. \$ billions): 2.312
of which private (U.S. \$ billions): 0
Debt service (long term)
Total (U.S. \$ millions): 143
Repayment
Principal (%): 78.3
Interest (%): 21.7
Debt service ratio (%): 21.9
External public debt as % of GNP: 94.7
Debt service as % of GNP: 5.9
Debt service as % of exports: 21.9
Terms of public borrowing
Commitments (U.S. \$ millions): 271
Average interest rate (%): 1.4
Average maturity (yrs.): 30
Net flow of publicly guaranteed external capital (U.S. \$ millions): 197
Net direct private investment (U.S. \$ millions): 57 (1987)

### GROWTH PROFILE (Annual Growth Rates, %)

Projected population (1988–2000): 2.6
Projected crude birth rate (/1,000) (1990–95): 45.5
Projected crude death rate (/1,000) (1990–95): 20.2
Urban population (1980–88): 5.36
Labor force (1985–2000): 1.8
GNP per capita (1987–89): –0.3
GDP (1985–88): 4.2
Energy production (1980–88): 1.5
Energy consumption (1980–99): 1.1

the National Agricultural Development Bank and the National Bank of Credit.

As part of the economic reforms of 1985-86, all state-owned banks were liquidated and replaced by joint-venture banks. Guinea currently has four commercial banks: Banque Internationale pour l'Afrique en Guinée, Banque Internationale pour le Commerce et l'Industrie de la Guinée; Société Générale de Banques en Guinée and Union Internationale de Banque en Guinée. It also has an Islamic bank: Banque Islamique de Guinée.

## AGRICULTURE

President Touré described agriculture as the cornerstone of the nation's development strategy. Of the total land area of 24,585,700 ha. (60,726,679 ac.), roughly 18% is considered arable.

Although the share of public investment devoted to agriculture has increased in recent years, almost all of these funds have been spent on collectivized production programs. At the same time, the 500,000 Guinean families who occupy 80% of the cultivated land and achieve yields twice as high as collective farms have had little or no access to government credit or to agricultural research and extension facilities.

Guinea is unable to feed itself despite relatively good soils, generally adequate rainfall and a number of favorable climatic zones, enabling the country to produce a wide range of crops. More than 1 million ha. (2.47 million ac.) are under cultivation, but yields are low. For example, yields for rice range from .7 to 1 ton per hectare (.3 to .4 ton per acre), compared with several tons per hectare or per acre in neighboring countries.

Since independence, Guinea has changed from a net exporter to a net importer of food. In 1983 a total of 112,000 metric tons of cereals had to be imported above 25,000 tons of food aid. Drought, smuggling and a lack of price incentives have combined to make agriculture the weakest link in the economy. Furthermore, development plans have tended to emphasize industry and mining over agriculture. In 1975 the Ministry of Agriculture was replaced by seven Ministries of Rural Development, at Conakry, Boké, Kindia, Faranah, Labé, N'Zérékoré and Kankan. The PDG-controlled Pouvoirs Révolutionnaires Locaux (PRLs) were given responsibility for growing and marketing all agricultural products; 434 mechanized production brigades, manned by students and officials, were sent out into rural areas. However, the scheme proved ineffective, and Conté abolished it.

In many regions the traditional slash-and-burn system of cultivation is practiced. Fertilizers and pesticides are rarely used. Improved techniques, such as transplanting rice seedlings from nursery seedbeds and crop rotation sequences, are being introduced only gradually. Mechanization has made little headway.

Under the traditional land tenure system, land belongs to the community, and disposal rights are held by the lineage elders, even though the rights to use the land belong to the farmer. This system still prevails in

large measure, but it has been modified to assert the right of the state to reallocate vacant lands and to acquire insufficiently improved land. Some lands belonging to the tribal chiefs also have been nationalized.

Touré also focused agricultural efforts on FAPAs (*fermes agro-pastorales d'arrondissement*), state farms at the district level. Two hundred fifty such farms were to be established, with an initial government investment in the form of machinery and personnel. The FAPAs are designed to carry out experimental and intensive crop and livestock production as well as to provide extension services to small farmers. FACs (*fermes agricoles communales*) were at the village level and consisted of mechanized and/or animal traction production brigades. Low producer prices coupled with favorable trading opportunities on the local parallel market and in neighboring countries have led to a situation in which only a small amount of Guinea's agricultural production actually passes through the state distribution system. As a result, the government had to import rice to provide for urban dwellers, the army and others dependent on the official food distribution system. The Conté government abolished the agricultural collective farms and is investigating the possibility of returning some of the state-owned enterprises to the private sector.

The principal food crops are manioc, cassava, corn, rice, millet, sweet potatoes and sorghum. Cash crops include bananas, peanuts, palm kernels, coffee and

### AGRICULTURAL INDICATORS

Agriculture's share of GDP (%):	30 (1989)
Value added in agriculture (U.S. \$ millions):	761 (1988)
Cereal imports (000 metric tons):	222 (1988)
Index of agricultural production (1979 - 81 = 100):	108 (1986)
Index of food production per capita (1979 - 81 = 100):	93 (1986-88)
Number of tractors:	180 (1986)
Total fertilizer consumption (000 metric tons):	0.4 (1985-86)
Fertilizer consumption (g./ha., hundreds):	6 (1987-88)
Land use % 1985-87	
Cropland:	6
Pasture:	12
Forest:	41
Other:	40
Yields (kg./ha.) 1989	
Grains:	999
Roots & tubers:	5,488
Legumes:	769
Milk (kg./animal):	185
Production 1989	
Fruits (000 metric tons):	696
Vegetables (000 metric tons):	420
Livestock (000)	
Cattle:	1,800
Horses:	1 (1986)
Sheep:	506
Pigs:	33
Forestry 1988	
Production of roundwood (million cubic meters):	4.559
of which industrial roundwood (%):	14.0
Value of exports (U.S. \$ 000):	800
Fishing 1988	
Total catch (000 metric tons):	34.0
of which marine (%):	91.2
Value of exports (U.S. \$ 000):	0.0

citrus fruits. Marketing of export crops is the monopoly of the state-owned Guinexport.

Two-thirds of the country's livestock are raised by the Peul and the Malinké in Fouta Djallon and the savanna lands. Almost all the cattle are the small, humpless N'dama variety. Guinea's national herd has been steadily declining in numbers since the 1960s.

Forests cover 4% of the land area, or 1.5 million ha. (3.7 million ac.), of which the primary forests are mainly in N'Zérékoré and Seredou. The main timber species are teak, ebony and acacia.

Fishing in the coastal and inland waters is a major activity for Guinea's estimated 10,000 traditional fishermen, using crudely built dugouts and barks. A state company operates a fleet of fishing vessels and handles distribution and sales. More recently, coventures have been established with United States and French interests. However, fishing remains largely undeveloped.

Agricultural credit is provided by the National Agricultural Development Bank.

## MANUFACTURING

Constraints on industrial expansion include shortages of foreign exchange and skilled workers, and bad planning. Most of the established industries are aimed at import substitution. Manufacturing activity is dominated by the public sector, which accounts for nearly 90% of the output. Principal public enterprises include the alumina plant at Fria, the cannery at Mamou, a sawmill, a textile factory and a sugar complex. Beginning in 1963, a policy of encouraging coventures with foreign partners was initiated. Private enterprise was legalized in 1979, but businessmen are required to pay \$6,000 before starting operations. The National Investment Code of 1984 removed restrictions on foreign investors, including control by the central bank over their foreign currency receipts and state participation in management. The principal industrial centers are Conakry, Fria, Mamou, Kankan, Macenta, Kassa, Beyla, Dabola and Agola.

### MANUFACTURING INDICATORS, 1987

Share of GDP (%): 5 (1988)  
Labor force economically active in manufacturing (% est.): 9.4  
Value added in manufacturing (U.S. \$ millions): 117

In 1975 Touré created a National Economic Council, presided over by himself, for bringing all aspects of the national economy under total state control. By 1977 the state had monopolized domestic and foreign trade, diamond mining, forestry, trawling, banking, insurance, manufacturing, telecommunications, transportation, the media and electric power. The number of public enterprises is reported to have increased to 125. In 1975 three holding companies were created to manage all state-sector companies: Coficom in the commercial sector; Ocofi in the industrial and energy sectors; and Secafi in the agriculture and livestock, transportation and services sectors. Persistent dissat-

isfaction over the mediocre performance of these companies causes constant changes in their functions, nomenclature and organization.

## MINING

Mining is the largest sector of the Guinean economy, accounting for 75% of foreign exchange earnings and 23% of the GDP. Mining also plays a large role in the government's development plans. The two most important minerals are bauxite and iron. Bauxite reserves are estimated at 8 billion tons, or two-thirds of the world's known reserves. Guinea is expected to produce 25 million tons annually, making it the world's largest producer. Of the country's five or six major deposits, only those at Fria, Sangaredi and Kindia are being mined. The deposits at Dabola and Tongué are being explored by investors. Guinea also is one of the founding members of the International Bauxite Association, with headquarters at Kingston, Jamaica.

The Fria deposits are worked by an international consortium, known as Friguia, in which Guinea holds 49% of the shares. The other 51% is divided among French (26.5%), Canadian (48.5%), British (10%), Swiss (10%) and West German (5%) interests. Each partner receives a quota of alumina exports. The Guinean government takes in 65% of the net taxable profits after depreciation and debt servicing.

The Sangaredi deposits at Boké are worked by the Bauxite Company of Guinea, in which the government holds 49% of the shares. The other 51% is held by an international consortium known as HALCO, in which three American companies, Alcan, Alcoa and Martin Marietta, hold 74%; France has 10%; West Germany holds 10%; and Italy has 6%. The company also operates a 136-km. (85-mi.) railway and the port of Kamsar.

The Debele deposits, near Kindia, are worked by the Kindia Bauxite Office with Soviet backing. Swiss and Yugoslav bauxite companies have joined to form the Society for the Development of the Alumina Industry of Tougué-Dabola, in which the Guinean government holds a half share, to develop a mining and processing complex at Dabola and Tougué in central Guinea. The Guinea-Arab Alumina Company was formed in 1976 to exploit reserves estimated at 500 million tons at Ayékoyé in northwestern Guinea. New projects in this sector include the \$1 billion Akékoyé aluminum smelter and the 155,000-ton aluminum smelter associated with the Korkouré hydroelectric project. The government's policy is to obtain a greater voice over prices and destinations of exports and to establish more processing plants near the bauxite deposits. Production has been steadily rising since 1973, when it was 13.9 million tons.

Iron was mined at Kaloum until 1967. Interest now centers on richer deposits in the Mount Nimba and Simandou Mountain areas near the Liberian border. The reserves are estimated at 300 million to 600 million tons at Mount Nimba and from 450 million to 1 billion tons at Simandou, both with about 65% iron content. In 1974 the Mifergui-Simandou and the Mifergui-Nimba mining companies were formed, with the government

holding 50% of the shares and the balance being held by Nigeria, Algeria, Liberia, Yugoslavia, Japan, Romania, Switzerland and Spain.

Diamond mining is the monopoly of the state-owned Guinean Diamond Exploitation Enterprise. Official production in 1983 was 40,000 carats, but there is considerable illicit production.

## ENERGY

Guinea possesses no known deposits of fossil fuels, but the government established a joint venture with a U.S. company, Butte Resources, to explore for offshore petroleum. The nation has great potential for hydroelectric power. Since Guinea's independence several plants have been built, primarily to supply mining enterprises.

### ENERGY INDICATORS

Average annual energy production growth rate (%; 1980-87): 1.5  
 Energy consumption per capita (kg. oil equivalent): 78 (1988)  
 Average annual growth rate of energy consumption (%; 1980-88): 1.1  
 Electricity 1988  
   Installed capacity (000 kw.): 176  
   Production (million kw.-hr.): 512  
     % fossil fuel: 66.8  
     %hydro: 33.2  
   Consumption per capita (kw.-hr.): 78  
 Natural gas  
   Proved reserves (billion cu. m.): 24 (1990)  
 Petroleum  
   Production (million bbl.): 0 (1989)  
   Consumption (million bbl.): 0 (1988)  
   Refining capacity (000 bbl./day): 0 (1990)

## LABOR

Only 6% of the labor force is believed to be wage- or salary-earning workers in the modern monetary economy, mostly in public administration and mining. Guinea is one of the few African nations where Africanization programs have been totally and effectively enforced.

Except in the civil service, workers do not receive fringe benefits such as health care, training and Social Security.

### LABOR INDICATORS, 1985

Total economically active population (millions): 2.846  
   % working-age (15-64): 76.2  
   % female: 40.8  
 Activity rate (%)  
   Total: 46.8  
   Male: 56.1  
   Female: 40.0  
 Sectoral employment of economically active (%)  
   Agriculture, forestry, fishing: 78.6  
   Construction, manufacturing, mining, quarrying, public utilities: 9.4  
   Trade, hotels, restaurants, transportation, communications, finance, real estate & services: 12.0  
 Average annual growth rate of labor force (%; 1980-2000): 1.8

There are about 10,000 members in the country's sole trade union, the National Federation of Guinean Workers (Confédération National des Travailleurs Guinéens, CNTG), which has 19 federations and 32 local administrative offices. Strikes are not permitted.

## FOREIGN COMMERCE

Guinea's major imports are food, machinery, transportation equipment, petroleum, building materials and textiles from the EEC, the United States and the Soviet Union. The major exports are bauxite, alumina, coffee, pineapples, bananas and palm kernels to the United States, France, Germany, the Soviet Union and Spain.

Export-import trade is a state monopoly.

### FOREIGN TRADE INDICATORS, 1988

Exports (U.S. \$ millions): 553

Imports (U.S. \$ millions): 509

Balance of trade (U.S. \$ millions): 44

#### Direction of Trade (%), 1988 (est.)

	Imports	Exports
European Community	62.1	48.5
United States	7.8	23.1
U.S.S.R. & Eastern European economies	7.1	20.4
Japan	2.2	0.2

#### Composition of Trade (%), 1980

	Imports	Exports
Food, agricultural raw materials, and mineral ores & concentrates	10.0	99.8
Fuels and other energy	30.3	0.0
Manufactured goods	59.7	0.2
of which chemicals	3.0	0.0
of which machinery	39.8	0.0

## TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS

The rail system consists of two parts: the aged state-owned single-track railroad from Conakry to Kankan, and the ore-transport lines from Fria to Conakry, from Sangaredi to Kamsar and from Conakry to Kindia. Work has been started on a \$555 million, 1,200-km. (746-mi.) railroad linking Conakry and the iron mines of Simandou and Nimba near the Liberian border.

Most of the country's rivers are navigable for short distances only. The Niger is navigable from July to November from Kouroussa to Bamako in Mali. Milo, the largest tributary of the Niger, is navigable by shallow barges as far as Kankan. Traffic is limited to poled barges and canoes on other rivers. The total length of inland waterways is 1,295 km. (805 mi.).

Although subject to silting, Conakry Harbor is one of the finest in West Africa and has 2,450 m. (8,038 ft.) of quays, with nine berths for oceangoing vessels. A new deep-water ore port has been built at Kamsar, and there are lesser ports at Kassar, Benty and Kakandé.

The country's roads are in an advanced state of disrepair, and only about one-third of the motor vehi-

### TRANSPORTATION INDICATORS

Roads (latest)  
 Length, km. (mi.): 28,400 (17,648)  
 Paved (%): 4  
 Motor vehicles (latest)  
 Automobiles: 12,000  
 Trucks and buses: 12,000  
 Persons per vehicle: 259  
 Railroads (latest)  
 Track, km. (mi.): 662 (411)  
 Merchant marine  
 Vessels (over 100 tons): 22 (1989)  
 Total deadweight tonnage (000): 2.8 (1989)  
 Ports (pre-1986)  
 Cargo loaded (million metric tons): 10.106  
 Cargo unloaded (000 metric tons): 489  
 Air  
 Passenger-km. (passenger-mi.) (millions): 28.8 (17.9) (latest)  
 Freight, metric ton-km. (short ton-mi.) (millions): 2.5 (1.7) (latest)  
 Airports with scheduled flights: 1 (1990)  
 Inland waterways (latest)  
 Length, km. (mi.): 1,295 (805)

### COMMUNICATION INDICATORS, 1983

Telephones  
 Total (000): 16 (1981)  
 Persons per telephone: 310 (1981)  
 Post office  
 Pieces of mail handled (millions): 14,897 (1987)  
 Telegraph  
 Total traffic (000 calls): 50  
 National: 21  
 International: 29  
 Telex  
 Subscriber lines: 195  
 Telecommunications 1990  
 Satellite stations: 1

cles are actually operating. Guinea has implemented a program of rehabilitation and maintenance financed by a loan from the International Development Association. A road linking Conakry to Mamou was completed in 1988. That year the government announced that 10,000 km. (6,200 mi.) of road were to be improved.

The national airline is Air Guinée, with a fleet of 10 aircraft. The principal international airport is at Conakry.

No information is available on the number of tourists visiting Guinea.

### DEFENSE

The defense establishment is headed by the president as commander in chief. The line of command runs through the minister of the People's Army to the Combined Armed Forces General Staff.

Military manpower is provided by voluntary enlistment. A conscription law created by ordinance in 1959 makes all able-bodied male citizens liable for military service between the ages of 19 and 49, but it has never

been enforced. Military personnel are liable to reserve duty after release.

The total strength of the armed forces is 9,900.

### Army

Personnel: 8,500

Organization: 1 armored battalion; 5 infantry battalions; 1 artillery battalion; 1 engineer battalion; 1 commando battalion; 1 special force battalion; 1 air defense battalion

Equipment: 53 tanks; 20 light tanks; 25 combat vehicles; 40 armored personnel carriers; 26 guns; 20 mortars; antitank guns; air defense guns; SAM

### Navy

Personnel: 600

Units: 6 fast attack craft; 16 patrol craft; 2 landing craft

Naval bases: Conakry and Kakandé

### Air Force

Personnel: 800

Equipment: 6 combat aircraft; 6 fighters; 4 transports; 2 trainers; 4 helicopters

The Guinean army had been completely politicized over the years through indoctrination in PDG ideology and through periodic purges of potential dissidents. The PDG had maintained tight control over the army, which it regarded as a functional and subordinate entity. The soldiers have been integrated into the civil service since 1970. It was therefore all the more surprising that the army threw off its ideological shackles so easily and dissolved the PDG after the 1984 coup.

Guinea's armed forces have never been tested in battle, and their combat-worthiness and deterrent capability are largely undetermined. Military leadership, constantly decimated in political purges, is notoriously unprofessional. Tactical equipment, mostly of Soviet origin, is unsuited to Guinean conditions.

Guinea is completely dependent on foreign sources for equipment and ammunition. The main suppliers since independence have been the Soviet Union, China, Cuba and Czechoslovakia. Soviet military aid through 1970 was \$25 million. Aid from the West includes \$902,000 from United States and \$2.5 million from West Germany. Arms purchases in 1982 totaled \$5 million.

### EDUCATION

Guinea has introduced free, universal and compulsory education for six years, from ages seven to 13. However, this has had little effect on school enrollment rates, which remain low: 36% in the primary age group (five to 14) and 16% in the secondary age group (15 to 19), for a combined enrollment rate of 26%.

Schooling consists of 12 years, divided into six years of primary school, three years of the first cycle of secondary school and three years of the second cycle of the secondary school. French curricula and degrees

have been retained, but under Touré history and social studies were Africanized. Primary studies are nonspecialized, and secondary studies consist of 40% general course work, 20% vocational instruction and 40% productive activities.

The academic year runs from September to July. The medium of instruction is French, but eight vernaculars have been added to the curriculum below the fourth grade.

In 1966 the government introduced a new type of rural secondary school known until 1968 as *collège d'enseignement rural* and from 1968 as *centre d'éducation révolutionnaire* (CER). CERs, which number over 84, are designed as productive units that ultimately become the nuclei of agricultural cooperatives.

The school system suffers from a shortage of teachers. Primary-level teachers are trained at six primary normal schools, and secondary-level teachers are trained at four higher normal schools. The teaching staff has been almost completely Africanized since 1960. The teacher-pupil ratio is 1:36 at the primary level, 1:25 at the secondary level and 1:10 at the postsecondary level.

Technical and vocational courses are included in the curricula of all secondary schools. More intensive training is provided by technical schools, and agricultural training at specialized agricultural schools. About 6% of secondary students were enrolled in the vocational stream in 1987.

All schools other than Koranic schools were nationalized and secularized in 1961. All Catholic mission schools have been absorbed into the public school system.

With assistance from France and neighboring countries, the CMRN over a six-year period reorganized the entire education system to eliminate ideology based on the writings and declarations of former president Sékou Touré and to upgrade the quality of the system. The reorganization involved a complete overhaul of administration, infrastructure, curricula, textbooks, and qualifications for teaching. Public education is free and universal, and private schools are allowed. French was being restored as the language of instruction in primary schools.

The educational system is under the overall control of the education and culture domain in the cabinet and is divided between two ministries: the Ministry of Pre-University Education and Literacy, and the Ministry of Advanced Education and Scientific Research. Teachers' salaries, current expenditures and maintenance of postsecondary institutions are covered by the national budget, and maintenance of primary and secondary schools is the responsibility of regional administrations.

Guinea has no university, but there are three institutions of higher learning, including two polytechnics and the Higher School of Administration.

### LEGAL SYSTEM

Despite frequent attempts to Guineanize the legal system, French commercial and civil codes have been retained almost intact. A new Penal Code was intro-

EDUCATION INDICATORS, 1987	
Literacy	
Total (%):	28.3
Male (%):	29.7
Female (%):	17.2
First level	
Schools:	2,204
Students:	270,140
Teachers:	7,493
Student/teacher ratio:	36.0
Net enrollment ratio:	23
Second level	
Schools:	225
Students:	76,493
Teachers:	3,577
Student/teacher ratio:	21.4
Net enrollment ratio:	7 (1985)
Vocational	
Schools:	31
Students:	4,929
Teachers:	758
Student/teacher ratio:	6.5
Third level (postsecondary)	
Institutions:	23
Students:	7,470
Teachers:	946
Student/teacher ratio:	7.9
Gross enrollment ratio:	1.1
Student (/100,000 pop.):	93
Foreign study	
Foreign students in national universities:	50 (1988)
Students abroad:	1,129
of whom in	
United States:	50 (1988)
France:	337 (1988)
Federal Republic of Germany:	43 (1988)
United Kingdom:	4 (1987)
Public expenditure	
Total (G.F. 000):	19,743
% of GNP:	3.3
% of national budget:	21.5
% of current:	77.6

GRADUATES, 1986	
Total:	1,129
Education:	156
Humanities & religion:	0
Fine & applied arts:	0
Law:	0
Social & behavioral sciences:	0
Commerce & business:	107
Mass communication:	0
Home economics:	0
Service trades:	0
Natural sciences:	129
Mathematics & computer science:	0
Medicine:	0
Engineering:	0
Architecture:	19
Industrial programs:	44
Transportation & communications:	0
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries:	674
Other:	0

duced in 1965 and a new Code of Criminal Procedure in the following year.

The court system was reorganized in 1973; people's courts were created in villages and city wards and