

# A Holistic Approach to the History of Mozambique

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HLTH 4700

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# Geographical Location and Demographics



- **Location:** Southeastern Africa
- **Surrounding countries:** South Africa, Eswatini, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, and Tanzania
- **Capital City:** Maputo, Mozambique
- **Population:** 33,897,354
- **Languages:** Portuguese (Official Language), Makhuwa, Changana, Nyanja, Ndau, Sena, Chwabo, and Tswa. (Translators without Borders)
- **Religions:** 26.2% Roman Catholic, 18.3% Muslim, 15.1 % Zionist Christian, 14.7% evangelical/Pentecostal, 1.6% Anglican, and 4.7% Jewish, Hindu, and Baha'i. 13.4% did not list a religious affiliation (U.S. Department of State, 2019)

# Landscape and Climate



<https://www.aljazeera.com/gallery/2021/1/25/in-pictures-cyclone-eloise-displaced-thousands-in-mozambique>

The 13 major river basins play a significant role in their trade and migration, however they have a negative effect by creating geographical divisions in the country (Newitt, 2017)

Due to its location in the inter-tropical convergence zone, it is prone to significant climate change, climate variability, and natural disasters. These heavily affect its natural resource economy and health outcomes.

- “Climate models project that Mozambique will experience higher temperatures, delayed onset of the rainy season in some regions, and an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events” (World Health Organization, 2018)

# Landscape and Climate



<https://www.aljazeera.com/gallery/2021/1/25/in-pictures-cyclone-eloise-displaced-thousands-in-mozambique>

## Seasons:

- Cool and dry season: April to September
- Hot and humid season: October to March

## Natural Disasters:

- “The coastal areas of Mozambique experience cyclones and associated storm surge. Since the 1950s, the occurrence of extreme weather events, including drought, heavy rainfall events, hurricanes, and cyclones, has increased. While cyclones are projected to become less frequent, their intensity and associated levels of precipitation are likely to increase” (Mozambique Climate Vulnerability Profile)

## Climate-Associated Health Issues

- The climate fosters climate-sensitive diseases, such as Malaria, Cholera, and Measles, which are disproportionately affecting rural populations, women, and children (World Health Organization, 2018).

# Natural Resources



**Minerals:** coal (high quality coking coal and thermal coal), graphite, iron ore, titanium, apatite, marble, bentonite, bauxite, kaolin, copper, gold, rubies, and tantalum (Privacy Shield Framework)

**Natural gas and Oil:** Its expected to become a major exporter of natural gas due to the discovery of offshore natural gas reserves in the Rovuma Basin (Privacy Shield Framework)

**Hydroelectric Dam:** The Cahora Bassa, one of the largest hydroelectric dams, is located in the Zambezi River in Western Mozambique. Mozambique is said to have the among the largest hydropower potential in sub-Saharan Africa, with 80% of the potential in the Cahora Bassa (International Hydropower Association, 2016)

- Access to energy is now a national priority, where it is viewed as a key to economic growth and poverty alleviation.



# Culture

## Spiritual Practices:

Witchcraft is a growing concern. Organ extraction is a common practice used by local “medicine men” in hopes to cure diseases, make people rich, and harm their enemies (Fauvrelle, 2013)

## Media:

- Television is popular medium, with around 20 stations
- Print media have limited influence.
- Self-censorship is commonplace due to intimidation and threats towards journalists who upset the authorities (Mozambique Country Profile, 2023)

## Sports:

- Soccer is the most popular sport – Mozambique competes regularly with other African nations and within the Portuguese speaking Soccer League, which includes Angola, Portugal and Brazil (Siyabona Africa, n.d.)



<https://www.newsweek.com/mozambique-witchcraft-baldness-622091>

# Political History



<https://www.blackpast.org/global-african-history/the-mozambican-civil-war-1977-1992/>

- Mozambique was under Portuguese rule until it was declared the “People’s Republic of Mozambique” in 1975 (South African History Online, n.d.)
- Samora Machel, the leader of the Front of the Liberation of Mozambique (FRELIMO) was chosen as the first President, and remained president until he died in 1986 (BBC, 2023)
- A rebellion, led by the Mozambique National Resistance (RENAMO), began in 1977 and a Civil war ensued, not ending until 1992 (BBC, 2023).

# Political History



<https://www.blackpast.org/global-african-history/the-mozambican-civil-war-1977-1992/>

- The 15 year Civil War included brutal attack strategies from both parties, largely consisting of land mines (Momodu, 2018)
- RENAMO led raids on towns and smaller cities, including mass abductions, recruitment of children soldiers, and village women being sold as sex slaves. (Momodu, 2018)
- The war didn't end until Mozambique adopted a new Constitution allowing multiparty elections in 1990, and the UN signed a peace accord in 1992 (South African History Online, n.d.)
- The first free election was held in 1994, and the FRELIMO party was voted into power. The military conflict ended, but the political rivalry remains. (Momodu, 2018)



# Current Government



## Current Leader:

- Filipe Nyusi of the FRELIMO party
- Won the election in 2015 and again in 2020
- He has made several agreements with the RENAMO party (Mozambique Country Profile, 2023)

## Type of government:

- Multiparty parliamentary democracy with a freely elected republican form of government (U.S. Department of State, 2022)

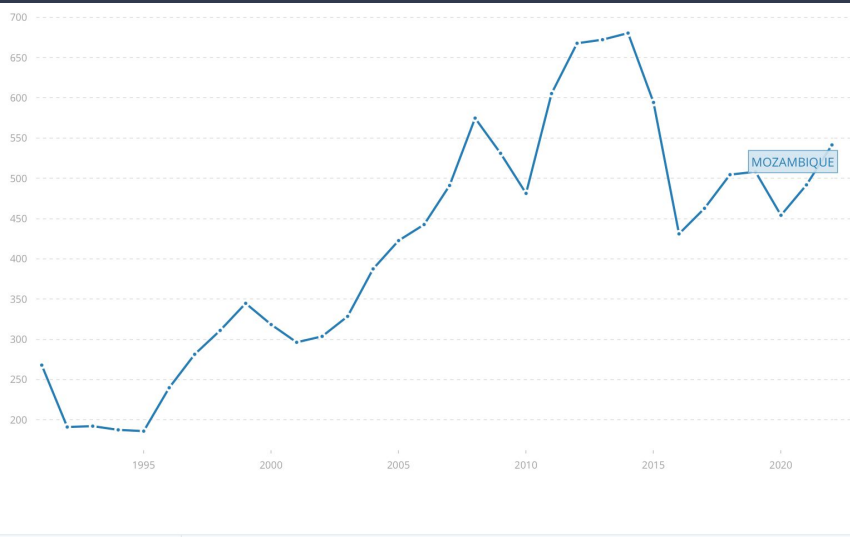
## 2023 Index of Economic Freedom:

- Overall rating: 52.5 out of 100 (below world average)
- Judicial effectiveness: 44.6 out of 100 (below world average)
- Government Integrity: 27.1 out of 100 (below world average)

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13890416>

# The Economy

## GDP per capita (current US\$) - Mozambique



<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD?end=2022&locations=MZ&start=1991&view=chart>

**Per capita GDP:** 541.5 USD (The World Bank, 2022)

**Poverty Level:** 64.6% of the population lives below the International Poverty Line of 2.14 USD per day per capita (World Bank Group, 2023)

**Industries:** agriculture, manufacturing, and services (World Atlas, n.d.)

**Main Exports:** Mineral fuel, oil, bitumen, mineral wax, aluminum, ores, slag, ash, tobacco, manufactured tobacco substitutes, edible fruit and nuts, citrus fruits, and melon peel (International Trade Administration, 2022)

**Main Imports:** Mineral fuel, oil, bitumen, mineral wax, nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery, cereals, vehicles, electric machinery, sound equipments, and TV equipment (International Trade Administration, 2022)

**Trading Partners:** South Africa, China, Portugal, India, and Netherlands (International Trade Administration, 2022)

# Stability and Human Rights

Significant human rights issues included credible reports of:

- “unlawful or arbitrary killings, including extrajudicial killings; forced disappearance; harsh and life-threatening prison conditions; arbitrary arrest or detention
- serious abuses in a conflict, including unlawful and widespread civilian deaths or harm, abductions, physical abuses, rape, sexual slavery, and unlawful use of child soldiers by nonstate actors
- serious restrictions on free expression and media, including violence and threats of violence against journalists, and unjustified arrests or prosecutions of journalists
- substantial interference with the freedom of peaceful assembly
- serious government corruption
- lack of investigation of and accountability for gender-based violence.”

Direct list provided by the U.S. Department of State (2022)

# Current Events



<https://www.hstoday.us/featured/isis-expansion-with-affiliate-in-mozambique-increases-terrorist-groups-threat/>

## Jihadist insurgency in northern Mozambique

- ISIS-Mozambique, also known as Al-Shabab, made its first attack on Northern Mozambique in 2017 in the Cabo Delgado Province (Hassan, 2022)
- Throughout 2017 until now, it has internally displaced a total of 946,000 civilians and killed 400 people (Hassan, 2022)
- In 2022, fighting began to shift towards the Southern Cabo Delgado Province and into the northern areas of the Nampula Province (Hassan, 2022)
- The group uses territory control strategies such as beheading, kidnapping, and the use of child soldiers (U.S. Department of State, 2022)
- The group continues to abduct and force the displacement of civilians, destroy clinics and schools, and burn homes (U.S. Department of State, 2022)
- "Mozambique was elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for a two-year membership starting January 2023" (Hassan, 2022)

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