

# Nigeria



<b>Location</b>	Nigeria is located in Western Africa. It borders Cameroon to the south, Chad to the east, Niger to the north and Benin to the west. Its capital city is Abuja. Map: <a href="https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ni.html">https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ni.html</a>
<b>Climate</b>	Nigeria's climate varies from tropical rainforest in the south to arid in the north, causing these areas to suffer flooding and droughts, respectively.
<b>Geography</b>	At slightly less than the area of British Columbia, Nigeria's landscape includes a diverse terrain of plains, deserts, hills, plateaus (raised areas with level tops), mountains, swamps and jungles. <sup>1</sup>
<b>Government</b>	Following its independence from Britain, Nigeria experienced a long period of military rule. In 1999, the first democratic elections in 20 years took place in Nigeria; however, ethnic and religious tensions, government corruption, and mismanagement of resources ravaged the country. Although corruption has declined in recent years, militants continue to express their frustration through increasing violence, especially in the Niger Delta, where most of the country's oil resources are found.
<b>Environment</b>	Current environmental issues in Nigeria include deforestation, pollution, endangered species, desertification (areas becoming more desert-like, causing drought), oil spills, loss of farmland and rapid urbanization (people moving from the countryside to cities).
<b>Economy</b>	Despite living in a country rich in natural resources (e.g., natural gas, petroleum, metals, minerals), 79.2 percent of Nigerians live on less than two dollars a day. <sup>2</sup>
<b>People</b>	Nicknamed the "Giant of Africa," Nigeria is the most populated country on the continent. Its population of 181.6 million, including 3.228 million people living with HIV/AIDS, has an average life expectancy of 53.02 years. <sup>3</sup> Nigeria's nickname not only comes from its land and population size, but the diversity of its peoples (with 250 ethnic groups and over 500 languages).
<b>Novels</b> <i>The Other Side of Truth</i> by Beverley Naidoo	Nigerians suffer from serious human rights violations, including discrimination and violence between ethnic and religious groups, abuse from government security forces, widespread corruption, conflict in the Niger Delta and a lack of government action toward rights violators. <sup>4</sup> Within the past decade, "oil wars" between the Nigerian government, multinational corporations and local militants increased instability and threatened innocent civilians. Niger Delta communities endure economic and political inequalities, and see little of the oil money that comes from their land. Local groups continue to commit aggressive acts such as pipeline vandalism, kidnappings and attacks on oil terminals to show their discontent.
<b>Issue</b> Human rights	

1 The Central Intelligence Agency World Factbook, "Nigeria," available from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ni.html>

2 United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Reports, "Nigeria", available from <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/NGA>

3 The Central Intelligence Agency World Factbook

4 Human Rights Watch, "Nigeria: Put human rights at the heart of elections," available from <http://www.hrw.org/news/2011/03/28/nigeria-put-human-rights-heart-elections>

