Sudan

Demographics

Sudan is located in northeast Africa, and is the largest county in Africa. Sudan measures one forth the size of the United States. It is the tenth largest country in the world by area. Sudan is bordered by Chad, Central African Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic. The north east part of Sudan is bordered by the Red Sea.

Sudan has a warm climate. It is tropical in the south, arid desert in the north, rainy seasons from April through November which varies throughout the entire country. Sudan is one of the most ethnically and linguistically diverse countries in the world. It has nearly 600 ethnic groups speaking over 400 languages and dialects. In the early 1990s, the largest single category among the Muslim individuals of Sudan consisted of those speaking some form of Arabic. In the early 1990s, the Nubians were the second most significant Muslim group in Sudan, their homeland being the Nile River area.

Economy

Sudan economy relies on increasing its oil production, which has increased more that ten percent per year in 2006 and 2007.

Agriculture

Production remains important because it employs 80 % of the work force. Some of the production agriculture is: cotton, groundnuts (peanuts), sorghum, millet, wheat, gum arabic, sugarcane, cassava (tapioca), mangos, papaya, bananas, sweet potatoes, sesame, sheep, and livestock.
**Education**

The public and private education system in Sudan is designed to provide civil servants and professional’s education rather than to educate the Sudan people. Schools tend to be clustered in the vicinity of Khartoum and to a lesser extent in other urban areas; although the population was predominantly rural. Education in the northern part of the country has suffered due of a shortage in teachers and buildings, while education in the south is becoming more inadequate with the resources deplenishing every day. Since the education in the south is so poor, the government imposed provincial education supervisors upon missionaries in return for the government subsidies that they sorely needed. The civil war and the ejection of all foreign missionaries in February, 1964 further diminished educational opportunities for southern Sudanese.

Within the schools system, girls did not have a place in intermediate education until 1940. Before then, girls had the opportunity to go to four elementary schools with education provided by the Religious School or Khalwa. By 1960, the first secondary school for girls was opened with about 265 students in attendance, which is operated by the Sudan government. No vocational schools were offered to the girls, only a Nurses’ Training College with but eleven students, nursing not being regarded by many Sudanese as a respectable vocation for women.

**Religion**

The most common religion, approximately 70% of the population in Sudan is Muslim. Most of the Muslim followers are from the north area of the country. The remaining 30% of the
population is broken down into 5% Christianity and Indigenous religions which are from the southern part of the country.

Sports

Sudan is known for two sports; those being: basketball and soccer. Several basketball players from Sudan have come to the United States to play professional basketball, players such as Deng Gai, Luol Deng and Manute Bol. In the late 1920’s Khartoum started a state soccer league which is now considered the oldest soccer league in Africa.

Clothing

Clothing is very important to the Sudan’s culture since it shows things such as moral and artistic values, and traditions. Sudan’s clothing is mainly Arabic in origin, utilizing woven clothing with the women covering their heads, which is the tradition of Muslim and Islam. Women in Northern Sudan wear the colorful attire known as the Thobe. Many of the men of Sudan wear ankle-long white gowns called Galabiya, together with the Shaal, the same as a shawl.

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