

CAMEROON

Continent: Africa

[Population](#): 27.2 million

[Life Expectancy \(at Birth\)](#): 60.3

[Governance System](#): Constitutional Republic

Capital: Yaoundé

[Area](#): 472,710 km²

Major Languages: French, English

[GDP \(2021\)](#): 45,239 US\$ millions

Select Global Rankings

[Human Development Index](#): 151st

[Fragile States Index - Inverted](#): 163rd

[Soft Power 30 rank](#): NR

[Human Freedom Index](#): 145th

[World Happiness Ranking](#): 102nd

[Good Country Index](#): 119th

Elite Sport System Rankings

[Global Cup Ranking](#): 44th

[Per Capita Cup Ranking](#): NR

[Olympic Medals – Summer '20](#): 0 (NR)

[Olympic Medals – Winter '22](#): 0 (NR)

Football/World Cup Profile

[FIFA Region](#): CAF

[FIFA Ranking](#): 43

World Cup Appearances: 7

Best World Cup Performance(s): Quarter Finals (1990)

Qualification: CAF 3rd Round winners

[World Cup Group](#): G

Last World Cup Appearance: 2014

CAMEROON in INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (by Eneria Mucaj)

Cameroon, officially named the Republic of Cameroon is a Central African country located on the Gulf of Guinea. Cameroon is bordered by Nigeria to the west, Chad and the Central African Republic to the east, and the Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and the Atlantic Ocean to the south.

Cameroon has a rich history. The earliest inhabitants of Cameroon were most likely the [Baka](#) peoples who still inhabit the forests of the south and east provinces. Cameroon has a long history of European colonialization. The early European presence in Cameroon was characterized by a desire to expand coastal trade and the acquisition of slaves. While the slave trade was largely eliminated by the mid-19th century, the Christian missions which became prominent in the late 19th century continue to play a critical role in Cameroonian life. Beginning on July 5th, 1884, Cameroon became a German colony. The then Imperial German government made substantial investments in infrastructure, such as railways and hospitals. This time period was wrought with human rights violations, mainly against the Indigenous population of the country, as the Germans introduced a forced labour system to bring the infrastructure to life.

As a result of the British invasion of Cameroon in World War I, Cameroon was no longer a German colony. Instead, after WWI, Cameroon was partitioned between the United Kingdom and France under a June 28, 1919, Class B League of Nations mandate. French Cameroon

achieved independence on January 1, 1960, whereas British Cameroons voted to join the then independent Federal Republic of Cameroon on October 1, 1961. The partitioning of Cameroon is a colonial legacy which continues to impact current Cameroon politics. [Beginning in 2016](#), as protests from lawyers, students and teachers, Cameroon has been engulfed in a civil war between the Francophone central government and Anglophone separatists in southern Cameroon who are objecting their under-representation and cultural marginalization by the central government. The civil war has been marked by countless human right violations and has resulted in mass dislocation of peoples. Cameroon also continues to face persistent threats in the Far North region from Boko Haram. The Norwegian Refugee Council identified the conflicts in Cameroon as the [world's most neglected displacement crisis](#) in 2019.

Since its independence, Cameroon has only had 2 presidents. Currently, Paul Biya is the president, and has remained in power since 1982, making him one of Africa's most entrenched leaders. Cameroons next election is slated for 2025.

Internationally, Cameroon holds membership and is active in a whole host of multilateral and international organizations. Examples include: [The Commonwealth](#), [Group of 77](#), the [United Nations](#), the [African Union](#), and the [Organisation of Islamic Cooperation](#). However, Cameroon is also involved in numerous international disputes. Most notably, initiated in 1994, Cameroon was involved in a land and maritime boundary dispute with Nigeria which went before the International Court of Justice ([Cameroon v. Nigeria: Equatorial Guinea intervening](#)). In a judgement released on October 10, 2002, the ICJ markedly decided that sovereignty over the Bakassi Peninsula lay with Cameroon.

Cameroon and Canada hold [longstanding and friendly](#) bilateral relations. Cameroon is considered [Canada's oldest diplomatic and development relationship](#) in francophone Africa. There are educational, trade and military relations between Cameroon and Canada. For education, 2,000 Cameroonians come to Canada for education annually; for trade Canada signed a Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement with Cameroon in March 2014, which went into effect in December 2016, thereby promoting Cameroon as one of 14 priority markets in Africa, and lastly for military, Canada has modestly provided military assistance to Cameroon.

Sources:

<https://www.cameroonembassyusa.org/mainFolder/history.html>

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