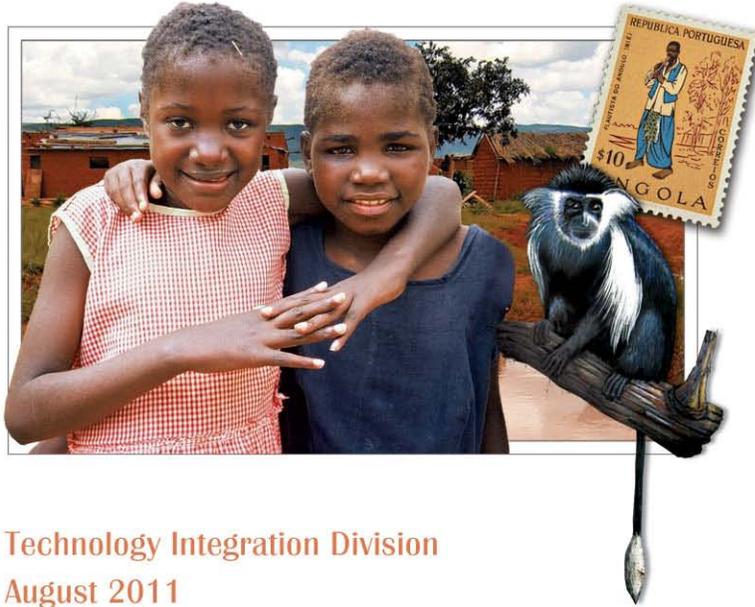


Angola in Perspective

An Orientation Guide



Technology Integration Division
August 2011



DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE FOREIGN LANGUAGE CENTER

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Chapter 1: Geography

Country Overview

Angola lies in southwestern Africa along the shore of the South Atlantic Ocean, spreading across an area of 1,246,700 sq km (481,353 sq mi).¹ Almost twice as large as Texas, Angola borders Namibia to the south and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the north and northeast. It shares its southeastern border with Zambia. A small portion of northwestern Angola known as Cabinda Province is separated from the rest of the country by a strip of land that belongs to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.² Cabinda, bordered by the South Atlantic Ocean on its western side, is Angola's main oil-producing region. For decades, it has been the site of secessionist warfare driven largely by oil-sharing grievances against the Angolan government.



DoD image
Map of Angola

Geographic Regions and Topographic Features

Much of Angola consists of an interior plateau with other distinct geographic regions throughout the country. These regions include a relatively narrow coastal plain that abruptly merges into hills and mountains, extending eastward into highlands that dominate the country's landscape. The northern Cabinda enclave primarily consists of tropical lowlands and hills.³ Much of it is covered with rainforest.⁴



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Cuanza River Valley

Coastal Plain

A narrow lowland stretches along the length of Angola's western coast. Its width varies from approximately 25 km (15 mi) around the city of Benguela to over 150 km (93 mi)

¹ Central Intelligence Agency, "Angola: Geography," in *The World Factbook*, 16 March 2011, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ao.html>

² WorldAtlas, "Map of Angola: Landforms," n.d., <http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/africa/ao.htm>

³ Thomas Collelo, ed., "Terrain," in *Angola: A Country Study*, Federal Research Division, Library of Congress, 1991, <http://countrystudies.us/angola/52.htm>

⁴ Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, "Background Note: Angola: Profile–Geography," 28 December 2010, <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6619.htm>

just south of Luanda, in the Cuanza River Valley.⁵ Influenced by the cold Benguela Current that flows northward, the entire coastal region is fairly dry and covered with brush in its central and northern sections. At its southern end (south of Benguela), the climate of the coastal strip becomes more arid, and the brushy land gives way to sand dunes. This dry region is the northern arm of the Namib Desert, which spreads through western Namibia. The Namib Desert is a coastal extension of the larger Kalahari Desert, which covers a large part of southwestern Africa, including much of Botswana and Namibia, and the southwestern part of South Africa.^{6, 7}

Hills and Mountains

The coastal strip extends into steep hills and scattered mountain ranges that extend along much of the western central interior of the country, parallel to the coast. Southeast of Luanda, the Cuanza River divides this mountainous region into a northern section with elevations between 500 m (1,640 ft) and 1,800 m (5,905 ft) and a higher southern region with elevations that can exceed 2,400 m (7,874 ft).⁸ At 2,620 m (8,592 ft), Morro de Moco (also called Mount Moco) is the country's highest point.⁹ The mountains extend south through Angola into Namibia.¹⁰



© Erik Cleves Kristensen
Mountains near Namibe

Central-Eastern Highlands

From the western hills and mountains, Angola's high plains stretch eastward, forming rolling plateaus that make up most of the country's terrain. With the exception of the coastal cities of Benguela and Lobito, this is the most settled area in the country.¹¹ The elevation of the highlands is generally 1,200–1,800 m (4,000–6,000 ft).¹² Some plateaus

⁵ Thomas Collelo, ed., "Terrain," in *Angola: A Country Study*, Federal Research Division, Library of Congress, 1991, <http://countrystudies.us/angola/52.htm>

⁶ WorldAtlas, "Landforms of Africa: Kalahari Desert," n.d., <http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/aflnd.htm>

⁷ Thomas Collelo, ed., "Terrain," in *Angola: A Country Study*, Federal Research Division, Library of Congress, 1991, <http://countrystudies.us/angola/52.htm>

⁸ Thomas Collelo, ed., "Terrain," in *Angola: A Country Study*, Federal Research Division, Library of Congress, 1991, <http://countrystudies.us/angola/52.htm>

⁹ WorldAtlas, "Map of Angola: Land Statistics," n.d., <http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/africa/ao.htm>

¹⁰ Historyking.com, "Angola Geography and History," 2011, <http://www.historyking.com/World-History/history-of-africa/angola-history/Angola-Geography-And-History.html>

¹¹ U.S. Library of Congress, "Angola: Terrain," 1991, <http://countrystudies.us/angola/52.htm>

¹² WorldAtlas, "Map of Angola: Landforms," n.d., <http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/africa/ao.htm>

are higher, such as the Humpata Highland (southern Angola) and the Benguela Plateau farther north, both reaching heights of around 2,500 m (8,202 ft).¹³ The largest plateau in the region is the densely settled Bié Plateau, east of Benguela and Morro de Moco, occupying approximately one-tenth of the surface land in the country.¹⁴

Climate

Located below the equator, Angola has a tropical climate that fluctuates according to region and season of the year. Influenced by the cool Benguela Current, the coastal climate is semiarid, much like that found along the coast of Baja California.¹⁵ Rainfall along much of the coast averages between 250–1,000 mm (10–39 in) yearly, and along the southern coast falls to less than 100 mm (4 in).¹⁶ From the southern interior to the eastern border is a grassland region (savanna), also arid and frequently afflicted by drought.¹⁷ The highlands of the central interior receive rainfall between November and April, followed by dry weather and cool temperatures.¹⁸ Rainfall in the Bié Plateau region is around 1,450 mm (57 in) per year. In the north, a hot, humid, tropical climate with heavy rainfall prevails from November to April. In Cabinda (the farthest north), average rainfall is 1,800 mm (70 in) per year.¹⁹ Between May and October, the weather in northern Angola turns cool and dry.²⁰



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Surfing

Temperatures change according to elevation and distance from both the equator and the coast. The yearly temperature at Soyo in Angola's northwestern corner (south of Cabinda), averages 26 °C (79 °F). In Huambo, central Angola (on the Bié Plateau), the yearly average is somewhat cooler at 19 °C (67 °F).²¹

¹³ Thomas Collelo, ed., "Terrain," in *Angola: A Country Study*, Federal Research Division, Library of Congress, 1991, <http://countrystudies.us/angola/52.htm>

¹⁴ *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, "Angola: Relief," 2011, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/25137/Angola/43846/Relief>

¹⁵ Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, "Background Note: Angola: Geography," 28 December 2010, <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6619.htm>

¹⁶ World66, "Climate in Angola," n.d., <http://www.world66.com/africa/angola/climate>

¹⁷ *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, "Angola: Climate," 2011, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/25137/Angola/43849/Climate>

¹⁸ World66, "Climate in Angola," n.d., <http://www.world66.com/africa/angola/climate>

¹⁹ *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, "Angola: Climate," 2011, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/25137/Angola/43849/Climate>

²⁰ Wordtravels, "Angola Climate and Weather," 2011, <http://www.wordtravels.com/Travelguide/Countries/Angola/Climate>

²¹ *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, "Angola: Climate," 2011, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/25137/Angola/43849/Climate>

Rivers

Many of Angola's rivers originate in the country's high central region. Beginning in the mountains east of Huambo, the Cubango River is Angola's longest river (975 km/606 mi).²² Its total length through Angola and Botswana is 1,600 km (1,000 mi).²³ Most of the river is unnavigable. It flows southward, forming part of the border of southeastern Angola, passing through the Kalahari Desert until it reaches the Okavango Swamp, the marshlands of northwestern Botswana.²⁴ Another river that drains central Angola is the Cuanza River, originating at an elevation of 1,500 m (5,000 ft) in the Bié Plateau.²⁵ It flows north and then curves westward, emptying into the Atlantic Ocean just south of Luanda. Generating power for the Cambambe Dam that provides Luanda's electricity and irrigation water to a valley along the river, the Cuanza is the "only Angolan river of economic significance." Although it is navigable in its lower course for 255 km (160 mi) from the sea, a shifting sandbar at the mouth of this river inhibits navigation.²⁶



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Cubango River

The Cunene River flows in a southwesterly direction, then turns sharply west at the border with Namibia and continues to the Atlantic Ocean. Its total distance is 945 km (587 mi).²⁷ It begins in the central mountains and flows over granite rocks, then a section of the northern Kalahari Desert. Near Matala's granite uplands and also at Ruacana Falls, the river is dammed for irrigation and electrical generation. In its course, it forms several waterfalls. The Epupa Falls, over 30 m (100 ft) in height, is located in the river's gorge through the Zebra and Baynes mountains. From here, the river flows into the Namib Desert before it empties into the ocean.²⁸ In eastern Angola, several rivers, such as the Cuango, Cassai, and Cuando feed the Congo and Zambezi systems.²⁹ The Zambezi River,

²² Embassy of Angola in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, "Republic of Angola: Transportation System," 2009, http://www.angola.org.uk/angola/transport_system.html

²³ *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, "Okavango River," 2011, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/426424/Okavango-River>

²⁴ *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, "Okavango River," 2011, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/426424/Okavango-River>

²⁵ *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, "Cuanza River," 2011, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/325847/Cuanza-River>

²⁶ *Encyclopædia Britannica*, "Cuanza River," 2011, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/325847/Cuanza-River>

²⁷ *Encyclopædia Britannica*, "Cunene River," 2011, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/324901/Cunene-River>

²⁸ *Encyclopædia Britannica*, "Cunene River," 2011, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/324901/Cunene-River>

²⁹ Adebayo Oyebade, *Culture and Customs of Angola* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2007), 38.

the African continent’s fourth-largest river basin, flows through the central-eastern corner of Angola on its journey to the Indian Ocean.³⁰

Major Cities

Major Cities	Population (<i>Estimated 2010</i>): ^{31, 32}
Luanda	4,000,000 ³³
Huambo	341,696 ^{34, 35}
Benguela	134,523 ^{36, 37}
Cabinda	399,427 ³⁸
Lobito	149,249 ³⁹

³⁰ *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, “Zambezi River,” 2011, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/655540/Zambezi-River>

³¹ Accurate current population statistics for Angolan cities are inconclusive; different sources report different figures and the last official government census was done in 1970. According to the United Nations FAO, “The United Nations itself recognizes the difficulty of defining urban areas globally, stating that, ‘because of national differences in the characteristics that distinguish urban from rural areas, the distinction between urban and rural population is not amenable to a single definition that would be applicable to all countries’ (UN, 1998).” Source: United Nations, FAO Corporate Document Repository, “2. Sources for Urban and Rural Population Datasets: 2.1 Definitions,” n. d., <http://www.fao.org/docrep/009/a0310e/A0310E05.htm>

³² Because of the conflicting population figures available for Angola, sources vary between cities for “estimated 2010” figures.

³³ *The Washington Post*, “International Spotlight: Angola: Charming Chaos,” 2011, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-adv/specialsales/spotlight/angola/article8.html>

³⁴ World Gazetteer, “Angola: Largest Cities and Towns and Statistics of Their Population,” n.d., <http://www.world-gazetteer.com/wg.php?x=&men=gcis&lng=en&des=wg&geo=-101&srt=npan&col=adhoq&msz=1500&geo=-19>

³⁵ The U.S. Department of State estimates the current population of Huambo at 750,000. Source: U.S. Department of State, “Background Note: Angola: Profile: Geography,” 28 December 2010, <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6619.htm>

³⁶ World Gazetteer, “Angola: Largest Cities and Towns and Statistics of Their Population,” n.d., <http://www.world-gazetteer.com/wg.php?x=&men=gcis&lng=en&des=wg&geo=-101&srt=npan&col=adhoq&msz=1500&geo=-19>

³⁷ The U.S. Department of State estimates the current population of Benguela at 600,000. Source: Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, “Background Note: Angola: Profile: Geography,” 11 April 2011, <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6619.htm>

³⁸ World Gazetteer, “Angola: Largest Cities and Towns and Statistics of Their Population,” n.d., <http://www.world-gazetteer.com/wg.php?x=&men=gcis&lng=en&des=wg&geo=-101&srt=npan&col=adhoq&msz=1500&geo=-19>

Luanda

Luanda is Angola's largest city, its capital, and its busiest seaport. It was founded by the Portuguese in 1575 as São Paulo de Loanda.⁴⁰ For almost three centuries, it served as Africa's primary site for holding slaves and transporting them to Portuguese-owned plantations in Brazil.^{41, 42} In the 1800s, its "resplendent buildings and flourishing trade earned it the title of the Paris of Africa."⁴³ The effects of civil war later diminished its infrastructure. Even though little fighting directly touched the city, refugees who were fleeing the war zones overran it.⁴⁴ Luanda is now a petroleum refining region and the industrial and commercial center of the country, manufacturing automotive products, beverages, and cement. It is the site of Agostinho Neto University, the Catholic University of Angola, the National Library of Angola, and several museums.⁴⁵



© Paulo César Santos
View of Luanda Bay

Descriptively, the city is described as "oil rich and cash poor," located in a tropical setting marked by "unfathomable contrasts and wildly shocking extremes." Some parts of the city are modern, marked by wide, busy avenues and modern buildings and skyscrapers.⁴⁶ In other areas, "teeming *bairros* (townships) and ramshackle makeshift dwellings" define much of Luanda.⁴⁷ Since independence, the capital city has expanded rapidly, far beyond the developed infrastructure from the city's early plans. Originally built for 400,000, the city now houses over 4,000,000 people, approximately one-third of

³⁹ World Gazetteer, "Angola: Largest Cities and Towns and Statistics of Their Population," 1 January 2010, <http://www.world-gazetteer.com/wg.php?x=&men=gcis&lng=en&des=wg&geo=-101&srt=npan&col=adhoq&msz=1500&geo=-19>

⁴⁰ Lonely Planet, "Luanda: History," 2011, <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/angola/luanda/history>

⁴¹ HowStuffWorks.com, "Geography of Luanda," 1998–2011, <http://geography.howstuffworks.com/africa/geography-of-luanda.htm>

⁴² Federal Research Division, Library of Congress, "Country Studies: Angola: Background to Economic Development," 1989, <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field%28DOCID+ao0094%29>

⁴³ Lonely Planet, "Luanda: History," 2011, <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/angola/luanda/history>

⁴⁴ BBC News, "War-Scarred Angola Seeks a Future," 4 April 2006, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/4872876.stm>

⁴⁵ *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, "Luanda," 2011, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/350301/Luanda>

⁴⁶ *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, "Luanda," 2011, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/350301/Luanda>

⁴⁷ Lonely Planet, "Angola: Introducing Luanda," 2011, <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/angola/luanda>

the nation's entire population.⁴⁸ The *bairros*, most without electricity, running water, trash collection, or other city services, have become permanent fixtures.

Huambo

The second largest city, Huambo lies at an elevation of 1,701 m (5,581 ft) in the western-central Bié Plateau, east of the coast.⁴⁹ Portuguese settlers and Benguela Railway construction workers founded Huambo in 1912. Residents renamed it Nova Lisboa in 1928, but after Angola became independent in 1975, the city name reverted to Huambo. It became the headquarters of the resistance group UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola).⁵⁰ During the Angolan civil war, front-line fighting was widespread in the city and surrounding area. Many factories and other structures were destroyed, plus the area was heavily mined, with devastating effects for agricultural productivity. Hunger remains prevalent in the area today.⁵¹ Since 2002, reconstruction of schools and buildings has taken place, and many of the land mines have been cleared.⁵² Surrounded by many gardens and parks and a forest reserve, Huambo is now undergoing development as a tourist center.^{53, 54} It is also a transport hub.⁵⁵



© memandabaami / flickr.com
Building in Huambo

Benguela

Located on the central coast, Benguela was built around a fortress in 1617, becoming a major Portuguese expansionist base in Africa. Through the years, it has remained a

⁴⁸ *The Washington Post*, "International Spotlight: Angola: Charming Chaos," 2011, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-adv/specialsales/spotlight/angola/article8.html>

⁴⁹ *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, "Huambo," 2011, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/274269/Huambo>

⁵⁰ *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, "Huambo," 2011, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/274269/Huambo>

⁵¹ BBC News, "War-Scarred Angola Seeks a Future," 4 April 2006, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/4872876.stm>

⁵² Brigitte Stark-Merklein, "Angola: April 2006: A Trip to Huambo, Angola Highlights Education Successes and Malaria Dangers," UNICEF, 5 May 2006, http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/angola_33792.html

⁵³ Travel.MapsofWorld.com, "Huambo, Angola," 11 August 2010, <http://travel.mapsofworld.com/angola/tourist-destinations/huambo.html>

⁵⁴ Gnn.iway.na, "Angola: Huambo City – November 2005," 22 December 2005, <http://www.gnn.iway.na/PS%20Angola%20Huambo.htm>

⁵⁵ *Encyclopædia Britannica Kids*, "Major Cities," 2011, <http://kids.britannica.com/comptons/article-276270/Angola>

transport center that linked the Democratic Republic of the Congo and points east through the Benguela Railway, the country's principle railway line.

Since the war ended, Benguela has once again become "the political and economic coordinating center for the activities of the hinterland to the east."⁵⁶ Benguela is a point for agricultural exports, mainly tobacco, coffee, and maize, which are grown in the country's interior. Its industries manufacture or process sugar, fish, tools, and soap.

Cabinda

A southern port in the northern enclave of Cabinda Province, Cabinda is Angola's primary port for shipping petroleum. The separatist movement has marked its history and that of the surrounding region. In 1885, the Portuguese settled Cabinda, and it became a Portuguese protectorate under the provisions of the Treaty of Simulambuco.^{57, 58} They united the region with the colony of Angola in 1956, but this did not bring peace.⁵⁹



© mp3ief / flickr.com
Streets in Cabinda

A substantial amount of Angola's oil wealth is from Cabinda Province. Large oil companies, many of them foreign multinationals, own most of the land in Cabinda.⁶⁰ The city has grown rapidly, and many oil workers live in the city's gated compounds.⁶¹ Complicating relations between locals and foreign workers, sharp wealth disparities exist between those who prosper from oil interests and average local citizens living in Cabinda. Since the 1960s, local residents have been active in separatist groups that seek independence; the most prominent is the Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda. Related fighting has affected residents of the city, and parts of the city are heavily guarded.⁶² The separatists have waged a resistance against Angolan government forces, whom they view as invaders.^{63, 64}

⁵⁶ *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, "Benguela," 2011, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/60816/Benguela>

⁵⁷ *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, "Angola: Economy: Transportation and Telecommunication: Ports," 2011, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/25137/Angola/272297/Ports>

⁵⁸ GlobalSecurity.org, "Cabinda, 2011, <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/cabinda.htm>

⁵⁹ *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, "Angola: Economy: Transportation and Telecommunication: Ports," 2011, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/25137/Angola/272297/Ports>

⁶⁰ W. Martin James III, *A Political History of the Civil War in Angola 1974–1990* (New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers, 2011), 22 – 23.

⁶¹ James Ferguson, *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2006), 198–199.

⁶² James Ferguson, *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2006), 198–199.

⁶³ GlobalSecurity.org, "Cabinda, 2011, <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/cabinda.htm>

Lobito

Located slightly north of Benguela on the coast, Lobito is a major port and center for foreign trade. It was founded by the Portuguese in 1843, and construction of its harbors began in the early 1900s. When the Benguela Railway was completed, Lobito was connected via railway with the Belgian Congo to the north.^{65, 66} The railroad, built in the early 1900s, was damaged and closed during the civil war but has since been partially rebuilt with the assistance of Chinese funding and labor.⁶⁷

Environmental Concerns

Angola's biggest environmental concerns are deforestation from logging, the use of wood for fuel, and subsistence agricultural practices. The country's northern rainforests are most heavily affected by subsistence farming, land clearing, and deforestation. Overpopulation contributes to the demand for cleared land and forest products. In addition, forests are often overlogged because of the demand for tropical wood products by foreign timber companies. In addition to the loss of natural forestland, harmful effects include soil erosion that contributes to the pollution of rivers and streams. Silting in rivers and dams also results from deforestation, often stopping the navigation of ships and boats.^{68, 69}



© mp3ief / flickr.com
Gathering firewood

Cabinda has been particularly harmed by deforestation, as well as the effects of war. Exploiting wood for timber and firewood, exploring for diamonds and oil, and mining have all caused tremendous destruction of land and water in this region. Diamond mining involves rechanneling rivers and using "high pressure hoses to wash and sift the alluvium in the original channel for diamonds," which results in extreme environmental impacts.⁷⁰ Oil drilling is common off the coast and results in oil spills in the estuaries and along the shore. One of the "most productive ecosystems on earth," the Benguela Current Large

⁶⁴ James Minahan, *Encyclopedia of the Stateless Nations: Ethnic and National Groups Around the World: Volume I: A – C* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2002), 348–354.

⁶⁵ *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, "Lobito," 2011, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/345467/Lobito>

⁶⁶ *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, "Benguela," 2011, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/60816/Bengu>

⁶⁷ Justin Rowlett, "China Follows British Footsteps to African Wealth," BBC News, 23 September 2010, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/from_our_own_correspondent/9023642.stm

⁶⁸ Central Intelligence Agency, "Angola: Geography: Environment—Current Issues," in *The World Factbook*, 22 March 2011, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ao.html>

⁶⁹ Mongabay.com, "Angola," 4 February 2006, <http://rainforests.mongabay.com/20angola.htm>

⁷⁰ USAID, "118/119 Biodiversity and Tropical Forest Assessment for Angola," May 2008, xv, http://www.encapafira.org/documents/biofor/BATS_118_119_Assessment_Angola_May_2008.pdf

Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) stretches from offshore Cabinda Province all the way to South Africa. This rich ecosystem and other offshore resources are being subjected to stress from toxins and “habitat degradation.”⁷¹ From the forests of Cabinda, trees are shipped to the Netherlands, Germany, and Portugal. Forestland is also destroyed through oil exploration and mining, in which toxic chemicals are used to extract gold and other minerals. They pollute rivers and ultimately the food supply, destroying fish and animals. Finally, long-lasting warfare in the Cabinda region caused great damage to the forests, land, and water.^{72, 73} Many of the roads are littered with land mines.⁷⁴

Natural Hazards

Heavy rainfall often causes damaging floods on the plateaus.⁷⁵ In March 2009, floods along the southern Angolan border left an estimated 25,000 people homeless.⁷⁶ The United Nations reported that 200,000 or more people in Angola were affected by the March 2009 flooding.⁷⁷ Besides losing their homes, people lost their livestock and their livelihoods. Food shortages and malarial or cholera outbreaks often followed the floods. The high waters were often unpredictable, like the flash flooding in Benguela Province and Luanda in January 2007, which killed over 70 people.⁷⁸



© mp3ief / flickr.com
Flooded Luanda river

⁷¹ Global Environment Facility, DLIST Benguela, “Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem,” 2005–06, http://www.dlist-benguela.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=107&Itemid=57

⁷² Jose Tomas, “The Environmental Problems in Angola: Case Study – Cabinda,” Portland Independent Media Center, 26 June 2007, <http://portland.indymedia.org/en/2007/06/361516.shtml>

⁷³ Alan Neff, “Cabinda, Angola: Angola’s Forgotten War: II. Environment Aspects,” ICE Case Studies, 2004, <http://www1.american.edu/ted/ice/cabinda.htm>

⁷⁴ ANGOP Politics, “Cabinda Deputy Governor Wants Greater Co-operation in Demining,” 9 December 2010, http://www.portalangop.co.ao/motix/en_us/noticias/politica/2010/11/49/Cabinda-deputy-governor-wants-greater-operation-demining.a4482bb0-bc0b-4b31-bcc3-767e5836ee8c.html

⁷⁵ Central Intelligence Agency, “Angola: Geography: Natural Hazards,” in *The World Factbook*, 22 March 2011, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ao.html>

⁷⁶ BBC News, “Floods Hit Angola-Namibia Border,” 13 March 2009, <http://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/floods-in-angola-may-trigger-food-shortage-1.438805http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/7941255.stm>

⁷⁷ IOL News, “Floods in Angola May Trigger Food Shortage,” 31 March 2009, <http://www.iol.co.za>

⁷⁸ BBC News, “Dozens Die in Angola Flash Floods,” 25 January 2007, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6299845.stm>

Chapter 1: Assessment

1. Angola is located in the Northern Hemisphere and has a predominantly arid climate.

False

Located below the equator, Angola has a tropical climate that fluctuates according to region and season.

2. Most of the population of Angola lives in the Central-Eastern Highlands.

True

Most Angolans have settled in the Central-Eastern Highlands on the rolling plateaus that make up most of the country's terrain. Some also live in the coastal area around Benguela and Lobito.

3. The Cuanza River is Angola's only river of economic significance.

False

Although the Cuanza River is navigable in its lower course for 255 km (160 mi), a shifting sandbar at its mouth inhibits navigation.

4. The Cabinda Province, where a separatist movement has arisen, is geographically separated from Angola.

True

Cabinda Province is separated from Angola by a narrow section of land belonging to the Democratic Republic of Congo. The region surrounding Cabinda has been marked by a movement toward separatism from the main country.

5. The Chinese have helped rebuild railway in Angola damaged during the country's civil war.

True

The railroad connecting Lobito to the Congo in the north was damaged during the civil war but has since been partially rebuilt with the assistance of Chinese funding and labor.

Chapter 2: History

Introduction

Until the Portuguese arrived over five centuries ago, Europeans had never stepped foot on the central west coast of Africa. Since then, the people of the Angolan region have experienced occupation, dictatorships, a slave trade that drained the country, and decades of civil war. Since the end of the civil war, the Angolan people have struggled to bring stability to their country.



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Civil war tank

Early History

The Bantus, a farming people, populated West Africa south of the Sahara Desert around 3,000 years ago. They could not grow crops in the rainforest and eventually migrated beyond the Congo River deep into southern Africa, where the land was better for raising livestock and farming. Also migrating east, the Bantu spread along the coast and into the southeastern interior.^{79, 80}



© Ferdinand Reus
Bantu woman

When the Portuguese arrived around 1482 on the coast of what is now northern Angola, the most important tribal kingdom was the Kongo Kingdom, from which Angola primarily emerged.⁸¹ The Kongo Kingdom was populated by the Bantu-speaking Bakongo people, a remnant of the Bantu civilization that had spread throughout southern, western, and eastern Africa. One of the earliest Bantu kingdoms, the Kongo Kingdom, was a relatively developed civilization that spread throughout northern Angola and along the Congo River's northern bank. Its royal court collected taxes, regulated currency, and managed a bureaucracy. Its people did metalworking, cloth weaving, and traded ivory and copper goods. The Bakongo people also kept slaves, both for labor and for wealth. They became wealthy by trading slaves with the coastal Europeans.^{82, 83}

⁷⁹ Nagueyalti Warren, "Bantu Migration," in *The Historical Encyclopedia of World Slavery: Volume I: A–K* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 1997), 69–70.

⁸⁰ Eduplace.com, "Bantu Migrations, 1000 B.C.–A.D. 1100," 3 May 2006, http://www.eduplace.com/kids/socsci/ca/books/bkf3/imaps/AC_06_206_bantu/AC_06_206_bantu.html

⁸¹ The History Files, "African Kingdoms, Central Africa: Kongo Kingdom," 1999–2011, <http://www.historyfiles.co.uk/KingListsAfrica/AfricaAngola.htm>

⁸² The Africa Guide, "African People & Culture: Bakongo," 1996–2011, <http://www.africaguide.com/culture/tribes/bakongo.htm>

Other important Bantu kingdoms in Angola included the Ndongo to the south, Matamba and Lunda kingdoms to the east, and Bié and Bailundu on the high plateau that lay east of Benguela. The Kwanhama Kingdom, established in the early 19th century, occupied much of the area of the present-day Angolan and Namibian border.⁸⁴ To the northeast, the Chokwe developed a cultural region, but it lacked a cohesive central government.⁸⁵

Portuguese Colonization

To establish their presence, the Portuguese exchanged dignitaries with the Kongo Kingdom's rulers as they explored the region's potential. Their most profitable activity was developing a slave trade to supply the Portuguese colony in Brazil and other offshore island territories. Roman Catholic priests were part of the Portuguese colonizing effort, establishing ties with local rulers and spreading their religion among the populace.^{86, 87} They acted as missionaries who promoted Portuguese rule. Their role was also heavily political. To profit from the new undertaking, priests sometimes became slave traders themselves.⁸⁸



Courtesy of Wikipedia.org
Queen Nzinga during peace negotiations

Through their combined activities, the Portuguese undermined the Kongo Kingdom and its surrounding cultures. In response, local resistance to Portuguese rule began to build, which led to an extended period of war and internal instability within the Kongo Kingdom.⁸⁹ Civil wars began in the 16th century as the kingdom disintegrated under Portuguese rule, which itself weakened after the 17th century.^{90, 91}

⁸³ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress, "Country Studies: Angola: Precolonial Angola and the Arrival of the Portuguese," 1989, <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field%28DOCID+ao0013%29>

⁸⁴ David Lea and Annamarie Rowe, eds., *A Political Chronology of Africa* (London: Europa Publications, 2001), 188.

⁸⁵ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress, "Country Studies: Angola: Precolonial Angola and the Arrival of the Portuguese," 1989, <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field%28DOCID+ao0013%29>

⁸⁶ The History Files, "African Kingdoms, Central Africa: Kongo Kingdom," 1999–2011, <http://www.historyfiles.co.uk/KingListsAfrica/AfricaAngola.htm>

⁸⁷ Infoplease, "Kongo, Kingdom of," 2000–2011, <http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/history/A0828072.html>

⁸⁸ Robert B. Edgerton, *The Troubled Heart of Africa: A History of the Congo*, (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2002), 14–17.

⁸⁹ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress, "Country Studies: Angola: Kongo Kingdom," 1989, <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field%28DOCID+ao0014%29>

⁹⁰ The History Files, "African Kingdoms, Central Africa: Kongo Kingdom," 1999–2011, <http://www.historyfiles.co.uk/KingListsAfrica/AfricaAngola.htm>

⁹¹ Infoplease, "Kongo, Kingdom of," 2000–2011, <http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/history/A0828072.html>

Portugal abolished the practice of exporting slaves in 1836 and banned slavery throughout the Portuguese empire in 1875. This, however, did not improve the Angolan people's lives. The government replaced slavery with a "massive forced labor system" that supported the mining sector, a plantation economy, and railway construction.^{92, 93} Even after slavery was illegal, it "continued in thinly disguised forms until 1911 and in many cases into the 1960s."⁹⁴

Colonial Transition

The entire Kongo region eventually became part of Angola and the region that is now the Democratic Republic of Congo. Although indigenous kings of the Independent State of Congo (Angola) had a small measure of independence, they still operated under Portuguese control. The classes became even more entrenched, with the Portuguese retaining upper-class power and privilege. Further, through the 1890s, settlers from Portugal continued to push farther into the Angolan interior, taking over the local people's land.^{95, 96, 97}



Courtesy of Wikipedia.org
Portuguese troops patrolling Angola

By 1920, all local kingdoms were under complete Portuguese control, but resistance against the Portuguese continued. Although Angola was creating considerable wealth for Portugal, the Angolan people did not derive any benefit from it. Their own prosperity stalled, and their political freedoms disappeared because of military campaigns and institutionalized racism that made them second-class citizens. In 1967, the Portuguese implemented a resettlement program for local Angolans, partly to promote development but also to organize against guerrilla attacks. These planned settlements not only

⁹² Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, "Background Note: Angola," 28 December 2010, <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6619.htm>

⁹³ *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, "Angola: History: Colonial Transition, 1820s–1910," 2011, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/25137/Angola>

⁹⁴ *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, "Angola: History: Colonial Transition, 1820s–1910," 2011, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/25137/Angola>

⁹⁵ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress, "Country Studies: Angola: Expansion and the Berlin Conference," February 1989, <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field%28DOCID+ao0025%29>

⁹⁶ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress, "Country Studies: Angola: Settlement, Conquest, and Development," February 1989, <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field%28DOCID+ao0026%29>

⁹⁷ The History Files, "African Kingdoms, Central Africa: Kongo Kingdom," 1999–2011, <http://www.historyfiles.co.uk/KingListsAfrica/AfricaAngola.htm>

disrupted Angolans' lives, but also caused the agricultural sector to break down.⁹⁸ Because of this, Angolans grew more politicized in their fight for independence.

Internally divided, they formed three rival rebel groups. The first, Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) was backed by the Soviet and Cuban governments. It was founded by members of the banned Portuguese Communist party in 1956. Many of its leaders had received their education in Lisbon and held socialist views. The next year, the pro-capitalist National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA) was formed, partly with U.S. aid. Many French-speaking northern Angolans who had gone to the Congo in search of employment and education supported this organization. The last major guerrilla group was National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), established in 1966 and particularly supported by tribes in the south. Many of its members were immigrants who had been forced to labor in port cities such as Lobito.^{99, 100} UNITA was primarily backed by South Africa and funded by trade in diamonds from captured diamond mines.¹⁰¹

20th Century: Independence and Civil War

The war for independence that took place in Angola in the 1960s and 1970s was accompanied by a civil war. Angola gained its independence in November 1975. After a 1974 coup in Portugal ended that nation's fascist dictatorship, the new Portuguese government released its colonies.¹⁰² This did not end the civil war, however. Fighting from bases in Zaire, the FNLA eventually became ineffective. UNITA also lacked organizational and military effectiveness. Although South African government forces invaded Angola, they encountered swift Soviet and Cuban resistance. The militarily stronger MPLA prevailed and controlled the Angolan government by late 1976.¹⁰³



Courtesy of Wikipedia.org
Antonio Oliveira de Salazar

The global rivalries for Angola's resources that played out in the civil war created lasting repercussions. From the beginning of

⁹⁸ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress, "Country Studies: Angola: Portuguese Economic Interests and Resistance to Angolan Independence," 1991, <http://countrystudies.us/angola/33.htm>

⁹⁹ History World, "History of Angola: Colonial Period: AD 1885–1975," 2001, <http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?historyid=ad33>

¹⁰⁰ Msia Kibona Clark, "Southern Africa: Empire in Africa: Angola and Its Neighbors," AllAfrica.com, 28 July 2006, <http://allafrica.com/stories/200607280130.html>

¹⁰¹ Thomas Collelo, ed., "History," in *Angola: A Country Study*, Federal Research Division, Library of Congress, 1991, <http://countrystudies.us/angola/3.htm>

¹⁰² History World, "History of Angola: Colonial Period: AD 1885–1975," 2001, <http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?historyid=ad33>

¹⁰³ Thomas Collelo, ed., "History," in *Angola: A Country Study*, Federal Research Division, Library of Congress, 1991, <http://countrystudies.us/angola/3.htm>

colonial rule in the late 15th century, Angola inherited bigoted policies that endured for centuries. This legislation, supported in the 20th century by the Portuguese dictator António Salazar, divided the Angolan population into the indigenous and the *assimilados*, a mulatto elite, who enjoyed some of the rights of Portuguese citizens.¹⁰⁴ The resulting divisions endured in the groups that made up the pro-independence movement, creating tension and suspicion among them.

A global competition between the FNLA, UNITA, and MPLA, further divided tribal groups through competing alliances. Countrywide, between 1975 and the late 1980s, Angolan society was marked by a Soviet-influenced organization in which the ruling party controlled a state sector noted for its corruption.

In the early 1980s, Angola emerged as a new hot spot in the Cold War conflict between the Soviet Union and the United States. The Vietnam War had concluded in the mid-1970s, and the superpowers now turned to Angola as a new battlefield for their wars by proxy.¹⁰⁵ Diamonds, oil, and foreign income continued to fund the country's ruling class. Strategic interests in the region saw American business and the United States government frequently at odds in supporting different Angolan factions.¹⁰⁶

Recent Events

After Angola became an independent republic in 1975, the government officially “established a one-party state headed by a president who was also chairman of the MPLA.”¹⁰⁷ The new constitution adopted in 1992 provided for a multiparty government. Under this system, the president—elected for a term of five years—became head of state, charged with appointing a prime minister.¹⁰⁸

Civil war between the political factions continued on and off until 2002, when UNITA forces (the main opposition to MPLA by that time) signed a ceasefire agreement.¹⁰⁹ When the United Nations froze bank accounts related to the unregulated diamond trade, which competing factions had used to fund the war, the country was thrown into disarray. Although hundreds of



© Ernmuhl / Wikipedia.org
UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi

¹⁰⁴ Jill R. Dias, “Famine and Disease in the History of Angola, c. 1830–1930,” *Journal of African History* 21, no. 3 (1981): 375.

¹⁰⁵ Achim Wennmann, *The Political Economy of Peacemaking* (New York: Routledge, 2011), 21.

¹⁰⁶ Julian E. Zelizer, *Arsenal of Democracy: The Politics of National Security – From World War II to the War on Terrorism* (New York: Basic Books, 2010), 263 – 264.

¹⁰⁷ *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, “Angola: Government and Society,” 2011, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/25137/Angola/43865/Government-and-society>

¹⁰⁸ Central Intelligence Agency, “Angola: Government,” in *The World Factbook*, 22 March 2011, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ao.html>

¹⁰⁹ The History Files, “African Kingdoms, Central Africa: Modern Angola,” 1999–2010, <http://www.historyfiles.co.uk/KingListsAfrica/AfricaAngola.htm>

thousands of Angolans lost their lives to war in the 20th century, the country is now attempting to rebuild its shattered infrastructure and economy, resettle refugees, and achieve stability. Political corruption remains widespread, however, preventing the implementation of social and economic reforms.^{110, 111}

Cabinda: History and Current Status

Fighting over oil resources continues in Cabinda Province. The Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda (FLEC, a merger of three resistance groups) began fighting the Portuguese in 1963. After Angola gained independence from Portugal, the MPLA took over Cabinda's rich oil resources.^{112, 113} The FLEC responded by redirecting and intensifying its fight for regional independence against the MPLA and Angolan government forces. The separatist movement in Cabinda continued through the 20th century and into the 21st. Although FLEC and the Angolan government negotiated a ceasefire in 2006 and discussions to end the conflict continue, peace has not yet been fully realized.¹¹⁴



© mp3ief / flickr.com
Men in the back of a truck

¹¹⁰ BBC News, "Angola Country Profile," 24 November 2010, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1063073.stm

¹¹¹ Lonely Planet, "Angola: History: Angola Today," 2011, <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/angola/history>

¹¹² GlobalSecurity.org, "Cabinda," 2000–2011, <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/cabinda.htm>

¹¹³ Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, "Background Note: Angola: History," 28 December 2010, <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6619.htm>

¹¹⁴ GlobalSecurity.org, "Cabinda," 2000–2011, <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/cabinda.htm>

Chapter 2: Assessment

1. The Portuguese were the first Europeans to explore West Africa.

True

Until the Portuguese arrived over five centuries ago, Europeans had never stepped foot on the central west coast of Africa.

2. European colonization of Angola has benefited the continent.

False

Since the arrival of Europeans more than five centuries ago, the people of the Angolan region have experienced colonial occupation, dictatorial rule, a slave trade that drained the country, and decades of civil war.

3. Although the practice of exporting slaves from Angola was outlawed by Portugal in the late 1800s, continued colonization of the region forced Angolans to work to support foreign business interests.

True

Portugal abolished the practice of exporting slaves in 1836 and banned slavery throughout the Portuguese empire in 1875. This, however, did not improve the Angolan people's lives. The government replaced slavery with a "massive forced labor system" that supported the mining sector, a plantation economy, and railway construction. Even after slavery was made illegal, it "continued in thinly disguised forms until 1911 and in many cases into the 1960s."

4. As a result of military superiority, the Soviet-backed MPLA won the Angolan Civil War.

True

The militarily stronger MPLA, backed by the Soviet Union and Cuba, prevailed in the Angola civil war and controlled the Angolan government by late 1976.

5. The diamond trade in Angola has perpetuated the country's civil war.

True

The guerilla group UNITA was primarily backed by South Africa and funded by trade in diamonds from captured diamond mines. As diamonds, oil, and foreign income continued to fund the country's ruling class, financial gains from these enterprises, particularly oil, were used to pay Cuban troops to protect the Angolan government and its oil installations from attacks. Diamonds were also used to fund factions in the war.

Chapter 3: Economy

Introduction

Angolan territory is rich in mineral resources, including oil (the driving force behind the economy), diamonds, copper, and iron. Despite this mineral wealth, the country is profoundly poor. Because of financial and political practices that reward the well-connected upper class, benefits from the resource boom have mostly gone to a select few.^{115, 116, 117, 118} Between 38% and 40.5% of the population live below the poverty line, with 26% living drastically below it.^{119, 120}



© Yen Boechat
Angolan men

The Angolan economy's inability to recover from civil war is mainly caused by the systemic corruption that did not diminish after the civil war ended.^{121, 122, 123, 124} In economies based on a key natural resource (such as oil in Angola), the government can easily be influenced by pervasive and corrupt business practices. This unbalanced influence in turn lowers accountability in all areas, thereby weakening any state oversight of the economy. In Angola, fiscal discrepancies that occurred in the years just before

¹¹⁵ *The Economist*, "Angola's Wealth: Mine, All Mine," 10 February 2011, <http://www.economist.com/node/18118935>

¹¹⁶ BBC News, "Angola's President Calls for Crackdown on Corruption," 21 November 2009, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8372735.stm>

¹¹⁷ Reuters Africa, "Angola Denies Billions Diverted by Graft," 11 April 2011, <http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJJOE73A07420110411>

¹¹⁸ IRIN, "Angola: Poor Marks for Progress on MDG," 23 October 2006, <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=61395>

¹¹⁹ United Nations Development Programme, "Angola: Poverty Reduction," 2010, <http://www.ao.undp.org/Poverty%20Reduction.htm>

¹²⁰ Central Intelligence Agency, "Angola: Economy," in *The World Factbook*, 6 April 2011, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ao.html>

¹²¹ Tim Butcher, "As Guerrilla War Ends, Corruption Now Bleeds Angola to Death," *The Telegraph*, 30 July 2002, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/angola/1403050/As-guerrilla-war-ends-corruption-now-bleeds-Angola-to-death.html>

¹²² BBC News, "Angola's President Calls for Crackdown on Corruption," 21 November 2009, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8372735.stm>

¹²³ Reuters Africa, "Data Reveal Huge Sums Spirited Out of Angola," 6 April 2011, <http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJJOE7350PK20110406?pageNumber=3&virtualBrandChannel=0>

¹²⁴ IRIN, "Angola: Poor Marks for Progress on MDG," 23 October 2006, <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=61395>

2001 represented 2-23 percent of the country's GDP, most of which related to its oil dependence.^{125, 126} In 2009, approximately one-sixth of the annual budget disappeared as last recorded.¹²⁷

Agriculture

The country had been a “major African agricultural exporter” during the last years of colonialism.¹²⁸ At that time, most of the plantations and farms were run by Portuguese emigrants. They “appropriated Angolan lands, disrupting local peasant production of cash and subsistence crops,” and exported their produce back to Portugal, Angola's main market.^{129, 130}

After independence, the Angolan people lacked the training necessary to operate large agribusinesses and no longer had easy access to Portugal as a market. The government nationalized farms that the Portuguese had abandoned and established state farms in their place. Because no local managerial class existed, and sporadic conflict continued in the countryside, efforts to boost productivity failed. In response, the government discontinued the state farm system and privatized most farming. These attempts also failed, given the shortages of equipment and supplies and difficulties with transportation, including the fact that landmines were strewn throughout the countryside.¹³¹

The country's agricultural sector has never recovered from the civil war. Demining efforts, the return of refugees to their farmlands, and infrastructure repair have all contributed to improved conditions, allowing small-scale agriculture to increase. Still,



© mp3ief / flickr.com
Women at roadside
produce market

¹²⁵ Michael Ross, *Natural Resources and Civil War: An Overview with Some Policy Options* (Washington: World Bank, 13 December 2002), 9–10, <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTCPR/1091081-1115626319273/20482496/Ross.pdf>

¹²⁶ Reuters Africa, “Data Reveal Huge Sums Spirited Out of Angola,” 6 April 2011, <http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE7350PK20110406?pageNumber=3&virtualBrandChannel=0>

¹²⁷ Reuters Africa, “Angola Denies Billions Diverted by Graft,” 11 April 2011, <http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE73A07420110411>

¹²⁸ Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, “Background Notes: Angola: Economy,” 11 April 2011, <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6619.htm>

¹²⁹ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress, “Country Studies: Angola: Background to Economic Development,” 1989, <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field%28DOCID+ao0094%29>

¹³⁰ Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, “Background Note: Angola: History,” 11 April 2011, <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6619.htm>

¹³¹ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress, “Country Studies: Angola: Agriculture,” 1989, <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field%28DOCID+ao0108%29>

Angola imports half of its food from other countries.¹³² Most farming is for subsistence, and most of the population practices it.¹³³

Industry

The civil war greatly weakened the country's relatively diverse industrial base, which had been developed by the Portuguese.¹³⁴ Today, the main industries in Angola are mining, drilling for oil, refining petroleum products, and repairing ships. Areas of manufacturing include textiles, sugar, tobacco products, and food processing.¹³⁵ Most industrial production is based in Luanda.



© Paulo César Santos
Ship dock, Namibe harbor

¹³² Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, "Background Notes: Angola: Economy," 11 April 2011, <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6619.htm>

¹³³ Central Intelligence Agency, "Angola: Economy," in *The World Factbook*, 6 April 2011, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ao.html>

¹³⁴ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress, "Country Study: Angola: The Economy," 1989, <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstyd:@field%28DOCID+ao0093%29>

¹³⁵ Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, "Background Notes: Angola: Economy," 11 April 2011, <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6619.htm>

Natural and Energy Resources

Failure to diversify economically—tied to reliance on natural resource wealth—has impeded Angola’s growth.¹³⁶ Such a condition can “weaken governments – making them less capable of resolving social conflicts and providing public goods, like health care and education.”¹³⁷ Because of widespread fraud, bribery, smuggling, and graft, law and order can be undermined, opening the door to “criminal gangs, warlords, and rogue military officers, who may eventually grow strong enough to challenge the government.”¹³⁸ This situation exists today in Angola’s diamond



© Tom Jervis
Offshore rig, Cabinda

mining regions, North and South Lunda provinces, where the risk of violence and civil unrest remains high, even though the civil war ended in 2002.^{139, 140} Further, the government’s dependence on income from natural resources may cause a failure to “develop the type of bureaucracy that can intervene effectively in social conflicts. The result may be a heightened danger of civil war.”¹⁴¹ Cabinda Province, the region where, until recently, most of the nation’s oil was produced, is one of the last holdouts of civil war in Angola. “Militant groups claiming independence” have remained active in the province, and sporadic attacks still occur against the Angolan Armed Forces.^{142, 143, 144}

¹³⁶ Reuters, “Data Reveal Huge Sums Spirited Out of Angola,” 6 April 2011, <http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJJOE7350PK20110406?pageNumber=3&virtualBrandChannel=0>

¹³⁷ Michael Ross, *Natural Resources and Civil War: An Overview with Some Policy Options* (Washington: World Bank, 13 December 2002), 11, <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTCPR/1091081-1115626319273/20482496/Ross.pdf>

¹³⁸ Michael Ross, *Natural Resources and Civil War: An Overview with Some Policy Options* (Washington: World Bank, 13 December 2002) 11, <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTCPR/1091081-1115626319273/20482496/Ross.pdf>

¹³⁹ Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government, “Travel Advice: Angola,” 19 April 2011, <http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/Advice/Angola>

¹⁴⁰ Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State, “Angola Country Specific Information,” 30 August 2010, http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1096.html

¹⁴¹ Michael Ross, *Natural Resources and Civil War: An Overview with Some Policy Options* (Washington: World Bank, 13 December 2002), 11, <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTCPR/1091081-1115626319273/20482496/Ross.pdf>

¹⁴² Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government, “Travel Advice: Angola,” 19 April 2011, <http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/Advice/Angola>

¹⁴³ U.S. Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, “Angola: Background,” January 2010, <http://www.eia.doe.gov/countries/cab.cfm?fips=AO>

¹⁴⁴ Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State, “Angola Country Specific Information: Threats to Safety and Security,” 30 August 2010, http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1096.html

Through the years, separatist groups in Cabinda have demanded “a greater share of oil revenue for the province’s population.”¹⁴⁵

Oil Sector

In 2009, Angola temporarily surpassed Nigeria to become the largest producer of crude oil in Africa, but has fallen now to second.¹⁴⁶ Oil revenues now account for more than 80% of Angola’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Angola is now one of China’s main suppliers of oil, also using it to back loans that China provides for infrastructure development.^{147, 148}



© Tom Jervis
Offshore platform, Cabinda

Angola created Sonangol, a national oil company, in 1976. Through joint agreements, Sonangol partners with foreign oil corporations such as BP, ExxonMobil, Chevron, and companies in China.¹⁴⁹ Most of Angola’s oil is located offshore. Onshore production and exploration are focused around the Cabinda but stopped during the civil war.¹⁵⁰

Oil wealth in Angola has been important in stimulating economic growth and infrastructure reconstruction. At the same time, the wealth is tightly controlled, with most of it channeled into the hands of an elite class that runs the country.^{151, 152, 153} In addition,

¹⁴⁵ GlobalSecurity.org, “Military: Cabinda,” 2011, <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/cabinda.htm>

¹⁴⁶ U.S. Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, “Crude Oil and Total Petroleum Imports Top 15 Countries,” 2011, http://www.eia.gov/pub/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/company_level_imports/current/import.html

¹⁴⁷ U.S. Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, “Angola: Background,” January 2010, <http://www.eia.doe.gov/countries/cab.cfm?fips=AO>

¹⁴⁸ Central Intelligence Agency, “Angola: Economy,” in *The World Factbook*, 6 April 2011, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ao.html>

¹⁴⁹ U.S. Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, “Angola: Sector Organization,” January 2010, <http://www.eia.doe.gov/countries/cab.cfm?fips=AO>

¹⁵⁰ U.S. Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, “Angola: Exploration and Production: Onshore,” January 2010, <http://www.eia.doe.gov/countries/cab.cfm?fips=AO>

¹⁵¹ *The Economist*, “Angola’s Wealth: Mine, All Mine,” 10 February 2011, <http://www.economist.com/node/18118935>

¹⁵² BBC News, “Angola’s President Calls for Crackdown on Corruption,” 21 November 2009, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8372735.stm>

¹⁵³ Reuters Africa, “Angola Denies Billions Diverted by Graft,” 11 April 2011, <http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE73A07420110411>

financial losses have occurred in Angola’s oil sector as a result of corruption between business and government.¹⁵⁴

Business corruption remains a problem that interferes with distribution of the nation’s oil wealth in a way that could benefit the nation’s infrastructure and the Angolan people’s standard of living.^{155, 156}

Mining and Minerals

Diamond mining in Angola is big business. The nation is the fifth-largest source worldwide.¹⁵⁷

Since its inception around 1917, diamond mining has made a few people rich, and has not provided any benefit to local Angolans. At that time, a Portuguese, Belgian, and British consortium of investors created the firm known as Diamang (now state-owned). By 1971, Angola was ranked as the world’s fourth-largest source of diamonds.^{158, 159} After independence, the illegal production of diamonds increased, and the government nationalized Diamang. Competition to control the unregulated trade in “blood diamonds,” which were used to finance factions in the Civil War, led the United Nations (UN) to freeze financial accounts associated with gem trading.¹⁶⁰ The Angolan government has periodically expelled illegal foreign diamond miners and smugglers due to economic and social upheaval from the illicit trade. Deportation of illegal diamond workers, many of whom are from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, sparked controversy. Many have charged Angolan troops with “acts of violence and degrading treatment” reportedly directed at the migrant workers.^{161, 162}



© Julien Harneis
Wolframite miner

¹⁵⁴ Reuters Africa, “Angola Denies Billions Diverted by Graft,” 11 April 2011, <http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJJOE73A07420110411>

¹⁵⁵ Reuters Africa, “Angola Denies Billions Diverted by Graft,” 11 April 2011, <http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJJOE73A07420110411>

¹⁵⁶ *The Economist*, “Angola’s Wealth: Mine, All Mine,” 10 February 2011, <http://www.economist.com/node/18118935>

¹⁵⁷ *The Economist*, “Angola’s Wealth: Mine, All Mine,” 10 February 2011, <http://www.economist.com/node/18118935>

¹⁵⁸ Banco Kwanza Invest, “History of the Diamond Sector in Angola,” 2010, <http://www.bancoquantum.com/en/angola/the-diamond-sector/history-of-the-diamond-sector-in-angola>

¹⁵⁹ KHI, Inc, “West African Diamonds: Angola: Angola and Conflict Diamonds,” 2007, http://www.allaboutgemstones.com/conflict-diamond_angola.html

¹⁶⁰ BBC News, “Angola Country Profile: Overview,” 23 August 2010, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1063073.stm

¹⁶¹ Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, U.S. Department of State, “Section 1 Respect for the Integrity of the Person, Including Freedom From: c. Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading

Trade: Exports and Imports

Crude oil produced in Angola constitutes more than 90% of the nation's export revenues.¹⁶³

Other exports are relatively small by comparison. They include diamonds (approximately 5% of GDP), coffee, cotton, timber, and fish products. Angola exports its oil and products mainly to China and the United States.¹⁶⁴ In particular, trade agreements with China have been growing rapidly in the last few years.¹⁶⁵



© mp3ief / flickr.com
Port, Luanda

Angola imports food and most of the manufactured commodities its population requires. They include medicine, machinery, vehicles and parts, textiles, and electrical equipment. Top import sources include Portugal, China, the United States, Brazil, and South Korea.¹⁶⁶

Transportation

Although the Portuguese left a developed network of roads in Angola, they have fallen into disrepair. Outside the capital, roads are often dangerous to travel on, and in some areas landmines may still exist on or near roads. In Luanda, roads are also poorly maintained.¹⁶⁷



© jirsousa / flickr.com
Road, Luanda

Although the Benguela Railway was once a highly developed transport system for the country, railways in Angola today offer only limited

Treatment or Punishment,” in *2009 Human Rights Report: Angola*, 11 March 2010, <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2009/af/135937.htm>

¹⁶² UN News Centre, “UN Reports Ongoing Expulsions of DR Congo Citizens from Angola,” 29 December 2010, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=37178>

¹⁶³ U.S. Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, “Angola: Background,” January 2010, <http://www.eia.doe.gov/countries/cab.cfm?fips=AO>

¹⁶⁴ Central Intelligence Agency, “Angola: Economy,” in *The World Factbook*, 6 April 2011, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ao.html>

¹⁶⁵ Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, “Background Notes: Angola: Economy,” 11 April 2011, <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6619.htm>

¹⁶⁶ Central Intelligence Agency, “Angola: Economy,” in *The World Factbook*, 6 April 2011, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ao.html>

¹⁶⁷ Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State, “Traffic Safety and Road Conditions,” 30 August 2010, http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1096.html#traffic_safety

service.¹⁶⁸ Its history is linked to the history of the nation. Crucial to the development of Angola's mining trade, railroads were built in the 19th century. In 1836, Portugal abolished its slave trade and replaced it with a forced labor system that supported the mining sector and a plantation economy. In addition,

forced labor combined with British financing to construct three railroads from the coast to the interior, the most important of which was the transcontinental Benguela railroad that linked the port of Lobito with the copper zones of the Belgian Congo and what is now Zambia...¹⁶⁹

The Portuguese built the port city of Lobito in 1905, and in 1928, Lobito became the western terminus of the Benguela railroad.¹⁷⁰

During the Angolan Civil War that began in the 1970s, the Benguela railway was damaged so badly it ceased to operate. Since it linked the mines of the interior to the coast, mining operations that supplied materials at the railway's shipping origin also ended. A few years after the civil war ended, to "facilitate access to shipping zones," the Angolan government with Chinese assistance began railway reconstruction.^{171, 172, 173} By the end of December 2005, teams of specialists had demined approximately 700 km (435 mi) of railway track so that construction could begin.¹⁷⁴ Rebuilding of the railway is still underway, largely funded by Chinese investment in exchange for oil.^{175, 176} The railway construction is contributing to transportation and trade in Angola.^{177, 178, 179}

¹⁶⁸ Lonely Planet, "Angola: Getting Around: Train," 2011, <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/angola/transport/getting-around>

¹⁶⁹ Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, "Background Note: Angola: History," 11 April 2011, <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6619.htm>

¹⁷⁰ Manraaj Singh, "The Railroad to Africa's Riches," Fleet Street Invest, 19 August 2008, <http://www.fleetstreetinvest.co.uk/emerging-markets/african-markets/benguela-railway-07362.html>

¹⁷¹ Macauhub, "Angola: Benguela Railway Fundamental to Region's Development, Minister Says," 19 March 2008, <http://www.mcauhub.com.mo/en/2008/03/19/4737/>

¹⁷² Macauhub, "Chinese Ship Arrives in Angola with Materials for Rebuilding Benguela Railroad," 14 February 2006, <http://www.mcauhub.com.mo/en/2006/02/14/517/>

¹⁷³ Cpires.com, "CFB Benguela Railway," 12 November 2009, http://www.cpires.com/angola_comboios_en.html

¹⁷⁴ Macauhub, "Half of Benguela Railway Cleared of Landmines," 20 December 2005, <http://www.mcauhub.com.mo/en/2005/12/20/211/>

¹⁷⁵ Justin Rowlett, "From Our Own Correspondent: China Follows British Footsteps to African Wealth," BBC News, 23 September 2010, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/from_our_own_correspondent/9023642.stm

¹⁷⁶ Economist Intelligence Unit, "Angola Economy: Railway Rehabilitation Progressing," 26 July 2010, http://www.eiu.com/index.asp?layout=VWArticleVW3&article_id=197300604®ion_id=&country_id=860000286&channel_id=190004019&category_id=&refm=vwCh&page_title=Article&rf=0

¹⁷⁷ *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, "Angolan to Congo Benguela Railway to Reopen," January 2008, <http://www.britannica.com/bps/additionalcontent/18/28042893/Angolan-to-Congo-Benguela-railway-to-reopen>

Standard of Living

Angolans outside of the elite class have a very poor standard of living.¹⁸⁰ In the *musseques*, or informal areas of the cities where slums are located, shelters are self-constructed. Many are built from sheets of tin. Public services are minimal to non-existent in these areas. In Luanda, only 9% of the population has access to running water, a lower figure than existed during the civil war. Countrywide, approximately half of the population lacks health care, and infant mortality is among the highest in the world.¹⁸¹ Life expectancy for the general population is close to 39 years of age.¹⁸²



© nathanhj / flickr.com
Houses in Catumbela

Civil servants have a relatively high standard of living. This segment of the population receives city services, including access to running water for their houses. The wealthy, whose standard of living stands in even starker contrast to that of the poor, constitutes a small number of people. They typically live in expensive homes and live extravagant lifestyles.¹⁸³

Public vs. Private Sector

Alongside the corrupt business environment, an inefficient bureaucracy slows growth and the development of a robust private sector. Loans are slow to process, and setting up a new business is a complicated, time-consuming process. Red tape in commercial dealings blocks progress in all areas, both public and private. Government contracts are padded, pay-offs are common, and services promised are not delivered. The nation's president, José Eduardo dos Santos, claims to



© nathanhj / flickr.com
Bank, Angola

¹⁷⁸ Cpires.com, "CFB Benguela Railway," 12 November 2009, http://www.cpires.com/angola_comboios_en.html

¹⁷⁹ Railways Africa, "Benguela Reconstruction," 19 March 2009, <http://www.railwaysafrica.com/blog/2009/03/benguela-reconstruction/>

¹⁸⁰ *The Economist*, "Angola's Wealth: Mine, All Mine," 10 February 2011, <http://www.economist.com/node/18118935>

¹⁸¹ *The Economist*, "Angola's Wealth: Mine, All Mine," 10 February 2011, <http://www.economist.com/node/18118935>

¹⁸² Central Intelligence Agency, "Angola: People," in *The World Factbook*, 6 April 2011, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ao.html>

¹⁸³ *The Economist*, "Angola's Wealth: Mine, All Mine," 10 February 2011, <http://www.economist.com/node/18118935>

prefer private enterprise and foreign competition. He has a Marxist background, however, having served in prominent positions in the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA). Furthermore, he pursues protectionist policies that discourage trade. Those who benefit from his policies include former members of the MPLA, to whom he extends economic favoritism in exchange for their loyalty. Business suffers on all fronts. It is not uncommon for officials to “seize state assets through rigged privatisations or rip off the public treasury in bail-outs of private companies.”¹⁸⁴

Economic Trends

Prospects for employment improved in Angola’s construction and agricultural sectors because of postwar growth in the country. Resettlement of displaced persons contributed to the growth because infrastructure and settlements were needed to support the increased population. In its drive to rebuild, the Angolan government “has used billions of dollars in credit lines from China, Brazil, Portugal, Germany, Spain, and the EU.”



© Kaysha / flickr.com
Sunrise in Luanda

The resulting economic growth stalled, however, as a result of global recession, which brought many construction projects to a halt. In addition, corruption remains a challenge to economic growth.¹⁸⁵ According to the U.S. Department of State, Angola remains beset by corruption and economic mismanagement.¹⁸⁶ In spite of Angola’s rich oil resources, “it was ranked 157 out of 179 countries on the 2008 UN Development Program’s (UNDP) Human Development Index,” and “subsistence agriculture sustains one-third of the population.”¹⁸⁷ The commercial banking sector and the state-owned oil company Sonangol lack oversight and transparency, and money laundering remains a problem for the nation. Providing some prospect for future growth, the United States conducts substantial trade with Angola, its “second-largest trading partner...in sub-Saharan Africa, mainly because of its petroleum exports.”¹⁸⁸

¹⁸⁴ *The Economist*, “Angola’s Wealth: Mine, All Mine,” 10 February 2011, <http://www.economist.com/node/18118935>

¹⁸⁵ Central Intelligence Agency, “Angola: Economy,” in *The World Factbook*, 6 April 2011, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ao.html>

¹⁸⁶ Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, “Background Note: Angola: Economy,” 11 April 2011, <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6619.htm>

¹⁸⁷ Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, “Background Note: Angola: Economy,” 11 April 2011, <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6619.htm>

¹⁸⁸ Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, “Background Note: Angola: Economy,” 11 April 2011, <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6619.htm>

Chapter 3: Assessment

1. Diamonds are more important to the Angolan economy than oil, copper, or iron.

False

Angolan territory is rich in mineral resources, including oil (the driving force behind the economy).

2. Corruption in the oil industry is a serious problem in Angola.

True

The oil industry in Angola has been characterized by pervasive corrupt business practices, which lower accountability in all areas of government.

3. Government efforts to privatize Angolan farms have been successful.

False

Although the government discontinued the state farm system and privatized most farming, their attempt failed because of equipment and supply shortages, as well as difficulties with transportation (landmines were strewn throughout the countryside).

4. Repairing ships is an important industry in Angola.

True

Today, the main industries in Angola are mining, drilling for oil, refining petroleum products, and repairing ships.

5. The FAA is a guerilla group advocating independence for Cabinda Province.

False

The Armed Forces of Angola are known as the FAA.

Chapter 4: Society

Introduction

Angola is a land of strong traditions that include indigenous customs and beliefs, Roman Catholicism, and worldviews that blend the African with the European. Angolan literary traditions have developed from Bantu-speaking tribal customs as well as from Portuguese-African views influenced by Portuguese education. These traditions have molded the society, combining in ways that focused “anti-colonial resistance and played an important role in the independence struggle.”¹⁸⁹



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Angolan boy

For many years, Angolan society has been disrupted by almost continuous warfare and is in the process of rebuilding. In the 27 years since Portuguese colonial rule (and resistance to it) ended, civil war both shaped and undermined the nation, propelled by cold war factionalism, regional rivalries, and competition over natural resources.^{190, 191} Although the civil war ended in 2002, decades of conflict have led to widespread disruptions in Angolan society. Despite natural resource wealth, Angola was ranked 146 out of 169 countries on the 2010 UN Development Programme’s (UNDP) Human Development Index.¹⁹²

Ethnic Groups and Languages

The majority of people in Angola belong to three main ethnic groups, the Ovimbundu, Kimbundu, and Kongo. People of European descent constitute only 1% of the population. A small percentage of the population is mixed European (*mestico*) and native African.¹⁹³ Several other ethnic groups, both Bantu and non-Bantu, are scattered through the country.

¹⁸⁹ The Embassy of Angola, “Culture of Angola,” n.d., <http://www.angolaembassy.hu/index.php?lang=en>

¹⁹⁰ Minority Rights Group International, “World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples–Angola: Overview: History,” UNCHR, Refworld, 2007, <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,,COUNTRYPROF,AGO,,4954ce2523,0.html>

¹⁹¹ Guus Meijer and David Birmingham, “Angola from Past to Present,” Conciliation Resources, 2004, <http://www.c-r.org/our-work/accord/angola/past-present.php>

¹⁹² UN Development Programme, “Human Development Index (HDI)–2010 Rankings,” 2011 <http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/>

¹⁹³ Central Intelligence Agency, “Angola: People,” in *The World Factbook*, 6 April 2011, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ao.html>

Ovimbundu

The Ovimbundu are the largest ethnolinguistic group in Angola, accounting for approximately 37% of the population.¹⁹⁴ They live around the Bié Plateau in central Angola. Many also live in Luanda, where they migrated from rural areas in the 20th century, searching for jobs. They speak Umbundu, one of several Bantu languages of the region.^{195, 196}

Kimbundu

The Kimbundu people are the second-largest ethnic group, making up about one-fourth of Angola's population.¹⁹⁷ They speak Kimbundu, a Bantu language, although many also speak Portuguese as their first language. They live in northwestern and north-central Angola. Kimbundu are found in Luanda and towns along the coast.^{198, 199}



© DoD image
Kimbundu woman

Kongo

The Kongo group occupies northwestern and north-central Angola. They also live in Luanda and are spread through Angola's Cabinda Province, as well as countries just north of Angola. They speak Kikongo, the language of the ancient Kongo kingdom that lay near the mouth of the Congo River.²⁰⁰ The Kongo people have a reputation of being entrepreneurs of business, religion and politics.²⁰¹

¹⁹⁴ Central Intelligence Agency, "Angola: People," in *The World Factbook*, 6 April 2011, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ao.html>

¹⁹⁵ *Encyclopædia Britannica*, "Angola: People: Ethnic and Linguistic Composition," 2011, <http://www.history.com/topics/angola>

¹⁹⁶ Minority Rights Group International, "World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples—Angola: Overview," UNHCR, Refworld, 2007, <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,,COUNTRYPROF,AGO,,4954ce2523,0.html>

¹⁹⁷ Central Intelligence Agency, "Angola: People," in *The World Factbook*, 6 April 2011, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ao.html>

¹⁹⁸ *Encyclopædia Britannica*, "Angola: People: Ethnic and Linguistic Composition," 2011, <http://www.history.com/topics/angola>

¹⁹⁹ Minority Rights Group International, "World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples – Angola: Overview," UNHCR, Refworld, 2007, <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,,COUNTRYPROF,AGO,,4954ce2523,0.html>

²⁰⁰ *Encyclopædia Britannica*, "Angola: People: Ethnic and Linguistic Composition," 2011, <http://www.history.com/topics/angola>

²⁰¹ Minority Rights Group International, "World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples—Angola: Overview," UNHCR, Refworld, 2007, <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,,COUNTRYPROF,AGO,,4954ce2523,0.html>

Other Ethnic Groups

Other ethnic groups live in small numbers throughout Angola. The Ambo, Herero, and Haneca-Humbe live in the southwestern region. They keep cattle and lead a semi-nomadic lifestyle. Other Bantu speakers known as Chokwe are spread through the northeastern and central-eastern highlands. Xindonga live in the far southeastern corner, and Ganguela tribes occupy an adjoining region in southeastern Angola. Members of the non-Bantu-speaking indigenous Khoisan group live in the south, including nomadic tribes of San and Kwisi peoples. They are hunter-gatherers and traders.^{202, 203}

Religion: An Overview

Christianity in the form of Roman Catholicism is the majority religion in Angola, practiced by approximately 55–70% of the population. Figures on church membership vary widely, depending on the source soliciting and reporting the data. Many Angolan people are members of African Christian churches that mix Christianity and traditional, tribal beliefs. Around 10% or fewer are Protestant, including Baptist, Methodist, Adventist, and Congregationalist churches. Some people also follow Brazilian evangelical traditions or Angolan indigenous religions that include animism.²⁰⁴ In addition to these churches, a small Muslim community is present in Angola, made up of people who migrated from Lebanon or West Africa.^{205, 206}



© mp3ief / flickr.com
Christian church

Christian churches in Angola have traditionally been a “forum for political and social organization.”²⁰⁷ Strong ties exist between the local people and religious organizations such as the Catholic and evangelical churches. To build relations, the Catholic Church began addressing questions of effective “inculturation” in the 1960s, recommending “evangelical sensitivity and respect to local cultures.” By following this trend, the Church

²⁰² Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection, University of Texas, “Angola Tribes,” 8 April 2004, http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/africa/angola_tribes_1970.jpg

²⁰³ Minority Rights Group International, “World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples—Angola: Overview,” UNCHR, Refworld, 2007, <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4954ce2523.html>

²⁰⁴ All statistics in this paragraph are taken from: Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, U.S. Department of State, “Angola: Section 1. Religious Demography” in *International Religious Freedom Report 2010*, 17 November 2010, <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2010/148660.htm>

²⁰⁵ Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, U.S. Department of State, “Angola: Section 1. Religious Demography,” in *International Religious Freedom Report 2010*, 17 November 2010, <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2010/148660.htm>

²⁰⁶ Ronald J. Allen, “Creating an Indigenous African Church,” in *The Christian Century*, Religion-online.org, 1991, <http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=138>

²⁰⁷ Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, U.S. Department of State, “Angola: Section 1. Religious Demography,” in *International Religious Freedom Report 2010*, 17 November 2010, <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2010/148660.htm>

has been more effective in acquiring local converts who will support the Church and participate in its activities.²⁰⁸

Indigenous Religious Beliefs

Before Christianity arrived, people in the Angola region followed traditional spirituality connected to the natural world. Such practices included worship of ancestors and forces in nature, sometimes overseen by territorial deities. Deceased ancestors are believed to remain influential among the living. If not properly honored and placated through ceremonies, they can cause long-term grief and even destruction to those within a community.²⁰⁹



© nathanhj / flickr.com
Benguela women in church

Faith in a “creator high god” was also widespread.²¹⁰ Such beliefs endure, commonly interwoven into Angolans’ Christian traditions. Many of the independent African churches incorporate “Holy Ghost” or charismatic ministries into informal worship and traditional African beliefs.²¹¹

History of Christianity

Christianity came to the region with Portuguese explorers near the close of the 15th century and became established by the mid-16th century. European Catholic missionaries proselytized intensively around Luanda and inland, subsidized by the Portuguese government. Around the end of the 19th century, Protestant missionaries began to convert many Catholics to Protestantism, developing a particularly strong following in the Ovimbundu tribal region in west-central Angola.²¹²

Nationalist leaders were often Protestant and actively opposed the Catholic Church’s influence in Angola. At the same time, many of the People’s Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) leaders were against religion in general. Adopting Marxist-Leninist ideology, they denounced religious organizations, especially the Catholic Church for its “collaboration with the colonial state.”²¹³ The MPLA confiscated church property and

²⁰⁸ Nwaka Chris Egbulem, “Chapter 26: Mission and Inculturation: Africa” in *The Oxford History of Christian Worship* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006), 687–688.

²⁰⁹ Sean Sheehan and Jui Lin Yong, *Angola* (New York: Marshall Cavendish Benchmark, 2010), 88.

²¹⁰ *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, “Angola: Religion,” 2011, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/25137/Angola/43854/Religion>

²¹¹ Adebayo O. Oyebade, *Culture and Customs of Angola* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2007), 40–41.

²¹² *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, “Angola: Religion,” 2011, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/25137/Angola/43854/Religion>

²¹³ *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, “Angola: Religion,” 2011, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/25137/Angola/43854/Religion>

threatened or killed clerics, priests, and nuns. The state then took over many institutions that were formerly operated by churches.²¹⁴ The government later abandoned Marxism and began to extend tolerance toward religious groups. Freedom of religion is now written into the constitution.²¹⁵

Cuisine

Angolan food is a mix of both indigenous and Portuguese influences, the latter brought to Angola by immigrants who settled there. Portuguese spices and cooking methods often appear in different ways of marinating or roasting fish and shellfish.²¹⁶ At the same time, exclusively European and Portuguese dishes tend to be more popular among the upper classes, with the majority of Angolans tending more toward traditional African dishes.²¹⁷

Seafood is a staple for Angolans, harvested from both the ocean and the rivers. Beans, flour, and rice are basic food sources, along with vegetables such as tomatoes, onions, sweet potatoes, and okra. Drinks include beer made from maize or from the African palm nut.^{218, 219}



© bricolage 108 / flickr.com
Muamba

Palm oil is used in many Angolan dishes and is an essential ingredient for the sauce of a popular national dish, *muamba de galinha*. Chicken, squash, and okra are the other main ingredients.^{220, 221} Other national specialties include *calulu*, “dried fish or fresh fish

²¹⁴ Lamin O. Sanneh, “Conclusion: The Current Transformation of Christianity,” in *The Changing Face of Christianity: Africa, the West, and the World*, Lamin O. Sanneh and Joel A. Carpenter, eds. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 217.

²¹⁵ Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, U.S. Department of State, “Angola,” in *International Religious Freedom Report 2010*, 17 November 2010, <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2010/148660.htm>

²¹⁶ Piet Van Niekerk, “Food & Drink in Angola: Food,” *TNT Magazine*, 16 March 2009, <http://www.tntmagazine.com/travel/destinations/africa/angola/food-and-drink/food-amp-drink-in-angola.aspx>

²¹⁷ Adebayo O. Oyebade, *Culture and Customs of Angola* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2007), 95, 108.

²¹⁸ Piet Van Niekerk, “Food & Drink in Angola: Food,” *TNT Magazine*, 16 March 2009, <http://www.tntmagazine.com/travel/destinations/africa/angola/food-and-drink/food-amp-drink-in-angola.aspx>

²¹⁹ Adebayo O. Oyebade, *Culture and Customs of Angola* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2007), 108.

²²⁰ Jeanne Jacob and Michael Ashkenazi, *The World Cookbook for Students: Volume 1: Afghanistan to Cook Islands* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2007), 27.

²²¹ *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, “Angola: Daily Life,” 2011, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/25137/Angola/43854/Religion>

accompanied by sweet potato leaves and sliced okra;” *mufete de cacuso*, seasoned and grilled fish; and *farofa*, a toasted cassava meal dish served with fish or meat.^{222, 223}

Traditional Dress

In Angola, although younger people usually dress less conservatively than their elders, traditional dress is commonly worn by both groups. It is often an expression of “ethnolinguistic identity” and can indicate educational level, religion, and social status in the same way that modern clothing can. Tribal leaders may wear elaborate costumes, particularly during ceremonies.²²⁴



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Angolan women

Everyday traditional Angolan styles show a great degree of variety. Traditional clothes are made of cotton, although clothes are often made from animal skins as well. Women often wear a cloth wrapped around the torso, covered by a blouse and complimented by a head scarf. Women and girls often wear elaborate hairstyles, marked by weaving the hair or decorating it with beads and braided cloth. Jewelry, also an expression of beauty, consists of bracelets, necklaces, and anklets made of shells. Both women and men wear “elaborate body decoration and scarification,” with tattoos often indicating social status for men.²²⁵ Tattoos or charcoal markings also appear on both men and women (or young girls) when they participate in rites and rituals. During initiation rites of passage or cultural festivals, participants wear garments made of culturally specific materials such as beaten bark or vegetable fibers woven into designs.²²⁶

²²² Jessica B. Harris, *The Africa Cookbook: Tastes of a Continent* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1998), 294.

²²³ Adebayo O. Oyebade, *Culture and Customs of Angola* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2007), 109.

²²⁴ Adebayo O. Oyebade, *Culture and Customs of Angola* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2007), 104.

²²⁵ Adebayo O. Oyebade, *Culture and Customs of Angola* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2007), 104.

²²⁶ Adebayo O. Oyebade, *Culture and Customs of Angola* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2007), 104.

Gender Issues

Men hold greater status than women in Angolan society. Girls marry younger than their male counterparts, and the age difference between husband and wife confers a superior status on the male. Women are traditionally expected to be subservient to husbands, and adultery is more tolerated by men than by women.²²⁷

Men fought in and were killed in the wars that tore Angolan society apart for decades. As a result, women often head households, especially in rural areas. Women often take responsibility for agricultural production for their household and are active in conducting regional trade. They are also responsible for domestic work and caring for children and other family members.^{228, 229}



© nathanhj / flickr.com
Young Angolan boy

Angolan sons inherit from their fathers. However, among some tribal communities, such as the Umbundu, traditional inheritance in the past deviated from this pattern. Instead of passing from father to children, property passed in a matrilineal pattern to the offspring of the deceased wife's brother. Influenced by colonialism and war, this system of inheritance seems to be disappearing, even though some regional extended families retain a pattern of matrilineal kinship.²³⁰

Arts

Art takes a number of sophisticated forms in Angola. It ranges from decorative forms and body art to a very strong tradition of music, dancing, and rich oral literature.²³¹ Under Western influence, mostly confined to the cities, a group of educated Africans began to explore Mbundu folklore and to write poems and novels in Portuguese. Although the Portuguese government heavily suppressed literary expression after taking power in a 1926 coup, it was not able to



© nathanhj / flickr.com
Tribal masks, Angola

²²⁷ Adebayo O. Oyebade, *Culture and Customs of Angola* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2007), 114–115.

²²⁸ Inge Brinkman, “Countries and Their Cultures: Angola: Gender Roles and Statuses,” Everyculture.com, n.d., <http://www.everyculture.com/A-Bo/Angola.html>

²²⁹ Adebayo O. Oyebade, *Culture and Customs of Angola* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2007), 113.

²³⁰ Inge Brinkman, “Countries and Their Cultures: Angola: Gender Roles and Statuses,” Everyculture.com, n.d., <http://www.everyculture.com/A-Bo/Angola.html>

²³¹ Sean Sheehan and Jui Lin Yong, *Angola* (New York: Marshall Cavendish Benchmark, 2010), 101–07.

completely destroy it. MPLA leader Agostinho Neto, the first president of independent Angola, was widely admired for his poetry written in Portuguese, yet the government that he led rigorously censored writing or expression and suppressed artistic freedom.^{232, 233}

Sculptures, carvings, and painted masks are more than decorative creations in Angola; they also serve a cultural role. In community rituals, they represent “life and death, the passage from childhood to adulthood, the celebration of a new harvest and the marking of the hunting season.”²³⁴ Angolan artists work in a variety of mediums, including ivory, wood, bronze, and ceramic.²³⁵ In Angola’s visual arts (and its musical traditions as well), styles of representation vary according to region, ethnic group, and purpose. A strong suburban music scene grew around Luanda beginning approximately around 1875 or earlier. Many influences formed its sound and rhythms, including the return of slaves from Portugal and Brazil, Angolan intellectual tastes, tribal music, and Portuguese traditions. Percussion, wind, string, and sheet instruments are all part of Angola’s contemporary musical scene.²³⁶

A cinema tradition has been branching out in Angola since the last decade of the 20th century. One important movie produced in 2004, *o Herói* (The Hero), signaled the emergence of postwar filmmaking. Made by Zezé Gamboa, *o Herói* won international awards, addressing the topic of reconstruction and reunification after the war. Using European technology, the movie represents a style of African storytelling combined with an Angolan tradition of documentary filmmaking.^{237, 238, 239}

²³² *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, “Angola: Cultural Life: The Arts,” 2011, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/25137/Angola/43854/Religion>

²³³ Inge Brinkman, “Countries and Their Cultures: Angola: Gender Roles and Statuses,” Everyculture.com, n.d., <http://www.everyculture.com/A-Bo/Angola.html>

²³⁴ The Embassy of Angola, “Culture: Art,” n.d., <http://www.angolaembassy.hu/index.php?p=art#cr>

²³⁵ The Embassy of Angola, “Culture: Art,” n.d., <http://www.angolaembassy.hu/index.php?p=art#cr>

²³⁶ Mario Rui Silva, “Culture: Music,” The Embassy of Angola, n.d., <http://www.angolaembassy.hu/index.php?p=music#cr>

²³⁷ Adebayo O. Oyebade, *Culture and Customs of Angola* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2007), 100–101.

²³⁸ Dave Kehr, “Part Tale, Part Real: Film From Stricken Angola,” *New York Times*, 24 March 2005, http://www.nytimes.com/2005/03/24/movies/24hero.html?_r=1

²³⁹ Filmbirth: History of Cinema, “History of Cinema in Angola,” 2007, <http://www.filmbirth.com/angola.html>

Sports and Recreation

Both participatory and spectator sports are popular activities for Angolans. An increasingly wide audience follows basketball competitions, both local and national. Angola's own basketball team has been known as one of Africa's best teams, repeatedly winning the African Champions Cup. Soccer rises to the level of "national sport," with Angolans of all backgrounds participating. They also frequently attend soccer games, including high school or youth competitions. Wealthier Angolans participate in sports like martial arts, horseback riding, and scuba diving, which are not generally within reach of the poor.^{240, 241}



© Radio Netherlands Worldwide
Angolan boys with soccer ball

²⁴⁰ Adebayo O. Oyebade, *Culture and Customs of Angola* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2007), 97–98.

²⁴¹ *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, "Angola: Sports and Recreation," 2011, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/25137/Angola/43854/Religion>

Chapter 4: Assessment

1. The Portuguese families who moved to Angola during the colonial period make up a substantial portion of today's Angolan population.

False

People of European descent constitute around only 1% of the population. A small percentage of the population is mixed European (*mestico*) and native African.

2. Christianity in the form of Roman Catholicism is the majority religion in Angola.

True

Christianity is practiced by approximately 55–70% of the population, with Roman Catholicism making up the majority. Figures on church membership vary widely, depending on the source soliciting and reporting the data. Many Angolan people are members of African Christian churches that mix Christianity and traditional, tribal beliefs. Around 10% or fewer are Protestant, including Baptist, Methodist, Adventist, and Congregationalist churches.

3. Prior to the arrival of Christianity, most Angolans were Muslims.

False

Before Christianity arrived, people in the Angola region followed traditional spirituality connected to the natural world. Such practices included worship of ancestors and forces in nature, sometimes overseen by territorial deities. Deceased ancestors are believed to remain influential among the living.

4. While Protestants are in the minority, many of the leaders of the various factions involved in the nationalist movement and Angolan Civil War were Protestant.

True

Nationalist leaders were often Protestant and actively opposed the Catholic Church's influence in Angola. At the same time, many of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) leaders were against religion in general. Adopting Marxist-Leninist ideology, they denounced religious organizations, especially the Catholic Church for its "collaboration with the colonial state."

5. Angolan cuisine is uniquely indigenous, a fact that deviates from other former European colonies.

False

Angolan food is a mix of both indigenous and Portuguese influences, the latter brought to Angola by immigrants who settled there. In particular, Portuguese spices and cooking methods have become part of Angolan cuisine.

Chapter 5: Security

Introduction

Embroiled in civil conflict until 2002, Angola has become far more stable. It maintains cooperative relations with all of its neighbors except the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where some tension still exists along the borders. Internationally, Angola has developed various partnerships with Western nations. To strengthen ties with African countries to the south, it joined the Southern African Development Community (SADC). It receives aid from Germany and Brazil and continues to cultivate relations with Portugal. Angola also has a “robust economic relationship” with the People’s Republic of China. China has extended a generous line of credit to Angola, receiving oil in exchange.²⁴² As a major international oil producer, in 2009 Angola held the presidency of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).²⁴³



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Riffle

To achieve permanent stability, however, much work is necessary. Angola must rebuild its infrastructure, construct democratic institutions that can serve public needs, and promote reconciliation of former warring forces. It must also diversify its economy from its almost exclusive reliance on the oil sector and increase business transparency in order to attract foreign investment.²⁴⁴ After the civil war ended, Angola had a divided society and dysfunctional government institutions that had roots in the colonial administration.²⁴⁵ The Portuguese government had subjected the majority of the population to forced labor, excluding Angolans from education and training. When the Portuguese departed from Angola, most of the skilled labor force went with them. Poverty and unemployment have remained endemic in the country ever since.^{246, 247} Further disruption occurred in the subsequent years of civil war in Angola, including that caused by “foreign actor

²⁴² Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, “Background Note: Angola: Foreign Relations,” 11 April 2011, <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6619.htm>

²⁴³ Council on Foreign Relations, “Toward an Angola Strategy: Prioritizing U.S.–Angola Relations,” 2007, 8, <http://i.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/AngolaCommissionReport.pdf>

²⁴⁴ Council on Foreign Relations, “Toward an Angola Strategy: Prioritizing U.S.–Angola Relations,” 2007, 8, <http://i.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/AngolaCommissionReport.pdf>

²⁴⁵ Patrick Chabal, “E Pluribus Unum: Transitions in Angola,” in *Angola, The Weight of History*, Patrick Chabal and Nuno Vidal, eds. (New York: Columbia University Press, 2008), 3.

²⁴⁶ Council on Foreign Relations, “Toward an Angola Strategy: Prioritizing U.S.–Angola Relations,” 2007, 11, <http://i.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/AngolaCommissionReport.pdf>

²⁴⁷ Sean Sheehan and Jui Lin Yong, *Cultures of the World: Angola* (New York: Marshall Cavendish Benchmark, 2010), 5.

involvement... during the period of the Cold War.”²⁴⁸ Since the civil war ended, the country has tried to move forward. However, “without an experienced civil service translating that wealth into state services and jobs, national reconstruction has been astoundingly difficult.”²⁴⁹

U.S.–Target Country Relations

Stability and peace in Angola are important to U.S. interests. Not only is Angola a source of energy supplies (primarily oil) for the United States, but it is also important to the stability of southern and central Africa. Recognizing these imperatives, the U.S. has committed to an in-depth approach. This makes it necessary to address “Angola’s destructive history and the difficulties facing the postwar Angolan state.”^{250, 251} U.S. policy makers have also had to face suspicions and strained relations because of political positions they have taken, or views they have espoused. In 1993, the U.S. recognized the People’s Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) regime and established formal ties with Angola. This became a turning point in relations between the two countries.^{252, 253, 254} The United States has responded to Angola’s many political and social challenges by becoming a partner in rebuilding the nation. To this end, it has participated in clearing landmines, helped with the return of war refugees, developed a health sector, and promoted a stronger economy.²⁵⁵



© Yen Boechat
Angolan boys from Uije

These efforts have resulted in improved relations since the end of the civil war. The two countries have signed trade agreements and strengthened bilateral ties. In late 2009,

²⁴⁸ Patrick Chabal, “E Pluribus Unum: Transitions in Angola,” in *Angola, The Weight of History*, Patrick Chabal and Nuno Vidal eds. (New York: Columbia University Press, 2008), 4.

²⁴⁹ Council on Foreign Relations, “Toward an Angola Strategy: Prioritizing U.S.–Angola Relations,” 2007, 16, <http://i.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/AngolaCommissionReport.pdf>

²⁵⁰ Council on Foreign Relations, “Toward an Angola Strategy: Prioritizing U.S.–Angola Relations,” 2007, 10, <http://i.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/AngolaCommissionReport.pdf>

²⁵¹ Council on Foreign Relations, “Toward an Angola Strategy: Prioritizing U.S.–Angola Relations,” 2007, 3, <http://i.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/AngolaCommissionReport.pdf>

²⁵² Council on Foreign Relations, “Toward an Angola Strategy: Prioritizing U.S.–Angola Relations,” 2007, xi, <http://i.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/AngolaCommissionReport.pdf>

²⁵³ Council on Foreign Relations, “Toward an Angola Strategy: Prioritizing U.S.–Angola Relations,” 2007, 28–30, <http://i.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/AngolaCommissionReport.pdf>

²⁵⁴ Patrick Chabal, “E Pluribus Unum: Transitions in Angola,” in *Angola, The Weight of History*, Patrick Chabal and Nuno Vidal eds. (New York: Columbia University Press, 2008), 6.

²⁵⁵ Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, “Background Note: Angola: U.S.–Angolan Relations,” 11 April 2011, <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6619.htm>

representatives from the United States and Angola made progress in areas of security and energy cooperation.²⁵⁶

Relations with Neighboring Countries

Namibia

Angola and Namibia are allies and trading partners. In 1990, Namibia gained independence from South Africa, assisted partly by Angola, which allowed Namibian troops to be stationed along its southern border. Trade between the two countries is growing, with Angola absorbing 10% of Namibia's exports, mainly consumer products. Angola is Namibia's third-largest export destination.²⁵⁷ Further, Angola and Namibia are



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Border of Angola and Namibia

both members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). This organization promotes mutual economic and social development in the nations of Southern Africa.^{258, 259}

Zambia

Despite Angolan allegations that Zambian citizens armed UNITA soldiers during the civil war, Zambia and Angola have maintained diplomatic relations since 1976. Railway links are being restored between Angola and Zambia, making increased transportation and trade possible.^{260, 261} In April 2011, the two countries announced a new USD 18 million project to build a rail line connecting the Zambian exporters with the Angolan port of Lobito.^{262, 263}

²⁵⁶ Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, "Background Note: Angola: U.S.-Angolan Relations," 11 April 2011, <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6619.htm>

²⁵⁷ TradeMark, "Angola is Namibia's Number Three Export Destination," 19 July 2010, <http://www.trademarksa.org/node/1052>

²⁵⁸ Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, "Background Note: Angola: Foreign Relations," 11 April 2011, <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6619.htm>

²⁵⁹ Southern African Development Community, "Years of Progress," 2010, <http://www.sadc.int/>

²⁶⁰ AllAfrica.com, "Angola: Zambian Diplomat Considers Relations Excellent," 20 September 2010, <http://allafrica.com/stories/201009210124.html>

²⁶¹ Anthony Mukwita, "Angola-Zambia: Relations with Zambia Not So Cordial," ReliefWeb, 6 March 1998, <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/OCHA-64BKPC?OpenDocument>

²⁶² Danstan Kaunda, "Funding for Zambia-Angola Rail Project," *AfricaNews*, 19 April 2011, http://www.africanews.com/site/list_message/34149

²⁶³ Port Management Association of Eastern & Southern Africa, "New Railway Line to Link Zambia and Angola," 26 April 2011, <http://www.pmaesa.org/information/news/news.htm?nid=5>

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Relations have been difficult between Angola and the DRC following disputes over offshore oil rights in the Cabinda region and border demarcation along the Congo River's shifting boundaries. The 59 km (37 mi) strip of DRC land that separates Angola from its northern enclave of Cabinda is the DRC's sole access to the ocean. Both countries were intimately involved in one another's civil wars in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Instability between Cabinda and the rest of Angola that lies to the south has affected DRC's access through the region. Further, the DRC believes that it is entitled to some of the income generated by Cabinda's rich offshore oil wells.²⁶⁴ In March 2010, the Angolan government began negotiating with the DRC to resolve the dispute over the maritime boundary.



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Immigration on Congo/Angola border

Another setback to good relations between the two countries is the issue of deportation of migrant workers. The Angolan government has expelled thousands of illegal diamond miners, mostly Congolese migrant workers, sending them back to the DRC. The UN has reported ongoing widespread violence against deportees carried out by Angolan armed forces. In acts of reprisal, the DRC has expelled thousands of Angolans, many refugees who fled north during the Angolan civil war.^{265, 266} On a hopeful note, fewer expulsions of illegal migrant workers from Angola into the DRC were reported for 2009 (33,567), compared to 2008 (69,183).²⁶⁷

²⁶⁴ Menas Borders, "Border Focus: Angola and DRC," 2010, http://www.menasborders.com/menasborders/border_focus/Angola-DRC.aspx

²⁶⁵ Jambonews.net, "Systematic Rape Continues on Congo-Angola Border," 15 February 2011, <http://www.jambonews.net/en/news/20110215-systematic-rape-continues-on-congo-angola-border/>

²⁶⁶ Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, U.S. Department of State, 2009 Human Rights Report: Angola, 11 March 2010, <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2009/af/135937.htm>

²⁶⁷ Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, U.S. Department of State, "Respect for Human Rights: Section 1 Respect for the Integrity of the Person, Including Freedom from: c. Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment," in *2009 Human Rights Report: Angola*, 11 March 2010, <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2009/af/135937.htm>

Republic of the Congo (ROC)

In 1997, MPLA forces invaded the ROC and installed a sympathetic leader, current President Denis Sassou-Nguesso.²⁶⁸ They remained in the country for the next five years, pulling out at the conclusion of the Angolan civil war.²⁶⁹ Like Angola, the ROC was a Marxist state allied with the Soviet Union. So the leaders in Brazzaville looked to Angola as a model for their state.²⁷⁰

Additionally, tens of thousands of refugees, including Cabindan militants, fled to the ROC during the Angolan civil war. The two countries remain on amicable terms and are bound together by common historical and cultural ties as well as foreign relations.



© US Army Africa
Joint training exercise in Kwanza

Police Force and Military

Angola's police force has its headquarters in Luanda, but is managed according to local and provincial command structures. It evolved from the Portuguese colonial police, known as a very repressive force, into its present form.²⁷¹ Little is known about its operations or degree of autonomy. The national police force is part of the Ministry of the Interior and is required to operate independently, avoiding bias towards political parties. Reportedly, however, it has favored the ruling party, and its independence is under question. Further, it has failed to curb the high rate of crime and has often been charged with corruption.²⁷²

The Angolan military, known as the Armed Forces of Angola (FAA), includes the army, air force, and navy.²⁷³ Through many years of warfare, the Angolan army has become an institution that is "militarily effective and politically compliant."²⁷⁴ It includes helicopter and jet fighter pilot corps and a capacity for long-range artillery strikes. Yet military

²⁶⁸ Jane's Defence, "Angola, Sentinel Worldview," *Jane's Intelligence Review*, 21 March 2002.

²⁶⁹ Belachew Gebreworld-Tochalo, *Anatomy of Violence: Understanding the Systems of Conflict and Violence in Africa* (Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2009), 110.

²⁷⁰ Saul Bernard Cohen, *Geopolitics: The Geography of International Relations* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2009), 412.

²⁷¹ Mongabay.com, "Angola-Internal Security Forces and Organization," 2010, http://www.mongabay.com/history/angola/angola-internal_security_forces_and_organization.html

²⁷² Janine Rauch and Elrena van der Spuy, "Recent Experiments in Police Reform in Post-Conflict Africa: A Review: 6. Angola Case Study Report," Safety and Security Programme of the Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA), October 2006, 65–67, http://www.aprn.org.za/File_uploads/File/Police%20reform%20IDASA.pdf

²⁷³ *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, "Security," 2011, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/25137/Angola/43854/Religion>

²⁷⁴ Patrick Chabal, "E Pluribus Unum: Transitions in Angola," in *Angola, The Weight of History*, Patrick Chabal and Nuno Vidal, eds. (New York: Columbia University Press, 2008), 12.

expenses overstretch Angola's ability to pay for these forces, with expenditures representing 3.6% of the nation's GDP in 2009.²⁷⁵ Since the civil war ended, the Angolan military has recognized the need to downsize and streamline its operations. Other challenges it must meet include "replacing and maintaining outdated and broken equipment" and continuing its transition "to a peacetime military posture."²⁷⁶

Angolan citizens between the ages of 18 and 45 are eligible for voluntary military service; except for women who must be at least age 20 to join. The Angolan Navy is completely staffed by volunteers. Compulsory military service in Angola includes citizens between 20 and 45 years of age.²⁷⁷

Under the terms of the Bicesse Accords, the government of Angola incorporated former rebel fighters into the armed forces and police force.²⁷⁸

Army

From 2002–2003, the army absorbed around 5,000 former rebel fighters into its ranks.²⁷⁹ In 2007, a similar program was established for incorporating an additional 500 troops from among the Cabindan separatists who agreed to a ceasefire. The army accomplished these measures while undergoing a fundamental restructuring of the armed forces, aimed at improving combat efficiency. Throughout the latter part of the 20th and the early 21st centuries, foreign military advisors, especially Cuban and South African, have played a vital role in shaping the Angolan army.^{280, 281, 282}



© US Army Africa
Angolan army

²⁷⁵ Central Intelligence Agency, "Angola: Military," in *The World Factbook*, 25 April 2011, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ao.html>

²⁷⁶ Council on Foreign Relations, "Toward an Angola Strategy: Prioritizing U.S.–Angola Relations," 2007, 27, <http://i.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/AngolaCommissionReport.pdf>

²⁷⁷ Central Intelligence Agency, "Angola: Military" in *The World Factbook*, 25 April 2011, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ao.html>

²⁷⁸ Jane's Defence, "Armed Forces, Angola," *Jane's Sentinel Security Assessment–Southern Africa*, 9 March 2011.

²⁷⁹ João Gomes Porto, Chris Alden, and Imogen Parsons, *From Soldiers to Citizens: Demilitarization of Conflict and Society* (Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2007), 33–48.

²⁸⁰ UPI, "Africa's New Breed of 'Dogs of War,'" 17 May 2011, http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Security-Industry/2011/05/17/Africas-new-breed-of-dogs-of-war/UPI-81701305662308/

²⁸¹ Peter Warren Singer, *Corporate Warrior: The Rise of the Privatized Military Industry* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2003), 107–110.

²⁸² Jane's Defence, "World Armies, Angola," *Jane's World Armies*, 9 March 2011.

Angola's army is the largest military force by far, with nearly 100,000 personnel. This is an enormous peacetime army by African measures, and drains the country's limited resources. The army has limited equipment, with approximately 185 personnel carriers and large multipurpose trucks.^{283, 284}

Angola is actively pursuing closer military ties with China. In 2007, the two countries reached an accord that will provide the Angolan army with Chinese equipment and technical expertise. Subsequent visits to Angola by high ranking Chinese military officials have further cemented the relationship. Both the United States and Brazil are seeking similar relationships with Angola.^{285, 286, 287}

Navy

Angola's navy is virtually non-existent. Intelligence sources indicate that Angola has no "seaworthy vessels or operational units." Portugal, the former colonial power in Angola, has offered to donate surplus vessels and parts in order for Angola to establish a foundation for a real navy. However, the specifics of the offer have been undefined. Several countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Portugal, and China, have provided training for Angolan naval forces, but without their own vessels, the navy remains unable to carry out its mission of protecting Angola's waters and shoreline.²⁸⁸



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Angolan Navy Sailor

Angolan National Air Force (FANA)

Angola's air force is currently outdated in terms of equipment. It is comprised of some models even 30–40 years old.^{289, 290} To address this deficiency, the Angolan government first began to update the air force, purchasing surplus equipment from the newly independent states of the former Warsaw

²⁸³ Ricardo Soares de Oliveira, *Oil and Politics in the Gulf of Guinea* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2007), 119.

²⁸⁴ Jane's Defence, "World Armies, Angola," *Jane's World Armies*, 9 March 2011.

²⁸⁵ Angola Press Agency, "Angola: Cooperation Tops Visit of Defence Minister to China," 30 July 2010, <http://allafrica.com/stories/201008020014.html>

²⁸⁶ "China, Angola Eye Enhanced Military Exchanges," *Xinhua*, 21 July 2010, http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/china/2010-07/21/c_13408929.htm

²⁸⁷ Jane's Defence, "World Armies, Angola," *Jane's World Armies*, 9 March 2011.

²⁸⁸ Jane's Defence, "World Navies, Angola," *Jane's World Navies*, 9 March 2011.

²⁸⁹ Jane's Defence, "Air Force, Angola," *Jane's Sentinel Security Assessment—Southern Africa*, 09 March 2011.

²⁹⁰ EnemyForces.com, "Frontline Bomber: Su-24," and "Fighter Su-27," 2010, <http://www.enemyforces.net/aircraft.htm>

Pact and the former Soviet Union in the early 2000s. Other aircraft are equally antiquated Soviet era helicopters.^{291, 292}

Another deficiency in the air force is the lack of skilled pilots. As such, Angola has relied heavily upon contract pilots from the former Soviet Union and South Africa.²⁹³

Issues Affecting Stability

Stability in Angola is affected by a number of issues. One involves the difficulty of repatriating former combatants in the decades-long civil war, helping them “transition into peaceful roles in Angolan society.”^{294, 295} According to an evaluation report of the World Bank’s demobilization and reintegration project, 97,390 ex-combatants were reintegrated, or 93% of UNITA’s forces. But as of 2008, only 278 members of the Angola Armed Forces (FAA) were reintegrated. Likewise, social reintegration seemed successful with 99% living with their families and 94% reporting feeling part of the community.²⁹⁶

Although Cabinda is still a “potential flash point of conflict,” the government seems to be making progress in negotiating with separatists in the region and providing social services.²⁹⁷



Corruption is rampant in all branches of the Angolan government. There have been attempts to organize protests in Angola akin to those of the “Arab Spring” that have toppled regimes and threatened others throughout the Arab world. While these attempts

²⁹¹ Jane’s Defence, “Air Force, Angola,” *Jane’s Sentinel Security Assessment–Southern Africa*, 9 March 2011.

²⁹² EnemyForces.com, “Attack Helicopter MI–24 Hind,” 2010, <http://www.enemyforces.net/helicopters/mi24.htm>

²⁹³ Jane’s Defence, “Air Force, Angola,” *Jane’s Sentinel Security Assessment–Southern Africa*, 9 March 2011.

²⁹⁴ Council on Foreign Relations, “Toward an Angola Strategy: Prioritizing U.S.–Angola Relations,” 2007, 26, <http://i.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/AngolaCommissionReport.pdf>

²⁹⁵ João Gomes Porto, Chris Alden, and Imogen Parsons, *From Soldiers to Citizens: Demilitarization of Conflict and Society* (Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2007), 33–48.

²⁹⁶ World Bank, “End of Program Evaluation,” Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Program, June 2010, 28–29,

http://www.mdrp.org/PDFs/MDRP_ReportFinalScanteam.pdf

²⁹⁷ Council on Foreign Relations, “Toward an Angola Strategy: Prioritizing U.S.–Angola Relations,” 2007, 26–27, <http://i.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/AngolaCommissionReport.pdf>

have failed so far, daily reports of corruption and the personal enrichment of high-ranking officials provide ample fuel for such protests and warrant close observation.^{298, 299}

Outlook

The outlook for stability and progress in Angola is mixed. On one hand, the country is grappling with enormous problems, such as widespread poverty and the failure to develop proper infrastructure for transportation, social services, and investment in human resources. Presently, it is difficult to travel to the country's interior due to destruction of roads and bridges, dating back to the civil war. Transportation networks have been crippled, which hampers delivery of products to market, both nationally and internationally. The healthcare and educational systems remain largely dysfunctional. Infant mortality, for instance, and "other measures of quality of life are among the worst in the world."³⁰⁰



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President José Eduardo dos Santos

Yet the country has progressed in some areas. Chinese investment in Angola's economy has resulted in economic development in important areas, such as transportation. In exchange, "China has acquired equity positions in several oil concessions. These developments may increase China's potential influence in Angola in the coming years."³⁰¹

The nation's leadership is taking steps toward economic diversification, although more foreign investment is still needed. Diversification could "reduce Angola's vulnerability to fluctuations in the petroleum market" and help to strengthen and stabilize the economy.³⁰² However, widespread bribery and a burdensome bureaucracy discourage foreign investment. It is necessary to improve the investment climate in order to bring

²⁹⁸ Louise Redvers, "Angola: Mass Protests Fail but Activists Remain Defiant," *The Nigerian Daily*, 10 March 2011, <http://www.thenigeriandaily.com/2011/03/10/angola-mass-protests-fail-but-activists-remain-defiant/>

²⁹⁹ Nico Colombant, "Africa's Governments Confront Social Media Protests," *Voice of America News*, 25 April 2011, <http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Africas-Governments-Confront-Social-Media-Protests-120615694.html>

³⁰⁰ Council on Foreign Relations, "Toward an Angola Strategy: Prioritizing U.S.–Angola Relations," 2007, 14, <http://i.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/AngolaCommissionReport.pdf>

³⁰¹ Council on Foreign Relations, "Toward an Angola Strategy: Prioritizing U.S.–Angola Relations," 2007, 28, <http://i.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/AngolaCommissionReport.pdf>

³⁰² Council on Foreign Relations, "Toward an Angola Strategy: Prioritizing U.S.–Angola Relations," 2007, 17–18, <http://i.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/AngolaCommissionReport.pdf>

about stability and long-term prosperity.³⁰³ Some reports indicate that transparency is improving in financial areas, which would work in Angola's favor.³⁰⁴

Stamping out government and private sector corruption remain long-term goals that require stronger governance, including an "independent judiciary, a robust civil society, and a free press. Today, the institutions of democracy are not strong."³⁰⁵ Some progress has been made, however, and the government is slowly beginning to show signs of tolerating more dissent. Activists can advocate more for social change, publish in an independent press (in some areas), and work more closely with NGOs.

³⁰³ Council on Foreign Relations, "Toward an Angola Strategy: Prioritizing U.S.–Angola Relations," 2007, 18–19, <http://i.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/AngolaCommissionReport.pdf>

³⁰⁴ Council on Foreign Relations, "Toward an Angola Strategy: Prioritizing U.S.–Angola Relations," 2007, 20, <http://i.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/AngolaCommissionReport.pdf>

³⁰⁵ Council on Foreign Relations, "Toward an Angola Strategy: Prioritizing U.S.–Angola Relations," 2007, 24, <http://i.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/AngolaCommissionReport.pdf>

Chapter 5: Assessment

1. Angola is a source of energy supplies (primarily oil) for the United States, and is also important to the stability of southern and central Africa.

True

Recognizing these imperatives, the U.S. has committed to an in-depth approach, finding it necessary to address “Angola’s destructive history and the difficulties facing the postwar Angolan state” in order to formulate solutions.

2. Angola allowed Namibian troops to be stationed along its southern border during the latter’s war for independence from South Africa.

True

As a result, the two are close allies and major regional trading partners.

3. Relations between Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have been, and remain, amicable.

False

Both countries were intimately involved in one another’s civil wars. Angola has deported numerous illegal migrants from the DRC. Furthermore, disputes continue between the countries over land and maritime boundaries.

4. Angolan foreign relations with the Republic of the Congo (ROC) have been congenial.

True

Angola helped install the current president of the ROC during the latter’s civil war. As such, the two nations have remained on good terms.

5. Angola’s various military branches were combined as the Armed Forces of Angola (FAA).

True

The Angolan military, known as the Armed Forces of Angola (FAA), includes the army, air force, and navy.

Final Assessment

1. Multi-national investments in tropical timber, diamond mines, and oil exploration have economically benefited most of the people of Angola.
2. Tobacco, coffee, and corn are grown in Angola for export.
3. Huambo is one of the oldest cities in Angola.
4. Much of the timber harvested in Angola is exported to European markets.
5. Flooding has historically been a concern in Angola.
6. The productive farmland in southern Africa initially attracted the Bantu-speaking people to the region now known as Angola.
7. The Kongo Kingdom was relatively primitive and relied mostly on hunting and gathering.
8. The Catholic Church supported indigenous rule in Angola.
9. By 1920, the Portuguese controlled all of the indigenous kingdoms of the region now known as Angola, except the Bie and Bailundu on the high plateau.
10. The Portuguese introduced planned settlements that were highly effective in modernizing the region now known as Angola.
11. The separatist movement's demand for more local access to oil revenues and participation in oil policy has been successful.
12. Angola is an important source of oil supplies for the United States.
13. Average Angolans can expect to live to about 39 years of age.
14. Although many people live below the poverty level, most homes in Luanda, the capital of Angola, have access to running water.
15. The Angolan economy has grown since the civil war ended, partially driven by the development of needed infrastructure to support the increasing population.
16. Scarification is a common practice in Angola and is thought to enhance beauty.
17. Sculptures, carvings, and painted masks serve a cultural role in Angola.
18. All tribal groups in Angola have traditionally practiced patrilineal inheritance.
19. Certain Portuguese regimes harshly repressed the arts.
20. Although younger people dress less conservatively than their elders in general, traditional dress is commonly worn by both groups.
21. Since the end of the Angolan Civil War, rebel fighters have had the opportunity to integrate into the armed forces.
22. The Angolan navy is a modern, well-equipped fighting force and a regional power.

23. The Angolan National Air Force (FANA) has, since the conclusion of the civil war, upgraded its capabilities to become one of Africa's most sophisticated air powers.
24. An issue affecting stability in Angola is the possibility of mass protests akin to those that have shaken the Arab states of North Africa and the Middle East.
25. The outlook for progress in Angola is completely abysmal.

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