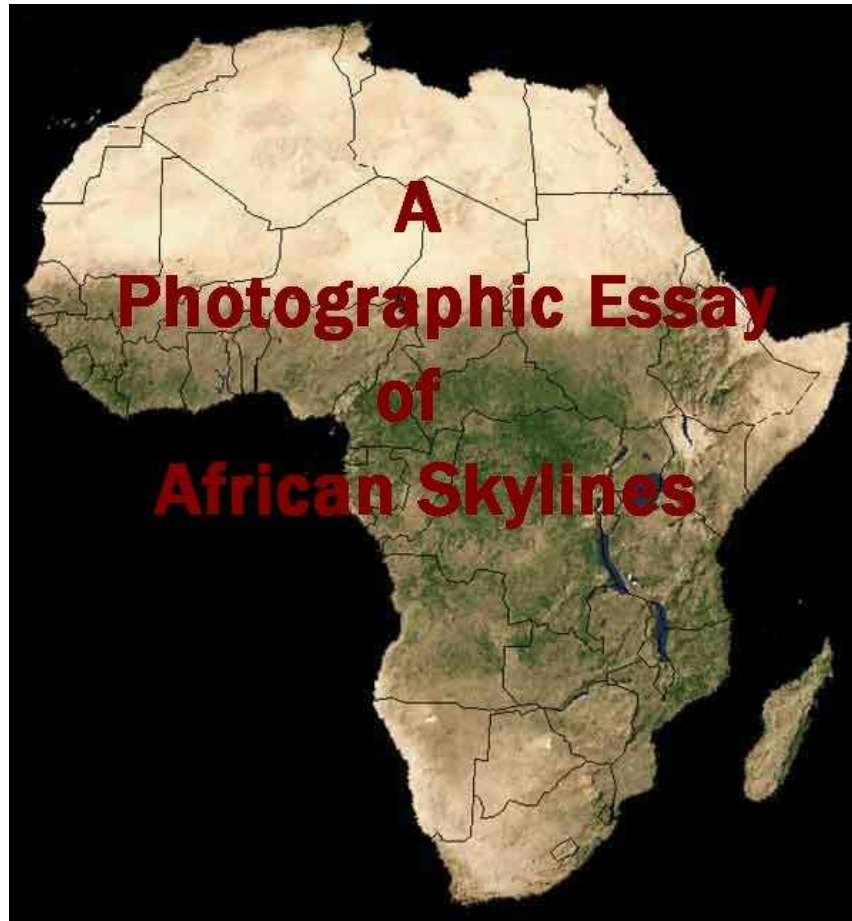


2012 part 1 of 2

. Cities of Africa .



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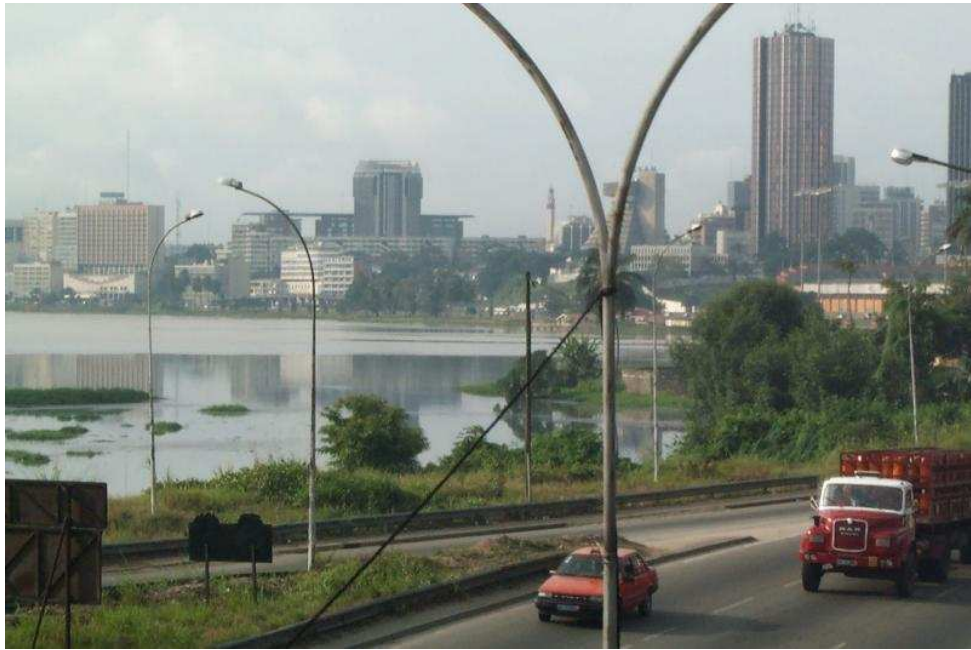
Map of Africa



Abidjan Ivory Coast









Along the Lagoon lies the chief port and capital of Cote d'Ivoire, Abidjan. This city became the capital of the when the French occupied the area in 1934, and remained the economic capital after independence in 1960. The important districts are Plateau, Cocody (site of the National University of Cote d'Ivoire), Treichville, Adjame, Koumassi, and Marcory.

Today, Abidjan is the financial center of West Africa. Abidjan's main exports are coffee, cocoa, timber, bananas, pineapples, and manganese. There are many wide, shady streets and plenty of garden squares in the city; the university (built in 1958) lies on the eastern mainland. Abidjan holds a museum of traditional Ivorian art, a national library, and several agricultural and scientific research institutes. The city is a communications center and also has an international airport. Maquis - African style restaurants - are found everywhere, and are famous for their grilled chicken and fish. Popular local foods include alogo and attiéké. The city has a population of around 3.5 million.

Abuja, Nigeria





Abuja freeway expansion project

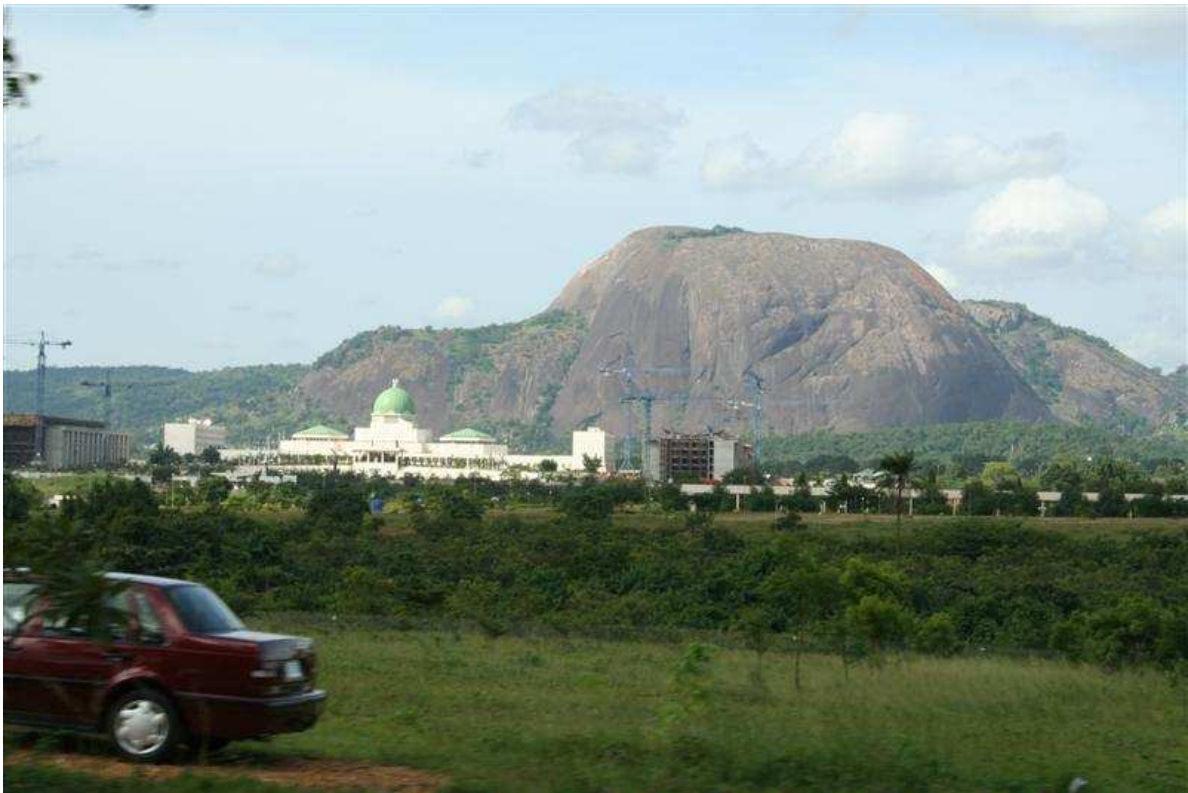














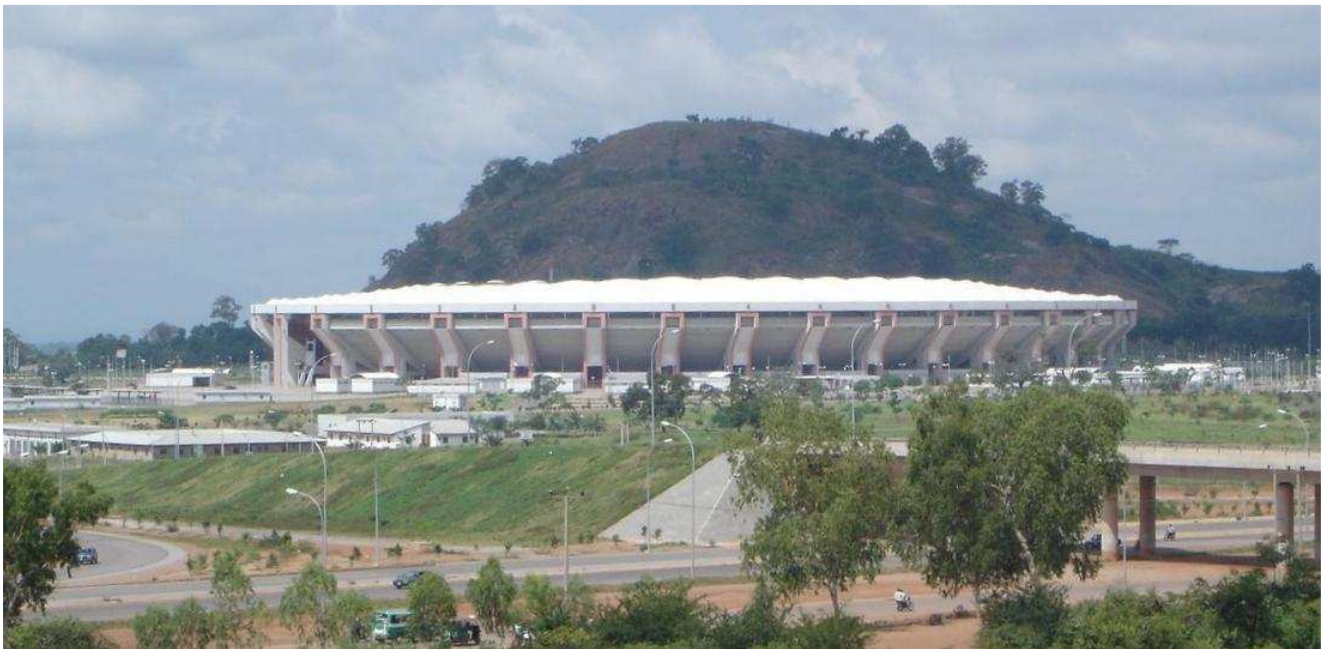


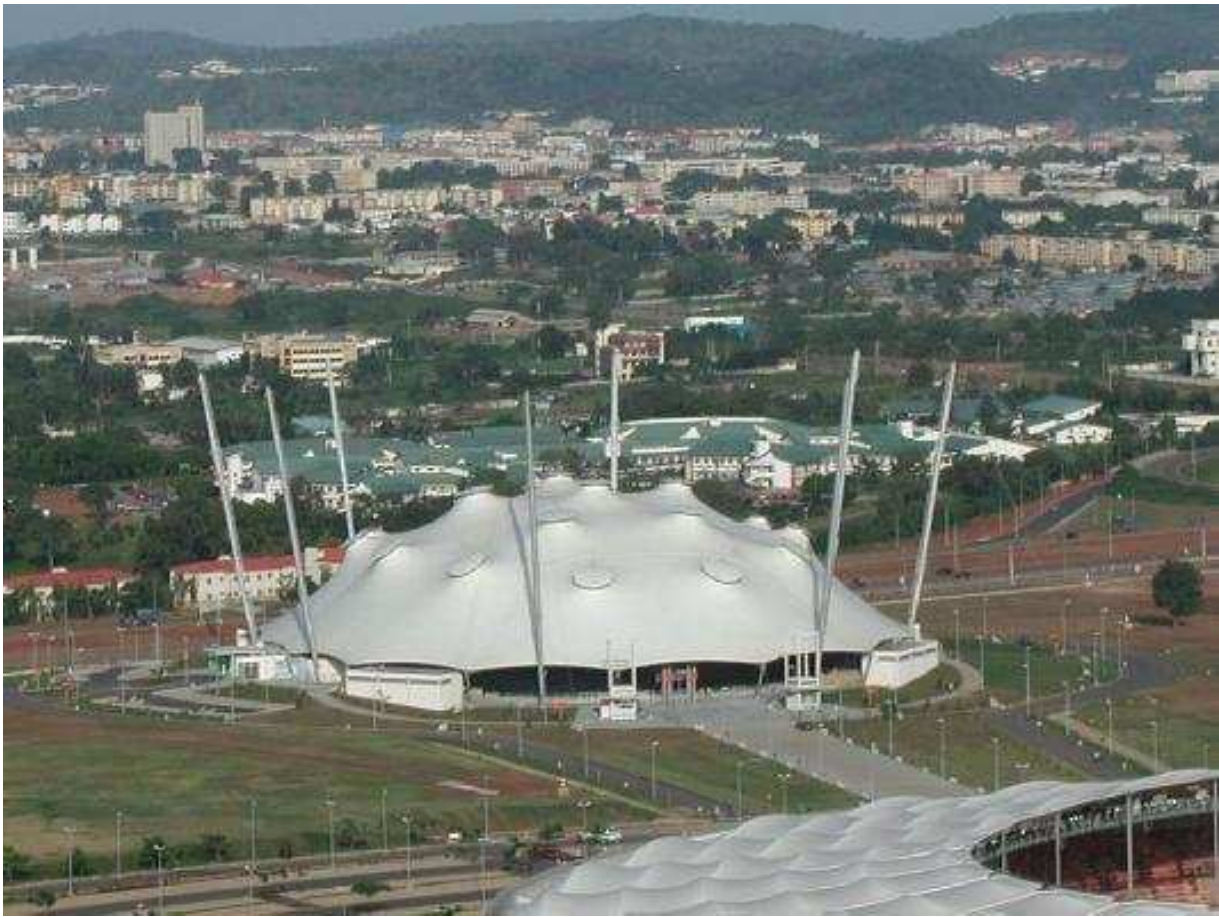
Abuja freeway expansion project

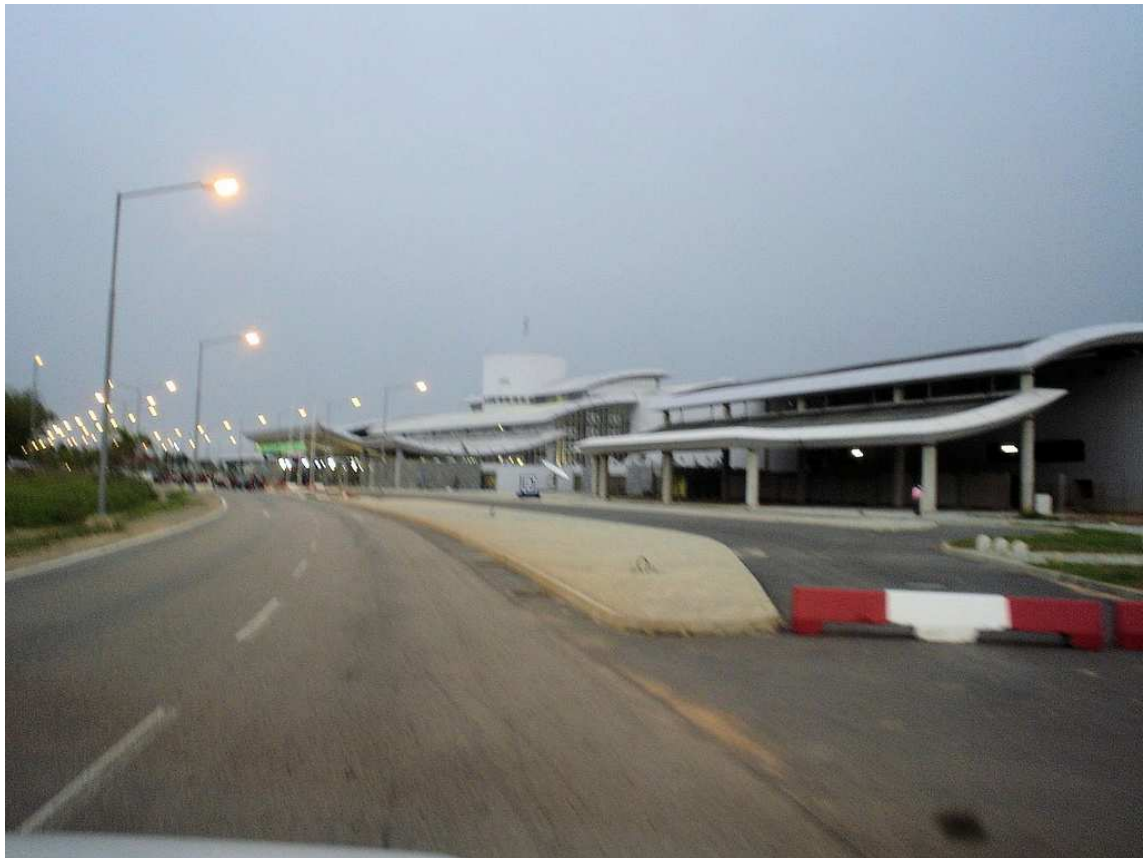


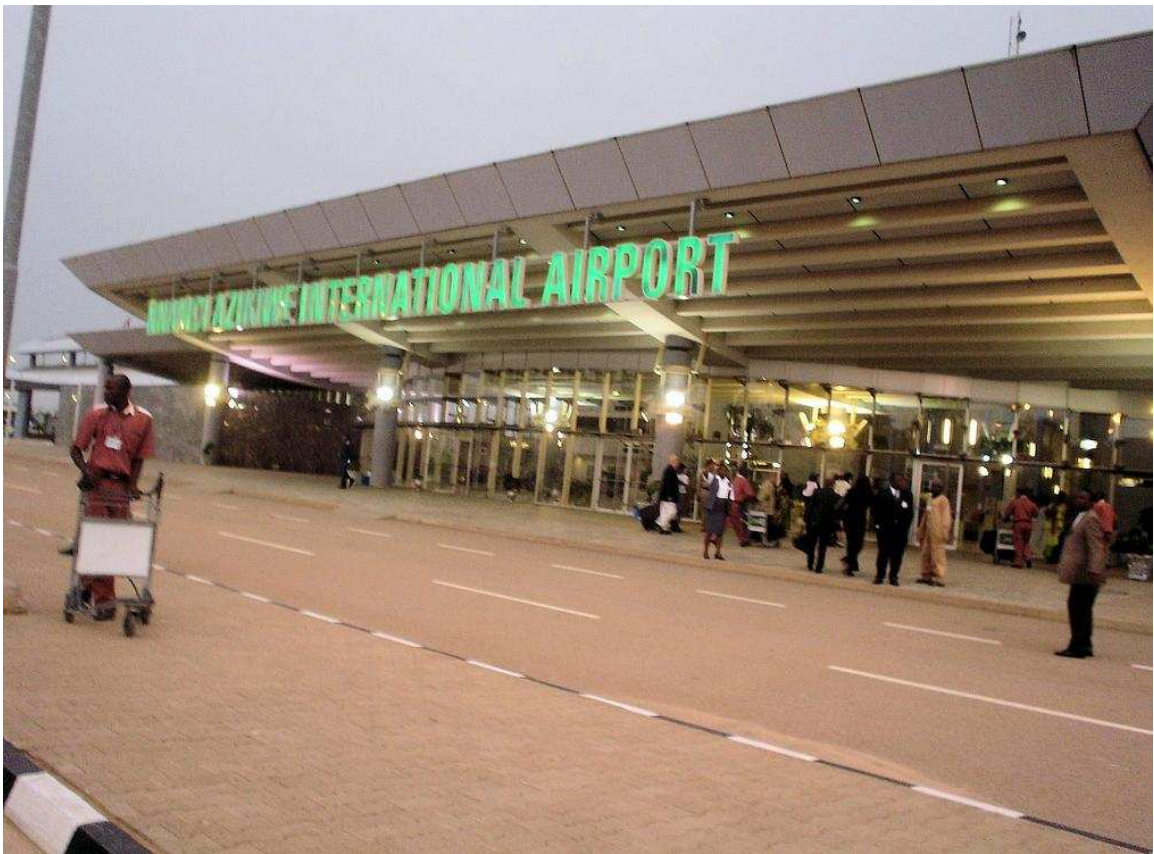




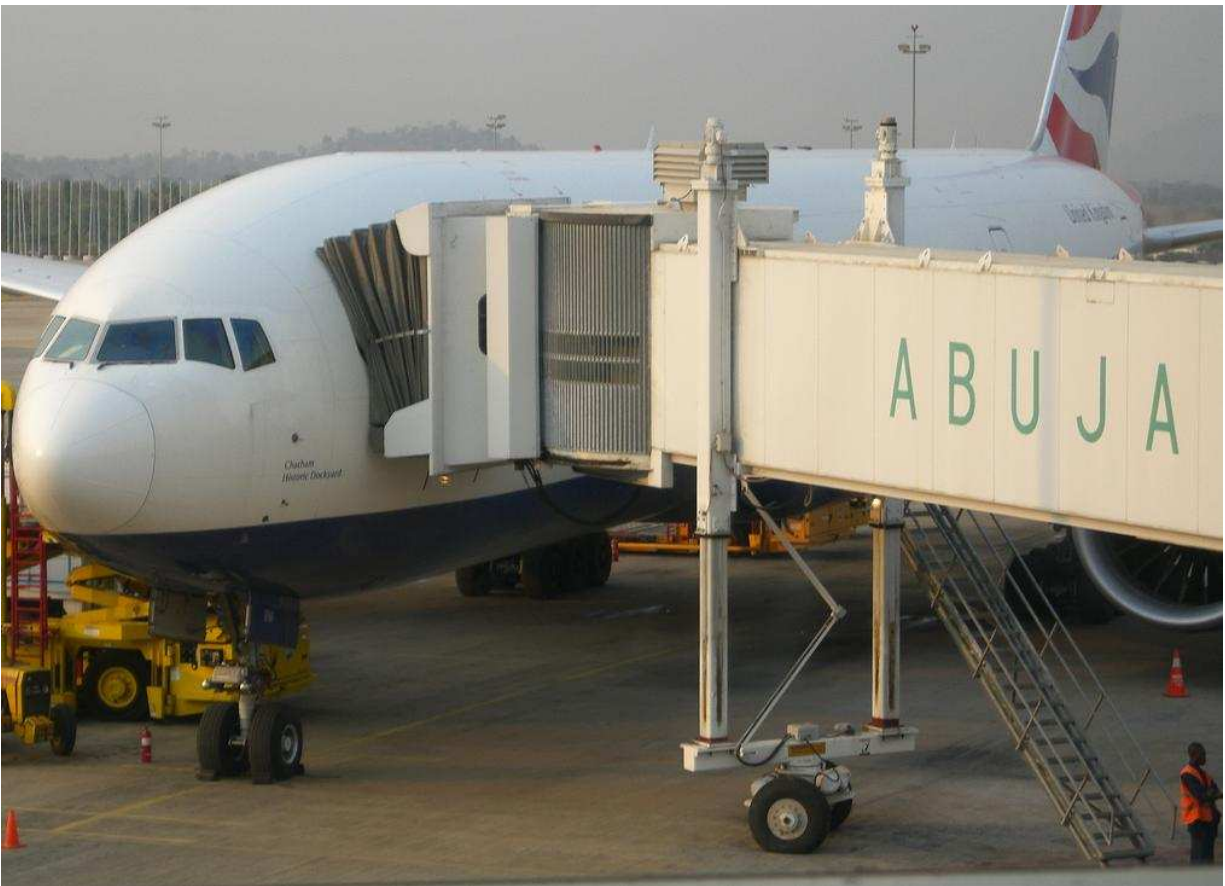
































On Dec. 12, 1991, the city of Abuja became the new capital of Nigeria. President Ibrahim Babangida officially took up residence in the new presidential palace on that day. While the new city was in process of completion, many of the government offices remained in Lagos, the former capital--and many government workers were very reluctant to leave this seacoast city for the interior. Located 300 miles (480 kilometers) inland, almost in the center of Nigeria, Abuja is a new city. It was started in 1976 within the newly created Federal Capital Territory. Nigeria has states like the United States and one Federal Capital Territory. The territory, with an area of 2,824 square miles (7,315 square kilometers), lies at the juncture of the Niger and Benue rivers. It lies just south of the old emirate of Abuja, which was founded in 1828 and named for its founder--whose name means "Abu the Red." The region is now called Suleja.

Construction of the new city began during the term of President Alhaji Shehu Shagari, who planned to have it finished in 1983. Construction was delayed for a number of reasons, however. First, Nigeria's oil revenues dropped drastically between 1976 and 1980. In addition, there has been frequent ethnic religious unrest within the country. In late 1983, Shagari's government was overthrown, but work went on.

Nigeria's Federal Capital Development Authority was in charge of the whole project. The city plan was drawn up by International Planning Associates, an American firm. The city center, 4 square miles (10 square kilometers) in area, was to contain most of the new government buildings. It was designed by the Japanese firm of Kenzo Tange and Urtec. The total planned city area was 174 square miles (451 square kilometers). By 1987 Abuja had a population of 15,000. At that time water and telephone systems were already in place for a projected large population boom. Population (1998 estimate) 380,000

Accra, Ghana











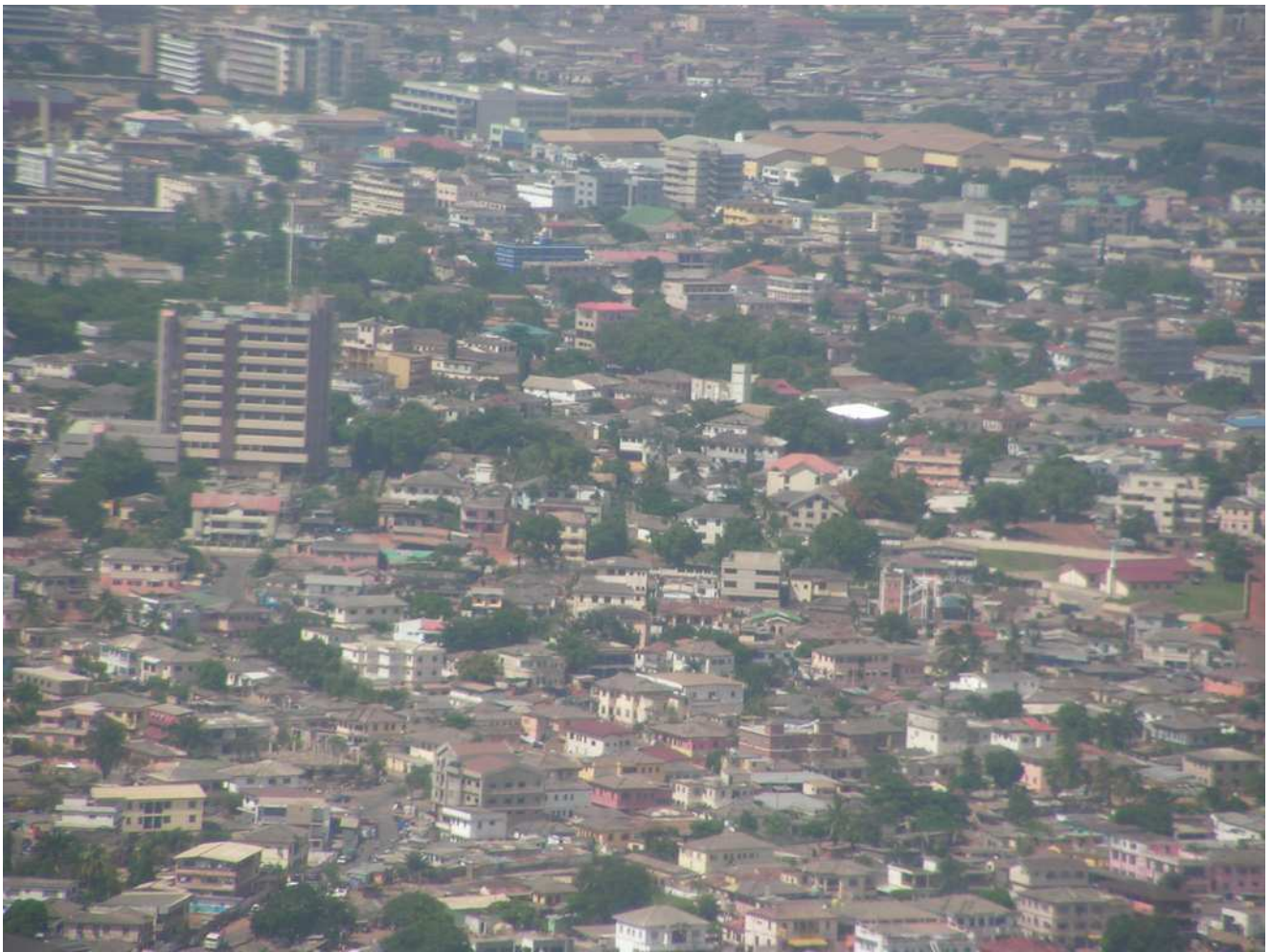


The Golden Jubilee House

President Kufuor, commissioned the First Phase of the new Presidential Palace complex in Accra, named the “Golden Jubilee House” which will serve as the Seat of Government and the official residence of a seating president.

The project, which started in 2006, comprises an office complex to house the President and his team of advisors and his staff, Vice-President, civil and Public Servants. Also included is a residence for the president which can accommodate a visiting Head of State/Government, a services building that will house a clinic, Restaurant, Bank, Post Office and Fire Service Post.































































Accra is located in one of Ghana's 10 regions (like states or provinces) called Greater Accra region. The Greater Accra Region is the smallest and most densely populated region in Ghana. The country's major commercial and industrial centers of Accra and Tema can be found in this region. The Greater Accra region is divided into 5 districts each with its district capital. The capital of the whole region is Accra.

The city of Accra has been the capital of Ghana since 1877. The site of what is now Accra was occupied by villages of the Ga, the local people, when the Portuguese first visited here in the late 15th century. During the 17th century the Portuguese were forced to withdraw by the Dutch, who, along with the Danes and the English, founded rival trading posts, which became the settlements of Ussher Town, Christiansborg, and James Town, respectively. In the 19th century Great Britain purchased Dutch and Danish rights in the area, and in 1876 Christiansborg was made the capital of the European occupied Gold Coast Colony. The three separate towns grew and gradually coalesced to form the city of Accra. Much of the modern city's layout was planned in the 1920s, and since then growth has been rapid.

Spreading along the Atlantic coast, the city is well endowed with luxury hotels, excellent restaurants and nightclubs. A range of absorbing museums and fine public monuments, modern business and commercial areas, as well as busy markets and tree-lined residential suburbs.

Accra is home to Kotoka International Airport and a focus of the country's railroad system, including a link to nearby Tema, which since 1962 has served as the city's deepwater port. Industries include vehicle and appliance assembly, petroleum refining, and the manufacture of foodstuffs, textiles, metal and wood products, plastics, and pharmaceuticals. Home to The University of Ghana at Legon. Accra has a population of over 3.3 million people

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia









African Union Headquarters is located in Addis Ababa







Addis Ababa is the capital (and has been so since late 19th century) and the largest city of Ethiopia. It is also spelled as Addis Abeba. It is strategically located in the center of the country. Its precursor, Entoto, was unsuitable because of very cold temperatures and scant supply of firewood. The Empress Taitu, wife of Emperor Menilek II (reigned 1889-1913), talked the emperor into constructing a house near hot springs. The city was consequently founded in 1887 and was called Addis Ababa ('New Flower') by the empress. The city was the capital of Italian East Africa during the brief occupation from 1935-1941.

The Addis Ababa University (1950) and some other training colleges and technical schools are located here. Places of interest are the Museum of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, the National School of Music, the National Library and Archives, mansions of previous emperors, and governmental bureaus. International organizations such as the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa have their headquarters here.

The Mercato, located in west Addis Ababa, is a huge open-air market. The Piazza, in the central part of Addis Ababa, contains European-style shopping centers. A little zoo is positioned near the university. One can go boating, waterskiing, bathing, and can bird-watch in the lake region in the south. Football (soccer is very popular here. The city supports a population of over 2.4 million.

Antananarivo, Madagascar



Antananarivo was founded about 1625. For long only the principal village of the Hova kings, Antananarivo advanced in importance as those kings made themselves sovereigns of the greater part of Madagascar, until it became a town of some 80,000 inhabitants.

In 1793 it was made the capital of the Merina kings. The Merina is the largest ethnic group in Madagascar. Like most ethnic groups of Madagascar, the Merina practice a syncretism of Christianity and traditional African religion.

The conquests of King Radama I made Antananarivo the capital of almost all of Madagascar. Until 1869 all buildings within the city proper were of wood or rush, but even then it possessed several timber palaces of considerable size, the largest being 120 ft. high. These crown the summit of the central portion of the ridge; and the largest palace, with its lofty roof and towers, is the most conspicuous object from every point of view. Since the introduction of stone and brick, the whole city has been rebuilt and now contains numerous structures of some architectural pretension, the royal palaces, the houses formerly belonging to the prime minister and nobles, the French residency, the Anglican and Roman Catholic cathedrals, several stone churches, as well as others of brick, colleges, schools, hospitals, courts of justice and other government buildings, and hundreds of good dwelling-houses.

The city was captured by the French in 1895 and incorporated into their Madagascar protectorate.

The city has a population of around 1.4 million people

Alexandria, Egypt





Alexandria is the second-largest city of Egypt after Cairo. The city extends along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea in the north central part of Egypt. Alexandria is the largest city lying directly on the Mediterranean coast. It is Egypt's largest seaport.

Alexandria was founded around a small pharaonic town c. 331 BCE by Alexander the Great. It remained Egypt's capital for nearly a thousand years, until the Muslim conquest of Egypt in CE 641, when a new capital was founded at Fustat (Fustat was later absorbed into Cairo). A city named Rhacotis once existed where Alexandria is located.

Population: 4.1 million

Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo



Brazzaville is the capital and largest city of the Republic of the Congo and is located on the Congo River. It has a population of over 1,500,000.

The populous city of Kinshasa (more than 8 million), capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, lies just across the Congo River from Brazzaville. Together with Kinshasa, the combined conurbation of Kinshasa-Brazzaville has nearly 11 million people.

In order to distinguish between the two African countries with "Congo" in their names, the Republic of the Congo is sometimes called Congo-Brazzaville, as opposed to Congo-Kinshasa (the Democratic Republic of the Congo, known from 1971 to 1997 as Zaire, the capital of which is Kinshasa).

This is the only place in the world where two national capital cities are situated on opposite banks of a river, within sight of each other. The city was founded on September 10, 1880 on the site of an existing native African city named Nkuna by a Franco-Italian explorer, Pierre Savorgnan de Brazza, after whom the city was named.

The local leader, Makoko of the Téké signed a treaty of protection with de Brazza which subjugated his lands to the French Empire. The city was built four years later in order to become a competitor with Léopoldville (now Kinshasa) which was built by the Belgians on the other side of the river.

French control over the area was made official by the Berlin Conference of 1884. The city became the capital first of the French Congo, and then of French Equatorial Africa, a federation of states which encompassed Gabon, the Central African Republic and Chad. In 1924, the Congo-Océan railway was brought into service which linked Brazzaville with the port of Pointe-Noire. Until the 1960s, the city was divided into European (the center of the city) and African sections (Poto-Poto, Baongo, and Makélékélé).

Cairo, Egypt

















Cairo is the capital city of Egypt. Located on mainly the eastern bank of the river Nile, it is also the largest city in Africa. In Arabic, it is known as Al-Qahirah, or 'the victorious.'

Cairo is an old city, having stood over 1000 years at its present location under the same name. However, the old and the new present sharp contrasts in this city. A large portion of ancient structures still exists in and around Cairo today. The most famous of them are undoubtedly the Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx. Tourists and historians alike still flock today, thousands of years after it was built, still trying to uncover more of their mysteries. In all, Cairo contains more than 400 registered monuments - the largest number in any city in Africa or the Middle East. In the Fatimid city lies a large number of monuments like the Mosque of Baybars I and Saladin's Citadel. The downtown area Al-Azbakiyah is modern, with its elegant buildings and present a sharp contrast with the older areas. The city's architecture reflects the diversity of style, with modern styles intermingling with ancient Egyptian, Roman, medieval Arab and Turkish styles.

The city is fan-shaped - narrow at the south and widest in the north where the valley opens up in the Nile delta. However, the deserts are nearby, and the climate is thus naturally affected - dry, hot days, with cooler nights and scant rainfall.

Cairo is an enormous city. It is also the center of higher education in Egypt. The Cairo University, along with many other universities draw in students from all over the Arab Middle East region. The rich culture of Egypt is well displayed in the city's Egyptian Museum, Museum of Islamic Art, National Library and other buildings.

Cairo is well connected with other cities by rail, and there is also an international airport in the city. The city has its metro service, suburban trains, public buses, along with hordes of automobiles that create an air pollution problem. Cairo has over 8 million inhabitants and more than 12 million in the metropolitan area.

Casablanca, Morocco



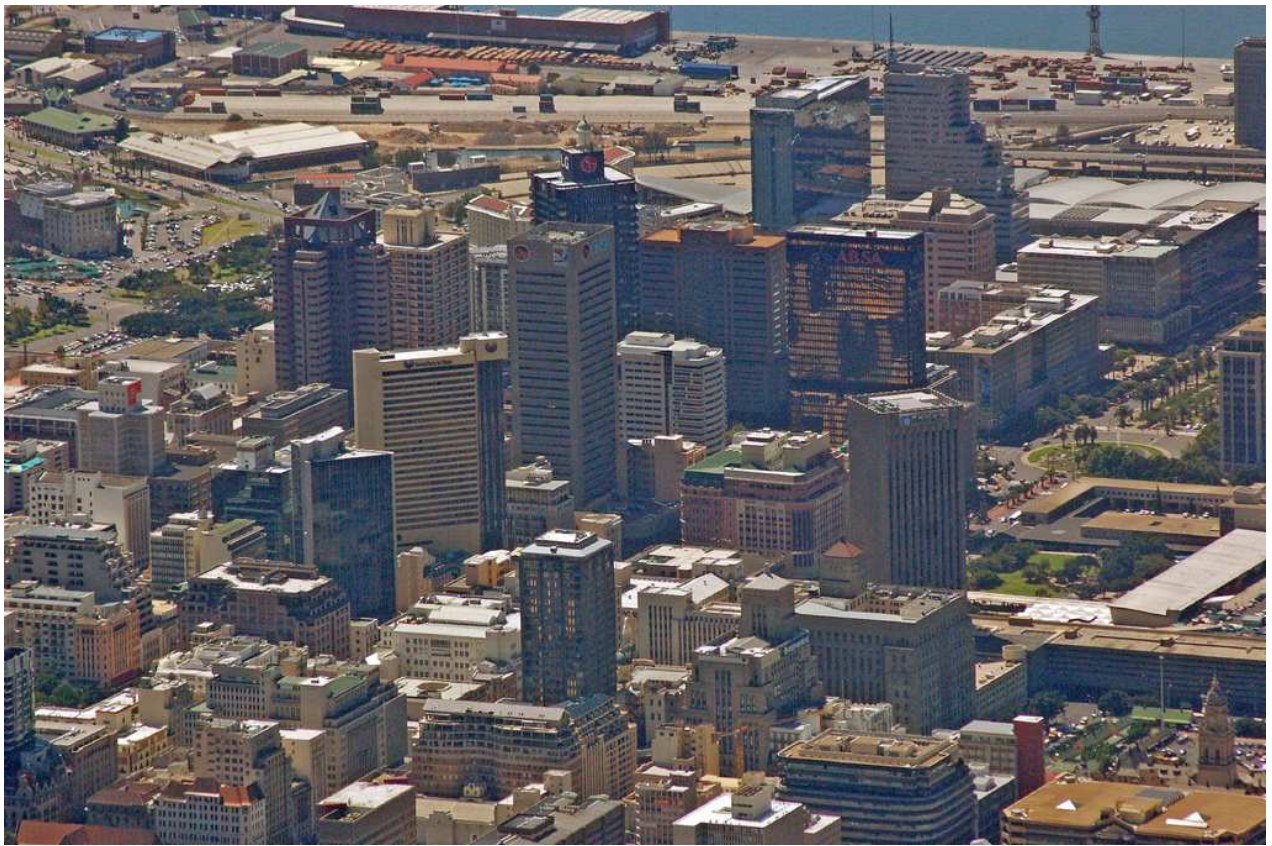
Casablanca has a population of 3,344,300. The origin of the north African city is not known. It was settled by black Africans. The area had been inhabited since very early prehistoric times, as the many prehistoric remains show. Then came the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Berbers, Byzantines, Romans and Vandals before the Arab invasion which took place in the 8th century.

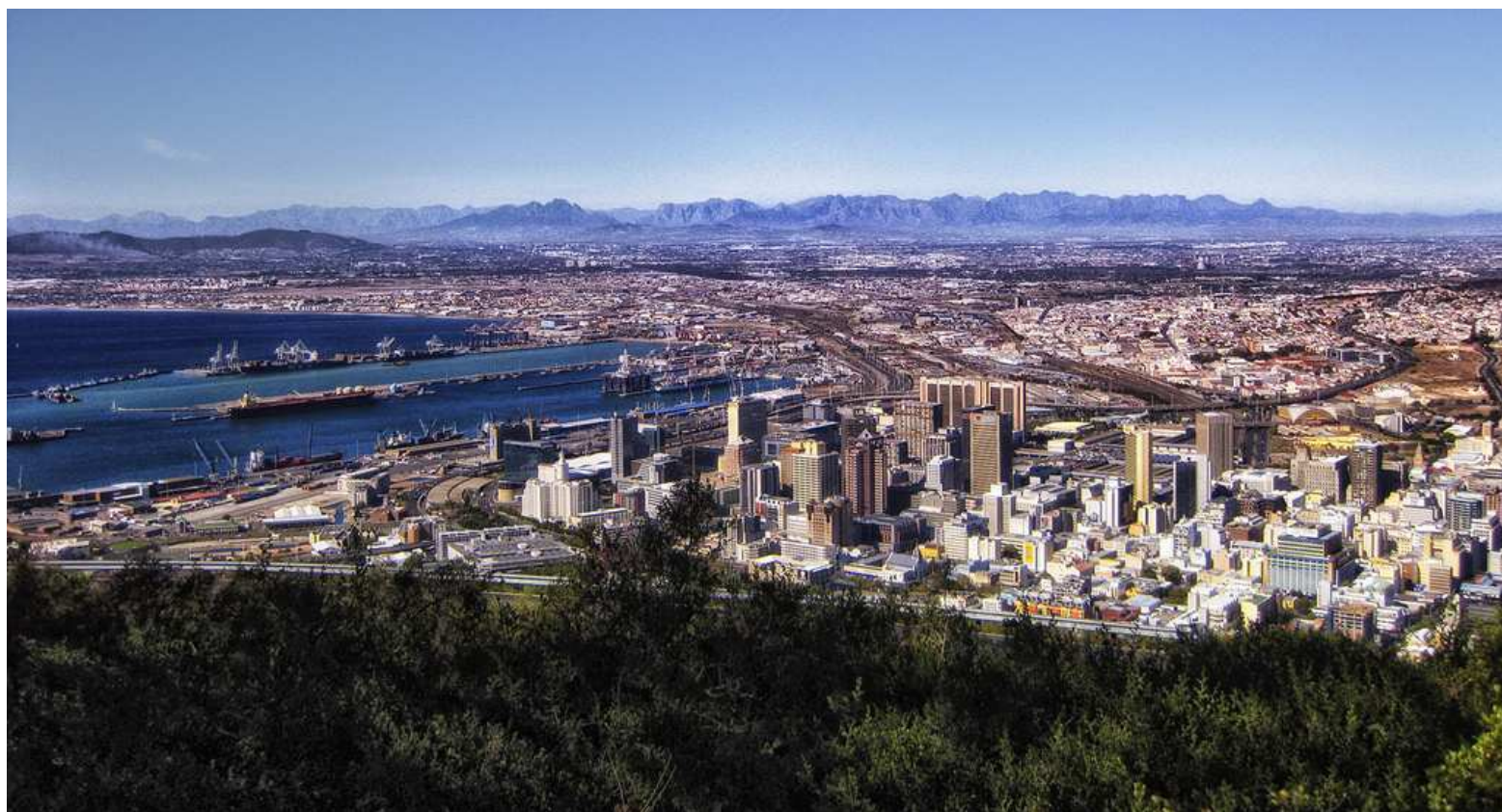
A Berber village called Anfa stood on the present-day site in the 12th century; it became a European pirates' base for harrying European Christian ships and was destroyed by the European Portuguese in 1468. The European Portuguese returned to the area in 1515 and built a new town called Casa Branca ("White House"). It was abandoned in 1755 after a devastating earthquake, but the 'Alawi sultan Sidi Muhammad ibn 'Abd Allah rebuilt the town in the late 18th century. European Spanish merchants, who named it Casablanca, and other European traders began to settle there. The European French after a time outnumbered other European settlers, and the name Maison Blanche ("White House") became as common as Casablanca.

Casablanca was occupied by the European French in 1907, and during the European French protectorate (1912-56) Casablanca became the chief port of Morocco. Since then, the growth and development of the city have been continuous and rapid. During World War II the city was the seat of a British-U.S. summit conference in 1943. In 1961 a conference at Casablanca, presided over by King Muhammad V of Morocco, founded the Casablanca group of African states.

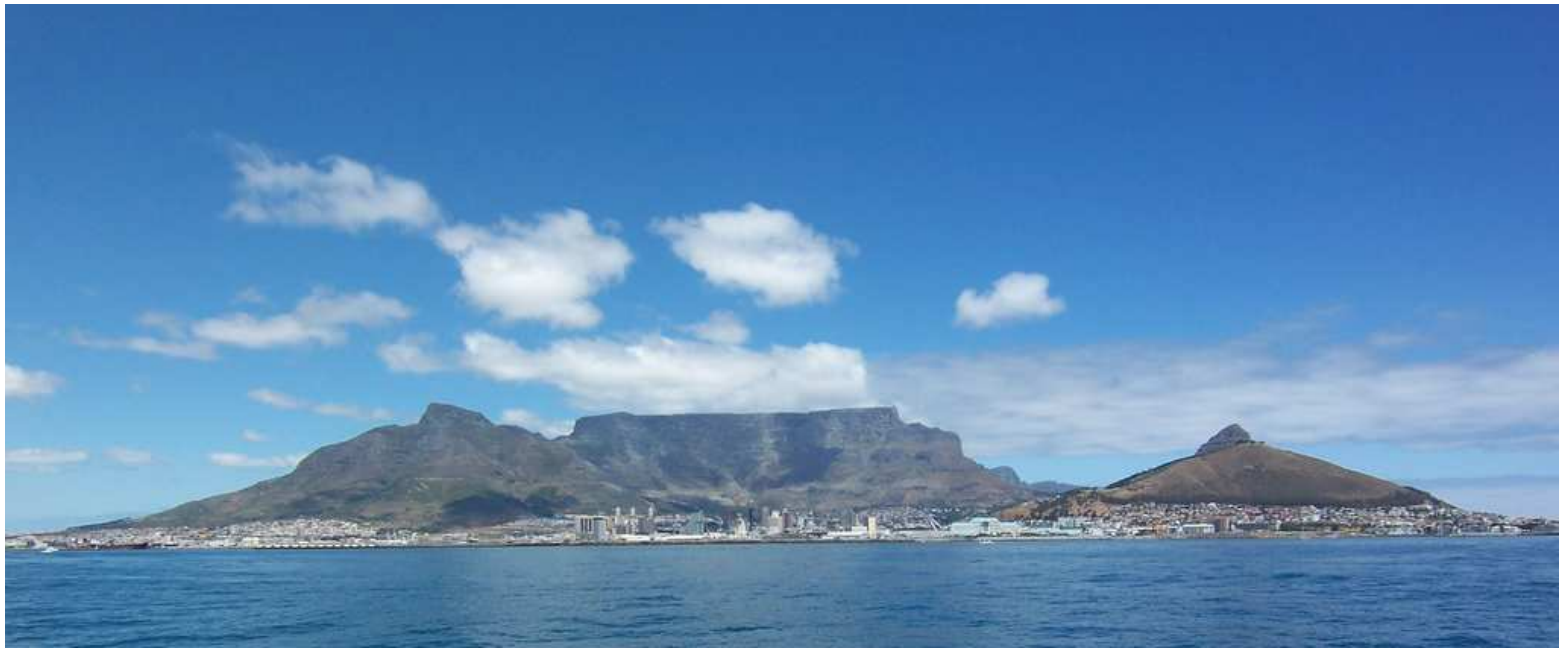
Cape Town, South Africa



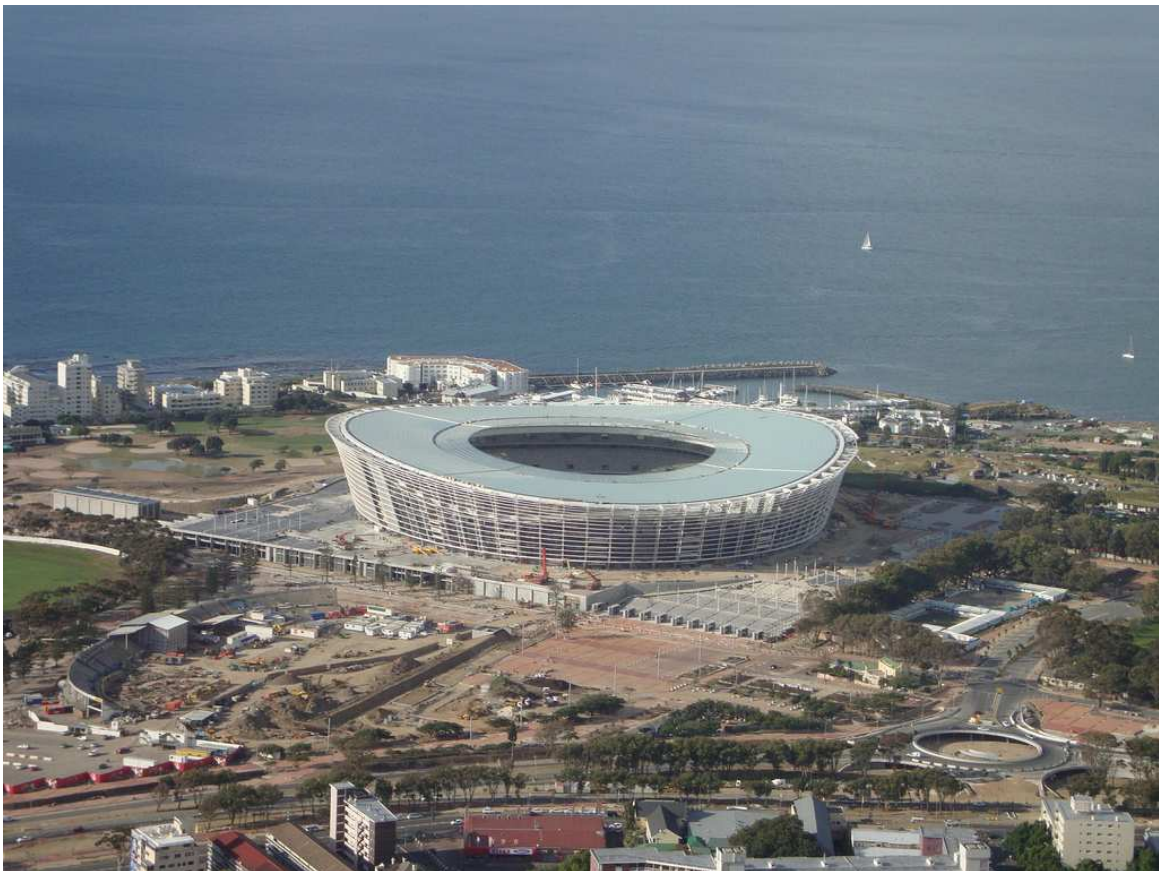












Cape Town is the legislative capital of South Africa. It was previously known as Kaapstad, and has a reputation for being one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

It lies on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean and has some excellent beaches. However, the water is quite cold as it comes from the south. The city is dominated by another natural feature - the Table Mountain. It is 1000m high and it offers walks to the summit from where visitors can get a marvelous view of the city.

The city has a population of over a million, which includes whites, black Africans, people of Indian origin and others. Among the blacks, there are two major groups, namely Nguni (Zulu, Swazi and Xhosa) and Sotho (Tswana, Pedi and Basutho). Traditional beliefs are the most commonly practised religion among the blacks. There are 11 official languages, but most people speak English and/or Afrikaans. Afrikaans has developed from High Dutch of the 17th century, which has abandoned the complicated grammar and adopted vocabulary from French, English, indigenous Africa and even Asian languages. The Africans speak mainly isiXhosa and isiZulu.

Among industries in the city and nearby areas, ship repair is the most important industry. Cape Town possesses one of the world's largest dry docks. Other industries in and around the city include food processing, wine making, manufacture of clothing, plastic, leather goods, petroleum refining, chemical and fertilizer processing, cement and automobiles. Tourism is also gradually becoming more and more important.

Cape Town is the largest city in South Africa with 2,639,500 people

Cotonou, Benin









Cotonou is the economic capital of Benin, as well as its largest city.; The town's population in 1960 was a mere 70,000, so this would indicate a tenfold increase in population over a period of forty years. The urban area continues to expand, notably in the west of the city. The city lies in the south east of the country, between the Atlantic Ocean and Nokoué Lake.

The name 'Cotonou' means 'the mouth of the river of death' in the Fon language. At the beginning of the 19th century, Cotonou (then spelled Kotonou) was a merely a small fishing village.

Originally dominated by the Kingdom of Dahomey, in 1851 the French made a treaty with the Dahomean King Ghezo that allowed them to establish a trading post at Cotonou.

During the reign of Glele, his successor (1858-1889), the territory was colonized by France in 1868. In 1883 the French navy occupied the city to prevent British conquest of the area. After Glele's death in 1889, his son Behanzin tried, unsuccessfully, to challenge the treaty. From then on, the town developed quickly.

Its official population count was 761,137 inhabitants in 2006, however, some estimates indicate its population may be as high as 1.2 million.

Dakar, Senegal







Dakar is the capital of Senegal. The city's name came from 'dakhar' - a Wolof name for the tamarind tree. Neolithic tools found in Senegal indicate that the country has been occupied for 15,000 years or more. In the 8th century, Senegal was a part of the empire of Ghana. As this empire waned, the Djolof kingdom arose and flourished during the 13th and 14th century in the region between the Senegal river and modern Dakar.

By the end of the 19th century, France controlled all of Senegal and Dakar was established as the administrative center. With the opening of West Africa's first railway from Saint Louis to Dakar, the city became a very important export center for peanut trade. The peanut-oil refinery was an important industry in Dakar during World War II. Dakar is also known for its harbor - it is reputed to be one of the best in all of West Africa.

The main ethnic groups in the region are Wolof, Mandinka, Peula, Diora, Soninke and Serer. Over 80% of the population follow Islam. The remainder are traditional African religions and then Christians. The colonial French is the official language of the country, while Wolof is the most widely spoken language in Senegal.

Dakar population is 1,729,823

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania







Dar es Salaam, formerly Mzizima, is the largest city in Tanzania. It is also an important economic centre and the former capital city of Tanzania but it continues to serve as the capital for the surrounding Dar es Salaam Region.

In 1859, Albert Roscher of Hamburg became the first European to land in Mzizima ("healthy town"). In 1866 Sultan Seyyid Majid of Zanzibar gave it its present name, an Arabic phrase meaning Haven of Peace. Dar es Salaam fell into decline after Majid's death in 1870, but was revived in 1887, when the German East Africa Company established a station there. The town's growth was facilitated by its role as the administrative and commercial centre of German East Africa and industrial expansion resulting from the construction of the Central Railway Line in the early 1900s.

German East Africa was captured by the British during World War I and from then on referred to as Tanganyika. Dar es Salaam was retained as the territory's administrative and commercial center. Under British indirect rule, separate European (e.g. Oyster Bay) and African (e.g. Kariakoo and Ilala) areas developed at a distance from the city center. The town's population also included a large amount of South Asians.

After World War II, Dar es Salaam experienced a period of rapid growth. Political developments, including the formation and growth of the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU), led to Tanganyika attaining independence from colonial rule in December 1961. Dar es Salaam continued to serve as its capital, also when in 1964 Tanganyika and Zanzibar merged to form Tanzania. However, in 1973 provisions were made to relocate the capital to Dodoma, a more centrally located city in Tanzania's interior. The relocation process has not yet been completed, and Dar es Salaam remains Tanzania's primary city.

The city has a population of around 2.5 million

Douala, Cameroon



Douala is the largest city in Cameroon and the capital of Cameroon's Littoral Province and is located on the Wouri River.

Portuguese arrived in about 1472. By 1650, it had become the site of a town formed by the Duala people from the interior who spoke the Douala language. By the 1700s the city was center of the transatlantic slave trade. The city was known as Cameroons Town. It became Kamerunstadt ("Cameroon City"), the capital of German Kamerun after 1884 when the Germans colonized the area. It was renamed Douala in 1907 and became part of the French Cameroons in 1919. From 1940 to 1946 the city was the capital of Cameroon.

The city is divided into quarters with Akwa and Bonajo being the most important with Akwa being Douala's nightlife center and Bonanjo its center of commerce and administration.

The city has a population of over 2.0 million.

Durban, South Africa









When the European Vasco da Gama anchored in the bay of today's Durban in 1497, he called it Rio de Natal, Christmas River. The area was occupied by the Native Africans, which greeted the Europeans. Since then many sailors and merchants steered for the bay, but the settlement of Port Natal only started to evolve in 1823. In 1835, the place was renamed Durban after the Cape Governor Sir Benjamin Durban.

Life in the small harbor town was very precarious. The Zulus regarded Natal as their own territory and merely tolerated the white settlers, because the port was useful to them as a trading center.

When in 1838 the Voortrekkers, white pioneers from the Cape of Good Hope, came to Natal, armed conflicts with the Zulus started and Durban was permanently threatened with attack. After the final defeat of the Zulus, there was peace for some time, until the Voortrekkers and the British began to fight for supremacy over Natal. The severe conflicts were ultimately decided in favor of the British. In 1844, Natal was incorporated into the Cape Colony. Durban today is the largest city of East Indian Population outside of India.

Durban's population is around 2,314,600

Freetown, Sierra Leone



Freetown is the largest city and capital of Sierra Leone, lying on the Freetown Peninsula on the Atlantic coast. The city is a port on the Atlantic Ocean. Freetown's economy revolves largely around its harbor, which handles Sierra Leone's main exports. Industries include fish packing, rice milling, petroleum refining, diamond cutting, and the manufacture of cigarettes.

The area was first settled in 1787 by freed African slaves sent from England around the Cotton Tree, said to have previously been a slave market, by British abolitionists, who started the Sierra Leone Company. It was burnt by local ethnic groups under King Jimmy in 1790.

Enslaved Africans who had fled the newly-independent USA to England were resettled here by the British Government. In 1792, Freetown was founded by former enslaved Africans from Nova Scotia in Canada, and survived being pillaged by the French in 1794. The indigenous African inhabitants revolted in 1800, but the British retook control, beginning expansionism which led to the creation of Sierra Leone. From 1808 to 1874 the city served as the capital of British West Africa.

The city expanded rapidly as many freed slaves settled, accompanied by African soldiers who had fought for Britain in the Napoleonic Wars. During World War II, Britain maintained a naval base at Freetown. Descendants of the freed slaves, called Creoles, play a leading role in the city, even though they are a minority of the population.

The city was the scene of fierce fighting in the late 1990s. It was captured by ECOWAS troops (Economic Community of West African States made up of 16 West African countries) seeking to restore President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah in 1998, and later it was unsuccessfully attacked by rebels of the Revolutionary United Front.

The city has a population of population 1.07 million people.

Harare, Zimbabwe









Harare is the capital of Zimbabwe. It lies at an altitude of 1,483m (4,865 feet) in the northeastern part of the country and has a temperate climate.

This region of Africa was occupied by the British and led by Cecil Rhodes the Napoleon of Southern Africa.

Rhodes also controlled the huge companies that owned most of the gold and diamond fields. In 1893 he defeated the Matabele (Nation of Southern Africa and ethnic group) and their king, Lobengula. Meanwhile he schemed against his political opponent Paul Kruger, leader of the Dutch settlers--the Boers--and president of the Transvaal Republic. In 1895 Leander Jameson, Rhodes's friend, raided the Transvaal, hoping to overthrow the Boer government. The raid failed. Rhodes was implicated and forced to resign as prime minister and as director of the British South Africa Company.

Cecil Rhodes believed the African was less than human, slaughtered many in order to take control over the region and convert them to Christianity. Rhodes dreamed of a railroad from southern Africa to Egypt to transport the riches out of Africa to Europe.

Rhodes moved to Matabeleland, planning to develop its natural resources. Soon he had the chance to show his statesmanship. The African people who lived in the area had revolted and could not be suppressed. Rhodes talked with the chiefs, heard their grievances, and promised relief. The rebellion ended. In 1898 Rhodes was again elected to the Cape Colony parliament. He had begun to regain his old power when the Boer War (1899-1902) began. He took part in the defense of Kimberley, but his health broke and he died on March 26, 1902, in Muizenberg.

Rhodes's dream of a South African Union came true in 1910. He left his Cape Town residence, Groote Schuur, to be the home of future prime ministers of the Union, now a republic. The University of Cape Town is also situated on his Groote Schuur estate.

The Rhodes Scholarships is named for Cecil John Rhodes

Harare was founded in 1890. Harare was earlier called Salisbury after Lord Salisbury, the British Prime minister. This grew into a municipality in 1897. After the creation of the railway from Beira, Mozambique, this city grew significantly. Harare, or rather Salisbury, was the colony capital of Southern Rhodesia, of the Federation of Rhodesia. Salisbury had a set up of wards for the native Africans. The Europeans that controlled Rhodesia had a form of government that was much like that of South Africa. The Europeans changed the name Southern Rhodesia to

Nyasaland, which lasted from 1953 to 1963. The country was then Renamed Rhodesia. Salisbury was also the capital Rhodesia from 1965 to 1979. In 1980, the government of independent Zimbabwe renamed it as Harare and made it their capital.

Harare is the commercial and industrial center of Zimbabwe. It is also a transportation center, serving as a junction for air, road and rail travel. There are important gold mines in the surrounding areas. Moreover, agricultural produce from the surrounding areas, like Victoria tobacco, come to Harare for distribution.

Harare contains many churches, libraries and museums, as well as the University of Zimbabwe and the national archives.

Harare has a population of 1,456,870