**LJHSCE Social Studies Review**

**Grade 9**

**Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**A Brief Profile of Liberia**

**Background**

With 28 ethnic groups and languages, Liberia is one of the most ethnically diverse countries in the world. For hundreds of years, the Mali and Songhai Empires claimed most of Liberia. Beginning in the 15th century, European traders began establishing outposts along the Liberian coast. Unlike its neighbors, however, Liberia did not fall under European colonial rule. In the early 19th century, the United States began sending freed enslaved people and other people of color to Liberia to establish settlements. In 1847, these settlers declared independence from the United States, writing their own constitution and establishing Africa’s first republic.

Early in Liberia’s history, tensions arose between the Americo-Liberian settlers and the indigenous population. In 1980, Samuel DOE, who was from the indigenous population, led a military coup and ushered in a decade of authoritarian rule. In December 1989, Charles TAYLOR launched a rebellion against DOE's regime that led to a prolonged civil war in which DOE was killed. A period of relative peace in 1997 permitted an election that brought TAYLOR to power. In 2000, fighting resumed. An August 2003 peace agreement ended the war and prompted President TAYLOR’s resignation. TAYLOR was later convicted by the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone in The Hague for his involvement in Sierra Leone's civil war. In late 2005, President Ellen JOHNSON SIRLEAF became president after two years of transitional governments; she was the first female head of state in Africa. In 2011, JOHNSON SIRLEAF won reelection but struggled to rebuild Liberia's economy, particularly following the 2014-15 Ebola epidemic, and to reconcile a nation still recovering from 14 years of fighting. In 2017, former soccer star George WEAH won the presidential runoff election.

**Liberia in Facts and Figures**

**Population:** 5, 214, 030 (July est.)

**Demographic Profile**

**Age structure:**

**0-14 years:**43.35% (male 1,111,479/female 1,087,871)  
  
**15-24 years:**20.35% (male 516,136/female 516,137)  
  
**25-54 years:**30.01% (male 747,983/female 774,615)  
  
**55-64 years:**3.46% (male 89,150/female 86,231)  
  
**65 years and over:**2.83% (male 70,252/female 73,442) (2020 est.)

**Population growth rate:** 2.74% (2021 est.)

**Birth rate:** 36.96 births/1,000 population (2021 est.)

**Death rate:** 6.78 deaths/1,000 population (2021 est.)

**Net migration rate:** -2.82 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2021 est.)

**Sex ratio:**

**at birth:**1.03 male(s)/female  
  
**0-14 years:**1.02 male(s)/female  
  
**15-24 years:**1 male(s)/female  
  
**25-54 years:**0.97 male(s)/female  
  
**55-64 years:**1.03 male(s)/female  
  
**65 years and over:**0.96 male(s)/female  
  
**total population:**1 male(s)/female (2020 est.)

**Infant mortality rate**

**total:**45.98 deaths/1,000 live births  
  
**male:**50.16 deaths/1,000 live births  
  
**female:**41.68 deaths/1,000 live births (2021 est.)

**Life expectancy at birth**

**total population:**65.1 years  
  
**male:**62.86 years  
  
**female:**67.4 years (2021 est.)

**Total fertility rate**

4.84 children born/woman (2021 est.)

**Nationality**

noun:Liberian(s)

adjective: Liberian

**Ethnic groups:**

Kpelle 20.3%, Bassa 13.4%, Grebo 10%, Gio 8%, Mano 7.9%, Kru 6%, Lorma 5.1%, Kissi 4.8%, Gola 4.4%, Krahn 4%, Vai 4%, Mandingo 3.2%, Gbandi 3%, Mende 1.3%, Sapo 1.3%, other Liberian 1.7%, other African 1.4%, non-African .1% (2008 est.)

**Languages:**

English 20% (official), some 20 ethnic group languages few of which can be written or used in correspondence.

**Religions:**

Christian 85.6%, Muslim 12.2%, Traditional 0.6%, other 0.2%, none 1.5% (2008 est.)

**Literacy:**

definition: age 15 and over can read and write

total population: 48.3%

male: 62.7%

female: 34.1 (2017)

**Country name:**

Conventional long form: Republic of Liberia

Conventional short form: Liberia

**Government type:**

presidential republic

**Capital:** Monrovia

**Administrative divisions:**

15 counties; Bomi, Bong, Gbarpolu, Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, Lofa, Margibi, Maryland, Montserrado, Nimba, River Cess, River Gee, Sinoe

**Independence:** 26 July 1847

**National holiday:** Independence Day, 26 July (1847)

**Constitution:** 6 January 1986

**Legal system:**

mixed legal system of common law, based on Anglo-American law, and customary law.

**Suffrage:** 18 years of age; universal

**Executive branch:**

**chief of state:**President George WEAH (since 22 January 2018); Vice President Jewel HOWARD-TAYLOR (since 22 January 2018); note - the president is both chief of state and head of government  
  
**head of government:**President George WEAH (since 22 January 2018); Vice President Jewel HOWARD-TAYLOR (since 22 January 2018)

**Cabinet:** Cabinet appointed by the president, confirmed by the senate.

The government ministries of Liberia are as follows: Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, and Development, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labor, Liberia Mines and Minerals Regulatory Authority, Ministry of National Defense, Ministry of National Security, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of State, Ministry of Transport, & Ministry of Youth and Sports.

**elections/appointments:**president directly elected by absolute majority popular vote in 2 rounds if needed for a 6-year term (eligible for a second term); election last held on 10 October 2017 with a run-off on 26 December 2017) (next to be held on 10 October 2023); the runoff originally scheduled for 7 November 2017 was delayed due to allegations of fraud in the first round, which the Supreme Court dismissed.

**Legislative branch:**

**description:**bicameral National Assembly consists of:  
The Liberian Senate (30 seats; members directly elected in 15 2-seat districts by simple majority vote to serve 9-year staggered terms; each district elects 1 senator and elects the second senator 3 years later, followed by a 6-year hiatus, after which the first Senate seat is up for election)  
House of Representatives (73 seats; members directly elected in single-seat districts by simple majority vote to serve 6-year terms; eligible for a second term)

**Judicial branch:**

**highest courts:**Supreme Court (consists of a chief justice and 4 associate justices); note - the Supreme Court has jurisdiction for all constitutional cases.  
  
**judge selection and term of office:**chief justice and associate justices appointed by the president of Liberia with consent of the Senate; judges can serve until age 70.  
  
**subordinate courts:**judicial circuit courts; special courts, including criminal, civil, labor, traffic; magistrate and traditional or customary courts.

Early History Liberia was founded in 1822 as an outpost for returning freed slaves from the Americas. It grew into a colony and eventually became a commonwealth, and achieved independence on July 26, 1847 with the help of the American Colonization Society (a private organization based in the United States). Descendants of the freed slaves, generally known as Americo-Liberians, remained in social and political control of the country until 1980.

The unequal distribution of power and wealth resulting from Liberia’s social structure is largely at the center of the recent conflicts:

In 1923, Abayomi Karnga, a scholar and politician of re-captive parentage, noted that the status divisions among the Liberians eventually evolved into a hierarchical caste system with four distinct orders. At the top were the Americo-Liberian officials, consisting largely of light-complexioned people of mixed Black and White ancestry [also known as “Mulattos”]. They were followed by darker skinned Americo-Liberians, consisting mostly of laborers and small farmers. Then came the re-captives [also known as “Congos” ], the Africans who had been rescued by the U.S. Navy while aboard U.S.-bound slave ships and brought to Liberia. At the bottom of the hierarchy were the indigenous African Liberians.

In 1930, the U.S. government and the League of Nations collaborated on an investigation into the existence of slavery in Liberia, the land of liberty that had been founded by the American Colonization Society in the nineteenth century as an asylum for former American slaves. By the early twentieth century, the realities of social injustice in Liberia stood in sharp contrast to the ideal of freedom that the country symbolized. By 1930, roughly 15,000 Americo-Liberians violently struggled to assert control over 2 million indigenous people living in Liberian territories.1 In a tragic paradox, the Americo-Liberian political elite, themselves the descendants of former American slaves, stood accused of enslaving the indigenous populations in Liberia for their own economic gain.

A League of Nations Commission of Inquiry, comprised of the League representative Cuthbert Christy, the American sociologist Charles S. Johnson, and the former Liberian president Arthur Barclay, spent four months in the coast and hinterland of Liberia, interviewing Liberian politicians, chiefs, and indigenous laborers, and investigating the slavery allegations. According to the Commission’s Report, produced in the fall of 1930, the Liberian political elite had been buying indigenous people in the hinterland to work as domestic slaves, authorizing the shipment of forced labor to contractors in the Spanish colony of Fernando Po, and using unpaid and unfed labor for private gains.

**Private gains.**

The questions of why the League of Nations investigated Liberian slavery and why the U.S. government actively participated in the investigation have not yet received full answers. All historical accounts cite the American business interests in Liberia as a crucial factor that led to U.S. involvement. In 1926, the American rubber magnate Harvey Firestone, with the support of the U.S. Commerce Department, had invested in one million acres of Liberian land for rubber plantations, and his company’s subsidiary, the American Finance Corporation, had provided the Liberian government with a 5 million dollars loan, on 7% annual interest. The Firestone Company had cozy relationships with the U.S. State Department, even though the U.S. government was not willing to secure the investment with military force. Nnamdi Azikiwe, editor of the West African Pilot and the first President of Nigeria, wrote the first survey of the Liberian crisis in 1934, painting it in Manichean terms: an attempted American takeover of the sole Black Republic in Africa.

Manichean terms: an attempted American takeover of the sole Black Republic in Africa, motivated by a mix of paternalism and racism.3 Azikiwe’s reading of the crisis is not surprising, given that he was writing in the pre-history of African nationalism and was himself a committed anti-imperialist. After Azikiwe, the earliest historical accounts of the Liberian slavery crisis were based exclusively on printed material and failed to scrutinize the U.S. motivations for involvement. 4 2 Report of the Liberian Commission of Inquiry, June 1930. League of Nations, C. 658.M272. Herea

An overview of the social, economic, and geopolitical forces that impacted the slavery crisis in Liberia is necessary to contextualize the 1930 League investigation. Slavery emerged in Liberia from the deep-seated inequality between the Americo-Liberian elite who ruled the country and the indigenous people in the Liberian hinterland that the elite sought to “civilize” and bring under its control. The Liberian slavery crisis would eventually draw international attention in the 1930s because of its geopolitical importance to the West. Liberia was wedged between British and French colonial possessions in Africa, and due to the history of its foundation, there were also American interests in the country. Liberia’s importance to the United States dramatically increased in 1926, when the American rubber magnate Harvey S. Firestone invested over $5 million in the country to guarantee an American source of rubber. The Foundation of Liberia What Liberia stood for was often more important to the West than the reality of political…

What Liberia stood for was often more important to the West than the reality of political and social conditions on the ground. Liberia was conceived as a simulation of American society on the coast of West Africa. In 1816, the philanthropic American Colonization Society provided funds to purchase African territory as an asylum for former American slaves. Liberia was founded as an inducement for Southern slaveholders to free their slaves, and be absolved of any financial requirements to cover the transition to freedom.

The government and society of Liberia were explicitly based on the American model. Similar to the American flag, the Liberian flag is a banner of eleven red and white stripes, with a single white star (originally a white cross) against a blue square background in the top left corner. The Harvard academic and evangelist Simon Greenleaf, who had never been to Africa, slightly modified the U.S. Constitution to create a new Liberian constitution, and he presented it to the American Colonization Society for implementation. The fact that the African-Americans who immigrated to Liberia had neither created nor designed the country’s government, and were themselves products of the vastly unequal slave society in the United States, provides some explanation for why the democratic ideals that were embodied in Liberia’s founding document would later be so haphazardly applied. The phrase “all men are created free and equal” was included in the founding documents of Liberia, but as Charles Johnson, who would later serve on the League’s 1930 Commission of Inquiry in Liberia noted, “the aborigines were disregarded just as the Americans’ slaves had been disregarded.” Virtually upon the country’s inception, forced domestic servitude and pawning became widespread practices. From birth, Liberia was a land of liberty in language only, because the provisions of the Constitution were not heeded in practice. Although the “colony of Liberia,” received an ambiguous guarantee of support from the U.S. government, in 1843 U.S. Secretary of State Abel P. Upshar stressed that Liberia was an “individual enterprise,” that was not under the authority of the U.S. government, “the motives which led to it were not trade, nor of conquest; their motives were purely 13 Charles S. Johnson, Bitter Canaan, (New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction, Inc.): 80.

philanthropic.” Secretary Upshar also indicated that Liberia’s “influence in civilizing and Christianizing Africa, in suppressing the slave-trade, and in ameliorating the condition of African slaves,” would be worth little, if they were impeded by any British or French claims to Liberian territory. When the British government insisted that Liberia’s ambiguous status complicated its relations with Great Powers in Africa, Americo-Liberians decided to precisely define Liberia as an independent sovereign nation. The Liberian governor J.J. Roberts negotiated his country’s political and economic independence from the American Colonization Society on July 26, 1847. For decades, Liberians referred to their country’s foundation as a messianic event. F.E.R. Johnson, a Liberian attorney general and member of the Liberian Supreme Court, orated on the 40th anniversary of Liberian independence in 1887: “the fathers of Liberia - like the children of Israel, had fled from the land of their captivity.

Liberia as an independent country (the U.S. did not formally recognize Liberia until 1862, the same year it recognized Haiti). However, the planned British expansion of Sierra Leone conflicted with existing Liberian boundaries. In the aftermath of the Berlin Conference of 1884 (which Liberia did not attend), Liberia voluntarily ceded over 6,000 acres of shoreline, in order to maintain control over the hinterland territories that bordered British territories. U.S. representatives attended the Berlin Conference for supervisory purposes, but Congress did not ratify any of the existing agreements.

On June 16, 1890, during the Brussels Conference, the U.S. representative explained Liberia’s symbolic importance saying, “it deserves the sympathies of all those who are interested in the cause of humanity in Africa […] this conference has every interest in associating it with its work, because of the mission Liberia is called upon to fulfill.” Even though the British and French governments looked eagerly at Liberian territories, the U.S. was firm in its stance that Liberia’s independence was non-negotiable. According to the U.S., Liberia’s existence gave credence to the humanitarian ideals that the Great Powers professed to support in Africa.

**Growing Internal Problems**

The international battles for recognition were not the only challenges Liberian. The international battles for recognition were not the only challenges Liberians faced in establishing sovereignty. From the country’s beginning, Americo-Liberians encountered difficulties as they tried to establish political control over the existing populations in Liberian territories. Starting with a few ships of several hundred African.

American immigrants, by the turn of the 20th century, the Americo-Liberians numbered no more than 15,000-20,000. Yet, they attempted to exercise rule over the 1.5 to 2 million people who lived in the hinterland. The Americo-Liberian settlements were largely along the coast of Liberia, centered on the port city of Monrovia. By all accounts, Liberia mirrored other European colonial administrations in Africa, where a small Western civilization sought recognition from much larger populations of indigenous peoples. However, Charles Johnson notes that, “British and French colonists have found themselves similarly disproportionate, but behind them always has been the inflexible arm of a determined and secure mother country.” The Liberian government represented a small weak political force, with no larger power to prop up its mission. After the 1840’s, the United States only provided symbolic and moral recognition to Liberia. It was never a mother country to the Americo-Liberian colonists.

The new country of Liberia was a forced nationality that did not resonate with the Kru and Grebo peoples who lived in the hinterland territories. However, the Americo-Liberians, not phased by their own small numbers, readily taxed the indigenous populations for government services. In October 1860, the Liberian government enacted an ordinance requiring every male citizen over the age of 21 in Monrovia to pay a 75 cents annual poll tax. The ordinance also stipulated that every Krooman, Veyman, or any other indigenous person residing within Liberia should pay the same amount for the same benefits of political and legal protection. Since Liberia had no navigable rivers in the hinterland, no……..ordinances were enacted to ensure that “natives” wore clothes. Non-compliance was to be punished with forced labor: the Kru or Grebo person would have to work for the city of Monrovia for a period between 10 days and 1 month. These very early acts, which codified punishments of forced labor for questionable crimes, set a precedent for the later labor abuses that were the target of international scrutiny in the 1920s.

As time passed, the separation between the Mulattos and other freed slaves became less pronounced, and all became known as “Congos” or “Americo-Liberians.” This group of individuals, comprising less than 3 percent of the population, maintained economic, social, and political control of the country until a coup d’etat in 1980.

**1980:**

End of Americo-Liberian rule Liberia began to change during the 1970s. In 1971, William Tubman, Liberia’s president of 27 years, died while in office. Tubman’s “Open Door” economic policy brought a great deal of foreign investment at heavy price, as the divide widened between the prospering Americo-Liberians (benefiting from such investment) and the rest of the population. Following Tubman’s death, his long-serving vice president, William Tolbert, assumed the presidency. Because Tolbert was a member of one the most influential and affluent Americo-Liberian families, everything from cabinet appointments to economic policy was tainted with allegations of nepotism.

Because many the “re-captives” were originally from the Congo River region of Africa, they were called “Congos.” For much of Liberia’s early history, the Congos were classed below the Americo-Liberians. However, over the years the two groups joined and the terms “Americo-Liberian” and “Congo” were used interchangeably.

2 Robin Dunn-Marcos et al., “Liberians: An Introduction to Their History Culture,” Culture Profile No. 19, The Center for Applied Linguistics, April 2005.

However, Tolbert was also the first president to speak an indigenous language, and he promoted a program to bring more indigenous persons into the government. Unfortunately, this initiative lacked support within Tolbert’s own administration, and while the majority felt the change was occurring too slowly, many Americo-Liberians felt it was too rapid. In April 1979, a proposal to raise the price of rice (which the Tolbert administration subsidized) met with violent opposition. The government claimed that the price increase was meant to promote more local farming, slow the rate of urban migration, and reduce dependence on imported rice. However, opposition leaders also pointed out that the Tolbert family controlled the rice monopoly in Liberia and therefore stood to prosper. The ensuing “rice riots” severely damaged Tolbert’s credibility and increased the administration’s vulnerability. In April 1980, Army Master Sergeant Samuel Doe, an ethnic Krahn, led a coup d’etat that resulted in Tolbert’s murder and the public execution of 13 of his cabinet members. Among the many Liberians that fled the country was then–Minister of Finance, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

**1980-1984**

1980–1984: The People’s Redemption Council After the coup, the People’s Redemption Council (PRC), headed by Doe, assumed power and suspended the Constitution. Doe lacked formal education; by many accounts he was illiterate at the time he took over the presidency. He also had no political or leadership experience. After only one year, Doe—concerned that his leadership was being threatened from within the PRC—executed his vice dead of state and comrade in the 1980 coup, Thomas Weh-Syen, along with four other PRC members, claiming they had plotted against him. From this point on, Doe appeared increasingly paranoid regarding threats to his leadership and, as a result, his government became dominated by members of his own Krahn ethnic group. Much of the population that initially supported the transition from Americo-Liberian rule became increasingly disenfranchised as the government returned to monopolized control. In November 1983, three of Doe’s influential colleagues in the PRC left Liberia: Thomas Quiwonkpa (Commanding General of the Armed forced of Liberia), Charles Taylor (Head of the General Service Agency), and Prince Yormie Johnson (aide to Quiwonkpa). All would eventually challenge Doe for control of the country. Facing increasing pressure from international organizations and donors, Doe lifted the ban on political parties and called for elections in 1985.

**1985–1989:**

The National Democratic Party of Liberia. The Liberian elections of October 1985 were problematic. Few international (or

Facing increasing pressure from international organizations and donors, Doe lifted the ban on political parties and called for elections in 1985. 1985–1989: The National Democratic Party of Liberia The Liberian elections of October 1985 were problematic. Few international (or local) observers felt they were conducted fairly. However, the United States endorsed the results (although the current U.S. State Department position is that the elections were characterized by “by widespread fraud”). In the end, Samuel Doe was named victor over his closest opponent, Jackson F. Doe. However, many believed, and still maintain, that Jackson F. Doe won the election.

The following month, Samuel Doe’s former second-in-command, Thomas Quiwonkpa, entered Liberia through Sierra Leone and attempted to topple Doe through another coup. Quiwonkpa failed, and his body was dragged through the streets of Monrovia. Doe’s Krahn-dominated government retaliated against the ethnic groups in Quiwonkpa’s native Krahn-dominated government retaliated against the ethnic groups in Quiwonkpa’s native Nimba County, causing widespread loss of life within the Gio and Mano communities. Even though elections were scheduled to take place in 1991, the growing abuse within Nimba County provided a fertile opportunity for Charles Taylor (related to Quiwonkpa by marriage) and Prince Johnson (an ethnic Gio) to begin planning to overthrow Doe.

**1989-1996**

1989–1996: Civil War on December 24, 1989, Charles Taylor and a small group of Libyan-trained rebels entered Nimba County from neighboring Côte d’Ivoire. This group, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), initially encountered plenty of support within Nimba County, which endured the majority of Samuel Doe’s wrath after the 1985 attempted coup. The Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) launched counterattacks against Taylor’s forces. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) peacekeeping force, ECOMOG, entered the conflict under the premise of a cease-fire and peace deal, albeit without the NPFL. The NPFL continued to make gains on the capital, Monrovia, and widespread atrocities were reported in Krahn and Mandingo areas. The Mandingoes were still largely victims of the NPFL onslaughts until 1991, when they, along with exiled Krahn, organized the United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia (ULIMO). While reports vary, it appears that Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was affiliated with Charles Taylor’s movement.

In July 1990, Prince Johnson split from Taylor and formed the Independent National Patriotic Front (INPFL). The INPFL and NPFL continued their siege on Monrovia, which the AFL defended. In September 1990, Doe visited the ECOMOG headquarters in Monrovia, where officials urged him to accept exile outside of Liberia. At the time, ECOMOG was barely established in the Free Port of Monrovia. At the port, Doe was captured and taken to the INPFL’s Caldwell base. The circumstances that led to Doe’s visit to the Free Port are still unclear; however, after Doe arrived, Prince Johnson’s INPFL attacked the headquarters and captured, tortured, and killed him. Johnson’s INPFL and Taylor’s NPFL continued to struggle for control of Monrovia in the months that followed.

In November 1990, ECOWAS negotiated a settlement and established the Interim Government of National Unity (IGNU), led by Dr. Amos Sawyer, a former dean of political science at the University of Liberia. However, Charles Taylor did not recognize the IGNU, and the fighting continued. The Krahn and Mandingo groups, often targets of the NPFL, formed ULIMO in 1991. In 1994 ULIMO split into two factions, ULIMO-J (mostly Krahn, led by Roosevelt Johnson) and ULIMO-K (mostly Mandingo, led by Alhaji Kromah.)

By 1995, Liberia’s civil war had grown to include the following seven major factions:·

NPFL · NPFL Central Revolutionary Council (NPFL-CRC) · Lofa Defense Force (LDF) · ULIMO-K · ULIMO-J · Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) · Liberian Peace Council (LPC)

In September 1995, in accordance with the Abuja Peace Accords, the seven factions joined to form the Liberian Council of State. Despite this agreement, fighting continued and 1996 saw some of the war’s deadliest battles. However, in accordance with the timetable laid out in a supplement to the accords (the “Abuja Supplement”), elections were conducted in July 1997 and Charles Taylor was declared winner, garnering nearly 75 percent of the vote. Some have speculated that Taylor won because many citizens believed that electing him was the only way to end the war. As a matter of fact, Taylor campaigned on the intimidating slogan “He killed my ma, he killed ma pa, but I will vote for him.”

**1997-2003**

1997–2003: Civil War Peace in Liberia, if it ever really existed, was short lived. By the late 1990s it was clear from reports that Taylor was supporting the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in the civil war in neighboring Sierra Leone. As a result, the UN imposed sanctions on the Liberian government, including the following:

**An arms-importation ban**

A ban on foreign travel by high-ranking members of the government and their immediate families · A ban on trading “blood diamonds

At the same time there was a growing opposition movement to Taylor’s government within Liberia, based largely in northern Lofa County. This opposition group, Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), headed by Sekou Conneh (a businessman married to the daughter of Guinean President Lansana Conté), began to engage in sporadic fighting with the AFL in 1999. By 2000, it was believed that LURD controlled nearly 80 percent of the countryside. Fighting between the government forces and LURD continued through 2002, but Taylor maintained control of Monrovia. Throughout the fighting both the AFL and LURD were accused of widespread human rights violations against innocent civilians, as well as child soldier recruitment. In 2003, an offshoot of LURD, the Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL), was formed in Côte d’Ivoire. MODEL was reported to have support in the southeastern counties of Grand Gedeh, Sinoe, and Grand Kru. With fighting intensifying, Charles Taylor agreed to participate in an ECOWAS-sponsored peace summit in Ghana. In the hope that Taylor would be arrested by his Ghanaian hosts, the Office of the Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone unsealed an indictment against him. Reportedly caught by surprise and unwilling to arrest Taylor, Ghana refused to detain him. Within hours Taylor returned to Monrovia. In the following months, fighting intensified in and around Monrovia.

Finally, in August 2003, Taylor accepted an ECOWAS-brokered peace deal that offered him asylum in Nigeria and proposed an ECOWAS vanguard intervention force. Taylor’s vice president, Moses Blah, finished the remaining term and was followed by a transition interim government headed by Liberian businessman Gyude Bryant. In October 2003, the UN took over peacekeeping operations from ECOWAS and established the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). In the years that followed, active disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration and rebuilding efforts unfolded.

**2005**

2005: Elections Most local and international observers considered the Liberian elections in 2005 to be free and fair. The elections were for both parliamentary and presidential candidates. The presidential election took place in two rounds. The two first-round frontrunners, Liberian football star and former UNICEF goodwill ambassador George Weah and former World Bank official and economist Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, squared off for runoff elections in November. Johnson-Sirleaf won and set off on a challenging reconstruction agenda. In March 2006, she surprised many by contradicting earlier statements and requesting that Charles Taylor be turned over to the Special Court for Sierra Leone. After some initial bungling, Nigeria handed over Taylor. He was convicted in 2012 of committing war crimes in neighboring Sierra Leone. Charles Taylor is serving his 50-year sentence in a prison in the UK. His son “Chuckie” Taylor was sentenced to 97 years in prison in a US federal court in 2009 for torturing and killing people while he was the head of Liberia’s anti-terrorist services.

The parliamentary elections were also seen as free and fair. However, a number of individuals who gained parliamentary seats also possessed questionable human rights records:

Prince Johnson, former leader of the INPFL · Jewel Taylor, former wife of Charles Taylor · Adolpho Dolo (“General Peanut Butter”), former general in the NPFL · Edwin Snowe, former son-in-law of Charles Taylor and currently under a UN travel ban · Kai Farley, former general in MODEL · Saah Gbollie, former NPFL commander and former Liberian Police officer · Edward Slanger, former AFL general accused of atrocities in the Doe regime · Zoe Pennue, former top official of MODEL and son of one of Doe’s henchmen, Harrison Pennue.

In 2005, Ellen JOHNSON SIRLEAF became president after two years of transitional governments; she was the first female head of state in Africa. In 2011, JOHNSON SIRLEAF won reelection but struggled to rebuild Liberia's economy -- particularly after the 2014-15 Ebola epidemic -- and to reconcile a nation still recovering from 14 years of fighting. In 2017, former soccer star George WEAH won the presidential runoff election, marking the first successful transfer of power from one democratically elected government to another since the end of Liberia’s civil wars. Like his predecessor, WEAH struggled to improve the country’s economy. In 2023, former Vice President Joseph BOAKAI was elected president, edging out WEAH by a thin margin, the first time since 1927 that an incumbent was not re-elected after one term.

LJHSCE Social Studies Review

Grade 9

50 Questions Test (Check your knowledge)

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. These West African coastal nations border Liberia…
2. Sierra Leone, Senegal, & Ghana
3. Guinea, Côte d’Ivoire, & Sierra Leone
4. Côte d’Ivoire, Nigeria, & Senegal
5. Ghana, Guinea, & The Gambia
6. Africa is the world’s largest, but the second most populous (1.3 billion people as of 2018) continent…
7. True
8. False
9. European languages are spoken throughout Africa because of the long colonial period, which lasted until the 1960s. A) True B) False
10. The Hausa people are the largest ethnic group in Africa.
11. True
12. False
13. West African countries are categorized into these four areas. Name them.

i.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, ii. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, iii. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, iv. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

**Matching: Vocabulary Review**

Match the definitions with the appropriate terms below.

Definitions

\_\_ 6. Disease caused by lack of proper food; inadequate nutrition resulting from an unbalanced diet or insufficient food.

\_\_\_\_ 7. A people’s sense of what makes them a nation.

\_\_\_\_ 8. A person who flees his or her country to escape invasion, oppression, or persecution.

\_\_\_\_ 9. The process of stripping the land of its trees.

\_\_\_\_ 10. The intentional destruction of a people.

Terms

1. refugee B) deforestation C) genocide D) animism
2. malnutrition F) national identity

11. Mauritania was the last country to abolish slavery; only in 2007 did slavery become a punishable offense.

A) True

B) False

12. The largest country in Africa is…

A) Algeria

B) Benin

C) Libya

D) Mauritania

13. A barter system is the exchange of goods and services without the presence of\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

A) goods

B) money

C) the consumer

D) the producer

14. The largest river in Liberia is…

A) Cavalla River

B) Cestos River

C) Saint Paul River

D) Saint John River

15. The Union of the Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR) and communism collapsed in this year…

A) 1981

B) 1991

C) 2001

D) 2011

16. In most cases, the cost of goods or services depends on the supply and demand of that goods…

A) place

B) demand

C) name

D) production

17. The largest church in the world is located in Abidjan, the capital of Côte d’Ivoire. It offers space for over 15,000 worshippers.

A) True

B) False

18. Nigeria is home to 250 ethnic groups and an estimated 500 languages are spoken in the country where the official language is Hausa.

A) True

B) False

19. What is the name given to describe a person who undertakes a business venture and its inherent risks?

A) capitalist

B) entrepreneur

C) producer

D) socialist

20. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf becomes the first woman to be elected as an African head of state in…

A) 2000

B) 2005

C) 2010

D) 2015

21. Cape Verde or Cabo Verde is an archipelago and island country of West Africa in the Central Atlantic Ocean…

A) True

B) False

22. Daniel B. Warner, the author of the Liberia anthem (All Hail, Liberia, Hail) later became its third president…

A) True

B) False

Matching

Match the following Liberian counties and their capitals…

\_\_\_ 23. Bong county A) Cestos

\_\_\_ 24. Lofa county B) Greenville

\_\_\_ 25. River Cess co. C) Kakata

\_\_\_\_26. Sinoe co. D) Gbarnga

E) Voinjama

27. In a dictatorship, how is power obtained?

A) military force

B) revolution by the people

C) voting by the people

28. In the economy, the terms trade and commerce are interchangeable…

A) True

B) False

29. The Liberian Declaration of Independence was signed in…

A) 1840

B) 1847

C) 1857

D) 1867

30. Outbreak of Ebola virus in Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone, Killing 11,300 people, almost half in Liberia…

A) 2006-2008

B) 2010-2012

C) 2013-2016

D) 2017-2020

31. Charles G. Taylor is found guilt of was crimes for aiding and directing rebels in Sierra Leone. He is sentenced to 50 years in jail to be served in Britain…

A) 2010

B) 2012

C) 2014

D) 2016

32. Master Sergeant Samuel K. Doe carries out a military coup, ousting President Tolbert and publicly executing 13 of the President’s men.

A) 1970

B) 1980

C) 1990

D) 2000

33. The United Nations Charter was signed in 1945 in San Francisco for for purpose…

A) combat the climate crisis

B) Feed the homeless

C) Keep the peace

D) help develop Africa

34. Name the three great kingdoms of West Africa that flourished between the 8th century and the 17th century. List them.

i. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, ii. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, iii. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

35. Africa is the poorest continent on Earth…

A) True

B) False

36. Name the seven continents in the world…

i. Africa ii. Antarctica iii. Asia iv. Australia v. Europe

vi. North America vii. South America

37. Two most highly populated countries in the world ---China and India…

A) True

B) False

38. List five predominant languages of Liberia: (May vary)

i. Kpelle ii. Bassa iii. Grebo iv. Kru v. Mandingo

39. Liberia is the only Black state in Africa never subjected to colonial rule…

A) True

B) False

40. List three current environment issues in Liberia: (May vary)

i. soil erosion; loss of biodiversity

ii. raw sewage iii. Dumping of household waste

41. What happened because of the Berlin Conference of 1884-1885?

A) Europe divided up Africa without Africa’s consent

B) Europe set up the European Union.

C) Europe started the Olympic Games.

Matching: Female Firsts from Liberian History

**Column I: Who are they?**

\_\_\_ 42. Angie Brooks Randolph

\_\_\_ 43. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

\_\_\_ 44. Mary Antoinette Brown-Sherman

\_\_\_ 45. Jewel Howard Taylor

**Column II. What did they achieve?**

1. First female Foreign Minister
2. First female Vice President
3. First elected female head of state in Africa.
4. First female Supreme Court Justice
5. First woman to serve as President of a university in Africa

**Matching**

**Liberian cities…**

Column I Column II

\_\_\_\_ 46. Monrovia A) A port city and is also known

\_\_\_\_ 47. Buchanan as “Cape Palmas”

\_\_\_\_ 48. Harper B) Is located just South of the

\_\_\_\_ 49. Ganta Guinea border

C) The place where the 14-year

Long civil war started in 1989.

D) The second most populous city

F) The capital city.

50. Identify four European countries that colonized Africa and their main reasons for the colonization of Africa: (May vary)

I) France | Britain | Belgium | Portugal …

II. a combination of economic exploitation, political rivalry,

religious motivation, a sense of cultural dominance…

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<https://www.bbc/news/world-africa-13729504>

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