

Libya

KEY FACTS

Official name: Libiya (Libya)

Head of State: President of the (Interim) National Assembly, Mohamed Megarief (National Front for the Salvation of Libya) (from 10 Aug 2012)

Head of government: Prime Minister Ali Zidan (Independent) (from 14 Oct 2012)

Ruling party: The National Forces Alliance Party won the most votes in the election for the 80 party list seats.

Area: 1,775,500 square km

Population: 6.41 million (2012)*

Capital: Tripoli

Official language: Arabic

Currency: Libyan dinar (LD) = 1,000 dirhams

Exchange rate: LD1.26 per US\$ (Jul 2013)

GDP per capita: US\$12,778 (2012)*

GDP real growth: 104.48% (2012)*

GDP: US\$81.92 billion (2012)*

Inflation: 6.07% (2012)*

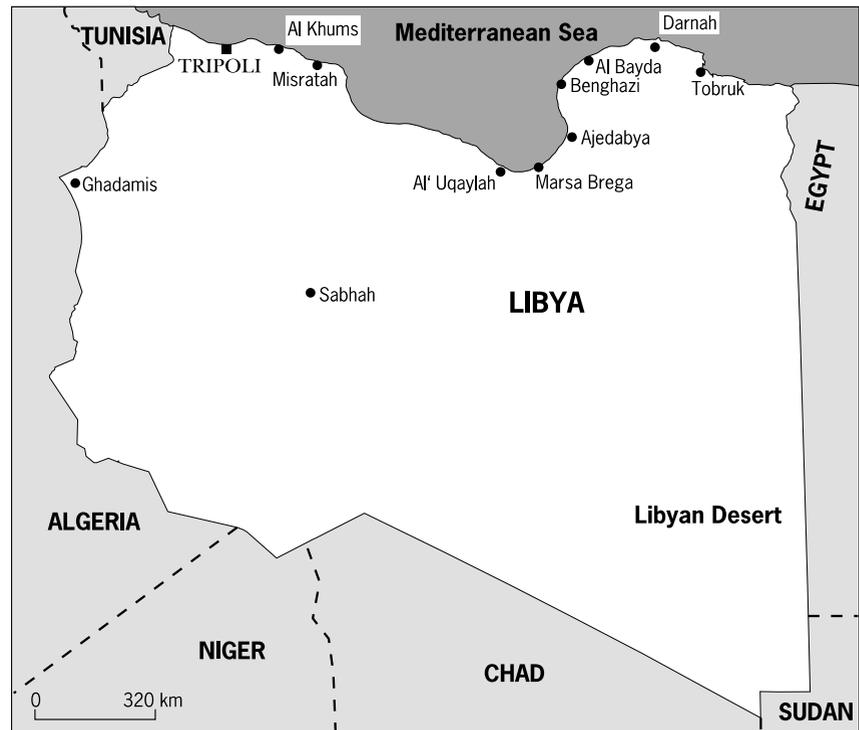
Oil production: 1.51 million bpd (2012)

Natural gas production: 12.20 billion cum (2012)

Balance of trade: US\$1.79 billion (2011)

Annual FDI: US\$1.80 billion (2010)

* estimated figure



In 2013 Libya continued to descend, virtually unnoticed into the political and economic crisis that had followed the defeat of Muammar al Qaddafi in 2011. The German government, which in 2011 had expressed concerns over military intervention looked to have been proved right. Germany had questioned the wisdom of eliminating the Qaddafi regime when there was no clear idea of who might replace them.

Political (armed) chaos

Libya in 2013 was still a country awash with weapons. Instead of a realm of peace and tranquillity, Libya had become an arena of fierce competition over the 'ownership' of the 2011 revolution, which was not necessarily synonymous with who had played the most important role(s) in the uprising. The days of euphoria may have gone, but it would still be fair to say that a sense of optimism remains. This positive sentiment is inevitably qualified by instances of tribal or ethnic cleansing,

looting, human rights violations and refugee problems. Old tribal issues still need to be resolved and Libya's tribal structure is still its most important political feature. However, one of the many failings of the post-Qaddafi government is its inability to revive the moribund economy. Libya is wholly dependent on its oil and gas revenues and without these may not be able to pay its civil servants. Sliman Qajam, a member of the parliamentary energy committee, told Bloomberg in 2013 that 'the government is running on its reserves. If the situation doesn't improve, it won't be able to pay salaries by the end of the year'.

Any overview of Libyan politics and economics is still a foray into uncharted territory. Western media have largely reflected the views of their governments in depicting the Qaddafi regime as broadly corrupt and ill-intentioned. This is probably a reasonable enough assessment, although such has been the reigning chaos since March 2011 that the dictum 'truth is the first casualty of war' has probably

been more appropriate than ever. What emerged was a *de facto* civil war between the regime and an assorted group of largely under-organised rebels, between East and West Libya – a curious throw-back to the desert country's Roman antecedents and something resembling a tribal conflict.

Thus, the importance of a country's history has rarely been more evident than in Libya. Most countries represent a commonality of history and geography. Libya can best be described as a buffer zone between the Arab east (the Mashreq) and the Arab west (the Mahgreb). In the east, Cyrenaica was historically Greek or Hellenistic. In the west, Tripolitania, was Roman. However, there are obvious dangers in simplifying and generalising Libya's social make-up. It is also misleading to attribute political (rather than simply democratic) motivation to the warring factions. Col Qaddafi's main support appeared to come from three major sources. First, the Warfalla, based 180km south-west of Tripoli, the largest tribe in the country with sizeable communities within Tripoli. The Warfalla also comprise the majority of well-educated Libyans. Qaddafi's own tribe, centred in Sirte, 500km east of Tripoli, was another pillar of his support. The allegiance between Qaddafi's tribe, the Gaddafa and the Warfalla has been described as a 'blood link'. Their ties predated Col Qaddafi's rise to power and look like taking time to change in the post-Qaddafi era. Prejudice against other tribes in Libya, particularly against the Misrata, make many Warfalla even more hardline than Col Qaddafi was himself. Sizeable support for Col Qaddafi also existed deep into Libya's south, notably around Sebha, the capital of the southern region.

This tribal mosaic still counts for a lot in Libya. Under the rule of King Idris, the east of the country with Benghazi as its capital was the country's political and commercial capital. With Qaddafi, this changed: Tripoli became the capital. Since then, Libya has had no political parties, for more than four decades; tribal loyalties are likely for some time to be the closest Libya comes to politics. Anything resembling civil society simply has not existed, nor for that matter, does the idea of loyalty to the state hold much of a grip. At the end of 2012 Libya still lacked a constitution, nor did there exist any nationally-accepted rule of law nor practical mechanism by which this vast country faced with a power vacuum might be guided.

Barqa

By September 2013 things had taken such a chaotic turn that Libya's future as a body

politic had to be questioned. Rebels from some hundred tribes had joined forces to impose a *de facto* sequestration of the vital oil industry. In August they had seized control of the principal oil terminals, swearing not to relinquish control until autonomy was granted to the Barqa region in Libya's east. The so-called Barqa Defence Force, headed up by Ibrahim al Jathran, constituted the main rebel movement and claimed to represent all the eastern tribes and, significantly, was able to deploy naval units able to prevent oil tankers from berthing at Libyan oil terminals. Barqa's strikes at Libya's oil facilities risked starving Libya's government of essential cash flow. Central Bank of Libya (CBL) sources estimated that if the oil blockades took a grip Libya would simply run out of money within three months. It was even reported that the rebels were trying to sell Libyan oil themselves. Endeavouring to prevent any such bilateral trading, Libyan Navy Special Forces were reported to have opened fire on a tanker as it approached Es Sider, the largest rebel controlled oil terminal.

At issue was the restoration of a more decentralised government structure; most observers considered that any continued long term conflict was unlikely. The likely solution was that the *de facto* autonomy would need to be reflected in some sort of federalist constitution. However, other influences were also at play. Mr Jathran had also indicated that the Barqa movement was concerned at the growing influence of the Muslim Brotherhood within the Tripoli government. He

claimed that the Brotherhood were in control of the National Oil Corporation (NOC) and were even plundering NOC resources to fund their confreres in Egypt and Turkey. It was also claimed that funding was also being provided for armed groups in Libya.

To stress the seriousness of its claims, Barqa had set up its own political office and was reported to be establishing an alternative to the NOC that would take charge of selling its oil. Somewhat altruistically, it was declared that the Barqa oil revenues would be shared on an equal basis between Libya's three principal regions. An article in the Cairo based *Al-Ahram* newspaper considered that what it described as the 'Barqa federal project' appeared to have its origins in 'a mixture of concrete and fabricated factors'. The author noted that despite Libya's 'exceptional demographic homogeneity' there had always existed latent sources of division on a tribal or regional basis. While tribes were largely concentrated in the east or west, ultimately tribal divisions did not conform with regional ones. For most of Libya's long history the country had lacked a central and centralising state. While the desert environment had worked to unite a society culturally, it was also one of the foremost obstacles to political and economic unity due to low population density and the lack of the resources necessary to establish a central state.

Writing in the London *Independent* in early September 2013, the respected British journalist Patrick Cockburn also noted that 'by 2013 Libya had almost entirely

KEY INDICATORS						Libya
	Unit	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Population	m	6.29	*6.42	*6.55	*6.48	*6.41
Gross domestic product (GDP)	US\$bn	100.10	60.40	74.20	36.90	*81.92
GDP per capita	US\$	14,479	9,529	11,314	5,691	*12,778
GDP real growth	%	5.4	-0.1	2.5	-61.0	*104.5
Inflation	%	10.4	2.7	2.4	14.1	*6.1
Oil output	'000 bpd	1,846.0	1,652.0	1,659.0	479.0	1,509.0
Natural gas output	bn cum	15.9	15.3	15.8	4.1	12.2
Exports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	61,950.0	37,055.0	48,935.0	12,986.0	–
Imports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	21,658.0	22,002.0	24,559.0	11,200.0	–
Balance of trade	US\$m	40,292.0	15,053.0	24,376.0	1,786.0	–
Current account	US\$m	35,702.0	9,481.0	11,897.0	3,173.0	*29,372.0
Total reserves minus gold	US\$m	92,313.0	104,026.0	99,645.0	103,552.0	*118,408.0
Foreign exchange	US\$m	90,803.0	100,917.0	96,800.0	100,582.0	*115,473.0
Exchange rate	per US\$	1.17	1.28	1.23	0.80	0.80
* estimated figure						

stopped producing oil (see 'Energy' below) as the government gave up control of large swathes of the country to a plethora of militia fighters.' Mutinying security men had taken over the eastern Libyan oil ports on the Mediterranean and were even seeking to sell crude oil on the black market. Ali Zeidan, Libya's Prime Minister, had threatened to 'bomb from the air and the sea' any oil tanker trying to pick up the illicit oil from the oil terminal guards. World attention had failed to register quite what was happening in Libya, understandably focussing on the coup in Egypt and the poison gas attack in Syria. Meanwhile Libya plunged unnoticed into its worst political and economic crisis since the defeat of Qaddafi two years earlier. Government authority appeared to be disintegrating in all parts of the country putting in doubt the claims by American, British and French politicians that Nato's military action in Libya in 2011 was an outstanding example of a successful foreign military intervention which should be repeated in Syria.

In what Mr Cockburn described in his article as 'an escalating crisis little regarded outside the oil markets', output of Libya's prized high-quality crude oil plunged from 1.4 million barrels a day earlier in 2013 to just 160,000 barrels a day in October. Despite threats to use military force to retake the oil ports, the government in Tripoli has been unable to move effectively against striking guards and mutinous military units that are linked to secessionist forces in the east of the country.

The article noted that Libyans were increasingly at the mercy of militias which act outside the law. Popular protests against militiamen had been met with gunfire; 31 demonstrators were shot dead and many others wounded as they protested outside the barracks of 'the Libyan Shield Brigade' in Benghazi in June 2013. In Mr Cockburn's view, although the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) intervention against Qaddafi was justified as a humanitarian response to the threat that Qaddafi's tanks would slaughter dissidents in Benghazi, the international community had ignored the escalating violence. The foreign media, which once filled the hotels of Benghazi and Tripoli, have since devoted little space to the near collapse of Libya's central government.

Foreigners had mostly fled Benghazi after the American ambassador, Chris Stevens, was murdered in the US consulate by jihadi militiamen in September

2012. Rule by local militias was also spreading anarchy in the capital. Ethnic Berbers, whose militia had led the assault on Tripoli in 2011, temporarily took over the parliament building in Tripoli. The government called on the Supreme Security Committee, made up of former anti-Qaddafi militiamen nominally under the control of the interior ministry, to restore order. An estimated 19 prisoners received gunshot wounds, with one inmate claiming that the militiamen were shooting directly at them.

The interior minister, Mohammed al Sheikh, resigned in mid-2013 in frustration at being unable to do his job, saying in a memo sent to Prime Minister Zeidan that he blamed him for failing to build up the army and the police. He accused the government, which is largely dominated by the Muslim Brotherhood, of being weak and dependent on tribal support. Other critics point out that a war between two Libyan tribes, the Zawiya and the Wirshifana, is going on just 15 miles from the prime minister's office.

Energy

One of the many failings of the post-Qaddafi government is its inability to revive the moribund economy, which is dependent on its oil. Libya had produced an estimated 1.65 million barrels per day (bpd) of mostly high-quality light, sweet crude oil prior to the onset of unrest in February 2011. Libyan oil and natural gas exports suffered a near-total disruption in the months of intense fighting to follow, as the minimal and sporadic oil production that did occur was mostly consumed domestically. As a result, in the summer of 2011, the International Energy Agency (IEA) co-ordinated a release of 60 million barrels of oil from the emergency stocks of its member countries through the 'Libya Collective Action' – the first such release since Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Libyan oil production began its resurgence in September 2011, following the deposition of the Qaddafi regime and the gradual consolidation of control over most parts of the country by the Transitional National Council (TNC) and affiliated rebel militias. Crude oil production was estimated to have recovered to at least 1.4 million bpd by May 2012, as the impressive pace of the sector's recovery exceeded the expectations of most industry analysts. Nonetheless, there are significant downside as well as upside risks to the outlook for Libyan oil production due to continued uncertainty about security conditions, state cohesion, political

institutions, the return of foreign capital and expertise, contract terms and industry oversight. The Libyan economy's dependence on hydrocarbons suggests that the continued recovery of the energy industry will be an important determinant of the country's near-term economic fortunes. According to the US Department of State, oil accounted for approximately 95 per cent of Libya's export earnings, 75 per cent of its government receipts and 25 per cent of its gross domestic product prior to the political upheaval of 2011.

Libya, a member of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), holds the largest proven oil reserves in Africa and is normally an important contributor to the global supply of light, sweet crude. Libya's oil production has been impressively restored after months of conflict and insecurity. However, as noted above, considerable uncertainty surrounds the future of the oil sector and the political regime that will govern it. According to the *British Petroleum Statistical Review of World Energy June 2013*, Libya had total proven oil reserves of 48 billion barrels at end-2012 – the largest reserves in Africa and among the ten largest globally. Close to 80 per cent of Libya's proven oil reserves are located in the eastern Sirte basin, which also accounts for most of the country's oil output. Libyan oil is generally light (high API gravity) and sweet (low sulphur content).

Prior to Qaddafi's deposition, Libya's oil industry was run by the state-owned National Oil Corporation (NOC). The NOC was responsible for implementing Exploration and Production Sharing Agreements (EPSA) with international oil companies (IOCs), as well as its own field development and downstream activities. Its subsidiaries include the Arabian Gulf Oil Company (AGOCO), the profile of which was elevated by its relatively independent action during and after the conflict between Qaddafi and the opposition, and the Sirte Oil Company.

In the wake of Qaddafi's demise, the organisation of Libya's oil sector is in flux and could change considerably depending upon the outcomes of political processes that have yet to run their course completely. Significant changes to the governance of the energy sector are unlikely to be consolidated prior to elections, the installation of a new government and the rewriting of a constitution. The most significant unanswered questions pertain to the respective authorities of NOC and the newly constituted ministry of oil; the relationship between NOC and its

subsidiaries, particularly AGOCO; and the balance of power between the federal government and regional actors, especially in the wake of agitation for greater autonomy in the oil-rich region of Cyrenaica in which AGOCO operates

Natural gas

As with its oil sector, Libya's natural gas industry is recovering from disruption related to the civil unrest and political upheaval that began in 2011. Libya's rank as a producer and reserve-holder is less significant for natural gas than it is for oil. Most of its natural gas production is exported, almost entirely to Italy via pipeline.

As of end 2012, *British Petroleum Statistical Review of World Energy June 2013* estimated that Libya's proven natural gas reserves were 1.5 trillion cubic metres (tcm). Prior to the transformative events of 2011, new discoveries and investments in natural gas exploration had been expected to raise Libya's proved reserves in the near-term.

Risk assessment

Politics	Poor
Economy	Fair
Regional stability	Poor

COUNTRY PROFILE

Historical profile

1510 During the struggle between Hapsburg Spain and the Ottoman Turks for supremacy in the Mediterranean, Spanish forces captured and largely destroyed Tripoli.

1524 Tripoli was entrusted to the Knights of St John of Malta.

1551 The Knights were driven out of Tripolitania by the Turks who began consolidating their control over the Maghreb region. The three provinces of Tripolitania, Cyrenaica and Fezzan were combined into a single regency in Tripoli by the Ottomans.

1711–1835 Although nominally part of the Ottoman empire, the Turks in effect gave way to the local Karamanli dynasty until 1835, when the Turks strengthened their control again. The local rulers levied a toll on every Christian fleet using the Mediterranean.

1870–1911 The area was dominated by the Sanusi religious order, although the Turks and the Italians continued to invade periodically.

1911–42 By the time of the First World War in 1914, an Italian force had taken control of the coastal towns. After the War, Italy captured the Libyan nationalist hero, Omar Mukhtar, hanging him in

1931. Italy introduced an Italianisation programme. Italy's colonisation of Libya ended when the Italians and Germans lost the war in the Western Desert. The British took over Tripolitania and Cyrenaica and the French took over the Fezzan.

1951 Italy granted independence to Libya under King Idris (originally Mohammed Idris al Sanusi, a member of the Sanusi religious order).

1955 Oil exploration began.

1959 Oil was discovered.

1961 King Idris opened a 167km pipeline, which linked important oil fields in the interior to the Mediterranean Sea, making it possible for Libya to export oil.

1969 As pan-Arabism swept the Arab world, Colonel Muammar al Qaddafi seized power as Leader of the Revolution. Most economic activities were nationalised, including the oil industry.

1970 The government closed the British airbase in Tobruk and the US Air Force base in Tripoli. Property belonging to Italian settlers was nationalised.

1971 The Federation of Arab Republics (FAR), comprising Libya, Egypt and Syria, was approved by national referendum, but was never realised.

1972 Libya and Egypt agreed to merge into a single state; but the plans were abandoned.

1973 Qaddafi announced a cultural revolution in which people's committees were established throughout the country. Libyan forces invaded the Aozou Strip in northern Chad.

1974 A plan to unify Libya and Tunisia was agreed, but never implemented.

1977 Qaddafi set up the General People's Congress (GPC) and the country was renamed the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

1981 The US shot down two Libyan aircraft that had challenged US warplanes over the Gulf of Sirte, claimed by Libya as its territorial waters.

1984 Police Constable Yvonne Fletcher was killed during demonstrations outside the Libyan embassy in London. The UK suspended diplomatic relations with Libya.

1986 An attempt to overthrow the Qaddafi regime was unsuccessful. The US launched a major air strike on Tripoli, causing substantial damage. The US claimed its raids were in response to an alleged Libyan involvement in the bombing of a nightclub in Berlin, which was used by US military personnel.

1988 Libyan terrorists were blamed for the bomb that destroyed a Pan Am passenger aircraft over Lockerbie in Scotland.

1989 Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia formed the Arab

Maghreb Union.

1992 UN sanctions were imposed on Libya for refusing to hand over two men suspected of the Lockerbie bombing.

1994 Libya returned the Aozou Strip to Chad.

1995 Qaddafi ordered the expulsion of 30,000 Palestinians in protest at the Oslo accords signed by the Israeli government and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

1999 UN and EU sanctions were suspended after Libya agreed to arrest and extradite Lockerbie bombing suspects. The UK re-established diplomatic links with Libya.

2000 Qaddafi visited Arab states in North Africa and the Middle East, seeking to promote Arab co-operation. Libya was one of the key signatories for the creation of the African Union (AU) to replace the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

2001 Abdelbaset Ali Mohmed al Megrahi, a Libyan intelligence agent, was found guilty of the Lockerbie bombing in a Scottish court based in The Netherlands, while his co-accused, al Amin Khalifa Fhimah, was acquitted. The US imposed a five-year extension to sanctions against Libya.

2002 Megrahi's appeal failed and he was sentenced to life imprisonment in a Scottish jail.

2003 Libya was chosen to chair the UN Human Rights Commission. The Libyan government and lawyers representing families of Lockerbie bombing victims signed a compensation agreement worth US\$2.7 billion. Libya formally took responsibility for the bombing before the UN Security Council. The UN Security Council voted to lift the 11-year-old sanctions against Libya (already suspended). Libya announced that it would abandon its programmes to develop weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

2004 Libya agreed to compensate families of victims of the 1989 bombing of a French passenger aircraft and to pay US\$35 million to victims of the bombing of a Berlin nightclub in 1986. The UK prime minister, Tony Blair, met Colonel Qaddafi, the first visit of this kind since 1943. UN sanctions were finally lifted and the US and Libya restored diplomatic relations after a break of 24 years as US economic sanctions were lifted. President Chirac of France visited Libya, the first by a French president since 1951.

2005 Libya officially opened to tourist visitors. Leases on 26 oil fields were allocated to foreign companies.

2006 The US restored full diplomatic relations with Libya and rescinded Libya's designation as a state sponsor of terrorism.

2008 Muftah Mohammed Kaiba became secretary of the General People's

Congress. Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi apologised for the damage caused to Libya during Italy's colonial reign and signed a US\$5 billion investment plan to fund a coastal highway. 2009 Muammar al Qadafi was elected chairman of the African Union and later proposed a United States of Africa. Abdelbaset Ali Mohmed al Megrahi, imprisoned in Scotland since 2002 for the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, was released, due to his failing health, to serve his prison term in Libya. Qadafi made an official visit to Italy. 2010 Muammar al Qadafi proposed that Nigeria should be split into two countries, one Muslim and the other Christian. The suggestion was vigorously rejected by Nigeria. 2011 Following the fall of authoritarian regimes in neighbouring Tunisia and Egypt in January, in February there was a call on the social network, Facebook, for peaceful demonstrations against the regime of Muammar al Qadafi. A number of demonstrations, triggered by the arrest of a lawyer acting for the families of prisoners believed to have been murdered in the Abu Salim prison in Tripoli, began in the east, centred on the second city of Benghazi. Police countered the demonstrations and there were a number of deaths reported. On 18 February protesters gained control of Benghazi, while pro-government demonstrators held enthusiastic gatherings in Tripoli. A report claimed 173 people had been killed by security forces and anti-government protests had spread to Tripoli. Qadafi's son, Saif al Islam, broadcast a warning to protesters that their actions could lead to a civil war. Abdel Fattah Younis, considered Qadafi's number two in his government, resigned and sided with the rebel movement. The Transitional National Council (TNC) was established in Benghazi on 26 February, on the same day as the UN Security Council (UNSC) unanimously voted for an arms embargo, travel bans and asset freezes on Libyan regime leaders. The actions of Colonel Qadafi were referred to the International Criminal Court (ICC). Foreign workers began to leave the country as the fighting grew more widespread. Libyan observers said that security forces had been supplemented by 'African mercenaries' who, it was said, had fired indiscriminately on protestors. Thousands of Egyptian workers fled home across the border as other nationals crossed into either Egypt or Tunisia for evacuation by the international community. The Indian government began evacuating its nationals. There were estimated to be 18,000 Indian nationals working in Libya, of which

3,000 were in Benghazi working for car companies and hospitals. As the violence deepened, thousands of migrants and refugees from Somalia and Eritrea and other sub-Saharan countries caught up in the Libyan crisis, as well as Libyan citizens concerned by a possible regime change, crossed the Mediterranean Sea to reach the EU. They landed on the Italian island of Lampedusa, overwhelming local resources and immigration procedures. Malta also registered a steep rise in Libyans reaching its territory. The battle for Misrata to the east of Tripoli, the third city and most important business centre, began on 24 February. On 26 February, the EU imposed sanctions against the regime of Qadafi. NATO and its allies discussed a no-fly zone over Libya on 27 February. On 28 February, the US froze US\$30 billion in assets belonging to the Libyan government. Qadafi launched a combined air and ground assault on Misrata on 1 March. While other rebel leaders were debating whether to ask for Western military support, Abdul Fattah Younis said he would welcome foreign intervention by air strikes, but not a ground invasion. Four senior military commanders defected from Qadafi to the rebels. Qadafi sent food and medical supplies to Benghazi as a demonstration of national unity. On 2 March, the TNC formally requested that the UN impose a no-fly zone over Libya. On 3 March, the chief prosecutor of the ICC announced that he would investigate Qadafi, his sons and senior aids for crimes against humanity. Qadafi's forces attempted to retake the oil refineries of Zawiya on 4 March but were repelled with heavy losses on both sides. On 7 March, in the UNSC, France and the UK proposed a no-fly zone. Hundreds of Qadafi's forces, supported by tanks, entered Zawiya; following heavy fighting, they were beaten off. On 8 March the TNC told Qadafi that if he stopped his offensive, and he and his family left Libya, they would not face any future prosecution. On 9 March the European Parliament called on all European countries to recognise the TNC as Libya's legitimate government. The EU agreed to extend sanctions against the Qadafi regime to include Libya's sovereign wealth fund and central bank. The measures would deny Qadafi funds from oil sales to buy armaments. The sanctions also included a weapons ban; any equipment that could be used for 'internal repression' had already been banned. On 10 March, Qadafi's forces began a concerted effort to retake cities along the coast west from Tripoli, starting with Zawiya.

On 12 March, Arab League foreign ministers meeting in Cairo endorsed calls for a UN no-fly-zone and formally recognised the TNC. Human rights observers accused Qadafi's security forces of arbitrary arrests, disappearances and torture following the fall of rebel towns. On 17 March the UNSC approved, by 10 votes (with five abstentions), UN Resolution 1973, which imposed a no-fly-zone over Libya, with 'all necessary measures' to protect civilians. An immediate ceasefire and an end to attacks on civilians were also demanded. On 18 March Qadafi called a ceasefire and invited foreign observers to witness his actions. However, on 19 March his forces shelled the outer suburbs of Benghazi. At 1300 GMT, the first military flights by a five-country coalition (Canada, France, Italy, the UK and the US) attacked Libya's air defence systems and Libyan 'command and control' centres to impose the UN-sanctioned no-fly zone. On 19 March the TNC designated the Central Bank of Benghazi (CBB) as its monetary authority and a governor was appointed. It also set up the Libyan Oil Company (LOC), headquartered in Benghazi, as the supervising authority for oil policy and production. From 23 March, LOC was able to sell all oil and natural gas within its control on the international market, depositing the proceeds in the CBB and denying any revenue to the Qadafi treasury. Qadafi forces continued their assault on Misrata and coalition fighters struck airfields and the road to Tobruk on 21 March. Coalition air attacks followed for several days, while rebel forces took advantage of the safety being provided and began another campaign to capture towns between Benghazi and Tripoli. NATO took command of the no-fly zone and naval operations against Qadafi on 24 March. On 3 April an envoy from Qadafi, deputy foreign minister Abdelati Obeidi, left for Athens on an apparent peace mission. On 4 April Italy became the third country (after France and Qatar) to recognise the TNC. In a television broadcast on 29 April Qadafi vowed not to leave Libya. He also called for talks with NATO. The chief prosecutor for the ICC announced on 4 May that there were reasonable grounds for charges against Colonel Qadafi. NATO damaged eight warships in three ports on 20 May; they were being used by Qadafi's forces to target civilians in Misrata and other towns. On 30 May, South African President Jacob Zuma visited Colonel Qadafi in an attempt to mediate a cease-fire. Qadafi agreed to the cease-fire but would not relinquish power, as called for by the TNC. As a result the TNC rejected the

agreement. The ICC issued an arrest warrant for Qaddafi, accusing him of crimes against humanity. Warrants were also issued for Saif al Qaddafi and intelligence chief Abdullah al Sanusi. On 29 June a supply of weapons (including assault rifles, machine guns and rocket launchers) was parachuted into rebel held territory of Libya by the French military. The AU condemned the move saying it put the whole region at risk. The French stated that this was a one-off decision to re-arm a town cut off from supplies from its allies.

On 3 July Turkey recognised the rebel TNC as the legitimate representatives of the Libyan people. US officials confirmed that they had held talks with representatives of Qaddafi in mid-July, reiterating the US demand that Qaddafi should step down. The TNC's military leader Abdel Fattah Younis was killed on 28 July. At first his death was blamed on Islamist-linked militia within TNC forces that did not trust him and thought he still had ties to Qaddafi. On 1 August, France agreed to release US\$259 million of frozen funds, banked by Qaddafi, to the TNC for the express purchase of humanitarian materials (food and medicine). By 2 August, 63 people suspected of links to Qaddafi had been arrested for murdering Younis. A draft constitution was published on 22 August 2011 that enshrined the form of state and its administration, plus rights of the family and judicial guarantees. Forces of the TNC took control of Tripoli on 23 August.

Mass graves began to be found around Tripoli. On 6 September, a large convoy of heavily armed and armoured vehicles, in the company of Tuareg fighters, crossed the Sahara and entered Niger. Mustafa Abdel Jalil, head of the TNC, arrived in Tripoli. He delivered his first public speech, in Martyrs' Square (the re-named Green Square where Qaddafi used to harangue the nation), on 13 September. Although he said that *Sharia* (Islamic law) would be the main source of the law, he also said the TNC would not 'accept any extremist ideology, on the right or the left. We are a Muslim people, for a moderate Islam, and will stay on this road.' He also warned against reprisals by rebel forces against elements of the Qaddafi regime.

UK Prime Minister David Cameron and French President Nicolas Sarkozy visited Libya on 15 September. Both leaders promised financial and practical support. A mass grave thought to contain the remains of over 1,200 prisoners from the Abu Salim prison murdered by the Qaddafi regime in 1996 was found in Tripoli on 25 September. Libyan oil exports resumed in October. On 17 October, the pro-Qaddafi TV station Arrai, confirmed

that the youngest son of Colonel Qaddafi, Khamis, had been killed by TNC fighters in August.

On 20 October, Muammar al Qaddafi was caught and killed in his home town of Sirte, following weeks of intense fighting to capture it. Mustafa Abdul Jalil officially declared the national liberation of Libya in a ceremony held in Benghazi on 23 October. The TNC said that it would embark on building a democracy and would hold free elections in 2012.

On 23 October interim prime minister Jibril resigned, and the TNC voted for the consensus candidate, Abdurrahim al Keib (26 votes out of a total of 51), as interim prime minister on 1 November. Qaddafi's body was taken away after dark on 25 October and buried at a secret location in the desert, to avoid his grave becoming a shrine for his supporters.

On 31 October, NATO officially ended its emergency mission to Libya – exactly seven months after its imposition of a naval blockade and no-fly zone. By 30 November, oil production had reached 750,000bpd.

2012 On 13 January, the governor of the central bank said the bank had begun to print a new Libyan currency and in the meantime was withdrawing the old currency, starting with 50 dinar notes (which many Libyans were refusing to use because of its image of Qaddafi). *Médecins Sans Frontières* (MSF) suspended its work in prisons in Misrata on 26 January, due to the number of detainees being both tortured and presented for medical treatment before resumption of maltreatment and others denied urgent medical treatment following torture.

In February, the international human rights observer group, Amnesty International, warned that armed militias threatened the stability of Libya, as some former rebels were committing human rights violations, unchecked by the government.

On 6 March, during a conference attended by hundreds of people, the leaders of the eastern city of Benghazi declared their region to be a semi-autonomous state, to be known as Cyrenaica. According to the leaders, the oil-rich region had been neglected for decades with most development concentrated around Tripoli. He added that they were protecting their hard won independence. TNC leader, Mustafa Abdel Jalil, accused other Arab states of inciting those living in the east and of undermining the new regime by calling for federalism for Libya.

On 24 April the NTC enacted a law whereby no political party that was based on religious, tribal or ethnic principals would be allowed to form or contest elections.

On 1 July a mob ransacked the offices of the electoral authority in Benghazi, damaging ballot boxes and burning election papers, in advance of parliamentary elections. Pro-autonomy leaders from eastern Libya called for a boycott of the elections until a larger share in the new 200-member legislature that will draw up a new constitution was allocated to the east. The electoral law apportioned 60 seats to the eastern region, 102 seats for the western region and 38 seats for the remaining (Fezzan).

Elections for the General National Congress (GNC) took place on 7 July, having been postponed from 19 June. The newly elected GNC undertook to appoint a prime minister and cabinet within 30 days and provide governance while the (to be elected) Constitutional Assembly drafted Libya's new constitution, and new GNC elections could be held under the new rules. On 9 August the NTC handed power to the new GNC, which elected a moderate Islamist, Mohammed al Magarief, as its president on 10 August. His main task was to lead the GNC in appointing a prime minister and drafting a new constitution. US Ambassador J Christopher Stevens was killed by armed men within an angry mob that attacked the US Consulate in Benghazi on 11 September. Three other Americans and 10 Libyans were also killed as the building was shot at and fire-bombed. The mob was protesting at a film alleged to defame the Prophet Mohammed.

On 12 September, Mustafa Abushagur was elected prime minister by parliament (by 96 votes), narrowly defeating former interim prime minister Mahmoud Jibril (94 votes). Mr Abushagur will serve a fixed term in office, until March 2014.

On 16 September, over 50 people were arrested in connection with the unlawful death of US Ambassador Stevens.

On 22 September, police and protestors stormed the headquarters in Benghazi of the Islamist group Ansar al Sharia, held responsible for the death of the US ambassador, and drove them and other militia out of the city. On 23 September, the prime minister announced that all unauthorised camps and militia must be abandoned and disbanded. On 30 September, a range of over 600 different military hardware was handed over by hundreds of militia members following TV adverts promoting a collection.

On 4 October, parliament rejected Prime Minister Abushagur's proposed cabinet.

On 8 October, Abushagur was dismissed as prime minister having twice failed to appoint a cabinet acceptable to parliament. On 14 October, parliament elected Ali Zidan prime minister, with a majority of 93 votes. He was given 14 days to

propose a cabinet. On 14 November the cabinet of Prime Minister Zidan was sworn into office.

2013 Saif al Gadafi appeared in court on 2 May on criminal charges. On 25 June the national assembly elected Nouri Abusahmen as its president by 96 of 184 votes. Mr Abusahmen is the first Berber to be elected to the position. Over 1,000 prisoners were reported to have escaped from a jail in Benghazi on 27 July. On 13 August member of the Amazigh (Berbers) stormed parliament, demanding their language, culture and ethnicity be recognised in the constitution. Interior minister, Mohammed Khalifa al-Sheikh, resigned on 18 August, just three months after he was appointed. The ministry is under fire for not containing the violence that has flared up around the country. Mr Sheikh said he lacked support of the prime minister and complained of interference by members of the GNC. His resignation follows that of deputy prime minister, Awadh al-Barassi, on 4 August. Armed men shut down oil facility in the western, Berber, region of Libya on 30 September. The Berber minority are concerned that they will be marginalised by the new constitution. In an interview with the BBC Newsnight programme on 8 October, Prime Minister Ali Zeidan asked for Western help to prevent the smuggling of weapons into Libya, which are then either used in the spread of militancy within Libya, or smuggled out of Libya into other north African countries. The day before the national congress had demanded the return of Anas al-Liby (also known as Nazih Abdul-Hamed al-Ruqai), captured in Tripoli by the US on 5 October. The Americans want Mr Liby to stand trial over the bombings of its embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1988. Prime Minister Ali Zeidan was kidnapped and briefly held by a group of militia on 10 October. He was rescued by a different group. The incident illustrated the need for an effective police force or military to replace the militia groups supported by different ministries. Ali Zeidan himself called the kidnapping an 'attempted coup'.

Political structure

Constitution

A draft constitution was published on 22 August 2011 that enshrined the form of state and its administration, the rights of the family and judicial guarantees.

Independence date

17 February 2011 (as per draft constitution)

National legislature

The 200-member Mutamar al Chaab al Aam (General National Congress) (GNC) is comprised of 120 seats for independent candidates and 80 seats for political

parties with members elected through party lists by proportional representation.

Legal system

The Libyan legal system is based on *Sharia* (Islamic law) and the Italian civil law system. There are separate religious courts and no constitutional provision for judicial review of legislative acts. The judicial system consists of the Supreme Court, courts of appeal, courts of first instance and summary courts. Libya has not accepted compulsory International Court of Justice (ICJ) jurisdiction.

Last elections

7 July 2012 (parliamentary)

Results: Parliamentary: Tahalouf al Quwal Wataniyya (National Forces Alliance) (NFA) won 48.8 per cent of the vote (39 seats out of 200), Hizb al Adala wal Bina (Justice and Construction Party) (JCP) (Muslim Brotherhood) 23.3 per cent (17), Hizb al Jabha al Wataniyya (National Front Party) (NFP) 3.8 per cent (three), Wadi al Hayah Party (Party for Democracy and Development) (PDD) 2.5 per cent (two), Al Ittihad min Ajl al Watan (Homeland Union) (HU) 2.5 per cent (two), Hizb al Wasat al Watani (National Centrist Party) (NCP) 2.5 per cent (two); other parties won the remaining 15 seats. Independents won 120.

Next elections

To be announced.

Political parties

Ruling party

The National Forces Alliance Party won the most votes in the election for the 80 party list seats.

Main opposition party

Until 2011 the two most active internal opposition movements were the Islamic Liberation Party and the Muslim Brotherhood. The main exiled opposition was the US-based National Front for the Salvation of Libya (NFSL).

Population

6.41 million (2012)*

Approximately 40 per cent of the population is under 14 years of age; 57 per cent 15–64 years; 3 per cent over 65.

Around 90 per cent of the population live in coastal regions, with half residing in Tripoli itself.

Last census: August 1995: 4,404,986

Population density: Three inhabitants per square kilometre. Urban population 78 per cent (2010 Unicef).

Annual growth rate: 1.9 per cent, 1990–2010 (Unicef).

Ethnic make-up

Berber-Arab (97 per cent). There are small communities of Greeks, Maltese, Italians, Egyptians, Pakistanis, Turks, Indians and Tunisians.

Religions

Sunni Muslim (97 per cent). A third of Libya's Muslims are affiliated to the Sanusi religious sect, which had fought against European colonialism in the first half of the twentieth century.

Education

Libya has paid particular attention to its education system, with the aim of reducing illiteracy and improving the education available to women.

Education is free for all children during the compulsory years. Secondary schooling begins at aged 15 and the curriculum is divided into three- or four-year courses and comprises a number of secondary school types including both academic and specialised or vocational centres. English and Arabic are the main languages for instruction.

Higher education is offered in 14 universities and 54 higher vocational institutes.

Literacy rate: 82 per cent adult rate; 97 per cent youth rate (15–24) (Unesco 2005).

Compulsory years: 6 to 15.

Health

The government provides free health services to all its citizens. UN sanctions had a detrimental impact on the quality and access to healthcare provision and many medical services and pharmaceutical products became unavailable. With the lifting of sanctions in 2004, these shortcomings were overcome to a certain extent. Many Libyans typically seek medical treatment in Tunisia, Egypt or in Western Europe. There are two large hospitals in Tripoli and Benghazi.

HIV/Aids

HIV prevalence: 0.3 per cent aged 15–49 in 2003 (World Bank)

Life expectancy: 72 years, 2004 (WHO 2006)

Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate: 2.6 births per woman, 2010 (Unicef); maternal mortality 0.75 per 1,000 live births (World Bank).

Child (under 5 years) mortality rate (per 1,000): 15 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012); 5 per cent of children aged under five are malnourished (World Bank).

Welfare

The government is theoretically committed to full provision of welfare services to all Libyan nationals. In reality, parts of the population are often not covered by welfare provisions. The most common welfare benefit is housing to those in need. The government provides a national social security system covering pensions and other social insurance, but the availability of such services regularly depends on annual

oil receipts, which make up a large proportion of total government revenues.

Main cities

Tripoli (capital, estimated population 1.0 million in 2012), Benghazi (632,937), Misratah (Misurata) (285,759), Tobruk (138,535), Sabha (99,028), Bani Walid (90,769), Zawiyah (87,316), Sirte (78,215).

Languages spoken

Italian and English are spoken and there are also pockets of native Berber speakers.

Official language/s

Arabic

Media

The France-based media watchdog, Reporters Without Borders (RWB) assessed Libya's attitude to its news gathering, reporting and broadcasting services in 2006 and considered that the government 'maintains its monopoly of power, and the press continues to be just a propaganda tool'. In 2008 RWB noted that non-government media were allowed to operate but were firmly kept under its control, only foreign internet and satellite radio and television stations, particularly Al Jazeera, provide an independent viewpoint. Change has begun, as the market is less tolerant of the political cant provided by the official media. Self-censorship by journalists is widespread.

Press

Private newspapers were only introduced in 2006, although censorship limits their news contents and no criticism of Colonel Qaddafi is allowed.

In Arabic, newspapers controlled by the ministry of information include *Al Shames* (www.alshames.com), *Al Jamahiriya* (www.aljamahiria.com), *Al Fajr Al Jahideed* (www.alfajraljahideed.com) a bi-monthly and *Al Zahf Al Akhdar* (www.azzahfalakhdar.com) which is controlled by the Revolutionary Committees Movement. Private newspapers produced by One Nine Media, owned by Saif al Islam Qaddafi, include *Oea* (www.oelialbya.com) and *Quryna* (www.quryna.com). In English, *The Tripoli Post* (www.tripolipost.com) is a weekly newspaper. The women's magazine *Kul Alfonsoon* (www.kulalfonon.com) is a government publication.

Broadcasting

The state-owned, Libyan Jamahiriya Broadcasting Corporation (LJBC) (<http://en.ljbc.net>) is the national domestic broadcasting organisation.

Radio: The state-run Great Jamahiriya Radio operates four stations from major cities and includes a religious station. Its external service, Voice of Africa (www.voiceofafrica.com.ly), broadcasts in

Arabic, French, Hausa and KiSwahili to countries in Africa with Muslim communities. The private, Allibya Radio broadcasting from Tripoli is operated by the organisation One Nine Media owned by Saif al Islam Qaddafi.

Television: The state-run Great Jamahiriya Television operates several networks, with national coverage, providing different contents such as sport and entertainment. The only local, private TV station is Al Libiyah (www.allibiya.tv), provided via satellite and is operated by the organisation One Nine Media, owned by Saif al Islam Qaddafi.

National news agency: Jamahiriya News Agency (Jana): www.jananews.ly

Economy

The economy is heavily dependent on oil revenues, which provide 95 per cent of all export earnings (the remaining exports are primary mining products) and around 25 per cent of GDP. Following a global high in oil prices in 2007 Libya's current account balance was given a significant boost to US\$35 billion in 2008, up from US\$24 billion in 2007, even though oil production was stable over three years from 2006 at 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) each year. However, according to an International Monetary Fund (IMF) report (in February 2011) the current account fell dramatically to US\$9.4 billion (15.6 per cent of GDP) in 2009, as the global economic crisis caused worldwide trade and the demand for oil to slump. GDP growth which had been around 6.0 per cent in 2006 and 2007, began falling in 2008 to 2.8 per cent before falling into recession in 2009 with GDP growth of -1.6 per cent. Preliminary estimates of GDP growth for 2010 were of 10.3 per cent, as the world demand for oil rebounded. However the civil unrest since January 2011 has had a negative effect on growth, not only because international sanctions halted oil exports, but also because the rebel, Transitional National Council (TNC) (based in Benghazi) set up its own Libyan Oil Company (LOC) to export crude oil from wells within its region of influence.

Agriculture is the second-largest sector of the economy, although Libya is still reliant on imported foodstuffs as it only produces around 25 per cent of its needs. Output is limited by poor soil and extreme climatic conditions that produce low rainfalls. To aid irrigation, the Great Manmade River (GMR) project, begun in 1991, consists of more than 1,300 wells, most over 500 metres deep, and supplies 6.5 million square metres of fresh water per day to the capital and other major cities. The project supplies much needed water from underground aquifers beneath the Sahara

to the Mediterranean coast and to some 135,000 hectares of cultivatable land. However, large resources are also spent on desalination research to meet growing demand.

The non-oil sector, including construction accounts for over 20 per cent of GDP, with significant foreign direct investment (FDI) in the tourism and real estate sectors – over US\$435 million for three projects in 2008.

Some problems within the economy have yet to be addressed. It is still, largely, state controlled with minimal diversification with around 75 per cent of all employment in the public sector. Nevertheless Libya has liberalised its banking sector, given more independence to the Central Bank of Libya, with authority to allow foreign banks to operate, and enacted anti-money laundering laws. A privatisation programme has been broadened to include health, insurance, transport and downstream oil activities.

External trade

Libya is a member of the Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa) with 18 other country members.

Comesa's objective is to formulate a large economic and trading union which will be able to promote the interests of all members. Libya led the move towards a customs union, which became operational in 2009, in which all non-members are charged a common external tariff (CET). Libya is also a member of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) and the Greater Arab Free Trade Area (Gafata) which operates a customs union whereby tariffs within Gafata will be reduced by a percentage each year, until none remain. Libya applied for membership of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in 2004 but by early 2011 was still undergoing economic and trade alignment required for full membership.

Imports

Goods imported include machinery, vehicles, semi-finished goods, food and consumer products.

Main sources: Egypt (15.5 per cent of total in 2011), Tunisia (11.9 per cent), Turkey (8.1 per cent).

Exports

Principal commodities are crude oil, refined petroleum products and natural gas, gypsum, limestone and salt.

Main destinations: Italy (21.5 per cent of total in 2011), Germany (13.5 per cent), France (13.4 per cent).

Agriculture

Agriculture is estimated to employ 3 per cent of the labour force.

Agricultural land (175.9 million hectares) is only 8.8 per cent of the total land area, of which 7.7 per cent is pastoral,

concentrated around oases and the northern coastal regions, especially near Benghazi and Tripoli.

Climatic conditions and irrigation problems limit output. Over 70 per cent of food requirements are imported. Libya is self-sufficient in fruit and vegetables, dairy products and poultry. The main crops are potatoes, wheat, barley, dates, tomatoes, almonds, oats, olives, citrus fruits and groundnuts.

The huge Great Man-Made River (GMR) phased project delivers 3.68 million cubic metres of water from underground reservoirs in the Sahara to Libya's main cities and 135,000 hectares of cultivatable land. The irrigation will allow an increase in the land available for agriculture. Small farms for food for local consumption are encouraged along with large farms that grow wheat and corn and fruits for export markets.

The total annual catch is typically 33,000 tonnes, of which up to 6,000 tonnes are exported with a total value of between US\$15–30 million. Most of the catch is taken by artisanal boats with nets or hooks. There is negligible freshwater fishing, although the government has attempted to stock reservoirs with fish. Libya has a number of fish canning plants, which can tuna and sardines. Fishmeal is also produced.

Small quantities of fish are exported to Greece, Malta and Tunisia. There is a tuna cannery at Zanzur, and sardine canneries at Zuara and Khoms.

Libya is very lightly forested, with less than 1 per cent of total land area covered by forest and woodland, from which small quantities of sawn timber and paper are produced. The majority of domestic demand for industrial wood products is met by imports. Experiments have been undertaken into tree planting, to halt the advance of the desert, but with mixed success; there has been some development of orchards.

Industry and manufacturing

The industrial sector is estimated to contribute 18 per cent to GDP and to employ 15 per cent of the workforce. Virtually all industry was state-owned until the privatisation of state entities – excluding utilities and the gas and oil sectors – began in 2004.

Traditionally the industrial sector was limited to small-scale processing operations, mostly in food, wood and paper, textiles and soap. However, traditional small-scale agri-allied industries have given way to the growth of import substitution industries (such as building materials manufacture) and heavy industries (such as petrochemicals, iron and steel, concrete pipes and vehicle assembly). The

National Petrochemicals Company (Napectco) has built up a substantial petrochemicals capacity since the late 1970s using local feedstock. The large Marsa Brega complex is owned by Napectco which hosts a number of plants producing petrochemicals, ethanol, ammonia and urea. Much industrial investment has gone into expanding capital intensive chemicals capacity as a means of increasing the value added content of exports. Major metal smelting projects have been impeded by low incomes and depressed world prices in recent years. Other constraints to development are insufficiently trained Libyan manpower and the small domestic market.

Tourism

After the rapprochement with the West achieved in 2003 and the lifting of US sanctions in 2004, Libya officially opened to tourism in 2005.

Travel sanctions and political isolation was an obstacle to the revival of Libya's tourism sector. Its tourist infrastructure had been neglected for many years and, while new resort and hotel projects have been initiated, more investment is needed to upgrade old resources. The Mediterranean beaches and ancient historical sites, together with its proximity to Europe and other developed North African tourist destinations, provide the country with good potential for expanding visitor numbers. Prior to the civil war in 2011, travel and tourism had been forecast to directly contribute 1.6 per cent of GDP in the year, and 7.5 per cent through indirectly. Direct employment in the sector was predicted to be 1.6 per cent of total (26,000 jobs) and 3.1 per cent of indirect employment (53,000 jobs). Tourist exports were expected to generate LD221.2 million (US\$182.8 million) and the industry to have had direct investment of LD231.7 million (US\$191.4 million), 2.6 per cent of total investment, committed for 2011.

Mining

Major mineral deposits include iron ore (which supplies the steel complex at Misrata), potassium, magnesium, sulphur, gypsum and phosphate. There are also potential uranium deposits. Commercial exploitation of minerals is restricted by high development costs.

Salt and construction materials are produced, but large reserves of iron ore at Wadi Shatti remain undeveloped, although this is being reconsidered.

Hydrocarbons

Proven oil reserves were 47.1 billion barrels at the end of 2011; Libya has one of the world's top ten highest oil reserves. Production was 479,000 barrels per day (bpd), which was a drop of 71 per cent

over the 1.7 million bpd in 2010, before the revolution cut production. In 2010, hydrocarbon exports represented 95 per cent of total merchandised exports and over 50 per cent of GDP. Oil production was expected to increase by 40 per cent to reach 3.0 million bpd in 2013.

Libya has Africa's largest proven oil reserves, but requires foreign investment of billions of US dollars in production and infrastructure to exploit its resources. The state-owned National Oil Company (NOC) is responsible for the oil industry, including exploration, production and distribution.

There are five domestic refineries, with a combined capacity of approximately 378,000bpd. They produce for the domestic market as well as the export of refined products. Libya also has oil refining operations overseas, mainly in Europe, operated by the state-owned Tamoil. Proven natural gas reserves were 1.5 trillion cubic metres (cum) at the end of 2011, with production at 4.1 billion cum, a cut of 75.6 per cent on the 16.8 billion cum in 2010.

The government had been expanding gas production as it attempted to replace oil with natural gas, so that more oil is made available for export. Plus, Libya, with its huge gas reserves is looking to Europe to build a market while using European energy companies to provide investment. Any use of coal is commercially insignificant.

Energy

Electricity production capacity was 6.3GW in 2008, producing 25.5 gigawatts hours (gWh) and supplying around 100 per cent of the population; there is a totally interconnected system. While the vast majority of the 27 electricity-generating plants are gas-fired and steam-driven, some are still oil-fired but are located in rural, desert, areas. Crude oil is used in power plants located close to oil fields in remote desert areas.

The General Electricity Company of Libya (Gecol) has sole responsibility for generating and distributing electricity.

Power demand is growing rapidly at 9 per cent per annum, the government hopes to double generating capacity by 2020 as new, smaller power plants are opened in local areas. Gecol has allocated US\$2.8 billion to upgrade the transmission system and construct sub-stations.

Financial markets

Stock exchange

The Libyan Exchange Stock Market

Banking and insurance

In April 2012 the Qatar National Bank announced that it had purchased a 49

per cent stake in a private in Libya, the Bank of Commerce and Development.

Central bank

Central Bank of Libya
Main financial centre
Tripoli

Time

GMT plus three hours

Geography

Libya is the fourth-largest country in Africa. It extends along the Mediterranean coast of North Africa with Tunisia and Algeria to the west, Niger and Chad to the south, Egypt to the east, and Sudan to the south-east. Most of the country is part of the Sahara Desert. Only the narrow coastal strip receives sufficient rainfall to be suitable for agriculture and it is here that 90 per cent of the population live. In 1984, the Great Man-Made River Project was begun and when completed will transport daily 6.5 million cubic metres of fresh water, drawn from Sahara Desert aquifers in the south, to the coast in the north. The aquifer water is estimated to be over 40,000 years old. The irrigation will allow an increase in the land available for agriculture.

Hemisphere

Northern

Climate

The coastal areas enjoy a temperate Mediterranean climate. Summer (May–September) temperatures are up to 40 degrees Celsius (C), while winter (November–April) temperatures reach 25–32 degrees C during daytime but can fall to 4–5 degrees C at night. Otherwise, with 90 per cent of the country desert, very hot days (to 50 degrees C), cold nights and sandstorms are likely in May–June. There is low rainfall, mainly between October and March, in the highlands and semi-desert.

Dress codes

A lightweight suit or jacket and trousers are advised. A tie and a long-sleeved shirt should be worn at business meetings, but a jacket is not essential. Women should dress modestly, covering their arms and knees.

Entry requirements

Passports

Required by all. From 11 November 2007 all foreign passports require an Arabic translation. Visitors are advised to contact a Libyan consulate or tourist office for the latest official ruling before travelling.

Visa

Required by all and valid for three months. Exceptions granted for citizens of most Middle East countries, and a few other, African, states. For further

information contact the nearest Libyan consulate. All visitors must have an invitation from a Libyan contact – these can be obtained from a Libyan travel agent or Embassy – and essential information on the documentation must have Arab translations.

Business visitors should be sponsored by a Libyan company, which will organise the issue of a business visa.

Prohibited entry

Nationals of Israel and passport holders with Israeli visas may be refused entry, check status with a Libyan Consulate.

Currency advice/regulations

Import and export of local currency is prohibited. The import of foreign currency is unlimited but must be declared; export is limited to the amount declared.

Travellers cheques are not readily accepted. Carrying cash is the only realistic option, and the favoured currency is the US dollar. Penalties for the use of unauthorised currency dealers are severe.

Customs

There are strict customs regulations about the import or export of firearms, religious materials, antiques and medications.

Prohibited imports

Alcohol and illegal drugs

Health (for visitors)

Mandatory precautions

Yellow fever vaccination certificate is required if travelling from an infected areas.

Advisable precautions

Vaccinations or booster shots are advised for typhoid, tetanus and hepatitis A. Other immunisation that may be advised are polio, TB, diphtheria, and hepatitis B. Malaria prophylaxis is recommended for visits to certain areas.

Avoid drinking tap water.

All necessary medication brought in by a visitor should be accompanied by a letter of explanation. A first-aid kit would be useful.

Hotels

Tripoli has a range of hotels.

Credit cards

Credit cards are not accepted.

Public holidays (national)

Fixed dates

9 Feb (Ashura), 3 Mar (Declaration of the People's Authority Day), 11 Jun (Evacuation Day), 1 Sep (Revolution Day), 7 Oct (Friendship Day), 26 Oct (Day of Mourning).

Variable dates

Eid al Adha (two days), Islamic New Year, Eid al Fitr (two days).

Islamic year 1435 (5 Nov 2013–24

Oct 2014):: The Islamic year contains 354 or 355 days, with the result that Muslim feasts advance by 10–12 days against the Gregorian calendar. Dates of feasts

vary according to the sighting of the new moon, so cannot be forecast exactly.

Working hours

Friday is the Muslim holy day and all offices, businesses and banks are closed. The oil industry is also closed on Saturday.

Banking

Sat–Wed: 0800–1500 (winter); Sat–Wed: 0800–1200 and 1600–1700, Thu: 0800–1200 (summer).

Hours may be reduced during Ramadan.

Business

Sat–Thu: 0800–1600 (winter); Sat–Thu: 0700–1400 (summer).

Government

Sat–Thu: 0730–1430 (winter); Sat–Thu: 0700–1400 (summer).

Shops

Shops are mainly open 0800–1800, often closing for a few hours during the middle of the day.

Telecommunications

Mobile/cell phones

GSM 900 services are limited to populated areas.

Electricity supply

110 or 220V AC

Social customs/useful tips

Alcohol is banned throughout Libya and visitors arriving with alcohol will have it confiscated. Women often do not attend Arab social or business meetings, despite gender equality enshrined in the constitution.

Photography of public buildings and anything of military or security interest is not permitted. It is best to avoid criticism of the country, its leadership or Islam while in Libya since this could potentially result in a heavy-handed response from the authorities.

During Ramadan, eating, drinking and smoking in public is banned throughout the hours of daylight. Islamic and Arab customs prevail and must be respected by visitors. Pork is forbidden by Muslim law. Food is traditionally eaten with the right hand only.

Security

Crime is growing in Libya. The most common crimes are car theft and theft of items left in vehicles. Muggings have occurred on the beaches. Travel to remote areas is best undertaken in groups.

Getting there

Air

National airline: Libyan Arab Airlines.

International airport/s: Tripoli International airport (TIP), 35km from the city, facilities include duty-free shops, restaurants, post office and bank. Benina International (BEN), 19km from Benghazi; Sebha (SEB), 11km from town.

Airport tax: Departure tax LD6, except for transit passenger. It may be included in the price of the ticket.

Surface

Road: There are entry points via Tunisia and Egypt by the main coast road, Algeria (via Sabhah and Ghat) and Niger and Chad (via Sabhah).

Water: There are ferry services from Malta to Tripoli. There are also occasional services from Casablanca (Morocco) and Alexandria (Egypt).

Main port/s: Benghazi, Misratah, Marsa Brega and Tripoli (free port).

Getting about

National transport

Air: Libyan Arab Airlines operates an hourly shuttle between Tripoli and Benghazi. Other scheduled routes include all major centres. Buraq Air also provides internal flights.

Road: There is a surfaced road system comprising an estimated 32,000km linking all main centres. The main roads include the 1,820km national coast road from the Tunisian border to the Egyptian border; Sabhah-Ghat; Tripoli-Sabhah; Agedabia-Kufra; Sabhah-Chad and Niger borders. Many rural roads have improved due to the infrastructure work carried out for the Great Man-Made River project.

Buses: There are services between main centres.

Rail: There has been no railway in operation since 1965 when the network was broken-up. There are plans to construct a new east-west railway line from the Tunisian border to Tripoli, extending it along the coast to Misratah and then on to Egypt via Tobruk. Another railway line is planned to run north-south from Misratah to Sabhah, and then on to Chad, however these projects are still little beyond their planning stages and may take several years before fruition. Meanwhile Libya has let contracts with private foreign companies to supply crossing and pointwork for the proposed east-west line.

City transport

Taxis: Yellow government taxis are generally cheaper than private taxis. It is advisable to negotiate the fare in advance. Taxis are often on a shared basis.

Buses, trams & metro: State-run bus services operate in Benghazi and Tripoli. They can be unreliable and overcrowded.

Car hire

There are car hire agencies in Tripoli and Benghazi, although rates can be quite high. Cars with drivers can be hired.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The addresses listed below are a selection only. While World of Information makes every endeavour to check these addresses, we cannot guarantee that changes have not been made, especially to telephone numbers and area codes. We would welcome any corrections.

Telephone area codes

The international direct dialling code (IDD) for Libya is +218, followed by area code and subscriber's number:

Benghazi	61	Tobruk	87
Misratah	51	Tripoli	21

Chambers of Commerce

Benghazi Chamber of Commerce, Trade, Industry and Agriculture, Issabri Street, PO Box 208, Benghazi (tel: 80-971; fax: 80-761; e-mail: benghazicc@netscape.net).

Misurata Chamber of Commerce, Trade, Industry and Agriculture, Souweihli Street, PO Box 84, Misurata (tel: 616-497; fax: 620-340; e-mail: info@ccimisrata.org).

Tobruk Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, Alfadel Abu Omar Street, PO Box 868, Tobruk (tel/fax: 24-835).

Tripoli Chamber of Commerce, Trade, Industry and Agriculture, 6 Najd Street, PO Box 2321, Tripoli (tel: 333-6855; fax: 333-2655).

Union of Chambers of Commerce, Trade, Industry and Agriculture, PO Box 12556, 26 Bandong Street, Tripoli (tel: 444-1613; fax: 444-1457; e-mail: unionchamber@hotmail.com).

Banking

Libyan Arab Foreign Bank, PO Box 2542, That al-Imad Administrative Complex, Tripoli (tel: 335-0155, 335-0160, 335-0086/7; fax: 335-0164/8).

Sahara Bank, PO Box 270, 10 First of September Street, Tripoli (tel: 333-9804; fax: 333-7922).

Wahda Bank, PO Box 452, Sharia Gamal Abd an-Naser, Benghazi (tel: 222-4122; fax: 222-4122, 222-4709).

Umma Bank Sal, PO Box 685, 1 Giaddat Omar El-Mokhtar Street, Tripoli (tel: 333-4031/35, 444-2541, 444-2544; fax: 333-2505, 444-2476).

Central bank

Central Bank of Libya, PO Box 1103, Tripoli (tel: 333-3591; fax: 444-1488; e-mail: info@cbl.gov.ly).

Stock exchange

The Libyan Exchange Stock Market

Travel information

Libyan Arab Airlines, PO Box 2555, Haitti Street, Tripoli (tel: 602-093, 608-860; fax: 2-230-970; internet: www.libyanarabairline.com).

National tourist organisation offices

General People's Committee of Tourism, PO Box 82063, Tripoli (tel: 333-6452, 333-7576; fax: 334-2709; internet: www.libyan-tourism.org).

Other useful addresses

General National Organisation for Industrialisation, PO Box 4388, Tripoli (tel: 44-680, 34-995).

Kufrah & Serir Authority, Council of Agricultural Development, Benghazi.

National Oil Corporation, PO Box 2655, Tripoli (tel: 46-180).

National Trade Union Federation, PO Box 734, Tripoli.

National news agency: Jamahiriya News Agency (Jana): www.jananews.ly

Internet sites

Qadafi's official website:
www.algathafi.org

Africa Business Network: www.ifc.org/abn

African Development Bank: www.afdb.org

Africa Online: www.africaonline.com

AllAfrica.com: http://allafrica.com

Buraq Air: www.buraqair.com

Libya on the Web:

www.libyaweb.com/news.htm

Libyans Online: www.libyaonline.com

Libyan Mission at United Nations:
www.un.int/libya/

Azar Libya Travel and Tour Company:
www.angelfire.com/az/azartours/index.html

Juddaim Tourism Service:

www.libya-juddaim.com/eng/index.html

Caravanserai Tours: www.caravanserai-tours.com