



# Libya

*1951-69 post-independence flag  
adopted by anti-Gaddafi protesters*

Full name: **The Great Socialist  
People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya**

Area: **1,759,540 sq km**

Population: **6,419,925 (2009)**

Population aged 0-14 years: **30.1%**

Life expectancy: **73 years (men),  
78 years (women)**

Oil is discovered by Esso (Exxon)  
in 1959, with 50% of oil profits  
returned to Libyan government in  
taxes. Ten years later, **King Idris** is  
overthrown in bloodless coup led by  
27-year-old **Muammar Gaddafi (right)**

## Economy

GDP: **\$62.36 billion (2009)**

Average income (GNI): **\$9,714 (2009)**

Inflation: **6.3% (2007)**

Labour force: **2.29m (2008)**

Jobless rate: **30% (2004)**

Poverty rate: **33% (est.)**

Oil production: **1.6m barrels per day**

Oil reserves: **46.4bn barrels**



**Recent events:** UN Security Council  
votes for arms embargo and other  
sanctions in response to Gaddafi's  
use of force against civilians.  
Britain revokes Gaddafi's diplomatic  
immunity, EU governments agree  
to freeze Gaddafi family assets