

The Gambia History

The Gambia shares historical roots with many other West African nations in the slave trade, which was the key factor in the placing and keeping of a colony on the Gambia River, first by the Portuguese, during which era it was known as A Gâmbia.

Later, on May 25, 1765, The Gambia was made a part of the British Empire, when the government formally assumed control, establishing the Province of Senegambia.

In 1965, The Gambia gained independence under the leadership of Dawda Jawara, who ruled until Yahya Jammeh seized power in a bloodless 1994 coup.

Adama Barrow became The Gambia's third president in January 2017, after defeating Jammeh in December 2016 elections.

Jammeh initially accepted the results, then refused to accept them, which triggered a constitutional crisis and military

intervention by the Economic Community of West African States, resulting in his exile.



The Gambia's economy is dominated by farming, fishing and, especially, tourism. In 2015, 48.6% of the population lived in poverty. In rural areas, poverty is even more widespread, at almost 70%.

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