



## Timeline: Mali

### A chronology of key events:

**11th century** - Empire of Mali becomes dominant force in the upper Niger basin, its period of greatness beginning under King Sundiata in 1235 and peaking under Mansa Musa who ruled between 1312 and 1337 and extended empire to the Atlantic.

**14th-15th centuries** - Decline of the Empire of Mali, which loses dominance of the gold trade to the Songhai Empire, which makes its base in Timbuktu - historically important as a focal point of Islamic culture and a trading post on the trans-Saharan caravan route.

**Late 16th century** - Moroccans defeat the Songhai, make Timbuktu their capital and rule until their decline in the 18th century.

**19th century** - French colonial advance, and Islamic religious wars which lead to creation of theocratic states.

**1898** - France completes conquest of Mali, then called French Sudan.

**1959** - Mali and Senegal form the Mali Federation, which splits a year later.

### Independence

**1960** - Mali becomes independent with Modibo Keita as president. It becomes a one-party, socialist state and withdraws from the Franc zone.

**1968** - Keita ousted in coup led by Lieutenant Moussa Traore.

**1977** - Protests erupt following Keita's death in prison.

Moussa Traore: Military ruler's death sentence was commuted

- Ruled from 1968-1991
- Toppled and jailed in 1991
- Pardoned in 2002

**1979** - New constitution provides for elections; Traore re-elected president.

**1985** - Mali and Burkina Faso engage in border fighting.

**1991** - Traore deposed in coup and replaced by transitional committee.

### Democracy

**1992** - Alpha Konare wins multiparty elections to become Mali's first democratically-elected president.

**1995** - Peace agreement with Tuareg tribes leads to return of thousands of refugees.

**1999** - Former President Moussa Traore sentenced to death on corruption charges, but has his sentence commuted to life imprisonment by President Konare.

**1999** October - Several people killed in fighting in the north between members of the Kunta tribe and an Arab community over local disputes.

**2000** February - Konare appoints former International Monetary Fund official Mande Sidibe prime minister.

**2001** December - Manantali dam in southwest produces its first megawatt of hydro-electricity, 13 years after it was completed.

### **Amadou Toure**

**2002** April - Amadou Toumani Toure elected president by landslide. Poll is marred by allegations of fraud.

**2002** September - France says it will cancel 40% of debts owed to it by Mali, amounting to some 80m euros (\$79m, £51m).

**2002** October - Government resigns, without public explanation. New "government of national unity" is unveiled.

**2003** August - Clashes between rival Muslim groups in west kill at least 10 people.

Fourteen Europeans, kidnapped in Algeria in 2003, are freed in Mali after negotiations with militant captors.

Bamako: Drought prompted 1960s population influx

- Became capital of French Sudan in 1908
- Major rail and river transshipment centre
- Population: 1.1 million

**2004** April - Prime Minister Mohamed Ag Amani resigns and is replaced by Ousmane Issoufi Maiga.

**2004** September - Agriculture minister says severe locust plague has cut cereal harvest by up to 45%.

**2005** June - World Food Programme warns of severe food shortages, the result of drought and locust infestations in 2004.

**2006** May - Visiting French Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy faces a hostile reception from protesters accusing him of racism over the tough immigration bill he introduced in parliament.

**2006** June - The government signs an Algerian-brokered peace deal with Tuareg rebels seeking greater autonomy for their northern desert region. The rebels looted weapons in the town of Kidal in May, raising fears of a new rebellion.

**2007** April - President Toure wins a second five-year term in elections.

**2007** June - Five journalists and a teacher are convicted for insulting President Toure over a high school essay assignment on the sexual indiscretions of an imaginary head of state.

**2007** July - The ruling coalition, Alliance for Democracy and Progress (ADP), strengthens its hold on parliament in elections.

### **Rebel activity**

**2007** August - Suspected Tuareg rebels abduct government soldiers in separate incidents near the Niger and Algerian borders.

**2008** May - Tuareg rebels kill 17 soldiers in attack on an army post in the northeast, despite a ceasefire agreed a month earlier.

**2008** December - At least 20 people are killed and several taken hostage in an attack by Tuareg rebels on a military base in northern Mali.

**2009** February - Government says the army has taken control of all the bases of the most active Tuareg rebel group. A week later, 700 rebels surrender their weapons in ceremony marking their return to the peace process.

**2009** May - Algeria begins sending military equipment to Mali in preparation for a joint operation against Islamic militants linked to al-Qaeda.

**2009** June - The British government says there is strong reason to believe that British citizen Edwin Dyer was killed by al-Qaeda in north-west Africa. He was being held in Mali after being kidnapped in January with a group of other Europeans.

**2009** August - New law boosts women's rights, prompts some protests.

**2010** January - Annual music event - Festival in the Desert - is moved from a desert oasis to Timbuktu because of security fears.

**2010** March - Alicia Gamez, a Spanish woman kidnapped in Mauritania in November by al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, is freed in Mali. The group frees an Italian couple soon afterwards.

**2010** April - Mali, Algeria, Mauritania and Niger set up joint command to tackle threat of terrorism.

**2010** August - Two Spanish aid workers kidnapped in Mauritania by al-Qaeda in November are set free in Mali after nine months in captivity.

**2010** September - Mali marks 50 years of independence.

Seven foreigners kidnapped in Niger are reportedly transferred to Mali.

**2011** January - French embassy in Bamako attacked by a man with explosives and a gun.

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Published: 2011/05/04 15:58:46 GMT

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