

CONGO, REPUBLIC OF THE (ALSO SEE KATANGA)



Upon independence in 1960, the former French region of Middle Congo became the Republic of the Congo. A quarter century of experimentation with Marxism was abandoned in 1990 and a democratically elected government took office in 1992. A brief civil war in 1997 restored former Marxist President Denis SASSOU-Nguesso, and ushered in a period of ethnic and political unrest. Southern-based rebel groups agreed to a final peace accord in March 2003, but the calm is tenuous and refugees continue to present a humanitarian crisis. The Republic of Congo was once one of Africa's largest petroleum producers, but with declining production it will need new offshore oil finds to sustain its oil earnings over the long term.

Geography: Total Area: 342,000 sq km (land: 341,500 sq km – water: 500 sq km).

Area – comparative: slightly smaller than Montana.

Land boundaries: Total: 5,504 km.

Border countries: Angola 201 km, Cameroon 523 km, Central African

Republic 467 km, Democratic Republic of the Congo 2,410 km, Gabon 1,903 km.
Coastline: 169 km.

Military: Congolese Armed Forces (Forces Armees Congolaises, FAC): Army (Armee de Terre), Navy, Congolese Air Force (Armee de l'Air Congolaise); Gendarmerie; Special Presidential Security Guard (GSSP) (2011)

Military spending: 0.9% of GDP (2009).

1960 Car, Armd, 6x6. M8 Light Armored Car.

Right: M8 Armored Car in parade. (Photo: Author's collection) **Remarks:** (see US for vehicle details).

Truck, Utility, 1/4-Ton, 4x4, w/106mm RR, M38A1C.

Remarks: (see US for vehicle details).

1961 Car, Armd, 4x2. Improved AC Mod 1961

1961 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x2. APC, Improved, Bedford

1965 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x2. APC, Improved, Ford, Mod 1965

