

POLS 329 A
Comparative African Politics

Classes 23 and 24:
Recent trends in African politics

Plan for this week

- Regime persistence and change in Africa in the early 21st century

Africa three decades after the wave of democratization

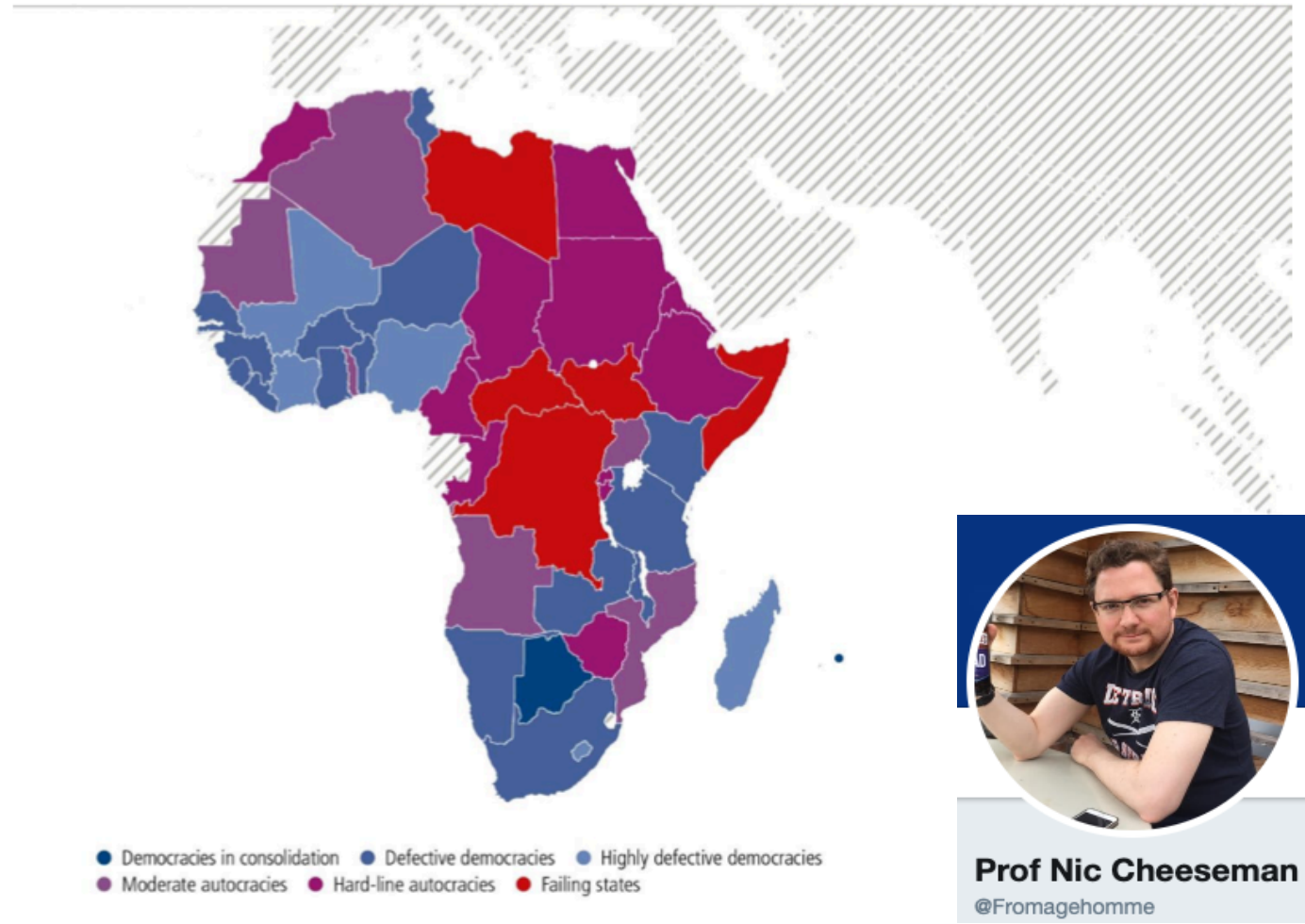
AFRICA'S WANING DEMOCRATIC COMMITMENT

E. Gyimah-Boadi



Africa three decades after the wave of democratization

- Democracies:
 - 5% consolidating
 - 34% defective
 - 11% highly defective
- Autocracies:
 - 36% hardline
 - 14% moderate



Prof Nic Cheeseman
@Fromagehomme

What explains 'Africa's waning democratic commitment'?

Democratization and democratic consolidation

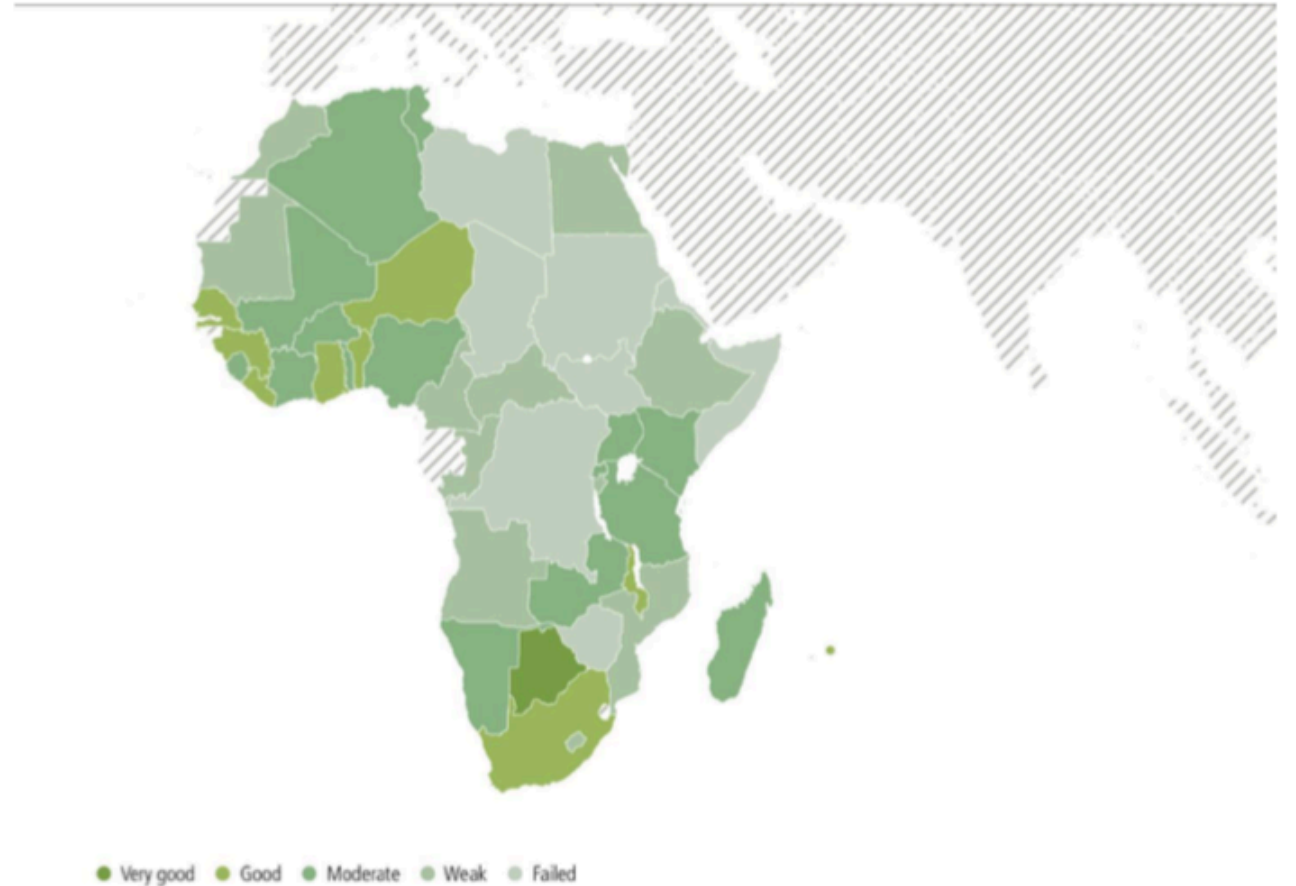
- Richard Sandbrook:
 - “Africa’s hostile conditions encumber not so much *transitions* to democracy as the *consolidation* of enduring democracies.”



What are Africa's 'hostile conditions'?

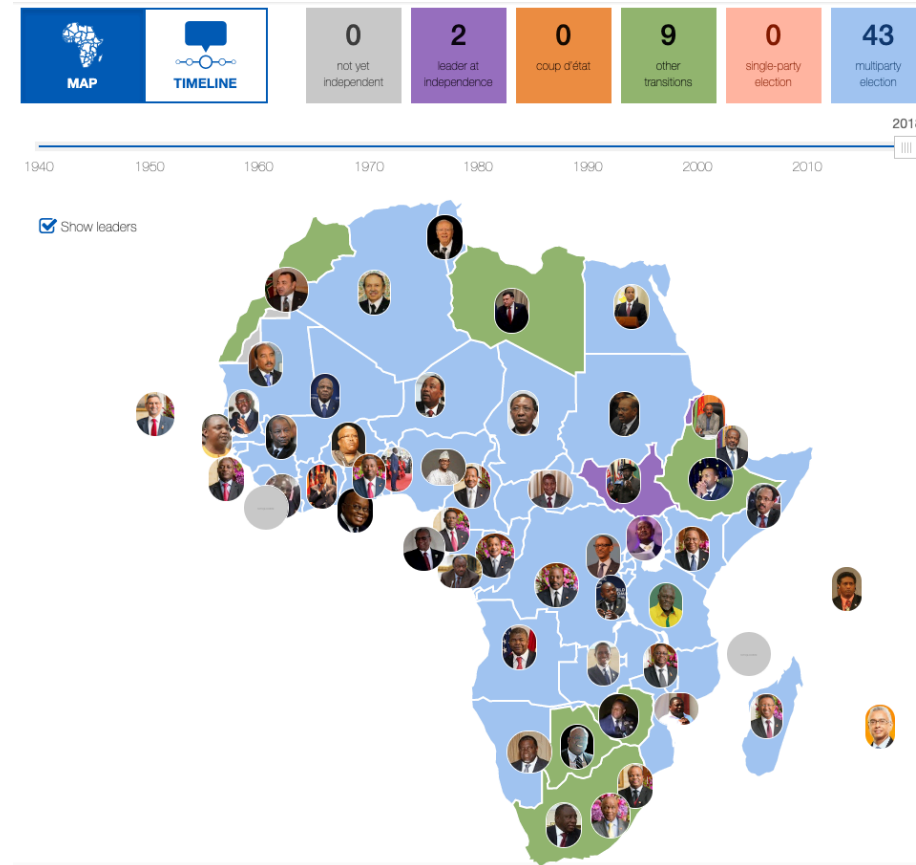
Quality of democracy

- Economic weakness
- State weakness
- Civil society weakness
- Neopatrimonialism
- Politics of ethnicity
- Conflict
- Dominant party systems
- Factionalism



Democratic backsliding and hybrid regimes

- Elections as a tactic to increase legitimacy



What are the causes of
backsliding?

Causes of backsliding

- Quality of democracy
- International system:
 - African Union:
 - Sanctions against military takeovers
 - Acceptance of non-free and fair elections
- 'Autocrats' toolkit'
- Attractiveness of (developmental) authoritarianism

'Autocrats' toolkit'

- Electoral fraud
- Cooptation of opposition
- Intimidation
- Manipulation of electoral boundaries
- Electoral access restrictions
- Opposition fragmentation through decentralization and ostensible protection of minority language rights



• Albaugh, Ericka A. 2011. "An Autocrat's Toolkit: Adaptation and Manipulation in 'democratic' Cameroon." *Democratization* 18 (2): 388–414.

'Autocrats' toolkit'

- Skewed playing field: access to funding, media, judiciary, electoral authorities
- Press manipulation
- Opposition as stooges of foreign interests
- Limited concessions
- Control over NGOs and internet
- Removal of term limits

Africa

Uganda's Supreme Court Upholds Lifetime Term for Museveni

By Halima Athumani
April 19, 2019 09:24 AM



Developmental authoritarianism

- (Apparent) developmental success of consolidated authoritarian regimes in Ethiopia and Rwanda



ከኢህአዴግ ስራ-አስፈፃሚ ኮሚቴ የተሰጠ ድርጅታዊ መግለጫ



Some recent events: Ethiopia



Home > East Africa > Ethiopia > Abiy Ahmed Disbanded Ethiopia's EPRDF. Will His Bet on the Country's Political...

East Africa Ethiopia

Abiy Ahmed Disbanded Ethiopia's EPRDF. Will His Bet on the Country's Political Future Pay Off?

26 January 2020

21 0

Facebook Twitter Pinterest



Some recent events: Kenya

The New York Times

Kenya Supreme Court Nullifies Presidential Election



The opposition leader Raila Odinga arriving at the Supreme Court in Nairobi on Friday. The court nullified last month's presidential election. Ben Curtis/Associated Press

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/01/world/africa/kenya-election-kenyatta-odinga.html>

Some recent events: Benin

GLOBAL

The Fall of a Model Democracy

Benin, in West Africa, was hailed as a success story. But it shared many of the same problems as other democracies.

STEPHEN PADUANO MAY 29, 2019



Benin's president Patrice Talon meets the French president at the Elysee Palace in Paris in 2016. (BENOIT TESSIER / REUTERS)

Next week

- Review class on Tuesday, April 28
- Last day to submit written work on Wednesday, April 29
- Final exam:
 - Two parts:
 - Essay, due at 7 pm on Sunday, May 3
 - Short answers, 7-8 pm on Sunday, May 3