

PLS 343

Politics of Sub-Saharan Africa

Week 12:
Democratization

Recap

- Limited economic development and failed reforms
- State weakness and autonomy
- Neopatrimonialism
- Politics of ethnicity
- Horizontal inequality, exclusion, and conflict

Plan for this week

- African democracy in the 20th century:
 - Post-independence democracy
 - Democratization in the 1990s
 - Causes of democratization

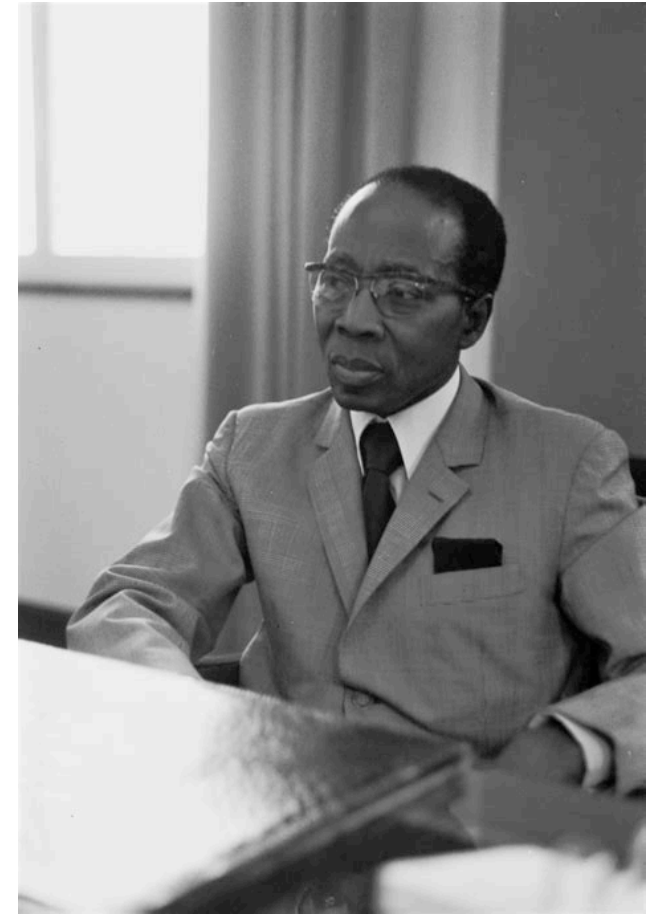
Regimes and regime change in post-independence Africa

- Initial democratic experiments
- One-party rule
- Instability, coups d'état, and military rule



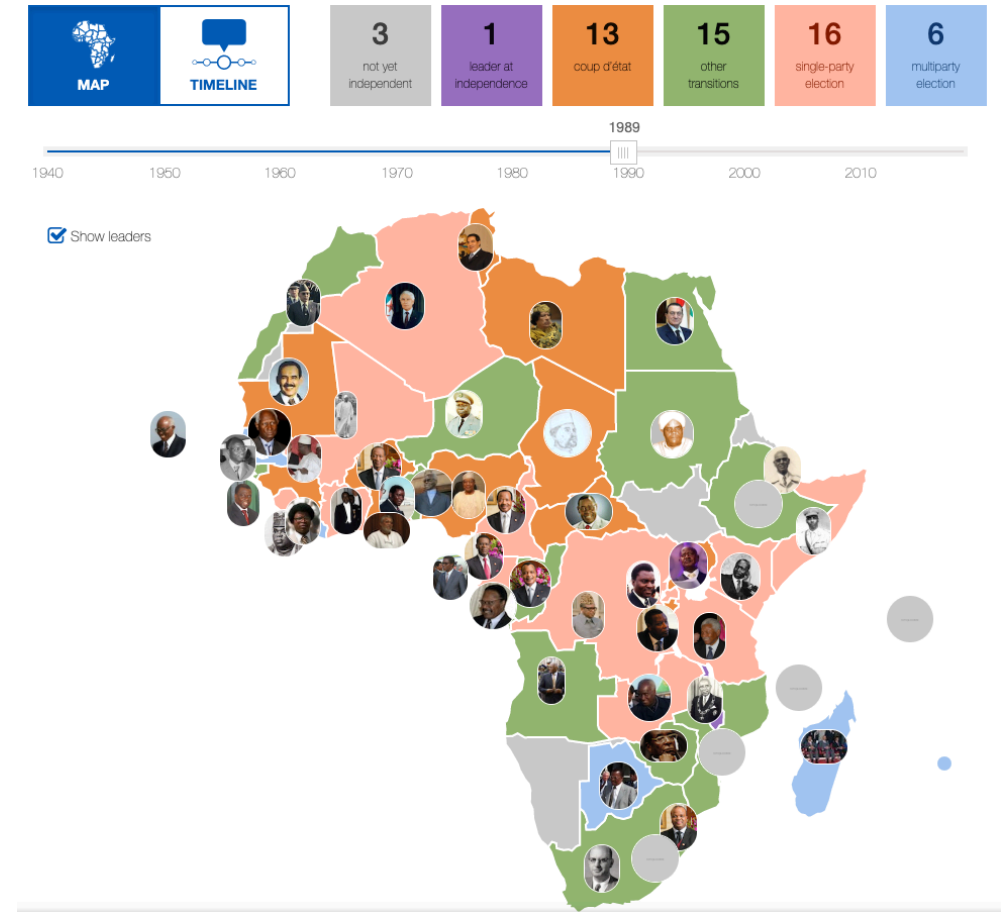
Post-independence democracies

- Botswana
- Mauritius
- Gambia
- Senegal



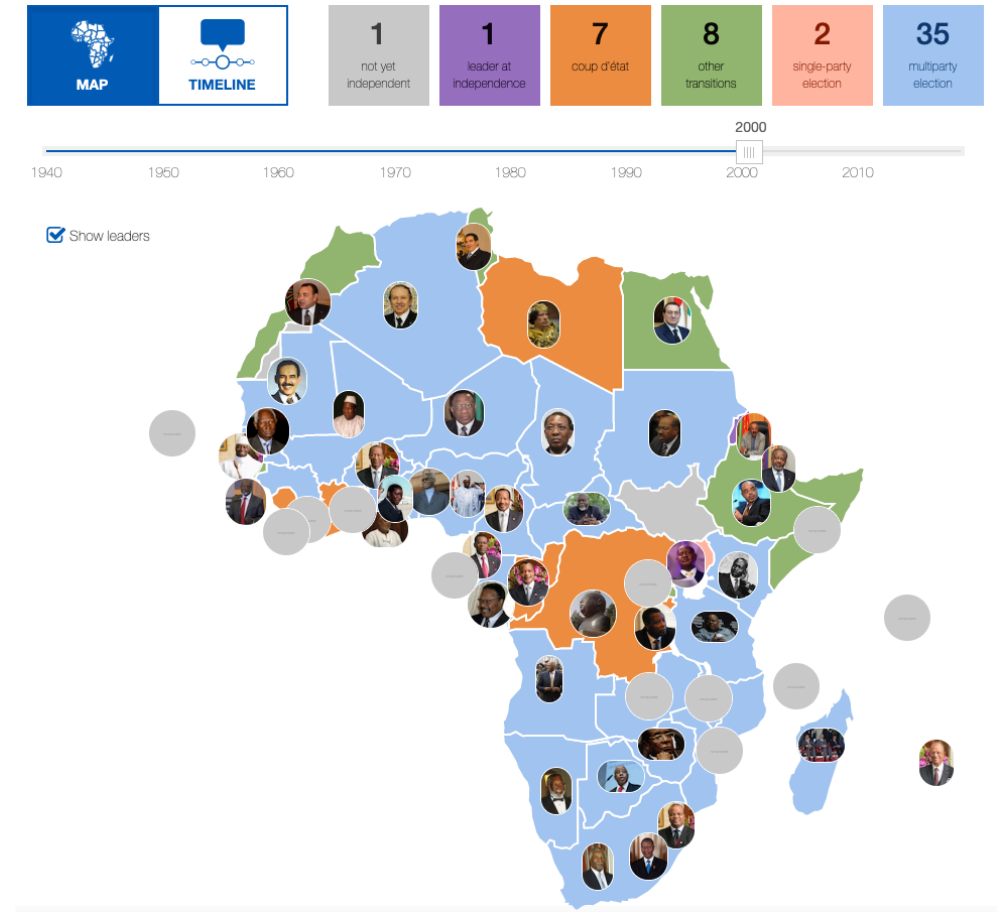
Elections in post-independence Africa

- Posner: parliamentary elections in authoritarian Zambia
- 70 competitive elections held in Africa between 1960 and 1990

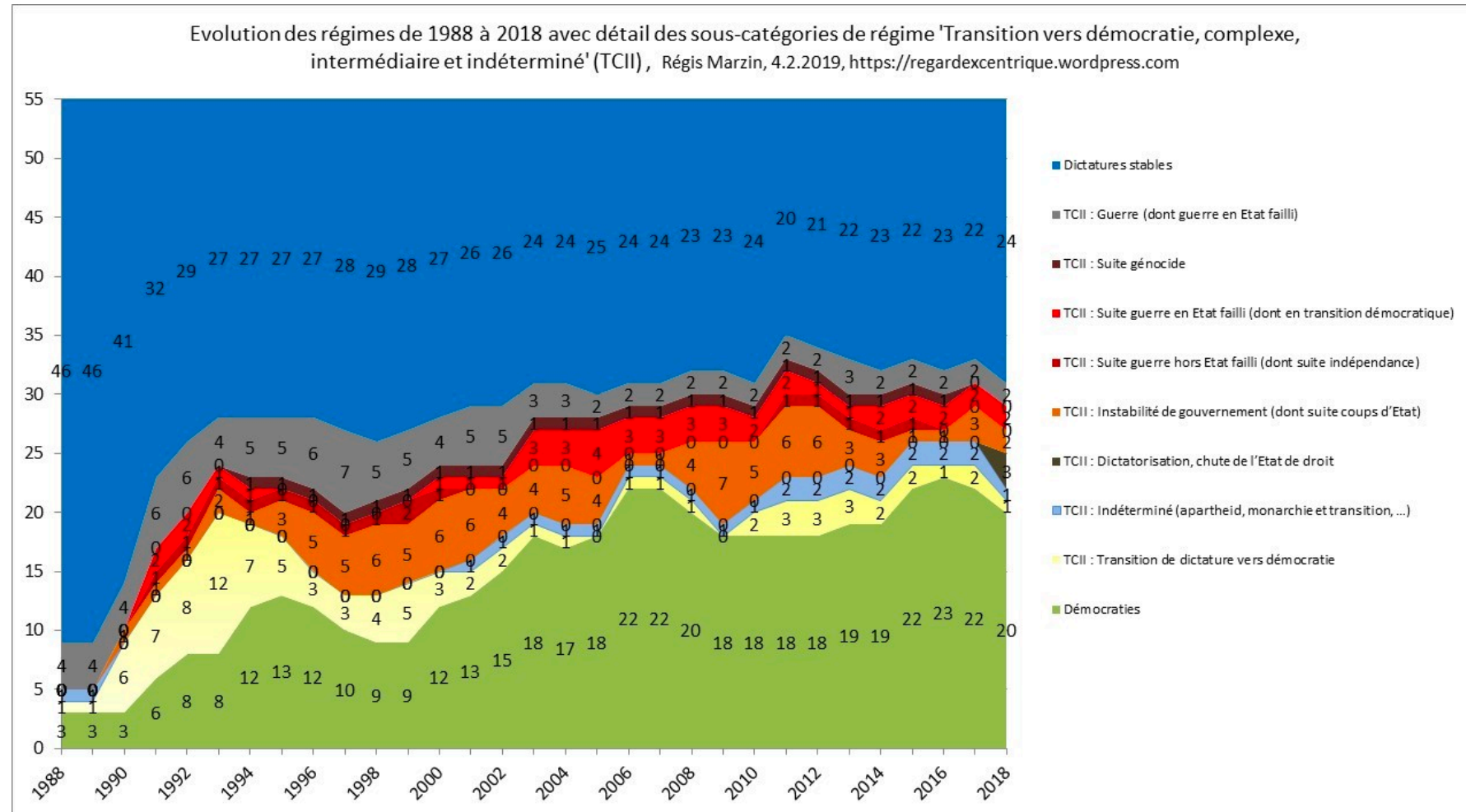


Elections in post-independence Africa

- 140 competitive elections during the 1990s



The wave of democratization in the 1990s

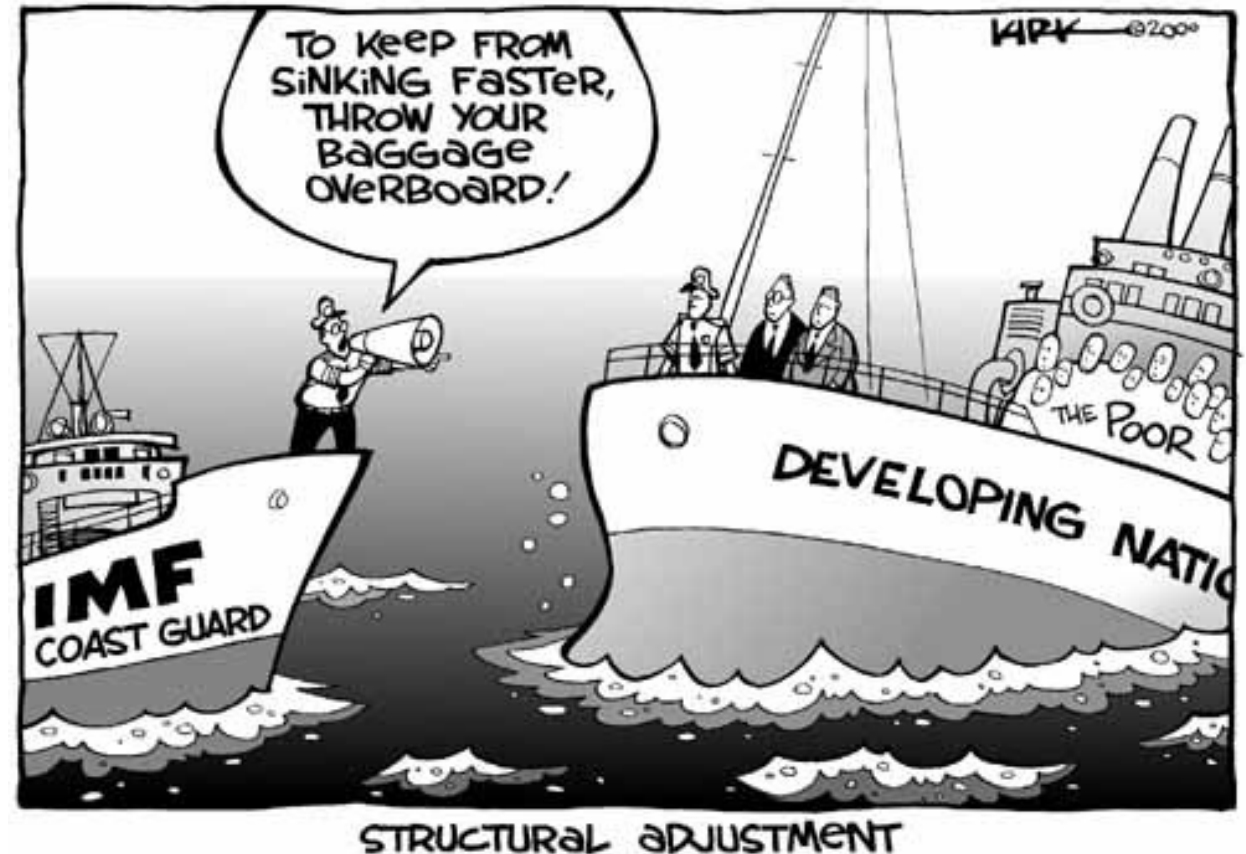


The causes of democratization

- Limited economic development and failed reforms
- State weakness and autonomy
- Neopatrimonialism
- Politics of ethnicity
- Horizontal inequality, exclusion, and conflict
- *International influences*

Economic crisis and democratization

- Debt crisis and structural adjustment reforms —>
- Economic decline and austerity policies —>
- Loss of popular legitimacy and social unrest



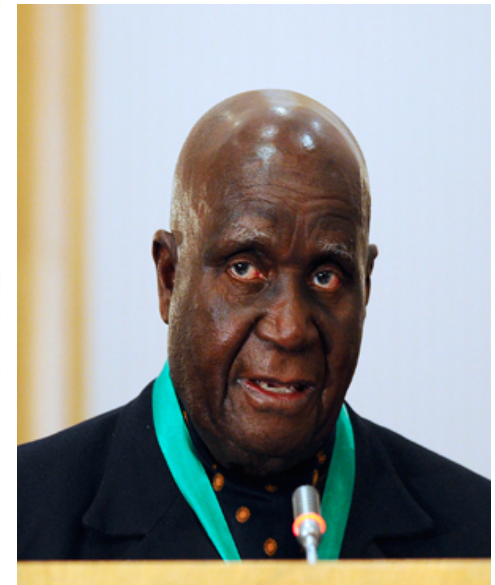
African state and democratization

- State autonomy and weak state capacity
- SAPs —>
- Increased capacity for societal mobilization:
 - Trade unions:
 - **Zambian Congress of Trade Unions and Frederick Chiluba**
 - Religious organizations:
 - **Hastings Banda's Church of Scotland: "Pray for this profoundly lonely man who is locked in the prison house of power"**



Neopatrimonialism, ethnic politics, and democratization

- Appropriation and use of state resources to cultivate political support and systematic clientelism
- Big man politics:
 - Felix Houphouët-Boigny, 1905, 1960
 - Hastings Banda, 1898, 1964
 - Kenneth Kaunda, 1924, 1964



Conflict, exclusion, and democratization

- Horizontal inequalities and exclusion —>
- Political tensions and mobilization —>
- Civil strife —>
- Pressure on regimes



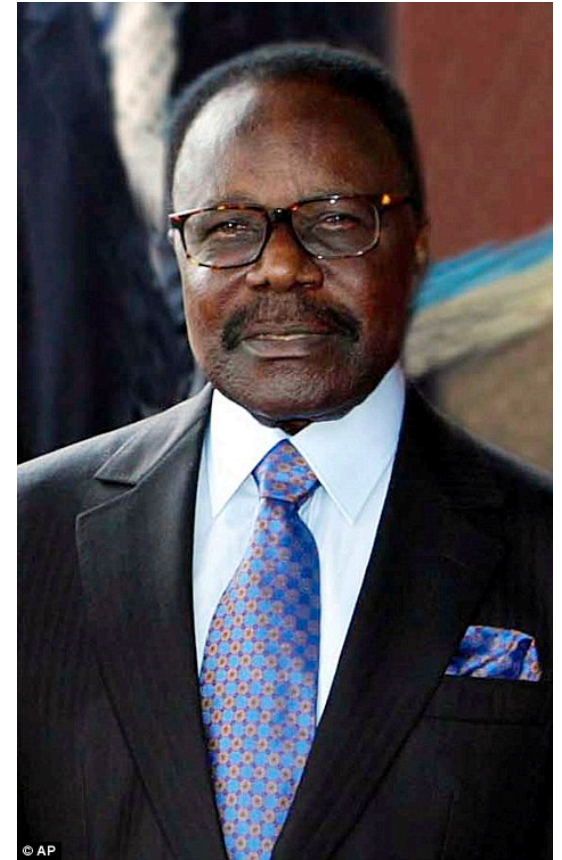
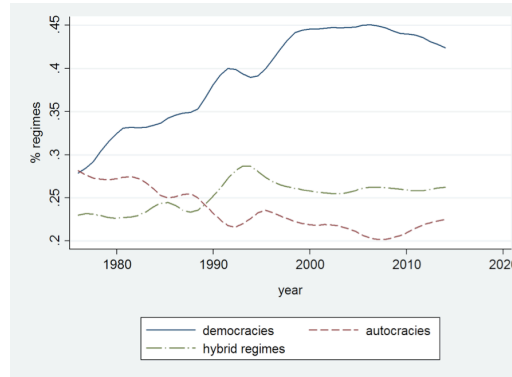
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kJOU9YYMzpw>

Causes of democratization

- Popular resentment against misrule
- Loss of authority and legitimacy
- Lack of resources

The end of the Cold War

- Third wave of democratization
- Pressure from the Global North
- Demonstration effects from the Fall of Nations:
 - Omar Bongo: “The winds from the East are shaking the coconut trees”



Takeaways

- Rapid political transformation rooted in the most important aspects of Africa's postcolonial politics