

PLS 343

Politics of Sub-Saharan Africa

Week 13, Lecture 1:  
Democratic consolidation

# Recap

- Democratization in the 1990s driven by:
  - Popular resentment against misrule
  - Loss of authority and legitimacy
  - Lack of resources
  - Fall of Nations and democracy promotion

# Plan for this week

- African democracy in practice:
  - Democratic consolidation
  - Civil society in African democracies

# Plan for today

- Democratic consolidation:
  - Characteristics of African democracy
  - Constraints on effective consolidation

# Democratic consolidation in Africa

- Electoral competitiveness
- Institutionalization of elections and other democratic institutions

# African democracy according to van de Walle

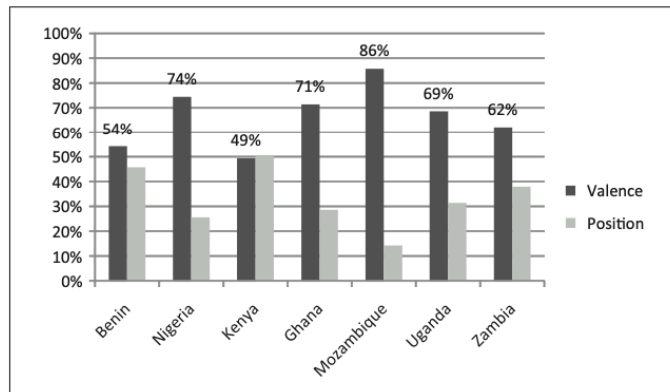
- Ruling party dominance
- Opposition fragmentation
- Persistence of ethnic politics

	First	Second	Third
No. of elections, 1989–2000	41	35	10
No. of parties competing	13·1	11·5	28·3
No. of parties winning seats	6·3	6·5	7·7
Effective no. of parties	2·9	2·2	2·5
% of seats to winner	63·1	69·6	64·3
% of votes to winner	55·7	60·2	49·8



# African democracy according to Bleck and van de Walle

- Prominence of valence appeals
- More distinct positions adopted by the opposition



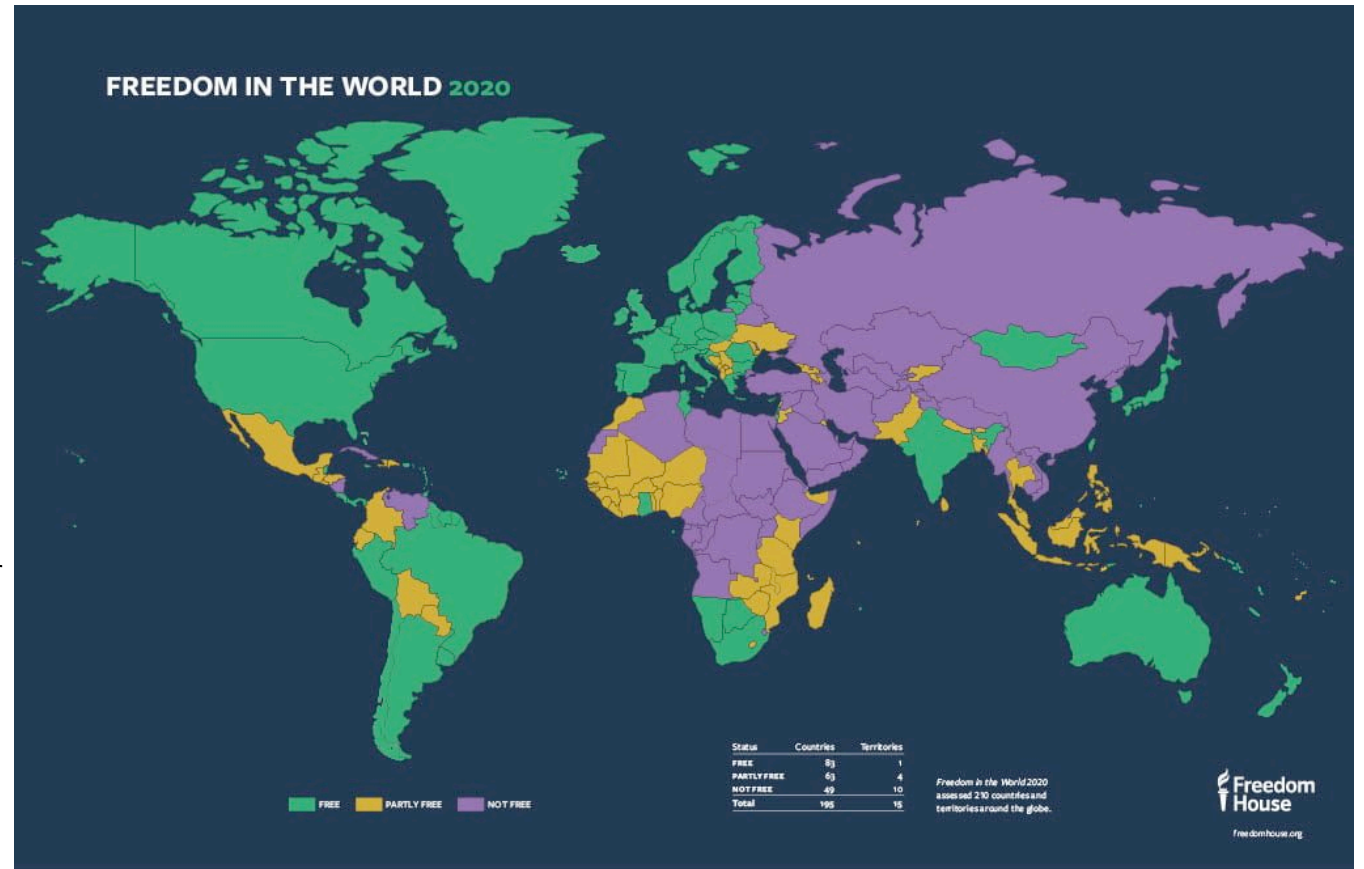
# Drivers of democratic politics in Africa

- Illiberalism
- Presidentialism *and opposition weakness*
- Clientelism
- Elite dominance *and civil society weakness*
- *Economic conditions*



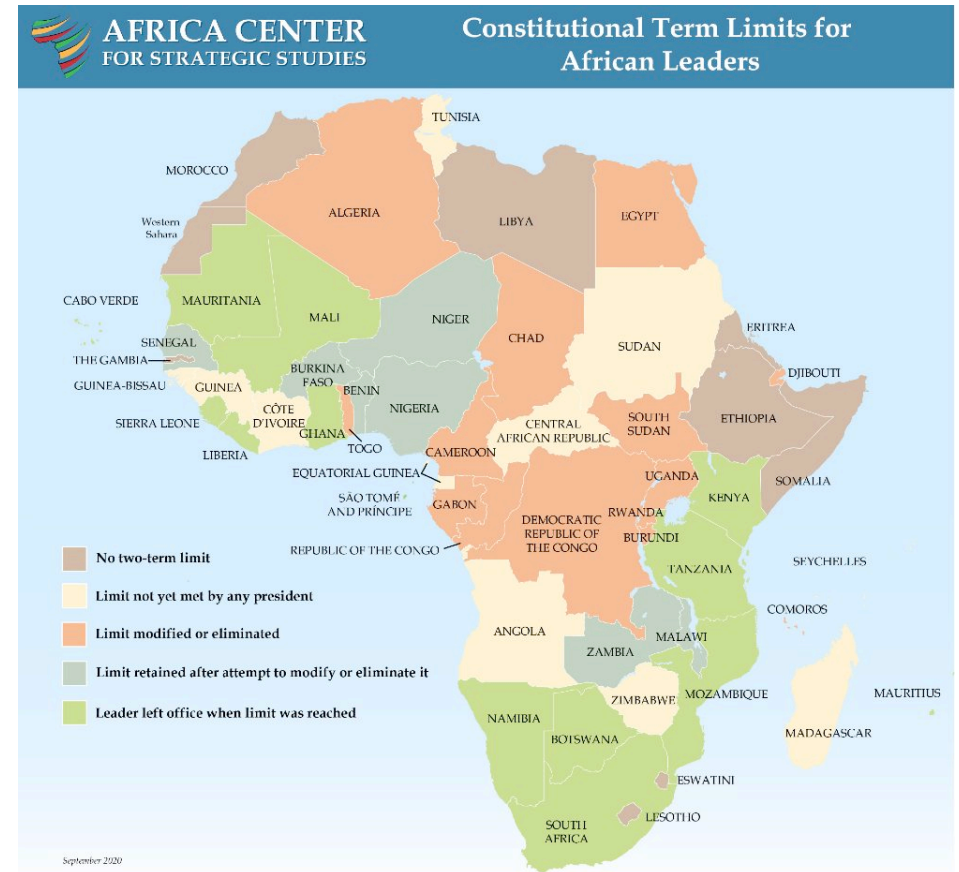
# Illiberalism

- Limited protections of human rights and freedoms
- Electoral manipulation
- Limited freedom of the judiciary and media



# Presidentialism and opposition weakness

- Concentration of power in the executive
- Access to state resources
- Lack or elimination of presidential term limits



# Clientelism

- Wantchekon:
  - Attractiveness of the clientelist platform during the 2001 presidential elections in Benin

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## Ghana's President defends appointing 'elephant-size' government of 110 ministers

Nana Akufo-Addo hit back at his opponents saying it is 'a necessary investment' and that 'it is not going to be a holiday' for ministers

[Chloe Farand](#) | Saturday 18 March 2017 15:27 GMT | 

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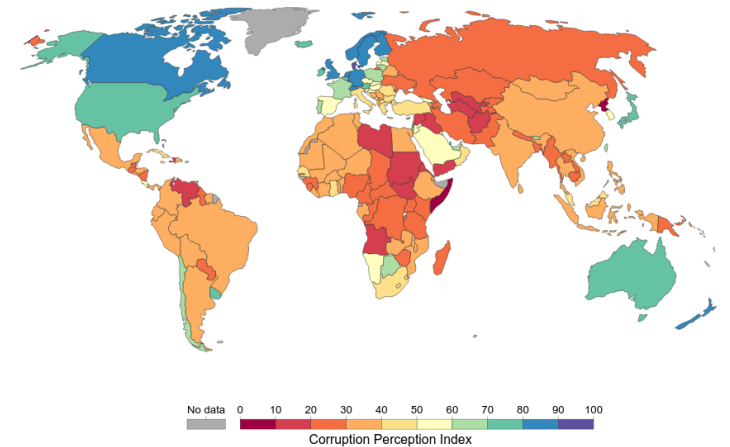


A photograph of Nana Akufo-Addo, the President of Ghana, sitting in a black office chair. He is wearing a white shirt and glasses. Behind him is a bookshelf and a banner with the word 'Newaaba!' written on it.

## Corruption Perception Index, 2015

Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index. Scores are on a scale of 0-100, where 0 means that a country is perceived as highly corrupt.

OurWorld  
in Data



Source: Transparency International - CPI

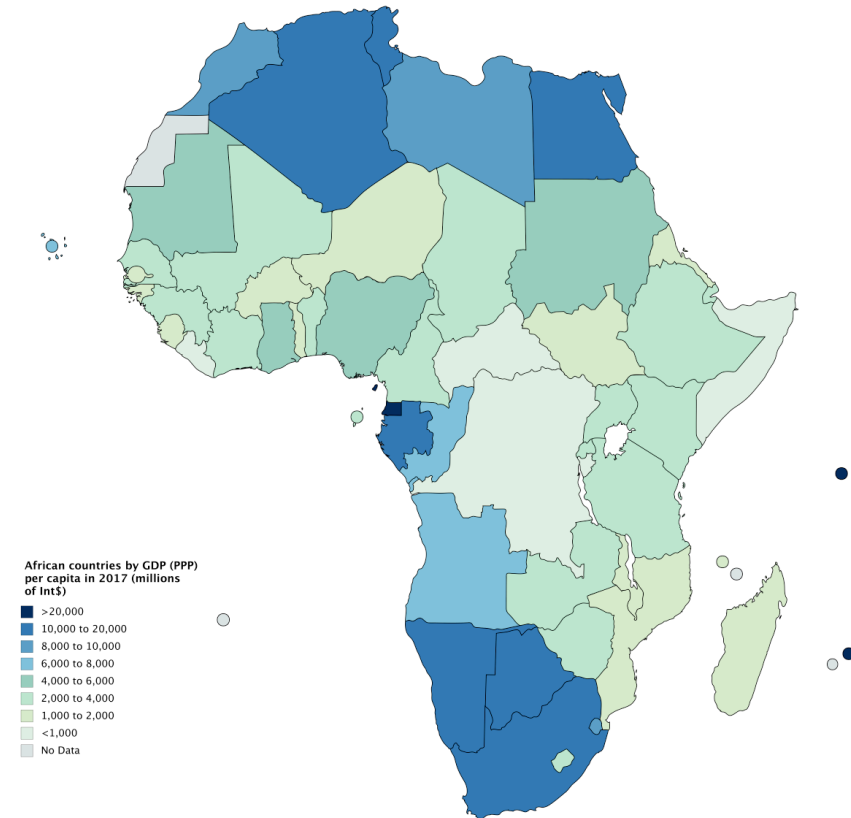
OurWorldInData.org/corruption/ • CC BY-SA

# Elite dominance and civil society weakness

- Shared elite interests and outlooks
- Elite control of patronage networks
- Clientelism-driven societal divisions

# Economic conditions

- Limited government responsiveness due to resource constraints



Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_African\\_countries\\_by\\_GDP\\_\(PPP\)\\_per\\_capita](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_African_countries_by_GDP_(PPP)_per_capita)

# Takeaways

- Limited democratic consolidation in the wake of democratization due to adverse economic and political conditions