

PLS 343

Politics of Sub-Saharan Africa

Week 13, Lecture 2:
Political protest

Recap

- Elite drivers of democratic consolidation
- Elite dominance and civil society weakness

Plan for today

- Civil society mobilization and expression of societal disaffection through political protest

Political protest in contemporary Africa

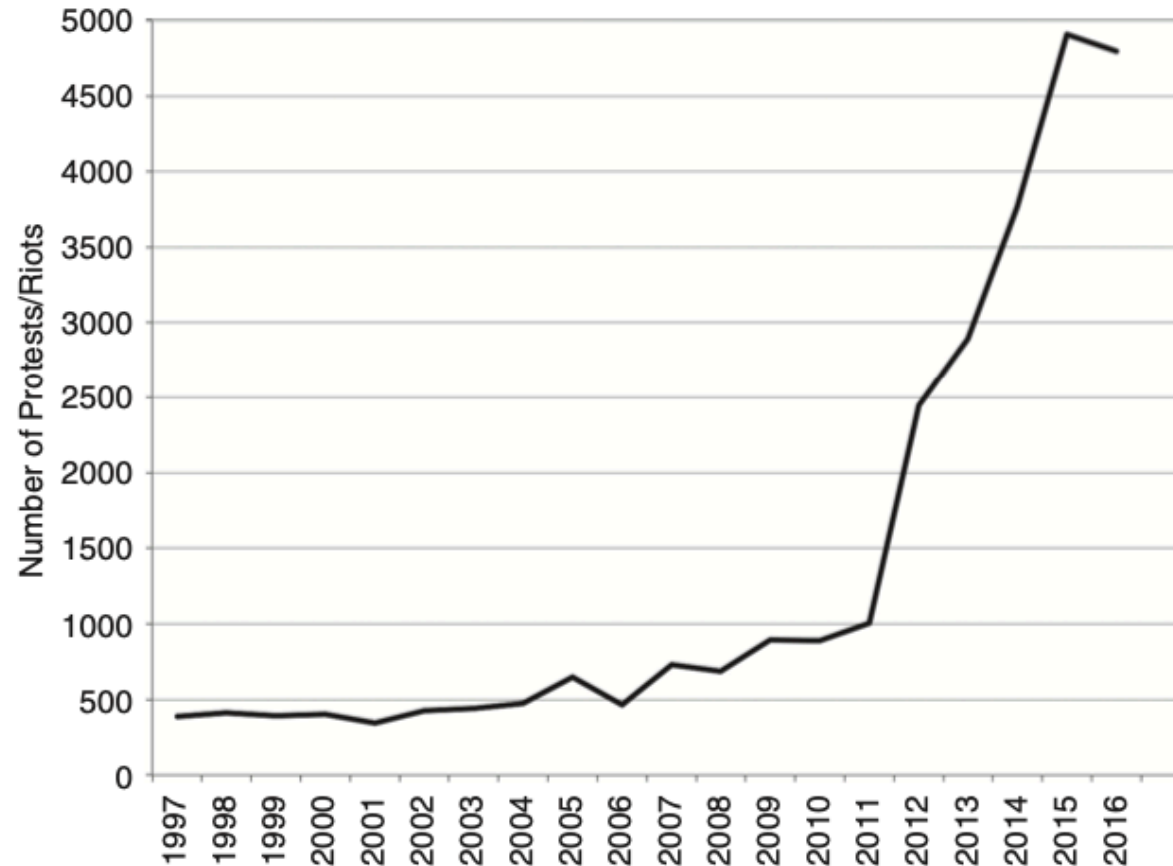
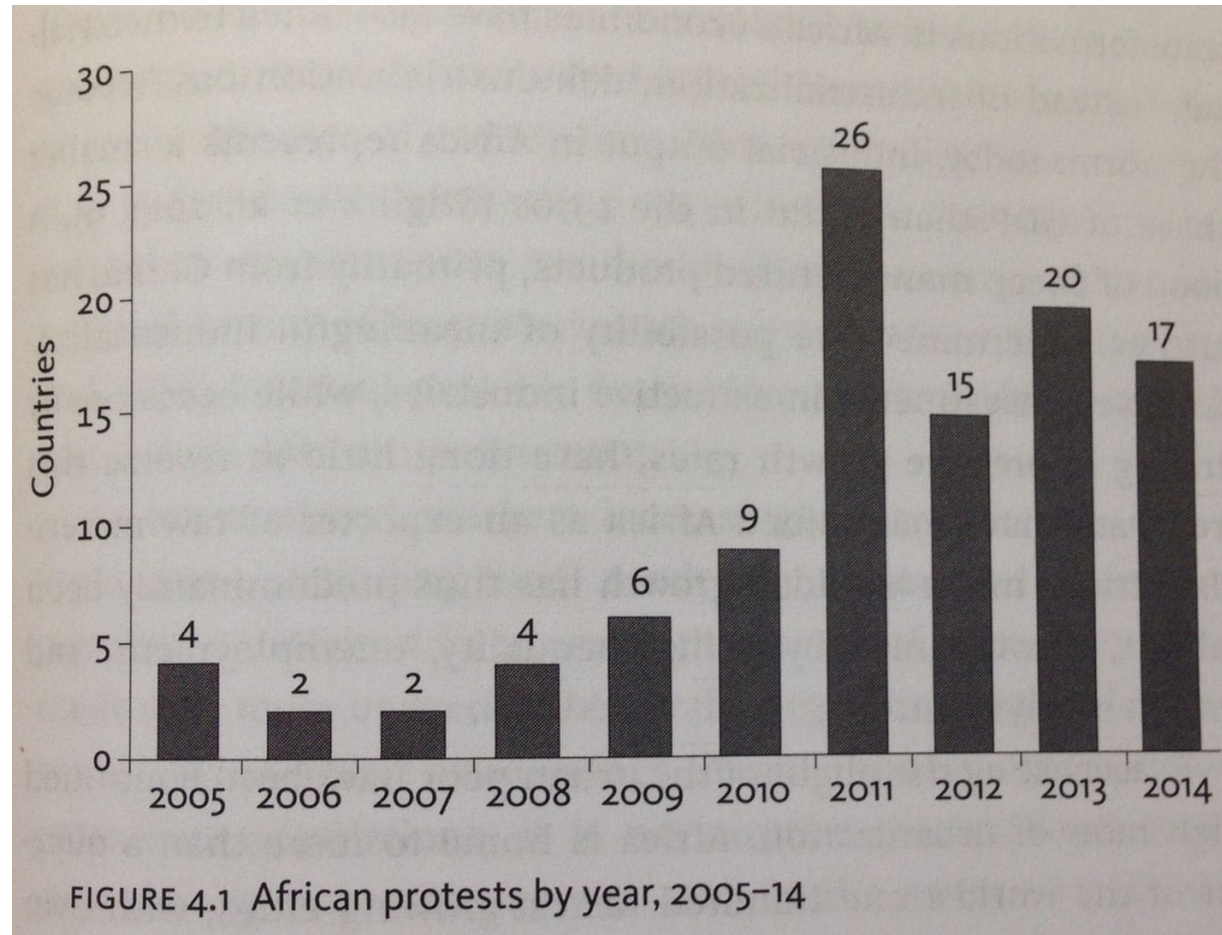


Figure 1.1: Protest/Riot Frequency in Sub-Saharan Africa, 1997–2016

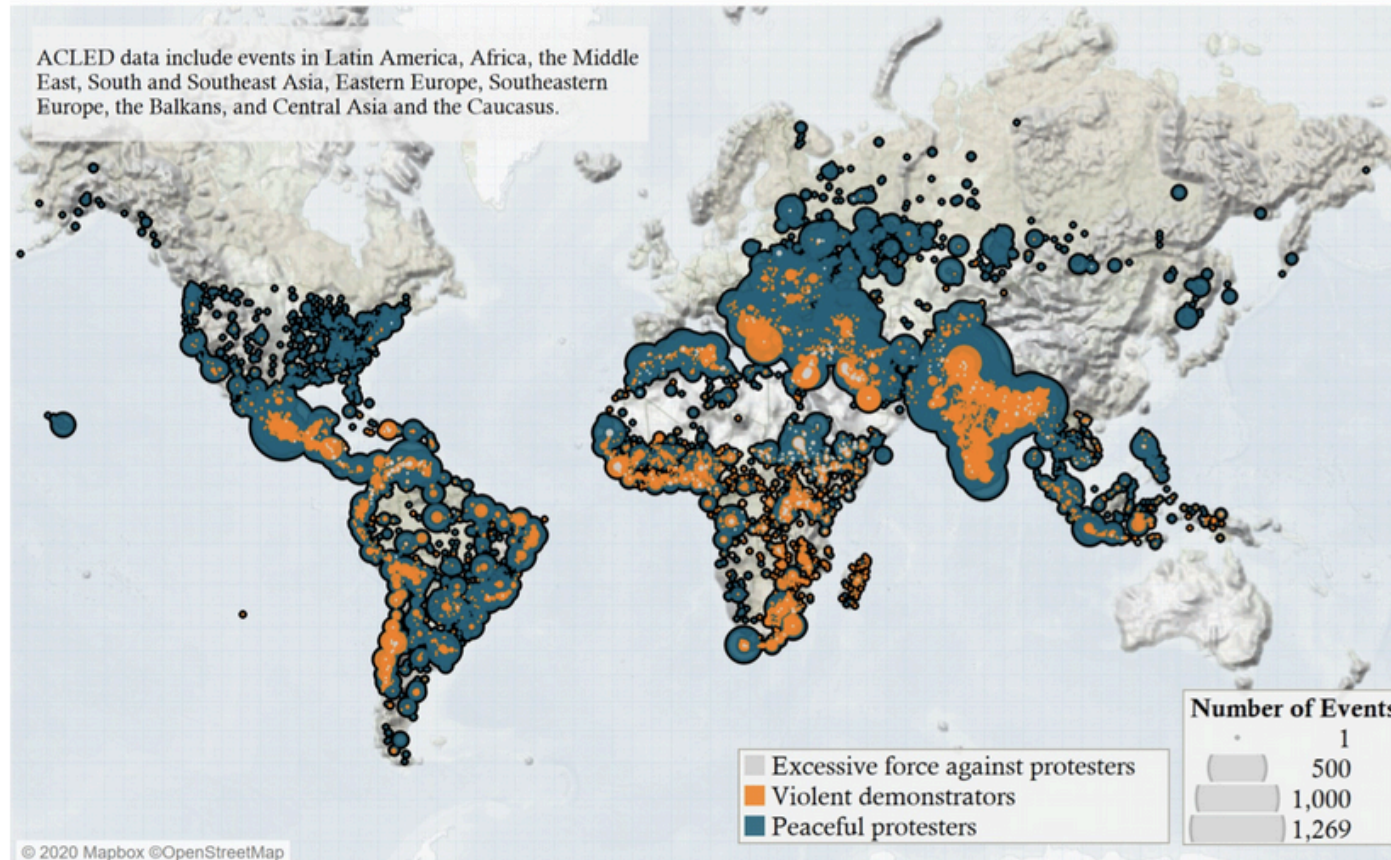
Political protest in contemporary Africa



Political protest in contemporary Africa

Peaceful, violent, and suppressed demonstration events

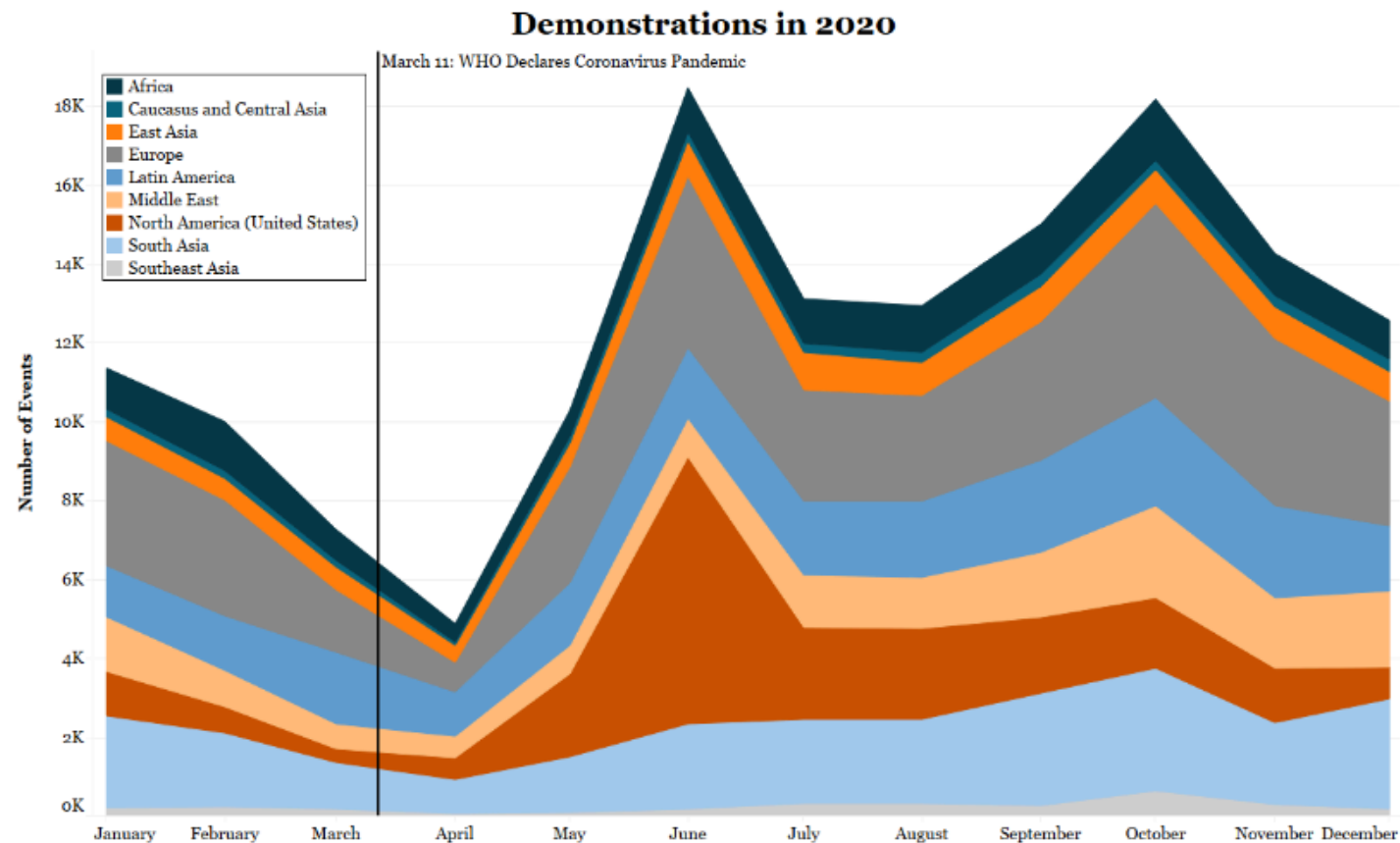
1 January 2018 - 1 February 2020



<https://acleddata.com/2020/02/14/global-conflict-and-disorder-patterns-2020/>

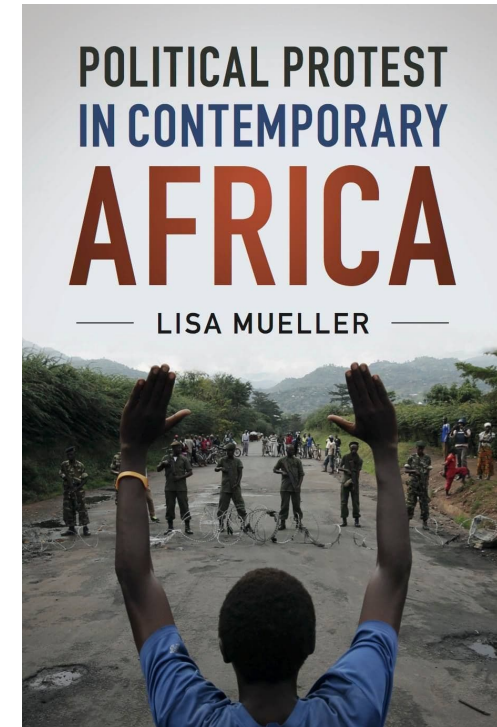
Political protest in contemporary Africa

Figure 7. Demonstrations in 2020



Mueller's explanation of political protest

- Drivers:
 - Political grievances among the middle class —> incidence of protests
 - Material grievances among the poor —> participation in protests
 - Mueller, Lisa. 2018. *Political protest in contemporary Africa*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.



Political protest in Malawi

- 2019 'Tipp-Ex election' and President Peter Mutharika's reelection
- Country-wide protests
- Annulment of election results by the Constitutional Court
- 2020 election won by Lazarus Chakwera



Political protest in Malawi



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_HqxytUv1Y

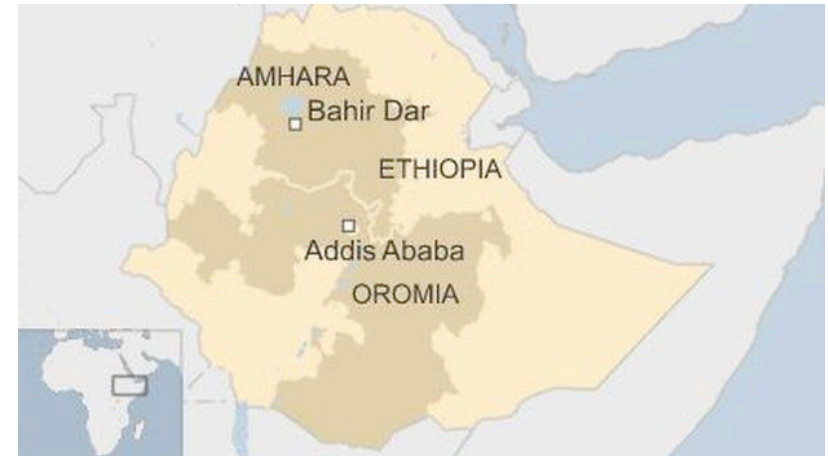
Political protest in Ethiopia



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcpcxj7adz8>

Political protest in Ethiopia

- 2016 Oromo protests:
 - *Qeerroo* and the Oromo elite (esp. Jawar Mohammed)
- Spillover into Amhara
- Oromo-Amhara alliance
- Intra-EPRDF regime reshuffle and Abiy Ahmed's rise to power in 2018



Political protest in Uganda



**UGANDA
PROTESTS**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2UloXXNzZA>

Political protest in Uganda

- Successful mobilization of a broad-based opposition movement by Bobi Wine (Robert Kyagulanyi)
- Large-scale demonstrations against arrests and torture
- Violent crackdown
- Museveni's reelection in 2021



Takeaways

- Potency, peril, and limitations of civil society expressions of disaffection