

## **Angola**

Rice

Geddes classifies Angola as a single-party state dating from its independence from Portugal in 1975 until the present day. However, it should be noted that the political situation in Angola is fragile, and has been characterized by conflict between three political and military factions until recently. All three factions fought against the Portuguese for independence, but when power was turned over to their ruling coalition, their ideological differences were too great and two factions (the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] and the National Front for the Liberation of Angola [FNLA]) broke away from the third faction (the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, or MPLA) to form a rival government. The MPLA, which became the MPLA-PT (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola- Labor Party), took control of the official government of Angola, and has continued to control the government up to the present day.

The original leader of the MPLA-PT, António Neto, became the first President of Angola in 1975. He stayed in power until his death in 1979, at which point the presidency was assumed by the former Planning Minister, José Eduardo dos Santos, also of the MPLA-PT, and thus there is no SOLS change. Dos Santos remains in office in the present day. Peace between the three warring factions was formalized in 2002, after nearly 30 years of conflict.

### **References**

United States Department of State. "Country Background Note: Angola." March 22, 2010.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6619.htm>

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