

Ivory Coast

Rice

When the Ivory Coast (otherwise known as the Cote d'Ivoire) gained its independence from France in 1960, it became a single-party system under the leadership of Felix Houphouet-Boigny, the leader of the Democratic Party of the Ivory Coast (PDCI). Houphouet-Boigny led the country with stability, remaining in power until his death on December 7, 1993. Leadership then passed to his predesignated successor, Henri Konan Bedie, also a member of the PDCI. This is not a SOLS change.

In 1999, due to accusations of corruption and a failing economy, Bedie was ousted in a bloodless coup led by General Robert Guei. This is a SOLS change. Guei drafted a democratic constitution and led the country to elections in 2000. However, the elections were initially postponed because the Supreme Court disqualified all of the candidates. When elections were held, turnout was low, and it appeared that the Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) candidate, Laurent Gbagbo was going to win (against Guei), Guei claimed polling fraud and cancelled the election results. Gbagbo supporters took to the streets in protest and Guei was forced to flee. Gbagbo was then declared President. This is a SOLS change. Gbagbo remains in power, in a system that Geddes classifies as personalist, in the present day.

References

United States Department of State. "Country Background Note: Cote d'Ivoire". Last edited 27 November 2009. <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2846.htm>

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