

## Togo

Vanderbilt

Togo is coded as a non-democracy throughout the entire observation period. Togo is considered a personalist authoritarian regime at independence in 1960, led by Sylvanus Épiphanio Olympio of the Comité de l'Unité Togolaise (CUT) party. In 1963, Olympio is murdered by a group of military figures led by Etienne Eyadéma (Ellis 1993, 464). Nicolas Grunitzky of the Mouvement des Personnes Togolaises (MPT), an opposition leader who had been forced into exile by Olympio, returns to lead an interim government but becomes a regular leader later that year when he is elected in an unopposed election. Geddes, Wright, and Frantz (2014) suggest that the assumption of office by Grunitzky, who was backed by the military, including Eyadema, Grunitzky is the beginning of a new personalist regime.<sup>1</sup> Thus, this is a SOLS change.

In 1967, Grunitzky is removed from office by Eyadema. After the coup, Kléber Dadjo takes power leading a committee of national reconciliation. He is essentially an interim leader until, later in that same year, Eyadéma officially assumes the presidency. We code no SOLS changes for Grunitzky to Dadjo and Dadjo to Eyadema, because they are all part of the same personalist regime. Eyadema held power since the assumption of office of Grunitzky. In 1969 Eyadéma's SOLS changes from Mil to RPT (Rassemblement du Peuple Togolais). But this change is not coded as a SOLS change because Geddes codes the country since 1967 to 2008 as a pure-personalist regime. Eyadéma rules until he dies in 2005. In that year there are 3 leadership changes: from Eyadéma to Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, from Gnassingbé to Abass Bonfoh (acting), and from Bonfoh back to Gnassingbé. Togo's military command announced Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, Eyadéma's son, as successor (Banjo 2008, 151). This is not a SOLS change. There is much international and domestic disapproval. He agrees to step down in preparation for elections to be held in 60 days. In the meantime, Abass Bonfoh the vice-president of the National Assembly, is appointed interim president (Banjo 2008, 155). This is not a SOLS change. Elections are held and Gnassingbé wins. This is not a SOLS change either. They are not democratic elections, Gnassingbé is Eyadema's pre-designated successor and Geddes codes the regime as continuing during Gnassingbé time in office. Gnassingbé rules through 2008.

### References:

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<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5430.htm>> Accessed June 29, 2010.

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<sup>1</sup> Geddes, Wright, and Frank discuss this coding decision in the "updates" file that is part of their data folder.

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