

Annex 2a. Adverse Regime Changes in Africa, 1955-2004

COUNTRY	MONTH BEGIN	YEAR BEGIN	MONTH END	YEAR END	DESCRIPTION	POLITY* CHANGE
Sudan	11	1958	11	1958	Parliamentary democracy overthrown in military coup. Constitution abrogated and opposition parties banned as General Abbud consolidates political power.	-15
Congo-Kinshasa	6	1960	11	1965	Independence is followed by intense political and tribal factionalism and emergence of secessionist movements. Failed attempt at democracy leads to establishment of military dictatorship under General Mobutu.	SF
Senegal	12	1962	3	1963	Increasing tensions between President Senghor and his prime minister lead to a failed coup attempt by Prime Minister Dia. President Senghor arrests Dia, strengthens the constitutional powers of the presidency, and establishes one-party rule.	-6
Burundi	6	1963	11	1966	Unstable political alliance between Tutsis and Hutus produces democratic stalemate. King increases his authority but is unable to resolve ethnic tensions. Failed coup and rebellion by Hutu majority results in the military overthrow of the monarchy.	-7
Benin	10	1963	12	1965	Labor and ethnic tensions undermine fragile democracy. In an attempt to quell political instability the military intervenes twice before finally abolishing democratic institutions and institutionalizing military rule.	-9
Congo-Brazzaville	12	1963	12	1963	Fragile democracy weakened by ethnic and labor tensions. The military forces President Youlou to resign. Interim government established prior to the popular approval of a new constitution which creates a one-party Marxist-Leninist state.	-11
Nigeria	12	1964	1	1966	Ethnic violence sparked by democratic elections triggers military coup and abandonment of the state's federal structure. Counter-coup by mostly Muslim officers from the north results in the re-establishment of the federal system.	-15
Uganda	4	1966	12	1969	Allegations of corruption and persistent ethnic tensions within the federal democracy leads to the suspension of the constitution, centralization of political authority and the creation of a de facto one-party state under the control of President Obote.	-14
Sierra Leone	3	1967	3	1967	Regional factionalism within two party democratic system triggers a series of military coups after Siaka Stevens (a Limba) defeats Albert Margai (a Mende). Army mutiny restores democratic institutional and civilian government.	-13
Zambia	8	1968	12	1972	Democratic institutions weakened as political opposition to President Kaunda is restricted. Kaunda consolidates his political authority with the formal establishment of a one-party state.	-9
Equatorial Guinea	2	1969	3	1969	Following elections that brought President Macias to power in the newly independent, former Spanish colony, a public dispute arose when the new president demanded that Spain reduce its control over the domestic economy. A state of emergency was declared on March 1 after a failed coup attempt; the President used the crisis to consolidate power.	-9

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Sudan	5	1969	10	1971	Left-wing military officers overthrow democratic government. Nimeiri establishes one-party state after failed coup by communist elements within the ruling military coalition.	-14
Kenya	7	1969	10	1969	On October 30, 1969, President Kenyatta bans the Kenya People's Union (KPU), the country's only opposition party. On November 7, 1969, he dissolves the National Assembly and institutes one-party rule under the Kenya African National Union (KANU).	-7
Somalia	10	1969	10	1969	Increasingly autocratic style of elected government triggers clan-based violence. Military intervenes and establishes one-party socialist state.	-14
Lesotho	1	1970	1	1970	Westminster-styled democracy brought to an abrupt end after opposition wins narrow victory in first post-independence election. Prime Minister Jonathan invalidates vote, imprisons opposition leaders, dissolves parliament and assumes dictatorial powers.	-18
Sierra Leone	4	1971	4	1971	Consolidation of power by elected president triggers failed coup. President Stevens declares himself executive president and systematically restricts democratic opposition.	-7
Ghana	1	1972	1	1972	Reformist military regime permits multiparty elections. Inflation, corruption and ethnic tension trigger military coup and suspension of party politics.	-10
Benin	10	1972	10	1972	Regional rivalries force military to transfer power to civilian governments. Ethnically diverse civilian triumvirate falls in second successful coup in three years. A Marxist-Leninist state announced the following year.	-5
Swaziland	4	1973	4	1973	Swaziland's first post-independence elections were held in May 1972, in which King Sobhuza's Imbokodvo National Movement (INM) won 75% of the vote and the Ngwane National Liberatory Congress won 20% of the vote. The king claimed the latter was incompatible with Swazi life and on April 12, 1973, dissolved parliament and assumed all powers of government. Political parties and trade unions were also outlawed.	-10
Ethiopia	9	1974	3	1975	Emperor Selassie deposed by left-wing military government. After an internal power struggle within the Provisional Government, the Derg establishes a repressive one-party socialist state.	REV
Comoros	1	1976	1	1976	Twenty-eight days after the declaration of independence, on August 3, 1975, a coalition of six political parties known as the United National Front overthrew the Abdallah government, with the aid of foreign mercenaries. After the coup, a three-man directorate took control. One of the three, Ali Soilih, was appointed minister of defense and justice and subsequently was made head of state by the Chamber of Deputies on January 3, 1976.	-9
Chad	2	1979	6	1984	Failed attempt at national unification triggers religious, regional and international conflict as country lapses into civil war.	SF
Burkina Faso	11	1980	11	1980	Leader of former military regime, President Lamizana, elected as head of civilian government. Subsequent economic crisis and labor unrest triggers military coup and suspension of constitution.	-12

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Ghana	12	1981	12	1981	Limann's People's National Party (PNP) began the Third Republic with control of only seventy-one of the 140 legislative seats; the percentage of the electorate that voted had fallen to 40 percent. Unlike the country's previous elected leaders, Limann was a former diplomat and a noncharismatic figure with no personal following. As the country's economy continued to decline and widespread strikes threatened to shut down the government, Jerry John Rawlings led a successful coup on December 31, 1981, and established personalistic rule backed by the AFRC.	-13
Nigeria	1	1984	1	1984	Ethnic competition, widespread corruption and electoral malpractice weaken the democratic institution of the Second Republic. Successive military coups bring to an end the Second Republic and expand the role of the armed forces in the political arena.	-14
Uganda	7	1985	1	1986	An army brigade composed mostly of ethnic Acholi troops took Kampala and proclaimed a military government, replacing President Obote, who had been elected in 1980 but had failed to accommodate or contain Museveni's popular National Resistance Army insurgency.	-10
Zimbabwe	12	1987	12	1987	Ethnic tensions and crackdown on political opposition weakens Zimbabwe's fragile democratic institutions. Merger of ZAPU with ruling ZANU effectively establishes a single party system.	-7
Sudan	6	1989	6	1989	Military overthrows democratic government after attempts to reduce the influence of religion in politics. Legislature dissolved and non-fundamentalist parties banned as an Islamic state is established.	-14
Liberia	9	1990	8	1996	Repression by military leads to widespread civil war. Rival ethnic and tribally-based political groups compete for control of devastated society. Abuja Peace Accord in August 1997 leads to new elections and inauguration of President Taylor in August 1997.	SF
Somalia	1	1991	99	9999	Hawiye-based United Somali Congress overthrows the authoritarian regime of Siad Barre. Chronic violence among clan-based warlords prevents the establishment of an effective central government.	SF
Ethiopia	5	1991	5	1993	Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Front (EPRDF) defeats military backed communist government. Democratic elections boycotted by opposition parties as EPRDF consolidates power.	DIS
Angola	5	1992	4	1997	Civil war is rekindled after Savimbi multiparty election results. Savimbi establishes a rival government in Huambo as UNITA forces establish control over half of the country. Lusaka protocol of 1994 reunites country and reconstitutes single, central authority in April 1997.	SF

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Congo-Kinshasa	12	1992	7	2003	In reaction to the absolute power wielded by Mobutu's military-backed regime, opposition forces coalesce to oust government. Kabila seizes power in May 1997 but is unable to establish central authority due to serious challenges from re-formed ethnic militias and foreign interventions. A breakthrough in the deadlock came with a power-sharing agreement during the Inter-Congolese National Dialogue in April 2003. On July 1, 2003, President Kabila issued a decree forming a transitional government and on July 17 the new government was sworn in.	SF
Burundi	10	1993	7	1996	Opposition forces win first multiparty elections, ending longstanding rule by Tutsi minority. Coup by Tutsi officers aborts transition to democracy as ethnic clashes escalate to civil war. Subsequent attempt at multi-ethnic civilian government falls in second Tutsi coup. New constitution is created in June 1998.	SF
Rwanda	4	1994	7	1994	Hutu-dominated military government promises a return to democratic rule. Transitional government established as Tutsi guerrillas invade. Assassination of President Habyarimana triggers genocide of Tutsis and moderate Hutus.	REV
Gambia	7	1994	7	1994	Long-standing multiparty system, dominated by President Dawda, is overthrown in military coup. Military rule reaffirmed with controversial elections of 1996.	-15
Comoros	9	1995	3	1996	Foreign-led mercenaries and disaffected Comorian troops overthrow the elected government of President Djohar. French troops sent to the island one week later arrest the mercenaries, reinstall the elected prime minister, and arrest Djohar.	SF
Niger	1	1996	1	1996	Military coup overthrows democratically elected government and suspends the 1992 consolidation. Coup leader, Col. Ibrahim Mainassara Barre, elected president in seriously flawed elections.	-14
Zambia	11	1996	11	1996	Constitutional amendments in May 1996 disqualify main opposition leader; President Chiluba easily wins subsequent elections.	-5
Sierra Leone	5	1997	3	2002	Mutinuous soldiers side with RUF guerrillas to overthrow President Kabbah. Junta is defeated by ECOMOG in February 1998 but violence continues. Brokered peace agreement is reached between Kabbah government and RUF forces in May 2001 and State of Emergency is lifted in March 2002.	SF
Congo-Brazzaville	10	1997	10	1997	Transition to democracy ends when Sassou-Nguesso ousts President Lissouba after five months of fighting.	-11
Lesotho	5	1998	1	1999	Mass protests in wake of controversial elections are joined by government officials and military officers. Foreign troops impose order; new elections are proposed within 18 months.	SF
Guinea-Bissau	6	1998	5	1999	Fighting breaks out when President Vieira dismisses General Mane. Peace accord of November 1998 breaks down and fighting resumes. New elections held and new government of elected-President Yalla sworn in February 2000.	SF

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Comoros	4	1999	4	1999	Army Chief of Staff Col. Assoumani Azzali leads April 30, 1999, coup that dissolves constitution and government. Promised transition to new elections based on Antananarivo agreement do not materialize.	-6
Ivory Coast	9	2002	99	9999	Following coups and highly contentious elections that result in a default victory for a minor candidate, tensions escalate to open rebellion in north and west regions in September 2002 and central authority is effectively limited to the south. Negotiated settlements are rejected or stalled by President Gbagbo.	SF
Central African Republic	3	2003	3	2003	Forces loyal to Gen. Bozize succeed in ousting government of elected-President Patasse while he is out of the country, having failed in several earlier attempts.	-6
Guinea-Bissau	9	2003	9	2003	New elected-government of President Yalla and former-opposition parties is besieged by challenges and continuing instability. Armed forces led by Gen. Seabre oust Yalla and establish junta to rule country until new elections are held.	-6

***Note (Polity Change):** The last column on the left records the change in the country's Polity regime score that resulted from the adverse regime change noted. Alpha codes indicate more profound change in the nature of the regime: an "SF" indicates that the change resulted in a collapse of central authority or "state failure," a "REV" denotes that a revolutionary change took place in which the previous regime collapsed and was replaced by a radically different form of government and ruling elites, and a "DIS" is recorded when the change results in the collapse of the previous regime and the dissolution of the state into two or more independent states.