

Country: Niger

Years: 1960-1973

Leader: Hamani Diori

Ideology: Right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Diori's party as PPN. Manzano (2017) identifies Diori as right. Ibrahim (1994) states "The PPN/RDA had two ideological wings with the right wing led by Hamani Diori... The French administrators were alarmed at the growing activism of those they considered "communist agitators," and they mobilized chiefs and all the candidates who had lost the party nominations to Hamani Diori and Djibo Bakary to form a conservative party... Bakary's more conservative cousin, Hamani Diori, followed the line set by Boigny and company of de-linking his branch of the RDA from the Communist Group in France". World Statesmen (2019) identifies Diori's party as PPN-RDA. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify PPN's ideology as "Right" (2.156) in 1970.

Years: 1974-1986

Leader: Seyni Kountche

Ideology: Right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Kountché's party as none. White (2005) states "Kountche was considerably more leftist" than Diori, whom he overthrew. Lansford (2015) states that "the Kountché government established diplomatic links with a number of communist states, including China and the Soviet Union". However, Manzano (2017) identifies ideology as rightist. Brooke (1987) describes Kountché as "the conservative Niger leader". Higgott and Fuglestad (1975) describe the "conservative and purely corrective nature of the coup" in which Kountché took power. Higgott and Fuglestad continue, stating "the army's stated aim was to carry out a 'cleansing'" aimed at removing "the old P.P.N. elite" and bringing an end "to the worst excesses of corruption".

Years: 1987-1992

Leader: Ali Seibou

Ideology: Right

Description: CHISOLS identifies Seibou's party as MNSD. Manzano (2017) identifies ideology as rightist. Perspective Monde (2019) identifies Seibou as rightist, writing "Ali Saïbou... 1987 (10 novembre)... [to] 1989 (18 décembre) militaire... 1989 (18 décembre) [to] 1993 (16 avril) Mouvement national pour la

société du développement”, described as “center right”. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify MNSD’s ideology as “Center-right” (0.964) in 1989.

Years: 1993-1995

Leader: Mahamane Ousmane

Ideology: Center

Description: CHISOLS identifies Ousmane’s party as CDS. Lansford (2015) refers to “Convention Démocrate et Sociale-Rahama—CDS-Rahama” as “CDS”. DPI identifies CDS-R’s ideology as centrist. Political Handbook of the World does not provide any information on party’s ideology. Decalo and Idrissa (2012: 145) identify CDS as centrist, writing, “In the Nigerien context, the CDS may be defined as a centrist party.” In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify CDS’s ideology as “Center” (0.103) in 1993 and “Center-left” (-1.022) in 1995.

Years: 1996-1998

Leader: Ibrahim Baré Maïnassara

Ideology: Right

Description: CHISOLS identifies Maïnassara’s party as none. Political Handbook of the World (2015) writes, “Unconvinced of the regime’s democratic intentions, the FRDD ultimately boycotted the balloting for a new National Assembly held on November 23, paving the way for the National Union of Independents for Democratic Renewal (UNIRD), which had recently been established by supporters of president Maïnassara, to win 59 of the 83 seats... Antigovernment sentiment culminated in large-scale demonstrations in the capital in early January 1997. Maïnassara responded with a crackdown that resulted in the arrest of the FRDD leaders.” Political Handbook also writes, “The RDP-*Jamaa* inaugural congress on August 14-19, 1997, and was the party of then-President Maïnassara. Thereafter, the party emerged as the leader of a loose coalition of parties that supported the president.” Perspective Monde (2020) corroborates Maïnassara’s party affiliation as UNIRD, “Union des indépendants pour le renouveau démocratique.” World Statesmen (2020) corroborates Maïnassara’s party affiliation as UNIRD, then RDP from 1997. Decalo and Idrissa (2012: 92) write, “More importantly, he struck several agreements with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank for the privatization of nearly all of Niger’s parastatals and a trimming of the civil service... By starting in earnest the implementation of structural adjustment, however, Baré Maïnassara further antagonized the trade unions, which were already opposed to his government on political grounds, and he trenchantly dismissed their incessant strikes by stating that they will help the government to spare money on their salary (not paid during strike periods).” Encyclopedia

Britannica (2020) writes that in 1970, Mainassara was “extremely loyal to the president” at the time, Seyni Kountché, coded as rightist.

Years: 1999-2009

Leader: Mamadou Tandja

Ideology: Right

Description: CHISOLS identifies Tandja’s party as MNSD. Political Handbook of the World (2015) corroborates Tandja’s party affiliation as MNSD-Nassara, writing, “MNSD-*Nassara* chair Mamadou Tandja.” Perspective Monde (2019) identifies Tandja as rightist, writing “Mamadou Tandja... Mouvement national pour la société du développement”, described as “center right”. World Statesmen (2020) identifies party affiliation as MNSD and identifies the party as “conservative.” World Statesmen describes MNSD-N as “liberal conservative, center-right, former MNSD.” In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify MNSD’s ideology as “Center-left” (-1.041) in 1999, 2004, and 2009. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify “negligible visible disagreement” in MNSD in 1999, 2004, and 2009.

Year: 2010

Leader: Salou Djibo

Ideology:

Description: Perspective Monde (2019) identifies Djibo’s party as none, writing “Salou Djibo... militaire”. Political Handbook of the World (2015) writes, “Junta leader Lt. Gen. Salou Djibo subsequently appointed Mahamdou Danda as interim prime minister and on March 1 named a transitional government dominated by technocrats.”

Years: 2011-2020

Leader: Mahamadou Issoufou

Ideology: Left

Description: Perspective Monde (2021) identifies Issoufou’s party as the “Parti nigérien pour la démocratie et le socialisme” (PNDS), described as “center left”. Ibrahim (1994) states “The PNDS is a socialist party formed by a broad cross-section of the Nigerien left. Most of its cadres had been active in clandestine Marxist revolutionary groups and in the student’s movement (USN) and teacher’s (SNEN) union.” World Statesmen (2021) identifies Issoufou’s party as PNDS, described as “social-democratic”. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies Issoufou’s party as PNDS-Tarayya, writing “Mahamadou ISSOUFOU, leader of the Nigerien Party for Democracy and Socialism–Tarayya (PNDS-

Tarayya)”. PNDS is a member of the Socialist International. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify PNDS’s ideology as “Center-left” (-1.035) in 2011 and 2016.

References:

- Brooke, James. "Niger Head's Death Costs West Ally Against Libya." *The New York Times*, November 11, 1987, national edition, sec. A.
- Cruz, Cesi, Philip Keefer, and Carlos Scartascini. 2018. Database of Political Institutions (DPI2017). Inter-American Development Bank. Numbers for Development.
- Decalo, Samuel and Idrissa, Abdourahmane. *Historical Dictionary of Niger*. The Scarecrow Press, 2008.
- Encyclopedia Britannica. 2020. “Ibrahim Baré Maïnassara.” <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Ibrahim-Bare-Mainassara>
- Higgott, Richard, and Finn Fuglestad. "The 1974 Coup d'Etat in Niger: Towards an Explanation." *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 13, no. 3 (September 1975): 383-98.
- Ibrahim, Jibrin. “Political Exclusion, Democratization and Dynamics of Ethnicity in Niger”. *Africa Today*, Vol. 41, No. 3, Electoral Successes: Harbingers of Hope? (3rd Qtr., 1994), p. 15-39.
- Lansford, Tom. *Political Handbook of the World*. Washington, D.C.: Sage Publishing, 2015.
- Manzano, Dulce. 2017. *Bringing Down the Educational Wall: Political Regimes, Ideology, and the Expansion of Education*. Cambridge.
- White, Wayne. Interview in *ADST Nigeria Country Reader*. Interview by Charles Stuart Kennedy, 2005. <https://adst.org/Readers/Niger.pdf>
- World Statesman. 2019. “Niger”. <https://www.worldstatesmen.org/Niger.htm>, last accessed October 27, 2019.