

Country: Gabon

Years: 1960-1966

Leader: Gabriel Leon M'ba

Ideology: Right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies M'ba's party as BDG. Yates (2018) explains that "after Mba's death... President Bongo dissolved the BDG and other parties on 12 March 1968 and replaced them with a single party, the... PDG." According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, "[by 1960] M'ba was already coming under attack from members of his own party as being too conservative and pro-French... [he] became increasingly paternalistic and authoritarian, stressing both the need for unity and Gabon's dependence on France." Banks, Day, and Muller (1998) state that M'Ba "ruled in a conservative yet pragmatic style and supported close political and economic relations with France." Piehler (2013) describes M'Ba as "the conservative leader of Gabon" who was "on the opposite end of the political spectrum" from Patrice Lumumba, described as pro-Soviet. Manzano (2017) identifies ideology as rightist. Perspective Monde identifies the BDG and the PDG as "center right." World Statesmen (2019) codes M'ba as BDG, described as "PDG... Gabonese Democratic Party, authoritarian, conservative, former BDG, 1968-90 only legal party, est. Mar 1968". PDG is a member of the Centrist Democrat International. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify BDG's ideology as "Center-left" (-0.569) in 1973. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify "virtually no visible disagreement" in BDG in 1973.

Years: 1967-2008

Leader: Omar Bongo

Ideology: Right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Bongo as head of government and identifies head of government's party as BDG. Lansford (2017) writes that Bongo reorganized the BDG into the PDG in 1968 and declared Gabon a one-party state, writing "Officially established by President Bongo in 1968, the PDG succeeded the earlier Gabon Democratic Bloc." Ngolet (2000) identifies the PDG as a rightist party, writing, "the PDG's political doctrine... is a conservative ideology (Gaulme 1988:129-61), emphasizing (...) free enterprise, and a market economy, all pursued, supposedly, in a spirit of "Dialogue, Tolerance, Paix," the three key principles of Bongo's political part." Perspective Monde identifies the BDG and the PDG as "center right." World Statesmen (2019) codes Bongo as PDG, described as "PDG... Gabonese Democratic Party, authoritarian,

conservative”. Manzano (2017) identifies ideology for “Albert-Bernard Bongo” as rightist, using Bongo’s birth name. PDG is a member of the Centrist Democrat International. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify BDG/PDG’s ideology as “Center-left” (-0.569) in 1973, 1980, and 1985; “Center-left” (-1.426) in 1990 and 1996; and “Center-left” (-0.548) in 2001 and 2006. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify “virtually no visible disagreement” in BDG/PDG in 1973, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1996, and 2001 and “negligible visible disagreement” in PDG in 2006.

Years: 2009-2020

Leader: Ali Bongo Ondimba

Ideology: Right

Description: Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies Ondimba’s party as Gabonese Democratic Party, writing “Ali Ben BONGO Ondimba (Gabonese Democratic Party)”. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies “the Gabonese Democratic Party (Parti Démocratique Gabonais—PDG)”. Ngolet (2000) identifies the PDG as a rightist party, writing, “the PDG's political doctrine... is a conservative ideology (Gaulme 1988:129-61), emphasizing (...) free enterprise, and a market economy”. World Statesmen (2021) corroborates Ondimba’s party affiliation as PDG and describes the party as “authoritarian, conservative, former BDG.” Perspective Monde (2021) identifies Ondimba’s party affiliation as PDG from 2009 to 2015 and as BDG (Bloc Démocratique Gabonais) from 2016, identifying both parties as center-right. PDG is a member of the Centrist Democrat International. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify PDG’s ideology as “Center-left” (-0.548) in 2006 and “Center” (-0.072) in 2011 and 2018. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify “negligible visible disagreement” in PDG in 2006, “virtually no visible disagreement” in PDG in 2011, and “negligible visible disagreement” in PDG in 2018.

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