

Country: Eritrea

Years: 1993-2020

Head of government: President Isaias Afewerki

Ideology: leftist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Afewerki's affiliation as PFDJ. Kaplan (2016) identifies PFDJ as Left: "Although Marxism was eventually abandoned in favor of a revolutionary leftist nationalism, some of the key values held by the PFDJ today certainly echo the Marxist ideology that spurred the EPLF movement early on (and which continues to strongly inform countries such as Cuba). Jopson (2009) identifies Afewerki and PFDJ as Left: "His quasi-communist regime does not share an ideology with Somali Islamists, but Eritrea has used them to fight a proxy war with Ethiopia, analysts say." Manzano (2017) corroborates that Afewerki is Left. Perspective Monde (2020) identifies Afewerki as left. World Statesmen (2020) identifies Afewerki's party affiliation as EPLF until 1994, as PFDJ afterwards, and EPLF's ideology as leftist, "Marxist-Leninist". In the Global Party Survey 2019, 4 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ) as 0.7. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies EPLF and PFDJ's ideology as leftist, writing "People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ). The PFDJ's predecessor—the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF)—was launched in 1970 as a breakaway faction of the Marxist-oriented ELF (below). The EPLF was an avowedly nonsectarian, left-wing formation supported by both Christians and Muslims in pursuit of Eritrean independence... After the EPLF revised its ideology to accommodate multipartyism and a "regulated" market economy, in May 1991 the United States for the first time supported the EPLF's call for a self-determination referendum." In V-Party (2020), 6 experts identify head of government party's ideology as "Left" (-3.154) in 1992, and 1997 and "Far-left" (-3.388) in 2002, 2007, and 2012 and "Left" (-3.378) in 2017. Varieties of Democracy identifies party affiliation as "People's Front for Democracy and Justice". DPI does not identify PFDJ's ideology.

References:

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- Norris, Pippa. 2020. Global Party Survey dataset.
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