

Country: Central African Republic

Years: 1960-1965

Leader: David Dacko

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Dacko's party as MESAN. Manzano (2017) codes Dacko as left. Lentz (1994) writes "Dacko moved to align his country with Communist governments, and he established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China in 1964". In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify MESAN's ideology as "Center" (0.149) in 1970.

Years: 1966-1978

Leader: Jean-Bedal Bokassa I

Ideology: None

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Bokassa's party as MESAN. Encyclopedia Britannica (2019) writes "Bokassa initially spearheaded a number of reforms in an effort to develop the Central African Republic. He sought to promote economic development with Operation Bokassa, a national economic plan that created huge nationalized farms and industries." Decalo (1998) writes that Bokassa "'Converted' to Marxism late in 1969 after a brief visit to Brazzaville, Bokassa promptly initiated a pro-Eastern foreign policy in 1970. When it became clear that no tangible (i.e. material) benefits were forthcoming from the East due to his ideological somersault, he returned to the Western fold... The proclamation that scientific socialism would henceforth be Bangui's state policy meant little more to Bokassa, however, than the payment of lip service to the ideology and awaiting financial rewards." In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify MESAN's ideology as "Center" (0.149) in 1970 and "Center-left" (-0.674) in 1974.

Years: 1979-1980

Leader: David Dacko

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Dacko's party as MESAN in 1979 and UDC in 1980. Manzano (2017) codes Dacko as left. Lentz (1994) writes "Dacko moved to align his country with Communist governments, and he established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China in 1964". In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify MESAN's ideology as "Center-left" (-0.674) in 1979.

Years: 1981-1992

Leader: Andre-Dieudonne Kolingba

Ideology: Right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Kolingba's party as none until 1985, and as RDC afterwards. World Statesman (2019) identifies Kolingba's party as the RDC after 1987. Kalck (2005) writes, "In May 1986 [Kolingba] announced the creation of a single party, the Rassemblement Démocratique Centrafricain (RDC; Central African Democratic Party)."

Perspective Monde identifies the RDC as "moderate left." Derbyshire and Derbyshire (2016: 112) identify RDC as "right of center." VonDoepp and Villalón (2005) write, "The former single party RDC was known as a party of influential opportunists, knit together by the common aim to remain in power... The cult of personality around the then-unpopular Kolingba visibly harmed the RDC's electoral chances." Mehler (2011: 120) writes, "Kolingba's own ethnic group, the Yakoma, provided the party's main support... In Randall's terms (2007: 90) even the bigger parties MLPC and RDC could be seen as representing ethnoregional interests 'to the extent that parties are identified by their leaders and/or in the public mind with one or more ethnic groups,' while it was also appropriate to ask 'in what sense are they *representing* those groups?' (emphasis in the original)." Kisangani (2015: 54) writes, "The first critical antecedent to explain politics of exclusion is the role of both ethnicity and regionalism which have been institutionalized by policy makers since the early 1980s... All the CAR's rulers have favored their own ethnic group, but President Kolingba, from 1981 to 1993, filled both the army and the government with his Yakoma fellows to an unprecedented level. He created the seeds of tribalism and regionalism which had become major factors of politics of exclusion and thus political unrest in the country." In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify RDC's ideology as "Center-right" (0.779) in 1986 and 1987. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify "negligible visible disagreement" in RDC in 1986 and 1987. Thorsen (2021: 309) states, "None of the implications of ideological motivation are observed in the case of Kolingba. However, there was some overlap in expected behavior from different motives, which makes it difficult to detect ideologically motivated behavior. Yet, the overlap is not that large, so in conclusion, Kolingba is likely to have been predominantly self-interested."

Years: 1993-2002

Leader: Ange-Felix Patasse

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Patassé's party as MLPC. DPI identifies MLPC's ideology as rightist. Perspective Monde (2019),

however, codes MLPC as “center left”. The Socialist International also lists the MLPC as a member party. Banks and Muller (1998) write “the MLPC was organized at Paris in mid-1979 by Ange-Félix Patassé... [in 1983] Patassé was accorded a vote of no confidence and replaced... as part of a move from ‘nationalism’ to ‘democratic socialism’”. Banks and Muller write that by 1993, Patasse was again “the MLPC leader”. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify MLPC’s ideology as “Left” (-2.025) in 1993 and 1998.

Years: 2003-2012

Leader: Francois Bozize

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Bozize as non-party. World Statesmen (2020) identifies Bozize’s party affiliation as none, then KNK since 2009. Political Handbook of the World (2015) corroborates party affiliation, writing, “The Kwa na Kwa (literally Work, Nothing But Work) is coalition of business groups and small political parties was formed in 2004 to support Gen. François Bozizé’s presidential bid in 2005,” “although Bozizé ran as an independent.” Cadasse (2009) quotes François Bozizé’s description of the NC-KNK, “Kwa na Kwa is a Labor party of social democratic obedience.” World Statesman (2019) codes the KNK as “social democratic”. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify KNK’s ideology as “Center-right” (1.285) in 2005, and 2 experts identify KNK’s ideology as “Center-right” (1.285) in 2011. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify “negligible visible disagreement” in KNK in 2005, and 2 experts identify “negligible visible disagreement” in KNK in 2011.

Year: 2013

Leader: Michel Djotodia

Ideology:

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify leader. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies Djotodia’s party as UFDR and “Coalition (Séléka)”, writing “UFDR leader Michel Djotodia” and “Chaired by Michel Djotodia of the UFDR, Séléka launched an offensive against the Bozizé government”. Welz (2014: 603) identifies Djotodia as the leader of Séléka, writing, “... the rebel movement Séléka (meaning ‘alliance’ in the Sango language), led by Michel Djotodia, emerged as a coalition of predominantly Muslim anti-government militias.” Isaacs-Martin (2016: 34) writes, “As with preceding presidents, Djotodia usurped political power through the militias loyal to him. By incorporating loosely organized armed groups with poor resources into the coalition, Djotodia attempted to include various members of the Séléka into the state institutions... This practice was meant to secure and continue armed support

for the political leadership... Djotodia's very short presidency introduced the Gula, with ethnic links in Chad, to political power and institutional access. The Séléka was, and remains, a heterogeneous opportunistic militia... It is not religion that is the salient linkage here, but trajectories of political power and ensuring conflicts... Disintegrating into factions so quickly and easily implies that the group lacked a bond beyond material interests, or a shared grievance; in particular shared ethnic or religious values were missing." Bøås (2014) writes, "Djotodia may therefore have had good intentions when he put together the Séléka alliance; the problem, however, was the alliance's lack of coherence, unity and organization... Rather, just after Djotodia seized power, the main problem was that he and the Séléka alliance did not have a plan beyond ousting Bozizé."

Years: 2014-2015

Leader: Catherine Samba-Panza

Ideology:

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify leader. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies Samba-Panza as non-party, writing "Catherine SAMBA-PANZA (nonparty)". Day (2016) writes, "Despite being appointed the mayor of Bangui during Djotodia's reign, as a lawyer and businesswoman she was largely viewed as having no concrete ties to any of the conflict's main actors."

Years: 2016-2020

Leader: Touadera

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. Mullenbach (2018) identifies Touadera's party as NC-KNK, writing "Prime Minister Elie Dote announced his resignation on January 18, 2008, and Faustin-Archange Touadéra of the National Convergence "Kwa Na Kwa" (NC-KNK) was appointed as prime minister on January 22, 2008." Cadasse (2009) quotes François Bozizé's description of the NC-KNK, "Kwa na Kwa is a Labor party of social democratic obedience." World Statesman (2021) identifies Touadéra's party affiliation as KNK until 2018, when his affiliation became MCU (Mouvement des Coeurs Unis/United Hearts Movement). World Statesmen describes KNK as "social democratic" and MCU as "democratic, secular, republican, split from KNK." In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify KNK's ideology as "Center-right" (1.285) in 2016. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify "almost complete" disagreement in KNK in 2016.

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