

Country: Democratic Republic of the Congo

Years: 1960-1964

Leader: Joseph Kasavubu

Ideology: Right

Description: CHISOLS identifies Kasavubu's party as ABAKO. Perspective Monde (2019) identifies Kasavubu's party as "Association du peuple Bakongo", described as "centre droit [center right]".

Years: 1965-1996

Leader: Mobutu Sese Seko

Ideology: Right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies head of government as Mobutu Sese Seko, and identifies affiliation as none until 1966, then MRP/MPR from 1967 onwards. Mountz (2014) considers Mobutu to have been "a right-wing dictator" whose rise to power was facilitated by the United States government as part of the anti-communist containment doctrine. Schmitz (2012) describes Nixon administration officials calling Mobutu "strongly pro-Western and firmly anti-Communist" as well as "conservative in his approach to government." Schmitz goes on to state that Mobutu recognized "in his bones that foreign private investment is essential to Congolese development." Manzano (2017) codes Mobutu as "right." World Statesmen (2019) codes Sese Seko's party as MPR and describes the party as "MPR = Mouvement Populaire de la Révolution Popular Movement of the Revolution, Zairian nationalist, Mobutism, Mobutu Sese Seko personalist, anti-Communist, cultural conservative, 20 May 1967-16 May 1997". Rulers (2020) writes, "[Mobutu] took full advantage of the backing he received from the West, which viewed him during the Cold War as a guardian against Communism." In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify MPR's ideology as "Left" (-1.92) in 1970, 1975, 1977, 1982, and 1987. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify "virtually no visible disagreement" in MPR in 1970, 1975, 1977, 1982, and 1987.

Years: 1997-2000

Leader: Laurent Kabila

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Kabila's affiliation as AFDL. While DPI identifies the AFDL as rightist, Braid (1997) states that "Laurent Kabila was a junior member of Zaire's Leftist, Pan-Africanist, Independent Movement." Political Handbook of the World does not provide any

information on party's ideology. The Telegraph (2003) calls Kabila "a Marxist." Manzano (2017) codes Laurent Kabila as "left." World Statesmen (2019) identifies Laurent Kabila's party as the AFDL.

Years: 2001-2018

Leader: Joseph Kabila

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Kabila's affiliation as PPRD. Milios (2014) states that "the left-wing PPRD was President Joseph Kabila's party." Manzano (2017) codes Joseph Kabila as "left." World Statesmen (2021) identifies Joseph Kabila's party as the AFDL, then PPRD after 2002. World Statesmen describes the PPRD as "People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy, social democratic, center-left, pro-Joseph Kabila, est. 31 Mar 2002". Al Jazeera (2019) identifies Kabila's political coalition as the Common Front for Congo (FCC). In the Global Party Survey 2019, an undisclosed number of experts identified the average left-right (0-10) score of FCC as 3.7. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify PPRD's ideology as "Left" (-2.265) in 2003, 2006, and 2011.

Years: 2019-2020

Leader: Felix Tschisekedi

Ideology: Left

Description: World Statesmen (2021) identifies party affiliation as UDPS, described as "Union pour la Démocratie et le Progrès Social (Democratic Union for the Social Progress, social-democratic, est.15 Feb. 1982)." Perspective monde (2021) corroborates party affiliation as UDPS and identifies the party as center-left. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify UDPS's ideology as "Center-right" (1.298) in 2011. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify "virtually no visible disagreement" in UDPS in 2011. UDPS is a member of the Socialist International.

References:

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