Country: Burkina Faso

Years: 1960-1965

Head of government: Nawalagmba Maurice Yameogo

Ideology: Right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Yameogo’s affiliation as UDV. Lansford (2017) states that Yameogo was “leader of the Voltaic Democratic Union (Union Démocratique Voltaïque—UDV) and a political disciple of President Félix Houphouët-Boigny of Côte d'Ivoire.” Rupley (2013) writes that Yameogo was elected in 1957 “to the Third Assemblée Territorial as a member of the… MDV [later UDV]” and joined the cabinet of Daniel Ouezzin Coulibaly, leader of the RDA. Rupley further adds that Yameogo was reelected president in 1965 as the leader of the UDV-RDA party. Du Bois (1965) presents a speech given by Yameogo defending Houphouët-Boigny against attacks by Sékou Touré. In the speech, Yameogo refers to Houphouët-Boigny as “our dean” among other considerable praise. Yameogo goes on to claim “I have known President Houphouët-Boigny for over 20 years, well before Sékou Touré [knew him]. I have been an ardent member of the R.D.A. since its creation at Bamako in 1946.” This dataset also codes Houphouet-Boigny as rightist in economic ideology (see Cote d’Ivoire country profile). Manzano (2017) codes Yameogo’s ideology as “right”. Political Handbook of the World (2015) states that the RDA eventually entered in an alliance with Alliance pour la Démocratie et la Féderation, writing, “The ADF and RDA announced their merger in May 1998.” In the Global Party Survey 2019, 4 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of ADF-RDA as 7.5. ADF/RDA is a member of the Liberal International. In V-Party (2020), 4 experts identify UDV’s ideology as “Right” (1.881) in 1970.

Years: 1966-1979

Head of government: Aboubakar Sangoule Lamizana

Ideology: Right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Lamizana’s affiliation as MNR. DPI does not identify MNR’s ideology. Manzano (2017) codes Lamizana’s ideology as “right”.

Years: 1980-1981

Head of government: Saye Zerbo

Ideology: left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Zerbo’s party affiliation as none. V-Dem identifies Zerbo as the president of the Military Committee of Recovery for National Progress/Comité Militaire de Redressement pour le Progrès National (CMRPN). DPI identifies CMRPN’s ideology as left. Political Handbook of the World does not provide any information on party’s ideology.

Years: 1982

Head of government: Jean-Baptiste Ouedrago

Ideology: right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Ouedrago’s party as none. Williamson (2013) describes “Médicin-Commandant Jean-Baptiste Ouédraogo” as a “conservative ally [of Colonel Some Yorian] and realist” who held “the position of president of Upper Volta.” Williamson adds that “conservatives supported the power of Mossi chiefs and civilian political groups and radical soldiers supported communist and/ or socialist styled government.” Sliwinsky (2015) states “Ouedraogo’s forces quickly splintered into two groups: conservative and radical. Thomas Sankara assumed control of the radical faction and usurped Ouédraogo to become the country’s leader. After coming to power in 1983, Sankara implemented a series of left-wing policies.”

Years: 1983-1986

Head of government: Thomas Sankara

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Sankara’s party as none. Harsch (2013) identifies Sankara as leftist, writing “Sankara readily identified himself as Marxist… In his address to the UN General Assembly he cited the inspiration of the French Revolution, Paris Commune and Russian Revolution… Sankara stood out among the leaders of struggles for national liberation in Africa in the last half of the twentieth century because he was a communist.” Manzano (2017) codes Sankara’s ideology as “left”. Brockman (1994) writes “[Blaise] … shared Sankara’s revolutionary populism [in 1982]”.

Years: 1987-1991

Head of government: Blaise Compaore

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Compaore’s party as FP from 1987-1990, ODP-MT from 1991-1995, and CDP from 1996 to 2008. DPI identifies ODP-MT’s ideology as leftist. Political Handbook of the World (2008) elaborates, writing “The leftist ODP-MT was launched on April 15, 1989… in March 1991, the ODP-MT endorsed Compaoré's candidacy in the forthcoming presidential balloting and formally abandoned Marxism-Leninism in favor of free enterprise and a market economy… In early 1996 the ODP-MT renounced its status as a “revolutionary party of the democratic masses” to become a “social democratic” party.” According to Williamson (2013), “the Organization Militaire Révolutionnaire (ORM-Revolutionary Military Organization), the nuclei of the CNR, consisted of Thomas Sankara, Blaise Compaoré, Boukary Lingani, and Henry Zongo.” He later groups these individuals as “the radical Marxist-oriented young soldiers (notably Sankara, Lingani, Zongo and Compaoré).” Manzano (2017) codes Compaore’s ideology as “left”. Brockman (1994) writes “[Blaise] Compaore… shared Sankara’s revolutionary populism [in 1982]”. However, Brockman continues by stating “[Compaore] dropped Marxism as official doctrine in 1991.” World Statesman (2019) describes Compaore’s parties as Front Populaire (FP) before 1991, ODP-MT from 1991-1996, and CDP after 1996. According to World Statesman, the ODP-MT is the “ODP-MT = Organisation pour la Démocratie Populaire-Mouvement du Travail (Organization for People's Democracy-Worker's Movement, communist, 1989-1996, renounced Marxism-Leninism in Mar 1991, merged into CDP)”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 4 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Organisation for Democracy and Labour (ODT) as 1.0. In V-Party (2020), 4 experts identify FP’s ideology as “Left” (-1.677) in 1987.

Years: 1992-1993

Head of government: Youssouf Ouedraogo

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify head of government. World Statesman (2019) describes Ouedraogo’s party as the ODP-MT. World Statesman further describes this party, stating: “ODP-MT = Organisation pour la Démocratie Populaire-Mouvement du Travail (Organization for People's Democracy-Worker's Movement, communist, 1989-1996, renounced Marxism-Leninism in Mar 1991, merged into CDP)”. World Statesman codes the CDP as “left-wing”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 4 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Organisation for Democracy and Labour (ODT) as 1.0.

Years: 1994-1995

Head of government: Roch Marc Christian Kabore

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify head of government. World Statesmen (2020) identifies Kabore’s party affiliation as ODP-MT, describing the party as “communist” and stating that it merged into CDP in 1996. Perspective Monde corroborates Kabore’s party affiliation as ODP-MT as well. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 4 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Organisation for Democracy and Labour (ODT) as 1.0. Lansford (2017) identifies Kabore’s affiliation as CDP, writing “the Compaoré government's commitment to the new grouping was highlighted by the assignment of ODP-MT Executive Committee Chair Arsène Bongnessan Yé and Prime Minister Roch Marc Christian Kaboré to the CDP's presidency and vice presidency, respectively.” Perspective Monde identifies the CDP’s ideology as “centre left.” In 2015, Perspective Monde labels Kabore as a member of a “centre left” party as well. World Statesman (2019) codes the CDP as “left-wing”. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies Kabore’s party as CDP until 2014 and MPP starting in 2014, writing “at a CDP congress on August 1, 1999, party delegates elected Kaboré to the newly created post of national executive secretary, a position that superseded both the party presidency and secretary generalship” and “in early 2014 Kaboré, Diallo, and Simon Compaoré left the CDP to form the MPP”. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the MPP as “the MPP, self-described as a social-democratic grouping committed to “political stability””. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 4 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Congress for Democracy and Progress (CDP) as 3.0. MPP is a member of the Socialist International.

Years: 1996-1999

Head of government: Kadre Desire Ouedraogo

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify head of government. Perspective Monde identifies Ouedraogo’s party affiliation as CDP, and identifies CDP’s ideology as “centre left.” World Statesman (2019) codes the CDP as “left-wing”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 4 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Congress for Democracy and Progress (CDP) as 3.0. In V-Party (2020), 4 experts identify CDP’s ideology as “Center-left” (-1.088) in 1992 and 1997.

Years: 2000-2006

Head of government: Paramanga Ernest Yonli

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify head of government. Lansford (2017) identifies Yonli as a member of the CDP, writing “on November 7 the president appointed one of the ministers from the CDP, Ernest Paramanga YONLI, as the new prime minister.” Perspective Monde identifies CDP as “centre left.” World Statesman (2019) codes the CDP as “left-wing”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 4 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Congress for Democracy and Progress (CDP) as 3.0. In V-Party (2020), 4 experts identify CDP’s ideology as “Center-left” (-1.088) in 1997 and 2002.

Years: 2007-2010

Head of government: Tertius Zongo

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify head of government. World Statesman (2019) describes Zongo’s party as the CDP, coded as “left-wing”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 4 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Congress for Democracy and Progress (CDP) as 3.0. In V-Party (2020), 4 experts identify CDP’s ideology as “Center-left” (-1.088) in 2007.

Years: 2011-2013

Head of government: Luc Adolphe Tiao

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify head of government. Lansford (2017) identifies Tiao as a member of the CDP, listing its leaders as “Leaders: Capt. Blaise COMPAORÉ (President of Burkina Faso); Luc Adolphe TIAO (Prime Minister); [etc.].” Perspective Monde identifies the CDP’s ideology as “centre left.” World Statesman (2019) codes the CDP as “left-wing”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 4 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Congress for Democracy and Progress (CDP) as 3.0. In V-Party (2020), 4 experts identify CDP’s ideology as “Center-left” (-1.088) in 2007 and 2012.

Years: 2014-2015

Head of government: Isaac Yacouba Zida

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify head of government. Perspective Monde (2019) identifies Zida’s party as none, writing “Yacouba Isaac Zida… militaire [military]”. Englebert and Frére (2015) write, “The opinion of civilians on the matter was more complex. Traoré, having been close to Compaoré, was most likely seen as not acceptable by the political opposition and civil society leaders. They may have perceived Zida as both less threatening and more capable of preventing chaos… Zida was also adroit, invoking Sankara in his speeches and symbolic actions such as the raised fist, which may have comforted many opponents. In turn, his alliance with demonstrators probably strengthened his hand as a credible leader against Traoré.” Sankara is coded as leftist. Hagberg (2015) writes, “Since the 2014 revolution, the importance of street power – *la ruecratie* – has been increasingly discussed in Burkina Faso. The notion of street power implies the penchant for demonstrating in the streets to resolve certain political issues… Civil society organizations, trade unions, and other movements have demonstrated a tremendous capacity to mobilise and take to the streets to press claims… Prime Minister Zida has often referred to ‘the people’ as the ultimate decision makers.” Hagberg (2019) writes, “Zida maintained the revolutionary language that he had adopted as *de facto* head of state, referring to his leadership being guided by ‘the will of the Burkinabe people’.” Chouli (2015: 328) writes, “To mark the desire to break with the regime of Blaise Compaoré, the ephemeral president Isaac Zida immediately took certain steps intended to please the masses, such as arresting CEOS of companies deemed close to the former presidential clan and dissolving municipal councils. However, commitments announced shortly afterwards by Zida once he became prime minister – including a possible extradition request for Blaise Compaoré, who had fled the country, and nationalization of businesses – were quickly tempered by President Kafando.” In an interview with Benjamin Roger (2019), when asked if he “claims a Sankarist side,” Zida responds, “Thomas Sankara est arrive au pouvoir en 1983, quand je venais d’atteindre la majorité. J’étais au Prytanée militaire de Kadiogo. Il a toujours été notre idole. Nous avons grandi avex le projet de Sankara en tête. Si je dois me revendiquer d’une personnalité politique, ce serait bien de lui.” [Thomas Sankara came to power in 1983, when I had just come of age. I was the Kadiogo Military Prytaneum. He has always been our idol. We grew up with the Sankara project in mind. If I have to call myself a political figure, it would be good to him.] AFP (2020) identifies Zida’s party in 2020 as the Patriotic Movement for Salvation (MPS), writing, “Le Mouvement patriotique pour le salut (MPS) a propose Samedi 15 février comme candidat à la présidentielle de novembre au Burkina l’ex-premier minister Yacouba Isaac Zida, qui vit au Canada depuis 2016.” [The Patriotic Movement for Salvation (MPS) proposed Saturday, February 15, as a candidate for the November presidential election in Burkina Faso, the former Prime Minister Yacouba Isaac Zida, who has lived in Canada since 2016.] The MPS describes itself as “un parti politique burkinabè fondé sur le principe de la Social-Démocratie.” [a Burkinabé political party founded on the principle of Social Democracy.]

Years: 2016-2018

Head of government: Paul Kaba Thieba

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify head of government. Perspective Monde (2019) identifies Thieba’s party as independent, writing “Paul Kaba Thiéba… Indépendant [independent]”. Political Handbook of the World (2018-2019) identifies Thieba’s party as Movement of People for Progress, writing, “Movement of People for Progress (*Mouvement des Peuples pour le Progrés*—MPP). Formed in early 2014 by former prominent members of the CDP (see the CDP below) who called the possibility of the elimination of presidential term limits as a ‘threat to the democratic process,’ the MPP, self-described as a social-democratic grouping committed to ‘political stability,’ subsequently reportedly gained significant national support… *Leaders:*… Paul Kaba THIÉBA (Prime Minister).” World Statesmen (2020) identifies MPP as “progressive, center-left.” MPP is a member of the Socialist International.

Years: 2019-2020

Head of government: Christophe Joseph Marie Dabire

Ideology: Left

Description: Rulers (2021) identifies Dabire as head of government from January 24, 2019 to December 30, 2020, and then from January 10, 2021 to present. HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify head of government. Perspective Monde (2021) identifies Dabire’s party as Congress of Democracy and Progress (CDP) and identifies the party as center-left. World Statesmen (2021) identifies Dabire’s party affiliation as non-party, but describes CDP as “left-wing.” In the Global Party Survey 2019, 4 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of CDP as 3.0. In V-Party (2020), 4 experts identify CDP’s ideology as “Center-left” (-1.088) in 2015.

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