Country: Guinea

Years: 1958-1983

Leader: Ahmed Sekou Toure

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Touré’s party as PDG. DPI identifies ideology of PDG as left. Political Handbook of the World does not provide any information on party’s ideology. Manzano (2017) identifies Touré’s ideology as left. Perspective Monde identifies Touré’s ideology as “moderate left”. According to Lansford (2015), “President Touré made a number of trips to the United States, Canada, and Western Europe from 1979 to 1983. However, distrust of the “father of African socialism” and an overvalued local currency discouraged large-scale Western involvement.” Segal (1963) quotes an interview in which Sékou Touré states “trade unionism is… an engagement to transform fundamentally any given economic and social régime… it implies action against that which is contrary to the interests of the workers”. Gallagher et al. (1964) state “The PDG differs from most other African parties in its possession of a body of theory from which its actions stem. The chief and almost the only source of this theory is the secretary-general, Sékou Touré… the party philosophy draws heavily on Marxist-Leninist doctrines”. Gallagher et al. continue by quoting Touré, who states “We have used certain parts of the Marxist doctrine to organize rational foundations for African trade unionism. We have adopted from Marxism everything that is true for Africa.” World Statesmen (2019) identifies Touré’s party as the PDG, described as “Parti Démocratique de Guinée… Democratic Party of Guinea, socialist, African nationalist, de facto state party 1960-1984”. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify PDG’s ideology as “Center-left” (-1.01) in 1974 and 1980.

Years: 1984-2007

Leader: Lansana Conte

Ideology: Right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Conté’s party as none before 1991, and as PUP after. Cowan (1986) writes “The Conte government has exhibited an almost complete reversal of its predecessor's ideological stance and a determination to seek new political and economic directions involving the private sector.” Cowan earlier describes the administration which preceded Conté’s as one in which “Toure moved toward virtual one-man rule as the PDG established a socialist system.” N’Daou (2001) corroborates this shift, writing “post-socialist Guinea… the era which started in 1984, after the death of Ahmed Sekou Toure.” McGreal (2008) states that “Conté won favour in the west by turning away from his predecessor's leftwing policies with IMF-backed cuts in government spending and a currency devaluation. He planted his political flag firmly in the western camp”. Strategic Survey (1986) noted “Conte’s desire to establish a liberal economy.” World Statesmen (2019) identifies Conte’s party as the PUP after 1991. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify PUP’s ideology as “Center-right” (1.053) in 1995 and “Center-right” (1.075) in 2002.

Year: 2008

Leader: Dadis Camara

Ideology:

Description: CHISOLS identifies Camara’s party as none. Political Handbook of the World (2018-2019) writes, “… on December 24 the CNDD named its leader, Capt. Moussa Dadis Camara, as president, and he immediately dissolved the government, suspended the constitution, and imposed a moratorium on the activities of all political parties and unions… Camara, for his part, promised to reform the military by upgrading salaries and promotion structures, among other things. A new, enlarged government composed of technocrats and soldiers (and no members of political parties) was announced on January 14, 2009… In February 2009 Camara presented his own transition plan, proposing a process to restore constitutional order, register voters, and lift the suspension of political parties and union activities. He also called for the establishment of a truth and reconciliation committee to review charges against the previous government… He also said that those who had been in power under President Conté should not contest the elections, referring to the leaders of the PUP, UFR, and UFDG, observers said.” Baker et al. (2013) write, “Even though Captain Moussa Dadis Camara and members of his government issues strident pronouncements promising to reform the administrative system through which the country had been governed… during much of its year-long, turbulent rule the CNDD was mainly focused on reforming the military… In retrospect, it is fair to say that CNDD reforms were chiefly designed to further empower the military and prepare it to retain power indefinitely.” Ortiz de Zárate (2009) states, “Emulando, en apariencia, las formas impetuosas y, en parte también, los métodos expeditivos de antiguos oficiales sediciosos en el África occidental de los años ochenta del pasado siglo (como fueron los casos del teniente Jerry Rawlings en Ghana y del capitán Thomas Sankara en Burkina Faso, dos carismáticos dictadores militares de orientación izquierdista, dotados de elocuencia revolucionaria, proclives a los golpes de efecto y enemigos declarados del desorden, el atraso y la corrupción), el guineano estuvo muy activo en las semanas y mesas posteriors a su toma inconstitucional del poder.” [Emulating, in appearance, the impetuous ways and, in part also, the expeditious methods of old seditious officers in West Africa of the eighties of the last century (as were the cases of Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings in Ghana and Captain Thomas Sankara in Burkina Faso, two charismatic leftist-oriented military dictators, endowed with revolutionary eloquence, prone to coups, and declared enemies of disorder, backwardness, and corruption), the Guinean was very active in the weeks and months after his unconstitutional seizure of power.” Ortiz de Zárate also states, “El 27 de diciembre orquestó en Alpha Yaya Diallo una ‘reunión informal’ a la que asisterion un millar de representantes politicos y sociales, incluidos el legislador Somparé y los líderes partidistas opositores Alpha Condé y Sidya Touré, los cuales estaban ansiosos por colaborar con el CNDD para la aplicación de un programa de reforma interna y de un calendario de transición política.” [On December 27, he orchestrated an ‘informal meeting’ in Alpha Yaya Diallo attended by a thousand political and social representatives, including legislator Somparé and opposition party leaders Alpha Condé and Sidya Touré, who were eager to collaborate with the CNDD for the implementation of an internal reform program and a political transition calendar.” Condé is coded as leftist, while Touré is coded as rightist.

Year: 2009

Leader: Sekouba Konate

Ideology:

Description: Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies Konate as non-party, writing “Acting President Gen. Sékouba KONATÉ (nonparty)”. Political Handbook of the World (2018-2019) states, “Political turmoil was unabated, as on December 3 Camara was shot and wounded by one of his closest aides, Aboubacar DIAKITÉ. Camara was flown to Morocco for treatment after the assassination attempt, and on December 4 the minister of defense, Gen. Sékouba Konaté, took over as acting president.” Of the CNDD, of which Konaté was a key member, Baker et al. (2013) write, “Even though Captain Moussa Dadis Camara and members of his government issues strident pronouncements promising to reform the administrative system through which the country had been governed… during much of its year-long, turbulent rule the CNDD was mainly focused on reforming the military… In retrospect, it is fair to say that CNDD reforms were chiefly designed to further empower the military and prepare it to retain power indefinitely.”

Years: 2010-2020

Leader: Alpha Conde

Ideology: Left

Description: Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies Conde’s party as RPG, writing “Alpha CONDÉ of the Rally of the Guinean People (RPG)”. World Statesmen (2021) corroborates party affiliation as RPG. Perspective Monde (2021) identifies Conde’s party as RPG, coded as moderate left. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 5 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Rally of the Guinean People (RPG AR) as 2.0. RPG is a member of the Socialist International. In V-Party (2020), 1 expert identifies RPG’s ideology as “Left” (-1.889) in 1995 and “Right” (1.841) in 2013.

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