Country: Ivory Coast

Years: 1960-1992

Leader: Felix Houphouet-Boigny

Ideology: Right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Houphouet-Boigny’s affiliation as Democratic Party of Ivory Coast (PDCI). Manzano (2017 : 86) identifies PDCI’s ideology as rightist, writing “[…] non-communist countries like in Ivory Coast, where Félix Houphouët-Boigny led a single party regime for more than two decades with the support of the right-wing Democratic Party of Ivory Coast”. Handloff and Roberts (1988) write “Houphouët-Boigny…was the cofounder of the… SAA, which was formed in 1944 to fight for the abolition of forced labor and the rights of African planters.(…) PDCI [was] created in 1946 out of the SAA… It soon attracted the radical intellectuals from the wartime Communist Study Groups.” Daddieh (2016), however, adds that in 1950 “Houphouet-Boigny announced the abandonment of the communist affiliation, and the next year he managed to affiliate with parties more to the center of the French political spectrum. By the 1950s, the PDCI had shed its radical ideology and adopted a policy orientation focused on economic growth and development.” Van Rensburg (1975) clarifies that Boigny “was not himself a Marxist”. Encyclopedia Britannica (2019) states that Houphouët-Boigny “pursued liberal free-enterprise policies and developed Côte d’Ivoire’s cash-crop agriculture at a time when many other African nations were pursuing costly and abortive attempts at state-run industrialization.” Cohen (2015) corroborates that the dissidents Houphouet-Boigny faced “were centered in the University of Côte d’Ivoire, where the faculty constituted a left-wing intellectual opposition to his emphasis on free market capitalism.” Perspective Monde codes the PDCI as “center right”. Murray (1992) confirms, stating “Ivory Coast government is quite conservative and very pro-French. The Parti Démocratique de la Côte d’Ivoire-RDA (PDCI-RDA) is the sole political party”. World Statesmen (2019) identifies Houphouët-Boigny’s party as the PDCI, described as “Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire-Rassemblement Démocratique Africain… Democratic Party of Ivory Coast-African Democratic Rally, authoritarian, pan-African, conservative, 1960-1990 only legal party”. Political Handbook of the World (2015) states that the PDCI, RDR, UDPCI, and MFA entered into “a close electoral coalition known as the Rally of Houphouëtists for Democracy and Peace (*Reassemblement des Houphouë tistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix*—RHDP)” in 2005. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 8 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of RHDP as 7.5 and the average divided-united (0-10) score of RHDP as 4.9. In V-Party (2020), 6 experts identify PDCI’s ideology as “Right” (2.216) in 1970 and 1975, “Right” (1.884) in 1980, “Right” (1.885) in 1985, and “Right” (1.876) in 1990.

Years: 1993-1998

Leader: Henri Konan Bedie

Ideology: Right

Description: CHISOLS identifies Bedie’s party as PDCI. Manzano (2017) identifies ideology as rightist. Perspective Monde (2019) identifies Bedie as rightist, writing “Aimé Henri Konan Bédié… Parti démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire/Rassemblement démocratique africain [PDCI/RDA]” described as “center right”. Political Handbook of the World (2015) states that the PDCI was a part of the RDA, writing, “Established in 1946 as a section of the African Democratic Rally (*Reassemblement Démocratique Africain*—RDA), the PDCI (often referenced as the PDCI-RDA)…” Political Handbook also states that the PDCI, RDR, UDPCI, and MFA entered into “a close electoral coalition known as the Rally of Houphouëtists for Democracy and Peace (*Reassemblement des Houphouë tistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix*—RHDP)” in 2005. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 8 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of RHDP as 7.5 and the average divided-united (0-10) score of RHDP as 4.9. In V-Party (2020), 6 experts identify PDCI’s ideology as “Right” (1.876) in 1990 and “Right” (2.161) in 1995.

Year: 1999

Leader: Robert Guei

Ideology: Right

Description: CHISOLS identifies Guei’s party as none. Manzano (2017) identifies ideology as rightist. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies UDPCI as a pro-Guei party, writing, “the new, pro-Guei Union for Democracy and Peace in Côte d’Ivoire (*Union pour la Démocratie et la Paix de la Côte d’Ivoire*—UDPCI).” Political Handbook also writes, “The UDPCI was launched in February 2001 by former members of the PDCI who had left that party to support Gen. Robert Guei in the 2000 presidential campaign.” In the Global Party Survey 2019, 8 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of UDPCI as 3.5. However, Political Handbook also writes, in 1999, “Gen. Robert Guei… tried to secure the PDCI nomination for president of the republic. However, the party rejected Guei’s plan…” Perspective Monde codes the PDCI as “center right”. Political Handbook also states that the PDCI, RDR, UDPCI, and MFA entered into “a close electoral coalition known as the Rally of Houphouëtists for Democracy and Peace (*Reassemblement des Houphouë tistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix*—RHDP)” in 2005. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 8 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of RHDP as 7.5, and the average divided-united (0-10) score of RHDP as 4.9.

Years: 2000-2010

Leader: Laurent Gbagbo

Ideology: Left

Description: CHISOLS identifies Gbagbo’s party as FPI. DPI identifies FPI’s ideology as leftist. Political Handbook of the World (2015) elaborates, writing “at its founding congress in November 1989, the FPI adopted a platform calling for a mixed economy with a private sector emphasis”. Manzano (2017) identifies ideology as leftist. Perspective Monde (2019) identifies Gbagbo as leftist, writing “Laurent Gbagbo… Front populaire ivoirien [FPI]” described as “center left”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 8 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) as 2.8. In V-Party (2020), 6 experts identify FPI’s ideology as “Left” (-1.891) in 2000 and “Center-left” (-1.607) in 2001.

Years: 2011-2020

Leader: Alassane Ouattara

Ideology: Center

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify head of government. Perspective Monde (2021) initially identifies Ouattara as a rightist, writing “Alassane Dramane Ouattara… 1990 (7 novembre) [to] 1993 (11 décembre)… Parti démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire/Rassemblement démocratique africain”, identified as “center right”. Perspective Monde then identifies Ouattara’s party affiliation as RDR (Rassemblement des républicains) and identifies RDR as centrist. Political Handbook of the World later identifies Ouattara as centrist, writing “Alassane Ouattara… 2010 (4 décembre)… Rassemblement des républicains de Côte d'Ivoire”, identified as “center”. World Statesmen (2021) identifies Ouattara’s party as “RDR + RHDP,” described as “Rassemblement des Républicains (Rally of the Republicans, liberal, centrist, split from PDCI, est.1994)” and “Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix (Rally of Houphouëtists for Democracy and Peace, centrist, liberal… alliance of RDR, PDCI… est.18 May 2005).” Lansford (2017) also identifies Ouattara’s party as RDR, writing that “The essentially centrist RDR was launched… by… ministers from the government of former prime minister Alassane Ouattara who had operated within the PDCI for the previous three years as a “reform” wing loyal to Ouattara,” and that after his term as Prime Minister, “Alassane Ouattara… mount[ed] a presidential campaign as the RDR's standard-bearer.” Clark (1998) also codes the party founded by Ouattara, the RDR, as centrist, and a member of the Centrist Democrat International and the Liberal International. Political Handbook of the World (2015) states that the PDCI, RDR, UDPCI, and MFA entered into “a close electoral coalition known as the Rally of Houphouëtists for Democracy and Peace (*Reassemblement des Houphouë tistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix*—RHDP)” in 2005. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 8 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of RHDP as 7.5 and the average divided-united (0-10) score of RHDP as 4.9. In V-Party (2020), 6 experts identify RDR’s ideology as “Right” (1.738) in 2011. In V-Party (2020), 6 experts identify “virtually no visible disagreement” in RDR in 2011.

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