

DJIBOUTI

Polity5 regime codes:

fac	scode	polity	pers	bmon	bday	byear	emon	eday	eyear	exec	exconst	polcomp
0a	DJI	-8	15	6	27	1977	9	4	1992	3	2	1
0b	DJI	-7	4	9	5	1992	3	9	1996	3	2	2
0c	DJI	-6	3	3	10	1996	4	9	1999	3	2	3
1X	DJI	1	14	4	10	1999	2	21	2013	7	3	6
1O	DJI	3	6	2	22	2013	99	99	9999	7	4	5

PITF Problem Events:

- 1) 11/91-06/94 (ETH 11/91-06/94)

0a) June 27, 1977 (independence) – Djibouti gained increasing levels of independence from France following World War II. In May 1977 the populace approved a referendum for independence, and the republic was formed on June 27, 1977, with Hassan Gouled Aptidon as its first president. Aptidon declared Djibouti a one-party state under the *People's Rally for Progress* (RPP), a party dominated by his own (majority) Issa population.

Ethnic War: November 1991 – June 1994

A rebellion led by the Front for the Restoration of Unity and Democracy (FRUD), comprised mainly of ethnic-Afars, breaks out in November 1991. Government offensive in July 1993, supported by French forces, recaptures much of the territory controlled by rebels. Negotiations lead to recognition of FRUD as a legitimate party and an end to the fighting in June 1994. A formal peace agreement is concluded in December 1994. FRUD registered as a political party in March 1996; a militant splinter group continued sporadic violence through 1999.

0b) September 5, 1992 (new constitution) – On September 4, 1992, President Aptidon submitted a new multi-party constitution to the public in a referendum, which was overwhelmingly approved. The constitution allowed for four parties to participate in politics and called for a general election to be scheduled November 20, 1992, which was postponed in October until December 18. Only one opposition group participated in the election, and the RPP won all 65 seats in the legislature.

0c) March 10, 1996 (legalization of opposition party) – On March 10, 1996, the former-rebel group *Front for the Restoration of Unity and Democracy* (FRUD), representing the interests of the Afar people, was allowed to enter mainstream politics as a legal political party. FRUD and the RPP government had engaged in a drawn-out conflict that was partially settled in 1994: its legalization as a party completed the terms of the peace agreement and returned a sizeable proportion of Djibouti's population to mainstream political participation. The RPP and FRUD had shared cabinet posts since 1994, although the FRUD was not recognized as a legal party. A small radical wing of FRUD continued to fight the government until a second peace accord was signed in 2000.

1X) Date of Change to Factional-Democratic: April 10, 1999 (presidential election)

Brief Explanation of Change To: On February 4, 1999, President Aptidon announced his resignation effective May 8, 1999, inauguration day of the next president, following elections on

April 9. Aptidon's nephew, Ismail Omar Guellah, was selected by the RPP to succeed his uncle, and he competed in the April 9 elections as candidate for an RPP/FRUD alliance against independent candidate Moussa Ahmed Idriss in elections generally considered free and fair by outside observers. Guellah, who had previously led Djibouti's internal security agency, won 74% of the vote and took office on May 8. Once in power Guellah began a campaign against his political opponents, sacking the chief of staff of the national police force, Yacin Yabeh, in December 2000, which led to a failed coup attempt by police officers loyal to Yacin.

Identify Main Factions:

- *Supporters of President Guellah & Issa People* — The RPP (ethnic-Issa) systematically co-opted the leadership of FRUD (ethnic-Afar) beginning with the peace agreement in 1994. In the 1999 elections FRUD joined with RPP to support the RPP-designated successor to President Aptidon, his nephew Ismail Omar Guellah. Guellah was re-elected in 2005 with 100% of the vote, after going unchallenged by the opposition. This alliance of Guellah-supporters was joined by the *National Democratic Party* and the *Social Democratic People's Party* in 2003 parliamentary elections, in which the coalition maintained its hold over all 65 legislative seats.
- *Democratic Reformers & Afar People* — With the FRUD supporting the incumbent Issa-dominated government, opposition has been led by the Afar-dominated *Union for a Democratic Change*, a coalition of: *Republic Alliance for Democracy*, led by former-FRUD leader Ahmed Dini Ahmed; *Movement for Democratic Renewal and Development*, FRUD's former radical wing; *Djibouti Party for Development*; and the *Djibouti Union for Democracy and Justice*. Although this coalition has won sizeable portions of the popular vote, it has been effectively blocked from political influence by the RPP-controlled government.

10) Date of Change from Factional-Democratic: February 22, 2013 (legislative elections)

Brief Explanation of Change From:

Legislative elections held on February 22, 2013, were contested by opposition parties, which had boycotted previous legislative elections in 2008 and presidential elections held in 2011, after the government agreed to implement electoral reforms. The opposition alliance, Union for National Salvation won 10 of 65 seats in the National Assembly; this was the first time that opposition parties gained representation in the legislature.