

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Polity5 regime codes:

fac	scode	polity	pers	bmon	bday	byear	emon	eday	eyear	exec	exconst	polcomp
1X	EQG	2	0	10	12	1968	2	28	1969	7	3	7
1O	EQG	-7	24	3	1	1969	3	30	1993	4	1	1
1Oa	EQG	-5	3	3	31	1993	2	24	1996	4	2	2
1Ob	EQG	-6	23	2	25	1996	99	99	9999	4	1	2

PITF Problem Events:

- 1) 02/69-08/79 (ARC 02/69-03/69; GEN 03/69-08/79)

1X) Date of Change to Factional-Democratic: August 12, 1968 (independence)

Brief Explanation of Change To:

At the urging of the U.N. Special Committee of 24 on the Ending of Colonialism, an Independence Constitution was drafted and approved by popular referendum on August 11 and Equatorial Guinea gained independence on October 12, 1968, after 186 years of Spanish rule. General elections were held in the territory on September 22, 1968. None of the candidates for president gained a majority in the first round and a runoff election was held on September 29; Deputy Prime Minister Macias Nguema gained 63% of the vote over Prime Minister Ondo Edu and became the country's first president.

Identify Main Factions:

- *Mongomo clan* — The small Mongomo clan of the dominant Fang ethnic group has ruled this country continuously since independence in 1968. While ethnic divisions do not dominate politics in this country, nevertheless, ethnic and class divisions between the mainland region of Rio Muni (where 75% of the population live) and the island province of Bioko (where the remaining 25% of the population live and the capital city is found) has long been a source of tension in Equatorial Guinea.
- *Mainland Fang* — The Fang ethnic group constitutes over 90% of the population in the poverty-stricken region of Rio Muni, however, efforts by President Obiang to politicize a pan-Fang nationalism has been unsuccessful in bridging the wide economic divide between the residents of the island of Bioko and the impoverished mainland.
- *Bubi* — Calls for the secession of Bioko by the indigenous Bubi population have ebbed and flowed over the years and have resulted in numerous violent conflicts.

1O) Date of Change from Factional-Democratic: March 1, 1969 (presidential coup – adverse regime change)

Adverse Regime Change: February – March 1969

In an attempt to consolidate power following his victory in the country's first presidential election, President Macias pressured Spanish residents to abandon control of the economy in February 1969 and, in order to increase pressure, declared a state of emergency on March 1, 1969. The ensuing crisis triggered an unsuccessful coup attempt on March 5, 1969, which led to a violent and sustained crackdown on all political opposition, including ethnic-Bubi separatists on the island of Fernando Po (now known as Bioko).

Genocide: March 1969 – August 1979

The crisis following President Macias' March 1969 state of emergency provided the context for a ten-year crackdown on opposition leaders, ethnic-Bubi separatists, and potential rivals. Macias' reign of terror ended with a successful coup in August 1979 led by his nephew Obiang, who became chief executive.

Changes within Autocratic Period:

10a) March 30, 1993 (political liberalization) – Talks between the government and the joint opposition platform resulted in a National Democratic Pact, issued after talks ended on March 10. A decree under the pact came into force on March 30 that resulted in the release of all political prisoners in the country.

10b) February 25, 1996 (presidential election) – On February 25, 1996, the country held its first presidential elections since President Obiang seized power in 1976. The elections were called early and held under tightly controlled conditions; President Obiang claimed to have won 99% of the vote. The election was boycotted by opposition groups and international observers described the election as a “farce.” The Obiang regime acted decisively to thwart any possible challenge in order to ensure their control of anticipated oil revenues from newly discovered reserves.