

## TOGO

Polity5 regime codes:

fac	scode	polity	pers	bmon	bday	byear	emon	eday	eyear	exec	exconst	polcomp
0a	TOG	-6	7	4	27	1960	1	12	1967	3	3	2
0b	TOG	-7	13	1	13	1967	8	27	1991	4	1	1
0c	TOG	-5	2	8	28	1991	8	21	1993	5	2	2
1X	TOG	-2	11	8	22	1993	2	5	2005	5	2	6
1Xa	TOG	-4	5	2	6	2005	5	27	2010	3	2	6
1Xb	TOG	-2	9	5	28	2010	99	99	9999	3	3	7

PITF Problem Events: none

**0a)** April 27, 1960 (independence; one party state) – In accordance with the U.N. General Assembly's resolution of December 1959, the French-administered trust territory of Togoland became independent on April 27, 1960, as the Republic of Togo. Mr. Sylvanus Olympio had founded the *Comité de l'Unité Togolaise* following the Second World War and it won April 1958 elections held in preparation for independence; Olympio served as the country's first Prime Minister. In the country's first elections, held on April 9, 1961, Olympio was the sole presidential candidate and his party's list the only one presented for the Assembly elections. A list submitted by the *Juvento* Movement on behalf of the principal opposition parties, as well as the opposition candidate for president, Maitre Anani Santos, were rejected on the grounds that they had been filed too late; the opposition protested that they had been prevented from registering. The *Juvento* Party was dissolved by presidential decree on January 13, 1962. Olympio's government was overthrown by a military coup on January 13, 1963, and Olympio was killed. Nicholas Grunitsky was installed as provisional president and was subsequently elected president as the sole candidate on May 5, 1963, along with a single list of "National Union" candidates for the National Assembly. The former ruling United Togolese party was accused of plotting to overthrow the government and its leadership was arrested.

**0b)** January 13, 1967 (military coup) – On January 13, 1967, the government of President Grunitsky was overthrown by the military in a bloodless coup. Lt-Col. Etienne Eyadema assumed leadership of the military government. President Eyadema announced on August 31, 1969, that the country would in future have only one political party, and on November 29 he formed the *Rassemblement du peuple togolais*. On May 8, 1974, Eyadema dropped his French forename and assumed his African forename of Gnassingbe.

**0c)** August 28, 1991 (conference for political reform) – Facing increasing opposition, President Gnassingbe Eyadema met with opposition leaders on June 12 and agreed to hold a national conference to restructure the political system. The conference began on July 6 and ended on August 28, 1991, despite an attempt by President Eyadema to suspend its proceedings. The conference adopted an electoral timetable involving a referendum on the new constitution on February 9, 1992, followed by local, legislative and, finally, presidential elections, and elected a Prime Minister to head a transitional government. Some executive powers were transferred to the new Prime Minister, Koukou Koffigoh; however, Eyadema maintained control of the presidency. The conference also announced the dissolution of the Rally of the Togolese People (RPT), the sole legal political party.

**1X) Date of Change to Factional-Autocratic:** August 22, 1993 (presidential election)

**Brief Explanation of Change To:**

Presidential elections were held on August 22, 1993, but were marred by the absence of any real challengers, an opposition boycott, and by allegations of electoral fraud. The candidacy of the main challenger, Gilchrist Olympio, was rejected by the Supreme Court on a technicality on August 5 and most other opposition candidates withdrew in protest, giving Eyadema the election. Opposition parties continued to boycott elections through 2002. On February 5, 2005, President Eyadema died suddenly of a heart attack and, within minutes of the announcement of Eyadema's death, the country's military high command contravened the constitution and declared one of his many sons, Faure Gnassingbé, as the new President. This move triggered a political crisis and international condemnation. In response, Gnassingbé resigned to stand as a candidate in a hastily organized election held on April 24, 2005, which he won easily after the main opposition candidate, Gilchrist Olympio, was barred from running. Violent riots broke out after the election and Gnassingbé responded by offering to form a national unity government with the opposition; the main opposition party refused to join the government. Opposition parties increased their representation in "free and transparent" legislative elections held on October 14, 2007, although the results were strongly disputed.

**Identify Main Factions:**

- *Rally of the Togolese People (RPT)* — ruling party organized in support of President Gnassingbe Eyadema, who had originally seized power in a 1967 military coup. Both the military and the party are largely comprised by members of Eyadema's northern Kabye ethnic group.
- *Opposition to the Eyadema regime* — In the run up to the 1993 presidential election, the opposition was seriously divided and disorganized. The Eyadema regime took advantage of this situation to steal the election for Eyadema. In subsequent legislative elections held on February 6 and February 20, 1994, the allied opposition parties Union for Justice and Democracy (UTD; 7 seats) and the Action Committee for Renewal (CAR; 36 seats) together won a narrow majority over the RPT (35 seats) in the National Assembly. However, Eyadema was able to split the opposition by appointing Edem Kodjo of minor partner UTD as prime minister rather than the CAR candidate. Consequently, CAR left the coalition, and the UTD formed a governing coalition with the Eyadema's RPT.
- Other minor factions:

Underlying the restriction of political voice in Togo is a social system of ethnic cleavages that has long defined politics in this country. There are over 40 linguistically distinct ethnic groups within Togo and most political parties have distinct ethnic and regional bases of support. Of these ethnic groups, the largest and most important are the southern-based Ewe and Mina and the northern-based Kabye.

**Changes within Factional-Autocratic Period:**

**1Xa)** February 6, 2005 (unconstitutional transfer of executive authority) – Immediately following the sudden death of Togo's ruler, Gnassingbe Eyadema, the military declared one of his sons, Faure Gnassingbe, as president in direct contravention of the constitution. International pressure induced the ruling RPT party to try to legitimize the move by, first, retroactively

electing Gnassingbe as Speaker (constitutional successor) and, second, by having him resign and stand for election. Presidential elections were quickly scheduled for April 24, 2005, and the main challenger was barred from running. Gnassingbe won the seriously flawed election with 60% of the vote, triggering riots and charges of massive fraud. Dissent was quickly crushed by the armed forces.

**1Xb)** May 28, 2010 (power-sharing agreement; lifting of restrictions on opposition parties) – Presidential elections were held in Togo on 4 March 2010; incumbent President Faure Gnassingbé was declared the winner over the main opposition Union of Forces for Change (UFC) candidate Jean-Pierre Fabre by a nearly 2-1 margin, stoking opposition claims of fraud and triggering widespread protests, as happened with the previous election in 2005. On 27 May 2010, Gilchrist Olympio, the elder leader of the UFC, announced a power-sharing agreement with the Rally for the Togolese People (RPT) government causing a split in the UFC, with the Fabre-led faction of the UFC rejecting rapprochement.