

## CAMEROON

Polity5 regime codes:

fac	scode	polity	pers	bmon	bday	byear	emon	eday	eyear	exrec	exconst	polcomp
0a	CAO	4	7	1	1	1960	8	31	1966	7	5	5
0b	CAO	-7	6	9	1	1966	5	20	1972	3	3	1
0c	CAO	-8	10	5	21	1972	11	5	1982	3	2	1
0d	CAO	-7	2	11	6	1982	4	8	1984	3	3	1
0e	CAO	-9	4	4	9	1984	4	23	1988	3	1	1
0f	CAO	-6	3	4	24	1988	12	18	1990	3	2	3
1X	CAO	-3	2	12	19	1990	10	11	1992	3	2	7
1O	CAO	-5	26	10	12	1992	99	99	9999	4	2	2

PITF Problem Events:

- 1) 09/66-09/66 (ARC 09/66)
- 2) 09/17-present (ETH 09/17-present)

**0a)** January 1, 1960 (independence) – Prime Minister Ahmadou Ahidjo, who had been elected by the Territorial Assembly of the French Cameroons in February 1958, officially announced the independence of the Republic of Cameroon on 1 January 1960; the country had been under French trusteeship since 1919. Cameroon had been granted home rule on 24 August 1956 following the banning of the Union of the Peoples of Cameroon (UPC) in July 1955 due to the outbreak of armed rebellion. A constitution to establish a presidential system was approved by public referendum on 21 February 1960 and the banning of the UPC was lifted. Legislative elections were held on 10 April 1960 and won by Ahidjo's Cameroonian Union (UC); Ahidjo was elected president by the National Assembly on 5 May 1960 and the UPC became the main opposition party. A UN-sponsored plebiscite was held 11-12 February 1961 in neighboring British Southern Cameroons by which the people of that territory voted to (re)unite with Cameroon as the Federal Republic of the Cameroon on 1 October 1961; the territory's leader, John Ngu Foncha, was named vice president of the federation. In legislative elections held on 24 April 1964 the Cameroonian Union won all seats (40) in East Cameroon and Foncha's Kamerun National Democratic Party won all seats (10) in West Cameroon. President Ahidjo and Vice President Foncha ran on a joint ticket and received 99.95% of the vote in the presidential election held on 23 March 1965.

### Adverse Regime Change: September 1966

**0b)** September 1, 1966 (one-party state) – On 1 September 1966, an agreement was made by President Ahidjo's Cameroonian Union and Vice President Foncha's National Democratic Party along with two other small parties to establish a one-party state led by the (combined) Cameroon National Union (UNC). All other political associations were banned. Foncha withdrew from office and Ahidjo assumed vice president duties in 1970.

**0c)** May 21, 1972 (constitutional amendment) – The federal system was replaced by a unitary system, the United Republic of Cameroon, and approved by constitutional referendum on 21 May 1972; the amendments also increased presidential powers. Paul Biya was appointed prime minister on 30 June 1975.

**0d)** November 6, 1982 (presidential resignation) – President Ahidjo resigned on 6 November 1982 due to health concerns and was succeeded in office by Prime Minister Biya. Ahidjo remained in control of the ruling party and became increasingly critical of Biya.

**0e)** April 9, 1984 (coup attempt; consolidation of power) – Ahidjo appears to have been involved in a thwarted plot to unseat President Biya in August 1983. In November 1983, a constitutional amendment was enacted to allow independent candidates to run for election by gaining broad approval among ruling elites; however, Biya ran unopposed in the 14 January 1984 presidential election. A coup attempt that began on 6 April 1984 resulted in several hundred killed before forces loyal to President Biya managed to put down the rebellion on 8 April 1984. President Biya purged the ruling party and armed forces of disloyal elements, with over one hundred people executed, and consolidated his authority. The name of the ruling party was changed to the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (RDPC) during a party congress held in March 1985.

**0f)** April 24, 1988 (multiple candidates in legislative elections) – In legislative elections held on 24 April 1988 multiple candidates (sanctioned by the ruling RDPC) were listed on the ballot for the first time since 1966; 324 candidates vied for 180 seats in the National Assembly, resulting in the removal of several incumbents.

**1X) Date of Change to Factional-Autocratic:** December 19, 1990 (legalization of political parties)

**Brief Explanation of Change To:**

General dissatisfaction with regime policies and the slow pace of political reform were voiced in large and widespread anti-government demonstrations that began in May 1990. Despite a government decision to ease restrictions on political association on 29 June 1990 and a subsequent decision to allow the legalization of political parties on 19 December 1990, serious social disorder persisted through October 1991. On 9 December 1991, a new electoral law was implemented by the regime that was seen by opposition parties as an attempt to provide advantages for the ruling party in the country's upcoming multi-party legislative elections and opposition parties threatened to boycott the elections. Legislative elections held on 1 March 1992 were boycotted by two of the four main opposition parties, the Social Democratic Front (SDF) and the Cameroon Democratic Union (CDU); the Union of the Peoples of Cameroon (UPC) split with one faction boycotting and the other participating in the elections. The results of the election gave the ruling RDPC less than a majority of legislative seats (88 of 180) with the opposition National Union for Democracy and Progress (UNDP) taking 68 seats and the UPC with 18 seats. The RDPC scrambled to form a coalition with the Movement for the Defense of Democracy (6 seats) to gain a slim majority and form a government.

**Identify Main Factions:**

- *Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (RDPC)* — The ruling Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (RDPC) led by President Paul Biya had held power in Cameroon continuously since the country's independence and as the sole legal party for most of that time. The main strength of the RDPC is among the French-speaking population.
- *Opposition to the ruling RDPC* — Opposition parties were banned in 1966 and were not legalized again until December 1990 in response to widespread social disorder. The UPC has a long history of anti-government agitation beginning with rebellion against the French

trusteeship in the mid-1950s and continuing through the early years of home rule and independence. The Social Democratic Front (SDF) was formed in 1990 and led by John Fru Ndi; its base is among the English-speaking minority of Cameroon, particularly in the northwest. The National Union for Democracy and Progress (UNDP) was established by former prime minister Maigari Bello Bouba and draws support mainly from the north; the UNDP had originally agreed to join the opposition boycott of the 1992 legislative elections but ultimately decided to participate and won 68 seats, second only to the ruling RDPC.

**30) Date of Change from Factional-Autocratic:** October 12, 1992 (presidential election)

**Brief Explanation of Change From:**

The first multi-party presidential election in Cameroon was held on 11 October 1992. Official results claimed that incumbent President Paul Biya of the RDPC won the vote with 39.98% of the votes cast against 35.97% for John Fru Ndi of the SDF and 19.22% for Maigari Bello Bouba of the UNDP. No runoff election was necessary as only a plurality of the vote was needed. The opposition candidates claimed that Ndi had won the election but that the government had stolen the victory through widespread fraud and manipulation of the results and mass demonstrations followed. President Biya acted once again to consolidate his power and either coopt or restrict opposition activities. Subsequent attempts by the opposition to organize against the regime were thwarted. An attempt by the regime to hold a "constitutional consultative commission" with opposition parties in December 1994 collapsed due to a boycott by the opposition. In December 1995 a constitutional amendment was enacted to limit the president to two terms in office, but this term limit was removed in April 2008 to allow President Biya to run in the presidential election held on 9 October 2011. Since the 1992 presidential election, neither President Biya nor the RDPC has been seriously challenged in an election; each of these elections has been characterized by opposition claims of fraud and only the SDF remains a viable opposition party.

**Ethnic War: September 2017 – present**

Anglophone residents of Cameroon's northern and western regions stage protests demanding autonomy from political domination by the Francophone central government of long-ruling President Paul Biya. A harsh crackdown by central authorities stimulates local support for militants demanding the separation of Anglophone areas named Ambazonia.