

Cameroon

1. **Year Achieved Independence:** East Cameroon in 1960 from France, South Cameroon in 1961 from United Kingdom, united in 1961
2. **Political Institutions:** Cameroon's political system relies upon a unitary presidential system with a unicameral 180-seat National Assembly. In 1995, constitutional provisions were made for the instatement of an upper legislative house, termed the Senate, but as of 2008 it has yet to be convened.
3. **Lower Chamber Electoral System:**
 - 1960: Elections held only in East Cameroon
 - 1964-1970: Plurality system in a mixture of single- and multi-member constituencies. The number of constituency votes was designed to favor the ruling party UC.
 - 1966: Opposition parties banned. Cameroonian National Union (UNC) remains as sole legal party from 1966-1985; Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (RDPC) becomes sole legal party from 1985-1990.
 - 1970-1972: Size of multi-member constituencies began following the administrative divisions, while single-member constituencies were unchanged.
 - 1972: Legislative elections held using a national list of UNC candidates. A constitutional amendment provided for a partly indirectly elected, partly appointed upper legislative body to be called the Senate, but it has yet to be established as of 2008.
 - 1988-2008: First-past-the-post system in single-member constituencies and party-list proportional representation system in multi-member constituencies of varying sizes. In multi-member constituencies, a list winning an absolute majority obtains all of the seats. If no absolute majority exists, the list with a relative majority obtains at least half of the seats and the remainder is distributed proportionally according to the Hare quota.
 - 1990: Opposition parties legalized.
 - 1992: Multiparty balloting was introduced, but many opposition candidates were not permitted.

4. Electoral History:

Election Date	Polity Score *	CLEA Data Release
April 10, 1960	-6	
April 26, 1964	-6	
June 7, 1970	-7	
May 18, 1973	-8	
May 28, 1978	-8	
May 29, 1983	-8	
April 24, 1988	-8	
March 1, 1992	-4	
May 7, 1997	-4	√
June 23, 2002	-4	√
July 22, 2007	-4 [for 2006]	

*The Polity Score ranges from -10 to 10, from least democratic to most democratic. Data come from the Polity IV dataset: <http://www.cidcm.umd.edu/polity/data/>.

5. Sources on Electoral History

Banks, Arthur S., Thomas C. Muller, and William R. Overstreet, eds. *Political Handbook of Africa 2007*. Washington, D.C.: CQ P, 2007. 139-151.

Krennerich, Michael, Dieter Nohlen, and Bernhard Thibaut, eds. *Elections in Africa: a Data Handbook*. New York: Oxford UP, 1999. 170-172.

6. Sources of Electoral Data

- 1997-2002: Data collected by David Backer and Ken Kollman from *the Prime Minister's Office, Republic of Cameroon* (http://www.spm.gov.cm/elections/pelect_a.htm).