

Equatorial Guinea

1. **Year Achieved Independence:** 1968 from Spain
2. **Political Institutions:** Equatorial Guinea employs a presidential system with a unicameral legislature, the Chamber of People's Representatives. The country's post-independence history has featured little legislative authority, especially during the 1970s and 1980s, due to the political supremacy of the President. Although opposition parties are legal today, Equatorial Guinea remains a one-party dominant state with opposition groups standing little chance of gaining power.
3. **Lower Chamber Electoral System:**
 - 1968: Closed list proportional representation system elected the 35-seat National Assembly in multi-member constituencies.
 - 1970: Single-party state established by President Francisco Macías Nguema. Worker's National United Party (PUNT) is sole legal party until 1979.
 - 1971: National Assembly ceased to meet in response to radical measures passed by decree by President Macías, who thereupon assumed legislative powers.
 - 1973: 60-member National Assembly established by a new constitution.
 - 1979: Coup led by Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo deposed President Macías and established the Supreme Military Council.
 - 1982: Indirectly-elected National Assembly established by a new constitution.
 - 1983: Non-partisan election for National Assembly.
 - 1987: Single-party state established by President Mbasogo. Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea (PDGE) is sole legal party until 1991.
 - 1988: 41-member Chamber of People's Representatives replaced the National Assembly.
 - 1991: Chamber of People's Representatives membership increased to 80 members. Legislature is elected using party-list proportional representation in multi-member constituencies.
 - 1992: Laws passed that allow for multiple political parties but exclude most exiled political leaders from participation.
 - 1993: Chamber of People's Representatives membership increased from 80 to 100 members.

4. Electoral History:

Election Date	Polity Score *	CLEA Data Release
September 22, 1968	2	
August 28, 1983	-7	
July 10, 1988	-7	
November 21, 1993	-5	√
March 3, 1999	-5	
April 25, 2004	-5	

*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. 335.
- Krennerich, Michael, Dieter Nohlen, and Bernhard Thibaut, eds. *Elections in Africa: a Data Handbook*. New York: Oxford UP, 1999. 353-354.
- Nunley, Albert C. "Elections in Equatorial Guinea." *African Election Database*. 14 August 2006. 22 July 2008 < <http://africanelections.tripod.com/gq.html> >.

6. Sources of Electoral Data:

- 1993: Data collected by David Backer and Ken Kollman from Nohlen, Krennerich & Thibaut (1999).