

Recent African Politicians Cheat Sheet

Version 3.1

African politicians of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Politicians are listed roughly chronologically by the end of their time in their highest position.

Politician	Title, Country	Details
Farouk I	King, Egypt 1936-1952	opposed by the Free Officers Movement ; succeeded Faud I
Kwame Nkrumah	President, Ghana 1960-1966	first president of Ghana; founder of the Non-Aligned Movement ; supported Pan-Africanism
Gamal Abdel Nasser	President, Egypt 1956-1970	built the Aswan High Dam ; nationalized the Suez Canal ; founder of the Non-Aligned Movement ; lost the Six-Day War to Israel
Haile Selassie	Emperor, Ethiopia 1930-1974	exiled 1936-1941 after Italy invaded Ethiopia; protested Italy's use of chemical weapons to the UN; central figure of Rastafari religious movement, called the Lion of Judah
Jomo Kenyatta	President, Kenya 1963-1978	first president of Kenya; accused of planning the Mau Mau Uprising as one of the Kapenguria Six ; wrote <i>Facing Mount Kenya</i> ; promoted the tradition of Harambee , or "all pull together"
Idi Amin	Dictator, Uganda 1971-1979	expelled thousands of Asians from Uganda; allowed the PLO to land a hijacked airplane at Entebbe Airport , which was then raided in Operation Thunderbolt ; declared himself Last King of Scotland
Anwar Sadat	President, Egypt 1970-1981	signed the Camp David Accord ; leader during the Yom Kippur War ; won the Nobel Peace Prize with Menachem Begin
Julius Nyerere	President, Tanzania 1964-1985	first president of Tanzania; helped unify Tanganyika and Zanzibar into Tanzania; fought a war against Uganda under Idi Amin
F.W. de Klerk	President, South Africa 1989-1994	released Nelson Mandela from jail; legalized the African National Congress , leading to the end of Apartheid
Mobutu Sese Seko	Dictator, DRC 1965-1997	renamed the Democratic Republic of the Congo Zaire ; took power after the Congo Crisis
Nelson Mandela	President, South Africa 1994-1999	imprisoned on Robben Island for opposing Apartheid ; won the Nobel Peace Prize with F.W. de Klerk, who released him from jail; at the Rivonia Trial , said "I am prepared to die;" member of the African National Congress party
Daniel arap Moi	President, Kenya 1978-2002	succeeded Jomo Kenyatta as president; burned stockpiles of ivory ; promoted Kenyatta's tradition of Harambee
Goodluck Jonathan	President, Nigeria 2010-2015	first incumbent Nigerian president to lose an an election and concede power; Boko Haram committed bombings when he was sworn into office
Robert Mugabe	Dictator, Zimbabwe 1987-2017	renamed Zimbabwe, which was formerly Rhodesia
Omar al-Bashir	President, Sudan 1989-2019	oversaw the war in Darfur ; lost power in a military coup
Uhuru Kenyatta	President, Kenya 2013-2022	son of Jomo Kenyatta; succeeded by William Ruto in 2022
Paul Kagame	President, Rwanda 2000-	ended the Rwandan genocide by taking power with the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) ; accused of war crimes for invading Zaire in 1996; a Tutsi
Muhamadu Buhari	President, Nigeria 2015-	member of the All Progressives Congress (APC)
Emmerson Mnangagwa	President, Zimbabwe 2017-	nominated as president by the ZANU-PF after the overthrow of Robert Mugabe; formerly served as VP under Mugabe