

AFRICAN LEADERS AFTER INDEPENDENCE

Country	First Ruler After Independence from Colonizer	Ruling Term	How He Left Office
Algeria	President Ahmed Ben Bella	1962-1965	Ousted by force
Angola	President Agostinho Neto	1975-1979	Died in office
Benin	President Hubert Maga	1960-1963	Ousted by force
Botswana	President Seretse Khama	1966-1980	Died in office
Burkina Faso	President Maurice Yameogo	1960-1966	Resigned under pressure
Burundi	King Mwambutsa IV	1962-1966	Ousted by force
Cameroon	President Ahmadou Ahidjo	1960-1982	Resigned voluntarily
Cape Verde	President Aristides Pereira	1975-1991	Replaced by free election
Central African Republic	President David Dacko	1960-1966	Ousted by force
Chad	President Francois Tombalbaye	1960-1975	Ousted by force*
Comoros	President Ahmed Abdallah	1975	Ousted by force
Côte d'Ivoire	President Félix Houphouët-Boigny	1960-1993	Died in office
Republic of Congo	President Fulbert Youlou	1960-1963	Resigned under pressure
Democratic Republic of the Congo	President Joseph Kasa-vubu Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba	1960-1965 1960-1961	Ousted by force Ousted by force*
Djibouti	President Hassan Gouled Aptidon	1977-1999	Replaced by free election
Egypt	King Fuad I	1922-1936	Died in office
Equatorial Guinea	President Francisco Macias Nguema	1968-1979	Ousted by force
Eritrea	President Isaias Afwerki	1993-	Still in office
Gabon	President Léon Mba	1961-1967	Died in office
Gambia	President Dawda Kairaba Jawara	1965-1994	Ousted by force
Ghana	President Kwame Nkrumah	1957-1966	Ousted by force
Guinea	President Ahmed Sekou-Toure	1958-1984	Died in office
Guinea-Bissau	President Luis Cabral	1974-1980	Ousted by force
Kenya	President Jomo Kenyatta	1963-1978	Died in office
Lesotho	King Moshoeshoe II Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan	1966-1990 1966-1986	Ousted by force Ousted by force
Libya	King Sayid Idris al-Sanusi	1951-1969	Ousted by force
Madagascar	President Philibert Tsiranana	1960-1972	Resigned under pressure
Malawi	President Hastings Kamuzu Banda	1964-1994	Replaced by free election
Mali	President Modibo Keita	1960-1968	Ousted by force
Mauritania	President Moktar Ould Daddah	1960-1978	Ousted by force
Mauritius	Prime Minister Seewoosagur Ramgoolam	1968-1982	Replaced by free election
Morocco	King Mohammed V	1956-1961	Died in office
Mozambique	President Samora Machel	1975-1986	Died in office
Namibia	President Sam Nujoma	1990- 2004	Replaced by free election
Niger	President Hamani Diori	1960-1974	Ousted by force

Nigeria	President Nnamdi Azikiwe Prime Minister Abubakar Tafawa Balewa	1960-1966 1960-1966	Ousted by force Ousted by force*
Rwanda	President Grégoire Kayibanda	1962-1973	Ousted by force
São Tomé & Príncipe	President Manuel Pinto da Costa	1975-1991	Replaced by free election
Senegal	President Léopold Sédar Senghor	1960-1981	Resigned voluntarily
Seychelles	President James Mancham	1976-1977	Ousted by force
Sierra Leone	Prime Minister Milton Margai	1961-1964	Died in office
Somalia	President Aden Abdullah Osman Daar	1960-1967	Replaced by free election
South Africa	Prime Minister Louis Botha	1910-1919	Died in office
Sudan	Prime Minister Ismail al-Azhari	1956	Resigned under pressure
Swaziland	King Sobhuza II	1968-1982	Died in office
Tanzania	President Julius Nyerere	1961-1985	Resigned voluntarily
Togo	President Sylvanus Olympio	1960-1963	Ousted by force*
Tunisia	President Habib Bourguiba	1956-1987	Resigned under pressure
Uganda	President Milton Obote	1962-1971	Ousted by force
Zambia	President Kenneth Kaunda	1964-1991	Replaced by free election
Zimbabwe	President Robert Mugabe	1980-	Still in office

NOTE: Table excludes those countries that, due to different circumstances, did not become independent through the postwar decolonization process: Ethiopia and Liberia. “Ousted by force” includes military coups and coups by another armed group. “Died in office” does not include those leaders assassinated during a coup.

*The leader was killed while being ousted.