

## THE POST-INDEPENDENCE RECORD

Prior to World War II, and up until 1950, there were only four independent African states: Ethiopia, Liberia (1847), the Union of South Africa (1910), and Egypt (1922). Today there are 53 independent states in Africa.

1. How many leaders were ousted by force?  
**24**
2. How many leaders resigned under pressure?  
**5**
3. How many leaders resigned voluntarily or were replaced by free elections?  
**11**
4. How many leaders died in office?  
**12**
5. How many leaders are still in office?  
**2**
6. What does it mean for a leader to be overthrown in a military coup?  
**Military coups result in leaders coming to power by force rather than according to an established set of rules. This generally establishes an authoritarian form of government and a degree of political instability as the leader's position must often be maintained through force. A coup also signifies a degree of political instability in that it reflects divisions within the government.**
7. Twenty-nine of the 54 leaders were forced to leave office. Why might this have been such a common occurrence?  
**Answers may vary. Possible answers include that colonialism provided a model of government in which force was used to gain and maintain power. Also, corruption was widespread in Africa after independence and different groups fought to control Africa's vast resources.**
8. What might be the cause of so few leaders being replaced by free elections?  
**Answers may vary. However, a key point is that Africa did not have a history of democracy to draw upon.**