

Annotated Bibliography

Smith, Alex Duval. "Togo Protests: Why Are People Marching against Faure Gnassingbé?" *BBC News*, BBC, 21 Sept. 2017, www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-41332072.

This is a reliable source from BBC News. This article details politics currently in Togo and why there have been many protests regarding the presidential election. Faure Gnassingbe took over for his father in 2005 as head of state. His father had that role from 1967, only a couple of years after Togo became independent. Unlike America, there isn't really a law or anything preventing people from staying in power for their entire lives. This source is important because there has been a borderline tyrant running the country since it became independent. This is a current event that also ties into the history of Togo that will be essential for my story.

"Togo Election Could See President Extend Family's Long Rule." *U.S. News & World Report*, U.S. News & World Report, www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2020-02-22/togo-vote-could-see-gnassingbes-extend-decades-long-rule.

This article is another news outlet. This source reveals more information about the presidential election. It is possible for the new president to be president until 2030 if he keeps getting reelected. His family has been in power for a while and he plans to keep it that way despite protests and disapproval. Togo also excluded itself from the National Democratic Institute based in America, which people believe is foreshadowing the tyranny that may begin there.

“Togo.” *The Immigration Project*, www.immigrationproject.org/immigration-project-news/togo/.

This is an article from the immigration project which helps people from Togo immigrate to America. This article details one person’s story about how and why he came to America. He said that he immigrated for the opportunity. He graduated college here with a political science degree and works in human services. It also details how the coup Gnassingbe Eyadema orchestrated in 1967 led to years of questionable political decisions and corruption. There are a number of other reasons people immigrate to America, that include extreme levels of poverty, the life expectancy being 52, the infant mortality rate being 52 to every 1,000 births, sicknesses like tuberculosis and AIDS still being large causes of death, and more.

“Gnassingbé Eyadéma.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 22 Dec. 2020, www.britannica.com/biography/Gnassingbe-Eyadema.

This source details the life of Gnassingbe Eyadema who was a military leader who seized power in Togo in 1967 through a coup. Gnassingbe serves in the french army. The president in Togo before him, Sylvanus Olympio, refused to allow a group of 626 of the french army veterans to join the small Togolese army. So they assassinated him in a military coup and established a civilian named Nicolas Grunitzky as president in 1963. In 1966, the ewe people tried to stage a coup to retake power but lost. So Gnassingbe and the military took over in 1967 and named him president and minister of national defense. This is important information because this is around the time my parents grew up and this is the craziness that was happening at that time.

“Gnassingbé Eyadéma Biography.” *Togo, Political, Government, and Togolese - JRank Articles*, <https://biography.jrank.org/pages/2747/Eyad-ma-Gnassingb.html>

This source highlights some of the tactics Gnassingbe used to stay in power. For example he won the 1993 general election by a large margin which people thought was sketchy. It was believed that the election was a fake so that the Togolese people would believe they were not under the rule of a tyrant. He built his career around cunning moves like this to stay in power. His political career also includes suspicious assassinations of opposing group leaders, some military coups, and other suspicious murders. He is also a Togo nationalist who has done things like ordering people to have Togolese traditional names.

Al Jazeera. “Togo Changes Law to Let President Stand for Two More Terms.” *Togo News | Al Jazeera*, Al Jazeera, 9 May 2019, www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/5/9/togo-changes-law-to-let-president-stand-for-two-more-terms.

This source is more background information to better understand how it is possible for one person to be able to rule over a country that long. It is not as if Togo is a dictatorship. It is still considered a democracy so technically there should be some sort of law against someone running the country. This website highlights the amendment that allows a president to serve two five year terms but the past terms don't matter. So if one serves 10 years, they can take a 5 year gap and then serve again. This is what allows people to serve for long periods of time in Togo.

“Voting Process of Togo' Presidential Election Concludes in Calmness.” *Xinhua*, www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/23/c_138811149.htm.

This is a past news report on the election in Togo that happened in 2020. It highlights not only the results of the race but also the nature of the people and protests that have occurred. It also shows specific words from some candidates. Of course this source is dated from before the results of the election were revealed but it's interesting to see what people believed the result would be. It's interesting to see that there are candidates from the "opposition" that are candidates that run mainly in order to stop the Gnassingbe line from continuing to run the country.

(www.dw.com), Deutsche Welle. "Togo: President Gnassingbe under Pressure: DW: 08.09.2017." *DW.COM*, www.dw.com/en/togo-president-gnassingbe-under-pressure/a-40415966.

This details the things Togolese people are doing to fight back against the tyranny it is soon to become. They are calling for the resignation of President Gnassingbe. They have held many protests with more than 100,000 people which has never happened in Togo. Although the protests are peaceful, violence has ensued and people have been tear gassed and tased in an effort to end the protests. This reminds me of protests that have happened recently in the US as well. When the people band together, there is always a call to silence them. The Togolese people are still protesting and have no plans of stopping until the president's resignation.

Pike, John. "Military." *Coups in Togo*, www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/togo.htm.

This source gives information about coups that have happened in Togo. It says that from the time Togo became independent from France, they built their independent government with the president being able to have a monopoly on executive power. The first coup that happened in 1963 that Gnassingbe was a part of, they created a new government where

multiple parties representatives can be a part of the national assembly and have some power. The Gassingbe took over in another coup and created another government where he suspended the national assembly and the constitution. This source continues detailing the information of what happened coup after coup in Togo.

Appiagyei-Atua , Kwadwo. *Political Developments in Post Eyadema Togo: A Critical Analysis* . Human Rights Brief , 2005, <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/235404464.pdf>

This source reveals information about what Togo is like after the death of Eyadema. Directly after his death, the military took over and named his son president. They were only able to do that without an election because the president of the national assembly was away in Europe on business. He had been there since before the death of Eyadema. The military appealed to the Togolese people by claiming that since the president of the national assembly was not there then there was a vacuum of power in the country when there was a need for a solid leader. This article continues to detail information about how the current president came to power in Togo after the death of Eyadema.