

University of Lodz
Faculty of International and Political Studies

Abdoulaye Ndiaye MA

Student no. 4684

Democratization processes in Senegal and Mali.

Statement and prognosis

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under the direction of Prof. zw . dr. hab. **Marka M. Dziekana**

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The main issue of this essay is a matter of the state of democracy in the areas of West African countries as an illustration Senegal and Mali were chosen to provide more details. The object of these researches is to analyze the political evolution for each country in the context of democracy political system since the independence days to the present. Reflection on this theme will be focused on the evolution of the democratic system and the democratization process on the basis of comparative analysis. As known, comparative analysis requires a formulation of an hypothesis presumes that compared objects include common and diverse characteristics. From this approach, it should be recalled firstly that the understanding of the compared contents are primordial, then an analysis of the factors explaining the differences according to the common points.

The similarity of political history between these two countries is caused by many factors e.g. geographical location, similarity of cultures, customs, traditions, neighborly relations etc. However, the share of post-colonial thorough fate in the light of competition need to taken into account as well. These are reasons enough to state out the similarities or differences of their political and social organization after recovering their sovereignty.

It would be better to provide a pivotal moment in history, which is the rise of the first kingdoms in this region, from which the actual Republic of Mali and later the Republic of Senegal were established during the thirteenth century. The state of Djolof, named for the central province where an ethnic group of wolof people are dominant, was a vassal of the Mali Empire for much of its early history. The rise of the empire was associated with the growth of wolof power rule by its founder Ndiadiane Ndiaye. Then a prospect of an approximate approach to link earlier political history of both nations to the colonial legacy proximity would give a better purpose to introduce an comparative analysis. In various, complex relationships between these two countries, it's mandatory to characterize social structure similarity, specific political power organization, and similar backgrounds of collective memory, mentality and sense of belonging. The centuries-old relationship undoubtedly gives us a clue as to the characteristics of these communities due to the fact that the momentous events are often followed at the same time in both areas. Both countries have experienced in the same period the contact with Western civilization, at the same time regained sovereignty with more and less the same political vision

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and national movements were striving for independence holding the same political system and form of government.

Since we are contemplating the state of democracy in these two republics, the matter requires special attention to the political and social structure process change to explain the possible causes of the current political situation. The reason for choice of these particular countries as the topic of this paper, is to describe and determinate the political situation, especially in the light of experience of the Malian political instability and the crisis of legitimacy of political power and the Senegalese unfinished phase of power consolidation. Those phenomena will help explaining from the perspective of social science research methodology with the use of political science methods as technical researches. Research questions will be focused around the process of democratization, power consolidation and the state of political and social transformations. My study will be done using different methods of analysis of the problem, among them classification, observation and interpretation according to different theoretical approaches. The purpose of these considerations will carry more clarification and may improve the knowledge about characteristics of democratic system and his specific character in West African countries. By these steps, we will try to consider social behavior in political matter during electoral competitions and citizens participation in electoral processes and decision-making. As a result, it will be possible to make an assessment to the nature and the frequency of citizen's participation in elections and referendums since the 60s to nowadays. I will try to explain how far the social participation in decisions making in political matters can be considered as meeting the requirements and standards of the democratic system.

All these contents during this period will improve clarifying the conditions created by social and political evolution. Based on the results of participation rate in election competitions, I will try to describe the level of evolution of the political system and the development of political culture in mentioned countries. Additionally, I will perform a review of the political reality, beginning from the origins of political parties, concluding with the description of the development of civil society through the implementation of the rule of law. The importance of the parties and their real chance to realize the citizen's will in fair and democratic elections become unavoidable conditions leading to the liberal ideal of a democratic state. Obviously, the issue of adapting the system of Western civilization in regions ether than Western is another

extended highlights of a need of comparison of thought and political philosophy in order provoke a deeper reflection on political progress in Africa. I will study and analyze in the balance the state of democracy in two variants, and with forecasts and diagnosis, I will be able to formulate hypothesis of possible scenario in the near future. It will be necessary to establish the African political philosophy, the idea of Pan-Africanism and assumptions of the African socialism doctrines.

In the first chapter, I will be addressing what was the main spirit of the African thought and political vision. Additionally, I will be appeal to various Western philosophers and political theorists in terms of political philosophy. Every thought, idea or argument that going to appear in the dissertation will be included in my own analysis.

The second chapter is going to be devoted to the analysis of the state of democracy in Senegal and Mali. Finally, in the last chapter I will concentrate to analyzing the problems of democratization in selected countries. A summary of this work is going to be devoted to the presentation of the balance of research and guidance for the future.

Obviously, the most important point of these considerations is the specificity of African realities, traditions and customs. The implementation of the democratic system in non-Western societies encounters many difficulties e.g. in the mentioned countries, where it was experienced as a completely different society than this, observed in Western countries at present. The African continent is mainly characterized by systems based on specific practices like ethnical organization named caste, which further complicates the implementation of democratic institutions. The improvement of civil society is, as well, a demanding challenge. Senegal and Mali are the countries with various degrees of advancement of the consolidation process of political power, and their diversity is a big challenge in this analysis, what become even more interesting in terms of content.

Finally, I will be presenting a summary of the suggestions, where I will try to response more precisely to questions and issues that will surely arise in the course of the study. The process of democratization on the African continent continues. African countries are learning how to live in ideal democracy. While the majority of West African countries gained

independence in 1960, the democratic system is still characterized by the accumulation of many problems.

Central issues approached in this work were not, as of yet, the subject of comparative analysis in the sense in which they appear on the following pages. It is about the analysis of specific issues, a lot of space was devoted to the issues forming the background for the research undertaken here, such as Pan-Africanism and African history and theoretical issues as democracy, democratization, the problem of elites, which are an important point of reference in my work. This applies both to Western studies, as well as Polish and African. For this reason, it can be concluded that the question of the state of research in this context cannot be presented here, the book of Mr. K. Trzciński *Democratization in sub-Saharan Africa*, which, takes up the problem from a different perspective (English speaking West Africa). The study refers to the relevant parts of this work.

The period of democratization was the theater of a variety of institutional transformation, which contrasted with the faith and confidence towards people of political stage and the established institutions. Institutional achievement could be measured through the implementation of certain standards, which can include public consultation, multi-party system, national conferences, democratic transitions, new constitutions, transparent and free elections, the independence of the electoral commission, decentralization of political power, alternations possible on power holding and the formation of the parliament where pluralistic representation is possible. I refer to these democratization processes in order to confirm the difficulty of creating a model of democracy and the amount of time that is consumed to achieve the goal of democratization.

The period from 1960 to 2016 is not an eternity, as the formation of a new system, if we take into account the circumstances of independence issue and the level of education, which is necessary for the reception the values of democracy. It should be recognized that Africa coped gently with various challenges. Mankind naturally tends to settle a socio-political organization, which includes democratic requirements. It must, however, be pointed out that these divide rights and obligations. People under pressure of difficulties of everyday life, will fight for a better tomorrow. As we observed, Mali and Senegal governments leading power for such long time (sometimes 23 years or over 30 years), until the 90s, it happened because of the lack of political

consciousness of the citizens. They did not understand their rights and obligations sufficiently and the terms of the social contract. This was due to, on one hand, illiteracy, lack of interest in political matter and on the other hand, the difficulties to install serious communication with the ruling powers. I believe it is normal to expect that there are going to be some unavoidable changes after 50 years of practice. This happened because of the natural change of the political elite since it can lead for all the time. After half century, people are much more educated and aware of their rights, they begin to look differently on political matters and more and more request more from the leaders.

A democratic state requires legitimacy of leaders, separation of powers and independence of the judiciary. One of the main problems of democratization process in Africa was the lack of alternation at the head of government. In the analyzed examples, we have two diametrically opposed ways of achieving the change of power. The failure of the vision of nation-states has led to democratization. This process is unfinished in the case of Mali, since the establishment of the Second Republic in 1992 there was hope to save the democratic unfortunately another coup in 2012 broke down this system. It was the third coup d'état in the history of that country. Every time it was justified as the defense of the interests of the nation. The problem of institutions in Africa is probably also a great obstacle for the creation of a true democracy. That is the reason that the functioning of African institutions was based on a combination of size, cultural factors and ethical, which proved ineffective in the modern state with regard to the principle of rationality.

Democracies in Africa should be characterized by political and social rationality. A minimum of social justice must be ensured. Achieving this goal should be the main goal of the state. It is necessary to establish the political institutions not just only to guarantee the freedom and security of citizens, as well as to ensure an effective control of the government and its representatives by political pluralism, philosophical, religious decision-making process and the possibility of legal institutional and legal regime change. New institutions must be rooted in local cultures in Africa and create the political space which allows the participation of citizens in the governance process.