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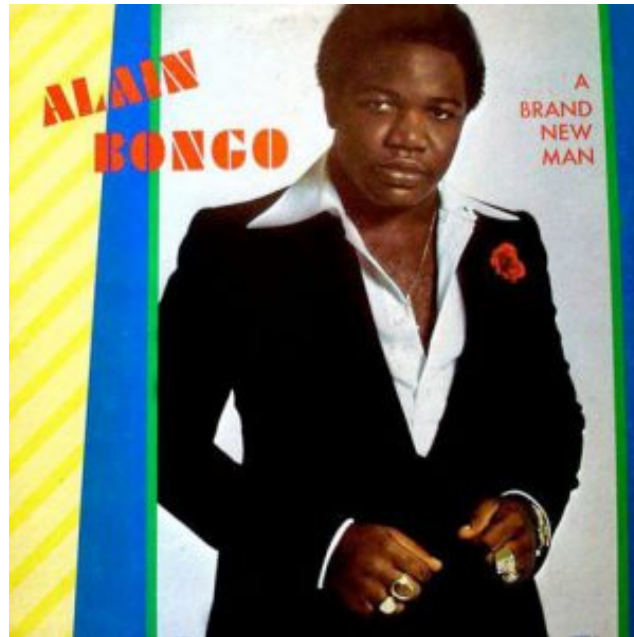
From Niamey to Libreville, from Khartoum to N'Djamena, from Bamako to Ouagadougou and Cotonou, there is no Sankara in sight

In the last series of coups d'état, from Mali to Niger, passing through Burkina Faso, Sudan and Guinea, the military coup plotters did not lead a popular movement, but acted from within the regimes that claimed to want to change, abolish, cleanse, etc. (tomorrow we shave for free).



Seen from the North, which gargles with its democratic comfort, the spectacle of African dictators reaching the end of their rope or have already been overthrown is absolutely hilarious, irresistibly comical and only serves to confirm the comfort of the North. Seen from the South, the spectacle itself is tragic, humiliating and vomitive. The last show was offered by Ali Bongo, formerly Alain Bongo – author of the unforgettable funk & soul vinyl "A Brand New Man" in 1978 – who, planted in a semi-paraplegic state in an armchair in one of his golden rooms, launched a touching appeal to his friends, in English

(he made Gabon enter the Commonwealth last October): "Make noise... make noise...".
(Make noise.)



1978

2023

He had just been "retired" by his cousin, the head of the so-called Republican Guard, actually the Presidential Guard, General Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema, whom he had placed there to replace an embarrassing general he had put at the head of the gendarmerie. Alain-Ali was the dynastic successor of his father Omar (ex-Albert-Bernard), who was sworn in as President in 1967 by de Gaulle and his FrancoAfrican-in-chief Jacques Foccart (1) and died in 2009.

Ali thus became Bongo 2, just as Faure became Eyadéma 2 when his father Gnassingbé (ex Étienne) died in 2005, a former sergeant in the French army who had fought against the Vietnamese and Algerians, and who was brought to power by Foccart in Togo also in 1967, after having assassinated President Sylvanus Olympio in 1963 and a 4-year interlude with Nicolas Grunitzy. Or Mahamat Idriss, who became Déby 2 after the death in combat of his father Idriss, after 31 years as president.

Every time a coup d'état takes place in Africa, questions, speculations and hypotheses arise. The "retirement" of the occupant of the Palais du bord de mer (name of the presidential palace of Gabon) is the seventh coup d'état in Africa in less than 3 years, after those of Mali, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Chad, Sudan and Niger. The question is: who is behind Oligui Nguema? France? USED? Russia?



Macron shakes hands with future "transitional president" Oligui Nguema in Libreville in March 2023

The measured reactions of Macronía (2) and Bidenía (3), unparalleled by the indignation aroused by the overthrow of Bazoum in Niger, suggest the following hypothesis: the Bongo-Nguema clan and company were urged to replace Ali if they wanted to preserve the colossal fortunes accumulated during 56 years of bongocracy and that is why General Nguema got the green light from the usual suspects in Paris, Washington and, why not, London (Commonwealth obliges) to change everything without anything changing.

Coups d'état in Africa follow one another and do not resemble each other; that of Gabon brings to mind two others: that of Ben Ali, who deposed a senile Bourguiba in 1987 "for medical reasons". Ben Ali had been a CIA delivery man in Poland, delivering cash aid to Solidarnosc when he was military attaché in Warsaw. It had been planned that another Tunisian general would depose and replace Bourguiba, but at the last moment the constituents decided to change pawns.

And what happened in March 1991 in Bamako, when Lieutenant Colonel Amadou Toumani Touré ([ATT](#)), head of the presidential guard of the sergeant who had become General Moussa Traoré (brought to power by Foccart in 1968), took him to jail under the pretext of keeping him safe from the revolution that threatened the palace. In this case, it was not a coup d'état, but a revolution launched six months earlier by the people, at the cost of hundreds of martyrs. ATT, in uniform, remained what he was, a teacher, and did not try to maintain himself by force after the transition.

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That said, it is clear that a part of the urban youth supports the coup plotters, in Niamey as in Bamako or Libreville, attributing to them an anti-Franco-African patriotism about which we can allow ourselves to doubt, although of course they are not mistaken in riding this wave, under the watchful eye of the Uled Wagners (who have only one thing in common with the Bolsheviks: they are Russian.)

No, sorry, none of the green or red berets now occupying the "transitional presidential" chairs in the heart of darkness are Thomas Sankara, [Jerry Rawlings](#) or even ATT. Oligui Nguema did not study the classics suitable for it at the Royal Academy of Meknes (Morocco).

Finally, a piece of advice: if they do not want to suffer the fate of Alain-Ali Bongo, Paul Biya (Cameroon) and Denis Sassou-Nguesso (Congo-Brazzaville) should follow the example of Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, the immovable patron of Equatorial Guinea, [who came to power after overthrowing his uncle Macías Nguema in 1979] who, like Bongo, swims in oil and champagne. This other Nguema, to avoid any painful awakening and ensure his dynastic succession through his son Teodorín, has made up a presidential guard made up of thugs from Israel, Zimbabwe and Uganda. But it may already be too late as I write.

PS: According to the 2018 report on champagne wine shipments published by the Comité interprofessionnel du vin de Champagne (CIVC or Comité Champagne), the main consumers of the African continent are the Seychelles, with 350.1 bottles per 1,000 inhabitants, followed by Mauritius (93.4 bottles per 1,000 inhabitants), which is not surprising, since these are two popular tourist destinations among the very wealthy. In third place is Gabon, with 65.9 bottles per 1,000 inhabitants. In 4th place is Equatorial Guinea (28.3 bottles per 1,000 inhabitants), followed in 5th place by Congo-Brazzaville (22.3 bottles per 1,000 inhabitants). A 75 cl bottle of Pommery costs 65 euros in Gabon (average monthly salary: 400 euros).

(1) Jacques Foccart, the man commissioned by Mon Général to make and undo in Africa. Assassinations, coups d'état, looting and pillaging of the French colonial empire passed through his hands, or were authorized and/or supervised by him.

(2) Macronía: the environment of the current French president Emmanuel Macron.

(3) Bidenia: the environment of the current Yankee president Joe Biden.

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