

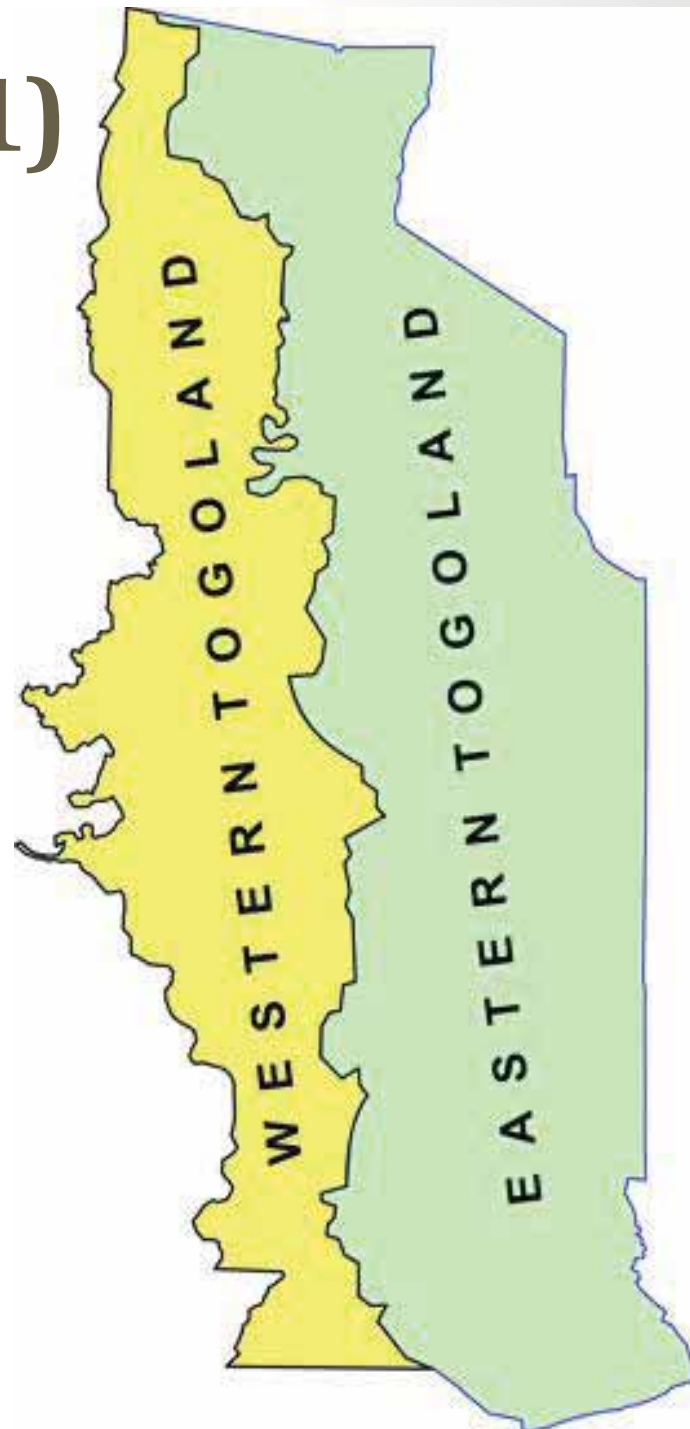
# Political History of Togo

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# Togolands (1919-1921)

- German colony of Togoland from 1884-1914
- Western Togoland; British Togoland (1921-1956)
- Eastern Togoland; French Togoland (1921-1956)
- British Togoland voted for union with Gold Coast in 1956
- French Togoland became autonomous within the French Union in 1956 and gained independence on April 27, 1960



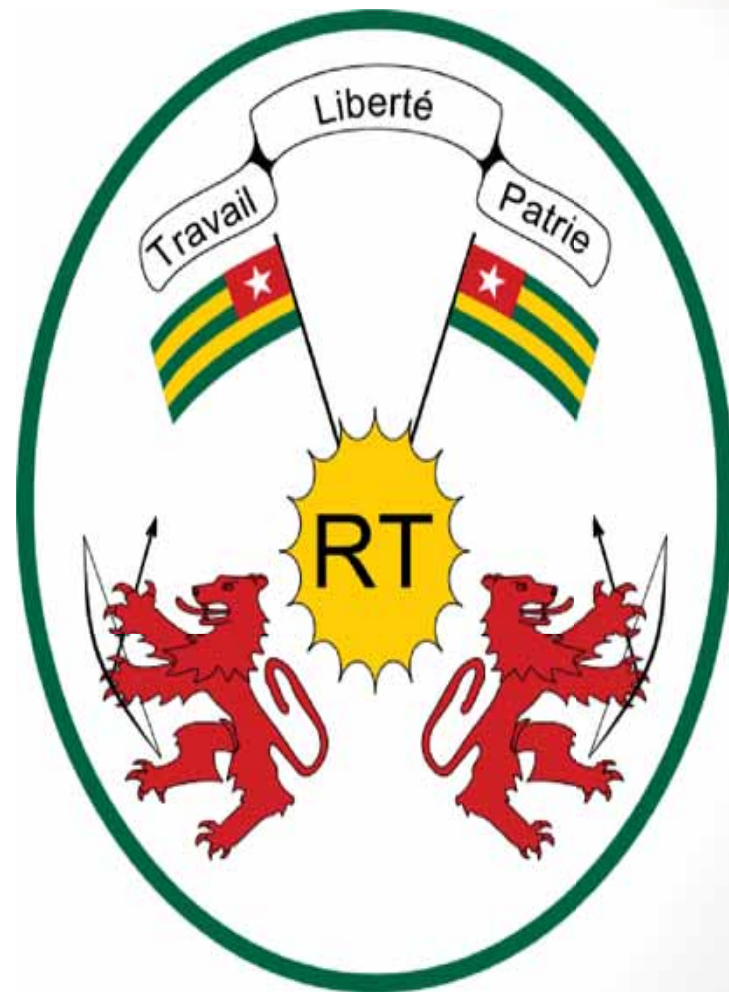
# Geography

- **Location:** West Africa, between Ghana, Benin and Burkina Faso
- **Area:** 56, 385 sq km (land) and 2,400 sq km (water): 56, 785 sq km (**slightly smaller than West Virginia**)
- **Administrative division:** there are 5 regions, 30 prefectures and one commune
- **Capital city:** Lome (population 1, 593 million (2009 est.))
- **Natural resources:** phosphate, limestone, marble.....



# People and Society

- **Population:** 6, 771, 993 (July 2011)
- **People:** There are 37 different ethnic groups, the two dominate groups are the **Ewes (44%)** in the south and the **Kabres (23%)** in the north
- **Languages:** French (*official*), however, Ewe is the widely spoken in the south and Kabre in the north



# Gnassingbé Eyadéma



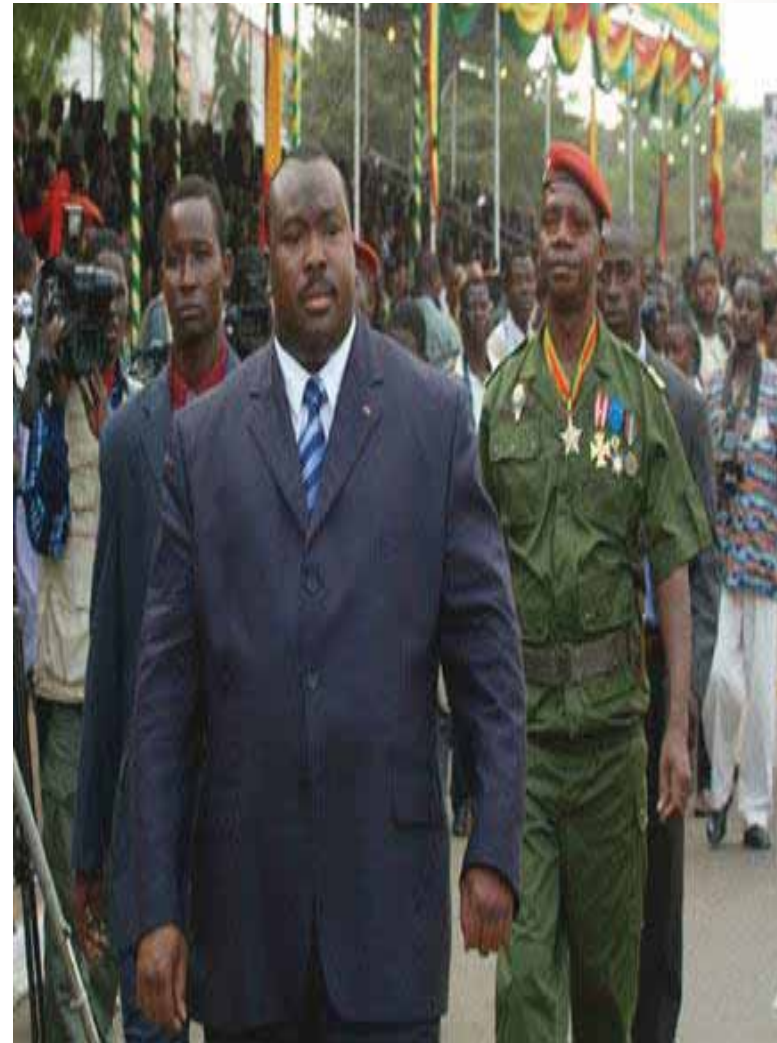
# Faure Gnassingbé

- Born in June 1966
- Educated in University of Lome, Sorbonne (University of Paris) and George Washington University
- President in May 2005 elections and his brother Kpatcha Gnassingbé was appointed Minister of Defense
- He said his father was Kabre and mother is Ewe



# Kpatcha Gnassingbé

- Minister of Defense, and a Depute in the National Assembly
- The heir of Gnassingbé Eyadéma
- Was arrested on April 15, 2007 for attempted coup



# The Togolese Republic

- Colonial legacy:
  - North; underdeveloped; labor reserve, Kabre joined the French Foreign Legion in Dahomey (now Benin)
  - South; developed Ewe dominated the civil service
- Cabinet under Sylvanus Kwami Olympio's Committee of Togolese Unity (CUT)
  - 67%: Ewe
  - 22%: Kabre
- Former French Foreign Legion soldiers wanted integration with the Togolese army

**Sylvanus Kwami Olympio**





# The Second and Third Republic

- January 13, 1963 first coup by Gnassingbé. Nicolas Grunitzky became president and Lt Col.
- On January 13, 1967 Lt. Col Eyadema in bloodless coup removed Grunitzky and became General of the Togolese armed forces and President of the Republic
- 1969; Rally of the Togolese People (RPT)
- Cabinet under Gnassingbé Eyadéma's RPT
  - 42%: Kabre
  - 25%: Ewe

**General Gnassingbé Eyadéma**



# Togo under Eyadéma (1970s)

- The military: 70 percent Kabre, elite units (presidential Guard: 99.9 percent Kabre)
- Politically and economically in the 1970s, Togo was stable compare to Ghana, Benin and Burkina Faso due to the phosphate boom
- Togo became center of international trade and politics
  - Free port zone since 1968
  - Lome Convention, 1975, II, III and IV

Port of Lome



# The Mercenary Plot (1980s)

- 1980s, drop in phosphate price, worsening economy, corruption
- Jerry Rawlings and the “Ewe Menace” Gilchrist and Benito Olympio
  - De Souza Family
  - Lawson Family
- Series of bombings in Lome, followed by commando units from Ghana’s Aflao border
  - French military
- Election of Eyadéma vs. Eyadéma

Gilchrist Olympio



# Democracy in Togo

- 1991: university students, demanded free of speech, assembly. The student were put on trial as terrorists.
- Strikes and demonstrations followed
- 1992; National Conference led by Joseph Koffigoh (Ewe) establish a new constitution in 1992.
- Declared Gnassingbé a ceremonial figure-head and froze his accounts.
- The Presidential Guard held the National Assembly hostage. The opposition called for strikes and asked the French to intervene
- The army and the state is Kabre and the opposition are Ewe political exiles from Europe and U.S.

## The Togolese Armed Forces at work



# Aftermath of the 1992

- Eyadema dissolves National Conference, sparking protests and clashes with the Gendarmes/Military.
- 1992-1993: 250, 000 Togolese Refugees fled to Ghana, another 150, 000 left for Benin
- 1993: France, Germany and the U.S suspend economic and military aid to press for democratic reforms
- 1998: Eyadéma re-elected president

Togolese refugees in Benin

