The Military And Politics In Africa: From Engagement To Democratic And Constitutional Control

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Democracy is a form of government in which the people have the authority to choose their governing legislation. Who people are and how authority is shared among them are core issues for democratic development and constitution. Some cornerstones of these issues are freedom of assembly and speech, inclusiveness and equality, membership, consent, voting, right to life and minority rights. Ghana, the foremost icon of African struggle politics, is now an emerging democracy after a tumultuous experience with military and autocratic rule. Like Somaliland, power there alternates between ruling and opposition parties. Tanzania, another African icon of liberation, albeit through a non-violent liberation movement like Ghana’s, thrives on a culture of peaceful power transfers and competition. Unlike Ghana, power remains within CCM. In Namibia, a stable constitutional democracy emerged after independence from apartheid South Africa in 1990. The ruling SWAPO prioritized reconciliation, accountability, and consultation. These appeared to be threatened in 1998 when the founding president, Sam Nujoma, ran for a third term in office.