

Assignment 1: Founding Fathers

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1. A Note on Country Selection

Students should choose a country to 'specialize in' over the term. The assignments will ask them to compare the experience of their chosen country to other sub-Saharan and developing states. Some assignments will require statistical programming. The R and Stata files available on the *African States Since Independence* website will guide students in preparing figures and tables for those assignments.

2. Assignment Details

Research the founding father of your country. Prepare a slide presentation on the founding father's background, his political vision, and his tenure as a leader.¹ Provide information if he faced any important challengers with either a different vision or a different support base. What happened to this opponent's political career? Finally, discuss how his presidency ended, and whether he successfully advanced his vision. Consult the founding father's biographies or autobiographies, political histories (with suggestions appended to this syllabus), and contemporary news sources to prepare this presentation.

¹ Alas, the first female elected leader in sub-Saharan Africa is Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and not until 2006. Hence, the male pronoun.