## The Color-Coded History of Nigeria

**GREEN = Civilian Rule BLUE = Military Rule RED = Coup START** HERE 2. Coup #1 - 1966 A group of military officers from the 6. Coup #3 – 1975 **16.** Coup #6 – 1993 disgruntled Igbos stage a successful Unamused by Gowon's plan to stay Defense minister and coup but then realize they didn't have in power forever, General Murtala unpleasant man Sani Abacha a plan for after the coup and run away. Mohammed ousts Gowon in a overthrows the weak interim General Ironsi, an Igbo, takes power. bloodless coup and takes power. government and takes over. 3. Coup #2 - 1967 Ironsi, once in power, decides that 8. 1976 Assassination 18. Abacha Dies: 1998 maybe he'll just go the full distance Mohammed assassinated in People cheer as Abacha dies suddenly and try to be a full-fledged dictator failed coup attempt. of heart failure. General Abubakar k? But then the Hausa ethnic group, takes over and brings things back to who had been in power before the civilian rule for the fourth time. **11.** Coup #4 – 1983 coup, stage a counter coup and kill Unimpressed by Shagari's vote-Ironsi, an impediment to his career. rigging douchiness, General General Gowon takes power. **19.** Fourth Republic: 1999 – 2014 Buhari pushes out the civilian The longest period of civilian rule in government and takes power. 4. Civil War: 1967-70 Nigerian history. Given Nigeria's past, this is a delightful turn of events. But The Igbos, out of power again now with Gowon in charge, and with potentially still shady elections **13.** Coup #5 – 1985 happening and a ton of recent religious suffering from brutal ethnic Noting Buhari's unpopularity, violence, Nigeria is still a troubled **INDEPENDENCE** violence, decide to try to be General Babangida just kicks him place. If Nigeria is something you care their own country. This turns out and takes over, cause into a civil war and 3.5 million about, root for fair elections in 2015. apparently you can just do that deaths before the Igbos lose and in Nigeria when you want to. Oct 1, 1960 agree to remain part of Nigeria. Today CIVIL WAR **1. First Republic: 1963-66** 17. Abacha Military **1999-2007:** Obasanjo's **10.** Second Republic: 1979-83 The first crack at a republic does Rule: 1993-99 presidency. For the Despite presiding over an not go well. The new leadership Sani Abacha decides to first time in Nigeria's economic boom due to spiking oil first jails a major opposition history, a civilian model his leadership style prices, the new president, Shagari, leader, then forms an alliance with off of King Joffrey—a lot president is able to runs into trouble and is accused of one of the three major ethnic of people are executed, complete two full vote rigging after winning groups, leaving the third big ethnic the economy stagnates, terms in office. reelection in a suspiciously-large group (the Igbos) out of the loop. and most human landslide. Typical Shagari. freedoms are gone. **2007:** Umaru Yar'Adua wins 5. Gowon Military Rule: 1966-75 the presidency but gets sick After fighting through the civil war, 12. Buhari Military Rule: 1983-85 and dies shortly after. Gowon's rule goes pretty smoothly until Buhari decides to clean up Nigeria's act, in 1974, he decides that instead of the but his harsh disciplinarian-style leadership planned return to civilian rule by 1976, annoys the shit out of everyone. **2010:** Goodluck Jonathan, he will actually just rule indefinitely. He Yar'Adua's Vice President, hopes that will be cool with everyone. takes over and then wins the 14. Babangida Military Rule: 1985-93 2011 presidential election. Babangida promises to return the country to civilian He's currently running again 7. Mohammed Military Rule: 1975-76 rule, but only after he "gets to be the president for in the 2015 election. His General Murtala Mohammed actually does a a while first," which he does for eight years. name is Goodluck Jonathan. good job before he's assassinated. 15. Third Republic: 1993 9. Obasanjo Military Rule: 1976-79 In the most inexplicable move in Nigerian

history, after shifting things back to civilian rule

and watching popular candidate M.K.O. Abiola

win the election, Babangida has a freakout and

nullifies the election, putting a weak military

interim government in place instead.

waitbutwhy.com

Mohammed's chief of staff, General Obasanjo,

who would later become president in 1999,

assumes power and returns the country to

civilian rule in 1979, as promised.