Structure of Government

- National--Presidential Republic
  - President is head of state and government
- Regions--Northern, Central, Eastern, Western
- District--112 in the country (111+ Kampala)
  - Chairperson of the Local Council V
  - National gov’t appoints a Resident District Commissioner
  - May overlap with Kingdom government
- County
- Sub-county
- Village(Parish)--local council I
Notes

- Constitution: Ratified July 12, 1995
- Independence: October 9, 1962
- Branches: Executive--president, vice president, prime minister, cabinet
- Legislative--parliament; since February 2011 375 members: 112 special seats for women, 10 special seats for military, five for youth, and five for persons with disabilities.
- Judicial--Magistrates' Courts, High Court,
Political Parties

• 38 registered parties
• Major parties include
  – National Resistance Movement (NRM, ruling party)
  – Forum for a Democratic Change (FDC)
  – Democratic Party (DP)
  – Conservative Party (CP)
  – Justice Forum (JEEMA)
  – Uganda People’s Congress (UPC)
Principal Government Officials

- President and Commander in Chief -- Yoweri Kaguta Museveni
- Vice President -- Edward Ssekandi
- Prime Minister -- Amama Mbabazi
- Foreign Minister -- Sam Kutesa
- Minister of Defense -- Crispus Kiyonga
- Ambassador to the United States -- Perezi K. Kamunanwire
- Ambassador to the United Nations -- acting
Article by Tangri & Mwenda

• **WHY** is Museveni (like other African leaders) so determined to maintain power?
• Museveni believes he is indispensable for Uganda’s stability & prosperity
  – Stems from role in guerilla National Resistance Movement
• He is fearful of being prosecuted for wrongdoings
  – Material--bribery, contracts to family members
  – Human Rights violations
HOW has he kept power?

- Changes to constitutional term limits
  - Aided by political allies who owe him allegiance
- Highly centralized presidential political system
  - Personally makes all senior appointments
  - Intervenes in state institutions
  - Dispenses public resources without following rules
- “Electoral malpractice” (p. 33)
- Constraints on Civil Society, including media
  - (n.b. Mwenda is an editor of a leading Ugandan paper--the Independent)
- Support from international donors
Evidence of Waning Power?

- Besigye gaining support
- Defection of NRM MPs who find him overbearing
- Many MPs don’t have financial independence needed to challenge Museveni
  - Opposition can tap remittances from abroad
  - Mobilize those dissatisfied with lack of public goods
  - Conflict with Buganda (the place/kingdom) and Kabaka
- N.B. Muganda is a single person from Buganda; Baganda refers to a group of people from there.
International Donors

• Should they maintain their financial and political support?
  – Common religious heritage
  – Anti-terrorism efforts by Uganda
  – HIV efforts
  – Open economic policies

• Does Museveni support or undermine their agendas in East Africa?

• Is supporting him counterproductive?
2011 Election Update

- February 18, 2011, Uganda held its fourth presidential and parliamentary elections since Museveni came to power.
- Seven opposition presidential candidates, including FDC leader Kizza Besigye (the Inter-Party Cooperation candidate) ran against Museveni.
- On February 20, the Electoral Commission declared Museveni the winner with 68% of the vote; Kizza Besigye came in second with 26% of the vote.
Political Issues

• Corruption, corruption, corruption
• Suppression of dissent
  – charges of unlawful assembly, inciting violence, and promoting sectarianism to curtail government critics’ freedom of speech and assembly.
• In April & May 2011, heavy-handed crackdown on peaceful opposition “walk-to-work” protests
  – at least 10 deaths, numerous injuries, and hundreds of arrests, including of prominent opposition leaders.
• July, 2011-- shutdown day by businesses; mainly traders in central business district
Other Political Issues

• September 2009:
  – government restricted travel of the Buganda Kingdom’s prime minister to Kayunga district,
  – incorrect reports of the prime minister’s arrest, sparked 3 days of riots in Kampala
  – left at least 40 people dead and many more injured.

• Anti-gay legislation and US Sanctions
• Kony & LRA in northern Uganda/South Sudan