



African prospects from the recent innovative progressions in democracy and law

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ABSTRACT

Recently, there have been some innovative developments in approaches to democracy and law beyond conventional traditions of Western Europe and the United States, such as the democratic law enforcement approach started and led by Cai in China in support of the theory of armed police, the dual commanding system of the army against coups in China, with the president issuing one command while the congress issues another, and the 2012 proposal to address democratic illegality through the disciplines of specialized parties, including communist parties rectified worldwide by “Marx-MingXun calling for competitive election.” It is highlighted that, recently in Africa, military coups have frequently resulted in changes of government and raised concerns regarding democratic governance. Accordingly, this review examines the potential application of these social developments in Africa to improve law and democracy, while contributing to market-oriented economic development and humanitarian welfare. Using an interdisciplinary review methodology, the study searched related academic social literature and internet-based social resources, and subsequently collected, integrated, classified, and summarized the identified resources for thematic analysis. It was found that: (a) To prevent military coups from seizing national power, the review identifies potential lessons for African countries from the use of armed police as an alternative security arrangement, as in Mauritius, as well as from the dual commanding system for the army. These approaches may warrant consideration in African contexts as potential mechanisms for reducing the risk of military coups, strengthening democratic governance, balancing humanitarian welfare, and consolidating peace and the rule of law in support of market-oriented economic development. (b) With regard to the disciplines of specialized parties, the review suggests that African countries may examine the potential roles of communist parties in addressing democratic and legal challenges while giving attention to poverty reduction and social welfare. It also highlights the electoral successes of progressive parties in presidential elections in Nigeria, Malawi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Burkina Faso, and their policy orientations concerning development and education; and the emergence of justice-oriented parties as leading political forces in Somalia and Mauritania, with potential implications for social equity and peace. The review recommends that African countries consider these social innovations in accordance with their specific institutional, political, and socioeconomic contexts.

Keywords: Armed Police, Army Dual Commands, Humanity, Market Economy, Party Discipline

I. INTRODUCTION

In Africa, in the decade following the end of World War II, the isolated and sporadic movements to resist colonial rule that had started at the beginning of the twentieth century evolved into the large-scale Pan-African social movements, along with the emergence of political parties, labor unions, newspapers, and a new generation of well-educated political

elites (Cooper, 2008; García-Ponce & Wantchekon, 2024). The African Democratic Rally became the important force pushing for independence from France in West and Equatorial Africa, while the Convention People's Party and the Tanganyika African National Union campaigned for independence from the British empire in current Ghana and Tanzania, respectively (Cooper, 2008; García-Ponce & Wantchekon, 2024). These new Pan-African political organizations were also connected to broader international socialist and labor movements, although their ideological orientations varied. One wing was composed of Western European-style socialists, such as Kwame Nkrumah in Ghana, and Julius Nyerere in Tanzania (Cooper, 2008; García-Ponce & Wantchekon, 2024). Meanwhile, other leaders and movements adopted more radical revolutionary and anti-colonial perspectives, such as Frantz Fanon in Algeria, Dedan Kimathi in Kenya and Ruben Um Nyobé in Cameroon (García-Ponce & Wantchekon, 2024).

The strategies adopted during the struggle for independence may have influenced the political system of the newly established independent country. García-Ponce and Wantchekon (2024) recently demonstrated that the current levels of democracy in Africa were statistically linked to the nature of its movements for independence, in that the countries experiencing rural insurgencies tended to have autocratic regimes, while those facing urban protests tended to have more democratic institutions, because participation in armed rebellion may have contributed to political norms characterized by exclusion and the use of coercion, while urban protests enabling participants to develop norms of peaceful political behavior as the cultural bases for democracy (García-Ponce & Wantchekon, 2024).

After 1990 as the end of the Cold War, democratization in Africa, called as "the third wave of democratization" (Akinyetun, 2022), spread once again due to the collapse of the Soviet Union, which made autocratic African countries less internationally supported, and democratic politicians able to play a more decisive role (Akinyetun, 2022; García-Ponce & Wantchekon, 2024). However, recently democratic development has encountered significant challenges in several African countries, evidenced as the rise in third termism, constitutional coups, military coups and digital authoritarianism that has been observed in a number of African countries, suggesting a wave of democratic instability and autocracy (Akinyetun, 2022), related to the spate of bad governance, violent electoral contestation, digital repression and concerns regarding the protection of human rights in a number of African countries (Akinyetun, 2022).

Obviously, recent developments suggest that democratic institutions have experienced varying degrees of weakness or instability in a number of African countries. Notwithstanding, some scholars have questioned the extent to which democracy has contributed to economic and social development in African countries, such as Boundja and Kinzila (2025). This interpretation, however, may warrant further examination in light of comparative international evidence. On economic development, from the experience of successful economic reformation in China, market economy has been the key for fast economic growth of China, with regulation onto economy by government gradually replaced by law (Wu, 2007). Accordingly, African governments may draw relevant lessons from these experiences concerning the relationship between market-oriented economic policies and legal and regulatory institutions. On social development, a major development challenge in many African countries is poverty, while Hemerijck (2025) clearly demonstrated that the welfare state coordinated the advanced capitalism and liberal democracy. Taken together, the market-oriented economic systems require effective legal and regulatory institutions, while social welfare systems may benefit from democratic accountability and institutional checks and balances.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

In the last several decades, the African societies have achieved two important progressive leaps, as the independence of many African countries from colonial governance after the end of World War II (Cooper, 2008; García-Ponce & Wantchekon, 2024), and the third wave of democratization for some autocratic African countries after the end of Cold War and collapse of Soviet Union in 1991 (Akinyetun, 2022). However, socioeconomic development across African countries has progressed unevenly over the past several decades (Boundja & Kinzila, 2025). Recently, some African countries even manifested democratic decline (Akinyetun, 2022).

In accordance, this situation raises important questions concerning the relationship between democracy, governance, and development in African countries. Many African countries were under the colonial control by a few

countries of Western Europe before independence (Cooper, 2008; García-Ponce & Wantchekon, 2024), so that the political doctrines of African countries were much oriented to that of Western Europe, including democracy and law. However, when subjected to the destruction in Africa with more intensive violence and even stronger military coup than those in Western Europe, democratic institutions in some African countries have experienced institutional weakness and political instability (Akinyetun, 2022). This raises questions concerning the applicability and adaptation of institutional models influenced by Western European political traditions to diverse African contexts.

As market economy requiring law while humanitarian welfare requiring democracy, these challenges of democratic governance and institutional decline require further examination. Recently, initiated by the efforts of Zi-Jian Cai to promote democratic governance in China, it has been created many innovative social methods, beyond the traditions of Western Europe and United States, address authoritarian governance and violations of democratic and legal norms, strengthening democratic governance and legal accountability (Cai, 2017, 2018). These innovations may provide a basis for examining alternative approaches that could potentially be adapted to African contexts.

1.2 Research Objectives

- i. To examine recent social innovations relating to democracy and law and assess their potential relevance to African contexts.
- ii. To assess the potential applicability of these social innovations in strengthening democratic institutions, reducing the risk of military coups, and addressing violations of democratic and constitutional norms in Africa.
- iii. To develop recommendations concerning the potential adaptation of relevant innovations to the specific institutional, political, legal, and socioeconomic contexts of African countries.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Review

This paper first introduces the innovative theories and systems recently developed in China for democracy and law which differ in some respects from conventional approaches developed in Western European and United States contexts, as democratic law execution, armed police, army dual commending system, and specialized party disciplines against democratic illegality. The emerging processes or supporting events along with them are also briefly depicted to enhance understanding.

2.1.1 Democratic Law Execution

The United States (US) was the first democratic country without king. Since then, republican movements subsequently emerged in various countries in opposition to monarchical systems. Republican systems subsequently became established in many countries (Cai, 2017). Nowadays, most big countries in the world such as China, India, Brazil, Russia, and so on have all followed US, and established the republic systems. However, some republic countries, like the present China, Vietnam, have retained highly centralized political systems, ruled by party or religion with army. The ruling party or religion can suffer the death of individual leaders, so that such political systems may develop highly centralized forms of political authority. With many members from the ruling party or religion, the military institutions may play a significant role in supporting centralized political authority. In China, the army has supported the autocracy of party for decades of years, such as the June 4th Incident to suppress the protesters on Tiananmen Square in 1989 (Lee, 2012).

Early in 2000 in Shanghai, with such technologies of satellites as thermoacoustic sound and television network for convenience of propagation to public, Zi-Jian Cai started to lead the struggle for democracy in China (Cai, 2017; 2018, p.116). A few days later, Cai found that the country was actually sustained by the paid taxes of Shanghai and other big cities in China, and thereby cited the modern concept “Property of paid taxes” for support in law (Cai, 2017; 2018, p.117). However, the national leaders and governmental newspapers in China at that time neglected this democratic advocacy. Accordingly, Cai proposed that law-enforcement institutions could potentially be mobilized to support

democratic governance, or even to execute the democratic law against autocracy with the violent forces of people. Cai termed this innovative movement as “Democracy calling for law execution in China” or “Democratic law execution in China” (Cai, 2017; 2018, p.125).

This movement influenced some leaders in provinces and cities in China. Before 2005, the leaders of Shanghai, KuangDi Xu and LiangYu Chen, admitted the democracy as law for country (CAI, 2017; 2018, p.389). During the period of 2008-2014, the Muslims in XinJiang, HuaHua Huang and Yang Wang as the highest leaders in GuangDong, the masses, cadres and leaders in the old liberated areas of New Forth Army in Northern JiangSu all supported the democracy as the law of republic country (Cai, 2017; 2018, p.389).

The China Central Television (CCTV) broadcast many art performances, like “The Same Song” (Cai, 2017; 2018, p.147) and “Happy Travel in China” (Cai, 2017; 2018, p.338), in which the artists and audiences thought and spoke the democracy freely. As these were the famous long series of art performances lasting for several years, it is easy to find them as video records in internet from CCTV. For sports, also manifested in television of various globally famous sport games like the games of National Basketball Association in US and European Football Championship, the world athletes and people were highly enthusiastic on it while shouting for international dominance (Cai, 2017), since the democratic situation in China influencing the relative international status of this big country. Likewise, these were the globally famous long series of sport games constantly played from year to year, so that it is easy to find them in video records from their websites.

Theoretical Significance: Before this movement, to realize democracy of country, it had usually adopted the nonviolent march and strike, or the violent revolution and coup. In contrast, authoritarian governments have historically used legal institutions as instruments of governance and security. Meanwhile, the juristic concept that the country belonged to the people was not new either, and had been popular to many socialists. However, such juristic concept had not been adopted as human law force to promote democracy. This time Cai innovatively led the movement of democratic law execution in China, and for the first time resorted to this law force to help the people struggle for democracy. This was a theoretical breakthrough on struggle for democracy, not by revolution, but by law execution.

2.1.2 Theory of Armed Police

In 2001, Cai pointed out that the police reacted by law, earlier and faster than the army following command. Therefore, in peace the police might monitor the generals and officers of army (Cai, 2017; 2018, p.132-133). Due to this advantage of police, it was logic to consider using police to control the army, mimic to use the heavy weapons like missiles, rocket artilleries, helicopters, and so on to arm the police like army. Accordingly, the army could share a portion of budget with the armed police, increasing its efficiency. Later, Cai wrote a theoretical book “Weapons, Armed Troops and War -The Armed Police Winning over the Army”, and published the English version of the book in Germany (Cai, 2016, 2017).

Social Supports: The democratic law execution supports the theory of armed police. Even if the provincial and municipal armed police become too strong and too many, their leaders are in contact with the local people executing democratic law, so that are difficult to perform local autocracy. Thus, via the provincial and municipal armed police, the democratic law execution guarantees the local democracy, so that supports the theory of armed police. Although Mauritius in Africa has already established armed police and abandoned army (“Republic of Mauritius,” 2026), they still need democratic law execution to support the theory of armed police.

2.1.3 The Army Dual Commanding System

(A)The Army Dual Commanding System in China: The army dual commanding system can reduce the army to make coup. In China, the dual commanding system in the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) requires two commanders in cooperation to transfer the command to their subordinates. One commander is proficient at war, while another loyal to the ruling Communist Party. The dual commanding system is adopted in various levels of PLA such as the division, brigade, regiment and so on (Dai, 2009; Zheng & Wang, 2005). In contrast, the highest leader of PLA, the Chairman of

Military Commission, is not operated by the dual commanding system. The Chinese army adopt the responsibility system following the Chairman of Military Commission of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China ("Work regulations of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China", 2020, Article 11). The Chairman can order the highest military command by himself, without the necessity to cooperate with others.

(B) The Suggestion to Transform the Political Commissars of PLA into People's Representatives: In the few years after the June 4th Incident of 1989, Zi-Jian Cai suggested to transform the political commissars of PLA into the people's representatives (Cai, 2018, p. 63), so as to reduce their suppression against democracy. The political commissars of PLA were in duty as loyal to the autocratic Communist Party at that time. As soon as they were transformed to the people's representatives, they would be loyal to the people and democracy. In this regard, it could help settle the conflict of interest between PLA and democracy.

(C) The Army Dual Commanding System and Congress: The congress of US owns the power of declaring war as has been enacted in War Power Resolution (Grimmett, 2010; Zhu, 2003), even though occasionally it did not restrict the president when the president warred outside without declaring war (Zhu, 2005). Notwithstanding, with the War Power Resolution, it is difficult for the US army to war against the congress for autocracy. Like US, the Chinese People's Congress also owns the power of declaring war and state of emergency ("The Powers of Declaring War," 2026), exactly a general command additionally from the congress onto the army. In 2021, while struggling the military officers of PLA from repetitive threatening the democratic Taiwan (Huang, 2021; Shinkman, 2020), Cai adopted the democratic dictatorship of PLA to reduce the offensive energy of them.

The dawn of innovation came out at this moment. The PLA had the dual commanding system (Dai, 2009; Zheng & Wang, 2005), while the People's Congress owned the power of declaring war and state of emergency ("The Powers of Declaring War," 2026). Therefore, it would certainly be easy for the two PLA military officers at various levels to discriminate the illegal command of coup against the congress. Accordingly, along with the democratic dictatorship as the aim of protection by PLA, it transformed the autocratic PLA into democratic via the dual commanding system.

(D) Comparison of Chinese Army and US Army: The US army require the dual approvals from president and congress for war, but they do not have the dual military officers to separate the execution of dual approvals. In 2025, the Trump administration authorized military strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities, raising renewed questions concerning the respective roles of executive and legislative authority in the use of military force (Reid et al., 2025). Accordingly, the US congress cannot restrict the army to voluntarily execute the command of US president, nor prevent the military generals to make coup either. The army dual commanding system in China adds an additional political commissar. It is thus not difficult for the two PLA military officers at various levels to discriminate the illegal command of coup against the congress. In this regard, the Chinese dual-command structure represents a different institutional approach to military accountability and legislative oversight from that of the United States.

2.1.4 The 2012 Proposal to Struggle against Democratic Illegality by Specialized Parties

Even in the democratic country, if the majority of people make the illegal or even criminal supports in election, the democratic decisions would be illegal or even criminal. This is the democratic illegality or democratic crime. The democratic illegality may influence the national policies and budgets by legislation, but the court of law is not able to deal with the democratic crimes.

2012 Proposal: On January 15, 2012, in order to deal with the democratic illegality, Zi-Jian Cai, along with Chinese, suggested that the disciplines of specialized party could directly be utilized to struggle against the democratic illegality in congresses at various levels (Cai, 2017; 2018, p.457).

(A) The global movement of "Marx-MingXun Calling for Competitive Election": For the communist parties to meet the 2012 Proposal, it was fortune that the world communist disciplines were rectified to democracy before 2012. In 2010, in order to rectify the Communist Party of China to overcome their autocracy, Zi-Jian Cai utilized the previous experience of MingXun Cai who had been one of the earliest communists in China to participate in the electoral competition of plant manager, and started the movement of "Marx-MingXun calling for competitive election" (Cai,

2017; 2018, p.442), educating the Chinese communists to let the voters understand and compare the competitive candidates for legal and fair election.

From 2010 to 2014, the movement of “Marx-MingXun calling for competitive election” increased the democratic credits of communist parties in various countries in the world while resisted the autocratic influence of the Communist Party of China. Accordingly, the communist parties in various countries in the world acquired the chance to practice against democratic illegality neglecting poverty and humanity for the first time in history. Therefore, the movement of “Marx-MingXun calling for competitive election” synchronously recovered the communist parties in various countries, such as East Europe (Cai, 2017; 2018, p.471), Brazil (Cai, 2017; 2018, p.464), and so on. On December 3, 2014, considering the international and historical importance for law to struggle against the democratic illegality, it would be safer to segregate the history of “Marx-MingXun calling for competitive election” away from the influence of autocratic China. Accordingly, Zi-Jian Cai decided the movement “Marx-MingXun calling for competitive election” ended successfully (Cai, 2017; 2018, p.474).

(B) The Progressive Party in Taiwan: After the 2012 proposal, for the disciplines of specialized parties to struggle against the democratic illegality in Taiwan, Ing-Wen Tsai led the Democratic Progressive Party to achieve the victory of both 2016 and 2020 presidential elections, becoming the first female president in Taiwan (Lu, 2020). Consecutively in 2024, Lai Ching-Te subsequently led this Democratic Progressive Party to win the presidential election again in Taiwan (Tsuji, 2026), stating that the results of presidential election represented a “victory for the community of democracies” (Tsuji, 2026).

(C) The Justice Party in Pakistan west to China: Pakistan is a country located on the west border of China. In Pakistan, there is a Pakistan Movement for Justice (Tehreek-e-Insaf), one kind of justice parties. In 2018, the Pakistan Movement for Justice won the general election in Pakistan (Adu & Lockett, 2018), which was the first time in history for this party to win general election, with its leader Imran Khan becoming the prime minister of Pakistan at that time (Adu & Lockett, 2018).

2.2 Empirical Review

The research objectives of this review are aimed at examining the potential application of these social innovations in African contexts to reduce the risk of military coups, strengthen democratic governance, and address violations of democratic and legal norms, so as to promote market economy by law and humanitarian welfare by democracy. Army coups usually affect the democracy of country, but, as demonstrated by Hemerijck (2025), democracy is important for balance of humanitarian welfare. Military coups can have significant political, economic, and social consequences for populations in affected countries. Accordingly, army coup is the most pessimistic event and detrimental catastrophe to most people in the country. It is definitely necessary to prevent army coup and protect democracy in Africa.

Unfortunately, even in recent years, there have occurred many events of army coup in Africa to seize the power of country. In 2013, the Egyptian army deposed the elected Egyptian president Mohamed Morsi (Li, 2015; Korybko, 2019). From internet search, it was found that, since 2020, military coups have successfully seized the power of such African countries as Mali in 2020 (“Mali Coup Leaders Vow to Hold Elections as History Repeats Itself,” 2020), Guinea (Zhou & Mutethyain, 2021) and Sudan (Bechert, 2021) in 2021, Burkina Faso in 2022 (Koné & Moderan, 2022), Niger (Djilo & Handy, 2023) and Gabon (Opali, 2023) in 2023, Madagascar (Carter, 2025) and Guinea-Bissau (Sambu, 2025) in 2025. Table 1 lists the African countries in which the military coups successful seizing the national power since 2020.

**Table 1***African Countries with Military Coup Seizing the National Power Since 2020*

Year	African Country	References
2020	Mali	“Mali Coup Leaders Vow to Hold Elections as History Repeats Itself,” 2020
2021	Guinea	Zhou & Mutethyain, 2021
	Sudan	Bechert, 2021
2022	Burkina Faso	Koné & Moderan, 2022
2023	Niger	Djilo & Handy, 2023
	Gabon	Opali, 2023
2025	Madagascar	Carter, 2025
	Guinea-Bissau	Sambu, 2025

With so frequent army coup in Africa recently, it is very much severe. It is obviously important for this review paper to apply the introduced social innovations to Africans to reduce army coup and defend democracy. With regard to struggle against democratic illegality in Africa by 2012 proposal, it is an issue to highlight to Africans how to use the disciplines of various specialized parties to improve their market economy and balance their humanitarian welfare, not only for winners in presidential election, but also for those in congresses at various levels.

III. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

In subsection 2.1 “Review of Innovative Theories and Systems”, it is introduced and classified the recent innovative social theories and systems to deal with the military autocracy and democratic illegality. As the core research objectives, this paper aimed to apply these social innovations correspondingly to control military coup, defend democracy, and struggle against democratic illegality in Africa, supporting market economy and humanitarian welfare. Subsequently, it further recommended the African countries to use these innovations out of their concrete needs.

To realize these research objectives, this interdisciplinary review performed interdisciplinary search across related social academic literature plus internet social resources, then integrated, classified, and summarized the collected resources to achieve conclusion and recommendations.

3.2 Methods for Resource Collections

This paper collected relevant internet-based written news or encyclopedic/governmental/organizational websites, and related academic papers or books.

The written news or encyclopedic/governmental/organizational websites on internet, as the original social resources, were retrieved from the Chinese internet search engine Baidu using such keywords as “Mauritius”, “Africa (or country name) coup”, “communist”, “Africa (or country name) progressive party”, “Africa (or country name) justice party”, and so on.

Academic papers or books were searched from academic databases such as CNKI, Wan Fang in China, and ResearchGate in Germany, using such terms as “Africa economy”, “aid Africa”, “political commissar”, and so on. Google search was blocked to China, so that was not utilized in this paper.

3.3 Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

For internet-based written contents, only the most updated and relevant news or encyclopedic/governmental/organizational websites, together with valid links, were selected for inclusion in the References.

For academic publications, for this interdisciplinary topic, the reviews and meta-analysis papers on progressions in related subfields were the best and most convincing resources. The method of meta-analysis fit investigation of a specific topic in a well-studied subfield, but impractical to review all literatures in all subfields for this interdisciplinary paper. Thus, reviews and meta-analysis papers in related subfields were frequently selected and integrated for demonstration of their progressions. Priority was given to select the newest reviews within last 10 years on comprehensive progressions in subfields. If unavailable or insufficient, reviews more than 10 years ago were selected. If still unavailable or insufficient, a few important original research articles were selected, such as survey-based studies on public views (Lee, 2012).

It turned out that, even though using multinational academic databases, due to lack of sufficient relevant academic articles on Africa, many internet-based written contents, as the news or encyclopedic/governmental/organizational websites with valid links, were indispensable as the original social resources.

These criteria ensured that this study drew upon resources of sufficient credibility, comprehensiveness, relevance, and academic rigor.

3.4 Content Extraction and Thematic Organization

The relevant contents were searched out and collected together, then integrated and classified by democracy, armed police, army dual commanding system and party discipline, and corresponded to application to control military coup, defend democracy, and struggle against democratic illegality in Africa, and further to market economy and humanitarian welfare. Finally, it recommended the African countries to combine these innovations to their concrete needs.

IV. FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

4.1 Prevention of Army Coup in Africa for Democracy

As mentioned in subsection 2.2 Empirical Review, the army coups in Africa were frequent and severe recently. The army coups would much influence the daily lives of most people in the country, thereby most pessimistic and detrimental. It is obviously the issue of priority to apply the social innovations to Africans to reduce army coup and defend democracy.

4.1.1 The Armed Police to Resist Army Coup in Africa

As reviewed above in subsection 2.1.2 “Theory of Armed Police”, the democratic law execution supports the theory of armed police, not afraid of the provincial and municipal armed police to cause autocracy when becoming too strong and too many, due to the contact of provincial and municipal police leaders with the people executing the democratic law. Even if the army coup occupies the central capital, the local provincial and municipal armed police could resist the army coup and protect the provincial and municipal democracy. Therefore, establishing armed police to reduce army would decrease the courage of army to make coup in African countries. Armed police are new and few countries in the present world raise them higher than the army. However, Mauritius in Africa happens to be the few countries discarding army while equipping the armed police as main armed forces (“Republic of Mauritius,” 2026). Other African countries need learn from Mauritius.

4.1.2 Army Dual Commanding System to Resist Army Coup in Africa

As reviewed above in subsection 2.1.3 “The Army Dual Commanding System”, with an additional political commissar in PLA in China, it is easy for the army to discriminate the illegal command of military coup. During the Cold War last century, many African countries made alliance with Soviet Union in a way of maintaining self-independence (Matusevich, 2009). It is short of data on how few African political commissars left till now in African army after collapse of Soviet Union in 1991. Even though a few might exist, they could not be the reliable forces now.



As the political commissars of PLA are all communists, to likewise adopt the army dual commanding system in countries in present Africa, it is appropriate to add an additional congressional commissar to African army instead of the political commissar in PLA at various levels.

4.1.3 Democratic Legislation, Law and International Cooperation for Market Economy

From the experience of successful economic reformation in China, it is necessary to develop market economy for fast economic growth, with the regulation onto economy mainly by law from legislation (Wu, 2007). Accordingly, with the armed police and army dual commanding system to control arm coup, it would create a good democratic environment for market economy in Africa. However, even though it is achieved the democratic law by legislation, it is still necessary to highlight some special supplements to achieve fast economic growth. The followings are discussed with some examples.

Advancing Maritime Regulation for Blue Economy in Africa: In Agenda 2063, the African Union would focus on making use of ocean resources a priority in the new frontier of its blue economy (Nagy & Nene, 2021). It presents Africa with a unique opportunity to achieve its national objectives, to improve regional integration, and to exert influence in the global setting. However, it needs to develop new frames and begin experiments with new policy practices for social and environmental challenges (Nagy & Nene, 2021). With democratic legislative system secured, it is not difficult for related African countries to achieve the goals.

International Cooperation to Prevent International Risks to Africa: Even though the armed police and army dual commanding system able to reduce military coup and defend democratic legislation, favorable to market economy, it only reduces the domestic risk to economy. However, it may happen international crisis of great damage to economy of African countries. For example, the recent military conflict involving the United States, Israel, and Iran starting recently has generated concerns regarding potential disruptions to global energy and food markets (Le, 2026). For these kinds of situations, it is required the African countries to strengthen global cooperation and search international solutions for selves.

4.2 Promotion of Specialized Parties to Improve Democracy and Law in Africa

From the 2012 proposal for using the disciplines of specialized party to struggle against the democratic illegality (Cai, 2017; 2018, p.457), it is obviously necessary to consider promotion of specialized parties to improve democracy and law in Africa for respective humanity and development.

4.2.1 Promotion of Communist Parties in Africa

In the time of Cold War last century, the Soviet Union aggressively supported and allied many African countries for propagation of old communist ideology, such as Kenya, Algeria, South Africa, Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, and so on (Matusevich, 2009). Because of the Soviet collapse in 1991, it lost much of its prominence in these African countries (Matusevich, 2009). However, the communist parties strongly support humanity and ameliorate poverty by disciplines. After recent democratic rectification by “Marx-MingXun calling for competitive election” (Cai, 2017; 2018, p.442), the communist parties have thereby acquired the ability of consolidating the roles of African democracy in humanity and welfare, fitting the needs of democratic African countries.

Today, China is the biggest socialistic country led by the Communist Party of China. Out of the discipline of Communist Party of China to support humanity and improve poverty, China has been aiding African countries for decades of years. On food, in the past 20 years, the efforts mainly focused on agricultural aid, food security resilience, demonstration centers, and so on, while future direction would mainly turn toward capacity building, economic and trade cooperation, agricultural modernization and transformation (Gao et al., 2024; Wang & Li, 2025). On medicine, there have been many scholar papers available in China to help improve the numerous medical aids from China to African countries (Cai et al., 2026; Wang & Song, 2023).

Besides the two pressing tasks for food security and medical capability, environmental protection is also an

important problem the communist party concerning (Wang & Hamid, 2026). It has recently been demonstrated that the sustainable development requires circular design strategies to protect environment in Sub-Saharan Africa (Suleman et al., 2024). In this regard, it is herein suggested that the communist parties in democratic African countries should take the social duty of dealing with environmental protection in addition to food security and medical capability.

Today, in many countries in Africa, such as “Tanzania” (2026), and so on, the communist parties are not known to outside world as active evidently on internet today, while the newly established communist parties after “Marx-MingXun calling for competitive election” have not been large enough to communicate to the world outside. In only a few countries in Africa, the communist parties are manifesting as active nowadays to get known by the outside world via internet, including Kenya(Wang & Liu, 2024), South Africa(SACP South African Communist Party, 2026), Swaziland(“Extraordinary TeleConference of the International Meeting of Communist & Workers Parties,” 2021), Sudan(“Extraordinary TeleConference of the International Meeting of Communist & Workers Parties,” 2021), Egypt(“Egyptian Communist Party,” 2026), Angola(“Partido da Comunidade Comunista Angolana,” 2026), Tunisia(Li, 2018), and so on(Table 2).

For the convenience of African scholars to use, Table 2 lists these few communist parties in Africa preciously available on internet, mainly due to the active search for them by China with the Communist Party as the ruler.

Table 2

The Communist Parties in a Few African Countries Known as Active on Internet

Communist Party	African Country	References
the Communist Party of Kenya	Kenya	Wang & Liu, 2024
South African Communist Party	South Africa	SACP South African Communist Party, 2026
Communist Party of Swaziland	Swaziland	“Extraordinary TeleConference of the International Meeting of Communist & Workers Parties,” 2021
Sudanese Communist Party	Sudan	“Extraordinary TeleConference of the International Meeting of Communist & Workers Parties,” 2021
Egyptian Communist Party	Egypt	“Egyptian Communist Party,” 2026
Partido da Comunidade Comunista Angolana	Angola	“Partido da Comunidade Comunista Angolana,” 2026
Tunisian Workers Communist Party	Tunisia	Li, 2018

It is important to point out that none of African president is elected from the communist parties today. Accordingly, the African communist parties would struggle following their disciplines in congresses at various levels, supporting food security, medicine capacity and environmental protection, influencing the budget balance toward humanitarian welfare. This is the typical struggle against democratic illegality neglecting poverty and humanity. Obviously, it is indispensable for the democratic African countries to promote the establishment of new communist parties.

4.2.2 Usage of Progressive Parties in Africa

Development is the dream of most African countries. Progressive parties fit this goal. After the 2012 proposal to use the disciplines of specialized party to struggle against the democratic illegality(Cai, 2017; 2018, p.457), some African countries elected progressive parties to highest government of country to make full use of their specialty. Remarkably, in Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari led the opposite party All Progressive Congress to achieve the victory of 2015 general election, and he was elected to the president (Adebisi, 2018; Gbadegesin & Onanuga, 2019). Later in 2023, Bola Ahmed Tinubu of All Progressive Congress was subsequently also elected to the president (Busari, 2023). Likewise in Malawi, Mutharika led the Democratic Progressive Party to win the victory of 2014, 2019 and 2025 presidential



election (Ingham, 2026; Huaxia, 2025). In Democratic Republic of the Congo, Félix Tshisekedi led the Union for Democracy and Social Progress to achieve the 2018 and 2023 presidential election (Volle, 2026). In Burkina Faso, Roch Marc Christian Kaboré led the People's Movement for Progress to win the presidential election in 2015 (Arnould, 2015).

Besides those elected to president after 2012 proposal, the progressive parties are also present in many other countries in Africa nowadays, even though having not been elected to president, such as "Tanzania" (2026), Somalia (United Progressive Party, 2026), Zambia (National Assembly of Zambia, 2025), Djibouti (Cutbill, 2026), Burundi ("Burundi--History," 2026), "Rwanda" (2026), "Egypt" (2026), Botswana ("A Frustrating Moment for the Royal Blue Movement," 2020), Central African Republic (Giles-Vernick, 2026), Tunisia (Li, 2018; Salim, 2011), "Gabon" (2000), "Angola" (2026), Namibia ("Political Parties," 2026), Ghana (SpyDa, 2022), Gambia (People's Progressive Party, 2026), and so on. It is easy to find out that the progressive parties are common parties widely distributed in many African countries. Just as the communist parties in Africa, the progressive parties in African countries not elected to president would struggle following their disciplines in congresses at various levels against democratic illegality. As law is important for market economy, the progressive parties would struggle to improve social law system to smooth economic development in Africa. Meanwhile, the progressive parties would also help strengthen education, environment and other civil aspects of society.

For example, the fast spread of digital technologies, artificial intelligence (AI), and algorithmic management systems brings efficiency, innovation, and new jobs, but it is also a source of increased inequalities in terms of skills, gender, access, and algorithmic bias (Yusuph et al., 2026). Recent research highlighted the necessity of inclusive digital policy, reskilling based on target actions, and ethical AI regulation objectives to avoid the further expansion of disparities in the workplace (Yusuph et al., 2026). Obviously, progressive parties would strongly support the target-oriented education for sustainable IT growth in Africa. Considering the wide distribution of progressive parties in Africa, and the success of progressive parties in winning presidential elections in Nigeria (Adebisi, 2018; Busari, 2023; Gbadegesin & Onanuga, 2019), Malawi (Ingham, 2026; Huaxia, 2025), Democratic Republic of the Congo (Volle, 2026), and Burkina Faso (Arnould, 2015), it can be summarized that the African countries have well utilized the progressive parties.

4.2.3 Usage of Justice Parties in Africa

Justice parties are different from progressive parties in specialty and orientation. After 2012 proposal, the justice parties, specialized in social justice for fair and peace, have also become more active in Africa. The Justice and Development Party in Turkey has been winning election to govern the country for many years (Dönmez, 2010). As stronger as and more advanced than the adjacent Moslemic countries, the Justice and Development Party recently sent the Turkish army to African Libya ("Turkey's Parliament Authorizes Sending Troops to Fight in Libya," 2020), to support peacekeeping and reconstruction. In Somalia, former prime minister Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo led the Somali Justice and Equality Party to win presidential election of Somalia in 2017 (Huaxia, 2017). In Mauritania, after elected to leading the government of country, Union Pour la Republique was changed in name to Justice Party (Parti El Insaf) in 2022 ("Mauritania," 2026).

In Morocco, Justice and Development Party won parliamentary election in 2011 before the 2012 proposal (al-Akhssassi, 2017). This party once appeared as a model of pragmatic Islamism, winning elections and leading cross-party coalitions for a decade since then including 2012. Yet policy compromises and an entrenched authoritarian context sparked serious internal divisions and resulted in a heavy electoral defeat in 2021 (McCarthy & Hmimnat, 2025). As a specialized party is oriented to some specific social needs, once the social needs change, the party would lose in election. Thus, it would not be surprised for the recent failure of Justice and Development Party in Morocco. Besides, the justice parties are also present in many other countries in Africa today, even though not elected to the top governmental leaders of country, such as Ethiopia (Xinhua, 2021), Eritrea (Kibreab, 2009), Kenya (Citizen Justice Party of Kenya, 2026), "Uganda" (2011), Sudan (Mu, 2018), Nigeria ("Freedom and Justice Party-2017 Constitution," 2017), Tunisia (Li, 2018), and so on.

Like the communist parties in Africa, the justice parties in African countries not elected to president would

struggle following their disciplines in congresses at various levels against democratic illegality. Advantageous on social justice for fair and peace, it is easy to find out that the justice parties are specialized parties specially needed in some African countries, such as the notable conflicting country Sudan (Mu, 2018). Considering the special need of justice parties in some African countries, and the success of justice parties in becoming highest elected leaders in government in Somalia (Huaxia, 2017) and “Mauritania” (2026), it can be summarized that the African countries have utilized the justice parties well too.

4.2.4 Usage of Other Specialized Parties in Africa

There are a lot of other specialized parties in Africa, notably the development parties such as the Transformative Development Party (2026) in Kenya, Chama cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (Democratic Development Party) in Tanzania (“About Us-Brief history,” 2026), and so on. Development parties are convergent in some specialties with the progressive parties. However, it is easier for the development parties to become autocratic via shifting the social attention too much onto managing economic growth, while the progressive parties can easily reject autocracy as anti-progression of society. In Myanmar adjacent to the southwest border of China, the Union Solidarity & Development Party (USDP) is the pro-military party cooperating with the military autocrats to govern the country (Gateway, 2026). In this regard, it is not considered here for the development parties, but reviewed the progressive parties utilized well in African countries. Other specialized parties are much less common than the above mentioned three specialized parties in Africa; hence it is not considered them here either.

V. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusion

In this review, according to the requirement of market economy for law system while humanitarian welfare for democratic balance, it is applied the recent innovations in democracy and law to promote progressions in Africa. To prevent army coup from seizing the national power, listed in Table 1 as frequent occurring in Africa recently, it is suggested to replace army by armed police like African Mauritius, and also to learn the dual commanding system for army with the president ordering one command while the congress another. It is prospective for African countries to apply these innovations to reduce coup and defend democracy for balancing humanitarian welfare, and to improve peace and law for economic market.

To struggle against the democratic illegality, it was proposed to utilize the disciplines of specialized parties in 2012. In the same period of time, it was promoted the movement of “Marx-MingXun calling for competitive election” in 2010-2014, synchronously reviving the communist parties worldwide, favorable to improve poverty and humanity. However, due to the failure of Soviet Union to collapse, it is necessary to promote establishing new communist parties after “Marx-MingXun calling for competitive election” in Africa, struggling in congresses at various levels against democratic illegality neglecting poverty and humanity. Favorable to development and education, the progressive parties have been utilized well in Africa since 2012, manifesting as the wide distribution of progressive parties in Africa, and the success of progressive parties in winning presidential elections in Nigeria, Malawi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Burkina Faso. Specialized in social fair and peace, the justice parties have also been utilized well in Africa since 2012, manifesting as the special need for justice parties in some African countries like the conflicting Sudan, and the success of justice parties in becoming highest elected leaders in government in Somalia and Mauritania.

5.2 Recommendations

To prevent army coup by establishing the armed police and the army dual commanding system, it is necessary to fit the African situation. For armed police, Mauritius in Africa already armed the police and discarded army, but it is a small country. For big country like South Africa, the armed police may not be proficient at military skills requiring high technology and extensive training like airforce. Thus, these big African countries may establish provincial and



municipal armed police while still maintaining high-tech military navy and airforce. For army dual commanding system, African countries may adopt congressional commissar instead of political commissar in PLA.

It is necessary to promote establishing new communist parties in Africa, for food, medicine and environment. After “Marx-MingXun calling for competitive election”, the new communist parties should choose the most pressing task from these three tasks out of the concrete needs of the country. Promotion of progressive parties would favor economic development and education, while justices parties for social fair and peace, useful to conflicting regions. The African countries should make choice to these two parties based on their own social needs.

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