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DAWN OF A NEW DAY: BENIN'S TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY, 1986

One military coup d'etat, an attempted invasion by French mercenaries, a name change, multiple ideological flip-flops, and a whole lot of Europe's toxic waste later, Matthieu Kérékou's People's Republic of Benin isn't doing so hot. The economy's in the gutter, and there are resounding calls for "the Cuba of Africa" to make a change towards democracy. Old friends and foes are coming back to Benin, including an oddly persuasive archbishop and West Africa's next top econ bro, alongside a whole cast of ambitious and well-connected characters seeking to shape the future of Benin. Will true democracy finally come to Porto-Novo, or will Kérékou make a comeback? Join our committee to find out.

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ANDREW BASTA

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CRISIS DIRECTOR



RITWIK BOSE

CRISIS DIRECTOR

SECRETARIAT OVERSIGHT:

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