"Where are African countries headed politically? How resilient are Africa’s governments, regimes, and states? What are the characteristics of political risk? This paper is motivated by a desire to discover whether it is possible to identify early-warning indicators of risk to African political systems. We suggest that Afrobarometer survey data may be used to systematically track trends in mass political support – such as approval for incumbent governments, satisfaction with political regime performance, and the popular legitimacy of state institutions. Where trends in dimensions of popular disapproval turn sharply upward, we infer increasing political risk. The paper is anchored empirically with 15 years’ worth of public opinion data for selected African countries and offers interpretations of what these observations might mean. The analysis is both retrospective – connecting empirical trends to known episodes of instability in Mali, Kenya, and Zimbabwe – and prospective – raising red flags for countries like Ghana, among others, once considered stable but currently facing new political strains."
for political challenges and change’ that elections entail, inclusive of ‘competition over who can most improve civil liberties and other democratic freedoms’. Lindberg’s optimistic conclusion is that ‘many of Africa’s hybrid regimes may kind of authoritarianism yielded not democracy but a new form of nondemocratic rule’, which are ‘not themselves democratic, or any longer “in transition” to democracy’. The fact that this condition ‘could well prevail for decades’ signifies in turn the ‘end of the transition paradigm’. Constitutional change in the face of substantial opposition within parliament and his own party. Consequently, while they recognize that six other presidents did.

Democratization. Similar conclusions can be drawn from Afrobarometer data. Based on evidence from Afrobarometer public-attitude surveys across 36 African countries, this policy brief shows that (a) Africans prioritize paid employment, social services, infrastructure, and food security; (b) poverty reduction is associated with access to reliable development infrastructure; and (c) beyond specific sector investments, sustainable development requires public trust in institutions built on good governance and political accountability. In the following, evidence-based answers to the above-raised questions and related policy recommendations are drawn from the results of Afrobarometer public-attitude surveys across 36 African countries. “Africans want democracy and they are prepared to push for it,” the former professor of political science at the University of Ghana says. But that’s not just his personal assessment. As co-founder of Afrobarometer, a pan-African research network, he has spent close to two decades conducting public opinion surveys. And they paint a clear picture: seven out of 10 respondents say that they support democracy in Africa. Almost 80 percent reject military rule. The removal of presidential term-limits is also unpopular, with 75 percent of respondents supporting a two-term limit for pre