

## Libya

Vanderbilt

Libya is coded as a non-democracy for the entire observation period. It is considered a monarchy from independence in 1951 until 1969, when it becomes a personalist regime lasting through 2008. Idris I ruled as king at independence as part of the Senussi dynasty (Morby 2002). There is no SOLS change at independence. The only leadership change in Libya occurs in 1969, when Muammar al-Qaddafi staged a military coup against the king. This is a SOLS change. Qaddafi abolished the monarchy and proclaimed the Libyan Arab Republic. The Qaddafi regime has been repeatedly described as a military regime (Ben-Dor, 1975, 320; De Maio, 2006, 16). Yet, according to Geddes, Gaddafi established a personalist regime. Gaddafi ruled as de facto head of state, and continued to rule through 2008. According to the U.S. Department of State, Qaddafi technically holds no official government position, although he is referred to as “Brother Leader and Guide of the Revolution.”

### References:

- “Background Note: Libya.” 2010. U.S Department of State, February 1, 2010. Available from <<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5425.htm>>. Accessed July 19, 2010.
- Ben-Dor G. 1975. “Civilianization of Military Regimes in the Arab World.” *Armed Forces and Society* 1: 317-27.
- De Maio, P. (2006). From soldiers to policemen: Qaddafi’s army in the new century. *Journal of Middle Eastern Geopolitics*, 2, 17-26.
- Morby, John E. 2002. “Libya, Kingdom of” in *Dynasties of the World*. Oxford University Press, *Oxford Reference Online*. Accessed from Vanderbilt University. <<http://www.oxfordreference.com.proxy.library.vanderbilt.edu/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t130.e132>> July 20, 2010.

Coded by Anna Carella July 20, 2010  
Checked by Michaela Mattes 07/27/2010  
Revised by Eelco van der Maat 26/10/2011  
Revised Michaela Mattes 12/17/2011  
Revised by Bryan Rooney 10/17/2012  
Edited by Andrew Wood (Rice) on 5/23/14