

Botswana

Rice

Botswana is coded as a democracy from independence in 1966 until 2008. It is interesting to note that Geddes (1999) coded the country as a single-party authoritarian regime for the same period and Cheibub et al. (2009) do not provided democratic regime type coding for Botswana. Following our coding rules however we treat this as a parliamentary democracy, despite the effective leader being called a president (for details on this arrangement see U.S. Department of State 2010; van Cranenburgh 2013; Nijzink et al. 2013).

The first President (who is elected by being the candidate of the party that wins the most parliamentary seats in each general election) was Seretse Khama, a leader in the fight for independence and a member of the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP). He was reelected twice, but died in office in 1980. At that point, the presidency was taken over by the Vice President, Quett Ketumile Masire, also a member of the BDP, and thus there is no SOLS change. Masire was elected in his own right and reelected three times, serving until his retirement in 1998. The vice-president at the time, Festus Mogae, became President. This involved no SOLS change. Mogae was elected in his own right in 1999, and then was reelected in 2004. Abiding by term limits on the presidency, Mogae stepped down in March 2008. He was replaced by the Vice-President, Ian Khama, also of the BDP. Even though there is a leadership change, this is not a SOLS change as the SOLS remains BDP. Khama was elected in his own right in 2009 and remains in office in the present day.

References

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