

## **Ethiopia**

### **Rice**

Ethiopia was classified as a monarchy from 1855 until 1974. In 1919, Ethiopia was under the leadership of Empress Zaudito, who had been in power beginning in 1916. When Empress Zaudito died in 1930, her cousin Ras Tafari Makonnen, who had been named regent upon her accession, became King, adopting the name of Emperor Haile Selassie. As this kept the throne in the same family/dynasty, there is no SOLS change associated with that transition. In 1936, Ethiopia was occupied by Italy and Emperor Haile Selassie was forced into exile in England. At this point, the leader of Ethiopia became Vittorio Emanuele III (the King of Italy), but no SOLS change occurs when a country becomes occupied.

In 1941, after British and Ethiopian troops forced an end to the Italian occupation, Emperor Selassie returned to the throne. This is also not classified as a SOLS change because there was no change in SOLS from before the occupation. Emperor Selassie remained on the throne until he was deposed in 1974. In that year, following several months of civil unrest, Emperor Selassie was deposed in a military coup led by Aman Andom in September (SOLS change). The government established was called socialist (though it was actually run by the military), and Andom was named the Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council. Geddes classifies this government, which lasted until 1991, as being a military/personalist hybrid. After two months, Andom was briefly replaced by Mengistu Haile Mariam as the Chairman, but after 11 days (from 17 to 28 November), Mariam was replaced by Tafari Benti (no SOLS change). Mariam is not listed on the spreadsheet as being in power during this year.

Three years later, in 1977, Benti was replaced by Mariam again, who at this point also represented the Ethiopian Worker's Party (EWP) along with the military (no SOLS change). Mariam was in power until 1991. In 1987, Mariam's title became President, and he claimed to only represent the EWP, though the classification of the government remains the same. In 1991, several ethnically-based opposition movements joined together to form the Ethiopian People's Democratic Front (EPRDF). The EPRDF advanced on the Ethiopian capital, and Mariam fled the country for Zimbabwe. For four months (between May and August 1991) Tesfaye Gebre Kidan, a member of the EWP, stepped in as Acting President (no SOLS change). The EPRDF then established a transitional government, led by Meles Zenawi (the leader of the Tigre People's Liberation Front, one of the groups which made up the EPRDF) as President. The transitional government lasted from 1991 until 1995, making Zenawi's coming to power a SOLS change. Geddes also classifies Ethiopia as a single-party state, beginning in 1991 and lasting until the present day. When the transitional government's term expired, elections were held, and Zenawi became the Prime Minister (the leading position in the new Ethiopian government). He remains in power to the present day.

It should also be noted that in 1991, after the fall of Mariam's regime, Eritrea, a region in northern Ethiopia, began to be administered by its own provisional government. Eritreans voted for independence from Ethiopia in 1993, and has functioned as an independent country in the time that followed.

## **Sources**

U.S. Department of State. 2010. "Background Note: Ethiopia."

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2859.htm> (Accessed 09/01/2010 and 11/17/2010)

Coded by Meera Krishnan (Rice) on 09/01/2010 and 11/17/2010

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