

Algeria

Vanderbilt

Algeria is coded as a military-single-party-hybrid authoritarian regime from independence in 1962 until 1992, when it becomes a pure military regime. When the country officially became independent from France on July 5, 1962 Benyoucef Ben Khedda of the Front pour la Libération Nationale (FLN) was finishing his term as President of the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic. There is no SOLS change at independence. In September of that same year, Mohamed Ahmed Ben Bella, also of the FLN, was elected president. This is not a SOLS change. Roberts (1992, p. 438) explains: "Within the FLN's state since 1962, it has always been the army, not the party, which has been the principal locus of power, the task of the party being to explain decisions taken elsewhere, not to reason why." There were two more leadership changes during the military-single-party-hybrid regime, in 1965 and 1979; neither are SOLS changes. In 1965, Bella was replaced by the Council of the Revolution, headed by the Minister of Defense, Colonel Boumediene (US Department of State 2010) and in 1979 Benjedid took over. Bouandel (2003, p. 4) describes the FLN during the Bendjedid period as a 'smokescreen', used by the regime. It was the military that brought Bendjedid to power.

A new constitution was adopted in 1989 that opened the political field to opposition parties. The military, threatened by the possibility of defeat in 1991 elections by an Islamic fundamentalist opposition party, shut down the government. The military claimed to defend secular democracy, the Islamists claimed legitimacy through majority rule. Benjedid, the incumbent, was removed from office by the military (Mortimer 1996, 22). The military created a High State Committee (HCE) to serve as the country's leadership for a temporary, two-year period (Mortimer 1996, 26). They appointed Mohamed Boudiaf to serve as its head in 1992. This is a minor SOLS change because the country went from a military-single-party hybrid to a pure military authoritarian regime. Boudiaf tried to use his personal capital as former hero of the independence movement to unify the country as a conciliator. He attempted to both stop a complete military takeover, but also admonished the Islamists for politicizing religion (Mortimer 1996, 27). He was assassinated later in the year. Ali Kafi replaced him. This is not a SOLS change. In 1994 the HCE became the "formal political authority" (Mortimer 1996, 30) with Liamine Zéroual as its leader as Head of State, appointed for a three-year term. This is not a SOLS change. In 1995, Zéroual won elections (that excluded the Islamists) and continued to rule until 1999, when he stepped down prematurely of his own will. Elections were called. Abdelaziz Bouteflika won elections with the military's backing. This is not a SOLS change. In 2004 he was "reelected" and continued to rule through 2008.

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