

Ukraine

Rice

Ukraine achieved independence in 1991 after the coup confusion in Moscow. The leader of the Supreme Soviet in Ukraine, Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk, radically reversed his personal views upon independence. He resigned from the Communist Party and was elected the first president of Ukraine as an independent candidate. His term lasted until 1994.

Kravchuk ran for the presidency again in the 1994 elections, however, he was defeated by another independent, Leonid Danylovych Kuchma. This leadership transition is coded as a SOLS change because, while the men were not from different parties as both were independent, they relied on a clearly shifting basis of support in the electorate. Kuchma stayed in power for two five-year terms.

In 2005, elections that put Kuchma's heir apparent in the presidency were regarded as almost universally corrupt and fraudulent. The following weeks of massive protests and demonstrations are referred to as the Orange Revolution, and they culminated in a reelection that instated Viktor Yushchenko in power (the man believed to be the true victor in the fraudulent original elections), and a SOLS change was coded for his presidency. He led a political party operating under two different names: the Bloc Our Ukraine Party (BYNU) and the Our Ukraine Party (NU). Yushchenko was in power through 2008.

Reference

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Coded by Graham West July 1, 2010

Revised by Bryan Rooney 10/17/2012

Edited by Andrew Wood (Rice) 05/24/2014