

Papua New Guinea

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Before Papua New Guinea (PNG) became independent, it had been governed first as a British and later as an Australian protectorate. We code Papua New Guinea as non-democratic (based on Polity 2008) for the entire observation period but Cheibub et al. code it as a parliamentary democracy. The most notable parties are the centrist Pangu or Papua New Guinea Union Party (PGU); the conservative People's Democratic Movement (PDM) and People's Progress Party (PPP); and the National Alliance Party (NAP) and the People's National Congress (PNC) (Cahoon 2010). These parties may give insight into SOLS changes. Because we code Papua New Guinea as a non-democracy, our coding needs to be based on whether new leaders are pre-designated successors of the previous leader. To the extent that leader come from different parties that compete with one another, they are not likely to have the same SOLS. While this narrative lists members of the coalition governments, we do not code minor SOLS changes in a country that is non-democratic according to our coding rules.

In the first years following independence, Papua New Guinea was led by Michael Somare, a PGU politician that had played an important role before independence. ((His coalition included his PGU, the PPP, the National Party (NP), and the Mataugnan Association (MA) (May 2008, Department of State 2010, Europa World Year Book 2004). Following the first elections in 1977, Somare led a coalition of the PGU and the PPP, which was later exchanged for the UP.)) In 1980, Somare was defeated by Julius Chan of the PPP. (Chan led a five-party coalition that included his PPP, the National Party (NP), the United Party (UP), the Melasian Alliance Party (MAP), and Papua Besana (PB).)

After a period of economic downturn, Julius Chan was replaced by a coalition of the PGU and UP led by Somare in 1982 (Hegarty & King 1983). This is another SOLS change. On March 1, 1985 Somare shuffled his coalition as he was threatened by a vote of no confidence. His new coalition comprised the PGU, NP, and MAP (Europa World Year Book 2004). Somare's new coalition was short-lived however. Following a new vote of no confidence, his coalition was defeated by a diverse five-party coalition (PDM/PPP/NP/UP/MAP) later that year led by Wingti of the PDM. This is a SOLS change. Following the 1987 elections, Wingti's coalition largely continues, only the NP leaves the coalition, on August 11th (Saffu 1988, Europa World Year Book 2004).

In 1988, a vote of no confidence brought down Wingti's cabinet, and resulted in the election of a new PGU coalition consisting of the PGU, PAP, MAP, NP, League of National Advancement (LNA), and Papua Party (PP) under the leadership of Namaliu of the PGU (Europa World Year Book 2004). This is a SOLS change. Following elections in 1992, Wingti came back into power again, this time in a coalition consisting of his PDM and the PPP and LNA. This is a SOLS change. In 1994, Sir Julius Chan of the PPP became prime minister again. (We do not have much information on his coalition but his deputy PM came from the PGU (Faal 2007)). This is a SOLS change. In 1997 Sokare, who had established the new National Alliance Party (NAP), ran against Skate of the PNC and was defeated in elections (Cahoon 2010, Europa World

Year Book 2004). Skate's coalition consisted of the PNC, the PDM, the PPP, and the NGU and his entry into government is coded as a SOLS change. In December 1997 the PPP and PGU declared that they would leave the coalition; however shortly thereafter the PPP and some of the PGU ministers returned to the coalition, restoring its majority in parliament. In April of 1998, Skate merged his party, the Christian Country Party, and several minor parties into a new party: the Papua New Guinea First Party (PGFP). Moreover, in June the PGU officially left the coalition and in October the PPP left as well. In June 1999 the PDM was replaced by the PGU, (Europa World Year Book 2004).)

In late 1999, Skate was defeated in elections by Morauta of the PDM (Kerr 2000). This is a SOLS change. It is not entirely clear what parties were part of Morauta's cabinet. This is indicative of the PNG unstable political situation. Furthermore, informed sources refer to unwieldy cabinets, and multiple reshuffles rather than to the actual parties involved (see Kerr 2000, Tacon 2001). From Faal (2007) we know that the deputy prime minister in Morauta's cabinet came from the PAP. From Chin (2002) we further know that the Advance PNG party (APNG) and the NA were in the coalition as they were removed from the coalition in May 2001.

In 2002 Michal Somare of the NAP was reelected, with his deputy prime minister coming from the PPP ranks (Webster and Duncan 2010). This is a SOLS change. However according to Webster and Duncan (2010) four other deputy PM's have served in the 2002-2007 Somare period. May (2003b) alludes to the fact that Somare's cabinet consisted of as much as eight parties:

Somare's National Alliance had won 19 seats; the PDM had fared badly (as had Pangu), but with 12 seats was the second largest party bloc. In the event, Somare succeeded in putting together a coalition of eight parties [...]

Furthermore we know that following the 2007 elections Somare's coalition consisted of as many as 12 parties as of September 2008 – NAP, PNC, the United Resources Party, PAP, MAP, Rural Development Party, Melanesian Liberal Party, NP, People's Party, Rural Pipol's Party, UP and PGU (Marianas Variety 2008).

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