

Lesotho

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Lesotho is coded as a democracy from independence in 1966 until 1970. There is no Cheibub et al. (2010) coding on democratic regime type for Lesotho; however, the country followed their former British colonizers by adopting a parliamentary system (U.S. Department of State 2010) that would be the model for all future democratic governments in Lesotho (see below and Hassan 2012; International Business Publications 2009; Nijzink et al. 2013).

Chief Joseph Leabua Jonathan of the Basotho National Party (BNP) ruled as the country's first prime minister. In 1970 the BNP looked likely to lose the elections. Jonathon canceled elections and imprisoned his opposition, extending his rule. From 1970 until 1986 the country is coded as a single-party authoritarian regime under the BNP.

In 1986 there is a military coup headed by Justin Metsing Lekhanya. This is a SOLS change because Lekhanya's SOLS is the military rather than the BNP. From 1986 until 1993 the country is coded as a military regime by Geddes. In 1991 Lekhanya was succeeded by another military figure Elias Phisoana Ramaema. This is not a SOLS change. Ramaema transitioned the government back to democracy. In 1993, Ntsu Mokhehle of the Basotho Congress Party (BCP) became prime minister under the democratic government. This is a SOLS change give that Mokhehle did not rely on the military's support but rather on the voters of the BCP. From 1993 until 1998 the country is coded as a democracy. In 1994 Letsie III of the Koena dynasty (Morby 2002) headed a coup backed by the military intended to persuade the government to appoint his father, the former king, to the position of head of state. Letsie was in power less than a month before handing power back to Mokhehle. (This is an "ABA" scenario from the coding rules so we code `solschange=0` for this year but `solschange30=1`).

In 1997, following intra-party conflict in the BCP, Mokhehle and 37 BCP legislators defected from the BCP and started a new party, the Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD - Muller 2011). According to the Commonwealth Observer Group (1999; also Rosenberg et al. 2004 164-5) Mokhehle took about two thirds of the BCP with him to the LCP. A viable BCP remained, as is further supported by the fact that the BCP was one of three major parties in the 1998 elections (i.e. LCD, BCP, and BNP). As per our parliamentary system coding rules we code a minor SOLS change: when the new splinter governs (rather than the old party with the loss of a splinter group) we code a minor `solschange` in a parliamentary system.

The date of the minor SOLS change is June 9 (Deutsche Presse-Agentur 6/16/1997). Bethuel Pakalitha Mosisili, also of the LCD, succeeds him as leader of the party in 1998 and becomes prime minister. This is not a SOLS change. By 1997, Lesotho is not considered a democracy anymore, but Mosisli was the leader that replaced Mokhehle as leader of the LCD party and could thus be seen as a sort of pre-designated successor. He certainly represented the same interests as Mokhehle. The opposition protested the results of the 1998 elections. A review was ordered, and a new system of proportional representation was put in place to ensure a place for the opposition in the parliament (U.S. Department of State, 2010). From 1998 until 2002 the country is coded as non-democratic by us and lacks regime coding by Geddes, suggesting that

the institutional rules at the time were unclear. In 2002, elections were held and we code Lesotho as democratic. Mosisli rules as prime minister for the entire period.

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