

Chad

Rice

In 1960, Chad gained its independence from France and elected its first President, Francois Tombalbaye, a member of the Progressive Party of Chad (PPT). Tombalbaye's time in office is classified by Geddes as being a single-party/personalist regime. In 1965, a civil war stemming from a tax revolt broke out in Chad, and Tombalbaye was unable to quell the fighting. In 1973, the PPT changed its name to the National Movement for the Cultural and Social Revolution (MNRCS, which was also the only legal party). This change does not represent a SOLS change because Geddes codes the country as a Single-party-Personalist hybrid from 1960 to 1975 and there is only one leader- Tombalbaye- during this period. Tombalbaye's regime became more brutal, the military overthrew him in a coup in 1975. The military installed General Felix Malloum to be the next head of state. This is a SOLS change. Malloum's government lasted until 1979, when internal dissent led the prime minister of the northern area of Chad to send troops against the capital city. The ensuing civil war (between eleven different factions) was apparently so pervasive that it made the national government irrelevant (United States Department of State). GWF classifies the period between 1980 and 1982 as "warlordism" in Chad. Officially, other African governments intervened in Chad and organized international conferences to restructure the country. A transitional government was assembled with Goukouni Oueddei, a member of the National Liberation Front of Chad/People's Armed Forces (FROLIANT-FAP) party being named President. Though Oueddei was originally meant to be in office for eighteen months, he was in office until 1982, and thus we classify his time in office as a SOLS change.

Much of Oueddei's time in office was spent in conflict with his minister of defense, Hissene Habre. Habre, a member of the Armed Forces of the North (FAN) party, gained power in 1982 after his forces defeated Oueddei's (SOLS change). Habre's government is classified as personalist, and his main focus while in office was ousting the foreign military forces, especially the Libyan troops, who had been sent in to quell the violence during the Civil War. In 1984, FAN's party name changed to National Union for Independence and Revolution (UNIR). Thus change does not represent a SOLS change because Geddes codes the country as a pure-Personalist regime since 1982 to 2008. There is only one leader in 1984- Habre- who served from 1982 to Dec. 1990. Rivalry between ethnic groups in Habre's government, however, led to Idriss Deby, one of Habre's generals (who was from a different ethnic group than Habre) staging a coup with Libyan assistance in December 1990. This is a SOLS change. Deby is the leader of the Patriotic Salvation Movement (MPS). Deby's government is also classified as personalist, and has remained in power until the present day. Fighting between rebel groups in Chad continues in the present day as well.

References

United States Department of State. "Country Background Note: Chad". January 8, 2010.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/37992.htm>

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