

## Syria

### Rice

Syria was a French protectorate before, during, and after WWII. In 1941, the Syrian Republic was proclaimed, and leaders were already exercising power before formal independence was granted in 1946. The leader in 1946 was President Shukri al-Quwatli, who was backed by the National Bloc (KW). According to Ismael (1970) the ruling part of Kuwatli's party changes from KW to SNP (Syrian National Party).

In 1949, Syria saw multiple changes in government. It is important to note that during this year, Geddes has not coded Syria as any particular type of autocracy, so SOLS changes will be based on the pre-established predecessor rule. In late March, Army Chief of Staff and Brigadier General Husni az-Zaim deposed the president and installed himself as Syria's leader. His reign, which lasted about five months, was a SOLS change because he was backed by the military and the Syrian Socialist National Party, and was certainly not al-Quwatli's appointed successor. In August, az-Zaim was overthrown by counter-coup, and Brigadier General Sami al-Hinnawi took power in a SOLS shift. On December 19, Al-Hinnawi was arrested by Colonel Adib Shishakli (Mil), maneuvering the latter into the country's primary leadership. "On December 19, 1949, army leadership changed hands when Colonel Adib Shishakli arrested Hinnawi and accused him of conspiring with a foreign power--Iraq--against Syrian interests. (Collelo 1988)". While the National Block government of al-Atassi stayed in power for two years formally, Archigos codes Shishakli as effective leader starting in 1949. This is a SOLS change (GWF code the country as an indirect military regime from 1950 to 1951). In 1951, Shishakli appointed his protégé Major General Fawzi Silu as head of state. In 1952, Shishakli created a new political party, the Arab Liberation Movement (ALM) to serve as his personal political organization. In 1953, a new constitution officially named Shishakli the president of Syria.

Contrary to the coding in Cheibub et al. (2010); from 1954 until 1958 Syria is considered a parliamentary democracy (Garnham & Tessler 1995; Zisser 2001). In 1954, the military (now filled with dissidents and enemies of Shishakli) removed Shishakli's dictatorship from power and reinstated democracy to Syria in the form of the previous government under al-Atassi. This leadership change was coded as a SOLS change, because al-Atassi's government lasted for more than 18 months even though it was simply meant to be a transitional government to oversee elections. In 1955, former president al-Quwatli was elected with the backing of the Syrian National Party, signaling a SOLS change as this was significantly different from the previous regime. GWF code Syria as being democracy from 1955 to 1958.

On February 1, 1958, Syria joined in union with Egypt to form the United Arab Republic (UAR – also National Union NU). The change to leadership under Gamal Abdul Nasser of Egypt is not coded as a SOLS change, because Syria was no longer an independent state. On September 29, 1961, a military rebellion saw Syria split from the UAR and return to independence. A provisional government under the presidency of Maamun al-Kuzbari took power until the newly formed assembly could elect a government. Nazim al-Kudsi became the president, backed by the People's Party (HS), in December. This was coded as a SOLS change, as it was a different group from the government before the UAR under al-Quwatli.

Al-Kudsi's government lasted until March of 1962, when a military coup occurred under the leadership of Colonel Abd al-Karim al-Nehlawi. Army General Abdel Karim Zahreddin set up the General Command of the Army and Armed Forces to act as government. GWF code the date that Zahreddin comes to power as the beginning of an indirect military regime. This is a SOLS change. Domestic opposition to the coup forced the military to reinstate al-Kudsi less than a month later. The indirect military regime continues according to GWF, but since al-Kudsi is not a pre-designated successor of Zahreddin, we code a minor SOLS change.

In 1963, the al-Kudsi government was permanently removed as a combination of military and Ba'athist (Arab socialist) forces instigated a coup. The first leader of the new government was Luai al-Atassi, who served only for about four months before resigning. Amin al-Hafiz, a coup leader, stepped up after al-Atassi's departure to serve as president, which basically meant he would be the dictator. The change to al-Atassi is coded as a minor SOLS change as the regime type changed from a military regime to a hybrid of military, single party, and personalist (Ba'athist) regime, but the resignation of al-Atassi was not, because the new Ba'athist regime is a triple hybrid (according to Geddes) and al-Hafez was virtually a pre-designated successor.

The Ba'athists held on to power through al-Hafez until 1966, but internal strife within the party caught up with them. In a bloody 1966 coup, the extreme wing of the party installed a government of civilian leadership under President Nureddin Atassi. This shift was not coded as a SOLS change because, while the change of power was not planned and represented a change of control from significantly different elements within the party, our coding rules hold that so long as Geddes codes a case as a triple threat regime, there is no SOLS change.

In 1970, the leadership reverted in the Ba'ath party and Syria's government back towards the more moderate military wing. Army officers conducted arrests of many of the governing powers, and the leadership of the party designated Sayyid al-Khatib as the head of state. This shift back to a different party wing was not coded as a SOLS change, because the hybrid regime type does not change. After four months, in 1971, al-Khatib stepped down to allow Hafez al-Assad, the military officer who had truly been calling the shots, to formally ascend to the office of president. This was not a SOLS change.

In 1972, the Ba'ath party merged with four other smaller socialist parties to form the Progressive National Front (PNF). The PNF has been in power since the beginning of al-Assad's regime, which lasted until 2000. When al-Assad died of old age after thirty years in power, his son Bashar al-Assad was chosen by parliament to succeed him. This was not coded as a SOLS change.

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