

Rwanda

Vanderbilt

Rwanda is coded as an authoritarian regime from independence in 1962 until 2008, when the observation period ends. Grégoire Kayibanda, a Hutu supremacist and a member of Mouvement Démocratique Républicain-Parti du Mouvement de l'Emancipation Hutu (MDR-PARMEH), ruled as president at independence. During his rule, the country is coded as a single-party authoritarian regime. There is no SOLS change at independence. In 1973, military general Juvénal Habyarimana, also a Hutu, took control of the government. This is a SOLS change since he was not affiliated with the MDR-PARMEH and actually abolished it, suspended parliament, and stopped all political activity (U.S. Department of State, 2009). During his rule the country is coded as a military-personalist hybrid regime. In 1975 Habyarimana's SOLS changes from Mil to MRND (Mouvement Révolutionnaire National pour le Développement). In 1990 Habyarimana expressed an intention to move the country towards a multiparty democracy. Later in the year the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) made up of Tutsi exiles based in Uganda invaded Rwanda. Civil war ensued. Peace talks began in 1992. In 1994 Habyarimana was killed in a plane crash along with the Hutu president of Burundi. This launched the genocide and civil war, killing an estimated 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus (U.S. State Department, 2009). He was replaced by Sindikubwabo (MRND) as acting President (Cahoon, 2010). This is not a SOLS change. Later in the year Paul Kagame, the leader of the RPF, gained control of the country, ending the civil war. During Kagame's rule the country is coded as a military-single-party hybrid regime. The leadership change to Kagame is a SOLS change since power is transferred from Hutus to Tutsis. He rules through 2008 with no further SOLS changes.

References:

Cahoon, Ben. 2010. "Worldstatesmen.org." Available from <<http://www.worldstatesmen.org>>. Accessed June 30, 2010.

U.S. Department of State. "Background Note: Rwanda." 2009. December 28, 2009. Available from <<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2861.htm>>. Accessed June 30, 2010.

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