

## **The Gambia**

Rice

The Gambia (official name: The Republic of the Gambia) gained its independence from Great Britain in 1965. Initially a part of the British Commonwealth, The Gambia became an independent republic in 1970. The Gambia is coded as a democracy from independence in 1965 to 1994. Since Cheibub et al. (2010) do not code a democratic sub-regime type, supplemental sources were used to determine that from 1965 until 1970 Gambia was a parliamentary democracy and from 1970 to 1993 it was a presidential democracy. This variation comes from Gambia initially adopting a Westminster-style parliamentary system only to transition to a presidential system a few years later (Jammeh 2012; Badie et al. 2011)

From independence until 1994, the President of the country was Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara, who was reelected five times. His time in office is classified as democratic by POLITY, but as a single-party state by Geddes. The period was a peaceful one for Gambia, punctuated with one period of violence. In 1981, a failed coup led to the intervention of Senegalese troops to restore order and restore Jawara to office. In 1982, as a result of the coup, the Gambia and Senegal entered into a confederacy, known as the Senegambia Confederation, with the eventual goal of uniting the militaries and currencies of both countries. Gambia withdrew from the Confederation in 1989.

In 1994, Jawara was overthrown in a military coup by the Air Force Provisional Ruling Council, led by Lieutenant Yahya A.A.J. Jammeh. This is a SOLS change. The AFPRC announced a transition back to democratic civilian government, and in 1996, held elections (which were not deemed free or fair). Jammeh was then officially elected as President, as a member of the Alliance for Patriotic Reorientation and Construction (APRC). There is only one leader this year: Jammeh. His SOLS changes from Mil to Alliance for Patriotic Reorientation and Construction (APRC). However, since his ruling is coded as a pure-Personalist regime since 1994, the change from Mil to APRC in this year does not represent a SOLS change. Jammeh remains in power in the present day. It should be noted that in 2001, presidential elections were held that were deemed free and fair, and Jammeh was again reelected. Geddes has coded Gambia as a personalist state under Jammeh from 1994 to the present.

## **References**

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Coded by Meera Krishnan 7/14/2010

Revised by Ashley Leeds 8/1/2010

Revised by Bryan Rooney 10/14/2012

Edited by Andrew Wood (Rice) on 5/23/14