

## South Africa

Rice

South Africa is classified by Geddes as an oligarchy from 1910 until 1994. This is due to the fact that the white European minority in pre- and post-independence South Africa passed laws which restricted the social and political rights of the African majority. From 1948 until 1994, this policy was known as apartheid, and strictly enforced white supremacy and separation between the races. Despite this, South Africa is coded as a democracy from 1945 through 2008 with exception of two years of civil unrest, 1992 and 1993. Cheibub et al. (2010) also do not code a democratic regime type during that time. However, Woldendorp et al. (2000, 467) list it as a parliamentary system until 1984 and van Cranenburgh (2013) confirms that South Africa remains parliamentary.

In 1920, the Prime Minister of South Africa was Jan Christian Smuts, the leader of the South Africa Party (SAP). Smuts had taken office upon the death of his predecessor in 1919. Following strikes in South Africa's mines, Smuts' government lost the next election and a new government was formed under James Hertzog, the leader of the National Party (NP), in a coalition with the Labour Party (SOLS change).

In the elections of 1929, the NP acquired a majority and Herzog consequently formed a single party majority government (minor SOLS change). However, although Hertzog's NP had a majority in parliament, the effects of the Great Depression led Hertzog to enter in a coalition with the SAP in 1933 (US Library of Congress) (minor SOLS change on May 17, 1933). In December 1934, these two parties combined to form the United Party (UP), and Hertzog's SOLS changed accordingly. This is not a SOLS change because it is the same two parties that were in the existing coalition, just officially united and under a different name.

However, the coalition between Herzog and Smuts broke down over disagreement about whether South Africa should join the war in 1939. When Herzog lost the debate in parliament by a narrow margin, his faction left the UP and returned to the NP. By our rules, we code no minor SOLS change here since the Smuts faction maintained the name UP. Thereafter, the UP (now only the SAP-wing) wins the 1942 elections and no further SOLS changes are coded for the remainder of the pre-1945 period (South Africa 2011).

In 1948, the Nationalist Party gained control of Parliament, leading to its leader, Daniel Malan, becoming Prime Minister (SOLS change). There is one leadership change from Smuts to Malan in this year. According to Muller et al (2011), elections in 1948 brought Malan (NP) to power in coalition with the Afrikaner Party (AP). Therefore the SOLS for 1948 is coded as UP, NP/AP. NP/AP remained the coalition in power through 1952. Malan was in office until his retirement in 1954. In 1953, Malan is still the leader but the NP and AP were merged into the National Party (NP).

For one month between October and November 1954, Nicolaas Havenga (who is not listed in Archigos, and who is listed as "acting" on worldstatesmen.org) assumed the office of Prime Minister. In November, Johannes Strijdom became the new leader of NP, and became the Prime Minister. Strijdom was in power until his death in 1958, prompting another one-month period of an "acting" Prime Minister, Charles Swart. On 3 September, Hendrik Verwoerd became the leader of the NP, and became Prime Minister. He held office until his assassination on 6 September 1966, at which point Theophilus Dönges became the acting Prime Minister. Dönges was in office for one week, until Balthazar "B.J." Vorster was named the new head of

NP. Vorster remained in office until his retirement in 1978, when he was replaced by Pieter Botha.

Botha promulgated a new constitution in 1984, which allowed for “colored” and Asians to have some limited political rights (by establishing separate houses of Parliament for each of these groups), though blacks remained without said rights.<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that upon the establishment of the tricameral parliament, the Liberal Party (LP) took control of the “colored” house, while the National People’s Party (NPP) took control of the Asian house. However, the white cabinet and government still held ultimate authority—it was not a coalition between the three houses. The constitution also abolished the office of Prime Minister, and instead expanded the role of the State President, making the holder of that office the chief executive of South Africa. Botha then assumed that office. In sum, the SOLS for 1984 is solely NP because there is only one leader: Botha (Prime Minister) in this year and there is no leadership change. However, a post of PM was abolished on Sep. 14, 1984. In other words, Botha was a PM until that date, but after that date, he became State President. But, we do not need to indicate two SOLSs for him. In January 1989, Botha suffered a stroke that left him unable to perform his duties as President. The office was taken over by J. Christian Heunis (listed as “acting”) between January and March, when Botha resumed office. In August of 1989, Botha resigned, and was replaced by Frederik de Klerk, also a member of the NP (no SOLS change).

De Klerk began the process of removing the apartheid policies. In 1990, he un-banned anti-apartheid groups. The next year, he abolished the last remaining apartheid laws. After two years of negotiations, a new constitution was enacted in December 1993, which allowed for the political participation of all racial groups. Elections were held in 1994, and Nelson Mandela, the leader of the African National Congress (ANC) became President (the executive was no longer called the “State President”) (SOLS change). At this point, Geddes no longer codes South Africa as an oligarchy.

In 1999, Mandela stepped down as the leader of the ANC. Later that year, the new leader of the ANC, Thabo Mbeki, won the presidential elections and assumed office (no SOLS change). Mbeki was reelected in 2004. In 2007, he lost the bid for a third term as ANC chair, and resigned as President in September 2008. For one day (25 September), Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri was acting President (she is not listed on the spreadsheet, and probably should not be added). Worldstatesmen also lists the next President, Kgalema Motlanthe (the new head of the ANC), as coming into office on 25 September. Motlanthe served out the remainder of Mbeki’s term, remaining in office until 2009.

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<sup>1</sup> United States Department of State

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Coded by Meera Krishnan (Rice) on 09/04/2010 and 10/27/2010  
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