

Moldova

Rice

In 1991, after the collapse of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Moldova declared itself independent. President Mircea Ion Snegur negotiated to avoid conflict with Russian president Boris Yeltsin. Although appointed to the presidency by the Supreme Soviet in 1990, Snegur was elected through presidential elections in 1991 as an independent. He received early political support from the Popular Front, but broke off his connections to this party to join the Agrarian Democratic Party (ADP) in 1994 (Europa World Yearbook 2009). Tensions within the ADP led to a split in 1995, and Snegur led the winners in the new Party of Revival and Harmony (PRH; also Party of Revival and Accord of Moldova – PRAM; also Party of Revival and Consolation -- PRC) while the ADP became a more pro-Moscow force. This is a minor SOLS change. The PRH can be considered a break-away faction of the ADP.

In 1997, Petru Lucinschi ran as an independent and won against Snegur, indicating a SOLS change as the PRH was no longer backing the leader. In the following elections in 2001, Vladimir Voronin took the presidency, backed by the Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova (PCRM), who had been steadily gaining influence throughout Lucinschi's term. This election was a SOLS change as a result of the party change.

Major sources including the Archigos data set as well as Cheibub et al show that power shifted in 2001 from the presidency to the position of Prime Minister. This change occurred on April 19, 2001 with the appointment of Vasile Petru Tarlev to the position. There was no SOLS change upon his appointment, as he was a member of the PCRM. The next leader transition was Zinaida Greceanii, whose appointment on 31 March 2008 also with the PCRM required no SOLS change.

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