

The Gambia

Vanderbilt

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). There is no SOLS change at independence. The country during this period was ruled by Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara of the People's Progressive Party (PPP). (It is interesting to note that Geddes considers this to be a single-party regime, but given our coding decision to follow Polity we treat this country as a democracy until 1994.) In 1994, the country becomes an autocracy of a personalist nature, according to Geddes (1999) after a bloodless coup d'état headed by Yahya Abdul-Azziz Jemus Junkung Jammeh. This is a major SOLS change. Jammeh remained the leader from 1994 through 2008 and beyond. Geddes (1999) has coded the country as a personalist regime from 1994-2008. In 1996, a combination of international and domestic pressures pressed Jammeh to return the country to civilian rule (Saine 2002, 168). His SOLS changes from Mil to Alliance for Patriotic Reorientation and Construction (APRC). However, because Jammeh's leadership is coded as a pure personalist regime, the change from Mil to APRC does not represent a SOLS change for 1996.

References:

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