

Yemen People's Republic

Vanderbilt

Yemen People's Republic, also known as South Yemen or Yemen (Aden), is coded as a single-party authoritarian regime from independence in 1967 until 1990. The country was ruled by Qahtan Muhammad al-Shaabi of the National Liberation Front (NLF) at independence. There is no SOLS change at independence. In 1969, Salem Ali Rubayyi, NLF, became Chairmen of the Presidential Council. This is not a SOLS change.

In 1975, the NLF merged with the local PDU and Ba'thists groupings and formed the UPONF (United Political Organisation of the National Front) (Al-Hamdani, 1985, p.14). In 1978 Ali Nasir Muhammad Husani, UPONF, took power. The UPONF became the Hizb al Ishtiraki al Yaman (HIY) (also Yemeni Socialist Party - YSP) under the leadership of Husani in October (Ishiyama 2005). Later that year Abdul Fattah Ismail of the HIY took power. Accordingly, this is not a SOLS change since the country is ruled by a continuous regime of the same party. Between 1978 and 1990 there are two leadership changes: in 1980 when Ali Nasir Muhammad Husani, HIY, took power and in 1986 when Haidar Abu Bakr al-Attas, HIY, took power. Neither of these are SOLS changes. In 1990 the country is considered an authoritarian regime, but is missing Geddes regime type coding. Attas continued to rule for the duration of the year. This regime transition is not a SOLS change. 1990 is the last year in the frame for Yemen People's Republic; henceforth it merged with North Yemen to become simply Yemen.

Note: it seems true that Yemen People's Republic from 1967 to 1990 was characterized by factional divisions of the party, although Geddes codes the PRY as a single-party system for its entire existence. With regard to this point, we have contacted to our regional expert to ask whether the factional divisions between the leftists and rightists in this single-party system were considerably extreme and should be considered as composing separate SOLSs. Our regional expert told us that while it is true that the factional divisions were deep and based along tribal line, it is difficult to define how much this should be seen as a real change in SOLS. Therefore, we keep our coding (i.e., single-party with no SOLS changes).

References:

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