

## **Moldova**

### **Vanderbilt**

Moldova is coded as an autocracy from independence in 1991 until 1993. Geddes has not coded a particular regime type for this period. "Parliament passed legislation authorizing the direct election of the president in late 1991" (Roper 2008, 116). On December 8, 1991 Mircea Ion Snegur, Non-Party, ran unopposed and was elected (Crowther 1998, 161). Moldova became independent on December 26, 1991. There is no SOLS change at independence. (There is also no leader change since Archigos codes Snegur as being in office in 1990). From 1993 until 1997 Moldova is coded as a parliamentary democracy. This is odd since Archigos codes the president (i.e. Snegur) rather than the PM as leader. It appears that Roper (2008) agrees with Archigos: "the country has moved from a parliamentary (1990 –1991) to semi-presidential (1991 – 2000) and back to a parliamentary regime (2000 to the present) within a decade." In any case, there is no SOLS change during this period since Snegur is in office the whole time. 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). This is not a SOLS change. In 1995, he split from ADP and help form the new Party of Revival and Harmony (PRH; also Party of Revival and Accord of Moldova – PRAM; also Party of Revival and Consolation – PRC). This is a minor SOLS change. The PRH can be considered as a break-away faction of the ADP.

From 1997 until 2000 Moldova is considered a mixed presidential/parliamentary democracy by Cheibub et al. In the 1996 elections, Snegur tried to incite nationalist sentiment by campaigning on a pro-Romanian platform, while the Speaker of the Parliament Petru Chiril Lucinschi, Non-Party, appealed to moderates with "ethnic accommodation" and a "moderately pro-Russian stance" (Crowther 1998, 158). Lucinschi won elections and acceded to the presidency in 1997. According to Way (2003) the elections were "bitterly fought" (130). Lucinschi was not Snegur's pre-designated successor. Accordingly, this is a SOLS change. Lucinschi was not affiliated with any particular party.

According to the U.S. State Department (2009), in 2000 "Parliament passed a decree making Moldova a parliamentary republic, with the president elected by Parliament instead of by popular vote." "In 2001, the Communists drove through a constitutional amendment that prevented Lucinschi from running for a second term as president and abolished the election of the president by popular vote. The Communists won the ensuing election and, as parliament's dominant force, propelled Voronin into the presidency (Eftode 2009.)" From 2000 until 2008 Moldova is considered a parliamentary democracy. However, in 2001, Archigos first codes the outgoing President Lucinschi then the PM Tarlev as the effective leader. Following Archigos, we do not include Voronin and code a SOLS change from Lucinschi (Non-party) to Tarlev (PCRM) in 2001.

In 2008 Greceaniil, also PCRM, becomes president. This is not a SOLS change.

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