Mali
Rice

Mali gained its independence from France in 1960. At that point, Modibo Keita, a member of the Sudanese Union-African Democratic Rally party (US-RDA) and an individual who had dominated pre- independence politics, became President and immediately made Mali into a single-party state (which is what Geddes also classifies the country as during this time). In 1968, Keita was overthrown in a bloodless coup led by Lieutenant Moussa Traore. This is a SOLS change. Traore at first was the head of the Military Committee for National Liberation, and held the title of President. From 1968 until 1991, the country remains a personalist authoritarian regime under Traoré. Because it is a pure personalist regime, the change from Mil to UDPM in 1976 does not represent a SOLS change. In 1974, a new constitution created a single party state, and presidential elections were held in 1979. Traore won the elections as a member of the Democratic Union of the Malian People party (UDMP). GWF code Mali as a personalist state until 1991 (and provisional in 1992) .

In 1991 there is a coup by a pro-democracy reform-minded member of the military, Amadou Toumani Touré. Under pressure from pro-democracy agitators (Smith 2001, 74), he formed the Transitional Committee for the Salvation of the People (CTSP), which he headed and which guided the country to democracy. Because he became part of a "transitional" government (Cahoon 2010; Smith 2001, 74; U.S. Department of State 2010), he should be considered an interim leader and accordingly, there is no SOLS change for 1991. In June 1992, elections were held and Alpha Konare, a member of the Alliance for Democracy in Mali (ADM) was elected President. This is a SOLS change. Konare was reelected in 1997, and then could not run again due to constitutional term limitations. Touré, still a member of the CCD, was elected president in democratic elections in 2002, This is a SOLS change. He was reelected in 2007.

On March 22, 2012, a faction of the military, upset with how government was handling rebel activity in Northern Mali, launched a coup led by Amadou Haya Sanogo against President Amadou Toumani Touré (Nossiter 2012). Shortly after the coup, Sanago signed a deal with ECOWAS to return country to constitutionally rule with junta having supervisory role (Al Jazeera 2012). Because the military was in power for less than 30 days, we code the coup as a 30 day SOLS change. Dioncounda Traoré was named interim president of the interim government charged to lead the country ahead of elections (CNN 2012). Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta was elected president in 2013 (BBC News 2013). The transition from Sanago, the coup leader, to Traoré is not coded as a SOLS change because Traoré was an interim leader. The transition from Traoré to Keïta is coded as a SOLS change because Keïta had a different political affiliation and source of support from Touré, the leader prior to the interim and the short lived military coup.

Sources

Al Jazeera. 2012. "Mali's Military Leaders 'Repel Counter Coup'." Al Jazeera. https://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2012/05/2012514022453752.html (December 19, 2019).

BBC News. 2013. “Ibrahim Boubacar Keita Wins Mali Presidential Election.” BBC News. https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-23677124 (December 19, 2019).

Cahoon, Ben. 2010. “Worldstatesmen.org.” Available from <http://www.worldstatesmen.org>. Accessed June 30, 2010.

CNN Wire Staff. 2012. “Mali Swears in New President, Restores Civilian Rule.” CNN. https://www.cnn.com/2012/04/12/world/africa/mali-unrest/index.html (December 19, 2019).

Nossiter, Adam. 2012. “Soldiers Overthrow Mali Government in Setback for Democracy in Africa.” The New York Times. https://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/23/world/africa/mali-coup-france-calls-for-elections.html?mtrref=undefined&gwh=CEFF5A053C1CD288A73F551511003EF5&gwt=pay&assetType=REGIWALL (December 19, 2019).

Smith, Zeric Kay. 2001. “Mali's Decade of Democracy.” Journal of Democracy 12/3: 73-79.

United States Department of State. “Country Background Note: Mali”. Last edited 18 March 2010. http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2828.htm

Coded by Meera Krishnan 7/14/2010
Updated by Naoko Matsumura 06/13/2012
Updated by Matt DiLorenzo 07/23/2012
Revised by Bryan Rooney 10/14/2012
Edited by Andrew Wood (Rice) 05/23/2014
Edited by Kristin Bryant to include information about 2009-2018 period coded by Alex Pugh on 08/08/2020