Bulgaria
Rice

In 1919, Bulgaria was a monarchy under Tsar Boris III, of the House of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. Boris III had come to power in 1918, upon the abdication of his father, Ferdinand I. The political situation in Bulgaria was slightly unstable during the years of his rule—the Bulgarian communists caused unrest when they attempted to organize an uprising in 1923, and in 1925 the country was placed under martial law following an explosion at a cathedral during a state funeral (due to a bomb planted by communists) (Crampton 2005, 153-54). Due to these tensions, Boris III was reluctant to begin any sort of constitutional reform that would diminish the power of the monarchy. In the 1930s, the Bulgarian political scene was further complicated by the foundation and quick growth of its National Socialist Party. By 1934, the political parties were so divided that the army staged a coup and took over the Cabinet (Crampton 2005, 158). The military was removed from the political scene in January 1935, and Boris III began a period of "personal rule" to try and restore some stability to the country.

When World War II began in 1939, the Tsar declared Bulgaria to be neutral. However, in 1940, he conceded to allow Hitler to move German troops through Bulgaria as part of the German invasion of Greece. At this point, Bulgaria became "in effect...a member of the German alliance" (Crampton 2005, 167), though it was clear that Boris III did not necessarily support this decision. He refused German requests to declare war on the Soviet Union, and, though he allowed for the Jewish population to be deported from Bulgarian-occupied territories, he expressly forbade the deportation of any Jewish Bulgarians—thus saving the population of 50,000 from the death camps (Crampton 2005, 172). However, midway through the war, in 1943, Boris III died suddenly of heart failure. The throne passed to his son, Simeon II, but as Simeon was a minor, a regency was formed. This regency was led by Prince Kiril, Boris III's brother (no SOLS change).

As the German war effort slowly collapsed, Bulgaria found itself under pressure from the Soviet Union to assist their fight against the Germans. The Communist Fatherland Front (OF) began to dominate Bulgarian politics, and slowly gained control over the Cabinet. In 1944, there is a transfer of power between Prince Kiril and Kimon Georgiev, who was the Prime Minister (with a combined SOLS of the military, the "Zveno" People's League [NSZ] and the Fatherland Front [OF]). Following the GWF, we code a single-party system beginning in 1944 when Georgiev came to power.[1] This is a SOLS change.

Bulgaria was occupied by the Soviet Union from 1945 until 1947. Again, at that time, the Prime Minister was Colonel Kimon Georgiev, who had been in power since 1943. A member of the military, his support base also included the "Zveno" People's League (NSZ), and the Fatherland Front (OF—a group of anti-German parties which included the NSZ). Georgiev was in power until 1946, when new elections were held and the communist Bulgarian Worker's Party (BWP), under its leader Georgi Dimitrov, won. Dimitrov became the Premier, and by 1948,

[1] Officially the monarchy was not abolished until 15 September 1946. There had been Prime Ministers throughout both Boris and Simeon's reigns, and Bulgaria was not declared a republic yet in 1944. However, we follow GWF.

Bulgaria had become a satellite state of the USSR. In 1948, the BWP reverted to its original name, the Bulgarian Communist Party (BKP), so Dimitrov's party affiliation changed accordingly.

Geddes codes Bulgaria as a single party state (under the BKP) until 1990. Dimitrov died in 1949 and was replaced by his nominated successor, Vasil Kolarov (no SOLS change). Kolarov was already ill by the time of Dimitrov's death (Crampton 2005, 189), and he died in January 1950. He was then succeeded by the new head of the BKP, Vulko Chervenkov (no SOLS change). Chervenkov was a staunch Stalinist, and fell out of favor with the party after Khruschev's "Secret Speech" in 1956. That April, Chervenkov was denounced at the BKP central committee meeting, and he was forced to resign from office. He was replaced as Premier by Anton Yugov. However, Archigos codes Zhivkov as effective leader starting in 1956. Yugov was immediately locked in a power struggle with the General Secretary of the BKP, Todor Zhivkov. Though Zhivkov was responsible for the mismanagement of the Bulgarian agricultural sector (which in turn caused a crisis), he had the backing of Moscow, and used it to consolidate power. In 1962, during a plenum of the central committee, Zhivkov flew to Moscow and secured the removal of Yugov (Crampton 2005, 193). Zhivkov then assumed the role of Premier, and continued in that role until 1989. On 10 November 1989, the day after the Berlin Wall fell, Zhivkov resigned. He was replaced by the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Petur Mladenov, who became the BKP General Secretary.

In 1990, the BKP began a restructuring process meant to separate itself from the state and from society. It renamed itself the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP), and Mladenov began to restructure the economy and promote a multi-party democratic system. He became the President of Bulgaria. Elections were held in June 1990, and the BSP won the majority of seats. Andrey Lukanov, who had been Prime Minister since February, remained Prime Minister (no SOLS change). By December 1990, the legislature was at a political impasse, and the economy was deteriorating. Protests filled the streets, and Lukanov resigned. On 20 December, a new administration, under the non-partisan lawyer Dimitur Popov, took office (no SOLS change, as Popov's government was seen to be an interim one, holding power until new elections could be held).

After some more restructuring of the Bulgarian governmental system (including a new constitution), elections were held in October 1991. The Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) formed a government under the leadership of Filip Dimitrov (SOLS change). Dimitrov's government had few successes, and was ousted after a vote of no confidence in October of 1992. In December 1992, a new government was formed, with the support of the MRF and the President, under the non-partisan Liuben Berov. According to Europa World Yearbook (2004, 907), Berov had acted as an adviser to president Zhelov and his appointment was resisted by Dimitrov's SDS. Consequently, the entry of Berov's government was coded as a SOLS change. Economic stagnation and a rise in violent crime made Berov's administration similarly unsuccessful, and his government fell apart in October 1994. A caretaker government was created under the non-partisan Reneta Indjova (as this was an interim government, it is not coded it as a SOLS change). Elections were held in December 1994, and led to a victory for the BSP (SOLS change). Their leader, Zhan Videnov, assumed office in January 1995, and remained there until 1997. Facing demonstrations related to an economic crisis, Videnov resigned and was

replaced by the mayor of Sofia, Stefan Sofiyanski formed a caretaker government (Crampton 2005, 234-35).

Elections were held in April, and Ivan Kostov, the leader of SDS, became the Prime Minister (SOLS change). Kostov was in office until 2001—the first post-communist administration in Bulgaria to be in office for its full four-year term. In 2001, Kostov was challenged by Simeon Sakskoburggotski, also known as the former King Simeon II, who had been exiled from the country when communist rule began. Sakskoburggotski created a party called the "National Movement—Simeon II" (NDSV), and won the elections in June, becoming the Prime Minister in a coalition with the Movement for Rights and Freedoms (MDL) (SOLS change). Sakskoburggotski was in office until the elections of 2005, when the NDSV lost to the Coalition for Bulgaria (KzB) led by the BSP. Sergei Stanishev, the leader of the BSP, became the Prime Minister in a coalition with the NDSV, and DPS (SOLS change). Stanishev was in office until July 2009.

In 2013, Prime Minister Boyko Metodiev Borisov submitted his government's resignation following public protests over high energy bills (Rebaza 2013). A non-partisan caretaker government under Marin Raykov Nikolov was created to organize elections (Thorpe 2013). While Borisov's party, GERB, was the biggest winner in the 2013 elections, it was unable to form a government (Brunwasser 2013). Instead, Plamen Vasilev Oresharski became prime minister with a governing coalition composed of the BSP-KzB and the DPS (Brunwasser 2013). Bulgaria is a democracy, so we use political affiliations to determine whether a SOLS change occurred. Because Marin Raykov Nikolov is an interim leader, the transition from Borisov to Raykov Nikolov is not considered a SOLS change, regardless of their political affiliations. According to the interim rules, we must compare the affiliations of Oresharski and Borisov, the leader prior to the interim, to determine whether a SOLS change occurred. The leaders come from two different political parties, so there is a SOLS change for the second leader transition in 2013.

The government of Oresharski does not last long. In July of 2014, Oresharski stepped down as prime minister in the midst of the banking crisis following protests, a poor showing in the European Parliament elections (Tsolova 2014). An interim government under Georgi Petkov Bliznashki was created to oversee elections that would determine the new government. GERB, the party of former Prime Minister Boyko Metodiev Borisov, won the 2014 snap election and Borisov returned as prime minister (Williams 2014). Because Bliznashki is an interim leader, the transition from Oresharski to Bliznashki is not considered a SOLS change. The transition from Bliznashki to Borisov is considered a SOLS change because the political affiliations of Borisov and Oresharski, the leader prior to the interim, are different.

In 2016, the ABV left Borisov's governing coalition, resulting in a minor SOLS change (Cheresheva 2016). Later in 2016, Borisov submits his resignation after his political party loses the presidential election, however, the interim government is not established until January of 2017 (Associtaed Press 2016). According to our rules, the transition from Borisov to the interim government under Ognyan Stefanov Gerdzhikov is coded as occurring in 2017. In the 2017 snap elections that follow, GERB emerged as the winner and Borisov returned as prime minister for the third time (Tsolova 2017). According to the interim leader rules, the transition from Borisov to the interim leader Gerdzhikov is not considered a SOLS change. The transition from

Gerdzhikov to Borisov is not considered a SOLS change because Borisov was the leader prior to the interim leader and his political affiliation did not change. A minor SOLS change did occur because the coalition partners prior to the interim leader were different than the coalition partners after the elections.

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