Macedonia
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Since its recognition as an independent country in 1993, Macedonia is considered a democratic country with a mixed regime.

After the disintegration of Yugoslavia, Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia declared their independence. Macedonia followed the same path with a referendum in which a strong majority of Macedonians voted for their independency. Kiro Gligorov was elected the first president –the head of state- of the newly independent country. At the same time Branko Crvenkovski was appointed as Prime Minister-the head of government. They formed a coalition of Slovenian and Macedonian parties, headed by the Social Democratic Party of Macedonia (SDSM). Two years later, Macedonia was accepted as part of the United Nations, and was recognized internationally as a fully independent country. In 1996, the ruling coalition changed when the Socialist Party of Macedonia did not gain seats in the parliament. This change means a minor SOLS change.

Crvenkovski governed until 1998 when new parliamentary elections were held in which the SDSM lost the majority. A new coalition headed by the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization and the Democratic Party for Macedonia (VMRO-DPMNE) won. The coalition included the Democratic Party of Albanians (DPA) and Democratic Alternative (DA) (International Parliamentary Union). As a result, Ljubco Georgievski was appointed as Prime Minister. This change is a SOLS change because it meant a change in the governing coalition. In December 2000, Democratic Alternative leaves the coalition, after which The Liberal Party (LDP) joined the coalition. We consequently code a minor SOLS change on December 2, 2000 ("Former Opposition" 2001).

During 2001, ethnic tensions between Slavic and Albanian Macedonians erupted violently and an insurgency of Albanians spread. The international community mediated a cease-fire and the government was expanded to include opposition parties. The government included four main parties- two Slav and two Albanian- and some minor parties: Democratic Party of Albanians (DPA), the Liberal Party (LDP), the Party for Democratic Prosperity (PDP), VMRO, SDSM (CNN 2001, Wood and Steele 2001). In November, the coalition disbanded again and a coalition led by Prime Minister Georgievski, including DPA, the PDP and several smaller parties, completed its parliamentary term. (U.S. Department of State 2010, Wood and Steele 2001). As such, there are minor SOLS changes on May 13 and November 21 of 2001.

In September 2002, parliamentary elections were held. Together for Macedonia (ZMZ) won the elections. ZMZ was a coalition led by the SDSM, and including the Albanian Democratic Union for Integration (DUI) and the Liberal-Democratic Party (LDP) won 60 out of 120 seats in the parliament. As a consequence, Crvenkovski was appointed for a second term as PM. This change is also a SOLS change.

In February 2004, President Trajkovski died in a plane crash. New presidential elections were called for in April of 2004, in which then-current PM Crvenkovski expressed his desire to run. In order to run, he resigned his position, and he was replaced temporarily by the vice premier Radmila Sekerinska as acting PM (Cahoon 2010). Crvenkovski won the presidential elections and his position as PM was filled by the Parliament, which named Hari Kostov as PM. Kostov resigned in November 2004 and Sekerinska again assumed the role as interim PM. The

Parliament filled this position by naming former Defense Minister Vlado Buckovski as PM. He maintained the coalition with the DUI and the LDP. The change from Crvenkovski to Sekerinska is not a SOLS change because the latter was interim. Additionally, the changes from Sekerinska to Kostov and then to Buckovski are not SOLS changes because they were supported for the same coalition of parties.

In July 2006, there were new parliamentary elections in which the coalition VMRO-DPMNE won in union with the DPA and the NSDP. The leader of this coalition, Nicola Gruevski was appointed as PM.

In January 2016, Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski of the VMRO-DPMNE party resigned following allegations that the government had illegally wire-tapped 20,000 people (Marusic 2016; Associated Press 2016). Emil Dimitriev was nominated to serve as interim prime minister until elections in April (Associated Press 2016). The elections planned for April were postponed and finally took place in December 2016. It took 6 months to form a government, and in May 2015, Zoran Zaev from the SDSM party became prime minister (Marusic 2017). Macedonia is considered a democracy during this period, so we use the political affiliation of leaders to determine whether a SOLS change occurred. Dimitriev is considered an interim leader, so there is no SOLS change from Gruevski and Dimitriev, regardless of their political coalitions. The transition from Dimitriev to Zaev is coded as a SOLS change because Zaev and Gruevski, the leader prior to the interim leader Dimitriev, are from two different parties.

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