Libya
Rice

When Libya became independent in 1951, it was one of the first nations to have done so by means of the United Nations. King Idris I, who had represented the people of Libya in the UN deliberations and fought against Italian occupation before and during World War II, ascended as the head of a constitutional monarchy established in the state under the Senussi dynasty.

King Idris ruled until a military coup in 1969 removed him from power, resulting in the only coded SOLS change in Libyan history. The new ruling body, called the Revolutionary Command Council, dissolved the monarchy entirely and proclaimed a republic. The coup, and resulting government, was led by Mu'ammar Abu Minyar al-Qadhafi who established a personalist regime. Though Qadhafi had no official title or political position, he was regarded as the leader of Libya through the end of the data set and often given the title "Guide of the Revolution."

In February 2011, anti-government protests began in Libya. Col Muammar al-Qaddafi, refused to resign as leader of the country (Gardner 2011). By August 2011, Qaddafi was forced to flee his stronghold in Tripoli (Graff & Laessing 2011). As a result, the rebel interim administration, named the National Transitional Council (NTC), was recognized as the effective government with Mustafa Muhammad Abdul Jalil as its leader (Gritten 2011; Harding 2011). In August 2012, the NTC transferred power over to the newly elected assembly and Abdul Jalil handed power over to Muhammad `Ali Salim, the oldest member of the assembly (BBC News 2012). The next day, the national assembly voted to elect an interim president to oversee creation of new constitution and Muhammad al-Maqariyyaf was elected president (Associated Press 2012; Jawad 2012). Libya is a nondemocracy throughout this period. From 2011 to 2013, we code Libya as an other regime as there is no consolidated autocratic regime but rather a struggling country attempting to move towards democratization. The transition from Qaddafi to Abdul Jalil is coded as a SOLS change because Abdul Jalil and the NTC were focused on beginning a new regime and transitioning the country to democracy. They were not predesignated successors of Qaddafi. The transition from Abdul Jalil to `Ali Salim is not coded as a SOLS change because `Ali Salim only held power for one day as an interim until elections were held. The transition from `Ali Salim to al-Maqariyyaf is not coded as a SOLS change because al-Maqariyyaf served as interim president for the purpose of creating a new constitution.

In May 2013, the General National Congress passed a law banning anyone from public office who worked in the government of Qaddafi. Interim president al-Maqariyyaf had served as an ambassador from 1978-1980 and resigned in compliance with the law (BBC News 2013). Juma'a Ahmad `Atayqah (Giuma Attaiga), the Vice President of the General National Council took over as interim leader for about a month until Nuri `Ali Abu Sahmin (Nouri Abusahmain) was elected as interim leader (Agence France-Presse 2013). The transition from al-Maqariyyaf to Ahmad `Atayqah is not coded as a SOLS change as Ahmad `Atayqah served as interim leader until a new interim president could be elected. The transition from Ahmad `Atayqah to Abu Sahmin is not coded as a SOLS change because Abu Sahmin is an interim leader in power to oversee the creation of a constitution and elections.

In 2014, elections were held for the House of Representatives, a replacement for the General National Congress, and Aqila Salih Isa Qwaydar al-`Abaydi was named president of the House of Representatives (Al Jazeera 2014; Xinhua 2014). However, the Supreme Court declared the new, internationally recognized House of Representatives as unconstitutional and reinstated the General National Congress (Laessing et al. 2014). This results in two rival governments, one based in Tripoli and the other based in Tobruk (BBC News 2019). The resulting civil war and rival governments lead us to consider Libya as a warlord regime. SOLS changes are not coded during periods of warlordism. Accordingly, the transition from Abu Sahmin to Aqila Salih Isa as effective leader is not coded as a SOLS change.

Archigos does not extend past 2015, so we do not know who is considered the effective leader beyond 2015. However, we code Fayiz Mustafa al-Sarraj, leader of the Presidency Council as the effective leader beginning in March 30, 2016. The Presidency Council was created through the UN-brokered Libyan Political Agreement, making the Presidency Council the newly internationally recognized government (Toaldo 2017). The transition from Aqila Salih Isa to al-Sarraj is not coded as a SOLS change because the period is still considered warlordism.

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