Poland
Rice

In 1919, Poland is classified as a democracy. At that point, Poland had just regained independence following World War I, and its leader was Józef Pilsudski, a military leader who had organized troops to fight against Russia during the War. Pilsudski was the designated Head of State during this period, and while he had been given "extensive executive powers" (Zamoyski 2009, 298) during the war by the legislature, it would appear that he had given them up following the war. A new constitution was created in 1921 that gave power back to the legislature. The President, who would be the head of state, would be elected by both chambers of the legislature. Note that the constitution established parliamentary rule, but Archigos codes presidents as effective rulers, and we follow their judgment since it does not seem that parliamentary rule was effectively institutionalized to allow PMs to control foreign policy in place of the president.

Poland's first elections were scheduled for 1922. It was expected that Pilsudski would run since he had brought the country to independence, but he declined the opportunity (Soldatjenkova and Waegemans 2003, 258). Gabriel Józef Narutowicz, non-party, won elections to become president. Narutowicz was "a Socialist political refugee from pre-war Russia and an engineering professor" (Biskupski et al. 2010, 133). In his oath, he praised Pilsudski and promised that he would follow in his footsteps. While Narutowicz seems to have admired Pilsudski, it does not seem like they technically had the same SOLS. Pilsudski was an unelected war hero, widely supported by the population, while Narutowicz was a left-winger, who was severely disliked by the right. Thus, we code a SOLS change here. However, this is a SOLSchange30, since Narutowicz was assassinated by a conservative extremist only one week later. He was succeeded by Stanislaw Wojciechowski, also non-party ("Moderate is Chosen Poland's President"). This is a SOLS change. According to The New York Times ("Moderate is Chosen Poland's President"), Wojciechowski was a moderate, while Narutowicz was a radical populist. Furthermore, the two had competed against one another in the 1922 elections (Biskupski 2000, 132).

The legislature's continual inability to effectively conduct business led to a growth in opposition to the new system of government (Zamoyski 2009, 299). This led Pilsudski (who had "[withdrawn] into sullen retirement" following the establishment of the Republic [Zamoyski 2009, 299]) to gather some battalions of troops in 1926 and march on Warsaw to demand the government's resignation. Wojciechowski initially refused to comply, but the army sided with Pilsudski, and he was forced to resign. Pilsudski then turned over the presidency to an eminent scientist, Ignacy Moscicki. However, he "hovered on the sidelines, part-dictator, part-monarch, his role ill defined, his influence paramount" (Zamoyski 2009, 300) (SOLS change). Worldstatesmen.org, in fact, lists Pilsudski as being the "de facto ruler" during this time. Pilsudski's government, at this time, should be classified as personalist. First, because Pilsudski occupied his time with rearranging the army, and second because he created a support party (the BBWR, or "Non-Party Bloc of Cooperation with the Government") in 1928. Third, Pilsudski also cultivated a group of close followers who were then used to advance his political agenda (Zamoyski 2009, 301). He then arrested opposition leaders in 1930 and passed a new constitution

in April 1935, which extended the powers of the executive. As the spreadsheet indicates, Pilsudski then allowed for one of his closest political associates, Marshal Edward Smigly-Rydz, to become head of the armed forces and, through that position, dominate the government in 1935 (Zamoyski 2009, 302) (no SOLS change). It should be noted that the actual President during this period was still Moscicki, but his powers were severely limited due to Pilsudski's involvement with the political sphere.

On 30 September 1939, Poland was suddenly invaded and occupied by German troops under the command of Adolf Hitler. Hans Michael Frank, a German and member of Hitler's NSDAP, became the Governor-General of Poland for the duration of World War II (no SOLS change due to coding rules on occupation).

After World War II, Poland was occupied by the Soviet Union, and became a single-party state. At the end of the war, Boleslaw Beirut became Chairman of the People's Council, and the head of state. He was a member of the PPR (Polish Worker's Party), and remained in power until 1956. In 1948, the PPR forced the Polish Socialist Party into a merger, creating the Polish United Worker's Party (PZPR) (Biskupski 2000, 128). Beirut's party affiliation then changed to reflect this.

In 1956, Beirut died suddenly while in Moscow, shortly after hearing Krushchev's Secret Speech (Biskupski 2000, 138). He was replaced by Edward Ochab, who became First Secretary of the PZPR (no SOLS change). However, mass demonstrations soon broke out in Warsaw, and Ochab was replaced by Wladyslaw Gomulka in October (no SOLS change). Gomulka was at first a reformer, but then became increasingly autocratic. When a major price increase on food occurred right before the Christmas holiday in 1970, riots broke out throughout Poland, leading to military intervention and civilian casualties (Biskupski 2000, 146). Gomulka and his supporters were removed from office by the PZPR Politburo, and Gomulka was replaced by Edward Gierek as First Secretary (no SOLS change).

Gierek was in office until 1980. That year, there were again strikes in response to price increases. After several personnel changes, Gierek suffered a heart attack and was removed from office (Biskupski 2000, 160). He was replaced by Stanislaw Kania, who was unable to quash the newly-named Solidarity movement. One year later, unable to deal with pressures from the Soviet Union to control the situation, Kania resigned and was replaced by Wojciech Jaruzelski as First Secretary (no SOLS change) (Biskupski 2000, 164). Jaruzelski immediately declared martial law, and arrested the majority of the Solidarity leaders. On December 13, he announced that he was transferring all power to a Military Council of National Salvation, which he would lead. However, the Solidarity movement continued on, and the Communist regime slowly began to crumble.

In the first legislative elections, the Solidarity candidates won an overwhelming victory in the seats they were allowed to contest. However, after some negotiations, it was decided that Jaruzelski would be the first President (Biskupski 2000, 171) (no SOLS change). Jaruzelski resigned all of his party positions upon taking office. This move is credited with helping Poland's democratic transition be smooth and nonviolent (Biskupski 2000, 171). After democratic reforms were put in place by the new parliament, Jaruzelski resigned office early, in December 1990. After a new election, Lech Walesa, one of the leaders of the Solidarity party (also known as the Independent Self-Governing Trade Union, or NSZZ) became President (SOLS change).

Walesa remained in office until 1995, when he lost the presidential election to Aleksander Kwasniewski, a member of the SdRP. The SdRP (Social Democracy of the Republic of Poland) was created from the remnants of the PZPR in 1990, so with Kwasniewski's victory, the Communists were back in power (SOLS change). However, the SdRP victory did not mean a return to the economic and social policies of the past. In 1999, the SdRP merged into the Alliance of the Democratic Left (SLD), and Kwasniewski's party affiliation changed accordingly. In 2005, Kwasniewski had reached his two-term limit, and could not run for office again. The new President was the former Mayor of Warsaw, Lech Kaczynski, a member of the Law and Justice (PiS) party (SOLS change).

In 2010, a plane crash resulted in the death of Poland's President Lech Aleksander Kaczyński (Dempsey 2010). Following his death, Bronisław Maria Komorowski, the Marshal of the Sejm, became acting president (President.PL). Elections were held to in June 2010 to replace Kaczyński (CNN 2010). Acting President Komorowski was a candidate and won the presidential election (President.PL). In accordance with the Constitution, Komorowski resigned as Marshal of the Sejm and thus acting president following his electoral victory. Bogdan Michał Borusewicz, the Senate speaker, became acting president for a few hours until the Sejm voted on a new Marshal of the Sejm who would then take over as acting president (Associated Press 2010). Grzegorz Juliusz Schetyna was elected as the new Marshal and took over as acting president until Komorowski was sworn in as president on August 6, 2010 (Agencies 2010). There are four leader tranitions in 2010, but because Komorowski (the first time), Borusewicz, and Schetyna were all interim leaders, three of the transitions are not considered SOLS changes because of the interim status of the new leaders. The last transition is considered a SOLS change because, following the democratic rules, the political affiliations of Kaczyński and the next non-interim leader, Komorowski, are different; Kaczyński was from the PiS party while Komorowski was from the PO party.

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