Burundi
Rice

In 1962, Burundi gained its independence from Belgium. A constitutional monarchy, under the control of King Mwambutsa IV, a member of the Tutsi ethnic group, was established. In 1965, the Prime Minister, a member of the Hutu ethnic group, was assassinated, and revolts broke out throughout the country. King Mwanbutsa was deposed by his son, Prince Ntare IV in September 1966. There is no SOLS change because Prince Ntare is a member of the same dynasty as his father. Therefore, we code both leaders as the "Mwanbutsa dynasty".

Just two months later, in November, King Ntare was deposed in a military coup led by Captain Michel Micombero. This was a SOLS change. Though Micombero declared that Burundi was a republic, the government that emerged is classified as a single-party/military hybrid. The single party, in this case, was the Union of National Progress (UPRONA), and Micombero assumed the office of President (SOLS change). In 1976, Micombero was overthrown by Colonel Jean-Baptiste Bagaza. This did not involve a SOLS change, as the regime remained single-party/military regime with UPRONA as the party. Bagaza initially encouraged reform and reconciliation between the Hutu and Tutsi ethnic groups, and created a new constitution in 1981. However, after being reelected in 1984 (in an election where he was the sole candidate), his record deteriorated and his regime became more oppressive. He was overthrown in 1987, by Major Pierre Buyoya. Geddes classifies Buyoya's regime as being purely military, so this transition is classified as a minor SOLS change.

In 1991, Buyoya created a constitution which allowed for a presidential system and a multi- ethnic government. In 1993, elections were held, and Melchior Ndadaye, a Hutu and a member of the Front for the Democracy in Burundi party (FRODEBU), was elected President (SOLS change). However, on October 21, 1993, Ndadaye was assassinated by Tutsi members of the armed forces (calling themselves the Committee of National Salvation), and the country entered a period of civil war. For 6 days, until October 27, Francois Ngeze, a member of the military (and chosen by the Committee of National Salvation) took over the Presidency. This is a SOLS change, but one that lasted for less than 30 days. Following that, Sylvie Kinigi, who had been the Prime Minister in Ndadaye's government, took over as President. Kinigi was a member of UPRONA, but is labeled as "acting" and was only in office for a few months, and therefore, there is no SOLS change. In January 1994, FRODEBU was again able to gain control of the government, and elected Cyprien Ntaryamira President. This is coded as a SOLSchange30, as the last President before him who was not acting and served for more than 30 days was also a member of FRODEBU. (see page 14 of coding rules, ABA scenario)

The civil war continued to rage on, and in April, 1994 Ntaryamira was killed in a plane crash (along with the Rwandan President at the time—this act is considered the start of the Rwandan genocide). He was succeeded in office by the President of the National Assembly, Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, also a member of FRODEBU, thus there is no SOLS change. In 1996, Ntibantunganya was overthrown in a bloodless coup led by Pierre Buyoya. Buyoya, now a member of UPRONA, a SOLS change, established a regime which GWF classifies as a military/ personalist hybrid. Buyoya used repressive tactics to try and quell the fighting, but the civil war

would continue until 2006. There were several attempts at ceasefires and peace treaties prior to that date, however, they were all unsuccessful.

In 2001, a transitional government and constitution were created, initially under the leadership of Buyoya. GWF list the military/personalist regime of Buyoya as continuing until 2003 (and then code provisional until 2005). In 2003, leadership passed to Domitien Ndayizeye, a member of FRODEBU and the former vice-president of the transitional government. The transition from Buyoya to Ndayizeya is considered as a minor SOLS change. Although Ndayizeye can be considered as a Buyoya's pre- designated successor given their power-sharing/ rotation deal, Ndayizeye's government had no military figures and Ndayizeye was from a different party. In addition, because he was in power for longer than the transitional period of 18 months, we do not consider him as provisional even though GWF treat him as provisional. Thus, we code a minor SOLS change for Ndayizeye. It should be noted that the transitional government was extended due to a lack of consensus on power-sharing arrangements between the Hutus and the Tutsis.

A new constitution was created in 2004, and elections were held on schedule in July 2005. Pierre Nkurunziza, a member of the new National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD) party was elected President (SOLS change). At this point, Geddes no longer codes Burundi as any sort of authoritarian regime and POLITY codes Burundi as democratic. Nkurunziza was reelected in 2010.

In April 2015, President Nkurunziza was announced as CNDD-FDD candidate for a third term (AFP 2018). The opposition decried the move as unconstitutional while Nkurunziza claimed that his first time should not count regarding term limits because he was elected by parliament, not the people (AFP 2018). In May 2015, a coup attempt led by Godefroid Niyombare fails. However, Niyombare is not coded as an efffective leader in Archigos, therefore he is not included in the dataset. In July, Nkurunziza was re-elected to his third term. In 2018, the constitution was altered by referendum to allow the president to seek two more terms of seven years in length (Reuters 2018).

Sources

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Coded by Meera Krishnan 8/27/2010
Edited by Ashley Leeds 9/28/11
Revised by Eelco van der Maat 01/29/2012
Updated by Naoko Matsumura 06/08/2012
Edited by Andrew Wood (Rice) on 5/22/14
Edited by Kristin Bryant to include information about 2009-2018 period coded by Alex Pugh on 08/08/2020