**Kyrgyzstan**
Rice

Upon independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, the presidency of Kyrgyzstan passed to Askar Akayev, who had been appointed by the Supreme Soviet to lead the country prior to independence. Akayev was confirmed as president with elections in October of 1990 (United States Department of State 2010). In 1991, as the USSR was dissolving, there was an attempted coup against Akayev, resulting in his resignation from the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (hence why he is labeled as being nonpartisan) (United States Department of State 2010). Kyrgyzstan then declared its independence from the USSR, and Akayev was reconfirmed as President in elections (where he ran unopposed).

Akayev served as President until 2005. During his time in office, Geddes classifies Kyrgyzstan as being a personalist state. In 2005, accusations of widespread fraud during parliamentary elections led to demonstrations across Kyrgyzstan. By March 24, 15,000 protestors had gathered to call for the resignation of the president and the government (United States Department of State 2010). The demonstrators then seized the presidential administration building, and President Akayev fled the country for Kazakhstan, and later moved to Russia. For one day (between March 24-25), the presidency passed to the Speaker of Parliament, Ishenbay Kadyrbekov. (Archigos does not code Kadyrbekov so we don't either.) Opposition leaders then formed the "Committee for National Unity", and named Kurmanbek Bakiyev, one of the members of the opposition People's Movement of Kyrgyzstan (KEK), as both President and Prime Minister. This is a SOLS change. Bakiyev was a leading founder of the KEK (People's Movement of Kyrgyzstan) in 2004, which was an umbrella organization of opposition parties. In 2005, the Tulip revolution forced the Akayev out of office and Bakiyev initially became acting President (Hiro) and then was elected President. Bakiyev ran unopposed for president, without a specific party platform. In 2007 Bakiyev changed is party affiliation to a self-created party named the Ak Zhol or "Bright Path" (AZ).

In April 2010, Kurmanbek Saliyevich Bakiyev agreed to resign and leave the country following popular uprisings. Former foreign minister Roza Isakovna Otunbayeva headed the subsequent interim government (Golovnina 2010). Kyrgyzstan is a non-democracy through 2010, so we use nondemocratic coding rules through 2010 then use democratic coding rules. However, because Otunbayeva was an interim leader, the transition from Bakiyev to Otunbayeva is not coded as a SOLS change. In October of 2011, Almazbek Sharshenovich Atambayev was elected president (BBC News 2011). In 2011, Kyrgyzstan is considered a democracy. His election is coded as a SOLS change because he has a different political affiliation than the last non-interim leader, Bakiyev.

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Coded by Meera Krishnan 6/27/2010
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