Mozambique

Rice

Mozambique gained independence from Portugal in 1975, following the collapse of the Portuguese government in 1974. The Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (FRELIMO) had been fighting a sporadic war against the Portuguese colonial government for ten years prior to independence. When the colonial forces withdrew, FRELIMO, led by Samora Machel, established a single-party socialist state, which allied with the Soviet Union. Geddes classifies Mozambique as a single party state from independence until the present day. The FRELIMO government had to deal with an armed resistance movement, funded by apartheid South Africa (previously Rhodesia), known as the Mozambican National Resistance (RENAMO)

Machel died in a "suspicious" plane crash in 1986, along with several advisors (United States Department of State, 2010). For one month, "acting" leadership of the government was taken over by the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of FRELIMO. This is not in the data set, as there was no 'leader' during this period and the Bureau was an acting leader. The Central Committee then named Joaquim Chissanó to be Machel's successor. This is not a SOLS change. Chissanó undertook many political reforms, culminating in a new constitution in 1990 that allowed for a multi-party system, free elections, and a market economy. He also negotiated a peace agreement with RENAMO, ending the civil war in 1992. In 1994, the country became a semi-presidential democracy and Chissanó won free and fair elections (Schlager et al. 2006; Shugart 2005; Moestrup 2007). It is interesting to note that Geddes (1999) continues to code the country as a single-party authoritarian regime up to and including 2008, and Cheibub et. al. (2010) does not provide democratic regime type coding. Note that though FRELIMO and RENAMO both have representatives in the National Assembly, all elections that have been held since 1990 have been cited for irregularities (United States Department of State, 2010).

Chissanó chose to retire from the presidency following the end of his term in 2005. In the elections of that year, the FRELIMO candidate, Armando Guebuza, won the presidency. This is not a SOLS change. He remains in power in the present day.

Changes in version 5.0 of CHISOLS:

The Polity team changed the coding of Mozambique from October, 1994 through October, 2013 from a 6 to a 5 on the democracy scale in later versions of their dataset. For instance, the 2018 version codes Mozambique as a 5 on the democracy scale until October, 2013 and a 6 thereafter. As a result, we are changing the coding of Mozambique from 1994-2012 to a single-party nondemocracy, which matches the coding of GWF and Cheibub et al. This does not result in any changes to our coding of SOLS changes, but it does result in a change in a regime transition. There is no longer a regime transition in 1994; the transition to democracy happens in 2013.

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