Kyrgyzstan
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Kyrgyzstan is coded as non-democratic and personalist from independence in 1991 until 2008. According to Geddes, first was the personalist regime under Askar Akayev, Non-Party, who ruled from 1991 until 2005. Initially reform-minded, over the course of his rule he strengthened his own position over the other branches of government and used the media and electoral process to guarantee his stay in power. By 2005, mass opposition to his personalist rule "erupted into calls for the government to resign" (US Department of State 2009). "Protestors seized the presidential administration building, after which President Akayev left the country for Kazakhstan, and then Russia" (US Department of State 2009). Opposition MP and speaker of the parliament Ishenbay Kadyrbekov, found of the People's Movement of Kyrgyzstan (KEK), became acting president (BBC News 2005; Cahoon 2010). (Archigos does not code Kadyrbekov so we don't either.) "Opposition leaders, caught by surprise by developments, moved to form a broadly inclusive 'Committee of National Unity.' A new opposition leader Kurmanbek Bakiyev was named acting President and Prime Minister" (US Dept of State 2009). Bakiyev, Kek/Non-Party, was then "elected" to the presidency a few months later. We code a SOLS change when he first takes over because, as an opposition leader, he was not Akayev's predesignated successor. Bakiyev initially granted more autonomy to the other branches of government, but soon began to consolidate his power much like his predecessor had, minimizing the role parliament and strengthening the powers of the president. Bakiyev's party affiliation changed to Ak Zhol (AZ, or 'Bright Path') in 2007.

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 Anna Carella 10/5/2010
Checked by Michaela Mattes 11/01/2010
Updated by Mariana Rodriguez 9/19/11
Updated by Matt DiLorenzo 07/20/2012
Revised by Bryan Rooney 10/17/2012
Edited by Andrew Wood (Rice) on 5/23/14
Updated by Michaela Mattes on 11/24/2015
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