Myanmar
Vanderbilt

Myanmar is coded as a parliamentary democracy from independence in 1948 until 1962. U Nu,[1] AFPFL, ruled as PM from 1948 until 1956. In 1956 U Ba Swe of the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (AFPFL) became PM. This is not a SOLS change. In 1957 U Nu, AFPFL, once again became PM. This is not a SOLS change. In 1958 Ne Win, Mil, became PM. This is not a SOLS change because it seems to have been an interim regime lasting 18 months. According to the US Department of State (2010): "In 1958, Prime Minister U Nu accepted military rule temporarily to restore political order. The military stepped down after 18 months." Because Burma is coded as a democracy, we code the N Win regime as interim and thus no SOLS change (Note, however, that there is no democratic regime type coding and Geddes considers the country ruled by a military authoritarian regime at that time.) In 1960 U Nu, now of the UnP, a faction of the AFPFL that had split, became PM again. This is a SOLS change.

In 1962 General Ne Win led a military coup and seized power. This is a SOLS change. His military regime established the Party of the Socialist Programme of Burma (BSPB) as the only legal party. From 1962 until 1988 the country is considered to be ruled by a military-personalist-hybrid authoritarian regime. In the midst of protests about Burma's worsening economic institution intensified, Ne Win stepped down and handed over power to General Sein Lwin (BSPB), who used massive violence to suppress protesters (Encyclopedia Britannica). This is not a SOLS change. Sein Lwin was replaced a few weeks later by a civilian member of the BSPB, Maung Maung. This is not a SOLS change. Maung Maung was also unable to calm domestic protests and the military then stepped in and ended the Ne Win military-personalist regime. In September 1988 a group of military leaders deposed the PSPB, "suspended the constitution, and established a new ruling junta" (US Department of State 2010). Saw Maung, Mil, became PM. This is a minor SOLS change since the military remains in power. From 1988 through 2008 the country is considered to be ruled by a military authoritarian regime. In 1992 Than Shwe, Mil, became PM. This is not a SOLS change. Than Shwe ruled through 2008

In 2016, Htin Kyaw, of the National League for Democracy (NLD), was elected president, the first elected civilian leader in over 50 years (BBS News 2016). This marked Myanmar's transition to a democracy. The transition to Kyaw from his predecessor Thein Sein is coded as a SOLS change as they have different political affiliations. Within a week of Kyaw being in office, the NLD majority parliament created a new position, state counsellor, for the NLD party leader Aung San Suu Kyi (McKirdy 2016). Suu Kyi was barred from running for president due to a constitutional clause regarding family members with foreign nationalities. The position of state counsellor made the presidency largely ceremonial, essentially making Suu Kyi ruler by proxy. The Archigos data does not extend this far, but we expect that Suu Kyi will be the effective leader beginning on April 6, 2016. The transition in effective leader from Kyaw, the president, to Suu Kyi, the state counsellor, is not coded as a SOLS change because they are from the same party.

[1] Burmese names are often seen prefixed with U (i.e., U Nu, U Ne Win). This translates as Mr.

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