Montenegro
Vanderbilt

While Cheibub et al. (2010) code Montenegro as non-democratic; after its independence in 2006 we code Montenegro as a parliamentary democracy via a number of sources. ("Montenegro and the EU"; Maddex 2008; Goati 2000). It appears, however, that Montenegro is a mixed system with a strong PM (World Health Organization 2011). This is also suggested by their Constitution, which states that the Government shall manage the internal and foreign policy of Montenegro (Art. 100) and the Government is led by the PM (Art. 10) (The Constitution of Montenegro). Thus, we code the PM as the effective leader.

Before the independence, Montenegro was ruled by the PM Milo Djukanovic of the Democratic Party of Socialists of Montenegro (DPSC) until 2006 when a new parliament was elected, and Zeljko Sturanovic (DPSC) was appointed as the first PM of the new independent country. Before the elections, Prime Minister Milo Djukanovic, formed the Coalition for a European Montenegro with the Social Democratic Party (SDP). The Coalition for a European Montenegro (DPS-SDP) won 41 of the 81 seats. We refer to the coalition as DLECG, based on Cahoon (2010). This change is not a SOLS change because both belonged to the same party.

In February 2008, Sturanovic resigned due to medical reasons. A new president and a new PM were nominated. The DPSC leader Vujanovic was named as president, and former president Djukanovic was appointed as PM. This change is not a SOLS, because they belonged to the same party as their predecessors.

In the 2009 parliamentary elections, held on March 29, the Coalition for a European Montenegro (KzECG), comprised of the Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS), Social Democratic Party (SDP), Bosniak Party (BS) and Croat Civic Initiative (HGI), won a majority of seats. They were joined in forming a government by the Democratic Union of Albanians (DUA). Milo Đukanović was reconfirmed as PM (Lansford 2015).

Đukanović resigned as PM on December 21, 2010 after the European Union granted official candidate status to Montenegro, although he retained the DPS party chairmanship (T.J. 2010). The DPS party leadership proposed Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Igor Lukšić to lead the new government (BBC 2010). Lukšić was confirmed as the new prime minister by the Parliament on December 29, 2010. Because Lukšić was appointed by the same party (DPS) as the former PM, Đukanović, this change in leadership is not coded as a SOLS change.

In July 2012, the ruling coalition voted to dissolve parliament. New elections were held on October 14, 2012. The KzECG, made up of the DPS, SDP, and the Liberal Party of Montenegro (LP) formed a government with the support of several ethnic parties — the BS, HGI, the Albanian Coalition (AK-KS), and New Democratic Force (FORCA) (Lansford 2015). Montenegro's parliament voted to give Milo Djukanovic a seventh term as prime minister (RFL/RL 2012). Because Đukanović came from the same party as the previous PM, Lukšić, this change in leadership is not coded as a SOLS change.

On January 27, 2016 the SDP terminated its almost two-decade-old alliance with the DPS (Tomovic 2016a). The PCG (Positive Montenegro) party joined the new governing coalition and the SDP left the coalition (BERN 2016). Because the members of the governing coalition changed when SDP left the coalition, this is coded as a minor SOLS change. The DPS won the

largest number of seats in the parliamentary elections on October 16, 2016, but they did not win an absolute majority. Đukanović stepped down as PM, and on November 9, 2016, the ruling party nominated Duško Marković (DPS) to take over as Prime Minister (BBC 2016). On November 28, 2016, the new government was elected by 41 out of 81 members of parliament, with the opposition boycotting the assembly. The parliamentary majority was composed of the DPS, the Social Democrats (SD), and several ethnic minority parties – the Bosniac Party (BS), HGI (Croatian Civic Initiative), and the Democratic Union of Albanians (DUA) (Tomovic 2016b; Ramet and Valenta 2016, p. 146).

Sources

BBC. December 21, 2010. "Montenegro Prime Minister Milo Djukanovic resigns." BBC News. Retrieved from https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-12051667. Accessed on June 26, 2019.

BBC. October 26, 2016. "Montenegro's veteran Prime Minister Milo Djukanovic quits." BBC News. Retrieved from https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-37777379. Accessed on June 26, 2019.

BERN. October 11, 2016. "Montenegro: Key Political Parties." Balkan Insight. Retrieved from https://balkaninsight.com/2016/10/11/montenegro-key-political-parties-10-08-2016/. Accessed on June 26, 2019.

Cahoon, Ben. 2010. "Worldstatesmen.org." Available from <http://www.worldstatesmen.org>. Accessed August 27, 2010.

Freedom House. 2016. "Montenego." Freedom House Nations in Transit 2016. Retrieved from https://freedomhouse.org/report/nations-transit/2016/montenegro. Accessed on June 26, 2019.

Goati, Vladimir. 2000. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In Council of Europe (ed). Societies in Conflict: The Contribution of Law and Democracy to Conflict Resolution

Inter-Parliamentary Union Database. Available from <http://www.ipu.org/parline- e/parline-search.asp>.

Lansford, Tom. 2015. "Montenegro." In *Political Handbook of the World 2015*. CQ Press.

Maddex, Robert. 2008. Constitutions of the World (3rd Edition). Washington DC, CQ Press.

"Montenegro and the EU." 2012. Electoral Forensics. http://www.electoralforensics.org/commentary/?p=2899

RFE/RL. December 5, 2012. “Djukanovic Gets Seventh Term As Montenegrin Prime Minister.” Radio Free Europe/Radi Liberty. Retrieved from https://www.rferl.org/a/montenegro-djukanovic/24789724.html. Accessed on June 26, 2019.

The Constitution of Montenegro. May 21, 2006. <http://www.skupstina.me/cms/site_data/16122009/USTAV%20CG- engleska%20verzija.pdf>

T.J. December 21, 2010. “The end of an era, possibly: Montenegro’s long-serving prime minister steps down.” The Economist. Retrieved from https://www.economist.com/eastern-approaches/2010/12/21/the-end-of-an-era-possibly. Accessed on June 26, 2019.

Tomovic, Dusica. February 24, 2016a. “Montenegro Parliament Set to Oust Speaker.” Balkan Insight. Retrieved from https://balkaninsight.com/2016/02/24/montenegro-s-parliament-to-dismisses-speaker-02-23-2016/. Accessed on June 4, 2020.

Tomovic, Dusica. December 1, 2016b. “Old Doubts Cling to Montenegro’s New Cabinet.” Balkan Insight. Retrieved from https://balkaninsight.com/2016/12/01/montenegro-s-new-government-same-old-politics-11-30-2016/. Accessed on June 26, 2019.

US Department of Defense. Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs. Background Note: Macedonia. (http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/70949.htm. Accessed on August 27, 2010)

US Department of State. “Country Background Note: Montenegro”. Last edited 29 December 2009. http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/70949.htm

World Health Organization. “Country Focus: Montenegro.” May 2011. <http://www.who.int/countryfocus/cooperation_strategy/ccsbrief_mne_en.pdf>

Coded by Arturo Maldonado 8/27/2010
Checked by Michaela Mattes 08/31/2010
Updated by Naoko Matsumura 06/06/2012
Revised by Bryan Rooney 10/17/2012
Edited by Andrew Wood (Rice) on 5/24/2014
Edited by Kristin Bryant to include information about 2009-2018 period coded by Alex Pugh and Kristin Bryant on 08/08/2020