Uzbekistan
Rice

Uzbekistan declared its independence from the Soviet Union on September 1, 1991. In December of that year, the former First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Uzbek SSR Communist Party, Islam Karimov, was elected president. Karimov has remained in power, in a system that Geddes classifies as a single-party/personalist hybrid, from that date until the present. He was technically reelected in 1995, 2000, and 2007. However, none of these elections were considered free or fair. Karimov's party affiliation was with the Fidokorlor, or Self-Sacrifice Party (F), though for some time he was considered unaffiliated with any party. He is coded non-party/F throughout the entire observation period.

In 2016, after being in power for 27 years, Islam Abduganiyevich Karimov died in office (BBC News 2016). Nigmatilla Tulkinovich Yuldashev, the Senate leader, became acting president before elections for a new president (BBC News 2016). Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyayev, seen as a likely successor, took over as acting president in September before being elected president in a snap election in December 2016 (Pannier 2018). Mirziyayev was nominated for president by the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (LDPU), the same party that traditionally nominated Karimov for president (Pannier 2018). Karimov did not have a predesignated successor, but Mirziyayev was a government official serving as prime minister when Karimov died (BBC News 2016). Yuldashev is an interim leader, so is not considered in determining SOLS changes. Uzbekistan is a single party-personalist hybrid. Because Mirziyayev was a high-ranking government official prior to becoming president and was nominated by the same party as Karimov, we do not code a SOLS change as occuring from Karimov to Mirziyayev.

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