Czech Republic
Vanderbilt

In January 1993, Czechoslovakia split into two republics: the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The Czech Republic became a parliamentary democracy with Vaclav Klaus of the right-wing Civic Democratic Party (ODS) as its first PM. Klaus governed in coalition with the KDU-CSL and the ODA until 1997. Because of economic problems and corruption scandals, Klaus resigned as Prime Minister in November 1997, and President Havel appointed a non-party technocrat, Josef Tosovsky, to lead a caretaker government (Cook 2001, 271 and Innes 2001, 224). This is not a SOLS change. Tosovsky stayed in office from December 1997 to June 1998 when new elections were held, in which the Social Democrats (CSSD) won 74 out of 200 seats in the lower house. The Klaus's ODS received the second most votes and became the main opposition party. The CSSD appointed Milos Zeman as Prime Minister, and starting a period in which Czech politics was dominated by this party. This is a SOLS change given the different part affiliations of Klaus and Zeman. Zeman was followed by Vladimir Spidla, who led a coalition government with the KDU-ČSL and US-DEU. The coalition government continued when Spidla resigned and Stanislav Gross took over. Gross resigned and Jiri Paroubek took over with the same coalition until 2006. In 2006, Topolanek (ODS) entered office. This is a SOLS change. In 2007 the ODS formed a coalition government with the KDU-CSL and SZ. This is a minor SOLS change.

In 2009, Mirek Topolánek's government fell after losing a no-confidence vote (VOA 2009). In May, Jan Fischer was appointed by the president to head a caretaker government to lead the country through elections (Lazarova 2009; AFP 2009). In June 2010, Fischer resigned after elections in May and Petr Nečas was appointed as prime minister (Korselt 2010). Because Fischer was the head of a caretaker government and serves for less than 18 months, we consider him an interim leader. Accordingly, the transition between Topolánek and Fischer is not coded as a SOLS change. The transition from Fischer to Nečas is not coded as a SOLS change because Nečas and Topolánek, the leader prior to the interim Fischer, were from the same political party (ODS).

Due to a corruption scandal, Nečas resigned as prime minister in 2013 (BBC News 2013a). Jiří Rusnok was appointed by the president to lead a caretaker government (BBC News 2013b). The government needed to pass a parliamentary vote of confidence, but failed to win the vote, resulting in Rusnok's resignation in August 2013 (BBC News 2013c). Parliament was dissolved, triggering early elections (AFP 2013). Rusnok stayed as prime minister in a caretaker capacity until the new government, led by Bohuslav Sobotka, from the CSSD party, took over in January 2014 (Lopatka & Muller 2014). We consider Rusnok an interim leader because he led a caretaker government and served for less than 18 months. As a result, the transition from Nečas to Rusnok is not coded as a SOLS change. The transition from Rusnok to Sobotka is coded as a SOLS change because Sobotka was from a different political party than Nečas.

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