South Korea
Rice

The Republic of Korea was created after the end of WWII. At that point, Korea, which had been under Japanese rule, was divided into two trusteeships. The Soviet Union took charge over North Korea, while the United States oversaw the South. Though there were discussions (eventually reaching the United Nations General Assembly) to reunite the two parts of Korea, they were unsuccessful, and the South declared itself the Republic of Korea on August 15, 1948. The United States supported the presidency of Syngman Rhee due to his anticommunist stance (Peterson, 210). However, once in office, Rhee created a highly restrictive constitution, and purged his political opponents, leading ultimately to his creation of the Liberal Party in 1951, which supported his personalist regime.

Rhee was in power until April 1960, when large student demonstrations forced him to resign. Immediately after, South Koreans drafted a new constitution, which created a mixed-democratic system (with a president and a prime minister). Until elections were held in July 1960, Ho Chong, Rhee's foreign minister, held the office of "acting president". As Ho's tenure in office was short, and occupied with organizing elections. Chiang Myon of the Democratic Party won the election, became PM, and formed a government. (US Library of Congress). This is a SOLS change. Following elections Chang Myon did not rule for long, however; in May 16 1961 South Korea fell victim to a military coup led by general Park Chung Hee (Pak Chung Hi). Chang Myon's chief of staff, Chang Do-yong, joined the military regime of Park Chung Hee immediately after the coup and, according to Archigos, exercised leadership for less than two months until Park Hee takes over. Although he was part of Chang Myon's government, he switched side and the military was really in charge. We code a SOLS change with Chang Do-Yong.

The military was in charge of the South Korean government until 1987. Park was assassinated by the head of the KCIA, Kim Chaegyu, in 1979. The Prime Minister, Choi Kyu Ha, became Acting President, which is not coded as a SOLS change, and there was again talk of a new democratic constitution. However, these discussions were quickly silenced when the military, under the leadership of Major General Chun Doo Hwan took power and declared martial law in May 1980. This is also not a SOLS change, as the military continued in power. The military initially installed Park Choong Hoon as acting PM. Then Chun took power. Chun declared that he only wished to be in power for one term, and multiparty elections for president were held in 1987. There were three opposition candidates, who split the vote between them, and therefore the result was a victory for the DJP (Democratic Justice Party, which had been the military's party) and its candidate Roh Tae Woo (Peterson, 231-2). A new, liberal constitution was enacted in 1988, and democratic freedoms began to be restored to South Korean citizens.

Shortly after Roh was elected President, parliamentary elections in 1988 resulted in a victory for the opposition parties. The National Assembly was in a deadlock, and to combat this Roh entered into an alliance with Kim Yong Sam and Kim Jong Pil, both leaders of opposition parties. This new coalition was called the Democratic Liberal Party (MDD), at which point Roh's party affiliation changed to reflect his membership in the MDD. Kim Yong Sam became the MDD candidate for president in 1992, and won the election (no SOLS change). The MDD

changed its name to the New Korea Party (SHD) in 1995. We code no SOLS change, but the name of Kim's party affiliation obviously changed at that point as well.

Kim was in power until 1997, when presidential elections led to a victory for Kim Dae Jung and the National Congress for New Politics party (SJKH). This marked the first peaceful power transfer to an opposition party in South Korea. In 2000, SJKH changed its name to the Democratic Party (MD). In the 2002 elections, the winner was Roh Moo Hyun, a member of the Millennium Democratic Party (SMD). This is not a SOLS change since the MD and SMD are the same party. Roh was an outsider that won the primary elections of his party, but was mistrusted by a major part of the party establishment ("Operation Saving" 2002). Moreover, pressure on Roh within the MDP rose after the MDP had lost in local and parliamentary by-elections in June and August. In August independent backers of Roh first moved to create a new party following talks within the MDP to form a new party and choose a new presidential candidate for the December presidential elections ("New South Korean party" 2002). By September the MDP leadership and Roh agreed that Roh would run his campaign separately from the party. Also the MDP had decided not to create a new party to put forward a candidate in opposition to Roh ("Roh Fails" 2002). Still, by November a group of 11 Lawmakers had defected the MDP in opposition to Roh. Despite these struggles, Roh won the December elections ("MDP" 2002, "Chronology" 2002). Within two months of Roh's inauguration, Roh-supporters began working towards a new party, that led to the creation of a new party in October 2003 ("Pro-Roh Group" 2003). So in 2003, Roh and his supporters founded a new party, known as the Yoellin Uri Party ("Our Open Party", UD). Note that Roh disassociated himself from the SMD, but did not join the UD, but we classify his regime as UD" (Peterson, 242),

Roh openly supported the UD in the days leading up to the National Assembly elections of 2004. His open endorsement was technically a violation of election rules, and his opponents in the National Assembly used this action to begin impeachment proceedings against him (Peterson, 242). On March 12, 2004, he was impeached and stripped of his powers, and the presidency was taken over by the Prime Minister, Goh Kun (not listed by Archigos). However, mass public demonstrations and Roh's opponents losing their majority in the National Assembly led to the Constitutional Court overturning Roh's impeachment on May 14, 2004.

In the presidential elections of 2007, Lee Myung Bak, a conservative from the Grand National Party (HD) won the presidency. This is a SOLS change. He was inaugurated in February 2008.

Park Geun-Hye was elected president in 2012. There is no SOLS change between Park Geun-Hye and her predecessor Lee Myung-Bak because they were from the same political party. Their affiliations are written differently because the Grand National Party (GNP or HD) changed its name to the Saenuri Party (SP) in 2012 in order to signal a fresh start (Ray 2017).

In 2016, Park Guen-Hye was impeached over a corruption scandal. Prime Minister Hwang Kyo Ahn took over as acting president (McKirdy et al. 2016). Moon Jae In was elected president in the 2017 presidential elections (Boykoff et al. 2017). The transition from Guen-Hye to Kyo Ahn is not coded as a SOLS change as Kyo Ahn was an interim leader. The transition from Kyo Ahn to Jae In is coded as a SOLS change because Jae In had a different political affiliation than Guen-Hye, the leader prior to the interim leader.

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