Tunisia
Rice

Tunisia was a French protectorate following the fall of the Ottoman Empire, and it gained independence from the European power in 1956. The monarchy that had previously ruled Tunisia under the Husayni dynasty was abolished in 1957, denoting a SOLS change when King Muhammad al-Amin was deposed and replaced by President Habib Bourguiba of the Parti Néo-Destourien (PND).

In 1987, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the previous Prime Minister, removes Bourguiba from power and succeeds him. This is not considered a SOLS change because throughout the history of modern Tunisia only one political party has held power. This party has been known by three names: the New Constitutionalist Party (1957-1964), the Destourien Socialist Party (1964-1988), and the Constitutional Democratic Rally Party.

After ruling for 23 years, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali stepped down in 2011 following protests over economic issues (BBC News 2011a). Initially, Mohamed Ghannouchi, the prime minister, took over as acting President (Lowe & Amara 2011). However, Ghannouchi shortly turned control of government over to the speaker of the parliament, Fouad Mebazaa, in line with the succession rules in the constitution (Fallon 2011). Mebazaa served as interim president until December 2011 when the Constituent Assembly elected Moncef Marzouki to head the interim government before democratic elections. He is not coded as an interim because he stayed in office longer than 18 months (BBC News 2011b). Elections were held in 2014, and Mohamed al-Baji Qaid as-Sabsi was elected president (Al Jazeera 2014).

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