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Ukraine is coded as a mixed presidential-parliamentary democracy from independence in 1991 until 1993 and then again from 1994 until 2008. While it is coded as a mixed system by Cheibub et al. in 2003, it is not a democracy during that year according to our coding rules. According to the US Department of State (2010), "Following free elections held on December 1, 1991, Leonid M. Kravchuk, former chairman of the Ukrainian Rada, was elected to a five-year term, and became Ukraine's first president." There is no SOLS change at independence. In 1993 the country is coded as an authoritarian regime. Gandhi et. al. have continued to code the country as a mixed democracy; Geddes has omitted coding for this year, signaling an interim authoritarian regime of some kind. In fact, according to Way (2005, 246) Kravchuk "came close to closing the oppositionist parliament with military force in 1993." This accounts for the loss of democracy for the year. This is not a SOLS change because there was no leadership change during that year.

In 1994 Leonid Kuchma, Non-Party, became president. Both Kuchma and Kravchuk were Non- Party candidates, but benefited from different support groups. Kravchuk was from the West, which tends to be anti-Russian and nationalist and Kuchma was from the East which tends to be pro-Russian. Kravchuk had run on a nationalist, anti-Russian platform, while Kuchma supported closer ties to Russia. The eastern state bureaucracy supported Kuchma, while the west did not support closer ties to Russia (Way 2005, 239). Thus, Kuchma's accession to the presidency in 1994 is a SOLS change.

In 2005 Viktor Yushchenko, running as part of the party Blok Viktora Yuschenka Nasha Ukrayina, or "Bloc Our Ukraine" (BYNU, which according to Cahoon (2010) was essentially a personalist party created by Yushenka) became president. According to Way (2005, 256) "Kuchma never threw his support behind a single party but instead relied on a loose and highly volatile coalition of often competing oligarchic parties. As a result of this strategy, Kuchma... had a hard time keeping his allies in line. In the 2004 presidential elections, opposition candidate Viktor Yushchenko, who had been Kuchma's appointed prime minister in 1999–2001, benefited enormously from the financial and organizational backing of a team of oligarchs and former ministers who only a few years earlier had been closely tied to the president. Further, although Kuchma had a majority in parliament in 2002–4, key supporters, including the head of parliament, Kuchma's former chief of administration, abandoned him just before the elections." According to our coding rules, because Ukraine is considered a democracy during this time, Yushchenko's presidency marks a SOLS change. Note though that the same groups that supported Yushchenko had also supported Kuchma earlier.

Viktor Fedorovych Yanukovych was elected president in 2010 (Harding 2010). In late 2013, Yanukovych rejected a trade deal with the EU, instead opting for closer ties with Russia, which led to many protests. In February 2014, Parliament voted to remove Yanukovych and hold presidential elections in May (BBC News 2014a). Oleksandr Valentynovych Turchynov was appointed as interim PM (Walker 2014). Petro Oleksiyovych Poroshenko was elected president in the May 2014 elections (BBC News 2014b). In 2014, Ukraine transitioned to a non-democracy, so we use the predesignated successor rule to identify SOLS changes. The transition

from Yanukovych to Turchynov is not coded as a SOLS change as Turchynov is considered an interim leader. The transition from Turchynov to Poroshenko is coded as a SOLS change because Poroshenko was not the predesignated successor of Yanukovych and was not part of Yanukovych's Party of Regions (Gardner 2016).

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