Kosovo
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Kosovo gained its independence from Serbia in February 2008. We code Kosovo as a democracy, but do not have information on its regime type from Cheibub et al. However, it appears to be a parliamentary system with a President and PM. The President is not directly elected, but selected by the Assembly. The Constitution suggests that the President "leads foreign policy" (Art.84.10). It also says, however, that the Government, led by the PM, "proposes and implements internal and foreign policies." (Art.93.1). Thus, we code the PM as effective ruler.

After its independence, Kosovo was recognized as a fully independent country by the United Stated, Turkey and some countries of the European Union. However, Serbia did not recognize its independence, nor did Russia, China, Spain, Greece and Cyprus.

After Kosovo declared its independence in 2008, the legislature endorsed Hashim Thaçi (PDK) as the prime minister of a coalition government that included the PDK, the LDK, the SLS (the Serb List), and the Kosovo Democratic Turkish Party (KDTP) (Lansford 2015). Since Thaci came into office before independence, we do not code a SOLS change for 2008.

In the December 2010 parliamentary election, the PDK won a plurality of seats. PM Thaçi (PDK) remained in power and formed a new government on February 22, 2011 that included the AKR, the SLS, and several small minority parties (Çollaku 2011). Because PM Thaçi and the PDK remained in power but the LDK left the governing coalition, this is coded as a minor SOLS change.

On December 9, 2014, Isa Mustafa (LDK) took the post of a Prime Minister, and the LDK formed a new coalition government with the PDK (Zogiani 2014). Because the new PM, Mustafa (LDK) and the previous PM, Thaçi (PDK), come from two different parties, this is coded as a major SOLS change.

On September 9, 2017, Ramush Haradinaj (AAK) was appointed prime minister, and a new government was formed that included the PDK, the SLS, the AKR, and NISMA (Osmani and Isufi 2017). Because the new PM, Haradinaj (AAK) and the previous PM, Mustafa (LDK), come from two different parties, this is coded as a major SOLS change.

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