Central African Republic
Vanderbilt

The Central African Republic is coded as non-democratic throughout the observation period. GWF code two separate personalist regimes (1961-1965, 1966-1979).

In 1960 David Dacko, of the Mouvement d'Évolution Sociale d'Afrique Noire (MESAN) party, becomes the first president. He rules as a personalist leader until 1966 when Jean-Bédel Bokassa, Mil, takes power after a bloodless coup (U.S. Department of State, 2010). This is a SOLS change. Bokassa established his own personalist regime and changed his affiliation to MESAN. According to Worldstatesmen.org, this was the only legal party from 1962-1980. Bokassa's SOLS is identified as MESEAN/MIL. This is not a SOLS change. In 1976 Bokassa altered the constitution to make the country a monarchy and changed his title from President to Emperor. GWF code the country as a personalist regime from 1966 to 1979.

In 1979 Dacko led a coup against Bokassa and reestablished himself as personalist dictator again until 1981. This is a SOLS change. In 1980 Dacko changed his affiliation from MESAN to UDC, or Union Démocratique Centrafricain. This is not a SOLS change. In 1981 General André- Dieudonné Kolingba overthrows Dacko in a bloodless coup and establishes a military-personalist hybrid regime that lasts until 1993. Thus, there is a SOLS change in 1981. It is not a minor SOLS change since Kolingba was not a pre-designated successor of Dacko and thus Kolingba's personalist regime is unrelated to Dacko's. While Kolingba had a Military Committee for National Recovery in place for the first four years, he abolished it in 1985 and put in place a predominantly civilian regime. In 1985 Kolingba's SOLS changes from Mil to Rassemblement Démocratique Centrafricain (RDC) but this is not a SOLS change because Geddes codes the country as a military-Personalist hybrid since 1981 to October 1993. There is only one leader from September 1, 1981 to 1993- Kolingba. Coming under political pressure to democratize, Kolingba worked to transition the country to multiparty elections.

Elections were scheduled for 1992 and then rescheduled for 1993 (U.S. Department of State 2010). Ange Felix Patasse of the Mouvement pour la Libération du Peuple Centrafricain (MLPC) won the elections. Despite elections the country is considered a non-democracy, although Cheibub et. al. have coded Patasse's rule as a mixed presidential/parliamentary system. We code 1993 as a SOLS change because it denotes the end of Kolingba's military-personalist regime. Between 1993 and 2002 the country is an autocracy, but is missing regime type information. Patasse was reelected in 1999 and ruled until 2003 when there was a coup and François Bozizé Yangouvonda (Mil) who established another personalist regime, took power. This is a SOLS change. Yangouvonda changed his affiliation from Mil to Non-Party in that same year. This is not a SOLS change. Yangouvonda regime continues through 2008 with no further leader changes.

In March 2013, a rebel coalition called Séléka forced Yangouvonda to flee the country and overtook the presidential palace. Michel Djotodia Am-Nondroko, leader of the Séléka, named himself president (Ngoupana 2013). The Central African Republic is considered a non-democracy until 2016, so we use the predesignated successor rule to determine SOLS changes. The transition from Bozize to Djotodia is coded as a SOLS change because Djotodia overthrew Bozize and was not a predesignated successor. Facing international criticism, Djotodia resigned

on account of his failure to bring stability and restore order on January 10, 2014 (VOA 2014). Alexandre-Ferdinand Nguendet, the Parliament leader, was named interim president until a new interim could be selected that would oversee elections (VOA 2014; Nossiter 2014). Less than two weeks later, the interim parliament elected Catherine Samba-Panza as the new interim president (BBC News 2014). Although Samba-Panza was named an interim leader, she was in office for longer than 18 months so she is not considered an interim in our coding rules. Because Nguendet is considered an interim according to the coding rules, the transition from Djotodia to Nguendet is not considered a SOLS change. The transition from Nguendet to Samba-Panza is considered a SOLS change because Samba-Panza was not part of the rebel coalition led by Djotodia, the leader prior to the interim Nguendet.

Elections were eventually held in February of 2016 and the Central African Republic became a democracy. Faustin-Archange Touadéra, former prime minister under Bozize, was elected president (BBC News 2016). Touadéra ran as an independent and Bozize KNK party supported another candidate in the election, though Touadéra did receive some support from Bozize former allies (EIU 2016). His election is coded as a SOLS change because it does not appear that Samba-Panza designated him as her preferred candidate nor do they share the same source of support as Touadéra was directly elected while Samba-Panza was eleted by the inteirm parliament.

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