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While we code Sri Lanka as a democracy we do not have regime type information from Cheibub et al. (and GWF code a single-party regime from 1979 to 1994) we note that Jayewardene introduced a new Constitution in 1978, which "replaced the previous Westminster style, parliamentary government with a new presidential system modeled after France, with a powerful chief executive" (US Library of Congress 2010). Given this reorganization, we change our coding from a parliamentary to a mixed system democracy in 1977 following a variety of sources (Schlager et al. 2006; Stepan et al. 2010; Singh 2010; Rahman 2007; note also that this mixed period is followed by another change to a presidential system in 1989 discussed below).

In 1948, Sri Lanka gained its independence from Britain. The first parliamentary elections were held in 1947, and resulted in a victory for the Ekshat Jathika Pakshaya (EJP, also known as the United National Party, or UNP) and their leader, Don Stephen Senanayake. D.S. Senanayake died on March 26, 1952, and the office of Prime Minister went to his son, Dudley Senanayake, also from the UNP. This is not a SOLS change. On June 2, 1952, parliamentary elections were held, and the UNP won the most seats, but entered into a coalition with the All-Ceylon Tamil Congress (TC). Senanayake remained Prime Minister, so this election is coded as a minor SOLS change. Due to a budget crisis, which in turn sparked a countrywide strike, Senanayake resigned from office on October 12, 1953 (Peebles 2006, 104). He was replaced by his cousin, Sir John Kotelawala, who was in charge of the same UNP/TC coalition as Senanayake. This is not a SOLS change. In 1956, Kotelawala and the UNP lost the parliamentary elections to Soloman Bandaranaike and the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna (which was a coalition of three parties: the Sri Lanka Nidahas Pakshaya (SLNP, also known as the Sri Lankan Freedom Party, or SLFP), Viplavakari Lanka Sama Samaja (VLSS) and Samasta Lanka Bhasa Peramuna (SLBP)). These parties were united due to their stance of supporting the establishment of Sinhalese as the national language of Sri Lanka, and marks a SOLS change.

Bandaranaike's time in office was marked by the outbreak of violence between those Sri Lankans who spoke Sinhalese and those who spoke Tamil (the latter feeling as though they were being denied rights because Sinhalese was being made the only official language of Sri Lanka). Bandaranaike won parliamentary elections on 6 June 1959, where his party (the SLFP) won enough of a majority to rule without the MEP coalition. This is a minor SOLS change. However, he was assassinated shortly thereafter, on 26 September 1959, and the office of Prime Minister was assumed by Wijayananda Dahanayake, who was also from SLFP. This is not a SOLS change. New parliamentary elections were held on 21 March 1960, and resulted in a victory for UNP and Dudley Senanayake once again. This is a SOLS change. However, facing strong opposition, he called elections on July 23, 1960, and lost. SLFP, under their new leader Sirimavo Ratwatte Dias Bandaranaike (the wife of the former head of the SLFP) won the elections without the aid of a coalition partner. This is a SOLS change.

The government under S. Bandaranaike lasted until 1965. In 1964, new elections were called and the SLFP had to enter into a coalition with the LSSP (Lanka Sama Samaja Paksha). This is a minor SOLS change. In 1965, however, new elections resulted in a victory for UNP (with a coalition of SLFSP— the Sri Lanka Freedom Socialist Party, FP—the Federal Party, and

partly the MEP coalition) and Dudley Senanayake. This is a SOLS change. In 1968, the coalition changed—the FP was no longer a member. This is a minor SOLS change. In the elections of May 29, 1970, however, the UNP lost and the SLFP (along with a coalition of LSSP and CP—the Community Party) under S. Bandaranaike once again took control of the government. This is a SOLS change. In 1975, Bandaranaike's coalition changed to exclude the LSSP (as the SLFP had won enough seats to govern with just one coalition partner). This is a minor SOLS change. Then, in February 1977, the coalition changed to be just the SLFP. This is a minor SOLS change.

Later that year, on 23 July 1977, elections resulted in a landslide for UNP, now under the leadership of J.R. Jayawardene. This is a SOLS change. The Jayawardene government passed a new constitution, which made the government into a presidential system (where the President is the head of state, and the Prime Minister is appointed by the President). GWF code Sri Lanka as being under as a single-party state until 1994.

Jayawardene began a program of economic liberalization, but also had to deal with increasing violence between the Sinhalese and Tamil ethnic groups. Negotiation attempts between the two groups continually failed and a State of Emergency was declared on July 30, 1980. Jayawardene called early presidential elections in 1982 (when opposition to the UNP was fragmented), and won (Peebles 2006, 134). Also in 1982, the current Parliament's term was extended by six years, via a nationwide referendum vote. Civil war between the Tamils and the Sinhalese officially broke out in July 1983.

In 1989, presidential elections were held (at which point Sri Lanka ceased being a single-party state), and UNP's candidate, Ranasingha Premadasa (the Prime Minister under Jayawardene's government) won the presidency. This is not a SOLS change. However, Premadasa was assassinated by Tamil separatists (also known as the LTTE or the Tamil Tigers) on May 1, 1993. He was replaced as President by the then-Prime Minister, Dingiri Banda Wijetunge, also a member of the UNP This is not a SOLS change.

In 1994, after the SLFP won parliamentary elections (as part of a coalition known as the United Alliance, or UA), their candidate Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga also won the presidential elections held on 12 November 1994. This is a SOLS change. According to WKB (2000), the SLFP was in coalition with four other parties and formed the PA (People's Alliance). During her time in office, a ceasefire between the government and the Tamil separatists was finally signed in 2002. Kumaratunga chose not to run in the 2005 Presidential elections, and instead chose the then-Prime Minister, Mahinda Rajapakse as the SLFP-UPFA candidate (SLFP-UPFA is a political alliance of 7 different political parties including SLNP (or SLFP) and SLMP). Rajapakse won the elections. This is not a SOLS change and we don't code a minor SOLS change either because this is a presidential system.

Mahinda Rajapakse lost the 2015 presidential election to former ally Maithripala Sirisena (BBC News 2015a). Maithripala Sirisena defected from Rajapakse's party, the SLFP, and joined a coalition in opposition to Rajapakse led by the UNP (BBC News 2015b). Later, he rejoined the SLFP and took over the leadership of the party (Aneez 2018). Sri Lanka is coded as a nondemocracy in 2014 but a democracy in 2015, so we look at political affiliation to determine whether a SOLS change occurred in the 2015 election. We code the transition from Rajapakse to Sirisena as a SOLS change because the two men ran against each other and were supported by

different political parties. We also code minor SOLS change in 2015 when Sirisena rejoined the SLFP.

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