Solomon Islands
Vanderbilt

Before the Solomon Islands (SI) became independent in 1978, they were a British protectorate. Since independence the SI have known mostly democratic regimes interrupted by an authoritarian spell, induced by civil conflict. Like other countries in the region, the SI have an extremely weak and fractured party system. Members of parliament are generally not strongly tied to parties, which results in a parliamentary environment in which MPs switch parties regularly and the largest faction is generally the faction of independents. Upon independence the elected legislative assembly became the first parliament, which elected Kenilorea as the first prime minister of the newly established parliamentary democracy. Kenilorea's party affiliation is listed as the conservative SIUPA, Solomon Islands United Party. Kenilorea was reelected following the first elections in 1980, but following a vote of no confidence in August 1981 Solomon Mamaloni of the social-democratic PAP (People's Alliance Party) took over (Europa World Yearbook 2002). This is a SOLS change. Unfortunately, we don't know if Mamaloni led a coalition government.

Following the 1984 elections Kenilorea reemerged and built a coalition that consisted of his United Party (UP; also SIUPA), Solomon Ano Sagufenua (SAS) and three independents. This is a SOLS change World yearbook 2004). Following disagreements, the PAP withdrew its support in October 1985 and Kenilorea constructed a new coalition with the newly erected Nationalist Front for Progress (NFP). This is coded as a minor SOLS change, dated the last day of October (Europa World Yearbook 2002). Following allegations of accepting money from France, Kenilorea resigned and swapped places with deputy prime minister Ezekiel Alebua, keeping the composition of the rest of the cabinet intact (Europa World Yearbook 2002).

Following the 1989 election, Solomon Mamaloni of the PAP formed a government with the support of some independents, but without the support of other parties (Europa World Yearbook 2002). This is coded as a SOLS change. Following broad dissatisfaction with Mamaloni, Mamaloni resigned in October 1990 as leader of the PAP but stayed on as prime minister, swapping some of his cabinet members with opposition MPs and PAP backbenchers. Despite Mamaloni's resignation from the PAP and cabinet reshuffle (subsequent creation of the new Group for National Unity and Reconciliation -GNUR- party), there is no minor SOLS change (Europa World Yearbook 2002). We code Marmaloni as an independent from here. Following the 1993 elections, independents and the main opposition parties erected the National Coalition Partners (NCP) and selected Francis Billy Hilly (non-party) to become prime minister. This is a SOLS change. Hilly was forced to resign after only one year, however, and following a parliamentary election, Mamaloni and his GNUR returned to power (BBC 2011). This is a SOLS change.

The 1997 aftermath of the election led to a struggle for power between the incumbent GNUR and a coalition grouping called Solomon Islands Liberal Party-Solomon Islands Alliance for Change (SILP-SIAC). The latter coalition under the leadership of Bartholomew Ulufa'alu won and the change of government was coded as a SOLS change. The years of Ulufa'alu's government are characterized by civil struggle. In 2000 Ulufa'alu was captured by MEF rebels in a staged coup attempt and is forced to resign (BBC 2011). Following Ulufa'alu's resignation

parliament selected Manasseh Sogavare of the People's Progress Party (PPP) as prime minister, which is coded as a SOLS change. Under Sogavare the political unrest worsened: between 2000 and the entry of Australian peacekeepers SI is no longer coded as a democracy. Given the civil unrest in the country, it also should not be coded any particular type of autocracy under Geddes' coding rules. In December 2001 Sir Allan Kemakeza of the PAP is elected as Prime Minister. This is a SOLS change. Because SI is no longer democratic due to unrest we do not code coalitions.

The 2006 elections induced another SOLS change. In May, parliament reelected Sogavare, now of the Solomon Islands Social Credit Party (SISCP), as prime minister after Snyder Rini of the Association of Independent Members of Parliament (AIM) was forced to resign as prime minister, because of riots within days of taking office. Snyder Rini's short-lived government was coded as a SOLS change 30 (BBC 2011). This is an ABC scenario from the coding rules. In 2007 Prime Minister Sogavare is forced to resign following a vote of no confidence. Derek Sikua of the SILP-SIAC combination thereafter becomes prime minister.

Danny Philip (RDPSI) was elected prime minister on August 25, 2010, replacing Derek Sikua (SILP). Because Philip was from a different political party than the outgoing PM, this is coded as a SOLS change.

On November 11, 2011, PM Philip resigned in order to avoid a vote of no confidence by parliament over allegations of misuse of development aid. Gordon Darcy Lilo (NCRA), his former finance minister, was elected to replace him on November 17, 2011. Because Philip and Lilo are from different political parties, this is coded as a SOLS change.

In November 2014, parliament elected Manasseh Sogavare (UDP/DCC) as prime minister (Lansford 2017). Because Sogavare and Philip are from different political parties, this is coded as a SOLS change.

Rick Houenipwela (DAP) became Prime Minister in November 2017, replacing Manasseh Sogavare following a motion of no confidence (Gray 2019). The new government included the DAP, UDP, PAP, the Kadere Party (KP), and the SIPFP (Lansford 2019).

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