Kosovo
Rice

Kosovo was originally an autonomous region of Yugoslavia with a majority ethnic-Albanian population. In the 1990s, after the breakup of Yugoslavia, Slobodan Milosevic, the new leader of Serbia, eliminated Kosovo's autonomy. After a peaceful resistance movement on the part of Kosovo's Albanian leaders failed to secure independence, an armed resistance movement emerged in 1997. This led to a brutal police and military crackdown in the region, orchestrated by Milosevic. Even after the UN stepped in to restore peace, ethnic violence continued. The international community also spent the majority of the 2000s debating Kosovo's status.

In 2008, Kosovo declared independence from Serbia. Serbia does not recognize Kosovo as an independent state, but the majority of the international community does. Under Kosovo's new constitution (which establishes a parliamentary system), the Prime Minister is the head of government. Thus, we code the PM as the effective ruler.

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).

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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