Tunisia
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Tunisia is coded as a single-party authoritarian regime for the entire observation period. Muhammad VIII al-Amin ruled as king at independence in 1956 as part of the Husayni dynasty (Morby 2002). There is no SOLS change at independence.

On July 25, 1957, the country became a republic and Habib Bourguiba became the country's first president. His party, the Parti Néo- Destourien (PND), was the only legal party from 1957 to 1964. According to Geddes the country is a single-party system from then until the end of the observation period. Thus, the change from al-Amin to Bourguiba is a SOLS change.

In 1964, the party's name was changed to Parti Socialiste Destourien (PSD). This is not a SOLS change. Bourguiba became "president for life" in 1975 (The New York Times 2000), but did not finish his life term: in 1987 at age 84, he "in effect named a new successor" by dismissing his prime minister and replacing him with Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali (The New York times 1987). According to Tunisia's Constitution, the prime minister was to replace the president in the event of death.

Later in the year, Bourguiba was deposed in a bloodless coup by Ben Ali, who declared that the president was not mentally or physically fit to run the country. This is not a SOLS change because he was seemingly the unofficial pre-designated successor of Bourguiba, and because they belonged to the same single- party regime.

In 1988, Ben Ali's SOLS changes from PSD to RCD (Rassemblement Constitutionnel Democratique) (Anderson 1991, 251). This is not a SOLS change because became RCD and they are thus the same party. ben Ali ruled through 2008 with no further SOLS changes.

After ruling for 23 years, Ben Ali stepped down in 2011 following protests over economic issues (BBC News 2011a). Initially, Mohamed Ghannouchi, the prime minister, took over as acting President (Lowe & Amara 2011). However, Ghannouchi shortly turned control of government over to the speaker of the parliament, Fouad Mebazaa, in line with the succession rules in the constitution (Fallon 2011). Mebazaa served as interim president until December 2011 when the Constituent Assembly elected Moncef Marzouki to head the interim government before democratic elections. He is not coded as an interim because he stayed in office longer than 18 months (BBC News 2011b). Elections were held in 2014, and Mohamed al-Baji Qaid as-Sabsi was elected president (Al Jazeera 2014).

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