Moldova
Rice

In 1991, after the collapse of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Moldova declared itself independent. President Mircea Ion Snegur negotiated to avoid conflict with Russian president Boris Yeltsin. Although appointed to the presidency by the Supreme Soviet in 1990, Snegur was elected through presidential elections in 1991 as an independent. He received early political support from the Popular Front, but broke off his connections to this party to join the Agrarian Democratic Party (ADP) in 1994 (Europa World Yearbook 2009). Tensions within the ADP led to a split in 1995, and Snegur led the winners in the new Party of Revival and Harmony (PRH; also Party of Revival and Accord of Moldova – PRAM; also Party of Revival and Consolation -- PRC) while the ADP became a more pro-Moscow force. This is a minor SOLS change. The PRH can be considered a break-away faction of the ADP.

In 1997, Petru Lucinschi ran as an independent and won against Snegur, indicating a SOLS change as the PRH was no longer backing the leader. In the following elections in 2001, Vladimir Voronin took the presidency, backed by the Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova (PCRM), who had been steadily gaining influence throughout Lucinschi's term. This election was a SOLS change as a result of the party change.

Major sources including the Archigos data set as well as Cheibub et al show that power shifted in 2001 from the presidency to the position of Prime Minister. This change occurred on April 19, 2001 with the appointment of Vasile Petru Tarlev to the position. There was no SOLS change upon his appointment, as he was a member of the PCRM. The next leader transition was Zinaida Greceanii, whose appointment on 31 March 2008 also with the PCRM required no SOLS change.

In September 2009, Zinaida Petru Greceanîi (PCRM), resigned as prime minister and Vitalie Vasile Pîrlog was appointed acting PM until a new government was formed (Belkina 2009). Vladimir Vasile Filat (PLDM) was able to form a four-party coalition called the Alliance for European Integration (AIE) and was named PM. Pîrlog is considered an interim leader, so there is no SOLS change from Greceanîi to Pîrlog. We do code as SOLS change from Pîrlog to Filat as Filat had a different political affiliation than Greceanîi, the leader prior to the interim. In 2010, the AIE renewed an agreement to govern as a coalition, though only three parties (PLDM, PDM, PL) were part of the agreement (AMN did not return to parliament) (Rodkiewicz 2011). This is coded as a minor SOLS change.

Filat resigned as PM after losing a no confidence vote in March 2013 (Auyezov 2013). Iurie Leancă was first named acting PM then in May was named prime minister (Tanas 2013). Filat and Leancă were from the same political party, so there is no SOLS change. There is a minor SOLS change as some members split from the PL (Liberal Party) to form the PLR (Liberal Reformist Party) ("Liberal Party" 2019). The PL was part of Filat's governing coalition while the PLR was part of Leancă's.

Elections in 2015 resulted in a narrow victory for the pro-Western governing coalition, but they needed the support of the Communist party in order to form a government. The Communists blocked Leancă's bid to form a new government and eventually a minority government was formed with Chiril Gaburici as prime minister (Ursu & Coalson 2015). Gaburici

was a businessman with no previous political experience and is coded as a non-party by The World Statesmen but was affiliated with the PLDM. We code his affiliation as PLDM. The transition from Leancă to Gaburici is not coded as a SOLS change because both were affiliated with the PLDM, but the transition is coded as a minor SOLS change as the PLR was not apart of the minority government of Gaburici.

Gaburici resigned in June 2015 after allegations that his school diplomas had been forged and Natalia Gherman was named acting PM (Tanas 2015). Backed by the PLDM, the PDM, and the PL, Valeriu Strelet was appointed prime minister in July 2015. The transition from Gaburici to Gherman is not a SOLS change because Gherman is considered an interim leader. The transition from Gherman to Strelet is not considered as SOLS change as Strelet and Gaburici, the leader prior to the interim, were both affiliated with the PLDM. There is a minor SOLS change as there were changes in the governing coalition.

The government under Strelet fell in a no confidence vote in October 2015 and Gheorghe Brega was appointed interim PM (Jones 2015). Pavel Filip (PDM) was elected as PM in early 2016. Brega is considered an interim leader, so the transition from Strelet to Brega is not a SOLS change. The transition from Brega to Filip is considered a SOLS change as Filip and Strelet have different political affiliations.

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