Guinea
Rice

Guinea gained its independence from France in 1958. In 1957, territorial elections were held which brought Ahmed Sekou Touré, the leader of the Democratic Party of Guinea (PDG) into power. The PDG won 56 out of 60 seats in that election, and Touré led the Guineans to independence, refusing to enter the proposed French Community. Touré became the President of the new country, which Geddes classifies as a single-party state, and remained in power until his death in April 1984. Initially, he was succeeded by his predesignated successor, Louis Lansana Beavogui. This is not a SOLS change. One week after Beavogui took office, he was deposed in a military coup led by Lansana Conté. This is a SOLS change. The military junta under Conté, called the Military Committee of National Recovery, abolished the constitution and ruled by decree.

This government, classified as personalist by Geddes, was in power until 2008. In the 1990s, several flawed elections were held which ensured Conté (and the Party for Unity and Progress he had created in 1991) remained in office. However, there is no SOLS change in 1991 because Geddes codes his regime as a pure-Personalist regime throughout his tenure until 2008. Large amounts of violence pervaded the country throughout the 2000s, with flawed elections held throughout. On December 22, 2008, Conté died, and power passed to his predesignated successor Aboubacar Somparé (There are questions whether Somparé was ever in power. Some sources do not even mention him holding power for a day. See McGovern 2009, 106, for example.) The next day, Captain Moussa Dadis Camara seized power in a coup establishing a new, personalist regime.

Camara was later indicted for his role in a 2009 massacre in which more than 150 protesters were killed (BBC News 2015). He was shot by his military aide in December 2009 and left the country to recover. Sékouba Konaté took over as interim leader (News Wires 2009). In January 2010, the military agreed to a transitional government to organize elections with Konaté as leader of the transitional government. Camara agreed to remain outside the country (Stearns 2010). In November 2010, Alpha Condé was elected president (Andre 2010). Guinea is a non-democracy during this period. Konaté is considered an interim leader, so the transition from Camara to Konaté is not coded as a SOLS change. The transition from Konaté to Conde is coded as a SOLS change because Conde had a different source of support than Camara and was not Camara's designated successor.

Ethnicity very important in Guinea. Conde has considered ethnicity in factionalized military regarding political and military appointments, especially to presidential guard. There has been some suppression of the opposition, as well as talks of eliminating term limits. Accordingly, we code Guinea as a personalist regime under Conde.

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