Romania
Rice

In 1919, Romania was a monarchy, under King Ferdinand of the House of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen. Ferdinand had succeeded his uncle, King Carol I, in 1914. He guided Romania through World War I on the side of the Entente powers, and, due to this alliance, made Transylvania a part of Romania following the War. In 1927, he died, and the throne passed to his grandson, Michael I, who was only five years old at the time. A regency was formed for Michael, led by his uncle, Prince Nicholas (no SOLS change—and Nicholas is listed on the spreadsheet as being the leader). In 1930, the regency (and therefore King Michael) was deposed by politicians who had invited Carol II, Michael's father, to claim the throne instead (no SOLS change). Carol II had temporarily renounced his right to the throne prior to his son's ascension because he wanted to marry his mistress, who was a commoner.

Carol II was in power until 1940, when he was forced to abdicate by General Ion Antonescu, who established a military government that closely aligned itself with Nazi Germany (SOLS change). Antonescu installed Michael I on the throne once again, but did not grant the monarchy any political powers. "Antonescu's own power bases were the army, the gendarmerie, and the intelligence services. Guardist infiltration in the military was limited, and the officer corps stood firmly behind Antonescu in his conflict with the Iron Guard" (van de Grift 2012, 25). Given that some sources characterize his regime as a military dictatorship (e.g., Deletant 2006, 69; Hitchins 1994, 465), while other sources also suggest some personalist aspects of his regime (e.g., Deletant 2006, 71 and 81), we consider that Antonescu's rule most closely resembles a military-personalist kind of regime. Thus, we code Romania as a monarchy through 1939 (according to our Dec. 31 rule) and code mil/per from 1940 to when Antonescu took power (until 1943)

Over the course of the war, resistance to Antonescu's government increased. Mainly perpetrated by the Romanian Communist Party, it came to include many other Romanian political leaders, and finally gained the support of Michael I in early 1944 (Candea 1977, 87). On 23 August of that year, Antonescu was placed under arrest, and Michael I declared the dictatorship to be at an end (Candea 1977, 88). He immediately withdrew Romania from World War II, but had to deal with rising Communist political power domestically.

GWF begin coding Romania as a single party-personalist regime under the PCR in 1945. This system lasts until 1989. We code a SOLS change to this system when Michael overthrows Antonescu with communist help. We code no specific autocratic regime type in 1944, but begin coding sp/per in 1945.

After the war was over, the Soviet Union occupied Romania until 1958. The influence of the Soviet Union led to the growth of the Romanian Worker's Party (PMR), and the gradual elimination of non-communist political leaders. King Michael was forced to abdicate in 1947, and the Romanian People's Republic was declared, with the General Secretary of the PMR, Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej becoming the leader of the state. The transition from Michael to Gheorgiu-Dej is not a SOLS change since we consider the sp/per regime to have begun under Michael.

Gheorghiu-Dej was in power until his death in 1965. He was then replaced by one of his protégées, Nicolae Ceausescu (no SOLS change). Ceausescu remained in power until the fall of the communist state in 1989. Demonstrations in December 1989 relating to the forced relocation of a Hungarian pastor grew into country-wide anti-Ceausescu demonstrations, which then led to his overthrow. He and his wife were arrested, subjected to a quick military trial, and then executed on 25 December 1989 (United States Department of State).

Note that while the single-party-personalist regime of Ceausescu is coded as ending in 1989, Romania does not become a democracy by our coding rules until 1996. (Cheibub et al. do code a mixed democratic system however.) This means that we need to code by the pre-designated successor rule until 1996.

Following Ceausescu's death, a coalition known as the National Salvation Front (FSN) installed itself as the leaders of the country, declared a return to democracy, and dissolved the PMR. Petre Roman, a university professor, was selected by the FSN to be the Prime Minister. This is a SOLS change since he did not rely on Ceausescu's party and inner circle and in fact participated in the revolution to bring him down. When elections were held in May 1990, the FSN gained the majority of seats, and formed an official government under Roman. The Romanian public remained disgruntled at the fact that many of the members of the political elite were ex-communists, and though political and economic reforms were enacted, anti-communist protests continued. In 1991, a group of miners from the Jiu Valley held protests in Bucharest to demand higher wages and better living conditions. The government's inability to quell the protests led to Roman's resignation on 1 October 1991. He was replaced by Theodor Stolojan, who headed a nonpartisan interim administration. Stolojan's SOLS was non-party and this is a caretaker government. However, Stolojan's caretaker government also involved the FSN, NLP, REM, and ADP. This administration lasted for eleven months, and was responsible for negotiating Romania's new democratic constitution, and for scheduling elections. Though worldstatesmen does not list Stolojan as being an interim leader, the State Department's Country Background Note does, and it would appear that Stolojan's government was established with the goal of holding new elections. Therefore, we do not code his time in office as a SOLS change.

Prior to the elections in 1992, the FSN split into two parties—the FDSN (Democratic National Salvation Front), led by President Ion Iliescu, and the FSN, led by Petre Roman. Roman's party subsequently adopted the name Democratic Party (PD), and the FDSN became the Party of Social Democracy of Romania (PDSR) in July 1993" (United States Department of State). In the parliamentary elections of 1992, the FDSN won a plurality of votes in both houses, and formed a minority government under economist Nicolae Vacaroiu (Bideleux and Jeffries 2007, 151). Because we are coding under pre-designated successor rules in a non-democratic system, we code a major SOLS change here. Vacariou was affiliated with Illiescu's FDSN which competed with the last regular leader's (Roman's) FSN.

In 1994, the FDSN changed its name to the Social Democratic Party of Romania (SDPR) and entered into coalition with the Party of Romanian National Unity (PUNR) ("ROMANIAN RULING" 1996). Given the non-democratic nature of Romania at the time, we do not code a minor SOLS change for this. The PUNR was ejected from government in 1996. We code this a minor SOLS change since by our rules Romania is democratic in 1996.

In the subsequent elections of 1996, the FDSN lost to the Democratic Convention of Romania (CDR). A coalition government of the CDR, Social Democratic Union (USD), and Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania (UDMR) was formed under Victor Ciorbea (SOLS change). This coalition ruled for four years, though the Prime Minister changed several times during that period. Ciorbea resigned in March 1998, and was briefly replaced by his Minister of the Interior Gavril Dejeu (who was in office for 15 days, and is clearly interim). Dejeu was then replaced by the new head of the CDR, Radu Vasile, who remained in office until 1999, when he resigned, due to looming economic crisis. After being replaced for a short time by Alexandru Athanasiu, Vasile's Minister of Labor (USD - only in office for eight days, again, listed as an interim leader), the office of Prime Minister passed to the governor of Romania's central bank, Constantin Mugur Isarescu (who is officially listed as being nonpartisan, however, he governed with the same coalition as before). Based on our rules regarding transitions from leaders affiliated with a party to non-party leaders, we code a SOLS change here.

Isarescu was in office until the elections of 2000. The four-party coalition lost, and a new government of the UDMR under Adrian Nastase (SOLS change). According to the Europa World Yearbook (2004, 3512) and the Dept. of State, Nastase (PDSR) did not have a coalition partner and formed a minority government. In 2001, PDSR changed its name to the Social Democratic Party (PSD). Nastase remained in office until 2004, when new elections were held. Nastase lost, and he was briefly replaced by Eugen Bejinariu, who held office for eight days until the new coalition could name a Prime Minister (as Bejinariu was both from the same party as Nastase and was an interim Prime Minister, no SOLS change).

A government was formed through a partnership between the PNL (National Liberal Party) and the Democratic Party (PD). At this point, the spreadsheet switches to listing the President (who was a member of the PNL) as the head of state, instead of the Prime Minister. This could be due to the fact that Traian Basescu, the new President, appointed the Prime Minister (Calin Popescu-Tarisceanu) (United States Department of State). Either way, this is a SOLS change). Basescu remained in office through 2008. However, worldstatesmen.org shows that he was suspended from 20 April to 23 May 2007. During this period, he was impeached by Parliament for unconstitutional conduct. A nationwide referendum was then held to confirm the impeachment, but Basescu won the referendum, and returned to office ("Basescu wins referendum on impeachment, promises to reform the political class"). During Basescu's impeachment, Nicolae Vacaroiu stepped in as "Acting President". As he was only in power for one month, and was labeled as being an interim leader, we have not coded Vacaroiu's time in office as a SOLS change.

In 2012, the Romanian Parliament voted to impeach President Băsescu (Associated Press 2012). Băsescu was suspended and George Crin Laurenţiu Antonescu took over as interim president (Associated Press 2012). Impeachment does not remove the president from office but sparks a national referendum to determine whether the president should be removed. Băsescu survived the national referendum in 2007. In the 2012 referendum, while 87% of those that voted in the referendum voted to remove Băsescu, however, the referendum failed to meet the 50% quorum of the electorate needed to remove him from office (Gardner 2014). Thus, Băsescu was

reinstated as president (Patran 2012). Because Antonescu was an interim leader, the transitions in 2012 are not considered SOLS changes.

A presidential election was held in 2014. After serving two terms, Băsescu could not run for re-election, and Klaus Werner Johannis was elected president (BBC News 2014). Romania is a democracy, so we use party affiliation to determine whether there was a SOLS change between Băsescu and Johannis. The Romanian Constitution requires that president is not a member of any political party (Associated Press 2012), so The World Statesmen lists Băsescu and Johannis as having no party affiliation. Johannis was a member of the PNL prior to becoming president and Băsescu was a member of PD. Because their previous affiliations are different, there is a SOLS change.

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Post-1945 revised by Eelco van der Maat (Vanderbilt) 9/16/2011
Post-1945 revised by Michaela Mattes (Vanderbilt) 02/27/2012
Post-1945 updated by Naoko Matsumura (Rice)06/13/2012
Post-1945 revised by Michaela Mattes (Vanderbilt) 06/11/2013
Combined by Matt DiLorenzo (Vanderbilt) on 07/31/2013
Revised by Michaela Mattes 01/14/2014
Revised by Ashley Leeds 02/27/2014
Edited by Andrew Wood (Rice) on 5/24/2014
Edited by Kristin Bryant to include information about 2009-2018 period coded by Alex Pugh on 08/08/2020