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Madagascar is coded as a non-democracy from independence in 1960 until 1992. Geddes codes Madagascar as a single-party authoritarian regime from independence in 1960 until 1972. Madagascar's first President, Philibert Tsiranana of the Parti Social Démocratique du Madagascar (PSD), ruled during this period. In 1972 he resigned in response to antigovernment sentiment. Gabriel Ramanantsoa, Mil, took power. This is a SOLS change since Ramanantsoa relied on the military rather than the PSD for support. From 1972 to 1975 the country is coded as a military regime. In 1975, as a result of heavy protests against his regime, Ramanantsoa stepped down and handed power over to Lt. Col. Richard Ratsimandrava, his interior minister. Ratsimandrava himself was killed only a few days later and a provisional military government under Andriamahazo was put in place (Departmen of State, 2009). Neither leadership change is coded as SOLS change. Ratsimandrava could be considered a pre-designated successor since he was Ramanantsoa's interior minister and Ramanantsoa handed power over to him. Andriamahazo is also probably best considered a pre-designated successor since he was a former minister for Ramanantsoa (See Jessup 1998, 25; Crowder 1984, 684; Dahl 1999, 23; and International Business Publications 2006, 161).In any case, like Ramanantsoa and Ratsimandrava, Andriamahazo were also military so we do not code a SOLS change here.

There is, however, a leadership change later that year when a new regular government was formed with Didier Ratsiraka of the Front National pour la Défense de la Révolution/Andry sy Riana Enti-Manavotra an'i Madagasikara (FNDR/AREMA) ruling as president. This is a SOLS change since, while Ratsiraka is initially appointed by the military directorate, he establishes his own support basis. From 1975 until 1992 the country is coded as a personalist regime under Ratsiraka. Under pressure, Ratsiraka moved the country toward democracy. In 1991, Ratsiraka was stripped of his powers and an interim government was set up to prepare for elections in 18 months (U.S. Department of State 2009). However, following Archigos, we continue coding Ratsiraka as the effective ruler until 1993. In 1992 Albert Zafy of the Union Nationale pour le Développement et la Démocratie (UNDD) defeated Ratsiraka in a democratic election and became president. This is a SOLS change since it constitutes the end of Ratsiraka's personalist regime. From 1992 until 2008 the country can be considered a mixed presidential-parlimentary democracy. (Cheibub et. al. (2009) did not provide democratic regime type coding for the year 1992, but provided coding for subsequent years.) Zafy was impeached in 1996 and temporarily replaced by Norbert Lala Ratsirahonana (acting) of the Asa Vita no Ifampitsarana (AVI) party (U.S. Department of State 2009; Cahoon 2010). This is not a SOLS change. In 1997 Ratsiraka (AREMA) won the presidential elections to once again to become president. This is a SOLS change since Ratsiraka relied on a different party than the last regular leader, Zafy. In 2001, Ratsiraka ran against Marc Ravalomanana of the Tiako i Madagasikara (TIM) party. Both candidates claimed to have won. After a bout of political violence, in 2002 Ratsiraka went into exile in France and Ravalomanana became president. This is a SOLS change.

In early 2009, anti-government protests against Marc Ravalomanana, in part led by Andre Rajoelina, the mayor of Antananarivo. Rajoelina called for Ravalomanana to resign or his impeachment. On February 7, 2009, the presidential guard kills approximately 30 protesters

(Ploch & Cook 2012). Protests continued and by March, the military appeared to take Rajoelina's side. Marc Ravalomanana resigned after military officers seized presidential offices (McGreal & Corbett 2009). He transferred power to Hippolyte Raharison Ramaroson, a military admiral, who refused to take power and subsequently transferred power to Rajoelina and Rajoelina became president of the transitional government (Ploch & Cook 2012). Madagascar is a nondemocracy during this period, so we use those rules to determine whether a SOLS change occurs. The transition from Ravalomanana to Ramaroson is not coded as a SOLS change because Ravalomanana designated Ramaroson to take power. The transition from Ramaroson to Rajoelina is coded as a SOLS change because Ramaroson transfers power from Ravalomanana's regime to Rajoelina.

While Rajoelina was president of a transitional government, he was in power for longer than 18 months so is not considered an interim. In 2013, elections were finally held, under the condition that Rajoelina and Ravalomanana would not run in the election (BBC News 2013). Hery Martial Rajaonarimampianina Rakotoarimanana, former finance minister under Rajoelina, won the election (Iloniaina 2014). In 2014, Madagascar becomes a democracy. Although Rajaonarimampianina had the backing of Rajoelina, Rajaonarimampianina does not have the same political affiliation as Rajoelina. As a result, we code a SOLS change. Rajoelina came into power backed by the military while Rajaonarimampianina was democratically elected, making their source of support different.

In 2018, Rajaonarimampianina resigned to run in the presidential election (AFP 2018). Speaker Rivo Rakotovao took over as interim president. Because Rakotovao is an interim, the traansition from Rajaonarimampianina to Rakotovao is not considered for a SOLS change.

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