Mozambique
Vanderbilt

Mozambique is coded as a single-party authoritarian regime from independence in 1975 until 1994. Samora Moisés Machel of the Frente da Libertação de Moçambique (FRELIMO) party ruled as the country's first president. There is no SOLS change at independence. The country was immersed in civil war in the years after independence. In 1986 Machel died in a plane crash and was succeeded by Joaquim Alberto Chissanó, also of FRELIMO (U.S. Department of State, 2010). This is not a SOLS change since the same single-party remains in charge. Chissanó guided the country to democracy. He oversaw the adoption of a new constitution in 1990 that paved the way for a multiparty system. Peace talks began. The civil war ended in 1992 (U.S. Department of State, 2010). In 1994, the country became a semi-presidential democracy and Chissanó won free and fair elections (Schlager et al. 2006; Shugart 2005; Moestrup 2007).
We do not code this as a SOLS change since Chissano continues in power and he continues to be supported by FRELIMO. However, once could argue that this is a SOLS change without leadership change because his basis of support changes from his party to the voting citizens of Mozambique. (It is interesting to note that Geddes (1999) continues to code the country as a single-party authoritarian regime up to and including 2008, and Cheibub et. al. (2009) do not provide democratic regime type coding.) Chissanó continues to rule over democratic Mozambique until he is succeeded by Armando Emílio Guebuza, also of FRELIMO, in 2005. This is not a SOLS change either since FRELIMO remains the leader's support basis. Guebuza rules though 2008.

Changes in version 5.0 of CHISOLS:
The Polity team changed the coding of Mozambique from October, 1994 through October, 2013 from a 6 to a 5 on the democracy scale in later versions of their dataset. For instance, the 2018 version codes Mozambique as a 5 on the democracy scale until October, 2013 and a 6 thereafter. As a result, we are changing the coding of Mozambique from 1994-2012 to a single-party nondemocracy, which matches the coding of GWF and Cheibub et al. This does not result in any changes to our coding of SOLS changes, but it does result in a change in a regime transition. There is no longer a regime transition in 1994; the transition to democracy happens in 2013.

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