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Moldova is coded as an autocracy from independence in 1991 until 1993. Geddes has not coded a particular regime type for this period. "Parliament passed legislation authorizing the direct election of the president in late 1991" (Roper 2008, 116). On December 8, 1991 Mircea Ion Snegur, Non-Party, ran unopposed and was elected (Crowther 1998, 161). Moldova became independent on December 26, 1991. There is no SOLS change at independence. (There is also no leader change since Archigos codes Snegur as being in office in 1990). From 1993 until 1997 Moldova is coded as a parliamentary democracy. This is odd since Archigos codes the president (i.e. Snegur) rather than the PM as leader. It appears that Roper (2008) agrees with Archigos: "the country has moved from a parliamentary (1990 –1991) to semi-presidential (1991 – 2000) and back to a parliamentary regime (2000 to the present) within a decade." In any case, there is no SOLS change during this period since Snegur is in office the whole time. 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). This is not a SOLS change. In 1995, he split from ADP and help form the new Party of Revival and Harmony (PRH; also Party of Revival and Accord of Moldova – PRAM; also Party of Revival and Consolation – PRC). This is a minor SOLS change. The PRH can be considered as a break-away faction of the ADP .

From 1997 until 2000 Moldova is considered a mixed presidential/parliamentary democracy by Cheibub et al. In the 1996 elections, Snegur tried to incite nationalist sentiment by campaigning on a pro-Romanian platform, while the Speaker of the Parliament Petru Chiril Lucinschi, Non- Party, appealed to moderates with "ethnic accommodation" and a "moderately pro-Russian stance" (Crowther 1998, 158). Lucinschi won elections and acceded to the presidency in 1997. According to Way (2003) the elections were "bitterly fought" (130). Lucinshi was not Snegur's pre-designated successor. Accordingly, this is a SOLS change. Lucinschi was not affiliated with any particular party.

According to the U.S. State Department (2009), in 2000 "Parliament passed a decree making Moldova a parliamentary republic, with the president elected by Parliament instead of by popular vote." "In 2001, the Communists drove through a constitutional amendment that prevented Lucinschi from running for a second term as president and abolished the election of the president by popular vote. The Communists won the ensuing election and, as parliament's dominant force, propelled Voronin into the presidency (Eftode 2009.)" From 2000 until 2008 Moldova is considered a parliamentary democracy. However, in 2001, Archigos first codes the outgoing President Lucinschi then the PM Tarlev as the effective leader. Following Archigos, we do not include Voronin and code a SOLS change from Lucinschi (Non-party) to Tarlev (PCRM) in 2001.

In 2008 Zinaida Petru Greceaniil, also PCRM, becomes president. This is not a SOLS change. In September 2009, Greceanîi 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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