East Timor (Timor Leste)
Vanderbilt

East Timor, located on the island of Timor in East Asia, is a former colony of Portugal, which was to become independent following a change of government in Portugal in April 1974 and subsequent declarations that Portugal would leave its overseas territories (Hoadley 1975). However, following struggles between East Timorese factions and the Portuguese and before East Timor could become independent, Indonesia intervened militarily and annexed East Timor. East Timor only gained independence in 2002 after a violent struggle. We code no SOLS change at independence.

Throughout its existence, East Timor has been a mixed democracy. East Timor's first president was Xanana Gusmao who was not affiliated with a specific party (Cahoon 2010, Kingsbury 2009, Department of State 2011). On May 20, 2007 Ramos-Horta ran for president as an independent candidate with the endorsement of "long-time ally" Gusmao, who wanted to become PM (Fitzpatrick 2007). This is not a SOLS change. In 2008 Ramos Horta was injured in an attack and had to recover in a hospital in Australia for two months, during which time Guterres and de Araújo became acting presidents for Ramos Horta (Cahoon 2010, Kingsbury 2009). Ramos Horta returned in April. Archigos codes Ramos-Horta as continuously in power and does not code the two interim leaders. We follow Archigos coding.

In 2012, Ramos-Horta lost the election to Ruak. East Timor is a democracy in this period, thus we use the political affiliation of a leader to determine whether a SOLS change occurred. Both Ramos-Horta and his successor Ruak were non-party candidates. Following the coding rules, we determine whether Ruak was the pre-designated successor of Ramos-Horta or backed by the same support coalition to determine whether a SOLS change occurred. Ramos-Horta was a candidate in the 2012 election that Ruak ended up winning (Associated Press 2012). We therefore conclude that Ruak was not the pre-designated successor nor backed by the same coalition of support, thus we code a SOLS change.

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