Montenegro
Rice

Montenegro declared independence from Serbia in 2006. While Cheibub et al. (2010) code Montenegro as non-democratic; after its independence in 2006 we code Montenegro as a parliamentary democracy via a number of sources and code the Prime Minister as the effective ruler ("Montenegro and the EU"; Maddex 2008; Goati 2000; US Department of State 2009).

Prior to independence, the Prime Minister was Milo Djukanovic of Democratic Party of Socialists of Montenegro (DPSC). Upon independence, elections were held (in September), and Zeljko Sturanovic of the DPSC was appointed Prime Minister. "The DPS, led by Prime Minister Milo Djukanovic, formed the Coalition for a European Montenegro with the Social Democratic Party (SDP). The Coalition for a European Montenegro (DPS-SDP) won 41 of the 81 seats" (Inter-Parliamentary Union Database). This is not a SOLS change. Sturanovic remained in office until 2008, when he resigned due to health reasons. Upon his resignation, President Vujanovic nominated the new head of the DPSC, Milo Djukanovic, to become the next Prime Minister. This is not a SOLS change.

In the 2009 parliamentary elections, held on March 29, the Coalition for a European Montenegro (KzECG), comprised of the Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS), Social Democratic Party (SDP), Bosniak Party (BS) and Croat Civic Initiative (HGI), won a majority of seats. They were joined in forming a government by the Democratic Union of Albanians (DUA). Milo Đukanović was reconfirmed as PM (Lansford 2015).

Đukanović resigned as PM on December 21, 2010 after the European Union granted official candidate status to Montenegro, although he retained the DPS party chairmanship (T.J. 2010). The DPS party leadership proposed Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Igor Lukšić to lead the new government (BBC 2010). Lukšić was confirmed as the new prime minister by the Parliament on December 29, 2010. Because Lukšić was appointed by the same party (DPS) as the former PM, Đukanović, this change in leadership is not coded as a SOLS change.

In July 2012, the ruling coalition voted to dissolve parliament. New elections were held on October 14, 2012. The KzECG, made up of the DPS, SDP, and the Liberal Party of Montenegro (LP) formed a government with the support of several ethnic parties — the BS, HGI, the Albanian Coalition (AK-KS), and New Democratic Force (FORCA) (Lansford 2015). Montenegro's parliament voted to give Milo Djukanovic a seventh term as prime minister (RFL/RL 2012). Because Đukanović came from the same party as the previous PM, Lukšić, this change in leadership is not coded as a SOLS change.

On January 27, 2016 the SDP terminated its almost two-decade-old alliance with the DPS (Tomovic 2016a). The PCG (Positive Montenegro) party joined the new governing coalition and the SDP left the coalition (BERN 2016). Because the members of the governing coalition changed when SDP left the coalition, this is coded as a minor SOLS change. The DPS won the largest number of seats in the parliamentary elections on October 16, 2016, but they did not win an absolute majority. Đukanović stepped down as PM, and on November 9, 2016, the ruling party nominated Duško Marković (DPS) to take over as Prime Minister (BBC 2016). On November 28, 2016, the new government was elected by 41 out of 81 members of parliament, with the opposition boycotting the assembly. The parliamentary majority was composed of the DPS, the So-

cial Democrats (SD), and several ethnic minority parties – the Bosniac Party (BS), HGI (Croatian Civic Initiative), and the Democratic Union of Albanians (DUA) (Tomovic 2016b; Ramet and Valenta 2016, p. 146).

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