Mauritania
Rice

Mauritania gained its independence from France in 1960. Its first President (who ruled in a personalist system, according to Geddes) was Moktar Ould Daddah, technically a member of the Mauritanian Gathering Party (PRM). In 1961 he changed his party (PRM) to PPM. According to Lentz (1994: 543) "he formed PPM and abolished all other political parties later that year". This is not a SOLS change. Daddah was in power until 1978, when he was ousted in a bloodless military coup. The new military leaders set up the Military Committee for National Recovery (CMRN), and named Ould Mohamed Salek as the President (SOLS change). Mauritania is listed as being under personalist rule from 1978 until 2005.

In 1979, Salek was replaced by Ould Bouceif, one of the founding members of the Military Committee for National Salvation (CMSN). The leadership transition from Salek to Bouceif is coded a SOLS change because Geddes codes a personalist regime from 1978 to 2005 and Salek and Bouceif were supported by different SOLS (CMRN and CMSN respectively). Also, while they were both military officers, Bouceif was definitely not a Salek's pre-designated successor. After Bouceif, there were three leaders in office who also belonged CMSN: Ould Sidi, Ould Ahmed Louly, and Mohamed Ould Haidalla. There were no SOLS changes for these leaders. Regarding Haidalla, while he was a leading military officer who overthrew Salek in coup on April, 1979, he assumed full powers in 1980 (see Appiah et al (2010: 153)).

Haidalla remained in charge of the Committee until 1984, when he was also ousted by military officer Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya. The leadership change from Haidalla to Taya is a SOLS change because he was not a Haidalla's pre-designated successor, although there were both military officers. Again, since Geddes codes the country as a personalist regime until 2005, we follow our pre-designated successor rule. Sid'Ahmed Taya remained in office until 2005, changing his title several times, and changing his affiliation from the military to a party of his creation, the Social and Democratic Republican Party (PRDS) in 1992. But this change does not represent a SOLS change since the Taya is coded as a s a pure-Personalist regime.

In 2005, Sid'Ahmed Taya was deposed in a bloodless military coup, ushering in another era of military government under Ely Ould Mohamed Vall (SOLS change). This military government called itself the Military Council for Justice and Democracy, and set up democratic presidential elections in early 2007. The elections, which were deemed transparent, led to a victory for Sidi Mohamed Ould Cheikh Abdallahi, who was non-partisan. This is a SOLS change. In 2008, Abdallahi was overthrown by General Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, beginning another phase of personalist rule which continues in the present day. This is a SOLS change. 9.

A deal made in June 2009 resulted in the military handing control over to an interim government to organize elections (Al Jazeera 2009). Abdel Aziz gave up the presidency and Ba Mamadou dit M'Baré was appointed interim president. Abdel Aziz ran in the presidential election and won. Mauritania is a non-democracy during this period, so we use the predesignated successor rule to determine SOLS changes. There is no SOLS change from Abdel Aziz to M'Baré because M'Baré was an interim leader. There is no SOLS change from M'Baré to Abdel Aziz because Abdel Aziz was the leader prior to the interim.

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