Solomon Islands
Rice

The Solomon Islands have been classified as a democratic, parliamentary system since its independence from Great Britain in 1978. The first government was under Prime Minister Peter Kenilorea, a member of the Solomon Islands Unity Party (SIUPA). As a result of a realignment in governing coalitions, the office of prime minister then passed to Solomon Mamaloni, a member of the People's Alliance Party (PAP) in 1981 (United States Department of State 2010). This is a SOLS change. Mamaloni was in office until elections in 1984. Following the 1984 elections Kenilorea reemerged and built a coalition that consisted of his United Party (UP; also SIUPA), Solomon Ano Sagufenua (SAS) and three independents. This is a SOLS change (World Yearbook 2004). Following disagreements, the PAP withdrew its support in October 1985 and Kenilorea constructed a new coalition with the newly erected Nationalist Front for Progress (NFP). This is coded as a minor SOLS change, dated the last day of October (Europa World Yearbook 2002). In 1986, again due to shuffling within Parliament, Kenilorea was replaced by his deputy, Ezekiel Alebua. This is a SOLS change. Elections were held in 1989, which resulted in Mamaloni (PAP) being elected again. This is a SOLS change.

Following broad dissatisfaction with Mamaloni, Mamaloni resigned in October 1990 as leader of the PAP but stayed on as an independent as prime minister and appointed some opposition members to his cabinet (Europa World Yearbook 2004, Book 2, 3810; IPU). This is not a minor SOLS change.

The parliamentary elections of 1993 brought Francis Billy Hilly, who was technically nonpartisan, but was a member of the National Coalition Partnership (NCP) into office as Prime Minister (SOLS change). In 1994, a shift in parliamentary loyalties resulted in Mamaloni (now a member of GNUR) becoming Prime Minister once again. This is a SOLS change. In 1997, elections resulted in a coalition of the Solomon Islands Liberal Party and the Solomon Islands Alliance for Change (referred to collectively as SILP-SIAC) gaining the majority in Parliament, and their candidate, Bartholomew Ulufa'alu becoming Prime Minister. This is a SOLS change.

Between 2000 and 2003 Solomon Islands is coded as non-democratic. We do not assign a particular autocratic regime type, because the country's rules were in flux as the result of serious civil conflict between Gudalcanal settlers and Malaita settlers. In June 2000, an insurrection led by militants from the island of Malaita (a part of the Solomon Islands) led to Ulufa'alu being taken hostage, and his forced resignation on June 30 (United States Department of State 2010). A loose coalition of parties then chose Manasseh Sogavare, the leader of the People's Progressive Party (PPP) to be Prime Minister. This is a SOLS change. Sogavare was in power until elections were held in 2001, which led to Allen Kemakeza, a member of PAP, becoming Prime Minister. This is a SOLS change. Kemakeza was in power until 2006, but his time in office was one of great instability for the Solomon Islands. As law and order gradually disintegrated, a multi-national police force organized by Australia stepped in to help restore peace in 2003.

However, after the elections of 2006, which brought Snyder Rini, a member of the Association of Independent Members of Parliament (AIM) into the office of Prime Minister, riots again broke out throughout the islands. Rini stepped down from office two weeks later, so his time in office is coded as a SOLSchange30. Parliament then voted Sogavare, now a member of

the Solomon Islands Social Credit Party (SISCP) as into office. This is a SOLS change. Sogavare remained Prime Minister until December 2007, when his government lost a vote of no confidence (United States Department of State 2010). Parliament then elected Derek Sikua, a member of SILP-SIAC as Prime Minister.

Danny Philip (RDPSI) was elected prime minister on August 25, 2010, replacing Derek Sikua (SILP). Because Philip was from a different political party than the outgoing PM, this is coded as a SOLS change.

On November 11, 2011, PM Philip resigned in order to avoid a vote of no confidence by parliament over allegations of misuse of development aid. Gordon Darcy Lilo (NCRA), his former finance minister, was elected to replace him on November 17, 2011. Because Philip and Lilo are from different political parties, this is coded as a SOLS change.

In November 2014, parliament elected Manasseh Sogavare (UDP/DCC) as prime minister (Lansford 2017). Because Sogavare and Philip are from different political parties, this is coded as a SOLS change.

Rick Houenipwela (DAP) became Prime Minister in November 2017, replacing Manasseh Sogavare following a motion of no confidence (Gray 2019). The new government included the DAP, UDP, PAP, the Kadere Party (KP), and the SIPFP (Lansford 2019).

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