Zambia
Rice

Zambia gained its independence from Great Britain in 1964. Zambia is coded as non-democratic until 1991, democratic between 1991 and 1996, and the again non-democratic until 2008 which is coded as democratic. During each of these periods of democratic rule we code Zambia as a mixed system democracy (Schlager et al. 2006; Maddex 2008; Nijzink et al. 2013). Note, however, that Cheibub et al. (2010) code Zambia as non-democratic for all years (and thus do not provide democratic sub-regime type information) and GWF code Zambia as a single-party authoritarian regime from 1968 until 1991.

Though initially a republic, the politics of Zambia quickly came to be dominated by a single party, the nationalist Zambian African National Congress (ZANC). The leader of ZANC, Kenneth Kuanda, became President. In 1972, ZANC renamed itself the United National Independence Party (UNIP), and Kuanda's party affiliation changed accordingly. A new constitution, ratified in 1973, officially made Zambia a "one- party participatory democracy" (United States Department of State, 2010). GWF classify Zambia as a single-party state from 1968 until 1991.

Kuanda was in power until 1991. In 1990, riots and an attempted coup led Kuanda to sign legislation ending UNIP's monopoly on power (United States Department of State, 2010). A new constitution, which ended the single-party system and expanded the National Assembly (and placed term limits on the president) was ratified in August 1991. Elections were held, and Frederick Chiluba, a member of the Movement for Multi-Party Democracy (MMD) party, was elected president. This is a SOLS change.

Chiluba was in power until 2002. Geddes reclassifies Zambia as a single-party state beginning in 1996, citing repression of the opposition during elections. As Chiluba had reached his term limit, he could not run for reelection in 2001. His vice-president, Levy Mwanawasa, was the MMD candidate in these elections, and won the presidency. This is not a SOLS change. Mwanawasa enacted a successful campaign against corruption during his time in office, and won reelection in 2006.

Upon his death from illness in 2008, he was replaced in office by his vice-president, Rupiah Banda, who first served as "acting" president. Following elections held later in 2008, Banda won the presidency officially. Banda is a member of MMD by the time, and therefore, this transition is not coded as a SOLS change. Geddes continues to code Zambia as a single-party state until 2010. It should be noted that even though POLITY codes Zambia as a democracy and we follow the democracy rules beginning in 2008, we do not code a SOLS change in 2008 because of the fact that both Mwanawasa and Banda belonged to the same party (see Diamond and Plattner 2010: 304) and Banda was Mwanawasa's Vice President.

In September 2011, Michael Chilufya Sata becomes president. President Sata died in office in 2014. Vice-President Guy Lindsay Scott was named interim president until elections could be held (BBC News 2014; Smith 2014). Edgar Chagwa Lungu won the presidential election in January 2015 (Motsoeneng). Zambia is considered a democracy during this period, so we use the political affiliation to determine whether a SOLS change occurred. The transition from Sata to Scott is not coded as a SOLS change because Scott is considered an interim leader.

The transition from Scott to Lungu is not coded as a SOLS change because Lungu came from the same political party, the Patriotic Front (PF), as Sata.

Sources

BBC News. "Zambia Country Profile". Last edited 11 August 2010. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/1069294.stm

BBC News. 2014. "Zambian President Sata Death: White Interim Leader Appointed." BBC News. https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-29818212 (December 17, 2019).

Diamond, Larry and Marc F. Plattner. Eds. 2010. Democratization in Africa: Progress and Retreat. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press

Maddex, Robert. 2008. Constitutions of the World (3rd Edition). Washington DC, CQ Press.

Motsoeneng, Tiisetso. 2015. "Lungu Wins Zambia Presidential Election with 48.3 Percent of Vote." Reuters. https://www.reuters.com/article/us-zambia-election-result-idUSKBN0KX0QZ20150124 (December 17, 2019).

Nijzink, Lia; Shaheen Mozaffar; Elisabete Azevedo. 2013. Parliaments and the Enhancement of democracy on the African Continent. In David Arter (ed). Comparing and Classifying Legislature.

Schlager, Neil; Jayne Weisblatt; Orlando Perez. 2006. World Encyclopedia of Political Systems and Parties (4th Edition). Facts on File

Smith, David. 2014. "Guy Scott Takes Interim Role after Zambian President Sata's Death." The Guardian. https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/oct/29/scott-president-interim-zambia-sata-death (December 17, 2019).

United States Department of State. "Country Background Note: Zambia". Last edited 2 July 2010. http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2359.htm

Coded by Meera Krishnan 9/3/2010
Edited by Ashley Leeds 9/22/11
Updated by Naoko Matsumura 6/8/12
Revised by Bryan Rooney 10/15/2012
Edited by Andrew Wood (Rice) 05/24/2014
Edited by Kristin Bryant to include information about 2009-2018 period coded by Alex Pugh on 08/08/2020