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While we code Sri Lanka as a democracy we do not have regime type information from Cheibub et al. (and GWF code a single-party regime from 1979 to 1994) we note that Jayewardene introduced a new Constitution in 1978, which "replaced the previous Westminster style, parliamentary government with a new presidential system modeled after France, with a powerful chief executive" (US Library of Congress 2010). Given this reorganization, we change our coding from a parliamentary to a mixed system democracy in 1977 following a variety of sources (Schlager et al. 2006; Stepan et al. 2010; Singh 2010; Rahman 2007; note also that this mixed period is followed by another change to a presidential system in 1989 discussed below).

Don Senanayake of the United National Party (UNP), ruled as PM in 1948. The Library of Congress described the UNP as "a union of a number of groups espousing different personalities and ideologies" and "as the standard-bearer of conservative forces (US Library of Congress 2010)." In 1952 Don Senanayake died in an accident and was succeeded by his son Dudley Senanayake (UNP). This is not a SOLS change. According to WKB, in 1952 the Tamil Congress (TC) joined in coalition with the UNP. This is a minor SOLS change (June 2 1952). After Dudley Senanayake faced significant domestic discontent as a result of cutting rice subsidies, he resigned in 1953. Sir John Lionel Kotelawala, his cousin and also UNP, became PM as part of the same coalition. This is not a SOLS change. In 1956, opposition politician Solomon Ridgeway Dias Bandaranaike, MEP-SLFP (Mahajana Eksath Peramuna-Sri Lanka Freedom Party),[1] finally won the elections and became PM. The MEP-SLFP seems to have been a coalition between the Viplavakari – LSSP, a communist party, and the SLFP (International Viewpoint 2010). This is a SOLS change. In 1959 Bandaranaike's SOLS changed from MEP-SLFP to just SLFP. This is a minor SOLS change (June 6 1959). Later in 1959, Bandaranaike was assassinated by Buddhist extremists and Wijayananda Dahanayake, SLFP, became PM. This is not a SOLS change. Dahanayake was defeated by the UNP in the elections of March 1960. Dudley Senanayake, UNP, once again became PM. This is a SOLS change. Senanayake's government lacked support from other major parties in parliament and fell in a no confidence motion only a few months later.

In new elections in July 1960, the SLFP won and Sirimavo Ratwatte Dias Bandaranaike (Solomon's widow), SLFP, became PM. This is a SOLS change. In 1964 the Lanka Sama Samaja Party (LSSP) joined the coalition. This is a minor SOLS change (June 11 1964). As a result of the 1965 elections, Dudley Senanayake, UNP, became PM in coalition with the Sri Lanka Freedom Socialist Party (SLFSP), the Federal Party (FP), and MEP. This is a SOLS change. In 1968 the FP left the coalition. This is a minor SOLS change (Sept 15 1968). As a result of economic troubles, the UNP lost the 1970 election and Sirimavo Bandaranaike, SLFP, became PM in coalition with LSSP and CP. This is a SOLS change. In 1975 LSSP left the coalition. This is a minor SOLS change (Sept 17 1975). In February 1977, the CP left the coalition. This is a minor SOLS change (Feb 20 1977). Later that year 1977, "the UNP won an unprecedented

[1] SLFP (the Sri Lankan Freedom Party) in English, while SLNP (the Sri Lanka Nidahas Pakshaya) is Sri Lankan.

landslide victory in the 1977 elections (US Library of Congress 2010)". Junius Jayewardene, UNP, became PM. This is a SOLS change. (While we code Sri Lanka as a democracy but do not have regime type information from Cheibub et al. and GWF code a single-party regime from 1979 to 1994.) Jayewardene introduced a new Constitution in 1978, which "replaced the previous Westminster style, parliamentary government with a new presidential system modeled after France, with a powerful chief executive (US Library of Congress 2010)." In 1989 Ranasinghe Premadasa, UNP and PM under Jayewardene, became president. This is not a SOLS change.

From 1989 through 2008 Sri Lanka is a presidential democracy. In 1993 Mr. Premadasa was assassinated (US Deptartment of State 2010) by the LTTE and his prime minister Dingiri Wijetunge, UNP, became president. This is not a SOLS change. In August 1994, "the SLFP, the main party in the People's Alliance (PA) coalition, returned to power in 1994 for the first time in 17 years (U.S. Department of State)." Chandrika Kumaratunga, SLFP-PA (People's Alliance), became president (Keerawella and Samarajiva 1995, 153). This is a SOLS change. In 2005 Mahinda Rajapakse, SLFP-UPFA (United People's Freedom Alliance), became president (US Department of State 2010). This is not a regular SOLS change since both Presidents stem from the same party. While some members of the governing coalition behind the President changed (Banks et al. 2007), we do not code minor SOLS changes in presidential systems.

Mahinda Rajapakse lost the 2015 presidential election to former ally Maithripala Sirisena (BBC News 2015a). Maithripala Sirisena defected from Rajapakse's party, the SLFP, and joined a coalition in opposition to Rajapakse led by the UNP (BBC News 2015b). Later, he rejoined the SLFP and took over the leadership of the party (Aneez 2018). Sri Lanka is coded as a nondemocracy in 2014 but a democracy in 2015, so we look at political affiliation to determine whether a SOLS change occurred in the 2015 election. We code the transition from Rajapakse to Sirisena as a SOLS change because the two men ran against each other and were supported by different political parties. We also code minor SOLS change in 2015 when Sirisena rejoined the SLFP.

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