

Slovenia

Rice

Slovenia was one of the states that declared its independence from Yugoslavia after the downfall of communism in 1991. It established a democratic mixed system in 1992, with both a President and a Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is the head of government.

The first Prime Minister after independence was Alojz "Lojze" Peterle. A member of the Slovene Christian Democrats Party (SKD), he had been in office since 1990, and had worked to secure Slovenian independence (Cox 2005,119). Peterle governed in a coalition of six parties known as DEMOS, and was in office until he lost a vote of no confidence in April 1992. Elections were held, which resulted in a victory for Janez Drnovsek, and the Liberal Democracy of Slovenia Party (LDS). This is a SOLS change. Drnovsek governed in a coalition of SKD, ZLDS, ZS, and SDSS (interparline). In 1993 his coalition changed, consisting of LDS, SKD, ZLDS, ZS, and SDSS (interparline). We code a minor SOLS change on January 12, 1993. In 1994 two parties (ZS and SDSS) left the group. Similarly, in 1996 the ZLSD exited the coalition, and in 1997 the SKD left as the SLS and DeSUS entered the coalition. Each of these changes is a minor SOLS change.

In 2000, Drnovsek lost a vote of no confidence in April. After two months, a new government was formed (without elections) under economist Andrej Bajuk of the SLS, which had merged with SKD in 2000 and had become SLS-SKD. The SLS-SKD governed in coalition with the SDS. After four months in office, elections were held, and Drnovsek (with a coalition of LDS/SLS-SKD/ZLSD/DeSUS) regained power. This is a SOLS change. In 2002, Drnovsek stepped down from office to run for President, an office he subsequently won. He was replaced by the new leader of the LDS, Anton Rop. This is not a SOLS change.

In 2004 the SLS-SKD left the coalition. We code a minor SOLS change on April 2, 2004. Rop remained Prime Minister until the elections later that year, when his party lost. A new government (SDS/SLS/NS-KLS/DeSUS) was formed under Janez Jansa, the leader of the SDS. This is a SOLS change. Jansa remained in power until November 2008. At that point, his government lost elections to a coalition led by Borut Pahor, a member of the Social Democrats (ZLSD, formerly SDP). This is a SOLS change. Pahor, who governs in a coalition with LDS, Zares, and DeSUS ("Slovene parties sign" 2008), remains in office in the present day.

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