

Ireland

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Ireland has a democratic parliamentary regime from its independence in 1922 onwards. In the period between 1922 and 1937, the leader of the ‘*Irish Free State*’ carries the title of ‘*President of the Executive Council*’. However, note that in this period as well as later periods, Ireland has a parliamentary rather than presidential system as the President had to rely on the confidence parliament to remain in office (see ‘Ireland: President Resigns’ 1930; *Collins 22 Society*). Before independence, Ireland was an integral part of the United Kingdom, consequently no SOLS changes have been coded upon independence. In the pre ’45 period Irish politics was dominated by the pro-Treatyite Cumann na nGaedheal (CG) of Cosgrave and the anti-Treatyite Fianna Fáil (FF) of De Valera. Though Irish politics in this period was characterized by single party governments, these governments at times relied on outside parties for support (Lee 1995, Gallagher 1985).

Upon independence, Sinn Féin (SF) founder and “pro-Treatyite” Arthur Griffith became the first president of Ireland until his death on August 12, 1922. Griffith was succeeded by Sinn Féin prodigy Collins, a 32 year old general and war hero who was killed in an ambush only ten days after assuming power (Gallagher 1985; “Arthur Griffith”; *Collins 22 Society*; worldstatesmen.org). Following the death of the Griffith and Collins, William T. Cosgrave assumed power as leader of the pro-Treatyites. At the end of 1922, the pro-Treatyites under Cosgrave began to organize and created the Cumann na nGaedheal (CG) party. Following elections, the CG consolidated power (Gallagher 1985). While Cosgrave had a similar political orientation to the first two leaders, his party affiliation was different and we code a SOLS change. Although Cosgrave’s CG did not always hold the majority of seats in the parliament, the abstention of main opposition parties allowed Cosgrave’s to govern until 1932 (Lee 1995; Gallagher 1985).

In 1932, Cosgrave’s CG lost elections and was replaced by the Fianna Fáil of De Valera, who formed a single party government (Gallagher 1985. De Valera’s entry to power is coded as a SOLS change; there are no further sols changes coded in the pre 45 part of the dataset (Gallagher , “Arthur Griffith”, Collins 22 society, worldstatesmen.org). Moreover, as a thorough search did not turn up any coalition governments in the period of 1922-1945, no minor coalition changes were coded (Lee 1995; Gallagher 1985).

In 1937, however, a new constitution came into effect that provided for a directly elected President, marking a transition from a pure parliamentary system to a mixed system (although one in which the PM remained the effective leader.) The 1937 Constitution is available here: <https://www.constitution.ie/Constitution.aspx> De Valera stayed in power through the constitutional change.

We code a SOLS change for 18 February 1948, because the new prime minister, John Aloysius Costello, was from a different party, Fine Gael (FG). Costello formed a coalition government of 3 different parties, The National Labor Party (LAB), Clann na Poblachta (CNP), and Clann na Talmhan (CNT). In 1951 Eamon de Valera, FF, once again became PM. This is a SOLS change. Competition between Costello and de Valera (and their respective parties) continued through two more election cycles; Costello and the Fine Gael came back in 1954, then de Valera and the Fianna Fail in 1957. Both of these leadership changes are also SOLS change.

In 1959, de Valera was elected President of the Irish Republic, at which point the leadership of FF passed to Sean Lemass, who in turn became Prime Minister (this is not coded as

an SOLS change because both Lemass and de Valera were from the same party). Similarly, in 1966, Jack Lynch became the leader of FF, and assumed the office of Prime Minister (again, no SOLS change). The next SOLS change came in 1973, with the leader of FG, Liam Cosgrave, assuming the office of Prime Minister in coalition with LAB (Woldendorp et al. 2000, 291). This is a SOLS change. This coalition governed until 1977, when there was again an FF victory in elections under the leadership of Lynch (another SOLS change). Lynch passed FF leadership (and the office of Prime Minister) to Charles Haughey, who assumed office (without an SOLS change).

In 1979 Lynch resigned and FF leadership passed to Charles Haughey, son-in-law of former PM Seán LeMass (State 2009, 306). This is not a SOLS change. In 1981 Garret FitzGerald, who had succeeded Liam Cosgrave as head of FG in 1977, became PM (State 2009, 307). This is a SOLS change. However, in February of 1982, elections led to a victory for FF (apparently, even though FF added only three seats in Parliament, and FG lost only two, three Marxist Workers' party members sided with FF and brought them into power [Hollis 2001, 187]). Haughey assumed office again, but found himself dealing with internal dissent from his party. He, suffered a vote of no confidence, and was forced to resign (State 2009, 308). Fitzgerald, FG, became PM in coalition with LAB. This is a SOLS change.

In 1987, Haughey, FF, became PM. This is a SOLS change. In 1989 the Progressive Democrats (PD) joined in coalition with the FF. This is a minor SOLS change (July 12 1989). In 1992 Haughey resigned due to his alleged knowledge of various scandals from the 1980s (State 2009, 329) and leadership of FF, still in coalition with PD, passed to Albert Reynolds. This is not a SOLS change. In 1993, the governing coalition changed from FF/PD to FF/LAB (Woldendorp et al. 2000, 291). This is a minor SOLS change (Jan 12 1993). Reynolds resigned in 1994 after a controversial attorney general appointment. The Labour Party (LP) switched sides to join the FG in a coalition with another minor party, the Democratic Left (DL). The coalition was headed by John Bruton, FG. This is a SOLS change. In 1997 Patrick Bartholomew "Bertie" Ahern, FF, became PM in coalition with PD. This is a SOLS change. In 2007 the Green Party joined the coalition to change the composition from FF/PD to FF/GP/PD (O'Malley 2008, 1013). This is a minor SOLS change (14 June 2007). In 2008 Ahern resigned and was replaced by Brian Cowen as head of FF (O'Malley 2009, 986). This is not a SOLS change.

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