

## Canada

### Vanderbilt

Canada has a democratic, majoritarian parliamentary system, in which the political landscape is dominated by the Conservative Party and the Liberal party. At the start of the dataset, the Conservative Party under Borden is in government. Borden's government started out as a broad wartime coalition because of WW I, but the coalition had already disintegrated when the war ended - before the entry date of the dataset. Following the resignation of Borden due to health reasons, his Conservative successor Arthur Meighen lost the election to King of the liberal party in 1921 (SOLS change).

King's government is one of few minority governments in Canadian history and had to rely on third parties to govern. King could count on the support of Progressive Party to keep his government in power. King headed two successive minority governments, the latter of which ended in crisis in 1926. When King asked for the dissolution of his cabinet, the Governor General refused and asked Meighen to form a government, which lasted for only three months. Following the fall of the Meighen government, new elections reinstated King, but this time heading a majority government (English 2011, Kwavnick & Azzi 2011, [historycanada.net](http://historycanada.net)). In 1930 King was replaced by Bennett of the Conservative Party (SOLS change). However, following five years of Conservative rule, King returned to power (SOLS change) and would govern until 1948. (Brown & MCInnis 1971, [worldstatesmen.org](http://worldstatesmen.org))

Through most of its history in the 20<sup>th</sup> century the country has been ruled by the Liberal Party, the Liberal Conservative Party, the Conservative Party, the Progressive Conservative Party, and the Conservative Party of Canada. There are no coalition governments. Thus, we code only regular SOLS changes which occur when the new PM has a different party affiliation than his or her predecessor.

Three years need particular attention. In 1926, there were two leader changes, one from King to Meighen and the other one from Meighen to King again. According to Nohlen (2005) and Brown (1971), Meighen assumed as interim leader in 1926, because King wanted to avoid the vote of censure. So, these changes do not constitute a SOLS change.

In 1984, after the resignation of Trudeau (Lib), Turner (Lib) assumed as prime minister, but the same year he was electorally defeated by Mulroney (Con). In 1993, the same occurred to Mulroney, he resigned and Campbell took office (Con), but he also was electorally defeated by Chretien (Lib). A SOLS change was coded for both the change from Turner to Mulroney and from Campbell to Chretien.

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