

Trinidad and Tobago

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Trinidad and Tobago is a united state that achieved formal independence from the United Kingdom in 1962. The first Prime Minister, Eric Eustace Williams, served until his death in 1981. He was a member of the People's National Movement (PNM) party. The PNM stayed in power after Williams with the election of George Michael Chambers, citing no SOLS change.

A transition occurred in December of 1986 when the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), a political party aimed at uniting various ethnic groups, won elections and installed Arthur Robinson as prime minister. The NAR lost power in 1991 elections back to the PNM, which was under the leadership of Prime Minister Patrick Manning. This change was coded as a SOLS transition.

1995 saw another SOLS change and a new political party on the scene. Basdeo Panday was elected prime minister, and his party, the United National Congress (UNC) formed an alliance with the NAR to construct a government. According to Schlager et al. (2006, 1358), the NAR's leader, Ray Robinson, "brought his NAR into a coalition with Panday to give a ruling majority to the UNC" when UNC and PNM tied at 17 seats each in the 1995 election. This indicates that UNC formed a coalition with NAR. The UNC/NAR coalition remained in power until 2001. In 2001, this government fell again to Manning to the PNM, signaling a SOLS change. Elections were called again in 2007, but the government was upheld until 2010 (Cahoon 2013).

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Post-1945 coded by Graham West (Rice) on July 13, 2010

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