

Yemen Arab Republic

Rice

Between 1918 and 1920, Imam Yahya al-Mutawakkil (known solely as Imam Yahya) conquered the majority of lower (or Southern) Yemen. Yahya had been the Imam since 1904, and spent much of the 1920s and 1930s consolidating his rule. However, it was in 1926 that he sent a diplomatic mission to Italy (signing a treaty with Italy as a result), and first became known as the “King of Yemen”, which is the year that the spreadsheet begins. Yemen is coded as a monarchy during this time. Imam/King Yahya was in power until he was overthrown and assassinated in a coup in 1948.

For a period of less than thirty days, the coup leader Ibn Ahmed Alwazir took control of the government backed by the revolutionary group al-Ahrar (UNHCR, Al-Abdin, 1979, p.41); however, in less than thirty days, Yahya’s son united the various tribes in Yemen and retook control. Ibn Yahya Hamid ruled until 1962. The transition out of the dynasty and back into it is a SOLS change under the ABA rule because the YAR was coded as a monarchy.

In 1962, after Ibn Yahya Hamid passed away, his son Muhammad al-Badr took control of the government of Yemen. However, he was almost immediately deposed in favor of military-led Revolutionary Command Council, whose chairman was Abdullah al-Sallal. Al-Sallal served as the leader of the newly declared YAR (formerly called North Yemen) until 1967.

Al-Sallal passed power to his successor, Abdul al-Iryani, in 1967. This was coded as a SOLS change because Geddes codes the time before hand as a military regime and the time afterwards as a personalist regime. A coup assassinated al-Iryani in 1974, replacing him with Colonel Ibrahim al-Hamdi as president. This transition is coded as a SOLS change because the succession was not planned, and because rule passed back from a personalist leader to a military regime. In 1977 al-Hamadi was assassinated and Ahmad al-Ghashmi, Mil, took power. This is not a SOLS change. In 1978 al-Ghashmi was assassinated as well. Briefly, a transitional military government was in power for less than thirty days, but soon Colonel Ali Abdullah Saleh took power as a strongman figure in the government with backing from his personalist military party, the General People’s Congress (MSA). His transition was a SOLS change because the regime type did again change from military to personalist, according to Geddes.

When the YAR united with South Yemen (formerly called the Yemen People’s Republic) in 1990, Saleh became the President and the YAR technically ceased to exist.

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Pre-1945 coded by Meera Krishnan (Rice) on 11/21/2010
Post-1945 coded by Graham West (Rice) on 06/27/2010
Revised by Eelco van der Maat (Vanderbilt) on 26/10/2011
Revised by Michaela Mattes (Vanderbilt) on 12/17/2011
Combined by Matt DiLorenzo (Vanderbilt) on 06/10/2013
Edited by Andrew Wood (Rice) 05/24/2014