

## **Kazakhstan**

Rice

Kazakhstan is classified as being a personalist state since its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. Nursultan Nazarbayev, originally the head of the KPK (Communist Party of Kazakhstan) was elected President upon independence, and has remained in office until the present day. When he was elected, he declared himself nonpartisan, but from 1995 on he has affiliated himself with two parties. The first, the People's Union of Kazakhstan Unity (PUKU) is considered pro-presidential. In 1999, PUKU merged with another pro-presidential party known as the "Fatherland" Party (OTAN). Nazarbayev's SOLS from 1999 on is therefore listed as OTAN. In 2006 the Agrarian Party, Asar and the Civil party formed a Coalition with OTAN, and was renamed the Nur Otan (Olcott 2009).

## **References**

Olcott, Martha Brill. 2009. *Kazakhstan: Unfulfilled Promise*. Washington DC: Carnegie Endowment.

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Coded by Meera Krishnan 6/28/2010

Updated by Mariana Rodriguez 9/19/11

Revised by Bryan Rooney 10/17/2012

Edited by Andrew Wood (Rice) on 5/23/14