

## **Ivory Coast**

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Ivory Coast is coded authoritarian from independence in 1960 to 2008. There is no SOLS change at independence. From 1960 until 1999 the country was under a single-party authoritarian system. Félix Houphouët-Boigny, the country's first president and France's closest ally in Africa (Chirot 2006, 63), ruled as head of the Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire-Rassemblement Démocratique Africain (PDCI). In 1993, he died and was succeeded (Chirot 2006, 68) by Aimé Henri Konan Bédié, also of PDCI. This is not a SOLS change because they belonged to the same party in a single-party system. In 1999 there was a bloodless military coup led by Robert Guédi, who promised free and fair elections (Chirot 2006, 70). This is a SOLS change as it ended the single-party regime under the PDCI. Despite the promise of free and fair election, candidates from the two strongest parties were disqualified, leading to low voter turnout. Also, when early results showed his competitor, Laurent Koudou Gbagbo, leading the polls, Guédi stopped the election process and declared himself winner (U.S. Department of State, 2010). Laurent Koudou Gbagbo can be seen as a "socialist academic" (Chirot 2006, 70) and a member of the Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI). Following international and domestic pressure, Guédi is forced to flee and surrender control of the country to the rightful winner (Chirot 2006, 70). This is a SOLS change because Gbagbo was not appointed by Guédi. Furthermore, Geddes codes Gbagbo as establishing a personalist regime following his assumption of power in 2000. Gbagbo remains in power through 2008 during which time there are no further SOLS changes.

### References:

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