

Ghana

Test case (narrative compiled from narratives of multiple coders)

Ghana became an independent state on March 6, 1957, when the United Kingdom relinquished its control. Dr. Kwame Nkrumah became the Prime Minister, and he later converted the country into a republic and became President for life in 1960. Nkrumah's party, the Convention People's Party (CPP), was the only legal political organization, and it served Nkrumah exclusively. On July 1, 1960, a new constitution was adopted, changing Ghana from a parliamentary system with a prime minister to a republican form of government headed by a president. Nkrumah remained Ghana's leader as president and led his government from July 1, 1960 to February 24, 1966.

On February 24, 1966, the Ghanaian Army overthrew Nkrumah's regime, indicating a SOLS change. The CPP and National Assembly were dissolved and the constitution was suspended. The new regime cited Nkrumah's flagrant dictatorial practices and the deteriorating economy as the principal reasons for its action. The leaders of the coup established the new government around the National Liberation Council (NLC). Until 1969, chairmen of NLC, Joseph Arthur Ankrah and Akwasi Amankwaa Afrifa held power as presidents. Geddes has coded the period of 1966 to 1969 as a military regime.

Ghana's government returned to civilian authority under the Second Republic in September 1969 after a parliamentary election in which Kofi A. Busia of the Progress Party (PP) won (SOLS change). Busia served as prime minister until January 13, 1972. (However, until the 1980's, Presidential Commission led by Brigadier A.A. Afrifa held the powers of the chief of state. In a special election on August 31, 1970, former Chief Justice Edward Akufo-Addo was chosen President, and Busia became Prime Minister.) As a result of the economic instability under the Busia's government, military officers seized power in a bloodless coup on January 13, 1972 (SOLS change). The leader of this 1972 coup, Ignatius Kute Acheampong, served as the chairman of the National Redemption Council from 1972 to 1975, and then as the chairman of the Supreme Military Council from 1975 to 1978; in both cases, he was effectively the leader of the Ghanaian government.

Unable to keep its promises, the Acheampong, marked by corruption and mismanagement, began to lose support from citizens. To re-gain legitimacy, Acheampong brought up a new constitution, UNIGOV, which would give military a permanent place in the country's government, and diminish party politics. However, this effort to consolidate his power only crystallized opposition to Acheampong. Fierce bloody protests against the government followed in 1977 and 1978.

In 1979, now General Acheampong is removed as the chairman and replaced by fellow General Frederick Kwasi Affuko. However, under the economic unrest and the rampant corruption, on June 4, 1979, Akuffo's government was deposed in a violent coup by a group of officers in Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) with Jerry John Rawlings as its chairman. Geddes has coded the period of 1973 to 1979 as a military regime. Therefore, we do not code the leadership changes from Acheampong to Akuffo, and to Rawlings as SOLS changes.

The Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), chaired by Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, conducted a thorough purge of the military by removing senior officers and getting the country on track for democratic elections. The AFRC accepted the draft constitution that had permitted the scheduled presidential and parliamentary elections, and handed over power to the newly elected President and Parliament of the Third Republic on September 24, 1979. Under the new constitution, Hilla Limann, a candidate of the People's National Party (PNP), was chosen as president (SOLS change). Limann severed from September 24, 1979 to December 31, 1981. However, social unrest due to the continuing decline in economy and flourished corruption, On December 31, 1981, Jerry John Rawlings, a chairman of provisional national defense council, launched a coup that succeeded against little opposition in toppling President Limann. This is a SOLS change. Rawlings suspended the 1979 constitution, dissolved the Parliament, and proscribed existing political parties. They established the Provisional National Defense Council (PNDC) to exercise executive and legislative powers. Under the PNDC, Ghana remained a unitary government. Rawlings ruled in a personalist system (according to Geddes) from 1981-2001, but his SOLS changes from military to NDC party according to Cahoon (2010), and increasingly competitive and more free elections were held as time went on. We do not code any changes in SOLS here, but it is a case to be aware of.

Under international and domestic pressure for a return to democracy, the PNDC allowed the establishment of Consultative Assembly made up for drawing up a draft constitution to establish a Fourth Republic. On May 18, 1992, the ban on party politics was lifted in preparation for multi-party elections. Elections held in 1992 were meant to herald the fourth republic, but in reality, it was a shallow continuation of the Rawlings regime; though the PNDC transformed into a political party (called the National Democratic Congress, or NDC), most opposition parties boycotted the election. As a result of election, on January 7, 1993, Jerry John Rawlings was inaugurated as President and members of Parliament swore their oaths of office. Rawling's government continued for nearly 20 years until January 7, 2001.

The 1992 Constitution placed a two-term limit on the presidency, which meant that Rawlings (who had been 'reelected' in 1997) could not run again. There was a great deal of infighting within the NDC, which in turn led to a victory in the 2000 elections for the liberal

New Patriotic Party (NPP), and their presidential candidate, John Agyekum Kufour (SOLS change). Kufour also remained in power for two terms, until 2009.

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