

Papua New Guinea

Rice

Papua New Guinea gained its independence from Britain in 1975. It is coded as non-democratic based on our coding rules, but Cheibub et al. code it as a parliamentary democracy. Geddes does not provide an autocratic regime type coding. We also don't code a particular autocratic regime type, since the country is a non-democracy because of a weak government, not because of the lack of party competition or autocratic leadership. As a result, we use the pre-designated successor rule. Since leader's SOLS were parties, we code leadership changes whenever a new leader with a different SOLS came to power.

Prior to independence, in 1972, there was an election that resulted in the election of Michael Somare, a founding member of the PGU (Papua New Guinea Union Party) as Chief Minister. When the country gained its independence, Somare became its first Prime Minister. Although Cheibub et al. consider the country somewhat democratic, we code the country as non-democratic using 2008 Polity scores based on the leader's party affiliation. Somare was then reelected in 1977. In 1980, Somare's government lost a vote of no confidence, and he was replaced by Sir Julius Chan, a member of the People's Progress Party (PPP). This is a SOLS change. Elections in 1982 resulted in PGU winning the majority, and Somare again becoming Prime Minister. This is a SOLS change. This time, Somare remained in office until 1985, when his government again lost a vote of no confidence. The parliamentary majority voted Pias Wingti, a member of the People's Democratic Movement (PDM) as Prime Minister, along with a five-party coalition. This is a SOLS change. Wingti, with this coalition, was reelected in 1987.

In 1988, Wingti's government lost a vote of no confidence, and the office of Prime Minister passed to Rabbie Namaliu, the leader of the PGU. This is a SOLS change. Namaliu was in office until 1992, when elections resulted in Wingti again being elected as Prime Minister. This is a SOLS change. Wingti's government was again toppled by a vote of no confidence in 1994, and the office of Prime Minister passed to Sir Julius Chan, the leader of the PPP. This is a SOLS change. In 1997, Chan was forced to step down from office briefly, due to his participation in a scandal known as the Sandline Affair. This Affair involved Chan signing a contract with military consultants Sandline International, empowering them to take covert action against rebel leaders on the island of Bougainville (May 2004, 237). When the public learned of the contract, Chan resigned, and was replaced by his deputy John Giheno on March 27. This is not a SOLS change—Giheno is not listed by Archigos, and therefore does not appear in the data set. However, when the enquiry into the Sandline Affair concluded, Chan declared that he had been cleared of any wrongdoing and resumed office on June 2nd.

Elections were held in July, and Chan lost to William Skate, the leader of the People's National Congress party (PNC). This is a SOLS change. After losing a vote of no confidence, Skate was replaced by Mekere Morauta, the leader of PDM in 1999. This is a SOLS change. Morauta was in office until the elections of 2002, when he was defeated by Michael Somare, now a member of the National Alliance

Party (NAP). This is a SOLS change. Somare, who is now Papua New Guinea's longest-serving politician, remains in office in the present day.

References

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Coded by Meera Krishnan July 14, 2010

Revised by Bryan Rooney 10/16/2012

Edited by Andrew Wood (Rice) on 5/24/2014