

## **Kosovo**

Vanderbilt

Kosovo gained its independence from Serbia in February 2008. We code Kosovo as a democracy, but do not have information on its regime type from Cheibub et al. However, it appears to be a parliamentary system with a President and PM. The President is not directly elected, but selected by the Assembly. The Constitution suggests that the President “leads foreign policy” (Art.84.10). It also says, however, that the Government, led by the PM, “proposes and implements internal and foreign policies.” (Art.93.1). Thus, we code the PM as effective ruler.

After its independence, Kosovo was recognized as a fully independent country by the United States, Turkey and some countries of the European Union. However, Serbia did not recognize its independence, nor did Russia, China, Spain, Greece and Cyprus. Since days before its independence, Hashim Thaci (PDK- Democratic Party of Kosovo) took office as Prime Minister of the country. Since Thaci came into office before independence, we do not code a SOLS change for 2008.

The constitution of Kosovo can be found on the website of the Prime Minister of Kosovo: <http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/Constitution1Kosovo.pdf> (accessed April 22, 2014).

### References:

“Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo.” <http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/Constitution1Kosovo.pdf> (April 22, 2014)

Encyclopaedia Britannica: Almanac 2009.

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