

## Republic of Vietnam

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The Republic of Vietnam or South Vietnam was the nationalist part of Vietnam that was divided upon independence. Like Vietnam, it was a former French colony and no SOLS change has been coded upon its independence. During its conflict-ridden existence, the Republic of Vietnam had two authoritarian regimes – one personalist and one military (Geddes).

The first leader coded by Archigos is actually PM Pham Buu Loc (Non-Party). He is succeeded by acting PM Quat (Cahoon 2010, Archigos). This is not a SOLS change. Ngo Dinh Diem (CL+NRM) then secured his power through a combination of force and fraudulent plebiscite and established a personalist regime. This is a SOLS change since his support group is his clique. His increasingly repressive rule did not end well. Following Buddhist and student protests that were violently put down, Diem was killed in a military coup in November of 1963 (Library of Congress 2011). General Duong Van Minh took over the country and a military regime is established (Geddes). Thus, this is a SOLS change. Minh in turn suffered a counter coup on January 30 1964 by Khanh, but as this was yet another military coup, we do not code a SOLS change. Following the January coup, a short power struggle ensued among a few of the generals that seemed resolved with the hesitant installment of the civilian Van Huong government on November 4 (Fishel 1965). However, increasing political disagreement and instability led to another military coup of Khanh on January 26, 1965 (Fishel 1966). On February 20 the military receded from government and installed a civilian leadership under Quat. Following a failed coup attempt, Khanh was forced resign and left Vietnam for the US. Forces in the military had installed and supported the civilian leadership (Fishel 1966). By June however the military re-took control in the form of a “war cabinet”; the Republic of Vietnam would thereafter effectively be controlled by Van Thieu until the Americans left Vietnam (Fishel 1966). The short reentry of general Minh in order to appease North Vietnam did not save the Republic of Vietnam from the forced unification in 1975 (Library of Congress 2011). As all governments from the coup against Diem until the dissolution of the Republic of Vietnam originated from the military no SOLS changes were coded during this period.

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