

Sweden

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Sweden is a parliamentary democracy in the pre-1945 period. While Socialist governments were still uncommon in Sweden during the 1920s, most of the 1930s were dominated by socialist governments. In 1919, Sweden had a coalition government of the Liberal Coalition party (Liberala Samlingspartiet - LS) and the Social Democratic Party, also known as Democratic Worker's Party (Sveriges Socialdemokratiska Arbetarepartiet - SAP)¹ party under Prime Minister Nils Edén. The SAP government of Edén's successor Hjalmar Branting in 1920 did not last long (SOLS change). After Branting resigned following only a few months in office no one was willing to risk taking office with pending elections. The king elected de Geer as a caretaker (<http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/4136>, Scott 1988: 485), but because de Geer lacked support in parliament he was soon replaced as caretaker in favor von Sydow (Sweden.gov 2011) who was not a member of parliament. It should be noted that neither the caretaker government of de Geer nor that of von Sydow was Social Democrat, but following an interregnum of a year Branting's SAP government returned to power. Because the two non-socialist governments were caretaker governments, no SOLS changes were coded (Sweden.gov 2011; Erixon 2006; Scott 1988) and there is no SOLS change for Branting's return.

In April of 1923 the National Party (NP) took over under the leadership of PM Ernst Trygger (SOLS change). However, by October 1924 Branting's Social Democrat government was back in power, which is coded as another SOLS change. Following another Social Democrat government², Carl Gustaf Ekman entered government in 1926 at the head of a coalition of the National Liberal Alliance (Frisinnade folkpartiet – FF) that had broken away from the Liberal party under Ekman himself (SOLS change - Åberg 2011). Ekman was replaced by Lindman of the NP in 1928, but returned to power in 1930, both changes in government are SOLS changes (Sweden.gov 2011; Erixon 2006).

Following a contribution scandal, Eckman was forced to resign in August 1932, only a month before the general election. Finance minister Hamrin (FF) stepped in. This is not a SOLS change. After elections the Social Democrats, supported by the Agrarian Party or Agrarian Alliance (BF), took over under Per Albin Hansson in September 1932, which is a SOLS change. Hansson and his Social Democratic Party would govern almost continuously until 1946. Hansson's role as Prime Minister was only shortly interrupted when collaboration between the Agrarian Alliance and the Social Democrats broke down three months before the elections. In this period Pehrsson of the BF took over heading an interim government (Sweden.gov 2011, Nordstrom 2000: 298). Following the 1936 elections Hansson returned to power, this time in coalition with the Agrarian Alliance, which was coded as a minor SOLS change (Sweden.gov 2011, Erixon 2006). On December 13, 1939, Hansson created a wartime grand coalition government including four parties—the SDA, the BF, the NP, and the FP (liberal party); only the communist party and the socialist party were left out (minor SOLS change). This cabinet ruled until July 31, 1945 (Lewin 1988, Denti 2007) when Hansson formed a purely Social Democratic government (Scobbie 2010: 139, Cook 2014: 557). We code this as a minor SOLS change.

¹ Starting with Hansson's 1936 government we refer to the SAP as SDA. This is the notation Woldendorp et al. use for the post-45 period for the Swedish social democrats.

² The SD government had seen a change in leadership to Sandler because Branting had died in office.

Sweden is considered a parliamentary democracy from 1945 until 2008. Per Albin Hansson of the Swedish Social Democratic party (SDA- also referred to as SAP) served as PM from 1936 until 1946. In 1946 Tage Erlander, also SDA, became PM. This is not a SOLS change. In 1951 Agrarian Alliance/Center Party (BF/C) joined in coalition with SDA. This is a minor SOLS change (Sept 30 1951). In 1957 BF/C dropped out of the coalition. This is a minor SOLS change (Oct 30 1957). In 1969 Sven (Olof) Palme, SDA, became PM. This is not a SOLS change. In 1976 Thorbjörn Fälldin, C (agrarian centrist Center Party), became PM in coalition with People's Party Liberals (FP) and Moderate Coalition Party (MUP). This is a SOLS change. In 1978 Ola Ullsten, FP (People's Party Liberals), became PM. This is a SOLS change. In 1979 Thorbjörn Fälldin, C, became PM in coalition with FP and MUP. This is a SOLS change. In 1981 MUP dropped out of the coalition. This is a minor SOLS change (May 22 1981). In 1982 Palme, SDA, once again became PM. This is a SOLS change. In 1986 Palme is assassinated (Woldendorp et al. 2000, 501) and Ingvar Carlsson, SDA, takes his place as PM. This is not a SOLS change. In 1991 Carl Bildt, MUP, became PM in coalition with FP, the Christian Democrats (KD), and C. This is a SOLS change. In 1994 Carlsson, SDA, once again became PM. This is a SOLS change. In 1996 Göran Persson, SDA, became PM. This is not a SOLS change. In 2006, Fredrik Reinfeldt of the Moderate Party (M) became PM in coalition with the C, FP, and Christian Democrats (KD) (Widfeldt 2007, 1121). This is a SOLS change.

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Pre-1945 revised by Michaela Mattes (Vanderbilt) on 06/11/2012

Pre-1945 revised by Eelco van der Maat (Vanderbilt) on 09/08/2012

Post-1945 checked by Michaela Mattes (Vanderbilt) on 06/19/2011

Post-1945 revised by Eelco van der Maat (Vanderbilt) on 09/26/2011

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Edited by Andrew Wood (Rice) 05/24/2014

Edited by Michaela Mattes (Berkeley) on 06/20/2014