

## Algeria

Rice

Algeria gained its independence from France in 1962, following an exceptionally bloody revolutionary war that started as early as 1954. On 3 July 1962, France formally declared Algeria independent after vote by referendum, and Benyoucef Ben Khedda took power as provisional President since he had been a revolutionary leader in exile in Tunisia, heading a military-single-party-hybrid authoritarian regime. Elections on September 26 resulted with Ahmed Ben Bella in power as president. This is not coded as a SOLS change because both Ben Khedda and Ben Bella belonged to the National Liberation Front (FLN), Algeria's former guerilla army turned political organization upon independence.

A bloodless coup in 1965 placed in power Defense Minister Houari Boumedienne, who was supported by the military and the FLN. Boumedienne ruled until 1978 (as Head of State under the revolutionary council until 1976, then as the elected president). After his death in 1978, Rabah Bitat took power as interim president while the FLN-controlled congress nominated a new leader. In 1979, Chadli Bendjedid was elected president. These leader transitions are not considered having involved SOLS changes for Algeria because the rule of FLN and the military collectively lasted as one regime.

Bendjedid resigned in January of 1992, and a High Council of State was appointed to govern the country. Their chairman, formerly exiled revolutionary war hero Mohamed Boudaif, served effectively as President before his assassination in July. His rise to power is coded as a minor SOLS change, because the regime shifted from mixed with military and a single party to simply the military. Following his death, Ali Kafi took over as head of the council and stayed in power until 1994 when the council appointed Liamine Zéroual, the former Minister of Defense, to the presidency.

Zéroual called elections in 1995 and won solidly, if not democratically. In 1999, he stepped down to allow for elections. Seven candidates competed, but six of them withdrew on account of allegations of election fraud. The president therefore, by default, was Abdelaziz Bouteflika, who continues to rule at present with no official party and the backing of the military.

## References

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