

Somalia

Vanderbilt

Somalia is coded as a parliamentary democracy from independence in 1960 until 1969. Aden Abdullah Osman Daar of the Somali Youth League (SYL) ruled as the country's first president. There is no SOLS change at independence. In 1967, he succeeded by Abdirashid Ali Shermarke, also of the SYL. This is not a SOLS change. In 1969 there is a bloodless coup with Muhammad Siad Barre (Mil) taking power. This is a SOLS change as Barre does not rely on the SYL but rather established his own support base. For the duration of Barre's rule, from 1969 to 1991, the country is considered to be ruled by a personalist authoritarian regime by Geddes. In 1976, Barre's SOLS changes from Mil to Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party (SRSP). During the 1980s Somalia was plunged into civil war. The army disintegrated. Barre's territorial control was reduced to Mogadishu and surrounding areas. In 1991, opposition forces drove Barre out of power "resulting in the complete collapse of the central government" (U.S. Department of State 2010). Ali Mahdi Muhammad took power as interim president (Cahoon 2010; New York Times 2004). Beginning in 1992 and lasting until the end of our observation period in 2008, Somalia is considered a failed state with no one leader exercising power over the whole country.

References:

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