

Sudan

Rice

Sudan became an independent country from Great Britain and Egypt in 1956. The first Prime Minister under the yet-agreed upon form of government was Ismail al-Azhari, a founding member of the National Unionist Party (NUP), which was in favor of a unitary government system.

Al-Azhari's NUP government was defeated later in July of 1956 by Abd Allah Khalil with a combination of support by the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and the Islamic Umma, or religious scholars (who were functioning as a political unit). This second transition in 1956 is coded as a SOLS change (unlike the first, which was transition from nonindependence). This new coalition government under Khalil lasted until 1958.

A military coup occurred on 1958 when parliamentary deliberation was to take place about technical assistance from the United States. General Ibrahim Abboud took control of the government, representing a SOLS change to a military-backed regime. General Abboud ruled for a fairly long time, but rioting, strikes, and civil strife saw an end to his regime in 1964. The protesters created the leftist United National Front (UNF), which selected Sirr al Khatim al Khalifa, as prime minister of a provisional government.

Al-Khalifah's provisional government gave way in 1965 to an elected Islamist government under Muhammad Ahmad Mahgoub the coalition of Umma and NUP. This represents a SOLS change, because it was different than the previous military regime before the transitional government. In 1966, the coalition government collapsed, changed leadership to Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi, and then came back to power under different factions of the same Umma-NUP alliance. This is not coded as a SOLS change, because the same groups (if not people) were still in power. A similar switch happened again in May 1967, when Mahgoub came back to the prime ministership. Mahgoub ruled in a Umma/NUP/PDP coalition. This is a minor SOLS change since the PDP joined the coalition. Later in December 1967, the NUP and PDP united and formed the DUP (Library of Congress).

In 1969, a military coup brought Colonel Gaafar Muhammad Nimeiry to power in Sudan, signaling a SOLS change to the military as well as the Sudan Socialist Union (SSU). Though he initially ruled for a few months in 1969 with former Chief Justice Babiker Awadalla as his puppet Prime Minister, Nimeiry was effectively in charge. Nimeiry endured a brief coup in 1971 conducted by communist military officers; as his regime was personalist and these men military officers, this represents a SOLS change that lasted less than thirty days (and hence is coded under the solschang30 column. This is an instance of an ABA situation, where SOLSchang30=2. (SOLSchang=0, SOLSchang30=2, SOLSchang1=1, SOLSchang2=1)

Nimeiry's regime lasted until 1985 with varying amounts of stability. In April of that year, a military coup led by Lieutenant General Abd ar Rahman Siwar adh Dhahab overthrew Nimeiry and installed a new government. Because Nimeiry ran a personalist regime and this was a military uprising, the new leadership is coded as a SOLS change. When elections were subsequently called in 1986 and a

civilian government again under Sadiq al-Mahdi and backed by the Umma took power, this was also coded as a change.¹

The second al-Mahdi/Umma alliance ruled from 1986 to 1989. In 1989, a military coup led by Brigadier General Omar al-Bashir ousted al-Mahdi and established the former as the leader with the title of president. This event signaled a SOLS change due to the rise of the personalist regime. Al-Bashir has ruled since his ascension; in 1996, he created the Sudanese National Congress Party, which is the only legal political party in Sudan today. The change in 1996 is not coded as a SOLS change because Geddes has had the regime coded as personalist since it took power in 1989.

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¹ Here our coding of the leader of Sudan deviates from Archigos, who code the president al-Mirghani as the leader. As we regard Sudan to be a parliamentary democracy during this short democratic spell, we code the Prime Minister al-Mahdi as the leader for this period.