

## **Mali**

Rice

Mali gained its independence from France in 1960. At that point, Modibo Keita, a member of the Sudanese Union-African Democratic Rally party (US-RDA) and an individual who had dominated pre-independence politics, became President and immediately made Mali into a single-party state (which is what Geddes also classifies the country as during this time). In 1968, Keita was overthrown in a bloodless coup led by Lieutenant Moussa Traore. This is a SOLS change. Traore at first was the head of the Military Committee for National Liberation, and held the title of President. From 1968 until 1991, the country remains a personalist authoritarian regime under Traoré. Because it is a pure personalist regime, the change from Mil to UDPM in 1976 does not represent a SOLS change. In 1974, a new constitution created a single party state, and presidential elections were held in 1979. Traore won the elections as a member of the Democratic Union of the Malian People party (UDMP). GWF code Mali as a personalist state until 1991 (and provisional in 1992) .

In 1991 there is a coup by a pro-democracy reform-minded member of the military, Amadou Toumani Touré. Under pressure from pro-democracy agitators (Smith 2001, 74), he formed the Transitional Committee for the Salvation of the People (CTSP), which he headed and which guided the country to democracy. Because he became part of a “transitional” government (Cahoon 2010; Smith 2001, 74; U.S. Department of State 2010), he should be considered an interim leader and accordingly, there is no SOLS change for 1991. In June 1992, elections were held and Alpha Konare, a member of the Alliance for Democracy in Mali (ADM) was elected President. This is a SOLS change. Konare was reelected in 1997, and then could not run again due to constitutional term limitations. Touré, still a member of the CCD, was elected president in democratic elections in 2002, This is a SOLS change. He was reelected in 2007 and remains in office in the present day.

## **References**

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