

Ethiopia

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Ethiopia is considered authoritarian from 1920 through 1945. For this period the country is ruled by leaders of the Solomonic dynasty (Morby 2002) and thus should be considered a monarchy. Empress Zawditu ruled from 1919 until 1930. In 1930, Haile Selassie I became emperor. This is not a SOLS change. From 1936 until 1941 the country was occupied by Italy, ruled by Vittorio Emanuele III King of Italy/Emperor of Ethiopia of the House of Savoy (Morby 2002). Like Geddes, we do not code an authoritarian regime type for periods of occupation so these years are left blank. There is no SOLS change in 1936. In 1941 Selassie took power again. This is not a SOLS change since he was the last regular leader prior to occupation. Selassie ruled through 1945.

Ethiopia remains coded as a monarchy from 1945 until 1974 with Haile Selassie I of the Solomonic dynasty (Morby 2002) ruling as emperor. In 1974 there is a military coup and Aman Mikael Andom (Mil) took power, killing Selassie and 59 other members of the royal family (U.S. Department of State 2010). This is a SOLS change since power is transferred from the royal family to the military and the personalist clique of Mengistu. From 1974 until 1991, the country is coded as a military-personalist-hybrid regime by Geddes. Later in 1974, Andom was replaced by Tafari Benti (Mil), who ruled until 1977. This is not a SOLS change. In 1977, Benti was replaced by Mengistu Haile Mariam (Mil/EWP [Ethiopian Workers' Party]). This is not a SOLS change. Mengistu ruled until 1991 when opposition forces pushed him into exile in Zimbabwe (U.S. Department of State 2010). Tesfaye Gebre Kidan, EWP and Mengistu's vice president, took power temporarily as "acting" president when Mengistu was forced to flee the country (Cahoon 2010). This is not a SOLS change since Kidan can be considered both interim and Mengistu's pre-designated successor. That same year, Meles Zenawi of the opposition Tigre People's Liberation Front/Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (TPLF/EPRDF) took power as interim president (Cahoon 2010; U.S. Department of State 2010) as head of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia (TGE) pledging to guide the country to a multiparty democracy. Since Zenawi stays in power far longer than 18 months and Geddes codes Ethiopia under Zenawi as a single-party regime, we do not consider him an interim leader. Thus, there is a SOLS change in 1991. The country is considered a single-party system through 2008 and Zenawi remains in power through 2008.

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