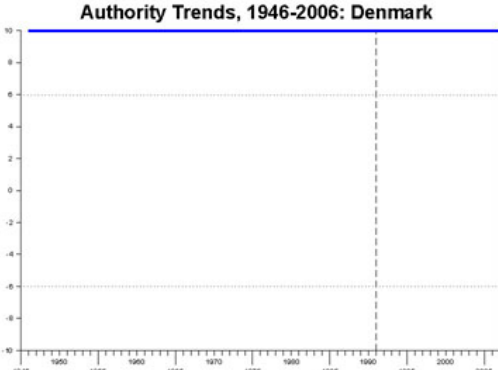


## Polity IV Country Report 2006: Denmark

<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">Score:</td> <td style="width: 15%;">2005</td> <td style="width: 15%;">2006</td> <td style="width: 15%;">Change</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Polity:</b></td> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Democ:</b></td> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Autoc:</b></td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Durable:</b></td> <td colspan="3">60</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Tentative:</b></td> <td colspan="3">No</td> </tr> </table>	Score:	2005	2006	Change	<b>Polity:</b>	10	10	0	<b>Democ:</b>	10	10	0	<b>Autoc:</b>	0	0	0	<b>Durable:</b>	60			<b>Tentative:</b>	No			
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<b>Tentative:</b>	No																								
SCODE	<b>DEN</b>	CCODE	<b>390</b>	Date of Report	<b>26 October 2007</b>																				
<b>Polity IV Component Variables</b>																									
XRREG	XRCOMP	XROPEN	XCONST	PARREG	PARCOMP																				
3	3	4	7	5	5																				
<b>Date of Most Recent Polity Transition (3 or more point change)</b>																									
End Date		15 April 1901		Begin Date																					
				6 June 1915																					
<b>Polity Fragmentation: No</b>																									
<b>Constitution</b>	1849/1953																								
<b>Executive(s)</b>	Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen (V); first elected by the dominant party or coalition in the Folketing in November 2001, most recent reelection, November 2007																								
<b>Legislature</b>	Unicameral: People's Diet [or <i>Folketing</i> ] (179 seats; 135 proportionally elected, 40 others allotted in proportion to their total vote, 2 representatives each from the Faroe Islands and Greenland; most recent elections, 13 November 2007) Liberal Party (V): 46 Social Democracy in Denmark (SD): 45 Danish People's Party (DF): 25 Socialist People's Party (SF): 23 Conservative People's Party (KF): 18 Other parties: 18 Regional seats: 4																								
<b>Judiciary</b>	Supreme Court																								

### Narrative Description:

#### Executive Recruitment: Competitive Elections (8)

The Danish prime minister is recruited through a competitive multiparty electoral system. The majority party (or majority coalition) in the National Assembly selects the chief executive. Members of the legislature are popularly elected.

**Executive Constraints: Executive Parity or Subordination (7)**

The parliamentary structure of government found in Denmark places significant constraints on the political autonomy of the chief executive. The prime minister is selected by, and is directly accountable to, the national legislature. The coalition-based nature of governance in Denmark further limits the independence of executive action. The judiciary is independent from executive influence.

**Political Participation: Institutionalized Open Electoral Competition (10)**

While the Social Democratic Party had dominated Danish politics since the end of World War II, in 2001 the centrist Liberal party gained control of the National Assembly. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Anders Rasmussen, the Liberal-Conservative coalition, along with their junior partner, the anti-immigration Danish People's Party, maintained their dominance over the Social Democrats by securing an electoral majority in the February 2005 legislative elections.

Freedom of speech and assembly are constitutionally protected in Denmark and the civil rights of citizens are generally respected. On 31 May 2002, the Folketing (the unicameral legislature) passed controversial new legislation to tighten the country's immigration and asylum rules, making it harder for foreign nationals to seek political asylum, get residence permits, or obtain support through the welfare system. The centre-right government of Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen was able to push through the legislation with the support of the far-right anti-immigration Danish People's Party (DF). The new law was to come into force on 1 July 2002, the date on which Denmark was due to assume the rotating presidency of the EU. The new law drew intense criticism from other parties and EU countries.