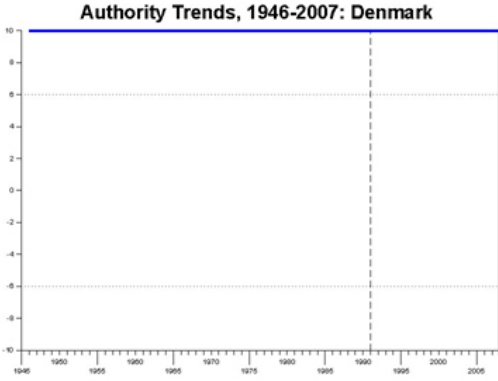


Polity IV Country Report 2007: Denmark

<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">Score:</td> <td style="width: 15%;">2006</td> <td style="width: 15%;">2007</td> <td style="width: 15%;">Change</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Polity:</td> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Democ:</td> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Autoc:</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Durable:</td> <td colspan="3">61</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tentative:</td> <td colspan="3">No</td> </tr> </table>	Score:	2006	2007	Change	Polity:	10	10	0	Democ:	10	10	0	Autoc:	0	0	0	Durable:	61			Tentative:	No			
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Durable:	61																								
Tentative:	No																								
SCODE	DEN	CCODE	390	Date of Report	1 November 2008																				
Polity IV Component Variables																									
XRREG	XRCOMP	XROPEN	XCONST	PARREG	PARCOMP																				
3	3	4	7	5	5																				
Date of Most Recent Polity Transition (3 or more point change)																									
End Date		15 April 1901		Begin Date																					
				6 June 1915																					
Polity Fragmentation: No																									
Constitution	1849/1953																								
Executive(s)	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																								
Legislature	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																								
Judiciary	Supreme Court																								

Narrative Description:¹

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

¹ The research described in this report was sponsored by the Political Instability Task Force (PITF). The PITF is funded by the Central Intelligence Agency. The views expressed herein are the authors' alone and do not represent the views of the US Government.

legislature are popularly elected. In November 2007, Prime Minister Rasmussen won a third term in office after calling for early elections. The center-right government, consisting of Rasmussen's Liberal Party, the Conservative People's Party and the anti-immigration Danish People's Party, won 89 out of 179 seats in the National Assembly. The Liberal-Conservative coalition first came to power in November 2001 after decades of electoral domination by the Social Democrats. The Social Democrat-led alliance, took 81 seats in the November 2007 polls.

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 both the February 2005 and November 2007 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 came into force on 1 July 2002, the date on which Denmark assumed the rotating presidency of the EU. The new law drew intense criticism from other parties and EU countries.