

## Polity IV Country Report 2007: Montenegro

<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><b>Polity:</b></td> <td>8</td> <td>8</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Democ:</b></td> <td>8</td> <td>8</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></td> <td>1</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Tentative:</b></td> <td></td> <td>Yes</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Score:	2006	2007	Change	<b>Polity:</b>	8	8	0	<b>Democ:</b>	8	8	0	<b>Autoc:</b>	0	0	0	<b>Durable:</b>		1		<b>Tentative:</b>		Yes		
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<b>Tentative:</b>		Yes																							
SCODE	<b>MNT</b>	CCODE	<b>348</b>	Date of Report	<b>1 November 2008</b>																				
<b>Polity IV Component Variables</b>																									
XRREG	XRCOMP	XROPEN	XCONST	PARREG	PARCOMP																				
3	3	4	7	2	3																				
<b>Date of Most Recent Polity Transition (3 or more point change)</b>																									
End Date			Begin Date																						
			3 June 2006 (Ind.)																						
<b>Polity Fragmentation: No</b>																									
<b>Constitution</b>	12 October 1992																								
<b>Executive(s)</b>	President Filip Vujanović (DPS); directly elected 6 April 2008 (51.9%); first elected May 2003 prior to independence Prime Minister Milo Đukanović (DPS); appointed by the Assembly, 29 February 2008																								
<b>Legislature</b>	Unicameral: Assembly (81 seats; directly elected; most recent elections, 10 September 2006) Coalition for a European Montenegro: 39 <i>Alliance consists of Democratic Party of Socialists of Montenegro and Social Democratic Party of Montenegro</i> Serbian List: 12 Coalition (SNP/NS/DSS): 11 <i>Alliance consists of Socialist People's Party of Montenegro (SNP), People's Party of Montenegro (NS), and Democratic Serbian Party of Montenegro (DSS)</i> Movement for Changes (PZP): 11 Liberals and Bosniaks: 3 Albanian minority parties: 5																								
<b>Judiciary</b>	Constitutional Court; Supreme Court																								

## **Narrative Description:<sup>1</sup>**

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

On 3 June 2006, following a national referendum, Montenegro declared its independence from Serbia and Montenegro (formerly the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) and renamed itself the Republic of Montenegro. Although Montenegro had its own government as a quasi-independent constituent republic of Yugoslavia, on 10 September 2006 the country held its first parliamentary elections under the new regime, which were generally regarded as free and fair by EU observers. The center-left, pro-EU Coalition for a European Montenegro emerged victorious with thirty-nine of eighty-one seats in the Assembly. When then-Prime Minister Milo Đukanović (Democratic Party of Socialists, DPS) refused to accept a second nomination for the post of prime minister, Željko Šturanović, former Minister of Justice, was nominated and appointed on 10 November 2006. Đukanović was again elected prime minister on 29 February 2008 following the resignation Šturanović due to illness. President Filip Vujanović (DPS) was originally elected in May 2003 prior to Montenegro's declaration of independence; he was directly elected in the country's first presidential election on 6 April 2008.

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

The 1992 Constitution places significant constraints on Montenegro's executive. The eighty-one member Assembly elects (after nomination by the president) and can dismiss the prime minister, appoints justices to the country's courts, controls the budget, and is responsible for making and passing the country's legislation. Active and competitive party politics and coalition formation also limit the power of the executive. The directly-elected presidency is a largely ceremonial post, but plays an important role in selecting nominees for the post of prime minister. Due in part to legislative control over judicial appointments, the judiciary remains independent of executive influence. A new constitution has been slated for completion in late 2007 and will be sent to the people for approval by referendum.

### **Political Participation: Factional Competition (7)**

Political participation in Montenegro has long been characterized by personalistic political factions. Following the break up of Yugoslavia in 1991-92 the Democratic Party of Socialists, successor of the Yugoslav Communist League, took power under the leadership of Milo Đukanović and Momir Bulatović. Đukanović and Bulatović, then prime minister and president, respectively, initially both supported close ties with Serbia and supported the policies of Serbian leader Milosevic. By the mid-1990s, however, these two men split ways and the DPS fractionalized. After Đukanović emerged victorious and led his half of the party to victory in the 1997 presidential elections, Bulatović formed a new party, the Socialist People's Party of Montenegro, which quickly became the largest power in the opposition. Although Bulatović was appointed prime minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by Milosevic, his tenure was brief. With the DPS in power, Montenegro's government became increasingly hostile to Milosevic's policies, and, after Serbia's collapse in 2000 (accompanied by Bulatović's resignation), the DPS initiated a campaign for Montenegrin independence, which was fiercely opposed by Bulatović's faction. Although the independence question was settled, narrowly, by referendum in 2006, prominent personalities continue to dominate factional politics in this small country, with the question of EU integration merely being the issue of the day. That being said, former-Prime Minister Đukanović's refusal of re-appointment suggests that the personalistic nature of politics in the country may develop into policy-based participation in the future.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.