

Polity IV Country Report 2007: Uruguay

<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">22</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:	22			Tentative:	No			
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SCODE	URU	CCODE	165	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		1 March 1985		Begin Date																					
				2 March 1985																					
Polity Fragmentation: No																									
Constitution	1966																								
Executive(s)	President Tabaré Vázquez (EP-FA); directly elected 31 October 2004, 50.4%																								
Legislature	Bicameral: Chamber of Deputies (99 seats; proportionally elected; most recent elections, 31 October 2004) Progressive Encounter-Broad Front (EP-FA): 53 National Party (PN): 34 Colorado Party (PC): 10 Other parties: 2 Chamber of Senators (31 seats; 30 proportionally elected, one seat reserved for the Vice President; most recent elections, 31 October 2004) EP-FA: 17 PN: 10 PC: 3																								
Judiciary	Supreme Court																								

Narrative Description:¹

Executive Recruitment: Competitive Elections (8)

In the 1960s, increasing social unrest, combined with a serious urban-guerrilla campaign waged by the Tupamaros, led to a declaration of martial law in Uruguay. Congress declared a state of war in 1972 and suspended the constitution. In 1973, President Bordaberry dissolved the legislature and instituted rule by a

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.

Council of State, which was dominated by the military. The military continued to control Uruguayan politics until civilian rule was finally reinstated with the 1984 presidential elections, although those candidates were required to gain prior approval by the military. Colorado Party candidate Julio Maria Sanguinetti took office in March 1985, effectively ending military rule. Sanguinetti was replaced by National Party candidate Luis Lacalle in the 1989 elections but regained office in the 1994 elections. Jorge Batlle of the Colorado Party won the 1999 elections in a very tight race with the leftist (EP) candidate, Tabaré Vázquez. Vázquez, running as candidate for the Progressive Encounter-Broad Front (EP-FA) coalition, gained the presidency in elections held in October 2004 by capturing just over 50% of the popular vote. The victory of the center-left coalition marked the end of a 170-year rule by the two old parties.

Executive Constraints: Executive Parity or Subordination (7)

Uruguay's constitution provides for an efficient separation of powers; the General Assembly's competence includes enactment of laws, imposing taxes, declaring wars and interpreting the Constitution. The Chamber of Deputies is empowered to bring charges against members of the government and the judiciary for violating the Uruguayan Constitution or for any other serious crime; such charges are heard by the Senate. The judiciary in Uruguay is considered to be effectively independent.

Political Participation: Institutionalized Open Electoral Competition (10)

Uruguay's political parties are durable and inclusive, with mass-based national constituencies. Political power has traditionally alternated between the two old parties: the National, or Blanco, Party and the Colorado Party. In elections held in 1999, the old parties were both surpassed by a coalition of left-wing parties, the Progressive Encounter, and entered a governing coalition agreement for the first time. Recent problems in Uruguay have involved spillover effects from the economic turmoil that has encompassed neighboring Argentina. On 30 July 2002, the government declared an emergency banking holiday to stop a run on convertible deposits that was spurred by Argentine investors trying to skirt banking restrictions in their own country; the emergency was lifted on 5 August after a second augmentation of Special Drawing Rights was granted by the IMF. In November 2002, the National (Blanco) Party (PN) voted to withdraw from the ruling coalition in preparation for upcoming elections; the PN leadership promised to enter into a "governability pact" with President Batlle's Colorado Party to ensure majority support for the government in the legislature. The two old parties lost control of the presidency for the first time in 170 years when the center-left coalition candidate, Tabare Vazquez secured a majority of the popular vote in elections held in October 2004. The EP-FA coalition also gained a majority of seats in both houses of the legislature (53 in the Chamber of Deputies and 17 in the Chamber of Senators). This marks the first time in the country's history that parliament is controlled by a left-wing party. Two former members of the Tupamaros, the left-wing urban-terrorist organization that rocked Uruguay during the 1970, were named to head both houses of Congress. In November 2006, former president-turned-dictator Juan Maria Bordaberry and his former foreign minister were arrested in connection with the 1976 killings of four political opponents.