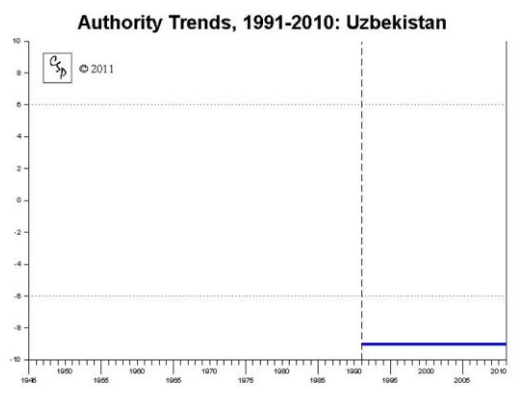


Polity IV Country Report 2010: Uzbekistan

<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">Score:</td> <td style="width: 15%;">2009</td> <td style="width: 15%;">2010</td> <td style="width: 15%;">Change</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Polity:</td> <td>-9</td> <td>-9</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Democ:</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Autoc:</td> <td>9</td> <td>9</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Durable:</td> <td></td> <td>19</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tentative:</td> <td></td> <td>No</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Score:	2009	2010	Change	Polity:	-9	-9	0	Democ:	0	0	0	Autoc:	9	9	0	Durable:		19		Tentative:		No		 <p style="text-align: center;">Authority Trends, 1991-2010: Uzbekistan</p>
Score:	2009	2010	Change																						
Polity:	-9	-9	0																						
Democ:	0	0	0																						
Autoc:	9	9	0																						
Durable:		19																							
Tentative:		No																							
SCODE	UZB	CCODE	704	Date of Report	1 June 2011																				
Polity IV Component Variables																									
XRREG	XRCOMP	XROPEN	XCONST	PARREG	PARCOMP																				
2	1	4	1	4	1																				
Date of Most Recent Polity Transition (3 or more point change)																									
End Date			Begin Date																						
			31 August 1991 (Ind.)																						
Polity Fragmentation: No																									
Constitution																									
1992																									
Executive(s)																									
President Islam Karimov (CDP); initially gained power in 1990 as first secretary of the Communist Party under the Soviet system; first directly elected 1991; most recently reelected 23 December 2007, 88.1%																									
Legislature																									
Bicameral: Legislative Chamber (150 seats; 135 directly elected; 15 seats reserved for the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan most recent elections, 27 December 2009 and 10 January 2010) Uzbekistan Liberal Democratic Party (O'zlidep): 53 Uzbekistan People's Democratic Party (OXDP): 32 Uzbekistan National Revival Democratic Party (MT): 31 Justice Social Democratic Party (Adolat): 19 Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan: 15 Senate (100 seats; 84 members are elected by regional governing councils, 16 are appointed by the president)																									
Judiciary																									
Supreme Court																									

Narrative Description:¹

Executive Recruitment: Designation (3)

Islam Karimov, former first secretary of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan, was appointed president in 1991 in elections that international observers considered neither free nor fair. President Karimov had his stay in office extended to the year 2000 through a 1995 Soviet-style referendum. Subsequently, 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.

National Assembly voted to make this extension part of Karimov's first term, thereby making him eligible to run again in 2000. Both domestic and international observers deemed the January 2000 election, won by Karimov with ninety-two percent of the vote, as fraudulent. In yet another attempt to consolidate his political authority, in January 2002 Karimov won overwhelming support for extending the presidential term from five to seven years. In this same referendum the populace approved a plan to replace the one-chamber parliament with a bicameral legislature. Karimov's term was scheduled to expire in 2007; however, Karimov ran for reelection once again in the 23 December 2007 presidential election despite a constitutional limit of two terms in office. The electoral commission explained that the 2002 extension of the presidential term to seven years allowed Karimov to run for a second seven-year term.

Executive Constraints: Unlimited Authority (1)

While President Karimov has yet to develop the personality cult of his southern neighbor, former-President Saparmurat Niyazov of Turkmenistan, he is actively trying to do so. Little happens politically in Uzbekistan without his approval. He dominates all three branches of government, the military, and the security police. The National Assembly, which consists only of members that support the President, is a rubber-stamp institution with no real autonomy or power. While most of the members of government have ties to the former Communist Party, now the Democratic Party, this organizational body no longer plays a significant role in politics and does not represent a check on the powers of the President. Neither the legislature nor the judiciary has been able to effectively constrain the executive. Personal loyalty to the President is the defining characteristic of this polity.

Legislative elections held in December 2004, January 2005, and December 2009-January 2010 were widely viewed as fraudulent. The two major opposition groups, Erk (Freedom) and Birlik (Unity), were barred from competing as their leaders remained in exile. Only pro-government parties were allowed to participate in legislative elections; pro-government parties include the Liberal Democratic, Milliy Tiklanish Democratic, People's Democratic, and Adolat Social Democratic parties. In addition, fifteen seats in the legislature are reserved for the Environmental Movement of Uzbekistan.

Political Participation: Repressed Competition (1)

President Karimov tightly controls political competition in Uzbekistan with the support of the People's Democratic (former Communist) Party and four "loyal opposition" parties. The government's effective manipulation of election laws and use of political intimidation and repression has resulted in the almost total absence of a true opposition party in Uzbekistan since the early 1990s. The country's best known opposition parties, Erk and Birlik, have been banned, their leaders have gone into exile, and, for the most part, their followers have been silenced. Without calling itself a one-party state, nevertheless, President Karimov has created a political system in which loyalty to himself is of paramount importance and opposition to his rule is not tolerated. Moreover, since 1997 the government has actively sought to restrict the activities of Islamic groups ("Wahhabis") within the country. In recent years these groups have responded to this crackdown with organized violence (particularly in the Fergana Valley).