

**COUP D'ÉTAT EVENTS, 1946-2015**  
**CODEBOOK**  
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**Overview:**

This data list compiles basic descriptive information on all coups d'état occurring in countries reaching a population greater than 500,000 during the period 1946-2015. For purposes of this compilation, a coup d'état is defined as a forceful seizure of executive authority and office by a dissident/opposition faction within the country's ruling or political elites that results in a substantial change in the executive leadership and the policies of the prior regime (although not necessarily in the nature of regime authority or mode of governance). Social revolutions, victories by oppositional forces in civil wars, and popular uprisings, while they may lead to substantial changes in central authority, are not considered coups d'état. Voluntary transfers of executive authority or transfers of office due to the death or incapacitation of a ruling executive are, likewise, not considered coups d'état. The forcible ouster of a regime accomplished by, or with the crucial support of, invading foreign forces is not here considered a coup d'état.

The dataset includes four types of coup events: successful coups, attempted (failed) coups, coup plots, and alleged coup plots. In order for a coup to be considered "successful" effective authority must be exercised by new executive for at least one month. We are confident that the list of successful coups is comprehensive. Our confidence in the comprehensiveness of the coup lists diminishes across the remaining three categories: good coverage (reporting) of attempted coups and more questionable quality of coverage/reporting of coup plots ("discovered" and alleged). Successful assassinations of ruling executives that did not coincide with a successful coup are listed below; reports of assassination attempts and plots are quite numerous and have not been compiled. The coup events list is updated on a regular basis.

Information on coup d'état events was originally compiled from Keesing's Record of World Events. The resulting events list was then cross-referenced to, and reconciled with, data compiled by Arthur S. Banks (Cross-National Time Series Data Archive, variable BNKv126 in the PITF Merge): "The number of extra-constitutional or forced changes in the top government elite and/or its effective control of the nation's power structure in a given year, including successful revolutions." It was then cross-referenced to, and reconciled with, data on "irregular transfers of executive power" (Giacomo Chiozza, Jinhee L. Choung, Kristian Skrede Gleditsch, and Hein Goemans, *Archigos: A Database of Political Leaders*, 5 May 2004). The event list was also cross-referenced with the Polity IV dataset, the State Failure (PITF) Problem Set, and the Polity IV Country Report series to identify additional cases and distinguish autocratic leadership changes from adverse regime changes. In mid-2011, the coup list was cross-referenced with "Global Instances of Coups from 1950 to Present," version 2011.03.03, compiled by Jonathan M. Powell and Clayton L. Thyne; some additional cases were added as a result.

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***VARIABLES IN THE COUP EVENTS-LIST DATASET (CSPCoupsList2015):***

<b>COUNTRY</b>	Country name
<b>SCODE</b>	Standard INSCR three-letter country abbreviation
<b>MTH</b>	Date: Month of coup d'état event
<b>DAY</b>	Date: Beginning day of coup d'état event
<b>YEAR</b>	Date: Year of coup d'état event
<b>SUCCESS</b>	Coded result of coup d'état event: 1) successful coup; 2) attempted (failed) coup; 3) plotted coup; and 4) alleged coup plot
<b>LEADER</b>	Brief description/identification of coup leader(s); in successful cases where coup leader is not clearly identified, the new executive leader is reported as the coup leader
<b>DEATHS</b>	Number of persons killed during the coup and/or as a direct result of the coup event (executions of ousted leaders or coup plotters are included as reported). In cases where reports do not provide specific information on, or estimates of, the number killed as a direct result of coups, attempted coups, or the discovery of coup plots, a code of "999" is entered
<b>ARC</b>	Adverse Regime Change: A one (1) on this indicator identifies successful coups that resulted in what the Political Instability Task Force (PITF) has designated as an "adverse regime change," which is defined by a decrease in the regime's Polity IV POLITY score by six points or more or a near total collapse of central authority (POLITY code -77, interregnum)

***VARIABLES IN THE FORCED LEADERSHIP CHANGE ANNUAL DATASET (CSPCoupsAnnualv2015):***

<b>CCODE</b>	Standard INSCR numeric country code
<b>SCODE</b>	Standard INSCR three-letter country abbreviation
<b>COUNTRY</b>	Country name
<b>YEAR</b>	Year of annual record

***Coup Event Variables:***

<b>SCOUP1</b>	Successful Coups: Number of successful coups d'état that occurred in the year of record
<b>ATCOUP2</b>	Attempted Coups: Number of attempted (but ultimately unsuccessful) coups d'état that occurred in the year of record

- PCOUP3** Coup Plots: Number of (thwarted) coup plots that were reported by government officials during the year of record
- APCOUP4** Alleged Coup Plots: Number of alleged coup plots announced by government officials during the year of record (allegations of coup plots usually involve less formal adjudication procedures and are often used by authorities to justify repression of opposition leaders)

***Indicators of Events Not Considered Coup Events (listed/described in following pages):***

- AGCOUP** Auto-Coups: Indicator of the occurrence of subversion of the constitutional order by a ruling (usually elected) executive and the imposition of an autocratic regime during the year of record (often referred to as a presidential- or self-coup or by the Spanish term: *autogolpe*)
- FOROUTEX** Ouster of Leadership by Foreign Forces: Indicator of the forced ouster of a ruling executive as a direct result of the invasion of the country by foreign armed forces (which may partner with local militias but take the lead in unseating the country's leadership)
- REBOUTEX** Ouster of Leadership by Rebel Forces: Indicator of the forced ouster of a ruling executive as a direct result of armed action by rebel forces fighting against forces loyal to the regime (rebel leaders then assume regime leadership often resulting in a political, or socio-political, revolution)
- ASSASSEX** Assassination of Executive: Indicator of the assassination of the ruling executive during the year of record (assassinations are perpetrated by persons acting outside the ruling elite and do not result in a substantive change in regime leadership)
- RESIGNEX** Resignation of Executive Due to Poor Performance and/or Loss of Authority: Indicator of the coerced resignation of the ruling executive due to poor performance and accompanied by increasing public discontent and popular demonstrations calling for the ouster of the executive leadership; like assassinations, coerced resignations of an executive do not result in a substantive change in regime leadership (although they lead to new elections)

## **Forced Leadership Change Cases Not Considered Coups d'État (1946-2015)**

### **INVASIONS BY FOREIGN FORCES LEADING TO OUSTER OF REGIME:**

#### ***Afghanistan – November 12, 2001***

Following the September 11, 2001, al Qaeda attacks in the US, US forces provide crucial support for United Islamic Front for the Salvation of Afghanistan rebels (UIFSA--also known as the Northern Alliance) who succeed in ousting the Taliban regime that had provided official refuge for al Qaeda militants.

#### ***Cambodia – January 7, 1979***

Vietnam invaded Cambodia late in 1978. Vietnamese forces finally succeeded in overthrowing the Cambodian government led by Pol Pot on 8 January 1979, and installed a pro-Hanoi government led by Heng Samrin.

#### ***Czechoslovakia – August 20, 1968***

Soviet and Warsaw Pact forces invade Czechoslovakia and oust regime during the night in response to liberalization policies (known as the "Prague Spring") initiated under leadership of Alexander Dubcek.

#### ***Haiti – October 10, 1994***

US troops entered Haiti unopposed on September 19, 1994, in what was officially termed an operation by the multinational force authorized by UN Security Council Resolution 940 of July 31 to use "all necessary means" to remove the Haitian military regime. A US military administration was set up, operating alongside the remaining structures of the Haitian military regime, to oversee a process of transition. The leaders of the Haitian military regime formally resigned on October 10, 1994, and left the country for exile. Elected President Jean-Baptiste Aristide returned to Haiti from the US on October 15.

#### ***Iraq – April 9, 2003***

US and British forces invade Iraq on March 20, 2003, capturing the capital and ousting the Ba'athist regime of Saddam Hussein.

#### ***Panama – December 20, 1989***

US forces invade capital, disarm the National Guard, and capture and "extradite" Gen. Manuel Noriega, who surrendered on January 3, 1990 (tried in US criminal court and sentenced to long prison term for drug trafficking).

#### ***Sierra Leone – February 12, 1998***

Nigerian troops of the Economic Community of West African State Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) captured the capital, Freetown, on 12 February 1998. They ousted the military regime of Maj. Johnny Paul Koroma, and restored the democratically-elected former President Ahmad Kabbah (10 March), who had been overthrown by Koroma in May 1997.

#### ***Uganda – April 11, 1979***

Tanzanian troops invade and drive Idi Amin into exile.

## **OUSTER BY REBEL FORCES DURING ARMED CONFLICT:**

### ***Afghanistan – September 27, 1996***

Taliban forces capture the capital, Kabul; oust the Rabbani regime; and institute a radical Islamic revolution.

### ***Bolivia – July 21, 1946***

Extreme repression directed against opposition demands for reform triggered a general, armed uprising against the regime led by President Gualberto Villarroel, who had gained office in a military coup that ousted the elected-President Enrique Peñarando de Castillo on 20 December 1943. Opposition forces stormed the presidential palace and killed Villarroel. A provisional government was established and led by Dr. Nestor Guillen.

### ***Bolivia – April 11, 1952***

General Hugo Ballivián Rojas was overthrown by a popular uprising, generally referred to as the National Revolution and led by the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR). Dr. Victor Paz Estenssoro, who had won the annulled presidential election in May 1951, returned from exile and was sworn in as president on 16 April 1952.

### ***Cambodia – April 10, 1975***

Lon Nol regime ousted by Khmer Rouge. Pol Pot institutes a radical, peasant-Communist revolution as the Kamphucean People's Republic.

### ***Central African Republic – March 24, 2013***

Only two months after signing a power-sharing agreement in Libreville, the Seleka coalition of northern rebel forces seized control of the capital, Bangui, on 24 March 2013 and forced President François Bozizé to flee the country. On the following day, a leader of the rebel force, Michel Djotodia, declared himself president.

### ***Congo-Kinshasa – May 17, 1997***

Rebel leader Kabila took Kinshasa on 17 May 1997; sworn in as President on 29 May.

### ***Ethiopia – May 21, 1991***

In 1991 the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), a coalition of rebel organizations (led by Tigrayans) under the leadership of Meles Zenawi, began to achieve real success on the battlefield and ultimately routed the Ethiopian army, forcing President Mengistu to resign and flee the country on May 21, 1991. The EPRDF organized an interim government with Meles Zenawi as president. A new constitution, drafted by an elected constituent assembly and approved in 1994, divided the country into ethnically based regions, each of which was given the right of secession. Eritrea had established its own provisional government in 1991 and became an independent nation in 1993.

### ***Ivory Coast – April 11, 2011***

Opposition forces, with the support of French and UN forces, advanced from rebel strongholds and laid siege to the presidential palace after President Gbagbo, like his predecessor, refused to accept election defeat and cede authority. Gbagbo was captured on April 11, 2011, and Allasane Ouattara assumed office.

***Liberia – September 9, 1990***

Late in 1989, Liberia was invaded from Côte d'Ivoire by rebel forces of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), led by Charles Taylor, who proclaimed himself president. The United States sent troops to the area when the NPFL threatened to take foreign hostages. Liberian President Samuel Doe was assassinated in 1990 by another group of rebels led by Prince Yormie Johnson, who also sought the presidency. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) intervened to negotiate a peace settlement among the two rebel groups and the government. ECOWAS also sent a Nigerian-led West African peacekeeping force to Monrovia and installed an interim government led by Amos Sawyer. Taylor's forces, with military aid from Libya and Burkina Faso, began a siege of Monrovia in 1992 and engaged in fighting with ECOWAS forces. Fighting ended in 1996 with a victory by forces loyal to Charles Taylor; he was subsequently elected president, officially taking office on August 2, 1997.

***Libya – October 20, 2011***

Backed by NATO warplanes, anti-Gadhafi rebels systematically overpowered loyalists forces and drove them out of Libya's major cities. The last bastion to fall to rebel forces was the loyalist stronghold of Sirte. NATO planes attacked and disabled a convoy in which Gadhafi was attempting to flee Sirte; Gadhafi was captured and killed by rebel forces on 20 October 2011.

***Nicaragua – July 17, 1979***

Somoza regime collapses and president flees following long civil war with Sandinista National Liberation Front.

***Rwanda – July 4, 1994***

Rwandan Patriotic Forces (ethnic-Tutsi) attack from bases in Uganda, capture capital, and oust regime in response to widespread atrocities (genocide) by Interhamwe militants with collusion by ethnic-Hutu ruling elites.

***Uganda – January 29, 1986***

The National Resistance Army (NRA) led by Yoweri Museveni seized Kampala, Okello surrenders. Museveni declared himself President.

***Yemen – January 22, 2015***

Houthi militiamen (a Zaidi-Shia sect based in the northern Sadaa region) supported by fighters loyal to former-President Ali Saleh attacked forces loyal to Interim President Mansour Hadi in the capital city, Sanaa, and forced the government of Hadi to resign, leading to a collapse of central authority in Yemen.

**RESIGNATION OF EXECUTIVE DUE TO POOR PERFORMANCE/LOSS OF AUTHORITY:**

***Argentina – June 17, 1982***

Gen. Galtieri, leader of military government, resigns following loss of the Falklands/Malvinas Islands War with Great Britain.

***Azerbaijan – June 24, 1993***

Pres. Elchibey's inability to put down an ongoing rebellion, and his refusal to resign, forced the legislature (Milli Majlis) to vote for his impeachment on 24 June 1993, claiming he was "incapable of effective control over the situation in the country or of performing his functions".

Geidar Aliyev was selected to act as interim president, and was sworn in as president on 10 October, after securing an overwhelming majority of the votes in the 3 October presidential elections.

***Bangladesh – December 6, 1990***

Opposition parties began a campaign aimed at President Ershad's resignation late in 1987, whereupon he declared a state of emergency. In March 1988, he secured a victory for his Jatiya Party in parliamentary elections. However, renewed agitation for his resignation in October 1990 paralyzed the government, prompting Ershad to again declare a state of emergency on 27 November. Protesters clashed with security forces, resulting in 70 deaths and 500 injuries in November and early December. After 19 MPs from the Jatiya Party resigned their seats, Ershad met with senior Army officers who informed him they were unwilling to intervene, leaving Ershad with little choice but to announce his resignation, which he did on 4 December. Ershad stated he would resign as soon as the opposition chose an interim president to replace him and supervise elections. On 5 December, Shehabuddin Ahmed, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, was selected to replace President Ershad. The next day Ershad formally resigned and Shehabuddin Ahmed was sworn in as acting President.

***Benin – November 27, 1965***

Following a constitutional referendum on 5 January 1965, general elections were held in which Sourou-Migan Apithy was elected president. President Apithy was unable to assert authority over the government or parliament and he, along with Prime Minister Justin Ahomadegbe, was forced to resign under parliamentary and, finally, military pressure. Leadership was assumed briefly by President of the National Assembly Tairon Congacou before the military, led by Gen. Soglo, assumed power on 22 December 1965.

***Bolivia – May 16, 1982***

Military government led by Vildoso Calderon steps down and convenes new congress.

***Bolivia – June 6, 2005***

Anti-government protests prompted President Carlos Mesa on June 6 to tender his resignation to Congress. Congress on June 9 voted unanimously to accept Mesa's resignation. Constitutionally, the president of the Senate should become acting President, but the demonstrators continue to protest and demanded fresh elections rather than accept Horlando Vaca Diez becoming President. Vaca Diez renounced his right to succeed, as did the president of the Chamber of Deputies, which meant the presidency was passed to the head of the Supreme Court, Eduardo Rodriguez, who was constitutionally required to call elections within six months. Presidential elections in December 2005 were won by Evo Morales of the Movement Towards Socialism (MAS) party, one of the leaders of the demonstrations and the first indigenous person to be elected head of state.

***Brazil – August 24, 1954***

President Getulio Dornelles Vargas shot himself on August 24, 1954, following a political crisis brought about when he was implicated in an attempt to assassinate Carlos Lacerda, a newspaper editor and prominent critic of the Vargas administration.

***Burkina Faso – October 31, 2014***

President Blaise Compaoré's attempt to extend his 27-year rule by pushing a National Assembly vote to remove term limits triggered large public protests on October 28, 2014, the

scheduled day for the vote. Protesters stormed the National Assembly and then marched on the president's residence and other sites connected to the regime. That same evening, the armed forces chief-of-staff, Gen. Honoré Nabéré Traoré, announced the formation of a transitional government. On October 31, 2014, President Compaoré tendered his resignation and was escorted out of the country.

***Burundi – July 8, 1966***

Following a failed coup in November 1965, King Mwambutsa leaves country and resides in France; pervasive political instability during the King's absence induces Prince Charles Ndzizeye, who had acted on the King's authority as defacto ruler, to declare himself King and rule by decree.

***Central African Republic – January 10, 2014***

Christian "anti-balaka" militias staged a concerted attack on Muslim *Seleka* armed forces which had seized control of the government in March 2013 and installed Michel Djotodia as president. Under pressure from regional leaders and donor countries, President Djotodia resigned on January 10, 2014.

***Colombia – May 10, 1957***

Public discontent with the leadership of Gen. Gustavo Rojas Pinilla triggered massive demonstrations and strikes on May 10, 1957, forcing Gen. Rojas to resign and transfer power to a military junta led by Gen. Gabriel Paris Gordillo.

***Dominican Republic – January 18, 1962***

Gen. Roberto Echevarria attempted to overthrow the Council of State on 16 January 1962, but the coup collapsed within 48 hours. Gen. Echevarria was arrested by his own men, the Council of State was reinstated, and Dr. Bonnelly was installed as President of the Republic on 18 January after Dr. Balaguer tendered his resignation.

***East Timor – June 26, 2006***

East Timor's beleaguered Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri announced his resignation on June 26, 2006, despite strong support from the ruling Fretilin party. President José Xanana Gusmao and other domestic and foreign critics held Alkatiri's government responsible for a crisis in which an army mutiny and violent unrest had reduced much of Dili, the capital, to chaos. On March 17, 593 of East Timor's 1400 troops had been dismissed after they refused to end a strike begun on February 8; the dismissed troops were western Timorese (Loromonu) and claimed discrimination by the eastern Timorese (Lorosae). Alkatiri was replaced by Foreign Minister Jose Ramos Horta.

***Ecuador – November 7, 1961***

President Velasco Ibarra was forced to resign on November 7, 1961, after a prolonged political crisis, including an open clash between the Army and Air Force, and was succeeded as President by his political rival, Dr. Carlos Julio Arosemena, who was Vice-President of the Republic.

***Ecuador – April 20, 2005***

Congress removed President Lucio Gutierrez from office on April 20 and replaced him with Vice President Alfredo Palacio after mass public protests in Quito against Gutierrez's attempts to



control the judiciary. The deposed president fled with his family and sought asylum in the Brazilian embassy.

***Egypt – February 11, 2011***

Popular demonstrations against the regime led by President Hosni Mubarak began in Egypt on January 25, 2011, following the example set earlier that month in Tunisia and leading to Mubarak's resignation on February 11, 2011. Mubarak handed over executive authority to the Armed Forces Supreme Council which appointed a provisional government led by civilians.

***Georgia – January 6, 1992***

Following separatist rebellions in Abkhazia, Adjara, and South Ossetia provinces, a general rebellion in December 1991 and January 1992 against the dictatorial regime of President Zviad Gamsakhurdia led to his flight. Having fled initially to Armenia, he returned in mid-January to western Georgia and began a counter-rebellion. In Oct., 1992, Eduard Shevardnadze, the former Soviet foreign minister and leader of the Democratic Reform movement, was elected speaker of parliament, a position tantamount to president.

***Georgia – November 23, 2003***

Eduard Shevardnadze, the former Soviet Foreign Minister who had served as President of Georgia since 1992, was forced to resign on November 23, 2003, after weeks of peaceful mass protests by opposition parties. The drive to remove Shevardnadze (the so-called "Rose Revolution"), led by former Justice Minister Mikhail Saakashvili, began in the form of protests at the results of elections to Parliament, which were widely believed to have been rigged in favor of the President. Saakashvili claimed the presidency in a landslide victory (97%) in January 4, 2004, elections.

***Guatemala – September 2, 2015***

An April 2015 report issued by the UN anti-corruption agency concerning what has come to be known as the "La Linea" scam implicated several high-ranking Guatemalan officials and triggered a widespread public outrage. The scandal eventually led to the resignations and arrest of Vice President Roxana Baldetti and, on September 2, 2015, President Otto Pérez Molina.

***Guinea-Bissau – May 14, 1999***

Gen. Mane succeeds in driving President Viera from power and quickly resigns in favor of a transitional civilian government leading to open elections. Gen. Mane is subsequently killed following a coup attempt against the elected government in November 2000.

***Haiti – December 12, 1956***

President Paul Magliore's popularity fell dramatically as the result of a scandal concerning misappropriation of relief funds after Hurricane Hazel devastated the country. Facing widespread strikes and demonstrations, he abruptly resigned on December 12, 1956, and fled the country.

***Haiti – February 7, 1986***

The personalistic dictatorship of the Duvaliers ("Papa Doc" and "Baby Doc") collapses under intense international pressure and increasing popular disturbances that began in November 1985 and intensified in January 1986; President Jean-Claude Duvalier ("Baby Doc") flees the country on February 7, 1986.

***Haiti – February 29, 2004***

The government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was shaken during January 2004 by the announcement of a general strike and almost daily mass protests in which demonstrators demanded Aristide's resignation, claiming the president's supporters had engaged in widespread electoral fraud in the presidential and legislative election of 2000. On February 29 Aristide abruptly resigned and fled from Haiti following an armed uprising in which more than half the country fell into the hands of rebel forces. As was required by the constitution, Boniface Alexandre, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, was sworn in as Interim President.

***Honduras – June 28, 2009***

The Honduran military ousted President Manuel Zelaya on June 28, 2009, to prevent the holding of an illegal referendum on eliminating the single-term presidential term limit. Constitutional procedure was subsequently followed when Congress appointed the head of that legislative body, Roberto Micheletti, as interim president to complete Zelaya's term in office (January 2010).

***Iran – January 16, 1979***

The government of Reza Shah collapses and the Shah flees amid rising popularity of exiled Shia spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini. Khomeini assumes executive authority following the successive collapse of caretaker regimes and establishes an Islamic theocracy.

***Ivory Coast – October 26, 2000***

Facing enormous popular opposition, Gen. Guei backed down from his threat to nullify the results of recent presidential election which he had conducted in order to legitimate his forceful seizure of power but which he lost, despite efforts by his government to manipulate the outcome in his favor. Guei fled the country on October 26, 2000, and Laurent Gbagbo was sworn in as president.

***Jordan – August 11, 1952***

The two Houses of the Jordanian Parliament, after a 10-hour meeting in extraordinary session, decided that King Talal was mentally unfit to continue to rule, declared his reign at an end, and proclaimed his son, the Crown Prince Hussein, as King of Jordan.

***Kyrgyzstan – March 24, 2005***

A series of opposition demonstrations, first in southern Kyrgyzstan, and then in the capital of Bishkek, in protest at the conduct of legislative elections held in late February and mid-March forced President Askar Akayev to flee to Russia with his family. The failure of opposition candidates to win seats in what was characterized as flawed elections prompted anti-government demonstrations and protests to break out in the impoverished south of the country on March 14. The president's initial attempts to respond to the protests failed to halt the actions, demonstrators became violent and marched on the White House, forcing the president to flee. The legislature met in emergency session and named Kurmanbek Bakiev as acting President and acting Prime Minister. Akayev formally resigned on April 1, which was finally accepted by the Supreme Assembly on April 11 and set fresh elections for July 10.

***Kyrgyzstan – April 8, 2010***

Popular protests against rising utility prices converged on the capital city, Bishkek, on April 5, 2010. As protesters threatened to overrun the president's office on April 7, security forces fired upon the crowd, killing nearly 90 people. President Kurmanbek Bakiyev fled the capital and

oppositional leaders established a provisional government on April 8, 2010. Bakiyev officially resigned his office on April 15 and left the country.

***Lebanon – September 18, 1952***

The Prime Minister of the Lebanon, Sami Solh, resigned on September 9, 1952, in response to opposition charges of governmental corruption, mismanagement, and inefficiency. The opposition parties formed a “popular front” to enforce their demands for reforms, and demanded the resignation of President Bechara el-Khoury. A general strike occurred throughout the country on September 15-17. As a result of the crisis, calls for the President’s resignation were echoed the commander of the army and on September 18 President el-Khoury resigned.

***Lesotho – February 21, 1990***

Major General Justin Lekhanya, who had come to power in a South African-backed coup in 1986, had initially restored nominal legislative and executive powers to King Moshoeshoe II. The two clashed over various issues, including constitutional matters and the King’s desire to begin a dialogue with South African liberation movements on issues related to Lesotho. A power struggle ensued; Gen. Lekhanya appeared to gain the upper hand in February 1990, when he stripped the King of all remaining powers. Moshoeshoe was forced in November 1990 to abdicate in favor of his son, Letsie III.

***Liberia – August 11, 2003***

Under intense international pressure, including an indictment for war crimes by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, and after meeting with a visiting West African diplomatic delegation, President Charles Taylor agreed to resign his office on August 11, 2003, and leave Liberia. Pressure for Taylor to resign had increased markedly in July as rebel forces surrounded the capital, Monrovia. Taylor formally handed over power to Vice President Moses Blah at a ceremony attended by the presidents of South Africa, Mozambique, and Ghana.

***Lithuania – April 6, 2004***

President Rolandas Paksas on April 6 became the first European head of state to be successfully impeached when the Seimas (the unicameral legislature) found him guilty on three charges of breaching the constitution and his oath of office. Impeachment proceedings against Paksas had begun in February after the president was accused of having links to organized crime in Russia. Following Paksas’ impeachment, Seimas Speaker Arturas Paulaskas was named Interim President. The first round of new presidential elections was set for June 13; parliamentary elections were set for September 19.

***Madagascar – July 26, 1996***

President Albert Zafy was impeached on July 26, 1996 after a long period of tension with the legislature.

***Madagascar – March 17, 2009***

President Marc Ravalomanana resigned following several weeks of popular protests led by Andry Rajoelina, the mayor of the capital city Antananarivo. The President’s resignation was precipitated by an army mutiny when various units refused to confront the protesters after earlier confrontations had turned violent.

***Mali – March 26, 1991***

Gen. Moussa Traoré's personalistic regime faced increasing open dissent in late 1990 and early 1991 as a coalition of five political "associations" challenged his rule with widespread demonstrations and riots. Severe repression failed to control the demonstrations and, on March 26, 1991, Traoré and his wife were arrested at the airport, apparently preparing to flee the country. The military took control and Lt. Col. Amadou Toumani Touré was selected to chair a National Reconciliation Council (CNR) to govern the country.

***Myanmar (Burma) – October 28, 1958***

Prime Minister U Nu resigned and surrendered executive authority to Gen. Ne Win following a split in his ruling AFPFL party over his policy of accommodation toward insurgent groups that had been fighting the government since 1948 and, particularly, due to the fear of growing influence by communist groups.

***Myanmar (Burma) – July 23, 1988***

Ne Win, who had ruled Burma since seizing power in a military coup on March 2, 1962, resigned as Chairman of the ruling Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP) in an attempt to defuse widespread, and increasingly violent, social unrest. His resignation failed to dampen opposition to the BSPP regime and the military seized power on September 18, 1988.

***Nepal – April 24, 2006***

In April 2006, a second major people's movement for the restoration of democracy pressured King Gyanendra to relinquish the executive authority he had seized in response to an ongoing Maoist insurgency during a series of actions between May 2002 and February 2005. On April 24, 2006, King Gyanendra reinstated the 1999 parliament that he had dismissed in May 2002. Former Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala of the Nepali Congress Party was selected by the opposition seven-party alliance to lead the government. The status of King Gyanendra was further diminished on May 18 when the House of Representatives approved a resolution calling for him to be stripped of his legal immunity, his exemption from taxes, and his authority over the army.

***Pakistan – March 24, 1969***

Widespread discontent and riots forced President Ayub to resign. He handed the government over to the head of the Army, General Yahya Khan, who subsequently declared martial law.

***Pakistan – December 20, 1971***

Following the declaration of independence of East Pakistan (Bangladesh) and the disastrous defeat of the Pakistani armed forces by Indian forces intervening in support of East Pakistan's independence, General Mohammed Agha Yahya Khan resigned his office and transferred executive authority to Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the leader of West Pakistan's largest party, the Pakistan Peoples' Party.

***Panama – May 10, 1951***

In a broadcast on May 8, 1951, President Arnulfo Arias announced his intention to suspend the Constitution of 1946 and restore the more authoritarian constitution he had enacted in 1941 during his previous term in office, shortly after which he had been deposed in a coup supported by the United States. President Arias had been maneuvered into office in November 1949 during the turmoil following the sudden illness and death of President Diaz Arosemena.

Widespread demonstrations and a general strike occurred immediately following Arias' announcement and the National Assembly voted for Arias' impeachment. Protesters and dissident armed forces surrounded the Presidential palace and were met with heavy gunfire; the fighting continued through the day. Arias surrendered on May 10, 1951, and was arrested.

***Philippines – February 25, 1986***

President Marcos resigns and flees the country in face of widespread popular revolt against his personalistic dictatorship.

***Philippines – January 20, 2001***

President Joseph Estrada fell from power in January despite the failure of an impeachment trial on corruption charges in the Senate begun in December 2000. After the adjournment of the trial on January 17, Estrada succumbed to a combination of massive popular protests, the defection of many members of his Cabinet to an opposition coalition and, crucially, the withdrawal of support for his presidency by the police and the military. The Supreme Court ruled that the presidency was vacant on January 20 and Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the effective leader of the opposition, was sworn in as the new President.

***Romania – December 25, 1989***

Following the indiscriminate killing of protesters by government security forces in Timisoara, President Nicolae Ceausescu fled Bucharest as fighting broke out between security forces and the opposition, which was supported by elements of the army. Ceausescu was captured (December 23), tried, convicted of genocide and gross abuses of power, and executed with his wife (December 25). An interim government was formed under Ion Iliescu amidst continuing resistance by security forces (December 25-31).

***Solomon Islands – April 26, 2006***

Prime Minister Snyder Rini was forced to resign on April 26 after angry crowds in the capital of Honiara rioted in protest against his appointment. Rini was widely suspected of taking bribes from Chinese businesses. In a second round of voting, the National Parliament on April 18 had elected Rini as Prime Minister with 27 votes, against 23 for Job Dudley Tausinga, leader of the Rural Advancement Party (RAP). A backer of Tausinga alleged that some MPs had been bribed to transfer their votes to Rini in the second round. A new Prime Minister, Manasseh Sogavare, leader of the Solomon Islands Social Credit Party, was elected by the National Parliament on May 4.

***Somalia – January 26, 1991***

Central authority collapses in face of widespread social disorder and increasing armed challenges; President Barre flees and country falls into anarchy.

***South Korea – April 27, 1960***

The increasingly authoritarian rule of President Syngman Rhee, along with government corruption and injustice, added to the discontent of the people. The elections of March 1960, in which Rhee won a fourth term, were marked by widespread violence, police brutality, and accusations by Rhee's opponents of government fraud. A student protest march in April 1960, in which 125 students were shot down by the police, triggered a wave of uprisings across the country. The government capitulated, and Rhee resigned and went into exile. Dr. John M. Chang (Chang Myun) assumed the presidency, but was unable to correct the economic

problems or maintain order, and in May 1961, the South Korean armed forces seized power in a bloodless coup.

***Sudan – October 30, 1964***

President Abboud, who had come to power in a military coup on 17 November 1958, was overthrown by a popular uprising in Khartoum, supported by a section of the Army. Abboud dissolved the ruling military junta on October 26 and a civilian government was formed on 30 October, led by Mr. Khalifa, formerly Deputy Permanent Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Education. Abboud formally resigned on 15 November 1964.

***Tajikistan – September 7, 1992 /November 10, 1992***

President Rakhmon Nabyev was forced to resign in September 1992 because he was unable to restore the country to stability. His removal from power sparked a smoldering civil war. Akbarsho Iskandarov was named acting President. He and his coalition government resigned on 10 November, calling for a cease-fire as pro-Communist militias laid siege to Dushanbe and occupied much of Tajikistan. On 18 November, the Tajik Supreme Soviet accepted Iskandarov's resignation, and on 19 November elected Imoli Rakhmanov, a former communist and chairman of the executive committee in the southern Kulyab region, as Speaker of Parliament (the *de facto* President).

***Thailand – October 14, 1973***

In October 1973, the military regime of Thanom Kittikachorn was toppled after a week of student demonstrations and violence in Bangkok. King Bhumibol Adulyadej appointed Sanya Thammasak as Thanom's successor, giving Thailand its first civilian premier in twenty years. The new premier promised to complete a constitution and to hold general elections. In May, 1974, citing the heavy burden of the office and the sharp criticism directed against the government, Sanya resigned, but he was soon persuaded to form a new government. In June he was sworn in as the head of a revamped, all-civilian cabinet. A new constitution was promulgated in October 1974.

***Tunisia – January 14, 2011***

Anti-government protests ignite across Tunisia following the public, self-immolation of a destitute fruit vendor on 17 December 2010, whose goods had been seized and destroyed by police. Scores of protesters were killed in confrontations with police; however, after the head of the Tunisian Army, Gen. Rachid Ammar refused to deploy troops to support the regime, President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali fled the country on 14 January 2011.

***Ukraine – December 31, 2004***

Pressure exerted by the popular "Orange Revolution" (named for the campaign color of opposition challenger Viktor Yushchenko) and international condemnation of the flawed second round of presidential elections held on November 21 led to the resignation of President-elect and Prime Minister Yanukovych on December 31, 2004. Beginning on November 21 and continuing through the end of the month, thousands of Ukrainians took to the streets in protest at the alleged fraudulent conduct of the second round of the presidential elections held that day and officially won by Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych. Most international observers agreed that the election had been rigged, and European and U.S. leaders pressured the political establishment to agree to hold fresh elections. On December 3, the Supreme Court annulled the November election results and called for fresh presidential elections. Elections held on December 26, 2004, resulted in a victory for Yushchenko. A subsequent announcement by

Yanukovych that he intended to resume his post as Prime Minister after his loss in the new presidential election triggered a new crisis but, after the Supreme Court rejected all his election challenges, he resigned his post.

***Ukraine – February 23, 2014***

The government's sudden refusal to sign political and trade accords with the European Union on November 22, 2013, triggered mass protests in the capital; the protesters continued to occupy the central Independence Square (*Maidan*) through January and February 2014. Authorities attempted to forcibly clear the protest encampment in the square on February 20, 2014, and were met by strong resistance, resulting in sixty people being killed. An agreement to end the confrontation was brokered on the following day; however, security forces abandoned their posts following the agreement and President Viktor Yanukovych left the capital. On February 23, 2014, the Ukrainian parliament ruled that President Yanukovych had withdrawn from office.

***United States – August 9, 1974***

On June 17, 1972, five men were apprehended during a break-in of the Democratic Party headquarters in the Watergate Hotel in Washington, DC, during the 1972 presidential election campaign. A federal investigation compiled evidence of a cover-up by the executive office and obstruction of justice. In order to avoid impeachment proceeding, President Richard Nixon resigned from office on August 9, 1974.

***Venezuela – January 28, 1958***

President Marcos Pérez Jimenez was forced to flee the country on January 28, 1958, following widespread and violent popular demonstrations against his dictatorial rule organized by the civilian Patriotic Junta and supported by dissident members of the armed forces

***Yemen – February 27, 2012***

Following numerous attempts to negotiate an end to the political crisis and stalemate that had beset Yemen since late January 2011, President Ali Abdullah Saleh signed an agreement in November 2011 whereby he officially transferred executive authority to Vice President Abd Rabbuh Mansur al-Hadi in return for a grant of immunity from prosecution. A public ballot was held 21 February 2012 to confirm the resignation of President Saleh and accept a-Hadi as Interim President. President Saleh formally resigned office on 27 February 2012.

***Yugoslavia – October 5, 2000***

Following a series of political disasters, including the dissolution of the Yugoslavian Federation, failed wars in Croatia and Bosnia, and a final confrontation and war with NATO forces over the status of Kosovo, widespread popular discontent with the discredited Milosevic regime led to an open presidential election on September 24, 2000. Challenger Kostunica won the popular vote despite manipulation by the regime. When the regime tried to claim that a runoff election was necessary and Milosevic threatened to ignore the election results, massive popular demonstrations and defections by security forces led to Milosevic's resignation on October 5, 2000.

**SUBVERSION BY RULING EXECUTIVE (Adverse Regime Change):**

Albania	05/1996	President Sali Berisha
Algeria	01/1992	High Committee of State (Mohammed Boudiaf, following President Chadli Bendjedid's resignation)
Armenia	07/1995	President Levon Ter-Petrossian
Azerbaijan	06/1993	President Geidar Aliyev
Bolivia	05/1951	President Mamerto Urriolagoitia Harriague (turned power over to Gen. Hugo Ballivián Rojas)
Belarus	04/1995	President Aleksandr Lukashenko
Burundi	07/2015	President Pierre Nkurunziza
Comoros	01/1976	President Ali Solih
Comoros	11/1989	President Ahmed Abdullah Abderrahman
Congo	12/1963	President Alphonse Massamba-Débat
Dominican Rep.	07/1966	President Joaquín Balaguer
Ecuador	06/1970	President José María Velasco
Eq. Guinea	02/1969	President Francisco Macias Nguema
El Salvador	02/1977	President Carlos Humberto Romero
France	06/1958	President Charles de Gaulle
Guyana	04/1978	President Forbes Burnham
Haiti	01/1999	President René Preval
Jordan	07/1951	King Abdullah I
Kenya	07/1969	President Jomo Kenyatta
Korea, South	10/1972	President Park Chung-hee
Malaysia	05/1969	Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman
Morocco	06/1965	King Hassan II
Niger	05/2009	President Mamadou Tanja



Peru	04/1992	President Alberto Fujimoro
Philippines	11/1969	President Ferdinand Marcos
Senegal	12/1962	President Léopold Sédar Senghor
Sierra Leone	04/1971	President Siaka Stevens
Singapore	08/1965	President Lee Kwan Yew
Swaziland	04/1973	King Sobhuza II
Turkey	08/2014	President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
Uganda	04/1966	President Milton Obote
Uruguay	11/1971	President Juan María Bordaberry
Zambia	08/1968	President Kenneth Kaunda
Zambia	11/1996	President Frederick Chiluba
Zimbabwe	12/1987	President Robert Mugabe

#### **ASSASSINATIONS:**

Algeria	1992	Mohammed Boudiaf, May 29
Bangladesh	1981	Ziaur Rahman, failed coup attempt, May 30
Burkina Faso	1987	Thomas Sankara, October 15
Burundi	1993	Melchior Ndadaye, failed coup attempt, October 21
Burundi	1994	Cyprien Ntaryamira, killed in suspicious plane crash along with President Habyarimana of Rwanda, April 6
Comoros	1989	Ahmed Abdallah, November 26
Congo	1977	Marien Ngouabi, failed coup attempt, March 18
Dominican Rep.	1961	Rafael Trujillo, May 30
D.R. Congo	2001	Laurent Kabila, January 16
Egypt	1981	Anwar Sadat, October 6

Guatemala	1957	Carlos Castillo Armas, July 20
Guinea-Bissau	2009	Joao Bernardo Vieira, March 2
India	1984	Indira Gandhi, October 31
Israel	1995	Yitshak Rabin, November 4
Lebanon	1989	René Moawad, November 22
Liberia	1990	Samuel Doe, captured and killed during meeting with rebels, September 9
Madagascar	1975	Richard Ratsimandrava, February 11
Nepal	2001	King Birendra, royal family allegedly massacred by crown prince, June 1
Nicaragua	1956	Anastasio Garcia Somoza, September 29
Nigeria	1976	Ramat Mohammed, failed coup attempt, February 13
Panama	1955	José Antonio Remón Cantero, January 2
South Korea	1979	Park Chung-hee, October 26
Rwanda	1994	Juvénal Habyarimana, killed in suspicious plane crash along with President Ntarymira of Burundi, April 6
South Africa	1966	Hendrik Verwoerd, September 6
Saudi Arabia	1975	King Faisal, assassinated by nephew, March 25
Somalia	1969	Abdirashid Ali Shermarke, October 15
Sri Lanka	1959	Solomon Bandaranaike, September 26
Sri Lanka	1993	Ranasinghe Premadasa, May 1
Sweden	1986	Olof Palme, February 28
U.S.A.	1963	John F. Kennedy, November 22
Yemen A.R.	1977	Ibrahim Al-Hamadi, October 11
Yemen A.R.	1978	Ahmed Al-Ghashmi, June 24