

ALBANIA

Polity5 regime codes:

fac	scode	polity	pers	bmon	bday	byear	emon	eday	eyear	exec	exconst	polcomp
0a	ALB	-2	0	9	4	1914	3	9	1915	3	5	3
1X	ALB	-77	10	3	10	1915	1	21	1925	-77	-77	-77
1O	ALB	-9	14	1	22	1925	4	8	1939	3	1	1
2X	ALB	-77	7	4	9	1939	11	10	1945	-77	-77	-77
2O	ALB	-88	0	11	11	1945	1	11	1946	-88	-88	-88
2Oa	ALB	-9	45	1	12	1946	12	11	1990	3	1	1
3X	ALB	1	0	12	12	1990	6	11	1991	7	3	6
3Xa	ALB	-88	1	6	12	1991	4	5	1992	-88	-88	-88
3Xb	ALB	5	4	4	6	1992	5	26	1996	8	5	6
3Xc	ALB	0	1	5	27	1996	7	23	1997	3	5	6
3O	ALB	5	5	7	24	1997	7	24	2002	7	5	8
3Oa	ALB	7	3	7	25	2002	9	1	2005	7	6	9
3Ob	ALB	9	13	9	2	2005	99	99	9999	8	7	9

PITF Problem Events:

1) 05/96-05/97 (ARC 05/96; REV 03/97-05/97)

3X) Date of Change to Factional-Democratic: December 12, 1990 (party prohibition lifted)

Brief Explanation of Change To:

On December 11, 1990, the hegemonic Albanian Workers' Party (PLA) announced that the formation of independent political parties would be allowed. On December 12, 1990, Albania's first opposition party in 46 years, the Democratic Party (PDS), was formed. The first multi-party elections were scheduled to be held on February 10, 1991. The PDS was not competitive in elections given the brief period to organize for elections and government denial of competitive access to state-controlled media; it boycotted the opening session of the legislature in April 1991.

Identify Main Factions:

- *Albanian Workers' Party (PLA)/Socialist Party of Albania (PSS)* — The Socialist Party of Albania is Albania's current ruling party and successor organization to Albania's former hegemonic party; also called the Albanian Communist Party or Albanian Party of Labor. The organization changed its name to the Socialist Party of Albania after the prohibition of "extremist parties" on July 1, 1992.

- *Democratic Party of Albania (PDS)* — The Democratic Party of Albania is the main opposition party, led by Sali Berisha.

- Lesser factions:

Central Council of Albanian Trade Unions (KQBPS/UITUA; acting independently of PLA control); active during early stage of transition.

Greek-Albanians (Omonia; when ethnic parties were barred from political participation, support shifted to Human Rights Union); ethnic minority group.

Changes within Factional Period:

3Xa) June 12, 1991 (transitional government) – Opposition to the ruling AWP mobilized rapidly in the run up to and the immediate aftermath of February 1991 elections; dissent was organized mainly by the trade unions. General strikes were held in April and, again, in May 1991. In the face of widespread strikes, the newly appointed government resigned on June 4, 1991, and a "non-party government of national stability" took over on June 12 in preparation for new

elections. New rounds of general strikes were held in October, November, and December 1991; the PDS withdrew from the “government of national stability” on December 4 and a new administration promised fresh elections in March 1992.

3Xb) April 6, 1992 (general elections) – General elections were held on March 22 and 29, 1992, and a new legislature led by the opposition PDS party was convened. On April 6, 1992, Sali Berisha of the PDS was elected President by the legislature. The new legislature comprised representatives from five parties. “Extremist” parties were officially banned on July 1, 1992.

3Xc) Date of Change from Factional-Democratic: May 27, 1996 (onset of political instability)
Adverse Regime Change: May 1996

General elections were held on May 26, 1996, but the main opposition party, the PSS, withdrew before first round polls closed claiming widespread vote rigging, intimidation, and violence by the ruling PDS. The PSS boycott resulted in the PDS gaining nearly 90% of seats in the legislature. Albania became a one-party state with President Berisha as the PDS-designated executive. Factionalism remained active under PDS hegemony.

Revolutionary War: March 1997-May 1997

Violent demonstrations broke out in January 1997 and militant factions emerged with the collapse of “pyramid” financial schemes; an armed rebellion in the south spread rapidly, leading to an early rescheduling of elections for May 1997 in which a thoroughly discredited PDS was soundly defeated by the PSS. President Berisha resigned office on July 23, 1997.

3O) Date of Change from Factional-Autocratic: July 24, 1997 (democratic consolidation)

Brief Explanation of Change From:

The weakening of the PDS as a result of the 1997 financial crisis and rebellion effectively ended open factionalism in Albanian politics, although coercion and intimidation continued to characterize politics for several years. The early elections held in 1997 were designed to dampen hostility against the central regime and are coded as “transitional elections” (EXREC=7); political competition is coded as “lessening coercion” (POLCOMP=8).

Changes within Democratic Consolidation Period:

3Oa) July 25, 2002 (general elections) – In an attempt to soften increasing internal factionalism within the ruling PSS and bowing to external pressure from NATO (during the Kosovo war) and the EU to bring political factionalism under control and create greater stability, a rapprochement was forged between the PSS and PDS in 2002. Within the PSS, rivalry among competing political leaders undermines party leadership and threatens to split the party; a reconciliation among rivals leads to the de facto elevation of the prime minister as the principal executive.

3Ob) September 2, 2005 (peaceful transfer of executive office) – July 2005 general elections result in the victory of the PDS-led coalition, and near parity with the PSS-led coalition in the legislature. On September 2, 2005, the legislature elected the first woman Speaker of the

Assembly and elected PDS leader (and former-President) Sali Berisha as Prime Minister, replacing PSS leader Fatos Nano.