

EL SALVADOR

Polity5 regime codes:

fac	scode	polity	pers	bmon	bday	byear	emon	eday	eyear	exec	exconst	polcomp
1X	SAL	-1	14	2	16	1841	6	30	1855	4	3	6
1Xa	SAL	-66	3	7	1	1855	6	30	1858	-66	-66	-66
1Xb	SAL	-1	45	7	1	1858	6	30	1903	4	3	6
1O	SAL	-6	28	7	1	1903	12	2	1931	3	3	2
1Oa	SAL	-9	13	12	3	1931	6	30	1944	3	1	1
1Ob	SAL	-8	4	7	1	1944	12	14	1948	3	1	2
1Oc	SAL	-88	1	12	15	1948	3	26	1950	-88	-88	-88
1Od	SAL	-6	6	3	27	1950	10	26	1960	3	3	2
2X	SAL	0	0	10	27	1960	1	25	1961	5	3	7
2Xa	SAL	-3	16	1	26	1961	2	27	1977	3	3	6
2O	SAL	-6	3	2	28	1977	10	15	1979	3	3	2
2Oa	SAL	-77	5	10	16	1979	5	31	1984	-77	-77	-77
3X	SAL	6	10	6	1	1984	3	23	1994	8	5	7
3O	SAL	7	15	3	24	1994	5	31	2009	8	5	9
3Oa	SAL	8	10	6	1	2009	99	99	9999	8	6	9

PITF Problem Events:

- 1) 10/79-01/92 (ARC 10/79-05/84; REV 10/79-01/92; GEN 01/80-12/89)

2X) Date of Change to Factional-Autocratic: October 27, 1960 (coup)

Brief Explanation of Change To:

The military dictatorship of Col. José Maria Lemus was overthrown on October 26, 1960, by a bloodless military coup. A junta comprised of three military officers and three civilians, led by Colonel Cesar Yanes Urias, took power. The junta announced that free elections would be held in 1962 in which all democratic parties would be allowed to participate, including the outlawed “Revolutionary Party of April and May;” all political prisoners would be released; political exiles allowed to return; and all restrictions on civil liberties would be abolished.

Identify Main Factions:

- *Ruling Oligarchy/Military* — El Salvador had been ruled under various forms of military dictatorship, in alliance with landed elites, since independence. Lessening of political restrictions comes about primarily due to factionalism within the military leadership resulting from disagreements over how to manage widespread dissatisfaction among the peasants and urban labor. Although there are some nascent political party structures related to key personalities, none is able to mobilize sufficient political action to alter the political agenda or challenge military dominance. With the advent of a national electoral system in 1962, the ruling oligarchy attempts to institutionalize a dominant party structure: the Party of National Conciliation (PCN).
- *Opposition to military/PCN rule* — The disparate opposition to the ruling oligarchy eventually rallies (Union of National Opposition; UNO) to support José Napoleón Duarte’s candidacy in presidential elections held on February 20, 1972, but can not similarly challenge legislative elections held on March 12, 1972 (dominated by the PCN).

Changes within Factional-Autocratic Period:

2Xa) January 25, 1961 (coup) – On January 25, 1961, another coup ousted the Yanes government, banning communist parties and, for a brief period, the Social Democratic Party led

by former-President Col. Oscar Osorio. Political competition under the new regime remained factional, but more tightly restricted than under the Yanes government.

2O) Date of Change from Factional-Autocratic: February 28, 1977 (state of siege declared)

Brief Explanation of Change From:

Presidential elections held on February 20, 1977, were once again, as they were in 1972, openly manipulated by the military and ruling PCN. The elections sparked widespread anti-government demonstrations. In response, on February 28, the government declared a state of siege. Under the emergency legislation, freedom to enter and leave the country was restricted, civilian courts were placed under military control, and restrictions were imposed on meetings, the press, radio and television. A new public order law was approved on November 24, 1977, that provided the government with wide-ranging powers to ban demonstrations, occupations, and strikes; subversive meetings; propaganda which threatens the social order; and the publishing of “false or tendentious” news, as well as to detain those embracing “totalitarian” ideals.

Changes within Post-Factional Period:

2Oa) October 15, 1979 (adverse regime change; collapse of central authority)

Adverse Regime Change: October 1979 – May 1984

Social disorder continued to escalate through 1979. President (Gen.) Carlos Humberto Romero was overthrown in a coup led by junior officers on October 15, 1979. The “revolutionary junta” undertook to install a true democracy and to hold free elections within a “reasonable” time; it also dissolved the existing Congress, 50 of whose 54 members belonged to the PCN, suspended the Supreme Court, and promised an amnesty for all political prisoners and exiles, freedom to form political parties of any ideology, freedom of expression, respect for trade union liberties, and the dismantling of the right-wing paramilitary organization Orden. The new government received support from moderate opposition groups, most notably the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), however, it was unable to control social unrest or prevent the collapse of central authority with the onset of civil war with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). By 1980, Jose Napoleon Duarte had emerged as head of the military junta, as well as head of state.

Revolutionary War: October 1979 – January 1992

Leftist forces coalesced under the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) and engaged in open warfare against the Salvadoran Army and the central regime.

Genocide: January 1980 – December 1989

Beginning in January 1980, faced with widespread insurgency led by the FMLN, the Salvadoran government, using military, security forces, and death squads, began a campaign of widespread harassment, imprisonment and killings of suspected leftists among the country’s clergy, peasants, urban workers, and intellectuals.

3X) Date of Change to Factional-Democratic: June 1, 1984 (new constitution – new government)

Brief Explanation of Change To:

Following the October 1979 ouster of the Romero/PCN government, the new government led by Duarte establishes March 28, 1982, elections to a 60-member Constituent Assembly which drafted a new constitution and prepared for presidential elections. On August 3, 1982, the Apaneca Pact was signed by the participating parties which included general terms for reconciliation and established a peace commission to seek negotiations with the FMLN; the first meeting with the rebel organization was held in Bogata, Colombia, on September 9, 1983. A new multiparty, electoral constitution is adopted and presidential elections are held on March 25, 1984. Moderate candidate Duarte wins a run off election against D'Aubuisson held on May 6 and takes office on June 1, 1984; right-wing parties gain a majority in legislative elections.

Identify Main Factions:

- *Moderates* — Moderate political forces in El Salvador are led by José Napoleón Duarte and the Christian Democratic Party (PDC). The moderates propose negotiation, land reform, and nationalization of key economic institutions as their platform for political reform and ending the civil war.
- *Right-wing extremists* — The right-wing extremist faction is led by Maj. Roberto D'Aubuisson and the National Republican Alliance (ARENA) with support from the remnants of the PCN; their platform calls for outright military victory over leftist (FMLN) rebel forces.

3O) Date of Change from Factional-Democratic: March 20, 1994 (general elections)

Brief Explanation of Change From:

President Alfredo Cristiani and leaders of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) reached an agreement on a broad plan that proposed a permanent ceasefire and an eventual end to the 11-year civil war in New York on September 25, 1991. The UN-brokered peace accord was signed in January 1992 and was finalized with the demobilization of FMLN and Salvadoran armed forces on December 15, 1992. The FMLN transformed to a conventional political party and participated for the first time in general elections, held under UN supervision, on March 20, 1994. The FMLN presidential candidate Rubén Zamora Rivas was defeated in the April 24, 1994, run off election to ARENA candidate Armando Calderón Sol. There were reports of splits in both the FMLN and ARENA parties in late 1994.

Changes within Democratic Consolidation Period:

3Oa) June 1, 2009 (peaceful transfer of executive authority) – Having already won a plurality of seats in legislative elections held on January 18, 2009, (35 of 84 seats), the FMLN candidate for president, Mauricio Funes, won election in the first round held on March 15, 2009, marking the first time the FMLN had won the presidency, and the first time that ARENA had lost the presidency, since the end of the civil war in 1991. Funes was inaugurated on June 1, 2009.