

GEORGIA

Polity5 regime codes:

fac	scode	polity	pers	bmon	bday	byear	emon	eday	eyear	exec	exconst	polcomp
1X	GRG	3	1	4	9	1991	1	6	1992	7	4	6
1Xa	GRG	-77	2	1	7	1992	12	31	1993	-77	-77	-77
1O	GRG	-88	2	1	1	1994	11	25	1995	-88	-88	-88
1Oa	GRG	4	4	11	26	1995	4	8	2000	7	5	5
1Ob	GRG	2	4	4	9	2000	1	24	2004	7	5	3
1Oc	GRG	6	4	1	25	2004	11	6	2007	7	5	9
1Od	GRG	6	6	11	7	2007	11	16	2013	8	5	8
1Oe	GRG	7	5	11	17	2013	99	99	9999	8	6	8

PITF Problem Events:

- 1) 06/91-12/93 (ETH 06/91-12/93; ARC 01/92-12/93; REV 12/92-12/93)

1X) Date of Change to Factional-Democratic: April 9, 1991 (independence)

Brief Explanation of Change To:

For the first time during the Soviet era, political parties other than the Communist Party of Georgia were allowed to contest in elections to the Georgian Supreme Soviet which were held on October 28 and November 11, 1990. The Round Table-Free Georgia coalition of pro-independence parties, led by longtime nationalist dissident Zviad Gamsakhurdia, won the elections by a clear margin, with 155 out of 250 parliamentary seats. Following an independence referendum held on March 31, 1991, the renamed Supreme Council declared the republic's independence on April 9, 1991.

Identify Main Factions:

- *Georgian Nationalists* — The nationalist-opposition Round Table, led by Zviad Gamsakhurdia, and the Free Georgia movement allied to unseat the Georgian Communist Party as the ruling coalition following October-November 1990 legislative elections. Gamsakhurdia was elected president by the Supreme Soviet on April 14, 1991, and re-elected in direct presidential elections held on May 26, 1991. A Georgian National Guard was established in January 1991 to channel mandatory recruitment away from the Soviet armed forces; however, rivalry between Gamsakhurdia and the commander of the National Guard, Tengiz Kitovani led to a division of loyalties in the National Guard. Kitovani loyalists allied with the leader of the Mkhedrioni private militia, Dzhaba Iosseliani, to depose President Gamsakhurdia on January 6, 1992.
- *Former-Communist Party* — The Georgian Communist Party supported independence and had disassociated itself from the Communist Party of the Soviet Union following the violent suppression of nationalist demonstrations by Soviet troops on April 9, 1989. The majority of the 64 communist party deputies were expelled from the September 2001 opening session of Georgian Supreme Soviet. The former communist apparatus allied with the nationalist opposition and rallied to support Eduard Shevardnadze as Georgian president following the ouster of Gamsakhurdia on January 6, 1992; Shevardnadze was appointed chair of the newly established State Council on March 10, 1992, by the Military Council.
- *Other Lesser Factions:*
 - *Non-Georgian Minorities* — Ethnic-Russians constitute the third largest ethnic group in the country but do not constitute a majority in any district. There are three autonomous ethnic regions, Abkhazia, Adzharia, and South Ossetia, that fought for de facto independence from

Georgia and remain outside the control of the Georgian government (Adzharia was forcibly reclaimed by Georgia in May 2004).

Ethnic War: June 1991 - December 1993

Abkhaz and South Ossetian regional governments fought for independence with backing from Russian military and political elements. Armed clashes killed and displaced thousands of civilians. The separatist wars were ended with the Gamsakhurdia faction's defeat by the Shevardnadze faction, which was supported by Russian troops. Russian-dominated CIS peacekeepers were deployed in the region to de-escalate the conflict. The reconstituted Georgian government signed several agreements recognizing regional autonomy in the ethnic enclaves.

Revolutionary War: December 1992 – December 1993

President Gamsakhurdia's dismissal of the commander of the National Guard resulted in a division of loyalties within the Guard and the outbreak of a revolutionary war on December 22, 1992. Following the ouster of Gamsakhurdia on January 6, 1993, his supporters, concentrated in western Georgia, set up a "rightful government" and launched a guerrilla war against the Shevardnadze government in Tbilisi. The uprising was defeated after 2,000 Russian troops moved in to support the Georgian government on October 20, 1993. The rebel's base, the western Georgian city of Zugdidi, fell on November 6, 1993, and Gamsakhurdia was found dead of a gunshot wound on December 31, 1993.

Changes within Factional Period:

1Xa) January 7, 1992 (military coup; rival governments) –

Adverse Regime Change: January 1992 – December 1992

President Gamsakhurdia faced enormous challenges and opposition in attempting to consolidate a nationalist government in Georgia and, as a result, he took increasing personal control of government functions. His personal rivalry with Tengiz Kitovani over control of the National Guard led to Kitovani's dismissal, which split the loyalties of the National Guard and led to the outbreak of civil war. Gamsakhurdia was forcibly ousted from the capital on January 6, 1992, but he set up an alternate government with loyalists in western Georgia. The Tbilisi government led by Eduard Shevardnadze finally defeated Gamsakhurdia loyalists with the support of Russian forces in December 1993.

1Xb) January 1, 1994 (provisional government) – Eduard Shevardnadze had been First Secretary of the Communist Party of Georgia from 1972 to 1985 before leaving to assume responsibilities as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union under President Gorbachev. Shevardnadze returned to Georgia and, on March 10, 1992, he was named Chairman of the State Council, which replaced the Military Council that had ousted the government of President Gamsakhurdia.

1O) Date of Change from Factional-Democratic: November 6, 1995 (multi-party elections)

Brief Explanation of Change From:

A new constitution was adopted in August 1995 and came into effect on October 17, 1995. In accordance with the constitution, presidential and legislative elections were held on November 5.

Eduard Shevardnadze, the leader of the country since 1992, was elected as president with more than 70 per cent of the votes cast. Shevardnadze's Citizens' Union of Georgia party won a large majority of seat in legislative elections. Parties in Georgia remained fluid and numerous; only three parties exceeded the 5% threshold for proportional seats: Citizen's Union (23.7%), National Democratic Party (7.9%), and the All Georgian Union of Revival (6.8%).

Changes within Democratic-Consolidation Period:

10a) April 9, 2000 (presidential election) – President Shevardnadze's ruling Citizens' Union of Georgia (CUG) party gained a clear majority in legislative elections; however, the opposition accused the CUG of voter intimidation and electoral fraud. In subsequent presidential elections, Shevardnadze was re-elected on April 9, 2000, with 80 percent of the vote; the election results were challenged by the opposition as having been manipulated by the government and the ruling "oligarchs." Independent election observers expressed concern about serious and systematic violations of the voting procedure.

10b) January 25, 2004 (presidential inauguration) – President Shevardnadze resigned on November 23, 2003, in late November after weeks of peaceful mass protests organized by opposition parties culminated in the storming of Parliament. Following legislative elections held on November 2, 2003, thousands of Georgians took to the streets of the capital, Tbilisi, to protest the alleged falsification by the authorities of the outcome of the election; smaller protests also took place in Zugdidi, Gori, Zestafoni, and Samtredia. Anti-Shevardnadze protests continued and grew in intensity, prompting the government to deploy anti-riot police on the streets of Tbilisi. Opposition leaders demanded the president's resignation and demanded new legislative elections. A mass protest, led by former Justice Minister Mikhail Saakashvili, stormed the main chamber of the Parliament building to prevent the president from opening the new session on November 22 and, on November 23, the "Rose Revolution" obtained Shevardnadze's resignation. Nino Burdjanadze, Speaker of the outgoing Parliament, assumed presidential powers pending new presidential elections, which were held on January 4, 2004. Saakashvili faced little opposition and won the election with 97% of the vote. He was inaugurated on January 25, 2004. Partial legislative elections were held on March 28 for the proportional party-list seats (150 of 235 seats) after the November 2003 results were annulled by the Supreme Court. President Saakashvili's National Movement–Democratic Front won 135 of the contested seats.

10c) November 7, 2007 (state of emergency) – Faced with mass demonstrations calling for his resignation, President Saakashvili orders troops to disperse the protesters and declares a state of emergency on November 7, 2007. On the next day, he announced that early presidential elections would be held on January 5, 2008. Increasing dissatisfaction with the Saakashvili government leads to the increased use of coercive tactics by both the government and the opposition.

10e) November 17, 2013 (constitutional amendments) – Constitutional changes that reduced the authority of the president in favor of the prime minister took effect on November 17, 2013, after President Mikhail Saakashvili left office following his defeat in presidential elections held on October 27, 2013.