

ROMANIA

Polity5 regime codes:

fac	scode	polity	pers	bmon	bday	byear	emon	eday	eyear	exrec	exconst	polcomp
1X	RUM	0	5	1	24	1859	3	28	1864	3	5	6
1Xa	RUM	-2	2	3	29	1864	2	23	1866	4	1	7
1O	RUM	-7	34	2	24	1866	6	30	1900	2	3	2
1Oa	RUM	-6	10	7	1	1900	6	30	1910	2	3	3
2X	RUM	-4	6	7	1	1910	8	27	1916	2	3	6
2Xa	RUM	-66	0	8	28	1916	1	8	1917	-66	-66	-66
2Xb	RUM	-4	21	1	9	1917	2	10	1938	2	3	6
2Xc	RUM	-6	3	2	11	1938	9	6	1940	1	1	6
2O	RUM	-88	0	9	7	1940	1	21	1941	-88	-88	-88
2Oa	RUM	-7	4	1	22	1941	8	23	1944	4	1	1
3X	RUM	-3	3	8	24	1944	12	30	1947	2	3	7
3O	RUM	-7	29	12	31	1947	1	25	1977	3	3	1
3Oa	RUM	-8	13	1	26	1977	12	26	1989	3	2	1
4X	RUM	-88	1	12	27	1989	6	19	1990	-88	-88	-88
4Xa	RUM	5	6	6	20	1990	11	28	1996	7	5	7
4O	RUM	8	7	11	29	1996	12	19	2004	8	6	9
4Oa	RUM	9	14	12	20	2004	99	99	9999	8	7	9

PITF Problem Events:

1) 12/89-12/89 (REV 12/89)

The territorial growth experienced by Romania following World War I was reversed under the government of King Carol II, who had assumed complete executive authority in 1938. In early 1940 King Carol II lost significant territory to the Soviet Union in failed diplomatic efforts, ultimately leading to the rise of Gen. Ion Antonescu, who deposed the monarch and established a fascist dictatorship allied with Germany for most of World War II. In 1944 King Michael I, heir of the exiled King Carol II, overthrew the Antonescu regime and pragmatically allied the country with the Soviet Union for the remainder of the war. Both the National Liberal Party and the Romanian armed forces lost legitimacy due to their support for the Antonescu regime and the general turmoil caused by fighting between the retreating German army and the advancing Soviet army allowed for the rapid expansion of Soviet influence and rise of the Communist Party. Peasant and labor agitation, combined with allegations of continuing fascist conspiracies, undermined the authority of national reconciliation governments and increased the leverage of the nationalist communists.

3O) Date of Change from Factional-Autocratic: December 31, 1947 (abdication of monarch; one-party state)

Brief Explanation of Change From:

On December 30, 1947, King Michael I, who had deposed the fascist regime of Ion Antonescu on August 23, 1944, was forced to abdicate by the Soviet-backed, National Democratic Front government led by Prime Minister Petru Groza. Although not officially proclaimed as such until April 13, 1948, with the promulgation of a new communist constitution, Romania effectively became a communist one-party state on December 31, 1947, following the King's abdication.

Changes within Autocratic Period:

3Oa) January 25, 1977 (government changes) – On January 25, 1977 the Political Executive Committee of the Communist Party Central Committee announced major changes in both the

government and party that enhanced the role of the executive. In addition to expanding the size of the party's Permanent Bureau, the changes also included the appointment, by the party, of four additional government ministers.

Revolutionary War: December 1989

President Nicolae Ceausescu's Communist regime was overthrown in an outbreak of violence by anti-government forces against the regime's Securitate police on December 21, 1989, following the brutal repression of peaceful demonstrations held on December 16 and 17. After attempting flight, the deposed President and his wife were captured and, on December 25, they were both executed after a brief trial held before a military tribunal.

3X) Date of Change to Factional-Democratic: December 27, 1989 (transitional government)

Brief Explanation of Change To:

The communist government of Nicolae Ceausescu proved increasingly incompetent at dealing with Romania's economic and social problems during the 1980s, causing steadily rising discontent at the same time that other communist regimes were falling throughout Eastern Europe. This discontent peaked in December 1989 when the government ordered the deportation of a Protestant pastor and critic of the government, to which the public responded with widespread protests, which in turn were violently put down by the government. The renewed repression sparked a full scale revolution beginning December 21 and ending December 27 with the establishment of a transitional government by the National Salvation Front, led by President Ion Iliescu and Prime Minister Petre Roman. The NSF was comprised mainly of former-Communist Party members and it acted quickly to spread and consolidate its authority, ruling mainly by decree amid growing criticism of its ties to the former regime. On February 1, 1990, the NSF government agreed to demands by opposition parties to form a provisional legislature, the Council of National Unity (CNU); however, opposition representation remained limited and fragmented and the CNU remained under NSF control.

Identify Main Factions:

- *National Salvation Front (NSF)* — The National Salvation Front formed out of the 1989 protests against the dictatorship of Nicolae Ceausescu and was populated by former communists. The Front became a political party in order to participate in the 1990 elections, which it won, represented by Ion Iliescu. In 1993, fellow NSF leader Petre Roman split with Iliescu, causing the NSF to split into the Democratic Party, led by Roman, and the Social Democratic Party, led by Iliescu.
- *Opposition to the NSF* — Opposition to the NSF, which was dominated by former communists, was initially fragmented and personalistic, led by "historic," pro-capitalist parties, foremost among them the: National Liberal Party (NLP), led by Ion Ratiu; and the Christian Democratic National Peasants' Party (CDNPP), led by Radu Campeanu. In 1992 the opposition forces united under the Romanian Democratic Convention, which would ultimately defeat the NSF in 1996 elections.
- Other minor factions:

Ethnic-Hungarians — Ethnic-Hungarians living in the Transylvania region had their political and cultural rights denied under the Communist regime and had been subject to forced relocation designed to dilute their territorial concentration. The restoration of rights and some regional autonomy to the Hungarian minority by the NSF government triggered a strong nationalist reaction.

3Ob) June 20, 1990 (general elections) – In Romania's first open elections since 1937, held on May 20, 1990, President Ion Iliescu (NSF) won a decisive victory with almost 86% of the popular vote; the NSF had constituted itself as a political party in January 1990 and gained a two-thirds majority in the National Assembly. Political parties had proliferated in the brief time since the overthrow of the Ceausescu regime (82 parties had registered prior to the election), giving an enormous advantage to the ruling party comprised largely by former-communists. Iliescu was sworn in as President on June 20, 1990.

3O) **Date of Change from Factional-Democratic:** November 29, 1996 (presidential inauguration)

Brief Explanation of Change From:

Presidential and legislative elections were held in Romania on November 3, 1996, with a run-off between the two leading presidential candidates on November 17. Incumbent President Ion Iliescu, in power since the overthrow of the communist government in 1989, and his Social Democratic Party of Romania (SDPR) were defeated in the elections by the opposition coalition Romanian Democratic Convention, led by Emil Constantinescu. Constantinescu was inaugurated on November 29, 1996.

Changes within Democratic-Consolidation Period:

3Oa) December 20, 2004 (presidential election) – On December 20, 2004, Traian Basescu, presidential candidate of the opposition Justice and Truth Alliance, defeated Prime Minister Adrian Nastase of the ruling Social Democratic Party in a run-off election. Basescu held only a slim majority in the legislature, which became increasingly independent during his tenure, ultimately attempting to impeach him in April 2007.