

TIMOR LESTE

Polity5 regime codes:

fac	scode	polity	pers	bmon	bday	byear	emon	eday	eyear	exrec	exconst	polcomp
0a	ETM	6	4	5	20	2002	3	16	2006	7	7	5
1X	ETM	7	6	3	17	2006	7	14	2012	7	7	7
1O	ETM	8	6	7	15	2012	99	99	9999	8	7	8

PITF Problem Events:

- 1) 11/75-06/91 (ETH 11/75-06/91)
- 2) 02/97-09/99 (ETH 02/97-09/99)

Ethnic War (Indonesia): November 1975 – June 1991

Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor (Fretilin) and their armed wing, East Timor National Liberation Armed Forces (Falintil), fought to regain autonomy lost when Indonesia armed forces invaded the former Portuguese colony in November 1975. The Fretilin leader was captured and the movement was brutally repressed; most fighting ended in June 1991.

Ethnic War (Indonesia): February 1997 – September 1999

East Timor (Fretilin) rebels resumed their autonomy fight in 1997. After Indonesian President Suharto was forced to resign in 1998, his successor, Bucharuddin Jusuf Habibie, sought to resolve the East Timor issue by holding a UN-sponsored referendum allowing the East Timorese to decide if they would become an autonomous region of Indonesia or an independent nation. Following the overwhelmingly pro-independence vote (78.5%), Indonesian troops and pro-Indonesian (largely western Timorese) militias unleashed systematic destruction and violence against the populace, killing and displacing thousands. Under intense international pressure and following a UN Security Council resolution authorizing a multinational force to restore the peace in East Timor, Indonesian armed forces agreed to withdraw. The International Force East Timor (INTERFET) deployed on September 20 and formally took control on September 27.

0a) May 20, 2002 (independence) – In September 1999, a UN mission was established to help rebuild East Timor and to administer its transition to independence (UN Transitional Administration for East Timor, UNTAET). On August 30, 2001, East Timor held elections for a Constituent Assembly in which Fretilin won 55 of 88 seats (short of the 60 seats needed to approve a new constitution); Fretilin leader Mari Alkatiri was elected prime minister. A constitution was adopted on March 22, 2002, and former resistance leader José Xanana Gusmao was elected to the largely ceremonial position of president on April 6, 2002. The UN Transitional Administration for East Timor (UNTAET) handed over authority to President Gusmao on May 20, 2002.

1X) Date of Change to Factional-Democratic: March 17, 2006 (army mutiny; dismissal of troops)

Brief Explanation of Change To:

A dispute arose within the military of East Timor when *Loromonu* soldiers from the western part of the country claimed that they were being discriminated against, in favor of soldiers from the eastern part of the country. The *Lorosae* (easterners) formed the largest part of Falintil, the

former guerilla resistance movement that fought against Indonesian authority. There had also been tensions between the military and the police force, in which westerners, and even former members of the Indonesian military, predominated. The tension erupted as a strike was called on February 8, 2006; in response, on March 17, 2006, 593 of East Timor's 1,400 troops were dismissed after they refused to go back to the barracks. Disenchanted troops and their civilian supporters, mostly unemployed youths, marched through the streets of the capital Dili in protest on April 24, 2006; serious violence broke out on April 28. Foreign Minister Ramos Horta sent out an official request for international military assistance on May 24 to quell the unrest. On May 30, President Gusmao declared a state of emergency and, on June 22, the president asked Prime Minister Alkatiri to resign. The immediate government crisis was averted when Alkatiri announced his resignation on June 26; he was replaced by José Ramos Horta. In August 2006, a UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) was formed to relieve Australian-led peacekeepers and ensure continued security in the divided country. Ramos Horta won the presidential election in 2007 and Gusmao was elected prime minister following June 30, 2007, elections to the National Parliament. On February 11, 2008, rebels under the leadership of Maj. Alfredo Reinado attacked both the president and the prime minister in separate incidents in an apparent, coordinated (but failed) coup attempt.

Identify Main Factions:

- *Easterners* — During East Timor's long subjugation by Indonesian armed forces, easterners (*Lorosae*) maintained armed resistance to Indonesian authority led by the East Timor National Liberation Armed Forces (Falintil). The Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor (Fretilin) is a leftist political party which originated in the resistance movement against the Indonesian rule. At the time of East Timor's independence, Fretilin was the only institutionalized party. The party, led by Mari Alkatiri, held a majority of seats in the Constituent Assembly and formed the government in East Timor from independence until 2007. In June 2007 parliamentary elections, Fretilin again emerged as the largest party but with a greatly diminished 21 seats. Following its mishandling of the February 2006 army mutiny, Fretilin was directly opposed by two of its former leaders, Xanana Gusmao and José Ramos Horta, who favored national reconciliation. Gusmao formed a new party in April 2007: the National Congress for the Reconstruction of Timor (CNRT) which polled 18 seats in the June elections.
- *Westerners* — During the Indonesian occupation, the westerners (*Loromonu*) managed to avoid the severe repression to which the easterners were subjected due to their support for the resistance movement. Many westerners were coopted or, otherwise, coexisted with the Indonesian administration; many voted for autonomy within Indonesia rather than independence and formed militias to intimidate the independence movement. Western militias were active in the carnage following the independence vote. With the relatively strong international presence in East Timor since September 1999, the formal organization of westerners has remained fragmented; however, the February 2006 army mutiny appears to have galvanized resentment against control of the government by Fretilin and other easterners.

1O) Date of Change from Factional-Democratic: July 15, 2012 (UN assistance; legislative elections)

Brief Explanation of Change From:

The polar factionalism that violently divided the newly independent Timor Leste gradually diminished under UN tutelage. Legislative elections held on July 7, 2012, led to the formation of a coalition government on July 15, 2012, and a general lessening of coercive interactions. The international security mission to the country ended on November 22, 2012.