

TUNISIA

Polity5 regime codes:

fac	scode	polity	pers	bmon	bday	byear	emon	eday	eyear	exec	exconst	polcomp
1X	TUN	-4	1	3	20	1956	7	24	1957	2	3	6
1O	TUN	-9	20	7	25	1957	10	15	1977	3	1	1
1Oa	TUN	-8	10	10	16	1977	11	6	1987	3	1	2
1Ob	TUN	-6	6	11	7	1987	9	17	1993	3	2	3
2X	TUN	-3	9	9	18	1993	6	1	2002	3	3	6
2Xa	TUN	-4	9	6	2	2002	1	14	2011	3	2	6
2O	TUN	4	1	1	15	2011	11	21	2011	5	6	8
2Oa	TUN	-88	3	11	22	2011	12	30	2014	-88	-88	-88
2Ob	TUN	7	4	12	31	2014	99	99	9999	7	6	9

PITF Problem Events:

1) 07/57-07/57 (ARC 07/57)

1X) Date of Change to Factional-Autocratic: March 20, 1956 (independence)

Brief Explanation of Change To:

Tunisia gained its independence from France by agreement on March 20, 1956. Elections were held on March 25 in which all 98 seats were won by candidates from the National Front, an alliance dominated by the “Bourguibaist” faction of the Néo-Destour. The elections were boycotted by the hard-line nationalist “Youssefists” who were led by a former Secretary General of the Néo-Destour, Salah Ben Youssef, who had been ousted from the party on October 12, 1955, because of his opposition to negotiations with France; the “Youssefists” had been prevented from organizing for the elections. Executive authority was initially shared by the monarchy, led by Bey Sidi Lamine, and a civilian government led by Prime Minister Habib Bourguiba who was the President of the Néo-Destour.

Identify Main Factions:

- *National Front* — The National Front was a pragmatic alliance of urban professionals dominated by the “Bourguibaist” faction of the Néo-Destour (Tunisian Nationalist Party) which had favored negotiations with France in order to attain independence for Tunisia following the unsuccessful nationalist uprising of 1952-54.
- *Youssefists* — The “Youssefist” faction of the Néo-Destour was led by a former Secretary General, Salah Ben Youssef, who had been expelled from the party in October 1955, in part to placate the French. Youssef rejected cooperation with the French. The Liberation Committee of the Arab Mahgreb supported Youssef. The Old Destour also rejected any continued French presence in Tunisia.
- Lesser factions:
 - *Monarchists* — Supporters of the Bey and the Tunisian monarchy were marginalized mainly due to their reliance on the French for support. They were accused of collaboration by the nationalists.

1O) Date of Change from Factional-Autocratic: July 25, 1957 (abolition of the monarchy)

Brief Explanation of Change From:

Adverse Regime Change: July 1957

On July 25, 1957, the Constituent Assembly voted unanimously to abolish the Tunisian monarchy, proclaim a republic, and create a presidential regime headed by Habib Bourguiba. On August 17, the government confiscated all funds and properties of the Beylical (royal) family. A new constitution was promulgated on June 1, 1959, that further consolidated Bourguiba's de facto one-party regime. In October 1964, the ruling party changed its name to the *Parti Socialiste Destourien* (PSD).

Changes within Stabilization Period

10a) October 16, 1977 (toleration of opposition) – In mid-October 1977, the Tunisian government granted permission for the opposition Movement of Social Democrats (MSD) to publish an Arabic-language newspaper, followed by permission to publish a French-language edition. On June 14, 1978, the MSD constituted itself as a political party but was not granted official recognition. A general strike was organized by the official trade union (UGTT) in January 1979. In November 1979 general elections the ruling PSD placed two candidates on the ballot for each constituency in order to provide voters with a choice, however limited. On July 18, 1981, the PSD government lifted its ban on the Communist Party. However, despite the minor relaxation in government controls, the PSD won all legislative seats in the country's first multi-party legislative elections held on November 1, 1981. All four legal opposition parties boycotted November 1986 elections.

10b) November 8, 1987 (change of executive; further relaxation of government controls) – On November 7, 1987, the Prime Minister, Gen. Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali, assumed the presidency after President Bourguiba was officially declared unfit to continue in office. President Ben Ali immediately declared his intention to further liberalize Tunisia politics. Six opposition parties were allowed, and chose, to contest legislative elections held on April 2, 1989; however, none of the parties was able to gain a single seat. Islamic parties continued to be banned from politics, although some Islamists chose to run as independents. On July 3, 1989, President Ben Ali declared a general amnesty for about 5,500 political prisoners convicted under Bourguiba's rule.

2X) Date of Change to Factional-Autocratic: September 18, 1993 (voting system reform)

Brief Explanation of Change To:

The government, led by Ben Ali, approved a series of reforms to the voting system on September 17, 1993. New changes effectively opened the way for opposition parties to compete in the National Assembly. However, the renamed, ruling Constitutional Democratic Rally (RCD) again won all 141 seats despite nominal competition from six opposition parties. The regime continued its ban on Islamic parties and this restriction accounts for the difficulty of opposition parties to gain a foothold in the government. The RCD continued its domination of politics in October 24, 2004, general elections, securing 152 of 182 legislative seats, although opposition delegates were seated for the first time since independence. Also, multi-candidate presidential elections were held for the first time, although Ben Ali received nearly 95% of the vote.

Identify Main Factions:

- *Constitutional Democratic Rally (RCD)* — Since independence, Tunisia has had only two leaders. In 1957 the Constitutional Assembly abolished the Tunisian monarchy and established a republic; Habib Bourguiba, the founder and leader of the New Constitution Party, was elected the country's first leader. Bourguiba quickly consolidated power in the party, making it the sole legal party in 1963. In 1964, the name of the party was changed to the Socialist Constitution Party (PSD) and Bourguiba was declared president for life. The current president, Zine el Abidine Ben Ali gained executive office after Bourguiba was declared unfit for office by a council of physicians in November 1987. In 1988, the name of the party was changed to the Democratic Constitutional Rally (RCD).
- *Opposition to the ruling RCD* — There are currently seven legal opposition parties, the Social Democratic Liberal Party (PSDL), the Social Democratic Movement (MDS), the Popular Unity Party (PUP), the Union of Democratic Unionists (UDU), Ettajdid (the Renewal Movement), the Democratic Progressive Party (PDP) and the Democratic Forum for Labor and Liberties (FDTL). The Islamist opposition party, Al-Nahdha, was allowed to operate openly in the late 1980s and early 1990s despite a ban on religiously based parties. The government later outlawed An-Nahdha as a terrorist organization in 1991 and arrested its leaders and thousands of party members.

Changes within Factional-Autocratic Period:

2Xa) June 2, 2002 (new constitution) – On June 2, 2002 President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali signed into law a new constitution that had been approved by referendum in late May. The new constitution removed presidential term limits and raised the age limit for a presidential candidate from 70 to 75 years.

2O) Date of Change from Factional-Autocratic: January 15, 2011 (forced resignation of president; new government)

Brief Explanation of Change From:

Anti-government protests ignited across Tunisia following the public, self-immolation of a destitute fruit vendor on December 17, 2010, whose goods had been seized and destroyed by police. Protests began in Sidi Bouzid and quickly spread to the capital city, Tunis. Scores of protesters were killed in confrontations with police. However, after the head of the Tunisian Army, Gen. Rachid Ammar refused to deploy troops to support the regime, President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali fled the country on January 14, 2011. In accordance with the Constitutional Council Interpretation issued the following day, the President of the Chamber of Deputies, Fouad Mebazaa, was installed as interim president on January 15, 2011. Prime Minister Mohammed Ghannouchi was asked to form a government of national unity; however, Ghannouchi was considered too close to the ousted president and was replaced by Beji Caid el Sebsi on February 27, 2011. The interim government was tasked with organizing elections for a constituent assembly.

Changes within Democratic Consolidation Period:

2Oa) November 22, 2011 (constituent assembly convenes) – Tunisia's first multi-party election was held on October 23, 2011, to fill the 217 seats of a Constituent Assembly which was tasked

with drafting a new constitution. The previously banned Islamist party Ennahda won a sizeable plurality of the vote (89 seats) with the Congress for the Republic party second (29 seats) and Ettakol third (21 seats). The leaders of the top three parties announced a coalition agreement on November 21 and the Constituent Assembly was convened on November 22, 2011. The assembly elected Moncef Marzouki of the Congress for the Republic as interim president and Hamadi Jebali of Ennahda as interim prime minister in December 2011.

2Ob) December 31, 2014 (general elections; presidential inauguration) – Tunisia's transitional government promulgated a new constitution, approved on January 26, 2014, and general elections were held: legislative elections on October 26 and presidential elections on November 23 and December 21, 2014. The secular *Nidaa Tounes* and Islamist *Ennahda* emerged as the dominant parties in the new parliament. President Beji Caid Essebsi of *Nidaa Tounes* won election in the second round of the presidential election and was inaugurated on December 31, 2014, completing the transition.