

Country: Laos

Years: 1951-1953

Leader: Souvanna Phouma

Ideology: rightist

Description: Lentz (1994) identifies Souvanna Phouma's party as National Progressive Party (NPP), writing "He became the leader of the National Progressive party and was named prime minister in November of 1951." Manzano (2017) identifies ideology later as rightist. Rulers (2020b) elaborates, writing "A moderate conservative and nationalist, he tried to steer a centre course between the various factions within the country and the foreign powers directly or indirectly involved in the affairs of the region." In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify leader party's ideology as "Center-left" (-1.273) in 1972. Stuart-Fox and Kooyman (1992) write "Souvanna... was recalled to Laos as Prime Minister of a new Neutralist government following the coup d'état of August 1960... For a decade from 1963 to 1973 Souvanna continued to preside over a government nominally Neutralist, but dominated by the political right." Dommen (1971) writes "The [communist] Pathet Lao were in effect demanding the formalized partitioning of Laos... [this] helped unite the rightists and Souvanna Phouma in opposition to the proposal", "Kouprasith, who was commander of the Vientiane Military Region, was pressing to gain control over the centrist forces stationed at Vang Vieng, which fell under his territorial area of responsibility. These centrists received their orders and supplies from a cabinet spécial set up in Vientiane under Souvanna Phouma's immediate authority", and "On May 2 [1962] Souvanna Phouma announced an agreement between the rightists and centrists, as a result of which the former were dissolved and henceforth accepted his leadership". Sidwell (2020) writes "Neutralism in Laos is often identified with the Neutralist Party founded by Souvanna Phouma in 1961 and the subsequent politics that served his conservative neutralism", "the United States and Britain regarded neutralism as effectively pro-communist... The Neutralist view expressed in LRS is that to end foreign interference Laos must dissociate herself from both capitalism and communism", and "the LRS newspaper from 1958 to 1960, which offered social and political critiques intended to inform and win broad support for the Neutralist programme." Sidwell (2020) states, "By late 1964 Souvanna Phouma was leading a right-wing - dominated RLG, having absorbed many Neutralists, including Kongle, and one can say that by 1965 Neutralism had decisively failed in Laos."

Years: 1954-1955

Leader: Katay Don Sasorith

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as National Progressive Party (NPP). DPI does not identify NPP's ideology. World Statesmen (2019) identifies party affiliation of Katay Don Sasorith as NPP: "25 Nov 1954 - 21 Mar 1956 Katay Don Sasorith (b. 1904 - d. 1959) NPP ... NPP = Parti National Progressif/Phak Xat Kaona (National Progressive Party, 1950-1958, merged into RLP)." In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify leader party's ideology as "Center-left" (-1.273) in 1972.

Years: 1956-1957

Leader: Souvanna Phouma

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as National Progressive Party (NPP). DPI does not identify NPP's ideology. World Statesmen (2019) identifies party affiliation of Souvanna Phouma as NPP: "21 Mar 1956 - 17 Aug 1958 Prince Souvanna Phouma (2nd time) (s.a.) NPP." Manzano (2017) identifies ideology as rightist. Rulers (2020b) elaborates, writing "A moderate conservative and nationalist, he tried to steer a centre course between the various factions within the country and the foreign powers directly or indirectly involved in the affairs of the region." In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify leader party's ideology as "Center-left" (-1.273) in 1972. Stuart-Fox and Kooyman (1992) write "Souvanna... was recalled to Laos as Prime Minister of a new Neutralist government following the coup d'état of August 1960... For a decade from 1963 to 1973 Souvanna continued to preside over a government nominally Neutralist, but dominated by the political right." Britannica (2021) writes "Souvanna... returned to the premiership in 1956 as the head of a coalition government that included both rightist representatives and members of the Communist Pathet Lao, which Souphanouvong headed." Dommen (1971) writes "The [communist] Pathet Lao were in effect demanding the formalized partitioning of Laos... [this] helped unite the rightists and Souvanna Phouma in opposition to the proposal", "Kouprasith, who was commander of the Vientiane Military Region, was pressing to gain control over the centrist forces stationed at Vang Vieng, which fell under his territorial area of responsibility. These centrists received their orders and supplies from a cabinet spécial set up in Vientiane under Souvanna Phouma's immediate authority", and "On May 2 [1962] Souvanna Phouma announced an agreement between the rightists and centrists, as a result of which the former were dissolved and henceforth accepted his leadership". Sidwell (2020) writes "Neutralism in Laos is often identified with the Neutralist Party founded by Souvanna Phouma in 1961 and the subsequent politics that served his conservative neutralism", "the United States and Britain regarded neutralism as effectively pro-

communist... The Neutralist view expressed in LRS is that to end foreign interference Laos must dissociate herself from both capitalism and communism”, and “the LRS newspaper from 1958 to 1960, which offered social and political critiques intended to inform and win broad support for the Neutralist programme.” Sidwell (2020) states, “By late 1964 Souvanna Phouma was leading a right-wing - dominated RLG, having absorbed many Neutralists, including Kongle, and one can say that by 1965 Neutralism had decisively failed in Laos.”

Year: 1958

Leader: Sananikone

Ideology:

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as Lao Laum Lao/Rassemblement du Peuple Laotien (RLP). DPI does not identify RLP’s ideology. Nohlen et al. (2001) write that from 1958-9 Phoui Sananikone was “Vice-President of the LPR (Lao People's Rally (*Phak Lao Hom Lao*))”.

Year: 1959

Leader: Nosavan

Ideology: rightist

Description: Manzano (2017) identifies ideology as rightist. CHISOLS identifies Nosavan’s party as CDNI. Lentz (1994) identifies Nosavan’s ideology as rightist, writing “Phoumi seized power in a right-wing military coup on December 31, 1959.”

Years: 1960-1961

Leader: Boun Oum

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies affiliation as non-party. The Political Handbook of the World states that in August 1960, “a counter coup led by General Phoumi brought about the installation four months later of a rightist administration headed by Prince BOUN OUM Na Champassak.” Lentz (1994) identifies Prince Boun Oum na Champasak’s ideology as rightist, writing: “Boun Oum remained a leading rightist spokesman and opposed the neutralist policies of Souvanna Phouma. Boun Oum was renamed prime minister on December 13, 1960, after a right-wing military coup.”

Years: 1962-1974

Leader: Souvanna Phouma

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as Lao Pen Kang/Lao Neutralist Front (NLPK). DPI does not identify NLPK's ideology. Manzano (2017) identifies Souvanna Phouma as right. Rulers (2020b) elaborates, writing "A moderate conservative and nationalist, he tried to steer a centre course between the various factions within the country and the foreign powers directly or indirectly involved in the affairs of the region." Stuart-Fox and Kooyman (1992) write "Souvanna... was recalled to Laos as Prime Minister of a new Neutralist government following the coup d'état of August 1960... For a decade from 1963 to 1973 Souvanna continued to preside over a government nominally Neutralist, but dominated by the political right." Britannica (2021) writes "Souvanna... returned to the premiership in 1956 as the head of a coalition government that included both rightist representatives and members of the Communist Pathet Lao, which Souphanouvong headed." Dommen (1971) writes "The [communist] Pathet Lao were in effect demanding the formalized partitioning of Laos... [this] helped unite the rightists and Souvanna Phouma in opposition to the proposal", "Kouprasith, who was commander of the Vientiane Military Region, was pressing to gain control over the centrist forces stationed at Vang Vieng, which fell under his territorial area of responsibility. These centrists received their orders and supplies from a cabinet spécial set up in Vientiane under Souvanna Phouma's immediate authority", and "On May 2 [1962] Souvanna Phouma announced an agreement between the rightists and centrists, as a result of which the former were dissolved and henceforth accepted his leadership". Sidwell (2020) writes "Neutralism in Laos is often identified with the Neutralist Party founded by Souvanna Phouma in 1961 and the subsequent politics that served his conservative neutralism", "the United States and Britain regarded neutralism as effectively pro-communist... The Neutralist view expressed in LRS is that to end foreign interference Laos must dissociate herself from both capitalism and communism", and "the LRS newspaper from 1958 to 1960, which offered social and political critiques intended to inform and win broad support for the Neutralist programme." Sidwell (2020) states, "By late 1964 Souvanna Phouma was leading a right-wing - dominated RLG, having absorbed many Neutralists, including Kongle, and one can say that by 1965 Neutralism had decisively failed in Laos."

Years: 1975-1991

Leader: Phomivan

Ideology: leftist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as Phak Pazazpn Pativat Lao/Revolutionary People's Party of Laos (PPPL/LPRP). DPI identifies PPPL's ideology as left. The Political Handbook of the World (2015) elaborates, writing "the LPRP is the Communist core of the LFNC".

Manzano (2017) identifies Kaysone Phomvihane as left. Perspective monde (2019) identifies affiliation of Kaysone Phomvihane as LPRP and ideology of LPRP as left: “Kayson Phomvihan | 1975 (8 décembre) | 1991 (15 août) | Parti révolutionnaire populaire du Laos | [Nul] | [Accession autoritaire ou militaire] | [Gauche communiste].” World Statesmen (2020) identifies Phomivan’s party as PPPL, and PPPL’s ideology as leftist, writing “**PPPL** = Phak Paxaxôn Pativat Lao (Revolutionary People's Party of Laos, part of mainly Vietnamese Indochinese Communist Party [DCSD] founded 1930 by Ho Chi Minh, a Committee for Laos, known 1950-1955 as Neo Lao Issara [Free Lao Front] which on 22 Mar 1955 became Phak Passason Lao [Lao People's Party] [PPL]; renamed PPPL Feb 1972, dictatorial, communist, only Legal Party since 1975, est.1936)” In the Global Party Survey 2019, 7 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) as 3.0. In V-Party (2020), 4 experts identify leader party’s ideology as “Left” (-2.75) in 1989.

Years: 1992-1997

Leader: Phounsavanh

Ideology: Leftist

Description: CHISOLS identifies Phounsavanh’s party as Phak Pazazpn Pativat Lao/Revolutionary People’s Party of Laos (PPPL/LPRP). Perspective monde (2019) identifies Phounsavanh’s party as PPPL/LPRP, and PPPL/LPRP’s ideology as left: “Nouhak Phoumsavan | 1992 (21 novembre) | 1998 (24 février) | Parti révolutionnaire populaire du Laos | [Gauche communiste].” World Statesmen (2020) identifies Phounsavanh’s party as PPPL, and PPPL’s ideology as leftist, writing “**PPPL** = Phak Paxaxôn Pativat Lao (Revolutionary People's Party of Laos, part of mainly Vietnamese Indochinese Communist Party [DCSD] founded 1930 by Ho Chi Minh, a Committee for Laos, known 1950-1955 as Neo Lao Issara [Free Lao Front] which on 22 Mar 1955 became Phak Passason Lao [Lao People's Party] [PPL]; renamed PPPL Feb 1972, dictatorial, communist, only Legal Party since 1975, est.1936)” In the Global Party Survey 2019, 7 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) as 3.0. In V-Party (2020), 4 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Left” (-1.88) in 1992, and as “Left” (-1.728) in 1997.

Years: 1998-2005

Leader: Siphandon

Ideology: leftist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Siphandon’s party as Phak Pazazpn Pativat Lao/Revolutionary People’s Party of Laos (PPPL/LPRP). *Political Handbook of the World* (2015: 821) states that the LPRP

(Lao People's Revolutionary Party) was “known prior to the Communist seizure of power as the People's Party of Laos (*Phak Pasason Lao*)” and “the LPRP is the Communist core of the LFNC (Lao Front for National Construction).” Manzano (2017) identifies Khamtay Siphandon as left. Perspective monde (2019) identifies affiliation of Khamtai Siphandon as LPRP and ideology of LPRP as left: “Khamtay Siphandon | 1991 (15 août) | 1998 (24 février) | Parti révolutionnaire populaire du Laos | [Nul] | [Accession autoritaire ou militaire] | [Gauche communiste].” World Statesmen (2020) identifies Siphandon’s party as PPPL, and PPPL’s ideology as leftist, writing “**PPPL** = Phak Paxaxôn Pativat Lao (Revolutionary People's Party of Laos, part of mainly Vietnamese Indochinese Communist Party [DCSD] founded 1930 by Ho Chi Minh, a Committee for Laos, known 1950-1955 as Neo Lao Issara [Free Lao Front] which on 22 Mar 1955 became Phak Passason Lao [Lao People's Party] [PPL]; renamed PPPL Feb 1972, dictatorial, communist, only Legal Party since 1975, est.1936)” In the Global Party Survey 2019, 7 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) as 3.0. In V-Party (2020), 4 experts identify leader party’s ideology as “Left” (-1.728) in 1997 and as “Center-left” (-1.127) in 2002.

Years: 2006-2015

Leader: Sayasone

Ideology: leftist

Description: Manzano (2017) identifies ideology as leftist. CHISOLS identifies Sayasone’s party as Phak Pazazpn Pativat Lao/Revolutionary People’s Party of Laos (PPPL/LPRP). Perspective monde (2019) identifies Sayasone’s party as PPPL/LPRP, and PPPL/LPRP’s ideology as left: “Choummaly Sayasone | 2006 (8 juin) | 2011 (15 juin) | Parti révolutionnaire populaire du Laos |[Gauche communiste],” “Choummaly Sayasone | 2011 (15 juin) | 2016 (20 avril) | Parti révolutionnaire populaire du Laos | [Gauche communiste].” World Statesmen (2020) identifies Sayasone’s party as PPPL, and PPPL’s ideology as leftist, writing “**PPPL** = Phak Paxaxôn Pativat Lao (Revolutionary People's Party of Laos, part of mainly Vietnamese Indochinese Communist Party [DCSD] founded 1930 by Ho Chi Minh, a Committee for Laos, known 1950-1955 as Neo Lao Issara [Free Lao Front] which on 22 Mar 1955 became Phak Passason Lao [Lao People's Party] [PPL]; renamed PPPL Feb 1972, dictatorial, communist, only Legal Party since 1975, est.1936)” In the Global Party Survey 2019, 7 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) as 3.0. In V-Party (2020), 4 experts identify leader party’s ideology as “Center-left” (-1.036) in 2006 and 2011.

Years: 2016-2020

Leader: Vorachit

Ideology: left

Description: CHISOLS identifies Vorachit's party as Phak Pazazpn Pativat Lao/Revolutionary People's Party of Laos (PPPL/LPRP). *Political Handbook of the World* (2015: 821) identifies the LPRP as left: "LPRP (Phak Pasason Pativat Lao). Known prior to the Communist seizure of power as the People's Party of Laos (*Phak Pasason Lao*), the LPRP is the Communist core of the LFNC (Lao Front for National Construction)." World Statesmen (2020) identifies PPPL's ideology as leftist, writing "**PPPL** = Phak Paxaxôn Pativat Lao (Revolutionary People's Party of Laos, part of mainly Vietnamese Indochinese Communist Party [DCSD] founded 1930 by Ho Chi Minh, a Committee for Laos, known 1950-1955 as Neo Lao Issara [Free Lao Front] which on 22 Mar 1955 became Phak Passason Lao [Lao People's Party] [PPL]; renamed PPPL Feb 1972, dictatorial, communist, only Legal Party since 1975, est.1936)" In the Global Party Survey 2019, 7 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) as 3.0. DPI identifies LPRP's ideology as leftist.

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