

Country: Laos

Years: 1954 - 1955

Head of government: 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 (2020) 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 head of government party's ideology as "Center-left" (-1.273) in 1972.

Years: 1956 - 1957

Head of government: Prince 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 (2020) 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 head of government 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'etat 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

Head of government: Phoui Sananikone

Ideology:

Description: World Statesmen (2020) and Rulers (2020a) identify Sounthone Pathammavong instead of Phoui Sananikone as head of government at the end of December 31, 1959. 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*))”. World Statesmen (2019) indicates that RLP and LPW are the same party, describing the RLP as “RLP = Rassemblement du Peuple Laotien/Lao Laum Lao (Rally of the Lao People, formed by NPP and IP, 1958-1975).”

Year: 1959

Head of government: Sounthone Pathammavong

Ideology: Right

Description: World Statesmen (2020) and Rulers (2020a) identify Sounthone Pathammavong instead of Phoui Sananikone as head of government at the end of December 31, 1959. HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify party affiliation. World Statesmen (2020) identifies party affiliation as CDIN (Comité pour la Défense des Interêts Nationaux) and CDIN’s ideology as “rightist”. Perspective Monde identifies Sounthone Pathammavong’s party as none: “Sunthon Patthamavong | 1959 (31 décembre) | 1960 (6 janvier) | militaire.”

Years: 1960 - 1961

Head of government: Prince Boun Oum na Champasak

Ideology: Right

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

Head of government: Prince Souvanna Phouma

Ideology: right

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. Stuart-Fox and Kooyman (1992) write “Souvanna... was recalled to Laos as Prime Minister of a new Neutralist government following the coup d’etat 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 - 1990

Head of government: Kaysone Phomvihane

Ideology: left

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 Kaysone Phomvihane’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” (-2.75) in 1989.

Years: 1991 - 1997

Head of government: Khamtai Siphandon (Khamtay Siphandon)

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify party affiliation. The DADM Project states that “General Khamtai Siphandon of the LPRP was elected president by the National Assembly on February 24, 1998.”

*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 Khamtai 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 head of government party's ideology as "Left" (-2.75) in 1989, as "Left" (-1.88) in 1992, and as "Left" (-1.728) in 1997.

Years: 1998 - 2000

Head of government: Sisavath Keobounphanh (Sisavat Keobounphan)

Ideology: left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify party affiliation. *Political Handbook of the World* (2015: 820) identifies party of Sisavath Keobounphanh as Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP): "The sixth LPRP congress in March 1996 took a more cautious approach to economic reform while tightening the grip of the military on the country's political structures. Notably, the party removed Deputy Prime Minister Khamphoui KEOBOUALAPHA, a leading proponent of privatization and other market reforms, from both the Politburo and Central Committee. A government reorganization in April included the elevation of Sisavath KEOBOUNPHANH, previously minister of agriculture and forestry, to the new post of state vice president." *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)." *Perspective monde* (2019) identifies affiliation of Sisavath Keobounphanh as LPRP and ideology of LPRP as left: "Sisavat Keobounphan | 1998 (24 février) | 2001 (27 mars) Parti révolutionnaire populaire du Laos | [Nul] | [Accession autoritaire ou militaire] | [Gauche communiste]." *World Statesmen* (2020) identifies Sisavath Keobounphanh'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" (-1.728) in 1997.

Years: 2001 - 2005

Head of government: Bounngang Vorachith (Bounngang Volachit) (Bounnhang Vorachit)

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify party affiliation. The Political Handbook of the World states "Bounnhang VORACHIT (Lao People's Revolutionary Party)"; [was] elected by the National Assembly for a five-year term on June 8, 2006." The Political Handbook of the World 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)." Perspective monde (2019) identifies affiliation of Bounngang Vorachith as LPRP and ideology of LPRP as left: "Bounngang Vorachith | 2001 (27 mars) | 2006 (8 juin) | Parti révolutionnaire populaire du Laos | [Nul] | [Accession autoritaire ou militaire] | [Gauche communiste]." World Statesmen (2020) identifies Bounngang Vorachit'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" (-1.728) in 1997 and as "Center-left" (-1.127) in 2002.

Years: 2006 - 2009

Head of government: Bouasone Bouphavanh

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify party affiliation. The Political Handbook of the World states that "Thongsing THAMMAVONG (Lao People's Revolutionary Party); [was] unanimously approved by the National Assembly on December 23, 2010, to succeed Bouasone BOUPHAVANH (Lao People's Revolutionary Party)." The Political Handbook of the World 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).” Perspective monde (2019) identifies affiliation of Bouasone Bouphavanh as LPRP and ideology of LPRP as left: “Bouason Bouphavanh | 2006 (8 juin) | 2010 (23 décembre) | Parti révolutionnaire populaire du Laos | [Nul] | [Accession autoritaire ou militaire] | [Gauche communiste].” World Statesmen (2020) identifies Bouasone Bouphavanh’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 “Center-left” (-1.127) in 2002 and as “Center-left” (-1.036) in 2006.

Years: 2010 - 2015

Head of government: Thongsing Thammavong

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify party affiliation. The Political Handbook of the World states that “Thongsing THAMMAVONG (Lao People's Revolutionary Party); [was] unanimously approved by the National Assembly on December 23, 2010, to succeed Bouasone BOUPHAVANH (Lao People's Revolutionary Party).” The Political Handbook of the World 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).” Perspective monde (2019) identifies affiliation of Thongsing Thammavong as LPRP and ideology of LPRP as left: “Thongsing Thammavong | 2010 (23 décembre) | 2016 (23 janvier) | Parti révolutionnaire populaire du Laos | [Nul] | [Accession autoritaire ou militaire] | [Gauche communiste].” World Statesmen (2020) identifies Thongsing Thammavong’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 "Center-left" (-1.036) in 2006 and 2011.

Years: 2016 - 2020

Head of government: Thongloun Sisoulith

Ideology: left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify party affiliation. *Political Handbook of the World* (2015: 820) identifies party of Thongloun Sisoulith as Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP): "Lao People's Revolutionary Party... Other Members of Politburo: ... Thongloun SISOULITH (Minister of Foreign Affairs)." *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)." *Perspective monde* (2019) identifies affiliation of Thongloun Sisoulith as LPRP and ideology of LPRP as left: "Thongloun Sisoulith | 2016 (23 janvier) | Parti révolutionnaire populaire du Laos | [Nul] | [Accession autoritaire ou militaire] | [Gauche communiste]." *World Statesmen* (2020) identifies Thongloun Sisoulith'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 "Center-left" (-1.053) in 2016. *Varieties of Democracy* identifies party affiliation as Lao People's Revolutionary Party. DPI identifies LPRP's ideology as leftist.

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