Country: Colombia

Years: 1945

Head of Government: Alberto Lleras Camargo

Ideology: centrist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as centrist. CHISOLS identifies Lleras Camargo’s party as Partido Liberal (PL). Perspective monde (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PL and identifies the party as centrist. World Statesmen (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PL but identifies the party as center-left. Huber and Stephens (2016: 12) identify PL as centrist. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify PL’s ideology as “Center-left” (-0.488) in 1970. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify “a high level of visible disagreement” in PL in 1970.

Years: 1946-1949

Head of Government: Luis Mariano Ospina Pérez

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as rightist. CHISOLS identifies Ospina Pérez’s party as Partido Conservador (PCS). Perspective monde (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PCS and identifies the party as rightist. World Statesmen (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PC (Partido Conservador) and identifies the party as center-right. World Statesmen also writes that PC was renamed Partido Conservador Social (PCS) from 1990-1992. Huber and Stephens (2016: 12) identify PCS as center-right. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify PC’s ideology as “Right” (2.572) in 1970.

Years: 1950

Head of Government: Laureano Eleuterio Gómez Castro

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as rightist. CHISOLS identifies Gómez Castro’s party as Partido Conservador (PCS). Perspective monde (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PCS and identifies the party as rightist. Lentz (1994: 182) writes, “Gómez was elected unopposed and took office on August 7, 1950. He continued to rule under a state of siege and to wage a ruthless war against the leftist rebels.” Later on, “Gómez again became leader of the rightist faction of the Conservative party, although he suffered from a heart ailment.” World Statesmen (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PC and identifies the party as center-right. World Statesmen also writes that PC was renamed Partido Conservador Social (PCS) from 1990-1992. Huber and Stephens (2016: 12) identify PCS as center-right. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify PC’s ideology as “Right” (2.572) in 1970.

Years: 1951-1952

Head of Government: Roberto Urdaneta Arbeláez

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as rightist. CHISOLS identifies Urdaneta Arbeláez’s party as Partido Conservador (PCS). Perspective monde (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PCS and identifies the party as rightist. World Statesmen (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PC and identifies the party as center-right. World Statesmen also writes that PC was renamed Partido Conservador Social (PCS) from 1990-1992. Huber and Stephens (2016: 12) identify PCS as center-right. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify PC’s ideology as “Right” (2.572) in 1970.

Years: 1953-1956

Head of Government: Gustavo Rojas Pinilla

Ideology: leftist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify party. Dugas (2009: 505) writes that Rojas Pinilla was originally supported by the Liberal Party and parts of the Conservative Party. Huber and Stephens identify Liberal Party’s ideology as centrist and Conservative Party’s ideology as rightist. Colombia.com describes his ideas more as centrist: *“Según sus ideas, sin la justicia social sería muy difícil la paz y mucho más la libertad; no se puede hablar de paz sin justicia social y justa distribución y goce de las riquezas… para el logro de estas metas socio-económicas era indispensable… la asistencia social, la educación, la orientación técnica y los beneficios de una justa política social que defendiera al trabajador, no sólo como productor de riqueza, sino como elemento humano.”*  “President Rojas adopted a line of political reform that focused on stimulating social reform to the benefit of the poorest sectors of society. This program was also proposed as a "nationalist Christian movement" for the social and economic development of the Colombian people. “According to his ideas, without social justice it would be very difficult to achieve peace and even more so freedom; one could not talk about peace without social justice and fair distribution of wealth…to reach these social-economic goals social assistance, education, technical training and fair social and political benefits which defended the worker, not only as producers of wealth, but also as a human element, would be indispensable”. Lentz (1994: 183) writes, “Rojas ruled in a dictatorial fashion and greatly increased his personal wealth… Dissatisfaction with the brutality and corruption in his regime increased, however, and he was ousted in a coup supported by a coalition of the Liberal and Conservative parties on May 10, 1957.” Later, he “formed the National Popular Alliance in 1960.” Kline (2012: 40) describes the National Popular Alliance, writing, “ALIANZA NACIONAL POPULAR (ANAPO). A political party founded in 1961 by former dictator Gustavo Rojas Pinilla. ANAPO did not declare itself to be a new ‘political party’… Rather, it was a ‘movement’ that offered candidates for Congress from both the Partido Conservador and the Partido Liberal (the Conservatives were notably more successful).” Schoultz (1972: 35) writes, “That ANAPO is a radical political party and not merely the personalist vehicle of an authoritarian, semi-charismatic leader remains to be proven. In tradition-bound Colombia, ANAPO’s program of populist social welfare and economic nationalism, combined with a posture of total opposition to the National Front, clearly marks the party with a radical label.” Schmidt (1974: 446) writes, “Thirdly, ANAPO has become a highly effective political force, partly because the traditional parties sought to break from violent partisanship and thus created the National Front. ANAPO emerged as the only force seeking to politicize the system… A good number of these are alienated Liberals and Conservatives, who were shut out by their party during the National Front, plus many new people who were previously totally outside the political system.”

Year: 1957

Head of Government: Gabriel París Gordillo

Ideology:

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify Gordillo’s party affiliation. Encyclopedia Britannica (2019) states that París Gordillo worked as the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Rojas Pinilla’s government and he and his military junta were appointed to power by Rojas Pinilla when he left office. Enciclopedia.banrepcultural.org states that the military junta that Gordillo led *organizó un gabinete que dio cabida a los dos partidos tradicionales*, i.e. “organized a cabinet that accommodated both of the traditional political parties”. Hanratty and Meditz describe the political situation at the time: “As the party leaders laid the basis for a coalition government, the tides of discontent turned against Roja Pinilla… In May 1957, faced with a multitude of protestors and top military leaders requesting his resignation, Rojas Pinilla resigned and went into temporary exile in Spain. Power reverted to a five-man junta led by General Gabriel París, who promised the free election of a civilian president in August 1958.” Lentz (1994: 183) writes, of the coup led by París Gordillo which overthrew Rojas Pinilla: “Dissatisfaction with the brutality and corruption in [París Gordillo’s] regime increased, however, and he was ousted in a coup supported by a coalition of the Liberal and Conservative parties on May 10, 1957.” Lentz also writes, “[París Gordillo] supported President Gustavo Rojas Pinilla’s reelection as president on May 8, 1957, but two days later Paris led a five-man military junta to replace Rojas.” Heenan and Lamontange (2002: 59) write, “A military junta led by Gabriel París Gordillo took power in the aftermath of the uprising, but declared itself to be a provisional government pending elections. The junta formed a bipartisan cabinet, restored civil liberties, implemented austerity measures, devalued the currency, and announced that elections would be held in 1958.”

Years: 1958-1961

Head of Government: Alberto Lleras Camargo

Ideology: centrist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as centrist. CHISOLS identifies Lleras Camargo’s party as Partido Liberal (PL). Perspective monde (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PL and identifies the party as centrist. Lentz (1994: 181) writes, “The two major parties formed the National Front, which called for a division of power between the Liberals and Conservatives. Lleras was chosen as the candidate for the Front in the elections scheduled for 1958.” World Statesmen (2019) identifies party affiliation as PL/FN (Partido Liberal/Frente Nacional), identifying PL as center-left and describing FN as an “electoral coalition of liberals and conservatives.” Huber and Stephens (2016: 12) identify PL as centrist. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify PL’s ideology as “Center-left” (-0.488) in 1970. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify “a high level of visible disagreement” in PL in 1970.

Years: 1962-1965

Head of Government: Guillermo León Valencia Muñoz

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as rightist. CHISOLS identifies Valencia’s party as Partido Conservador (PCS). Perspective monde (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PCS and identifies the party as rightist. World Statesmen (2019) identifies party affiliation as PC/FN (Partido Conservador/Frente Nacional), identifying PC as center-right and describing FN as an “electoral coalition of liberals and conservatives.” World Statesmen also writes that PC was renamed Partido Conservador Social (PCS) from 1990-1992. Huber and Stephens (2016: 12) identify PCS as center-right. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify PC’s ideology as “Right” (2.572) in 1970.

Years: 1966-1969

Head of Government: Carlos Lleras Restrepo

Ideology: centrist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as centrist. CHISOLS identifies Lleras Restrepo’s party as Partido Liberal (PL). Perspective monde (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PL and identifies the party as centrist. Lentz (1994: 184) writes that at university, Lleras Restrepo “entered politics and became involved with the radical wing of the Liberal party.” World Statesmen (2019) identifies party affiliation as PL/FN (Partido Liberal/Frente Nacional), identifying PL as center-left and describing FN as an “electoral coalition of liberals and conservatives.” Huber and Stephens (2016: 12) identify PL as centrist. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify PL’s ideology as “Center-left” (-0.488) in 1970. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify “a high level of visible disagreement” in PL in 1970. Hanratty and Meditz (1988) write, “[Lleras Restrepo] swiftly announced the creation of a series of presidential task forces to draw up national development plans, which included the establishment of exchange controls to combat the mounting foreign exchange difficulties; an increased state role in economic development; and funding for new housing, infrastructure, and industrial development projects… Having discarded major obstacles that had stalemated previous National Front administration, Lleras Restrepo built on the efforts of Lleras Camargo in economic and social reform.”

Years: 1970-1973

Head of Government: Misael Eduardo Pastrana Borrero

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as rightist. CHISOLS identifies Pastrana Borrero’s party as Partido Conservador (PCS). Perspective monde (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PCS and identifies the party as rightist. Lentz (1994: 185) writes that as president, “Pastraña dedicated himself to reducing unemployment and improving Colombia’s social conditions.” World Statesmen (2019) identifies party affiliation as PC/FN (Partido Conservador/Frente Nacional), identifying PC as center-right and describing FN as an “electoral coalition of liberals and conservatives.” World Statesmen also writes that PC was renamed Partido Conservador Social (PCS) from 1990-1992. Huber and Stephens (2016: 12) identify PCS as center-right. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify PC’s ideology as “Right” (2.572) in 1970.

Years: 1974-1977

Head of Government: Alfonso López Michelsen

Ideology: centrist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as centrist. CHISOLS identifies López Michelsen’s party as Partido Liberal (PL). Perspective monde (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PL and identifies the party as centrist. Lentz (1994: 185) writes, in 1962, “[López] was subsequently elected to the Senate and opposed the National Front coalition of the Liberal and Conservative parties.” World Statesmen (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PL and identifies the party as center-left. Huber and Stephens (2016: 12) identify PL as centrist. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify PL’s ideology as “Center” (-0.309) in 1974.

Years: 1978-1981

Head of Government: Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala

Ideology: centrist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as centrist. CHISOLS identifies Turbay’s party as Partido Liberal (PL). Perspective monde (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PL and identifies the party as centrist. World Statesmen (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PL and identifies the party as center-left. Huber and Stephens (2016: 12) identify PL as centrist. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify PL’s ideology as “Center” (-0.148) in 1978.

Years: 1982-1985

Head of Government: Belisario Antonio Betancur Cuartas

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as rightist. CHISOLS identifies Betancur’s party as Partido Conservador (PCS). Perspective monde (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PCS and identifies the party as rightist. World Statesmen (2019) identifies party affiliation as PC and identifies the party as center-right. World Statesmen also writes that PC was renamed Partido Conservador Social (PCS) from 1990-1992. Huber and Stephens (2016: 12) identify PCS as center-right. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify PC’s ideology as “Right” (2.313) in 1982.

Years: 1986-1989

Head of Government: Virgilio Barco Vargas

Ideology: centrist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as centrist. CHISOLS identifies Barco’s party as Partido Liberal (PL). Perspective monde (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PL and identifies the party as centrist. World Statesmen (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PL and identifies the party as center-left. Huber and Stephens (2016: 12) identify PL as centrist. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify PL’s ideology as “Center-left” (-0.628) in 1986. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify “a high level of visible disagreement” in PL in 1986. Ortiz de Zárate (2017) states, “Con tan larga, sólida y rica trayectoria en el servicio público, hacienda gala de un perfil más técnico que ideológico, de línea centrista, así como de un carácter afable y moderado, Barco fue el escogido por el PL para representarle en la lid presidencial del 25 de mayo de 1986 e intentar reconquistar el Ejecutivo, perdido frente al PCC en la persona de Belisario Betancur Cuartas cuatro años atrás.” [With such a long, solid and rich career in public service, displaying a more technical than ideological profile, a centrist line, as well as an affable and moderate character, Barco was chosen by the PL to represent it in the presidential contest of May 25, 1986 and attempt to reconquer the Executive, lost to the PCC in the person of Belisario Betancur Cuartas four years ago.] Hanratty and Meditz (1988) write, “In the 1980s, the Liberals also were divided into two main factions: the New Liberalism Movement (Movimiento Nuevo Liberalismo—MNL), established in 1979, and the majority official wing (*oficialistas*). Each ran its own candidates in the 1982 and 1986 presidential elections… The MNL, which won only 8 percent in the 1986 congressional and local government elections, was more technocratically oriented and concerned with promoting the role of the state in economic development and social reform… The broadly based official wing relied more on traditional patron-client ties and partisan appeals to mobilize support. In May 1988, the MNL’s head, Luis Carlos Galán Sarmiento, signed an agreement with the PL to carry out joint activities to support fully President Barco’s government. Under the agreement, the MNL would continue to be a PL faction, but it would cancel its legal registration with the electoral authorities on August 6, 1988, and attend the PL’s national convention in Cartagena.”

Years: 1990-1993

Head of Government: César Augusto Gaviria Trujillo

Ideology: centrist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as centrist. CHISOLS identifies Gaviria’s party as Partido Liberal (PL). Perspective monde (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PL and identifies the party as centrist. Lentz (1994: 188) writes, “Gaviria was active in the presidential campaign of Virgilio Barcos Vargas in 1986.” World Statesmen (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PL and identifies the party as center-left. Huber and Stephens (2016: 12) identify PL as centrist. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify PL’s ideology as “Center” (0.033) in 1990 and “Center” (0.22) in 1991.

Years: 1994-1997

Head of Government: Ernesto Samper Pizano

Ideology: centrist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as centrist. CHISOLS identifies Samper’s party as Partido Liberal (PL). Perspective monde (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PL and identifies the party as centrist. World Statesmen (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PL and identifies the party as center-left. Huber and Stephens (2016: 12) identify PL as centrist. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify PL’s ideology as “Center-left” (-0.74) in 1994. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify “a high level of visible disagreement” in PL in 1994.

Years: 1998-2001

Head of Government: Andrés Pastrana Arango

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as rightist. CHISOLS identifies Pastrana Arango’s party as Partido Conservador (PCS). Political Handbook of the World (2015) corroborates Pastrana Arango’s ideology as rightist, writing, “Before accepting the PC nomination, Pastrana Arango, a former mayor of Bogotá, headed a dissident conservative group, the New Democratic Force (*Nueva Fuerza Democrática—NFD)*, which secured eight Senate seats in 1991 (only one less than the mainline PC) but only one upper house seat in 1998.” Perspective monde (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PCS and identifies the party as rightist. World Statesmen (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PC and identifies the party as center-right. World Statesmen also writes that PC was renamed Partido Conservador Social (PCS) from 1990-1992. Huber and Stephens (2016: 12) identify PCS as center-right. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify PC’s ideology as “Right” (2.299) in 1998.

Years: 2002-2009

Head of Government: Álvaro Uribe Vélez

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as rightist. CHISOLS identifies Uribe’s party in years 2006-2009 as Partido Conservador (PC). Political Handbook of the World (2015) refers to Uribe as “a former PL conservative who ran as an independent” in 2002. Perspective monde (2019) identifies Uribe’s party as Primero Colombia and identifies the party as rightist. World Statesmen (2019) corroborates party affiliation as CPPC (Primero Colombia) and identifies the party as conservative. Huber and Stephens (2016: 12) identify PCS as center-right. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify PC’s ideology as “Right” (2.601) in 2002 and 2006.

Years: 2010-2017

Head of Government: Juan Manuel Santos Calderón

Ideology: centrist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as centrist. CHISOLS does not identify party. Encyclopedia Britannica identifies Santos Calderón’s party as Partido Social de Unidad Nacional (PSUN). Perspective monde (2019) identifies Santos Calderón’s party as the center-right PSUN from 2010 to 2014 and as the centrist Centro Democrático from 2014 to 2018. World Statesmen (2019) identifies party affiliation as PSUN and identifies the party as center-right and social democratic. Huber and Stephens (2016: 12) identify PSUN as center-right.’ In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify PSUN’s ideology as “Center” (0.136) in 2010 and “Center-right” (0.817) in 2014. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify “some visible disagreement” in PSUN in 2010 and 2014.

Years: 2018-2020

Head of Government: Ivan Duque Marquez

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify head of government. Perspective Monde (2021) identifies Duque Marquez’s party as Gran Alianza para Colombia and identifies the party as rightist. World Statesmen (2021) identifies Marquez’s party affiliation as CD (Centro Democrático) and describes the party as Christian democratic, anti-communist, and “Uribismo,” referring to Álvaro Uribe Vélez, coded as rightist. World Statesmen states that CD split from the PSUN, which it identifies as center-right, in 2014. Encyclopedia Britannica (2019) describes Duque Marquez as a “Colombian centre-right politician,” and identifies his party affiliation as CD, writing that Duque Marquez “was an acolyte of another former president, Álvaro Uribe Vélez, who handpicked Duque as the presidential candidate of the Democratic Centre (Centro Democrático; CD), the political party Uribe founded in 2014. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify CD’s ideology as “Right” (2.655) in 2018. DPI identifies DC/CD’s ideology as rightist.

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