Country: El Salvador

Years: 1945-1947

Leader: Castaneda Castro

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Castaneda Castro’s party affiliation as none. World Statesmen (2019) identifies Castaneda Castro’s party as Partido de Unificación Social Demócrata (PUSD). Williams and Walter (1997: 21) state that Castaneda believed that El Salvador needed "a regime of renovation and evolution, committed to change but within reasonable limits and without harming the interests of those who already had a stake in society". Haggerty (1988) indicates Castaneda Castro was rightist, writing “Fearing some action against him and his conservative followers, Castaneda sought to weed out young reform-minded officers by dispatching them abroad for training”. Armstrong describes Castaneda as the “new man” of the “pro-Martínez forces”, referring to Maximiliano Hernández Martínez, who is continually implied to be rightist in Armstrong’s book (1982). For example, Armstrong describes a tension between Martínez and the Community party after the coup that brought Martínez to power: “The situation is ripe for communism and the communists seem to have found that out… The authorities seem to realize that the situation is dangerous and are quite alert in their fight against communistic influences” (27). In addition, “As the fascists rose to power in Europe, Martínez flirted with them and their ideas” (31). After an uprising that tried to overthrow him, Martinez is described as “determined to destroy the alliance of workers and peasants that lay behind [it]” (31). After Castaneda’s election, the book states that “pro-Martínez forces” succeeded in jailing labor leaders and exiling reformers (36). Given that Martinez was rightist, Castaneda was likely rightist as well.

Year: 1948

Leader: Cordova

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as none. Lentz (1994: 254) identifies Córdova as “president of the ruling military junta on December 17, 1948, following the ouster of President Salvador Castañeda Castro. Córdova resigned from the junta on January 4, 1949 and was replaced by Major Oscar Osorio.” Pérez (2016: 99) describes Partido Revolucionario de Unificación Democrática (PRUD): “A former political party in El Salvador, PRUD was formed in 1945 as the official political entity for the military leaders.” Huber and Stephens (2016: 14) identify PRUD’s ideology as rightist.

Year: 1949

Leader: Oscar Bolanos

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as none. Lentz (1994: 254) writes that Oscar Bolanos “became president of the junta following the resignation of Major Oscar Osorio on October 22, 1949. Bolanos continued to lead the government during elections the following year. He relinquished his duties to Osorio, the election victor, on September 14, 1950.” Pérez (2016: 99) describes Partido Revolucionario de Unificación Democrática (PRUD): “A former political party in El Salvador, PRUD was formed in 1945 as the official political entity for the military leaders.” Huber and Stephens (2016: 14) identify PRUD’s ideology as rightist.

Years: 1950-1955

Leader: Osorio

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Osorio’s party as Partido Revolucionario de Unificación Democrática (PRUD). DPI does not identify party ideology. Huber and Stephens (2016:14) identify PRUD’s ideology as rightist. World Statesmen (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PRUD.

Years: 1956-1959

Leader: Lemus

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Lemus’ party as Partido Revolucionario de Unificación Democrática (PRUD). DPI does not identify party ideology. Huber and Stephens (2016: 14) identify PRUD’s ideology as rightist. Lentz (1994: 254) writes, “Lemus was ousted by a coup on October 26, 1960, and replaced by a military-civilian coalition.” World Statesmen (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PRUD.

Year: 1960

Leader: Castillo

Ideology: leftist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as none. Lentz (1994: 255) writes, “Colonel Castillo was chosen to lead the subsequent leftist military-civilian junta on October 26, 1960.” Haggarty (1988) writes, “Aside from Rivera, the junta member who drew the most attention was Fabio Castillo, a university professor and known sympathizer with the Cuban Revolution. Castillo’s presence, along with the renewed reformist policies of the junta, convinced the elite and the conservative military officers that the government was influenced by communism.”

Year: 1961

Leader: Portillo

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as none. Lentz (1994: 255) identifies Aníbas Portillo as “president of the ruling Civil-Military Directorate on January 25, 1961.” BBC (2018) states that the directorate was dominated by the rightist National Conciliation Party (PCN). World Statesmen identifies PCN as center-right. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 11 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of PCN as 8.2.

Years: 1962-1966

Leader: Rivera

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Rivera’s party as Partido de Conciliación Nacional (PCN). DPI does not identify party ideology. Huber and Stephens (2016: 15) identify PCN’s ideology as rightist. Manzano (2017) codes Rivera as right. Lentz (1994: 255) writes, “Rivera was the leader of the coup that ousted the ruling leftist military-civilian junta in January of 1961. He served on the ruling Civil-Military Directorate for several months before resigning to lead the National Conciliation party (PCN).” World Statesmen (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PCN and identifies the party as center-right. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify PCN’s ideology as “Right” (2.121) in 1970.

Years: 1967-1971

Leader: Sanchez Hernandez

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Sánchez Hernández’s party as Partido de Conciliación Nacional (PCN). DPI does not identify party ideology. Huber and Stephens (2016:15) identify PCN’s ideology as rightist. Manzano (2017) codes Sánchez as right. World Statesmen (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PCN and identifies the party as center-right. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify PCN’s ideology as “Right” (2.121) in 1970.

Years: 1972-1976

Leader: Molina

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Molina’s party as Partido de Conciliación Nacional (PCN). DPI and Huber and Stephens (2016: 15) identify PCN’s ideology as rightist. Political Handbook of the World (2012) elaborates, mentioning “the allied conservative forces of Arena, the Christian Democrats, and the PCN.” Political Handbook also writes, “Over the years, however, [PCN] became increasingly conservative, serving the interests of the leading families and the military establishment.” Manzano (2017) codes Molina as right. World Statesmen (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PCN and identifies the party as center-right. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify PCN’s ideology as “Right” (2.121) in 1972, “Right” (2.155) in 1974, and “Right” (2.152) in 1976.

Years: 1977-1978

Leader: Romero Mena

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Romero Mena’s party as Partido de Conciliación Nacional (PCN). DPI and Huber and Stephens (2016: 15) identify PCN’s ideology as rightist. Political Handbook of the World (2012) elaborates, mentioning “the allied conservative forces of Arena, the Christian Democrats, and the PCN.” Political Handbook also writes, “Over the years, however, [PCN] became increasingly conservative, serving the interests of the leading families and the military establishment.” Manzano (2017) codes Romero as right. World Statesmen (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PCN and identifies the party as center-right. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify PCN’s ideology as “Right” (2.152) in 1976 and 1978.

Year: 1979

Leader: Majano Ramos

Ideology: leftist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as none. Lentz (1994: 257) writes, “[Jaime Abdul] Gutierrez and Col. Adolfo Majano Ramos led a military coup against the government of President Carlos Humberto Romero on October 15, 1979. They served as copresidents of the subsequent ruling civilian-military junta.” Di Tella (2004: 122) describes this ruling junta as composed of the reformist sector of the armed forces, incorporating “Christian Democrats, Social Democrats, and even Communist sympathizers”. Haggerty (1988) describes Colonel Adolfo Arnoldo Majano Ramos as “the officer who headed the reformist faction within the officer corps.” Lentz (1994: 257) corroborates both individuals’ ideologies, writing, “Majano was considered the most liberal member of the ruling junta,” and “Gutierrez was considered the most conservative member of the junta.”

Years: 1980-1981

Leader: Duarte

Ideology: leftist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Duarte’s party as Partido Demócrata Cristiano (PDC). DPI and Lansford (2015) identify PDC’s ideology as centrist, the latter writing “An essentially centrist grouping, the PDC […]”. Huber and Stephens identify PDC’s ideology as leftist (2016: 15). Manzano (2017) codes Duarte as left. Political Handbook of the World (2012) elaborates, writing, “announcement of the 1972 results provoked an unsuccessful coup by leftist forces, in the wake of which their candidate, José Napoleón Duarte Fuentes, was exiled.” Perspective monde (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PDC, but identifies the party as centrist. Lentz (1994: 257) writes, “Duarte again became involved in politics in 1960 when he helped form the Christian Democratic party (PDC).” World Statesmen (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PDC. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify PDC’s ideology as “Center-right” (1.287) in 1970. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify “a high level of visible disagreement” in PDC in 1970. Ortiz de Zárate (2016) states, “Su irrupción en la escena política nacional se produjo en noviembre de 1960 como miembro fundador del Partido Demócrata Cristiano (PDC), nacido con el propósito de ocupar el nicho ideológico del centro reformista… ” [His irruption on the national political scene took place in November 1960 as a founding member of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), born with the purpose of occupying the ideological niche of the reformist center…] Pace (1990) writes, “Jose Napoleon Duarte, the former President of El Salvador who oversaw a shaky experiment in centrist civilian government after nearly a century of military rule… In the 1960’s and 1970’s he seemed to personify the hope that a middle ground could be found in easing the nation’s perennial strife… He was drawn into politics in 1960 by a group that sought a middle ground between Communism and military totalitarianism. It was then that he helped found his party.”

Years: 1982-1983

Leader: Magana Borjo

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Magaña Borja’s party affiliation as none. Haggarty (1988) describes him as “moderate independent”, and rulers.org states that Magaña “established himself as a respected public figure without becoming attached to any political faction.” The Political Handbook of the World (multiple editions) also describes Magaña as an independent. Perez (2016: 46) seems to identify his party as the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), writing, “The junta’s governance soon after elapsed, allowing ARENA to appoint Alvaro Magaña interim president.” Perez (2016: 22), World Statesmen (2019), and Huber and Stephens (2016) all identify ARENA as conservative; Perez (2016) repeatedly refers to ARENA as right. However, Perez also writes, “ Alianza Republican Nacionalista (ARENA) leader Roberto D’Aubuisson accused the military of promoting the presidency of Alvaro Magaña over their candidate, despite Magaña winning not a single oppositional vote.” Furthermore, “During his administration, Magaña’s ministers were drawn from both the Partido Demócrata Cristiano (PDC) and the Partido de Conciliación Nacional (PCN), while ARENA remained in opposition.” Perspective Monde identifies PDC as centrist. World Statesmen identifies PCN as center-right. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 11 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of PDC as 5.8 and of PCN as 8.2.

Years: 1984-1988

Leader: Duarte

Ideology: leftist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Duarte’s party as Partido Demócrata Cristiano (PDC). DPI and Lansford (2015) identify PDC’s ideology as centrist, the latter writing “An essentially centrist grouping, the PDC […]”. ‘Centrist’, however, here may be meant as opposed to the country’s left- and right-wing forces, and Huber and Stephens (2016: 15) identify party ideology as leftist. Political Handbook of the World (2012) also supports DPI’s coding, writing, “announcement of the 1972 results provoked an unsuccessful coup by leftist forces, in the wake of which their candidate, José Napoleón Duarte Fuentes, was exiled.” Perspective monde (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PDC, but identifies the party as centrist. Lentz (1994: 257) writes, “Duarte again became involved in politics in 1960 when he helped form the Christian Democratic party (PDC).” World Statesmen (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PDC. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify PDC’s ideology as “Center-right” (1.287) in 1982, 1985, and 1988. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify “a high level of visible disagreement” in PDC in 1982, 1985, and 1988. Ortiz de Zárate (2016) states, “Su irrupción en la escena política nacional se produjo en noviembre de 1960 como miembro fundador del Partido Demócrata Cristiano (PDC), nacido con el propósito de ocupar el nicho ideológico del centro reformista… ” [His irruption on the national political scene took place in November 1960 as a founding member of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), born with the purpose of occupying the ideological niche of the reformist center…] Pace (1990) writes, “Jose Napoleon Duarte, the former President of El Salvador who oversaw a shaky experiment in centrist civilian government after nearly a century of military rule… In the 1960’s and 1970’s he seemed to personify the hope that a middle ground could be found in easing the nation’s perennial strife… He was drawn into politics in 1960 by a group that sought a middle ground between Communism and military totalitarianism. It was then that he helped found his party.”

Years: 1989-1993

Leader: Cristiani

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Cristiani’s party as Alianza Republicana Nacionalista (ARENA). DPI and Huber and Stephens (2016: 14) identify ARENA’s ideology as rightist. Political Handbook of the World (2012) elaborates, writing, “The Arena party was launched in 1981 as an outgrowth of the Broad National Front (Frente Amplio Nacional- FAN), an extreme right-wing grouping organized a year earlier by ex-army major Roberto d’Aubuisson.” Political Handbook also mentions “the allied conservative forces of Arena, the Christian Democrats, and the PCN.” Perspective monde (2019) corroborates party affiliation as ARENA and identifies the party as rightist. Lentz (1994: 258) identifies both Cristiani and ARENA as rightist. World Statesmen (2019) corroborates party affiliation as ARENA and identifies the party as conservative. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify ARENA’s ideology as “Far-right” (3.485) in 1988 and “Right” (2.522) in 1991.

Years: 1994-1998

Leader: Calderon Sol

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Calderon Sol’s party as Alianza Republicana Nacionalista (ARENA). DPI and Huber and Stephens (2016: 14) identify ARENA’s ideology as rightist. Political Handbook of the World (2012) elaborates, writing, “The Arena party was launched in 1981 as an outgrowth of the Broad National Front (Frente Amplio Nacional- FAN), an extreme right-wing grouping organized a year earlier by ex-army major Roberto d’Aubuisson.” Political Handbook also mentions “the allied conservative forces of Arena, the Christian Democrats, and the PCN.” Perspective monde (2019) corroborates party affiliation as ARENA and identifies the party as rightist. World Statesmen (2019) corroborates party affiliation as ARENA and identifies the party as conservative. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify ARENA’s ideology as “Right” (2.522) in 1994 and 1997.

Years: 1999-2003

Leader: Flores

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Flores’ party as Alianza Republicana Nacionalista (ARENA). DPI and Huber and Stephens (2016: 14) identify ARENA’s ideology as rightist. Political Handbook of the World (2012) elaborates, writing, “The Arena party was launched in 1981 as an outgrowth of the Broad National Front (Frente Amplio Nacional- FAN), an extreme right-wing grouping organized a year earlier by ex-army major Roberto d’Aubuisson.” Political Handbook also mentions “the allied conservative forces of Arena, the Christian Democrats, and the PCN.” Perspective monde (2019) corroborates party affiliation as ARENA and identifies the party as rightist. World Statesmen (2019) corroborates party affiliation as ARENA and identifies the party as conservative. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify ARENA’s ideology as “Right” (2.522) in 1997 and 2000 and “Right” (1.931) in 2003.

Years: 2004-2008

Leader: Saca González

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Saca González’s party as Alianza Republicana Nacionalista (ARENA). DPI and Huber and Stephens (2016: 14) identify ARENA’s ideology as rightist. Political Handbook of the World (2012) elaborates, writing, “The Arena party was launched in 1981 as an outgrowth of the Broad National Front (Frente Amplio Nacional- FAN), an extreme right-wing grouping organized a year earlier by ex-army major Roberto d’Aubuisson.” Political Handbook also mentions “the allied conservative forces of Arena, the Christian Democrats, and the PCN.” Perspective monde (2019) corroborates party affiliation as ARENA and identifies the party as rightist. World Statesmen (2019) corroborates party affiliation as ARENA and identifies the party as conservative. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify ARENA’s ideology as “Right” (1.931) in 2003 and 2006.

Years: 2009-2013

Leader: Funes

Ideology: leftist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify head of government. Political Handbook of the World identifies Funes Cartagena’s party as Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) DPI and Huber and Stephens (2016: 14) identify FMLN’s ideology as leftist. Political Handbook of the World (2012) corroborates, mentioning “the left-wing FMLN”. However, Political Handbook also seems to indicate that Funes Cartagena was more moderate than most of his party, writing, “President Funes, who promoted a moderate, business-friendly agenda, had disagreements with the FLMN, which largely maintained its traditional leftist position in the assembly”. Perspective monde (2019) and World Statesmen (2019) corroborate party affiliation as FMLN and identify the party as leftist. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify FLMN’s ideology as “Left” (-1.919) in 2009 and “Center-left” (-1.297) in 2012.

Years: 2014-2018

Leader: Sanchez Ceren

Ideology: leftist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify head of government. Lansford (2015: 441) identifies Cerén’s party as Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN). DPI and Huber and Stephens (2016: 14) identify FMLN’s ideology as leftist. Political Handbook of the World (2012) corroborates, mentioning “the left-wing FMLN”. Ceren is also mentioned as a “hard-liner” of the party. Perspective monde (2019) and World Statesmen (2019) corroborate party affiliation as FMLN and identify the party as leftist. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify FLMN’s ideology as “Center-left” (-1.297) in 2012, 2015, and 2018.

Years: 2019-2020

Leader: Nayib Bukele

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. Perspective Monde (2021) identifies Bukele Ortez’s party as Gran Alianza por la Unidad Nacional (GANA) and identifies the party as rightist. Political Handbook of the World (2015) elaborates, writing, “The GANA is a right-wing party formed in October 2009 when 12 deputies split from ARENA.” World Statesmen (2021) corroborates party affiliation as GANA and describes the party as “economic liberal.” Huber and Stephens (2016: 14) identify GANA as center-right. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify GANA’s ideology as “Center-right” (0.98) in 2018. DPI identifies GANA’s ideology as rightist.

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