Country: Finland

Year: 1945

Leader: Mannerheim

Ideology:

Description: CHISOLS identifies Mannerheim’s party as none.

Years: 1946-1955

Leader: Paasikivi

Ideology: right

Description: HoG identifies ideology earlier as right. CHISOLS identifies party as the National Coalition (Kansallinen Kokoomus—Kok). DPI identifies KOK’s ideology as rightist. Armingeon et al. (2019) identifies the National Coalition’s (KOK) ideology as rightist. In V-Party (2020) 3 experts identify leader party’s ideology as “Right” (2.004) in 1970. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the KOK’s ideology as rightist, writing “National Coalition Party (Kansallinen Kokoomus—KK or Kok). A conservative party formed in 1918, the Kok is the prime representative for private enterprise”.

Years: 1956-1980

Leader: Kekkonen

Ideology: center

Description: HoG identifies ideology earlier as center. World Statesmen (2019) identifies party as the Agrarian League / Centre Party (ML/KESK). CHISOLS identifies Kekkonen’s party as the Agrarian League (Maalaisliitoksi - ML), which changed its name to Centre Party (KESK) in 1965. In V-Party (2020) 3 experts identify leader party’s ideology as “Center” (-.253) in 1970, 1972 and 1975. DPI identifies KESK’s ideology as centrist. DPI’s source, Political Handbook of the World, does not confirm KESK’s ideology. Armingeon et al. (2019) identifies the Centre Party’s (KESK) ideology as centrist.

Years: 1981-1993

Leader: Koivisto

Ideology: left

Description: HoG identifies ideology earlier as left. World Statesmen (2019) identifies party as the Finnish People’s Social Democratic Party (Suomen Sosiaalidemokraattinen Puolue—SSDP). CHISOLS identifies Koivisto’s party as Social Democratic Party (Suomen Sosiaalidemokraattinen Puolue—SDP). In V-Party (2020) 3 experts identify leader party’s ideology as “Center-left” (-1.358) in 1979, 1983, 1987 and 4 experts identified the same in 1991. DPI identifies SSDP’s ideology as leftist. Armingeon et al. (2019) identifies the Social Democrats’ (*Suomen Sosiaalidemokraattinen Puolue, SDP*) ideology as leftist. Political Handbook of the World (2015) writes “Finnish politics during the Cold War was marked by… a volatile parliamentary system that yielded a sequence of short-lived coalition governments based on shifting alliances. Most were center-left administrations in which the Finnish Social Democratic Party (Suomen Sosiaalidemokraattinen Puolue—SSDP) played a pivotal role.”

Years: 1994-1999

Leader: Marthi Ahtisaari

Ideology: left

Description: CHISOLS identifies Ahtisaari’s party as the Social Democratic Party (Suomen Sosiaalidemokraattinen Puolue—SDP). DPI identifies SSDP’s ideology as leftist. In V-Party (2020) 4 experts identify leader party’s ideology as “Center-left” (-1.358) in 1991, 1995 and 5 experts identified the same in 1999. Armingeon et al. (2019) identifies the Social Democrats’ (*Suomen Sosiaalidemokraattinen Puolue, SDP*) ideology as leftist. Political Handbook of the World (2015) writes “Finnish politics during the Cold War was marked by… a volatile parliamentary system that yielded a sequence of short-lived coalition governments based on shifting alliances. Most were center-left administrations in which the Finnish Social Democratic Party (Suomen Sosiaalidemokraattinen Puolue—SSDP) played a pivotal role.”

Years: 2000-2011

Leader: Halonen

Ideology: left

Description: CHISOLS identifies Halonen’s party as Social Democratic Party (Suomen Sosiaalidemokraattinen Puolue—SDP). DPI identifies SSDP’s ideology as leftist. Armingeon et al. (2019) identifies the Social Democrats’ (*Suomen Sosiaalidemokraattinen Puolue, SDP*) ideology as leftist. In V-Party (2020) 5 experts identify leader party’s ideology as “Center-left” (-1.337) in 1999, 2003, and 2007. Political Handbook of the World (2015) writes “Finnish politics during the Cold War was marked by… a volatile parliamentary system that yielded a sequence of short-lived coalition governments based on shifting alliances. Most were center-left administrations in which the Finnish Social Democratic Party (Suomen Sosiaalidemokraattinen Puolue—SSDP) played a pivotal role.”

Years: 2012-2020

Leader: Sauli Niinistö

Ideology: right

Description: World Statesmen (2021) and Rulers (2021) identify Sauli Niinistö as president. CHISOLS identifies party as the National Coalition (Kansallinen Kokoomus—KOK). World Statesmen (2021) identifies Niinistö’s party as KOK, writing “Sauli Väinämö Niinistö… KOK”. DPI identifies KOK’s ideology as rightist. Armingeon et al. (2019) identifies the National Coalition’s (KOK) ideology as rightist. In V-Party (2020) 5 experts identify leader party’s ideology as “Right” (2.027) in 2011, 2015 and 2019. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the KOK’s ideology as rightist, writing “National Coalition Party (Kansallinen Kokoomus—KK or Kok). A conservative party formed in 1918, the Kok is the prime representative for private enterprise”. Perspective Monde (2021) corroborates party affiliation as KOK and identifies the party as center-right.

References:

Armingeon, Klaus, Virigina Wenger, Fiona Wiedemeier, Christian Isler, Laura Knöpfel, David Weisstanner and Sarah Engler. 2019. Supplement to the Comparative Political Data Set – Government Composition 1960-2017. Bern: Institute of Political Science, University of Berne.

Political Handbook of the World Online Edition. 2015. Various entries.

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Rulers. 2021. Finland. <http://rulers.org/rulf.html> (last accessed on May 17, 2021).