Country: South Korea

Years: 1948 - 1959

Head of government: Rhee Syngman

Ideology: right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as Liberal Party (LP). DPI does not identify LP’s ideology. Manzano (2017) identifies ideology as rightist. Hanley and Jae-Soon (2008) identify Rhee as rightist, writing “In the late 1940s, President Syngman Rhee's U.S.-installed rightist regime crushed leftist political activity in South Korea, including a guerrilla uprising inspired by the communists ruling the north. By 1950, southern jails were packed with up to 30,000 political prisoners”. Perspective monde (2020) identifies Rhee’s ideology as centrist, writing “Syngman Rhee | 1948 | (31 mai) | 1952 | Parti liberal | […] | Centre.” World Statesmen (2020) identifies Rhee's party as LP, and LP's ideology as rightist, writing "24 Jul 1948 - 3 May 1960 Syngman Rhee (s.a.) LP" and"LP = Minjudang (Liberal Party, conservative, pro-Syngman Ree, 1951-1970)."

Year: 1960

Head of government: Chang Myon

Ideology: right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology; CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as Democratic Party (DP). In the Global Party Survey 2019, 13 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Minjoo Party (Minjoo) as 3.3. DPI does not identify DP’s ideology. Perspective monde (2020) identifies Myon’s party affiliation as Democratic Party, and DP’s ideology as leftist, writing “Chang Myon | 1960 (18 août) | 1961 (18 mai) | Parti démocratique | […] | Gauche moderee.” World Statesmen identifies Myon’s party affiliation as Liberal Party in the 1950s and as Democratic Party (Mjnjudang, DP) and New Democratic Party (Shinmindang, SD) in 1960/1961. World Statesmen identifies Liberal Party as “conservative, pro-Syngman Ree”, Democratic Party as (opposition to Syngman Ree and LP) and New Democratic Party as “liberal”.

Years: 1961 - 1978

Head of government: Park Chung-hee

Ideology: right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. *Political Handbook of the World* (2015: 790 and 794) identifies affiliation as Democratic Republican Party (DRP) from 1963 onwards: “Park and his newly formed Democratic Republican Party (DRP) won the presidential and legislative elections held in 1963, and constitutional rule was formally restored with Park's inauguration as president in December” and “In the five years before 1972 South Korea had what was essentially a two-party system of the Democratic Republican Party (DRP), formed in 1963 as an electoral mechanism for the ruling military junta, and the New Democratic Party (NDP), organized in 1967 as a coalition of opposition elements.” Manzano (2017) identifies Park as right. DPI identifies ideology of DRP as right. Perspective monde (2020) seems to identify Park’s ideology as rightist. World Statesmen (2020), Rulers (2020), and Encyclopedia Britannica (2020) identify Park Chung-hee instead of Yoon Bo-Sun as the head of government in December 31, 1961. In V-Party (2020), 5 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center-right” (1.433) in 1971, 1973, and 1978.

Year: 1979

Head of government: Choi Kyu-hah

Ideology: right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify party affiliation. The Encyclopedia of World Political Systems (2006) identify party affiliation as the Democratic Republican Party (*Minju Gonghwadang - DRP*). DPI identifies ideology of DRP as right. Perspective monde (2020) seems to identify Choi’s ideology as rightist. World Statesmen (2020) identifies Choi's party as DRP, and DRP's ideology as rightist, writing "26 Oct 1979 - 16 Aug 1980 Choi Kyu Hah (b. 1919 - d. 2006) DRP" and "DRP = Minju Gonghwadong (Democratic Republican Party, authoritarian, conservative, nationalist, 1963-1980)." In V-Party (2020), 5 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center-right” (1.433) in 1978.

Years: 1980 - 1987

Head of government: Chun Doo-hwan

Ideology: right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as none. Manzano (2017) identifies ideology as rightist. Manzano also (2017: 103) identifies party affiliation as Democratic Justice Party (DJP) and it as rightist, writing “South Korea’s Democratic Justice Party (DJP), for example, was the governing party while Chun Doo Hwan was in power. After Chun’s rule ended, the DJP merged in 1990 with two other groups to form a new party, the Democratic Liberal Party, that belonged to the International Democratic Union (an international organization of center-right parties, see below). Hence, I consider the DJP a rightist group”. World Statesmen (2020) identifies Chun's party as DJP from 1981, and DJP’s ideology as rightist, writing "1 Sep 1980 - 25 Feb 1988 Chun Doo Hwan (b. 1931) Mil;1981 DJP" and "DJP = Minju Jeonguidang (Democratic Justice Party, conservative, nationalist, 1980-9 Feb 1990 merged into MDD)."

Years: 1988 - 1992

Head of government: Roh Tae-woo

Ideology: right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology; CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as Minju Jeonguidang/Democratic Justice Party (DJP) until 1990, and as Minju Chayudang/Democratic Liberal Party (MDD) afterwards. DPI identifies DJP’s and MDD’s ideology as right. Perspective monde (2020) identifies Roh’s ideology as rightist, writing “Roh Tae-woo | 1988 (25 février) | 1993 (25 février) | Parti justice et démocratie, Parti libéral démocratique | […] | Droite moderee.” World Statesmen (2020) identifies Choi's party as DJP until 1990, and DJP's ideology as rightist, writing "25 Feb 1988 - 25 Feb 1993 Roh Tae Woo (b. 1932) DJP;1990 MDD" and "DJP = Minju Jeonguidang (Democratic Justice Party, conservative, nationalist, 1980-9 Feb 1990 merged into MDD)." In V-Party (2020), 5 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Right” (1.807) in 1988 and as “Right” (2.1) in 1992.

Years: 1993 - 1997

Head of government: Kim Young-Sam

Ideology: right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as Minju Chayudang/Democratic Liberal Party (MDD/DLP) until 1994, and as Sin Han-gukdang/New Korea Party (SHD/NKP) afterwards. DPI identifies MDD’s and SHD’s ideology as right. Perspective monde (2020) identifies Kim’s ideology as center-rightist, writing “Kim Young-sam | 1993 (25 février) | 1998 (25 février) | Parti de la liberté d'abord | […] | Centre droit.” World Statesmen (2020) identifies Kim's party as SHD from 1995, and SHD's ideology as rightist, writing "25 Feb 1993 - 25 Feb 1998 Kim Young Sam (b. 1927 - d. 2015) MDD;1995 SHD" and "SHD = Sin Han-gukdang (New Korea Party, center-right, liberal conservative, nationalist, 1995-1997, later part of HD)." In V-Party (2020), 5 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Right” (2.1) in 1992 and 1996.

Years: 1998 - 2002

Head of government: Kim Dae-jung

Ideology: center

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as Sae Jungchi Kukmin Hoiee/National Congress for New Politics (SJKH/NCNP) until 1999, and as Saecheonnyeon Minju-dang/Millennium Democratic Party (SMD/MDP) afterwards. DPI identifies SJKH’s and SMD’s ideologies as center. The Political Handbook (2010) elaborates, writing “The MDP was successor to the centrist National Congress for New Politics—NCNP (*Sae Jungchi Kukmin Hoiee*).” Perspective monde (2020) identifies Kim’s ideology as center-rightist, writing “Kim Dae-jung | 1998 (25 février) | 2003 (25 février) | Parti démocratique du millénaire (Parti démocratique) | […] | Centre droit.” World Statesmen (2020) identifies Kim's party as SJKH until 2000 and MD from 2000, and SJKH's ideology as centrist and MD's ideology as leftist, writing "25 Feb 1998 - 25 Feb 2003 Kim Dae Jung (b. 1925 - d. 2009) SJKH;2000 MD" and "MD = Minju Dang (Democratic Party, liberal, center-left, former SMD, 15 Dec 2011-26 Mar 2014 named Democratic United Party [Minju Tonghap Dang], 6 May 2005-28 Dec 2015, merged into DMD) [...] SJKH = Sae Jungchi Kukmin Hoiee (National Congress for New Politics, personalist, centrist, from 20 Jan 2000 MD)."

Note: In 2000, Jungchi Kukmin Hoiee (National Congress for New Politics) (SJKH) changed its name to the Democratic Party (MD). The party is also known as Millennium Democratic Party (SMD). In V-Party (2020), 5 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center” (0.299) in 1996 and as “Center-left” (-0.472) in 2000.

Years: 2003 - 2007

Head of government: Roh Moo-hyun

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. Perspective monde (2020) identifies Roh’s ideology as center-rightist, writing “Roh Moo Hyun | 2003 (25 février) | 2004 (12 mars) | Parti démocratique du millénaire (Parti démocratique) | […] | Centre droit.” World Statesmen (2020) identifies Roh's party as SMD from Sep 2003, and SMD's ideology as leftist, writing "25 Feb 2003 - 25 Feb 2008 Roh Moo Hyun (b. 1946 - d. 2009)SMD; Sep 2003" and "SMD = Saecheonnyeon Minju-dang (Millennium Democratic Party [in Korean, called simply Democratic Party], center-left, 20 Jan 2000-6 May 2005, formerly SJKH, renamed MD)." Encyclopedia Britannica describes Democratic Party’s ideology as centrist, writing “Democratic Party of Korea (DP), Korean Daeburo Minjudang, centrist-liberal political party in South Korea.” World Encyclopedia identifies Roh’s ideology as left-leaning, writing “The election of President Roh Moo-hyun in 2002 represented the first left-leaning government in South Korea’s history” and “The Uri Party was established in November 2003 as a splinter group from the Millennium Democratic Party in support of then-president Roh Moo-hyun […]The party is a reform-oriented, liberal/social democratic party.” In V-Party (2020), 5 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center-left” (-1.008) in 2004 with “Some visible disagreement”.

Note: In 2000, Jungchi Kukmin Hoiee (National Congress for New Politics) (SJKH) changed its name to the Democratic Party (MD). The party is also known as Millennium Democratic Party (SMD).

Years: 2008 - 2012

Head of government: Lee Myung-bak

Ideology: right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as Hannara Dang/Grand National Party (HD/GNP). DPI identifies HD’s ideology as right. Perspective monde (2020) identifies Lee’s ideology as rightist, writing “Lee Myung-bak | 2008 (25 février) | 2013 (25 février) | Grand Parti national | […] | Droite moderee.” World Statesmen (2020) identifies Lee's party as HD, and HD's ideology as rightist, writing "25 Feb 2008 - 25 Feb 2013 Lee Myung Bak (b. 1941) HD" and "HD = Hannara Dang (Grand National Party, conservative, 1995-2012, renamed SP)." In V-Party (2020), 5 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Right” (2.246) in 2008 and 2012.

Years: 2013 - 2015

Head of government: Park Geun Hye

Ideology: right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify party affiliation. *Political Handbook of the World* (2015: 790) identifies affiliation as New Frontier Party: “President: PARK Geun Hye (New Frontier Party); elected on December 19, 2012 and sworn in for a five-year term on February 25, 2013, succeeding LEE Myung Bak (Grand National Party—renamed New Frontier Party in February 2012).” DPI identifies NFP as right. Perspective monde (2020) identifies Park’s ideology as center-rightist, writing “Park Geun-hye | 2013 (25 février) | 2016 (9 décembre) | Parti Saenuri (nouvelle frontière) | […] | Centre droit.” In the Global Party Survey 2019, 13 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of New Frontier Party (NFP) as 7.7. World Statesmen (2020) identifies Park's party as SP, and SP's ideology as rightist, writing "25 Feb 2013 - 10 Mar 2017 Park Geun Hye (f) (b. 1952) SP" and "SP = Saenuri Dang (New Frontier Party, conservative, former HD, 2 Feb 2012-13 Feb 2017, renamed JG)." In V-Party (2020), 5 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Right” (2.246) in 2012.

Year: 2016

Head of government: Hwang Kyo Ahn

Ideology: right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify party affiliation. World Statesmen (2019) identifies party affiliation as none. EFE News Service identifies ideology as rightist, writing that “the new prime minister, known for his ultra-conservative stance, supported the disbanding of the Unified Progressive party, the third-largest party in the country, for alleged links to North Korea.” The Korea Herald (2019) identifies later party affiliation as the Liberty Korea Party, writing that the “Liberty Korea Party chose former prime minister Hwang Kyo-Ahn as its chief”. Encyclopedia Britannica (2017) identifies Liberty Korea Party as rightist, writing that it is a “conservative political party [that] advocates for fiscal responsibility, a market-based economy, and caution in dealing with North Korea.

Year: 2017 - 2020

Head of government: Moon Jae In

Ideology: left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify party affiliation. Stiles (2017) identifies Moon Jae In’s party affiliation as DP, and his and DP’s ideology as left, writing “South Korean voters on Tuesday elected a center-left presidential candidate, ending a decade of conservative-party rule following a historic corruption scandal and rising tensions on the peninsula. Moon Jae-in, a lawyer and former presidential aide representing the center-left Democratic Party, declared victory just before midnight local time, pledging to restore the public’s faith in the country after a tumultuous six months that saw the ouster and arrest of the former president, Park Geun-hye.” Perspective monde (2020) identifies Moon’s ideology as centrist, writing “Moon Jae-in | 2017 (10 mai) | Parti démocratique (Minjoo) | […] | Centre.” In the Global Party Survey 2019, 13 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Minjoo Party (Minjoo) as 3.3. World Statesmen (2020) identifies Moon's party as DMD, and DMD's ideology as leftist, writing "10 May 2017 - Moon Jae In (b. 1953) DMD" and "DMD = Deobureominjudang (Democratic Party of Korea, center-left, social liberal, merger of MD and NPAD, est.28 Dec 2015)." Encyclopedia Britannica describes Democratic Party’s ideology as centrist, writing “Democratic Party of Korea (DP), Korean Daeburo Minjudang, centrist-liberal political party in South Korea.” In V-Party (2020), 5 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center-left” (-0.652) in 2016. Varieties of Democracy identifies party affiliation as Democratic Party / Minjoo Party of Korea. DPI does not identify Minjoo’s ideology.

Note: Democratic Party is also known as Minjoo.

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