Country: Suriname

Years: 1975-1979

Head of Government: Henck Alphonsus Eugène Arron

Ideology: right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify head of government. Encyclopedia Britannica identifies Arron’s party as NPS (Nationale Partij Suriname). Huber and Stephens (2016: 19) identify party ideology as center-right. Lentz (1994: 715) corroborates party affiliation, writing, “Arron was selected as prime minister and minister of finance in 1973 as leader of the National party Alliance coalition… He was again ousted during a military coup on December 24, 1990. Arron remained active in politics as a leader of the Suriname National party and chairman of the coalition New Front for Democracy and Development.” Huber and Stephens (2016: 19) identifies New Front for Democracy and Development (Nieuw Front voor Democratie en Ontwikkeling) as center-right. World Statesmen (2019) identifies party affiliation as NPS + NPK (Nationale Partij Kombinatie, National Party Combination) from 1973 to 1980 and as NPS + FDO (Front voor Democratie en Ontwikkeling) from 1988 to 1990, identifying NPS as leftist, “center-left” and as one of the parties in the NPK coalition and later in the FDO coalition. World Statesmen (2020) writes that FDO was “renamed NF.” Derbyshire and Derbyshire (2016: 117) identify NF as “left of center.” Schlager and Weisblatt (2006: 1273) write, “Suriname National Party (Nationale Partij Suriname; NPS)… it rejoined the VHP and KTPI after the 1980 coup to form the Front and New Front governments in the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s… Creoles are a largely urban group, and the NPS has focused on labor and social welfare issues.”

Years: 1980-1987

Head of Government: Désiré “Dési” Delano Bouterse

Ideology: left

Description: World Statesmen (2019) and Ruler (2019) identify Ramsewak

Shankar instead of Désiré “Dési” Delano Bouterse as head of government on

December 31, 1988. HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify head of government. Funk & Wagnalls New World Encyclopedia state that Bouterse led “a left-wing military coup…and emerged as the nation’s leader”. Healy (Salem Press Encyclopedia) states that the military “seized power in 1980 in an effort to replace the democratic state with a socialist republic” (2018). Manzano (2017) codes Bouterse as left. Lentz (1994: 714) writes, “Bouterse was a leftist who advocated closer ties with Cuba and Nicaragua.” Lentz also identifies party affiliation as the National Democratic party at the end of Bouterse’s rule, writing, “Bouterse formed the National Democratic party in 1987 prior to elections to the National Assembly. The party was unsuccessful in the elections, though Bouterse remained the leader of the military junta.” Huber and Stephens (2016: 19) identify the National Democratic party (Nationale Democratische Partij—NDP) as personalist. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 9 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of NDP as 3.3. In V-Party (2020), 1 expert identifies NDP’s ideology as “Left” (-1.68) in 2010.

Years: 1988-1989

Head of Government: Ramsewak Shankar

Ideology: right

Description: World Statesmen (2019) and Ruler (2019) identify

Ramsewak Shankar instead of Désiré “Dési” Delano Bouterse as head of

government on December 31, 1988. HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify head of government. World Statesmen (2019) identifies Shankar’s party as VHP (Verenigde Hindoe Partij, Vooruitstrevende Hervormingspartij, Progressive Reform Party), and Perspective Monde (2019) corroborates this. Huber and Stephens (2016: 19) identify Verenigde Hindoe Partij as center-right. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 9 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of VHP/V7 as 4.0.

Years: 1990

Head of Government: Johannes Samuel Petrus Kraag

Ideology: right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify head of government. The University of Arkansas’ Dynamic Analysis of Dispute Management project identifies Kraag’s party as NPS (Nationale Partij Suriname). Huber and Stephens identify party ideology as center-right (2016: 19). World Statesmen (2019) identifies party affiliation as NPS + FDO (Front voor Democratie en Ontwikkeling), identifying NPS as leftist, “center-left” and as one of the parties in the FDO coalition. Schlager and Weisblatt (2006: 1273) write, “Suriname National Party (Nationale Partij Suriname; NPS)… it rejoined the VHP and KTPI after the 1980 coup to form the Front and New Front governments in the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s… Creoles are a largely urban group, and the NPS has focused on labor and social welfare issues.” World Statesmen (2020) writes that FDO was “renamed NF.” Derbyshire and Derbyshire (2016: 117) identify NF as “left of center.”

Years: 1991-1995

Head of Government: Runaldo Ronald Venetiaan

Ideology: right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify head of government. The University of Arkansas’ Dynamic Analysis of Dispute Management project identifies Veneetiaan’s party as NFDD (Nieuw Front voor Democratie en Ontwikkeling). Huber and Stephens identify party ideology as center-right (2016: 19). However, Lentz (1994: 715) identifies party affiliation as the Suriname National Party (Nationale Partij Suriname—NPS). Huber and Stephens (2016: 19) identify party ideology as rightist. World Statesmen (2019) identifies party affiliation as NPS + NF (Nieuwe Front), identifying NPS as leftist, “center-left” and as one of the parties in the NF coalition. Derbyshire and Derbyshire (2016: 117) identify NF as “left of center.” Schlager and Weisblatt (2006: 1273) write, “Suriname National Party (Nationale Partij Suriname; NPS)… it rejoined the VHP and KTPI after the 1980 coup to form the Front and New Front governments in the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s. The current leader is Ronald Venetiaan, Suriname’s president from 1992 to 1996 and again from 2000 to the present. Creoles are a largely urban group, and the NPS has focused on labor and social welfare issues.”

Years: 1996-1999

Head of Government: Jules Albert Wijdenbosch

Ideology: Left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify head of government. Political Handbook of the World identifies Wijdenbosch’s party as NDP (Nationale Democratische Partij) (2015: 1398). Huber and Stephens identify party as personalist (2016: 19). World Statesmen (2019) and Perspective Monde (2019) both identify Wijdenbosch’s party as NDP as well and code the NDP as leftist. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 9 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of NDP as 3.3. In V-Party (2020), 1 expert identifies NDP’s ideology as “Left” (-1.68) in 2010.

Years: 2000-2009

Head of Government: Runaldo Ronald Venetiaan

Ideology: right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify head of government. Political Handbook of the World identifies Venetiaan’s party as NPS (Nationale Partij Suriname) (2015: 1397). Huber and Stephens identify NPS’ ideology as center-right (2016: 19). World Statesmen (2019) identifies party affiliation as NPS + NF (Nieuwe Front), identifying NPS as leftist, “center-left” and as one of the parties in the NF coalition. Derbyshire and Derbyshire (2016: 117) identify NF as “left of center.” Schlager and Weisblatt (2006: 1273) write, “Suriname National Party (Nationale Partij Suriname; NPS)… it rejoined the VHP and KTPI after the 1980 coup to form the Front and New Front governments in the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s. The current leader is Ronald Venetiaan, Suriname’s president from 1992 to 1996 and again from 2000 to the present. Creoles are a largely urban group, and the NPS has focused on labor and social welfare issues.”

Years: 2010-2019

Head of Government: Désiré Delano Bouterse

Ideology: left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify head of government. Bouterse’s ideology identified as leftist in previous years. Perspective monde (2019) corroborates party affiliation as NDP and identifies the NDP as leftist. World Statesmen (2019) identifies party affiliation as NDP + MC (Megacombinatie), identifying NDP as leftist, “center-left” and as one of the parties in the MC coalition. In V-Party (202), 1 expert identifies NDP’s ideology as “Left” (-1.68) in 2010 and “Left” (-1.703) in 2015.

Years: 2020

Head of Government: Chandrikapersad Santokhi

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify head of government. Varieties of Democracy identifies party affiliation as Progressive Reform Party / United Hindustani Party (Verenigde Hindoe Partij, Vooruitstrevende Hervormingspartij – VHP). World Statesmen (2021) and Perspective Monde (2021) corroborate party affiliation as VHP. Huber and Stephens (2016: 19) identify Verenigde Hindoe Partij as center-right. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 9 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of VHP/V7 as 4.0.

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