

Coding rules for the classification of autocracies on the electoral dimension

This online appendix accompanies the paper “Electoral Authoritarianism and Sovereign Debt Crises”. It provides coding rules for the classification of autocratic regimes on the electoral dimension. The data on autocratic regimes’ start and end dates come from Geddes, Wright, and Frantz (2014). Only autocratic country-years are classified. All democratic years, years of foreign occupation, years of provisional government, as well as years in which the regime does not control the majority of its territory are excluded from the dataset.

Definitions

- ***Non-electoral autocracies***: Autocracies that do not hold direct national elections.
- ***Electoral autocracies***: Autocracies that hold direct national elections either for a national executive figure (e.g., a president), or for a national legislative body (e.g., a parliament).
 - ***Non-competitive electoral autocracies***: Autocracies that hold direct national elections, but do not allow opposition groups to compete for power.
 - ***Competitive electoral autocracies***: Autocracies that hold direct national elections, and allow opposition groups to form political parties and contest elections (regardless of the level of electoral competition and the degree of uncertainty over the electoral outcome).

Data sources

The data on elections come mainly from the National Elections across Democracy and Autocracy (NELDA) dataset collected by Hyde and Marinov (2012). Additional information on the details of elections, as well as the narratives of the background events for each regime in the dataset come from Geddes, Wright, and Frantz (2014), Nohlen’s edited volumes on elections across the world (Nohlen et al. 1999, 2001a, 2001b, Nohlen 2005a, 2005b, Nohlen et al. 2010), the Adam Carr’s Election Archive, the Kelley’s Database on the Quality of Elections, the African Elections Database, the World Bank’s Database on Political Institutions, and various research articles and technical reports on elections and electoral processes from the International Foundation for Electoral Systems. The exact details on the coding of each individual case are provided in the coding notes below.

Coding rules

Two dummy variables have been created:

- **EA** is a binary indicator of an electoral autocracy (coded 1 if the regime holds any direct national legislative or executive elections);
- **CEA** is a binary indicator of a competitive electoral autocracy (coded 1 if the regime holds direct national legislative or executive elections with at least some degree of competition).

Note: Only direct national elections are included in the analysis. All indirect elections, provincial or local elections, by-elections, annulled elections, etc. are not recorded. For two-round elections, only the first round is recorded.

The following coding rules were applied to classify autocracies on the electoral dimension:

1. Electoral autocracies:

- **Coded 1:**

- (i) the regime is coded as an electoral autocracy in the observation year, if either direct executive or direct legislative elections were held either in the observation year, or within the last 5 years prior to the observation year¹, and none of the criteria for coding 0 are met;
- (ii) countries that were holding elections prior to gaining independence are coded as electoral autocracies in the observation year, if direct legislative or executive elections were held either in the observation year, or within the last 5 years prior to the observation year (including their pre-independence period), and none of the criteria for coding 0 are met;
- (iii) countries that transitioned from democracy to autocracy through a self-coup are coded as electoral autocracies in the observation year, if direct legislative or executive elections were held either in the observation year, or within the last 5 years prior to the observation year (including their democratic period), and none of the criteria for coding 0 are met;

¹ Morocco is the only exception to the '5-year interval' rule: The country has been holding regular legislative elections since 1977, but at a 7-year interval. I code Morocco as an electoral autocracy for the whole period from 1977 until 2010.

- **Coded 0:**

- (i) if no direct executive or direct legislative elections were held in the observation year and within the last 5 years prior to the observation year;
- (ii) if the ruling group came to power in an irregular fashion in the observation year (i.e., through a military coup, popular uprisings, insurgencies, or civil war), the regime is coded as non-electoral until the next election is held (regardless of whether any direct elections were held within the last 5 years prior to the observation year);
- (iii) if the ruling group explicitly proclaimed a martial law, an emergency rule, a ban on political parties or elections, or any other institutional change in the observation year, it is coded as non-electoral until the next election is held (regardless of whether any direct elections were held within the last 5 years prior to the observation year).

2. **Competitive electoral autocracies:**

- **Coded 1:**

- (i) electoral autocracy is coded as a competitive electoral autocracy in the observation year, if it held multiparty executive or legislative elections either in the observation year, or within the last 5 years prior to the observation year, and none of the criteria for coding 0 are met;
- (ii) electoral autocracy that allowed opposition parties to compete in the previous election is coded as a competitive electoral autocracy in the observation year (regardless of whether the opposition actually contested the previous election or boycotted it), unless at least one of the criteria for coding 0 are met;
- (iii) any autocracy is coded as a competitive electoral autocracy in the observation year, if the ruling regime either holds a referendum that establishes or restores multiparty elections in the observation year, or calls for a provisional government to hold multiparty elections in the observation year, or makes any other institutional change that establishes or restores multiparty elections in the observation year, and holds multiparty legislative or executive elections within a year after this event (i.e., in the observation year or in the year that follows);

• **Coded 0:**

- (i) all non-electoral autocracies are coded 0;
- (ii) all electoral autocracies are coded as non-competitive electoral autocracies in the observation year, if no multiparty executive or legislative elections were held in the observation year and within the last 5 years prior to the observation year;
- (iii) all officially declared one-party states are coded as non-competitive electoral autocracies in the observation year if they fulfill the criteria for electoral autocracy, regardless of whether they allow independents to compete or not, and regardless of whether any multiparty elections were held within the last 5 years prior to the observation year;
- (iv) all officially declared no-party states (i.e., states that ban political parties and hold elections, in which only independents are allowed to compete) are coded as non-competitive electoral autocracies in the observation year if they fulfill the criteria for an electoral autocracy², regardless of whether any multiparty elections were held within the last 5 years prior to the observation year;
- (v) all electoral autocracies in which opposition parties are officially banned are coded as non-competitive electoral autocracies in the observation year, regardless of whether some opposition candidates are allowed to run as independent candidates without opposition party affiliation, and regardless of whether any multiparty elections were held within the last 5 years prior to the observation year;
- (vi) all electoral autocracies in which only opposition candidates/parties approved by the ruling regime are allowed to run are coded as non-competitive electoral autocracies in the observation year, regardless of whether any multiparty elections were held within the last 5 years prior to the observation year;
- (vii) all electoral autocracies in which opposition parties are legally allowed to contest elections, but are physically prevented from doing so due to the repressive nature of the regime (e.g., opposition leaders are arrested, intimidated, tortured, murdered, expelled, or persecuted as enemies of the regime, and opposition

² Kuwait is the only exception to this rule: Although the constitution itself does not prohibit political parties in Kuwait, political parties have never been officially legalized, and all candidates run as independents. Nevertheless, there are well-known unofficial affiliations that compete in elections as de facto political parties. Once elected, deputies form parliamentary voting blocs in the National Assembly, which function as de facto political parties.

parties are under permanent police observation and can only operate underground) are coded as non-competitive electoral autocracies;

- (viii) all electoral autocracies that officially ban opposition parties are coded as non-competitive electoral autocracies from the year they declare the ban, regardless of whether any multiparty elections were held within the last 5 years prior to the observation year.

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Classification of autocracies on the electoral dimension, 1946-2010

country	non-electoral	electoral	
		non-competitive	competitive
Afghanistan	1946-1948		
		1949-1972	
	1973-1987		
	1996-2001	1988-1992	
			2009-2010
Albania		1946-1991	
Algeria		1962-1969	
	1970-1975		
		1976-1990	
			1991
	1992-1994		
			1995-2010
Angola	1975-1991		
			1992
	1993-2007		
			2008-2010
Argentina			1946
			1952-1973
	1977-1982		
			1983
Armenia			1994-2010
Azerbaijan			1992-2010
Bangladesh			1971-1974
	1975-1977		
			1978-1981
	1982-1985		
			1986-1990
			2008
Belarus		1991-1993	
			1994-2010
Benin		1960-1969	
			1970
	1972-1978		
		1979-1990	
Bolivia			1946-1968
	1969-1977		
			1978-1982
Botswana			1966-2010
Brazil			1964-1985
Bulgaria		1946-1990	
Burkina Faso		1960-1969	
			1970-1973
	1974-1977		

country	non-electoral	electoral	
		non-competitive	competitive
			1978-1979
	1980-1990		
Burundi			1991-2010
			1962-1965
	1966-1981		
		1982-1986	
	1987-1992		
			1993
	1996-2003		
Cambodia			1953-1955
		1956-1986	
	1987-1992		
			1993-2010
Cameroon			1960-1964
		1965-1991	
			1992-2010
Central African Republic		1960-1965	
	1966-1980		
			1981
	1982-1985		
		1986-1991	
			1992-1993
	2003-2004		
			2005-2010
Chad		1960-1974	
	1975-1988		
		1989-1990	
	1991-1995		
			1996-2010
Chile	1973-1987		
		1988	
			1989
China	1949-2010		
Colombia			1949-1958
Congo		1960-1968	
	1969-1972		
		1973-1991	
	1997-2001		
			2002-2010
Congo, Democratic Republic	1960-1964		
			1965
	1966-1969		
		1970-1992	
	1993-2005		
			2006-2010
Cote d'Ivoire		1960-1989	
			1990-2001
	2002-2009		
			2010

country	non-electoral	electoral	
		non-competitive	competitive
Cuba	1959-1992		1952-1958
Czechoslovakia		1993-2010 1948-1989	
Dominican Republic		1946	1947
		1948-1961	1962
	1963-1965		1966-1978 1946-1947
Ecuador	1963-1965		1966
	1970-1977		1978-1979 1946-1951
Egypt	1952-1955	1956-1983	1984-2010
El Salvador	1949	1946-1948	1950-1994
Eritrea	1993-2010		
Ethiopia	1946-1956	1957-1973	
	1974-1986	1987-1990	
	1991-1993		1994-2010
Gabon		1960-1963	1964-1966
		1967-1989	1990-2010 1965-1993
Gambia	1994-1995		1996-2010 1992-2003
Georgia			
Germany, East		1949-1989	1990
Ghana	1966-1968	1960-1965	
	1972-1978		1969
	1981-1991		1979
Greece	1967-1974		1992-2000

country	non-electoral	electoral	
		non-competitive	competitive
Guatemala			1954-1995
Guinea		1958-1983	
	1984-1992		1993-2008
	2009		2010
Guinea-Bissau	1974-1993		1994-1997
	1998-1999		2000-2002
	2003		
			1946
Haiti		1950-1956	1957-1960
		1961-1985	1986-1987
	1988-1989		1990-1991
	1992-1994		1999-2004
			1946-1956
	1963-1970		1971
	1972-1979		1980-1981
Hungary			1947-1948
		1949-1989	1990
Indonesia	1949-1954		1955-1958
	1959-1970		1971-1999
Iran	1946-1959		1960-1962
		1963-1977	
	1978-1979		
Iraq		1980-2010	1946-1958
	1959-1979		
		1980-2002	
Jordan		1946-1953	1954-1956
		1957-1972	
	1973-1988		
		1989-1992	
Kazakhstan			1993-2010
			1991-2010
Kenya			1963-1968
		1969-1991	

country	non-electoral	electoral	
		non-competitive	competitive
			1992-2002
Korea, North	1948-1956		
		1957-2010	
Korea, South	1948-1949		1950-1960
	1961-1962		1963-1987
Kuwait			1961-1975
	1976-1980		1981-1985
	1986-1989		1990-2010
Kyrgyzstan			1991-2010
Laos	1960-1962		
	1975-1988	1989-2010	
Lesotho	1970-1992		1993
Liberia		1946-1979	
	1980-1984		1985-1990
			1997-2003
Libya			1952
		1953-1968	
	1969-2010		1960-1972
Madagascar	1973-1976	1977-1991	1992-1993
	2009-2010		
Malawi	1964-1977	1978-1992	1993-1994
Malaysia			1957-2010
Mali		1960-1968	
	1969-1978	1979-1991	
Mauritania		1960-1978	
	1979-1991		1992-2004
	2005-2006		2007
	2008		2009-2010
Mexico			1946-2000
Mongolia	1946-1950	1951-1989	1990-1993

country	non-electoral	electoral	
		non-competitive	competitive
Morocco	1956-1962		1963-1964
	1965-1969		1970-1971
	1972-1976		1977-2010
			1994-2010
Mozambique	1975-1993		
Myanmar	1958-1959		1960
	1962-1973	1974-1988	1989-1990
	1991-2009		2010
			1990-2010
Namibia			
Nepal	1946-1958		1959-1964
	1965-1980	1981-1989	1990-1991
	2002-2006		
	1946		1947-1956
Nicaragua		1957-1978	
	1979-1983		1984-1990
Niger		1960-1973	
	1974-1988	1989-1991	1996-1999
Nigeria	1966-1978		1979
	1984-1991	1992-1998	1999
Oman	1946-1999	2000-2010	
Pakistan	1947-1969		1970-1971
			1975-1977
	1978-1984	1985-1987	1988
	1999-2001		2002-2008
			1949-1951
Panama			

country	non-electoral	electoral	
		non-competitive	competitive 1953-1955
	1968-1971	1972-1979	1980-1989
Paraguay		1946-1962	1963-1993
Peru	1948-1949	1950-1955	1956 1962-1963
	1968-1977		1978-1980 1992-2000
Philippines	1972-1977		1978-1986
Poland	1946		1947-1951
		1952-1988	1989
Portugal		1946-1968	1969-1974 1946-1951
Romania		1952-1989	1993-2010
Russia		1962-1972	
Rwanda	1973-1977	1978-1993	
	1994-2002		2003-2010
Saudi Arabia	1946-2010		
Senegal		1960-1977	1978-2000 1991-2000
Serbia			1967-1977
Sierra Leone		1978-1991	
	1992-1995		1996
	1997		1998
Singapore			1965-2010
Somalia	1969-1978	1979-1990	
	1991		
South Africa			1946-1994
Soviet Union		1946-1991	
Spain	1946-1976		

country	non-electoral	electoral	
		non-competitive	competitive
Sri Lanka			1978-1994
Sudan	1958-1964		1965
	1969-1970	1971-1984	
	1985		1986
	1989-1995	1996-1999	
	2006-2009		2000-2005
Swaziland			2010
	1973-1992		1968-1972
		1993-2010	
Syria	1946		1947
	1949-1952	1953	
			1954
			1957-1958
			1961-1962
	1963-1970		
		1971-2010	
Taiwan	1949-1968		
		1969-1991	
			1992-2000
Tajikistan		1992-2010	
Tanzania		1964-1991	
			1992-2010
Thailand			1946-1957
	1958-1968		
			1969-1970
	1971-1973		
	1976-1978		
			1979-1988
	1991		
			1992
	2006		
			2007
Togo		1960-1966	
	1967-1978		
		1979-1991	
			1992-2010
Tunisia		1956-1986	
	1987-1988		
		1989-1993	
			1994-2010
Turkey			1946-1950

country	non-electoral	electoral	
		non-competitive	competitive
	1960		1957-1959
	1980-1981		1961
Turkmenistan		1991-2010	1982-1983
Uganda	1966-1979		1980-1984
	1985-1993	1994-2005	2006-2010
United Arab Emirates	1971-2010		
Uruguay	1973-1983		1984
Uzbekistan		1991-2010	
Venezuela	1948-1951		1952-1958 2005-2010
Vietnam	1954-1959	1960-2010	
Vietnam, South	1954-1955	1956-1962	
	1963-1965	1966-1975	
Yemen	1946-1970	1971-1973	
	1974-1987	1988-1989	
	1990-1992		1993-2010
Yemen, South	1967-1977	1978-1989	
Yugoslavia		1946-1990	
Zambia		1972-1990	1967-1971
			1991
			1996-2010
Zimbabwe			1980-2010

Coding notes

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
Afghanistan	1946	1948	non-electoral	Parliamentary elections were held every three years between 1931 and 1949. Yet, there were no direct elections during this period.
	1949	1972	non-competitive electoral	Parliamentary elections were held every three years during this period, and were considered relatively fair despite low voter turnout and widespread illiteracy. Yet, no political parties were allowed, and there was no legal opposition.
	1973	1987	non-electoral	No elections due to a series of military coups and internal strife.
	1988	1992	non-competitive electoral	In 1988, national legislative elections were held. All candidates were members of the National Front of Afghanistan, which brought together various communist organizations. The ruling regime left some seats in the government vacant in the hope that the guerrillas would end their rebellion and participate in the government. The 1988-elected parliament was dissolved in 1992.
	1996	2001	non-electoral	Taliban regime from September 1996 until the US invasion in October 2001.
	2009	2010	competitive electoral	Opposition was officially allowed to participate in the 2009 elections, yet, the electoral process was severely disrupted by security problems.
Albania	1946	1991	non-competitive electoral	Parliamentary elections were held on a regular basis during this period. Yet, the Democratic Front was the only legal party able to contest the elections, and the only one on the ballot.
Algeria	1962	1969	non-competitive electoral	The National Liberation Front was the only legal party, and the election took the format of a 'yes' or 'no' vote.
	1970	1975	non-electoral	The last parliamentary elections took place in 1964. No elections were held in Algeria until 1976 (presidential elections) and 1977 (parliamentary elections).
	1976	1990	non-competitive electoral	Elections were held on a regular basis during this period. Yet, the National Liberation Front was the only legal party, and the election took the format of a 'yes' or 'no' vote.
	1991	1991	competitive electoral	The 1991 elections were the first multiparty elections since independence. They were cancelled by a military coup.
	1992	1994	non-electoral	The annulling of the elections led to the outbreak of the Algerian Civil War.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
Angola	1995	2010	competitive electoral	The 1995 elections were held in the midst of the Algerian Civil War. Opposition has been allowed to compete in all elections since 1991.
	1975	1991	non-electoral	From 1955 to 1975, only those officially classed as 'civilized' were allowed to vote. In 1975, a one-party state with indirect elections was introduced.
	1992	1992	competitive electoral	The Bicesse Accords laid out the transition to a multiparty democracy under the supervision of the UN. The 1992 elections were mostly free and fair, yet, the opposition refused to accept the results, and restarted the civil war.
	1993	2007	non-electoral	No elections due to the Angolan Civil War.
	2008	2010	competitive electoral	The 2008 legislative elections were the first elections since 1992. All opposition parties were allowed to compete. The elections were considered to be relatively fair by the international community.
Argentina	1946	1946	competitive electoral	The 1946 competitive elections ended the period of military rule and restored democracy.
	1952	1973	competitive electoral	This was a period of alternating military coups and violence under several military and indirect military governments. Elections were held regularly during this period, and were relatively competitive. Yet, only one elected government completed its term, and most parties called on the military to stage a coup against the ruling government. When in power, each government employed censorship and harassment against the opposition, many opposition leaders were jailed, and some opposition parties were banned. Nevertheless, elections remained as an important arena for political battles between the ruling regime and the opposition.
	1977	1982	non-electoral	This was a period of the 'Dirty War' in Argentina, which followed the 1976 military coup. Military and security forces hunted down, jailed, tortured, and killed any political dissidents and anyone believed to be associated with the opposition, or those who were thought to be a threat to the ruling junta. No elections were held until 1983.
	1983	1983	competitive electoral	The 1983 elections marked the return of the constitutional rule. Democracy was restored.
Armenia	1994	2010	competitive electoral	Regular multiparty elections have been held in Armenia since its independence. Armenian elections are often characterized as 'seriously flawed'.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
Azerbaijan	1992	2010	competitive electoral	The first multiparty elections were held in 1992. Since then, elections have been held on a regular basis, although have often been criticized of massive irregularities and fraud.
Bangladesh	1971	1974	competitive electoral	In 1970, pre-independence Pakistani National Assembly Elections were held. They were considered to be one of the fairest and cleanest elections in the history of Pakistan. The first general elections in newly independent Bangladesh were held in 1973.
	1975	1977	non-electoral	The 1975 military coup ousted the elected government and killed or arrested all senior figures. The military declared martial law, and made Bangladesh a one party state.
	1978	1981	competitive electoral	The 1978 presidential elections were the first direct executive elections in Bangladesh, and all opposition candidates were allowed to compete. They were followed by the 1979 general elections, in which almost all political parties participated. The 1979 elections were deemed credible by observers.
	1982	1985	non-electoral	In 1982, the government was overthrown in a military coup. Martial law was imposed.
	1986	1990	competitive electoral	In 1986, general elections were held. The opposition party initially wanted to boycott the election, yet, eventually decided to participate. The regime was ousted by popular protests in 1990, and fair and competitive elections held in 1991 completed the transition to democracy.
Belarus	2008	2008	competitive electoral	In 2007-2008, a state of emergency was declared by the government which then resigned, because the military orchestrated a coup. In December 2008, competitive elections were held, and the winning party was allowed to take power.
	1991	1993	non-competitive electoral	In 1990, pre-independence uncontested parliamentary elections were held. The first post-independence national elections were held in 1994.
	1994	2010	competitive electoral	Elections are held on a regular basis in Belarus, and are often characterized as 'seriously flawed'. Opposition is allowed to compete.
Benin	1960	1969	non-competitive electoral	Benin held its first elections in 1960. Yet, soon after its victory, the ruling Dahomeyan Unity Party declared Benin a one-party state. The opposition party was dissolved, and opposition party activists were harassed and arrested. The Dahomeyan Democratic Party was the only party to contest all legislative elections, and Zinsou was the only candidate in all presidential elections during this period.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
	1970	1970	competitive electoral	In 1970, presidential elections with three main candidates were held. The military withdrew from politics, and the country was preparing to transition to democracy, which ultimately did not occur.
	1972	1978	non-electoral	The 1972 military coup ousted the civilian transitional government and established the Military Committee for the Revolution to rule. No elections were held until 1979.
	1979	1990	non-competitive electoral	Elections were held on a regular basis, yet, the country was a one-party state under the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin, with voters given the choice of voting in favor or against the party's list of candidates.
Bolivia	1946	1968	competitive electoral	This was an extremely turbulent period of alternating military coups and violence under several military and civilian governments. Multiple competitive elections were held during this period. Yet, their results were often annulled, or power was handed over to the military to prevent the winner of the election from taking office, or military coups ousted the government shortly after the elections. Nevertheless, throughout the whole period, elections remained as an important arena for political battles between the ruling regime and the opposition.
	1969	1977	non-electoral	The 1969 military coup overthrew the civilian regime, and excluded civilian allies from any political influence. No elections were held until 1978.
	1978	1982	competitive electoral	Elections were held in 1978, yet their results were nullified. Competitive elections were later held in 1979 after the military's decision to concede the regime, yet no candidate won a majority. From 1979 to 1982 the country was ruled first by a transitional government overseeing a democratic transition, and then by a military faction, which came to power through military coup in 1980. In 1982, the military transferred power to the civilian government that had been elected in the 1980 elections.
Botswana	1966	2010	competitive electoral	Botswana has been holding regular competitive elections with an unequal playing field since its independence in 1966.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
Brazil	1964	1985	competitive electoral	The military junta that ousted the elected government in 1964 eliminated all existing parties and created a two-party system. During this period only one opposition party was allowed to run. Elections were held regularly during the whole period, and the opposition party gradually gained more and more seats in the congress.
Bulgaria	1946	1990	non-competitive electoral	Parliamentary elections were held on a regular basis. Yet, the Bulgarian Communist Party was the only legal party able to contest the elections, and the only one on the ballot.
Burkina Faso	1960	1969	non-competitive electoral	The first elections for the National Assembly were held in 1959 and were relatively competitive. Yet, once Burkina Faso gained completed independence in 1960, the ruling Voltaic Democratic Union - African Democratic Rally established a one-party state. All elections held during this period had only one party/candidate on the ballot.
	1970	1973	competitive electoral	In 1970, competitive parliament elections were held following the restoration of multiparty system in a referendum earlier in the year.
	1974	1977	non-electoral	Following the 1974 coup, the National Assembly was dissolved and the constitution was suspended. A new constitution was approved in a referendum held in 1977.
	1978	1979	competitive electoral	The 1978 parliamentary elections were competitive, with eight parties and independents allowed to run.
	1980	1990	non-electoral	Following the 1980 military coup, the National Assembly was dissolved, the constitution was suspended, and political parties were banned. No elections were held until 1991.
	1991	2010	competitive electoral	Regular multiparty elections have been held since 1991. There was only one candidate on the ballot during the 1991 presidential elections, as these elections were boycotted by the opposition parties. Opposition parties and candidates have been allowed to compete in all elections since 1991.
Burundi	1962	1965	competitive electoral	Competitive parliamentary elections were held in 1961 in order to install a government to rule the country following its independence in 1962. They were followed by a relatively competitive parliamentary elections held in 1965. Yet, despite the decisive victory by Hutu candidates in the election, the King of Burundi appointed Tutsi candidates, which led to an attempted military coup. The following year the King was overthrown, and the monarchy was abolished.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
Cambodia	1966	1981	non-electoral	No elections until 1982.
	1982	1986	non-competitive electoral	In 1981, the country became an official one-party state with the Union for National Progress being the only legal party. Only two elections were held during this period: in 1982 and 1984.
	1987	1992	non-electoral	Following the 1987 military, the legislature was dissolved and elections were suspended.
	1993	1993	competitive electoral	In 1993, competitive elections were held, which led to the end of the military rule.
	1996	2003	non-electoral	In 1996, a military coup took place in Burundi in the midst of the civil war. The established regime held power until 2003. In 2003, an interim transitional government was installed according to the Arusha Peace Accords.
	1953	1955	competitive electoral	Competitive general elections took place in 1951. They were aimed to install a government in the country that was supposed to be a constitutional monarchy. The 1955 elections were competitive, although marked by widespread fraud and intimidation. After its victory in 1955, the Sangkum party mounted a full campaign against the opposition, including public humiliation, arrests for political reasons, tortures, and murders. The opposition was under permanent police observation, and was largely driven underground.
	1956	1986	non-competitive electoral	During this period, four different regimes ruled the county, none of which allowed any opposition. During the Sangkum rule, the official opposition was effectively ceased to be possible, and only candidates of the Sangkum party were allowed to contest the elections. After the 1970 military coup, the monarchy was abolished, and non-competitive elections were held in 1972. After the Khmer Rouge takeover in 1975, the 1976 general elections were held, with only one party allowed to contest the election. After the Vietnamese takeover, the 1981 general elections were held, again with only one party on the ballot.
	1987	1992	non-electoral	No elections between 1982 and 1992.
	1993	2010	competitive electoral	In 1993, multiparty elections were introduced in Cambodia under international pressure. The 1993 elections were conducted by the UN transitional authority. Regular multiparty elections have been held since then.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
Cameroon	1960	1964	competitive electoral	Competitive elections were held before independence in 1960 and 1961, and after independence in 1964. By 1966, the Cameroonian Union gradually absorbed all other parties, and the country became a one-party state.
	1965	1991	non-competitive electoral	Elections were held on a regular basis, with only one party or candidate on the ballot.
	1992	2010	competitive electoral	Elections have been held on a regular basis since 1992, and opposition parties have been allowed to compete. Yet, opposition has been widely considered to have no real chance of gaining power. The ruling party is a hegemonic party.
Central African Republic	1960	1965	non-competitive electoral	After the 1959 pre-independence elections, the ruling MESAN party suppressed all opposition parties, and declared itself as the only official party of the state.
	1966	1980	non-electoral	No elections after the military coup in December 1965.
	1981	1981	competitive electoral	The first multiparty presidential elections were held in 1981, with five candidates allowed to compete. The government was overthrown by an armed force half a year later.
	1982	1985	non-electoral	The military that seized rule through a coup in September 1981 suspended the constitution and ruled with a military junta until 1986.
	1986	1991	non-competitive electoral	The Central African Democratic Rally was the only legal party in the 1986 and 1987 elections.
	1992	1993	competitive electoral	Multiparty elections were held in 1992, yet their results were annulled, and new elections were held in 1993. The opposition won the 1993 elections, and the military stepped down.
	2003	2004	non-electoral	Following the 2003 military coup, the constitution was suspended. A new constitution was approved in a referendum held in 2004.
	2005	2010	competitive electoral	Regular elections have been held since 2005. Opposition is allowed to run.
Chad	1960	1974	non-competitive electoral	After the 1959 pre-independence elections, the ruling Chadian Progressive Party banned all opposition parties, and declared itself as the sole legal party of the state.
	1975	1988	non-electoral	No elections were held after the 1975 military coup. This period was characterized by civil war, and internal strife.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
	1989	1990	non-competitive electoral	In 1990, the first elections since 1969 were held. They followed a referendum the previous year which had transformed the country into a single-party state.
	1991	1995	non-electoral	Several months after the 1990 elections, insurgencies started. During this period, there were several coup attempts and violent clashes between the government forces and the rebels.
	1996	2010	competitive electoral	Opposition parties and candidates have been allowed to compete in all elections since 1996 due to international pressures. Despite continued internal strifes and periods of civil war, elections have been held regularly since 1996.
Chile	1973	1987	non-electoral	No elections were held under the Pinochet rule until the 1988 referendum.
	1988	1988	non-competitive electoral	In 1988, the military junta held a referendum on whether to extend the rule of Pinochet for another eight years. The opposition parties campaigned for the 'no' vote. The 'no' side won, the junta respected the results.
	1989	1989	competitive electoral	Competitive elections took place in 1989.
China	1949	2010	non-electoral	No direct national elections in China.
Colombia	1949	1958	competitive electoral	Elections were held regularly during period of time. All opposition parties were allowed to contest the election held during this period. Yet, the main opposition party preferred to boycott some of the elections due to electoral fraud.
Congo	1960	1968	non-competitive electoral	After the 1959 pre-independence election, the ruling UDDIA party harassed and repressed the opposition. Congo became a de facto single-party state.
	1969	1972	non-electoral	No elections between 1963 and 1973.
	1973	1991	non-competitive electoral	The country was a one-party state during this period, with the Congolese Party of Labour as the sole legal party. Elections were held regularly.
	1997	2001	non-electoral	In 1997, civilian government was ousted by insurgents.
	2002	2010	competitive electoral	Regular elections with voting irregularities since 2002. Opposition is allowed to run.
Congo, Democratic Republic	1960	1964	non-electoral	Pre-independence elections were held in 1960. Yet, the Congo Crisis began almost immediately after the country became independent. This was a period of political upheaval and conflict.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
Cote d'Ivoire	1965	1965	competitive electoral	In March 1965, general elections took place, yet their results were disputed by several parties, which ultimately led to a military coup in November.
	1966	1969	non-electoral	After the 1965 military coup, all opposition parties were eliminated, the post of prime minister was abolished, and the legislature was dissolved.
	1970	1992	non-competitive electoral	Only the Popular Movement of the Revolution party was allowed to run during this period, and the election took the format of a 'yes' or 'no' vote. No elections between 1987 and 2006. Note: Show elections were held in 1970 and 1975. In 1970, voters had to vote publicly and were allowed to choose between the green ballot paper (representing a positive vote) and the red ballot paper (symbol of anarchy, chaos and foreign ideologies). In 1975, voters were gathered at public locations, and the election took place by acclaim, where the candidates stood before unregistered voters and got elected by the level of applause.
	1993	2005	non-electoral	No elections after 1987.
	2006	2010	competitive electoral	In 2006, the first multiparty elections in 41 years were held.
	1960	1989	non-competitive electoral	The Democratic Party of Cote d'Ivoire - African Democratic Rally was the only party to contest the pre-independence elections. It was popular and had limited opposition, and after the independence, the country was officially declared a one-party state. Regular elections were held during this period, with voters being able only to approve or reject the candidacy.
	1990	2001	competitive electoral	In 1990, multiparty elections were restored. Although regular multiparty elections were held during this period, the ruling party continued to be a hegemonic party.
Cuba	2002	2009	non-electoral	Regular elections were suspended during the Ivorian Civil War.
	2010	2010	competitive electoral	The 2010 elections led to post-election disputes, severe tensions, and violent incidents, which eventually resulted in the 2010-2011 Ivorian crisis.
	1952	1958	competitive electoral	Several elections were held during the military rule of Batista and the Cuban Revolution. The opposition was allowed to compete. The last elections were held in November 1958. In January 1959, the Castro regime was installed.
	1959	1992	non-electoral	Indirect parliamentary elections were held in 1976, 1981, and 1986.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
Czechoslovakia	1993	2010	non-competitive electoral	Direct elections have been held regularly since 1993. Yet, only one party is legal in Cuba, and only candidates nominated by the Communist Party of Cuba are allowed to compete.
	1948	1989	non-competitive electoral	Parliamentary elections were held on a regular basis in Czechoslovakia. Yet, the National Front was the only legal party, and all candidates appeared on a single list.
Dominican Republic	1946	1946	non-competitive electoral	The Dominican Party was the only legally permitted party between 1932 and 1947.
	1947	1947	competitive electoral	The 1947 elections were the only complicated ones during the Trujillo's regime, because two regime-sponsored opposition parties were allowed to run, and were banned only after the 1947 election.
	1948	1961	non-competitive electoral	Trujillo and the Dominican Party were elected unopposed during this period.
	1962	1962	competitive electoral	The 1962 elections are generally reckoned as the first truly free elections in the country's history.
	1963	1965	non-electoral	The 1963 coup toppled the elected government.
	1966	1978	competitive electoral	Elections during US occupation were held on a regular basis, although in an atmosphere of violence and intimidation. Opposition was allowed to compete, but preferred to boycott some of the elections. In 1978, the opposition won, and the regime transitioned to democracy.
Ecuador	1946	1947	competitive electoral	Parliamentary competitive elections were held in 1946 and 1947.
	1963	1965	non-electoral	In 1963, the military ousted the elected president because of his support for Fidel Castro. Military junta governed the country from 1963 to 1966.
	1966	1966	competitive electoral	The junta resigned due to mass protests. In 1966, regular competitive elections were held.
	1970	1977	non-electoral	In the 1970 autogolpe, the elected president dismissed Congress and the Supreme Court, arrested the opposition, suspended the constitution, and assumed dictatorial powers. No elections were held until 1978.
	1978	1979	competitive electoral	In 1978 and 1979 general elections were held, and electoral democracy was restored.
Egypt	1946	1951	competitive electoral	Regular parliamentary elections have been held in Egypt since 1883. In the elections held in 1945 and 1950, the opposition was allowed to compete.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
	1952	1955	non-electoral	The 1952 coup d'état ended the monarchy, banned all political parties, and declared a three-year transition period.
	1956	1983	non-competitive electoral	Regular elections were held during this period. Until 1976, all candidates had to be the members of the Arab Socialist Union. Independents were allowed to run, yet only if they were approved by the ruling party. In many elections, there was only one candidate on the ballot. Limited multiparty elections were restored after the 1976 elections. Yet, until 1984, the opposition actually consisted of two factions of the same ruling party, and was extremely small.
	1984	2010	competitive electoral	The 1984 elections were the first truly competitive elections since 1952. Allegations of vote fraud were nevertheless persistent. The National Democratic Party became a hegemonic party during this period, and was considered a de facto single party inside an officially multi-party system.
El Salvador	1946	1948	non-competitive electoral	There was no opposition in the 1945 election, and the country remained under martial law during the entire process. The regime was overthrown in the 1948 coup.
	1949	1949	non-electoral	Provisional government ruled the country following the 1948 military coup.
	1950	1994	competitive electoral	In 1950, the first free competitive elections were held. Regular elections were held every two years during the whole period, and the opposition was allowed to compete. Nevertheless, the opposition often boycotted elections held during this period, claiming that they were rigged. The left parties remained excluded from politics until 1994.
Eritrea	1993	2010	non-electoral	No direct national elections in Eritrea.
Ethiopia	1946	1956	non-electoral	No elections until 1957.
	1957	1973	non-competitive electoral	In 1957, the first direct general elections were held. They followed the new constitution which had been enacted by the Emperor in 1955 due to increased international pressure. Political parties were not authorized during this period, and all candidates ran as independents.
	1974	1986	non-electoral	In 1974, the Emperor was deposed, the parliament was dissolved, and the constitution was suspended. The Derg, or the Provisional Military Government of Socialist Ethiopia, ruled Ethiopia from 1974 to 1987.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
	1987	1990	non-competitive electoral	The Communist Workers' Party of Ethiopia was the country's only legally permitted party. Independents were allowed to run, but only if they were nominated or approved by the ruling party.
	1991	1993	non-electoral	No elections were held during this period due to insurgencies and a transition period.
	1994	2010	competitive electoral	Regular multiparty elections with serious election irregularities have been held since 1994. The regime is often characterized as a hegemonic (or a de facto one party) state: Opposition parties are legal and are allowed to run, yet, in practice, their candidates are often harassed, disqualified, and arrested.
Gabon	1960	1963	non-competitive electoral	There was only one candidate in the 1961 presidential election. In the 1961 National Assembly election, there was a joint list of government and opposition candidates presented under the name 'National Union'.
	1964	1966	competitive electoral	Upon insistence of the French government, opposition candidates were allowed to run in the 1964 elections. The leaders of the main opposition party had been jailed before the elections because of an attempted coup. Nevertheless, the opposition managed to receive 45% of the vote.
	1967	1989	non-competitive electoral	During this period, the Gabonese Democratic Bloc was the only party on the ballot, and M'ba was the only candidate in the presidential elections. In the Constitution of 1972, the single-party state was officially formalized.
	1990	2010	competitive electoral	In 1990, multiparty system was officially established. Regular multiparty elections with serious irregularities and fraud have been held since then.
Gambia	1965	1993	competitive electoral	Regular elections were held during this period, the opposition was allowed to compete. The government did not use any repression against the opposition, but rather relied on state resources to maintain the dominant position of the ruling People's Progressive Party and to co-opt the opposition.
	1994	1995	non-electoral	No elections after the 1994 military coup. The government was deposed, opposition political activity was banned, and a transitional military government was in power until the 1996 elections.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
Georgia	1996	2010	competitive electoral	Regular competitive elections have been held since 1996, which are often criticized as unfair due to uneven playing field and government crackdowns on journalists and opposition leaders. In 2011, presidential elections were organized in a controversial way: voters were given one marble each to be dropped into a drum corresponding to the candidate of their choice. The marble strikes a bell inside the drum, preventing multiple voting.
	1992	2003	competitive electoral	Elections were held on a regular basis during this period, although they were characterized as 'seriously flawed'. Opposition was allowed to compete. The 2003 fraudulent elections catalyzed popular uprising and brought regime change.
Germany, East	1949	1989	non-competitive electoral	Although there were multiple parties, all of them were part of the National Front controlled by the Socialist Unity Party of Germany. Only one candidate appeared on the ballot, voters could only vote in favor or against, without any secrecy.
Ghana	1990	1990	competitive electoral	The only free and competitive parliamentary election in the GDR was held in March 1990.
	1960	1965	non-competitive electoral	Shortly after the 1960 elections, Nkrumah imprisoned the opposition leader, and turned Ghana into a de facto single state, which was legalized in 1964. The Convention People's Party became the only legal party and was elected unopposed.
	1966	1968	non-electoral	Nkrumah was overthrown in the 1966 military coup, his party was dissolved, and the constitution was suspended.
	1969	1969	competitive electoral	Competitive elections were held in 1969.
	1972	1978	non-electoral	The elected government was ousted in the 1972 military coup. The Military Redemption Council ruled the country until 1979.
	1979	1979	competitive electoral	Competitive elections were held in 1979.
	1981	1991	non-electoral	The elected government was ousted in the 1981 military coup. The Provisional National Defense Council (a mixed military and civilian group) ruled the country until 1992.
	1992	2000	competitive electoral	Multiparty elections were held in 1992, 1996, and 2000. The 2000 election marked the first transfer of power via the ballot box in the country's history.
Greece	1967	1974	non-electoral	No elections during the military rule. The junta seized the regime in 1974, and the interim government led the country to elections.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
Guatemala	1954	1995	competitive electoral	This was an extremely turbulent period of alternating military coups and regular competitive elections held under several governments. Communism was an important issue during this period. Although regular competitive elections were held, the military continuously banned any parties on the left from electoral competition. Several regimes changed during this period of time. Yet, throughout the whole period, elections remained as an important arena for political battles between the ruling regime and the opposition.
Guinea	1958	1983	non-competitive electoral	The Democratic Party of Guinea won a fair pre-independence election in 1957. Yet, soon after the independence the ruling party began suppressing and intimidating opposition. A single-party rule was established soon after the independence, with the Democratic Party of Guinea as the sole legal party. Elections were held regularly, but were uncontested.
	1984	1992	non-electoral	No elections after the 1984 military coup. The country's constitution was suspended, the National Assembly was dissolved, political activity was banned.
	1993	2008	competitive electoral	The country returned to multiparty politics in 1990 to encourage foreign investments and get loans from the IMF. The first multiparty elections were held in December 1993. Regular elections were held until the death of Conté, who ruled the country since 1984.
	2009	2009	non-electoral	The death of Conté was almost immediately followed by a military coup. The government was dissolved, the constitution was suspended, and the political activity was banned.
	2010	2010	competitive electoral	The 2010 elections were organized by a transitional government. They were the first free national elections in Guinea since independence gained in 1958, and led to a transition to democracy.
Guinea-Bissau	1974	1993	non-electoral	No direct elections until 1994. Pre-independence elections were held in 1973. After the independence, the country established a one-party state, and only indirect parliamentary elections were held.
	1994	1997	competitive electoral	The 1994 general elections were the first direct and the first multi-party elections since independence.
	1998	1999	non-electoral	Civil war from June 1998 to May 1999.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
Haiti	2000	2002	competitive electoral	The 2000 elections were relatively free and competitive. The opposition party won the elections. Yet, the elected president dissolved the parliament and repeatedly postponed new elections.
	2003	2003	non-electoral	The 2003 military ousted the government, and established a transitional government to oversee elections and a transition to democracy.
	1946	1946	competitive electoral	The transitional military government held elections after the 1946 coup.
	1950	1956	non-competitive electoral	After the 1950 military coup, an army-monitored election was held in Haiti, in which Magloire was the only candidate on the ballot.
	1957	1960	competitive electoral	In 1957, Duvalier came to power after a series of military coups and a succession of multiple transitional governments. The 1957 election was contested, yet unfair.
	1961	1985	non-competitive electoral	All elections were uncontested during this period. In 1963, the National Unity Party became the sole legal party in the country, and Duvalier proclaimed himself president for life. The Duvalier regime was overthrown in 1986.
	1986	1987	competitive electoral	This was an extremely turbulent period of alternating military coups and violence under several military and transitional governments. Multiple elections were held during this period, including the 1986 constitutional assembly. The 1987 election was canceled three hours after poll opened due to major violence organized by the military. The 1988 election was boycotted by most candidates (turnout was lower than 4%), and the elected president was removed from office in a military coup later the same year. Throughout the whole period, elections remained as an important arena for political battles.
	1988	1989	non-electoral	The military were in power until 1990, when they handed power to an interim government to organize elections.
	1990	1991	competitive electoral	The 1990-1991 elections were believed to be the first honest elections held in Haiti since its independence in 1804. The elected government was deposed in a military coup in September 1991.
	1992	1994	non-electoral	This was a period of military rule. The military regime was ousted by foreign intervention in October 1994.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
	1999	2004	competitive electoral	Competitive elections were held since 1995. Yet, in 1999, the parliament was dissolved. And in the 2000 elections, all major opposition parties boycotted the joint presidential and legislative elections.
Honduras	1946	1956	competitive electoral	Regular competitive elections were held during this period. Nevertheless, the major opposition party was convinced that the electoral process was heavily manipulated and rigged, and boycotted the 1948 elections. There was no clear winner in the 1954 elections, and the country slid into a political crisis and violence. Eventually, the regime was overthrown by the military junta in 1956. Throughout the whole period, elections remained as an important arena for political battles.
	1963	1970	non-electoral	Ten days before the 1963 elections, the military overthrew the governments and suspended the elections. No presidential or legislative elections were held until 1971. In 1965, the constituent assembly was elected.
	1971	1971	competitive electoral	Competitive presidential and legislative elections were held in 1971 to establish a civilian government in Honduras.
	1972	1979	non-electoral	The 1972 military coup ousted the elected president and reestablished military rule.
	1980	1981	competitive electoral	In 1980, the Junta turned power over to the Constituent Assembly. Competitive elections ended military rule in 1981, completing the transition to democracy.
Hungary	1947	1948	competitive electoral	The opposition was allowed to compete in the 1947 parliamentary elections. Nevertheless, by 1947, the Hungarian Communist Party had already consolidated its power using salami tactics.
	1949	1989	non-competitive electoral	Parliamentary elections were held on a regular basis during the Communist Rule. Yet, the Hungarian Working People's Party was the only legal party in the country since 1949 and the only party that was allowed to contest the elections. Independents were allowed to compete only when they were pro-communist independents and were selected or approved by the ruling party.
	1990	1990	competitive electoral	The 1990 elections were free and competitive and marked a transition to a democratic rule.
Indonesia	1949	1954	non-electoral	Independence was proclaimed in 1945, and sovereignty was recognized in 1949. Yet, no direct national elections were held until 1955.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
Iran	1955	1958	competitive electoral	In 1955, the first multiparty elections were held to replace the existing provisional legislature.
	1959	1970	non-electoral	The elected legislature was dissolved in 1959. No elections were held until 1971.
	1971	1999	competitive electoral	Regular multiparty elections were held during this period. The 1999 elections resulted in a democratic transition.
	1946	1959	non-electoral	Until 1960, direct elections were held only in Tehran. In provinces, elections were organized in a cumbersome two-stage process: In each electoral district, one delegate was chosen to travel to the provincial capital to elect the provincial representative to the parliament by a majority vote. Further, only half of the parliament was elected. The rest was appointed by the shah. Elections were often stage-managed or rigged by the shah, the royal court, the government, or the army and were largely considered fraudulent. The common practice was for the authorities to prepare a list of favored candidates and instruct officials at the local level to secure their election.
	1960	1962	competitive electoral	During this period, the Shah experimented with political freedom. He allowed all opposition parties to run. The elections were nevertheless extensively rigged.
	1963	1977	non-competitive electoral	Only state-controlled parties were allowed to compete. All major opposition candidates were jailed.
	1978	1979	non-electoral	Martial law was declared in 1978. The 1979 Revolution that culminated in the overthrow of monarch and the replacement of the government with an Islamic republic.
	1980	2010	non-competitive electoral	Since 1980, regular contested parliamentary elections have been held in Iran. Nevertheless, only candidates approved by the Guardian Council are allowed to run.
Iraq	1946	1958	competitive electoral	Regular contested elections were held from 1925 until the overthrow of the monarchy in 1958. Results were, however, heavily manipulated by the King and his advisors.
	1959	1979	non-electoral	No elections under a series of military governments between 1959 and 1979.
	1980	2002	non-competitive electoral	Regular elections were held during this period. Yet, only the ruling Ba'ath Party and individual candidates nominated by the National Progressive Front were allowed to compete.
Jordan	1946	1953	non-competitive electoral	Regular elections since 1929. All political parties were banned during this period, and candidates ran as independents.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
	1954	1956	competitive electoral	Political parties were allowed to contest in the 1954 and 1956 elections.
	1957	1972	non-competitive electoral	Several months after the 1956 elections, the King dismissed the government, declared martial law, and banned all political parties.
	1973	1988	non-electoral	No elections between 1967 and 1989.
	1989	1992	non-competitive electoral	Elections were re-introduced in 1989 after unrest over price hikes spread in southern Jordan. Political parties were still banned, and candidates were allowed to run only as independents.
	1993	2010	competitive electoral	Regular elections have been held since 1989. All political parties have been allowed to compete since 1993.
Kazakhstan	1991	2010	competitive electoral	Although opposition was technically allowed in the 1991 presidential elections, Nuzarbayev appeared alone on the ballot. Regular multiparty elections have been held since 1994. Elections are often criticized of massive irregularities and fraud. By mid 2000s, the ruling Nur Otan party became the hegemonic party of the country.
Kenya	1963	1968	competitive electoral	After the 1963 competitive pre-independence elections, the ruling Kenya African National Union emerged as the largest party. During this period, elections were still multiparty, yet, the ruling party gradually coopted the leaders of the main opposition parties and established a de-facto single-party rule.
	1969	1991	non-competitive electoral	In 1969, all opposition parties were banned, and country became a single-party state, with the Kenya African National Union as the sole legal party. As a result, KANU won every seat in all elections held during this period, and multiple KANU candidates were running against each other.
	1992	2002	competitive electoral	Regular multiparty elections were reintroduced in 1992. In 2002, competitive elections were lost by the ruling party, which marked a transition to democracy.
Korea, North	1948	1956	non-electoral	The 1947 and 1948 elections were indirect elections by representative from different provincial and city committees, political parties, and social organizations across North Korea to the People's Assembly of North Korea. No elections were held during the Korean War and its aftermath.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
Korea, South	1957	2010	non-competitive electoral	Elections are held every 5 years in North Korea, and take the format of a 'yes' or 'no' vote to a list of candidates submitted by the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland, dominated by the North Korean Workers' Party.
	1948	1949	non-electoral	There were two elections held under the US military occupation. Yet, they were indirect elections, with South Korean voters electing people's delegates who further elected the deputies.
	1950	1960	competitive electoral	Multiparty elections were held on a regular basis during this period. Yet, they were not completely free, as the US occupation policy had eliminated all left opposition from the playing field. Besides, opposition regularly accused the government of intimidation and pressure.
	1961	1962	non-electoral	No elections after the 1961 military coup. The junta was dissolved in October 1963 when the Third Republic was established.
	1963	1987	competitive electoral	Regular contested legislative election were held during this period. In 1987, the military agreed to constitutional changes demanded by the opposition, including direct presidential elections. The 1987 elections led to the democratization of the country, ending the military rule.
Kuwait	1961	1975	competitive electoral	Regular elections were held during this period. Although the constitution itself does not prohibit political parties, they have not been legalized in Kuwait since independence. During this period, all candidates competed as independents. In practice, there were many de facto political parties.
	1976	1980	non-electoral	The National Assembly elected in 1975 was dissolved by the government in 1976. No elections were held until 1981.
	1981	1985	competitive electoral	Elections were held in 1981 and 1985. In 1986, the government dissolved the National Assembly. As political parties have not been legalized in Kuwait since independence in 1961, all candidates stood as independents. In practice, there were many de facto political parties.
	1986	1989	non-electoral	In 1986, the government dissolved the National Assembly as a result of increasing conflict between the Kuwaiti ruling family and the elected parliament. No elections were held until 1990.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
	1990	2010	competitive electoral	Regular elections have been held since 1990. Although the constitution of Kuwait supports the existence of political parties, Kuwait law does not recognize political parties. Nevertheless, numerous political groups function as de facto political parties in elections, and there are blocs in the parliament.
Kyrgyzstan	1991	2010	competitive electoral	In the 1991 presidential elections, opposition was technically allowed. Yet, Akayev appeared alone on the ballot. Regular multiparty elections have been held since 1995. Yet, they are often fraudulent. The 2005 elections led to the Tulip Revolution in which Akayev was overthrown. The transitional government rigged the 2005 election in its favor.
Laos	1960	1962	non-electoral	This was a period of alternating military coups and violence under several military governments. By 1963, the Royal Lao government lost control of much of the territory, and both sides in the civil war were controlled by foreigners.
	1975	1988	non-electoral	In 1975, the monarchy ceased to exist, and the Lao People's Democratic Republic was formed. No elections were held until 1989.
	1989	2010	non-competitive electoral	Regular elections have been held since 1989. The Lao People's Revolutionary Party is the only legal party in the country. Independents are allowed to compete only if they are approved by the Lao Front for National Construction.
Lesotho	1970	1992	non-electoral	The ruling Nasutoland Congress Party, which had ruled the country since its independence in 1966, lost the first post-independence elections held in 1970. Without announcing the results, it refused to cede power, carried out a coup, declared a state of emergency, dissolved parliament, suspended the constitution, and sent the King into exile. The country was ruled by two military regimes until 1993. The 1993 elections resulted in a transition to democracy.
	1993	1993	competitive electoral	Competitive elections ended military rule in 1993, and marked a transition to democracy.
Liberia	1946	1979	non-competitive electoral	Regular elections since 1847. In 1877, Liberia became a de facto one-party state, with the True Whig Party being the only party on the ballot and thereby running unopposed. Although opposition was never outlawed, there was no organized opposition in the country.
	1980	1984	non-electoral	The 1980 military coup established military rule in the country. No elections until 1985.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
Libya	1985	1990	competitive electoral	The 1985 elections were multiparty elections, with widespread fraud and rigging. Opposition was allowed to compete, yet, considerable obstacles to registration existed, and only four opposition parties were able to run. The period after the elections saw increased tensions, violence, and human rights abuses, which ultimately led to the start of the First Liberian Civil War in 1989.
	1997	2003	competitive electoral	In 1997, contested elections were held as part of the 1996 peace agreement ending the First Liberian Civil War. In 1999, the Second Liberian Civil War began. In 2003, the Accra Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed, and a transitional government was introduced, which ruled the country until the 2005 elections.
	1952	1952	competitive electoral	In 1952, the first general elections were held in Libya. Although opposition was allowed to run, there was only one organized opposition party contesting the elections, all other candidates ran as independents. The opposition party won the elections in Tripoli, but government candidates were declared the winners everywhere else. As opposition party suspected government manipulation of the results, rioting broke out. The government brutally repressed the disorders, and banned all political parties soon after the 1952 elections.
Madagascar	1953	1968	non-competitive electoral	After the 1952 elections, all political parties were banned, and all candidates contested the election as independents. To ensure the victory of pro-government candidates, ballot boxes were tampered with by police.
	1969	2010	non-electoral	No elections under the Gaddafi rule.
	1960	1972	competitive electoral	Regular multiparty elections were held during this period of time. Although opposition was allowed to compete, the system was extremely favorable to the ruling Social Democratic Party, which was a hegemonic party at that time and received over 90% of votes in all elections.
	1973	1976	non-electoral	No elections during military rule.
	1977	1991	non-competitive electoral	Regular elections were held during this period of time. Yet, all political parties that were not affiliated with the ruling National Front for the Defense of the Revolution were banned.
	1992	1993	competitive electoral	In the 1992 referendum, multiparty elections were reintroduced. The 1993 elections led to a transition to democracy.
	2009	2010	non-electoral	The 2009 Malagasy political crisis led to a military rule.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
Malawi	1964	1977	non-electoral	The Malawi Congress Party had already consolidated one-party rule before independence, so in 1964, it was the only party to contest the elections. Since there were no opposition candidates, the 1964, 1971, and 1976 elections were only nominal elections, and no voting actually took place.
	1978	1992	non-competitive electoral	In 1966, the Malawi Congress Party became the only legally permitted party in the country and Banda was declared president for life. There was a choice of candidates during these elections, but all of them were from the ruling party and were approved by Banda.
	1993	1994	competitive electoral	The 1993 referendum reintroduced multiparty elections in the country. The first multiparty elections were held in 1994, and marked a transition to democracy.
Malaysia	1957	2010	competitive electoral	Regular multiparty elections have been held since 1955. The Alliance Party - later Barisan Nasional - has been the largest coalition in the country since independence.
Mali	1960	1968	non-competitive electoral	In 1959, multiparty pre-independence elections were held, in which the Sudanese Union - African Democratic Rally won. The country was declared a one-party state shortly after independence. The 1964 were the only elections held during this period, and they were uncontested.
	1969	1978	non-electoral	Elections were suspended during military rule.
	1979	1991	non-competitive electoral	Regular uncontested elections were held during this period of time. The country was a one-party state, with the Democratic Union of the Malian People as the sole legal party, and its leader was the only presidential candidate, and was elected unopposed.
Mauritania	1960	1978	non-competitive electoral	The Mauritanian Progressive Union won the 1959 pre-independence elections. Soon after independence, it banned opposition parties and became a de facto one-party state. In 1965, Mauritania became an official one-party state. All elections were uncontested.
	1979	1991	non-electoral	No elections during military rule.
	1992	2004	competitive electoral	The 1991 constitutional referendum reintroduced multiparty elections. Regular multiparty elections were held during this period.
	2005	2006	non-electoral	Elections were forbidden for two years after the 2005 military coup.
	2007	2007	competitive electoral	Presidential elections were held in 2007.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
Mexico	2008	2008	non-electoral	The 2008 military coup ousted the elected government and established the all-military High Council of State.
	2009	2010	competitive electoral	In 2009, presidential elections were held, in which the leader of the military junta won.
	1946	2000	competitive electoral	Regular elections have been held in Mexico since 1824. During this period, opposition was allowed to compete in all elections. Yet, the Institutional Revolutionary Party was a hegemonic party, and held uninterrupted power in the country from 1929 to 2000.
Mongolia	1946	1950	non-electoral	No direct elections until 1951.
	1951	1989	non-competitive electoral	Legislative uncontested elections were held every three years during this period of time. The Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party was the only legal party able to contest the elections, and the only party on the ballot. Non-party independent candidates were allowed to run only if they were approved by the party.
	1990	1993	competitive electoral	The 1990 elections were the first multi-party elections held in the country. The 1993 election marked the end of an autocratic rule, because the opposition candidate won the 1993 presidential election. In 1996, the ruling party lost the legislative election.
Morocco	1956	1962	non-electoral	No elections had been held until the 1962 constitutional referendum, which changed the country from a monarchy to a constitutional monarchy with a bicameral legislature.
	1963	1964	competitive electoral	Legislative elections were held in 1963. All opposition parties were allowed to compete and won exactly the same number of seats as the pro-Monarchy party. The Supreme Court annulled the results of several seats won by the opposition. The parliament was dissolved in 1965.
	1965	1969	non-electoral	After the 1965 riots, the King declared a state of emergency, which lasted until 1970.
	1970	1971	competitive electoral	Opposition parties were allowed to compete in the 1970 parliamentary election. Yet, two of the opposition party boycotted this election. Only 90 out of 240 members of the Assembly of Representatives were elected directly in this election. The parliament was dissolved in 1972.
	1972	1976	non-electoral	In 1972, the parliament was dissolved. No elections were held until 1977.
	1977	2010	competitive electoral	Contested legislative elections have been held regularly since 1977.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
Mozambique	1975	1993	non-electoral	Although in 1977 and 1986 general elections were held in Mozambique, direct elections were only held for local and city councils. These councils then elected members of the District Assemblies, which in turn elected members of the Provincial Assemblies. The Provincial Assemblies then unanimously voted for a single list of shortlisted candidates for the People's Assembly - the country's top legislative body - which was prepared by the Mozambique Liberation Front, the only legal party of the country.
	1994	2010	competitive electoral	Since 1994, regular multiparty elections have been held in Mozambique, and opposition parties have been allowed to compete. Yet, the Mozambique Liberation Front still remains the dominant political party in Mozambique, and maintains control of the country's political system.
Myanmar	1958	1959	non-electoral	In 1958, the power was transferred to the military, which were supposed to hold new elections.
	1960	1960	competitive electoral	The 1960 competitive elections marked a transition from a military to an elected civilian rule.
	1962	1973	non-electoral	In 1962, military coup ousted the civilian government. No elections were held during the period of military rule.
	1974	1988	non-competitive electoral	Burma became a one-party state in 1973, with the Burma Socialist Programme Party as the sole legal party. Regular elections were held during this period. Yet, the Burma Socialist Programme Party was the only party on the ballot.
	1989	1990	competitive electoral	After the 1988 uprising, the military government agreed to hold multiparty elections. The 1990 elections were the first multiparty elections since 1960, and the opposition won. Yet, the military junta refused to recognize the results, and ruled the country as the State Peace and Development Council until 2011.
	1991	2009	non-electoral	No elections during military rule.
	2010	2010	competitive electoral	Regular multiparty elections have been held since 2010.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
Namibia	1990	2010	competitive electoral	In 1989, pre-independence competitive legislative elections were held. After independence, multiparty legislative elections have been held every 5 years. Although elections in Namibia have generally been considered fair, the ruling South West African People's Organization has been a hegemonic party since the country's independence. It has monopolized the use of state resources to influence electoral outcomes, controlled the media, and harassed and intimidated the opposition.
Nepal	1946	1958	non-electoral	No direct elections in Nepal until 1959.
	1959	1964	competitive electoral	In 1959, the first multiparty legislative election was held. Although there had been local elections before 1959, these elections were the first elections to be held nationwide.
	1965	1980	non-electoral	No direct elections were held between 1960 and 1980. Indirect elections were held in 1971.
	1981	1989	non-competitive electoral	In 1981 and 1986, legislative elections were held. Political parties were banned at the time, and all candidates ran as independents. The main underground opposition forces called for a boycott.
	1990	1991	competitive electoral	In 1990, after the popular uprising, the King agreed to constitutional changes introducing multiparty elections and limits on the monarchy. In 1991, the first multiparty elections were held, and the country transitioned to a democratic rule.
	2002	2006	non-electoral	In 2002, the King dissolved the parliament, assumed executive power, and called off scheduled parliamentary elections. In 2006, popular uprisings forced the King to reinstate the previously elected parliament, returning the country to constitutional monarchy.
Nicaragua	1946	1946	non-electoral	The last presidential elections were held in 1936, and the last parliamentary elections were held in 1938. Both elections were boycotted by the opposition. No elections from 1938 to 1947.
	1947	1956	competitive electoral	The 1947 elections became an important arena for political battles between the ruling regime and the opposition. By 1950, the ruling party managed to co-opt one of the opposition parties by promising them one third of the parliamentary seats.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
	1957	1978	non-competitive electoral	In 1957, Luis Somoza Debayle formalized his grip on power through fraudulent elections, which were boycotted by all opposition parties except the puppet opposition party. In all other elections held during this period, opposition parties were not officially forbidden, but did not run. The level of repression was so high that no real opposition could emerge. Many opposition leaders were tortured and killed at the slightest suspicion on disloyalty.
	1979	1983	non-electoral	The Somoza regime was overthrown by the Sandinista regime in 1979. No elections were held until 1984.
	1984	1990	competitive electoral	In 1984, multiparty fraudulent elections were held in Nicaragua, which the Reagan administration denounced as a Soviet-style sham. The 1984 elections brought victory to the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front. The 1990 competitive elections were won by the opposition, marking a transition to democracy.
Niger	1960	1973	non-competitive electoral	In 1958, the Nigerien Progressive Party - African Democratic Rally won the pre-independence elections. Prior to independence, it outlawed the opposition, jailed its leaders, and centralized power under Diori. Niger became a single-party state. The 1965 and 1970 elections were held uncontested, with the Nigerien Progressive Party being the only party on the ballot.
	1974	1988	non-electoral	The 1974 military coup ousted the civilian government and established the military rule. No elections were held until 1989.
	1989	1991	non-competitive electoral	The 1989 elections followed the approval of a new constitution, which made the country a one-party state with the National Movement for the Development of Society as the sole legal party. As a result, the 1989 elections were uncontested.
	1996	1999	competitive electoral	The 1996 military coup ousted Niger's first democratically elected president, dissolved the civilian government, and formed the military council to rule. Multiparty elections were held later the same year, and were boycotted by the main opposition parties. The regime remained in place until 1999, when it was overthrown in the 1999 military coup.
Nigeria	1966	1978	non-electoral	No elections were held during the 13 years of military rule.
	1979	1979	competitive electoral	The 1979 multiparty elections marked a transition from a military regime to a democratic rule.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
Oman	1984	1991	non-electoral	The 1983 military coup ousted the democratically elected government and established the Supreme Military Council to rule. No elections were held until 1992.
	1992	1998	non-competitive electoral	Only two government-sponsored parties were allowed to contest the 1992 parliamentary and the 1993 presidential elections. The 1993 elections were annulled by the military due to allegation of corruption and fraud. In 1996, many opposition parties were granted legal status. Yet, in the 1998 elections, all parties running in the election were affiliated with the military regime, and all opposition parties were banned. The elections were annulled due to low voter turnout.
	1999	1999	competitive electoral	The opposition won the 1999 presidential elections overseen by the military, marking a transition to a democratic rule.
	1946	1999	non-electoral	There were no elections in Oman until 1991. In 1991, the first general elections to the Consultative Assembly were held. Yet, during the 1990s elections, only the members of the provincial committees were allowed to vote. In 2000, the first direct elections were held.
	2000	2010	non-competitive electoral	Regular elections to the Consultative Assembly have been held in Oman since 2000. Yet, as there are no political parties in the countries, all candidates run as independents.
Pakistan	1947	1969	non-electoral	In 1945, general pre-independence elections were held in British India to elect members that later formed the Constituent Assembly of India. In 1947, at independence, the Constituent Assembly of India passed control over Pakistan to a government led by Jinnah. Until 1956, there was no constitution that would set the rules for the elections of legislatures, and the government continued to function under the rules of the colonial administration. In 1956, the first constitution was approved. Yet, it was abrogated after the 1958 military coup. There were no elections during the military rule.
	1970	1971	competitive electoral	In 1970-1971, the first general post-independence elections were held in Pakistan. These elections led to civil unrest in East Pakistan, which soon escalated into a civil war that led to the independence of Bangladesh.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
	1975	1977	competitive electoral	In 1977, the second general elections were held in Pakistan. The alliance of major opposition parties accused the ruling party of rigging the elections. Several months later the elected government was overthrown in a military coup, and the country entered the period of military rule.
	1978	1984	non-electoral	No elections during military rule.
	1985	1987	non-competitive electoral	In 1985, general elections were held in Pakistan. Although the opposition was not outlawed, no parties were allowed in these elections, and all candidates ran as independents.
	1988	1988	competitive electoral	In 1988, competitive parliamentary elections permitted by the military regime were held. The Pakistan People's Party led by Benazir Bhutto won the election, competing a transition to democracy.
	1999	2001	non-electoral	The 1999 military coup ousted the elected civilian government, elections were suspended. No elections were held until 2002.
Panama	2002	2008	competitive electoral	In 2002, multiparty elections were held under the control of the military government. In 2008, the ruling regime lost the legislative elections. Resignation by Musharraf under threat of impeachment completed the transition to democracy several months later.
	1949	1951	competitive electoral	The 1948 competitive elections were intensely contested, with demonstrations and violence, and led to struggles between the elites. Several candidates were sworn in as acting chief executive and were later overturn during this period of time.
	1953	1955	competitive electoral	This period is coded as authoritarian, because the opposition was regularly harassed and disadvantage. Yet, the government that was elected in the 1952 elections continued in power. In 1955, the president was assassinated, and his term was constitutionally completed by his second vice president, who oversaw competitive elections held in 1956.
	1968	1971	non-electoral	In 1968, general elections took place. Several days after the elected government took office, it was overthrown in a military coup. The provisional junta consolidated government control, and disbanded all political parties. No elections were held under the military junta until 1972.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
Paraguay	1972	1979	non-competitive electoral	In 1972 and 1979 legislative elections were held. Yet, the traditional political parties were banned from electoral participation, and all candidates ran as independents. The 1972 constitution recognized the central role within the executive branch of General Torrijos and the defense forces.
	1980	1989	competitive electoral	Several multiparty parliamentary elections were held during this period. Parties were legalized and were allowed to compete. The regime continued until the US invasion in 1989.
	1946	1962	non-competitive electoral	Several regimes ruled Paraguay during this period of time. Regular elections were held throughout the whole period, yet, all of them were uncontested, with only one party / candidate on the ballot. People could either vote in favor or cast a blank ballot. From 1947 until 1962, the Colorado Party was the only legal party in the country.
	1963	1993	competitive electoral	All national parties were nominally legalized in 1962, and were allowed to run. Yet, the Colorado Party remained a hegemonic party, the opposition was often harassed and repressed and stood a limited chance of defeating the incumbent. Elections were held regularly. The 1993 elections completed a series of democratizing reforms carried out between 1989 and 1993.
Peru	1948	1949	non-electoral	In the 1948 military coup, the elected government was ousted. No elections were held during the first two years of the military junta.
	1950	1955	non-competitive electoral	In 1950, parliamentary and presidential elections were held. The leader of the 1950 coup Manuel Odría was elected uncontested. His Restoration Party was also the only party on the ballot.
	1956	1956	competitive electoral	The 1956 elections were the first free elections since 1945, and marked a restoration of a democratic rule.
	1962	1963	competitive electoral	The results of the 1962 elections were annulled following a military coup. The military junta ruled the country until the 1963 elections.
	1968	1977	non-electoral	The 1968 military coup ousted the elected government and installed a military junta. No elections were held until 1978.
	1978	1980	competitive electoral	In 1978, the constituent assembly elections were held in Peru. In 1980, free and fair parliamentary and presidential elections were held, marking a transition to democracy.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
Philippines	1992	2000	competitive electoral	Two multiparty elections were held during the Fujimori's government. Both were highly controversial and were widely considered fraudulent.
	1972	1977	non-electoral	In 1972, Marcos declared martial law in the Philippines, which marked the beginning of a 14-year period of one-man rule. No elections were held until 1978, and Marcos ruled by decree. In 1973, a yes-no national referendum for continued martial rule was held.
	1978	1986	competitive electoral	Several multiparty elections were held during this period. Opposition parties were allowed to compete. Yet, there were allegations of fraud and bribery, and opposition boycotted some of the elections. The 1986 presidential elections led to the People Power Revolution. Marcos resigned in response to massive demonstrations protesting a stolen election.
Poland	1946	1946	non-electoral	Previous elections were held in 1938. No elections were held during the WWII.
	1947	1951	competitive electoral	The 1947 parliamentary elections were multiparty elections. The opposition accused the government of the electoral fraud.
	1952	1988	non-competitive electoral	Parliamentary elections were held on a regular basis during the communist rule. Yet, only parties and candidates approved by the National Unity Front were allowed to run.
	1989	1989	competitive electoral	The 1989 elections marked a transition to democracy. The non-communist opposition won nearly all contested seats. Although not all parliamentary seat were contested, the opposition was able to put together a non-communist coalition government by allying with some small pro-communist parties, thereby making Poland the first country of the Eastern Bloc with a democratically elected government.
Portugal	1946	1968	non-competitive electoral	Regular elections were held during the Salazar regime. Yet, only opposition candidates that were approved by the ruling government were allowed to run, and they had to run as independents and were not allowed to form a party. As a result, the opposition often withdrew and presented no real challenge.
	1969	1974	competitive electoral	Although opposition was technically allowed, the 1969 elections were the first elections with some organized opposition during the Salazar regime. The ruling National Front nevertheless won all seats. In 1973, the opposition was allowed to contest the election, yet the only opposition party withdrew, and the ruling People's National Action party ran unopposed.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
Romania	1946	1951	competitive electoral	The 1946 multiparty elections gave a victory to the Romanian Communist Party and its allies inside the Bloc of Democratic Parties. These elections led to the abolishment of the Romanian monarchy and the establishment of a communist regime. In the 1948 parliamentary elections, some minor opposition parties were still allowed to contest, provided that they agree with the communist agenda. All meaningful opposition was eliminated during the first years of the communist rule.
	1952	1989	non-competitive electoral	Parliamentary elections were held on a regular basis during the communist rule. Yet, voters were presented with a single list of candidates from the People's Democratic Front (replaced by the Front of Socialist Unity in 1968), which was dominated by the Romanian Workers' Party (renamed to the Romanian Communist Party by Ceausescu in 1965). All elections took the format of a 'yes' or 'no' vote.
Russia	1993	2010	competitive electoral	Multiparty elections are held on a regular basis, and are 'seriously flawed'.
Rwanda	1962	1972	non-competitive electoral	Soon after the 1961 pre-independence multiparty elections, the ruling Republican Democratic Movement - Parmehutu banned all opposition parties, and declared itself as the sole legal party of the state. Uncontested elections were held in 1965 and 1969.
	1973	1977	non-electoral	The 1973 military coup ousted the civilian government and installed a military rule. No elections were held until 1978.
	1978	1993	non-competitive electoral	The 1978 constitution made Rwanda a one-party state with the National Revolutionary Movement for Development being the sole legal party. Regular uncontested parliamentary and presidential elections were held during this period.
	1994	2002	non-electoral	Elections were suspended in Rwanda because of violence and genocide.
	2003	2010	competitive electoral	Regular multiparty elections have been held since 2003, with the Rwandan Patriotic Front being a hegemonic party. The United Democratic Forces opposition coalition regularly accuses the ruling party of using state resources to influence electoral outcomes.
Saudi Arabia	1946	2010	non-electoral	No direct general elections in Saudi Arabia.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
Senegal	1960	1977	non-competitive electoral	After the 1959 pre-independence elections, the ruling Senegalese Progressive Union party coopted most other parties into its organization, and harassed, repressed, and outlawed the remaining opposition. The country had a de facto one-party rule since independence, and introduced a de jure one-party rule in 1966.
	1978	2000	competitive electoral	Following a constitutional amendment in 1976, opposition parties were allowed to compete. The Social Party (formerly the Senegalese Progressive Union) remained a hegemonic party until the parliamentary elections held in 2001.
Serbia	1991	2000	competitive electoral	Regular multiparty elections were held during this period. Opposition parties accused the ruling party of voting irregularities.
Sierra Leone	1967	1977	competitive electoral	The 1967 elections marked the first time that a ruling party had lost an election in sub-Saharan Africa (excluding white-ruled South Africa). These elections were followed by a military coup and a counter military coup, and the elected government was able to take office only in 1968. Multiparty elections were also held in 1973 and 1977. The opposition boycotted the 1973 parliamentary election due to violence and alleged irregularities.
	1978	1991	non-competitive electoral	The 1978 constitutional referendum turned the country into a presidential one-party state, with the All People's Congress as the sole legal party. All elections held during this period were uncontested.
	1992	1995	non-electoral	The 1992 military coup ousted the elected government and established a military rule, banning all political parties. The country was amidst a civil war. No elections were held during this period.
	1996	1996	competitive electoral	In 1996, competitive elections were held and resulted in a transition to civilian rule.
	1997	1997	non-electoral	In 1997, the elected government was ousted in a coup. The Armed Forces Revolutionary Council was established as the new government of the country.
	1998	1998	competitive electoral	The ruling military junta was ousted by West African troops in 1998. The elected government was reinstated.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
Singapore	1965	2010	competitive electoral	Regular multiparty elections have been held since independence in 1965. Until the 1980s, opposition parties largely boycotted elections due to disagreements with the government. The ruling People's Action Party remains a hegemonic party.
Somalia	1969	1978	non-electoral	The 1969 military coup overthrew the elected government and established the Supreme Revolutionary Council to rule the country. No elections were held during this period.
	1979	1990	non-competitive electoral	In 1979, Somalia was declared a one-party state, with the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party as the only legal party in the country. Uncontested elections were held in 1979, 1984, and 1986.
	1991	1991	non-electoral	In 1991, rebel troops took Mogadishu. Somalia has remained a failed state since then.
South Africa	1946	1994	competitive electoral	Elections held during this period were held on a regular basis and were competitive, but suffrage was restricted for people of Colored and Asian descent.
Soviet Union	1946	1991	non-competitive electoral	Parliamentary elections were held on a regular basis during the communist rule. Yet, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union was the only legal party in the country, and the only party on the ballot, whereas independents could run only if they were nominated by the Communist Party or by a public organization controlled by the Communist Party. Voting was theoretically secret. However, in practice, voters could only vote against the Communist Party by using polling booths, whereas votes for the party could be cast by submitting a blank ballot.
Spain	1946	1976	non-electoral	No elections during the Francoist dictatorship.
Sri Lanka	1978	1994	competitive electoral	Several presidential and parliamentary elections were held during this period of time. Under the 1978 constitutional revision, the president was allowed to override, amend or suspend any laws enacted by the parliament. The 1983 parliamentary elections were cancelled by the 1982 referendum. Opposition was regularly harassed, arrested and beaten.
Sudan	1958	1964	non-electoral	In 1958, the first post-independence elections were held in Sudan. Several months after the elections, a military coup occurred. No elections were held during the period of military rule.
	1965	1965	competitive electoral	The 1965 elections were multiparty elections and were held nationwide, except for South Sudan, where there were massive boycotts and violence.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
	1969	1970	non-electoral	The 1969 military coup overthrew the elected government and established the National Revolutionary Council to rule the country. No elections were held during this period.
	1971	1984	non-competitive electoral	Regular uncontested presidential and parliamentary elections were held during this period. The country was declared a one-party state in 1973, with the Sudan Socialist Union as the sole legal political organization that assumed control of all political parties in the country, including the ruling Sudanese Communist Party.
	1985	1985	non-electoral	The Nimeiri regime was ousted in the 1985 military coup. A Transitional Military Council was established to oversee a transition to a civilian government.
	1986	1986	competitive electoral	In 1986, competitive elections were held that returned power to a civilian government. The 1986 elections were the first multiparty elections in Sudan since 1968.
	1989	1995	non-electoral	The 1989 military coup led by al-Bashir ousted the democratically-elected government and established the military regime that would rule country until 2019. No elections were held until 1996.
	1996	1999	non-competitive electoral	In 1996, parliamentary and presidential elections were held. There were no political parties at the time, and all candidates ran as independents. Opposition groups urged a boycott of the polling, deeming the elections unfair.
	2000	2005	competitive electoral	Opposition parties were allowed to compete in the 2000 elections. Yet, the main opposition parties preferred to boycott these elections due to electoral fraud. The 2000 presidential election resulted in an easy victory for al-Bashir, and the 2000 parliamentary election was contested only by independents.
	2006	2009	non-electoral	There were no elections between 2000 and 2010 because of a resurgence in conflict in the region.
Swaziland	2010	2010	competitive electoral	The 2010 elections were multiparty elections, with the ruling National Congress being a hegemonic party.
	1968	1972	competitive electoral	In 1967, pre-independence multiparty elections were held. The royalist Imbokodvo National Movement won the 1967 pre-independence and the 1972 first post-independence elections.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
Syria	1973	1992	non-electoral	In 1973, the King annulled the constitution, dismissed parliament, banned all political parties, assumed supreme power, and ruled the country by decree. There were no direct elections until 1993. From 1978 to 1992, only indirect elections were held.
	1993	2010	non-competitive electoral	Since 1993, regular elections have been held through direct and indirect processes. Voters elect members to an electoral college, who then select non-party candidates for the parliament. All political parties are banned, and all candidates can compete only as individuals.
	1946	1946	non-electoral	In 1946, independence transferred power to an indirectly elected government.
	1947	1947	competitive electoral	In 1947, the first direct parliamentary election was held, which marked a transition to democracy.
	1949	1952	non-electoral	There were several elections and several military coups in 1949. The military regime that came to power in the third military coup of 1949 dissolved all political parties, and banished all opposition leaders to Lebanon.
	1953	1953	non-competitive electoral	In 1953, the ruling military regime tried to legitimize its power in parliamentary elections, in which the ruling Arab Liberation Movement party was hegemonic, as all opposition parties were either closed down or prohibited from operating, and their leaders were either imprisoned or banished.
	1954	1954	competitive electoral	In 1954, popular protest sparked another military coup, which ousted the military, returned power to the civilians. In 1954, multiparty parliamentary elections were held, which restored democracy.
	1957	1958	competitive electoral	During this period, the elected government gradually slid to an autocratic rule. In 1958, Syria seized to exist as an independent country after merger with Egypt as part of the United Arab Republic.
	1961	1962	competitive electoral	The 1961 coup ended the United Arab Republic and returned Syria its independence. In December 1961, multiparty parliamentary elections were held that were supposed to initiate democratic government.
	1963	1970	non-electoral	The 1963 military coup led by pro-Ba'athist officers seized power in Syria, and established the new regime. No elections were held until 1971.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
Taiwan	1971	2010	non-competitive electoral	Regular parliamentary and presidential elections have been held since 1971. Yet, only parties that belong to the National Progressive Front were allowed to run until 2012. By constitutional design, the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party was the largest party in the National Progressive Front and thereby controlled the NPF. Candidates outside the NPF could run as independents.
	1949	1968	non-electoral	Taiwan was under martial law between 1949 and 1987. Civil and political rights were restricted, including voting rights of the Taiwanese people. In addition, opposition was prohibited. During this period, the president was selected by the National Assembly which had not been reelected since 1947. The legislative Yuan also had not been reelected since 1948.
	1969	1991	non-competitive electoral	From 1969 until 1992, only supplementary legislative elections were held. These were direct elections for a very small proportion of the seats in the Legislative Yuan, and were held in order to replace retired members.
Tajikistan	1992	2000	competitive electoral	Since 1992, regular multiparty elections have been held in Taiwan. The 2000 presidential election was won by the opposition, which marked a transition to democracy.
	1992	2010	non-competitive electoral	Although multiparty elections are held on a regular basis, there is no real competition on offer, as all influential opposition groups remain banned. Rahmon has been in power since 1992, and the parliament has been dominated by the People's Democratic Party of Tajikistan.
Tanzania	1964	1991	non-competitive electoral	Tanzania was a one-party state at the time, with the Tanganyika African National Union as the only legal party on the mainland, and the Afro-Shirazi Party as the only legal party in Zanzibar. In 1977, the two parties merged to form the only legal party in the whole country - the Revolutionary State Party, or Chama Cha Mapinduzi. Elections during this period of time were held every 5 years, and were uncontested, as voters could only vote in favor or against the ruling party / the presidential candidate.
	1992	2010	competitive electoral	In 1992, the ban on other political parties was lifted. In 1995, the first multiparty parliamentary and presidential elections were held, in which the incumbent Chama Cha Mapinduzi party retained control over the country. The CCM has been a hegemonic party since then.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
Thailand	1946	1957	competitive electoral	The period from 1946 to 1957 included multiple military coups that were followed by competitive parliamentary elections. At the time political parties were already formally recognized, yet they were still not legal. So all candidates ran as independents. Nevertheless, there were some known unofficial affiliations with the Sahachip Party and the Constitutional Front, and with the Democrat Party. Throughout the whole period, elections remained as an important arena for political battles between the ruling regime and the opposition.
	1958	1968	non-electoral	In 1958, the military consolidated their power. They banned all political parties and political gatherings, abrogated the constitution, and created the Revolutionary Council to rule. Martial law was in effect from 1959 until 1968. No elections were held until 1969.
	1969	1970	competitive electoral	In 1969, multiparty parliamentary elections were held. The military-backed United Thai People's Party won.
	1971	1973	non-electoral	In 1971, the government declared martial law, closed the legislature, and banned all political parties. A military junta asserted complete control of the country. The 1973 demonstrations and riots led to the end of the military rule. The king appointed an interim government to oversee a democratic transition. Yet, no elections were held until 1975.
	1976	1978	non-electoral	The 1976 military coup ousted the democratically elected government, suspended the constitution, banned all political parties, and declared martial law. No elections were held until 1979.
	1979	1988	competitive electoral	Regular multiparty elections were held during this period. In the 1988 election, the opposition party won, marking a transition to democracy.
	1991	1991	non-electoral	The 1991 military coup dissolved parliament, suspended the constitution, declared martial law, and appointed a military junta to rule.
	1992	1992	competitive electoral	Massive demonstrations against the military rule took place in 1992. The king intervened, and appointed an interim government to oversee a transition to democracy. In September 1992, a competitive parliamentary election was held.
	2006	2006	non-electoral	The 2006 military coup ousted the civilian government, abrogated the constitution, banned political activities, and set up a military junta to rule.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
Togo	2007	2007	competitive electoral	Competitive elections ended military rule in December 2007, returning the country to civilian rule.
	1960	1966	non-competitive electoral	Although pre-independence elections were free and fair, immediately after independence the ruling Party of Togolese Unity suppressed, dissolved, and banned all opposition parties, and declared itself as the only legal party of the state. In 1963, the opposition ousted the ruling government, and held uncontested parliamentary and presidential elections, in which the Reconciliation and National Union, consisting of several opposition parties, was the only party on the ballot, whilst its leader was the only presidential candidate.
	1967	1978	non-electoral	The 1967 military coup led by Eyadéma ousted the civilian government. Political parties were banned, and all constitutional processes were suspended. No elections were held until 1979.
	1979	1991	non-competitive electoral	Regular uncontested elections were held during this period of time, with the Rally of the Togolese People being the only legal party in the country, and its leader Eyadéma being the only presidential candidate.
	1992	2010	competitive electoral	The 1992 constitutional referendum restored multiparty elections in the country. Regular multiparty elections have been held since then. The opposition boycotted some of the elections held during this period due to electoral fraud.
Tunisia	1956	1986	non-competitive electoral	Although the elections held in 1956 and 1959 were nominally contested, the ruling Neo Destour party chose electoral rules that effectively eliminated opposition. As a result, it won almost 100% of the votes in both elections, and its leader Bourguiba ran unopposed. In 1963, the Neo Destour party (later renamed to the Socialist Destourian Party) was declared the only legal party in the country. Parliamentary elections were held regularly during this period of time. Yet, there were no presidential elections between 1975 and 1989, as in 1975, the Chamber of Deputies had voted to make Bourguiba president for life.
	1987	1988	non-electoral	The 1987 military coup ousted Bourguiba and replaced him with his Prime Minister Ben Ali. There were no elections until 1989.
	1989	1993	non-competitive electoral	Although multiparty parliamentary elections were nominally restored in 1981, electoral hurdles were in place that practically eliminated any opposition. As a result, opposition parties managed to enter the Chamber of Deputies only in 1994.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
	1994	2010	competitive electoral	Nominally contested parliamentary elections were held in Tunisia between 1994 and 2011, with Constitutional Democratic Rally being a de facto single party and Ben Ali being a de facto single presidential candidate, as both were winning 85-95% of the votes in all elections.
Turkey	1946	1950	competitive electoral	In 1946, the first multiparty parliamentary elections were held in Turkey. The Republican People's Party, which had been the only legal party in the country from 1925 until 1946, won this election with an overwhelming majority. Yet, it lost the 1950 parliamentary election, marking a transition to democracy.
	1957	1959	competitive electoral	The rigged 1957 election marked a transition to autocracy. The ruling Democratic Party won fair elections in 1950 and 1954. Yet, as its popularity was declining, it started to harass opposition and limit its access to the media. In also resorted to electoral fraud during the 1957 election.
	1960	1960	non-electoral	The 1960 military coup ousted the civilian government, and established a military rule to oversee the 1961 elections.
	1961	1961	competitive electoral	The 1961 competitive elections led to a transition to democracy.
	1980	1981	non-electoral	In 1980, the Grand National Assembly was supposed to elect a new president, yet, the parties could no agree on a candidate. The 1980 military coup ousted the civilian government, shut down political parties, and imposed martial law. The military set up a Consultative Assembly that was responsible for drawing up the new constitution. A constitutional referendum was held in November 1982.
	1982	1983	competitive electoral	The 1983 elections marked the return of the civilian government. Since the National Security Council banned the previous political parties from participating, three new political parties ran in this election. According to the transitional provision of the 1982 constitution, Evren - the leader of the 1980 military coup - remained president until 1989.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
Turkmenistan	1991	2010	non-competitive electoral	All parliamentary elections held during this period were uncontested, with the Democratic Party of Turkmenistan being the only legal party in the country. In 1999, Niyazov, which had been in power since 1985, was declared president for life. No presidential elections were held until his death in 2006. Since 2008, opposition parties are theoretically allowed to contest elections as the constitution no longer defines Turkmenistan as a one-party state. Yet, due to an extremely repressive nature of politics in Turkmenistan, opposition parties are unable to challenge the ruling party and are often crushed before they make any ground in public opinion.
Uganda	1966	1979	non-electoral	Uganda was one of the few colonial territories that achieved independence without a dominant political party with a clear majority in parliament. In the 1962 pre-independence elections, the Uganda's People's Congress formed an alliance with the Kabaka (the traditional leader of Buganda): Obote, the leader of the UPC party became prime minister, while the Kabaka kept a ceremonial role and retained all royal powers. In 1966, with the support of a military junta, Obote mounted an autogolpe: He suspended the constitution, arrested several ministers, and transferred all executive powers to himself, relieving the Kabaka of his position. In 1971, Obote was overthrown by Amin, popularly known as the Butcher of Uganda. Amin is considered one of the cruelest despots in world history. In 1979, Amin was ousted by the Tanzania People's Defence Force, joined by several groups of Ugandan exiles. No elections were held until 1980.
	1980	1984	competitive electoral	The 1980 elections were the first post-independence elections held in Uganda. They brought Obote's Uganda People's Congress party back to power. The opposition claimed that the elections were rigged, which led to a guerrilla war. This period was marred by extreme repression and the deaths of more than 300,000 civilians as a result of the so-called Ugandan Bush War.
	1985	1993	non-electoral	Obote was overthrown and replaced as president by his general Okello in 1985. Several months later, Okello was overthrown by the current president Museveni. In 1989, indirect elections to the National Resistance Council were held.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
	1994	2005	non-competitive electoral	In 1994, elections for the Constituent Assembly were held. The 1995 constitution banned all political parties, which benefited the incumbent. In all parliamentary elections that followed all candidates ran as independents.
	2006	2010	competitive electoral	In 2005, the ban on party politics was lifted, Since 2006, regular multiparty elections have been held in Uganda. Yet, Museveni's National Resistance Movement remains the hegemonic party. And as of 2020, Museveni has been in power for 34 years.
United Arab Emirates	1971	2010	non-electoral	No direct general elections in the United Arab Emirates. Since 2006, regular parliamentary elections have been held using electoral college.
Uruguay	1973	1983	non-electoral	This was a period of the civic-military dictatorship that started with an autogolpe carried out by Bordaberry, who had been elected in the 1971 elections. Unions and political parties remained illegal until a general strike in 1984 forced the military to accept civilian rule and hold parliamentary elections.
Uzbekistan	1984	1984	competitive electoral	The 1984 parliamentary elections marked the end of the dictatorship.
	1991	2010	non-competitive electoral	While there are several legal parties that take part in parliamentary elections, all of them are aligned with the government and are put into parliamentary elections to give them a semblance of choice. Opposition parties are virtually non-existent. All legal parties endorse the ruling president in presidential elections. Karimov was in power from 1991 until 2016, and died in office.
Venezuela	1948	1951	non-electoral	The 1948 military coup ousted the elected civilian government, suspended the constitution, and installed a military rule.
	1952	1958	competitive electoral	In 1952, constituent assembly elections were held, in which only one opposition party was allowed to run. The 1952 were seriously rigged, and the ruling junta handed power to Pérez Jiménez, who had been part of the 1948 military coup. Following massive demonstrations in support of democracy, Pérez Jiménez was deposed in the 1958 coup. The 1958 elections held after the coup completed a transition to democracy.
	2005	2010	competitive electoral	During this period, the ruling government regularly manipulated electoral procedures, influenced electoral outcomes, misused media, and harassed and intimidated the opposition.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
Vietnam	1954	1959	non-electoral	In 1954, the Geneva Accords recognized the independence of Vietnam, and provisionally divided the country into a northern and a southern zone. The northern zone was controlled by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. No elections were held in North Vietnam until 1960.
	1960	2010	non-competitive electoral	Regular legislative elections have been held in Vietnam since 1960. Only candidates representing the Vietnamese Fatherland Front and independents approved by the Fatherland Front are allowed to contest elections. Since 1954, the Communist Party of Vietnam has been the only legal party in Vietnam (in 1975, the Workers' Party of North Vietnam was merged with the People's Revolutionary Party of South Vietnam, and in 1976, it was named the Communist Party of Vietnam).
Vietnam, South	1954	1955	non-electoral	In 1954, the Geneva Accords recognized the independence of Vietnam, and provisionally divided the country into a northern and a southern zone. The southern zone was a member of the Western Bloc, and was a self-governing entity in the French Empire. In 1955, a referendum was held that determined the future form of government of South Vietnam (republic or monarchy).
	1956	1962	non-competitive electoral	Several fraudulent multiparty elections were held during this period of time. Yet, only pro-government parties and pro-government independent candidates were allowed to compete, while communist parties were banned, and repression against the opposition was common.
	1963	1965	non-electoral	Opposition parties and candidates were allowed to compete in the 1963 parliamentary election due to the Buddhist crisis. However, the 1963 military coup dissolved the National Assembly before it convened its first session.
	1966	1975	non-competitive electoral	Several elections were held during this period. While opposition was allowed to compete, only a few candidates were affiliated with political parties in these elections, and communist parties remained banned.
Yemen	1946	1970	non-electoral	No elections until 1971.
	1971	1973	non-competitive electoral	In 1971, the first parliamentary elections were held in the Yemen Arab Republic. Political parties were banned, and all candidates ran as independents.
	1974	1987	non-electoral	Elections were suspended after the 1974 military coup.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
	1988	1989	non-competitive electoral	In 1988, the second parliamentary elections were held in the Yemen Arab Republic. Political parties were banned, and all candidates ran as independents.
	1990	1992	non-electoral	Official Yemeni unification took place on May 22, 1990, forming the current Republic of Yemen. No elections were held until 1993.
	1993	2010	competitive electoral	Regular parliamentary and presidential elections were held during this period. The General People's Congress emerged as the largest party in the 1993 parliamentary elections, and became a hegemonic party. The last parliamentary elections were held in 2003. Presidential elections were held in 2006 and 2012. No elections have been held since 2012.
Yemen, South	1967	1977	non-electoral	Although during the British colonial era elections had been held regularly, after independence and the establishment of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen in 1967, the first parliamentary elections took place only in 1978.
	1978	1989	non-competitive electoral	In 1978, the first parliamentary elections took place. The Yemeni Socialist Party was the only legal party at the time. The second parliamentary elections were scheduled for 1983, but took place only in 1986 due to political turmoil. The Yemeni Socialist Party remained the only legal party, but independents were allowed to run and won 36% of the seats.
Yugoslavia	1946	1990	non-competitive electoral	The 1946 constitution abolished the monarchy and formed the country into a Federative Republic, also ending multiparty elections. Only members of the People's Front of Yugoslavia, dominated by the Communist Party of Yugoslavia, were allowed to run. Regular uncontested elections were held during this period. Free and competitive elections were reintroduced in 1990.
Zambia	1967	1971	competitive electoral	Zambia was classified as a democracy during the first post-independence years. In 1967, the ruling United National Independence Party started to harass and repress opposition, thereby crossing the line between democracy and autocracy. In 1968, it banned its main opposition party, the United Party, and arrested its leaders. The Zambian African National Congress was the only opposition party allowed to contest the 1968 elections.

country	start	end	electoral regime type	comments
	1972	1990	non-competitive electoral	In 1972, the United National Independence Party became the only legally permitted party in the country. As a result, all elections held during this period were uncontested, and took the format of a 'yes' or 'no' vote.
	1991	1991	competitive electoral	Multiparty electoral system was restored in 1991. The 1991 election was won by the opposition, and marked a transition to democracy.
	1996	2010	competitive electoral	Regular competitive parliamentary and presidential elections have been held since 1991. The country is classified as autocratic due to electoral fraud and some irregularities in the conduct of elections.
Zimbabwe	1980	2010	competitive electoral	Regular multiparty elections have been held in Zimbabwe since its independence in 1980. Elections are considered fraudulent. Mugabe remained in power for 37 years, whereas his party - the Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front - has remained a hegemonic party since 1980.