

## ECUADOR

Polity5 regime codes:

fac	scode	polity	pers	bmon	bday	byear	emon	eday	eyear	exec	exconst	polcomp
1X	ECU	-1	71	5	13	1830	6	30	1901	4	3	6
1Xa	ECU	-3	24	7	1	1901	8	20	1925	3	3	6
1Xb	ECU	-1	23	8	21	1925	8	31	1948	4	3	6
1Xc	ECU	1	15	9	1	1948	7	11	1963	7	3	6
1O	ECU	-6	3	7	12	1963	3	29	1966	4	1	2
1Oa	ECU	-88	2	3	30	1966	8	31	1968	-88	-88	-88
2X	ECU	5	2	9	1	1968	6	21	1970	8	5	6
2Xa	ECU	0	2	6	22	1970	2	15	1972	8	1	6
2O	ECU	-5	7	2	16	1972	8	9	1979	4	1	3
2Oa	ECU	9	20	8	10	1979	1	20	2000	8	7	9
3X	ECU	6	7	1	21	2000	11	25	2006	7	6	7
3Xa	ECU	7	1	11	26	2006	11	28	2007	8	6	7
3Xb	ECU	5	5	11	29	2007	2	16	2013	8	4	7
3O	ECU	5	6	2	17	2013	99	99	9999	8	4	8

PITF Problem Events:

- 1) 06/70-02/72 (ARC 6/70-2/72)

**1O) Date of Change from Factional-Democratic:** July 12, 1963 (military coup)

### Brief Explanation of Change From:

Having gained office by succession following the forced resignation of President Jose Maria Velasco Ibarra on November 7, 1963, President Carlos Julio Arosemena was overthrown on July 11, 1963, by a military coup, surrendering after the Presidential palace had been encircled by troops and tanks. Executive power was assumed by a four-man military junta headed by Captain Ramon Castro Jijon; a state of martial law was imposed.

### Changes within Stabilization/Democratic Consolidation Period:

**1Oa)** March 30, 1966 (military coup; transitional government) – The military junta that had ruled since July 1963 was overthrown on March 29, 1966, by the High Command of the Armed Forces, which asked the major political parties, except the Communists, to select an interim government until elections could be held. Interim President Yerovi Indaburu, who took the oath of office on March 30, 1966, announced that elections would be held for a Constituent Assembly which would draw up a new Constitution. At the same time the President proclaimed an amnesty for all political prisoners, abolished the state of martial law, reopened the University of Quito, restored the right to strike, and announced that the country would be governed under the 1946 Constitution until a new one had been drawn up by the Constituent Assembly, which was lected on October 16, 1966. The Constituent Assembly on November 17, 1966, elected Dr. Arosemena Gomez as Provisional President.

**2X) Date of Change to Factional-Democratic:** September 1, 1968 (general elections)

### Brief Explanation of Change To:

Ecuador's first direct national elections since 1960 took place on June 2, 1968, when the electorate voted for a President, a Vice-President, a new Chamber of Deputies (80 members), and 39 of the 54 Senate seats. Of the five Presidential candidates, three were former presidents. The vote was almost evenly split among the three former-presidents; Jose Maria Velasco Ibarra

was elected president for the fifth time despite receiving only about one-third of the popular vote. President Velasco Ibarra was inaugurated on September 1, 1968.

**Identify Main Factions:**

- *Sierra (highland) landowners* — the traditional *latifundista* elites were staunchly conservative and were centered around the capital city, Quito
- *Costa (coastal lowlands) agro-exporter and industrial elites* — centered on the major port city of Guayaquil, the coastal elites were more liberal than their highland rivals but similarly anti-communist
- *Populists* — the concentration of land and business holdings among the relatively small group of coastal and highland elites, along with their staunch anti-communism, created a chaotic mixture of populist pressures that focused opposition to elite rule in the urban centers and universities
- *Military* — the Ecuadoran military was activist and controlled by the established elites; as such, it reflected the three-way split of the larger population and often resulted in direct confrontations among military commands

**Changes within Factional-Democratic Period:**

**2Xa)** June 22, 1970 (presidential coup) – President Velasco Ibarra dismissed Congress and the Supreme Court and assumed dictatorial powers on June 22, 1970, announcing in a broadcast that he had done so to avoid “economic chaos, conspiracies by the oligarchs and subversion by university students.” He stated that he would retain supreme powers until his legal term of office ended in September 1972.

**Adverse Regime Change: June 1970 – February 1972:**

President Velasco Ibarra was elected for the fifth time in 1968; however, as his support declined he dissolved the legislature and assumed dictatorial power in 1970. President Velasco cancelled the 1967 constitution in favor of the 1946 version which granted strong powers to the executive. When he refused to suspend scheduled elections in 1972, he was deposed by a military coup on February 15, 1972.

**2O) Date of Change from Factional-Democratic: February 16, 1972 (military coup)**

**Brief Explanation of Change From:**

Following a campaign by right-wing political leaders, senior Army officers demanded on February 11 that President Velasco Ibarra suspend the proposed elections. The President rejected this demand and was subsequently overthrown in a bloodless coup by a group of officers on February 15, 1972. Brig-Gen. Guillermo Rodriguez Lara, commander in chief of the Army, led the coup and assumed the functions of Head of State. The coup was triggered by fears of a swing to the left by the President when he added Assad Bucaram, the formerly exiled leader of the leftist Concentracion de Fuerzas Populare, as a presidential candidate in the upcoming elections and held meetings with Chilean President Salvador Allende and Cuban President Fidel Castro.

**Changes within Stabilization/Democratic Consolidation Period:**

**20a)** August 10, 1979 (inauguration of elected government) – Ecuador held its first elections after the 1972 coup, the second and final round of which was won by Jaime Roldos Aguilera on April 29, 1979. Roldos, who represented the left-oriented *Concentration of Popular Forces* (CFP) won 68.5% of the vote against the right-wing candidate Sixto Durran Ballen of the National Constitutional Front (FNC). Roldos was inaugurated on August 10, 1979, on the same day that the new constitution, approved by referendum in 1978, came into force and the military junta ceased to function.

**3X) Date of Change to Factional-Democratic:** January 21, 2000 (attempted coup – ouster of president)

**Brief Explanation of Change To:**

Severe economic crises had combined with weak democratic institutions to produce repeated government crises in the late 1990s. Efforts by President Mahuad to stabilize the economy triggered 1,500 Amerindian activists and 200 uniformed officers to take to the streets on January 21, 2000. This political demonstration against the government triggered massive street protests. When the military informed President Mahuad that it could no longer secure his safety, he vacated his office. A military-civilian junta attempted to assume control of the government but quickly fell apart after the military withdrew its support. However, instead of allowing President Mahuad to resume his position of power, the military swore in Vice President Gustavo Noboa Bejarano as the new president. While this is not a coup in the traditional sense, it still marks a decline in the competitive nature of executive recruitment. In presidential elections held October-November 2002, in which President Noboa refused to stand for reelection, Col Lucio Gutiérrez, the joint candidate of the leftist Popular Socialist Party (SPS) and the New Country-Pachakutik Movement (NMN-PP) was elected president after a second-round runoff election against Alvaro Noboa Pontón, of the rightist New Party for National Action (PRIAN). Gutiérrez had been a leading participant in the coup against President Mahuad in January 2000.

**Identify Main Factions:**

The core geographic division is between the highland town of Quito, the political center of the country, and the coastal city of Guayaquil, the economic center. This geographic division has produced regional-based parties that have created a virtual paralysis of government. Also contributing to the instability of Ecuadorian politics in recent years has been the increasing political activism of the Amerindian population. Consisting of 15-25% of the population, the indigenous population has traditionally been the poorest segment of Ecuadorian society.

- *Confederation of Indian Nationalities of Ecuador (Conaie)* — main indigenous organization.
- *Alfarist Radical Front (FRA)* — centrist liberal party founded in 1972.
- *The Social Christian Party (PSC)* — a center right party with greatest support on the coast, which constitutes nearly half of the country's population. The PSC has little support in the Andean region and thus has not won a presidential election in many years.
- *Ecuadorian Roldosist Party (PRE)* — center-right populist party.
- *Patriotic Front (FP)* — coalition of trade unions and popular movements.

**Changes within Factional-Democratic Period:**

**3Xa)** November 26, 2006 (event) – Ecuador returns to competitive executive recruitment with the holding of presidential elections in November 2006, marked by the second round victory of Rafael Correa over Alvaro Noboa on November 26, 2006.

**3Xb)** November 29, 2007 (dissolution of legislature) – In an April 2007, referendum voters overwhelmingly supported President Correa’s plan to form a citizens’ assembly to rewrite the constitution. President Correa’s Alianza PAIS party won 80 of 130 seats in the new body. The new Constituent Assembly was given “full powers” to overrule, dissolve or replace all existing institutions. On November 29, 2007, the Constituent Assembly convened. In their first act, the Assembly asserted its full powers by declaring the old legislature to be “in recesses” and assumed lawmaking powers. In addition, the assembly sacked many congressionally appointed officials in the judiciary and executive branch. With no formal institutional oversight and with the full backing of the Constituent Assembly, President Correa has enhanced his powers to push through significant political and economic reforms.

**3O) Date of Change from Factional-Democratic:** February 17, 2013 (general elections)

**Brief Explanation of Change From:**

In presidential elections held on February 17, 2013, democratic socialist President Rafael Correa, the PAIS Alliance (AP) candidate, won a third term in office with nearly 60% of the vote. The broad popularity of his reform agenda resulted in an AP victory in legislative elections held the same day that gave the AP more than two-thirds of the National Assembly seats, achieving a super-majority for the first time in Ecuador’s history.