

## NIGER

Polity5 regime codes:

fac	scode	polity	pers	bmon	bday	byear	emon	eday	eyear	exec	exconst	polcomp
0a	NIR	-3	14	8	3	1960	4	15	1974	3	3	5
0b	NIR	-7	13	4	16	1974	6	13	1987	4	1	1
0c	NIR	-6	3	6	14	1987	11	14	1990	5	2	1
0d	NIR	-4	1	11	15	1990	11	3	1991	5	3	2
0e	NIR	-88	1	11	4	1991	4	15	1993	-88	-88	-88
0f	NIR	6	3	4	16	1993	1	27	1996	7	7	5
0g	NIR	-3	1	1	28	1996	7	7	1996	5	3	3
1X	NIR	-3	3	7	8	1996	4	9	1999	4	1	6
1O	NIR	-88	1	4	10	1999	12	6	1999	-88	-88	-88
1Oa	NIR	5	5	12	7	1999	12	3	2004	7	5	8
1Ob	NIR	6	5	12	4	2004	5	25	2009	8	5	8
1Oc	NIR	-3	1	5	26	2009	2	18	2010	4	3	3
1Od	NIR	3	1	2	19	2010	4	5	2011	5	5	8
1Oe	NIR	6	5	4	6	2011	3	19	2016	8	5	8
1Of	NIR	5	3	3	20	2016	99	99	9999	7	5	8

PITF Problem Events:

- 1) 01/96-01/96 (ARC 01/96)
- 2) 05/09-05/09 (ARC 05/09)

**0a)** August 3, 1960 (independence) – As a result of a referendum held on 14 December 1958, Niger chose to accept limited self-government within the French Community and rejected a call for immediate independence favored by the *Sawaba* party. The 1958 election was dominated by the Nigerien Progressive Party (PPN), led by Hamani Diori, with the former majority *Sawaba* party, led by Djibo Bakary, taking only six seats; the victories for those six seats were annulled and awarded to PPN supporters. On 18 October 1959 the *Sawaba* party was dissolved by the government, leaving the PPN as Niger's sole legal party. Niger gained independence on 3 August 1960 and adopted a presidential system; the term of the National Assembly elected in 1958 was extended for five years and Hamani Diori was unanimously elected president by the assembly on 10 November 1960. Diori and the PPN cut across tribal identities and represented traditional elites. Expatriate members of the *Sawaba* attempted an armed invasion in October 1964 and President Diori survived an assassination attempt on 13 April 1965. PPN candidates in elections held in October 1965 and October 1970 ran unopposed. Prolonged drought and famine in the early 1970s exposed the corruption and neglect of the regime.

**0b)** April 16, 1974 (military coup) – A military coup on 15 April 1974 led by the recently appointed Army Chief of Staff, Lt-Col. Seyni Kountché, suspended the constitution, dissolved the National Assembly, banned political organizations, and arrested Hamani Diori and several of his ministers. Kountché headed a Supreme Military Council dominated by members of his Djerma Songhai ethnic group. Over time, the military junta incorporated civilian administrators into the government; however, Kountché maintained firm, although not unchallenged, control. Forces loyal to President Kountché thwarted a coup plot in August 1975 and coup attempts in March 1976 and October 1983.

**0c)** June 14, 1987 (new constitution) – The health of President Kountché began to wane in early 1987 and on 11 May 1987 his government adopted a draft National Charter that established a National Development Council and charted a "constitutional normalization" process for an eventual return to civilian rule; the Charter was approved by referendum on 14 June 1987.

President Kountché died in a Paris hospital on 10 November 1987 and was replaced by Col. Ali Seibou as head of the Supreme Military Council. President Seibou concurred with Kountché's preference for a one-party system and, on 2 August 1988, announced the formation of the National Movement for the Development of Society (MNSD) as the sole legal party. A new one-party constitution was enacted in September 1989 and general elections were held on 10 December 1989 with all MNSD candidates running unopposed.

**0d)** November 15, 1990 (lifting of ban on parties) – Public dissent increased in the aftermath of the elections and, in the face of an armed rebellion by ethnic-Tuareg in the northwest, on 15 November 1990 President Seibou announced that the ban on political parties would be lifted. Over the next several months the government gave its approval for the formation of some fifteen new parties.

**0e)** November 4, 1991 (transitional government) – On July 29, 1991 President Saibou complied with opposition demands for increased participation and multiparty by convening a National Conference to initiate dialogue between the MNSD government and delegates from the opposition parties and civil society organizations; representatives of the military did not attend. The conference quickly asserted itself as the country's governing authority by claiming executive authority, suspending the constitution, and, on 10 September 1991, voting to dissolve the government. On 26 October 1991, the National Conference elected Amadou Cheiffou to be prime minister and form a 15-month transitional government to draft a new constitution and prepare for multi-party elections. President Saibou remained head of state. The transitional High Council of the Republic was convened on 4 November 1991 following the dismissal of the National Conference. The armed rebellion by ethnic-Tuareg in the north complicated the transition period and revealed the civilian government's tenuous relationship with the country's military forces as mutinous army units acted to forcibly repress dissent among the Tuareg. On 26 December 1992 a referendum approved a new multi-party constitution and general elections were scheduled for February 1993.

**0f)** April 16, 1993 (new multi-party government) – The country's first multi-party legislative elections were held on 14 March 1993 and presidential elections were held on 17 March 1993; a presidential runoff election was held on 27 March 1993 between the top two candidates. and April 1993. The MNSD won a plurality of legislative seats; however, in order to prevent the former ruling party from gaining control of the government, nine opposition parties formed an Alliance of Forces for Change (AFC) on 16 February 1993 and formed a majority coalition government. Similarly, in order to prevent the MNSD candidate, Tandja Mamadou, from winning the presidential runoff election, the opposition parties threw their support behind Mahamane Ousmane of the Social Democratic Convention (CDS) who, then, won the runoff vote with just over 54% of the ballots cast. President Ousmane took office on 16 April 1993. The ruling AFC coalition quickly fell apart due to rivalry between President Ousmane and Prime Minister Mahamadou Issoufou when Issoufou's Niger Party of Democracy and Socialism (PNDS) left the coalition on 25 September 1994. Ousmane appointed a member of his own party

(Souley Abdoulaye, CDS) as prime minister but his inability to muster a majority coalition forced the president to dissolve the National Assembly on 17 October 1994 and call new legislative elections. New elections were held on 12 January 1995 and resulted in victory for a MNSD-led coalition. President Ousmane delayed appointing a new prime minister, tried to appoint a MNSD member of his own choosing, and finally relented and appointed the leader of the MNSD, Hama Amadou, on 21 February 1995; Amadou formed an opposition government on 25 February. Rivalry between the president and prime minister increased over the new several months as the specific division and practice of executive authority remained unclear and both offices claimed authority for themselves and denied the authority of the other. By August 1995, Amadou held Cabinet meetings without the president attending and Ousmane declared all Cabinet decisions "null and void." The executive stalemate continued through the end of the year.

**0g) January 28, 1996 (military coup) –**

**Adverse Regime Change: January 1996**

Political conflict between Prime Minister Amadou (MNSD) and President Ousmane (CSD) led to political stalemate and effectively paralyzed the government by the end of 1995. Using this as justification, army officers led by Col. Ibrahim Barre Mainassara, the Chief of General Staff and an ethnic-Hausa, executed a coup on January 27, 1996, seizing control of government, suspending all political parties, and imposing a state of emergency. A National Salvation Council (NSC, military junta) was established to govern the country.

Col. Mainassara maintained that the coup was necessary to break the impasse in government and, in order to demonstrate his commitment to democratic rule, he appointed an all-civilian cabinet on 2 February 1996 with Boukary Adji as prime minister; he published his timetable for a return to democratic rule on 20 March 1996. On 27 March 1996 a transitional legislative body, the National Forum for Democratic Renewal, was formed by the NSC to draft a new constitution and prepare for elections. In April 1996, the Forum drafted a new constitution for a presidential system which eliminated the power-sharing arrangement that had led to the impasse and coup; the draft was approved by referendum and promulgated on 22 May 1996. The ban on political parties was revoked on 20 May and the state of emergency was lifted on 23 May.

**1X) Date of Change to Factional-Autocratic: July 8, 1996 (presidential election)**

**Brief Explanation of Change To:**

A presidential election was held on 7-8 July 1996, despite the dismissal of the Independent National Electoral Commission on 7 July by the NSC following charges of "obstructionism," and (now) Brig-Gen. Mainassara was declared the winner with 52% of the vote in the first round. The election was widely viewed as fraudulent and the result triggered violent protests in the capital and other major cities; hundreds of arrests were made and the offices of opposition parties were closed down by authorities. President Mainassara was inaugurated on 7 August 1996. In

October 1996, the government announced heightened security measures as authorities seized large quantities of arms and "large-scale" arrests were made. In the run up to legislative elections, the Supreme Court ruled on 7 November to exclude eight opposition parties from the elections; in response, the main opposition parties declared a boycott of the elections. The elections were won by Mainassara's National Union of Independents for Democratic Renewal (UNIRD) and allied parties (69 of 83 seats). The National Salvation Council was dissolved on 12 December 1996. Public demonstrations of widespread dissent continued to erupt periodically throughout President Mainassara's tenure.

**Identify Main Factions:**

- *Military Government* — The Niger military had ruled the country from Kountché's April 1974 coup until its first multi-party elections introduced fully competitive politics in April 1993. The political rivalry that characterized that democratic regime and paralyzed the government led many of the country's traditional and military elite to support Mainassara's "electoral coup" and the return to a personalistic, military-backed regime.
- *Opposition to the Military Government* — While recognizing the justification of the military for stepping in to break the political impasse caused by the executive rivalry between Ousmane and Amadou, Niger's nascent civil society groups and political parties were immediately incensed with the military's blatant disregard and subversion of the electoral process and withdrew from formal politics to the informal democracy of the streets. The opposition organized a common front against the Mainassara regime, the Front for the Restoration and Defense of Democracy (FRDD).

**10) Date of Change from Factional-Democratic:** April 10, 1999 (assassination of the president; formation of transitional government)

**Brief Explanation of Change From:**

In an attempt to dampen ongoing public dissent, the government of President Mainassara scheduled the country's first municipal elections in early 1999. The opposition FRDD was split on whether they should contest these elections but ultimately decided to participate. The local elections were held on 7 February 1999 and FRDD candidates won a large majority of the contests; however, on 7 April 1999, the Supreme Court issued a ruling that annulled the election results. On 9 April 1999, President Mainassara was ambushed and killed by members of his own presidential guard and, on 11 April 1999, the head of the presidential guard unit responsible for the assassination, Maj. Daouda Malam Wanke, was named the new leader. He immediately established a National Council for Reconciliation and lifted the ban on political parties that had been imposed by Mainassara. On 19 May 1999, a broad-based Consultative Council was established to draft a new constitution, and, on 18 July 1999, a new semi-presidential constitution was approved by referendum.

**Changes during Post-Factional Period:**

**10a)** December 7, 1999 (new government) – Multi-party presidential elections were held on 17 October 1999 with a runoff election between the leading candidates, Tandja Mamadou (MNSD) and Mahamadou Issoufou (PNDS), taking place in conjunction with legislative elections held on 24 November 1999. Tandja won the presidency and his MNSD won a plurality of legislative seats in elections deemed free and fair. On 6 December 1999, Maj. Wanke relinquished executive authority to the new government and the National Council for Reconciliation was dissolved. President Tandja was inaugurated on 22 December 1999.

**10b)** December 4, 2004 (general elections) – Presidential elections were held on 16 November 2004 among a field of six candidates. Incumbent President Mamadou Tandja defeated his main rival Mahamadou Issoufou in a runoff election held on December 4, 2004, coinciding with legislative elections won by the MNSD; the election process is deemed generally free and fair.

**10c)** May 26, 2009 (presidential coup) – President Mamadou Tandja effectively seized power in Niger on 26 May 2009 when he dissolved the National Assembly for obstructing his plan to organize a referendum to extend his rule beyond the two-term limit codified in the constitution. The referendum was held on 4 August 2009 and was boycotted by the opposition; Tandja, thus, gained a “mandate” to promulgate a new constitution and stronger presidential system.

**10d)** February 19, 2010 (military coup) – Following Mamadou Tandja's presidential coup on 26 May 2009, the military ousted President Tandja on 18 February 2010 and set up a caretaker military junta, Supreme Council for the Restoration of Democracy, led by Maj. Salou Djibo. The ruling junta instituted constitutional changes and scheduled elections for a return to civilian rule on 3 January 2011.

**10e)** April 6, 2011 (peaceful transfer of authority) – Following first round presidential elections held on 31 January 2011 and a runoff election held on 13 March 2011, PNDS candidate Mahamadou Issoufou was elected president with 58% of the runoff vote against opponent Seyni Oumarou (MNSD). Issoufou was inaugurated on 6 April 2011, completing Niger’s first peaceful transfer of elected authority and a further consolidation of democratic governance. Issoufou's PNDS had won a plurality of seats in the 31 January legislative elections (39), displacing the MNSD (26) as the largest party. Former prime minister Hama Amadou's Nigerien Democratic Movement (MDN) made a strong showing by taking 23 seats and in return for supporting Issoufou in the presidential runoff he was elected president of the National Assembly.

**10f)** March 20, 2016 (restricted election; boycott) – General elections were held in Niger on 21 February 2016 with President Mahamadou Issoufou running for re-election. The main opposition candidate, Hama Amadou, campaigned from his prison cell, having been arrested for "baby trafficking" immediately upon his return to the country from exile on November 14, 2015. While Issoufou failed to gain the required 50% vote in the first round requiring him to run against Amadou in a second round of voting, the coalition of opposition parties, COPA 2015, supporting

Amadou boycotted the second round election held on March 20, 2016, claiming fraud. As a result, Issoufou was re-elected with nearly 93% of the vote.