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## List of Countries Undergoing Radical Political Change Since 1969

Afghanistan

A military junta on April 27, 1978, seized power in Afghanistan from the government of Prime Minister Mohammad Daoud Khan after fierce fighting in Kabul in which Daoud and his immediate associates were killed. A Revolutionary Council under the leadership of Nur Mohammad Taraki, a civilian who reportedly headed Khalq, the Afghan Communist Party, proclaimed the new government on April 30 and received Soviet recognition at once.

Angola

This former colony under conservative Portuguese rule is now the People's Republic of Angola having reached this state in November 1975 following a civil war. Under the leadership of Antonio Agostinho Neto, Angola is a Marxist, one-party state, which is still willing to do business with Western firms (for example, Gulf Oil).

Bangladesh

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his Bengali dissidents established an independent national state, known as the People's Republic of Bangladesh, when Pakistani forces in Dacca surrendered to Indian troops and Bengali insurgents on December 16, 1971. Two coups in August and November 1975 led by army officers resulted in the death of Mujibur Rahman and other high-level government officials, the establishment of a Martial Law Administration, and the dissolution of Parliament.

Benin

The military often tampered with the civilian political system in what used to be known as Dahomey. This gave way to a more permanent military regime ushered in by Mathieu Kerekou in October 1972. This Marxist, one-party state styled itself the People's Republic of Benin in November 1975.

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Cambodia

On April 17, 1975, the five-year civil war in Cambodia ended when Phnom Penh was occupied by the Khmer Rouge and the pro-American government collapsed. The new revolutionary government attempted to institute some of the most abrupt and radical changes in a society yet conceived. They emptied Phnom Penh, eliminated much of the middle class and capitalism, and communized the peasantry. From 1978 on, Cambodia has been the scene of another war between the revolutionary government and Vietnamese-backed insurgents. The denouement of the conflict will no doubt bring a further radical shift in government and ideology.

Chile

On September 11, 1973, a conservative military junta succeeded to power through a sudden, violent military coup against the government of Salvador Allende Gossens. In September 1970, Allende had won a narrow political victory in the Chilean presidential election, and became the first avowed Marxist to achieve control of a Latin American government by peaceful, constitutional means. Allende's efforts to set up a socialist system, to nationalize the country's basic mineral resources, and to assume control of "monopolies" and banks, combined with serious inflation, strikes, and domestic political violence prompted the Chilean armed forces, traditionally non-political, to intervene in order to forestall what they regarded as impending national economic disaster and civil war.

Congo

Long under leftist rule, the Congo formalized its identification in December 1970 when Major Marian Ngouabi proclaimed the People's Republic of the Congo. He was assassinated in March 1977 and succeeded by Colonel Joachim Yhombi-Opango.

Cyprus

In July 1974 after an attempted coup by members of the Cyprus National Guard, supported by Greek military officers, Turkey launched military operations against the northern coast of the island occupying forty percent of Cyprus. In the

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absence of a centralized Cypriot government (President Makarios had fled the island shortly after the attempted coup) Glafcos Clerides, presiding officer of the Cypriot House of Representatives, had been appointed acting president. In February 1975, the Turkish community proclaimed a Turkish Federated State of Cyprus, appointing Rauf Denktas as president. Despite attempts to resolve the Cyprus question between 1975 and 1978, no solution has yet been found to satisfy Greek, Turkish, or Cypriot representatives.

#### Equatorial Guinea

A former colony of Spain, it now has a leftist government led by Macie Nguema Biyogo Nguie Ndong who made himself President for life in 1972 and did away with any opposition political parties.

#### Ethiopia

Long a conservative monarchy and a staunch ally of the West, Ethiopia is now a radical Marxist state and is closely tied to the Soviet Union and to Cuba. Haile Selassie I was deposed as sovereign in September 1974. The monarchy was abolished in March 1975 and the former ruler died in August of that year. The effective ruler is Lt. Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam who exercises power in the Dergue or Armed Forces Coordinating Committee and in the Marxist All-Ethiopian Socialist Movement.

#### Greece

After a period of considerable political unrest, highlighted by two military coups in April 1967 (a countercoup in December 1967 lead to the flight of King Constantine to Rome) and November 1973, Greece under Prime Minister Constantine Caramanlis and a government of national unity held its first parliamentary elections in ten years in November 1974. A month later, a referendum held to determine the fate of the monarchy resulted in a popular decision to shift to a republican form of government. In June 1975, the Greek parliament approved a new republican constitution.

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Iran

After four months of intense social, political and economic unrest, preceded by a year of sporadic disturbances, the fifty-four year old Pahlavi dynasty of Iran came to an end when Shah Muhammed Reza Pahlavi left the country in January 1979. Opposition to the Shah which had come from all levels of Iranian society seemed to congeal initially under the Muslim Shi'ite leader, the Ayatollah Khomeini. Khomeini's bid to establish an Islamic republic is presently being challenged by leftist and moderate elements alike.

Laos

In May 1975, an almost bloodless revolution began when the Pathet Lao moved into territory held by the former opposition members of the Provisional Government of National Union (established in 1974 to bring together all Lao political elements including the Pathet Lao). The revolution ended in December 1975 with the abdication of King Savang Vatthana and the resignation of the Provisional Government of National Union. A People's Democratic Republic was declared in December 1975 and Laos began gradual transition to socialism much on the Vietnamese model.

Lebanon

Between 1975 and 1977, Lebanon was shaken by a sectarian civil war which resulted in total fragmentation of the country's social, political, and economic life. The conflict which encompassed religious, economic, and political tensions between Muslim and Christians, was complicated by the presence of 400,000 Palestinians and by intervention by both Syria and Israel. After a series of compromise proposals, the presence of an inter-Arab deterrent force, and UN peace-keeping troops, Lebanon may be gradually working its way back to some degree of normality.

Libya

In September 1969, Colonel Mu'ammur Qadhafi overthrew the eighteen year old monarchy of King Idris I and established the Libyan Arab Republic, headed by a Revolutionary Command Council. The new regime has been revolutionary, socialist, and progressive in character. In March 1977 a

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General Congress of elected representatives changed the country's name to the Socialist Peoples' Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, proclaimed the establishment of peoples' power, and vested all power in the General People's Congress.

### Mozambique

A former colony of conservative Portugal now known as the People's Republic of Mozambique. It achieved its independence in June 1975 under the rule of Samora Moises Machel. Mozambique is a one-party Marxist state, which seeks Western economic assistance.

### Pakistan

The surrender of Pakistani forces on December 16, 1971, and the establishment of the People's Republic of Bangladesh ended the military dictatorship of General Agha Muhammad Yahya Khan and elevated Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the founder and Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) to power. Bhutto, in turn, drafted and brought into force on August 14, 1973, a constitution which established, for the first time in Pakistan, democratic procedures and institutions. The constitution was suspended on July 5, 1977, however, when Bhutto and his associates were taken into custody as a result of an army coup. Since that time, the armed forces have governed Pakistan under the leadership of the Army Chief of Staff, General Mohammad Zia-ul Haq.

### Portugal

In April 1974 after a coup by a group of military officers calling themselves the Armed Forces Movement, Portugal began its transition from an authoritarian regime under Salazar and Caetano to a parliamentary democracy. A year later, following a popular election, an assembly was selected to draft a constitution. After almost a year of political unrest between civilian and military elements and between leftist, communist, and conservative factions, a constitution was finally promulgated in April 1976. This paved the way for elections for a parliamentary assembly. In December 1976, the government of Dr. Mario Soares was re-endorsed in municipal elections.

Somalia

Major General Mohamed Siad Barre seized power in October 1969 and proclaimed a socialist, one-party state which developed close ties with the Soviet Union until the Soviets backed Ethiopia in her conflict with Somalia. Somali nationalism is more important than Somali Marxism and thus Somalia has sought military aid from the West and conservative Arab states.

Spain

Upon the death of General Francisco Franco in November 1975 and with the accession of Prince Juan Carlos de Bourbon y Bourbon as king, Spain began the process of transition from almost forty years of authoritarian rule to a monarchy with a constitution, an independent judiciary, and a bicameral legislature. In December 1976 after a national referendum, it was decided to convert the Cortes from a unicameral to bicameral structure. In June 1977, Spain held its first open and free elections since 1936 for a new bicameral Cortes.

Uganda

Included on this list for the magnitude of bloodshed and mindless rule that have characterized this nation since the coup which brought Idi Amin Dada to power in January 1971. The deposed Milton Obote had already proclaimed one-party rule and a socialist program in December 1969.

Vietnam

On April 30, 1975, Saigon surrendered to the People's Liberation Army after the evacuation of Americans and pro-American Vietnamese. In June a Provisional Revolutionary Government took control of South Vietnam. The new government began a cautious and extremely gradual policy of building up socialism in the south. In July 1976, north and south Vietnam were reunited under the name of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

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