

Zelenskiy gets (almost) all the power

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After a new party led by comedian Volodymyr Zelenskiy gained majority power in Ukraine in the July 21st parliamentary elections, Zelenskiy stepped handily into the presidency. None of Ukraine's previous five presidents has come close to wielding such power from the very beginning of their terms. Ukraine now has de facto one-party rule, for the first time since the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

Zelenskiy's *Sluha Narodu* (Servant of the People) party took 254 seats, well above the 226 needed for a simple majority. Now SN can unilaterally pass any law, except for amendments to the Constitution. And for that, Zelenskiy could also easily recruit an extra 46 MPs from among independents, to form a constitutional majority of 300 votes.

Sluha Narodu leaders have already stated publicly that they do not plan to share power with any other party. They have distributed the key parliamentary committee posts among their ranks. The Cabinet also will likely comprise only SN members.

Seven candidates are now being considered for premier. The Deputy Chief of Staff of the Office of the President, Oleksiy Honcharuk, is seen as the likeliest candidate >>>