

ELECTION, RELIGIOSITY, AND DEVELOPMENT IN CONTEMPORARY INDONESIA POST-REFORMATION

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ABSTRACT

In post-Reformation period, Indonesia has undergone substantial changes as it transitioned from authoritarianism to democracy. This era has been marked by pivotal elections that have reshaped the political landscape and influenced the country's development path. This analysis delves into the complex interplay between elections and development in modern Indonesia, within the Southeast Asian context. Key electoral milestones, including the significant elections of 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014, 2019, and 2024, are examined to understand their impact on Indonesia's democratic evolution. The paper investigates factors affecting voter behavior, such as socioeconomic status, religious and ethnic identities, and party platforms. Furthermore, it assesses the crucial role of electoral bodies like the Independent Election Commission (KPU) and the Constitutional Court in safeguarding the integrity of elections. A core theme is the influence of electoral results on development policies, addressing economic growth, poverty alleviation, and social welfare programs. The paper evaluates how elections have contributed to political stability and institutional advancement. By analyzing electoral politics in other Southeast Asian countries like the Philippines and Thailand, the paper offers insights into regional dynamics, highlighting the distinctive challenges and opportunities Indonesia faces in its democratic journey. The study concludes that elections have been vital to Indonesia's development post-Reformation. Despite ongoing issues like corruption, clientelism, and regional inequalities, democracy provides a mechanism for citizens to demand accountability and better governance. Strengthening democratic institutions and enhancing civic engagement are essential for Indonesia to continue progressing towards a more prosperous and equitable society.

Keywords: Indonesian Elections, Post-Reformation Indonesia, Southeast Asian Politics, Democratic Transition, Election and Development

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