



An In-depth Examination of the Role and Dynamics of Presidential Institutions in Contemporary Political Systems

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ABSTRACT

The institution of the presidency plays a central role in the political systems of many countries around the world. This abstract aims to conduct an in-depth review of the role and dynamics of the presidential institution in the context of the contemporary political system. Through a descriptive and comparative analysis approach, this article explores a number of key aspects related to the presidential institution, including executive power, relations with legislative institutions, role in policy formation, and interactions with civil society. This research highlights variations in the structure and function of presidential institutions in different countries, as well as their impact on political stability, democracy and national development. By analyzing various case studies and related literature, this article seeks to provide a deeper understanding of the complexity and relevance of the presidential institution in the contemporary political context.

Keywords: In-depth Examination, Dynamics of Presidential Institutions, Political Systems

1. INTRODUCTION

Currently, in modern legal countries, the concept and development, as well as the function and authority of the president, depend on the system of government adopted by these countries. The president has his own function and authority, the mechanisms for implementing which vary, depending on the constitutional and political system in the country. Then, in the Indonesian constitutional system, a President has a very important role, where a president's duties are not only as head of government, but also as head of State who

is responsible to the State. The President is responsible to his people to regulate security, justice, social welfare and prosperity of the Indonesian people equally. Indonesia is a unitary country in the form of a republic. In its government system, Indonesia adheres to a presidential system. The presidential system, often called the congressional system, is a republican system of government in which executive power is elected through elections and is separate from legislative power. The presidential system is one of the

government systems most widely adopted in democratic constitutional countries. (Muttaqin and Anwar 2019)

The institution of the presidency plays an important role in shaping the direction and dynamics of political systems in many countries around the world. The presidency often serves as the focal point of executive power, influencing various aspects of political, economic, and social life in a society. In some political systems, the presidency holds broad executive powers, while in others, its powers may be more limited or balanced by other institutions such as parliament or the judiciary. The importance of the presidential institution has received increasing attention from political researchers, observers, and policymakers over the past few decades. This growing interest is not surprising considering the impact presidential decisions and actions have on a country's policy direction, political stability, and the overall well-being of society. In the context of globalization and contemporary political complexity, a different understanding of the role and dynamics of the presidential institution becomes increasingly important. Empirical research and theoretical analysis have helped reveal various aspects related to the institution of the presidency, from its relationship with other political institutions to its impact on governance and political stability. Against this background, this journal aims to provide an in-depth review of the role and dynamics of the presidential institution in the context of the contemporary political system. Through a descriptive and comparative analytical approach, we will explore various key aspects related to the institution of the presidency and seek a deeper understanding of its complexity. Therefore, it is hoped that this journal can provide valuable insight for readers to understand

the important role of the presidential institution in the modern political system. (Syarif 2022)

Indonesia, a diverse archipelago nation located in Southeast Asia, has undergone significant political transformations since gaining independence from Dutch colonial rule in 1945. The country's political system today is characterized by a democratic framework, multi-party system, and a presidential system of governance (Honna & Mietzner, 2015). The political landscape has evolved considerably, moving from an authoritarian regime under President Suharto's New Order (1967-1998) to a more democratic and decentralized system post-1998 (Aspinall, 2005).

Following the downfall of the Suharto regime in 1998, Indonesia embarked on a path towards democratization marked by political reforms, decentralization, and increased civil liberties (Mietzner, 2013). The end of the New Order era led to the establishment of a more open political environment, with greater freedom of speech, assembly, and association (Schwarz, 2004). The country's transition to democracy was further solidified with the adoption of constitutional amendments in 1999, which laid the groundwork for a more democratic and transparent governance system (Tomsa, 2013).

The current political system in Indonesia is anchored by a multi-party parliamentary system, where political parties play a crucial role in shaping public policy and governance (Honna, 2016). Parties such as the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P), Golkar, and Gerindra have emerged as key players in the political arena, each representing distinct ideologies and interests (Mietzner, 2017). Despite the multiplicity of parties, coalition politics remains prevalent, often

necessitating collaboration and compromise among parties to form a stable government (Tomsa & Ufen, 2018). One of the defining features of Indonesia's political system is its presidential system of governance, where the president serves as both the head of state and government (Aspinall & Fealy, 2003). The president is elected through a direct popular vote for a five-year term and wields significant executive powers, including the authority to appoint cabinet ministers, issue decrees, and shape foreign policy (Mietzner, 2015). This system of governance has been instrumental in maintaining political stability and continuity amidst the country's diverse ethnic, religious, and cultural landscape (Hefner, 2011).

Despite the progress made in democratization and political reform, Indonesia continues to grapple with challenges such as corruption, electoral fraud, and political polarization (Slater, 2004). The Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) and other anti-corruption agencies have been established to combat corruption and promote transparency in governance (Aspinall, 2014). Furthermore, efforts to strengthen electoral institutions and mechanisms have been ongoing to ensure free, fair, and credible elections (Tomsa & Hughes, 2019). Indonesia's contemporary political system is a dynamic and evolving landscape characterized by democratic governance, a multi-party system, and a presidential system of leadership. Despite the challenges and complexities inherent in managing a diverse and vast archipelago nation, Indonesia has made significant strides towards democratization, decentralization, and institutional reform in the post-New Order era. However, ongoing efforts to address corruption, electoral integrity, and political polarization remain

crucial to consolidating democratic governance and fostering sustainable development in the country.

2. THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1. Institutional Dynamics

The theory of institutional dynamics from a legal perspective examines how legal institutions develop, change and adapt in response to social, economic and political changes. Legal institutions are considered as a framework that regulates procedures and interactions in society, and determines the distribution of power and authority among various entities. The evolution of legal institutions is often influenced by the history, culture, and values of the societies in which they operate.

A quote from Douglas North, an economist and economic historian, illustrates the importance of institutions in the formation of the economy and society: "Institutions are the rules of the game in society, or, more formally, they are the bedrock of economic organization in society" (North, 1991). North emphasizes that institutions play a crucial role in determining how individuals and groups interact, as well as how resources are allocated and decisions are made.

In the legal context, institutional dynamics can be seen in various aspects, starting from the formation of new laws, legal interpretations that change over time, to adjustments to society's demands for justice and freedom. Dynamic legal institutions are able to adapt to the changes and challenges they face, while maintaining their integrity, fairness and original goals.

However, changes in legal institutions often face resistance and conflict, especially from those who have interests and power in the status quo. Therefore, a deep understanding of institutional dynamics from a legal perspective requires a



comprehensive analysis of the interactions between political, economic and social forces that shape and influence legal institutions.

2.2. Contemporary Political Systems

The theory of "Contemporary Political Systems" refers to the study and analysis of the structure, function and dynamics of political systems in the modern era, especially in the context of globalization, information technology and rapid social change. Contemporary political systems are often characterized by increasing complexity, interdependence, and adaptability, where states, international organizations, and non-state actors are interconnected and interact on a wide range of global issues and problems. Francis Fukuyama, a famous political scientist and writer, in his work "The End of History and the Last Man" (1992) expressed his views on the evolution of political systems in the post-Cold War context. Fukuyama emphasized the importance of liberal democracy as the most civilized and sustainable model of political system. According to him, contemporary political systems are characterized by the spread of democracy, human rights and transparent government as global norms.

In contemporary political systems, issues such as climate change, economic inequality, migration, and cyber security are becoming increasingly important and complex. The political system must be able to respond to this global challenge with inclusive and sustainable solutions. In addition, political participation, whether through the election process or civil action, is becoming more diverse and dynamic, driven by technology and social media. A key challenge in contemporary political systems is maintaining a balance between the need for global integration and local

identity, as well as between state autonomy and the demands of global governance. These dynamics influence how political decisions are made, how policies are formulated, and how power is distributed within and between states.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

The research method used in this journal is a descriptive and comparative analysis approach. Descriptive Analysis: This method is used to explain in detail the characteristics, structure and function of the presidential institution in various political contexts. Through descriptive analysis, this research will explore various aspects related to the presidential institution, such as executive power, relations with legislative institutions, role in policy formation, and interactions with civil society. By using this approach, research will provide a clear and comprehensive picture of the presidential institution. Comparative Analysis: Apart from that, this research will also use a comparative analysis approach to compare presidential institutions in various countries. (Suryadilaga 2019) By comparing the structure, function and dynamics of presidential institutions from several countries, this research will try to identify general patterns, differences and similarities that exist. Through this comparative analysis, research will provide a deeper understanding of variations in presidential institutions and their impact on each country's political system. By using a combination of descriptive and comparative analysis methods, this research aims to provide in-depth insight into the role and dynamics of the presidential institution in the contemporary political context. This method was chosen because it allows researchers to systematically analyze various aspects related to the presidential



institution and identify general patterns and differences between the countries studied.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

4.1. The Role of the Presidential Institution in Policy Formation

The research will review the role of the presidential institution in the policy formation process in various countries. This includes analysis of decision-making mechanisms at the executive level, the relationship between the president and the legislative body, as well as the president's role in initiating, formulating and encouraging the implementation of public policies. Through understanding the role of the presidential institution in policy formation, this research will provide better insight into the dynamics of executive power in the policy process.

The role of the presidential institution in policy formation is a key aspect in understanding the political dynamics of a country. First, as chief executive, the president has a central role in initiating, formulating and evaluating public policy. The president often has broad executive authority to determine the direction of government policy and lead the policy formation process. In this context, the president is not only responsible for the policies implemented, but is also responsible for the performance of the government as a whole. Second, the president also plays a role in establishing cooperative relationships with legislative institutions to achieve policy goals. Although the president may have great executive power, cooperation between the executive and legislative branches is often the key to success in formulating and implementing effective policies. (Soekarnoputri 2021) In a political system characterized by an equal distribution of power between the executive and

legislative branches, negotiation and compromise between the two institutions is important to reach consensus on proposed policies. Third, the role of the presidential institution also includes functions as a moral and symbolic leader for society. The president is often expected to provide moral direction and a long-term vision for the country. In this case, the president not only acts as a policy maker, but also as a figure who inspires and unites the community around him. The president's charisma and moral leadership can influence public opinion and shape political narratives that support the implementation of certain policies. Fourth, in some political contexts, the president also plays a role as a guardian of political stability and national security. In crisis or conflict situations, the president is responsible for making quick and effective decisions to maintain state stability and public security. (Arrianie and Si 2023)

In this case, the president's ability to lead and manage a crisis is a crucial test in assessing the quality of executive leadership. Fifth, the president also has a role as a diplomat for the country. In his capacity as head of state, the president is often the main face in international relations and interacting with other state leaders. Presidential diplomacy can influence bilateral and multilateral relations, as well as influence the direction of a country's foreign policy. Thus, the role of the presidential institution in the context of international diplomacy is important in determining a country's position and national interests on the global stage. (Supriatna, etal. 2022)

4.2. Dynamics of Relations Between the Presidential Institution and Civil Society



The dynamics of the relationship between the presidential institution and civil society include complex interactions between the government and various societal groups within a country. First, civil society, consisting of non-governmental organizations, advocacy groups, and individuals active in political life, often plays an important role in influencing policy formation and monitoring government performance. In this context, the presidential institution must take into account the aspirations and interests of civil society in the decision-making process. Second, the relationship between the presidential institution and civil society can be influenced by political and social dynamics within the country. For example, in situations where civil society is active and has good access to media and information technology, the president may be more open to input and criticism from civil society. (Kusmanto and Elizabeth 2018)

On the other hand, in situations where authoritarianism or political repression is rampant, relations between the presidential institution and civil society may be tense or even conflictual. Third, the presidential institution can also act as a facilitator of dialogue between the government and civil society. The president or his staff can hold forums or consultations with representatives of civil society to listen to their aspirations, gather input for policies, or explain policies taken by the government to the public. In this case, the presidential institution functions as a liaison between the government and civil society, creating a more open and inclusive communication channel. Fourth, the response of the presidential institution to the demands and aspirations of civil society can have a direct impact on the government's legitimacy. If the president succeeds in responding well to the needs

and desires of civil society, it can increase public support for his government. (Anita et al. 2022) However, failure to respond or respond adequately to issues raised by civil society can threaten legitimacy and presidential authority. Fifth, the dynamics of the relationship between the presidential institution and civil society can also be influenced by external factors, such as support from international actors or pressure from global institutions. For example, the president can respond to global issues such as human rights or climate change based on pressure and expectations from the international community, which in turn can influence the relationship between government and civil society at the national level. (Justisia 2018)

Apart from its role in the policy formation process, the research will also discuss the dynamics of the relationship between the presidential institution and civil society. It includes analysis of interactions between the president and various societal groups, including non-governmental organizations, advocacy groups, and mass media. The research will explore how the presidential institution takes into account and responds to the aspirations and demands of civil society in making policies and implementing government programs. Thus, this research will help understand the extent to which the presidential institution plays a role as a liaison between the government and society in the political process.

5. CONCLUSION

From the discussion above, it can be concluded that the relationship between the presidential institution and civil society is important in the political dynamics of a country. First, the interaction between the presidential institution and civil society reflects the complexity in the process of

policy formation and monitoring government performance. Second, the dynamics of this relationship are influenced by various political, social and external factors, which can create various patterns of interaction between government and civil society. Third, the presidential institution has an important role in facilitating dialogue and civil society participation in the political process. The ability of the presidential institution to respond well to the aspirations and needs of civil society can strengthen the government's legitimacy and authority. However, tension or conflict between the government and civil society can also threaten political stability and societal welfare. Fourth, the response of the presidential institution to the demands and aspirations of civil society can have a significant impact on the government's legitimacy. Presidents who succeed in maintaining good relations with civil society tend to receive stronger support from the public. However, the president must also be alert to the risk of civil society dissatisfaction, which could threaten political stability and democratic consolidation. Thus, a deep understanding of the dynamics of the relationship between the presidential institution and civil society is very important in strengthening political governance that is inclusive and responsive to the needs of society at large. Effective cooperation and dialogue between government and civil society can help create better conditions for democratic development and improve the overall welfare of society.

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