CITIZENS INVOLVEMENT AS A CONFLICT RESOLUTION EFFORT IN GENERAL ELECTIONS

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ABSTRAK

Konflik dalam pemilu merupakan sebuah keniscayaan berdasarkan sejarah pemilu di Indonesia, perdebatan dari pra pemilu hingga pasca pemilu kerap mewarnai pemilu di Indonesia, konflik antar elite politik telah mengakibatkan konflik di masyarakat umum. Urgensi kesadaran politik elite politik untuk mengutamakan bangsa dan negara ternyata belum mampu terwujud secara maksimal. Kondisi ini mendorong munculnya gerakan alternatif yang memberikan kesadaran akan pentingnya mewujudkan pemilu yang aman. Penelitian ini menggunakan studi literatur untuk mengkaji pandangan-pandangan alternatif berupa gerakan warga untuk menjadi solusi konflik politik saat pemilu. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa warga negara merupakan kelompok yang paling berpengaruh terhadap situasi politik pada masa pemilu, keterampilan warga negara dalam menganalisis situasi politik berdampak pada tindakan para elit politik untuk selalu mengedepankan nilai-nilai perdamaian secara umum. pemilu. Semakin banyaknya generasi muda yang terhasut kampanye hitam membuat mereka mudah tergerak oleh elite politik sesuai kemauan politiknya. Atas dasar itu, peningkatan pemahaman warga negara terhadap nilai-nilai demokrasi menjadi aspek yang sangat penting sebagai upaya penyelesaian konflik pada masa pemilu.

Kata Kunci:
Resolusi Konflik, Warga Negara, Pemilihan Umum

ABSTRAK

Conflict in general elections is a necessity based on the history of general elections in Indonesia, debates from pre-election to post-election often color general elections in Indonesia, conflicts between political elites have resulted in conflicts in the general public. The urgency of the political elite's political awareness to prioritize the nation and the state has actually not been able to materialize optimally. This condition encourages the emergence of an alternative movement that provides awareness of the importance of realizing safe general elections. This study uses literature studies to examine alternative views in the form of citizen movements to be a solution to political conflicts during general elections. The results of the study show that citizens are the most influential group over the political situation during the general election period, the skills of citizens in analyzing political situations have an impact on the actions of the political elite to always prioritize the values of peace in general elections. The more young citizens to be instigated by black campaigns make it easy for them to be moved by the political elite according to their political will. On that basis, increasing citizens' understanding of democratic values is a very important aspect as an effort to resolve conflicts during the general election period.

Keywords:
Conflict Resolution, Citizen, General Elections

Introduction

The most desirable state for a nation is one that many people strive for: democracy. However, the pursuit of a perfect democracy is a difficult task. The term "democratization" refers to this democratic process (Ordukhanyan, 2020). Liberation is typically where democratization starts. At this stage, the community is free to participate in social activities through organizations, the actions of citizens are allowed some latitude so that they are not threatened by conflict, and a respect for difference (pluralism) is beginning to emerge (Sorensen, 2018).

Electoral democratic regimes are supported by four factors, including free and fair elections, universal and passive voting rights, and active electoral groupings. This indicates that voter choices determine the effects of access to and control over power in the state. Members of parliament who have been elected are subject to voter punishment (Tridimas, 2023). However, this control is restricted since it only applies to the ruling class and has no bearing on how power is used from one election to the next.

The success of general elections is impacted by the existence of the General Elections Commission (KPU) and the General Elections Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) as a single unit of the Election administration function because elections will be determined not only by the KPU's ability to carry out all stages of the Election but also by Bawaslu. It is envisaged that Bawaslu's oversight responsibilities would enable elections to be conducted correctly and in line with its guiding principles, namely direct, public, free, secret, honest, and fair. Each of these institutions' responsibilities and powers demonstrates how two things complement and support one another in order to organize credible elections.

Even though there are clear rules governing the relationship between fellow election organizers such as the KPU and Bawaslu or the relationship between election organizers and election participants (political parties), the phenomenon that occurs is often disputes or conflicts which eventually lead to violence and often result in victims.

Elections have two purposes: as a setting for conflict and as a tool for resolving it. Elections are utilized as a method to settle conflicts by giving the people the power to make decisions, but conflict as a battlefield is a direct result of tensions between contending parties that ultimately leads to physical or non-physical violence (Hartwell, 2019). If there is effective communication among the players participating in the general election, results will be as predicted. However, if there is a breakdown in the actors' ability to communicate, conflict will result. The result will be a hindrance to the democratic process that is represented by this election.

Elections can become a forum for conflict because there is debate over the idea of the identity used by contestants in the general election. This situation will divide society into certain groups, this situation will have an impact on decreasing societal integration. Parties with the ability to undermine national unity may take advantage of the dispute in the general election. The threat of terrorism cannot be eliminated for the 2024 election. Terrorist networks or groups may use the rivalry between the parties running in the 2024 elections to further their objectives.

Jamaah Islamiyah (JI) and Jamaah Ansharut Daulah (JAD) are still in operation on a domestic level. While JI continues to exist through fundraising efforts both physically and online, JAD continues to disseminate misinformation online. The threat of terrorism cannot be eliminated for the 2024 election. This was demonstrated in October 2023 when the Abu Omar group's members, numbering in the hundreds, were apprehended by the National Police's Special Anti-terror Detachment 88 for their alleged involvement in plots to rig the 2024 elections.

Terrorist threats might put voters at risk both during the campaign and throughout the electoral process. There was also disturbance at proceedings related to electoral disputes and during protests. For there are hints that a terrorist organization is organizing a group to participate in the anarchist march.

Elections are a democratic procedure or method used to channel the aspirations and desires of the populace, in which the populace is given the opportunity to vote in accordance with their conscience without any outside interference in accordance with the principles of elections, namely direct, public, free, private, honest, and fair (Arceneaux & Vander Wielen, 2017; Davies, 2021). Elections as a voting mechanism must be conducted democratically and in accordance with the principles of popular sovereignty (Galston, 2018; Issacharoff, 2020). Political engagement is one of the key requirements for holding democratic elections. In light of this, participating in politics in a democratic nation is undoubtedly a desirable thing since it gives democracy greater meaning by increasing government responsiveness and shaping people's personalities to become moral individuals and decent citizens (Kisby, 2017; Degerman, Flinders, & Johnson, 2020). The existence of public participation in elections is something that is crucial because elections will give birth to democratic leaders. Therefore, citizen participation when choosing leaders must exist even though citizen involvement stops more in the election process.

If democratic elections are held in an environment of openness and freedom of expression and association, the outcomes might serve as a symbol and one of the standards for contemporary democracy in Indonesia. A democratic election is one that fulfills the three prerequisites of democracy, namely: 1) there is competition for and maintaining power; 2) there is community participation, 3) there is a guarantee of civil and political rights (Indarto & Fikri, 2022; Bakar, Hidayat, & Malik, 2022). Elections must include community engagement because if it is lacking or nonexistent, the election is not being done in a democratic manner. If elite competitiveness, community involvement, and political liberalization in the form of secured political rights are carried out in a democratic manner—that is, in an open, free, honest, fair manner, without coercion or intimidation—democratic elections will be accomplished. Pilkada must be held in conjunction with the General Election and involve political engagement from the general public. This implies that in order to establish if the Pilkada is democratic or not, public involvement in it must not only be present but also of a high caliber.

Citizens must actively participate in all phases of the General Election's execution. Politics is the type of engagement in question. Political involvement is the act of a person or group of people engaging actively in politics, namely through the election of state officials and the direct or indirect shaping of public policy (Botchway, 2018; Arkorful, Hilton, & Awaah, 2023). There are several methods to take part. The means of political engagement may be viewed to be separated into four categories: apolitical individuals, who make up the biggest number, watchers, participants, and activists, much like the pyramid of political participation. Depending on the level of cooperation, this pyramid is conical and rises higher. Apolitical individuals are those who engage in no political activity at all. Voting in general elections, debating political topics, going to political public meetings, and joining interest groups are all examples of political involvement for observer groups (Mansbridge, 2018). Additionally, what is even more rigorous is being involved in several social work initiatives, getting in touch with or lobbying authorities, being an active member of a political party, and running for office. The most intense are activists, specifically leaders of parties or interest organizations and part-time employees.

The ownership of political culture, which is the political orientation of human attitudes

toward the political system and its components, as well as individual attitudes that can play in a political system, is strongly tied to the political engagement of people (Weiss, 2020). Possession of a psychological orientation toward social objects, in this instance the political system, will shape an individual's political culture. The first of these orientations is cognitive orientation, which deals with an individual's understanding of and belief in the political system and its principles; the second is affective orientation, which deals with an individual's emotional attachment to the political system; and the third is evaluative orientation, which deals with an individual's capacity to assess the political system's current state and his or her place within it.

Political engagement in Pilkada is a component of political engagement generally. Election engagement (voter turnout) is how Neagra residents engage in politics in Pilkada. The two types of electoral involvement are conventional and non-conventional. Conventional electoral participation refers to the proportion of voters who show up at the polls, whereas non-conventional electoral participation refers to a broader range of citizen involvement in election processes, such as campaigning, volunteering, acting as political intermediaries for candidates, etc. This event shows that voters may mediate election-related disputes or even serve as a catalyst for unrest that leads to general elections in Indonesia.

Metode

This study employs a qualitative methodology and a literature review, using materials from periodicals on Indonesian general elections and conflict resolution as the unit of analysis. The criteria for the chosen journal are determined by the study area, specifically Indonesia. Data presentation, data reduction, and conclusion-drawing are the steps in the data processing process. The steps in this study followed Kuhlthau's (2002) methodology, specifically: a) topic selection; b) information exploration; c) determine the research focus; d) collection of data sources; e) preparation of data presentation; and f) preparation of reports. By choosing, contrasting, merging, and classifying the results of many research on elections and dispute resolution, data analysis employed content analysis. The following stage is to examine the data in order to draw a conclusion when all the data has been gathered. Data analysis approaches involve in-depth examination of the contents of written or printed material in journals to obtain accurate and exact conclusions while evaluating data. All study findings that address elections and conflict resolution are subjected to content analysis. General elections and dispute settlement are the research formulation and objectives that the research analysis is meant to address.

Result and Discussion

Theoretically, disputes may be split into two categories based on their manifestation: those that include violence and those that do not. The majority of violent conflicts take place in state societies where there is still a lack of basic agreement on the fundamental aims of the state as well as institutionalized conflict management and resolution methods. Meanwhile, state societies with an agreement on the foundation and objectives of the state, as well as on institutionalized methods of control and conflict resolution, are often where disputes that do not take the form of violence may be found (Arofah, 2016).

Conflicts between individuals and groups generally start when one side does something to incite the ire of the opposing party (Bilali & Vollhardt, 2019; Honneth, 2017). This rage generally manifests itself when one party benefits or is injured unilaterally. Anger can also develop when one side disregards the other's point of view. Thus, it may be inferred that conflict can happen when there

is a contradiction, such as a disagreement in viewpoints or interests or other demands. Mutual defense of all that is in their interests is the aim.

Elections are a kind of democracy that give room for civil discourse that includes political opinions as well as social and political discussions in order to stay in conflict-productive zones. Elections must also be viewed as a platform for confrontation that brings about social change both before and after the election. In the end, a resolution can be reached for all of the disputes that arose during the Pilkada or General Elections. Election conflict management has a crucial role to play since it allows for the correct control and resolution of existing disputes, preventing further escalation (Anggraini, Afrizal, & Indradin, 2019).

The election dispute regulation utilized may take the form of arbitration, in which both parties consent to a final decision being rendered that is both legally valid and enforceable (Hanotiau, 2020). Parties to a disagreement may accept rulings or punishments without protest if the electoral conflict rule is in effect. Because the DKPP and Panwaslu decisions in this case are conclusive and binding, the judgment is a final one that cannot be appealed. Conflicts between the KPU and Panwaslu still happen despite the fact that they both organize elections, making them a single function.

These circumstances show that there may be conflicts between players during general elections, and because of this, it is critical to consider the theoretical underpinnings of democracy as the foundation for the significance of general elections (Christiano, 2018). The form, definition, and ideal practice of democracy have been the subject of several discussions over the course of democracy's history. Because it is challenging to measure democracy's quality comprehensively due to the numerous disagreements. In determining whether a nation is actually democratic or not, there are two methods: substantive democracy and procedural democracy (Walters, 2022).

Abraham Lincoln conveyed his famous views on democracy "government of the people, by the people, and for the people", this concept contains substantive and procedural values. The phrases "government of the people" and "by the people" refer to procedural democracy, while the phrase "for the people" refers to the substantive goals of democracy (Kriesi, et al, in Mahendra, 2021). This division reflects the pattern of input and output of the democratic system, which means that both substantive democracy and procedural democracy have a correlation within the framework of "implementation" and "objectives". However, in modern democratic thinking both can be used as different variables in measuring the quality of democracy in a country (Mahendra, 2021).

The quality of elections as an Indonesian institutional system that has multiple instruments that enable the formation of centered and inclusive politics is one of many significant factors that encourage the engagement of citizens as conflict resolution options (Kodiyat, Siagian, & Andryan, 2020). Political parties can win widespread support by utilizing a hybrid election system backed by stringent party regulations. Political parties now have more opportunity to fight fiercely at the local and provincial levels thanks to Indonesia's transformation from centralized to decentralized political systems and patterns (Lele, 2021). Through this method, national parties become more receptive to regional issues and concerns as well as accommodating of them.

Political involvement, which is a crucial component of democracy, is closely tied to citizen involvement. People are given the opportunity to communicate their thoughts and goals to the government through political engagement. As a result, the community has the power to directly or indirectly affect how policies are made. Individuals and organisations may both participate in politics, whether they are expressing support or opposition. Attending public meetings, lobbying or communicating with lawmakers or government officials, joining political parties or interest groups, or casting a ballot in elections are some examples of acts that demonstrate political involvement (Gastil & Wright, 2018).

The situation of political elites who engage in fair political rivalry is another example of how citizens should participate. Political parties play a significant role in ensuring that there is political rivalry in an effort to attain this. Political parties are a crucial component of the contemporary democratic system (Wilensky, 2017). Legislative politics may become unstable if there are no political parties. Political players will thus create political parties if they want their programs and interests to be successful. Political parties have demonstrated their usefulness in democratic institutions throughout the contemporary democratic era.

Democracy and the implementation of the law are complimentary qualities. According to some experts, the implementation of the rule of law during the transition from an authoritarian government system attempts to establish a democratic one (Rothstein, 2019). This indicates that one requirement for building a democratic system and ensuring its functionality is the existence of the rule of law.

An important aspect of democracy is the existence of a substantial aspect. Freedom is an integral part of democracy. Freedom in the form of civil, political, socio-economic rights, political, economic and social equality are the dimensions that determine the quality of democracy. Freedom is an important part in the realization of substantial democracy, because with freedom citizens can determine their political choices rationally. Welfare is also an important part of citizen involvement in general elections, citizens who have welfare are free from personal problems, so they are able to be actively involved in political activities. An important aspect that cannot be separated from substantial democracy, namely equality, without an economic class divider, equality among citizens needs to be put forward as an important part of substantial democracy.

Post-election conflict is a dangerous situation if left unchecked, because it can be used by radicalism and terrorism groups for their interests (Giroux, 2017). If we refer to the logic of democracy being fully controlled by the people, then people's involvement in the electoral process is important to eliminate conflict. In this research, the research team considers that people's political awareness of democracy which has a nuance of tolerance can be a solution to conflicts that occur as a result of elections.

People's participation in the electoral process is not only important for efforts to reduce the impact of general elections, it is even an important part of democracy. A democratic election is one that satisfies the three requirements for democracy: 1) a guarantee of civil and political rights; 2) community involvement; and 3) competition for and maintenance of power (Okolie, et.al, 2021; Mietzner, 2024). Since voters are the primary players in general elections, they are better suited to resolve political disputes that arise from these elections. This indicates that public participation is something that must be present in elections because if there is no or insufficient public participation then the election held will not be a democratic election.

The act of a person or group actively engaging in politics, such as by choosing state leaders and having a direct or indirect impact on public policy, is known as political engagement. The emotional conditions brought about in political activities make people have excessive fanaticism in political figures. These problems arise when political elites do not prioritize national interests, so that when problems occur at the elite level, political problems also occur at the community level.

The process of integrating citizens in conflict resolution necessitates making a distinction between the many forms of political engagement, which are categorized as follows: watchers, participants, activists, and the largest category, apolitical individuals. The degree of engagement determines how steeply this pyramid tapers (Johnson, 2022). People who have no involvement in politics at all are considered apolitical (apathy). Then, voting in general elections, having political discussions, going to general meetings of political organizations, and joining interest groups are the ways that observers might participate in politics. Even more intense include being involved in

different social work programs, reaching out to authorities or lobbying them, actively participating in political parties, and starting campaigns. Lastly, an activist leads a party or interest organization and works part-time, making them the most demanding. Group stratification in the political context has different roles, so there needs to be a link between each group in a unified manner in promoting national unity and integrity during the general election process.

General elections in countries experiencing a democratic transition are indicated by the political culture of society which has not yet led to a participant political culture, this condition is a challenge in itself where society is still easy to mobilize. Political culture is defined conceptually as the political orientation of personal attitudes toward the political system and its elements as well as personal attitudes that may be utilized within a political system (Weiss, 2020).

Conventional electoral involvement is, in reality, directly linked to people' ownership of their voting rights in situations when society has not shown a political culture of engagement (Malafaia, Neves, & Menezes, 2021). As part of the high level of involvement, voter participation in elections will lead to high participation rates. Therefore, in order to promote the development of a democratic system, those who are eligible to vote must do so.

In addition to traditional voting, there is non-traditional voting, which is strongly associated with voter involvement in the election process (Bonneau & Zaleski, 2021). Every phase of the election process has to include the public, including selecting potential candidates through one or more political parties, running campaigns, participating in debates, election day, counting votes, and so on. Active involvement in a variety of election-related activities by volunteer or interest organizations is another way to engage in unconventional voting. Radical and terrorist organizations are automatically kept out of the general election process by citizen participation at every phase of the process.

People are now involved in politics not only in the physical world but also in the virtual one, which offers guidance and an overview for people to follow while engaging in political activities (Buchholz, DeHart, & Moorman, 2020). Social media has to be utilized to the fullest extent possible and tailored to meet its needs as a communication and informational tool. Due to the widespread use of social media, there are a good number of incidents that target school-age children in various locations. beginning with incidents of harassment, infidelity, internet prostitution, and cross-party confrontations involving supporters of potential candidates for office. Social media usage awareness is crucial to averting post-election strife.

The general populace, who utilize social media, has to be educated on the norms and ethics of utilizing the platform in daily life (Barrett-Maitland, & Lynch, 2020). Print, electronic, and even social media on the internet must all be included in the analysis of the media validation process, which involves gathering data from a variety of sources. The purpose of the validation process is to ensure that the data collected is balanced. Conflict in society can arise when people get false or biased information, particularly when it concerns identity.

This article focuses especially on the younger generation, who are Indonesia's future leaders and are changing the country's political culture. Because the younger generation's voice is a form of accountability for the process of maintaining leadership, it is important to increase youth voter participation. A strong feeling of civic duty may motivate first-time voters to cast a large number of ballots. Voters' ballots should be cast as impartially as possible, eschewing the money politics that have permeated Indonesian elections. The staging of direct, general, free, honest and fair general elections may be attained if they are carried out by general election organizers who have integrity, professionalism and responsibility.

Conclusion

Citizen involvement is an important part of democracy from a procedural as well as a substantial point of view. In the effort to fulfill democracy, there are important aspects as a vehicle for leadership circulation, namely general elections. Historically, general elections have faced many challenges, such as conflicts between the actors involved, both organizers and general election participants. This situation encourages citizens to be able to play a role as a solutor for conflicts that occur in general elections, because in essence general elections are aimed at realizing partiality for citizens.

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