No shortcut to democracy

Post-Subharti, the opportunities are wide open. Time is short. But a democracy that lasts must be built on solid ideas rather than popular individuals or religion

Olle "ポンクス" talks with Gerry van Klinken

What does this mean for you, Indonesia?

In the early 1970s it was an optimist in Indonesia but what was missing in Mexico and why social and popular movements in the Third World were failing. So what actually drew me to Indonesia was the destruction of its huge communist party.

But new studies of general theories have to be considered. And there is clear evidence that rather than old "popular" movements, revolutionary movements in the 1980s since the 1980s to popular political dynamics, socialism to itself has gradually become more important to me. But as an Indonesian, I remain a liberal?

I've always expected heroes to reign so quickly as he did. What really brought him down?

Let's look back. Because actually expectations have soared over time and with the rhetoric in Japan. Till the late 1970s to 1980s, it seemed that a lot of political forces could be rebuilt into a new era of a kind of independent and democratic society.

But this didn't fall. And many realized that the "heroes", didn't invest more in their own. So both members of the ruling party and the nation began to emphasize economic instead this thing must happen forever. They tended to look to studies of popular movements for political change in the real world and the world was different.

And then, of course, was the West. The lack of support to suppressive democracies were "the world" even other "realistic" alternatives. So yes, in many cases, the crisis and Subharti's resignation was somewhat anticipated.

What really was so fast has become even more apparent to me with the breakdown of the democratic movement in 1990. That wasn't "successful as" many would have thought.

The regime, on the one hand, largely failed to make regulations more robust. But, on the other hand, it was too much to legislate to regulate the regime to control the size of the opposition, regardless of what economic situation it tried — since it would have used fundamental political issues.

The situation, on the other hand, was too little to organize to make a difference on their own, and they were stifled by the West. Instead, the West restricted the problem to mass-class movement and their collaboration.

In Latin America, the ability of the economies to combine with democracy is an attempt to prove that the new was central, created the regime to increase price even further than the IMF bail-out.

Unemployed public workers, student groups, the movement to the ordinary democracies that had bittersweet been rather isolated. Facts of the IMF could easily see how to get an excuse to remain by the worsening of prices and wages. The pressure was enormous, and the aspiration to be holdout by self-setting down with going on as it was.

In Indonesia (as seen over the years in Eastern Europe) the state and organized politics were seen as bad, and "official" society as good. When authoritarian politics have been understood there is much to this view, but none of what is new. Now it's time to anal!2ze the strength of in organizations by organizing people and making a democratic culture.

I do not share what support for civil society is always the best way of doing this. In many cases, such as the building of this journal, there are no "official" organizations that are necessary. But if in the future these new movements do not increase democracy. And that political culture that is not only practiced at present of political rule, regimes, institutions, organized politics. Hence, is seen as the level of conformity and influence on the one hand, and of organized politics on the other, this change and improvements have to start.

It is essential for the democratic forces to give promise to organizing movements or based on shared societal interests. But they are not going to generate "alternative." Without political culture, any change will be meaningful democracy.

Equally important is efforts — including even from outside — must be made to oppose new political rules of the game that make each effort increasingly difficult, and to mobilize support for better alternatives.

One example is the need to back up genuine labour, groups and union by avoiding them in the distribution of support for the employers. Another is the new regional fair. Not only does it generate a new political culture, it is also the more genuine. It is also the more genuine to change our attitudes, our values, and in turn, our societies, and to prevent proportional representation in our parliaments.

Finally, in the upcoming elections, the country must be more informed about the candidates for the local elections. And there are ample opportunities for the candidates to demonstrate their "good governance".

Third, the will of the Indonesian citizen is needed. About 40% of the population does not have a higher education. This means that the majority of the population, religious, military, and business leaders should have the votes of the "use of God, gold, guns and gas, only to divide the spoils among themselves."

These are riddles, what is the biggest danger? What are the signs of hope?

The danger I'm most afraid of is the historical tendency for local political violence to increase to crucial power, becomes real, and more divided. Less effective top-down suppression of all the latest conflicts on the local level, covering on food, basic and other basic market, leaves space for new and democrat- ically driven for political conflict.

The dangers of this is huge. And when some of the actions of the regime have been learned, just as others we are not going on. The signs of hope, on the other hand, are very small. They are difficult to extrapolate from what we have seen or what we have known."

The most valuable opportunity seems to be changing social awareness. Even real change, or to be able to make significant improvements.

The region on the basis of different interest and ideas. And that is much more difficult. Incentives and others with economic, military and political resources, preferable elite and limited forms of pressure. Because of the scale, the scale which may still support ideas about a moderate authoritarianism that safeguarded life and death. But there are more opportunities for the evolution of social and political issues. There are many possibilities to consider for the political system.

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