P-ISSN: 2338-8617
E-ISSN: 2443-2067

Jurnal Ilmiah PEURADEUN

Vol. 13, No. 1, January 2025

SCAD Independent
Accreditation by IAO since 2014

JIP
The Indonesian Journal of the Social Sciences
www.journal.scadindependent.org
DOI Prefix Number: 10.26811

INDEX COPERNICUS INTERNATIONAL

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Science and Technology Index
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JURNAL ILMIAH PEURADEUN
The Indonesian Journal of the Social Sciences
p-ISSN: 2338-8617/ e-ISSN: 2443-2067
www.journal.scadindependent.org

Vol. 13, No. 1, January 2025
Pages: 155-176

The Crucial Role of Police Intelligence in Navigating Identity Politics during Elections in Indonesia

Achmad Kartiko[1]; Arthur Josias Simon Runturambi[2]; Margaretha Hanita[3]; Muhammad Syauqillah[4]; Ade Mulya[5]
[1,2,3,4]*School of Strategic and Global Studies, Universitas Indonesia, Depok, Indonesia*
[5]*Indonesian National Police College, Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Kepolisian, Indonesia*

Article *in* Jurnal Ilmiah Peuradeun

Available at : https://journal.scadindependent.org/index.php/jipeuradeun/article/view/1479
DOI : https://doi.org/ 10.26811/peuradeun.v13i1.1479

How to Cite this Article

APA : Kartiko, A., Runturambi, A.J.S., Hanita., M., Syauqillah, M., & Mulya, A. (2025). The Crucial Role of Police Intelligence in Navigating Identity Politics during Elections in Indonesia. *Jurnal Ilmiah Peuradeun, 13*(1), 155-176. https://doi.org/10.26811/peuradeun.v13i1.1479

Others Visit : https://journal.scadindependent.org/index.php/jipeuradeun

Jurnal Ilmiah Peuradeun (JIP), *the Indonesian Journal of the Social Sciences,* is a leading peer-reviewed and open-access journal, which publishes scholarly works, and specializes in the Social Sciences that emphasize contemporary Asian issues with interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches. JIP is published by SCAD Independent and published 3 times a year (January, May, and September) with p-ISSN: 2338-8617 and e-ISSN: 2443-2067. JIP has become a CrossRef member. Therefore, all articles published will have a unique DOI number. JIP has been accredited Rank 1 (Sinta 1) by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology, the Republic of Indonesia, through the Decree of the Director-General of Higher Education, Research, and Technology No. 72/E/KPT/2024, dated April 1, 2024. This accreditation is valid until the May 2027 edition.

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JIP indexed/included in Web of Science, Scopus, Sinta, MAS, Index Copernicus International, Erih Plus, Garuda, Moraref, Scilit, Sherpa/Romeo, Google Scholar, OAJI, PKP, Index, Crossref, BASE, ROAD, GIF, Advanced Science Index, JournalTOCs, ISI, SIS, ESJI, SSRN, ResearchGate, Mendeley and **others**.

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Jurnal Ilmiah Peuradeun
The Indonesian Journal of the Social Sciences
doi: 10.26811/peuradeun.v13i1.1479

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Publisher: SCAD Independent
Printed in Indonesia

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THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF POLICE INTELLIGENCE IN NAVIGATING IDENTITY POLITICS DURING ELECTIONS IN INDONESIA

Achmad Kartiko[1]; Arthur Josias Simon Runturambi[2]; Margaretha Hanita[3]; Muhammad Syauqillah[4]; Ade Mulya[5]
[1,2,3,4]*School of Strategic and Global Studies, Universitas Indonesia, Depok, Indonesia*
[5]*Indonesian National Police College, Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Kepolisian*
[1]*Correspondence Email: achmadkartiko1991@gmail.com*

Received: April 29, 2024	**Accepted:** November 21, 2024	**Published:** January 30, 2025
Article Url: https://journal.scadindependent.org/index.php/jipeuradeun/article/view/1479		

Abstract

This study investigated the influence of identity politics on Indonesia's electoral dynamics during the 2014 and 2019 elections and evaluates the role of the National Police Security Intelligence Agency in addressing these challenges. Amidst the backdrop of low political literacy and the pervasive influence of social media, religious and ethnic tensions were notably manipulated for electoral gain. The research employed qualitative methods, including interviews, observations, and document analysis, primarily conducted in Jakarta. It revealed that the National Police adopted a "cooling system" intelligence strategy to effectively mitigate conflicts arising from identity politics while also considering the impact of global political trends on local scenarios. This study contributes to the development of an operational intelligence policing model, offering strategic insights for managing identity-based conflicts in democratic elections. This research not only enriches the academic discourse on electoral security and democracy but also provides actionable insights for policymakers and law enforcement agencies aiming to uphold democratic integrity amidst challenging political climates.

Keywords: *Identity Politics; Electoral Dynamics; Political Polarization; Police Intelligence; Interfaith Tolerance; Cooling System.*

p-ISSN: 2338-8617
e-ISSN: 2443-2067

A. Introduction

Identity politics has become a prominent challenge for emerging democracies such as Indonesia, a nation marked by its rich cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity. Historical observations by scholars like Furnival (1948) and Suparlan (2004) have highlighted that this diversity, while a cultural asset, also exposes society to potential divisions, conflicts, and instances of political violence. In democratic contexts, identity-based elements such as religion, ethnicity, and social class significantly impact voter behavior (Saputra et al., 2022). This influence is well-documented in the works of Lijphart (1977), Leege and Kellsstedt (1993), and Mujani et al., (2012), who have all explored how these factors shape electoral outcomes. Despite these insights, a comprehensive understanding of how state institutions, especially police intelligence, effectively mitigate the negative repercussions of identity politics during elections remains largely unexplored.

Despite notable democratic advancements, Indonesia continues to grapple with the challenges of political polarization (Rismawati et al., 2023), a situation that has become increasingly evident in recent electoral processes. The 2017 Jakarta Governor Election and the 2019 General Elections are notable examples where identity politics were sharply accentuated, with religion and ethnicity being manipulated for electoral advantage. This manipulation is discussed in various studies and reports, including personal communications with Dekananto (June 12, 2024) and analyses by Mietzner (2020) and Mietzner & Muhtadi (2018). These elections highlighted how identity politics not only influences voter behavior but also threatens social cohesion (Lestanata, 2023). However, the role of police intelligence in countering these socio-political risks is not well documented, representing a significant gap in current research. This study aims to fill this gap by assessing the effectiveness of police intelligence strategies in managing the complexities of identity politics, thereby supporting the integrity of the electoral process and the broader democratic framework in Indonesia.

Moreover, the advent of technological advancements such as the proliferation of social media has significantly intensified the role of identity

politics in electoral campaigns. As Fukuyama (2018) has observed, these platforms have become battlegrounds for black campaigns and the spread of divisive narratives that exacerbate societal fragmentation. This has presented substantial challenges for state security institutions in maintaining order. Although the studies conducted by Aspinal et al. (2011, 2020), Aspinall and Mietzner (2010), and Muhtadi (2020) effectively illustrate the escalating polarization in Indonesia, they fall short of providing actionable models or frameworks to mitigate its impact. These gaps underscore the urgent need for research that not only diagnoses the problem but also offers practical solutions.

This research seeks to bridge this critical gap by proposing a sophisticated intelligence policing model that is specifically tailored to the Indonesian context. This model incorporates proactive strategies for the early detection, prevention, and management of identity-based polarization, leveraging the conceptual framework of security intelligence as developed by Prunckun (2019). By taking into account the unique dynamics of Indonesia's pluralistic society and the complexities of its electoral system, the model aims to address the multifaceted challenges posed by identity politics. The theoretical foundation of this study is further strengthened by incorporating insights from established theories of political polarization, democratic consolidation, and security intelligence.

In doing so, this research provides a comprehensive analysis of the role of police intelligence in maintaining the democratic stability of Indonesia amidst the growing challenges of identity politics. The novelty of this study lies in its practical approach to operationalizing intelligence within electoral contexts, effectively bridging the gap between theoretical discourse and practical implementation. By integrating these theoretical insights, the proposed model not only contextualizes the broader implications of identity politics for Indonesia's democracy but also outlines actionable steps that can be taken by policymakers and law enforcement agencies to safeguard against the potential disruptions caused by such divisive tactics (Katrino & Afrida, 2021).

To ensure relevance and depth, this research also critically engages with prior studies on the plurality of Indonesia, foreshadowing the challenges posed by identity politics. It examines the foundational works of

p-ISSN: 2338-8617
e-ISSN: 2443-2067

scholars such as Pabottingi (2023), and Suparlan(2004), who have extensively discussed the cultural and ethnic complexities that predispose Indonesia to political and social divisions. Recent analyses, such as those by Farhan (2018), further elaborate on how these divisions influence electoral dynamics, highlighting the evolving nature of political engagement and conflict in the region. In addition to these sources, this study incorporates insights from an article by Yusuf Adan et al., (2023), which discusses the impact of social media on youth political activism, revealing the double-edged sword of digital platforms in democratic processes.

This research seeks to extend this body of knowledge by offering a nuanced understanding of how intelligence-driven policing can mitigate the divisive impacts of identity politics on democratic stability and national security. By synthesizing these diverse perspectives, the study not only contextualizes the specific challenges faced by Indonesia but also outlines how a tailored approach to intelligence can proactively address the underlying tensions exacerbated by identity politics. This approach ensures that the strategies developed are grounded in a deep understanding of the historical and contemporary forces shaping Indonesia's political landscape, thereby enhancing the efficacy and appropriateness of the interventions in maintaining national cohesion and security.

This research aims to develop an effective police intelligence model, focusing on early detection, prevention, and management strategies for identity-based polarization. This model is specifically designed for the socio-political context of Indonesia, grounded in theories of political polarization, democratic consolidation, and security intelligence. By integrating insights from these frameworks, this study offers a comprehensive analysis of the role of police intelligence in maintaining Indonesia's democratic stability amidst the challenges of identity politics. This research is expected to provide practical insights for policymakers, law enforcement officials, and civil society, ensuring the integrity of Indonesia's democratic processes in the face of increasing polarization.

B. Method

The research methodology employed in this study aims to explore and analyze the dynamics of identity politics during the Indonesian general elections of 2014 and 2019 using an in-depth qualitative approach. This approach was selected for its ability to understand social phenomena through the collection and analysis of data from various sources, allowing researchers to capture nuances of subjective experiences and broader social contexts, in line with explanations by Sugiyono (2013) and Walidin et al. (2015).

In conducting this research, three primary data collection methods were utilized: in-depth interviews, observations, and document reviews. Interviews were conducted with fourteen key informants including high-ranking police officials, the chairman of the election commission, and experts in security, politics, and democracy. Informants were selected purposively to ensure they possessed knowledge and experience relevant to the research topic. The interview protocol was designed to explore the influence of identity politics on voter behavior and police intelligence strategies in addressing arising conflicts.

Field observations were conducted to directly observe intelligence operations during the elections, providing immediate insights into actions and interactions on the ground. These observations were focused in Jakarta, where critical political and security activities took place. Document review involved the analysis of official documents, news articles, and publications related to the elections. These documents were accessed to obtain historical and contemporary data that support the analysis of the identity politics phenomenon. The reviewed documents included election regulations, intelligence reports, and media narratives about identity politics. All collected data, whether from interviews, observations, or document reviews, were then categorized and analyzed thematically to identify patterns and major themes.

The data analysis process used a critical paradigm by applying the rational choice theory framework (Marsh & Stoker, 2010) to assess how identity politics influences democratization processes and local elections. Findings from interviews, observations, and document reviews were cross-

p-ISSN: 2338-8617
e-ISSN: 2443-2067

checked against each other through triangulation techniques to ensure data validity. By employing these structured and comprehensive methods, this research aims to provide a nuanced understanding of how police intelligence can mitigate the divisive impacts of identity politics and support the stability of democracy and national security in Indonesia.

C. Result and Discussion

Building upon the rigorous methodological framework described, this study transitions seamlessly into presenting and discussing its findings. The qualitative methods of in-depth interviews, field observations, and comprehensive document reviews have provided a rich tapestry of data. This data intricately details how identity politics play a pivotal role in influencing electoral outcomes and shaping the security landscape in Indonesia. The following section elaborates on these findings, connecting the empirical evidence with the theoretical insights that have guided this research, thereby shedding light on the effectiveness of police intelligence strategies in managing the challenges posed by identity politics during the electoral processes of 2014 and 2019. This discussion aims to bridge the theoretical underpinnings with practical implications, offering valuable insights into the mechanisms of democratic resilience and the role of state institutions in safeguarding national stability.

1. Result

Over the past decade, identity politics in Indonesia has become an essential phenomenon in democratization. This study highlights the practice of identity politics that occurred in various general elections, starting from the leadership era of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono to the administration of President Joko Widodo. The importance of this study lies in understanding the electoral context in Indonesia's democratic transition and consolidation. Scholars such as Dahl (1982, 2000), Samuel P. Huntington (1993), Levitsky and Ziblatt (2019), and Horowitz(2013) have made significant contributions to understanding the dynamics of democratic transition and consolidation, including identity politics and shifts in political power in Indonesia.

With its significant demographics, territory, defense, and security, Indonesia is an exciting subject of study for international and domestic scholars. The proliferation of identity politics, hoaxes, and black campaigns pose severe challenges to Indonesia's democratic process. Such challenges impact election security and affect the quality and legitimacy of democracy. It is imperative that the national police, as the institution responsible for election security, maintains stability, as expressed by Siti Zuhro(R. Siti Zuhro, personal communication, September 8, 2023), who emphasized the importance of improving the quality of elections in 2024.

The 2019 simultaneous elections, the first of their kind in Indonesia, are based on the Constitutional Court's decision No. 14/2013. They are considered to save the budget, reduce conflict, and promote a stronger presidential system. Significant changes, such as the increase in the parliamentary threshold from 3.5 percent to 4 percent and the debate over the simultaneous electoral system, indicate the modernization of the political system.

a. Post-new order election dynamics

The fall of the New Order regime in 1998 marked a turning point in Indonesia's political landscape. Constitutional amendments between 1999 and 2002 introduced direct elections for regional and national leaders, reshaping democratic participation. Interviewees, including election observers and political analysts, noted that these reforms increased public involvement and brought challenges, such as the politicization of ethnic and religious identities.

For instance, direct elections created opportunities for local leaders but also led to the exploitation of identity-based issues. Documentation of the 2014 and 2019 elections highlighted how religious narratives dominated the campaigns, with blasphemy allegations against Basuki Tjahaja Purnama (Ahok) serving as a case study. Interview excerpts from election officials confirmed that voter behavior shifted significantly toward identity-based considerations rather than policy outcomes.

b. Democratization and political transition

Joko Widodo's emergence in the 2014 presidential election signaled optimism for a democratic breakthrough. However, the data show that his administration faced persistent challenges from identity politics. For example, transcripts from interviews with campaign strategists revealed how Widodo's coalition employed religious moderation to counteract Prabowo Subianto's appeal to Islamic voters. Observations of political rallies corroborated these findings, highlighting the polarization between secularists and religious groups.

Theoretical insights from Linz and Stepan (1997) and Effendy(2009) contextualize these findings, showing that rapid democratization without adequate social preparation often exacerbates political tensions. Supporting evidence from interviewees emphasized the difficulty in balancing democratic ideals with the socio-political realities of diverse constituencies.

c. Elections and security threats

Election security remains a critical issue in Indonesia. The 2019 election, as documented in police intelligence reports, encountered threats such as hoaxes, black campaigns, and socio-religious tensions. One key informant from the National Police shared how intelligence efforts focused on detecting and mitigating online disinformation. For example, reports analyzed during the study detailed how coordinated misinformation campaigns sought to undermine public trust in the election process.

Field observations also revealed that the National Police and military conducted proactive measures, such as community outreach programs, to foster peaceful elections. Despite these efforts, institutional weaknesses in the Election Commission and Election Supervisory Agency were frequently cited in interview responses as obstacles to achieving fair and transparent elections.

d. Identification of 2019 election problems

Several issues, including economic inequality and high political costs, marred the 2019 election. Observational data showed that political

expenditures for regional elections surged from IDR 7.09 trillion in 2015 to IDR 25.59 trillion in 2020. Respondents from Regional ElectionCommissions expressed concerns over the unsustainable financial burden on the national and regional budgets.

Identity politics further exacerbated these challenges, with interviewees describing instances where candidates leveraged religious sentiments to secure votes. For example, one political analyst noted that campaign slogans often prioritized emotional appeals over substantive policy discussions, as evidenced in media analysis of campaign advertisements.

e. Trends in identity politics

The rapid proliferation of social media has amplified identity politics. Documentation and social media analytics identified Facebook as a dominant platform for disseminating divisive narratives. One respondent from a digital marketing agency highlighted that 106 million Facebook users in Indonesia create a fertile ground for political mobilization based on identity. Observational data during the 212 demonstrations provided concrete examples of how digital platforms facilitated the mass organization of protests across administrative boundaries.

Government efforts to counteract these trends include interfaith tolerance programs and anti-discrimination policies. Interview data with policymakers revealed initiatives like "cooling systems" to reduce post-election tensions. However, as respondents noted, such measures require better public education and institutional commitment to be effective.

2. Discussion

This study builds on insights from police expert Ronny Rachman Nitibaskara, who predicted potential threats to disrupt the 2018 regional head and 2019 presidential elections (Nitibaskara, 2018). As Dunn (2017) elucidates forecasting in public policy involves generating factual information about future social situations based on current data. He categorizes forecasting into predictions, projections, and estimates—each crucial for anticipating future events and formulating strategies to address

p-ISSN: 2338-8617
e-ISSN: 2443-2067

potential challenges. This study critiques the application of these categories in the context of electoral security, noting that while Dunn provides a comprehensive framework, the practical application by police intelligence in anticipating and mitigating electoral disruptions warrants a closer examination. The effectiveness of these forecasting methods could be further enhanced by integrating more dynamic data models and real-time analytics, which could provide more nuanced insights into potential election threats.

In the realm of intelligence, the core purposes include avoiding strategic surprises, providing long-term expertise, supporting the policy-making process, and maintaining confidentiality (Jemadu, 2007). These roles are critical in handling sensitive issues like identity politics, where timely and accurate information is essential for mitigating risks. Philosophically, Indonesian state intelligence is rooted in Pancasila values, distinguishing it from intelligence systems in other ideological contexts. Hendropriyono (2013) emphasizes that Indonesia's national intelligence integrates these values to address threats across multiple domains, including security, politics, and society. With the advancements in information technology and the emergence of the 5.0 policing trend, the strategic intelligence framework has undergone significant evolution, adapting to the complexities of modern threats while ensuring alignment with national values.

The ascendance of identity politics in Indonesia's electoral practices, particularly since the 2014 elections, has introduced substantial challenges. Issues surrounding ethnicity and religion have been exploited to sway electoral outcomes, endangering social cohesion and national security (Nastain et al., 2024). Social conflicts in Indonesia often originate from ideological, structural, and cultural factors. Nitibaskara (2002) categorizes these conflicts into ideological, often religiously motivated, and structural conflicts rooted in economic and political disparities. Trijono (2004) observed that latent conflicts during periods of political succession, such as in North Maluku and East Java, demonstrate the "dark side of democracy", where unmet public expectations exacerbate societal tensions. This complex backdrop necessitates a refined intelligence approach that not only anticipates and mitigates such

conflicts but also strategically employs the nation's ideological foundations to foster unity and stability amid diversity (Kustiawan et al., 2023).

The National Police's Security Intelligence Agency (Baintelkam) plays an indispensable role in mitigating the adverse effects of identity politics within Indonesia's electoral landscape. Through the application of sophisticated counterintelligence strategies, early detection systems, and preventive measures, Baintelkam addresses critical issues such as hate speech, hoaxes, and cases of identity manipulation. Its collaboration with religious and community leaders has been particularly effective, creating a robust network that enhances community resilience against divisive tactics. Furthermore, strategic operations like Operasi Kresna and initiatives preceding Operasi Mantab Brata are crucial in bolstering election security and maintaining societal stability. Dedy Tabrani, a senior police official, underscores the importance of maintaining neutrality and adhering to democratic policing principles to protect the integrity of Indonesia's electoral processes (personal communication, June 2, 2024). These efforts underscore Baintelkam's proactive approach to navigating the complex interplay of politics and identity, ensuring that democracy thrives in an environment free from manipulation and unrest.

The evolving challenges within Indonesia's political landscape demand a dynamic and integrated response from both government and law enforcement agencies. In this context, the National Police's strategic initiatives extend beyond traditional security measures, focusing increasingly on the power of public engagement and education to counteract misinformation and foster societal resilience. Enhanced digital literacy programs are being rolled out to equip citizens with the skills necessary to critically evaluate online content, thus reducing the impact of false information and divisive narratives. Furthermore, interagency cooperation, particularly with technological and media experts, strengthens the nation's ability to monitor and respond to threats in real time (A. Gani et al., 2024). This collaborative approach not only mitigates the immediate effects of polarization but also builds long-term capacities to uphold democratic values amidst the complexities of global and domestic pressures.

Indonesia's geopolitical and sociopolitical landscape presents multifaceted challenges (Alqarni et al., 2024). Global influences, such as China's economic rise and tensions in the South China Sea, intersect with domestic issues like radicalism and terrorism, further complicating national security management. The rapid dissemination of unfiltered information via social media has intensified political polarization, as seen during the 2017 regional elections (Lestanata, 2023). Such dynamics necessitate a robust security framework integrating intelligence, policing, and public engagement.

Building on the integrated security framework, the National Police's response has strategically enhanced cyber and media literacy programs to effectively counter misinformation and promote digital responsibility among the populace. Utilizing Joseph Nye's (2004) concept of soft power, which prioritizes persuasion and cultural influence over force, the National Police has innovatively applied educational and socialization strategies to address the complex dynamics of identity politics. These efforts include comprehensive media literacy campaigns designed to equip citizens with the necessary tools to discern and challenge divisive narratives and misinformation. By fostering a well-informed and critically thinking citizenry, these initiatives not only counteract the immediate threats of misinformation but also contribute to a more cohesive and resilient democratic society. Additionally, the incorporation of soft power tactics has facilitated a broader engagement with community leaders and influencers, enhancing the public's trust in law enforcement processes and promoting a culture of peace and understanding across diverse social groups. This holistic approach underscores the critical need for adaptability in security management practices, ensuring that they remain effective in the face of rapidly evolving technological landscapes and shifting geopolitical tensions.

Building upon the holistic approach discussed earlier, effective election management extends beyond mere security measures, embedding itself deeply in a comprehensive national security strategy. This strategy emphasizes the reconciliation of communities through the infusion of local wisdom and the active resolution of identity-based conflicts (Alqarni et al.,

2024; Manan et al., 2024). Exemplary initiatives in regions like Aceh and Ambon, where campaigns have successfully promoted peaceful elections, illustrate the potent combination of traditional values and modern conflict resolution techniques (Saputra et al., 2022). These campaigns not only foster social harmony but also serve as beacons of effective community engagement nationwide (Nastain et al., 2024).

Further strengthening the fabric of democracy, the enforcement of the rule of law, and the eradication of corruption are paramount. These elements are critical in establishing a governance framework that citizens trust and support, thereby enhancing electoral legitimacy (Nasrullah et al., 2024). Additionally, the promotion of a welfare-oriented democracy that prioritizes the well-being and economic stability of its citizens ensures that democracy is not only a political ideal but a tangible reality that improves everyday life. By integrating these strategies, Indonesia can create a robust democratic environment where elections are not only free and fair but also a true reflection of the society's collective aspirations and commitments to justice and equity. This comprehensive approach not only addresses immediate electoral concerns but also lays the groundwork for sustained democratic resilience and stability.

Enhancing the comprehensive strategy outlined previously, the synergy between key security institutions such as the National Police, the National Intelligence Agency, and Regional Intelligence Communities plays a pivotal role in maintaining electoral integrity and overall national stability. The collaboration among these bodies is instrumental in reducing siloed approaches and sectoral egos that can often undermine effective security operations. Fostering public trust in these institutions through transparent and accountable practices is crucial for enhancing the public's confidence in security measures.

Moreover, the implementation of early detection and preventive strategies that involve elite figures and community leaders is vital. These strategies ensure that potential conflicts are addressed before they escalate, leveraging the influence and respect these leaders hold within their

p-ISSN: 2338-8617
e-ISSN: 2443-2067

communities. As highlighted by the Head of the National Police's Security Management Agency, F. Imran (personal communication, November 27, 2023), a collaborative approach with strategic community groups significantly amplifies the effectiveness of these conflict prevention efforts. By integrating the insights and capabilities of various security sectors, Indonesia is better equipped to manage and neutralize threats to electoral security, ensuring that elections are conducted in a peaceful and orderly manner.

Expanding this approach involves not only continued collaboration but also the development of innovative security solutions that anticipate future challenges in the electoral process. This might include the adoption of advanced technological tools for surveillance and monitoring, coupled with enhanced data analysis capabilities that can predict and respond to security threats in real time (Sukti et al., 2022). By continually adapting and refining these strategies, Indonesia can safeguard its democratic processes against evolving external and internal threats, thus reinforcing its commitment to a stable and democratic governance framework.

In addressing the complexities of identity politics and electoral security in Indonesia, an integrated strategy that leverages intelligence gathering, community engagement, and technological adaptation is essential. Upholding the Pancasila values as the foundational ethos, this approach encourages a harmonious collaboration among various security institutions, reinforcing the fabric of democracy (Tabrani ZA et al., 2024). By fostering cooperation among the National Police, National Intelligence Agency, and Regional Intelligence Communities, Indonesia can ensure that its democratic processes are both robust and reflective of its diverse population.

Further deepening this strategy involves cultivating a culture of inclusivity and trust across all sectors of society. Engaging communities through regular dialogues and consultations ensures that the concerns of various groups are acknowledged and addressed, reducing the likelihood of conflicts arising from misunderstandings or neglect (Zada et al., 2022). Additionally, the use of cutting-edge technology to monitor and analyze trends in public sentiment and misinformation campaigns can help security agencies preemptively address issues that could disrupt electoral processes (Khairudin et al., 2024).

By integrating these elements—intelligence, technology, and community engagement—within the framework of Pancasila's inclusive values, Indonesia not only fortifies its democratic institutions but also enhances social cohesion and national stability. This comprehensive approach ensures that elections are not just a procedural exercise but a true manifestation of democratic principles, conducted transparently and fairly, with all voices heard and considered. This ongoing commitment to refining and adapting security strategies in line with democratic values and technological advancements will be crucial for Indonesia as it navigates future electoral challenges and opportunities.

Understanding the global impact of identity politics emerging during Indonesian elections requires an evaluation of how this issue influences international perspectives on stability and democracy in Indonesia. As the largest democracy in Southeast Asia, Indonesia's political dynamics often serve as a barometer for assessing the state of democracy in the region (Achfandhy et al., 2024). Globally, the growth and intensity of identity politics in Indonesia have garnered significant attention, especially from countries with strategic and investment interests in the region. Issues such as the use of religion and ethnicity in political campaigns not only affect perceptions of Indonesia's internal political stability but also impact bilateral and multilateral relations. For instance, heightened tensions due to identity politics can erode the confidence of investors and international trading partners, influencing foreign direct investment flows and disrupting economic cooperation.

Furthermore, these dynamics have the potential to affect Indonesia's position in international forums, such as ASEAN, the UN, and other meetings, where political stability and commitment to democracy are often critical criteria in dialogue and cooperation. Therefore, how Indonesia manages its identity politics challenges can offer important lessons for other countries in addressing social divisions in the era of globalization, while also affirming Indonesia's role as a key player in promoting tolerance and diversity on the world stage. Delving deeper into the analysis, the impact of

identity politics in Indonesian elections on the international stage also reflects global trends in dealing with polarization and populism (Zada et al., 2022). This challenge is not limited to Indonesia but is a global phenomenon affecting democracies in many countries. Thus, how Indonesia handles and responds to these issues can provide strategic insights and valuable lessons for other nations facing similar problems.

In this context, the interventions and strategies implemented by Indonesia—such as strengthening intelligence policies, media literacy programs, and interfaith tolerance initiatives—are not only crucial for maintaining national stability but also contribute to public diplomacy and Indonesia's image globally. Indonesia's active involvement in promoting dialogue and international cooperation related to managing diversity and identity conflicts also signals the country's commitment to democratic values and multiculturalism (Khairudin et al., 2024; Zada et al., 2022).

By leveraging international platforms and bilateral cooperation, Indonesia can position itself as a model in balancing diversity with social harmony (Ahmad et al., 2023). This strengthening, grounded in the Pancasila values that emphasize pluralism and tolerance, provides a strong foundation for Indonesian diplomacy (Tabrani ZA et al., 2024). Through this approach, Indonesia not only strengthens its domestic capacity to address identity politics issues but also enhances its role as a global player capable of influencing international norms and policies in the face of contemporary democratic challenges. Therefore, the management of identity issues in Indonesian elections can serve as an important case study in global political discourse, offering lessons on the importance of inclusive leadership, responsive policies, and proactive strategies in maintaining stability and harmony amidst diversity. This highlights the significance of synergy between domestic policies and foreign policy, particularly in the context of a highly diverse country like Indonesia.

These findings underline the urgent need to adopt a more integrated and multi-aspect security approach in dealing with the evolving politics of identity in elections. Particularly, the use of information technology to track and respond to disinformation and hoaxes demonstrates an effective way to

reduce polarization mediated by digital platforms. If widely implemented, these efforts can help enhance public trust in electoral processes and strengthen the foundations of democracy.

D. Conclusion

Identity politics became a significant challenge in Indonesia's 2014 and 2019 elections, with religion and ethnicity frequently employed as campaign tools. This trend underscores the low political literacy among segments of the population, further exacerbated by the widespread use of social media to disseminate hate speech, hoaxes, and black campaigns, leading to heightened polarization. The analysis revealed that these dynamics significantly influenced electoral security, necessitating a strategic response from the National Police, mainly through Baintelkam. Their intelligence-based approach, supported by collaborations with the Election Supervisory Agency, the Election Commission, the Indonesian Army, and community leaders, proved instrumental in creating a cooling system to mitigate conflict and maintain order.

However, the findings also point to gaps in adapting to global trends like xenophobia and the use of identity politics abroad, which have implications for national stability. For instance, the Jakarta elections served as a critical trigger, generating sentiments of injustice among certain Islamic groups and culminating in the 212 protests. These events highlight the complex interplay between local and global influences on identity politics, further stressing the importance of strengthening political literacy.

This study critically contributes to the understanding of electoral dynamics in Indonesia by illustrating how identity politics challenges democratic processes and the role of intelligence institutions in safeguarding elections. The research findings reinforce the need for reform in electoral supervision systems, including enhanced collaboration among institutions and proactive measures to address destructive identity politics. Additionally, the study highlights the importance of integrating local wisdom and technological advancements to promote peaceful elections.

While this research provides valuable insights, it is not without limitations. The study primarily focuses on the role of domestic intelligence

and does not delve deeply into the influence of global identity politics trends or the broader societal implications of these phenomena. Future research could explore these aspects more comprehensively and evaluate the long-term effectiveness of current preventive strategies. In conclusion, the findings underscore the urgent need to strengthen political literacy, reform electoral systems, and enhance stakeholder coordination. By addressing these challenges, Indonesia can mitigate identity politics risks, fostering democratic resilience and ensuring national stability.

Acknowledgment

The authors would like to express sincere gratitude to all those who contributed to this research, particularly to the interviewees who provided their insights and expertise in the election, intelligence and security, and democracy issues.

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