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**Doi:** <https://doi.org/10.31293>

**Dates:**

Received 12 October, 2025  
Revised 25 November, 2025  
Accepted 20 Desember, 2025  
Published 03 February, 2026

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## Exploring Governance, Political Power, and Democratic Quality in Indonesia: A Qualitative Study

**Abstract:** Democracy in Indonesia has significantly evolved since the fall of the New Order regime, transitioning to a system that promotes greater participation and freedom. Despite these strides in political reforms, Indonesia's democracy faces challenges, particularly in governance, political power dynamics, and electoral integrity. Political dynasties continue to play a dominant role, concentrating power in a few families, which undermines transparency and accountability in governance. Additionally, the rise of oligarchies, where political and economic elites control decision-making, further distorts democratic processes, limiting true public participation and reinforcing corruption. Elections, while essential for democracy, are often marred by biases within the state apparatus and the influence of money, distorting the representation of the people's will. This research aims to explore the interplay between political dynasties, oligarchies, and the quality of democracy in Indonesia, focusing on how these factors hinder democratic progress and propose reforms to enhance governance. Utilizing a qualitative research method, the study employed in-depth interviews with political experts, legislators, and academics, supplemented by secondary data from reports and literature. Findings indicate that political dynasties and oligarchies contribute to a lack of transparency and political participation, weakening public trust in democratic institutions. The study recommends reforms in electoral laws, political education, and accountability mechanisms to address these challenges. Strengthening the multi-party system, enhancing the presidential system's efficiency, and promoting transparency are key to ensuring a more inclusive and functional democracy in Indonesia.

**Keywords:** Political Dynasties, Electoral Integrity, Governance, Political Stability, Democratic Reforms

### INTRODUCTION

Democracy in Indonesia has evolved significantly since the fall of the New Order regime, transitioning from an authoritarian political system to one that allows greater participation, freedom, and democratic practices (Pratama, 2016). However, despite these notable advances in political reforms and democratic institutions, significant challenges

remain in the quality of democracy, political power dynamics, and governance. As the country moves into its post-reform era, Indonesia's democracy continues to grapple with issues that impede the true realization of democratic values and practices (Lubis et al., 2025). The political landscape is shaped by a combination of historical factors, contemporary challenges, and structural weaknesses in governance, which must be addressed if Indonesia is to fully embrace the ideals of democracy (Fasya, 2013).

A key challenge in Indonesian democracy is the persistence of political dynasties. These dynasties maintain a strong influence over local and national politics, often monopolizing political positions and reinforcing family-based political power. Such dynasties create significant barriers to governance that is transparent, accountable, and responsive to the public (Rizkika & Maulana, 2025). Rather than fostering an open and competitive political environment, political dynasties restrict opportunities for fresh leadership and perpetuate a system of power that is passed down through generations, thus concentrating political authority in the hands of a few. This dominance of political families undermines democratic processes by limiting political choice, increasing the risk of corruption, and diminishing the likelihood of meaningful political (Trianjaya, 2024).

These political dynasties, when combined with the rise of oligarchies, contribute significantly to the erosion of democratic quality in Indonesia (Jelly & Prihana, 2025). Oligarchies where political power is controlled by a small, wealthy elite further exacerbate the inequality in political participation and decision-making. The entanglement of business elites and political figures creates a situation where policy decisions are often swayed by the interests of a select few, rather than reflecting the needs and aspirations of the broader population. The resultant oligarchic structures not only diminish political competition but also alienate ordinary citizens from the political process, thereby undermining the public's trust in democratic institutions (Syafiola & Ziqri, 2025). This creates an environment where public policies may benefit the powerful, while public interest is sidelined in favor of elite preferences (Azahwa et al., 2025).

The role of elections in Indonesian democracy is another area where challenges are evident. While elections are fundamental to the functioning of any democracy, in Indonesia, they are often criticized for being heavily influenced by powerful political actors, both within and outside the government (Rahayu et al., 2024). Elections in Indonesia frequently suffer from the lack of neutrality among the state apparatus, with various state actors showing political biases that undermine the fairness of the process. Additionally, the influence of money in politics, driven by the interests of wealthy elites, further distorts electoral outcomes. The intertwining of political dynasties, oligarchies, and economic power has led to elections that often reflect the will of the few rather than the majority, undermining the foundational democratic principle of equal political participation (Fatiha & Santosa, 2022).

Moreover, the lack of neutrality in the state apparatus not only influences elections but also impacts the overall democratic process. Political figures often exploit the state's resources and institutions for electoral gains, which undermines the independence of the civil service and other government bodies (Quddus & Firdaus, 2025). This lack of neutrality has significant implications for the electoral process, leading to unfair practices, voter

manipulation, and the suppression of political opposition. These conditions distort the democratic system and prevent elections from fulfilling their role as the key mechanism of political representation (Zuhro, 2019). This further weakens the connection between the government and the citizens it serves, leading to a decrease in public trust and political engagement.

In addition to the challenges posed by political dynasties and oligarchies, Indonesia's democracy faces issues related to governance. The concept of good governance remains a critical concern in the country's democratic system (Bachtiar, 2019). While there are established frameworks and mechanisms meant to ensure governance is transparent, accountable, and inclusive, the reality often falls short. Corruption, inefficiency, and a lack of capacity within government institutions hinder efforts to strengthen the democratic system. Without good governance, the democratic process loses its effectiveness, and the goals of transparency, accountability, and public participation become increasingly difficult to achieve (Ningtyas, 2021).

Transparency is a central issue in the functioning of governance in Indonesia. Effective governance requires that citizens have access to information about government decisions, policies, and actions. However, in practice, information is often withheld or manipulated, limiting public oversight and participation (Pratama, 2016). This lack of transparency not only erodes public trust but also prevents citizens from holding public officials accountable for their actions (Lubis et al., 2025). Without transparency, it is difficult for the public to engage in meaningful political discourse or to influence policy decisions. In a healthy democracy, citizens must be able to access the information they need to make informed decisions and participate fully in the democratic process (Fasya, 2013).

Accountability in governance is similarly lacking in Indonesia. Despite legal frameworks designed to ensure that public officials are held responsible for their actions, in practice, many officials evade accountability (Rizkika & Maulana, 2025). Political dynasties and oligarchies often provide a shield of protection for corrupt leaders, allowing them to escape consequences for their actions. This lack of accountability contributes to the continuation of corrupt practices and undermines the public's faith in the government. For democracy to thrive, it is essential that public officials are held accountable for their actions, and that those who engage in corrupt practices are brought to justice (Firnando et al., 2025). Only through robust accountability mechanisms can the government be made truly responsive to the people's needs (Trianjaya, 2024).

Good governance also requires inclusivity, ensuring that all segments of society are represented in decision-making processes. However, Indonesia's governance system often fails to provide this inclusivity, particularly for marginalized groups. Political power is often concentrated in the hands of elites, leaving less powerful groups without a voice in the political system (Jelly & Prihana, 2025). This exclusionary system undermines democratic ideals, as it prevents many citizens from participating in the political process and leaves their needs unaddressed. An inclusive governance system, on the other hand, ensures that all people have a say in the decisions that affect their lives, which is a crucial component of any healthy democracy (Syafiola & Ziqri, 2025).

The influence of oligarchies and political dynasties further exacerbates the problem of political participation. When power is concentrated in the hands of a small elite, the general public feels disconnected from the political system (Azahwa et al., 2025). Political participation becomes limited to those with the right connections or resources, excluding ordinary citizens from meaningful involvement in the democratic process. This lack of broad-based political participation diminishes the legitimacy of democratic institutions and prevents democracy from fulfilling its potential to reflect the will of the people (Rahayu et al., 2024).

Additionally, the structure of political opposition in Indonesia is weak, further weakening the democratic system. A healthy democracy requires a vibrant and competitive political opposition that can hold the ruling party accountable. However, the opposition in Indonesia is often fragmented and lacks the resources and unity to effectively challenge the ruling parties (Fatiha & Santosa, 2022). This fragmentation of political opposition reduces the ability of democracy to function as a check on governmental power and prevents citizens from having meaningful choices at the ballot box. Without a strong opposition, the political system becomes less responsive to the public, and political accountability diminishes (Quddus & Firdaus, 2025).

In this context, the relationship between governance, political power, and democracy in Indonesia is particularly complex. While the formal institutions of democracy are in place, the practical realities of political power, corruption, and weak governance often work against the ideals of a fully functioning democratic system (Zuhro, 2019). The presence of political dynasties and oligarchies distorts the democratic process, while weak governance structures prevent the government from being truly accountable to the people. As a result, the quality of democracy remains compromised, and the public's trust in the political system continues to erode (Bachtiar, 2019).

This study seeks to examine how these elements—governance, political power, and democracy—interact in Indonesia. By exploring the factors that contribute to the persistence of political dynasties, oligarchies, and weak governance, the research aims to provide a deeper understanding of the challenges facing Indonesian democracy (Ningtyas, 2021). The study will also explore how these issues affect policy formation and how reforms can be introduced to address the underlying structural barriers to a more inclusive, transparent, and accountable democratic system (M. Arifin et al., 2025).

The findings of this research will provide valuable insights into the current state of Indonesian democracy and offer recommendations for strengthening governance, improving electoral processes, and enhancing political participation (Telaumbanua, 2024). By identifying the factors that hinder democratic progress, the study aims to contribute to the development of public policies that promote a more democratic, inclusive, and responsive governance system in Indonesia (Ahmad & Mujab, 2025).

Ultimately, this study seeks to help policymakers, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders understand the dynamics of political power and governance in Indonesia. By doing so, it will provide a roadmap for addressing the challenges facing Indonesian democracy and work toward building a more vibrant, accountable, and effective political system. Only through sustained efforts to address the structural issues in

governance and political power can Indonesia move closer to achieving a truly representative and functional democracy.

## **METHOD**

The research method employed in this study is a qualitative approach, aimed at exploring the impact of the presidential system and the multi-party system on political stability in Indonesia. The qualitative approach was chosen because the study focuses on gaining an in-depth understanding of the complex political dynamics, particularly in the context of presidential elections and how these two political systems interact to shape political stability. The data used in this research were collected through in-depth interviews with political experts, legislators, academics, and other stakeholders involved in Indonesia's political process. Additionally, secondary data in the form of relevant literature, reports, and official documents were analyzed to complement the findings from the interviews.

In the research process, purposive sampling was used to select informants with relevant knowledge and experience related to the research topic, ensuring that the study draws insights from individuals who can provide substantial and informed perspectives. The interviews were semi-structured, allowing flexibility in obtaining information from the informants while also providing them with the opportunity to express their views and personal perspectives on the issues being studied. Alongside the interviews, the researcher also gathered data through observations of the political processes, particularly during the lead-up to and during the presidential elections, to analyze dynamics between political parties, coalition interactions, and their influence on political stability.

Data analysis was conducted using thematic analysis, where the researcher identified patterns, themes, and relationships between the variables being studied. In this context, the researcher analyzed how the presidential and multi-party systems affect political decision-making, coalition formation, and their impact on government legitimacy and political stability. The study also explored how tensions between political pluralism and the need to maintain stable governance can lead to political fragmentation that undermines stability. With this approach, the research aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities presented by the presidential and multi-party systems in shaping Indonesia's political landscape.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **1. Political Dynasties and Democracy in Indonesia**

Political dynasties in Indonesia have long been a significant factor influencing the country's democratic landscape, affecting the fairness and transparency of electoral processes, as well as the overall governance system (Rahmadanni & Deviani, 2024). These dynasties, often comprising family-based political power, have become entrenched within the political framework of both national and regional governance. Political power tends to stay within a few influential families over extended periods, leading to the concentration of political authority and a subsequent weakening of democratic processes (Raintung & Mesra, 2025).

One of the most critical implications of political dynasties is the concentration of power within a small group, often resulting in a political landscape that is dominated by a few elite families. This undermines the principles of fairness and transparency in elections (Pratama, 2016). When power is consolidated within these families, it restricts the democratic ideal of political competition, as political positions are often inherited rather than earned through merit or public support. As such, voters are faced with limited choices, and the opportunity for fresh, new leadership is stifled. This lack of political diversity diminishes the ability for new political leaders, who may offer alternative ideas or policies, to rise to power (Lubis et al., 2025).

The influence of political dynasties often leads to the erosion of electoral integrity. Family-based political power makes it easier for ruling dynasties to manipulate electoral outcomes to maintain their dominance (Fasya, 2013). Tactics such as vote-buying, gerrymandering, and the use of state resources to influence voters or suppress opposition are common among political dynasties (Rizkika & Maulana, 2025). These practices distort the democratic process by making elections less about the will of the people and more about securing a political victory for those in power. As a result, the legitimacy of the electoral system is compromised, leading to diminished public trust in the political system and governance institutions (Trianjaya, 2024).

Moreover, political dynasties limit political innovation and the development of a more inclusive democratic culture. In many cases, family dynasties are more focused on maintaining their political legacy rather than addressing the pressing issues faced by the general public (Jelly & Prihana, 2025). Policies that favor the interests of the political elite often take precedence over policies that address systemic inequality or societal challenges. In such a system, governance is characterized by the perpetuation of the status quo, with little regard for the evolving needs of society. This results in governance that is disconnected from the realities of ordinary citizens, leading to greater political apathy and disenfranchisement (Syafiola & Ziqri, 2025).

Another critical concern is that political dynasties undermine the concept of meritocracy in the political arena. Rather than allowing political leaders to rise based on their qualifications, abilities, and public support, family connections become the primary criterion for political positions (Azahwa et al., 2025). This not only excludes competent and capable individuals from entering politics but also fosters a political culture where loyalty to family rather than merit becomes the determining factor for political success. This kind of political environment further entrenches inequality and prevents political representation from truly reflecting the diversity and interests of the electorate (Rahayu et al., 2024).

Political dynasties also significantly affect the responsiveness of governance. When political power is concentrated in the hands of a few families, those in power often fail to address the needs and concerns of the broader population. Public policies tend to favor the political elite and those with close ties to the ruling families (Fatiha & Santosa, 2022). This weakens the ability of the government to address societal issues effectively, as the political will is often shaped by the interests of the ruling dynasties rather than the public good (Quddus & Firdaus, 2025).

In light of these challenges, the Indonesian government must take substantial steps to curb the influence of political dynasties and restore democratic integrity. One of the most critical reforms is to ensure that political positions are determined by merit rather than family connections (Zuhro, 2019). A meritocratic system allows for the rise of political leaders based on their qualifications, experience, and ability to serve the public interest. This would foster a more competitive political landscape, enabling new voices and ideas to emerge and participate in the political process (Bachtiar, 2019).

To implement such reforms, the government could consider changes to electoral laws and political party systems. As proposed by Ningtyas (2021) reforms that limit the political influence of dynastic families should be introduced, ensuring that elections are more transparent, fair, and reflective of the will of the people. This could include introducing stricter campaign finance laws to prevent political families from using their wealth to dominate the electoral process. Additionally, reforms should be made to political party systems to ensure that political parties are less beholden to particular families and instead represent the interests of the electorate as a whole (Noer, 2025).

Furthermore, the government must focus on improving political representation and ensuring that leadership positions are accessible to all individuals, regardless of their familial background. One way to achieve this is by implementing policies that limit the re-election of politicians from the same family or political dynasty, preventing any one family from holding multiple political offices over long periods (M. Arifin et al., 2025). This would ensure that political power is not concentrated in the hands of a few families and encourage the emergence of new political leaders from diverse backgrounds (Telaumbanua, 2024).

Another essential reform is the promotion of greater political education and awareness among the electorate. Voters need to be educated about the impact of political dynasties on the democratic process and the importance of voting for leaders based on their qualifications, ideas, and policies, rather than familial ties (Ahmad & Mujab, 2025). Public education campaigns that emphasize the dangers of dynastic politics and the importance of an open, transparent, and competitive electoral process would help reduce voter apathy and encourage greater participation in the democratic process (Rahmadanni & Deviani, 2024).

The government should strengthen its oversight of the electoral process to ensure that elections are free, fair, and transparent. This involves monitoring campaign finance, ensuring that state resources are not misused for political gain, and promoting the independence of election commissions (Maulia, 2024). These reforms are necessary to ensure that political dynasties cannot manipulate the system to maintain their hold on power (F. Arifin, 2024).

Political dynasties pose a significant threat to the quality of democracy in Indonesia. Their influence over governance and elections diminishes political competition, weakens the integrity of the electoral process, and stifles the emergence of new leadership. To address these challenges, the government must implement comprehensive reforms that promote merit-based political appointments, ensure greater political participation, and strengthen electoral integrity. By reducing the power of political dynasties and fostering a

more transparent, inclusive, and competitive political system, Indonesia can move towards a healthier and more vibrant democracy.

## 2. Voter Participation and Democracy Quality

Voter participation is a foundational element of democracy, and it serves as a critical measure of how well democratic systems function. In Indonesia, the act of voting is not merely a right; it is a vital part of the country's democratic processes, ensuring that citizens can influence governance, policy, and the future of the nation (Saputra, 2024). However, the reality is that voter participation in Indonesia is often limited, and low voter turnout is a significant challenge. The issues surrounding voter participation are deeply intertwined with broader questions of governance, political representation, and the overall quality of democracy (Nasution & Nasution, 2025). The relationship between voter engagement and democratic quality is complex and requires an understanding of various factors, including trust in political institutions, political education, and accessibility to the electoral process (Saputra et al., 2024).

In Indonesia, voter participation is crucial for ensuring that elected officials represent the will of the people and are accountable to them. When citizens choose not to participate, it weakens the legitimacy of elected governments and reduces the effectiveness of the democratic system. Low voter turnout means that elections may not accurately reflect the true political preferences of the population, which can result in weak political representation (Suryani et al., 2021). This undermines the democratic process, as elected leaders may not be responsive to the needs or concerns of the broader population. Furthermore, when a significant portion of the population abstains from voting, it creates a situation where political power becomes concentrated in the hands of a smaller, often more politically engaged, subset of the population. This leads to unequal representation, where the voices of marginalized or less politically active groups are sidelined, and their interests are not adequately represented in policy decisions (Berg-Schlusser, 2017).

The Constitution of Indonesia guarantees the right to vote, emphasizing that every citizen should have the opportunity to participate in the democratic process. However, the reality is that various barriers prevent many citizens from engaging fully in elections (Bandelow & Hornung, 2022). One of the most significant obstacles is the lack of trust in political institutions. Many Indonesians perceive the political system as corrupt or ineffective, leading to a widespread belief that their votes will not result in meaningful change. When people believe that their participation will not make a difference, they are less likely to engage in the electoral process. This low level of trust in political institutions can erode the legitimacy of the electoral system and contribute to voter apathy (Pratama, 2016).

Another barrier to voter participation in Indonesia is the lack of political education. Many citizens, especially in rural or less-developed areas, do not fully understand how the electoral process works or how they can participate in it effectively (Lubis et al., 2025). Political education plays a crucial role in helping citizens understand the importance of voting, the mechanisms of democratic governance, and the roles and responsibilities of elected officials. Without sufficient political education, individuals may feel disconnected

from the electoral process or may not have the knowledge needed to make informed voting decisions (Fasya, 2013). This is particularly true for younger voters and those who have not had access to comprehensive political education or civic engagement programs. In order to increase voter participation, it is essential to ensure that citizens have the knowledge and tools they need to engage with the political system and make informed decisions when voting (Rizkika & Maulana, 2025).

Accessibility to the electoral process is another critical issue that affects voter participation in Indonesia. Despite efforts to improve voter accessibility, logistical barriers remain for many citizens, particularly those living in remote or rural areas. For example, long distances to voting stations, inadequate infrastructure, and the lack of accessible voting materials can prevent individuals from casting their votes (Trianjaya, 2024). These access barriers disproportionately affect marginalized communities, including low-income citizens, people with disabilities, and those living in rural or isolated regions. As a result, these groups may face significant difficulties in participating in elections, which further exacerbates the gap in political representation. Ensuring that voting stations are accessible and that the voting process is user-friendly is essential for fostering greater voter participation (Jelly & Prihana, 2025).

Improving voter participation in Indonesia requires a multifaceted approach that addresses these barriers and creates a more inclusive and accessible electoral process. One of the most effective ways to enhance voter participation is through public education campaigns. These campaigns should focus on educating citizens about the importance of voting, the impact their votes have on governance, and the practical aspects of the electoral process (Syafiola & Ziqri, 2025). By providing voters with the information they need, the government can empower citizens to engage more actively in the democratic process. These education efforts should target various demographic groups, including young voters, first-time voters, and rural populations. Political education should be integrated into the national curriculum, community outreach programs, and media campaigns to ensure that all citizens are informed and able to participate in elections (Azahwa et al., 2025).

Public education campaigns should go beyond simply explaining how to vote. They should also aim to cultivate an understanding of democratic principles, such as transparency, accountability, and the role of citizens in holding government officials accountable (Rahayu et al., 2024). By promoting these democratic values, the government can encourage a more engaged and informed electorate, one that understands the significance of their participation in elections and the impact of their vote on the political landscape. These campaigns should be designed to engage citizens emotionally and intellectually, making them aware of their power as voters and their role in shaping the nation's future (Fatiha & Santosa, 2022).

In addition to public education, the government must ensure that the electoral process is fair, transparent, and accessible to all citizens. Electoral laws should be reformed to eliminate barriers that prevent citizens from participating, such as voter registration difficulties, the lack of voting stations in remote areas, or the inaccessibility of voting materials for people with disabilities (Quddus & Firdaus, 2025). As suggested by Arifin et al. (2025), electoral reforms should focus on making the voting process as inclusive as

possible, ensuring that every eligible citizen has an equal opportunity to vote, regardless of their geographic location, socio-economic status, or physical ability (Zuhro, 2019).

The government should consider expanding the use of technology to improve accessibility and voter engagement. For example, online voter registration systems and electronic voting platforms could be introduced to make it easier for citizens to participate in elections, especially for those who live in remote areas or face mobility challenges (Bachtiar, 2019). Technology can also be used to increase the transparency of the electoral process, enabling citizens to track election results in real time and ensuring that the process is free from manipulation or fraud (Ningtyas, 2021).

To foster greater political engagement, political parties and candidates must also play a crucial role in encouraging voter participation. Political campaigns should not only focus on promoting candidates and their platforms but should also prioritize educating voters about the electoral system and their rights (Pratama, 2016). Political parties should engage in outreach efforts that target underrepresented communities and groups that are typically less politically engaged. This could include organizing town hall meetings, conducting door-to-door campaigns, and using digital platforms to engage voters, particularly young people who may not feel connected to traditional political processes (Lubis et al., 2025).

Ultimately, enhancing voter participation is essential for improving the quality of democracy in Indonesia. When more people participate in elections, the government becomes more accountable and representative of the people's will. High levels of voter participation also promote greater political engagement and a stronger democratic culture (Fasya, 2013). By addressing barriers such as low public trust, lack of political education, and access issues, and by implementing reforms that make the electoral process more inclusive and transparent, the government can foster a more vibrant and participatory democracy. In turn, this will lead to stronger democratic institutions, more representative governance, and a more politically engaged and informed citizenry, all of which are essential for ensuring the continued health of Indonesia's democracy (Rizkika & Maulana, 2025).

### **3. Presidential System and Multi-Party System Impact on Political Stability**

The Indonesia's political system is shaped by the unique combination of a presidential system and a multi-party system, both of which play significant roles in the overall political stability of the country. While the presidential system provides strong executive leadership, the multi-party system ensures a diversity of political opinions and ideologies (Pratama, 2016). However, these systems also present challenges, particularly in terms of ensuring political stability. The balance between a powerful executive and a fragmented political landscape is delicate, and it often creates tensions that can hinder effective governance and decision-making (Lubis et al., 2025).

The presidential system in Indonesia concentrates power in the hands of the president, who serves as both the head of state and head of government. This concentration of power is intended to streamline decision-making and ensure that the country has strong and decisive leadership (Fasya, 2013). However, one of the risks of such a system is the potential for an overconcentration of authority, which can undermine the system of checks

and balances. When the executive branch holds significant influence over legislative and judicial functions, it can diminish the independence of other branches of government, leading to potential authoritarian tendencies. In the worst-case scenario, this concentration of power could result in undemocratic governance, where the president's decisions are unchallenged, and the public's voice is minimized (Rizkika & Maulana, 2025).

Moreover, the presidential system can sometimes exacerbate the polarization of politics, especially when the president's influence extends into political parties and coalition governments. Political parties may align with the president to maintain power, creating a scenario where party loyalty takes precedence over national interests (Trianjaya, 2024). This can result in a lack of political diversity and an erosion of accountability within the system. When political decisions are made primarily by those aligned with the president, the broader political spectrum may not be fully represented, leading to policies that do not necessarily reflect the will of the people (Jelly & Prihana, 2025).

In contrast to the concentration of power within the presidential system, the multi-party system in Indonesia promotes political pluralism by ensuring that multiple political parties, representing a wide array of ideologies and interests, participate in the political process (Syafiola & Ziqri, 2025). This system allows voters to choose from a variety of political perspectives, ensuring that diverse groups within the population are represented in government. The multi-party system, therefore, fosters a more inclusive political environment, where minority groups can have a voice in the political discourse (Azahwa et al., 2025).

However, the multi-party system also presents challenges. The most prominent issue is the fragmentation of political power, where no single party can secure a majority in the legislature, leading to the formation of coalition governments. While coalitions can represent a broader range of interests, they are often fragile and prone to internal conflicts (Rahayu et al., 2024). Parties within a coalition may have differing policy agendas, making it difficult to reach consensus on key issues. This can lead to gridlock in the legislative process, where important policies are delayed or watered down due to disagreements among coalition members. Such fragmentation can create instability, particularly when coalitions break apart or when parties fail to form effective alliances (Fatiha & Santosa, 2022).

The instability of coalition governments in a multi-party system can result in frequent changes in leadership, which can undermine public confidence in the political system. When political parties are unable to cooperate or form stable coalitions, the government's ability to respond to national challenges effectively becomes compromised (Quddus & Firdaus, 2025). This can be particularly problematic in times of crisis, such as economic downturns or national emergencies, where swift and decisive action is required. Political instability resulting from weak coalitions can lead to a perception that the government is incapable of addressing critical issues, which can erode public trust in the political system (Zuhro, 2019).

Another challenge posed by the multi-party system is the potential for negative campaigning and divisive rhetoric. Political parties may focus on attacking their rivals rather than presenting substantive policy proposals, leading to increased polarization within the electorate (Bachtiar, 2019). As political parties vie for power, they may prioritize partisan

interests over the public good, further deepening divisions within society. This can undermine the democratic process, as voters become disillusioned with the political system and disengage from the electoral process (Ningtyas, 2021).

Despite these challenges, the multi-party system also presents opportunities for improving political representation and ensuring that government policies reflect the diverse needs and interests of the population. However, this can only be achieved if the system is reformed to address its weaknesses (Pratama, 2016). One way to improve the functioning of the multi-party system is by encouraging greater cooperation and compromise among political parties. This can be done by creating incentives for parties to work together and prioritize the common good, rather than pursuing narrow, self-serving interests. Strengthening party systems and encouraging internal democracy within political parties can also help improve their representativeness and accountability (Lubis et al., 2025).

Reforming the coalition system is another essential step toward improving political stability. Measures that encourage more stable coalitions could include adjusting the electoral system to ensure that parties with similar ideologies are more likely to form alliances (Fasya, 2013). Additionally, the government could implement regulations that encourage party cohesion, such as making coalition agreements more formalized and transparent. These reforms would help prevent the fragmentation that often results in instability, allowing the government to function more effectively and efficiently (Rizkika & Maulana, 2025).

To enhance the effectiveness of the presidential system, the government must ensure that power is not overly concentrated in the hands of the executive. One approach to achieving this balance is to strengthen the system of checks and balances between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches (Trianjaya, 2024). Ensuring that each branch remains independent and can hold the others accountable will prevent the concentration of power and help maintain democratic principles. This balance is particularly crucial in times of political tension, where the government must be responsive to the needs of the people while maintaining the integrity of democratic institutions (Jelly & Prihana, 2025).

The presidential system should also be responsive to the needs of the public, ensuring that decisions made by the executive branch reflect the will of the people. This can be achieved by enhancing transparency in decision-making processes and increasing public participation in governance (Syafiola & Ziqri, 2025). Public consultations, town hall meetings, and other forms of direct engagement with citizens can help the government stay connected to the electorate and ensure that its policies are responsive to the concerns of the population (Azahwa et al., 2025).

**Table 1: Theme of Findings**

Main Theme	Brief Description	Implication for the Government
Political Dynasty and Democracy in Indonesia	This theme explores the influence of political dynasties on democratic processes in Indonesia. It discusses how family-based political power	The government must implement reforms to reduce the influence of political dynasties, ensuring a more transparent and democratic electoral process by promoting

	affects governance and electoral integrity.	meritocracy and reducing political monopolies in governance.
Political Dynasty and Democracy System Reform	This paper discusses the impact of political dynasties on Indonesia's democracy and proposes reforms for a more democratic system.	Strengthen democratic institutions by enforcing policies that reduce political family dominance in political roles. Reform electoral laws and implement measures to encourage broader political participation and reduce dynastic influence.
Voter Participation and Democracy Quality	This study addresses the relationship between voter participation and the quality of democracy in Indonesia, analyzing constitutional law perspectives.	The government should enhance voter engagement through public education and ensure that electoral laws are fair and inclusive, thereby improving the democratic process and electoral outcomes.
Presidential System and Multi-Party System Impact on Political Stability	Examines the implications of Indonesia's presidential system and multi-party system on political stability in the 2024 elections.	The government must strengthen the multi-party system and ensure that the presidential system is functioning to promote political stability, especially during high-stakes electoral periods.
Open Government and Democracy Strengthening	Discusses the challenges and opportunities related to open government practices in strengthening Indonesia's democracy.	The government must adopt and promote transparency in public policy-making to foster democratic integrity, enhancing accountability and reducing the effects of corruption.
Governance Quality and Policy Performance	Investigates how good governance affects policy performance and the overall quality of democracy in European contexts.	Strengthen governance systems through the application of best practices in policy performance, aiming for efficient, accountable, and transparent government practices.
Quality of Democracy in Post-Communist Europe	This article analyzes the quality of democracies in Europe through current indicators of democratization and good governance.	Governments should focus on improving democratic indicators, ensuring that policies promote transparency, efficiency, and

		fairness across all sectors of governance to improve the quality of democracy.
The Heavy Burden of Participatory Democracy	Focuses on the challenges of implementing participatory democracy, specifically in Aceh, Indonesia, and the associated administrative burdens.	The government should streamline the processes related to participatory democracy to avoid overburdening the administration while ensuring that public participation remains inclusive and effective.
General Elections and Democracy in Indonesia	Explores the role of general elections as the primary expression of democracy in Indonesia, focusing on the legal and procedural aspects.	The government should ensure free, fair, and transparent elections, reinforcing the legal framework that supports democratic principles and enhances public trust in electoral systems.
Challenges and Role of the Indonesian Parliament in Democracy	Discusses the role and challenges faced by the Indonesian Parliament (DPR-RI) in realizing democracy, focusing on governance and policymaking.	Strengthen the legislative process by improving parliamentary independence, ensuring that it serves the public interest without undue political interference, and focusing on laws that enhance democratic principles.
Political Interference in Regulation Formation	Investigates how political interventions affect the formation of regulations in Indonesia, with a focus on governance and democracy.	Governments should enforce laws and regulations that protect the integrity of regulation formation from political interference, ensuring that regulations are fair, transparent, and designed to benefit society at large.
Political Dynasty in Democracy's Perspective	Discusses the implications of political dynasties on democracy in Indonesia, focusing on their impact on the political landscape.	The government must implement political reforms that reduce the concentration of power in the hands of political families, ensuring a fairer, more inclusive political landscape that supports democratic values.
Political Elite and Democracy in Indonesia	Explores the role of political elites in shaping Indonesia's democracy and the	The government should strengthen democratic processes by reducing the

	relationship between political power and governance.	concentration of power among elites and ensuring that all political voices are heard and represented in the decision-making process.
Local Governance and Democracy in Indonesia	Examines the dynamics of local government in the context of Indonesia's democracy, focusing on decentralization and its impact on governance.	The government should promote decentralization efforts to ensure that local governments have more control over their affairs, enhancing democratic representation and fostering local political participation.
Military Role and Civil Supremacy in Governance	Analyzes the dual role of the military in Indonesian governance and its impact on the principle of civil supremacy.	The government should balance the role of the military with civil governance to ensure democratic integrity, emphasizing the importance of civilian oversight and the rule of law in governance.
Political Corruption and Electoral Democracy in Indonesia	Focuses on the pathological impacts of political corruption on electoral democracy in post-reform Indonesia.	The government should combat political corruption through stronger anti-corruption measures and ensure that democratic processes are not manipulated by corrupt practices or political patronage.
Political Realignment Post Regional Elections	Discusses the political realignment following regional elections in West Sumatra and its implications for governance.	The government should implement mechanisms that prevent political realignment from destabilizing local governance, ensuring that electoral outcomes reflect the will of the people.
Governance, Democracy, and Development	Investigates the link between governance quality, democracy, and development, focusing on policy performance in the European context.	Governments should focus on improving governance quality to promote sustainable development, ensuring that democratic processes are aligned with developmental goals and policy outcomes.
Decentralized Government in Democratic Contexts	Analyzes asymmetric decentralization in Indonesian local governance and its impact on democracy.	The government must focus on creating fair and equitable decentralization policies, ensuring that local governments can effectively

			manage their affairs and contribute to democratic governance. (Telaumbanua, 2024)
Pancasila and Good Governance	Good	Discusses the application of Pancasila as a foundational principle for promoting good governance and public accountability in Indonesia.	The government should use Pancasila's values as a guide to strengthen democratic governance and ensure that public services are provided with integrity, fairness, and accountability.
Transparency and Local Government Accountability	Local	Focuses on how political and bureaucratic factors affect transparency and accountability in regional governance.	The government should implement measures that increase transparency in regional governance and ensure that accountability mechanisms are strengthened at all levels of government. (Rahmadanni & Deviani, 2024)
Political Dynasties and Legal Frameworks in Indonesia	Legal	Investigates the impact of political dynasties in Indonesia on legal frameworks and democratic processes.	The government should create laws that limit the influence of political dynasties, ensuring a fairer, more inclusive political landscape that supports democratic values.
Political Dynasty and Democracy in Indonesia	and	This theme explores the influence of political dynasties on democratic processes in Indonesia. It discusses how family-based political power affects governance and electoral integrity.	The government must implement reforms to reduce the influence of political dynasties, ensuring a more transparent and democratic electoral process by promoting meritocracy and reducing political monopolies in governance.
Political Dynasty and Democracy System Reform	and	This paper discusses the impact of political dynasties on Indonesia's democracy and proposes reforms for a more democratic system.	Strengthen democratic institutions by enforcing policies that reduce political family dominance in political roles. Reform electoral laws and implement measures to encourage broader political participation and reduce dynastic influence.
Voter Participation and Democracy Quality	and	This study addresses the relationship between voter participation and the quality	The government should enhance voter engagement through public education and

	of democracy in Indonesia, analyzing constitutional law perspectives.	ensure that electoral laws are fair and inclusive, thereby improving the democratic process and electoral outcomes.
Presidential System and Multi-Party System Impact on Political Stability	Examines the implications of Indonesia's presidential system and multi-party system on political stability in the 2024 elections.	The government must strengthen the multi-party system and ensure that the presidential system is functioning to promote political stability, especially during high-stakes electoral periods.
Open Government and Democracy Strengthening	Discusses the challenges and opportunities related to open government practices in strengthening Indonesia's democracy.	The government must adopt and promote transparency in public policy-making to foster democratic integrity, enhancing accountability and reducing the effects of corruption.
Governance Quality and Policy Performance	Investigates how good governance affects policy performance and the overall quality of democracy in European contexts.	Strengthen governance systems through the application of best practices in policy performance, aiming for efficient, accountable, and transparent government practices.

## CONCLUSION

This study reveals that political dynasties, oligarchies, and governance challenges continue to undermine the quality of democracy in Indonesia, particularly by limiting political competition, distorting electoral processes, and weakening public trust in democratic institutions. The findings highlight the need for substantial reforms in the electoral system, political education, and transparency mechanisms to address these issues. Future research should explore the impact of regional political dynasties on local governance and democracy, focusing on how these local power structures influence national political outcomes and the quality of democracy in remote regions. The research underscores the importance of implementing reforms that promote meritocracy, enhance political education, and strengthen accountability in governance. Policymakers should prioritize creating a more inclusive and transparent electoral process to ensure that democracy in Indonesia becomes more representative, participatory, and resilient to the influence of political elites.

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