

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE STUDENT MOVEMENT IN TIANANMEN 1989 AND INDONESIA 1998 ACCORDING TO COMPARATIVE POLITICAL HISTORY IN THE REVIEW OF ISLAMIC VALUES

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Abstract:

This article discusses political comparisons of social and political movements in China, namely the Beijing Tiananmen tragedy in 1989 and the May 1998 tragedy in Indonesia. This analysis is seen from aspects of the country's government system, political and party system, and the implications of the demonstration results. China is a republic with a communist system, while Indonesia is a democracy with a presidential system. These two countries have different political systems, with China using a party political system, namely the Chinese Communist Party, while Indonesia has a multi-party political system. The data used in this research comes from secondary data, specifically through the historical comparison method, which was collected from various previous literature sources, namely websites, historical archives, and research validation journals. This article uses a social and political movement theory perspective. The research results show differences in social and political movements in China and Indonesia, according to the conclusion of the analysis.

Keyword: Social movements, Demonstrations, Comparative Politics

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INTRODUCTION

The state is the highest institution in the social order and has the authority to formulate policies and regulate people's lives. The state's role is not only limited to managing public affairs, but also as a protector of citizens' rights and a guarantor of equitable welfare. In the global reality, the government system adopted by a country is very diverse, such as the communist system implemented in the People's Republic of China, and the democratic system based on the ideology of Pancasila in Indonesia. These two systems reflect different approaches to governance and how the state responds to the participation of its people.

However, in its implementation, not all state policies align with the principles of justice and moral principles that underlie the formation of the state. Often, policies that are taken cause social inequality and harm certain groups, especially the lower classes. This dissatisfaction triggers the emergence of resistance movements from the community, one of which is in the form of demonstrations. Student groups are often at the forefront of mobilising moral strength to reject injustice and push for system change. Two crucial events in contemporary history that reflect this are the student demonstrations in Tiananmen Square, China, in 1989, and the wave of reform in Indonesia in 1998.

Demonstrations in China emerged as a reaction to government policies deemed unfavourable to the people. However, the movement ended tragically as state authorities violently suppressed it. In contrast, the student-led demonstrations in Indonesia succeeded in bringing

down the New Order Regime and paved the way for a more democratic reform era. The difference in the outcome of the two movements is inseparable from how the state responds to the aspirations of its people.

From an Islamic perspective, efforts to express opinions and reject unjust policies are not prohibited. The Qur'an provides many moral guidelines that support the practice of *amar ma'ruf nahi munkar*, upholding justice, and rejecting injustice. Surah Al-Imran verse 104 emphasises the importance of calling to the good and preventing the evil. In contrast, Surah An-Nisa verse 135 encourages Muslims to uphold justice, even against power holders². However, Islam also opposes any action that causes damage or chaos, as stated in Surah Al-Baqarah verse 205³. On the other hand, the way to express aspirations is also regulated in Islam to be done politely and with wisdom, as in Surah An-Nahl verse 125⁴.

Therefore, demonstrations as a form of political expression need to be seen within a broader framework in terms of the political system and religious values. Demonstrations are a legitimate and dignified form of social control when conducted peacefully and aimed at upholding justice. This makes it essential for this discussion to be studied more deeply to understand how Islamic values can be used to address democratic practices and people's struggles against policies that do not favour justice.

² Al-Qur'an, Surah An-Nisa (4): 135.

³ Al-Qur'an, Surah Al-Baqarah (2): 205.

⁴ Al-Qur'an, Surah An-Nahl (16): 125.

The state is an organisation, referred to as the highest body, that has the authority to regulate matters of public interest. The state is also tasked with protecting and advancing the nation's life, which must be evenly distributed to all state members, not overlapping or harming any groups. The state has sovereignty, an independent territory recognised by other countries. China runs with the Communist political system, and the Chinese Communist Party is in power in the implementation of the Chinese government. Meanwhile, Indonesia is a democratic country that adheres to the ideology of Pancasila. Pancasila democracy is a concept of democracy based on the values of Pancasila as the foundation of the Indonesian state⁵.

In the course of government in China and Indonesia, the role of the government as a representative of the people, which has control in running and regulating matters of the interests of the wider community, does not always provide fair results for the community or can harm or torment the community. In reality, many performances from the government, especially from the President, still do not provide justice for the community and only benefit his cronies. This certainly cannot continue without considering the community, especially the small community.

For the government's unfair treatment and the issuance of policies that harm the community, this is then highlighted by the community, especially groups such as students who build movements

⁵ Townsend, J. R. (1993). *Sistem Politik Cina*. Dalam C. MacAndrews & M. Mas'od (Ed.), *Perbandingan Sistem Politik* (hlm. 173–199). Yogyakarta: Gadjah Mada University Press.

to fight the government and make the government aware of reforms to produce democratic justice for the entire nation. In China, the Tiananmen movement occurred in 1989. It was triggered by the policies of the Chinese government of the Deng Xiaoping era, which were detrimental to the Chinese people. It then emerged as a demonstration in the hope that the government could prioritise a fair democracy for its people⁶. Similarly, in Indonesia, there was a significant movement at the MPR-DPR building in 1998 in Jakarta, which was triggered by the policies of the Indonesian government during the era of President Soeharto⁷.

Movements that arise from public awareness, especially among students, occur in China and Indonesia with large demonstrations, with the number of demonstrators being huge, with the hope that the government can step down from office and encourage major reforms. However, between the two student demonstrations that took place in China and Indonesia, there are differences between the two, which also resulted in successful and unsuccessful demonstrations. The comparison between the two demonstrations in China and Indonesia is also affected by the government's actions that provide space for the demonstration movement to succeed.

Socio-political movements are collective behaviours characterised by common interests and long-term goals to change or maintain society or its institutions. Bruce J. Chohen explains that an organised group of

⁶ Dillon, M. (2015). *Deng Xiaoping: The Man Who Made Modern China*. New York: I.B. Tauris & Co. Ltd.

⁷ Zon, F. (2009). *Politik Huru Hara Mei 1998*.

individuals carries out a socio-political movement to change or maintain some aspects of the wider society⁸.

According to Prof. Jerome Davis, “social movements arise as a reaction to a group of individuals or groups who are dissatisfied with the conditions of social life. A greed for life can cause social and mental divisions, so this social movement develops to create harmony.” That way, social movements are reactions carried out by individuals and groups in response to social problems that exist in society, where social movements are present as an effort to achieve harmony.

This article uses the perspective of social movement theory. The 1989 Tiananmen tragedy and the 1998 May tragedy at the Indonesian MPR DPR Building were movements triggered by students as a form of resistance to the authoritarian government and its attitude in issuing policies that tormented their people. The student movement can be said to be included in the social movement described by Nan Lin, where the movement is a collective effort to advance and resist changes in society or groups.

The student movement that wants changes to state institutions and wants reform is the same thing that materialised in the actions of the Indonesian student movement in May 1998, as well as Rudolf Heberle’s explanation that social movements are various collective efforts in making specific changes to institutions and creating a new

⁸ Jubaedah, Siti. (2019). *GERAKAN MAHASISWA (Kajian Tentang Peranan Mahasiswa Universitas Trisakti Pada Mei 1998 Dalam Proses Pergantian Kekuasaan Orde Baru)*. *Criksetra: Jurnal Pendidikan Sejarah*, 8(2). (dalam kajian ini mengutip pandangan Bruce J. Cohen mengenai gerakan sosial politik).

order. Therefore, in this article, we can see the continuity between the social movements initiated by students over the great tragedy that occurred in Tiananmen in 1989 and the May 1998 tragedy at the MPR DPR Building in Indonesia.

RESEARCH METHODS

The data used in this research comes from secondary data, specifically through the historical comparison method, which is collected from various previous literature sources, namely websites, historical archives, and research validation journals. The historical comparison approach involves uncovering historical details or history regarding the 1989 Tiananmen tragedy and the 1998 May tragedy, and then interpreting them with the theoretical framework used in this research. The historical comparative approach is taken because each event can be seen as a continuous series and cannot be separated.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

China

China was proclaimed the People's Republic of China on October 1, 1949, with a communist system. Communism is the basis of China's ideology, which is used as a teaching, guide, philosophy, and view to achieve social and political goals and norms. China's political system runs with the Communist political system, and the Chinese Communist Party is in power in implementing the Chinese government. China adheres to a one-party system in which only one party is in power. The

goal of the communist party is to maintain and develop the socialist system in all fields, and then, in the course of reform and the market economy. That way, it can assist the state duties of the Chinese government, as well as in determining state policy.

China adheres to communist ideology with a closed government system and a command or closed economic system. In a command economic system, the government has the right to control economic activity, make economic policies and distribute income so that the government can determine the goods and services to be produced and choose the companies that will deliver these goods and services⁹. This is what makes China a closed country to other liberal countries.

China's power is shared by the Communist Party of China, the People's Central Government (State Council), and the People's Liberation Army (PLA). The Chinese Communist Party plays a role in making policies and overseeing the running of the Chinese government through Party policies, as well as maintaining power over China forever. The Central People's Government (State Council) in the realm of administration and state power carries out its functions in harmony with or by existing party policies. And the People's Liberation Army (PLA), which has duties in state security, for various internal and external threats that threaten the Chinese government and the Communist Party.

⁹ Wishanti, D. A. P. E. (2016). *Kebangkitan China dalam Kerjasama Ekonomi Internasional di Kawasan Asia Timur. Transformasi Global*, 1(1).

In 1989, during the leadership of Deng Xiaoping, China underwent significant changes. The ruling Communist Party began to allow private companies and foreign investment, including various luxuries that were not affordable to the masses. This was a policy that Deng Xiaoping saw as an attempt to revive the economy and improve living standards. The policies formed by Deng Xiaoping and the Chinese Communist Party at that time had the highest authority, so they could easily form policies without considering the people. With the power of the communist system, Deng Xiaoping was free and authoritarian.

Indonesia

Indonesia is a democratic country that adheres to the ideology of Pancasila. Pancasila democracy is a concept of democracy based on the values of Pancasila as the foundation of the Indonesian state. It consists of five precepts: Belief in One God, Fair and Civilised Humanity, Indonesian Unity, Democracy Led by Wisdom in Consultation/Representation, and Social Justice for All Indonesian People. Pancasila democracy uses a system of state organisation carried out by the people with the people's consent, without the dominance of the majority or minority.

In 1967, the State Government, previously led by President Soekarno, was revoked, and Soeharto was appointed President of the Republic of Indonesia. Political parties were simplified and merged into three socio-political forces in the first general election (pemilu) during the New Order period. The merger of parties was carried out to create stability in the life of the Nation and State. The merger of political parties

was based on program similarities. The following are the three political forces: the United Development Party (PPP) is a combination of NU, Parmusi, PSII, and PERTI; then the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) is a combination of PNI, Catholic Party, Murba Party, IPKI, and Parkindo; and Golkar¹⁰.

The elections during the New Order era were held six times: in 1971, 1977, 1985, 1987, 1992, and 1997. Golkar always got the most votes and won the elections. Indonesia is a country that adheres to a multi-party system, but it is only seen as a formality. In reality, many polls were directed only at the victory of Golkar or Golongan Karya. Golkar's striking victory certainly allowed President Soeharto to continue in office for up to six terms, because the President was elected by members of the MPR, where Golkar dominated the balance of votes in the MPR and DPR. During the New Order era, draft laws and other proposals had to be approved by the MPR and DPR.

President Soeharto's leadership for six terms, approximately thirty-two years, became a question mark not only for a handful of people. With Golkar winning the most votes, it is questionable whether there were corrupt practices in the elections that formed the same cycle that perpetuated President Soeharto's rule. The policies during the New Order era were also considered detrimental to the community, ignored the people, and only benefited a handful of groups, causing a monetary crisis that harmed the small people.

¹⁰ Adiwilaga, R., Alfian, Y., & Rusdia, U. (2018). *Sistem Pemerintahan Indonesia*. Yogyakarta: Deepublish

Tiananmen Student Protests 1989 and Indonesia 1998

The analysis showed that China and Indonesia faced student demonstrations due to the leadership of each country, which had an impact because it did not pay attention to the little people and only benefited a handful of groups, especially the government group itself. China, which adheres to the communist system with the leadership of the Communist Party during the Deng Xiaoping period, has generated a lot of controversy, especially in the community and among students, because the policies taken are very detrimental to the people's economy and do not want open politics. Whereas in Indonesia, it adheres to the Pancasila democratic system, which should prioritise the people, but it was manipulated by the power held by President Soeharto and the Golkar party for 32 years, which, of course, formed policies that did not pay attention to the people, but instead tormented the people.

The demonstrations in China began with economic policies by Deng Xiaoping and the Communist Party by opening up many foreign investors, improving the economy by increasing production by the private sector, which, of course, was riddled by many interested parties both domestically and abroad. This led to economic instability, corruption, and political nepotism, which raised hopes for greater political openness by fostering "pro-democracy" demonstrations. In addition, the demonstrations came at the time of the death of one of the most pro-democracy and anti-corruption politicians, Hu Yaobang, who feared government interference in his death. Because Hu Yaobang was the Secretary General of the Communist Party, who was too soft on

students who often made demands to the government, and he was known as an actor who strongly rejected Corruption and Nepotism as well as a democratic politician, certainly at odds with the Chinese government.

In 1989, an astrophysicist named Fang Lizhi at Princeton University often campaigned for freedom of speech, separation of powers, and human rights that must be upheld. He conducts his campaigns on one campus and moves to another in the hope that students will be more critical and understand that an authoritarian political system causes the poverty that occurs in China. Fang Lizhi often strongly encouraged other demonstrations with demands to accelerate the overall reform process. Even Deng Xiaoping, China's leader, said that Fang Lizhi was too obsessed with Western thought and lifestyle and was trying to undermine Chinese values.

After Hu Yaobang's death, Fang Lizhi and many students invited several speakers to hold public speeches to commemorate Hu Yaobang's death in May 1989. They came up with seven draft demands to the government. The demonstrators demanded Deng Xiaoping's resignation from power from the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and political liberalisation. The 1989 Tiananmen Square Incident was the largest demonstration event during the Cold War.

Thousands of students gathered at Tiananmen Square, voicing their opinions and demands. Their actions lasted for days, and many students set up tents and stayed overnight there. The protesters were met with a shocking article in which the communist party mouthpiece

Renmin Ribao wrote that students were planning riots and chaos, while students were only expressing their aspirations. The day after the article was published, the students continued to protest with more people and condemned the government for accusing them of creating chaos.

On May 13, 1989, students took more extreme action, especially those who stayed at Tiananmen Square, by going on a hunger strike so that the government would hear their demands; this made many demonstrators fall unconscious. On the other hand, many people began to be touched and came to the field to provide support and food to the demonstrators. On May 18, 1989, Premier Li Peng met student representatives for dialogue, but it turned out to be the same, and he did not listen to their demands, only imposing the will of the Chinese government. The next day, Zhao Zhiyang, Chairman of the Communist Party, who had said that the students' action was patriotic, came to Tiananmen Square to ask them to end their demonstration, but the students refused.

On June 1, 1989, Li Peng made a report on the actual chaos in Tiananmen Square, drawing the line that 'the movement of theorists and counterrevolutionaries, what the students are doing is a western influence, especially the United States, and the Tiananmen action must be cleaned up immediately'. In doing so, Deng Xiaoping ordered Li Peng and members of the TPR to supervise and discipline the demonstration activities by allowing any measures to achieve order. Thus, martial law was declared, resulting in many casualties due to the firing of AK-47 and Type 56 weapons by the TPR at the demonstrators on the night of June

3, 1989. It is known that as many as tens of thousands of people died on the spot, due to the action of controlling with weapons carried out at night in pitch darkness.

Meanwhile, the demonstrations in Indonesia 1998 were the same as the Tiananmen demonstrations in May. This action was a form of student opposition to the autocratic government and ignored the values of Pancasila democracy. The monetary crisis was also one of the essential aspects of the student demonstrations. Chaos occurred everywhere due to the declining economy, which led to many people being affected by layoffs. The price of basic commodities rose rapidly, making it difficult for people to find these necessities.

The student demonstrations became more intense after three Trisakti students were shot dead by the authorities in an attempt to calm the demonstrators. This was unnatural when the gun was raised, as the demonstrations were not anarchic. The Trisakti tragedy was one of the reasons why subsequent demonstrations escalated and began to surround the DPR and MPR buildings. At the same time, there were anarchist actions carried out by groups of people who were furious at the Indonesian economy at that time, taking action by destroying and burning cars on the road. The most sadistic was the sexual violence against ethnic Chinese.

When the demonstrations and anarchist groups took place, President Soeharto did not respond then, because he was in Cairo, Egypt, holding a meeting to build cooperation between countries. Meanwhile, in defusing the student demonstrations and the actions of

anarchist groups, there were officers and mysterious shooters who fired shots, which certainly caused many casualties. Approximately one thousand victims fell in the May 1998 tragedy, of which 85 were victims of sexual violence.

Results and Implications of the 1989 Tiananmen Demonstrations and Indonesia 1998

The Tiananmen Demonstration in Beijing, China, in 1989 was fruitless; many people died on the spot due to military attacks deployed as a state of martial law by President Deng Xiaoping. The demands made by the demonstrators were not heard, no solutions were given, even after the bloody incident, as an attempt by the President to stop the demonstrators, the news about the 1989 Tiananmen tragedy was also tightly censored. Surveillance measures against democracy activists are more severe than in previous years. Within a week, several activists who had persistently fought for the Tiananmen tragedy to be investigated were arrested.

China shocked its people and the world when it violently suppressed the peaceful protests. When China crushed a political revolution in the public square, Deng and his cadres pushed their economic revolution. Democracy remained unacceptable, yet thousands of people. The Chinese government implemented a *quid pro quo* where the communist party allowed economic freedom but not political freedom. Even today, a giant painting of Mao can still be seen in Tiananmen Square, a deterrent to democracy from beyond the grave.

The impact of the actions carried out by killing many victims, of course, became a world concern and affected the continuity of the Chinese State itself. The London-based Amnesty International called on the Chinese government to conduct an independent investigation into the bloody massacre of pro-democracy activists. In addition, it also asked the Chinese government to release all prisoners related to Tiananmen who did not receive a fair trial. Then, several Asian countries had been silent about the actions because the existing reactions could cause upheaval for the established cooperation relations. America and Europe consider the actions of the Chinese government in Tiananmen as the peak of anti-human rights (HAM) and political and civil liberties in China.

After the incident, another more significant impact on the Chinese economy was the stoppage of foreign loans to China by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. As a result, tourism revenue decreased from US\$ \$2.2 billion to US\$ \$1.8 billion, and many foreign investments were cancelled. The defence budget also increased from 8.6% in 1986 to 15.5% in 1990.

The Trisakti Tragedy, which claimed the lives of four Trisakti students who were shot by the police, became a significant change where students and ordinary people resisted the authorities, burning buildings and vehicles, looting and other criminal acts. President Soeharto, who was not in Indonesia but in Cairo, told the Indonesian people that he would not maintain his position if the people did not want him to. But the process must be carried out constitutionally.

However, the situation escalated until around 500 people died due to riots, fires, and sexual violence that occurred during the riots. Then President Soeharto accelerated his visit to Egypt by one day, which was supposed to last until May 15. However, when he arrived in Indonesia, President Soeharto denied that he was willing to resign through the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Alwi Dahlan. The next day, Harmoko, the chairman of the DPR/MPR, met President Soeharto and announced the cabinet reshuffle plan. The mass of demonstrators grew and continued to demand a special session of the MPR and the revocation of the MPR's mandate over President Soeharto.

DPR/MPR Chairman Harmoko asked President Soeharto in a meeting of MPR/DPR leaders to resign, but this was not approved by ABRI Commander General Wiranto, who said that this did not have a strong legal basis and suggested the formation of a Reform Council. The situation of students and the public became increasingly heated, demanding that President Soeharti immediately resign from office. The leadership of the DPR, supported by the leaders of four factions, wrote to President Soeharto to hold consultations and the process of his resignation was carried out constitutionally.

With the dome of the DPR MPR building occupied by thousands of students, Amien Rais, chairman of PP Muhammadiyah, called on the masses to commemorate the National Awakening Day on May 20 at Monas Square, with the primary purpose of urging Soeharto to resign. President Soeharto emphasised that he was unwilling to run for president and formed the Reform Committee. However, the road

blockade at the Monas field by the authorities in preventing the masses made the masses stay back at the MPR DPR Building because Amien Rais feared that there would be a clash with the authorities at the Monas field.

The reform movement was getting hotter and hotter, which demanded an immediate answer from the masses, and even a peaceful action was held by hundreds of artists in the courtyard of Taman Ismail Marzuki, Jakarta. And in the evening, the President's aide contacted the Speaker of the House of Representatives to say that President Soeharto would be consulted at the Palace on the following day, May 21, at 09.00 WIB. At the same time, the Speaker of the House also called BJ Habibie, the Vice President at the time, to take the oath of office as President of the Republic of Indonesia the next day.

So on May 21, 1998, President Soeharto announced that he was resigning as President of the Republic of Indonesia and handed over his position to BJ Habibie. BJ Habibie, who previously served as Vice President, took the oath before the Supreme Court. And in front of the press, declaring it constitutionally valid. That way, the demonstrations that students initially carried out and then followed by the general public, succeeded in reaping what they expected, the existence of reform and as the beginning of the journey of democracy desired by the community, not to bend the knee to the leadership that had been autocratic until the same leader held it for 32 years.

The results of the demonstration certainly brought changes to the sustainability of democracy where the maximum limit for a person to

serve as President is two terms which is equal to 10 years and of course by running elections democratically, as well as practicing elections that are Direct, General, Free, Secret, Honest, and Fair. Not only that, the implications for the life of the Indonesian Nation and State are that the people are not constrained and are not afraid of authoritarian rule, and the reduction of racism with the existence of various ethnicities that are protected.

Differences between the Failed Tiananmen Demonstration in 1989 and the Successful Demonstration in Indonesia in 1998

In the demonstrations by tens of thousands of Chinese students and communities in Tiananmen Square, they did not get the desired results in the demands voiced during the protests. Human rights violations committed by the Chinese government are challenging to execute, this is due to the position of the state or government, where the President and the Communist Party are the highest institutions in the region. Even international institutions are unable to formulate the right solution for gross violations that have been committed by a country, namely the Chinese government itself, against its people. In addition, the dictatorship or attitude of communist ideology is very close, making it difficult for the government to be shaken and inhumanely cruelly stopping demonstrations. The absence of a constitution that can protect the security of the people and the demonstrators so that it can minimise the existing violence.

Meanwhile, the demonstrations in Indonesia can be said to have been successful with President Soeharto's resignation, which the

masses demanded. This can be said to be successful and different from what happened in Beijing, China, because Indonesia holds the ideology of Democracy, so there is still popular intervention as a consideration. Although the handling of demonstrators also involved the intervention of the authorities and the use of sharp weapons, it was not as cruel as that of the Chinese government, which used martial law. This goes back to the state ideology used because Indonesia still prioritises the values of Pancasila and the encouragement of other constitutions, and the Chairman of the MPR, DPR, also prioritises the people's aspirations.

Democracy in Review of Islamic Values

In Surah An-Nahl verse 125, efforts to respond to the aspirations of the people who carry out demonstrations need to be addressed with a good debate by the government, as the party running the wheels of government. In this verse, before the command about giving explanations and discussions in a good way to the community, the government, as a party responsible for the people it leads, is expected to provide good policies to its people. In Surah An-Nahl 125, it is mentioned that people should be called to the good way according to Allah's guidance with wisdom (example) and good teaching. The sentence calling people to the good way of Allah through wisdom/example comes before explaining and debating lessons to people who protest against the government. As a result, providing good policies is more important than teaching or explaining debate to the people demonstrating. If the policies made and implemented are

suitable for the people, then the demonstrations will not get bigger and will not lead to chaos.

Aspiration from the public through demonstrations to the government is a good thing if the action is carried out peacefully. Both the public and the government need to be fair in seeing the reality of the demonstration process. The public and the government need to be self-aware and objective in witnessing each party's mistakes in conveying aspirations through demonstrations. As in Surah An Nisa' 135, every human being is expected to be the upholder of justice even if it is against oneself, mother, father or close relatives. Being fair in assessing mistakes in government and errors in the demonstration process is an important thing that must be done by the public so that there is no chaos in the demonstration process, let alone until there are casualties both from the public and the government.

CONCLUSIONS

In the case of the Tiananmen tragedy in 1989 and the tragedy in Indonesia in May 1998, which took place with massive student demonstrations as an effort by the demonstrators to protest against injustice and government policies that were detrimental to the people of the country. The difference in government and political systems in China and Indonesia certainly affects the policies taken by the people's representatives or state leaders. Also, it affects whether the voices and aspirations of the people are heard. Indonesia adheres to a democratic

system, while China adheres to a communist system with a closed government system.

The Tiananmen tragedy in China was a student action that rejected various government policies that made people miserable, which also happened in Indonesia in 1998, where students took to the streets in protest and demanded the overthrow of President Soeharto, who had served for 32 years. In both tragedies, where there was a social movement from students who were critical of the development of their country, students dared to voice their opinions, who wanted the government to behave reasonably and listen to the voices of their people.

It's just that in both tragedies, the Tiananmen tragedy in 1989 did not produce good results for students; hundreds of thousands of students and people who held demonstrations in Tiananmen were killed en masse due to martial law issued by President Deng Xiaoping. The voices and demands of the demonstrators were not heard because communist ideology, especially in the closed government system in China, made the government firmly reject the demands of the demonstrators and suppress the demonstrators with cruel martial law.

Meanwhile, the student demonstrations in Indonesia at the MPR DPR building in May 1998 lasted for days. They claimed many victims due to the guns fired by the state apparatus to disperse the demonstrators. However, the demonstrations were arguably successful and gave birth to a new democracy, where the demonstrators' demands were granted with the downfall of Soeharto as President, who had

served for 32 years. The student demonstrations were not in vain, and they hoped for absolute democratic freedom for the sustainability of the Indonesian nation.

At this time, the impact of the 1998 Indonesian Student Tragedy gave birth to various policies as an effort to answer the demands of the demonstrators. One of these was the electoral system, with elections held every five years, followed by a policy that allowed a person to serve as president for a maximum of two terms, namely, 10 years. In addition, the party system that runs in Indonesia has become a multiparty system, which involves many parties competing for government power.

At this time, China has undergone changes that have allowed it to build its economy to such a large extent while maintaining the communist system at the political level. China builds its democracy based on communism, which is believed to foster political stability and the welfare of its people. However, there are contradictions with the principles of Communism itself. Meanwhile, China implements economic liberalism. This is China's uniqueness: running the country with two systems simultaneously.

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