



A New Hope or Hopeless of Democratic Reconsolidation?

EVALUASI SATU DEKADE KINERJA PEMERINTAHAN JOKO WIDODO (2014-2024)

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Economic Reforms and Investment Climate: Hilirisasi?

- ▶ Jokowi made substantial strides in simplifying regulations, reducing bureaucratic red tape, and promoting investment. The **Omnibus Law on Job Creation**, for example, aimed to boost economic growth by streamlining numerous regulations and making it easier to do business. The goal was to attract foreign investment and boost Indonesia's economic competitiveness (Warburton, 2020).
- ▶ Development While these reforms were intended to simplify regulations, they faced criticism for potentially undermining workers' rights and environmental protections. Many civil society groups, labor unions, and environmental activists argued that the Omnibus Law disproportionately favored large corporations and investors, often at the expense of marginalized communities (Amnesty International, 2020).

Political Stability & Economic-Based Development

- ▶ Jokowi has also been praised for bringing a level of political stability that allowed for consistent governance and effective implementation of his programs. His administration sought to maintain political stability by working closely with political elites and co-opting political rivals into his coalition government.
- ▶ This approach, however, has led to increased concerns about the re-emergence of oligarchic power and the weakening of checks and balances. By accommodating and relying on oligarchs and former political rivals, Jokowi has reduced political competition, which has, in turn, hindered the development of a healthy opposition and allowed political dynasties to thrive (Winters, 2011).

Weakening of Democratic Institutions & Civil Liberties

- ▶ One of the most notable criticisms of Jokowi's administration is the weakening of democratic institutions. During his tenure, the once-powerful Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) experienced a significant decline in autonomy and effectiveness due to legislative reforms. Changes in KPK laws, including transforming its status into a government agency and adding supervisory layers, have undermined its capacity to fight corruption, which has led to widespread public disappointment (Butt, 2020).
- ▶ Jokowi's administration has also been criticized for eroding civil liberties, with increasing restrictions on freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of assembly. The Electronic Information and Transactions Law (UU ITE) was often used to silence government critics and target journalists, activists, and ordinary citizens who voiced dissent online (Amnesty International, 2021).

Democratic Regression

- ▶ **Illiberal Democracy:** A regime that retains the appearance of democracy (e.g., elections) but lacks many substantive features of a true democracy, such as civil liberties, independent judiciary, or freedom of the press. Illiberal democracies often experience a gradual erosion of individual rights and democratic norms.
- ▶ **Electoral Authoritarianism:** A form of governance in which elections are held, but they are neither free nor fair, and the ruling party manipulates the political landscape to maintain power. This type of regime combines elements of both democracy and authoritarianism, using elections as a tool to legitimize its rule without allowing genuine competition.

The Faces of Democratic Regression?

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- ▶ **Electoral Authoritarianism & manipulation of election:** A form of governance in which elections are held, but they are neither free nor fair, and the ruling party manipulates the political landscape to maintain power. This type of regime combines elements of both democracy and authoritarianism, using elections as a tool to legitimize its rule without allowing genuine competition.
- ▶ **Law enforcement politicization:** The use of laws to suppress opposition and consolidate power while maintaining a facade of legality. In cases of democratic regression, governments may misuse laws—such as anti-terrorism laws or cyber laws—to target political opponents, journalists, and activists while giving the impression that they are acting within the bounds of legality.

The Faces of Democratic Regression?

- ▶ **Centralization of Power:** The concentration of political authority in the executive branch, often at the expense of the legislature and judiciary. Centralization weakens the system of checks and balances, undermining accountability and giving the executive branch more control over all aspects of government.
- ▶ **Authoritarian Legalism & Judicial Erosion:** The process of weakening the independence of the judiciary through political pressure, manipulation, or control of judicial appointments. This undermines the judiciary's ability to serve as a check on executive power, which is a critical feature of a functioning democracy.
- ▶ **Populist authoritarianism:** The rise of populist leaders who claim to represent "the people" against an established elite. Populist rhetoric often challenges democratic norms and dismisses institutions like the media, judiciary, and legislature as corrupt or untrustworthy, leading to a degradation of the rule of law and democratic accountability.

The Faces of Democratic Regression?

- ▶ **Media Censorship and Intimidation:** Control or suppression of the media to prevent critical coverage of the government, thus limiting the public's access to information and their ability to hold leaders accountable. Intimidation of journalists and the spread of propaganda are common methods used in democratic regression to maintain a favorable narrative.
- ▶ **Reconsolidating Predatory Oligarchy:** A form of governance where a small group of elites or influential families holds significant power, often leading to clientelism and patronage networks. This undermines the democratic principle of equal representation, as political power is concentrated in the hands of a select few rather than being distributed based on merit or popular support.
- ▶ **Shrinking Civic Space & Crackdown on Political Opponents:** The reduction in freedom of association and civic engagement through legal, financial, or physical means, thereby limiting the activities of civil society organizations (CSOs), NGOs, and advocacy groups. This limits public participation in political discourse and reduces avenues for citizens to challenge government decisions.

LOOK FORWARD THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY

- ▶ **HOW TO CREATE A GOOD GOVERNANCE IN THE STATE OF DEMOCRATIC REGRESSION?**
- ▶ **HOW TO EMPOWER MEANINGFUL OR MEANINGLESS PARTICIPATION?**
- ▶ **HOW TO DEAL WITH THE RECONSOLIDATED MAJORITARIAN PRESIDENTIALISM?**

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