

## **GAME THEORY ANALYSIS OF IDENTITY POLITICAL CONFLICT IN JAYAPURA**

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### **Abstract**

Indonesia mengalami proses perubahan bentuk pemerintahan yang cukup panjang, bahkan konsep ini sudah diperkenalkan di masa kolonial, semenjak diberlakukannya UU No. 22 Tahun 1999 dilanjutkan dengan UU No. 23 Tahun 2014, pemerintah mulai memberikan wewenang kepada daerah untuk mengurus wilayah administratifnya secara mandiri. Akibat dari hal tersebut adalah munculnya para aktor politik lokal yang bersaing dan tak jarang menimbulkan konflik. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menjelaskan dan menganalisis salah satu konflik yang pernah terjadi pada ranah politik lokal di Jayapura, peneliti menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan pendekatan studi kepustakaan. Adapun untuk memudahkan proses analisis, peneliti menggunakan teori permainan dalam prosesnya. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa kasus politik lokal yang terjadi di Jayapura terjadi akibat adanya pertentangan antara masyarakat pendatang dengan masyarakat adat asli. Pertentangan tersebut menimbulkan prasangka antara satu sama lain. Adapun konflik ini berhasil diatasi dalam beberapa tahapan, dan menciptakan situasi Non-Zero Sum Game, atau kedua belah pihak yang saling menerima dan berusaha untuk berubah. Meskipun transformasi belum sepenuhnya selesai, upaya yang dilakukan mencerminkan keinginan harmoni dan inklusif dalam mendukung pemerintahan lokal di Jayapura.

**Keywords:** Desentralisasi; Politik Identitas; Konflik.

### **Abstract**

Indonesia has undergone a lengthy process of government restructuring, a concept introduced even during the colonial era. Since the enactment of Law No. 22 of 1999, followed by Law No. 23 of 2014, the government began delegating authority to regions to manage their administrative areas independently. As a result, this led to the emergence of local political actors who compete and often spark conflicts. The purpose of this research is to explain and analyze one such conflict that occurred in the realm of local politics in Jayapura. The researcher employs a qualitative method with a literature review approach to facilitate the analytical process, using game theory in the analysis. The results of this research indicate that the local political case in Jayapura resulted from tensions between migrant communities and indigenous peoples. These tensions created prejudices between the two groups. The conflict was successfully addressed in several stages, creating a Non-Zero Sum Game situation, where both parties mutually accepted and attempted for change. Although the transformation is not yet fully complete, the efforts made reflect a desire for harmony and inclusiveness in supporting local governance in Jayapura.

**Keywords:** Decentralization; Identity Politics; Conflict.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Indonesia has undergone a lengthy process of change in establishing a form of government that suits the lives of its people. During this process, Indonesia has experienced two general forms of government: centralized and decentralized. Indonesia experienced a centralized form of government during the colonial era, when the Dutch and Japanese colonial regimes still ruled the archipelago.

At that time, Indonesia was already familiar with a simple form of decentralized government, established by the then Governor-General of the Dutch East Indies in 1903. This marked the beginning of the formation of autonomous regions at the residency and city level in Java and Madura. This then continued into the Japanese colonial era, marked by the enactment of several laws concerning the establishment of special regions.

Meanwhile, Indonesia's decentralized form of government only began to be felt after independence in 1945, marked by the central government granting regional governments the freedom to manage their own affairs. Ultimately, the implementation process was ineffective following the emergence of internal

disturbances that shook the political situation with the issuance of Law No. 18 of 1965. After that, the government changed regimes and the implementation of the Decentralization Law was practically shifted back to the centralized area, which resulted in minimal regional authority, with its authority also being increased. Indeed, at that time, Indonesia's economic conditions were in decline with a total inflation rate reaching 650%. However, with Soeharto's decision to withdraw the government's victory to the upper level, the presence of a fairly visible inequality between the central region and other regions.

Since the reform era, significant changes have occurred in the form of government in Indonesia, particularly in regional government. The issuance of Law No. 22 of 1999, followed by Law No. 23 of 2014, restored the balance of authority between the central government, provincial governments, and district/city governments. This reinstatement of autonomy aims to enhance participatory democracy and efficiency in government administration, allowing for maximum regional potential, solely aimed at improving the people's prosperity.

The decentralization process, which has been progressing well since the reform era, has not been as successful as hoped. While regions have been granted authority over certain access rights by the central government to stimulate and explore hidden potential within their regions, decentralization has also had significant impacts on political actors, both formal and informal elites, such as traditional leaders and non-governmental organizations, particularly in the management and empowerment of natural resources within a region. Decentralization has opened the floodgates for regional political actors to compete for access rights previously controlled by the central government.

As is well known, the centralistic form of government during the New Order regime made it difficult for local governments to enhance their regional values and culture because all access to resources required prior central government approval. It was only since the reform era, when regional authority was returned to the center, that political dynamics began to emerge, with regional-level political actors returning to play a role in local politics. These dynamics are explained in several sources, two of which are written in the book "Local Politics in

Indonesia" by Henk Schulte and Gerry van Klinkel in 2007 and also "Local Regimes in Indonesia: Reinterpreting Our Democracy" by Longgina Novadona Bayo, Purwo Santoso, and Willy Purna Samadhi. Both books cite research conducted by researchers who examine the dynamics of conflict that occurs within the framework of local political decentralization.

Since the advent of reform, the dynamics of the decentralization process have entered an unprecedented era. Regions have a desire to implement democratization that has never been achieved on a massive scale, with numerous delegations of authority granted to them through the expansion of regions across Indonesia. However, this delegation of authority has sparked competition among elites at the regional level, both formal and local, as well as informal organizations, in pursuit of specific values and goals. This competition, which leads to conflict, always ends in a zero-sum game, sometimes with both parties winning.

In this study, the researcher is interested in researching and analyzing the form of local political conflict depicted in the political conflict that occurred in Jayapura City using Game Theory analysis.

## **METHOD**

In this journal, the author uses qualitative research methods. According to Moelong, qualitative research is research that aims to understand phenomena as perceived by research subjects, such as behavior, perception, motivation, and actions, holistically and through descriptive means in words and language, within a specific, natural context, utilizing various scientific methods.

The data collection technique used in writing this journal is the literature study method . Literature study is a data collection technique that involves gathering secondary data through journals, theses, mass media news, and related documents to support the writing of this journal's research.

In this paper, the author wishes to describe the local political conflict that occurred in Jayapura City between the indigenous people of Port Numbay and the immigrant community by using literature sources in the form of the book "Local Regimes in Indonesia: Reinterpreting Our Democracy" written by Longgina Nova Bayo, Purwo Santoso, and Willy Purna Samadhi.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

In explaining various conflict phenomena that have occurred within a framework that results in either one party winning or both parties gaining an advantage , we use analysis from game theory . Broadly speaking, this theory is an adaptation of economic theory used to define, formulate, and also study conflict situations involving two or more parties to achieve an optimal outcome for each party. The decisions that emerge are ultimately determined not only by the actions taken, but also related to expectations about what individuals will do. In this theory, there are at least two categorized forms of competition: Zero Sum Games and Non Zero Sum Games. A zero-sum game is a situation where the sum of the gains between conflicting parties is zero. This means that the winning party's gains are equal to the losses incurred by the losing party. This means that one party gains absolute advantage through competition or conflict in local politics, while the other party loses. In a political context, this term refers to the victory achieved by one competing party while the other party

loses as a result of the competition between them. Alan Griha Yunanto, and Nuruddin Al Akbar.

Meanwhile, the term Non-Zero Sum Game is the opposite of Zero Sum Game. This term refers to the outcome of a competition between two conflicting parties when calculated not to be equal to zero, or in other words, a win-win or lose-lose solution situation applies. This means that neither party gains on one side and loses on the other, but rather both parties gain or lose in equal amounts. In the context of local politics, this term describes the outcome of a competition between conflicting parties that achieve the same outcome, whether it be equal gains or equal losses.

Not all conflicts that occur in Indonesia end in the victory of one party, sometimes the conflict that occurs also provides benefits or losses for both parties equally, this situation is called a Non Zero Sum Game situation or a game that does not end in zero. To explain the situation of the results of the conflict, one case that can explain it is a case that has occurred is about the conflict that occurred. As for explaining the local political conflict that ended in the victory of one party is what happened in Jayapura which was studied by Purwo Santoso,

The situation in Jayapura is inextricably linked to the design of the Indonesian state since its inception. It can be argued that the form of nationalism is determined by imagination, not by factual reality. This imagination is the bias of the elite, who control various means and infrastructure to spread the nationalist agenda. At that time, Papua had been constructed in imagination by the elite in Java, even though it was still under *de facto* Dutch rule. Furthermore, the transfer of Papua to Indonesia was elitist, triggered by a war that did not involve indigenous Papuan armed forces, and the handover process itself did not involve the Papuan people.

As a result, these various administrative system penetrations have created persistent problems for indigenous communities, with two systems emerging that legitimately claim to regulate social and political processes in Papua: the customary system and the formal legal system. This situation is further exacerbated by Indonesia's stance of taking action independently without involving customary law. As expected, the Indonesian government's arbitrary actions have sparked local antipathy

toward Indonesia's presence. In short, the dualism of leadership that has emerged encompasses three key issues: leadership, land ownership, and the judiciary.

In short, the practice of indigenous radicalization resulted in slow and stalled development, including roads, office buildings, and public facilities, particularly during the notoriously centralized New Order. However, the government was able to mitigate this through the still-powerful military, which prevented indigenous communities from confronting the military directly as much as possible.

In the context of Jayapura, identity has become increasingly visible following the emergence of massive migration to the region as a consequence of Jayapura's autonomy. Consequently, this condition contributes to widespread ungovernability in the political and demographic spheres. One of the well-known tribes inhabiting the Jayapura region is the Port Numbay tribe. This tribe has its own political system, with the Ondoafi as traditional leader and Abu Akho as spokesperson in implementing customary governance. Despite their significant influence, the Ondoafi can only govern within the customary community.

Through the Customary Consultative Institution (LMA), the Port Numbay political system is implemented.

However, the increasing migration has placed the tribe in a minority position, with a total population of 10,721, a very small fraction of Jayapura's total population of 414,153. This change has further exacerbated the socio-political situation. Suspicion has reportedly arisen between the two groups, particularly the Port Numbay tribe, who see the migration as a threat to the indigenous population. Meanwhile, the immigrant community views the indigenous population as quite discriminatory.

Given this situation, a strategy was needed to resolve the anarchic situation. One such strategy was the election of Benhur Tomi Mano, a Port Numbay indigenous leader, as Mayor of Jayapura. Benhur's victory assumed a political agreement between groups in Jayapura, which was an attempt to calm the situation. Briefly, the political events that occurred included the following:

1. The transformation phase of the logic of "I" and "they" within the traditional body is marked by changes at both the national and local levels. The change at the national level is marked by the

emergence of the Regional Head Election system. Meanwhile, the change at the local level is characterized by the incumbent's desire to maintain his power.

2. The second stage is the transformation of the "I" and "they" relationship between indigenous people and immigrants. Kambu's rise as elected mayor removed suspicion of the state, instead considering the state a part of their lives and a subordinate of the customary law, as it is the customary law that has the authority to legitimize traditional leadership to the Kambu regime.
3. The next step is to "hijack" the logic of electoral democracy, with Port Numbay's actions having stripped Kambu of his ambition to govern Jayapura City through direct elections, and transferring power to the traditional authorities.
4. The final stage was a broader transformation of societal relations, which became a milestone in changing the political climate in Jayapura through a "political pact between immigrants and indigenous communities." The Mano-Nuralam combination drove positive transformation in both the political and demographic arenas.

Simply put, these four stages indicate that the conflict in Jayapura ended in a non-zero game, or cooperative, situation. This is because both parties shared a desire for change, particularly the indigenous community, which initially held a negative stigma toward immigrants. This interaction resulted in actions that addressed the feelings of the conflicting parties in carrying out various social activities. Although the ongoing transformation has not yet been fully resolved, these stages demonstrate the desire of both indigenous and immigrant communities to create harmony and respect for the existence of the other group in order to achieve a more accommodating government.

## **CONCLUSION**

Decentralization is not a new concept that emerged when this country was founded; it was introduced during the Dutch colonial era, although its benefits were only realized during the reform era. As decentralization progressed, opportunities for access to resources fueled competition between

parties, ultimately leading to conflict at the local level.

The outcome of a conflict can be categorized into two categories in game theory: a Zero Sum Game, where one party wins and the other loses, and a Non-Zero Sum Game, where both parties gain or lose equally from the conflict. One such conflict occurred in Papua, specifically in Jayapura. The competition between customary and formal legal systems led to changes in socio-political dynamics due to migration, triggering significant tensions. The election of Jayapura Mayor Benhur Tomi Mano was seen as a political agreement to defuse the conflict. The resolution process was divided into several stages, indicating that this resolution effort ended in a Non-Zero Sum Game situation. Although the transformation is not yet fully complete, the steps taken reflect the desire of both parties to create harmony and respect for the existence of other groups, as well as support the implementation of a more inclusive government.

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