

GAME THEORY ANALYSIS OF LOCAL POLITICAL CONFLICT IN SOUTH SULAWESI PROVINCE

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Abstract

The process of decentralization has been implemented in Indonesia for a long time. The autonomy of regions in its development has generated numerous conflicts across various regions in Indonesia, one of which is the province of South Sulawesi. This has led to political unrest at the local level in each of these areas. Efforts have been made to initiate territorial expansion in the province of South Sulawesi. This research aims to elucidate and analyze this case, utilizing a qualitative approach with a literature study technique. The results of this research indicate that the local case in the province of South Sulawesi is influenced by the local community and several local elites who propose territorial expansion to the central government. The case in South Sulawesi is analyzed using game theory, specifically the zero-sum game, which explains the defeat of the local community and elites in South Sulawesi in their bid for territorial expansion.

Keywords: Decentralization, Regional Autonomy, Local Elites.

Abstrak

Proses desentralisasi sudah lama dilakukan di Indonesia. Otonomi daerah dalam perkembangannya proses otonomi daerah ini banyak menimbulkan konflik-konflik berbagai daerah di Indonesia, salah satunya Provinsi Sulawesi Selatan, ini berdampak pada gejolak politik lokal di setiap daerah tersebut. Usaha dilakukan untuk melakukan pemekaran di Provinsi Sulawesi Selatan. Penelitian ini akan menjelaskan dan menganalisis kasus tersebut penulis menggunakan metode pendekatan kualitatif dengan teknik Literature study. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan kasus lokal di Provinsi Sulawesi Selatan dipengaruhi oleh masyarakat dan beberapa elit lokal untuk mengajukan pemekaran ke pemerintah pusat. Kasus di Sulawesi Selatan di analisis dengan game theory yaitu zero sum game yang menjelaskan kekalahan masyarakat dan elit lokal Provinsi Sulawesi Selatan untuk melakukan pemekaran.

Keywords: Desentralisasi, Otonomi daerah, Elit lokal.

INTRODUCTION

The decentralization policy has existed since 1903 during the Dutch colonial period, when the Dutch issued the Desentralisatiewet (Decentralization Law), which became the first legal basis for decentralization policy in Indonesia. After independence, the Indonesian government issued Law No. 1/1945 concerning Regional Government. Under this Law, regional heads served as Heads of Autonomous Regions and Representatives of the Central Government. Consequently, in 1946, this decentralization policy was first implemented after Indonesian independence. Over time, Law No. 1/1945 was replaced by Law No. 22/1948, which emphasized parliamentary democracy. In its implementation, both Law No. 1/1945 and Law No. 22/1948 were implemented. During this period, the central government remained very dominant. Even after a change of government led to

amendments to Law No. 1/1957, in 1959, through Presidential Decree No. 6/1959, the emphasis of decentralization shifted to stronger central government control over regional governments. Likewise, with the significant enactment of Law No. 5/1974, the central government's role was significantly strengthened. This situation led to a very high level of dependence on the central government for 30 years, which was then revised in 2004 to Law No. 32/2004 concerning Regional Government and Law No. 33/2004 concerning the Financial Balance between the Central Government and Regional Governments.

Essentially, decentralization is a manifestation of the implementation of regional autonomy, where the duties and authority to regulate and manage community interests are transferred to regional governments. Decentralization aims to create transparent regional governments, increase administrative

capacity, and be more independent and capable in fiscal management. Over time, the central government's role in managing regional budgets and finances remains significant. Many financial policies and their management remain dominantly regulated by the central government, often leading to conflicts between regional and central governments.

Decentralization can also give rise to conflict, such as between the central and regional governments, between regions, and between regional governments and the community. Political conflict over decentralization is a debate about the opportunities and threats of decentralized governance presented by a decentralized political system. Although this concept is supported by law and serves as a political foundation, the success of its implementation and resolution of emerging conflicts is a current focus.

Conflicts within decentralization can arise within these subsystems, the level of their role or performance being determined by the success or failure of cooperation between subsystems of the local political elite. The middle class, the lower class, and the indifferent class are present in local politics. This means that the existence of these groups will have different perspectives within each class, and this can lead to conflict between them. In the context of local politics, all of these components dynamically interact with each other in the context of their roles, capacities, and capabilities, as well as the interactions between components within each class.

Local political conflicts that occurred in Indonesia, both before and after regional autonomy, were always accommodated by the central government for resolution. Some conflicts that occurred in local political conflicts ended in the defeat of one party, while

others ended in peace between the reports concerning the conflict in South parties. Based on this background, the Sulawesi.

researcher is interested in discussing the In this paper, the author aims to game theory analysis of local political describe the local political conflict that conflicts in South Sulawesi. occurred in South Sulawesi after the New

METHOD

The method used in this article is namely the book "Local Politics in qualitative. Qualitative research is a Indonesia" by Grindle and Klinken.

research procedure that produces Game theory is a mathematical theory descriptive data in the form of speech, used to define, formulate, and study writing, and behavior of observed conflict or competition situations individuals. Qualitative research allows involving two or more parties in order for an understanding of reality through achieve a goal (Hendri, 2009). Game inductive thought processes. theory can also be defined as a technique

The data collection technique used in used to analyze situations where two or this journal is a literature study. more individuals or institutions Literature study is a series of activities experience an outcome of one's actions, related to the method of collecting library not only dependent on their own actions data, reading, recording, and processing but also on the actions of the other research materials useful for obtaining a individual or institution. In this situation, theoretical foundation for the problem the strategic plans of each individual will being studied. Literature study also refers depend on expectations about the actions to data collection techniques by reviewing of the other individual (Charmichael, books, literature, notes, and various 2005). This theory is used to analyze the

competitive conflicts involving two or more interests. These competitive situations can be categorized into two forms: zero-sum games and non-zero-sum games.

A zero-sum game is a game in which the sum of the wins for both parties is zero (Noorida, 2000: 3). This means that one party will experience a win (positive) and the other party will experience a loss (negative), which when calculated results in zero. Resolving local political conflicts using a zero-sum game will result in losses for one party and gains for the other. Meanwhile, a non-zero-sum game is a game where the total winnings of both parties or players do not end in zero (Noorida, 2000: 3). This means that both parties simultaneously experience a profit or a loss, and the calculated result is not zero.

Government Regulation No. 129/2000 outlined the criteria for administrative changes within the framework of regional autonomy. Its goals include improved government services, democratization, regional economic development and security, and a more harmonious relationship between the central and regional governments. Recently, Law No. 22/1999 and Government Regulation No. 1229/2000 were replaced and revised into Laws No. 32 and 33/2004. As a result, lobbying movements emerged across Indonesia to compete for new administrative regions.

Sulawesi was also affected by the expansion. In 2000, Gorontalo separated from North Sulawesi, while several new autonomy movements emerged in South Sulawesi. Luwu and Tana Toraja were also affected by the expansion. In 1999, North Luwu Regency separated from Luwu, and the new Luwu Regency shrank,

with Palopa as its capital. As Luwu began to disintegrate, movements to form a separate province emerged. According to the press, Luwu Province intends to unite the areas covered by Luwu and Tana Toraja pre-1999.

Ambisi Provinsi Toraja Raya dan Lutat

The struggle to establish a province in Luwu, Tana Toraja, and the various options involved did not emerge spontaneously. The political ideals of provincial establishment have a history that dates back to the colonial era. Recent political processes can only be understood when viewed within a broader historical context. In this regard, two prominent political movements stand out: Greater Toraja and Lutat. Greater Toraja refers to political ambitions that emerged in the context of changes related to the colonial period, revolution, and decolonization, such as the decline of the Luwu kingdom and the establishment of existing administrative boundaries. Until

the late 1990s, Greater Toraja was rooted in the colonial transformation of the Luwu and Tanah Toraja regions, particularly in relation to the Dutch Reformed Missionaries.

The Luwu lowlands have been Islamic since the 17th century, while the South Sulawesi highlands are animist. The colonial government encouraged missions, fearing the spread of Islam. A buffer zone called Groother Toradja was established as an administrative unit in the highlands of South and Central Sulawesi.

In the 1950s, Greater Toraja influenced post-colonial regional politics, seeking living space and political influence in Luwu. Another key political goal was to achieve autonomy for the Christian highlands of South Sulawesi. Lutat refers to the 1960s effort to form a province combining Luwu and Tana Toraja. The concept of Lutat was developed by intellectuals from Javanese

regencies with the political goal of development should not be approached achieving provincial autonomy for South Sulawesi. This autonomy was based on the recognition that the resources of Luwu and Tana Toraja, such as land, labor, and education, were mutually supportive.

While Greater Toraja was the result of a process of ethnic identification that followed religion, Lutat emphasized the sociocultural and historical ties between highland and lowland populations across

existing administrative boundaries. In the early 1960s, Lutat gained support from Luwu and Toraja elites. The movement successfully garnered significant political support from the region and resulted in resolutions supporting Lutat in both regencies. Although this province never materialized, there are several reasons why the expansion was not possible.

First, expansion cannot simply be interpreted as a stage in building a more transparent, democratic, and development-oriented society. Second,

historically, separating it from its socio-historical context. Instead, expansion must be analyzed as a continuation of a long-term socio-political change process under the new political conditions created by the reformation. Third, the struggle to acquire the province was not exclusively about political and economic power; it also involved processes of ethno-religious identification.

Based on this case, the struggle of the local community and elite to expand South Sulawesi Province can be analyzed as a zero-sum game. The community and local elite of South Sulawesi were defeated by the government. This is where the unsuccessful struggle of the community and local elite to expand South Sulawesi Province failed.

CONCLUSION

Regional expansion does not necessarily bring prosperity and independence to a region; instead, it plays

into the hands of political elites and their various demands. Desires and dissatisfaction ultimately lead to conflict that culminates in violence. Ultimately, the expansion becomes an arena for elites and their groups to gain power within the newly created region. Ultimately, this desired province remains unrealized, and as stated in the introduction, all the problems and struggles in this case have been in vain.

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