IN FEAR OF PURIFICATION IN REPRESENTATIONAL SENSE: RESHAPING POLITICAL PREFERENCES IN YOUNG CHINESE INDONESIANS POST-AHOK ERA

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In the midst of different ideologies, rational choices, and imaginary state, political preferences can be naturally expressed by many group and communities due to the openness of Indonesian society. Along with Indonesian political movement, the expression of political discourse is believed related to political preferences. The preferences often reflect the political identity based on their entity or community which are attached to the concept of self-identity. Nowadays, the sense of Indonesian politics tends to accommodate the practice of purity of its supporters, the political preferences echoes the generation matrix that regulates the relation between the visible and the invisible, the imaginable and the non-imaginable at a representational level. In the context of political preferences of Chinese Indonesians, political inclusion has been established in which reflects new hope giving a vocal voice in expressing political thoughts. However, this sphere is only an illusion due to the current political movement that creates the tendency of creating social groups based on people’s political preferences. Based on our findings through ethnographical approach in digital and social media, personal sphere such as family chat groups and social media posts forces the existence of purity in the everyday life political condition which nurture a problem in defining political representation of a certain group. Defining ‘the others’ political identity based on imaginary self preference becomes a problem. Reshaping political preferences is an eternal struggle for Chinese Indonesians, as their struggle to escape from an act of being cautious in any kind of situation which accepting the false consciousness that they are segregated and only a phantom in politics.

DISINTEGRATION FROM WITHIN AND OPEN INDONESIAN IDENTITY

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Since the end of the New Order’s authoritarian government regime, Indonesia has entered into a transitional democracy nation. For almost two decades since choosing the political system of democracy, the dynamics of contemporary Indonesian politics are colored by various upheavals that have led to the disintegration of the nation. Social conflicts continue to occur, ranging from interethnic conflicts in Ambon, Poso, Kalimantan, and several other areas related to different sentiments, religions, and also races. When ethnic-based horizontal conflicts began to recede, in the last ten years, the conflict with the background of the issue of religious differences became stronger following political moments such as the Choice of the Governor and even the Choice of the President and Vice President.

Even though the current phase of the development of these conflicts has not led to the disintegration of the nation which led to the breakup of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, the potential social and political direction is still potential. Based on Benedick Anderson’s thesis, Indonesia is a public project of various solidarity groups and will get a serious challenge. Solidarity groups based on ethnic, religious, racial, and other identity differences