

Voting for Islam: Parties, Brands, and Ideologies

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Two questions

1. Why do people vote for Islam?
2. Do people really vote for Islam?

Premise: parties and voters are complicated

Terminological Preliminaries

“Islamic _____”

“Islamist _____”

“Non-Islamic _____”

“Secular _____”

Ideology

I want to vote for a party that will
implement religious platforms

Brand

I want a party that can get things done

Demographics

I want to vote for a party that
represents people like me

Partisan Teamsmanship?

I hold my partisan preferences as an identity

The Southeast Asian Context

Era	Years	Non-Islamic Parties	Islamic Parties
<i>Liberal Democracy</i>	1949-1957	Communist Party of Indonesia (PKI), Indonesian Nationalist Party (PNI)	Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), Masjumi
<i>Guided Democracy</i>	1957-1966	PKI, Functional Groups (Golkar)	NU marginalized, Masjumi banned
<i>New Order</i>	1966-1999	Golkar, Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI)	United Development Party (PPP)
<i>Contemporary Democracy</i>	1999-now	Golkar, PDI-P, Democrat Party, People's Conscience Party, Great Indonesia Movement Party, others	PPP, Prosperous Justice Party (PKS), National Awakening Party (PKB), National Mandate Party (PAN), others

The Southeast Asian Context

Era	Years	Non-Islamic Parties	Islamic Parties
<i>Alliance Rule</i>	1957-1969	United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA), Malaysian Indian Congress (MIC), Democratic Action Party (DAP), Malaysian People's Movement (Gerakan)	Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party (PAS)
<i>National Operations Council</i>	1969-1971	- Parliament suspended -	
<i>Barisan Nasional (Pre-Crisis)</i>	1971-1999	UMNO, MCA, MIC, DAP	PAS
<i>Barisan Nasional (Post-Crisis)</i>	1999-2018	UMNO, MCA, MIC, DAP, People's Justice Party (PKR)	PAS
<i>Contemporary Democracy</i>	2018-now	UMNO, MCA, MIC, DAP, PKR, Malaysian United Indigenous Party (Bersatu)	PAS, National Trust Party (Amanah)

Open Questions

1. How could we disentangle these motivations?
2. What does complexity imply for party strategy? (*taqiyyah*)
3. Is there anything particular to party politics?
4. Is there anything particular to Islam?