

But it is a mistake to say that because of the success of PKS that there is a strengthening of Islamic radicalism in the country. You see this chart closely, in 1955 all of the Islamic political parties that we had were for the establishment of the shariah state, or the state whose constitution is basically the Qur'an, the rules of the religion. In 1955 the total number of the Islamic parties in the Parliament was about 41 or 42%. But in 1999 it went down by so much that it was about 11 to 12% only, that is, the total number of parties in the Parliament whose aspiration was for the establishment of the shariah state. In 2004, it was increased by 1 to 2% only because of PKS, as you see that PPP went down and PAN went down. But PKS went up and the total number increased only very slightly. Now this is a confirmation of what I said before. PDI-P lost big but these voters went mostly to the Democratic Party and Golkar, surprisingly. Some went to PKS, although some went to PAN, but most went to the Democrats and Golkar. The secularists, if they are dissatisfied, they vote for another secularist party. If you see the profiles of the people who voted for the Democratic Party and PKS, this is a profile of protest voters. They are mostly urban elites who are well-educated and tend to have higher incomes. They also read more and therefore follow political developments more closely.

Of course part of this dissatisfaction with the parties also has an important effect on the race for the presidency. Now this was a long-term trend regarding the popularity of Megawati relative to SBY and other candidates. Such dissatisfaction with the incumbent president comes from various reasons, but mostly it was the economy. In America after an election they say, "It was the economy, stupid," and I think in Indonesia it was almost the same. One of the reasons was that people were dissatisfied with the economic performance of the government despite the fact that if you ask the economists, they'd say that compared to the previous government, Megawati did okay, especially if you understand the overall macroeconomics, which were improving. Nobody, not even SBY's people, could deny that under Megawati the economy was stabilizing, the currency was strengthening, the security market was strengthening as well. Megawati might not talk very much, but she was not a leader who made things worse.