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Examining the Similarities between a Theocratic State and a Monarchical State through a Socio-political Lens

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this study is to investigate the parallels between theocracy and monarchy from a socio-political perspective. Despite their distinct historical origins and sources of legitimacy, both forms of governance exhibit numerous similarities in their structural framework, leadership roles, legitimacy bases, and societal influences. Employing a socio-political approach, this research aims to explore how these systems impact societal dynamics, cultural values, and social structures.

Initially, the study delves into the organizational structures of theocratic regimes and monarchies. It highlights the pivotal role of leaders as authoritative figures possessing ultimate executive authority. Examination of the presence of legislative bodies or advisory committees supporting decision-making processes reveals shared structural patterns across these governmental frameworks.

Subsequently, the research scrutinizes the similarities in leadership roles and legitimacy sources. In monarchies, leaders often derive legitimacy from their royal lineage, whereas in theocracies, spiritual beliefs and religious credentials are instrumental in legitimizing rulership. Through this analysis, the study probes how both systems cultivate a socially acceptable perception of authority and legitimacy.

Furthermore, the socio-political dimension of the research encompasses the impact on economic and social aspects of society. Leaders in theocratic and monarchical regimes significantly influence economic policies, wealth distribution, and social and

cultural development. The study investigates how these policy decisions can contribute to economic disparities or shape the social and cultural fabric of society. Additionally, the research underscores the influence of theocratic and royal governments on cultural values and social norms. Leaders in both systems contribute to shaping societal perspectives on art, education, and social conventions. The study examines how leadership policies contribute to the formation of cultural identities and societal norms.

Ultimately, this research aims to enhance understanding of the social and political dynamics within the contexts of theocracy and monarchy. By analyzing these similarities through a socio-political lens, the study seeks to elucidate the societal impacts of both governance models and identify potential implications for social and political progress.

Keywords: Government, State, Concept of theocracy, Kingdom, Similarities between theocracy and kingdom

ABSTRAK

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis kesamaan antara teokrasi dan monarki melalui sudut pandang sosial-politik. Meskipun keduanya memiliki akar sejarah dan legitimasi yang berbeda, kedua bentuk pemerintahan ini memiliki beberapa kesamaan dalam struktur pemerintahan, peran pemimpin, dasar legitimasi, dan pengaruh sosial. Melalui pendekatan sosio-politik, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjelajahi bagaimana kedua sistem ini memengaruhi dinamika masyarakat, nilai-nilai budaya, dan struktur sosial.

Pertama, penelitian ini memeriksa struktur organisasi dari rezim teokratis dan monarki. Poin utamanya adalah peran penting pemimpin sebagai figur otoritas yang memiliki kekuasaan eksekutif tertinggi. Analisis terhadap keberadaan badan legislatif atau komite penasihat yang mendukung proses pengambilan keputusan menunjukkan pola struktural yang mirip di dalam kedua kerangka pemerintahan tersebut.

Selanjutnya, penelitian ini menyoroti kesamaan peran pemimpin dan dasar legitimasi mereka. Di monarki, pemimpin sering kali memperoleh legitimasi dari garis keturunan kerajaan, sementara di teokrasi, pandangan spiritual dan kualifikasi agama memegang peranan penting dalam melegitimasi pemerintahan. Melalui analisis ini, penelitian ini mencermati bagaimana kedua sistem ini membentuk citra otoritas dan legitimasi yang dapat diterima secara sosial.

Aspek sosial-politik dari penelitian ini juga mencakup dampaknya terhadap aspek ekonomi dan sosial masyarakat. Para pemimpin di teokrasi dan monarki memiliki peran signifikan dalam menentukan kebijakan ekonomi, distribusi kekayaan, serta pembangunan sosial dan budaya. Penelitian ini meneliti bagaimana keputusan kebijakan ekonomi ini dapat memperburuk ketimpangan ekonomi atau memengaruhi kehidupan sosial dan budaya masyarakat.

Selain itu, penelitian ini menekankan peran pemerintahan teokratis dan monarki dalam membentuk nilai-nilai budaya dan norma-norma sosial. Pemimpin dari kedua bentuk pemerintahan ini turut berperan dalam membentuk pandangan masyarakat tentang seni, pendidikan, dan norma sosial. Penelitian ini memeriksa bagaimana kebijakan pemimpin dapat membentuk identitas budaya dan norma sosial suatu

masyarakat. Secara keseluruhan, penelitian ini diharapkan dapat memberikan kontribusi pada pemahaman yang lebih baik tentang dinamika sosial dan politik dalam konteks teokrasi dan monarki. Dengan mengamati kesamaan tersebut melalui sudut pandang sosio-politik, penelitian ini dapat membantu menggambarkan dampak kedua bentuk pemerintahan ini terhadap masyarakat dan mengidentifikasi implikasi potensialnya terhadap pembangunan sosial dan politik.

Keywords: Pemerintahan, Negara, Konsep Teokrasi, Kerajaan, Persamaan Teokrasi dan Kerajaan

INTRODUCTION

Living in the world, there are various living beings, with humans being known as social creatures, constantly needing society or other individuals in their lives. Coexistence with other individuals has existed since prehistoric times, where humans gathered to form groups, within which there was someone with a higher status among individuals commonly referred to as a leader. This concept still persists in modern state societies. A state can be defined as an organizational institution that has the highest power and authority in controlling other individuals. Therefore, choosing a good and worthy leader becomes a crucial aspect for societal continuity (Ruslan, Bandarsyah, et al., 2022).

In a theocratic state, governance and power are determined by religious principles, with the belief that governance originates from or is inspired by divine entities. This concept is found in many cultures, religions, and different societies worldwide. One of the most famous examples of theocracy is the Roman Empire, where the emperor was considered as a deity or a direct servant of the gods. Similarly, in Islam, the concept of Caliphate represents a form of theocracy where the leader or caliph is seen as both a political and spiritual leader ruling based on Islamic principles. Moreover, since ancient Egyptian history, pharaohs were also regarded as rulers who had a special relationship with the gods. The concept of theocracy is often associated with the dominant religion and beliefs in society. In many cases, theocracy creates a very strong governance system and centralization of power in the hands of religious leaders or figures who are considered as intermediaries between the human world and the secular world. Political decisions, laws, and government actions often adhere to religious principles and moral codes believed to be revelations from God. Although theocracy has a long history, this concept is still criticized and debated. One of the main criticisms is that theocracy can lead to injustice and human rights violations, especially if religious leaders or religious organizations act arbitrarily or show intolerance towards different groups (Ahmad et al., 2021).

Ideologies evolve along with the intellectual development of humans, resulting in various forms of governance worldwide, including states that adhere to constitutional systems with the concept of monarchy. For example, in Brunei Darussalam's governance system, Brunei adopts an absolute monarchy with the sultan serving as the head of state and government (Naredi et al., 2022).

LITERATURE REVIEW

The theocratic system of governance is a form of government based on religious authority. Political scholars such as Jean Bodin and John Locke highlight the differences between theocratic governance and secular systems, with Bodin advocating for the separation of political power and religion. Meanwhile, the concept of monarchy, according to historians like Ibn Khaldun, emphasizes the importance of political stability and justice in governance. Political theorists like Niccolò Machiavelli evaluate the success of monarchies based on pragmatic policies and military strength. Both of these systems can be analyzed through the lens of concepts such as justice, stability, and the relationship between political power and religion as viewed by these scholars.

METHOD

The author conducted this research by conducting a literature review from both printed sources and online resources. Subsequently, the author delved into a comprehensive investigation of the relevant literature. Following this, the author drew conclusions based on the findings of the previously reviewed research, aligning with the objectives of this study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. DEFINITION AND BRIEF HISTORY OF THEOCRACY

a. The Concept of Theocracy

The concept of governance has been a subject of debate and attention for centuries. The term "theocracy" originates from Greek, a combination of "theos," meaning "God" or "deity," and "kratos," meaning "rule" or "government." Theocracy is a form of governance in which political power and state authority are controlled by religious authorities or spiritual leaders. In a theocratic state, regulations, policies, and governmental actions are based on the principles of religion or the dominant belief in society. This concept is found in many cultures, religions, and diverse societies worldwide. One of the most notable examples of theocracy is the governance of the Roman Empire, where the emperor was regarded as a deity or a direct servant of the gods. Similarly, in Islam, the concept of Khilafah represents a form of theocracy in which the leader or caliph is considered both a political and spiritual leader governing based on Islamic principles. Additionally, since the early history of ancient Egypt, pharaohs were also considered rulers with a special relationship with the gods (Putra & Th, 2021).

The concept of theocracy is often associated with the dominant religion and belief in society. In many cases, theocracy creates a highly centralized system of governance with power concentrated in the hands of religious leaders or figures considered mediators between the human and secular worlds. According to Myo Naing, a student from Witwatersrand University, the concept of theocracy originated when religious communities, typically closed-minded, became fanatic, extremist, and gained political power, thus turning the state into a theocracy. Conversely, according to Resti, a student from Ekasakti University, theocracy emerged from ancient European philosophers who believed and taught that the law originated from the supreme deity. Therefore, humans are commanded by God to obey the law. It can be concluded that the origins of the concept of theocracy stem from a theory asserting that God is absolute, so any command

issued by Him is to be followed by His people. This notion is extrapolated into governance contexts, making theocracy a political system guided by the principle of divine sovereignty (Abu Dzarrin Al-Hamidy, 2011).

Theocracy emerges in many different cultures and religions as an attempt to merge religious and political powers. It plays a significant role in the development of ancient societies and the first forms of governance. To understand the origins of theocracy, we must examine several ancient civilizations that practiced theocracy and its development throughout human history. Ancient Egypt, one of the first well-known examples of theocracy, was found in ancient Egypt. Some ancient civilizations, such as Sumeria and Babylonia, developed governance systems where the king was seen as an intermediary of local gods. These kings played a crucial role in religious ceremonies and served as rulers inspired by the gods. In ancient Indian history, theocracy also played a significant role in shaping the governance system. The caste system in India, based on Hinduism, reflects theocratic elements. Brahmins, the top caste in the caste system, had significant spiritual power and often influenced political policies. The relationship between religion and government was strong in ancient Indian history. In the Roman Empire, the emperor's power was often associated with the power of gods or their representatives on Earth.

The Roman Emperor was considered a deity or intermediary of the Roman gods. This concept reflects the theocratic elements in the Roman governance system, where religion and politics are closely intertwined. Theocracy in Islam represents a modern example, where the leader (Caliph) is considered both the political and spiritual head of the Muslim community. The Caliph's rules are based on Islamic principles and Sharia law. The Islamic governance that emerged after the death of the Prophet Muhammad is one of the most famous forms of theocracy in history. The origins of theocracy illustrate the long history of this concept in the development of human societies. It developed as an attempt to integrate religious beliefs into the governance structure, and while it presents challenges and controversies, it also shapes various governance systems worldwide (Elly Novianti, 2013).

B. THEOCRATIC AND MONARCHY STATE GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS

a. Theocratic Governance System

Theocracy is a governance system where divine principles play a primary role. In theocracy, governance is based on divine principles and upholds the supremacy of God. Theocracy represents a more absolute identity in the state religion system, where the state leader also serves as the spiritual leader. Examples of countries implementing theocratic governance systems are the Vatican City and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Classical theocratic theory states that the power of a state originates from God and is then directly given to humans. However, pure theocracy is rare in modern times (Ahmad et al., 2021). In theocracy, ultimate authority lies with God, and governance is based on religious principles. State leaders in theocracy are considered spiritual leaders who guide the people in both spiritual and worldly life. State leaders in theocracy are also seen as representatives of God on earth and have a duty to carry out God's will in governance.

Theocratic governance systems often involve a close relationship between religion and politics, with religious leaders playing a significant role in decision-making and policy formulation. Theocratic governance systems vary in their degree of religiosity

and adherence to religious principles (Aziz, 2020). One of the key features of theocratic governance systems is the integration of religious law or Sharia law into the legal system. In Islamic theocracies, such as Iran and Saudi Arabia, Sharia law is the basis of the legal system and influences all aspects of governance.

Theocratic governance systems also prioritize religious education and often have religious institutions responsible for education and social welfare. In theocratic governance systems, there is often a strong emphasis on morality and religious values, with laws and policies aimed at promoting religious observance and piety (Dinna Zulhikam, 2020).

b. Monarchy Governance System Monarchy is a governance system where power is vested in a single individual, usually a king or queen. Monarchy can be hereditary or elective, with the monarch either inheriting the position from a family member or being chosen by a council or other body. Monarchies vary in their degree of power and authority, with some monarchs holding absolute power and others having limited authority. Monarchy is one of the oldest forms of governance and has been practiced in various cultures and societies throughout history. Examples of countries with monarchies include the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand (Dinna Zulhikam, 2020).

In monarchy governance systems, the monarch is the head of state and holds ultimate authority over the government and its institutions. Monarchs often have significant powers, including the ability to make laws, appoint government officials, and declare war. However, the power of monarchs is often limited by constitutional constraints or other forms of checks and balances. In constitutional monarchies, such as the United Kingdom and Japan, the monarch's powers are limited by a constitution or other legal framework, with real political power vested in elected officials and other government institutions (Dinna Zulhikam, 2020). Monarchy governance systems vary in their degree of authoritarianism and accountability. Absolute monarchies, where the monarch holds unlimited power, tend to be more authoritarian and less accountable to the people. In contrast, constitutional monarchies, where the monarch's powers are limited by law, tend to be more democratic and accountable. Monarchy governance systems also vary in their degree of stability and longevity, with some monarchies enduring for centuries and others being overthrown or abolished (Aziz, 2020).

Comparing Theocratic and Monarchy Governance Systems Theocratic and monarchy governance systems have some similarities but also significant differences. Both systems involve centralized authority and often have strong traditions and cultural significance. However, theocratic governance systems are based on religious principles and often involve a close relationship between religion and politics, with religious leaders playing a significant role in decision-making and policy formulation. Monarchy governance systems, on the other hand, are based on hereditary or elective rule, with the monarch holding ultimate authority over the government and its institutions. While both systems can vary in their degree of authoritarianism and accountability, theocratic governance systems tend to prioritize religious values and morality, while monarchy governance systems tend to prioritize stability and continuity (Ahmad et al., 2021).

CONCLUSION

Every nation surely has a structural foundation upon which it stands, and in this world, each nation has its own unique system of governance. Theocracy and monarchy are the main focus of the author's research to be used as a basis for comparison between theocracy and monarchy governance systems. Theocracy is a system of governance where political power and state authority are controlled by religious authorities or spiritual leaders. In a theocratic state, regulations, policies, and governmental actions are based on the principles of religion or the dominant belief in society.

Meanwhile, monarchy is a form of political organization led by a king or queen who holds the highest power in the country. In the narrative, the roles of God and a king in the governance system are almost similar. The governance structures of both. Both theocracy and monarchy generally have a single supreme leader who holds absolute power or at least very significant power. In a monarchy, this leader is often referred to as a king or queen, while in a theocracy, the leader may have titles such as an imam, ayatollah, or other religious designations. Both of these systems grant strong executive authority to a central figure, who is often considered to have divine authority or legitimate power through inheritance.

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