

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

With the rise of democratic regime popularity, more and more countries were starting to convert to democracy in these past centuries; and so did Indonesia and Egypt. Those two countries chose the path to democratization after undergoing several regime changes since they have been colonized; to distinguish which one would be the most befitting governmental system in their respective countries. Two main theories are used in this thesis, first is the comparative political theory and the second is theory of democratization which argues that democratization happens due to the existence of a strong civil society. The democratization theory is used to compare the similarities and differences in Indonesia and Egypt democratization model. This final chapter will describe the concluding remarks which compile all four chapters of this thesis.

In Indonesia, democratization began in 1998. However, Suharto's regime was already shaken to its unbalance in previous years due to Asian financial crisis. The incumbent government could not solve the crisis problem properly, and Suharto's actions made things went even worse. Ultimately, Suharto and his New Order regime lost his legitimacy and with the ongoing crisis, the society decided to protest in order to take down Suharto and make Indonesia go for democracy. Civil societies in Indonesia consisted of a wide array ranging from civilians, students, organizations, and political parties. It could be noted that strong civil society served as a prominent figure in Indonesia's democratization. During his rule, most of civil society organizations were repressed due to the nature of an authoritarian regime. However, Asian financial crisis

made Suharto's legitimacy dropped and triggered Indonesian societies to protest. Finally, Suharto announced his resignation and constitutionally handed down his power to his vice president, B.J Habibie.

Similar case happened in Egypt with a little bit of difference which made the Egyptian model of democratization was rather distinct. Similarly, Egyptians also experienced an autocratic way of ruling from Hosni Mubarak. Several issues such as corruption, repressive armed & police force and an unstable economic condition also existed much like in Indonesia's. Egypt path to democracy was opened with the event of Tunisian Revolution. Tunisian citizens ousted their president Ben Ali after a series of strikes. As both Egypt and Tunisia shared several commonalities, this event influence Egyptians and triggered the actions to protest Mubarak and demanded for a regime change. Egyptians did a long series of protest actions lasted for 18 days starting from the 25th of January until Mubarak's resignation on 11th of February. Much like Indonesia, it was the existence of Egyptian strong civil societies that made democratization happened in Egypt. Both civilians and organizations were participating in the protest actions. They acknowledged that their current President and his regime were ineffective, and coupled with the Tunisian Revolution as a driving force; Egyptians took actions to protest and demanded Mubarak to step down from his regime.

The two countries shared several commonalities, whether in their history, conditions, and even in the democratization process itself. But aside from those commonalities, Indonesia and Egypt surely shared some distinct features of themselves which made them still retain their uniqueness. On the subject of democracy, the

democratization. While the difference between the two of them lies on the contributing factors that trigger the spark to democratic transition. However it is those similarities and difference itself that make makes Indonesian and Egyptian democratization process a comparable subject. The occurrence of democratization in Indonesia and Egypt was caused by the existence of a strong civil society. Civil societies were aware of their state's political conditions; they had high aspirations and seek for more political participation; which caused the emergence and demand for a more democratic regime in Indonesia and Egypt that were ruled by authoritarian leaders at that time. The difference between Indonesia and Egypt in their path toward democracy is the factor which triggers the spark to societies to generate democratization. In Indonesia, democratization began following the Asian financial crisis, while in Egypt it happened after the influence of Tunisian Revolution which along with Egypt, later known as the phenomenon of the Arab Spring.

With the similarities and differences, the democratization process of Indonesia and Egypt has their own ups and downs. There are several aspects that we may find in one's process and we can't find in another's. Compared to Indonesia, the Egyptian model took a considerably longer time. And due to the large time gap, Egypt experienced several features such as the existence of internet and social media that could not be experienced by Indonesia. Indonesia's transition to democracy was also noted to be more dynamic since Suharto handed down his power in a legal, constitutional way. Basically, even though both countries have similar trajectories, Indonesian and Egyptian model of democratization process are still unique to each other which could lead into different

relations study related to the democracy and comparative politics subject. The path that was taken by Indonesia and Egypt has gone down as a part of historical archive and has a significant influence, perhaps not only for their own state, but it might be useful for their surroundings and neighboring countries as well. This research is considered necessary since it explains civil society's role in politics and especially democratization.