

ABSTRACT

This study discusses Golkar's role in the dynamics of Indonesian politics in 1998. The purpose of this study is to describe Golkar's strategy in Indonesian politics in 1998, analyze Golkar's actions during the transition period, and identify the impact of Golkar's role on the development of Indonesian politics and democracy post-New Order. This study uses a historical method through the stages of heuristics, verification, interpretation, and historiography, with data collection through observation, literature study, and interviews. The findings in this study indicate that Golkar used an adaptive political strategy that was expressed through the fragmentation of Golkar elites and had an impact on the stability of the reform. The economic crisis, student pressure, and the collapse of the regime's legitimacy encouraged some Golkar elites such as Harmoko and Ginandjar Kartasasmita to support Soeharto's resignation. Golkar's strategy and actions in managing this transition not only reflect efforts to maintain the existence of political organizations, but also accelerate the birth of a multiparty democracy system in Indonesia. Within the framework of Gramsci's hegemony theory, Merton's structural functionalism, and Khaldun's conflict, Golkar's role is interpreted as a form of institutional adaptation to maintain political relevance. This study concludes that Golkar has an ambivalent role: on the one hand as a supporter of the New Order status quo, on the other hand as a transition agent that accelerates political change. This finding is expected to enrich Indonesian political historiography, provide references for studies of democratic transition, and become a reflection material for political parties in strengthening democracy in Indonesia.

Keywords: Golkar, Indonesian Politics, 1998 Reformation, Democratic Transition.