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MATH216

Final project proposal

Title:

Is there an emerging political divide based on economic conditions in Indonesia? Evidence from provincial-level economic data and the 2019 presidential elections in Indonesia

Description:

Based on quick counts by pollsters, the 2019 presidential elections in Indonesia re-elected the incumbent Joko Widodo against challenger Prabowo Subianto with around 55% of the total vote. While many observers have cited Islam (moderate vs. hardline) as the main cause of divide between the incumbent and the challenger, very few observers have entertained a hypothesis based on political economy to explain for the divide. Widodo has pushed for infrastructural projects funded by China that are predicted to benefit manufacturing while Subianto pushed for economic nationalism.

In this project, I will explore the economic conditions (e.g. poverty rate, manufacturing vs. agricultural, infrastructural conditions) that contribute to the victory of either the incumbent or the challenger in every province in Indonesia. I will use the World Bank’s Indonesia Database for Policy and Economic Research (INDO-DAPOER), which contains economic indicators for every province, combining it with province-level results of the 2019 presidential elections from a reputable quick count pollster.

Questions:

How does the main type of economy in a province affect the electoral outcome?

How does the poverty rate in the same province affect that?

How do infrastructural conditions affect that?