

POLITICAL SERIES

CURRENT ISSUES
IN

POLITICS

SERIES 2



DR. SHARIFAH SYAHIRAH

POLITICAL SERIES

CURRENT ISSUES IN POLITICS

SERIES 2

TABLE OF CONTENT

CHAPTER	TOPIC	PAGE
	Disclaimer	i
	Author Biography	ii
	Preface	iii
	Synopsis	iv
1	Democracy and Capitalism	1-18
2	Regionalism & International Organizations	19-30
3	Current Issues in World Politics	31-47
4	Human Rights and Environmental Issues	48-59
5	Case Studies: World Economy & Security	60-66
	References	67-72

DISCLAIMER

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods without the prior written permission.

NS TRADE AND CONSULTANCY
drshirabookstore.com

e ISBN 978-967-19654-2-9



AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY



She is a senior lecturer and activist at Kolej
Universiti Poly-Tech MARA (KUPTM)

specialize in Gender, Politics, and Governance. She is actively involved in NGOs particularly the National Council for Women's Organization (NCWO) and the Malaysian Social Science Association. She represented the Malaysian Civil Society (CSOs) in regional and international meetings as well as delivered talks in conferences, radio and TV shows. She published various articles in journals and book chapters related to gender and completed various research grants such as the National Survey on Young Women (2016) and Sexual Harassment in Sports (2019). She received several National Awards such as Global Pioneering Women Leader Award 2020, Malaysia's Women Leadership Award 2019 and Mara Educator Excellence Award 2016.

PREFACE

Welcome to the Political Series 2: Current Issues in Politics. Be prepared to immerse yourself in various issues related to politics particularly on democracy and human rights. Have fun learning and all the best!

Dr Sharifah Syahirah Syed Sheikh

SYNOPSIS

This Political Series 2 is exploring the current issues related to political science. This book is designed to discuss various issues particularly democracy, capitalism, international regionalism and global governance. Parallel to the title of this series, this book highlights the United States of America politics, Middle East politics, China politics, human rights, environmental issues, economic crisis and security. Hope this book able to give an overview on the current issues of politics that shaped the current world order.

TOPIC 1

DEMOCRACY & CAPITALISM

1.1 Definition of Democracy

In a democracy, liberty is to be supposed; for it is commonly held that no man is free in any government (Aristotle 350BC). It is government by the people; a form of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them or by their elected agents under a free election. A state of society characterized by formal equality of rights and privileges (Bassiouni, 1998). Three Basic Paradigms of democracy;

- i. The universality or relativity of democracy.
- ii. Democracy as a process or a condition
- iii. Democracy as methods and modalities or as substance and substantive outcomes (Bassiouni, 1998).

1.2 Definition of Capitalism

"Capitalism is a system of the economic organisation featured by the private ownership and the use for the private profit of man-made and nature-made capital."

"A free market" or capitalist economy may be characterised as an automatic self-regulating system motivated by the self-interest of individuals and regulated by competition (Economics Discussion.Net)

1.3 Types of State and Political Systems

There are at least THREE (3) types of state systems namely unitary state, federal state and confederation system.

- i. Unitary State has centralized power and authority. Its authority is from top to bottom authority. The state system is usually in culturally homogeneous countries. It is an impulse of uniformity.
Example: Singapore,

- ii. Federal State has national/ federal government and state government. The authority flows both ways and neither is subordinate to the other. Both federal and state governments coordinate together. The power of Federal and state government are rigidly specified in the Federal Constitution. Example: Malaysia, Indonesia
- iii. Confederation system is only adopted by Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGOs). The authority flows from the bottom up. All governments formed a group and give authority to an institution. Therefore the authority flows bottom to top. No political power directly to the central government. Inability to exercise power. Example: Modern day confederation such as UN, EU, and ASEAN (Moten & Islam, 2013)

In terms of political system, there are at least FOUR (4) types which are democracy, authoritarian/dictatorship, communism, and absolute monarchy.