With the election of its new president, Joko "Jokowi" Widodo, Indonesia is now entering a new era. In the current Asia Policy Brief, Andreas Ufen, senior research fellow at the GIGA Institute of Asian Studies in Hamburg, examines what the victory means for the country's democratic development.

According to Ufen, Indonesia is at the beginning of a new political era and could become the example of a relatively successful transition towards democracy for all of Southeast Asia. With about a quarter billion citizens, Indonesia is the world's largest Muslim-majority country and of immense importance for Pacific Asia's economic, political and security situation. As a result, political events there have a profound impact throughout Southeast Asia. The 2014 parliamentary and presidential elections were, however, hardly reported in the foreign media. The presidential elections in particular turned out to be a hard test for the young democracy.
Ufen argues that Jokowi's victory could mark the definitive end of the "New
Order". This term stands for the reign of General Suharto, who ruled the
country from 1966-1998 as a dictator. The legacies of the "New Order" are
still burdening Indonesia. The election results could initiate a new era in
Indonesian politics and contribute to consolidating the still fragile young
democracy. The prerequisite for this is, however, is that Jokowi manages to free
himself from the embrace of his coalition partners. With a reform cabinet, he
could be able to enforce the fight against corruption, push infrastructure
projects, and slowly replace the still-virulent legacies of the New Order.

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