

Old wine in a new bottle: TNI pursuit of corporate interest after reformasi

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Abstrak

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The Indonesian military (TNI) following the fall of Suharto in 1998 embarked on military reform aiming at creating a professional military. The military gradually reduced its presence in non-defence affairs, notably the withdrawal from the parliament in 2004. Post-2004 Indonesia also witnessed the ratification of the 2004 Law on TNI, marking a crucial juncture in Indonesian military reform progress. The military often cited looming internal threats in the early reformasi period as a strong justification to reject reform prescriptions. Post-2004 security circumstances in the country were greatly improved compared to the early reform period. Despite these marvellous achievements, military engagement in politics kept occurring. Then the question is: why expansion of military engagement in politics happened in the post-2004 period despite the existence of better regulations and stable political and security circumstances?