

Enhancing Political Participation: A Comparative Study of Political Systems in China and Malaysia

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Abstract

This article compares the political systems of China and Malaysia, focusing on political participation enhancement. It seeks to identify the strengths and weaknesses of their political systems and propose appropriate approaches to enhance political participation in both countries. By examining the structure of government and the effectiveness of political participation, this study expands the current understanding of these political systems in China and Malaysia. It also explores the factors that influence political participation in China and Malaysia. The study finds that political participation in Malaysia is more democratic than in China, considering factors such as party diversity, the electoral process, and the role of local government in accommodating minority voices. However, China's political system demonstrates strength through its centralized control, allowing for the efficient execution of policies and regulations. The study acknowledges similarities between the two countries in terms of their three branches of government but also highlights differences in the type of politically unengaged communities. The findings from this research can be considered by the governments of both countries to improve political participation, particularly among the younger generation. This article, therefore, contributes to the studies on political systems in Asian countries from a comparative perspective.

Key Words

Malaysian government, Chinese government, political participation, comparative studies

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Abstrak

Artikel ini membandingkan sistem politik China dan Malaysia, dengan fokus pada peningkatan partisipasi politik. Ia bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi kelebihan dan kelemahan sistem politik kedua negara tersebut, dan mengusulkan pendekatan yang tepat untuk meningkatkan partisipasi politik di kedua negara. Dengan memeriksa struktur pemerintahan dan efektivitas partisipasi politik, artikel ini mengembangkan pemahaman saat ini tentang sistem politik di China dan Malaysia dan mengeksplorasi faktor-faktor yang memengaruhi partisipasi politik di China dan Malaysia. Artikel ini menemukan bahwa partisipasi politik di Malaysia lebih demokratis dibandingkan dengan China, dengan mempertimbangkan faktor-faktor seperti keberagaman partai politik, proses pemilihan umum, dan peran pemerintah lokal dalam mengakomodasi suara minoritas. Namun, sistem politik China menunjukkan kekuatan melalui kontrol terpusatnya, yang memungkinkan pelaksanaan kebijakan dan regulasi yang efisien. Artikel ini mengakui adanya kesamaan antara kedua negara dalam hal tiga cabang pemerintahan, tetapi juga menyoroti perbedaan dalam jenis komunitas yang tidak terlibat secara politik. Temuan ini dapat dipertimbangkan oleh pemerintah kedua negara untuk meningkatkan partisipasi politik, terutama di kalangan generasi muda. Artikel ini, dengan demikian, berkontribusi terhadap kajian tentang perbandingan sistem politik di Asia dalam perspektif perbandingan

Kata-kata Kunci

Pemerintah Malaysia, pemerintah Cina, partisipasi politik, kajian komparatif

Introduction

Political participation refers to the activities of the general populace in politics, such as voting in elections, assisting in political campaigns, contributing to a candidate's campaign, and collaborating on issues with others. It is one of the most effective methods for ordinary citizens to make a significant difference in their communities. People who are more involved in their country's politics will have a better understanding of their government. Examining the political participation of countries through comparative studies will produce comprehensive results related to selected countries. Malaysia practices parliamentary democracy with a constitutional monarchy system (Official Portal of the Parliament of Malaysia n.d.). Malaysia's Parliament is divided into two chambers, which

are the Senate and the House of Representatives. Each of the 222 elected members of the House of Representatives represents a Parliamentary Constituency. Every five years, a general election is held to elect members of the House of Representatives. Therefore, approximately every 5 years elections are conducted and people who have fulfilled the requirement can vote to elect their representative. Hence, political participation is very important in Malaysia because it is fundamental to its democratic system. Meanwhile, the People's Republic of China (PRC) or China is performing an authoritarian system with a single-party country (Lawrence 2012). The CCP is the country's single political party (Chinese Communist Party). Eight other tiny parties have been registered, although they remain under the CCP's control. The Council is the Supreme Administrative Body of the Chinese Government, even if the Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party decides on the most crucial measures (CCP) (Lawrence 2012).

This paper explores the political system between Malaysia and China and their relation to political participation. These two countries have a different style of government as Malaysia practices parliamentary democracy while China's political system subscribes to communism, which is the minority political ideology in the world. However, the existence of China in world politics is very significant as it is perceived as having a strong political, economic, and military system. Understanding the concept of these two political systems, identifying their similarities and differences, including their strength and weaknesses, and relating to their political participation will identify the important points of the political system in the two countries. Also, it will lead to suitable recommendations for enhancing the political participation of China and Malaysia. This paper, therefore, attempts to achieve the following objectives: To compare the political system between China and Malaysia; to identify the weaknesses and strengths of China and Malaysia's political system in relation to its political participation; and to suggest the appropriate approach in enhancing political participation in China and Malaysia.

This paper will provide a better understanding of comparing the two political systems of Malaysia and China. There will be an expansion on the current understanding of the countries on these political systems in terms of the structure of government and how effective the political participation in that country is. This study presents a variety of views about the pros and cons of the political systems that apply in Malaysia and China and what factors influence political participation in these countries. Furthermore, the

governments of China and Malaysia could consider the suggestion of enhancing their political participation by reviewing their political system because political participation is important for the political process for the citizens, especially for the younger generation. Ferreyra (2013) mentioned that to make a difference in the longer term, it is essential to engage various levels of communities in formal political processes, especially youths. Inclusive political participation is not only a fundamental political and democratic right but also is crucial to building stable and peaceful societies and developing policies that respond to the specific needs of younger generations. Moreover, an explanation of the comparative political systems examined in this study may serve as a framework for future research aimed at innovating current approaches for enhancing political participation.

This paper employs a qualitative research design with a comparative analysis approach as it compares two major variables. Shahrokh and Miri (2019) elaborated that comparative analysis explains the differences and similarities of variables, in terms of their consequences or relationships. This concept will be adopted in this paper as two country's political systems will be compared and interpreted with their relationship with political participation. This paper refers to secondary data which consists of articles, official documents and reports, official websites, and books related to political participation, the political system in China and Malaysia, and the relationship between both. Furthermore, an interpretation will be conducted in analysing the sources as this paper will explain the similarities and differences between China and Malaysia's political systems, and their strength and weakness concerning political participation. Also, the recommendation for both countries will be proposed to enhance political participation based on the sources and analysis.

Political Participation

Several definitions and concepts related to political participation were expounded in the prior research. Milbrath and Klein (1962) mentioned that political participation is citizens' action to support or influence government and political landscape, consisting of active roles which they seek for political outcomes, and passive roles that conduct ceremonial or support activities. They observed some related behaviours, such as attending meetings, contributing financially, campaigning, and others. Milbrath (1965) structured the concept of political participation by constructing a pyramid hierarchy of its actions as cited by Ruedin (2007). As seen in Figure 1, the pyramid is divided into three levels: spectator activities,

transitional activities, and gladiatorial activities.

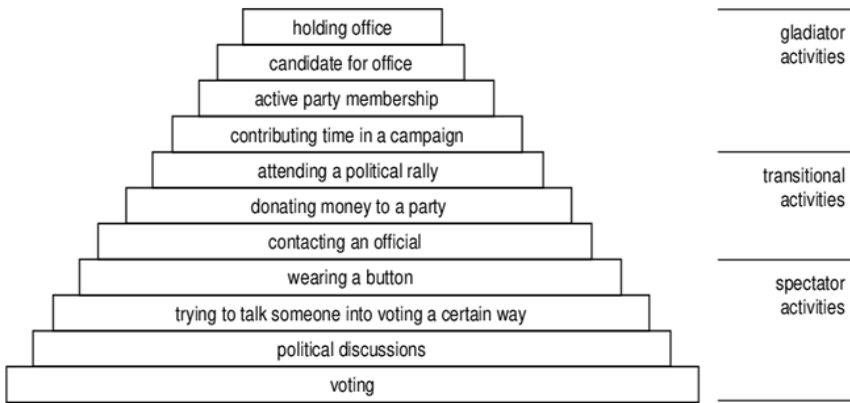


Figure 1
Hierarchical Pyramid of Political Participation by
Milbrath (1965) as cited by Ruedin (2007)

Linssen et al. (2017) elaborated on the concept proposed by Barnes and Kaase (1979) related to the types of political participation, which are conventional and unconventional. The former includes the participation that is embedded directly with the legal framework or system or representation, such as attending hearings, voting, or contacting politicians, while the latter refers to activities that are not linked formally to the system of representation, such as demonstrating and petitioning. Understanding the comprehensive concept of political participation, Scaff (1975) explained the concept of political participation which the idea is to promote public goods or obtain power based on reciprocity or power exchange. In delving deeper into the understanding of political participation, it is important to identify who takes part, how, and when (Scaff 1975). The tendency of people to engage in political participation is based on their expectation or hope that their action may have a significant impact on the existing policies (Weitz-Shapiro & Winters 2011).

Furthermore, the importance of political participation is identified as Weitz-Shapiro and Winters (2011) mentioned that people who vote in the elections showed more life satisfaction compared to those who did not engage. In addition, they also explained that political participation gave a sense of worth and autonomy to individuals as their voice is valued through political involvement. However, when political participation is higher, it is not a guarantee for the development of democracy (Krishna 2002). Also,

when the country forces its people to vote as compulsory, the level of national happiness will decrease (Weitz-Shapiro & Winters 2011). To improve political participation, Krishna (2002) mentioned that the role of social capital is important to persuade political participation in developing democracy, addressing institutional and individual levels through improving the cohesiveness of group and agency capacity as it is powerful to mobilize collective political actions.

Political System of the People's Republic of China

CIA (2021a) reported that the CPC (Communist Party of China) was founded in 1921, based on principles of Marxist-Leninism. They gained power in China in 1949 and established the People's Republic of China (PRC) after defeating the Nationalist Party Kuomintang soon after taking refugees in Formosa Island, which today is known as Taiwan or Republic of China (Mark 2012). It is understood also that October 1, 1949, was considered Independence Day, marking the date the Republic of China was established. China became a communist state under Mao Zedong in 1949 after defeating the Kuomintang Party. The Communist Party of China took away the control of factories, businesses, and land and banned private ownership in abiding Mao's ideology, the idea of individual progress at the expense of others was not acceptable. However, China today has moved away from Mao's ideology after his passing (CIA 2021a).

CIA (2021a) explained China's governmental structure is a one-party rule which is based on the Leninist model. Policy Making is done through its members in dominating the executive power. The legislature is the highest governmental organ in the structure, responsible for passing laws, appointing members and positions, and acting in the interests of the CPC and the PRC. Furthermore, it is explained that people in the PRC can directly vote for deputies to the people's congresses of townships, districts, counties, and county-level cities without district-level people's congresses (Yanchao 2020). CPC has approximately 85 million members with the male majority as female members are less than a quarter. Furthermore, any Chinese citizen over the age of 18 can register provided they will accept the party's regulation, espousing atheism is one of the requirements (Lawrence 2012). It is also reported that the party members should ensure ideology conformity across the country as they are prepared by studying speech and documents related to the party. The government of the PRC is conveyed as a one-party system in which the party holds a monopoly over the country. However, several parts of China that are not subjected to China's monopoly

are Hong Kong and Macau which were returned by the British in 1997 and 1999 and granted with Special Administrative Regions (SARs). However, in recent years, China's central government has been asserting their control over these regions, especially Hong Kong (Electoral Law of the National People's Congress and Local People's Congresses of the People's Republic of China 2015).

Most of the market economies in China are state-owned with the second biggest economy after the US based on its Power Purchasing Parity (PPP) and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as its average annual economic growth accounted for 10% based on Trendeconomy (2021a). Industries sectors contributed up to 50% in shaping China's economy while the top exports were mainly machines, specifically electronics integrated circuits, machine parts, and computers. Top China's biggest partner exports were the U.S (17.4%, 454 Billion US\$), Hong Kong (10.5%, 272 Billion US\$), Japan (5.5%, 142 Billion US\$) and South Korea (4.34%, 112 Billion US\$) according to Trendeconomy (2021a). Despite China's strong economy, it faces challenges such as weak currencies and declining money supplies from the results of overproducing products of demands which created a surplus of goods that had not been sold and real estate surplus that had not been bought or occupied (Morrison & Labonte 2011).

Internations.org (2018) mentioned although communism is the majority in China, religious diversity still exists in China, such as Islam, Christianity, and Buddhism while the unrecognized religion will be persecuted such as Falun Gong spiritual movement. However, Uyghurs were mainly persecuted not because of their religion but due to their ethnicity being different from Han (Internations 2018). There are 302 individual languages which have been broken down into ten main languages. Simple Mandarin is the dominant language which is spoken by 955 million people with various dialects, while Cantonese consists of sixty million speakers, most of whom are old people. Also, Wu is spoken in Shanghai and Eastern China predominantly with 85 million speakers (Jones 2019). There are 56 ethnicities in China, which is recognized as one hegemonic China where Han ethnic lives in different regions that granted autonomy with the advantage of school admission, government employment, and military recruitment (USC US-China Institute 2010). It is reported that the tension rosed when the presence of the Han started to perplex their autonomous region as it pushed political indoctrination and stopped several cultural and religious practices, leading to cultural genocides.

Political System of Malaysia

After being colonized by the British Empire, the Malayan Union was formed in 1946 and later restructured into the Malaysian Federation in 1949. Malaysia gained its independence on August 31st, 1957. North Borneo Sabah, Sarawak, Brunei, and Singapore joined to form Malaysia in 1963. Brunei opted out and Singapore was later asked to leave the federation and build its state. Malaysia has a multi-party system where the King and the Prime Minister serve their roles in the state and country's governance (CIA 2021b). Interparliamentary Union (2018) elaborated that Malaysia is a constitutional monarchy as Sultans have partial power over each state. They hold the title of Head of State and elected Chief Minister of the State. The Prime Minister is the Head of the government and leads the Cabinet. The cabinet are members of the body that were elected in both houses of Parliament. Executive power is exercised by the federal government and 13 states. Its government system resembles the Westminster system similar to the UK parliamentary system. Federal legislative powers were granted in the federal parliament and 13 state assemblies. The judiciary is independent of the executive and legislature, but the executive maintains an influence in the appointment of judges to the courts. Malaysia is a federal constitutional monarchy. The King is the Official Head Governor of the state known as Yang-di-Pertuan-Agong (YDPA). Nine Sultans choose every five years who will be elected to the YDPA title in the Conference of the Rulers.

The Congress exists in two houses, the Senate (Dewan Negara/Upper House) and the House of Commons (Dewan Rakyat/Lower House). In the constitution, the Prime Minister has to be elected from the House of Commons and the YDPA King will eventually approve them as the title. Both houses of Congress are composed of the Government itself. All 69 members of the Senate (Dewan Negara) have a 5-year term, of which 36 were elected by 13 state meetings and 42 were appointed by the King. The Representatives of the House were chosen from districts with general voting. 193 members of the House of Representatives are elected for a maximum term of 5 years. The legislature is divided between the federal law department and the state. The Judicial branches have the right to interpret laws. The Federal court is the highest in the judicial system of Malaysia. The other courts under the Judicial Branches are the Court of Appeal, two High Court (Peninsular Malaysia High Court and East Malaysia Court), Session courts, Magistrate Court, Courts for Children, Sharia Court and Special Courts which deal in cases against the Royalty or

brought by Royalty. Malaysia used the Bicameral system in legislatures. State governments are headed by Chief Ministers who were elected by the state assembly from the majority party and appointed by the Head of the State (Interparliamentary Union 2018)

Hai (2002) explained the election process in Malaysia. Parliamentary elections and State assemblies are held once every five years to elect the candidates. The Electoral Commission oversees the election process. A party that wins majority votes in their constituents forms the government elected as ministers to govern the state or the country for the people. The candidates can be from any party or be an independent candidate. Voters vote for one candidate only, the most voted will win the seat from the First Past the Post (FPTP) system. There are 222 seats and 112 are needed to at least form a simple majority to form a government. The Registrar of Societies (ROS), which is a body under the Minister of Home Affairs, may refuse registration of any political parties that would be deemed or judged as unlawful or for any prejudicial purposes or incompatible with peace, welfare, security, public order, good of Malaysia and all political parties must register under ROS (Hai 2002).

Malaysia subscribes mixed economy system where the government can intervene in private sectors directly or indirectly to a certain degree to balance the market decision-making (Leem 2007). The statistics based on Trendeconomy (2021b) show the top exports are Integrated Circuits (\$63 Billion) and Refined Petroleum (\$17.8 Billion) with the most trade to Japan, Hong Kong, China, and Singapore.

Minahan (2012) mentioned moderate Islamic society and Malay are the majority in Malaysia. Bumiputra constitute 69.4% of the population while Chinese and Indians of smaller races make up 30% of the population. Bumiputra in this sense includes Malay and indigenous groups such as Dayaks (Iban, Bidayuh, Orang Ulu), Kadazan-Dusun, Melanau, Bajau and others. Malaysian language is the national language, and English is the second language spoken in Malaysia. Vernacular schools offer optional mother-tongue languages such as Tamil or Mandarin while the public does not offer. Islam as the official religion in the Malaysian Constitution is the most practiced by Malays while Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, and other small subsets of religions.

Comparing the Political Systems of Malaysia and China

Similarities and differences will be constructed based on the political system of each country which relates to and influences the level of political participation as seen in Table 1. Also, the weaknesses and strengths will be

expounded in line with whether the points relate to the political system. It is considered a strength when the point has an opportunity to improve political participation or the political system while it is deemed as a weakness when the point has the risk of reducing political participation.

Similarities	Differences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consisting of three branches of the government (legislative, executive, and adjudicative). • The improvement of social media use in political participation • There is a certain community that less participated politically 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electoral processes • Political party system and its role • The type of community that less participated politically

Table 1
Points of Similarities and Differences of Political System
and Participation in China and Malaysia

Similarities

In China and Malaysia, there are communities that are not involved much in political participation (Ting & Wan Ahmad 2021; Zhang & Ying Lin 2014). The similarities are identified as related to the exclusion community, while the type of community will be explained in the differences.

The political system in both Malaysia and China stresses three branches to govern their country: execution, legislation, and adjudication to some extent. The similarities are identified in the government structure and the ways checks and balances are implemented across the bodies. The Chinese president and Malaysian prime minister have the same role because they need to represent their own countries in the international world. In post-1949 socialist China, although the Communist Party of China is the leading political party and has a strong influence on legislation, execution, and adjudication, the separation (or division) of powers still exists to some extent (Lihua 2018). Meanwhile, Malaysia is a country that values the separation of powers between the executive, legislative and judicial branches, as this provides checks and balances against one another. Judicial independence is the bedrock of a functioning democracy, and it treats everyone as equal before the eyes of the law (Bashir 2021).

Furthermore, the use of social media for political activities is believed

to have the ability to replace the traditional mass media which were influenced by their owner's political interest (Halim et al. 2021). Social media use generates more diverse opinions, and it has the potential to improve political participation due to its ubiquity and accessibility. The use of social media in China and Malaysia is similar in terms of the extent to of its citizens follow and engage with policy processes and political public discourse which increases political participation. In recent years, it has been increasingly common for citizens to use the Internet to learn about governmental decisions relating to their daily lives and well-being, such as housing price regulations, environmental protection, and the rules that restrict driving (Xu et al. 2018).

Differences

Despite the prominent differences in terms of religion, ethnicity, language, and economic power, this paper emphasizes political participation differences. Political participation in China is ordered and not voluntary because every Chinese community is under an organisational unit tasked with providing political education to its members. There are three arrays of actors involved in Chinese politics, namely the central leadership at the politburo level, cadres at the middle class, and the masses at the lower level, accompanied by political messages from the party to attract the attention of the groups or as a form of political action (Lawrence 2012). Some of the things that set it apart are the entire electoral process is governed by the Chinese communist party, local elections for people's congresses are allowed to hold a meeting accompanied by a speech from the candidate, the frequency of elections has been regulated by law is not following a practice. Even though China holds elections, all political power is monopolized by the Chinese Communist Party.

Meanwhile, political participation in Malaysia's party system since 1957 uses a multi-party system (many parties) in every general election. Interestingly, political parties in Malaysia form a coalition of political parties at the national level to gain more votes and win the general election. The coalition of political parties that wins the most votes in parliament can form a government and appoint a Prime Minister (Weiss 2013).

In addition, although some communities are considered to participate less politically, the types of communities are different in China and Malaysia. Youths are identified as having less political participation in Malaysia (Ting & Wan Ahmad 2021), while those who are not involved with the CPC are considered to participate less politically in China (Zhang & Ying Lin 2014).

Weaknesses and Strengths of China's Political System

The People's Republic of China uses the basic teachings of Lenin's Marxism in its political system (Albert et al. 2020). At present, only a few countries still adhere to the communist democratic system, one of which is China or the PRC. Various reasons cause many countries to disagree with communist democracy, one of which is a government system that recognizes violence or coercion to achieve state goals and regulate the lives of their citizens. The existing regime brings weakness concerning political participation and its system. Therefore, some weaknesses are identified as seen in Table 2. First, a single-party system reduces political participation as the party members will be more in participating politically, while the other perspective, especially those who are against the party will be alienated (Gang 2007). Second, as the extension of the previous point, it can be understood that freedom of expression is limited as any voice which is considered not in line with the authority will be alienated, but condemned. Third, authoritarian leadership in which the leader's command to a certain degree could not be rejected regardless of whether it is confirmed by the majority. It leads to a less transparent decision-making process with less reliable evidence. Therefore, those weaknesses may reduce political participation as the objective voices will be alienated if it is not in line with the authority.

However, some strengths of the Chinese government system will be identified (Table 2). They have strict rules and laws for whoever is guilty before the court. According to the Chinese constitution, the judicial system exercises judicial power independently and is free from interference from administrative organs, public organizations, and individuals. The Chinese Communist Party's Central Political and Legal Commission coordinates and controls all court systems. Next, there is a strong oversight from parliament towards the cabinet so that the cabinet becomes careful in running the government, especially in implementing party principles, policies, and resolutions (BBC 2012). Moreover, political participation in China is regulated and not voluntary because every society in China is under an organizational unit tasked with providing political education to members (communists). The communist system makes a government and a state more stable because the government is much stronger than the people. Therefore, the strength emphasizes the optimal security and protection of the country which reduces the influence of external factors, especially in implementing its political system. It leads to a stronger government and identity as the decision-making process is efficient.

Weaknesses and Strengths of Malaysia's Political System

The federal government of Malaysia adheres to and is created by the Federal Constitution of Malaysia, which is the highest legal norm, including its subscription toward a constitutional monarchy system (Nations Encyclopedia 2014). As seen in Table 2, several strengths of Malaysia's political system are identified here. First, state governments can be more responsive to citizens' needs. The closer a government entity is to its people, the more likely the government will respond to what is needed by its people, leading to an increase in political participation as the minority will be recognized as well. Second, the entity of local government encourages more innovation in law and policy as they accommodate more voices from specific communities and ensure their welfare. Third, the disputes among policymakers could be reduced effectively as adjusting opinions between the executive and legislature becomes easier as they are on the same coalition of parties (Heufers 2002). All those strengths could ensure the increase of political participation and the stability of the government system.

However, several weaknesses in Malaysia's political system are identified as seen in Table 2. The following are the disadvantages of the constitutional monarchy system of government. First, the leadership transition may not follow the enacted procedure, it might happen due to the resignation, parliament dissolution, and other issues. Any leadership issues or unconditional transition should be approved by the king. Second, although state governments accommodate the voices of minorities, uneven development in some states still becomes an issue as some states are more prosperous than others. Third, the position of the executive body or cabinet is highly dependent on the majority of parliamentary support so that the cabinet can be dropped by parliament at any time (Britannica 2020). According to the Malaysian Constitution, parliament can be dissolved at any time by YDPA due to a vote of no confidence (*Mosi Tidak Percaya*) or at the request of the Prime Minister of Malaysia.

Countries	Strengths	Weaknesses
Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of state government may increase political participation • The disputes among policymakers can be handled efficiently • Encouraging Innovation in laws and policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The disparity among states • Leadership transition may be changed anytime • The cabinets could be changed by parliament at any time
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong monitoring from the parliament towards the cabinet • Minimize the external intervention toward the political system of the country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A single-party system reduces political participation • Less freedom of expression • Authoritarian leader

Table 2
Strengths and Weaknesses of Political Systems
in Malaysia and China

Recommendations for Enhancing Political Participation

Suggesting ways to improve China and Malaysia’s political participation will be challenging as each has a different political landscape. Separated recommendations will be offered to ensure the recommendation is suitable for each country. Underlining each country’s problem of its political participation after understanding its weaknesses and strengths is important to design the proper recommendation. There are two types of recommendations for enhancing political participation: recommendation to invite those who do not participate politically and escalate the level of political participation based on the political participation hierarchy.

Zhang and Ying Lin (2014) mentioned that channels to engage in political participation in China are restricted and censorship is implemented on the online information flow. Furthermore, they also mentioned that affiliation with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) was the predictor of political participation as the CCP initiated their political activities. It exhibits the exclusivity of political participation in China as it is supported by CCP affiliation only. Hence, few people, especially those who do not affiliate with CCP, will participate politically as they will feel intimidated

or excluded. Two recommendations are proposed in dealing with that situation. First, to invite more people to actively participate politically, it is suggested to open a specific platform to accommodate any voices related to the improvement of the political system to obtain a fresh and objective viewpoint which consists of pros and cons about the political system. In this platform, ensuring the citizens' freedom of expression is important by providing a guarantee of their safety and image as the objective is to observe the objective viewpoints for the government improvement. When the guarantee is enacted, more people will express their opinions on that specific platform as a form of political participation. Therefore, it can be a milestone for the PRC or China in implementing democracy using its ways. Second, to escalate the political participation level, appreciation should be systematically practised for those who give their contribute to shaping the political landscape, especially those who are involved with a higher level of political participation. Next, the prior recommendation can be extended as the main narrative of China's democracy by disseminating global public discourse related to that platform, which will bring global attention to China's democracy. Hence, the biased perception against China will be eradicated gradually due to the emergence of democracy in China.

Malaysia depicts a similar issue as Ting and Wan Ahmad (2021) found that youth have less political participation in Malaysia, even if they interact daily with political information through various media. They also mentioned the political climate and negative perception toward politics are the reasons for their disengagement. The similarities are identified between China and Malaysia as both show the uneven political participation between communities. The recommendation for Malaysia will focus on youths as the data shows they are less participating in politics compared to other communities. Two recommendations are proposed to enhance political participation in Malaysia for youths.

First, understanding the less participation of youth in politics and negative information about politics as one of its causes, this recommendation is to invite more youths who do not actively participate politically. Emerging and constructing systematic and proper political education and knowledge will provide them with a bigger picture of politics incrementally. This recommendation is supported by Banducci, Giebler and Kritzing (2017) who mentioned that knowledgeable people about political parties tend to support parties more than those who are less knowledgeable. Furthermore, emphasizing the significant effect of their participation, as simple as voting in elections, will encourage them to give

their political contribution. To increase their awareness, assistance and encouragement from other youths and institutions where they are involved is important to enhance the reach of information and its credibility.

Second, escalating the youth's participation in politics is challenging as they have several restrictions, such as stereotypes from others. It is suggested that the government or NGOs conduct a campaign which invites Malaysian youths to participate in politics based on their interest or identity. For example, implementing the competition of designing posters about political situations for youth will be a good platform for graphic design students to express their political views. Therefore, if the campaign or competition is conducted based on the segmented identity of youths, it will bring them to be more participative politically. Furthermore, when the campaign or competition engages with massive people who are in the same interests, more escalation of political participation will be achieved.

Conclusion

This article has shown that based on the comparison above, political participation in Malaysia is better than in China, looking at the party's diversity, electoral process, and the role of local government in accommodating the minorities' voices. However, in terms of the strength of the political system, China is better than Malaysia as the national power is structured and controlled by a single majority. Hence, any policies or regulations can be executed efficiently. Moreover, the enormous economic and political power around the world led to a strengthened political system in China. Furthermore, regardless of the prominent differences between both countries, the similarities are identified as they espouse three branches of the government and there is a specific community which is not politically participated. It is highlighted that by delving deeper into the similarities, more differences will be explored as the types of politically inactive communities in China and Malaysia are different. Therefore, the recommendations are constructed based on the political situations of each country to invite more people to participate politically and escalate their participation. This study has limitations as it used secondary data as references due to time constraints and limited resources. It is recommended for the future study to employ the primary data in conducting similar research.

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