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# ABSTRACT

The idea of federalism in Indonesia is still unpopular among Indonesians, even though the majority of the founding fathers rejected a federal state when formulating the establishment of the Indonesian state. Moreover, Indonesia's bad experience in implementing federalism in the United Republic of Indonesia (RIS) in 1949, which only lasted for 8 months, has further placed the idea of federalism in the negative paradigm of most Indonesians. However, when Indonesia was in the transitional period of reform, the Indonesian people actually experienced confusion seeing the reality of the New Order regime which brought a breath of unity or unity but was more inclined to uniformity and centralistic practices in the midst of a pluralistic Indonesian society, one of which was through militaristic power. This is one of the reasons why reform at that time brought the spirit of broad autonomy for the regions. So it should be an interesting discourse, how the discourse on changing the form of the state for Indonesia is relevant or not to be a solution to overcome all the problems faced by the nation and state of Indonesia.

This research uses a qualitative research method with a literature study approach. The main theory used in this research is the theory of democracy to become an analysis knife, especially Robert Dahl's pluralist democracy theory which opposes the tyranny of the majority combined with Mohammad Hatta's democracy which emphasizes Indonesia's original democracy, namely village democracy. This pluralist democracy theory is very relevant to the context of federalism that respects the interests of various regions in a country, then village democracy is very relevant to the context of democracy for Indonesia.

The results of this study found a rationalization conclusion of the federal state form for Indonesia which turned out to be rational but in the context of future discourse and not the urgency of the present. Then historically also found the reality of the condition of the nation and state of Indonesia related to the form of state, such as an indication that the Majapahit Kingdom known as the great civilization of the ancestors of the Indonesian nation turned out to be a system of power very close to the concept of federation. As for now after the reformation with the geographical conditions of a very large area with many islands, Indonesia still maintains the form of a unitary state but is decentralized with a myriad of dilemmas and problems to meet the needs of pluralistic communities in various regions.

# Keywords: Rasionality, Federalism, Regional Autonomy.