



INNOVATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL SOCIETIES

Reforming Indonesia's Post-Suharto Military

In 1998, the resignation of Indonesian president Suharto opened the door for widespread change. Suharto's three-decade long authoritarian regime had woven the military deeply into the fabric of public affairs. A small group of military leaders saw an opportunity to forge new institutional relationships better suited to an emerging democratic era. Their internal efforts set the stage for additional civilian-led reforms. ProPatria, a local non-governmental organization, coordinated policy development and advocacy, eventually winning legislative support. Two new ISS case studies highlight these [military-led](#) and [civilian-led](#) efforts.

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Sunset in Jakarta. Photo by Jeny Kwok.

ISS Featured Interview

[Juwono Sudarsono](#), Indonesia's minister of defense from 2004 to 2009, reflects on his efforts to neutralize the political role of the military and its dominance of the Indonesian government. Under his leadership, the military scrutinized the defense acquisition process in an effort to reduce corruption and relinquished control of the police force.



About Innovations for Successful Societies

[Innovations for Successful Societies](#) (ISS) helps public servants, policy makers, and scholars share institution-building strategies that work in especially challenging contexts. ISS has published nearly [150 case studies](#) and more than [380 interviews](#), all of which are available freeonline. These materials describe reform efforts in more than 60 countries, attracting more than 40,000 visits to the program's website from people in 195 countries last year. ISS is a joint program of Princeton University's [Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs](#) and [Bobst Center for Peace and Justice](#).

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