

PSI
Partai Sosialis Indonesia
Indonesian Socialist Party

This was the party of the urban intelligentsia. Its ideological position might best be described as populist economic nationalism, the party also had a very strong streak of economic rationalism within it. As a party with several prominent political leaders in the early revolutionary period, it was also active in the anti-colonial movement. Within the party there were those who were more radical socialists while others might almost be described as progressive liberals. The party produced some early Prime Ministers, specifically during the period of the physical struggle for independence (1945-1949) and its members occupied several ministerial position during the early to mid 1950s.

At a political level the party formed easy partnerships with Masjumi while it maintained considerable mutual differences with the PKI.

Its electoral performance in the two sets of elections in 1955 was quite disappointing. The party received just 2% of the popular vote. Its best result were to be found on Bali where it gained some 31% of the vote in the 1955 parliamentary elections. Indeed the party gained an outright majority in the Kabupaten of Tabanan, 47% of the vote in neighbouring Badung and a loss by 1% to the PNI in Gianyar. Its base of strength in Bali was related to the leading role played by one senior Balinese particularly from the late 1940s. The party also received a moderately good vote in East Kalimantan (8%) and in Jakarta (5%).

Its poor electoral performance in 1955 reduced the party's political standing in parliamentary and senior government activities. The fortunes of the party faded further as some of its senior members became engaged in supporting the regional rebellions of the late 1950s. This led to further alienation from the centre of politics and ultimately with the change in constitutional regime from July 1959, the party was eventually banned by the President in 1960.

There were attempts at trying to reconstruct the party at the beginning of the New Order nor throughout that period. In the Reformasi period the parties which arguably might lay claim to some kind of intellectual/ideological lineage to the PSI could be considered to include the PIB (active in 2004 and 2009 elections) and to an extent some elements active in the early years of PAN.