CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

The author will try to explain in advance about the system of government of Saudi Arabia itself, Saudi Arabia is a high state located in the Arabian Peninsula. Its territory is largely composed of deserts with the largest sand desert is Rub Al Khali. It can be said that the Arab position is very strategic because it borders on many countries and important locations, namely Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, Persian Gulf, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Yemen, and the Red Sea. Although the history of the Arabian peninsula is in its teens, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia formed on September 23, 1932. King Abdul Aziz bin Abdurrahman Al-Sa'ud (Ibn Saud) proclaimed this sovereign state by uniting the territory of Riyadh, Najd (Nejed), Ha-a, Asir, and Hijaz.[1]

The system of the government of Saudi Arabia is structured under state law, embodied in the rules of the kingdom, based on the teachings of Islam by following the provisions of Islamic Sharia law. The system of government used by this country is the Islamic state in which the Constitution of Saudi Arabia is the Qur'an and Sunnah. With the constitution, the King became the supreme authority for every

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[1] Rinaldo. (2017, 2 28). *Raja Salman dan Uniknya Sistem Politik Arab Saudi*. Retrieved from Liputan 6: https://www.liputan6.com/news/read/2871335/raja-salman-dan-uniknya-sistem-politik-arab-saud

political institution in Saudi Arabia, even for the judiciary. No wonder the King has the authority to interpret the law after undergoing some consultations.

There is no general election to elect the King and no political parties. If only to choose the legislative and judicial leaders who are also determined by the King. As a country with an absolute monarchical government system, the King of Saudi Arabia does have enormous power. His position can be said to be an absolute ruler, the King of Saudi Arabia also has a role as Head of State, Prime Minister, Commander of the Armed Forces, appoint and dismiss the Council of Ministers, and interpret the law of Saudi Arabia.

The highest political authority under the King is the crown prince appointed by the king and must be taken from the descendants of Abdul Aziz. The crown prince may rule on behalf of the king, while the Council of Ministers acts as the legislative and executive with authority based on the King's blessing. The King can only veto the law or law established by the Council of Ministers. The members of the Council of Ministers are also descendants of Abdul Aziz as the authors explain that the system is an absolute monarchy.

It is from such a system of government that son and successor Abdul Aziz follow in his footsteps in leading Saudi Arabia. They are King Saud, King Faisal, King Khalid, King Fahd, King Abdullah and now in power, King Salman. King Salman previously served as deputy governor and then Governor of Riyadh for 48

years from 1963 to 2011. He was then appointed to be Minister of Defense in 2011, as the Crown Prince in 2012 after the death of his brother Nayef bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. He was later appointed King of Saudi Arabia on January 23, 2015, after the death of his half-brother King Abdullah.

Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud is the seventh king who currently leads Saudi Arabia. King Salman is the king of Saudi Arabia to the Seven who succeeded his brother who died in 2015, King Abdullah. Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud was born on 31 December 1935 in the Murabba Palace of Riyadh city, was the 25th son of King Abdulaziz and his mother was named Hassa bint Ahmed Al Sudairi. His father was the first king of Saudi Arabia. Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud's first education was taken in Princess Scholl who is a school built by King Abdulaziz specifically for his children. At that school, King Salman studied religion and also studied modern science.

Since King Salman led the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, he was aware of the various challenges being faced by the Kingdom. Moreover, when the previous king, King Abdullah, had felt how difficult it was to defend the country which was being hit by various problems both domestic and international issues. King Salman, felt the need to implement various specific strategies in order to deal with the challenges faced by Saudi Arabia. In 2015, it was the beginning of King Salman beginning to make various changes in the Kingdom. He began to design various kinds of policies which would later be able to become a solution for the continuity of the Kingdom.

One of the main policies carried out by King Salman was to change the political system in the kingdom, to become a more open political system or what was known as an open political system in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The open political system is simply a policy to open up the political system in the kingdom, by not changing the royal system. It should be underlined that King Salman implemented an open political system without changing the state system of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

There are various factors, both internal factors and external factors that influence King Salman so that it applies an open political system. And of course, there was a process that King Salman passed before implementing the policy. The author feels the need to analyze the open political system in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, by discovering the reasons underlying King Salman so as to implement an open political system policy in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In addition, the author will find out what challenges the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is facing so that King Salman feels the importance of the policy of the open political system. Of course the challenges being faced by the Kingdom will also be the reason why later King Salman implemented the policy.

B. Research Question

Based on the description of the background of the above problems, the problem statement can be drawn as follows:

Why did King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud implement an open political system policy in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia?

C. Theoretical Framework

The author uses the theory of the political system of David Easton, which is where this theory in a sharpening by Gabriel Abraham Almond. Almond asserted that the political system has four characteristics that are universal. The fourth characteristic is valid in any country, and consist of the premises, such as Every political system has political structures, functions (of any structure) the same can be found in any political system, each structure are multifunctional, every political system has been mixed with the political culture (which embraced citizen respectively).

Characteristics or characteristics of the political system, including:[2]

1) Identification characteristics. We must be able to identify the political system to be able to distinguish it from the others. In this identification, there are at least two things that must be considered, namely the units in the political system and restrictions. In politics, the units are in the form of political action. As for restrictions, this needs to be considered when we discuss the political system with the environment.

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[2] Mas`oed, Mohtar dan Colin MacAndrews. (1991). Perbandingan Sistem Politik. Yogyakarta: Gajah Mada University Press. Hal 5-6

2) Input and output. To be able to guarantee the operation of the political system inputs are routine, fixed, and steady. Without input, the political system will not work. Moreover, without output we will not be able to identify the work that has been generated by the political system.

3) Differentiation in the political system. As in the human body, we will not find a unit doing the same thing at the same time. Members in the political system, at least know the minimum division of labor that provides a structure where the activity takes place. In politics, we will find a variety of political actions with their respective roles, such as the legislature, executive, judiciary, political parties, up to interest groups and pressure groups.

4) Integration in the system. Integration in the political system is one attempt to regulate the forces and activities in the political system. Integration in this political system is made possible by the awareness of members of the political system to maintain the existence of the political system itself so that a mechanism can emerge that can integrate and even force members to work together even at a minimal level so that they can make authoritative decisions. Almond modified David Easton's input and output structure, and the result was that Almond succeeded in clarifying Easton's abstract in explaining the problem of the input and output functions of the political system.[3]

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[3] Aprillia, M. (2016, April 24). Pengertian Sistem Politik David Easton Dan Gabriel Abraham Almond. Retrieved from SCRIBD: https://id.scribd.com.
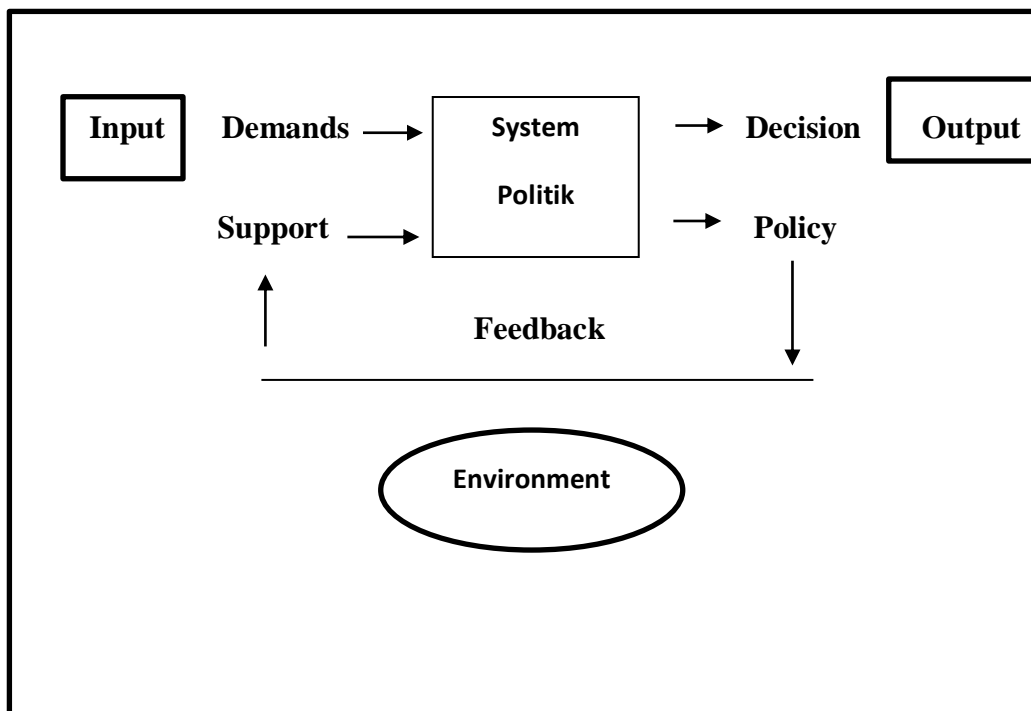
1) **Input Units (Demand and Support):** basically what is meant by the input is in the form of demands and support that make the political system or the making of existing policies.

   a. Political outreach and recruitment. Almond then placed the function of socialization and political recruitment as a function of maintaining the political system.

   b. Articulation of interests. Structures that carry out the function of articulation of interests are organized interest groups which include the type of Institutional, Non-Associational, Anomic, Associational.

   c. Aggregation of interests. The course of this function is influenced by two things, namely the party system that applies in a country and the appearance of aggregative functions. Party systems such as authoritarian, dominant authoritarian, competitive, multi-party competitive, the appearance of aggregative functions such as pragmatic or secular bargaining.

   d. To compare the patterns of political communication between political systems, there are four parameters, namely the homogeneity of available political information, information mobility, information value, and direction of the information flow that develops.

2) **Output Units:** output is a reaction from input that has been entered, output in the form of decisions and actions.

a. Regulation making. Based on the demands and support and the various influences of the societal intro and extra societal environments, the input attempted to be translated into public policy

b. Application of regulations. When the policy has been formed, the thing that must be done is to take administrative action to implement it in the public sphere.

c. Regulatory supervision. Particular institutions conduct supervision and resolve disputes concerning making and implementing regulations.
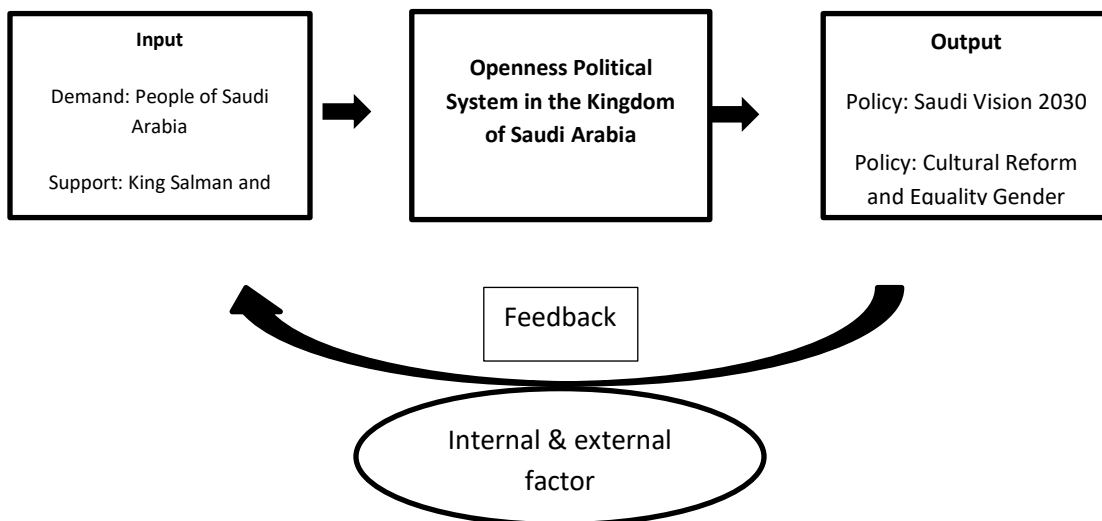
Diagram 1.1 Input and Output Analyze

Input	Demands ⟶	System Politik	⟶ Decision	Output
	Support ⟶		⟶ Policy	

Feedback

Environment

David Easton then discussed the political system environment, which according to him could be divided into two, namely intrasocietal environment and extrasocietal environment. Which includes the intrasocietal environment are ecological systems, biological systems, social and cultural systems. Whereas the extrasocietal environment can also be called an international environment, including international economic systems, international cultural systems, international social systems, and others.

David Easton that input-output relations connect the political system and its environment. The political system itself is seen as a process of conversion or change in input into output. The ability to convert the input into output is what guarantees a government or political system will survive. It can also be said, that the influences that come from the environment, both domestically and internationally, can be a parameter to measure and assess the ability of a political system.

Diagram 1.2. Input and Output Analyze in case of Saudi's Regime

Input	**Openness Political System in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**	**Output**
Demand: People of Saudi Arabia		Policy: Saudi Vision 2030
Support: King Salman and		Policy: Cultural Reform and Equality Gender

Feedback

Internal & external factor

Input which is a demand and support, is one of the factors, why the Saudi rulers Conduct political openness, here is the creation of new policies based on the wishes of King Salman and his crown prince, and the demands of the people who want changes in Saudi Arabia, not only demands from domestic but also demands from the international community. Demands and support concerning economic and social change, such as the demand to change Saudi Arabia from a country with a strong political influence to a more moderate Islamic country. Demands to reduce social inequalities that occur in Arabia, which in particular is a human rights gap between women and men. The international community also criticized the very conservative Islamic ideology of Saudi Arabia, Wahhabism. Also, one of the most numerous highlights of the world is the difference between the right of rights held between men and women.

Saudi Arabia is often referred to as a country that is unfair to women's rights. In the Global Gender Gap Report 2016 released by the World Economic Forum, for example, Saudi Arabia is in the lowest row, precisely ranked 141 of 144 countries, The Global Gap Gender Report is structured as a report aimed at examining and photographing inequalities between men and women in four critical areas of opportunity and economic participation, educational attainment, political

empowerment, and health and survival. The lower the ranking of a country within it, the higher the gender gap that occurs in the country. [4]

The output is a decision and action. A reaction based on the demands and support that exists, so the ruler of Saudi Arabia makes a policy called vision 2030, also in vision 2030, Saudi Arabia plans to build a place full of interactive facilities such as those in Dubai, the plan will be built on an artificial island. This is a mega project intended to release Saudi Arabian dependence on oil, to become a country that offers the entertainment sector also, proved by the plan to change the Red Sea area will be transformed as a super-sophisticated tourist attraction: modern, free for foreign tourists from the West, and the strict rules that would generally be prevalent in Saudi Arabia would be relaxed.

The tourist area will begin construction in 2019 and is scheduled to be completed by 2022. Saudi Arabia will enforce visa-free for tourists who will visit this region. Following the economic vision of 2030, the crown prince of Prince Muhammad bin Salman targeting the number of tourists who will visit the Red Sea will be able to exceed the number of Pilgrims and Umrah.[5]

The environment can also affect the political system itself. Environment in the sense here are all systems, both social and physical which are not included in the

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[4] KumparanNEWS. (2017, 9 27). 5 Kebijakan Baru Arab Saudi yang "Membebaskan" Perempuan. Retrieved from kumparan: https://kumparan.com

[5] Misrawi, Z. (2017, 8 18). Arab Saudi Menerabas Wahabisme. Retrieved from detik: https://news.detik.com/kolom/d-3604393/arab-saudi-menerabas-wahabisme

political system. The environment is divided into two, namely intrasocietal and extrasocietal. Intrasocietal is a component in the political system. Intrasocietal includes a set of behaviors, attitudes, personalities, and ideas both from an economic environment, culture and social structure. Intrasocietal in this case is a functional segment of society. Extrasocietal includes all systems outside a political system and is a functional component of the international community or a suprasystem. The environment for the political system can sometimes be in the form of disturbances, for example an economic crisis.

In relation to the open political system in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the environment that affects it is the regional and international environment. The regional environment consists of countries in the Arabian peninsula or countries in the Arab region. The regional environment of Saudi Arabia is so influencing the open political system that it moves from the influence of democratization that is so large in the region. As is known that Arab countries have been hit by the phenomenon of the Arab Spring. The international environment that affects the open political system in Saudi Arabia is the demand from the international community to continue to compete both in terms of the economy, military, politics, and so forth which continue to pressure the kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

D. Hypothesis

Based on the background of the problem and the formulation of the problem, the reasons for the Saudi's Regime apply an open political system, namely:

1. *There are demands from Saudi Arabian people who want to be changed*

2. *There is support from King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman who continue King Abdullah's policies and ideas in the form of social and cultural reform in order to maintain the kingdom's existence from the challenges of globalization and modernization.*

E. Scope of Discussion

The limitation of this study aims to provide limits on research, which where the limits include in some aspects, ie, time, subject, and object in this study the author will provide limits on the time from 2010 to 2018. Arab Springs begin since 2010, which is Saudi Arabia led from the time of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Abdulaziz until it changed to the present king of King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud, it aims to facilitate in analyzing the existing problems, and aims to minimize the scope of the analysis.

F. Research Method

The type of research used in this study is descriptive, which the author tries to analyze Why the Saudi's regime conduct political openness. In using the method, the

authors use data collection techniques such as document studies conducted by collecting secondary data, in this case, the information comes from some relevant publication materials such as books, journals, news, official sites, and the internet associated with the subject of research.

G. Structure of Research

In order to help readers in comprehending the study, this research is systematically divided into five chapters.

Chapter I. This chapter will be the introduction of the research which consists of the background of the research, research question, theoretical framework, hypothesis, the scope of discussions, research methodology, and the structure of the research.

Chapter II. This chapter will describe a history of conservatism in Saudi Arabia and also the political system and the political policy from 2015 to 2018. This chapter will help the reader in understanding the fact of Saudi Arabia.

Chapter III. This chapter will discuss the dynamics that occur with the political openness or the political policy in Saudi Arabia. This chapter will help the reader understand the external factors and internal factors of Saudi Arabia conduct political openness system.

Chapter IV. This chapter is proof of hypothesis chapter. The author will explain the answers to the problem in more detail, namely regarding the input and output units that affect the enactment of the open political system in the Saudi regime.

Chapter V. This chapter will be the chapter of conclusion.