

'Mongolia's Political System in Transformation: From Semi-Presidentialism to Parliamentarism?'

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Vanue : Setagaya Campus, Library, AV hall

What kind of political system exists in Mongolia: a semi-presidential or parliamentary one? This paper examines Mongolia's political transformation of the last fifteen years, with a focus on Mongolia's regime type. In this way, it examines relevant documents such as the 1992 Constitution and its subsequent amendments and analyzes political developments to determine the regime type.

Mongolia is generally considered to be a successful emerging democracy with a semi-presidential system. According to Mongolia's 1992 Constitution, until December 2000, Mongolia was operating as a semi-presidential system because "the constitution which established it combines three elements: (1) the president of the republic is elected by universal suffrage; (2) he possesses quite considerable powers; (3) he has opposite to him, however, a prime minister and ministers, who possess executive and governmental power and can stay in office only if the parliament does not show its opposition to them (Duverger 1980, 166). However, after a two year long tumultuous struggle between the president and the parliament, both of which adhered to rival political parties, over the matter of forming the government, the parliament took an upper hand by amending the Constitution. As a result Mongolia shifted from a semi-presidential to a parliamentary system, albeit with a popularly elected fixed term president.