THE FAILURE OF ABRI IN EAST TIMOR

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ABSTRACT

In 1974 Portugal experienced a military coup that affected much of the previous regime practice. The new government began to abandon all its colonies and granting them the right to form political parties.

In the case of East Timor, an old and under-developed coloney, this development has suddenly became the arena of serious power struggles involving 3 political parties. The Portuguese were unable to effect a peaceful transition to self-government. Indonesia decided to occupy the territory and the outside world seemed indifferent to this act of aggression.

The Indonesian military, ABRI, had underestimated the strength of East Timorese resistance. Years of civil war gave rise to serious human rights violations while ABRI exploited the territory fully, with its economic monopoly and militaristic
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