



**NAVIGATING POLITICAL DYNAMICS AND
GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES IN MONGOLIA: A
BRIEF CASE STUDY ON ADDRESSING AIR
POLLUTION CHALLENGES IN ULAANBAATAR**

By

KHALIUNAA ENKHTAIVAN

Student ID: 016202100200

**A thesis presented to the Faculty of Social Science and Education,
President University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for
a Degree in Sarjana Sosial, concentrated in Diplomacy Studies**

May 2025

TURNITIN CHECK RESULTS

Thesis Chapters Draft_Khaliunaa Enkhtaivan.pdf

ORIGINALITY REPORT

5%	4%	3%	1%
SIMILARITY INDEX	INTERNET SOURCES	PUBLICATIONS	STUDENT PAPERS

PRIMARY SOURCES

1	en.wikipedia.org Internet Source	1 %
2	wikimili.com Internet Source	<1 %
3	epdf.pub Internet Source	<1 %
4	Tseren-Ochir Soyol-Erdene, Gantuya Ganbat, Barkhasragchaa Baldorj. "Urban Air Quality Studies in Mongolia: Pollution Characteristics and Future Research Needs", Aerosol and Air Quality Research, 2021 Publication	<1 %
5	www.ssoar.info Internet Source	<1 %
6	"Marxist Governments", Springer Science and Business Media LLC, 1981 Publication	<1 %
7	Submitted to uva Student Paper	<1 %
8	Bruno Carrasco, Hanif A. Rahemtulla, Rainer Rohdewohld. "Decentralization, Local Governance, and Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific", Routledge, 2022 Publication	<1 %

GPT Anti-Plagiarism Check Results

The screenshot displays the GPT Anti-Plagiarism Check Results interface. On the left, a document titled "Thesis Chapters_016202100200 (...)" is open, showing a chapter introduction about Mongolia. The text includes phrases like "Background of the Study", "Mongols", "empires in history", "semi-Presidential", and "the moment". A green checkmark icon is visible next to the text. On the right, the "Basic scan" results are shown. A green circle with the word "human" inside indicates the scan result. Below this, a message states: "We are highly confident this text is entirely human". The "Probability breakdown" section shows: 4% AI generated, 0% Mixed, and 96% Human. There are buttons for "View", "AI Sentences", and "AI Words". At the bottom, the "Advanced Sentence Scanning" section is partially visible, showing a "Scan to update results" button and a "Scan" button. The interface also includes a sidebar with "New", "Home", "Documents", "More", "Help", and "Settings" options, and a top bar with "AI Tools" and "Upgrade to Premium" buttons.

Thesis Chapters_016202100200 (...)

AI Tools

Upgrade to Premium

Basic scan

Share Export

human

GPTZero AI Detection Model 3.5b

We are highly confident this text is entirely human

Probability breakdown

4% AI generated 0% Mixed 96% Human

View AI Sentences AI Words

Advanced Sentence Scanning

Scan to update results

5,072 characters 740 words

Scan

Navigating Political Dynamics and Governance Structures in Mongolia: A Brief Case Study on Addressing Air Pollution Challenges in Ulaanbaatar

Khaliunaa Enkhtaivan

Thesis Advisor: Muhammad Sigit Andhi Rahman, Ph.D.

ABSTRACT

This thesis explores how Mongolia's political institutions and governance structures have shaped the country's response to urban air pollution, focusing specifically on Ulaanbaatar. Since the country's democratic transition in the 1990s, environmental challenges in the winter air pollution caused by coal burning in ger districts have become deeply entangled with political and institutional dynamics. Despite state-led initiatives such as coal bans and housing programs, the problem persists. Using a political ecology framework, this study examines how power, policy-making, public response, and corruption interact to shape environmental governance. It focuses on three core research questions: (1) How have Mongolia's political institutions and policy-making processes evolved since the 1990s in addressing environmental issues, particularly air pollution in Ulaanbaatar? (2) How do political dynamics influence environmental policies and development in Mongolia, particularly concerning the air pollution crisis?

The thesis argues that while Mongolia's institutional frameworks provide avenues for environmental action, challenges such as fragmented governance, limited implementation capacity, and corruption undermine policy effectiveness. This analysis contributes to broader discussions on environmental governance in transitional democracies and highlights the need for stronger accountability and participatory mechanisms in Mongolia.

Keywords: *Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, air pollution, political dynamics, governance, environmental policies.*

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all who have contributed to completing this undergraduate thesis. This work would not have been possible without their support, guidance, and encouragement.

First, I am deeply thankful to my thesis advisor, **Muhammad Sigit Andhi Rahman, Ph.D.**, for his invaluable guidance, patience, and expertise throughout this research journey. His insightful comments and constant encouragement have been instrumental in shaping this thesis.

I also appreciate the faculty members of the Humanities Department at President University for their academic support, which greatly influenced my intellectual growth and enriched this thesis.

I am grateful to my family and friends for their unwavering support, understanding, and encouragement during the ups and downs of this academic journey. Their love and belief in my abilities have constantly motivated and inspired me.

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all the individuals who have been a part of my academic path, directly or indirectly. Your contributions, whether big or small, have played a big role in shaping my academic and personal growth.

Last, but not least, I'd like to thank myself for not giving up, pushing through challenges, and staying committed to completing this undergraduate thesis.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NAVIGATING POLITICAL DYNAMICS AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES IN MONGOLIA: A BRIEF CASE STUDY ON ADDRESSING AIR POLLUTION CHALLENGES IN ULAANBAATAR.....	0
PANEL OF EXAMINERS.....	1
APPROVAL SHEET.....	1
THESIS ADVISOR.....	2
RECOMMENDATION LETTER.....	2
DECLARATION OF ORIGINALITY.....	3
ABSTRACT.....	4
ACKNOWLEDGMENT.....	5
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	6
CHAPTER I.....	1
INTRODUCTION.....	1
I.1. Background of the Study.....	1
II.2. Literature Review.....	3
I.3. Problem Identification.....	6
I.4. Research Question.....	7
I.5. Research Objectives and Significance.....	8
I.5.1. Objectives of the Study.....	8
I.5.2. Significance of the Study.....	8
I.6. Theoretical Framework.....	9
I.7. Research Methodology.....	10
I.8. Scope and Limitations.....	11
I.8.1. Scope of the Study.....	11
I.8.2. Limitations of the Study.....	12
I.9. Thesis Structure.....	12
CHAPTER II.....	13
POLITICAL DYNAMICS AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES IN MONGOLIA.....	13
II.1. Evolution of Mongolia's Governance.....	13
II.2. Contemporary Governance Structure.....	16
II.2.1. The Constitution.....	16
II.2.2. The Executive Branch.....	16
II.2.3. The Legislative Branch.....	18
II.2.4. The Judiciary.....	19
II.3. Policy-Making Process.....	20
II.3.1. Policy Formulation.....	20
II.3.2. Legislative Process.....	23
II.3.3. Policy Implementation.....	28
II.3.4. Evaluation.....	29

II.4. Political Dynamics and Party Competition.....	29
II.4.1. What is Political Dynamics?.....	29
II.4.2. Dominant Political Parties.....	31
II.4.3. Political Stability and Policy Continuity.....	32
II.5. Governance Challenges Affecting Environmental Policies.....	33
II.5.1. Corruption and Clientelism.....	33
II.5.2. Bureaucratic Inefficiencies.....	34
II.5.3. Coordination Between Governments.....	35
CHAPTER III.....	36
GOVERNMENT POLICY RESPONSES TO AIR POLLUTION.....	36
III.1. Understanding the Air Pollution Crisis.....	36
III.2. Legal and Regulatory Framework for Air Pollution Management.....	38
III.2.1. Environmental Protection Law.....	38
III.2.2. Law of Natural Resources.....	41
III.3. Major Government Initiatives.....	43
III.3.1. Measures Taken by Government.....	43
III.3.2. Housing and Urban Development Plans.....	45
III.3.3. Public Awareness and Education Campaigns.....	46
III.3.4. Institutional Arrangements for Environmental Governance.....	47
CHAPTER IV.....	49
ONGOING CHALLENGES, FAILURES AND ANALYSIS.....	49
IV.1. Public Response and Societal Challenges.....	49
IV.2. Government Failures in Air Pollution Management.....	50
IV.2.1. Weak Enforcement and Monitoring.....	50
IV.2.2. Political Instability and Policy Discontinuity.....	52
IV.3. Political Corruption and Resource Mismanagement.....	54
IV.4. Analysis Through the Political Ecology Lens.....	56
CHAPTER V.....	59
CONCLUSION.....	59
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	61