



# Pancasila as the Identity of the State: The Pillar of Nationalism and National Integration

Dian Ananda Citra<sup>1\*</sup>, Amelia Amelia<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Universitas Pekalongan, Pekalongan, Indonesia

\*Corresponding Author: diananda675@gmail.com

## Abstrak

Pancasila, as the foundation of the state and the worldview of the Indonesian nation, has served as a collective identity that unites Indonesia's diversity since the proclamation of independence. Throughout its journey, Pancasila has played a fundamental role in fostering national consciousness, preserving state integrity, and providing policy direction that supports national development. This article aims to analyze how Pancasila remains increasingly relevant as the identity of the state in the modern context by reinforcing its values in social and political life. Using a review of recent academic literature, this study examines the challenges and opportunities in applying Pancasila in the era of globalization, amid rapid social, political, and economic changes. The research employs a descriptive-qualitative method through a literature review encompassing books and scholarly journals published between 2020 and 2024. The analysis shows that strengthening Pancasila's values is essential to address the challenges of modernization and globalization, which often threaten the nation's identity. This article also recommends concrete strategies to integrate Pancasila values into national policies, the education system, and daily life to reinforce the state's identity amid global transformation.

**Keywords:** Pancasila; Globalization; National Values.

## INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a country renowned for its diversity. With more than 700 regional languages, hundreds of ethnic groups, and a variety of religions and beliefs, Indonesia serves as a concrete example of how differences can become a source of strength. However, this diversity also presents major challenges in maintaining national unity. In this context, Pancasila emerges as a guiding philosophy that unites all elements of Indonesian society. As the foundation of the state, Pancasila functions not only as an ideological basis but also as the collective identity of the Indonesian nation, remaining relevant amid global dynamics (Wibowo, 2023).

Pancasila as the state identity functions not only as a symbol of nationalism but also as the foundation for building governance structures, legal frameworks, and social interactions. Its values—belief in one God, humanity, unity, democracy, and social justice—serve as guiding principles for all aspects of national and state life. Yet, in the modern era marked by globalization and technological advancement, the challenges to implementing Pancasila have grown increasingly complex. For example, the influence of foreign cultures, transnational ideologies, and the rise of identity politics frequently test the sustainability of Pancasila's values in modern society (Rahmawati, 2023).

In addition, Pancasila often faces challenges stemming from varied interpretations within society. In some cases, gaps exist between the ideals of Pancasila enshrined in the constitution and their practical application in the field (Kusumawati, 2019). This discrepancy can shape how people perceive Pancasila as the identity of the state. Therefore, it is crucial to strengthen Pancasila's values in more concrete ways, including through the education system, public policy, and mass media, to ensure that Pancasila continues to serve as the nation's primary foundation.



This article will discuss the relevance of Pancasila as the state identity in the modern context, particularly in facing the challenges of globalization and modernization. Drawing on references from various scholarly journals and academic books, the following sections will elaborate on how the values of Pancasila can continue to be reinforced to safeguard Indonesia's national identity while offering strategic solutions for integrating these values into multiple sectors of life.

## RESEARCH METHODS

This research employs a descriptive-qualitative method through a literature review encompassing books and scholarly journals published between 2020 and 2024. The data collection process was carried out through library research, by reviewing various relevant sources and references.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Pancasila, as the foundation of the Republic of Indonesia, plays a crucial role in preserving the unity of the nation. Beyond serving as an ideology, Pancasila functions as the state identity that unites the pluralistic Indonesian society, consisting of diverse ethnicities, religions, and cultures. Pancasila is not only a guideline for national and state life but also a pillar of nationality that strengthens national integration. This article discusses Pancasila as the identity of the state and its role as a pillar of nationality and a unifying force for national integration.

Pancasila is the foundation of the Indonesian state. It can be likened to the foundation of a building: the stronger the foundation, the sturdier the structure. Similarly, the stronger and more deeply rooted Pancasila is within the people, the stronger the nation will stand. Pancasila also reflects the character of the Indonesian people, as its values are applied in daily life. Thus, the Indonesian national character cannot be separated from Pancasila. As the foundation of the state, Pancasila also serves as a code of conduct for citizens, in which adherence to rules and application of its values represent the nation's ideals.

### Pancasila as the Identity of the Indonesian State

Pancasila, as the state identity, plays a significant role in defining who we are as a nation and a state. As the foundation of the nation, Pancasila is not merely a guide for life but also a symbol reflecting the values, traditions, and character of the Indonesian people. It embodies the fundamental values that distinguish Indonesia. Amid vast diversity, Pancasila serves as the common ground that enables Indonesia to remain united. This is emphasized in the first principle of Pancasila, "Belief in the One and Only God," which affirms Indonesia's recognition of diverse beliefs while upholding tolerance and togetherness. Pancasila thus provides a strong identity as a tolerant and inclusive nation.

Furthermore, Pancasila serves as an identity in confronting the challenges of the times. In an era of globalization, Pancasila's values remain relevant in safeguarding national integrity. Experts have asserted that Pancasila guides modernization while ensuring Indonesia does not lose its cultural roots. For instance, in the realm of socio-political values, Pancasila emphasizes deliberation and consensus, bridging differences of opinion within society. Pancasila embodies a philosophy of life that is not only historically relevant but also vital for building the character of the Indonesian nation today. Its noble values unite a society composed of diverse ethnic, religious, and cultural backgrounds. Pancasila stands as the primary identity that affirms Indonesia's selfhood amidst change. The principles of "Belief in the One and Only God" and "Just and Civilized Humanity" provide guidance for fostering harmonious, pluralistic, and inclusive social life.

### Pancasila as a Pillar of Nationality

Pancasila, as the pillar of Indonesian nationality, plays a central role in maintaining unity within diversity. As the foundation of the state, Pancasila is not merely a legal guideline but a unifying force for all elements of society despite differences in ethnicity, religion, culture, and language. It provides direction and guidance for social, political, economic, and civic life. It binds together all elements of the Indonesian nation.

In the national context, Pancasila underscores that despite Indonesia's rich diversity, all citizens share one identity as Indonesians. Pancasila emphasizes tolerance, mutual respect, and appreciation of differences. This is reflected in the second principle, "Just and Civilized Humanity," which conveys the meaning that every individual has equal rights and must be treated fairly regardless of background.

Through its principles, Pancasila enables Indonesia to safeguard diversity while preserving unity. It serves not only as the nation's ideology but also as the framework for harmonious coexistence. Thus, Pancasila functions as the basis for building stronger unity amid diversity.

### **Pancasila in Realizing National Integration**

National integration is a major challenge for a nation as diverse as Indonesia. Without integration, diversity could become a threat to unity. Pancasila, as the foundation of the state, acts as a vital unifying instrument. It provides mechanisms for uniting all components of the nation under a shared purpose: welfare and peace. The fifth principle, "Social Justice for All Indonesian People," emphasizes equality and justice not only in material wealth but also in the equal enjoyment of rights by all citizens. Integration can also be achieved by allowing all groups to develop without sacrificing unity. As Santoso (2021) points out in *Pancasila and Social Integration: Building Unity in Diversity*, Pancasila is a means to maintain harmony in a highly diverse society. By fostering dialogue, mutual understanding, and respect, Pancasila helps overcome potential divisions arising from differences.

Pancasila also builds collective awareness of the importance of preserving unity and integration, even as Indonesia faces complex social, political, and economic challenges. Its values serve as a guide for building strong social resilience. Ultimately, Pancasila is the foundation for realizing national integration, uniting Indonesia's diverse ethnic, religious, cultural, and linguistic components into one whole and harmonious nation.

### **Pancasila Education in Strengthening Nationality**

Pancasila education plays a highly strategic role in reinforcing Indonesia's sense of nationhood. As the foundation of the state, Pancasila is not only an ideology but also a way of life that embodies noble values uniting Indonesians from diverse backgrounds. In this context, Pancasila education functions as a tool to instill national values, strengthen unity, and shape quality national character. It also fosters patriotism and nationalism. The third principle, "The Unity of Indonesia," teaches that despite Indonesia's diversity, all citizens belong to one nation. Through Pancasila education, students and young people learn to be proud Indonesians and to protect and nurture the unity of the state. This education encourages younger generations to recognize the importance of safeguarding the nation's integrity and sovereignty. Healthy nationalism strengthens the sense of nationality and guards against divisive tendencies such as radicalism and intolerance. For this reason, education plays a critical role in ensuring the sustainability of Pancasila's values. It must be instilled from an early age so that future generations can understand and practice Pancasila in everyday life. Pancasila education rooted in nationalism, tolerance, and solidarity is key to preserving national integration and cultivating patriotism.

### **Challenges to Pancasila in Strengthening National Integration**

Despite its proven role in maintaining national integration, Pancasila faces significant challenges in practice. One of the main issues is the rise of intolerance and radicalization, which threatens social cohesion. Under the freedoms of expression and association, some groups prioritize narrow interests that risk fragmenting the nation. This underlines the need for all levels of society to return to Pancasila as a shared guide for coexistence.

Another challenge is social and economic inequality, which can weaken integration. Persistent disparities in certain regions may spark tensions between groups. In this regard, Pancasila's fifth principle—emphasizing social justice—offers direction for more equitable development across Indonesia.

## CONCLUSION

Pancasila is not merely an ideology but also a profound state identity that forms the foundation of Indonesian nationalism and national integration. As a pillar of nationality, Pancasila serves as a guide to unite the diverse elements of society. It teaches the importance of respecting differences and building unity within diversity. Amid the challenges of globalization, Pancasila remains relevant in safeguarding social resilience and strengthening national integration. Therefore, every Indonesian citizen is expected to practice the values of Pancasila in daily life as part of a solid national identity.

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