

Strengthening the Foundations of Nationalism in the Digital Era: Threats, Challenges, and Indonesia's Strategy Towards 2045

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Abstract

The development of the digital era has had a significant impact on Indonesia's social, economic, and national defense structures. Digitalization has accelerated the flow of information while simultaneously introducing a new spectrum of threats, from disinformation and cyberwarfare to ideological infiltration that have the potential to undermine the foundations of the nation. In the context of moving towards a Golden Indonesia 2045, an adaptive defense strategy is needed, particularly in the land defense dimension as the vanguard of the overall defense system. This study aims to analyze strategic threats and challenges in the digital era and formulate a relevant land defense strategy to strengthen national resilience and national identity. The method used is a descriptive qualitative approach with an analysis of strategic literature and national defense policy. The study results indicate that land defense plays a crucial role in maintaining territorial stability, strengthening nationalist values, and empowering communities as reserve and support components. The land defense strategy needs to be directed at three main aspects: (1) digital transformation in the command and control system; (2) increasing personnel capacity through digital literacy and ideological awareness; and (3) strengthening synergy between the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI), regional governments, and the community in maintaining land sovereignty amidst global dynamics. Thus, strengthening the foundations of nationalism in the digital era depends not only on technological advancements but also on a robust, intelligent land defense preparedness rooted in national values. This approach provides a strategic foundation for Indonesia in facing complex threats toward its ambitious vision of Golden Indonesia 2045.

Keywords: Strategy, Digital Era, Nationalism, Land Defense, Golden Indonesia, Indonesia 2045, AGHT.



A. INTRODUCTION

The development of information and communication technology (ICT) over the past two decades has brought about significant changes in all aspects of global life. Digitalization is now a major force transforming the way people interact, work, learn, engage in politics, and even build national identity. An increasingly connected world through the internet presents significant opportunities for national progress, while simultaneously posing serious threats to national stability and sovereignty. The digital era not only influences patterns of social, economic, and cultural interaction but also introduces new dimensions to geopolitical dynamics and national security. Cyberspace has become an arena for power struggles, where information can be used as a strategic weapon to undermine national stability (Patmi et al., 2017).

For Indonesia, one of the largest countries with over 215 million internet users (APJII, 2023), Indonesia has become one of the countries with the largest digital

populations in the world. Digital transformation is driving accelerated national economic growth through the development of the creative economy, e-commerce, and technological innovation. Digitalization also expands access to education, increases public political participation, and improves the effectiveness of government bureaucracy. All of these factors are crucial for Indonesia's pursuit of its Golden Indonesia 2045 vision.

However, reliance on digital technology opens up new opportunities for the emergence of complex non-military threats. High levels of digital activity make Indonesians vulnerable to cyberattacks, the spread of disinformation, and transnational ideological infiltration. These threats include cyberattacks on critical infrastructure, personal data theft, the spread of hoaxes and disinformation, transnational ideological infiltration, and even social polarization that has the potential to erode national unity (Nugroho, 2020). This phenomenon is further exacerbated by the low level of digital literacy among some citizens, which makes them vulnerable to information manipulation.

Digital threats also have a geopolitical dimension. Global actors often exploit cyberspace as an instrument of proxy warfare, creating narratives that undermine public trust in the government, fueling horizontal conflict, and even designing balkanization scenarios to undermine Indonesian sovereignty (Tambunan, 2021). These incidents demonstrate that cyberspace now plays a significant role in escalating domestic socio-political tensions. This situation also emphasizes that national defense can no longer rely solely on military strength.

Threats in the digital era are multidimensional, operating subtly through algorithms, data, and narratives. The concept of national resilience based on *Astagatra*, which encompasses ideological, political, economic, socio-cultural, defense, and security aspects, must now be expanded to include technological and cyber dimensions (Lemhannas RI, 2019). The urgency of this issue is evident in several current phenomena. First, the increase in cyberattacks on critical national infrastructure—such as the financial, transportation, and energy systems—has the potential to paralyze public services and national security (Nugroho, 2020). Second, the rapid flow of hoaxes, hate speech, and digital propaganda, which can trigger political polarization and horizontal conflict.

In parallel with this, Indonesia is also entering a demographic bonus phase, which will peak in 2045. The younger generation, as digital natives, has extraordinary potential as a driving force for national development, but is also the group most vulnerable to digital manipulation, online radicalization, and the degradation of national values (Pratama & Susilawati, 2023). Without digital literacy and ideological awareness, the demographic bonus opportunity could turn into a demographic threat. Indonesia's challenges are further complicated by the demographic bonus phenomenon. It is estimated that by 2045, the population of productive age will reach its peak (Pratama & Susilawati, 2023).

Therefore, the urgency of this paper lies in the need to strengthen the foundations of nationalism in the digital era. National resilience can no longer rely

solely on military aspects but must also incorporate technological, cyber, and information dimensions (Lemhannas RI, 2019). Digital literacy is a key bulwark against foreign propaganda, strengthening national identity, and maintaining unity amidst the rapid flow of globalization. Without measurable strategic steps, Indonesia risks the erosion of digital sovereignty, weakened social cohesion, and the loss of global competitiveness. Based on the issues outlined in the background above, it can be argued that strengthening the foundations of nationalism in the digital era is a strategic agenda that cannot be postponed. This effort requires a comprehensive approach involving the use of technology, strengthened regulations, and broad public participation. Digital literacy, in this context, must be positioned as a bulwark of national defense and social capital to strengthen national unity and competitiveness toward Indonesia Emas 2045.

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

1. National Resilience

National resilience is a strategic concept used to describe a nation's ability to maintain its survival and existence amidst various threats. According to the Indonesian National Resilience Institute (Lemhannas RI) (2019), national resilience is a dynamic state of a nation characterized by tenacity and resilience in facing all forms of threats, challenges, obstacles, and disruptions (ATHG). This concept is outlined in the Astagatra framework, which encompasses Trigatra (natural aspects: geography, demography, natural resources) and Pancagatra (social aspects: ideology, politics, economics, socio-culture, and defense and security). From an academic perspective, national resilience is often equated with the terms national resilience or comprehensive security. According to Wiranto (2002), Indonesia's national resilience has two main dimensions: the internal dimension, which is the strength derived from the nation's own ability to maintain integration, ideology, and the well-being of its people. The external dimension, which is the nation's ability to face the influence of globalization, foreign intervention, and international geopolitical dynamics.

Meanwhile, Pranowo (2010) emphasized that national resilience extends beyond military defense, encompassing ideological, economic, political, socio-cultural, and science and technology resilience. In the digital era, the science and technology (science and technology) and cyber dimensions need to be viewed as new elements of national resilience, as modern threats are no longer conventional. Hidayat (2025) stated that cyberattacks, data misuse, and disinformation are forms of non-military threats that can erode national sovereignty. Therefore, national resilience must be viewed as a comprehensive, integral, and dynamic system encompassing both physical and non-physical defenses.

2. Information Warfare and Propaganda

Information warfare is an unconventional conflict that uses information as a strategic weapon to influence public opinion and behavior, and even undermine state

legitimacy. Its primary instrument is propaganda, which has been used extensively to sway public opinion since World War I (Lasswell, 1927).

Early propaganda theory emphasized a linear communication model and stimulus-response, with a focus on mass emotions. Herman & Chomsky (1988) later studied its development through the manufacturing consent model, which shows how the media is controlled by political-economic interests. Gramsci (1971) added the dimension of hegemony, where ideological dominance is established through narratives that permeate everyday life.

In the digital era, the phenomenon of computational propaganda has emerged (Woolley & Howard, 2016), namely the use of algorithms, bots, big data, and AI to disseminate political messages massively and precisely. Libicki (2007) expanded information warfare into six dimensions, including psychological, media, and cyber warfare. A concrete example of this is seen in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, where disinformation became part of military strategy (Rid, 2020). In the Indonesian context, digital propaganda through hoaxes, hate speech, and provocative narratives has been shown to strengthen political polarization and undermine public trust in state institutions (Bradshaw & Howard, 2019).

3. Digital Literacy and Digital Native

The concept of digital literacy emerged in response to developments in information technology that have transformed the way humans interact, work, and access information. According to Gilster (1997), digital literacy is not just technical skills in operating computers or digital devices, but also encompasses critical thinking, information evaluation, and the ability to communicate ethically in the digital space. UNESCO (2018) later expanded this concept by emphasizing digital literacy as a subset of digital literacy encompassing technical (using devices), cognitive (analyzing information), and socio-emotional (interacting healthily online) dimensions.

In the information age, digital literacy is a key asset for society, especially the younger generation, to not only survive the onslaught of disinformation but also contribute to building a healthy, inclusive digital civilization that supports national unity. The term digital native was first introduced by Marc Prensky (2001) in his article, "Digital Natives, Digital Immigrants." He uses this term to describe a generation born and raised in a digital environment, so that the use of technology has become a natural part of their lives. Digital natives tend to think faster, are accustomed to multitasking, and have a preference for visual and interactive learning. However, Prensky's views are not without criticism. Livingstone and Helsper (2007) in *New Media & Society* emphasized that although the younger generation is familiar with technology, not all have an adequate level of digital literacy. They proposed the concept of gradations in digital inclusion, namely that young people's digital skills vary greatly, influenced by social, economic, educational, and access factors.

C. METHOD

This research uses a qualitative method with a descriptive-analytical approach, aiming to describe and analyze in-depth the threats, challenges, and strategies for strengthening the foundations of Indonesian nationalism in the digital era toward Golden Indonesia 2045. This approach was chosen because it provides a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of nationalism evolving with advances in digital technology, including issues of disinformation, digital radicalism, cyberwarfare, and challenges in maintaining national unity and identity. The research focuses on the state's efforts to respond to these challenges through the framework of national resilience and defense (Sugiyono, 2016).

The data sources in this study are secondary data collected through library research, analyzing strategic literature and national defense policies. Data were obtained from official government documents such as laws, presidential regulations, the Defense White Paper, the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJPN), the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN), and the Indonesia Vision 2045 document. These data were supplemented by scientific journals, books, research reports, and strategic studies from defense institutions and think tanks. The collected data were analyzed descriptively and qualitatively by examining the content of policies and literature to identify patterns of threats, challenges to nationalism, and strategies for strengthening the foundations of nationalism relevant to the context of the digital era.

D. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. The Role of Technology in Strengthening National Unity

Digital technology in the information age holds a strategic position as an instrument for national unity. With internet users in Indonesia reaching more than 215 million (APJII, 2023), the digital space has become a new arena for people to interact, express their identities, and build national solidarity. If utilized appropriately, technology can be a medium for strengthening national integration amidst the geographic, ethnic, cultural, and religious diversity that characterizes Indonesia.

Conceptually, the role of technology in strengthening national unity can be understood through the framework of national resilience. Lemhannas RI (2019) explains that national resilience encompasses ideological, political, economic, socio-cultural, defense, and security dimensions. Within the ideological dimension, digital technology can be utilized as an effective means to disseminate and instill the values of Pancasila and the spirit of nationalism among all levels of society. Social media, video platforms, and educational applications enable the internalization of state ideology in a more creative, interactive, and relevant manner to the characteristics of the digital generation. Engagingly packaged national content can act as a deterrent against the influx of transnational ideologies, radicalism, and intolerant ideologies, which also widely circulate in the digital space.

Politically, digital technology opens up a more inclusive and transparent space for public participation. The public can easily access policy information, express their aspirations, and engage in public discussions through digital platforms. This

contributes to strengthening democracy and public trust in state institutions. However, the use of political technology also requires adequate digital literacy to prevent the public from being easily influenced by hoaxes, hate speech, and information manipulation that have the potential to divide national unity.

Economically, digital technology plays a role in strengthening national economic resilience through the development of the digital economy, online-based MSMEs, and equitable market access. Digital platforms enable businesses from various regions to market local products nationally and even globally, thereby promoting economic independence and reducing disparities between regions. Strong economic resilience ultimately contributes to national stability and strengthens national unity.

Furthermore, socio-culturally, digital technology is a crucial tool for preserving, documenting, and promoting local wisdom and regional culture. Through digital media, Indonesia's rich cultural heritage, such as traditional dances, regional languages, customs, and culinary delights, can be widely recognized, both domestically and internationally. This not only strengthens national identity but also fosters a sense of pride and solidarity among citizens within a framework of diversity.

In the defense dimension, information and communication technology plays a role in enhancing national defense preparedness and capabilities. The use of digital technology supports the strengthening of cyber defense systems, strategic information management, and increased public awareness of national defense. Defense education and national insight delivered through digital platforms can broaden public understanding of the importance of maintaining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia.

Finally, in the security dimension, digital technology plays a dual role, offering both opportunities and challenges. On the one hand, technology enables the strengthening of national security systems through cyber surveillance, early threat detection, and inter-agency coordination. On the other hand, the emergence of non-military security threats such as cybercrime, the spread of hoaxes, and information warfare demands a comprehensive digital security strategy. Therefore, strengthening digital literacy and cybersecurity governance is crucial for maintaining national resilience and national unity in the digital era.

In the digital context, these six dimensions are interconnected through information technology. For example, in the ideological dimension, technology can be used to disseminate the values of Pancasila through social media platforms; in the political dimension, technology enables more inclusive public participation; and in the socio-cultural dimension, technology becomes a means of preserving and promoting local wisdom globally.

Thus, digital technology can strengthen the Astagatra principles of national resilience if directed towards the interests of national unity. UNESCO (2018) even affirmed digital literacy as a crucial 21st-century competency, encompassing the ability to access, understand, evaluate, and produce information ethically. High digital literacy enables Indonesians to use technology to strengthen social cohesion

and prevent divisions caused by hoaxes or disinformation. Siregar (2020) added that digital literacy functions as a filter against negative propaganda, thus serving as a bulwark of unity in an era of information overload.

2. Strategies for Facing Potentially Disruptive Global Issues

As a framework for national resilience, Lemhannas RI (2019) emphasizes that every nation requires tenacity and resilience to face threats, challenges, obstacles, and disruptions (ATHG). Therefore, Indonesia's national resilience is based on the Astagatra concept, which emphasizes the balance between natural (Trigatra) and social (Pancagatra) factors. Potentially divisive global issues, such as disinformation or geopolitical conflict, can impact all of these factors. Therefore, the strategy adopted cannot be partial but must be integrated.

One of the most prominent global issues is information warfare and digital propaganda. Rid (2020) shows how modern propaganda was used in the Russia–Ukraine conflict to undermine state legitimacy and divide public opinion. In Indonesia, similar threats emerge through hoaxes, hate speech, and social media manipulation, which can erode public trust in the government and democratic institutions (Bradshaw & Howard, 2019). Strategies to address this include improving public digital literacy (UNESCO, 2018; Siregar, 2020), strengthening media regulation, and developing early detection mechanisms for disinformation.

Besides propaganda, other divisive global issues include economic inequality and global competition (Kartikaningrum, Timur, & Dohamid, 2025). Singh (2013) emphasized that the concept of comprehensive security in Southeast Asia extends beyond military concerns to encompass food, energy, economic, and cultural security. In the Indonesian context, socioeconomic inequality can be exploited by global actors to spread separatist or radical narratives. The strategy is to strengthen national economic resilience through equitable development, strengthening the digital economy, and financial inclusion.

The ideological dimension is also crucial. Globalization facilitates the infiltration of transnational ideologies that conflict with Pancasila. Herman and Chomsky (1988) demonstrated how global media plays a role in shaping opinion according to specific ideological interests.

To address this threat, Indonesia needs to strengthen ideological resilience by instilling the values of Pancasila through formal and non-formal education, as well as digital technology-based national campaigns (Wiranto, 2002; Soedarsono, 2015). From an international perspective, NATO (2020) emphasizes the importance of resilience as an element of collective defense. Resilience is not only the ability to survive military attacks, but also non-military attacks such as propaganda, cyber attacks, and economic crises. This principle is relevant for Indonesia, which needs to develop national cyber resilience to address global threats in the digital space. Strategies for addressing global issues must also involve the younger generation as digital natives. Prensky (2001) calls them the generation most familiar with technology, but Livingstone and Helsper (2007) caution that digital skills do not always equate to critical thinking. Therefore,

the younger generation must be equipped with digital literacy, media ethics, and an understanding of nationalism to become agents of the nation's ideological defense in cyberspace.

Table 1. Strategies to Counter Global Threats in the Digital Era

s	Potential Global Threats	National Strategy
Ideology	Infiltrasi ideologi transnasional, radikalisme digital	Strengthening Pancasila education, digital national campaigns, spreading the narrative of unity through social media
Politics	Foreign intervention in democracy, social media manipulation	Digital political transparency, media regulation, foreign intervention oversight
Economics	Global inequality, foreign economic dependence	Strengthening food and energy security, inclusive digital economy, equitable development
Socio-Cultural	Global cultural dominance, weakening of national identity	Promotion of technology-based local wisdom, production of national content, digital cultural literacy
Defense	Hybrid threats: military, cyber, psyops	Cyber national defense, TNI-people synergy, universal-based territorial defense
Security	Terrorism, cybercrime, transnational crime	Strengthening BSSN & intelligence, TNI-Polri-civilian coordination, protecting the public from global threats

3. Improving Digital Literacy to Counter Negative Propaganda

As discussed in the previous subchapter, the development of information technology in the digital era has dual consequences: on the one hand, it provides significant opportunities for innovation, economic growth, and social participation, but on the other, it opens up vast space for the spread of negative propaganda. Propaganda, once limited to print media or radio broadcasts, has now evolved into digital propaganda that spreads rapidly through social media, algorithms, and search engines. This situation creates serious challenges for national resilience because it can erode public trust, divide society, and weaken state legitimacy (Kartikaningrum et al., 2025).

To address these challenges, digital literacy has become a strategic instrument. Gilster (1997) first introduced the term digital literacy as the ability to understand and use information from various digital sources. UNESCO (2018) expanded this concept by emphasizing four key competencies: access, analysis, evaluation, and ethical creation of information. In the Indonesian context, digital literacy is not only crucial for avoiding hoaxes but also serves as a national defense against negative propaganda

that has the potential to divide unity.

Woolley and Howard (2016) refer to this phenomenon as computational propaganda, which involves the use of bots, fake accounts, and automation to spread political or ideological messages. In the Indonesian context, this type of propaganda is evident in the spread of political hoaxes, hate speech based on ethnicity, religion, race, and intergroup relations (SARA), and the manipulation of sensitive issues to polarize society.

Rid (2020) further added that modern propaganda is not only political in nature but also part of a global information warfare strategy. This demonstrates that negative propaganda is not merely a communication disruption but a systemic threat that can weaken national resilience. To counter negative propaganda, digital literacy must be instilled widely in society, especially among the younger generation, who are digital natives (Prensky, 2001).

They are the largest internet users, yet also the most vulnerable to information manipulation. Livingstone and Helsper (2007) caution that high technological access does not always equate to critical skills in sorting information. Therefore, digital literacy programs in Indonesia must focus not only on technical skills but also on critical analysis skills, digital ethics, and ideological awareness.

Efforts to improve digital literacy in Indonesia have been implemented through various programs. The National Digital Literacy Movement (Siberkreasi), initiated by the Ministry of Communication and Informatics, is one important initiative. This program emphasizes four main pillars: digital ethics, digital culture, digital skills, and digital security. These four pillars are relevant to the national resilience framework because they address ideological (digital culture), social (digital ethics), defense (digital security), and economic (digital skills) aspects. In other words, digital literacy can be the foundation for strengthening the Astagatra (the pillars of national resilience) in the information age.

A concrete example of digital literacy's success in stemming negative propaganda can be seen in the public response to hoaxes related to the Covid-19 pandemic. At the beginning of the pandemic, widespread disinformation regarding vaccines and global conspiracies circulated. However, through collaboration between the government, civil society, and the media, public digital literacy increased, enabling these hoaxes to be countered with data- and science-based narratives. This case demonstrates that digital literacy is not merely an academic concept but a concrete strategy for countering global propaganda.

Furthermore, digital literacy must be supported by state regulations and technological infrastructure. The OECD (2021) emphasizes that digital literacy will be effective if supported by an education ecosystem, adequate regulations, and cross-sector collaboration. In the Indonesian context, regulations related to data protection, hoax prevention, and cybersecurity must be strengthened. This aligns with the concept of comprehensive security (Singh, 2013), which emphasizes that national resilience encompasses non-military dimensions such as information and culture.

Therefore, improving digital literacy is not merely a preventative measure

against hoaxes but also a strategic strategy for maintaining national unity. Digital literacy equips the public with critical skills to recognize negative propaganda, strengthens Pancasila-based ideological identity, and builds social resilience against global threats. If implemented consistently through education, regulations, and public participation, digital literacy can become a key pillar of Indonesia's national resilience in the information age.

The implementation of digital literacy in Indonesia has highly strategic long-term prospects.

- a. From a demographic perspective, Indonesia is heading towards a demographic bonus by 2035, where the majority of the productive population will be the younger generation, classified as digital natives (Prensky, 2001).
- b. From a national development perspective, digital literacy aligns with the Making Indonesia 4.0 agenda and the Golden Indonesia Vision 2045. OECD (2021)
- c. From a national resilience perspective, digital literacy serves a dual function: as a defensive instrument (preventing the influence of propaganda, disinformation, and radicalism), and as an offensive instrument (creating positive narratives, promoting national identity, and influencing global public opinion). This is consistent with the concept of resilience in modern defense doctrine (NATO, 2020), which emphasizes the nation's ability to adapt and survive unconventional attacks.
- d. From a policy implementation perspective, digital literacy can be a cross-ministerial and institutional program, not just the Ministry of Communication and Information. The Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology (Kemendikbudristek) can incorporate Pancasila-based digital literacy into the school curriculum; the Ministry of Defense can integrate it with the Cyber National Defense program; Meanwhile, civil society and the private sector can contribute through creative digital campaigns.

However, to ensure sustainability, several prerequisites are needed. First, adaptive regulations that keep pace with technological developments are needed, such as regulations on artificial intelligence, big data, and personal data protection. Second, equitable digital infrastructure is needed, especially in 3T (frontier, outermost, and disadvantaged) areas, so that digital literacy is not concentrated solely in large cities. Third, multi-stakeholder collaboration is needed involving the government, academia, the private sector, the media, and civil society communities.

By meeting these prerequisites, digital literacy can become a sustainable long-term strategy. It serves not only as an effort to counter negative propaganda but also as strategic capital for the nation towards Indonesia Emas 2045. In this context, digital literacy is not just a skill, but also the ideological, social, and defense foundation of the nation in the era of information globalization..

4. The Role of the Younger Generation in Maintaining the Integrity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia

The younger generation occupies a strategic position in maintaining the integrity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI), especially in the digital era marked by the accelerated flow of global information. With a population of productive age dominating Indonesia's demographic composition, the younger generation is not only a development asset but also a bulwark of the nation's ideological and social defense. The concept of digital natives, introduced by Prensky (2001), describes the younger generation as a group born and raised alongside digital technology. They possess adaptive advantages in mastering information technology, but at the same time, they also face vulnerabilities to propaganda and disinformation. Livingstone and Helsper (2007) emphasize that high technological access is not always accompanied by critical skills, placing the younger generation at risk of becoming easy targets for transnational ideological infiltration and social media-based political manipulation.

From a national resilience perspective, Lemhannas RI (2019) explains that national integrity can be maintained if all aspects (ideology, politics, economics, socio-culture, defense, and security) are strengthened in an integrated manner. Within this framework, the younger generation can play a role in various dimensions. Ideologically, they serve as agents for the dissemination of Pancasila values in the digital space. Politically, they act as transparent monitors of digital democracy. Economically, the younger generation contributes to the development of the creative and digital economies. Socio-culturally, they preserve and modernize local culture to ensure its competitiveness on the global stage. In defense and security, the younger generation can participate in cyber defense and maintain information security.

The involvement of the younger generation must also be viewed within the framework of the Total People's Defense and Security System (Sishankamrata). Indonesia's main advantage in this context is its demographic bonus. According to Bappenas, Indonesia's demographic bonus will peak between 2020 and 2035, when the population of productive age will far outnumber the non-productive age. This situation represents a strategic opportunity that can become a driving force for national development if managed properly. In the context of national resilience, the demographic bonus provides an advantage because the dominant young generation can serve as human capital to support ideological, political, economic, socio-cultural, defense, and security strengths.

With the largest number of internet users coming from the productive age group (APJII, 2023), Indonesia's young generation has the capacity to be at the forefront of the nation's digital defense. The advantages of the demographic bonus lie not only in quantity but also in quality. If the younger generation is equipped with digital literacy, 21st-century skills, and an understanding of the Pancasila ideology, they can become agents of change that strengthen national unity. The OECD (2021) emphasizes that the quality of digitally literate human resources will determine a country's competitiveness amidst global competition. This means that Indonesia's

demographic advantage can be transformed into a competitive advantage as well as a strategic advantage in maintaining the integrity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI).

In practice, the role of the younger generation in maintaining the integrity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI) can be realized in several ways. First, by becoming producers of positive content in the digital space. Jenkins (2009), through the concept of participatory culture, emphasized that the younger generation is capable of creating counter-narratives that strengthen social solidarity and nationalism. Second, by becoming agents of digital literacy in their respective communities. Siregar (2020) emphasized that digital literacy can stem the spread of hoaxes if implemented collectively. Third, by becoming drivers of national solidarity in addressing national issues.

However, for the younger generation to optimally maintain the integrity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, several challenges must be addressed. First, the uneven distribution of digital literacy in Indonesia, particularly between cities and the 3T (frontier and outermost) regions. Second, exposure to global culture has the potential to weaken national identity if not balanced with the promotion of local culture. Third, global political uncertainty opens up greater space for ideological infiltration through digital propaganda. These challenges must be anticipated through policy strategies that actively involve the younger generation in the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of national policies.

Thus, the role of the younger generation in safeguarding the integrity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI) is not merely reactive to threats, but also proactive in building a strong national foundation in the digital age. They must be viewed not merely as objects of development, but as key subjects determining the direction of Indonesia's future. Through strengthening digital literacy, internalizing the Pancasila ideology, utilizing the demographic bonus, and actively participating in national development, the younger generation can be at the forefront of strengthening national resilience and realizing Indonesia Emas 2045..

E. CONCLUSION

The digital era has brought significant changes to Indonesia, opening up opportunities for social, economic, political, and cultural interactions, while simultaneously presenting threats such as disinformation, propaganda, ideological radicalization, and the infiltration of global interests. Technology is inherently neutral; if properly managed, it can strengthen national unity through the dissemination of Pancasila values, digital democracy, the creative economy, and the promotion of local culture. Global threats are multidimensional, necessitating a comprehensive IPOLEKSOSBUDHANKAM strategy: strengthening Pancasila ideology, digital democratic governance, economic resilience, promoting national identity, and overall defense against cyber and psychological threats. Digital literacy is a key pillar, serving as a bulwark against hoaxes and propaganda as well as a tool for building a national narrative. The younger generation, as digital natives, plays a central role in

maintaining national integrity, but must be equipped with digital skills, ideological literacy, and a space for participation. Therefore, strengthening the foundations of nationalism in the digital era can only be achieved through the synergy of four pillars: technology, a comprehensive national strategy, digital literacy, and youth empowerment. If integrated, Indonesia can make the digital era a momentum to strengthen national unity and achieve the vision of Golden Indonesia 2045. Based on the results of the study, there are several strategic recommendations that can be used as a reference to strengthen the foundation of Indonesian nationality in the digital era, divided into Short Term (1-3 Years), Medium Term (4-10 Years), and Long Term (10-25 Years).

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