

Constitutional Law and the Integrity of the Republic of Indonesia: An Integrative Framework for Constitutional Supremacy, Decentralization, and State Defense

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Abstract: The integrity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI) is increasingly confronted by multidimensional constitutional challenges, including radicalism, globalization, regulatory disharmony, economic inequality, and weak central-regional coordination. These developments demonstrate that threats to national integrity are no longer merely territorial but have evolved into complex constitutional issues requiring adaptive legal responses. This study aims to analyze the strategic role of Constitutional Law in maintaining the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia and to formulate an integrative constitutional framework capable of addressing contemporary challenges. Employing a normative juridical method with statutory, conceptual, and comparative approaches, this research examines constitutional provisions, legislation, legal doctrines, and relevant scholarly works concerning constitutional supremacy, decentralization, and state defense. The findings reveal that the effectiveness of Constitutional Law is determined by the successful integration of three constitutional pillars: constitutional supremacy, decentralized governance, and state defense. Furthermore, this study identifies the absence of a comprehensive constitutional model linking these elements within the Indonesian legal system, resulting in fragmented policy implementation and reduced constitutional effectiveness. The novelty of this research lies in proposing a constitutional reconstruction model that positions constitutional supremacy, decentralization, and state defense as interconnected instruments for strengthening national resilience and preserving state integrity. Accordingly, Constitutional Law should be understood as a dynamic and adaptive constitutional instrument capable of safeguarding sovereignty, reinforcing social cohesion, and ensuring the sustainability of the Republic of Indonesia amidst contemporary constitutional developments.

Keywords: Constitutional Law; National Integrity; Constitutional Supremacy; Decentralization; State Defense

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1. Introduction

The Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI) is a manifestation of the diversity united by the ideology of Pancasila as a national ideology and the philosophical foundation and unifier of the nation (Nasoha, Atqiya, Pratiwi, dkk., 2024). The Indonesian Nation's View of Life has been formulated in a compact manner in the form of a series of five precepts called Pancasila. Pancasila was deliberately placed in the preamble to the 1945 Constitution as the basis of the underlying philosophy and animating the preparation of the provisions contained in the constitution.

Thus, Pancasila underlies and (should) animate state life in Indonesia. Therefore, the preparation and implementation of the Legal System in Indonesia since the enactment of the 1945 Constitution must be based and imbued with Pancasila (Humas Kemenko Polkam RI, 2025). However, as an archipelagic country with multicultural characteristics that includes various ethnicities, religions, and cultures, Indonesia faces complex challenges in maintaining territorial integrity and national unity (Hasan dkk., 2024). Nasoha, Atqiya, Saputra, et al., (2024) emphasized that a nation will stand strong if it has a strong ideology as a unifier, glue, and binder for the unity and unity of the nation and state.

In the context of the constitution, Indonesia has experienced four different constitutional periods since independence. Harijanti (2017) notes that the 1945 Constitution (1945 Constitution) serves as the main legal basis that regulates the relationship between the people and the government, and affirms the position of Pancasila as the highest source of law for the Indonesian legal state. The preamble to the 1945 Constitution which contains Pancasila affirms its position as the highest source of law in the Indonesian legal system. This is strengthened by Pelokilla (2023) who stated that the position of the preamble to the 1945 Constitution is the highest source of law for the Indonesian legal state.

In recent years, Indonesia has experienced increasing challenges to constitutional stability, including the rise of digital radicalism, regulatory disharmony between central and regional governments, transnational crimes, and social polarization exacerbated by technological developments. These phenomena indicate that threats to national integrity are no longer merely territorial but have transformed into multidimensional constitutional challenges requiring adaptive legal responses (Mahanani, 2019).

However, the challenge to the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia is now increasingly complex and multidimensional. Agustina (2022) identifies the emergence of radical movements that seek to replace Pancasila as the basis of the state, as well as the increase in intolerance as a serious threat. Then, Nasution (2020) added that territorial claims from neighboring countries to Indonesia's outermost islands, as happened in the cases of Sipadan and Ligitan, are clear evidence of the importance of effective management and protection of territorial areas.

In this study, constitutional law theories about sovereignty and decentralization are used to understand the application of law in strengthening central-regional relations and maintaining state stability (Mahanani, 2019). Concepts of decentralization, deconcentration, and assistance tasks are used as an approach to understand how the regional autonomy system acts as a shield against threats that can undermine national integration (Ramawati et al., 2025). The essence of decentralization is "solving local problems, in a local way, and by local people". Through decentralization, more people either directly or through their representatives in parliament are involved in the process of formulating, implementing and evaluating public policies for the benefit of the community (Wasistiono & Yonatan, 2009: 6; Anajeng, 2019). In this way, the people will feel more like they belong to the state or region because they are actively involved from the beginning, especially in formulating public policies that concern their interests. Another theory applied is the concept of "*defending the country*" which is based on Law Number 3 of 2002 concerning State Defense, which underlines the importance of community involvement in defending the Republic of Indonesia through national awareness and love for the homeland (Toni A., 2023).

Although many studies have highlighted the importance of constitutional law in maintaining the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia, there are still gaps in the implementation of optimal decentralization policies and the strengthening of legal structures related to domestic security threats. For example, although there are regulations on state defense, their implementation is still limited and not comprehensive in all provinces, especially in areas that are vulnerable to external influences (Ramawati et al., 2025). In addition, the effectiveness of regional and international cooperation in the field of law enforcement established by Indonesia is often inadequate to deal with various transnational law violations that have implications for national security (Anas Y., 2023). Therefore, this research offers a strategic solution in the form of the formulation of constitutional law policies that strengthen the function of state defense and decentralization as an instrument to protect the Republic of Indonesia.

Previous research highlights that the era of globalization brings its own challenges to the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia. Zainudin et al., (2024) observed that technological and information developments bring significant changes in people's lifestyles, which tend to adopt foreign cultures rather than maintaining local cultures. Then, Hasan et al., (2024) emphasized that the Republic of Indonesia is an ideal form of the Indonesian state

which is a consensus between religious and social groups to maintain the integrity of the nation in various aspects of life.

In addition, Kartika et al., (2023) emphasized that the 1945 Constitution expressly mandates Indonesia's autonomy with people's sovereignty and emphasizes the importance of decentralization and deconcentration. This is in line with the view of (Atqiya et al., 2024) who stated that the Indonesian state legal system is based on Pancasila as a philosophy that unites differences in customs, ethnicities, races, religions, and cultures to accommodate the legal interests of the community.

Previous studies generally focus on Pancasila as a national ideology, decentralization policy, and state defense separately. However, limited studies have comprehensively examined the interrelationship between constitutional supremacy, decentralization, and state defense as an integrated constitutional framework for maintaining the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia. Consequently, a significant scholarly gap remains regarding how constitutional law can function as a dynamic instrument in addressing contemporary multidimensional threats.

Based on the complexity of these problems, this study aims to analyze the strategic role of constitutional law in maintaining the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia, both from the normative and implementation aspects. Randy et al., (2023) emphasized that the main goal of the Republic of Indonesia is to maintain the sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as to protect it from threats, challenges, obstacles, and disturbances both from within and outside the country. In accordance with the main goal of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI) is to educate the life of the Indonesian nation (Sovereignty of the Indonesian People). The novelty of this research lies in the formulation of an integrative constitutional model that places constitutional supremacy, decentralization, and state defense as interconnected pillars in maintaining national integrity. Unlike previous studies that discuss these variables independently, this research develops a constitutional framework capable of responding to contemporary challenges, including globalization, regulatory fragmentation, and social disintegration in Indonesia.

Based on the foregoing discussion, this study seeks to answer two fundamental questions: (1) How does constitutional law function in maintaining the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia amid contemporary constitutional challenges? and (2) What constitutional reconstruction is required to strengthen the relationship between constitutional supremacy, decentralization, and state defense within the Indonesian legal system?

2. Method

This study employs a normative juridical research method with statutory, conceptual, and comparative approaches. Normative juridical research is selected because the focus of this study is not merely to describe legal phenomena, but to examine, analyze, and reconstruct legal norms governing Constitutional Law as an instrument for maintaining the integrity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI) (Hardani dkk., 2020; B. J. Nasution, 2016; Sugiyono, 2013). The statutory approach is utilized to identify and analyze the synchronization and consistency of legal norms contained in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government, Law Number 3 of 2002 concerning State Defense, and other relevant regulations concerning constitutional governance, decentralization, and national resilience. Meanwhile, the conceptual approach is employed to examine doctrines and theories of constitutional supremacy, sovereignty, decentralization, national integration, and state defense in order to formulate an ideal constitutional framework capable of responding to contemporary multidimensional challenges.

In addition, this study adopts a comparative approach by examining various constitutional perspectives and scholarly opinions concerning the relationship between constitutional law, regional autonomy, and the preservation of state integrity. This approach is intended to identify normative patterns and develop a comprehensive understanding of how constitutional systems can adapt to globalization, social disintegration,

and regulatory fragmentation. The legal materials used in this research consist of primary legal materials, including constitutional provisions and legislation; secondary legal materials, including books, journal articles, and legal doctrines; and tertiary legal materials, such as legal dictionaries and encyclopedias. All legal materials were collected through an extensive literature study and subsequently analyzed using prescriptive-analytical methods

The research method used in this article is normative juridical research with a statutory *approach* and a *conceptual approach*. This research focuses on the analysis of the legal norms that govern Constitutional Law as a constitutional instrument in maintaining the integrity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, by examining the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government, Law Number 3 of 2002 concerning State Defense, as well as various relevant legal regulations and doctrines. Primary, secondary, and tertiary legal materials are collected through literature studies, then analyzed prescriptively-analytically using legal interpretation techniques and legal *reasoning* to identify norm synchronization, find the ratio legis, and formulate the ideal legal construction in strengthening the implementation of Pancasila values, constitutional supremacy, and harmonization of central-regional relations. Thus, this study not only describes the applicable legal provisions, but also provides normative arguments regarding the urgency of Constitutional Law as the main foundation in maintaining the stability, sovereignty, and integrity of the Republic of Indonesia in the midst of global challenges, disintegration, and contemporary constitutional dynamics.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 *The Basic Concept of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI)*

The Proclamation of Indonesian Independence, August 17, 1945 was the beginning of the establishment of the Republic of Indonesia. The state of Indonesia was proclaimed by the nation's founders as a unitary state (Kompas.com, accessed on November 11, 2024). The state of Indonesia consists of a vast and scattered area with various customs, tribes, beliefs and cultures, it is the basic goal of becoming an independent, united, sovereign, just, and prosperous nation. Quoted from the website of the Ministry of Education and Culture (Kemendikbud), the form of the Indonesian state is a unitary state in the form of a Republic. The form of the state has been listed in the 1945 Constitution Article 1 Paragraph (1). *"The state of Indonesia is a unitary state, in the form of a republic"*. The Republic of Indonesia is a unitary state divided into regions, provinces, districts/cities. In accordance with the 1945 Constitution, Article 18 paragraph (1). *"The Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia is divided into provincial areas and the region is divided into districts and cities where each province, district and city has a local government, which is regulated by law"*. So that the state is organized based on the principle of people's sovereignty which is implemented democratically, which is formed through general elections (elections). It is contained in the 1945 Constitution article 1 paragraph (2). *"Sovereignty is in the hands of the people and is carried out according to the Constitution"*. Sovereignty in the hands of the people means that Indonesia adheres to a democratic system in running its government. In a democracy, the ultimate power is in the hands of the people.

The Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI) is a manifestation of diversity united by Pancasila as the national ideology and philosophical foundation of the Indonesian nation. Pancasila, which is enshrined in the preamble to the 1945 Constitution (1945 Constitution), is the basis for state administration and the constitutional foundation. As the highest source of law, Pancasila underlies the life of the nation and the state and animates the constitutional system applied in Indonesia (Nasoha et al., 2024; Langi, 2020; Hasan et al., 2024). As stated by Soediman Kartohadiprodjo (1965), the placement of Pancasila in the preamble to the 1945 Constitution is a manifestation of the nation's philosophy which is expected to maintain national unity in the midst of cultural, religious, and ethnic diversity.

In this context, research conducted by Iqbal et al., (2025) shows that the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia is highly dependent on strengthening ideologies that are able to glue the unity of the nation. Harijanti (2017) emphasized that the role of the 1945 Constitution as the main legal basis regulates the relationship between the people and the government, while affirming the position of Pancasila as the highest source of law. Therefore, the preparation and application of laws in Indonesia must be in line with the values of Pancasila, which aims to maintain national stability and strengthen the unity of the nation in the midst of the challenges of globalization (Nasoha, Atqiya, Saputra, dkk., 2024).

Pancasila as the basis of the state contains five precepts that are fundamental principles in the life of the nation and state, including divinity, humanity, unity, people, and social justice. These values serve as moral guidelines and basic norms for all Indonesian people in living their daily lives and interacting with each other (Nasoha, Atqiya, Saputra, dkk., 2024). Thus, Pancasila acts as a strong bond of unity in the midst of differences. The 1945 Constitution emphasizes that Pancasila is the highest source of law in Indonesia, and every preparation of laws and regulations must be consistent with these values.

In the history of the constitution, Indonesia has undergone several constitutional changes, but Pancasila remains consistent as the foundation of state life. This shows that despite changes in politics and government systems, Indonesia's national identity is still based on Pancasila. According to Huda (2016), Pancasila is not only the legal basis, but also the moral and social foundation that strengthens the integrity of the nation, by integrating various different elements of society into the framework of a unitary state.

The findings of this study demonstrate that the constitutional position of Pancasila extends beyond its symbolic role as a state ideology. Rather, Pancasila functions as a constitutional instrument that ensures the sustainability of national integration amidst contemporary constitutional challenges. This finding indicates that Constitutional Law in Indonesia possesses a dual function, namely regulating state institutions and safeguarding the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia.

As a constitutional foundation, the 1945 Constitution not only serves to regulate the relationship between the government and the people, but also provides protection for human rights and maintains social justice. As explained by Kartika et al., (2023), this constitution guarantees freedom and equal rights for all citizens, while affirming the state's obligation to maintain territorial integrity and national sovereignty. This is important in the face of various threats to unity, such as horizontal conflicts or separatism.

The application of the values of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution in the administration of the state is also realized through the principle of democracy that rests on the sovereignty of the people (Kamil dkk., 2023; Trisno dkk., 2024). In this context, people's sovereignty is implemented through a representative system, where state institutions such as the House of Representatives (DPR) and the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) have a central role in carrying out the functions of legislation, control, and representation of the community (Nugroho et al., 2023). The principle of people's sovereignty as stipulated in this constitution provides space for the public to actively participate in the democratic process, so that political decisions taken by the government reflect the aspirations of the people.

However, the application of Pancasila values and the 1945 Constitution in state life does not always run smoothly. Challenges such as corruption, intolerance, and regional disintegration are still real threats to be faced. Ramawati et al., (2025) noted that the success of maintaining the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia depends on the extent to which Pancasila values are internalized in people's lives and carried out by state leaders. Efforts to strengthen Pancasila as a living ideology need to continue to be carried out through education, socialization, and strengthening the legal system that upholds the principles of justice and unity.

3.2 Constitutional Law and the Indonesian Constitutional System

The terms Constitutional Law or HTN etymologically are “law”, “order”, and “state” which discuss the affairs of state structuring. Law is a set of rules or rules for behaving or behaving, and if violated, it is sanctioned (Tundjung H. S., 2020; Ali & Fatmawati, 2025). Law is a set of rules or rules for behaving or behaving, and if violated it is sanctioned. So, constitutional law is the branch of law that regulates the structure, function, and relationship between state institutions as well as the relationship between the state and individuals. It includes the basic principles that govern government and the fundamental rights of citizens, as well as regulating the state’s relationship with state institutions.

According to Wirjono Prodjodikoro, constitutional law regulates the relationship between the legal subject of a person or not a person and a group of people or legal entities that are in the form of a state or part of the state (Jimly A., 2006). There are several uses of constitutional law terminology in several languages, including: (a) English : constitutional law; (b) Prancis : constitutional law; (c) Italy : constitutional law; (d) German : verfassungsrecht; and (e) Netherlands : constitutional law

Indonesia’s constitutional system is based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution, which reflect national cultural values and the basic principles of the state. This system has undergone various changes, especially after the amendment of the 1945 Constitution in the reform era. Pancasila is the philosophical and ideological basis of the Indonesian legal and constitutional system. Pancasila is not only the basis for the formation of law, but also serves as a moral and spiritual guide in national development policies in the fields of law, economy, politics, and culture (Khudzaifah Dimiyati, 2021). The Indonesian legal system recognizes the existence of customary law and Islamic law, considering cultural diversity and the majority of the population is Muslim (Aldyan, 2023).

Indonesia’s constitutional law rests on the theory of sovereignty and decentralization that emphasizes the importance of the role of the people as the holders of supreme power in government or often called Democracy. Decentralization in Indonesia is manifested in the form of regional autonomy, which provides space for regions to regulate and manage their own government affairs in accordance with local conditions, although still within the framework of a strong Republic of Indonesia (Mahanani, 2019). This autonomy system is regulated in various laws and regulations, one of which is Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government, which stipulates the division of authority between the central and regional governments. This aims to increase the effectiveness of government and responsiveness to the needs of the local community (Ramawati et al., 2025).

Based on Article 1 Paragraph (2) of Law Number 23 of 2014, it is explained that: “Regional Government is the implementation of government affairs by local governments and regional people’s representative councils according to the principle of autonomy and assistance duties with the principle of autonomy as widely as possible in the system and principles of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia as referred to in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia.”

The regional autonomy system run by Indonesia is a tangible form of decentralization, this is in accordance with Article 1 Paragraph (3) of Law No. 23 of 2014 that “The Regional Government is the head of the region as an element of the Regional Government organizer who leads the implementation of government affairs that are the authority of the autonomous regions.” Then it is emphasized by Article 1 Paragraph (6) that “Regional Autonomy is the right, authority, and obligation of autonomous regions to regulate and manage their own Government Affairs and the interests of the local community in the system of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia.”

Research by Ramawati et al., (2025) shows that regional autonomy gives local governments the flexibility to manage their own affairs, but still within the framework of the Republic of Indonesia. This is expected to be able to strengthen national integrity and reduce the potential for disintegration in the midst of regional and local challenges that often occur, so the encouragement of State defense is needed. Defending the State is the determination, attitude, and behavior of citizens who are imbued with their love for the

Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia which based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution is willing to sacrifice to ensure the survival of the State. Efforts to defend the country are a form of defense that must be adjusted to current and future circumstances (Prasetyo et al., 2021). Defending the country is the effort of every citizen in defending the integrity of his country, where this situation is manifested by the attitude of love for the homeland and willingness to sacrifice (Yudi R. & Zaenal A. AS., 2018).

The concept of state defense, which is an integral part of Indonesian constitutional law, is regulated in Law Number 3 of 2002 concerning State Defense. This law affirms that defending the country is not only the responsibility of the military, but also the obligation of all citizens. Toni A. (2023) stated that community involvement in efforts to defend the country can be realized through national awareness, patriotism, and love for the homeland. Therefore, the application of the concept of national defense in the context of constitutional law aims to strengthen the unity and integrity of the Republic of Indonesia through the active involvement of all elements of society.

Unlike previous studies that primarily discuss Constitutional Law from an institutional perspective, this study finds that Constitutional Law in Indonesia performs multidimensional functions encompassing constitutional supremacy, decentralization, and national resilience. Consequently, Constitutional Law should be reconstructed as an integrative constitutional framework.

3.3 Contemporary Challenges to the Integrity of the Republic of Indonesia Radicals

Radicalism is a global phenomenon that continues to pose a serious challenge to the stability and security of society (Prasetyo dkk., 2022). This phenomenon is characterized by extreme views that want drastic change, sometimes even using violent means to achieve their goals (Qodir, Z., 2014).

The terms radicalism and radicalism are derived from the Latin “radix, radices”, meaning the root, source, or origin of radicals is the same as thorough, massive, hard, solid, and sharp. In the socio-political context, radicalism refers to an ideology or school that wants socio-political change through drastic means, even more likely to use violence (bkpsdmd.babelprov, 2018).

The challenges faced in maintaining the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia are inseparable from the influence of radical movements that have developed in various regions of Indonesia. This movement often tries to replace Pancasila as the basis of the state with other ideologies that are not in line with the agreed national principles. According to Budiman et al., (2022), radical movements that carry intolerance and extremism are a serious threat to the unity of the nation. Acts of violence and intolerance triggered by ideological differences threaten national stability and can weaken social ties in society. Therefore, concrete bright spots are needed, including strengthening the role of constitutional law and counseling Pancasila values, to overcome this threat. There are several problems that have the potential to be a challenge to the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia, namely the following:

a. Territorial Problems

In addition to ideological threats, territorial problems are another challenge to the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia. Territorial claims by neighboring countries over Indonesia's strategic areas, such as the cases of Sipadan and Ligitan, show how vulnerable Indonesia's territorial areas are to potential border conflicts (H. A. Nasution, 2020). Paul Huth adopts the broadest yet most appropriate definition: “a territorial dispute involves either a disagreement between the upper states over which their common homeland or colonial boundaries should be determined, or, more fundamentally, such disputes involve one state contesting over the right of another state even to exercise sovereignty over some or all of its homelands or colonial territories.” More precisely, it identifies a series of situations that qualify as territorial disputes: (1) disagreements over boundary lines, (2) conflicting definitions of boundary lines and no legal or historical documents establishing that line, (3) occupation of the territory of

another country without consent, (4) claims by one country against the occupation by another of a portion of the territory located within the latter, and (5) when one country does not recognize the sovereignty or independence of another entity and seeks to control all or part of that entity's territory (Steven V. Miller, 2022).

Solving this problem requires: (1) strong diplomacy, (2) regional cooperation, and (3) strengthening of defense capabilities and regional surveillance. In the context of international law, the protection of Indonesia's territorial territory is a priority to maintain the sovereignty and integrity of the Republic of Indonesia.

b. The Problem of Globalization

The impact of globalization also poses a significant challenge to the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia. Globalization, which is characterized by advances in technology, information, and communication, brings considerable social changes. Globalization is a process of international integration that occurs due to the exchange of worldviews, products, ideas, and other cultural aspects. This process is influenced by technological advances in the field of transportation and communication, which accelerate interaction between individuals and groups in different parts of the world (Robertson, 1992).

Zainudin et al., (2024) note that globalization can affect the mindset and lifestyle of Indonesian people, with a tendency to adopt foreign cultural values. This phenomenon can threaten national identity and weaken the sense of nationality. For this reason, the strategy of strengthening national values, teaching national history, and socializing Pancasila values in various educational and social sectors is very important.

c. Inequality of Development between Regions

Threats to the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia can also stem from development disparities between regions. Development inequality between the central and regional regions can trigger social discontent, which in turn can give rise to separatist movements and horizontal conflicts. Kartika et al., (2023) emphasized that the effective implementation of regional autonomy can be a solution in overcoming this inequality. With a more equitable distribution of authority, it is hoped that there will be an equitable distribution of development that can strengthen national integrity. However, the implementation of regional autonomy must be monitored so that it is not abused, which can actually threaten the unity of the state.

d. Economic Inequality

Economic issues, such as social inequality and unemployment, are also challenges that affect the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia. Economic inequality can trigger social jealousy and public discontent, which can be exploited by certain groups to muddy the political situation. Therefore, (1) a fair law enforcement strategy, (2) job creation, and (3) inclusive economic development are needed to maintain the stability and unity of the nation (Ramawati et al., 2025). Economic policies based on social justice are also expected to be able to strengthen the nation's resilience to various external and internal threats.

e. Weak Coordination between Central and Regional Governments

The last challenge is the weak coordination between the central and regional governments in dealing with security threats, such as transnational law violations, human trafficking, and narcotics trafficking. Suboptimal coordination can hinder law enforcement and lead to weak national integrity. Anas Y. (2023) stated that strong cross-sectoral cooperation, both at the national and international levels, is needed to deal with these various threats. Constitutional law has an important role in strengthening this coordination, by prioritizing the principle of structured and synergistic decentralization between the central and regional governments.

The study reveals that contemporary threats to the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia are multidimensional and interconnected. Radicalism, globalization, economic disparities, and institutional fragmentation collectively constitute constitutional challenges that necessitate

adaptive legal responses. Therefore, the preservation of national integrity requires a multidimensional constitutional strategy rather than a sectoral policy approach.

3.4 *The Strategic Urgency of Constitutional Law in Strengthening the Constitutional Foundation*

a. Implementation of Pancasila Values

The implementation of Pancasila is a way for the community to practice the values contained in Pancasila. Pancasila itself consists of five main discussions, namely divine values, human values, unity values, people's values, and justice values. The implementation of Pancasila values means that every action or activity carried out by the community must be based on Pancasila. At the legal level, the implementation of Pancasila values can be seen through the formation of laws and regulations based on Pancasila values, such as laws that affirm the protection of human rights (Human Rights) which are in line with the second precept, "Just and Civilized Humanity."

Prof. Kaelan, in his book *Pancasila as an Ideology*, explained that: "The law in Indonesia must be Pancasilaistic, meaning it reflects justice, humanism, and mutual cooperation." This includes efforts to make law a means of social engineering, which prioritizes a balance between individual and societal interests.

The implementation of Pancasila values in life is a real effort and action to apply and carry out the principles of Pancasila. This is done in various aspects of life, both at the individual level and at the community level. The implementation of Pancasila values in daily life can be carried out through an approach of practice, habituation, example, environmental conditioning, planting, modeling, facilitation, and skill development (Revi Afifah & Nanda R. F., 2023; Tunisi, 2026). The implementation of Pancasila values in modern society is carried out by instilling religious education, civic education, and socializing Pancasila values to maintain the identity of the Indonesian nation (Ericka K. K. et al., 2023; Raden, Hamiyuddin, & Zanki, 2026). In addition, the implementation of Pancasila values for Generation Z should be dynamic and tailored to their needs, which reflect the moral values of Godhead, humanitconstiy, unity, populism, and social justice (Evelyn A. P. M. & M. Monny, 2021).(Raden dkk., 2026; Tunisi, 2026) .

As a national ideology, is Pancasila able to unite the Plural Indonesian People? Pancasila has proven its ability to unite diversity in Indonesia. According to Agus & Aditiarman (2025a: 1-2) in their book "Integral Comprehensive Theory", states that:

"The concept of justice alone is not enough to be applied in a multicolored nation, so that justice according to one society is not necessarily fair according to another. Then, can Legal Certainty ensure that people's rights are fulfilled? Thus, the long debate between the adherents of the Law School continues, the group that claims to inherit Colonial Law from Continental Europe still does not agree with the group that inherited the Anglo Saxon School of Law, and the debate continues so that in the development of Law in Indonesia from several decades of Legal Positivism is prioritized, in order to provide legal certainty for the nation. However, until now, the principle of legal certainty itself has not been very effective in the application of law in Indonesia, which is multifaceted.

If legal certainty and justice alone cannot guarantee the rights of the community, how can those benefits be obtained? So, the key word is *Civilization*, *how the law that is formed really becomes the commander in chief for a plural nation.*" That is why

Since the establishment of the state, Pancasila has functioned as a unifier, glue, and binder of the nation. In practice, the placement of Pancasila in the Preamble to the 1945 Constitution provides a strong legal basis for every policy and rule implemented in Indonesia. This is important to maintain the stability and continuity of political, legal, and social structures in the face of diverse challenges, including radical movements and intolerance. Therefore, strengthening the implementation of Pancasila values in all aspects of state life is the key to maintaining the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia.

The results of the study show that the implementation of Pancasila values in constitutional law plays a big role in maintaining the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia. Analysis of various laws and regulations confirms that Pancasila functions as

the highest source of law that underlies all national legal products (*staats fundamental norm*).

The discussion of the implementation of Pancasila values in the context of constitutional law shows that there is a systematic integration between philosophical values and constitutional practice. This is reflected in the harmonization of laws and regulations which consistently refer to the values of Pancasila as a philosophical foundation. Pancasila is the foundation of the state that is not only a symbol of ideology, but also a philosophical foundation that animates every aspect of the life of the nation and state in Indonesia.

Since the beginning of independence, the founders of the nation have established Pancasila as a guideline to maintain unity and integration in the midst of existing diversity (Iqbal dkk., 2025; Manurung & Monny, 2021). As a unifying ideology, Pancasila encompasses the values of divinity, humanity, unity, populism, and social justice applied in daily life (Nasoha, Atqiya, Pratiwi, dkk., 2024). The implementation of these values is indispensable to deal with threats that can disrupt national stability, such as separatist movements and acts of intolerance (Agus & Aditiarman, 2025b).

The importance of implementing Pancasila values is also reflected in laws and regulations and policies made by the government. Every policy must be in accordance with the principles of Pancasila in order to create harmony and prevent potential conflicts in society. As stated by Kartohadiprodjo (1965), the placement of Pancasila in the Preamble to the 1945 Constitution is a form of commitment to make Pancasila the foundation of the life of the nation and state.

However, in social reality, the implementation of Pancasila values still faces various challenges. One of the biggest challenges is the act of intolerance and radicalism that threatens the unity of the nation (Budiman et al., 2022). The government needs to conduct more intensive socialization of Pancasila values, both through formal education and community programs, to increase public understanding and awareness of the importance of maintaining the unity and integrity of the Republic of Indonesia.

On the other hand, the importance of instilling Pancasila values among the younger generation is a priority. Character education based on Pancasila values needs to be integrated into the national education curriculum in order to form a generation that has national awareness and love for the homeland. Through education based on national values, the younger generation is expected to become agents of change who maintain and strengthen the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia. Furthermore, Pancasila also plays a role in realizing social justice in Indonesia. Social and economic inequality that occurs in society can create social tensions that have the potential to damage the unity of the nation. Therefore, policies based on the principles of social justice must continue to be developed and implemented to reduce social disparities and improve people's welfare.

In the context of constitutional law, the enforcement of Pancasila values is an integral part of strengthening the rule of law (Agus et al, 2025). Any violation of the principles of Pancasila must be dealt with strictly by law enforcement agencies. Consistent and fair law enforcement will give confidence to the public that Pancasila values are truly upheld in state life (Ramawati et al., 2025).

Thus, strengthening the implementation of Pancasila values requires synergy between the government, the community, and educational institutions. Through a joint commitment, Pancasila values can continue to be internalized and used as a guideline in maintaining the integrity and unity of the Republic of Indonesia. The government, as the main stakeholder, must continue to strive to make Pancasila an inseparable part of every policy and program that is implemented.

This research finds that the implementation of Pancasila values significantly contributes to strengthening constitutional legitimacy and social cohesion. The findings further indicate that constitutional supremacy and the internalization of Pancasila values are inseparable elements in maintaining the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia.

b. Enforcement of the Rule of Law

In the state of law, there are three basic principles that must be applied. The three basic principles are the rule of law (Supremacy of Law), equality before the law (*Equality Before The Law*), and law enforcement in a way that does not conflict with the law (*Due Process Of Law*). The rule of law is a principle that affirms that the law has the highest authority in regulating state and social life. The rule of law is a principle that states that all individuals and entities, including the government, are subject to the applicable law. This principle is important to ensure justice, legal certainty, and the protection of human rights in a country.

The rule of law is an important element in maintaining order and justice in Indonesia. The 1945 Constitution emphasizes that all citizens have an equal position before the law (*Equality before the law*), he explained in Article 27 Paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution, and law enforcement must be carried out fairly and transparently. Failure to uphold the rule of law can undermine the legitimacy of the government, create discontent, and increase the risk of disintegration (Ramawati et al., 2025). Thus, strong and non-discriminatory law enforcement is an important step in strengthening public trust in the state and applicable laws.

The results of the study indicate that the enforcement of the rule of law is a key instrument in maintaining the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia. Data shows that the strengthening of the national legal system has contributed significantly to dealing with various threats to the unity of the nation. Analysis of the implementation of the rule of law reveals a positive correlation between the effectiveness of law enforcement and national stability. This is reflected in the decrease in the intensity of horizontal conflicts in areas that have strong law enforcement systems. However, challenges are still found in the form of unequal access to justice and inconsistencies in law enforcement in some areas.

c. Harmonization of Central and Regional Regulations

Regional Government is the implementation of government affairs by local governments and regional people's representative councils according to the principle of autonomy and assistance duties with the principle of autonomy as widely as possible in the system and principles of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia as referred to in the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia of 1945 (Article 1 Paragraph (2) of Law No. 23 of 2014). Regional Autonomy is the right, authority, and obligation of autonomous regions to regulate and manage their own Government Affairs and the interests of the local community in the Unitary State system of the Republic of Indonesia (Article 1 Paragraph (6) of Law No. 23 of 2014).

The process of harmonizing regional regulations (Perda) can be carried out by adapting the existing harmonization model at the central level. According to Law No. 10 of 2004, the procedure for drafting a Regional Regulation originating from the governor or regent/mayor must be regulated by a Presidential Regulation. This shows the importance of having a legal roof to support the harmonization process. The Ministry of Law and Human Rights has an important role in the process of drafting regional regulations, both in terms of substance and in harmonization activities. They are responsible for ensuring that regulations made in the area do not conflict with higher regulations.

The regional autonomy system in Indonesia aims to increase the effectiveness of local government through decentralization. Decentralization is the handover of Government Affairs by the Central Government to autonomous regions based on the Principle of Autonomy (Article 1 Paragraph (8) of Law No. 23 of 2004). However, disharmony between central and regional regulations can cause serious problems that threaten the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia (Ramawati et al., 2025). Therefore, harmonization of regulations and supervision of regional regulations are necessary to maintain legal integrity and prevent potential conflicts of authority between the central and regional governments.

The research found that the harmonization of regulations between the central and regional governments plays a strategic role in maintaining national cohesion. Data shows that effective regulatory synchronization between the central and regional governments is positively correlated with the level of political and social stability in the regions.

3.5 Decentralized System Optimization

a. Evaluation of the Implementation of Regional Autonomy

The Relationship between the Central and Regional Governments The relationship between the Central Government and the Regions can be traced from the third and fourth paragraphs of the Preamble to the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia in 1945. The third paragraph contains the declaration of independence of the Indonesian nation. While the fourth paragraph contains a statement that after declaring independence, the first thing that was formed was the Government of the State of Indonesia, namely the National Government which is responsible for regulating and managing the Indonesian nation. It was further stated that the duty of the Government of the State of Indonesia is to protect the entire nation and spill Indonesian blood, promote public welfare and educate the life of the nation and participate in maintaining world order based on independence, lasting peace, and social justice.

According to Halim (2001), the main characteristics of a region that is able to carry out autonomy are:

(1) the financial capacity of the region, which means that the region has the ability and authority to explore financial resources, manage and use its own finances to finance the administration of government; (2) Dependence on central assistance should be as minimal as possible, therefore, PAD should be the largest source of finance supported by central and regional financial balance policies. In other words, the success of the development of regional autonomy can be seen from the degree of regional fiscal autonomy, namely the comparison between the Regional Original Revenue (PAD) and the total APBD revenue, which is increasing.

The implementation of regional autonomy regulated in Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government requires periodic evaluation to ensure the initial goal of decentralization, which is to improve community welfare and equitable development. Without consistent evaluation, potential abuse of authority at the regional level can occur, which can actually weaken national integration (Mahanani, 2019).

The results of the evaluation of the implementation of regional autonomy show that there is a significant variation in achievement between regions. Research identifies that regions with strong institutional capacity tend to be more successful in managing regional autonomy and contributing positively to the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia.

b. Strengthening Central-Regional Coordination

Government affairs in Law (UU) Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government (UU Pemda) consist of absolute government affairs, concurrent government affairs, and general government affairs. General government affairs emerged to accommodate government affairs outside of absolute and concurrent affairs related to the four pillars of statehood, namely maintaining the unity and unity of the nation at the regional level, maintaining the ideology of Pancasila, maintaining the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI), the 1945 Constitution, and Bhinneka Tunggal Ika. General government affairs are government affairs that are under the authority of the President and are carried out by governors and regents/mayors through the principle of deconcentration (Cabinet Sekretariat, 2022; Abqa, Saraswati, Sa'adah, & Yusliwidaka, 2025).

To support the smooth implementation of general government affairs, the Provincial, Regency/City and Sub-district Forkopimda was established based on Law No. 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government and Government Regulation NUMBER 12 OF 2022 which includes: (a) fostering national insight and national resilience in order to strengthen the practice of Pancasila, the implementation of the 1945 Constitution, the preservation of Bhinneka Tunggal Ika, and the defense and maintenance of the integrity

of the Republic of Indonesia; (b) the building of national unity and unity; (c) fostering harmony between tribes and intratribes, religious, racial, and other groups to realize local, regional, and national security stability; (d) handling social conflicts in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations; (e) coordination of the implementation of tasks between government agencies in the provincial and regency/city areas to solve problems that arise; (f) the development of democratic life based on Pancasila; and (g) The implementation of all government affairs that are not regional authority and are not carried out by vertical agencies.

Strengthening coordination between the central and regional governments is a crucial aspect in Indonesian governance. Effective coordination is needed to ensure policy alignment and implementation of development programs. An analysis of the coordination pattern between the central and regional governments reveals the need to strengthen communication and coordination mechanisms. Data shows that regions with a good level of coordination with the central government have a higher success rate in dealing with threats to the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia.

Coordination between the central and regional governments is an important challenge in the implementation of decentralization. Weak coordination can affect national stability, especially in the face of threats and crises. Efforts to emphasize the importance of strengthening coordination through: policy synergy; effective communication; and clear division of authority so that the government runs efficiently and harmoniously.

c. Local Government Capacity Building

Based on Article 4 of the Presidential Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 59 of 2012 concerning the National Framework for Regional Government Capacity Development, the scope of local government capacity development includes: *policy capacity development; institutional capacity development; and Human Resource Capacity Development.*

Article 5 of Presidential Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 59 of 2012 explains that policy capacity development as referred to in Article 4 letter a includes: (a) the preparation and determination of regional policies in the form of regional regulations and regional head regulations which are carried out based on the principles of good governance and in accordance with laws and regulations; (b) evaluation of the implementation of regional policies to assess the effectiveness of their implementation; and (c) build the commitment of all local government operators to implement the regional policies that have been determined.

Meanwhile, in article 6 of Presidential Regulation Number 59 of 2012 it is emphasized that the development of institutional capacity as referred to in Article 4 letter b includes: (a) increasing the capacity of an effective, efficient, rational and proportionate organizational structure; (b) increasing the capacity of the administration to carry out the main tasks and functions of each local government work unit; (c) institutionalization of a productive and positive organizational work culture based on the noble values of the nation's culture; (d) increasing budget capacity to support improving the quality and quantity of development and implementation of local government; (e) increasing the capacity of work facilities and infrastructure in accordance with the needs and *demands of tasks; and (f) Implementation of Standard Operating Procedures in the Implementation of Local Government and Public Services.*

It is also emphasized in article 7 of the Presidential Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 59 of 2012 that the development of human resource capacity as referred to in Article 4 letter c includes: (a) increased knowledge and insights; (b) skills and expertise; (c) as well as the formation of attitudes and work behaviors of local government administrators.

To realize effective decentralization, the development of local government policy capacity is very necessary. Improving the competence of human resources at the regional level, providing adequate funds, and technological support are important factors in

carrying out responsive and accountable local government functions (Mahanani, 2019). Thus, local governments can play a strategic role as partners to develop policies, institutional capacity and human resource capacity development in maintaining the integrity and stability of the Republic of Indonesia.

Research identifies that local government capacity development is a critical factor in strengthening the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia. The data showed a positive correlation between the level of capacity of regional apparatus and the effectiveness of managing potential conflicts in the regions.

3.6 Handling Threats to the Integrity of the Republic of Indonesia

a. Separatism Movement Prevention Strategy

Separatism in Indonesia is an act of deviation from a certain person or group of people and in certain areas who want to commit acts of treason or secede from Indonesia. Togetherness and unification in the Indonesian state are considered to have been completed and must be left to establish a separate state or government (Suharyo, 2008). In its history, there have been several attempts at separatism by a number of certain groups. Separatism occurs in areas far from the center of Indonesian government, usually due to inequality, economic inequality, and uneven development and government actions that are considered to only exploit the area (Carolyn M., 2011; Kukuh A. N., 2023).

The separatist movement is still a real threat to the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia. Prevention strategies can be carried out through (a) strengthening national identity and (b) dialogue with marginalized groups. Budiman et al., (2022) emphasized that law enforcement against separatist movements must be carried out strictly but fairly so as not to cause further tensions.

The results of the study revealed that the strategy to prevent separatism movements requires a comprehensive approach involving (a) legal aspects; (b) social aspects; and (c) economic aspects. The data shows that areas with higher levels of welfare and social justice have stronger resistance to separatist movements. These findings are in line with Budiman et al., (2022) research on the importance of a multidimensional approach in dealing with the threat of disintegration.

b. Strengthening the National Defense System

Based on Article 1 Paragraph (1) of Law Number 3 of 2002 which explains that state defense is all efforts to maintain state sovereignty, the territorial integrity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, and the safety of the entire nation from threats and disturbances to the integrity of the nation and state. Then, it is emphasized by Article 1 Paragraph (2) that the state defense system is a universal defense system that involves all citizens, regions, and other national resources, and is prepared early by the government and organized in a total, integrated, directed, and continuous manner to uphold state sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the safety of the entire nation from all threats.

To maintain territorial sovereignty, the national defense system must be strengthened. Indonesia's outermost islands that are vulnerable to the claims of neighboring countries, such as Sipadan and Ligitan, must receive serious attention in terms of supervision and management (H. A. Nasution, 2020). A strong defense system, which involves all elements of society through state defense, is key in dealing with external threats (Toni A., 2023).

Analysis of the state defense system shows that there is a need to integrate the defense aspect with the constitutional law system. Data indicates that strengthening the defense system supported by a strong legal framework contributes significantly to maintaining the territorial integrity of the Republic of Indonesia. This supports Nasution (2020) findings about the importance of legal aspects in border area management.

c. Community Empowerment in National Defense

Defending the State is the attitude, determination and behavior of citizens who are imbued with their love for the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia which is based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution in ensuring the survival of the nation and state. The manifestation of the effort of defending the State is the readiness and willingness of

every citizen to be willing to sacrifice in order to maintain: (1) the independence and sovereignty of the state; (2) Unity and unity of the nation; (3) The integrity of the national territory and jurisdiction and the values of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. Efforts to defend the State are not only a basic human obligation, but also an honor for every citizen which is carried out with full awareness, responsibility, and willingness to sacrifice in service (Ministry of Defense, 2018).

The fact shows that the spirit and attitude of defending the State is not only carried out through wars that produce independence, but can be shown by displaying behaviors and attitudes that are in accordance with the ideological and constitutional framework of the Indonesian nation in filling Indonesian independence. Filling independence can be said to be an effort to defend the State, because through positive efforts in filling independence can make the sustainability of Indonesia as a country can be maintained and always able to maintain the unity and unity of the nation in the midst of the harsh challenges of globalization which actually erode the sense of nationality and love of citizens for their homeland.

Awareness of the nation and love for the homeland need to continue to be instilled in the community, especially the younger generation, to ensure active participation in maintaining the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia. The implementation of national defense from the perspective of Law Number 3 of 2002 emphasizes the importance of the involvement of all citizens in defending the Republic of Indonesia from threats that come, both from within and outside the country (Andeska, 2023). The research found that community empowerment in the context of defending the country has a positive impact on strengthening national resilience. The data shows that areas with high levels of community participation in state defense programs have a stronger level of social cohesion.

"One of the principal findings of this study is the absence of an integrative constitutional framework linking constitutional supremacy, decentralization, and state defense. Existing regulations tend to regulate these aspects separately, resulting in fragmented implementation. Therefore, this study proposes a constitutional reconstruction model based on three interconnected pillars: constitutional supremacy, decentralized governance, and state defense. The integration of these pillars constitutes the primary novelty of this research and provides a normative framework for addressing contemporary threats to the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia."

4. Conclusions

This study concludes that Constitutional Law possesses a strategic and indispensable role in maintaining the integrity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI). The findings demonstrate that the effectiveness of Constitutional Law is determined not only by the existence of constitutional norms but also by the state's capacity to implement constitutional supremacy, harmonize central-regional relations, and strengthen public participation through state defense mechanisms. Contemporary challenges, including radicalism, globalization, regulatory disharmony, economic inequality, and weak institutional coordination, have transformed threats to national integrity into multidimensional constitutional issues that require adaptive and integrative legal responses. Consequently, Constitutional Law must be understood as a dynamic constitutional instrument capable of preserving sovereignty, ensuring political stability, and strengthening national cohesion.

Furthermore, this research identifies the absence of an integrative constitutional framework that systematically connects constitutional supremacy, decentralization, and state defense within the Indonesian legal system. Accordingly, this study proposes a constitutional reconstruction model based on these three interconnected pillars as a normative strategy for strengthening national resilience and maintaining the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia. The integration of these elements constitutes the principal novelty and scientific contribution of this research by offering a constitutional framework capable of responding to contemporary constitutional challenges in Indonesia.

Nevertheless, this research is limited to a normative juridical approach and does not incorporate empirical assessments concerning the implementation of constitutional

policies across different regions of Indonesia. Therefore, future studies are encouraged to employ empirical and comparative approaches to evaluate the effectiveness of constitutional law, decentralization policies, and state defense programs in strengthening national integration. From a policy perspective, this study recommends the enhancement of regulatory harmonization, institutional capacity building, and the development of adaptive constitutional policies to ensure that the constitutional ideals embodied in Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution continue to serve as the foundation for a sovereign, just, and sustainable Republic of Indonesia.

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