

Research Article

Nationalism in Psychological Perspectives: An Analysis of Contemporary Dynamics and Relevance

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ABSTRACT

Rapid social change and technological advances have influenced various dimensions of life, including in interpreting nationalism. In the post-Covid era full of challenges and uncertainties (Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, Ambiguity - VUCA), nationalism is no longer limited to physical struggle but requires adaptation to the context of the times. This study aims to examine the understanding and application of nationalism in the modern era from a psychological perspective, with a focus on how nationalism shapes individual identity and encourages contributions to national development. The research method used is Grounded Theory, which allows researchers to build theories based on empirical data collected from 138 respondents. Data were obtained through in-depth interviews and open-ended questionnaires, then analyzed using open, axial, and selective coding techniques to identify key themes related to nationalism. The study results show that nationalism in the modern era strengthens individual identity as part of the nation, increases pride in culture and history, and encourages active participation in social and economic development. In addition, nationalism plays a role in strengthening social solidarity, maintaining national stability, and facilitating adaptation to global change. This study concludes that nationalism in the post-Covid era must be understood as a dynamic ideology, which is not only rooted in history and national pride but also in the ability of individuals and organizations to innovate, adapt, and contribute to building the nation amidst global challenges.

Keywords: Nationalism; Grounded Theory; Post-Covid Era; Social Identity; VUCA

1. INTRODUCTION

The increasing development of technology and changes that occur in society make a lot of differences that occur in all fields, as well as related to the love for the homeland. Compared to the era of struggle to seize and defend independence in the present, the feeling of love for the homeland is very different (Chen et al., 2020). In the era of struggle, a person who has a strong sense of nationalism is one who dares to risk his soul and body to seize and defend the independence that has been achieved. However, thus is still not clearly described what the concept of a sense of nationalism is expected to be possessed by all citizens today (Jamiah et al., 2019).

Change is one of the things that will definitely happen in the life of every human being. Speaking of change, humans are currently said to be heading towards a new era. An era where habits and ways of life may never be the same again when compared to the pre-pandemic period (Yustina et al., 2020). At the time of this writing, Indonesia is entering a new normal era where people go out of the house by implementing health protocols: diligently washing their hands, always wearing a mask, and keeping their distance from others (Edi et al., 2021). At the organizational level, where the environment has undergone major changes, and inevitably, the organization has to adapt to these changes. Not only managing existing resources as optimally as possible, but organizations need new strategies and innovations. Successful corporations such as Apple, Google, 3M, and Amazon can quickly adapt and implement the latest technology (Rafiola et al., 2020).

The industrial sector is divided into winning and losing industries with the change in people's consumption patterns and behavior. Winning industries are industries that are able to survive and develop their businesses even though they are in the midst of a situation of uncertainty in the Post Covid era (Nasution et al., 2021). Examples of industrial sectors that are included in the winning industries category are agriculture, oil and gas, personal healthcare, retail and food processing, pharmaceutical supply and health services, and e-commerce. Losing Industries is an industrial sector that tends to experience a decline in performance and profits due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The industrial sectors that are included in the category of losing industries are Tourism, Aviation & Shipping, Automotive, Education, Financial Services, Real Estate/Property, and Manufacturing (Non-Essential) (Oke & Fernandes, 2020).

In fact, every change that occurs will give birth to new challenges. In the industrial sector, which is included in Losing Industries, the main thing that must be prioritized is strategies or measures so that the company can survive in the midst of the current uncertain situation. On the other hand, in the industrial sector that is included in Winning Industries, the priority may be the strategy to develop the business. Changes in strategies in companies from the two categories of industrial sectors will certainly affect the demands of human resources as one of the drivers of the business wheel (A. P. Nugraha et al., 2022).

Nationalism in the history of Indonesia's independence struggle is known as a magic word that is able to awaken the strength to fight against the oppression carried out by colonialists for hundreds of years. The feelings of comradeship and solidarity experienced were able to overcome ethnic, cultural, and religious differences so that the history of the formation of Indonesian nationality was born (Jamilah, 2021). The Japanese occupation period from 1942 to 1945 had various impacts on the Indonesian nation. One of them is the holding of military training by Japan. The military training provided by Japan to the Indonesian youth has an influence in shaping the soul, character, and characteristics of Indonesian youth who cultivate attitudes and mentality that are quite militant in the struggle of the Indonesian nation and through the Japanese military and semi-military bodies also give birth to national warrior figures, such as General Soedirman, Oerip Sumohardjo, Slamet Riyadi and others (Al-Mamary, 2022).

According to (Saidu & KOLIRO, 2016), nationalism encompasses a broader context, namely the equality of membership and citizenship of all ethnic and cultural groups within a nation. In the framework of nationalism, it is also necessary to have pride to display its identity as a nation. Pride itself is a process that is born because it is learned and not a legacy passed down from generation to generation. (Faisal & Kisman, 2020) Assessed that the learning or development of nationalism in Indonesia experienced piracy, especially during the New Order period, so it became difficult for the nation's emotional solidarity to grow, and pride in national identity became difficult to form. Critically, (Djuyandi et al., 2018) revealed the role of the new order in distorting the meaning of nationalism in order to maintain its interests, namely controlling economic, political, and bureaucratic resources. This practice is carried out by accusing every effort aimed at defending the people's interests as something that hinders the course of development. The purpose of the new order elites to distort the true meaning of nationalism is for two reasons, namely so that the new order elite is immune from the law (impunity) and can carry out all its interests even though it has to oppress and sacrifice the human rights of its own nation. Various definitions of nationalism have been put forward by nationalists, which, in essence, lead to a concept of national identity that functions in determining individual identity among the world community. The concept of nationalism is also often associated with political activities because it is related to government and state policies (Akinwamide & Oguntade, 2023).

The research team saw no standard concept of nationalism and its application in the joints of social life. When referring to the meaning of nationalism based on the Great Dictionary of Indonesian (KBBI), nationalism as a character is clearly needed by individuals and organizations to face the Post Covid Era which is marked by VUCA (Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity & Ambiguity). Thus, a broad and consistent concept of nationalism is needed to prevent confusion in the use of this term. The need for concepts related to nationalism is also in line with the vision and mission of the Faculty of Psychology, Jenderal Achmad Yani University, and the lecturer's research roadmap. Being in the field of Industrial and Organizational Psychology as a science that discusses mental processes and human behavior in organizational settings, interests us as researchers to look for the character of nationalism.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

In this study, there is one free variable, namely nationalism, which the researcher wants to translate into a psychological perspective. In this study, the researcher uses the Grounded Theory approach, which is the purpose of the research to analyze, develop, and build theoretical concepts obtained from the data after gradual analysis. Grounded theory developed by Glaser and Strauss (1967) in Strauss & Corbin (1997) describes a specific coding technique, which is a process of classifying and categorizing text data segments into a set of codes (concepts), categories (constructions) and relationships. For this research to represent the results well, this study uses the Convenience technique to accommodate the ease and purpose of conducting research. One hundred thirty-eight samples answered the questions asked. In this research activity, the researcher uses a measuring tool that is considered to be able to capture data more precisely. The measuring tool used is a questionnaire that contains a list of open-ended questions and asks for a research sample to be able to answer these questions.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The term nationalism is often associated with the context of education, the commemoration of state holidays, and the history of the nation's struggle. The spirit of nationalism is understood as a national identity that includes a belief in common ideals and goals. Contributions to the nation's progress, such as safeguarding sovereignty, working for the welfare of the state, and protecting the nation's interests, are also an important part of the spirit of nationalism. Loyalty to the nation and state, sacrifices for the country, and appreciation for history and the services of heroes are key elements in

maintaining the nation's honor. Preserving the nation's values and culture is also seen as part of the spirit of nationalism.

The aspects identified in the spirit of nationalism are grouped into several main categories: Cognitive Aspects, Affective Aspects, normative aspects, Social Aspects, Cultural Aspects, Political Aspects, Religious Aspects, and Value Aspects. The values of nationalism consist of various aspects that reflect love and loyalty to the nation. Patriotism is one of the main values, the togetherness of morality, social values, culture, and national identity. People with a nationalist spirit have several main characteristics, including a strong national spirit, which includes solidarity, awareness of the nation, and deep love for the country. Another characteristic is loyalty to the state, which includes high commitment and loyalty (Gupta, 2018).

Various factors can shape a person's spirit of nationalism. Geographical and regional factors, Social and interaction factors, Culture and national identity, Education, Emotional and psychological factors, and Personal characteristics. The factors that inhibit nationalism include; Low education and understanding of Pancasila, history, and culture of the nation is one of the main obstacles (A. A. Nugraha et al., 2022). An apathetic social environment, Economic inequality, social injustice, and life dissatisfaction, Identity crisis. Political and leadership factors, personal character Other factors, such as religious, ethnic, and ethnic differences, trigger social conflicts and outside influences such as globalization and negative foreign cultures.

What can be done to foster the spirit of nationalism? First, adherence to national values and symbols, as well as participation in state activities; Second, appreciation for the nation's culture and history; Third, education that teaches nationalist values. Words that describe the spirit of nationalism; responsibility, active participation, respect for history, and a spirit of unity that binds individuals in a single goal to safeguard and advance the country. In addition, active participation in state development, respect for cultural heritage and national values, and the spirit of patriotism and unity also strengthen a sense of solidarity, love for the homeland, and commitment to maintaining national unity and unity.

The positive impact of individuals who have a spirit of nationalism: First, the spirit of nationalism strengthens social unity and solidarity, strengthens fraternal ties and builds a sense of concern for others through the spirit of mutual cooperation. Second, nationalism fosters national identity and self-esteem. Individuals who are proud of their own culture and products contribute to strengthening collective identity and upholding the country's honor (Buil et al., 2019). Nationalism also strengthens the stability and resilience of the country; nationalism fosters concern for environmental sustainability as part of efforts to maintain the nation's harmony with nature. Nationalism also fosters enthusiasm and motivation to continue to struggle, achieve, and bring positive change to the country (Ufie et al., 2021). The positive impact of individuals who have a spirit of nationalism. First, egoism and exclusivism arise when individuals or groups are more concerned with their own interests than diversity. Second, this attitude can encourage intolerance and discrimination, can trigger aggressiveness and conflict, both at the social and international levels, can give rise to discrimination and racism against other countries, the risk of fanaticism and narrow views that make individuals reject criticism, become naïve, and not objective in looking at the state of their own country (Alvarez et al., 2022).

The existence of nationalism can strengthen individual identity as part of the nation, build a sense of pride in both cultural and historical heritage and social unity, encourage positive contributions, and maintain the stability and welfare of individuals and the country, as well as strengthen a sense of attachment to the homeland. Nationalism plays a role in strengthening emotional bonds and loyalty to the country, forming strong characters, supporting social welfare, and maintaining national security and stability. Nationalism plays a role in strengthening the country's identity, stability, and integrity, supporting development and welfare, strengthening defense and sovereignty, respecting diversity, supporting progress, and strengthening the country's position in the international arena. It can also provide direction and motivation to play a role as a good citizen and maintain the nation's vision and goals in the long term. Individuals can strengthen their identity and identity, so they have pride in their history, cultural heritage, and national values.

Based on the results of research on the term Nationalism, nationalism is widely discussed in the context of education, in Pancasila lessons or material on national insights. The term Nationalism is heard buzzing when commemorating state holidays such as Heroes' Day, Indonesian Independence, and Youth Pledge. It is often heard in information media such as documentaries, state speeches, seminars or webinars, TV, and other social media. The term nationalism is understood as an ideology and belief, which means an understanding of a country's nationality, beliefs, and soul identity. Nationalism is felt as pride in the history and heritage of the nation, whereas a form of support for culture, appreciating the services of heroes, imitating the attitude of heroes, loving products in the country, a sense of belonging to cultural heritage, and realizing the values of Pancasila in life. As a togetherness in the nation and state, feeling unity and unity, solidarity, embracing fellow citizens, attachment to the state and not looking down on other nations. In addition, nationalism provides an emotional attachment to the nation and state, such as love for the homeland, appreciation, respect, belonging, and pride in a national identity (O'Connor et al., 2023).

Nationalism is understood as an ideology and belief that includes the understanding of nationality and national identity. Some also associate it with pride in the nation's history and heritage, including appreciation for the services of national heroes and culture (Christensen et al., 2018). Nationalism is also associated with togetherness in the nation and state, which includes solidarity, a sense of unity, and emotional attachment to the nation. Supporting the progress of the

nation, such as aspirations for independence and responsibility to the state, as well as patriotism and sacrifice for the country, are also considered important aspects of nationalism (Ismail et al., 2020).

The identified aspects of the spirit of nationalism are grouped into several main categories:

- **Cognitive Aspect:** Includes social, logical, and critical understanding of the nation, historical awareness, and awareness of the nation's culture and future.
- **Affective Aspect:** It relates to emotions such as passion, patriotism, concern for national interests, and pride in the country. It includes a sense of belonging and love for the homeland.
- **Conative Aspects:** Involves concrete actions such as defending the state, working for the progress of the nation, supporting the state, and obeying the law. Service to the country and willingness to sacrifice are also included in it.
- **Social Aspects:** Related to social interactions, such as respect, appreciation, solidarity, and social awareness. Cooperation and social interests are part of this aspect.
- **Cultural Aspects:** Includes the preservation of languages and traditions, loving domestic products, and preserving local culture without following foreign cultures.
- **Political Aspects:** Related to freedom, democracy, and citizens' political rights and obligations.
- **Religious Aspects:** Involves interreligious tolerance and spiritual aspects that encourage mutual respect between religious believers.
- **Aspect of Values:** Discipline, state identity, and respect for national symbols such as Pancasila are important parts of this aspect (NATIONALISM).

Nationalism is defined as an ideology that includes love and loyalty to the country, as well as the drive to contribute to progress and maintain the honor of the nation. Nationalism encourages citizens to work for the welfare of the nation and comply with applicable rules while maintaining cultural and social values. This description shows that nationalism involves various aspects of life, ranging from educational, political, and social to cultural, all of which contribute to the development of national identity and pride in the country (Arif et al., 2023).

Patriotism is one of the main values that describe love for the homeland, loyalty to the country, and willingness to sacrifice for the nation. This can be seen in learning activities for the progress of the nation, respect for the services of heroes, and the spirit of defending the country. Togetherness is also an important part of nationalism, which is manifested through cooperation between citizens in mutual cooperation, maintaining harmony between tribes, and solidarity that reflects the principle of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* (Irvan & Mustadi, 2021). Morality, which includes integrity, self-awareness, and justice, is demonstrated in a disciplined attitude, obedience to the law, and upholding honesty. In addition, social values, which include respect for diversity, tolerance, and social responsibility, emphasize empathy for others and social justice. Culture and national identity are also important components, which are reflected in maintaining cultural identity and respecting state symbols such as national languages, domestic products, and efforts to preserve culture.

In everyday life, nationalism can be manifested through various actions. Compliance with the law, for example, is demonstrated by complying with state rules, paying taxes, and participating in elections. Respect for national symbols can be seen in respect of the national anthem, participating in flag ceremonies, and respectful attitudes towards other state symbols. Respect for diversity is also a clear example of nationalism, which is manifested in respecting differences in ethnicity, religion, and opinions between citizens. Participation in society, such as being active in social activities, mutual cooperation, and maintaining environmental order, is also a form of nationalism. In addition, love and pride for the country are shown through the use of domestic products and celebrating Independence Day. People with a nationalist spirit have several main characteristics, including a strong national spirit, which includes solidarity, awareness of the nation, and deep love for the country. They also have a love for the nation's history and culture and are not easily influenced by foreign cultures. Another characteristic is loyalty to the state, which includes high commitment and loyalty. Participation in nation-building is also part of nationalism, which is manifested by efforts to maintain and advance the nation and contribute to its development.

Geographical and regional factors, for example, create a sense of belonging to the unity of the same place of residence. Social factors and interactions also have an effect, where family, school, and social environment have a role in shaping a sense of nationalism. History and shared memories, such as past suffering or national glory, also contribute to building a sense of nationalism. National culture and identity provide the basis for appreciation of national culture, traditions, and symbols. Education, especially those related to history, citizenship, and Pancasila values, is one of the main factors shaping nationalism. Emotional and psychological factors, such as pride and love for the homeland and the desire to advance the country, also favor nationalism. Personal characteristics such as loyalty, discipline, responsibility, and willingness to make sacrifices are other important factors.

Although important, the spirit of nationalism can be hampered by several factors. Low education and understanding of Pancasila, history, and culture of the nation is one of the main obstacles. An apathetic social environment or negative influence of the environment can also reduce the sense of nationalism. Economic inequality, social injustice, and life dissatisfaction are also obstacles to the emergence of nationalism. Identity crises and prioritizing foreign cultures over

national cultures can also weaken the sense of nationalism. Political and leadership factors, including the lack of role models from leaders and the existence of corruption, are also obstacles. In addition, personal characteristics such as selfishness, individualism, and low historical awareness weaken the sense of love for the homeland. Other factors, such as religious, ethnic, and ethnic differences, that trigger social conflicts and external influences, such as globalization and negative foreign cultures, also hinder the development of the spirit of nationalism. As an effort to foster the spirit of nationalism, of course, it can be built through various actions or methods. First, adherence to national values and symbols and participation in state activities can strengthen one's identity and pride as Indonesian citizens. Second, appreciation for the nation's culture and history and support for local products and national economic development help build emotional bonds and pride in the nation's achievements. Third, education that teaches the values of nationalism and Pancasila is very important to form a generation committed to the nation's unity and progress.

The spirit of nationalism is not only related to love for the homeland but also includes responsibility, active participation, respect for history, and a spirit of unity that binds individuals to a single goal to safeguard and advance the country. The spirit of nationalism is a combination of a deep awareness of national identity, a strong commitment to the state, active participation in the progress of the nation, respect for cultural heritage, and the spirit of patriotism. Awareness of national identity encourages individuals to be proud of the history and characteristics of the nation, as well as loyalty to state symbols such as *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* and the concept of the Republic of Indonesia. Commitment and loyalty emerge as a form of willingness to sacrifice and maintain the nation's autonomy and honor, in line with a firm attitude of love for the homeland. In addition, nationalism is reflected through active participation in state development, such as involvement in social activities, the use of local products, and support in emergency situations, which contribute to the welfare of the community and the stability of the national economy. Respect for cultural heritage and national values includes appreciation for the struggle of heroes, preservation of traditions, and the application of national principles inherited by ancestors. The spirit of patriotism and unity also strengthens the sense of solidarity, love for the homeland, and commitment to maintaining national unity, which is the foundation for building the country's resilience to face internal and external challenges.

The positive impact of individuals who have a spirit of nationalism: Individuals who have a spirit of nationalism can reflect various positive impacts that can be felt significantly both for themselves and the nation. The power of nationalism encourages individuals to safeguard and advance the country in various aspects of life, from social, economic, and political to cultural and environmental (Mejlgaard et al., 2019). First, the spirit of nationalism strengthens social unity and solidarity, strengthens fraternal ties, and builds a sense of concern for others through the spirit of mutual cooperation. Second, nationalism fosters national identity and self-esteem. Individuals who are proud of their own culture and products contribute to strengthening collective identity and upholding the honor of the country. On the other hand, appreciation for culture and history becomes a powerful incentive for individuals to preserve cultural heritage, which creates a deep historical awareness. A sense of responsibility and active participation in state development is also born out of nationalism, encouraging individuals to contribute to politics or diplomacy. In the environmental aspect, nationalism fosters concern for environmental sustainability as part of efforts to maintain the nation's harmony with nature. Finally, nationalism fosters the spirit and motivation to continue to struggle, achieve, and bring positive changes to the country.

The negative impacts are; Excessive or uncontrolled nationalism can have a variety of detrimental negative impacts, both on an individual and societal scale. First, egoism and exclusivism arise when individuals or groups are more concerned with their own interests than with diversity and common interests, which often develops into chauvinism, radicalism, or isolationism. Second, this attitude can encourage intolerance and discrimination, where individuals or groups become less respectful of differences, whether in terms of culture, religion, ethnicity, or political views, leading to behavior that violates the rights of others. Excessive nationalism can also trigger aggressiveness and conflict, both at the social and international levels, due to the tendency to defend views to the extreme, even with violence. On the other hand, it can give rise to discrimination and racism against other nations, including xenophobia and derogatory attitudes towards other nations, which can worsen international relations and create divisions.

The importance of nationalism for individuals and countries lies in its ability to form a strong, harmonious society and contribute to national stability, well-being, and resilience. The existence of nationalism can strengthen individual identity as part of the nation, build a sense of pride in both cultural and historical heritage and social unity, encourage positive contributions, and maintain the stability and welfare of individuals and the country, as well as strengthen a sense of attachment to the homeland (Siregar, 2021).

Nationalism can provide direction and motivation to play a role as a good citizen and maintain the nation's vision and goals in the long term. Therefore, the spirit of nationalism is important for individuals because it has a central role that they can participate in maintaining the security, integrity, and sovereignty of the country from various threats, both from inside and outside, protecting the country, contributing to the welfare and development of the nation, strengthening national identity, respecting history and heroes, strengthening social cohesion, and having commitment, loyalty, and a sense of responsibility to the state. Furthermore, the spirit of nationalism fosters loyalty, commitment, and responsibility to the country and provides motivation to continue to contribute and become good citizens. Ultimately, nationalism helps individuals have life goals that are in harmony with the nation's vision and mission so that it can support the country's

sustainability and create a nation that is strong, harmonious, and ready to face future challenges.

4. CONCLUSION

In this study, it can be concluded that Nationalism is understood as an ideology and belief that includes the understanding of nationality and national identity. Nationalism is defined as an ideology that includes love and loyalty to the country and the drive to contribute to progress and maintain the nation's honor. Technological developments and rapid social changes have affected various aspects of life, including the understanding and application of nationalism in the modern era. If, during the struggle for independence, nationalism was manifested through physical sacrifices to seize and defend independence, then in the post-Covid era full of uncertainty (VUCA: Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, Ambiguity), nationalism requires an interpretation that is more relevant to today's challenges. The results of the study show that nationalism strengthens individual identity as part of the nation, builds a sense of pride in cultural and historical heritage, and encourages positive contributions to social welfare and national development. Nationalism also plays an important role in maintaining national stability, strengthening social solidarity, and supporting the nation's progress in the international arena. Thus, nationalism in the modern era must be understood as a dynamic ideology that not only focuses on the aspect of historical pride but also on the responsibility of individuals and organizations to adapt, innovate, and contribute to building the nation in the midst of global change.

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