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State and Governance in Indonesia: Trends, Intersections, and Research Gaps (2020–2025)

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ABSTRACT

This article conducts a rapid scoping review of scientific literature from the period 2020-2025 to map the dynamics of the relationship between the role of the state and the role of governance in the Indonesian context. This study aims to identify thematic trends, the role of the state, dominant governance models, and points of friction between the two. Analysis of 305 articles reveals a paradigm shift from a hierarchical and centralized state model towards collaborative, adaptive, and networked governance. The state plays a multidimensional role, not only as a regulator and service provider, but also as a facilitator, catalyst, and digital innovator. Meanwhile, collaborative governance, digital governance, and sustainable governance emerged as the most dominant modes of governance. The main points of convergence and tension lie in the effort to balance state sovereignty with inclusive network logic, as well as the challenge of accountability in multi-actor collaboration models. The article concludes by presenting a concise map, a comparative matrix, and a future research agenda to address critical knowledge gaps, such as digital sovereignty governance, green bureaucratic capacity, and intersectional approaches to governance.

Keyword:

Role of the State, Collaborative Governance,
Digital Governance, Sustainable Governance,
Rapid Scoping Review

INTRODUCTION

In studies of governance in Indonesia, the concepts of state and governance often clash. This conflict stems from the historical legacy of the New Order, in which the state was understood as a highly centralized hierarchical entity based on a vertical model of power

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(Antlöv, 2003). After the 1998 reform, the paradigm of *governance* emerged as an antithesis to this model, emphasizing decentralization, multi-actor/stakeholder networks, and cooperation between the state, civil society, and the private sector (Harijanti, 2015). However, in practice, this shift has not been linear. Yu and He (2011) theoretically point to an inherent tension between participatory governance and state development, which often requires strong authority. This tension is particularly evident in the Indonesian context, where the logic of state bureaucracy often clashes with collaborative governance.

On the one hand, the state, through its bureaucracy, remains the core actor holding regulatory power and political legitimacy, as evidenced by its development work for the public interest (Meckelburg & Wardana, 2024) and its assertion of sovereignty in border areas (Sugiarti et al., 2024). On the other hand, the complexity of global demands and domestic issues, such as corruption (Paranata, 2025), natural resource management, and pandemic response, has forced countries to adopt a governance approach. As explained by Kacowicz(2012), this approach goes beyond the framework of government and involves a decentralized system. Bevir et al.(2017) even propose a perspective of decentralized governance, which emphasizes the agency and resistance of various actors outside the state. Amidst these tensions, the debate continues as to whether the state, as a regulator, should retreat or transform itself into a facilitator and meta-governor (Guy Peters, 2010). Contemporary literature (2020-2025) has noted these dynamics in various fields in a scattered manner, but none have systematically sorted out the patterns, trends, and intersections of these ongoing dialectical relationships.

Based on this background, this article aims to map the roles, trends, and intersections of state and governance in scientific literature on Indonesia published between 2020 and 2025. This mapping is conducted to provide a comprehensive and structured understanding of how these two concepts are discussed, contested, and reconciled in the latest empirical studies.

To achieve this objective, this article will answer the following research questions:

1. What are the thematic, sectoral, and governmental level trends discussed in the literature on state and governance in Indonesia (2020-2025)?
2. What roles are most often attributed to *the state* in these various *governance* studies?
3. What modes or forms of governance are most often interpreted as *governance* in the Indonesian context?
4. At what points of intersection or tension between the logic of the state and governance are most prominent in the Indonesian context?

This article's contribution lies in three main findings that are expected to complement each other. First, this article presents a Brief Map that serves as a visual and narrative synthesis to describe the research landscape on the state and governance in Indonesia during the 2020-2025 period, making it easier for academics and practitioners to understand the current academic discourse. Second, as a follow-up, this paper constructs a comparative matrix, which systematically compares research findings from various literatures based on criteria covering policy areas, levels of government, the role of the state, and models of governance, thereby clearly identifying patterns and differences. Third, based on the map and comparison mentioned earlier, this paper proposes a future research agenda that aims to identify existing knowledge gaps and suggest further research directions to deepen

understanding of the complex symbiotic relationship between the state and governance in Indonesia.

METHODS

This article uses a *Rapid Scoping Review* design to systematically yet efficiently map the literature within a limited timeframe. This approach was chosen because it is suitable for defining the scope of the literature, classifying key concepts, and identifying research gaps without requiring an in-depth critical evaluation of the quality of the research, as outlined in the methodological guidelines by Tricco et al.(2015) and Rosenberg et al.(2022) . This review process focused on rapid *screening* based on titles, abstracts, and keywords to meet the broad mapping objectives. The literature search was conducted using the Scopus database for the period January 1, 2020, to October 31, 2025, which yielded a total of 305 initial articles. The inclusion criteria applied were articles that discussed the Indonesian context, were published within that time frame, were research or review articles, and were written in English or Indonesian. Meanwhile, articles that were purely editorial or opinion pieces, non-scientific documents, and duplicates were excluded from the study.

The data analysis procedure was carried out in several sequential stages. First, deduplication was performed to eliminate duplicate articles. Next, a quick screening of the titles, abstracts, and keywords of the 305 articles was conducted to select articles relevant to the research question. Articles that passed the selection process then underwent data extraction into a number of predetermined variables or codes. These variables were multi-label in nature to capture the complexity of the themes, including: Sector (such as agriculture/environment, health, education), Research Method (qualitative, quantitative, mixed, or review), Level of Government (national, provincial, district/city, village, community), Role of the State (regulator, provider, facilitator/enabler, arbiter/coordinator), Governance Modes (hierarchy, network/co-creation, polycentric/community, market/incentives), Policy Instruments (regulation, planning, budgeting, Public-Private Partnerships/PPPs, digital/incentives), and the Outcomes mentioned (such as effectiveness, efficiency, legitimacy, fairness, sustainability). The extracted data was then tabulated for further analysis. To ensure consistency and validity in the coding process, rapid validation was carried out through independent double-coding on a randomly selected sample of 10%. Discrepancies in coding were resolved through discussion until consensus was reached among the researchers.

Although this method is effective for rapid mapping, there are several limitations that need to be acknowledged. First, the screening process, which relies solely on titles, abstracts, and keywords, has the potential to miss certain nuances that can only be found by reading the full text. Second, reliance on a single database (Scopus) may result in some relevant literature indexed in other databases not being included in this study, as indicated by Sager & Pistone(2019) . Despite these limitations, the approach applied is expected to produce a comprehensive and relevant literature map in line with the research objectives.

RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

Based on the analysis of 305 scientific articles included in this dataset, a basic bibliometric overview of governance studies in Indonesia is provided. The analyzed literature presents a complex, multidimensional, and evolving research landscape, with a primary focus on the role of the state in managing resources, public services, and economic development.

Most studies used a qualitative approach, particularly case studies, with some integrating quantitative methods such as regression analysis and modeling.

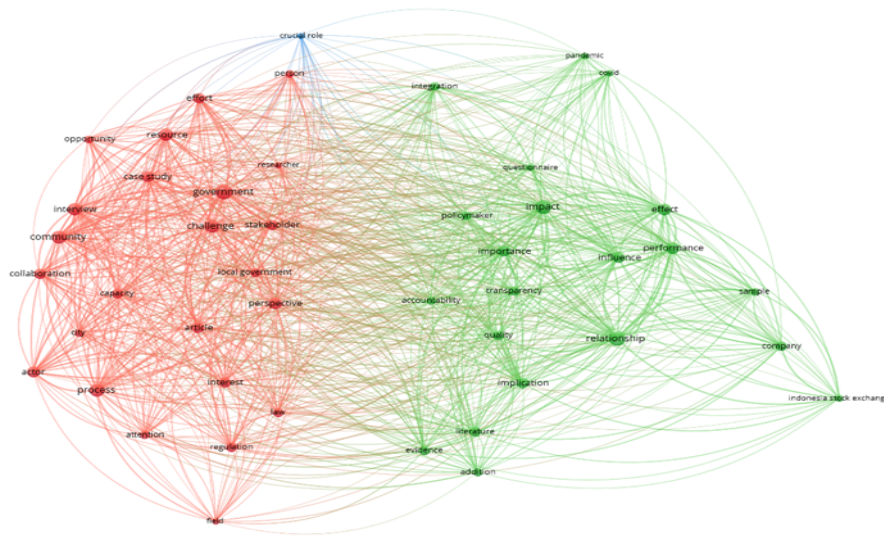
Topics covered include environmental and natural resource governance (forestry, fisheries, plantations), collaborative governance, decentralization, and bureaucratic reform and accountability. The involvement of various actors, civil society, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations in various sectors such as health, education, and disaster management is also discussed. Several studies highlight policy responses to crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic. Research in the 2020–2025 period shows increased academic interest in issues such as transparency, sustainability, and conflicts of interest. A strong geographical focus at the local and regional levels reflects Indonesia's decentralization context, while also demonstrating the changing role of the state in addressing dynamic development challenges.

2020–2025 Trends: Topics, Sectors, and Levels of Government

The development of studies on governance and the state in Indonesia in the 2020-2025 period reflects a dynamic transformation from a hierarchical state paradigm to a more complex, collaborative, and adaptive model of governance. This evolution is clearly evident in three main dimensions: thematic, sectoral, and level of government, which intersect to form a rich and multidisciplinary research landscape.

Thematically, there has been a layered shift that demonstrates responsiveness to the challenges of the times. At the beginning of the period, the main focus was still on bureaucratic reform and digital governance, reflecting efforts to modernize public administration. However, this discourse was quickly enriched by the grand narratives of sustainable development (ESG/SDGs) and responses to technological disruptions such as Artificial Intelligence (AI). Towards 2025, issues such as energy transition, climate justice, and systemic resilience became increasingly prominent, driven by global agendas and national projects such as the development of the Capital City of Nusantara (IKN). Interestingly, these topics are no longer isolated but have converged, sparking discussions about green digital governance and sustainable data governance, which demonstrate an increasingly comprehensive and interconnected approach.

Image: Network Visualization



Source: VOSviewer

From an industry perspective, trends show significant diversification and deepening. Initially focused on public services, e-government, and anti-corruption, the industry landscape has expanded and become more complex in 2025. The environment and forestry sectors remain key areas of focus, but their dimensions are enriched by issues such as carbon value and biodiversity. The finance and banking sectors are shifting from narrow corporate governance to financial inclusion, Islamic banking, and fintech regulation. The health sector is shifting from hospital management to mental health governance and pandemic response. Most notably, traditional sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, and tourism are being reexamined through the lens of the blue economy, climate resilience, and community empowerment, signaling a reinterpretation of classic issues within the framework of sustainable development.

From the government's perspective, research is increasingly focusing on the complexity of multi-level governance. The national level remains the strategic decision-maker but faces new challenges in coordinating fragmented policies, such as artificial intelligence and green economy regulations. Local governments (cities/districts) are becoming testing grounds for innovation, particularly in the implementation of smart cities, waste management, and sustainable tourism. However, the most important findings come from the village and community levels, where abstract concepts of the state become concrete through interactions with local communities, women, customary institutions, and the business world. The relationship between villages and the state, as well as the dynamics within it, such as patronage, convergence of local wisdom, and empowerment, provide a glimpse of the challenges and opportunities in building inclusive governance at the grassroots level.

Table 1. Comparison between studies related to the State and Governance in Indonesia

Rank	Studies Related to the State		Governance-Related Studies		Difference
1	Public Administration (22)	17.1	Public Administration (38)	21.6	+16 articles
2	Law (18)	14.0	Management & Accounting (35)	19.9	+17 articles
3	Political Science (17)	13.2	Forestry & Environment (18)	10.2	+4 articles
4	Forestry & Environment (14)	10.9	Law (16)	9.1	-2 articles
5	Management & Accounting (12)	9.3	Political Science (15)	8.5	-2 articles

Source: compiled by the author

Analysis of academic disciplines reveals an interesting configuration between methodologies in state studies and governance studies. State studies are dominated by public administration and public policy (17.1%), law (14.0%), and political science (13.2%), with a focus on top-down regulation, sovereignty, and policy implementation. In contrast, governance studies are dominated by public administration (21.6%), with a strong emphasis on management and accounting methods (19.9%), reflecting a shift towards performance- and accountability-oriented governance models. Methodological differences are also significant, with studies on the state tending to use qualitative methods and policy analysis, while governance-related studies use more quantitative methods such as structural equation modeling (SEM), partial least squares (PLS), and panel data analysis. Convergence across disciplines is particularly evident in the areas of environment, development, and urban governance, but with different emphases. Studies on the state are more concentrated in five core disciplines (64.5% of articles), while governance studies show a more balanced distribution, involving more disciplines. Shortcomings include the limited contribution of political philosophy, historical perspectives, and political psychology and behavioral methods to the study of bureaucracy.

Overall, this evolution reflects a shift in discourse from a state-centered approach to a more inclusive and interdisciplinary governance network. Indonesian studies remain highly applied and policy-oriented but also incorporate business management methodologies and sustainable development concepts. This transformation not only reflects the maturity of the field but also responds to the complex challenges faced by contemporary Indonesian governance, which requires collaborative, adaptive, and evidence-based approaches.

How Does the State Play a Role? The Most Frequently Emerging Role

In the past five years, studies on the role of the state in Indonesia have revealed a complex and dynamic configuration, in which the state is no longer seen as a single entity but as a multidimensional actor operating within a complex governance network. Based on an analysis of various studies, there are at least eight main roles that consistently emerge, with variations in emphasis according to the sectoral context and level of government.

The most prominent role identified is that of the state as a regulator and policy maker. The state not only consistently sets regulations in traditional sectors, but also actively responds to emerging issues such as artificial intelligence (Wadipalapa et al., 2024) and *algorithmic trust* (Perdana et al., 2025). The effectiveness of this role is measured through policy implementation parameters, stakeholder compliance, and legal framework consistency. This can be seen in the forest moratorium policy (Daulay et al., 2024) where the effectiveness of regulations is assessed based on reduced deforestation and corporate compliance. Furthermore, the role of the state as a provider of public services has also undergone significant transformation. While continuing to shoulder the responsibility of

providing essential services, the state is increasingly transforming itself in accordance with its context, facilitating the participation of non-state actors. Taking the example of *Eco-pesantren* (Aulia et al., 2024), the state does not directly implement environmental projects, but rather develops policy frameworks and incentives for Islamic boarding schools to encourage them to take independent environmental action. A similar shift can be seen in the governance of *smart cities* (Aldhi et al., 2025; Aisyah et al., 2024), where the government is no longer merely a provider of technological services, but a catalyst for digital innovation.

Consistent findings from various studies show that bureaucratic and institutional capacity is a key factor in a country's success in fulfilling its responsibilities. In the management of climate change funds (Desmiwati et al., 2025) and judicial system reform (Hilal et al., 2024), the technical and managerial capabilities of state officials have proven to be crucial variables. This reflects the inadequacy of good policy design without adequate executive capacity at the bureaucratic level. Many studies point to the gap between state functions and implementation at the local level as a structural challenge. In artificial intelligence policy (Wadipalapa et al., 2024) and mining governance (Sujono et al., 2025), the decentralization of power is evident, leading to a lack of policy coherence. The central government acts as a strategic policy maker, while local governments act as implementers, and their capabilities and priorities often differ.

The conflict of roles between a development-oriented state and an environment-oriented state is a recurring theme. On the one hand, the state promotes development through land acquisition to advance strategic projects (Meckelburg & Wardana, 2024), while on the other hand, it must fulfill its environmental responsibilities through logging bans and restoration policies (Frianto et al., 2024). This contradiction creates a complex policy dilemma, especially in the context of the new capital city (IKN) and energy transition. Recent research reveals how the role of the state is personalized through certain actors. For example, the presence of military personnel in committees (Harymawan et al., 2024) or the role of women as coordinators in rural governance (Indriyany et al., 2025) shows that the capacity of the state often depends on the capabilities of key actors. These findings shift our understanding of the state from an abstract entity to a more human and individual one.

The role of the state as an actor in global governance and a leader in digital innovation is increasingly prominent. In handling refugee issues (Dewansyah, 2025) and climate change cooperation (Wibawa et al., 2025), Indonesia is not only a recipient of global norms but also actively shapes the international regime. Meanwhile, in digital transformation, the state plays a dual role as regulator and innovator through AI and *smart city* policies. This complex configuration of roles raises critical questions: How can we measure the effectiveness of the state's role in fragmented governance? Does Indonesia's bureaucracy have sufficient capacity to carry out all the ideal roles of a modern state? And most importantly, how can we balance the state's role as a driver of economic development with its obligations to protect the environment and society?

These patterns show that the concept of the state is evolving toward greater complexity, differentiation, and often contradiction. The Indonesian state is no longer a monolithic entity, but rather a collection of dynamic and interrelated roles that continue to evolve to respond to the challenges of the times. This transformation reflects the maturity of Indonesia's system of government, which seeks to find a balance between often conflicting needs in the context of democracy and decentralization.

What is Governance? And Which Model is Most Dominant?

A study of governance in Indonesia during the 2020-2025 period reveals a paradigmatic transformation in the meaning of governance itself. Governance is no longer understood merely as a function of government or public administration but has evolved into a complex network of multidimensional interactions between the state, the market, and civil society. Based on an analysis of various dominant governance models, there are at least nine modes of governance that intersect with each other, with certain patterns that reflect the characteristics of contemporary development challenges in Indonesia.

The *Collaborative Governance* model has emerged as the most dominant approach, reflecting the recognition that complex public issues cannot be resolved by the government alone. The success of this model is measured by the level and quality of multi-stakeholder participation, trust building, and the effectiveness of collaborative forums. An example of this can be seen in waste management governance in Pekanbaru (Saputra et al., 2025), where the government has successfully created a collaborative platform involving the community, the private sector, and civil society. Similarly, in immigration services (Ryanindityo et al., 2024), a collaborative approach has been shown to improve service quality through the integration of total quality management. Then, *Digital Governance* and *Network Governance* come as two sides of a coin that complement each other. *Digital Governance* is measured through the level of technology adoption, digital readiness of human resources, and service efficiency, as in the implementation of *smart cities* (Aldhi et al., 2025) and digital participation platforms (McDermott et al., 2025). Meanwhile, *Network Governance* focuses on the structure and dynamics of relationships between actors, as seen in refugee governance (Hasan et al., 2025) where non-state actors play a critical role in filling fragmented governance gaps.

Furthermore, *Sustainable Governance* is no longer a specialized topic but has become mainstream, integrating all governance models. Measuring success through ESG indicators, emission reduction, and SDG integration has become the new standard for evaluating governance performance. The practices of carbon disclosure (Listianingsih & Majidah, 2025) and climate change fund governance (Desmiwati et al., 2025) demonstrate how sustainability principles have become an integral part of modern governance. Polycentric governance reveals the complexity of coordination in Indonesia's decentralized government system. The gap between national policy and regional implementation is a structural challenge, as seen in AI policy (Wadipalapa et al., 2024) and mining governance (Sujono et al., 2025). The village-state relationship (Mahsun et al., 2025) with its patronage dynamics shows how governance at the local level often operates with a different logic from the national level.

Community-Based Governance proves that a *bottom-up* approach is often more sustainable. The success of community reading parks (Novrita et al., 2025) and traditional marine governance (Tarigan & Lumban Gaol, 2025) shows that local wisdom is not an obstacle to modernity, but rather an important foundation for building governance that is contextual and leaves a lasting impact. *Risk and Disaster Governance* shifts the paradigm from responsive to anticipatory. Digital platforms for disaster-aware development (McDermott et al., 2025) and disaster management in tourist areas (Putera et al., 2025) reflect the evolution of governance from mere emergency response to systemic resilience building.

Interestingly, these governance models do not operate in isolation but rather converge to form a new hybridity. *Collaborative governance* is strengthened by digital platforms, while sustainable governance requires strong *regulatory governance*. This convergence gives rise to what can be called *adaptive governance*, a flexible, contextual approach that is able to respond quickly to the dynamics of change. This transformation in the meaning of *governance* raises fundamental questions: Has Indonesia found the optimal *governance* model? How can

a balance be struck between *top-down and bottom-up* approaches? And most importantly, how can we ensure that the complexity of *governance* does not create new inefficiencies?

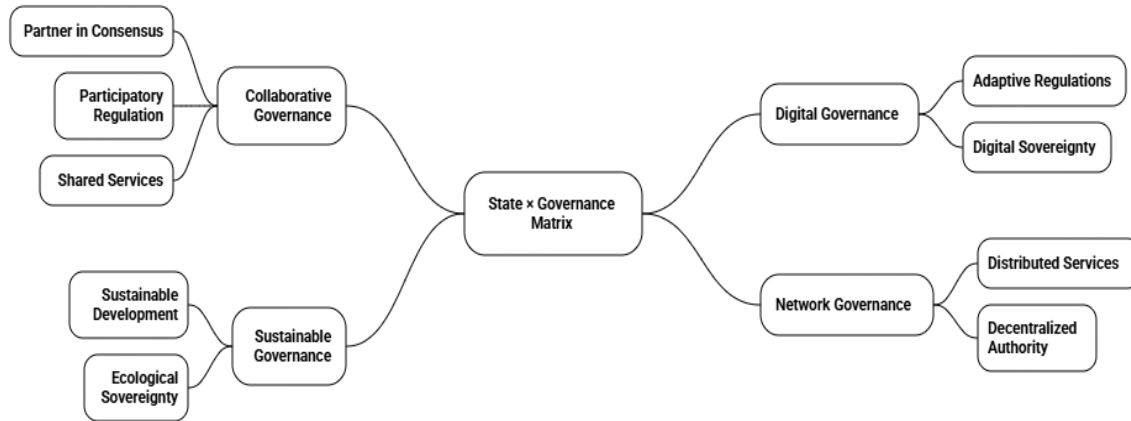
Overall, the study of governance in the context of contemporary Indonesia can be interpreted as a dynamic process of recreating public value through adaptive, inclusive, and sustainable multidimensional networks. The shift from *government-centric* to *network-centric governance* is not the end of the journey, but rather a new chapter in the evolution of Indonesian governance, which continues to seek the ideal form in response to increasingly complex and interconnected challenges of the times.

Meeting Point or Friction: Where Do the State and Governance Meet?

The fact that 129 of the 305 articles have a strong intersection between the Role of the State and Governance is not a coincidence, but a reflection of a fundamental paradigm shift in viewing government in the contemporary era. This intersection shows that the two concepts have become two sides of the same coin, where one can no longer be fully understood without the other. The meeting point lies in the recognition that the state remains an indispensable central actor, but the way it operates and carries out its role has transformed dramatically. The state is no longer seen as *the sole hierarchical controller*, but rather as the main actor in a broader *network*. It is in this intersection that we find themes such as the state as a facilitator, the state as a catalyst for collaboration, and the state as a builder of partnerships. For example, in the context of sustainable forest management or smart city development, the role of the state is no longer merely to make regulations and punish violators, but to create a platform that brings together local communities, the private sector, and NGOs to find solutions together. In other words, governance has become a new way (*the how*) for the state to carry out its role (*the what*).

However, behind this collaborative meeting point, there are always inherent frictions and tensions. These frictions arise precisely at the boundaries where the traditional logic of the state collides with the logic of governance networks. First, friction occurs in the matter of accountability. In the traditional model of government, accountability is vertical and clear: the bureaucracy is accountable to political leaders, who are then accountable to the people through elections. In a collaborative governance model involving many non-state actors, this line of accountability becomes blurred. Who is responsible when a partnership program fails? Is it the state, the private sector, or NGOs? Second, there is friction between efficiency and inclusiveness. The state is often pressured to move quickly and efficiently (as in strategic infrastructure projects), while participatory and inclusive governance processes take a long time to build consensus, listen to all voices, and negotiate. Third, there is tension between the sovereignty of the state and the autonomy of non-state actors. The state has an obligation to enforce the law and protect national interests, while in the governance model, actors such as multinational companies or indigenous peoples' organizations have their own agendas, values, and knowledge systems that may not always be in line with central government policies.

Shifting Role of the State in Governance



Source: compiled by the author

Therefore, the 47 articles that purely discuss governance may focus on the model, principles, and mechanisms of collaboration itself, assuming that the role of the state has been internalized or has shifted. Meanwhile, the 129 articles that intersect with this issue directly address this complexity. They acknowledge that the transformation of the state's role is not a smooth process, but rather an arena of continuous negotiation and adaptation. At the heart of this intersection is the search for balance how to maintain the regulatory capacity and sovereignty of the state while simultaneously embracing the flexibility, innovation, and resources offered by a collaborative governance approach. By understanding this intersection, we understand that academic discourse no longer pits the state against governance but rather seeks to understand how an intelligent and adaptive state reconfigures itself to remain relevant and effective within a complex and dynamic governance ecosystem.

Research Gaps and Future Agenda

Although studies on the role of the state and governance in Indonesia have developed rapidly in the last five years, in-depth analysis reveals several critical gaps that need to be addressed in future research. These gaps are not only academic in nature but also have practical implications for the effectiveness of *governance* and national development. Digital sovereignty and AI governance are the most urgent gaps given the rapid development of technology. Existing research, such as on AI policy (Wadipalapa et al., 2024) and *algorithmic trust* (Perdana et al., 2025), still focuses on regulatory aspects, without exploring how Indonesia maintains digital sovereignty in an AI ecosystem dominated by multinational corporations. Future research agendas need to examine Indonesia's digital sovereignty model, national AI development capacity, and governance models for public AI that are not entirely dependent on foreign technology. The aspect of intersectionality in collaborative governance also remains unanswered. Although studies on women (Rahayu et al., 2025) and indigenous peoples exist, research has not touched on how the intersections of gender, ethnicity, class, and disability affect participation in collaborative governance. An analysis of

barriers to participation for multiple marginalized groups and an evaluation of inclusion policies that are sensitive to identity diversity are needed.

Green bureaucratic capacity is a major gap in the implementation of sustainable policies. Existing research on *green governance* (Megawati et al., 2024) still focuses on the policy level, without exploring the readiness of the bureaucracy to implement green transformation. Assessing bureaucratic capacity in environmental, social, and governance (ESG) implementation, studying the technical capabilities of civil servants, and analyzing bureaucratic resistance to change are urgent issues that need to be addressed. The fragmentation of intergovernmental coordination in digital transformation requires special attention. AI and *smart city* policies (Aldhi et al., 2025) reveal gaps between levels of government, but effective coordination mechanisms have yet to be identified. Comparative studies of central-regional digital coordination models and integrated transformation institutional designs are urgently needed.

The political and economic aspects of green transformation are also often overlooked. Sustainability research (Desmiwati et al., 2025) tends to ignore the distribution of the costs and benefits of green transformation and the political alliances that support or oppose reform. Analyzing the winners and losers and the distribution of economic benefits in the energy transition is a crucial research agenda. The integration of traditional and modern governance offers undeveloped research opportunities. Currently, research on traditional institutions (Tarigan & Lumban Gaol, 2025) and modern governance is largely independent, resulting in suboptimal integration. Exploring hybrid models and researching the effectiveness of integrating local wisdom into modern bureaucracy can make a significant contribution.

Dynamic approaches to governance capacity are still relatively rare. Existing research on governance capacity is often static, failing to capture the evolution of governance capacity in response to emergencies. Longitudinal studies on the evolution of governance capacity and analysis of organizational learning in bureaucracies can address this methodological shortcoming. Furthermore, comparative studies at the subnational level are still limited. Existing research mostly focuses on single cases, thus lacking systematic comparisons between regions. Comparative studies of provincial and municipal governance models and analyses of differences in governance capacity between regions can identify best practices and contextual factors that influence success.

The future research agenda needs to integrate these shortcomings into a comprehensive framework, using a multidisciplinary approach and diverse research methods. Priority should be given to issues that directly impact governance effectiveness and public welfare, while enhancing Indonesia's capacity to address increasingly complex global challenges.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that academic discussions on the Indonesian state and governance between 2020 and 2025 reflect a dynamic and complex transformation (). The state is no longer viewed as a single entity, but rather as a multidimensional actor adapting to an increasingly collaborative, digitized, and sustainable governance ecosystem. The shift from state-centered governance to network governance is manifested in the dominance of collaborative models and the integration of sustainable development principles with digital technology. However, this transformation is not without challenges. The main points of friction lie in the trade-off between efficiency and inclusion, the conflict between state sovereignty and the autonomy of non-state actors, and the blurring of accountability boundaries in partnership models involving various stakeholders.

Based on these findings, the following recommendations can be proposed. First, it is crucial for policymakers to strengthen bureaucratic capacity building, particularly in "green capacity" and digital skills, so that they can fulfill their new roles as facilitators and meta-governors. To overcome policy fragmentation, especially on strategic issues such as energy transition and AI governance, stronger coordination between different levels of government is needed. Second, for academics and researchers, future research should focus on key gaps identified, such as digital sovereignty governance, the political economy of green transformation, participatory interdisciplinary approaches, and comparative studies of governance capacity at the subnational level. By integrating multidisciplinary approaches and diverse research methods, future research can help build an Indonesian governance model that is not only adaptive and inclusive, but also sovereign and sustainable.

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