



Pancasila as a Civil Religion: A Solution to Religion and Society in Indonesia

Steven S. N. Rogahang

Universitas Negeri Manado

Corresponding Author: Steven S. N. Rogahang stevenrogahang@unima.ac.id

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords: Pancasila, Civil Religion, Tolerance, Interreligious Dialogue, Social Justice

Received : 21 April

Revised : 23 May

Accepted: 23 June

©2025 Rogahang: This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Atribusi 4.0 Internasional](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).



ABSTRACT

Pancasila as a civil religion has been the ideological foundation for the Indonesian state since its independence in 1945. This concept reflects the unique spirit of unity in diversity, depicting a vision of an inclusive country that accepts and respects the diversity of religions, cultures and ethnicities in Indonesia. However, in the context of the challenges of multiculturalism and religious plurality, the role of Pancasila as a solution to various social and religious problems in Indonesia becomes increasingly important to understand. This research aims to explore the role of Pancasila as a civil religion in providing solutions to religious and societal challenges in Indonesia. This research also aims to understand the impact and implications of the Pancasila concept in promoting tolerance, interreligious dialogue, and building a socially just society. The research method used in this research is descriptive qualitative with a literature study approach. Data was collected through analysis of relevant primary and secondary sources, including official documents, books, journal articles and related research reports. The research results show that Pancasila as a civil religion has a significant role in facilitating tolerance, inter-religious dialogue and the development of a socially just society in Indonesia. The Pancasila concept creates an inclusive and comprehensive philosophical foundation for harmonious and civilized religious and social life. Although there are still challenges that need to be overcome, with joint efforts and strong commitment, Indonesia can continue to strengthen its unique national identity and build an inclusive, just and civilized society

INTRODUCTION

Pancasila is the philosophical basis and ideology of the Indonesian state, consisting of five basic principles that serve as a guide for national and state life. These principles include Belief in One Almighty God, Just and Civilized Humanity, Unity of Indonesia, Democracy guided by the wisdom of deliberation/representation, and Social Justice for all Indonesian people. As the foundation of the state, Pancasila reflects universal values such as justice, unity, and humanity that are widely recognized by the Indonesian people (Taufiq & Alkholid, 2021). Pancasila also recognizes the diversity of religions, ethnicities, and cultures in Indonesia, and carries a spirit of inclusivity that allows various beliefs and interests to be respected and accommodated within the framework of a just and democratic state. Thus, Pancasila is not only a philosophical concept, but also a main pillar in the formation of the identity and unity of the Indonesian nation. Pancasila as a civil religion is a profound and complex concept that fights for harmony, justice, and unity in Indonesia's diversity. This concept has been the philosophical foundation of the Indonesian state since its independence in 1945. With the recognition of the plurality of religions and cultures in Indonesia, Pancasila as a civil religion is a solution for this country rich in diversity to maintain its integrity and sustainability. In this view, Pancasila is not a religion in the conventional sense, but rather a philosophy that guides religious and social life in a balanced way. Since the beginning of its history, Indonesia has been home to various tribes, religions, and cultures. From Sabang to Merauke, the islands of Indonesia are filled with diversity that is the wealth and uniqueness of this nation. However, this diversity is also a source of potential conflict if not managed wisely. In the midst of these challenges, the birth of the concept of Pancasila as a civil religion is the answer to the need for a common foundation that can bind the Indonesian nation within a harmonious framework of diversity (Zaman et al., 2022). Pancasila, which literally means "five basic principles," consists of the values of Belief in One Almighty God, Just and Civilized Humanity, Unity of Indonesia, Democracy guided by the wisdom of deliberation/representation, and Social Justice for all Indonesian people. These values not only reflect the spiritual and moral richness of the Indonesian nation but also offer an inclusive and progressive view of diversity. As a civil religion, Pancasila provides a broad framework to respect and facilitate diverse religious practices in Indonesia. In this context, Pancasila is not a single religion that replaces individual beliefs, but rather a moral guide that creates space for religious diversity. This is in line with the spirit of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*, which literally means "different but still one." This concept is at the heart of Indonesia's national identity, emphasizing unity in diversity as one of the nation's greatest strengths (Sidabutar & Marbun, 2023).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Pancasila as a civil religion also offers solutions to social and religious conflicts that sometimes arise in society. By placing social justice as one of its main principles, Pancasila promotes a fair distribution of wealth and opportunities for all citizens, regardless of religion, ethnicity, or other backgrounds. This creates a strong foundation for the sustainability of peace and social stability in Indonesia. The concept of Pancasila as a civil religion also makes a positive contribution in promoting interfaith dialogue and tolerance between religious communities. Indonesia, with its unique religious diversity, can be an example for other countries on how to manage religious plurality peacefully and harmoniously. Thus, Pancasila as a civil religion is not only a philosophical concept, but also a practical solution to face the complex challenges of Indonesia's diversity. By integrating moral values, democratic principles, and social justice, Pancasila plays a key role in building a strong and sustainable nation amidst the ever-evolving global dynamics.

METHODOLOGY

The research method used in this study is qualitative-descriptive with a literature study approach. A qualitative-descriptive approach is used to explore a deep understanding of the concept of Pancasila as a civil religion and its role as a solution to religious and social issues in Indonesia. Through this approach, the study will explore various relevant texts and literature, both from primary and secondary sources, to understand the concept, history, and implementation of Pancasila in the context of religion and society in Indonesia (Sugiyono, 2017).

Literature study will be the main focus in data collection. Various books, journal articles, official government documents, and other sources will be thoroughly analyzed. The analysis will be carried out with a hermeneutic approach to understand the context, meaning, and implications of the texts related to Pancasila as a civil religion. In addition, a comparative approach will also be used to compare various interpretations and implementations of Pancasila in various social and historical contexts. Thus, through a qualitative-descriptive research method, with a literature study approach, it is hoped that this study can provide a deep and comprehensive understanding of the role of Pancasila as a civil religion in the context of diversity and society in Indonesia.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Pancasila as a civil religion has become a very relevant and important topic in the context of Indonesia which is rich in religious, cultural, and social diversity. This study aims to investigate the concept, role, and implications of Pancasila as a civil religion in bringing solutions to religious and social issues in Indonesia. Pancasila as a civil religion refers to the philosophical concept that is the foundation of the Indonesian state ideology (Aminullah, 2023). Consisting of five basic principles, namely Belief in One Almighty God, Just and civilized humanity, Unity of Indonesia, Democracy guided by the wisdom of deliberation/representation, and Social justice for all Indonesian people, Pancasila provides a broad framework for religious and social life in Indonesia.

One aspect that distinguishes Pancasila as a civil religion from conventional religions is the inclusive conception of Belief in One Almighty God. Although Indonesia recognizes six official religions, namely Islam, Christianity, Catholicism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism, the principle of Belief in One Almighty God allows for the recognition of religious diversity outside of the six official religions. This is reflected in the spirit of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*, which emphasizes unity in diversity. Pancasila as a civil religion makes an important contribution in providing solutions to various religious issues faced by Indonesian society. One of the main solutions offered by Pancasila is maintaining harmony and tolerance between religious communities. By emphasizing the principle of the Unity of Indonesia, Pancasila teaches the importance of maintaining solidarity and cooperation between religious communities in building a just and civilized society. Pancasila also provides a framework that respects and protects human rights, including freedom of religion and belief (Ferdianto, 2023). The principle of social justice for all Indonesian people emphasizes the importance of fair distribution of resources and opportunities for all citizens, regardless of religious background or belief. Pancasila as a civil religion also plays an important role in encouraging interfaith dialogue and interaction between religious communities. Through its inclusive spirit, Pancasila creates space for the exchange of ideas and experiences between different religious communities, which in turn can reduce inter-religious tensions and strengthen cooperation between them. Pancasila as a civil religion has significant implications in the formation of a just, democratic, and socially just society in Indonesia. By placing social justice as one of its basic principles, Pancasila encourages sustainable and inclusive development that takes into account the needs and aspirations of all levels of society. Pancasila as a civil religion also plays a key role in the formation of Indonesia's national identity. In the context of unique diversity, Pancasila becomes the glue that binds together the various elements of Indonesian society, including various religions, ethnicities, and cultures. By emphasizing unity in diversity, Pancasila creates a collective awareness of nationhood and sovereignty that is the foundation for national development and progress.

Although Pancasila as a civil religion has much potential to provide solutions to religious and social issues in Indonesia, there are still several challenges that need to be overcome. One of the main challenges is the unequal understanding of the concept and implications of Pancasila among the community. Therefore, education about the values of Pancasila needs to be improved at all levels of education. Further efforts are needed to promote interfaith dialogue and tolerance between religious communities at the local and national levels (Arif, 2020). The government, non-governmental organizations, and religious leaders need to work together to facilitate meetings and collaborative activities between religious communities to build better understanding and trust. Pancasila as a civil religion is an important and relevant concept in the diverse context of Indonesia. As the philosophical foundation of the state, Pancasila provides a broad framework for harmonious and inclusive religious and social life. By maintaining tolerance, dialogue, and solidarity between religious communities, Pancasila becomes a valuable solution to

religious and social issues in Indonesia. By appreciating and implementing the values of Pancasila in everyday life, Indonesia can continue to strengthen its unique national identity and encourage sustainable and inclusive development for all citizens.

1. Pancasila as the Foundation of an Inclusive Nation

Pancasila as the foundation of Indonesian nationhood has been a turning point in shaping the identity and unity of the nation since Indonesia's independence in 1945. This concept reflects the spirit of unity in unique diversity, depicting the vision of an inclusive nation that accepts and respects the diversity of religions, cultures, and ethnicities in Indonesia (Jainuddin, 2023).

2. History and Context of the Formation of Pancasila

To understand the role of Pancasila as an inclusive foundation of nationhood, it is important to look at the history and context of its formation. Pancasila was born from the long struggle of the Indonesian people to win their independence from the colonizers. At that time, the Indonesian people were faced with a major challenge to unite various political, religious, and cultural interests into one solid unity. In facing these challenges, the founders of the Indonesian nation, such as Soekarno, Mohammad Hatta, and other leaders, formulated Pancasila as the ideological foundation of the state that recognizes diversity as a strength, not as a potential for conflict.

3. Pancasila as a Manifestation of Bhinneka Tunggal Ika

The concept of Bhinneka Tunggal Ika, which literally means "different but still one," is strongly reflected in Pancasila as the foundation of Indonesian nationality. Pancasila places the One Almighty God as the first principle, which creates space for the recognition of various religious beliefs in Indonesia. In this context, Pancasila is not only an ideological foundation, but also a social glue that binds together various elements of Indonesian society, including various religions, ethnicities, and cultures.

4. Pancasila in Building a Unique National Identity

One of the significant impacts of Pancasila as an inclusive national foundation is in the formation of Indonesia's national identity. In the midst of rich diversity, Pancasila creates a collective awareness of nationhood and sovereignty that becomes the foundation for national development. By emphasizing unity in diversity, Pancasila strengthens Indonesia's unique national unity, which provides a moral and philosophical foundation for sustainable national development.

5. Pancasila in Promoting Tolerance and Social Solidarity

One of the main aspects of Pancasila as an inclusive national foundation is in promoting tolerance and social solidarity. By emphasizing values such as Just and Civilized Humanity, Pancasila promotes an attitude of mutual respect and appreciation among members of society. This is reflected in the spirit of Pancasila's inclusiveness which creates space for various groups to live side by side in peace and harmony.

Although Pancasila as an inclusive national foundation has made a major contribution to the identity and unity of the Indonesian nation, there are still several challenges that need to be overcome. One of the main challenges is the

unequal understanding of the concepts and values of Pancasila among the community. Therefore, education about Pancasila values needs to be improved at all levels of education. In addition, further efforts need to be made to promote interfaith dialogue and tolerance between religious communities at the local and national levels. The government, non-governmental organizations, and religious leaders need to work together to facilitate meetings and collaborative activities between religious communities to build better understanding and trust. In conclusion, Pancasila as an inclusive national foundation has made a major contribution to the formation of the identity and unity of the Indonesian nation.

This concept reflects the spirit of unity in diversity, placing Pancasila as a social glue that binds together various elements of Indonesian society. By encouraging tolerance, solidarity, and mutual respect, Pancasila provides solutions to the challenges of multiculturalism and religious plurality in Indonesia. Thus, Pancasila is not only an ideological foundation, but also a social unifier that promotes diversity as a force that unites the nation.

6. Pancasila in Encouraging Tolerance and Interfaith Dialogue

Pancasila as the ideological foundation of Indonesia is not only a guide for the government and state institutions, but also a strong social glue in building harmony among diverse societies. In this context, one important aspect of Pancasila is its role in encouraging tolerance and interfaith dialogue. Pancasila places tolerance as one of its main values reflected in the principles of the One God and the Unity of Indonesia. The concept of the One God creates space for the recognition of various religious beliefs in Indonesia, emphasizing the importance of respecting and honoring the beliefs of others. In addition, the principle of the Unity of Indonesia teaches the importance of cooperation and solidarity between religious communities in building a just and civilized society. Thus, Pancasila creates a strong philosophical foundation for the practice of tolerance in Indonesia (Amirullah, 2022).

The tolerance promoted by Pancasila has broad implications in building a dignified society. By respecting the diversity of religions and beliefs, Indonesian society can build harmonious and respectful relationships between religious communities. This creates an inclusive environment and allows every individual to feel valued and accepted in society. In this context, tolerance is not only a moral value, but also a foundation for sustainable social, economic, and political development in Indonesia. Pancasila also plays a key role in encouraging interfaith dialogue in Indonesia. The concept of Indonesian Unity contained in Pancasila emphasizes the importance of solidarity and cooperation between religious communities in building a just and civilized society. Through interfaith dialogue, various parties can exchange views, understand differences, and find solutions to conflicts or tensions that may arise. Thus, Pancasila creates a strong foundation for efforts to promote dialogue and cooperation between religious communities in Indonesia (Putra, 2020). Although Pancasila provides a strong philosophical foundation for tolerance and interfaith dialogue, there are still several challenges that need to be overcome. One of the main challenges is the imbalance of power and representation among the various religions in Indonesia. Some religions may dominate in terms of number of followers or access to resources, while minority religions may feel disproportionately unrecognized or

valued. Therefore, further efforts are needed to ensure that all religions in Indonesia feel valued and recognized in the national context. To strengthen tolerance and interfaith dialogue in Indonesia, concrete steps are needed from various parties. First of all, education about the values of tolerance and interfaith dialogue needs to be improved at all levels of education. This will help build awareness and better understanding of the importance of tolerance and interfaith dialogue in building a harmonious and inclusive society. In addition, the government, non-governmental organizations, and religious leaders need to work together in facilitating meetings and collaborative activities between religious communities to build better understanding and trust.

In conclusion, Pancasila plays a key role in promoting tolerance and interfaith dialogue in Indonesia. By placing tolerance as a core value and promoting cooperation between religious communities, Pancasila creates a strong philosophical foundation for building a harmonious and inclusive society. Although there are still challenges that need to be overcome, with joint efforts from various parties, Indonesia can continue to strengthen tolerance and interfaith dialogue as a foundation for national progress.

7. Implications of Pancasila in the Development of a Socially Just Society

Pancasila as the state ideology of Indonesia is not only a philosophical foundation for this country, but also a guide for the development of a just and socially just society. In this context, the discussion of the implications of Pancasila in the development of a socially just society is very important to study. Pancasila places social justice as one of its basic principles, which is reflected in the principle of Social Justice for all Indonesian people. The concept of social justice in Pancasila creates a strong philosophical foundation for the development of a socially just society in Indonesia. By emphasizing the importance of fair distribution of resources and opportunities for all citizens, Pancasila encourages the government and society to work together in creating a just and inclusive environment for everyone. One of the main implications of Pancasila in the development of a socially just society is in the economic sector. Pancasila emphasizes the importance of economic development that is oriented towards social welfare, which creates equal opportunities for all levels of society to gain access to education, employment, and welfare. By implementing the principle of Social Justice, the government can develop inclusive and progressive economic policies to reduce economic disparities and strengthen people's purchasing power. Pancasila also has significant implications for equitable social development. The concept of social justice in Pancasila encourages the government to pay attention to the needs and aspirations of all levels of society, including the marginalized and vulnerable. By implementing the principle of social justice, the government can develop social programs aimed at improving people's welfare, such as social assistance programs, access to affordable health services, and increasing access to basic infrastructure (Tlonaen & Saingo, 2023).

The principle of democracy led by the wisdom of deliberation/representation emphasizes the importance of active participation of all citizens in the political decision-making process. By encouraging inclusive and equitable political participation, Pancasila creates a foundation for a just and

accountable government. Although Pancasila provides a strong philosophical foundation for the development of a socially just society, there are still several challenges that need to be overcome. One of the main challenges is the inequality of access to resources and opportunities among various levels of society. Some groups may benefit more from economic and social development, while others may be marginalized or neglected. Therefore, further efforts are needed to ensure that all citizens benefit equally from the development of a socially just society.

To Realize the Development of a Socially Just Society, Concrete Steps are Needed From Various Parties:

1. The government needs to develop inclusive and progressive economic and social policies to reduce economic and social disparities.
2. Further efforts are needed to promote awareness and understanding of the values of Pancasila, including social justice, among the community.

In conclusion, Pancasila has significant implications for the development of a socially just society in Indonesia. By emphasizing social justice as one of its basic principles, Pancasila creates a strong philosophical foundation for inclusive and equitable economic, social, and political development. Although there are still challenges that need to be overcome, with joint efforts from various parties, Indonesia can continue to strengthen the development of a socially just society as part of efforts to build a just and civilized country in accordance with the ideals of Pancasila.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Pancasila as a civil religion has proven itself as a relevant and important solution to religious and social challenges in Indonesia. As the ideological foundation of the state, Pancasila provides an inclusive and comprehensive philosophical foundation for a harmonious and civilized religious and social life. The concept of Pancasila places the One Almighty God as the main principle, which provides space for the recognition of religious diversity in Indonesia. In this case, Pancasila is not only a political doctrine, but also a moral and spiritual guide for Indonesian society. In this discussion, it has been highlighted how Pancasila plays a key role in encouraging tolerance, interfaith dialogue, and the development of a socially just society. Pancasila creates a framework that promotes solidarity, justice, and unity among religious communities, which in turn reduces tensions and conflicts between religions in Indonesia. In addition, Pancasila also provides a strong philosophical foundation for the development of a just and socially just society, by emphasizing the importance of fair distribution of resources and opportunities for all citizens. However, there are still challenges that need to be overcome in realizing the vision of Pancasila as an inclusive and just civil religion. Education about the values of Pancasila needs to be improved at all levels of education, and further efforts are needed to promote interfaith dialogue and reduce tensions between religious communities. In addition, the government and society need to work together to develop policies and programs aimed at strengthening the values of Pancasila in everyday life. With joint efforts and a strong commitment to respect and implement the values of Pancasila in everyday life, Indonesia can continue to strengthen its unique national identity and build a harmonious, inclusive, and socially just society. Thus, Pancasila as a civil religion

will remain a relevant and important solution to the challenges of religion and society in Indonesia, in accordance with the spirit of Bhinneka Tunggal Ika.

FUTHER STUDY

This research still has delays, so further research is needed on the topic of Pancasila as a Civil Religion: A Solution to Religion and Society in Indonesia to enhance this research and add insights for readers.

REFERENCES

- Aminullah, A. (2023). Pancasila Sebagai Ideologi Dan Dasar Negara Serta Tantangan Dan Solusinya. *JUPE : Jurnal Pendidikan Mandala*, 8(2), 408–423. <https://doi.org/10.58258/jupe.v8i2.5366>
- Amirullah. (2022). PANCASILA DAN KERUKUNAN HIDUP UMAT BERAGAMA: MANIFESTASI NILAI-NILAI PANCASILA DALAM PERAN FORUM KERUKUNAN UMAT BERGAMA KOTA JAYAPURA. *Inovatif*, 8(1).
- Arif, S. (2020). Moderasi Beragama dalam Diskursus Negara Islam: Pemikiran KH Abdurrahman Wahid. *Jurnal Bimas Islam*, 13(1), 73–104. <https://doi.org/10.37302/jbi.v13i1.189>
- Ferdilianto, R. (2023). SUMBANGSIH PEMIKIRAN ROBERT BELLAH MENGENAI CIVIL RELIGION TERHADAP MODERASI BERAGAMA DI NUSA TENGGARA TIMUR (NTT). *Jurnal Religi: Jurnal Studi Agama-Agama*, 19(02).
- Jainuddin, N. (2023). Pancasila Sebagai Landasan Ideologi Dalam Praktik Moderasi Beragama Di Indonesia. *Jurnal Salome: Multidisipliner Keilmuan*, 1(4), 286–294.
- Putra, F. (2020). The Little Vatican: Optimalisasi DWIPA (Desa Wisata Pancasila) sebagai Upaya Meningkatkan Harmonisasi Sosial dan Toleransi. *Law, Development & Justice Review*, 3(1), 42–56.

- Sidabutar, H., & Marbun, P. (2023). Menyemai Moderasi Beragama dalam Konteks Indonesia Negara Pancasila yang Plural. *Integritas: Jurnal Teologi*, 5(2), 179–193. <https://doi.org/10.47628/ijt.v5i2.216>
- Sugiyono. (2017). *Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif, Kualitatif, dan R&D*. Alfabeta.
- Taufiq, F., & Alkholid, A. M. (2021). Peran Kementerian Agama dalam mempromosikan moderasi beragama di era digital. *Jurnal Ilmu Dakwah*, 41(2), 134–147. <https://doi.org/10.21580/jid.v41.2.9364>
- Tlonaen, N. M., & Saingo, Y. A. (2023). Peran Ideologi Pancasila Dalam Pembentukan Perilaku Anti Ekstremisme Agama. *Jurnal Multidisiplin West Science*, 2(12), 1040–1050. <https://doi.org/10.58812/jmws.v2i12.810>
- Zaman, M. B., Nawir, M. S., Islamy, A., & Aninnas, A. (2022). Harmonisasi Pendidikan Islam dan Negara: Pengarustamaan Nilai-nilai Pancasila dalam Orientasi Pendidikan Pesantren di Indonesia. *Jurnal Tarbawi*, 10(2), 139–164.