

Navigating the Data Stream: The Intersection of Digital Politics and Indonesian Foreign Policy in the Era of Big Data


Abdullah Sumrahadi¹, Musa Maliki² and Harryanto Aryodiguno³


¹President University, Jababeka, Indonesia & Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia


²Universitas Pembangunan Nasional Veteran, Jakarta, Indonesia

³President University, Jababeka, Indonesia

Author Note

Abdullah Sumrahadi  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0394-9855>

Musa Maliki  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8504-7286>

Harryanto Aryodiguno  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4825-1469>

We declare no conflicts of interest.

Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Abdullah Sumrahadi.

Email: abdullah.sumrahadi@president.ac.id

Abstract

In the contemporary landscape of international relations, the fusion of digital politics and big data analytics has emerged as a pivotal force reshaping diplomatic strategies and national foreign policy. This paper delves into the intricate interplay between digital politics and Indonesian foreign policy within the expansive realm of big data. Indonesia is a dynamic archipelago boasting a burgeoning digital ecosystem that serves as an illuminating case study to unravel the multifaceted dynamics of this intersection.

In this era of information overload (Wood et al., 1998), big data analytics revolutionized the traditional diplomacy paradigm, offering unprecedented insight into global trends, public sentiment, and policy preferences. Traditionally grounded in diplomatic norms and statecraft, Indonesian foreign policy is now navigating the data stream, leveraging digital technologies to enhance strategic decision-making.

The convergence of digital politics and big data has democratized access to information and posed novel challenges, including privacy, misinformation, and algorithmic biases (Boyd, 2008). Against this backdrop, Indonesian policymakers are tasked with crafting nuanced approaches to harness the potential of big data while safeguarding national interest and democratic values.

Through a comprehensive analysis of Internet research methods through case studies, policy initiatives, and theoretical frameworks, this paper illuminates the transformative potential of big data in shaping the contours of Indonesian foreign policy. By exploring the synergies between digital politics and diplomatic endeavors, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of the evolving landscape of international relations in the digital age.

Keywords: digital politics, big data, international relations, diplomacy, foreign policy

Introduction

In the dynamic landscape of global politics, the intersection between digital advancement and foreign policy has become increasingly pronounced, reshaping diplomatic strategies and international relations (Herrera, 2002; Mueller, 2013). Nowhere is this convergence more evident than in Indonesia, a nation navigating the complexities of diplomacy amidst the rise of big data and digitalization (Hanson, 2012). As the world's largest archipelago and a pivotal player in Southeast Asia, Indonesia stands at the crossroads of tradition and modernity, embracing technological innovation while upholding its rich cultural heritage. In this era of rapid information dissemination and interconnectedness, understanding how digital politics influence Indonesia's foreign policy decisions is paramount (Fathun, 2021). This article delves into the nuanced interplay between digital politics and Indonesia's foreign policy, shedding light on the opportunities, challenges, and implications that arise in this increasingly interconnected landscape. Departing from the brief introduction above, digital politics has sparked intellectual and public debates in Indonesia, which is no surprise (Ruddyard, 2023). Therefore, the fact that intellectual debate surrounding the intersection of digital politics and Indonesia's foreign policy in the era of big data today encapsulates a spectrum of perspectives ranging from enthusiastic embrace to cautious skepticism can be understood temporarily at this stage. At the heart of this discourse lies a fundamental question: How does Indonesia navigate the digital landscape while safeguarding its national interests and sovereignty on the global stage?

On the one hand, one proponent of leveraging digital technologies in foreign policy argues that Indonesia can benefit from harnessing the power of big data analytics, social media diplomacy, and digital platforms to enhance diplomatic outreach, economic cooperation, and cultural exchange (Scholz, 2013). Experts in international relations and international law

emphasize the potential of digital diplomacy to amplify Indonesia's voice in international forums, engage with global stakeholders, and shape public opinion on critical issues. Moreover, these experts also contend that embracing digital innovation can bolster Indonesia's competitiveness in the worldwide arena, enabling the nation to adapt to rapidly changing geopolitical dynamics and capitalize on emerging opportunities.

Conversely, critics caution against the pitfalls and vulnerabilities inherent in Indonesia's increasing reliance on digital platforms for foreign policy endeavors. Concerns revolve around data privacy, cybersecurity threats, and the potential for digital misinformation and manipulation to undermine diplomatic efforts and national security. Skeptics argue that digital technologies offer unprecedented opportunities for connectivity and collaboration, but they also introduce new risks and vulnerabilities that require careful management and regulation (Schiller, 1999). Moreover, concerns exist about digitalism within Indonesia, with disparities in access to technology and digital literacy exacerbating existing inequalities and potentially hindering the country's ability to fully capitalize on the benefits of the digital era in its foreign policy pursuits. For example, one can see that digital technologies radically transform the world and promise new forms of community, alternative ways of knowing and feeling, creative innovation, participatory culture, networked activism, and the seeds of democracy. To enrich the debate, pessimists argue that digital technologies do not bring positive change at all but instead exacerbate the depth and expansion of domination through new forms of control, such as networks of authoritarianism, digital dehumanization, alienation 2.0, networks of exploitation, and the rise of surveillance society (Trottier, 2016; Chandler & Fuchs, 2019).

In this ongoing intellectual debate, scholars, policymakers, and practitioners grapple with the multifaceted implications of the intersection of digital politics and Indonesia's foreign policy in the era of big data. While some parties push for bold experimentation and innovation, others urge caution and strategic foresight to ensure Indonesia navigates this complex terrain with prudence and resilience. Ultimately, the outcome of this debate will shape Indonesia's approach to digital diplomacy and foreign policy in the years to come, influencing its position and impact on the global arena.

Research Purpose and Background

International relations are critical in shaping global politics, economies, and societies in today's interconnected world. Understanding the dynamics of such complex international relations is very important for policymakers, analysts, and international relations academicians. Big data analytics has revolutionized various fields in recent years, and international relations studies are no exception. This article explores the relevance of extensive data analysis in understanding international relations.

Big data refers to large structures and unstructured data generated from various sources such as social media, online platforms, satellite images, and government records. This unprecedented data availability provides researchers with invaluable resources for exploring international relations at unimaginable depth and granularity.

One of the main advantages of extensive data analysis in international relations is its ability to improve predictive capabilities. By analyzing large volumes of data, researchers can identify patterns, correlations, and trends that can help predict geopolitical events, conflict escalation, economic trends, and social unrest. This analytical approach can help governments

and organizations make more informed decisions and develop effective strategies for reducing potential risks.

Public opinion and feelings are essential in international relations (Holsti, 2009). With the advent of social media and online platforms, people worldwide have a platform to express their views and feelings on various global issues (Lim, 2017). Big data analytics allow research to analyze and interpret these vast data streams to gain insight into public opinion and sentiment dynamics across countries and regions. This understanding can be an instrument in forming diplomatic strategies and crisis management efforts.

Extensive data analysis offers the potential to identify emerging threats and challenges in international relations (Payton & Claypoole, 2014). By analyzing data from multiple sources, research that involves the policy-making process can detect early warning signals related to security threats, terrorist activity, disease outbreaks, and environmental problems. This information can be used to develop proactive measures, improve preparations, and strengthen international cooperation to address these challenges effectively.

Effective policymaking requires accurate and up-to-date information. Big data analytics provides policymakers access to a wide range of data that can inform their decision-making processes. By analyzing large datasets, policymakers can identify trends, evaluate the impact of previous policies, and design evidence-based strategies. Additionally, extensive data analysis enables real-time monitoring of policy implementation, allowing policymakers to make timely adjustments when necessary.

While extensive data analysis has great potential for studying international relations, it also presents challenges and ethical considerations. Ensuring data privacy, protecting personal information, and maintaining data security are critical concerns that must be addressed.

Moreover, data collection and analysis bias must be carefully considered to avoid reinforcing prejudices or inequalities.

Extensive data analysis has significantly improved the study of international relations by harnessing the power of big data. Research in policy formulation can gain unprecedented insight into global dynamics, predict future events, understand public opinion, identify emerging threats, and formulate evidence-based policies. However, navigating the challenges and ethical considerations associated with extensive data analysis is essential to ensure its responsible and constructive use in international relations. As technology continues to develop, the potential of big data analytics in understanding and shaping global affairs will likely expand, offering exciting opportunities for researchers, policymakers, lawmakers, and analysts. Therefore, it can be concluded that the research interest and questions in this research paper can be started by asking how using big data in digital politics influences the Indonesian foreign policy decision-making process and what implications this has for Indonesia's diplomatic relations and international positioning.

Design and Approach

Studying the intersection between digital politics and Indonesian foreign policy in the era of big data requires a nuanced approach that integrates qualitative methods with the vast resources available on the Internet. For example, this research paper conducts a simple digital ethnography by becoming involved in online communities, forums, and discussion groups relevant to Indonesian politics and foreign relations. By observing interactions, identifying key critical thinkers and policy experts, and participating in discussions, researchers can gain deep insight into how digital platforms shape public opinion and policy debate. Therefore, textual analysis of digital media sources such as websites, blogs, and online publications can provide

insight into how foreign policy issues are framed and discussed in the Indonesian context. Researchers can use natural language processing techniques to identify recurring themes, sentiments, trends, and changes in discourse over time. By integrating these qualitative methods and utilizing resources available on the Internet, the research gains a comprehensive understanding of the intersection between digital politics and Indonesian foreign policy in the era of big data. Internet research methodology is used to gather information, data, and insight from online sources. It involves utilizing various online platforms, databases, search engines, and digital tools to collect, analyze, and interpret data relevant to a research topic that aligns with the research problem statement. Internet research can include a variety of techniques and approaches, including but not limited to searching on a popular search engine such as Google and Bing or specialized search engines such as Google Scholar to find articles, reports, web sources, and other online resources related to this topic. Internet research methods offer researchers flexibility, accessibility, and scalability in accessing various online information and data sources. However, researchers must critically evaluate online sources' credibility, validity, and reliability and implement appropriate ethical practices when conducting Internet research.

Finding and Limitations

Integrating the Internet of Things (IoT) and big data into Indonesia's foreign policy framework presents an unprecedented opportunity for diplomats and public diplomacy initiatives to enhance the nation's global standing and influence. By harnessing the power of IoT and big data analytics, Indonesia can cultivate deeper insight into global trends, economic patterns, and social dynamics, enabling more informed and strategic decision-making on the international stage.

NAVIGATING THE DATA STREAM: THE INTERSECTION OF DIGITAL POLITICS AND INDONESIAN FOREIGN POLICY IN THE ERA OF BIG DATA

One key advantage lies in leveraging IoT devices and big data analytics to gather real-time information on various aspects such as trade flows, environmental conditions, and social sentiments. This wealth of data can empower diplomats to craft more effective policies, negotiate favorable trade agreements, and address pressing global challenges such as climate change and sustainable development.

Furthermore, IoT and big data can bolster Indonesia's public diplomacy efforts by enabling more targeted and personalized communication strategies. Through sophisticated data analysis, diplomats can identify specific demographics and communities domestically and abroad, tailoring their messaging and outreach initiatives to resonate more effectively with diverse audiences. This approach fosters greater cultural understanding, promotes Indonesia's values and interests, and strengthens international partnerships and alliances.

Crucially, Indonesia must prioritize ethical considerations, transparency, and accountability when navigating this landscape to ensure the responsible use of data beyond privacy and national security concerns. Adopting robust data governance frameworks and fostering collaboration with international partners will safeguard against potential misuse or exploitation of data while upholding fundamental human rights principles and democratic governance.

Indonesia can position itself as a forward-thinking and proactive global player capable of addressing complex challenges and seizing emerging opportunities in the digital age by embracing IoT and big data as integral components of its foreign policy and diplomatic strategies. Through an approach that balances innovation with ethical considerations, Indonesia can harness the transformative potential of data-driven diplomacy to advance its national interests and contribute positively to the global community.

NAVIGATING THE DATA STREAM: THE INTERSECTION OF DIGITAL POLITICS AND INDONESIAN FOREIGN POLICY IN THE ERA OF BIG DATA

Utilizing IoT and big data in formulating foreign policy allows Indonesia to enhance diplomatic strategies and public diplomacy beyond data privacy considerations and national security. By leveraging IoT and big data analytics, Indonesian diplomats can gain deeper insights into global trends, socioeconomic patterns, and emerging challenges. This understanding enables more informed foreign policy decisions that align with Indonesia's national interests and contribute to regional and global stability.

By analyzing big data from IoT devices, Indonesian policymakers can identify priority areas for investment and resource allocation in foreign policy initiatives. This data-driven approach ensures that diplomatic efforts are targeted toward the areas with the highest impact and return on investment potential. Beyond traditional diplomatic channels, IoT-enabled cultural exchange programs and digital platforms can foster people-to-people connections and enhance Indonesia's soft power on the global stage. By showcasing its cultural heritage and technological innovation, Indonesia can strengthen its diplomatic relations and influence the country's perceptions abroad. Big data analytics can be instrumental in monitoring progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) domestically and internationally. Indonesia can demonstrate its commitment to global cooperation and leadership in addressing pressing global challenges by actively promoting SDG-related initiatives through diplomatic channels.

Integrating IoT and big data into Indonesia's foreign policy formulation allows for a more sophisticated and practical diplomatic approach. By leveraging technology to gain insights, engage strategically, allocate resources efficiently, promote cultural exchange, and advance SDGs, Indonesian diplomats can navigate the complexities of the modern world and contribute positively to global governance and cooperation.

NAVIGATING THE DATA STREAM: THE INTERSECTION OF DIGITAL POLITICS AND INDONESIAN FOREIGN POLICY IN THE ERA OF BIG DATA

Integrating IoT and big data analytics into Indonesia's foreign policy framework presents a multifaceted opportunity to enhance diplomatic efficacy and bolster public diplomacy efforts. Leveraging these technologies can yield several significant benefits beyond data privacy and national security; by harnessing IoT-enabled platforms and big data analytics, Indonesia can facilitate cultural exchange programs and showcase its cultural heritage to a global audience. Diplomatic missions can curate virtual exhibitions, interactive experiences, and digital content promoting Indonesian art, cuisine, music, and traditions, enhancing the country's soft power and fostering cross-cultural understanding. IoT sensors and big data analytics can be crucial in disaster response and humanitarian efforts. Diplomats can leverage these technologies to monitor environmental conditions, predict natural disasters, and coordinate emergency response activities. Indonesia can strengthen its international reputation and build goodwill among the global community by demonstrating its capacity to provide rapid assistance and support to affected regions.

IoT-enabled supply chain management systems and big data analytics can streamline trade processes, optimize logistics, and identify new market opportunities. Diplomats can leverage these technologies to promote Indonesian exports, attract foreign investment, and forge strategic partnerships with critical economic stakeholders. Indonesia can enhance its diplomatic influence and contribute to regional stability and prosperity by fostering economic cooperation and integration.

Indonesia can empower its citizens to participate in diplomacy and global affairs through IoT-driven citizen engagement platforms and big data analytics. By soliciting feedback, facilitating virtual dialogues, and organizing online forums, diplomats can amplify the voices of ordinary Indonesians on the world stage and promote people-to-people connections across borders. The intersection of IoT and big data analytics in Indonesia's

foreign policy toolkit offers a transformative opportunity to advance its diplomatic objectives, amplify its soft power, and foster greater global engagement. By embracing these technologies responsibly and transparently, Indonesia can navigate the complexities of the digital age while safeguarding the interests of its citizens and promoting international cooperation and understanding (Drakopoulou et al., 2010).

Modern diplomacy is changing fundamentally at an unprecedented level, influencing the character of diplomacy as it had been known (Barston, 2019). Changing this, especially digitalization in communications, influences how the work of diplomats must be understood. The number of domestic actors and international activities that have implications for a new form of diplomacy is increasing. These changes affect the aspects of domestic and global politics, which used to be less of a problem for diplomatic attention. The international public, as well as this study's focus country of Indonesia, has become more sensitive to policy issues abroad and attempts to influence diplomacy through social media and other platforms, ways of exchange between countries, as well as exchanges between governments and other domestic actors, progress affect diplomacy's ability to act lawfully and practical, with diplomats themselves as a result not always having to have the same attributes as before.

This trend reflecting society's general development needs to be absorbed by diplomacy as part of foreign policy governance. The novel value of the current international relations systems is that they are already digital communication networks. Diplomats must understand the Internet to make deadlines and to know how to use influence to the maximum in public debate via social media. Face-to-face negotiations remain their prerogative, but the context of the talks and the forces at work involved in those negotiations are changing rapidly. These changes occur through the Internet and by having extensive data analysis of what happens within it (Scholz, 2013). Western diplomacy, followed by digital diplomacy, relies on the

Internet and digital electronic devices and has already developed in line with this. Countries such as the United States and Australia are genuinely maximizing advances in modern technology and the potential of cyberspace and big data to support the struggle for their national interests on the international stage.

Digital diplomacy is more than big data with its sophisticated IoT-mediated analytical skills. More than that, a conceptual shift in diplomatic practice places greater emphasis on conversations with foreign populations. This cultural shift requires the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and related official state institutions to guard and share information. In this context, a debate has occurred between data and how privacy and its private and public domains should be presented.

This technological shift requires diplomats to develop digital skills ranging from knowledge of social media algorithms to writing computer programs and smartphone apps. For some diplomats, this is a time of innovation and experimentation. For others, it is a culture shock. This realization demands a definition of digital diplomacy that is inclusive and particular, as well as optimistic and careful. Diplomacy has been around long, previously referred to as negotiation. Using digital means to interact with the broader community worldwide is a new phenomenon that is still on its way to developing in the future. Compared to other ministries and government agencies, Indonesia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs is still a newcomer to social media. Therefore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs can use social media as a new tool for public engagement in diplomacy.¹ On the other hand, using digitalism in diplomacy may be a new form of public diplomacy, and digital diplomacy may manifest new public diplomacy in Indonesia.

¹ <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/5686/view/vice-foreign-minister-highlights-importance-of-digital-transformation-in-electronic-based-government-system>

The discussion above shows that good opportunities and challenges exist in formulating diplomats' roles and reformulating how to manage their duties in modern public diplomacy, which can currently be agreed to have taken on a digital face. As a conflict between the idealism of the old style of diplomacy and the new diplomacy and its trend toward digitalization, the role of diplomats must be adapted regarding their duties and positioning. Furthermore, the following discussion will likely answer the question of how the role of big data used in digital politics influences the policy decision-making process, as will be shown in the following statements.

The grand event of the 2024 general election in Indonesia has passed, leaving a spotlight on domestic and international debates about the legitimacy and potential violations of authority regarding the neutrality of authorities and human rights issues. This was then quickly greeted with an explanation through an official statement from a spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, and this perhaps explains the reason for the strength of digital politics.² Returning to the theme of the discussion in the four previous general elections from 2004, 2009, 2014, and 2019, political communication activities were seen to have required many mediums to convey political messages. However, digital politics had become the most significant phenomenon in the general elections, which saw the president directly elected in 2014 and 2019.

At least three digital political transformations can be found. First, digital media has become the central battle arena for political actors to gather as many votes as possible. Secondly, digital media has also become an arena for exchanging information and political communication that is highly inclusive and easily accessible to the broader community. For

² <https://en.tempo.co/read/1846551/govt-reacts-to-un-panels-concern-on-jokowis-neutrality-in-2024-election>

this reason, the current research paper sees that political actors must be careful when using digital media, namely when ideologizing and spreading a vision. This includes the previous regime's evaluation of how they carried out foreign policy being promoted and implemented by candidates who have and will occupy government positions as policymakers.

In line with the above discussion, digital technology has allowed Indonesian people to participate more in politics. Along with the development of the Internet and its inherent big data, social media and mobile applications have become tremendous factors in facilitating access to political information and platforms for discussion. This has allowed individuals from all walks of life, including those not previously politically active, to express opinions, contribute to the political process, and express their attitudes (Zhang et al., 2010).

To make studying this phenomenon easier, we will distinguish it into two significant possibilities, which we will explain. With the rise of digital technology, which makes massive use of big data, two enormous possibilities have emerged: (1) ease of access and (2) threats to democracy, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. *Two Enormous Possibilities of Digital Technology*

Ease of Access	Threats to Democracy
▪ Information Disclosure	▪ Spread of False Information
▪ Spirit for Criticism and Participation	▪ Political Polarization
▪ Elections and Online Political Campaigns	▪ Data Privacy

Political information that was previously difficult to access can now be quickly found online. Citizens can follow political developments easily and make more informed decisions, such as in elections or supporting particular political activities. Social media provides a platform where people can talk about political issues, criticize government policies, and organize protests or campaigns. This gives citizens a stronger voice, especially those who feel ignored by the government.

Despite the many opportunities big data offers through the advancement of digital technology, it also poses significant challenges for Indonesian democracy. One of the main problems facing digital politics is the spread of false information or hoaxes. Social media can easily be used to spread fake news and thus can influence public opinion and political decisions. Social media also tends to create space for political polarization. People tend to be exposed only to views that align with their beliefs, which can deepen societal divisions. To collect voter data, political campaigns, and technology companies often need permission to collect more sensitive personal data. This can threaten individual privacy and data security.

Before making a temporary conclusion in this research paper, the discussion will again touch on the relations and interrelationships of digital politics and the threats they bring or cause. This discussion will again look at the advantages and limitations of digital technological innovation that has become so advanced in making foreign political policy in Indonesia as led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia and those in line with it from other official institutions or parties of the Indonesian government.

Data sources have been explored several times, and Indonesia views digital diplomacy as similar to conventional diplomacy. As stipulated in the latest Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia in 2017, digital diplomacy has virtually the

same objective as conventional diplomacy: to collect and analyze information, disseminate foreign policy, and protect Indonesian citizens abroad. Understandably, the government considers the Internet and other digital devices as mere media. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Strategic Plan has adopted a skeptical view of digital diplomacy. However, it has been used to push things several times, presenting an opposite reality. This is similar to the difference between the front stage and the backstage in foreign policy fragments.

For example, upon referencing the data from www.twidiplomacy.com regarding 2022, which places Indonesian President Joko Widodo's participation and involvement in using Twitter as a means of public communication in 11th place and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the first place, this is not solely due to the number of engagements. Looking in-depth, what happened was not that both of them had sometimes campaigned for foreign policy and gotten many responses but rather the fact that the populations of these two countries are significant. These leaders used Twitter a lot in that year.

The emergence of digital diplomacy provides opportunities for communities to be involved in decision-making or at least in influencing the decision-making process. Through dialogical communication, diplomacy has become transparent due to the involvement of community groups. As a result, the government's policies have become stronger and more deeply rooted in the interest of society. Multistakeholder diplomacy, also known as integrative diplomacy, forces the government's decisions to reflect the interests of many parties more. Social media platforms also provide space for interaction, increasing engagement and advancing diplomatic goals. The potential ease of access to social media and lower costs compared to other methods make social media attractive to many embassies and other government offices facing budget cuts and demands for increased engagement. Many platforms

allow more dynamic contact, such as videos, photos, and links, in addition to the traditional method of giving a diplomatic approach.

Digital technology can be beneficial for public diplomacy in the field of information collection and processing, as well as in the field of consular activities and for communication during emergencies. International practices show the competent use of digital diplomacy tools to benefit those who invest in them, mainly because digital diplomacy only sometimes requires an investment. Strengthening economic diplomacy is necessary to get Indonesia out of the middle-income trap it still faces today. The promotions Indonesia carries out are intended to show the world that the Indonesian economy is growing fruitfully.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its embassies have become part of various online networks where information is collected and stored via big data and algorithmic plays. Diplomats' use of mainstream social media has opened communication between policymakers and global citizens. Communication tools have given diplomatic missions direct access to citizens within the country and abroad. This communication frequently bypasses state and media filters, which allows countries to influence foreign audiences and achieve diplomatic goals more effectively. This conforms to reasonable changes in the structure and processes of foreign affairs. Revolutionary information and communication technologies have resulted in control over how information flows everywhere, allowing for the quick and broad dissemination of information. This allows people to judge themselves, express worries and feelings, and even influence policymakers. As a result, the government's ways of interacting have become quicker and easier.

Understanding Value for a Conclusion

The discussion and explanation above have led to the understanding that the rapid development of artificial intelligence innovation and big data bridged by the Internet of Things in various digital technologies has caused radical social changes in people's lives, including politics and policy, society's social interactions, and international relations. Society faces social problems that may have never been encountered in the past two decades. The description above of the delusions and vulnerabilities of algorithmic subjects surrounded in the power vortex of algorithmic governmentality does not tend to enforce the opinion that algorithmic subjects have been disciplined and normalized by this algorithmic governmentality as if nothing is left of them anymore, instead maneuvering for a space of resistance for the algorithmic subject (Daniel, 2016). No matter how hegemonic algorithmic governmentality is, room is still left for algorithmic subjects to maneuver to seize the spaces of social production that are more meaningful for oneself and one's epistemic community, and this is precisely a profound point. People must be more serious about designing a common agenda in this context. This political-hegemonic project radicalizes the algorithmic subject as a critical concluding note to the phenomenon in this discussion.

Integrating the Internet, big data, and digital algorithms has significantly impacted managing Indonesia's international relations and foreign policy issues. The following discussion becomes the critical conclusion of valuing integration and navigating the data stream. Using the Internet, big data, and digital algorithms has increased data analysis and decision-making efficiency in international relations and foreign policy. Data from online sources can be filtered and analyzed quickly using a digital algorithm, enabling policymakers to respond more rapidly and precisely to international issues.

Integrating the Internet and big data allows for broader data collection and a deeper understanding of international relations issues. Extensive data analysis can provide more

comprehensive insight into the trends, patterns, and dynamics at the global, regional, and national levels, which can help Indonesia formulate a more effective and adaptive foreign policy. While providing great benefits, integrating the Internet, big data, and digital algorithms also presents data privacy and security challenges. Massive data collection and analysis can threaten individual privacy and the security of sensitive national information. Therefore, careful steps are needed to ensure that the data collected and used in a foreign policy context are not misused or exploited by the more giant unseen capitalist corporations (Witthof, 1999; Frayssé & O'Neil, 2015); this is where Foucault's principle of governmentality above must be interpreted, as Zuboff (2019) maintained in her inspiring interview statement.³

This navigation has also increased Indonesia's dependence on technology, which belongs to the super capitalists. This dependency can become a potential vulnerability if the technological infrastructure is not strong enough or if Internet access or computer systems disruptions occur. Therefore, developing a solid technological infrastructure and building internal capacity to use and manage information technology is essential. Still, technology also needs a proper regulatory framework. Appropriate regulations can help protect individual privacy, regulate the use of sensitive data, and ensure transparency in algorithm-based decision-making. Effective regulations can also help prevent the misuse of technology for political purposes or illegitimate interests. By paying attention to these aspects, Indonesia can take the proper steps to integrate and navigate the data stream and manage international relations and foreign policy issues to support sustainable development and global peace.

This debate is indeed one that has not yet been concluded because this effort is an ongoing work on researching and studying the relevance of the spirit of the times and the

³ <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/oct/04/shoshana-zuboff-surveillance-capitalism-assault-human-autonomy-digital-privacy>

technology it brings. This experience was written based on the focus of a temporarily referenced written study of experiences in Indonesia. However, carrying out more measurable and in-depth studies of relations in the future is available in various countries worldwide by taking into account the method and time, with equal importance given to having an adequate budget for this. Despite its apparent brevity, studying this case description has provided input and an injection of ideas from the perspective of other countries' experiences, as reflected in the studies in the bibliography. For this reason, as the authors, we are open to making improvements with enthusiasm and reflection regarding future discussions on practically identical themes covering a broader scope of study.

References

- Barston, R. P. (2019) *Modern Diplomacy*, London: Routledge.
- Boyd, D. (2008). Facebook's Privacy Trainwreck: Exposure, Invasion, and Social Convergence. *Convergence*, 14(1), 13–20.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1354856507084416>
- Chandler, D., & Fuchs, C. (2019). *Digital Objects, Digital Subjects: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Capitalism, Labour and Politics in the Age of Big Data*. (D. Chandler & C. Fuchs, Eds.) London: University of Westminster Press.
- Daniel, T. (2016). *Social Media as Surveillance: Rethinking Visibility in a Converging World*. London: Routledge.
- Drakopoulou, S., Grossman, W. & Moore, P. (2010). The Campaign for Digital Citizenship. *Journal of Politics and Culture* (62): pp. 107–120. 65.
- Fathun, L. (2021). Indonesia's Foreign Policy in Digital Era: Poliheuristic Theory. *Intermestic: Journal of International Studies*, 6 (1), 197–220.
- Frayssé, O & O'Neil, M (Eds.). 2015. *Digital Labour and Prosumer Capitalism: The US Matrix*. Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Hanson, F. (2012, October 25). *Baked in and Wired: eDiplomacy@State, Foreign Policy Paper Series No. 30*, Washington, DC: Brookings Institution (pp. 1–41).
- Herrera, G, L. (2002). The Politics of Bandwidth: International Political Implications of a Global Digital Information Network. *Review of International Studies*, 28 (1), 93–122.

NAVIGATING THE DATA STREAM: THE INTERSECTION OF DIGITAL POLITICS AND INDONESIAN FOREIGN POLICY IN THE ERA OF BIG DATA

- Holsti, O. R. (2009). *Public Opinion and American Foreign Policy*. Michigan: The University of Michigan Press.
- Lim, M. (2017). Freedom to Hate: Social Media, Algorithmic Enclaves, and The Rise of Tribal Nationalism in Indonesia. *Critical Asian Studies* (1):1–18.
- Mueller, M, L. (2013). *Networks and States: The Global Politics of Internet Governance*. Cambridge: MIT Press.
- Payton, T. M. & Claypoole, T. (2014). *Privacy in the Age of Big Data: Recognizing the Threats, Defending Your Rights, and Protecting Your Family*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Ruddyard, F. (2023, December 13). *Global AI Governance: Discourse and Challenges for Indonesia*. Jakarta: Kompas. id.
- Schiller, D. (1999). *Digital capitalism: Networking the global market system*. Massachusetts: The MIT Press.
- Scholz, T. (2013). *Digital Labor: The Internet as Playground and Factory*. (T. Scholz, Ed.) London: Routledge.
- Trottier, D. (2016). *Social Media as Surveillance: Rethinking Visibility in a Converging World*. London: Routledge.
- Witheford, N.-D. (1999). *Cyber-Marx: Cycles and circuits of struggle in high-technology capitalism*. Chicago: University of Illinois Press.
- Wood, E. M., Foster, J. B. & McChesney, R. D. (Eds.). (1998). *Capitalism and the Information Age: The Political Economy of the Global Communication Revolution*, 51–67. New York: Monthly Review Press.
- Zhang, W., Johnson, T. J., Seltzer, T., & Bichard, S. L. (2010). The Revolution Will be Networked: The Influence of Social Networking Sites on Political Attitudes and Behavior. *Social Science Computer Review*, 28(1), 75-92.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0894439309335162>
- Zuboff, S. (2019). *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism: The Fight for a Human Future at the New Frontier of Power*. New York: Public Affairs
- Zuboff, S. (2019, October Friday). ‘Surveillance capitalism is an assault on human autonomy.’ (J. Kavenna, Interviewer) *The Guardian*.