



Geopolitics and The Role of The Church in Nationalism on Daily Basis in the 21st Century

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ABSTRACT: Through empirical knowledge, articles, papers, and a daily basis of field observation, this paper proposes an analysis of the current trend on how people usually have pride and a good sense of nationalism towards their nation. An overall analysis and observation of the grand scheme of things on how geopolitics might affect how people could have pride and a good sense of nationalism would be discussed. A thorough and general descriptive discussion on how to light up the nationalism spirit of those who don't have pride and a good sense of nationalism would be exposed and applied. The application of discussion would be applied through the role of the church in enhancing and inspiring people in nationalism through the right sense of nationalism in both pride and understanding by following the 21st-century trend of behavior in advanced humanity. Advancing humanity and the right sense of nationalism are the keys to building a better future for a nation.

Keywords: geopolitics; the role of the church; nationalism; daily basis; 21st century

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INTRODUCTION

Nationalism is an old issue but something that has been crucial for any nation ever since a nation was settled. Without the right manner of understanding and acting towards nationalism, it might ruin the nation's ideology, identity, and unity (Saragih et al., 2021). Every nation is located in a different region, area, or part of the world, so they are unique in terms of their geolocation. Each nation also has its uniqueness and characteristics in terms of culture, where it affects their people's mindset, lifestyle, habit, manner, sense of humanity, art, etc. (Kadarisman, 2010).

Aside from nationalism, religion or belief—in this case, Christianity—has a long historical background. As Christianity continuously develops from time to time, the church itself, where Christians do their religious activity, has a long history. The church has its role in serving as a place

for a community and giving influence to the society either directly or indirectly. As it has the power to influence how its people might think, act, and live their lives, it shall direct people to have the right sense of understanding and act towards nationalism through its influence (Emeng & Okafor, 2021; Novalina, 2020).

As the application of nationalism and the influence of the church could be seen on a daily basis, it would be going on through the lives of the people in its era. In each era, there would always be a different trend in how people think, act, and live their lives; thus, there would be a cultural gap between people from different eras. The trend of people's behavior shifts dynamically from time to time. The shift occurs due to the development and advancement of humanity.

The development of a nation and the advancement of humanity might vary from one

nation to another. The differences might occur due to geopolitical factors. Geopolitics might play a role in the development and advancement of a nation and humanity as it involves certain things such as natural resources, energy security, demography, etc. (Kumar, 2020; Natalegawa, 2022). Those things might affect and relate to the nation's wealth, economic status, political relationship with other nations, political power, political influence, monetary policy influence, etc.

In a seriously dynamic society era due to the advancement of technology and the effect of globalization, it requires a serious act of attempt to empower the people of the church to survive (Fukuyama, 2018; Shirley, 2017; Skobelev & Borovik, 2017). The development of the human resources of the church members is the key to the survival of the church and the faith of Christianity in a rapidly evolving and dynamic society (Darmawan et al., 2021; Herwinesastra et al., 2023). In the context of the discussion, empowerment is defined in terms of the skills and knowledge needed to survive in the marketplace.

The readiness of the church to face the advancement and development of technology has certainly attracted the attention of academics for research. According to Afandi (2018), the research of the church and the influence of information technology suggest that the virtual world provides the opportunity for the church to have a new perspective in viewing the transcendent reality of God. It is time for the church to utilize the technology of social media as a tool or medium for developing communication, community, and discipleship. Similar research has been done by Samarenna (2021), where it has been exposed that the globalization stream, especially the globalization of digitalization, has had a significant influence on the church. It is necessary for the church to exist within the internet as a strategy in the progressivity of service.

After reviewing some research above, the purpose of this research is to conduct a deeper observation and a more in-depth analysis through

some data gathering on the implication of the role of the church in nationalism on a daily basis in the 21st century through geopolitics. It is suggested that geopolitics is one of the key elements that could drive a nation to its utmost potential if it is well managed and properly executed by its own people with regard to the nation's interests.

METHOD

A quantitative method in the manner of descriptive research has been used, with the result of this research and its variables exposed in an accurate manner (Creswell & Creswell, 2018; Houghton et al., 2015; Zaluchu, 2020). Data collection has been conducted through a survey method with 159 respondents. This survey was conducted in Indonesia amongst random people through Google Forms. The identity of respondents is anonymous, as no private data except for their age was asked for or collected. Through observation and a survey, there would be some supporting data for the analysis to begin with and to be valid. These data are solely empirical, as a quantitative method was used. The survey was conducted for both English and Bahasa Indonesia speakers. The survey summary chart and the analysis of the survey result would be shown in the result of the survey subsection. The data collected through observation would support the data analysis in the data analysis subsection. Through data collection, such as papers, articles, and empirical data, the structurization of the writing purpose could be achieved. An attempt was made to do the analysis needed for the paper's purpose, which is to determine what the role of the church shall be for the current situation and conditions that are occurring in the society. The result of the analysis and the role of the church would be shown in the "*Role of the Church*" subsection.

RESULTS

The result of the survey conducted for both English and Bahasa Indonesia speakers is as shown below.

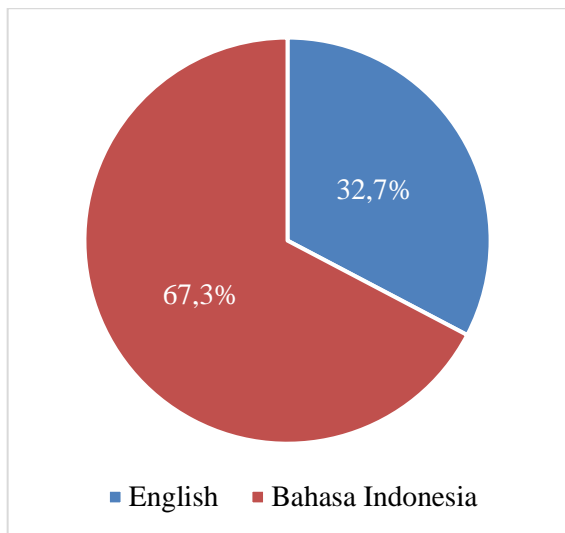


Figure 1. Chart of English and Bahasa Indonesia speaker percentage

The total quantity of respondents for both English and Bahasa Indonesia speakers is as many as 159. The chart shows that Bahasa Indonesia speakers dominate the survey as a respondent by 107 people or as much as 67.3%, with the rest of 52 people or as much as 32.7% are the English speakers. Please be informed that this does not rule out the possibility that the respondents might be multilingual.

The chart (Figure 2) shows that out of six groups of Age, those with the age group of 24–30 dominate the quantity of the English-speaking respondent by 22 people or as much as 42.3%. The second most dominating is the age group of 19–23 with 17 people with a percentage of 32.7%. In the third position is the age group of 40–49 with 10 people with a percentage of 19.2%, followed by the rest of the three groups with 1 person or as much as 1.9% each.

The chart (Figure 2) shows that out of six groups of Age, those with the age group of 40–49 dominate the quantity of the Bahasa Indonesia-speaking respondent by 35 people or as much as 32.7%. The second most dominating is the age group of 50 or above by 29 people with the percentage of 27.1%. In the third position is the age group of 24–30 by 17 people with the percentage of 15.9%. In the fourth position is the age group of 19–23 by 14 people with the percentage of 13.1%, followed by the rest of the two groups by 5.6% each or as many as 6 people.

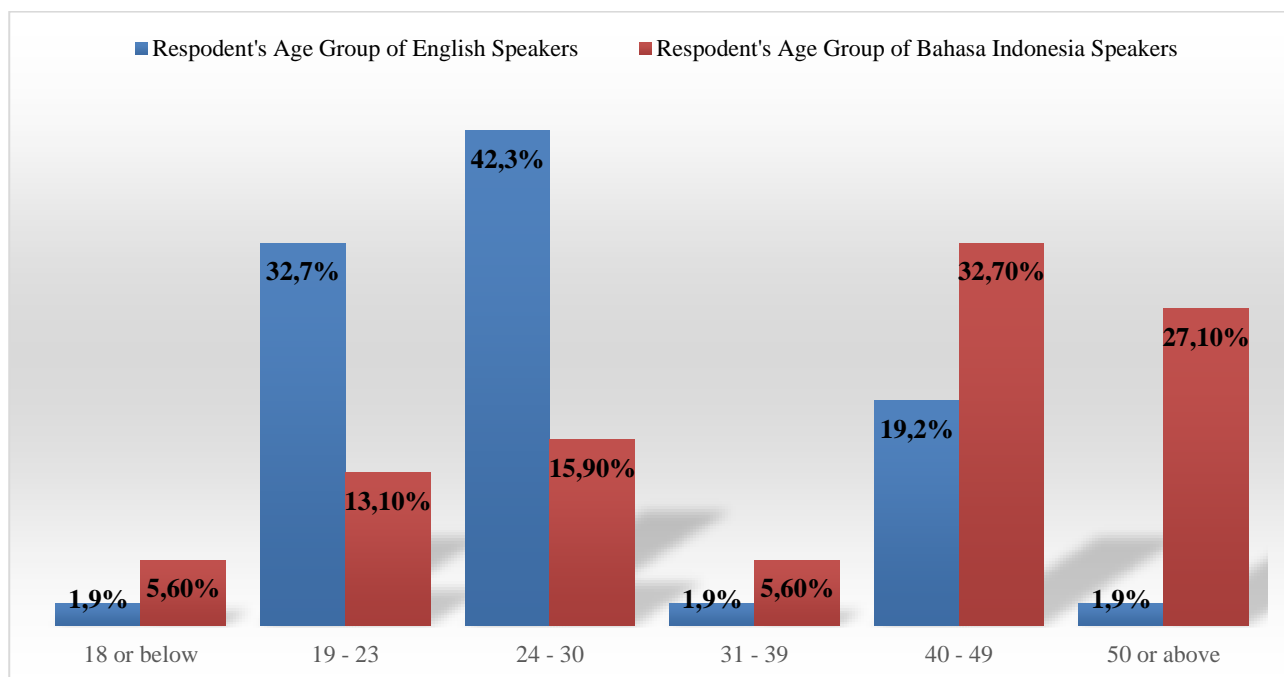


Figure 2. Chart of respondent's age group of English speakers and Bahasa Indonesia speakers

By having the chart for both English-speaking and Bahasa Indonesia-speaking respondent in Figure 2, it shows that there are four groups of age that are dominant that could be classified as 2 major groups, the older generation group and the younger generation group. The older generation group would be ranging from the age of 40–50-year-old or above, while the younger generation group would be ranging from the age of

19–30-year-old. While the English-speaking respondent chart shown in Figure 2 shows a dominant of younger generation group of participants, the Bahasa Indonesia-speaking respondent chart shows the exact opposite; a dominant of older generation group of participants. The result of the survey for both English-speaking and Bahasa Indonesia-speaking respondents would be shown in Figure 3.

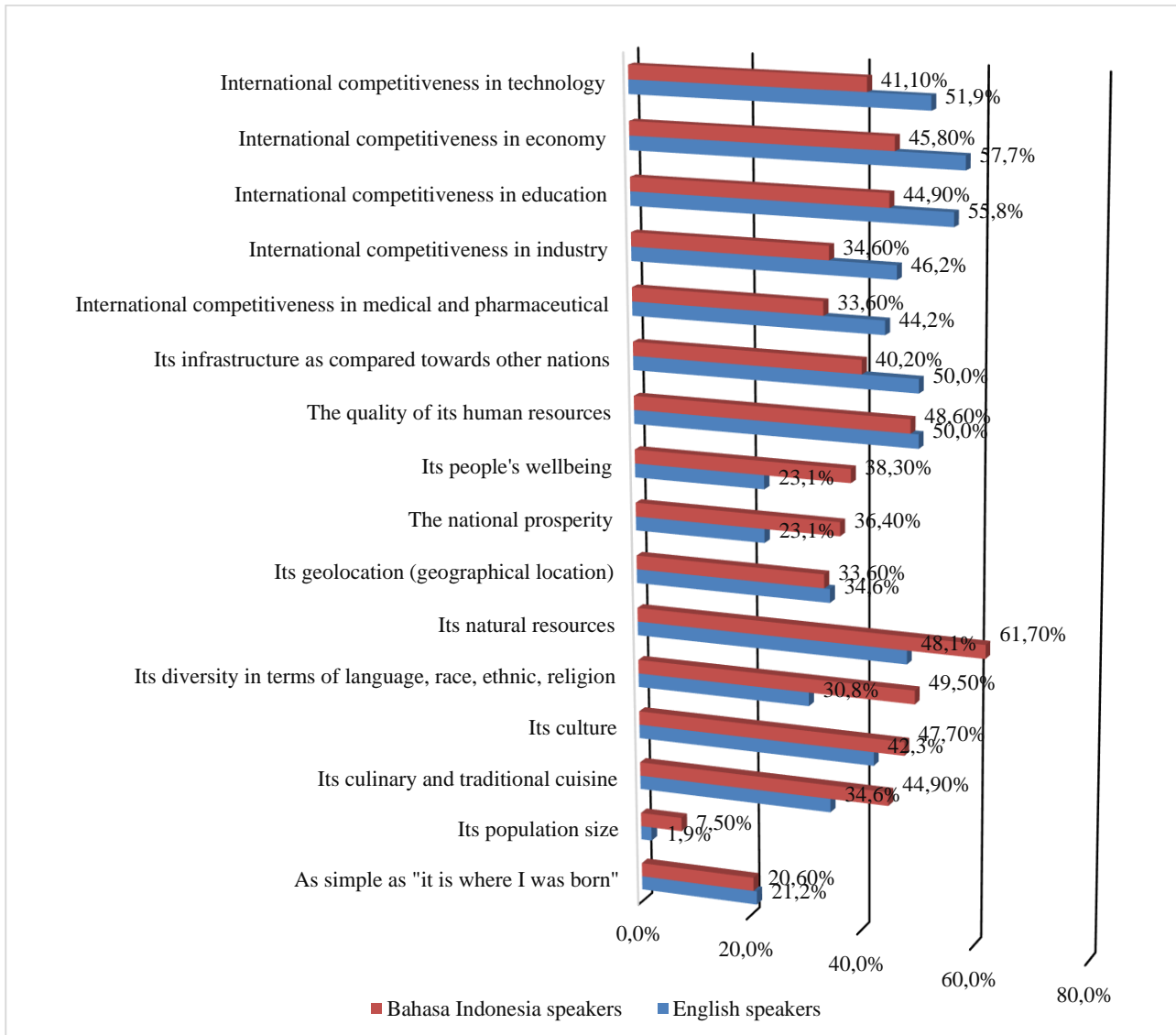


Figure 3. Chart of survey result of English speakers and Bahasa Indonesia Speakers

Based on the overall trend shown in Figure 3, the result shows that the people who live in the 21st century era would have a sense of pride and nationalism towards a nation when certain criteria or conditions were met. The trend shows that a

nation's achievements and uniqueness are the keys to be gaining its people's trust and sense of pride and nationalism. Achievements and uniqueness are something that differentiates one nation from another and makes it outstanding. There would be

three classifications based on the survey items list. First, the nation's achievements; second, the uniqueness of the nation; third, the nation and its people default condition.

The nation's achievements include "International competitiveness" in either technology, economy, education, industry, medical and pharmaceutical, or all of those sectors. Additionally, it includes "Its infrastructure as compared towards other nations", "The quality of its human resources", "Its people's wellbeing", and "The national prosperity". The items included in this classification are things that require some effort and work to be performed. It is something that would not be available without the cooperation and teamwork between two sides, the government and its people. It is the result of the collaboration between the government and its people as a whole nation.

The uniqueness of the nation includes "Its geolocation (geographical location)", "Its natural resources", "Its diversity in terms of language, race, ethnic, religion", "Its culture", and "Its culinary and traditional cuisine". The items included in this classification are things that differentiate one nation from another. The more it stands out, the more it makes the nation unique amongst other nations. It is something that describes the characteristic of the nation. The culture of a nation and its culinary and traditional cuisine portray the habit and behaviour of its people. Additionally, it might generally describe the historical background of that nation.

The nation and its people default condition includes "Its population size" and "As simple as "it is where I was born"". The items included in this classification are conditions that would be applied at the instance of someone was born in a nation. The population of a nation would increase or decrease when someone was born or deceased. Someone would automatically be the citizen of a nation where he or she was born. This does not require any additional effort and work to be performed for it to happen as to gain achievements for the nation. These are something that might not add the value of a nation towards other nations. Contrary to the items list classified in the nation's achievements and the uniqueness of the nation classification, this default condition might not give any additional value to the nation itself.

Based on the survey result, there are differences in the trend between the older generation and the younger generation. The survey result analysis is based on the data from the vote count of both English and Bahasa Indonesia speakers. The survey result shown in Figure 3 are showing differences in all three classifications. Starting from the nation's achievements classification that would be shown in Table 1, the uniqueness of the nation classification that would be shown in Table 2, and last is the nation and its people default condition classification that would be shown in Table 3.

The nation's achievements		
Item list	Data from English speaker	Data from Bahasa Indonesia Speaker
International competitiveness in technology	51.9%	41.1%
International competitiveness in economy	57.7%	45.8%
International competitiveness in education	55.8%	44.9%
International competitiveness in industry	46.2%	34.6%
International competitiveness in medical and pharmaceutical	44.2%	33.6%
Its infrastructure as compared towards other nations	50.0%	40.2%
The quality of its human resources	50.0%	48.6%
Its people's wellbeing	23.1%	38.3%
The national prosperity	23.1%	36.4%

Table 1. Survey data result of the nation's achievements classification

The uniqueness of the nation

Item list	Data from English speaker	Data from Bahasa Indonesia Speaker
Its geolocation (geographical location)	34.6%	33.6%
Its natural resources	48.1%	61.7%
Its diversity in terms of language, race, ethnic, religion	30.8%	49.5%
Its culture	42.3%	47.7%
Its culinary and traditional cuisine	34.6%	44.9%

Table 2. Survey data result of the uniqueness of the nation classification

The nation and its people default condition

Item list	Data from English speaker	Data from Bahasa Indonesia Speaker
Its population size	1.9%	7.5%
As simple as “it is where I was born”	21.2%	20.6%

Table 3. Survey data result of the nation and its people default condition classification

A “+” sign would be used when the data in percentage from English speaker is higher than Bahasa Indonesia Speaker, while a “(-)” sign would be used when the data in percentage from English speaker is lower than Bahasa Indonesia Speaker. Based on the data shown in Table 1, there is a quite huge gap in average between the data from English speaker and Bahasa Indonesia Speaker. The “International competitiveness in technology” has a gap of +10.8%. The “International competitiveness in economy” has a gap of +11.9%. The “International competitiveness in education” has a gap of +10.9%. The “International competitiveness in industry” has a gap of +11.6%. The “International competitiveness in medical and pharmaceutical” has a gap of +10.6%. “Its infrastructure as compared towards other nations” has a gap of +9.8%. “The quality of its human resources” has a gap of +1.4%. “It’s people’s wellbeing” has a gap of (-)15.2%, and “The national prosperity” has a gap of (-)13.3%.

Based on the data shown in Table 2, there is a considerable or a quite huge gap in average between the data from English speaker and Bahasa Indonesia Speaker. In terms of a nation’s geolocation, “Its geolocation (geographical location)” has a gap of +1%. “Its natural resources” has a gap of (-)13.6%. “Its diversity in terms of language, race, ethnic, religion” has a gap of (-)

18.7%. “Its culture” has a gap of (-)5.4%, and “Its culinary and traditional cuisine” has a gap of (-)10.3%.

Based on the data shown in Table 3, there is a minimum or a considerable gap in average between the data from English speaker and Bahasa Indonesia Speaker. In terms of “Its population size”, it has a gap of (-)5.6%, and “As simple as “it is where I was born”” has a gap of +0.6%. The difference between the data from English speaker and Bahasa Indonesia Speaker in the category of “As simple as “it is where I was born”” is less than 1%, thus it could be considered as quite similar or insignificant. A “+” sign was used when the data in percentage from English speaker is higher than Bahasa Indonesia Speaker, where the data of English speaker is dominated by the younger generation vote count, is because the younger generation vote weighted as positive towards the older generation vote.

Based on the overall trend of the data shown in Table 1, Table 2, and Table 3, it shows that the people in the 21st century and the current young generation start to have a shift in terms of the way they think and behave. The current young generation people value and make the importance of the nation’s achievements more compared to the uniqueness of the nation. Previously, the older

generation people have weighted the uniqueness of the nation more compared to the nation's achievements. In terms of the nation and its people default condition, either it has a minimum interest (barely any interest in that particular category) or an insignificant difference between the younger and the older generation. As based on the data shown, "the nation's achievements" considerably has become the new "uniqueness of the nation" indirectly. It is shown that there are considerable or quite significant drops in percentage between the data from English speaker and Bahasa Indonesia Speaker in all categories on Table 2 except for "Its geolocation (geographical location)", it rather has a 1% increase. Table 1 shows the opposite, as most categories have a quite significant increase in percentage except for two categories, which are "Its people's wellbeing" and "The national prosperity". Both of these categories are an achievement, but while a nation is prosperous and the people at that nation have good wellbeing, it does not mean that the nation is certain and surely competitive towards other nations. The current trend based on the survey data shows that the demand of the current young generation, for them to have a sense of pride and nationalism towards their nation, the nation shall have competitiveness towards other nations. The category of "International competitiveness" in all five fields has a quite significant increase in percentage which indicates an increasing demand for it. The same thing goes for both of the categories of "Its infrastructure as compared towards other nations" and "The quality of its human resources" have an increasing demand for it to be realized. The current trend shows, the nation's achievements are something that would make the nation unique towards other nations.

DISCUSSION

The analysis based on the data collected through the survey, observation, empirical knowledge, articles, and papers shows the current trend in the characteristics and mindset of the people living in the 21st century. It was stated in Evans

(2002) that "the fact that national feelings do not appear to be on the decline and that there seems to be substantial variation amongst nations in the intensity of the feelings makes examining these matters in more detail a matter of some urgency". Based on M. D. R. Evans and Jonathan Kelley (Evans, 2002), and based on the current situation and trend that is occurring, it could be said that it is not the sense of pride and nationalism that is declining, but rather the way that people think and behave that dynamically keep on changing from one decade to another. In the previous generation, the older generation, they were in general proud of their nation, mostly because of its uniqueness, while chances are no longer occurring in most of the current young generation. More uncertainties are occurring in this era as the world and those living on it keep on evolving (Gaub & Boswinkel, 2020). Based on the current trend and what is going on during the COVID-19 pandemic, there is an increasing rate of something that could not be predicted nor calculated with a fixed, measurable, probabilistic certainty. Thus, there are more things that could not be known for sure unless they are happening or have already happened due to the increasing number of variables, unknown factors or elements, or hard-to-predict matters.

The increase in uncertainties is also due to the effects of globalization, where things such as lifestyle, which includes the way one thinks, acts, and behaves, are currently evolving rapidly. This could be the result of the availability and usage of digital facilities such as social media and online platforms (online banking, e-commerce, e-wallets, etc.). Due to these, information could spread with ease and with no boundary of time or space, as the internet connected the whole thing through servers. Thus, the condition applies regardless of whether the information is valid or invalid. Through the availability of digital facilities, it is easy for someone to do or create something, then spread it through the online platform. In addition, it is easy for someone to gather data or acquire information

through those online platforms, either for learning or research purposes.

In this digitalized era, people are either directly or indirectly competing with each other through the ease of utilizing the digital facilities available. This competition between people leads to achievement. Someone could achieve something, and by doing so, they would be recognized as having done something new, unique, or unusual with the digital facilities available. This is usually something that attracts people's attention despite its quality, whether it is something simple or challenging to be done. It is the achievement that makes it unique.

According to Reis et al. (2020), the digital era is driving innovation within the industry sector and influencing developments in the public sector. It is suggested that customers and companies were assisted in creating value by new technologies. It is suggested that companies are pursuing a competitive edge through new technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) or the Internet of Things (IoT) in an attempt to apply innovative digital practices to their industrial processes. According to Kravchenko et al. (2019), all countries that have their focus on the informatization of society and the effective implementation of the occurring or existing technology of information and communication in business processes would have a chance of experiencing a rapid breakthrough in productivity growth. It is suggested that, especially for those countries that are taking steps to pursue development. It is also suggested by Kravchenko et al. (2019) that, according to McKinsey Global Institute's empirical research, rather than creating technological innovation, the digitalization of the economy is the most powerful tool to improve business productivity and competitiveness. From what is exposed out of those suggestions being served, it could be said that it all leads to one matter: competition. It is a matter of being competitive, which leads to achievement.

In this digitalized and uncertain era, humanity makes an effort to survive those

uncertainties and attempts to achieve something that others could not. In an attempt to achieve something by utilizing technologies, certain nations have been collaborating with other nations more aggressively than before (Santos et al., 2023). This is due to the acceleration of technological development and would indeed accelerate the development of humanity as well. Through the acceleration of both technology and human development, it is more likely for people to survive those uncertainties by being better prepared. This makes it crucial to achieving better quality in various fields such as technology, economy, education, industry, medical and pharmaceutical research, infrastructure, and the quality of its human resources. If a nation successfully achieves those crucial matters and is competitive towards other nations, it will be better prepared to survive through the rising rate of uncertainty. Thus, the people in that nation would have a better sense of pride and nationalism towards their nation.

Geopolitics

According to Sulisworo et al. (2012), geopolitics could be interpreted as an applied earth politics discipline, where it gives an objective insight into a nation that lives side by side and interacts with one another within world affairs. On the other hand, as an ideology, geopolitics intends to make the insight a collective perspective to carry out, maintain, and preserve the spirit of nationalism. According to Mahkamah Konstitusi (2017), understanding the concept of geopolitics would make one notice the importance of Indonesia's position within the center of the international world. It is suggested that through the theory of geopolitics, an in-depth review could be done of the advantages and disadvantages of either the political, defense and security, economics, trade, world trade flows, climate, drug trafficking, or terrorist aspects. According to Sulisworo (2012), for a nation to maintain its survival, it could not be separated from the laws of nature. The nation's living space and the pressure of racial, social, and economic power

necessitate a new division of the world's natural wealth. Geopolitics emphasized its attention on the matter of border strategy. It is suggested that whoever could dominate Europe and Asia as the "heart regions" would be able to dominate the "islands of the world," namely, Europe, Asia, and Africa. Whoever could dominate the "Island of the World", could eventually reign over the world.

The utilization of the nation's strong point of geopolitics could be a solution to achieving competitiveness with other nations. By utilizing the strong point, the nation could make the most of it and take advantage of something the other nations might not have or be strong at that particular point. These could be such as natural resources (agriculture, fisheries, commodities, etc.), geolocation (trade route, tourist attraction, geostrategic region, etc.), and arts (traditional goods, culture, culinary, and traditional cuisine). Anything that could add value to the nation and make it outstanding amongst other nations shall be maximized efficiently. Things that matter to the value of the nation might affect its political stability, relationships, and image from a global perspective, either directly or indirectly. It is crucial as it might affect various aspects of the nation's future, such as the economy, growth, internal stability, and continuity of existence. By achieving and maintaining certain standards of the quality of human resources based on the most recent situation and condition requirements, these could be achieved.

International competitiveness is something crucial, as most of the current young generation could be called a hybrid generation due to the effect of globalization. The current young generation adopts the culture of freedom, which is liberalism. Being open-minded and able to adapt quickly to recent issues, conditions, and situations, or to occurring events in the surrounding area, is crucial in the 21st century era. Quick adaptability is crucial as things are rapidly evolving and new things are rapidly occurring. The rapid appearance of new things combined with the rise in the rate of uncertainty results in a highly dynamic environment.

Thus, due to the highly dynamic environment, being open-minded, having quick adaptability, and being a quick learner are the keys to succeeding in the current trend of the 21st century. Moreover, there are fewer people who care about religion-related matters, and most people are against the practice of anything restricting the concept of liberalism. Thus, it requires a nation to be able to quickly adapt and be open to changes in order to survive the current global trend in people's behavior. Bounding and restricting people out of their freedom to acquire people's trust and sense of nationalism towards their nation is not the thing of the 21st century.

Role of the Church

In general, the church is known for its function to accommodate the spiritual ceremony; it is a place for its community to gather and meet each other or get to know new people. Thus, as the current era of the 21st century is a modern and digitalized era, it is a requirement for anyone to be innovative and creative to survive in this current uncertain situation and condition. It is a requirement for the church minister to be innovative and creative to prepare its community to survive in this uncertain era by providing a training facility for those who need it. The purpose of providing the training facility is to enhance or add value in terms of knowledge and skill to the community (Herwinesastra et al., 2023). The options for the training facility could be anything useful, and it is not necessary for it to have a dedicated area and location to hold the training event or program. Through networking, it is possible for the church to find the trainer, mentor, or lecturer to be able to conduct the training event or program. It is a necessity for the church to take care of its community by equipping the people with the right tools to survive the uncertainty of this modern and digitalized era.

By utilizing the strong points of the geopolitical elements and taking advantage of the tools and facilities available in this modern and digitalized era, empowering the community could be achieved efficiently and in a simple manner. The

training or lecture could be in agribusiness, culinary, or the food and beverage industry; sewing; tutoring; or even calculating funding to pursue higher education. The strong point of the geopolitical elements could vary between nations. As for a nation with a large maritime zone, it might have great potential to conduct maritime-related training or education, such as maritime business and fisheries. For a nation with a strong point in agriculture and natural resources, it might have great potential to conduct agribusiness and commodity industry training or education. For a nation with a strong point in its tourist attractions, it might have great potential to conduct training or education related to tourist attraction businesses such as accommodation, travel management, and the culinary or food and beverage industry. In addition, it is necessary to have a high-quality education and advancements in technology. Thus, further education or training for the educator and the personnel who would be involved in any technological department is required.

In conducting the education or training, it could vary for each community due to the availability of the resources. The resources include the availability of space, an educator or trainer, supporting teaching facilities, and funding. The principle of conducting education or training is to maximize the available resources to add value and empower the human resources for a better future for both the person and the nation to achieve a better society. It is an effort of incremental progress to build a better life in society and heighten the chance of survival through the uncertainty and current trend of the 21st century. As competitiveness is the trend in the 21st century, it is a requirement for a person to get their potential maximized and for the church to provide access and facilities to the best of its capacity for those who need support. Conversely, the people that are capable of providing the access and facilities shall provide any form of support for the availability of the resources as mentioned (space, educator or trainer, supporting teaching facilities, and funding).

CONCLUSION

Through the utilization of geopolitical elements and fulfilling the current demand in the 21st century, it is feasible to preserve the right sense of pride and nationalism towards a nation in the current young generation. As competitiveness between nations is the current trend, building a competitive nation is a teamwork matter for the people in the nation itself. The realization of building a better nation and achieving competitiveness towards other nations would result in the fulfilment of the 21st century's demand, thus resulting in the satisfaction of the people. The right sense of pride and nationalism towards a nation would be realized when the people of that nation strive to defend their nation and be proud of their nation by having achievements that would make their nation stand out amongst other nations, thus making the nation unique. Unique by its competitiveness towards other nations, as "achievements" is the new uniqueness. "Achievements" is the new uniqueness; thus, the role of the church is not solely to function as a guide to spiritual matters. The church is a vessel for a community to grow and maximize its full potential. In addition to being a guide to its community spiritually, it is a necessity to guide its community to be able to survive in the marketplace, where the real-life challenges of the world of pluralism exist on a daily basis. Moreover, due to the surge in the rate of uncertainty, the church shall provide and prepare its community with the right tools to go through and bear with the current trend and the recent conditions and situations. The church shall not treat liberalism as a threat to their faith, but rather as a challenge that shall be considered something that would strengthen their faith. The church shall manage liberalism as something that enhances tolerance between each other as faithful human beings in society. The church shall guide its community to be open-minded, have quick adaptability, and be a quick learner to survive the global trend of the 21st century in the right sense of Christianity. Thus, the 21st century trend of

liberalism shall be treated and utilized as a new beginning of the faith of Christianity. Liberalism is an opening towards the new era of Christianity in

the 21st century that shall be approached with caution so as to preserve the true essence of Christianity.

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