

# The Contribution of Christians Towards Indonesia's Vision 2045

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To cite this document:

Wibowo, G. (2022). The Contribution of Christians Towards Indonesia's Vision 2045  
Conference Series, 4(2), 163-170 <https://doi.org/10.34306/conferenceseries.v4i2.937>

## Abstract

The Bible covers both personal salvation and important matters of nationality that can impact the life of a believer. According to Scripture, governments derive their power from God and are responsible for maintaining civil order. God is the ultimate source of power and his will supersedes all others. However, because governments are run by individuals with free will, some authorities follow God's will while others do not. Regardless, all kingdoms and powers are ultimately under God's supervision and control, and even those that oppose God's will are serving his purpose. In fact, the early church was able to spread in part due to the persecution it faced from the Roman government. Similarly, the Indonesian government is viewed as having a divine right. As a rising economic power and is expected to become one of the Big Five economies by 2045, Indonesia must prepare to face both opportunities and challenges. Christians have a responsibility to be a blessing to our nation.

**Keywords:** Vision 2045, Source of Authority, Christians' Responsibility.

## I. INTRODUCTION

In 2019 President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) announced the Vision of Indonesia 2045, which depicts the form of Indonesia after 100 years of independence. According to this vision, Indonesia had become a sovereign, developed, just, and prosperous country at the time. Vision 2045 has a noble goal that is in accordance with the ideals of the founding fathers of the nation when they proclaimed independence. In the preamble of the 1945 Constitution, the purpose of the establishment of the Republic of Indonesia is to protect the entire Indonesian nation and the entire homeland of Indonesia. Moreover, it promotes public welfare, educates the nation's life, and participates in implementing a world order based on independence, eternal peace, and social justice. However, to put an advanced Indonesia into reality requires an attitude of tolerance in the midst of diversity. Tolerance is a demographic capital to combine the movements and steps of the government with its citizens. "The plurality of Indonesia and social dynamics can be developed into constructive social energy, and if this is enhanced, this will be a strength" (Adiningsih, 2018). As members of the Indonesian community, Christians share the responsibility of upholding the principles outlined in the preamble of the 1945 Constitution and working towards the nation's goals.

Worldwide competition forces each nation to compete with one another. A nation's competitiveness determines how strong it is during its lifetime. Those who are the strongest will gather all the resources and innovations to have a distance of excellence with other nations. This advantage is an attraction for other nations to cooperate with him. On the other hand, the decline in competitiveness will make a nation retreat and move away from the ideals of the founding fathers of the nation. It is crucial to find the positive contributions of Christians as a part of this nation. Discussing the state and government cannot be separated from God as the Giver of power and the highest authority. God has a purpose for His glory when He plants or uproots power. The theological study of government allows us to know God's purpose for government. As believers, the Great Commission obliges Christians to evangelize and then make disciples. Every nation must hear the good news. The mission of evangelism brings great light to every ethnic group. But making disciples of the nation is something else. Governments need the voice and counsel of believers so that they can make policies and act according to God's will. As members of society, it is important for believers to be good citizens by complying with laws and regulations and actively participating in efforts that benefit the country. Having a position in the government as a believer provides an excellent chance to have an impact and speak the truth to those in power.

### **1.1 All Government Comes from God**

God is the ultimate source of authority in the universe. No authority can exist without God's permission or approval. God's power is delegated to those appointed by Him to hold power. Romans 13:1 (NKJV): *Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.* Good governments that run well can affect the lives of believers and His church. They can make regulations that prohibit and punish actions that are not following morality. If God-fearing people are sitting in government, they should be able to contribute positively. The government produces legal products for the order of citizens. However, they could not produce people with a restored nature. All humans have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God. The world will continue to produce the children of the world with all the works of the flesh. Only repentance in Christ will result in a change in thought and action as evidence of repentance. As God's representative on earth, believers must respect authority on earth. In 1 Peter 2:17 (NKJV): *Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.* This honor is received because God has given the power to the king who leads the kingdom. A king who recognizes the source of his authority as coming from God will use that authority as a loan that must be accounted for. A king who sees himself as a source of power will be authoritarian.

The state is an organization of power with a sovereign government, a specific area, and the people it leads. In addition to these three things, recognition from other countries is also needed to avoid isolation from international relations. There are several theories about the origin of power. The divine theory views the authority of the king/government as getting power from God in running the government. Social Contract Theory defines power comes from the people who enter into a social contract to form the state. Force theory argues that the formation of a country is due to the annexation/conquest of other territories. Natural theory has the perspective that power comes from the human need to self-actualize in the moral and political fields on a state scale. Patriarchate/Matriarchal theory views power as coming from families who have traditionally maintained a lineage relationship to hold power.

## 1.2 The Believer's Responsibility for His Nation

If there are no righteous people who tell the truth and rebuke the mistakes that occur in the government, then the government will walk away from God's will. This is where God's children are needed who can speak the truth and be role models in the life of the nation and state. Likewise, Joseph was used by God to maintain the continuity of his relatives, as well as to regulate the economy of the Egyptian nation. It was God who sent Joseph to Egypt. In Genesis 45:7-8 (NKJV): *And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.* God's purpose in placing believers in government was as messengers for the palace. The voice of truth must be heard throughout the land, from the palace to the corners. The government must know His ways for the welfare of its people. The voice of God's general revelation is heard in the palace through those who have received special revelation. This implies that not everyone needs to pursue a career in the government as each individual has their unique calling or purpose in life.

The book of Jeremiah is set in the condition of the Kingdom of Judah (after Israel was divided into two kingdoms, namely the Kingdom of Israel and Judah), which experienced a moral decline, idolatry, and apostasy. Like a belt, Judah is a worn and broken belt. God wanted Judah's repentance, but their condition kept them away from God, so God punished them through exile. However, even in exile, God told Jeremiah that the exiles should prosper in the city for their welfare. God blesses the believers to be a blessing to prosper their city. Jeremiah 29:7 (GNV): *And seek the prosperity of the city, whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the Lord for it: for in the peace thereof shall you have peace.* Dynamic global conditions become a formidable challenge to make Indonesia ranked the fourth or the fifth in the world's economic power in 2045 (now ranked seventeenth in GDP). Therefore, Christians need to work together with followers of other religions to synergize their strengths.

## II. METHODOLOGY

This study uses a qualitative method with a library research approach. Christians have an obligation to bear fruit for the progress of the nation (Portilla, 2020). From a theological viewpoint, authority originates from God and is then given to governments around the globe. As for evaluating a nation's capability, one could use Porter's diamond theory together with Vlado's competitive web theory. However, in a diverse environment like Indonesia, it is necessary to promote religious tolerance since it has a significant impact on both the industrial atmosphere and national stability. According to competitive web theory, Michael Porter's version of the competitive theory of nation has limitations because it ignores political intervention, entrepreneurial, and institutional dynamics.

## III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Relationship Between Religion and the State

There are several types of models of the relationship between religion and the state. Erastianism has the perspective that the state dominates the church and uses it as a tool for state interests. In this position, it is difficult for the church to speak the truth if the state deviates from the truth of God's Word. Examples of the German Lutheran and Russian Patriarchal systems. The caesaropapism model has a relationship in which a king/emperor heads the kingdom and the church. The example

of the Queen of England being the head of the Anglican Church, although, in the modern world, the Queen of England's power as a symbol of the kingdom is not as absolute as in the past. Theocracy model has a view that government (personal or institutional) is considered sacred because it represents God ruling over civil government. The Communist model has a view that the state eliminates religion or places strict restrictions on its movement—an example of a country with this system is China. Ambroseism/Secularism will separate the state and the church. In a secularist system, the state gives freedom of religion to its people, and there is no official religious body in the government system such as the Ministry of Religion. Eusebiusism or Quasi-religious model has the view that the state supports the church, and vice versa, the church supports the state in government policies. The success of a nation will be seen when the government carries out its functions, namely the function of public services, maintaining peace, providing humanitarian assistance, running the government, maintaining economic stability, running democracy, and the ability to carry out development (Ehrlich and Murphy, 2007).

### **3.2 The Porter's Diamond Theory and Competitive Web**

The position of countries that have competitive values that enable them to maintain their progress consistently. Michael Porter analyzes that the nation's progress is mainly due to competitiveness. Factors that affect competitiveness, according to Michael Porter, are factor conditions, demand conditions, related and supporting industries, and firm strategy, structure, and rivalry. Michael Porter introduced the four determinants with the term "*diamond*." According to Porter's —Competitive Advantage of Nations (1990), economic evaluation calls for an approach deriving from the systematic look at thriving industries on the global level. The important topic of this book is why corporations set up in a selected country can create and maintain an aggressive benefit in opposition to their global competition specifically industries or enterprise segments (Huggins and Izushi, 2015:458). Porter argues that the essential elements to aggressive benefit in a maximum of the industries—and in particular the ones which can be essential to productiveness growth in superior economies—are not inherited or endowed but are created inside a country. According to Porter, with inside the conventional financial analyses, the efficient elements (that is, labor, land, herbal resources, and capital) play the maximum big position in exchange flows, due to the fact that a country exports the items that use the endowed efficient elements intensively. For Porter, this endowment evaluation has its roots in the works of classical political economists, which, however, is incomplete and probably inaccurate.

The Porter's diamond theory does now no longer address the encompassing socioeconomic area comprehensively which will systematize all of the environmental levels. In diamond's analysis, crucial dimensions appear to be bypassed, together with the demographics and environmental dynamics, the cultural dynamics, the technological dynamics, and the wider macro-stage notion of the economic system. The diamond does now no longer explicitly point out nor implicates the individual firms (micro-environment) nor their broader macro-environment analytically. Nevertheless, according to Vlados, there is a missing link as to why consistent progress, especially after the Industrial Revolution, only revolves around Europe and North America, with some anomalies in Asia such as Japan, Singapore, and South Korea (Vlados,2019). If we look historically, it will be seen that the strong influence of Christian values is absorbed and contributes to these nations' worldviews, values, and work ethic, even though many do not believe in Christ. Indeed, Atheism, Agnosticism, and Skepticism

swept Europe, and also a moral crisis occurred in America, but there were noble values of Christianity that they had adopted that made them progress.

Since the Asian financial crisis hit the country in the mid-1990s, Indonesia has made remarkable progress in the social, economic, and political spheres. In the face of violence, unrest, social and regional conflicts, the government has maintained political stability. However, some development challenges remain, such as reducing inequalities between different socioeconomic backgrounds, races, genders, and geographic regions, improving educational quality, and producing competitive graduates who are well-equipped to meet the labor market's skill needs. But despite experiencing a series of crises including the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine-Russia war crisis, Indonesia has managed to get through it well. This raises the confidence of the Indonesian people to become a fully developed country. Indonesia in 2045 is expected to have the power of an inclusive and sustainable economic transformation by having competitive human resources, economic productivity, green economics, digital transformation, domestic economic integration, and a new nation's capital. There are four pillars to realize the vision of Indonesia 2045. First, human development and mastery of science and technology. The quality of Indonesian human resources will increase if there is an increase in all aspects including the quality of education, quality of life, health status, life expectancy, science, and technology while maintaining the nation's culture. Second, sustainable economic development. To become a developed country, Indonesia needs to encourage sectors by investment, trade, industry, tourism, maritime, and services. To support all of this, the infrastructure sector needs to be built along with increasing food, water, and energy security. In realizing this, commitment to environmental sustainability still needs to be maintained for sustainable development. Third, fair development. So far, Indonesia has experienced the problem of a lack of equitable development. Equitable development is needed and reducing regional disparities, including eradicating poverty. Fourth, strengthening national resilience and governance. Indonesia has a quality of democracy that continues to improve. To become a developed country, institutional and bureaucratic reforms are needed. The national legal system needs to be improved along with an anti-corruption culture as part of good governance. In carrying out foreign policy, free and active politics is a must because of the constitutional mandate. A strong security and defense system is also a priority in order to maintain the dignity of the nation.

### **3.3 Typology of State and Church Relations**

Various forms of church and state relations have been applied in the past. Emperor Constantine once placed the Roman government above (superordinate) the church by declaring Christianity the official state religion (Edict of Milan, 312 AD), which brought Christianity to syncretism. Likewise, in the medieval (middle) century, the opposite happened where the church's power was above the European government. The total separation without any contribution between these two institutions would be as bad as in the past. An apathetic church will make the government vulnerable to not knowing God. Governments that do not support God's Word will bring destruction. The church as an institution must produce a congregation characterized by Christ. The church, in an organic sense, that is, we as believers, must contribute positively to the nation's progress. Believers are clearly in a position as citizens of the Kingdom of God, and citizens of the world have obligations that must be given to each. What is our obligation to God must be done, as well as our obligations as citizens.



During the reformation of the church, Martin Luther wrote in *Two-Kingdom Doctrine* about the importance of the separation between spiritual government and world government. This became the seed for the idea of separating state and church today. Martin Luther saw the kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of the world. The kingdom of heaven can be an invisible church (organic) and a visible church (institution). The church does not exist to govern the state, nor vice versa. Inspired by Luther's writings, John Calvin saw that both the state and the church, side by side, have the same calling to glorify God. These two institutions run parallel and separate by having their respective vocations. In the past, Christianity contributed to shaping the civilizations of Europe and America. The challenges of the times are not a barrier to contributing to the modern era.

### **3.4 Christians Have a Responsibility to Be a Blessing to Our Nation**

The system of good governance (or open governance) encourages people's involvement. The democratic system provides more equal rights and obligations in law and government. Developed countries widely adopt this form. In carrying out government functions, the state must carry out responsibility, transparency, compliance with the law, responsiveness, effectiveness, and inclusiveness. Countries that are run with the principles of good governance will be more easily mapped in measuring the progress to be achieved. The competence of a nation is a differentiating factor between developed countries, developing countries, or failed countries. Just as the Bible suggests that faith without works is useless, the prosperity of a nation is determined by its productivity and competitiveness.

God's Word states that all government comes from God. Rejection of the Word causes state power to be abused. If a nation knows the source is from God, this knowledge leads to the search for who the Author is. God gave the government the mandate to be its representative on earth. Sinful humans tend to violate laws and social norms. Therefore, we need institutions that can enforce positive laws. The problem is that the state cannot restore fallen human nature. Only Jesus can redeem sinners and restore them. Therefore, the church is responsible for changing a nation's worldview so that it knows that they are God's servants in the form of institutions to do God's will. The demand of God's Word for believers to do all things for God has sparked increased performance in many areas. Laities make their work and efforts as pulpits for the proclamation of the gospel, just like the Clergy.

Communities that support or adopt the truth values of God's Word will more easily transform their nation towards progress. Proverbs 14:34 (NKJV): Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people. The parameters of developed countries are dominated by Nordic, Scandinavian, and North American countries. Indeed, in European countries, Scandinavia, and even the United States, more and more people are atheists, agnostics, and skeptics. But their high moral values and work ethic were inherited from early Christianity (especially Lutherans in the Nordic regions and Puritan Baptists in the US). They went from barbaric to civilized society, and even then, to developed countries. At this time their religious values began to fade and compromise the world's way of life. This is a historical cycle that keeps repeating itself in civilization. Like the Kingdom of Israel when it prospered, they turned away from God. When they experience distress and suffering then they cry out to ask God for help again. The separation between the state and the church that continues to synergize in parallel is the best choice for the typology of the relationship between the state and the church. This position does not confuse the two but can still work together for the welfare of the nation. Mixed positions or one of the

parties being above or below will create call bias. This will plunge the church (institutionally) into a political tool. The progress of the country requires the development of the nation's character. This ensures the continuity of the nation's progress in the long term. The character of the nation that adopts Christian values forms a culture of people who work wholeheartedly, creatively, independently, and respect differences. Believers view work as a call from God that must be accounted for. As God's ambassadors, it is expected that believers have the work ethic, abilities, achievements, and characters that represent the greatness of God. The culture of low power distance forms a fertile.

The form of separation of the state and church while still synergizing is ideal. The state should support God's will and laws according to His Word. In this world that will pass away, the state and the church work together to fulfill the will of their Master, the Lord God. The study of the history of the kingdoms in the Bible gives a map of how to build a nation. The nation that applies the principles of God's word will survive. Nevertheless, a nation that forgets and neglects to apply the truth will fall. Sometimes the burden of pushing the nation's progress is too heavy because the obstacles spiritually and in terms of human resources are extraordinary. Therefore, we need God's children who function as levers for the nation's progress. They are people who have minor positions but have a strategic impact on the nation. Their strength is in position and not in numbers. A critical position can make a little something significant.

Biblical principles provide a fundamental paradigm for measuring happiness when humans do God's Word. If people do not do God's Word, even though they are materially advanced, they are not in the category of being happy. The progress of the nation must be built from the truth of God's Word, which is based on the character of Christ. The values of love, forgiveness, mutual service, respect, the welfare of others, and the spirit of work have been taught by Jesus. A nation that does God's Word will continue to endure. A nation that does not do the Word will surely fall. Protestantism recommended an extensive variety of societal developments, primarily based totally on their comparative exam and today's systematic synthesis. Overall, maximum empirical research on the effects of the Reformation partners it with the superb improvement of governance and the economy. Subsequently, maximum empirical research confirm the superb effect of Protestantism on prosperity primarily based totally on different variables and on numerous spatial and temporal configurations.

### **3.5 Religious Tolerance as a Competitive Capital for the 2045 Vision**

The multi-ethnic condition of Indonesia makes tolerance an important element to form social cohesion. Without religious tolerance, the nation will spend energy to overcome social friction. Religious tolerance is an important element for peace, unity and economic prosperity of a nation or society. Today's globalization has made it easier for various communities to connect, meet, and interact with each other. Tolerance means giving everyone equal opportunities to use their talents and resources to improve living standards. Increased purchasing power will contribute to greater economic growth and a larger consumer base. Religious tolerance is an essential element in maintaining the diversity that exists in Indonesia. The community also supports the success of religious moderation to strengthen human values and spread peace.

Intolerance breeds hatred, distrust, and division. Tolerance allows people from different backgrounds, religions and races to work and live together, thus giving birth to national unity and integrity. A tolerant country will make citizens remain loyal to their country so they are willing to sacrifice for the progress of the nation. When

discrimination arises in society, there will be no peace but strife, violence and instability. Peace can only come when people become free from hatred and want to understand each other's differences. Peace occurs when religious adherents have religious tolerance.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Connecting competitive web economic theory with religious moderation will enable Vision 2045 to be realized. Moreover, combining all diversity into a single force will make Indonesia a fully developed nation. Theological studies combined with data on the nation's progress are critical to creating a nation-building road map. Various countries have adopted multiple theories and models of government. History has witnessed the rise and fall of ancient and modern countries on earth. Everything has to do with understanding where government comes from, what the state exists for and how to use authority to achieve state goals.

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