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THE PHENOMENON OF KINGDOM AND PROVINCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF INDONESIAN SOVEREIGNTY AT THE BEGINNING OF INDEPENDENCE

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: This study analyzes the patterns, motives, and impacts of regional contributions to the Republic of Indonesia during the early period of independence, particularly in supporting national sovereignty and economic stability.

Design/methodology/approach: This study used a qualitative Systematic Literature Review (SLR) following the PRISMA 2020 framework. The analysis used state-building theory, social exchange, organic solidarity, and social revolution perspectives.

Findings: The findings show that regional contributions took various forms, including political and economic support from local kingdoms and grassroots community mobilization. Regional support, particularly from Aceh, played an important role in strengthening the political and economic resilience of the newly established republic. However, conflicts among local elites in some regions also contributed to social revolutions caused by class tensions.

Research limitations/implications: This study relies on secondary literature, so the findings depend on the availability and quality of historical sources. Further research can examine specific regions and local actors in greater depth.

Practical implications: The study highlights the importance of considering regional contributions and local social capital in understanding Indonesia's early economic and political development.

Originality/value: This study connects economic history with local social capital to provide a broader understanding of how regional kingdoms and communities contributed to the consolidation of Indonesian sovereignty during the early independence period.

Paper type: Systematic Literature Review

Keywords: Government Contribution, Independence Revolution, Political Economy History, Social Revolution

A. INTRODUCTION

The Dutch sea and air blockade, a limited state treasury, and the threat of regional disintegration forced the central government to seek support from various traditional entities and community groups throughout the archipelago. History records massive contributions, such as the Acehnese people's collective gold donation to the Dakota RI-001 Seulawah aircraft. In addition, the sacrifice of the Ngayogyakarta Sultanate under Sri Sultan Hamengku Buwono IX, who made its palace the center of government and overshadowed the state treasury (Iswantoro, 2020), and Sultan Syarif Kasim II of the Sultanate of Siak Sri Indrapura, who handed over 13 million guilders and his territory to the Republic (Aisyah et al., 2025; An-nur et al., 2026).

This phenomenon is not just a random patriotic act, but part of a complex political and social dynamic. In West Sulawesi, Andi Depu mobilized the people's army to defend the Republic (Padilah & Wahyuni, 2021). However, in Bali, the royal elite was divided because of the caste system and patrimonial ties (Paramitha, 2025). In Tapanuli and the Sultanate of Deli, bloody social revolutions erupted as some local elites chose to maintain colonial privileges (Lumbangaol et al., 2025; Silaban et al., 2024).

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Previous studies remain regionally fragmented and have not been placed within an established theoretical framework, such as social exchange theory, group solidarity, class theory, and *state-building theory*. Therefore, this study aims to systematically analyze the patterns, motives, and impact of royal contributions, as well as the mobilization of local communities, on the consolidation of Indonesian sovereignty by deepening the discussion through an interdisciplinary theoretical approach.

Despite the critical nature of these contributions, mainstream historiography often marginalizes their economic and sociological dimensions, focusing heavily on political and military aspects. Consequently, a significant research gap remains: previous studies are regionally fragmented, largely descriptive, and not integrated into established analytical frameworks such as social exchange theory, Keynesian macroeconomics, or state-building paradigms. Therefore, this study aims to systematically analyze the patterns, motives, and impact of royal contributions, as well as the mobilization of local communities, on the consolidation of Indonesian sovereignty by deepening the discussion through an interdisciplinary theoretical approach. This research's novelty lies in shifting the early-independence narrative from a purely Jawacentric military account to a robust political-economy and historical-sociology perspective. Ultimately, this study contributes to a more holistic national historiography by providing empirical evidence that local social capital and the elite's macroeconomic transactions served as the backbone of the Republic's early survival.

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B. METHODOLOGY

This research uses a qualitative approach (Scott, 2019) through a systematic literature review method (*Systematic Literature Review*) as advocated by Snyder (Snyder, 2019). This research was carried out in full compliance with the guidelines of the *Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses* (PRISMA) 2020(Page et al., 2021). To support methodological rigor, bibliometric instruments are recommended to complement future mapping of conceptual co-occurrence.

The search was conducted in the Sinta, Garuda Ministry of Education and Culture, and Google Scholar databases (Falagas et al., 2008) using specific keyword combinations. The literature identification process utilized specific Boolean keyword combinations tailored to the research theme, specifically: ("Indonesian independence" OR "revolusi kemerdekaan") AND ("contribution" OR "kontribusi") AND ("kingdom" OR "kerajaan" OR "local community") AND ("economic history" OR "social revolution"). PICOS-based inclusion criteria were determined: (1) primary scientific journal articles; (2) 2019–2026 publications; (3) Indonesian/English; (4) discussion loci in the 1945–1950 revolution era; and (5) academically indexed (Sinta/Scopus). Conversely, we applied strict exclusion criteria to eliminate non-peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, conference proceedings, duplicate publications, and studies lacking robust macro-historical or socioeconomic analysis.

The PRISMA 2020 flow followed four strict phases. First, the Identification phase compiled all initial search results across the three databases and systematically removed duplicate records. Second, the Screening phase filtered the remaining articles based on the relevance of their titles and abstracts to the core research objectives. Third, the Eligibility phase involved a comprehensive full-text review of the screened articles against the predefined PICOS inclusion and exclusion criteria to ensure methodological quality. Finally, the Inclusion phase identified 6 qualitative primary journal articles for in-depth narrative synthesis and interdisciplinary evaluation.

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on a rigorous literature search using the PRISMA 2020 framework, six primary articles met the qualitative feasibility criteria for extraction. These six studies not only represent geographical diversity ranging from Sumatra, Java, Bali, to Sulawesi but also summarize the spectrum of responses of rulers and local communities. Broadly speaking, these articles challenge the single narrative that all regional entities immediately submit and contribute voluntarily, without class political dynamics, power negotiations, or internal social turmoil. Table 1 presents an initial mapping of the six core

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literature sources before further dissection through theoretical analysis of economic politics and historical sociology.

Table 1. SLR Article Mapping

No	Author, Year	Article Title & Source	Summary of Findings
1	Iswantoro (2020)	*The Role of Sri Sultan HB IX in Upholding Independence.* JUSPI, 3(2).	Reveals financial, territorial (capital), and military command support by the Sultanate of Yogyakarta.
2	An-Nur et al. (2026)	*Diplomacy and Patriotism of Sultan Syarif Kasim II.* Nusantara Hasana J., 6(1).	Analysis of the donation of 13 million guilders and the political handover of the Siak Sultanate area.
3	Aisyah et al. (2025)	*The Role of Sultan Syarif Kasim II and the History of the Sultanate of Siak.* Triwikrama, 10(1).	The integration of the legitimacy of the Siak region into the framework of the Republic of Indonesia.
4	Silaban et al. (2024)	*Conflict and Resolution: The Bloody Event in Tapanuli.* Journal of the History of Citra Lekha, 8(2).	The local feudal elite's resistance triggered a radical social revolution by the pro-Republican army.
5	Nur Padilah & Wahyuni (2021)	*Religious Character... The Leadership of Andi Depu.* TRACE, 1(1).	Grassroots mobilization and KRIS MUDA soldiers in the Mandar area, Sulawesi.
6	Paramitha (2025)	*Elite Dualism of the Kingdom of Badung and Buleleng.* History Sheet, 21(1).	The polarization of the Balinese elite stems from a clash of republican, federalist, and caste ideologies.

The synthesis of the above literature shows that the relationship between the center (Republic) and the regions is very complex. The archipelago's contribution was not born in a vacuum, but was a product of power negotiations, macroeconomic calculations, and drastic postcolonial shifts in social structure. This analysis is dissected in depth using four main theoretical frameworks: Social Exchange, Keynesian Macroeconomics, Social Revolution, and Grassroots Collective Action.

1. Typology of Support in the Framework of Social Exchange and State-Building

The kingdom's support in the form of financial injections and territorial surrender can be explained through Charles Tilly's thesis on state formation: "War *made the state, and the state made war*". In the 1945–1949 phase, the central government of the Republic of Indonesia faced an institutional crisis; Jakarta lacked an effective tax-collection bureaucracy (fiscal apparatus) and coercive forces that reached the entire archipelago. In this vacuum, existential pressure from blockades and Dutch aggression forced Indonesia to consolidate emergency resources. Traditional institutions such as the Sultanate of Yogyakarta and Siak, which already had independent territorial and financial apparatuses, ultimately served as indirect extractive instruments for the Republic's state-making.

Furthermore, drawing on the Theory of Social Exchange (Homans and Blau), the sultans' self-fusing into the lap of the Republic was not passive altruism but a rational political exchange (*rational choice*). The local ruler handed over his patrimonial authority and material wealth to secure a guarantee of political *survival*. In return for the economic capital and territorial support donated, the central government granted legal recognition and privileged status, which was most successfully realized through the establishment of the Special Region of Yogyakarta. This sociopolitical transaction articulated how feudalism could be tamed and integrated into the modern bureaucracy of the nation-state through the compromise of decentralization.

2. Macroeconomic Impact: Supporting Fiscal through Foreign Exchange Cushioning and "Autonomous Investment"

From the perspective of the history of economic equilibrium and Keynesian Macroeconomic Theory, the donation of royal assets functions far beyond a charitable donation; it acts as an

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autonomous investment (an injection of autonomous funds) that saves the country from the brink *of collapse*. During the physical revolution, Indonesia's trade balance was paralyzed. The country experienced *severe supply shocks and hyperinflation due to a currency war between the Republic of Indonesia (ORI) and NICA money flooding* the market.

In a condition of structural fiscal distress, the handover of property worth 13 million guilders from Sultan Syarif Kasim II (An-nur et al., 2026), along with the opening of the palace treasury by Sultan HB IX to cover the salaries of Indonesian government employees (Iswantoro, 2020), created a massive multiplier effect. Assets in the form of strong currencies (*Hard Currency*), and this gold became a foreign exchange cushion (foreign exchange buffer), which was crucial. This foreign exchange allowed the Republic to penetrate the international black market to smuggle weapons for TKR/TNI, as well as fund logistical mobility and foreign diplomacy envoys such as Sutan Sjahrir and Agus Salim to various international forums. Without liquidity from these local entities, the bureaucratic machinery and central defense functions would certainly experience systemic operational bankruptcy.

3. Local Heterogeneity: Power Vacuum, Class Conflict, and Social Revolution

However, the literature also proves that the integration narrative is not always harmonious. The Tapanuli Case (Silaban et al., 2024) and the Sultanate of Deli in East Sumatra (Lumbangaol et al., 2025) are highly relevant when examined through the lens of Barrington Moore's Social Revolution Theory or Theda Skocpol's theory. In these regions, the feudal elite shared a collective memory of collaborating in indirect rule (indirect government) under the Dutch colonial government. As a result, class alienation grew between the aristocratic elite and the common people.

A p*ower vacuum:* The post-Proclamation power vacuum triggered demands for radical democratization from the pro-independence movement and youth (representing the anti-feudal lower class). The inevitable clash occurred when the traditional elite insisted on maintaining *the status quo* and its agrarian privileges. This data exploded horizontal class conflicts that led to bloody social revolutions such as the Three March Incident in West Sumatra or the 1946 East Sumatra Social Revolution, which collapsed the joints of the local sultanate institutions themselves. Meanwhile, polarization occurred in Bali (Paramitha, 2025), showing the strong influence of the Patron-Client Theory. The aristocracy's (dynasties') political calculations were sharply divided: some allied with Van Mook's federalism to protect their power, while others chose the Republic for idealism. This data proves that royal contributions and loyalties were highly contingent on class pressures and the legacy of colonial history in each region.

4. Organic Solidarity and Collective Action: The Essential Case of the Acehnese People

Although a search of PRISMA-based primary literature in the last seven years shows a scarcity of indexed journal articles that discuss Aceh methodologically, national historiography records joint ventures among the Acehnese people as a structural anomaly that cannot be ignored. In contrast to Yogyakarta or Siak, which are hierarchically (*top-down*) driven by a single decision by the palace elite, Aceh's golden contribution is manifested in the typology of Bottom-Up Collective Action.

The mobilization of the Acehnese people's economic resources in 1948 was driven by an alliance of civil and religious elements, namely the Association of Indonesian Merchants of the Aceh Region (GASIDA) and the Association of Scholars of All Aceh (PUSA), spearheaded by Teungku Daud Beureueh. In the paradigm of Emile Durkheim's sociology, the collection of gold to buy the Dakota RI-001 Seulawah aircraft was a clear expression of Organic Solidarity. Religious sentiments (jihad fii sabilillah) and the spirit of anti-colonialism united various social factions (merchants, ulama, indigenous peoples, farmers) around one collective goal: sustaining the Republic's existence.

More than a symbol of patriotism, the Seulawah aircraft functioned as a productive capital asset in macroeconomics and geopolitics. The aircraft not only broke the Dutch air logistics blockade, but was also commercialized (leased to the Burma/Myanmar government), with the foreign-exchange proceeds used to fund Indonesian diplomatic representatives abroad. This data is extraordinary

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empirical evidence that Indonesia's state-building was not only saved by traditional elite negotiations, but also depended heavily on converting grassroots social capital into material capital of strategic value in the international arena.

D. CONCLUSION

The contribution of the kingdoms and provinces in the early days of independence was not merely a uniform patriotic reflex, but a multidimensional pillar in forming the state of the Republic of Indonesia, with deep economic-political resonance. This study identifies three distinct patterns of regional integration. First, from a macroeconomic perspective, support from the ruling elite (Yogyakarta, Siak) reflects rational social exchanges that empirically helped maintain the state's fiscal balance, preventing the Republic from systemic bankruptcy due to hyperinflation and the Dutch blockade. Second, the collective phenomenon of the Acehnese people proves the reliability of grassroots organic solidarity in creating strategic instruments (such as the Seulawah aircraft) to break through the blockade. Third, history also shows that the feudal elite's failure to adapt to the demands of egalitarianism, as in Deli and Tapanuli, triggered bloody social revolutions that destroyed traditional structures.

The study's primary scientific contribution is redefining the historiography of Indonesia's early independence. By shifting away from the traditional Java-centric military narrative, this research integrates macroeconomic paradigms and historical sociology to show that local social capital and elite economic transactions were the backbone of the Republic's survival. This study's limitation lies in its limited sample of indexed primary journals. Therefore, future researchers are encouraged to expand primary archival research on people's contributions (such as the case of national bonds in Aceh or other regions) and transform them into quantitative historiographic modeling published in highly reputable academic journals.

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