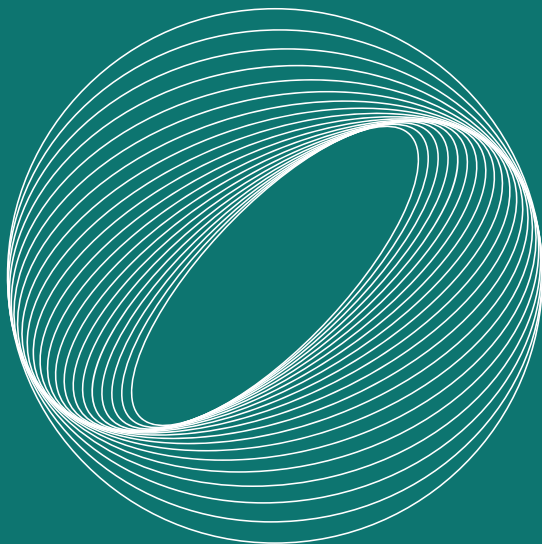




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INDONESIA AND THE PAPUA QUESTION

The problem of the West Papuan separatist movement has been brought back to light by a recent Al Jazeera interview with the soon-to-be President of Indonesia, Prabowo Subianto. Instead of fully addressing severe human rights issues in the military, he resorted to the age-old fallacy of whataboutism, which is deflecting criticism by pointing the fault of others (Al Jazeera English, 2024). The Indonesian Government used the same tactic when they were called out for the same issue by UN experts in 2022 (Strangio, 2022). Reports of harsh human rights violations in West Papua date back to as early as 1962 (Webb-Gannon, 2013). Whataboutism is often used by the Indonesian Government to counter the accusations. However, if this issue is not addressed, further human rights abuse will occur, and Indonesia's international reputation will be at stake.

Recently, a West Papuan man was unjustly tortured by Indonesian security forces, despite being a civilian—further showing the injustice nature of this rooted issue (Utama, 2024). Although Prabowo claims that the case was isolated, such abuses are systematic. Human rights violations including torture are used to subjugate the indigenous West Papuan population (Hernawan, 2016). Despite accounting for only two percent of the total population, West Papua experiences the highest intensity of violence per capita compared to the rest of the country (Alexandra et al., 2022). This striking discrepancy underscores that injustice is the core issue in West Papua.

It is in Indonesia's interest to spread norms such as self-determination and peace to the world. For instance, Indonesia has supported Palestinian self-determination (Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2024). However, the ongoing militarization of West Papua as state policy undermines Indonesia's image—making it appear hypocritical on the global stage. Prioritizing peace dialogues between the government and West Papuan indigenous communities, religious leaders, and human rights activists. (Kenzo Cen, HI UGM 2023).

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THE QUEST FOR ETHICAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Artificial Intelligence (AI) colonialism is a contemporary kind of exploitation involving wealthy developers taking advantage of underprivileged communities and ghost labor, therefore growing the global wealth gap and reflecting the detrimental characteristics of historical colonialism. AI colonialism raises so many concerns as it perpetuates and reflects current power disparities and inequities, which might result in increased exploitation and marginalization of vulnerable groups (Hao, 2022).

By maintaining the power disparities in politics and the economy that have their roots in past colonialism, AI colonialism leads to the global division of digital labor. Workers in the Global South who take low-paying, unstable activities like data entry, mining, and hardware assembler are exploited by this system, since high-paying and safe jobs in AI development are concentrated in the wealthier Western nations (Muldoon & Wu, 2023). Because of this division of labor, Muldoon & Wu (2023) argues that existing global disparities are reinforced and profits from AI technologies predominantly favor Western technology businesses.

The Kenyan content moderators for social media sites like Facebook, who work for as low as \$1.50 an hour to examine and report inappropriate information, provide a real-world case study to better understand the disparities (Perrigo, 2023). Their labor is essential to preserving the internationally used platforms, despite the psychological cost of constant exposure of graphic content and poor pay. Additionally, the development of AI systems is reliant on a damaging supply chain for the environment that disproportionately impacts populations in the majority world, carrying on the legacy of colonial resource exploitation.

This has led to several initiatives in the Global South that specifically address this issue and question the discourse surrounding AI and the assumptions that underlie it. Take initiatives such as *Lelapa AI* in Africa. The purpose of *Lelapa AI*, an artificial intelligence research lab situated in southern Africa, was to develop AI solutions specifically suited to African concerns (Harrisberg, 2023). With the use of a language processing tool created by *Lelapa AI*, people can now translate, transcribe, and analyze text and audio for local communities in underrepresented African languages. This project tackles the problem of digital colonialism, in which Western tech companies frequently steal data and AI technology from the Global South with no fair compensation (Harrisberg, 2023). The work of *Lelapa AI* emphasizes the significance of creating AI systems that uphold and strengthen regional economies and cultures in order to promote digital sovereignty in Africa.

It is clear that in order for AI to be used in an “ethical” way, the fundamental issues with AI must be acknowledged in order to “decolonize” AI and move it in the direction of equity and inclusivity. To ensure that AI benefits everyone, particularly those who have historically marginalized, will require systemic change, inclusive development, and innovative policy from all involved parties. (Muhammad Adrian Firmansyah Marwanto, HI UGM 2022).

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UNAVOIDABLE INVOLVEMENT: JORDAN FOILED ARMS SMUGGLING TO MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD CELL

Just recently, Jordan claimed to have foiled the illegal arms smuggling plot by an Iranian-sponsored militia to the Muslim Brotherhood cell in Jordan with suspected ties to Hamas. These weapons were seized in March alongside the arrest of the cell members who were known to be Jordanians with Palestinian descent (Nakhoul & Al-Khalidi, 2024). Key sources reported that Iran and their allied groups have been smuggling arms, which includes Claymore mines, C4 and Semtex explosives, Kalashnikov rifles, and 107mm Katyusha rockets for the past few months (Nakhoul & Al-Khalidi, 2024). The Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan is a transnational Islamist organization who is known to have links with the military wing of Hamas (Omari, 2024). It is suspected that Iran and its allied groups were trying to recruit members of the Muslim Brotherhood to become an advocate for anti-Israel and anti-US.

This phenomenon had once again rendered the Jordanian King Abdullah in a difficult position as the Jordan seek to not be involved in any of Iran's strategic struggle and wish to prevent itself from becoming a battlefield of conflicts in the region. The Kingdom of Jordan is prone to becoming a battlefield of conflict due to its geographical proximity and close ties with both Iran and Israel. As cited from Salhani (2024), this situation has put Jordan in a tightrope with risk of domestic social, economic, and political repercussions due to this escalating hostilities and regional tensions. Furthermore, as a Global South country, Jordan might potentially suffer from collateral damage should the war extended, be it in the form of physical destruction and significant economic drawback derived from the loss of tourism revenues and trade flows (Salhani, 2024).

However, it seems rather impossible for Jordan not to be entangled in this conflictual atmosphere as Jordan itself is a US ally with long-standing ties to the American axis while also struggling to support the establishment of a Palestinian state on their own Palestinian soil. Jordan rejected the notion of being a plausible alternative of the Palestinian state and therefore, urges the significance of a two-state solution that does not only favor Palestinians' interest, but also Jordan's interest altogether (Nakhoul & Al-Khalidi, 2024). (Angelique Angie Intan, International Relations Department Alum, Universitas Airlangga).

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