



Global Governance in the 21st Century: A Digital Trends and Transformation

Baqi Zaenulhaq Alfarizi*¹, Deasy Silvyasari², Dudy Heryadi³

^{1,2,3}Department of International Relations, Padjadjaran University

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*Corresponding author.

Corresponding Author E-mail address:

baqi22001@mail.unpad.ac.id

Abstract

This article explores the dynamics of global governance in the 21st century, focusing on the trends and digital transformations that are reshaping traditional paradigms. With technological advancements, global governance not only faces new complexities but also unprecedented opportunities for innovation. This research discusses the impact of digital transformation on global decision-making, the role of non-governmental actors, and the necessary adaptations to confront the digital era. Policy analysis highlights challenges in cybersecurity, the need for responsive regulations, and the involvement of non-governmental actors in shaping the direction of global policies. Considering the multilevel governance theoretical framework, this article examines how policy dynamics at the international, national, and local levels interact within the context of digital transformation. A profound understanding of the innovative roles of technology companies, non-governmental organizations, and civil society is central to explaining how global governance can be inclusive and empower all stakeholders. Flexibility in regulations, adaptation to cutting-edge technologies, and collaborative approaches are key to achieving effective and sustainable governance in this digital era. The future outlook discusses expected paradigm shifts, emphasizing the need for adaptable regulations and closer global collaboration to address new challenges. Looking ahead, this article proposes policy directions and governance practices that enable the world to harness the positive potential of digital transformation without neglecting responsibility to the global community.

Keywords: Digital, Global Governance, Policy, Transformation

Introduction

Global governance means the system and mechanisms employed by international entities to oversee and manage interactions and tackle challenges that extend beyond the boundaries of individual countries. It entails the collaboration of international organizations, nations, multinational enterprises, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other entities to collectively accomplish shared objectives on a global scale. The field of global governance has had a significant evolution over time, characterized by the emergence of new trends and concerns. The prominence of global governance has grown significantly in the 21st century, mirroring the intricate and interconnected nature of the world. To effectively address global concerns such as climate change, health crises, and economic inequalities, it is crucial to comprehend the patterns and changes in global governance. This article seeks to examine the fundamental factors that influence global governance, with a specific focus on areas of research, gaps in understanding, and new developments that arise in these conversations. The dynamics of the world are undergoing substantial changes, as global

governance takes center stage in a dramatic upheaval. The primary emphasis of global governance extends beyond conventional policies and diplomacy among nations, encompassing the profound influence of the digital revolution on the manner in which individuals and states engage, communicate, and address global challenges. In the early 21st century, there was a remarkable and unprecedented change in the way countries communicate and engage in global affairs. The transition, propelled by advancements in digital technology, was a momentous milestone in the development of worldwide governance. There has been a significant change in the way systems operate, moving away from old methods towards a more interconnected, fast-paced, and intricate environment. The Internet represents the most extensive trial of anarchy ever conducted in human history. Every minute, an enormous number of individuals generate and consume vast quantities of digital content in a virtual realm that is essentially unrestricted by terrestrial regulations. The current state of the virtual landscape is a direct consequence of the newfound capacity for free expression and the free flow of information (Schmidt, 2013).

An important study concern in the area of global governance in the 21st century is how international institutions and methods for collaboration among nations can effectively tackle the growingly intricate and transnational concerns. Addressing global challenges such as the refugee crisis, major conflicts, and environmental sustainability is a crucial objective in order to establish sustainable and inclusive global government (Schwanholz & Graham, 2018).

Although extensive study has been conducted in the realm of global governance, there are still substantial gaps in our understanding of the efficacy and durability of governance institutions. The absence of agreement and cooperation among member nations, along with the incapacity to promptly adapt to evolving circumstances, are crucial deficiencies that must be resolved. Furthermore, the existing literature lacks a comprehensive analysis of the impact of new technologies, economic globalization, and demographic shifts on global governance.

This research will thoroughly examine the digital trends and developments that are influencing global governance in the 21st century. The advancements in information technology, widespread digital connectivity, and rapid development of artificial intelligence have fundamentally changed traditional ways of thinking, creating new problems and opportunities in the field of global affairs.

This study will emphasize the pivotal role of digital technologies in global decision-making processes, with a focus on how these technologies affect relations between states, establish global policies, and impact the stability and sustainability of global governance. The advent of digital technologies has introduced novel dynamics into the realms of policy-making, diplomacy, and international collaboration. The advent of digital platforms, big data, artificial intelligence, and borderless communications has revolutionized global governance, altering the processes of decision-making, implementation, and evaluation at the global level.

Meanwhile, nations persist in vying for the opportunity to utilize digital technology in order to enhance their competitiveness and exert their influence on the global stage. Each country faces problems and opportunities in empowering people through technology, enhancing cybersecurity, and adapting national policies to the digital revolution.

This study is unique because it takes a comprehensive approach to understanding global governance. It goes beyond just looking at formal institutions and also examines the influence of technological advancements. This article aims to provide a fresh perspective on global governance thought in the 21st century by thoroughly addressing the problem at hand.

Conceptual Framework

Multilevel Governance (MLG)

This study uses the Multilevel Governance (MLG) theory to provide valuable insights into how decision-making and policy implementation occur at different levels of government, including local, national, and supranational. Here are some of the connections between the MLG theory and the topic:

a. *Complexity of Interactions Between Levels of Government*, that emphasizes the complexity of relationships and interactions between different levels of government. In the context of global governance, digital trends and transformations can have different impacts at the local, national, and international levels. MLG helps understand how digital policies and regulations at the global level can affect the local and national levels.

b. *The Role of Non-Governmental Actors in Digital Policy*, that recognizes the important role of non-governmental actors such as civil society organizations and the private sector in the decision-making process. In the context of the article, these non-state actors, especially in the digital world, can have significant influence in shaping policy, managing data, and ensuring cybersecurity.

c. *Coordination and Adaptation in the Digital Age*. With the digital revolution, coordination and adaptation between levels of government have become increasingly critical. MLG can provide insights into how different levels of government come together to address global challenges such as cybersecurity, data privacy, and digital access.

d. *Local Autonomy in Digital Policy*. The MLG theory highlights decentralization and local autonomy. In the digital context, this can reflect digital policies and initiatives adopted and adapted by local communities according to their own needs and characteristics.

Using the MLG approach, the article can unpack the complexities of interactions and impacts of global governance in the digital age, considering different levels of government and the role of non-governmental actors in shaping digital trends and transformations.

Method

This paper will use a qualitative research method to examine the intricacies and fluctuations of global governance in the digital age. This methodology is appropriate for investigating the state of natural objects, where researchers play a crucial role in gathering data, cross-referencing it, and interpreting it through inductive reasoning. The primary sources of literature for this research consist of secondary data obtained from books, scientific journals, and online articles. The research is limited to examining the impact of digitalization on a country's government performance over the past decade. This includes the widespread and rapid development of digital networks, as well as the incorporation of artificial intelligence (AI) technology into these networks.

Finding and Discussion

The Impacts of Digital Globalization

The 21st century has witnessed the profound influence of digital globalization, which is reshaping the landscape of global government. The advent of digital technology, such as the

internet and social media, has facilitated global interconnection, enabling swift and boundless information transmission among nations. The quick dissemination of global events throughout many regions of the world fosters a highly dynamic global communication and interaction milieu. The introduction of digital technologies is causing a transformation in global business and the economy. E-commerce platforms and technology-based business models are altering the worldwide business landscape. Digital technologies have significantly facilitated the increased involvement of non-state players, including NGOs, civil society, and private corporations, in shaping and impacting global policy. Nevertheless, in addition to its beneficial effects, digital globalization has also introduced novel difficulties, such as cybersecurity and worldwide reliance on technology. In this particular situation, it is of utmost importance to have practical and well-thought-out rules and regulations, as well as collaboration across different countries, in order to uphold efficient and successful worldwide management in the age of digital technology. Simultaneously, the process of making knowledge accessible to everybody and its impact on cultural identities are significant aspects of this transformation, generating novel dynamics that necessitate reciprocal comprehension and adjustment.

Connection the globalization to MLG Theory

1. The MLG theory emphasizes the intricate nature of relationships and interactions among many levels of governance, such as municipal, national, and supranational entities. Within the article's framework, this intricacy exemplifies the interplay of local governments endeavoring to tackle digital challenges, national rules, and global policies that impact digital governance.
2. The Function of Non-Governmental Entities in Digital Policy:
The MLG theory acknowledges the significant contribution of non-governmental actors, like as civil society organizations and the commercial sector, in the process of making decisions. The essay highlights how non-governmental organizations and technology businesses play a significant role in establishing digital legislation and influencing global policies.
3. The digital revolution has made collaboration and adaptability between tiers of government more crucial than ever. This concept embodies the notion that in the era of digitalization, it is imperative for nations and international institutions to effectively collaborate in order to tackle global issues such as cybersecurity, data privacy, and ensuring fair and equal access to digital resources.
4. Local Autonomy in Digital Policy: The MLG theory emphasizes the distribution of power and decision-making authority to local entities in the realm of digital policy. In the digital realm, this signifies the necessity of granting autonomy to subordinate levels of government to implement digital policies that are suitable for their own local requirements and circumstances.
5. Multi-Stakeholder Actor Engagement: MLG theory describes a scenario in which policies and governance are formulated by involving several stakeholders. The article highlights the cooperation among governments, the commercial sector, civil society organizations, and the general public in tackling intricate global challenges.
6. Adaptation and Flexibility: The MLG theory highlights the significance of being able to adjust and be adaptable when confronted with changes. In the digital realm, this highlights the imperative for both governmental and non-governmental organizations to swiftly adjust to technology advancements and evolving dynamics in global governance.



The Process of Making Decisions

1. An Overview of Global Decision Making Dynamics: The process of making decisions on a global scale has experienced a substantial shift in the digital age. This process is not solely restricted to the domestic level, but is also impacted by global dynamics, advancements in digital technology, and the involvement of non-governmental entities.

2. Key Factors Influencing Global Decision Making: a. Digital Technology as a Primary Catalyst: Technology has emerged as a significant determinant of global decisions in the digital age. Technological advancements such as artificial intelligence, big data analytics, and blockchain technology have greatly influenced the decision-making processes on a worldwide scale.

a. Role of Governments and Non-Governmental Actors: The global decision-making process entails the exchange of information and collaboration between governmental entities and non-governmental actors. International organizations, technological corporations, and civil society groups are becoming more influential in determining the global agenda.

c. Cybersecurity and Data Privacy: The issues around cybersecurity and data privacy are increasingly important considerations in global decision-making processes. International cooperation is necessary to tackle cyber dangers that transcend national boundaries, while also taking into account privacy concerns.

3. Interactive Processes Between Levels of Government: a. Global Actor Involvement: The decision-making process now extends beyond the national level, involving global actors. The participation of global entities, such as international organizations and multinational enterprises, leads to the development of increasingly intricate policy forecasts.

b. Digital Trends Adaptation: The government's capacity to adjust to digital trends and changes is crucial in the process of making decisions. The ability to adapt to technological advances is crucial.

Implications for policy

With the advent of digital transformation in the 21st century, it is crucial to address the policy and regulatory consequences in order to provide efficient global governance of the quickly evolving digital trends and transformations. Initially, it is imperative to establish a comprehensive worldwide strategy that can effectively address the intricacies of cybersecurity concerns. Cybersecurity plays a crucial role in safeguarding the accuracy of data, preserving privacy, and maintaining uninterrupted operations in a progressively intricate digital landscape. Effective implementation of this policy necessitates intergovernmental collaboration, bolstered by regulatory frameworks capable of mitigating transnational risks.

Furthermore, it is essential to establish worldwide policies that guarantee equitable availability and accessibility to the internet. Universal internet access is crucial for narrowing the digital divide in the context of digital transformation. Policies aimed at promoting accessibility must be designed to accommodate both economic and social diversity, while also ensuring that digital innovation is accessible to the entire global population.

The Role of Non-Governmental Actors

In the dynamics of global governance in the 21st century influenced by digital trends and transformations, the role of non-governmental actors is becoming increasingly crucial. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), technology companies, and civil society are not just secondary players; they form the basis of effective participation in shaping policy and

managing digital impacts. NGOs, for example, are often independent voices that advocate for global issues such as human rights, environmental sustainability, and equitable digital access. In the context of technology, technology companies have significant influence in shaping new norms and standards, while civil society provides important perspectives from the grassroots level, helping to ensure that policies reflect the needs and aspirations of society.

The development of the internet has encouraged the emergence and development of digital-based companies, such as start-ups, and the increase in online trade and transactions. Based on the data, In 2019, it reached 2.0 trillion USD, in 2020 it reached 2.670 trillion USD, in 2021 it increased to 3.145 trillion USD, in 2022 it increased to 3.220 trillion USD, and 3.485 trillion USD in 2023. The high nominal value of these transactions has encouraged governments of countries around the world to issue new policies that also regulate transactions between countries. Not only trade, advances in telecommunications in the internet network have also encouraged the emergence of new companies engaged in the digital sector. In 2021, such as Bytedance from China which is engaged in artificial intelligence with a valuation of 140 billion USD, SpaceX, a company from the United States engaged in outer space, with a valuation of 100 billion USD, and Stripe, a company also from the United States engaged in Fintech with a total valuation of 95 billion USD. From the total figure, it is clear that financially, these companies have financial strength that is equal to or even stronger than a country. Ultimately, the participation of these non-governmental actors creates a more inclusive and responsive governance system to global dynamics. However, challenges arise in balancing these diverse interests and ensuring that this participation supports, rather than hinders, the achievement of global goals. Therefore, regulations and policies must take into account the important role of these non-governmental actors and create mechanisms that facilitate effective cooperation between the public and private sectors.

Adaptability and flexibility

In the midst of the ongoing digital change in the 21st century, the ability to adapt and be flexible is crucial in effectively administering global governance. Effective governance must possess the ability to adapt and react swiftly to fast-paced technology advancements, while comprehending the consequences and difficulties that emerge. It is imperative for governments and international institutions to enact policies that can effectively adjust to evolving digital trends, foster innovation, and promptly address the demands of the community.

The advocacy for enhanced accessibility to computer and smartphone technologies has facilitated the modernization of nations across the globe. By the year 2023, the global population of internet users is projected to reach 5.4 billion. This numerical value corresponds to 67 percent of the entire worldwide population. By 2023, China is projected to surpass all other countries in terms of internet user population, reaching a staggering 1.05 billion users. In comparison, the United States is expected to have 692 million internet users.

According to yearly data, there has been a global rise in internet users. Over the past five years, the number of users has increased from 4.119 billion in 2019 to 4.585 billion in 2020, 4.901 billion in 2021, 5.300 billion in 2022, and 5.400 billion in 2023. This statistic promotes global governments to prioritize and value the accessibility of information in the digital realm as a crucial aspect of international relations in the 21st century.



As of April 2024, Facebook holds the top position as the most extensively utilized social media platform worldwide, boasting a user base of 3.065 billion. Following closely after is Youtube with 2.504 billion users, while Instagram and Whatsapp each have 2.000 billion users. Tiktok, on the other hand, has a global user count of 1.582 billion. In order to guarantee honest and responsible operations of social media platforms, international regulation and cooperation are vital due to the vast number of users engaging and exchanging information on a daily basis. An effective global governance structure may establish uniform standards, safeguard users' personal data, deter platform misuse, and promote secure and inclusive technical advancement, thereby fostering a safer and more reliable digital ecosystem for everyone.

Flexibility is crucial for ensuring that global governance is not confined to fixed rules, but can adjust to a dynamic and constantly evolving environment. This entails formulating policies that not only establish security and equity, but also foster technical advancement and economic expansion. The participation of non-governmental entities, including technology firms and civil society, is crucial in developing a comprehensive adaptation framework that is inclusive.

Flexibility and adaptation necessitate a transformation in the organizational culture, wherein both governmental and non-governmental institutions must demonstrate a willingness to engage in perpetual learning and innovation. Gaining comprehension of this fundamental change in thinking will enable the establishment of worldwide administration that is capable of effectively addressing the intricacy and fluctuations resulting from digital trends and transitions.

Prospects for the Future

The future prospects for global governance pose novel problems and possibilities as digital trends and revolutions persistently advance. In the present day, it is becoming more and more crucial to have international collaboration in order to tackle problems that transcend national boundaries, such as cybersecurity, digital trade, and human rights in the digital domain. Establishing policies that can effectively reconcile economic, social, and environmental requirements on a global scale will be crucial in establishing a sustainable system of government. Non-governmental players, including technological businesses and non-governmental groups, are anticipated to play a larger role in global decision-making processes. This necessitates the requirement for inventive and flexible regulations to uphold an equilibrium of interests and deter the misuse of authority. Furthermore, prioritizing transparency in data management and the integration of artificial intelligence technologies will be crucial in order to guarantee ethical and responsible utilization.

Gaining profound insight into the ramifications of emerging technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence, and blockchain will empower global governance to proactively foresee and proficiently handle transformative shifts. Implementing these technologies can expedite innovation in public services, streamline decision-making processes, and foster collaboration across different sectors. Furthermore, it is imperative to ensure a fair and equitable allocation of telecommunications technology infrastructure, including convenient internet connectivity. Based on data from Google Statistics, China is the leading country in terms of internet users worldwide, with a staggering 1.05 billion users. This accounts for almost 20 percent of the global internet user population. Conversely, there are numerous countries, including Poland (36.68 million), Argentina (39.79 million), Spain (45.12

million), South Korea (50.56 million), Italy (50.78 million), and France (59.94 million), that have limited internet access. Curiously, these countries are classified as developed countries. Furthermore, the advancement of internet technology has influenced different domains by introducing novel modes of interaction, including the pursuit of space exploration and the rise of internet-related criminal activities like data theft, monetary theft, online gambling, prostitution, and illicit online trade. In the year 2023, a total of 2,365 cyber assaults occurred, resulting in the compromise of 343,338,964 user accounts.

In 2023, the cybercrime rate is projected to increase by 72 percent compared to 2021, making it the highest on record. Crimes involving data hacking result in a financial loss of 4.45 million USD per user. Email is the primary medium for transmitting malware, with approximately 35 percent of cybercrimes being perpetrated over email. Indeed, the unauthorized access and manipulation of corporate email accounts in the year 2022 resulted in financial losses amounting to a staggering 2.7 billion USD. According to predictions, the field of cybersecurity is expected to experience a 32 percent growth in employment opportunities from 2022 to 2032. Enhancing the financial allocation for digital security or cybersecurity is of utmost significance for all nations globally due to the escalating cyber risks that can inflict harm on vital infrastructure, impair public services, and pilfer confidential information. Based on data from Statista Technology Market Outlook, National Cyber Security Organizations, FBI, and IMF, the projected losses are expected to rise annually. Specifically, the estimated losses are 1.16 trillion USD in 2019, 2.95 trillion USD in 2020, 5.99 trillion USD in 2021, 8.44 trillion USD in 2022, and 11.50 trillion USD in 2023. The nominal value will steadily rise each year until it reaches 23.82 trillion USD by 2027. Governments, corporations, and individuals are being targeted by cyber attacks that are becoming more advanced. These attacks can lead to significant economic losses, harm reputations, and pose a threat to national security. Even major nations are actively addressing cyber challenges, including In 2022, the United States allocated a total of 64.86 billion USD, China allocated 11.22 billion USD, the United Kingdom allocated 8.74 billion USD, and Japan allocated 8.52 billion USD. By increasing financial resources dedicated to cybersecurity, nations can enhance their defensive capabilities, foster the creation of cutting-edge security technologies, bolster their ability to react to cyber incidents, and safeguard their citizens well-being and national interests from the ever-growing array of intricate and perilous digital threats.

On the contrary, the digital market consistently grows each year, with figures of 289.84 billion USD in 2019, 359.51 billion USD in 2020, 426.85 billion USD in 2021, 439.84 billion USD in 2022, and 498.59 billion USD in 2023. Projections indicate that the amount is expected to steadily rise each year, reaching 613.51 billion USD by 2025 and 700.17 billion USD by 2027. There is an urgent need for regulations across countries to promote the digital market. These regulations are necessary to provide a fair, safe, and innovative ecosystem for all economic actors. By implementing appropriate legislation, the government may effectively curb monopolistic behaviors, safeguard consumer rights, and ensure the security of personal data and online transactions against cyber threats. Furthermore, effective rules can foster robust competition and ingenuity by offering explicit directives for fledgling enterprises and technological firms. By enhancing public confidence in the digital market, it not only fosters investment and job creation, but also bolsters overall economic growth. In order to facilitate technical advancements while upholding ethical ideals and human rights, it is essential to establish a regulatory framework that strikes a balance between flexibility and legal certainty.

Therefore, the future prospects for global governance should rely on a mindset of cooperation and flexibility, allowing the globe to effectively harness the beneficial possibilities of digital revolution while still fulfilling its obligations to the international community.

Conclusion

In the midst of the intricate challenges posed by digital trends and transitions in the 21st century, global governance has evolved into a flexible and responsive domain. The advent of digital transformation has had a profound influence on the operational methods of nations and institutions, reshaping the worldwide policy environment and intensifying the intricacy of international interactions. The outcome of this investigation is that global government must persist in its development to comprehensively comprehend and adeptly address technology advancements. Non-governmental players, such as technology corporations and civil society, have played a crucial role in influencing global legislation and standards. Nevertheless, there are difficulties in managing these varied interests and guaranteeing that any digital revolution generates fair and beneficial effects. Flexibility and adaptability are crucial in addressing these issues, guaranteeing that global governance is not only effective in adapting to change, but also maintains ethical principles and justice.

In order to meet future challenges, it is essential to have more international cooperation, implement creative regulatory measures, and get a more profound comprehension of developing technology. Global governance must prioritize sustainability by fostering inclusivity, so guaranteeing that the advantages and opportunities of digital transformation are available to all segments of society. Through the integration of adaptability, collaboration, and ethics, global governance in the 21st century has the potential to serve as a catalyst for the attainment of sustainable development goals and global prosperity. To conclude, effectively overseeing global governance in the digital era presents both a problem and a chance to establish a fairer, more enduring, and interconnected society. This transition necessitates a collective dedication to closing disparities, involving all parties involved, and embracing change as a catalyst for advancement.

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