

The Political Economy of Development: State–Market Relations and Global Capitalism in The Scholarly Literature

Muhammad Abrar, Ar-Raniry State Islamic University, Banda Aceh, Indonesia

Muhammad Aris Muladi, Malikussaleh University, Lhokseumawe, Indonesia

*Correspondent Email: abrarmhmd271@gmail.com

Submitted: January 25, 2026 | Revised: March 13, 2026 | Accepted: March 26, 2026

ABSTRAK

Ekonomi politik pembangunan merupakan bidang kajian penting yang menelaah interaksi antara kekuasaan politik dan dinamika ekonomi dalam konteks nasional maupun global. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk memetakan dan menganalisis perkembangan kajian ekonomi politik pembangunan dengan fokus pada relasi negara–pasar dan kapitalisme global dalam literatur ilmiah. Penelitian menggunakan pendekatan Systematic Literature Review (SLR) yang dipadukan dengan analisis ko-okuransi bibliometrik terhadap artikel jurnal bereputasi yang dipublikasikan pada periode 2000–2025. Data bibliografis dianalisis menggunakan perangkat lunak VOSviewer untuk mengidentifikasi kluster tematik, pola hubungan konseptual, serta tren temporal penelitian. Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa literatur ekonomi politik pembangunan terstruktur ke dalam beberapa tema utama, yakni peran negara dan institusi publik, kapitalisme global dan globalisasi ekonomi, serta relasi negara–pasar dalam pembentukan kebijakan pembangunan. Temuan juga mengindikasikan bahwa kapitalisme global membentuk ruang kebijakan nasional secara asimetris, sehingga relasi negara–pasar dipahami sebagai arena negosiasi dinamis, bukan oposisi biner. Selain itu, meningkatnya penggunaan pendekatan bibliometrik menandakan kematangan dan reflektivitas metodologis dalam kajian ekonomi politik pembangunan. Penelitian ini berkontribusi dengan menyediakan pemetaan sistematis atas struktur pengetahuan dan arah perkembangan kajian ekonomi politik pembangunan, serta menawarkan dasar konseptual bagi pengembangan riset lanjutan dan perumusan kebijakan pembangunan yang adaptif di tengah dinamika kapitalisme global.

Kata kunci: ekonomi politik pembangunan; negara dan pasar; kapitalisme global; bibliometrik; systematic literature review.

ABSTRACT

The political economy of development is a significant field of inquiry that examines the interaction between political power and economic dynamics at the national and global levels. This study aims to map and analyze the development of the political economy of development literature, with a particular focus on state–market relations and global capitalism. The research employs a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) combined with bibliometric co-occurrence analysis of peer-reviewed journal articles published between 2000 and 2025. Bibliographic data were analyzed using VOSviewer to identify thematic clusters, conceptual linkages, and temporal research trends. The findings indicate that the political economy of development literature is structured around several core themes, including the role of the state and public institutions, global capitalism and economic globalization, and state–market relations in the formulation of development policies. The results further suggest that global capitalism shapes national policy spaces asymmetrically, leading state–market relations to be understood as a dynamic arena of negotiation rather than a binary opposition. Moreover, the growing use of bibliometric approaches reflects increasing methodological maturity and reflexivity within the field of political economy of development studies. This study contributes by providing a systematic mapping of the intellectual structure and research trajectories of the political economy of development, while offering a conceptual foundation for future research and the formulation of adaptive development policies in the context of global capitalist dynamics.

Keywords: political economy of development; state and market; global capitalism; bibliometrics; systematic literature review.



INTRODUCTION

The interaction between politics and economics constitutes a central phenomenon in the development processes of developing countries. Economic policies never operate in a vacuum; rather, they are shaped by configurations of political power, the interests of domestic and international actors, and the structures of global capitalism. Over the past few decades, economic globalization, market liberalization, and integration into global value chains have significantly transformed the state's role in economic development. States are no longer only expected to create competitive market environments but are also increasingly pressured to align domestic policies with global norms and interests (Rodrik, 2011; Bieler, 2025; Meckelburg & Wardana, 2024).

These dynamics are particularly complex in developing countries, where dependence on foreign capital, international financial institutions, and global trade often constrains national policy space. Recent studies suggest that the dominance of global capitalism contributes to structural inequalities and weakens state capacity to pursue inclusive development strategies (Naseemullah, 2023; Nirmal, 2024; Meytriana et al., 2025; Khan, 2025; Fifi & Gao, 2025; Kus & Jackson, 2025; Nilsen, 2025; Arcand, 2025). Under such conditions, political economy emerges as a highly relevant analytical approach for understanding contemporary development dynamics.

The political economy of development has expanded considerably as a field of inquiry, encompassing analyses of state–market relations, institutions, globalization, and power. Classical literature emphasizes the state's role in correcting market failures and guiding industrialization, while post-neoliberal scholarship critiques the consequences of excessive deregulation and liberalization for national economic sovereignty (Chang, 2002; Gilpin, 2001; Alesina & Perotti, 1994). Recent bibliometric studies mapping the intellectual landscape of political economy demonstrate conceptual evolution and shifts in research focus from 1989 to 2023, identifying theoretical linkages among subfields such as state–market relations, economic liberalization, and global dynamics (Zupic & Čater, 2015; Andolšek et al., 2025; Syafii et al., 2025; Heddesheimer, 2025).

More recent research highlights a shift toward more complex structural analyses, including concepts such as political settlements, global value chains, and the role of transnational actors in shaping economic policy. Political settlements analysis emphasizes how compromises and conflicts among political elites influence the success of development policies (Khan, 2018; Cardao-Pito, 2025; Fifi, 2025; Cigna et al., 2025; Angelakis et al., 2025). At the same time, studies of global capitalism underscore how international economic integration

deepens inequality and generates new forms of dependency for developing countries (Bair, 2022; Islam & Jerin, 2025; Uzar, 2026; Echeverri-Gent & Sinha, 2025).

Despite the richness of political economy scholarship, significant thematic and methodological fragmentation persists within the literature on the political economy of development. Many studies concentrate on specific dimensions—such as state intervention, globalization, neoliberal reforms, or institutional governance—without sufficiently integrating these perspectives into a coherent analytical framework. Methodologically, a large portion of the literature remains normative or relies heavily on single-case studies, limiting the ability to capture the field's broader intellectual structure and evolution. This condition creates an epistemological challenge, as fragmented knowledge production makes it difficult to understand how key concepts, theoretical debates, and analytical approaches interact across the political economy of development literature.

From a practical perspective, such fragmentation also constrains scholars' and policymakers' capacity to identify dominant research paradigms, emerging themes, and knowledge gaps that shape development discourse. Without systematic mapping of the literature, it becomes difficult to trace how debates on state capacity, market liberalization, and global capitalism evolve and influence policy thinking over time. Therefore, a systematic literature review is required to overcome these limitations. By employing a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) combined with bibliometric co-occurrence analysis, this study aims to map the intellectual structure and research trends of the political economy of development, thereby providing a more integrated understanding of state–market relations and global capitalism within contemporary development debates.

The novelty of this study lies in its application of a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) combined with bibliometric co-occurrence analysis to map the political economy of development literature. Unlike previous studies that predominantly employ qualitative narrative approaches or case studies, this research offers an empirical mapping of conceptual structures, thematic clusters, and interconnections among key issues in political economy scholarship.

The main contributions of this study are threefold: (1) identifying dominant themes and global research trends in the political economy of development; (2) revealing conceptual linkages between state–market relations, global capitalism, and economic policymaking; and (3) providing an empirical foundation for developing more context-sensitive political economy research agendas, particularly for developing countries and the Global South.

Based on these developments and gaps in the literature, this study addresses the following central research question: How have state–market relations and global capitalism evolved within the international scholarly literature on the political economy of development? More specifically, the study seeks to examine how these themes are structured, interconnected, and developed over time within academic debates. Despite the growing volume of political economy research, the lack of systematic mapping makes it difficult to understand the field's overall intellectual structure, dominant themes, and emerging trends. This limitation contributes to fragmented interpretations of how development strategies, institutional roles, and global economic structures interact within contemporary political economy discourse.

Positioned within the perspective of critical political economy with an institutional orientation, this article argues that development cannot be adequately understood through purely market-based or state-centric explanations. Instead, development outcomes emerge from the dynamic interaction between state institutions, market mechanisms, and the structural pressures of global capitalism. While political economy remains a crucial analytical framework for examining these relationships, its explanatory potential requires a more systematic conceptual synthesis. Through bibliometric co-occurrence analysis, this study demonstrates that state–market relations and global capitalism constitute the core conceptual pillars of the political economy of development literature. At the same time, these concepts function as arenas of contestation where national development strategies interact with broader global economic forces, shaping the evolution of contemporary development debates.

Accordingly, the objectives of this study are to: (1) map the development of political economy of development research through a Systematic Literature Review; (2) identify major thematic clusters in the literature related to state–market relations, global capitalism, and economic policy; (3) analyze research directions and trends in the political economy of development using bibliometric co-occurrence analysis; and (4) provide a conceptual and empirical foundation for advancing political economy research relevant to developing countries.

ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK

Introduction to the Analytical Framework

The analytical framework of this study is developed to provide a solid conceptual and methodological foundation for understanding the dynamics of the political economy of development as a complex and multidimensional field of scholarly inquiry. This framework is designed to bridge the core theoretical assumptions of political economy with an empirical,

open-science-based literature mapping approach through a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) combined with bibliometric co-occurrence analysis.

This approach draws on recent bibliometric studies that systematically map the evolution of political economy scholarship and elucidate the field's intellectual structure through techniques such as co-citation analysis, co-word analysis, and bibliographic coupling. The study *Mapping the Milestones of Modern Times* demonstrates that political economy has evolved both historically and thematically from the classical to the contemporary period, reflecting shifts in research focus toward global issues such as environmental crises, digitalization, and development policy (Andolšek, Černe, & Lamovšek, 2025).

Accordingly, this analytical framework emphasizes that political economy extends beyond the relationship between politics and economics within national contexts. It also encompasses how theories, institutions, and global power structures shape economic policymaking in an era of global capitalism and geopolitical uncertainty.

Relevance of the Framework to the Topic

This analytical framework is highly relevant to the study of the political economy of development because it enables a systematic examination of the relationships among three core domains.

1. State–Market Relations

Political economy perspectives emphasize that development policies emerge from the interaction between state power structures and inherently non-neutral market mechanisms. The state, therefore, functions not only as a regulator but also as a political actor that shapes resource allocation through policy decisions and institutional arrangements. From a structural viewpoint, World-Systems Theory, as proposed by Immanuel Wallerstein, explains that state–market relations are embedded within a hierarchical global capitalist system, in which core, semi-peripheral, and peripheral economies occupy unequal positions in global production and accumulation. Consequently, development outcomes often reflect structural constraints that limit the policy autonomy of developing countries within global markets (Wallerstein, 2004; Chase-Dunn & Babones, 2006).

Complementing this structural perspective, the Varieties of Capitalism framework developed by Peter A. Hall and David Soskice highlights that state–market relations vary across institutional contexts and coordination mechanisms. Different institutional configurations shape how governments interact with firms, markets, and social actors in

pursuing economic development strategies. In this context, economic policies—including infrastructure development—serve not only as instruments for growth but also as mechanisms through which states seek political legitimacy and strategic positioning within the global capitalist economy (Hall & Soskice, 2001; Baccaro & Pontusson, 2016).

2. Structures of Global Capitalism

Economic globalization, through international markets and global value chains, places developing countries under intense competitive pressure, compelling states to balance market demands with national development priorities. Contemporary research on the green transition and green industrial policy illustrates how sustainability has become a major arena of global political and economic contestation, underscoring the necessity of a political economy approach to understanding complex economic transitions (Jackson, 2025).

3. Shifting Theoretical Paradigms and Research Trends

Recent bibliometric analyses indicate that political economy research has expanded beyond traditional institutional themes to encompass emerging issues such as multifaceted crises (economic, social, and environmental), modernization, and shifting development paradigms (Andolšek et al., 2025). From an epistemological perspective, bibliometric mapping can be understood as a method for identifying discursive formations in academic knowledge production, as conceptualized by Michel Foucault. Clusters of concepts and keywords reveal how particular ideas, narratives, and research agendas become dominant within scholarly discourse.

At the same time, the evolution of thematic clusters in the literature may also reflect broader paradigm shifts in scientific inquiry, consistent with the framework proposed by Thomas S. Kuhn in *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. In this sense, bibliometric analysis serves not merely to identify research trends but also to trace the evolution of conceptual frameworks and theoretical orientations within the political economy of development. Consequently, bibliometric mapping functions as an analytical tool for examining how key concepts—such as state–market relations and global capitalism—are interconnected and transformed within the changing intellectual landscape of global development studies.

Operationalization of the Framework

The analytical framework is operationalized through three structured methodological stages.

1. Systematic Literature Review (SLR)

The Systematic Literature Review (SLR) was conducted using a structured search strategy across major academic databases, including Scopus and Web of Science, with keywords related to the political economy of development.

The procedure consists of the following stages:

- a. Identification: Retrieving relevant articles using predefined search keywords such as political economy of development, state–market relations, global capitalism, state capacity, market regulation, and economic policy.
- b. Screening: Conducting preliminary filtering of retrieved articles based on titles, abstracts, and keywords to ensure alignment with the scope of political economy of development studies.
- c. Eligibility: Performing a full-text evaluation to assess the conceptual relevance, theoretical orientation, and methodological suitability of the selected articles.
- d. Inclusion: Finalizing the selection of articles that constitute the literature corpus for bibliometric analysis.
- e. Conceptual Mapping of Political Economy Discourse: Bibliometric mapping is employed not only to identify thematic patterns but also to analyze the discursive structure of political economy scholarship, where clusters of keywords represent recurring debates on power relations, institutional arrangements, and class interests within development discourse. The co-occurrence of terms related to the state, markets, and global capitalism allows the identification of how academic discussions frame the distribution of economic power and the interaction between public authority and market forces.
- f. Operationalization of Key Concepts in Bibliometric Analysis: To address the abstract nature of political economy concepts, key variables are operationalized through keyword proxies that frequently appear in the literature:
 - 1) State Capacity → represented by keywords such as governance, public policy, state intervention, institutional capacity, and development planning.
 - 2) Market Regulation → represented by keywords such as regulation, industrial policy, economic reform, market governance, and state–market relations.

The co-occurrence and clustering of these terms enable the identification of how scholarly discourse conceptualizes the role of the state and market mechanisms in shaping development strategies.

2. Bibliometric Co-occurrence Analysis

The selected literature corpus is analyzed using bibliometric software to identify keyword co-occurrences, revealing conceptual relationships among research topics and generating major thematic clusters. This technique enables mapping the field's intellectual structure and illustrates how political economy themes are interconnected. The resulting clusters are analyzed within the following contexts:

- a. State–Market Relations and Institutions: Examining links between state capacity, market regulation, and public policy.

- b. Global Capitalism and Economic Dependency: Identifying how global integration shapes pressures on national development agendas and market dependency.
- c. Policy Strategies and Sustainable Development: Integrating issues of environmental governance, economic transition, and the role of global institutions.

3. Thematic Interpretation and Synthesis

Once thematic clusters are identified, the interpretation stage compares bibliometric findings with classical and contemporary theories of political economy. This analytical synthesis focuses on:

- a. The transformation of political economy research from classical to contemporary periods.
- b. The relationship between theory, institutions, and policy practice.
- c. The identification of research gaps that inform future research agendas.

Through this process, the framework not only maps the structure of knowledge but also provides a robust theoretical foundation and empirical overview of the development of political economy scholarship.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study employs a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) combined with bibliometric analysis to map the intellectual structure of the political economy of development literature. The SLR approach enables researchers to synthesize existing knowledge in a transparent and replicable manner while identifying patterns and research gaps within a given field (Hannah Snyder, 2019). The review process follows the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) protocol, which provides a systematic framework for identifying, screening, and selecting relevant academic publications to ensure methodological transparency and validity (David Moher et al., 2009).

Search Strategy and Data Collection

Relevant publications were retrieved from major academic databases, including Scopus and Web of Science, covering the period 2000–2025. These databases are widely used in bibliometric research due to their comprehensive coverage of high-quality peer-reviewed journals (Mike Thelwall, 2018).

To ensure conceptual relevance, the search strategy applied a structured search string targeting titles, abstracts, and keywords:

TITLE-ABS-KEY ("*political economy*" AND "*development*" AND ("*state-market*" OR "*state market*") AND ("*global capitalism*" OR "*economic globalization*"))

Only peer-reviewed journal articles published in English were included to ensure consistency in academic quality and comparability across studies.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

To reduce subjectivity in article selection, explicit inclusion and exclusion criteria were applied.

1. Inclusion Criteria
 - a. Articles published in peer-reviewed international journals
 - b. Publications between 2000 and 2025
 - c. Articles explicitly mentioning state–market relations, global capitalism, or political economy of development in the title, abstract, or keywords
 - d. Studies addressing development policy, economic governance, or institutional dynamics within political economy
2. Exclusion Criteria
 - a. Non-peer-reviewed publications (books, reports, conference proceedings)
 - b. Articles unrelated to development or political economy
 - c. Duplicate records across databases
 - d. Articles without accessible full texts

PRISMA Screening Process

The screening procedure follows the PRISMA flow framework, which consists of four stages:

1. Records Identified – Articles retrieved from database searches.
2. Records Screened – Initial screening based on titles and abstracts to remove irrelevant studies.
3. Full-Text Assessment – Full-text articles evaluated for conceptual relevance and methodological suitability.
4. Final Inclusion – Articles meeting all criteria included in the bibliometric dataset.

The PRISMA Flow Diagram is presented to illustrate the number of records at each stage, allowing readers to evaluate the transparency and validity of the screening process (Moher et al., 2009).

Data Cleaning and Keyword Standardization

Before analysis, the dataset underwent a data cleaning process to standardize keywords and consolidate synonymous terms. Bibliometric studies commonly apply keyword harmonization to avoid fragmentation of conceptually identical terms within network analysis (Chaomei Chen, 2017).

Synonymous terms were consolidated using a thesaurus file in VOSviewer (developed by Nees Jan van Eck and Ludo Waltman), for example:

1. state-market, state market relations → state–market relations
2. economic globalization, global economic integration → globalization
3. institutional capacity, state capability → state capacity

The coding and cleaning process was conducted by the research team and subsequently cross-checked by two independent reviewers. Any discrepancies in keyword consolidation were resolved through discussion to ensure consistency and analytical reliability.

Bibliometric Analysis

The cleaned dataset was analyzed using VOSviewer, a widely used software for constructing and visualizing bibliometric networks (Van Eck & Waltman, 2010). The analysis generated several types of visualization:

1. Keyword co-occurrence networks
2. Cluster mapping
3. Overlay visualization
4. Density visualization

These bibliometric techniques enable researchers to identify dominant research themes, conceptual clusters, and emerging trends within a body of literature (Thelwall, 2018).

Validity and Cross-Checking

To strengthen analytical validity, bibliometric findings were complemented by manual reading of a sample of highly cited and representative articles from each thematic cluster. This cross-validation approach allows researchers to confirm whether the identified keyword clusters accurately reflect the conceptual debates and theoretical perspectives present in the literature (Snyder, 2019).

Limitations and Potential Bias

This study has several limitations. First, the dataset is restricted to English-language journal articles, potentially excluding relevant scholarship published in other languages. As a result, the findings may underrepresent political economy debates emerging from non-English academic traditions, particularly in regions such as Latin America and East Asia. Future research should expand the dataset by incorporating literature published in Spanish, Mandarin, or Indonesian to provide a more comprehensive representation of global political economy scholarship.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the results of the bibliometric analysis examining the development and intellectual structure of the scholarly literature on the political economy of development, with a particular focus on state–market relations, global capitalism, and economic policy. The research findings are derived from 128 peer-reviewed international journal articles published between 2000 and 2025, retrieved from the Scopus and Web of Science databases. After the screening and eligibility stages, the final dataset produced 1,146 unique keywords, which were then analyzed using VOSviewer to generate co-occurrence, network, overlay, and density visualizations.

To ensure analytical clarity and reduce noise in the keyword network, a minimum of 5 occurrences per keyword was required for inclusion in the co-occurrence analysis. Based on this threshold, 74 keywords met the inclusion criteria and were subsequently used to construct the bibliometric network and thematic clusters. This filtering process enables the analysis to focus on the most significant conceptual patterns and relationships within the political economy of development literature.

The bibliometric analysis is organized into four main components: (1) keyword co-occurrence analysis, (2) network visualization, (3) temporal overlay visualization, and (4) thematic density mapping. Together, these components provide a comprehensive overview of dominant themes, conceptual evolution, and research trajectories in the global political economy of development literature.

Keyword Co-occurrence Analysis

The initial dataset consisted of thousands of keywords extracted from article titles, abstracts, and author-provided keywords. To ensure that the analysis focused on the most significant concepts, a minimum frequency threshold was applied to identify a refined set of key terms. Subsequently, keywords with the highest relevance scores—representing the most dominant ideas in the political economy of development literature—were selected for further analysis, following established methodological practices in bibliometric studies (Zupic & Čater, 2015).

The co-occurrence analysis identified four major thematic clusters, as outlined below.

Cluster 1: The State, Institutions, and Development Policy

This cluster is dominated by keywords such as state, institutions, public policy, governance, and development strategy. These findings indicate that the role of the state

and institutional capacity remain central themes in the political economy of development literature. Studies within this cluster emphasize that economic development is strongly shaped by the state's ability to design and implement policies and to manage relationships with both domestic and global market actors (Naseemullah, 2023; Khan, 2025).

Cluster 2: Global Capitalism and Economic Globalization

The second cluster includes terms such as global capitalism, globalization, neoliberalism, global value chains, and inequality. This cluster reflects the literature's strong focus on global economic structures and their implications for developing countries. The prominence of neoliberal concepts and global market integration underscores that the political economy of development cannot be separated from the dynamics of global capitalism, which frequently generate structural inequalities across countries (Bieler, 2025; Nilsen, 2025).

Cluster 3: State–Market Relations and Economic Transformation

This cluster is characterized by keywords such as state–market relations, industrial policy, regulation, and economic reform. The findings indicate that political economy scholarship extensively examines tensions and negotiations between state intervention and market mechanisms, particularly in the context of economic reform and industrialization. This cluster reinforces the argument that the traditional dichotomy between the state and the market is increasingly being replaced by perspectives that view both as mutually dependent and co-evolving entities (Arcand, 2025; Echeverri-Gent & Sinha, 2025).

Cluster 4: Methodological Approaches and Research Agendas in Political

Economy

The final cluster is marked by terms such as bibliometric analysis, systematic literature review, research trends, and theoretical framework. The presence of this cluster highlights the growing adoption of systematic and quantitative approaches to mapping political economy research. This trend reflects both the field's maturation and the increasing demand for structured knowledge synthesis to navigate its expanding, fragmented literature (Donthu et al., 2021; Andolšek et al., 2025).

Table 1 summarizes the four major thematic clusters identified through the bibliometric co-occurrence analysis, highlighting the core themes, key keywords, analytical focus, and principal references that structure the contemporary literature on the political economy of development.

Table 1. Summary of Thematic Clusters in the Political Economy of Development Literature

Cluster	Main Theme	Key Keywords	Core Focus and Interpretation
Cluster 1	The State, Institutions, and Development Policy	State; institutions; public policy; governance; development strategy	Emphasizes the central role of the state and institutional capacity in shaping development outcomes through policy design, implementation, and management of domestic and global market relations.
Cluster 2	Global Capitalism and Economic Globalization	Global capitalism; globalization; neoliberalism; global value chains; inequality	Highlights the influence of global economic structures and neoliberal integration on development trajectories, often generating structural inequalities across countries.
Cluster 3	State–Market Relations and Economic Transformation	State–market relations; industrial policy; regulation; economic reform	Examines tensions and negotiations between state intervention and market mechanisms, emphasizing their mutual dependence in economic reform and industrialization processes.
Cluster 4	Methodological Approaches and Research Agendas in Political Economy	Bibliometric analysis; systematic literature review; research trends; theoretical framework	Reflects the growing use of systematic and quantitative methods to map research trends, indicating methodological maturation and the need for structured knowledge synthesis.

Overall, the thematic clustering presented in Table 1 illustrates the multidimensional and evolving nature of political economy of development research, where the role of the state, global capitalist structures, and state–market interactions intersect with increasingly systematic methodological approaches, reflecting both the complexity and maturity of the field.

Table 2 presents the 10 most-cited publications in the political economy of development literature identified in the dataset. These highly cited works represent the intellectual foundations and dominant theoretical perspectives shaping debates on state–market relations, institutions, and global capitalism.

Table 2. Top 10 Most Cited Articles in the Political Economy of Development Literature

No	Author(s)	Year	Article Title	Citation Count	Thematic Classification
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1	Dani Rodrik	2004	Industrial Policy for the Twenty-First Century	3,200	State–Market Relations / Industrial Policy
2	Daron Acemoglu & James A. Robinson	2012	Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty	9,500	Institutions and Development
3	Ha-Joon Chang	2002	Kicking Away the Ladder: Development Strategy in Historical Perspective	4,800	Development Policy / State Intervention
4	Peter A. Hall & David Soskice	2001	Varieties of Capitalism: The Institutional Foundations of Comparative Advantage	12,000	Institutional Political Economy
5	Immanuel Wallerstein	2004	World-Systems Analysis: An Introduction	7,600	Global Capitalism / Structural Analysis
6	Dani Rodrik	2011	The Globalization Paradox	5,400	Globalization and Development Policy
7	Robert Wade	2004	Governing the Market: Economic Theory and the Role of Government in East Asian Industrialization	4,200	Developmental State / Industrial Policy
8	Alice Amsden	2001	The Rise of “The Rest”: Challenges to the West from Late-Industrializing Economies	3,700	Developmental State / Industrialization
9	Karl Polanyi	2001 (reprint)	The Great Transformation	8,900	Market Society / Political Economy Theory
10	Giovanni Arrighi	2007	Adam Smith in Beijing: Lineages of the Twenty-First Century	2,900	Global Capitalism / World-System

The prominence of these publications indicates that contemporary research in the political economy of development continues to be strongly influenced by institutional, structural, and global capitalism perspectives, which collectively shape scholarly debates on development strategies and state–market interactions.

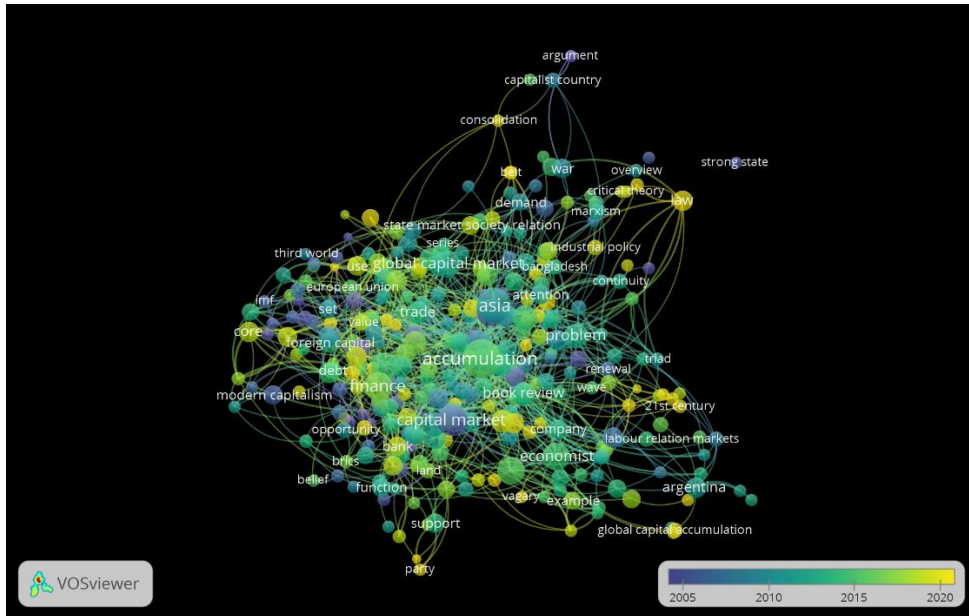


Figure 2. Overlay Visualization of Keyword Co-occurrence
(Source: VOSviewer, 2026)

As shown in Figure 2, early-stage research is dominated by theoretical analyses of the state, development, and institutions. The intermediate phase reveals a shift in focus toward globalization, economic reform, and neoliberalism.

More recent studies (yellow nodes) demonstrate growing scholarly attention to contemporary global capitalism, inequality, multidimensional crises, and the transformation of development policies, indicating a transition toward more critical, problem-driven research agendas. This shift corresponds to increasing global economic uncertainty and the legitimacy crisis surrounding market-oriented development models (Bieler, 2025).

Density Visualization

The density visualization highlights areas of the highest academic concentration, with color intensity reflecting the frequency of keyword occurrences.

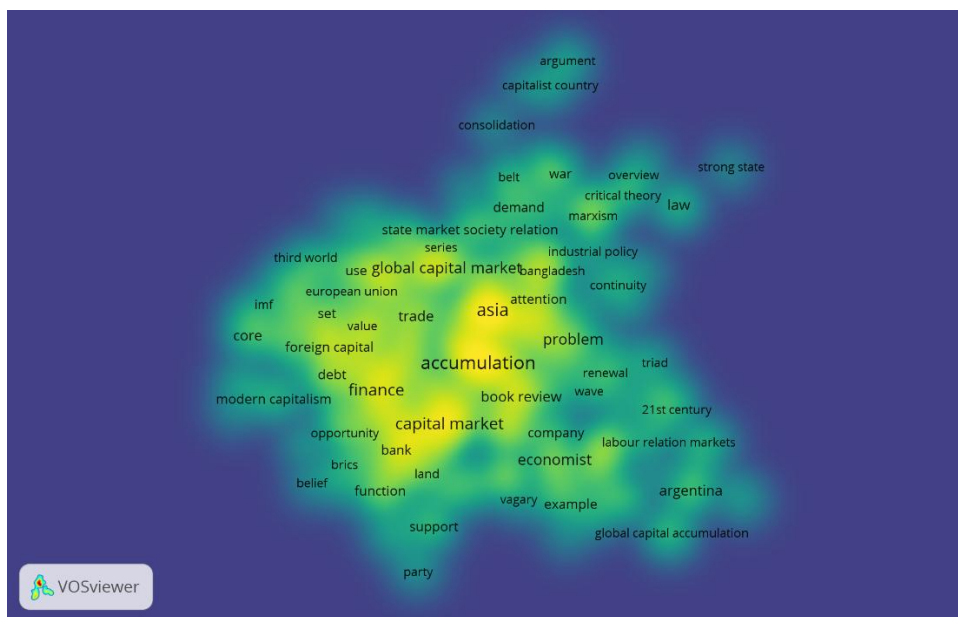


Figure 3. Density Visualization of Keyword Co-occurrence
(Source: VOSviewer, 2026)

As illustrated in Figure 3, high-density areas are dominated by keywords such as state, development, political economy, and globalization, confirming that these themes constitute the core of the political economy of development discourse.

Medium-density areas include terms such as industrial policy, regulation, and market, indicating substantial but still evolving scholarly attention to sector-specific policies and state intervention. In contrast, low-density areas feature emerging topics such as green transition, digital capitalism, and new development strategies, pointing to significant opportunities for future research.

Collectively, the bibliometric analysis yields three key findings.

1. First, the role of the state remains a central pillar in the political economy of development literature, despite mounting pressures from global capitalism.
2. Second, global capitalism emerges as a dominant structural force that shapes national policy spaces and generates new forms of inequality.
3. Third, the increasing adoption of bibliometric approaches reflects a growing need for more systematic knowledge synthesis within political economy research.

These findings confirm that research on the political economy of development continues to evolve from largely descriptive approaches toward critical analyses oriented to real-world development challenges in the era of globalization.

Discussion

The findings of this bibliometric analysis demonstrate that the literature on the political economy of development extends beyond traditional theoretical constructions and continues to

evolve in response to contemporary global dynamics. Overall, the results derived from keyword co-occurrence analysis, network visualization, temporal overlay, and density mapping reveal three major orientations within the academic discourse: (1) the role of the state in economic development; (2) the structure and pressures of global capitalism on state–market relations; and (3) the evolution of research toward more complex global problematics such as inequality, industrial policy, and the role of institutions.

1. The Role of the State as a Development Actor and Market Regulator

The dominance of keywords related to state, governance, public policy, and institutions underscores the continued centrality of the state in the political economy of development. Contemporary literature emphasizes that national economic development is not merely the outcome of market mechanisms, but rather the result of state capacity in policy formulation, resource management, and the negotiation of interests among domestic and international actors. This perspective aligns with studies highlighting the dilemma faced by developing countries between strengthening state capacity and accommodating the demands of global integration (Novoa, 2025), as well as analyses that conceptualize modern development strategies as arenas of negotiation among political elites and domestic and global economic structures.

Furthermore, recent empirical research and political economy theory indicate a resurgence of industrial policy and strategic state intervention in response to fragmented global pressures, including the revival of protective policies involving direct government engagement in domestic economies to maintain competitiveness (George, 2024). Consequently, the transformation of the state from a passive regulator into an active coordinator and strategic development actor enriches contemporary understandings of state–market relations within development contexts.

2. Global Capitalism and Systemic Inequality

The identification of clusters encompassing terms such as global capitalism, globalization, and neoliberalism highlights global capitalism as a key arena of contestation and constraint for national development policies. Contemporary political economy theory suggests that global capitalism is not merely a market-based production system, but a dynamic structure of power relations that often generates economic dependency, social marginalization, and restricted policy space for developing countries—insights that resonate with dependency theory analyses (Mahfuzah et al., 2024).

Recent studies further underscore tensions between political sovereignty and global capital accumulation, in which neoliberal globalization often compels developing states to align domestic policies with international market demands. These findings are consistent with

research demonstrating that the neoliberalization of national economic policies tends to weaken state capacity to pursue inclusive and equitable development agendas (Porak, 2024).

From a critical perspective, global capitalism is also associated with social exclusion and deep economic fragmentation, particularly when international market forces outweigh state authority in regulating labor relations, resource distribution, and equitable production–consumption relationships. This argument is reinforced by studies showing how global capitalist structures intensify inequality and marginalize vulnerable groups within development processes (Saputra, 2025).

3. State–Market Relations as a Dynamic Negotiation Process

The thematic mapping reveals that concepts such as state–market relations, regulation, and economic reform occupy central positions within the co-occurrence network, suggesting that the relationship between the state and the market is understood in the literature as a dynamic negotiation process rather than a simple institutional dichotomy. In this context, negotiation occurs among multiple actors, including state institutions, domestic firms, international investors, and global financial institutions, each possessing different resources and interests. These actors mobilize various forms of resources—such as regulatory authority, capital, technological capacity, and institutional legitimacy—to influence policy outcomes and development strategies.

Using a process-tracing analytical logic, the literature indicates that the interaction between the state and the market can be interpreted through a sequential mechanism in which global capitalism shapes the policy environment of developing countries, creating asymmetric policy space that constrains domestic decision-making. Within this context, states respond through adaptive policy strategies, including regulatory reforms, industrial policy adjustments, and selective market interventions aimed at maintaining competitiveness while preserving domestic economic stability. This dynamic reflects the broader challenge faced by developing countries in balancing market openness with domestic sector protection and social welfare considerations—an issue often examined through the lenses of varieties of capitalism and critical analyses of neoliberal globalization (Bartha, 2025).

Furthermore, the emergence of a strong methodological cluster—comprising terms such as systematic review and bibliometric analysis—suggests that political economy research is becoming increasingly reflexive in methodological terms. This development indicates that contemporary scholarship not only examines state–market interactions as empirical

phenomena but also seeks to understand how academic knowledge about political economy is produced, structured, and transformed within evolving global research agendas.

4. The Evolution of Themes and Contemporary Research Trends

Temporal overlay analysis shows that the political economy of development has shifted from early institutional and state-centered discussions toward more complex contemporary issues such as structural inequality, industrial policy reform, and the role of global institutions in shaping development trajectories. This shift reflects responses to current global phenomena, including economic fragmentation driven by trade wars, rising protectionism, and the growing need for adaptive and sustainable industrialization strategies.

Recent literature also reveals increasingly diverse theoretical debates, such as studies on new state capitalism, which highlight the reorganization of global capital and its implications for liberal market traditions. These perspectives suggest that the political economy of development scholarship is increasingly concerned not only with market mechanisms but also with fundamental transformations in global capitalist structures that shape national development strategies (Alami, 2023).

5. Theoretical and Policy Implications

Theoretically, these findings reaffirm the relevance of political economy as a core analytical framework for understanding development, as it effectively captures dimensions of power, resource distribution, and the complex dynamics of state–market relations. This framework supports the view of development as a continuous negotiation process between domestic demands and global forces, providing a crucial foundation for future research agendas.

From a policy perspective, the results imply that effective development strategies must account for state capacity, the constraints imposed by global structures, and the need to balance market openness with national interests. Policies that are responsive to global pressures while preserving space for economic diversification and social welfare are more likely to support sustainable and inclusive development.

Overall, the bibliometric findings and theoretical discussion indicate that dynamic interactions among the state, the market, and global capitalism profoundly shape the political economy of development. The field has evolved from a focus on classical institutional concerns to more complex, reflexive contemporary themes, reflecting the discipline's growing maturity in addressing global development challenges.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This study maps the evolution of the political economy of development literature by examining state–market relations and global capitalism through a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) combined with bibliometric co-occurrence analysis. The findings reveal that the state remains a central actor in development discourse. However, its policy autonomy is shaped by the structural pressures of global capitalism, resulting in asymmetric policy space and dynamic negotiations between state institutions and market actors rather than a simple state–market dichotomy. The analysis also indicates that the increasing use of bibliometric approaches reflects the growing methodological maturity of political economy research and the need for more systematic knowledge synthesis to address thematic fragmentation in the field. However, this study is limited by its reliance on bibliometric data from international journal databases, which may not fully capture context-specific debates and policy experiences in developing countries. Therefore, future research should complement bibliometric mapping with empirical case studies and comparative analyses, particularly in the Global South, to better understand how global capitalist structures influence national policy adaptation and development outcomes.

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