

Indonesia Strategic Diplomacy in Indo-Pacific Region

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The current world's geopolitical developments are directed towards the Indo-Pacific region. The struggle for influence of major powers and its economic value has made this region became the centre of world attention. Indonesia and ASEAN countries located in this region have the same interests to construct a conducive, peace and stable region. For these reasons, the role and leadership of Indonesia are very much needed as one of the major countries in the region to achieve those conditions. The primary questions of this essay are: How does Indonesia's current strategic environment exist? What are Indonesia's security strategic elements? and How far do the implications for security strategy work ?

Introduction

Indo-Pacific relates to the region of the Indian and Pacific Oceans off the coast of Southeast Asia while ASEAN relates to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. ASEAN is strategically a significant regional power. The Indo-Pacific is now well-known as the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions which are amongst the most active and lively in the world as well as centres of economic growth for decades. As one of the founders who established ASEAN, together with four other countries, such as Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Singapore, Indonesia drives a very important and strategic role as part to experience geopolitical and geostrategic shifts in this region. These shifts, however stand for opportunities as well as challenges. The participation in ASEAN can be seen through many international summits that ruled by Indonesia. For instance, Indonesia has been a hosted from the first summit that took place in Bali in 1976 until the 19th last summit in November 2011. Indonesia also successfully declared an agreement on a nuclear weapons-free zone

in Southeast Asia or well known as the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone "SEANWFZ" (ASEAN Secretariat 2020). Overall, It means Indonesia plays not only a simple and ordinary role, but a dynamic one. Not only in the economic sectors, Indonesia's role also in the security field, as a mediator of conflict in Moro Island, Cambodia and so forth.

Historically, the South China Sea conflict has existed for decades before the existence of a nation state. This happens due to geopolitics reasons that the South China Sea is becoming a vital sea and this sea is the second busiest waterway in the world (Scott 2019).

By understanding this, we already agree why the tension in the region of Indo-Pacific is becoming high and needs serious attention. The term of The ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific area has catapulted Indonesia into the world political stage toward a strategic position as a maritime country in Southeast Asia. Then, it explains why Indonesia needs to implement its diplomacy strategy.

This essay will examine some relevant research studies before, together with personal observation regarding Indo-Pacific issues and Indonesian strategic diplomacy. Moreover, this essay will be divided into three parts; strategic competition from several major powers, security strategic elements and implication for security strategy. It will debate the best argument for explaining Indo-Pacific issues, as found in international relation policy as well as Indonesian domestic policy which is part of diplomacy.

II. Literature Review

A. Indonesia's current strategic environment exist

China-US Rivalry

It is broadly known that in this decade, the United States and China are the world's leading powers. It is an undeniable fact too, the competition between both countries to become the super power over all countries is high and potential for conflict, extremely to a war. In the Indo-Pacific region issue, the show over the last few years of super power from both countries begins, first of all from the name of this region. Labeling means a claim over authority. Washington prefers to name it "Indo-Pacific" rather than Asia-Pacific, while Beijing is still consistent with the term "Asia-Pacific". China has a strong argument regarding this label because it covers Asia

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continent and the ocean that extends to the US (Agastia 2020). Hence, the two rivalry countries have offered potential conflict for the region (Mubah 2019). Like “a gift” with certain conditions on resource exploration competently in the region.

Secondly, another competition that is presented by two great powers in the Indo-Pacific is a struggle for influence. Both are trying to convince regional states to cooperate with them. China's goal is to expand its power by fostering integration through regional countries, so that dependence on China (Capie 2016). Further, restricting the influence of external forces in Southeast Asia and Beijing's control of the region. Meanwhile, the Washington eyesight is based on keeping the freedom around the region, transparency, establishing security and safety (Lin et al 2020). In reality, both share the same power in the Asia region even though they are varying in effort of persuasion. The United States's influence is more significant in countries like Singapore, Australia, India, Philippines, South Korea and Japan than in Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia and Thailand.

The South China Sea Disputes

The South China Sea territory is potentially known as the one of the commercial gateways for most of the world's logistics industries, a very strategically economic sub-region in the Indo-Pacific. According to the Council Foreign Relations (CFR) Global Conflict Tracker, the total value of trade across the region in 2016 was US\$ 3.37 trillion (Arbar 2020). This fact makes this region a favorite place to be ruled. Concerning Indonesian strategic diplomacy, as one of the exclusive members of ASEAN who has middle power in regional countries, the ASEAN Outlook helps to reveal it. The Outlook itself determines the role of the Indonesian strategic environment that consists of the concepts of ASEAN are central. comprehensive, complement, non-alignment and law order, based on international scope (ASEAN Secretariat 2019; Oktaviano et al 2020).

Furthermore, at least, there are two crucial geopolitical disturbances in the disputes and interference in the South China Sea by Beijing and Washington within-state are well-known in Southeast Asia. Thus, Indonesia has established bilateral and multilateral negotiations surrounding ASEAN members as a result of local ASEAN problems. The fact that Indonesia has a big population, a big country and one of the ASEAN founders, makes Indonesia always positioned as the natural chief among ASEAN countries (Oktaviano et al 2020).

As pointed out above, Indonesia as a middle power in Asia has its own strategy in order to maintain balance in the South China Sea and both super power countries interests. Nonetheless, Indonesia also needs to deliver a balancing policy to support the achievement of national goals while insisting on keeping harmony between both countries. Generally speaking, to minimize conflict of interest around the Indo-Pacific, Indonesia through ASEAN's Indo-Pacific Outlook has revealed its military policy for dealing with the region's complex security problems. By making use of its middle power in ASEAN, Indonesia encourages cooperation among small countries in Southeast Asia, in order to grow Indonesia's power to balance the United States power by creating a system which consists of norms and mechanisms to maneuver US aggressiveness (Oktaviano et al 2020). Hence, to ensure regional stability while maximizing its own security, Indonesia as a middle power needs to create a lively strategic environment, so that double hedging works on (Mubah 2019). Moreover, the most fascinating aspect is that, in the unique circumstance of the Sea of the South China, Indonesia has special roles in the conflict, which is being a mediator and balancing power with full self-confidence, especially because it follows the traditional principles of "free and active" foreign policy.

B. Security Strategic Element It refers to the security of the Indo-Pacific region.

Defense Strategy In Domestic Operation

What is the best indicator of security? When it comes to security in the Indo Pacific area, it relates to strengthening regional stability, defense strategy, threat, military forces and so on. There is one theory to explain about security, named as Regional Security Complex Theory (RSCT). This theory posits that the perspective of regional security is needed to scale international security. Thus, the complexity of national security problems of each country is unable to explain apart one to another (Oktaviano et al 2020).

As we can observe, Indonesia's defense position to safeguard the attempt to pass ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific reflects its own security and political objectives in the Asia-Pacific region. Thus, to deal with various types of threat, Indonesia sets out the tactic for defense as a combination of non-military and military

defenses aimed at securing national interests to the greatest extent possible (Kementerian Pertahanan 2015).

International Relation: Involving In Several Community's Regional Group

Geographically, Indonesia is a typical Indo-Pacific power. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Indonesia's previous president, stated that Indonesia's role as a Pacific gateway to Asia is crucial (Yudhoyono 2006; Scott 2019). Largely known, Indonesia's international relation is mainly focus within ASEAN framework. ASEAN has evolved into a diplomatic and foreign policy tool for Indonesia, providing strategic space while addressing the potential between ASEAN regional members and significant countries outside the area (Gindahsyah 2016; Oktaviano et al 2020).

The participation in international group communities, however, will lead the decision maker of certain policies to become more wise as well as inclusive. Indonesia actively participates in some subregional organizations, for instance The Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI), Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG), Southwest Pacific Dialogue (SWPD), Pacific Island Forum and Pacific Island Development Forum (PIDF), as well as a founding member of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) (Sulaiman 2019).

C. Implication For Security Strategy

New Policy: Global Maritime Fulcrum as Jokowi's Domestic Policy Priority

Jokowi's foreign policy, known as Global Maritime Fulcrum which is "Indonesia's archipelagic state identity" and "maritime spirit," aims to return Indonesia to its historic heydays as a "great nation," all while adhering to the ideal of a "free and active foreign policy" (Sulaiman 2019).

Indonesia's foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific region will be in line with Indonesia traditional principle "free and active' foreign policy. The Global Maritime Fulcrum is broad in scope, spawning new notions like maritime security, maritime diplomacy, maritime economics, and maritime power (Scott, 2019).

III. Conclusion

As one of the important areas in the global economy and political arena, various major powers seek to increase their influence in the Indo-Pacific region. What Indonesia has done is to prevent itself from being involved in conflict. As a Baskoro, Sumirating & Fitri, Dwi. 2011

result, its sole option is to pursue a multilateral institutional approach in the hopes of reducing regional tensions and maintaining the status quo both regionally and internally.

The power struggle between the two great powers has increased tensions in the Indo-Pacific region. As the largest country in the ASEAN organization, Indonesia must prioritize the role of ASEAN in dealing with Indo-Pacific issues, together with Indonesia domestic and foreign policy.

Indonesia must remain consistent as a balancing power, not only militarily, but also as a mediator to make diplomacy a prior solution rather than support one of the major power countries that tends to global conflict which will only lead to global suffering and destruction.

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