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INDONESIA'S FOREIGN POLICY IN CREATING SECURITY STABILITY IN INDO-PACIFIC REGION

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Abstract

Indonesia as one of the countries that is included in the Indo-Pacific Region has an important role in creating security stability in the Region. As the center point of the Indo-Pacific, Indonesia certainly thinks about the right defense strategy to be able to play an active role in the region. Undoubtedly, this action will be related to Indonesia's free-and-active foreign policy. As a region that has strategic points, countries in the Indo-Pacific Region carry out an agenda to be able to solve problems in a peaceful way by increasing mutual trust. Naturally, it will make the Indo-Pacific Region as a central region in the future. Based on the findings, Indonesia's foreign policy takes part in an active role at the international level by promoting the concept of cooperation in the Indo-Pacific Region to increase mutual trust between countries. In addition, countries in the region participate in mutually beneficial openness in order to create security stability in the region. Indonesia's foreign policy is considered to be appropriate and useful in the midst of situations in competing for having influence in the region. Thus, Indonesia's role in the Indo-Pacific cannot be separated from the character of Indonesia's current foreign policy which emphasizes "middle power" and leadership in the region.

Keywords: Foreign Policy, Security Stability, Indo-Pacific.

Preface

The development of science and technology is one of the things that are used by the state to be able to grow and develop in creating various kinds of defense tools and technology. It can be seen from the security dynamics that are always experiencing developments both at the regional and global levels, such as China, South Korea and Japan which concern in increasing their military capabilities, so this action will attract other countries to participate in making these improvements.

At this time, the Indo-Pacific is a region that is highly discussed by several major countries in the world. It is because this area connects two oceans, the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean, which make the Indo-Pacific a strategic and interesting to be explored further. Moreover, Indonesia as the focal point in the relationship between the two oceans must have an active role in the region. As the coordinating center for the Indo-Pacific, Indonesia certainly has to implement an appropriate foreign policy so that it can become one of the main references in mobilizing other countries which have roles in the region.

Based on the research, Indonesia must be able to position itself and always be aware in maintaining its position, especially as a non-aligned force (Yanuarti et al, 2020: 43). The Indo-Pacific Region is a wider region because it is not only covering Asia Pacific countries, but it is also connecting Asian countries to Africa as the calculated Region. Thus, this dynamic is something that must be done and taken into account by Indonesia considering Indonesia is the center of the Indo-Pacific which makes Indonesia need to adjust its foreign policy in order to play an active role in creating regional security stability.

One of the reasons of the Indo-Pacific region has become the center of attention is because the activities such as security, trade and the environment are also being conducted by many countries (Passarelli, 2014). This is also related because the Indo-Pacific Region is an international trade route traversed by major countries such as the United States, China and other countries, so it does not rule out the possibility of spreading influence in the region. This situation has become problems that must be studied to be able to see the coordination and growth of regional security in the future.

Regarding these problems, Indonesia must take the initiative to maintain security stability in the Indo-Pacific Region considering that this area is a traffic lane for major countries in carrying out economic, political, and military activities. The growth of a large country, such as China, has forced Indonesia to play an important role in the region. This is correlated to the purpose of this

study which is to analyze Indonesia's foreign policy in creating security stability in the Indo-Pacific Region.

Discussion

Security Stability in the Indo-Pacific Region

The development of this strategic environment will certainly determine the next steps both in the regional and global scope. This security development will have an impact on the interaction of the surrounding countries, as in the Pacific Region there are great powers competing for their interests. This problem will certainly have an impact on security stability in the Region and will cause various losses resulting from the competition. The competition between the two great powers, the United States and China, is a case that can be seen on this issue, which will potentially not only threaten stability, but it will also become a competition for other countries to make their country have a greater power.

One of the important factors in carrying out the life of the country is to survive or to maintain the stability of the country's security and its region to be able to survive in various kinds of global powers. The Indo-Pacific is a strategic area because it involves the future of countries in the world, where there are copious interests in the region so that many countries compete to achieve their interests. Indo-Pacific security becomes the future of the countries in its area as well as countries with an interest in it. This situation has made the security in the Indo-Pacific as a great barometer of global stability, considering the amount of attention which focused on this Region. It is proven by the two great powers that play each other's roles, making other countries around this area into the game, including Indonesia.

Indonesia as the Central Point of the Indo-Pacific

The shift that occurred from the Asia Pacific Region to the Indo-Pacific Region is a substantial study in the current era. This situation has made Indonesia and the countries within the Region have more duties and roles in realizing security stability in the Region. Moreover, the threats that occur will certainly exist so that the countries involved must form the spirit and enthusiasm to be able to foster mutual trust between countries in the Region. Indonesia as the center point of the Indo-Pacific has become, indeed, a positive and negative perspective in the realm of International Relations. As the center point of the Indo-Pacific, Indonesia must be able to become a pillar of economic development globally (Yanuarti et al, 2020: 44). On the other hand, if Indonesia cannot take advantage of this momentum, it will become a boomerang for Indonesia as the focal point in the region.

Based on the Ministerial Meeting at the East Asia Summit held on August 9, 2018 attended by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Retno Marsudi explained that Indonesia took the initiative to be able to play an active role in the Indo-Pacific which became a new potential. This action aims to increase cooperation in order to encourage and to anticipate threats that will occur in the future. Implicitly, Indonesia is a country that has not been able to control the existing great powers so that Indonesia must be able to influence and to shape the countries involved in the region to be united on the basis of enhancing trust between one another.

The development done by Indonesia in achieving its interests cannot be separated from Indonesia's foreign policies: free and active, which makes Indonesia have to strengthen security stability in the Indo-Pacific Region. In addition, the vision to make Indonesia as the 'World Maritime Axis' has become the country's development that was proclaimed long before the declaration of Indo-Pacific Region. Based on this foreign policy, Indonesia continues to

advocate the principle of being open and transparent to build high level of mutual trust in this Region.

The Indo-Pacific's perspective that is being discussed will certainly be mutual interest not only for Indonesia, but also for other countries to cooperate in order to minimize potential threats, conflicts, and other disputes. As a country involved, Indonesia will certainly maintain its central position and remain firm in its national security so that Indonesia will not allow other countries to determine the final path for its interests.

Indonesia as one of the focal points will certainly be faced with problems that will come in the future, especially the issue of trust which is the greatest challenge today. It is clear that to solve this problem; Indonesia must express and improve the relationships with its surrounding countries by building good communication. Open communication will certainly create mutual trust between countries and can avoid distrust between countries. This is why the Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Retno Marsudi, recommends the concept of Indo-Pacific cooperation to avoid conflicts and problems that will occur, especially mutual trust issue between the countries of the region. This problem cannot be underestimated because it can create harmonious relationship in the future by having strong fundamental.

Indonesia's Foreign Policy in Responding to Competition in the Indo-Pacific Region

Foreign policy is one of the plans that can relate to various other factors outside the country's borders. Making a design in the form of a foreign policy can be one of the interests to determine the achievements that can be made, so internal and external factors will influence each other. To be able to determine foreign policy, this will obviously be in line with the foreign policy that has been adopted by the country.

Indonesia has a free and active foreign policy so that Indonesia takes an active role in creating the characteristics of the nation. This is one of Indonesia's efforts and even strategies to be able to build relationships in the form of cooperation with others. Indonesia must take the advantage of this momentum in the Indo-Pacific region which has become a hot discussion topic in the world, so Indonesia can play an active role and provide the right strategy in carrying out its policies. Therefore, by implementing this foreign policy, Indonesia will be expected to continue to participate and play an active role in performing good leadership both domestically and regionally.

Further studies have shown that Indonesia's foreign policy in the era of Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (SBY) government has an internationalist character so that Indonesia is considered to have a higher level of existence on the international stage. It is because the active role that SBY continues to do in maintaining Indonesia's existence in the world. This can be seen from the principle done by SBY, namely "million friends zero enemy" which makes Indonesia a neutral country but plays an active role in carrying out relations with other countries. This action was done by SBY to rebuild Indonesia's image, especially in the Southeast Asia Region by playing an active role in bilateral and multilateral cooperation platforms.

After the end of SBY's leadership, the direction of Indonesia's foreign policy underwent a shift. It was started by having an internationalist character, but the current foreign policy starts reducing Indonesia's activities in the international world in order to improve and strengthen the domestic politics. During the reign of Joko Widodo, Indonesia is more inward-oriented, so the policy directions issued are more towards the economy and infrastructure development. Nevertheless, Jokowi carries "middle power diplomacy" in his strategy in dealing with global issues and problems which occur nowadays (Sudira, 2019: 5). Jokowi prioritizes Indonesia to be a regional power that is

actively involved in global engagement, but it still aims to domestic interests (Connelly, 2014).

Even though Indonesia has an inward-oriented foreign policy, it does not stop Indonesia from becoming a leader in the region. This is in accordance with Indonesia's priority in making the policy directions that do not only discuss in the economic field, but also in the military, in the socio-cultural and in the bureaucracy as the main interest in achieving its goals (Yohanes, 2017). The Indo-Pacific needs courageous and strong leadership to bring this “way”. This is an opportunity for Indonesia to be able to bring countries involved to play an active role and to accomplish the dreams in Indo-Pacific region.

Indonesia in carrying out its foreign policy currently sees the potential that exists in the external of the country. It can be seen from the Indonesian's defense principle which is active defensive: Indonesia participates in carrying out and sees the potential that exists in the region in order to participate in realizing security stability as one of the country in the region with good infrastructures in the future. This is one of Indonesia's spirits in trying to foster mutual trust between countries in the Indo-Pacific region. By creating the mutual trust, it is hoped that it can anticipate and overcome various problems that exist in the area.

The action can be proven by the concept of Indo-Pacific cooperation carried out by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Retno Marsudi, that in ensuring security stability in the Indo-Pacific region, Indonesia carries out peace, stability and prosperity stated in ASEAN as one of the regions that is having the principle of freedom and a zone of peace for the whole country. By building this framework, the Indo-Pacific becomes an open area which emphasizes cooperation in every existing problem.

Based on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific at the 34th Summit in 2019, Indonesia has realized that the Indo-Pacific region has great potential so that major powers will compete in gaining the influence in the region (Ministry

of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, 2018). By looking at this challenge, Indonesia needs to maintain and achieve security stability in the region in order to avoid and minimize the great powers in this region. At this summit, Indonesia emphasized that countries in the region must contribute to unite and achieve mutual peace, especially in creating good cooperation in increasing mutual trust.

The concept of this cooperation as a form of Indonesia's foreign policy is a reference to always improve cooperation in the maritime sector and to build sustainable synergy. This action can be an opportunity for Indonesia to become one of the countries that encourage and break the strengthening process in the Indo-Pacific region. The concept of this cooperation is certainly inseparable from Indonesia's foreign policy and is in line with Indonesia's vision and mission as the World Maritime Axis. Thus, Indonesia does not only respond to the great powers in the Indo-Pacific region, but also contributes to the formation of a peaceful and harmonious region for the common good.

Creating an increasingly active Indo-Pacific region certainly brings Indonesia the opportunity to be able to play its role on the international stage. As a result, it does not only carries the name of Indonesia to promote security stability in the region, but it also becomes one of Indonesia's consistency in being able to answer the challenges that are currently being discussed in the international world. The cooperation opportunity launched by Indonesia will certainly be a chance as well as a challenge for Indonesia that should be considered further. Strengthening infrastructure in this region will be a good mechanism to continue build a region that has a good habit of dialogue so that trust between countries can be created.

Indonesia must work hard to encourage the country in this strategic dynamic to produce good results. Indonesia's struggle in the Indo-Pacific region can be seen from the results of the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) in Thailand on March 9, 2019 that summarized 4 (four) collaborations in the Outlook in the

Indo-Pacific: strengthening maritime cooperation, mutual connectivity, UN SDGs 2030, and cooperation in the economy and other fields (Acharya, 2019). Hence, those points become the basis for Indonesia in the role of building cooperation actively, especially to realize international cooperation in the maritime field which in accordance with Indonesia's principle in unity and Indonesia's free and active foreign policy in prioritizing the values of interests.

According to Retno Marsudi, the framework of cooperation in the Indo-Pacific is certainly in line with Indonesia's goals as the World Maritime Axis so that this is the right momentum to be inclusive and transparent with the vision and mission of the Indonesian Maritime Axis (Purwanto, 2018). Indonesia and ASEAN will certainly have a role in determining the future of the Indo-Pacific region to remain safe and peaceful for the future of the region (Humas, 2018). This is in line with the Indonesian Government who wants to build glory through maritime field. Although the dynamics in the strategic environment cannot be denied, Indonesia remains optimistic in focusing on to every movement and step to build a comprehensive strategy to create security stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Indonesia must look at the projections of the major powers that exist in the Indo-Pacific region. By looking at this projection, of course, Indonesia can maintain its credibility as a country as well as a leader in the region. It is hoped that Indonesia will continue to strive to promote good cooperation to maintain stability and peace which is one of the requirements to be able to build a good region in the future. This finding is one of the considerations that Indonesia is not only connected and focuses on cooperation, but Indonesia also participates in implementing and integrating elements of good regional planning for the future. As one of the countries that prioritize and support cooperation and national security by formulating policies and strategies, Indonesia will point up more on defense and peace. It is applied to the Indo-Pacific region which

becomes the world's attention, so Indonesia will always focus on strategy in its foreign policy.

The future of the Indo-Pacific is the responsibility of the countries involved in determining the region so that cooperation is one form that must be implemented to achieve common interests. To become a prosperous region which prioritizes peace, good synergy and mutual support are needed -especially in achieving security stability. It is necessary to achieve solid control, and a country's foreign policy has an important role in determining the future of the Indo-Pacific region. This foreign policy is one of the solutions as well as the answers to current and future problems so that gradually it will focus on the countries involved.

Therefore, Indonesia does not only see opportunities from the Indo-Pacific region, but it also sees that the Indo-Pacific region will become a battle as well as a competition field for big countries to expand their influence; subsequently, the real threats in the Indo-Pacific region will not be avoided. This type of problem can be seen from dynamic real threats such as piracy, illegal fishing, smuggling and cyber-crime which is one of the threats to regional security instability (Tertia et al, 2018). In addition, the spread of influence from major powers such as the United States and China is one of the reasons for Indonesia to adapt the concept of cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region so that it will become Indonesia's long-term plan in preventing the growth of major powers in the region. This threat must be anticipated together with countries in the region, so these issues and problems will become a shared responsibility.

Closing

Indonesia's foreign policy is one of the plans as well as solutions to be able to answer the problems that exist in the region. Having active involvement in various international activities, it becomes a strategy for Indonesia to be able to create security stability, especially in the Indo-Pacific region. Through its role, it

can be seen that Indonesia has seriousness in responding to the challenges being faced through the formation of maritime cooperation concept which is expected to answer threats as well as challenges in the Indo-Pacific region. Hence, Indonesia will not only carry out its oriented foreign policy, but Indonesia will also maintain its existence in the international community in responding to the existing challenges. It is done by Indonesia considering that the Indo-Pacific region will be an area that has great potential in the future and will be the joint responsibility of the countries involved in it.

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