



ASEAN's Efforts And Indonesia's Strategy In Dealing With The SouthChina Sea Conflict

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Abstract

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The South China Sea is the basis of geopolitics in the Asia Pacific region which has become a topic of international discussion, therefore the cause has provoked problems between several big countries in Asia and a number of member countries from ASEAN. The problem began with unilateral claims made by China against areas in the South China Sea which were considered illegal and carried out unilaterally. This prompted ASEAN to intervene in representing the disputed issue. In this article I will describe the role of ASEAN in responding to the conflict in the South China Sea and analyze Indonesia's role in the conflict even though Indonesia itself is neutral. The research method that I will use in this research is a qualitative method which functions to collect data and information analytically descriptive.

Keywords: Indonesia, ASEAN, South China Sea, Territorial Disputes

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INTRODUCTION

The South China Sea (SCS) is the water that covers the territory of several countries in Southeast Asia. These water areas have important functions for the economy in several countries. (Pudjiastuti & Prayoga, 2015). The South China Sea is estimated to have amazing natural resources, including an estimated 190 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. This amount is quite abundant, besides that SCS also has oil reserves of 7.7 billion barrels (Cnbnindonesia, 2020). In addition, the SCS is a medium for international trade sector traffic, this traffic is considered very strategic because it is surrounded by many large countries, and also in the SCS area, this is most important in the Natuna archipelago, whose owner is Indonesia, which has extraordinary marine commodities, especially on its fish resources (Brilio.net, 2016). Therefore, the SCS is being contested by several large countries around it.

This SCS area can be viewed in terms of the International Sea, which is an area or area that has economic, strategic and political value. So it can be said that this area has the potential for conflicts of cooperation between countries. In other words, this area has a fairly influential role as a trade route and distribution or shipping of world oil, ultimately making this area the subject of regional debate for years (Harahap, 2016).

The South China Sea dispute is a regional conflict that links several countries in the Southeast Asian region which are members of ASEAN, including Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam, China, Taiwan, the Philippines, and Malaysia. Regional conflicts in the form of disputes in SCS waters that have heated up since the 21st century in 1992 until 2016 have disturbed political stability in the Southeast Asian region (Wahyudi, 2016).

ASEAN has an interest in resolving the South China Sea dispute. First, ASEAN has an interest in maintaining security and peaceful relations among its member countries. Second, ASEAN must always monitor and be aware of the strategic South China Sea area so that there is no conflict between countries that will disrupt the economy in the ASEAN region. Third, the South China Sea issue will show whether ASEAN is a cohesive regional organization or not (Darmawan & Kuncoro, 2019).

ASEAN is a regional-level organization that acts as a communication forum in Southeast Asian countries, so that ASEAN is expected to be able to share solutions to these cases so as not to cause military conflicts between countries in the region. Considering that currently the focus of ASEAN is known by its 3 pillars, namely the security, economic, and socio-cultural pillars. ASEAN is aware of this possibility and has therefore taken steps to tackle this problem, particularly at the multilateral level. For example, ASEAN has tried to persuade China to respect ASEAN CODs such as the Zone of Peace, Freedom, and Neutrality (ZOPFAN) and the Treaty of Amity and Co-operation (TAC), as values, norms and principles that must play a role as a reference for ties between countries in the Indonesian region. The South China Sea conflict was previously a conflict that occurred bilaterally, namely between China and each of the ASEAN countries which are claimant states (Vietnam, Philippines, Malaysia, and Brunei) without linking ASEAN as a Regional Organization. However, over time when China first passed a law relating to its claim to the South China Sea area, the ASEAN organization came up with the idea of making a Declaration on the South China Sea. This is done because the South China Sea dispute has become a very important issue that must be resolved immediately because it involves several countries in ASEAN and hopes that this problem can be resolved peacefully without any war (Kusumah, 2018).

Indonesia is one of several countries that feel they have been treated unfairly about China's stance on making the new nine-dash line in the Natuna archipelago in the Riau archipelago. These waters are said to have vast natural gas wealth, which is considered to be included in the area of Chinese sovereignty. For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China's move violates Indonesia's EEZ. Jokowi said that the nine dotted lines recognized by China had no international legal basis. Then, Indonesia has proposed an objection to the nine-dash line in 2009 to the United Nations Continental Shelf Commission. Regarding relations between countries, Indonesia-China relations are still relatively good regarding issues in the South China Sea, compared to disputes between Vietnam-China and the Philippines-China (Mohamad, 2015).

METHODOLOGY/THEORY

This research uses qualitative methods to collect descriptive analytical data and information. This method focuses on in-depth review. Therefore, this qualitative method in research produces a comprehensive review or study of a phenomenon. Analytical descriptive has the nature of reviewing existing data which is then analyzed against the data to be obtained based on meaningful rules. These data are taken from written sources such as journal articles and online news that have a correlation with the object being discussed. These data were obtained through the internet. Journal articles used as data sources are articles that are closely related to

the theme of the South China Sea conflict.

I will analyze the role of Indonesia using the basis of foreign policy theory. Foreign policy is a series of government decrees carried out on the name of a country that is planned to achieve certain goals in the international world, if interpreted broadly foreign policy is a variety of goals and strategies that directs the formation or formulation of a particular policy that can affect certain issues. Therefore, foreign policy is a goal that is expected by state leaders internationally with values that produce these various goals to achieve that goal (Ambarwati & Wijatmadja, 2016: 126). Foreign policy behavior is behavior carried out by the state against other countries and vice versa, can be influenced by several factors, including international factors, individual factors, and domestic factors (Ambarwati & Wijatmadja, 2016: 128). Indonesia's free and active politics.

DISCUSSION

Some of ASEAN's important efforts in resolving the South China Sea conflict are :

ASEAN Member States Hold South China Sea Conflict Resolution Conference

In 1971, ASEAN succeeded in institutionalizing Southeast Asia as a security zone. Ministers have declared themselves in the realm of peace, freedom and neutrality (ZOPFAN). ZOPFAN's statement is an embodiment and attitude of ASEAN that does not want to accept excessive involvement from major powers outside the region such as the United States, China, the Soviet Union and Japan.

Their strength, solidarity and intimacy. During his visit to the Indonesian Foreign Minister, Marty Natalegawa spoke at the conference. Vietnamese Foreign Minister Fam Binh Minh and the two countries said they had succeeded in some ideas on what would integrate ASEAN. Idea with six main principles, among others:

- I. The need to reaffirm the Declaration on the Actions of the Parties to all Parties in the South China Sea
- II. The need for confirmation guidance in the Declaration of Action of the Parties (DOC).
- III. Need to confirm the meaning of the code
- IV. Respect international law
- V. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea UNCLOS
- VI. UNCLOS Peaceful Resolution

In addition to visiting the ASEAN region, the two countries set a goal to improve the South China Sea at a meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Kiyi in Jakarta last August. At this meeting, the Indonesian President and the Chinese Foreign Minister emphasized the importance of ASEAN and China to focus on drafting a Declaration of Conduct (DOC) for the Code of Conduct (CPC).

In 2011, ASEAN introduced a code of conduct on conflicts in the South China Sea. Efforts to prevent open conflict in ASEAN countries, including Indonesia, have so far been to establish a code of ethics for conflicts in the South China Sea. South China Sea). The South China Sea Conflict Code of Conduct aims to establish rules regarding the prohibition of conflict, especially for countries with an interest in the South China Sea.

Conflicts in the South China Sea will be further developed among ASEAN countries to enforce rules that prohibit conflicts with other member countries and partners outside the region. The South China Sea is also expected to work in the South China Sea between Member States and with countries outside the ASEAN region. If ASEAN does not provide a solution to its dispute resolution efforts, Vietnam and the Philippines will only view the United States as a balancing power for China in the region. So far, the United States has claimed to remain neutral in the conflict, even though the Philippines has indirectly sought help from the United States. After all, territorial disputes between several Southeast Asian countries and China are also a problem for ASEAN, as they confuse the world and the region.

ASEAN Optimizes the Regional Role of the ASEAN Forum in Conflict Resolution in the South China Sea

The political and security constellations of the world are increasingly diverse, with dynamics in various sub-regions and regions. Currently, global dynamics are focused on the Pacific strategy. The powers of these safe countries are the United States, Russia, Canada, Australia, Japan, South Korea, and China. Among some of the country's strong negotiators, the current rise of China is interesting. The dynamics of Southeast Asia are not only influenced by internal factors but also by external factors, and originate from East Asia (China and South Asia (India) which are the source of the dynamics encountered in Southeast Asia. The importance of the dynamics that occur in Southeast Asia is driven by regional instability so that received international response and action. The role of these two countries in influencing the dynamics of Southeast Asia is so important that ASEAN calls for regional security to be a priority as a regulator of the dynamics that occur in Southeast Asia. China really needs ASEAN compared to several other East Asian countries. China has geopolitical interests in their countries and at the same time control their territorial maritime system. Speaking of the South China Sea which is a geographical part of Southeast Asia, several ASEAN member countries have found potential capital there, and these areas have the potential for China to develop new powers in the region. wasan Asia-Pacific. By sea. Building the South China Sea. This claim raises the question of whether ASEAN should respond firmly to China's overstatement in the claim. If drawn through the ASEAN basic principles approach, Concerns, namely Friendship and Corporate Treaties (TAC) under the protection of all countries from the threat of non-interference and external interference. So far, the dynamics of ASEAN have changed significantly in recent decades, questioning ASEAN's ability to deal with internal and external conflicts, saying that the conflict in the South China Sea is a combination of civil war between ASEAN member countries. Countries that claim territorial claims and outside of China. Many of the security challenges facing ASEAN must maintain the existence of non- interference based on the ASEAN pathway. Over the past decade, ASEAN as an institution has relied on the ARF regime system for traditional and non-traditional security issues by reflecting the value of the success of ASEAN's path in the Preah Vihear Temple conflict through CBM. (Building credibility measures) successful security cooperation, Aceh surveillance missions, have also succeeded in putting China together in the conflict in the South China Sea.

Based on the legitimacy of Myanmar's accession to ASEAN, this creates a shift in view of the values of the ASEAN Way and the basic principles of ASEAN: non-

interference, which can easily turn into constructive and active engagement. Through economic assistance and political democracy, ASEAN countries actively support countries that face political problems and human security conflicts, but do not violate the principle of property rights. In the case of the South China Sea conflict, ASEAN is in China's position to conduct naval exercises in its territorial waters. The South China Sea conflict automatically only uses a security cooperation approach for discussion and cooperation at the ARF Forum. Government This is not a military device. In this case, the security community is defined as a community of states that resolve problems between them.

Through the use of military force, but in a peaceful way (peaceful change). It is important that ASEAN member states are still vulnerable to expansion of military cooperation. After that, ASEAN's membership position split and claimed non-intervention. This further exacerbates the dynamics of the South China Sea conflict, and as a result ASEAN is unable to establish a balance of power that requires China's strength.

China's geopolitical representation in the South China Sea can be found in China's policies presented at the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), which included the adoption of the South China Sea Party Declaration of Action in the 2002 Declaration. And multilateral issues. Eight years after the declaration with China on this maritime conflict was ratified, the ownership of the Spratly Islands and Paracel Islands remains unknown. (Harahap, 2016)

Indonesia's Foreign Policy on ASEAN

One of the implementations of Indonesia's foreign policy was at the time of the formation of the Southeast Asia Regional Organization or commonly referred to as ASEAN. The establishment of ASEAN is one of the strategic steps to realize Indonesia's national interests. The embodiment of Indonesia's foreign policy has always been based on the principle of freedom and activity. Indonesia's foreign policy as a whole is dedicated to Indonesia's national interests and the implementation of Indonesia's foreign policy towards ASEAN (Kompasiana, 2015).

Former Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa said the stability and economic development of the ASEAN region was a testament to the success of Indonesia's foreign policy.

He said many agreements signed by ASEAN were due to Indonesia's role as a leader and movement engine. Indonesia was the founder and driving force of the ASEAN movement since its inception, but ASEAN has many agreements in the economic field, for example, investment and trade, and human rights, especially ASEAN and Indonesia are developing, as well as participating in the world (Republika, 2018). Based on the regional world, Indonesia has an important position to claim its benefits. Indonesia's foreign policy in the era of President SBY's leadership considered ASEAN as the main basis for implementing Indonesia's foreign policy. ASEAN will integrate other member countries including Thailand, Philippines, Singapore, Brunei, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia and Cambodia. Indonesia's foreign relations with ASEAN member countries can be forged more closely so that they can synergize for the interests of each country (Kompasiana, 2015).

Indonesia's Strategy in Dealing with the South China Sea Conflict

Given the various dynamics of disputes that occur, Indonesia has taken the initiative to participate in helping resolve conflicts in the South China Sea. In addition to its national interest in national defense methods, Indonesia's serious efforts in this case, Indonesia's free and proactive foreign policy has its own moral as a natural leader in ASEAN, which is known to have an outstanding track record in dealing with various problems in the region, also driven by moral motives (Saragih, 2018).

SCS is projected to have tremendous potential in marine resources, oil, tourism, natural gas and shipping, encouraging countries to occupy territories in the SCS region. In this case, Indonesia's free and proactive foreign policy has its own perspective in overcoming international problems, without siding with the East-West bloc and playing an active role in building world peace. (Kompas, 2020).

Indonesia's strategy to overcome the South China Sea problem is as follows:

Given the various dynamics of the dispute, Indonesia took the initiative to participate in helping to resolve the conflict in the South China Sea. In addition to its national interest in national defense methods, Indonesia's serious efforts are moral as a natural leader in ASEAN, which is known to have an outstanding track record in dealing with various problems in the region, also driven by moral motives (Saragih, 2018). SCS is projected to have tremendous potential in marine resources, oil, tourism, natural gas and shipping, encouraging countries to occupy territories in the SCS region. perspective in overcoming international problems, without siding with the East-West bloc and playing an active role in building world peace. (Compass, 2020).

Indonesia's strategy to address the South China Sea problem is as follows:

First, increasing the capability or capability of the TNI by the MEF or the minimum required units and increasing the security of the Natuna Islands. This strategy is carried out so that the security and integrity of the Republic of Indonesia continue to be balanced. Second, develop preventive diplomacy with war-torn countries to reduce conflict. As a free and active country, Indonesia strives for diplomacy to reduce and prevent armed conflicts and wars. Indonesia continues to actively seek consolidation paths to resolve this dispute. Third, increasing activities and controlling the border in the Natuna area. Indonesia's efforts to maintain peace in the border areas include continuing border diplomacy or border negotiations, clarifying the borders between Indonesia and neighboring countries, and conducting oil and gas exploration activities. All strategies taken by Indonesia in this region are to maintain a balance of peace. (Idntimes, 2019).

CONCLUSION

Based on the research above, it can be concluded that ASEAN's efforts to resolve the South China Sea conflict are carried out by means of peace negotiations based on international legal regulations. country that completes the problem between them is not with the use of military force, but with peaceful means (peaceful changes). with the important strategic position of the South China Sea which is the seawaters of Southeast Asian countries, efforts are needed by ASEAN member countries to resolve the South China Sea dispute with China in an amicable manner together. including Indonesia, the role of Indonesia's foreign policy for

ASEAN plays an important role in the SCS conflict. Indonesia's foreign policy is implemented in the form of foreign relations with ASEAN regional organizations. Everything that is done in Indonesia's foreign policy system only serves the national interest. Indonesia will continue to accept ASEAN member countries involved in SCS conflicts to resolve problems through diplomatic channels without interstate intervention.

The implementation of Indonesia's foreign policy must also respect the most important principles and norms of ASEAN. Thus, if implemented, the resistance of all other ASEAN member countries will be avoided and Indonesia can pursue national interests. ASEAN also seeks ASEAN in resolving South China Sea disputes, such as implementing the DOC of Parties in the South China Sea, optimizing the role of ASEAN Regional Forum and ASEAN Political Security Community, holding discussion forums.

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