

THE IMPACT OF MARITIME ISSUES IN ASIA PACIFIC ON INDONESIAN DEFENSE POLICY

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ABSTRACT

Maritime issues in Asia Pacific have become complex issues and affect security in this region. Indonesia has a very strategic area in this region, and thus Indonesia is also affected by maritime conflicts in this region. What is the impact of maritime issues in the Asia Pacific on Indonesia's defense policy, as well as solutions that can be taken to overcome this challenge. This study uses descriptive methods and literature analysis to discuss related issues. The research results show that Indonesia must strengthen its maritime defense capabilities, strengthen cooperation with neighboring countries and international partners, and promote constructive dialogue and negotiations between related countries.

Keywords: Asia Pacific, Maritime Issues, Defense Policy, Indonesia

A. INTRODUCTION

Asia Pacific is a region rich in marine natural resources and has an important role in global trade. This region includes several countries with long and strategic coastlines, including China, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia and Australia. However, behind this wealth, Asia Pacific also faces various complex and sensitive maritime issues. Some of these issues include territorial disputes, sovereignty rights, maritime security, and maritime law enforcement.

Asia Pacific is a strategically important region due to its vital trade routes and abundant natural resources. However, this area is also a place for various conflicts and issues that affect security and stability in this region, including maritime issues. Indonesia as a country that has a very strategic area in this region, needs to pay attention to these maritime issues.

Asia Pacific is a region that has strategic importance for Indonesia. This area is not only an important trade and transportation route, but also a center of world economic and

political activities. However, security and stability in this region are often disrupted by various conflicts and disputes that occur between countries in the Asia Pacific, such as territorial disputes in the South China Sea, conflicts between North Korea and South Korea, and tensions between the United States and China.

The following are some of the maritime issues that are currently happening in the Asia Pacific:

- **South China Sea Dispute:** Territorial disputes in the South China Sea are one of the biggest maritime issues in the Asia Pacific. Several countries in this region, such as China, Vietnam, the Philippines and Indonesia, have claims to territorial waters in the South China Sea. This dispute relates to sovereignty rights and natural resource rights in the area. Some of the problems that arise include territorial claims over the Spratly and Paracel islands, competition for natural resource rights, and maritime security issues. This dispute not only affects countries in Asia Pacific, but also attracts international attention because it affects important maritime trade routes.
- **Sea of Japan conflict:** Japan and South Korea have claims to the territorial waters around the Dokdo/Takeshima Islands. This dispute relates to sovereignty rights and natural resource rights in the area. This conflict had an impact on bilateral relations between the two countries and also created tension in the region. In addition, Japan also has a dispute with China regarding claims over the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands. This created tension and affected relations between the two countries.
- **Sea security:** Maritime security is an important issue in Asia Pacific because this area is the world's main trade route. Several countries in this region, such as Indonesia and Malaysia, experience maritime security problems related to piracy and human trafficking. Apart from that, security issues are also related to illegal activities such as excessive fishing, drug smuggling, and illegal weapons shipments.
- **Maritime law enforcement:** Maritime law enforcement is an important issue in Asia Pacific as the region is home to many illegal activities such as overfishing, drug smuggling, and illegal arms shipments. In addition, several countries in this region also face problems related to terrorism and human trafficking related to the sea. Therefore, maritime law enforcement needs to be improved to maintain the security of the sea and the surrounding area.

It is important to continue to monitor developments on these issues in order to find appropriate solutions to maintain security and stability in the region.

B. MARITIME ISSUES

Indonesia as a maritime country and the largest in Southeast Asia has an important role in maintaining maritime stability in the Asia Pacific region. As a country with a vast sea area, Indonesia has a great interest in maintaining maritime security and stability in this region. In addition, Indonesia also has an important role in regional and international cooperation in the field of maritime security and defense.

Maritime issues in the Asia Pacific, such as the South China Sea conflict, can influence Indonesia's defense policy because Indonesia has sovereignty over many small islands and the waters around them. This conflict can affect Indonesia's defense policy, especially because Indonesia has maritime boundaries with several countries involved in this conflict. To face this challenge, Indonesia must strengthen its maritime defense capabilities and strengthen cooperation with neighboring countries and international partners in matters of maritime security and defense. In addition, Indonesia must also promote constructive dialogue and negotiations between related countries to strengthen maritime stability in this region.

Maritime security and defense issues in the Asia Pacific region have a significant impact on Indonesia. One of the main issues currently of concern is the territorial dispute in the South China Sea. This dispute involves several countries in the region, such as China, Vietnam, the Philippines and Brunei Darussalam, which have claims to the area. Competition for control of natural resources and trade routes in the region is a source of tension and conflict in the Asia Pacific region.

In this case, Indonesia has a strategic position because it is located between the South China Sea and the North Natuna Sea, which are part of Indonesia's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Therefore, Indonesia has a strategic interest in maintaining its territorial integrity and ensuring security and stability in its maritime area.

Indonesia as a maritime country has an important role in maintaining stability and security in the Asia Pacific region. Indonesia has a great interest in ensuring that the waters in this region remain safe and stable, especially for international trade routes that cross Indonesian territory. Indonesia also has a responsibility to protect the maritime environment

in the Asia Pacific region so that it remains sustainable and protected from pollution and damage.

To ensure maritime security and stability in the Asia Pacific region, Indonesia has built maritime defense and security capacity through various efforts, such as military modernization, increasing the ability to supervise and control territorial waters, and strengthening cooperation with countries in this region. Indonesia also plays a role as a mediator in territorial disputes in the South China Sea, in an effort to reduce tensions and encourage dialogue between the countries involved.

In addition, Indonesia is also active in regional and international cooperation in the field of maritime security and defense. Through cooperation with ASEAN, Australia, Japan and the United States, Indonesia can build a strong network of cooperation and support efforts to maintain maritime security and stability in the Asia Pacific region.

However, Indonesia is also faced with several challenges in maintaining maritime security and stability in the Asia Pacific region. One of the biggest challenges is Indonesia's ability to maintain its territorial integrity in the North Natuna Sea, which is often disputed by neighboring countries. In addition, Indonesia must also face the threat of maritime crime, such as fishing theft, drug smuggling, and terrorism which can disrupt maritime stability in this region.

C. DEFENSE POLICY

The impact of maritime issues in the Asia Pacific on Indonesia's defense policy is enormous. Therefore, Indonesia must strengthen its maritime defense capabilities, strengthen cooperation with neighboring countries and international partners, and promote constructive dialogue and negotiations between related countries. In facing this challenge, Indonesia must play an active role in supporting efforts to promote maritime stability in the Asia Pacific region. This includes building defense and security capacity, developing adaptive defense policies, and strengthening regional and international cooperation in the field of maritime security and defense. Thus, Indonesia can play a more active and constructive role in maintaining maritime stability and security in the Asia Pacific region.

Indonesia must also establish strong cooperation with countries in the Asia Pacific region to overcome challenges and maintain security and stability in its maritime area. In addition, Indonesia must play an active role as a mediator in territorial disputes in the South

China Sea and maintain a sustainable maritime environment and avoid pollution and damage.

Therefore, Indonesia must take concrete steps to strengthen its maritime defense and security, such as through infrastructure development and military modernization, as well as developing regional and international cooperation to achieve this goal.

Indonesia has a defense policy that focuses on defending sovereignty, territorial integrity and national interests. As a maritime country with the largest sea area in the world, Indonesia also plays an important role in maintaining security and stability in the Asia Pacific region. Some of Indonesia's defense policies related to issues in the Asia Pacific are as follows:

- **Non-Alignment Policy:** Indonesia implements a non-alignment policy that prioritizes independence, peace and international cooperation. This is done so that Indonesia can remain neutral and independent in dealing with issues in the Asia Pacific region.
- **Diplomacy:** Indonesia prioritizes diplomacy in resolving disputes and conflicts in the Asia Pacific region. Indonesia plays an active role in regional forums such as ASEAN, APEC, and the East Asia Summit (EAS) to promote dialogue and cooperation between countries.
- **Military Capability Enhancement:** Indonesia continues to improve its military capability to maintain security and stability in the Asia Pacific region. Indonesia also has defense cooperation with several countries in the region, such as Australia, the United States and Japan, to enhance military capabilities and share information related to security.
- **Enhancement of Maritime Law Enforcement Capacity:** Indonesia is also developing maritime law enforcement capacity to combat illegal activities at sea, such as overfishing, drug smuggling, and human trafficking. This is done so that the Indonesian region and the Asia Pacific region remain safe and stable.

D. CONCLUSION

Emphasizing that Indonesia must strengthen its capacity in dealing with maritime crime threats such as fishing theft, drug smuggling, and terrorism which can disrupt maritime stability in this region.

That issues in the Asia Pacific region have a significant impact on Indonesia's maritime security and stability. Indonesia must strengthen its maritime defense and security capacity, such as through military modernization and increasing the ability to supervise and control water areas.

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