

Harmonizing Regional Interests: Assessing The Efficacy Of The Asean Outlook On The Indo-Pacific (Aoip) Strategy And Its Implications For Indonesian Defense

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ABSTRACT

Amidst the backdrop of global uncertainty, nations worldwide are formulating strategies to safeguard their national interests and ensure continuity. This environment has spurred major powers to vie for expanded influence and hegemony across the globe, resulting in intensifying rivalries. Notably, the rise of China as a new hegemonic force, epitomized by the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has drawn the United States, a superpower, into contesting China's interests, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. This contest has manifested through collaborative defense efforts like the QUAD and AUKUS among other initiatives. Consequently, the Indo-Pacific's geopolitical landscape has undergone profound shifts, impacting neighboring nations, including ASEAN. In response to these major power rivalries and the imperative to uphold regional stability, ASEAN has introduced the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) concept as a diplomatic strategy to reconcile diverse regional interests. Employing qualitative research methods, this study delves into the effectiveness of the AOIP in harmonizing the interests of nations within the region and its repercussions on Indonesia's defense posture. The findings of this research affirm the AOIP concept's efficacy in serving as a bridge between the interests of ASEAN nations and major powers operating in the Indo-Pacific. Moreover, the study highlights the continued relevance of Indonesia's defense strategy, anchored in active defensive principles, in navigating the complex regional and global dynamics.

Keywords: Major power, Rivalry, AUKUS, AOIP.

Introduction

Development environment Global strategy is currently characterized by a situation that Owen Jacobs calls the term VUCA attributes, ie volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity. Volatility, or fast change, characterizes the dynamic nature of the strategic environment, where changes occur frequently and cannot be predicted (Pangestu, 2020). When there is rapid change in the natural environment, it causes significant uncertainty in the strategic landscape. Complexity or the complexity of the relationships between elements in the strategic environment has a significant influence. The strategic environment

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poses challenges for planning and decision making due to the inherent ambiguity associated with habitual patterns (Putra & Hakim, 2016).

The struggle for energy, food and water sources, which has become increasingly difficult due to the explosive increase in world population, has also added to the complexity of global competition which is pushing every country to try to survive. Apart from that, technological advances such as artificial intelligence and big data also play a significant role in the strategic environmental spectrum. These technological advances are a real challenge that can project power into the 21st century and beyond (Lee, 2021). In fact, every sector produces large volumes of data, which is commonly referred to as big data (Vashishtha, 2018).

Challenges in the strategic environment as mentioned above encourage each country to develop strategies to improve defense and security and advance its national interests. This can be seen from the efforts of several large countries in responding to something that is considered a threat. For example, how the United States responds to the rise of China as a new hegemon with its economic and military power, how Russia reacts to Ukraine's desire to join NATO, how Australia develops a nuclear-powered submarine program as a balance of power over China's influence in the region, how India expands its influence in region by forming QUAD with several countries as a step to stem the spread of China's influence in the Indo-Pacific region, and so on.

Most prominent in the current context is the heated rivalry between major powers in the South China Sea as a result of China's unilateral claim to ownership of almost 90% of the South China Sea, known as the Nine Dash Line concept, which then triggers increased escalation in the Indo-Pacific region (Muhar Junef, 2018). This claim also includes the contents of the sea and the land beneath it (Shabrina Oryza, 2018). As an entity located in the central region of the Indo-Pacific region, the countries that are members of the ASEAN organization respond according to their respective national interests, so that the polarization of alignments is divided into 3 (three) groups, namely the group of countries that side with United States policies, a group of countries that support China's policies, and a group of countries that are neutral.

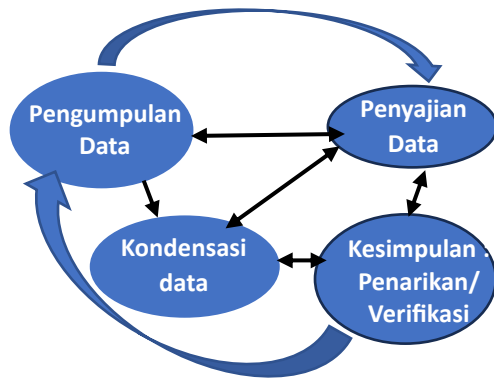
To bridge the interests of all parties in the region, ASEAN issued a concept as a diplomatic strategy known as the ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP). AOIP was originally an abstract idea from Indonesia's concept in 2013 to make ASEAN the 'host' in the Indo-Pacific region, not only aimed at balancing but also becoming a bridge or bridging between the interests of major powers that compete with each other in the region and even in the world.

In its implementation, the AOIP concept causes conflict within ASEAN member countries themselves due to differences in their interest backgrounds. Indonesia as the AOIP drafter tried to revise and develop the AOIP strategy in 2017. After holding a series of meetings and dialogues, the AOIP concept was finally approved by all ASEAN countries in 2019. Facing this situation, Indonesia developed a National Defense Strategy contained in the General National Defense Policy The year 2020-2024 is determined by Presidential Regulation Number 8 of 2021 (Kemhan, 2021). Because Indonesia's position is very strategic, for Indonesia, any open military conflict that occurs between the two major powers, the United States and China, will have the potential to drag Indonesia down, especially if the conflict threatens national interests. The question then arises regarding what is the conceptual model for implementing AOIP itself? Through this research, the author wants to answer by using methods that comply with research principles and several theories as a tool for analysis and its relationship to Indonesian defense.

Research methods

The research method used in this writing is Quasi-qualitative research is a research design that analyzes data using human tools, in this case researchers, or using tools such as DAPA (Data Analysis Procedure by Application), including Nvivo (Bungin, 2021, P.70). This

shows that there is no mixing of qualitative and quantitative data which differentiates the Mixed Method. The data obtained from the research were all analyzed using qualitative methods both with humans and applications. In this research the author used a qualitative type of research, with a research design using Secondary Data Analysis (ADS) from various media and various sources, such as scientific journals, books, electronic media, newspapers and online media, then analyzing it through the Focus Group Discussion forum (FGD) from various sources and experts in a simple and concise manner (Creswell, J., 2014).



Gambar 1. Teknik Analisis Data Menurut Miles-Huberman dan Teknik Spredley.

Results and Discussion

Current world geopolitics This Still faced with threats competition major power , where it stands out is competition between the United States and China, both in the field economic , military , etc political For influence other countries to enter in circle interest national . In other words, improvement United States intentions as effort face China's progress and dominance in the Asia and Indo-Pacific region especially in against claim unilateral Nine-Dash Line by China in the LCS.

See development situation the Indonesia which entrusted become ASEAN chairmanship in 2023, through The Indonesian Ministry of Defense has idea concept paper for the implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific from Defense Perspective . Concept paper This in general _ support idea will an open , safe and inclusive , free Indo-Pacific region from domination of big countries . Idea This emphasized ASEAN member countries to intertwine relationships and work The same with other countries outside the plus countries and top ASEAN dialogue partners base consensus from ASEAN member countries .

Draft This expected can complied with by all countries in the region , including major power countries economic and military more strong from ASEAN countries. Even presence major power in the region expected Can support AOIP concept which is majority has approved by ASEAN member countries so that will give impact significant positive . _ Implications This in a way concrete seen from China's domination of Myanmar and Laos, or domination of the United States against the Philippines and Thailand. Here ASEAN's role with the AOIP concept will be very crucial when happen enhancement escalation including If happen conflict among these countries . ASEAN is one of them organization besides United Nations (UN), where the United States and Russia are present the same room , where China , South Korea and Japan can sit together remove difference ongoing interests and competition , and not only AOIP can also be done become bridge for interests of ASEAN member countries yourself .

From the results analysis use method quasi-qualitative DAPA (Data Analysis Procedure by Application) with Nvivo models show results as following :

a. The behavior of countries in the Indo-Pacific Region can be grouped in 4 (four) patterns , namely pattern prioritizing integration _ negotiation diplomatic and settlement peace beside _ consensus and dialogue , patterns prioritizing cooperation _ collaboration and work The same as well as partnership , pattern competitive at the forefront approach military and focused on threats , and a pattern of non- intervention that prioritizes development consensus , negotiation peace , and interaction diplomatic .



Figure 2. Behavioral patterns of countries in the Indo-Pacific region based on data analysis using DAPA with the Nvivo model.

b. Some of the strategies most frequently expressed by informants indicated that these strategies were most often carried out or most wanted to be carried out in relation to the implementation of AOIP. The first strategy most frequently expressed is the application of AOIP principles. The second strategy is dialogue, diplomacy and negotiation. It is not surprising if this strategy is used by countries, because the pattern of governance that is most widely used by countries is the integration pattern, so this is the most appropriate strategy to choose. The third most widely expressed strategy is increasing participation and cooperation in the field of defense and security. Then, the fourth strategy that is most widely used and wants to be used is economic cooperation and involving large and non-ASEAN countries in its implementation.



Figure 3. AOIP implementation strategy in the Indo-Pacific region based on data analysis using DAPA with the Nvivo model.

Balance of Power Theory

Balance of power is indicating concept _ that the country can maintain continuity his life inside structure system international with prevent other countries from entering get more power _ big For dominate . Balancing This can done through a balancing strategy or bandwagoning . Balancing is a strategy carried out by a country to increase ability military Good internally and _ external , with objective strengthen himself yourself and balance more state power big . Bandwagoning , on the other hand , is a strategy in which states shape alliance with a strong and willing country For dominate structure system international (Waltz SM, 1985, pp. 4-5).

Neorealism Theory

Neorealism , which is also known as Structural realism , namely A theory developed by Kenneth Waltz in 1979. This theory states that the structure of the international system is a fundamental factor in explaining relations between countries . According to this theory, state actions are not determined by individual or state instincts, but are more influenced by anarchic international structures. The main goal of the state in this context is to survive by increasing its own strength and capabilities, which is known as " self-help ". The stronger a state, the lower its chances of being dominated by a stronger state (Waltz KN, 1979, p. 111) .

In this context, John J. Mearsheimer added that in an anarchic international system, there is no entity or rule that can force obedience to states other than the state itself. This leads to uncertainty regarding the intentions and actions of other countries, which in turn may be perceived as a threat to that country. To maintain their existence, countries act rationally by determining strategic policies that take into account the external situation, with the hope that these policies will increase the country's survival ability (Toft, 2005, p. 383).

Within the framework of neorealism, there is a difference between the behavior of states in increasing their power through defensive realism and offensive realism. In defensive realism, the state increases its power not with the intention of becoming a new dominant power, but rather to maintain its existence in the structure of the international system (Snyder, 2002, p. 152). Meanwhile, in offensive realism , it is believed that each country increases its strength with the aim of becoming a hegemonic power that aims to dominate the international system so that their country can survive (Yani, Montratama, & Mahyudin, 2017, pp. 34-35).

Defensive and offensive realism can be described through a basic concept called " Offense-defense balance ". If the force of attack (offense) dominates, the " security dilemma " will increase so that it can trigger an arms race and even war. On the other hand, if defense forces dominate , each country in the international system will be more likely to maintain peace, cooperate, and create a balance of power (Glaser & Kaufmann, 1998, pp. 47-48).

Defense Science Theory

According to the definition of the Big Indonesian Dictionary, "science" refers to knowledge about a field that is arranged systematically using certain methods. This knowledge is used to understand and apply certain phenomena in this field, such as law, education, economics, and so on. In this sense, science can be considered as a collection of knowledge that is systematically arranged using special methods. Even though philosophy is the basis for establishing science as a field of study (ontology, epistemology, and axiology), it is still important to carry out further analysis of philosophy as a science. To be categorized as science, knowledge must meet several requirements, including the object of study, certain methods, have a systematic approach, apply universally, be objective, analytical and verifiable (Indrajit, 2020, p. 55).

Ontology in defense science is the behavior of a country to maintain the existence and develop the continuity of that country (Tippe, 2016). This behavior includes natural or planned processes that occur within a country to maintain and protect its existence (defense

mechanisms) (Mitrovic, 2019, p. 7). This mechanism is needed because of the many events, phenomena and interventions both from within and outside the country that have the potential to disrupt or threaten its existence. To be considered a country, there must be integration and harmony between four important components, namely geographical area, population, government, and recognition from other countries. The sovereignty of a country will be threatened if there is interference with its territory, population, government, or other countries' perception of its existence.

In maintaining the integrity of the state, there are two main functions that must be managed holistically, namely defense and security. Defense includes efforts to defend the nation's sovereignty, territorial integrity and safety from threats and disturbances to the integrity of the state. Meanwhile, security is an effort to maintain domestic public order based on applicable law. Threats can come from various dimensions, including ideology, politics, economics, socio-cultural, technology and military, which have the potential to have a serious impact on the existence of a country.

Thus, the epistemology of defense science involves various theories, concepts, paradigms, strategies and procedures obtained through research, experience and studies both qualitatively and quantitatively. All of this is related to the art and techniques of defending a country (Verhaak & Imam, 1991). From this research, various scientific artifacts emerged such as military strategy, principles of war, approaches to defending the country, techniques for deceiving enemies, and so on.

The axiological aspect in defense science basically functions to help countries formulate appropriate defense strategies and policies (Tippe, 2016). Developing and drafting rules and strategies without a strong scientific basis not only reduces the effectiveness of their implementation, but also has the potential to create vulnerabilities in the defense system itself. Therefore, defense science must be used in designing, organizing, managing, implementing and controlling various defense and security systems in the context of national and state life. (Halkis, 2022, p. 14).

Balance of Interest Theory

Balance of Interest is mainly characterized by a realist perspective, a theory in international relations and political science that aims to describe and analyze the behavior of states towards each other. Balance of Interest recognizes foreign policy diversity as a central goal of international relations. Based on this theory, countries aim to protect their own interests, be they economic, military, political, or ideological, in the international system. Achieving interests requires the use of the power and strength of the State.

These countries act on a strategy to ensure that no one country or group of countries becomes so powerful that it endangers their own security or interests.

Balance of Interest Theory offers an argument for the existence of different foreign policies between countries, even though there is pressure to adapt to the interests of other countries. The theoretical framework presents a set of realist-based models that explain the conditions under which states may engage in armed conflict with each other. These three models, namely the additive model, the highly incoherent state model, and the polarized democracy model, provide insight into the complex dynamics that may emerge when states engage in acts of aggression and defense against each other.

The Balance of Interest theory describes the existence of differences in interests and the joining of countries with similar interests in a cooperative relationship, the relationship between these countries will ultimately clash with countries with different interests resulting in a new balance.

Defense Strategy Theory

The origin of the term strategy originates from the military environment and is often explained as a series of tactics used by war leaders to achieve victory in battle. The word "strategy" comes from the Greek "strategos" which in English is interpreted as "a general

set of maneuvers used to defeat an enemy during battle, " which means a series of maneuvers carried out to defeat the enemy in battle.

In a broader context, strategy refers to planning that involves the use of military force and specific resources in certain areas with specific objectives. It also reflects a series of master plans that describe how an organization should operate to achieve its stated goals. The objectives of the strategy are reflected in the national interest. Defending national interests is the most fundamental challenge in strategy. This requires the country to prioritize its national morals and values with a commitment that involves sacrificing life, property, time and energy to achieve national goals (Slenka, 2007).

In a source written by Harry R. Yarger regarding strategy, he explain that :

"Strategy is all about (way or concept) leadership will use the power (means or resources) available to the state to exercise control over sets of circumstances and geographic locations to achieve objectives (ends) that support state interests."



Gambar 4. Elemen Strategi Pertahanan (Gray, 2014)

Defense strategy is originating concept _ from strategy theory that provides guidelines about how the country can use existing elements __ For reach specified goals _ by state (Gray, 2014, p. 42)politics . In context defense , strategy defined as plan planned action _ For guard interest national , like maintain state sovereignty , intact territory , as well safety of the people and state (Milevski , 2012, p.225).

Defense strategy must in a way effective form environment security national and international support _ Regional stability , reducing threat , prevent conflict , aggression , or violence others . It should also serve as a response to various crises and provide guidance for countries in dealing with strategic environmental uncertainty. Defense strategy has an impact on the development of military power, national defense concepts, organizations, defense elements, and the use of advanced technology (Indonesian Ministry of Defense, 2014, pp. 39-44).

In formulating a defense strategy, it is important to consider assumptions regarding the strategic objectives (ends), the means used (means) and the methods of implementation (ways) (Gray, 2014, p. 31).

Defense strategies must also consider developments in the strategic environment and existing threats by taking into account the relevant social context. During its implementation, defense strategy is used to increase the country's capabilities, which reflect the capability, strength and level of defense, as well as national resources.

The aim of defense strategy is to protect and maintain sovereignty, intact territory and the safety of the entire nation. In the defense sector, the means used include the deployment of military force integrated with non-military defense, supported by national resource potentials such as ideology, politics, economics, social culture, geography, demography and natural resources. The methods used to achieve strategic goals involve planning, preparation and implementation of a strong national defense system capable of facing challenges, threats and taking advantage of opportunities in fighting for Indonesia's

national interests. During wartime, the defense strategy is implemented through military operations, while during peacetime, Indonesia implements a defense strategy with a multi-level and comprehensive active defensive approach.

Regional Security Complex Theory

The Regional Security Complex (RSC) theory is a concept developed by Barry Buzan and Ole Waever in studies on international security. This theory describes a geographical area as a complex mutual security-related system, where the countries within the region have their own related interests and threats related to each other. RSC emphasizes that security in a region does not can be understood in a way separately, but rather influenced by the dynamics of political, economic, and military connections between countries in the region (Buzan & Waever, 2003). RSCT has dimensions connecting history and development moments. This with the pattern system international both during the Cold War and before.

This theory provides a regional security model that allows analysis, prediction and explanation of developments in a region. RSCT provides a more complex view than overly simplistic notions such as unipolarity or center-periphery. Nevertheless, this theory remains related to these ideas and has significant theoretical contributions. In an anarchically structured international system of sufficient size and geographic complexity, RSCT becomes an expected part and has an important influence on great power dynamics throughout the international system. This makes this theory compatible with realist and liberal thinking about the international system.

In another context, this theory also has constructivist roots because the formation and operation of the RSCT depends on patterns of friendship and enmity between states in the system, which makes the regional system dependent on the actions and interpretations of actors, rather than simply being a mechanical reflection of the distribution of power. The application of linguistic constructivism in International Relations was pioneered by Barry Buzan, Ole Waever, and several thinkers called the Copenhagen School thinker group and focused on the concept of security studies. There are several ideas resulting from this group, such as RSCT, European security, and the relationship between regional and global security. Apart from that, one of the thoughts that most contributes and is typical of the Copenhagen School is securitization. Securitization has three main roots, namely speech acts, Schmittian approaches related to security and politics, and assumptions contained in traditional security approaches. When combined, the concept of "security" is a discourse of national security which has an emphasis on parties who have authority who construct threats or enemies, who have the ability to make decisions and implement emergency measures (Buzan, 2009: 30-31).

Securitization is a key mechanism in RSCT that explains differences in security environments within and across regions. This theory assumes that the actor carrying out securitization (government, political leaders, interest groups, bureaucratic apparatus, etc.) begins the securitization process by declaring that the security object (a very important and protected subject, feature, or idea such as a state, society, territory, ideology, culture, economy, identity, environment, etc.) face existential threats. This provides legitimacy to use extraordinary measures that go beyond standard political procedures to protect security objects. The actions taken, or securitization steps, are aimed at specific recipients (audiences). The audience must be convinced that the security object is indeed facing an existential threat and that the steps taken are reasonable, necessary, and appropriate to avoid that danger (Jarzabek, 2020).

Draft ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP)

Views of Hoang Thi Ha, Principal Researcher of Affairs Politics & Security Center for ASEAN Studies in the journal, *Perspective ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP): Old Wine in New Bottle* (2019) explain since the launch of the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific"

(FOIP) strategy by US President Donald Trump and the rise of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Security Dialogue Quadrilateral) or Quad (consisting from the US, Japan , India, and Australia) at the end of 2017, the “Indo-Pacific” concept has obtain Lots Power pull in discourse connection international . Until approximately two years, US, Japan, India and Australia has compile articulation they Alone about the current Indo-Pacific they enter draft This to in policy abroad . _ _ temporary China That avoid Indo-Pacific discourse , even suspect that This is China's containment strategy .

AOIP tries For confirm return ASEAN centrality in the middle discourse compete from strength main (major power) regarding emerging Indo-Pacific architecture . ASEAN does not want exists influence dominant from interest major power that dictates ASEAN as centralized entity . _ Centrality and lead mechanism are necessary maintained by ASEAN within frame ensure continuity free area _ from growth - driven conflict _ the economy big and stable .

Fixed AOIP positioning Continuity ASEAN 's view is open and inclusive , and positions ASEAN as " an honest broker within the strategic environment of competing interests inside _ environment strategic from competing interests)" . Below _ banner " An Indo-Pacific region of dialogue and cooperation instead of rivalry " (Indo- Pacific as an area of dialogue and work The same compared to as competition .

AOIP establishes ASEAN's long-standing principles related to regional architecture, open, transparent, inclusive, rules-based and respecting international law. The notion of "freedom" is also enunciated in the AOIP which is intended to contribute to the maintenance of peace, freedom and prosperity. Although there is no elaboration on what is meant by “freedom”, it can be read in relation to the principles of respect for sovereignty, non-intervention and equality.

Freedom in AOIP primarily focuses on relations between states, as reflected in international agreements within the scope of respect for international law which includes the UN Charter, the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, other relevant UN treaties and conventions, the ASEAN Charter and various ASEAN treaties and agreements and EAS Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relationships. Another indicator of the AOIP's normative focus on relations between states is the significance attached to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) as a code of conduct for states in the region, especially in matters of sovereign equality, peaceful resolution of disputes and divestiture of force. This is again a fundamental element in ASEAN's script to maintain civility and stability in an ever-changing regional order. In addition to the TAC, the AOIP opens up the possibility of developing an “appropriate ASEAN document” for the broader Indo-Pacific region. This could be Indonesia's way of keeping alive the possibility of reviving the Indo-Pacific agreement proposal made by former Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa, in the future. In Marty's own words, this is a TAC-like framework for the broader EAS membership, externalizing the ASEAN experience based on peaceful dispute resolution and not using force to connect the outer dots between and among major powers (China, US , Japan, and India).

Institutionally, no new designs are being considered as this AOIP envisions ASEAN Centrality as a basic principle for promoting cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, with ASEAN-led mechanisms, such as the East Asia Summit (EAS), as a platform for dialogue and implementation of cooperation Indo-Pacific. This is intended to restore ASEAN's convening and agenda-setting power for regional multilateral cooperation through ASEAN-led institutions at a time when unilateralism is on the rise and other alignment configurations (bilateral, trilateral, quadrilateral, minilateral) have emerged with increasing prominence in the Indo-Pacific.

AOIP focuses on strengthening and optimizing ASEAN-led mechanisms, but does not specify how this can be done on ASEAN-led mechanisms, including the EAS, ASEAN Plus One, ARF and ADMM-Plus mechanisms. AOIP does not mention ASEAN Plus Three (APT) as the main vehicle towards the long-term goal of building an East Asian community. It stands to reason technically that APT membership is limited to the Pacific, and thus

unsuitable for a broader Indo-Pacific arrangement. Geography aside, the absence of this APT could send a geopolitical signal that there is currently little attention in ASEAN for the East Asian community despite it remaining an official long-term goal. As ASEAN doubles down on open regionalism from East Asia to the Asia-Pacific and now the Indo-Pacific, East Asia's identity as a geopolitical construct will continue to thin out, despite the fact that intra-East Asia economic integration is deepening. However, this Indo-Pacific focus does not mean that ASEAN's strategic outlook will now extend beyond the complex dynamics of international relations in the Indian Ocean; nor does it suggest that the ASEAN-led mechanism will soon be open to participation by Indian Ocean Rim countries as the AOIP clearly states that their current format will be maintained.

In other words, AOIP remains Southeast Asia-centric while being more open in exploring cooperation with other regional and sub-regional mechanisms in the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions in certain areas of mutual interest. One such mechanism is the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) which has recently received active interest and participation from Indonesia.

Closing

Through the results of the analysis above, it can be understood that the Indo-Pacific region is currently one of the main focuses for countries in the world, especially major powers, in developing hegemony, both in the economic, political and military fields. The things that drive this condition are first, the Indo-Pacific is in a strategic position in various aspects, so that this region has become an important area in the global and regional geopolitical arena. Second, the existence of rivalry between the two great powers, namely the United States and China, in the Indo-Pacific region, is of course a special concern for ASEAN countries, because this has an influence on countries in the region. Third, China's claim to the South China Sea, which is seen as an opportunity for them to strengthen their power and economy, accompanied by strengthening their military, is a serious threat to the territorial sovereignty of countries in the Indo-Pacific region and could even trigger a wider conflict.

Paying attention to these several things, Indonesia, through ASEAN, initiated the birth of the AOIP concept as an effort to maintain the stability of the Indo-Pacific region from various existing influences and threats. The existence of ASEAN is very necessary as a norm-setter, consensus-builder, and peacekeeper through four cooperation frameworks which are outputs for the interests of ASEAN countries in the Indo-Pacific region, namely maritime cooperation, connectivity between countries in the Indo-Pacific region, achieving SDGs, and Economic cooperation as well as cooperation in other fields.

The results of the discussion show that the AOIP concept is effective in bridging the interests of major power countries on the one hand and the interests of ASEAN countries on the other, and even the interests of all countries in the region and globally. The AOIP concept is more realistic to be accepted by all parties compared to several concepts previously offered for several reasons, first, the AOIP concept is an original idea of ASEAN countries which really understand the situation and conditions as well as the impacts that will arise due to competition between major power countries, second, ASEAN is the largest organization of countries in the region as well as the center of the Indo-Pacific region, third, ASEAN countries with their various national interests as partners of major power countries, so that they can become a liaison media for building constructive dialogue with all parties.

From a national defense perspective, through AOIP Indonesia can also realize national interests and goals to protect itself and its sovereignty from the domination or hegemony of two major powers that influence dynamics in the region, namely the United States and China. Through defense diplomacy, it is hoped that Indonesia will be able to prevent any negative impacts arising from tensions in the South China Sea and the Indo-Pacific region in order to maintain the continuity of national development in all fields. This

condition shows the relevance of the AOIP concept to Indonesia's active defensive defense strategy aimed at protecting state sovereignty, territorial integrity and the safety of the entire nation from all threats and disturbances.

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