

ABSTRAK

Rivalitas strategis Amerika Serikat dan Tiongkok di kawasan Indo-Pasifik menimbulkan tekanan geopolitik yang signifikan bagi Indonesia, khususnya dalam menjaga otonomi strategis dan keamanan maritim di Laut Natuna Utara. Sebagai *middle power* yang menganut prinsip politik luar negeri bebas aktif, Indonesia dituntut merespons rivalitas tersebut secara adaptif tanpa kehilangan kemandiriannya. Penelitian ini bertujuan menganalisis bentuk dan mekanisme implementasi strategi *hedging* dalam politik luar negeri Indonesia serta mengevaluasi efektivitasnya dalam menjaga otonomi strategis dan keamanan maritim di tengah persaingan Amerika Serikat dan Tiongkok. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan metode studi kepustakaan (*library research*). Data dikumpulkan sepenuhnya melalui sumber sekunder berupa jurnal ilmiah, buku, dokumen kebijakan, dan media online, kemudian dianalisis secara deskriptif-interpretatif dengan mengintegrasikan Teori Kepentingan Nasional, Teori Kompleks Keamanan Regional, Doktrin Bebas Aktif, dan konsep strategi *hedging*. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Indonesia mengimplementasikan *hedging* melalui lima dimensi yang saling berkaitan, yaitu *Policy Diversification*, *Strategic Engagement*, *Soft Balancing*, *Strategic Ambiguity*, dan *Risk Management*, yang secara adaptif mengoperasionalkan prinsip bebas aktif. Strategi ini terbukti cukup efektif mempertahankan otonomi strategis dan reputasi Indonesia sebagai *middle power* yang konstruktif selama lebih dari satu dekade, namun menghadapi tiga keterbatasan struktural: ketergantungan ekonomi terhadap Tiongkok yang berpotensi mempersempit ruang diplomasi, persistensi ancaman China Coast Guard (CCG) di Laut Natuna Utara yang mengindikasikan bahwa efek *deterrence* belum memadai, serta inkohesivitas sinyal kebijakan antarlembaga negara. Penelitian ini berkontribusi memperkaya diskursus *middle power* di Indo-Pasifik, khususnya pada dimensi keamanan yang masih kurang dieksplorasi.

Kata Kunci: *Hedging*, Bebas Aktif, Otonomi Strategis, Keamanan Maritim, *Middle Power*, Indo-Pasifik, Rivalitas AS-Tiongkok, *ASEAN Centrality*

ABSTRACT

The strategic rivalry between the United States and China in the Indo-Pacific region poses significant geopolitical pressure on Indonesia, particularly in maintaining strategic autonomy and maritime security in the North Natuna Sea. As a middle power adhering to the free and active foreign policy doctrine, Indonesia is required to respond adaptively to this rivalry without losing its independence. This study aims to analyze the forms and mechanisms of Indonesia's hedging strategy implementation and to evaluate its effectiveness in maintaining strategic autonomy and maritime security amid the US-China rivalry. This study employs a qualitative approach using the library research method, in which data were collected entirely from secondary sources such as scientific journals, books, policy documents, and online media, then analyzed descriptively-interpretively by integrating National Interest Theory, Regional Security Complex Theory, the Free and Active Doctrine, and the hedging concept. The findings show that Indonesia implements hedging through five interrelated dimensions: Policy Diversification, Strategic Engagement, Soft Balancing, Strategic Ambiguity, and Risk Management, which adaptively operationalize the free and active principle. This strategy has proven reasonably effective in sustaining Indonesia's strategic autonomy and its reputation as a constructive middle power for more than a decade, yet it faces three structural limitations: economic dependency on China that risks narrowing diplomatic space, the persistent threat of the China Coast Guard in the North Natuna Sea indicating insufficient deterrence, and incoherent policy signals among state institutions. This study contributes to enriching the middle power discourse in the Indo-Pacific, particularly regarding the still underexplored security dimension.

Keywords: Hedging, Free and Active Foreign Policy, Strategic Autonomy, Maritime Security, Middle Power, Indo-Pacific, US–China Rivalry, ASEAN Centrality