



# STRATEGY OF INDONESIA MARITIME DEFENSE IN THE MIDDLE OF ASIA PACIFIC CONFLICT POTENTIAL

IMPLICATION OF AUKUS (AUSTRALIA, UNITED KINGDOM, AND UNITED  
STATES OF AMERICA) VS PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Rizky Thesalonika Yulyanti R  
Marine Defense Strategy Faculty of Defense Strategy University RI Defense  
( rizkythesalonika@gmail.com ,

**Abstract** - Indonesia is a country located in the Asia Pacific Region which geography located in Southeast Asia and bordering direct with People's Republic of China and Australia. With position geographical this , defense strategy Indonesian seas , namely the World Maritime Axis, must noticed return see that People's Republic of China has To do initiation in reach his ambition To use reach hegemony in the Asia Pacific Region through claim nine dash line until formation Belt Road Initiative (BRI) with use silk road. In response Thing here , United States of America with Australia and England then shape alliance defense and security with ensure security of the Asia Pacific Region which then increase tendency conflict in the region. For see defense strategy sea , research this use maritime strategy theory and theory strength sea for see Indonesian capabilities . Study this use method qualitative in composing research . Result of study this namely Indonesia must consider return of the World Maritime Axis as a defense strategy sea see that development territorial water activities in the Asia Pacific Region increase accompanied with tendency increasing conflict \_ tall Among People's Republic of China and AUKUS.

**Keywords** : AUKUS , Indonesia, Asia Pacific Region , People's Republic of China , Marine Defense Strategy

## Introduction

Study this will study regarding defense strategy the sea that will done by Indonesia in stem potency conflict in Asia Pacific after formation AUKUS alliance (Australia, UK and USA ) as form resistance by no direct to domination People's Republic of China . Study this later will display results predictive about what only strategy can implemented by Indonesia in stem intensity increasing conflict \_ tall

Among People's Republic of China and the United States of America through AUKUS alliance .

In the present this , potential conflict in the Asia Pacific region naturally the more high . This thing could look at the effort hegemony People's Republic of China in the Asia Pacific region through domination in various core sector on interaction international like defense and security , economy , health , and social culture . Ambition People's Republic of China alone no without reason see that ambition the supported by condition geography where People's Republic of China have total area of 9.69 million km<sup>2</sup> and is supported by sources power natural as well as source power the most people in the world with figure 1.35 billion (Bamboo Cyberschool, 2019).

In an effort for reach ambition , People 's Republic of China start it with depiction nine dash line in the considered South China Sea as the territory of the People's Republic of China based on claims on history . Previously , People's Republic of China interesting eleven dotted lines in 1947 Guna \_ signify territory , will but in 1950 , two dotted lines then deleted because is territory from Vietnam (Sakamoto, 2021). The true South China Sea is area waters of 3.5 million km<sup>2</sup> bordering direct with People's Republic of China , Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam (Gao & Ja, 2013). Nine dash line alone is the nine -dash line put forward by the People's Republic of China in determine limit the territory with use source power natural like island small , reef coral and rocks as well as claim on four Island that is Paracel Islands , Islands Pratas , Islands Zhongsha , and the Spratly Islands based on position Geographically, the South China Sea forms the vital trade routes and maritime transportation for East Asia and Southeast Asia as well as make it easy market expansion to the African region (Thao & Amer, 2012).

In an effort claim over the area of the South China Sea, People's Republic of China get response hard from Southeast Asian countries . Countries in the Southeast

Asia Region are divided Becomes three part covers front-line states covering the Philippines and Vietnam and the Claimant States covering Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam (Thayer, 2016). Whereas non-claimant states include Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, and Myanmar (Suwanti & Suharto, 2020). Problems found on the nine dash line put forward by the People's Republic of China that is existence violation to the 1982 UNCLOS convention where has experienced by front-line states and claimant states with violation against the EEZ ( Economic Zone Exclusive ) which has been agreed before and have approved by the People's Republic of China with To do ratification on treaty it and issue statement that rights and interests maritime must started with territorial (Wang, 2015)sovereignty .

Republic of China then shape another initiation in effort dominate Asia through Belt and Road Initiative . This initiation is form of policy and investment programs period long cross destination continent \_ for development infrastructure and acceleration integration the economies of the countries along track historic silk- road . Initiative this inaugurated in 2013 by the President People's Republic of China , Xi Jinping and up to year 2016, known as TORCH – One Belt One Road. On March 28, 2015, outline from the Belt and Road Initiative has issued by the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and Ministry of Trade (MOFCOM) of the People's Republic . China (PRC), with State Council (Belt and Road Initiative, 2021)authorization . Development strategy Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of the People's Republic of China aim for build connectivity and cooperation in six corridor economy major covering China , Mongolia, Russia, Eurasian countries, Central and West Asia, Pakistan, other countries in the child Indian subcontinent , and Southeast Asia Region. The development of BRI puts forward connectivity, openness, motivation for sustainable development, motivation for food and energy security, and balanced regional development (OECD, 2018). By looking at the map of the determination of BRI, then indirectly shows the efforts of the People's Republic of China to dominate the world,

especially the Asia Pacific Region. By looking at the great ambitions of the People's Republic of China, the United States as the most influential country in the world certainly responds because with this initiative, it certainly obscures the influence of the United States in the Asia Pacific Region.



Figure 1. The Belt and Road Initiative of the People's Republic of China (Magdalena, 2021)

United States which is a superpower until moment this Keep going strive influence on the scene international . However , seeing \_ movement People's Republic of China in the Asia Pacific Region which continues to develop and innovate in shape cooperation between Asian countries and initiation new as well as increase defense equipment To use defense and security naturally Becomes threat alone for the United States . With reason the then United States Keep going try ward off influence People's Republic of China in the Asia Pacific Region .

In 2021, United States succeed initiate formation alliance defense and security together with Australia and England to be precise on 15 September 2021 Prime Minister Boris Johnson, US President Joseph Biden and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison issued statement together announce formation of " improvement " partnership trilateral security " called AUKUS (Australia, United Kingdom and United States of America ) (Brooke-Holland, Curtis, & Mills, 2021). Reason for

formation alliance this see that challenge security in the Indo - Pacific region has develop by significant . Modernization military happening at an unprecedented level once occur before and ability develop fast and reach expand (Prime Minister of Australia, 2021).

AUKU then put forward initiative in enhancement defense and security especially in the Asia Pacific region with initiative The first under AUKUS is for Australia to obtain technology boat dive powerful nuclear , utilize experience dozens year from the US and UK . Under AUKUS , the three countries will quick focus on identification optimal path for send at least eight boat dive powerful nuclear for Australia (Prime Minister of Australia, 2021). Through AUKUS, member countries will strengthen each other's ability to support interest security and defense , building bilateral relations that have been long lasting and sustainable . The Alliance will promote deeper sharing of information and technology. The Alliance will encourage deeper integration of science, technology, industrial base and supply chains related to security and defense. And in particular, the Alliance will significantly deepen cooperation across multiple security and defense capabilities. The AUKUS Alliance is also mainstreaming defense peace and stability in the Asia Pacific Region (United States of Amerika, 2021).

See tendency conflict Among People's Republic of China and AUKUS Alliance , Indonesia needs To do anticipation with prepare defense strategy sea massively see \_ that intensity conflict in the Asia Pacific Region especially in the northern part of Indonesia, namely the South China Sea and in the southern part of Indonesia, which borders direct with Australia. Anticipation must \_ seen by Indonesia includes movement People's Republic of China after case South China Sea territorial claims that take territorial waters Island Natuna as well as patrol navy soldiers \_ Massive People's Republic of China carried out To use effort espionage naturally will Becomes attention special .

In the southern region of Indonesia itself , Indonesia must prepare anticipation to development defense US - assisted Australian military and security via AUKUS seen from initiative first that AUKUS admits tradition with member countries alliance as a maritime democracy and committed to ambition together for support Australia in get boat dive powerful nuclear for the Australian Navy (United States of Amerika, 2021). Development boat dive powerful nuclear this though destined for complain development military People's Republic of China , will but Indonesia deserves for alert see that Indonesia is a country flanked by countries with great strength and tendency \_ escalating conflict \_ naturally will about Indonesia personally straight away .

### **Research methods**

This research will be presented using qualitative research methods. Qualitative research involves the collection and analysis of non-numeric data (eg, text, video, or audio) to understand concepts, opinions, or experiences. It can be used to gather in-depth insight into a problem or generate new ideas for research. Each research approach involves the use of one or more data collection methods. In this study, researchers used secondary research by collecting existing data in the form of text, images, audio or video recordings, etc.

On research this , researcher choose for use defense strategy theory sea (Maritime Strategy) and Sea Power. This theory later will help in analyze and see defense strategy the sea that will applied by Indonesia in stem tendency conflict Among People's Republic of China and the AUKUS Alliance .

### **Results and Discussion**

#### **Maritime Strategy**

Maritime strategy is very important in military planning because states provide the means to apply force to areas of interest along coastlines and inland.

This area is called the littoral. The coast is defined 'as the seaward area of the coast which is susceptible to influence or support from land and inland areas of the coast which are susceptible to the influence of the sea. Operation defense on the coast need needs for effective in operation together (Sea Power Centre Australia, 2013). In the present this , modern maritime strategy involves strength air , sea and land operations \_ together for influence events on the coast together with draft maritime traditional about denial sea and control sea . maritime strategy moment this no only about strength force sea or army strategy sea . Element key of maritime strategy covers sea denial , sea control , and power projection (Parliament of Australia, 2018):

Sea denial have a ' purpose prevention use sea ' by others who have threatening power \_ a country. This thing defined as existing conditions \_ when a enemy rejected ability for use sea area for goal alone for period time certain . Sea Denial implies more posture \_ passive where is the emphasis is on defense ( even though this no obstruct use ability offensive ), and where is the initiative will permanent with strength attack .

Sea control defined as existing conditions \_ when something party have freedom Act for use a territory for the importance alone in period time certain and refuse use of marine areas for opponent

Projection strength though no by exclusive is draft strategic maritime , admit that strength maritime , through Sea Control , can shape , influence and control environment strategic , and can send strength combat to land if required . Projection strength in relation with maritime strategy , is about use strength maritime for influence affairs on land .

According to Corbett (2004), he defines maritime strategy as " part of the what to do played fleet in relation with action troops land " and attention main is " determine " reciprocal relationship \_ Among army and army sea in plan war . "Naval time this committed for operation Troops Joints and coalitions on or on land , sea , air , space space and information media where Troops Combined carry out the



National Military Strategy and carry out war . Basically the Navy operates in maritime strategic framework , in which non- military forces sea could used for purpose which is traditional related with sea . Current naval policy reflects this by seeking to exert direct and decisive influence in the pursuit of common interests.

For Corbett, no there is one whichever way the force sea reach all the goal . Temporary destination first war force sea is for " good " by direct or no direct for temporary secure command sea , or for prevent enemy secure it , command sea no the only one destination war sea . Define command sea as control local from communication maritime , for means military or commercial , Corbett appreciates command sea local on contribution force the sea he brought to destination direct maritime strategy at the time and place . because of that , war force sea no only consist from method for reach command sea local , but also method for operate order that for destination strategic .

Corbett distinguished the methods of local naval command obtained and those used in strategy through his study of history and analysis of contemporary events. Corbett notes that the navy may not always seek to " command of the sea ", but may, in denying its use, "rebut" the command. His methods for securing and debating command, and running commandi are summarized below:

Secure method command

With get decision

With Blockade

Method of debating command

Principle use defense equipment existing military \_

Putting forward a counterattack with a small scale

Method of doing command

Defense to invasion military through sea

Increase defense trading through attack



Prioritizing attack as a form of defense with the support of a military expedition

### **Sea Power**

In theory Sea Power put forward by Mahan (1890), Dua aspect key from theory strength Mahan sea is a naval strategy sea and related geopolitics \_ with command sea . According to Mahan, the relationship Among competition commercial in the colonial era and intentions strength colonial for expand make conflict armed not avoided . With open system transportation the sea of the world that brings prosperity for strength colonial , then security transportation sea only could confirmed with strength force armed strong sea . \_ There is a certain internal relationship Among force sea , command sea and power maritime .

Strong navy \_ \_ will put base for a country for dominate sea . However , the first not yet of course lead to the last . Regardless from strength force sea , naval strategy true sea \_ must formulated if a country wants take over command real sea . \_ Mahan thinks that destination end of the army strategy sea is for maintain and improve strength sea a country, no care in wartime or peace . Strength sea , or more Specific again , command the sea is very dependent on the strategy of the navy sea and army sea a country. Without force pretty sea \_ strength and strategy force effective sea , impossible \_ for control the sea area certain . Enemy country other possible use sea area for Act as blockade or for launch attack (University of Birmingham, 2015). because of that , power sea no will appear without effective combination \_ from strength force naval and naval strategy sea .

According to Mahan, only with combine force strong sea \_ with force strategy proper sea , command \_ the sea in the end could materialized . When it comes to army strategy sea , clarification must made between offensive and defensive strategies . Defense strategy could shared again be a defense strategy coast and defense strategy sea . Previous strategy emphasize defense mainland . Activity

military limited for hit back off attack direct , with soldier responsible answer for defense and army sea responsible answer for create belt defense off \_ beach .

Command sea not combination simple from force Strong sea and naval strategy offensive sea . \_ It also requires \_ condition conducive geopolitics \_ so that force sea could operate role strategic . This thing determined by requirements special from factors geographical to strength sea . Mahan thinks that after a country builds strength military strong maritime , he \_ must occupy or snatch location favorable geography \_ for implement force strategy the sea so in the end could assume command sea . There are several factor decisive key \_ what is the army strategy ? sea a country can support goal for take over strength sea , for example , location geographical for effective deployment \_ from force sea . force sea Among mainland , base military overseas and frontline strategic and the islands or port near \_ route sea important , which depends on the economy maritime or strength the country 's military . In short , there is two principle in theory strength Mahan sea :

Safety on the water neighbor is criteria fundamental from every country that wants Becomes strength maritime . For secure security maritime , the state must by effective control waters and islands that can be threaten the safety alone if occupied by the enemy . This is strength sea level first owned by a \_ strength maritime and is also a base strategic for a strength maritime for move from waters free beach to sea far away .

Realize security waters free beach only basic and not by whole for build a country becomes strength maritime . On the basis of security , space scope strength sea something strength maritime must expanded in accordance with interest nationally abroad . \_ At the same time , space offensive strategy scope force the sea must also expanded . With expansion interest national and strength sea strength maritime , offensive strategy force the sea , and the coverage geographic where the strategy applied will expand from waters free beach to the world. Strength sea this , which is related with expansion interest known national \_ as effort hegemony sea .

## **Indonesian Marine Defense Strategy**

Indonesian moment this be in position tension tall between AUKUS and the People's Republic of China through the South China Sea. The AUKUS Agreement , which saw Australia gain precious US technology for build a fleet of ships dive powerful nuclear , by large looked at as prevention strategically by Washington and Canberra against expansion force sea China's aggressiveness in the South China Sea. Located between China and Australia, the vast Indonesian archipelago have track sea strategic link between the Indian and Pacific Oceans as well as connects the South China Sea with the waters off northern Australian coast . Submarines can pass undetected through deep sea trenches.

Indonesia responded to the AUKUS agreement by expressing deep concern over the continuing arms race and power projection in the region in a five-point statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in September (Kementerian Luar Negeri Indonesia, 2021). The statement also urges respect for the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which governs navigation through international waters. Deputy Foreign Minister Mahendra Siregar said Indonesia was concerned that the acquisition of Australia's nuclear submarines would spur an arms race and regional instability. Statement issued \_ include :

Indonesia pays attention with careful decision Australian Government for acquire boat dive powerful nuclear

Indonesia is very concerned on continuation race weapons and projection strength in the region .

Indonesia emphasizes importance Australia 's commitment to Keep going Fulfill all non- proliferative obligations nuclear .

Indonesia asks Australia to guard the commitment to regional peace , stability and security as appropriate with Treaty Friendship and Cooperation.

Indonesia encourages Australia and the parties related other for advance dialogue in complete difference by peace . In terms of this , Indonesia underlines respect to law internationally , including UNCLOS 1982, in guard peace and security in the region .

For Indonesia and other countries in Southeast Asia, the context in which AUKUS arrives has cause worries will increase tension and action reply reactionary from China and its allies , who view self they as the target of the pact that . Although prevention possible take effect in period long , Indonesia 's challenges in period short will permanent same . Indonesia still be in the middle plan for modernize the military , in particular capacity force the sea , for forcing more control \_ big on the enormous expanse of water below his supervision . But must now \_ face enhancement presence boat dive capacity more high and possibility response from development - threatened countries ( especially China), in form anti- ship technology more diving \_ forward and more . Indonesian technology does not have strength for control or even observe with right .

Looking at the defense strategy the sea that will implemented by Indonesia, Indonesia is still will put forward the World Maritime Axis strategy as a guidelines main seen from four areas include base thinking strategic Indonesian maritime principles policy Indonesia's foreign and maritime affairs , interaction Among World Maritime Axis concepts and thoughts strategic Indonesian maritime , and lastly , the necessary maritime strategy for reach destination The World Maritime Axis policy which has set (Supriyanto, 2016).

Based on condition geography , Needs for developing maritime strategy originated from fact simple geography the Indonesian archipelago , which underlines two element fundamental in thinking strategic : idea unity national in the middle fragmented geography and dilemma \_ intersection maritime . Though sea archipelago could working as a medium of interaction between population island , but also can Becomes source split because separate " islands " one with each other

political , economic , social and cultural ". In the case of Indonesia, the sea has be a natural medium for promote unity national through interaction social culture and control politics , respectively " soft " and " hard " ways to reach unity national . More important again , place Indonesia 's geography presents dilemma intersection maritime . Located between the Indian and Pacific Oceans , the archipelago this shape important waterway , or \_ known as track communication sea , for global shipping . Second ocean the connected through straits in the archipelago, especially the Straits of Malacca, Sunda, Lombok, and Ombai-Wetar .

In principle policy Indonesia's foreign and maritime affairs, Unity Indonesia's fragile and dilemmatic national intersection Street maritime cause constant vigilance \_ to strength maritime foreigners looking for access not limited to or through archipelago for destination military . With thus , limiting access the Becomes destination strategic main . In fulfilling destination this , Indonesia believes that he no can stage formal alliance with strength foreign for prevent the last one from mix hand in effort for regulate the maritime domain alone . Thinking Indonesia's strategy is also reflected in two principle main maritime policy, namely principle archipelago and insight archipelago . All the waters around , between , and that connect the islands that constitute the state of Indonesia, without looking at area , is the part that doesn't could inseparable from the territory of Indonesia and with thereby is part from waters interior national under \_ \_ \_ sovereignty exclusive to Indonesia.

## Conclusion

See that there is effort domination of countries in the Asia Pacific Region by the People's Republic of China and responded by the United States through AUKUS, Indonesia needs to study return implementation of the World Maritime Axis as a defense strategy echoed sea \_ in blocking tendency conflicts in the territorial waters of the South China Sea and border areas with Australia. Indonesia continues put forward non- aligned and free politics active in fact must clean up in see competition

among major countries in the Asia Pacific Region . This thing seen from Indonesian statement in respond issue related the formation of the only AUKUS convey something with sympathetic and sorry other countries ' decisions without existence planned action \_ in minimize tendency conflict that can jeopardize Indonesia \_ straight away .

Even though AUKUS can seen as partner in development technology force Indonesian sea , will but alliance this naturally will make it worse atmosphere conflict in the Asia Pacific Region . Indonesia really needs help from other countries to guard potency surrounding threats . \_ Countries in the Southeast Asia Region in particular have same problem \_ will but still not enough in the effort help defense of neighboring countries . Indonesia must optimizing the concept of the World Maritime Axis as form defense maritime with consider strength geography , interview archipelago , principle archipelago , and strength sea . Things to do noticed that is role soldier force Indonesian sea must Keep going upgraded through development technology supporting defense equipment , increasing the skills of the soldiers in effort espionage to movement People's Republic of China and AUKUS, and notice more within the border areas specifically border Indonesian sea .

## References

- Bamboo Cyberschool. (2019, January 16). The Geographical Location of China, the Land of the Bamboo Curtain . Retrieved from Bamboo Cyberschool: <https://www.bamboocyberschool.com/post/letak-geografis-negeri-china-negeri-tirai-bambu-2>
- Belt and Road Initiative. (2021, November 19). Belt and Road Initiative . Retrieved from Belt and Road Initiative: <https://www.beltroad-initiative.com/belt-and-road/>



- Brooke-Holland, L., Curtis, J., & Mills, C. (2021). *The Aukus Agreement*. London: House of Commons Library.
- Corbett, JS (2004). *Principles of Maritime Strategy*. New York: Dover Publications.
- Gao, Z., & Ja, BB (2013). *Nine Dash Line in the South China Sea: History, Status, and Implications*. *American Society of International Law* , 98-124.
- Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (2021, September 17). Statement on Australia's Nuclear-powered Submarines Program . Retrieved from the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs: [https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2937/siaran\\_pers/statement-on-australias-nuclear-powered-submarines-program](https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2937/siaran_pers/statement-on-australias-nuclear-powered-submarines-program)
- Magdalene, JV (2021, January 6). Implications of China's Belt and Road Initiative on the Economic Balance . Retrieved from LIA Center for Regional Studies: <http://psdr.lipi.go.id/news-and-events/opinions/implication-belt-and-road-initiative-tionggok-terhadap-neraca-perekonomian-indonesia.html>
- Mahan, AT (1890). *The Influence of Sea Power Upon History*. Boston: Little, Brown, and Company.
- OECD. (2018). *China's Belt and Road Initiative in the Global Trade, Investment, and Finance Landscape*. Paris: OECD Business and Finance.
- Parliament of Australia. (2018). *Maritime Strategy Concept*. Canberra: Parliament of Australia.
- Prime Minister of Australia. (2021). *Australia To Pursue Nuclear Powered Submarines Through New Trilateral Enhanced Security Partnership*. Canberra: Australian Government.
- Sakamoto, S. (2021). *Historic Waters and Rights Revisited: UNCLOS and Beyond?* Kyoto: Doshisha University.
- Australian Sea Power Center. (2013). *What is a Maritime Strategy?* Canberra: Sea Power Center Australia.





- Supriyanto, RA (2016). Developing Indonesia's Maritime Strategy under President Jokowi. Seoul: The Asan Forum.
- Suwanti, & Suharto. (2020, October 24). Several non-claimant states reject China's claim in South China Sea . Retrieved from Antaranews.com: <https://en.antaranews.com/news/159725/several-non-claimant-states-reject-chinas-claim-in-south-china-sea>
- Thao, NH, & Amer, R. (2012). A New Legal Arrangement for the South China Sea. *Ocean Development International* , 333-334.
- Thayer, CA (2016, November 14). The Southeast Asia Claimant States, ASEAN and the South China Sea . Retrieved from Maritime Issues: <http://www.maritimeissues.com/politics/the-southeast-asia-claimant-states-asean-and-the-south-china-sea-dispute.html>
- United States of America. (2021). Joint Leaders Statement on AUKUS. Washington DC: White House Government.
- University of Birmingham. (2015). Learn from the Sea Power Theory and Geopolitical Theory. Birmingham: University of Birmingham.
- Wang, Z. (2015). Chinese Discourse on the "Nine-Dashed Line": Rights, Interests, and Nationalism. *Asian Survey* , 502-524.