
CHINA'S INFLUENCE ON AUSTRALIA'S POSITION IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC IN THE SECURITY SECTOR AND DEVELOPING SECTOR. CASE STUDY: SOLOMON ISLANDS 2013-2017

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Abstract: After the economic growth, the government system, and security in the Solomon Islands have started to improve. China is here to increase its influence in the Region. China's presence in the Solomon Islands puts Australia's position at risk. The research entitled "China's Influence on Australia's Position in the South Pacific Region in the Security and Development Sector. (Case Study: the Solomon Islands 2013-2017)", has a problem formulation because the influence exerted by China on the Solomon Islands can pose a threat to Australia. This study aimed to determine the influence exerted by China on the Solomon Islands, thus posing a threat to Australia's position in the region, especially in the security and security sector. This research uses the library research method or literature study. Researchers use library research as their research by collecting library data, reading, taking notes, and reprocessing research materials. The theory used to answer the problem is the theory of foreign policy and international security. Based on the results of the analysis, the author can find out that the presence of China in the Solomon Islands has had a major influence on Australia in the region. If China succeeds in exerting influence in the Solomon Islands, it will pose a huge threat to Australia's position on a security.

Keywords: China, Australia, Solomon Islands, Foreign Policy, Security, Development.

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INTRODUCTION

The South Pacific region of Oceania is an area where most of its territory is water. Countries that join the South Pacific Region are Fiji, Solomon Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. From some of these countries, the author will explain the Solomon Islands. When viewed from a geographical location, the Solomon Islands is close to Australia. Bilateral relations between Australia and

the South Pacific are quite good. Australia has considerable influence in the South Pacific region.

The economy and government system of the South Pacific Region is still relatively weak, so they need other countries with strong economic and defense systems to help their countries rise and resolve conflicts.

Australia assists the Solomon Islands through the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Island (RAMSI). RAMSI is an organization formed by Australia to maintain the security system in the Solomon Islands.

RAMSI was formed by eighteen Pacific Island countries that are members of the Pacific Island Forum (PIF) consisting of Australia, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Samoa, Vanuatu, Fiji, Micronesia, Niue, Solomon Islands, French Polynesia, Nauru, Palau, and Tonga. The conflict that occurred in the Solomon Islands from 1998-to 2003 caused damage to infrastructure, the economic system, the government system did not work well, and corruption occurred which resulted in the country experiencing failure or becoming a failed state. Weak law enforcement officers in the Solomon Islands resulted in the population experiencing acts of violence.

RAMSI participates with the Canberra police by reinstating non-intervention policies. The main mission of RAMSI went well. The security chaos in the Solomon Islands due to the protracted conflict was quickly dealt with.

RAMSI has succeeded in developing police capacity in the Solomon Islands and has succeeded in making the public believe in it even though its efforts have experienced difficulties. RAMSI has three pillars, the first is law and justice. Second, governance and economic growth. And third, is the government machine.

Factors that cause conflict include seeking political gain by instilling hatred between ethnic groups. And from 2009 to 2013, RAMSI again strengthened its cooperation with the Solomon Islands regarding RAMSI capacity development efforts.

From 2016 to 2017, Australia again strengthened its role in the Solomon Islands Region by providing financial assistance of \$164.1 million. The assistance was led by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). DFAT is tasked with strengthening the development of the Australian program in the Solomon Islands.

Australia's goal to help the Solomon Islands is due to its global importance. Australia joined in creating regional security in the South Pacific region because Australia considers that threats always come to the South Pacific region.

According to Australia, having a strong national security defense is the main key to protecting its country from foreign attacks or terrorism. One of Australia's security assistants is in helping to resolve the conflict in the Solomon Islands through the assistance of RAMSI.

Its rapid economic growth in the South Pacific Region has made China, known as one of the most powerful countries in the world, want to dominate the region. China is expanding its power in the South Pacific Region by providing foreign aid, trade assistance, infrastructure development, military, and natural resource development. The arrival of China in the Solomon Islands was welcomed by the local government. But not for Australia, the emergence of China in the Solomon Islands makes Australia's position threatened. China's presence in the South Pacific Region has several objectives, namely, China wants to expand its security in the Solomon Islands so that no other country dares to enter the region without its permission. Given that China is the second-largest donor country after Australia. After successfully exerting influence in the Asia and Africa Region, China has again expanded its power in the Pacific Region by assisting countries whose economy and security are weak but have abundant natural resources so that they can provide aid funds to these countries and expand their power.

The reason the author took the title above is that the author is interested in the problems that occur in the Solomon Islands. The author argues that there are still many students out there who do not know that there are still many poor countries that lack economic and security resources in the South Pacific Region, especially in the Solomon Islands.

Weak sources of security, law, economy and government system in Solomon Islands make countries that have power want to control the country. In addition to some of the reasons above, the author is also interested in the dominance of China and Australia in the Region. Considering that both countries have strength in the advanced economic and security fields.

METHOD

The author uses a qualitative research approach as the scientific method. The qualitative approach emphasizes its goals based on an interpretive approach and tries to understand a person's actions, values, beliefs, and decisions.

John W. Cresswell argues that qualitative research is an approach to finding a phenomenon to understand the meaning of several individuals or groups originating from social or humanitarian problems.

According to Norman K Denzin and Yvonna S. Lincoln, qualitative research does not only cover research questions. Qualitative research techniques are focused on group discussions or Focus Group discussions, observation, documentary analysis, and case studies.

The author uses the library research method as his research method because the main focus of this research refers to thoughts and historical events that have

occurred. The research framework or research design study of literature is used to obtain research information, deepen a study of theory and methodology.

Data collection is done by studying, selecting, and collecting data through trusted sources. These trusted sources include journals, articles, ebooks, and other internet sites related to what the author is discussing.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this study, the author uses several theories and concepts. The author uses the theory of foreign policy and international security. K.J Holsti argues that a country issues a policy to achieve personal and state interests.

In general, the foreign policy of a country is carried out so that it can influence the policies of other countries, maintain the national security system, and gain benefits for the country. The purpose of foreign policy is to provide government decisions and actions regarding external affairs, especially regarding problems with foreign countries.

Foreign policy has an important role for a sovereign country to join and the interests of its country can be achieved. The relationship between foreign policy and domestic policy is very close. Howard Lenter argues that foreign policy has three main component concepts, namely having goals to be achieved, having resources, and implementing foreign policy.

And the second is international security.

According to Buzan and Hansen, security and political goals are interrelated. Security theory focuses not only on conventional issues such as defense and alliances, but also deals with issues of trade, democracy, gender equality, and transnational cooperation.

The main vision of security theory is to equalize the degree of humanity. The main focus of security theory in maintaining world peace and human security has used international security theory. Meanwhile, Barry Buzan argues that through his book entitled *people, countries, and fear*, they can challenge the nature of security that has been agreed upon.

Discussion

Solomon Islands Foreign Policy and Security System.

The Solomon Islands is a country located in the South Pacific Region. The Solomon Islands system of government is unitary parliamentary (unicameral) where legislative power is vested in the National Parliament. The head of government of the Solomon Islands is the Prime Minister. Solomon Islands has abundant Natural Resources (SDA).

The lack of law enforcement officers in the Solomon Islands makes the country often experience conflict. A threat can come from anywhere, especially in a country that is weak in security and the rule of law such as the Solomon Islands.

Solomon Islands needs a strategic place and must have a National Security Strategy (NSS) to protect the nation and ensure the security of its citizens. The purpose of the NSS is to ensure that the interests of a nation are realized properly.

The NSS promises to provide guarantees and make efforts to prevent the entry of foreign parties who make the environment dangerous and the emergence of various kinds of challenges both internally and externally. The national security of a country refers to the system of security, peace, and order of a nation to safeguard and protect the islands, oceans, airspace, people, government, institutions, powers, and constitution.

There are five pillars of national interest, including the first regarding sovereignty, namely protecting territory, society, institutions, and the constitution. The second is a government with guaranteed stability and integrity of government and political system. Third, namely the economy by maintaining economic prosperity and the country's economic resources.

Fourth, people and society where the state must protect its citizens, the culture of society, and the development of the state. And the fifth is the environment by preserving the environment and protecting it. The ease of mobility and the sophistication of a country's technology makes a country that is weak in economy and security easy to influence because the opportunity for him to enter is very easy. To protect the Solomon Islands, it is necessary to establish cooperation both bilaterally and regionally. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs & External Trade (MFAET) has a top priority for developing a comprehensive foreign policy in the Solomon Islands (Corporate Plan 2014-2017). Foreign policy has the aim of increasing the Solomon Islands' presence in the international world by building diplomatic relations with UN member countries that share the same values and interests.

Solomon Islands' foreign policy objectives include promoting a country's democracy by respecting human rights and contributing to effective global governance for the creation of international security.

Collaborate effectively with the United Nations to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to achieve the millennium development goals and to continue the goals of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or the sustainable development of the Solomon Islands after 2015.

Increase engagement and strengthen partnerships with international organizations and aid countries. Enhance and strengthen Cooperation with the European Union (EU). Exploring greater opportunities through good relations with South Pacific

members to build regional cooperation. Increase bilateral cooperation and border issues. Building bilateral technical cooperation.

Australia and Solomon Islands Bilateral Relations and Their Interests.

Bilateral relations between Australia and the Solomon Islands are well established. Australia is one of the largest donor countries in the Pacific Region and particularly in the Solomon Islands. Australia wants to help poor countries in the Pacific Region by promoting social and economic development with countries that engage in bilateral and regional cooperation.

For Australia, having a strong defense and security system can prevent a threat from coming. In the opinion of John Howard: "International law could no longer cope with the changed circumstances confronting the world, where the most likely threat to any nation's sovereignty was non-state terrorism and weak states that cannot impose order over their societies could be vulnerable to terrorist manipulation " (ABC Radio, 2003 in Kabutulaka, 2005: 289).

This means the state will be said to have failed if the government lacks control over the people and their territory. Failure and a power vacuum in a country make it easier for foreign parties to enter and carry out organized crimes such as War and Terror, especially in countries like the Solomon Islands.

The intervention policy carried out by Australia in the Solomon Islands has received approval from members of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) because the conflict can also pose a security threat to Australia. The policy issued by Howard gave Australia a new role as a peacekeeper in the Pacific Region.

Restoring stability in the Solomon Islands is critical to maintaining the security of all member states in the Region. To strengthen its country's security sector and its influence in the Pacific Region, Australia needs a stable Region and strong nations to survive.

Australia's interests in the Solomon Islands are of two kinds. The first is in the security sector. Australia wants to show that its country is a Regional Power with large military power. The second is in the economic sector.

Australia's form of assistance is by sending hundreds of its legal apparatus. RAMSI's priority in the second mission is to restore the rule of law in the Solomon Islands which has been bad due to the conflict, restore the economic and government system, carry out reforms for lawbreakers with prison sentences, and make a follow-up trial agenda related to the conflict that occurred in the Solomon Islands.

From 2009-to 2013 RAMSI had a mission to strengthen its cooperation with the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) and wanted to build a modern, effective, and independent police force to be trusted again by the community. From 2013-to 2017, RAMSI has had a mission to ensure the creation of security and justice for the

people of the Solomon Islands where the law will be carried out fairly regardless of status or position.

Australia's interest in the Solomon Islands is because Australia does not want any country other than him to control its territory. For Australia having a strong security system is the key to resolving the conflict. Australia is ahead of the rest of the Pacific Region. By providing this assistance Australia has the right to determine the security of the Solomon Islands country.

China's Bilateral Relations and the Solomon Islands and Its Foreign Interests.

The bilateral relationship between China and the Solomon Islands is quite strong. The Solomon Islands is a country with abundant natural resources a small economic system and weak laws that make China interested in wanting to exert influence on the Islands.

In May 2013, Solomon Islands prime minister Gordon Lilo stressed that China's rise cannot be ignored, but must be taken into account in trade and foreign relations with the Solomon Islands. In December 2014, Manasseh Sogavare as the new prime minister also signaled a possible shift in bilateral relations with China.

China is one of the developed countries that has a strong economic system in Asia. China's arrival in the Pacific Islands was marked by the second largest investment and economic assistance after Australia. According to a 2017 World Bank report, the Solomon Islands exported \$554.8 million worth of commodities, or two-thirds of its total exports, to China with wood products as its main commodity accounting for 87%.

China expands its influence by implementing cultural policies where China uses its power by directing Action. China implements a one-China policy or a one-China policy. The one-China policy is based on diplomatic relations between China and the United States. Currently, China is the largest donor country with the largest trading partner in the Asian Region. This policy benefits China.

The Influence of China's Presence in Solomon Islands Threats to Australia.

The arrival of China in the South Pacific Region puts Australia's position in jeopardy considering that China is a country with the second-largest economy and security power after America. China assists but also he has his country's great national interests.

The provision of large amounts of aid funds and the presence of Chinese investment in the South Pacific Region, one of which is in the Solomon Islands, has made Australia and China mutually strengthen their influence in the Pacific Region countries.

To prevent China's influence in Pacific Region countries. Australia is strengthening its foreign aid to countries in the Pacific Region by providing aid of \$4 billion per year. Because these threats can potentially threaten the stability of the country, as well as espionage activities that can be carried out to ensure a better level of security. In addition, the potential threat posed by China is based on the fact that China's military power is far greater than Australia's. China, which is the country with the largest population in the world, makes China have a large military force. This indicates how much potential China has.

Especially in winning conflicts and wars. Based on research data from the GFP-global listing (Global Fire Power), regarding China's industry and military capabilities, China is the country with the 3rd largest military power based on the PwrIndx rating of 0.00673 (0.000 being perfect). Meanwhile, Australia is in the 19th position of the country with the largest military strength in the world based on the PwrIndx rating of 0.3277 (0.000 being perfect).

China's military power is also a potential threat to Australia as seen by the allocation of funds given by China to its military which continues to increase from 179.88 million USD in 2013 and in 2017 it increased by 227.82 million USD. Meanwhile, the allocation of funds used by Australia for its military was around 24.82 million USD and increased to 27.69 million USD.

Analysis

The conflict that occurred in the Solomon Islands from 1998-to 2003 was not ordinary. The conflict led to infrastructure damage, acts of harassment, corruption, and coups. Due to the ongoing conflict, in 2003 Australia agreed to assist the Solomon Islands in resolving the conflict using the intervention.

For Australia, having a strong defense and security system can prevent a threat from coming. Giving, maintaining, protecting the security of society is the duty of the state. People get their rights freely, are protected from harm, get prosperity, and peace is the meaning of security. The state is obliged to protect the national security of its country to avoid conflict. The main key to preventing conflict is to have a strong military and security forces

In 2003, Australia changed its mind and changed its policies according to John Howard. Theoretically, K.J. Holsti argues that foreign policy is an action made to solve a problem in a country. Three kinds of policies according to K.J. Holsti, namely the first is the value used to make a policy that is carried out based on the main goals of a country.

The second is the time when achieving a policy goal must be taken into account. And the third is the demand for goals for countries that issue a policy. Based on the results of the above explanation, Australia changed its foreign policy because the

Solomon Islands was experiencing a prolonged conflict where the condition of the country was almost a failed state.

Solomon Islands' insecurity will have dire consequences for the rest of the South Pacific Region. Given that the area has a variety of natural resources and tourism resources are so abundant.

As stated Buzan and Hansen in their theory, they argue that five security sectors need to be considered in international security, namely: First, in the military sector in the Solomon Islands case, the arrival of China can pose a threat to Australia, especially that China's military power exceeds Australia's military strength.

Second, in the political sector, the emergence of China as a candidate for assisting in the Solomon Islands has had an impact on the country's political sector. This signifies a change in the political currents of the Solomon Islands, which previously cooperated with Taiwan.

Third, in the environmental sector. Fourth, in the economic sector where China is an important country for the Solomon Islands because both are bilateral partners in the economic sector. And finally, in the social sector. The defense and security system of a country must ensure the security of a nation-state. New problems re-emerged when China carried out bilateral cooperation relations with the South Pacific Region. China expands its influence by implementing cultural policies where China uses its power by directing actions.

China provides so much economic assistance because it wants to strengthen the trading system and increase infrastructure development as Australia did. China also provides military assistance and wants to expand its investment in natural resources. To support its action, China implemented the One China (One China) policy.

With China's presence in the Solomon Islands, Australia's position is threatened. In this case, China's potential threat can be seen from its position and strength. The potential threat posed by China is based on the fact that China's military power is much larger than Australia's.

This indicates how much potential China has in winning conflicts and wars. China's military power is also a potential threat to Australia, seen by the allocation of funds provided by China.

China's aid to Solomon Islands military forces continues to increase. Since 2013 China has assisted 179.88 million USD. Meanwhile, in 2017, it increased by 227.82 million USD. While the allocation of funds used by Australia for Solomon Islands military forces is only around 24.82 million USD. Then now it has increased to 27.69 million USD.

Australia is strengthening its foreign aid to countries in the Pacific Region by providing aid of \$4 billion per year. This prevention was carried out by Australia

because it was to protect and support the creation of security, stability, prosperity, and resilience in the Pacific Region.

CONCLUSION

Giving, maintaining, protecting the security of society is the duty of the state. People get their rights freely, are protected from harm, get prosperity, and peace is the meaning of security. The main key to preventing conflict is to have a strong military and security forces.

In 2003, Australia established the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) as a form of assistance to assist the Solomon Islands in resolving the conflict. RAMSI was formed with the approval of the Pacific Island Forum (PIF) using the principles of the Biketawa Declaration.

RAMSI's mission went well. RAMSI succeeded in restoring the system of government, law, security, and economy in the Solomon Islands. In Pitfalls' book entitled "Rethinking Ethical Foreign Policy," it is explained that the actions of a country are based on moral considerations and the national interest of the country.

The foreign policy of a country has an important influence on a sovereign country so that the interests of its country can be achieved because the relationship between foreign policy and domestic policy is very close and makes a country defend itself in international politics. The improving economic and security system in the country, makes China want to invest there.

China overthrew the Taiwanese government to gain recognition from countries in the Pacific Region. The rapid economic growth in the Solomon Islands has made China interested in cooperating. China is one of the developed countries that has a strong economic system in Asia.

China's arrival in the Pacific Islands was marked by the second largest investment and economic assistance after Australia. China is a very important trading partner for the Solomon Islands. According to a 2017 World Bank report, the Solomon Islands exported \$554.8 million worth of commodities, or two-thirds of its total exports, to China with wood products as its main commodity accounting for 87 percent.

China's influence in the Pacific Region can form an espionage threat that can be done in China influence is successful. To maintain its position in the Pacific Region, Australia is strengthening its foreign aid to countries in the Pacific Region by providing aid of \$4 billion per year.

This can be seen as a firm stance taken by Australia to maintain the stability of its territory from potential bad threats that have the potential to threaten the stability of the country, as well as espionage activities that can be carried out to ensure a better level of security.

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