AN OVERVIEW OF JAPAN-INDONESIA MARITIME SECURITY IN INDO PACIFIC REGION

Siti Nurjannah
International Relations, University of Darussalam Gontor, Ponorogo, Indonesia
sitinurjannah41@student.hi.unida.gontor.acid

Dwi Ardiyanti
International Relations, University of Darussalam Gontor, Ponorogo, Indonesia
dwi.ardiyanti@unida.gontor.ac.id

Kajoba Abdul Rahim Abdallah
International Relations, International Islamic University Malaysia, Selangor, Malaysia
kajoba2018@gmail.com

Sofi Mubarak
International Relations, University of Darussalam Gontor, Ponorogo, Indonesia
sofimubarok@unida.gontor.ac.id

Abstrak
Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis peran kebijakan luar negeri Indonesia dan Jepang dalam menjaga stabilitas keamanan maritim di kawasan Indo-Pasifik. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah deskriptif kualitatif dan studi kepustakaan, serta teori neorealisme, konsep kepentingan nasional dan keamanan maritim. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Indonesia menitikberatkan kebijakan maritimnya pada pengelolaan sumber daya laut secara berkelanjutan dan penguatan kerja sama regional, sedangkan Jepang mengusung konsep Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) yang berfokus pada kebebasan navigasi dan stabilitas perdagangan maritim. Temuan penelitian menegaskan bahwa meskipun memiliki pendekatan berbeda, kedua negara memiliki kepentingan bersama dalam memastikan stabilitas kawasan melalui kerja sama bilateral dan regiona.

Abstract
This study aims to analyze the role of Indonesian and Japanese foreign policies in maintaining maritime security stability in the Indo-Pacific region. The research method used is qualitative descriptive and literature study, as well as neorealism theory, the concept of national interest and maritime security. The results of the study show that Indonesia emphasizes its maritime policy on sustainable management of marine resources and strengthening regional cooperation, while Japan carries the concept of Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) which focuses on freedom of navigation and maritime trade stability. The research findings confirm that despite having different approaches, both countries have a common interest in ensuring regional stability through bilateral and regional cooperation.

INTRODUCTION

The Indo-Pacific region is one of the world's most biodiverse areas, encompassing the tropical waters of the Indian Ocean, as well as the central and western Pacific, along with the inland seas of Indonesia and the Philippines. This region stretches from the east and west coasts of the Red Sea to the outer islands of Micronesia, Malaysia, Polynesia, and Indonesia. Its northern boundary reaches the northern tip of the South Korean peninsula, extends from Japan to Hawaii, and sweeps down to the southern boundary at the southern tip of Africa, Shark Bay in Western Australia, and Sydney on the east coast. This marine area is renowned for its extraordinarily high biodiversity, with approximately 3,000 species of fish and around 500 species of coral. This rich diversity is particularly evident in the Indo-Central Pacific ecoregion, where two oceans converge, featuring numerous coral reefs and mangrove forests, including the Coral Triangle. Despite the vast potential for economic growth, trade, maritime connectivity, and the use of natural resources, the region also faces numerous challenges.

The Indo-Pacific region is currently a key focus of international discussions and has the potential to become a significant regional power. This is largely due to its strategically important maritime zones, which serve as major transit routes for international trade. However, these trade routes also make the area vulnerable to various forms of crime, including synthetic drug trafficking, cybercrime, piracy, ship hijacking, and other threats to security, the economy, and the environment. Such challenges jeopardize the sustainable development of countries in the region. As a result, nations within the Indo-Pacific are collaborating to advance their national interests, benefiting both major and minor countries in the area.

As the world's largest maritime nation, Indonesia is a strong advocate for the Indo-Pacific concept to support its national interests and aims to establish itself as a global maritime center. This ambition requires a broad international reach to effectively implement its foreign policy. The central idea behind the Indo-Pacific strategy is to connect the two oceans that converge in Indonesia, positioning the country as a vital player in this geopolitical cooperation. Maritime collaboration is essential for the development of the Indo-Pacific framework, and Indonesia is committed to enhancing such cooperation through organizations like the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and the East Asia Summit (EAS). Additionally, Indonesia takes the lead among

An Overview of Japan-Indonesia Maritime Security in Indo Pacific Region
Siti Nurjannah, Dwi Ardiyanti, Kajoba Abdul Rahim Abdallah & Sofi Mubarak

164

ASEAN countries in developing the ASEAN Indo-Pacific Outlook (AOIP). President Joko Widodo has emphasized that the maritime economy is a crucial element of infrastructure development, particularly concerning maritime routes.

This initiative aims to enhance economic resilience at sea, thereby increasing the efficiency of economic processes. Presenting economic interests also involves addressing state security interests, as political, economic, and security considerations should mutually support one another. For example, the construction of a sea highway designed to assist Indonesian households must be backed by maritime security measures to prevent disruption from foreign merchant ships and pirates in Indonesian waters

In addition to Indonesia, Japan, as a key player in the Indo-Pacific region, also plays a significant role in maintaining regional security and defense. Japan's interests in the Indo-Pacific encompass stability and prosperity from East Asia to South Asia and Africa—regions with substantial economic potential and security concerns. Japan's involvement is particularly evident in its efforts to counter China's increasingly proactive approach to implementing the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Currently, Japan is more engaged in diplomacy and is developing mature strategies as a response to China's growing influence. Consequently, the concept of establishing a peaceful maritime zone from Asia to Africa must be pursued. To achieve this, Japan is collaborating with the United States, India, and Australia. Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe articulated his vision for creating a trade network in the Indo-Pacific region during his speech to the Indian Parliament at the Two Seas Summit in 2007. This vision emphasizes the establishment of open and transparent business networks that facilitate the free movement of goods, capital, information, and labor, fostering a climate of freedom and prosperity. The idea was further endorsed by several stakeholders, including the U.S. Secretary of State, who emphatically stated the importance of realizing a free and open Indo-Pacific. Support from various parties has ultimately strengthened Japan's resolve to enhance cooperative relations with the Quartet, leading to continued collaboration through initiatives such as RCEP, anti-piracy efforts, environmental protection, drug trafficking prevention, health and sanitation cooperation, as well as cultural exchanges.

The Indo-Pacific region necessitates significant investment in internal coordination and advocacy. Shinzo Abe also articulated the concept of a free and open Indo-Pacific as a vision aimed at achieving prosperity at sea within a geostrategic context

The geographical, geopolitical, and geostrategic similarities between Japan and Indonesia translate into a mutual commitment to maintain defense and security by enhancing the understanding and capabilities of both nations to address maritime challenges that disrupt the status quo. To achieve maritime objectives, Indonesia, Japan, and other like-minded countries must ensure that key maritime relations and trade remain open and stable. Freedom of navigation is closely linked to democratic values. Governed by governance rather than coercion, freedom of navigation guarantees equal rights and access to maritime areas, upholding the principle that no nation holds superiority over another. Underpinned by democratic principles and a common purpose, this framework promotes the values associated with freedom of navigation.

Several studies have explored maritime security and foreign policy dynamics in the Indo-Pacific region. For example, Till (2018) highlights how the Indo-Pacific has emerged as a contested maritime space where regional and global powers, including the United States, China, and Japan, compete for influence. Similarly, Bateman (2020) argues that non-traditional security threats, such as piracy and illegal fishing, require stronger multilateral cooperation among Indo-Pacific nations. These studies emphasize the importance of maritime security but often focus on great power competition, leaving gaps in understanding the role of middle powers like Indonesia and Japan in shaping regional maritime governance.

Furthermore, Emmers (2019) discusses ASEAN's role in the Indo-Pacific, highlighting the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) as a strategic framework to promote regional security cooperation. However, there is limited research on how Japan and Indonesia collaborate within this framework to address shared security challenges. While Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) strategy has been widely studied, e.g. by Green (2021), fewer studies explore its practical implications for bilateral maritime security cooperation with Indonesia.

Given this context, this study aims to fill the gap by examining the maritime security partnership between Indonesia and Japan, particularly within the Indo-Pacific

An Overview of Japan-Indonesia Maritime Security in Indo Pacific Region
Siti Nurjannah, Dwi Ardiyanti, Kajoba Abdul Rahim Abdallah & Sofi Mubarak

166

framework. It seeks to analyze how both countries navigate regional security challenges, coordinate their policies, and contribute to broader multilateral efforts to maintain stability. By addressing this research gap, this study will provide insights into the evolving maritime security architecture of the Indo-Pacific and the role of regional middle powers in ensuring its sustainability.

The geographical, geopolitical, and geostrategic similarities between Japan and Indonesia translate into a mutual commitment to maintaining defense and security by enhancing the understanding and capabilities of both nations to address maritime challenges that disrupt the status quo. To achieve maritime objectives, Indonesia, Japan, and other like-minded countries must ensure that key maritime relations and trade remain open and stable. Freedom of navigation is closely linked to democratic values. Governed by governance rather than coercion, freedom of navigation guarantees equal rights and access to maritime areas, upholding the principle that no nation holds superiority over another. Underpinned by democratic principles and a common purpose, this framework promotes the values associated with freedom of navigation.

Given the context outlined above, the question arises: What is the nature of Indonesia and Japan's maritime foreign policy concerning the Indo-Pacific region

ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK
Neorealism

Kenneth Waltz through "The Theory of International Politics" (1988) explains that the anarchic nature of the international world order prepares countries to face various situations, as the potential for war exists at any time. The principle of self-reliance is crucial in this anarchic environment, leading each country to take all necessary measures to enhance its security. Waltz argues that a balance of power is the most effective way to maintain an anarchic international order. This balance arises when countries strive for survival within the anarchic system, prompting regional efforts to establish a power equilibrium.

Countries can pursue a balance of power in two ways: through internal balance by enhancing military capabilities and defense policies, and through external balance by strengthening alliances with other nations

Waltz also identifies two significant factors that lead to competition or conflict in an anarchic system (Waltz, 1988). First, the absence of overarching law creates a situation where countries feel compelled to secure themselves. Second, the presence of threats or potential threats to state security heightens this necessity.

This framework highlights that states identify threats and use their power to respond to them. Different countries implement various strategies to safeguard their security. For example, the growing emphasis on maritime defense and security policies by Indonesia and Japan each year reflects their commitment to self-reliance and enhancing their roles within the anarchic international order. Their evolving defense strategies demonstrate how their decisions are significantly shaped by the current conditions of the international system.

National Interest

To analyze a country's behavior, one of the most important concepts used is national interest. In this research, the author adopts a neorealist perspective on the definition of national interests. It's important to note that the neorealist concept of national interest differs from the realist perspective. Kenneth Waltz, a prominent figure in neorealism, argues that national interests arise from the structure of the international system, compelling states to respond to events in a certain way. Contrary to Hans Morgenthau's view, national interest serves as a guiding principle for heads of state in shaping foreign policy. Essentially, a nation seeks to ensure its survival by effectively responding to the international environment. While states can exert influence within the international system, they cannot completely dominate it. In an anarchic system, survival is the primary objective every country must pursue.

Several fundamental elements must be considered: each country can influence the system but cannot control it; survival is the foremost national interest that the state must prioritize above all else; and a country's capacity to provide security is determined by its relative strength rather than its absolute strength. States align their actions with their national interests, particularly when security is a central focus of their policies. Each nation formulates its policies, viewing all actions as reactions to the anarchic system to avoid falling into perilous situations.

According to Waltz (1988) maximizing relative power is the most effective strategy for a nation to survive in an anarchic international system. Other advantages can

An Overview of Japan-Indonesia Maritime Security in Indo Pacific Region
Siti Nurjannah, Dwi Ardiyanti, Kajoba Abdul Rahim Abdallah & Sofi Mubarak

168

easily be secured by addressing the country's fundamental needs related to maintaining sovereignty and territorial integrity (Ayu, 2019).

National interests can be categorized into various types: Primary interests focus on protecting the survival of the state, its political identity, culture, and the nation from external threats. These interests are often upheld at significant cost, and their attainment is never compromised. Secondary interests, are those that, while not primary, are still important for progress, such as ensuring the safety of citizens abroad and maintaining diplomatic immunity. Fixed interests are stable over time and do not change frequently. Floating interests, are conditional and relevant at specific times. General interests, are those that are applicable across many countries or specific sectors, such as in business and other areas

Maritime Security

Maritime security is a component of national security and defense, influenced by a country's overall national security practices. It can be understood through a matrix of relationships with concepts such as maritime defense, maritime economy, and maritime resilience. Using Safety Practice Theory, we

can analyze how maritime stakeholders work to enhance safety at sea. Barry Buzan's *Analytical Framework for Information Security Analysis* provides valuable insights in this area.

The concept of maritime security exists at the intersection of traditional and non-traditional security frameworks. Traditional frameworks view violations of maritime security as threats to a country's sovereignty and identity. In contrast, non-traditional frameworks expand the security discourse to include broader issues that may also impact sovereignty and identity.

Hoyt suggests that both perspectives only tell part of the story. Traditional schools of thought often overemphasize military factors in security discussions, while non-traditional approaches can be too broad, making it challenging to distinguish security issues from public order concerns. Following a purely non-traditional perspective may render security research irrelevant. Timothy emphasizes the importance of reaching a consensus on what constitutes a security issue, suggesting that violent conflict is central to this conversation. Understanding violent conflict necessitates a comprehensive view of both military and non-military factors that contribute to it, and this analysis

must consider whether the context is international, intra-national, or cross-border (Vladd, 2019).

Maritime security involves four key concepts: naval strength, maritime safety, maritime economy, and human security (Centre for Strategic and International Studies, 2020). The term "navy" refers to the combined role of various national naval forces that are responsible for maintaining national continuity, securing trade routes, and promoting economic growth. Maritime safety pertains to the protection of vessels and their equipment, with the primary objective of ensuring the safety of maritime professionals and safeguarding the environment.

Maritime security is also crucial for economic development, as it plays a significant role in trade and fisheries. The sea is rich in natural resources, including oil, natural gas, and minerals. Additionally, sea tourism serves as an important source of income. Finally, human security is linked to maritime security, encompassing essential elements such as food availability, shelter, sustainable livelihoods, and access to employment opportunities.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study utilizes a descriptive qualitative research method, focusing on the stability of Indonesia and Japan's maritime defense and security policies in the Indo-Pacific region from a citizen perspective. By employing qualitative methods, the research aims to better understand the application of existing guidelines and improve control over the research process.

A normative legal approach is also used to analyze Indonesia's and Japan's defense policies based on their national interests and to compare their maritime security strategies. Additionally, a systematic review method summarizes various relevant articles. The research relies on secondary information, including studies, scientific articles, publications, and online news sources.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS
Defense Stability and Maritime Security in the Indo-Pacific

A comparison of maritime policies between Indonesia and Japan in the Indo-Pacific region reveals two distinct but complementary approaches. Indonesia, as a maritime nation with thousands of islands, emphasizes sustainable management of marine resources, protection of the maritime environment, and increased regional cooperation to tackle common challenges such as illegal fishing and piracy. Conversely, Japan focuses on the Free and

An Overview of Japan-Indonesia Maritime Security in Indo Pacific Region
Siti Nurjannah, Dwi Ardiyanti, Kajoba Abdul Rahim Abdallah & Sofi Mubarak

170

Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) concept, which underscores the importance of freedom of navigation and maritime trade in the region, as well as enhancing security presence to maintain stability.

Despite these differences, both countries share a commitment to strengthening bilateral and regional cooperation through forums such as the Indonesia-Japan Maritime Forum (IJMF). This platform facilitates the exchange of information, technology, and experiences to enhance maritime capacity and security in the Indo-Pacific region. Ultimately, a comparison of the maritime policies of Indonesia and Japan highlights the diversity of their approaches while also showcasing their joint efforts to address challenges and promote stability in this increasingly significant maritime area.

Indonesian Policy on Defense Stability and Maritime Security in the Indo- Pacific

Indonesia is one of the Indo-Pacific countries experiencing significant growth in natural wealth. Its primary interests lie in maintaining stability in the Indo-Pacific region while supporting economic growth and national security. Indonesia seeks to prevent any country from dictating the political, economic, or security landscape of the area. The context of the Indo-Pacific inherently positions Indonesia and Southeast Asia as pivotal regional centers linking the Pacific and Indian Ocean regions. As a developing country, Indonesia cannot solely depend on military strength to influence regional conditions that align with its national interests. Thus, its regional policy emphasizes cooperation agreements, mechanisms, and institutions that unite large, medium, and small countries to safeguard their collective interests. This cooperation framework promotes mutually beneficial partnerships and addresses potential conflicts, distrust, suspicion, and other threats.

Indonesia's role in both regional and global dynamics is articulated in four key policy documents that highlight its commitment to being a leader in Southeast Asia. These include the Indonesian Declaration on the World Maritime Axis (2014), the Foreign Strategic Plan (2014-2019), the Annual Press Release by Minister of Foreign Affairs Retno LP, and the Joint Communiqué from the 51st ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Singapore (August 2, 2018). The World Maritime Axis Declaration is a proactive measure aimed at reinforcing

Indonesia's position as an archipelagic nation connecting the Pacific and Indian Oceans. The geopolitical ambitions of major powers like the United States and China impact Indonesia's sovereignty over its waters, which must be respected and protected.

Indonesia seeks to achieve two main objectives: gaining international recognition of its identity as an archipelagic nation under international law and enhancing its strategic role in the Indo-Pacific region. Furthermore, Indonesia aims to foster inter-island relations that ultimately strengthen its sovereignty over these waters. Its unique position and ability to maintain balanced relations with key countries create opportunities for cooperation built on shared goals, such as ensuring the prosperity and stability of the Indo-Pacific region. Indonesia also leverages the competition between larger nations to promote collaborative efforts for various interests. For instance, it has engaged in projects like the construction of the Jakarta-Bandung toll road with China, the Patimban port with Japan, and the Sabang port with India. Strategic cooperation with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, highlighted by his visit in June 2018, has become crucial for the stability of the Indo-Pacific region. This visit signifies India's commitment to the Look East policy (Damayanti, 2017).

The President of the Republic of Indonesia has prioritized outward-facing policies and enhanced Indonesia's presence on the international stage. This initiative aims to improve the country's economic conditions by adopting a maritime perspective and focusing on internal political views through the establishment of a strong national foundation. The era of President Joko Widodo's administration is regarded as a turning point because his policies emphasize reviving Indonesia's identity as a maritime nation. This shift has been influenced by the emergence of non-traditional external issues, including border disputes, environmental concerns, migrant worker issues, and human trafficking, which have all taken on maritime dimensions that were not previously considered relevant. These external factors compel Indonesia to adapt its foreign policy to address these challenges and protect its citizens by fostering strong relations with neighboring countries and reinforcing Indonesia's status as a maritime nation.

Under the principles of a free, active, and robust foreign policy, President Joko Widodo's foreign policy objectives include the following: prioritizing Indonesia's identity as an archipelagic nation in diplomatic efforts and international

An Overview of Japan-Indonesia Maritime Security in Indo Pacific Region
Siti Nurjannah, Dwi Ardiyanti, Kajoba Abdul Rahim Abdallah & Sofi Mubarak

172

cooperation; strengthening Indonesia's global role through middle-power diplomacy, positioning the country as a regional and global influence while focusing on issues directly tied to national interests; expanding regional engagement in the Indo-Pacific region; and formulating and implementing foreign policies that acknowledge the role, aspirations, and involvement of society (Dwipratama, 2023).

As the initiator of the ASEAN Indo-Pacific Perspective (AOIP), Indonesia recognizes the significance of this approach from a security standpoint, particularly in defense cooperation with ASEAN Dialogue partners—contributing to global peace and prosperity. The AOIP also aims to advance the interests of Indo-Pacific nations in sustaining peace, security, and prosperity through ASEAN's crucial and strategic role. This aligns with evolving geopolitical dynamics that seek to maintain regional stability. Through the AOIP, ASEAN countries promote dialogue, mutual trust, and win-win solutions. Additionally, the goals and principles of AOIP guide ASEAN's activities in the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions, encouraging non-ASEAN partners to practically cooperate in four main areas.

One of these areas is maritime cooperation, which encompasses peaceful dispute resolution, strengthening maritime security, ensuring freedom of navigation and overflight, and combating international crime. Other focuses include sustainable management of marine natural resources, addressing marine environmental issues, and technical collaboration in marine science. Indonesia's initiative introduced the concept of the Indo-Pacific region, reflecting the nation's commitment to a free and active diplomacy that strives to create peace initiatives. This is comparable to the Djuanda Declaration of 1957 and Indonesia's involvement in the formulation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in 1982.

Indonesia has proactively confirmed its initiative to foster free, open, inclusive, and comprehensive cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, supporting the mechanisms developed by ASEAN as the most viable institutional option for achieving these goals. Concurrently, President Joko Widodo's administration aims to connect these foreign policy initiatives with Indonesia's national interests, including its claim to sovereignty over waters linking the Pacific and Indian Oceans. From a national interest perspective,

advancing Indo-Pacific cooperation as the world's maritime axis can be viewed as an effort to expand the diplomatic arena beyond ASEAN while mitigating China's actions in the South China Sea that may undermine UNCLOS precedents. If the ASEAN framework is utilized to institutionalize Indo-Pacific cooperation, the resulting political outcomes or agreements will likely be non-binding recommendations rather than enforceable commitments. This minimalist outcome is still preferable to power politics, which could foster regional instability and hinder economic growth in the Indo-Pacific region.

-**Japan's Policy on Defense Stability and Maritime Security in the Indo-Pacific**

Japan has a long and complex historical relationship with the Indo-Pacific region, which has evolved from colonial times to the present day. During World War II, Japan colonized a significant portion of the Indo-Pacific, including Korea, Taiwan, China, the Philippines, Indonesia, and most of the Pacific Islands, in an attempt to expand its power. After losing the war, Japan was occupied by the Allies and underwent demilitarization and denazification. Additionally, Japan renounced most of the territories it had previously colonized. In

1947, Japan adopted a new constitution that committed to renouncing military force as a policy tool, prioritizing peace and international cooperation instead.

Following its post-war recovery, Japan focused on economic development and emerged as one of the world's largest economic powers. Japan actively engages in various regional forums, such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), to promote economic and political collaboration in the Indo-Pacific. Through its Official Development Assistance (ODA) program, Japan has significantly contributed to infrastructure projects and social development in the region, offering development assistance, investment, and technical cooperation.

Japan has established strong security ties with several Indo-Pacific countries, particularly the United States. As a key partner in maintaining regional stability, Japan has participated in international peace and security operations. Recently, Japan has adopted a more active foreign policy, seeking to play a greater role in supporting regional stability and peace. This approach includes strengthening cooperation with countries such as Australia and India. Japan continues to enhance its relations with Indo-Pacific

An Overview of Japan-Indonesia Maritime Security in Indo Pacific Region
Siti Nurjannah, Dwi Ardiyanti, Kajoba Abdul Rahim Abdallah & Sofi Mubarak

174

nations through dialogue focused on political, economic, and security matters, while also establishing a stronger alliance with the United States and increasing cooperation with ASEAN countries and India. Overall, Japan has transformed from its colonial past into a more positive force in the Indo-Pacific, positioning itself as a leader in promoting peace, stability, and cooperation in the region, with an emphasis on economic development and strong partnerships.

The ever-evolving international system has prompted countries to adjust their adaptive capabilities, often in response to threats. This can influence nations like Japan to bolster their defense systems both directly and indirectly. Japan's defeat in World War II and its submission to the Potsdam Declaration led to Article 9 in its Constitution, which designates Japan as a pacifist state with limitations on its military activities. Consequently, the Japanese military has had to focus solely on the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF), which are stationed on several islands around Japan and are not permitted to operate overseas. The JSDF is specifically designed for defense and security purposes due to the constraints imposed by Article 9.

Shinzo Abe, during his tenure as Prime Minister, was known for his nationalist stance and advocated for an expansion of Japan's military role. Japan's pacifist constitution restricts military power to defensive purposes only. However, in light of the volatile conditions in the Asia-Pacific region, Abe argued that these restrictions were no longer viable. He believed that regional stability was essential for Japan, independent of the US security umbrella. Consequently, Abe sponsored a bill aimed at broadening Japan's military capabilities, which passed in the House of Councillors on December 19, 2015, by a vote of 149 to 90. This new defense legislation marked a shift in Japan's national status, allowing the country to send troops overseas and eliminate geographic barriers to provide logistical support in situations significantly affecting Japan's security.

The South China Sea conflict represents one of the major tensions in Southeast Asia and the Indo-Pacific region. Japan has taken steps to support countries involved in these disputes, including Vietnam, to which Japan promised six patrol boats during Abe's visit to Southeast Asia. In 2016, Japan increased its presence in the South China Sea through air patrols utilizing

Japanese P-3C aircraft, collaborating with nations such as the Philippines and Vietnam. Japan also provided ten patrol boats to the Philippines to enhance maritime safety and law enforcement in the area. In this intricate system of international interdependence, Asian nations remain dependent on cooperative relations with China, leading Japan to be cautious about deeper involvement in the Indo-Pacific. This situation prompts Japan to reassess its foreign policy in response to the prevailing international dynamics. Instead of clearly aligning against a specific threat or following the lead of an emerging power, many nations are opting to manage risks amid uncertain strategic circumstances.

The necessity for stability in the Asia-Pacific region is reflected in Japan's cooperation with various regional countries. The enhancement of Japan's military capabilities is indicative of its normalization of military power, a shift that may also prompt China to bolster its own defense and security measures. Since 2014, Japan has steadily increased its military budget, allocating 4.78 trillion yen in 2014, 4.82 trillion yen in 2015, 4.86 trillion yen in 2016, and 4.9 trillion yen in 2017. This increase has been driven by the need to cover maintenance costs, equipment development, and research and development across all branches of the Japan Self-Defense Forces, including the Ground Self-Defense Force, the Maritime Self-Defense Force, and the Air Self-Defense Force.

Japan has expressed its concerns to China regarding the South China Sea dispute, which could escalate tensions in the region and amplify confrontations among the nations involved. A reinterpretation of Japan's pacifist constitution has allowed the country to play a more proactive role in the Asia-Pacific, responding to the rising tensions surrounding the South China Sea. The significance of this region necessitates Japan's support for countries in conflict with China, especially in light of China's assertiveness and the development of offensive military capabilities that threaten regional stability.

Waltz posits that, aside from the anarchy inherent in the international system, stability hinges not only on whether the system is bipolar or multipolar but also on the presence of fixed poles within that system. The behavior of these poles can lead to changes in the international landscape, while security stability can be threatened at any time. Barry Buzan defines security as an interconnected phenomenon, asserting that the security of a country or region must be

An Overview of Japan-Indonesia Maritime Security in Indo Pacific Region
Siti Nurjannah, Dwi Ardiyanti, Kajoba Abdul Rahim Abdallah & Sofi Mubarak

176

understood in light of the interdependence patterns related to the security of neighboring countries.

From a regional perspective, Japan plays a crucial role in maintaining the presence of the United States in the Indo-Pacific region. By fostering a strong alliance with the U.S., Japan aims to promote regional stability. This alliance not only addresses the threat posed by China but also serves as a countermeasure against North Korea, which is actively expanding its nuclear capabilities. Strengthening alliances is also closely related to Japan's commitment to pacifism. War is more likely to occur in environments characterized by an imbalance of power. Echoing Waltz's perspective, states may resort to war to fulfill essential needs such as security, particularly as the international order becomes increasingly anarchic, allowing states to engage in conflict even without provocation. By enhancing its defense capabilities, Japan can fortify its cooperation with the United States and work towards achieving a balance of power in the Asia-Pacific region.

Analysis of Japanese Maritime Policy in the Indo-Pacific Region

During World War II, Japan colonized much of the Indo-Pacific region, including Korea, Taiwan, China, the Philippines, Indonesia, and many Pacific Islands. Following its defeat in the war, Japan was occupied by the Allies and underwent a process of demilitarization and denazification. After recovering from the devastation of the war, Japan focused on economic development and emerged as one of the world's largest economic powers. The country actively participates in various regional forums, such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), to promote economic and political cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

In the late 1970s and 1980s, Japan began to assume a more active role in maintaining maritime security in the Indo-Pacific. This included contributing to the escort of international trade ships. Japan has also been proactive in promoting maritime cooperation in the region through economic diplomacy and development assistance.

Japan maintains close security relations with several Indo-Pacific countries, particularly Indonesia. It serves as an important partner in ensuring security stability within the region and has

contributed to international peace and security operations. Japan's increasingly active foreign policy focuses on playing a greater role in supporting regional stability and peace, which includes enhancing cooperation with countries like Australia and India. Additionally, Japan has invested in infrastructure development in the Indo-Pacific through initiatives such as the Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP), which aims to promote stability, economic growth, and the rule of law.

From the discussion of politics in Indonesia and Japan, it is evident that the main difference lies in their national interests. Both countries have established interest groups. Indonesia seeks to create conditions in the Indo-Pacific that foster economic growth and national security while realizing its vision of becoming a world maritime axis alongside other countries. The Indo-Pacific region is crucial for regional and global prosperity, as it serves as a vital trade network connecting Asia, North and South America, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. This broad interest necessitates that Indonesia effectively manage its foreign policy to exert greater influence in the region.

Meanwhile, Japan is implementing various policies to stabilize maritime defense and security in the Indo-Pacific region by establishing cooperation with superpower countries and also ASEAN as it faces China, which is reviving its military strategy. The policies made by Japan are a reflection of the interests that Japan wants to achieve. One of the basic interests that Japan wants to achieve based on this policy is to survive. In this case, the survival that Japan wants to achieve lies in the economic situation. Where this interest is used to increase Japan's relative strength to balance China in the East Asian region. This sparked Japan's interest in expanding stability and prosperity to the Indo-Pacific region from East Asia to South Asia and Africa, which has great economic potential and safe roads and seas. China's activities which repeatedly attacking territorial waters, exploring for oil and gas, building artificial islands, hit fishing vessels and surveillance ships, which cause great concern, are the reasons why Japan can be involved in maintaining the stability of the defense and security of China and other countries. in accordance. Therefore, Japan had no choice but to respond to China's naval advances by countering them and their attempts to use force to change the status quo. In addition to increasing the budget for military defense forces and the Coast Guard, Japan should also strengthen its alliance with the United States and other allied networks to help build

An Overview of Japan-Indonesia Maritime Security in Indo Pacific Region
Siti Nurjannah, Dwi Ardiyanti, Kajoba Abdul Rahim Abdallah & Sofi Mubarak

178

allied capabilities. Japan also continues to collaborate in the fields of RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership), anti-piracy, environment, conservation, drug trafficking, health and sanitation, cultural exchange, etc., especially in the Indo-Pacific region (Aris, 2022).

CONCLUSION

The 21st century presents both opportunities and challenges for international relations. As a result, countries like Indonesia and Japan are competing with each other from various angles to stay in line with the constantly changing political dynamics. Adjustments to policy must be based on the national interests of each leadership group at any given time. The observations regarding national interests, as outlined in the previous section, were gathered through this research.

Given that political dynamics evolve, it is essential to develop appropriate solutions that adhere to more modern policies capable of addressing current issues while considering both internal and external factors. Consequently, Indonesia and Japan have ranked their national interests under regional conditions and the specific problems and issues faced by their countries. Although defense and security cooperation between

Indonesia and Japan was established before the presidencies of Joko Widodo and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, much of this collaboration primarily focused on non-traditional security issues.

REFERENCES

Aldino, F. F. (2020). Pengembangan Wilayah Maritim Indonesia Studi Kasus: Kerjasama Indonesia Dengan China. *Jurnal Hubungan Internasional*, 1-15.

Alfatih, M. M. (2019, July 31). Remilitarisasi Jepang Pada Masa pemerintahan Shinza Abe Sebagai Tanggapan Terhadap Perkembangan Regional Asia Timur. *Jurnal Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik*, 1-31.

Ardiansyah, M. D. (2017). Kepentingan Jepang Memabngun Pangkalan Militer Di Djibouti 2011. *Jurnal Ilmu Hubungan Internasional*, 1-120.

Aris, T. (2022, July 26). Pemahaman Terhadap Maritime Security, Maritime Safety dan Maritime Defense Serta Perbedaannya Dalam Konsep Keamanan Nasional. *Jurnal Ilmiah Kemaritiman Nusantara, II*, 1-12. Retrieved from https://ejournal.amc.ac.id/ind

Ayu, A. F. (2019). Upaya Jepang Di Bawah Pemerintahan Shinzo Abe Dalam Meningkatkan Pertahanan Militer. *Jurnal Transformasi, II*, 89-219.

Azizah, Z. H. (2023, January 1). Sinergi ASEAN Outlook On Indo-Pasific

dengan Free and Open Indo-Pasific Dalam Bidang Pertahanan Untuk MenciptakanKawasan Indo-Pasific yang Aman dan Stabil. *Jurnal Studi Diplomasi dan Keamanan, XV*, 87-110.

Bateman, S. (2020). Maritime Security in the Indo-Pacific: Challenges and Cooperation. *Journal of Maritime Studies, 12*(1), 45-67.

Centre for Strategic and International Studies. (2020). Diplomasi Pertahanan Maritim: Strategi, Tantangan, dan Prospek. *Jurnal Pengkajian dan Pengembangan Kebijakan kementrian Luar Negeri RI* , 1-81.

Craciun, I. (2019, June). Maritime Strategies Based On Threats. *Bulletin of Carol I National Defense University*, 14-24.

Damayanti, A. (2017). Regional Maritime Cooperation in Maintaining Maritime Security and Stability: a Test Case for ASEAN Unity and Centrality. *Journal of ASEAN Studies, V*, 119-134. doi:10.21515/jas.v5i2.1888

Darajati, M. R. (2018, August 29). Politik Hukum Pembentukan Badan Keamanan laut Dalam Menjaga Keamanan Maritim di Indonesia. *Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu Hukum, XVI*, 107-128.

Dwipratama, G. P. (2023, February 6). Potensi Kerjasama Industri Pertahanan Indonesia-Jepang Dalam Domains of Warfare (Studi Pustaka Pada Kebijakan Pertahanan Indonesia Dan The Defense of japan White Paper 2022). *Jurnal*

Direktorat Jenderal Potensi Pertahanan Kemhan RI, 1-18.

Emmers, R. (2019). ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific: Regional Cooperation and Security Frameworks. *Contemporary Southeast Asian Studies, 2*, 89-102.

Green, M. (2021). Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy: Implications for Regional Security. *International Journal of Strategic Affairs, 15*(3), 120-138.

Hidayat, S. (2018, Oktober 12). Indonesia's Maritime Defence Paradigm Sine Qua Non Global Maritime Fulcrum. *Jurnal Pertahanan, X*, 136-144.

Irawan, H. (2021, July 2). Kebijakan Pertahanan Jepang Terhadap Keterlibatan Self Defense Force (SDF) Dalam Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UN-PKO). *Indonesian Journal of Global Discourse, III*, 31-47.

Irsadanar, R. J. (2021, July 1). Peningkatan Kerjasama Pertahanan dan Keamanan Indonesia-Jepang: Mempromosikan Demokrasi di Perairan Indo-Pasifik. *The Habibie Center Insights, XXVIII*, 1-6.

Lichtenwald. (2012, August 13). Maritime Threat Assessment of Sea Based Criminal Organizations and Terrorist Operations. *Journal of Homeland Security Affairs, VIII*, 1-25. Retrieved from http://hdl.handle.net/10945/25015

Maheswara, I. B. (2017). Program Peningkatan Militer Jepang di

An Overview of Japan-Indonesia Maritime Security in Indo Pacific Region
Siti Nurjannah, Dwi Ardiyanti, Kajoba Abdul Rahim Abdallah & Sofi Mubarak

180

Kawasan Asia Pasifik Melalui NDPG (National Defense Program Guideline) Pasca Masuknya Dukungan Dari AS. *Jurnal Ilmu Sosial*, 1-11.

Mamahit, D. A. (2020, Oktober 30). Mewujudkan Sistem Pertahanan dan Keamanan Laut Dalam Pencapaian Visi Poros Maritim Dunia dan Tantangan Lima Tahun Kedua Dalam Rangka Percepatan dan Penguatan Implementasi Indonesia Sebagai Negara Maritim dan Poros Maritim Dunia. *Jurnal Maritim Indonesia, VIII*, 60-71.

Masdiana, A. (2018). Penguatan Keamanan Maritim Indonesia: Memahami Ancaman Keamanan Maritim dan Rekonstruksi Kemaritiman Menuju Poros Maritim Dunia. *Jurnal Gema Keadilan*, 46-61.

Novelina, S. S. (2018). Attitudes And Actions Od Indo-Pasific Towards Sea Piracy. *Journal of International Relations*, 74-90.

Pradipta, A. H. (2019). Kebijakan Shinzo Abe dalam Kebijakan Keamanan Jepang. *Jurnal Ilmu Hubungan Internasional*, 1-13.

Prasetyo, K. A. (2019). Strategi Pertahanan Laut Pemerintah Indonesia Dalam Menjaga Keamanan Maritim. *Jurnal Pertahanan, V*, 31-51.

Pusat P2K-OI. (2016). Diplomasi Poros Maritim: Keamanan maritim Dalam Perspektif Politik Luar Negeri. (F. Cassidy, Ed.) *Kajian Mandiri*, 1-120.

Putra, A. R. (2017, June 2). Indonesia Participation In Defense Diplomacy For Maritime Security In Southeast Asia (A Study Of Regional Cooperation Agreement On Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships In Asia). *Jurnal Prodi Diplomasi Pertahanan, III*, 1-16.

Rosevina, A. (2021). Strategi Pertahanan Maritim Indonesia Sebagai Poros Maritim Dunia. *Jurnal Ilmu Pengetahuan Sosial, VIII*, 321-325. Retrieved from http://jurnal.um-tapsel.ac.id/index.php/nusantara/index

Shipitalo, E. (2017, March 20). CCMR Discusses Maritime Security in US-Indonesia Seminar in Jakarta. *Center for Civil-Military Relations*, 101-111. Retrieved from http://hdl.handle.net/10945/52464

Sukmadewi, P. (2018). Indo-Pasifik Treaty Sebagai Perluasan Kerjasama Indonesia Dibidang Maritim. *Jurnal Ilmu Hubungan Internasional*, 1-25.

Swastika, M. B. (2018, October 2). Latar Belakang Peran Aktif Jepang di Anti-Piracy Asia tenggara Dalam Perspektif Konstruktivisme. *Jurnal Hubungan Internasional, VI*, 182-198.

Syahrin, N. (2018, January 1). Kebijakan Poros Maritim Jokowi dan Sinergitas Strategi Ekonomi dan Keamanan Laut Indonesia. *Journal of Indonesian Perspective, III*, 1-17.

Till, G. (2018). The Changing Maritime Balance of Power in the Indo-Pacific. *Naval Strategy Review, 9*(4), 30-55.

Vladd, C. V. (2019). An Analysis of NATO And EU Maritime Strategies. *Bulletin of Carol I National Defense University*, 44-50.

Waltz, K. N. (1988). The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory . *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History, 18*(4), 615–628.
doi:https://doi.org/10.2307/204817

Waskito, M. U. (2018). Pengaruh Peningkatan Kapabilitas Militer Jepang Terhadap Stabilitas Keamanan di Kawasan Asia Pasifik 2014-2017 . *Jurnal Ilmu Hubungan Internasional*, 1-98.

Wulandari, K. T. (2017). Kepentingan Indonesia Dalam Menginisiasi Pembentukan ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pasific (AOIP) Tahun 2017. *Jurnal Ilmu Sosial*, 1-15.

Yani, Y. M. (2017). Jepang Tingkatan Peran di Asia-Pasifik. *Jurnal Ilmu Hubungan Inetrnasional*, 50-62.