

INDONESIA'S INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL STRATEGY IN ANTICIPATING THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF WAR

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ABSTRACT

The current escalation of global armed conflict has triggered supply chain shocks and energy inflation that threaten national stability. This study aims to analyze Indonesia's foreign policy strategy in mitigating these systemic impacts through the Free and Active principle. Using a descriptive qualitative method based on literature studies, data were collected from official documents, national regulations, and international legal instruments. The results show that Indonesia has successfully carried out its role as a bridge builder through pragmatic diplomacy and the utilization of legal frameworks such as UNCLOS 1982. The conclusion of the study confirms that consistency in the Free and Active policy effectively protects economic sovereignty and strengthens Indonesia's bargaining position as a world peace mediator amidst the polarization of major powers.

A. INTRODUCTION

Current global geopolitical dynamics are characterized by escalating armed conflicts, such as the Russia-Ukraine war and tensions in the Middle East, which have triggered supply chain shocks and energy inflation.¹ In responding to this crisis, each country has adopted a different strategy. NATO countries have implemented collective economic sanctions and military reinforcements China has chosen "proactive neutrality" to secure its Belt and Road Initiative trade routes. In Southeast Asia, Singapore has taken legalistic measures with unilateral sanctions,² while Vietnam has implemented flexible "Bamboo Diplomacy".³

War is no longer simply physical contact between military forces, but rather a hybrid phenomenon that paralyzes the very fabric of civilian life. In an era of global interconnectivity, conflict in one region can trigger an energy crisis in another part of the world. Therefore, a comprehensive framework is needed to anticipate its negative impacts before they reach a point of no return.

Countries must diversify their trading partners to avoid dependence on a single conflict zone. Developing domestic renewable energy is crucial

1 Anwar, D. F., Indonesia's Foreign Policy Amidst Great Power Rivalry: Maintaining Autonomy and Stability. *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, Vol. 15 No. 2, 2023, page. 40-58.

2 Koh, T., Small States and International Law: The Singapore Perspective on Global Conflict. *Singapore Journal of International Law*, Vol. 26 No. 1, 2022, page. 10-25.

3 Mearsheimer, J. J., *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company. 2021, page. 21

for reducing reliance on fossil fuels, whose prices fluctuate during wartime. Anticipating war means strengthening the role of international institutions (such as the UN) in negotiating before it escalates. Strict enforcement of international law against war crimes acts as a deterrent for warring parties. Governments need to build adaptive health infrastructure, including providing essential medical supplies and strengthening mental health services for victims directly and indirectly affected. In the modern era, information warfare (hoaxes) often precedes physical attacks. Anticipation is achieved by building digital literacy in the community and a robust cyber defense system to protect public data and vital infrastructure (electricity, water, banking).⁴

Anticipating the negative impacts of war cannot be done in isolation. It requires cross-national collaboration and the integration of domestic policies focused on resilience. While war is often inevitable due to political dynamics, thorough preparedness can save millions of lives and safeguard the stability of human civilization from total collapse.

The Indo-Pacific region has become a focal point of global geopolitics, with major powers such as the United States, China, and Russia competing for influence. This region is vital for global trade and stability, as it connects the Indian and Pacific Oceans, playing a crucial role in global supply chains and major maritime trade routes such as the Strait of Malacca and the South China Sea. Geopolitics and Maritime Territorial Disputes in East Asia. Routledge). Indonesia, as the largest country in the region, must face challenges and threats posed by the potential for conflict escalation to World War III (WWIII). The increasing potential for conflict escalation to WWIII is characterized by: the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, the expanding Palestine-Israel conflict, and the demonstration of Chinese and US military power in the Indo-Pacific region.

A diplomatic approach allows for synergy between countries in sharing intelligence, strengthening institutional capacity, and increasing the effectiveness of deradicalization and social reintegration programs.). Indonesia itself has implemented this strategy through various efforts. At the national level, the National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT) was established, mandated to design and implement deradicalization programs, including involving religious leaders, psychologists, and former terrorist convicts. Internationally, Indonesia establishes bilateral and multilateral cooperation, such as with Australia, the United States, and ASEAN countries, in the form of counterterrorism training, intelligence exchange, and strengthening the capacity of security institutions. Indonesia is also active in international forums such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) to advance the global agenda in combating radicalization and terrorism. Through its security diplomacy strategy, Indonesia not only secures its territory from the threat of extremism, but also demonstrates its

4 Hasan, M. F., Diplomasi Kemanusiaan Indonesia sebagai Manifestasi Pilar 'Aktif' dalam Politik Luar Negeri: Studi Kasus Bantuan untuk Gaza dan Ukraina. *Jurnal Politik Internasional Koridor*, Vol. 14 No. 2, 2023, page. 201-215.

commitment as a key actor in maintaining regional and global security stability.

Indonesia's foreign policy based on the principle of free and active aims to maintain the country's neutrality from involvement in disputes between major world power blocs while still playing an active role in peace diplomacy.⁵ Indonesia and the Emerging Sino-US Rivalry in Southeast Asia. *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific*, 10(1), 31-59). This principle was first initiated by Mohammad Hatta in 1948 and became a pillar of Indonesia's foreign policy in facing global geopolitical uncertainty. Instead of siding with one of the major powers, Indonesia actually pioneered the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) as a manifestation of foreign policy independence and the spirit of solidarity between nations that want to stand on their own two feet.

Diplomacy is one of Indonesia's primary tools for maintaining neutrality in global conflict situations. As a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, Indonesia can play a crucial role in fostering dialogue between conflicting countries to reduce tensions (United Nations Security Council, 2022). Diplomacy is also optimized through regional forums such as ASEAN, where Indonesia promotes regional integration to maintain stability and reduce the risk of conflict.⁶

Indonesia has a constitutional basis, as outlined in the preamble to the 1945 Constitution, to participate in maintaining world order. However, real challenges arise when the economy's dependence on imported wheat, fertilizer, and petroleum energy is disrupted by international blockades or sanctions resulting from war. Therefore, a comprehensive international political strategy is needed, through both bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, to safeguard national resilience from the negative externalities of global conflict.

The main objective is to maintain world peace. Indonesia is active in conflict resolution efforts, sending UN peacekeeping troops, and international diplomacy. It also enhances cooperation between countries. Indonesia, through the principle of "Free and Active," does not side with any bloc ("Free") but still contributes significantly to peace ("Active") as mandated by the Preamble to the 1945 Constitution. This strategy is not merely a political position, but rather a national defense tool to protect economic sovereignty from the negative externalities of international conflict.

The Free and Active Policy is defined as Indonesia's stance of not taking sides with conflicting world powers (Free), while consistently making real contributions to conflict resolution and the realization of world peace (Active). This policy allows Indonesia to engage in strategic hedging,

5 Sukma, R., Navigating the Turbulent Sea: Indonesia's Response to Global Conflict and Economic Shocks. *Indonesian Quarterly*, Vol. 52 No. 1, page. 85-102.

6 Acharya, A., The Myth of the Global South and the Future of World Order. *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 101 No. 3, 2022. page. 120-135.

maneuvering between the interests of the United States and China to secure domestic economic stability.⁷

Indonesia is not passive or isolationist. Instead, it actively participates in international forums (UN, ASEAN, G20) to promote world order. This active role is evident in Indonesia's peaceful diplomatic efforts in the Ukraine-Russia conflict and the Palestinian issue, demonstrating its commitment to international law.⁸

The Free and Active Policy has now transformed into a tool to strengthen National Resilience and Economic Independence.

1. National Interest as a Compass: Indonesian diplomacy currently places more emphasis on tangible results (result-oriented), especially in terms of investment and technology transfer.
2. Regional Stability: Indonesia views ASEAN as an anchor of stability, where Indonesian leadership is crucial in protecting the region from the influence of foreign militarism.

In comparison, Western countries within NATO tend to employ collective economic sanctions and strengthen military alliances to isolate conflict actors. Meanwhile, countries like China prioritize a strategy of "proactive neutrality" that focuses on securing infrastructure trade routes through the Belt and Road Initiative, while maintaining economic ties with conflicting parties. Meanwhile, developing countries in the Global South, such as India and Brazil, tend to adopt a pragmatic non-aligned stance to avoid involvement in major power polarization.⁹

In responding to the crisis, each international actor implemented a different strategy. NATO countries implemented a strategy of collective economic sanctions and military reinforcements China chose "proactive neutrality" to secure its Belt and Road Initiative trade routes. In Southeast Asia, Singapore took legalistic measures with unilateral sanctions while Vietnam implemented a highly flexible yet vigilant "Bamboo Diplomacy".¹⁰

"The urgency of mitigating the impact of war on Indonesia is evident in the fluctuations in strategic commodity prices. For example, Indonesia's dependence on wheat imports from the Black Sea region, particularly Ukraine, which accounted for approximately 23% of the country's total pre-conflict needs, has created inflationary pressure on the domestic food industry. Furthermore, the volatility of global crude oil prices, which briefly exceeded USD 100 per barrel due to disruptions in global energy supplies, directly burdened the state budget through increased energy subsidies. This

7 Sudirman, A., & Setiawan, B., Strategic Hedging Indonesia di Tengah Persaingan AS-Tiongkok: Implementasi Politik Bebas Aktif dalam Dimensi Ekonomi. *Global South Journal of International Relations*, Vol. 6 No. 2, page. 110-128.

8 Pratama, R. A., Relevansi Doktrin Bebas Aktif dalam Menghadapi Geopolitik Fragmentasi Global: Analisis Kebijakan Luar Negeri Indonesia 2024-2029. *Jurnal Diplomasi dan Strategi Internasional*, Vol. 12 No. 1, 2025, page. 45-62.

9 Waltz, K. N., 2018. *Man, the State, and War: A Theoretical Analysis*. New York: Columbia University Press. page. 18

10 Thayer, C. A., Vietnam's Bamboo Diplomacy: Hedging in an Era of Great Power Rivalry. *Southeast Asian Affairs*, Vol. 48 No. 2, 2023, page. 28-45.

vulnerability demonstrates that disruptions to security stability in other parts of the world are no longer merely a distant political issue, but a real threat to the resilience of the people's 'stomachs' and national fiscal stability.

In a situation of potential world war, strengthening national defense becomes very important. Barry Buzan emphasized that national security must encompass all aspects, including military, social, economic, and political, which enable a country to maintain its sovereignty and territorial integrity (Buzan, B., 1983). *People, States, and Fear: The National Security Problem in International Relations*. Wheatsheaf Books). In facing the possibility of World War III, it is necessary to increase military capacity as follows:

1. Modernization of Defense Equipment

Improving military capabilities through the modernization of the main weapon systems (Alutsista) is crucial. Military cooperation with friendly countries such as South Korea in the development of submarines and fighter jets demonstrates Indonesia's efforts to enhance national defense capacity. (Ministry of Defense, Republic of Indonesia, 2021). The Strategic Defense Acquisition Program also includes the acquisition of new military technology and investment in advanced radar and air defense systems.

2. Troop Capability Enhancement

In addition to equipment modernization, improving troop skills and preparedness is also crucial. Training focused on modern warfare, including cyber and asymmetric warfare, is a key requirement in addressing the increasingly frequent unconventional threats in 21st-century conflicts. (Department of Defence, Australia, 2019). *Modern Warfare and Indonesia's Military Preparedness*. Canberra: Department of Defence).

3. Integrated Defense

Cooperation between national security institutions is crucial for building an integrated defense. The National Cyber and Crypto Agency (BSSN) needs to collaborate closely with the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) and the Indonesian National Police (Polri) in maintaining cybersecurity as a means of preventing attacks on critical national infrastructure (National Cyber and Crypto Agency (BSSN), 2020).

Indonesia's international political strategy continues to transform from image diplomacy to down-to-earth diplomacy. Indonesia remains consistent in its non-aligned principles, but is more assertive in advancing national interests on the global stage. The success of this strategy depends heavily on domestic political stability and the ability to adapt to technological disruption.

Under modern leadership, Indonesia's international strategy shifted towards a more pragmatic direction:

1. Industrial Downstreaming

Indonesia is brave enough to face international lawsuits (such as at the WTO) in order to maintain the added value of domestic natural resources.

2. Infrastructure Investment

Balancing investment flows from China through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Western countries through the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) scheme.

B. RESEARCH METHODS

Based on the description you provided, this research uses a Qualitative approach with a Library Research design. This method focuses on in-depth analysis of texts and documents to build new understanding or strategies. This research does not conduct field observations or direct interviews, but rather relies on the "library" as its main laboratory. Researchers collect, explore, and summarize various literature to answer the problem formulation. The goal is to find a theoretical basis, regulatory comparisons, or policy history to formulate a strategy (in this case, Indonesia's mitigation strategy). The data used is secondary data, meaning data that already exists and has been compiled by other parties. You divide it into several important categories, Official Documents & Regulations Including National Laws and International Conventions. This serves as a legal basis. Textbooks are used to find theoretical frameworks and basic concepts, Scientific Journals are used to view the latest findings, academic debates, and best practices from other researchers around the world. Descriptive analysis in qualitative research aims to systematically describe all the collected data for easy understanding.

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Economic Risk Mitigation and Benefits of a Free-Active Strategy

Imagine a country's economy like a large ship sailing in the middle of the ocean. Global war is a massive storm we can't stop, but Economic Risk Mitigation is how we strengthen the hull, prepare lifeboats, and ensure the compass remains accurate to prevent the ship from sinking.

Simply put, economic risk mitigation is a "preparing for a rainy day" strategy implemented by governments to minimize the negative impact of external shocks—such as rising oil prices, disruptions to food supply chains, or skyrocketing inflation due to war.

In the context of Indonesia's international political strategy (2024–2026), risk mitigation is carried out through three tactical steps:

- a. Supply Chain Diversification (Supply Chain Resilience)

Indonesia no longer "puts all its eggs in one basket." If one belligerent country is a supplier of wheat or energy, Indonesia quickly seeks alternative partners. A friend-shoring strategy, or cooperation with stable, friendly countries, is key to maintaining the availability of strategic commodities domestically.

- b. Fiscal and Monetary Cushions (Economic Buffers)

The government has prepared reserve funds and a flexible interest rate policy to curb inflation. This serves as a "brake" to prevent market prices from skyrocketing during wars elsewhere in the world. Anticipatory fiscal policy, including targeted energy subsidies, has proven effective in maintaining public purchasing power amid fluctuating global commodity prices (Haryanto, 2024).

c. Downstreaming and Domestic Independence

The best way to mitigate risk is to reduce over-reliance on imported goods. By processing raw materials domestically, Indonesia creates added value and provides an economic bulwark. Accelerating the downstreaming of the nickel and copper industries is not only about economic benefits but also part of a national survival strategy to address international market uncertainty.¹¹

Indonesia's international political strategy to anticipate the negative impacts of war rests on a free and active policy, peace diplomacy, and strengthening national resilience. Indonesia proactively initiates dialogue, utilizes multilateral forums such as the G20 and ASEAN (ASEAN AOIP) to maintain regional stability, and strengthens economic diplomacy to minimize energy and food crises.

The Russia-Ukraine war and tensions in the Middle East have had a direct impact on rising global commodity prices. Indonesia, as a net importer of wheat and oil, faces the threat of significant domestic inflation. Indonesia's international political strategy in this regard is to employ commodity diplomacy to secure its supply chain.

- a. Food Sector: The government is diversifying the country of origin of wheat imports from Eastern Europe to Australia and North America to reduce dependence on conflict zones. This step is supported by strengthening bilateral diplomacy with fertilizer-producing countries in Central Asia.
- b. Energy Sector: Amid fluctuating global oil prices, Indonesia is accelerating its energy transition through international partnerships such as the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP). Regulatory-wise, this aligns with Government Regulation No. 1 of 2023, which aims to safeguard foreign exchange sovereignty from exports to strengthen the national fiscal cushion against external shocks.¹²

Indonesia plays an active role in the global security architecture through various fields the following are those that Indonesia has participated in:

a. Global Forum

At the G20, Indonesia succeeded in pushing for a consensus that "the current era is not an era of war".

11 Suryono, B. A., Hilirisasi sebagai Instrumen Mitigasi Risiko Ekonomi: Studi Kasus Ketahanan Industri Nasional 2024-2025. *Jurnal Manajemen Risiko dan Investasi*, Vol. 9 No. 3, 2025, page. 201-218.

12 Republic of Indonesia., Government Regulation Number 1 of 2023 concerning Foreign. 2023.

b. Peacekeeping Forces

The contribution of the Garuda Contingent Task Force (Konga) under the UN flag strengthens Indonesia's image as a guardian of global stability.

The Free Active Strategy provides flexibility for Indonesia to diversify partners without ideological barriers. The following are the benefits of the free active strategy that has been implemented by Indonesia:

a. Economic Benefits

Indonesia avoided the direct impact of reciprocal sanctions between major powers, so that investment and trade remained stable.¹³

b. Food & Energy Security

The government diversified wheat imports from non-conflict areas and strengthened the fiscal cushion through Government Regulation Number 1 of 2023 concerning Foreign Exchange from Export Proceeds.

Indonesia was born during the Cold War, when the world was divided between the Western Bloc (the US) and the Eastern Bloc (the Soviet Union). Mohammad Hatta, in his visionary speech, emphasized that Indonesia should not be an "object" in international struggles, but rather a "subject" determining its own destiny. This policy was not merely a political position, but a survival strategy to ensure that its fledgling sovereignty was not mortgaged to the interests of superpowers.

For us Indonesians, the Free and Active Policy is a guarantee that the government will not send our young people to war for the benefit of other countries. Like good neighbors, we do not interfere in other people's household affairs, but if there is a fire in the neighborhood, we are the first to bring a bucket of water to help put out the flames. Because we are friends with everyone, we can buy wheat from one party and technology from another without feeling embarrassed or threatened.

There are several main objectives that serve as the "guiding stars" of our diplomacy, namely Maintaining Sovereignty So as not to be dictated by major powers in making domestic policies, World Peace: Actively sending peacekeeping troops and becoming a conflict mediator (such as Indonesia's role in ASEAN and the UN) and People's Prosperity: Ensuring international trade routes remain open so that the national economy remains stable even though the world is turbulent. This objective was transformed in 2026 into "Resilience Diplomacy", where the main focus is securing the energy and food supply chain amidst global uncertainty.

The world views Indonesia with both respect and curiosity. As an "Honest Broker": Major powers often ask Indonesia to mediate because it is perceived as having no hidden agenda to dominate. Balancing

13 Sukma, A., *Transformasi Digital di Indonesia*. Jakarta: Pustaka Utama. 2024. page. 88

Power: In the Indo-Pacific region, Indonesia's position is crucial. Without Indonesia's support, the balance of power between the US and China could be shaken. The international community views Indonesia as a natural leader in Southeast Asia (ASEAN), capable of defusing tensions without resorting to arms.¹⁴

Indonesia asserts that being "Free" does not mean being silent. Indonesia does not side with any military bloc, but actively rejects all violations of its territorial sovereignty. Indonesia consistently condemned annexation at the UN, rejecting the forced occupation of territory, as it contradicts the Preamble to the 1945 Constitution. Indonesia positions itself as a non-aligned middle power with the moral strength to engage with both conflicting parties.

The current war has a direct impact on the prices of wheat, fertilizer, and energy. Indonesia's foreign policy is geared towards securing "the people's stomachs." Logistics Route Initiative: Indonesia actively lobbies warring countries not to use food commodities as weapons of war. Indonesia's economic diplomacy is now transforming into a risk mitigation tool to ensure the stability of domestic energy supplies amidst global supply chain disruptions.¹⁵

2. Multilateral Leadership: Indonesia as a "Bridge Builder"

Imagine the world today as a large banquet table filled with guests in a tense situation. In one corner are the superpowers glancing at each other, while in the other are developing nations that feel their voices are not being heard. Amidst this din, Indonesia emerges. Indonesia doesn't come to shout the loudest, but rather as a "Bridge Builder"—the one who ensures everyone stays at the table and keeps talking, instead of going home and preparing their weapons.

Multilateral leadership does not mean Indonesia commands other countries. Rather, it is a trust-based leadership. As a bridge builder, Indonesia uses its impartial (Free and Active) position to bridge the gap between the interests of developed countries (Global North) and developing countries (Global South). Indonesia's role as a bridge builder has evolved from a mere mediator to a diplomatic architect capable of integrating the interests of a green economy and equitable access to health on the global stage.¹⁶

Indonesia is leveraging its chairmanship of international forums (such as the G20 in 2022 and ASEAN in 2023) to mitigate global polarization. This strategy is not merely passive neutrality, but rather "active neutrality," aimed at safeguarding the integrity of multilateral institutions from fragmentation caused by war.

14 Kementerian Luar Negeri RI., *Laporan Tahunan Diplomasi Indonesia: Menavigasi Ketidakpastian Global*. Jakarta: Kemlu Press. 2024

15 Wicaksono, A., Diplomasi Ekonomi Indonesia dalam Mengamankan Jalur Logistik Pangan Dunia. *Jurnal Global & Strategis*, Vol. 19 No. 2, 2025, page. 155-172.

16 Wibowo, I. G., Evolusi Politik Luar Negeri Indonesia: Dari Non-Blok Menuju Kepemimpinan Global di G20 dan ASEAN. *Jurnal Ilmiah Hubungan Internasional*, Vol. 20 No. 1, 2024, page. 88-105.

Anticipating the negative impacts of war requires a comprehensive strategy, from high-level diplomacy to economic policies at the traditional market level. For a country like Indonesia, this anticipation is not simply about survival, but also about maintaining domestic stability while the world is in turmoil.

War almost always triggers spikes in energy (oil/gas) and food (wheat/fertilizer) prices. Indonesia anticipates this by: Energy Independence: Accelerating the use of renewable energy and B35/B40 to reduce dependence on crude oil imports from conflict areas. Food Security: Diversifying food import sources and strengthening domestic food estates to ensure a secure carbohydrate supply despite disruptions to the global supply chain. Anticipatory fiscal policy through targeted energy subsidies has proven effective in maintaining public purchasing power amid fluctuating global commodity prices.

Modern warfare is always accompanied by cyberattacks and disinformation (hoaxes) that can divide communities in countries not directly involved. Critical Infrastructure Protection Strengthens the security of national banking and electricity data from foreign hacking. Media Literacy Educates the public to avoid being polarized by propaganda narratives from warring parties. Anticipating the impact of war does not mean we close ourselves off from the world, but rather strengthen our domestic "fortresses" (economy & food) while remaining a "bridge" abroad (diplomacy).

There is "social capital" that Indonesia possesses that many other countries do not, namely Historical Track Record: We have a long history as a leader of the Non-Aligned Movement, Inclusivity: In forums such as the G20 or ASEAN, Indonesia always ensures that small issues such as MSMEs or local farmers remain on the global agenda and "Lunch" Diplomacy: Indonesia is adept at informal diplomacy—resolving tensions through polite but firm dialogue. Amidst the polarization between the US and China, Indonesia's leadership in ASEAN serves as a counterweight that prevents the Southeast Asian region from becoming a battleground for great powers.

As a bridge, Indonesia performs two crucial functions: horizontally: connecting countries in conflict (e.g., Russia and Ukraine in the context of the food supply chain). vertically: ensuring global policies (such as carbon taxes) do not harm poor countries struggling to recover. Indonesia's effectiveness as an honest broker depends heavily on its consistency in upholding international law without becoming entangled in short-term, pragmatic interests.

Some of Indonesia's famous and successful peacekeeping missions that have impressed the world are:

a. Kiev-Moscow Peace Mission

The Indonesian President's visit to the two warring countries represents a concrete implementation of Law Number 37 of 1999 concerning Foreign Relations. Indonesia emphasized the importance

of humanitarian corridors and the reopening of global food export routes.¹⁷

b. ASEAN Solidarity

At the regional level, Indonesia is promoting the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) as a tool to ensure Southeast Asia remains a peaceful region and does not become a proxy arena for great powers. This is crucial to prevent the collateral damage of war (such as secondary sanctions) that could harm the regional economy.

Main Characteristics: Independence in decision-making, economic pragmatism, and adhering to the principles of international legality.

The use of international legal instruments by the Indonesian state uses international law as a diplomatic shield which has been frequently done, namely in the UN Charter, Upholding Article 2 paragraph (4) regarding territorial integrity to reject invasion (United Nations, 1945) and UNCLOS 1982, namely Ensuring that the ALKI (Indonesian Archipelagic Sea Lanes) route remains safe for global logistics ships to guarantee the distribution of national basic needs in the midst of an international sea blockade.¹⁸

To understand Indonesia's position, it is necessary to refer to the views of experts regarding how a country responds to the global crisis through its foreign policy. Here are some expert views on international politics and Indonesia's current position that are relevant:

- a. KJ Holsti (1992) defines international political strategy as the use of a country's influence and bargaining power to achieve national interests in an uncertain external environment. In the context of war, this strategy serves as a protective instrument for economic and political sovereignty.¹⁹
- b. Mohammad Hatta (1948) As the architect of Indonesian foreign policy, Hatta formulated that the "Free and Active" policy was not merely passive neutrality, but rather the right to self-determination and participate in easing global tensions without siding with any bloc. This strategy was like "rowing between two rocks" which was very relevant during the polarization caused by war.²⁰
- c. Michael Leifer (1983) argues that Indonesia's foreign policy has always been driven by the search for regional order and stability as a prerequisite for domestic economic development.²¹

Meanwhile, for the Characteristics of Indonesia's International Political Strategy in Anticipating War Based on the diplomatic practices

17 Republic of Indonesia., Law Number 37 of 1999 concerning Foreign Relations. 1999

18 United Nations., United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Montego Bay. 1982

19 Holsti, K. J., *International Politics: A Framework for Analysis*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall. 1992. page. 24

20 Hatta, M., *Mendayung di Antara Dua Karang*. Jakarta: Kementerian Penerangan RI. 1948. page. 32

21 Leifer, M., *Indonesia's Foreign Policy*. London: George Allen & Unwin. 1983

carried out, Indonesia's strategy has several unique characteristics, namely Non-Alignment: Indonesia refuses to be involved in military pacts or provide weapons support to warring parties, in order to maintain integrity as a credible mediator, Economic Pragmatism: The main focus of the strategy is to secure access to strategic commodities (energy and food). Diplomacy is directed at seeking alternative markets that are not directly affected by international sanctions, Principles of International Legality: Always adhere to the UN Charter and international law. Indonesia consistently opposes all forms of invasion that violate territorial sovereignty, but still prioritizes dialogue over confrontation and Proactive Multilateralism: Utilizing forums such as the G20 and ASEAN as the main stage to build a global peace consensus for the benefit of regional economic stability (Sukma, 2024: 95).

Indonesia's foreign policy is based on the principle of "Freedom and Activity," a doctrine initiated by Mohammad Hatta in 1948. Over time, Indonesia's international strategy has evolved beyond mere survival to become a bridge builder amidst tensions between major world powers. This paper will examine how Indonesia positions itself within the current global political landscape.

As a country that adheres to an active free foreign policy, Indonesia's strategic role in the international security and political architecture plays a dual role in international politics related to war, namely as a mediator and as a driver of international legal norms. The following are some of the roles of the Indonesian state:

- a. Indonesia's role as a mediator and crisis communicator offers a comparative advantage in the form of international trust. This role was evident when Indonesia became the first Asian country to conduct a direct peacekeeping mission to Russia and Ukraine amidst the ongoing war in 2022. This move was not merely symbolic, but a political effort to ensure that the humanitarian crisis and food supply chain disruptions received the attention of the leaders of the warring countries.²²
- b. Role in Multilateral Forums (UN and G20) At the UN General Assembly, Indonesia consistently advocated for respect for territorial sovereignty and integrity, in accordance with the UN Charter. Indonesia played an active role in drafting resolutions that encouraged an end to violence without being caught up in the hostile rhetoric of any bloc. At the G20, Indonesia successfully navigated the egos of major powers to produce the Leaders' Declaration, which emphasized that "the present era is not an era of war".
- c. Contribution to Peacekeeping Forces (Blue Helmets) Physically, Indonesia's role in international security politics is realized through the deployment of the Garuda Contingent Task Force (Konga). Indonesia is one of the largest contributors to UN peacekeeping forces in various conflict areas around the world. This role provides

22 Marsudi, R., *Diplomasi di Tengah Pandemi dan Krisis Global*. Jakarta: Penerbit Luar Negeri Press. 2022. page. 12

strategic benefits in the form of strengthening Indonesia's image as a country committed to global security stability, which in turn provides significant bargaining power in other international political negotiations (Sukma, 2024: 98).

Although Indonesia implements a proactive diplomatic strategy, there are a number of significant risks that can threaten the effectiveness of foreign policy and national stability. The following are the risks or impacts that will arise for national sustainability:

- a. Risk of Polarization and Diplomatic Pressure: The "Free and Active" position is often misinterpreted as a form of indecisiveness by the warring countries. Indonesia faces the risk of pressure from the Western bloc (NATO) to join in imposing total economic sanctions, or conversely, pressure from the Eastern bloc to provide political support. Inability to manage this balance could result in diplomatic isolation or a reduction in strategic cooperation assistance.
- b. Risk of Secondary Sanctions: In the international political arena, there is a risk of secondary sanctions, where Indonesia's major trading partners (such as the United States or the European Union) could impose sanctions on Indonesian companies or financial institutions if they are deemed to have established too deep business ties with the embargoed country. This could cripple access to international banking and hinder foreign direct investment (FDI) into the country.
- c. Cybersecurity and Disinformation Risks: Modern warfare is hybrid. Indonesia is at risk of becoming the target of disinformation campaigns or cyberattacks launched by international actors seeking to sway domestic public opinion in favor of one side or another. Disruptions to the national digital infrastructure could paralyze logistics and communications systems crucial to economic resilience.
- d. Risks of Dependence on a Single Supply Chain: Despite diversification efforts, Indonesia remains vulnerable to certain commodities that are difficult to quickly replace, such as high-tech components or certain industrial raw materials. If the conflict spills over into key trade routes (such as the North Natuna Sea or the Strait of Malacca), logistics costs could balloon and trigger a deeper domestic economic crisis.

In simple terms, the government's position is "We are not looking for enemies, but we cannot remain silent if the world is destroyed." For the Community: This policy ensures that Indonesia can continue to trade with all countries, so that our economy does not collapse even if there is war in other parts of the world. The State's Goal is to protect Indonesia from international sanctions and ensure the safety of Indonesian citizens abroad. Political leadership plays an important role in shaping a country's foreign policy. The ideology, priorities, and strategies of leaders influence how a country interacts with other countries.

D. CONCLUSION

Indonesia's international political strategy in facing the negative impacts of global war is a concrete implementation of the Free and Active principle initiated by Mohammad Hatta. This strategy has proven effective as an instrument for protecting national interests amidst the polarization of major powers. Unlike NATO countries that use military sanctions or Singapore which is legalistic-unilateral, Indonesia chooses the role of a bridge builder (peace bridge) that prioritizes preventive diplomacy and mediation. The main benefits of this strategy for Indonesia include: Economic Protection: Maintaining food and energy sovereignty through supply chain diversification and strengthening fiscal cushions through domestic regulations such as PP No. 1 of 2023, Logistics Route Security: Utilization of international legal instruments, especially UNCLOS 1982, to ensure the security of archipelagic sea lanes (ALKI) from the threat of war blockade, so that the distribution of basic necessities continues and Increased Soft Power: Strengthening bargaining position and international trust through leadership in the G20 forum, ASEAN, and active contributions to the UN Peacekeeping Force. By remaining "between two rocks", Indonesia has succeeded in minimizing the risk of becoming a proxy for conflict while securing domestic needs. Going forward, consistency in the path of pragmatic diplomacy based on Law No. 37 of 1999 and the UN Charter will be the main key to national resilience in facing increasingly complex global uncertainties.

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