

## Indonesia's Defense Policy within the Security Dynamics of Asia Pacific Region during the Reign President Joko Widodo

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### Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to (1) describe internal factors that influence Indonesian national defense policy towards the security dynamics of Asia Pacific Region, (2) examine the extent of influence of those internal factors and Indonesian defense policy on the security dynamic of Asia Pacific Region, (3) evaluates the degree of relationship among those internal factors that influence Indonesian defense policy on the change of security dynamics in Asia Pacific Region. This study was carried out in Bandung and Jakarta from February 2019 to February 2020. The data are collected through an interview by a questionnaire. This ex post facto research referred to a factual condition in the field. The unit of analysis in this study are employees at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Indonesia, amounting to 97 respondents. The data are analyzed using the Structural Equation Model (SEM) program. Our research points out a direct influence of the Asia Pacific power map, state's security dynamics, government's attitude, and defense policy toward the security dynamics of the Asia Pacific Region with the determinant coefficient ( $R_2$ ) by 0.74, and the rest 26% are influenced by uninvestigated factors. This study concludes that the security dynamics of the Asia Pacific region influence the security policy of the Asia Pacific Region with the determinant coefficient ( $R_2$ ) of 0.69; the rest 31% are due to the influence of variables outside this present study.

Keywords: Security Dynamics of the Asia Pacific Region, State's security dynamics, defense policy, Asia Pacific power map, government attitude.

### Introduction

Global phenomenon and its implication influence the political dynamics and international security significantly. Thus, all States are required to cooperate with each other. However, the competition between States in protecting their national interests is increasing. Interstate

dependency is becoming even more vital. Nevertheless, at the same time, economic and military gaps are widening. This was due to the international agendas and issues are still strongly influenced by the agenda and the policy of the developed States (Yong, 2013). The end of the superpower States following the conclusion of the Cold War between the USA and the Soviet Union has created a multipolar shift in an international world. The changes in regional security are signified by the emerging security's multilateralism in the Asia Pacific region. This is in line with the regionalism that has been founded for a long time and in accordance with bilateral alliance and a conflict management model (Acharya & Amitav, 2001).

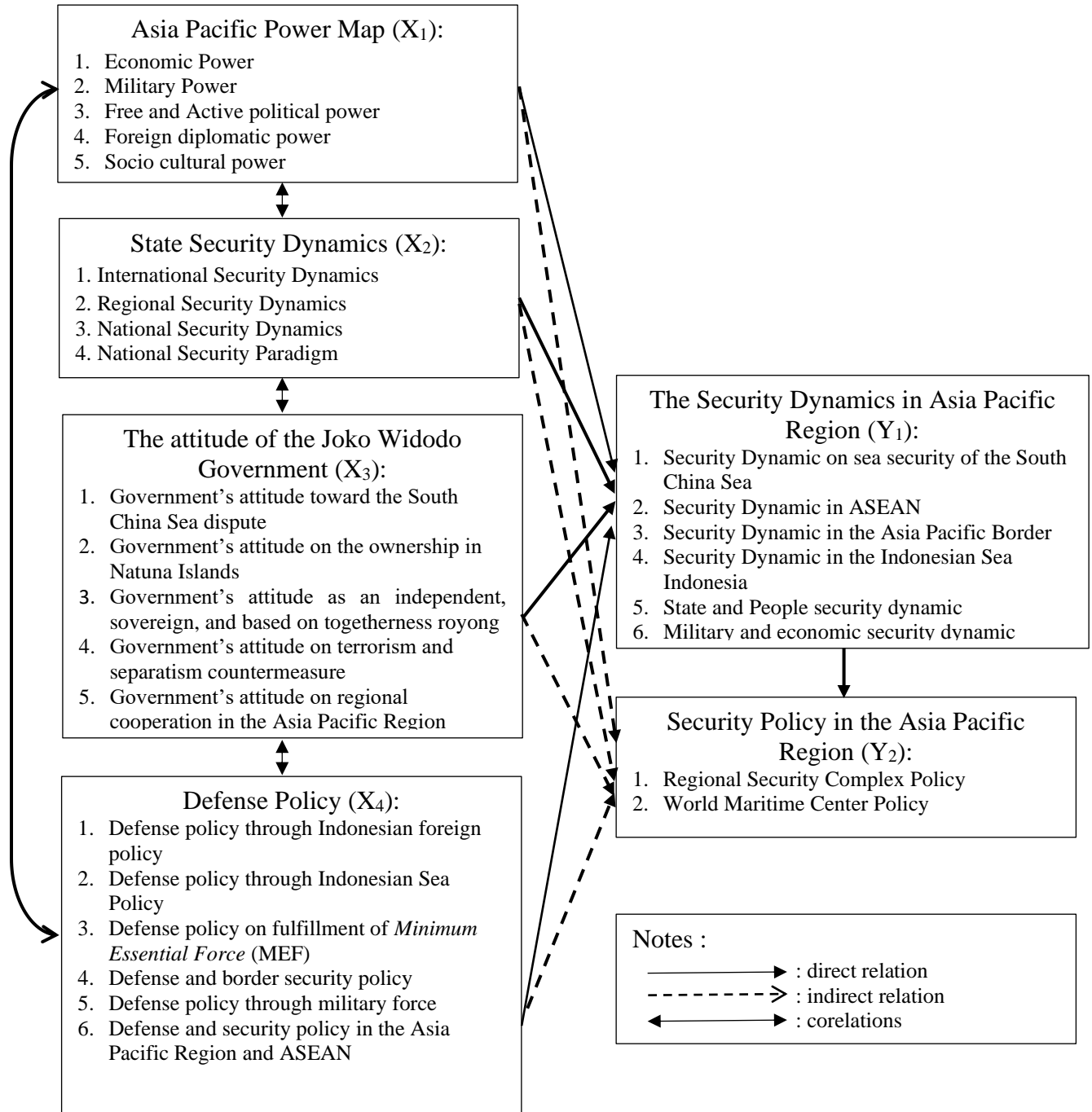
The Asia Pacific region is one of the significant areas related to the shifting dynamics of the world's power. This shift of power points out the emerging China influence in the Asia Pacific and the decreasing effect of the United States of America (Fisher & Carlsen, 2018). This, among others, is due to the US' failure to utilize its unipolar momentum following the conclusion of the Cold War. In reverse, China can strengthen its role within the Asia Pacific region by increasing its economic, political, and military power. (Yang et al., 2012). The increase of China's existence within the Asia Pacific region is evident in its civil and military activities in the disputed areas. These movements of China have caused dissatisfied reactions from the ASEAN States who are involved in the disputes and have less significant power than China (Rozman, 2011).

The increase of capacity and influence in economic and military sectors has made China's foreign policy in the Asia Pacific region, particularly in the Southeast Asia regions, becoming more firm and more confident, such as in the case of South China Sea disputes with the ASEAN States. China placement of *Aircraft Defense Identification Zone* (ADIZ) in the South China Sea as well as in the areas that have been claimed by China as China traditional fisheries route, including the Natuna islands of Indonesia under the guise of protecting the communication route and the area that becomes its national interest (Almond, 2016). The increase of military power and one-sided action carried out by China instill weariness not only for the disputing States but also other States within the area, including Indonesia (Shi & Lixia, 2019).

Rochwulaningsih et al. (2019) describe several Indonesian policies to respond to these threats, among others is by building several military enforcement bases in the outer islands of Indonesia as the frontline in Indonesian defense against external threats. Indonesia, as one of the ASEAN States, is undoubtedly has a significant role in developing the ASEAN Policy.

The increasing role of Indonesia in developing the cooperation within the ASEAN region by making Indonesia the center of the world maritime. This has been followed up by efforts to increase its military power and to change policy defense through upgrading its primary weaponry defense system, particularly its Navy and Airforce, to protect Indonesian territory. Despite that Indonesia is not one of the disputing States in the South China Sea, this does not mean Indonesia is not influenced by this China expansion policy, where China uses the "nine-dash line" as its one-sided base for China claiming some parts of the Indonesian sea (the Natuna). Within the security dilemma logic, it criticizes the President of Joko Widodo's steps to increase national security. Joko Widodo steps to improve its military and security diplomacy can be understood and perceived as threats specifically for the Southeast Asian States and the Asia Pacific region in general. This study

provides information on Indonesian defense policy against the security dynamic of Asia Pacific Region during the reign of Joko Widodo 2014 – 2019. The correlation between the factors that influence the security dynamic in the Asia Pacific region and its impact on the security policy in the Asia Pacific region is described in Figure 1 below.



<http://xisdxjx> Figure 1. Correlation among variables that influence the security dynamics in the Asia Pacific Region -16

## Research Method

The study is aimed at describing the security dynamics in the Asia Pacific region that can be influenced by Indonesian defense policy during the reign of President Joko Widodo 2014 – 2019. This study was conducted for one year, from February 2019 to February 2020. The unit of analysis in this study were the employees in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Indonesia, both those who are stationed in Jakarta and in Bandung, with a total of 257 employees. Based on the Slovin formula, the samples in this study are 97 employees. The samples are randomly but proportionally selected.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

$$n_i = \frac{N_i}{N} \times n$$

$$n = \frac{257}{1 + 257(0,08)^2} = 97 \text{ people}$$

Notes: n = sample size  
 N = population size  
 e = standard error  
 n<sub>i</sub> = strata i sample size  
 N<sub>i</sub> = strata i population size

The research employed interviews and questionnaires to collect the data. The research design applied a structural equation model of factors that influenced the security dynamics in the Asia Pacific Region during the reign of president Joko Widodo. This is performed to find an empirical model of causality correlation between the variables and their supporting factors; hence, the obtained data are analyzed using the Structural Equation Model (SEM) with LISREL (*Linear Structural Relationships*). The SEM analysis is expected to be able to describe the research variables according to their indicators (measurement models) and describes causality among variables (structural model). The suitability test of the model is carried out using Goodness of Fit Test (GFT) models. A structural model is considered appropriate or fit if it can fulfill three types of GFT, namely (1) chi-square test of p-count  $\geq 0.05$ , (2) *Root Means Square Error of Approximation* (RMSEA)  $\leq 0.08$ , and (3) *Comparative Fit Index* (CFI)  $\geq 0.90$ .

## Results

### *Brief Description of the Asia Pacific Region*

The Asia Pacific Region within the international political system has been constructed by the US, Japan, and Australia since 1960 – the 1970s. This concept is aimed to broaden the coverage of East Asia and South Asia up to the Pacific Regions. This broad coverage of Asia Pacific, the involvement of the US and Australia's political power is legitimized by some of the States in this region. This is also a part of the US diplomacy to obtain influence in the Asia Pacific Region to win the Cold War against the Soviet Union. Similarly, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand support the region's construction to obtain a safe zone within the global political system. In addition, the States in East Asia, such as Japan, endorse the construction of the Asia Pacific region to improve its relations with the US post World War II (Mc Dougall, 2014).

As commonly accepted by the international community, there are 21 States in the Asia Pacific that are divided into three large regions: East Asia that comprises China, Japan, Mongolia, Macau, Taiwan, Hongkong, North Korea, and South Korea; the second part of the region is the Southeast Asia region consists of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Brunei, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Timor Leste; the last part of the Pacific region consists of Australia, Fiji, Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Island, Micronesia Federation, Solomon Island, Papua New Guinea, Nauru, North Marian Island, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. The general condition of the Asia Pacific region is described in Figure 2.



Figure 2. Asia Pacific Region's Map

In addition to the geographical condition, the members of the Asia Pacific Region also determined from the foreign cooperation, such as Asia Pacific Economy Cooperation that includes the United States, Canada, Chile, Russia, Mexico, and Peru within that community. The more States have an interest in this region, the more complex the problems in this region, particularly the security stability in this region (Zaidi et al., 2019). One of the critical factors to maintaining the existence of a state is by preserving its defense and security stability in order to survive among the bombardment of the world security issues. As a strategic region, the Asia-Pacific considered this as a serious issue regarding the future of the States in this region (Vecchiato, 2019).

### The Structural Model of the Security Dynamic in the Asia Pacific Region

Following the analysis of variables that influence the security dynamic in the Asia Pacific region, the structural model of security dynamic in the Asia Pacific region is founded as in Figure 3, which showed the path of influences among the variables that can be formulated in the following structural equation model:

$$(1) Y_1 = -0,30X_1 + 0,88X_2 + 0,22X_3 - 0,31X_4$$

$$(2) Y_2 = 0,83Y_1$$

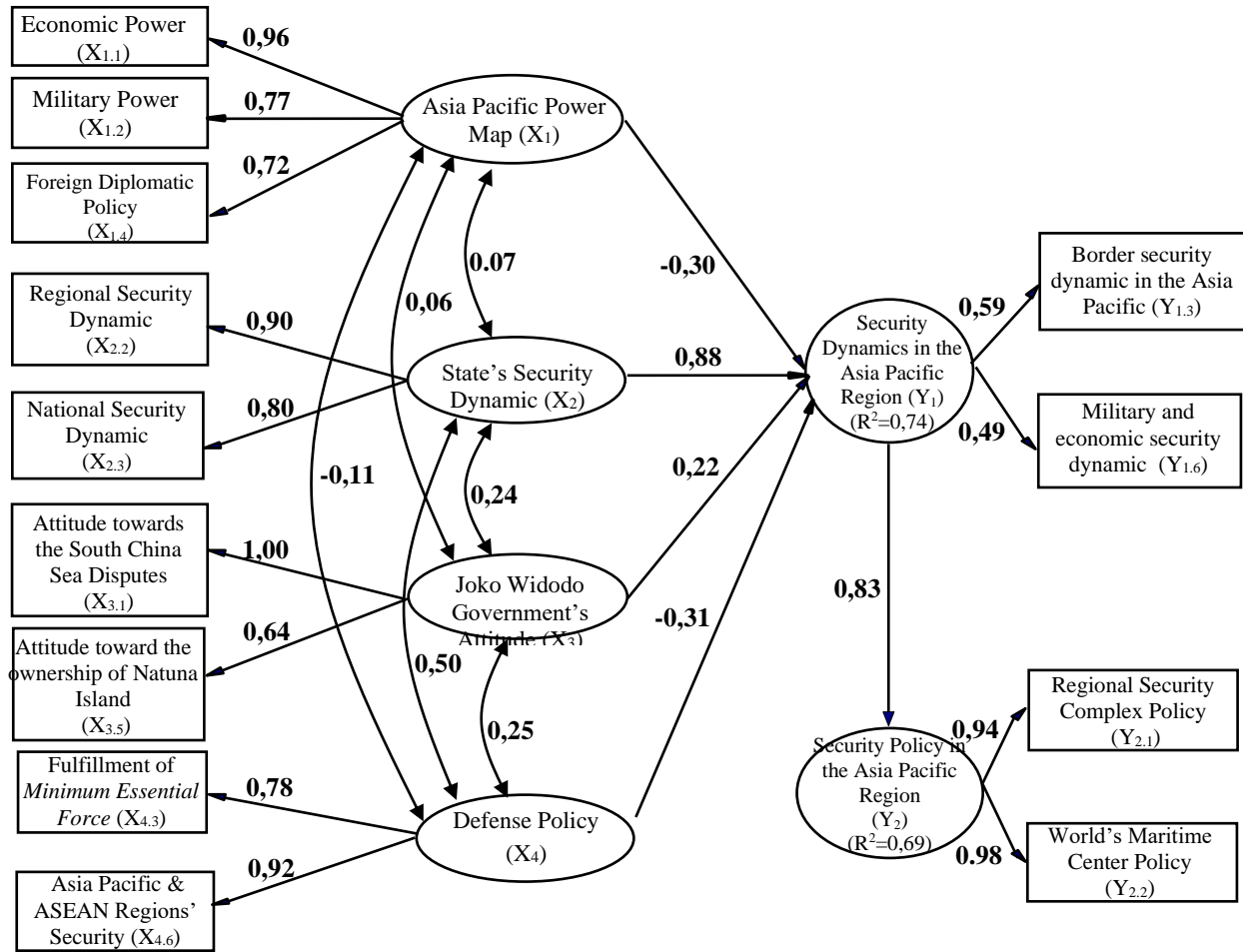
Notes:

$X_1$  = Asia Pacific Power Map,

$X_2$  = State's Security Dynamic,

$X_3$  = Joko Widodo's Government Attitude,

X<sub>4</sub> = Defense Security,  
 Y<sub>1</sub> = Security Dynamic of the Asia Pacific Region,  
 Y<sub>2</sub> = Security Policy of the Asia Pacific Region.



Chi-Square=71.12, df=55, P-value=0.07076, RMSEA=0.050, CFI=0.97

Figure 3. Parameters Estimation on Structural model of Security Dynamic of the Asia Pacific Region

The overall analysis shows the correlations and influence among variables/sub-variables within the model of security dynamic of the Asia Pacific region is shown in the following table.

Table 1. Decomposition of influence among variables within the model of the Security Dynamic of the Asia Pacific region.

Correlation between variables/sub-variables			Influence			t-count
			Direct	Indirect	Total	
<b>Asia Pacific Power Map</b>	→	<b>Regional Security Dynamic of the Asia Pacific</b>	-0.30	-	<b>-0.30</b>	-2.58
Asia Pacific Power Map	→	Regional Border security dynamic of the Asia Pacific	-	-0.18	-0.18	-3.12
Asia Pacific Power Map	→	Economic and military security dynamic	-	-0.15	-0.15	-2.94
<b>State's security dynamic</b>	→	<b>Regional Security dynamic of the Asia Pacific</b>	0.88	-	<b>0.88</b>	3.34
State's security dynamic	→	Regional Border security dynamic of the Asia Pacific	-	0.52	0.52	5.17
State's security dynamic	→	Economic and military security dynamic	-	0.44	0.44	4.45
<b>Joko Widodo Government's Attitude</b>	→	<b>Regional Security dynamic of the Asia Pacific</b>	0.22	-	<b>0.22</b>	2.19
Joko Widodo Government's Attitude	→	Regional Border security dynamic of the Asia Pacific	-	0.13	0.13	2.37
Sikap Pemerintahan Joko Widodo	→	Economic and military security dynamic	-	0.11	0.11	2.29
<b>Defense Policy</b>	→	<b>Regional Security dynamic of the Asia Pacific</b>	-0.31	-	<b>-0.31</b>	-2.12
Defense Policy	→	Regional Border security dynamic of the Asia Pacific	-	-0.19	-0.19	-2.58
Defense Policy	→	Economic and military security dynamic	-	-0.15	-0.15	-2.48
<b>Asia Pacific Power Map</b>	→	<b>Regional Security Policy of the Asia Pacific Region</b>	-	-0,25	<b>-0,25</b>	-2,96
Asia Pacific Power Map	→	Regional Security Complex Policy	-	-0,24	-0,24	-3,37
Asia Pacific Power Map	→	World's Maritime center Policy	-	-0,25	-0,25	-3,41
<b>State's security dynamic</b>	→	<b>The regional security policy of the Asia Pacific</b>	-	0,73	<b>0,73</b>	4,52
State's security dynamic	→	Regional Security Complex policy	-	0,69	0,69	6,61
State's security dynamic	→	World's maritime center policy	-	0,72	0,72	6,89
<b>Joko Widodo's Government Attitude</b>	→	<b>The regional security policy of the Asia Pacific</b>	-	0,18	<b>0,18</b>	2,29
Joko Widodo's Government Attitude	→	Regional Security Complex policy	-	0,17	0,17	2,47
Joko Widodo's Government Attitude	→	World's maritime center policy	-	0,18	0,18	2,48
<b>Defense Policy</b>	→	<b>The regional security policy of the Asia Pacific</b>	-	-0,26	<b>-0,26</b>	-2,49
Defense policy	→	Regional Security Complex policy	-	-0,24	-0,24	-2,72
Defense policy	→	World's maritime center policy	-	-0,26	-0,26	-2,74

Regional security dynamic of the Asia Pacific	→	The regional security policy of the Asia Pacific	0,83	-	<b>0,83</b>	2,84
Regional security dynamic of the Asia Pacific	→	Regional Security Complex policy	-	0,78	0,78	4,01
Regional security dynamic of the Asia Pacific	→	World's maritime center policy	-	0,82	0,82	4,07

Notes:  $t_{0,5 \text{ table}} = 1.96$

### **The influence of the Asia Pacific power map variable, States' security dynamic, Indonesia's attitude under Joko Widodo's reign, and defense policy on regional security dynamics in Asia Pacific.**

Table 1 points out a direct influence of the Asia Pacific power map, state's security dynamic, Joko Widodo's government attitude, and defense policy variables on the security dynamics of the Asia Pacific region are -0.30; 0.88; 0.22, and -0.31, respectively. All four coefficient variables (X) significantly influence  $\alpha = 0.05$ . Systematically, the structural equation model of the regional security dynamic in the Asia Pacific region is:  $Y_1 = -0.30X_1 + 0.88X_2 + 0.22X_3 + -0.31X_4$ , simultaneously influence all those variables on the regional security dynamic of the Asia Pacific by 0.74 units (74%) significantly on the  $\alpha = 0.05$  (Figure 3).

### **The influence of the Asia Pacific power map, state's security dynamic, Joko Widodo's Government Attitude, defense policy, and regional security dynamics of the Asia Pacific on the regional security policy of the Asia Pacific.**

Table 1 portrays the influence of the Asia Pacific power map, state's security dynamic, Joko Widodo's Government attitude, defense policy, and the regional security dynamic of the Asia Pacific on the regional security policy of the Asia Pacific in sequence are: -0.25; 0.73; 0.18; -0.26 and 0.83, which signed on the level of  $\alpha = 0.05$ . The variables of the Asia Pacific power map, state's security dynamic, Joko Widodo's government attitude, and defense policy indirectly influence the regional security policy of the Asia Pacific, whereas the regional security dynamic of the Asia Pacific directly affects the regional security policy of the Asia Pacific Region by 0.83 units as captured in Figure 3.

### **Correlational relationship among Asia Pacific power map, state's security dynamic, Joko Widodo's Government attitude, and defense policy variables.**

Figure 3 shows the direction of the correlational relationship and coefficient correlations between the Asia Pacific power map and state's security dynamic, Asia Pacific power map and Joko Widodo's government attitude, and Asia Pacific power map and the defense policy variables. Correlational relationship of the state's security dynamic and the attitude of Joko Widodo's government, state's security dynamic and defense policy, and the correlational relationship between Joko Widodo's government attitude and defense policy variables. The correlation coefficients among those variables in sequence are: 0.70; 0.06; -0.11; 0.24; 0.50; and 0.25, with the  $\alpha$  value at 0.05.



**The influence of the regional security dynamic of the Asia Pacific on the regional security policy of the Asia Pacific.**

Table 1 shows that the regional security dynamic of the Asia Pacific indirectly influences the Regional Security Complex and the world's maritime center. Hence, mathematically, the structural equation model for the regional security policy of the Asia Pacific is  $Y_2 = 0.83 Y_1$ . As seen in Figure 3, the regional security dynamic of the Asia Pacific region influences the regional security policy changes in the Asia Pacific region by a determinant coefficient ( $R^2$ ) of 0.69 units (69%).

**Discussion****The influence of the Asia Pacific power map on the regional security dynamic of the Asia Pacific.**

This present study indicates that the Asia Pacific power map significantly influence the regional security dynamic of the Asia Pacific, which means that the Asia Pacific power map also determine the regional security dynamic of the Asia Pacific region with an influence coefficient of -0.30, which is significant on the level of pada  $\alpha = 0.05$ . This indicates that if there is a one unit increase in the Asia Pacific power map, it will decrease the quality of the border security dynamic of the Asia Pacific region by 0.18 unit and, at the same time, decrease the quality of the military and economic security dynamic by 0.15 unit. The significant influence of the Asia Pacific power map on the dynamic of the regional security of the Asia Pacific is due to the economic, military, and foreign diplomatic power dimensions.

This result corroborates Caballero et al. (2021), who described that the strategic position of the Asia Pacific region as the center of essential activities within the global economic and political agendas. This strategic position will have consequences on conflict constellations as well as cooperation which not only involve States in the Asia Pacific Region but also involves superpower States outside the Asia Pacific region. Song et al. (2019) describe in their study that the emerging of the China geo-economic approach is a determining factor in achieving China's geostrategic objectives in the Asia Pacific region. Further, Kvedaras et al. (2021), in their research, conclude that the solid economic growth and domestic market expansion of China have made China the most prominent goods producer in Asia. This regional economic policy at the end has strengthened China's position as the new influential power in the Asia Pacific region.

Scott's (2018) research described that the military power dynamic in the Asia Pacific region had been further tested by China's control over the South China Sea in creating the man-made islands and new military base in that area. China views the strategic value of South China Sea as means to counter the American encirclement strategy. In his study, Chang (2021) concludes that China sustainably increases its military budget and its technological advancement. Thus, it can keep up with the US military strategy, even though at the same time China is focused on their 'active defense' doctrine that emphasizes defending their area thus. China has become a significant regional military authority.

Yorgason (2017) defines the changing security dynamic in the Asia Pacific region following the conclusion of the Cold war as the start of China supremacy, thus, creating political and military tensions between China and the US. On the other hand, Indonesia, as one of the States in the Asia

Pacific region, through its foreign diplomatic policy, strives to provide directions to the ASEAN States to put more emphasis on the strength of political and economic cooperation with China and the US than military power. Even though Indonesia also shows some concerns over China's actions, particularly regarding the *nine-dash line*, which can potentially cause conflicts related to the maritime border of the two States.

### **The influence of the state's security dynamic on the regional security dynamics of the Asia Pacific.**

This research clarifies that states' security dynamic significantly influences the regional security dynamic of the Asia Pacific, which means that the state's security dynamic variable codetermines the regional security dynamic of the Asia Pacific region by 0.88 points of influence coefficient with the significant level of  $\alpha = 0.05$ . This indicates that if there is an increase of one unit in the state's security dynamic on the regional security dynamics and the state's security dynamic, will increase the quality of the border's security dynamic of the Asia Pacific region by 0.52 unit and at the same time it also increases the quality of military and economic security dynamic by 0.44 unit. These results further back up the researches by Lee (2008), Busygina et al. (2018), and van Dijk, (2021), where they concluded that the changes in security strategy and system of a State are heavily influenced by the strategic environment dynamic that is constantly changing and evolving. The increasing demands for democratization, the shift of inter-state politics into intra-state conflicts, globalization, the advancement of technology, and fast information sharing brought an impact on the security disruption and legal violation in the national sea jurisdiction. In the sea jurisdiction area, the intensity of security disruption and legal infringement is considered high and is yet to be managed appropriately by Indonesia. This is due to the limited border protection and sea monitoring facilities, and infrastructure of Indonesia.

### **The influence of Joko Widodo's government attitude on the regional security dynamics of the Asia Pacific.**

Our present study points out that the Joko Widodo's government attitude variable codetermines the regional security dynamic of the Asia Pacific with the influence coefficient of 0.22 in the significant level of  $\alpha = 0,05$ . This indicates that if there is an increase by one unit in the attitude of the Joko Widodo's government on the South China Sea dispute and the ownership of the Natuna Islands, it will increase the quality of the border security dynamic of the Asia Pacific region by 0.13 unit and will increase the quality dynamic of the military and economic security by 0.11 unit. This result reaffirms Hsiao's (2020) findings, which stated that Indonesian interests in the South China Sea are; first, to protect the sovereignty of Natuna as part of Indonesia, which are closer to the South China sea. Natuna is a strategic area that full of natural resources. Sovereignty is a core value of national interest that is considered necessary for a State in relation to security, defense, and sovereignty. In addition, Jackson (2021) concludes that a state will do almost anything to defend its core values. Indonesia believes that Natuna's sovereignty as part of Indonesia is threatened with illegal fishing by China fishing fleets. Therefore, Indonesian firm action toward China in the Natuna waters can be understood from this core values interest. The Indonesian

sovereignty in Natuna waters is more important than the economic interest, which is categorized as middle-range interest.

### **The influence of defense policy variable on the regional security dynamics of the Asia Pacific.**

This result confirms that defense policy variables pointedly influence the regional security dynamic in the Asia Pacific region, which means that the defense variable also determines the regional security dynamic of the Asia Pacific with the influence coefficient of -0.31 at the significant level of  $\alpha = 0.05$ . This indicates that if there is an increase of one unit in the defense policy on the dimension of minimum essential force (MEF) provision and the regional security of the Asia Pacific and ASEAN, it will decrease the quality of the border security dynamic of the Asia Pacific region by 0.19 unit and will correspondingly reduce the quality of the military and economic security dynamic by 0.15 unit.

This result corroborates the result of a study by Zahara and Arjun (2020), which describes that Joko Widodo's defense policy towards the regional security of the Asia Pacific region is based on the international, regional, and national security dynamic. Joko Widodo's administration has several security policies, such as the provision of *Minimum Essential Force II* (MEF II). Further, Lee & Hyungseok's (2015) study also concluded that Indonesian power and armory system experienced an increase which was signified by the contribution of the national defense industry as well as cooperation with foreign armory products. Data of sequence of MEF strategic plan showed that in 2015 the MEF strategic plan achievement was 33.90%, and increased to 42.30% in 2016. In 2017 the MEF achievement against its strategic plan was 50.90%, and in 2018 increased to 61.80%, and by 2019, the fulfillment of MEF was 63.37%.

Delina (2021) argues that Indonesian defense policy that emphasized the efforts to increase its military ability, particularly against the external threats related to state's sovereignty, through developing its border area and its outer islands in the form of security power and the affirmation of the government attitude on Natuna Utara Sea, which borders the South China sea, as part of Indonesian sovereignty.

### **The Influence of Asia Pacific Power Map, state's security dynamic, the attitude of Joko Widodo's government, and the defense policy on the dynamic of regional security in the Asia Pacific region.**

The result of this present study affirms that the Asia Pacific power map, state's security dynamic, and Joko Widodo's government attitude, and defense policy significantly influences the regional security dynamic of the Asia Pacific region with the determinant coefficient ( $R^2$ ) is 74% in the significant level of  $\alpha = 0.05$  (Figure 3). The increase of the regional security dynamic in the Asia Pacific region is becoming better, which is evident in the improving quality of the Asia Pacific border security dynamic and the dynamic quality of the military and economic security.

This result is in line with the Vision and Mision of the Joko Widodo's government for the 2014 – 2019 period, which portrayed a 'low profile' foreign policy or at least minimizing the appearance in the foreign events and instead focused more on its domestic affairs (inward-looking) to reform and strengthen the military and the domestic economy. For Joko Widodo's government, national economic strengthening and development are more important and more interesting than others.

Such principle opens a diverse interpretation. This can be seen in the formulation of foreign affairs vision and mission of the Joko Widodo and Jusuf Kala's term, "creating a sovereign, independent, based on mutual cooperation." This vision affirms the meaning of Indonesian "independence" by maintaining its national sovereignty and independence while maintaining its national characteristics. In this principle, "active" attitude and behavior are reflected to create national independence based on positive and constructive cooperation.

### **The influence of Asia Pacific power map variable, state's security dynamic, and the attitude of the Joko Widodo's government, and defense policy, and the regional security dynamic of the Asia Pacific on the regional security policy of the Asia Pacific.**

This present study points out that the Asia Pacific power map, state's security dynamic, Joko Widodo's government attitude, defense policy, and regional security dynamics of the Asia Pacific pointedly influence the regional security policy changes in Asia Pacific (Figure 3). Regional security policy changes in the Asia Pacific region are evident in the changes of Regional Security Complex by 0.78 unit and co-influences changes in the world's maritime center policy by 0.82 unit (Table 1). The impact of regional security dynamic in the Asia Pacific region on the regional security policy changes in the Asia Pacific region with the determinant coefficient ( $R^2$ ) by 69 % while the rest 31% is influenced by the factors outside this research.

The result of this study affirms the results of Ramutsindela (2010), Todes & Ivan (2017) and Muawanah, et al. (2018), which described that in preserving the national interest, Joko Widodo's government needs to respond to the development of regional security dynamic by cooperating with several neighboring States in the Asia Pacific region. On the other hand, for the increase of defense ability against the security threats, including the Asia Pacific's security threat, the implementation of *Regional Security Complex Theory* (RSCT) is an appropriate policy issued by the Joko Widodo government in maintaining and observing the Indonesia national interest in the Asia Pacific.

Studies by Glenn & Theodore (2001) and Fatima et al. (2020) explain that Joko Widodo's government policy concept is developing Indonesia into a world's maritime center through the increase of its maritime management, including the rise of military power against non-traditional threats. Further, Raak (2014) and Cremers et al. (2020) found that the threats in the Asia Pacific region due to the conflict between the US and the PRC on PRC's claims of the South China Sea area that borders the ASEAN States has made the implementation of *Regional Security Complex Theory* (RSCT) realistic for the ASEAN States, including Indonesia.

### **Correlation among variables that influence the regional security dynamic in the Asia Pacific region.**

The result of this study reveals that the correlation among variables, the correlation between Asia Pacific power map and the state's security dynamic, Asia Pacific's power map and the attitude of the Joko Widodo's Government, and the Asia Pacific power map and the defense policy significantly differs on the level of  $\alpha = 0.05$ . This can describe the close relationship between the state's security dynamic variable and defense policy is considered as strong with the correlation coefficient of 0.50. This means that if there is a change in the state's security dynamic on the regional security dimension and nation's security dynamic, it will increase the defense policy on

the fulfillment of *Minimum Essential Force* (MEF) and regional security of the Asia Pacific and ASEAN region.

This result corroborates the result of the study carried out by King (2006), He & Cai (2019), and Li & Yen (2019), which conclude that the geographic clustering aspect within the *Regional Security Complex Theory* (RSCT) becomes even more significant to the Asia Pacific region. Implementation of *Regional Security Complex Theory* (RSCT) of the States in the ASEAN region is carried out through mutual cooperation to create regional stability in the Asia Pacific region.

Hamzah (1984) and Sukabdi (2021) describe that Indonesian efforts in implementation of *Regional Security Complex Theory* (RSCT) are part of the policy issued by each state as anticipatory steps internally in managing the military, economic, and security power in the Asia Pacific region. This becomes synchronized with the Indonesian development policy into a world's maritime center as stated by Joko Widodo through the fulfillment of *Minimum Essential Force* (MEF) by considering Indonesian waters that need to be protected to maintain the Indonesian sovereignty as a state.

## Conclusion

Internal factors that influence the regional security dynamic of the Asia Pacific region are economic power, military power, foreign diplomatic power, regional security dynamic, state's security dynamic, attitude toward the South China Sea conflict, attitude toward the Natuna Island ownership, provision of *Minimum Essential Force* (MEF), and regional security in the Asia Pacific and ASEAN region. All those internal factors significantly influence the regional security dynamic of the Asia Pacific region on the determinant coefficient ( $R^2$ ) by 74%.

The Asia Pacific power map, state's security dynamic, Joko Widodo's government attitude, and defense policy variables indirectly influence the changes of regional security policy in the Asia Pacific region, whereas the regional security dynamic of the Asia Pacific through the quality dimension of border security dynamic of the Asia Pacific region and the quality of the military security and economic security dynamic directly influence the changes in the regional security policy in the Asia Pacific region with the influence coefficient by 0.83 unit.

The degree of correlation between state's security dynamic and the defense policy is considered vital, whereas the degree of correlation between state's security dynamic variable and the attitude of the Joko Widodo's government and the defense policy is deemed as weak. The three correlations among the variables are significantly different in the level of  $\alpha = 0.05$ .

The impact of the regional security dynamic of the Asia Pacific region on the changes of regional security policy of the Asia Pacific region through the Regional Security Complex policy dimension and the world's maritime center policy with the determinant coefficient ( $R^2$ ) is 69%.

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