

BAB IV

KESIMPULAN

Amerika Serikat (AS) memiliki berbagai kritik terhadap *North American Free Trade Agreement* (NAFTA) sejak masa pembentukannya. Pada masa pemerintahan Presiden Donald Trump, terutama tahun 2017-2018, Pemerintah AS berinisiatif untuk melakukan tindakan negosiasi ulang terhadap NAFTA. Oleh karena itu, tulisan ini berfokus untuk menjawab pertanyaan **“Mengapa Amerika Serikat mengambil strategi yang bersifat proteksionisme terhadap NAFTA pada tahun 2017-2018?”**. Melalui teori neo-merkantilisme oleh Bjorn Hettne dan kepentingan nasional oleh Morghentau dan Robert J. Art. Terdapat tiga kesimpulan yang dapat menjawab strategi AS terhadap NAFTA.

Pertama, AS mengubah prioritasnya melalui reposisi arah kebijakan ekonominya. Pemerintah AS memiliki persepsi bahwa sistem ekonomi internasional bersifat *zero sum game* atau kondisi yang menyebabkan sebuah negara akan mendapatkan keuntungan ekonomi sedangkan negara lainnya akan mendapatkan kerugian. Persepsi tersebut berpengaruh terhadap evaluasi Pemerintah AS terhadap NAFTA sebagai kerangka kerja ekonomi yang mempengaruhi NAFTA. Dengan sistem tersebut, AS melihat NAFTA membawa berbagai kerugian seperti defisit perdagangan, stagnansi jumlah lapangan pekerjaan dan standar gaji, hingga ketidakadilan yang dilakukan Kanada melalui kebijakan proteksionismenya.

Dengan kerugian yang disebabkan oleh NAFTA, AS memformulasikan arah kebijakan baru yang dapat mengakomodasi kepentingannya yaitu, *America First*. Reposisi yang dilakukan oleh AS berfungsi untuk mengakomodasi kepentingan AS dan menegakkan kedaulatan ekonomi AS. Strategi AS sejalan dengan teori neo-merkantilisme menyebutkan bahwa logika negara harus berfokus untuk melindungi kepentingannya untuk memastikan negara dapat bertahan dalam sistem ekonomi yang anarkis. Oleh karena itu reposisi arah kebijakan AS dapat membantu AS untuk menciptakan kerangka ekonomi regional yang menguntungkan.

Konsep kepentingan nasional juga menjelaskan arah strategi baru AS yang bersifat proteksionisme. Ketika keterbukaan ekonomi tidak lebih penting daripada keberlangsungan hidup AS maka keterbukaan ekonomi dapat dikorbankan. Keberlangsungan hidup AS ditentukan dengan kapasitas AS memiliki kekuatan ekonomi untuk memenuhi kebutuhannya termasuk membiayai pertahanan negara. Selain itu, AS juga perlu untuk mempertahankan posisinya sebagai hegemon untuk melindungi diri sendiri.

Terlepas dari USMCA, berbagai kebijakan ekonomi yang bersifat proteksionisme juga telah atau pernah diterapkan oleh Pemerintah AS menunjukkan bahwa arah kebijakan ekonomi liberal hanya akan diambil pada saat dibutuhkan oleh AS. Misalnya penerapan GATT dilakukan pasca perang untuk memberikan insentif pertumbuhan ekonomi kepada seluruh negara dan memastikan tidak muncul konflik baru akibat penerapan tarif. Sehingga penerapan ekonomi liberal bukan merupakan tanggung jawab AS sebagai sebuah negara melainkan sebuah

opsi untuk mengambil keuntungan. Saat ini, situasi yang terjadi menunjukkan bahwa kebijakan ekonomi liberal tidak menguntungkan bagi AS dan strategi proteksionisme harus diambil untuk melindungi negara AS.

Kedua, arah strategi baru AS yaitu *America First* didukung dengan metode penerapan tarif dalam rangka mendesak negara-negara lain untuk mengikuti keinginan AS. Dalam menciptakan rezim baru, AS akan mengumumkan ketidakadilan ekonomi yang terjadi secara unilateral. Setelah itu, AS akan mengundurkan diri dari perjanjian yang ada atau melakukan negosiasi ulang dalam perjanjian tersebut. Tarif akan diterapkan untuk mendesak negara anggota mengikuti keinginan AS dan melakukan kompromi karena tarif akan menyakiti kondisi domestik negara. Akibatnya kompromi harus segera dilakukan. Sistem yang dilakukan AS dapat dijustifikasi karena AS mengutamakan kepentingan pribadi dan berusaha melindungi kondisi dalam negara seperti yang disebutkan oleh neo-merkantilisme. Selain itu, AS juga tidak memiliki tanggung jawab untuk selalu berfokus terhadap liberalisme perdagangan.

Ketiga, dengan diterapkannya *United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement* (USMCA), AS dapat memenuhi atau mencari solusi atas berbagai kekhawatiran yang dimiliki terhadap NAFTA. Reformasi *Rules of Origin*, terbukanya pasar susu Kanada, hingga standarisasi pekerja antara AS-Meksiko-Kanada merupakan solusi yang dapat membawa perubahan karena reformasi tersebut bersifat signifikan walaupun bersifat proteksionisme. Tanpa melalui USMCA, kemungkinan AS untuk mengatasi kekhawatirannya sulit untuk diselesaikan. Tuntutan AS untuk membuka

pasar Kanada yang gagal selama bertahun-tahun menunjukkan sulitnya memenuhi kepentingan AS.

Keempat, tindakan yang dilakukan oleh AS merupakan tindakan rasional. Berdasarkan konsep *rational choice*, AS bersikap rasional dengan memaksimalkan keuntungannya dengan kondisi yang tidak mendukung yaitu sistem perdagangan liberal yang cenderung merugikan. AS juga tidak menutup perekonomiannya secara keseluruhan yang akan merugikan AS. Selain itu, AS juga bersikap strategis dengan mengubah rezim perekonomian sehingga Amerika Utara akan menjadi lingkungan yang menguntungkan bagi AS dalam jangka Panjang.

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