

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION

By looking at the research question which is **“How does Norway protect its national interests in the Arctic through utilizing NATO’s collective defence during Russia’s militarization of the region?”** and the theory along with concept in the first chapter, data which are compiled in the second chapter and lastly maximizing the gathered data to be analyzed by the theory of neo-realism leads the writer to sum this research into 3 main points.

Firstly, Russia’s rising hegemony in the Arctic is creating a change in international structure especially in the High North in which the federation has increase its military activities through reinforcement of Bastion Strategy, military bases around the Northern Sea Route and increasing military exercises which are categorized as a militarization of the region. The militarizing activities are constituted to Norway as a threat to the state’s national interests especially in regards of stability which will create a domino effect toward other interests if not achieved.

With that being said, it leads Norway to seeks survivability and stability as the main national interests through creating a new policy which emphasized the importance of utilizing the alliance’s principle of collective defence which serves as an instrument to pursue the state’s security in responding to Russia’s increasing hegemony in the region thus it is implemented through Norwegian Long Term Defence Plan, White Paper, High North Strategy and Core Value of Norway’s Defence Sector. It is written on the documents that Norway’s security and

survival in the High North is highly dependent on the alliance's principle of collective defence.

Secondly, Norway is utilizing the alliance's collective defence to pursue its national interests through three main activities which are enhancing alliances exercises in the Norwegian soil, developing military instrument through cooperating with member states of the alliances and lastly maximizing the presence of NATO's permanent bases in Norway's territory or closely to High North region. These initiatives are pursued as a form of self-help to protect the state's security in which collective defence serves as an instrument for Norway to interact with member-states of the alliance and regain its security, this also answers the research question which stated how Norway would protect its national interests through utilizing NATO's collective defence in the Arctic. Moreover, these activities are also what NATO's Secretary General has stated has the reinforcement of collective defence due to the rising threats coming from Russia thus a collective action is indeed a critical aspect that needed to be taken.

Thirdly, Norway is optimizing external balance in the region by enhancing the alliance's presence in the region through increasing alliance military exercises in the Norwegian soil, developing military instrument through bilateral along with multilateral cooperation under the collective defence principle and lastly maximizing the presence of NATO's permanent bases in Norway therefore these initiatives have an objective to balance Russia's hegemony. With that being said, the efforts to balance Russia's hegemony has an objective to secure Norway's national interests in regards of security and stability in the High North. Thus,

Norway is enhancing new policies in regards to respond towards to threats coming from Russia and it highlighted the importance of implementing collective defence as a form of self-help to achieve the national interests and balance Russia's hegemony in the Arctic.

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