

Bab IV

Kesimpulan

Australia telah menjalin hubungan dengan Republik Rakyat Tiongkok sejak tahun 1972. Pada 2007, Tiongkok mengambil alih posisi Jepang untuk menjadi mitra dagang terbesar bagi Australia. Kemudian, pada 2009, Tiongkok menjadi pasar ekspor terbesar Australia. Suatu peristiwa penting bagi hubungan ekonomi Australia-Tiongkok terjadi pada tahun 2015 ketika kedua negara menandatangani ChAFTA yang memberikan keuntungan lebih dari 90% di kedua arah. Namun, sejak 2018, terjadi gesekan pada hubungan kedua negara yang tentunya berdampak besar pada hubungan ekonomi. Dimulai ketika Australia menjadi negara pertama yang melarang operasi 5G Huawei dan ZTE dari Tiongkok karena dianggap sebagai strategi spionase Tiongkok. Australia kemudian menunjukkan pendekatan yang lebih keras melalui berbagai tindakan. Intensi Australia terhadap Tiongkok berubah dan ingin menjauhkan hubungan, terutama dalam bidang ekonomi. Hingga akhirnya terjadi penurunan hubungan ekonomi kedua negara dan puncaknya ketika Tiongkok menerapkan berbagai sanksi ekonomi bagi produk ekspor Australia.

Tindakan-tindakan Australia ini kemudian menimbulkan sebuah pertanyaan, yaitu **“Apa faktor eksternal dan internal yang menyebabkan penurunan hubungan ekonomi Australia-Tiongkok pada 2018-2020 ditinjau dari sisi Australia?”**. Untuk menjawab pertanyaan tersebut, digunakan teori Realisme Neoklasik oleh Gideon Rose dan didukung dengan konsep Kepentingan Nasional oleh Waltz dan Morgenthau. Rose faktor eksternal dan internal memengaruhi politik luar negeri suatu negara. Selanjutnya, didukung dengan konsep Kepentingan

Nasional. Morgenthau menggambarkan kepentingan nasional sebagai sesuatu yang dibentuk dari dalam negara dan para pengambil keputusan. Sedangkan Waltz berpendapat bahwa kepentingan nasional suatu negara adalah produk dari sistem dunia swadaya (*self-help*).

Hubungan ekonomi Australia-Tiongkok mengalami penurunan sesudah 2018. Sebelumnya, pada 2007-2017, FDI Tiongkok cukup stabil dengan tren meningkat secara garis besar. Perdagangan juga mengalami peningkatan di kedua arah. Sedangkan pada 2018-2020, FDI Tiongkok di Australia mengalami penurunan. Hal berbeda dialami di sektor perdagangan yang terus meningkat. Namun, nilai total ini meningkat bukan karena jumlah produk ekspor, tetapi karena harga global bijih besi yang tinggi. Jumlah produk ekspor Australia ke Tiongkok justru mengalami banyak penurunan karena Tiongkok menerapkan sanksi ekonomi pada beberapa komoditas.

Pertanyaan penelitian dijawab dengan mengacu pada teori Realisme Neoklasik oleh Rose. Terdapat 3 faktor eksternal, yang menyebabkan penurunan hubungan ekonomi oleh Australia ini, yaitu konflik LCS, intervensi Tiongkok pada politik domestik Australia, dan konflik AS-Tiongkok. Kemudian, faktor eksternal tersebut memengaruhi 4 faktor internal, yaitu perubahan pandangan dalam Buku Putih Kebijakan Luar Negeri Australia pada 2017, ketergantungan ekonomi Australia yang berlebihan pada Tiongkok, opini publik Australia, dan Sinophobia di masyarakat.

Faktor eksternal dan internal yang telah dibahas memiliki keterkaitan satu sama lain. Penurunan hubungan ekonomi dengan Tiongkok perlu dilakukan agar

Australia bisa lebih bebas dalam mengutamakan kepentingan nasionalnya. Kepentingan nasional ini terkait dengan ketahanan ekonominya dalam jangka panjang, keamanan politik dalam negeri karena intervensi Tiongkok, kekuasaannya di Asia, khususnya Asia Tenggara, kepentingannya di LCS, dan hubungannya dengan AS. Semua kepentingan ini membuat Australia perlu menurunkan hubungan ekonominya dengan Tiongkok sejak 2018.

Berdasarkan hasil penelitian, kasus ini memenuhi persyaratan dari teori Realisme Neoklasik oleh Rose. Faktor eksternal dan internal telah dipaparkan dan juga ada hubungan antara faktor-faktor tersebut, terutama bagaimana faktor internal itu juga merupakan respon dari faktor eksternal yang ada. Kemudian, penggunaan konsep Kepentingan Nasional oleh Waltz dan Morgenthau dapat terpenuhi secara penuh, terbukti bahwa pengaruh dari luar dan dalam negeri dapat menunjukkan kepentingan nasional Australia.

Pada dasarnya, temuan penelitian ini memenuhi harapan karena mampu menjelaskan motivasi di balik penurunan hubungan ekonomi Australia-Tiongkok yang ditinjau dari sisi Australia secara rinci dan setiap faktor saling berkaitan. Namun, penelitian ini bisa menjadi lebih menarik apabila tahun yang digunakan sampai pada tahun 2021, di mana sebenarnya Australia melakukan banyak tindakan yang semakin asertif dan tegas terhadap Tiongkok sehingga temuan penelitian ini bisa menjadi lebih kuat. Oleh sebab itu, diharapkan ke depannya akan ada penelitian lebih lanjut terkait dengan kasus ini karena pembahasan seputar Tiongkok dan AS beserta negara-negara yang berkaitan tentunya akan masih menjadi topik utama di dalam hubungan internasional.

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