

BAB IV

KESIMPULAN

Kawasan Indo-Pasifik merupakan pusat dunia dalam hal politik dan ekonomi karena memiliki rute laut paling penting di dunia, dan menjadi fokus utama kebijakan luar negeri Australia karena mencakup mitra ekonomi terpenting Australia dan dinamisnya mendukung pembangunan Australia yang modern dan dinamis, sehingga stabilitas kawasan Indo-Pasifik menjadi kunci kepentingan Australia dalam menjalankan agenda kepentingan nasionalnya. Namun, tidak dapat dipungkiri bahwa kawasan Indo-Pasifik mengalami pergeseran politik dan ekonomi akibat kebangkitan China yang sangat signifikan. Seperti yang sudah dijelaskan pada bagian awal penelitian ini, kebangkitan China baik dalam konteks ekonomi, politik, maupun militer, beserta agresivitasnya di kawasan telah menimbulkan kekhawatiran bagi negara-negara di kawasan, tidak terkecuali Australia.

China yang semula merupakan negara yang terisolasi, terus bangkit melalui bidang ekonominya hingga meraih posisi negara dengan perekonomian terbesar kedua di dunia setelah Amerika Serikat. Di bawah kepemimpinan Presiden Xi Jinping, China terus bangkit dengan memperjuangkan “*China Dream*,” yakni sebuah visi untuk memulihkan kekuatan besar China dimana Xi melangkah lebih jauh untuk mendorong reformasi militer pendahulunya. Kebangkitan China dalam konteks ekonomi telah

mendorong kemajuan teknologinya, sekaligus kemajuan pertahanannya, dimana China terus berinvestasi dalam persenjataan dan peralatan canggih, serta merombak struktur komando militernya untuk memodernisasi angkatan bersenjata. Hal tersebut dibuktikan sesuai data yang dipaparkan Peneliti pada pembahasan Bab 2, dimana terdapat peningkatan pengeluaran militer China setiap tahunnya di bawah pemerintahan Xi Jinping. Tujuan dari modernisasi militernya adalah untuk membentuk lingkungan internasional dan regional yang menerima serta memfasilitasi kepentingan China. Tidak hanya modernisasi militer, namun juga perilaku China di kawasan yang dapat dikatakan semena-mena, terutama terkait klaimnya atas Laut China Selatan, dimana China menggunakan paksaan militer dan ekonomi untuk menggertak negara tetangganya, mengajukan klaim maritim yang melanggar hukum, mengancam jalur pelayaran maritim, serta mengacaukan wilayah tersebut. Hal tersebut semakin mendorong kekhawatiran negara-negara yang berada di kawasan, bahkan negara-negara yang memiliki kepentingan di kawasan, yakni Australia.

Australia menilai bahwa kebangkitan serta agresivitas China menjadi ancaman bagi stabilitas kawasan Indo-Pasifik yang *notabene*-nya merupakan kunci penting dari kepentingan nasionalnya. Kekhawatiran Australia akan perilaku China sesuai dengan konsep dan teori yang digunakan Peneliti, yakni Teori *Balance of Threat*, dimana dalam teori tersebut Stephen M. Walt menjelaskan bahwa sebuah negara dapat dikatakan sebagai ancaman apabila memiliki kekuatan agregat, kedekatan geografis, kapabilitas militer yang bersifat ofensif, serta niat agresif. Dalam konteks ini, China merupakan negara dengan populasi yang besar sekaligus menjadi negara dengan

perekonomian tinggi dan teknologi yang canggih. Perekonomian serta kecanggihan teknologinya pun turut mendorong modernisasi militernya, dimana China menjadi negara dengan kekuatan tempur terkuat di dunia dengan kemampuan senjata nuklir. Lalu, China dan Australia pun cukup dekat secara geografis dimana keduanya berbagi perairan, yakni Samudera Pasifik yang masuk ke dalam kawasan Indo-Pasifik dimana kepentingan Australia berada. Kemudian, pidato-pidato Presiden Xi mengenai ambisi kebangkitan China di panggung global yang diiringi dengan klaim tidak berdasarnya di Laut China Selatan telah memicu kekhawatiran negara-negara di kawasan bahkan kekhawatiran global. Dengan ini, dapat disimpulkan bahwa China memiliki keempat indikator yang disebutkan oleh Walt dalam Teori BoT, dimana hal tersebut mengartikan China telah menjadi sebuah ancaman karena mengganggu keberadaan, kedaulatan, maupun keamanan suatu negara, yakni Australia.

Menanggapi hal tersebut, Australia di bawah pemerintahan Perdana Menteri Scott Morrison melakukan pembaruan kebijakan pertahanannya, yakni *The 2020 Defence Strategic Update* dan *The 2020 Force Structure Plan* atas dasar banyaknya perubahan serta tantangan baru yang muncul di lingkungan strategis Australia, yakni kawasan Indo-Pasifik. Sesuai dengan Teori BoT, Ketika suatu negara dihadapkan oleh sebuah ancaman, maka negara cenderung akan merespon dengan membentuk aliansi dengan negara lain, Tindakan yang dapat dilakukan oleh suatu negara yakni antara *balancing* atau *bandwagoning*. Dalam konteks ini, Australia melakukan *balancing*, dimana negaranya memperkuat aliansi dengan negara-negara berkepentingan di kawasan, sekaligus memperkuat aliansi yang sudah ada untuk menanggapi ancaman

yang dirasakan. Perilaku *balancing* tersebut didasarkan pada pertimbangan bahwa Australia merupakan *strong states* dan *availability of allies* Australia, dimana terdapat negara-negara aliansi Australia di kawasan Indo-Pasifik yang memudahkan Australia dalam melindungi keamanannya. Dalam hal ini, implementasi Tindakan *balancing* Australia diperlihatkan dengan upayanya mempererat aliansi bersama Amerika Serikat, menjalin mitra keamanan dan mempererat hubungan bersama Jepang dan New Zealand, membentuk dialog keamanan QUAD bersama Amerika Serikat, India, dan Jepang, serta membentuk pakta keamanan AUKUS bersama Amerika Serikat dan Inggris.

Dengan demikian, mengacu pada pertanyaan penelitian **“Bagaimana Australia melihat peningkatan kapabilitas China sebagai ancaman di Kawasan Indo-Pasifik?”** dapat disimpulkan bahwa peningkatan kapabilitas China dilihat sebagai ancaman di kawasan Indo-Pasifik oleh Australia karena Australia memiliki aspirasi “kawasan Indo-Pasifik yang terbuka, inklusif, dan sejahtera,” namun kawasan Indo-Pasifik mengalami pergeseran politik dan ekonomi akibat kekuatan agregat, niat agresif, kekuatan ofensif, serta kedekatan geografis China dengan Australia. Maka dari itu, Australia pun merespon ancamannya dengan melakukan tindakan *balancing* yang ditandai dengan pembaharuan kebijakan pertahanannya, yakni *The 2020 Defence Strategic Update* dan *The 2020 Force Structure Plan*.

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