

BAB IV

KESIMPULAN

Dengan demikian telah terjawab pertanyaan penelitian yaitu, tragedi 9/11 yang dilakukan oleh organisasi islam Al-Qaeda telah memicu Perang Irak, dimana Amerika Serikat menggunakan kekuatan militer dalam perang ini meskipun tidak disetujui oleh PBB dan negara-negara lain. Setidaknya terdapat 3 alasan Amerika Serikat mengintervensi Irak. Alasan yang pertama adalah, Amerika Serikat mencurigai bahwa Irak terutama Saddam Hussein terlibat dalam tindakan teorrisme Al-Qaeda dalam tragedi 9/11 yang terjadi di New York. Selain itu, alasan yang kedua adalah Amerika Serikat juga menyatakan bahwa Irak mempunyai semacam *prototype* senjata pemusnah missal yang dicurigai dapat mengganggu kestabilan keamanan negara lain. Alasan yang terakhir adalah Invasi Amerika Serikat ke Irak adalah untuk membebaskan masyarakat Irak dari rezim Saddam Hussein yang dinilai diktator (disebut Operasi Pembebasan Rakyat Irak).s

Selama Perang Irak terjadi, banyak media massa yang memberitakan mengenai *war on terror* dan terorisme, salah satunya adalah Fox News Channel yang didirikan oleh Rupert Murdoch dan Roger Ailes sebagai CEO dari Fox News Channel. Melalui pemberitaannya yang bersifat kontroversi dan dinilai konservatif, Fox News berhasil meraih rating tertinggi saat itu bahkan mengalahkan CNN dan media-media lainnya. Fox News berhasil menjadi mainstream media di Amerika Serikat.

Fox News sangat mendukung kebijakan Presiden George Bush dalam invasi Irak. Menurut Fox News yang disampaikan melalui pemberitaannya, penggunaan senjata militer dalam Perang Irak adalah tindakan yang tepat. Selain itu, Fox News juga menampilkan pemberitaan mengenai bukti-bukti keterlibatan Irak dalam peristiwa 9/11. Selain itu, melalui website resminya Fox News juga mengunggah foto-foto yang dinilai dapat mendukung alasan Amerika Serikat menggunakan senjata militer ke Irak (Invasi Irak). Dalam penyiarannya Fox News selalu menggunakan animasi bendera Amerika Serikat yang berkibar di sudut layar yang menandakan dukungan terhadap kebijakan Presiden Bush dalam Perang Irak.

Sebagai mainstream media di Amerika Serikat pada saat itu, Fox News juga mempengaruhi pemberitaan media-media lain sehingga menjadi seragam. Pada akhirnya, masyarakat Amerika Serikat yang menonton berita juga ikut mendukung kebijakan Presiden Bush dalam Invasi AS ke Irak. Banyak masyarakat yang juga mengira bahwa Irak memiliki senjata pemusnah massal dan terlibat dalam tragedi 9/11 bersama dengan organisasi ekstrimis AL-Qaeda.

Sesuai dengan teori agenda setting dimana media massa menentukan apa yang penting dibahas menurut media itu sendiri serta menjadi penting juga untuk masyarakat. Selama Perang Irak berlangsung, Fox News menganggap isu Perang terhadap terorisme (dalam kasus ini Irak yang dianggap bekerjasama dengan AL-Qaeda) penting untuk diketahui oleh masyarakat, sehingga masyarakat juga menganggap berita tersebut penting. Hal tersebut terbukti dari rating yang Fox News yang mencapai puncaknya pada saat itu, yang berarti banyak audiences

yang juga menganggap apa yang diberitakan oleh Fox News penting untuk dibahas dan diperbincangkan oleh masyarakat. Dengan menganggap Irak adalah bagian dari teroris (terutama Saddam Hussein) dan memiliki kecenderungan melakukan tindakan terorisme (memiliki senjata pemusnah massal dan terlibat dalam tragedi 9/11) masyarakat Amerika Serikat berpendapat bahwa Invasi Amerika Serikat ke Irak adalah suatu tindakan yang tepat.

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