

Strengthening Defense Industries in Developing Countries Through Defense Diplomacy: A Comparative Study of Indonesia and the Philippines

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Abstrak

Studi ini menyelidiki peran diplomasi pertahanan dalam memperkuat industri pertahanan di negara-negara berkembang, dengan fokus pada Indonesia dan Filipina. Diplomasi pertahanan, yang didefinisikan sebagai penggunaan langkah-langkah diplomatik untuk mencapai tujuan keamanan nasional, telah menjadi alat strategis bagi negara-negara berkembang untuk meningkatkan kemampuan pertahanan mereka. Melalui studi kasus komparatif, penelitian ini meneliti strategi diplomasi pertahanan Indonesia dan Filipina, mengeksplorasi inisiatif, kemitraan, dan hasil mereka dalam pengembangan industri pertahanan. Hasilnya menunjukkan bahwa kedua negara telah secara efektif memanfaatkan diplomasi pertahanan untuk memajukan industri pertahanan mereka, meskipun dengan fokus strategis yang berbeda. Pendekatan keamanan regional Indonesia dan upaya manufaktur pertahanan kontras dengan peningkatan keamanan maritim yang ditargetkan Filipina dan inisiatif pelatihan bersama. Studi ini menggarisbawahi pentingnya diplomasi pertahanan dalam mengembangkan kemampuan pertahanan nasional dan potensinya untuk berkontribusi secara signifikan terhadap pengembangan industri pertahanan di negara-negara berkembang, menawarkan wawasan berharga bagi para pembuat kebijakan dan akademisi dalam hubungan internasional dan kebijakan pertahanan.

Kata Kunci: *Diplomasi Pertahanan; Industri Pertahanan; Negara Berkembang*

Abstract

This study investigates the role of defense diplomacy in strengthening defense industries in developing countries, focusing on Indonesia and the Philippines. Defense diplomacy, defined as the use of diplomatic measures to achieve national security objectives, has become a strategic tool for developing countries to enhance their defense capabilities. Through a comparative case study, this research examines the defense diplomacy strategies of Indonesia and the Philippines, exploring their initiatives, partnerships, and outcomes in defense industry development. The results show that both countries have effectively utilized defense diplomacy to advance their defense industries, though with differing strategic focuses. Indonesia's regional security approach and defense manufacturing efforts contrast with the Philippines' targeted maritime security enhancements and joint training initiatives. The study underscores the importance of defense diplomacy in developing national defense capabilities and its potential to significantly contribute to defense industry development in developing countries, offering valuable insights for policymakers and scholars in international relations and defense policy.

Keywords: *Defense Diplomacy; Defense Industry; Developing Country*

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Introduction

Defense diplomacy has emerged as a crucial tool for nations seeking to bolster their defense capabilities and enhance their defense industries. Defense diplomacy refers to the use of diplomatic means to achieve strategic objectives related to national security and defense. It involves the integration of defense and foreign policy to promote cooperation, build partnerships, and enhance defense capabilities (United Kingdom, 1998)

Defense diplomacy is significant in shaping foreign and security policies, as it allows nations to leverage diplomatic channels to achieve defense-related objectives, such as technology transfer, capacity building, and international collaborations (Drab, 2018). This strategic approach to foreign policy and national security has gained significant attention in recent years, particularly among developing countries looking to strengthen their defense sectors.

Indonesia and the Philippines, two Southeast Asian nations, are examples of countries that have been actively engaging in defense diplomacy to strengthen their defense industries. Indonesia, with its vast natural resources and strategic location, has been seeking to develop its defense capabilities to ensure national security and stability (Shiddiqy, 2019). The Philippines, facing security challenges in the South China Sea and dealing with the threat of terrorism, has been focusing on modernizing its defense sector to address these threats (Gadisa et al., 2024).

By examining the defense diplomacy strategies of Indonesia and the Philippines, this research aims to provide insights into the effectiveness of this approach in strengthening defense industries in developing countries. The findings will contribute to a deeper understanding of the role of defense diplomacy in national security and defense development, with implications for policy makers and scholars interested in defense and international relations.

Research Method

This study adopts qualitative method with comparative case study approach to examine the defense diplomacy strategies of Indonesia and the Philippines. The comparative case study approach is chosen because it allows for a detailed and contextualized analysis of each country's unique approach to defense diplomacy, as well as the similarities and differences between them (Pickvance, 2001). This method is particularly useful for exploring complex phenomena such as defense diplomacy, which involves multiple actors, diverse strategies, and varied outcomes.

Data collection for this study is carried out using both primary and secondary sources. Primary sources include official government documents, policy papers, and statements from defense and foreign affairs ministries of Indonesia and the Philippines. Secondary sources include academic journals, books, and articles that analyze the defense policies and diplomatic activities of Indonesia and the Philippines. Furthermore, reputable news outlets are consulted to gather up-to-date information on recent developments and ongoing initiatives in defense cooperation.

The analysis of the collected data involves a thematic coding process, where key themes and patterns are identified and categorized. This process helps to systematically organize the data and highlight the main findings of the study (Jnanathapaswi, 2021). Comparative analysis is then conducted to identify the similarities and differences in the defense diplomacy strategies of Indonesia and the Philippines. Particular attention is paid to the specific initiatives, and bilateral agreements undertaken by both countries.

The study also considers the historical and geopolitical context in which the defense diplomacy efforts of Indonesia and the Philippines are situated. Understanding the historical background and regional security dynamics is crucial for comprehensively analyzing the motivations and implications of defense diplomacy. This contextual analysis is supported by reviewing historical documents, previous research studies, and expert opinions.

By employing a comparative case study approach and utilizing a combination of primary and secondary data sources, this research aims to provide a nuanced understanding of how defense diplomacy is utilized by Indonesia and the Philippines to strengthen their defense industries as developing countries. The findings from this study contribute to the broader literature on defense diplomacy and offer practical insights for policymakers and practitioners in the field of international relations and defense policy.

Result and Discussion

Indonesia's Defense Diplomacy on Developing Defense Industry

Indonesia has been actively engaging in defense diplomacy to strengthen its defense industry, recognizing the importance of this approach in enhancing its national security and defense capabilities. The country's defense industry development has been marked by significant growth, driven in part by its strategic location and natural resources (Shiddiqy, 2019). Indonesia's defense diplomacy characteristic is focused on fostering international collaborations, capacity building, and technology transfer to enhance its defense capabilities (Riyadi & Dewi, 2022).

One notable example of Indonesia's defense diplomacy to strengthen its defense industry is its defense cooperation with the United States. In 2005, after 13 years of a prolonged pause in their defense cooperation, the relationship between the two countries showed a positive recovery (Wenas Inkiriwang, 2021). Since then, defense cooperation between the two countries has continued actively until the era of the current President of Indonesia, Joko Widodo (Indirasari, 2021). This defense relationship with the United States, a hyperpower country, facilitated the transfer of defense technology and equipment, as well as capacity-building assistance, which contributes to the modernization of Indonesia's defense sector.

Furthermore, Indonesia's defense diplomacy efforts have extended to the development of its defense manufacturing sector. Through partnerships with foreign defense companies, Indonesia has established joint ventures and technology transfer agreements to enhance its indigenous defense production capabilities (Riyadi & Dewi, 2022). For example, the collaboration between Indonesian and South Korean defense firms in producing armored vehicles has not only boosted Indonesia's defense industry but has also created opportunities for technology transfer and skill development within the country (Kim, 2023).

Overall, Indonesia's defense diplomacy initiatives, such as the defense cooperations with the United States, and collaborations in defense manufacturing, have been instrumental in advancing its defense industry. These efforts have not only strengthened Indonesia's defense capabilities but have also positioned the country as a key player in the regional defense market, showcasing the effectiveness of defense diplomacy in enhancing national security and defense industry development for a developing country.

The Philippines's Defense Diplomacy on Developing Defense Industry

The Philippines has strategically utilized defense diplomacy to bolster its defense industry and enhance its national security capabilities as a developing country. The country's defense industry development has been shaped by its focus on modernization and addressing

security challenges, particularly in the South China Sea region and in combating terrorism (Gadisya et al., 2024). Through proactive engagement in defense diplomacy, the Philippines has sought to strengthen its defense sector and build partnerships to ensure its security and stability (Gadisya et al., 2024).

One significant aspect of the Philippines' defense industry development is its emphasis on enhancing maritime security capabilities. Given its geographical location and maritime challenges, the Philippines has prioritized initiatives to improve its naval forces and maritime surveillance capabilities (Perwita & Meilisa, 2018). Defense diplomacy has played a crucial role in facilitating partnerships with countries like the United States to acquire advanced maritime defense technologies and equipment (Gadisya et al., 2024).

For example, the Philippines' acquisition of patrol vessels and surveillance aircraft through defense cooperation agreements has enhanced its maritime domain awareness and operational capabilities in safeguarding its territorial waters (Lariosa, 2024). Additionally, the Philippines has engaged in defense dialogues and capacity-building programs with regional partners like Australia and Singapore to enhance its defense industry expertise and capabilities (Australia, 2023; Philippines DND, 2023).

Overall, the Philippines' implementation of defense diplomacy has been instrumental in advancing its defense industry and strengthening its national security posture. By focusing on maritime security enhancements and engaging in strategic partnerships through defense diplomacy, the Philippines has made significant strides in modernizing its defense sector and addressing security challenges. These initiatives underscore the importance of defense diplomacy in enhancing defense industries for developing countries like the Philippines.

Comparison

The Philippines and Indonesia, two Southeast Asian nations, have been actively engaging in defense diplomacy to strengthen their defense industries and enhance their national security capabilities. Both countries have recognized the importance of defense diplomacy in achieving strategic objectives related to national security and defense and have actively engaged in various initiatives to promote cooperation, build partnerships, and enhance defense capabilities. While both countries have been pursuing similar objectives and have good defense relationships with hyperpower countries like the United States, their approaches and strategies have differed in several aspects.

Indonesia's defense diplomacy has primarily focused on regional security and cooperation. This approach has facilitated significant international collaborations, capacity-building initiatives, and technology transfers aimed at bolstering its defense capabilities. For instance, Indonesia's defense cooperation with the United States, which resumed actively in 2005, has been pivotal in transferring defense technology and equipment, as well as providing capacity-building assistance that modernizes Indonesia's defense sector (Indirasari, 2021). Moreover, Indonesia has established partnerships with foreign defense companies, resulting in joint ventures and technology transfer agreements that have enhanced its indigenous defense production capabilities. An example of this is the collaboration between Indonesian and South Korean defense firms in producing armored vehicles, which has not only strengthened Indonesia's defense industry but also created opportunities for technology transfer and skill development within the country (Kim, 2023).

The Philippines' defense diplomacy has been more targeted, focusing on addressing specific security challenges, particularly in the South China Sea and in combating terrorism. The country's defense industry development has emphasized enhancing maritime security capabilities (Gadisya et al., 2024). Through defense cooperation agreements, the Philippines

has acquired advanced maritime defense technologies and equipment, such as patrol vessels and surveillance aircraft, significantly improving its maritime domain awareness and operational capabilities (Lariosa, 2024). Additionally, the Philippines has engaged in defense dialogues and capacity-building programs with regional partners like Australia and Singapore, further enhancing its defense industry expertise and capabilities (Australia, 2023; Philippines DND, 2023)

While both Indonesia and the Philippines recognize the strategic importance of defense diplomacy in enhancing their defense industries and national security capabilities, their approaches reflect their unique security needs and geopolitical contexts. Indonesia's broader focus on regional security and defense manufacturing contrasts with the Philippines' targeted efforts to modernize its defense sector and address maritime security challenges. Indonesia's strategy has positioned it as a key player in the regional defense market, leveraging international collaborations to boost its defense industry. In contrast, the Philippines has concentrated on building robust maritime security capabilities to safeguard its territorial waters and address external threats.

Despite these differences, both countries have recognized the importance of defense diplomacy in enhancing their defense industries and national security capabilities. Indonesia's defense diplomacy has been instrumental in advancing its defense industry, while the Philippines' defense diplomacy has been crucial in addressing its security challenges. Both countries have demonstrated a commitment to defense diplomacy as a key tool in achieving their national security objectives.

Conclusion

In conclusion, defense diplomacy has demonstrated its significance on strengthening defense industries in developing countries. The case studies of Indonesia and the Philippines have shown that defense diplomacy has been instrumental in advancing their defense industries and strengthening their national security capabilities. Indonesia's defense diplomacy initiatives have focused on fostering international collaborations, capacity building, and technology transfer to enhance its defense capabilities. The Philippines, on the other hand, has strategically utilized defense diplomacy to bolster its defense industry and enhance its national security capabilities, which the focus on modernization and addressing security challenges, particularly in the South China Sea region and in combating terrorism.

While Indonesia and the Philippines have pursued different approaches to defense diplomacy, both countries have recognized its importance in enhancing their defense industries and national security capabilities as developing countries. Defense diplomacy has been a key factor in advancing their defense sectors, and its continued implementation will be crucial in addressing their security challenges and enhancing their national security postures. It is a vital tool for developing countries to promote their defense industries and strengthen their defense capabilities. By fostering international collaborations and capacity building, defense diplomacy can contribute significantly to the development of defense industries in developing countries.

In the future, defense diplomacy might continue playing a crucial role in shaping the global defense landscape. As countries continue to face security challenges and seek to enhance their defense capabilities, especially for developing countries, defense diplomacy will remain a key tool in achieving strategic objectives related to national security and defense. The potential future impact of defense diplomacy on global defense industries is significant, as it can facilitate the transfer of defense technology and equipment, capacity building assistance, and international collaborations to enhance defense capabilities.

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