

## **Strengthening The Awareness Of State Defense Of The Millennial Generation Through Defense Management Against Economic Threats After The Covid-19 Pandemic**

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### **Abstract**

*The Covid-19 pandemic that hit globally at the end of 2019 had a significant impact on the Indonesian economy. The PSBB (Large-Scale Social Restrictions) policy enacted at that time caused various economic problems such as increasing commodity prices in the market and increasing unemployment due to layoffs (Termination of Employment) which occurred due to the declining economic growth rate. This research uses a qualitative approach that aims to identify how the economic impact of the post-Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia and outline how appropriate state defense efforts for the millennial generation to face economic threats as non-military threats that affect national resilience. The results of this study confirm that the concept of state defense efforts must be implemented gradually and continuously in order to instill awareness of state defense in the younger generation. This approach can be done through various channels, both through formal and non-formal education. Promoting the concept of universal defense by involving all potential national resources is key in strengthening national character building. This is done by fostering awareness and state defense skills for every Indonesian citizen, so that they are ready to become part of the human resources that defend the country. Moreover, this approach also strengthens national identity that is rooted in personality and culture based on the values of Pancasila. Given the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Indonesia's economy, including rising prices of basic necessities, high unemployment rates, and declining investment, it is important that we raise state defense awareness and educate Millennials about their role in maintaining the country's resilience.*

**Keywords:** *State Defense, Millennials, Non-Military Threats, Economic Threats*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The dynamics of globalization have changed the entire order of life in various parts of the world, one of which is Indonesia. Globalization is characterized by easy access to the exchange of information, knowledge, culture, trade and other interactions. But behind the ease of it all, globalization also provides a threat in terms of the State defense system. In addition to the military threats that we know war using weapons, along with changing times, non-military threats have now emerged.

Non-military threats are no longer foreign to a country. Unlike the military threat of war, non-military threats sometimes come unnoticed by a country. This is due to the negative impact of globalization that disguises the boundaries of association between nations which indirectly has provided an opportunity for the entry of foreign cultures that can have a negative influence and then become a threat to the integrity of the state. Non-military threats are threats that do not use weapons. This threat uses non-military factors that are abstract in nature, but capable of endangering the sovereignty of the state, the personality of the nation, the territorial integrity of the state, and the safety of the entire nation. Non-military threats can have ideological, political, economic and socio-cultural dimensions.

Although not as massive as military threats, the rise of war or non-military threats still needs to be watched out for. In general military wars use military violence to destroy and kill the enemy, in non-military wars use non-violent actions to conquer opponents so that they are willing to fulfill our interests and can be optimally utilized. Non-military wars are far more

complex and complicated because they cover various dimensions of the life of the nation and state.

One form of non-military threat that threatens national defense is the threat of the world economic crisis after the Covid-19 pandemic. The Covid-19 outbreak, which began to appear at the end of 2019 in China, then spread to all parts of the world until it spread to various countries outside Asia. The Covid-19 pandemic itself began to be detected in Indonesia in March 2020 and had a significant impact on the country's economy. The Covid-19 recovery process that has not been one hundred percent coupled with the world conflict between Russia and Ukraine has caused global economic instability because both countries are major exporters of strategic commodities, causing disruptions in the global supply chain and worsening the global economy (Widorekno, 2021).

Therefore, several efforts are needed to maintain national defense due to the existence of non-military threats through the cultivation of state defense values. National Resilience is a dynamic condition of a nation that contains tenacity and resilience that contains the ability to develop national strength in facing and overcoming all threats, interference, obstacles and challenges from outside and within the country, both directly and indirectly that can endanger the integrity of identity, the survival of the nation and state and the struggle in pursuing national goals. The 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (UUD NRI 1945) explicitly regulates the obligation of Indonesian citizens (WNI) to participate in state defense efforts. This is stated in Article 27 paragraph 3 of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, which reads, "Every citizen has the right and obligation to participate in state defense efforts". Furthermore, the provisions regarding state defense are regulated in Law Number 3 of 2002 concerning State Defense (Law No.3/2002), namely in Article 9 paragraphs 1 and 2. The article stipulates that state defense efforts are manifested in the implementation of state defense, and include civic education, compulsory basic military training, service in the Indonesian National Army voluntarily or compulsorily, and service by the profession.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

This research is a study using a qualitative approach, namely research that uses language for cases and contexts, examines social processes and cases in their social context, and looks at the interpretation or the creation of meaning in a particular setting. The qualitative data used is data in the form of words, schemes, and images (Sugiyono, 2015). This research aims to identify the impact of Covid-19 as a non-military threat to the Indonesian economy and state defense as an effort for the millennial generation to overcome the threat to national security. This type of research is a literature study, which is a series of activities starting from collecting library data, reading, and recording, to then being processed into research material. Researchers conducted literature studies by reading various books, journals, and other publications to produce articles on the awareness of state defense of the millennial generation through defense management against economic threats after the Covid-19 pandemic. Descriptive content analysis was conducted on journals related to the research theme. The selection of journals is based on relevance to the theme and also the period of publication.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Almost every year one to three new variants of infectious diseases are discovered in humans or old diseases reappear. WHO (World Health Organization) or the World Health Organization has announced several diseases that threaten humanity, namely, Dengue Fever, Tuberculosis (TB), Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS), Mad Cow Disease or Variant Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease (VCJD), and other dangerous diseases. Until the end of 2019, a new disease outbreak emerged that has shaken the world, namely the Coronavirus Disease 2019 or Covid-19 pandemic. Geographically, Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean are identified by the WHO as regions prone to the emergence of various dangerous diseases (KEMENHAN, 2015).

The Covid-19 pandemic that hit the world at the end of 2019 also occurred in Indonesia. The first case of Covid-19 in Indonesia was recorded in 2020. The impact of this pandemic is very complex, ranging from health, education, and even the national economy. The Covid-19 pandemic has a very significant impact on the Indonesian economy, ranging from changes in the world supply chain to a decrease in foreign investment in Indonesia. The decline can be seen through a slowdown in economic growth which fell from 5.02% in 2019 to 2.97% in 2020. The slowdown in economic growth was also followed by an increase in unemployment, which according to World Bank data, increased from 5.28% in 2019 to 7.07% in 2020 (Melati, 2023). In the first quarter of 2020, the world and national economies were still not significantly affected, but in the second quarter onwards it can be said to have experienced a free fall and even experienced a recession, this condition is the worst period since 1999 for Indonesia, in a short time it can experience a drastic decline. This can be seen in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) data that the economic growth rate of several countries in the world such as the United States in the fourth quarter of 2020 was -2.4%, South Korea was -1.4%, Japan -1.2% and Singapore -3.8%. Indonesia is no exception based on data released by the Central Bureau of Statistics, that the national economic growth rate in 2020 in the first quarter was 2.97%, the second quarter was -5.32%, then in the third quarter was -3.49% and the fourth quarter was -2.19% even, growth was far below the achievement of the first quarter of 2019 which reached 5.07% (Helena J. Purba, 2020).

From health problems, it has now grown and affected various fields of life and has almost paralyzed the economy. The inertia of economic growth that has occurred since 2020 has caused effects in various fields of life. This direct impact on the economy initially occurred due to government policies, namely Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) in various city areas in Indonesia which took place in early April 2020. According to Bank Indonesia data in 2020, the most affected sectors of the national economy are the tourism sector and its derivatives, the transportation, automotive, and manufacturing sectors also feel the direct impact of this government policy which ultimately results in the growth of the economic sector in Indonesia which causes a lot of unemployment in Indonesia.

This PSBB policy has drastically reduced community activities and significantly affected the rate of economic growth so it has also reduced people's consumptive power. Consumption itself is a habit of spending on goods and services carried out by the community to meet the needs of that person. This consumptive spending power includes food, clothing, and other items needed and included in the class of goods consumed (Siregar, 2009). The PSBB policy resulted in all activities in the industrial and office sectors being temporarily forced to stop operating. In addition, the education sector, public services, all places of worship, shopping centers, restaurants and tourist attractions also experienced the same thing. This social or physical distancing has the following effects on the overall decline in economic activity: (1) Massive

layoffs. The results of the data obtained are  $\geq 1.5$  million workers were laid off and affected by layoffs, of which 90% of workers were laid off and 10% of workers were laid off, (2) The decline in PMI Manufacturing Indonesia reached 45.3% in March 2020, (3) The decline in imports by 3.7% in the first quarter, (4) The occurrence of inflation which has reached 2.96% year-on-year (yoy) which has been contributed by the price of gold and food commodities in March 2020, (5) The occurrence of flight cancellations which resulted in a decrease in revenue with losses reaching 207 billion rupiahs. The flight cancellations amounted to 12,703 at 15 airports in January-March 2020, (6) At 6 thousand hotels there has been a decrease in placement (occupancy) up to 50%. This can result in a loss of tourism foreign exchange (Honoatubun, 2020).

Classical economists and neoclassical economists such as Adam Smith, Robert Solow, Trevor Swan, and John Stuart Mill David Ricardo, as well as Thomas Robert Malthus, explained that there are at least several factors that can affect the growth of a country, namely how much population, how much capital stock, natural resources owned and how much land, and technological development (Akhmad, 2022).

Economic growth can be interpreted as how economic activity can increase people's income at a certain time. The definition of economic activity itself is the use of factors of production to produce an output of what is done (Indayani, 2020).

Economic growth is one of the benchmarks that can be used to measure the success of economic development in a country. In a country, economic growth can be calculated from how much the increase in output is reflected in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). GDP is one part of the indicator that is the best measure of a country's economic performance. Meanwhile, the rate of economic growth in a country can be measured using a calculation of the growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant prices.

The current weakening of the Indonesian economy is not only due to the post-pandemic recovery process but also due to the influence of the Ukraine war. IMF Senior Resident Representative for Indonesia James P. Walsh said the war in Ukraine had an impact on the global economy and could affect economic growth. The Ukraine war also caused commodity prices to be higher, for example, the price of cooking oil in Indonesia and fuel prices in the Philippines increased (Lemhanas, 2022).

The high unemployment rate coupled with rising commodity prices in the post-pandemic market economy is certainly causing new problems that can threaten national resilience. If the price increase occurs continuously, it will increase national inflation, as well as the higher unemployment rate, it will increase the potential poverty rate in Indonesia and show the existence of a national economic gap. There is a relationship between a country's national resilience and state defense. State defense activities are the efforts of citizens to realize national resilience. Therefore, an appropriate state defense strategy is needed to overcome this economic threat. Currently, the classification of state defense is not limited to the understanding that state defense must take up arms or be physical, but its contextualization is far more from the softest (soft) to the hard form (hard). State defense in soft form is classified into psychological aspects and physical aspects. This psychological aspect is reflected in the soul, character, attitude, and even the identity of every citizen. The physical aspect itself is realized in the form of real actions in various daily lives of the state, which upholds the Indonesian State. State defense in the hard context is a form of the rights and obligations of citizens that are physically realized to face military threats from other countries (Soepandji, 2018).

Indonesia can enhance unity in ethnic, cultural and religious diversity under the challenges, pressures and threats of a globalized world (Minarso, 2022). The potential caused by this global threat can be massive, and this condition makes the Indonesian government not only

maintain state sovereignty but also improve the management of national defense. This demand is made so that the implementation of national defense management can be more effective and efficient (Prsetyo, 2018). Some previous studies have also explained that threats have evolved to be more dangerous due to their latent nature. In other words, countries must be prepared to face threats that are more strategic, large-scale, and have long-term impacts but are not visible (Pratiwi, 2022).

Uncertain global economic trends demand the need for fast, precise and measurable policies to respond to opportunities and challenges. Thus, it is necessary to improve coordination and synchronization of development planning by stakeholders in development throughout the region to maintain synergy between interests, welfare, and defense (Sutrasna, 2023). In this case, the Defense Office in the region functions as a bridge to realize regional spatial planning that accommodates the interests of public welfare and national defense.

In addition to stakeholders who have a role in maintaining national resilience in the economic field, civil society also plays an important role in maintaining the integrity of the national economy. The concept of Indonesia's national defense is organized in a universal defense system. This developed form of defense involves all citizens, regions, all national resources and infrastructure. To realize the national defense agenda, the national defense obligations are formulated as a reference for the planning, implementation and supervision of the national defense system which includes all efforts to build, maintain and develop in an integrated and directed manner all components of national defense which includes development, empowerment and state direction policies supported by regulatory, budgeting and supervisory policies (KEMENHAN, 2015).

The policy carried out in maintaining national resilience is to improve the development of national character through fostering awareness and ability to defend the country for every Indonesian citizen to prepare human resources for national defense, as well as strengthening national identity based on personality and culture based on Pancasila.

Community participation in state defense awareness includes the following activities within the scope of government, corporate environment, community environment and environment and various agencies, organizations, public and private institutions and political parties that can motivate the younger generation continuously to increase national vigilance. The existence of the younger generation is at all levels of community life, it is necessary to provide guidance, motivation and socialization of state defense awareness so that increased vigilance for the younger generation can still be maintained (Suriata, 2019).

The insight of state defense is an inseparable part of nationalism. Law No. 3 of 2002 concerning State Defense Article 9 paragraph 1 defines state defense as the attitude and behavior of citizens imbued with a sense of love for the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution to ensure the survival of the nation and state. The values in state defense are grouped into 6 groups, namely 1) Love of the homeland; 2) Aware of the nation and state; 3) Loyal to Pancasila as the state ideology; 4) Willing to sacrifice for the nation and state; 5) Have the initial ability to defend the country; 6) Have the spirit to realize a sovereign, just and prosperous country (Dewan Ketahanan Nasional, 2018).

In its development, this young generation is referred to as Generation Z and the Millennial Generation. The Central Bureau of Statistics defines Generation Z as the Indonesian population born between 1997-2012 and the Millennial Generation as those born between 1981 and 1996. Based on the results of the 2020 Population Census, out of 270.2 million people in Indonesia today, 53.81% of them are a combination of the two generations above. As many as 27.94% are filled by Generation Z and 25.87% are categorized as the Millennial Generation.

The younger generation as an asset plays an important role in national defense efforts. With their large numbers and abundant energy, they have great potential to drive the dynamism needed to transform social conditions in the country. In the face of existing challenges, the younger generation has the power to inspire positive change and realize a better vision for the future. To realize this potential, the state needs to provide the best opportunities to young people. If such opportunities are limited or hindered, the country may face social chaos and disillusionment that is detrimental to the development of society. Therefore, the state needs to be actively involved in providing the necessary opportunities, support and infrastructure for young people to develop to their full potential.

State defense efforts for the younger generation can be carried out through formal and non-formal education. At the formal education level, the concept of state defense can be implemented through Pancasila and civic education subjects by the applicable education curriculum. Furthermore, at the level of secondary education, it is necessary to establish a state defense education that is integrated with civic education and scouting activities (scouts/boy scouts). The characteristics of this education must be education based on discipline and real action such as marching training, training to deal with natural disasters, practice assisting in government health extension programs and practice assisting activities in social installations, nursing homes, etc. However, before they go to the field and take part in these activities, they must be trained in the field of defense. However, before they go to the field and learn to interact to build their social sensitivity, students in secondary education need to be equipped through civic education in the form of solid knowledge about the meaning and benefits of these activities, especially about the values of Pancasila, which essentially contains geopolitical values that are vital for the existence and safety of the nation. Another thing that cannot be left out is the need for communication between the school and parents about the importance of these activities. Of course, the way to wrap these activities needs to be adjusted to the educational methods that are considered the best by experts in the fields of education and psychology.

The model of state defense education that is integrated with Citizenship education and scouting activities certainly aims to form a young generation that is sensitive to the surrounding environment, in this case building the seeds of national vigilance and helping to build social solidarity. Good social solidarity will be useful to reduce the potential for brawls, fights between youth groups and other social conflicts that can become the seeds of the division of the Indonesian Nation. Through this state defense education process, it will improve the ability to think longer and wider and self-awareness in society will form a more responsible young generation and not easily influenced by offers of short-term pleasures such as through drugs, business spreading hoaxes, youth/youth gang-based robberies and so on. Thus, there will be a person who is aware of his national geopolitical interests, namely a new generation of Indonesians who do not lose their identity when facing national defense threats (Soepandji, 2018).

In facing economic threats, there are several implementation values as an effort to defend the country that can be done by the younger generation, namely, (1) Cultivating love for the homeland. Love for the homeland can be done by increasing the use of domestic products and minimizing the use of imported products. This is done to encourage domestic production and increase consumer purchasing power after the pandemic. The number of businesses that have stopped operating due to the impact of PSBB during the pandemic has resulted in a decrease in the income of MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) players. Through the purchase of domestic products, it is hoped that it can rejuvenate the enthusiasm of producers to work and increase the number of workers after layoffs that often occur during the pandemic. (2) Avoid individualism, apathy, and hedonistic lifestyles, (3) Believe in Pancasila as the state ideology by

making it a guideline for life in society, nation and state, (4) Pay taxes as a source of state financing as a form of awareness to fulfill obligations as citizens.

## CONCLUSION

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant economic impact, as evidenced by the increase in basic prices, the high unemployment rate, and the weakening of people's purchasing power, resulting in a decrease in investment in Indonesia. To overcome this threat, a concept is needed to increase awareness of state defense. State defense is the attitude and behavior of citizens who are imbued with love for the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution in establishing the survival of the nation and state as a whole. The concept of Indonesian national defense is organized in a universal defense system involving all components owned by the Indonesian state. The Millennial Generation as an asset in the implementation of state life should have awareness in making efforts to defend the country to be able to face threats, challenges, obstacles and disturbances to the integrity and unity of the state. Through state defense education that is carried out gradually and continuously, it can create a younger generation that is more responsible for its role and contribution to maintaining state resilience.

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