

Indonesia's Role In The Russian And Ukrainian Armed Conflict Peace Process

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Abstract

The armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine, which began on February 24, 2022, has had a major impact on humanity, geopolitics, security, and world trade. Indonesia is a sovereign country that wants to create peace in the world, so Indonesia should take an active role in pursuing the peace process between Russia and Ukraine. At present, Indonesia has made various efforts, including through President Joko Widodo's official statement against the occurrence of war, participating in issuing resolutions at the UN General Assembly, and also President Joko Widodo's visit to Ukraine and Russia in order to bridge the dialogue process between the two countries. So far, significant results have not been seen from the efforts made by Indonesia and other countries in the world, and the war continues to rage, claiming many lives. However, Indonesia's efforts will continue to influence the process of peace between Russia and Ukraine, as well as show the world that Indonesia is a large country that does not take sides and is deeply concerned about the human tragedy that has occurred. This study uses a qualitative research method. The presentation of data is carried out descriptively based on a comprehensive literature study from books, journals, and news to examine an event that has occurred objectively using an existing theoretical approach. is written briefly and factually, covering research objectives, research methods, results and conclusions.

Keywords: *Russia-Ukraine War, Conflict Resolution, Indonesian Role*

INTRODUCTION

The Russian and Ukrainian War was an ongoing war between Russia (along with pro-Russian separatist forces) and Ukraine. This conflict started in February 2014, after the Euromaidan Riot. The first eight years of conflict included Russia's annexation of Crimea (2014) and the war in the Donbas (2014–present) between Ukraine and Russian-backed separatists, as well as naval incidents, cyberwarfare, and political tensions. Following a Russian military buildup on the Russia-Ukraine border beginning in late 2021, the conflict escalated significantly on February 24, 2022, when Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Actions taken by Russia against Ukraine officially invited various responses and criticisms from the international community. Indonesia is one of the countries that opposed Russia's action. Constitutionally, Indonesia opposes all kinds of aggression or invasion by one country against another. This is an implementation of the Preamble of the 1945 Constitution, which states that colonialism in the world must be abolished because it is not in accordance with humanity and justice. In addition, Indonesia is a country with a free and active foreign policy that has the opportunity to play a major role in peace efforts between Russia and Ukraine.

Indonesian Foreign Policy is the policies, attitudes, and steps taken by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia in conducting relations with other countries, international organizations, and other international legal subjects in the context of dealing with international problems in order to achieve national goals. The national goals referred to by Indonesia are contained in the 1945 Constitution, one of which is promoting public welfare and participating in carrying out world order. In the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the negative impacts were very significant, namely the disruption of the international trade sector, inflation, the food crisis, and threats to global security. So Indonesia decided to find a solution in order to solve this problem (Hutabarat, 2022).

RESEARCH METHODS

In this study, we used a research approach in the form of library research. Literature study is a study that is used to collect information and data with the help of various materials in the library, such as documents, books, magazines, historical stories, etc. (Mardalis, 1999). Literature studies can also study various reference books and the results of similar previous studies, which are useful for obtaining a theoretical basis for the problem to be studied (Sarwono, 2006). Literature study also means data collection techniques by conducting a review of books, literature, records, and various reports relating to the problem to be solved (Nazir, 1988). Meanwhile, according to other experts, literature studies are theoretical studies, references, and other scientific literature related to culture, values, and norms that develop in the social situations studied (Sugiyono, 2012).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The impact of the armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine

The Russian-Ukrainian war that broke out on February 24, 2022, is still ongoing today. Over the past few months, this war has claimed thousands of civilian lives and forced millions of people to flee their homes. According to a report by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), as of August 28, 2022, the number of Ukrainian civilians who have died as a result of this military conflict has reached 5,663 people. Meanwhile, the injured victims reached 8,055 people. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) also reported that, in addition to the casualties and injuries, there were around 6.9 million Ukrainians who were forced to flee to European countries, as well as 6.6 million citizens who took refuge in their country. Currently, nearly 18 million people, or 40 percent of the population of Ukraine, are in need of humanitarian assistance, and the situation is expected to worsen in the coming winter (Ahdiat, 2022).

The war between Russia and Ukraine also had a major impact on the world trade sector. Russia is the world's second crude oil exporter and the world's third exporter of coal, while wheat is the world's largest exporter. Likewise, Ukraine is the world's largest exporter of vegetable oil, the world's fourth largest exporter of corn, and the world's fifth largest exporter of wheat. Thus, the war between Russia and Ukraine will affect the supply chain of the world's main commodities.

According to Head of BPS Margo Yuwono, the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on Western countries will affect inflation. Then in the Middle East and North Africa, in addition to rising commodity prices, they were also affected because these areas are tourist destinations for Russian and Ukrainian tourists. Meanwhile, in Europe, the supply of natural gas is a big challenge (CNBCIndonesia.com).

The war between Russia and Ukraine also caused world concern about the war's widening impact. As it is known, Russia is a country with the world's main military power, and on the Ukrainian side there is a force behind it that is no less big, namely NATO. Indeed, many military observers predicted that if the escalation of the war did not slow, it would lead to a nuclear war.

Indonesia's role in the peace process over the armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine

A role is defined as an activity performed or played by someone who has a position or social status in an organization. According to the terminology, a role is a set of behaviors that are expected of those who are situated in society. In English, the role is called "role," the

definition of which is "a person's task or duty in undertaking." It means "a person's duties or obligations in a business or job" (Syamsir, 2014). In the context of relations between countries in the world, the role of the state can be interpreted as a duty or obligation carried out by a country in international relations.

With the serious impacts arising from the war between Russia and Ukraine, it becomes an obligation for Indonesia to play a role in calling for and realizing the peace process for both warring parties. Indonesia is a country that has great potential, both economically and politically, to facilitate peace between Russia and Ukraine. This is because Indonesia is a member of the G-20, a member of the Non-Aligned Movement, the largest country in ASEAN, and the country with the world's largest Muslim population.

Indonesia plays an important role in the global social climate. The role that Indonesia has played in this is not the first time this has happened. Since the Bung Karno era, Indonesia has been regarded as one of the world's powers. With the holding of the Asian-African Conference (KAA) in 1955, Bandung became the site of the world's first Asian and African alliance. The Dasa Sila Bandung Charter was coined as an effort to explicitly declare itself against colonialism and imperialism in Asian and African countries. History also records that Indonesia has become not only an arena for global political constellations but also a struggle for blocs that are currently carrying out the post-World War II cold war between America and its allies versus the Soviet Union.

Indonesia's role and participation in pursuing the peace process between Russia and Ukraine must be in accordance with Indonesia's "free and active" foreign policy. In the Elucidation of the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 37 of 1999 concerning Foreign Relations, what is meant by "free and active" is a foreign policy that, in essence, is not a neutral policy but a foreign policy that is free to determine attitudes and policies towards international issues and does not bind himself a priori to one world power and actively contributes, both in the form of thoughts and active participation in resolving conflicts, disputes, and other world problems, for the sake of realizing world order based on freedom, eternal peace, and social justice.

A political attitude is a readiness to act, owned by a person or group, to be able to face, respond to, or assess a political problem that occurs. A free and active Indonesian foreign policy attitude is needed to face the international political arena. Nevertheless, pressure from various parties can influence the direction of Indonesia's foreign policy. The consistency of the Government of Indonesia in remaining impartial is needed to respond to developments in global issues. Foreign policy aims to maintain national independence and national security, increase international peace, and increase brotherhood among nations.

As a country that upholds the principle of freedom and activity in foreign relations, Indonesia also confirms its consistency with this principle in the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. As stated by the Director of Europe II of the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Kemlu RI), Winardi Hanafi Lucky, being free and active does not mean being neutral but also contributing, both in the form of ideas and assistance in conflict resolution. The free and active principle upheld by Indonesia is not identical with a neutral attitude, but it is free to act in accordance with national interests. Furthermore, Indonesia's stance is an effort to emphasize the importance of adhering to international legal norms, rather than simply following the lead of other countries. Indonesia will continue to push for an end to the use of force so that all parties can resolve disputes. Indonesia also considers that the best step towards resolving the current situation in Ukraine is de-escalation so that the negotiation process can run more effectively and allow for the opening of humanitarian channels (Katriana, 2022).

The Indonesian government has taken a position regarding the military attack launched by Russia in Ukraine on February 24, 2022. On the same day, Indonesian President Joko Widodo

expressed his views through the social media site Twitter. Jokowi asked to stop the war but did not mention or show the name of the country. The content of the tweet uploaded to the @jokowi account is "Stop the war." "War is miserable for humanity and endangers the world."

According to a spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Teuku Faizasyah, there were four points conveyed by the Government of Indonesia regarding its position on the war between Russia and Ukraine. First, Indonesia is concerned about the escalation of armed conflict in Ukrainian territory, which is very dangerous for public safety and has an impact on peace in the region. Second, Indonesia insists on complying with international law and the UN Charter regarding the integrity of a country's territory and condemns any actions that threaten the territory and sovereignty of a country. Third, Indonesia reiterates that all parties must prioritize negotiations and diplomacy in order to end conflicts and achieve peaceful resolution. Fourth, the Indonesian Embassy (KBRI) has taken steps to save Indonesian citizens in Ukraine according to the contingency plans that have been prepared (Arbar, 2022).

Indonesia also participated in voting at the UN General Assembly session on March 2, 2022. Indonesia decided to approve a UN resolution to pressure Russia to stop its attack on Ukraine. Indonesia, along with 140 other countries, is known to have taken this step. Out of 193 countries, 181 member countries participated in voting. Of these, 141 countries supported the resolution condemning Moscow, and only five opposed it, including Russia and a small group of allies, including Belarus, Syria, North Korea, and Eritrea. Thirty-five countries voted to abstain, but that number doesn't affect the two-thirds majority needed to pass a resolution. The majority of world countries condemned Russian President Vladimir Putin's decision to put the country's nuclear arsenal on alert in that resolution.

The efforts made by President Joko Widodo were continued by his visits to Ukraine and Russia in order to establish communication with the two heads of state. During a visit to Ukraine on June 29, 2022, President Jokowi conveyed a number of things to President Zelensky. First, Indonesia invited Ukraine to attend the G20 Summit, which will be held in Bali in November 2022. Second, President Jokowi emphasized that Indonesia highly respects sovereignty and territorial integrity, including that of Ukraine. Third, President Jokowi realizes that true peace between Russia and Ukraine is currently difficult to achieve. However, Indonesia will continue to strive for conflict resolution through peaceful channels. He also emphasized that the spirit of peace among nations must not fade. Fourth, the Indonesian government is very sympathetic to civilians who are victims of war. Therefore, the Indonesian government promised to provide medical assistance and help reconstruct a hospital in Kyiv that was destroyed by Russian ammunition. Fifth, President Jokowi acknowledged that Ukraine is an important country for the world food supply chain. Therefore, Ukraine was asked to return to exporting food (Saptohutomo, 2022).

Then President Joko Widodo and his entourage arrived in Moscow, Russia, on June 30, 2022. President Joko Widodo, in a joint press statement with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin Palace, Moscow, said that the issue of peace and humanity has always been a priority for Indonesia's foreign policy. The Indonesian constitution mandates that Indonesia always strives to contribute to the creation of world peace. "It is in this context that President Joko Widodo paid a visit to Kyiv and to Moscow" (Kemlu.go.id).

In this regard, President Joko Widodo also said that he was ready to become a bridge of communication between Ukraine and Russia. President Joko Widodo delivered a message from President Zelensky to President Putin about his readiness to become a bridge of communication between the two leaders. Furthermore, during the meeting between President Joko Widodo and President Putin, they also discussed the problem of disrupting the supply chain of food and fertilizers, which could impact hundreds of millions of people in the world, especially in developing countries. In the talks, President Putin said that Russia guarantees the security of food

and fertilizer supplies from Ukraine and Russia. This is good news because the supply of food and fertilizer from Ukraine and Russia was disrupted.

President Joko Widodo also emphasized support for United Nations (UN) efforts to reintegrate Russian and Ukrainian food commodities into global supply chains. President Jokowi supports UN efforts to reintegrate Russian food and fertilizer commodities and Ukrainian food commodities into the world supply chain. Especially for the export route for Ukrainian food products, especially by sea, there has been a guarantee from President Putin. President Joko Widodo emphasized that Indonesia has no other interests other than wanting to see the war end soon and the food, fertilizer, and energy supply chains repaired immediately. President Jokowi invited all world leaders to work together to revive the spirit of multilateralism, peace, and cooperation.

DPR Commission I member Dave Akbarshah Fikarno sees President Joko Widodo's diplomacy with Russia and Ukraine as something good. Regardless of the results of the diplomatic mission, President Jokowi's bravery in Russia and Ukraine deserves a thumbs up. Apart from Europe, President Jokowi's state visit to Ukraine and Russia was deemed the appropriate step in the midst of global distrust between countries. According to the world's perception, there is no peacemaker who can be trusted by both parties. Jokowi's talks with European and American leaders, as well as meetings with President Zelenka and President Putin, have become a glimmer of hope for world peace.

At least Jokowi has three diplomatic assets at once, namely political diplomacy, economic diplomacy, and cultural diplomacy. In political diplomacy, President Jokowi reaffirmed Indonesia's free and active foreign policy. This shows that Indonesia has a large political capacity as a bridge between the West and the East. The positive side of Indonesia as a big country will not be ignored by countries around the world. This political position must be able to be used to encourage the birth of peace in the midst of the threat of world war and also to alleviate hunger due to rising prices of basic necessities caused by disruption of global supply chains.

Second, economically, Indonesia is included in the G20 and will assume the presidency for the 2022 period. The G20 is a multilateral cooperation forum consisting of 19 main countries and the European Union (EU). The G20 represents more than 60 percent of the world's population, 75 percent of global trade, and 80 percent of the world's gross domestic product (GDP). The G20 members consist of the United States, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, India, Indonesia, Russia, Britain, Italy, Japan, Canada, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, France, China, Turkey, and the European Union. There is an urge to "exclude" or not invite Russia as a member of the G20, a growing discourse amid the approaching 17th G20 meeting in Bali, which will take place on November 15-16, 2022. However, Indonesia rejects this discourse. After all, Russia is a member of the G20, and in fact, Russia is a country with a large economic power whose contribution to the global economy cannot be ignored. This step also establishes the fact that peace cannot be achieved without Russia's participation.

Third, cultural diplomacy is one of the assets of Indonesia's international diplomacy process. This cultural diplomacy can be described as "soft power," which does not confront different entities against each other. Cultural diplomacy is very important as a manifestation of enriching understanding between one group entity and another in global relations. The essence of cultural diplomacy is to stick to the values that are held by dignified human beings based on equality, justice, love, and peace. By prioritizing these values, it is hoped that existing conflicts can be resolved with less tension.

Therefore, Indonesia's global diplomacy must continue. It is impossible to create peace without serving human values. There should be no state entity that feels more important than the

others in world affairs. In an increasingly multipolar world, of course, interdependence and complementarity cannot be avoided, and this can only be achieved through cooperation, not war.

CONCLUSION

Indonesia's role in promoting peace between Russia and Ukraine is carried out in accordance with Indonesia's free-active foreign policy, including through an official statement by President Joko Widodo and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, participating in approving resolutions at the UN General Assembly, and President Joko Widodo's visit to Ukraine and Russia. Indonesia's role in pursuing the peace process between Ukraine and Russia does not immediately show real results. However, from a psychological aspect, it will show that Indonesia represents a third-world country or non-aligned country that hopes to create peace. Then, from the side of international relations, it shows that Indonesia is a large country that is still actively playing its role in the development of the global geopolitical situation.

Indonesia demonstrated three diplomatic assets during Jokowi's visits to Ukraine and Russia: political diplomacy, economic diplomacy, and cultural diplomacy. In political diplomacy, Jokowi reaffirmed Indonesia's free and active foreign policy. This shows that Indonesia has a large political capacity as a bridge between the West and the East. Then, economically, Indonesia is included in the G20 and takes over the presidency for the 2022 period, which can be a strong diplomatic force in a forum that has great influence in the world. Furthermore, cultural diplomacy as Indonesia's soft power does not confront entities that are different from one another, guided by values that are adhered to as a dignified human being based on equality, justice, love, and peace

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