International Journal of Education, Vocational and Social Science
https://e-journal.citakonsulindo.or.id/index.php/IJEVSS
E-ISSN : 2963 4954
IJEVSS

Analysis of National Security Strategies in Response to Conflicts and Competition over Oil Resources in the Indo-Pacific Region

Tulus Afriyan Rizal[1]
[1]Indonesia Defense University, Indonesia
Adnan Madjid[2]
[2]Indonesia Defense University, Indonesia
Arifuddin Uksan[3]
[3]Indonesia Defense University, Indonesia

Corresponding Author: afriyantulus@gmail.com

Abstract

The Indo-Pacific region has become the focal point of global geopolitical competition, involving major powers such as the United States, China, India, and Japan. The background of this study stems from the escalating rivalry and contest over oil resources in the region, which directly affects national security and regional stability, including that of Indonesia. The main objective of this research is to analyze the geopolitical dynamics, energy competition, and their implications for Indonesia's national defense doctrine within the framework of the Indo-Pacific Strategy and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). This study employs a qualitative descriptive approach through an extensive literature review of international and national academic sources focusing on geopolitics and energy security. The findings indicate that the struggle for energy resources in the Indo-Pacific not only influences economic relations but also shapes the direction of national defense and diplomatic strategies. Consequently, Indonesia must renew its defense doctrine with a focus on maritime defense, energy security, and regional multilateral cooperation to safeguard sovereignty and maintain stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Keywords *: **Indo-Pacific geopolitics, energy security, oil resources, defense doctrine, national strategy.***

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International License

International Journal of Education, Vocational and Social Science
https://e-journal.citakonsulindo.or.id/index.php/IJEVSS
E-ISSN : 2963 4954
IJEVSS

INTRODUCTION

In the era of globalization marked by increasing interdependence among nations, the Indo-Pacific region has emerged as the geopolitical, economic, and security center of gravity in the world (Sarjito et al., 2025). This region encompasses the most vital international trade routes on the planet, connecting the Indian and Pacific Oceans through strategic corridors that serve as arteries for global energy flows. More than 60 percent of global trade, including around 80 percent of crude oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) distribution, passes through the region's waters each year (Hutahaean, 2024). Thus, the Indo-Pacific is not merely a geographical space but a strategic arena where national interests, energy security, and global political influence intricately intertwine (Pattihua, 2025).

The dynamics within this region reflect fundamental changes in the post–Cold War global order. The shift of the world's power center from the Atlantic to the Asia-Pacific has triggered what analysts call *the Indo-Pacific century* a new era in which economic, political, and military interactions among major powers are concentrated in this region. The competition for energy resources, particularly oil and gas, has become a major driving factor behind the formation of alliances, rivalries, and potential conflicts among states with direct or indirect interests. Energi essentially the foundation of industrial and military power has transformed into an instrument of power and a strategic tool of diplomacy that determines a country's position in the international hierarchy (Yustiningrum et al., 2024).

Energy security has evolved into a core dimension of modern national security strategy. High dependence on oil imports, rising global energy consumption, and the depletion of fossil fuel reserves have created a situation in which access to energy has become an existential issue for many nations (Panda, 2023). From the realist paradigm in international relations studies, states will seek to secure their interests by all possible means, including military build-up, maritime expansion, and the formation of strategic coalitions. Within this framework, energy geopolitics no longer merely concerns resource availability but also how major powers use energy as a tool to expand influence and exert pressure on political adversaries (Zhu, 2025).

Moreover, the emergence of the United States' *Indo-Pacific Strategy* and China's *Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)* marks the intensification of global competition in shaping the region's security architecture. These two initiatives possess distinct yet overlapping strategic dimensions, particularly concerning control of energy routes and maritime stability. Amid this rivalry, middle and smaller powers face a strategic dilemma in balancing economic interests with national sovereignty. This phenomenon creates what is known as *strategic entanglement*, wherein states

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International License

must engage in multi-directional diplomacy to avoid being trapped within the sphere of influence of any single major power (Len, 2022).

From an international political economy perspective, competition over oil resources in the Indo-Pacific region also reflects the dynamics of *resource nationalism* and *energy mercantilism*. Importing countries strive to secure long-term access to energy through investment contracts, equity control in overseas oil fields, and the protection of maritime distribution routes. Meanwhile, producing nations tend to strengthen domestic control over strategic assets as a means of safeguarding national interests. This condition has generated latent and multidimensional tensions, wherein energy issues are perceived not only as economic matters but also as instruments of diplomacy and power (Effendi et al., 2025).

Theoretically, the concept of *comprehensive security* becomes relevant in understanding this phenomenon. National security is no longer confined to conventional military threats but also encompasses economic, energy, environmental, and social aspects. In the Indo-Pacific, a comprehensive security approach requires states to build defense and diplomatic systems that are adaptive to regional dynamics. This means that foreign policy and defense strategies must be integrated with energy and economic development policies to ensure long-term stability (Zhu, 2025).

Beyond geopolitical and economic factors, global technological transformation also plays a significant role in reshaping the landscape of energy security. Innovations in exploration such as deep-sea drilling and offshore extraction technology open new opportunities for exploiting resources in previously inaccessible areas. However, these developments also pose new challenges in international regulation, maritime safety, and environmental protection. As exploration and energy export activities intensify, the risk of interstate conflict and maritime incidents also increases, particularly in areas with unclear jurisdictional boundaries.

Previous studies have examined national security strategies and resource conflicts in strategic regions from various perspectives. Research by Indriyani et al. (2022) in *Cakrawala: Jurnal Cendekiawan* highlights Indonesia's defense strategy in protecting energy sources in border areas particularly in the Ambalat Block and Natuna Islands where military deterrence, diplomacy, and international law serve as key instruments in addressing sovereignty threats and resource disputes. Meanwhile, Firdaus et al. (2023) in *Jurnal Elektrosista* investigate U.S. energy security policy in the Middle East from the Bush to Obama administrations, showing that energy interests have consistently been the epicenter of U.S. foreign and security policy, including interventions in oil-rich regions. Similarly, Sari & Sembadani (2023), through the book *Keamanan Nasional*

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International License

Perbatasan Abyei Sudan, explain how the contest over oil-rich Abyei serves as a model for understanding the relationship between natural resources, ethnic conflict, and national security in Africa. Lastly, Hidayat et al. (2024) in *Jurnal Syntax Admiration* analyze disputes in the South China Sea through a realist approach, emphasizing that the struggle for oil and gas resources in the region is rooted in power politics and strategic control over global trade routes. Collectively, these studies demonstrate that competition over energy resources not only generates geopolitical tensions but also requires states to construct comprehensive, adaptive, and long-term national security strategies.

The main problem in national security concerning conflict and competition over oil resources in the Indo-Pacific region lies in the increasing complexity of interstate rivalries due to overlapping territorial claims, economic interests, and geopolitical ambitions. As the hub of global energy trade routes, any disruption to the region's stability could trigger a global crisis. The South China Sea conflict, for instance, illustrates how control over seabed oil and gas reserves symbolizes power and fuels diplomatic tensions between major powers such as China, the United States, and ASEAN member states. This issue is further exacerbated by the weak implementation of international maritime law (UNCLOS) and the rise of *grey-zone operations* that blur the line between military and civilian actions. Additionally, the heavy energy dependence of major powers on single supply routes increases the risk of *energy insecurity*, while developing countries in the region still lack the capacity to safeguard their resource sovereignty.

This study aims to comprehensively analyze national security strategies in addressing the dynamics of conflict and competition over oil resources in the Indo-Pacific region. Through a *strategic and security analysis* approach, it seeks to identify how states in the region design and implement defense strategies, energy diplomacy, and regional cooperation to maintain stability and secure national energy supplies. Specifically, it examines national policies relevant to *energy diplomacy*, *maritime defense*, and *geostrategic alliances* as part of an integrated security system. The results are expected to provide strategic recommendations that not only strengthen national resilience against external threats but also promote an inclusive and sustainable regional security order.

The urgency of this research lies in the growing risk of open conflict in the Indo-Pacific, which has become the center of global political, economic, and security gravity. Given the world's high dependence on fossil fuels and the limited global oil reserves, competition for resources in this region could trigger a domino effect on international security. This condition compels every nation, including Indonesia, to develop a robust, adaptive, and collaborative national security

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International License

strategy. Without a deep understanding of geopolitical dynamics and patterns of resource competition, countries become vulnerable to external pressures whether in the form of economic coercion or non-conventional military threats. This research is crucial to providing empirical and theoretical foundations for strengthening Indonesia's position in regional forums such as the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting and Indo-Pacific Partnership cooperation, while ensuring the protection of national energy interests amid an increasingly uncertain global security landscape.

The novelty of this study lies in its integrated approach, combining analyses of *energy security*, *maritime strategy*, and *geopolitical competition* within a single national security framework relevant to the Indo-Pacific. Unlike previous studies focusing on specific cases such as the Ambalat Block, Natuna, or the South China Sea, this research seeks to link these dynamics into a multidimensional security concept that simultaneously encompasses military, diplomatic, and economic aspects. It also emphasizes the perspectives of *Comprehensive National Power (CNP)* and *regional defense cooperation* as new models for maintaining energy stability and preventing conflict. Thus, this study provides both conceptual and practical contributions to understanding how national security strategies can adapt to the complex competition for resources in an era of multipolar geopolitics, where energy is not merely an economic commodity but an instrument of power and global influence.

THEORITICAL REVIEW

Realism Theory in International Relations

Realism theory serves as a primary framework for understanding the dynamics of power and security among states. Realism asserts that the international system is anarchic, meaning that there is no overarching authority governing state behavior (Morgenthau, 1948; Waltz, 1979). Under such conditions, each state acts as a rational actor seeking to maximize power and ensure its survival by enhancing military capabilities, building alliances, and controlling strategic resources.

In the context of the Indo-Pacific region, realism explains the competition among major powers such as the United States, China, India, and Japan to secure access to oil resources and global energy distribution routes. Control over energy trade routes, particularly in the South China Sea and the Strait of Malacca, represents a strategic power struggle to determine the balance of power. Consequently, the control of oil resources carries not only economic value but also serves as an instrument of geopolitical power and influence (Mearsheimer, 2001).

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International License

The Concept of Comprehensive Security

The concept of comprehensive security emerged as a critique of the traditional security paradigm, which focuses solely on the military dimension. According to Buzan (1991), national security should encompass five key dimensions: military, political, economic, social, and environmental. Within this framework, threats to a nation do not necessarily take the form of military invasion but may also arise from economic dependence, energy crises, or environmental instability.

In the Indo-Pacific context, energy security constitutes a crucial component of comprehensive security. High dependence on oil imports, supply disruption risks, and conflicts over energy trade routes make energy a cross-sectoral strategic issue. Therefore, modern national security strategies must integrate *hard power* such as maritime defense capabilities with *soft power* through diplomacy, international law, and regional cooperation. This approach enables states to maintain regional stability without undermining long-term economic cooperation (Baldwin, 1997).

The Theory of Comprehensive National Power (CNP)

The concept of *Comprehensive National Power (CNP)* was developed primarily within Chinese foreign policy literature as a means of measuring a nation's overall capacity to influence the international system (Hu Angang, 2009). CNP encompasses a combination of military, economic, technological, diplomatic, cultural, and social stability factors that collectively determine a state's strategic position.

For Indonesia, the application of the CNP concept is highly relevant to addressing challenges in the Indo-Pacific region. Strengthening maritime power, enhancing energy diplomacy, and participating actively in regional defense cooperation are integral components of a strategy to bolster comprehensive national power. This approach aligns with Indonesia's *free and active* foreign policy, positioning the country as a balancing force amid global rivalries among major powers.

Through this conceptual framework, the study positions the struggle for oil resources not merely as an economic issue but as a manifestation of the global power structure shaping regional stability and Indonesia's national defense strategy.

METHODOLOGY

This study employs a systematic literature review (SLR) approach using a corpus of 20

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International License

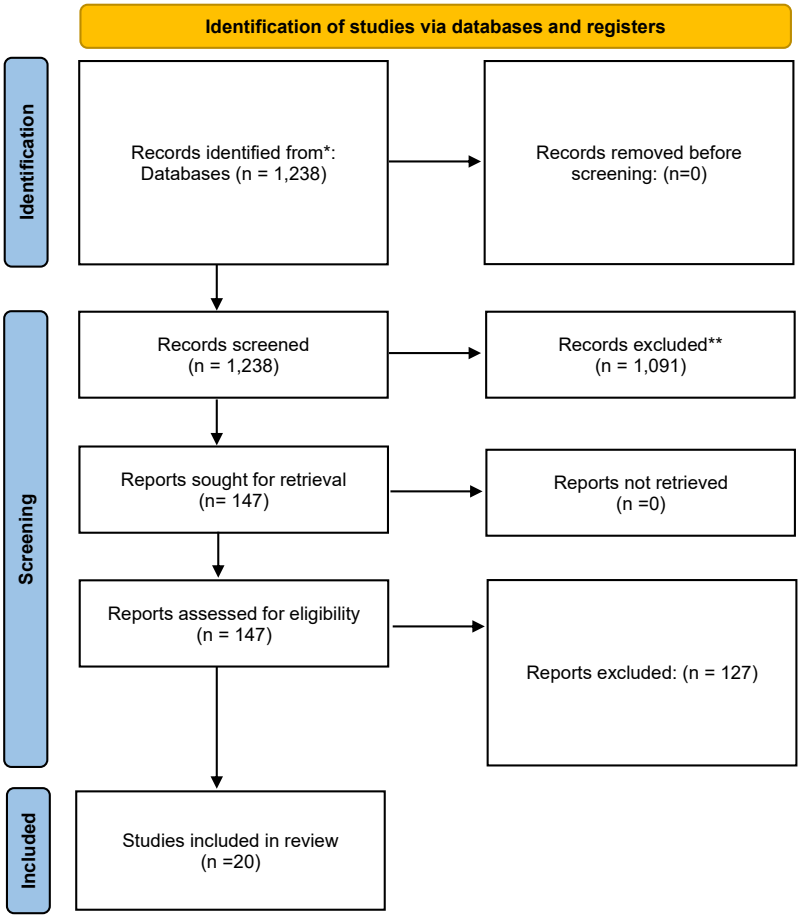
selected articles drawn from peer-reviewed journals and institutional sources to ensure a diverse range of theoretical and empirical perspectives. The selection process follows a structured sequence:

1. Planned search strategy conducted across databases such as *Scopus*, *Web of Science*, and *Google Scholar*, as well as institutional repositories (e.g., *academia.edu*, *ojs.akmil.ac.id*), using combined keywords such as *Indo-Pacific*, *energy security*, *maritime security*, *oil resources*, *Blok Ambalat*, *Natuna*, *South China Sea*, *grey-zone*, and *UNCLOS*, covering the period 2000–2025.
2. Initial records screening was carried out based on titles and abstracts, followed by a full-text evaluation using inclusion criteria: topic relevance (oil resource competition and security strategies), strong empirical methodology or theoretical analysis, and the availability of verifiable data or arguments. Exclusion criteria included opinion pieces without references, duplicated studies, and non-academic sources lacking methodological accountability.
3. Quality appraisal was performed using an adapted *CASP* checklist and article quality indicators (methodological rigor, clarity of data/arguments, and conceptual contribution). From the initial pool, exactly 20 articles were selected as the final corpus.
4. Data extraction was conducted using a standardized extraction form covering article metadata, objectives, methodology, key findings, geographic scope, and policy implications. All quotations and significant findings were catalogued in a spreadsheet for traceability.
5. Data analysis involved iterative thematic coding using qualitative analysis software such as *NVivo* or *ATLAS.ti* (where available) to identify core themes (e.g., deterrence, joint development, energy resilience, grey-zone tactics, legal frameworks), inter-theme relationships, and research gaps.
6. Synthesis of findings followed a *narrative synthesis* approach, integrating both quantitative and qualitative evidence while testing the consistency of findings across studies. Any uncertainties or contradictions among results were addressed through source triangulation and sensitivity to sample bias.
7. The entire process was documented using a PRISMA flow diagram for transparency in literature selection and an evidence matrix showing the weight and origin of findings.
8. Methodological limitations including potential publication bias, methodological heterogeneity across studies, and limited access to primary military/industrial data were explicitly acknowledged and mitigated through refined appraisal criteria and recommendations for future research.

This method is designed to produce a robust, replicable theoretical–practical synthesis

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International License

that can directly inform policy formulation in the fields of security studies and energy resource management within the Indo-Pacific region.



Picture 1. Diagram PRISM

RESULT

Table 1. Results of Literature Review

No	Author & Year	Issue	Objective	Method	Focus / Case	Findings	Conclusion
1	Effendi et al., 2025	Geopolitical tensions due to competition over oil and gas resources in the Indo-Pacific	Critically examine how geopolitical dynamics and resource competition in	Qualitative approach with descriptive-analytical analysis of defense	Indo-Pacific region with focus on the South China Sea and Natuna Block.	Demonstrates that great power dominance and oil competition are primary drivers for the	Indonesia needs to integrate an adaptive defense strategy

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International License

		affecting Indonesia's national security and demanding changes in the country's defense doctrine.	the Indo-Pacific reshape Indonesia's defense doctrine and national security strategy.	documents and current geopolitical policies.		formation of a new defense doctrine based on maritime security and energy diplomacy.	combining military deterrence, energy diplomacy, and multilateral regional cooperation.
2	Pedrason, 2021	High energy dependence on maritime routes in the Indo-Pacific increases vulnerability to geopolitical conflict and great power pressure.	Analyze the linkage between geopolitics, energy flows, and national security in the Indo-Pacific.	Literature review with geopolitical and geostrategic analysis.	India–China oil routes, Malacca Strait, and South China Sea.	Reveals that 80% of China's oil imports and 25% of global oil pass through these sea lanes; control over maritime routes is a key security issue.	Indo-Pacific countries must strengthen maritime security cooperation and diversify energy sources to reduce strategic dependence
3	Pangestu et al., 2021	Major power competition in the region has hindered effective implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP) in maintaining energy and maritime security stability.	Evaluate AOIP's effectiveness in achieving regional stability and addressing power and resource competition.	Policy analysis and comparative study among ASEAN countries.	AOIP and crude oil trade routes (32.2 million barrels per year).	AOIP has potential to bridge major powers' political interests if reinforced by collective diplomacy and strategic dialogue.	Reformulation of energy governance under AOIP is needed to make it an effective tool for regional stability.

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International License

4	Haerulloh & Martani, 2023	South China Sea conflict rooted in oil and gas competition threatens Indonesia's sovereignty and regional stability.	Analyze Indonesia's readiness in facing conflict escalation in the South China Sea from a 21st-century geopolitical perspective	Geopolitical case study with analytical approach from the National Resilience Institute (Lemhannas).	South China Sea and Indonesia's maritime defense policy.	Conflict stems from overlapping claims and weak ASEAN collective defense mechanisms.	Indonesia needs to strengthen maritime defense strategy, military diplomacy, and regional intelligence coordination.
5	Ramsi et al., 2023	Tensions from competition over energy, food, and water exacerbate Indo-Pacific regional security vulnerabilities.	Assess AOIP's effectiveness in bridging strategic interests between major and developing countries.	Normative analysis and multilateral policy review.	AOIP implementation in energy-related conflicts.	AOIP serves as a strategic diplomatic instrument but lacks enforceable power in resolving resource conflicts.	Strengthening policy coherence and inclusive economic-security cooperation mechanisms under AOIP is required.
6	Niazi, 2024	Increasing maritime security complexity and oil spill threats from military activities in the Indo-Pacific.	Examine maritime security dynamics and their implications for environmental safety and regional stability.	Qualitative analysis with maritime and environmental security case studies.	Indo-Pacific region and global oil trade routes.	Excessive military activities increase the risk of oil spills and tensions among coastal nations.	Countries need to enhance environmental diplomacy and sustainable ocean governance to protect energy security.
7	Kumar, 2024	India's dependence on imported oil and gas via	Analyze India's challenges and strategic	Policy analysis of India's energy and	India and Western Indo-Pacific Corridor.	India develops alternative non-maritime routes, such as pipeline	Energy diversification and strategic partnerships

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International License

		maritime routes increases strategic risk and energy insecurity.	options to strengthen maritime security and energy resilience.	maritime security.		projects, and expands energy partnerships with regional countries.	form the foundation of India's national security.
8	Srivastava, 2023	Environmental degradation and energy crises in the Indo-Pacific pose threats to national security.	Integrate environmental security concepts within energy and climate cooperation frameworks.	Conceptual review in Handbook of Indo-Pacific Studies.	Green Alliances and energy transition policies in the region.	Environmental degradation and resource depletion may trigger political instability and energy conflicts.	Green energy transition must be prioritized in regional security policy.
9	Len, 2022	Oil import dependence in Asia exacerbates maritime security vulnerabilities in the Indian Ocean.	Explore the link between oil security and naval power in Asia.	Literature review on energy geopolitics.	Indian Ocean and South Asian coastal states.	Control over sea lanes is a decisive factor for regional energy stability.	Maritime power is vital for maintaining energy and regional trade resilience.
10	Nashir et al., 2022	U.S.–China rivalry over control of oil resources in the Indo-Pacific open seas.	Depict the Indo-Pacific as a "new geography of conflict" and explain its impact on global stability.	Geopolitical and international political studies.	Oil and marine resource competition in the Indo-Pacific.	Shows that the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" policy is used as a geopolitical power instrument.	Collective security systems are needed to balance major power interests.
11	Lievonne et al., n.d.	Opening of new routes due to Arctic ice melt affects	Analyze climate change impacts on	Comparative environmental geopolitical study.	Arctic routes and Asia–Europe trade lanes.	New routes shorten energy transport times but increase	Global regulations are needed to manage new

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International License

		maritime and energy dynamics in the Indo-Pacific.	maritime routes and energy stability.			potential geopolitical conflicts.	routes and prevent resource disputes.
12	Nathan, 2024	Strategic ties between East and Southeast Asia create geopolitical dependence in energy security.	Analyze the nexus between Northeast and Southeast Asia in Indo-Pacific energy security.	Regional geopolitical and comparative study.	Energy routes in East and Southeast Asia.	Oil routes serve as strategic lifelines for Asian energy-importing countries.	Cross-subregion cooperation is required to avoid energy choke points.
13	Ulatowski, 2023	Energy security dilemma in China, India, and Japan due to import dependency.	Identify energy strategies and alternative routes for three major Indo-Pacific countries.	Multi-country case study and energy policy analysis.	China, India, Japan.	All three countries seek supply diversification through pipelines, investment partnerships, and overseas exploration.	Energy resilience depends on cross-border collaboration and clean energy technology.
14	Yousafzai et al., n.d.	Strategic competition among major powers (U.S., China, India) in controlling the geopolitical direction of the Indo-Pacific.	Explain energy's role as a key element in global political strategy.	Qualitative analysis of defense and global energy policies.	Indo-Pacific energy and geopolitical policies.	Energy competition is a primary instrument of power projection and global economic influence.	Indo-Pacific is the new gravity center in global oil politics.
15	Bình, 2025	Threats to oil tankers and key shipping routes require nations	Examine Vietnam's maritime security policy	Defense policy study and qualitative descriptive analysis.	Vietnam and Asian energy routes.	Vietnam strengthens its naval fleet and oil tanker	Sea power is the main tool to safeguard national

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International License

		to enhance sea power.	in the Indo-Pacific.			monitoring systems.	interests and energy trade.
16	Furse, 2023	U.S. maritime strategy in global political economy and competition with China.	Assess the U.S. Navy's role in maintaining maritime hegemony and global energy supply.	Political economy analysis and defense policy study.	U.S. maritime strategy in the Indo-Pacific.	The U.S. expands naval presence and forms alliances to protect strategic oil routes.	Maritime supremacy is integral to the U.S. national security strategy.
17	Nguyen et al., 2024	Strategic adjustments by China, India, and the U.S. in the modern Indo-Pacific geopolitical landscape.	Analyze the energy and security policies of the three major global powers.	Comparative geopolitical study.	U.S., China, India.	Policy focus is on tanker protection and securing sea lanes of energy supply.	Energy dependence creates a new arena for strategic power balancing.
18	Banlaoi, 2022	Conflicting interests between China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and U.S. Indo-Pacific Strategy for Philippine national security.	Assess the Philippine national security response and strategy toward the two major powers.	National policy study and geopolitical analysis.	Philippines and BRI–Indo-Pacific policies.	Philippines adopts a hedging strategy to balance energy and security interests.	Hedging policy is effective for medium powers facing great power rivalry.
19	Kelkar, 2024	Energy crisis due to Russia–Ukraine invasion impacts Indo-Pacific energy resilience.	Analyze the relationship between global geopolitics, energy security, and	Geopolitical resource policy analysis.	Indo-Pacific post Russia–Ukraine invasion.	Regional energy dependence increases, reinforcing global market dominance.	Energy diversification and Quad coordination are required for long-term stability.

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International License

			regional food security.				
20	Nashir et al., 2022	Geopolitical complexity and global energy transition affect regional security.	Synthesize common patterns of energy conflict and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.	Systematic literature review.	Indo-Pacific region as a whole.	Trends indicate a shift toward multidimensional energy-based security strategies and regional collaboration.	Comprehensive security architecture becomes a key pillar in maintaining regional stability.

Source: Author 2025

DISCUSSION

Geopolitical Dynamics and Global Competition in the Indo-Pacific Region

The Indo-Pacific region has become a new center of gravity in the contemporary international system. Following the end of the bipolar Cold War era, global attention has shifted from the Atlantic to the Indo-Pacific as a region that determines the future of the world's economy, politics, and security. This area is not only a major maritime trade route connecting the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean but also holds substantial energy resources, particularly offshore oil and natural gas. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), over 60% of the world's energy flows pass through sea lanes in the Indo-Pacific, including the Malacca Strait, the South China Sea, and the Andaman Sea. This fact makes the region a highly strategic arena, vulnerable to geopolitical conflicts and the competition for influence among states.

In global geopolitics, the emergence of new powers such as China and India has challenged the traditional dominance of the United States and its allies in the region. Rivalry among these major powers is not only about military supremacy but also involves control over oil resources and global energy distribution routes. For example, China, through its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), seeks to secure energy supply routes by developing maritime and land infrastructure across the Indo-Pacific. On the other hand, the United States has launched the Indo-Pacific Strategy to balance China's influence through defense and economic cooperation with countries such as Japan, Australia, and India within the framework of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad). This rivalry between the two powers strengthens geopolitical fragmentation in the region, compelling states to navigate their national interests amid major tensions.

These geopolitical dynamics cannot be separated from the realism theory in international

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International License

relations, which emphasizes that every state seeks to maximize its power and national security. Major powers view control over energy as a source of strategic strength. As noted by Effendi, Hartono, and Susilo (2025), oil resources serve as a geopolitical instrument determining bargaining positions in international diplomacy. The global dependence on fossil energy reinforces the assumption that whoever controls energy routes effectively controls the world economic system. Therefore, security strategies in the Indo-Pacific are built not only on conventional military threats but also encompass economic, diplomatic, and energy dimensions.

Beyond resource competition, the Indo-Pacific is also an arena of ideological and strategic competition between the liberal democratic order led by the United States and the authoritarian capitalist system represented by China. This competition generates tensions in various multilateral forums such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the East Asia Summit (EAS), where member states strive to maintain strategic autonomy without fully siding with any major power. In Indo-Pacific geopolitics, the issue is not merely territorial boundaries but also who can set the rules of regional and global governance.

Another factor shaping Indo-Pacific dynamics is the importance of maritime routes for global oil trade. The South China Sea, for instance, is a critical hotspot because, in addition to having significant oil reserves (estimated at over 11 billion barrels), approximately 30% of global trade passes through the area. Overlapping territorial claims among China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Brunei have led to prolonged conflicts involving international law (UNCLOS 1982), military force, and multilateral diplomacy. This situation illustrates that control over energy resources has transformed into a symbol of geopolitical power, creating multi-layered competition between major and middle powers in the region.

Located between two oceans and two continents, Indonesia serves as a major transit hub for global oil and gas trade. This position places Indonesia in a geopolitical dilemma between maintaining national sovereignty and acting as a regional balancer. By adopting the principle of a free and active foreign policy, Indonesia seeks to uphold strategic autonomy while strengthening regional collaboration within the framework of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). This demonstrates that in increasingly complex geopolitical dynamics, Indonesia's national security strategy must be adaptive, multidimensional, and oriented toward long-term national interests.

Competition over Energy Resources and Maritime Security Strategies of Indo-Pacific Countries

The competition for energy resources in the Indo-Pacific has become a central epicenter of geopolitical and regional security conflicts. The South China Sea, the Indian Ocean, and the

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International License

North Natuna Sea are three strategic areas reflecting these dynamics. Major powers such as China, the United States, India, and Japan compete to secure access to oil and natural gas reserves, as well as vital energy transportation routes. This competition is not always overt, often employing grey-zone tactics strategies situated between war and peace such as the deployment of armed coast guard vessels, maritime infrastructure expansion, and aggressive diplomatic campaigns.

China has emerged as the dominant actor through its nine-dash line claim, covering nearly the entire South China Sea. This claim is not only territorial but also strategic, as the area is believed to contain billions of barrels of oil and natural gas. In recent years, China has reinforced its presence through artificial island construction, military installations, and intensive maritime patrols. These actions have raised concerns among ASEAN countries, including Indonesia, because parts of these claims overlap with the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Natuna. According to Haerulloh and Martani (2023), China's actions represent assertive diplomacy that challenges international maritime law and creates a security dilemma for neighboring countries.

In response, the United States launched Freedom of Navigation Operations (FONOPs) to assert the right of free passage in disputed waters. This strategy aligns with Washington's interest in maintaining the maritime commons as open and free trade routes. Additionally, through the Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM), the U.S. has strengthened its military presence in the region by forming defense alliances with Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, and Australia. These actions directly challenge China's influence and increase the risk of maritime confrontation.

India also plays a significant role in Indo-Pacific energy security. The country relies on imports for over 80% of its domestic oil consumption, making the stability of energy routes in the Indian Ocean a strategic priority. Through the Act East Policy and active engagement in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), India seeks to strengthen control over energy routes while building maritime security cooperation with ASEAN countries. Kumar (2024) notes that India is developing cross-continental oil pipeline projects across South Asia to reduce dependence on conflict-prone sea routes.

Meanwhile, Japan and Australia have reinforced their roles in maintaining regional energy stability. Japan, heavily dependent on oil imports from the Middle East, has made substantial investments in maritime security through the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) and bilateral defense cooperation. Australia, with significant maritime capabilities in the Indian Ocean, positions itself as a middle power bridging Western and East Asian interests in maintaining an open Indo-Pacific. Niazi (2024) emphasizes that regional energy stability can only be ensured through a collaborative approach involving all regional actors within a rules-based order

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International License

framework.

Indonesia faces major challenges in maintaining sovereignty over its border resources. Cases such as the Ambalat Block and Natuna highlight the importance of aligning energy diplomacy with maritime defense. Through modernization of the Indonesian Navy (TNI AL) and strengthening maritime domain awareness (MDA), Indonesia seeks to assert control over strategic territories while balancing relations with China and the United States. This approach aligns with the principle of defensive realism, where a state prioritizes active defense without excessive provocation.

Beyond military aspects, energy security strategies also involve diplomatic and economic dimensions. Multilateral cooperation, such as ASEAN Energy Cooperation, the East Asia Summit on Energy Security, and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), serve as important instruments for reducing the risk of open conflict. Ramsi, Perwita, and Ali (2023) highlight the effectiveness of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) as an effort to create regional stability through open dialogue and cross-border energy collaboration.

Thus, the competition over energy resources in the Indo-Pacific reflects changes in the global power structure. The maritime security strategies of regional countries demonstrate that control over oil and gas is not merely an economic concern but also a symbol of geopolitical dominance. Energy security should be viewed as an integral part of comprehensive national security, where military, diplomatic, and economic dimensions are closely interconnected.

Strategic Implications for Indonesia's Defense Doctrine and National Security

For Indonesia, the dynamics of conflict and competition over resources in the Indo-Pacific carry profound strategic implications for its defense doctrine and national security. As an archipelagic state located at the heart of the Indo-Pacific, Indonesia has a dual responsibility: to safeguard its territorial sovereignty and actively contribute to regional stability. In the context of geopolitical competition, Indonesia's position is not only as a stakeholder but also as a balancer striving to prevent the dominance of a single power in the region.

Indonesia's national defense doctrine, based on the Total People's Defense and Security System (Sishankamrata), needs to be adjusted to the new geopolitical realities. This concept emphasizes the involvement of all national elements military, government, and society in maintaining national security. However, in facing non-conventional threats such as resource disputes, cyber warfare, and grey-zone conflicts, Indonesia must develop a more adaptive defense approach. The realignment of the national defense strategy should include three main elements:

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International License

maritime defense modernization, energy diplomacy, and regional defense cooperation.

First, in terms of maritime defense, Indonesia must strengthen sea control and sea denial capabilities in strategic areas such as Natuna and the Malacca Strait. Modernization of main weapon systems, enhancement of maritime surveillance radar, and optimization of joint maritime command are key to countering external threats. The government should also expand cooperation with strategic partners such as Japan and Australia in developing maritime situational awareness capabilities. This measure is critical to ensure that any foreign activity in Indonesian waters can be detected early.

Second, energy diplomacy should become an integral part of Indonesia's foreign policy. In facing global competition over oil resources, Indonesia needs to adopt strategies such as energy diversification and joint development agreements (JDA) with neighboring countries. Through such cooperation, potential conflicts can be mitigated by prioritizing mutual benefit. Additionally, energy diplomacy should strengthen Indonesia's position in multilateral forums, such as the ASEAN Energy Ministerial Meeting and the G20 Energy Transition Working Group, where energy transition and global energy security are key agendas.

Third, regional defense cooperation is an important component in strengthening regional stability. Indonesia can utilize mechanisms like the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) to build confidence-building measures (CBM) with major powers. This approach aligns with Indonesia's foreign policy principles of non-alignment and constructive engagement. Through active defense diplomacy, Indonesia not only reinforces its position as a regional leader but also ensures that the Indo-Pacific remains a space for cooperation rather than conflict.

Moreover, the reformulation of the defense doctrine must also consider national energy resilience. Dependence on imported oil makes Indonesia vulnerable to global price fluctuations and supply disruptions. Therefore, policies such as the strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) and diversification of domestic energy sources should be prioritized. Synergy between the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (ESDM), and state-owned energy enterprises like Pertamina should be strengthened to comprehensively integrate national security and energy policies.

In international law, Indonesia must be more proactive in advocating its interests through maritime legal diplomacy. Implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982 is an important instrument to protect sovereign rights over natural resources within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Indonesia's efforts to resolve maritime boundary disputes peacefully with neighboring countries can serve as a model for regional stability.

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International License

The strategic challenges faced by Indonesia in the Indo-Pacific require the integration of military power, diplomacy, economics, and legal measures. The future national defense doctrine must be comprehensive, based on comprehensive national power (CNP) that combines elements of hard power and soft power. This approach ensures that Indonesia not only survives the currents of global competition but also actively shapes an inclusive and sustainable regional security order.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Analysis of national security strategies in addressing conflicts and competition over oil resources in the Indo-Pacific region indicates that the geopolitics of this area can no longer be understood solely through a militaristic lens. Instead, it requires a comprehensive security framework that simultaneously integrates defense, diplomacy, energy, and economic dimensions. The Indo-Pacific has become a primary arena for major global powers such as the United States, China, India, and Japan, where control over maritime routes and oil reserves is not merely an economic necessity but also a symbol of strategic dominance and a tool for managing the global balance of power. Tensions in the South China Sea, influence contests through the Belt and Road Initiative and the Indo-Pacific Strategy, and the increasing use of grey-zone operations demonstrate that threats to national security are multidimensional and often invisible. As an archipelagic state with a geostrategic position at the heart of the Indo-Pacific, Indonesia must consolidate a national defense doctrine that is adaptive to shifts in the global strategic environment. The Total People's Defense System (Sishankamrata) approach should be expanded by strengthening maritime defense capabilities, energy resilience, and strategic diplomacy as the three main pillars of national defense in a multipolar era. Energy diplomacy and regional cooperation mechanisms such as the ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and ADMM-Plus should be leveraged to reinforce regional stability through collaboration rather than confrontation. Simultaneously, Indonesia needs to develop strategic national energy reserves, enhance resilience against energy shocks, and strengthen its position in multilateral forums to ensure the security of oil and gas supplies amid global geopolitical fluctuations. These strategic implications highlight that energy security is an inseparable component of national security. Only by combining hard power, in the form of military capabilities, with soft power through diplomacy, law, and economic instruments, can Indonesia safeguard its sovereignty, protect strategic resources, and play a central role in shaping a peaceful, stable, and sustainable Indo-Pacific order in the future.

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International License

REFERENCES

Banlaoi, R. C. (2022). Philippine National Security Interests and Responses to China's Belt and Road Initiative and US Indo-Pacific Strategy. In Middle-Power Responses to China's BRI and America's Indo-Pacific Strategy (pp. 141–160). Emerald Publishing Limited.

Bình, N. T. (2025). MARITIME SECURITY IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION IN THE FIRST TWO DECADES OF THE 21st CENTURY AND SOME POLICY IMPLICATIONS FOR VIETNAM. Hue University Journal of Science: Social Sciences and Humanities, 134(6B), 123–137.

Effendi, M., Hartono, R., Susilo, T., Arismunandar, S., & Wahyudi, E. (2025). GEOPOLITIK KEPEMIMPINAN GLOBAL DAN KOMPETISI SUMBER DAYA: PERSPEKTIF INDO-PASIFIK DAN PETA ULANG DOKTRIN PERTAHANAN RI. HUMANITIS: Jurnal Homaniora, Sosial Dan Bisnis, 3(7), 141–154.

Firdaus, M. R. S., Hendra, A., & Wirajuda, M. H. (2023). Dinamika Kebijakan Energi Minyak Bumi Amerika Serikat di Timur Tengah Pada Masa Bush Hingga Obama (2001-2016). Jurnal Elektrosista, 11(1), 47–57.

Furse, T. (2023). The political economy of US maritime strategy in the Indo-Pacific. The Pacific Review, 36(3), 662–690.

Haerulloh, A. A., & Martani, R. F. (2023). Analisis Geopolitik Abad 21 di Indo-Pasifik dan Persiapan Indonesia dalam Menyikapi Konflik di Laut Cina Selatan. Jurnal Lemhannas RI, 11(3), 187–201.

Hidayat, A. R., Alifah, N., Rodiansjah, A. A., & Asikin, M. Z. (2024). Sengketa Laut Cina Selatan: Analisis Realis terhadap Perebutan Kekuasaan, Respon Regional, dan Implikasi Geopolitik. Jurnal Syntax Admiration, 5(2), 579–591.

Hutahaean, G. M. N. (2024). ASEAN OUTLOOK ON THE INDO-PACIFIC SEBAGAI STRATEGI DIPLOMASI INDONESIA DI ASEAN PADA KAWASAN INDO-PASIFIK DALAM RANGKA MENJAGA STABILITAS KEAMANAN TAHUN 2019-2023. Universitas Nasional.

Indriyani, Y., Laksmono, R., Syhataria, M. I., & Uksan, A. (2022). Strategi Pertahanan Negara dalam Melindungi Sumber Energi di Wilayah Perbatasan: Studi Kasus Blok Ambalat & Kepulauan Natuna. Cakrawala: Jurnal Litbang Kebijakan, 16(1), 29–42.

Kelkar, A. (2024). Climate Change and Food Security in the Indo-Pacific: Challenges and Opportunities. Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs, 7(2).

Kumar, N. (2024). India's Role in Indo-Pacific Maritime Security: Challenges and Strategic Choices. Available at SSRN 5383190.

Len, C. (2022). Oil and Asian maritime security in the Indian Ocean. In Handbook on Oil and

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International License

International Relations (pp. 94–112). Edward Elgar Publishing.

Lievonne, M. C., Timur, F. G. C., & Suryo, A. (n.d.). The rush to the Arctic: Geopolitical linkages and challenges for Indo-Pacific regional stability. International Review of Social Sciences Research, 5(1), 128–152.

Nashir, A. K., Komeini, Y., & Abdurofiq, A. (2022). The Indo-Pacific: A New Geography of Conflict. KnE Social Sciences, 84–89.

Nathan, K. S. (2024). Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia: The Geopolitical Nexus in Indo-Pacific Security. AEI Insights, 10(1), 14.

Nguyen, T. B., Hiep, T. X., Co, N. D., & Nguyen, H. V. (2024). The strategic adjustments of China, India, and the US in the Indo-Pacific geopolitical context. Journal of Liberty and International Affairs, 10(1), 173–191.

Niazi, Z. A. (2024). Future of Maritime Security: Navigating Complex Waters in the Indo-Pacific. Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs, 7(2).

Panda, J. (2023). Indo-Pacific Security in 2030-35: Links in the Chain. JSTOR.

Pangestu, L. G., Hikmawan, R., & Fathun, L. M. (2021). Strategi Indonesia Mewujudkan ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP) Untuk Menciptakan Stabilitas di Kawasan Indo-Pasifik. Proyeksi: Jurnal Ilmu Sosial Dan Humaniora, 26(1), 1–22.

Pattihua, S. E. (2025). DAMPAK PENINGKATAN KAPABILITAS MILITER JEPANG TERHADAP STABILITAS KEAMANAN DI KAWASAN INDO PASIFIK. Diplomacy and Global Security Journal: Jurnal Mahasiswa Magister Hubungan Internasional, 2(1), 137–168.

Pedrason, R. (2021). Indo-Pasifik dalam perspektif geopolitik dan geostrategi. JPPI (Jurnal Penelitian Pendidikan Indonesia), 7(1), 88–95.

Ramsi, O., Perwita, A. A. B., Ali, Y., & Purwantoro, S. A. (2023). Efektivitas Strategi Asean Outlook On Indo-Pacific (AOIP) Dalam Menjembatani Kepentingan Semua Negara di Kawasan dan Dampaknya Terhadap Pertahanan Indonesia. NUSANTARA: Jurnal Ilmu Pengetahuan Sosial, 10(8), 3742–3754.

Sari, A. R., & Sembadani, P. C. (2023). Keamanan Nasional Perbatasan Abyei Sudan. Penerbit NEM.

Sarjito, I. A., Eng, A., Ir Edy Saptono, M. M., Sulistiyanto, S. E., Herlina Tarigan, M., Duarte, E. P., Sos, S., Purwantoro, I. S. A., SE, M., & Sri Yanto, S. T. (2025). Manajemen Pertahanan di Tengah Bayang-Bayang Perang Indo-Pasifik. Indonesia Emas Group.

Srivastava, J. (2023). Dynamics of environmental security in the Indo-Pacific. Handbook of Indo-Pacific Studies, 222.

Ulatowski, R. (2023). Energy security in the Indo-Pacific region: Case studies of China, India and

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International License

Japan. In Handbook of Indo-Pacific Studies (pp. 205–221). Routledge India.

Yousafzai, M. I. K., Usama, M., & Faisal, S. (n.d.). A Comprehensive Analysis on the Strategic Importance of Indo-Pacific Region in Global Politics. DOI: Https://Doi. Org/10.52337/Pjia. V7i3, 1111.

Yustiningrum, R. R. E., Ramadhan, M. S., Anwar, D. F., Wuryandari, G., Alami, A. N., Prabaningtyas, R. A. R. F., & Elisabeth, A. (2024). Indo-Pasifik dalam politik luar negeri Indonesia: Dimensi geopolitik, geostrategi, & geoekonomi. Penerbit Andi.

Zhu, Z. (2025). Security Challenges In Contemporary Indo-pacific. World Scientific.

Copyright at authors some right reserved this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International License