BOOK REVIEW MARITIME SECURITY AND INDONESIA: COOPERATION, INTERESTS AND STRATEGIES

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BOOK REVIEW
MARITIME SECURITY AND INDONESIA: COOPERATION, INTERESTS AND STRATEGIES

Senia Febrica in her book Maritime Security and Indonesia: Cooperation, Interests, and strategies provides a deep analysis of the maritime security challenges of Indonesia and how Indonesia responds to it. Indonesia as the largest archipelagic states in the world with a vast maritime zone ranging from archipelagic water, internal water, contiguous zone, continental shelf, and exclusive economic zone are facing a lot of threat from outside as well from inside Indonesia. Moreover, the fact that Indonesia is located in a strategic location for international trade routes such as Malacca strait made Indonesia’s strategies in dealing with maritime security threats more important. Therefore this book is very timely and important to fill the gap in the current academic literature that not much discusses Indonesia’s maritime security.

This book started by analyzing what is the maritime security challenges for Indonesia. Throughout the years, Indonesia is facing a lot of threats in terms of piracy and sea-armed robbery. This chapter analyzes both quantitative and qualitative the number of piracy threats in Indonesia. Even though the trend of piracy and sea armed robbery relatively decreasing until very recently in 2019 there were still some piracy cases happened in Sulu sea. Indeed, therefore, piracy and sea-armed robbery remain huge challenges for Indonesia. Another huge threat for Indonesia that being discussed in this chapter is the Illegal unreported and unregulated fishing. Indonesia suffered a huge potential loss because of the IUUF. This chapter also highlighted some of the unresolved maritime boundaries between Indonesia and its neighboring state, and how it might become a challenge for Indonesia law enforcement mechanism.

Another important topic that is discussed in this book is how domestic politics may influence Indonesia to respond to a maritime security threat. The chapter on Domestic politics gave an ahistorical analysis on the development of Indonesia politics since the post-independence, the old order system under President Soeharto, and the reform order post-1998. Each phase of the political system has its strategies in terms of policy and institutional concern relating to maritime security. This chapter also discusses some of the maritime security issues in Indonesian foreign policy. For example, how in the early President Joko Widodo administration were focusing on maritime affairs, as a result, he creates some new institutions dealing with maritime issues, such as the Indonesia Maritime Security Board/Coast Guard (BAKAMLA) and the Coordinating Ministry of Maritime Affairs. Furthermore, this book also explains the challenges in terms of the bureaucratic process. For example relating to the coordination mechanism between institutions dealing with a maritime security threat, such as the Indonesian Maritime Security Board, Indonesian Navy, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Fisheries, and other related institutions. Another institutional
problem relating to maritime security is currently there is no single institution, which has a leading role in responding to maritime security. Currently, Indonesia applying a multi-agency approach with many institutions has a law enforcement task at sea. In 2014, President Joko Widodo creates a Presidential Task Force in Combating IUUF. The task force aims to coordinate all stakeholders that have the mandate of law enforcement at sea. However, in his second term of Administration, the Task Force is dissolved. Indonesian institutional cooperation has also affected Indonesia’s cooperation with other countries. In term of which institution that will represent Indonesia in international cooperation. Other institutional challenges, for example, is currently there are two institutions that claimed as the Indonesian coast guard which are the BAKAMLA and Indonesian coast guard under the Ministry of Transportation.

This book also highlighted the importance of international cooperation in dealing with maritime security. Chapter 4, for instance, discusses the regional framework of ASEAN. Starting from how the ASEAN way principles affecting the coordination mechanism. Furthermore, this chapter also discusses the ASEAN cooperation mechanism framework in dealing with maritime security.

In conclusion, this book provides a very important analysis not only in the framework of cooperation but also in the analysis of the international relations of maritime law enforcement and maritime security challenges. Therefore this book will be very important literature not only for academic and researcher but also this would be an important resource for foreign policymakers and law enforcement agencies in Indonesia and who’s interested in Indonesia’s maritime security issues.

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