ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS OF INDO-PACIFIC TOWARDS SEA PIRACY

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ABSTRACT

Nowadays, Indo-Pacific becomes one prominent area that has been talked about in the international world. Indo-Pacific has the potential to be a huge regional power. Furthermore, Indo-Pacific has an advantage in terms of strategic maritime zones spreading along the projected area because these zones are the main transit ways of international trade. Being as an international trade route makes Indo-Pacific vulnerable to irresponsible crimes such as sea piracy. Sea piracy cases are rising continuously up to 2.600 cases in the world. Therefore, this issues are very important to discuss and this research comes up with two main questions. First, how will Indo-Pacific behave to face the growing problems of sea piracy? Second, what are the actions that have been and will be implemented by the Indo-Pacific as the result of their attitudes towards sea piracy? To answer those questions, the writers use Neo-Realism theory and two key concepts namely anarchy and balance of power. This research is using qualitative method as the main methodology and focus in study case. The results of this research are there are three points regarding the attitudes and four points regarding the actions of the Indo-Pacific towards sea piracy. There is an unlimited range of options that Indo-Pacific can conduct in terms of sea piracy. Also, there should be an agreement in the international world that sea piracy is a global threat, including the Indo-Pacific

Keywords: Indo-Pacific, Sea Piracy, International Trade Route, Great Powers.

1. Introduction

The development of the international world has seen a lot of dynamics over the last centuries. The international world has witnessed all kinds of war from the seventeenth century until the middle of the twentieth century when World War II had finished in 1945. Since then, the number of wars around the world continues to decrease at a rapid phase. The most famous war that happened after World War II would be the Cold War. Since 1945, the amount of war that happened has been replaced by the new trend, which is international cooperation. The world thinks that war could not bring any advantages eventhough if they win because there would be too many casualties. Therefore, they moved on from war into the phase of international cooperation. In short amount of time, international cooperation have been grown rapidly. It comes at different levels, such as bilateral, regional, and multilateral cooperation. Currently, in the twenty first century, there is new-comers in regional cooperation which also been very popular since the very beginning of its emergence which called Indo-Pacific.

The discussion of the Indo-Pacific started in the nineteenth century. Back then, Indo-Pacific emerges as a concept of the importance of sea power around the international world (Yadav, 2018). Since then, it seems like Indo-Pacific has lost its popularity. After its declining trend, at the beginning of the twenty first century, Indo-Pacific has started to regain its popularity. Its popularity has been increased even further in the international world. Now, Indo-Pacific is better known as a concept which focusing on the economic, political, and military dimensions of regional cooperation. Then it is safe to say that right now Indo-Pacific is one of the regional cooperation that can be found in the discussion of international relations. As regional cooperation, Indo-Pacific surely has their range of area which is spread from

the Indian Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. It is a large area for regional cooperation because it accommodates half of the biggest oceans in the world. Therefore, Indo-Pacific became one of the most important area because the strategic location for the international trade.

Indo-Pacific is located at the heart of the world trade route. Almost every transaction of the world trade needs to pass the route located in the area of Indo-Pacific especially through the sea. Water or sea became the most effective way of the world trade system back then when people had lack of access to the transportation and land transportation consumes a lot of time. Until now, maritime transportation has a big contribution to the world, especially for the economic factors. Blue Economy is one of the terms used in Indo-Pacific and also in the world overall to describe the activities that happen at the sea. Every country in the world, especially in the Indo-Pacific region has an important role in this Blue Economy (Sakhuja, 2015).

Indo-Pacific has a huge potential for development and involvement in the international world, especially in international trade. Moreover, in terms of the importance, the area of Indo-Pacific is also surrounded by countries with such as natural resources and technologies. Some important and key countries around the international world have decided to involve and work together for the Indo-Pacific. Led by the United States, countries like India, Japan, Australia, France, and others will increase the potential development of the Indo-Pacific. Therefore, Indo-Pacific could fulfill its potential as regional cooperation.

With so many advantages that Indo-Pacific have, unfortunately, the international trade route brings up some issues. One of them is sea piracy. Indo-Pacific forces to deal with that issues because of the uneven development in the coastal areas that forced the people to do the piracy to help their families. Yet, this issue often underestimated by a lot of people. The writers believe that sea piracy is one of the most important problems for the Indo-Pacific that needs to deal with more comprehensive strategy, Indo-Pacific needs strong attitudes and clear actions to combat this crime. Thus, this paper will be focusing on how the Indo-Pacific behaves and acts towards the effort to tackle and eradicate sea piracy.

There is some objects that will become the key(s) of this paper. First is Indo-Pacific, which will become the main concept of this paper. Second is sea piracy, which becomes the main issues that will be discussed throughout this paper. In this paper, state will become the main actor which includes several key countries such as the United States, India, Japan, Australia, and France which also be mentioned frequently in this paper as their role and actions are highly important to tackle some regional issues in Indo-Pacific.

1.1 Research Questions

Indo-Pacific has become one of the most intriguing regional cooperation in the twenty first century. Indo-Pacific has the potential to make huge changes to the structure of the international world that have been lasted for a long time. As the needs for international cooperation on all levels have never been so high before, Indo-Pacific turns out to be one of the most sought-after cooperation for some countries, especially the one that located around the Indo-Pacific designated area. The involvement of some developed countries (like the United States, France, and Japan) and developing countries who are trying to increase their status (like Australia, India, and Indonesia) further increase the value of Indo-Pacific in the international system. Besides, Indo-Pacific is also located in a promising and important area geographically.

Unfortunately, like any other promising international cooperation around the world, there are a lot of problems surrounding the Indo-Pacific, even though

Indo-Pacific is still not officially launched and established like some kind of international organization. Along with those problems, sea piracy appears to be one of the most dangerous threats for the Indo-Pacific because of the large area of waters that the Indo-Pacific possesses. Despite the fluctuated trend of sea piracy cases around the world since the start of the twenty first century, nobody could underestimate the potential danger of sea piracy, with no exception to Indo-Pacific. In regards to the explanation above, this paper has two research questions that will be answered, namely:

1. How will Indo-Pacific behave to face the growing problems of sea piracy?
2. What are the actions that have been and will be implemented by Indo-Pacific as the results of their attitudes and behaviors towards sea piracy?

1.2 Research Purposes and Objectives

Following the research questions above, this paper also has two research purposes. The first research purpose of this paper is to analyze and understand the attitudes and behaviors of the Indo-Pacific regarding the growing problems of sea piracy around the world. The second research purpose of this paper is to explain and figure out the actions that have been and will be implemented by Indo-Pacific as the results of their attitudes and behaviors towards sea piracy. These purposes are based on the research questions.

After stating the research questions and purposes, this paper also has some research objectives that want to be reached. The writers believe that this paper will be beneficial and contributive for everybody who read this paper. Based on the people who read this paper and their purpose regarding this paper, there are two kinds of research objectives in this paper, that is practical and theoretical objectives.

Practical objectives will be focused on everyone who reads this paper with no exception. The first practical objective of this paper is to give some new information for all of the readers regarding the Indo-Pacific related to sea piracy and other related issues. The writers also wish to give additional information about Indo-Pacific in general because the discussion about Indo-Pacific still needs more information in the future. So, the writers are hopeful that this paper can contribute positively to the discussion and other related issues.

Theoretical objectives will be focused especially for everyone who wants to continue the research with similar topics or issues with this paper. The writers are also hopeful that this paper will be a useful foundation for them to start their research or paper. The next theoretical objective of this paper is to give positive evaluations and recommendations for the important stakeholders related to this paper. This objective sounds ambitious, but we believe that every paper regarding Indo-Pacific is useful and contributive for the development of Indo-Pacific as an uprising regional cooperation in the international world.

1.3 Research Structure

Overall, this paper consists of five important parts, namely the introduction, literature review and theoretical framework, research methodology, result and analysis, and conclusion. The introduction part describes brief explanations of the topic overall, especially the Indo-Pacific and its relations to the sea piracy as a threat. Besides, this part displays the research questions and research purposes that will guide the direction of this paper. This part concluded with the research objectives and research structure as additional information for this paper.

The next part of this paper is the literature review and theoretical framework. The literature review is one of the most important parts of this paper because it contains previous researches in the past that are related and contributive to the development of this paper. Even though it is not easy to find a lot of previous

researches about the Indo-Pacific, the writers believe that it is an important part of this paper. The theoretical framework has the same importance as the literature review because this paper is an international relations paper. Theories of international relations hold an essential part in every international relations paper. This part consists of the discussion of the selected theory for this paper and some key concepts of the selected theory concerning the development of this paper.

The next part of this paper is the research methodology. This part consists of a brief explanation of the scope of this paper. Also, the most important part of this part is the research approaches and research methods. These are also important sections of this paper because they help determine the overall process of this paper. Moreover, this part also consists of short explanations regarding the technique for the data collection, data processing, data analysis, and data presentation.

The next part of this paper is the result and analysis. This is the most important part of this paper as it consists of all the result of this paper and also the analysis in regards to every result that have been collected for this paper. The explanation in this part will be based on the research questions previously stated in the introduction part. Mainly, this part will explain the information about Indo-Pacific, attitudes, and behaviors of Indo-Pacific towards the sea piracy, and also the actions that have been and will be taken and implemented towards the Indo-Pacific. All of the explanations in this part have the theoretical framework stated previously as the basic foundation of the analysis.

Last but not least, this paper will be finished with the conclusion part. This part consists of the necessary ending that summarizes all of the research based on the research questions and all of the results and analysis. Besides, this part also consists of the recommendations that the writers

provide in terms of this paper and the next research based on this paper.

2. Literature Review

The writers are trying to collect previous literature and writings that are related to this paper. Then, the writers are making the reviews according to the related pieces of literature and writings. By doing this step, the writers are gaining two benefits. First, the writers can gain the pattern of thinking from the previous kinds of literature and writings that are necessary for this paper. Second, the writers can know and understand the development of the study related to the focus of this paper.

2.1 Indo-Pacific

One of the earliest things to do to understand Indo-Pacific as a concept is how people recognize or assume "Indo-Pacific". Writing from Wada Haruko refers to Indo-Pacific as a new geographical term that is starting to gain recognition from around the world. The increasing amount of discussion in the last 24 months surrounding the United States, Australia, Japan, India, France, the United Kingdom, Indonesia, and ASEAN regarding the Indo-Pacific is moving into the direction of geographical term based on the symbol of their regional agreement. To fulfill the understanding of the Indo-Pacific as a geographical term, those countries have to make the geographical adjustment (Haruko, 2020).

The other Indo-Pacific recognition and assumption are to look at it as a strategy and a vision, just like the idea from the writing of Yoshihide Soeya. At one point, Indo-Pacific has been looked at as a political and security strategy initiated by Japan, the United States, India, and Australia to counterbalance the domination of China with their Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) strategy. As time goes on, Japan and their government started to change the status of the Indo-Pacific into a vision. Within this vision, Japan inserted three main principles that are focusing on the rule

of law, freedom of navigation, free trade, economic prosperity, and commitment to peace and stability along the region of Indo-Pacific (Soeya, 2019).

As new regional cooperation with huge potential of development and also problems in the future, Indo-Pacific needs to be strong and compact. Writing from Caitlin Byrne stated that to be strong and compact, Indo-Pacific needs the "rules-based order". The rules-based order is important for Indo-Pacific because Indo-Pacific has not reached the same level as a strong international organization like the United Nations. Indo-Pacific does not have a "leader" who can determine the way of every Indo-Pacific members yet. Indo-Pacific has to come together and produce necessary rules to support rules-based order as a strategic narrative. Byrne predicts that rules-based order will help Indo-Pacific in the future (Byrne, 2020).

2.2 Sea Piracy

The second concept that needs some reviewing process from previous works of literature and writings is sea piracy as one of the problems, not only for the Indo-Pacific but also for the rest of the international waters. Writing from Farhad Malekian stated that as a crime, sea piracy has been considered as one of the most dangerous and notorious international crimes under the law of the sea. Sea piracy does not know geographical limit as everybody knows from the map as the geographical landscape of international waters is different and harder to recognize. Besides, sea piracy is also getting attention from the system of international criminal law and also various international conventions (Malekian, 2011:299).

In terms of definition, there are some definitions stated by some related stakeholders. An annual report from the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) stated the definition of sea piracy as:

"An act of boarding or attempting to board any ship with the apparent intent to commit theft or any other crime and with the apparent intent or capability to use force in the furtherance of the act" (ICC IMB, 2003).

The one who commits all of the crime in terms of sea piracy is called the pirates. The definition of the sea piracy can be upgraded even more with the explanation of what the pirates do in terms of the crime. Pirates did everything that is against the humanity cruelly on the sea, such as roberry, murder, rape, plunder, and others (Keyuan, 2005). It is also recognized that the existing definitions about sea piracy is inadequate and not enough to support the policies and the actions devised by the government and policymakers everywhere in the world. It is important to revise the definitions based on the categories of crimes committed and other supporting factors (Dillon, 2005).

Sea piracy continues to evolve and develop while keep trying to pose the threat to the life above water. Writing from Abdul Haseeb Ansari and friends stated that sea piracy has been moving through the era of classical piracy into the modern era of sea piracy using the advancement of technology. So, it is a little bit of irony where technology can be the way to tackle sea piracy but at the same time can be the way to develop sea piracy itself. With the help of technology, sea piracy in the modern era involves not only robbery, but also kidnapping crews and hijacking vessels (Ansari, Win, and Hamid, 2014).

The dangers of sea piracy goes beyond the various kinds of sea piracy itself. Writing from Peter Chalk stated that sea piracy has direct implications for human life and the security aspect of politics, economy, and environment. Most of the sea piracy incidents are involving

physical assault, resulting in physical injury and loss of human life. Sea piracy could affect the economic aspect through fraud, delayed trips, stolen and problematic cargos, and others. Sea piracy could also affect the political aspect by weakening one government's regime. Sea piracy could also be the main reason for some environmental disasters (Chalk, 2008: 14-17).

2.3 Theoretical Framework

The writers are trying to build a strong foundation for this paper by providing the selected theory of international relations that is suitable for the progress of this paper. To support the selected theory, the writers also provide some key concepts related to the theory itself to further strengthen the theoretical framework and foundation of this paper.

2.3.1 Neo-Realism or Structural Realism

The writers believe that Neo-Realism is the most relevant international relations theory to analyse the issues. If Neo-Realism sounds a little bit unfamiliar, then can also be called Structural Realism. The one who started the idea of Neo-Realism is Kenneth Waltz in 1975 and 1979. To further explain his brilliant idea, Kenneth Waltz wrote his book called *Theory of International Politics* in 1979. The easiest and most simple understanding of Neo-Realism as a theory is that Neo-Realism is the development of Classical Realism is a traditional theory of international relations. That is why there is a "Neo" inside the Neo-Realism, to show that Neo-Realism is the newer version of Classical Realism.

Just like any other international relations theory, Neo-Realism also has some important concepts to support the main idea of the theory itself. One of the interesting concepts of Neo-Realism is about power. Classical Realism puts maximum power as the most important thing that states need to look for. In terms of Neo-Realism, power is still an important thing to look for. Yet, Kenneth Waltz stated the kind of power all states need to chase, namely "appropriate amount of power" (Waltz, 1979: 40). The writers believe and pick two other concepts that are related to the overall content of this paper. First, the importance of anarchy and balance of power. Second, the dominant role of great powers in the international system.

2.3.2 The Importance of Anarchy and Balance of Power

This is the first Neo-Realism concept that is related to this paper. In terms of anarchy, there is less difference between Classical Realism and Neo-Realism. Both theories put anarchy as their primary focus to look at the international world. However, in Neo-Realism, it is important for states to react to the anarchic world by using strategy of balancing with another states, especially with the poor and weak countries (Donnelly, 2013: 38). When those poor and weak countries did not try to balance their power, yet decided to use the bandwagoning strategy instead, those countries will face much more risk in terms of being taken benefit of and controlled by the bigger and stronger countries. So, Neo-Realism sees the importance of the relations between anarchy and the balance of power.

Concerning this paper, the presence of Indo-Pacific is the result of the rivalry in the region between the United States and China. That rivalry is one of the better implementations of the anarchic international world nowadays according to Neo-Realism. Indo-Pacific is also one of the better ways to do the balance of power. Key countries in Indo-Pacific are threatened by the increasing influence of China. As a result, those countries decided to join the United States and form strong cooperation through the Indo-Pacific. The writers believe that Indo-Pacific is a good implementation of balance of power because key countries and other weaker countries inside Indo-Pacific are

contributing something of their own to support the United States and to strengthen Indo-Pacific itself. They are not just bandwagoning the United States.

2.3.3 The Dominant Role of Great Powers in International System and Structure

The second Neo-Realism concept that is related to this paper is a combination of the other two important aspects of Neo-Realism, namely power and anarchy. In terms of power, Neo-Realism believes that there are countries categorized as great powers or polarity. John J. Mearsheimer stated that there is a debate of polarity in terms of the ability to cause a war between bipolarity and multipolarity (Mearsheimer, 2013: 84). People are saying that bipolarity is less war-prone than multipolarity. But, at the same time, people are saying that multipolarity is less war-prone than bipolarity. Either way, both of them have a tiny chance to cause war in today's international world. Yet, bipolarity and multipolarity will always be an interesting debate in terms of competition of power.

The other important Neo-Realism concept is the presence of an international system. People who study and follow Neo-Realism are trying to describe the international world as a system. Writing from Stanley Hoffmann stated that the international system is a pattern of relations among the basic units of world politics, in which the pattern is largely determined by the structure of the world (Hoffmann, 1961: 90). The writers believe that state or country is one of the basic units inside world politics. The writers also believe that Indo-Pacific counts as one kind of international system that consists of a pattern of relations among the member states. Inside the international system full of anarchy, the dominant role of great powers or countries is important. Without it, the international system cannot operate properly. Therefore, great powers have important roles in terms of operating the international system.

3. Research Method

In this part of research will discuss about the main structure of the research, theoretical framework which contain the theory and concept of this paper, and lastly, the research methodology. This part is important to understand the fundametal and foundation of this paper.

This part is talking about the scope of the research, research approach, research method, technique for collecting data, and technique for analyzing, processing, and presenting data that have been collected. However, before discussing any further, this research discusses the attitudes and actions of the Indo-Pacific in handling sea piracy cases. In a deeper discussion, there are two variables used in this study, namely independent and dependent variables. Sea piracy and Indo-Pacific are the independent variables while the attitudes and actions are the dependent variables.

In general, the approach applied in this research is the qualitative approach. The qualitative approach describes more about research that is narrative and also descriptive. In this study, it requires more descriptive and narrative discussion than quantitative data. Only a few elements of quantitative research used in this research, namely numerical elements that are only used as supporting aspects to strengthen the data. Then, this research tries to give considerable attention and research on the case of handling sea piracy in the Indo-Pacific. Besides, the writers are also trying to intensively explain sea piracy cases that occur and how important the cases will impact the dynamics of relations established in the Indo-Pacific so that there needs to be special attention in handling this case. This paper also tried to describe details about the efforts that have been made and plans that will be made by countries within the Indo-Pacific to follow up on these cases of sea piracy. Some cases

are specifically studied deep enough that it can be said that this research uses the case study method as its main method.

Not only in-depth research and discussing the case, but it was also explained in the background that these cases of sea piracy are not the first case to occur in the Indo-Pacific region. Almost most countries in the region have experienced or at least related to the problem of sea piracy since some time ago. From here, it can be understood that this research does not only discusses a particular in-depth case but also dissects the events behind it and the efforts made in the past about the present. All of these studies, both present and past, are all done to find relevant conclusions that can be applied in the future. As Joel Quirk (2008: 518) says that in social research, especially International Relations, events that occurred in the past do not mean to stop contributing to current events because in reality a lot of meaning is given by past events for the future (Quirk, 2008: 518). By researching things in the past, or in other words using historical methods, Mark Trachtenberg in his research revealed that such past events will be able to help to provide additional meaning so that today's research can speak more if used appropriately and comprehensively (Trachtenberg, 2006: 1).

Furthermore, this section will also discuss how to collect the data. This research mostly uses secondary data sources collected from newspapers, books, journals, and other print media both in the present and in the past that are used to support the discussion of this research. This secondary data source is also used in the form of literature research, or in other words researching by reading detailed library documents that can contribute to the research. All data obtained will be processed using data reduction techniques where after the data is obtained the writers will directly group the data to match the equation of the theme or concept according to the desired research objectives. After that, the writers will process the data by interpreting the results of the data that has been collected until all appropriate results are obtained. In the end, the writers will display the data into a written narrative description that is supported by the display of images, figures, tables, and other supporting data as needed. The description will be in the form of a paragraph according to the category of available information.

4. Results and Discussions

This is the fourth part of this paper. This part consists of all the results in relation to this paper. In addition, all the necessary analysis regarding the results are provided in this part.

4.1 The Blue Economy

The term "Blue Economy" actually has been used in many different ways and in this paper Blue Economy talks about oceanic resources and sustainable development in economic sectors. In fact, from an international relations perspective, the security aspect has always been related to economic factors that make these two terms related to one another. That is the reason why it is important to understand how the perspective of the Blue Economy will affect the security aspect of Indo-Pacific. The World Bank (2017) gives a definition of the Blue Economy which is a concept with the main focus is to promote economic growth and the improvement of livelihoods while this concept also tries to ensure the environmental sustainability of the oceans. From this perspective, the Blue Economy has various components including established traditional ocean industries such as tourism, fisheries, marine, climate change. From this perspective, it can be seen that all of these activities are made to improve the effectiveness of the utilization and management of marine resources, especially in the Indo-Pacific region.

In line with the Blue Economy perspective defined by the World Bank, the Indo-Pacific, based on the agreement of the countries in the region, mentions another name for this region, namely the Blue Pacific, because it has an identity united by the sea. In the discussion and the main focus of the countries in it as the Blue Pacific, namely to deal with the issue of climate change which is currently a hot topic of discussion in the international system (Morgan, 2020). This is in line with the principle of the Blue Economy, which also discusses sustainable development and handling climate change. Activities that are mostly carried out in the sea will further increase the value of the waters of the Indo-Pacific region so that it cannot be denied that it will bring several new issues to the surface. Previously, it was explained that the Indo-Pacific territorial waters became a very important area for world trade routes, if added with the Blue Economy program, it would increase the activities and benefits that could be taken from the region. This is likely to raise new issues, namely regarding security issues, one of which is sea piracy. The possibility is that sea piracy will interfere with regional security and community activities and relations between countries. This is the main reason for the interrelation between the Blue Economy with the sea piracy.

4.2 Indo-Pacific in the Eye of the Key Countries

As time goes on, Indo-Pacific continues to develop on its way to becoming one of the most successful and important regional cooperation in the world nowadays. But, the key to the development of the Indo-Pacific lies in the hand of the key countries inside this regional cooperation. As previously mentioned, countries like the United States, Japan, India, Australia, and France can be counted as the key countries in Indo-Pacific. Even though it is not officially recognized, the writers believe that those countries can be called the founding fathers of Indo-Pacific, especially in terms of their emergence in the twenty first century. So, it is important to understand the point of view of those countries regarding the Indo-Pacific itself.

Among those key countries, Japan is one of the most enthusiastic ones in terms of the Indo-Pacific. Japan is actively pursuing the leadership role in Indo-Pacific because they believe that Indo-Pacific is multipolar regional cooperation. For Japan, Indo-Pacific will have no problem accommodating more than one leader, unlike other regional cooperation. Also, writing from Hiroyuki Suzuki stated that Japan and other key countries classified as middle power countries like India, Australia, and Indonesia should be able to play a more active role in Indo-Pacific to ensure stability and cooperation. With the emergence of China's BRI, the existence of Indo-Pacific has the high possibility of being misused by the United States to rival China and its influence in the region (Suzuki, 2020). So, Japan thinks that they have to take the leadership role, along with other middle-power countries, to support the United States and to guarantee the strength and stability of the Indo-Pacific as regional cooperation.

The other key country inside Indo-Pacific is Australia. Even though Australia has not been categorized as a developed country in terms of international relations, Australia holds an important role in the development of the Indo-Pacific, especially around the Pacific Ocean. Moreover, writing from Rory Medcalf stated that Australia has been the most active proponent of the concept Indo-Pacific. One of the most strategic steps of Australia regarding the Indo-Pacific itself has been the elaboration process of Indo-Pacific as their strategic environment in 2013 into the 2017 Foreign Policy White Paper, the specific national document to explain the vision of Australia's international relations (Medcalf, 2019). Australia also believes that while some people said that Indo-

Pacific is a concept born in the United States, there are some Australian originality and authenticity inside the concept itself. So, Australia has been one of the countries actively pursuing the immense possibility of Indo-Pacific in the future.

Moving a little bit to the northern side of the world, France is also one of the key countries inside the Indo-Pacific. The presence of France is important because France is also the essential representative of the European Union in the Indo-Pacific. Developed regional cooperation like European Union will contribute to the development of the Indo-Pacific. In terms of geographical aspect, France is well-represented in the two main areas of Indo-Pacific thanks to its overseas territories and possessions. Writing from Andrea Gilli stated that France has increased its involvement in Indo-Pacific since the 2010s, and its *raison d'etre* are the aspects of the economy (markets and investments) and the potential of political and security cooperation (Gilli, 2019). France also has its own political and diplomatic role in the Indo-Pacific in the form of three themes, namely nuclear non-proliferation, defending the rules-based international order, and dealing with non-traditional security and non-state actor issues.

In terms of the amount of population inside a country, then India is the most populous country in regards to the key countries of the Indo-Pacific discussion. The rapid-growing population that has not to show any sign of slowing down in India makes India become the second country to ever reach one billion population after China. Also, India has a long-term plan and role for its contribution of Indo-Pacific's stability as regional cooperation in the future. Writing from Vinay Kaura stated that India has some dynamism in terms of economic and demographic aspect that significantly affects the development of Indo-Pacific. Besides, India is also located strategically geographically. India has some sea lanes that are highly essential to

the process of global trade and energy flows (Kaura, 2018). These advantages will be beneficial for India and also for Indo-Pacific. While India is trying to help Indo-Pacific with its engagement in various aspects, India believes that it will reap a huge number of benefits if Indo-Pacific turns out to be successful regional cooperation in the future.

Furthermore, it is a difficult task to argue that one of the key countries in the Indo-Pacific that are located in the most strategic location geographically is Indonesia. Just like Australia, Indonesia is still categorized as a developing country that is aiming to be a developed country in the future. One of the ways to improve its status is to increase its involvement in the international world. So, it is just rational for Indonesia to involve in the development of the Indo-Pacific. Writing from Hendra Manurung and Arry Bainus stated that Indonesia has a chance to be one of the upcoming great powers in the international world through Indo-Pacific by improving the Free and Active (*Bebas-Aktif*) foreign policy that Indonesia has been implementing until today. Also, Indonesia could use its involvement and leadership in ASEAN to further improve its role in Indo-Pacific. ASEAN itself already has ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP). With AOIP and also the improvement of *Bebas-Aktif* foreign policy, Indonesia will have a great chance to take a leadership role in Indo-Pacific (Manurung and Bainus, 2019).

The United States will play the biggest and most important role in terms of the development of the Indo-Pacific. The rivalries in the region between the United States and China are one of the most essential reasons for all of the key countries to support the United States in improving Indo-Pacific, competing against China's BRI, its initiative to rule the region. Even though the United States has its hegemonic status in the international world, the writers believe that the United States needs the involvement of these key countries to

enhance the development of the Indo-Pacific. Right now, China is developing into the hegemonic status at a rapid, rapid, pace. China is counting on its economic supremacy to try dethroning the United States. China's economic power alone can overcome many countries' economic power combined. So, in terms of their regional battle through Indo-Pacific, United States needs those key countries.

4.3 The Development of Sea Piracy in International World

Some people might say that the world right now is a better place for human to live their life, especially after the end of some of the biggest wars in history, namely World War I, World War II, Cold War, and others. Countries are making a lot of effort to cooperate more frequently than ever. But, it is impossible to have a world without issues and problems. Even though the war is not happening in the world currently, there are so many problems that the world is facing right now. Issues like global warming, poverty, terrorism, migration, or even the biggest issues in the world like now, the Covid-19 pandemic, needs to be solved by the international world. Moving the focus a little bit to life on waters, one of the most dangerous problems right now is sea piracy. Not only threatening international waters overall, but sea piracy is also threatening regional cooperations that heavily rely on waters, just like Indo-Pacific. So, Indo-Pacific needs to understand the development of sea piracy to know how to tackle sea piracy as a threat.

Before looking at the overall development of sea piracy, it is also important to look at factors or reasons that contribute to the presence or emergence of sea piracy, especially since the beginning of the twenty first century. Writing from Peter Chalk stated that there are at least seven factors behind sea piracy in the global era. First, there has been a huge increase in maritime traffic, especially commercial ones. Second, there has been a high amount of usage by seaborne commercial traffic of maritime checkpoints near the areas of non-state or maritime criminal activity. Locations such as Malacca Straits, the Suez Canal, and much more ultimately ended up being one of the main targets of sea piracy. Third, there has been the tarriance effect of the Asian financial crisis that started to "attack" Southeast Asia, especially, in 1997. This factor can be counted as a pull factor of sea piracy around the world (Chalk, 2008: 10-11).

Fourth, the difficult task for everybody regarding the level of actions towards maritime surveillance. This issue nowadays has been escalated after the horrifying events of September 11, 2001 (famously known as 9/11). Fifth, concerning the fourth factor, port-side security and lax coastal contribute significantly in terms of low-level piratical activity on the harbors and seas. This kind of low-level piratical activities are often underestimated but could be important to the overall development of sea piracy. Sixth, the system of national criminal justice has been corrupted and dysfunctional. This factor has been directly contributed to the phantom ship phenomenon in some countries. Finally, a global effort of small arms proliferation. Ironically, this factor indirectly motivates pirates (and other criminal elements) to enhance their means of operation to a more destructive and dangerous level (Chalk, 2008: 12-14).

According to a document from United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), sea piracy can be counted as a violent, acquisitive, transnational, and organized crime. Sea piracy is a transnational crime because a ship with a flag is a sign of the national sovereignty of those flags. Sea piracy is an organized crime because there is some commandeering process in the action of sea piracy (UNODC, 2010). Sea piracy has seen a lot of popularity since the beginning of the twenty first century. But, the amount

of reported sea piracy attacks since then have fluctuated every year. The most affected area of sea piracy attacks around the world is on the Coast of Somalia, especially around the year 2008 and 2009. In 2008, sea piracy attacks in Somalia contributed 38% of overall sea piracy attacks around the world (ICC IMB, 2009). In 2009, there had been a huge amount of increase in overall sea piracy attacks around the world thanks to sea piracy attacks in Somalia, which contributed 53% of it (ICC IMB, 2009).

In terms of the Indo-Pacific, one of the most important waters is the Asian waters. According to the ICC IMB annual report, since 2010, the number of sea piracy incidents in Asian waters and also the Gulf of Guinea have increased significantly. As a comparison, in 2012 there are 55 sea piracy incidents in the Gulf of Guinea and 26 sea piracy incidents in East Africa. Those numbers are significantly lower than 130 sea piracy incidents in Asia (UNCTAD, 2014). Additional information from ReCAAP ISC stated that sea piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asian waters in 2020 are reaching the highest number recorded since the early period of 2015. The main area of sea piracy attacks in Asian waters within this period is the Singapore Strait and South China Sea (ReCAAP ISC, 2020). So, sea piracy is a real threat to Indo-Pacific, especially around Asian waters. The next part of this paper will be focusing on how the Indo-Pacific behaves and act towards sea piracy.

4.4 Attitudes of Indo-Pacific towards Sea Piracy

After discussing the general information about Indo-Pacific, specifically in the eye of the key countries, and the overall development of sea piracy in the international world, this paper continues with how Indo-Pacific is trying to face, solve, tackle, and eradicate the issues of sea piracy, especially that are happening inside the area of Indo-Pacific itself. The first

thing is to understand the attitudes of the Indo-Pacific towards sea piracy. The writers believe that Indo-Pacific is behaving normatively towards sea piracy, meaning that Indo-Pacific is not behaving differently than any other countries or cooperation trying to solve sea piracy issues. The writers are summarizing Indo-Pacific's attitudes or behaviors towards sea piracy in three points. First, Indo-Pacific understands the threat of sea piracy. Second, Indo-Pacific realizes that sea piracy is a major challenge. Third, Indo-Pacific, specifically the key countries, believes that a strong and firm attitude concerning eradicating sea piracy will give important steps towards the future of Indo-Pacific, especially on their continuous effort to rival China's BRI.

The first and foremost attitude of Indo-Pacific towards sea piracy is that Indo-Pacific understands the dangerous threat of sea piracy. Along with illegal fishing, sea piracy is undermining Indo-Pacific's maritime security. Therefore, it is easy to move on to the second attitude, namely realization of Indo-Pacific that acknowledge sea piracy as a major challenge. A realization of sea piracy as a major challenge means that Indo-Pacific is serious about sea piracy. Indo-Pacific is trying their best to find the necessary solutions and actions to solve the issues of sea piracy, which will be discussed further in the next part of this paper. So, the writers believe that the understanding and realization from Indo-Pacific are small steps. But, those small steps are important to continue to the bigger steps of fighting sea piracy.

The third, and maybe the most interesting, attitude according to the writers is that Indo-Pacific believes that a strong and firm attitude to solve and tackle sea piracy is huge for the future development of the Indo-Pacific itself. This attitude is the result of the idea from the key countries inside the Indo-Pacific. One of the most important future development of Indo-

Pacific is related to its effort to compete with China's BRI. The writers believe that Indo-Pacific and BRI are putting the same focus towards the importance of their water area. So, if both countries can "master the art" of eradicating sea piracy, it will be a major boost because one of them could have a better control of their water area. The writers believe that Indo-Pacific must have a strong and firm attitude towards sea piracy. From that point, Indo-Pacific can put its focus on arranging and planning its real and concrete necessary actions.

4.5 Actions of Indo-Pacific towards Sea Piracy

Attitudes and behaviors will never be enough for Indo-Pacific to eradicate issues like sea piracy. It also needs to take necessary and suitable actions. Since Indo-Pacific is heavily relying on the importance of its key countries, the writers are trying to collect the list of actions from the key countries' point of view. The smaller countries inside Indo-Pacific are having a huge amount of difficulties in dealing with sea piracy on their own. In summary, there are four main points of actions of Indo-Pacific towards sea piracy. First, the importance of strong enforcement of maritime or international Law. Second, provision and training of coast guard vessels from key countries to smaller countries inside Indo-Pacific. Third, the development of a monitoring system across the waters. Fourth, increase the number of international cooperation, not only in between Indo-Pacific member states but also with countries outside Indo-Pacific.

The first action has to be related to law. As previously mentioned, sea piracy has been considered an international crime. Therefore, sea piracy is heavily related to at least two kinds of law, international law and maritime law. An international crime as dangerous as sea piracy needs upgraded and strong enforcement of the law. Indo-Pacific should be able to contribute more to this action. The next action is about the provision and training of coast guard vessels. Smaller countries inside Indo-Pacific are in desperate need of adequate coast guard vessels. The key country like Japan has started to did this action, and other key countries have to follow Japan's footsteps (Prime Minister's Office of Japan, 2018). If coast guard vessels are available and ready, strengthened by every possible training, all around the region of Indo-Pacific, sea piracy in Indo-Pacific will be handled better in the future.

The third action is a follow-up from the second action, namely the development of monitoring systems around and across the waters. Coast guard vessels cannot do their job alone. They need adequate, top-level, high-quality monitoring systems to help them. With the advancement of technology nowadays, the monitoring systems have endless possibilities to develop and directly support the work of coast guard vessels. The fourth action, which the writers believe can be the most important action, is to increase the number of international cooperation. The world agrees that sea piracy is an international-level problem. Regional cooperation like Indo-Pacific cannot and will never be able to eradicate sea piracy by itself. Indo-Pacific needs to increase international cooperation. The writers believe that there will be no country that rejects the offer to work together and eradicate sea piracy. Besides, Indo-Pacific should also be able to look outside the box and work together with countries all over the world. International cooperation will be the key action for Indo-Pacific to face, solve, tackle, and eradicate sea piracy out of its region.

5. Conclusion

As the conclusion of this paper, the writers are emphasizing four main points. First, sea piracy has become one of the most troublesome problems in the international world, especially since the beginning of the twenty first century. Even though the number of cases and the dynamics have

fluctuated, sea piracy is still giving a scare to the international world. Second, which is still related to the first point, there should be an agreement in the international world that sea piracy is a global threat, and there should be no exception to Indo-Pacific. With this agreement, Indo-Pacific as regional cooperation that puts some amount of focus on the importance of waters will try its best to fight and eradicate sea piracy.

Third, which is the continuation of the second point, eradicating sea piracy has to be one of the primary goals of the Indo-Pacific moving forward. It is an important step because Indo-Pacific realizes its unlimited maritime potential on its waters. Fourth, there are three points regarding the attitudes and four points regarding the actions of the Indo-Pacific towards sea piracy. Those points are just small parts of an unlimited range of options that Indo-Pacific can conduct. The writers believe that the last point of those actions, which is to increase the number of international cooperation, is the most important strategy to conduct. Indo-Pacific will never be able to eradicate sea piracy by its power, even though there are some countries combining power and effort. The most important thing to remember is that sea piracy is an international-level problem. Cooperations on every possible level are necessary.

In terms of recommendation, the writers are dividing the points into two categories based on the recipients of the recommendation, namely for the topic of this paper and for the people who will continue the research of this paper. For the topic of this paper, the writers would like to recommend to every member state of the Indo-Pacific to actively communicate to each other concerning the eradication effort of sea piracy. Smaller countries who need help should open themselves so bigger countries can take necessary actions to help. If this process cannot be done smoothly, then it will affect the development of the Indo-Pacific as well. For the people who will continue the research of this paper, the writers would like to encourage every possible continuation of this research since the writers feel that there is a lot of room for improvement in this research. The writers believe that Indo-Pacific will be developed even further in the future. So, the writers are open to future research based on this paper.

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