

GEOSTRATEGY FOR A COUNTRY'S INTERNATIONAL POLICY

Rahmat^{1)*}, Harun Umar²⁾, Christopher J. Anderson³⁾

¹⁾ Department of International Relations, University Brawijaya, Indonesia

²⁾ Faculty of Social and Political Science, University Nasional, Indonesia

³⁾ London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom

* Corresponding author, Email: rahmat@ub.ac.id

ABSTRACT

Background. In foreign policy, geostrategies are employed to help a nation overcome international obstacles and uphold its objectives.

Research Purpose. This research examines geostrategy for a country's international policy.

Research Method. This study uses a literature study method with a qualitative-descriptive approach. The study focuses on how nations develop their geostrategies, the internal and external variables that affect foreign policy, and the intimate connection between geopolitical strategies and state goals in terms of social, political, economic, and security.

Findings. Reasonable and adaptable geostrategic tactics enable a country to respond effectively to global dynamics, whether political, economic, or security. With a flexible and realistic strategy, a country can strengthen its bargaining position on the international stage, build mutually beneficial cooperation, and minimize the potential for conflict. Ultimately, the implementation of adaptive geostrategy plays a crucial role in maintaining national stability while promoting prosperity and sustainable development.

Conclusion. It is envisaged that this research would aid in our comprehension of geostrategy dynamics and provide a useful framework for international policy-making.

Keywords: Geostrategy, Geopolitical Theory, International Policy, International Relations, National Interests.

BACKGROUND

In the era of globalization, geostrategies have become increasingly important for countries to promote their national interests and increase their influence in the international arena. Geostrategy is a concept used to analyze and understand the relationship between a country's political, economic, and military power and its geographical environment.[1]. In the context of foreign policy, geostrategy is very important because it can help a country achieve its national interests and enhance its position in the international arena.

The history of geostrategy can be traced back to the 19th century, when geographers and political scientists began to study the relationship between political power and the geographical environment[2,3]. During the Cold War, geostrategy became very important in the context of competition between the Western and Eastern blocs. Today, geostrategy is still used by countries to achieve their national interests and enhance their position in the international arena.

A country's geostrategy is influenced by various factors, including geographical conditions, political and economic power, relations with other countries, and global issues such as climate change and cybersecurity[4]. Therefore, geopolitical strategies must be designed with these factors in mind to achieve a country's foreign policy objectives.

In the context of foreign policy, geostrategies can be used to enhance national security, increase political influence in the international arena, improve economic welfare, and improve the quality of life of citizens[5,6]. Geopolitical strategies can also be used to address global challenges such as climate change, cybersecurity, and international trade. Therefore, geostrategy is one of the important factors in determining a country's foreign policy. Thus, a good understanding of geostrategy is very important for foreign policy makers to achieve a country's foreign policy objectives.

Most existing studies on geostrategy tend to focus on classical power competition, such as military strength, territorial control, and balance-of-power dynamics among major states. These approaches often treat geostrategy as a static concept, emphasizing geographic determinism and traditional security considerations while paying limited attention to rapid global changes.

The novelty of this research lies in its integrative and adaptive perspective, which reconceptualizes geostrategy as a dynamic policy framework that aligns geography with contemporary international challenges. Unlike previous studies, this research explicitly links geostrategy to non-traditional dimensions of international policy, including economic interdependence, technological transformation, environmental security, and global governance[7]. Furthermore, this study introduces an adaptability-based geostrategic model, arguing that a country's international policy effectiveness increasingly depends on its ability to adjust strategies in response to shifting geopolitical landscapes, multipolar power structures, and transnational threats. This approach fills a critical gap in the literature by moving beyond major-power analysis and offering insights applicable to middle and emerging states, which are often underrepresented in geostrategic research.

By positioning geostrategy not merely as a tool of power projection but as an instrument for maintaining stability, enhancing international cooperation, and promoting sustainable national interests, this research provides a novel theoretical and practical contribution to the study of international relations and foreign policy strategy. This research aimed to examine geostrategy for a country's international policy.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a literature study method with a qualitative-descriptive approach. This method was chosen because the study aims to gain a comprehensive understanding of Indonesia's geostrategy in dealing with the influence of the global economy on national security, through an in-depth examination of various scientific sources and relevant policies. This research is qualitative in nature, with a descriptive-analytical approach.[8]. This approach is used to describe, analyze, and interpret concepts, theories, and geopolitical and global economic policies that influence Indonesia's national security.

The data used in this research is secondary data, obtained from various literature sources, including: 1)textbooks and monographs discussing geopolitics, international political economy, and national security; 2)relevant national and international scientific journal articles; 3)official government documents, such as national strategic policies, laws and regulations, and reports from state institutions related to national security and the economy; 4)reports from international institutions (e.g., IMF, World Bank, UNDP) and publications from relevant think tanks; 5)reliable online sources that support research analysis.

Data collection was carried out through systematic literature searches with the following steps: 1)determining research keywords, such as Indonesian geopolitics, global

economy, and national security, 2)selecting literature based on the relevance, credibility, and recency of the sources, and 3)classifying literature according to the theme and focus of the research discussion.

Data analysis was conducted qualitatively through the following stages: data reduction, which is sorting important information relevant to the research focus. Data presentation, by compiling the results of the literature review systematically and thematically. Drawing conclusions, through the synthesis of theories, concepts, and policies, to formulate Indonesia's geostrategy in facing the influence of the global economy on national security. To ensure data validity, this study uses source triangulation, which involves comparing information obtained from various literature and official documents to ensure data consistency and validity.

FINDINGS

The history of geostrategy can be traced back to the 19th century, when geographers and political scientists began to study the relationship between political power and the geographical environment. At that time, geostrategy was used to understand how a country's political and economic power could be influenced by its geographical location. During the Cold War, geostrategy became very important in the context of competition between the Western and Eastern blocs[9,10]. Western and Eastern countries used geostrategy to promote their national interests and increase their influence in the international arena.

Geostrategy can be defined as a systematic and structured plan to achieve a country's foreign policy objectives. This strategy takes into account various factors, including a country's political, economic, and military power, as well as its geographical environment and international relations. Geostrategies can be classified into several types based on the approach and objectives to be achieved[11]. The following are some commonly used types of geopolitical strategies:

- a. **Realistic Strategy:** This strategy focuses on a country's military and political power to achieve its foreign policy objectives. This realistic strategy is often used by countries that have strategic interests and want to increase their influence in the international arena.
- b. **Liberal Strategy:** This strategy focuses on international cooperation and trade to achieve a country's foreign policy objectives. This liberal strategy is often used by countries that want to improve economic welfare and increase their influence in the international arena through international cooperation.
- c. **Critical Strategy:** This strategy focuses on critical analysis of a country's political and economic power to achieve its foreign policy objectives. This critical strategy is often used by countries that want to increase awareness and understanding of a country's political and economic power.
- d. **Regional Strategy:** This strategy focuses on the development and security of a particular region, such as an economic or security region. This regional strategy is often used by countries that want to increase their influence in a particular region.
- e. **Global Strategy:** This strategy focuses on developing and securing a country's global interests, such as energy security or environmental security. This global strategy is often used by countries that want to increase their influence in the international arena.

- f. **Economic Strategy:** This strategy focuses on developing a country's economy through trade, investment, and international economic cooperation. This economic strategy is often used by countries that want to improve economic welfare and increase their influence in the international arena.
- g. **Security Strategy:** This strategy focuses on securing a country from security threats, such as terrorism or military aggression. This security strategy is often used by countries that want to improve national security and stability.
- h. **Diplomatic Strategy:** This strategy focuses on developing a country's diplomatic relations with other countries to achieve its foreign policy objectives. This diplomatic strategy is often used by countries that want to increase their influence in the international arena through diplomatic cooperation.

Each type of geostrategy has advantages and disadvantages, and can be used in various contexts and situations. Therefore, it is important for countries to choose the right geostrategy to achieve their foreign policy objectives. A country's geostrategy is influenced by various factors[12,13], including:

- a. **Geographical Conditions:** A country's geographical location can influence its political and economic power. Countries with strategic geographical locations can have advantages in trade and diplomacy.
- b. **Political and Economic Power:** A country's political and economic power can influence its ability to promote its national interests in the international arena.
- c. **Relations with Other Countries:** Diplomatic and economic relations with other countries can influence a country's geostrategy.
- d. **Global Issues:** Global issues such as climate change, cybersecurity, and international trade can influence a country's geostrategy.

In the context of foreign policy, geopolitical strategies can be used to achieve several objectives, including:

- a. **Enhancing National Security:** Geopolitical strategies can be used to enhance a country's national security by promoting its national interests and increasing its influence in the international arena.
- b. **Increasing Political Influence:** Geopolitical strategies can be used to increase a country's political influence in the international arena by promoting its national interests and building diplomatic relations with other countries.
- c. **Improving Economic Welfare:** Geopolitical strategies can be used to improve a country's economic welfare by promoting trade and investment in other countries.
- d. **Improving the Quality of Life of Citizens:** Geopolitical strategies can be used to improve the quality of life of a country's citizens by promoting its national interests and increasing its influence in the international arena.

Plans to address international issues with objectives such as enhancing national and international security, increasing political influence in the international arena, improving economic welfare, and improving the quality of life of citizens. The following are examples of geopolitical plans to address international issues[14]: a) **Strategy[15]. Building International Alliances:** Building alliances with other countries to enhance national and international security. **Develop Economic Cooperation:** Develop economic cooperation with other countries to improve economic welfare. **Increase Political Influence:** Increase political influence in the international arena through diplomacy and international cooperation.

Overcome Global Challenges: Overcome global challenges such as climate change, cyber security, and international trade; b) Tactics[16]. Diplomacy is used to build alliances and international cooperation. Economic Cooperation, Developing economic cooperation with other countries to improve economic welfare. Political Influence, Increasing political influence in the international arena through diplomacy and international cooperation. National Security, Improving national security through military buildup and international cooperation; c) Implementation. Alliance Building: Building alliances with other countries to enhance national and international security. Economic Cooperation Development, developing economic cooperation with other countries to improve economic welfare. Increasing Political Influence, Increasing political influence in the international arena through diplomacy and international cooperation. Addressing Global Challenges: Addressing global challenges such as climate change, cybersecurity, and international trade; d) Evaluation. Success: Evaluating the success of the geopolitical plan in achieving its objectives. Failure: Evaluating the failure of the geopolitical plan and finding solutions to overcome these problems.

A country's foreign policy is influenced by various components, both internal and external. Here are some examples of components that influence foreign policy: a) Internal Components[6,17]. Government, Government structure, political systems, and government policies can influence foreign policy. Economy: A country's economic conditions, including natural resources, industry, and trade, can influence foreign policy. Society: Public opinion, interest groups, and civil society organizations can influence foreign policy. History: A country's historical experiences, including wars, colonialism, and conflicts, can influence foreign policy. Culture: A country's cultural values, religion, and identity can influence foreign policy; b) External Components[18]. International, International conditions, including global political, economic, and security changes, can influence foreign policy. International organizations such as the United Nations, NATO, and ASEAN can influence foreign policy. Other Countries: The foreign policies of other countries, including allies and adversaries, can influence foreign policy. Globalization: The process of globalization, including trade, investment, and migration, can influence foreign policy. Environment: Global environmental issues, including climate change and biodiversity, can influence foreign policy; c) Other Components. Technology, Technological developments, including information and communication technology, can influence foreign policy. Security issues, including terrorism and cybersecurity, can influence foreign policy. Demographics, Demographic changes, including population growth and migration, can influence foreign policy.

DISCUSSIONS

The Relationship Between National Interests and Geostrategy

The relationship between national interests and geostrategy is very close, because a country's geostrategy is often designed to achieve its national interests. Here are some examples of the relationship between national interests and geostrategy[12]: a. National Security: Realist strategies can be used to enhance national security through military strength; b. Economy: Liberal strategies can be used to improve economic welfare through international cooperation and trade; c. Politics: Constructivist strategies can be used to increase political influence through diplomacy and international cooperation; d. Social: Liberal strategies can be used to improve the quality of life of citizens through international cooperation and development assistance. A country's geostrategy may change depending on

changes in its national interests. Therefore, it is important for a country to have a flexible and adaptive geostrategy to achieve its national interests.

In the era of globalization, geopolitical strategies have become increasingly important as countries must compete in an increasingly complex international arena. Geopolitical strategies can be used to promote a country's national interests and increase its influence in the international arena. Geostrategy is a concept used to analyze and understand the relationship between a country's political, economic, and military power and its geographical environment. The characteristics of geostrategy in the era of globalization are as follows.

1. Complexity: Geostrategy in the era of globalization must take into account the complexity of international relations, including economic, political, and security factors.
2. Dynamics: Geopolitical strategies must be able to adapt to rapid changes in the international environment.
3. Involvement: Geopolitical strategies must involve various actors, including governments, companies, and international organizations.
4. Technology: Geopolitical strategies must consider the role of technology in promoting a country's national interests.

The implementation of geopolitical strategies can be carried out in several ways, including:

1. Diplomacy: Diplomacy can be used to promote a country's national interests and increase its influence in the international arena.
2. International Cooperation: International cooperation can be used to promote a country's national interests and increase its influence in the international arena.
3. Economic Development: Economic development can be used to improve a country's economic welfare and increase its influence in the international arena.
4. National Security: National security can be used to protect a country's national interests and increase its influence in the international arena.

The impact of geopolitical strategies can be felt in several aspects, including: 1) Improved National Security: Geopolitical strategies can be used to improve a country's national security; 2) Increased Political Influence: Geopolitical strategies can be used to increase a country's political influence in the international arena; 3) Improved Economic Welfare: Geopolitical strategies can be used to improve a country's economic welfare.

Examples of successful geostrategic cases in several countries include:

- a. The United States' Geostrategy during the Cold War: The United States used geostrategy to promote its national interests and increase its influence in the international arena during the Cold War. This strategy focused on developing the military, economic, and political power of the United States, as well as forming alliances with other countries to confront the Soviet Union[19].
- b. China's Geostrategy in the Development of the New Silk Road: China used a geostrategy to promote its national interests and increase its influence in the international arena through the development of the New Silk Road. This strategy focused on developing infrastructure, trade, and economic cooperation with other countries in Asia and Europe[3].

- c. The European Union's Geostrategy in Responding to the Migrant Crisis: The European Union uses geostrategy to respond to the migrant crisis by increasing cooperation with other countries, developing effective migration policies, and improving border security.

The following are examples of unsuccessful cases:

- a. The Soviet Union's Geostrategy in the Afghan War: The Soviet Union used a geostrategy to promote its national interests and increase its influence in Afghanistan, but this strategy was unsuccessful due to strong resistance from the Afghan mujahideen and support from the United States[20].
- b. The United States' Geostrategy in the Iraq War: The United States used a geostrategy to promote its national interests and increase its influence in Iraq, but this strategy was unsuccessful due to strong resistance from militant groups and political instability in Iraq[21].
- c. Russia's Geostrategy in the Ukraine Crisis: Russia used a geostrategy to promote its national interests and increase its influence in Ukraine, but this strategy was unsuccessful due to strong resistance from Ukraine and international support for Ukraine[22].

In each case study, the geopolitical strategies employed have advantages and disadvantages, and are influenced by various factors such as political, economic, and military power, as well as the geographical environment and international relations. Therefore, it is important for countries to choose appropriate and effective geopolitical strategies to achieve their foreign policy objectives. Geostrategy has been the subject of criticism and controversy in recent decades.[23]. Here are some common criticisms and controversies related to geostrategy:

- a. Criticism of Imperialism: Some critics argue that geostrategy is often used as a tool to promote the national interests of one country at the expense of other countries, which can be considered a form of imperialism.
- b. Criticism of the Use of Military Force: Geopolitical strategies often involve the use of military force to achieve foreign policy objectives. However, some critics argue that the use of military force can cause unnecessary damage and loss of life.
- c. Criticism of the Neglect of Human Rights: Some critics argue that geopolitical strategies often neglect human rights and the interests of civil society in an effort to promote a country's national interests.
- d. Criticism of Dependence on Natural Resources: Geopolitical strategies often focus on securing natural and energy resources. However, some critics argue that dependence on natural resources can lead to instability and conflict.
- e. Criticism of Lack of Transparency: Some critics argue that geopolitical strategies are often carried out in a non-transparent manner, making it difficult for civil society to understand and criticize a country's foreign policy.
- f. Controversy over the Role of the State in Geostrategy: Some critics argue that the role of the state in geostrategy can be too large, thereby neglecting the interests of civil society and non-governmental organizations.
- g. Controversy over Environmental Impact: Geopolitical strategies often focus on securing natural resources and energy, but some critics argue that this can cause significant environmental damage.

- h. Controversy over the Influence of Globalization: Geopolitical strategies are often influenced by globalization, but some critics argue that globalization can lead to economic and social inequality.

In the face of these criticisms and controversies, it is important for countries to consider various perspectives and develop more effective and responsible geopolitical strategies. This study is limited by its reliance on secondary sources, which may not fully capture recent geostrategy developments or real-time strategic decision-making. Existing geostrategic literature is largely dominated by major power perspectives and traditional security approaches, thereby offering limited insight into the experiences of developing or middle states and non-traditional policy dimensions such as economic, technological, and environmental factors. Additionally, the dynamic nature of international relations may render some sources contextually outdated, and theoretical frameworks drawn from global studies may not be entirely applicable to specific national contexts with distinct geostrategy and ideological characteristics.

CONCLUSION

Geostrategies play a very important role in a country's foreign policy because they serve as a tool to achieve national interests, both in terms of security, economy, and society. In facing global challenges such as climate change, cybersecurity, and global economic instability, countries need an adaptive and flexible geopolitical approach. Research shows that geostrategy involves long-term planning that includes building alliances, diplomacy, economic strengthening, and political influence in the international arena. The components that influence foreign policy come from internal factors (such as economic conditions, government systems, and culture) and external factors (such as global pressures, international organizations, and technological developments). National interests and geostrategy are closely related. Geopolitical strategies are created to meet the needs of a country to protect its people, improve welfare, and strengthen the country's position in the international arena. Therefore, a country's success in maintaining its national resilience amid globalization and international dynamics is highly dependent on the understanding and application of appropriate geopolitical strategies.

Acknowledgement Statement

All authors are very grateful to everyone who has helped us compile our research reports and publish articles.

Conflict of Interest Statement

The author declares there is no conflict of interest during this research or publication of this article.

REFERENCES

- [1] Cebotari S, Budurina-Goreacii C. Geostrategy: theoretical conceptual approaches. *Moldoscopia* 2022. [https://doi.org/10.52388/1812-2566.2021.3\(94\).01](https://doi.org/10.52388/1812-2566.2021.3(94).01).
- [2] Andrieu P. South Caucasus: History, Europeanness and Geostrategy. *Polit Etrang* 2025;2025-Summer. <https://doi.org/10.3917/pe.252.0163>.
- [3] Tang D, Sun Z, Sui G. Geological environment in the South China Sea. *J Oceanol Limnol* 2023;41. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00343-023-3403-2>.

- [4] Br. Sinaga SEP, Anisatussa'adah, Br. Ginting KS, Sitanggang LJ, Ramadani R, Purba SN, et al. Geopolitik Dan Geostrategi. *J Ilmu Polit UGM* 2019;1.
- [5] Goltsov A. GEOSTRATEGY OF UKRAINE REGARDING THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION. *Natl Tech Univ Ukr Journal Polit Sci Sociol Law* 2023. [https://doi.org/10.20535/2308-5053.2023.1\(57\).280795](https://doi.org/10.20535/2308-5053.2023.1(57).280795).
- [6] Priyono J. UJI FALSIFIKASI KONSEPSI KETAHANAN NASIONAL SEBAGAI GEOSTRATEGI INDONESIA. *J Pertahanan Bela Negara* 2017;7. <https://doi.org/10.33172/jpbh.v7i2.182>.
- [7] Endiartia JJ. From Southeast Asia to Indo-Pacific: How Far Indonesian Geostrategic Doctrine Shapes Its Position. *J Mandala J Ilmu Hub Int* 2021. <https://doi.org/10.33822/mjihi.v4i1.2187>.
- [8] Lestari N, Andri S, Adiarto A. Pengembangan Kompetensi Pegawai Negeri Sipil Pada Badan Kepegawaian dan Pengembangan Sumber Daya Manusia Kota Dumai. *JIAP (Jurnal Ilmu Adm Publik)* 2021;9. <https://doi.org/10.31764/jiap.v9i2.5218>.
- [9] NEACȘU M-C, NEGUȚ S. NUCLEAR GEOSTRATEGY OF THE POST-COLD WAR ERA. *Strateg XXI Complex Dyn Nat Secur Environ* 2022. <https://doi.org/10.53477/2668-6511-22-24>.
- [10] Browning CS. Geostrategies, geopolitics and ontological security in the Eastern neighbourhood: The European Union and the 'new Cold War.' *Polit Geogr* 2018;62. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2017.10.009>.
- [11] Csurgai G. Geopolitics, Geostrategy and Geoeconomics: Reflections on the Changing Force Factors in the International System. *Econ Strateg* 2020;144. <https://doi.org/10.33917/es-3.169.2020.30-41>.
- [12] Laksmana EA. The enduring strategic trinity: Explaining Indonesia's geopolitical architecture. *J Indian Ocean Reg* 2011;7. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19480881.2011.587333>.
- [13] Yosua Sabar Panjaitan, Lukman Yudho Prakoso, Buddy Suseto. Reflections on the Indonesian Navy's Military Geostrategy Through Learning Against the Russian-Ukrainian War. *Int J Humanit Educ Soc Sci* 2024;3. <https://doi.org/10.55227/ijhess.v3i4.884>.
- [14] Dutta V, Ghosh P. Sustainability as the Development Paradigm: Evolving Frames and Interpretations. *Sustain. Dev. Goals Ser.*, vol. Part F2815, 2023. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-50132-6_1.
- [15] Masterson J, Katare A, Thapa J, Malecha M, Yu S, Berke P. Plan integration and plan quality: combining assessment tools to align local infrastructure priorities to reduce hazard vulnerability. *Sustain Resilient Infrastruct* 2023;8. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23789689.2023.2165779>.
- [16] Ghosh S. Geopolitical risk, economic growth, economic uncertainty, and international inbound tourism: an Indian Illustration. *Rev Econ Polit Sci* 2022;7. <https://doi.org/10.1108/REPS-07-2020-0081>.
- [17] ЛАЗАРЄВ В, СИДОРОВА Е, ПАЛЕШКО Я. ВПЛИВ ГЕОПОЛІТИКИ НА СТАН НАЦІОНАЛЬНОЇ БЕЗПЕКИ ДЕРЖАВИ. *Nauk Visnyk Dnipropetrovs Kogo Derzhavnogo University Vnutrishnikh Sprav* 2025. <https://doi.org/10.31733/2078-3566-2020-4-300-305>.

- [18] Starodumova SJ, Sitdikova LB. Natural Resource Management in the Context of Sustainable Development of Territories Within Special Economic Zones. *Lect. Notes Networks Syst.*, vol. 245, 2022. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-77000-6_159.
- [19] Simons G. US-CHINA COMPETITION IN EURASIA: Actions and Reactions in a Multipolar World Order 2.0. *Routledge Handb. Chinese Eurasian Int. Relations*, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003439110-4>.
- [20] Pronin AA, Mahonin YA, Svyatoslavsky AV. Transformation of the narrative about the Afgan war in Soviet and Post-Soviet documentaries (1980-2021). *Bull LN Gumilyov Eurasian Natl Univ Journal Ser* 2023;145. <https://doi.org/10.32523/2616-7174-2023-145-4-73-82>.
- [21] Haghirian M, Zangiabadi Y. The U.S. Factor in Iran's Geostrategic and Foreign Policy Calculations. *Stud. Iran. Polit.*, 2021. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-3564-9_7.
- [22] Yuniasih T, Sinatrya HA. Strategi Rusia dalam Mengamankan Kepentingan Energi di Kawasan Asia Tengah Tahun 2012-2016. *Balcony Budi Luhur J Contemp* 2018;2.
- [23] Mallin F, Sidaway JD, Cheng H, Woon CY. Introduction: Explanation, critique and critics of geoeconomics. *Environ Plan A* 2025;57. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0308518X241280007>.



Copyright and Grant the Journal Right under [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/).

Copyright © 2022 SYNTIFIC PUBLISHER