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Islam, Christianity, and the Formation of Secularism in Indonesia 1945-1960

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Understanding Indonesia's Response to Russia's War in Ukraine: A Preliminary Analysis of the Discursive Landscape Radityo Dharmaputra

> Master's Programs in International Relations Faculty of Social and Political Science Jenderal Achmad Yani University

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Yohanes Sulaiman Universitas Jenderal Achmad Yani

Dear readers:

Again, it is my honor and pleasure to write an introduction to this issue of Journal of Global Strategic Studies. I am thankful to continuing support from you, our dear readers, and hard work from our editorial team, reviewers, and especially our contributors to bring this issue to fruition.

Similar to our previous issues, this issue is again filled with excellent contributions from all over the world.

History often has resonance to contemporary politics, especially with how history is often misinterpreted and weaponized as tools for political gains. Adrian Vickers's article is an excellent example of the misuse of history by discussing recent attempts by Islamist activists to "revise" the history of the birth of Indonesia's pro-independence movement. Using doctored and faked historical materials, they attempted to show that *Sarekat Islam*, the oldest Islamic political organization in Indonesia's history, was the real originator of the pro-independence movement, and thus Islam was the real foundation of Indonesian nationalism. Vickers' article also show that Indonesia's pre-independence history is still very contested and open to new interpretations, yet increasingly it is being interpreted by individuals and groups with political agenda instead of by independent and objective historians.

Alexander R. Arifianto's article provides another point of view by discussing a watershed political contestation in Indonesia's colonial history during the deliberation of The Investigative Committee to Prepare for Indonesia's Independence (BPUPKI) in 1945. Based on his analysis of speeches by BPUPKI members, Arifianto concluded that it was an alliance between the secular nationalists and the Christian members that finally prevented the Jakarta Charter that is being advocated by members from reformist Muslim background from being enacted. This later gave rise to the 1945 constitution and the Pancasila national ideology of the independent Indonesian nation-state.

Our third article is written by Dinna Prapto Raharja how global governance helps solving problems and alleviating pressure facing fishers and fisheries industries due to Covid-19. Global governance links the perspectives of problem solving at the global level with the local and national contexts where regular fishers operate. At the same time, the article also highlights the limits and problems of global governance, notably the divergence between the perspectives from the stakeholders, notably the state and the fishers themselves, who don't necessarily trust the state.

Anastassiya Mahon wrote our fourth article on how unclear definition and classification of the threat of communism creates opportunities for states to acquire more

power and to misuse them, to the detrimental of people's rights and freedom. This is evident in how politicians are using the threat of terrorism for securitization purpose and to achieve their political goals, ironically, not including genuine counterterrorism.

Taylor A. Rodier, in our fifth article, explores the shift in the Philippines' foreign policy under President Rodrigo Duterte. He looked how big of an influence an individual had on a country's foreign policy, whether Duterte was exceptionally important or whether this is just a longstanding pattern of alliance behavior that is impacted by the Philippines' own domestic politics and regional security environment.

Last but not the least, Radityo Dharmaputra contributed an excellent think piece that tries to understand the discourse on Russia's war in Ukraine in Indonesia, and how much impact the discourse has on Indonesia's foreign policy. This is an important contribution to further our understanding on the impact of the social media on foreign policy and in turn also what factors influences social media discourses on foreign policy events. And this is also an excellent article to end this issue, as this article dovetails nicely with the first article in this issue, on the use and misuse of history in social media, which has a lot of negative impacts on political discourses all over the world.

Finally, I again thank the readers for reading this note, and I hope you will enjoy reading this issue as much as we enjoy working on them.

Cimahi and Bandung, June 2022

Yohanes Sulaiman Executive Editor

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