



The Position Of Indonesia In Asean Economic Community 2015

Afgan Fadilla

Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Sumatera Utara, Indonesia

Article Info

Article history:

Received Mar 12, 2019

Revised Oct 27, 2019

Accepted Nov 15, 2019

Keywords:

State;
Realism;
Free Trade;
Sovereignty;
Asean Economic Community.

ABSTRACT

This research is motivated by the challenges faced by Indonesia on the establishment of the AEC (ASEAN Economic Community) that has a basic concept in the form of trade liberalization. The challenge is to be reduced sovereignty with the indicator decreasing authority of the state in regulating economic policy. Researchers dissect this problem by using the theory of realism that can be seen suitability Indonesian position with the theory used. This research uses qualitative research with an interpretive case study approach. The technique of collecting data is library research by collecting secondary data were then analyzed using qualitative techniques. Results of the research is Indonesia's position in the MEA discrepancy with the theory of realism regarding the challenge. The conclusions in this study is Indonesia as a country has experienced a reduction in its authority to regulate its own policies in harmony with the sovereignty of Indonesia as a state. Aside from being one of the member countries in ASEAN, Indonesia is also a country that the largest predicated in the Southeast Asia region and should not be handing sovereignty over the country's interests abroad.

This is an open access article under the [CC BY-NC](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/) license.



Corresponding Author

Afgan Fadilla,

Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences,
Universitas Sumatera Utara

Street Dr. T. Mansur No. 9, Padang Bulan Campus, Medan, 20155, North Sumatra, Indonesia

E-mail: afganfadilla@gmail.com

1. INTRODUCTION

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a geopolitical and economic organization of southeast Asian nations, founded in Bangkok, August 8, 1967 under the Bangkok Declaration by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand (Koesrianti, 2014) (Restanti, 2015). The organization aims to promote economic growth, social progress, and cultural development of its member states, promote peace and stability at the regional level, and increase the opportunity to discuss differences among its members peacefully (Rahmanto, 2014) (Agustina, 2015). The history of

cooperation by countries in southeast Asia before the formation of ASEAN was started by seato (South East Asia Treaty Organization) which was formed in September 1954(Wibowo, n.d.) (Aryani, n.d.).

Decades after ASEAN was formed there was a desire for ASEAN member states to form an integrated Southeast Asian community which was immediately followed up at a meeting of leaders of ASEAN member states in Kuala Lumpur discussing increased competition in the southeast Asian region economy, in 2003 on the Bali II Agreement and the implementation of the ASEAN Charter in 2007(M. F. Hakim, 2013)(Utomo et al., 2015). The results of the three agreements broadly demand the existence of asean countries that are integrated in various strategic aspects(Malau, 2014)(Ikbal, 2015). As a result of the agreements implemented that ASEAN member states agreed to form an ASEAN COMMUNITY consisting of 3 pillars, namely APSC (ASEAN Political-Security Community), ASCC (ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community) and AEC (ASEAN Economic Community)(Koesrianti, 2013).

AEC is one of the three earliest pillars to be implemented, namely in 2015. The economy that is the main supporting milestone in the process of regional integration is the main consideration in putting the AEC or often called MEA (ASEAN Economic Community) in the first place in the process of traveling to ASEAN COMMUNITY in 2020(A. R. Hakim, 2013).

The existence of a single market in 2015 will provide inevitability of major changes in the dynamics of the world economy in general, as well as in southeast Asian countries themselves, especially Indonesia(Muhsin, 2015). Indonesia's role in the history of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is quite large(Imran, 2014)(Taufik, 2014). Since its establishment 46 years ago, Indonesia has mainly played an important role in maintaining political stability and regional security. At that time Indonesia was considered the 'oldest brother" and the most influential. in every conference held by ASEAN, the attitude taken by Indonesia is usually adopted into a joint stance of ASEAN. However, since the collapse of the New Order and the economic crisis that destroyed the foundation of the national economy, Indonesia's role began to dim Indonesia, as a representative of the government, in looking at the MEA, especially the single market, according to the author has 2 sides of vision, namely opportunities and challenges(Hasiholan, 2015)(Ali, 2008). The opportunities seen are economic integration in realizing AEC 2015 in the opening and formation of larger markets, encouragement and improvement of efficiency and competitiveness as well as the opening of employment opportunities in the ASEAN region, will improve the welfare of all countries in the Region(Khaidir Anwar, 2014).

The reduction of the authority of the country makes the state an actor who is caught up in dependency or interdependence. Under a complex interdependence situation, the meaning of sovereignty will undergo a shift(Winarno, 2009)(Burchill & Linklater, 1996). A nation state within a certain territorial boundary will not be able to exercise its authoritative power in the name of national sovereignty on domestic issues, which should be its authoritative authority(Suharyo, 2014). This is because important decisions may be formulated by global-based transnational companies or policies taken by a country will have a significant influence on other countries. In other words, the autonomy of the state has been so diminished because all policies and decisions taken by the ruling elites cannot escape the impact of the influence of other countries(Nasdian, 2014)(Azmy, 2012).

Based on the description above can be seen a special conclusion that can be drawn, namely in order to realize the welfare of its people, with the achievement of the national interest, Indonesia joined the MEA with the consequences of reducing its own authority, so the author is interested in studying and researching in a description of Indonesia's position in the ASEAN Economic Community especially with regard to the very opposite understanding, namely the theory of realism that in fact demands a strong country. Realism positions the nation-state as a sovereign and independent political entity and becomes the center of gravity(Irianto, 2009). Other actors are secondary because global political dynamics are fully controlled by state actors. Realism assumes global politics as a collection of countries that fight for their own national interests with their main instrument being military power(Kristiawan, n.d.).

2. RESEARCH METHOD

The author uses qualitative research type and uses interpretive case study approach (Gunawan, 2013). Interpretive or disciplinary–configurative case studies aim to explain/interpret a single case, but that interpretation is explicitly constructed by a solid theoretical theory or frame of work that focuses on some specific theoretical aspects of reality and ignores other things (Semiawan, 2010) (Nugrahani & Hum, 2014). In this study, the data analysis technique used is qualitative technique, which is a data analysis technique that without the use of tools or statistical formulas. The steps taken are as follows:

1. Data collection. At this stage researchers collect data and materials both from books, magazines, newspapers, journals, clippings and internet sites containing the object of study studied.
2. Assessment or analysis of data. At this stage after the researchers collect and obtain all the data that supports or helps, the authors will separate the materials and data obtained according to their respective properties. Then the author conducts an assessment and analyzes the available data or materials.
3. Data collection obtained. This stage is the last stage of research. From the results of the research and analysis that the author did, the author draws conclusions that can help understand this research (Kasiram, 2010).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

3.1. Shifting the Essence of Free-Active Politics.

One of Suharto's steps at that time was to become a pioneer in the establishment of ASEAN in 1967 which was marked by the signing of the Bangkok Declaration. Further explanation is, Indonesia that previously at the time of Sukarno had a neutral foreign policy principle, namely foreign policy that is independent or free from foreign intervention changed shape into a foreign policy that was free to follow the global and regional currents during the Suharto era. In the quote, Clark explained that there are significant regional foreign policy differences between President Sukarno's leadership and President Suharto's. Sukarno, who during his leadership was famous for nationalism, decolonization and anti-westernization, transformed significantly into a leading actor in promoting regional stability by inviting countries in the region to cooperate. One of Suharto's steps at that time was to become a pioneer in the establishment of ASEAN in 1967 which was marked by the signing of the Bangkok Declaration. Further explanation is, Indonesia that previously at the time of Sukarno had a neutral foreign policy principle, namely foreign policy that is independent or free from foreign intervention changed shape into a foreign policy that was free to follow the global and regional currents during the Suharto era.

3.2. Indonesia's Low Economic Rate.

The single market that will be implemented in the ASEAN region that remains soon becomes a trigger for each member state to accelerate the improvement of their respective domestic economies. One of them is Indonesia. Indonesia as a country with a larger population and area than other countries in the ASEAN region is very enthusiastic to contest the MEA. Such enthusiasm must of course be directly proportional to concrete preparations in the economic field to accelerate domestic economic improvement so as to be able to compete in the single market that is soon to take place. However, based on the exposure and results of the data analysis that has been done above, Indonesia can not be said to be able to do more in the contesting of the single market later. Such incompetence can even be said to be inversely proportional to Indonesia's enthusiasm. Indonesia's low economic level compared to some other ASEAN member states is the main cause of the incompetence. The significant economic level difference is an important note for the government when it is seen that Indonesia's economic level is almost 30 times lower than Singapore which is currently the country that has the highest economic level in ASEAN. Indonesia although in the position of the middle economy level, which belongs to the ASEAN 5 (Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Phillipina, Thailand) and has the highest economic acceleration in ASEAN compared to the other 4 ASEAN 5 countries (GDP Per Capita 2000–2012 statistical), but the comparison of Indonesia's economic level in 2012 remains much lower than Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. The significant comparison of Indonesia's economic level with other

countries in the ASEAN region, especially ASEAN 5, is inversely proportional to the area and population owned by Indonesia, which in fact is the most extensive country and the most populous in the Southeast Asian region.

3.3. The Impact of Trade Liberalization (MEA) on Indonesia.

The single market that will be held in ASEAN is a new liberalization platform that Indonesia will pursue in the future. The single market, whose main framework is to free up trade flows and certainly make regulations as a support for that. These regulations will have an impact on the limited authority of the state in regulating trade flows. The real impact of trade liberalization is the limited authority of Indonesia in using fiscal, monetary and financial policies to boost its own domestic economy. Although these impacts only apply to 3 policies, but the 3 policies are very strategic in the economic aspects of a country. Here is a general explanation of the 3 policies: a. Fiscal Policy. b. Monetary Policy. c. Financial Policy

3.4. Indonesia's Position in MEA 2015.

In the two sections that have been discussed before can be taken 2 main points, namely: 1. non-active politics that shifts following the global current 2. the high disparity of Indonesia's economic level with other countries 3. the impact of MEA on the limited authority of Indonesia as a country. From the 3 main points, it can be concluded that Indonesia's current position is not in accordance with the framework of realism. The discrepancy can be seen from some of the indicators that will be described below.

The ultimate goal of International Politics is Power, The state in conducting international political activities with other countries must have the ultimate goal of Power (power). The power here means that every country in conducting its international political activities must have the goal of achieving a higher power than other countries. Indonesia's international political activities in the regional space, namely MEA, are clearly not in accordance with the thesis. Indonesia contributed in initiating ASEAN, MEA, and international cooperation that had previously been done to have a more favorable goal to regional and international stability. Therefore, Indonesia as a country should not rely on international organizations or international law to ensure its national security. In addition, countries must also reject any attempt to govern international behavior through global governance mechanisms.

The Essence of Power to Dominate, For realism, the essence of power is the ability to change behavior/to dominate. Realists define power in zero-sum terms (a situation in which a certain party's victory is a defeat for the other party) is extreme. Individuals, like the state, have powers that other parties have. So another realism thesis that is the essence of International Politics is the War of All Against All is a derivative point of the thesis. The concept of the MEA single market that Indonesia contributes to is clearly very contrary to such extreme thesis, because the individual in this case is a country, not a region. Indonesia does not reflect guidelines for fighting with other member states.

Balance of Power and Anarchy in International Relations, Realists state that the main problems in international relations are anarchy. Anarchy applies because in international relations there is no sovereign authority that imposes the rule of law and guarantees the guilty in law. The coercion of this rule of law can be overcome by the increase in the power of all countries. Because all countries seek to increase their strength, stability can only be achieved through the balance of power facilitated by the formation and dissolution of conflicting alliances. This concept is based on the thesis of realism on the prevention of war, namely war or opposition will be prevented by the readiness of each country to conduct warfare so that between countries will be realized balance of power. Indonesia as one of the countries that participated in the MEA single market is certainly very inversely proportional to its position when viewed from this perspective. The economic level of ASEAN member states which is a reflection of the power itself is very far from balanced. Indonesia in this study, as described above, has a significant difference in economic levels, well below Singapore which is at the top.

Internal and External Sovereignty, Sovereignty in terms of realism can be divided into 2, internal sovereignty that is a country that has power in its territory or against its own people and

external sovereignty that is the recognition of other countries to the country. On August 17, 1945, Indonesia declared its independence from Japanese occupation of Indonesia. The declaration of independence, in addition to expressing Indonesia's freedom from any foreign intervention, also confirmed Indonesia as a legitimate country. The validity of Indonesia as a country directly makes Indonesia as the main role in preaching the activities of state life. However, the role is further reduced due to liberalization applied in some strategic aspects. Liberalization that occurs in Indonesia is the effect of liberalization applied in the global region. One of the cases that there is a liberalization process in Indonesia is MEA. Liberalization in the MEA container that has the main framework in the economic aspect is to create a single market in the territory of ASEAN member countries. Indonesia in this case will clearly cede some of its authority as the highest authority to the mechanisms carried out by the market so that Indonesia is no longer the country that should be the supreme holder of power.

4. CONCLUSION

Indonesia is the largest island nation in the world consisting of 13,466 islands. With a population of more than 237 million in 2010, Indonesia is the fourth largest country in the world and the largest Muslim-populated country in the world, with more than 207 million people.³⁹ The large population makes Indonesia ranked as the largest country with a population among countries in the Southeast Asia region. The large population is also followed by the largest area of Indonesia in the region. As a large country, it does not guarantee Indonesia as a superior country in the ASEAN region. In 2012, it was noted that although Indonesia is the most populous country and the largest population, Indonesia only ranks 5th in terms of per capita income compared to other countries in the ASEAN region. Ranked 5th in per capita income with an income of 3,578 USD, which is very different from Singapore's per capita income which ranks 1st with an income of 52,069 USD makes the disparity between countries that can be said to be very striking in a regional organization. The disparity in the economic level has a direct relationship and influence on MEA. The single market at the core of the MEA will implement deregulation in trade flows so that each country in the region loses its power in making trade-related arrangements. The concept of trade liberalization that of course will still have no effect on the existing disparity will most likely make the disparity even higher. This can be seen from previous cooperations that implemented deregulation mechanisms. So, for member states with low economic levels, this further makes them fall in a more detrimental direction due to the disparity that exists then the deregulation. Indonesia, which has a low economic level in the single market that will be implemented later, will occupy a very difficult position. The superiority of the other 4 countries (Singapore, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and Thailand) that are above Indonesia will clearly dominate the existing trade in ASEAN. Of its people, but the state is also entitled and able to ask for obedience from its people by repressive or coercive means. The state in its formation, has certain conditions for a particular entity to be said to be a legitimate state, one of the conditions of which is the existence of a government that has sovereignty. Sovereignty by the government or often referred to as state sovereignty is the freedom of the country from any intervention in providing rules to be obeyed by its people.

REFERENCES

- Agustina, D. (2015). *Pencapaian dan persiapan Indonesia dalam menghadapi Komunitas Ekonomi ASEAN 2015*. Universitas Pelita Harapan.
- Ali, M. (2008). *Pergulatan membela yang benar: biografi Matori Abdul Djalil*. Penerbit Buku Kompas.
- Aryani, L. A. (N.D.). *Kebijakan Asean Terhadap Rotasi Kepemimpinan Myanmar Dalam Asean Tahun 2006 Skripsi*. ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint. Jakarta : ASEAN Secretariat, 2008
- ASEAN Selayang Pandang Edisi Ke-20. Jakarta: Direktorat Jenderal Kerjasama ASEAN, 2012
- ASEAN Statistical Yearbook 2013. Jakarta: ASEAN Secretariat, 2014
- Ayo Kita Kenali ASEAN. Jakarta : Direktorat Jenderal Kerjasama ASEAN, 2011
- Azmy, A. S. (2012). *Negara dan Buruh Migran Perempuan: Menelaah Kebijakan Perlindungan Masa Pemerintahan Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono 2004-2010*. Yayasan Pustaka Obor Indonesia.
- Burchill, S., & Linklater, A. (1996). *Teori-teori Hubungan internasional*. Penerbit Nusa Media.
- Clark, Marshall. Indonesia Post – Colonial Regional Imaginary : a 'neutralist' to 'all-direction' foreign policy.

- Japanese Journal of Political Science 12 (2) Cambridgeshire : Cambridge University Press : 2011
- Departemen Perdagangan Republik Indonesia. Menuju ASEAN Economic Community 2015. Jakarta, hal 74
- Gunawan, I. (2013). Metode penelitian kualitatif. *Jakarta: Bumi Aksara*, 143.
- Hakim, A. R. (2013). *Kebijakan Indonesia dalam Kerja Sama Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline*. Fisipol UGM Jurusan S2 Ilmu Hubungan Internasional.
- Hakim, M. F. (2013). *Asean Community 2015 Dan Tantangannya Pada Pendidikan Islam Di Indonesia*. UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya.
- Hasiholan, L. B. (2015). Peran enterpreneur batik Semarang dalam mengangkat keunggulan lokal menyambut MEA 2015. *Jurnal Ekonomi Dan Bisnis Kontemporer*, 1(01).
- Ikbal, M. (2015). Aspek Hukum Perlindungan Konsumen dalam Transaksi Elektronik (E-Commerce) Menghadapi Masyarakat Ekonomi ASEAN 2015. *Al-Adl: Jurnal Hukum*, 7(14).
- IMRAN, I. F. I. (2014). *Peranan Indonesia Dalam Menangani Masalah Lalu Lintas Imigran Gelap ke Australia*.
- Irianto, S. (2009). *Metode Penelitian Hukum: Konstelasi dan Refleksi*. Yayasan Pustaka Obor Indonesia.
- Jemadu, Aleksius. Politik Global dalam Teori & Praktek. Yogyakarta : Graha Ilmu, 2008
- Kasiram, M. (2010). *Metodologi penelitian: Kualitatif-kuantitatif*. Uin-Maliki Press.
- Khaidir Anwar, S. H. (2014). Integrasi Ekonomi Dalam Komunitas Ekonomi Asean 2015 Dan Implikasinya Terhadap Indonesia. *Editor*, 1.
- Koesrianti, N. (2013). Pembentukan Asean Economic Community (AEC) 2015: Integrasi Ekonomi Berdasarkan Komitmen Tanpa Sanksi. *Law Review*, 13(2), 187–208.
- Koesrianti, N. (2014). *Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Sejarah Konstitusi dan Integrasi Kawasan*. Airlangga University Press.
- Kristiawan, R. (n.d.). *Penumpang Gelap Demokrasi*.
- Kusumaatmadja, Mochtar. Politik Luar Negeri Indonesia dan Pelaksanaannya Dewasa Ini. Bandung : Penerbit Alumni, 1983
- Malau, M. T. (2014). Aspek hukum peraturan dan kebijakan pemerintah Indonesia menghadapi liberalisasi ekonomi regional: Masyarakat ekonomi ASEAN 2015. *Jurnal Rechts Vinding: Media Pembinaan Hukum Nasional*, 3(2), 163–182.
- M. Arimin, Tatang. Menyusun Rencana Penelitian. Jakarta : Raja Grafindo Perkasa, 2000
- Menuju ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY 2015. Jakarta : Departemen Perdagangan Republik Indonesia
- Muhsin, M. (2015). *KORELASI ANTARA KURIKULUM KKNi DENGAN INDONESIA MENGHADAPI MEA (Studi Kasus di SPs UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta dan PPs IAIN SMH Banten)*.
- Nasdian, F. T. (2014). *Pengembangan masyarakat*. Yayasan Pustaka Obor Indonesia.
- Nugrahani, F., & Hum, M. (2014). Metode penelitian kualitatif. *Solo: Cakra Books*.
- Rahmanto, T. A. (2014). MASYARAKAT EKONOMI ASEAN (MEA) SEBUAH KEHIDUPAN MODERN YANG MENGANDUNG RESIKO. *PEMBANGUNAN SOSIAL DALAM MENGHADAPI MASYARAKAT EKONOMI ASEAN*, 5, 237.
- Restanti, A. S. (2015). Strategi dan Peran Pustakawan dalam menghadapi Masyarakat Ekonomi ASEAN. *Prosiding Seminar Nasional Fakultas Ilmu Sosial Dan Ilmu Politik, Universitas Terbuka UT CC*, 26.
- Semiawan, C. R. (2010). *Metode penelitian kualitatif*. Grasindo.
- Sitepu, P. Anthonius. Studi Hubungan Internasional. Yogyakarta : Graha Ilmu, 2011
- Suharyo, P. (2014). *Aspek Hukum Kewenangan Pemerintah Daerah Dalam Melaksanakan Kerjasama Ekonomi Dengan Luar Negeri Berdasarkan Undang-Undang Nomor 32 Tahun 2004 Tentang Pemerintahan Daerah*. Unpas.
- Steans, Jill dan Pettiford. Lloyd. Hubungan Internasional : Perspektif dan Tema. Yogyakarta : Pustaka Pelajar, 2009
- Taufik, A. I. (2014). Peran ASEAN dan negara anggota ASEAN terhadap perlindungan pekerja migran. *Jurnal Rechts Vinding: Media Pembinaan Hukum Nasional*, 3(2), 255–280.
- Utomo, T. W. W., Gultom, D., & Budhianto, T. (2015). *ASEAN: Satu Komunitas Satu Identitas*. Deepublish.
- Undang – Undang Republik Indonesia Nomor 37 Tahun 1999 pada Penjelasan bagian Umum
- Wendt, Alexander. S. Levy, Jack. Little, Richard. Metodologi Ilmu Hubungan Internasional : Perdebatan Paradigmatik dan Pendekatan Alternatif. Malang : Intrans Publishing, 2014
- Wibowo, A. F. (n.d.). *Pembentukan ASEAN-CINA Free Trade Area (ACFTA) dan hubungan ekonomi ASEAN-CINA (2003-2009)*.
- Winarno, Budi. Dinamika Isu – Isu Global Kontemporer. Yogyakarta : PT. Buku Seru, 2014
- Winarno, B. (2009). *Pertarungan Negara vs Pasar*. Media Pressindo.