

# Strategies For Addressing The Spillover Effect Of Mosaic Warfare In The South China Sea Conflict To Achieve National Security Stability

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## Abstract

The South China Sea is a strategic area rich in natural resources and a crucial international shipping and trade route, making it a focal point of territorial disputes between China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, and Taiwan. This conflict escalates tensions and the potential spillover effects of mosaic warfare that can impact Indonesia's national security and stability. This journal analyzes the strategic implications of the South China Sea conflict for Indonesia, exploring defensive and proactive strategies to mitigate risks and enhance national resilience. This research uses a qualitative descriptive approach based on historical analysis and content analysis, successfully identifying key areas of concern such as increased maritime security risks, the need for enhanced military capabilities, and the importance of regional and international cooperation. Proposed strategies include increased diplomatic engagement, strengthening defense capabilities, intelligence and security technology cooperation, and diversifying economic and trade routes. Indonesia must adopt a multifaceted and proactive strategy to protect its interests amidst regional instability, strengthen diplomatic relations within ASEAN and globally, enhance military and surveillance capabilities, and ensure economic resilience against potential disruptions in maritime trade routes. Public education and adherence to international law are also crucial for maintaining regional peace and security.

## 1. Introduction

The South China Sea is a strategic area rich in natural resources and a crucial international shipping and trade route, making it a global geopolitical hotspot. According to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the annual trade passing through these waters exceeds \$34 Billions (Panda, 2017), highlighting its strategic importance in various fields, including economics and security. This area triggers many conflicting territorial claims from surrounding countries, including China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, and Taiwan, all claiming parts of the region (Marsetio et al., 2017). This conflict not only has the potential to affect directly involved countries but also poses a spillover effect and mosaic warfare threat to neighboring countries like Indonesia.

The spillover effect in international relations theory, as explained by Joseph Nye in the concepts of soft power and hard power (Nye & Jr, 2008), can be defined as an event or policy in one country or region having a direct or indirect impact on another country or region. In the geopolitical context, this often occurs when conflict or tension in one area spreads to another, affecting the politics, economy, and security of countries not directly involved in the conflict (Deudney, 2000). This theory underscores the importance of understanding connectivity and interdependence in international relations and the importance of anticipatory strategies to manage potential impacts. The spillover effect of Mosaic Warfare in the South China Sea conflict should be of particular concern to countries around the conflict area. Mosaic Warfare represents modern warfare using a variety of modern weapons and platforms of different classes, sizes,

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and types, where each side fights in a very different way, like tiles in a mosaic, which can significantly impact the enemy and result in considerable war losses(Jensen & Paschkewitz, 2019). In this context, the role of intelligence is crucial for gathering accurate and relevant information about developments in the South China Sea to assist Indonesian policymakers in anticipating potential threats and preparing appropriate responses. According to a RAND Corporation report, effective intelligence not only supports the identification of real threats but also facilitates data-based decision-making processes to secure national interests and maintain regional stability(Grossman, 2016).

## **2. Literature Review**

### **3. Method**

This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach based on historical analysis and content analysis to conduct an in-depth analysis of strategies for dealing with the spillover effect of mosaic warfare in the South China Sea conflict. This methodological approach is expected to provide a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the strategies and policies implemented by the Indonesian government. During the data collection stage, this research relies on secondary data, including academic journals, government reports, news articles, and official documents related to the South China Sea conflict. In addition, interviews with geopolitical experts, intelligence observers, and government officials related to Indonesian foreign policy were conducted to gain direct and in-depth insights. Observations of recent developments through media and related publications were also carried out to ensure that the collected data is always up-to-date and relevant.

After data collection, data analysis was carried out using descriptive and thematic approaches. Descriptive analysis was used to compile and describe the obtained data, providing a clear picture of the situation and strategies implemented by the Indonesian government. Meanwhile, thematic analysis was used to identify and analyze the main themes that emerged from the data, such as territorial claims, interests of major countries, and the implications of the conflict on regional stability. Thus, this research not only evaluates the effectiveness of implemented policies but also provides an in-depth analysis of geopolitical dynamics in the South China Sea region and the security challenges faced in the area. This methodological approach aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how Indonesia manages and responds to complex challenges in the South China Sea conflict(Bateman & Emmers, 2008).

### **4. Result and Discussion**

As the world's largest archipelagic state with a strategically located geographic position, Indonesia is situated near the epicenter of the South China Sea conflict. Although not directly involved in territorial claims in the South China Sea, Indonesia faces the risk of spillover effects from mosaic warfare in the conflict, which could impact national security and stability as well as its economic interests. The conflict could lead to incidents such as threats to fishermen's safety, territorial violations, and escalation into armed conflict, all of which could directly affect Indonesia. This journal aims to provide an in-depth analysis of the strategies that Indonesia can adopt to anticipate and address these potential issues in the South China Sea conflict. By focusing on concrete steps that can help strengthen national stability, this journal seeks to safeguard Indonesia's interests amidst increasing regional instability.

As a maritime nation with thousands of islands bordering the South China Sea, Indonesia is in a unique and strategic position in regional geopolitical contexts. The potential conflict in the South China Sea is not just a territorial competition between claimant states over resources and sovereignty but also an arena for influence between major global powers. In this uncertain reality, it is essential for Indonesia to develop and implement strategies that are not only reactive but also proactive to anticipate potential impacts on national stability and economic interests.

#### **4.1. Geopolitical Review of the South China Sea.**

The South China Sea is one of the most complex regions in international geopolitical dynamics, involving several key actors with significant strategic and economic interests. Based on data from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), about 30% of global trade passes through these waters, including more than 50% of global oil trade(Thuy, 2013). Six countries involved in the South China Sea conflict—China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, and Taiwan—are competing for parts or all of this area based on differing historical claims and contrasting interpretations of international law. China is the dominant player with broad claims based on the controversial Nine Dash

Line, which faces opposition from the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, and Taiwan (Lovett, 2002). China's claims are seen as contrary to the principles of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) defined by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which recognizes states' sovereignty over resources within 200 nautical miles from their coastlines. Realism theory in international relations, emphasizing the struggle for power among states, provides a framework for understanding China's aggressive behavior driven by the need to secure natural resources and strategic shipping lanes. Additionally, the strategic interests of the United States in supporting freedom of navigation and curbing China's influence also shape regional dynamics.

Tensions in the South China Sea not only involve countries directly bordering these waters but also global powers like the United States. Through its Pivot to Asia policy, the United States has reaffirmed its commitment to freedom of navigation in the region and has conducted Freedom of Navigation Operations in response to China's expansionist actions (Gindarsah & Priamarizki, 2015). Regional security theory developed by Barry Buzan and Ole Wæver explains how security interactions among countries in this region become complex and interrelated, often extending beyond traditional security considerations to include economic and identity factors (Amable, 2022). The conflict in the South China Sea often manifests in increased military activity, maritime incidents, and aggressive diplomatic demands. These incidents not only create tensions among directly involved countries but also raise international concerns about the possibility of larger-scale conflict. China's construction of artificial islands and militarization has been a major focus in this conflict, causing anxiety among ASEAN countries and prompting reactions from global powers like the United States to act as a balancing force in the conflict. Based on Balance of Power theory, several ASEAN countries seek to balance power through various means, including drawing the United States into the conflict's vortex. Balance of Power is a theory in international relations that involves strategies of cooperation among states to increase power as part of power balancing (Encyclopaedia, 2024).

The South China Sea has been the center of several incidents that not only heighten regional tensions but also significantly impact global geopolitics. Here is a historical analysis of some key events that illustrate the dynamics of conflict in the region and its implications:

a. Collision Incident between USS Cowpens and a Chinese Naval Ship

In December 2013, the US guided-missile destroyer USS Cowpens was involved in an incident with a Chinese naval ship in the South China Sea. The Chinese ship crossed the Cowpens' path in what the United States considered an aggressive act. This incident highlighted the escalation of tensions between the United States and China and underscored China's claims over this strategic area, provoking international discussions on security and freedom of navigation (Thayer, 2013).

b. China's Construction of Artificial Islands

China launched a massive project to build artificial islands on several reefs in the South China Sea, particularly in the Spratly Islands, causing international concerns. This project involved building runways, military installations, and other infrastructure. This move dramatically altered the status quo in the region and raised concerns about potential military conflict, prompting ASEAN countries to question China's intentions and regional (Thuy & Le, 2015).

c. Vietnam-China Confrontation near Haiyang Shiyu 981 Oil Rig

In May 2014, Vietnam and China faced a confrontation when China parked the Haiyang Shiyu 981 oil rig in waters claimed by both countries. This incident sparked large protests in Vietnam and a maritime confrontation, with ships from both countries colliding. This event marked one of the most serious direct clashes in the region, escalating regional tensions and highlighting the greater risk of armed conflict (Green et al., 2017).

d. International Arbitration Court Ruling.

In July 2016, the International Arbitration Court in The Hague issued a ruling on the dispute between the Philippines and China, rejecting China's claims based on the nine-dash line and declaring that China's activities in the South China Sea had violated Philippine sovereignty. Although China refused to recognize or comply with the ruling, this decision was a significant moment in international law, drawing global

attention to the conflict and prompting other countries to seek a fair and rules-based resolution(News, 2016).

e. Military Maneuvers by the United States and Allies.

The United States and its allies regularly conduct Freedom of Navigation Operations to challenge what they consider to be China's excessive maritime claims. Meanwhile, China and other claimant countries, such as Malaysia and Vietnam, continue to bolster their military presence in the area, conducting exercises and maneuvers to assert their sovereignty(Mongilio, 2023).

f. Incidents between Chinese Coast Guard and Philippine Oil Rigs.

From 2019 to 2024, there were frequent incidents between Chinese coast guard ships and Philippine patrol vessels around oil rigs operated by the Philippines in waters near Palawan Island, an area rich in natural resources and strategically important. Chinese coast guard ships were reported to engage in aggressive maneuvers, blocking access to the rigs and demanding that exploration operations cease. These incidents provoked strong protests from the Philippines, which claimed that China had violated its sovereignty and threatened operational security in the area. These events led to international calls for a peaceful resolution and heightened the need for joint patrols or monitoring mechanisms in disputed areas(News, 2024).

g. Confrontation off the Coast of Malaysia.

Malaysia also faced several incidents with Chinese ships around oil blocks in waters claimed by both countries. In some of these incidents, Chinese ships reportedly approached Malaysian oil and gas operation areas, conducting unauthorized survey activities. Malaysia responded by increasing its military presence and maritime security in the area while seeking support from other ASEAN countries to voice collective concerns over China's actions, seen as sovereignty violations and threats to regional security(Antara, 2020).

h. Natuna Case.

Natuna is one of the areas frequently becoming a hotspot in the South China Sea context, although technically outside China's Nine-Dash Line claim. In early 2020, there was an increase in activity by Chinese fishing vessels accompanied by Chinese coast guard ships in Natuna waters, which are within Indonesia's exclusive economic zone. The Indonesian government responded by deploying warships and fighter jets to assert sovereignty and engaging in high-level diplomacy with China to resolve the issue. This incident underscored the importance of measured military responses and active diplomacy in addressing similar incidents. Through these operations, Indonesia not only secured its fishing resources but also sent a strong message about its commitment to enforcing law and sovereignty in its national water(VoA, 2020).

The series of events outlined above collectively depict the South China Sea as a complex geopolitical battleground involving both regional and global actors. Each incident not only affects the bilateral relations between the directly involved countries but also influences broader security policies and alliances worldwide. Although Indonesia is not involved in territorial claims in the South China Sea, the Natuna waters within Indonesia's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) frequently become hotspots due to incidents with Chinese vessels. Indonesia, strategically located to the south of the South China Sea, faces challenges in maintaining its territorial sovereignty and the security of vital shipping routes crucial for its economy. Based on data from the Southeast Asian Studies Center, the increased military activities and incidents in the South China Sea have the potential to escalate year by year. For Indonesia, its position on the southern border of the South China Sea makes regional stability crucial. More than 60% of Indonesia's maritime trade passes through the South China Sea, making the security of these shipping routes critical for the national economy. Although Indonesia does not have conflicting territorial claims with other countries in this area, the increasing tensions and militarization by claimant states can indirectly pose potential threats to Indonesia's interests, particularly in the context of maritime security and economy.

## **4.2. Spillover Effect of Mosaic Warfare in the South China Sea Conflict**

In the dynamic geopolitical landscape of the South China Sea, the spillover effect of Mosaic Warfare extends beyond the countries directly involved. Given Indonesia's geostrategic position as an archipelagic state, it is particularly vulnerable to the domino effects of regional tensions. The spillover effect from Mosaic Warfare in the South China Sea conflict can impact various sectors, affecting everything from national security to the economy, social-cultural stability, and politics. Mosaic Warfare, a defense concept that involves the use of diverse, highly integrated technologies, systems, and military assets with great flexibility, emphasizes the adoption of modular and integrated systems to achieve superiority in modern combat. This section aims to identify and analyze the various ways the spillover effect of Mosaic Warfare in the South China Sea conflict can affect national security stability. It highlights the importance of quick responses and measured strategies to secure Indonesia's sovereignty and national interests in an increasingly uncertain international arena.

#### **4.2.1. Defense and Security Aspects**

The spillover effect from Mosaic Warfare in the South China Sea conflict has the potential to disrupt Indonesia's national security in various ways. Incidents at sea, such as the capture of fishermen by foreign patrol boats or violations of the exclusive economic zone, can trigger diplomatic and military tensions. Additionally, the increased military presence of claimant states around these waters can intensify the risk of confrontation and even accidental conflicts that could escalate into broader conflicts.

##### **a. Increased Risk to Maritime Security**

Indonesia, with its thousands of scattered islands and vast waters, faces unique challenges in maintaining sovereignty and maritime security. The conflict in the South China Sea heightens maritime security risks, including possible incidents at sea involving military vessels, coast guard ships, and fishermen. For instance, incidents between Indonesian fishing boats and foreign coast guard vessels could escalate into military confrontations, forcing Indonesia to respond strategically and diplomatically. The conflict also increases the potential for illegal activities such as smuggling and piracy, which threaten shipping security and maritime economic activities.

##### **b. Need to Enhance Military Capabilities**

In the face of instability, Indonesia may need to bolster its military capabilities, particularly its navy and air force. This includes acquiring advanced weapon systems, improving defense infrastructure on strategic islands, and enhancing military training and security patrols. These investments aim to ensure that Indonesia can defend its sovereignty and respond quickly and effectively to emerging threats.

##### **c. Regional and International Defense Cooperation**

Facing common threats, the government should emphasize the importance of regional and international defense cooperation. Indonesia can seek to strengthen alliances with other ASEAN countries and global strategic partners to build a collective response or at least better coordination in dealing with China. This cooperation could include joint military exercises, combined security patrols, and intelligence exchanges, all aimed at enhancing regional security and reducing the risk of conflict.

##### **d. Foreign Policy to Support National Defense**

The spillover effect from Mosaic Warfare in the South China Sea conflict could also impact Indonesia's overall foreign policy. As an active ASEAN member and a strategic country in the Indo-Pacific, Indonesia must balance maintaining good relations with China, one of its largest trading partners, and asserting its strategic position in regional security. National defense policies may need to be adapted to accommodate a more assertive approach in maintaining sovereignty without provoking conflict escalation.

##### **e. Enhanced Preparedness and National Resilience**

The various impacts of the South China Sea conflict demand increased preparedness and national resilience, including civil preparedness and disaster response mechanisms, considering the possibility of armed conflict affecting coastal areas. Strengthening communication and coordination between

government agencies, the military, and civil society is critical to building national resilience against the broader impacts of tensions in the South China Sea.

#### **4.2.2. Economic Aspects**

The spillover effect of Mosaic Warfare in the South China Sea conflict has the potential to cause significant economic impacts for Indonesia, an archipelagic country strategically located in these waters and heavily reliant on maritime trade routes for its economic growth.

##### **a. Disruption of Maritime Trade Routes**

The South China Sea is one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world, with about one-third of global trade passing through this area. Disruptions to these routes, whether due to increased military activity, the closure of certain zones, or security incidents, can lead to shipping delays and increased logistics costs. This not only affects Indonesia's exports and imports but also impacts the cost of goods entering and leaving the country, which can cause price inflation and disrupt trade balance.

##### **b. Investment and Market Certainty**

Ongoing tensions and potential military conflicts in the South China Sea can reduce the attractiveness of the region as an investment destination. This uncertainty can lower foreign direct investment, which is crucial for infrastructure projects and other economic development initiatives in Indonesia. Geopolitical instability may make investors reluctant to allocate capital to long-term projects, thereby slowing economic growth.

##### **c. Impact on the Maritime and Fisheries Sector**

Indonesia, as a country with one of the largest fisheries territories in the world, is heavily dependent on the sustainability of marine resources. Tensions in the South China Sea can lead to increased illegal activities such as illegal fishing, which not only threatens local fish stocks but also the sustainability of the maritime ecosystem. The presence of foreign coast guard vessels and incidents with fishermen can limit access to traditional fishing areas, reducing income for coastal communities and increasing social tensions in these regions.

##### **d. Regional Economic Resilience**

Prolonged conflict may force Indonesia and neighboring countries to seek alternative trade routes, which may be longer or more expensive, redesign regional supply networks, and increase defense spending, which could divert resources from other economic development efforts. This demands strong policy strategies to minimize such impacts and find innovative solutions to sustain economic growth.

#### **4.2.3. Social and Cultural Aspects**

The spillover effect of Mosaic Warfare in the South China Sea conflict impacts not only political and economic aspects but also has the potential to significantly affect the social life of local communities. Coastal areas of Indonesia bordering the South China Sea have communities that rely on maritime resources. Increasing tensions and security incidents in these waters can cause anxiety and instability in daily life, affecting social norms and sea-centered cultural activities. Moreover, accelerating conflicts can trigger internal and external migration, forcing communities to adopt new, often harsher, ways of life. Government policies and international responses to the conflict can also influence social perceptions and attitudes towards neighboring countries, potentially sparking xenophobia or regional solidarity.

##### **a. Border Community Tensions**

Indonesia, with thousands of islands near the conflict area, has many communities living in border regions. Tensions in the South China Sea can cause fear and instability among these communities, especially

among fishermen who regularly cross disputed waters. For example, the presence of foreign coast guard ships and incidents involving fishing vessels can cause anxiety, reduce fishing activities, and disrupt daily life. The psychological impact of prolonged conflict can also affect communal well-being and solidarity.

b. Impact on Maritime Cultural Heritage

The sea is an essential element of Indonesia's maritime culture. The conflict in the South China Sea and restricted access to marine resources can disrupt cultural practices related to the sea and threaten maritime heritage. For instance, local festivals celebrating the sea and communal activities associated with it could be hindered, eroding cultural richness and reducing the transmission of cultural knowledge to younger generations.

c. Migration and Displacement

Economic impacts of the conflict, such as reduced fishing zones, may force residents to migrate in search of stable employment and livelihoods elsewhere. This migration not only alters regional demographics but also affects social networks, increasing the risk of social marginalization for migrants and posing challenges for social integration in new locations. It can also lead to vulnerabilities for Indonesia, particularly in regions affected by migration and displacement.

d. Public Perception

Territorial conflicts often trigger nationalist sentiments. In the Indonesian context, the government's handling of the South China Sea conflict can influence public perception of governmental effectiveness. Success or failure in maintaining sovereignty can affect national identity and public trust in state institutions. This could also trigger increased nationalist rhetoric, affecting interethnic and international relations in the region.

e. Public Awareness

Increased tensions in the South China Sea provide an opportunity to enhance public education and awareness about maritime security issues. Schools and media can play a vital role in disseminating accurate information and educating the public about the importance of regional stability and national sovereignty. Formal and informal education is essential to forming a holistic understanding and mature response from society to geopolitical dynamics.

#### **4.2.4. Political Aspects**

In the political realm, the spillover effect of Mosaic Warfare in the South China Sea conflict can alter Indonesia's foreign policy and national security strategies. The escalation of conflict may compel Indonesia to take a firmer stance in the international arena, enhancing active diplomacy and adopting more progressive defense measures. This could lead to changes in alliances, increased military cooperation with other countries, and revisions of national security strategies. These political impacts also have the potential to influence domestic politics, where issues of sovereignty and national security can become political campaign material, affect elections, and increase pressure on the government to demonstrate strong and effective leadership in facing external threats..

a. Decreased Geopolitical Leverage

Indonesia finds itself in a unique and often complex position regarding the South China Sea conflict. As a large and strategic ASEAN member state, Indonesia plays a key role in regional diplomacy. The impact of these conditions may force Indonesia to be more active in seeking diplomatic solutions, avoiding conflict escalation, and promoting regional peace and stability. On one hand, Indonesia must maintain strong bilateral relations with China, one of its major trading partners, while on the other hand, it must strengthen ASEAN solidarity and uphold its position on sovereignty issues. Additionally, Indonesia must consider the roles of the United States and other regional actors involved in the South China Sea conflict.

#### b. Influence on Domestic Politics

The impact of the South China Sea conflict and the government's handling of it can significantly affect domestic politics. Issues of sovereignty and national security raised by this conflict often become political campaign material that can influence public opinion and election outcomes. Political leadership that is perceived as successful in maintaining national sovereignty in this conflict can gain greater political support, whereas failure to handle these issues can provoke sharp criticism from the opposition and the public.

#### c. Impact on Foreign Policy

The spillover effect of Mosaic Warfare in the South China Sea conflict has the potential to affect Indonesia's overall foreign policy. Facing this instability, there may be pressure to adopt a more nationalistic approach, which could affect relationships with other countries, including major powers such as the United States and China. Conversely, Indonesia may also seek to strengthen strategic partnerships with other countries in the Indo-Pacific region as a counterbalance to China's influence.

#### d. Implications for ASEAN Integration

The South China Sea conflict is a test of ASEAN solidarity and integration, with Indonesia playing a key role. Indonesia's strategy in dealing with this conflict can affect the coherence and effectiveness of ASEAN as a regional bloc. Unity and a common stance in facing aggressive claims in the South China Sea can strengthen ASEAN, while division and inconsistent approaches can weaken the bloc's position in the international arena. Relations among ASEAN countries resulting from the South China Sea conflict will directly affect changes in geopolitical and geostrategic dynamics on a regional and global scale.

#### e. Enhancing Preparedness and Political Resilience

Facing potential escalation from the South China Sea conflict, it is crucial for Indonesia to enhance its preparedness and political resilience. This includes strengthening democratic institutions, promoting transparency and accountability in decision-making, and ensuring that all actions and policies are taken with national interests and regional stability in mind.

### **4.3. Strategies for Addressing the Spillover Effect of Mosaic Warfare in the South China Sea Conflict**

Amid rising tensions in the South China Sea, it is crucial for Indonesia to formulate and implement comprehensive strategies to address the potential spillover effect of Mosaic Warfare in the conflict. As a nation at the crossroads of global maritime trade routes and with significant strategic interests in the region, Indonesia must develop a multidimensional approach that not only secures its territorial sovereignty but also strengthens national stability. This strategy should encompass intensified diplomatic efforts, enhanced defense capabilities, and domestic policy adaptations that support social and economic resilience. Using a descriptive approach based on historical analysis and content analysis, this section outlines and analyzes various steps Indonesia can take to not only withstand these challenges but also leverage changing regional dynamics as opportunities to strengthen its position on the international stage.

#### a. Intensified Multilateral Diplomacy

To address the geopolitical complexities in the South China Sea, Indonesia must strengthen multilateral diplomacy in a strategic and targeted manner. This involves closer cooperation within the ASEAN framework to ensure that regional countries have a unified and cohesive approach in dealing with aggressive claims. ASEAN can serve as a forum to facilitate dialogue and negotiations, ensuring all parties respect international law principles as established by UNCLOS. Indonesia should leverage international forums such as the UN and APEC to advocate for peaceful and multilateral approaches to the dispute. By actively participating in global forums, Indonesia can seek international support and raise global awareness about the importance of stability in the South China Sea. Balancing support from major powers such as the United States and the European Union, along with careful diplomacy with China, is essential to avoid being caught in their power politics while strengthening Indonesia's position as a neutral and credible mediator.



b. Strengthening Defense Capabilities

With increasing tensions in the South China Sea, it is crucial for Indonesia to enhance its defense capabilities, especially the Navy and the Coast Guard. The government needs to allocate more resources for modernizing major weapon systems, surveillance, and sea patrols to protect national waters and ensure the security of shipping lanes. It is essential for Indonesia to modernize and boost its defense capabilities. Investment in advanced patrol ships, surveillance systems, radar, and reconnaissance aircraft should be prioritized to ensure that Indonesia can monitor and protect its waters. Procurement of defense technology from international partners can be bolstered by developing the domestic defense industry, thus strengthening Indonesia's military technology and industrial base. Training and military exercises should also be enhanced, not only domestically but through joint exercises with other countries to improve interoperability and collective capability in facing threats. These joint exercises not only strengthen military relations with other countries but also enhance the TNI's capabilities in joint and multinational operations.

c. Intelligence and Security Technology Cooperation

Increasing cooperation in intelligence and security technology with other countries is a crucial step in identifying and responding to early threats. This cooperation can include information exchange, joint exercises, and coordinated maritime security patrols. Strengthening regional cooperation can help minimize conflict risks and improve collective response to security threats. Enhanced cooperation in intelligence technology is key to identifying and responding to early threats. Indonesia can build and expand intelligence cooperation networks with other countries in the region and globally. Real-time information exchange and cooperation in cyber intelligence are critical in an era where non-traditional threats such as cyber attacks are increasingly relevant. Strengthening intelligence technology mechanisms must be supported by adequate laws and oversight mechanisms to ensure that intelligence activities are conducted within a clear and responsible legal framework. Regional cooperation, such as joint maritime security patrols and surveillance operations, can also be enhanced to improve regional security.

d. Economic and Trade Sector Approaches

Indonesia should also consider diversifying trade routes and strengthening the domestic economy to reduce dependence on conflict-prone maritime routes. Developing infrastructure such as ports and alternative trade routes, as well as increasing bilateral trade cooperation with non-conflict countries, can minimize the economic impact of disruptions in the South China Sea. Diversifying trade routes is a crucial strategy to reduce Indonesia's dependence on conflict-prone maritime routes. Developing infrastructure such as new port construction in eastern Indonesia and improving trade routes through the Arafura and Timor Seas are strategic steps. This will not only reduce risks but also open new economic opportunities in eastern regions that have long been less integrated with the national economy. Increasing bilateral trade cooperation with countries outside the conflict area is also important. This can include free trade agreements and foreign direct investment that can help economic growth and national development. Through this approach, Indonesia can not only secure its economic interests but also strengthen economic ties with other countries that can support its political position in the conflict.

e. Education and Public Awareness

It is essential to increase public awareness of the South China Sea issues through education and information campaigns. Understanding the importance of maritime security and regional stability in a national context will help build public support for government initiatives in addressing this issue and encourage active public participation in diplomacy and defense efforts. Public awareness of South China Sea issues is vital for supporting government policies and diplomatic efforts. This can be achieved through education in schools, public information campaigns, and involving the mass media in disseminating accurate information about the importance of maritime security and regional stability. This education should not only focus on knowledge but also foster nationalism and understanding of the importance of foreign and defense policies in everyday life. Through these strategic steps, Indonesia can not only face the challenges posed by the South China Sea conflict but also use them as opportunities to strengthen its geopolitical and economic position regionally and globally.

## 5. Conclusion

In facing the complexities and challenges posed by the spillover effect of Mosaic Warfare in the South China Sea conflict, Indonesia must adopt a multifaceted and proactive approach. This approach should not only strengthen national sovereignty and maritime security but also bolster Indonesia's position as a key player in regional and global diplomacy. This journal has extensively discussed the geopolitical dynamics and implications of the conflict, particularly from the perspective of Indonesia's national interests. This conflict involves several countries with overlapping territorial claims, which not only pose military risks but also affect vital trade routes, maritime security, and regional economic stability. Indonesia, although not directly involved in territorial claims, remains significantly impacted by this instability due to its strategic geographic location and reliance on sea routes for trade. The spillover effect of Mosaic Warfare in this conflict can manifest in maritime incidents involving the capture of fishermen and sovereignty violations, increased political tensions, and potential disruptions to trade routes. The strategies analysed and proposed in this journal aim to anticipate and respond to potential threats, ensuring that Indonesia can maintain its sovereignty and economic interests without becoming entangled in conflict escalation.

In addressing this conflict, Indonesia must enhance multilateral diplomacy through ASEAN and international forums to support peaceful resolutions based on international law. These efforts should be balanced with strengthening relations with major powers such as the United States, the European Union, and China, ensuring that Indonesia can act as a mediator supporting regional stability. Additionally, enhancing defence capabilities and maritime surveillance is critical, with investments allocated to modern technology and adequate infrastructure to ensure the security of national waters. At the operational level, more intensive intelligence cooperation with other countries is crucial to detecting and responding to early threats. This cooperation includes intelligence information exchanges, joint exercises, and coordinated maritime security patrols, all contributing to increased regional security. Economic and trade diversification is also a strategic step, minimizing dependence on conflict-prone routes and strengthening the domestic economy through the development of alternative trade infrastructure and increased bilateral trade cooperation with non-conflict countries.

Education and public awareness about maritime security issues and regional stability are also vital for building public support for government policies and increasing societal awareness. Effective information campaigns and comprehensive education can help the public understand the importance of the South China Sea issue in the context of national security and global interests. Through the implementation of these strategies, Indonesia not only secures its national interests but also plays a crucial role in supporting peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

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