

INDONESIAN FOREIGN POLICY IN THE 1950S

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Indonesian foreign policy in the 1950s

- Indonesian was under the political framework of liberal democracy - the dominant role of political parties in politics and foreign policy.
- Indonesia was free now to conduct its foreign policy based on its own principles.
- But during the 1950s foreign policy *bebas aktif* was put to a test to see how consistent Indonesia would be in the midst of a bipolar rivalry between US and Soviet Union.
- It took four years before the two established their embassies.

- The result of Indonesia's consistency was mixed.
- Under the PM Soekiman Indonesia could not resist the temptation of signing MSA with the US.
- In 1954 Indonesia decided not to join SEATO
- In 1955 Indonesia was successful in conducting AA Conference as the hybrid of Non-aligned Movement.

- However, after visiting Moscow and Beijing, Soekarno changed his mind and began to radicalize both his domestic and foreign policy.
- At the same time, the Indonesian Communist Party made aggressive efforts to build its power.
- There was a triangle competition among Soekarno, PKI and the Army (AD).

- In 1959 Soekarno declared the end of liberal democracy and the beginning of Guided Democracy.
- The element of anti-colonialism was very strong in his foreign policy.
- Soekarno's proposed the dichotomy between NEFOS or The New Emerging Forces (and then GANEFOS) and OLDEFOS or The Old Forces.
- The liberation of Irian Barat in 1962.
- The project of *Ganyang Malaysia* as its independence was seen as the project of imperialist powers (US and UK).

- The establishment of Jakarta - Phnom Penh - Beijing - Pyongyang.
- Indonesia got closer to the Eastern Bloc and got economic and military aid.
- Indonesia's preoccupation with radical foreign policy cost her the neglect of economic development.

Indonesia sebagai aktor dalam politik global saat ini:

1. Indonesia anggota G 20 (*an emerging market participating in finding solutions to the global economic crisis*)
2. Indonesia sebagai pemimpin tradisional di ASEAN (*sense of regional entitlement*) through Bali Concord I, II and III.
3. Indonesia sebagai kekuatan Islam moderat (bisa mengkombinasikan Islam dan demokrasi) dipandang sebagai sekutu Barat melawan *Islamic radicalism*.
4. Indonesia diakui sebagai kekuatan menengah (*middle power*) dalam konteks kerjasama MIKTA (mediator dalam penyelesaian konflik di kawasan seperti mendorong diterimanya COC di Laut China Selatan).
5. Indonesia sebagai salah satu penentu stabilitas regional di Asia Tenggara.

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