



**“ INDONESIA – CHINA INTERDEPENDENCE  
RELATIONS IN THE ERA OF PRESIDENT JOKO  
WIDODO’S DURING DESPITE THE SOUTH CHINA  
SEA DISPUTE ( 2017 – 2022 ) ”**

**UNDERGRADUATE THESIS**

**Submitted As One of The Requirements to obtain  
Sarjana Sosial**

**By**

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**Faculty of Humanities**

**International Relations Study Program**

**Cikarang**

**September 2023**

## PANEL OF EXAMINERS' APPROVAL SHEET

The Panel of Examiners declared that this thesis entitled “ **Indonesia - China Interdependence Relations in the Era of President Joko Widodo's During Despite The South China Sea Dispute ( 2017 – 2022 )** “ that was submitted by Vika Melisa Lubis majoring in international relations from the Faculty of Humanities was assessed and approved to have passed the Oral Examination on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Chair – Panel of Examiner



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**Harryanto Aryodiguno, B.A., M.A., Ph.D**

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**Muhammad Farid, S.S., M.PA**

Thesis Adviser



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**Anggara Raharyo, S.I.P., M.P.S**

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## **ABSTRACT**

**Vika Melisa Lubis**

**International Relations 2020, President University**

**Thesis Title:** Indonesia - China Interdependence Relations in the Era of President Joko Widodo's During Despite The South China Sea Dispute ( 2017 – 2022 )

Thesis Advisor: Anggara Raharyo, S.I.P., M.P.S

Indonesia in the era of President Joko Widodo's administration had a vision of building national infrastructure with the aim of achieving national interests in the hope of driving the nation's economy and to make this happen, Indonesia really needed investment funds from China. However, China continues to expand its political and economic influence in the Southeast Asian region by claiming most of the South China Sea based on the Nine Dash Line. As a result of this, relations between Indonesia and China experienced tension and caused a sovereignty conflict due to Indonesia's territory being included in the Nine Dash Line claim. This research aims to find out the factors behind why Indonesia did not sever relations with China when a sovereignty conflict occurred. The research method used in this paper is a qualitative research method in analyzing the problems studied, using data obtained from; official state data, online media, books, articles, and news. To analyze this research, we use an understanding of the main theories, namely interdependency theory and national interest. This study shows how the national interests of Indonesia and China create a strong interdependence relationship so that relations between the two countries discontinue cooperation, even though on the other hand there is a crucial sovereignty dispute.

**Keywords:** South China Sea, National Interest, Interdependency, China



# **ABSTRAK**

**Vika Melisa Lubis**

**International Relations 2020, President University**

**Thesis Title:** Indonesia - China Interdependence Relations in the Era of President Joko Widodo's During Despite The South China Sea Dispute ( 2017 – 2022 )

Thesis Advisor: Anggara Raharyo, S.I.P., M.P.S

Indonesia pada era pemerintahan Presiden Joko Widodo mempunyai visi untuk membangun infrastruktur nasional dengan tujuan mencapai kepentingan nasional dengan harapan dapat menggerakkan perekonomian bangsa dan untuk mewujudkan hal tersebut Indonesia sangat membutuhkan dana investasi dari Tiongkok. Namun Tiongkok terus memperluas pengaruh politik dan ekonominya di kawasan Asia Tenggara dengan mengklaim sebagian besar Laut Cina Selatan berdasarkan Sembilan Garis Putus. Akibat hal tersebut, hubungan Indonesia dan Tiongkok mengalami ketegangan dan menimbulkan konflik kedaulatan karena wilayah Indonesia termasuk dalam klaim Nine Dash Line. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui faktor-faktor yang melatarbelakangi mengapa Indonesia tidak memutuskan hubungan dengan Tiongkok ketika terjadi konflik kedaulatan. Metode penelitian yang digunakan dalam penulisan ini adalah metode penelitian kualitatif dalam menganalisis permasalahan yang diteliti, dengan menggunakan data yang diperoleh dari; data resmi negara, media online, buku, artikel dan berita. Untuk menganalisis penelitian ini kami menggunakan pemahaman teori-teori utama yaitu teori interdependensi dan kepentingan nasional. Hasil riset ini menunjukkan bagaimana kepentingan nasional Indonesia dan Tiongkok menciptakan hubungan saling ketergantungan yang kuat sehingga hubungan kedua negara terputus dari kerja sama, padahal di sisi lain terjadi sengketa kedaulatan yang krusial.

**Keywords:** South China Sea, National Interest, Interdependency, China

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Praise and gratitude I offer the Presence of God Almighty for all the blessings so that I can finish writing this thesis, entitled "Indonesia - China Interdependence Relations in the Era of President Joko Widodo's During Despite The South China Sea Dispute (2017 – 2022)". This thesis was written as one of the requirements to complete the Undergraduate Program in International Relations at the Faculty of Humanities President University.

I conducted this research based on my interest in international issues and as a regional child who was born on the Indonesian border, namely the Natuna Islands, which is directly confronted with the dispute in the South China Sea. Therefore, I am interested in taking this title as research material to explore further why when there was tension between Indonesia and China, economic cooperation relations continued to increase and were not affected during the era of President Joko Widodo.

While completing this research, I experienced various challenges for more than five months. However, thanks to support, support, guidance, and collaboration with various parties, I was able to carry out and complete this research. So, den; bro, with respect and gratitude, I would like to express my thanks to:

1. All family members: mother, three younger brothers, and another family who always provide prayer and support in all matters during my research.
2. Special honor to spectacular thesis advisor Sir Anggara Raharyo, S.I.P., M.P.S, who is always guiding, giving advice, motivating, and always willing to help me in completing the results of this research. His extraordinary assistance had a huge impact on the process of writing this thesis with various extraordinary suggestions and directions.
3. For my educational institution, President University for about three years has shaped my personality, knowledge, and character with all learning processes.
4. Especially for my supportive crush Daniel who always supports and gives me the motivation to complete this thesis..

5. For my unbiological sibling; Holang Kaya Group (Ananda, Aurel, Fidella, Gita, Putri, Sabil, Annisa, Cella) and Mantul Group (Sani, Dita, Zeti, Iin, Siti, Sakinah, Riri) who always gave me enthusiasm and motivation to complete this thesis. And also for my thesis partner I Diva Sukerta who always helped me in the process together to complete this thesis
6. And Last but not least, I want to thank me, I want to thank me for believing in me, I want to thank me for doing all this hard work, I want to thank me for having no days off, I want to thank me for, for never quittin', I want to thank me for always being a giver. And tryna give more than I receive, I wanna thank me for tryna do more right than wrong, I wanna thank me for just bein' me at all times.

Finally, I realize that this thesis is not completely perfect and still has many shortcomings. Therefore, I will accept all criticism and suggestions to improve the results of this research. I hope that my thesis can be useful for readers and can add insight and academic knowledge about this title.

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