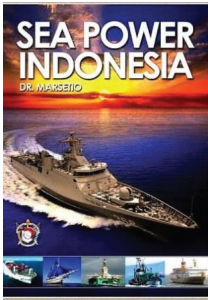


BOOK REVIEW

Indonesian Sea Power

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Author : Dr. Marsetio
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Indonesian Sea Power provides a general study on the concept of sea power and development of Indonesia's maritime sector. The purpose of this book is to examine the Indonesia's potential to become sea power nation through all the existing studies and discussions. Hence, Marsetio further elaborates all the problems and challenges faced by Indonesia in realizing the concept of Sea Power.

Marsetio opens up the discussions on the history of World, Asia, and specifically, Indonesia's maritime. He elaborates the importance of ocean in the history of nations, especially in global trade. As a maritime nation, Indonesia's existence has always been related to the sea. Moreover, he notes the lasting role of ocean in the history of Nusantara since the Malay Peninsula separated from Nusantara in 10,000 BC or so-called pre-historic times. Based on these historical facts, Marsetio also highlights the glory of Indonesia's ancestors as great sailors and navigators in maritime empires era. He believed Indonesia's capability in maritime sector would reached its peak as once happened in that era.

In the second section, discussion on theories or the concept of sea power are divided into the Eastern and Western paradigm. From the East, these theories are issued by historical figures, namely Cheng Ho, Sukarno and Sultan Agung; and contemporary figures, namely Prof.

Hasjim Djalal and Prof Sadao Asada. Compared to other figures in the East, Soekarno were capable to issue and implement the concept of sea power into concrete actions and policies, such as *Wawasan Nusantara* and *Kompartemen Maritim*. Marsetio also highlights the vital role of Prof. Hasjim Djalal in making the concept of Archipelagic States internationally recognized through its adoption in UNCLOS 1982. On the other side, Alfred Thayer Mahan, Sir Julian Corbett, and Prof. Geoffrey Till are chosen to represent the Western paradigm. In their works, they highlighted the importance of the seas and sea power to a nation's prosperity. Moreover, they also set a number of eligible elements in order to achieve the status of sea power.

In the third section, Marsetio elucidates maritime domain awareness (MDA) concept through the perspective of United States and Indonesia. In this book, MDA is defined as a means to enhance our understanding on incidents at sea and along the coastline, as well as formulate the right solution to solve them. The MDA is also need to be understood in the context of United States policy since it was introduced by United States. However, Marsetio also stressed the urgency for Indonesia to fully develop its own MDA. He further examines the existing MDA frameworks, specifically on maritime security.

In the next two sections, Marsetio elaborated the contemporary (21st century) sea power issue and examined the existing Indonesian sea power condition. Align with Prof Hasjim Djalal, he emphasizes the role of Navy to control the sea and preserve national interest. Considering the technological advancement and geo-political dynamics in the Asia Pacific waters, the Navy is in dire need of adequate warships and other military assets to face multidimensional threats. Other than military strengthening, the Government also needs to develop its naval diplomacy, as witnessed in the successful previous operations. Marsetio defines implementing naval diplomacy as the use of limited naval force to achieve political goals determined by the Government.

In the last section, Marsetio elaborates the incoming and dynamic geo-economic and geo-political interests faced by Indonesian sea power. There will come a time to strengthen available sea force comprehensively as well as the ability to develop and synergize hard, soft, and smart powers into hybrid powers. He further recommends

some detailed steps and policy to overcome incoming issues.

To conclude the discussion, Marsetio emphasized the importance of Indonesian Navy in the realization of Indonesia Sea Power, along with the support from all national elements, in particular the executive and legislative bodies. Hence, Indonesia also has to have the courage to step outside its comfort zone by taking concrete measures to enhance its competition and cooperation in the region, especially in the maritime domain.

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