

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Since 2011, the bloody Syrian civil war has stolen world's attention due to hundred thousand people died in that war. This war has been lasting for around 6 years with many of actors involved in it and made it become so complex. In the beginning, it was only the conflict between Syrian government and its citizen, and it grows and pulls the actors from big countries such as United States, France, and Arabian countries to play a role in the civil war. Responding to the illegal involvement, Bashar Al-Assad as the legal Syrian president who almost being overthrown from its position, asked for help to one of his best ally, Russian Federation. In 2015, they formally involved in the war, yet in 2012 they already have contributed by sending some weaponry aids.

The involvement of Russia in Syrian Civil war makes the situation became worse and the amount of victim has increased every year. Western countries accused Russia due to the practice of chemical weapons and dropping bombs on Syrian people by ignoring the bad impact from it. Nonetheless, Russia has put its best to protect the Syrian government who killed its citizen without mercy. Russia has sent its military weapon and aids to Syria. However, Russia interested in joining the war and gave a big contribution for Syria because of several reasons. The long-last relationship that has been stranded since Cold War is one of the reasons that make Russia support the Syrian regime. Moreover, Russian interests on Syria also become the main reasons why Russia wanted to assist Syrian government.

This thesis proves that Russia has a geopolitical interest in Syrian Civil War. By sending its advanced military weaponry systems and aid, Russia successfully got the full access of building naval and air base in Latakia and Tartus. Moreover, these cities are located next to the Mediterranean Sea. For Russia, to have a power in the Mediterranean Sea would bring a lot of benefits to them since it has busy trading routes. Moreover, Syria is also known as its natural gas resource and the pipeline. Since the war happened, Syria and Russia have an agreement toward sharing Syrian natural gas resources. Not only that, Russia also interested about the Syrian pipeline that very controversial in the Middle East because it has a strategic position that can connect the flow of natural gas from the Middle East to Europe.

Furthermore, behind all the materialistic reasons, Russia has a long history with Syria. The relationship among these countries is close enough, they support each other during the Cold War and Syrian Civil War. Syria also has the similar background, vision and mission with Russia, therefore, Russia will support them to fight the terrorism and separatism in Syria. Nonetheless, Putin's decision in helping Assad is because of the political power and influence. Before Syrian Civil War occurred, Russia never really stated that the interest to join western countries to fight terrorism. Nevertheless, in the Syrian crisis, Russia has shown that they established "anti-terrorism coalition" together with Iran and Syria. This coalition has their own way to minimize terrorism in their country which more successful, unlike the western does. Russia wants to show the world that Moscow can be as the main key to reach glory.

The other reason for Russian involvement in Syrian Civil War is because of the similar perception of Russia and Syria in dealing and understanding the civil war. Russia and Syria have a similar problem. Russia and Syria do not like the existence of Separatism in their country, for them, separatism is the beginning of disunity of a state. Russia needed to face the rebellions on North Caucasus like Chechen and Dagestan and also some countries in Central Asia. Because of the movement of separatism, Soviet Union has collapsed. Similar with Russia, Syria also needed to deal with the Rebellions in their country.

Besides anti-Separatism, Russia and Syria also have a skeptical view toward western countries. The Fall of Soviet Union was as the result that the Western countries could divide the former of Soviet Union members by influencing them with western democratic peace. Moreover, the western established NATO to prevent the reviving of Soviet Union. Meanwhile, for Syria, the involvement of Western countries in the civil war recognized as an intervention to an independent country and abusing their sovereignty. Like in Libya, Iraq, Yemen, and Syria are the fail products of Western intervention. Therefore, Russia has a willingness to help Syria so Western cannot just intervene their sovereignty as an independent state.

