

CHAPTER II

WAR AND CONFLICT AS THE RESULT OF THE DYNAMICS OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS, GLIMPSE INFORMATION ABOUT NATO AND THE INVOLVEMENT OF NATO

Conflicts and war is a context that has been largely discussed and needlessly to say are one of the vital things in international relations. Both war and conflict somehow occur as the result of the dynamics of international politics, the dynamics refer to the interactions that created among states, and when interactions are established, there will be a response, it possibly formed as a negative or a positive response. In a simplified analogy, it is like a dialogue in our daily basis when a person met another person and conduct a simple discussion, it is possible that there will be a consensus and disagreement within the discussion between those people.

As R. J. Rummel said, the causes of international conflict is ranging from the opposing interests and capabilities including specific sociocultural differences and similarities between the parties, contact and salience, the significant change in the balance of powers, individual perceptions and expectations, a disrupted structure of expectations, a will-to-conflict and it is aggravated by, sociocultural dissimilarity, cognitive imbalance, status difference, coercive state power. It is inhibited by sociocultural similarity, decentralized or weak, coercive state power. It is triggered by the perception of opportunity, threat, or injustice, surprise.¹⁵

Furthermore, war and conflict is an activity that already happened ever since mankind exists, long before the thirty years war, the treaty of Westphalia that creates the term "Nation-State", or even when the Great Wall was built. Because fundamentally, every human has a desire and it could be to conquer just like what Alexander The Great, Genghis

¹⁵ Rummel, Rudolph. (1975). *Understanding Conflict and War: Vol. 4: War, Power, Peace*. Sage Publications

Khan, Richard The Lion Heart did, to unified like what Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Gajah Mada did in the past. In accordance to explanation aforementioned, state today also have their own interest and desire that they express in their foreign policy or the way they characterize themselves in political practice.

The problem about foreign policy or what country did is sometimes it creates a collision, disagreement, and negative respond among states. As an example, North Korea decided to launch a missile test in which later on it triggered an international condemnation and sanctions or when the US held their Global War on Terror and invading Iraq in which Germany and France did not support by the lack of empirical evidence that Saddam Hussein possessed a biological weapon in Iraq.

The bottom line, as long as mankind exists, and as long as the interaction between state is made and the dynamics of international politics goes on, conflicts and war will always be imminent. Therefore, the existence of actors such as international organizations is expected to minimize or even overcome the conflict that is occurring based on its function and what focus the organizations are on. For instance NATO, as a collective security organization, NATO is involved in numerous conflict to prevent, to minimize, and to ease the belligerents that involve in the conflict.

A. A Glimpse Information Regarding NATO

Back in the day, specifically on April 4, 1949, there was an idea of creating a security pact that works as the collective security for its member. Later on, it changes into an organization and with the existence of Article 5 which clearly stated that if there is any single attack on the members, it considerably will be the attack against all of the members. Initially, the member of NATO is Belgium, Italy, the UK, Norway, Portugal, Luxembourg, Iceland, Canada,

Netherlands, France, Denmark and the US, that works to prevent the widespread of Communism.¹⁶

The membership of NATO is was expanded when Greece and Turkey grant their membership in 1952, West Germany in 1955 followed with Spain that joins the organization in 1982. However, NATO also encountered internal problems when France decided to declare their resignation in 1966. The membership of NATO enlarged when Albania and Croatia joined in 2009, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in 2004, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Hungary in 1999, Spain in 1982 and Montenegro in 2017.¹⁷ Any European countries that share the same ambitions and would like to cooperate in implementing the security of North Atlantic as a whole are free to join the NATO. In addition, NATO created the Membership Action Plan (MAP), the MAP is a platform whereas the country that wanted to be the part of NATO will get a practical advice and assistance from NATO¹⁸

The decision made by NATO most of times are taken from the consent of both 29 members of NATO, and if there is no consensus, there will be no actions in every foreseeable matter. Every military experts, official staff, even civilian gather alongside national delegation in NATO Headquarters to share any valuable information in the making what decisions that should be made. The guidance of NATO in maintaining the common security is contained in the Strategic Concept that created in 2010 in which it contained the collective defence, cooperative security, and crisis management.¹⁹

¹⁶ History. (2018). *Formation of NATO*. History. Retrieved on April 22, 2018. From History: <https://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/formation-of-nato-and-warsaw-pact>

¹⁷ NATO. *What is NATO*. Retrieved on April 22, 2018. From NATO: <https://www.nato.int/nato-welcome/index.html>

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

Subsequently, NATO has delegations which consist of; Nuclear planning group that taking care of any Nuclear aspects; NAC (North Atlantic Council) that work as the very vital aspects in which it is the decision-making body at NATO, the NAC meeting held once a week or when an urgency happened, the Secretary-General will act as the chair of the meeting; and the last one is the Subordinate committees that working for both political matters or any high-level aspects. In terms of military, NATO has a Military Committee that consists of; the highest officer which is the Chiefs of Defence member countries; the Military Executive body; Military command structure that involved the Allied Command Operations and also the Allied Command Transformation.²⁰

B. The Involvement of NATO in International Conflicts

The existence of conflict is tremendously unavoidable among states because of the governmental alteration within states based on personal preferences of the new leaders may switch in times and automatically, the foreign policy, the interests of the state, the ideologies, the way state interact also changing.²¹ Moreover, the alteration abovementioned somehow could not be the x-factor of certain conflict to be settled, in other words, it could worsen the situation in the conflict.

As a collective security organization, NATO works to prevent a conflict among its member and maintain perpetual peace and expected to have a better resolution towards if a conflict like in the explanation above occurs. NATO has engaged several operations in many states across Europe, Africa and also Asia. Some operations are ongoing whilst some were terminated.

When Cold War initially occurred from 1949 to early 1990s, the Alliance then signed the North Atlantic Treaty in

²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹R. J. Rummel, Loc. Cit

1949 and marked the establishment of NATO. During that harrowing time, NATO is seen as a threat towards any military operation which deployed by the means of threatening the world stability, and frankly, NATO does not engage any operation during that time.²² When the end of Cold War is imminent, the atmosphere of the world at that times changed too. However, the alliance remains prepared to face anything that might happen and NATO becomes more aware of its surroundings and more contributive towards the international community in which NATO deploy some military operations such as Operation Anchor Guard from 10 August 1990 to 9 March 1991 in which NATO sent its Airborne Early Warning aircraft to Konya, Turkey in order to supervise any incoming attack from Iraq during the Gulf Crisis, the second one is the Operation Ace Guard from 3 January 1991 to 8 March 1991 in which NATO sent its ACE Mobile Force (Air) to provide an air defense to Turkey.

Operation Allied Goodwill I and II from 4 to 9 February and 27 February to 24 March 1992 that worked to give a humanitarian assistance by sending medical experts and advisors to Russia and to Commonwealth of Independent States by using AWACS aircraft, this operation was conducted after the Soviet Union dissolved. The last one is Operation Agile Genie from 1 to 19 May 1992, this operation was conducted after the tension between Libya and the West arose when UN Security Council released sanctions to Libya when they refuse to reveal the suspects of the Pan Am airliner bombing in Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988. NATO then allocating a higher number of AWACS aircraft to watch the air routes in North African littoral.²³

Nevertheless, NATO also have an ongoing missions and operations. In Afghanistan, NATO deploys around 13,000

²² NATO. (2016). Operations and missions: past and present. NATO. Retrieved on March 30, 2018 From NATO: https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_52060.htm

²³ *Ibid.*

personnel which contains a personnel from partner countries too. They also engaged in delivering training, advice and helping the Afghan Security forces and also several institutions in Afghanistan and it is allocated in Kabul, Herat that located in western Afghanistan, Kandahar in southern Afghanistan and Laghman which located in eastern Afghanistan. NATO also helps Afghanistan in promoting good governance, supervising the creation of force generation in Afghanistan by helping the recruitment, training, management, and the improvement of the personnel. The legitimacy of the Resolute Support Mission does not have to be questioned since it is supported thoroughly by the international community and lies in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2189 which is implemented on 12 December 2004.²⁴

In Kosovo, NATO is installing 4,500 of their troops as the part of NATO Kosovo Force or (KFOR). Historically, NATO starting to pay attention to Kosovo in June 1999 to cope with the upheaval and chaos there until the present time by the UN Security Council Resolution 1244. NATO works to assists the Kosovo Security Force which mandated to do something beyond the power of the police. NATO have specifically had an improvement in European Union-sponsored dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina. NATO also believes that Kosovo-Serbia relation normalization is the vital aspects in dealing political turmoil in northern Kosovo.²⁵

As the response to the 9/11 attack NATO decides to focus on dealing with global terrorism in which on 2001, NATO creates the Operation Active Endeavour to maintain their surveillance activity to spot terrorists in Mediterranean sea and at the same time deterring them. Nevertheless, the operation was altered by the Sea Guardian. Sea Guardian is focusing on several aspects such as counter-terrorism at sea, supporting capacity-building, and maritime situational awareness. Sea Guardian also can perform freedom of navigation, securing

²⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵ *Ibid.*

vital infrastructure, but the main tasks are to ensure the maritime safety while supporting the collective defense, crisis management, and cooperative security as the fundamental aspect of NATO.²⁶

NATO also supporting the African Union as the part of their peacekeeping missions on African Continent. The missions are AU mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in which NATO give an airlift service for the peacekeepers. Recently, to fulfill the request of AU, NATO also gives the capacity-building support and the expert training for the African Standby Force (ASF) which must be prepared at any moment and included as the attempt of AU to have a long-lasting peacekeeping force.²⁷

In responding the annexation of Russia and their military intervention in Ukraine in 2014. NATO decides to strengthen its air policing missions. The Air policing missions is a mission that works to protect its airspace and it also by providing an additional aircraft to protect its member airspace territory by any means. in Air policing NATO also installing their missile defense system to cope with air attacks.²⁸

Subsequently, unlike those missions and operations, NATO also have a terminated missions and operations. In the Gulf of Aden, the naval forces of NATO provided an escort service for the UN World Food Programme (WFP) vessels when they are passing in the dangerous zone whereas Somalian pirates are operating and somehow threatening the humanitarian assistance which will be delivered to Africa. This NATO-led mission that involved counter-piracy operation occurred at the end of 2008 and was terminated on 2016 because the mission was quite successful.²⁹

NATO is widely-known with their assistance in terms of providing training to local military troops. Starting from 2004

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ *Ibid.*

to 2011 NATO provided that kind of assistance for the Iraqi Security Forces. NATO also cooperate with the Iraqi government to establish and maintain a robust bond with Iraq and at the same time further recalling all NATO member states to provide the same assistance in which could be operated in or outside Iraq.³⁰

As in February 2011, Qadhafi regime was rose it prominence in which it triggers turmoil specifically in Libya. These certain circumstances push NATO to engage more in Libya whilst UN Security Council implementing the 1970 and 1973 Resolution to secure Libyan people from the diabolical tyranny of Qadhafi. The resolutions contain the no-fly zone, an arms embargo, and the authorization for member states, and diametrically act upon the regional organization to put everything they can to ensure the safety of Libyan people. That being said after the mission was successful, the UN officially declared that the mission was dismissed.³¹

NATO involvement in the Gulf Conflict is quite remarkable, NATO sent their AWACS radar aircraft to bolster the defense mechanism of Turkey in which the operation was widely-known as the Display Deterrence. The operation lasted for two months and have successfully engaged in approximately 100 missions.³²

NATO also contribute to the upheaval that triggered by ethnic issues in the Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. There are three victorious operations which consisted of Operation Essential Harvest which incredibly wiping the ethnic Albanian groups all over the country, the second one is the Operation Amber Fox that supervised the ongoing peace plan at the time, and the last one is the operation Allied Harmony that focused on providing an education to the government in order to stabilize the circumstances there, those operations were conducted from 2001 to 2003 and it shows how cooperative

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² *Ibid.*

the NATO with the EU and OESC to utterly helps the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in adjusting their system and integrating themselves to Euro-Atlantic structures and NATO also built its Headquarters as an advisory aspects to the Yugoslav government.³³

Yugoslavia dismissal erupting a crucial conflict which specifically broke out in 1992. As the response to that ironic event, UN decided to declare an embargo in the Adriatic Sea in collaboration with the Western European Union and implementing the no-fly-zone that commemorate the first combat of NATO in which NATO demolished around four Serbian fighter-bombers that undergone a bombing mission. Moreover, as the fulfillment of UN Peacekeepers request, NATO launched the Operation Deadeye but unfortunately, it failed to reach success since UN call a retreat. Even though it was failed, but later on NATO launched the air campaign which led to a negotiation and the signing of Dayton Peace Accord in 1995 that remarked the end of Bosnian War. That being said, NATO sent over 60,000 troops backed by the UN-mandated Implementation Force (IFOR) also known as the Operation Joint Endeavour continued by the utilization of Stabilisation Force (SFOR) by adding 32,000 troops. In addition, NATO, as well as EU, cooperate in the new operation called the Operation Althea that works to help the local government to restructure its defense mechanism.³⁴

From the data abovementioned, we can see NATO has engaged gallantly in numerous operations and missions in the name of humanity, dealing with conflicts and issues no matter what the background of the conflict is, deploy a direct assistance such as military training, and at the same time spreading the value of democracy to many countries which have not implemented the democratic system by providing an education and assistance to countries needed. Even though the way NATO interacts and cope with issues is quite changing

³³ *Ibid.*

³⁴ *Ibid.*

gradually because the world know is quite stable but still, NATO involvement is vital for a change and its presence remains remarkably divine.

In recent times, NATO is still actively participating whereas the absentia of peace and stability occurs, even though for several events NATO could not engage in a full-scale operation because NATO consists of states which more likely to have their own interest and consideration. If some meetings do not reach any consensus then some resolution or operation cannot be deployed in whatsoever. But if in some cases such as 9/11 and the Article 5 is invoked then possibly, NATO could fully engage towards every matter.³⁵

³⁵ NATO, Loc. Cit.