

CHAPTER II

THE UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY

As a superpower country, which holds world control, in dealing with other states, the United States certainly owns and implements foreign policy. The foreign policy, which is part of all government policies, aims to achieve and maintain national interests in a foreign relationship. Foreign policy, which is also a reflection of national interests in foreign affairs, is manifested in various activities with other countries, whether in the form of bilateral relations, through regional cooperation, or in the form of international cooperation. In this chapter, the writer will further explain about the Overview of the United States Foreign Policy, Factors of Intervention by the United States in the Middle East, Interest of the United States in the Middle East, and the United States Foreign Policy toward Iraq.

A. Overview of the United States Foreign Policy

In perspectives, US foreign policy has never appeared in one form. The US has always been a country that has a confusing foreign policy. Decisions made by the US government always seem to be in a hurry. There is no single perspective that can explain the basic meaning of US foreign policy. Some of the factors that make it difficult to determine the formulation of US foreign policy are first, the existence of US society is more pro-isolation and often less in knowing the problem. Second, the increasing influence and institutionalization of special interest groups and think tanks for US foreign policy issues and often influences the process of determining policy. Third, various bureaucracies are fighting for influence and resulting in jurisdiction overlapping on an issue. Fourth, mass media also plays a role in policing issues and polarizing issues in US foreign policy. Fifth, the congress is also very instrumental in determining the foreign policy that raises the perception that the decisions taken related to foreign policy is through internal political considerations.

The following will be explained about the framework of the US national interest to rule the world (Gilford, 2007).

1. Power as the basis of the United States' Goal of World Domination

Power is a key requirement in formulating the basis of America's goals of world domination, self-defense, and the maintenance of national independence and territoriality. Power is absolutely necessary to prevent aggression and it is important to spread influence on other countries. Power is the key to maintaining strong defense and credible prevention. Power allows actors to shape according to their reflection of importance. Power also enables Americans to maintain security, deflect and conquer any threats to state security. Power could insist on justifying the use of military force. In the power context, Americans still use the approach of realist views. As a consequence of this, there are four main points:

- a) The state pursues interests, not for peace. This context is what builds American behavior in carrying out its foreign policy. America does not hesitate to raise war with other parties if it feels its interests disturbed. Americans prefer to commit such aggression, war, and coercive action with the reasons and calls for peace.
- b) Politics and military power are the main things to be circulated. For America, efforts to maintain security are more important than just a security maintenance effort. This means that Americans are more likely to use defensive strategies than the deterrents.
- c) Economic power and other aspects of prosperity are of great importance to military power. The American economy has made and made America strong as a major competitor in the global arena. That's because it is supported by various inventions and technological innovations. The situation has made America a major actor in the mastery of world-leading technology. In addition to maintaining such conditions, full political support is required, as a form of commitment to the allocation of defense funds in America is the largest in the world.

- d) Although principles such as democracy and human rights are important, they must still fully support the existence of power.

2. Peace as the “War to End the War”

Peace is philosophically seen as a goal in answering the question as to what power is secured. In principle, America positions itself as a world security guard. This is motivated by the historical journey and basic principles held firm by the Americans. To realize peace, America does not hesitate to echo the war. In American foreign policy, this is better known as the "war to end the war".

3. Prosperity as the Economic Interest

The United States foreign policy is primarily motivated by a desire to achieve and sustain prosperity. In this motivation, there are some economic interests in American foreign policy, including:

- a) Policies to help reduce import tariffs in their trade relations with other countries.
- b) Create market growth for American export products.
- c) The investment of foreign investment is profitable for America.
- d) Improving the growth of the domestic economy, and others.

Many theories emphasize that the main emphasis of American foreign policy is economic factors. In general, the economic emphasis in American foreign policy is divided into two principles. First, American foreign policy is emphasized to achieve economic benefits for America. The indicators are trade balance, economic growth, and healthy macroeconomic conditions. To achieve this goal, in entering the 21st century American foreign policy emphasizes the effectiveness of international institutions designed to increase its economic advantage (International Monetary Fund, World Trade Organization and World Bank). Therefore, it can be said that the existence of these three institutions is in order to execute US foreign policy to achieve prosperity. Second, American global politics within the framework of prosperity is dominated by

capitalist groups and other elites such as Multinational Corporations and large banks working within the global scope. This second principle, in short, can be said as the politics of colonialization and the imperialization of new styles against other countries.

4. Principle as the Foundation

The fourth core of US foreign policy is the principle. They include values, idealism, and trust. For this principle, American foreign policy is primarily to propagate the roots of its democratic idealism throughout the world. By American thinkers who gave birth to democracies like Thomas Jefferson who argued that only a democratic republic government that respects human rights means democracy is a form of government that needs to be preserved and developed in the world. In this context, American foreign policy cannot be separated from efforts to disseminate the principles of the country to the world (Gilford, 2007).

These four principles in the theoretical level are the foundations for American leaders in carrying out foreign policy and establishing international relations with other countries in the world. Although the policies taken by each president are packed with different look, but in principle the applied politics and foreign policy will still rely and cannot be separated from the above principle.

B. Factors of Intervention by the United States in the Middle East

Not only economic interests and industries that trigger the beginning of this the United States intervention in the Middle East. But also the interests of weakening the power of Islam, the Arab countries, and disseminating the idea of globalization (read: Americanization). So in the end the US has a hegemony over the entire region. An unbeatable international force. Among the causes that prompted the US to intervene against third world countries were:

1. The US relative economic strength.

2. Weak percentage of economic balance of other countries.
3. The fall of the philosophical, political, and social roots which are the foundations of other countries.
4. Increased technological developments in the US results in increasing percentage of fuel and raw material needs. All in order to meet the needs of the industry.
5. The success of the US in establishing several international systems and institutions that guarantee its hegemony against other countries.
6. Also the weakness of the power of countries in the Middle East and their unity in facing a problem of its people.

C. Interest of the United States in the Middle East

It is no secret that the United States has self-interest in the Middle East, both with regard to low politics (in this case the economy) and high politics (security). The economic interests in it include the need for oil and arms marketing. Security interests are translated as self-defense the US face toward the power of Islam. Oil is still the most widely used energy source in the world today. The human dependence on oil is enormous, ranging from production needs to direct consumption measures. Even the US as a developed country is inseparable from the great need for oil. When the majority of oil production is controlled by Islamic countries, it will raise US concerns about its oil supply. Oil could then become a tool for the strength of Islam to suppress the US. For that reason, as a form of American pressure to prevent the Islamic state from doing so, the United States is 'strengthening' Israel as the nearest threat and most likely to spark conflict in the world's largest oil producer region. In addition to oil interests, America is also interested in marketing its military equipment. Israel, which has a large and sophisticated military force, is a threat to countries in the Middle East. To that end, these countries must, at least, balance their power by supplementing their military arsenal.

Here the interests of the US in the marketing of military equipment will be fulfilled.

In the context of self-defense, again the relationship that occurs is the power of the United States to face the power of Islam. The stronger Israel, the stronger the American defense. This is because Israel is an American hand that is in the territory of Islamic countries. As pressure from the Islamic world increases, America can react immediately with Israeli backlash. Therefore, until now the US continues to provide assistance to Israel.

D. The United States Foreign Policy toward Iraq

It is been years since America attacked Afghanistan, after the collapse of World Trade Center twin building, September 9th 2001 ago. The attack was carried out under the pretext of overthrowing the power of terrorism. The Al Qaeda movement was targeted. Followed by the overhaul of the Afghan government, from the Taliban to the Karzei government, which is pro-American. The event is not a novelty in the course of the history of American foreign intervention. Currently Iraq is also the target of US attacks on the issue of weapons of mass destruction. The land that seems to have never rested from this battle is accused of having weapons of mass destruction. Not much different from England, Portugal, Spain and other European countries during the heyday of the industrial revolution, three centuries ago. America-with the advancement of industrial and technological results-desperately needs raw materials and other support materials. All in order to perpetuate industrial activities and the economy in the country. In 1932-1934, when found oil resources in Bahrain, Saudi and Kuwait, America began to expand its wings in the oil-producing region. America then managed to get a concession to take advantage of the produce of the earth. Since then, and continued in Roosevelt's presidency, America began to conduct its intervention activities packed in the form of foreign policy. All that is done in order to strengthen its hegemony in the Muslim-

majority region. Keep in mind, Roosevelt holds that the Middle East region is a giant oil-producing region in the world.

Automatically, when the Soviet Union collapsed in the early 1990s, America began to make changes in the external political system. In 1944, Roosevelt held negotiations with the British ambassador to use the Middle East oil. Roosevelt stated that the oil of the Persian region is belong to the British while the US share the oil of Iraq and Kuwait. As for Saudi Arabia, the oil is theirs. So that on August 8, 1944, signed a British-American agreement, to mutual use of Middle East petroleum products. As the Soviet Union still existed, the Americans tried their best to minimize the influence of Soviet expansion in the Middle East. America implements the politics of confinement and detention of the movement of the Soviet Union (political containment).

In Reagan's time, the United States announced its willingness to support the freedom fighter (freedom fighter) around the world. Using this principle, the United States succeeded in dismantling the expansion of the Soviet Union as a whole. Automatically, when the Soviet Union collapsed in the early 1990s, America began to make changes in its foreign policy system. Since that time the US more freely confirms its hegemony in the Middle East region. Especially with the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, as the first country to recognize the founding of Israel, America more freely influence the political policies of some countries in the Middle East. Various interventions applied. After World War II, the United States was involved in the Cold War with the Soviet Union. During the Cold War, the government spent much on defense. The US is involved in the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and also sent Neil Armstrong and other Americans into space. In 1991, the Soviet Union collapsed and the cold war ended. The Middle East became important to America, especially after the September 11, 2001, attacks. After the end of the Cold War, the United States became a "post-industrial society" (Bivens, 2004).

The US also began to experience trade deficits (Boeckelman, 1995). The Middle East is important in US foreign policy, as America gets billions of barrels of oil from the Middle East. Many countries in the Middle East do not care about the US because America is an ally of Israel (Rugh, 2006). In 1991, the United States was involved in the Gulf War to expel Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Iraq is an interesting phenomenon to be studied more deeply, because it is one of the Middle Eastern countries that often face war. Iraq has always been dominated by foreign powers. Iraq as a country that became the center of civilization of the Islamic world in the Abbasid dynasty was at least invaded by Persian, Greek, Roman and Mongol forces. At the beginning of Iraq's journey in the 21st century, Iraq was again invaded by America.

The invasion of America and its allies on March 20, 2003 to Iraq had deposed Saddam Hussein from government. This led to Iraq being in a state of no government. The absence of this government must immediately end by forming a new government. The new government will determine the future of Iraq next. As the fall of the legitimate reign of Saddam Hussein in Iraq, does not mean that the problem in Iraq is simply over, but it raises a new problem in Iraq. In the process of forming a new government in Iraq, the United States as the leader in the invasion of Iraq faced two choices, who will replace Saddam Hussein as leader in Iraq and how the process of formation of government in Iraq after the invasion until the election of the president and Prime Minister that will perform the state building process in Iraq.