

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

The relations between the U.S. and Russia is known as the most critical bilateral relations in the world. Since the Cold War era, both the U.S. and Russia– then Soviet Union have been competing with each other to dominate the world. There are countless of events which represent how critical the relations between the U.S. and Russia. From the Cold War era, the post Cold War era– the dissolve of the Soviet Union, until the era of Obama as the President of the U.S.

In the era of Obama’s administration, the U.S. implement a policy to reset its relationship with other countries including with Russia. The policy is aimed to establish better relationships with other countries within new dimensions, especially with Russia after the conflict of Russia-Georgia in 2008. In the beginning of Obama’s era, the U.S. conducted a meeting between U.S. President Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev in April 2009. The meeting resulted a shared framework and interest that led to an agreement to bring U.S.-Russia relations to a whole new dimension. The agreement gave hopes for the progress of U.S. “reset” policy to be implemented. However, the progress was not fulfilling the expectations. During Obama’s administration, from 2009 until 2014, the U.S.-Russia relations faced more deteriorations than progress.

In September 2013, the U.S. government cancelled a one-on-one meeting between Obama and Putin that supposed to be held in Moscow. The meeting was supposedly about the discussion on the future attendance of U.S. government on the G20 Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia. The decision of the U.S. government in cancelling the meeting was backed by the

disappointments of the U.S. government after reviewing its relations with Russia, not only for the last 12 months but also for the last one period of Obama's administration. The White House reviewed, that, the U.S.-Russia relations was facing a lack of progress. It is shown by the disagreements and conflicts that happened between U.S. and Russia during the administration of Obama. The first controversial disagreement between U.S. and Russia is the Iranian nuclear program sanction where Russia opposed the resolution on implementing the use of military forces if Iran does not comply the deal. The second disagreement is the Syrian chemical weapons elimination deal. It took a long time and countless negotiations of the U.S. and other countries addressing this issue before Russia agreed on the deal to eliminate all chemical weapons material and equipment. After the tragedy of chemical weapons attack in Damascus in August 21, 2013, Russia finally convinced that Syrian chemical weapons must be terminated completely. The agreement was achieved after three days of talks between the U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Russia's Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov in Geneva.

The third controversial event is the expulsion of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) from Russia. USAID has to close its office and its programs in Russia after two decades of dedication— started from the end of the Cold War for the improvement of health by combating the disease in Russia, the protection of the environment, and the promotion of democracy, human rights, and civil society developments. The fourth is the introduction of anti-gay law by the Russian government under Putin's administration. The law is aimed to prevent any exposure of homosexual norms which contradicted with Russian families' traditional norms. It is also aimed to protect the health of Russian children from harmful informations. According to the U.S., the law promoted by Russia is violating the rights for the LGBT groups— human rights to be exact. The last but not least is the decision of Russia in granting Snowden's asylum request. Not

only given the right to live in Russia for a year, Snowden also given the right to get a job.

It can be seen from the five events above that the U.S.-Russia relations in Obama era faced a lack of progress. The U.S. targets in establishing a more positive relation with Russia seemed to be failed. The U.S. felt disappointed by the actions and decisions made by Russia. In conclusion, the decision of the U.S. government in cancelling the one-on-one meeting with Russia was made due to several factors such as the disappointment on the lack of progress in U.S.-Russia relations which reflected from the disagreements and conflicts that happened in the era of Obama and also the disappointment of U.S. government on the decision of Russia to give Snowden a one-year asylum.