

CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

For more than the last half of century, India is trying to get the status of becoming Great Power in World Stage, and it is genuinely articulated through their foreign policy. As the new global emerging power, India is continuously learned and developed by doing some interaction in the international arena. The memory of the war that they have experienced was indeed a real lesson of *realpolitik* for them, mainly dealt with some regional Countries such as war with China in 1962 which results in a defeat, then the wars with Pakistan in 1965 and 1971. They also have been the success to grab world attention by doing nuclear tests of 1998. The ultimate goal for India is to be autonomous in all aspects, including in the field of Defense, and attract any other Countries and global superpower like the US and Soviet Union to conduct some cooperation. On the other hand, also create ‘suspicion’ for Pakistan as the main rival and China as a new rising superpower mainly in the Asia- Pacific region.

The evolution in the relationship between India and the United States is flourished for the reason that the most critical aspects are strategic and geopolitical considerations. Even though in other areas they have some issues for examples in nuclear and human rights, but the real expand on the field of military and defense have been substantially improved mainly focusing on naval and maritime security cooperation in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. The so-called The Defense Framework Agreement in 2015 have proven that their close bilateral ties are based on mutual understanding to develop in defense and military capabilities by conducting some specific joint military exercise and also strengthening the defense industry of India.

One of the contents of the Agreement is to conduct joint and combined exercises and exchanges in the military in which the primary purpose is to maintain regional security and stability in the region, in the maritime domain. Due to Indian and Pacific Ocean are considered as one of the most important Sea Line of Communication (Sea LoC) for global economic activity with some political interest from the actors involved. India and China are amongst countries which depend on the supply energy fulfillment from the waterways and chokepoints there. By conducting a periodic military exercise India and US hopefully can preserve the stability in the Ocean from any expansionist action that possibly can be done by China due to their military capabilities and power projection plan. The operation *Malabar* conducted by India the U.S. - now expanded to Japan try to unite national-strategic differences among them in the Indo-Pacific region, especially for India through the support of the US certainly can be seen as an effort to prevent China's domination in the Water.

The other part of the Agreement is to bolster Indian Defense Industry in the context of safeguarding and increasing their defense ties, trade, technology transfer, collaboration, co-production, and research and development. Although settled as number five most massive defense budget of all Countries in the World, India got their weaponry system from the foreign market. The concept of "Make in India" are launched by the Indian Government in order to renew the obsolete military armaments from the Soviet era. The actualization of the program necessarily needs time due to its nature as the medium and long-term projects. The adjustment of rules and procedures are essential for enabling the FDI from private foreign companies and also in the field of utilization and consolidation of design and manufacturing infrastructure available in the Country.

India and the US have developed their Counterterrorism cooperation. They are both in the common interest to eradicate Islam based terrorism that stayed in the *save havens* countries

such as Pakistan and Afghanistan. Some exercises that has been conducted for example the YudhAbhyas exercise will helpful to meet the challenges to combat terrorism in the 'brand new' and multi-methods.. Also, there is a growing improvement in India's military equipment provided by the US. And, other specific cooperation backed by the US for example on missiles technology, nuclear power plants "known" for civil purposes but also suspected for accelerating the ambitions in India's nuclear weapons program. All of the cooperation, mainly in the field of defense are substantially strengthen the position of India against Pakistan in the South Asia Region.

So, the policy of India to sign the Defense Framework Agreement in 2015 with the US is a sign for the closer bilateral relationship through the foundation of defense cooperation. Some aspects that are significant in the Agreement, which are conducting periodic military exercises, bolstering cooperation in the arms trade to strengthen Indian Defense Industry later on, and expanding cooperation on missile technology and Counterterrorism have been implemented in the three consecutive years after the signing. One of the biggest obstacles in their Defense relations related to the policy of New Delhi to also still open the vast opportunity with Moscow as one of the biggest partners in defense not just in the past, but also in the present and future. For instance, recently the US clearly protests for India's procurement towards S-400 missiles system. India and Russia still work together in developing some sophisticated and futuristic armaments like a jet fighter and also involved actively in some military exercise and technical cooperation. Those are the real challenges in the following years that need to be addressed wisely for the sustaining, betterment and strong defense relations between India and the US.