

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

After the collapse of Soviet Union in 1991, Russia lost its influence in Central Asia. In the beginning, Russia did not really interest in building up the relations with Central Asian Countries. This phenomenon happened due to Russia still focusing on rebuilding its country after the collapse of Soviet Union. However, Russia went back to the Central Asia region under Putin leadership. The role of Russia in Central Asia is still a sensitive issue for Central Asia because of the history of Russia colonizing Central Asia. Central Asia also grew to become a region that attracts the interest of other countries such as Russia, China, USA, and some European countries. This fact has somehow made it hard for Russia to build a good relationship with Central Asia.

There are some factors that attract Russia's interest towards Central Asian Countries which also attract some other countries. The first factor is energy resources. Some of Central Asian Countries are well known for their energy resources. There are many different types of energy resources in the Central Asia region, such as oil, coal, gas, nuclear, hydropower, and geothermal. There are many Russian energy companies in the Central Asia region, such as in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, etc. This fact has shown that Russia has a big interest in the Central Asia region in the energy sector. The second interest is economic interest. The economic interest of Russia towards the Central Asian region are labor migration, the local market that could bring a big opportunity for Russia to export its goods, and Russia also has an interest in some raw materials that could be imported from Central Asian Countries. The last interest is in the security field. Russia is still a powerful actor in Central Asia in terms of security. The interest of Russia

towards Central Asia in terms of security are to prevent the spread of radical movement that come from Afghanistan towards some Central Asian Countries which then may threaten Russia's territory also. Russia also aimed to stop the illegal drugs trafficking into its country.

So in order to achieve those interest above, Russia has some strategy. In terms of economy the relations between Russia and Central Asian Countries has its up and down. Russia has three main strategies in terms of economy towards Central Asia. Those are strategies of integration in Central Asia, labor migration strategy, and foreign direct investment (FDI) attraction strategy. As mentioned in previous paragraph, Russia has also security interest in Central Asia. So the strategy of Russia towards Central Asia in terms of security are build and strengthen Russia's military bases in Central Asian Countries and also the establishment of some security organizations.