

BAB V CONCLUSION

In the era of Vladimir Putin's administration, Russia is known for being back its feet, being a great and powerful country once again. Since the power is back, Russia has been pursuing a foreign policy towards the Middle East, especially Syria. Although everything is not much of great power, Russia has been remarkably successful at balancing its interest through foreign policy.

Moreover, Russian leaders, especially Vladimir Putin, sincerely hope that foreign policy towards the Middle East that has been made by them will strengthen relations between Russia and countries in the Middle East and can mutually reach the national interests of each country involved. Russia's national interest in the economic sector of the Middle East is very high; therefore it hopes that all foreign policy towards the Middle East can be achieved as well as possible and can form an alliance as in the past the alliance between Russia and countries the Middle East in the Post-Cold War era.

Meanwhile, everything seemed smoothly happened, things change, and Russia is somehow getting insecure about its interest condition when, in 2011, the Syrian conflict (Syrian Crisis) happened. The Syrian Civil War alongside the string of revolutions in the Middle East, the Arab Springs. The unrest of Syria has been lasting around 8 years with so many reasons for it to explode to the point it caught the attention of the world's eyes. The war between the Syrian Government and the Syrian Opposition began when Bashar Al-Assad send deadly forces to stop any demonstration in Syria, and this event sparks the outrage of the Syria Opposition. The widespread of violence done by both parties turn Syria to a battlefield called the Syrian Civil War. The heat of this conflict that has been there starting

to put it into flame when several international actors like Russia decided to involve themselves into the conflict by supporting, either the Syrian Government or the Syrian Opposition, through financial, military, and political support. We can see that this civil war could be seen as a proxy war for the superpower states.

The involvement of several international actors put a complex situation in this war. Specifically the involvement of Russia in the conflict put the political actor in question on why Russia involving itself in the war and also promise the Syrian government to provide assistance to protect the country back to its normal state. Russia also placed its airbase in Latakia as proof of Russia ready to help anything it can do for Syria.

The prolonged war of Syria has touched all international actor to put an end on the war. The first idea of ended the war came from the United Nations by deciding to create a peace talk to find the solution on how to save Syria in Geneva under the United Nations Auspices called Geneva Peace Talks. The peace talks had several participants namely Iraq, Turkey, United Kingdom, Arab League, Kuwait, China, European Union, and Qatar, with the major players are the two most powerful states, Russia and the United States.

The Geneva Peace Talks has produced eight rounds of meeting, where all of the meetings were done in Geneva under the United Nations aegis and with the participants of several actors that decided to involve in the war and peace talks. The results of the Geneva Peace Talks were considered as failed because both parties were forced to agree on the solutions that had been made reluctantly.

On seeing the failure of the Geneva Peace Talks, Russia offered a proposal to create a new peace talk that could replace the Geneva Peace Talks with the aim on attaining cessation of hostilities rather than forging of a political solution, called Astana Peace Talks. Astana Peace Talks was

another process on to save the Syria that led by Russia, Turkey and Iraq. The name of the peace talks came from the place where the process took a place in Astana, one of the city in Kazakhstan. The differences between Geneva Peace Talks and Astana Negotiations are the place where the meeting will be held, the goals of each talks, and the guard of the peace talks as it had been said that Astana Negotiations were guarded and guaranteed by Russia, Turkey and Iraq.

In this thesis, the writer proves that Russia has a security interest and an economic interest towards Syria Civil War/ Syria Crisis. Thus, if anything happened to Syria, especially the Assad's administrations, it sure will give a lot of damage for Russia quite bad since Syria is known for being the biggest consumer of Russia weapons or any military arms and a state where Russia invest its energy, so that is the last thing Russia wish could happen to Syria. Moreover, another reason for Russia to involve in the conflict is because of the long partnership between them and the way Russia wants to strengthen the bond between two countries that have been running for years since the Post-Cold War (when Russia and several countries around it still named as the Soviet Union).