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## Analyzing the Impact of Chinese Military Development to the Indian Arm Force in 2015-2020

**Woro Tyas Hayu Hapsari**

College Student, Department of Science of International Relations,  
Universitas Slamet Riyadi, Indonesia

**Halifa Haqqi**

Lecturer, Department of Science of International Relations,  
Universitas Slamet Riyadi, Indonesia

**Satria Rizaldi Alchatib**

Lecturer, Department of Science of International Relations,  
Universitas Slamet Riyadi, Indonesia

### **Abstract:**

*China and India are two countries with major military powers in Asia that are currently competing with each other to become the largest military power in Asia. The authors have an interest in researching matters related to the object of research on china's military influence on the Indian military in 2015-2020. The purpose of this research is to look at the link between the Chinese military increasing the budget for arms purchases, strengthening troops to its military movements against the Indian military which continues to catch up so that there is no security dilemma between China and India. To analyze the question, researchers apply an International Security perspective on the theory of security dilemmas and concepts of national interest. The theoretical framework of this research is guided by qualitative explanatory methods. Writing techniques through library research. The data sources used are collected from books, journals and other official publications. The results showed that China's change in attitude regarding its country's military had an impact on India. The impact could be felt from India's increasing military arms purchase budget following China's military reforms in 2015. In addition, India also began to open a path of military cooperation to pursue balance of power.*

**Keywords:** China, India, security dilemma, national interest, military

### **1. Introduction**

China built its economic and political interests over the Indian Ocean and actively develops its hegemony through economic and military power in the South Asian region. In contrast to China, India began to rise from the state of a country that has a poverty line and even backwardness in education is quite high with increasing economic growth every year and even became the country with the third largest economy in the world in GDP according to IMF data in 2019 (Rahadian, 2019). India's growth and development are linked to neighboring South Asia as regards India's role as a leader in the region. For India's harmonious relations in the region have a positive impact in Asia. China's influence in South Asia has affected India's interaction patterns with its surrounding neighbors. With a series of investments and cooperation China gradually began to reduce the region's dependence on Indian leadership in South Asia (Anggara, 2015).

But in the course of the success of its military power, India is not always followed by support from all parties. Good diplomatic relations will not be able to run smoothly because currently bilateral relations between India and China are starting to run towards pragmatic cooperation but are still in the development of stagnant relations and even accompanied by a trust deficit (Muratbekova, 2017). On the other hand, Currently India and China are two countries that are giants in the world economic cooperation. China with branding as the world's second-largest economic force in 2020, has an ambition to defeat the United States and expand its influence in Asia. It indirectly created a security dilemma between the two countries. Before China and India were active in developing its hegemonic state, historically India China was in the state of the rivalry of the security dilemma. (Sebayang, 2019).

This situation of security dilemma has historically been triggered by the Kashmir conflict, the territorial disputes of Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin, heated tensions over Tibet, the Nathu La conflict, and the war in Tulung La. Things got even more heated when The Times of India reported on a new conflict that was still hot: on August 18th, 2014 the Chinese army had entered the Ladakh region of India, crossing the Line of Actual Control for 25 to 30 km with a provocation flag stating that the area belonged to China. And a few years later there are still some territorial disputes such as this latest one, in June 2020 it was reported that Indian troops crossed the border of the LAC (Line of Actual Control)

which is the border of the two countries located in the Galwan Valley, Aksai Chin - Ladakh around the Himalayas (CNN INDONESIA, 2020).

Against the existing background, the authors want to examine the influence of the Chinese military on the Indian military during 2015 -2020 as China-India relations progress towards a position of security dilemma and each country has a national interest so the author wants to learn more about how much influence military power in the two superpowers in more detail. In addition, the authors focus on examining China's military influence on the Indian military in 2015-2020, as in 2015 there were Chinese military reforms that led to changes in various aspects of the military within it.

## 2. Research Method

The authors used research methods of international security theory and concepts of national interest for research on China's military influence on the Indian military during 2015 - 2020.

### 2.1. Theory of International Security

In its development, international security has contributed to several approaches to International Relations. The author uses a constructivism approach. The constructivism approach believes that only a state can create true peace and security if it has domestic values and the collective principles of the international community. In addition, the constructivist approach also assumes that international security is the belief that there is a basic structure in international politics that is social in nature. The idea of the concept of security in its development in the approach of constructivism is divided into 2, namely Traditional (Conventional) Security Concepts and Contemporary security concepts. Traditional security Concepts is a concept dominated by thinking of military dimensions or also the use of military capabilities.

This research uses traditional security concepts with security dilemmas to describe the dynamics of security in a region. In International Relations, the context of the security dilemma is described as an action taken by a state to strengthen its defense and security systems that influences the reaction of other countries to take defensive actions while creating a stronger strategic partnership with other countries. On the other hand, the security dilemma also has the potential to trigger a high level of competition between countries and illustrates the general dynamics of conflict and the country's efforts to maintain peace (Thu, 2018).

The authors use the concept of the security dilemma to analyze china's military influence on the Indian military in 2015-2020 because historically, China and India have and are in a state of security dilemma. The Kashmir conflict, the territorial disputes of Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin, the hot tensions over Tibet, the Nathu La conflict, and the war in Tulung La are proof that china and India have long tended to cause conflict in the Asian region. Therefore, the author wants to know more about the actions that will be taken by the State of China and India and its stance to strengthen the defense and security system within the scope of his country.

### 2.2. National Interest

Through the concept of national interest from Morgenthau, 1978, the definition of national interest is as the minimum ability of the state to protect and maintain physical, political, and cultural identity from interference of other countries. This confirms the function of the national interest as a tool to pursue power, this is because the power of a state can be used as a tool to control other countries. It can be concluded that according to Morgenthau the concept of national interest is the ability of the state to protect and defend the politics, physical identity, and culture of our country from interference from other countries. The national interest cannot be exercised or achieved if a state actor does not have policies and powers. Policy is a way, method or tool to perform and achieve the national interest. While power is the capital to achieve and realize the national interests of the country itself (Clinton, 1986)

The authors began analyzing China's military influence on the Indian military from 2015 to 2020 and included it with the concept of national interests due to the link between China's interests to expand China's military influence in Asia and become the country with the most respected military power, especially in the Asian region. With India's efforts to pursue power or power, India began to develop control of the military in several countries in Asia and tried to pursue China as a form of effort to pursue a balance of military power against China. Therefore, the theory of the National Interest can be used as a basis for the theory of this research.

## 3. Result and Discussion

### 3.1. History of the China-India Conflict

China and India are the two countries in the Asian continent. The two countries have both become two large countries that have the scope of their respective areas of power. But along the way, there were problems that led to a protracted conflict between China and India over the issue of territorial claims. Disputes over territorial claims could be a strategy for both countries to compete with each other. The competition arose from the existence of the Indian movement which began to make improvements in various aspects and began to build its country from a developing country that was not well oriented to a developing country with a high level of welfare of its people. This, of course, caused unrest from China as a large and developed country that is both located in the Asian continent. With its branding as a Super Power country gives its own fear when the branding will turn around and become the property of India.

#### 3.1.1. The Significance of the Kashmir Conflict in China-India Relations

In 1947, Kashmir was attacked by Pakistani armed forces. The invaded Kashmir prompted India to intervene to help attack the rebel Pakistani tribes. The then emperor of Kashmir finally signed an agreement to centralize government

by joining the Indian state. Pakistan, which from the beginning intended to gain Kashmir through war, considered that the agreement signed was not an official document, so since then Pakistan and India have started a long war to win Kashmir. There have been at least three major wars and other small -scale disturbances since then. Not only loss of life, but also material loss by Kashmir. Until early 1949 the war between the two countries stopped. The cessation of the Pakistan -India war is evidenced by the attitude of both countries to withdraw troops and create a line of power as an anti -gun border.

A year after the war between India and China, in 1963 Pakistan handed over the Trans Karakoram Treaty (Shaksgam Valley) to China. The Shaksgam Valley was ceded to China by Pakistan when the two countries signed a border agreement to settle their border differences. The author argues that the surrender of the Shaksgam Valley was one of Pakistan's strategies to show its support for China which at the time had poor relations with India. So much so that China and Pakistan became allies to strengthen their forces against India. This is not without foundation, as previously the Shaksgam Valley or Trans Karakoram Tract was part of the Hunza-Gilgit region in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK), and was a disputed area claimed by India but controlled by Pakistan.

### 3.1.2. India -China Relations Post -Territorial Dispute 1962

Bilateral relations between India and China are inseparable from the global political order due to the cold war between the capitalist camps led by the United States on the one hand and the communist camps led by China and the Soviet Union on the other. This caused China and India to withdraw from each other in diplomatic relations. The first diplomatic relations took place in April 1950 with India, a non -socialist country, which first paved the way by sending Prime Minister Nehru as India's envoy to exchange visits with the then Chinese Prime Minister, Zhou Enlai. (Muthiah, 2009)

The visit resulted in an agreement on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence or called the Five Principles of Living Together in Peace. The five principles include mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial needs, non -aggression, non -interference in the affairs of the state, equality and mutual benefit, and to live side by side in peace.

Zhou Enlai as the Chinese representative sent a Line of Actual letter to Nehru as the Prime Minister of India on October 24, 1959 which contained discussions on border issues between China and India. The letter was sent back by Zhou Enlai to Prime Minister Nehru two weeks after the first letter, on November 7, 1959. The letter contained an explanation of the meaning of the Line of Actual. (One India, 2008). In the letter, Zhou Enlai explained that the Line of Actual or control line passes through three regions in North India, the line passes through Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh in the center, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh in the east and Ladakh and Kashmir in the west. Not only that, Zhou Enlai also explained that the Mc Mahon line that extends from east to west is the territory of each side. (One India, 2008)

Bilateral relations between India and China entered a fluctuating period ahead of the establishment of the Non -Aligned Movement which occurred in 1955 when both China and India were the driving force and initiators of the Non -Aligned Movement. Not stopping there, both also entered as countries that did not participate in the cold war that took place between the Western bloc and the Eastern bloc. the fluctuating period stopped when the Indian -Chinese wars broke out in 1962.

China, which at the time had a long conflict, especially in the border zone with India, finally began to launch troops on the border of the disputed region, namely in the region of Aksai Chin. Aksai Chin Province is a region located between China, Pakistan and India. Its location between the three countries has led to a protracted conflict. India, which was independent of Britain, believed that Aksai Chin was part of India because India was independent according to the Johnson Line and classified the Aksai Chin region as an Indian sovereign territory. And in the 1950s, China did not dispute the claim. However, the following year China withdrew its claim and denied that it had approved the Johnson Line. Hence, China refused to cede Aksai Chin province to India (CNN INDONESIA, 2020)

The four -week war caused considerable material losses and also killed thousands of Indian troops. This war was marked by the withdrawal of ambassadors by each country (Hongyu, 1995). Both China and India have refused to negotiate in an effort to resolve the territorial dispute. This was due to the Chinese army refusing to retreat and withdrawing its troops which during the negotiation process were still in the disputed territory.

The failure of the negotiations prompted Prime Minister Nehru to immediately issue a Forward Policy that contained rules for placing his military forces in the claimed territory of China. India also began moving to build military posts in the western and eastern parts of the disputed region. This policy is an Indian move that is considered provocative and offensive. However, this policy is considered able to make China feel threatened because its territorial area is expanded by India. China responded by threatening to halt the ongoing policy or it would add military forces to the disputed area and the war would never end.

## *3.2. China and India Military Conditions for the Period 2015-2020*

### 3.2.1. India

India has no military alliances with Western or Eastern bloc countries. In the military sphere, India, once a passive country, tends to be defensive in carrying out its military policies. Later, with the outbreak of the India-Pakistan conflict, India's foreign policy in the military sphere changed. So, after the Cold War, India's military posture was only focused on confronting Pakistan where since the war erupted between India and Pakistan in 1947 due to the seizure of Kashmir territory the two countries have engaged in an arms race especially nuclear weapons to strengthen the military power of each country. But since the 1990s India's military build-up has not only focused on confronting Pakistan.

In the context of defense, India modernizes its military and ensures that modernization is carried out only for self-defense needs because essentially for national security, India adheres to the principle of 'safe for each other' rather than

'safe for each other.' '. For this reason, since the 2000s, India has continued to increase its defense budget substantially as its economy grows. India is using its increased budget to build and modernize its military in terms of infrastructure, technology, and to upgrade the Indian Army's land, sea and air defense equipment. The increase in Indian Military Power also occurred in Active-Duty Soldiers of Paramilitary Tank Reserve, Rocket Launchers, Cannons, Anti-aircraft Weapons, Warships, Main Ports, Destroyers, Submarines, Frigates, Coast Patrol Vessels, Aircraft Carriers, Fighters, Helicopters, Main Airports.

### 3.2.2. China

China is building and strengthening its military system as part of concerns over potential threats from Asia-Pacific countries such as Japan, India and other Asia-Pacific countries. This is behind China continuing to strengthen its military power. These assumptions built by China then have implications for increasing the military budget in strengthening its defense and security. The impact of China's military increase, causing various security dilemmas in the Asia Pacific region, especially India.

2015 is arguably a transitional period in China's military development. The emergence of a policy that contains announcements about downsizing and trimming 300 thousand troops. The downsizing was announced during a parade commemorating the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II in Beijing by Chinese President Xi Jinping. China's Defense Ministry said the downsizing of thousands of troops was part of a military reform to improve military professionalism completed in 2017.

#### 3.2.2.1. Military Reform in China

In China, reform itself is one way to realize the things that the Chinese president of the day hoped for and also the Chinese people. These hopes include strengthening its military forces and becoming a superpower in Asia and even the world. Reform is in fact the option that China chooses to further develop the country over time. This is evident from the many reforms that have been formed, namely four times since the first independence. (Kokoshin, 2016)

Chinese print newspaper the People's Liberation Army Daily said the military reforms were the first step that would determine China's future in its ambition to strengthen military forces. But there is still anticipation of certain risks that are the impact of military reforms on certain interest groups. With china's high-profile military corruption scandal, there is a lack of confidence in China's related policies.

The reign of Chinese President Xi Jinping is very much trying to make the Chinese military an effective fighting force. Nevertheless, the downsizing of this army has an impact in various aspects. This is not the first time China has cut its army, as it is the fourth since 1980. China aims to increase the speed of its modernization event using stealth jets & antisatellite missiles. The Defense Ministry added China will put emphasis on reducing its longstanding equipment gradually, simplifying administrative and non-combat operations, and adjusting and improving military structures. (Apriliana, 2015)

### 3.3. China's Security Dilemma and National Interests Against India

China has a big role to play in creating a safe and peaceful world environment. Undeniably, China's role as a superpower carries the name of China as a country that is predicted to occupy the country with the largest military power in the world. The statement is not without reason considering that despite the many problems that surround China, the country still has the power to stabilize its power in important sectors such as the economy, military and also state security.

#### 3.3.1. Security Dilemma

Due to India's rising economy, the country began to dare to increase also the country's defence budget. This budget is further used to provide goods that support its military power from Russia, the US, Europe, even Israel. This explains how India has access to the most advanced global military technology (Rachmatunnisa, 2019). India's attitude seems to be a concern for China, which is still a neighbour of the Allied Asian nation. China is experiencing a security dilemma related to various policies taken by India, especially in the military sector. The security dilemma is described as an action taken by a country to strengthen its defence and security systems that influences the reaction of other countries to take defensive action while creating a stronger strategic partnership with another country. On the other hand, the security dilemma also has the potential to trigger a high level of competition between countries and illustrates the general dynamics of conflict and the country's efforts to maintain peace (Thu, 2018).

The security dilemma that occurred between China and India triggered an arm race or military power struggle with the purchase of weapons. This is evidenced by the purchase of weapons made by China during 2015 reached 145.8 USD. This amount increased by as much as ten percent from China's total arms spending in 2014 (Main, 2016). The purchase of these weapons provides a very predictable reaction from the country of India.

The reaction was seen from India which increased its military capacity and capability and conducted military cooperation with the Super Power State of the United States. In addition, to support the increase, India made an increase in the number of military soldiers. Not only that, the Indian government also provides weapons updates to catch up in its efforts to balance arm race. The increase is demonstrated by the cooperation between India and Russia to arm the Indian army with BrahMos missiles and light weight howitzers. BrahMos missiles are the result of cooperation made by Russia and India and are also touted as one of the most successful international military rocket industry cooperation projects (Aslamiyah, 2022).

Not only arm race, security dilemma also triggers cooperation with other countries that are considered stronger than enemy countries. Although the security dilemma has an impact in the form of competition in the Asian region, but



China and India are now starting to move and try to maintain peace between countries in order to create a peaceful world without war.

### 3.4. National Interest

Morgenthau's national interest in 1978 was the minimum ability of the state to protect and maintain physical, political, and cultural identity from interference from other countries. It also affirms the function of the national interest as a tool to pursue power. This is because the power of a country can be used as a tool to control other countries. It can be concluded that according to Morgenthau the concept of national interest is the ability of the state to protect and defend the politics, physical identity, and culture of our country from interference from other countries (Nincic, 1999).

China's military reforms in 2015 were a form of China's power to protect itself from threats from other countries around it. In addition to being a form of self-protection, in fact, China's actions have an impact on India. This impact is a form of security dilemma that makes India feel insecure and afraid if attacked at any time by China. This has led to India's desire to compete in terms of weaponry (Djelantik, 2021)

China's military modernization has positioned the military gap between India and China, i.e., China is far above India's military rules, troop strength, number and level of artillery sophistication, missile qualifications and reach, the development of the sense of war, and the strength and speed of movement of troops at the border. China's modernization has positioned China to be superior to a relatively inferior India. According to the military, India continues to improve the development of military technology both in weapons systems and supporting infrastructure. India also began to aggressively cooperate with the use of arms imports that support the improvement of military capabilities such as the United States, Russia and Japan (Global Fire Power, 2021).

China's interest in expanding its military influence in Asia and becoming the most respected military power, especially in the Asian region, is directly proportional to India's efforts to pursue power or power. India began to develop military control over several countries in Asia and sought to pursue China as a form of India's efforts to pursue a balance of military power against China as well as an effort to protect itself from China (Kokoshin, 2016)

#### 3.4.1. China's Military Influence on the Indian Military

China's military movements in the form of troop reductions, additional costs for arms purchases, and even cooperation with various countries related to the creation of new policies in terms of the military always have an impact in the form of movements made by India as a step to reduce the military gap between the two countries so as to reduce conflict and ceasefire considering that until now the tension between India and China on the issue of conflict. The territory dispute is still not fully resolved (Kokoshin, 2016).

India, which continues to innovate and cooperate with other countries to catch up with military arms ownership, is also faced with something else to continue to stabilize its growing economy over time. This Indian movement shows the determination and many efforts of India to block the movement of China which is feared will at any time give a military attack and declare war. There are several things that can be seen in China's influence over India (Hongyu, 1995).

#### 3.4.2. Border Defence Cooperation of Agreement

The Border Defence Cooperation of Agreement, signed on October 23, 2013, could be a solution that will change tensions in Relations between India and China. The BDCA sparked considerable media speculation and generated interest on many sides, meaning the BDCA is likely to be a case of coercive diplomacy on the Chinese side and strategic sacrifices on the Indian side. The BDCA has been widely rated as an important trust-building measure as well as an agreement that will not serve any purpose to check for border violations or resolve the disputed border innately between the two countries. (Das, 2014)

The current perspective is an attempt to show that because of some road-breaking clauses, the BDCA may prove to be a small but significant step toward building mutual trust and creating an environment to move forward toward final resolving border disputes. This of course will happen if the two countries not only implement the letter of agreement but also follow its spirit. The agreement also has clauses that enhance ongoing efforts and mechanisms, which will act as an important catalyst for achieving that potential. (Das, 2014)

The balance of power and security dilemma if it continues to rule, will result in the BDCA sticking to less challenging cooperation items while more potential ones such as 'no tailing' and 'ant smuggling' will wait for a better vision to win. Crucial to that process is to build a mutual trust that negates the zero-sum narrative of the simultaneous rise of China and India. Also, it is very important to engage various stakeholders such as the military and security agencies as it will be necessary to educate and shape public opinion on both sides. (Das, 2014)

### 4. Conclusion

The history of China and India's military relations has had a major influence on bilateral relations between the two countries to date. The outbreak of war on the borders of the conflict zone led to a post-war security dilemma. Moreover, the authors argue that the existence of war is a strategy for the two countries to compete with each other because it begins to see the movement of India that makes improvements in various aspects and builds its country from a developing country that does not self-control well to a developing country with a high level of welfare of its people. This of course causes upheaval from China as a large and developed country that is both in the Asian continent.

The Five Principle Peaceful Coexistence agreement is still unable to provide peace between China and India. Bilateral relations between India and China entered a volatile period before the Chinese and Indian wars broke out in 1962. Post-war, India began to improve India by modernizing its military as a self-defense effort. India continues to increase its

defense budget substantially as its economy grows. India is also using its increased budget to build and modernize its military in terms of infrastructure, technology, and to upgrade the Indian Army's land, sea and air defense equipment. Meanwhile, China continues to strengthen its military strength and security and increase its military budget. The impact of China's military increase, causing various security dilemmas in the Asia Pacific region, especially India. In addition to increasing the budget, China also carried out military reforms in 2015 that further made the country around China become more wary of China's movements.

China has a national interest in expanding its military influence in Asia. In addition, China also wants to become the country with the most respected military power, especially in the Asian region, creating a security dilemma for India. The security dilemma began to occur when India began to develop from various aspects. Security dilemmas began to take shape between China and India starting with India conducting military cooperation with major countries such as the United States and Russia to improve its military capabilities. India fears that if China's national interests are realized, there will be a military war that will again occur in India and in the conflict zone of the country's borders. The security dilemma triggered an arm race with arms purchases between China and India. The existence of a Border Defence Cooperation of Agreement could be a solution that will change the tensions in relations between India and China because the agreement also has clauses that enhance efforts and sustainable mechanisms, which will act as an important catalyst to achieve the goal of world peace.

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