



Conflict Analysis in West Asia

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.18415/ijmmu.v10i1.4271>

Abstract

Historically, the presence of the West Asia region has been significant for countries interested in it. The world's earliest civilizations developed in West Asia. This study uses a descriptive qualitative research model approach in conducting empirical problem analysis. The qualitative approach used in this research is a type of literature study in which the data sources are analyzed from books and journals related to research on conflict typology mapping studies in the West Asia Region. The collection of data and information in this study was carried out using qualitative data collection techniques, namely literature studies. In analyzing the research data, the researcher carried out three activities that could be carried out simultaneously, namely data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions or verification. Results show various theories to explore the development of Arab countries in the modern century. Montesquieu thinks that there is a positive relationship between conflict and political temperament. The Europeans believed that the region would be maintained by controlling trade routes and preventing the world. From various views, it can be understood that the development of Modern West Asia, from nationalism to the conflicts that hit it, cannot be separated from Western interests. The West Asia region is a region that has never been free from political problems on a domestic, regional and international scale. More precisely, it is always full of political surprises. The potential geographical conditions have not been directly proportional to the political comfort in this region since the beginning. Even the tug-of-war between world powers in West Asia continues to establish its hegemony.

Keywords: *West Asia; Conflict; Politics*

Introduction

In the following decades, the reason for the conflict shifted to the issue of conflict over natural resources, especially oil. In the 1970s, the world's supply of oil depended heavily on oil in West Asia. So it looks powerful from the outside (*intrusive state*), resulting in countries in western Asia conflicting. In this context, the United States approves establishing Israel as a state that guarantees US interests in western Asia. West Asia, as a field of fundamentalist movements, is considered the main reason conflicts in West Asia are still present. There are objective conditions that have not been widely discussed regarding the relationship of conflict with geo-political positions in West Asia. It is interesting to study, so it can be measured to what extent political geography contributes to conflict intensity. Understanding the origins of the relationship is hoped to positively contribute to designing political geography conducive

to peace. So this region has very diverse potential. It can make a significant contribution to prosperity and stability in the world. It can be used as a good benchmark for the development of the Indonesian people, who have customs similar to those of western Asia (Zelcer., & Evron, 2020).

Many studies on political geography have been carried out by experts, one of which is Montesquieu, who stated that there is a positive relationship between conflict and political temperament. Meanwhile, the character itself is also strongly influenced by the environment. The average level of aggressive instincts in hot areas is higher than in cold regions. The study of political geography was then widely researched by generations of Europeans, namely Karl Haushofer, famous for the Heart-land theory, which assumes that every country or society tends to look for areas with a very strategic meaning which is also known as "Heart Regions." Karl Haushofer emphasized that "*whoever controls the heart area will influence the next area even in the end the world.*" It views became very monumental for the elite in Germany to develop the concept of lebensraum (new space theory).

Slightly different from the views of Karl Haushofer, political geography intellectual Mc Kinder from England tends to *put the environment in the context of the sea*. This theory became known as *Rimland Theory*, which has the proposition that whoever can form a network between regions by using the sea, then he will rule the world. History has recorded that England became a great country because of the strength of its sea fleet. Political elites later developed this theory in the Soviet Union to seek access to water (in this case, the sea) which became known as the Warm Water Theory. Its theory is enough to significantly contribute to the emergence of conflicts in Southeast Asia, especially in the Indo-China region, and in the Eastern European part, especially in the Baltic region.

Roger Geraudy studied *political geography to measure the process of Israel's occupation of Palestine*. Another case with Theodore Herzl, a Zionist activist who was able to carry out *a classic colonialism and demographic strategy* in the West Asian region, especially Palestine, by utilizing religious sites mixed with political idioms so that Zionism which was previously religiously based, became politically based Zionism. geographically from the hill of Zion can manipulate political sentiments, which triggers an explosion in western Asia. Drysdale has also conducted a study that examines the relationship between conflict and geography, which states that *there is a significant relationship between artificial geographic maps and the conflicts that occur*. Overlapping borderlines result in political wedges in society that are always on opposite ends. It led to prolonged conflicts in several former colonial countries because of the many artificial borders colliding with community lines. It was then enriched by Wolter S Jones' analysis which said that this artificial border created problems in the integration process or what is known as *symptoms of separatism and irredentism*. Suppose separatism is more an attempt to separate a minority group forced to unite because of the problem of artificial borders from large groups with the heterogeneity of race and interests. Meanwhile, if Irredentism is a symptom of the amalgamation of a minority group during the post-colonial period, they were forced to join a larger group. Still, they had different races and interests in entering their community.

Research Methods

It uses a descriptive qualitative research model approach to conduct empirical problem analysis. The qualitative approach used in this research is a type of literature study in which the data sources are analyzed from books and journals related to research on conflict typology mapping studies in the West Asia Region. The study's data and information collection were carried out in various ways and techniques. In this study, the data and information collection techniques used were qualitative data collection techniques, namely literature studies.

Furthermore, the data were analyzed inductively by collecting various articles relevant to this research. According to Bogdan and Biklen (1982), data analysis is the process of searching and systematically compiling interview transcripts, field notes, and other collected materials to increase

understanding of the data and present what has been found to others. In qualitative-inductive research, data analysis is carried out by looking for correlations between one fact and another to find a more precise understanding and meaning because the facts tend to be scattered and incomplete. Identifying the parts, understanding the relationship between the elements, understanding the relationship between the details and the whole, and disclosing them are the most critical activities in this analysis, including interpretation and meaning.

In general, for the analysis of this research data, the researcher carried out three streams of activities that could be carried out simultaneously, namely data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions or verification. Data reduction is a selection process focusing on simplifying, abstracting, and transforming raw data from written records in the field. Qualitative information is facilitated and changed in various ways, including strict selection, summary or brief description, and classification in a broader pattern (Miles & Huberman, 1992).

Presentation of data is the arrangement of a set of information that allows concluding and concluding. Researchers try to use a method that uses narrative text, charts, and graphic text. Qualitative data analysis begins by searching for the meaning of things, noting regularities, patterns, explanations, possible configurations, causal flows, and propositions. The researcher will draw loose conclusions, remain open and skeptical but then escalate to more detailed and firmly rooted. Those conclusions diversified during the research process. The verification is in the form of a review or rethinking of field notes, which may take place at a glance or may even be carried out carefully and take a long time, as well as exchanging ideas among respondents to develop intersubjectively. The meanings that emerge from the data must be tested for their validity, robustness, and suitability to the truth (Miles & Huberman, 1992). The next stage is to provide conclusions from the research results, which are the findings of this study.

Result and Discussion

Geography History of West Asia

West Asia or Southwest Asia is the region to the west of the Asian continent, consisting of countries in the West Asia and Near East regions that are on Asian continent. The term "West Asia" is used more frequently in writing about the archeology and prehistory of the area. Geographers are annoyed by the ambiguity of the word "West Asia," which is more popular than "West Asia." Countries like India prefer to use the term "West Asia," possibly because the word "West Asia" is more European. However, some think West Asia also includes countries in North Africa, or at least Egypt (Ahmad, 2020).

West Asia lies to the south of Eastern Europe and nearby North Africa. It is surrounded by the primary season; Sea Aegean, Sea Black, Sea Caspian, Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea, Red Sea, and Mediterranean Sea. To the north, this region is restricted from Europe by the mountains Caucasus Big. To the southwest, this area is determined from Africa by the Isthmus of Suez, and temporarily to the east, this region but with Central Asia and South Asia. Desert Dasht-e Kavir and Dasht-e Lut in eastern Iran, in a manner, experience instead limits this region from the whole of Asia itself. West Asia was the birthplace of the world's first civilizations. For nearly three millennia, this region has been unified under one or two powerful states; each one inheriting the previous one, at some point a populist system with either a western or an eastern basis (Raj, 1979).

Historically, the presence of the West Asia region has been significant for countries interested in it. The change of political power from one dynasty to another and the occupation of territories by rulers of other parts became a common sight. This dynamic proves that this region is essential and economically and politically strategic. The legacy of the conflict over various resources in West Asia, both economic and political resources, is still occurring today. The collapse of the Ottoman dynasty in Turkey in 1924 marked the end of the political upheavals of Islamic dynasties with political power and control of vast

territories. There were at least three things that caused the collapse of the Ottoman dynasty, namely the emergence of internal conflicts that were unable to be resolved by the rulers of the Ottoman dynasty, second, there were attacks from European nations, and third, because of the Zionist political treason movement and *Freemasonry*. *Against the Ottoman dynasty*. The collapse of the Ottoman dynasty did not necessarily make the West Asian region safe. On the contrary, this region became increasingly heated and filled with prolonged conflicts that did not end (Prakash, Nirupama, 1999).

Analysis of Figures as Actors in the Arab-West Asian Conflict

West Asian countries that adhere to traditional political systems (monarchy) or have seen military coups. According to Carl J Friedrich, politics is an effort or way to gain or maintain power. Politics can also be interpreted as a way to achieve specific desired goals that will be used to achieve the desired state. Political life can never be separated from the social life of a country. Societies in West Asia are dominated by Arabs, resulting in the culture of government in that country being essentially dictatorial. One of the historical factors is that the area used to have a kingdom system. Most of the conflicting countries have leaders who tend to be dictators. Hence, citizens feel they cannot fully participate in the administration of the state. It is what drives the group to express their aspirations. Suppose through formal and legal means, and there is no serious response from the government. In that case, the radical way of holding demonstrations is the last option which, according to some citizens, will get a definite answer from the state, as was done in Egypt and Iraq (Akalin, 2016).

In Egypt, after British colonization, there was a famous king named Sultan Fuad. Sultan Fuad becomes the king of Egypt, which is the prime minister's succession. Politics became a three-way conflict between the nationalists, the king, and the British. Fuad appointed the prime minister who would make the new country's constitution. Finally, a body was drafted, and parliamentary elections were held. According to the body, Islam is the state religion. However, all Egyptians (including Christians and the Jewish minority) must be equal before the law. The constitution is handed to the king, who is powerful enough. The king has the authority to dissolve parliament and veto its activities. In the absence of a parliament, the king can appoint and remove ministers and make decrees. The king is the chief executive commander of the state. While the ministers were responsible to the parliament because they served above the king's power, they found it difficult to serve two masters. Two of the five senators were appointed by the king; three out of five were selected. Fuad's face even appears on Egyptian postage stamps and coins (Namboodiri, 1979).

The Iraqi nation has also experienced prolonged conflict in three decades due to the factors of conflict actors. Saddam Husein was the most dictatorial leader of Iraq because he could carry out the Gulf War for up to three periods. Saddam Husein is the most influential Iraqi president against Iraq. In 1972 Saddam nationalized many oil companies held by foreigners. The action aimed to eliminate the West's monopoly on Iraq and return Iraq's wealth to the ruling regime. Saddam created a domestic defence system that could prevent any coup attempts from the majority Shiites or Kurds. The defence system focuses on military development. That made Iraq under Saddam's government known as the "*Republic of Fear*" (LI, 2014).

Analysis of Regional Boundary Causes of West Asian Conflict

The territorial border symbolizes national sovereignty and power in a country. The edge is like human skin, where the boundaries of a country function to protect the security of the country's territory, its inhabitants, and its natural resources. It also functions to maintain good relations with neighbors. A good fence makes good neighbors. However, in West Asia, border issues create various border conflicts, which are caused by at least three things (Kivimäki, 2012).

First, the role of imperialism, for example, in 1916, through the Sykes-Picot agreement, the British and French governments divided the former Ottoman empire (Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan). Engot

had the rights to Iraq, and Jordan, while France got the rights to Syria and Lebanon. Also, in 1917 thru Balfour Declaration, the British gave the territory to Israel in Palestine, causing a prolonged conflict to this day. Second, it is challenging to determine land boundaries due to the desert's natural conditions. It is also challenging to assess land borders that reach the coast as those of Egypt, Libya, and Tunisia, the Algeria-Morocco conflict over Western Sahara, and Iraq and Iran over Shattal-Arab. Third, border conflicts are due to the presence of natural resources (oil, minerals, water) on the border (land, rivers, sea). Issues often arise regarding who has the right to manage the allocation of water or natural resources that a river might contain. Examples include the conflict between Saudi Arabia and Sudan over the resources contained in the Red Sea. Likewise, the conflicts in Egypt, Sudan, and Uganda in fighting over the profit discharge of the Nile River. Another example: The city of Kirkuk, rich in oil content, then spar prolonged conflict between the Government of Iraq and the Kurds who wanted independence and received support from the US for autonomy (Aneja, 2010).

Water and River Problems

The problem of fresh water as the primary commodity for fulfilling daily needs is very limited in this region. Meanwhile, the demand for water demand increases from year to year due to the increasing population and increasing agricultural production. Boutros Boutros Ghali once predicted that one r would become a more valuable commodity than oil. One day, the following West Asian countries would go to war for water. So there are concerns that in the future Arab countries will spend part of their oil revenues to buy water. Saudi Arabia, for example, to fulfill its people's need for freshwater, carries out destabilization (distilling seawater into freshwater). The country's sizeable financial capacity automatically supports this. So water may be more valuable than oil (Mukherjee, 2014).

West Asia, which consists of approximately 20 countries, only has four major rivers as a source of life for its people, namely the Nile, Jordan, Euphrates, and Tigris. The problem is that these rivers flow through many countries amid limited freshwater sources. So it is not uncommon for conflicts to occur because several countries have built dams and reservoirs in their territories, reducing the river flow/water discharge to other countries. For example, Turkey, which created the Ataturk dam, sparked a Turkish-Iraq-Iran-Syria conflict over the use of the water discharge of the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers. Likewise, Syria, in 1975, built the Al-Thawra dam, whose water discharge was accommodated in Al-Asaad Lake. Syria's actions strained its political relations with Iraq because the water discharge of the two rivers (Euphrates and Tigris) automatically decreased in Iraq. Its condition threatens the Iraqi people's lives for their need for freshwater, especially in the agricultural sector (Michael 2021).

Another case is the conflict struggle between Iraq and Iran over ownership Shattal-Arab, where the 80 km long Euphrates and Tigris rivers meet, as shown in the image below, is a vital area for both sides as an access/oil route to the Gulf. River flow conflicts also occur over the Jordan River, a vital river for Jordan and Israel. Israel's dependence on this river makes the return of the occupied territories to the Palestinian Arabs extremely unlikely. Some literature states that Israel's reliance on the river reaches 50 percent. The river empties into the Golan Heights, where Israel has invested heavily in agricultural development. Besides that, Jordan is also very dependent on the flow of this river because of its vital access to the Mediterranean Sea. For this reason, Jordan has no other alternative but to negotiate peacefully with Israel to agree on the allocation of river water.

The Jordan River basin is geographically divided into four regions, viz Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Israel, as in the picture above. Several tributaries of the Jordan River are divided, namely the Hasbani River in Lebanon, Baniyas in Syria, and Israel, while Yarmuk is in Jordan and Syria. The Jordan River conflict "only" involves Jordan and Israel because the two countries' interests in the existence of the Jordan River are bigger / more vital than other countries (Friedberg, 2002).

Another conflict occurred in fighting over the profit discharge of the Nile River. The river, the pride of the people of Egypt, also flows into Sudan, Uganda, and several other African African areas.

Because of that, they want to change so they can also develop agriculture and build hydropower. According to Koen Roset, from 1959 until now, only Egypt has had the right to use the Nile River's water in connection with the 1959 agreement. Other countries increasingly felt the lack of water discharge after Egypt built the Aswan dam in 1960. The Nile River conflict is likely to continue, and the condition of Egypt, with increasing density and population, certainly does not want to become a country that lacks water. It was the most crucial point in the negotiations. Egypt was driven by conditions where Egypt could no longer afford to lose even a drop of water from its current share (Whetten, 1979).

Sea Border and Oil Problems

The sea has important and strategic significance in West Asia. On the other hand, Others also bring problems, especially the problem of maritime boundaries. The sea distance generally causes. The border between countries is very short, too close from one country to another. The next problem is the content of marine natural resources such as oil, minerals, and fish, triggering conflicts between countries bordering these seas regarding their management rights. The existence of small islands in the sea border area also often causes disputes. In this region, only a few are directly adjacent to the open sea, such as Oman and Yemen, which border the Indian Ocean, and Morocco in the Atlantic Ocean, which can claim 200 miles of coastline. Several countries have historically been involved in the conflict, including Kuwait with Iraq, Libya, and Tunisia, Turkey's conflict with Greece in the Aegean Sea over the existence of stranded island continents, each of which is claimed by the two countries, and Saudi Arabia-Sudan in the management of the Red Sea's potential natural content (Singh, 2017).

The oil factor has always been a central issue. It has always been "accused" of being the main trigger for conflict in West Asia, especially in the West Asian region, be it internal regional conflicts or international scale conflicts involving interested foreign (Western) parties. The following are several factors that have caused oil conflicts in this region. Oil has always caused anxiety, especially among the people of Iraq, because this commodity is the only force Iraq has to meet the needs of its people and is also a bargaining chip in the international world. If there is a crisis in the oil sector, there are no other reliable commodities in Iraq. There is a marked difference between countries with abundant oil and countries with little fat. Among the Arab countries, several are relatively wealthy because they produce much oil. This condition influences the country's foreign policy, especially towards the West. It is also what has hampered the Arab unity movement until now. For example, the foreign policies of oil-rich countries such as Saudi Arabia and the emirate countries in the Persian Gulf (Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Kuwait, Oman) tend to be pro-western-this is different from other countries such as Syria, Algeria, Libya, Egypt (for some time) have fewer oil resources than countries located in the bay (Choudhury, Masudul, Adenan, 2017).

At the level of debate (not war), border conflicts are in the form of disputes between countries (one) that do not have complete documents to file a lawsuit. Border-based has a definite meaning and is supported by the power to get it, for example, the Egypt-Israel conflict and the Iraq-Kuwait conflict. It can also be based on religious ideology, in which militant groups feel marginalized by each other, either by the state or by other groups, including the Iran-Iraq conflict, Palestine-Israel, Hams-Israel, Islamic Jihad-Israel, Hizbullog-Israel. *Natural Resources*-based, where there are significant natural resources such as water and oil, for example, the Sudan-Egypt, Iraq-Kuwait, United States-Iraq, and Iran-Iraq conflicts.

In terms of the geographical texture of the coast, there is a tendency for the level of conflict to show intensive symptoms. It can be seen from the dynamics of the conflict in Saudi Arabia with the dynamics of competition in the thoughts of Muhammad bin Abdul Wahab (Wahabi), which later also developed the Ikhwan group. There is also the al-Qaeda group which very often triggers polemics of thought. Saudi Arabia, as a large country, always provides space for conflict. Saudi Arabia is very

worried about the influence of Shia thinking as an ideological force opposed to Sunni, which does not share a direct border (Yang, 2014).

Yemen, which is directly bordered by Saudi Arabia and Oman to the west by the Red Sea and Ethiopia in Africa, has a conflict at the level of *debate* that is also very visible. Many socialist thoughts color southern Yemen. In contrast, the north is colored by many conservative ideas, as in Saudi Arabia, which eventually led to an ethnic war between groups in South Yemen and Yemen North.

As a coastal area, Egypt is also very intensive in the dynamics of conflict, both in terms of thinking and being involved in various wars in the Arab world. Regarding the review, Egypt is a country that has practiced different kinds of thinking, from Islamic, socialist, and capitalist thinking. Egypt is also regarded as the origin of significant thought groups, both Islamic and nationalist, including Hasan al-Banna, Muhammad Abduh, Rasyid Ridha, Hasan Hanafi, and Gamal Abdul Nasser. Egypt also participated in various battle games and wars at various levels. Egypt was even involved in three Arab-Israeli wars between 1956 and 1967.

Whereas in desert-based countries, the symptoms of conflict are at the level of *debates* and *wars*, there is a less intensive trend. There is almost no significant conflict found, such as open direct war. Even if there is a war, they are only involved in a collective war with Israel, prioritizing Arab emotional ties. However, suppose the desert-based country has little access to the coast. In that case, there is a tendency for the government to intensify conflict. It can be seen in Iraq, whose pattern of competition in the last three decades has been involved in contentious disputes, namely the First Gulf War (Iran-Iraq), II Gulf War (Iraq-Kuwait), and III Gulf War (Iraq-United States) (Barakat, 2020).

In terms of population density, there seems to be an exciting phenomenon. Areas with high population density have an excellent opportunity to appreciate conflict. The density in question can be seen from the side of the quantity, also seen from the multiculturalist side. Israel and Palestine are areas that are very prone to conflict and inevitably have to be in conflict battles. They are surrounded by a circle of countries that are not friendly to Israel or Palestine, which must face demographic marginalization by Israel at any time. With the high density of Israel must expand the territory by carrying out occupation and expansion policies.

Conflict Analysis with West Asian Religions

Conflict, as a result of interaction between fellow Muslims to a certain extent, tends to color conflict in West Asia. It is within limits. Certain things can be understood because the Muslim population in western Asia is up to 93%. However, we also have to exscrutinize the portrait that there are indeed dynamic emotions between the ideologies and interests of conservatives in West Asia. Conflicts between Iraq-Iran, Kuwait-Iraq, factions in Palestine, between religious groups in Saudi Arabia and Egypt are portraits of conflicts that tend to escalate toward the level of war.

The Sunni-Shia conflict is not only within the limits of *debate* solely but further up to the level of war, even involving indisputests in the Arab region and outside Arabia. The effects of the Iraq-Iran war are understood as inherent conflicts inherited by Muslims since the 8th century AD, which until the 21st century have not been beeappropriately resolved. Even though the Iran-Iraq conflict ended in 1988, that does not mean that the Sunni-Shia-battlefleet has finished. Although within certain limits, it has experienced a significant reduction by being accepted by President Khatami as chairman of the OIC.

Conflicts in various Islamic areas as a representation of factions in Islamic thought continue to occur intensively. Egypt is a mosaic of how many Islamic ideas developed in the 20th century but gave rise to unhealthy symptoms in the form of infidels. It is what later inspired the Muslim Brotherhood to build a model of middle-way thinking even though in the middle of the middle way of thinking, the Muslim Brotherhood was forced to be eliminated because it was considered an embryo of an extreme

movement. There has been a conflict of Islamic thought in Palestine between the nationalist and fundamentalist camps, which was caused more by a dilemmatic choice that had to be accepted when some Muslims made concession agreements with Israel.

Meanwhile, the conflict between Islam and Judaism before it became a conflict has been going on for years, since the time of the Prophet Muhammad SAW. The confrontation with the Jews subsided when the Jews were sent to a diaspora, spreading all over the world to find a place to live. The battle came to the fore when Theodore Herzl declared the program to return to their homeland in the context of settling down, not just pilgrimage. Even though this conflict only occurred in one area, namely in Palestine, the position of Palestine in the view of Islam and Arabs is a significant place monumental. So that the conflict escalated until it got bigger, giving birth to a very complex conflict known as the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In the 1980s, the intensity of the Israeli Arab War decreased since Egypt carried out the Camp David agreement. However, on the one hand, Israel showed the opposite. A very horrific incident, namely the massacre of Arab Muslims in Sabra and Shatila in 1988. Simultaneously, a massive Islamic resistance movement was born to carry out a series of resistance. For example, the intifada movement emerged as a reaction to Israel's repressive actions.

Because Israel's repressive actions did not stop, the Intifada movement was previously represented as a movement against Israel with slingshots and throwing stones. In the 1990s, a new mode of resistance against Israel began to appear with the action of "Shahid bombs." For Israel, this suicide bombing is believed to be a counter-repressive action, which in turn causes the ruling regime to thicken with its violent politics. Benjamin Netanyahu, who is believed to be a prime minister who is very tough on Palestinian fighters, is still considered not to be tough enough, so the figure of Ariel Sharon appears, who is very tough. The conflict did not only involve Jews in West Asia but also involved Jewish forces in the United States in the form of lobbying ties that were members of AIPAC. Likewise, discriminatory acts against Jews do not only apply in Palestine but also in areas where the Jewish lobby is very influential. On the other hand, anti-Jewish sentiment has developed throughout the Islamic world. Rejection of Jewish products and officials was widespread everywhere.

The conflict between Islam and Christianity is relatively not reflected in western Asia. Even if there is conflict, it is only in some Lebanese areas. Christian political power is less developed in West Asia because the position is less than 2% in almost all countries except Lebanon, which reaches 15%. There is one place in Iraq, namely around Karbala, which is believed to contain the grave of Imam Ali and the site of the massacre of the Prophet's grandson, Imam Hussein. If other parties damage this area, it will very quickly create sentiments for conflict. Iran, the Shi'a state's representative, greatly respects and pays extreme attention to various locations in Iraq.

As for the other site areas, we can find a very sacred place for Muslims, namely Mecca, with its Kaaba building. It is relatively not an arena of conflict, even if pilgrims from Iran carry out only demonstrations. The Kaaba and Mecca were once places of significant conflict when there was a conflict between Mua'wiyah bin Abi Sofyan and Zubair bin Awwam, who used the Kaaba as a defensive fortress or the battle that was carried out by King Abraham when he attacked the Kaaba. Since this case, the sacred site at the Kaaba has not become a space for conflict. The Saudi Arabian government is interested in making the Mecca area sterile from political activity.

Conflict West Asia with Foreign Parties

The Arab region, especially (North Arabia) of western Asia in the 18th century, was contested by the imperialist countries. In 1798, Napoleon launched his invasion of Egypt. His army landed in Alexandria and then headed for Cairo. The victory was with Napoleon, and Egypt fell under French rule. The Napoleonic occupation was a threat to England. For the British, the Suez Canal was the lifeblood

connecting England with its colonies in the East. On the other hand, by controlling Egypt, Napoleon could also manage western Asia and expel the British from India.

After a few years (3 years), the Turks, with British persuasion, expelled the French from Egypt. In 1801, Britain sent troops to Egypt to attack from the west, while Turkey sent two soldiers. One land army struck Egypt from the East, and the other sea troops assisted the British fleet. India also sent its troops. In the battle at Abu Qir, the French army suffered defeat. British soldiers can then occupy Alexandria. Eventually, France was forced to sign a peace treaty with Britain, which demanded that France withdraw from Egypt.

In 2007, France was the eighth largest economy in the world according to IMF (International Monetary fund). The World Bank also includes France as the seventh-largest country with the highest Gross Domestic Product. Not only that, France is a country that plays a very geopolitical role in western Asia. In the same year, there was also a truce between Israel and Palestine that got worse without any negotiation. France under the Francois government, Hollande took the initiative as a mediator in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the *Middle East Peace Initiative*.

The US began paying attention to oil in West Asia more than half a century ago when the US Congress held a special session to issue a decision on the amount of oil the US had to import each month. US attention to oil in West Asia grew after the Arab oil boycott following the 1973 Arab-Israeli War. President Jimmy Carter (1976-1980) once stipulated the Carter principle, which required the US to secure its oil supply by all means. The principle emphasizes that if a threat arises, it must use all means, including military force to ensure the continuous flow of oil supplies. Almost every year, the US imports 53% of its total oil needs. These imports are expected to continue to increase in the coming years, while the US need for oil to drive the economy is absolute.

Moreover, Iraq has been a country targeted by the US since the beginning of the "miracle" of Iraqi oil. It has attracted the interest of major countries, especially Britain and America, to control this region. One example; is Iraqi depend. The United States will exploit Kirkuk and Mosul (two oil-source cities) to seek support by helping incite the Kurds to secede immediately from Iraq. It seems that America's support for the Kurds is more of an excuse so that oil concessions in the Kurdish region, especially Kirkuk, fall into the hands of American companies, such as Halliburton, Kellogg Brown, Root, MCI World Com. (some of these companies have signed multi-billion dollars contracts for Iraq development).

Egyptian political and strategic observer, Taha Majdub, in an article in Al-Ahram daily May on 1,2, 2002, said: "The implied purpose of the threat of US attack on Iraq is Washington's desire to control the oil of the Gulf region and Iraq." Likewise, he equated the strategic objectives of the US attack on Afghanistan some time ago. According to him, the aim of the US strike on Afghanistan to overthrow the power of the Taliban and eradicate the Al-Qaeda network is just a trick. The implication is to control the oil-rich Central Asia and Caspian Sea regions and place influence there. Likewise, while the attack, The US went to Iraq, which they convinced to eradicate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and overthrow the undemocratic government of Saddam Hussein, but what was implied behind that was controlling Iraqi oil.

Still, according to Mahdjub, if the US fully controls the Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil wells (the numbers will beat Saudi Arabia's oil), then Washington will be in a stronger position in dealing with other Gulf countries, especially Saudi Arabia and, in turn, can dictate to other countries. The Arabs are not afraid of being disrupted by the flow of oil supplies from the West Asia region. It is obvious that the US attack on Iraq was based on ownership Iraq of weapons of mass destruction is just a lie. So far, in Iraq, under the leadership of Saddam Husein, who was very anti-American and had the strong support of most of his people. It turned out that it was difficult for America to obtain oil concessions in the country.

Relations Between Indonesia and West Asia

Indonesia's support for West Asian countries has continued to the present day. The Indonesian people have always supported the Palestinian people. Likewise, Egypt, even though it is a country co-founder-Aligned. The two countries jointly solve various involving common interests, especially the Non-Aligned Movement. On the other hand, bilateral relations between Indonesia and West Asia are mostly intertwined with Egypt. For Indonesia, Egypt is privileged because it is the first country to recognize Indonesia's independence. One of the factors that influenced the emergence of the Islamic reform movement in Indonesia (Muhammadiyah, for example) was the Islamic reform movement pioneered by Jamaludin Al-Afghani and Muhammad Abduh in Egypt.

On the other hand, Indonesia wants to play an active role in solving the Gulf crisis. However, until the end of the Gulf War, Indonesia did not participate meaningfully because it was limited to making various calls for peace. Still, there was never any documented direct involvement in dealing with the problem. Observers and implementers of Indonesia's foreign policy believe that its participation in overcoming the issues of the Persian Gulf will face difficulties because Indonesia, an "outsider" in the conflict in the West Asian region, still miscarried if there is a request from the warring countries. Al-'Urwat al-Wutsqa was first published in Paris in 1884 by Jamaludin Al-Afghani and Muhammad Abduh. Al-Afghani (1838-1897) and Abduh (1849-1905) are known as the figures of the Islamic renewal movement worldwide. In Indonesia, the movement also has quite a strong influence among adherents of Islam. The birth of the Muhammadiyah organization (1912) in Yogyakarta, which brought together "modernist" Muslims, was inseparable from the influence of the Al-Afghani and Abduh movements.

The history of cooperation between Indonesia and Egypt can also be seen when Egypt recognized Indonesia's sovereignty, de-facto and de-jure, in 1947, making Egypt the first to acknowledge Indonesia. It is also primarily determined by the belief factor of most Indonesian adherents who are Muslims. Meanwhile, one of the actors who played an essential role in the Egyptian recognition process was Indonesian students in Egypt, especially those who were members of the Committee for the Defense of Indonesian Independence. In general, Indonesia-Egypt relations during 1947-1961 went quite well. Indonesia and Egypt have similar foreign policies. The two countries also have the same perception of the problem of colonialism/ imperialism. It is the main reason for the critical role of the two countries in forming the Non-aligned movement.

Conclusion

There are various theories to explore the development of Arab countries in the modern era. Montesquieu thinks that there is a positive relationship between conflict and political temperament. Meanwhile, the character itself is also strongly influenced by the environment. In hot areas, the average level of aggressive instincts is higher than in cold regions. This theory is reinforced by various shreds of evidence that many Western interests at the beginning of the 20th century, were increasing, especially in establishing defense against opponents in world wars. Karl Haushofer emphasized that "whoever controls the heart area will control the next area even in the end the world." It grew very monumental for the elite in Germany to develop the concept of lebensraum (a new theory of space).

The Europeans believed the region would be maintained by controlling trade routes and preventing the world. Intellectual, political geography Mc Kinder from England tends to put the environment in the context of the sea. This theory became known as Rimland Theory, which has the proposition that whoever can form a network between regions by using the sea, then he will rule the world. With various views, it can be understood that the development of Modern West Asia from nationalism to the conflicts that hit it cannot be separated from Western interests, as is the case with the development of our nation today. So many things can be learned as the basis for the country's future.

The West Asia region is a region that has never been free from political problems on a domestic, regional and international scale. More precisely, it is always full of political surprises. Ironically, the potential geographic conditions have not been directly proportional to the political comfort in this region since the beginning. Even the tug-of-war between world powers in West Asia continues to establish its hegemony. The geographical power that should be used as a regional political power is, in fact, precisely holding this region hostage. Its importance and strategic geographical conditions trigger the emergence of various big problems that automatically arise, directly impact the existence of regional countries, and significantly affect the difficulties of these regional countries, especially Arab countries, in realizing integration.

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