



LAPORAN HASIL PENELITIAN

RUSSIA, THE ISLAMIC WORLD, AND THE NEW WORLD ORDER IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: RELEVANCE AND IMPLICATIONS FOR INDONESIA

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Abstract

Purpose- This study aims to explore the evolving dynamics between Russia, the Islamic world, and the emerging new world order in international relations, focusing on the relevance and implications for Indonesia. The purpose of this research is to understand how Russia's interactions with Islamic countries impact global geopolitical strategies and how these developments affect Indonesia's foreign policy and strategic interests.

Design/Methodology/Approach- The methodology employed includes qualitative analysis through the examination of primary and secondary sources, including policy documents, official statements, scholarly articles, and interviews with key informants such as representatives from the Russian Embassy in Indonesia and the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Findings- The results highlight Russia's increasing engagement with Islamic nations as part of its broader strategy to counter Western influence and establish a multipolar world order. This engagement includes economic, military, and diplomatic initiatives that have significant implications for Indonesia, a prominent Muslim-majority country and a key player in ASEAN. The study concludes that Indonesia must navigate these complex relationships carefully to enhance its diplomatic leverage, maintain regional stability, and promote its national interests.

Originality/Value- The research provides a significant contribution by offering a nuanced understanding of the trilateral interactions between Russia, the Islamic world, and Indonesia, emphasizing the need for strategic foresight in Indonesia's foreign policy formulation in response to the shifting global order.

Keywords- Russia, the Islamic world, Indonesia, new world order, international relations.

Paper Type- Research paper

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In the rapidly evolving global landscape, the interplay between major global powers and regional actors shapes the international order in profound ways. Russia's increasing engagement with the Islamic world is a key dynamic in this changing geopolitical environment, especially in the context of its desire to assert influence and counterbalance Western power. This trend has captured the attention of scholars and policymakers alike, as it involves not only the Middle East but also other regions with significant Muslim populations, including Southeast Asia. For Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim-majority country, understanding and responding to these developments has become a central challenge in foreign policy formulation. Indonesia's role in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) further amplifies its strategic importance in this context.

Historically, Russia's relations with the Islamic world have been shaped by a mixture of cooperation, rivalry, and strategic maneuvering. The Cold War era saw the Soviet Union building alliances with secular Arab nationalist regimes, while at the same time confronting Islamic movements that it perceived as threats to communist ideology. However, post-Soviet Russia has sought to rebuild and expand its relations with Islamic countries, capitalizing on common interests such as energy cooperation, arms sales, and geopolitical alignments, particularly in the context of conflicts such as the Syrian Civil War. This trend has been interpreted by some as part of Russia's broader strategic objective of countering Western dominance and creating a multipolar world order (Tsygankov, 2019).

In recent years, Russia's diplomacy in the Islamic world has intensified, with significant outreach efforts in regions like the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia. These efforts are framed as part of Russia's pivot to the East, reflecting a broader strategic reorientation in response to deteriorating relations with the West, especially after the annexation of Crimea in 2014 and subsequent sanctions. As Russia seeks to assert itself as a key player in global politics, its partnerships with Islamic nations are seen as critical to its ability to shape regional and global geopolitical outcomes (Trenin, 2016).

For Indonesia, these developments pose both opportunities and challenges. As a prominent member of ASEAN and the largest economy in Southeast Asia, Indonesia has traditionally maintained a non-aligned foreign policy, balancing its relationships with both Western and non-Western powers. However, Russia's growing influence in the Islamic world, coupled with its strategic aspirations in Southeast Asia, necessitates a recalibration of

Indonesia's foreign policy. Indonesia's position as a Muslim-majority country also gives it a unique role in bridging relations between Russia and the broader Islamic world, particularly in areas such as counterterrorism, energy cooperation, and economic development.

Indonesia's foreign policy has long been grounded in principles of peaceful coexistence, non-intervention, and active participation in global diplomacy. As outlined in its *Bebas Aktif* (Independent and Active) doctrine, Indonesia seeks to avoid entanglements in the great power rivalries that often dominate international relations. However, with the global balance of power shifting, particularly with Russia's increased presence in regions critical to Indonesia's strategic interests, Jakarta faces the need to reassess how it engages with both Moscow and the Islamic world.

The trilateral dynamic between Russia, the Islamic world, and Indonesia is further complicated by Indonesia's leadership role in ASEAN, an organization that has traditionally prioritized regional stability and economic integration over geopolitical confrontation. Indonesia's influence within ASEAN offers both challenges and opportunities for navigating its relationship with Russia. On one hand, Jakarta must remain mindful of ASEAN's broader regional security concerns, particularly with regard to China and the US. On the other hand, its Muslim-majority identity may provide Indonesia with unique diplomatic leverage in managing relations with both Russia and Islamic countries.

Additionally, Indonesia's relationship with Russia is shaped by its broader foreign policy interests, particularly in areas such as energy, arms sales, and regional security. In the past decade, bilateral trade between Russia and Indonesia has grown steadily, with significant Russian investments in Indonesia's energy and infrastructure sectors. Russia has also become a key arms supplier to Indonesia, reflecting Jakarta's efforts to diversify its defense partnerships away from traditional Western suppliers. These economic and security ties add another layer of complexity to Indonesia's foreign policy, as it seeks to balance its economic interests with its commitments to ASEAN and its desire to maintain a peaceful and stable regional environment.

This study seeks to explore how Indonesia can effectively navigate the complex and evolving relationship between Russia and the Islamic world, and what strategic considerations it must address in shaping its foreign policy. By examining the key drivers of Russia's engagement with the Islamic world, the study will provide insights into how these dynamics influence global geopolitical strategies and their implications for Indonesia.

CHAPTER II

RESEARCH PROBLEM

The primary research question guiding this study is: How do Russia's interactions with the Islamic world influence global geopolitical strategies, and what are the implications for Indonesia's foreign policy and strategic interests? This question is particularly relevant given the shifting dynamics of international relations and the emerging multipolar world order. The study posits that Russia's engagement with Islamic countries is part of a broader strategy aimed at countering Western influence and reshaping global power structures. For Indonesia, these developments present both opportunities and challenges that require careful navigation.

One key aspect of the research problem is understanding how Russia's diplomatic, economic, and military interactions with Islamic nations impact Indonesia's foreign policy. Indonesia, as the largest Muslim-majority country and a key player in Southeast Asia, must balance its relationships with global powers while maintaining its non-aligned stance. The challenge for Indonesia is to safeguard its national interests while remaining an active participant in the broader Islamic world.

The research problem also addresses the question of regional stability. Russia's increasing influence in regions such as the Middle East and Central Asia could potentially lead to new geopolitical alignments that affect Southeast Asia. Indonesia, as a leader in ASEAN, must consider how these developments impact regional security and its own strategic interests. This study will explore whether Indonesia's foreign policy should adapt to these changes by seeking closer ties with Russia or by reinforcing its traditional alliances with Western powers.

Another dimension of the research problem is the economic implications of Russia's engagement with the Islamic world. Russia's strategic partnerships in energy, defense, and infrastructure are significant for Indonesia, particularly in terms of bilateral trade and investment. However, these economic opportunities are also accompanied by risks, especially in the context of Western sanctions on Russia and potential geopolitical tensions.

In summary, the research problem focuses on the implications of Russia's growing ties with the Islamic world for Indonesia's foreign policy and strategic interests. This study aims to contribute to the academic discourse on international relations by offering a comprehensive analysis of how Indonesia can navigate these complex relationships in the context of a rapidly changing global order.

CHAPTER III

LITERATURE REVIEW

Research on the relationship between Russia, the Islamic world, and the dynamics of the new world order enriches the understanding of current global geopolitics. In this literature review, the state of the art of relevant research will be presented and a road map for the research to be conducted will be formulated. The literature review relevant to the research on "Russia, the Islamic World and the New World Order: Relevance and Implications for Indonesia," will be discussed using several key aspects, including Russia's relationship with the Islamic world, Russia and the changes in the new world order, and implications for Indonesia.

3.1. Russia's Relations with the Islamic World

Several studies have examined the relationship between Russia and Islamic countries, highlighting the changing dynamics after the Cold War. In this context, Russia has sought to increase economic, political, and military cooperation with Islamic countries, while also pursuing geopolitical interests in the region (Akramov, 2018; Dunn, 2020).

The relationship between Russia and the Islamic world itself has experienced various dynamics throughout history, influenced by political, economic, cultural, and religious factors. There are several important points in this relationship, including the history of the Russian empire and Islam, the Russian empire and colonialism, the Soviet Union and the Muslim world, the war in Chechnya, Russia's diplomatic relations with several Muslim-majority countries, and Russia's role in the Syrian conflict.

From a historical context, Russia has had a long journey in interacting with the Islamic world. The interaction between the Russian Empire and the Islamic world began in the 16th century when the Russian Empire began to expand its territory eastward and southward. One of the starting points of this interaction was with the Khanate of Kazan, a Muslim state located in the territory that is now part of Russia. In 1552, the Russian Empire successfully conquered Kazan after a long siege (Meyer, 2018).

During the 18th century, the Russian Empire continued to expand its power into areas that were predominantly Muslim. One of the most important events was the conquest of the Caucasus in the mid-18th century. The Caucasus region was inhabited by various ethnic and religious groups, including many Muslims. Conflict between the Russian Empire and a number of political entities in the Caucasus, such as the Khanate of Kuba and the Khanate of Daghestan, lasted for decades before the region was finally captured by Russia (Anderson, 2014).

At the same time, the Russian Empire also expanded its influence in Central Asia, including predominantly Muslim areas such as Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. This expansion occurred through war, diplomacy, and conquest, bringing much of the region under direct or indirect Russian control. During this period, the Russian Empire interacted with a large Muslim community, facing cultural, political, and religious challenges in the process (Meyer, 2018). These interactions formed part of the historical framework that shapes the relationship between Russia and the Islamic world to this day. As the empire expanded, Russia was often viewed as a colonial power by some Muslim communities. The conquest and oppression of Muslim populations in areas such as Chechnya and Dagestan have led to historical tensions between Russia and some Muslims. The most famous example is the conflict in Chechnya, which had been going on sporadically for centuries, but reached a high point of escalation in the 20th century. In 1944, Joseph Stalin ordered the mass deportation of Chechens to remote areas of Central Asia, resulting in thousands of deaths. Although this policy was reversed in 1957, tensions between Chechnya and the Russian central government remained high (Malashenko, 2010).

During the Soviet period, relations between the Soviet government and the Muslim world fluctuated. The Soviet government initially emphasized secularism and suppressed religious practices, but later tried to exploit Islamic identity for political gain in an attempt to gain support from Muslim communities. In general, it can be stated that the Soviet government initially implemented a highly secular policy and emphasized state atheism. Religious practices, including Islam, were actively suppressed. Mosques were closed, religious scholars were monitored, and religious education was stopped. The Soviet government saw religion as a threat to communist authority and attempted to replace religious values with communist ideology. However, during World War II, the Soviet government began to change its approach to religion, including Islam, due to strategic and political needs. The Soviet Union attempted to gain support from Muslim communities in regions such as Central Asia and the Caucasus, which were significant parts of the country. The Soviet government adopted a more tolerant policy toward religion, allowing some religious practices to be resumed and appointing religious leaders who agreed with the Soviet government (Ro'i, 2000).

In addition, the Soviet government also attempted to exploit Islamic identity for political purposes. It supported the establishment of political structures such as the government-controlled Central Muslim Spiritual Board, which aimed to control and direct religious activity among Muslim communities. The Soviet government also used Islamic narratives to support its foreign policy, especially in dealing with Western colonial powers in the Muslim world.

However, despite these attempts to exploit Islam for political purposes, many elements of Muslim society in the Soviet Union continued to harbor distrust of the government and maintained their religious identities in secret. Relations between the Soviet government and the Muslim world remained complex and at times tense throughout the Soviet period (Ramet, 1993).

After the collapse of the Soviet Union and its replacement by Russia, the conflict in Muslim-majority Chechnya became a source of tension between Russia and the Muslim world. The first (1994-1996) and second (1999-2009) Chechen wars drew condemnation from much of the Muslim world of Russia's military actions and were reported to have increased radicalization among a small portion of Russia's Muslim population. In the 1990s, the conflict even erupted into two highly destructive and bloody Chechen wars, causing thousands of deaths and widespread destruction in the region (Yemelianova, 2010).

Tensions have also been felt in other regions, such as Dagestan, where separatist and jihadist movements have been active in fighting the Russian government and its establishment of Islamic rule. Although less intense than in Chechnya, the conflicts in Dagestan and other regions of the North Caucasus have caused massive losses both to the Russian military and to the civilian population. The reaction to this oppression has come not only from the Muslim community at home, but also from the international Muslim world. Islamic organizations and Muslim countries have often condemned Russia's acts of oppression and violence against Muslim populations in these regions (Malashenko, 2010). Therefore, the history of conflict between Russia and some Muslim communities has become one of the main factors that shape the perception and relationship between Russia and the Islamic world to this day.

In its development, despite historical tensions and conflicts, Russia has also established diplomatic and economic relations with Muslim-majority countries in the world. In this context, Russia has significant economic involvement in the Middle East region, especially in the energy industry. In addition, Russia also has strategic relations with several Muslim-majority countries, such as Iran and Syria, which share political and security interests (Baldoni, 2016). Russia has also played a role in several conflicts that have occurred in the Middle East region. In the Syrian conflict, Russia has been a major ally of the Syrian government led by President Bashar al-Assad, who comes from the Alawite minority. During the Syrian conflict that began in 2011, Russia actively supported the Assad regime by providing military assistance, including air support, and strong political support in international forums such as the United Nations (UN) Security Council. Russia's main motivation was to maintain its

strategic interests in the region, including the important Tartus military base on the Syrian coast (Karaganov, 2016).

At the same time, the rebel groups fighting against the Assad regime, mostly Sunni, have received support from a number of Muslim and Western countries. By supporting the Assad regime, Russia has effectively engaged in fighting the Sunni-majority rebel groups. Reactions to Russia's role in the Syrian conflict have been mixed among Muslim countries. Some countries, such as Iran and Hezbollah in Lebanon, have supported Russia and the Assad regime because they see it as a strategic ally in the wider regional conflict. However, Sunni Arab countries, especially Saudi Arabia and Turkey, as well as much of the Sunni opposition in Syria, have condemned Russia's actions as oppressing Sunni rebels. In addition, the response from the international Muslim community has also been mixed. Some see Russia's intervention as protecting Muslims from violence by radical rebel groups, while others see it as a form of support for a regime accused of committing human rights violations against its own people, including the Sunni majority (Mikail & Yilmazchoban, 2018).

Thus, relations between Russia and the Islamic world are dynamic and complex, influenced by various political, historical and economic factors. Despite tensions and disagreements, there is also cooperation in various fields between Russia and Muslim-majority countries.

3.2. Russia and the Changes in the New World Order

Post-Cold War, the new world order has experienced a major shift in the global power structure. The increasing rivalry between major powers, such as the US, Russia, and China, has created new instability in the world order, where Islamic countries have become important actors in this dynamic (Nau, 2017; Blanchard, 2019).

Russia has indeed played an important role in global geopolitical dynamics for centuries, and its role and influence are still very significant in the current changes in the world order. Several factors that influence Russia's role in the changes in the new world order include military power, economy and natural resources, changes in international politics, the struggle for interests with the West, and technology and cyber policies.

In the context of military power, Russia remains one of the largest military powers in the world, with significant nuclear power and strong conventional military capabilities. Russia's involvement in conflicts such as Syria and Ukraine also increasingly demonstrate Russia's ability and desire to play an important role in global foreign policy. Meanwhile, in the context of the economy and natural resources, despite economic turbulence in recent years, especially

due to international sanctions and fluctuations in oil prices, Russia has remained one of the world's main energy producers. Russia's natural resources, especially oil and gas, give Russia significant economic and geopolitical power (Bharti, 2022).

On the other hand, the fact that there is a clash of interests with the West, has made Russia's relations with Western countries, especially the US and the European Union, have become tense in recent years. Conflicts related to borders, security, and geopolitical values have caused ongoing tensions between Russia and the West, which have significantly affected the dynamics of the world order, raising challenges in diplomacy and foreign policy. The imposition of international sanctions and geopolitical competition in various regions have become the hallmarks of Russia-West relations in recent years (Gurganus & Rumer, 2019).

Russia has also been recognized as one of the main actors in cyber technology and policy. Allegations of Russian interference in the political processes of other countries through cyber-attacks and information campaigns have also caused tension and concern among other countries. Actions such as attacks on critical infrastructure, theft of sensitive data, and the widespread dissemination of disinformation have become the main focus of foreign policy analysis (Kotkin, 2016). This has influenced the dynamics of international relations and prompted other countries to strengthen their cyber defenses and find ways to respond to these threats effectively. Thus, it can be stated that in the changing new world order, Russia is still seen as a great power capable of playing a key role in various global geopolitical issues. In other words, Russia's relevance and influence in the changing world order continue to grow along with the changing geopolitical dynamics.

3.3. Russia's Relations with the Islamic World and Its Implications for Indonesia

As the country with the largest Muslim population in the world, Indonesia has a strategic interest in understanding the interaction between Russia and the Islamic world, and how it affects its foreign policy (Fauzia, 2019; Sahid, 2021). For Indonesia, relations with Russia in the context of bilateral and multilateral relations, as well as in regional and global issues, are important. Indonesia can utilize these relations to promote its national interests, including in trade, investment, security, and multilateral diplomacy. However, it is also important for Indonesia to pay attention to the complex dynamics in Russia-Islamic world relations and in an effort to consider their implications for its national interests (Assegaf, 2022).

The relationship between Russia and the Islamic world has indeed involved a number of complex dynamics. This relationship is one of them marked by Russia's involvement in the conflict in the Middle East region, especially in Syria. Although some parties in the Islamic

world see Russia's intervention as support for the Bashar al-Assad regime, which is considered an oppressor of Muslims, there are also Islamic countries that see the intervention as an effort to counter militant groups that are considered a threat to regional stability. In the broader context of international relations, Russia also has relations with a number of Muslim-majority countries, including Central Asian countries such as Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, as well as Gulf countries such as Iran. These relations are seen as having implications for Indonesia in the context of regional and global diplomacy (Supriyadi, 2018).

Regarding the Palestinian issue which has become the focus of attention for many Muslim countries, Russia's attitude towards this issue can influence perceptions in the Islamic world. Although Russia has supported a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Russia's attitude towards the Palestinian issue and its overall foreign policy can also influence Indonesia's views specifically towards Russia. Meanwhile, regarding extremism and terrorism, Russia is fighting against extremist groups in the Caucasus region and has also been the target of terrorist attacks by groups such as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). These efforts have influenced Russia's views towards Islam, and vice versa can also influence Muslim countries' perceptions of Russia (Minkina, 2019).

Another important thing that also emerged in the context of Russia's relations with the Islamic world is in the form of economic and cultural cooperation. Although there are tensions in some aspects of the relationship, Russia and Muslim countries have in fact established economic and cultural cooperation. This is established, for example, in the form of trade, energy, and investment cooperation. For Indonesia, trade cooperation between Russia and Muslim countries can open up opportunities to expand its export and import markets. As one of the largest Muslim countries in the world, Indonesia has great potential to increase trade with Russia and other Muslim countries. This can help diversify Indonesia's economy and expand the market reach for Indonesian products (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, 2021b).

Regarding energy cooperation, Russia is one of the largest energy producers in the world, while a number of Muslim countries also have significant energy resources. Cooperation in the energy sector, including investment in energy exploration, production, and distribution, can be an opportunity for Indonesia to gain access to stable and affordable energy resources, while participating in mutually beneficial energy infrastructure projects. Meanwhile, within the framework of cultural cooperation between Russia and Muslim countries, this can also contribute to enriching Indonesia's cultural diversity. Cultural exchanges in the form of art, music, literature, and education can strengthen ties between Indonesia, Russia, and other

Muslim countries, as well as increase intercultural understanding and tolerance in Indonesia (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, 2021a).

Overall, economic and cultural cooperation between Russia and Muslim countries will be able to influence the dynamics of multilateral diplomacy at the regional and global levels. Indonesia, as a country that is active in forums such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the UN, can use its good relations with Russia and other Muslim countries to promote cooperation and achieve common goals related to issues such as peace, security, and sustainable development.

3.4. Previous Research

Below are some previous studies that discuss Russia, the Islamic world, and the new world order, as well as their implications for Indonesia.

Table 1. Relevant Previous Research

Research Title	Research Result	Diferensiasi
<i>Russia's Engagement with Islamic Countries: Drivers, Strategies, and Implications</i> Menon, Rajan, & Rumer, Eugene (2017)	This study identifies the factors driving Russia's engagement with Islamic countries, analyzes the strategies used, and outlines the global implications of these relations.	This study highlights the dynamics of Russia's relations with the Islamic world in general, without a specific focus on the implications for Indonesia.
<i>Islamic Dimension of Russian Foreign Policy</i> Trenin, Dmitri (2015)	This study examines the role and impact of the Islamic dimension in Russian foreign policy, including its relations with Muslim countries and international Islamic organizations.	While providing important insights into Russia's strategy in interacting with the Islamic world, this study does not specifically address the implications for Indonesia.
<i>Russia and the Muslim World: Friendship, Rivalry, and Beyond</i> Freedman, Robert O. (2020)	This study examines the dynamics of Russia's relations with Muslim countries, including the factors influencing these relations and their implications for regional security and stability.	This study provides broad insights into Russia's relations with the Islamic world, but does not specifically explore the implications for Indonesia.

<i>Indonesia-Russia Relations: Current Status and Future Prospects</i> Giri, Ananta Kumar, & Filimonov, Kirill (2020)	This study reviews the status of relations between Indonesia and Russia and the prospects for cooperation in various fields, including political, economic and security implications.	This study highlights bilateral relations between Indonesia and Russia, but does not specifically discuss the dimensions of these relations in the context of the Islamic world and the new world order.
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Referring to previous research that has been conducted, the research to be conducted with the title "Russia, the Islamic World, and the New World Order: Relevance and Implications for Indonesia" can fill the knowledge gap by exploring the concrete implications of the interaction between Russia, the Islamic world, and changes in the global world order on Indonesia's interests and policies.

Based on the research findings, it will produce relevant policy recommendations for the Indonesian government in facing global geopolitical dynamics related to the relationship between Russia and the Islamic world. By following this roadmap, the research is expected to make a significant contribution in understanding and responding to complex geopolitical challenges in the context of the relationship between Russia, the Islamic world, and the new world order and its relevance to Indonesia.

CHAPTER IV

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs a qualitative research approach to investigate Russia's engagement with the Islamic world and its implications for Indonesia within the context of international relations. Qualitative methods are chosen due to their suitability for exploring complex social phenomena, such as foreign policy interactions and geopolitical dynamics, in-depth. By utilizing qualitative research, the study aims to capture the nuanced perspectives and motivations underlying Russia's strategic engagements and their impact on regional and global dynamics.

Data collection for this research involves a multifaceted approach. Firstly, an extensive literature review will be conducted, encompassing scholarly works, policy documents, and reports from international organizations. This comprehensive review will provide a foundational understanding of Russia's foreign policy strategies toward Islamic countries and their broader implications. The analysis of books, journal articles, official statements, and strategic documents will enable the synthesis of existing knowledge and the identification of key themes and trends in Russia's diplomatic and strategic engagements.

In addition to the literature review, semi-structured interviews have been conducted with key informants. These include:

- a. Interviews with the Russian Ambassador to Indonesia, Sergei Gennadievich Tolchenov, and the Political Counsellor at the Russian Embassy, Alexey Rykov, provided valuable insights into Russia's foreign policy and its efforts to strengthen relations with the Islamic world, especially within the evolving geopolitical landscape. These perspectives are crucial in understanding Russia's strategic positioning in key Islamic regions, including the Middle East and Central Asia, as well as its role in addressing global challenges such as extremism, energy security, and economic diplomacy.
- b. Additionally, the interview with Enjay Diana, the Coordinator for Russia, Armenia, and Belarus at the Directorate of Europe II, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, offered an Indonesian perspective on the dynamics of Russia's relations with the Islamic world. This viewpoint sheds light on the relevance of bilateral cooperation in the face of a shifting global order, encompassing areas such as multilateral diplomacy, trade, and defense policy.

By incorporating perspectives from both sides, this research explores the relevance of Russia's relations with Islamic countries for Indonesia, particularly in the context of an increasingly

multipolar world order. The implications of these relations may present opportunities for Indonesia to strengthen its economic and diplomatic ties, while also playing an active role in addressing global issues involving Russia and the Islamic world.

Data analysis will employ thematic analysis, a systematic approach to identifying, analyzing, and reporting patterns within qualitative data. Themes will be derived from both the literature review and interview transcripts, focusing on topics such as Russia's strategic interests in the Islamic world, diplomatic manoeuvres, and the implications for Indonesia's foreign policy and regional dynamics. This thematic analysis process will ensure the reliability and validity of findings, thereby providing a robust basis for drawing conclusions and making informed interpretations.

In conclusion, the chosen methodology aims to offer a comprehensive understanding of Russia's role in shaping the new world order through its engagements with the Islamic world, with specific attention to implications for Indonesia. By employing qualitative methods, including literature review and semi-structured interviews, the study seeks to provide nuanced insights into geopolitical dynamics, foreign policy strategies, and their implications, contributing to scholarly discourse and policy analysis in international relations.

CHAPTER V

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Russia's Strategic Engagement with the Islamic World

Russia's strategic engagement with the Islamic world has been multifaceted, encompassing political, economic, military, and cultural dimensions. This comprehensive approach is driven by Russia's desire to expand its influence, secure economic interests, and counter Western dominance in global affairs. Over the past decade, Russia's interactions with key Islamic countries have evolved significantly, reflecting both continuity and change in its foreign policy strategy.

Politically, Russia has sought to position itself as a key player in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. This is evident in its active involvement in the Syrian conflict, where it has supported the Assad regime against various opposition groups and terrorist organizations. Russia's intervention in Syria, starting in 2015, marked a turning point in its Middle Eastern policy, demonstrating its willingness to use military force to protect its interests and allies (Trenin, 2016). By doing so, Russia has established itself as a decisive power broker in the region, challenging the influence of the United States and its allies (Karaganov & Suslov, 2018).

Economically, Russia has strengthened its ties with several key Islamic countries through energy cooperation and trade. The relationship with Iran is particularly significant in this regard. Both countries have cooperated closely in the energy sector, with Russia assisting Iran in developing its nuclear energy capabilities. This partnership is mutually beneficial, as it helps Iran counterbalance U.S. sanctions while providing Russia with a strategic ally in the region (Katz, 2017). Furthermore, Russia's state-controlled energy companies, such as Gazprom and Rosneft, have signed numerous agreements with Middle Eastern nations to explore and develop oil and gas fields, thus securing Russia's economic interests (Henderson & Mitchell, 2020).

Militarily, Russia has expanded its arms sales to the Islamic world, becoming a major supplier of advanced weaponry to countries like Egypt, Algeria, and the United Arab Emirates. This not only boosts Russia's economy but also strengthens its geopolitical influence. For instance, the sale of advanced missile defence systems like the S-400 to Turkey, a NATO member, has caused significant tensions within the alliance, thereby serving Russia's strategic interests by driving a wedge between Turkey and its Western allies (Pifer, 2019). Culturally, Russia has leveraged its historical ties with the Islamic world to build soft power. The presence of a significant Muslim population within Russia itself, particularly in regions like Chechnya

and Tatarstan, has facilitated cultural exchanges and people-to-people connections. The Russian government has supported Islamic cultural and educational institutions, both domestically and abroad, to foster goodwill and enhance its image as a friend of the Islamic world (Shlapentokh, 2018).

Russia's engagement with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, particularly Saudi Arabia and the UAE, has also been noteworthy. Despite historical differences, Russia and Saudi Arabia have found common ground in managing global oil markets. The OPEC+ agreement, which includes Russia and several OPEC members, has been instrumental in stabilizing oil prices and ensuring mutual economic benefits (Mitrova & Yermakov, 2019). This cooperation signifies a pragmatic approach in Russia's foreign policy, where economic interests can override past geopolitical rivalries.

In North Africa, Russia has sought to reestablish its presence through diplomatic and military means. In Libya, Russia has supported the Libyan National Army led by General Khalifa Haftar, providing military assistance and seeking to influence the outcome of the ongoing conflict. This involvement aims to secure Russia's strategic interests in the Mediterranean and counterbalance NATO's presence (Wehrey, 2020). Similarly, Russia's ties with Algeria have been strengthened through arms deals and energy cooperation, further cementing its influence in the region (Entelis, 2021).

Russia's engagement with Turkey exemplifies a complex relationship characterized by both cooperation and competition. Despite their opposing stances in the Syrian conflict, Russia and Turkey have managed to cooperate on certain fronts, such as the Astana peace process and energy projects like the TurkStream pipeline. This pragmatic relationship underscores Russia's ability to navigate complex regional dynamics and maintain strategic partnerships despite differences (Küçükaya, 2019). Central Asia remains a critical area of focus for Russia's engagement with the Islamic world. The historical and cultural ties, coupled with geographic proximity, make this region strategically important. Russia has maintained its influence through various means, including military alliances like the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and economic initiatives such as the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) (Cooley, 2018). These institutions help Russia project its power and secure its interests in a region that is also a focus of Chinese and Western interests.

Russia's soft power strategy in the Islamic world extends to its involvement in international organizations. Russia actively participates in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) as an observer state, promoting its image as a defender of Muslim interests.

This involvement allows Russia to engage with a broad range of Islamic countries and influence discussions on key issues affecting the Islamic world (Zvyagelskaya, 2020).

The strategic engagement with Pakistan is another notable aspect of Russia's policy in the Islamic world. Over the past decade, Russia and Pakistan have moved towards closer cooperation, particularly in defence and counterterrorism. Joint military exercises and arms deals have strengthened bilateral ties, reflecting Russia's interest in balancing India's influence in the region and securing its strategic interests in South Asia (Khan, 2018). Russia's diplomatic strategy also involves balancing relations with rival factions within the Islamic world. For example, while maintaining strong ties with Iran, Russia has also developed relationships with Iran's regional rivals, such as Saudi Arabia and Israel. This balancing act allows Russia to position itself as a neutral arbiter and enhance its influence across different power blocs in the Middle East (Kozhanov, 2019).

In the context of the Syrian conflict, Russia's role as a mediator has been significant. By engaging with various stakeholders, including the Syrian government, opposition groups, and regional powers like Turkey and Iran, Russia has positioned itself as an indispensable player in any potential resolution to the conflict. This mediation role not only enhances Russia's geopolitical standing but also serves its strategic interests in the region (Mamedov, 2020).

Russia's involvement in Afghanistan, especially following the U.S. withdrawal, highlights its strategic interest in ensuring stability in its near abroad. Russia has engaged with the Taliban and other Afghan factions to prevent the spillover of extremism and secure its southern borders. This involvement underscores Russia's pragmatic approach to dealing with diverse political entities to secure its strategic objectives (Swanström, 2021).

In recent years, Russia has also focused on expanding its influence in sub-Saharan Africa, where several countries have significant Muslim populations. By offering military assistance, arms deals, and economic cooperation, Russia aims to build alliances and counter Western influence in these regions. The involvement in countries like Sudan and Mali exemplifies this broader strategy of engagement (Ramani, 2021). The strategic use of media and information warfare has been another tool in Russia's engagement with the Islamic world. Russia Today (RT) and Sputnik have launched Arabic-language services to influence public opinion in the Middle East and North Africa. These media outlets promote narratives that align with Russia's foreign policy objectives and counter Western narratives, thereby enhancing Russia's soft power (Powers & O'Loughlin, 2019).

Russia's military-industrial complex has benefited significantly from its arms sales to the Islamic world. The export of advanced military technology not only brings economic benefits

but also strengthens military-to-military relationships. Countries like Egypt and Algeria have become major purchasers of Russian military hardware, reflecting the strategic depth of these relationships (Deyermond, 2020). In the realm of counterterrorism, Russia has sought to position itself as a key partner for Islamic countries. By sharing intelligence, conducting joint operations, and offering counterterrorism training, Russia aims to build robust security partnerships. This approach helps Russia combat extremism that could potentially threaten its security while strengthening its influence in the partner countries (Lewis, 2018).

Russia's engagement with the Islamic world is also characterized by a pragmatic approach to regional conflicts. By supporting conflicting parties and playing a balancing role, Russia seeks to ensure that it remains an indispensable actor in conflict resolution processes. This strategy allows Russia to maintain leverage over various actors and influence the outcome of regional conflicts (Freeman & Dunn, 2020). Finally, Russia's engagement with the Islamic world is also aimed at enhancing its global standing and projecting itself as a great power. By actively participating in key regional issues and building strategic alliances, Russia aims to counter Western hegemony and promote a multipolar world order. This engagement reflects Russia's broader foreign policy goals of restoring its status as a major global player (Sakwa, 2021).

Impact of Russia's Policies on the New World Order

Russia's strategic engagement with the Islamic world has had significant implications for the emerging new world order, shifting the balance of power and influencing global geopolitics. This engagement is characterized by multifaceted interactions involving political, economic, military, and cultural dimensions, which collectively contribute to a multipolar world structure.

Politically, Russia's support for regimes in the Islamic world, particularly in Syria, has redefined regional power dynamics. The intervention in Syria underscored Russia's willingness to use military power to protect its interests and allies, directly challenging Western influence in the region. This move has allowed Russia to establish itself as a central power broker in Middle Eastern affairs, thus altering the regional order (Trenin, 2016). Russia's strategic engagement with the Islamic world undoubtedly impacts the existing geopolitical order, including influencing the perspectives and foreign policy of Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim-majority country. As Indonesia seeks to maintain its consistent stance on peaceful conflict resolution through diplomacy, Russia's involvement in various conflicts in the Middle East, such as its military intervention in Syria, becomes a point of consideration. This involvement challenges Indonesia's diplomatic efforts, as Indonesia traditionally promotes

non-violent solutions to regional conflicts, aligning with its foreign policy principles of upholding peace and cooperation (Diana, 2024).

Economically, Russia's energy partnerships with Islamic countries have bolstered its influence. The collaboration within the OPEC+ framework, which includes major oil producers from the Islamic world, has enabled Russia to play a crucial role in stabilizing global oil markets. This economic interdependence strengthens Russia's strategic ties with these countries and reinforces its position as a key player in global energy politics (Mitrova & Yermakov, 2019).

The military dimension of Russia's engagement is equally significant. By supplying advanced weaponry to countries such as Egypt, Algeria, and Turkey, Russia has created strategic dependencies that enhance its geopolitical leverage. The sale of the S-400 missile system to Turkey, a NATO member, is particularly noteworthy as it strains Turkey's relations with its Western allies and demonstrates Russia's ability to influence alliances within the Islamic world (Pifer, 2019). Furthermore, Russia's partnerships with key Islamic countries may also affect Indonesia's foreign relations within the broader Islamic world. Indonesia, as a key actor within organizations like the OIC, carefully navigates its interactions with Russia, ensuring that its policies remain in line with its long-standing commitment to non-alignment and peaceful diplomacy. The shifting alliances and Russia's assertive role in the Middle East create a complex geopolitical environment for Indonesia to balance its strategic interests while adhering to its principles of diplomacy and multilateralism (Diana, 2024).

Russia's strategic partnerships with Iran and Turkey exemplify its influence on regional geopolitics. Despite their divergent interests in Syria, Russia has managed to maintain cooperation with both countries, using their regional ambitions to its advantage. This ability to navigate complex relationships enhances Russia's role as a mediator and power broker in the region (Katz, 2017). In Central Asia, Russia's influence remains strong due to historical ties and strategic interests. The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) are key instruments through which Russia maintains its dominance. These organizations help Russia counterbalance Chinese and Western influences in the region, securing its southern borders and expanding its economic reach (Cooley, 2018).

Russia's renewed focus on Africa, where several countries have significant Muslim populations, also highlights its broader strategic ambitions. By engaging in military cooperation, arms sales, and infrastructure projects, Russia aims to establish itself as a major player in Africa, thereby expanding its influence in a region increasingly contested by global powers (Ramani, 2021). The cultural and religious dimensions of Russia's engagement involve

leveraging its historical connections with the Islamic world. Russia has supported various Islamic cultural and educational initiatives, both domestically and internationally, to foster goodwill and enhance its soft power. This approach helps Russia build a positive image among Muslim-majority countries (Shlapentokh, 2018).

Russia's role in international organizations, such as its observer status in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), further extends its influence. Participation in these organizations allows Russia to engage with a wide range of Islamic countries and promote its interests on a global platform. This involvement is part of Russia's strategy to position itself as a defender of Muslim interests and a key player in the global Islamic community (Zvyagelskaya, 2020).

The strategic use of media and information warfare by Russia has also impacted the new world order. Russian media outlets like RT and Sputnik, with their Arabic-language services, aim to influence public opinion in the Islamic world. By promoting narratives that align with Russian interests and countering Western perspectives, these outlets enhance Russia's soft power and strategic reach (Powers & O'Loughlin, 2019).

Russia's engagement in counterterrorism efforts with Islamic countries is another critical aspect. By sharing intelligence, conducting joint military exercises, and offering counterterrorism training, Russia builds robust security partnerships that contribute to regional stability. These efforts also help Russia combat extremism that could threaten its security (Lewis, 2018). The relationship between Russia and Saudi Arabia, particularly in the context of the OPEC+ agreement, exemplifies the economic interdependence and strategic cooperation that shape the new world order. This partnership has significant implications for global energy markets and geopolitical alliances, highlighting the strategic importance of energy diplomacy (Mitrova & Yermakov, 2019).

Russia's involvement in Afghanistan, especially following the U.S. withdrawal, underscores its strategic interest in the region. Engaging with various Afghan factions, including the Taliban, Russia aims to prevent the spread of extremism and secure its influence in Central Asia. This pragmatic approach reflects Russia's broader strategy to stabilize its near abroad and project power beyond its borders (Swanström, 2021). The strategic engagement with Pakistan has also evolved, with Russia and Pakistan moving towards closer cooperation in defence and counterterrorism. This partnership helps Russia balance India's influence in South Asia and secure its strategic interests in the region (Khan, 2018). In North Africa, Russia's involvement in Libya and its strengthening ties with Algeria illustrate its efforts to reassert its presence. Supporting General Khalifa Haftar in Libya and deepening military and

energy cooperation with Algeria are part of Russia's strategy to influence outcomes in this strategically important region (Wehrey, 2020).

The strategic implications of Russia's engagement with the Islamic world extend to its relationships with Western powers. By positioning itself as a key ally of several Islamic countries, Russia challenges Western hegemony and promotes a multipolar world order. This strategic positioning enhances Russia's global influence and complicates Western foreign policy objectives (Freeman & Dunn, 2020). Russia's strategic use of arms sales to Islamic countries not only strengthens its economic ties but also enhances its geopolitical influence. These arms deals create dependencies and alliances that Russia can leverage to secure its strategic interests, thereby altering regional power dynamics (Deyermond, 2020).

The partnership between Russia and China, particularly within the context of their engagement with the Islamic world, is a significant development in the new world order. This partnership, characterized by economic, military, and political cooperation, challenges Western dominance and promotes a multipolar global system (Lo, 2020). Russia's emphasis on state sovereignty and national interests in its foreign policy resonates with many countries in the Islamic world. This approach provides an alternative to the Western model of governance and aligns with the aspirations of several Islamic countries seeking to assert their sovereignty and independence (Sakwa, 2021).

The impact of Russia's strategic engagement with the Islamic world on the new world order is multifaceted. By building alliances, leveraging economic and military cooperation, and promoting its cultural and religious ties, Russia enhances its global influence and challenges the existing power structures. These actions reflect Russia's broader strategy to secure its position as a major global player and advocate for a multipolar world order (Trenin, 2016). In conclusion, Russia's strategic engagement with the Islamic world significantly influences the emerging new world order. Through political, economic, military, and cultural interactions, Russia challenges Western hegemony and promotes a multipolar global system. These efforts underscore Russia's ambition to restore its status as a major global power and shape the course of international relations in the 21st century.

Relevance and Implications for Indonesia's Foreign Policy

Russia's strategic engagement with the Islamic world has significant implications for Indonesia's foreign policy, given its position as the largest Muslim-majority country and a key player in Southeast Asian regional politics. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for Jakarta's diplomatic strategies and its broader geopolitical objectives. Historically, Russia has

maintained complex relationships with the Islamic world, oscillating between periods of conflict and cooperation. This relationship has evolved significantly in the post-Soviet era, with Russia seeking to strengthen its ties with Muslim-majority countries for strategic and economic reasons (Hunter, 2014). In this context, Russia's close ties with Indonesia, exemplified by the enduring significance of Soviet support for Indonesia's independence and territorial integrity, remain a cornerstone of the relationship. The tangible results of this assistance are visible in infrastructure projects like the Gelora Bung Karno Stadium and highways connecting Samarinda and Balikpapan, among other joint ventures, which have become symbols of bilateral cooperation (Tolchenov, 2024).

Russia's engagement with the Islamic world is driven by several geopolitical objectives, including countering Western influence, securing energy partnerships, and combating terrorism. These goals align with Russia's broader foreign policy strategy of asserting its influence on the global stage (Gvosdev, 2018). Energy security is a cornerstone of Russia's relationships with many Islamic countries, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa. Russia's state-owned enterprises have entered into lucrative oil and gas deals with countries like Iran and Saudi Arabia, which has implications for global energy markets (Henderson, 2016). On the other hand, the resumption of direct flights between Moscow and Denpasar in 2023 and the growing bilateral trade (exceeding \$4 billion in 2023) reflect the economic potential of Russia-Indonesia relations, which continue to thrive despite geopolitical tensions. Indonesia's increasing cooperation with Russia on defense and countering cyber threats is also seen as mutually beneficial, further solidified through preparations for the 13th meeting of the Russian-Indonesian Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, and Technical Cooperation (Tolchenov, 2024).

Additionally, Russia has positioned itself as a key partner in global counterterrorism efforts, particularly in collaboration with countries facing Islamist insurgencies. This has involved intelligence sharing, joint military exercises, and other forms of security cooperation (Trenin, 2016). Russia's military intervention in Syria is a prominent example of its strategic engagement in the Islamic world. Moscow's support for the Assad regime has been justified on the grounds of fighting terrorism and maintaining regional stability, which has resonated with other Muslim-majority countries facing similar threats (Galeotti, 2018).

Indonesia must carefully navigate its foreign policy in response to Russia's increasing presence in the Islamic world. Jakarta's commitment to a non-aligned stance and its role in ASEAN requires a balanced approach that considers both its economic interests and its ideological principles (Laksmana, 2019). Indonesia's refusal to join Western sanctions on

Russia, as highlighted during the Special Military Operation, underscores Jakarta's adherence to its "free and active" foreign policy, equidistant from major powers and focused on national interests (Tolchenov, 2024). Indonesia could potentially benefit from increased economic cooperation with Russia, particularly in sectors like energy and defence. However, it must also be wary of the risks associated with over-reliance on Russian technology and markets (Sukma, 2017). While Indonesia sees economic opportunities in strengthening ties with Russia, it must also navigate the broader geopolitical challenges, especially in light of sanctions and economic pressures from Western countries. The dynamic geopolitical environment forces Indonesia to balance between growing its economic cooperation with Russia and maintaining favorable relations with Western allies and ASEAN partners. This balancing act, while complex, allows Indonesia to explore opportunities such as joint ventures in technology, energy, and halal industries, though it also presents challenges in avoiding economic entanglements that might conflict with global sanctions regimes (Diana, 2024).

Indonesia's foreign policy is characterized by its efforts to balance relations with major powers, including the United States, China, and Russia. Russia's engagement with the Islamic world adds another layer of complexity to these diplomatic efforts (Rüland, 2018). As a leading member of ASEAN, Indonesia plays a crucial role in shaping the bloc's collective stance towards external powers. Indonesia must work with its ASEAN partners to ensure a cohesive response to Russia's strategic moves in the region (Severino, 2019). Indonesia's G20 presidency in 2022 and its ASEAN chairmanship in 2023 further demonstrated its capacity to maintain neutrality while supporting global and regional platforms, despite external pressures to isolate Russia (Tolchenov, 2024).

Russia's use of soft power in the Islamic world, including cultural diplomacy and media influence, has implications for Indonesia's public diplomacy efforts. Jakarta must enhance its soft power initiatives to counterbalance Russia's influence. The growing number of Indonesian students studying in Russia – with 250 government scholarships awarded for 2024-2025 – highlights the importance of educational exchanges in strengthening bilateral ties and developing future cooperation across various sectors, including halal products and high-tech industries (Tolchenov, 2024). Russia's alliances with authoritarian regimes in the Islamic world raise concerns about human rights and governance. Indonesia, as a democracy, must navigate these issues carefully to maintain its international credibility and domestic values.

There are opportunities for Indonesia to engage in defence and security cooperation with Russia, particularly in areas like counterterrorism and maritime security. However, these partnerships must be managed to avoid alienating other key allies (Cheng, 2017). The dynamics

of Russia's engagement with the Islamic world also have domestic implications for Indonesia's Muslim communities. Jakarta must address any potential influence or ideological shifts that may arise from these interactions (Fealy, 2016).

Indonesia's role as a mediator in regional conflicts could be influenced by Russia's actions in the Islamic world. Jakarta must leverage its diplomatic capabilities to promote peace and stability while considering Russia's interests (Sundaram, 2018). Indonesia's participation in global Islamic organizations, such as the OIC, may be impacted by Russia's strategic engagement. Jakarta must ensure its voice is heard in these forums to protect its interests and those of the broader Muslim world. There are opportunities for Indonesia to expand educational and cultural exchanges with Russia and other Islamic countries. These initiatives can foster mutual understanding and build long-term partnerships (Anwar, 2017). Technological and scientific collaboration with Russia could benefit Indonesia, particularly in fields like energy, space, and agriculture. Jakarta must seek to enhance these partnerships while ensuring they align with its development goals. The forthcoming Free Trade Agreement between Indonesia and the Eurasian Economic Union, which is nearing conclusion, promises to further open up markets and deepen economic ties, benefiting Indonesia's growing consumer base and industries (Tolchenov, 2024). Despite these promising developments, Indonesia faces the challenge of avoiding over-reliance on Russia, especially considering the volatility of geopolitical relations and the possibility of international sanctions disrupting economic ties. While there are vast opportunities in technological and defence collaboration, Indonesia must take cautious steps to ensure that its growing relationship with Russia does not conflict with its broader foreign policy goals, particularly its commitments to ASEAN solidarity and non-alignment (Diana, 2024).

Environmental and climate change cooperation is another potential area for collaboration between Indonesia and Russia. Both countries face significant environmental challenges and could benefit from shared knowledge and resources (Wirawan, 2018). The geopolitical tensions between Russia and Western countries, including economic sanctions, pose challenges for Indonesia. Jakarta must navigate these complexities to avoid adverse effects on its economy and international relations. Looking forward, Indonesia must develop a strategic vision that considers the long-term implications of Russia's engagement with the Islamic world. This vision should prioritize national interests, regional stability, and global cooperation (Sukarno, 2017).

CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSION

This study has highlighted the critical dynamics between Russia's strategic engagement with the Islamic world and its implications for Indonesia's foreign policy. The research underscores Russia's multifaceted approach to the Islamic world, driven by geopolitical, economic, and security interests, and how these engagements are reshaping global power structures. Russia's deepening ties with Muslim-majority countries form part of a broader strategy to counter Western influence, secure energy resources, and bolster its global standing.

These developments pose both opportunities and challenges for Indonesia. As the largest Muslim-majority country and a key player in ASEAN, Indonesia finds itself navigating complex geopolitical dynamics. The country's foreign policy must balance between promoting its economic interests, ensuring regional stability, and upholding its ideological and democratic principles. Indonesia's unique position allows it to contribute to peace, stability, and cooperation on a global level, but it must carefully assess how to align its policies with evolving international power structures, particularly as Russia's influence in the Islamic world continues to grow.

In conclusion, Indonesia's foreign policy should remain flexible and dynamic in response to these shifts, recognizing both the opportunities and the risks presented by Russia's growing engagement with Muslim-majority nations.

CHAPTER VII

RECOMMENDATION

To effectively address the implications of Russia's strategic moves and to secure Indonesia's own interests, several key recommendations are proposed:

1. **Enhancing Diplomatic Engagement:**

Indonesia should strengthen its diplomatic relations with both Russia and key Islamic countries. This includes fostering dialogue and cooperation on issues of mutual interest, such as regional security, counterterrorism, and energy cooperation. Active participation in multilateral forums, particularly within ASEAN, will allow Indonesia to shape regional responses to global shifts more effectively.

2. **Diversifying Economic Partnerships:**

To mitigate risks associated with over-reliance on any single partner, Indonesia should diversify its economic relationships. Expanding trade and investment opportunities with a broader range of countries will enhance Indonesia's economic resilience. By pursuing new markets and fostering partnerships beyond Russia and major global powers, Indonesia can safeguard its economic interests in the face of global uncertainties.

3. **Promoting Soft Power and Cultural Diplomacy:**

Indonesia should leverage its soft power by promoting cultural and educational exchanges, highlighting its democratic values and moderate Islamic practices. This will help counterbalance Russia's influence in the Islamic world and reinforce Indonesia's positive global image. Efforts to showcase Indonesia's role as a model of Islamic democracy and pluralism will strengthen its leadership within the international Muslim community.

4. **Strengthening Defense and Security Cooperation:**

Indonesia must enhance its defense and security cooperation without alienating other key global allies. Engaging in balanced security partnerships will help Indonesia maintain its strategic autonomy while strengthening its regional influence. This may involve security collaborations within ASEAN and beyond, without compromising relations with other major players like the U.S. or China.

5. **Advocating for Human Rights and Good Governance:**

As a country founded on democratic values, Indonesia should continue to advocate for human rights and good governance in its foreign policy. By aligning its diplomatic engagements with these principles, Indonesia can maintain credibility on the global

stage while ensuring that its partnerships are based on mutual respect for democratic values and international norms.

6. Collaborating on Environmental and Climate Issues:

Joint initiatives with Russia and other nations on environmental sustainability and climate change should be prioritized. Addressing shared environmental challenges through collaboration can provide mutual benefits and contribute to sustainable development goals. Indonesia's leadership in promoting green initiatives can further its international standing and support global environmental efforts.

By adopting these strategies, Indonesia can navigate the evolving international landscape effectively, leveraging its unique position to contribute to global stability and prosperity. Proactive, balanced, and adaptable foreign policies will ensure Indonesia remains a key player in shaping the emerging global order, especially in the context of Russia's growing engagement with the Islamic world.

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