

Implementation of Yana Arthashastra in The Indo-Pacific Region Through The AUKUS Agreement

Herlina Tria Sukmawati

Magister of International Relations Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Airlangga, Surabaya

Corresponding Email: herlina.tria.sukmawati-2021@fisip.unair.ac.id

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Abstract

This article aims to explain the United States strategy in balancing China's dominance in the Indo-Pacific region through forming strategy balancing China's dominance in the Indo-Pacific region through the formation of the AUKUS alliance as a security pact in the Indo-Pacific area. The discussion in this article focuses on the US strategy to balance China's influence in the Indo-Pacific. To explain this problem, the author uses the Yana strategy, namely the foreign entitled Arthashastra. Yana's policy is the policy of being ready to attack. Yana's policies will later be linked to the values of the balance of power concept in modern international relations. Kautilya mentioned that peace and stability in a country strengthen it but never avoid attacks and war. Therefore, countries must be prepared to face war, which could occur at any time and the importance of alliances to safeguard their national interests. The author argues that AUKUS was a US strategy to reduce China's military influence in the region. This research uses qualitative methods with data collection techniques through literature study. The research results show that the US helping Australia develop the capability to build nuclear-powered submarines locally in Adelaide, which will strengthen Australia in the Indo-Pacific region, is a US strategy. Therefore, this strategy means that the US can avoid dealing with China, which could lead to confrontation. Through cooperation with Australia, the US can demonstrate its presence internationally to safeguard its national interests.

Keywords: AUKUS;
Kautilya; US Strategy;
Yana

I. INTRODUCTION

The United States (US) has a strategy to counterbalance China's dominance in the Indo-Pacific region through the establishment of a trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United States, and the United Kingdom. This paper aims to determine how the US strategy will counterbalance China's influence in the Indo-Pacific. The three-nation partnership is known as AUKUS, which will see Australia gain nuclear access by building nuclear-powered submarines, and the initial phase will take 18 months. The cooperation between the three countries is expected to be a mutually beneficial partnership. The partnership between the three countries will also foster further cooperation by enhancing joint capabilities and focusing on cyber capabilities, artificial intelligence, additional overseas capabilities, and quantum technology (www.gov.uk).

The Indo-Pacific region is an area that includes the coastlines of East Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, and countries in the Pacific Ocean. This region has a large area covering the Asian Continent, Australia, the Indian Ocean, and the Pacific Ocean. The Indo-Pacific region emerged as part of the study of geopolitical and geostrategic perspectives based on the patterns of competition and behavior of states in broader maritime interests. The concept of the Indo-Pacific region first emerged due to the Chinese threat caused by the rise of Chinese military power, which also presents opportunities for countries to shape and strengthen their role in the regional and international order (Ramadhani, 2023).

On September 15, 2021, three countries, namely Australia, represented by Prime Minister Scott Morrison; the United Kingdom, represented by Prime Minister Boris Johnson; and the United States, represented by President Joe Biden, issued a joint statement announcing the formation of a trilateral security partnership also known as AUKUS. This three-nation cooperation will make Australia the second country after the UK to be given nuclear access by the US. This alliance also ended Australia's cooperation with France in purchasing diesel-powered submarines. This trilateral

cooperation will involve manufacturing nuclear-powered submarines and equipping the Australian Navy with long-range missiles, including Tomahawk missiles (BBC Indonesia, 2021).

Meanwhile, China, as one of this century's most rapidly developing economies, has great influence in the region. China is a player in the Indo-Pacific region that has been around for a while. China has also increased its attention in the region since the end of the Cold War, not because of a vacuum of power but because of the presence of countries such as Japan, France, and the European Union. With the arrival of these countries, China's aggressiveness has increased (Wesley-Smith, 2007). China continues to increase its military capacity. China's defense and security focus on increasing the strength of the Navy and Air Force. China's military power is increasingly complemented by the number of military personnel it has. China's military forces amount to approximately 2.2 million people, its reserve army is approximately eight hundred people, and its active paramilitaries are approximately 3.9 million. In addition to military personnel, China also has a variety of war equipment, with many increasingly proving that China has prepared itself in the military field. China is also willing to spend huge funds on its military budget to buy and develop its military equipment (Lisbet, 2012).

China has indeed made military improvements in the Indo-Pacific region, and this military improvement by China has led to action from the US. The US sees China's military buildup as a threat to US dominance in the Indo-Pacific region, so this trilateral agreement or AUKUS was formed to stem China's dominance. Furthermore, China responded to the formation of the three-state alliance in the AUKUS pact as irresponsible. Because, with the formation of the alliance, it will provide access to nuclear power for Australia in the construction of nuclear-powered submarines. China considers the AUKUS alliance the real enemy and can jeopardize the security of the Indo-Pacific region. As a follow-up to the formation of the AUKUS alliance, China will continue to be aggressive to show its existence in the conflict area. China also expressed its support for ASEAN and hoped that ASEAN would reject the AUKUS

Vol. 09, No. 2, August 2024

pact in order to comply with the nuclear non-proliferation treaty that could threaten regional stability (Tawakal, 2022).

The potential for conflict with hostile countries prompted the US to start playing its strategy in the region by partnering with Australia to secure the Indo-Pacific region. This support is further complemented by the presence of military personnel owned by the US. The tension in the Indo-Pacific region due to US strategic competition with China is very complex. The impact of the US policy strategy in the Indo-Pacific is quite aggressive and could trigger a war against China that could happen at any time. Moreover, it is feared that other countries' entry into this tension will make the conflict even more widespread. The US strategy of stemming China's power in the Indo-Pacific region by forming the AUKUS alliance has further strained the situation in the region. Until now, the Indo-Pacific region has been an area of territorial struggle between the US and China as a dominating great power, intensifying comprehensive strategic competition.

II. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

This paper uses the “Yana” foreign policy strategy, a classic strategy introduced by Kautilya in his book *Arthashastra*, to examine the US' strategy in counterbalancing China in the Indo-Pacific.

ARTHASHASTRA KAUTILYA

The *Arthashastra* is a treatise on political economy written by Kautilya in ancient India. Kautilya was also known as Chanakya and Visnugupta, and he was the prime minister and advisor to Emperor Chandragupta Maurya, a contemporary of Alexander the Great. The *Arthashastra*, written by Kautilya, is often compared to Machiavelli's “*The Prince*” (15th century AD), as it shares many philosophical and practical views. The *Arthashastra* contains 150 chapters, classified by topic in 15 books, covering three sections: national security issues, administration of justice, and economic development policies. Kautilya wrote this *Arthashastra* for his King Chandragupta Maurya and stated in his introduction that the book was written as a guide for “those who rule.” (Muniapan, 2008)

As a minister and advisor to Chandragupta Maurya, Kautilya was instrumental in shortening the reign of Nanda (emperor in Magadha). Chandragupta Maurya's reign in ancient India would only have achieved glory with Kautilya. Chandragupta Maurya was made King, and Kautilya became his minister and advisor after the end of Emperor Nanda's reign in Magadha. Chandragupta and Kautilya managed to unite almost all the states of the Indian subcontinent. As a result, Chandragupta Maurya is considered the unifier of India in the 4th century BC, and the Maurya Empire was continued by his son Bindusara (who was also advised by Kautilya) and by his famous grandson Asoka. With a population of over fifty million, the Maurya Empire was more significant than the Mughals, the Empire of the last two thousand years, and even more significant than the British Empire in India. The Maurya Empire also included Afghanistan, up to the borders of Persia (Iran), to Bengal. Kautilya was also previously a Professor of Politics and Economics at Taxila University. Kautilya documented his lifelong work in the Arthashastra. Over the centuries, rulers worldwide have referred to the Arthashastra in building countries with sound economies based on spiritual values. Emperor Ashoka supposedly built and expanded his Empire based on the principles described in the book. Shivaji, the ruler of Maharashtra, is also said to have studied Arthashastra to plan and defeat the Mughals. The roots of Arthashastra can be traced to the Rig Veda. Arthashastra does focus on economics and politics. (Muniapan, 2008)

Kautilya is generally criticized by many as being very cunning. As stated above, Kautilya is compared to Machiavelli, the author of *The Prince*, which contains methods that seem adharmic or incorrect. However, this comparison may not be justified, as Kautilya stresses self-control and proper methods of winning over the enemy. Pillai (a Buddhist) outlines the 12 sutras of Kautilya about self-control, which includes the importance of controlling the senses by giving up kama, krodha, lobha, mana, mada, and Harsha, i.e., lust, anger, pride, arrogance, and ignorance. Kautilya also gives various examples of kings who perished after over-indulging the senses. Kautilya cites King Jamdagnya and Amarisa, who had long enjoyed the earth after

Vol. 09, No. 2, August 2024

controlling their senses. Hence, Kautilya's first teaching was to subdue internal enemies and conquer external enemies (Muniapan, 2008).

Kautilya's work is a book of political realism where the state is paramount, and the King is the state's leader who performs the primary duty advocated in the book to safeguard the state (Chandrasekaran, 2006). Kautilya was in favor of the welfare of the state but also of warfare to maintain and increase the state's power. Kautilya thought that the possession of power and happiness in a state made a king superior; hence, a king should always strive to increase his power. Power is used to control the people and enemies the King controls to seek material benefits, spiritual wisdom, and pleasure. Hence, a King must increase his wealth and military and must conquer other kingdoms to expand his state's power. For Kautilya, the superiority of a state lies in its military and economic strength (Chandrasekaran, 2006).

Kautilya believes countries act in their political, economic, and military interests. According to him, foreign policy or diplomacy will be carried out if there is interest. Kautilya believed that diplomacy was a series of actions taken by empires to gain power and eventually be able to conquer other countries with diplomatic relations created. Kautilya also believed that diplomacy could not be separated from self-interest. To understand Kautilya's diplomatic strategy, it is essential to understand the concept of the Mandala, which includes six types of foreign policy (Chandrasekaran, 2006).

The concept of a Mandala is one with a circle of friends and enemies, with the King and the state at the center. Kautilya believed that the circle was dynamic and that the King should strive to expand his central position and reduce the power of other kings around him. Kautilya also proposed building alliances with other states to create a balance of power. In addition, he mentioned that wars are the result of struggles for power and sovereignty. Kautilya also outlined strategies for robust and invading kings and explained the strategies that weak kings should follow to defend themselves and protect the country. His strategy has six types of Kautilya's foreign policy (Chandrasekaran, 2006).

1. Sandhi means accommodation, which means the King seeks to accommodate each other and not decide to make enemies.
2. Vighraha: This means hostility; Kautilya believed that countries are constantly at war and seeking power, hence the need to have a *vihara* foreign policy towards some countries that are enemies.
3. Asana: This means indifference; this policy is for neutral countries.
4. *Dvaidhibhava*: This means dual policy. Kautilya advocated this foreign policy for militarily superior countries.
5. *Samsarya*: A policy of protection where the more vital state will protect the weaker state. Kautilya advocated this policy when the state needed a shield to protect itself and allied to defend against potential enemies.
6. *Yana*: A policy of readiness to attack. Kautilya mentioned that a country's peace and stability make it stronger but is never free from attack and war. Hence, the country must be prepared for war, which can happen at any time.

Of the six types of Kautilya's foreign policy, this study refers to the *Yana* foreign policy to look at the US strategy in balancing the power of China, which was previously seen as a threat due to its increased military aggressiveness in the Indo-Pacific region. The *Yana Arthashastra* is an ancient Indian literary work that discusses various aspects of government, military and politics. In the context of balance of threat, this concept appears in international relations studies to maintain stability between countries. In *Yana Arthashastra*, policy principles related to security and threats can be found. These principles can be linked to efforts to balance threats between countries. These principles are: (Kautilya. t.t)

1. Balance of Power: The *Arthashastra* discusses the importance of maintaining a balance of military power. This concept aligns with the idea of balance of threat, which emphasizes the need for nations to maintain a distribution of power so that no one becomes too dominant.

2. Diplomacy and Alliances: Arthashastra embodies diplomacy's strategy, including forming alliances. Countries also tend to form alliances to deal with common threats in the balance of threats.
3. Use of Military Force: The Arthashastra provides guidelines regarding using military force as a foreign policy tool. This concept aligns with the idea of a balance of threats where states adjust their military power according to the threat faced.

Although the concept of “balance of threat” is not directly explicit in the Arthashastra, the principles can be interpreted as an attempt to achieve a balance of power and manage threats wisely. The importance of maintaining a balance of military and political power, as suggested in the Yana Arthashastra, can align with the concept of balance of threat. This concept emphasizes the need for states to maintain a balance of power to prevent costly conflicts from occurring. Thus, the Yana Arthashastra can be seen as an ancient view reflecting principles relevant to the idea of balance of threat in modern international relations.

Yana's foreign policy is reflected in the US strategy to counter the dominance of Chinese power in the Indo-Pacific by forming the AUKUS pact. China's dominance in the Indo-Pacific region by building the world's largest Navy is seen as a threat to the US. Therefore, the US strategy in forming AUKUS would make Australia the second country after the UK in 1958 to be given access to US nuclear technology to build nuclear-powered submarines. The US helped Australia develop the capability to build nuclear submarines locally in Adelaide. Australia is used as a counterweight by the US in balancing the threat of China and maintaining the US presence in the Indo-Pacific region.

III. METHODOLOGY

Qualitative methods are used in this research. Patton and Cochran (2002) define qualitative research as a research objective related to understanding the

relationship between aspects of social life and using methods that generally produce words, not numbers, as data for analysis. Therefore, with this general understanding of qualitative research methods, this research analyzes Yana Arthashastra's foreign policy in the US strategy to balance China in the Indo-Pacific region. The qualitative method is very suitable to explain the focus of the research.

The data collection technique in this research is a literature study. According to Sugiono (2006), data collection techniques are the most strategic step in research because the main objective is to get data. Literature study also means a data collection technique using a study of books, literature, notes, and reports related to the problem being solved. Data collection techniques through literature studies are also used to obtain basics and opinions in writing, which are carried out by studying various references, which, of course, these references have a relationship with the problem under study. This technique is also carried out to obtain secondary data, which will later be used to compare theory and practice in the field (Nazir, 2013).

According to Sugiono, secondary data is a data source that does not directly provide data to data collectors, for example, through other people or documents. Secondary data sources are complementary data sources that function to complement the data needed by primary data. Meanwhile, Nazir (2013) said that secondary data obtained in the collection technique through literature studies were obtained by browsing the internet, reading various literature, studying results from previous researchers, taking lecture notes, and using other relevant sources.

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The discussion in this section consists of two things. The first is a discussion of conflict dynamics in the Indo-Pacific, and the second is on US strategy in the Indo-Pacific.

CONFLICT DYNAMICS IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

China is currently developing into a dominant country in the Indo-Pacific region. One sector that is proliferating is the military sector. Since 2000, China's military budget has consistently increased. In 2000, China's military budget was 14.6 billion dollars, increasing to 20 billion dollars in 2002. In 2007, it amounted to 45 billion dollars to 57.22 billion dollars. 2021 the country's defense spending rose rapidly to 209 billion dollars. This makes China the second-largest defense-spending country in the world after the United States. The increase in the military budget makes China surpass all military budgets of countries in the Indo-Pacific region. About 95 percent of arms sales to China are from Russia, making Russia China's largest arms supplier (Eka, 2007).

One form of response to China's military power, especially in the Indo-Pacific, is forming the AUKUS alliance. The alliance formed on September 15, 2021, aims to provide the Australian Navy with nuclear-powered submarines for decades. For US President Joe Biden, this trilateral agreement is imperative to ensure long-term peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. In addition, the alliance also has a purpose, albeit unstated but clear, to counterbalance an increasingly assertive and aggressive China regionally and internationally (Perot, 2021). In addition to the balance of power in the Indo-Pacific region, the AUKUS alliance also benefits Australia in the security field with the assistance of military technology development by its partners, namely the US and the UK.

The dynamics of Australian politics are very diverse. It is starting from China's closeness to Australia in the economic sector. However, the extent of Australia's alignment or position in AUKUS is debated in the international world. When viewed from Australia's cooperation with other countries, Australia cooperates with the US and China. While Australia is in a dilemma in the face of these choices, the US hopes that Australia can put aside its cooperation with China. However, on the other hand, China expects Australia not to take offensive steps for its regional interests. Amid China's dominance, Australia has long maintained that it does not have to choose between the two powers, but in recent years, Australia's attitude towards China has

hardened. This was triggered because China has been suspected of meddling in Australian politics. A series of Chinese sanctions on Australian exports followed. Since then, Australia's sentiment towards China has emerged. Australia's sentiment towards China has long existed, even before the formation of the Australian Federation. However, it has worsened since the 2000s, when China has been much more aggressive in developing its military power in the Indo-Pacific region (Mas'ud, 2020).

Meanwhile, the dynamics of the Indo-Pacific region are no less interesting. Apart from being economically dynamic, this region is entirely in dispute. The dominating force in this region cannot be separated from the power struggle between the major powers based on their interests. Until now, the Indo-Pacific region has been an area of territorial struggle between the US and China as dominating great powers, intensifying comprehensive strategic competition. So far, the US does not want China to increase its regional power. The US has always seen China as a threat and sought to instill doctrine in US allies in the Indo-Pacific region to regard China as a threat in the region. China has indeed developed its maritime power in the Indo-Pacific region. China has become one of the dominant countries in the Indo-Pacific region, especially in the military sector, since the 2000s. However, the US sees it as a threat. Therefore, the US and the UK partnered with Australia to form an alliance for collective security (Eka, 2007).

The dynamics of the Indo-Pacific region in the competition between Chinese and US maritime power refers to the existence of the US and China in the rivalry of maritime power in the Indo-Pacific region cannot be separated from a series of existing conflicts. The Indo-Pacific region has several points that have the potential to cause conflicts, such as territorial disputes involving China and US-backed countries. Although the US is not directly involved in conflicts over territorial disputes, in some conflicts, the US interprets China's position as a threat to US dominance. The clash of interests is even more pronounced given that the US is a superpower and China is a new emerging power. The South China Sea has become an arena for rival US and Chinese interests in recent years. The rivalry became more apparent when China

Vol. 09, No. 2, August 2024

directly confronted US warships, signaling its existence and readiness to face any country. Likewise, the US, since China increased its strength in the conflict area, the US did not remain silent. The US immediately responded by placing uncrewed surveillance aircraft along with the placement of troops in the conflict area. The US believes that the capabilities of Chinese military forces have attempted to get rid of US forces.

Meanwhile, China believes that it must eliminate US dominance to expand its influence in the Indo-Pacific region (Rachmat, 2017). The rivalry between China and the US cannot be separated from the struggle for hegemony in the Indo-Pacific region through competition in the maritime sector. Thus, in the coming years, the security dynamics in the Indo-Pacific region cannot be separated from the rivalry between US and Chinese maritime power, and this conflict will inevitably bring new actors so that conflicts in the region will become more complex and widen (Rachmat, 2017).

The dynamics of Australia's relationship with China and the dynamics of the Indo-Pacific region are disputed areas, so with this trilateral agreement or AUKUS, Australia currently tends to position its country's alignments with the US. AUKUS will make Australia a country that is given access to US nuclear technology to build nuclear-powered submarines. This will strengthen the Australian Navy in the face of China's increasing influence in the Indo-Pacific region. The AUKUS agreement is also not free from criticism regarding Australia's acquisition of nuclear technology as a non-nuclear power and possible future possession of nuclear weapons. US President Joe Biden and the Australian government stated that the acquisition of the submarine was not for the possession of nuclear weapons, and all three countries that signed the AUKUS agreement have committed to the values of nuclear non-proliferation. With the agreement, China condemned the US actions (Bayezit, 2022).

China considers that the AUKUS will undermine peace and increase regional instability. The AUKUS will also damage China's bilateral relations with Australia. China considers that the formation of the AUKUS alliance is not solely to maintain regional stability, as the US has said, but will create new tensions. By giving access to

Vol. 09, No. 2, August 2024

nuclear power ownership by building nuclear-powered submarines, China considers it a form of violating nuclear non-proliferation. Furthermore, China sees that the existence of the AUKUS pact will also divide ASEAN member countries. Therefore, China wants ASEAN member countries to jointly disagree with the AUKUS agreement (Delanova & Yanyan, 2020).

AUKUS, as a military alliance, especially the manufacture of nuclear-powered submarines for Australia, has heightened tensions in the Indo-Pacific region. This is because the cooperation makes suspicion, especially towards Australia, even higher and makes peace in the region challenging because of the balancing force. Although submarine construction basically balances military capabilities with China, the threat of instability can have a regional impact.

US STRATEGY IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

The US strategy in balancing China's power in the Indo-Pacific is very relevant to the concept of Yana's political policy in Arthashastra. Yana's policy is a country's preparedness for an attack that can not be avoided at any time. The state must be prepared to face a war that can happen anytime. Yana's foreign policy is reflected in the US strategy to counter the increasing dominance of Chinese power in the Indo-Pacific region by forming the AUKUS pact. AUKUS is part of the US strategy to stem China's influence by strengthening its ally in the region, Australia. This alliance supports a strong country in the region, the US, to counterbalance the threat of the enemy, in this context, China. The advantage of this strategy is that the US does not need to deal with China, which could trigger a confrontation. By strengthening Australia's military posture, it makes Australia a country that plays a counterbalancing role to the US. This has also indirectly illustrated the balance of threats where countries form alliances as one of the strategies to ensure their security and response to prevailing threats.

Counterbalancing China's power in the Indo-Pacific is one of the priority agendas of US foreign policy under President Joe Biden. President Biden directed a multilateral foreign policy emphasizing diplomacy's importance. Joe Biden considers this policy vital because it will restore the US presence in the international world. Before Biden's presidency, in the era of President Donald Trump, the US withdrew from multilateral agreements and focused on domestic issues. Therefore, the US is considered to have suffered a setback due to US foreign policy that emphasized unilateralism during President Trump's administration.

Meanwhile, Biden believes that Trump's foreign policy orientation has made the US lose credibility as a significant actor in international politics. The policy of unilateralism in the Trump era led the US to leave various world organizations and alliances. Therefore, when Biden became president in November 2020, Biden carried a vision to restore the US status as a global hegemon, renew alliances, and normalize US relations with allied countries, especially with the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty. Biden's background as a Democrat allows Biden's foreign policy to be influenced by liberal-internationalism thinking, where promoting democracy and strengthening alliances between democracies are the main agenda (Lisbet, 2021).

The strategy of countering the Chinese threat through AUKUS reflects the classic approach of Western countries when facing a rising regional power. The AUKUS is also said to manifest the Cold War mentality. The West has always perceived China as a threat and a source of global instability. A 2020 US Department of State study explicitly named China as a source of global threat due to its hegemonic stance (US Department of State, 2020). As a hegemon state, controlling geographical areas is a priority to support geostrategic achievements. At the beginning of his leadership, Joe Biden saw the Indo-Pacific discourse as the main agenda for achieving the "America First National Security Strategy." Control of the region provides space for the US to create structural barriers to China. The following essential aspect of the US strategy is the re-emphasis on military presence. The movement of the US Navy Fleet has proven to be quite effective in putting physical pressure on each country in

the region's compliance with international law. This is important, considering that China has been transformed into a country with military power that now has a power base in the Indo-Pacific region (Iriawan, 2018).

As for Australia, the agreement to form the US-led AUKUS alliance cannot be separated from Australia's sentiment that sees China's aggressiveness in the region as a threat to its country. However, it is widely known that Australia has long been a staunch ally of the US in the military field and has significant political and historical ties with the UK. On the other hand, Australia has also cooperated with China in the economic field. Australia had long been neutral until the AUKUS agreement took place, which signaled Australia's alignment with the US. The US has been able to play its strategy by making Australia its alliance, which signifies the rise of the US in the Indo-Pacific region to balance the dominance of China, which continues to carry out its aggressiveness (Bayezit, 2022).

In the Yana Arthashastra, it is explained that every country is never spared from attack and war. Therefore, countries must be prepared to face wars that can occur at any time. The Arthashastra also explains the importance of maintaining a balance of power so that no one power dominates. Countries also tend to form alliances to deal with common threats. Through the AUKUS, the US plays its strategy to protect its national interests. The US builds diplomatic relations with allied countries and engages Australia to increase the leverage of military relations.

The concept of balance in international relations, where states form security coalitions against powerful states to survive. Internal balancing involves increasing power through economic and military strength, while external balancing involves joining a coalition against a common threat. The AUKUS agreement can be seen as an attempt by the US to balance China. The US sees China's increasingly aggressive actions as threatening regional order. By providing Australia with nuclear-powered submarines, the US aims to increase its regional influence and bargaining power. The AUKUS deal, which involves providing Australia with nuclear-powered submarines, is part of the US effort to counter China's growing influence. The US strategy through

Vol. 09, No. 2, August 2024

AUKUS also aims to maintain the US-led regional order and prevent China's attempt to become the dominant country in the Indo-Pacific region (Turkcan, 2022). From this analysis, AUKUS is considered a rational foreign policy move for the US.

In addition, AUKUS has shown the US's determination to maintain the stability of its country in the Indo-Pacific region and demonstrated the US's preparedness to counter China, which could encourage other regional countries worried about Chinese revisionism to join the US-led effort. Judging from the purpose of the formation of AUKUS cooperation, it is related to the concept of balance of power, the values of which are reflected in Yana's political policy in Arthashastra, namely, power is exercised by a country or group of countries in cooperation with other countries or groups of countries. The explanation explains that the existence of balancing power is expected to create stability and peace among countries and groups of countries.

The author argues that forming the AUKUS alliance can be considered a clear example of balancing power, which is the US strategy for counterbalancing Chinese power in the Indo-Pacific. This US strategy is very relevant to Yana's political policy in Arthashastra. We see China's increasing power in the Indo-Pacific region as a threat to its existence internationally. For this reason, as a strategy to prepare for a war that could occur at any time, the US immediately cooperated with Australia to ally with the US and the UK. We made Australia a counterweight in the alliance to balance the opponent's power, namely China. By cooperating with Australia, the US does not need to face China directly but can show its existence again in the international world. Able to show that the US still has a strong influence in the international world and can balance the dominance of other powers.

V. CONCLUSION

There is a difference in policy direction between President Joe Biden and the previous US President Donald Trump. Under President Trump, the US withdrew from multilateral agreements and focused on domestic issues. Biden believes that Trump's foreign policy orientation has made the US lose credibility as a significant actor in the

political world. The policy of unilateralism in the Trump era led the US to leave various world organizations and alliances. Meanwhile, President Joe Biden took the policy direction of multilateralism. Biden considers this policy vital because it will restore the US presence worldwide. For this reason, balancing China's power in the Indo-Pacific is one of the priority agendas of US foreign policy under the leadership of President Joe Biden. Biden took the foreign policy direction of multilateralism, which is considered to restore the US's presence in the world.

AUKUS, a trilateral cooperative alliance between Australia, the UK, and the US, aims to provide Australia with nuclear-powered submarines. In its development, this alliance is a US strategy in response to China's increasing military capabilities with an increasing military budget each year. China's dominance is clear as the country with the highest military budget in the Indo-Pacific region. Through the formation of alliances and the transfer of military technology among the three countries, it is hoped that they can balance China's power in the region. This strategy made the US not need to deal directly with China, which would have led to confrontation. By tricking Australia, the US could play other countries to match the opponent.

Yana's foreign policy is reflected in the US strategy of countering Chinese power's dominance in the Indo-Pacific by forming the AUKUS pact. In this policy, a country must have a preparedness strategy because it never knows when an opponent will attack-strategies to prepare themselves externally through alliances with other countries. About AUKUS, the US sees China as a threat. Therefore, the emergence of AUKUS (as called partnership between the US, UK, and Australia) was a response to this threat.

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Vol. 09, No. 2, August 2024

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Vol. 09, No. 2, August 2024

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