

Analysis of The Effect of The AUKUS Defense Pact on Indo-Pacific Security

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Abstract

The AUKUS (Australia, United Kingdom, and the United States of America) Defense Pact, inaugurated on September 15, 2021, has affected countries in the Indo-Pacific Region. This study aims to analyze the effect of the AUKUS Defense Pact on security in the Indo-Pacific Region. The research method used in this study is a qualitative approach with descriptive analysis, in which data relevant to the object of research are collected through library research. The analysis is carried out using a realism approach with a focus on the concept of trilateral security alliances and security dilemmas. The study results show that the presence of the AUKUS Pact in the Indo-Pacific Region can affect regional security governance, including developing defense technology, military cooperation, and foreign policy. This Pact raises concern from countries in the area about AUKUS intentions in securing the Indo-Pacific Region, especially with the plan to build a nuclear submarine which has become controversial. On the other hand, several countries in the Indo-Pacific Region also face a security dilemma due to the AUKUS Defense Pact, especially China and several ASEAN countries, which feel threatened by the presence of AUKUS. AUKUS has led to China increasing its military activity in response to what it perceives as threats to its country's security. In addition, polemics among countries in the Indo-Pacific Region in response to AUKUS also shows the complexity of the security of the Indo-Pacific Region.

I. INTRODUCTION

Australia, the United States, and United Kingdom have been allies for 70 years and still are today. In the Indo-Pacific Region, Australia is America's closest ally and, after Britain, its most important ally. Australia has participated in all significant United States-led wars since the beginning of the Cold War, most notably in Korea, Vietnam, the 1991 Gulf War, and Afghanistan and Iraq. In a number of these cases, the Australian Government contributed military force in the belief that showing Australia was a good ally of the United States. Australia hoped to be reciprocated by the United States if asked for assistance by Australia.¹

Australia and the United Kingdom have a significant and comprehensive relationship underpinned by a shared cultural heritage, values, cross-country ties, aligned strategic views and interests, and substantial trade and investment ties. As members of the Commonwealth of Nations, both countries share the same monarchy, and both are active members of the Commonwealth of Nations. . The two countries are dialogue partners at the highest levels of Government and think alike on global issues such as international security, multilateral cooperation, and economic issues on the G20 agenda.

Indo-Pacific refers to the maritime zone that spans the Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean region, which is characterized by cooperation in foreign, defence, and economic policies. The Indo-Pacific is different from regional integration, such as Southeast Asian or European regionalism, because it can be understood more as an international political issue that connects the two oceans. Several countries are interested in the Indo-Pacific Region, which has excellent potential.

The Indo-Pacific Region has become a focal point of great power competition and rivalry. The South China Sea is of great concern to many countries in the Region, which makes the South China Sea dispute a critical issue that countries in the Indo-Pacific Region must face. AUKUS was formed in response to China's increasingly assertive regional actions. The Indo-Pacific, including the South China Sea, is still a crucial area for China in various aspects and for multiple reasons.²

At the level of government cooperation, especially in the Indo-Pacific Region, relations between Australia and the United States are formalized with several agreements such as ANZUS and AUKUS and Australia–United States Free Trade Agreement. Then,

¹ U. S. Embassy, 'ANZUS: Celebrating 70 Years Of The US-Australia Alliance', 2021 <<https://au.usembassy.gov/anzus-celebrating-70-years-of-the-us-australia-alliance>>.

² P. Davidson, 'Introduction to Indo-Pacific Security Challenges', *Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs*, 2019, 4–9.

on September 15, 2021, Australian, British, and American leaders announced a new security partnership in the Indo-Pacific Region, AUKUS. The partnership aims to deepen cooperation and intelligence sharing between the three and assist Australia in building a new nuclear-powered submarine.³

Thus, this trilateral agreement is expected to be able to face the challenges faced in the 21st century. One of the main factors that led to the formation of the AUKUS pact is China's growing economic and military power and its hegemonic ambitions in the Indo-Pacific region. China's assertiveness in the region, including its territorial claims in the South China Sea and its pressure on Australia, has led to concerns among the US and its allies about the need to counterbalance China's influence. The AUKUS pact can be seen as a response to these challenges and as a way to strengthen the capabilities of the US and its allies in the region.

One of the key features of the AUKUS pact is the development of nuclear submarines by Australia, with the assistance of the US and UK. Nuclear submarines offer several advantages over diesel-electric submarines, including greater endurance and range, as well as better stealth capabilities and attack capabilities. By working with the US and UK, Australia can also gain access to their nuclear submarine infrastructure and develop its own capabilities in this area. Overall, the AUKUS pact represents a significant shift in the strategic environment in the Indo-Pacific region, as countries seek to balance against China's growing power and influence. Although China is not mentioned explicitly, this agreement aims to reduce China's influence in the Indo-Pacific Region. Before the AUKUS cooperation agreement, Australia had established cooperation and alliances with several countries in the Indo-Pacific Region and non-Indo-Pacific regions, such as the Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) and Five Eyes alliances.⁴

AUKUS stands for the defense partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, which will involve several components of the cooperation, including developing a nuclear-powered submarine capability for Australia, cybersecurity cooperation, artificial intelligence, quantum technology, and underwater capabilities. Under the Pact, Australia will gain new long-range strike capabilities for its air force, navy, and ground forces.⁵

The three countries agreed to collaborate on developing and constructing nuclear-powered submarines over the next 18 months. This agreement drew protests from several

³ B. Harris, 'United States Strategic Culture and Asia-Pacific Security', *Journal of Contemporary Security Policy*, 2019, 12–16.

⁴ T. P. Cuong, 'The Role of the AUKUS Alliance in Counterbalancing China.', *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Growth Evaluation*, 2023, 52–55.

⁵ M. Shoebridge, 'What Is AUKUS and What Is It Not?', *The Australian Strategic Policy Institute Journal*, 2021, 2–5.

countries, such as Indonesia, Malaysia including France, a Western ally that does not feel involved. Singapore and the Philippines are two Southeast Asian countries that have expressed their support for the AUKUS (Australia, United Kingdom, and United States) alliance. Both countries have emphasized the importance of the alliance in maintaining peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. Adverse reactions also came from China, which condemned the AUKUS deal.⁶

It is important to note that the AUKUS pact is a relatively new development and it take some time for other countries in the Indo-Pacific region to respond to it. Additionally, some countries may be cautious about publicly expressing their stance on the issue due to the complex geopolitical dynamics involved. one countries in the region have preexisting security partnerships with one or more of the countries in the AUKUS pact. For example, Japan has a longstanding security alliance with the United States, while Australia has a security partnership with Japan, and there is Quad, Five Eyes and ANZUS. These existing partnerships may affect how countries in the region view the AUKUS pact and their response to it.⁷ Overall, it take some time for other countries in the Indo-Pacific region to formulate a clear response to the AUKUS pact.

The sudden emergence of the AUKUS security agreement between Australia, the United States, and the United Kingdom only increased international unease. This newly formed agreement campaigns for maritime democracy, shared ideals, and commitment to an international rules-based order to deepen diplomatic, security, and defense cooperation in the Indo-Pacific Region.

Australia, which wants to build nuclear-powered submarines, can aim to affect security in the Indo-Pacific Region. The AUKUS Defense Pact can potentially affect security in the Indo-Pacific Region through a Security Dilemma, namely when a country tries to maintain its security regardless of its intentions, which can cause inconvenience to other countries, especially those around it. Each country that took these actions considered that their actions were only defensive, and actions taken by other countries were considered threatening. AUKUS has the potential to trigger tension and conflict in the Region. In this case, the countries in the Indo-Pacific Region feel threatened by the Pact, which could trigger an arms race in the Indo-Pacific Region.

This research is necessary because, besides that, no one has discussed the issue of American-Australian Relations through the AUKUS pact in the context of regional security, and also the AUKUS defense pact affects the security of the Indo-Pacific Region which has caused quite serious responses and tensions in the Region, this research is necessary and interesting to study.

⁶ M. Cheng, “AUKUS: The Changing Dynamic and Its Regional Implications.”, *European Journal of Development Studies*, 2.1 (2022), 2–6.

⁷ E. a. Cornelis Atanassova, “The US-Japan Alliance Dilemma in the Asia-Pacific: Changing Rationales and Scope”, *The International Spectator*, 54.4.89–93 (2019).

II. METHODOLOGY

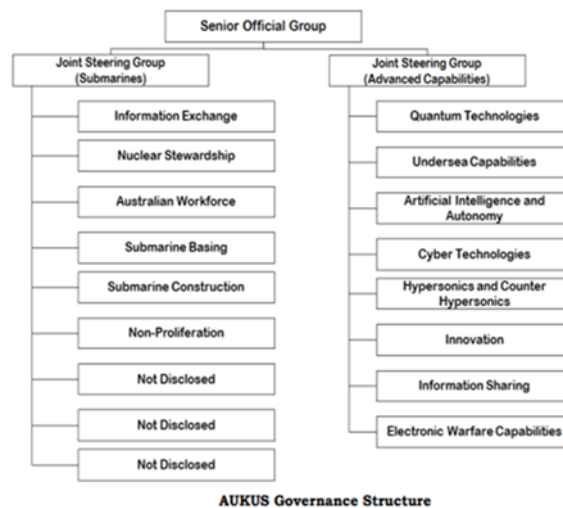
The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative method. Research using qualitative methods is research by analyzing and describing a problem comprehensively, analyzing sentences and providing detailed reports. In addition, the author uses a descriptive method in which this qualitative research focuses on ontological activities. The data collected comes from words, sentences or images that have meaning and are able to spur understanding. In this study, the researcher emphasizes detailed, complete, in-depth sentence descriptions that describe the actual situation to support the presentation of data.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Australia, the United States, and the United Kingdom are known as the "Anglosphere," with which they share close political, military, and economic ties. The three countries are allies with a long history of cooperation on global issues. The United States and Australia also share a strong military alliance. Australia is a crucial partner in the Five Eyes intelligence-sharing network, including the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand. Then there is Quad and ANZUS.

In September 2021, a trilateral security cooperation called AUKUS was announced between Australia, the UK, and the US. At the heart of this partnership is a collaboration between the three parties to help Australia acquire a nuclear submarine capability. Achieving this goal will require enormous costs and complex efforts to complete the first ship, which will be completed by the end of 2030. The AUKUS announcement also stated other outcomes to be achieved, such as enhancing interoperability between the three partners, focusing on cyber capabilities, artificial intelligence, quantum technology, and additional underwater capabilities for Australia.

The implementation of this AUKUS partnership started last year. There are two tracks in completing that effort: Submarine, whereby the agreement AUKUS will provide Australia with conventionally armed nuclear power capable submarines as early as possible while upholding the highest non-proliferation standards. Then, technology with advanced capabilities will be developed and provided by AUKUS to jointly enhance advanced military capabilities to increase security and stability in the Indo-Pacific Region. Underneath, there are two joint steering groups to oversee two parallel lines of effort, namely submarines and advanced capabilities. Under these two joint steering groups, 17 task-specific working groups have been established, as illustrated in Figure 1.



Over several weeks in February, a joint team from Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States visited several sites in Australia to assess their nuclear stewardship, infrastructure, workforce, and industrial capabilities and requirements. On February 28, the team was chaired by the Joint Steering Group, which the Joint Steering Group will use the information to develop the optimal pathway for Australia to acquire nuclear-powered submarines.

Through the AUKUS Undersea Robotics Autonomous Systems (AURAS) project, the three nations are collaborating on autonomous underwater vehicles, which will be a significant force multiplier for their maritime forces. Initial trials and experimentation of the capabilities of this technology are planned for 2023 with the AUKUS Quantum Arrangement (AQuA), which will accelerate investment and provide quantum capabilities for the next generation. It focuses on quantum technology for positioning, navigation, and timing. The three countries committed to integrating emerging quantum technologies in trials and experiments over the next three years.

Trilateral cooperation in artificial intelligence (Artificial Intelligence) and autonomous technology is also envisaged in AUKUS. This will provide a vital enabler to support the future capabilities of the three countries' armies by increasing the speed and accuracy of decision-making processes to maintain capability advantage and survive possible threats. This work will focus on accelerating technology adoption and improving defense, autonomous systems, and artificial intelligence capabilities.

All three countries are committed to working together to share an understanding of tools, techniques, and technologies to enable their forces to operate in a contested and degraded environment. This work aims to accelerate their respective defense innovations and learn faster to integrate commercial technologies to solve the needs of war. Ultimately the three countries will expand and expedite sharing of sensitive information, including as a priority enabling workflows that support their work in agreed advanced capability areas.

In the United States, National Security Council AUKUS Coordinator James N. Miller directs interagency efforts from the White House. At the Department of Defence, Abraham Denmark serves as Senior Advisor to AUKUS and is tasked with leading the submarine effort alongside Rear Admiral Dave Goggins. The United Kingdom Ministry of Defense was responsible for finalizing the AUKUS technology in the united kingdom, although no further information was publicly available. In Australia, AUKUS is the responsibility of the entire Government. All federal departments have specific duties for 18 months.

A multi-agency Nuclear Powered Submarine Task Force headed by Rear Admiral Jonathan Mead was established, responsible for consolidating information on pathways to nuclear-powered submarines and ensuring efficiency to nuclear stewardship requirements. The Department of Defense is tasked with prioritizing the delivery of submarine-capable technology, and The Department of Foreign Affairs and Commerce is tasked with managing regional messaging and compliance with non-proliferation laws. The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet are tasked with supporting the prime minister, establishing a social license, and leveraging the weight of current government duties needed.

The three countries have taken significant steps to comply with cross-border legal and personnel regulations in implementing the AUKUS project. It is undoubtedly an important milestone in preparing for the nuclear-powered submarine program with the existence of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Information Exchange Agreement in February 2022. The record speed of completion of this agreement between the three countries, which is only three months from signing to entry into force, reflects the high priority given by the three governments to implement and complete the AUKUS program.

In addition, Australia and the United Kingdom have established a submarine training program in September 2022, where Australian naval officers will train aboard the HMS Anson and four other Astute class nuclear-powered submarines for the first time. Likewise, the new bipartisan Australia-United States Submarine Officer Channel

Act was also introduced into the United States Congress. These initiatives demonstrate that similar training and labour mobility programs can be created to share critical expertise with Australia in the Indo-Pacific Region.

The United Kingdom and the United States have already welcomed Australian Navy personnel on nuclear training courses in the Indo-Pacific Region. More will follow next year before Australian submarines are ready for sea. This training and exchange marked the beginning of a multigenerational naval partnership between the three AUKUS countries in the Region.

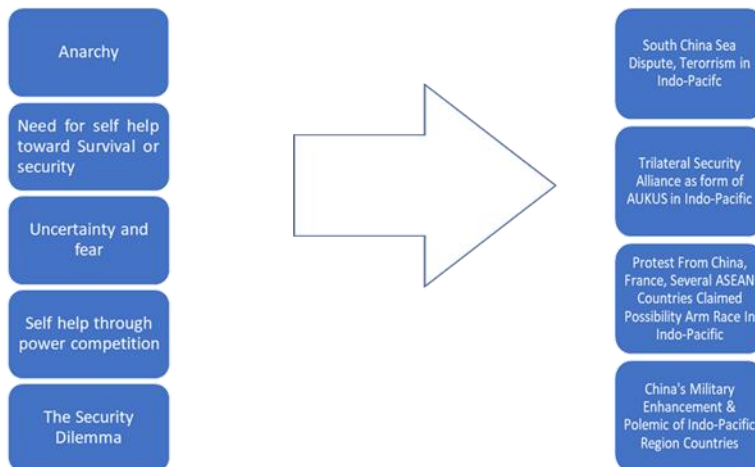
2023 will be crucial as the three countries move from the consultation phase to implementing the AUKUS partnership. The Nuclear Powered Submarine Task Force will present its recommendations to the Government in March 2023. This will determine whether Australia will use Britain's Astute-class nuclear submarines, America's Virginia-class nuclear submarines, or some of the newer versions of those three nations. The outcome of the initial consultation period will clarify details of in-house builds, the Australian Government's proposed interim capabilities, and further initiatives to meet AUKUS human resources demands. The Australian Government Defense Strategic Review, released in early 2023, will articulate how AUKUS fits into a posture readiness.

The three governments will also work on clarifying their responsibilities regarding the organization and allocation of funds for implementing AUKUS advanced technology. Some of AUKUS' advanced capabilities, such as cyber security and innovation in various parts of the defense and the bureaucracy, will reach a broader scope of national security. This is done to avoid bureaucratic territorial wars often accompanying big policy initiatives that will become a priority. In addition, the Australia-United Kingdom Free Trade Area, tasked with informing operations to increase the skills supply and defense industrial base to support AUKUS, is expected to receive parliamentary approval in 2023.

The three countries have cooperated in the defense industry to facilitate the above efforts. Australia's defense industrial base has historically relied on the United States to increase its technological capacity and be a key supporter, of course, and AUKUS would be similar different. Minister for Defense Industry Pat Conroy pledged to engage Australian industrial partners on AUKUS by early 2023. At the heart of this is the upgrade of the United States National Industrial and Technology Base, designed to foster a free trade area of defense technology among some of the United States' alliance partners and leveraging the Australia-United States Defense Trade Cooperation Agreement.

This will foster close coordination between Australia and the United States Congress and United States agencies, such as the United States Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration on submarines and the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security on Export Regulation Administration for areas such as quantum technology.

Figure 1.1 Concept Application



Looking at the history of the Korean War, World War, and Vietnam War, the security architecture of the Indo-Pacific Region is based on a system of trilateral security alliances led by the United States known as the hub and spokes system. Hub and Spokes is a United States foreign policy concept in the Indo-Pacific Region that aims to strengthen cooperation with countries in the Region. This concept relies on trilateral or multilateral relationships between the United States and countries in the Indo-Pacific Region, referred to as spokes.

Each spoke then forms a hub with the United States as its center. In the context of AUKUS, Australia acts as the spokes and America as the hub. In the security context, the American Hub and Spokes aims to strengthen partnerships among Indo-Pacific countries to deal with increasingly complex security threats, such as maritime and cyber security.

The United States maintains this alliance with Australia, the Philippines, Thailand, Japan, and South Korea. So far, the US military presence in the Indo-Pacific Region has been blatantly concentrated on China. A similar multilateral collective defense system for NATO in Europe has not yet existed in the Indo-Pacific Region. On the other hand,

in 2014, the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) developed its idea to reorganize the regional security system. China has also started implementing several of its policies in the Indo-Pacific Region, such as increasing the militarization of the South China Sea and comprehensive rearming of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), expanding bilateral security partnerships, and establishing security forums and multilateral dialogue formats.

The free and open Indo-Pacific concept has gradually supplanted the long-dominant Asia-Pacific construct, which is seen as a strategy to counter the Chinese-dominated reorganization of the Region. The term "Indo-Pacific region" is the most recent addition to the vocabulary of Asian regionalism. It has emerged and changed over time. It expresses the belief that maritime interconnectedness has necessitated the westward expansion of Asian regionalism to include countries on the shores of the Indian Ocean.

This security region is very different from the Asia-Pacific concept, where economic integration and security cooperation drive regionalism. As a result, the Indo-Pacific Strategy marks a more contentious period in Asian international politics, when regional cooperation goals are shifting from economic concerns to US and Chinese security concerns. The ever-changing geopolitical landscape in the Indo-Pacific has put the regional security architecture more in the spotlight and security dilemmas.

Apart from the United States, other actors have developed their Indo-Pacific strategy in recent years, like AUKUS, a trilateral security alliance between the United States, Britain, and Australia recently; many countries in the Indo-Pacific Region have paid attention to this. In this case, China regards the Indo-Pacific concept as a deterrent strategy directed against its government under the influence of the United States, so the country firmly rejects it.

Before the AUKUS Defense Pact existed, the Indo-Pacific Region had experienced several significant security tensions. The security conditions for the Indo-Pacific Region can be considered anarchy because no international force officially regulates and resolves disputes or ensures peace and stability in the Region. As a result of this concept of anarchy, there are many conflicts and tensions in the Indo-Pacific Region, which can worsen the security situation. This Region has several major security issues, such as the South China Sea conflict, tensions between India and Pakistan, threats of terrorism, and competition between major powers such as China and the United States. This has affected stability and peace in the Region.

One of the most significant issues faced in the Indo-Pacific Region is the conflict in the South China Sea. China has claimed almost the entire area and has made effective

military deployments. This has sparked tensions and conflicts with neighbouring countries such as Vietnam, the Philippines, and Indonesia, which also claim the South China Sea. However, with the existence of the AUKUS Defense Pact, security in the Indo-Pacific Region is expected to be more stable. This alliance provides strong support in terms of military and security for Australia while strengthening the relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom with countries in the Indo-Pacific Region. This Pact is also expected to help reduce the pressure faced by other countries in the Region.

However, the AUKUS Defense Pact triggered an adverse reaction from other countries in the Region, especially China. China sees this Pact as an attempt to contain its effect in the Region and threaten its national security. The effect of this situation is the increasing tension between China and neighbouring countries in the Indo-Pacific Region.

The AUKUS agreement addresses the three countries' concerns about regional security or regional security and the Indo-Pacific power balance. As the leaders of Australia, Britain, and the United States who signed the agreement, the three countries acknowledged that regional security or regional security is significantly the primary concern of the three countries in the context of security in the Indo-Pacific Region. In the joint statement issued on September 15, 2021, the three heads of state promised to defend common interests in the Indo-Pacific Region.

This reflects the United States strong commitment to the security of the Indo-Pacific Region in the AUKUS mandate. In operational terms, AUKUS seeks to achieve strategic deterrence goals in the Indo-Pacific Region by mobilizing nuclear-powered submarines. This type of Submarine has a technological advantage that is far better than conventional submarines in general, which has nuclear in its technology and submersible capacity, as well as speed, which has the potential to change regional strategies asymmetrically. Overall, the Indo-Pacific Region faced several significant security challenges before and after the AUKUS Defense Pact. AUKUS has made efforts in this Region to strengthen stability and peace in the Indo-Pacific Region, but this has resulted in different responses and effects from countries in the Region.

Anarchy situations can be described by the south china sea disputes and terrorism that occurred in the indo-pacific before the AUKUS. Then the need for selfhelp towards survival or security as a response to anarchy, namely the south china sea conflict, the formation of the AUKUS pact, which is committed to maintaining the stability and security of the indo-pacific region. But in fact, the AUKUS pact creates uncertainty and fear among regional countries in the indo pacific. this is evidenced by protests from indo-

pacific countries such as china and also several ASEAN countries and also France, which claim that there will be an arms race in the indo-pacific region, which is described self-help through power competition. In response to the formation of the AUKUS, a security dilemma finally occurred where in this case, china increased its military capabilities, besides the aukus pact also caused polemics among indo-pacific countries.

The Trilateral Security Alliance cooperation between Australia, Great Britain and the United States in the form of the AUKUS pact has raised concerns about its impact on the security situation in the Indo-Pacific Region. This agreement creates a security dilemma, especially for China, which response by increasing its military capabilities, thereby increasing the level of insecurity in the Region. by increasing its military development, China will undoubtedly play a role in escalating tensions in the Indo-Pacific Region. This could lead to an increasingly volatile arms race and security environment.

The existence of the AUKUS Defense Pact directly affects security conditions in the Indo-Pacific Region. However, the decision to form AUKUS received mixed responses from countries in the Indo-Pacific Region. China, as the country most disadvantaged by this pact, responded strongly and considered that this pact was a threat to regional security and stability. In addition, other countries such as Indonesia and Malaysia have also expressed concern about this Pact.

Several countries, such as Singapore, the Philippines and India, welcomed this defense cooperation. They see that this cooperation can help increase the defense and security capacity of the Indo-Pacific Region. In addition, with the existence of the AUKUS Defense Pact, it is hoped that it can reduce tensions in this Region and strengthen coordination between countries in the Region so that it can be ascertained that the AUKUS pact defense cooperation affects the security of the Indo-Pacific Region.

One of the main advantages of the AUKUS nuclear submarine project is that it provides significant strategic advantages for Indo-Pacific region countries. These nuclear-powered submarines are designed to operate in deeper water depths, making them ideal for tracking Chinese submarines and monitoring the country's activities. With the development and deployment of nuclear-powered submarines, it is hoped that there will be a significant improvement in the security of Australia, Britain and the United States in the Indo-Pacific Region. These submarines are faster and have a much better range than conventional submarines, enabling these nuclear-powered submarines to perform a variety of missions, including surveillance, reconnaissance, and deterrence.

Although this Pact can improve the security of AUKUS member countries, it can also pose a security dilemma for China, which causes increased tension and instability

in the Indo-Pacific Region. Security dilemma refers to a situation in which efforts by one country to enhance its security may undermine the security of another, leading to a cycle of insecurity and instability. In the context of the AUKUS defense pact, China considers the presence of the AUKUS Defense Pact in the Indo-Pacific Region as a threat to its security and sovereignty. This could lead China to take steps to improve its security, such as increasing its military capabilities.

In 2022, just a year after the announcement of AUKUS cooperation, the Chinese Government officially announced an increase in the country's defense spending by 7.1% of 1.45 trillion yuan. The actions taken by the Chinese government in increasing the defense budget are a response to support the modernization of the military. Apart from that, the increase in the defense budget is also supported by several other military modernization programs such as the procurement program, military reform, to the new doctrine change program related to the war strategy of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). The rapid modernization of China's armed forces causes China to have more significant influence than countries in the Indo-Pacific Region. This is evidenced by the rapid development of the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) Rocket Force's military capabilities in implementing military exercises conducted by China after the announcement of AUKUS.

China has also advanced its long-term modernization plan by improving and developing its country's military technology, namely: A new generation of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), the DF-26 missile, etc. China's military modernization is also strengthened by aggressive military activities with its closest ally, Russia. This can be seen from the joint training activities of 10 warship fleets consisting of 5 warships belonging to China and the rest to Russia in the western Indo-Pacific Region.

China's rapid military modernization and aggressive military activities undertaken by China and Russia right after the announcement of the AUKUS cooperation was a form of China's security dilemma regarding developing the AUKUS defense pact in the Indo-Pacific Region. China sees this military modernization as an effort to maintain national security, which could trigger tensions and increase competition in the Indo-Pacific Region.

As seen from some of the discussions above, the AUKUS nuclear submarine project has pros and cons for several countries Indo-Pacific region. While it could improve the security of countries in the region and encourage greater cooperation between three members their allies, it could also escalate tensions and lead to a nuclear arms race. Although the project has generated some tension with China, it has the support

of several countries in the region, including Singapore and the Philippines. Singapore has supported the AUKUS project to strengthen its security partnership with the United States and its allies.

Singapore has close relations with the three AUKUS member. Therefore, Singapore's interest in the AUKUS project is to ensure that the project will maintain the existing bilateral relations with the three countries. In addition, Singapore is interested in maintaining power stability in the Indo-Pacific region so that no single country controls the region. Therefore, Singapore can take advantage of the AUKUS project, which aims to improve security in the Indo-Pacific region.

The Philippines, an island nation in Southeast Asia, also supported the AUKUS project. The country has a long-standing alliance with the United States. It relies on United States military support to fight regional security threats, including terrorism and territorial disputes in the South China Sea. The Philippines supports the AUKUS partnership as it is seen as a tool to balance China's power in the Indo-Pacific region, primarily due to its proximity. It enabled a rapid response to emerging threats in the region. The Philippine government stated in an official statement that an increase in the military capabilities of Australia and its key allies is needed to balance power in the region. The Philippines is engaged in a territorial dispute with China in the South China Sea., and sees the AUKUS project as a way to strengthen its military capabilities and deter Chinese aggression in the region.

Two countries that felt the impact of the announcement of the AUKUS partnership were Indonesia and Malaysia. Both countries have expressed concern over the potential negative effects of this security agreement on regional stability and security. The interests of Indonesia and Malaysia in rejecting the AUKUS pact are to secure sovereignty, security, and stability in the Indo-Pacific region and respect the principles of peace and equality between countries. Indonesia and Malaysia's rejection of the AUKUS pact indicates growing concerns over the implications of this new security agreement. The press conferences held by both countries demonstrate their determination to protect the sovereignty of ASEAN countries and their commitment to ensuring regional stability and peace.

IV. CONCLUSION

The AUKUS defense pact significantly affects regional security in the Indo-Pacific region. On the one hand, cooperation of defence pact is expected to help prevent potential security threats and conflicts. However, on the other hand, increased military presence and activity in the region may also be perceived as a threat by some countries,

leading to increased tensions and possible conflict. The AUKUS defense pact has sparked concern among countries in the Indo-Pacific region, especially China because the presence of nuclear submarines could threaten their security. This prompted China to increase its defense capabilities, such as increasing its military budget and strengthening its military forces in the Indo-Pacific region.

Although the main objective of the AUKUS defense pact is to protect regional security and stability, the presence of nuclear submarines and increased defense capabilities in the region can worsen regional security and stability. This has sparked concern for other countries in the Indo-Pacific region and can increase pressure on these countries to increase their defense capabilities, thus triggering a security dilemma. Overall, the effect of the AUKUS Defense Pact on the Security of the Indo-Pacific Region shows that the AUKUS Defense Pact triggers a security dilemma in the region. This worsens regional security and stability and could trigger a similar response from other countries. Therefore, efforts need to be made to reduce regional tensions and increase trust between the countries involved. This can be done through dialogue and closer cooperation between countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

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