

The Influence of Public Opinion on Indonesia's Foreign Policy-Making Process: A Case Study of the Jakarta Bandung High-Speed Rail Project 2008-2015

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Abstract

The first high-speed rail project in Indonesia which began under President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, in 2008 the National Development Planning Agency (National Development Council) and the Ministry of Transportation was appointed to design the Jakarta-Surabaya High-Speed Rail Project in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to the feasibility study. Following the victory of Joko Widodo (Jokowi) as the elected president of the Republic of Indonesia in 2014, Jokowi has nine development priorities as outlined in the Nawacita program. This study explains how public opinion in Indonesia influences its foreign policy decision making. Public opinion influences the foreign policy decision-making process, in the case of the Jakarta-Bandung high-speed rail project. Society and the media are interconnected and influence the government and its foreign policy decision-making process. The approach used in this research is Indonesia's perspective on the outcome of its foreign policy to cooperate with China for significant infrastructure and strategic projects. In analyzing the problem of this research using qualitative methods. The research analysis is done by collecting data from the case studies studied.

Keywords:

Foreign Policy, China, Indonesia, Public Opinion