

Japan-China Rivalry in Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway Infrastructure Project

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Abstract

This research focuses on the rivalry between Japan and China in the Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway infrastructure project. Although the Indonesian government initially offered the project to Japan, China eventually won this project. The purpose of this study is to find out what factors encourage the decision of the Indonesian government to choose China over Japan as the strategic partner in this mega infrastructure project. This research uses the process-tracing method to analyze decisions taken by the Indonesian government. This article finds that domestic politics, such as perceptions of power, state's domestic characteristics, and quality of political leadership as well as external factors such as the influence of China in Asia and the limitations of Japan in fulfilling the requirements given by the Indonesian government drive Indonesia's decision to choose China over Japan despite Japan's technological superiority in infrastructure project implementation.

Keywords

High-speed railway, Infrastructure project, Indonesia, China-Japan rivalry.

Biographies

Moch Faisal Karim is an Assistant Professor within International Relations Department at Bina Nusantara University. He is currently a managing editor of the Journal of ASEAN Studies. His research has been published in Contemporary Politics, Third World Quarterly, Australian Journal of International Affairs, Pacific Review, Asian Journal of Social Science, European Journal of East Asian Studies, Journal of International Migration and Integration and Journal of ASEAN Studies. Faisal holds PhD from the University of Warwick.

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