

Regional Security Complex (RSC) in the Security Complexity of the Southeast Asia Region

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Abstract

The Southeast Asian region faces security complexities that need to be taken into account, including border disputes, struggles over natural resources, the threat of drugs and terrorism, China's presence in the region, as well as security dilemmas and arms races. Although the current security situation is relatively peaceful with no significant conflict, the potential threat of war in the future cannot be ignored. This research aims to analyze the Regional Security Complex (RSC) framework in the security complexity of the Southeast Asia region. ASEAN countries are quite capable of maintaining regional security stability within the framework of friendship (Enmity). RSC theory is used to analyze the ASEAN cooperation framework in dealing with regional security complexity. A qualitative approach using literature study was used in this research. The findings of this research show that ASEAN countries have agreed to strengthen a friendship-based cooperation framework to continue to maintain the security stability of the Southeast Asian region.

Keywords: Regional Security Complexity, RSC, Southeast Asia

INTRODUCTION

Security dynamics in the Southeast Asia region face increasing complexity. Various security threats such as border disputes, struggles over natural resources, transnational criminal activities, the presence of large powers in the region, as well as military competition and arm races between countries have created a situation full of uncertainty. Even though the current security situation is relatively stable, the potential for conflict can still arise at any time. To understand this security complexity, the Regional Security Complex (RSC) framework offers a valuable analytical perspective (Pratomo, 2020). The security complexity that occurs in the Southeast Asia region is caused by many factors that are interconnected with each other. These factors come from various aspects of life, such as politics, economics, social also military. From a political perspective, this region is inhabited by many countries that have different government systems, ideologies and national interests. These differences sometimes trigger tensions or disputes between countries, such as territorial border disputes. Apart from that, the interference of large countries such as China and the United States in regional affairs can also complicate the security situation. From an economic perspective, competition for natural resources such as oil, gas and marine products in this region can trigger conflicts of interest between countries. Each country wants to exploit as many resources as possible to support its economic growth (Yaacob, 2023).

According to Yaacoob (2023), social factors also play a role, such as the existence of transnational criminal activities such as drug trafficking, human smuggling and terrorism. Criminal groups use the Southeast Asian region which consists of many countries to carry out their actions. Finally, military factors also contribute to security complexity in this region. Several countries are modernizing weapons and increasing defense budgets. This triggers an arms race and a security dilemma among countries in the region. All these political, economic, social and military factors are interrelated and influence each other. Problems in one aspect can trigger tension in other aspects. This is what causes the security complexity in Southeast Asia to be very complicated and difficult to handle. To overcome this complexity, countries in the region need to work closely together in various fields such as politics, economics, social and defense and security. With close cooperation, countries can understand each other's interests and find joint solutions to maintain security stability in the Southeast Asia region.

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Facing security complexity in the Southeast Asian region, regional cooperation and multilateral diplomacy play a central role in finding effective solutions to maintain regional stability and security. The concept of Regional Security Complex (RSC) refers to a complex network of security relationships between countries in a region. Southeast Asia has unique dynamics in its own RSC which is influenced by several key elements: (1) ASEAN's role through security dialogue mechanisms such as ARF and EAS; (2) Territorial disputes, especially in the South China Sea; (3) Great power competition such as the US, China and Russia; (4) Threat of terrorism and extremism; (5) Maritime cooperation in maintaining the security of trade routes; (6) Vulnerability to natural disasters; and (7) Environmental issues and competition for natural resources. Thus, the Southeast Asian RSC is characterized by a series of interrelated factors that influence regional security dynamics, demanding close cooperation efforts between countries through regional forums in maintaining peace and stability (Wicaksana and Karim, 2023).

In the context of Southeast Asia, ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) member countries have attempted to maintain regional security stability through a cooperation framework based on the principle of Enmity or Friendship. However, complex security challenges require evaluation and adjustments in the cooperation mechanism. To analyze the security complexity of the Southeast Asia region, the Regional Security Complex (RSC) theory offers a comprehensive conceptual framework. RSC is an approach developed by Barry Buzan and Ole Wæver in studying security dynamics in a particular region. This theory considers aspects of security interdependence between countries, both in the context of threats and the responses provided (Buzan and Wæver, 2003).



Source: Nationsonline.org

(https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/map_of_southeast_asia.htm)

Figure 1.1 represents the Southeast Asia region which consists of various countries and has security complexity. In the context of the Regional Security Complex (RSC), we can see that countries in Southeast Asia are geographically close and interact with each other historically, forming a regional security complex. Countries

Figure 1.1 Map of the Southeast Asia Region

such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Brunei Darussalam are included in this region. We can also see the role of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) as a regional organization that seeks to manage security complexity and promote cooperation between countries in the Southeast Asian region.

Figure 1.1 provides a relevant visual context for understanding the security complexity of the Southeast Asia region from a Regional Security Complex (RSC) perspective, where countries are interconnected and face common security threats that require regional cooperation to overcome them. The research entitled "Regional Security Complex (RSC) in the Security Complexity of the Southeast Asia Region" has high significance. First, this region faces multidimensional security threats, both traditional and non-traditional, so a comprehensive understanding of interactions and interrelationships between countries is needed in dealing with these threats. Second, this research can evaluate ASEAN's role and effectiveness in facilitating regional security cooperation. Third, the involvement of external actors such as the United States and China also influences regional security dynamics, so it is necessary to analyze their impact on the complexity of the RSC. Fourth, research findings can provide relevant policy recommendations for countries in the region to improve security cooperation and

handle threats more effectively. Fifth, this research contributes academically by enriching the literature related to the RSC concept and its context in Southeast Asia. Finally, more broadly, this research is important for understanding the factors that can maintain stability and peace in the region, for the sake of economic growth and societal welfare.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Southeast Asia Region

Research discussed by Rothman, Vyas and Sato (2017) "Realist Objectives, Liberal Means: Japan, China, and Maritime Security in Southeast Asia" regarding how Japan and China pursue their realist objectives in terms of maritime security in Southeast Asia using liberal means. Then research by Chand and Gracia (2017) "Power Politics and Securitization: The Emerging Indo-Japanese Nexus in Southeast Asia" discusses power politics and securitization in the context of developing Indo-Japanese relations in the Southeast Asia region. . Furthermore, Kim's research (2021) "Empires of vice: The rise of opium prohibition across Southeast Asia" which explains the history and development of opium prohibition in the Southeast Asia region, however, as time went by, opium began to be considered a social and moral threat, so it emerged movement to ban opium in various regions of Southeast Asia. Then research conducted by Amirell (2019) "Pirates of empire; colonization and maritime violence in Southeast Asia" he discusses the relationship between colonialism, maritime violence and piracy in the Southeast Asian region. After that, research by Bautista (2014) "Dispute settlement in the Law of the Sea Convention and territorial and maritime disputes in Southeast Asia: Issues, opportunities and challenges. Asian Politics & Policy" explains dispute resolution based on the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and its relation to territorial and maritime disputes in the Southeast Asia region. More specifically, this article explores the issues, opportunities and challenges in implementing such dispute resolution mechanisms to resolve territorial and maritime disputes in Southeast Asia.

From a collection of five studies taken regarding the Southeast Asian region, the author tries to limit the scope of his study. The discussion was aimed at exploring security dynamics in the Southeast Asia region in more depth. As a basis, the author presents a perspective regarding the significance of maintaining security stability in the region. This is considered crucial in studying the urgency of increasing awareness of regional security, where this process is a lesson that a country that has high awareness of the importance of preparing for security even though it is not in a state of armed conflict is a country that is capable and ready to protect its citizens effectively.

ASEAN

Research conducted by Ikbal and Aminy (2020) "Security Community, Asean and Its Member States: Mutually Reinforcing or a Relationship of Convenience?" discusses the concept of "security community" in the context of ASEAN and its member countries. More specifically, this research explores whether the relationship between ASEAN as a regional organization and its member countries in terms of security is mutually reinforcing or is only a relationship based on temporary interests (relationship of convenience). Then research by Martel (2020) "The polysemy of security community-building: Toward a "people-centered" Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)?" discusses "polysemy" or various interpretations in efforts to build a security community (security community-building) in ASEAN, as well as the possibility of moving towards a "people-centered" ASEAN. Furthermore, research conducted by Caballero-Anthony (2020) "Security Governance and ASEAN's Political Security Community: Fragmented but Inclusive Security Communities? " can understand that this research discusses security governance and the ASEAN Political Security Community. More specifically, this research might explore whether efforts to build a security community in ASEAN tend to be fragmented but inclusive.

Then research conducted by Ling (2021) "Creating Strategic Opportunities: The Concept and Practice of China-ASEAN Security Cooperation" discusses the concept and practice of security cooperation between China and ASEAN and how this creates strategic opportunities for both parties. After that, research by Caballero-Anthony and Emmers (2020) "Keeping the Peace in Southeast Asia: ASEAN and the Quest for Positive Peace" discusses

ASEAN's efforts to maintain peace in the Southeast Asia region, with a focus on the concept of "positive peace".

From a series of five studies taken regarding regional organizations in the Southeast Asia region, namely ASEAN, the author attempts to limit the scope of his study. The discussion was directed at exploring ASEAN's role in facing various challenges occurring in the Southeast Asia region. As a basis, the author presents a perspective regarding the steps taken by ASEAN to maintain security stability in the region. This is considered significant in studying the urgency of the role of regional organizations in overcoming obstacles at the regional level, where this process is a learning that regional organizations are actors who have the capacity to seek to resolve problems that occur in the region concerned.

Security Interdependence

Research conducted by Nye (2020) "Power and Interdependence with China" discusses the dynamics of power and interdependence between the United States and China. Then Ezhei and Tork's (2020) research "Interdependency Analysis in Security Investment against Strategic Attacks" discusses interdependence analysis in the context of security investment to counter strategic attacks. In more detail, this research explores how interdependence factors influence security investment decisions in the face of strategic attack threats, such as cyber attacks, terrorism, or other national security threats.

Furthermore, research by Sauvageot (2020) "Between Russia as producer and Ukraine as a transit country: EU dilemma of interdependence and energy security" this research discusses the dilemma of interdependence and energy security faced by the European Union (EU) in the context of Russia as an energy producer and Ukraine as an energy transit country. After that, research conducted by Cannon and Donelli (2020) "Asymmetric Alliances and High Polarity: Evaluating Regional Security Complexes in the Middle East and Horn of Africa" this research discusses asymmetric alliances and high polarity in the context of regional security complexes in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa. Then, Henry's (2020) research "What allies want: Reconsidering loyalty, reliability, and alliance interdependence" this research discusses what allied countries want in the context of international alliances. Specifically, this research reviews concepts such as loyalty, reliability, and interdependence in alliances.

In an effort to contribute to the study of security interdependence, the author conducted a critical review of five previous studies relevant to the topic. The scope of the analysis then focuses on the context of the Southeast Asia region, by examining the various security challenges faced by countries in the region. In building his argument, the author explores the causal factors that drive the need for security interdependence between countries in a region. The author emphasizes that a comprehensive understanding of the concept of security interdependence and its implications is essential in efforts to realize sustainable stability and security at the regional level.

METHOD

This study uses qualitative research. Qualitative research seeks to explore and understand in depth various phenomena and social realities in specific contexts. This approach allows the formation and development of social theory, especially in the realm of sociology, which is based on empirical observations of the phenomena or cases studied. In this way, the resulting theory has a solid foundation in real reality, and is contextual and takes into account the historical factors behind the phenomenon (Somantri, 2005; Fernando et al., 2023; Galuh Larasati et al., 2023)

By using qualitative research methods, this research was able to explore in depth the rationality behind the selection of "Regional Security Complex (RSC) in the Security Complexity of the Southeast Asia Region" as the object of study. By comprehensively analyzing regional security dynamics in Southeast Asia through the RSC conceptual lens, this study seeks to gain a holistic understanding of the factors that make this topic relevant and significant for research. In addition, this research also intends to reveal the objectives and potential benefits that can be achieved from new knowledge generated through in-depth investigation of the security complexities of the Southeast Asia region within the RSC framework, both from a theoretical perspective and its practical implications in the formulation of effective regional security policies and strategies.

RESULT

Regional Security Complex (RSC) Concept

In the development of regional security studies, Barry Buzan pioneered an idea called Traditional Security Complex Theory. This concept was first introduced in his book entitled "People, States and Fear" in 1983. Buzan (2003) proposed a new analytical framework for understanding specific security dynamics at the regional level, which is different from global and national security approaches. After being put forward, the Traditional Security Complex Theory was then developed further by Buzan and other academics. This theory is applied in depth to study cases in several regional areas, such as South Asia, the Middle East, Southeast Asia and Europe. This empirical application allows testing and refinement of the concepts and analytical framework proposed by Buzan.

Through these regional studies, Traditional Security Complex Theory is increasingly mature and accepted as a relevant analytical tool in regional security studies. Its application in various regional contexts proves the power and usefulness of this theory in understanding the unique security patterns in each region, as well as the factors that shape these security dynamics. In understanding the dynamics of international security, Traditional Security Complex Theory introduces the concept of regional security sub-systems. This sub-system lies between the level of the individual state and the international system as a whole. This theory recognizes that there are groupings or clusters of countries based on the security relations that occur in their regional areas (Buzan, 2003; Fernando et al., 2023; Airlangga PH et al., 2024).

Buzan (2003) states that the main logic of this theory is that although all countries in the world are connected in an interdependent global security net, security threats such as military and political tend to spread more easily in geographically close areas than long distances. This means that countries will generally be more worried about nearby neighboring countries than threats from distant countries. Therefore, the pattern of security dependencies throughout the international system is not uniform. What happened was the formation of a grouping of countries based on geographical proximity and patterns of alliance/hostility between them. This grouping is called the Regional Security Complex (RSC). The security links and dependencies between countries within one RSC are much closer than to countries outside the RSC.

The formation of the RSC was influenced by the distribution of power and the history of friendly/hostile relations between countries in the region. Classically, the RSC is defined as a set of states whose perceptions and primary security concerns are so intertwined that their national security problems cannot be analyzed or resolved in isolation. So, in essence, this theory recognizes the existence of specific security dynamics at the regional level that are different from the global system, so they require separate analysis (Buzan, 2003; Nathali et al., 2023; Yohana, 2023).

In his book, Buzan (2003) also explains that after the end of the Cold War, the concept of Regional Security Complex (RSC) became increasingly relevant to apply. This is due to the development of a security agenda that goes beyond the military-political sector alone. The economic sector, the environment and social identity are also the main concerns in contemporary security studies. In the economic sector, we are witnessing the phenomenon of regionalization which is marked by the emergence of regional economic blocs such as the European Union and NAFTA. Meanwhile, in the environmental sector, issues such as marine pollution, management of cross-border rivers, and other environmental problems can shape regional security dynamics. No less important, threats to social identity such as migration, the existence of ethnic groups, and other identity issues also tend to originate from geographically close areas.

Therefore, in the social sector, the logic of regionalization is also important to consider in contemporary security analysis. Thus, the post-Cold War RSC concept encompasses much more complex security dynamics than before. It is not only limited to the military-political sector, but also involves economic, environmental and social identity factors in forming regional security groupings. The analysis must also integrate these various sectors into one RSC which is more heterogeneous in nature (Buzan, 2003).

Southeast Asia Region As Regional Security Complex (RSC)

The Southeast Asian region can be classified as a Regional Security Complex (RSC) which is quite coherent in the context of regional security studies. Countries in the region have significant geographic proximity, close historical ties, and patterns of cooperation and competition that shape distinctive security dynamics. These factors create intense security interdependence and interconnectivity among Southeast Asian countries (Huxley and Kuok, 2023).

In the military-political sector, the Southeast Asian region faces a number of traditional security issues such as the South China Sea border dispute, Myanmar's internal conflict, as well as the threat of terrorism and transnational crime. ASEAN's role as a regional organization is significant in maintaining regional stability and security. However, challenges such as increasing military spending and competition between major powers also influence security dynamics in Southeast Asia (Marty and Natalegawa, 2017; Montasir et al., 2023). From an economic perspective, Southeast Asian countries are involved in regional economic integration through the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). Increasing economic interdependence has the potential to create new security complexities, such as competition for resources, energy security, and vulnerability to global economic turmoil. These economic factors can also trigger tension and conflict in the region (ASEAN Communiy, 2024).

Environmental issues such as transboundary pollution, natural resource management, and the impact of climate change are security threats that require regional cooperation in handling. This creates environmental security dynamics that are unique to the Southeast Asian region (Mason and Ward, 2020). Social identity factors such as ethnic, religious and cultural diversity in Southeast Asia also form unique security complexities. Identity-based conflicts such as in Southern Thailand and Mindanao are a major concern (Baba, 2016). The issue of migration and protecting minority rights also has the potential to cause tension in this region. Thus, the Southeast Asia region meets the criteria as a Regional Security Complex that has a strong pattern of security interdependence and interconnectivity among its member countries. The security complexity of this region covers various interrelated sectors, ranging from military-political, economic, environmental, to social identity.

DISCUSSION

Strengthening the ASEAN Regional Security Cooperation Framework Based on the Principles of Friendship in Maintaining the Stability of the Southeast Asian Region

According to Aisarieva (2015) various security cooperation mechanisms built by ASEAN, such as ARF (ASEAN Regional Forum), APSC (ASEAN Political-Security Community), TAC (Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia), ZOPFAN (Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality), and SEANWFZ (Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone), are concrete embodiments of the Regional Security Community concept that this regional organization wishes to achieve in Southeast Asia.

In an effort to create an environment conducive to peace, stability and security in the Southeast Asian region, ASEAN has taken strategic steps through a series of security cooperation initiatives involving its member countries. These initiatives reflect the regional organization's commitment to building trust, preventing conflict, and promoting harmonious relations between countries in the region. The following is a brief elaboration regarding each security cooperation initiative that has been launched within ASEAN:

ARF (ASEAN Regional Forum) is a multilateral dialogue forum which is a forum for ASEAN countries and dialogue partners to discuss regional security issues in the Asia Pacific. Founded in 1994, ARF embraces the involvement of significant external actors by including 18 dialogue partners, including superpowers such as the United States, China and the Russian Federation. ARF has the main objective of facilitating the process of confidence-building and conflict prevention in the region. This forum applies a preventive diplomacy approach through regular dialogue and consultation to promote mutual understanding, transparency and cooperation in dealing with non-traditional security threats such as terrorism, maritime security, natural disasters, and so on. By involving various countries from both inside and outside the Asia Pacific region, ARF seeks to create norms and mechanisms for effective conflict management in order to maintain regional stability and peace in Southeast Asia.

APSC (ASEAN Political-Security Community) is one of the main pillars of the ASEAN Community which has a mandate to realize regional integration and cohesion in political and security dimensions. APSC aims to strengthen cooperation between ASEAN member countries in responding to security threats, both through intensifying political dialogue, implementing peaceful dispute resolution mechanisms, and increasing preparedness in facing disasters. Thus, APSC plays a central role in building regional solidarity to face growing security challenges in the Southeast Asia region.

TAC (Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia) is an agreement that is fundamentally intended as an effort to maintain peace, stability and cooperation in the Southeast Asia region. TAC signatory countries commit themselves to respecting sovereignty, territorial integrity, and other fundamental principles such as non-intervention in the domestic affairs of each country. Thus, TAC functions as a normative foundation that emphasizes respect for the independence and nationality of each member country, while promoting good relations and constructive cooperation between them.

ZOPFAN (Zone of Peace, Freedom, and Neutrality) is a concept promoted by ASEAN in an effort to realize the Southeast Asian region as a zone that upholds the values of peace, freedom and neutrality. This initiative aims to strengthen fundamental principles such as non-combat, non-violence, and peaceful dispute resolution in the region. Thus, ZOPFAN reflects the collective desire of ASEAN member countries to make this region an environment free from conflict and great power competition, while promoting respect for the sovereignty and independence of each country.

SEANWFZ (Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone) is an area declared by ASEAN member countries as an area free from nuclear weapons. Through this scheme, countries in Southeast Asia agree to prohibit any activities related to testing, development, production or distribution of nuclear weapons within their territory. Furthermore, SEANWFZ also prohibits countries outside the ASEAN region from using or bringing nuclear weapons into the region. Thus, this initiative reflects the collective commitment of ASEAN countries in promoting the disarmament of weapons of mass destruction and creating an environment free from nuclear threats in the Southeast Asia region (Aisarieva, 2015).

ADIC (ASEAN Defense Industry Collaboration)

In the context of security complexity in the Southeast Asia region, known as the Regional Security Complex (RSC), the ASEAN Defense Industry Collaboration (ADIC) plays an important role in overcoming regional security challenges. It needs to be understood that the Southeast Asia region has unique and complex security dynamics, where threats and challenges are not only military in nature, but also include other aspects such as economic, political and socio-cultural. (Buzan, 2003).

In this context, ADIC emerged as a defense industrial cooperation initiative involving ASEAN member countries. The main aim is to increase defense capabilities and independence in the region, so that member countries can be better prepared to face regional security threats that may occur. Through this collaboration, ASEAN countries can share resources, transfer technology, and build a more resilient defense industrial capacity. The importance of ADIC lies in the fact that regional security cannot be separated from the independence and ability of member countries to produce and maintain their own defense equipment. With ADIC, ASEAN countries can reduce dependence on external sources and increase their ability to face security threats independently (Balakrishnan and Bitzinger, 2012).

According to Balakrishnan and Bitzinger (2012) ADIC was formed in May 2011, with the aim of promoting defense industrial cooperation between ASEAN countries in order to increase regional defense independence. This initiative emerged as a response to the complexity of security threats facing ASEAN countries, both traditional and non-traditional. With ADIC, it is hoped that ASEAN countries can share technology, knowledge and resources in developing joint defense capabilities.

ADIC currently has members from all ASEAN countries, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Brunei Darussalam. Each country has a different role in this cooperation according to their respective defense capabilities and needs. Countries with more advanced

defense industries such as Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore act as the main drivers, while other countries can contribute according to their capabilities. (Soraya, Sirait and Nulhakim, 2023).

In an effort to increase cooperation and strengthen the regional defense industrial sector, ASEAN has proposed the formation of the ASEAN Defense Industry Collaboration (ADIC). The Draft Note on the Establishment of ADIC states several main objectives of this initiative, including:

First, ADIC aims to facilitate collaboration on joint initiatives through alliances, joint ventures, and co-production, as well as exploring potential economies of scale. This will enable ASEAN countries to optimize resources and increase efficiency in defense production.

Second, ADIC will encourage trade in defense-related goods and services among ASEAN countries provided by the ASEAN defense industrial sector. It will promote technology exchange and knowledge transfer among member countries.

Third, ADIC will support defense events and trade exhibitions organized by ASEAN Member States. This will help promote ASEAN defense industry products and capabilities on the global stage.

Fourth, ADIC aims to strengthen ASEAN's industrial and technological competitiveness in the fields of defense and dual-use (military and civil) industries. This will encourage innovation and development of new technologies in the defense sector.

Fifth, ADIC will develop incentives to support the expansion of the ASEAN defense industry. This may include fiscal policies, regulations or other supporting programs to encourage the growth of the sector.

To achieve these goals, ADIC has approved several activities such as education and training related to the defense industry, partnerships and joint ventures for co-production in agreed projects, collaboration in research and development, as well as joint promotion of related development projects.

In this context, the vision and mission set by ADIC have the potential to advance the defense industrial sector of ASEAN countries. With each country having its own advantages in defense products, the existence of this platform can strengthen military strength, defense and security in the Southeast Asia region (Soraya, Sirait and Nulhakim, 2023).

Overall, ADIC is a strategic step in strengthening defense cooperation and integration in the Southeast Asia region. This initiative can help create a more stable and sustainable security environment, as well as promote regional peace and stability in the long term.

CONCLUSION

The Southeast Asia region is a unique and complex Regional Security Complex (RSC). The RSC concept refers to a geographic area that has security dynamics that are interrelated and influence each other. In this context, countries in the Southeast Asia region have close interactions on security issues, both in the form of threats and efforts to overcome them. The complexity of security in this region is caused by various factors, such as the history of colonialism, ethnic conflicts, territorial disputes, threats of terrorism, maritime security and other non-traditional challenges. However, despite the complex dynamics, ASEAN has played an important role in maintaining stability and peace in the region through various regional security cooperation frameworks.

One of ASEAN's main principles in maintaining regional stability is the principle of friendship and non-intervention. This principle emphasizes the importance of respecting state sovereignty, not interfering in other countries' internal affairs, and resolving conflicts peacefully. Through this principle, ASEAN has succeeded in building trust and cooperation among member countries, as well as creating a conducive environment for economic growth and development. In an effort to strengthen regional security cooperation, ASEAN has taken strategic steps by establishing the ASEAN Defense Industry Collaboration (ADIC). ADIC is a defense industry cooperation initiative aimed at increasing regional defense capability and independence. Through ADIC, ASEAN countries can share resources, transfer technology, and build a more resilient defense industrial capacity.

The existence of ADIC shows ASEAN's commitment to strengthening defense cooperation and integration in the region. This initiative can help create a more stable and sustainable security environment, as well as promote regional peace and stability in the long term. Overall, this research emphasizes the importance of understanding the concept of RSC and the complexity of security in the Southeast Asia region. Through cooperation and shared commitment, ASEAN countries can continue to strengthen the regional security framework, overcome threats, and maintain regional stability which is vital for economic growth and societal prosperity.

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