

Regional and International Impacts and Repercussion of (AUKUS) Alliance

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Abstract

AUKUS alliance, which was formed between United States, United Kingdom, and Australia on September 15, 2021, is one of the latest and most important alliances for United States of America in Indopacific region, It is a product of U.S. National Security Strategy for 2021 edition issued under U.S. President (Joe Biden), therefore it is mainly complementary to U.S. National Security Strategy for 2017 version under former President (Donald Trump), which has defined a special section on Indopacific region, it said United States and China were fighting for power and China's actions sought to dislodge United States from Indopacific region, as the region is the geopolitical rival between United States and its like-minded allies and China.

Keywords

AUKUS alliance, Effects of regional repercussions,

The problem of the research stems from a major question: Did AUKUS Alliance have had effects and repercussions on the regional and international levels?

Hypothesis

The research proceeds from the premise that AUKUS alliance has had repercussions on the regional and international levels.

Introduction

AUKUS alliance left many effects and repercussions, which resonated on the regional and international levels, and these effects and repercussions were represented by the issuance of regional and international reactions and positions, as well as raising concerns about regional and international security and stability. Therefore, these

effects and repercussions will be studied according to the following:

The first axis: the effects and repercussions of the regional AUKUS alliance

There are effects and repercussions of AUKUS alliance on the regional level, and they are due to several reasons, the most prominent and most important of which are the following:

First: Raising fears of undermining regional peace and prosperity

the emergence of AUKUS alliance in Indopacific region has attracted the attention of countries opposed to U.S. policy in the region, in particular, China, which enjoys great economic and military dominance in Indo-Pacific region, thus, China considers that the goal of forming US-led AUKUS alliance with United Kingdom and Australia, to confronting its influence in the region and that China confronts any country or alliance

whose goal is aggressive attack against its interests, and this creates a significant negative impact on the economy and security of (Indopacific) region, China has highlighted that AUKUS alliance is a signal by United States as a warning of how its military power is developing in Indo-Pacific, Chinese Foreign Minister (Wang Yi) pointed out that there are risks resulting from AUKUS alliance, including the weakness of the nuclear nonproliferation regime, this increases the chances of nuclear competition in the region and will threaten the security of Indopacific (Nindya.A, 2022), AUKUS Alliance also raised the concern of some countries in Pacific Ocean, According to Papua New Guinean Prime Minister (James Marape): (we have a very peaceful part of the planet, we want to protect this peace and serenity, In terms of securing peace we have no problem, But if such activities bring disharmony in the region we have a problem), Similarly, the Vanuatu opposition leader expressed concern about what the partnership means for the future stability of the region, the announcement that AUKUS partnership will include assistance to Australia to develop nuclear-powered submarines is particularly worrying for some Pacific leaders, given the problematic history of nuclear testing in the region and the long-standing call for a nuclear-weapon-free Pacific region (Others, 2022).

a negative impact on the security of Indopacific region that AUKUS is expected to succeed is the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region; the Chinese government asserts that there is a risk of nuclear proliferation because AUKUS alliance, provides a supply of nuclear material to a non-nuclear-weapon state, and Chinese government spokesman notes that AUKUS alliance, undermines South Pacific Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, Thus, AUKUS alliance could encourage other countries to acquire nuclear weapons for their own security (Viktor.K, 2021).

AUKUS alliance will also undermine ASEAN efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Southeast Asia; ASEAN countries signed in December 1995, Treaty establishing a South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, that treaty included a declaration banning the manufacture, testing, control and possession of nuclear weapons in South-East Asia, in addition, competition between major powers will escalate, making risk of an arms race and confrontation of major powers further undermine regional prosperity, peace and stability (Cheng.M, 2022).

as for the fact that AUKUS alliance raises the concerns of the countries of Indopacific region about the security of the region and the occurrence of an arms race, this is also a natural matter, that is because the alliance will undermine China's efforts to build islands around the international waters of

South China Sea in preparation for the invasion of the sea, this leads to enhanced defense efforts and increased military forces in the waters of the South China Sea (Taladiar.A, 2022).

Second: China's Rapid Reaction

China reacted quickly and negatively one day after the announcement of AUKUS alliance, on September 16, 2021; Chinese newspaper editorials began criticizing the alliance and the state-run China daily wrote, "Quad and Five Eyes, which is information exchange network between United States, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and United Kingdom with AUKUS alliance, are likely to work side by side." it recommended that Washington ignore ideological bias, Cold War mentality and a return to multilateralism, and Global Times reported that United States is hysterically polarizing the alliance system, and that by leaning towards the United States, Australia has turned itself into an adversary of China, describing it as still a dog running after the United States, China has also categorically threatened Australia with punishment if it goes too far in its support for the United States (Luthra.G, 2022).

the Chinese Foreign Ministry's announcement that AUKUS alliance reflects a negative picture of the alliance's creation, with the Chinese Foreign Ministry declaring that United States should abandon the outdated zero-sum mentality of Cold War or risk damage to its interests (ASG Analysis: what an AUKUS? the Dispute Among France, Australia, the U.k and the U.S, 2021), Chinese Foreign Minister (Wang Yi) mentioned five damages to the region caused by this alliance (Hussain.H, 2022):

- 1 the risk of nuclear proliferation.
- 2 a new arms race in the region.
- 3 Undermine regional stability and prosperity.
- 4 Subvert the concept of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Southeast Asia.
- 5 the resurgence of the Cold War mentality.

in fact, not only the above is why China opposes AUKUS alliance, Her opposition stems from concern that United States, United Kingdom, and Australia will in the future conduct joint exercises and exchange military and high-tech information in national defense and security with a wide range stretching from Endopacific to Atlantic Ocean (Hiên, 2021).

Third: Further deterioration of Australia-China relations

Since the normalization of diplomatic relations between Australia and China in 1972, those bilateral relations have experienced many ups and downs;

China is heavily criticized in the Australian media in various fields (How Good is the Australia- China Relationship? Managing Australia Diplomatic Relationship with China, 2020), but this does not deny that China has been Australia's largest trading partner; the recovery between Australia and China is based on strong trade bonds, yet this strong trade relationship between Australia and China is not immune to the divergent values and interests between the two countries, This has been reflected in recent changes in Canberra's policy towards China, China's use of economic coercion to settle political disputes, and the long-standing Australian-American alliance has made a significant difference in the tension between Australia and China; China has long described Australia's actions as part of US-led effort to discredit and ultimately contain China (Others S. a., 2021)

In February 2015, the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (USTRADe) published a report entitled How dependent do Australian exports depend on China? The report summarized the facts of exposure of Australian exports to China in a comparative temporal and international perspective to the last time United Kingdom was so important to Australia's exports half a century ago in 1952 and 1953; The proportion of Australian exports to United Kingdom reached 40%, and the report added that in 2013 Australia was the top 20 countries in the world for directing its exports to China (Zhou.M, 2020), this shows how important Australia's dependence on the Chinese market is as an open market for its exports, and this is what always exposes Australia to Chinese economic coercion due to Australia's anti-China and anti-American policy orientations.

China-Australian relations have continued to deteriorate since 2016, although the distance between Australia and China has been minimized; Chinese President (Xi Jinping) visited Australia for the G20 in 2014, Subsequently, bilateral relations between Australia and China were upgraded to a comprehensive strategic partnership and a free trade agreement was concluded, after that the relations between China and Australia began to change; the Northern Territory government entered in to an agreement to lease Darwin Port to a Chinese company for 99 years in October 2015, and this port is near a facility where U.S. Marine Corps is stationed, which led to the dissatisfaction of United States with Australia, Especially as there is growing concern due to the rapid increase in the investment of Chinese companies in Australia, especially in infrastructure, In 2016, Australian government stopped the acquisition of public energy companies and large farms by Chinese companies, This is due to Australia's national security concerns and raising concerns about China's penetration in to Australia's

backyard (Okano.Y, 2021) ,further strained the relationship between China and Australia by Australia's call for an international investigation into the emergence of Covid19 in April 2020 (Others S. a., 2021, p. 88) ; on April 26, Chinese Ambassador to Australia Cheng Jingy hinted at the possibility of economic retaliation against Australia if the Australian government continues its calls for an independent international investigation into COVID-15 (Zhou.M, 2020, p. 8).

AUKUS alliance is the most important factor in increasing tension and destabilizing relations between Australia and China, this is because the alliance includes the exchange of nuclear submarine technology by United States and United Kingdom with Australia, in addition to sharing information about long-range strike capabilities, artificial intelligence and underwater systems, justifying why China resents Australia by entering AUKUS alliance, it is China's fear that nuclear cooperation will lead to increased proliferation of nuclear weapons in Endopacific region (Yee.W, 2021).

the researcher believes China has the right to resent Australia because of AUKUS alliance if it feels there is a threat to its interests and national security.

The second axis / the effects and repercussions of the international AUKUS alliance

AUKUS alliance has had divergent effects and repercussions on international positions, and increased fears of instability and international peace.

First: Undermining global nonproliferation efforts

Delivery eight nuclear-powered submarines to Australia under AUKUS alliance has raised a range of concerns on international level, due to the implications of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT); this will be the first time that United States will share nuclear technology with another foreign country since 1958 mutual defense agreement with United Kingdom ,United States has not shared such technology with another country since the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty came in to force in 1970, United States has not shared such technology with another country since the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty came in to force in 1970, Australia would thus become the first State to exercise a loophole that would allow it to remove nuclear material from the IAEA inspection regime (AUKUS Briefing Book 2022 Inaugural Edition, 2022); The acquisition of nuclear submarines requires use of nuclear technology currently available in United States and United Kingdom

(Others B. a., 2022), Thus, the American and British nuclear-powered submarines rely on highly enriched uranium, and this is one of the materials that can be used to make nuclear bombs, The reason for using highly enriched uranium is that it makes a nucleus for life, lasting 30 to 40 years. while Nuclear-powered submarines using low-enriched uranium need to resupply uranium reactors at least twice during their service life, (the U.S. Navy and the National Nuclear Security Administration argue that the transition to low-enriched uranium would be lengthy, costly and result in a performance deterioration), therefore IAEA inspectors can not go inside submarines to verify the contents of the reactor, The payment system is generally a tightly guarded secret, and this is a loophole in the safeguards system, as it allows signatories to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to withdraw highly enriched uranium from its stockpiles for use in payment, Thus, the AUKUS alliance has broken the taboo for nuclear states from selling nuclear submarine technology to non-nuclear states, and Russia will not hesitate to sell highly enriched uranium, No non-nuclear country will hesitate to build nuclear submarines like Brazil, and the other problem that AUKUS will raise on the nuclear non-proliferation regime, Tehran is trying to win the global narrative about the legitimacy of its nuclear program, because AUKUS alliance has given them new legitimacy, Japan and South Korea are expected to do the same (Tertais.B, 2021).

Because of that loophole in the NPT, non-nuclear-weapon States will take advantage of that loophole in the NPT and thus be legally able to develop nuclear-powered submarines, In accordance with nuclear safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) involving the release of nuclear material for unauthorized military activity such as offshore reactors, This gap is one of the difficulties faced by IAEA in controlling submarine material and the desire of non-nuclear-weapon States to ensure wider access to nuclear activities (Schepers.N, 2022).

Second: French reaction

France sharply criticized parties forming AUKUS alliance, as French Foreign Minister (Jean-Yves Le Drian) described the announcement of formation the alliance as a "stab in the back", and this led France to recall its ambassadors in Canberra and Washington on September 17, 2021 (Wilson, 2021).

the reason for France's criticism of AUKUS alliance and its anger at the announcement of the alliance is because of the result of the coalition's

announcement of the cancellation of the contract for sale French submarines to Australia worth 56 billion euros, and French response was harsh; French Foreign Minister (Jean-Yves Le Drian) accused the Anglo-Saxon alliance of duplicity and behavior that does not suit reliable allies, and as a result, French President (Emmanuel Macron) summoned the French ambassadors to Australia and United States in a historical precedent (Others M. a., 2022), in fact, not only is the cancellation of French submarine contract a reason for France's anger at AUKUS, but France considers AUKUS alliance to be a blow to its strategy in Endopacific region, France considered that the secrecy of the negotiations on the declaration of the alliance had ignored France's position as a major European power in the region, and it also undermined French interests as a resident player in Endopacific region and showed the image of French weakness, especially France has sovereignty disputes in the region regarding the demarcation of the economic zone (EEZ) between New Caledonia and Vanuatu, as well as the dispute in the Mozambique Canal with Madagascar (Duchatel.M, 2022).

Participants on the American side in AUKUS alliance argue that the reason France did not participate in the alliance's plans early on was not to risk the failure of the alliance, and many Americans believe that France's reaction is exaggerated (Others S. a., 2022).

French reaction to AUKUS alliance also had a negative impact on Australian-French relations, as Australia enjoyed close relations with France before the announcement of the formation of AUKUS alliance, especially with the so-called French Pacific communities (New Caledonia and French Polynesia), and thus Australia was considered a key partner for France in Indopacific region, and Australian-French strategic partnership depended mainly on security and defense cooperation, and that was shown through Australia's adoption of the construction of its future submarine program on France and selected the French Naval Group by signing an agreement between two countries in 2016, two countries are also participating in military exercises to enhance interoperability, and in 2019 the bilateral National Security Dialogue was established, and through this joint actions in the Pacific were intensified, While combating poaching in Pacific Quad with (New Zealand and United States), as well as strengthening joint response to natural disasters through the Franz Agreement with France and New Zealand, and environmental protection efforts, in addition to strengthening regional integration activities for French Pacific communities within the framework of the Kiowa Initiative, the partnership between Australia and France expanded to Indian Ocean, with France and

Australia working together in regional forums such as IORA and Indian Ocean Maritime Symposium (IONS) (Frances Partnerships in the Indo- Pacific , 2021).

Australia also agreed with France and India to launch the Trilateral Dialogue on the level of senior officials of Ministries of Foreign Affairs in September 2020, and trilateral cooperation initiatives were put forward in three main areas such as maritime security, marine and environmental resource management, information exchange and enhanced cooperation for humanitarian assistance and disaster response (Frances Partnerships in the Indo- Pacific , 2021, p. 7).

but after the announcement of AUKUS alliance, there is something wrong in the relationship of France towards Australia, because Australia has violated France's confidence in it as an important strategic partner in Endopacific region after Australia canceled without reference the French submarine deal (Naval Group).

During the visit of Australian Prime Minister (Morrison) to France in June 2021, he assured President (Macron) that Australia is committed to all arrangements related to the submarine deal agreed between two countries, Two weeks before the announcement of AUKUS announcement, Australian Foreign Minister (Marise Payn) and Australian Defence Minister (Peter Dutton) were in Paris to meet their French counterparts (Jean-Yves Le Drian) and (Florence Parly); they assured to the French that submarine deal was in progress, but after the announcement of AUKUS alliance, Australia's retreat from French submarine program deal was considered, the reaction of French political leaders was like anyone who was betrayed by a trusted friend, as confirmed by (Le Drian) that Australia's behavior (stab in the back) and quoted by newspapers as having established a relationship of trust with Australia and this trust has been betrayed (Makinda.S, 2022).

France recalled its ambassadors to United States and Australia for consultations on September 17, 2021, and a senior British government official tweeted, "Don't underestimate the reaction in Paris, it's not just anger but a real feeling of betrayal because United Kingdom, United States and Australia negotiated behind their backs to implement AUKUS for six months" (Makinda.S, 2022, p. 1317).

Indeed, France reviewed the issue of its relationship with Australia when it noted this in its 2022 version of its Indopacific Strategy (Australia's decision in September 2021, without prior consultation or warning, to sever the partnership of trust with France, which included the future submarine program, to reassess the previous strategic partnership between two countries, France

will continue bilateral cooperation with Australia on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with its national interests and those of regional partners, France intends to maintain close relations with United States as an ally and major player in Endopacific and to strengthen coordination including the issues raised by the announcement of AUKUS Agreement (France Indo- Pacific Strategy, 2022).

with United States committed to systematically consulting and coordinating and welcoming strategies of France and the European Union for Indopacific region, France and United States signed a strategic framework for interoperability between their forces in December 2021 (Celine, 2022), also the Diplomatic relations between France and Australia were restored after Australian general elections in May 2022 and the visit of the new Australian Prime Minister to France in July of the same year, and a joint statement was presented, in which he presented an ambitious and new roadmap to revive the strategic partnership signed between the two countries in 2016 (Celine, 2022, p. 4).

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