

# **BAB I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1. Research Background**

The territory is a crucial element for a country and an absolute requirement for its existence. A nation's territory contains various natural resources that support its survival and development. Therefore, territorial boundaries hold significant value and often become a source of disputes between countries. Border disputes, also known as territorial conflicts, are the root cause of various common issues that can trigger wars and military conflicts between nations. The ambiguity of territorial boundaries between two or more countries, if not resolved through legitimate means recognized by all disputing parties, can worsen both internal and external situations, especially with neighboring countries that share direct borders.<sup>1</sup>

India and China are both countries where South Asia and East Asia meet along the Himalayan Mountains. Diplomatic relations between both nations began on December 30, 1949, when India, under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, recognized the Chinese government. This recognition made India the first non-socialist country to establish diplomatic relations with China. Despite differences in their political and governance systems, these factors did not prevent them from engaging and cooperating with each other.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Fajar Laksono Soeroso, "Memaknai Kecenderungan Penyelesaian Konflik Batas Wilayah Ke Mahkamah Konstitusi," *Jurnal Konstitusi* 9, no. 3 (May 20, 2016): 431, <https://doi.org/10.31078/jk931>.

<sup>2</sup> Zhang Li, *China-India Relations Strategic Engagement and Challenges*, Asie.Visions 34 (Sinchuan University: ifri French Institute of International Relations, 2010).

At the beginning of diplomatic relations, India and China agreed to abide by Panchsheel, a framework of five principles to guide bilateral cooperation between both countries. Panchsheel is contained in the Preamble to the Agreement on Trade and Intercourse between the Tibet Region of China and India, signed on April 29, 1954 by Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Chang Han Fu and Indian Ambassador Nedyam Raghavan. The five guiding principles are: peaceful coexistence, non-aggression, cooperation for mutual benefit, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, and mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty.<sup>3</sup>

In general, conflicts arise or occur due to four main factors: differences in opinions and emotions, cultural differences, conflicting interests, and social change. The term "conflict" originates from the Latin word "configure," which means "to strike each other." In Indonesian, conflict refers to disputes, disagreements, and opposition. Sociologically, conflict is a social process in which one party seeks to defeat or eliminate the other by destroying them or rendering them powerless.<sup>4</sup> Conflicts often arise due to imbalances in relationships, disparities, unequal social status, lack of prosperity, unequal access to resources, and power imbalances.

Border conflicts are one of the many unresolved issues between India and China. Since the first conflict between China and India in the 1960s until today, this border region remains one of the ongoing territorial disputes between the two countries. Nevertheless, a nation's sovereignty depends on clearly defined

---

<sup>3</sup> Vishakha Sharma and A. K. Ghildial, "Relevancy of Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence (Panchsheel) in Post Cold War Era," *Asian Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies* 2, no. 1 (2014): 60.

<sup>4</sup> Soerjono Soekanto, *Sosiologi Suatu Pengantar* (Jakarta: Rajawali Pers, 2019).

boundaries with its neighboring countries. The border separating India and China is the longest disputed border in the world, stretching over 3,440 kilometers. Along this boundary, both nations have overlapping territorial claims.<sup>5</sup>

In 1962 1962 was the beginning of the outbreak of conflict between India and China. This conflict was triggered by the struggle for three regions, namely the western, eastern, and central regions. The eastern region includes the McMahon Line which stretches along the borders of India, China, and Bhutan. Meanwhile, the western region starts from Karakoram in the north, through the administrative routes of Tibet Ngari, Ladakh, and Himachal Pradesh. While the central region covers an area that stretches from the Nepal border to Tibet.<sup>6</sup> India considers that the border between the two countries has been established since the British colonial era. In contrast, China does not recognize the existence of a clear border line and proposes cooperation between the two countries to re-establish a definite border. India adheres to a historical perspective in determining the border, while China views it from a political and strategic perspective.<sup>7</sup>

The border dispute between India and China has repeatedly arisen and can be categorized into three distinct periods. The first period, which lasted from 1962 to 1988, saw intense conflict but was eventually resolved with efforts to ease tensions, allowing for a rapprochement between the two countries. The second

---

<sup>5</sup> Muhammad Syahranto, "Konfrontasi India-China Di Pegunungan Himalaya, Apa Pemicunya?," *Warta Ekonomi Co.Id*, 2020, <https://wartaekonomi.co.id/read290569/konfrontasi-india-Tiongkok-di%02pegunungan-himalaya-apa-pemicuny>.

<sup>6</sup> Hongzhou Zhang and Mingjiang Li, "SINO-INDIAN BORDER DISPUTES," *ISPI Analysis*, 2013.

<sup>7</sup> Arfin Sudirman, Yusa Djuyandi, and Yoni Yolanda Sinyal, "Kebijakan Luar Negeri India Terkait Isu Perbatasan Melalui Penandatanganan Border Defence Cooperation Agreement Dengan Tiongkok Tahun 2013," *Jurnal Politik, Keamanan Dan Hubungan Internasional* 2, no. 2 (2023): 61–75, <https://doi.org/10.24198/aliansi.v2i2.46636>.

period, in 2017, ended with an agreement for a rapid withdrawal of troops. The third period began in 2020 and is known as the deadliest border clash since the ceasefire after the 1962 war.<sup>8</sup>

The border region between China and India in the Himalayas is a complex and challenging area. In general, this region consists of high, rugged mountains that are difficult to access, with extreme weather conditions. The border has often been a source of tension between China and India, as both countries have overlapping territorial claims in several areas. The border dispute in the Himalayan region has persisted for decades, with several incidents and physical clashes occurring in the past. After a long period of relative calm, tensions have once again escalated, leading to armed confrontations in the border area. Reports indicate that dozens of soldiers from both countries have been killed or injured as a result of the conflict.<sup>9</sup>

With the ongoing conflicts and disputes, bilateral relations between the two countries have started to weaken and gradually deteriorate. From the beginning of the dispute to the occurrence of conflicts, their relations improved after reaching a series of border agreements. However, tensions escalated and relations deteriorated following clashes along the disputed border in 2020, when 20 Indian soldiers and four Chinese soldiers were killed in a confrontation at the border.<sup>10</sup>

---

<sup>8</sup> Riski Wasiah Aulia Romadani, "STRATEGI INDIA DALAM MENGHADAPI TIONGKOK TERKAIT SENGKETA PERBATASAN DI PEGUNUNGAN HIMALAYA TAHUN 2020," *JOM FISIP* 9, no. 1 (2022): 6–7.

<sup>9</sup> "Perbatasan Himalaya: Api Dalam Sekam Hubungan Tiongkok-India," *Universitas Islam Indonesia*, 2020, <https://www.uii.ac.id/perbatasan-himalaya-api-dalam-sekam-hubungan-tiongkok-india/>.

<sup>10</sup> Rajeswari Pillai Rajagopalan, "India-China Relations Are Unlikely to See Much Progress," *CSIS Center for Strategic & International Studies*, 2024, <https://chinapower.csis.org/analysis/rajagopalan-india-china-relations>.

Several factors have contributed to the intense rivalry between the two Asian giants. One of the key reasons is the shifting balance of power, which has increased India's sense of insecurity. India feels threatened by China's rapid military modernization and its expansion in the Himalayan region. Additionally, China's geopolitical ambitions, including the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), have further deepened India's distrust. The border conflict has also been fueled by nationalist policies adopted by both countries, making compromise increasingly difficult.<sup>11</sup> The border dispute between India and China has become increasingly difficult to resolve. The complexity and vastness of the Himalayan mountains remain key challenges in determining the border line. Moreover, militarization, infrastructure development along the border, and deep-seated distrust are factors that could further strain India-China relations. Despite numerous negotiations over the years, no resolution has been reached, and only minimal progress has been made.

In Arabic, conflict is referred to as *Tasadam-Yatasadam*, meaning clash or dispute. In Surah Al-Hujurat, verse 13, Allah SWT teaches the importance of mutual understanding and brotherhood to prevent conflicts. Islam emphasizes peaceful conflict resolution through dialogue, forgiveness, and trust-building. This principle is highly relevant in addressing the India-China border dispute, which arises from differences in interests and territorial perspectives. The best resolution should be based on justice, be mutually beneficial, and align with the moral values and ideologies of both nations. Each country must prioritize dialogue and

---

<sup>11</sup> David M. Malone and Rohan Mukherjee, "India and China: Conflict and Cooperation," *Survival* 52, no. 1 (March 2010): 137–58, <https://doi.org/10.1080/00396331003612513>.

diplomacy to reach a fair agreement. This way, stability and peace can be maintained for the common good.<sup>12</sup>

From the explanation above, we can identify the urgency and novelty of this research: the importance of studying the impact of territorial conflicts in the India-China border region, particularly in the Himalayan Mountains, and how these conflicts affect bilateral relations between the two countries. Given that India and China share strong cooperation in various sectors, understanding the consequences of this territorial dispute is crucial. Therefore, this thesis will be titled "The Influence of Territorial Conflict in The Hiimalayan Mountains on India-China Bilateral Relations In 2020-2023".

## **1.2. Problem Formulation**

Based on the background explanation above, we can formulate the problem as follows: How the territorial conflicts in the Himalayan mountainous region affect India-China bilateral relations in 2020-2023?

## **1.3. Research Objectives**

This study aims to analyze the influence of territorial conflicts in the Himalayan mountainous region between India and China on bilateral relations between the two countries in 2020-2023.

## **1.4. Benefits of Research**

### **1.4.1 Academic Benefits**

---

<sup>12</sup> Salman Alfarisi, Uswatun Hasanah Unsur, and Atikah Ahraini Nasution, "Tafsir Ayat-Ayat Al Qur'an Tentang Manajemen Konflik," *Journal Educational Research and Social Studies* 2, no. 1 (2021): 142.

The benefits of the results of this research for academics include:

1. To contribute knowledge and information about the impact of territorial conflicts on India-China bilateral relations from 2020 to 2023
2. To provide additional knowledge for international relations analysts, especially those interested in *Territorial Conflicts*.

#### 1.4.2 Practical Benefits

- a. As the final project of female students in completing their education at the University.
- b. Able to provide knowledge on the influence of territorial conflicts in the Himalayan mountainous region on India-China bilateral relations in 2020-2023.

### 1.5. Literature Review

#### 1.5.1 Previous Research

In writing and drafting this thesis proposal, the author will use several references from several previous studies as references and knowledge references, which are used to strengthen the research results discussed by the author, namely The Influence of Territorial Conflict on India-China Bilateral Relations in 2020-2023.

The first research that the author used as a comparison in the previous research section was a journal written by Dhesy A. Kase with the title "**Wilayah Perbatasan Negara Dalam Perspektif Hukum Internasional**".<sup>13</sup> In this study, Dhesy A. Kase explained that "state boundaries" are basically the boundaries of

---

<sup>13</sup> Dhesy A Kase, "WILAYAH PERBATASAN NEGARA DALAM PERSPEKTIF HUKUM INTERNASIONAL," *Jurnal Proyuris* 2, no. 1 (2020): 170–75.



regional units (physical, social, and cultural) that are under the jurisdiction of a country, discourse on state boundaries cannot be separated from differences of opinion. The demarcation of national borders has changed over time, in line with recent advances in international law. Currently, international legal procedures including self-determination, the principle of *uti possidetis*, and state boundary agreements are more commonly used to establish state boundaries. The international community recognizes these three approaches as a legitimate way to determine the territory of a country.

The similarity of this research is to discuss the border area of the country and the importance of a country's territoriality regarding the sovereignty and jurisdiction of an independent country. The difference between the two is that the previous study only discussed what border areas are and their problems in terms of international law in general, while this study explains the implications or influence of territorial boundaries on relations between neighbouring countries using the case of the India-China border. Dhesy A. Kase's research is used by researchers to understand more deeply how the division of border areas is in accordance with applicable international law.

The next research with the title **"Seizing a Window of Opportunity? The Causes of the 2020 Sino-Indian Border Stand-Off"** by Stephen P. Westcott.<sup>14</sup> The research is motivated by the border conflict along the LAC between China and India in 2020, which has a larger scale compared to previous conflicts. Westcott began his analysis by describing the origins of the LAC border separating China

---

<sup>14</sup> Stephen P. Westcott, "Seizing a Window of Opportunity? The Causes and Consequences of the 2020 Sino-Indian Border Stand-Off," *Journal of Asian Security and International Affairs* 8, no. 1 (April 2021): 7–32, <https://doi.org/10.1177/2347797021992527>.



and India. Then, he provided a chronology of border issues in the LAC in 2020. In his conclusion, Westcott stated that China and India are currently in a difficult situation that he called "neither war nor peace." This term describes that the conflict between China and India has escalated to a more dangerous level.

The similarity of this research is to explore the power struggle in the Himalayas which is the border between the two countries. The difference lies in the focus of the research where the previous research focused on the background of the causes of territorial conflicts while the next research will continue how the escalation of the India-China territorial conflict in 2020. Stephen P. Westcott's research is used by researchers more deeply to find out the causes of territorial conflicts between the two countries.

The third research was written by Yakop Tasik et al. entitled "**Sengketa Perbatasan Sino-India Dalam Kepentingan Geopolitik Tiongkok (Studi Kasus Terhadap Konflik Perbatasan Pada Line of Actual Control Tahun 2020)**".<sup>15</sup>

This article discusses the border dispute between China and India, with a particular focus on the 2020 Ladakh Confrontation which was the aftermath of the issue that took place along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). The two countries are actively involved in the administrative phase along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), which has not yet been a clear demarcation line, being one of the main triggers of the confrontation. In addition, this article also discusses China's geopolitical perspective on this border dispute. Due to the vast and complicated border line in the Himalayan region, the border dispute between India and China is increasingly

---

<sup>15</sup> Yakop Tasik et al., "Sengketa Perbatasan Sino-India Dalam Kepentingan Geopolitik Tiongkok (Studi Kasus Terhadap Konflik Perbatasan Pada Line of Actual Control Tahun 2020)," *Jurnal Pendidikan Dan Konseling* 5, no. 1 (2023): 4835.

difficult to resolve. Differing opinions between the two countries on the border line in the region complicate the dispute settlement process. The source of this problem is the fact that during their expansion, Britain and Russia did not establish territorial boundaries. As a result, each country has the opportunity to determine how the borderline is defined for their benefit. Overall, the borders of the two countries consist of three major regions: Eastern, Central, and Western.

The similarity of this article with the next research lies in the discussion related to the state border dispute between India and China in 2020 in the Line of Actual Control. The difference is that previous researchers used China's geopolitical interests as the cause of this conflict to heat up, while this research will look at this conflict from the perspective of state sovereignty, where territory is very important for the sovereignty of a country. The Yakop Tasik research will be used to help researchers find out more deeply how the dynamics of border conflicts on the Line of Actual Control on the India-China border.

The next research is entitled **"The Sino-Indian Border Issue as a Factor for the development of Bilateral Relations"** written by Albina Muratbekova.<sup>16</sup> The research was motivated by the claims of China and India over the territory in the LAC which influenced the development of relations between the two countries from the 1950s to 2017. In her research, Muratbekova identified three main goals. First, it aims to analyze the evolution of territorial claims along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) put forward by China and India. Second, this study aims to evaluate the impact of the border dispute on the relationship between the two countries.

---

<sup>16</sup> Albina Muratbekova, "The Sino-Indian Border Issue as a Factor for the Development of Bilateral Relations," *Asian Journal of Comparative Politics* 3, no. 1 (March 2018): 3–12, <https://doi.org/10.1177/2057891117690453>.

Third, he also wants to analyze the international and domestic factors that contribute to the efforts to restore border relations between China and India. Muratbekova emphasized that the status of China and India as countries with great influence in Asia can significantly affect the regional and global situation. Bilateral economic relations between the two countries also make military conflicts around the border more complex and have far-reaching impacts.

What this article has in common with subsequent research is that it discusses the impact of border conflicts on bilateral relations between India and China. Then the difference lies in the duration of the research. Previous research discussed the impact after the first conflict occurred in the 1950s, while this study will focus on the impact given after the reheating of the conflict in 2020 in the Galwan Valley. Albina Muratbekova's research is used as a reference for researchers to understand the influence of the conflict and provide an overview of its influence on the dynamics of relations between the two countries.

The next research is entitled **“Kepentingan India Dalam Kerjasama Pertahanan Dengan Tiongkok Pada Tahun 2013 Terkait Persoalan Di Perbatasan”** written by Uum Humairoh.<sup>17</sup> This study discusses India's interests in establishing defense cooperation with China in 2013, especially related to border issues that have long been a source of tension between the two countries. Border conflicts in the Himalayan regions such as Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, and Aksai Chin have prompted both countries to seek ways to ease tensions through dialogue and military cooperation.

---

<sup>17</sup> Uum Humairoh, “Kepentingan India Dalam Kerjasama Pertahanan Dengan Tiongkok Pada Tahun 2013 Terkait Persoalan Di Perbatasan” (Jakarta, Universitas Islam Negeri Syarif Hidayatullah, 2014).

The similarity of this study with the next study is that both use the concept of national interest in the study. While the difference lies in the author's view that only uses Indian interests to see the case, especially in defense cooperation in the border region. The research written by Uum Humairoh is used by researchers to help understand and explain the concept of national interest in the case of cooperation between the two countries.

The sixth research was written by Wahyu Rajab Sahabudin with the research title **"Konflik Kashmir Dan Pengaruhnya Terhadap Hubungan Bilateral India Pakistan 2015-2021"**.<sup>18</sup> In this study, Sahabudin highlights the historical background of the Kashmir conflict, including the factors that caused the dispute to continue to this day. He also analyzed various significant incidents and events that occurred between 2015 and 2021 that exacerbated tensions between India and Pakistan. Kashmir's territorial conflict is not only caused by a struggle over a territory, but is also triggered by various underlying complex interests. The relationship between India and Pakistan is indeed very complicated due to various historical incidents, religious differences, and political dynamics. Although various diplomatic efforts have been made to ease tensions, they have all failed due to the ongoing conflict between the two countries. Kashmir's special status, which was previously guaranteed by the Indian constitution through Article 370, was abolished in 2019, so Kashmir must be subject to the Indian constitution as a whole.

The similarity of this research with the next research is that it discusses the impact of border conflicts on India's bilateral relations with its neighboring

---

<sup>18</sup>WAHYU RAJAB SAHABUDIN, "KONFLIK KASHMIR DAN PENGARUHNIA TERHADAP HUBUNGAN BILATERAL INDIA PAKISTAN 2015-2021" (UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH MATARAM, 2022).

countries. Then the difference lies in the focus of the case study he takes. The previous study discussed the impact of the border conflict between India and Pakistan that occurred in 1947, while this study will focus on the impact of the border conflict between India and China. The research written by Wahyu Rajab Sahabudin is used by researchers as a reference in seeing that with the existence of territorial conflicts, border disputes between two countries side by side can affect and disrupt the relationship between the two countries even though they had good cooperation before.

From the similarities, differences and positions between the previous research and this study, several research gaps were found. Some previous studies only explained the causes of the India-China border conflict and its dynamics from 1962 to 2020 and the efforts made by the two countries to overcome it, but no one has discussed the influence of this conflict on bilateral relations between the two countries. So this researcher will research further on the Influence of the India-China Territorial Conflict on Bilateral Relations in 2020-2023.

## **1.6. Theoretical or Conceptual Framework**

### **1.6.1 State Sovereignty**

Sovereignty is an important element for a country, so the country is obliged to protect its sovereignty from various threats. The term sovereignty is often found in a variety of meanings that have fundamental differences. For example, in the perspective of international law, sovereignty is often interpreted in the context of external or inter-state relations, while in the perspective of constitutional law, sovereignty is defined in the context of internal relations of states. Sovereignty is

also seen as the concept of the highest power in the implementation of government.<sup>19</sup>

Sovereignty was first introduced by Jean Bodin (1530-1596) in the 16th century in his book "Les Six Livres de la République". He said that sovereignty is defined as "la puissance absolue et perpetuelle d'une république", which means "absolute and continuous power in a republic". According to him, sovereignty is the highest power in a country that should not be limited by the constitution but can be limited by divine law and natural law. State sovereignty is the basis for several rights recognized by international law. These include the right to equality among states (equality), territorial jurisdiction, the right to determine citizenship for its inhabitants, the right to control entry and exit from its territory and the right to nationalization.<sup>20</sup>

Sovereignty is absolute power over a certain territory that is the basis for the formation of a state. This power ensures that the state has full authority to regulate and manage its territory without outside interference. This absolute power is a fundamental element in the formation of the state, as it gives the state the right and authority to determine the laws, policies, and governments in the region. In other words, sovereignty is the main foundation that allows a country to function independently and maintain its territorial integrity.<sup>21</sup> This statement explains that state sovereignty is a derived concept from the theory of realism. Thus, the concept

---

<sup>19</sup> Jimly Asshiddiqie, *Pokok-Pokok Hukum Tata Negara Indonesia Pasca Reformasi* (Jakarta: BIP, 2007).

<sup>20</sup> R.C Hingorani, *Modern International Law*, second (New Delhi: Oxford & IBH Publishing Co, 1982).

<sup>21</sup> Sigit Riyanto, "KEDAULATAN NEGARA DALAM KERANGKA HUKUM INTERNASIONAL KONTEMPORER," *Yustisia Jurnal Hukum* 1, no. 3 (December 1, 2012), <https://doi.org/10.20961/yustisia.v1i3.10074>.

of state sovereignty aligns with the principles of realism, which emphasize power, security, and national interest as the primary factors in international relations.

As a subject of international law, the recognition of a state depends on the fulfillment of certain conditions for the formation of the state. According to the Montevideo Convention of 1933, there are four main elements that must be met for the formation of a state, namely: permanent population, territory, government, and the ability to establish relations with other countries.<sup>22</sup> This territorial sovereignty will have the consequence that the state turns out to have responsibility for its territory.

A country's borders are an important sign of a country's sovereignty, which plays a role in determining territory, natural resource utilization, and security. The determination of state boundaries is generally influenced by the long history of the country, ranging from the royal era, and the colonial period, to national and international legal policies. A clearly defined territory of the country has a strategic value that is very important in supporting national development. The country's borders not only maintain sovereignty but also play a major role in the welfare of the people, strengthen relations between the central and regional governments, and maintain peace and order both at the regional and international levels.<sup>23</sup>

Borders are a form of power and independence of a nation. Therefore, guarding the border has a very important value because it reflects the country's sovereignty. This sovereignty is the main reason why borders must be well-guarded.

---

<sup>22</sup> Suryo Sakti Hadiwijoyo, *Perbatasan Negara Dalam Dimensi Hukum Internasional* (Yogyakarta: Grahailmu, 2011).

<sup>23</sup> Fitri Windradi & Niniek Wahyuni, Konsep Pengaturan Dan Ratifikasi Batas Kedaulatan Wilayah Laut Negara Kesatuan Ri Dalam Perspektif Hukum Internasional, *Jurnal Transparansi Hukum P-* ISSN 2613-9200 E-ISSN 2613-9197, Hal 23-41



Certainty and good border management are crucial to maintaining the stability of the country and the welfare of the community.<sup>24</sup>

The International Security course in International Relations examines how a country maintains its sovereignty against various threats, both military and non-military. Security is a top priority for every nation, requiring them to be self-reliant (self-help) in maintaining stability and safety. Threats to state sovereignty originating from border regions may take the form of military aggression, armed conflicts, as well as non-military threats that could disrupt national stability.<sup>25</sup> To address these challenges, states implement various security strategies, which influence foreign policy and their relationships with other nations.

#### 1.6.2 National Interest

The national interest of a country aims to protect and defend itself from threats that can interfere with the country's sustainability and needs. This concept is very broad, but it includes important elements such as survival between nations and states, independence, territorial integrity, military security, and economic well-being. This shows that the national interest is always the top priority in every decision or action taken by the government against another country, whether positive or negative.<sup>26</sup>

The national interest is the main goal and the main determining factor that directs a country's policymakers in formulating its foreign policy. Decisions made by policymakers can differ or even conflict with the national interests of other

---

<sup>24</sup> Alfi Rizky, Pengaruh Perebutan Wilayah Kashmir Terhadap Hubungan Diplomatik India-Pakistan Periode 2011-2013, JOM FISIP Vol.3 No.2, 2016, Hal 1-13

<sup>25</sup> Richard Little, *The Balance of Power in International Relations: Metaphors, Myths and Models*, 1st ed. (Cambridge University Press, 2007), <https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511816635>.

<sup>26</sup> Felix E. Oppenheim, National Interest, Rationality and Morality. *Political Theory* Vol. 15 No. 3 August 1987, Hal 369-389

countries. In the concept of national interest, protection of sovereign territory (territory) and citizen security is included in the level of survival.<sup>27</sup>

The levels of national interest can be categorized into four main types: survival, vital, major, and peripheral. Survival represents the most fundamental interests related to a nation's existence, such as security and territorial sovereignty. Vital includes crucial aspects for a country's well-being, such as economic stability and energy security. Major refers to interests that support national development, such as international trade and diplomatic relations. Meanwhile, peripheral encompasses interests with minimal impact on national stability, such as cultural cooperation or non-urgent environmental policies.<sup>28</sup>

Hans J. Morgenthau in his article entitled Another Great Debate: The National Interest of the United States defines the national interest as the fundamental ability possessed by a country to protect its physical identity, namely by maintaining the integrity of its territory. In addition, the national interest also includes the protection of political identity, which means maintaining the continuity of the existing economic and political regime. In addition, national interests also involve the protection of the country's culture, including its language and historical heritage.<sup>29</sup>

---

<sup>27</sup> Yanyan Mochamad Yani, Ian Montratama dan Emil Mahyudin Yani, Pengantar Studi Keamanan. Malang: Intrans Publishing, 2017

<sup>28</sup> Donald E. Nuechterlein, *National Interests and Presidential Leadership: The Setting of Priorities* (New York: Westview Press, 1978).

<sup>29</sup> Ken Kiyono, Study of The Concept of The National Interest of Hans J. Morgenthau as The Standard of America Foreign Policy, *Journal of Business and Academic Nagasaki University* Vol. 49 No.3, 1969, Hal 1-19

Donal E. Nuchterlin stated that there are four types of national interests.<sup>30</sup>

Namely:

- a) Defense interests, which include the protection of citizens, territories, and political systems from threats from other countries
- b) Economic interests, namely the government's efforts to improve the economy through economic relations with other countries
- c) The interests of the international order, namely the goal of creating or maintaining an international political and economic system that benefits the state
- d) Ideological interests, namely efforts to protect or defend state ideology from the threat of other countries' ideologies

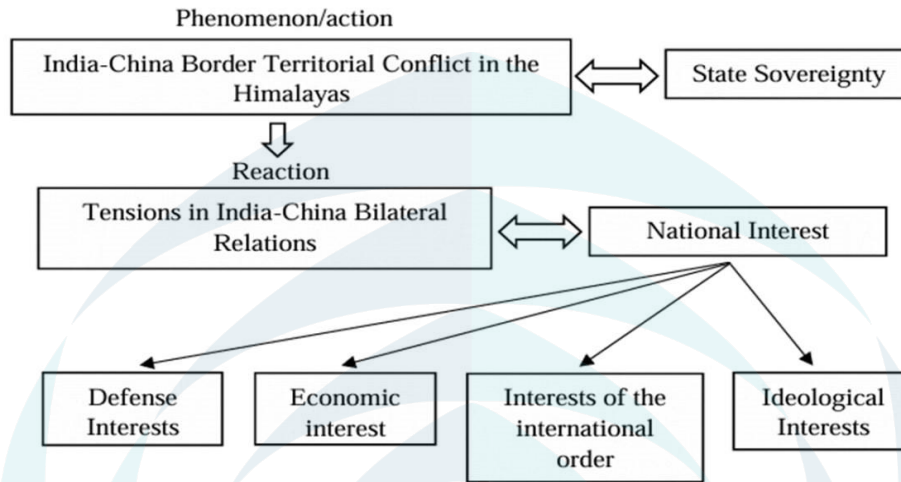
The national interest of each country involves the pursuit of power, which includes everything that can establish and maintain a country's control over other countries. To achieve its various national interests, it is necessary to have a driver who encourages these efforts. This driver plays a role as the main motivator in realizing national goals. The national interest of each country involves the pursuit of power, which includes everything that can establish and maintain a country's control over other countries.<sup>31</sup> Protection of the territory and safety of citizens is a very fundamental aspect for a country. The importance of maintaining the integrity of a country, including protecting its citizens both at home and abroad, is the main focus of many modern countries.

---

<sup>30</sup> Yumitri Abidin, Pengantar Politik Luar Negeri. Katalog dalam penerbitan (KDT) UNAS PRESS Universitas Nasional Jakarta, 2019, Hal-15

<sup>31</sup> Mochtar Mas'ood, Ilmu Hubungan Internasional: Disiplin dan Metodologi, Jakarta, LP3ES, 1990, Hal 163.

### 1.6.3 Concept Operationalization



**Figure 1.** *Concept Operationalization*

### 1.7.Hypothesis

The territorial conflict between India and China in the border area between the two countries is reviewed from the perspective of state sovereignty and national interests of both. This conflict is caused by the lack of clarity of views in the demarcation of territorial boundaries that leads to territorial disputes on the India-China border along the Himalayas. This territorial conflict is inseparable from the sovereignty of the two countries in defending their territory. So that this conflict affects the national interests of each country, which can be seen from four areas of national interest, including: First, the defense sector, namely the increase in military and weapons in border areas. Second, the economic sector, namely the decline in economic cooperation and investment and the termination of bilateral projects. Third, the field of international governance, namely the change in the position and international alliance of the two countries. Fourth, the field of ideology, which is to change the country's national political views which affect public opinion or

perception and the government and change the direction of the foreign policy of the two countries. Therefore, the hypothesis from this analysis is that the border conflict that occurred from 2020-2023 has had a significant impact and has the potential to escalate the conflict between the two countries.

## **1.8. Methodology Study**

### **1.8.1 Research Design**

The method that will be used to conduct research on The Influence Of Territorial Conflict In The Himalayan Mountains On India-China Bilateral Relations In 2020-2023 is a qualitative research method. Qualitative research is research that is used to understand more deeply the social phenomena that are occurring. The design of case study research is through the collection of all variables that are interrelated to the problem. The descriptive method is used with the aim of describing systematically, factual, and accurately the data being studied and to provide an in-depth description of a phenomenon being researched.<sup>32</sup>

### **1.8.2 Research Limitation Objects**

The object of the research will focus on " The Influence Of Territorial Conflict In The Himalayan Mountains On India-China Bilateral Relations In 2020-2023".

### **1.8.3 Data Collection Techniques**

In this study, the author utilizes the data collection method through a literature study, involving library research and secondary data to obtain relevant information. The literature study approach includes the acquisition of data from

---

<sup>32</sup> Nugrahani, F, & Muhammad Hum. "Metode penelitian kualitatif". *Solo: Cakra Books*, (2014) 1(1), 3-4.

various sources, such as scientific journals, books, websites, e-books, and newspapers, as well as the collection of data from official documents and other sources. After the data is collected, a process of screening, selection, and grouping is carried out to be integrated into the research discussion section.<sup>33</sup> Using this technique allows researchers to obtain comprehensive additional information about the phenomenon being studied.

#### 1.8.4 Data Analysis Techniques

Data analysis techniques in this study include data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawn. Data is collected from secondary sources in the form of official documents, academic literature, and mass media. Once the data is collected, it is reduced by categorizing, and filtering the data to identify key themes that are relevant to the researcher. The data analysis technique is carried out in a structured and systematic manner by connecting all existing variables, then drawing conclusions based on the questions that have been prepared in the formulation of the problem and summarizing them into one in the conclusion in CHAPTER 4.

### 1.9. Systematic Writing

The systematics of writing this research consists of four chapters, including:

#### **CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION**

As an opening chapter, this chapter contains the background of the research, the formulation of the problem, the purpose of the research, the benefits of the research, hypotheses, research methods, as well as the concepts and theories used.

---

<sup>33</sup> John Ward Cresswell. Research Design: Qualitative & Quantitative Approach. Inggris: Thousand Oaks: Sage Publication, 2017

This chapter briefly describes the history, factors that cause the conflict and the history of India-China diplomatic relations. This chapter also contains previous research as the basis and reinforcement of the author's research.

## **CHAPTER II: DYNAMICS OF INDIA CHINA BORDER CONFLICT 2020**

In this chapter, the researcher will present an in-depth introduction to the early history of diplomatic relations between India and China, which is a cross-regional interaction in Asia. This relationship began with the formation of the Panchsheel, an agreement consisting of five principles of bilateral cooperation. The author also provides a brief overview of the border conflicts that have been going on since the border war incident in 1962. Furthermore, this research will focus on the dynamics and factors that cause tensions in the Himalayan mountainous region, namely the border between India and China in 2020.

## **CHAPTER III: THE INFLUENCE OF TERRITORIAL CONFLICT IN THE HIMALAYAN MOUNTAIN REGION ON INDIA-CHINA BILATERAL RELATIONS IN 2020-2023**

In this section, the study will present the results of research related to the influence of the border conflict between India and China on the diplomatic relations between the two countries, especially after the heating up of the border dispute in 2020. An in-depth analysis can be carried out to illustrate the extent to which this conflict has changed and impacted relations and cooperation between the two countries. In addition, it can also be highlighted how this conflict affects the perception of people and governments in both countries towards each other.

## **CHAPTER IV: CLOSING**



This chapter will contain conclusions from the findings that the authors have reviewed regarding the Influence of Territorial Conflict in The Himalayan Mountains on India-China Bilateral Relations in 2020-2023 and provide suggestions for further research.

