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Economic Annals-XXI, 197(5-6), 4-9. doi: <https://doi.org/10.21003/ea.V197-01>**Arief Rachman**

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Economic consequences of keeping peace in Afghanistan through Indonesian soft power approach

Abstract. This study aims to determine the steps of the Indonesian Government in realizing peace in Afghanistan with a soft power approach and also economic consequences. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method. Data was obtained utilizing observation and literature study. This research was conducted over two years of 2020 and 2021 on Indonesia's soft power efforts in Afghanistan. This study involved six policy makers in Indonesian foreign policy, especially soft power and soft diplomacy in Afghanistan. Respondents were asked to assess the various strategies Indonesia had undertaken to use soft power in Afghanistan to maintain world peace due to the rise of terrorism issues. The results show that Indonesia has a few strategies through a soft power approach in maintaining peace in Afghanistan. First, the two heads of state held a meeting. Second, the two KBRI institutions discussed with research institutions, Afghan community leaders, and the Indonesian embassy in Indonesia held a meeting with the Afghan scholar movement and the Peace Council. These three strategies can have a good impact on peace in Afghanistan.

Keywords: Soft Power; Peacebuilding; Board Count; Diplomatic Relations; Economic Consequences

JEL Classification: F00; F02; F50; F51; F54

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1. Introduction and Brief Literature Review

Diplomacy is often associated with processes, activities, and negotiations carried out peacefully by a country to establish relations with other countries. Diplomacy is also a containment for countries when facing attacks that can potentially endanger international identity and reputation (Haugevik & Neumann, 2021). The relevance of diplomacy in supporting national interests in international forums has not yet been fully developed. The relevance of dynamic and repetitive interactions in society is significant. The socio-cultural aspect of the transformation of terrorism in the confrontation between the two world views - western and eastern is widely investigated by Marchenko et al. (2021). Generalizations about diplomatic practices are complicated because diplomatic activities are very varied and the most uncertain and difficult to predict. The interests and powers of state superiors also affect the course of diplomatic practice. Three factors influence the success or failure of diplomatic performance to make those represented are: recognition by other international actors, practical competence, and harmony of the represented are researched by Pogodda (2020). The success of diplomacy is determined by dimensions of the power or influence that the state has, which is distinguished between hard power and soft power. Hard power is real power or influence, such as military, geographic, and economic.

Meanwhile, soft power comes from «the attraction of culture, ideology, and international institutions.» It is assumed to be a diplomatic method that does not require coercion or lure to move someone to obey us. Soft power can be done in a less hostile and violent way (Hagström & Nordin, 2020).

Soft power is an approach that consists of elements of Indonesian culture, value systems, and policies. A country can get what it wants in world politics due to several factors, such as admiration for its values or aspirations to increase cooperation prospects and economic openness. Soft power can be based on conservative values needed to understand the potential of foreign policy (Keating & Kaczmarek, 2019). Soft power encourages initiatives to shape people's perceptions to be more innovative for progress. Soft power can only be used if the other party recognizes the effort, has the exact expectations in its implementation, and strengthens the determination to achieve a common goal. The more soft power is understood, framed, and accepted as benign and necessary, the more persuasive arguments about what should be or must be done (Pogodda, 2020). Following its objectives, soft power does not apply to those who want to control power by using force by force in a free society. International competition over soft power has primarily become the benchmark (Zhang & Wu, 2019). The key to implementing soft power is that soft power can only be implemented effectively if the other party acknowledges the effort. Hence, a mechanism is needed to cover the practice of soft power, and it is essential to consider the outstanding issues for the spread of soft power (Jakimów, 2019).

The soft power approach model has the advantage of shifting talk of public diplomacy into the realm of national security and framing the arena of international relations debate about paying more attention to public diplomacy. It is needed to play an active role in peacebuilding efforts and contribute to diplomacy (Amadei, 2019). Soft power and the ability to lead are trusted in solving global problems (Marchenko et al., 2021). The idea of a country about a global discussion arena to get what it wants is a perfect strategy but no longer suitable, meaning it tends to impose so that it means negative soft power. The relationship between the local and global levels has long been a concern for humanity, development, and peace efforts (Haugevik & Neumann, 2021). Innovative planning policies in creating adaptive areas in the implementation of development realities. It may need to be strengthened by preparing national plans, long-term strategies, regular progress reports, and increased surveillance and surveillance powers. (Oberthür, 2019). Promoting a willingness to listen and be open to change is much more exciting and powerful. Indonesia has enough capacity and resources to build its appeal in the international political arena. Indonesia is one of the few countries that have strong democratic institutions along with high economic growth and dynamic political stability. Professionalization and continuation mechanisms can have an impact on markets and educational institutions. However, with democracy as a «soft power,» Indonesia can become a great country. Democracy can be interpreted as a great moral force to be the driving force of peace and the emergence of us consensual in international organizations. Peacebuilding can appreciate cultural differences thanks to genuine engagement with local peculiarities (Mathieu, 2018).

Indonesia is growing and growing in the use of soft power in Afghanistan. Indonesia and Afghanistan have the same culture and religion of society, making it very easy for Indonesia's efforts to enter Afghanistan. Having political motivations and not being the product of a conscious desire for power can help peace (Millar, 2020). Indonesia runs a democracy without sacrificing economic development or political stability so that Afghanistan can be open and accept Indonesia. Peace in Afghanistan has begun with a religious and cultural approach by the Indonesian Government. Meetings of the Indonesian Government and the Government of Afghanistan and meetings with the Government's political opponents, Heads of Foreign Representatives, and International Organizations to Afghan Community Leaders and Scholars in the region. Representatives of the Taliban could not attend the meeting despite having met with the parties who were vital to how easy it was to communicate with the Taliban. The reduced movement of ISIS in Syria and Iraq requires Indonesia to pay extra attention to their movements in Afghanistan. Attack on a Shiite mosque is evidence of a growing threat of ISIS terrorism in Afghanistan.

Indonesia is considered Afghanistan has substantial essential capital. Afghanistan expects Indonesia's contribution to the Peace Building in facilitating and hosting the Afghan-led Peace Process meeting, which will involve the High Peace Council, representatives of the Afghan Government, and the Taliban towards Peace Creation. This research aims to discover the Indonesian Government's steps in realizing peace in Afghanistan with a soft power approach. This research is essential because it can provide strategies in providing support for peace in Afghanistan. More

concrete peace and friendship between the two countries between human fraternities towards world peace.

2. Materials and Methods

This study uses qualitative descriptive. Data is obtained by observation and study of literature. This research was conducted over two years on Indonesia’s soft power efforts in Afghanistan. This study involved six people in Indonesian foreign policy, especially soft power and soft diplomacy in Afghanistan. Respondents were asked to assess various strategies that Indonesia has carried out in using soft power in Afghanistan to maintain world peace due to the rampant issue of terrorism. The stages of the study are visualised in Figure 1.

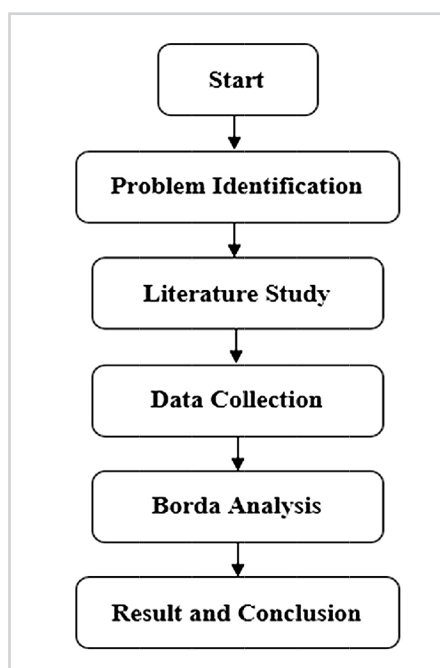


Figure 1:
Research Stages

Source: Compiled by the author

The data is analyzed using Borda analysis. Validation of criteria is done by assessing the level of importance and ranking the criteria. First, the best criteria are placed, then those considered less critical are placed in the 2nd and until order according to the criteria determined. This study consists of seven indicators given in Table 1.

Table 1:
Strategy Indicators in research

No	Code	Strategy Indicator
1	Y1	Meeting President Joko Widodo with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani
2	Y2	Meetings Embassy Indonesia with Nahdlatul Ulama Afghanistan and High Peace Council
3	Y3	Meeting of the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia and the Afghanistan Research Institute
4	Y4	Meeting the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia with the Ambassadors of South and Central Asia together with the Ambassadors of South Korea, Japan, and Canada and UNAMA
5	Y5	Meeting of the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia with the Institute of Research, Component Academics University and representative figures Youth Afghanistan
6	Y6	Ambassador Republic of Indonesia meeting Dawood Mohammad Abedi
7	Y7	Meeting with Foreign Institutions and Afghanistan

Source: Compiled by the author

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Criterion Weighting

Weighting criteria are viewed based on the highest value to the lowest value. The process of weighting the criteria for the results of research recapitulation can be seen in Table 2.

Table 2:
Results of recapitulation of criteria questionnaire data

No	Code	Nilai
1	Y1	25
2	Y2	21
3	Y3	17
4	Y4	20
5	Y5	21
6	Y6	7
7	Y7	15
	Total	126

Source: Compiled by the author

Table 2 shows the determination of alternative values where strategy Y1 gets a total value of 25, strategy Y2 with a total value of 21, strategy Y3 with a total value of 17, strategy Y4 with a total value of 20, strategy Y5 with a total value of 21, strategy Y6 with a total value of 7, strategy Y7 with a total value of 15, with a total value of 126 alternatives.

3.2. Board Analysis

Data on the sequence of research indicator rankings was conducted to determine Indonesia's soft power application in Afghanistan. Use public bulletin boards to record voting operations as transactions (Panja et al., 2020). Board strategy analysis can be seen in Table 3.

Table 3 shows the value of Board analysis. The greater the weight of indicator's value, the better the Indonesian Government applied to peace in Afghanistan. The analysis results show the sequence of strategies called Y1, Y5, Y2, Y4, Y3, Y7, and Y6.

Table 3:
Board strategy analysis of Indonesia's soft power in Afghanistan

No	Code	Strategy	Weight
1	Y1	Meeting between President Joko Widodo with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani	0.198412698
	Y2	Meetings Embassy Indonesia with Nahdlatul Ulama Afghanistan and High Peace Council	0.166666667
	Y3	Meeting of the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia and the Afghanistan Research Institute	0.134920635
	Y4	Meeting the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia with the Ambassadors of South and Central Asia together with the Ambassadors of South Korea, Japan, and Canada and UNAMA	0.158730159
	Y5	Meeting of the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia with the Institute of Research, Component Academics University and representative figures Youth Afghanistan	0.166666667
	Y6	Ambassador Republic of Indonesia meeting with Dawood Mohammad Abedi	0.055555556
	Y7	Meeting with Foreign Institutions and Afghanistan	0.119047619

Source: Compiled by the author

4. Discussion

President Joko Widodo's meeting with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani became the starting point for developing Indonesian soft power in Afghanistan. State officials can fulfill functions under state law, such as forming confederations and maintaining peace. State officials point to the limitations of institutionalist approaches to state development in an environment of legal pluralism and disorderly warfare. The two heads of state (Indonesia and Afghanistan) have agreed on a bilateral relationship between the two countries that will never cease and end. It is because Indonesia and Afghanistan underlie bilateral relations with a spirit of brotherhood over the religion of Islam. Besides that, the very influential religion is the existence of a long historical relationship and determines fiber, but also based on a solid Islamic brotherhood. The President of Afghanistan has a special feeling towards Indonesia for its democracy, security, and political stability. The values and principles of a moderate, harmonious, and tolerant Islamic religion with differences and unity in differences. Building liberal peace in the field of state development and democratization received many interventions in implementing this peacebuilding that emerged as a counterrevolutionary practice (Pogodda, 2020). Reconstruction of a stable political order after violent conflicts is a primary concern of peacebuilding theory and practice.. Indonesia has managed to solve various problems and conflicts quickly, «Live and Let Live.» Therefore, Afghanistan must learn and receive Indonesian Lesson Learned assistance continuously to solve problems in its peace reconciliation process. A post-conflict environment is defined as traumatized and dysfunctional by peacemakers (Njeri, 2018).

The Indonesian Embassy, the Research Institute, the University Academic Component, and representatives of the Afghan Youth Leadership agreed to build a liberal peace in Afghanistan. In

Afghanistan, liberal peacebuilding is on the wane, guiding concept and practice (Karlsrud, 2019). Post-conflict governments can disseminate local discourses and practices to depoliticize the peacebuilding process. In resolving the peace issue in Afghanistan, the effort to meet with the Government of the Republic of Indonesia represented by the Indonesian Ambassador is very important because it is an effort of diplomacy and reconciliation with various relevant parties, especially with research institutions and academic components and youth leaders. Diplomatically can affect politics and is a severe threat to culture. (Wright et al., 2020). The importance of youth participation in the peace process. The dominant number of young Afghans who make up 68% of the total population of Afghanistan today can be the principal capital for creating peace in Afghanistan. The diversity of a country is not an obstacle to achieving peace. Indonesia consists of 17,600 islands, 1,340 ethnic groups, and 700 regional languages, but managed to build a country with *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*'s motto. Indonesia views diversity as a cultural wealth that should be preserved, not a gap between different groups.

Indonesia also upholds *Pancasila*, which in principle contains values following Islamic principles taught by the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as *Rahmatan Lil Alamin* consisting of simplicity, tolerance, balance, justice, and participation. Afghanistan has been seen as emblematic of the security threats engulfing peace and security operations due to misunderstood international intervention (Weigand & Andersson, 2019). Afghan youth should recognize the importance of youth's role in achieving peace. The lessons that exist in Indonesia can be valuable lessons and provisions for them (young Afghans) to play a role in the peace process in Afghanistan.

On July 19, 2017, the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia fulfilled an invitation from the NGO - Afghanistan Nawaen Research and Studies Organization (ANRSO) in Wazir Akbar Khan area, Kabul, Afghanistan. In the meeting came a strong commitment and national agreement in Afghan foreign policy. Epistemic and epistemic authorities of peacebuilding interventions include recognition. Lack of attention to plural knowledge, transgressive character expertise, and knowledge struggles. Most countries experiencing peacebuilding still maintain authoritarian rule (Billerbeck & Tansey, 2019). The Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia conveyed the plan of involvement of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia in peace efforts in Afghanistan with the Government of Afghanistan and several other countries by promoting Soft Power and empowering the role of Afghan Scholars.

Meeting of the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia with Nahdlatul Ulama Afghanistan and High Peace Council. Delegation in regionalization and promising interventionist approaches is critical to protecting the global environment (Muhammad, 2021). This meeting means a lot to Indonesia's soft power approach in Afghanistan because these two institutions are pioneers in Afghanistan. Nahdlatul Ulama Afghanistan requested further support from the Indonesian Government to involve Ulama in Nahdlatul Ulama Afghanistan at conferences or other meetings held by Nahdlatul Ulama in Indonesia. Thus, Indonesian and Afghan Scholars can exchange insights. Nahdlatul Ulama Afghanistan also expects support from the Government of Indonesia to provide study scholarships at leading universities in Indonesia for young people from Afghanistan Nahdlatul Ulama.

Indonesia has a special place in the hearts of the Afghan people as the world's most populous Muslim country. Characteristics are inherent in soft power and act as incentives for cooperation and peace rather than violence and competition (Dresse et al., 2019). Therefore, Afghanistan will greatly appreciate it if Indonesia could share this valuable experience with the High Peace Council to increase the High Peace Council in carrying out its duties by sharing best practices in related agencies in Indonesia.

The weighting criteria is known that three strategies most influence Indonesia's soft power efforts in maintaining peace in Afghanistan. Among them is President Joko Widodo's meeting with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, Embassy's meeting with Research Institutes, University Academic Components and representatives of Afghan Youth Leaders, Indonesian Embassy's Meeting with Afghanistan's Nahdlatul Ulama, and High Peace Council.

5. Conclusion

Indonesia's soft power support is needed for peace in Afghanistan. The three main strategies that support the soft power approach of Indonesia to The Afghan Peace are: (1) President Joko Widodo's meeting with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani; (2) the Embassy Meeting of the Republic of

Indonesia with the Research Institute, Academic Component of the University; (3) Representative Meeting of Afghan Youth Leaders, Embassy Meeting of the Republic of Indonesia with Nahdlatul Ulama Afghanistan and High Peace Council.

The main recommendation in creating peace in Afghanistan is the agreement of the two leaders (Indonesia and Afghanistan) to agree on a commitment to peace. An agreement between the two leaders will positively impact the various elements under it so that there is encouragement and ease in establishing cooperation in various fields. This research is expected to provide an overview of the diplomatic relations between the two countries with a soft power approach in maintaining international peace.

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