

## Building a Strong Indonesian Defense through the National Value of Saladin Al-Ayyubi in the Face of 21st Century Proxy Wars

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### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to analyze the national value of Saladin Al-Ayyubi in the face of 21st century proxy wars. The method used is qualitative descriptive using Milles, Huberman and Saldana (2014) analysis techniques, namely data collection, data condensation, presenting data (data display), and drawing conclusions or verification (conclusion drawing and verification). The validity test of the data used is Credibility (Internal Validity), Transferability (External Validity), Dependability (Reliability) and Confirmability (Objectivity). The findings of this study are aspects of leadership and integrity of character consisting of assertiveness and courage, simplicity and humility. Indonesian leaders must be firm and courageous in making decisions, including in the face of proxy threats. Courage is also needed in countering propaganda and radicalism that can trigger internal conflicts.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The threat of proxy wars faced by Indonesia is a complex challenge involving various aspects that can threaten the country's sovereignty and security. Indonesian history records various events of proxy wars, such as the Madiun Affairs, the PRRI/Permesta rebellion, "Ganyang Malaysia," and the return of Papuan sovereignty, involving external powers such as the Soviet Union, Britain, and the United States. Proxy wars do not only occur in the form of direct military conflicts, but also through the sponsorship of separatist groups, terrorism, drug dealers, NGOs, individual actors, and influential groups in the destination country (Kertopati, 2016). Indonesia as an archipelagic country with complex geographical characteristics faces multidimensional threats in the context of proxy wars. These threats include violations of territorial boundaries, security and safety of shipping in the Indonesian Archipelago Sea Lanes, terrorism, increasing trends in serious crime, drug abuse and trafficking, weaknesses in state information security, and inadequate early detection (Jazuli, 2016). The development of information technology also increases the threat of proxy wars by sponsoring separatist groups to disrupt state security. Today's proxy wars don't just use hard power or military force directly. Threats can enter Indonesia through a variety of more complex and unpredictable means. These include the sponsorship of separatist groups to create instability within the country, terrorist networks that unsettle society, and attempts by drug dealers to corrupt the younger generation. In addition, NGOs and certain individual or group actors can also be tools for foreign powers to achieve their goals in Indonesia (Kertopati, 2016).

In facing the threat of this proxy war, Indonesia needs to strengthen the country's defense system with a holistic and adaptive strategy. This includes increasing interagency cooperation in law enforcement and national defense, strengthening early detection of potential threats, and building a defense system that is resilient and responsive to global developments. With a deep understanding of the threats proxy wars faced as well as the right strategic measures, Indonesia can secure the country's sovereignty and maintain national security stability. Shaping the country's defense aspect in the face of the threat of 21st century proxy wars, Indonesia must facilitate a holistic and adaptive defense system. One of the national values that needs to be developed is concern for the general welfare and safety of the nation. This can be achieved by encouraging the development of an integrative defense system, involving all citizens, territories, and national sources.

Salahuddin Al-Ayyubi as an inspiration for his success in defending his territory from foreign attacks, especially during the Crusades. In addition, Salahuddin Al-Ayyubi was known for his clever military strategy and courage in facing his enemies. In the context of Indonesia facing a proxy war of the 21st century, national values that need to be developed include courage, firmness, unity, and fighting spirit to maintain state sovereignty. One relevant theory is the concept of "Universal War" which refers to a holistic state defense strategy and involves all elements of society in an effort to maintain the sovereignty and security of the country. In this context, the inspiration of Salahuddin Al-Ayyubi

can provide insight into how courage, strong leadership, and a smart military strategy can help a country face external threats. By combining strong national values with an adaptive and holistic defense strategy, Indonesia can strengthen its country's defense system in the face of the threat of 21st century proxy wars. Through learning from history and inspiring figures such as Salahuddin Al-Ayyubi, Indonesia can develop defense strategies that are effective and responsive to modern threat dynamics (Rachman, 2023).

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Military Strategy Theory**

The theory of Clausewitz (1993), formulated by Carl von Clausewitz, is one of the most famous and influential theories of military strategy. This theory emphasizes the importance of understanding the nature of war, the center of gravity, and the effective use of military force.

#### **Nature of War**

Clausewitz defines war as "an act of violence to force an opponent to submit to our will." He stressed that war is a complex phenomenon and is fraught with uncertainty.

#### **Center of Gravity**

Clausewitz argued that each side in a war has a center of gravity, that is, its points of strength and weakness. To achieve victory, a side must focus on attacking the opponent's center of gravity.

#### **Use of Military Force**

Clausewitz stressed that military force must be used effectively and efficiently. He put forward the concept of "culmination point", which is the moment when a party's military power reaches its peak and begins to decline.

#### **Proxy War Theory**

Proxy War theory explains how proxy wars are used as a tool to achieve political ends without being directly involved in the conflict. In a proxy war, one state or non-state actor supports a third party in another state's internal conflict. This support can be military, financial, or political assistance. The main purpose of proxy wars is to weaken or defeat the opponent without the risk of direct confrontation. Proxy wars can be used to achieve a variety of political goals, such as:

- a. Expanding influence in the region
- b. Weakening political opponents
- c. Test the strength of military technology and strategy
- d. Distract from internal problems

### **National Security Theory**

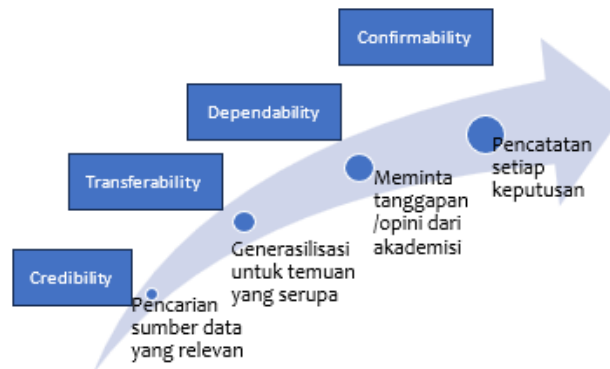
National security theory is a concept that involves the protection of a country's political entities, including its citizens and national wealth. This concept has undergone an evolution from the traditional focus on military aspects towards a broader approach, encompassing aspects of human security and sustainable development (A'Raf, 2015). The concept of national security is no longer limited to the physical aspect alone, but also includes welfare guarantees for citizens, protecting them from threats such as hunger and poverty (Amelia, 2023). In addition, in the current global context, national security also involves issues such as pandemics, where countries must respond with policies that involve changing people's behavior to control the spread of disease (Dwitya, 2023). The development of the concept of national security from a military approach to a sustainable development approach is reflected in efforts to maintain internal security and protect human rights (Makdori, 2019). This is due to the global shift after the end of the cold war era, where the protection of the basic rights of citizens became the main focus in the concept of human security. In the context of national security, civilian authorities are responsible for formulating policies, while military authorities have a role in determining military strategy to achieve political goals. In addition, the function of homeland security includes defense diplomacy and law enforcement as an integral part of national security (Fitrah, 2015).

### **Islamic Political Theory**

Islamic political theory is a framework of thought that combines the principles of Islam with political affairs and government. This concept emphasizes the importance of applying Islamic values in the governance of the state and society. Islamic political theory is based on principles such as justice, the general welfare, freedom of religion, and adherence to sharia law. The application of this theory aims to create a just government system and based on Islamic religious teachings (Al-Damluji, 2009).

### **METHODOLOGY**

This research uses descriptive qualitative to gain a deep and descriptive understanding of phenomena or issues related to the problem of building a strong Indonesian defense through the national value of Saladin Al-Ayyubi in the face of 21st century proxy wars. Data collection is obtained by literature review or literature review by collecting various articles, books, journals, or other sources related to building a strong Indonesian defense through the national value of Saladin Al-Ayyubi in the face of 21st century proxy wars. The analysis techniques used in accordance with the theory of Milles, Huberman and Saldana (2014) are data collection, data condensation, presenting data (data display), and drawing conclusions or verification (conclusion drawing and verification). The validity test of the data used is Credibility (Internal Validity), Transferability (External Validity), Dependability (Reliability) and Confirmability (Objectivity) carried out at each stage it is described in the following research design:



**Figure.1 Research Design**

Source : Data Processed by the Author, 2024

The above is done in order to obtain the accuracy of research results and the approach used by researchers is really consistent if used by other researchers in different topics (Gibbs, 2007 and Creswell, 2017).

## **RESEARCH RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

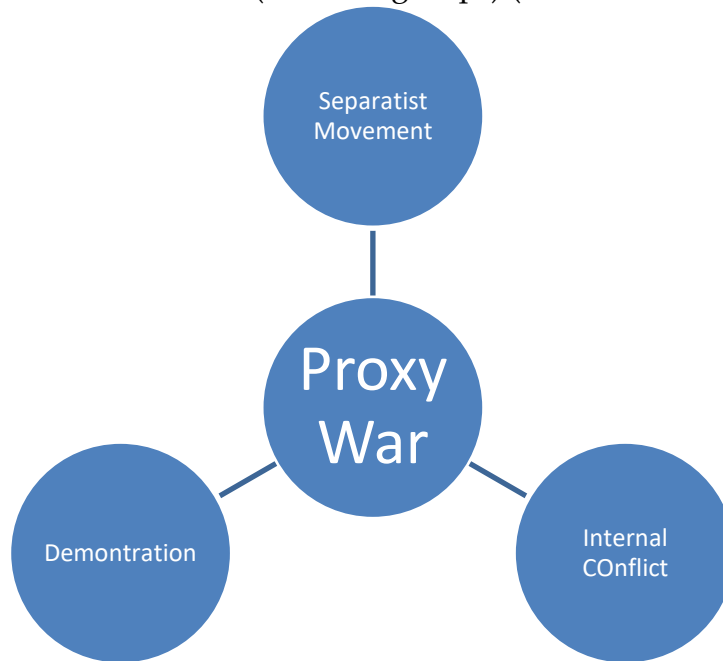
### **Development and Indications of Proxy Wars in Indonesia**

Before delving into the definition of proxy war, it is crucial to examine its evolution across the globe. According to US President Dwight D. Eisenhower, proxy war represents the cheapest form of warfare or, at least, an attempt to maintain a desired level of tension in a conflict zone. Proxy war can be defined as a conflict where a third party is utilized as an indirect substitute to achieve a series of strategic outcomes. Since 1964, international political scientist Karl Deutsch has described proxy war as a conflict between two nations fought on the territory of a third party, making it appear as an internal conflict within that third country. Such wars utilize the human resources, natural resources, and territory of the third party, making proxy wars significantly cheaper than conventional warfare. This explains why many nations are reluctant to engage in conventional warfare, as it would require the use of their own resources.

According to the Strategic Analyst Council (DAS) of the State Intelligence Agency in 2014, Indonesia must acknowledge the conflicts arising from proxy wars between global elite powers. These conflicts manifest as non-physical warfare waged by major powers whose national interests are perceived to be threatened, prompting them to seek opportunities to attack their political adversaries through battles fought on the territory of other nations (including Indonesia). Furthermore, according to General Gatot Nurmantyo, the Commander of the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI), proxy warfare is occurring in Indonesia because foreign nations are vying for control of the country's rich natural resources. Proxy warfare is inherently complex, as it is

orchestrated by foreign powers and employs tactics that differ from conventional warfare.

Even the separation of East Timor is believed to be a form of proxy war, as East Timor's secession from Indonesia was orchestrated by foreign powers. The growing global population, which is not matched by adequate food and energy supplies, will inevitably give rise to new conflicts. The emergence of such conflicts cannot be divorced from the interests of various groups or third parties who deliberately create proxy wars. Three factors indicate that proxy warfare has indeed commenced in Indonesia: separatist movements, unfocused demonstrations, and internal conflicts (between groups) (Suratman, 2017).



**Figure. 2 Proxy War**  
Source : Nurmantyo, 201

### **Separatist Movements in Indonesia**

Since its independence, Indonesia has witnessed seven distinct separatist movements. These include:

- a) The PKI (Communist Party of Indonesia) Separatist Movement in Madiun (1948) and the G30S (1965)
- b) The RMS (Republic of South Maluku) Rebellion (1950)
- c) The PRRI (Revolutionary Government of the Republic of Indonesia) Rebellion (1958)
- d) The Permesta (Total People's Struggle) Movement (1957)
- e) The DI/TII (Darul Islam/Tentara Islam Indonesia) Rebellions led by Kartosoewiryo (1949), Daud Beureuh (1953), Ibu Hajar (1950), Amir Fatah (1950), and Kahar Muzakar (1953)
- f) The Free Aceh Movement (GAM), which began in 1976 and ended in 2005 with the Helsinki Agreement
- g) The Papuan Separatist Group, which continues to pose an internal threat

These movements highlight the persistent threat of separatism in Indonesia, with external groups seeking to undermine the country's stability. Notably, the Papuan separatist movement remains a significant challenge, further exacerbated by the support of certain Melanesian nations for Papuan independence (Suratman, 2017).

### **Demonstration**

Demonstrations, or protests, should not be utilized as a means of coercion, but rather as a mechanism for promoting legitimate civil aspirations guaranteed by law. While protests remain a popular tool for groups to voice their concerns, their increasing frequency, often occurring almost daily, has led to public fatigue due to a perceived lack of tangible outcomes. Since 2012, protests in Indonesia have been deemed excessive and prone to anarchy. In fact, in 2011, Indonesia was ranked as the country with the highest number of protests out of 113 countries. This can be attributed to the large number and nature of Indonesian students, who are considered difficult to control due to indoctrination that fosters violence, including within student organizations at the university level (Suratman, 2017).

### **Internal Conflicts Between Groups**

It is undeniable that the number of social conflicts in Indonesia has increased since the Reform era. According to data from the Directorate General of Politics and General Administration of the Ministry of Home Affairs, there were 93 cases in 2013, 83 cases in 2014, and a decrease to 26 cases in 2015. These conflicts can be categorized into three types: ideological, political, and socio-cultural; religious and ethnic; and land disputes. Although there has been a downward trend in the number of social conflicts, there is a possibility that they could increase in 2017 due to the growing number of dissenting opinions, especially among the capital city's residents, which could potentially spread to communal communities. The three indicators mentioned above demonstrate that the nature of threats to the nation has shifted from conventional warfare to non-conventional means. The actors involved are no longer other countries but the citizens themselves. Foreign influence can still be present, as proxy wars are not only conducted in developed countries but more often in developing nations. Social conflicts are a real-world example of proxy wars currently occurring in the Middle East, and there is a possibility that such conflicts could be directed towards Indonesia (Suratman, 2017).

### **Factors Causing Proxy Wars**

A proxy war is a confrontation between two great powers through substitute players to avoid confrontation directly on the grounds of reducing the risk of direct conflict that risks fatal destruction. Some factors that influence the occurrence of proxy wars include (Agus, 2016):

#### **1. Strategic Geographical Position**

Areas that have a strategic geographical position are often the site of proxy wars because they have strategic natural resources, such as oil, natural gas, and minerals.

**2. Natural Resource Potential**

The considerable potential of natural resources can make other countries disrupt the political balance in the area

**3. Rivalry Between Countries**

Rivalry between countries that covers all aspects of national and state life, such as politics, economy, socio-culture, and law, can trigger proxy wars.

**4. Intrig International**

International intrigues by other countries can trigger proxy wars, such as conspiracies to control natural resources or stop mass protests

**5. External Intervention**

External intervention from other countries can trigger proxy wars, such as its military intervention to control the situation in the area

Other factors that influence the occurrence of proxy wars are as follows:

**1. Leadership and Character Integrity Issues**

**a. Weak leadership**

Leaders who lack a clear vision, are unable to resolve internal conflicts, or are easily influenced by outside forces can trigger proxy wars ("Global Corruption Report, 2022")

**b. Lack of character integrity**

Leaders who are corrupt, nepotist, or lack a high sense of nationalism can open opportunities for foreign intervention and trigger proxy wars (Northouse, 2018)

**2. Political and Military Strategy**

**a. Competition between countries**

Ideological, political, or economic competition between major powers may encourage them to use proxies to undermine their opponents.

**b. Internal political instability**

Countries experiencing internal political instability, such as separatist conflicts or economic crises, are more vulnerable to foreign intervention and proxy wars (Collier, 2007).

**c. Military weakness**

Countries with weak military strength can be easy targets for other countries to launch proxy wars (Mearsheimer, 2011).

**3. Other Factors**

**a. Foreign intervention**

Foreign countries can use proxies to achieve their geopolitical goals, such as controlling natural resources or expanding their influence in a region.

**b. Propaganda and radicalism**

Propaganda and radicalism can be used to stoke internal conflicts and encourage certain groups to fight against the government or other groups.

## **The Nationality Value of Salahuddin Al Ayubbi and Its Relevance in Facing Proxy Wars in Indonesia**

Salahuddin Al-Ayyubi's concept of jihad and its military strategy can be applied in the face of 21st century proxy wars, focusing on leadership, integrity of character, and effective political and military strategies.

### **1. Military Strategy**

Effective military strategies used by Saladin Al-Ayyubi that are relevant for Indonesia in the face of 21st century proxies include:

#### **a. Character Integrity**

Saladin Al-Ayyubi has a strong character and integrity, which is relevant for Indonesia in facing 21st century proxies that require character integrity in overcoming international challenges. The integrity of Saladin Al-Ayyubi's character is evidenced by first, his firmness and justice. Saladin is known to be firm in his stance, including in upholding justice. For example, when he conquered Jerusalem, he guaranteed the safety of the Christian and Jewish populations, and even allowed them to return to the city after being expelled by the Crusaders (Smail, 2001). His justice is also seen in his treatment of prisoners of war (Al Meqati, 2013). He treated them well and even released them without ransom. In this regard, Indonesian leaders must be firm in their stance and uphold justice, including in the face of foreign intervention. Justice must also be upheld in handling various cases of human rights violations and corruption.

#### **b. Assertiveness and Courage**

Saladin was known as a decisive and courageous leader. He led his army in various battles against the Crusaders and successfully recaptured Jerusalem (Gurgle, 2019). His courage was also evident in his decision to fight against the Crusaders, even though he knew that his strength was smaller. In the Indonesian context, Indonesian leaders must be firm and courageous in making decisions, including in dealing with proxy threats. Courage is also needed in countering propaganda and radicalism that can trigger internal conflicts.

#### **c. Simplicity and Humility**

Saladin was known as a simple and humble leader. He lived a simple life and did not like extravagance. His humility is also evident in his interactions with his people. He always listened to their complaints and tried to help them. In the Indonesian context, Indonesian leaders must live modestly and do not like extravagance. Humility is also necessary in connecting with people and building their trust.

In 2017, Indonesia successfully prevented foreign intervention in the DKI Jakarta regional elections. This shows the determination and courage of the Indonesian government in maintaining the country's sovereignty. The Indonesian government also continues to strive for justice in handling various cases of human rights violations and corruption. In the face of propaganda and radicalism, the Indonesian government has taken various steps, such as increasing people's digital literacy and strengthening cooperation with other countries.

The integrity of Saladin Al-Ayyubi's character can be an example for Indonesian leaders in the face of 21st century proxies. Indonesian leaders must have firmness, justice, firmness, courage, simplicity, and humility to be able to lead the Indonesian nation well and face various international challenges. In addition, Saladin Al-Ayyubi used effective political and military strategies to build an Ayyubid dynasty, which was relevant for Indonesia in developing an effective political and military system. Examples and Evidence of Political and Military Strategy of Saladin Al-Ayyubi include the following:

a) Diplomacy and Alliances

Saladin was known as a reliable leader in diplomacy and forged alliances. He maintained good relations with various groups, including Muslims, Christians, and Jews. For example, he forged an alliance with Richard I, King of England, to jointly fight the Crusaders. Indonesia needs to establish good relations with various countries in the world to increase cooperation and security. For example, Indonesia can cooperate with ASEAN countries to jointly combat terrorism and transnational crime.

b) Military Power and War Strategy

Saladin had a strong military force and an effective war strategy. He defeated the Crusaders in numerous battles, including the Battle of Hattin in 1187. One of his famous strategies was the use of fast and agile cavalry. Indonesia needs to have a strong military force and an effective war strategy to safeguard the country's sovereignty. For example, Indonesia can strengthen defense equipment and improve the training of its soldiers.

### **Economic and Infrastructure Development**

Saladin built the economy of the Ayyubid dynasty by developing trade and agriculture. He also built infrastructure, such as forts and highways. For example, he built the fortress of Saladin in Cairo to protect the city from enemy attacks. In this regard, Indonesia needs to build a strong economy and adequate infrastructure to support national development. For example, Indonesia can build toll roads, ports, and airports to improve connectivity between regions (Lyon, 2008). Saladin Al-Ayyubi's political and military strategy can serve as an example for Indonesia in developing an effective political and military system. Indonesia needs to establish good relations with various countries, have a strong military force, and build an adequate economy and infrastructure to become a developed and prosperous country.

### **Stable Economy**

Saladin implemented a fair and efficient tax system. He also encouraged trade and investment. This results in a stable and prosperous economy. Saladin exempted taxes for the poor and peasants. He also built markets and infrastructure to support trade. The historian Ibn Khallikan records that Saladin had a lot of money and wealth. He used his money to build infrastructure, such as mosques, madrassas, and hospitals. The relevance to Proxy Wars in Indonesia is that a stable economy can help Indonesia to fight proxy wars. With a strong economy, Indonesia can increase its military power and build the infrastructure needed to combat proxies. Indonesia could increase its defense budget to buy

advanced weapons and military equipment. Indonesia can also build infrastructure in proxy-prone areas, such as highways, bridges, and military posts.

### **Infrastructure Development**

Saladin built important infrastructure, such as highways, bridges, and fortifications. This helps improve trade and security. Saladin built a highway connecting Egypt with Syria and Iraq. He also built fortifications to protect his territory from enemy attacks. The historian al-Maqrizi records that Saladin built much infrastructure during his reign. This infrastructure helps improve the economy and security of the region. The relevance to Proxy Wars in Indonesia is that effective infrastructure development can help Indonesia to fight proxy wars. With adequate infrastructure, Indonesia can facilitate the movement of troops and logistics in proxy-prone areas. Indonesia can build highways in remote areas to facilitate access to troops and logistics. Indonesia could also establish military posts in proxy-prone areas to improve security. Stable economic development and effective infrastructure development can help Indonesia to fight proxy wars. With a strong economy and adequate infrastructure, Indonesia can increase its military strength and ease the movement of troops and logistics in proxy-prone areas.

### **Education Development**

Shalahuddin Al-Ayyubi developed character education based on the Qur'an and Hadith, which is relevant for Indonesia in developing character education that builds national togetherness and solidarization. Examples and Evidence of Educational Development of Saladin Al-Ayyubi:

#### **a. Qur'an and Hadith-Based Character Education**

Saladin built madrassas in various cities to spread Islamic education. These madrassas taught religious sciences, such as Qur'anic exegesis, hadith, jurisprudence, and Arabic. Saladin also emphasized the importance of character education, such as honesty, justice, and compassion. One of the famous madrassas founded by Saladin was Madrasah al-Aziziah in Cairo. This madrasa teaches various religious sciences, including the science of tafsir, hadith, jurisprudence, and Arabic. Saladin also founded Baitul Hikmah, a large library containing a wide variety of books, including books on science and philosophy. Historian Ibn Khallikan records that Saladin paid great attention to education and often visited madrassas to see firsthand the teaching and learning process. He also gave prizes to outstanding students.

#### **b. Qualified Teachers and Students**

Saladin brought qualified teachers from various countries to teach in madrasas. Students who study in these madrassas are educated to become leaders and scholars who are knowledgeable and have noble morals. One of the famous teachers in Saladin's madrassas was Qadi Izz ad-Din Abd al-Aziz ibn Abd as-Salam. He was a jurist and theologian known for his scholarship and piety. Many of Saladin's disciples became famous leaders and scholars, such as Sultan al-Kamil and Imam Nawawi. The historian

al-Maqrizi notes that Saladin was very selective in choosing teachers for his madrassas. He only chose teachers who had extensive knowledge and noble morals. The development of Shalahuddin Al-Ayyubi education can be an example for Indonesia in developing character education that builds national togetherness and solidarization including the following:

**a. Pancasila-Based Character Education**

Indonesia can develop character education based on Pancasila. This education can teach the values of Pancasila, such as the One and Only God, Just and Civilized Humanity, Indonesian Unity, Peoplehood Led by Wisdom in Consultation / Representative, and Social Justice for All Indonesian People. The Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology (Kemendikbudristek) has launched the "Strengthening Character Education" (PPK) program which aims to build student character based on Pancasila values. This program is implemented at all levels of education, from elementary to high school (Ministry of Education, 2021).

**b. Qualified Teachers and Students**

Indonesia needs to improve the quality of teachers and students. Teachers need to be educated to become professional teachers and have noble morals. Students need to be educated to become the next generation who are intelligent, have character, and love the country. Kemendikbudristek has made various efforts to improve the quality of teachers, such as providing training and certification. Kemendikbudristek has also provided scholarships to outstanding students to continue their education to a higher level. Good character education can help build national togetherness and solidarization.

This can help Indonesia to become a nation

**Government System Development**

Saladin Al-Ayyubi developed a transparent and effective government system, which is relevant for Indonesia in developing a transparent and effective government system. Saladin Al-Ayyubi's System of Government Relevant to Proxy Wars in Indonesia:

**a. Transparency**

Saladin implemented a system of meritocracy, in which people were elected to posts based on their abilities and qualifications. He also opened public access to information about government finance and policies. For example, Saladin appointed Qadi Izz ad-Din Abd al-Aziz ibn Abd as-Salam as supreme judge because of his expertise in jurisprudence and theology. He also issued a decree obliging the government to publish its budget and expenditures. Historian Ibn Khallikan notes that Saladin was known as a fair and transparent leader. He often held meetings with his subjects to listen to their complaints. The relevance of proxy wars in Indonesia is that transparency in government can help Indonesia to fight proxy wars. With transparency, people can know how the government uses its money and whether the government is really working for the benefit of the people. For example, it does so in a way that the Indonesian government can publish information about its military operations in proxy-

prone areas. The government can also hold meetings with people in these areas to explain its strategy in fighting proxies.

#### **b. Effectiveness**

Saladin built an efficient and effective bureaucracy. He also delegates tasks to competent and trustworthy people. Saladin founded Diwan al-Insha, an institution responsible for the administration and finances of the country. He also appointed a capable vizier to assist him in running the government. The historian al-Maqrizi records that Saladin managed to build a strong and stable empire. He also managed to conquer Jerusalem from the Crusaders. The relevance of proxy wars in Indonesia is that effectiveness in governance can help Indonesia to fight proxy wars. With an efficient and effective bureaucracy, governments can quickly and appropriately respond to proxy threats. For example, the Government of Indonesia can improve coordination between government agencies in combating proxies. The government can also strengthen law enforcement officials to crack down on proxy actors. The development of a transparent and effective governance system can help Indonesia to fight proxy wars. With transparency and effectiveness, people can trust the government and governments can work better to protect their people from proxy threats.

#### **Defense Development**

Saladin Al-Ayyubi developed an effective defense, which is relevant for Indonesia in developing an effective defense and building a strong defense system

##### **a. Effective Defense**

Saladin built a strong and well-trained army. He also built fortifications and other defensive infrastructure. Saladin built an Ayyubid army consisting of cavalry, infantry, and archers. He also built fortifications in Jerusalem and Cairo. Historian Ibn Khallikan records that Saladin was a courageous and capable leader in war strategy. He managed to defeat the Crusaders in several battles. The relevance to proxy wars in Indonesia is that the development of effective defenses can help Indonesia to fight proxy wars. With a strong defense, Indonesia can protect its territory from proxy threats. Indonesia can increase its military power by purchasing sophisticated weapons and military equipment. Indonesia could also establish military outposts in proxy-prone areas.

##### **b. Building a Strong Defense System**

Saladin built an integrated defense system, which combined military force, intelligence, and diplomacy. He also established relations with other countries to strengthen his defenses. For example, Saladin had relations with Sultan Saladin of Egypt and King Richard I of England. He also built an intelligence network to monitor enemy activity. The historian al-Maqrizi records that Saladin managed to build a strong and stable empire. He also managed to conquer Jerusalem from the Crusaders. The relevance of proxy wars in Indonesia is that building a strong defense system can help Indonesia to fight proxy wars. With an integrated defense system, Indonesia can more easily identify and overcome proxy threats. Indonesia can increase cooperation among government agencies in combating

proxies. Indonesia can also establish relations with other countries to strengthen its defense. Effective defense development and building a strong defense system can help Indonesia to fight proxy wars. With a strong and integrated defense, Indonesia can protect its territory and its people from proxy threats. By implementing these strategies, Indonesia can learn effective military strategies from Saladin Al-Ayyubi to build a resilient national defense and build an effective governance system.

## CONCLUSIONS

Indonesia as an archipelagic country with complex geographical characteristics faces multidimensional threats in the context of proxy wars. The development of information technology also increases the threat of proxy wars by sponsoring separatist groups to disrupt state security. Today's proxy wars don't just use hard power or military force directly. Threats can enter Indonesia through a variety of more complex and unpredictable means. Proxy warfare in Indonesia consists of three aspects, namely separatism movements, undirected demonstrations and internal conflicts between groups. The causative factors of this proxy war are strategic geographical position, natural resource potential, rivalry between states, international intelligence, external intervention, leadership and character integrity problems (weak leadership and lack of character integrity), political and military strategy (competition between states, internal political instability, military weakness, foreign intervention, propaganda and radicalism). In the aspects of effective military strategy used by Saladin Al-Ayyubi that are relevant for Indonesia in dealing with 21st century proxies include:

a. Character Integrity

Saladin is known to be firm in his stance, including in upholding justice. In this regard, Indonesian leaders must be firm in their stance and uphold justice, including in the face of foreign intervention. Justice must also be upheld in handling various cases of human rights violations and corruption.

b. Assertiveness and Courage

Saladin was known as a decisive and courageous leader. In the Indonesian context, Indonesian leaders must be firm and courageous in making decisions, including in dealing with proxy threats. Courage is also needed in countering propaganda and radicalism that can trigger internal conflicts.

c. Simplicity and Humility

Saladin was known as a simple and humble leader. In the Indonesian context, Indonesian leaders must live modestly and do not like extravagance. Humility is also necessary in connecting with people and building their trust.

In addition, Saladin Al-Ayyubi used effective political and military strategies to build an Ayyubid dynasty, which was relevant for Indonesia in developing an effective political and military system.

- a. **Diplomacy and Alliances.** Indonesia needs to establish good relations with various countries in the world to increase cooperation and security. For example, Indonesia can cooperate with ASEAN countries to jointly combat terrorism and transnational crime.
- b. **Military Power and War Strategy.** One of his famous strategies was the use of fast and agile cavalry. Indonesia needs to have a strong military force and an effective war strategy to safeguard the country's sovereignty. For example, Indonesia can strengthen defense equipment and improve the training of its soldiers.

In the aspect of economic and infrastructure development, Indonesia needs to establish good relations with various countries, have strong military strength, and build adequate economy and infrastructure to become a developed and prosperous country.

- a. **Stable Economy**

Saladin implemented a fair and efficient tax system. He also encouraged trade and investment. The relevance to Proxy Wars in Indonesia is that a stable economy can help Indonesia to fight proxy wars. With a strong economy, Indonesia can increase its military power and build the infrastructure needed to combat proxies. Indonesia could increase its defense budget to buy advanced weapons and military equipment. Indonesia can also build infrastructure in proxy-prone areas, such as highways, bridges, and military posts.

- b. **Infrastructure Development**

Saladin built important infrastructure, such as highways, bridges, and fortifications. The relevance to Proxy Wars in Indonesia is that effective infrastructure development can help Indonesia to fight proxy wars. With adequate infrastructure, Indonesia can facilitate the movement of troops and logistics in proxy-prone areas. Indonesia can build highways in remote areas to facilitate access to troops and logistics. Indonesia could also establish military posts in proxy-prone areas to improve security. Stable economic development and effective infrastructure development can help Indonesia to fight proxy wars. With a strong economy and adequate infrastructure, Indonesia can increase its military strength and ease the movement of troops and logistics in proxy-prone areas.

In the aspect of Education Development, Shalahuddin Al-Ayyubi developed character education based on the Qur'an and Hadith, which is relevant for Indonesia in developing character education that builds national togetherness and solidarization. He developed the concept of Qur'an and Hadith-Based Character Education and Qualified Teachers and Students. Indonesia can implement Pancasila-based character education. Indonesia can develop character education based on Pancasila. This education can teach the values of Pancasila, such as the One and Only God, Just and Civilized Humanity, Indonesian Unity, Peoplehood Led by Wisdom in Consultation / Representative, and Social Justice for All Indonesian People. The Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology (Kemendikbudristek) has launched the "Strengthening Character Education" (PPK) program which aims to build student character based on

Pancasila values. This program is applied at all levels of education, from elementary to high school. In addition, Indonesia needs to improve the quality of teachers and students. Teachers need to be educated to become professional teachers and have noble morals. Students need to be educated to become the next generation who are intelligent, have character, and love the country. Kemendikbudristek has made various efforts to improve the quality of teachers, such as providing training and certification. Kemendikbudristek has also provided scholarships to outstanding students to continue their education to a higher level. Good character education can help build national togetherness and solidarization.

In terms of developing the government system, Saladin developed the value of transparency. Saladin implemented a system of meritocracy, in which people were elected to posts based on their abilities and qualifications. The relevance of proxy wars in Indonesia is that transparency in government can help Indonesia to fight proxy wars. With transparency, people can know how the government uses its money and whether the government is really working for the benefit of the people. For example, it does so in a way that the Indonesian government can publish information about its military operations in proxy-prone areas. The government can also hold meetings with people in these areas to explain its strategy in fighting proxies. In addition, Saladin built an efficient and effective bureaucracy. He also delegates tasks to competent and trustworthy people. The relevance of proxy wars in Indonesia is that effectiveness in governance can help Indonesia to fight proxy wars. With an efficient and effective bureaucracy, governments can quickly and appropriately respond to proxy threats. For example, the Government of Indonesia can improve coordination between government agencies in combating proxies. The government can also strengthen law enforcement officials to crack down on proxy actors. The development of a transparent and effective governance system can help Indonesia to fight proxy wars. With transparency and effectiveness, people can trust the government and governments can work better to protect their people from proxy threats.

In terms of defense development, Saladin Al-Ayyubi developed an effective defense by building a strong and well-trained army. The relevance to proxy wars in Indonesia is that the development of effective defenses can help Indonesia to fight proxy wars. With a strong defense, Indonesia can protect its territory from proxy threats. Indonesia can increase its military power by purchasing sophisticated weapons and military equipment. Indonesia could also establish military outposts in proxy-prone areas. In addition, Saladin also built a strong defense system by combining military power, intelligence, and diplomacy. The relevance of proxy wars in Indonesia is that building a strong defense system can help Indonesia to fight proxy wars. With an integrated defense system, Indonesia can more easily identify and overcome proxy threats. Indonesia can increase cooperation among government agencies in combating proxies. Indonesia can also establish relations with other countries to strengthen its defense. Effective defense development and building a strong defense system

can help Indonesia to fight proxy wars. With a strong and integrated defense, Indonesia can protect its territory and its people from proxy threats.

### ADVANCED RESEARCH

Economic development is carried out by infrastructure development in conflict-prone areas. In the aspect of educational development, it is carried out by developing character education and improving the quality of teachers and students. In terms of governance system development is carried out in a way of transparency and effectiveness that can help Indonesia to fight proxy wars.

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