



The Role of Diplomacy through Agreements *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)* Geopolitics in the Pacific War

Yurizki Aliyah^{1*}, Lukman Yudho Prakoso², Tasdik Mustika Alam³, Sri Patmi⁴
Universitas Pertahanan Republik Indonesia

Corresponding Author: Yurizki Aliyah aliyah.rizki@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Diplomacy through international agreements such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) has an important role in international relations and geopolitics. This study aims to analyze the role of diplomacy through GATT in the context of the Pacific War as well as its impact on geopolitical dynamics in the region. Research methods used include literature study and analysis of historical documents to trace GATT's role in defusing trade conflicts between countries involved in the Pacific War. The results of the analysis show that diplomacy through GATT can reduce trade barriers between countries in conflict, thus helping to minimize the impact of the Pacific War on the global economy. The discussion included an explanation of how the role of diplomacy through GATT helped build more stable trade relations in the post-World War II Pacific region.

INTRODUCTION

The Pacific War was a conflict that lasted from 1941 to 1945, in which many countries were involved, such as the United States, Japan, and Australia. This war affects trade between countries, so agreements are needed that can increase trade between countries and reduce tariffs or additional prices given by countries to imported goods. The *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade* (GATT) is an agreement established in 1947 that aims to increase trade between countries and reduce tariffs or additional prices given by countries on imported goods. This paper will discuss the role of diplomacy through GATT in terms of geopolitics in the Pacific War.



Figure 1. GATT Background
Source : Slideshare.net, 2015.

The GATT agreement had a significant role in international trade diplomacy, especially in the geopolitical context of the Pacific War. This study aims to analyze the contribution of GATT in easing trade tensions between countries involved in the Pacific War. GATT successfully played an important role in reducing trade barriers between countries involved in the conflict.

LITERATUR REVIEW

The Pacific War was a conflict that lasted from 1941 to 1945, in which many countries were involved, such as the United States, Japan, and Australia. This war affects trade between countries, so agreements are needed that can increase trade between countries and reduce tariffs or additional prices given by countries to imported goods.

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METHODOLOGY

This research uses qualitative descriptive methods to gain a deep and descriptive understanding of phenomena related to the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade* agreement. Data collection is obtained through literature review by collecting various articles, books, journals, or other sources related to Diplomacy through the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade* agreement. The analysis process used is the theory proposed by Milles, Huberman, and Saldana (2014) which includes data collection, data condensation, data presentation, and drawing and verifying conclusions. The data validity tests used are *dependability*, *transferability*, *credibility*, and *confirmability*, carried out at each stage of the following research design.

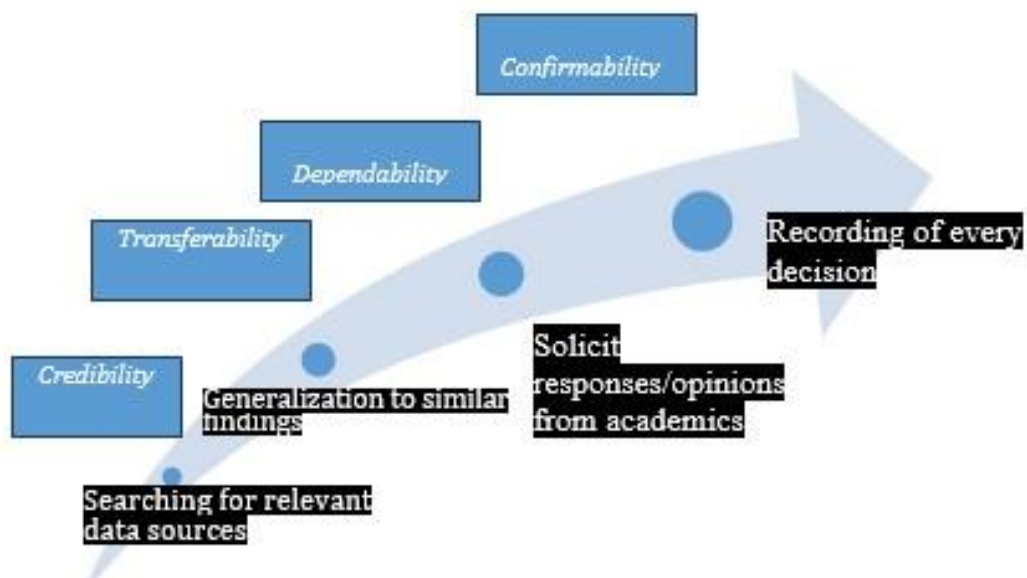


Figure 2. Research Methods
Source : Managed by author, 2024.

The above is done to obtain the accuracy of research results and the approach used by researchers is consistent if used by other researchers on different topics (Gibbs, 2007 and 2007). To refine the methodological details of the study, the analysis process follows the framework proposed by Milles, Huberman, and Saldana (2014) which includes data collection, condensation, presentation, and conclusion. The validity tests carried out are *dependability*, *transferability*, *credibility*, and *confirmability*, to ensure the reliability and credibility of the findings.

Dependability (Reliability)

Dependability refers to the consistency and stability of research findings. In the context of research on the role of diplomacy through the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) *in terms of geopolitics in the Pacific War*, dependence means ensuring that data collection methods, analysis procedures, and interpretation of data findings are reliable and consistent. This can be achieved by maintaining transparency in the research process, using standardized data collection tools and techniques, and documenting the steps taken to ensure the reliability of research findings.

Transferability (External Validity)

Transferability refers to the extent to which research findings can be applied to other contexts or situations. In the context of researching the role of diplomacy through the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in terms of geopolitics in the Pacific War*, transferability includes reviewing the ability to generalize findings to similar diplomatic relations or collaborations in other regions or between countries. To improve transferability, researchers should provide detailed descriptions of the research context, population, and methodology, as well as discuss the potential implications of their findings on other situations.

Credibility (Internal Validity)

Credibility refers to the trustworthiness and confidence of research findings. In the context of research into the role of diplomacy through the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in terms of geopolitics in the Pacific War*, credibility includes ensuring that research methods are meticulously conducted, data analysis is carried out thoroughly, and conclusions are supported by evidence. To increase credibility, researchers should use multiple data sources, triangulate findings, and conduct peer debriefing or member checking to validate interpretations of the data.

Confirmability

Confirmability refers to the objectivity and neutrality of research findings. In the context of research on the role of diplomacy through the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) *in terms of geopolitics in the Pacific War*, confirmability means ensuring that the biases, values, and assumptions of researchers do not unduly influence the research process or interpretation of the research findings. To improve confirmability, researchers should maintain an audit trail of the research process, clearly document the decision-making process, and acknowledge potential biases or limitations in the study. In short, ensuring dependability, transferability, credibility, and confirmability in research on the role of diplomacy through the geopolitical General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) *in the Pacific War* will help improve the quality and validity of research and increase the relevance and application of such findings to similar diplomatic relations and collaborations.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)

The *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade* (GATT) is a multilateral agreement established in 1947 to reduce or eliminate tariffs or quotas that serve as barriers to international trade. GATT aims to reduce tariffs and other barriers that can disrupt trade between countries, as well as reduce the preference given to importing countries. This agreement was made at the UNCTE (*United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment*) conference in 1947, but failed to be drafted due to difficulties in the development of the International Trade Organization (ITO). The GATT entered into force in 1948 and ended in 1995, when it was recognized by the World Trade Organization (WTO) as a treaty still valid at the WTO level.

GATT has been conducted in a series of global negotiations called round negotiations, consisting of nine rounds between 1947 and 1995. This agreement had an important role in reducing international tariffs, which now are an average of 5% after the Uruguay round in 1999. GATT has succeeded in reducing tariffs and helping to reduce barriers to trade between countries. The GATT was replaced by the WTO in 1995, which is an international organization that performs the task of regulating trade between countries. The WTO has more than 160 member states, which manage international trade through a system of agreements called Agreements on Trade in Goods, consisting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, Marrakesh Protocol GATT 1994, and others.



Figure 3. Purpose of GATT

Source : Slideshare.net, 2015

The purpose of the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade* (GATT) is to reduce or eliminate tariffs, quotas, and subsidies that serve as barriers to international trade. GATT aims to ease trade between countries and help reduce tariffs and trade barriers. In 1947, the GATT was established by 23 countries and took effect starting in 1948. GATT has been conducted in a series of global negotiations called round negotiations, consisting of nine rounds between 1947 and 1995. The GATT was replaced by the *World Trade Organization* (WTO) in 1995, which was more effective in regulating trade between countries and helping to reduce trade barriers.



Figure 4. GATT Function
Source : Slideshare.net, 2015

GATT held eight rounds of meetings—the first beginning in April 1947, the last ending in December 1993. Each conference yielded significant achievements and results.

1. The first meeting was held in Geneva, Switzerland, and involved 23 countries. The focus of this opening conference is on tariffs. Members established tax concessions covering more than \$10 billion in worldwide trade.
2. The second series of meetings began in April 1949 and was held in Annecy, France. Again, rates became the main topic. Thirteen countries attended the second meeting, and they reached 5,000 additional tax concessions to reduce tariffs.
3. Beginning in September 1950, the third series of GATT meetings took place in Torquay, England. This time 38 countries were involved, and nearly 9,000 tariff concessions were passed, reducing the tax rate by as much as 25%.
4. Japan first became involved in GATT in 1956 at its fourth meeting with 25 other countries.
5. The meeting was held in Geneva, and once again the committee lowered tariffs worldwide, this time by \$2.5 billion.
6. This series of meetings and tariff reductions will continue, adding new GATT provisions in the process. In 1964, GATT began working to curb predatory pricing policies. This policy is known as dumping. Later in the 1970s, an arrangement regarding international trade in textiles known as the Multifibre Arrangement (MFA) came into force. The next major event

was the Uruguay Round, which lasted from 1986 to 1993, with an agreement signed in 1994, and the WTO formed.

7. The average tariff fell from about 22% when the GATT was first signed in Geneva in 1947 to about 5% at the end of the Uruguay Round. Over time, these countries have continued to address global issues, including addressing agricultural disputes and working to protect intellectual property.
8. Cornell Law School, Legal Information Institute. "General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Is GATT a free trade agreement?

That's basically the goal. GATT seeks to push the world towards a reality where goods and services are exchanged between countries without tariffs, quotas, etc., and without favoritism and discrimination.

Why was GATT replaced by the World Trade Organization (WTO)?

GATT, while successfully achieving its goals, is said to lack a coherent institutional structure. In short, it is a legal agreement that acts as an international organization. The World Trade Organization (WTO) applies the principles of GATT and is better positioned to implement them because, among other things, it better understands issues such as intellectual property, has a faster dispute resolution system, and has greater power.

The world would be a very different place without GATT. Its free trade ethos ended a dark period of protectionism and economic hardship that culminated in World War II, paving the way for decades of economic growth and increased globalization. The conclusion of GATT is that it has succeeded in increasing trade between countries and reducing trade barriers, which has ultimately helped in the improvement of global trade. The GATT has been replaced by the WTO, which is more effective in regulating trade between countries and helping to reduce trade barriers.

The Role of Diplomacy in the Pacific War

The role of diplomacy in the Pacific War can be explained through various sources of citations. Diplomacy is a tool that brings the interests of the country to a certain level and serves to produce cooperation decisions between countries to resolve conflicts that occur. The purpose of this diplomacy is to create world peace, which can create a sense of security and prosperity for the world community. In the Pacific War, the economic diplomacy built by the Indonesian government was down-to-earth. The government expects all diplomats and all Indonesian diplomatic actors (including Indonesians living abroad) to be 'salespersons' for Indonesia abroad. Economic diplomacy is like selling Indonesia's potential, as a better economic partner than other countries.

Defense diplomacy is a form of diplomacy used to minimize conflicts in the South China Sea region. The Indonesian government implements a military diplomacy strategy to minimize conflicts in the South China Sea region. The strategic effort of military diplomacy in securing Natuna waters is to build the country's military defense directed to meet proportional strength that focuses on increasing the strength of defense equipment and defense support infrastructure.

In multilateral diplomacy, governments not only deal with several governments at one time, but other governments also interact with each other. There are several objectives of multilateral diplomacy, there are at least nine different reasons that encourage governments to engage with each other multilaterally, such as *information gathering* and *pooling*, *joint projects*, *managing the external environment*, *influencing behavior*, *mutually beneficial deals*, *domestic agendas*, *reactive*, *routine*, and *idealism*. In the context of the Pacific War, diplomacy can be said to be an agency room, meaning as a machine or driving tool that can connect and communicate between countries globally. In World War I, diplomacy was once abolished by a country because it was considered to prioritize its own country, but in the Pacific War, diplomacy can help resolve conflicts and build secure relations between countries.

Geopolitical Factors Affecting the Pacific War

Geopolitical factors played a key role in influencing the Pacific War. Some of these factors include geography, natural resources, power rivalries, and threat perceptions between the countries involved. According to Stephen Walt, geography has a significant impact on threat perception, whereas Art and Jervis show the complexity of geography that affects the likelihood of war by presenting obstacles to military power projection. The Pacific War, which took place between 1937 and 1945, involved conflicts in the Pacific Ocean, its islands, and in Asia. Factors such as the power rivalry between Japan, the United States, and the Allied powers, as well as Japan's efforts to control natural resources in the Southeast Asian region, also played an important role in triggering this conflict.

Geopolitical dynamics in the Asia-Pacific region, including rivalries between major powers such as the US and China, also influenced the Pacific War. Residues of classical geopolitics, the struggle for hegemony, and competition between the US and China are factors affecting regional stability and the potential for open conflict. In addition, factors such as the need for natural resources, territorial expansion, and threat perceptions between countries also influenced the geopolitical dynamics that triggered the Pacific War. Japan, as one of the parties to the conflict, has ambitions to replace the United States as the largest power in the Pacific, which is also a driving factor in this conflict. Thus, geopolitical factors such as geography, power rivalries, and territorial expansion ambitions became major factors influencing the occurrence of the Pacific War. The impact of these factors played an important role in shaping the conflict dynamics and stability of the region at that time.

Lessons Learned from Diplomatic Strategies used in the Pacific War

The purpose of diplomacy is to create *world peace*, meaning that it can create a sense of security and prosperity for the world community. For this reason, there needs to be a movement or place that can be reached by the wider community to channel their opinions related to conflict resolution in conflict countries. In a diplomacy, there is a need for involvement from other factors, such as *the government* which certainly has a crucial role to conduct diplomacy between countries.

There are 9 *Multytrack Diplomacy* that is usually done by several countries in conducting a diplomacy. That is:

1. *Government has an important role to conduct diplomacy between countries because the Government has power in a country.*
2. *Non-Government*, because sometimes their involvement makes a bigger deal.
3. *Bussines*, usually can be done by making a trade agreement such as buying and selling and can be done by negotiating.
4. *Private Citizens*, even if they are not in a forum, they will move themselves to conduct diplomacy.
5. *Researcher*, this study center also has a role to conduct diplomacy. For example, they are tasked with predicting poverty rates or accident rates, of course this is very necessary.
6. *Activists*, now there are many activists who have emerged and made *world peace movements*.
7. *Charity or Founding Rising*, this can be a tool for diplomacy because in fact every country will need help from other countries even if it is a super power country.
8. *Religious figures*, religious figures also have an important role in terms of diplomacy, because this can be a way to resolve religious conflicts.
9. *Communication & media*, never underestimate this, these mass media have an important war to shape public opinion. Because the task of the media itself is to provide information to the public, an example of the organization is the *International Monitoring Found (IMF)*.

Diplomatic strategies that could be used in the Pacific War between nations include:

1. *Indo-Pacific Cooperation*: From Indonesia's point of view, *AOIP (Asia-Oceania Initiative for Peace)* can be a modality to continue to achieve national interests through an Indo-Pacific cooperation strategy.
2. *Increased Economist Diplomacy* i: The Government of Indonesia developed a strategy to increase bilateral economic diplomacy with countries in the Americas Region, especially GATT member countries.
3. *Defense Diplomacy*: The Government of Indonesia implements a military diplomacy strategy to minimize conflicts in the South China Sea region, which includes building the country's military defense and implementing *Naval Diplomacy*.
4. *Soft Power* : This diplomacy can be used to build secure relations between countries and better than the use of *force* or *hard power*.

5. Interaction Strategy Between States: Diplomacy is carried out through the option of ASEAN conferences, negotiations, and meetings, which find trust from other countries as well as military ones.
6. Leadership Strategy: Diplomacy strategy related to efforts to eliminate violence in all matters of foreign policy.

In the GATT and WTO books; Kartodjoemana's International Systems, Forums and Institutions in the Field of Trade (1996), GATT applies several key principles to achieve its goals. The main principles of GATT, as follows:

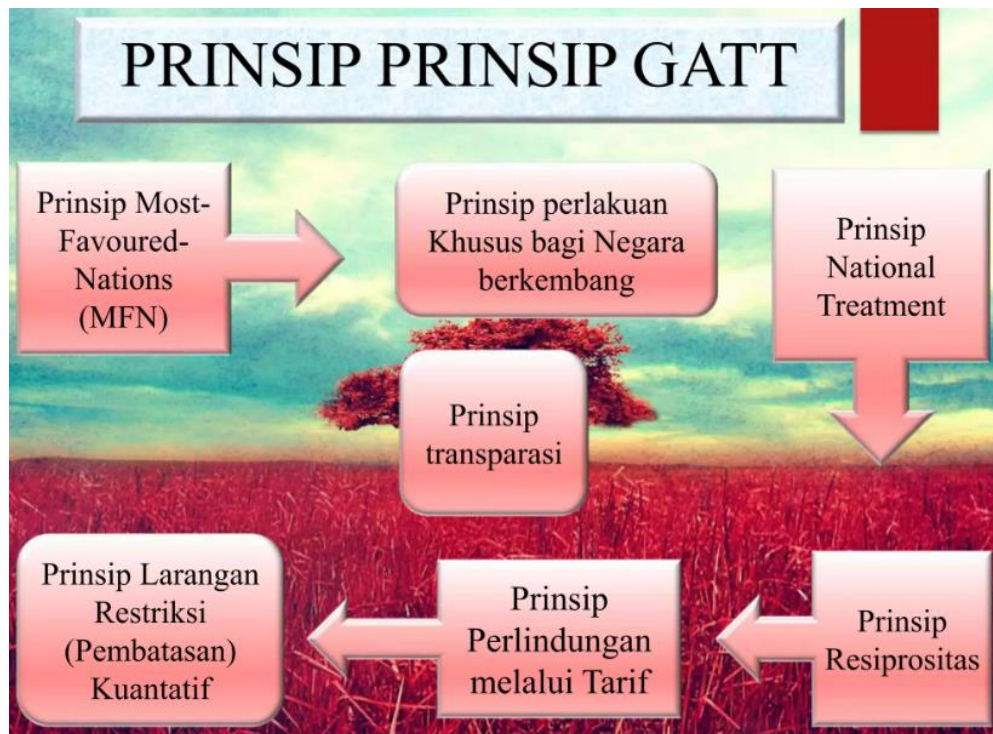


Figure 5. GATT Principle
Source : Slideshare.net, 2015

1. The principle of *Most Favoured Nations* (MFN), which is a non-discriminative principle in carrying out international trade.
2. *National Treatment Principles*, namely the principles governing imported products must be treated the same as domestic products.
3. The principle of transparency, namely the principle of openness between GATT member countries.
4. The principle of *Non Tariff Measures*, namely GATT member countries are only allowed to protect domestic products by increasing import duties on imported products.
5. The principle of *Quantitative Restriction*, namely GATT member countries are not allowed to limit quotas on international trade.

Changes of Gatt to Wto

In accordance with its development, each GATT member country In 1994, GATT underwent major changes. The changes were discussed at a meeting in Marrakech, Morocco April 5, 1994 GATT was changed to *World Trade Organization* (WTO) starting January 1, 1995, the role and function of GATT was replaced by the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The birth brought two fundamental changes, namely:

1. The WTO took over the role of GATT and made it one of the annexes to WTO rules.
2. The GATT principles serve as the regulatory framework for new areas of WTO agreement. For example GATS, TRIMS, TRIPS

CONCLUSION AND RECOMENDATIONS

The conclusion of the Role of Diplomacy Through the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade* (GATT) in Geopolitical Aspects in the Pacific War is that the GATT agreement is one example of an international agreement that plays an important role in regulating relations between countries in the field of trade. The GATT was complex, but through negotiation and compromise, the treaty was successfully concluded and provided significant benefits to the countries concerned. Indonesia's economic diplomacy in the implementation of its foreign policy through international agreements such as GATT and WTO also has an important role in encouraging quality economic growth or "*growth with equity*". Indonesia's economic diplomacy is carried out creatively, actively, anticipatorily, transparently, and in accordance with the mandate of the Indonesian constitution.

This research shows that international diplomacy through agreements such as GATT and WTO has an important role in expanding domestic markets and strengthening relations between countries. In addition, economic diplomacy also has a role in reducing discrimination and regulating relations between countries in the field of trade. The role of diplomacy through the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade* (GATT) in the context of the Pacific war is very important to regulate international trade and reduce trade conflicts between countries involved in the war. The GATT is an instrument that facilitates negotiations between member countries to reduce tariffs and other trade barriers, thereby providing economic and political stability in the Pacific region.

In the Pacific war, GATT's role helped reduce trade tensions between warring nations, thereby fostering economic and political cooperation between them. Thus, diplomatic efforts through GATT can help prevent an escalation of conflict that could negatively impact the Pacific region as a whole. Geopolitically, the GATT agreement also helps create better relations between countries in the Pacific region, thereby strengthening regional integration and peace in the region. Thus, the role of diplomacy through the GATT agreement in the context of the Pacific war is very important to create stability and cooperation among countries in the region.

GATT has an important role in increasing trade between countries and reducing tariffs or additional prices given by countries to imported goods. GATT also had a role in regulating trade between countries in the Pacific War. The role of diplomacy through GATT from a geopolitical point of view in the Pacific War is very important to increase trade between countries and reduce tariffs or additional prices given by countries to imported goods. The conclusion of the study is that trade diplomacy through GATT has a significant impact in easing trade tensions in international conflicts. The proposed suggestions focus on the importance of international cooperation in strengthening the role of trade diplomacy to prevent an escalation of conflict in the Pacific region.

ADVANCED RESEARCH

Still conducting further research to find out more about The Role of Diplomacy through Agreements General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Geopolitics in the Pacific War

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