

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **A. Background**

This undergraduate thesis attempts to investigate the diplomatic relations between UK and Russia after the expulsion of 23 Russian diplomats in 2018. The official relations between the countries began in 1553, when Russia and the United Kingdom became allies against Napoleon in the early 19th century. In World War I (1914-1918), Britain and the Russian Empire (before becoming the Soviet Union) formed a coalition known as the Allied Powers. In World War II, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union formed a new coalition (1939-1945). The United Kingdom and the Soviet Union, along with the United States and China, rejoined the Allied Forces in their war against the Axis powers, including Germany, the Japanese Empire, and Italy. The Anglo-Soviet Trade Agreement was signed between the two countries on 16 March 1921. It ended the British blockade and opened Russian ports to British ships. All parties decided to refrain from launching offensive propaganda. It led to de facto diplomatic recognition and marked the beginning of an era of substantial trade (White, 1992). During the Cold War that followed, relations were usually intense, as shown by espionage and other clandestine operations. The Cold War was a period of political and military conflict between the Western World, led by the United States, and the Communist World,

led by the Soviet Union. Several countries decided to side with one of the strongholds at the time, including Britain, which chose to side with the US and formed the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) with ten other countries.

Relations with the collapse of the USSR continued to change into the 21st century. In the 21st century, although economic and human relations grew, diplomatic relationships were being affected by espionage and extradition conflicts. The Russian state has been strongly accused by the United Kingdom of having been involved as the enemy of the United Kingdom in numerous high-profile assassinations and attempted killings of Russian activists (Mark, 2018). However, there is an agreement between both conflicting actors during the hard times and rising tension so far, namely the double taxation agreement from the UK to Russia that began in 1998. The agreement includes UK income tax and capital gains tax in favor of people and Corporation tax in respect of corporations. (Government H. R., 2006).

Based on the website of Russian Embassy on economic co-operation stated that, financial services, petroleum, commercial business, industrial manufacture, mining, transportation, communications, pharmaceuticals, and real estate are some of the most appealing industries for trade and investment cooperation. The British business community is willing to preserve normal contacts with its Russian counterparts and is taking a positive approach. On the Russian market, around 600 Industries are profitable. In recent years, the

UK's foreign relations with Russia have had an influence on economic relations.

However, Russia is now subject to a number of trade restrictions imposed by the United Kingdom. These regulations relate to the trafficking of goods such as guns, 'dual-use' items with military applications, and certain oil exploration and mining products. Conflicts such as the poison of former Russian security agent Alexander Litvinenko in London in 2006, Russia's intervention of Ukraine in 2014, and the Salisbury novichok assault in 2018 have all had an impact on relations. There have also been claims that Russia sought to intervene in internal affairs in the UK, such as the 2016 EU referendum and the 2019 elections (Goddard, 2020). The relationships between the United Kingdom and Russia have long been tense, but they were escalated again after an attempted murder case against Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia Skripal happened on 4 March 2018 in Salisbury, London, England.

Sergei Skripal is an English and Russian citizen, ex double agent of Russia military officer, and a double agent for British intelligence services. His daughter, Yulia Skripal, who was visiting her father in the United Kingdom at the time, was discovered unconscious on a park bench and rushed to the hospital. They were injected with a Novichok nerve agent which identified as Russian-made, according to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). Sergei and Yulia Skripal were both treated for several weeks in intensive care before being released (Anushka

Asthana, 2018). The United Kingdom suspected Russia of attempted assassination and declared a slew of sanctions against it, including the withdrawal of diplomats.

After days of the attempt, political pressure on Theresa May's government taking action against the suspects started to rise, and several senior politicians continued to suspect that the Russian government was behind the incident. The circumstance was particularly sensitive for Russia because Russian President Vladimir Putin was set to run for a fourth term in mid-March, and Russia was set to host the 2018 FIFA World Cup football tournament in June. The poison used for the attempted murder of Sergei Skripal and her daughter, Yulia Skripal, was classified as a deadly nerve agent called Novichok, according to a statement issued by British Prime Minister Theresa May on March 12, 2018. Diplomatic broadsides from the UK are likely to be the first move, with any action certain to trigger retaliation from Moscow. Given the seriousness of Britain's claims, Moscow would no doubt use every means to answer against the UK Government, which may mean a tough period for UK diplomats around Russia. (Stevenson, 2018)

Following the discovery of the weapons used in the attack, diplomatic relations between the United Kingdom and Russia unpredictable. This pressure increased until, on 14 March 2018, the United Kingdom Government voted to expel 23 Russian diplomats from British territories. By the topic of diplomatic relations, it is necessary to be

well-understood by student of international relations because, as we can see in today's internationalization there is always foreign policy matters that triggered other states to be conflicted. Diplomatic relation is one of the substantial parts of holding bilateral or multilateral cooperation. Even after a conflict, it is important to maintain the diplomatic relations in order to keep up the influence and create good behavior in international world. Therefore, this research will mainly discuss on two matters: the diplomatic relation of both states after the incident and the consequence of the Russian diplomats' expulsion.

## **B. Research Question**

*How does the impacts of the expulsion of Russian diplomats on the diplomatic relations between the United Kingdom and Russia?*

## **C. Theoretical Framework**

### **1. Theory of Foreign Policy**

International Relations as a body of study has a framework. Anything that happens in and through nations is the product of human decisionmakers working alone or in parties. Thus, the ground of IR is, in certain ways, the same ground in all social sciences. Understanding how humans view and respond to their environments, as well as how humans define and are influenced by their surroundings. The international world has seen an increase in the establishment of nation

states since the Treaty of Westphalia and the conclusion of the First and Second World Wars. Thus, the result of this growth is the establishment of a relation between these nation states. As a result, researchers focus on the importance of each state having a “foreign policy,” so no state wants to operate in complete secrecy. International policy directs a country in promoting its national goals and establishing its proper position in the international community. Scholars have described the foreign policy in a variety of ways, George Modelski defined as the framework of activities developed by societies to modify the actions of other states and to modify their own practices to the foreign climate. Foreign policy must give insight on how states manage to succeed in improving the behavior of other states. (AS, 2018)

However, in the field of foreign policy, the real options (or indecisions) taken cannot be readily evident to the observer. They may still be classified and may remain so for decades due to national security issues. In certain instances, this ensures the researcher is dealing with historical records, or current data if available from online sources. When a country's domestic politics are established in line with its national interests, the country would naturally shape domestic political policies to pursue its national interests in the international system. It is therefore possible to say that decision-making for foreign policy involves a number of procedures and has many players. In the foreign affairs of a State, it has always played an important part. Therefore, a State will lose its position and its respect in international affairs without a well-designed

foreign policy and would finally be unable to fulfill its objectives and core national interests. In general, foreign policy concerns the interactions between a State and another, and this interaction takes place only at the 'international' level, and therefore cannot be disregarded when examining any country's foreign policy (Ahmed, 2020).

According to the *Public Administration Committee Twenty-Fourth Report*, there are six goals to bring out the national interests of the United Kingdom. One of these strategic goals is to be “*free and democratic society, properly protected from its enemies.*” (Parliament, 2012) Therefore, the action of the withdrawal of 23 Russian ambassadors from the jurisdiction of the United Kingdom was carried out on March 14, 2018, as an obey to British Prime Minister Theresa May's announcement on March 12, 2018. The British government concluded in that report that Russia is most likely responsible for the alleged poisoning of Sergei Skripal and his daughter.

## **2. Diplomatic Theory of International Relations**

Early diplomatic engagements linked security, negotiation and problem solving with reflecting and problem tasks. Negotiations have been the major emphasis of diplomatic skills. Not only the foundations for effective negotiations are important for scholar and practitioners, but also the outcome of the negotiations. In the popular IR, diplomacy has been considered as a kind of state-

centered study and as a result (Constantinou & Sharp, 2016). Nonetheless, diplomacy, with propaganda, financial rewards and the threat or use of force to suppress or punish is offered as a means of external policy in the standard of international relations (Holsti, 1967). Diplomacy and diplomats are easily represented, as evident symbols, guardians and upholders of the division and alienation (ethnic, racial, colonial, gender, and so on), which the systems of wealth and power rely. Certainly, diplomacy uses wealth and power to pursue purposes. In other words, it is a place for the use of claims about truth and identity struggles. Furthermore, it is recognized that the practice of diplomacy and diplomats clearly contribute to the development of the changing identities of the nations and the others they represent (Constantinou & Sharp, 2016).

In conflict resolution, mediation is the first convenient step to proceed to the next problem solving. Mediation is commonly seen as a process by which third parties encourage others to discuss and solve their conflicts in specific. Thus, diplomatic relations are those social interactions that need mediation and diplomats as the mediator. Diplomacy can be done between established parties that want to keep their distance between them, as well as between new societal members and the merging process. Therefore, the major objective of diplomacy is not to build or dissolve new societies (Constantinou & Sharp, 2016).

Diplomats are concerned about unnecessary tension caused by the lack of politeness. If,



however, terrible relations were a policy intent, this concern might be weakened and even gentlemen would have their delay. Intentional rude behavior may therefore be seen to disadvantage in the current set of events was seen, by demanding motives of state, as a reasonable action and not acceptable. Diplomacy aims at promoting the specific interests of a State while maintaining international order. It is the instrument that governments employ to make their way without provoking other countries' tensions. Diplomats must always balance the need to safeguard the interests of their state and to prevent conflict with other countries (Mark, 2018)

In the dispute of the UK-Russia Diplomatic crises, that in Salisbury, the United Kingdom has been confronted with the terror by the poisoning Sergei Skripal and Yulia. The UK therefore feels threatened by opposing reactions and diplomatic efforts. Despite the diplomatic tension between Russia and the United Kingdom, they must agree to cooperate at the United Nations before the tension getting escalated. The bilateral dispute may prevent urgent resolutions, in the face of an unplanned and pressing situation that may arise from conflictual disasters. This might be such uncertain situation given that the United Nations responds to the worldwide crisis concerns, especially in the risks of numerous new crises. In bilateral and diplomatic relations, the two nations will again need much encouragement to be in a good condition with each other as a means out of their present diplomatic afflictions.

## **D. Hypothesis**

Although both countries have beneficial trade relations, the expulsion of Russian diplomats led to the loss of trust and crisis of diplomatic relations between the UK and Russia.

## **E. Research Methodology**

This research used qualitative methodologies in combination with a descriptive analysis methodology. The qualitative approach is a research method that is conducted under the specific settings with the goal of identifying a phenomenon in order to investigate what occurs, why it happened, and how it happens. Likewise, the descriptive data analysis may be defined as an exploratory process that entails showing pictures, subjects, institutions, and current society based on textual facts and descriptions. To support this research, this thesis took secondary data and literature studies to collect textual data from books, journals, reports, and a variety of other research sources.

## **F. Scope of Research**

The scope of this thesis is limited from the case happened on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018, until two years after the crisis in 2020. This research also explains the international consequences, impacts, and the world responses to the diplomatic expulsion 2018. Therefore, the main topic of this research is the consequences on diplomatic relations between the UK and Russia after ruined by poisoning incident that impactful to many actors.

## **G. Organizing of Writing**

The writing in this paper will be divided into five chapters as follows:

Chapter I: The introduction that contains of background, research question, theoretical framework, hypothesis, research methodology, and scope of research.

Chapter II: This chapter will explain the sub-chapter that explain as follows:

- A. Bilateral Relations between UK and Russia after Cold War
- B. Series of Poisoning Incident in United Kingdom
- C. The Expulsion of Russian Diplomats and Diplomatic Crisis
- D. The Consequences of Diplomats Expulsion

Chapter III: This chapter will conclude all findings of the research that have been explained previously