

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Economic growth in Asia coupled with the increase of energy demands and at the same time oil producer countries have reached peak production makes the concern of U.S. to solve this problem. European dependence on Russian energy also makes the attention of U.S. to reduce this dependency. If the demand of energy in Asia is not fulfilled, it will lead to pressure on the Asian markets that will impact directly on the global market. The U.S. views Central Asia as an alternative to fulfill the energy needs of Asia and Europe which will provide huge benefits in terms of both economics and politics. But the U.S. must compete with other actors in controlling and distributing these energy sources into the international market. During this time, Central Asian countries rely on pipelines controlled by Russia and its military protection.

To achieve its foreign policy, especially toward controlling energy in Central Asia, the U.S. must understand the complex problems that exist in this region. Economic problems and security are the most important factors for stability in the region. The U.S. must provide problem solving that faced by the countries in the region. The U.S. grand strategy is reducing the threat of Russia and China by implementing Silk Road Strategy (SRS) as the tools to control energy resources in Central Asia. To succeed this SRS, the U.S. has to militarize Eurasian region as a protective pipeline and trade corridors linking Central Asia's energy resources to markets in Europe. The militarization of the region is needed as the first step before the development of pipeline that will bring the source of

energy from Central Asia. To implement the SRS strategy, the U.S. creates several projects.

Firstly, the construction of pipeline routes including Nabucco, BTC and TAPI. Nabucco is a pipeline project that will bring energy from the Caspian region, Central Asia and the Middle East through Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary through Austria and then onto to Western Europe. Nabucco pipeline is the U.S. effort in competing Russian pipeline system that controlled energy supply to European markets. This project aims to provide new energy sources for European markets that will reduce the dependence of energy supplies from Russia and also this pipeline will provide a huge market for Central Asian countries and Caucasus to sell its oil and gas to international markets.

Meanwhile the BTC project is the cooperation between Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey in building the pipeline from Caspian Sea to the Mediterranean Sea. The pipeline has significant implication for the foreign policy of U.S., Turkey and Georgia. BTC pipeline will provide new alternatives for the Central Asian countries to export their energy resources instead of using Russian and Iranian pipelines. This pipeline gives a positive implication for former Soviet Union countries. The cooperation among Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey and the involvement of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan will be beneficial for economic growth in this region. BTC will provide the cooperation among the member countries as basic supplier and transit energy for the international markets. BTC pipeline is a strategic interest for Europe and South Caucasus. The diversity of

dependence over Russian energy supply. U.S. views that providing a new distribution route for Central Asia will avoid Russia, China and Iran's influence

TAPI pipeline is a U.S. strategy to hamper the IPI project supported by Iran, Russia and China. With TAPI pipeline, U.S. tries to provide an alternative of new pipeline to fulfill the energy demand of Pakistan and India as the U.S. partner in South Asia. With the realization of the TAPI pipeline, the U.S. effort to isolate Iran from the global market will be realized. U.S. sees Iran's effort to build the IPI project is very harmful to the U.S. interests in Central Asia and will increase Iran influence in South Asia and the international community. TAPI pipeline will be able to bring the energy source from Turkmenistan through Afghanistan to Pakistan and India. Energy Sources from Turkmenistan will fulfill the needs of Asian and global markets.

The realization of TAPI pipeline will strengthen U.S. influence in Central and South Asia and away the influence of Russia, Iran and China from the region. To start the construction of this pipeline, it will require the stability in Afghanistan to ensure the security of this pipeline. The threat from Islamic militants, especially Taliban, is the biggest obstacle for the realization of this pipeline. U.S. made an effort to overthrow the Taliban regime from Afghanistan government. 9 / 11 is a momentum for the U.S. to overthrow the Taliban regime with military force that supported Osama Bin Laden. U.S. invasion toward Afghanistan in October 2001 gave a way for the TAPI project to be realized. With the collapse of the Taliban regime, the threat over this project would decrease.

Secondly, the U.S. has to militarize the Eurasian region by creating GUAM and CENTCOM. GUAM is cooperation between the former Soviet States, including Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova. GUAM is a military and economic cooperation which aims to protect the transportation corridor from Caspian Sea Basin to Western Europe and also as a strategy to avoid the influence of Russia in the Caucasus and Eastern Europe. For U.S. interests in Central Asia, GUAM is very important as it is a protector to pipelines and trade that would bring Central Asian energy sources from the Caspian region and then through Azerbaijan and Georgia. GUAM objective is to create the stability and security which has the role as the protector of pipeline which cross the region of GUAM member states.

Meanwhile the CENTCOM aims to make the Central Asian countries closer to the western orbit. CENTCOM is the cooperation and military assistance to enhance the ability of the security forces of Central Asian countries to be able to protect themselves and also provide military training to combat the threat of Islamic militants. CENTCOM is very important to support military operations in Afghanistan, where it participates in cutting the path the cooperation between the Taliban and the IMU in Central Asia and also secure the routes of logistics delivery in Afghanistan through Central Asia. CENTCOM region is expected to decrease the dependency of Central Asia states from SCO and CSTO protection. CENTCOM is projected to protect the interest of U.S., Western countries, and global markets, especially the access of energy from Central Asia. In other words

CENTCOM is the defense system of global capitalism; free market and neoliberal.

Finally, the U.S. must create economic dependency and security before deployment to promote political reform and democracy. Because, these reforms will be considered threats to the authority of the regimes in Central Asia and will encourage them to become closer to Russia and China. It certainly would harm U.S. interests in the region. With the realization of all these strategies, the U.S. will be able to control Central Asian energy and will benefit both the U.S. geopolitical and geo-economic situation. By fulfilling the European and Asian energy demand with the energy supply from Central Asia, it will strengthen the U.S. influence in these regions and reduce the influence of Russia and China in