

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Ebola is the most lethal and dangerous infectious disease. The Ebola virus was discovered in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1976. The Ebola virus resurfaced in West Africa in 2014 (Sihombing, 2014). The WHO declared on August 8, 2014, that the situation in West Africa was deteriorating and that it needed an international health emergency due to the Ebola virus that had ravaged the region (WHO, 2014). The growing number of human victims infected with the Ebola virus is causing alarm worldwide, and the Ebola virus is regarded as a health problem that has yet to be addressed as a national security priority.

The Ebola virus has been designated as a national security threat for the United States, not only by the president but also by the United States Congress, which also provided financial aid for dealing with the Ebola virus, which is greater than the assistance provided for the SARS and bird flu outbreaks. This aid is the most valuable of all time in dealing with the epidemic. (Kaiser, 2015).

As President Barack Obama and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) team were leaders in five stages, namely: (1) surveillance; (2) outbreak response; (3) developing global capacity; (4) disease eradication; and (5) advanced science (Beth, 2016). The United States' attempts to be at the forefront of addressing and responding to the Ebola epidemic became increasingly evident. These five steps were followed in dealing with every viral disease case, including the Ebola virus. Furthermore, the actions of the Department of Defense (DoD), which mobilized 3,000 troops in West Africa in 2014, show the United States' leadership as a nation at the forefront of responding to the Ebola outbreak. The U.S. government is cooperating with the DoD and other agencies. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as two organizations dealing with limiting the number of Ebola victims.

This study will discuss the U.S. Government's response to the Ebola outbreak. However, will also discuss the link between diseases that threaten national security and the U.S. Government's efforts in the war on terror with the potential for the Ebola virus as a bioterrorism weapon. Given the history of the United States, which has experienced bioterrorism attacks by the anthrax virus through letters sent by terrorists.

B. Research Question

According to the background above, this research would like to answer the research question; **Why did the United States (U.S.) make the Ebola virus pandemic in West Africa a priority for America's national security?**

C. Theoretical Framework

1. National Security

Realist is defined in general as an effort to defend the territory of sovereignty and an effort to protect against the values contained. In practice, the state as a unit that is heterogeneous, always acts nationally, and acts to pursue the interests above. The state will be more important because it is based on its interests.

During the Cold War, security became the dominant issue and was affiliated with state security. The perceived threat of nuclear weapons came from the Soviets with their communist views gracing the security concept of the United States for nearly 40 years before the Soviet Union collapsed. This cannot be separated from developing a realist paradigm that enjoyed its golden era during the cold war. The anarchic "system" stimulates the state to take the initiative to play an active role in international politics. A chaotic situation hurts anarchy, but anarchy here is defined as the absence of authority capable of controlling state behavior (Jhon, 2001).

From a realist perspective, the state will always pursue power, this is because the power to implement has a feature in the state. The effort to always pursue or balance the power becomes an arena that cannot be avoided. According to Jhon Baylis and Steven Smith, in the framework of maintaining its sovereignty, the state will always build military capabilities offensively because only in this way is the state able to protect itself and at the same time increase its capabilities, this is due to a lack of trust in other countries and, the survival of a country depends on its efforts to stay afloat (Jhon, 2001). With a strong logic of capability, other countries will rethink launching or disrupting a country's sovereign territory. However, in history there have been times when a country is weaker in the context of military power recklessly declares war (threatens) against a country with stronger military power (Joseph, 1993). This competitive atmosphere then underlies the relationship between countries that raises awareness of the presence of a threat from other countries against the values that humans have to live their lives.

2. Decision Making Process

Decision-Making emerged as a technical term in management in 1950. Herbert A. Simon In his book "Administrative Behavior: A Study of Decision-Making Processes in

Administrative Organizations" published in 1947, Simon was the first expert to use the term. Since then, the term "decision making" has been increasingly used globally. However, he did not give a definite answer regarding the specific definition of "decision making". Thus, some experts interpret the meaning of decision-making from various points of view.

Claude S. George, Jr. Said the decision-making process is carried out by most managers in the form of an awareness, thought activity that includes consideration, assessment and selection among some alternatives (Claude S. George, 1972). Meanwhile, G. R. Terry said that decision-making is a selection based on certain criteria on two or more possible alternatives (Syamsi, 2000).

According to Suharnan, decision-making is a process of choosing or determining various possibilities in uncertain situations. Decision-making occurs in situations requiring someone to make future predictions, choose one or two or more options, and make estimates about the frequency of forecasts (Suharnan, 2005). One of the functions of thinking is making decisions (Rakhmat, 2007). But the general signs include: decisions are the result of thinking, the result of intellectual effort, decisions always involve choices from various alternatives, decisions always involve real action, even though the implementation may be postponed or forgotten.

It can be concluded from some of the descriptions above that decision making is a thought process from selecting alternatives that will be generated regarding future predictions. Individual or group decision-making function, either institutionally or organizationally, is futuristic.

Snyder, Bruck, and Sapin share a perspective on decision theory to understand state behavior in international relations. In both the domestic (internal) and international (external) systems, decision-making has a structure and scope that the State must consider. Internal and external interaction factors will shape the State's preference for foreign policymaking. Internal factors emphasize public relations with the state, while external factors emphasize international structures such as relations with other countries and the world situation (Snyder, 1962).

The formation of decision-making influenced by internal factors is the way society is organized and functions, such as domestic politics, public opinion, public attitudes, geographical position and national power. In contrast, external factors are situations and conditions that exist outside the country's territory, such as actions and reactions from other countries and the world situation (Kurniawan, 2017). Internal factors, such as domestic politics, refer to domestic political conditions, one of which is the role of political parties that influence policymaking. The activities carried out in the decision-making process of an organization aim

to achieve organizational goals where the desired goals and interests can be achieved easily and efficiently.

D. Hypothesis

Based on the theory of national security and the decision-making process. It shows that the U.S. Government desires to maintain the security of its country. The increasingly widespread Ebola virus causes instability in countries affected by the virus, thus creating an opportunity to develop terrorist movements. The Ebola virus pandemic, which is considered a bioterrorism threat, has forced the U.S. government to make various efforts to prevent the Ebola virus from spreading widely.

E. Research Objective

1. The research goal of this thesis is expected to answer the formulation of the problem and prove hypotheses about the factors behind the implementation of U.S. foreign policy toward the Ebola virus.
2. Explain that non-physical threats can threaten national security.
3. By writing this thesis, the author expected to improve insight for the author and those in need of American policies towards national security in West Africa.

F. Scope of Research

The author gives the limitations of the research in 2014-2016. It was chosen in 2014 because it showed that the WHO confirmed the Ebola virus pandemic in West Africa, while 2016 was the end of the Ebola virus pandemic in West Africa. The author will mention a few outsiders of that year if it is still relevant to the discussed thesis.

Research Methodology

The research method used is a qualitative method, which is a research method that focuses on the analysis of data that is non-numbers and without using statistical formulas as an approach. Meanwhile, data collection techniques are carried out through library research. Data is obtained through sources from books, journals, newspapers, and the internet.

G. Outline

Systematic writing in this paper will be divided into four chapters in the following order:

Chapter 1 : This chapter contains the background of the problem, the foundation of the theory, the hypothesis, the research objective, the research methods, the scope of research, and the outline.

Chapter 2 : Discussing the West African conditions and the United States War on Terror.

Chapter 3 : Discussing the Ebola Virus's potential as a bioterrorism weapon and selective engagement in the United States.

Chapter 4 : This chapter will conclude the thesis and answer the research question. Why did the United States (U.S.) make the Ebola virus pandemic in West Africa as a priority for America's national security.