

ABSTRAK

STRATEGI *HEDGING* SRI LANKA DALAM MERESPONS PERSAINGAN ANTARA INDIA DAN TIONGKOK, 2019—2025

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Persaingan geopolitik antara India dan Tiongkok di Asia Selatan dan Samudra Hindia menimbulkan tantangan strategis bagi negara kecil seperti Sri Lanka. Posisi Sri Lanka yang sangat strategis dan ketergantungan pada India dan Tiongkok menciptakan dilema bagi Sri Lanka. Dari 2019—2025 Sri Lanka mengalami tekanan geopolitik yang meningkat, krisis ekonomi dan politik domestik. Negara ini dihadapkan pada tantangan untuk menjaga stabilitas dan kepentingan nasionalnya arena penting dalam persaingan kedua negara tersebut.

Penelitian ini mendeskripsikan posisi Sri Lanka dan menganalisis strategi *hedging* yang dijalankannya dalam merespons persaingan tersebut. Penelitian menggunakan konsep *geopolitical competition* dan teori *hedging* serta metode kualitatif deskriptif melalui studi kasus. Data diperoleh dari sumber resmi pemerintah Sri Lanka, jurnal akademik, dan media publikasi internasional.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Sri Lanka secara konsisten menerapkan strategi *hedging* dengan menjaga keseimbangan hubungan ekonomi, diplomatik, dan keamanan dengan India dan Tiongkok, sekaligus mendiversifikasi kerja sama dengan negara lain. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa krisis domestik Sri Lanka bersifat berkelanjutan dan juga berfungsi sebagai instrumen untuk menjaga kepentingan nasionalnya. Strategi *hedging* akhirnya terbukti efektif bagi negara kecil dalam mengelola tekanan geopolitik dari kekuatan besar yang kompetitif.

Kata Kunci: Sri Lanka, India, China, *Rivalry*, *International Politics*, *Hedging*

ABSTRACT

SRI LANKA'S *HEDGING* STRATEGY IN RESPONDING TO THE COMPETITION BETWEEN INDIA AND CHINA, 2019—2025

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Geopolitical competition between India and China in South Asia and the Indian Ocean has created significant strategic challenges for small states such as Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka's highly strategic location and its economic and political dependence on both India and China have generated a complex foreign policy dilemma. During the period 2019–2025, Sri Lanka experienced intensified geopolitical pressure alongside severe domestic economic and political crises. As a result, the country has been compelled to safeguard its stability and national interests while remaining an important arena in the rivalry between the two powers. This study aims to describe Sri Lanka's strategic position and analyze the hedging strategy it has adopted in response to India–China geopolitical competition. The research applies the concept of *geopolitical competition* and *hedging theory*, using a qualitative descriptive approach through a case study method. Data were collected from official Sri Lankan government sources, academic journals, and international media publications. The findings indicate that Sri Lanka has consistently implemented a hedging strategy by maintaining balanced economic, diplomatic, and security relations with both India and China, while simultaneously diversifying its partnerships with other external actors. The study also finds that Sri Lanka's domestic crisis has shaped the continuity of its hedging behavior, which functions as a strategic instrument to protect national interests. Ultimately, the hedging strategy has proven effective for a small state in managing geopolitical pressures from competing major powers.

Keywords: Sri Lanka, India, China, *Rivalry*, *Internasional Politics*, *Hedging*